

Omaha Master Plan
Mike Fahey, Mayor Report #273

Parks
Element



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Introduction

One hundred years ago, H.W.S. Cleveland, hired by the Parks Board to prepare Omaha's first Parks Plan, wrote that no other investment "...contributes equally to impress strangers with the idea of civic grandeur as such liberal provision [of parks and boulevards] for the health, comfort and gratification of residents and visitors alike." Many of the issues emphasized by Cleveland in 1889 are reaffirmed a century later in this 1995 Parks Master Plan. The concept of linking together small- and large-scale parks through a linear open space system, the need to design the parks system for pedestrian accessibility and use, the wisdom of advance acquisition of park land for cost-effective public investment, and the recognition of fiscal benefits provided by parks to the city's image and to private land values are just a few of these issues.

Cleveland's 1889 Plan initiated a period of extensive land acquisition for development of Omaha's park and boulevard system. According to "A History of the Omaha Parks System", by 1920 the City had an exceptional park system composed of nearly a dozen forty- to fifty-acre parks connected by wide landscaped boulevards. From about 1920 to 1940, large new parks were developed on what was then the suburban fringe, but boulevard connections effectively ceased. Many parks received physical improvements in the early 1930s due to the federally sponsored WPA program. In the 1950s, growing demand for active recreation resulted in conversion of passive open spaces in older parks into athletic fields and other recreational facilities. Rapid housing growth occurring nationwide created a void in new park development during that time. Subdivisions did not often set aside land for parks, and the City was unable to acquire park land in advance of subdivision activity. Smaller, less usable parcels of land, skipped over during initial housing activity because they were difficult to develop, were sometimes acquired later by the City for parks.



The Grotto at Elmwood Park

Park planning was re-established in the 1960s and 1970s with suburban areas able to use public financing to acquire and develop parkland. However, because of cost constraints, the parks were predominantly neighborhood parks. Flood control programs sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers initiated acquisition and development of several sizable parks with lakes on the city's fringe. Park development under the City's Community Development program resulted in small infill parks in older areas of the city. However, many of the city's older parks suffered from a lack of preventative maintenance and facility upgrading.

Omaha received a grant in 1980 under the Federal Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program, for the purpose of revitalizing inner-city parks and recreation facilities. A comprehensive condition survey, an evaluation of recreation programming, and development of a standardized system to evaluate recreation service and identify facility needs were some of the elements funded under Omaha's UPARR grant. The resulting document, "An Assessment of Omaha's Parks and Recreation System" was adopted in 1981 and served as the City's Parks Master Plan until the approval of this document.

Omaha's park system today has over 7,450 acres, and parks owned by Sanitary and Improvement Districts (S&IDs) within the city's jurisdiction total slightly more than 940 acres [(See Map 1-Existing Parks and Table 4-Parks List (in the appendix)]. The City has purchased land to begin developing a metropolitan park northwest of Omaha, and the completion of Zorinsky Lake in southwest Omaha has provided a new regional park in that area. Recent additions of parkland have generally been for development of linear trails along creek corridors in the Papillion Creek watershed. Developing areas have set aside moderate "neighborhood" size parks where possible but tend to lack large enough parks for constructing many of the recreation facilities that are needed for surrounding neighborhoods.

Improvements at the Orpheum Theatre and expansion at Rosenblatt Stadium indicate the increasingly significant role of the City in ownership and management of special facilities, a function somewhat unique to Omaha among other cities. Recreation programs for youth are gaining attention as a focus of interaction and self-esteem, providing an alternative to the self-destructive choices of drug abuse or gang involvement.

The scope of this plan reflects local, regional and national issues that have emerged in the past decade and adds emphasis to issues that have become more critical. Overall needs include ongoing maintenance and new construction of park facilities, providing recreation opportunities close-to-home and accessible to all city residents, preventing dete-



Playing with Fire

rioration of natural resources, developing new kinds of public/private/non-profit partnerships and incorporating local grassroots organizations into park planning efforts.

According to surveys conducted for The President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (1987), most people consider recreation an important part of their daily lives and cannot imagine a world in which they did not have access to the outdoors. Recreation helps to achieve personal, community and national goals by creating jobs and economic vitality in communities, improving our physical and mental health, enhancing environmental quality, adding to the quality of communities as habitat for people and leading to civic pride and social unity.

The City of Omaha faces significant challenges as it approaches the twenty-first century. Increased fiscal austerity on all levels of government requires that new ways be found to meet recreation and open space needs. This plan sets forth an approach to meet these challenges and to guide the city's efforts into the 21st century.



Miller Park Pool

Vision and Goals from the Concept Element

Vision

The Parks and Recreation Element is a companion document to the Concept Element and is intended to address the specific park and recreation goals outlined in the Concept Element. The following are parks and recreation-related visions and goals from the Concept Element:

Omaha must be a community committed to promoting and maintaining a high quality of life for all of its people.

- The visual and performing arts need to be supported by and must be accessible to all residents. Special attractions such as the Gene Leahy Mall, Rosenblatt Stadium, Henry Doorly Zoo, Joslyn Art Museum, Boystown and the Heartland of America Park, which add to Omaha's high quality of life and enhance the city image need to be maintained and should be augmented by other attractions.
- Residents, businesses, and government alike must make a commitment to Omaha's natural environment and work to promote: clean air and water, conservation and preservation of open space and agricultural land, recycling and resource conservation, protection of unique and sensitive natural features, and extensive urban forestry programs.
- Public improvements and services must be provided in a way that promotes balanced growth and redevelopment and distributes costs according to benefits received. Quality, efficiency, and equitable distribution need to be stressed in the provision of public facilities and services. In an effort to improve Omaha's overall quality of life, fiscal, social and environmental costs and benefits must be considered in decisions regarding public services.

Goals

Develop and maintain a positive city image.

- Provide public amenities that enhance the city's image.

Promote and maintain a high quality of urban design.

- Create an attractive physical environment.

Protect our natural systems and environmental quality.

- Protect the city's natural systems.
- Ensure that development is sustainable and can be supported by the natural environment.
- Preserve and protect sensitive natural features.
- Incorporate natural features into the design of the city.



Slide at Gene Leahy Mall



Heartland of America Park

Current Conditions, Trends and Issues

Parks and Recreation System

Omaha's population growth of 11% and household growth of 44% between 1960 and 1990 was exceeded by the 100% growth in the physical size of the city. As a result, although the city's population increased, population density decreased from 9.2 to 5.1 persons per acre during the period. Not surprisingly, the cost of providing basic park and recreation services over a much larger area rose at a rate that was disproportionate to the population increase. Increased efficiencies and changes in service have offset much of this increased cost. Additional efficiencies need to be identified. If they are not, citizens will either be required to pay an increasing amount for park services or experience cutbacks in services provided.

Since 1970, areas outside the city limits but inside Omaha's jurisdiction have experienced a 72% increase in population and now account for roughly 19% of the jurisdictional population. This suburban population increase has been accompanied by an increased need for all manner of park and recreation facilities both inside and outside of the city. While these non-residents do not contribute to city taxes, they do benefit from park and recreation facilities and programs provided by the City.

The State of Nebraska has provided the opportunity for financing public improvements development through the establishment of Sanitary and Improvement Districts (S&IDs). These S&IDs are empowered to own park property and develop recreation facilities; however, City approval is required. The City currently enforces park standards within these S&IDs. The intent of these standards is not only to provide reasonable service levels for public recreational facilities within developing areas, but also to ensure a consistent level of service throughout the Omaha area.

Several moderate-size parks have been recently negotiated through a combination of one or more S&IDs; however, there is still a shortage of parkland to meet the city's identified needs. This system is also incapable of providing larger parks and major facilities like sports complexes, which are necessary to meet the needs of expanding suburban Omaha. To a limited extent, City bond funds and long-term agreements with private entities have been used for purchasing land and constructing facilities to serve these developing areas.

As mentioned in the introduction, Omaha's early park system was planned and property was acquired

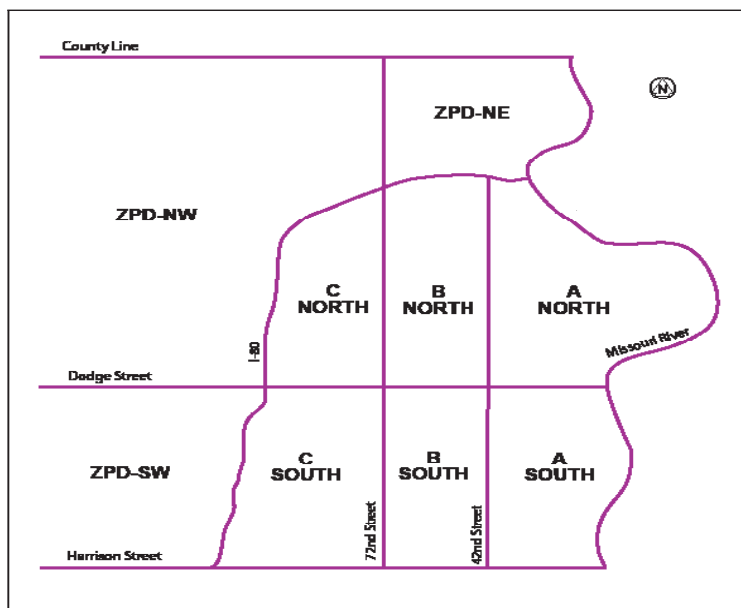


Figure 1
Development Zone Reference Map

in advance of land development. The result was a connected network of open spaces that functioned as a community-wide resource. The rush of post-World War II residential development did not allow for advance acquisition of park ground. More recent suburban growth has produced a system of neighborhood parks, typically developed by Sanitary and Improvement Districts. Regional parks have also been developed in conjunction with major flood control reservoir projects on the Papillion Creek system. However, areas experiencing current development tend to lack those park types which are most functional and flexible, namely medium-sized parks.

This random method of park acquisition and development over time has led to a somewhat disproportionate distribution of park and recreation facilities within the city and its jurisdiction (See Figure 1 - Development Zone Reference Map and Table 1 - Park Area/1,000 People). The city is fairly well served in terms of overall park land per 1,000 people. Omaha's figure of 8.04 ac/1,000 population, (excluding regional parks) is slightly less than the 10-acre established by the National Recreation and Parks Association (See Table 2). However, a closer look at the numbers reveals that some areas of the city have significantly more acres of parkland than others and that in some cases large regional size parks may mask the need for neighborhood and district parks (See Table 3a-d). Also, many of the neighborhood and district parks in the new suburban areas are primarily linear parks along creeks and drainageways, providing trails but very little additional recreation.

Table 1

PARK AREA PER 1,000 PEOPLE
(Excluding Regional Parks)

ZONE	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL ACREAGE	ACRES PER 1,000 PEOPLE	RANK
A-North	53,294	243.7	4.57	8
A-South	60,534	660.5	10.91	3
B-North	60,132	524.6	8.72	4
B-South	35,674	521.0	14.60	2
C-North	38,155	154.5	4.05	9
C-South	50,546	385.7	7.63	5
ZPD-NE	3,174	208.1	65.56	1
ZPD-NW	63,727	350.3	5.50	7
ZPD-SW	80,874	539.4	6.67	6
Total	446,110	3,587.8	8.04	

Note: Parks which consist of common area benefiting adjacent lots are not included

Table 2

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION RECREATION STANDARDS
(Population Ratio Method by Classification and Population Ratio)

CLASSIFICATION	ACRES PER 1,000 PEOPLE	SIZE RANGE
Playlots	*	2,500 sq. ft. to 1 acre
Vest Pocket Parks	*	2,500 sq. ft. to 1 acre
Neighborhood Parks	2.5	Min. 5 acres up to 20 acres
District Parks	2.5	20-100 acres
Large Urban Parks	5.0	100+ acres
Regional Parks	20.0	250+ acres
Special areas and facilities	*	Includes parkways, beaches, plazas, historical sites, floodplains, downtown malls, and small parks, tree lawns, etc. No standard applicable.

* Not applicable

Source: Recreation Planning and Design, Seymour M. Gold, McGraw-Hill, 1980

The information in Tables 1 through 3a-d indicates that:

- The area between 72nd Street and the interstate loop north of Dodge has the least park area per person in the city.
- Outside the interstate loop, the area north of Dodge lacks neighborhood parks, while the area south of Dodge lacks large urban parks.
- Inside the interstate loop, the areas south of Dodge generally rank higher in parkland per person than their counterparts north of Dodge, particularly for neighborhood parks and for larger urban parks.

Table 3a
OMAHA'S NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
(Park Area per 1,000 People)

ZONE	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL ACREAGE	ACRES PER 1,000 PEOPLE	RANK
A-North	53,294	103.7	1.95	4
A-South	60,534	142.1	2.35	2
B-North	60,132	77.3	1.29	8
B-South	35,674	61.6	1.73	6
C-North	38,155	53.3	1.40	7
C-South	50,546	112.8	2.23	3
ZPD-NE	3,174	6.1	1.92	5
ZPD-NW	63,727	71.0	1.11	9
ZPD-SW	80,874	212.8	2.63	1
Total	446,110	840.7	1.88	

Table 3b
OMAHA'S DISTRICT PARKS
(Park Area Per 1,000 People)

ZONE	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL ACREAGE	ACRES PER 1,000 PEOPLE	RANK
A-North	53,294	140.0	2.63	4
A-South	60,534	362.9	5.99	1
B-North	60,132	122.0	2.03	6
B-South	35,674	50.0	1.40	8
C-North	38,155	65.0	1.70	7
C-South	50,546	127.9	2.53	5
ZPD-NE	3,174	0.0	0.00	9
ZPD-NW	63,727	279.3	4.38	3
ZPD-SW	80,874	355.1	4.39	2
Total	446,110	1,502.2	3.37	

Table 3c

OMAHA'S LARGE URBAN PARKS
(Park Area Per 1,000 People)

ZONE	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL ACREAGE	ACRES PER 1,000 PEOPLE	RANK
A-North	53,294	0.0	0.00	8
A-South	60,534	55.5	2.57	6
B-North	60,132	325.3	5.41	3
B-South	35,674	413.4	11.59	2
C-North	38,155	0.0	0.00	7
C-South	50,546	145.0	2.87	5
ZPD-NE	3,174	202.0	63.64	1
ZPD-NW	63,727	249.9	3.92	4
ZPD-SW	80,874	0.0	0.00	9
Total	446,110	1,491.1	3.34	

Table 3d

OMAHA'S REGIONAL PARKS
(Park Area Per 1,000 People)

ZONE	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL ACREAGE	ACRES PER 1,000 PEOPLE	RANK
A-North	53,294	519.5	9.75	4
A-South	60,534	0.0	0.00	
B-North	60,132	0.0	0.00	
B-South	35,674	0.0	0.00	
C-North	38,155	0.0	0.00	
C-South	50,546	0.0	0.00	
ZPD-NE	3,174	445.0	140.20	1
ZPD-NW	63,727	2,463.9	38.66	2
ZPD-SW	80,874	1,023.0	12.65	3
Total	446,110	4,451.4	9.98	

Connectors and Trails

Developing linkages between parks extends the potential of the system to provide for the community's recreational needs. Individual parks and their facilities can more effectively provide an accessible network of activities when they are developed and utilized as part of a system. Physical connections between residential areas and regional- and community-oriented features also promotes use of those facilities and establishes an identity for those neighborhoods.

Corridors, trails and boulevards used to link the parks also provide recreational benefits. The popularity of linear trail activities, such as walking, bicycling, in-line skating, and running, has increased dramatically over the past decade. Cities across the country, as diverse as Seattle, Denver, Kansas City, Minneapolis, and Boston, have exploited the development of trail systems in open space corridors to enhance their image, and have experienced intense use of their trails.

Omaha has made significant progress developing a trail system in recent years. The City and P-MNRD have developed over 20 miles of trails along branches of the Papillion Creek system. These corridors provide the framework for a basic interconnected park system, with connections to other cultural and recreational facilities and commercial/office centers. However, certain areas of the city are still lacking the trails needed to provide for linear-oriented activities. More east-west connections, such as the trail under construction along Military Road and the trail planned for construction with the widening of Blondo Street, are needed in many areas.

Channel stabilization projects sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District have begun incorporating recreational trails. Smaller segments of the trail system have been required as new development occurs. Some of these trails have been provided with inadequate width outside of the floodway to provide a safe distance from the edge of the channel and a buffer for adjacent development.



Trail User

Quality of Life and Environment

The self-image that residents have about their community, along with the identity a city has beyond its borders, influences decisions made about the city and its future. Natural and cultural features in the community, the quality of public open spaces, urban forestry and floriculture programs, and the city's park system are elements which affect both residents' and outsiders' perception of a community's quality of life. In neighborhoods, as well as on a regional scale, those factors contribute to the well-being of residents, as well as providing a distinctive character and a source of civic pride.

Strategies to establish a positive civic image through parks and recreation, urban forestry, and improved aesthetic quality require coordinated efforts between the private sector, nonprofit organizations, interest groups, volunteers, and government agencies. Cooperation between different community sectors to accomplish positive improvements in the city enhances both Omaha's self image and the image it projects to the outside world.

For urban residents, public parks provide the primary opportunity for contact with our natural environment. Experiences created through the presence of natural and cultural features add variety and richness to human life. Those experiences are accessible to more people when they are a part of the public park system, and the multi-use nature of parks exposes those features as a setting for other activities. Park designation also protects important features which might otherwise be destroyed by development.

The 1991 Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR) survey of Omaha area residents, rated the quality of the environment as one of the community's top three concerns. In that same survey, the quality of the environment was rated as the priority problem in the respondent's neighborhood.

Urban development consumes significant amounts of land and results in both temporary and permanent damage to unique natural features. A University of Nebraska-Omaha survey of native prairie remnants identified the location and condition of prairie sites. Since 1979, four of the 16 remaining prairie remnants in Douglas County have been destroyed and seven of the sites are not in good condition. In 1994, only 96 acres of virgin prairie in five sites remain in good condition. Much of that 96 acres is incorporated into two parks; two of the sites totaling 32.5 acres are in Zorinsky Lake park and another 24-acre prairie remnant is planned to be a part of the new Northwest Park at 156th and Blondo.

Over 150 sites are known to have been used as various types of landfills in the Omaha jurisdiction over the past 30 years. Too often, scenic wooded ravines, intermittent streams, and floodplain areas are targeted for these landfills and dumps. The natural hills and valleys of the Ponca Hills area and the ravines of South Omaha have been especially attractive for dumps.



Missouri Riverfront

Outdoor recreation quality depends on environmental quality. Recreation resources for human use and enjoyment are degraded by environmental damage. The result is large and unnecessary reductions in our quality of life and increases in public spending for after-the-fact remedies. Often, the establishment, design, and management of parks and other open space in harmony with natural systems can provide functional solutions to environmental problems. Substantial cost savings are recognized when utilitarian benefits, such as flood storage, are considered along with the value of parks as amenities.

An appreciation of Omaha's history can also be experienced through its park system. Recently, a historical analysis of many parks was completed by the Planning Department and improvements have been made to highlight the historical importance of such facilities as Mt. Vernon, Elmwood, Fontenelle, Levi Carter and Hanscom Parks during their recent rehabilitations. This approach has met with significant citizen support. Omaha's historic and unique boulevard system is especially well suited for historic interpretation and renovation activities sympathetic to the systems original design intent.

Regional Parks and Special Attractions

Many of Omaha's Park and Recreation facilities serve a more regional role in addition to providing excellent citizen services. These facilities allow Omaha to host major events, tournaments and exhibitions, providing a substantial boost to the local economy. An additional benefit is that local users are provided with a high quality facility. For example, the Tranquility Soccer Complex has been rated by some as the United States' best youth complex with a number of major events held at this facility each year. Still, the vast majority of use is by local teams. Such special events, parks, and facilities provide an opportunity to establish a positive regional and national image, and create a source of identity and pride for the city's residents. Due to the positive effects of these regional facilities, a need exists to carefully evaluate Omaha's potential role in providing these types of facilities.



Tranquility Park Soccer Field

Omaha's public events facilities play a particularly important regional function. Visitors in 1994 at Rosenblatt, the Orpheum and the Civic Auditorium total over 1.4 million, including a significant number of attendees from outside metropolitan Omaha. Certainly, these facilities host events which attract primarily local interest, and such events as the local dance studio presentations at the Orpheum will continue to be important. However, in 1994 this same theater hosted the world premier of Requiem Variations by Sir Andrew Lloyd Weber, a production which attracted national exposure and attracted theater enthusiasts from around the nation.

For national attention, few events can challenge the College World Series and Rosenblatt Stadium. Through this event's exposure, Rosenblatt has gained national acclaim as a quality facility. Although in need of renovation, the Civic Auditorium attracts major events and activities. In 1994, the Auditorium hosted approximately 650 event days of activities within its facilities and attracted over 700,000 visitors. The renovation of the Civic Auditorium, in conjunction with construction of a parking garage directly connected to the Auditorium, will enhance its position in the market place and may also bring additional events to Omaha.

Park Maintenance and Rehabilitation

Basic park and recreation facility maintenance is a fundamental concern of the city's residents. The central purpose of park maintenance is to ensure that the functions and quality of the park system are maintained. As needs vary with different kinds of parks and facilities, maintenance practices should reflect those variations. Also, because the quality of the recreational experience is dependent on the quality of the environment, the public is concerned that maintenance practices provide protection for the natural environment.

Also important is the need to stretch limited maintenance funds and to seek efficiencies in the city's maintenance program. Related concerns include: improving the management and efficiency of maintenance operations, designing new facilities to meet standards which ensure lower long-term maintenance costs, utilizing preventative maintenance programs, and providing funding mechanisms for neighborhoods which desire a higher level of maintenance.



Restored Elmwood Springs 2006

Balancing the maintenance and rehabilitation of older parks with the construction of new facilities is of particular concern to Omaha’s central city residents. The city’s older parks often serve neighborhoods that are the most dependent on public recreation. Rehabilitation of older parks can complement other community development efforts by providing an aesthetic setting for those neighborhoods as well as an amenity for attracting families to the area.

Ongoing rehabilitation programs are necessary to ensure that parks and facilities are in a safe and usable condition. The City’s Capital Improvement Program currently includes rehabilitation projects for specific major and neighborhood parks each year, along with programs for upgrading certain types of facilities, such as park roads, throughout the park system.

Recreation Programming

The Parks, Recreation and Public Property Department provides recreational programs in several distinct fashions. Basic neighborhood programming is organized through the Department’s thirteen (13) community centers. (A new near-south Columbus Park Recreation Center was recently dedicated and opened.) The program offerings within these facilities are primarily directed toward traditional recreation activities and reflect staff capabilities and participant interest. The continued operation of these facilities represents a major budget expenditure.

City-wide recreation programming is provided by a combination of departmental offerings and cooperative efforts between the City and community organizations. The City’s cooperative efforts with the Omaha Tennis Association, Omaha Softball Association and Nebraska State Soccer Association are models of efficient public recreation offerings. Utilizing the volunteer efforts of special interest organizations has proven to be an economical method to provide recreational opportunities.

Recreation programming needs are constantly changing and the department needs to monitor these changes and adapt. New programming ideas are necessary to maintain a healthy, progressive department. For example, the Mayor-supported recreation outreach program was reinstated in 1995 for the first time since 1978.

New efforts to integrate positive recreational programming into a systematized approach to addressing youth issues is critical. Youth sport organizations, neighborhood groups, community support organizations and the Recreation Division need to be active participants in this process.



Tranquility Park Koch Tennis Center

Quality of Life and Environment

The Concept Element states:

- The City of Omaha will utilize a combination of incentives, policies, and design review procedures to attain a high degree of design quality in Omaha.
- Omaha should have high quality public spaces, landscaping, parks, civic buildings, monuments, bridges, boulevards and street furnishings.
- Emphasis will be placed on the modification of development proposals to accommodate and protect natural features rather than modification of natural features to accommodate development.
- Conservation of natural resources and concern for the long term effects of actions on natural systems must be a primary consideration in City decisions.
- Effective measures must be taken to ensure that lakes, rivers, wildlife habitat, wooded hills, ravines and waterways, natural springs, loess bluffs, prairies, rock outcrops, and steep slopes are protected from destruction.
- The City will make every effort to protect and improve the overall quality of our environment.
- The proportion of land used as parks should not be reduced as the city grows.
- Additional tree cover, wildlife habitat and open space corridors should be established throughout the Omaha area.



Heron Haven at 120th and West Maple Road

Omaha's quality of life and identity is dependent on the community's natural and cultural features and the scenic urban setting which they create. In neighborhoods, as well as regionally, this self-image influences decisions made about the city and its future.

Outdoor recreation provided by the public park system brings people in contact with nature and gives us an appreciation for the natural environment as habitat for people, as well as for plants and animals. Environmental, historic, and cultural features in parks can also serve as important educational resources.

Environmental quality is necessary to ensure the quality of outdoor recreation. Natural resources which have been damaged result in a reduction in our quality of life and in costly repairs for the public. An approach that takes natural systems into account in planning and maintaining parks often creates utilitarian benefits of the open space along with the amenity value.

Civic Image

Enhance the city's visual character and "sense of place" by incorporating the city's natural setting, history, and culture into our parks system. Develop, protect, and enhance views and scenic features of the city, and design parks and public property to continually improve Omaha's aesthetic qualities.

Scenic urban settings are often formed by topographic and water features. Wooded ravines and bluffs in the Ponca Hills area, the Papillion Creek branches and their wooded drainageways, the Missouri River and Carter Lake, and the lakes in the Papillion Creek system all contribute to the city's aesthetic setting. Preserving and protecting significant natural and cultural features is a basic function of public open space systems. Features that bring nature into the city, such as lagoons or ponds, naturalized waterways and hillsides, and landscaping for wildlife habitat can be incorporated into city parks.

Too often, the opportunity to preserve these features is lost as development is proposed on sites which contain these features, and public funds to acquire land for parks is very limited. A more pro-active approach is needed, such as creation of a special acquisition fund. Many of the structures in Levi Carter Park, Hanscom Park, and Elmwood Park, and pavilions in several other parks, have been identified as historically significant. When these features have been incorporated into our public open space system, public exposure to Omaha's distinctive natural and/or cultural features is increased, and the overall image and attractiveness of the city is strengthened.

Omaha's urban parkway system also contributes to the city's positive image by incorporating scenic landscapes, natural features, and historical and cultural sites into the overall circulation system. Current plans to revitalize Omaha's original boulevard system and the development of bikeways and landscaping along 144th Street begin to establish a framework of parkways in Omaha. The historical and cultural significance of the original park and boulevard system has unique potential to become a special attraction in Omaha. Nomination of the original park and boulevard system to the National Register and the local Landmarks Register should be pursued to document the systems importance. Recreational and aesthetic benefits of boulevards, as described one hundred years ago by H.W.S. Cleveland, designer of Omaha's initial park and boulevard system, are the intent behind the modern concept of parkways.

Community Livability

Utilize parks and natural features to enhance the living environment of the city's neighborhoods and make Omaha a desirable place to live, work and invest. Increase neighborhood identity, culturally and physically, and connect neighborhoods together to create a sense of community through the parks and open space system. Incorporate facilities for cultural and arts activities in the park system.

Parks often become a focal point for neighborhood activities, and contain cultural and natural features which provide a strong sense of neighborhood identity. Park renovation complements housing rehabilitation and other community development efforts in older areas by upgrading the neighborhood's appearance and giving a positive signal to investors. Parks can become the subject of interaction and accomplishment for residents of a neighborhood when the residents are involved in plans to provide for their recreational needs and to conserve natural and cultural features that they value.

Park linkages between neighborhoods can help to create a sense of community. Development of linear connectors such as boulevards and parkways, trails or paths for bicycling and walking, and other 'greenways' fit this concept well. Recreation-oriented access between neighborhoods provides safe, pleasant conditions to circulate within and between neighborhoods. Greenways connect parks and their recreation resources, physically linking neighborhoods and increasing recreation opportunities for everyone.

Environmental Quality

Improve and protect the quality of our natural environment. Utilize parks to help provide solutions to environmental needs or problems. Preserve, protect, and promote important features, such as historically significant structures, streams and rivers, woodlands, hillsides, and prairies through the parks system. Develop and enhance wildlife habitat through park site design, urban forestry programs, and open space corridors.



Northwest Park Prairie Seed Harvest

Clean air and water, pleasing landscapes, and abundant and diverse wildlife all contribute to the experience that people expect in outdoor recreation. Overuse or inappropriate use of natural sites will degrade both environmental and recreational quality. Omaha must assess the "carrying capacity" of natural sites to identify the types and intensities of recreational uses which can be allowed.

Often, solutions to avoid natural hazards or to resolve environmental problems can, at the same time, create

a benefit to city residents. Development of lakes for fishing and boating along Omaha's Papillion Creek system creates an amenity out of the need for downstream flood protection. A need to dispose of sludge from wastewater treatment and to reduce yard waste in landfills is being used to enrich the soil in parks by substituting composted sludge, grass and leaves for expensive fertilizers. Use of indigenous plants and natural design configurations reduce the need for irrigation, fertilizers, or pesticides, resulting in minimal maintenance costs.

As new developments and public park and open space systems are created, they should be designed in a manner which provides for the movement of wildlife from one natural area to the other.

To fully realize the benefits of conserving important features, the integrity of those resources must be protected. Prairie remnants become endangered as a stable ecosystem, and their educational value is reduced, if management practices allow "foreign" vegetation to encroach. Inappropriate modifications to historic structures can damage their historic character. Proper management of important features, through the use of appropriate maintenance and repair practices, is imperative.



Cunningham Lake Marina

Urban Forestry

Maintain and enhance Omaha's environment through tree-planting programs. Design and manage Omaha's urban forest to enhance the city's appearance and ensure the health of trees and other plantings.

Urban forestry and floriculture programs provide one of the simplest and most cost-effective ways of establishing an attractive civic image. Urban forestry beautifies the city and enhances its image, along with improving the value of private property. Urban trees provide cooling shade and modify wind extremes, increasing comfort and resulting in energy conservation benefits. As roadways enter and traverse a city, views from them create a visual impression of the city. Trees and other landscaping in street right-of-ways and other public places can enframe scenes,



Tree Planting

create focal points to direct the eye, and screen objectionable features from view. The degree of economic and aesthetic benefit indicates that urban forests should be a high priority of the city.

An emphasis on the use of native plantings in their natural associations and settings contributes to the city's "sense of place" and reinforces the natural environment. Street trees establish a sense of scale and coherence throughout the city, and contribute aesthetic quality and identity to neighborhoods and other special urban places. Street trees should be incorporated into street construction and major improvement projects, as stated in the Transportation Element. Omaha's "Releaf" program has been successful in encouraging street tree planting by offering trees to home owners at a reduced cost and planting the trees. Replanting storm-damaged trees in parks has also been a necessary role of Omaha's urban forestry program.

Site conditions in locations that are already developed or are undergoing construction often make survival difficult for trees. Compacted soil and poor drainage, as well as concrete expanses that store heat and limit water supply, severely limit the life expectancy of urban street trees. Policies to modify conventional construction practices and planting design could greatly increase the health and vigor of street trees.

Planting a variety of street trees--avoiding species overplanting and the resulting susceptibility to insect or disease pestilence--must be one objective of the city's urban forestry program. Programs for planting and maintaining landscaping in public places help to ensure that plants are healthy, lush and attractive, and that the costs of both production and long-term maintenance will be minimal. City regulations regarding planting requirements and street tree trimming standards are adopted in a landscaping ordinance and in sight obstruction regulations.

Outdoor Education and Ethics

Promote educational use of the parks system to increase our understanding and appreciation of nature and our heritage.

Individual awareness and a personal sense of responsibility for our natural environment must be instilled to maintain outdoor recreation opportunities for the future. Opportunities to participate in planning and stewardship of outdoor opportunities also promote a sense of ownership and responsibility. Non-profit organizations, recreation interest groups, private recreation providers, and community leaders can all promote responsible actions and conservation values which will result in environmental quality and recreational enjoyment.

The Report of the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, published in 1987, points out that "education is cheaper than maintenance, or trying to correct a problem". Public parks and open space can function as "outdoor learning centers" for schools, where natural systems and the effects of our actions can be taught, and the effectiveness of applying environmental education to all areas of study can be utilized. As the students increase their understanding of our natural and cultural environment, the potential for maintaining future recreation resources is improved.

Accomplishments Through Partnerships

Identify common goals of groups with different parks-related interests and build coalitions to accomplish those goals. Develop innovative approaches to provide for future needs through partnerships with individuals, governmental divisions, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations.

Ensuring that a community's future recreation needs will be met and preserving the outdoor resources necessary to provide those recreation opportunities requires a community-wide effort. As people increasingly want a diversity of recreation choices, local governments find that their resources may not stretch to meet current or future needs. Partnerships between public, private, and nonprofit organizations are required to build the resources needed to invest in the future.

As an example, floodplain management functions of the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District (P-MNRD) are coordinated with the City's efforts to develop a system of linear corridors with recreation trails along the Papillion Creek branches. The P-MNRD's need for maintenance access along the creeks helps to provide the space needed for trail development.

Park and Recreation Systems

The Concept Element states:

- The City of Omaha will ensure that all areas of the city are served by adequate, well-maintained infrastructure and public services. Services and facilities will serve both existing and anticipated development in an efficient, equitable, and cost-effective manner.
- The City will provide services that match anticipated needs and direct the desired growth of the city.
- City services must be provided in a manner that promotes contiguous development.
- The City will ensure the equitable distribution of public goods and services as efficiently as possible.
- Those who benefit from City services should be required to pay for the services they receive.
- Maintenance of City facilities should be balanced with new construction. Adequate funding must be provided to ensure that existing public facilities remain in good repair.

The City will ensure that Omaha's park and recreation system will provide a full range of recreational services to all of the city's residents and that developing areas contain equivalent levels of service to that of the city's. To the extent possible, the city's parks will be connected by an extensive open space network which will utilize existing boulevards, creeks, and other multi-purpose open space corridors to link existing and proposed parks. The system will be designed to protect, enhance, and incorporate natural features. Major recreational facilities will also be provided to accommodate and attract local, regional, and national events.



Basketball

- Omaha will continue to provide a wide range of recreational facilities and opportunities that promote reasonably equal service levels and accessibility to all city residents in all areas of the city. Parks will range in size from neighborhood to large regional parks.
- The City shall ensure that future suburban development will include recreation facilities that provide a level of service comparable to Omaha's.
- As the city grows, it will continue to create and expand an interconnected park system linked by recreational trails that utilize the city's creek and boulevard networks. Along with the development of new trails, the City will strive to restore and improve the original boulevard system. The City will also strive to enhance and preserve wildlife diversity along these trails, while reducing costs, by providing low maintenance landscaping.
- The City shall promote the development of major recreation facilities that will attract regional and national tournaments. Such facilities, whether indoor or outdoor, will be situated at locations to promote the city's image and be compatible with their surroundings.
- The City will set aside a certain amount of appropriate parkland for the creation of wildlife habitat.



Harvey Oaks Park Spacenet

Overall System

Omaha's park system has a primary function--serving the city's residents by providing open space and leisure activities to fit a variety of interests. For optimum service, parks and facilities should be efficiently provided and of high quality, with flexibility built in for future needs. Omaha's park system is composed of four key facets:

- a set of basic recreational facilities and uses provided equitably throughout the city's park system;
- linear trail corridors, functioning as "greenway" connectors between parks as well as providing for increasingly popular linear-oriented activities;
- unique recreational and educational opportunities, usually created by natural features in the area; and
- major sports facilities, including complexes for organized sports and large-scale facilities such as golf courses

The following guidelines address each of these functions.

Basic Park and Recreation Facilities

Omaha will provide a basic set of recreation and open space facilities that: 1) offer a variety of active, passive and seasonal activities, 2) provide an equitable level of service for all residents of the city and its jurisdiction, and 3) are responsive to the changing needs of the community's residents.

Benefits that people receive from recreation and open space, psychologically as well as physically, make park and recreation service a basic necessity for a healthy and balanced life. This essential service must be provided to all of Omaha's residents through a park system which is equitable in terms of services, quality, affordability and accessibility. A variety of active and passive recreation uses and seasonal activities are necessary to meet the community's park and recreation needs.

Trends should be monitored to ensure that overall recreation needs are being met. As the popularity of various recreation activities evolves over time, the set of 'basic recreation' services provided should adapt to those changes. The addition of facilities, such as tennis courts and swimming pools to the city's older parks, is an example of how a change in service was provided due to a change in needs. To ensure that similar changes can be made in the future, parks must incorporate ample areas of unprogrammed open space.



Open Space Soccer

The following is a list of basic facilities and open space areas which will be provided throughout the city based on service standards. (Other facilities discussed in the Major Sports Facilities guideline will be provided, generally distributed throughout the city, rather than by service standards.):

- Ballfields
- Basketball courts
- Multi-use open space areas (football, frisbee, kite flying, etc.)
- Playgrounds
- Recreation centers
- Recreational trails (walking, jogging, bicycling)
- Soccer fields
- Swimming pools
- Tennis courts

Linear Trail Corridors

Link parks together as components of a system, connected by linear corridors and trails.

Developing connections between parks makes the entire park system more accessible, and linkages between residential areas and regional and community parks promote the use of those park facilities. Recreational benefits are also created by using trails and boulevards to connect parks, providing opportunities for the increasing popularity of walking, bicycling, running and skating. A strongly defined pedestrian/bikeway access corridor into Downtown would enhance plans for making the Downtown/Riverfront area a strong image center and would strengthen the tourism value of the cultural and entertainment facilities located there.

In Omaha, the focus has been on utilizing waterways and historic boulevards to provide linear-oriented activities. These linear corridors provide a framework for the city's basic park system. The Missouri River corridor and the Papillion Creek branches are seen as potentially scenic settings for developing trails. The Army Corps of Engineers and Papio/Missouri Natural Resources District have begun planning and developing regional trail systems, with the Omaha portion being a significant and integral part of those systems. The City requires that new development along the Papillion Creek branches set aside land for linear trails and parks.

Where natural features that form open space corridors do not exist, the city's historic boulevards and street connections can be used as links in the linear open space system. Wider street right-of-way can be obtained where street or boulevard connections are needed, such as the linear park planned along 144th Street.

Abandoned railroad right-of-ways also are ideally designed for trail system development, with widths and grades that require relatively little site preparation cost. Omaha has a short trail segment along an abandoned railroad R-O-W and has begun to coordinate with other jurisdictions and organizations toward developing a trail system on abandoned R-O-W leading into the city. In some cities, active railroad right-of-way has been used as a shared corridor. The potential for the combined right-of-way of I-80 and the parallel railroad to have shared use with a trail link should be explored.

Trails for less common activities, such as cross-country skiing and horseback riding, can greatly expand the recreational benefits of a linear system. Appropriate design measures, such as wide unpaved shoulders and landscaping for snow retention, can be included in development of hiking/biking trails to enhance their potential for cross-country skiing. Horseback riding trails, like the one at Zorinsky Lake, in the less intensively developed hills north/northwest of the city and to the west near the Elkhorn River Valley could provide safe, scenic locations for horse trails.

Major linear corridors have been identified as priorities for the creation of a basic interconnected trail system for the city. A system of connector trails will link these corridors, increasing accessibility to the major corridors and providing route options for trail users (See Map 1-Existing Parks):

1. The Original Park and Boulevard System: Of major national historical significance and designed by the renowned H.W.S. Cleveland nearly 100 years ago, this system includes most of Omaha's older major parks and their connecting parkways.
2. The Little Papillion Corridor: This trail encompasses Roberts and Democracy Parks, Glenn Cunningham Lake, Aksarben, and eventually connects to the Big Papillion system near Seymour Smith Park.
3. The Big Papillion Corridor: Including Standing Bear Lake, Tranquility Park, the Knolls, Lamp Park, One Pacific Place, Towl Park, and Seymour Smith Park, this is the longest corridor in the system.
4. The West Branch of the Papillion and Boxelder Creek: This corridor encompasses Cottonwood, Woodhaven, Zorinsky Lake and several other newer suburban parks. Branches would also connect to the new park at 168th and Blondo and the City of Elkhorn.
5. 144th Street Parkway: Running the length of 144th Street, this corridor connects Standing Bear Lake, Boys Town, Zorinsky Lake, and eventually Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Louisville and Platte River State Park.
6. The Missouri River Corridor: Extending from Mandan Park on the south, through the Heartland of America Park in Downtown, to N.P. Dodge and Hummel Parks on the north, this trail would follow the river through some of the oldest and most scenic sections of the city. Access to riverfront trails would



Trail Construction

be improved by including various connections across to Council Bluffs trails and the Wabash Trace as opportunities become available through potential bridge replacement, abandonment, or new construction.

7. Thomas Creek Corridor: Extending from the Little Papillion Creek, this corridor will run northwest to Washington County.
8. State Street Parkway: A trail running the length of State Street will connect the Little Papillion Corridor, Cunningham Lake, Thomas Creek Trail, Big Papillion Trail and the West Branch Trail.



Trail User

9. 180th Street Parkway: This trail will run along 180th Street, connecting the West Branch Trail, Zorinsky Lake, extending south to the South Branch Papillion Creek and north to the Big Papillion Corridor.

Developing Unique Recreation Opportunities

Use the area's natural features to develop special recreational facilities. Enhance the basic park system by adding new or unique kinds of park uses.

Unique recreation opportunities are provided by lakes and lagoons in Omaha's vicinity. Nearly all of the lakes, ponds, and lagoons in the city's parks can be used for fishing, while larger lakes, such as Standing Bear Lake, provide canoeing and sailing opportunities. Levi Carter Park's Oxbow Lake and the Missouri River offer rare opportunities in the Omaha area for water-skiing and boating.

Interest in outdoor recreation tends to wane during the winter season, primarily due to unreliable and varying weather conditions. Ice skating is provided on several lagoons, and ice fishing is permitted at the larger lakes. Activities such as sledding and tobogganing, are popular in parks that contain slopes designed and/or maintained for that activity. Considering their low cost to develop and maintain, efforts should continue to locate and develop sites for sledding in order to expand seasonal recreational opportunities for Omaha residents.

Camping opportunities are currently deficient for the metropolitan area's population, judging by crowded conditions at times in local campgrounds. Choices in both improved and unimproved campgrounds need to be expanded in conjunction with preserving natural features. Campsites in highly used parks such as those at N.P. Dodge Park and Cunningham Lake have been improved with utilities, while "primitive" camping areas should be established in relatively isolated settings.

Special kinds of parks, such as the Gene Leahy Mall, Memorial Park and the Gerald Ford Birthsite, enhance the city's image and support special activities. Opportunities for developing unique facilities may arise through

active participation by interest groups. Development of the ‘barrier-free’ facilities in Pipal Park, the disc golf course at Seymour Smith Park, the Omahawks field at Standing Bear Lake and the construction of the ‘soap-box derby’ track in Seymour Smith Park are examples of this type of opportunity. Development of these kinds of facilities should be considered when opportunities arise.

The following is a list of facilities and open space areas which will be provided where opportunities exist:

- Amphitheaters
- Boating, sailing, canoeing
- Camping
- Fishing
- Horseshoe pits
- Ice Skating
- Sledding areas
- Specialty facilities (soap-box derby track, trap/skeet shooting, model airplanes, etc.)
- Special Needs Playgrounds
- Trails for cross-country skiing, horseback riding, hiking, etc.



N.P. Dodge Park Marina

Major Sports Facilities

Provide a variety of major sports facilities at an equitable level throughout the city to meet the needs of residents.

Twenty-thousand Omaha area residents participate annually in organized softball leagues, most using specially maintained, improved and lighted ballfields in city parks. Tranquility Park’s fifteen-field soccer complex, among the finest in the Midwest, is used by organized soccer teams from the metropolitan area and surrounding region. Indoor ice-skating rinks, an indoor and outdoor tennis complex, and many other special sports facilities are contained in Omaha’s park system.

In recent years, Omaha and other cities have experienced success in the development of recreation “complexes” -- a concentration of active use facilities within one park site. Savings in maintenance, support facilities, and management costs are experienced, in comparison to location of the same major facilities on scattered sites. However, since these complexes require significant acreage, they are difficult to locate, which can lead to an unequal level of service to city residents.

Service radii used to identify park facilities needed in residential locations are not as applicable for major sports complexes. Use of the facilities is scheduled by sports organizations, with the result being that an organized team will use different locations during a season. Equitable accessibility for area residents can be achieved by distributing sports complexes as evenly as possible throughout the city.

Standards should be used to determine the number of major facilities to be provided. Standards should be based on information on activity preferences and participation rates of users. For example, nationwide survey data from a golf association shows that Nebraska is in the top seven states in participation in golf. This may indicate that development of additional public golf courses is needed. Different levels of ability for an activity should be recognized in standards.

High construction costs for major sports complexes and even some basic services have also resulted in a lack of major sports facilities in parts of suburban Omaha. The current reliance on S&ID general obligation funding for park development has proven incapable of financing major recreation facilities, as the costs would exacerbate existing high debt levels of many S&IDs. Swimming facilities, recreation centers, golf courses, and youth athletic fields are all needed in suburban Omaha.

The following is a list of major sports facilities which will be provided where opportunities exist:

- Ballfield complexes
- Indoor ice skating rinks
- Soccer and youth athletic field complexes
- Water recreation complexes
- Tennis centers
- Golf courses (18 and 9 holes)



Tranquility Park Koch Tennis Complex

Park System Location

Service standards are the basis used to assess whether residents are receiving basic recreational services. The two-part process discussed in this section enables an evaluation of the basic recreational needs of the community and specific locations for new facilities that will meet those needs.

A basic system of parks and facilities begins to emerge when facility needs are combined with the needs for major sports complexes and the opportunities for preserving natural features and open space. Properly designing and developing this system will ensure that all of the city's residents have access to quality recreation and open space.

Location of Basic Facilities

Service standards for facilities should be used to guide the location and size of new parks and facilities and to assess the adequacy of existing facilities.

When applied uniformly, the basic park and recreation uses listed earlier ensure that a variety of recreation opportunities are available for all segments of the city's population. Service standards defined by service radius and target population ensure an equitable level of service.

Combining the service radius and target population information makes up the first step in identifying locations in the city that are either not served or inadequately served. "Not served" areas are outside of the service radius of a facility while "inadequately served" areas are those with a higher population within the service radius than the facility's target population. Service radius and population standards are described as follows:

- Service radius--The service radius is the maximum distance that people can live from a facility and be adequately served by it. This distance is determined largely by the expected travel mode of the target population. For example, playgrounds have a service radius of 1/2 to 2/3 mile, on the basis that the target population, children under age 11, should be able to walk to that facility. Anyone living within that distance of a playground is considered to have adequate access to it. These radii can be modified or interrupted by barriers, such as major roadways, railroad tracks, and waterways, which should be taken into account.
- Target population--Different groups of people are served by different types of recreation facilities. For example, playgrounds generally serve young children, swimming pools are used largely by children and teens, and recreation centers provide service to all ages of population. The "target population" is the number of people within the facility's service radius that are in the age group served by that facility. Using playgrounds as an example again, each playground's target population is 500 children between the ages of 1 and 11.

The process for identifying “not served” or “inadequately served” areas of the city is set out below:

1. Each City facility is located on a map. The service radius area is mapped by measuring distances along streets on the map, reflecting actual routes that a user can take. (Note: At the development fringe where streets do not yet exist, circular service radii are used.)
2. The number of people living within each facility’s service area is calculated using the most recent census block data. The population is compared to the service standard’s target population to determine whether the area is adequately served.
3. Non-City facilities meeting “other provider” criteria are identified and mapped, using the same process.
4. The resulting map indicates areas that are not served or inadequately served by existing facilities. Those areas are then listed.
5. A program for new facilities can then be developed, based on these maps. Highest priority should be given to those facilities which can be located on existing public land. Areas which are primarily non-residential or those with very small size or population are given a lower priority. The need for a facility or an additional facility is justified when the population is at least two-thirds of the target population.



Playground Construction

The following is a list of the basic and major sport facility standards which have been used to determine the facility needs and locations shown on the accompanying map (See Map 2-Park Facility Locations and Table 5-Park Facility Needs Index). These standards are based on National Recreation and Parks Association standards, modified to fit Omaha's needs and facility distribution:

- Tennis: 1-1/2 to 1-2/3 mile service radius - 4,500 people of all ages
- Tennis Complexes: 2-1/2 to 3 mile service radius - 35,000 people of all ages & tournaments
- Community Recreation Center: 2-1/2 to 2-2/3 mile service radius - 35,000 people of all ages
- Soccer Fields: 1-1/2 to 1-2/3 mile service radius - 10,000 people of all ages
- Ballfields: 1-1/2 to 1-2/3 mile service radius - 6,000 people of all ages
- Basketball: 1 to 1-1/3 mile service radius - 2,700 people of all ages
- Playgrounds: 1/2 to 2/3 mile service radius - 500 people in the 2-11 age group
- Multi-Use Open Space: 1 to 1-1/3 mile service radius - 3,000 people of all ages
- Trails: 1-1/3 to 1-1/2 mile service radius

Specific Park Location and Size

Specific park site locations should be selected which invite public access and use, serve as links to the rest of the park and open space system, conserve natural features and allow for cost-effective development and maintenance. Trail locations should be safe, designed to incorporate natural features and adequately buffered from adjacent uses.

This second step of the park site location process utilizes the maps of facility needs identified in step one. The minimum amount of land required to accommodate clusters of facilities can be roughly determined, based on dimensional requirements of the facilities. This information can then be combined with an analysis of the accessibility and visibility of various sites, location of linear trail corridors, natural areas to be conserved, and the need for any other special facilities, in order to determine specific locations and amount of land needed for park sites.



Zorinsky Lake Playground

Visibility and accessibility in park location is necessary to invite public use of parks. Parks with uses serving a large geographical area, such as a swimming pool, recreation center, or lighted tennis courts, should be located along major streets to ensure accessibility without drawing traffic through residential areas. Neighborhood-oriented parks should be centrally located within the neighborhoods they are serving, and should focus on pedestrian accessibility. A minimum of 50% of the park perimeter should have street frontage.

Where the accessibility and visibility requirements of special facilities, such as major sports complexes and neighborhood-oriented uses can both be accommodated, the uses should be contained in one park site to improve maintenance efficiency.

Neighborhood parks should connect to the linear network wherever possible for maximum accessibility and benefit.

Rivers, creeks and other waterways, wetlands, wooded areas, prairies, steep hillsides, views and vistas, and other special features should be preserved and incorporated into the park system. Conservation of those features provide attractive and unique settings for other park activities and offer unique recreational and educational opportunities.

Park uses which provide basic service to an area must be accompanied by an adequate amount of land, suitable for development and long-term use of those facilities. Natural features should be incorporated into parks with enough additional land to allow development of needed park uses without unusual construction or long-term maintenance costs or degradation of the natural features.

Trail development along creeks should include enough land width to ensure safety for trail users adjacent to creek banks, an adequate buffer between the trail and adjacent property, and allow for trail location and design that will minimize damage caused by flooding.

Trail construction should incorporate a 10-foot wide trail within a 40-foot wide corridor. The 40-foot corridor must be outside of the PMNRD channel and maintenance easement, outside of the 3:1 slope plus 20-foot erosion easement, above the flood elevation set by FEMA for a 10-year flood and outside the floodway unless there is compelling evidence to deviate from these guidelines.

Park and Facility Design

Once a park site has been selected, a plan for development of the site should be done in accordance with basic site design principles. Site development should fit the site's natural and man-made environment, and accommodate the intended function(s) of the park. The design and construction of parks and facilities should create aesthetically enjoyable experiences for park users and enhance the urban and suburban landscape. Long-term service and cost-effectiveness in operation and maintenance of the park must also be provided through park site design and construction. The following policies set out the City's approach to park design:



Miller Park

Park Site Planning

Park layout and design should accommodate the people who will use the park, and at the same time, protect and enhance the park's natural environment. Flexibility for future changes, additions, and/or facility expansions to meet changes in recreation needs should be provided in park design.

Location of the facilities in a park site should result in the safe and enjoyable use of the park and in protection of the site's environmental features. Activities with similar compatible characteristics should be clustered.

Wildlife habitat, hiking/biking trails, nature study areas, or other "passive" uses should be protected from noise, traffic, intensive activity or similar impacts. Uses with off-site effects, such as noise from spectators at sports facilities, should have adequate distance or another appropriate buffer between the facilities and any adjacent residential uses. Roadways into parks with intensively used facilities should be located to minimize traffic impacts on residential streets.

Locations of park uses should be designed to allow for expansion, if needed in the future. Changes in recreation needs and/or additions to park activities should be anticipated by providing adequate space and flexibility in the park design.

Design and Construction

Park sites and recreation facilities should be designed and constructed for durability and cost-effective maintenance, serviceability and safety to users, and in a manner which enhances the city's overall appearance.

As a capital investment, parks and facilities must be designed and constructed for serviceability. Park amenities and facilities that are not built to a functional and durable standard of quality may have a lower initial cost, but will be more costly in the long-term as repairs or replacement are needed sooner than expected.

Safety considerations in design and construction should be based on both intended and potential use, and should consider the effects of wear on the park facility. Safety standards have been developed by design professionals and consumer safety organizations for many types of equipment and other park improvements.

Although design priority should be given to function and safety, enjoyable use of a park is greatly enhanced by the aesthetic nature of the site and its facilities. While park users may not be consciously aware of all the factors contributing to the quality of their experience, the natural setting and park layout and design



Waterplay Construction

affect the psychological benefits that people receive from open space. Park planning staff should also continue to work with residents in developing plans for new parks and park rehabilitation in established neighborhoods.

Park planning professionals should receive continuing education to keep current on national trends, innovative design, and experiences of other professionals in the field. Knowledge of new design practices and trends in recreation, and learning from the experiences of others will increase the quality of park and recreation service in Omaha. Parks in S&IDs should be designed by professional landscape architects to ensure that the design is based on a knowledgeable background, resulting in long-term, high quality park facilities.

Park Development

Development decisions made today will determine the quality of the recreation and open space system Omaha has in the future. Whether park development in new subdivisions or upgrading facilities in older parks is being considered, it is the long-term park and recreation needs of the city's residents which must be considered.

Fiscal constraints and other problems affecting park development indicate that new ways of financing park land acquisition and facility construction must be found. In order to establish an effective, park development system, the City will need to study costs, projected growth rates, project priorities and long-term operation and maintenance issues. Policies and strategies to resolve these issues are addressed in this section.

New Facilities and Parks

Ensure that park and recreation needs are met by establishing priorities for parkland acquisition and construction.

Limited funds require that priorities be set for development of new parks and facilities, as well as for rehabilitation of those that exist. Without a systematic method for evaluating priorities, project funding may be determined by crises, resulting in poor park development decisions.

Service standards provide the initial basis for evaluating needed projects by identifying locations that are unserved or underserved by certain park uses. To evaluate the need for the project, the "target population" of the use should be compared with the number of people who would benefit from the project. Higher priority should be given to locations where the population to be served is close to or higher than the target population.

Priority should also be given to park and facility needs within the existing park system, particularly where public land is already available for park use. Other considerations should include improvements needed to meet safety requirements, completion of phased projects which are in progress, or replacement of facilities at the end of their useful life. Projects which would complement community development or economic development programs should also be considered.

Park needs should be identified in suburban areas so that developers can plan for any associated financial and design effects. The City should coordinate park development when park sites involve more than one subdivision and ensure the equitable distribution of park costs between the developments that benefit.

Park Development Costs

Acquisition and construction of park sites and facilities should be funded by those who benefit.

A park development fund supported by “benefit fees” should be established for areas in which development is occurring. The funding system must directly link the fees to the benefit received, and must be based on realistic estimates of land and construction costs.

Use of the service standards set out in the Location of Existing Facilities guideline of this section, will ensure an equitable fee system by identifying those who benefit from the specific park or facility. A uniform fee could be established to fund parks in developing areas, based on the equitable distribution of park facilities set out in this plan.

The cost of development fees should be based on the proportion of benefit received by an area. Financing of parks and facilities which benefit city residents, should be paid for by the City. Parks and facilities which primarily benefit neighborhoods outside the city, such as playgrounds and open space, should be funded with development fees contributed by those neighborhoods. Development of parks and facilities, such as construction of a recreation center, which serve a substantial area of the city and neighborhoods outside the city, should use a combination of City funds and the park development fees proportionate to the benefit of each interest.

General Obligation Debt

The amount of S&ID general obligation debt related to the acquisition and development of parks and open space should be minimized.

Park site acquisition and development is one of the public improvements allowed to be financed through general obligation (GO) bonds for development of a subdivision. Although the proportion of subdivision GO debt attributable to suburban parks is considerably less than the other infrastructure costs, park-related costs should be held to a reasonable amount in meeting residents’ park needs.

Currently, several opportunities exist for reducing park development costs that should be utilized consistently. Land costs for a proposed park site should not exceed the actual value of the property, particularly a concern where easements, storm drainageways, floodways, and floodplains or similar constraints exist. Raw land cost should be used to determine the amount the developer receives for parkland, taking constraints on park development into consideration. Land that is floodway, drainageway, or an easement that precludes any construction should be donated rather than purchased from the developer. Floodplain land may be valued at 50% of the raw land cost.

“Soft costs” for park acquisition and development - the legal, financial, engineering and interest costs associated with construction - should be kept to a minimum. The percentage of “soft cost” should be justified by actual costs required to finance and design the park. If park improvements are built to a higher standard than City standards, for example, irrigation systems or for a facility which is not needed based on park service standards, the improvements must be privately funded with provisions made for privately funded maintenance.

Expansion of Capital Funding Sources

Outside funding sources should be sought for funding park and open space capital improvements to reduce reliance on debt financing through bonds.

The City has relied largely on funding through park bond issues for development and improvement of the basic park system. Outside sources have often been used to help pay for major facilities. Reliance on bond issues not only adds interest costs to the capital expense, but has not always kept pace with immediate needs. Alternative sources for funding capital improvements in parks can be a part of the solution for continuing or improving the quality of services with limited public funds.

The recent growth of sports and recreation interest groups not only indicates the importance of recreation services, but also provides the potential for funding the kinds of facilities on which the interest groups focus. User fees, endowment funds, private donations of materials, labor, and cash, foundation grants, and contributions should all be pursued as a part of the strategy for developing and improving the city's park system.



Playground Construction

Park Maintenance and Rehabilitation

The Concept Element states:

- The City will assist in upgrading existing central city infrastructure in order to accommodate economic and community development.
- The City of Omaha will ensure that all areas of the city are served by adequate, well maintained infrastructure and public services.
- Maintenance of City facilities should be balanced with new construction. Adequate funding must be provided to ensure that existing public facilities remain in good repair.

Maintenance practices should vary in accordance with the different kinds of parks and facilities, and should also strive for minimal impact on the natural environment.

Cost-effective practices are needed, including initial investment in quality materials, preventative maintenance programs, and energy/materials conservation. Maintenance standards are needed to ensure that higher-than-standard costs can be quantified and the costs shared with those who benefit.

Maintenance Standards

Uniform maintenance levels and standards for parks and facilities must be established. Where the intended function and intensity of use allows, variations to the maintenance standards should be permitted.

Uniform maintenance standards are necessary to ensure an equitable level of maintenance for similar facilities throughout the city. Standards help to identify the cost of maintaining new facilities and land and provide a basis for setting budget needs and priorities. Facilities, open space, plant materials and amenities should be subdivided into separate categories based on factors such as function and intensity of use. For example, the frequency of mowing will be different for a neighborhood open space area in comparison to the Gene Leahy Mall or a highly-scheduled athletic complex. Trails in major corridors should have priority for snow removal, while smaller paths in parks would be left until later. Basic maintenance levels and standards should be established for each of the following broad categories:

- Outdoor recreation facilities (playgrounds, ballfields, swimming pools, etc.)
- Indoor recreation facilities (recreation centers, indoor tennis, etc.)
- Pavilions and structures (picnic shelters, restrooms, concession stands, etc.)
- Walkways (paths, trails, sidewalks, etc.)
- Park roads and parking lots
- Park furniture and fixtures (picnic tables, benches, lights, fountains, fences, etc.)
- Water related features (lakes, streams, floodways, shorelines, wetlands, etc.)
- Plant materials (trees, shrubs, grass, flower beds, etc.)

Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program

Ensure equitable usability of the park and recreation system through a comprehensive program of preventative maintenance and rehabilitation. Priorities for maintenance and repair must be set to ensure that parks and facilities are maintained in an equitable manner.

Rehabilitation of existing facilities and parks must be emphasized in funding programs to ensure that neighborhoods which are most dependent on public recreation are served. Older parks which are upgraded and maintained will help to attract residents and investment into those neighborhoods, complementing other community development efforts.

Preventative maintenance programs can be effective only after parks and facilities are brought up to standard. Maintenance programs must be ongoing to keep parks in a safe, usable condition.

There are some situations where maintenance that would prolong the life of a facility or equipment is not warranted. If the item is below current standards for safety, efficiency, or serviceability, it may be preferable to replace or remove it than to invest any more in it. If a repair is very costly and replacement is more cost efficient over the long term, replacement may be wiser. If the facility is not truly needed according to facility standards, it should be removed.

All of the city's parks and facilities should be periodically surveyed to determine their condition. Based on the findings of the survey, priorities should be set to ensure that problems are corrected and that funds are allocated to those repair and maintenance needs which are greatest. Priorities should be based on the following criteria:

- Safety concerns
- Number of users
- Reconstruction or replacement costs
- Ongoing maintenance costs
- Coordination with other rehabilitation or construction work
- Effect on revenues and/or tourism



Public Art at the Qwest Center

Maintenance Funding

Park maintenance should receive adequate financial support to ensure a clean, safe, and quality park system. Additional maintenance costs resulting from acquisition or development of new parks and/or facilities should be adequately funded to ensure continued maintenance levels of existing facilities.

Maintenance requirements of new parks or facilities and rehabilitation projects should be evaluated so that the maintenance costs can be anticipated in the future. Park maintenance costs must be included in annexation and capital improvement programming. Inflationary increases should also be assumed in maintenance budgets.

The City should also explore ways of stretching limited maintenance funds. In new parks the City uses private contractors for maintenance work. The cost-effectiveness of using private contracts should be analyzed, along with the potential for supplementing the maintenance budget through other sources, such as endowment funds, grants, contributions and volunteers.

Maintaining Environmental Quality in Parks

Ensure that the protection and improvement of the natural and human environment is supported in park maintenance operations, and that the quality of parks is maintained through environmentally sound practices.

Specifically, the City will restrict the use of chemicals, plants and other materials which are known to be damaging to the environment in the design, construction and maintenance of the city's park and recreation facilities and open space systems.

Maintenance practices can significantly affect the quality of the natural environment and the quality of the experience that people have in the parks system. The aesthetic, educational, recreational and environmental benefits of historic and environmental features should be protected in any maintenance or repair work. Historically, significant parks and structures should be rehabilitated in a way which is sympathetic to their historic character.

Often, consideration of effects on the natural environment is less costly than typical maintenance practices. Following environmentally safe and appropriate practices will avoid damage to the park site, as well as preventing exposure to hazardous chemicals by Park workers and the public. For example, Maintenance Division personnel found that when chemicals were used to kill vegetation in difficult-to-mow locations, the lack of vegetation resulted in erosion problems. As a result, a temporary savings in labor for mowing was offset by repair and reseed-ing costs.

In natural areas, the primary maintenance concern should be in preventing pollution and other damage. Except for attention necessary to preserve or enhance the function of natural areas, those sites should receive minimal maintenance.

Public Involvement

Promote citizen interest and involvement in the care and maintenance of the city's recreation facilities and parks.

Neighborhood organizations and interest groups that “adopt” specific facilities or parks are beneficial to park maintenance in a variety of ways. A sense of ownership reduces litter and vandalism, and builds an awareness of the effects of those actions on our park system. Volunteer workers and/or other contributions can also help by reducing the City’s expense, or by increasing the quality of maintenance given to those adopted parks or facilities.

Special or unique types of parks or features not ordinarily provided by the City, may be provided through a development/maintenance commitment by an interest group. Examples include the soapbox derby track at Seymour Smith Park and the Omahawks model airplane field by Standing Bear Lake.

Maintenance Considerations in Design and Construction

Park and recreation facilities should be designed and constructed to lower long-term maintenance and life-cycle costs, even if initial costs are higher.

Facilities and improvements that are the most economical are not necessarily those with the lowest initial cost. Repairs and replacement may quickly offset initial savings or require continual maintenance if the quality of the facility or construction is not made to last. Where earthwork on slopes is done, for instance, erosion controls should be used to ensure the stability of the finished slopes. The clean-up, regrading and reseeding that is necessary if the slope washes out, would offset the added initial cost of mulching and netting to prevent erosion.



Secchi Disc Testing at Zorinsky Lake

Efficiency and Conservation

Improve quality and cost-effectiveness in park and recreation service by promoting long-term efficiency and conservation of energy and resources.

Gas, oil, chemicals, utilities and other expenses are a significant part of the park and facilities maintenance budget. Cost savings from conservation measures have the potential to significantly reduce the City's operating expenses.

Energy-efficient equipment, recycling, and added insulation are just a few of the ways in which the City can reduce long-term costs. Likewise, certain conservation measures on the part of the public can save park maintenance costs. A reduction in the cost of picking up broken glass and litter would result from incentives for the public to recycle bottles and cans.

Increased maintenance efficiency often requires applying new or innovative approaches to existing practices. Employee training and exposure to new methods and equipment are a necessary investment toward improved efficiency. Similarly, increased conservation and efficiency should be rewarded by allowing the savings to be utilized to improve the quality or quantity of service.

Costs of Private Benefits

Maintenance costs of land or improvements that primarily benefit private individuals or organizations should be paid by those who benefit. If a higher level of maintenance is desired or is necessary due to the park or facility design, those who benefit should pay for the higher cost.

Parkland with limited accessibility or visibility usually has limited use by the public, and instead, provides open space primarily beneficial to adjoining property owners. This situation exists in several "cluster" subdivisions platted in the 1970s, where narrow strips of land behind lots, labeled as "common area", were dedicated as parkland.

Other subdivisions contain land platted as "outlots", where the function of the land is to buffer residential lots or other similar uses. For lack of any other status, these outlots become a City maintenance responsibility, although they were never intended to be dedicated as parkland. These common areas and outlots are costly to maintain, and the lack of public use makes the cost difficult to justify. The City no longer allows this type of design for public parks.

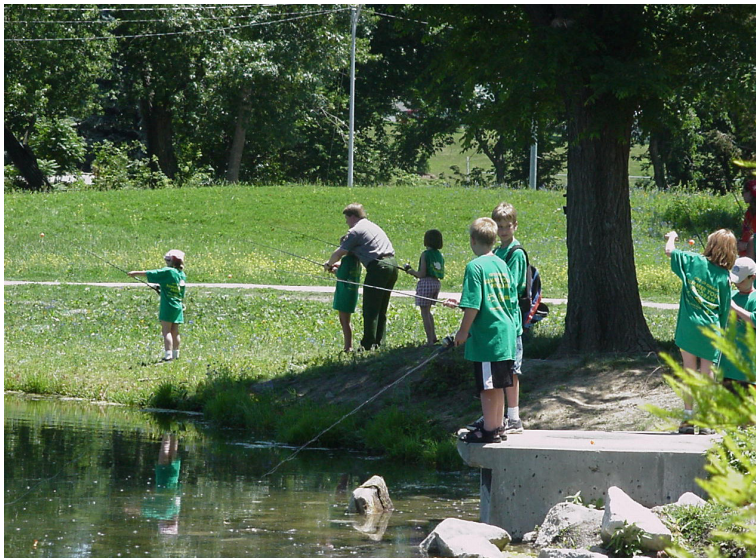
In other cases, a recreation organization, home owner's association, or S&ID may want to use dedicated parkland for constructing a facility that is beyond typical standards or would be restricted to use by that organization. Property owners or residents sometimes request more frequent maintenance in a nearby park than would ordinarily be provided. Given limited maintenance funds, the higher costs associated with these parks or improvements take away from the maintenance needed in other locations. Where the public is not the primary beneficiary, those who benefit should pay for their share of the cost.

Recreation Programming

The Concept Element states:

- The City will ensure that Omaha's park and recreation system will provide a full range of recreational services to all of the city's residents and that developing areas contain equivalent levels of service to that of the City's. Major recreational facilities will also be provided to accommodate and attract local, regional, and national events.
- Omaha will continue to provide a wide range of recreational facilities and opportunities that promote reasonably equal service levels and accessibility to all city residents in all areas of the city.
- The City shall ensure that future suburban development will include recreation facilities that provide a level of service comparable to Omaha's.
- The City shall promote the development of major recreation facilities that will attract regional and national tournaments. Such facilities, whether indoor or outdoor, will be situated at locations to promote the city's image and be compatible with their surroundings.

Omaha's recreation programming is provided through community centers for neighborhood programs, and through cooperative efforts with community organizations for city-wide programs. Community center programs are oriented toward traditional recreation programs, such as fitness classes, arts and crafts, and senior programs. City-wide programs use the volunteer efforts of special interest organizations, such as the Omaha Softball Association and Nebraska State Soccer Association to coordinate with City efforts in creating very efficiently provided recreation.



Benson Park Lagoon

Equitable Level of Service and Quality Programming

Provide an equitable level of recreational opportunities for all of Omaha's residents. Ensure that recreational programs provide quality services in an economical fashion.

Recreational programs offer a great deal to the quality of life within a city. People can develop skills, creativity, and physical health through a variety of activities. Cooperation and leadership qualities are developed as people interact, and an appreciation of both the similarities and differences between individuals, age groups, and cultures is promoted. While program offerings may vary due to such factors as facility availability and participant interest, an equal level of basic offerings should be consistent throughout the city.

To properly serve its citizens, the City's program offerings must be diverse and well balanced. Such factors as increasing age, decreasing numbers of youth, interest in family activities, and environmental changes should be reflected in recreational programming. Programming should be evaluated periodically to encourage diversity and creativity.

Special Events and Programs

Facilitate and promote special events and seasonal programs. Expand recreational programming to strive for innovation and to reach out into the community.

Special events are the "spice" of community programming. These celebrations, often connected with holidays, are opportunities for the people of Omaha to commemorate their heritage, or simply to gather with other citizens. In addition to providing entertainment for city residents, special events draw tourists from a regional circle and enhance Omaha's civic image. In many cases, a major special event, such as Commercial Federal's 4th of July Celebration, can be created through cooperation between the City and community organizations or businesses.



Columbus Fitness Center

Opportunities for interaction and involvement between the performing and cultural arts and the City's recreation programs are becoming increasingly important. Shakespeare on the Green and concerts in the parks are examples of "cultural recreation" programs which are enjoyed by thousands of city residents each year. Many excellent organizations exist within this community which could assist with the expansion and development of such events.

A similar combination of existing interest groups and City staff facilities could be utilized to incorporate environmental education programs.

Outreach programs can be more effective in dealing with underserved population groups than traditional

programming. Transportation to the recreation programs is often the biggest hurdle for people attempting to use established programs. Some examples include senior citizens, small children and the handicapped.

Outreach programs can be directed toward specific areas of the city not adequately served by available programs. The Mayor's summer "SunDawg" program, similar to the former playmobile and playground champions programs, and "hydrant parties" are examples of outreach programs designed to reach the city's youth who may otherwise be unable to visit the city's recreation centers.

The importance of positive recreational activities as a functional part of a city-wide comprehensive effort to address youth-related problems is becoming increasingly critical. The Parks, Recreation and Public Property Department needs to play an active role in the planning and administration of these types of activities.

Budget and Program Fees

Assure the efficient use of recreational programming dollars through the use of an overall budget system and consistent program fees.

Within the Recreation Division there is a need to quantify the costs of providing individual programs. This effort will assist in budget proposals and illustrate exactly what programs and services will need to be cut or expanded depending upon allocations. This budgeting effort will also help identify cost savings that may be currently overlooked.

As a result of this activity, a consistent policy for program fees and charges has been developed. This may include classifying programs into differing categories and applying alternative fee structures to each category.

Programs which are considered basic to the needs of the citizens may have lower fees, while those which are "luxury" or specialty programs may have higher fees. Fees should also be adjusted depending on the income level of the persons being served. A base fee which is charged for an activity in most areas of the city may be reduced in neighborhoods with high unemployment rates.



Sun Dawgs Splish Splash Splunk

Special Recreation Groups

Maximize recreational opportunities through a continued and strengthened association with special recreation groups.

To maximize recreation opportunities and minimize staff requirements, the City engages in a multitude of cooperative efforts with special interest groups. Examples are as varied as the Kingswood Athletic Association and the Omahawks Model Airplane Club.

Programming facilities for youth sports has become increasingly complex. Since no centralized organization exists for certain youth sports, a large number of similar recreation organizations are pressing to use City facilities. This situation is further complicated by the lack of standard facility use agreements and criteria for use by organizations. Resulting problems can include service overlap, duplication and ineffective use of facilities.

Similar problems have been successfully avoided through the formation of the Omaha Softball Association and Nebraska State Soccer Association. The ability of these agencies to speak in a unified voice has greatly improved the efficiency of the City's cooperative efforts and resulted in good coordination of programs and facilities. Efforts should be made to establish similar associations for other organized sports and to ensure that these groups provide coordination and recreation opportunities for youth in all areas of the city.

In addition to providing basic services, programs have been directed toward special populations. Currently, the goal is to mainstream these populations and to improve facilities to meet ADA standards.

Other Recreation Providers

Avoid duplication in service between the City and other "equal providers" of recreation services. Private facilities should be considered supplemental to service from the public and "equal providers".

Recreation is sometimes provided by non-city facilities that provide a level of service that is equal to the City's service. Schools, non-profit organizations, and private or commercial recreation entities may be considered "equal providers" if their program or facility meets the following criteria:

1. The facility must meet or exceed the design standards for City facilities, and the program must be available at a comparable time of day to the City's, with a similar number of class hours;
2. The facility must be open to the public during essentially the same hours as the City's facility;
3. The program or facility must be open to everyone and must not require a membership for use;



Softball League Game

4. Transportation access to the program should be similar;
5. If a fee is charged for the program or for use of the facility, it must not substantially exceed the City's fee (Rule-of-thumb = 10%+)
6. The program must be relatively permanent, with a commitment to more than six months, and a facility must be permanent in the sense that it has a consistent source of operating funds, that it has been constructed for long-term use, that the organization either owns the property or has a long-term (15+ year) lease for use of the facility, and that the organization has a long-term commitment toward the facility.

By considering “equal providers” when determining needed recreation service, the City can ensure efficiency by avoiding duplication. Reliance on “equal providers” requires that the City monitor conformance to the criteria listed to prevent a lack of service resulting from changes in the program or facility.

Recreation facilities which are lost due to school closings have become a concern, particularly where the City participated in funding a school's recreation facilities. In cases where a facility is needed for recreation service, the City should make arrangements with the school district to maintain that facility. If the recreation facility was funded by the City, but will be closed along with the school, the facility should be rebuilt on an appropriate site with the aid of the school district.

Private parks and recreation facilities do not replace the need for public facilities, and should only be used as supplemental recreation service. If the need for a public park has been identified, but is not provided or a private park is built instead, a portion of the demand for that service shifts to adjacent public facilities which then become overburdened. Conversely, when parks or facilities are requested that are not needed for equitable public service, they should be privately funded and maintained. If a private recreation facility is closing, an evaluation is needed to determine whether the facility should be acquired to meet public recreation needs.



Rosenblatt Stadium

Parks that are currently under S&ID ownership and are legally dedicated for public use cannot be considered private by residents of the subdivision. Location of private facilities in or adjacent to public parkland should not be permitted since it is likely to cause confusion on maintenance boundaries and conflicts with users of the public park. Privately funded facilities located in public S&ID parks must be available for public use.

Visibility, Communication and Promotion

Improve the visibility and promotion of recreational programs.

The marketing and promotion of recreational programs are critical to their success. Only when the people of Omaha are aware of opportunities can they participate. Enrollments can be increased through improved marketing efforts, allowing more people to benefit from the City's programs. The quality of promotion materials is often an indication of the program quality. The department's efforts should reflect a professional approach to informing the public of available opportunities.



Lewis and Clark Interpretive Site

Special Attractions

The Concept Element states:

- Omaha's Downtown will be the clear and positive "image center" for the city. The types of activities necessary to create, enhance and maintain that image will be identified and located in Downtown.
- The Downtown - Old Market - Riverfront area should be Omaha's "image center".
- The Downtown/Riverfront area should contain a wide variety of activities and facilities, but should focus on being the location for: ... major cultural/entertainment facilities (and) major public open spaces and attractions ...
- Improve public access to the Missouri River.
- Omaha will be served by a full range of cultural amenities.
- Omaha should expand and preserve its existing cultural resources and pursue additional amenities such as a science center, libraries, a botanical garden and public spaces for community wide events.
- City shall promote the development of major recreation facilities that will attract regional and national tournaments. Such facilities, whether indoor or outdoor, will be situated at locations to promote the city's image and be compatible with their surroundings.



College World Series at Rosenblatt Stadium

Special events, parks and facilities that attract people to Omaha from the surrounding region and the nation, bring direct, tangible economic benefits through tourism and help the City to afford higher quality facilities. In addition, a positive image is established for Omaha. When major attractions are reasonably available and accessible, Omaha's residents are given a higher quality of recreational and cultural services than might otherwise be provided to serve basic local needs.

Regional and national attractions can range from major sports facilities to natural and cultural features and from innovative programs in city parks to celebrations of events or seasons. In order to accomplish most regional or national scale projects, creative funding and management strategies will be necessary, including partnerships of governmental, nonprofit, and private organizations. As a reflection of Omaha's image, as well as an investment of resources, the facilities, places, or events should be the best that we can afford.

Special events, parks and facilities often require locations, access, sites, structures or services not readily identifiable in a long-range park plan. However, in recognition of the need and importance of such special attractions, the City has established the following guidelines.

Types of Special Attractions

Develop a variety of attractions to provide special facilities for Omaha's residents and to draw visitors to the city. Utilize unique features and facilities in the community, such as natural or historical features, and special sports and recreation facilities.

Major attractions may consist of unique public open spaces, sports and other recreation facilities, cultural and historical features, preserved and/or developed natural features, and unique celebrations and events. The Gene Leahy Mall, Rosenblatt Stadium, Orpheum Theater, Civic Auditorium and events such as the College World Series, Summer Arts Festival, and River City Roundup are examples of special attractions.

Priorities need to be determined for effectively targeting and funding major projects. Local interests and needs must be the first consideration, so that benefit to the city's residents is maximized. The market potential for an attraction to successfully compete on a regional or national scale must be evaluated. Finally, the long-term cost effectiveness of the various special projects must be considered and compared to the benefits derived from other standard facilities.

Omaha's central location and accessibility within the nation and the region can be a selling point in attracting major events. Major civic and sports facilities should be easily accessible for participants and spectators traveling to events by interstate highway or air travel.

The Downtown/Riverfront area contains many of the necessary components for creating a distinctive and high-quality image. The potential exists for transforming under-utilized industrial areas into major open space, as well as cultural and entertainment facilities. Portions of an earlier Riverfront Plan have been implemented, resulting in strong anchors for Downtown. An updated plan is needed to evaluate the potential for various major facilities, to identify priorities, and to link together the components into a coordinated effort.



Playing with Fire Concert Series at Lewis and Clark Landing

Quality, Image and Location

Create special parks, facilities, programs, and events which are optimum in terms of function, location and quality of design, and that produce a positive image of Omaha.

Major convention facilities and arts and cultural activities must be located within the Central Business District. Uses, such as a stadium, entertainment, restaurants, and shopping which help to support convention and cultural facilities can be concentrated in a city's CBD, contributing to the "critical mass" of activity necessary to support those facilities. Alternative transportation must be made available in Downtown so that visitors can spend time in the area, attending events and enjoying entertainment, without relying on an automobile.



Riverfront Trail

The recent addition to the Joslyn Art Museum, improvements to the Western Heritage Museum, expansion of the Children's Museum, and the creation of the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater are examples of the role of Downtown as the cultural heart of the city. Efforts should continue to enhance and expand civic facilities in Downtown. The renovation of the Civic Auditorium and the possible expansion of park and recreation facilities along the Missouri River are two areas which are currently being addressed.

For any major facility or event, the resulting image should be one that shines a positive and progressive light on Omaha. Special facilities should be high quality, aesthetically pleasing, functional, and well-built. The benefit of high aesthetic quality, although difficult to quantify, is worth additional expense if it enhances the city's image as a first-class community. Our Gene Leahy Mall is an example of the results of using quality in design and materials, as mall scenes have become the "classic" image used to promote Omaha.

Priority should be given to the kinds of events that promote a positive image for Omaha, particularly those that relate to education, culture, and sports or recreation. Facilities, programs, or celebrations that are based on Omaha's unique culture, history, and natural setting will further establish a distinctive image.

Development and Management

Utilize innovative strategies to develop and manage major attractions. Develop partnerships to stretch limited resources and improve overall opportunities.

Developing regional and national attractions usually requires proportionately larger financial commitments and more complex fiscal and management strategies than standard facilities. Collaborations and innovative funding methods are a necessity in virtually any effort of this type. Development of Tranquility Park's soccer complex was paid for in part by the Nebraska Soccer Association and many of the lighted softball complexes were funded partially by the Omaha Softball Association. The recent expansion of Rosenblatt Stadium is another example of innovative financing where a fund raiser and an increase in the hotel/motel tax were used to fund improvements.

Management of facilities with frequent events, such as the Auditorium/Convention Center, the Stadium, and the Orpheum Theater, can present unique operational problems. For the overall management of public facilities, public management is recommended to ensure that events and programs serve a variety of public interests and promote a positive civic image. Certain private services may be contracted to enhance the operation.



Orpheum Theater

Appendix

Master Plan as a Guide

The Omaha City Charter establishes the master plan as a general guide for the physical development of the city. Deviations from the Plan may be allowed by the Planning Board or City Council as deemed necessary to further another important master plan objective

Amendments to the Parks and Recreation Element

Approved by Ordinance (No. 34059) January 1997

Table 4
Parks List

PARK	ADDRESS	SIZE	OWNER	PLAYGROUND	LT BALLFIELD	UL BALLFIELD	FOOTBALL	SOCCER	HORSESHOE	BASKETBALL	UL TENNIS	LT TENNIS	IN TENNIS	SWIM POOL	INDOOR POOL	GOLF	FISHING	BOATING	WATERSKIING	BIKEPATHS	HIKING	HISTORIC MARK	FLORAL DISP	OVERLOOK	CAMPING	FITNESS CRS	COMM CENTER	IN ICE RINK	LAGOON	PICNIC AREA	SHELTERS	RESTROOMS	PAVILION	SPECIAL FACIL	OPEN SPACE	COMMON AREA
22nd & Willis	2323 N 22nd St	0.4	CITY								2																									
28th & Craig	2606 Craig St	5.0	CITY		• 1																															
32nd & Franklin	1703 N 32nd St	0.1	CITY		•																															
54th & Holmes	5550 Holmes	4.0	CITY																																	
A. V. Sorensen Com Center	4814 Cass St	3.5	CITY																																	
Adams Park	3121 Bedford Ave	60.0	CITY		• 3	1					2																									•
Albright Park	2002 Madison Ave	3.0	CITY		• 1					1																										
Andersen Park	13625 Cotner St	15.0	CITY		• 1	2																														
Annette and Richard Bloch Cal	105th & Pacific		CITY																																	
Applewood Golf Course	6111 S 99th St	145.0	CITY													18																				
Applewood Heights Park	10706 Washington Dr	6.4	CITY								2																									
Armbust Park	9705 Grover St	4.5	CITY																																	
Athletic Park	4720 S 20th St	1.1	CITY								4																									
Autumn Heights Park	14206 Grant St	2.0	SID 284																																	
Bancroft Jr. High	2724 Riverview Blvd		SCHLOP			2					1	2																								
Barrington Park	764 N 164 St	29.5	SID 343																																	
Bay Meadows Park	5515 Bay Meadows Rd	5.0	CITY		• 1	1				3	1	2																								
Bedford Place	2812 Pinkney	0.3	CITY																																	
Bemis Park	3434 Cumming St	9.4	CITY								2																									
Benson Community Center	6008 Maple St	0.3	CITY																																	
Benson Lions Park	2005 N 66th St	2.0	CITY																																	
Benson Park	7002 Military Ave	217.3	CITY		• 3	2				3	1	2				18																				
Bent Creek Park	1232 N 164 St	11.4	SID 339																																	
Beveridge Jr. High	1616 S 120th St		SCHLOP			1						2																								
Binnery/Wirt/Spencer	1812 Wirt St	0.6	CITY																																	
Bluff View	1920 Carter Blvd	1.6	CITY																																	
Bowling Green Park	7065 Blondo St	6.5	CITY			1				1																										
Brookhaven Park	11550 Harrison St	34.9	SID 294			• 1					2																									
Brookside Park	2127 Brookside Ave	2.4	CITY																																	
Brown Park	5708 S 15th St	12.0	CITY			• 1																														
Burke High	12220 Burke St		SCHLOP			1					3																									
Camelot Community Center	9270 Cady Ave	4.1	CITY										3																							
Candlewood II	12049 Franklin	7.0	SID 253																																	
Carat Homes Park	16818 Atkins Rd	1.5	SID 258			1																														
Center Park	15901 Valley St	9.3	CITY			•					2																									
Center/West Horizons Park	10755 Nicholas St	2.5	CITY			• 1					1	1																								
Central Park Mall	1302 Farnam on the Mall	9.6	CITY																																	
Christie Heights Park	3623 "p" St	6.0	CITY			• 1																														
Churchich Park	3712 S 50th St	15.0	CITY			• 1				4	1	4																								

Table 4
Parks List

PARK	ADDRESS	SIZE	OWNER	PLAYGROUND	LT BALLFIELD	UL BALLFIELD	FOOTBALL	SOCCER	HORSESHOE	BASKETBALL	UL TENNIS	LT TENNIS	SWIM POOL	INDOOR POOL	GOLF	FISHING	BOATING	WATERSKIING	BIKEPATHS	HIKING	HISTORIC MARK	FLORAL DISP	OVERLOOK	CAMPING	FITNESS CRG	COMM CENTER	IN ICE RINK	LAGOON	PICNIC AREA	SHELTERS	RESTROOMS	PAVILION	SPECIAL FACIL	OPEN SPACE	COMMON AREA				
Clifton Hill Elementary	2811 N 45th St		SCHL_OP																																				
Cody Park	12750 Westwood Lane	2.0 CITY																																					
Colonial Acres Park	4665 Willitt	12.0 CITY																																					
Columbus Park	1329 S 24th St	6.3 CITY																																					
Columbus Park Community Ce	1515 S 24th St	3.2 CITY																																					
Conoco Park	8602 Westridge Dr	8.0 CITY																																					
Cottonwood Heights Park	6220 N 51st St	2.1 CITY																																					
Cottonwood Park	728 South 154th St	23.3 CITY																																					
Country Club Manor Park	6606 N 65th Ave	3.1 CITY																																					
Crosskey Villages Park	2222 Papillion Parkway	30.0 SID 267																																					
Crown Point Park	4404 Laurel St	2.0 CITY																																					
Cryer Pool	11783 Cryer Ave	3.2 CITY																																					
Curning Corner	Saddle Creek & Cuming	0.7 CITY																																					
Dahlman Park	615 Pine St	4.3 CITY																																					
Deer Park	1801 Deer Park Blvd	18.0 CITY																																					
Deer Ridge Park	585 S 126th St	15.0 CITY																																					
Democracy Park	8780 Templeton Dr	8.0 CITY																																					
Dewey Park	530 Turner Blvd	12.0 CITY																																					
Discovery Park	5703 s 138th st	19.2 CITY																																					
Discovery Soccer Complex	13502 Discovery Dr	40.2 CITY																																					
Druid Hill Elementary	3030 Spaulding St		SCHL_OP																																				
Eldorado	14412 Eldorado Dr	0.0 SID 206																																					
Elmwood Park	802 S 60th St	216.4 CITY																																					
Englewood Park	4802 S 144th St	4.7 CITY																																					
Erskine Park	3717 Erskine St	3.0 CITY																																					
Escalante Hills	11213 Fort	0.0 SID 235																																					
Essex Park	6215 S 36th St	1.0 CITY																																					
Faye Blvd	57th-60th Faye Blvd.	2.0 CITY																																					
Fillmore Park	2818 Bondesson St	1.8 CITY																																					
Florence Comm. Center	8818 N 29th St	1.6 CITY																																					
Florence Park	3015 State St	2.6 CITY																																					
Fontenelle Park	4405 Fontenelle Blvd	108.0 CITY																																					
Ford's Birthplace	3212 Woolworth Ave	0.9 CITY																																					
Four Fountains	5710 N 104th St	0.2 SID 278																																					
Franklin Elementary	3506 Franklin St		SCHL_OP																																				
Freedom Park	2497 Freedom Park Rd		CITY																																				
Gallagher Park	2936 N 52nd St	18.8 CITY																																					
Gifford Park	3528 Davenport St	5.6 CITY																																					
Gifford River Drive	4951 S 13th St	12.6 CITY																																					

Table 4
Parks List

PARK	ADDRESS	SIZE OWNER	PLAYGROUND	LT BALLFIELD	UL BALLFIELD	FOOTBALL	SOCCER	HORSESHOE	BASKETBALL	UL TENNIS	LT TENNIS	IN TENNIS	SWIM POOL	INDOOR POOL	GOLF	FISHING	BOATING	WATERSKIING	BIKEPATHS	HIKING	HISTORIC MARK	FLORAL DISP	OVERLOOK	CAMPING	FITNESS CRS	COMM CENTER	IN ICE RINK	LAGOON	PICNIC AREA	SHELLTERS	RESTROOMS	PAVILION	SPECIAL FACIL	OPEN SPACE	COMMON AREA				
Levi Carter Park	809 Carter Lake Shore Dr	519.5 CITY	•	4	2		1		2																														
Lewis & Clark Jr. High	6901 Burt St	SCH-LOP			1					2																													
Logan-Fontenelle Park	1501 N 22nd St	4.5 CITY	•		1				3	2																													
Lothrop Elementary	2200 Lothrop St	SCH-LOP							1																														
Lucas Hall	923 N 38th St	LEASED																																					
Mandan Park	6221 S 13th St	71.2 CITY	•	1					1	1																													
Maple Village Park	3865 Parkview Dr	22.5 CITY	•	1	2				1	1	3																												
Martin Luther King Pool	3706 Maple St	0.5 CITY											•																										
McKinley Park	2808 Harrison St	4.2 CITY	•																																				
Meadow Lane Park	11707 Farnam St	24.0 CITY	•	1					1	2																													
Memorial Park	6005 Underwood Ave	67.0 CITY	•	1																																			
Mercer Park	3808 Lincoln Blvd	5.6 CITY																																					
Metcalfe Park	1702 Country Club Ave	3.1 CITY	•																																				
Miami Playground	4243 Miami St	0.8 CITY	•						1																														
Millard Heights	124th & Harrison	3.1 CITY	•																																				
Millard Highlands Park	6405 S 142nd St	7.9 CITY	•	2	1				1	2																													
Miller Park	2707 Redick Ave	80.0 CITY	•	1						6					9																								
Mockingbird Hillis Park	8822 Lakeview Dr	29.0 CITY	•		2				1	1																													
Mockingbird W. Com. Cent.	103rd & Mockingbird Dr	9.7 CITY	•																																				
Montclair Park	2304 S 135th Ave	5.0 CITY	•																																				
Montclair/Westwood Park	3235 S 132nd St	0.0 CITY																																					
Morton Park	5724 S 41st St	3.8 CITY	•	1																																			
Mount Vernon Gardens	6011 S 13th St	31.7 CITY	•																																				
Myott Park	5151 Mary Plaza	5.0 CITY	•	1					2	1																													
N. P. Dodge Memorial Park	11001 John J Pershing Dr	445.0 CITY	•	4	1	6	2																																
North Oaks Park	9330 Ellison Ave	1.5 CITY	•	1																																			
Northwest Park	168th & Blondo	77.0 CITY																																					
Oak Heights Park	10205 "U" St	7.0 CITY	•	1					1	1																													
Oak Hills Estates Park(a)	2956 Sleepy Hollow Lane	4.0 SID 151																																					
Oak Hills Estates Park(b)	10034 John J. Pershing Dr	2.1 SID 151																																					
Oakbrook Meadows	3401 S 152 St	19.7 SID 327																																					
Oakbrook Park	11085 Seward St	4.8 CITY	•	1					1																														
Oaks Park & Pool	12672 Anne St	1.0 CITY								1																													
Omaha Botanical Gardens	6th and Bancroft	75.0																																					
OmahaHawks Field	Standing Bear Lake	CITY																																					
One Pacific Place Park	102nd & Pine	36.0 CITY																																					
Orchard Park	6502 Hartman Ave	8.0 CITY	•	1	1	2	1	4																															
Pacific Hollow Park	SW 154/Pacific	22.0 SID 322	•																																				
Pacific Meadows II Park	164th & Dodge	23.6 SID 347																																					

Table 4
Parks List

PARK	ADDRESS	SIZE	OWNER	PLAYGROUND	LT BALLFIELD	UL BALLFIELD	FOOTBALL	SOCCER	HORSESHOE	BASKETBALL	UL TENNIS	LT TENNIS	SWIM POOL	INDOOR POOL	GOLF	FISHING	BOATING	WATERSKIING	BIKEPATHS	HIKING	HISTORIC MARK	FLORAL DISP	OVERLOOK	CAMPING	FITNESS CRS	COMM CENTER	IN ICE RINK	LAGOON	PICNIC AREA	SHELTERS	RESTROOMS	PAVILION	SPECIAL FACIL	OPEN SPACE	COMMON AREA				
Pacific Meadows Park	NW 160/Pacific	21.0	SID 291	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Palomino Hills Park	3820 N 91st St	3.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Park East Park	548 S 26th Ave	0.3	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Park Meadows Est Park	11212 Ida St	4.6	SID 205	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Parkside Park	14120 Pine St	15.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Peppenwood Park	15109 Charies	6.0	SID 300	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Peterson Park (Pac Hts)	1211 Peterson Dr	3.0	SID 126	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pheasant Run II Park	15504 Adams	15.5	SID 241	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pinewood Park (Pac Hts)	16313 Wood Dr	3.0	SID 126	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pipal Park	7802 Hascall St	15.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Prairie Lane Park	3119 S 116th St	5.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pulaski Park	4065 "G" St	2.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rambleridge Park	11424 Fort St	0.0	SID 257	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Raven Oaks Park(a)	7917 Raven Oaks Dr	4.0	SID 142	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Raven Oaks Park(b)	other partly wooded lots	55.0	SID 142	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Regency Park	9808 Hamey Parkway South	16.4	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ridgefield Park	12771 Hamilton St	3.4	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Riverview (Henry Doory Zoo)	3625 S 10th St	155.5	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Roanoke Estates Park	11235 Fowler Ave	8.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Roberts Park	8025 Izard St	20.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rock Glen Park	9702 Rockbrook Rd	4.6	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rockbrook Park	3525 S 94th St	17.7	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Roxbury Park	5414 S 116 St	11.6	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Saddle Hills Park	7931 Adlington Dr	3.5	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sandoz Park	5938 S 122nd St	15.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Saratoga Elementary	2504 Meredith Ave	SCHL.OP	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Schroeder/Vogel Park	5115 Hickory St	4.9	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Seymour Smith Park	6802 Harrison St	197.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sherman Comm. Center	5701 N 16th St	1.2	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sherman Elementary	5618 N 14th Ave	SCHL.OP	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Signal Hill Park	12207-1/2 Signal Dr	0.5	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
South Omaha Industr Park Bal	2909 "W" St	2.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Spaulding Park	3012 Manderson St	3.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Spring Lake Park	4020 Hoctor Blvd	96.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Standing Bear Lake	6404 N 132nd St	685.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Stillmeadow Park	7737 Mary St	0.3	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Storz Soccer Complex	NW 16th & Storz X-way	5.0	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sunny Slope Park	13909 Fowler Ave	5.6	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Templeton Mini-Park	4711 N 85th St	0.3	CITY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Table 4
Parks List

PARK	ADDRESS	SIZE OWNER	PLAYGROUND	LT BALLFIELD	UL BALLFIELD	FOOTBALL	SOCCER	HORSESHOE	BASKETBALL	UL TENNIS	LT TENNIS	IN TENNIS	SWIM POOL	INDOOR POOL	GOLF	FISHING	BOATING	WATERSKIING	BIKEPATHS	HIKING	HISTORIC MARK	FLORAL DISP	OVERLOOK	CAMPING	FITNESS CRS	COMM CENTER	IN ICE RINK	LAGOON	PICNIC AREA	SHELLERS	RESTROOMS	PAVILION	SPECIAL FACIL	OPEN SPACE	COMMON AREA			
Theil, Michael NEA	SE 60th & "F" St	7.0 CITY																																				
Thomas Edison Elementary	2303 N 97th St	SCHL,OP								2																												
Timber Creek Park	13435 Birchwood Avenue	13.1 CITY								2																												
Tomahawk Hills Park	9545-1/2 Tomahawk Blvd	5.0 CITY								2																												
Towl Park	9310 West Center Rd	28.0 CITY								1	1	2																										
Tranquility Park	12222 West Maple Rd	340.3 CITY		8						15																												
Trendwood Park	13333 Pacific St	25.0 CITY								2	1	2																										
Turner Park & Parkway	3110 Farnam St	7.5 CITY																																				
Turtle Creek Park(a)	9000 Washington St	3.9 SID 295																																				
Turtle Creek Park(b)	6426 S 91st Ave Cr	2.5 SID 295																																				
Unity Park	4716 S 18th St	1.0 CITY									1																											
Upland Park	3104 Jefferson St	10.0 CITY									2																											
Walnut Grove Park	5001 S 147th St	0.0 SID 249																																				
Walnut Grove Park	15050 "Q" St	55.0 CITY																																				
Walnut Hill Park	3805 Hamilton St	6.0 CITY																																				
Warren Swiggart Golf Crs	97th & Parkview Drive	22.5 CITY													9																							
Wentworth Park	5015 S 86th Parkway	1.6 CITY									2																											
West Fairacres Park	330 S 120th St	8.5 CITY																																				
Westchester Park	13931 "O" St	15.0 CITY																																				
Western Trails Park	16465 Dorcas	5.3 SID 266																																				
Westgate Park	8233 Grover	1.5 NRD																																				
Westroads Parkway	9808 West Dodge Rd	2.5 CITY																																				
Westside Comm. Educ. Cent.	3534 S 108th St	SCHL,OP									2																											
Westside High	8715 Pacific St	SCHL,OP										4																										
Westwood Heights Golf Crse	12829 West Center Rd	25.5 CITY										2																										
Westwood Heights Park	12334 Seldin Dr	2.0 CITY																																				
Willow Wood Park(a)	12901 Erskine	SID 272										2																										
Willow Wood Park(b)	2361 N 127th St	SID 272										1	1																									
Willow Wood Park(c)	12330 Yates	75.0 SID 272										1	1																									
Woodhaven Park	15812 West Center Road	31.2 SID 247										2																										
Yale Park	3377 Lake St	1.3 CITY																																				
Young Park	411-1/2 S Elmwood Rd	3.7 CITY																																				
Youngman Connector	163rd & Lamp	3.0 CITY																																				
Zorinsky Lake	156th & "F"	1023.0 CITY																																				

Table 5
Parks Facility Needs Index

Park	Facilities	Location	Acres
1	Open space		7.74
2	Recreation center	Constr. 1993	3.13
3	Soccer complex , basketball		11.88
4	Playground, open space		9.00
5	Basketball	In Lynch or Community Center site	
6	Ballfield		14.54
7	Ballfield, basketball		16.41
8	Playground, open space	Within MUD Reservoir property	
9	Open space		7.74
10	Tennis, basketball, open space	Fontenelle Park	
11	Basketball	Miller Park	
12	Playground, open space		8.99
13	Basketball, soccer, playground, open space		15.59
14	Playground, open space	Colonial Acres	
15	Basketball	Myott Park or 54th & Curtis	
16	Basketball, playground, open space	Orchard Park	
17	Basketball, playground, open space		7.74
18	Open space	Benson Park	
19	Basketball, open space	Grace Young Park	
20	Playground, open space		8.99
21	Tennis Complex	Gallagher Park	
22	Basketball, playground, open space		10.86
23	Basketball	Bowling Green Park	
24	Open space, playground		8.99
25	Playground, open space		8.99
26	Open space	Roberts Park	
27	Playground, open space		8.99
28	Basketball	Elmwood Park	
29	Soccer Complex		16.88
30	Playground, open space		8.99
31	Basketball, tennis, playground, open spaces		12.63
32	Playground, open space, golf - 9 hole		68.43
33	Open space		7.74
34	Playground, open space	Churchich Park	
35	Playground, basketball	Pulaski Park	
36	Playground, basketball, open space		10.86
37	Basketball	Upland Park or McKinley Park	
38	Golf 18/9 Hole course, open space		169.93
39	Playground, open space		8.99
40	Playground	Karen Park	
41	Basketball, soccer		6.88
42	Playground, open space		8.99
43	Open space		7.74
44	Swimming Pool, playground		4.38
45	Basketball, playground	Regency	
46	Playground, open space		8.99
47	Basketball, open space		9.61
48	Basketball	Maple Village	

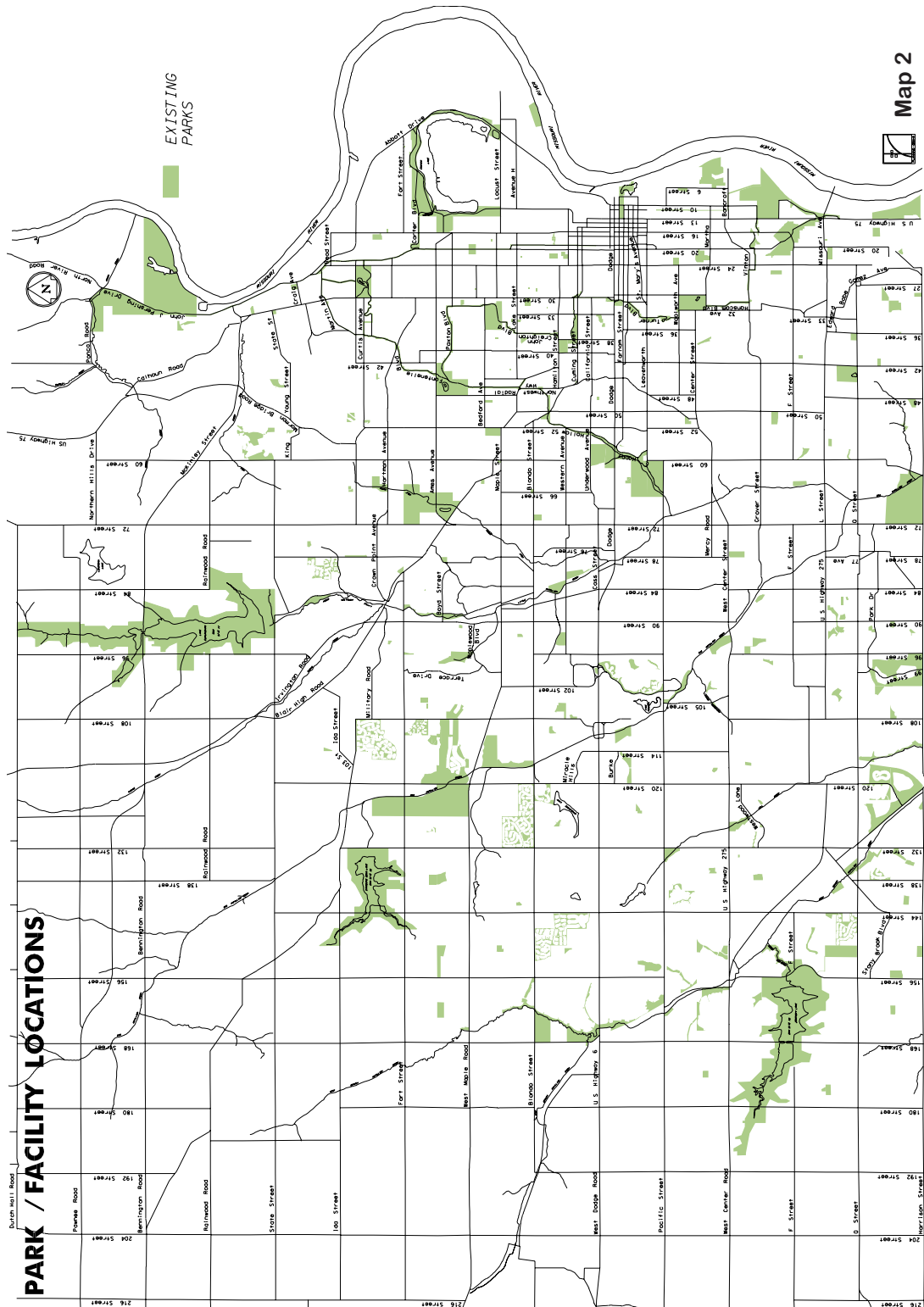
Table 5
Parks Facility Needs Index

Park	Facilities	Location	Acres
49	Basketball, playground, open space		10.86
50	Playground, open space		8.99
51	Recreation Center		22.69
52	Playground, tennis		3.01
53	Playground, open space	Sunnyslope	
54	Playground, open space		8.99
55	Playground, open space		8.99
56	Recreation center	Tranquility	
57	Playground, open space		8.99
58	Basketball, playground, open space	Armbrust	
59	Open space		7.74
60	Playground, open space, basketball	Mockingbird Hill or Heights	
61	Playground, open space	Seymour Smith	
62	Playground, open space	Ralston	
63	Basketball, tennis complex, soccer		8.95
64	Basketball	Timber Creek	
65	Basketball, open space	Discovery	
66	Playground, open space, basketball, soccer, tennis complex		17.94
67	2 playgrounds, open space, basketball		12.11
68	Basketball, open space	Montclair Community Center	
69	Playground, open space	Trendwood	
70	Basketball	West Fairacres or Meadowlane	
71	Basketball, open space		9.61
72	Ballfield		14.54
73	Playground, open space	Willowwood	
74	Playground, open space		8.99
75	Playground	Tranquility	
76	Basketball	Tranquility	
77	Basketball	Tranquility	
78	Playground, open space , basketball		10.86
79	Playground, open space, picnic area, basketball, ballfield		29.46
80	Playground, open space , basketball, youth ballfield complex		46.31
81	Playground, open space		8.99
82	Playground, open space		8.99
83	Playground, open space	N.P. Dodge	
84	Playground, open space, basketball, tennis		5.04
85	Playground, open space		8.99
86	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
87	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
88	Playground, open space, basketball, ballfield		29.46
89	Playground, open space, basketball, youth ballfield complex		46.31
90	Playground, open space		8.99
91	Open space, basketball		9.61
92	Playground, open space, basketball, soccer		15.59
93	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
94	Basketball, open space		9.61
95	Basketball, tennis complex	Zorinsky Lake	
96	Basketball - Walnut Grove		1.88

Park	Facilities	Location	Acres
97	Playground, open space, ballfield, recreation center		30.91
98	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
99	2 playgrounds, open space, basketball, soccer		16.85
100	Playground, open space, basketball, tennis		12.63
101	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
102	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
103	Playground, basketball	Harvey Oaks	
104	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
105	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
106	Basketball, open space	Bent Creek	
107	Playground, open space	Eldorado	
108	Playground, open space		8.99
109	Basketball, open space, tennis, playground		12.63
110	Playground, open space		8.99
111	Basketball, open space		9.61
112	Soccer, recreation center, youth ballfield complex, swimming pool	Northwest Park	
113	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
114	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
115	Playground, open space, basketball, tennis, soccer, ballfield		36.99
116	Playground, open space, tennis		10.75
117	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
118	swimming pool		34.54
119	Playground, open space, basketball , tennis complex		13.21
120	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
121	Playground, open space, basketball, tennis, soccer		17.35
122	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
123	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
124	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
125	Playground, open space, basketball, tennis complex		13.21
126	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
127	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
128	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
129	Playground, open space		8.99
130	Playground, picnic area, open space, basketball, tennis		12.63
131	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
132	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
133	Basketball, golf 18/9 hole course		161.68
134	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
135	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
136	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
137	Playground, open space, basketball, tennis complex		13.21
138	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
139	Playground, open space		8.99
140	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
141	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
142	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
143	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86

Table 5
Parks Facility Needs Index

Park	Facilities	Location	Acres
144	Playground, basketball, soccer, adult ballfield complex, golf 18/9-hole course, tennis, recreation center, swimming pool		211.61
145	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
146	Playground, open space, basketball, ballfield		29.46
147	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
148	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
149	Playground, basketball, recreation center, swimming pool		9.38
150	Playground, open space, ballfield		23.53
151	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
152	Playground, open space, basketball		10.86
153	Playground, open space, recreation center		12.11
154	Playground, open space		8.99



Map 2