2008 Parkville Parks Plan

"The beauty of the park…
should be of the fields,
the meadow,
the prairie,
of the green pastures,
and the waters.
What we want to gain is tranquility
and rest to the mind…
A great object of all that is done in a park,
of all the art of the park,
is to influence the minds of humans
through their imagination."

Frederick Law Olmsted
Public Parks and Enlargement of Towns, 1870

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Community Land and Recreation Board Mandate and Membership	**Page 1**
Mission Statements and Guidelines	Page 1
Purpose	Page 1
Goals	Page 1
Community Description	Page 2
The Importance of Parks	Page 2
Relation to Other Plans	Page 2-5
Chapter 2: Park Classification and Current Inventory	**Page 6**
Mini Parks	Page 6
Neighborhood Parks	Page 6
Community Parks	Page 6-7
Regional Parks	Page 7
Special Use Parks	Page 7
Undeveloped Land	Page 7
Natural Areas	Page 7-8
Open Space and Greenways	Page 8
Trails	Page 8
Current Parks Inventory	Page 8
Other Recreational Facilities in Parkville	Page 8-9
Summary of Area County and State Parks	Page 9
Chapter 3: Community Needs Analysis	**Page 10**
Level of Service Analysis	Page 10
Community Input	Page 10-13
Chapter 4: Park System Objectives and Recommendations	**Page 14**
Land Acquisition	Page 14
Park Design	Page 14-15
Park Recommendations	Page 15
Connectivity/Trails	Page 16
Maintenance	Page 16-17
Organizational Chart	Page 17-18
Community Stewardship	Page 18
Chapter 5: Funding	**Page 19**
Objectives	Page 19
Current General Operating Budget	Page 19

Appendix A Park Maps
Appendix B Park Inventory

Chapter 1
Parks Planning Process

Community Land and Recreation Board Mandate

The Community and Land Recreation Board (CLARB) was given the mandate by the Parkville Board of Alderman in 2005 to develop a Master Plan for Parkville's City parks. This master plan has developed into the Parkville Parks Plan (P3) and is contained herein. The make up of the Board through this process included the following Board members: Jim Brooks, Cory Miller, Laura Lymer, Diane Driver, Adam Zink, Jim McCall, Tom Hutsler, Kendall Welch, Ellen Underkoffler, Bill Brown, Jeff Rupp, Lisa Strong and Stacey Pulse.

The Board wishes to thank all who participated in the public forums and assisted in the development of this plan. We would especially like to thank the City staff of Tom Barnard and Dan Koch for their efforts in the formation of this document. And finally, we would like to show our appreciation to Alderman Jim Brooks who began this process as one of us and has provided welcome leadership from his new position.

Mission Statement

An Ethics of Stewardship - We are the stewards of our park system.

Purpose

This 2008 P3 is an update to the Parks 2000 Parkville Plan. A parks master plan is a long-term vision and plan of action for a community's park system. Thus, the purpose of this P3 is to provide the Parkville Government, Citizens and other related organizations a road map for the utilization, development and expansion of Parkville's current and future park system. Further, the P3 should provide a foundation for a new way of thinking about our precious landscapes. Rooted in an ethic of stewardship, P3 focuses on the necessary resource and energy needed to preserve and enhance our current parks system. This plan identifies current parks inventory, maintenance requirements, public desire for improvements and future development, land acquisition possibilities, and funding requirements.

Goals

The main goal of the P3 is to foster a total park experience that addresses the natural, cultural, recreational and educational opportunities that great parks can provide. To meet this goal the P3 will incorporate the following objectives:

- Provide for public awareness and a strong usage for all parks.
- Maintain the landscape character and aesthetics of parks.
- Capture and preserve the historic legacy of Parkville through our parks
- Identify recreational and other park related needs.
- Inventory our current natural and cultural resources and park facilities.
- Foster communications between City, County, State and Regional governments.
- Enhance park services.

Based on the preceding goals this plan shall recommend a plan of action and policies that should be put into place to guide decision-making with regard to maintaining and enhancing our current and future parks system.

Community Description

The community of Parkville, with a population of approximately 5,000, is located 10 miles northwest of downtown Kansas City, Missouri along the Missouri River. The City's namesake is derived from its founder, Colonel George S. Park. The City of Parkville has become known for its beautiful parks. Parkville, while a historic community, has a relativity young park system. With population growth and land annexation, an additional demand for parks and recreation facilities is inevitable.

In the 1970's Parkville turned an undeveloped parcel of land adjacent to the Missouri River into baseball fields, picnic areas, and a boat ramp. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Park University were key contributors to the development of this parcel of land that is now known as English Landing Park.

In the 1980's a developer donated 40 acres as park land south of what is now Riss Lake dam. This acreage has become a nature sanctuary. The Missouri Department of Conservation purchased 70 adjacent acres as additional nature sanctuary land. The combined land has become the Parkville Nature Sanctuary with 2.8 miles of maintained trails and nature access. Educational and enrichment programs for the community are held in the Parkville Nature Sanctuary.

The City of Parkville has continued to develop its park system and staff. In addition to English Landing Park, there are several community and neighborhood parks. The Parkville Nature Sanctuary and several greenways provide additional recreational opportunities for the citizens of the entire metro area. The City has an active park board, which is very enthusiastic about developing the park system, acquiring land for new parks and extending trails to create connectivity with the proposed Platte County and Kansas City Metro Green master plans.

The Importance of Parks

Parks provide a broad range of community benefits, including the following:

- Encourage passive and active recreational activities and preserve open space, wildlife habitat and historical and cultural resources.
- Serve aesthetic purposes and create gathering spaces for public activities and events.
- Provide a number health and psychological benefits to residents of a community.
- Improves property values.

Parkville has recognized that parks, trails and greenways positively impact individuals and improve communities by providing not only recreation and transportation opportunities, but also by influencing economic and community development. Parkville also understands that planning for parks ensures the City can recognize and meet the changing park and recreation needs of the community.

Relation to Other Plans

The P3 cannot exist without the support and foundations of other plans that precede and coexist with this plan. The following is a summary of some of the plans considered relevant to the development of the P3.

Parks 2000 Parkville Plan

This plan, developed in 1990, included such items as the Nature Sanctuary, community involvement, and developing Adams, Watkins and other small properties into neighborhood parks. Incorporating benches into the park system and having the River Trail system to connect other property and trails were also included. The needs that were identified at the time the plan was written included: benches

along the Missouri River, parking, public shelters with electrical outlets, more playground equipment, picnic tables and a croquet court. Although some priorities have changed, many of the items have been implemented.

Parkville Riverfront Renewal Plan

On April 6, 2004 voters passed a ballot measure (ratified on April 20th 2004), which included a plan to create a boat ramp, riverfront parking facility, trailhead and public soccer fields. This plan was based on the westward expansion of English Landing Park. Preliminary plans were approved by the Board of Aldermen.

Parkville Master Plan Civic and Open Space Chapter

The Parkville Master Plan is being developed simultaneously with this document. The Civic and Open Space Chapter are directly related to this document.

Introduction

Parks, open space, and civic spaces enhance the quality of life in Parkville and are central to the community's economic development strategy. These features help attract visitor activities to the community, as well as new residents and businesses. Throughout the planning process, residents indicated future land planning efforts should incorporate the following quality places principles for parks, open space, and natural resources:

- Preserve major natural features in a neighborhood (streams, slopes, wetlands, floodplains, and natural habitats) as open space and link those resources to public places by trails and pathways;
- Incorporate features and amenities that minimize environmental impacts on water quality caused by storm water runoff and erosion, and on air quality caused by motor vehicle traffic; and
- Design buildings and the layout of properties in a manner to maximize the efficient use of environmental and economic resources by minimizing energy, water, and material use.

Expand the Parks and Recreation System

Parkville's park and recreation opportunities are key elements that make the community a desirable place to live, work and play. English Landing Park along the Missouri riverfront, trails through natural areas, and recreation facilities nestled near the city's wooded bluffs provide a scenic backdrop that attracts both residents and visitors alike.

An extensive network of regional trails are identified in the Parkville planning area, including trails along the Missouri River, FF Highway, 45 Highway, I-435, Crooked Road, and a portion of 9 Highway near Riss Lake and NW Eastside Drive. In addition to regional trails, there are many opportunities to provide trail connections to local destinations and parks throughout Parkville. Planning for new development areas provides the opportunity to implement an extensive local system of trail connections to the future regional network.

Maintain Natural Open Space

Development designs should respect the natural environment and develop in harmony with existing natural features. New developments should integrate drainage areas and other natural features into the overall design. Protecting the Missouri River, drainageways, creeks, floodplains, and vegetation in rural and urbanizing areas will serve a dual purpose of preserving environmental systems and providing recreational amenities.

- Vegetation should be preserved along natural water systems.
- The additional setback of development along natural drainageway systems should be used to protect the health of the streamway and to reduce erosion, runoff, and pollution.

- Engineering techniques should not be used to force-fit development into the environment. Development designs requiring significant amounts of cut and fill to maximize the number of residential lots at the expense of the environment should not be approved.

Create Intimate Spaces in the Built Environment
The quality of the public realm in Parkville is just as important as the design of homes in neighborhoods and buildings in retail areas. The community at large has a shared responsibility to design and maintain a quality public realm, including public spaces and public facilities. A successful public place can be identified when it is a popular routine gathering place for diverse groups of people; when occupants interact casually there and have spontaneous conversations; when occupants feel safe and comfortable there; when people want to linger there rather than quickly pass through; when parents walk leisurely there with their children; and when people-watching in the space is a wonderful way to pass time.

Quality spaces in the built environment

- Located in a manner to serve as prominent amenities;
- Designed to encourage social interaction and to foster a distinct "sense of place" that is memorable and reinforces the character of the community; and
- Embedded in the pattern of streets, blocks, and buildings to serve as an amenity that creates value.

Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions
Goal: Provide parks, open space, recreation uses, and unique intimate spaces to enhance public health and safety and for the visual enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Policy: Expand and enhance parks, recreation, and open spaces throughout the city.

Policy: Provide quality public spaces to encourage social interaction and to foster a distinct "sense of place" that is memorable and reinforces the character of the community.

Policy: Provide amenities such as walkways, plazas, seating, recreational facilities, gazebos or other similar shelters, pedestrian scale lighting, or other similar features for the use and enjoyment of residents, employees, visitors, and the community at large.

Implementation Actions

- Expand the parks and open space system along the Missouri River corridor.
- Implement sidewalk and trail improvements throughout the city, including implementation of the Northland Trails Vision Plan, MetroGreen Plan, and P3 Plan.
- Partner with Platte County to construct new trails.
- Update the City development regulations to create standards for developed and natural parks and open space areas in new developments.
- Continue implementing Tree City USA program guidelines.
- Incorporate pedestrian and civic amenities in design guidelines and new development projects.

Open Space Design Expectations
Intent: The Open Space policies relate to any public or private land reserved for active and passive parklands, trails, recreation uses, environmentally sensitive areas, natural resources, or any other lands reserved for permanent open space purposes.

Design Expectations
The design expectations act as guidelines and provide direction as to how the goals and policy statements may be achieved. Expectations use the term "should" to denote that they are considered pertinent to achieving the stated intent but allow discretion based on site and project conditions.

Platte County Master Plan

This document has provided the residents of Parkville with recreational (YMCA/Community Center, Tiffany Springs Aquatic Center) and park facilities with the promise of more to come. The most important aspect of this plan is the connectivity of the Park Trail System to establish connection points on both sides of English Landing Park along the Riverfront. It is important to make certain our plan is compatible with the Platte County Master Trail Plan to ensure cooperation and good will between the government entities.

KC Metro Green Plan

The Trails plan will eventually connect the Parkville Trail System to Kansas City's Metro Green Plan, Platte County's Riverfront Trail Master Plan and other trail systems throughout the metropolitan area. One of the objectives is to provide a system of pedestrian and bicycle trails that connect downtown Kansas City to the Missouri River and Northward to Highway 45 and the Parkville Commons shopping center. The connectivity of recreational trails is one goal within P3.

Chapter 2
Park Classifications and Current Inventory

Park classifications reflect facility and space standards that help inform design decisions at master planning and construction design stage of development. The classification system in this plan categorizes parks based on the following characteristics: benefits, functions, size, service area and amenities.

The ideal park system for a community is made up of several different types or classifications of park areas. Parkville uses the following classifications: Mini, Neighborhood, Community, Regional, Special Use, Undeveloped Land, Natural Areas, Open Space and Greenways, and Trails. Each classification provides a distinct type of recreational opportunity.

Mini Parks (.25 - 1 acre)

Mini Parks provide passive or limited active recreation to preserve a balance between open space and residential development. They are smaller and are often limited to a small grass area or developed with few amenities. Typical facilities include children's play area, picnic area, benches, or shade structures. Mini parks are located in protected areas with separation from street traffic yet in areas with high visibility, serving local neighborhoods and adjoining schools, libraries or police facilities. The area would be within walking and biking distance of users and be accessible by sidewalks, trails and/or low volume streets. Their primary function is to provide outdoor play experiences for the young under parental supervision. Mini parks generate neighborhood communication, provide opportunities for diversion from work or domestic chores and promote neighborhood solidarity.

Pocket Park	**0.05 acres**
Adams Park	**0.24 acres**
City Hall Park	**0.25 acres**

Neighborhood Parks (.25 - 10 acres)

Neighborhood Parks are the basic unit of the park system and should serve as the recreational focus of an individual neighborhood in which it is located. They enhance neighborhood identity and preserve open space. All areas of the park should be readily visible from adjoining streets in order to provide a secure environment. Neighborhood parks provide a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities for city residents, often including facilities for organized group, individual and family activities. As a general rule, about half of the park's area should be planned for passive activities and comprised of natural features. Active recreational activities should be used mostly in an informal and unstructured manner to prevent overuse, excessive noise, parking problems or street congestion. Typical facilities and uses include basketball and tennis courts, children's playground, picnic areas, bike racks, paths and lighting.

Watkins Park	**1.22 acres**
English Landing West	**8.97 acres**

Community Parks (10 - 50 acres)

Community Parks provide recreation opportunities for all age groups. They provide educational opportunities, serve recreational needs of families, preserve open spaces and unique landscapes and provide spaces for community activities and events. These parks are larger and serve a wider base of residents than neighborhood parks. Community parks can serve as a focal point for the community with

both active and passive recreational facilities. The typical uses and facilities include parking, bike racks, restrooms, covered areas, trails, programmed athletic sports fields with lights, picnic and play areas, public art and water access. Community parks often have cultural and historical significance, which can be used for a wide variety of civic functions and community gatherings.

Regional Parks (50 - 200 acres)

Regional Parks supplement neighborhood and community parks, serving broader based recreational needs in addition to those addressed by smaller parks. The increased size permits large-scale development of both passive and active facilities providing a wide range of recreational pursuits. Regional parks should include sizeable areas of undeveloped land with natural vegetation and/or water features. Major thoroughfares should be routed around regional parks rather then through them wherever possible. Regional Parks include such amenities as lighted sport complexes, trails, tennis/basketball courts, benches, bike racks, picnic areas, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles and public restrooms. Generally, these regional recreational areas are more highly developed facilities adjacent to urban areas. River access facilities, boating or canoeing, although generally smaller in size, are also included in this category.

English Landing Park **76.0 acres**

Special Use Parks

These facilities can be used for variety of community gatherings and provide a civic function or cultural and historical significance.

Gresham Memorial Spirit Fountain Park 0.83 acres

Undeveloped Land

Undeveloped land has not been designated for a specific park use at this time, is natural in its state, and usually doesn't have any permanent facilities. Natural areas on undeveloped land are often located in environmentally sensitive areas including wetlands, steep hillsides, riparian areas and endangered plant/animal habitats. Open space and greenways protect natural resources and wildlife and allow residents to experience the natural environment close to home. Typical uses include nature-based recreation, wildlife viewing and trail activities, providing community recreation and connectivity. Trails provide access to parks and open space areas. Typical facilities include interpretive signs, maps, benches, and trashcans. Typical uses include walking, jogging, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, equestrian and limited motorized access.

Gateway Park	**1.14 acres**
Bell Road Park	**1.97 acres**
Dorsey Park	**6.07 acres**

Natural Areas

Natural Areas consist of undeveloped land primarily left in its natural condition. This type of land includes forested area, open spaces, steep hillsides, river and creek corridors, trail orientated activities and nature based recreation. Natural areas may provide environmental and/or historical education. Typical facilities include interpretive signs, maps, benches and trashcans. Typical uses include wildlife viewing and trail activities. Currently, the City of Parkville has two Nature Sanctuary areas.

Parkville Nature Sanctuary 40-acre tract of ground located between Park University and Riss Lake. There are five trails, a walking bridge, turn of the century cellar exhibit, scout shelter and a waterfall.

Sullivan Nature Sanctuary 3.03-acre area which is currently being developed with hiking trails that meander through the woods on each side of Rush Creek. A future consideration is to connect the trails by a possible swinging bridge over the creek to enhance the nature experience.

Open Space and Greenways

Open space and greenway areas are designated to protect natural resources and wildlife and allow residents to experience the natural environment close to home.

Greenways

Main Street One-Way	.2307 acres
45 Highway	.8024 acres

Trails

Trails usually offer limited motorized access and may be single or multi-use and provide community recreation and connectivity along with access to parks and open space areas. Trails offer pedestrian and bicycle access to meaningful destinations reducing auto dependency. Typical facilities include interpretive signs, maps, benches and trash receptacles. Typical uses include walking, jogging, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, equestrian and limited motorized access.

Butterfly Pass, Parkville Nature Sanctuary	**0.1 miles**
Paw Paw Path, Parkville Nature Sanctuary	**0.2 miles**
Bluebird ADA Trail, Parkville Nature Sanctuary	**0.3 miles**
South Twin Trail, Sullivan Nature Sanctuary	**0.4 EST**
North Twin Trail, Sullivan Nature Sanctuary	**0.4 EST**
Old Kate Trail, Parkville Nature Sanctuary	**0.9 miles**
Whitetail Trail, Parkville Nature Sanctuary	**1.3 miles**
Riegelman Memorial Trail, English Landing Park	**2.0 miles**

Current Parks Inventory

A critical aspect of planning for the future of a city's park system is to conduct an inventory and condition assessment of existing parks and natural areas. The inventory includes a description of all City owned, developed and undeveloped parklands and an evaluation of the condition of any improvements located in the parks. In addition, the inventory provides information about schools, civic and private recreation areas, as well as those parks that may be outside the community but are commonly used by Parkville residents. The results of the inventory are found in Appendix B.

Other Recreational Facilities in Parkville

The following is a summary of recreational facilities and parks that are located in Parkville that are privately owned, but that are commonly used by Parkville residents.

Parkville Athletic Complex (PAC)

The PAC is a privately owned athletic complex with batting cages, climbing wall and open courts. The facility is predominately used for wrestling and volleyball practices and events. However, the facility hosts other activities including yoga conferences.

YMCA/South Platte County Community Center

The Community Center features a warm water pool, wellness center, indoor track, gymnasium, aerobics studios, and child watch adventure center. The Center also has an outdoor water spray park.

Park University

Outdoor Athletic Facilities

Julian Field – Soccer Field
Softball and Track Fields
Comfort Field, Baseball

Indoor Athletic Facilities

Intramural & Recreational Field house
Athletic Training Area
Dance Studio
Breckon Sports Center – 500-seat basketball/volleyball field house and Gymnasium

Parkville Underground - Batting Cages
Graden Elementary School – outdoor playgrounds

Summarizations of Area County and State Parks

The following is a summary of parks that are located outside of Parkville, but that are commonly used by Parkville residents.

Platte County Parks

A log cabin at the Green Hills of Platte in southern Platte County sits adjacent to the 45-acre park and wildlife preserve. The cabin once owned by Dorothy Day, who resides in the cabin via a life-estate agreement with Platte County.

State Parks

Weston Bend State park is a 1,133-acre park located within 25 miles of Parkville. The park has areas accessible to people with disabilities. A hiking trail that meanders through the woods and along the edge of the bluff offers hikers a scenic view of the Missouri River, Fort Leavenworth and beyond. A three mile paved loop trail that weaves through a hilly wooded area for hikers and bicyclists. Secluded picnic sites, a playground and an open shelter, which can be reserved, making it an ideal place for family gatherings. For visitors wishing to get away for more than a day, a campground featuring basic and electric campsites, modern restrooms, hot showers and laundry facilities are available.

Chapter 3
Community Needs Analysis

Level of Service Analysis

A key step in the parks planning process is to identify and address community needs. One way to do this is to perform a Level of Service (LOS) analysis. The LOS can then be used to help identify the amount of parkland needed to meet present and future recreation demands. A LOS can be calculated in many different ways; however for the purposes of this plan, LOS will be represented by the ratio of parkland acres per 1,000 residents. Below is a table showing past and projected future growth trends in Parkville and Platte County.

	Population Change by Year						Additional
	Parkville		Platte County		Parkland		Parkland
Year	Population	%	Population	%	Acreage	LOS	Acreage
2000	4160		74,238				
2001	4452	7.02%	75,992	2.36%			
2002	4675	5.01%	77,791	2.37%			
2003	4832	3.36%	79,371	2.03%			
2004	4958	2.61%	80,751	1.74%			
2005	5053	1.92%	82,089	1.66%			
2006	5107	1.07%	83,061	1.18%	132.26	25.90	
	Projected Population Change from 2000						
2010	5101	23%	91,039	23%	132.26	25.90	
2020	5831	40%	104,054	40%	151.00	25.90	18.74
2030	6457	55%	115,224	55%	167.21	25.90	34.95

*Data from MARC. Projected population growth in Parkville is based on the percentage of growth in Platte County

Parkville's current estimated LOS value, based on 2006 data, is 25.90.To maintain this LOS value Parkville will need to add approximately 19-acres of parkland by 2020 and 35-acres by 2030 (based on projected growth rates in Platte County).

Community Input

Input and suggestions from "stakeholders" were used to compile this P3. The stakeholders in the P3 process include:

- The Residents of Parkville
- Parkville Board of Aldermen
- Parkville Community Land and Recreation Advisory Board (CLARB)
- Parkville Parks & Recreation Department
- Business and Educational communities
- Residents of neighboring communities
- Platte County Parks
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

In order to identify specific park system needs, public input was gathered from Parkville residents and park users. Below are the five methods used for gathering input from the community:

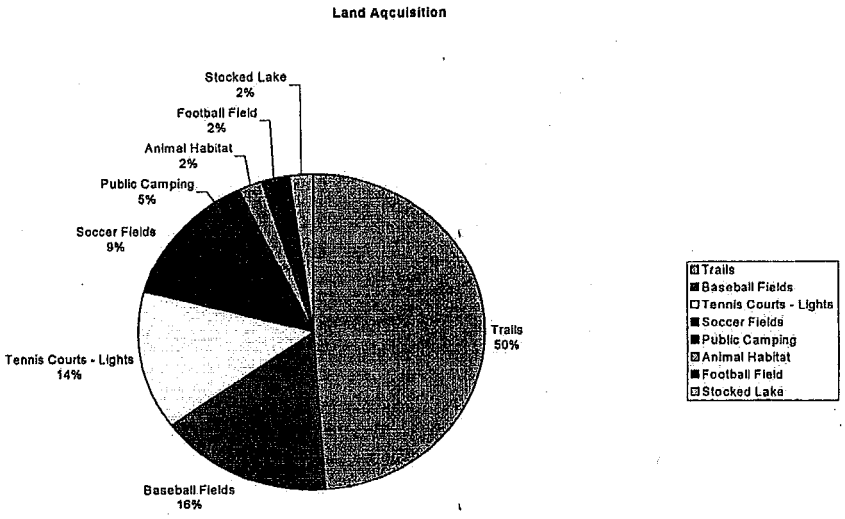
(1) Household surveys mailed to all residents of Parkville
(2) Youth workshops with students from Park Hill High School and Plaza Middle School
(3) A special park dreams workshop with members of the community
(4) A special work session of the CLARB was open to the public to discuss planning of the parks
(5) Workshops conducted by the Community Development Department for City Master Planning

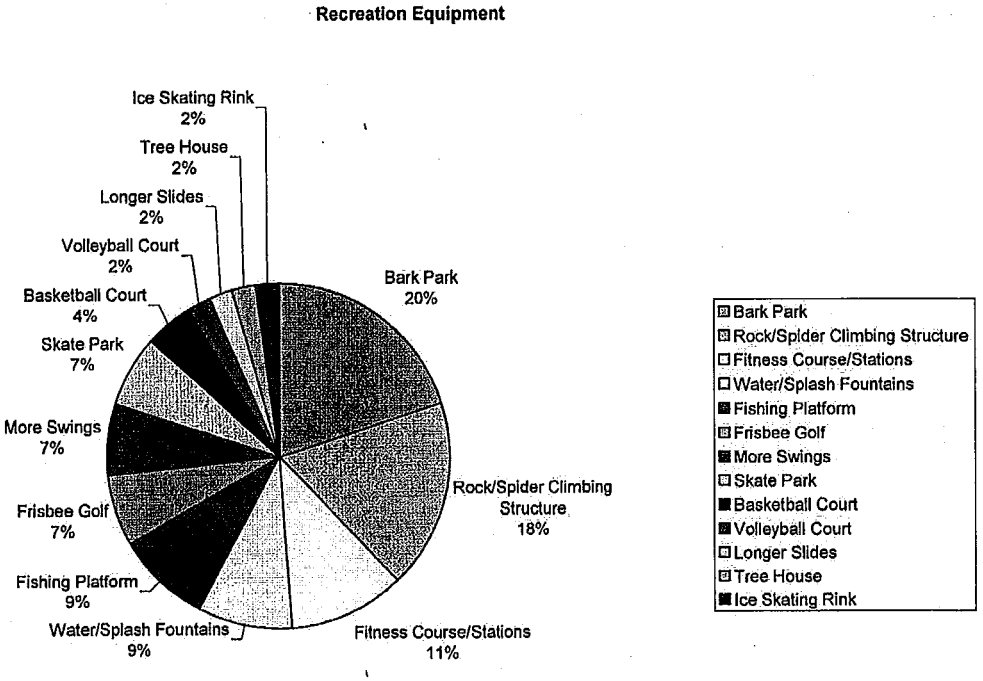
2005 Parkville Parks Survey Results:

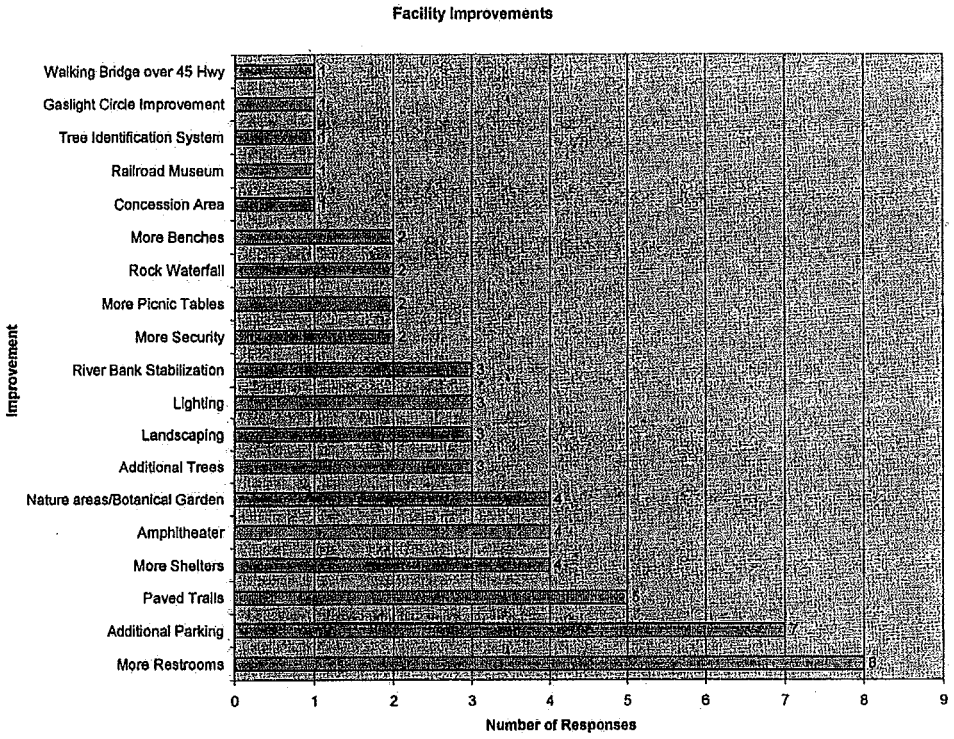
84% - Parks and public spaces are very important
62% - Parks were currently well maintained and clean
55% - Comments were based on weekly or more frequent parks or public space visits
52% - Parks and public spaces feel safe
40% - Park facilities and equipment are in good condition
39% - An important feature is for recreation/natural beauty related to walking trails and playground equipment
38% - Parks and public spaces are easily accessible
38% - Public parks and natural areas are in good condition
37% - Park and public spaces are excellent in their opinion
37% - Use our parks for the walking trail
27% - Trail improvements or expansion were desired
22% - Signage in the park was helpful
22% - Concerns for signage blight
10% - New restroom facilities were desired
08% - Desired a bark park or off leash area for dogs

2006 Parkville Parks Survey Results:

The following three graphs are a representation of our community needs analysis using the three basic categories: Land Acquisition, Recreation Equipment, and Facility Improvements.






Facility Improvements
Walking Bridge over 45 Hwy
Gaslight Circle Improvement
Tree Identification System
Railroad Museum
Concession Area
More Benches
Rock Waterfall
More Picnic Tables
More Security
River Bank Stabilization
Lighting
Landscaping
Additional Trees
Nature areas/Botanical Garden
Amphitheater
More Shelters
Paved Trails
Additional Parking
More Restrooms
Improvement
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
Number of Responses

Chapter 4
Park Objectives and Recommendations

Several needs have been identified while reviewing the Parks Inventory, Community Needs Analysis, and past and current plans relating to this P3. A brief summary as well as a list of objectives and recommendations are broken down into the following categories: Land Acquisition, Park Design, Connectivity/Trails, Maintenance and Community Stewardship.

Land Acquisition

Parks of different sizes and types are needed to adequately serve Parkville's diverse community. Based on evaluation of the current park system, discussions with City staff, input received from the community, diversifying current parks and acquiring new parkland to serve future populations is important in developing and maintaining the park system.

Objectives

- Maintain a minimum LOS of 25 (see page 10) as the city expands or other demands present themselves
- Develop parks in underserved areas, particularly the northern and western parts of Parkville
- Identify areas of environmental significance (wetlands, sensitive species and habitat) to be fully protected from development.

Recommendations

- Pursue land purchases or donations for regional parks in these areas:
  I-435/45 Highway Corridor – the growth trend will be in this area
  FF/Union Chapel Road.
- Acquire natural areas through land dedications and coordination with public and/or private entities.

Dorsey Park

Sell or exchange and use funds in capital budget to acquire parkland in different location.

English Landing Park West

Collaborate with Platte County and the United State Corps of Engineers on the acquisition of conservation land.

Park Design

Parks should be designed so that they are enjoyable, safe, easily accessible, efficient and easy to maintain, as well as being sensitive to natural systems. Research indicates that park design greatly affects park use. Throughout the public process, residents identified a number of design issues. One of the issues of concern to Parkville residents is the balance of active and passive uses. In addition, a need for more wheelchair accessibility in the parks and natural areas should be included in all facility planning.

English Landing Park is partially funded through a federal grant from the United States Department of Interior, Natural Parks Service, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Any recreational or non-recreational changes (parking, restrooms, etc) to English Landing Park must first receive the approval of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources LCWF administrator.

Objectives

- Plan, design and build parks and facilities that are safe, efficient and support multiple functions
- Provide sports fields and courts that meet the needs of organized and recreational users
- Develop an off-leash dog park
- Provide safe and enjoyable natural areas that preserve wildlife habitat and ecological functions.
- Provide vegetative buffers between active use facilities and natural areas.
- Establish maintenance and vegetation standards, avoiding plants that can become invasive
- Select durable materials that are sustainable, resource efficient and non-toxic
- Comply with American Disabilities Act standards in the development of parks, recreation facilities, trails and natural areas.
- Incorporate history, culture and art into park
- Provide directional signage to parks, natural areas, trails and greenways
- Install bike racks and create parking spaces where none now exist

Recommendations

- Expand on current soccer plan to include more fields
- Explore options creating an off-leash dog park
- Seek technical advice on measures to preserve and protect environmentally significant areas.
- Additional parking
- Add restrooms
- New park office and equipment storage area
- Better sports programming
- Camping – best suited along the 435 corridor
- Amphitheater
- Botanical Garden
- Take advantage of donated services.

Bell Road Park

Currently undeveloped, incorporate with future park development within the corridor

English Landing Park

Explore options for multiple users at Grigsby Field
Make a grand entrance to park at ball field #1
Upgrade restrooms
Additional shelters
Convert current boat ramp into a fishing pod area
Frisbee golf area in English Landing Park
Fitness or stretching area at park entrance
Overlook to river at the end of Main Street
Tennis/basketball courts
Water splash fountains
Preserve riverfront green space
Expand trail system

English Landing Park West

Develop soccer fields, a boat ramp and parking
Expand baseball or softball fields
Collaborate with Platte County Parks and Recreation on the development and maintenance of the 130 acres of land purchased by Platte County in 2008.
Take advantage of donated services
Expand trail system

Gateway Park

Become a scenic mini park and incorporate a landscape design that signifies a grand entrance into Parkville.

Connectivity/Trails

Trails and connectors provide opportunities for pathways between park facilities and neighborhoods. Connecting trails and pathways to existing parks, future parks and the rest of the community can enhance enjoyment and increase overall park system use. Thus reducing the reliance of automobiles for travel and creating recreational opportunities. This will put Parkville in the forefront of environmentally friendly cites and could create additional tourism to the businesses of Parkville. Connectivity with other plans such as the Missouri Riverfront Trail and the Metro-Green Plans will allow Parkville to become a major trail hub and develop into an attractive tourist destination.

Objectives

- Create and maintain a variety of trail types that provide connectivity throughout the park system and community.
- Explore opportunities for trail connections to the Metro-Green 40-mile loop trail system.
- Provide adequate and safe sidewalks, crosswalks and connections between parks.
- Develop standardized trail signage and create kiosks for educational and interpretive services.

Recommendations (see attached map for recommended routes)

- Connect English Landing Park to Riverside
- Connect English Landing Park to 45 Highway via Parkville Commons
- Connect English Landing Park to 435/45 Highway

Maintenance

Maintaining the parks to ensure they can be safely used for their designated function and still maintain the integrity of natural systems is vital to the success of the park system.

Objectives

- Annually assess needed maintenance and renovation projects system-wide, including bringing non-compliant existing facilities up to ADA standards
- Increase collaborative and volunteer efforts to maintain and beautify parks
- Maintain trail surfaces consistent with intended use
- Repair damage from vandalism soon after occurrence
- Manage fields to prevent overuse and significant damage to playing surfaces
- Utilize locally produced goods, materials and services where possible for the development and improvement of park system
- Consider staffing needs for long-term maintenance and operations when adding or developing new parks

Recommendations

- Create a priority system for park maintenance
- Add staffing based on the Proposed Organizational Charts below

Adams Park

Improve current retaining wall
Update landscaping
Update signage

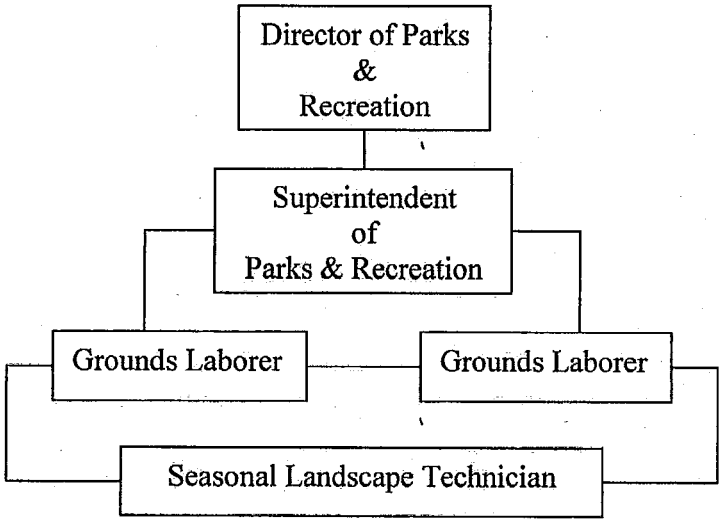
Pocket Park

Improvement of current facilities and maintaining the existing character
Preserving the wooden deck
Update landscaping

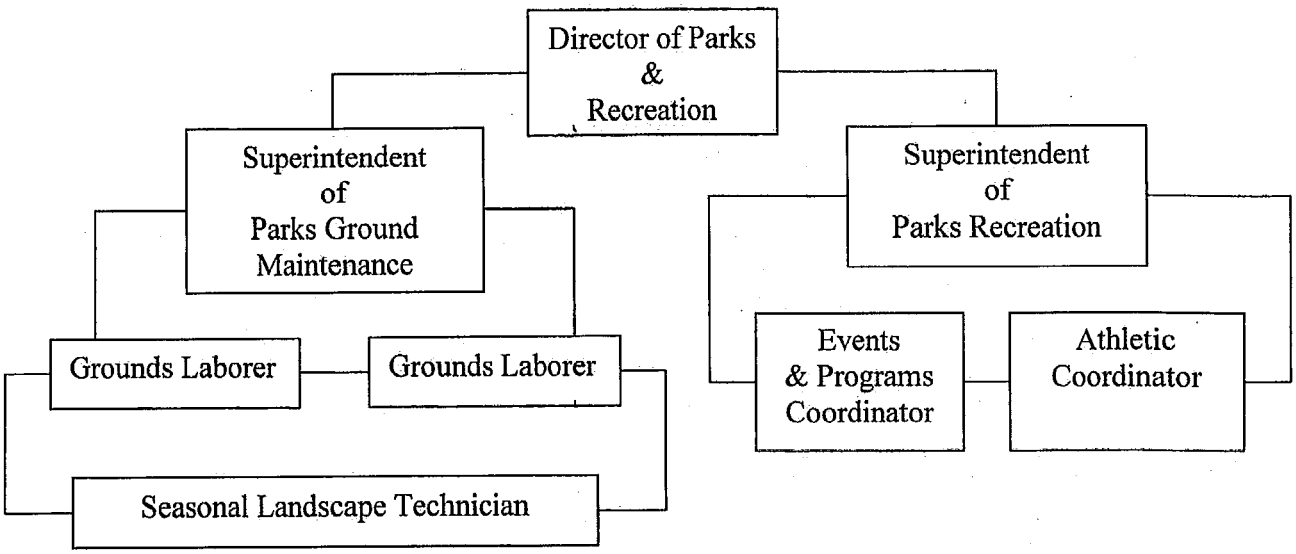
Watkins Park

Improvement of current facilities and maintaining the existing character
Update signage

Current Organizational Chart for the Parkville Parks & Recreation Department



Proposed Organizational Chart for the Parkville Parks & Recreation Department



Community Stewardship

Encouraging community participation and stewardship in the park system is important in developing a sense of ownership and responsibility. Creating volunteer opportunities and structured educational programs for all age groups are important ways of creating a sense of stewardship.

Objectives

- All future developers should participate in land acquisition and green space allotment
- Develop public and private partnerships to create educational and volunteer opportunities.
- Increase volunteer efforts in park maintenance
- Coordinate dissemination of information concerning both public and private recreation programs.
- Offer more nature awareness activities through the City's recreation program, such as nature hikes or talks.

Recommendations

- Involve existing community organizations such as sports teams and volunteer groups in parks development and maintenance.
- Use memorandums of understanding or contract agreements for volunteer opportunities and structured educational programming
- Involve citizens in developing master plans for acquired land
- Require developers to donate public land or pay a percentage of dollars designated for future parkland purchases. The city will determine the site, recreational uses, and will maintain such facilities: this land shall be public, not specifically private neighborhood parks or private home association parks. This action will constitute drafting an ordinance to revise municipal codes currently in place.

Chapter 5
Funding

Development fees (impact fees) currently do not exist as a capital funding opportunity for the Parks and Recreation system of Parkville. Incorporating development fees is recommended to specifically fund capital improvements to the parks and for land acquisition. Other funding options to pursue on a regular basis include grants, fundraising activities, private donation and/or private public partnerships.

Objectives

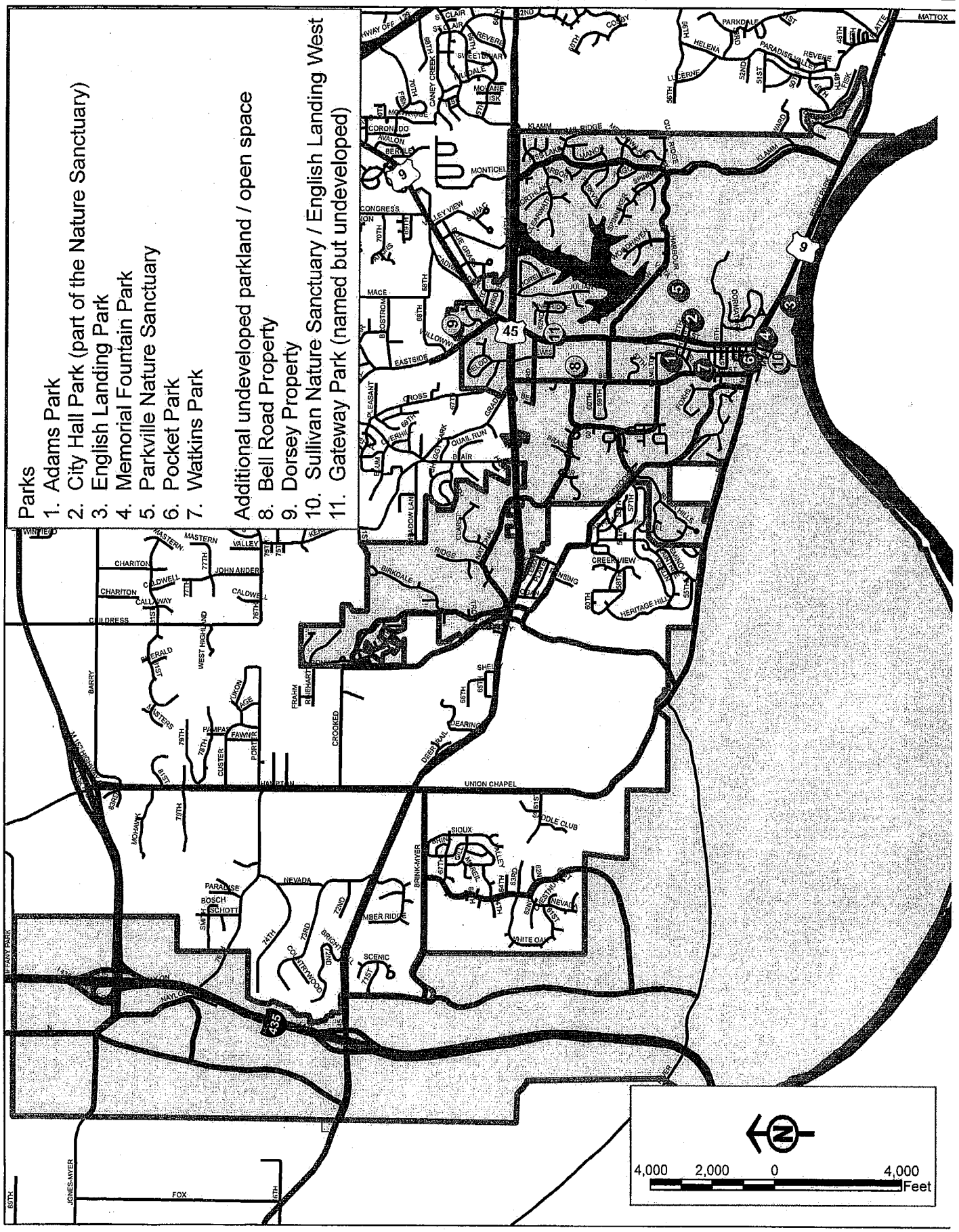
- Maintain a development fee that accurately reflects the actual cost impact of population growth upon the City's park system.
- Seek grants, intergovernmental partnerships and public-private partnerships where mutually beneficial and appropriate.
- Dedicate the revenues from disposed properties to improve the existing parks system or develop parks in underserved areas.
- Support funding for additional parks staff as the parks system grows.
- Reduce costs associated with future park acquisition and development through partnerships with schools and developers.
- Keep up with appropriate legal user charges for services and facilities provided to the public.

Current Parks & Recreation Operating Budget

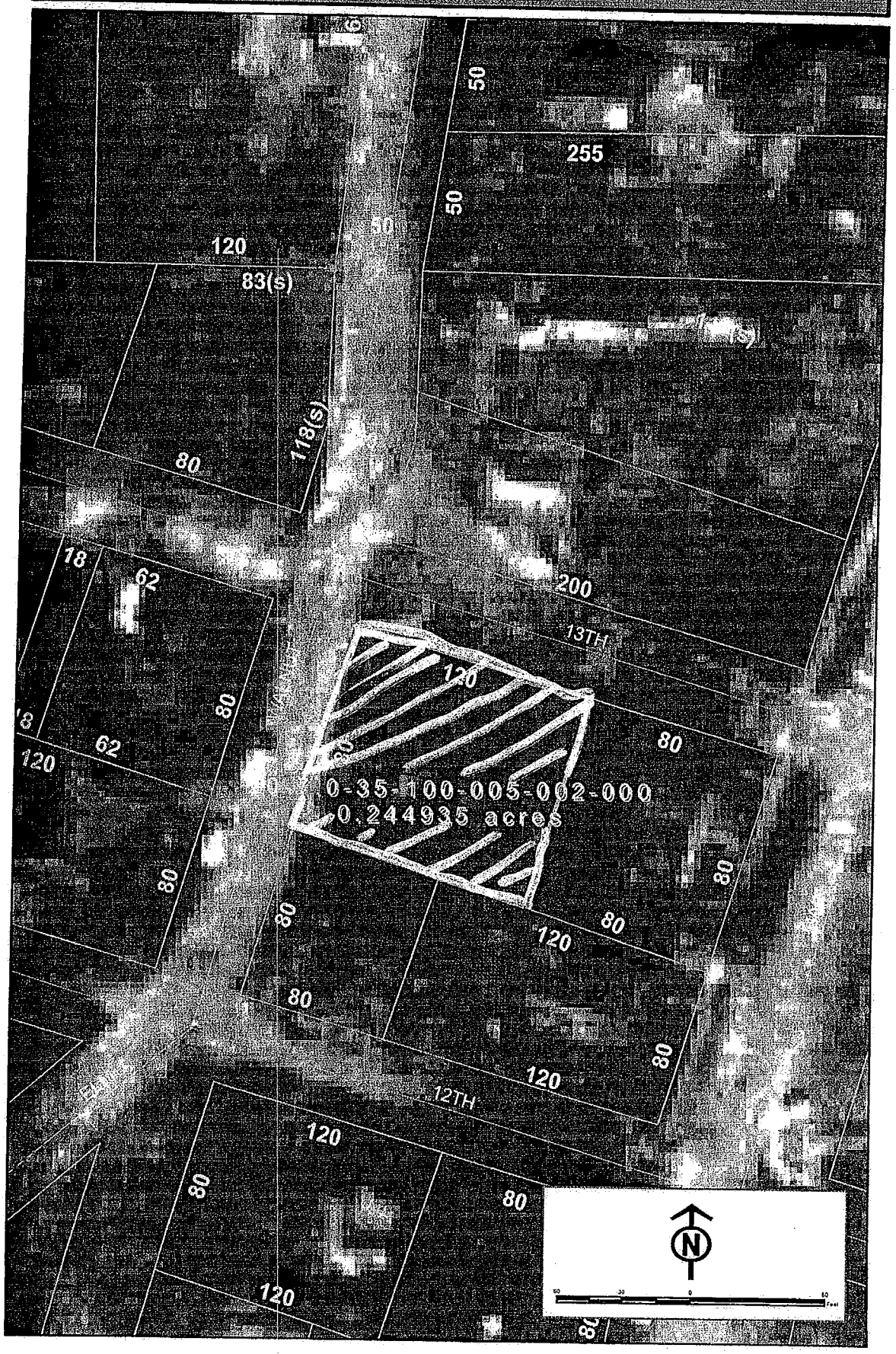
- 2008: $309,176
- 2007: $267,307

Appendix A

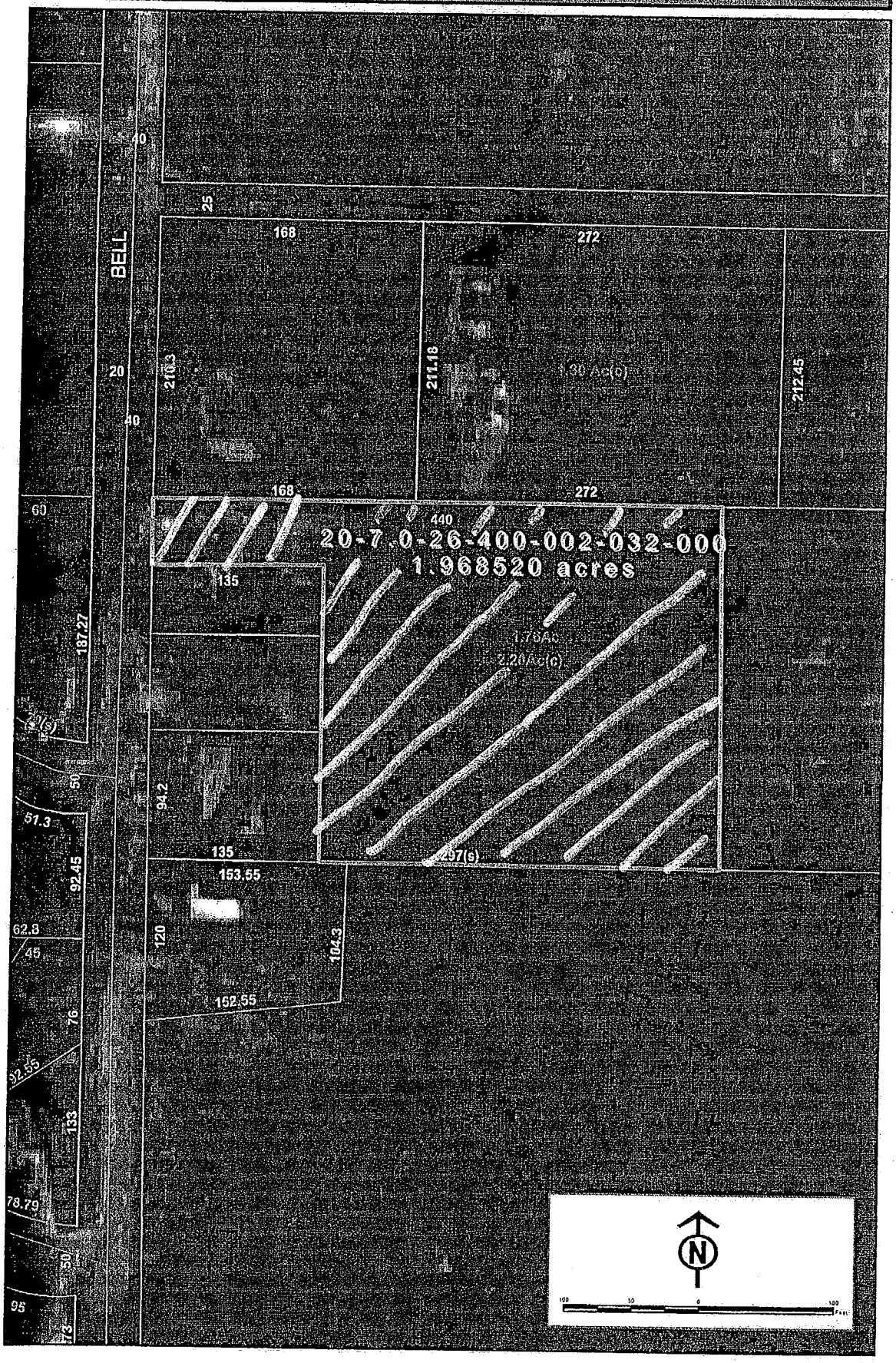
Parks Index Map



Adams Park

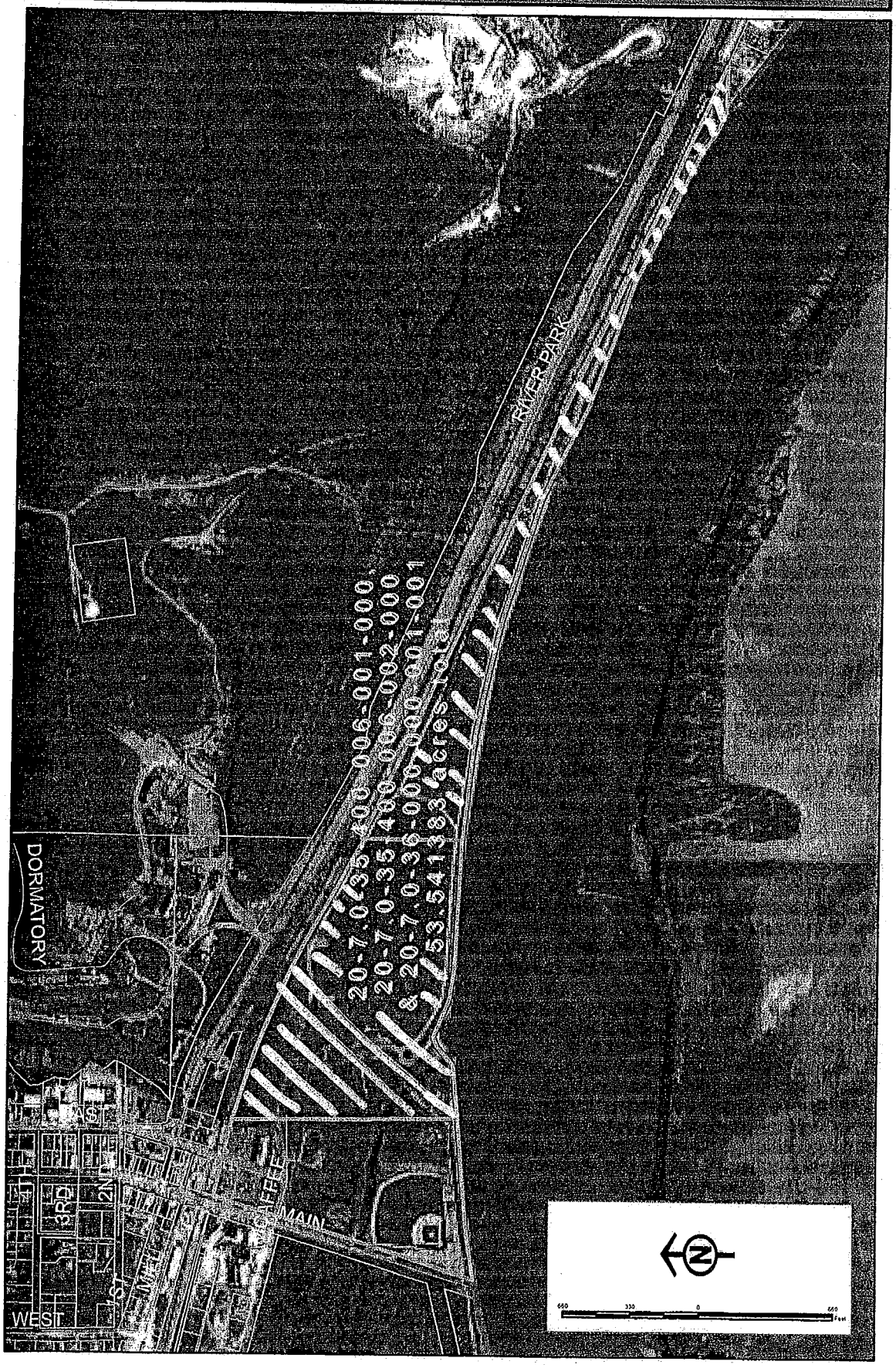

50
255
50
120
83(s)
118(s)
80
18
62
200
13TH
120
80
62
120
0-35-100-005-002-000
0.244935 acres
80
80
120
80
80
120
12TH
120
80
80
120
N

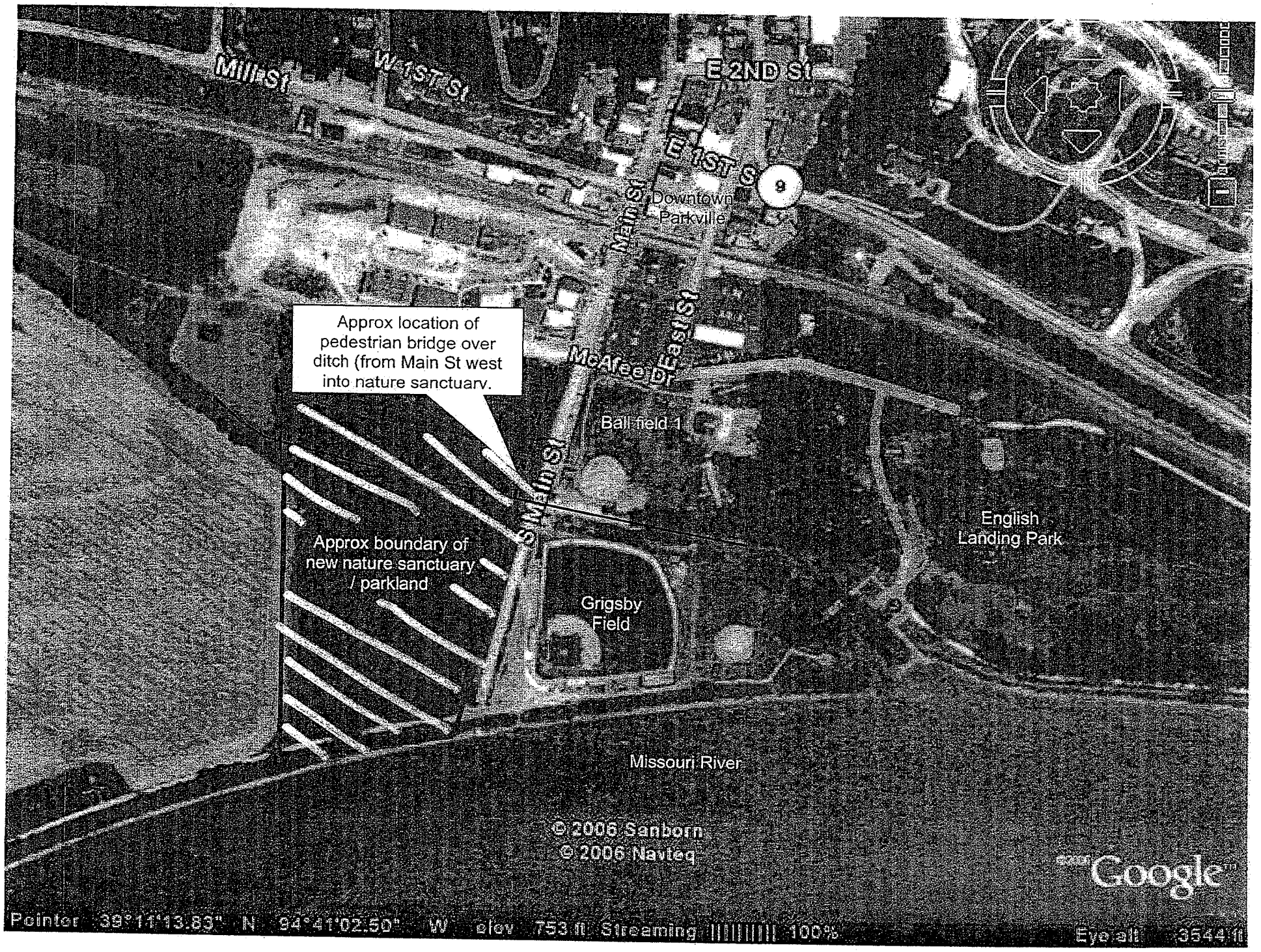
Bell Road Property



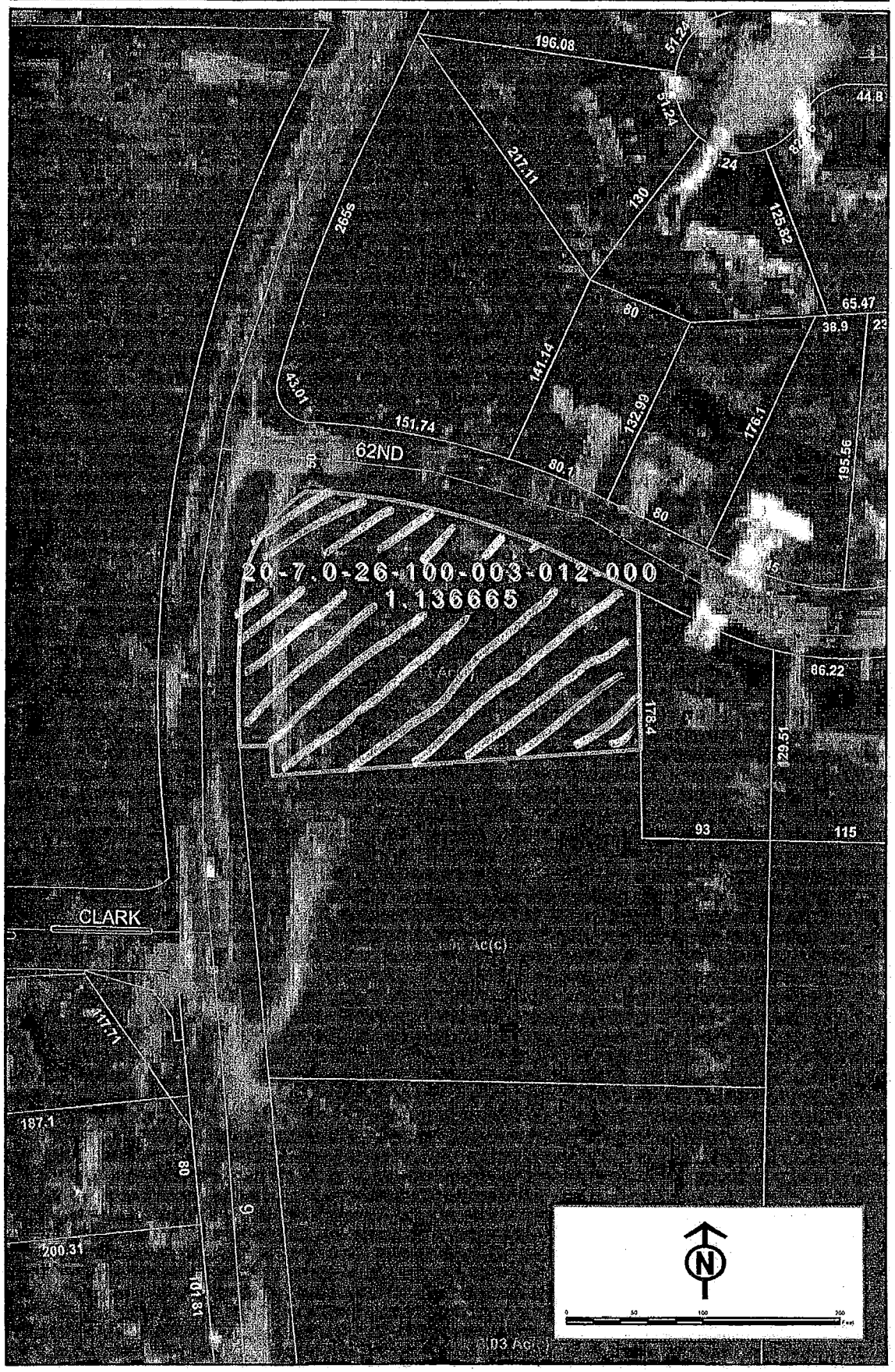
Dorsey Property

English Landing Park

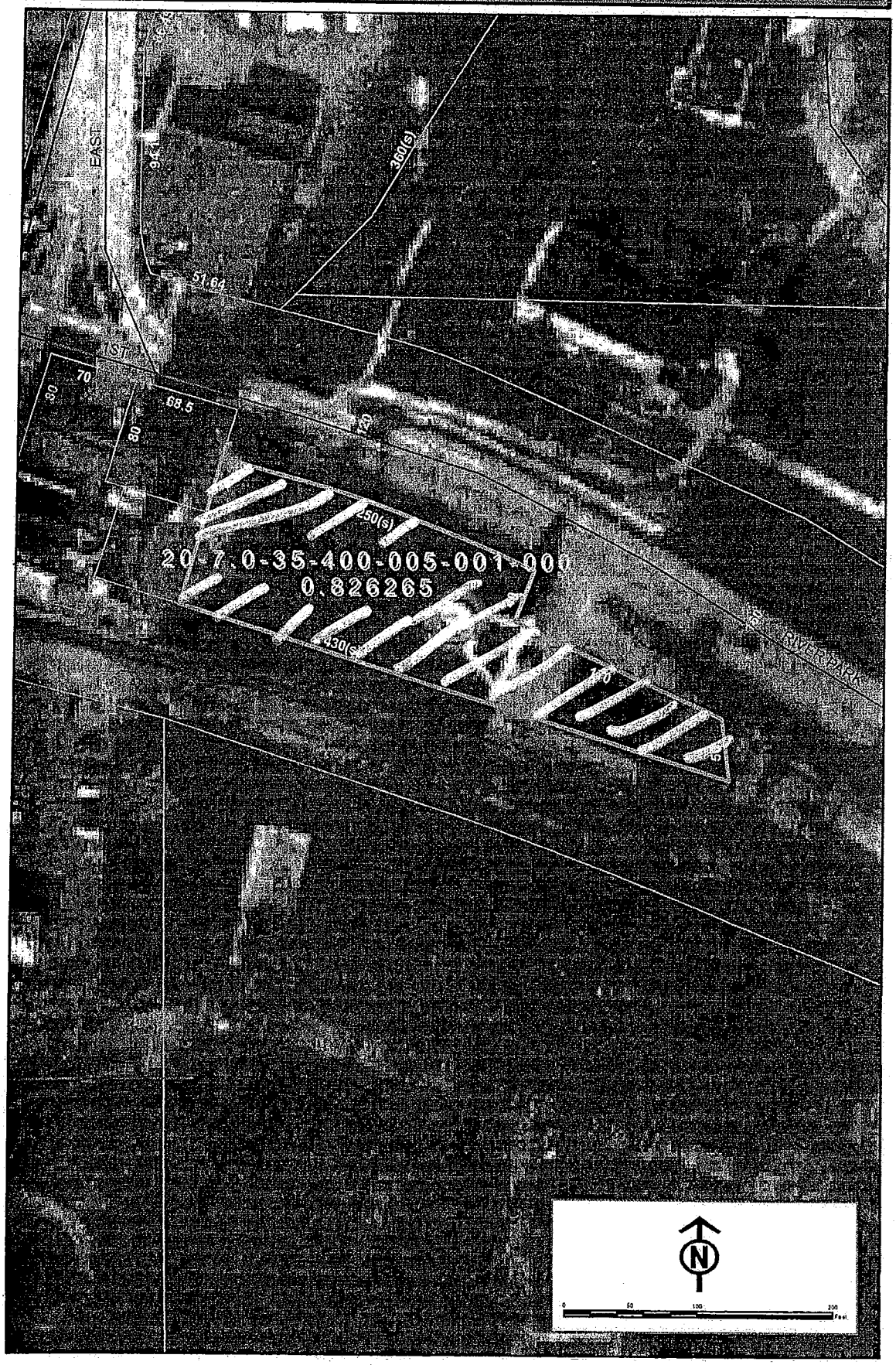



Mill St
W 1ST St
E 2ND St
E 1ST St
Main St
Downtown Parkville
East St
McAfee Dr
Approx location of pedestrian bridge over ditch (from Main St west into nature sanctuary.
Ball field 1
S Main St
Approx boundary of new nature sanctuary / parkland
Grigsby Field
English Landing Park
Missouri River
© 2006 Sanborn
© 2006 Navteq
Google
Pointer 39°11'13.83" N 94°41'02.50" W elev 753 ft Streaming 100%
Eye alt 3544 ft

Gateway Park



Memorial Fountain Park



Pocket Park

Watkins Park

Appendix B

PARKVILLE PARKS PLAN
2008 Park Inventory

Name	Size (acres)	Classification	Location	Amenities				
				Feature	Description	Quantity	Age	Condition
Pocket Park	0.05	Mini	1st & Main Street	Plumbing	Sprinkler system	1	10 years	Good
				Plumbing	Drinking fountain	1	New - 2006	Excellent
				Electrical		1	New/10 yrs	Good
				Deck	wood	1	10 years	Good
				Brick walk	Engraved pavers	1	New/10 yrs	Good
				Rock wall	Natural rock	1	20 years	Fair
Adam's Park	0.24	Neighborhood	13th & West Street	Shelter	Slab	1	20 years	Good
					Structure	1	20 years	Fair
				Retaining Wall	Utility Poles	1	20 years	Fair/Poor
				Steps	Concrete			Fair
				Fence	Wood split rail	1	20 years	Fair/ Poor
Watkins Park	1.22	Neighborhood	10th & West Street	Shelter	Slab		22 years	Fair
					Structure	1	22 years	Fair
				Tables	Metal/wood	1	22 years	Good
				Grills	Metal	1	22 years	Fair
				Playgrounds	Swing	1	22 years	Fair
					Spring toy	1	12 years	Fair
				Basketball court	Slab	1	7 years	Good
					Goals		7 years	Good
					Nets		7 years	Good
				Horseshoe court		1	22 years	Fair
				Trail	Asphalt 5' width	1	7 years	Good
English Landing West	8.97	Undeveloped	Missouri River Front					
English Landing Park	76	Regional Park	Missouri River Front	Stage		1	5 years	Good
				North Shelters	Slab	2	22 years	Fair
					Structure	2	22 years	Fair
				East/West Shelters	Slab	2	4 years	Excellent
					Structure	2	4 years	Excellent
					Electrical	2	4 years	Excellent
				Tables		22	2-10 years	Good
				Grills	Charcoal	6	5-20 years	Fair
				Benches	Cast Iron	10	new - 7 years	Good
					Wood	5	5- 10 years	Poor
				Playgrounds	Swings	4	new-20 years	Good
					Spring toys	4	new - 7 years	Good
					Slides	3	new - 7 years	Good
					Ball toss	1	new	Good
				Sidewalks	5' sidewalks		new-20 years	Good
					4' sidewalks		new-20 years	Good
				Ball fields	backstop	2@24' H x 20' L	20 years	Fair
					8' chain link fence	8' H x 200' L	20 years	Fair
					4' chain link fence	4' H x 1,226' L	20 years	Fair
					10' chain link fence	10' H x 102' L	2 - 20 years	Good
					dugouts	4	20 years	Fair/Poor
					bleachers	4	4 - 20 years	Fair
					Infield	2	20 years	Fair
					Outfield	2	20 years	Fair
				Soccer fields	Field	1	20 years	Fair
					Goals	2	New	Excellent
					Nets	2	New	Excellent
				Basketball courts	Slab	2	6 - 20 years	Good/poor
					Goals	3	6 - 20 years	Good/fair
					Nets	2	New	Good
				Trails - rock	Riegelman Memorial	2.5 miles	20 years	Good
				- asphalt		0.4 miles	new-20 years	Fair
				Buildings	Park Office		20+ years	Fair
					Public Restrooms		10 years	Fair
					Farmers Market		20 years	Fair/Poor
				Water Lines	water lines			
					yard hydrants	5	new-20 years	Fair
Gresham	0.83	Special Use	Train Depot	Fountain		1		
Parkville Nature Sanctuary	40	Natural Area	12th Street & 9 Hwy	Shelter	Girl Scout Shelter	1	60 years	
				Trails	Old Kate Trail	0.9 miles		
					Butterfly Pass	0.1 miles		
					Whitetail Trail	1.3 miles		
					Bluebird ADA Trail	0.3 miles		
					Paw Paw Path	0.2 miles		
				Parking lot	asphalt			
				Jail	Historic steel cage	1		
Sullivan Nature Sanctuary	3.03	Natural Area	Main Street	Trail	North Twin Trail	0.4 miles		
				Trail	South Twin Trail	0.4 miles		
Main Street	0.23	Greenway	Main Street 7th-12th Street					
45 Highway	0.8	Greenway	Highway 45 Highway 9/Riss Lake Drive					
Dorsey Park	6.07	Undeveloped	Country Gardens subdiv.					
Bell Road	1.97	Undeveloped	Bell Road					
Gateway Park	1.14	Undeveloped	9 Hwy & 62nd Street					
Total Acres	**140.55**							