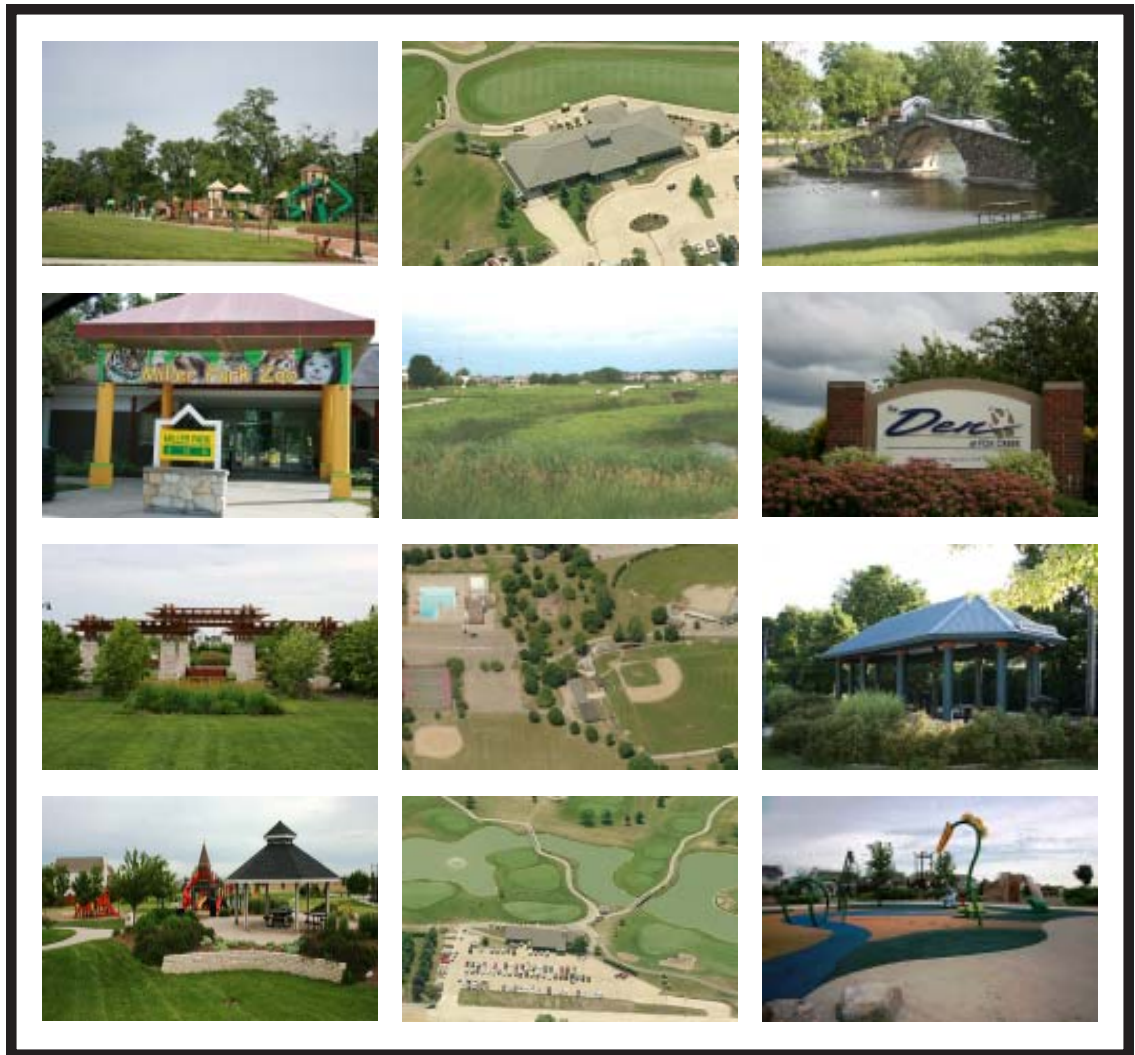


CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PARKS & RECREATION



PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



3 D D E S I G N S T U D I O

January 11, 2010

Mr. John Kennedy
Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department
City of Bloomington
109 E. Olive St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Dear John,

Please find enclosed the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Parks Master Plan Update. The Master Plan Update utilized a detailed process that began with an intricate inventory of each of the parks and their respective recreational facilities. Once the Inventory had been completed, we compared the quantity of facilities offered to the number of current and projected residents within the community. Comparing those to National Standards for recreation, we could then identify which facilities were in short supply and which might be considered adequate. The next step was to review each park and look for improvements that could be made to help supplement the recreational needs, as well as to identify ways to make each park more enjoyable.

With all the information we obtained, we then met with a diverse cross section of the current park users throughout the City in the form of organized Focus Groups. We heard and documented each of their particular requests and priorities. We incorporated the input of each in the development of the proposed System Wide Parks Master Plan Recommendations, the Park by Park Recommendations and integrated them into the year by year Priorities contained within the Master Plan Update. We then developed Preliminary and Conceptual Plans for updating the parks and facilities under your management. We appreciate being part of the "team" that developed this Update and look forward to meeting with you and the Council to present and discuss the specifics of the recommendations during the upcoming July 13th Workshop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel D. Dalziel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being the most prominent.

Daniel D. Dalziel, RLA, ASLA
Principal

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Adopted January 11, 2010

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

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I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department has undertaken the process of updating the Bloomington Parks Master Plan that was adopted in October of 2005. There are several reasons and purposes identified for this document. The first is the development and enhancement of the outdoor parks and facilities offered to the citizens. The purpose of this document was not to review and identify better programs or how to provide and generate greater revenue for the various Parks Programs, nor to review the current rate structure. The following outlines the purpose and process followed for compiling this 2009 City of Bloomington Parks Master Plan Update:

1. The first task was compiling and reviewing the inventory of outdoor recreational parks and facilities available to the residents of the City of Bloomington.
2. We then evaluated current trends in outdoor sports and recreation.
3. The 1997 City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan and the 2005 City of Bloomington East Side Parks Master Plan Update documents were both reviewed and assessed for projects previously recommended that have now been completed. We then reviewed the projects remaining to see if their recommendations were still valid and if they continued to meet the needs and requests of the public.
4. We obtained the input of a cross section of residents through a series of Community Interest Focus Group meetings for their specific areas of interest. We combined this input with the information obtained from the on-line website survey conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department.
5. An update of the City Standards for Parks and Facilities was based upon the new and projected population for both developed parks and the ratio of developed recreational open space to current and projected population numbers.
6. We reviewed and updated the Parks City-Wide Recommendations for facilities and recreational opportunities identified within the previous Comprehensive Plan from 1997 and the East Side Update from 2005.

7. We updated Recommendations for the Parks System within the City as an overall community- what should be currently provided for this quantity of population. These were prepared as system-wide recommendations to meet the needs of the community.
8. We used the City-Wide Recommendations as a guide in preparing the detailed Park by Park enhancement recommendations to meet the needs of the population and current trends. The Park by Park recommendations also identified enhancements to the individual parks that would benefit the park, but not necessarily add to or enhance the overall community parks system needs.
9. We developed a listing of Priorities for guiding the decision making process for City-Wide and Park by Park renovations, encouraging new recreation partnership opportunities, seeking open space land acquisition opportunities, and define new park enhancement criteria for existing and proposed parks throughout the current and future City limits.
10. Potential funding opportunities were identified from a variety of sources that could defer tax payer expenses while attaining the Standards and reaching the Goals defined within the Parks Master Plan Update.
11. The City Council is recommended to adopt the Updated Parks Master Plan and begin implementing the Recommendations based upon the Priorities identified.

The Parks Master Plan Update is anticipated to be a dynamic and flexible tool for management of the City's parks facilities. This document is intended to allow the City of Bloomington to make refinements to the Priorities identified in this Master Plan Update when new developments occur within the City boundaries, and should be reviewed and updated annually. This will allow potential open space or facility acquisitions to occur as opportunities may arise, create and develop new partnership opportunities, and identify funding amounts on an annual basis as the expendable capital for new parks or facilities may vary. This will allow the document to remain flexible enough to react to these potential new opportunities. Similarly, the demographics of the community may change; causing a shift in the demands of the population majority, or funding opportunities may evolve from the date of acceptance of this document.

II. DEFINITIONS

The City of Bloomington Parks System generally has five classifications of parks: Regional, Community, Neighborhood, Mini-parks or “tot-lots” and linear parks (trail systems like Constitution Trail). This Master Plan also includes standards to classify the quantity of parks and open space trails to serve the residents. They are typically for developed acres of parks as they relate to a 1,000 resident segment of the population. The combination of all the developed parks and trails indicates the quantity per thousand residents, and the goal of the City of Bloomington is to have 10 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. Currently the population is set by the most recent census at 74,975 and there is 673.3 acres of developed park land (not including the golf courses). This yields a ratio of 9 acres per 1,000 residents at the writing date of this Master Plan. This would indicate there is a need for approximately 75 more acres of land to make the goal of 10 acres per 1,000 residents for the current population (approx. 75,000 people would need approximately 750 acres. 750 minus 675 acres = 75 acres). However, please note that the expected population over time will increase and later in this document there is a recommendation to acquire an additional 130 - 150 acres for a centralized Sporting Complex. Acquiring this quantity of land with the ability to provide this scale of tournament sporting complex will compensate for the inevitable future population growth. Below are the definitions for these five types of recreational outdoor open space:

MINI-PARKS: Parks generally consisting of the size of one residential lot up to one acre. Generally consisting of playground equipment, some shade, seating and landscaping. An example of a Bloomington Mini-park would be Fell Park or Buck Mann Park.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS: Generally considered from 1 acre to 10 acres in size and designed primarily for pedestrian and bicycle access. The service radius for a Neighborhood Park is thought to be ½ mile. Neighborhood Parks generally consist of active play facilities like playground equipment, open field play for soccer, softball or baseball, picnicking and kite flying, natural areas,

hard surface courts and landscaping. Examples of Neighborhood Parks include Clearwater Park, P.J. Irving Park and Eagle Crest Parks.

COMMUNITY PARKS: Community Parks serve needs that require more open space and generally range from 10 acres to 50 acres. The definition incorporates features offered at the site that become destination facilities that people are willing to travel greater distances in which to participate. A Community Park service radius is generally considered to be 1 mile but can be larger depending upon the destination uses present within the park. Examples of facilities offered overlap those of neighborhood parks but generally offer hiking-biking trails, tennis courts, soccer-football-cricket fields, larger scaled playground equipment, and winter recreation activities like ice skating, sledding and cross country skiing. Examples of Bloomington Community Parks include: O'Neil Park, Ewing Park (I, II, and III) and White Oak Park.

REGIONAL PARKS: Regional Parks are generally the responsibility of large communities like Bloomington. Regional Parks generally consist of 50 - 100 acres or greater. Parks of smaller size that qualify as regional usually have a unique destination feature that attracts visitors from throughout the region- an example of a regional park due to its unique destination would be Miller Park because of its zoo. Other items constituting a "unique destination" include a beach or boating lake like Lake Bloomington. Though currently primarily a water source, the recreational opportunities as a regional park should be incorporated into the Master Plan approach.

TRAILS/OPEN SPACE: As one of the most highly sought recreational activities, providing walking/jogging/biking trails has been the strongest trend in the nation. More

respondents requested additional trails be added within the Bloomington community. The City currently has an excellent bicycle plan outlined and later in this Master Plan's Priorities section, clear directions are provided for the extension of segments of Constitution Trail and expanding trails that circumnavigate the perimeters of some of the larger community parks. The goal is to provide transportation throughout the community via the Constitution Trails while connecting parks for easier bicycle access. Then, where possible, provide interior park trails within larger parks for perimeter loop systems.

III. DISCUSSION OF 2005 EAST SIDE AMENDMENT TO 1997 OPEN SPACE PLAN

The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department had the 1997 Parks Comprehensive Plan reviewed and updated in 2005, and it was adopted in October of 2005. Please note that the 2005 Amendment focused primarily upon Neighborhood Planning Areas #7 and #8, located in the east and southeast portion of the City. The 2005 Amendment identified the quantity of developed parkland to be 975 acres with 468 of those acres being used by the three municipal golf courses (Highland Park, Prairie Vista and The Den). At the time, the City had a ratio of 8.6 acres of developed parkland per 1000 residents (excluding golf courses). The intent has always been to achieve a goal of 10 acres per 1000 residents for developed parks and open space recreation. Since the implementation of the 2005 Amendment, the population is now recorded at 74,975 and the parkland acreage has increased to 673.3 acres (not counting golf courses or leased land). This raises the current park land equation to 8.9 acres per thousand residents. Therefore, Bloomington should still plan to acquire and develop 75-100 additional acres of parkland to meet the needs for the current residents. Later in the System Wide Recommendations section, you will see a recommendation for a sporting complex that would need 150 acres, so 130 - 150 acres acquired will accommodate the population which will continue to grow over the next ten years.

The 2005 East Side Plan Update identified the following goals for the City of Bloomington. The 2005 East Side Plan Update also addressed park locations by Neighborhood Planning Areas 7 & 8. This Update addresses all recommendations as one set. The original 2005 Plan Recommendations are shown "*in italics, bold and underlined*". The following are review comments regarding each Plan Recommendation and they become the new direction of the Bloomington Parks Master Plan Update:

1. *Develop a neighborhood park facility east of Towanda Barnes Road southeast of Bittner Park.* This was the first recommendation for the NPA 7 area. The land has been acquired for this development and is currently identified as Eagle View Park. This goal of the 2005 plan should remain as part of the 2009 Master Plan Update and be placed high on the Priority List. The Park should be programmed to include

the items shown in the plan included within this Master Play Update, including a multi-age appropriate accessible playground, parking for 8-12 cars, walking trail around the park, and an open field able to accommodate softball/soccer/open field play and practice.

2. *The second recommended facility is a proposed public school/park site approximately halfway between General Electric Road and Route 9, approximately 1/4 mile east of Towanda Barnes Road.* This recommendation has been completed through the acquisition of Harvest Pointe Park. Harvest Pointe can help fulfill this goal as development continues to grow east of the airport. This objective will be placed lower on the Priority List, while development continues.
3. *The third recommended facility is a proposed public school/neighborhood park site located south of Route 9 and approximately 1/2 mile east of the airport.* This proposed school site shall be revised to become the location within the 20 acre school/park site planned for The Grove development. As The Grove continues to grow, funding for this project will be projected in place within the first three to four budget years for development.
4. *The fourth recommended facility is a Municipal Service Center including a senior center located southeast of the Airport runway south of Oakland Avenue.* In reviewing the options for this proposed Municipal Service Center, the City should consider separating the Community Center function from the Maintenance Service Center to expedite its implementation. There are presently location options for the Community Center on land currently owned by the City or in locations that would benefit the direction of the near future growth. Two locations currently owned by the City to consider include The Grove Park and Harvest Pointe Park. While Harvest Pointe is a smaller site and in a residential area, it is closer and easily accessible via Illinois Route 9. Traffic considerations should be given before implementing the Community Center on this site. The Grove is also accessible, though farther east from the population center it would serve. Additional opportunities for the Community Center exist in the area where the proposed new Unit 5 High School would be located, near US 150 and the extension of Hershey Road. An alternate Municipal Maintenance Center could be investigated until the development of either of the two previously mentioned sites begins. If

it is possible to combine the Community Center with the Municipal Maintenance Center as previously recommended in the 2005 East Side Plan Update, that would be ideal. However, getting a Community Center in the eastern portion of Bloomington is of greater importance than waiting until all of the Municipal Service Center facilities can be funded and developed. The implementation of the Community Center should be placed on a high Priority list. Once the development of the Community Center can be funded, the process should begin with a detailed investigation of the current private fitness centers and what they offer and complimenting the needs identified from public input to avoid competition with private organizations while supplementing the needs of the community. The facility should consider including the following program spaces:

- a. Multiple community meeting/class/programming rooms
 - b. Fitness and Aerobic exercise rooms without Weight Training space
 - c. Locker Rooms with full facilities (whirlpool, sauna, steam)
 - d. Running/Walking/Jogging Track
 - e. Deli/concessions
 - f. The senior center function should include meeting rooms, game rooms, and access to a possible gym.
 - g. Ideally, the building would also incorporate a City scale maintenance facility for centralizing park maintenance operations
 - h. Consider adding a gymnasium space for multiple function uses-basketball/volleyball/badminton and other games.
 - i. Additional programming spaces should be considered during the architectural programming of the building once in schematic design
5. The fifth recommended facility is a proposed neighborhood park located approximately one half mile north of Ireland Grove Road and one quarter mile east of Towanda Barnes Road. The proposed park is recommended to meet the needs of new residential neighborhoods that would surround the site. This goal is still reasonable and is anticipated to be part of The Grove 20 acre school/park site.
6. The sixth recommended facility is a proposed community park and would include an extreme sports specialty park called the "Bloomington Edge". This goal should be revisited and discussed as to its validity and support. The Resident Input Survey does not identify any significant support for this type of facility, and the ability to

prepare a park of this nature to sustain itself with staffing and maintenance costs is substantial. The City should also give serious consideration to the potential liabilities and exposure inherent to a facility of this type. During the Inventory and Analysis portion of the Master Plan Update, a much greater need became clear for the development of a large scale sporting complex for baseball, softball, cricket, soccer and football fields. One primary determinant was the ability to host significant regional revenue generating tournaments (soccer, softball/baseball and cricket in particular). This meets a far greater number of resident's wishes, far outweighing the demand and support for the extreme sports park element contained in this original goal. The location for this Sports Complex is yet to be determined, but recommended to occur in the southeast quadrant of the City (NPA 7 or NPA8 locations). Consider locating this facility in an area near the proposed Unit 5 High School for serving the most people that may use this facility.

7. *The last park in the NPA 7 study area is a proposed regional park located at the confluence of Kickapoo Creek and its northerly and westerly branches. This location is sufficiently large enough to serve all of Bloomington.* This park is currently planned and designated as The Grove Park, consisting of a 20 acre community park with another 88 acres of natural preserve, drainage corridors for storm water management, and open space habitat interwoven with walking/jogging/biking trails. This recommendation will remain in place and be implemented as the homes within The Grove are being developed. In light of the anticipated "build out of the community", the 20 acre park portion of this recommendation should be placed in the high Priority category with further determination as to whether the Community Center should be programmed here. This location will be combined with the nearby school site as part of this original goal.
8. *The first recommended park for the NPA 8 area is a proposed neighborhood park located between the Conrail Railroad tracks and US 150.* This recommendation will remain in the Parks Master Plan Update but due to the timing of development, will be listed in the lower Priorities.
9. *A recommended community park/school site is recommended north of US 150, west of Towanda Barnes Road, and south of Hamilton Road.*

This combined park/school site would allow the school facilities to be used for recreational uses during off-peak school hours and also feature a middle school if required. This park will remain in the Parks Master Plan Update and, like the last recommendation, will wait upon future development and be placed in the lower Priorities listing. This park location will be ideal for the proposed 130 - 150 acre Sports Complex that is discussed in the System-Wide Recommendations.

10. *The last recommended major park in NPA 8 is a proposed neighborhood park/school site located about ½ mile west of Towanda Barnes Road, ½ mile south of Hamilton Road and northeast of US 150.* This park will remain in the Parks Master Plan Update, but will wait upon future development, placing it lower in the Priorities listing.

IV. PARK BY PARK INVENTORY, ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The following pages illustrate each of the parks within the Bloomington Parks System, outlining their existing inventory of facilities for each park and then offer recommendations for the renovation of specific items within each park. In some cases, recommendations for the development of undeveloped future parks are included. However, all future undeveloped parks should include a public input process to allow nearby residents to voice their opinion of what facilities might be included within the park and how each park will be developed.

Please note that the Goals stated within the October, 2005 East Side Update still have validity and should be incorporated into this Master Plan Update. In particular, the following goals should be incorporated into all decision making for the implementation of each of the recommendations contained within this Parks Master Plan Update:

- Provide a system of mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, specialized parks, park/schools and regional parks, with appropriate facilities for its area of service and needs of the nearby residents.
- Protect existing parkland, potential recreation areas and natural scenic areas from encroachments of incompatible uses. Maintain natural terrain and vegetation while diminishing disruption of natural ecosystems.
- Ensure that maximum effective use is made of existing parks and recreational facilities, and that both existing and new facilities are developed and maintained to enhance the natural character of the land; to provide visual interest and to present an attractive appearance to the Community.
- Provide diversified parks and recreational facilities and programs with maximum accessibility and safety for potential users, while maintaining flexibility to meet changing needs and preferences.

- Ensure that the quality of natural areas is maintained and enhanced where possible and that the recreational, aesthetic and education potential of natural areas within the City is maximized. Expand the street tree planting program.
- Provide an environment in which youth, through opportunities for community service, will learn the values, discipline and skills that will help them be responsible citizens and sustain their community as a healthy place to live and raise their own children.
- Encourage the development of Green Corridors and waterway edges that include scenic roads, pedestrian trails and bikeways as alternative methods of transportation in addition to recreation opportunities. The Greenway Corridors should also protect and improve water quality, restore habitat and save shoreline, restore wetlands, provide creek bank and lake edge protection and manage the floodplain properly.
- The City should use responsible storm water management techniques that reuse and restore the quality of no-site runoff through developing programs to construct marshes, wetlands and recharge the groundwater aquifers.
- Advance lifelong learning by linking neighborhoods to schools, parks and libraries.
- Manage and restore natural areas and processes.

AIRPORT PARK

3010 WINCHESTER DRIVE



INVENTORY

- Playground Equipment
- Picnic Shelter
- One Full and One Half-Court Basketball Court
- Backstop for Softball/Baseball Practice
- Field Can Be Used for Soccer/Football Practice
- Parking Lot
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider adding a loop trail within the perimeter of the park, connecting the playground, around the outfield of the baseball field and basketball courts. Plan to update the basketball court with acrylic paint color coating within the next few years.

ALTON DEPOT PARK 101 S. WESTERN AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Small Playground
- New Picnic Shelter
- Rest Stop along the Constitution Trail
- Mini-Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

The playground equipment is over 10 years old and does not offer multi-age appropriate play opportunities. In addition, an ADA walkway connecting the playground should be incorporated. Plan to remove and replace the existing equipment with an enlarged combination of structures for 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds.

ANGLER'S LAKE

107 S. MERCER AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Pond in Wooded Open Space
- Fishing Opportunities
- Difficult Access

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to develop a "Trail head" entry location to the Angler's Lake Park, install a walking path back into the lake area and construct the path around the entire lake. Plan to put a floating ADA rated fishing pier in one location to allow residents to get out over the water. Add some benches or picnic tables in an area shaded by the existing trees near the pier.



INVENTORY

- Railroad Style Custom Shelter
- Nicely Landscaped Park for resting along Constitution Trail
- Parking Lot

RECOMMENDATIONS

This Constitution Trail access point is an exceptional mini-park with beautiful landscape treatment and the maintenance levels should be maintained. Consider upgrading the Constitution Trail signage at the Wayside to inform travelers of distances on the trail and highlight specific attractions along the way.

BHS TENNIS COURTS

606 TOWANDA AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Eight Tournament Quality
Lighted Tennis Courts

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue to maintain the Tennis Courts as one of the best tennis facilities within the City.

BROOKRIDGE PARK

2904 IRELAND GROVE ROAD



INVENTORY

- New Playground Equipment
- Picnic Shelter
- Drinking Fountain
- Half Court Basketball Court
- Cricket Pitch
- Parking Lot
- Nicely Landscaped Park
- Field for Soccer/Football Practice Areas or Cricket Practice
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Brookridge Park is in great shape and should be maintained accordingly. A turf improvement program should be implemented for the areas north of the playground for the practice areas where the cricket pitch is located.



INVENTORY

- Two Half-Court Basketball Courts
- Newer Small Playground
- Mini-Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider re-surfacing the basketball court with acrylic paint color coating to improve the appearance. Also consider adding a piece of playground equipment to offer separate opportunities for 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds.



FUTURE

- Undeveloped Open Space

RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon the development of the surrounding area and when the school is ready to be developed, coordinate planning and park implementation with the school district to obtain the maximum recreational benefit for the residents. We anticipate having, as a minimum, areas for soccer/football and at least one softball or baseball field with a large scale playground that includes shade from a shelter. Consider additional amenities, including shared gymnasium space and walking/biking paths.



INVENTORY

- Three Half-Court Basketball Courts
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground Equipment
- Two Sand Volleyball Courts
- Two Fields Can Be Used for Soccer/
Football Practice
- Backstop for Baseball/Softball Practice
- Parking Lot
- Walking Trails
- Neighborhood Park
- Bike Rack

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue to encourage the native plantings growth in the lower lying areas of the park for a naturalistic appearance. Consider mowing and maintaining the higher elevation portion of the detention areas in turf for soccer and baseball/softball practice areas.

DAWES PLACE

DAWES STREET AT BRIARWOOD AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Small Shelter
- Ornamental Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider adding more colorful, ornamental landscape plantings. Add a sign and use native, low maintenance ornamental plantings

EAGLE CREST PARK

2506 CHESAPEAKE LANE



INVENTORY

- Small Playground with benches
- Small Shelter
- Drinking Fountain
- One Full and One Half-Court Basketball Court
- Backstop for Softball/Baseball Practice
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Add a loop trail around the perimeter of the park for walking/jogging and biking for the neighborhood. The playground equipment is 14 years old. Plan to update the playground equipment and in doing so, integrate the equipment with the shelter and landscape to create an interesting play experience.



FUTURE PROGRAMMED PARK ELEMENTS (Scheduled for Development in 2010/2011)

- Playground Equipment
- Picnic Shelter
- One Circular Basketball Court
- One Softball and One Baseball Field
- Soccer Field
- Parking Lot -12 Spaces
- 8' & 10' Wide Asphalt Trail (about .75 mi.)
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Currently undeveloped, this park should be planned during the fall of 2009 with the plans of constructing it during either 2010 or 2011. This park should be considered a priority.

EMERSON PARK

717 BELL STREET



INVENTORY

- Playground Equipment
- Lighted Walking Path
- Open Play Space with Mature Trees
- Mini-Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

The playground equipment here is 12 years old, too small and unimaginative. Plan to remove and replace this equipment as soon as possible and integrate the play space into the existing park landscape. Plan to provide a shelter or make sure benches and picnic tables are located under existing shade trees. Consider adding horseshoes and bocce or “baggo” into the park with a more interesting, meandering pathway through the park. Consider creating a “mini-arboretum” for the education of the community with interpretive signs identifying the trees within the park.



INVENTORY

- Playground Equipment
- Drinking Fountain
- Mini-Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider adding a second piece of playground equipment to the existing playground to create a separate 2-5 and 5-12 year play areas. Provide shelter via benches or picnic tables under trees and consider adding a ½ court basketball court on the “other side” of the park.

EWING PARK I

1420 TOWANDA AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Parking Lot
- Playground
- Picnic Shelter
- Soccer/Football Practice Field
- Wooded Open Space
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

This park should be connected to the other two Ewing Parks with a trail that is designed to provide a continuous loop between all three of the parks.

EWING PARK II

1001 ETHELL PARKWAY



INVENTORY

- Two Game Quality Softball Fields
- Small Playground
- Bathroom/Storage Building
- Drinking Fountain
- Two Picnic Shelters
- Bridge Access to Ewing III Open Space
- Shared Soccer Field with Ewing I
- Parking Lot
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

This park should be connected to the other two Ewing Parks with a trail that is designed to provide a continuous loop between all three of the parks. Plan to update the park with a community scaled playground and shelter.

EWING PARK III

901 JERSEY AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Large Partially Wooded Open Space
- Open Space for Football/ Soccer Practice
- Community Sponsored Children & Elders Forest
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

This park should be connected to the other two Ewing Parks with a trail that is designed to provide a continuous loop between all three of the parks. Continue support and expansion of the children/seniors forest with spring and fall planting ceremonies.



FELL AVENUE PARK

1301 FELL AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Half-Court Basketball Court
- Picnic Shelter
- Walkways
- Newer Playground Equipment
- Nicely Landscaped
- Mini-Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

This is a very nice mini-park that should continue with the current level of maintenance.

FORREST PARK

1813 SPRINGFIELD ROAD



INVENTORY

- Picturesque stately park with large nature area
- Large New Playground
- Three Picnic Shelters
- Older bathroom facility
- Parking lot and two entries
- Four Grills
- Drinking Fountain (Non ADA)
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to renovate the existing bathroom building to provide ADA accessibility. Consider adding a maintenance storage area into the building and discuss the need for a community room in the redevelopment. Add walking trails throughout the park to improve the accessibility of many parts of this wonderful older park. Consider adding arboretum signage identifying the array of shade trees existing within the park.

FRANKLIN PARK

302 E. CHESTNUT STREET



INVENTORY

- Lighted Walking Trail
- Picnic Tables and Benches
- Playground Equipment
- Central Fountain in Diagonal Sidewalks
- Historic District Park
- Portable Stage
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Add a neighborhood scale playground featuring separate age appropriate play equipment and swings that complement the character of the park and surrounding neighborhood while remaining sensitive to saving the existing trees. Add arboretum signage to identify the wealth of shade trees within the park. Consider horseshoes, bocce and/or baggo for passive enjoyment of the park.

FRIENDSHIP PARK

719 W. JEFFERSON STREET & N. ALLIN ST.



INVENTORY

- Playground Equipment
- Shelter
- Picnic Table
- Mini-Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider adding decorative fencing or landscape buffer between the roadway and nearby playground equipment to improve safety.

GAELIC PARK

3102 CAVE CREEK ROAD



FUTURE PROGRAMMED PARK ELEMENTS (Scheduled for Development in 2010/2011)

- Playground Equipment
- Picnic Shelter
- Basketball Courts
- Soccer Field
- Open Space
- Path
- Backstop for Softball/Baseball Practice
- Bocce Ball Courts
- Parking (12 Cars)
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to design this park during the fiscal year of 2009. OSLAD funds have been appropriated for the park, which is planned to include multi-age appropriate playground equipment, a picnic shelter, basketball courts, a soccer field, loop walking trail, a backstop for baseball or softball practice, bocce courts with a parking lot for approximately 20 cars. The IL Department of Natural Resources will require this park to be completed by 2010 to qualify for their funding.



FUTURE

- Undeveloped Open Space

RECOMMENDATIONS

Once this park is developed, plan to include a community scale playground with decorative shelter for shade and picnics, add another shelter for the players using the softball and/or soccer field. Include some passive recreation amenities like a bocce ball court, horse shoes and shuffle board or “Baggo”, two tennis courts and a circular basketball court with 3- ½ court basketball courts. Include a walking trail around the perimeter of the park for walking/biking and jogging. Include storm water management treatment means like bio-swales and rain gardens for filtration of the runoff water. Finally, include native and shade tree landscaping for key development areas of the park.

HIGHLAND PARK GOLF COURSE 1613 S. MAIN STREET



INVENTORY

- 18 Hole Fee Based Public Golf Course
- Clubhouse
- Maintenance Facility
- Large Mature Trees and Landscaping
- Parking Lot
- Cart Paths, Starter Building, Practice Green

RECOMMENDATIONS

This golf course is mentioned within the Park by Park Recommendations because an opportunity to serve many residents through the development of a new clubhouse on the property for smaller golf outings and banquets. In addition, there is a distinct need to upgrade the maintenance facilities of this course and it should be planned for during the capital improvements for the parks. The City should also consider some golf course modifications in the hole design and layout to accommodate a pond, as both a golf hole feature and to allow the water conservation of irrigation through reclaimed stormwater and water from the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District.

HOLIDAY PARK

800 S. MCGREGOR AVENUE



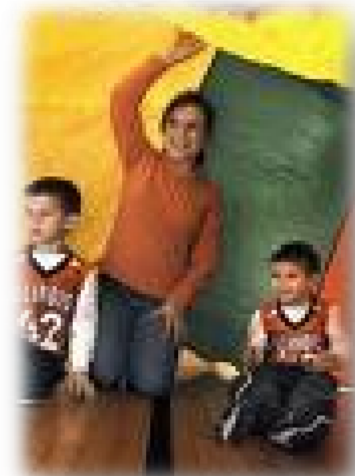
INVENTORY

- Swimming Pool/ Aquatic Facility
- Water Spray Park
- New Ramped Playground
- Community Building
- Lake Central to the Park
- Picnic Shelter
- Benches and Picnic Tables
- Bike Rack
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide a pathway to the north edge of the pond and install an ADA accessible fishing pier out over the water.

LINCOLN LEISURE CENTER 1206 S. LEE ST.



INVENTORY

- Gymnasium
- Nine Classrooms

RECOMMENDATIONS

Significant building modifications should be undertaken with the Lincoln Leisure Center. The highest priority would be the renovation of the HVAC mechanical portion of the building. The air conditioning for the buildings use during the summer is undersized and inadequate. The second item includes some minor remaining ADA issues for the building. Third, that would make a significant aesthetic improvement is the removal of parking lot pavement around the main entry and renovating this into landscape. Creating a landscape buffer for the entire building would help with the heat load and dramatically enhance the appearance. In addition, an architectural modification to the entry could improve the appearance over the existing canvas awning that currently signals the entry.

MARIE LITTA PARK

317 S. GRIDLEY STREET



INVENTORY

- Playground Equipment
- Shelter with Picnic Tables
- Drinking Fountain
- Mini-Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider adding a piece of equipment to provide multi-age appropriate play opportunities for the children of the neighborhood. Consider a fence for containing the children from the adjoining street.

Bob McGraw Community Park

Dedicated July, 2004

This park is named in honor of Bob McGraw who served the City of Bloomington as Mayor from 1957 - 1969. It was Mayor McGraw who championed the need for a Parks and Recreation Department. His vision continues today through development of parks such as this which enhance and improve the quality of life for the citizens of Bloomington.



INVENTORY

- Community Scale Playground
- Decorative Arbor and Memorial Fountain
- Picnic Shelter
- Interactive Water Spray Park
- Three Softball Fields (Unlit)
- One Baseball Field (Lit)
- Six Tennis Courts (4 Lit)
- Concessions/Restroom/Storage Building
- Two Grass Volleyball Courts
- Trails
- Field Can Be Used for Soccer/Football Practice
- Seating areas with Decorative Arbors
- Elaborate Ornamental Gardens
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Make trail connections to this park from other parks and the Constitution Trail. Continue the maintenance of this beautiful facility.

MILLER PARK 1020 S. MORRIS AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Complete Zoo on Premises
- Veteran's Memorial with Stone Obelisk and Gardens
- Newer Playground Equipment
- Old Playground Equipment in Separate Area
- Trains in Park
- War Memorial Memorabilia Including Cannons, Tanks and Plaques
- Liberty Bell
- Softball Field
- Picnic Shelter
- Three Tennis Courts
- One Volleyball Court
- Indoor Athletic Facility
- Lake with Walking Trails
- Arbor Trellis off the Trails
- Stone Bridge over Lake
- Rental Paddle Boats
- Water Spray Park
- Community Buildings
- Multiple Parking Areas

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City's most notable park is in need of some considerable renovation and restoration.

- The existing walking bridge over the pond is in need of removal and replacement. Make sure the aesthetic of the bridge retains the character of the park while providing safe, ADA connections through the park. The roadway system should have a storm sewer system evaluation, including improving the roads with curb and gutter. However, the storm water management of the park should play a key role in the design and analysis of the roadway improvement system.

MILLER PARK 1020 S. MORRIS AVENUE



- Plan for the proper treatment of the storm water before it enters the pond through the use of bio-filtration of all storm water, including use of rain gardens and bio-swales where appropriate.
- There are sections of playground equipment near the pavilion that are very old and should be removed during the 2009 spring season. Restore this area with new parking for the pavilion.
- Plan to implement a shoreline restoration and erosion control program on an annual basis until the perimeter of the shoreline is fully stabilized. Utilize three separate options- a "Rosetta" stone style installation for a natural stone outcrop appearance (example enclosed in appendix), a vegetative plan with natural vegetation and a riprap approach for cost effective improvements not near public access points.
- Add an ADA approved fishing pier for fishing and relaxation opportunities out over the water.
- Provide for expansion to the Zoo exhibits and resources to the southeast across the circulation drive toward the Pavilion. If additional expansion becomes necessary, consider expanding into the area of the older playground equipment to the east.



INVENTORY

- Shared School Park Facility
- Two Picnic Shelters, One with Equipment Storage
- Outdoor Grills
- Softball Field with Backstop
- Football Goal Posts and Field
- Playground Equipment
- Parking Lot
- Wooded Open Space
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue with the current level of cooperation, agreement and cost sharing between the school and Parks Department.

O'NEIL PARK 1515 W. CHESTNUT



INVENTORY

- Multi-Purpose Area
- One Picnic Shelter
- Playground Equipment
- Half-Court Basketball Court
- Two Lighted Softball/Baseball Diamonds
- One Additional Softball Field
- Open Field Can Be Used for Soccer/Football Practice
- Swimming Pool and Tot Pool Facility
- Three Lighted Tennis Courts
- Bathroom and Maintenance Building
- Skate Park
- Two Parking Lots
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to convert the existing swimming pool into a “zero-depth” aquatic facility, including an extensive water spray component for the facility. Plan to renovate the existing building to meet the needs of ADA and the anticipated increase in bather load. Remove the existing ½ court basketball court and small playground apparatus to make room for the enlarged aquatic facility. Consider re-locating these facilities integrated into the overall design of the aquatic facility. The playground should be designed in conjunction with the aquatic facility, where both bathers and park users could enjoy it. Plan to station a staff member at the entry to monitor non users from entering the pool. The ½ court basketball court could be replaced north along the parking lot in the open lawn there.



INVENTORY

- School Shared Playground
- Four Half-Court Basketball Courts
- Backstops for “pickup” games
- Indoor Athletic Facility
- Walking Path
- Two Softball Fields
- Parking Lot
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue with the current level of cooperation, agreement and cost sharing between the school and Parks Department. Plan to make the playground accessible with the school.



INVENTORY

- Picnic shelter
- New Playground Equipment
- 18 Hole Disc Golf Course
- Parking Lot
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue to maintain this park and plan to upgrade the sign. Consider a biking/walking connection to Miller and Forrest Parks along Butchers Lane.

PEPPER RIDGE PARK

2502 FOX CREEK ROAD



INVENTORY

- Picnic Shelter
- Two Sets of Playground Equipment
- Two lighted Softball Diamonds
- Soccer Field
- Two Half-Court Basketball Courts
- Parking Lot
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue with the current level of cooperation, agreement and cost sharing between the school and Parks Department.

PRAIRIE VISTA GOLF

502 W. HAMILTON ROAD



INVENTORY

- 18 Hole For Fee Championship Golf Course
- Clubhouse with Full Services
- Practice Area and Green
- Paved Cart Paths
- Fully Irrigated
- Parking Lot

R.T. DUNN FIELDS

109 E. LAYFETTE STREET



INVENTORY

- Two Lighted Softball Fields
- Parking Lot
- Note: This property is through a lease agreement with the Illinois National Guard

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue to maintain fields for current use until the development of a sporting complex with multiple fields, at which time these fields would be retained for practice and smaller children's games.

ROLLINGBROOK PARK

1002 HERSHEY ROAD



INVENTORY

- Three Tennis Courts
- Playground Equipment
- In-Line Hockey Rink/Outdoor Ice Rink Location
- Seven Half-Court Basketball Courts
- Softball Field
- Open Field Can Be Used for Two Soccer Practice Areas
- Parking Lot
- Two Picnic Shelters
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to restore the paving for the 3- ½ court basketball surfaces with acrylic paint color coating similar to Walt Bittner Park. Plan to upgrade the In-Line hockey boards and surfacing at the same time. The current playground equipment is 14 years old and should be updated during the same time. Provide multi-age appropriate, creative play opportunities in the playground. Continue to cooperate with the school agreement for combined usage on both parcels of ground. Pursue the opportunity to incorporate a loop trail throughout both the school and park properties and connect to the Constitution Trail.

SALE BARN SOCCER FIELDS 401 W. HAMILTON ROAD



INVENTORY

- Two Soccer Fields
- Gravel Parking
- Note: This property is through a long-term lease agreement

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider creating a Cricket pitch between the existing fields for use when soccer is not being played. Plan to pave the current gravel parking lot. When the Sports Complex is completed, plan to renovate the Sale Barn Park into the permanent Cricket location. See the Figure 25 for a concept of the planned Cricket layout.

STEVENSON SCHOOL/PARK 2106 ARROWHEAD DRIVE



INVENTORY

- Three Lighted Tennis Courts
- Playground Equipment
- One Shelter
- Two Full Court Basketball Courts
- Indoor Athletic Facility
- Game Quality School Field
- Shared School Park Facility
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue with the current level of cooperation, agreement and cost sharing between the school and Parks Department. Plan to upgrade the playground on a cost sharing basis with the school.

SUBURBAN EAST PARK 3011 LISA AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Basketball Courts
- New Single Piece of Playground Equipment
- Picnic Shelter
- Wooded Open Space
- Practice Field Backstop
- Open Field Can Be Used for Soccer/Football Practice
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to remove and replace the existing playground that is currently 14 years old. Create an exciting play experience through the use of multi-age appropriate equipment structures. Plan to renovate and update the basketball court surfaces with acrylic color coating.



FUTURE

- Undeveloped Open Space

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to submit for an OSLAD Grant upon the movement of potential development in the southwest portion of the community. Programming for this park should commence with public input once more development takes place in this area.



INVENTORY

- Old Playground Equipment
- Four Half-Court Basketball Courts
- Softball Field
- Open Field Can Be Used for Soccer/
Football
- On Street 90 degree Parking
- Partially Wooded Open Space
- Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to remove and replace the playground equipment and add a picnic shelter for shade in this park. Incorporate a multi-age appropriate set of playground structures around the basketball courts with a central decorative shelter separating but available to each of the two facilities. Plan to renovate the existing basket ball court surfaces with acrylic paint color coating and crack repairs.

THE DEN AT FOX CREEK 3002 FOX CREEK ROAD



INVENTORY

- 18 Hole Championship Arnold Palmer Signature For Fee Golf Course
- Full Practice Facility
- Complete Clubhouse with Dining Facilities
- Paved Cart Paths
- Fully Irrigated Course



FUTURE

- Undeveloped Open Space

RECOMMENDATIONS

Development of The Grove Park should include a planning process that utilizes the DNR OSLAD Grant application process. In so doing, hire landscape architect to administer public input meetings and receive input regarding the desires of the residents throughout The Grove and surrounding areas. Use the input obtained to develop initial concept plans, present in another public meeting to receive refinement input from the public, prepare OSLAD documents and submit for grant funding. Upon receipt of funding, prepare detailed construction bidding plans and implement the public consensus park plan developed.

TIPTON PARK NORTH

2201 STONE MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD.



INVENTORY

- Farm Themed Park
- One Large Shelter
- Interactive Water Spray Park
- Game Quality Baseball Field
- Game Quality Softball Field
- Parking Lot
- Walking Trails
- Community Open Air Meeting/Picnic Building
- Soccer/Open Play Practice Area/Field
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

These are some of the nicest parks within the community and should retain their level of maintenance and care. However, the City should plan to become more restrictive and take a strong stance on the stormwater management for the areas surrounding Tipton South. The surrounding neighborhoods have restricted the contributing stormwater resulting in a negative impact on the natural areas that are currently the main draw to this exceptional park. A comprehensive study should be done to manage this important natural resource.

TIPTON PARK SOUTH 2410 G. E. ROAD



INVENTORY

- Great Nature Preserve
- Walking Trails
- Two Picnic Shelters, one with storage and bathrooms
- Bridge over Waterway
- Parking Lot
- Interpretive Signage
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

These are some of the nicest parks within the community and should retain their level of maintenance and care. However, the City should plan to become more restrictive and take a strong stance on the stormwater management for the areas surrounding Tipton South. The surrounding neighborhoods have restricted the contributing stormwater resulting in a negative impact on the natural areas that are currently the main draw to this exceptional park. A comprehensive study should be done to manage this important natural resource.

WALT BITTNER PARK

3807 RAVE ROAD



INVENTORY

- New Multi-Age Playground Equipment
- Decorative Picnic Shelter
- Three Half-Court Basketball Courts
- Loop Walking Trail
- Parking Lot
- Backstop for Practice Baseball/Softball
- Field Can Be Used for Soccer/Football Practice
- Nicely Landscaped Neighborhood Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to add landscaping to this park, primarily in the form of shade trees. Trees should be incorporated into the walking trail, around the playground and basketball, and along some of the property perimeter.



FUTURE

- Undeveloped Open Space

RECOMMENDATIONS

This undeveloped park should have neighborhood input opportunities to determine what facilities should be incorporated. However, as a minimum, the park should have a playground and shelter in the design. The playground, as with all of them, should include multi-age separated structures and be ADA accessible.

WHITE OAK PARK 1514 N. COTTAGE AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Community Building with multi-purpose rooms, meeting rooms, and bathrooms
- Playground Equipment
- Walking Trails surrounding water's edge
- Lake and Fishing opportunities
- Softball/Baseball field
- Football Field
- Two Parking Lots
- Bridge over Waterway
- Two Picnic Shelters
- Community Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan to add a considerable sized fishing pier for relaxation, fishing and enjoyment of this water body. Consider some shade on the pier. Begin planning a shoreline restoration and erosion control plan incorporating three different types of erosion mitigation- A "Rosetta" style installation for a natural stone outcrop appearance (example enclosed in appendix), a vegetative plan with natural vegetation and a riprap approach for cost effective improvements not near public access points.

WITHERS PARK

204 E. WASHINGTON AVENUE



INVENTORY

- Central Downtown Park
- Sculpture in Central Plaza
- Benches
- Picnic Tables

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider developing a larger and more distinctive plaza for its use as lunchtime concerts, potentially a downtown “Farmers Market”, and central attraction. Incorporate the existing brick and shelter into the overall plaza design.

WITTENBERG WOODS PARK



FUTURE

- Undeveloped Open Space

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider thinning understory and tree canopy of invasive plant materials to provide some open space with an overlook shelter or seating area near the detention area. Add a sign and native, low maintenance ornamental plantings with a path. Consider a small playground if residents support it being located here.



FUTURE

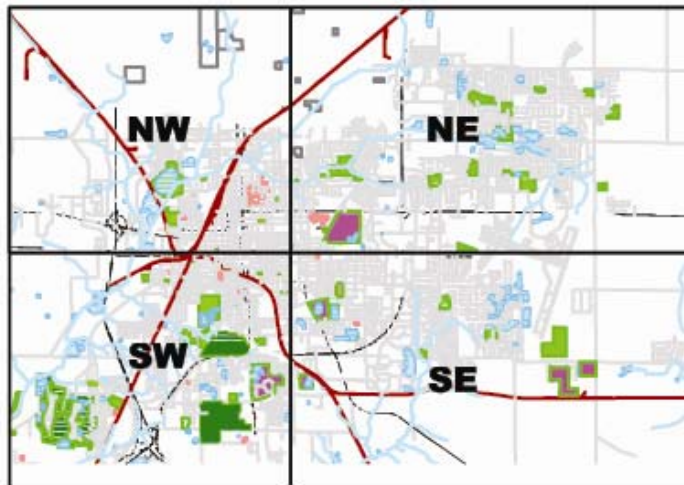
- Undeveloped Open Space

RECOMMENDATIONS

Smaller park space could support a small playground and shelter or ornamental landscape enhancement under existing shade tree canopy with a possible decorative small gazebo structure. Add a sign and native, low maintenance ornamental plantings

A. PARK INVENTORY MAPS (FIGURES 1-5)

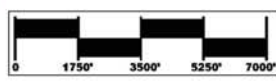
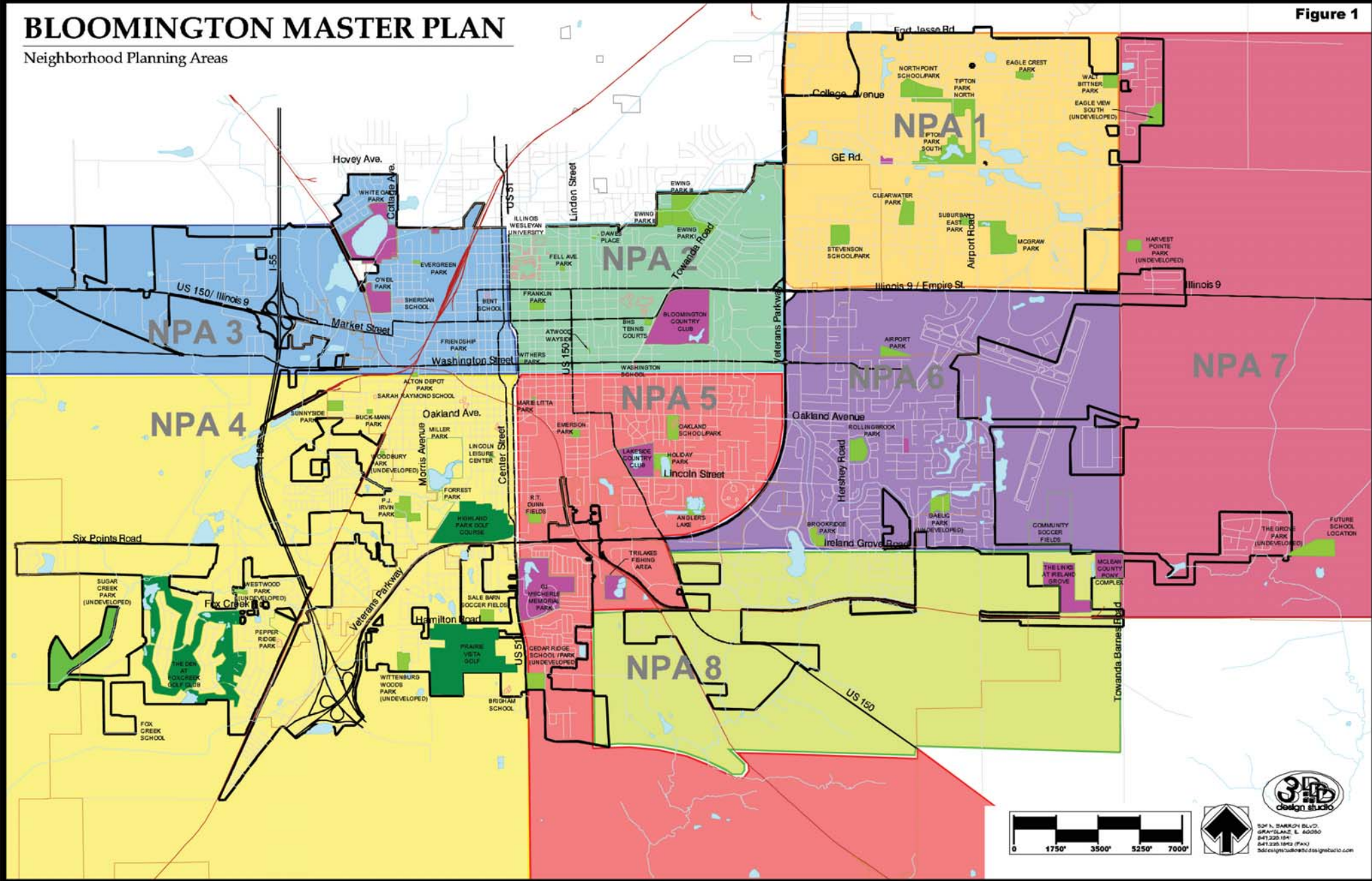
The following maps illustrate the overall Bloomington City Limits with a key identifying each of the four quadrants of the City by Northwest, Southwest, Northeast and Southeast regions. Then, each quadrant is shown with specific parks and their current facilities with their respective locations. For consistency and continuity, the Neighborhood Planning Areas map is included at the beginning to illustrate the locations of all the parks respective to the Neighborhood Planning Areas boundaries established in the original Open Space Plan of 1997. The Neighborhood Planning Areas are important to recognize as they relate to the Open Space Plan for new residential developments and how they will be evaluated within the Park Land Dedication Ordinance for the City of Bloomington.



BLOOMINGTON MASTER PLAN

Neighborhood Planning Areas

Figure 1



301 N. BARRON BLVD
GRANTSBURG, MO 65050
(816) 220-1941
3ld@designstudioinc.com
3lddesignstudio.com

- White Oak Park**
- Community Building
 - Playground Equipment
 - Walking Trails
 - Lake and Fishing
 - Softball/Baseball Field
 - Football/Soccer Field
 - Two Parking Lots
 - Bridge over Waterway
 - Two Picnic Shelters

- O'Neil Park**
- Basketball Court
 - Multi-Purpose Area
 - Two Picnic Shelters
 - Playground Equipment
 - 2 Lighted Softball/Baseball Diamonds
 - Swimming Pool and Aquatic Facility
 - 3 Lighted Tennis Courts
 - Bathroom Building
 - Skate Park

- Alton Depot Park**
- Small Playground
 - Picnic Shelter
 - Rest Stop on the Constitution Trail

- Evergreen Park**
- Playground Equipment
 - Drinking Fountain
 - Mini-Park

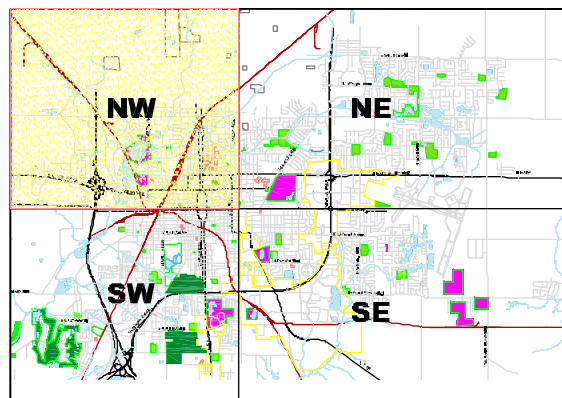
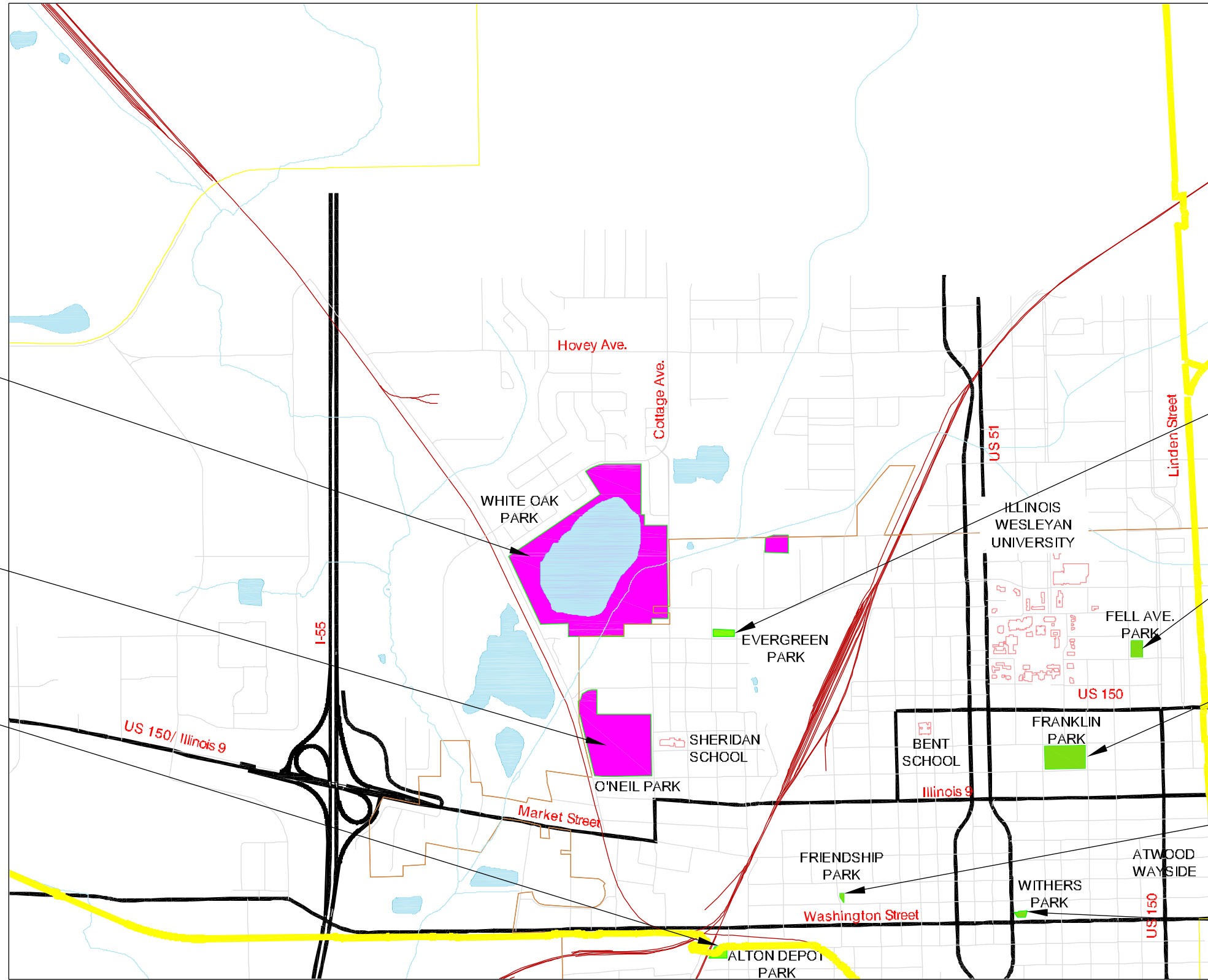
- Fell Avenue Park**
- ½ Court
 - Basketball Court
 - Picnic Shelter
 - Playground Equipment

- Franklin Park**
- Walking Trail
 - Lighting
 - Picnic Tables and Benches
 - Central Fountain in Diagonal Sidewalks
 - Historic District Park
 - Neighborhood Park

- Friendship Park**
- Playground Equipment
 - Shelter
 - Picnic Table

- Atwood Wayside**
- Railroad Style Shelter

- Withers Park**
- Sculpture in Central Plaza
 - Benches
 - Picnic Tables



Parks Inventory Map

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department

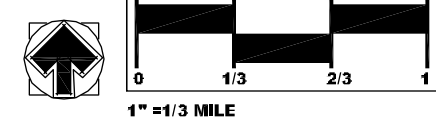
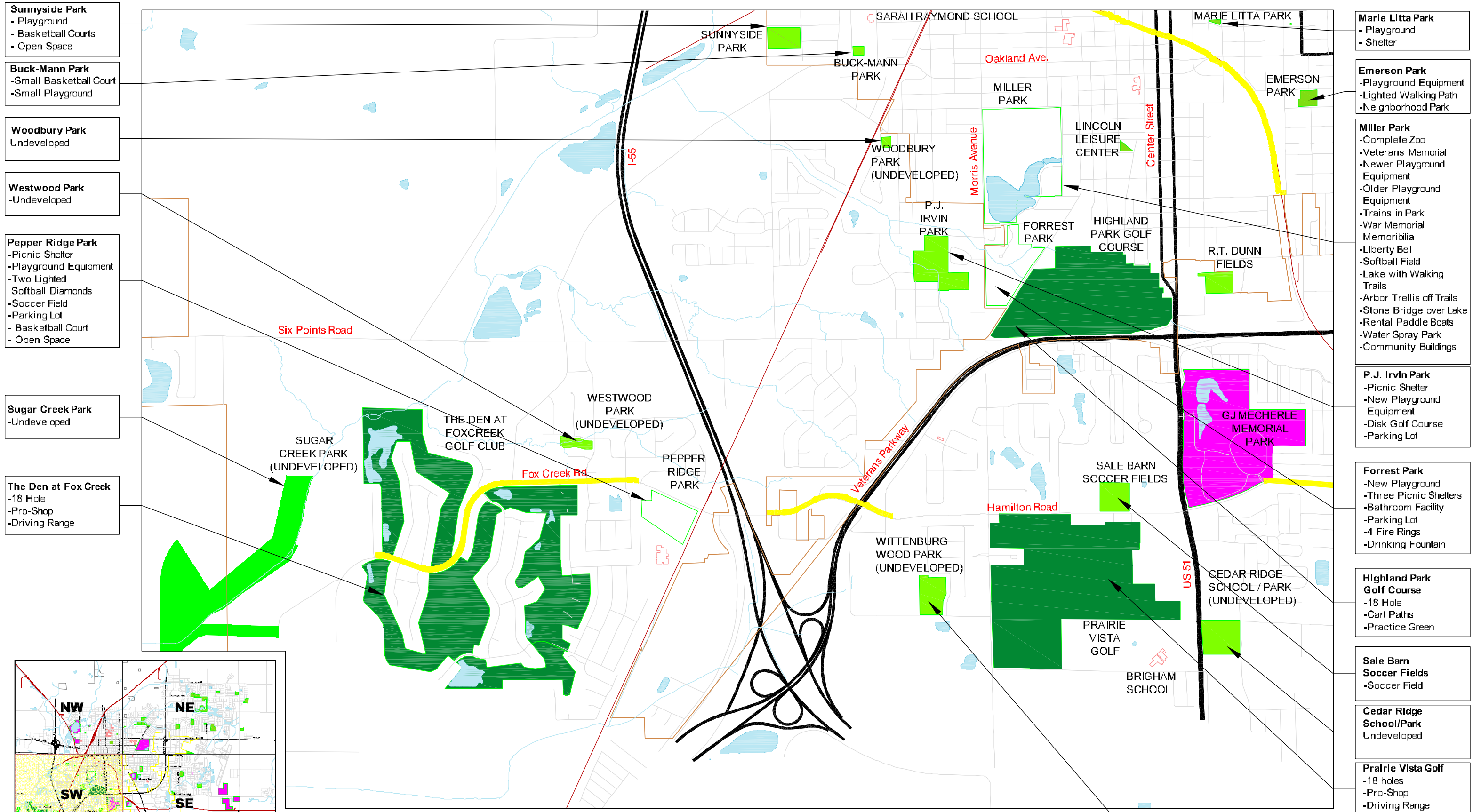


Figure 3



Parks Inventory Map

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department

Existing Trails

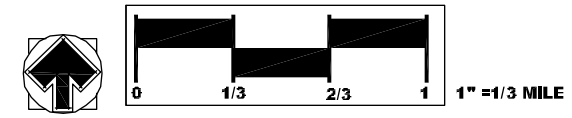
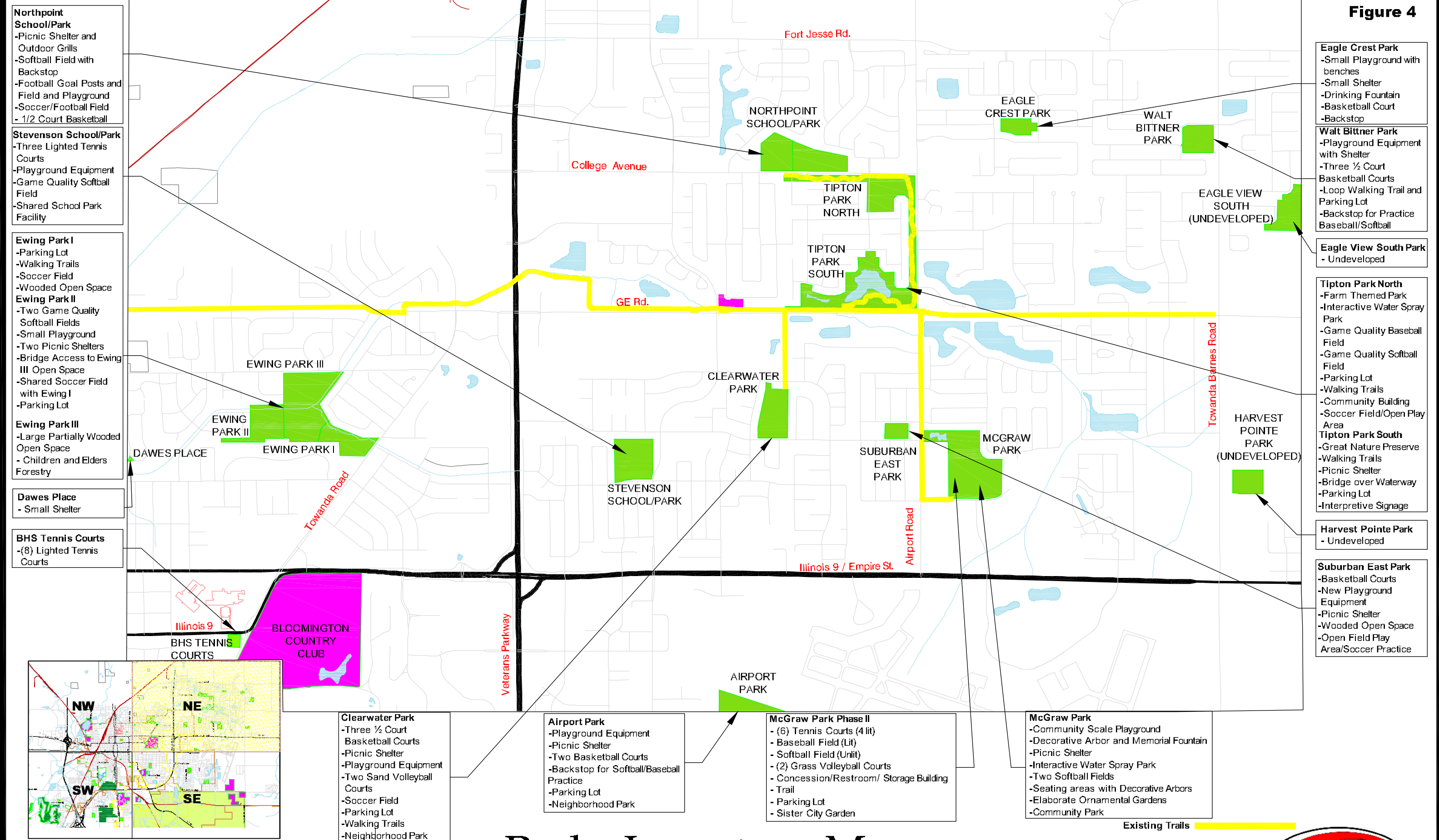


Figure 4



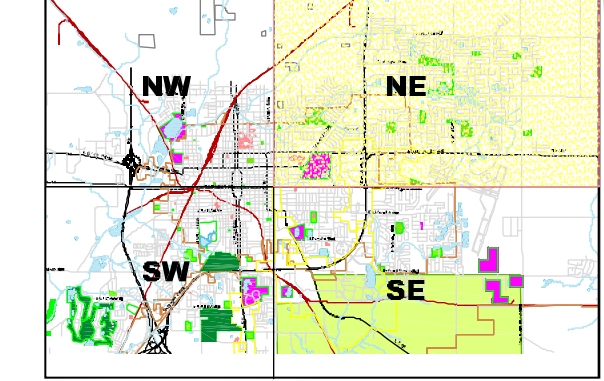
- Northpoint School/Park**
 - Picnic Shelter and Outdoor Grills
 - Softball Field with Backstop
 - Football Goal Posts and Field and Playground
 - Soccer/Football Field
 - 1/2 Court Basketball
- Stevenson School/Park**
 - Three Lighted Tennis Courts
 - Playground Equipment
 - Game Quality Softball Field
 - Shared School Park Facility

- Ewing Park I**
 - Parking Lot
 - Walking Trails
 - Soccer Field
 - Wooded Open Space
- Ewing Park II**
 - Two Game Quality Softball Fields
 - Small Playground
 - Two Picnic Shelters
 - Bridge Access to Ewing III Open Space
 - Shared Soccer Field with Ewing I
 - Parking Lot
- Ewing Park III**
 - Large Partially Wooded Open Space
 - Children and Elders Forestry

- Dawes Place**
 - Small Shelter

- BHS Tennis Courts**
 - (8) Lighted Tennis Courts

- Bloomington Country Club**



- Clearwater Park**
 - Three 1/2 Court Basketball Courts
 - Picnic Shelter
 - Playground Equipment
 - Two Sand Volleyball Courts
 - Soccer Field
 - Parking Lot
 - Walking Trails
 - Neighborhood Park

- Airport Park**
 - Playground Equipment
 - Picnic Shelter
 - Two Basketball Courts
 - Backstop for Softball/Baseball Practice
 - Parking Lot
 - Neighborhood Park

- McGraw Park Phase II**
 - (6) Tennis Courts (4 lit)
 - Baseball Field (Lit)
 - Softball Field (Unlit)
 - (2) Grass Volleyball Courts
 - Concession/Restroom/ Storage Building
 - Trail
 - Parking Lot
 - Sister City Garden

- McGraw Park**
 - Community Scale Playground
 - Decorative Arbor and Memorial Fountain
 - Picnic Shelter
 - Interactive Water Spray Park
 - Two Softball Fields
 - Seating areas with Decorative Arbors
 - Elaborate Ornamental Gardens
 - Community Park

- Eagle Crest Park**
 - Small Playground with benches
 - Small Shelter
 - Drinking Fountain
 - Basketball Court
 - Backstop

- Walt Bittner Park**
 - Playground Equipment with Shelter
 - Three 1/2 Court Basketball Courts
 - Loop Walking Trail and Parking Lot
 - Backstop for Practice Baseball/Softball

- Eagle View South Park**
 - Undeveloped

- Tipton Park North**
 - Farm Themed Park
 - Interactive Water Spray Park
 - Game Quality Baseball Field
 - Game Quality Softball Field
 - Parking Lot
 - Walking Trails
 - Community Building
 - Soccer Field/Open Play Area
- Tipton Park South**
 - Great Nature Preserve
 - Walking Trails
 - Picnic Shelter
 - Bridge over Waterway
 - Parking Lot
 - Interpretive Signage

- Harvest Pointe Park**
 - Undeveloped

- Suburban East Park**
 - Basketball Courts
 - New Playground Equipment
 - Picnic Shelter
 - Wooded Open Space
 - Open Field Play Area/Soccer Practice



Parks Inventory Map

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department

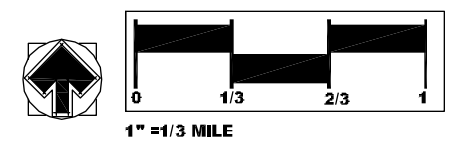
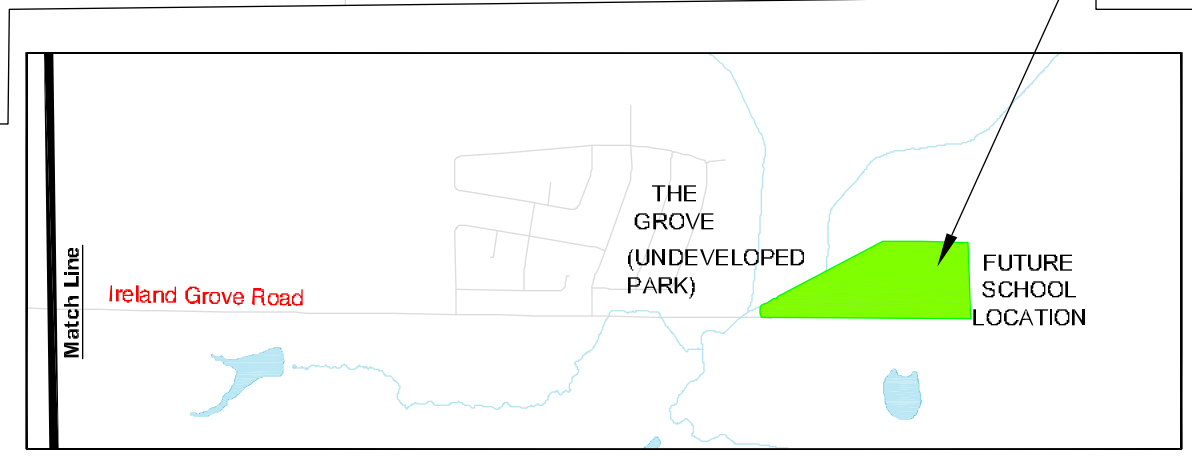
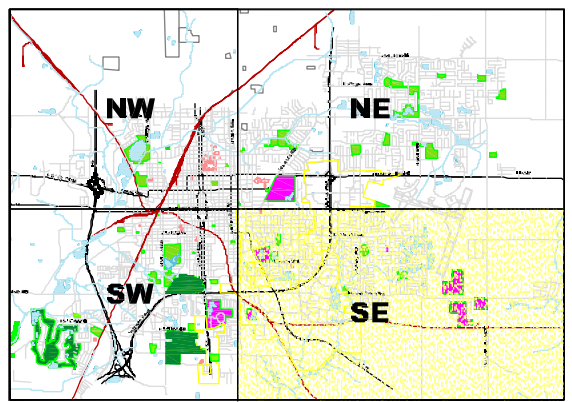
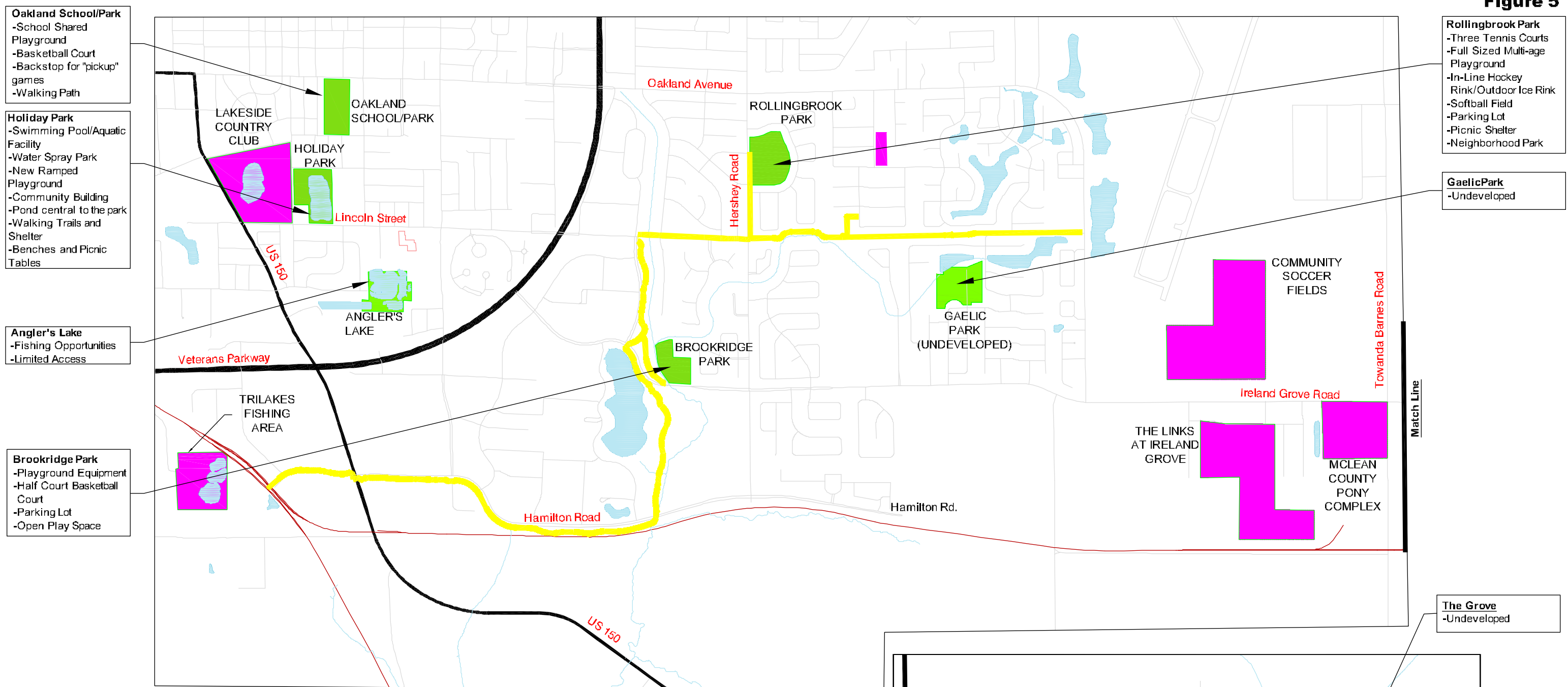


Figure 5

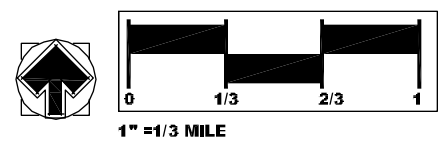


Parks Inventory Map

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department



Existing Trails



B. PARKS INVENTORY TABLE AND MATRIX (FIGURE 6)

The following figure illustrates a table listing all the parks with the number of existing facilities contained within each park. The purpose is to both show what exists in each park as well as compile the total quantity of facilities offered by the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department. For more detail on each of the parks and their respective condition and potential renovation or replacement of each of the items listed, see the Park by Park Inventory and Recommendations pages for each park.

City of Bloomington Parks Inventory Table and Matrix

	Area (acres)	Playground Equipment	Shelter	1/2 Court Basketball	Interior Trail System	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Practice Field Backstop	Softball/Baseball Fields	Soccer Fields	Football Field	Indoor Recreation Facility	Bathroom Facilities in Park	Skate Park	Outdoor Hockey/Ice Rink	Cricket	Disk Golf	18 Hole Golf Course	Driving Range	Swimming Pool	Interactive Water Spray Park	Lake/Pond with Fishing Opportunity	Parking Lot	Zoo	Drinking Fountain	Bike Rack	
Parks																											
Airport Park	7	1	1	3				1		1 Practice	1 Practice												1				
Alton Depot Park	0.3	1	1		C																						
Anglers Lake	11																					1					
Atwood Wayside	0.1		1		C																	1					
BHS/BJHS/Area Career Cent.	1					8																					
Brookridge Park	9.4	1	1	1						1 Practice												1		1			
Buck-Mann Park	0.9	1		2																						1	
Cedar Ridge School Park*	20																										
Clearwater Park	12.5	1	1	3	1		2 (Sand)	1		2 Practice													1				
Dawes Place	0.1		1																								
Eagle Crest Park	6	1	1	3																					1		
Eagle View South *	12.7																										
Emerson Park	2.4	1																									
Evergreen Park	1	1																							1		
Ewing Park I	6.2	1	1							1 Practice													1				
Ewing Park II	10.3	1	2						2				1										1		1		
Ewing Park III	25.6									1 Practice																	
Fell Avenue Park	0.9	1	1	1																							
Forrest Park	20.2	1	3										1										1		1		
Franklin Park	4.8	1			1																						
Friendship Park	0.1	1	1																								
Gaelic Park *	12																										
Harvest Pointe *	7																										
Holiday Park	13.1	1	1									1								1	1	1	1			1	
Lincoln Leisure Center	0.5											1															
Marie Litta Park	0.2	1	1																						1		
McGraw Park	30	1	1		1	6	2 (Grass)		3 Lit/1 Not	1 Practice			1								1						
Miller Park	67.6	1- New, 1 Old	1		1	3	1 (Sand)		1			1					1				1	1	3	1	1	3	
O'Neil Park	18.7	1	1	1		3			2 Lit/1 Not	1 Practice			1	1						1							
P.J. Irvin Park	16	1	1														1						1				
Pepper Ridge Park	31	2	1	4					2	1																	
Rollingbrook Park	14.7	1	1	7		3			1	2 Practice					1								1				
R.T. Dunn Fields	5								2														1				
Sale Barn Soccer Fields	5									2													1				
Suburban East Park	3.2	1	1	2				1		1 Practice																	
Sugar Creek Park *	74.3																										
Sunnyside Park	2.1	1		4					1																		
The Grove Park *	20																										
Tipton Park North	32	1	1		1				2	1 Practice		1	1								1		1				
Tipton Park South	25		2		1																		1		1		
Walt Bittner Park	7.5	1	1	3	1				1														1				
Westwood Park *	2.4																										
White Oak Park	75.4	1	2		1				1	1	1	1											1		1		
Wittenberg Woods Park *	7																										
Withers Park	0.5																										
Woodbury Park *	1																										
	623.7																										
Schools with shared Parks																											
Northpoint School/Park	20	1	2	2				1	1	1 Practice			1														
Oakland School/Park	15	1		8				2	2			1															
Stevenson School/Park	9.6	2	1	4		3			1			1															
	44.6																										
Public Schools																											
Bent School	0																										
Brigham School	21.6	3		4				2																			
Fox Creek School	11.1	1		2				1																			
Sarah Raymond School	2	2																									
Sheridan School	0.28	1																									
Washington School	0.5	1		2																							
	35.48																										
Totals	668.3	39	33	56	8	26	5	10	24	4	1	7	6	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	4	5	19	1	7	5	
NRPA/Bloomington Goals	725	44	44	29	17	37	15	12	15	12	6	12	10	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	5			1		5	
Surplus/Deficit	-56.7	-5	-11	27	-9	-11	-10	-2	9	-8	-5	-5	-4	-1	0	1	2	1	0	-1	-1			0		5	

Bloomington Park and Open Space is calculated at 10 acres per 1,000 residents. 2006 Census shows 72,490 population, meaning the goal for park land is 725 acres. Schools Acreage was not included because they are not permanent property of the City of Bloomington.

* An asterisk and yellow box indicates parks where the land is currently owned but as of yet undeveloped.

BOLD Numbers in orange boxes indicate lighted fields or tennis courts.

C - Constitution Trail runs through these parks highlighted in green.

Playgrounds highlighted in pink are 10 years old or older.

I. PARK SYSTEM ANALYSIS

The planning for our parks, land preservation and recreation is to be based upon a thorough evaluation of existing public and City facilities, finances, existing natural resources, environmental sensitivity, public safety, energy conservation and present and anticipated needs and trends. In order to continue to provide the desired level of exceptional recreational opportunities, the City of Bloomington Parks Master Plan should undergo periodic review, reevaluation and revision of long-range plans on a regular and periodic basis.

An evaluation of the City-wide recreation system identified the following discrepancies, based upon the previously adopted standards identified in the 2005 East Side Plan Update:

1. Developed outdoor park land should continue to increase by 75 - 100 acres to reach the approximate 10 acres per 1,000 population goal previously established. Areas currently “underserved” or anticipate continued growth include some property along State Route 51 south of Veteran’s Parkway as well as the far southeast and southwest portions of the City limits.
2. Playground facilities are adequate for the number of residents within the City; however, there are a number of them that are 10 years old and over. Some do not offer separate age appropriate structures for 2-5 year olds and 5 - 12 year olds. Every opportunity to update the older equipment into having separate 2-5 year and 5-12 year age/appropriate playground equipment structures is strongly recommended. In addition, there are facilities that would benefit from better access and more interesting play environments. Shade is an important aspect of the playgrounds and each playground should include a small to medium sized shelter.
3. Walking/jogging/biking trails were identified as the most important recreational activity enjoyed by the residents of the City of Bloomington. This is consistent with the national trends and therefore should continue to receive the highest priority in the development of public recreational amenities. There are several important extensions of the Constitution Trail that would move this system toward a

regional loop trail, allowing residents to navigate the entire City of Bloomington. In addition, links to as many existing and future parks should be made when lengthening the Constitution Trail. In addition, there are some parks that have opportunities to develop internal walking trails to offer walking, jogging and riding opportunities to the nearby residents.

4. Multiple focus group members and portions of the Resident Input Survey showed strong support for a large sporting complex that could host tournaments in a variety of sports- softball, baseball, soccer, cricket and football. Bloomington's location within the middle of the state could draw a large contingent of participants from surrounding communities as well as metropolitan areas like Champaign-Urbana, Springfield, and Peoria. This would require an acreage consisting of approximately 130 - 150 or more acres for the development of all these fields. Having a complex of this nature would facilitate regional tournaments as well as making programming all these sporting events in one area. This would simplify the arrangements of many families with children participating in multiple sports and leagues of different but similar ages to all participate in one location.
5. The Resident Input Survey and national trends indicate that outdoor water play and swimming are still very popular items. The City of Bloomington is lacking in the type of water play that the trends are supporting- interactive water play over traditional swimming pools. Tipton North and Holiday Parks both have the type of interactive water play that most people prefer. While swimming lanes still hold some popularity, more people using outdoor water are tending toward the interactive water spray type facilities. O'Neil Park is a pool that should be considered for renovation into a "zero-depth" aquatic facility with features similar to Tipton North water play area.
6. Ice skating and hockey are highly sought activities within the Bloomington-Normal community and surrounding areas. The Resident Input Survey had large support for additional "ice time" at the Pepsi Center. Ice skating was number three in overall programs behind organized youth sports and "family special events". The difficulty is the ideal hours of the day for various user groups to skate are generally occupied and difficult to schedule to accommodate everyone. Support for a second "sheet of ice" was demonstrated in

both the user groups and the Resident Input Survey.

7. The quantitative analysis and input from members of the focus groups identified tennis and sand volleyball opportunities are lacking from the City's current inventory.

PUBLIC COOPERATION

Planning for public facilities is to be undertaken with full cooperation and input of the citizens of the City of Bloomington so the park system may, to the greatest extent possible, reflect the needs and interests of all individuals. This process combined community interest Public Focus Groups to provide input to the needs of the organizations they represent. In addition, an extensive on-line survey has been conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department, and the results and input received have been incorporated into the Analysis and Recommendations portion of this Master Plan Update. The community groups represented are as follows:

- Friends of Constitution Trail
- American Junior Baseball
- Bloomington Normal Girls Softball Association
- Pony League Baseball
- Central Illinois Cricket Association
- PCSL and Fusion Soccer
- Illinois State University Hockey Association
- Boys Hockey Association
- Inline Hockey
- Figure Skating Representatives
- Youth Football representatives, including the Bloomington Cardinals, Bloomington Knockers and McLean County Cougars
- School representatives from Central Catholic, Unit 5 and District 87

All of the organizations listed above were represented during the Focus Group meetings process to provide targeted input for their participant members. These Focus Group meetings asked each organization to project future growth, their specific needs to support their groups recreational needs, how to best cooperate with the facilities that currently exist and to identify what would benefit their respective organizations. The input was documented and minutes of the meetings are contained within the Appendix to this Parks Master Plan Update.

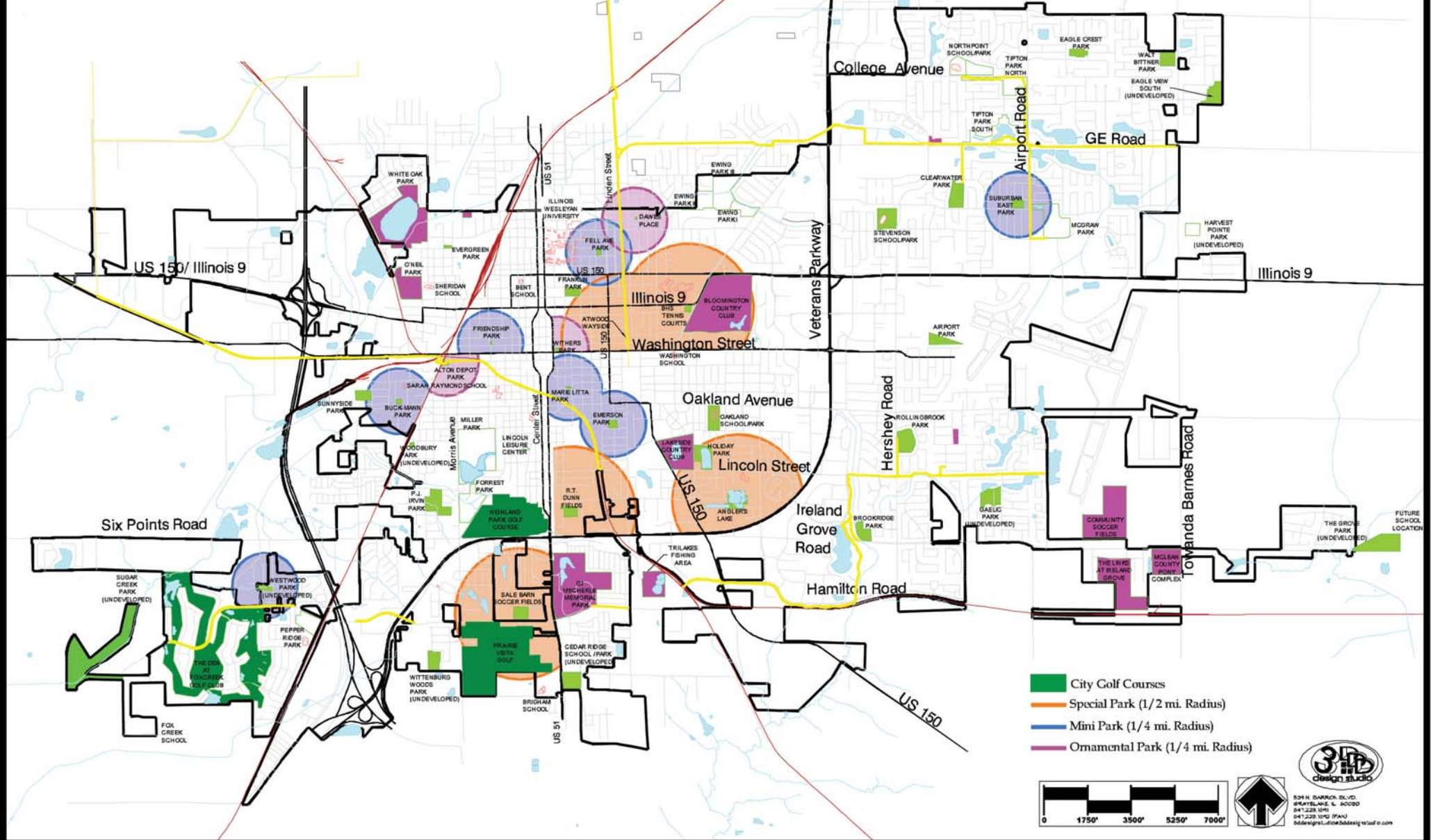
A. SERVICE RADII MAPS (FIGURES 7-9)

The maps on the following pages illustrate the locations of each of the parks and their respective “Radius of Service”. This means the reasonable distance that potential park users would travel via walking, bicycle or car, based upon the type and size of the park, as well as the features offered. In many cases, the Service Radius is based upon the overall size and classification of the park. Mini Parks and Neighborhood parks generally have a ½ mile radius and Community Parks generally have a 1 mile radius. There are exceptions in Community Parks where certain facilities may justify a larger service radius, for example having a swimming pool or cricket field. These become destination facilities that people will travel greater distances to enjoy and in which to participate.

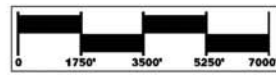
BLOOMINGTON MASTER PLAN

SPECIAL / MINI/ OPEN SPACE PARK SERVICE AREAS

Figure 7



- City Golf Courses
- Special Park (1/2 mi. Radius)
- Mini Park (1/4 mi. Radius)
- Ornamental Park (1/4 mi. Radius)



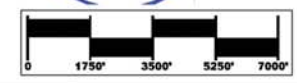
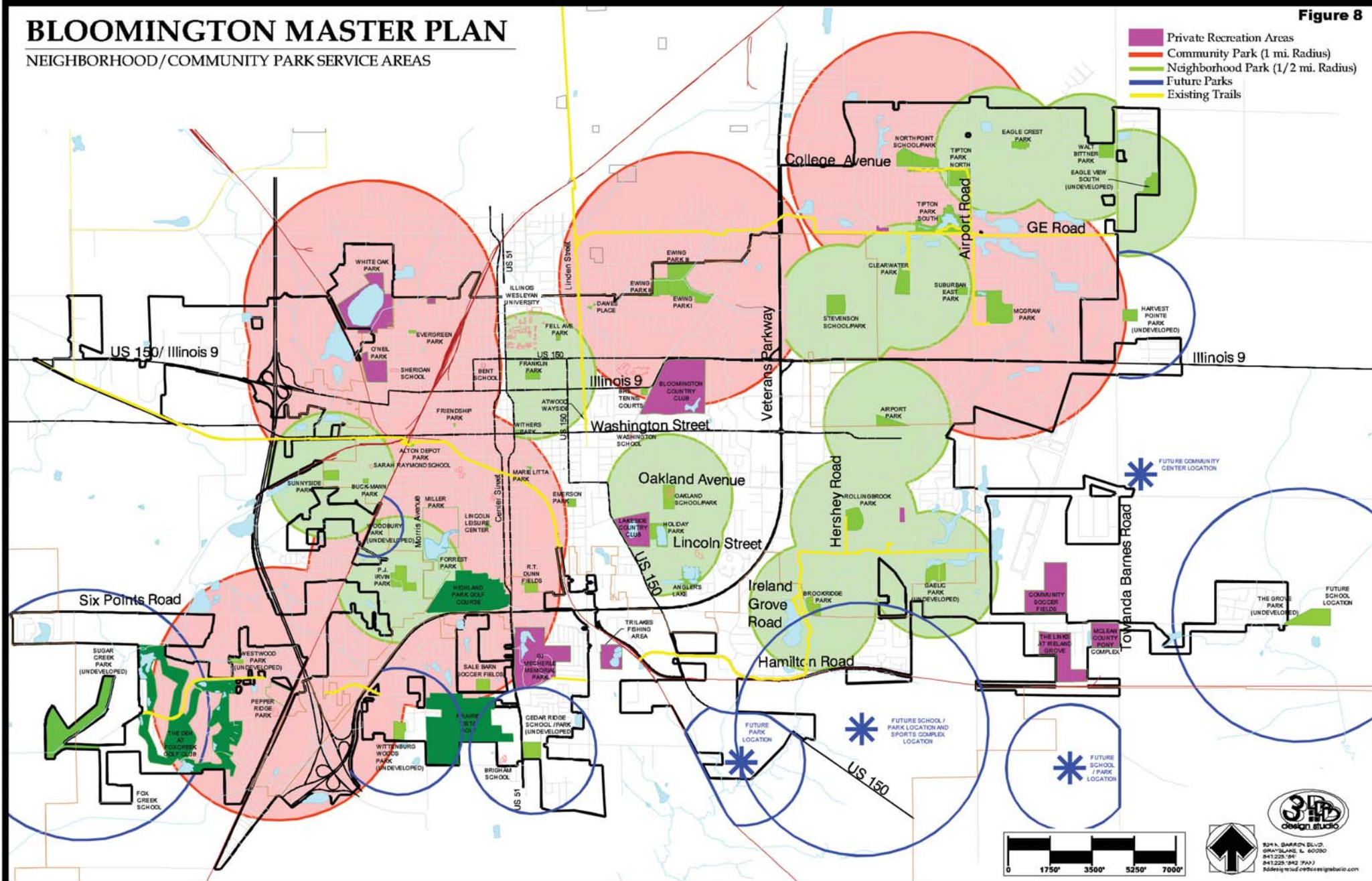
3D design studio
 301 N. BARBER BLVD.
 #1474, L. ACCORD
 941.228.0101
 941.229.1010 (FAX)
 info@3d-design.com

BLOOMINGTON MASTER PLAN

NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREAS

Figure 8

- Private Recreation Areas
- Community Park (1 mi. Radius)
- Neighborhood Park (1/2 mi. Radius)
- Future Parks
- Existing Trails



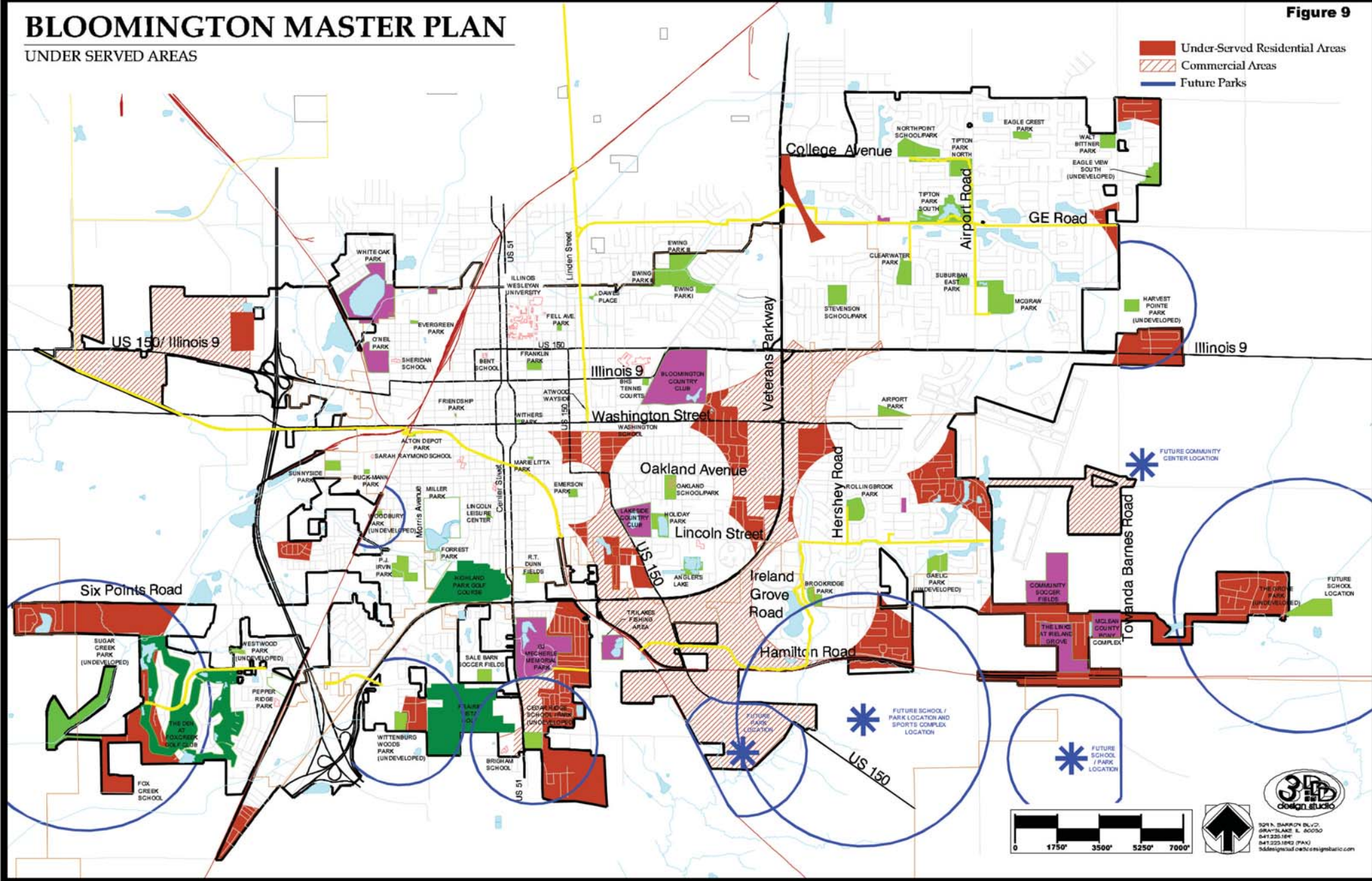
345 design studio
 3214. BARREN BLVD
 GRAYSLAND, IL 60030
 841.225.54
 841.225.542 FAX
 Address not on map

BLOOMINGTON MASTER PLAN

UNDER SERVED AREAS

Figure 9

- Under-Served Residential Areas
- Commercial Areas
- Future Parks



II. SYSTEM WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following outlines The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department Parks Master Plan Recommendations for the 2009 Master Plan Update:

- **BIKING/WALKING TRAILS-** Provide additional walking, jogging and biking trails within the City system. Consider completing inter-park trails within the larger parks that don't currently have trails circumnavigating the parks, and look for opportunities to lengthen and connect the Constitution Trail around the City and to existing parks, open space and golf courses. Following is a question contained within the Resident Input Survey, "What type of parks and recreation facilities are most important to members of your household?" - The number one answer was Walking/biking trails. In addition, under the Survey question- "Areas needing the most attention over the next two years"- walking/bicycling trails was led only by Youth Programs, Holiday Pool and the Maintenance of the Parks. In the survey context, "Youth Programs and the Quality of the Maintenance" do not impact the facilities needed to increase recreational opportunities to the residents. They are statements regarding their quality for the City, and that subsequently places walking trails second behind the Holiday Pool in importance to the residents. Therefore, continuing to provide and promote this activity should be a high priority to the City. Lengthening and connecting the Constitution Trail throughout the City will increase the opportunities community-wide to utilize this great resource while enjoying and experiencing many things the City has to offer. Recommended trail segments have been identified in the Priorities section of the Parks Master Plan Update. These segments receiving the highest priority were those that made park to park connections and lengthened the Constitution Trail south to Hamilton Road. One key trails priority is to make a north/south connection from Grove Street south to Hamilton Road. This connection has been recommended to run south from the existing trail on Grove Street to Lincoln Street then west to the railroad tracks and then south along the railroad right-of-way to Hamilton Road. The second priority is a section of trail that could link O'Neil Park and White Oak Park, as well as a link between

Clearwater Park and McGraw Park. The third priority would be links between P.J. Irvin, Forrest and Miller Parks. These are second and third priority recommendations are simple connections that could be made.

Both the 1997 Parks Plan and the 2005 East Side Update recommend that trails continue to be developed in a coordinated way with as many trail to park connections as possible. This strategy maximizes the value of both trails and parks to the balance of the open space and recreation system through the elimination of barriers to use. In addition, there are several parks where interior loop trails could be added to enrich the experience of the park and add to the walking/jogging/biking opportunities within the City. The following list identifies some parks where trails might be added or lengthened:

- Ewing I, II, and III connections to all three
 - Forrest Park- perimeter trail and connect facilities
 - Airport Park perimeter
 - Anglers Lake perimeter for ADA access and to a new fishing pier
 - Brookridge Park perimeter
 - Eagle Crest Park perimeter
 - Eagle View, Gaelic Park, Sugar Creek, The Grove, Westwood and Harvest Point (all when they are developed)
 - Rollingbrook Park perimeter
- **COMMUNITY CENTER-** There is a clear need for additional programmable indoor space that should be provided by a new Community Center to serve the east/southeast portions of the City. This recommendation is based upon providing the community more recreation opportunities in the form of classrooms and multi-purpose programming spaces than specific fitness activities (not weight lifting and aerobics programming). The current indoor programming space is insufficient both in size and proximity to properly serve the residents within the eastern portions of the City.

The City has a wonderful opportunity with the newly acquired Performing Arts Center. This building should have a complete inventory and analysis performed on the existing spaces and how they can fit the needs of the programs needed within the City. Offices can be provided in the Performing Arts Center with some of the much needed programming space recommended herein. The City should investigate the current master plan for the Performing Arts Center to coordinate the modifications possible for better multi-purpose utilization of this new facility. Once this inventory and programming analysis has been completed, evaluate the programming needs of the future Community Center being recommended as part of this recommendation. A concept plan of this Community Center is provided in the Plans Section of the Master Plan Update.

Several other potential locations exist for another Community Center site, including currently owned undeveloped park sites. Particular attention should be placed upon the possibility of incorporating gymnasium space within the proposed Community Center. The top four responses from the Resident Input Survey were requesting youth sports, family special events, ice skating and fitness and wellness programs. Though a costly consideration, some thought should be given toward incorporating a new ice rink into the center for skating, hockey, figure skating, and other ice related recreation. The development of a new Community Center in the east/southeastern portions of Bloomington should review the potential space planning program listed below:

- Gymnasium space
- Community Meeting Rooms
- Fitness/Aerobic Exercise Rooms
- Locker Rooms with full facilities (whirlpool, sauna, steam)
- Running Track
- Deli/concessions
- The senior center function should include meeting rooms, game rooms, access to the gym and some specialized fitness facilities

- Ideally, the building would incorporate a City maintenance facility for housing park maintenance equipment & operations.
 - Additional recreational program spaces should be considered during the architectural design of the building.
 - Optional ice rink should be considered when evaluating the space and budget availability.
- **SPORTS COMPLEX-** The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department is lacking a community competition/league play outdoor Sports Complex. During the focus group meetings and the input seen in the Input Survey, the desire became apparent for a sporting complex that could combine a baseball/softball complex with cricket and lighted football/soccer field(s). While this is a high demand and high benefit facility, the City of Bloomington should make sure and coordinate with the City of Normal as to what they are planning as far as long range sports complex facilities. In addition, another round of input meetings is recommended upon the time of commencing with this park for additional user group support for the specific elements contained within the park.

A community park of this type should incorporate several shelters, a bathroom/concession and storage building, a community scale playground and significant parking spaces in a variety of locations. We anticipate this sporting complex would require approximately 140 - 160 acres to combine all the sporting events proposed. However, there are great reasons to have all these facilities in one location. The first would be the ability for the City of Bloomington to host a variety of regional and national tournaments are in high demand. Secondly, the City's maintenance efforts would benefit by:

- having one central location for a large grouping of fields,
- more efficient and effective care and results,
- and the opportunity to reduce the number of lease agreements necessary to supply and support fields.

Having this type of complex also allows families to have all their youth attending games at the same location, as well as the revenue potential for the City. A concept plan of this potential arrangement is

included within the Plans Section of this Master Plan Update.

The following outlines the recommended program for the proposed Sports Complex:

- (2) Football Fields
- (2) Cricket Fields with (2) Warm-Up Pitches
- (16) Soccer Fields (to replace future lost community soccer fields south of the airport)
- (4) High School Competition Soccer Fields
- (2) Playgrounds
- (8) 250'-300' Ball Fields
- (1) 200' Ball Field
- (2) Restroom Facilities with Shelters
- (2) Additional Shelters
- Picnic Grove with (2) Additional Shelters
- (6) Tennis Courts
- (2-4) Sand Volleyball Courts
- (3) Basketball Courts
- (18) Hole Disc Golf Course
- 5 Acre Irrigation/Fishing Pond
- 4+ Acres of Stormwater Management features like Bio-Swales and Rain Gardens
- 800 - 900 Parking Spaces spread throughout the site for ease of access to the various fields
- 2 - 4 Miles of Walking/jogging biking paths

- **ADD AND IMPROVE PLAYGROUNDS-** The current number of playground facilities offered are lower than the National average and were identified as an important item in the Resident Input Survey. In several cases the service radii of the parks covers the surrounding residents, but there are some parks that don't have playgrounds or offer playgrounds that are too small, not appropriately separated by age, or are currently not ADA compliant. The following is a listing of the parks where playgrounds are 10 years old or older (listed in order- oldest to newest- Ewing II in 1992 to Northpoint in 1999):

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Ewing II | 8. Sunnyside |
| 2. Eagle Crest East | 9. Alton Depot |
| 3. Pepper Ridge | 10. O'Neil |
| 4. Rollingbrook | 11. Clearwater |
| 5. Suburban East | 12. Friendship |
| 6. Emerson | 13. Northpoint |
| 7. Oakland | |

14. Shade Structures are an important consideration for parents and children alike throughout the parks system. Shade Structures should be present at each location where there is a playground. This classification is given to smaller shelters that are not planned for rental use. These are intended for resting and passive use, generally with 1-2 picnic tables under them. The quantity of shade structures should correspond with the quantity of playgrounds throughout the District. Each playground should offer the opportunity for shade to the users and their families. Specific locations for these structures are recommended in the Park-by-Park Recommendations Section of the Parks Master Plan Update.

- **RENOVATE O'NEIL POOL INTO A FAMILY AQUATIC FACILITY-**
Under the current trends and uses of outdoor water facilities, more and more people are tending toward interactive outdoor water play facilities (spray parks) similar to the facility at Tipton North, Holiday or Miller Park. With the population of the City of Bloomington (census update 2006 population states 72,416) that the City should have three outdoor pools/water play activities. While the current supply meets this recommendation, the current swimming pool at O'Neil Park is reaching its age limit and lacks the interest and excitement of newer aquatic facilities. The recent attendance records support these claims. In the Resident Input Survey, "outdoor swimming" pools were the third most important item residents requested. Holiday Pool outranked it in the "satisfaction ratings" by a wide margin (Holiday had 125 "excellent" votes compared to O'Neil's 25). The O'Neil pool should be renovated into a facility that combines the fun and excitement similar to the water spray features of Tipton North, Holiday or Miller Park to expand the play options, conserve on water and energy, and reduce the staffing requirements of a "normal pool". A swimming component should be included, but with a "zero-depth" section, where one enters at grade and gently slopes into chest deep water. One section aside from the "zero depth" section of the pool should have 2-4 swimming lanes.

The existing pool house should be renovated to accept the new bather load and expand the outdoor sunning deck for users. Removal and relocation of the existing 1/2 court basketball and small playground should be incorporated into the Aquatic Facility renovation. Consider making the playground part of the aquatic complex (see Park by Park Recommendations) and relocate basketball elsewhere within the park.

- **ADD A DOG PARK-** The City of Bloomington is lacking a dog park facility for its residents. At least one of these facilities should be added at one of the upcoming future park sites. The ideal site should have a minimum of 10 acres dedicated to the dog park. Facilities that should be included are a parking lot, security lighting, fenced in areas for the dogs and with asphalt, limestone screenings, or mown paths. In addition, consider adding a means of separating small dogs from the large dogs with a smaller fenced area, add agility training and exercise areas. If a pond exists possible on site, incorporate the water into part of the dog park. Whether the dog park allows for a pond or not, we recommend having water from a hose available at the entry to wash off the dogs before they leave. Sites recommended for dog park developments include Sugar Creek Park and The Grove. An example dog park layout is included as Figure 28 in Section VIII of the Parks Master Plan Update.

A. PARK & TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS MAPS (FIGURES 10-13)

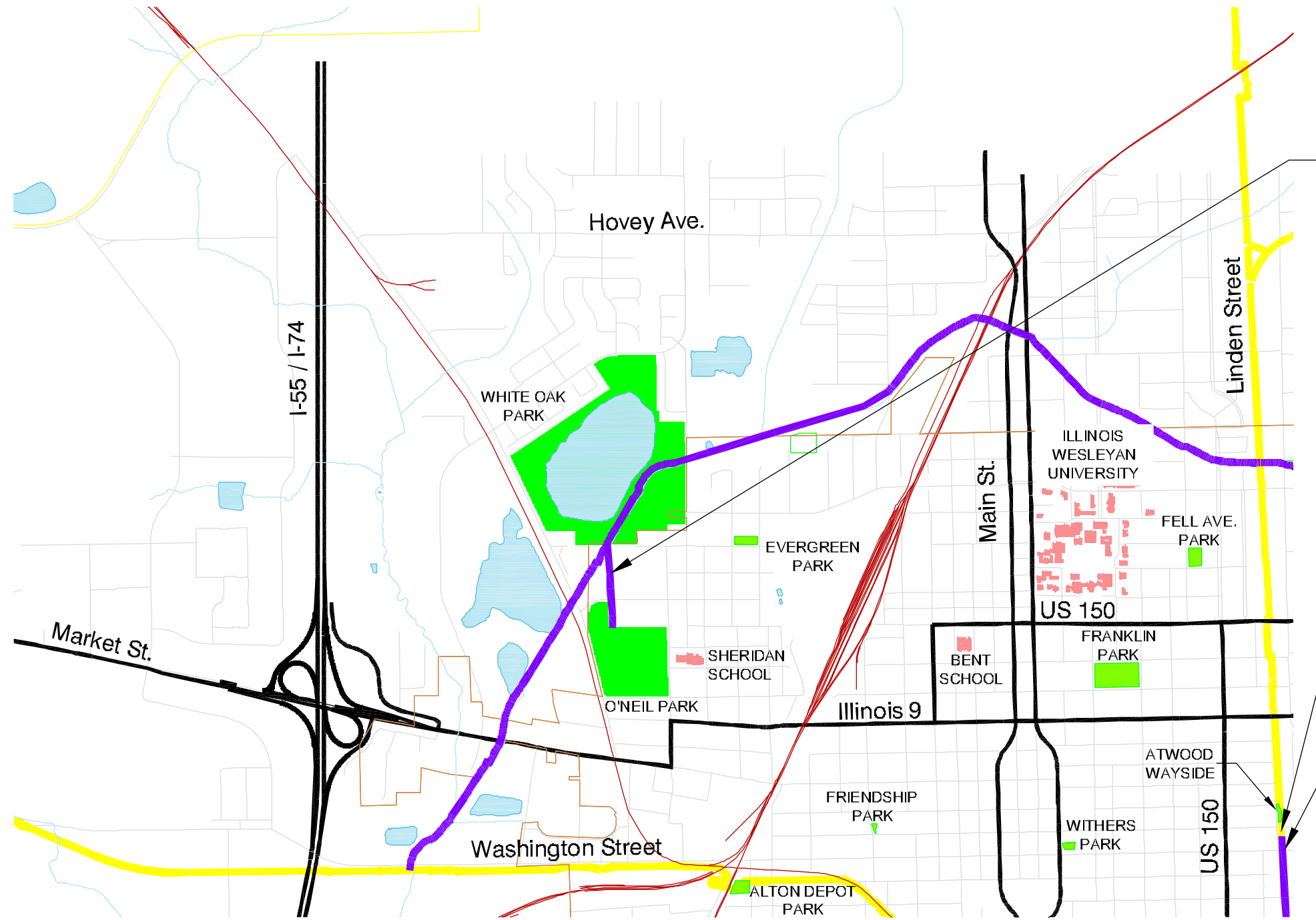
The following pages illustrate the four quadrants of the City with the locations of existing and proposed trails and keys to the various parks to see their respective renovation or improvement recommendations. The sheets detail the locations for Constitution Trail extensions with their levels of priority and each park referencing its proposed improvements.

Park Recommendations	
Alton Depot Park	Page: 13
Atwood Wayside	Page: 15
Evergreen Park	Page: 25
Fell Ave. Park	Page: 29
Franklin Park	Page: 31
Friendship Park	Page: 32
O'Neil Park	Page: 44
White Oak Park	Page: 61
Withers Park	Page: 62

Constitution Trail
 - Make pathway connection to White Oak Park
 PRIORITY: HIGH

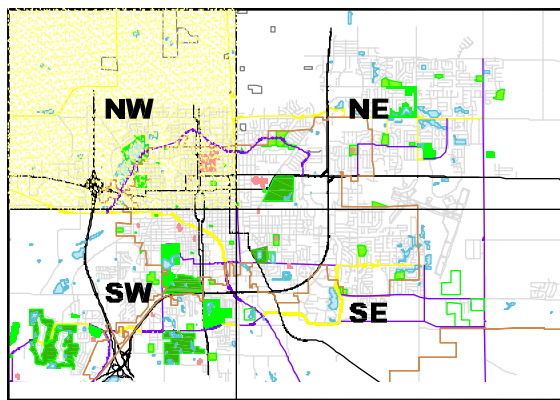
Constitution Trail
 - Connection starting at Monroe Dr. south to Lincoln St., southeast along the railroad tracks to Hamilton Rd.
 PRIORITY: HIGH

Constitution Trail
 - Add lighting at Washington St. underpass
 PRIORITY: MEDIUM



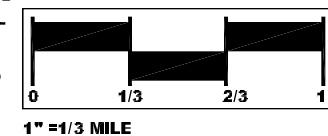
PROPOSED TRAIL EXPANSION

EXISTING TRAIL



Park and Trail Recommendations Map

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department



Park Recommendations

Buck-Mann Park	Page: 18
Cedar Ridge School/Park (Undeveloped)	Page: 19
Emerson Park	Page: 24
Forrest Park	Page: 30
Marie Litta Park	Page: 38
Miller Park	Page: 40-41
P.J. Irvin Park	Page: 45
Pepper Ridge Park	Page: 46
RT Dunn Fields	Page: 48
Sale Barn Soccer Field	Page: 50
Westwood Park	Page: 60
Wittenberg Woods Park (Undeveloped)	Page: 63
Woodbury Park (Undeveloped)	Page: 64



Constitution Trail
- Trail expansion north to Raab Rd.
PRIORITY: LOW

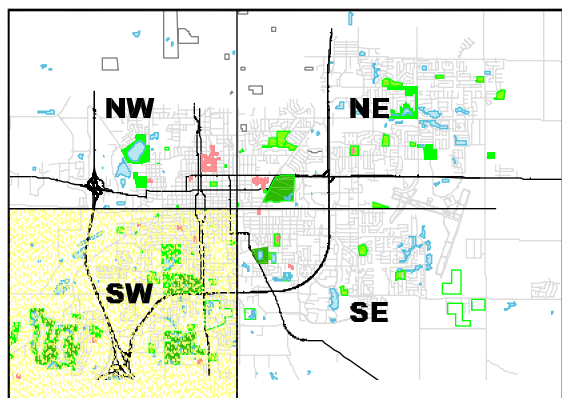
Fox Creek Trail
- Expand trail around Sugar Creek Park and connect with existing trail at The Den.
PRIORITY: MEDIUM

Constitution Trail
- Connecting Miller, Forest and P.J. Irvin Parks
PRIORITY: HIGH
- Connecting Lincoln and Holiday Parks to eastside trails
PRIORITY: HIGH

Constitution Trail
- Connecting Lincoln St. to Hamilton Rd.
PRIORITY: HIGH

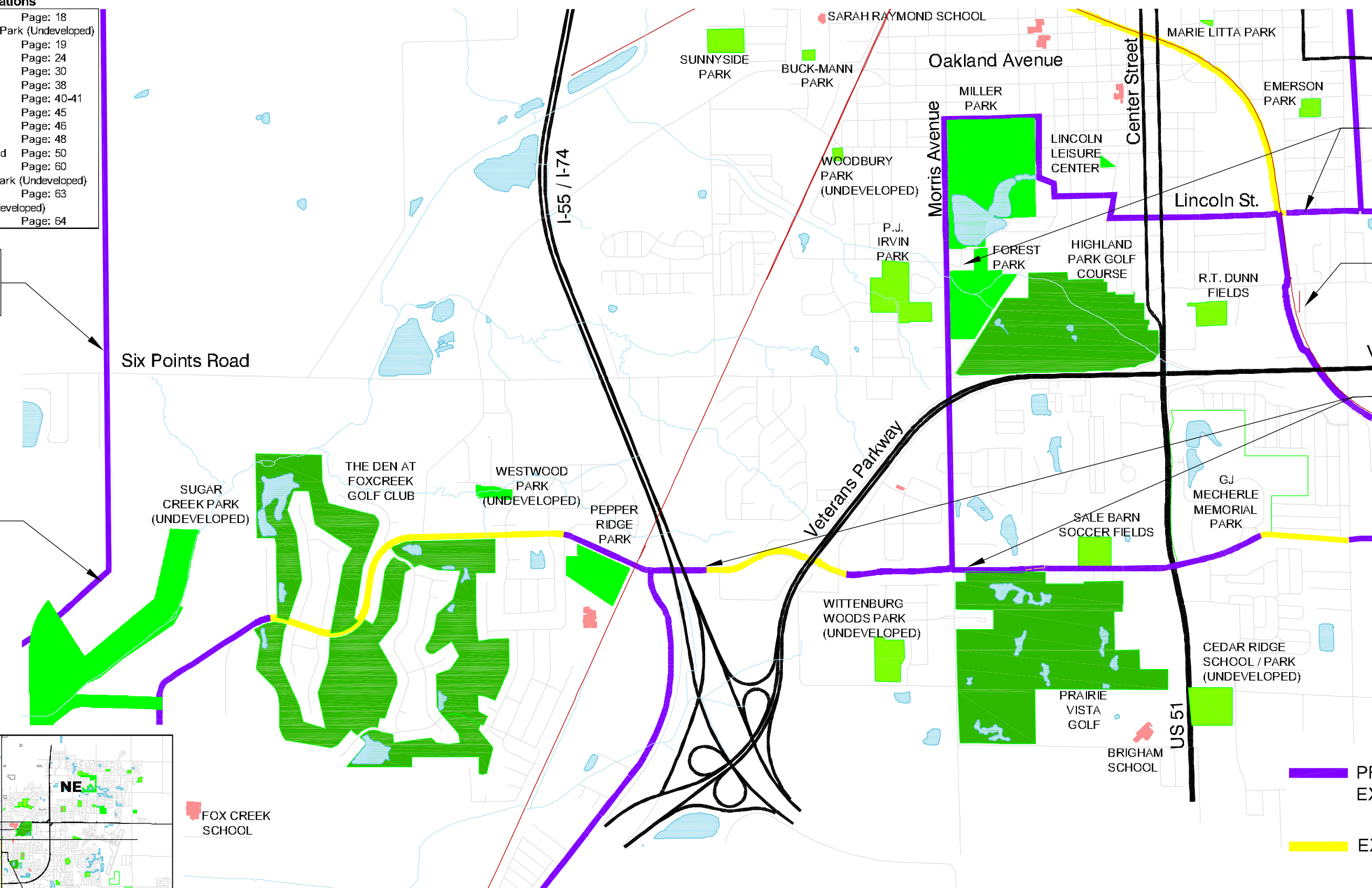
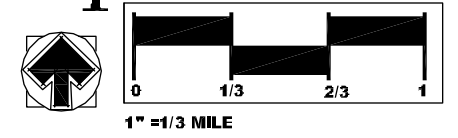
Constitution Trail
- Proposed trail expansion through City from The Den to Hershey Rd.
PRIORITY: MEDIUM

 PROPOSED TRAIL EXPANSION
 EXISTING TRAIL



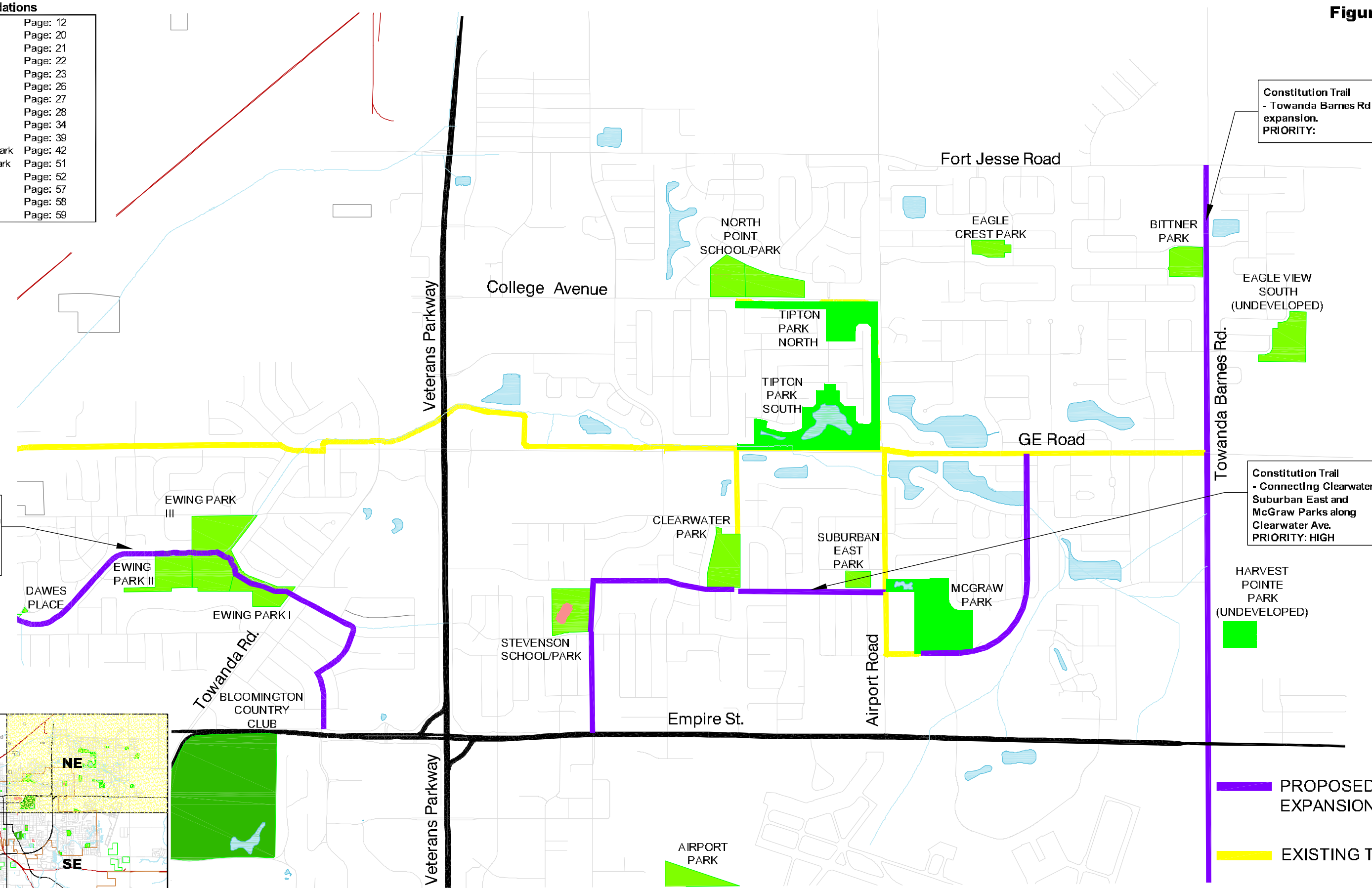
Park and Trails Recommendations Map

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department



Park Recommendations

Airport Park	Page: 12
Clearwater Park	Page: 20
Dawes Place	Page: 21
Eagle Crest Park	Page: 22
Eagle View South	Page: 23
Ewing Park I	Page: 26
Ewing Park II	Page: 27
Ewing Park III	Page: 28
Harvest Pointe Park	Page: 34
McGraw Park	Page: 39
North Point School/Park	Page: 42
Stevenson School Park	Page: 51
Suburban East Park	Page: 52
Tipton Park North	Page: 57
Tipton Park South	Page: 58
Walt Bittner Park	Page: 59



Constitution Trail
- Trail expansion through Ewing Park to connect to Eastland Mall
PRIORITY: MEDIUM

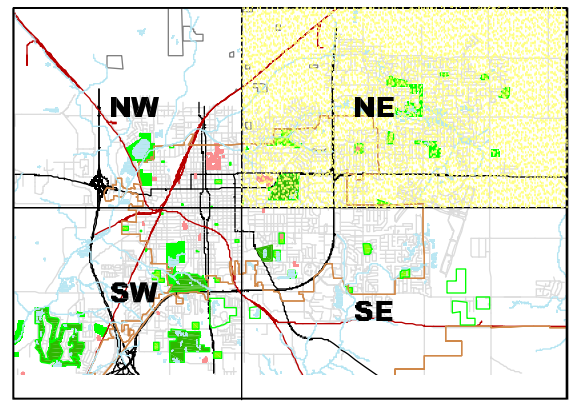
Constitution Trail
- Towanda Barnes Rd expansion.
PRIORITY:

Constitution Trail
- Connecting Clearwater, Suburban East and McGraw Parks along Clearwater Ave.
PRIORITY: HIGH

HARVEST
POINTE
PARK
(UNDEVELOPED)

PROPOSED TRAIL EXPANSION

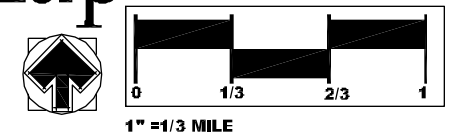
EXISTING TRAIL

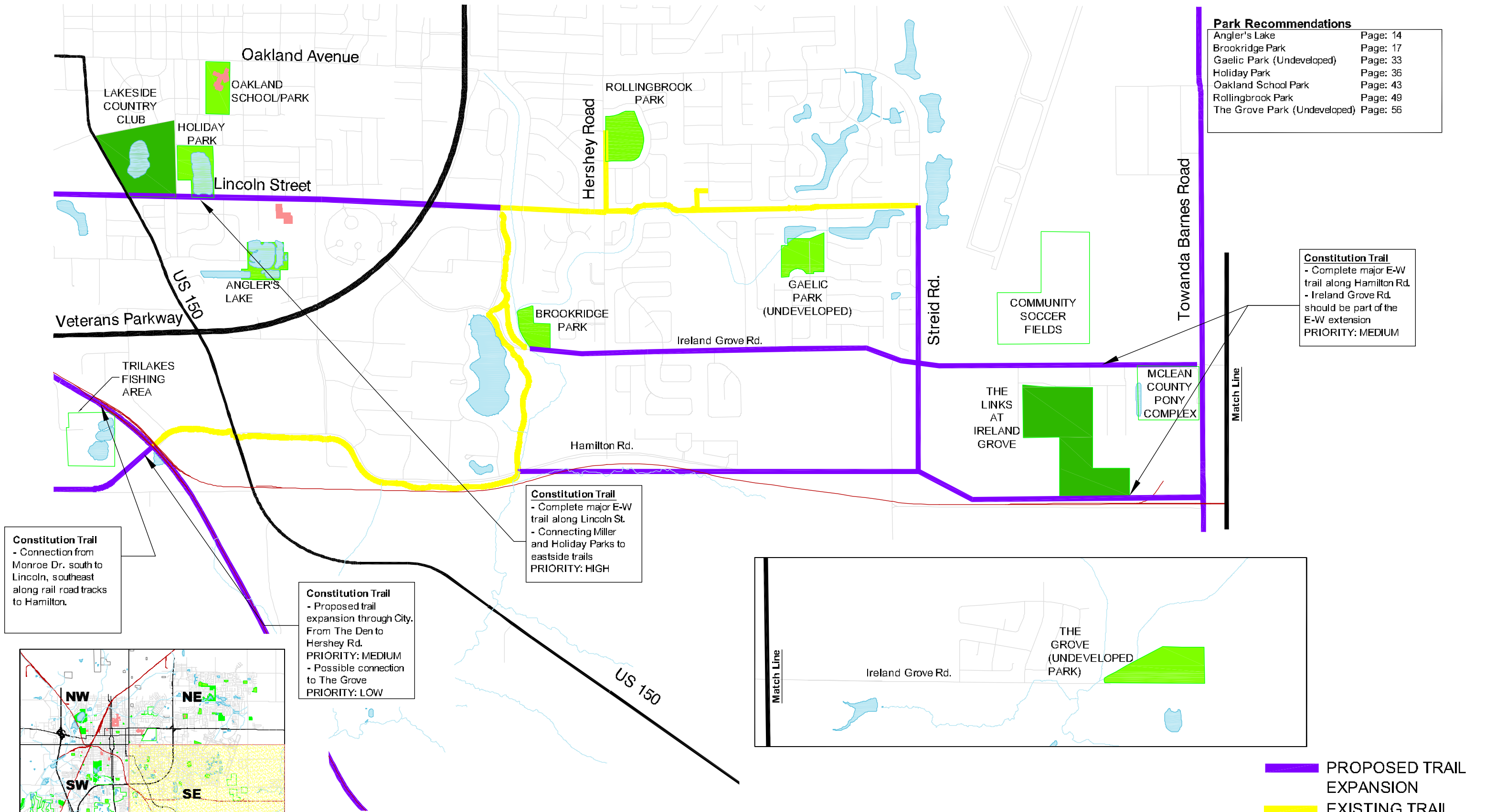


Park and Trails Recommendations Map



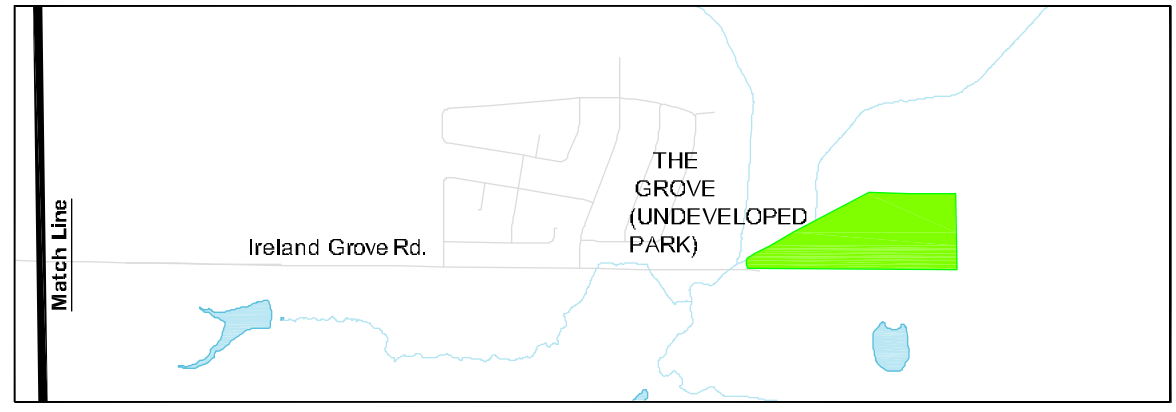
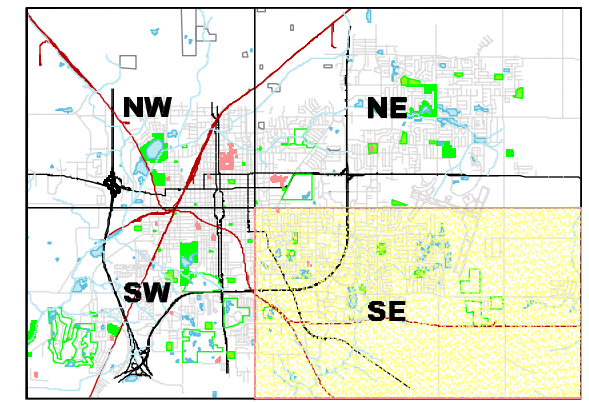
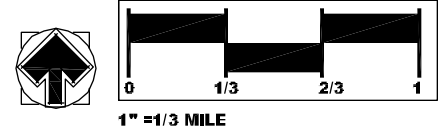
Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department





Park and Trails Recommendations Map

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department



III. SYSTEM WIDE PRIORITIES

The following pages illustrate the proposed System Wide Priorities recommended for the City of Bloomington and the enhancement of the parks and recreational community. The objective of the Priorities was to meet the most needs with the earliest expended public dollars to meet the needs of the most people possible. The intent was to also “spread” the funding uniformly across the community so that the most possible residents benefitted from their respective tax dollars being expended.

In each year, several items were attempted to maintain consistency as each year’s funds were expended. First, playgrounds that are out of date were prioritized highly for their respective renovations. Second, almost each of the first five years a newly undeveloped park was budgeted for development and improvement for the surrounding residents. Third, shoreline erosion control for the important bodies of water within the City was programmed for protection with Miller Park and White Oak lakes receiving attention early in the process. Third, continuing the linking and connecting of existing trail systems within the City is considered an important priority. Making connections from parks to parks and trail pieces to trail pieces received priority in the proposed funding within the Master Plan Update. The next two priorities involved longer range improvements, planning for a Community Center with fitness, programming and classroom spaces and the development of a tournament quality central Sports Complex be developed to unify the sports of the City and their respective participants.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PARKS MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES AND FINANCING APPROACH FOR NEAR TERM AND FUTURE PROJECTS

The following outlines the proposed approach for the current economic times to identify and rank the Priorities for the Parks Department in each of their near-term budget years. The intent is to keep the Future Projects List in perspective and available should funding opportunities or exceptional circumstances arise that would merit a revision to the Priorities listed below.

The initial Priorities should be completing current commitments and the renovation of the playgrounds that are well beyond their “standard life span”. The highest priority within the current commitments is to the Department of Natural Resources to complete Gaelic Park by the grant deadline of December 2010. This would have Gaelic Park designed and issued for competitive bids during the coming fall/winter months for construction starting in the spring of 2010. The second, Eagle View South, is a similar project that the DNR has awarded a grant to the City of Bloomington. The budget for each project is \$1,000,000, with \$400,000 in grant funding available for each park. Any forfeiture of an awarded OSLAD Grant would have a drastic impact on the City's ability to receive future grants.

Park playground renovations that should be completed as soon as possible include the following locations:

- Emerson Park
- Ewing Park II
- Sunnyside Park
- Miller Park
- Buck-Mann Park
- Evergreen Park
- Franklin Park
- Pepper Ridge Park

In addition to the renovation of these playgrounds, the following parcels should be placed high on the Priority list for development. They are geographically in locations where additional services are warranted and in some cases, overdue:

- Wittenberg Woods Park
 - Woodberry Park
 - Westwood Park
 - Sugar Creek Park

Please note that Sugar Creek Park would probably require additional acquisition of land to provide a parcel that would be suitable for development of athletic fields, should that be the ultimate direction from citizen and user group input for the program and development of this parcel. Currently it lacks easy access and is best suited for trails and open space.

Upon completion of these projects and as residential development resumes as it has in past years, The Grove Park should become the priority. In addition, anticipate the following playgrounds will be in need of refurbishing as they too are approaching their useful life span:

- Alton Depot Park
- Clearwater Park
- Friendship Park
- Northpoint School/Park
- Cedar Ridge School/Park

The final “near term” Priority would be the expansion of Constitution Trail. This is an exceptional amenity that can serve the entire community once additional links can be made. A more detailed review of the funding appropriations available combined with the engineering of the trail segments should be completed to identify the most reasonable sections to complete when funding is available.

GRAND VIEW FUTURE PARK DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

O'NEIL PARK AQUATIC FACILITY RENOVATION- O'Neil Park is a wonderful park that could support having the existing pool facility renovated into an aquatic playground facility that more closely matches Holiday Park. The idea would be to develop a "zero-depth" swimming area with an interactive water spray park adjacent. The renovation of the facility is described in greater detail in the narrative of the Parks Master Plan update.

MILLER PARK RENOVATIONS- Miller Park is one of the most popular and treasured parks in the City of Bloomington system, but has a number of elements within the park that are in need of updating and renovation. The existing bridge over the lake is in need of structural repairs and would warrant replacement. The shoreline of the lake should have an erosion control program implemented to save the shoreline from receding further. The roadway system and storm water management systems are in need of updating. The park should also have a long-term reforestation plan developed.

COMMUNITY CENTER- Outlined in the Parks Master Plan update is the recommendation for the development of a Community Center located on the east side of the city. This facility will require land acquisition, architectural planning, programming and engineering, and then the construction of the facility. Consistent with the West Side Redevelopment plan, the City could consider some alternative partnering with other community groups to assist in making a community center function in that planning area.

BLOOMINGTON SPORTS COMPLEX- The proposed Sports Complex is anticipated to start with the acquisition of 120 - 160 acres of land for a regional Sports Complex. This acquisition should begin with the application of OSLAD funds for this purchase, followed by the programming refinements from the concept prepared within the Parks Master Plan Update. This facility would most likely be developed in phases as need and funding became available.

WHITE OAK SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL- Similar to Miller Park, White Oak should implement an erosion control program to protect this valuable asset.

HOLIDAY PARK AND ANGLER'S LAKE FISHING PIERS- Both of these facilities offer the opportunity to provide fishing opportunities to the public that should be implemented within the Recreation Department's programming.

IV. NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLANS (FIGURES 14-21)

The following Park Development Plans illustrate a number of the proposed recommendations contained within the Priorities Section of the Master Plan Update. The first is the proposed development of Gaelic Park, planned for the first year of the development funding. Gaelic Park will be a significant neighborhood park, featuring a practice soccer field, large multi-age appropriate playground, walking/jogging/bicycle trail circumnavigating the park, a picnic shelter, parking for approximately 15 - 20 cars, basketball courts, bocce ball courts, fishing pier and natural areas.

Second is the Plan for Eagle View South. This park will feature a walking trail circumnavigating the park, a parking lot for approximately 70 cars, basketball court, jr. soccer field and two softball/tee ball fields, a community scaled playground and shelter, and landscape plantings.

The third plan shows a concept for Harvest Pointe Park that includes a walking trail around the park, three half-court basketball courts, two tennis courts, three shuffle board courts and two horseshoe courts. The park also includes a community playground with a large shelter, a 70 car parking lot and a softball and jr. soccer field.

The fourth plan shows a concept for Harvest Pointe Community Center that includes a building footprint of 64,000 s.f., planning for a two story community center containing 110,000 s.f. with classrooms and a gym, a fenced playground, 167 parking spaces (with possible expansion for 140 additional spaces) and landscape plantings.

The fifth plan illustrates a concept plan for a major sports complex that could combine all the tournament and competition events the City may want to host. The complex features 16 soccer fields, 8 softball/baseball fields, 1 tee ball field, 2 football fields, 2 cricket fields with practice areas, an 18 hole disc golf course, multiple parking lots and storm water detention basin/rain gardens with 6 tennis courts, 4 sand volleyball courts and 3 basketball courts throughout the complex. A walking trail links all the elements of the park.

The sixth plan is a concept plan for the Community Center site. This plan shows a combined school and recreation center with shared parking, 6 tennis courts, 3 basketball courts, 3 sand volleyball courts, 2 softball/baseball fields, 2 soccer fields with shelters and storm water detention throughout the site.

The seventh plan depicts a concept plan for the development of a set of cricket fields within a near term future park. The cricket fields would be most ideally developed in the proposed Sports Complex acreage.

The eighth set of images show several effective means of shoreline erosion control methods. They vary in costs as well as their aesthetic value. The least expensive approach is to use "rip rap", angular stones of approximately 6" - 9" installed on an erosion control filter fabric to stabilize the shoreline. The next is the vegetative approach that utilizes a "sand bag" approach with jute bags of soil mixture designed for this riparian vegetation in which plugs are planted. This method is labor intensive during the establishment period, taking most of the growing season to maintain it with watering and weeding to have a full stand of the deep rooted plant material to support the bank. The third shows an interlocking stone material that creates a beautiful shoreline and allows people to walk the edge and reach more fishing locations. This installation has worked best being installed on 6" wire baskets filled with 3" stone for sturdy support, set in at just below the normal water elevation so when the lake is drawn down, the water is still hitting the stone.

City of Bloomington

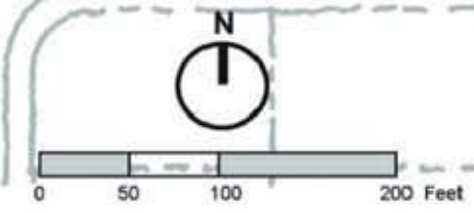
Gaelic Park

Figure 14



Legend

- ① Soccer Field
- ② Playground
- ③ Native Forbs and Grasses
- ④ Path
- ⑤ Shelter/Gazebo
- ⑥ Parking (20 Cars)
- ⑦ Bocce Ball Courts
- ⑧ Buffer Plantings
- ⑨ Basketball Courts
- ⑩ Bridge/Dam
- ⑪ Lawn/Open Play
- ⑫ Picnic Grove
- ⑬ Stream Channel
- ⑭ Wetland Areas
- ⑮ Pond
- ⑯ Floodway
- ⑰ Backstop



Gaelic Park		
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON		
Concept One	© 2006 RATIO Architects, Inc.	May 31, 2007

City of Bloomington

EAGLE VIEW SOUTH

Conceptual Site Plan - 12.7 Acre Site

SITE FEATURES

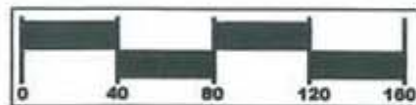
- 70 Parking Spaces
- ~0.7 Miles of Walking Paths
- (1) Junior Soccer Fields
- (1) 250' Ball Field
- (1) 200' Ball Field
- (1) Shelter
- (3) 1/2 Court Basketball
- Community Playground
- ~1.4 Acre Prairie Planting Area
- Landscape Plantings



Figure 15



524 N. BARRON BLVD.
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3ddesignstudio@3ddesignstudio.com



City of Bloomington

HARVEST POINTE PARK

Conceptual Site Plan - 7 Acre Site

SITE FEATURES

- 98 Parking Spaces
- ~0.4 Miles of Walking Paths
- (1) Junior Soccer Fields
- (1) 250' Ball Field
- (2) Shelters
- (2) Basketball Courts
- Senior Area with (1) Bocce, (2) Horseshoe and (3) Shuffleboard
- Community Playground
- Landscape Planting Area



Figure 16



524 N. BARRON BLVD.
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Harvest Pointe Blvd.

City of Bloomington

HARVEST POINTE COMMUNITY CENTER

Conceptual Site Plan - 7 Acre Site

SITE FEATURES

- 110,000 SF Community Center with Class Rooms and Gym
- 167 Parking Spaces (147 Future Parking Spaces)
- Fenced Playground
- Landscape Plantings

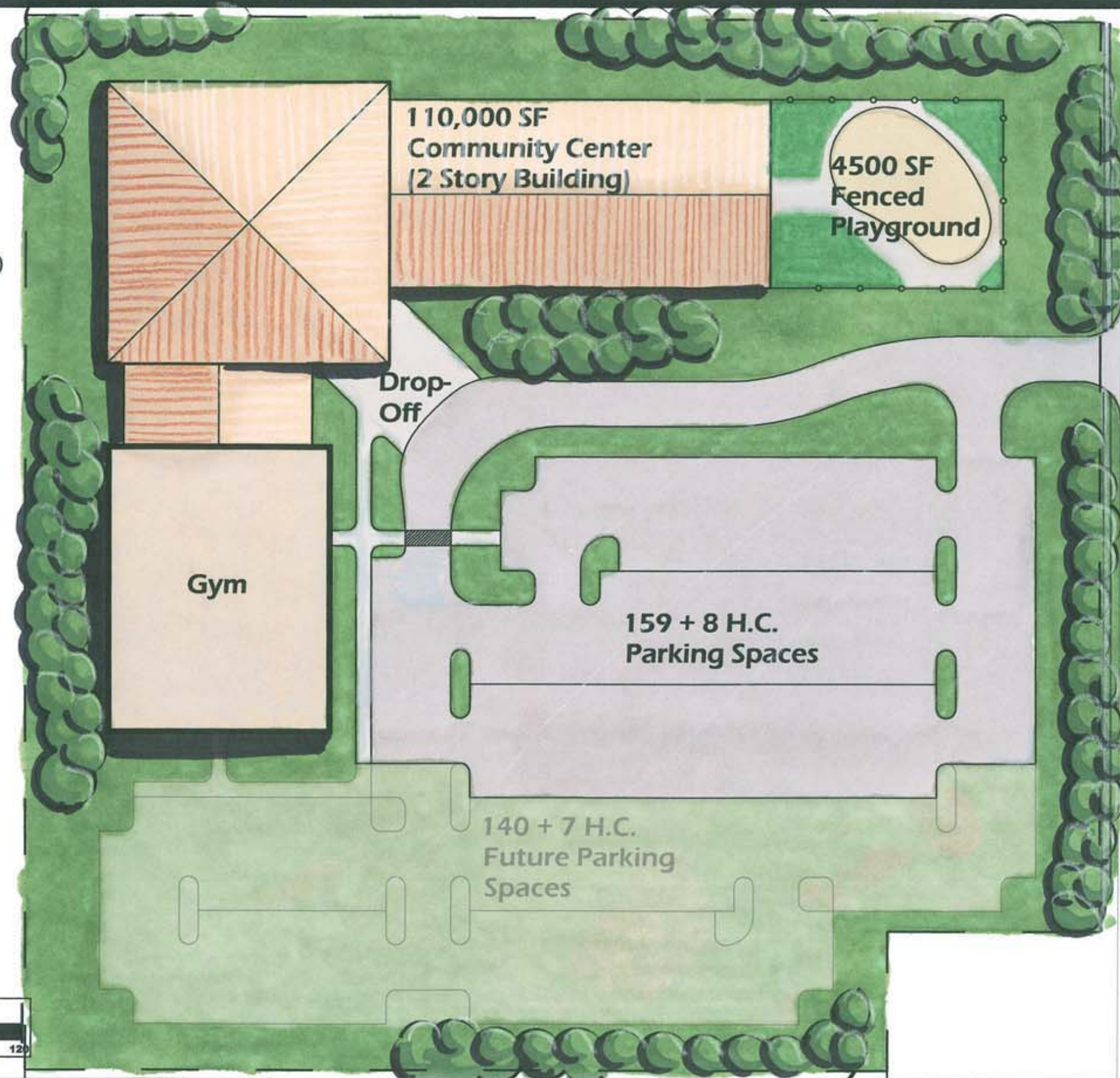
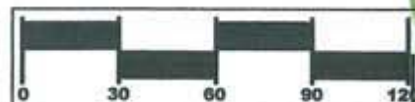


Figure 17



524 N. BARRON BLVD.
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City of Bloomington

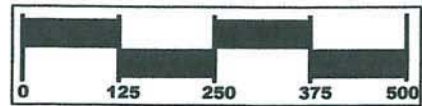
Figure 18

SPORTS COMPLEX

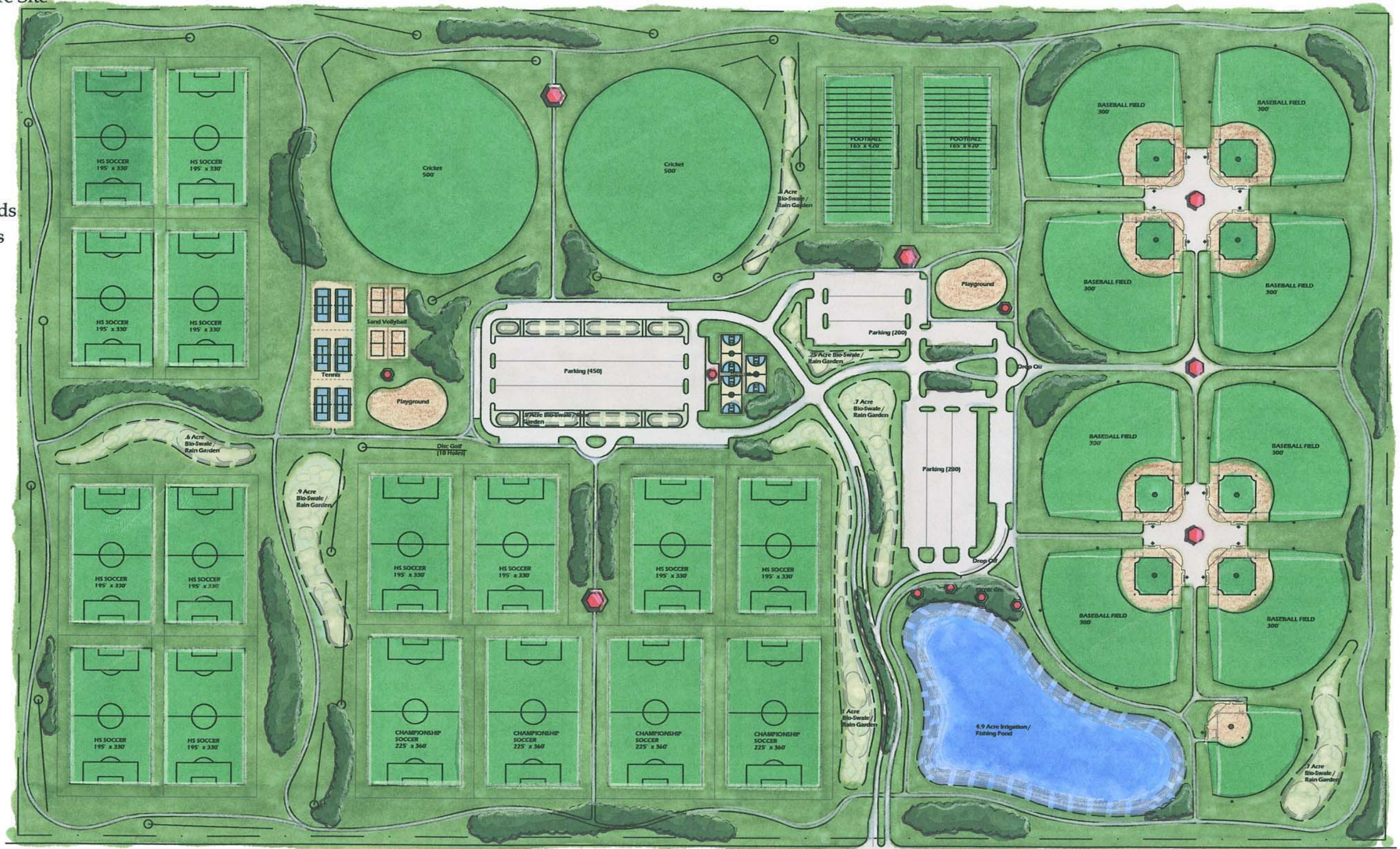
Conceptual Site Plan - 150 Acre Site

SITE FEATURES

- (2) Football Fields
- (2) Cricket Fields with (2) Warm-Up Pitches
- (4) Championship Soccer Fields
- (12) High School Soccer Fields
- (2) Community Playgrounds
- (8) 250'-300' Ball Fields
- (1) 200' Ball Field
- (4) Restroom Facilities
- (4) Shelters
- Picnic Grove with (4) Additional Shelters
- (6) Tennis Courts
- (4) Sand Volleyball Courts
- (3) Basketball Courts
- (18) Hole Disc Golf Course
- 4.9 Acre Irrigation / Fishing Pond and 5+ Acres of Bio-Swales / Rain Gardens
- 930 Parking Spaces
- ~4.2 Miles of Walking Paths



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City of Bloomington

EAST SIDE COMMUNITY CENTER AND SCHOOL

Conceptual Site Plan - 40 Acre Site

April 2009

SITE FEATURES

- 60,000 SF Community Center (with Additional 23,000 SF Future Expansion)
- 83,000 SF New School
- 17,500 SF Shared Use Gym (with Additional 17,500 SF Future Gym)
- 662 Parking Spaces (with Additional 198 Future Spaces)
- ~1.5 Miles of Walking Paths
- (2) Junior Soccer Fields
- (1) 250' Ball Field
- (1) 200' Ball Field
- (3) Shelters
- (6) Tennis Courts
- (3) Sand Volleyball Courts
- (3) Basketball Courts
- Asphalt Play Area with Basketball Court
- Playground
- Native Planting Area
- Retention and Detention Areas



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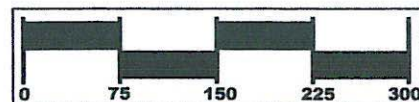


Figure 19

City of Bloomington

CRICKET PARK

April 2009

Figure 20



SHORELINE PRESERVATION

April 2009

Benefits:

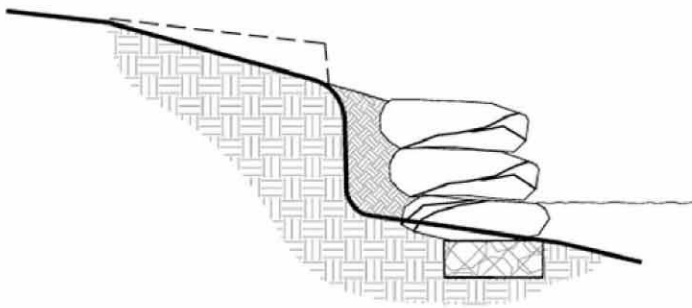
- Improves the quality of the Lake
- Vegetation improves filtration of storm water run-off
- Protects valuable near-shore habitats
- Helps prevent soil erosion and sedimentation

Intent:

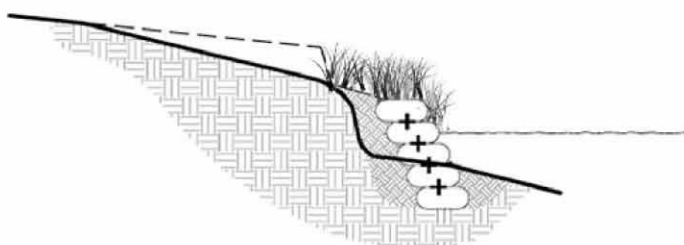
The intent of the shoreline preservation is to improve the visual, ecological and environmental quality of the lakes. Water quality and ecology are primary concerns that need to be addressed in order to assure the long-term health and beauty of the lakes.

Various Ecological and Environmentally Friendly Preservation Techniques:

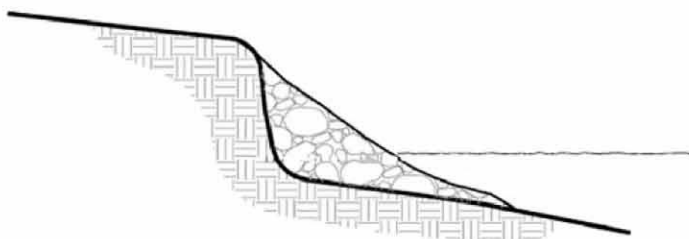
A. Outcrop Stone



B. Envirolok Vegetated Retaining Walls



C. Rip Rap



V. APPENDIX



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
MASTER PLAN UPDATE PROJECT
FOCUS GROUPS MEETING MINUTES**

October 28, 2008

The following summarizes the items discussed and input received from each of the Focus Group discussions:

CONSTITUTION TRAIL

TRAIL LINKS & PRIORITIES INPUT:

1. Construction bidding plans will be issued by the City this spring for the extension of Constitution Trail south to The Grove, with a bridge to Bell Street.
2. Plowing the trail would be valuable for winter users- bikers and walkers.
3. There was a request to continue adding trails and access throughout the county as its population and residential communities grow.
4. One key priority should be to connect the State Farm Trail with a completed east/west Hamilton Road trail. This involves first completing the east/west Hamilton portion of Constitution Trail.
5. There would be a benefit to having police presence on areas of the Trail.
6. The highest priority requested was the extension and completion of both the north/south sections of Constitution Trail and making a completed east/west trail along Hamilton Road. This can be done by linking south from Grove Street to Hamilton and then completing unfinished portions of the east/west sections along Hamilton Road.
7. Ireland Grove Road should be part of the east/west connection. Previous community discussions indicated that a portion of the trail could connect through the subdivision north of Ireland Grove Road and East of Hershey Road.
8. The group requested a trail connection between O'Neil Park and White Oak Park. Dean stated that this connection would have to address the railroad for Right-of-Way use.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING/FUTURE TRAIL DEVELOPMENTS:

1. Provide a paved surface to traffic signal crossing push buttons.
2. For Trailhead entries – Consistently identify Trailhead signage and add distance markings at ¼ mile increments. Plan to install one bollard at the trailhead to prevent general automotive traffic. Painted centerlines in a “low impact” color (yellow-green) are desired in high traffic areas, but not necessary on rural portions of the trail. Preferred trail width is 10’ with grass shoulders rather than gravel shoulders.
3. One way to extend the trails system is to add an asphalt shoulder instead of the existing gravel along Ireland Grove and Towanda Barnes Roads.
4. There may be some Right-of-Way on the west side of Airport Road that could be dedicated to bike trails that should be investigated and added to the priorities.
5. At specific “high visibility” locations, consider adding areas of wildflower and native ornamental plantings to enhance the aesthetics.
6. Investigate a bicycle/pedestrian warning device, similar to that currently in service in Normal, and see if it is something to incorporate into the overall Bike Plan.
7. Consider more detailed research for interior City streets to add on-street bike lanes within the current pedestrian/bike vehicular plan.

HIGHEST PRIORITY:

1. The highest priority was the completion of the east/west bike trail connections through the City, which consisted of developing sections of Hamilton Road from Fox Creek east to Hershey Road and/or State Farm connections, with longer range plans to connect with The Grove subdivision.
2. Encourage Normal and Bloomington to work closely to complete current trail connection opportunities resulting in a continuous north/south trail. This could be accomplished with on-street bike lanes and off street trails.
3. One recommended connection to enhance the north/south connection was via Lafayette Street, east across the railroad tracks to Bunn Street, south under Veteran’s Parkway to Hamilton Road. Eventually this connection could be extended all the way to Woodridge.
4. A smaller section of trail linking White Oak Park with O’Neil Park was suggested along the creek, but working with the railroad presents a challenge for this connection.
5. Add entrance lighting at the Washington St. underpass.
6. Provide access to Eastland Mall through Ewing Park.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

BASEBALL INPUT:

1. Currently the baseball organization has approximately 1000 – 1200 players ranging from 5 to 18 years of age. This organization currently uses both Normal and Bloomington facilities, as well as churches.
2. The season for use runs from late May to August 1st. Representatives stated that the fields are in good condition. One concern voiced was the potential loss of the 3 fields at Mitsubishi could cause an impact on the ability to service the player population.
3. The greatest request was for lighted fields with 90' bases.
4. Within 10 years another field may be needed, however McGraw Park will bring on two new fields ready for play in 2010.
5. Championship league fields could eliminate the need to travel to the Normal 4-field complex. An 8-field complex (with four baseball and four softball fields) would greatly enhance the ability to market and run tournaments and increase economic development.
6. One of the biggest struggles is obtaining and maintaining umpires for the leagues. Also, at times there is a need for additional maintenance assistance early in the season when the rains come.

SOFTBALL INPUT:

1. Currently the softball organization has approximately 1000 – 1200 girls ranging from 6 to 19 years of age. The league has funds that they would consider providing for enhancing the surface at some fields. Their offer was that, if needed, they could also assist with the maintenance of fields through additional funding to get good quality field surfaces.
2. One request to consider was the possibility of adding lights at Ewing Park II, while recognizing the concern for the surrounding neighbors. One individual stated that he believed there was a deed restriction on this property that prohibited lights. This should be confirmed through the Homeowners Association or the City.
3. The representatives felt that O'Neil Park was over utilized and in need of greater maintenance of the fields.
4. Pepperidge Park fields could use some construction revisions to create and enhance rapid drying at home plate and along the 1st baseline, and to develop a more crowned field for drainage (or install under drainage). The west field is generally in good shape with little repair/maintenance required, but the eastern field continues to be a problem.

SOFTBALL PRIORITY REQUESTS-

1. Currently, 16 to 23 travel teams are using O'Neil Park and the Champion Fields in Normal. The ideal scenario would be to have an 8-field (four baseball and four softball) game/tournament complex.
2. In May, softball is a first come first served reservations system and it can be an issue for coordination. Practices are not currently reserved, and softball should revise their date policy to initiate reservations on May 1st. However, softball and baseball have been informed that the Bloomington Parks and Recreation philosophy is that recreational users are recognized first and organizations are recognized second.
3. To summarize, the requested softball priorities are: add lighted fields for night games, improve field maintenance (the organization is willing to contribute toward maintenance costs), encourage new teams not to form alternate leagues but to work within the system (which will reduce conflict and enhance scheduling).

BASEBALL PRIORITY REQUESTS-

1. The City is not currently meeting the needs of the Pony League. This league projects the most participant growth and needs for available fields.
2. Lights would help with their scheduling needs.
3. Increased maintenance of fields is their primary request.

PROJECTED GROWTH:

The following outlines the participation and growth rates projected for softball and baseball:

Tee Ball-

1. Baseball supports approximately 40-45 children from 5 to 6 years of age, whereas Bloomington hosts hundreds of children in the mornings and evenings.

Softball-

1. Anticipates little growth in total numbers within the next 5-10 years because they limit their total participation.

Baseball-

1. Within 5-10 years, baseball anticipates it could reach 1,500 participants.
2. They could fund, market and manage tournaments if the facilities were available.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRICKET ASSOCIATION

CRICKET USE AND PRIORITIES INPUT:

Below outlines a brief history of Bloomington Cricket:

1. 1999 the league originated with 8/9 teams.
2. Currently there are 29 teams, each with approximately 20 members. The league registration had 580 members this season.
3. To date, the league has hosted a 29 team tournament.
4. Participants are generally from 7 to 15 years of age and are predominantly high school students. The organization receives substantial sponsorship, and is currently expanding into younger aged children, with approximately 50 children. In addition, there is a Women's league developing (currently with 4 teams) and they have participated in a tournament.

CURRENT USES AND PROJECTED GROWTH:

1. The Jolly Rovers are the cricket leather ball team and participate in the Midwest Cricket Conference. They are the primary competition team who hosts a regional tournament that is played in a 20/20 style game.
2. Current practice facilities are at Brookridge Park, however at times there are conflicts with basketball and football participants for practice space.
3. State Farm employs 1,500 Indian residents, of which approximately 70% are permanent residents. Within Bloomington, there is a total population of approximately 5,000 Indian residents.
4. The Primary request for the CICA Cricket organization was to have a two fields setup for tournaments with bleachers between each field and four practice pitch areas on each of the two fields. A concept diagram will be included in the Master Plan Update for reference. In order to accomplish this, a site approximately 6 acres in size is needed. One request was to have irrigation and lights for their fields.

OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES THE INDIAN POPULATION ENJOYS INCLUDE:

1. Sand Volleyball – Currently there are approximately 200 participants in a league of 14-15 teams and they held 3 tournaments this year.
2. Tennis is a heavily participated sport for the Indian community, and many times conflicts for available space exist. They felt that more tennis courts would be utilized if they were available.
3. Cultural Items that require space for events include– interpretive dance and music, in which they could utilize an auditorium that would seat 600 – 700 people to host events. There are typically three major associations from India with varying food habits from three different regional cultures that have requested indoor/outdoor space like a community center.

BLOOMINGTON SCHOOLS

Three school districts attended the Focus Group meeting: Central Catholic, Unit 5 and District 87 schools. Items discussed included soccer and ball fields use, maintenance and availability and indoor recreation space.

GROWTH:

CENTRAL CATHOLIC-

1. The school population is and will remain approximately 450 children for an extended time frame. They do not expect to increase their size due to existing constraints. Central currently has an agreement with Bloomington for the use of their theater and they intend to continue to honor that agreement.
2. Central Catholic fields numerous requests for public meeting space from a variety of community agencies.
3. Their current athletic field space is adequate, but soccer is growing and will soon be a conflict. In addition, they anticipate needing space for football within three years.

UNIT 5-

1. Unit 5 currently manages 20 schools throughout McLean County. These include: Elementary Schools- Brigham, Carlock, Fairview, Fox Creek, Glenn, The Grove, Colene House, Hudson, Northpoint, Oakdale, Parkside, Pepper Ridge, Prairieland, Sugar Creek and Towanda. Junior High Schools consist of Chiddix, Parkside and Kingsley. Both high schools are in Normal (Normal Community and Normal Community West).
2. Their newest is an elementary school at The Grove that has projected construction improvements. Bloomington has an option to assist in the

construction of the gym to add height for indoor activities (basketball/volleyball, etc.). In early spring of 2009 bids will be received for these improvements as alternates, and Bloomington will have the opportunity to participate with the costs and utilization.

3. Cedar Ridge School, located on south US 51, is a combination site consisting of 7 shared acres with the city and the school, however there is no additional space from existing programs and constraints.
4. Pepper Ridge School has a gymnasium with higher ceilings and currently houses some gymnastics equipment. The current flooring tiles would work better for multiple athletic programs if they were replaced with hardwood flooring, which would cost approximately \$150,000.00.
5. The new middle school site is 40 acres in size, of which the district needs 22 acres, leaving 18 available to the City of Bloomington.
6. North Point School currently has a softball field that is shared use and a school/community playground. There is limited access to the school building. A new entry access design would make the school more accessible for non-school use. This site would work well for combined maintenance efforts from the City and school.
7. Kingsley Junior High currently has a football field site that needs bleachers and better concessions. This field would benefit and allow more utilization by others if it were replaced with synthetic turf.

DISTRICT 87-

1. District 87 currently manages 9 school sites- Bloomington High School, Bloomington Junior High School, Bent Elementary, Irving Elementary, Oakland Elementary, Sheridan Elementary, Stevenson Elementary, Washington Elementary, and Sarah E. Raymond Early Childhood schools.
2. The District does not anticipate much growth. They currently coordinate some programs with YMCA/Boys & Girls Club.
3. Bent Elementary has an opportunity to expand its services if there were an acquisition of several existing homes surrounding the school to relocate the parking. This would make the current parking available to merge with the existing playfields.
4. Daycare and their After School programs are near maximum capacity.
5. Most of the buildings within the District are 50-100 years old and are in need of more secure space configurations to allow better afterhours use.
6. Generally, 5:30-8:30 PM is very full and in high demand. During this time, there is very limited space available within the schools.
7. District 87 would benefit from a swimming pool somewhere on the east side of Bloomington.

ICE HOCKEY & INLINE SKATING

ICE HOCKEY:

1. The Hockey organization had 58 high school players last year fielding three teams, but is down to 40 players this season. They expect to see an increased demand in the next 5 years.
2. Their current goal is to have high school teams as part of sports curriculum within some of the area high schools.
3. Hosting Tournaments would be possible but ice time is limited. In order to make more money and allow for the projected growth and demand, more desirable hours are needed for adult leagues. One sheet of ice has the highest amount of demand for time, and the most desirable time is rapidly reserved and scheduled well into the future.
4. The following outlines the past years registration and participation in the Hockey Leagues that currently operate:

LEAGUE GROWTH:

Year:	Adult:	Youth:
2006	52 Men, 4 teams	
2007	167 Men, 4 teams	133 Children
2008	10 Teams	274 Children
2009	Projecting 12 Teams	500-600 Participants

Hockey indicated that their ice time (½ hour practice blocks) is often shared with other teams and this is not as effective or productive for team practice. They could support more ice time if it were available.

For the younger players, the time that the ice is available is challenging. Currently practice generally starts at 9:00 pm for the 14-15 year old players, and four had to withdraw because it is too late for school days. Practice for the 15-18 year old players is from 9:50-10:50 pm. The Hockey organization could add 5 teams but there is nowhere to have them practice. In the 2008/2009 season 21 teams are expected and 27 teams in 2009/2010. In total, they project that 600 participants could be supported in the program- 5 high school teams and 500 youth participants.

INLINE SKATING:

1. The inline organization lost their facility due to increased cost for renting the facility. They stated that an indoor facility would be ideal for weather concerns, and that a “Sport Court” style facility offered the greatest flexibility because it could be placed over a location where a sheet of ice was maintained during the winter and hockey players could practice and maintain conditioning on a similar court in the summer without the cooling expense.
2. Sport court style hockey has become a huge draw in Toronto and other areas of Canada. This style hockey is generally played from April to September.
3. The Inline organization recommended a combined facility where another sheet of ice will be constructed. They project a following of approximately 300 participants that would rent the facility during low season times when the ice is not as popular (during the spring/summer/fall).

ADDITIONAL ICE DEMAND USES:

There are a number of other areas where the interest in having ice time in Bloomington supports the request for additional ice area. The following list includes those requested during the Focus Group meeting:

1. Hockey Cheerleading is growing in popularity.
2. Competitive Speed Skating has a need for ice time.
3. Ice dancing is a continuously growing sport that requires a large area of ice for the ability to practice routines.
4. Synchronized skating requires a full sheet ice for their practice.
5. All together, the programs listed above were thought to be able to combine and bring in up to 400 participants. With such heavy ice demand, it is difficult for working parents to get their children to practice.
6. Broomball, Curling and Special Olympics are additional demands that create a need for ice time, even though these are traditionally a lower volume of “users per square foot” of ice.
7. All in all, this group felt that there was adequate demand and financial rental support for three sheets of ice, above and beyond the Coliseum.
8. The following outlines their ideal scenario for a new community center: three sheets of ice during the winter (with swimming, weight room and multipurpose rooms), then two sheets of year-round ice, and one combination summer inline sport court style facility with the option to make the third sheet of ice in the winter. The group proposed that Bloomington offers a unique opportunity, with its central location between Chicago and St. Louis, for large scale tournaments. Contributory to these

tournaments would also be existing league players from Pekin, Dekalb and Peoria. The group felt that they could easily recruit another 150 players in addition to their current 240-250 players in the 12 team league. In addition, the high school teams would provide another 100 players (5 teams) plus the 400 - 500 youth listed above. There is another contributor- the “Learn to Play” group that consists of approximately 30 adults and 60 youth.

ISU HOCKEY:

1. The ISU team is very grateful for its facility, and currently purchases 11 hours per month during the winter months.
2. For the ISU team, the ideal hockey stadium configuration would be a size between the Coliseum and the Pepsi Ice Center. The Ice Center is too small, they could normally seat approximately 1,000-1,500 spectators. The Coliseum seats approximately 8,000 and overpowers the crowd. The Pepsi Ice Center lacks adequate seating for large games and collegiate tournaments. MidAm Collegiate would like Bloomington to be their home ice as well.

HOCKEY AND SKATING SEASON TIMING:

1. There is currently a significant need for the ice during the summer that would be met with an additional ice sheet. All the surrounding ice arenas close during the summer, offering an opportunity that could be met.
2. Figure Skating/Ice Dancing would consume some of the summer ice time when collegiate hockey is not being played. Their practice is during late summer and early fall in preparation for Regional competitions beginning between October 1st and October 15th. As the arena currently stands, Bloomington would not be capable of hosting a National Figure Skating/Ice Dancing competition.
3. Late June is when conditioning starts for High School hockey.
4. A summer league could be as large as the winter league with surrounding community participation from Champaign, Pekin, Danville and Decatur.
5. Women’s Hockey has begun to take shape and interest is growing.
6. The ISU Varsity & Junior Varsity teams account for 30 varsity games and 7 Junior Varsity games. Both teams are attempting to obtain ice availability.

TOURNAMENTS:

1. All attendees felt that 2 sheets of ice were the minimum number needed for hosting quality competitive tournaments. If the Coliseum and the Pepsi Ice Center hosted a significant tournament, all other skating programs would be suspended and have to be re-scheduled.

2. If Coliseum and Pepsi hosted figure skating/ice dancing tournaments, Bloomington should expect 150-200 skaters with a 2,000-3,000 spectator crowd. As far as facilities are concerned, Danville has an arena that was identified as “an ideal venue” with seating for 1,800.
3. In addition, our central location in the U.S. could present an opportunity for a National Inline Tournament with the right facility.

SOCCER/YOUTH FOOTBALL

YOUTH FOOTBALL – MCLEAN COUNTY COUGARS:

1. The Cougars teams are governed by both age and weight restrictions and they practice Mon-Thurs until school starts, then they cut back to Monday, Wednesday and Thursday through the school year.
2. Currently there are 350 children (ages 5, 6 and 7) participating on 15 tackle teams and 6 flag teams.
3. The Cougars are currently growing at a rate of approximately two teams per year. Over the past seven years, there have been 245 youth added.
4. The primary needs for the Cougars are more playing space and more equipment storage. They currently practice at Northpoint School and Tipton Schools, with games played at Northpoint School.
5. To date, the growth of the organization is hampered by lack of additional practice and game facilities. The organization believes it will continue to grow, as long as new leagues don’t continue to “break off”. Their current projection is that 40 children per year will be added.
6. There are various league sizes, each hosting different numbers of teams. They are defined as follows: 3 “Squirts”, 3 “Pewee”, 4 Junior Varsity, 3 Varsity and 2 Seniors.
7. The league currently travels as far as Pontiac and Peoria, with a 30 mile maximum traveling distance.
8. The league schedules an 8 game season with 5 weeks of practice prior to the season start. One of the greatest needs in the fall is lights for practice.

SOCCER:

1. Soccer season runs from August through October. By the second year the organization had 300 children participating. The current greatest need is electricity for lighting during fall practice times, irrigation to improve and maintain the turf quality, improving the existing parking lots by paving them, and developing walking paths to the fields. The projected growth trend stable and not expecting much growth.

2. The soccer organization runs a 10 game season with practices being held at Community Fields and the Eastview detention basin. Games are scheduled on the weekends, with a spring tournament that hosts 95 teams. There are 10 local teams that participate, and 85 teams that all travel to Bloomington. To do the best possible job at having this and additional tournaments, one site would be the ultimate solution. That site would have all the fields, irrigation, paved parking and ultimately, lights.
3. Lights are needed for beneficial practice during most of the fall season.
4. In 30 years the league has gone from 250 children to approximately 2,000 at its highest concentration.
5. The Bloomington recreational league attracts 1,650 children ranging from 5 to 16 years of age, consists of 132 teams and plays a 12 game season. The projected growth is approximately 3% per year. Based upon preliminary numbers, an estimated 1,720 may be in the league in April, 2009.
6. Community Fields Soccer Complex currently hosts 20 fields, but is a leased facility from the Airport. Every expectation exists that this lease will not be renewed in 2015. In order for these fields to be of competitive quality, they need to have irrigation added.

BLOOMINGTON INTERCITY SOCCER:

1. The Bloomington Intercity Soccer program practices in Ewing Park II. There are four other teams, totaling approximately 140-150 children. The most pressing needs are additional parking (due to limited access) and lighting. There are four weeks of practice leading up to a 12 week season that runs from August through October.
2. Participant categories are 8 to 9 years of age and 10 to 11 years of age, with 7th & 8th grade participants as well. They typically hold eight games on Saturdays.
3. The organization typically provides some maintenance with an application of overseeding the fields with one fertilizer application. The greatest need would be to add irrigation to assist the turf in recovering after its use.
4. Growth is stable but limited by league structure- there are only five teams with approximately 25 players per team and a policy that everyone plays.

YOUTH FOOTBALL II:

1. The Bloomington Knockers is an open division of football that is solely limited by age and grade, not by the weight of the participant. The league has been in existence for 51 years (founded in 1957). The team practice and home-game field was located at O'Neil Park for 43 years, and is now located at White Oak Park.
2. The Knockers is a 4-division league, limited to 30 children per team, with an all children play policy. Growth could come from Bantam and Juniors.
3. Currently there are 166 children when you include the team's cheerleaders. This is near their league maximum without additional equipment and facilities. However, if there were more facilities, they could increase in size. Their policy is currently on a first come/first served basis.