MOVING Forward
A 5-Year Plan for the St. Charles Park District
January 2019 through December 2023
Adopted September 11, 2018
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Park District Mission
The St. Charles Park District’s mission is to enrich the quality of life of Park District residents through excellence in programs, parks, facilities and services.

Abbreviations
CMP = Comprehensive Master Plan

ESRI = Environmental Systems Research Institute

SCORP = Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

NRPA = National Parks and Recreation Association

Project Team
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Introduction
The St. Charles Park District developed this Comprehensive Master Plan, shaped by community input, to guide park, facility and program development decisions over the next five years.

Purpose
The purpose of this Comprehensive Master Plan is to:
- Assess existing parks, facilities and programs
- Determine community opinion about services and facilities
- Identify park, facility and program needs
- Define strategic, measurable goals and objectives
- Provide an action plan to implement strategies over the next five years

Planning Process
The comprehensive planning process consisted of four key phases: Analyze, Connect, Prioritize and Implement.

The planning process began in Fall 2017 with an extensive inventory and analysis of the St. Charles Park District’s park and open space assets, indoor facilities and community context. Analysis of the recreation programs gave the District insight into its current services. During the Connect Phase, the Park Board, staff, stakeholders and community residents shared their opinions about the District’s parks, facilities, programs, services and future needs.

Upon completion of the Analyze and Connect phases, the Project Team met to develop alternative strategies. With input from the Park Board and staff, the Project Team prioritized and incorporated these strategies into an action plan that will be implemented over the next five years.

How to Use the Plan
This CMP will be used by the Park District as a guide to implement action items over the next five years. The first two chapters provide recommendations for the District’s next five years while the last two chapters provide supporting evidence of those recommendations gained through the Analyze and Connect Phases. The Action Plan in Chapter Two is a “working list” that will be updated annually as funding opportunities and project priorities change.
ST. CHARLES PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

INTRODUCTION

STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

Planning Process

Chapter One
Prioritize: Preferred Strategies
Chapter One outlines the needs that arose during the Analyze and Connect phases. It provides the background of those needs, synthesizing the results from the previous phases into justification and background for future action items and the strategies to achieve them.

Chapter Two
Implement: Action Plan
Chapter Two outlines the highest-priority strategies into a 5-Year Action Plan that designates when strategies will occur and how to accomplish them.

Chapter Three
Analyze: Inventory and Analysis
Chapter Three provides a detailed inventory of parkland, open space, facilities, school amenities, trails and relevant adjacent land uses. Park assets are classified and quantified by standards, size, location and amenities. This chapter contains individual park and facility inventories.

Chapter Four
Connect: Community Engagement and Needs Assessment
Chapter Four includes national, state and local parks and recreation trends. It also includes summaries of the online engagement platform, a community survey, stakeholder interviews, staff workshops and a Park Board workshop.

Chapter Five
Appendix
Chapter Five contains the following:
- Mini Park Level of Service – without schools
- Overall Park Level of Service – without schools
- Community Survey Executive Summary
- Staff Workshop Summary
- Park Board Workshop Summary
- Online Survey Summary
- Stakeholder Interviews Summary
- Fox River Corridor Master Plan 2015 Update – Executive Summary
The St. Charles Park District boundaries encompass approximately 36 square miles and serve a population of more than 51,000 people. Located on the eastern edge of Kane County, the District maintains 1,459.4 acres of park, recreation, special use and school properties.

Park District properties include two outdoor aquatic facilities, a golf course, a miniature golf course, a nature education facility, a historic farmstead and open space including extensive riverfront and natural areas located throughout the community. Additionally, the District maintains playgrounds and tennis courts at 10 schools within and adjacent to the District’s boundaries. The District also owns several facilities for indoor recreation, education, administration and support services.

The Park District is located on the edge of Kane County and overlaps other governing bodies’ jurisdictions including the City of St. Charles, the Village of South Elgin, the Village of Bartlett, the Village of Wayne and a large area of unincorporated Kane County. It also includes property within the boundaries of the Forest Preserve Districts of Kane and DuPage Counties property and Community Unit School District 303.

The Park District works closely with multiple local agencies to form cooperative relationships. An intergovernmental agreement with Community Unit School District 303 authorized the Park District to use the grounds and indoor space for programming outside of school hours in exchange for maintaining specified outdoor amenities. The District also works with three schools outside of its limits for similar purposes. The District has a history of working jointly with the City of St. Charles to identify, acquire, develop and maintain recreational facilities. Additional successful partnerships have been completed with associated organizations and community groups.

The Park District is funded through a combination of sources. User fees and property taxes provide the majority of funding. The District receives additional funding through investments, donations, grants and sales from rentals, concessions and merchandise. The District has also received donations of land and cash from individuals and businesses.

**Organizational Structure**

The seven-member, publicly-elected Board of Commissioners is the legal governing authority of the Park District. The Park Board’s purpose is to dictate policy related to the District’s operations, adopt an annual budget and plan for the acquisition, development and improvements to open space, facilities and recreation programs. The Park District is divided into six departments: Administration, Business, Marketing, Parks, Recreation and Golf with all daily activity led by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

**Related Plans**

Related documents referenced during the planning process included:

- 2015 Fox River Corridor Master Plan Update
- 2013 City of St. Charles Comprehensive Plan – Chapter 6, Parks and Open Space
- 2011 Comprehensive Master Plan
- 2003 St. Charles Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- 2002 Fox River Corridor Master Plan

The St. Charles Park District was established in 1911 and celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2011.
Legend
- St. Charles Park District
- School District
- SCPD Park
- SCPD Facility
- Private Golf Course
- Forest Preserve
- Other Park
- Schools
CHAPTER One
Prioritize: Preferred Strategies
Overview

Chapter One documents the Prioritize: Preferred Strategies Phase of the comprehensive master planning process.

Purpose

The purpose of the Prioritize: Preferred Strategies Phase is to develop actionable items for the Park District to accomplish over the next five years.

The Project Team conducted a visioning workshop to develop a series of goals and strategies to address the opportunities revealed during the Analyze and Connect Phases. The strategies were then organized into primary goals that relate back to the needs identified in the previous phases. Following the visioning workshop, the Project Team met with District staff to review and build upon the proposed strategies.

Staff then worked through an initial prioritization exercise to determine high, medium and low priorities. Finally, the Project Team met with both staff and the Park Board to review the initial priorities and determine the most preferred action items to implement over the next five years.

Chapter Outline

This chapter is organized by the defined goals as listed in the following pages. Determined through discussion with Park District staff and committees, goals were organized into 5-Year Action Plan or listed as recurring best practices or policy items.
Action Plan

Action Plan goals were identified by the Park Board, Master Plan Task Force, District Staff and Project Team as facility, program or park improvements should be accomplished over the next five years.

Purpose
Items identified in the 5-Year Action Plan focus on major changes to existing programs or infrastructure or the addition of new items that will meet the community needs identified in the Analyze and Connect phases.

Section Outline
Each goal is categorized as a facility, parks and open space, or program item and includes a set of strategies to achieve the goal.

Facilities:
- Renovate Mt. St. Mary Park Restrooms
- Address needed Repairs and Renovations for Norris Recreation Center
- Improve, update and/or add Restrooms at Norris Recreation Center
- Plan for Additional Indoor Aquatics Space including competitive and leisure activities
- Complete Sportsplex Cosmetic, Parking and ADA Updates
- Renovate Swanson Pool Locker Rooms
- Develop Swim City Facility with project partners (if approved)
- Address Conditions of Facility for Hickory Knolls Discovery Center infrastructure and façades; continue best maintenance practices
- Address Conditions of Facility for Primrose Farm infrastructure and façades; continue best maintenance practices
- Address Conditions of Facility for Pottawatomie Community Center infrastructure and façades; continue best maintenance practices
- Conduct Indoor Space Needs Study
- Renovate Sportsplex based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study
- Improve, update and/or add Restrooms at Primrose Farm Park and Primrose Farm
- Update Original Section of Pottawatomie Community Center to address dated and aging infrastructure/finishes and camp space needs based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study
- Master Plan Primrose Farm Indoor Space Structure and Renovation based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study
- Improve, update and/or add Restrooms in Pottawatomie Community Center
- Address Conditions of Facility for Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay infrastructure and façades; continue best maintenance practices based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study
- Replace Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay based on the Indoor Space Needs Study
- Plan for a New Facility to Accommodate Additional Indoor Space Needs based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study
Parks and Open Space:
- Master Plan Otter Cove Aquatic Parks Splash Park to guide renovations and improvements
- Acquire and develop Union Pacific Railroad Property (U. P. Railroad Property)
- Master Plan Route 38 Parcel to guide new development and funding
- Develop Anthem Heights Park
- Evaluate opportunities to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 11 between Red Gate Road, Country Club Road, Randall Road and Route 31
- Complete Parking Improvements and Additions at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center
- Participate in development of Kane County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update in coordination with other public agencies, including expanded opportunities for regional connections
- Develop Prairie Centre Park
- Provide Synthetic Turf Fields at East Side Sports Complex
- Master Plan Primrose Farm Park Renovation to guide renovations, improvements and funding
- Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 13 between Country Club Road, Dunham Road and Route 25
- Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 3 north of Stearns Road and west of the River
- Master Plan Neighborhood Park(s) A to guide renovations, improvements and funding
- Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 6 between Silver Glen Road and Dean Street, west of Burr Road
- Master Plan Neighborhood Park(s) B to guide renovations, improvements and funding
- Complete Mt. St. Mary Park’s Entrance and Access Improvements
- Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf Course

Planning and Programs:
- Evaluate Operational Transition of Paddlewheel Riverboats
- Develop/Update Annual Capital Plan to prioritize replacement of aging and outdated amenities
- Evaluate Existing Parkland Dedication Ordinance
- Develop Regulations, Programs and Infrastructure to Improve Safety for Boaters
- Evaluate Services to the Hispanic Community and other cultures within the community
- Complete Annual Capital Plan Projects annually
- Update Master Plan for the next five years

Policy:
- Develop Policies that Promote Improving and Expanding Public Trail Systems
- Document and Continue to Implement Green/Environmental Policies and Practices for park and facility improvements and projects
- Coordinate the Comprehensive Master Plan Actions with the Amended River Corridor Plan
- Update Park Design Criteria
FACILITIES

Renovate **Mt. St. Mary Park Restrooms**
- Complete renovation of park restrooms to provide flushable restrooms, sinks and a water fountain

**Description**
The Park District has recognized an increase in community desire for plumbed restrooms with running water and drinking fountains that is consistent with other Chicagoland communities. During the Connect Phase, online survey participants rated restrooms as the most important improvement for both indoor and outdoor spaces. Additionally, several comments were received reiterating the importance of restrooms to District residents.

Mt. St. Mary Park is one of the Park District’s most distinguished properties. As a community park with amenities for all age groups, it is a drive-to destination located along a regional bike trail. The Park District installed vault toilets in 2017, but residents have expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of plumbed facilities. Due to its heavy use and status as one of the Park District’s most visited properties, Mt. St. Mary Park would benefit from the addition of plumbed restrooms and drinking fountains.

Address needed **Repairs and Renovations for Norris Recreation Center**
- Complete phased renovation of the facility

**Description**
The Norris Recreation Center is owned by Community Unit School District 303 and operated by the St. Charles Park District. In Spring 2017, the School District funded a series of renovations including a new 6,300 sq. ft. fitness center, minigym for court sports, cycling studio with TRX equipment, upgrades for electrical power panels, and air handling systems and improvements to the elevator, group fitness area and lobby. Renovations were ongoing during the development of this CMP and were completed in 2018.

Improve, update and/or add **Restrooms at Norris Recreation Center**
- Complete cosmetic and ADA upgrades for Norris Recreation Center

**Description**
Participant responses received during the Connect phase rated restrooms as the most important indoor improvement. In addition to concerns about cleanliness and maintenance, several comments were received indicating that the restroom facilities are too small and outdated. It is recommended that restroom and locker room improvements be completed as part of the ongoing repairs and renovations for Norris Recreation Center.
FACILITIES

Plan for **Additional Indoor Aquatics Space** including competitive and leisure activities

- Coordinate future Park District needs with proposed Swim City Development

**Description**
The Park District currently offers an indoor 50-meter pool at Norris Recreation Center. The building, owned by the School District and operated by the Park District, is open to the public mornings, evenings and weekends. Even though the pool is frequently available, the facility is not fully meeting community needs. The pool is intended for competition use and is unsuitable for therapy. When compared to the recommended Chicagoland benchmark for indoor aquatics space, the Park District is 1,652.5 square feet below average.

Swim City USA is a private organization expected to provide a new indoor aquatics facility in St. Charles. The planned facility would provide space for teaching, recreation, competition and therapy. It is intended to be constructed at East Side Sports Complex. Funding, design and engineering for the Swim City facility is expected to occur at the same time as the Indoor Space Needs Survey. As complimentary indoor needs are identified, they should be incorporated into the new facility if possible.

**Complete Sportsplex Cosmetic, Parking and ADA Updates**

- Complete minor cosmetic and ADA updates and parking repairs for Park District operation

**Description**
The Park District acquired Sportsplex in Spring 2018 with plans to continue to operate the facility’s turf fields and other indoor spaces until the long-term best use is determined by the proposed Indoor Space Needs Study. While major changes and renovations will be implemented per the study results, the Project Team identified minor improvements that are required before the District can re-open the facility. The asphalt parking and drive, some sections of sidewalk and many detectable warning plates are at the end of their useful life.

**Renovate Swanson Pool Locker Rooms**

- Complete cosmetic upgrades to the Swanson Pool locker rooms

**Description**
Locker rooms were also frequently included in critiques about restroom size and condition. About 19% of online survey respondents commented that District locker rooms, including those at Swanson Pool, need improvements. Swanson Pool is a popular amenity and, according to the community survey, is visited by about a quarter of respondents. The building that includes the locker rooms was constructed in 1938. Recent renovations added ADA ramps and improved the restrooms but did not extend to the locker rooms. To accommodate visitor needs, a cosmetic upgrade is needed to modernize the facility along with more pre-emptive maintenance to sustain high-quality services.
Develop **Swim City Facility** with project partners (if approved)

- Plan and construct a Swim City Facility with development partners
- Incorporate additional facility needs, including leisure, per Indoor Space Needs Study

**Description**

Swim City, supported by the City of St. Charles and St. Charles Park District through Memos Of Understanding, have completed preliminary planning for a new indoor aquatics facility to be located at East Side Sports Complex. The Connect Phase, as well as facility research, calls for the addition of indoor leisure aquatic space at the facility. Additionally, the new facility will allow the Park District to surpass the recommended Chicagoland aquatics benchmark. The results of the Indoor Space Needs Study may permit additional indoor needs to be incorporated into the new development.

Pending the successful funding of and final approval of the facility, the Park District will be involved in the construction of the facility and will need to make changes to East Side Sports Complex to accommodate the increased traffic and parking requirements and the change in land use.

**Address Conditions of Facility for Hickory Knolls Discovery Center** infrastructure and façades; continue best maintenance practices

- Contact siding manufacturers for fiber-cement board panels on warranty information and recommendations
- Update Annual Capital Plan to include maintenance items

**Description**

The Hickory Knolls Discovery Center is used for educational programming and special event rentals. Although the building was constructed in 2011, the Project Team identified repairs and upgrades needed at the facility. Currently, the building lacks storage space and has multiple locations of water and airflow leaks that need immediate repair before further damage can occur. Several aesthetic and convenience upgrades were also noted to provide adequate space and amenities to attract weddings and large gatherings. There are too few parking spots at the building, lighting is insufficient for night use and some of the materials and furnishings are damaged.
FACILITIES

Address **Conditions of Facility for Primrose Farm** infrastructure and façades; continue best maintenance practices

- Contact roof shingle manufacturer for shingles that are deteriorating
- Correct foundation crack at southwest corner of the Main Barn
- Update Annual Capital Plan to include maintenance items

Description

Primrose Farm includes some of the District’s oldest structures dating as far back as 1860 with the most recent construction approaching 20 years of age. Despite regular maintenance and periodic renovations and updates, the condition of many of the farm’s structures is poor. The Project Team identified several hazardous conditions including the unstable barn stage and sagging joists at the Sheep House. Additionally, multiple other damaged locations were found, which, if not repaired, could lead to more serious problems. Electrical updates are needed, defective shingles should be replaced, wear at silos is causing spalling and cracks were noted in the barn foundation. Due to the age and maintenance requirements of some of the buildings, Primrose Farm should be regularly included in the District’s Annual Capital Plan to prevent further deterioration of the structures.

Address **Conditions of Facility for Pottawatomie Community Center** infrastructure and façades; continue best maintenance practices

- Seal exterior concrete masonry units at north façade
- If large-scale renovation is undertaken, consider correcting attic ventilation/frozen sprinkler head issue
- Update annual Annual Capital Plan to include maintenance items

Description

According to the community survey, the Pottawatomie Community Center is the most visited facility in the Park District. The original building was completed in 1991 and the south addition was completed in 2004. Overall, the building is in above-average to excellent condition, but the original north half is considered outdated and is experiencing exterior wear. The facility may also no longer be offering appropriate recreation amenities to visitors. Restrooms in this facility were frequently identified as needing improvements in addition to cosmetic upgrades throughout the building. Smaller improvements, such as updates to program space, finishes, restrooms and locker rooms, and equipment can be accommodated through planned Annual Capital Plan projects.

Pottawatomie Community Center may also be a possible location for in-demand amenities that the District does not have enough of or is lacking entirely. Indoor amenities that may be considered at Pottawatomie Community Center were identified during the Analyze and Connect Phases including a walking track, additional courts and gyms, an indoor playground and/or a fitness center. If recommended by the Indoor Space Needs Study, a large-scale renovation or expansion of the existing building may be required to accommodate these amenities and address larger mechanical repairs.
Conduct **Indoor Space Needs Study**
- Conduct an Indoor Space Needs Study to evaluate indoor facility needs including the maintenance and renovation of existing facilities, the need for new amenities and the potential for new indoor facility construction
- Reference the 2017/2018 discussions of Swim City and the plan for additional indoor aquatics space including competitive and leisure activities
- Develop master plan for newly-acquired Sportsplex property considering:
  - Maintenance and upgrade of existing turf fields
  - Addition of court space
  - Addition of fitness space
  - Addition of an indoor walking/running track
- Consider adding the following indoor amenities to the District through coordination with a new facility or facility renovations:
  - Provide/develop a unique regional indoor feature
  - Explore partnerships to provide indoor walking/running track
    - Evaluate potential to include in a full renovation/replacement of the original section of Pottawatomie Community Center
    - Consider including this amenity as part of a new indoor facility
    - Evaluate the potential for the Sportsplex facility to include an indoor track
    - Explore partnerships for providing this amenity
  - Provide additional indoor court space
    - Conduct a feasibility study and market analysis to explore the potential construction of a new facility or purchasing/leasing an existing facility to renovate
    - Consider renovating part or all of Sportsplex to provide indoor courts
    - Explore partnerships for providing additional indoor courts
  - Provide indoor space for the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association
    - Coordinate with planning of other new or renovated facility plans
    - Consider renovating space within the Baker Community Center or Sportsplex
  - Provide additional fitness space and/or a facility on the west side of the community
    - Consider renovating part of Sportsplex to provide additional fitness space
    - Consider including this amenity as part of a new indoor facility
    - Explore availability and feasibility to lease and renovate existing smaller facilities
    - Explore partnerships for providing additional fitness space
  - Consider renovation and expansion needs for Primrose Farm buildings
**Description**

Although the Park District is above the recommended Chicagoland benchmark for indoor recreation space, there are several types of amenities that are not meeting resident needs or missing entirely. Improving and/or adding indoor space was a top priority and one of the most discussed topics among the stakeholders, staff, community survey and online survey respondents and the Park Board. The following amenities were identified and prioritized by community members during the Connect Phase. The closure of the two local shopping malls has increased interest for an indoor walking/running track. This amenity need is supported by the expected rise of active adult and senior populations and by the increasing national and regional popularity in walking and jogging for exercise. Adding an indoor walking/running track was the highest prioritized indoor recreation option in the online survey and was suggested by stakeholder groups, community survey comments and staff.

Currently, the Park District offers one gym. Located at the Pottawatomie Community Center, this space can be configured to accommodate basketball or racket sports but is frequently closed for open play. Adding gym space was indicated as a medium priority in the online survey and mentioned by stakeholders and community survey participants.

Both indoor aquatics and expanding fitness center space were ranked within the top three priorities in the online survey and were prioritized by staff. Comments requesting both these amenities were fairly common among the stakeholders and in the community survey. While these are important needs, both can potentially be met by existing facilities. The Norris Recreation Center renovation addresses the need for indoor aquatics and a fitness center while the proposed Swim City USA facility is expected to meet the remaining aquatic needs of the community. Part of the Indoor Needs Assessment should consider the effect on District users’ recreation needs to reassess the value of adding additional services. Similarly a small group of stakeholders, staff and survey respondents supported the addition of indoor synthetic turf fields. The recent addition of Sportsplex will partially meet this need and should be taken into account during the study.

The Park District has several facilities that require continual maintenance and repairs. The Primrose Farm buildings have been experiencing increasing deterioration. Other minor improvements have also been noted at the Pottawatomie Golf Course Pro Shop, Otter Cove Aquatic Park, Baker Community Center and Hickory Knolls Discovery Center. While many of the needed repairs are minor and can be included in the Annual Capital Plan projects, each facility should be included in a comprehensive assessment of all of the District’s indoor space to identify any necessary long-range renovations or changes for building use.

In addition to the indoor amenities that may be added to the District offerings, there are geographic gaps in indoor recreation service. Although the District maintains multiple facilities throughout the community, the majority are located east of the Fox River. The northwest portion of the Park District has no recreation facilities, and the only buildings serving the community west of the river are the newly-acquired Sportsplex, Primrose Farm, Hickory Knolls Discovery Center and Otter Cove Aquatic Park, all of which are highly specialized and offer a limited variety of recreation options. Given the strongly-perceived division of the St. Charles community by the river, the Indoor Space Needs Study should also consider the need for additional indoor recreation and program space west of the Fox River or consider offering a more centralized location to equally serve residents on both sides of the community.
FACILITIES

Renovate **Sportsplex** based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study

- Develop facility renovation master plan to guide priority renovations and funding considering the following uses:
  - Synthetic turf fields
  - Indoor walking/running track
  - Court space
  - Fitness center

**Description**

Due to its size, needed renovation and location on the west side of St. Charles, Sportsplex is a viable option to offer many of the in-demand amenities requested by residents, stakeholders and staff. The building is currently equipped with synthetic turf fields, which is a largely-supported need of the community. The Indoor Space Needs Study will give the Park District direction on the necessary number and size of the fields needed at Sportsplex, as well as any supplemental spaces. In addition, the study will assess the facility's ability to provide other needed indoor recreation amenities. A walking/running track, court space and/or fitness center would be complementary uses that would still allow a portion of the building to remain indoor turf.

Improve, update and/or add **Restrooms at Primrose Farm Park and Primrose Farm**

- Provide flushable restrooms in coordination with the Primrose Farm Park and Primrose Farm renovations

**Description**

Primrose Farm and Primrose Farm Park currently offer vault toilets for visitor use. In addition to the other renovations and repairs needed at Primrose Farm, it is recommended that the District upgrade the restroom facilities to provide flushable toilets and water fountains at both locations. Providing clean and modern restrooms was the most highly-rated indoor improvement in the online survey and would be an asset when hosting events at the Farm and accommodating large sporting events at the park.

Update **Original Section of Pottawatomie Community Center** to address dated and aging infrastructure/finishes and camp space needs based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study

- Develop facility renovation master plan to guide priority renovations and funding
- Consider renovation or replacement of the original section of Pottawatomie Community Center and development of a new facility that could potentially include an indoor walking/running track

**Description**

Pottawatomie Community Center was determined to be the most visited Park District facility in the community survey. It was also categorized as outdated with visitors requesting cosmetic improvements, upgrades to the flooring and finishes, improvements to the available technology, adjustments to the interior and exterior lighting and cleaner, more modern restrooms and locker rooms. These critiques applied almost exclusively to the original, north side of the building. The north side of the Community Center has limited opportunities to provide in-demand amenities with the current building design. The Indoor Space Needs Study should determine what amenities are appropriate to offer at the Community Center and offer strategies to provide them. Depending on the needs identified, a complete change to the building's use, a renovation of existing space, or another addition may be recommended for the north side of the building. Because the study will review the entire building, in addition to the rest of the District’s indoor space, the required updates may also effect the south side of the building.
Master Plan **Primrose Farm Indoor Space Structure and Renovation** based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study

- Develop facility renovation master plan to guide priority renovations and funding

**Description**
Primrose Farm includes several indoor space structures with needed repairs that vary in scope and severity. The Project Team conducted a preliminary review of the structures and generated a list of items needing attention. It is recommended that a thorough reassessment of all structures be completed including inspections of the buildings' utility systems and foundations. Additionally, the Indoor Space Needs Study may also identify new needs or uses of the structures which should be incorporated into the planned work.

Due to the number of buildings and needed work, as well as the expected cost, it is recommended that the Park District complete the repairs and renovations in phases. Once the Indoor Space Needs Study is complete, the District can prioritize the items that present the most dangerous conditions or will lead to larger problems in the future, incorporate smaller repairs into the Annual Capital Plan and develop funding strategies.

**Improve, update and/or add Restrooms in Pottawatomie Community Center**

- Complete cosmetic upgrades in coordination with the update of the original section of Pottawatomie Community Center

**Description**
Improving restrooms was ranked as the highest indoor priority in the online survey and were mentioned as needed improvements in the stakeholder interviews and community survey. Due the high use of the Pottawatomie Community Center, the renovated restrooms should be sized appropriately to accommodate the volume of guests and include modern amenities. Improvements to the restrooms and locker rooms should be incorporated into planned renovations to the rest of the building.
Address **Conditions of Facility for Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay** infrastructure and façades; continue best maintenance practices based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study

- Consider roof/coping replacement or repair at affected areas, if buildings are not scheduled for replacement
- Consider replacing structure long-term
- Update Annual Capital Plan to include maintenance items

**Description**
The Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay in Pottawatomie Park contains staff space and storage for the maintenance and upkeep of the adjacent park and golf course. The building has undergone only minor renovations and repairs since its construction and is now experiencing significant deterioration. The Project Team identified multiple sections of the building’s roof and coping that are in need of repair or replacement and noted that, in general, the condition of the facility is poor to fair overall. While some of the needed repairs are small and must be completed immediately for the continued short-term operation of the building, the Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay should be included in the Indoor Space Needs Study to determine the full-extent of the damage and the expected useful life of the structure. The results of the study may indicate that the age of the building and severity of the damage is prohibitive to making repairs or that the projected useful life of the building does not justify making long-term investments in the facility. If the existing building remains, the needed repairs and renovations will be added the Park District’s Annual Capital Plan.

Replace **Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay** based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study

- Consider the construction of a new indoor facility to meet indoor recreation and programming needs that cannot be met by facility renovations or partnerships

**Description**
If the Indoor Space Needs Study determines that the Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay has a limited useful life, the structure will likely be replaced with new facilities. In addition to providing better service to Pottawatomie Park and the golf course, the construction of a new building(s) may allow the Park District to incorporate additional indoor space needs. The need for more rental space for meetings and special events was third highest indoor priority identified in the online survey and golf course buildings are common solutions to these needs in the recreation industry. The close proximity of the golf course to the Pottawatomie Community Center may also justify moving some functions such as office space, program rooms or storage to a new building.
FACILITIES

Plan for a **New Facility to Accommodate Additional Indoor Space Needs** based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study

- Consider the construction of a new indoor facility to meet indoor recreation and programming needs that cannot be met by facility renovations or partnerships
- Consider providing a new facility on west side of the community

**Description**

Due to the high investment requirements of developing a new facility and the number of Park District buildings located throughout the District, the Indoor Space Needs Study should prioritize accommodating new and improved indoor space and amenities at existing facilities or in-progress development. However, a large number of new indoor amenity needs were determined during the Analyze and Connect phases that may not be possible to include with the existing space. Adding an indoor pool with multiple uses, a walking/running track, synthetic turf, additional courts and gyms and additional fitness space were all moderately to highly-prioritized items identified by the various stakeholder groups. The lack of indoor recreation space on the west side of the community, particularly the northwest, and the perceived east-west divide may also be prohibitive to limiting new indoor space to existing locations. If the existing indoor space is unable to support all of the community’s indoor needs and provide equitable access to all residents, constructing a new facility may become necessary. A new facility may necessitate the conversion or elimination of existing space so as not to duplicate services and overtax Park District resources. A successful Indoor Space Needs Study will determine the need for a new facility and its amenities, provide potential location options, and predict the effect of a new facility on the existing buildings.
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

**Master Plan** *Otter Cove Aquatic Park Splash Park* **to** guide renovations and improvements

- Develop site master plan and funding strategy for cosmetic and equipment upgrades/renovations at Otter Cove Aquatic Park

**Description**

Otter Cove Aquatic Park, which opened in Summer 2011, is a well-known and visited facility with approximately 80% of community survey respondents aware of it and more than a third having visited it in the past 12 months. While visitorship is good, the majority of use at the park comes from nearby residents. According to the community survey, 30% of the visitors are from the southwest region of the community where the park is located. The fewest number of visitors, at 6%, visit the park from the District’s farthest, northeast boundary.

Additionally, the aquatic park is beginning to be perceived as outdated and static with some Connect Phase participants stating that they regularly travel outside of St. Charles to visit or even have memberships at other Park Districts’ outdoor aquatic facilities. The most frequently received comment for this reason is that Otter Cove is great for young children but does not have enough to do for older kids and adults. It was also reported that there are use barriers to some of the amenities in the park. The current concession area does not have enough seating and the splash park, originally opened in Summer 2005, is dated and needs improvements. Some comments received during the Connect Phase also critiqued the upkeep and size of the locker rooms and restrooms.

The Project Team and Park District staff identified some challenges with the building in addition to the outdated equipment and limited seating at the concessions area. Updating Otter Cove’s amenities and comforts to respond to residents’ needs would likely revitalize interest in the aquatic park and recapture some of the lost visitors, as well as resolve equipment issues resulting from the age of the splash park.

**Acquire and develop** **Union Pacific Railroad Property** *(U. P. Railroad Property)*

- Develop and implement funding strategy for land acquisition, such as grant funding
- Master plan and construct phased development of a multi-use regional trail

**Description**

As determined by the Connect Phase results and supported by national and state trends, trail usage for biking, walking and jogging is growing in popularity. In the online survey, almost 90% of respondents reported that they or members of their household used trails in the last 12 months. Many residents commented that there should be more trails in the Park District and outdoor trails were very highly prioritized. Specifically off-street, multi-purpose walking and biking trails were the most desired outdoor recreation amenity reported in the online survey. The abandoned Union Pacific Railroad runs east-west through the City of St. Charles terminating at an existing bikeway to the west. The proposed trail would provide the opportunity to connect to major destinations within the Park District including Pottawatomie Park and downtown St. Charles, which would provide another river crossing, all of which were identified by stakeholders as critical connections to the existing system.
**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**

**Master Plan Route 38 Parcel** to guide new development and funding

- Consider location for amenities with a high regional draw such as:
  - Bicycle pump track
  - Splash pad and specialty play facilities
  - Disc golf
  - Trails
  - Pickleball
  - Shelter
  - Restrooms with water access

**Description**
In 2017, the Park District entered into a 5-year lease agreement with the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice to maintain a 89.4 acre parcel of land between Hickory Knolls Natural Area and Route 38/Lincoln Highway. The Park District intends to negotiate a 20-year extension to the lease before beginning development of the property. This land is currently completely undeveloped and large enough to support a community park with multiple large-scale regional attractions. Completing park improvements was the highest prioritized outdoor initiative as ranked by staff, the second highest priority in the online survey, and there was significant community interest in the development of unique, destination activities. Some of the recommendations presented during the Connect Phase included climbing walls, a pump track/bike park, specialty play such as zip lines, obstacle courses, treehouse/nature-based play, disc golf and splash pads. Pickleball is also a viable option for this property as it is a sport that is growing in popularity nationally and in Chicagoland. It was mentioned by all of the Connect Phase groups and it is typically successful in communities with aging-in-place senior populations like St. Charles. Finally, all of the stakeholders from the Connect Phase had a strong interest in providing walking/running/bike trails and, for most groups, this was a top ranked amenity. Trails are supported both as internal park amenities and as connections to other nearby systems. The Route 38 parcel has the opportunity to connect to the adjacent Hickory Knolls Natural Area, James O. Breen Community Park and onto the existing trail system through the Peck Road bikeway.

**Develop Anthem Heights Park**

- Conduct public meeting to guide park design
- Provide trail connections and amenities such as wayfinding signage, seating, fitness equipment, drinking fountains, and bicycle racks if possible
- Provide unique regional amenities or amenities that the community is lacking:
  - Specialty play facilities
  - Tennis and/or pickleball courts

**Description**
New development between Route 64 and Dean Street in southwest St. Charles will result in an undeveloped property for a new neighborhood park. In order to best determine resident needs, the Park District will conduct a public meeting with residents and take into account the amenities that already exist in the surrounding area. It is likely that typical neighborhood park amenities such as a playground, and walking trails will be considered for this park. The future park is also near the planned Union Pacific Railroad Property bikeway and may have an opportunity to connect to the trail. Additionally, tennis and/or pickleball courts may be an appropriate amenity and help fill Park District need.
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 11 between Red Gate Road, Country Club Road, Randall Road and Route 31

- Evaluate opportunities to acquire land
- Establish inter-agency partnerships to provide equitable open space access
  - Planning Area 11 = 1,178 people (84.9%) unserved
  - 38.32 park acres in Planning Area 11

Description
Planning Area 11 is located in the center of the Park District and has a high number of residents who do not have walking access to a mini or neighborhood park or live within a mile of a community park. Approximately 1,178 residents or 84.9% of the population living in this area are completely underserved. Currently, the only public open space in the area is Red Gate Park and St. Charles High School North, both of which are located in the northeast corner of the area. While some residents may use the park and athletic facilities available at the high school, its location is still prohibitive for most of the area residents. Additionally, there is no other public open space near the boundaries of Planning Area 11 that could be accessed with improved pedestrian connections. Planning area 11 is mostly composed of residential property with little or no undeveloped land but may present the opportunity to develop additional Mini Parks if property could be bought or donated for this purpose.

Complete Parking Improvements and Additions at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center

- Re-design the northwest parking lot at James O. Breen Community Park to better serve Hickory Knolls Discovery Center
  - Consider providing additional parking at the current location of the basketball courts

Description
James O. Breen Community Park, which includes Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, also serves a variety of other functions including Hickory Knolls Natural Area, outdoor aquatics at Otter Cove Aquatic Park, community garden plots, pavilion rentals, sports tournaments and dog park use. Currently, Hickory Knolls Discovery Center is serviced by a paved drop-off loop with a limited number of parallel and pull-in parking spots. During peak use times, these sports are insufficient for the total number of visitors. The next closest parking lot is located several hundred feet away and lacks a clear path to access the building. Additionally, four basketball courts in very poor condition are located between the large parking lot and the building. Visitors may also park in the gravel lot at the dog park but this location is not ADA accessible and cannot be accessed through the park’s main entrance. Parking challenges, specifically at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, were mentioned by the stakeholder groups, particularly at the stakeholder interviews and staff workshop.
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Participate in development of an **Kane County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan** in coordination with other public agencies, including expanded opportunities for regional connections

- Union Pacific Railroad Property
- Illinois Prairie Path Elgin Regional Bike Trail
- River corridor
- Route 38 corridor

**Description**

Trail use for walking, running and biking is the most common recreation activity reported by the St. Charles community and is a continually-growing state and national trend. Staff, stakeholders, community survey and online survey respondents and the Park Board all ranked trails among the top three priorities for outdoor amenities. The St. Charles community already has access to a number of bikeways through development supported by the Kane County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan which mapped existing and planned routes and added a policy to facilitate sidewalk construction to fill corridor gaps. As new trails are developed, the Park District should continue to be a partner in the plan updates and work to expand access to major Park District locations and assets whenever possible.

**Develop Prairie Centre Park**

- Conduct public meeting to guide park design
- Provide trail connections and amenities such as wayfinding signage, seating, fitness equipment, drinking fountains and bicycle racks if possible
- Provide unique regional amenities or amenities that the community is lacking:
  - Shelter
  - Seating areas
  - Tennis and/or pickleball courts

**Description**

The Prairie Centre development is planned for the former St. Charles Mall property located between Route 38 and Prairie Street along the center of the south edge of the Park District. The District will conduct a public meeting with the residents to determine the needs of the new neighbors and take into account other local recreational uses. It is likely that typical neighborhood park amenities such as a playground, shelter and walking trails will be considered for this park. Additionally, extra seating areas and pickleball courts may be appropriate as a portion of the development is planned as senior housing.
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Provide **Synthetic Turf Fields at East Side Sports Complex**
- Coordinate development and funding efforts with community groups
- Coordinate field locations with proposed Swim City Facility location

**Description**
The addition of synthetic turf fields as presented by all of the Connect Phase groups was typically ranked as a middle to low priority. The Park Board also presented the idea of developing a sports complex/tournament space which would include synthetic turf fields. East Side Sports Complex currently serves as the District’s primary field location for practices and games and is well-drained and easily accessible from main roads. There is already significant interest in synthetic turf at this location from the associated sports organizations who use the fields. As the Swim City Facility project develops and additional property is considered south of the park, the Park District will work with associated groups to determine the best location for synthetic turf fields.

**Master Plan** **Primrose Farm Park Renovation** to guide renovations, improvements and funding
- Replace outdated and damaged amenities
  - Basketball court
  - Volleyball court
  - Playground

**Description**
Primrose Farm Park is a large community park with a shelter, outdoor turf fields, basketball courts, softball fields, volleyball courts and tennis courts, however most of these amenities are in fair to poor condition with some completely unusable due to their deterioration and most are not accessible. This location also has vault toilets which are in good condition but do not meet the communities desire for flushable restrooms. The amenities in the worst condition are the basketball courts, volleyball courts and playground. Replacing these three items will drastically improve the overall quality of the park. This location may also be considered for an expanded internal trail system including better connections to Primrose Farm and additional volleyball courts to meet SCORP recommendations.
Evaluate need to **Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 13** between Country Club Road, Dunham Road and Route 25

- Evaluate opportunities to acquire land
- Establish inter-agency partnerships to provide equitable open space access
  - Planning Area 13 = 1,119 people (99.3%) unserved
  - 0 park acres in Planning Area 13

**Description**
Planning Area 13 is located in the middle to northern corner along the east edge of the Park District. Geographically, it is one of the largest planning areas and contains 1,119 (99.3%) underserved residents. Currently, the Park District does not provide any public open space in this area. There are two areas of open space provided by others in the planning area, Kane County Forest Preserve’s Brewster Creek Forest Preserve and the privately-owned St. Charles Country Club. While the Forest Preserve is public open space, it is located in the northern tip of the area and not accessible for the majority of residents. In addition to residential lots, there is a large area of agricultural land along the western edge of the Planning Area. The Park District may wish to watch for acquisition opportunities in this area due to the quantity of large, privately-owned areas of open space.

Evaluate need to **Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 3** north of Stearns Road and west of the Fox River

- Evaluate opportunities to acquire land
- Establish inter-agency partnerships to provide equitable open space access
  - Planning Area 3 = 1,381 people (100%) unserved
  - 0 park acres in Planning Area 3

**Description**
Planning Area 3 is located in the center of the northern edge of the Park District. The area is a mix of single-family residential and business and includes two subareas that have very few residents each. Approximately 1,381 residents are underserved in Planning Area 3 and there are 49 and 90 underserved residents in subareas 3A and 3B respectively. This is a total of 100% of residents underserved for all three areas. Although this population is completely underserved by the Park District, there are numerous other public open spaces within and adjacent to Planning Area 3. South Elgin Parks and Recreation Department has multiple properties in and near the boundary of this planning area (Tredup Park West, River Ridge Park, Sugar Creek Wetlands and Jim Henson Park) and the McLean Fen Forest Preserve offers walking trails immediately to the west of this area. It is likely that residents in this area use these other properties for recreation and do not need the St. Charles Park District to provide open space for this area. To best serve these residents the Park District should confirm that these residents’ parkland needs are being meet and form agreements or partnerships with the other providers to remove barriers of access, if any exist.
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Master Plan Neighborhood Park(s) A to guide renovations, improvements and funding

- Consider the following location(s):
  - Baker Field Park
  - Cambridge Park
  - Majestic Oaks Park
- Provide trail amenities that support trail use and improve visitor experiences including trail mile markers and wayfinding signage, seating, fitness equipment, drinking fountains, bicycle racks at key destinations and self-serve bike maintenance stations
- Construct trails and interpretive signage within undeveloped natural areas
- Connect natural area trails to existing trail systems
- Integrate river routes and trail systems to form a comprehensive blueway/greenway system

Description

During the Connect Phase, participants from every group prioritized park improvements as one of the most important initiatives. These improvements and updates should go beyond the typical replacement of damaged and outdated amenities and Annual Capital Plan maintenance items to incorporate large-scale changes. Improvements should be focused on the amenities and natural features most highly valued by the community including adding trails, providing access to natural areas, and showcasing the Fox River.

Due to the frequent changes in the recreation market, resident priorities and the Park District’s ability to invest resources, this action should be repeated on a regular basis, updating a few parks at a time, to ensure that the entire park system continues to meet resident expectations. The project team has suggested multiple high-priority parks that may be considered for the first location or group of locations to be renovated.

Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 6 between Silver Glen Road and Dean Street, west of Burr Road

- Evaluate opportunities to acquire Land
- Establish inter-agency partnerships to provide equitable open space access
  - Planning Area 6 = 1,002 people (91.3%) unserved
  - 0 park acres in Planning Area 6

Description

Planning Area 6 is located along the western edge of the center of the Park District. There are approximately 1,002 underserved people (91.3% of the population) in the area. There is no public open space in this area as the two Kane County Forest Preserve properties do not offer recreation amenities and there are no St. Charles Park District Parks. The Hawk Country Club is also located in Planning Area 6 but is a private provider. A small portion of residents are served by the one-mile radius of Primrose Farm Park in the adjacent planning area. If pedestrian-friendly access were to be provided, residents on the northeast edge of the area could also use Ferson Creek Elementary School in Planning Area 7. Additionally, a partnership with the Forest Preserve may allow for the addition of some recreation amenities in their properties for resident use.
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Master Plan Neighborhood Park(s) B to guide renovations, improvements and funding

- Consider the following location(s):
  - Charlemagne/Kingswood Park
  - River's Edge/Reserve Park
  - Surrey Hill Park

- Provide trail amenities that support trail use and improve visitor experiences including trail mile markers and wayfinding signage, seating, fitness equipment, drinking fountains, bicycle racks at key destinations and self-serve bike maintenance stations
- Construct trails and interpretive signage within undeveloped natural areas
- Connect natural area trails to existing trail systems
- Integrate river routes and trail systems to form a comprehensive blueway/greenway system

Description
During the Connect Phase, participants from every group prioritized park improvements as one of the most important initiatives. These improvements and updates should go beyond the typical replacement of damaged and outdated amenities and Annual Capital Plan maintenance items to incorporate large-scale changes. Improvements should be focused on the amenities and natural features most highly valued by the community including adding trails, providing access to natural areas, and showcasing the Fox River.

Due to the frequent changes in the recreation market, resident priorities and the Park District’s ability to invest resources, this action should be repeated on a regular basis, updating a few parks at a time, to ensure that the entire park system continues to meet resident expectations. The project team has suggested multiple high-priority parks that may be considered for the first location or group of locations to be renovated.

Complete Mt. St. Mary Park’s Entrance and Access Improvements

- Monitor opportunities for land acquisition to increase park frontage on Prairie Street
- Provide access to north parking lot from Geneva Road

Description
Mt. St. Mary Park is a frequently-visited and highly-iconic park. While the majority of visitors to the park are from the surrounding area, it was reported in the community survey that in the last 12 months 35% of respondents visited the park, many of whom are likely driving to it from other areas in the District. As a community park, it is considered a drive-to destination but suffers from small parking lots and unclear access from Prairie Street at the north end of the site. The park identification is limited to a small road sign only visible from the west, and there is no park identification sign for the north parking lot which is located behind a series of commercial buildings and the access road is indistinguishable from the commercial property.
Evaluate need to renovate **River View Miniature Golf**

**Description**
Although it was not given high priority, community members expressed some interest in updating the River View Miniature Golf Course. The course has been well-maintained but the layout and obstacles have not been changed in several years. A miniature golf course assessment to evaluate facility updates and funding priorities is planned for 2023.

Evaluate need to **Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 21** south of Lincoln Highway and Prairie street, west of the Fox River

- Evaluate opportunities to acquire land
- Establish inter-agency partnerships to provide equitable open space access
  - Planning Area 21 = 760 people (100%) unserved
  - 0 park acres in Planning Area 21

**Description**
Planning Area 21 is located in the southwest edge of the Park District and includes agricultural land, retail and a small amount of residential land use. The total population of this planning area is 760 people, all of whom are underserved. In addition to the other land uses, the northern portion of Breen Park South Soccer Fields is located in this planning area, but this private soccer facility is not available for public recreation. Active recreation is available across Lincoln Highway at James O. Breen Community Park and is proposed at the Route 38 Parcel, but there are currently no access points close to Planning Area 21, and there is no safe pedestrian route across the road.
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Evaluate **East Side Sports Complex Master Plan** for continued improvements

- Monitor land south of the existing park for future acquisition and development
- Consider location for amenities with a high regional draw such as:
  - Additional tournament level sports fields
    - Baseball/Softball
    - Soccer
  - Splash pad and specialty play facilities
  - Trails

**Description**

East Side Sports Complex is expected to undergo significant changes due to its selection as the site of the new Swim City Facility and as the Park District’s only synthetic turf fields. The park is designated as a community park and is one location that does not face the same parking challenges as the rest of the District. Additionally, there is an opportunity to significantly expand East Side Sports Complex through land acquisition. Several parcels of agricultural land to the south are expected to be put on the market in the near future. With this potential expansion and major changes to the site due to new development, a new master plan should be developed to guide future use. The community survey reported that only about 9% of the participants visited the park in the last 12 months, but park use can be expected to dramatically increase if a new facility and tournament-level sports fields are constructed. Given the potential increase in available land and visitation, East Side Sports Complex may be a good location for high-level improvements to the baseball and softball fields and for in-demand amenities such as splash pads, specialty play features and trails.

Evaluate need to **Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 7** between Silver Glen Road, East Dean Street, Crane Road and Burr Road

- Evaluate opportunities to acquire land
- Establish inter-agency partnerships to provide equitable open space access
  - Planning Area 7 = 709 people (76.5%) unserved
  - 304 park acres in Planning Area 7

**Description**

Located toward the west edge in the center of the Park District, Planning Area 7 has a large amount of open space. The Park District owns Primrose Farm Park, Primrose Farm and Otter Creek Bend Wetland Park within this area. There is a large Kane County Forest Preserve property in the southeast corner of the Planning Area and a smaller property between Primrose Farm and Otter Creek Bend Wetland Park. Despite this large quantity of public open land, 76.5% or 709 residents in this area are underserved. In order to determine true resident need, the Park District should determine what type of recreation is required in this planning area. If there is a need for active recreation amenities, the addition of sports courts, playing fields, playgrounds and shelters to existing properties, achieved through District agreements with the other landholders, will likely be able to meet this need without developing a new park.
Evaluate **Operational Transition of Paddlewheel Riverboats**

- Assess cost recovery
- Evaluate capacity to employ/train qualified staff

**Description**
A private company has been operating sightseeing tours on the Fox River since 1945. The company currently operates two paddlewheel riverboats out of Pottawatomie Park, and these have become a iconic part of the park’s character and the Fox River experience. In 2017, the current owners announced their intention to retire and approached the Park District about purchasing the boats and taking over operations. The Park Board approved the purchase to take place in late 2018 or early 2019. In order to operate the service, the Park District will need to hire or train staff with necessary certifications to operate the boats.

**Develop/Update Annual Capital Plan** to prioritize replacement of aging and outdated amenities

- Basketball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Playgrounds
- Shelters/pavilions

**Description**
The Park District currently owns and maintains 64 park and open space properties, most of which include some amount of recreation development. Every amenity is subject to gradual deterioration over time and has a useful life as determined by the NRPA. To maintain park quality, regular replacement of damaged or outdated amenities is required. These changes do not need to affect overall park function and can be accomplished by substituting the amenity with a newer version as part of the standard Annual Capital Plan process. Once the plan is updated, taking into account age and condition of the District’s amenities, it should be revisited annually to determine and plan for the next set of amenities to be replaced.
Evaluate Existing Parkland Dedication Ordinance

- Determine appropriate modifications to the City’s Parkland Dedication Ordinance, including:
  - Standard criteria for acceptable locations
  - Opportunities for trail and park connectivity
  - Parkland dedication or cash-in-lieu of practices

**Description**

Although the City of St. Charles is fairly well developed, there are still areas in the community available for residential development including two properties identified in 2018. Per the City’s existing parkland dedication ordinance, the Park District must receive some portion of the new development or the cash value of this land for development of a park to serve the surrounding residents. To ensure that the Park District is receiving a usable property, standards should be developed to ensure the appropriate size and shape, the suitability of the land for standard construction and easy access in at least one location when developing a new park. Additionally, due the large number of existing parks in some areas of the community, the District may wish to prioritize cash-in-lieu or select land to connect to existing properties or trails rather than acquire land to develop a new park.

Develop Regulations, Programs and Infrastructure to Improve Safety for Boaters

- Develop outreach and educational groups
- Post regulations at boat launches
- Direct distinct types of uses to separate locations
- Implement designated times for different boating use
- Partner with law enforcement to patrol areas of heavy use and challenging conditions
- Offer boating safety classes for all age groups and boating types

**Description**

The Fox River is a highly-valued and heavily-used resource for the St. Charles Community. Due to its popularity, there are multiple occasions of conflict of use. During the Connect Phase, stakeholders expressed serious concerns over the safety of the different types of boaters using the river, citing dangerous interactions between motorized and non-motorized boaters. Additionally, a common request received from all of the Connect Phase groups was a desire for increased access to and use of the river. With the increasing interest in the Fox River, additional measures are needed to ensure all residents have safe and equitable access without compromising the natural beauty and ecology of the river.

Evaluate Services to the Hispanic Community and other cultures within the community

- Develop and leverage a focus group of residents to provide insight
- Conduct public outreach to determine recreation and programming needs of this demographic

**Description**

As of 2017, 10.4% of the Park District was hispanic and census predictions estimate additional growth of this demographic. The census is also predicting an overall decline in white residents as all minority groups continue to grow. While the populations of each of these groups is currently small, future changes to the District’s cultural makeup may necessitate a different or greater variety of services to meet residents’ needs and interests.
Complete Annual Capital Plan Projects annually
- Update plan annually to determine infrastructure improvements and funding
- Construct projects from plan

Description
An Annual Capital Plan identifies small-scale repairs and replacements and designates funding sources to accomplish these items. The successful completion of the projects identified in the Plan will keep District amenities in good condition and allow the Park District to use other funds on large-scale improvements, renovations and new developments.

Update Master Plan for the next five years
- Conduct Master Plan update to determine future objectives, reflecting:
  - Completion and results of previous plan objectives
  - Major recreation market changes
  - Population and demographic changes
  - Fiscal climate

Description
The following Action Plan is a living document that is intended to provide a realistic and achievable set of goals for recreation development for the Park District over the next five years. The Action Plan should be updated annually while the Master Plan should be reviewed on a five-year cycle. Each update should take into account major changes in the Park District including the completion or delay of previous plan goals, market changes, population and demographics changes and the current fiscal capacity of the District.
Develop Policies that Promote Improving and Expanding Public Trail Systems

Description
The most common recreation activity in the Park District is trail use for walking, running, and biking. This is a growing national, state, and local activity that staff, stakeholders, community survey, and online survey respondents, and the Park Board all ranked among the top three priorities for outdoor amenities. While the St. Charles community already has access to a number of planned and existing bikeways, the District has the opportunity to support the extension of these systems and new routes. In addition to becoming involved in City trail plans and map updates, the District can prioritize trail development through its own properties and acquisition of new property to support this mission such as the planned Union Pacific Railroad property.

Document and Continue to Implement Green/Environmental Policies and Practices for park and facility improvements and projects

- Develop a manual to guide Green/Environmental Policies and Practices and track completed objectives and annual results
- Develop green building standards and achievable policies to guide indoor and outdoor renovations and development based on the results of the 2016 Community Survey and 2011 Comprehensive Master Plan. Consider items such as:
  - Building materials
  - Stormwater management
  - Alternative power (solar, wind, geothermal)
  - Organic turf maintenance
  - Alternative fuels/electric vehicles
- Audit existing facilities and ROI for potential renovations such as LED lighting
- Continue implementing energy efficient guidelines/requirements for equipment when undergoing replacement
- Continue implementing energy efficient guidelines or goals for significant renovation projects

Description
Environmental quality was a strong priority for many Park District residents. Numerous comments from stakeholders and community survey participants focused on both water quality and the maintenance of native plantings. Respondents in the online survey also remarked on the importance of environmental quality. When asked to rank the importance of green/sustainable strategies, every strategy listed was rated as “somewhat important” or “important” even if they required reallocating funding. The Park Board also prioritized green strategies in their workshop, stating that it should be an overarching goal that guides the implementation of all other goals and strategies. Given the strong support of incorporating environmental stewardship, the District should document a set of standard Best Management Practices to guide new development and renovations.
Policy Initiatives

Coordinate the **Comprehensive Master Plan Actions with the Amended River Corridor Plan**

**Description**
Due to the high use and popularity of recreation on the Fox River, the Park District partnered with the City of St. Charles and the Downtown St. Charles Partnership Incorporated to develop the River Corridor Master Plan in 2002 and the update in 2015. This plan assessed the existing resources, market conditions and community input around the Fox River Corridor to “create a lively riverfront environment that is the centerpiece of the community”. Future Park District development involving the Fox River should align with the goals and standards set by this plan and the interests of the other involved agencies.

Update **Park Design Criteria**

- Evaluate parking opportunities and preferences
- Address internal accessibility to park amenities
- Develop amenity and site furnishing standards

**Description**
During the Inventory and Analysis Phase, the Project Team observed many parks that had a disunited character and did not fit into the Park District’s brand. Site furnishings and identity signage is inconsistent throughout the District, using a variety of different styles and materials. Park signage is typically effective where it is located, but several sites have multiple entries that are unsigned or do not display the park name. Additionally, some of the undeveloped parks do not have any signage. All park properties should include a standard entry sign identifying the park name with a consistent size, materials, color palette and location near all main park points of access. Providing accessible access to park amenities should also be a priority to ensure all community members can participate in and spectate the recreation offerings. While ability to provide parking at some sites is beyond the District’s control, a vocabulary of preferred layouts and access points to serve different classifications of parks would help residents in locating and navigating the parks. Developing and implementing consistent standards for site furnishings and support features will allow the District to provide a variety of amenities and sites while maintaining a unified and easily-identifiable brand.
Recurring Items

Some strategies identified by the staff and project team are recurring items that should occur annually to help the District make operational decisions and guide future projects.

**Purpose**
In order to keep up with the fast-paced recreation market, it is important that agencies reassess their facilities, programs, staff, and users on a regular basis. This recurring self-reflection will help the Park District stay aware of changing demographics and industry trends and monitor their assets’ evolving strengths and weaknesses.

**Section Outline**
As with the Action Plan items, the Recurring Items are formatted as goals with corresponding strategies to achieve the desired outcomes.

Recurring Items:
- Monitor **Primrose Farm Structures for Further Deterioration**
- Monitor **Success of Norris Recreation Center Fitness and Exercise Space**
- Evaluate **Partnership Opportunities for Indoor Space Use**
- Improve **Pedestrian Crossings and Access to Nearby Parks**
- Strategically **Acquire Land from New Development** to serve new neighborhoods
- Provide **Additional Multi-Use Trails Within Parks** including looped and signed systems of varying distances and degrees of difficulty
- Add **New Trending and In-Demand Amenities**, coordinated with Park Master Plans and park renovations
- **Provide and Increase Park Amenities for Specific Demographics** located at key park locations in coordination with development of trending amenities
- **Monitor Resident Service in Planning Area 1** in the northwest region of the Park District for future acquisition
- **Address Activities for Demographics** including the growing senior population, young adults, intergenerational groups and potential underserved teens
- **Improve Environmental Conditions Along the River and Near Natural Areas**
- **Develop/Update Annual Capital Plan**
Monitor **Primrose Farm Structures for Further Deterioration**

Monitor **Success of Norris Recreation Center Fitness and Exercise Space**

Evaluate **Partnership Opportunities for Indoor Space Use**

Improve **Pedestrian Crossings and Access to Nearby Parks**

Strategically **Acquire Land from New Development** to serve new neighborhoods
- The quality of the land
- Connectivity to other green space/trails/parkland
- Future development plans

Provide **Additional Multi-use Trails Within Parks** including looped and signed systems of varying distances and degrees of difficulty
- Primrose Farm Park
- James O. Breen Community Park
- Route 38 Parcel
- Delnor Woods Park
- River Bend Community Park

Add **New Trending and In-Demand Amenities**, coordinated with Park Master Plans and park renovations
- Biking and walking trails
- Hiking and nature trails with educational stations
- Splash pads
- Specialty play facilities (nature based, fitness, and adventure-based play/recreation)
- Bike parks and pump track systems
- Water access/non-motorized boating
- Outdoor ice rink
- Pickleball courts
Provide and Increase Park Amenities for Specific Demographics located at key park locations in coordination with development of trending amenity off...
Overview
Chapter Two outlines the 5-Year Action Plan with proposed tasks and projects for the St. Charles Park District.

Purpose
This Chapter outlines the steps and potential timeline for implementing the Master Plan strategies identified in Chapter One. They were further refined and finalized through workshops with the Park Board and staff to develop the Action Plan. This plan is to act as a guide to assist the District in implementing the strategies over the next five years and will be periodically re-evaluated and adjusted to reflect completed projects and the community’s changing needs. The Action Plan is organized by fiscal year into quarters (Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4) to provide a general idea of when each action item step might occur within a given year. Each action item is also coded as a Facility, Park and Open Space, or Planning and Program.

Detailed descriptions of each action item and corresponding strategies can be found in the previous chapter.

Ordering Criteria
To help determine when each item should be implemented within the 5-Year Action Plan, the following criteria were considered:

- **Current Planned Initiative**: It is a project that is already in progress or has recommended Annual Capital Plan funding
- **Meets Recreation Need/Interest**: It provides for a need or interest identified from the Connect Phase findings
- **Age/Condition**: A facility or amenity is at or nearing the end of its useful life or is in declining condition
- **Availability/Utilization**: An offering, facility or amenity has limited availability and/or is highly used
- **Attainability**: Considers the District’s financial and staff resources to accomplish certain projects over a five-year period
- **Priority Ranking**: Priority score as provided by staff and the Park Board
- **Additional Data Required**: More detailed information is needed concerning indoor space, market or program needs to inform the required investments
## Five-Year Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1 - 2019</th>
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<td>January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Restrooms</td>
<td>Address Conditions of Facility for Hickory Knolls Discovery Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; Renovations for Norris Recreation Center</td>
<td>Address Conditions of Facility for Primrose Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restrooms at Norris Recreation Center</td>
<td>Address Conditions of Facility for Pottawatomie Community Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan for Additional Indoor Aquatics Space</td>
<td>Design and Engineer Swim City Facility by Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Sportsplex, Cosmetic, Parking, &amp; ADA Updates</td>
<td>Conduct Indoor Space Needs Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design and Engineer Swanson Pool Locker Rooms</td>
<td>Bid and Construct Swanson Pool Locker Rooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master Plan Otter Cove Aquatic Park Splash Park Updates</td>
<td>Evaluate Incorporating an All-Inclusive Playground in the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Route 38 Parcel Master Plan</td>
<td>Master Plan Pottawatomie Park Improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Funding for Acquisition of U. P. Railroad Property</td>
<td>Design and Engineer U. P. Railroad Property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operational Transition of Paddlewheel Riverboats</td>
<td>Evaluate Existing Parkland Dedication Ordinance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop/Update Annual Capital Plan - Projects</td>
<td>Develop Regulations Programs, and Infrastructure to Improve Safety for Boaters</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kane County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update</td>
<td>Restrooms at Primrose Farm Park and Primrose Farm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plan Parking Improvements &amp; Additions at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master Plan Timber Trails Park Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide Synthetic Turf Fields at East Side Sports Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design and Engineer Pottawatomie Park Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design &amp; Route 38 Parcel Master Plan - Phase 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design &amp; Engineer Prairie Centre Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate Services to the Hispanic Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Five-Year Action Plan

#### Year 3 - 2021
- **January**
  - Update Original Section of Pottawatomie Community Center
- **February**
  - Master Plan Primrose Farm & Indoor Space Structure Renovation
  - Design & Engineer Primrose Farm Indoor Space Structure Renovation
- **March**
  - Bid & Construct Primrose Farm Indoor Space Structure Renovation
- **April**
  - Bid & Construct Primrose Farm Indoor Space Structure Renovation
  - Design and Engineer Primrose Farm Park Renovation
  - Fund Primrose Farm Park Renovation
- **May**
  - Design and Engineer Primrose Farm Park Renovation
- **June**
  - Bid and Construct Primrose Farm Park Renovation
  - Design and Engineer Primrose Farm Park Renovation
- **July**
  - Fund Primrose Farm Park Renovation
  - Design and Engineer Primrose Farm Park Renovation
  - Master Plan Neighborhood Park(s) A
  - Fund Neighborhood Park(s) A
  - Design and Engineer Neighborhood Park(s) A
  - Bid and Construct Neighborhood Park(s) A
- **August**
  - Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 3
- **September**
  - Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 13
- **October**
  - Master Plan Neighborhood Park(s) A
  - Fund Neighborhood Park(s) A
  - Design and Engineer Neighborhood Park(s) A
  - Bid and Construct Neighborhood Park(s) A
- **November**
  - Update Master Plan for the Next Five Years

#### Year 4 - 2022
- **January**
  - Address Conditions of Facility for Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay
- **February**
  - Bid & Construct Primrose Farm Indoor Space Structure Renovation
- **March**
  - Design and Engineer Primrose Farm Park Renovation
  - Fund Primrose Farm Park Renovation
  - Design and Engineer Primrose Farm Park Renovation
  - Master Plan Neighborhood Park(s) B
  - Fund Neighborhood Park(s) B
  - Design and Engineer Neighborhood Park(s) B
  - Bid and Construct Neighborhood Park(s) B
- **April**
  - Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 21
  - Evaluate East Side Sports Complex Master Plan
  - Fund East Side Sports Complex Master Plan
  - Design and Engineer Neighborhood Park(s) B
- **May**
  - Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 6
- **June**
  - Update Master Plan for the Next Five Years
- **July**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **August**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **September**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
- **October**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
- **November**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
- **December**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements

#### Year 5 - 2023
- **January**
  - Replace Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay
- **February**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **March**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **April**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **May**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **June**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **July**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **August**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **September**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **October**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **November**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- **December**
  - Design and Engineer Mt. St. Mary Park's Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
5+ Years

Plan for a New Facility to Accommodate Additional Indoor Space Needs
Bid and construct Neighborhood Park(s)
Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 7
Bid and Construct U. P. Railroad Property
Complete East Side Sports Complex Master Plan
Bid and Construct Mt. St. Mary Park’s Entrance and Access Improvements

Policy

Develop Policies that Promote Improving and Expanding Public Trail Systems
Document and Continue to Implement Green/Environmental Policies and Practices
Coordinate the Comprehensive Master Plan Actions with the Amended River Corridor Plan
Update Park Design Criteria

Recurring Items

Monitor Primrose Farm Structures for further deterioration
Monitor success of Norris Center fitness and exercise spaces
Evaluate Partnership Opportunities for Indoor Space Use
Strategically Acquire Land from New Development to serve new neighborhoods
Provide Additional Multi-use Trails Within Parks
Monitor resident service in Planning Area 1
Add New Trending and In-demand Amenities
Provide and Increase Park Amenities for Specific Demographics
Address Activities for Demographics
Update Annual Capital Plan

Legend

- Facilities
- Planning and Programs
- Parks and Open Space
- Policy
- Plan Updates
Current Objectives (Current through December 2018)

**FACILITIES**

- Mt. St. Mary Park Restrooms
  - Design and engineer
- Address needed Repairs and Renovations for Norris Recreation Center
- Improve, update and/or add Restrooms at Norris Recreation Center
- Plan for Additional Indoor Aquatics Space including competitive and leisure activity
- Swim City Facility
  - Master plan
  - Fund
- Complete Sportsplex Cosmetic, Parking and ADA Updates
- Swanson Pool Locker Room
  - Design and engineer

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**

- Master Plan Otter Cove Aquatic Park Slash Park Updates
- Route 38 Parcel Master Plan
  - Master plan
- Union Pacific Railroad Property (U. P. Railroad Property)
  - Complete funding for acquisition

**PLANNING AND PROGRAMS**

- Evaluate Operational Transition of Paddlewheel Riverboats
- Develop/Update Annual Capital Plan Projects
Fiscal Year 1  (January Through December 2019)

**FACILITIES**
- Address Conditions of facility for Hickory Knolls Discovery Center
- Mt. St. Mary Park Restrooms
  - Bid and construct
- Address conditions of facility for Primrose Farm
- Address conditions of facility for Pottawatmie Community Center
- Swim City Facility
  - Design and engineer
  - Bid and construct
- Conduct Indoor Space Needs Study
- Swanson Pool Locker Rooms
  - Bid and construct

**Policy**
- Evaluate Incorporating an All-inclusive Playground in the Community

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**
- Complete Pottawatomie Park Improvements
  - Master plan
  - Fund
- Route 38 Parcel Master Plan
  - Develop funding strategy
  - Finalize lease with state
- Union Pacific Railroad Property (U. P. Railroad Property)
  - Design and engineer
- Develop Anthem Heights Park
  - Conduct public meeting
  - Design and engineer

**PLANNING AND PROGRAMS**
- Evaluate Existing Parkland Dedication Ordinance
- Develop Regulations, Programs and Infrastructure to Improve Safety for Boaters
Fiscal Year 2 (January Through December 2020)

FACILITIES
- Renovate Sportsplex based on results of Indoor Space Needs Study
- Improve, update and/or add Restrooms at Primrose Farm Park and Primrose Farm

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
- Participate in development of Kane County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update
- Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 11
- Parking Improvements and Additions at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center
  - Plan
  - Fund
  - Design and engineer
- Complete Timber Trails Park Improvements
  - Master plan
  - Fund
- Provide Synthetic Turf Fields at East Side Sports Complex
- Complete Pottawatomie Park Improvements
  - Design and engineer
  - Bid and construct
- Route 38 Parcel Master Plan
  - Design and engineer
  - Bid and construct
- Union Pacific Railroad Property (U. P. Railroad Property)
  - Design and engineer
  - Fund
- Develop Prairie Centre Park
  - Conduct public meeting
  - Design and engineer
  - Bid and construct
- Develop Anthem Heights Park
  - Complete design and engineer
  - Bid and construct

PLANNING AND PROGRAMS
- Evaluate Services to the Hispanic Community
Fiscal Year 3 (January Through December 2021)

FACILITIES

• Update original section of Pottawatomie Community Center based on results of the Indoor Space Needs Study
• Primrose Farm Indoor Space Structure and Renovation
  • Master plan
  • Fund
  • Design and engineer
• Improve, update and/or add Restrooms at Primrose Farm Park and Primrose Farm
  • Complete construction
• Improve, update and/or add Restrooms at Pottawatomie Community Center

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

• Primrose Farm Park Renovation
  • Master plan
  • Fund
  • Design and engineer
• Bid and construct Parking Improvements and Additions at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center
• Complete Timber Trails Park Improvements
  • Design and engineer
  • Bid and construct
• Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 13
• Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 3
• Union Pacific Railroad Property (U. P. Railroad Property)
  • Fund
• Neighborhood Park(s) A
  • Master plan
• Develop Prairie Centre Park
  • Complete construction
Fiscal Year 4 (January Through December 2022)

FACILITIES
- Address Conditions of Facility for Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay
- Primrose Farm Indoor Space Structure and Renovation
  - Design and engineer
  - Bid and construct

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
- Primrose Farm Park Renovation
  - Design and engineer
  - Bid and construct
- Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 6
- Neighborhood Park(s) A
  - Fund
  - Design and engineer
- Neighborhood Parks(s) B
  - Master plan
Fiscal Year 5 (January Through December 2023)

**FACILITIES**
- Replace Golf and Parks Maintenance Bay (if approved)

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**
- Mt. St. Mary Park’s Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Design and engineer
- Evaluate the need to renovate River View Miniature Golf
- Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 21
- East Side Sports Complex Master Plan
  - Evaluate for continued improvements
  - Fund
- Neighborhood Park(s) B
  - Fund
  - Design and engineer
- Neighborhood Park(s) A
  - Design and engineer
  - Bid and construct

**PLAN UPDATES**
- Update Master Plan for the next five years
5+ Years

**FACILITIES**
- Plan for New Facility to Accommodate Additional Indoor Space Needs

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**
- Neighborhood Park(s) B
  - Bid and construct
- Evaluate need to Provide Additional Parkland in Planning Area 7
- Union Pacific Railroad Property (U. P. Railroad Property)
  - Bid and construct
- East Side Sports Complex Master Plan
  - Fund
  - Design and engineer
  - Bid and construct
- Mt. St. Mary Park’s Entrance and Access Improvements
  - Bid and construct
CHAPTER Three

Analyze: Inventory and Analysis
Overview

Chapter Three includes the Analyze: Inventory and Analysis Phase including descriptions and illustrations of the existing conditions of the Park District, showing a basic understanding of the District’s assets and programs.

Purpose
This Chapter documents the inventory and analysis accomplished during the Analyze Phase of the planning process. This Phase describes the context in which the District operates, the recreation services they provide, and the patrons that use the parks, facilities, services and programs.

This Chapter defines the community’s demographic context and provides detailed maps that identify District parks, trails and other relevant land uses. It includes the Level of Service analysis for parks and facilities, comparing the District’s total acreage of parks, open space and indoor facility square footage to local, state and national benchmarks. A distribution mapping analysis of the geographic location of parks provides insight into potential surpluses or deficiencies the District has in terms of parks, open space and facilities.

Chapter Outline
- Demographics
- Existing Conditions
- Trail and Bike Route Inventory
- Asset Inventory
- Park Classifications
- Park & Open Space Inventory Matrix
- Indoor Facility Inventory Matrix
- Level of Service Analysis
- Acreage
- Distribution
- Mini Park Distribution Analysis
- Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis
- Community Park Distribution Analysis
- School Park Distribution Analysis
- Overall Park Distribution Analysis
- Trail Distribution Analysis
- Amenities
- Facility Square Footage
- Recreation Assessment

This Chapter concludes with detailed inventories of each park and facility that include site observations, amenity inventories, site images and aerial photos.
Demographics

The demographics review used the ESRI’s Business Analyst Online (BAO) software to gather up-to-date demographic data necessary to gain an understanding of the District and its context.

Summary
According to 2017 estimates, the Park District serves a population of 51,205. Total population numbers from 2010 indicate the population is growing at an annual rate of 0.30%. The population is expected to continue growing into 2022, when the population is projected to reach 51,980. The District’s growth is nearly double the state growth rate (0.17%), but is only less than half that of the national rate (0.83%).

There are 18,228 households within the Park District’s boundaries. According to the U.S. Census, a household “includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.” Out of these households 72.8% (13,275) are families. A family is defined as a household in which one or more people are related to the household by birth, marriage, or adoption. The average household size is 2.74. This is consistent from 2010 (2.72), and the number is projected to change slightly by 2020 (2.75).

Age Distribution
With a median age of 41.0, the Park District has a mature, aging population. According to 2017 estimates, 29.3% of the population is over the age of 55. This is projected to increase to 32.9% by 2022. This age group’s growth mirrors that of the state and national trends. The aging, active adult and senior populations are, and will continue to be, a major District demographic. Since 2010, all age groups under 20 have decreased in population. This trend, which is expected to continue into 2022, will likely lead to a continued decrease in school district enrollment and the consolidation of school resources.

Race and Ethnicity
According to ESRI, the Park District has a diversity index of 22.5. The diversity index captures the racial and ethnic diversity of a geographic area in a single number, 0 to 100, and allows for efficient analysis of diversity throughout the U.S. The diversity index is “the likelihood that two persons, selected at random from the same area, would belong to a different race or ethnic group.” According to demographic estimates, 87.8% of Park District residents indicate their race as White, which results in a low diversity index. The largest minority group within the District’s boundaries are Asian Americans with 4.3% of the population reporting their race as “Asian Alone”. 3.4% report as “Some Other Race Alone”, 2.3% report as “Black”, and 2.0% report as “Two or More Races”. The remaining 0.3% of the population reported their race as American Indian alone (0.2%) or as Pacific Islander (0.1%). Additionally, 10.4% of the population identify as Hispanic in addition to the race they reported as.
More than 17% of Park District households earn more than $200,000 per year, over double the state and national median incomes. While a large portion of the population is affluent, 9.1% of the population makes less than the poverty line of $25,000 per year as defined by Illinois Legal Aid. Although this is far lower than the state and national percentages (20.4% and 21.5% respectively), it is still a significant number of residents. Median household incomes are expected to increase by an annual rate of 1.41% to $108,502 by 2022.
Existing Conditions

The first step in the planning process is to understand the Park District’s surroundings and the existing conditions of the District’s assets including land use, open space and trails.

Land Use
Approximately half of the Park District is located within the City of St. Charles Zoning District and predominantly consists of residentially-zoned property. Most lots are designated for single-family homes with small pockets of multi-family development scattered throughout the District’s southeast corner and concentrated in downtown St. Charles. The remaining land uses are a mix of business, limited manufacturing and public land. While public and commercial land is located throughout the City, industrial and manufacturing uses are concentrated along the edges of the District. There are also large areas of agricultural and undeveloped land to the northwest. The City of St. Charles Zoning Map can be found in the Appendix.

Open Space Providers
The Park District is one of many open space and outdoor recreation providers within the community. The Forest Preserve Districts of Kane and DuPage Counties provide regional active and passive recreation opportunities while preserving significant open space assets. School Districts also provide outdoor recreation opportunities at elementary, middle and high school properties, some of which are managed by the St. Charles Park District. Private agencies provide pay-to-play opportunities such as golf courses. The map on the next page displays public and private open spaces within the Park District.

Public Open Space
Park District, Municipal, Forest Preserve District, State, Federal
The Park District owns and/or manages more than 1,450 acres of active and passive open space. Combined, the Forest Preserve Districts of Kane and DuPage Counties own 133 acres of open space within the District’s boundaries. Some of the forest preserve open space is owned and managed in partnership with the Park District. There are also several South Elgin parks within the St. Charles Park District’s boundaries.

Institutional Open Space
Elementary, Middle, and High Schools; Colleges / Universities
There are two school districts serving Park District residents, District 303 and District U-46. Nearly 450 acres of public and private school open space is available to Park District residents. The Park District manages 2.4 acres of public school outdoor space through lease agreements.

Private Open Space
There are three privately-owned golf courses within the Park District boundaries and one homeowner’s association park. The Royal Fox, The Royal Hawk and the St. Charles Country Clubs each offer 18-hole golf courses and other outdoor recreation amenities. The Thornwood Neighborhood offers a playground, shelter and walking trails to their residents. There are also five cemeteries within the District’s boundaries.
Trail and Bike Route Inventory

The trail and bike route inventory map illustrates the existing and proposed bike trails as indicated in the 2005 update of the St. Charles Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan.

Existing Trails and Bike Routes

District residents currently have access to many bike trails and lanes within the District’s boundaries.

Dedicated bike lanes, trails and shared-use routes, run through the center of the Park District at the following locations:

- Along Randall Road
- Along Weber Road
- Along Silver Glen Road and Route 31
- Along Kirk Road
- On both river banks south of Pottawatomie Park

The existing trails serve major destinations throughout the Park District including:

- LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve
- Blackhawk Forest Preserve
- Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve
- Norris Woods Nature Preserve
- Mt. St. Mary Park
- Pottawatomie Park
- Wredling Middle School
- St. Charles High School East

Other trails and lanes exist throughout the District for short distances, the most notable of which are located through Timber Trails Park, Delnor Woods Park and Fox Chase Park.

Proposed Trails and Bike Routes

The City of St. Charles adopted the St. Charles Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan in January 2002 and updated the maps in 2005. The objective of the plan is to document the existing bicycle and pedestrian system linkage, design and maintenance, and to identify gaps in the system and locations for improvements.

The map on the next page illustrates areas of priority for the proposed bicycle network by establishing necessary links between existing amenities as listed in the plan. The proposed trails and bike routes will extend access to major destinations, neighboring villages, transit routes and regional trails.

The Illinois Prairie Path Elgin Branch regional bike trail also runs through the northeast corner of the Park District.
NRPA recommends creating a park classification system to serve as a guide for organizing an agency’s parks. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Classification Guidelines are expressions of the minimum amount and development of land a community should provide for different classifications or types of parks, open space and greenways.

Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, Large Urban Park and Sports Complexes are the six classifications for parks recognized by the NRPA. Commonly, School Parks serve similar functions as Neighborhood Parks and Large Urban Parks while Sports Complexes are included in the Community Park category.

These categories are based on size, function and use. Mini Parks are the smallest and most limited in function, while Community Parks are typically the largest parks of a system and serve a variety of functions for the community. Other open space categories recognized by the NRPA are Natural Areas, Trails, Corridors and Linear Parks, and Special Use Site. Undeveloped Parks are sites not yet developed for meaningful access. This category is recognized for planning purposes, but is not an NRPA category. Additionally, School Parks are not an NRPA category but are listed due to the intergovernmental agreement between the Park and School Districts.

These classifications are vital to a comprehensive Level of Service Analysis. In the park and open space matrix on the following pages, amenities were quantified to understand the District’s total recreational offerings.

The District’s indoor space was also categorized by the type of facility and/or use. The facility open space inventory follows the park and open space inventory. It categorizes the District’s facilities by condition and identifies the total administration, recreation and support space allocations within each facility.

Each building was ranked excellent, above average, average or poor determined in conjunction with the managing staff at each facility. The following conditions were considered when determining the rank of each building: interior/furniture/finishes, HVAC, plumbing/fire protection, electrical, roof, building exterior/windows/doors, security and ADA compliance.
## PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>General Description</th>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Size Criteria</th>
<th>St. Charles Park District Parks and Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mini Parks* (M)</td>
<td>Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience. Appropriate elements in these parks include playgrounds, picnic areas and seating. These parks usually do not include parking. Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.</td>
<td>Less than 0.25 mile distance in a residential setting</td>
<td>Between 1.3 and 2.5 acres in size</td>
<td>Artesian Springs Park, Baker Memorial Park, Dunham Pond, Fairview Park, Hazeltine Park, Kane/Woodlawn Playground, Kehoe Park, Lincoln Park, Moody Park, Red Gate Park, Regency Estates Park, Taly Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks* (N)</td>
<td>Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and are generally designed for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces. Elements in these parks often include playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and trail systems. Neighborhood Parks serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.</td>
<td>0.25 to 0.5 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers</td>
<td>1.9 to 10.5 acres in size is typical</td>
<td>Baker Field Park, Belgium Town Park, Cambridge Park, Charlemagne/Kingswood Park, Cranston Meadows Park, Davis Park, Delnor Woods Park, Harvest Hills Park, Hunt Club Park, Majestic Oaks Park, Majestic Oaks Playground, Renaux Manor Park, River’s Edge/Reserve Park, Rotary Park, Surrey Hill Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks* (C)</td>
<td>Community Parks focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. These parks preserve unique landscapes, and often serve the community as gathering places and for general athletics. Elements in these parks include playgrounds, pavilions, trails and path systems, multiple sport courts and fields. These parks serve a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.</td>
<td>0.5 to 3 mile distance and determined by the quality and suitability of the site; usually serves two or more neighborhoods</td>
<td>As needed to accommodate desired uses; usually a minimum of 20 acres.</td>
<td>East Side Sports Complex, Ferson Creek Park, Fox Chase Park, James O. Breen Community Park, Langum Park, Mt. St. Mary Park, Pottawatomie Park, Primrose Farm Park, River Bend Community Park, Timber Trails Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Areas*</td>
<td>Natural Areas include conservation and wildlife areas, wooded areas and waterways that are maintained for the most part in their natural state.</td>
<td>Service radius is unlimited</td>
<td>No applicable standard</td>
<td>Ferson Creek Fen Nature Preserve, Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, Hunt Club Wetland, Kingswood Wetland, Majestic Oaks Wetland, Norris Woods Nature Preserve, Otter Creek Bend Wetland Park, Persimmon Woods, Royal Fox Wetland, Williams Wetland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Use*</td>
<td>Special Use sites focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. Often, these spaces, both indoor and outdoor, are designed as single-use recreation activities. Examples of special use facilities include golf courses, nature centers, recreation centers and museums. Generally designed for active recreation and focus on meeting community based recreation needs.</td>
<td>No applicable standard</td>
<td>Variable, depending on desired amenity</td>
<td>Boy Scout Island, Otter Cove Aquatic Park, Pottawatomie Golf Course, Primrose Farm, River View Miniature Golf Course, Swanson Pool, Valley View Recreation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails, Corridors and Linear Parks/ Greenways*</td>
<td>Trails, corridors and linear parks effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.</td>
<td>Resource availability and opportunity</td>
<td>No applicable standard</td>
<td>Fox Chase Park East Entrance, Fox Chase Park West Entrance, Randall Road Bike Trail, Riverside/Buie Park, Route 31 Bike Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undeveloped Park</td>
<td>Undeveloped Parks are lands owned by the agency, but not yet developed with any amenities to provide meaningful access to the site such as trails, seating areas and other passive and/or active recreation amenities.</td>
<td>No applicable standard</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Aintree Park, Route 38 Property (formally Department of Corrections Property), Five Islands Park, Seminary Road Parcel, Steeplechase Detention</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Park (S)</td>
<td>The St. Charles Park District has an agreement with Community Unit School District 303 in which the Park District manages the playgrounds of the elementary schools and the tennis courts at Thompson Middle School. These amenities are the only outdoor opens space maintained by the Park District on school property.</td>
<td>0.25 to 0.5 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers</td>
<td>Specified amenities only</td>
<td>Anderson Elementary School, Davis Primary School, Ferson Creek Elementary School, Fox Ridge Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, Munhall Elementary School, Richmond Intermediate School, Thompson Middle School, Wild Rose Elementary School</td>
</tr>
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*NRPA’s Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines
### Park & Open Space Inventory Matrix

#### Mini Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mini Park</th>
<th>Acreage - Own</th>
<th>Acreage - Lease / Manage</th>
<th>Regional Trail Access</th>
<th>Multi-Use Trails (miles)</th>
<th>Indoor Program / Support Facility</th>
<th>Restrooms</th>
<th>Concessions</th>
<th>Fitness Stations</th>
<th>Dog Park</th>
<th>Picnic Shelter</th>
<th>Playground</th>
<th>Day Use Amenities</th>
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**Total Acreage: 23.3**
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<tr>
<td>Natural Area / Gardens</td>
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</table>

| Acreage - Own | Acreage - Lease / Manage | Regional Trail Access | Multi-Use Trails (miles) | Indoor Program / Support Facility | Restrooms | Concessions | Fitness Stations | Dog Park | Picnic Shelter | Playground | Basketball | Baseball | Softball | Multi-use fields | Disc Golf (holes) | Football / Rugby | Golf Course (holes) | Golf Driving Range | Horseshoe Pit | Lacrosse | Pickleball Court | Skate Park | Soccer | Tennis Court | Bocce Game | Bocce Ball Court | Volleyball Court | Swimming Facility | Splash Pad | Ice Skating | Sled Hill | Boat Launch | Fishing | Creek / River / Open Water | Natural Area / Gardens |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|----------|-----------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|---------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|----------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1             | 1                       |                      |                          |                                 |           |             |                  |          |                 |            |            |            |          |               |                     |                  |                    |                    |                  |                 |         |               |           |              |             |                    |                      |
| 1             |                         |                      |                          |                                 |           |             |                  |          |                 |            |            |            |          |               |                     |                  |                    |                    |                  |                 |         |               |           |              |             |                    |                      |
| 1             |                         |                      |                          |                                 |           |             |                  |          |                 |            |            |            |          |               |                     |                  |                    |                    |                  |                 |         |               |           |              |             |                    |                      |
| 1             |                         |                      |                          |                                 |           |             |                  |          |                 |            |            |            |          |               |                     |                  |                    |                    |                  |                 |         |               |           |              |             |                    |                      |
| 1             |                         |                      |                          |                                 |           |             |                  |          |                 |            |            |            |          |               |                     |                  |                    |                    |                  |                 |         |               |           |              |             |                    |                      |
### Neighborhood Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Acreage (Acres)</th>
<th>Regional Trail Access</th>
<th>Multi-Use Trail Access (miles)</th>
<th>Indoor Program / Support Facility</th>
<th>Restrooms</th>
<th>Concessions</th>
<th>Fitness Stations</th>
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<th>Picnic Shelter</th>
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**Neighborhood Park Acreage**: 139.0 9.4 148.5

### Community Parks

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<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Acreage (Acres)</th>
<th>Regional Trail Access</th>
<th>Multi-Use Trail Access (miles)</th>
<th>Indoor Program / Support Facility</th>
<th>Restrooms</th>
<th>Concessions</th>
<th>Fitness Stations</th>
<th>Dog Park</th>
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**Community Park Acreage**: 383.5 128.7 512.2

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*GREY CELLS REPRESENT THE SECONDARY PURPOSE SERVED BY AMENITIES THAT ARE COUNTED BY THEIR PRIMARY USE*

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<th>Total Park District Park Holdings</th>
<th>Acreage (Acres)</th>
<th>Regional Trail Access</th>
<th>Multi-Use Trail Access (miles)</th>
<th>Indoor Program / Support Facility</th>
<th>Restrooms</th>
<th>Concessions</th>
<th>Fitness Stations</th>
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<td>Water-Based Amenities</td>
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<td>Basketball</td>
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### Neighborhood Parks

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<th>Restrooms</th>
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*Grey cells represent the secondary purpose served by amenities that are counted by their primary use.*
### OTHER DISTRICT OPEN SPACE & FACILITIES

**Natural Areas**

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<th>Concessions</th>
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Total Natural Area Acreage: **392.1**

**Special Use**

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Total Special Use Acreage: **200.2**

**Trails, Corridors, and Linear Parks / Greenways**

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<td>6.5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Trails, Corridors, and Linear Park Acreage: **11.5**

Total Acreage: **5.6**

---

*VVRC is under a 25 year lease with Rivers Head Start and unavailable for public use.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORTS COURTS AND AMENITIES</th>
<th>WATER-BASED AMENITIES</th>
<th>NATURAL FEATURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Swimming Facility</td>
<td>Creek / River / Open Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Splash Pad</td>
<td>Natural Area / Gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Ice Skating</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-use fields</td>
<td>Sled Hill</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disc Golf (holes)</td>
<td>Boot Launch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf Course (holes)</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Driving Range</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Horse Racing Pit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lacrosse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pickball Court</td>
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<td>Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis Court</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bocce Ball Court</td>
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<td>Volleyball Court</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Area Acreage</th>
<th>Special Use Acreage</th>
<th>Other District Open Space &amp; Facilities</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL USE AMENITIES</th>
<th></th>
<th>Trailing, Corridors, and Linear Parks / Greenways</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Island</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Cove Aquatic Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pottawatomie Golf Course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primrose Farm</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River View Miniature Golf</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swanson Swimming Pool</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley View Recreation</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAILS, CORRIDORS, AND LINEAR PARKS / GREENWAYS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox Chase Park East Entrance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fox Chase Park West Entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randall Road Bike Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverside/Buie Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Route 31 Bike Trail</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL, CORRIDOR AND LINEAR PARK ACREAGE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeveloped Park</td>
<td>ACREAGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acres - Own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Aintree Park</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Route 38 Parcel</td>
<td>89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Five Islands Park</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Seminary Road Parcel</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Steeplechase Detention</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Undeveloped Park Acreage</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Park</th>
<th>ACREAGE</th>
<th>TRAILS</th>
<th>INDOOR FACILITIES</th>
<th>DAY USE AMENITIES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acres - Own</td>
<td>Acres - Lease / Manage</td>
<td>Regional Trail Access</td>
<td>Multi-Use Trails (miles)</td>
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<td>1 Anderson Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Davis Primary School</td>
<td>0.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Ferson Creek Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Fox Ridge Elementary School</td>
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<td>5 Lincoln Elementary School</td>
<td>0.03</td>
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<td>6 Munhall Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Richmond Intermediate School</td>
<td>0.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Thompson Middle School</td>
<td>0.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Wild Rose Elementary School</td>
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<td><strong>Undeveloped Park Acreage</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.0</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL PARK DISTRICT OPEN SPACE</th>
<th>ACREAGE</th>
<th>TRAILS</th>
<th>INDOOR FACILITIES</th>
<th>DAY USE AMENITIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1455.5</td>
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<td>23.62</td>
<td>7 16 5 13 3 34 57</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEYOND USEFUL LIFE AMENITIES AT CURRENT STANDARDS</th>
<th>0 0 0 0 0 0 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
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</table>
## Sports Courts and Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basketball</th>
<th>Baseball</th>
<th>Softball</th>
<th>Multi-use Fields</th>
<th>Disc Golf (holes)</th>
<th>Football / Rugby</th>
<th>Golf Courses (holes)</th>
<th>Golf Driving Range</th>
<th>Horsehoe Pit</th>
<th>Lacrosse</th>
<th>Pickleball Court</th>
<th>Skate Park</th>
<th>Soccer</th>
<th>Tennis Court</th>
<th>Bocce Cart</th>
<th>Bocce Ball Court</th>
<th>Volleyball Court</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Water-Based Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Swimming Facility</th>
<th>Splash Pad</th>
<th>Ice Skating</th>
<th>Snow Hill</th>
<th>Boat Launch</th>
<th>Fishing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Natural Features

- Creek, River, Open Water
- Natural Area, Gardens

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### Undeveloped Park Acreage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park 1</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 2</td>
<td>89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 3</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 6</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Undeveloped Park Acreage Beyond Useful Life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park 10</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 11</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 12</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park 13</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park 16</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 17</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 18</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 19</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Park District Open Space

1,455 acres
### Indoor Facility Inventory Matrix

#### InDOOR FACILITIES

**Recreation & Fitness Programming**
- **John B. Norris Recreation Center (Split)**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 49,350
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 15,850
- **Pottawatomie Community Center**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 43,700
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 12,200
- **Sportsplex**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 65,520
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 23,950

**Special-Use**
- **Baker Community Center**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 19,150
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 4,795
- **Hickory Knolls Discovery Center**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 12,200
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 3,135

**Indoor Aquatics**
- **John B. Norris Recreation Center (Split)**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 0
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 23,950

**Outdoor Aquatics**
- **Swanson Pool Building**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 10,800
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 2,313
- **Otter Cove Aquatic Park**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 13,900
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 2,470

**Seasonal Special Use**
- **Pottawatomie Golf Course Building**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 2,200
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 1,400
- **Primrose Farm Buildings**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 9,900
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 1,400
- **River View Mini-Golf Course**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 1,400
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 1,400

**Maintenance**
- **Denny Ryan Service Center**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 21,400
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 1,700
- **East Side Sports Complex Maint. Bldg**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 1,700
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 1,700
- **Pottawatomie Golf Course Maint. Bldg**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 11,150
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 1,700
- **U of I Research Buildings**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 8,700
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 8,700

**OTHER**
- **Primrose Farm Buildings**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 9,900
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 1,400
- **River View Mini-Golf Course**
  - Total Square Footage-Owned: 1,400
  - Total Square Footage-Not Owned: 1,400

*Valley View Recreation Center is under a 25 year lease to the Rivers Head Start organization and is not available to the general public.*

#### TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Category</th>
<th>Total Square Footage-Owned</th>
<th>Total Square Footage-Not Owned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation &amp; Fitness Programming</td>
<td>295,020</td>
<td>39,168</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Activity</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Indoor Activity</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Aquatics</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Aquatics</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seasonal Special Use</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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---
Level of Service Analysis
This Level of Service Analysis evaluates how well the District’s parks, facilities and amenities are serving the current needs of the community.

The development of a Level of Service standard for parks and recreation began in the 1980s with the development of Levels of Service for other infrastructure such as water, stormwater drainage, sewer systems and transportation. These benchmarks provide agency officials with the ability to respond to growing communities, evolving demographics and changing needs. It is important to note, however, that these benchmarks are not strict rules that all communities should follow. These Level of Service benchmarks are simply another gauge for agencies to use when determining future needs and services.

According to the NRPA, the Level of Service is a quantification of the park and recreation delivery philosophy and policy of a community. Its basic utility is in meeting a legal and/or economic requirement of quality service and equity. As a basic rule, a Level of Service benchmark should:

• Be practical and achievable
• Provide for an equitable allocation of park and recreation resources throughout a community with equal opportunity access for all citizens
• Reflect the real-time demand of the citizens for park and recreation opportunities

The Level of Service standard uses four measurements to help a community evaluate the comprehensiveness and equability of their current park and recreation offerings.

1. **Acreage**: A calculation of the minimum amount of land required to provide all of the recreation activities and facilities required to support such activities.

2. **Distribution**: An evaluation of how equitable park and open space sites are placed throughout the community, as well as how accessible existing sites are to residents.

3. **Amenities**: A calculation of the minimum number of amenities and facilities required to meet state and/or national averages.

4. **Square Footage**: A calculation of the minimum number of indoor square footage required to provide all of the recreation programs and services.

Level of Service guidelines are developed by state and national agencies, including the NRPA. Historically, a Level of Service Analysis has been limited to total park and open space acreage alone and did not include distribution, amenities or indoor square footage.
The national standard for acreage Level of Service was ten acres per 1,000 population, but as park and recreation planning developed, professionals saw the need to develop a more comprehensive benchmarking tool that could be adjusted for and specific to each community.

Because one size does not fit all, the NRPA recommends using community-specific benchmarks if needed. Park Metrics is the NRPA's online management tool, designed for public park and recreation agencies.

This tool is a supplement to the NRPA standards that have guided land acquisition and development for the past 45 years. Through this tool, agencies have the ability to compare themselves and their offerings with departments and agencies in their state or region. Agencies can also compare themselves to others based on factors such as total population, operating budget and full-time technical equivalent employees. Now, agencies can plan and benchmark with more applicable data than national averages.

Park Metrics has thousands of data points and more than 600 completed profiles. It is now the largest and most comprehensive collection of detailed municipal, county, state and special district data. As more agencies add their data to the database, trends and patterns begin to emerge that help agencies plan and benchmark.

The following Level of Service Analysis reference national NRPA standards, Park Metrics benchmarks, and local and regional-specific standards set by the State of Illinois.

The St. Charles Park District was compared against 29 U.S. park districts with populations between 45,000 and 55,000 registered with the NRPA’s Park Metrics.
Acreage

Acreage Level of Service benchmarks are calculations of the recommended amount of land required to provide recreation activities and the facilities to support them.

The NRPA’s population ratio method (acres/1,000 population) emphasizes the direct relationship between recreation spaces and people and is the most common method of estimating an agency’s level of service for parkland and open space. In addition to the baseline of ten acres/1,000 population used in this analysis, Park Metrics benchmarks are also used to understand how the Park District compares to agencies of similar population size.

Based on the NRPA benchmark of ten acres per 1,000 population, 512.1 acres of Mini, Neighborhood and Community Park space is recommended for Park District. The table on the right designates these park assets as “Active Recreation Areas.” With 684.0 acres of open space dedicated to Mini, Neighborhood and Community Park uses, the District has a 171.9 acre surplus compared to this benchmark. The District has a level of service of 13.4 acres per 1,000 population, well above the NRPA recommended 10 acres per 1,000.

When all District-owned and maintained open space is added to the Level of Service Analysis, the District has 945.4 acres more than the NRPA recommended 512.1 acres. This Level of Service gauge includes Special Use Sites, Trails, Corridors and Linear Parks, Undeveloped Parks and School Parks in addition to Mini, Neighborhood and Community Parks. The District has an overall level of service of 26.4 acres per 1,000 population.

The Park Metrics database was referenced to understand how the St. Charles Park District compares to agencies across the nation with similar population sizes. The St. Charles Park District has a population of 51,205. Out of more than 600 agencies reporting, there were 29 agencies with populations between 45,000 and 55,000. Park Metrics provided information on the following level of service benchmarks:

- Total Number of Parks
- Total Park Acres
- Total Acres Managed
- Acres of Parks per 1,000 Residents

The St. Charles Park District has 64 parks that total 1,459.4 acres, which is more than double the median of 24 total parks and significantly higher than the median of 450 acres as reported by Park Metrics.
According to the NRPA benchmark, the District has a surplus of 155.1 acres of Mini, Neighborhood and Community Parks.

Regarding acreage Level of Service, Park Metrics recommends 512.1 total parks acres or 10.0 acres per 1,000 population. With 684.8 acres of active recreation areas or parks, the Park District is exceeding the recommended acreage. At 13.4 acres per 1,000 population, the Park District is also surpassing the Park Metrics recommended level of service. This information is shown in the table below.

### Park Metrics Benchmarks

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Median</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of parks maintained</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total acres of parks maintained</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Level of Service Analysis: 10 acres / 1,000 population

#### OWNED / LEASED ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>SCPD Acreage (Total)</th>
<th>SCPD Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)</th>
<th>IAPD/NRPA Recommended Acreage</th>
<th>IAPD/NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)</th>
<th>Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mini Park</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Park</td>
<td>148.5</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>102.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>46.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Park</td>
<td>512.2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>384.0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>128.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Active Recreation Areas</strong></td>
<td><strong>684.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>512.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>171.9</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 51,205.

### ALL SCPD MANAGED OPEN SPACE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>SCPD Acreage (Total)</th>
<th>SCPD Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)</th>
<th>IAPD/NRPA Recommended Acreage</th>
<th>IAPD/NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)</th>
<th>Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Mini Park</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>25.6</td>
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<td>2.9</td>
<td>102.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>46.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Park</td>
<td>512.2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>384.0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>128.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Areas</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>-396.1</td>
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<td>Special Use</td>
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<td>Underdeveloped</td>
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<td>2.1</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>106.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total SCPD Open Space</strong></td>
<td><strong>1459.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>26.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>512.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>945.4</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 51,205.

### ALL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

<table>
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<th>Classification</th>
<th>SCPD Acreage (Total)</th>
<th>SCPD Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)</th>
<th>IAPD/NRPA Recommended Acreage</th>
<th>IAPD/NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)</th>
<th>Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)</th>
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<tr>
<td>SCPD Total Parks &amp; Open Space</td>
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<td>26.4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>62.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Open Space</strong></td>
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<td><strong>512.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>1456.8</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 51,205.
Distribution

Planning areas are used to analyze park distribution, land acquisition and park facility redevelopment needs. Planning areas are delineated by major pedestrian barriers including major roads or highways, railroad corridors and impassible natural features.

The location and geographic distribution of the parks can offer an indication of how well an agency is serving its residents. Understanding where parks are located in relationship to residential development determines who is underserved. This analysis may reveal the need for acquisition to expand service or may reveal that the District is serving the residents well and should focus on maintaining or updating existing assets.

Methodology

In the St. Charles Park District, arterial roads, railroads and major natural features serve as the main pedestrian barriers. These pedestrian barriers resulted in 21 planning areas and six sub-areas defined within the District. Areas of the District identified as “non-planning areas” are shown by a dark blue shading. These areas do not contain residential development and are not included in the analysis. Areas with a blue diagonal pattern do contain residential development but are isolated by major barriers and too small to be considered separate planning areas. Instead, these sub-areas are identified in association with the most accessible, adjacent planning area.

A service area, illustrated in the following maps with an orange halo, was created around each individual park. The shape of each service area is determined by analyzing the existing road and sidewalk infrastructure to identify the actual route and distance one has to travel to access the park. The size of the service area is dependent upon the park classification and is either a quarter, half, or one mile.

The table on page 63 notes the various recommended service area distances for Mini, Neighborhood and Community Parks. Natural Areas, Special Use, Undeveloped Sites and School Parks are not included.

Service area buffers for Mini and Neighborhood Parks were truncated to the planning area boundaries in which the park is located. Planning Area boundaries are considered barriers to safe or comfortable pedestrian access, and Mini and Neighborhood Parks are considered walk-to or walkable destinations. For Community Parks, the boundaries were not truncated because these parks are seen as drive-to destinations.

Finally, overlaying service area maps reveal which areas are most and least served by the existing park system. The most served areas are illustrated by the dark orange, while the least served areas are illustrated by the lack of orange. The orange service area buffers overlap to form a gradient that illustrates the degree to which residents are served. The darker the orange, the better these residents are served. Residents who fall within the darker or opaque orange areas are served by multiple parks and their amenities. Demographics for each planning and service area further informed the Level of Service Analysis.
Mini Park Distribution Analysis

Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience. Appropriate elements in these parks typically include playgrounds, picnic areas and seating opportunities.

The purpose of the Mini Park Distribution Analysis is to determine which planning areas are underserved by the District's existing Mini Park land holdings. Currently, the District has 12 Mini Parks that range from 0.5 acres to 7.0 acres in size.

The map to the right illustrates the quarter-mile (0.25-mile) service area reach for Mini, Neighborhood, School and Community Parks shown in orange. Quarter-mile service areas are also shown for Neighborhood, School and Community Parks, as these parks serve the function of a Mini Park for those residents within a quarter-mile distance from the park.

The map to the right illustrates where Mini Park service is concentrated within the District. Planning Areas 17, 19 and 20, have the largest area of coverage, each with more than 60% of residents living within walkable access to a Mini Park. The percent of the areas within the planning area with access is important, but knowing which populations have the highest total population without access allows the project team to prioritize based on need. Planning Areas with the greatest number of residents not served are Planning Area 1 (5,910) followed by planning areas 16 and 19. However, residents in Area 1 are also considered residents of the South Elgin Parks and Recreation Department and can use the South Elgin parks in the area. When these are considered, 2,740 (45.7%) of Planning Area 1 is actually served. It should also be noted that there are multiple Planning Areas that have no Mini Park access, most significantly Planning Areas 3 (1,381 unserved), 13 (1,127 unserved), and 6 (1,097 unserved). The table to the right compares the total population served to those not served by a park within one quarter-mile of their home. Overall, 41.6% of the St. Charles Park District's population has access to a park asset within one quarter-mile walking distance. This is nearly equal to the median Mini Park Distribution Level of Service of 43.8% within the project team's database.

When not including the school parks, the overall population served within a one quarter-mile walking distance drops to 36.0%. The map showing Mini Park Distribution without school properties can be found in the appendix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PA*</th>
<th>Served</th>
<th>% served</th>
<th>Not served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>5,910</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>0.0%</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
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<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>1,285</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1,127</td>
</tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>547</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>782</td>
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<td>988</td>
</tr>
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<td>15A</td>
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<td>834</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
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<td>596</td>
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<tr>
<td>20B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Planning Area (PA)
Park Key
2, Artesian Springs Park
4, Baker Memorial Park
12, Dunham Pond
14, Fairview Park
22, Hazeltine Park
27, Kane/Woodlawn Playground
28, Kehoe Park
31, Lincoln Park
35, Moody Park
46, Red Gate Park
47, Regency Estates Park
61, Taly Park
Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis

Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and are generally designed for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces.

The purpose of the Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis is to determine which planning areas are underserved by the District’s existing Neighborhood Park land holdings. Currently, the District has 15 Neighborhood Parks that range from 2.3 acres to 45.9 acres in size.

The map on the right illustrates the half-mile (0.5-mile) service area reach for Neighborhood parks. This plan also illustrates a half-mile service area (shown in orange) for Community Parks, as these parks can serve the function of a Neighborhood Park for residents within a 0.5-mile from the park. According to NRPA’s Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, Neighborhood Park service areas do not include residents who must cross a planning area boundary to reach the park. Service areas are truncated to all planning area boundaries.

The map to the right illustrates where Neighborhood Parks service is concentrated within the District. In Planning Areas 14, 15A, 16, 17, 18 and 20, more than 70% of residents have walkable access to a Neighborhood or Community Park. Planning Area 1 has the most residents not served; 5,608 residents do not have access to a St. Charles park within a half-mile of their home. Because residents in Planning Area 1 are also considered residents of the South Elgin Parks and Recreation Department, 5,125 or 85.6% of residents in this area are actually served within a half mile when including South Elgin parks. In 15 of the 29 planning areas and sub-planning areas, 100% of the residents do not have access to a park within half-miles of their home. The table to the right compares the total population served to the total population not served by a neighborhood park. Overall, 49.4% of the St. Charles Park District’s population has access to a park asset within half-mile walking distance. This is much lower than the median Neighborhood Park Distribution Level of Service of 58.9% recorded in the project team’s database.

Because the District maintained School District open space is also measured with a half-mile service area radius, these properties are compared separately on the next two pages.
School Park Distribution Analysis

The Park District maintains amenities on the grounds of ten schools within and adjacent to the District. Like neighborhood parks, these outdoor school spaces serve as informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces.

The purpose of the School Park Distribution Analysis is to determine which planning areas are underserved by the District’s existing School Park land management. Currently, the District maintains 21 school playgrounds and four school tennis courts with total outdoor space ranging from 0.15 acres to 0.56 acres in size.

The map on the right illustrates the half-mile (0.5-mile) service area reach for School Parks shown in orange. Because School Parks serve the same function as Neighborhood Parks, the NRPA’s Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines for Neighborhood Park service areas apply. These service areas do not include residents who must cross a planning area boundary to reach the park and are truncated to all planning area boundaries.

The map to the right illustrates where School Park service is concentrated within the District. The majority of Planning Areas are not served by any school amenities. Planning Areas are the best served where more than 65% of residents have walkable access to a School Park. Planning Areas 1, 16, 17, 18, and 19 have the most residents not served, more than 2,000 residents each. The table to the right compares the total population served to the total population not served by a park within a half-mile of their home. Overall, 32.1% of the St. Charles Park District’s population has access to a school park asset within a half-mile walking distance.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>% served</th>
<th>Not served</th>
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<td>0.0%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1,381</td>
</tr>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>5B</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Planning Area (PA)
Community Park
Distribution Analysis

Community Parks focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. These parks may preserve unique landscapes and often serve as event and recreational team sport spaces.

The purpose of the Community Park Distribution Analysis is to determine the location of gaps in Community Park service area coverage. Currently, the District has 10 Community Parks that range from 11.7 acres to 153.2 acres in size.

The map on the right illustrates the one-mile (1-mile) service area reach for Community Parks, shown in orange. Unlike Mini, Neighborhood and School Parks, Community Parks are considered drive-to recreation destinations. Service areas are not limited to the boundary of the planning area in which they are located. These drive-to destinations cover multiple planning areas and are community destinations for Park District residents.

Overall, 61.0% of the District has access to a Community Park asset within a one-mile drive from where they live. This is slightly below the median level of service in the project teams database of 68.9%. The largest gaps occur in Planning Areas and subareas 1, 2, 3, 5, and 17 where no residents are served within a one-mile drive. However, Planning Area 1 includes one Community Park operated by the South Elgin Parks and Recreation Department. Because residents in this area are residents of both agencies the actual population served by a community park increases to 36,748 people or 71.8% of the population served when including South Elgin parks. There are also several Planning Areas without community parks within their borders that are minimally served by adjacent areas including Planning Areas 6, 9, 11, 13 and 21.
Overall Park Distribution Analysis

The Overall Distribution Analysis illustrates the District-wide deficiencies for Mini, Neighborhood, School and Community Park assets combined.

The map on the right illustrates the service areas for all mini (0.25-mile), Neighborhood (0.5-mile), School (0.5-mile) and Community (1-mile) Parks. Per NRPA Guidelines, the Mini, Neighborhood and School Park service areas are truncated to the boundaries of the individual planning areas in which they reside. Community Parks are considered drive-to destinations, so those service areas are not truncated to the planning area boundaries. Natural Areas, Special Use Sites, Trails, Corridors and Linear Parks and Undeveloped Park land holdings are not included in this analysis.

Overall, 74.2% of St. Charles Park District residents have access to a Mini, Neighborhood, School and/or Community Park resource within a mile of where they live. The largest area of residential development not served by a Mini, Neighborhood, School or Community Park exists in Planning Area 1 which has the largest population but few parks and schools. While these residents are underserved by the St. Charles Park District, many of the households are also served by the South Elgin Park District, and when South Elgin parks are included, the total population served for the entire St. Charles Park District area increases to 43,988 residents (74.2%).

Planning areas 3, 6, 7,13, and 21 also have minimal service and all have populations near or over 1,000 residents who do not have access to open space from other providers. Park service in the St. Charles Park District service is heavily concentrated in the southeast of the District in planning areas 15, 15A, 19 and 20 where almost all residents live within assessable distance of a mini, neighborhood, school or community park. The median Overall Distribution Level of Service, according to the project team’s database, is 79.7%. The St. Charles Park District’s Level of Service falls short of the median of 92.7% served found in the project team’s database.

If School District owned properties are not included in the Overall Distribution Analysis, the total population served decreases to 72.1%. The map showing Overall Park Distribution excluding school properties can be found in the appendix.
Overall Park Distribution

Legend
- St. Charles Park District
- Planning
- Sub-planning
- Nonplanning
- Service Area (where residents belong to both Districts)
- SCPD
- Golf
- Forest
- Other

Park Key
13, East Side Sports Complex
16, Ferson Creek Park
18, Fox Chase Park
26, James O. Breen Community Park
30, Langum Park
36, Mt. St. Mary Park
42, Pottawatomie Park
44, Primrose Farm Park
50, River Bend Community Park
62, Timber Trails Park

Source: Cook County GIS
Amenities

In addition to park acreage and distribution, another measure of Level of Service is the total recreation amenities available to residents. These benchmarks come from the Illinois SCORP and NRPA Park Metrics.

SCORP Comparison

Based on the Illinois SCORP, the District meets or exceeds the recommended number of amenities for 18 of the 24 amenities outlined in the chart to the right. Amenities that meet or exceed the recommendation are identified by green text in the “Surplus/Deficit” column.

Items with red text noted in the “Surplus/Deficit” column are deficiencies. The five amenities with the greatest deficiencies, according to the comparison against SCORP averages are:

- Horseshoe pits: -12.4
- Fishing pier/docks/access: -10.9
- Tennis courts: -7.1
- Volleyball courts: -1.7
- Baseball fields: -1.3
### SCORP Amenities Needs Analysis - Park District Assets Only

**WATER-BASED FACILITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities (total)</th>
<th>SCORP</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities at current standards</th>
<th>Illinois Facility Average</th>
<th>Deficit Amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Pier / Docks / Access</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>20.9 0.41</td>
<td>-10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pools</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>1.4 0.03</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spray Grounds / Splash Pads</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>1.5 0.03</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities (total)</th>
<th>SCORP</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities at current standards</th>
<th>Illinois Facility Average</th>
<th>Deficit Amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Use Trails (Miles)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>8.3 0.16</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DAY USE FACILITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities (total)</th>
<th>SCORP</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities at current standards</th>
<th>Illinois Facility Average</th>
<th>Deficit Amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelters</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>10.5 0.21</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>20.7 0.40</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Centers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.5 0.01</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPORTS COURTS AND FACILITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities (total)</th>
<th>SCORP</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities at current standards</th>
<th>Illinois Facility Average</th>
<th>Deficit Amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>25.1 0.49</td>
<td>-7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Courts</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>12.8 0.25</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball Courts</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>8.7 0.17</td>
<td>-1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Fields</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>13.3 0.26</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Fields</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>7.2 0.14</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Fields</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>2.8 0.05</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>9.1 0.18</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course (18-Hole Course)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.4 0.01</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course (9-Hole Course)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.3 0.01</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Driving Range</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.0 0.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Rinks (Outdoor)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>2.0 0.04</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe Pits</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>12.4 0.24</td>
<td>+12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocce Court</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.0 0.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Parks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.4 0.01</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frisbee Golf</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.4 0.01</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate Park</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.8 0.02</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.0 0.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Surplus Amenities* | *Deficit Amenities*
Park Metrics Comparison
In addition to the SCORP averages, the Project Team referenced NRPA’s Park Metrics to identify how the St. Charles Park District compares to other agencies throughout the U.S. with populations of 45,000 to 55,000. Park Metrics provided information about the total population per facility for swimming pools, playgrounds, dog parks, tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball fields, softball fields, football fields, soccer fields, and ice rinks for agencies within this population range.

The table below compares the total number of Park District-owned and managed facilities to agencies with similar populations. According to Park Metrics benchmarks, the District meets or exceeds the total recommended number for all amenities.

### Park Metrics Amenity Needs Analysis - Park District Amenities Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities (total)</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities at current standards</th>
<th>Existing # of Facilities per population</th>
<th>Total # of Facilities needed to meet the NRPA Park Metric median</th>
<th>Surplus / Deficit</th>
<th>Population per Facility (per the NRPA Park Metric)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER-BASED FACILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Facility (Outdoor)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>36,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAY USE FACILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td></td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>3,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>36,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPORTS COURTS AND FACILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>15D</td>
<td>15D</td>
<td>7,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Courts</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>8,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Fields (youth)</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Fields (youth)</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>25,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Fields</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>8,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer (youth)</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>8,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose Fields</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>9,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Rink (Outdoor)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>17,293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information above is based on the 2016 the NPRA Park Matrix database information from 29 agencies reporting populations between 45,000 and 55,000.
Amenity Distribution Analysis

The location and distribution of amenities is an important factor in an agency’s Level of Service. Just as parks should be equally distributed, so should the recreational amenities available to residents.

The NRPA established service areas for each park classification and individual recreation amenities in its 1990 and 1996 publications of the Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines.

The amenity service area table describes the recommended service area per NRPA recommendations for each amenity and lists the number of each amenity owned and operated by the St. Charles Park District. The map to the right illustrates the density of amenities throughout the District. The white dots represent an individual amenity and the surrounding orange halo illustrates that amenity’s service area. The darkest shades of orange indicate the overlap of multiple amenity service areas while the lightest shade of orange represent coverage by a single amenity only.

The graphics on the following pages illustrate the service area coverage for various individual amenities.

### Amenity Service Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenity</th>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>SCPD Amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Field</td>
<td>0.5-mile</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Field</td>
<td>0.5-mile</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Court</td>
<td>0.5-mile</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Field</td>
<td>1.0-mile</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Skating / Hockey (outdoor)</td>
<td>1.0-mile</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground / Tot Lot</td>
<td>0.25-mile</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter*</td>
<td>0.5-mile</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Field</td>
<td>1.0-mile</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1.0-mile</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Court</td>
<td>0.5-mile</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball Court</td>
<td>1.0-mile</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail System**</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Service areas determined by the Project Team, as there are no NRPA suggested outdoor development standards for these amenities.

**Amenity not shown on map
Overall Amenity Distribution
Tennis Court
Total  18

Soccer Field
Total  28

Basketball Court
Total  17

Football Field
Total  6
Swimming Facilities
Total 2

Multi-use Fields
Total 45
Facility Square Footage

Square Footage Level of Service benchmarks are calculations of the minimum amount of indoor space recommended to provide all of the indoor recreation activities. It also includes considerations for specific facilities recommended to support programs and activities.

Level of Service guidelines for indoor space are less established than the guidelines for parks and open spaces, but the project team uses a Chicagoland benchmark of two square feet per person with 1.5 square feet consisting of indoor classroom-based or active recreation space and 0.5 square feet consisting of indoor aquatics.

The Park District has a total of 158,570 square feet of indoor recreation space. According to the indoor square footage level of service analysis, the District has an indoor level of service of 3.1 square feet per person. Compared to the Chicagoland benchmark, this is a surplus of 81,762.5 square feet. It is also a 1.6 square feet surplus over the recommended 1.5 square feet per person.

While the District has a surplus of total indoor recreational space, it has a small deficiency in indoor aquatics. According to this Level of Service gauge, the District has a 1,652.5 square foot deficit of indoor aquatic space but is equal to the recommended square feet per person recommended level of service of 0.5.

The Park District has a total surplus of 80,110 square feet of combined indoor recreation and aquatic space compared to Chicagoland benchmarks.

NRPA’s Park Metrics also records data for interior space. Compared to similarly sized agencies, the St. Charles Park District is at or above average in providing recreation centers (0.1 facility per person over) and community centers (0.7 facilities per person over). The Park District is below NRPA medians for indoor tracks (-1.0), fitness centers (-0.8), ice skating rinks (-0.7) and gymnasiums (-0.2).
### Level of Service Analysis: Chicagoland Benchmark

#### INDOOR RECREATION SPACE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>SCPD Square Feet (Total)</th>
<th>SCPD Existing Level of Service (SF/population)</th>
<th>Recommended Square Footage</th>
<th>Recommended Level of Service (SF/population)</th>
<th>Square Footage deficiency / surplus (SF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Recreational Space</td>
<td>158,570.0</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>76,807.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>81,762.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Aquatics</td>
<td>23,950.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>25,602.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-1,652.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Square Feet</strong></td>
<td><strong>182,520.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>102,410.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>80,110.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 51,205.

#### NPRA Park Matrics Benchmarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Median Square Feet per Facility</th>
<th>SCPD # of Facilities per population</th>
<th>median NPRA population per facility</th>
<th>Total # of Facilities needed to meet the NRPA Park Metric median</th>
<th>Square Footage Deficiency/ Surplus (SF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Center</td>
<td>49,350.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>46,718.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>62,850.0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>26,390.8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
<td>7,722.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>16,058.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Track</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>49,715.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Center</td>
<td>5,351.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>48,087.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Skating Rink (indoor)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>37,060.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>-0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>125,273.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>273,787.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>-2.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information above is based on the 2016 NPRA Park Matrix database information from 29 agencies reporting populations between 45,000 and 55,000.

[Surplus Amenities](#)  [Deficit Amenities](#)
This inventory offers a snapshot of the existing conditions for all parks during the time this Comprehensive Master Plan was developed.

**Introduction**
This section includes a detailed inventory and analysis of each individual park. The Project Team performed a site visit and evaluation for each park property to determine the opportunities and potential recommendations for improvements. Each site was photographed. Staff provided information on how the park is used and any known issues with the site or its amenities.

Listed in alphabetical order, each park page includes a detailed checklist of the elements present within its site. The inventory checklist is divided into general observations and site amenity information. The amenity matrix lists the accessibility, condition, character and quantity for each item. Along with the detailed checklist of the site characteristics, the park classification, aerial/site photos are also included for each park.

**Utilization**
The purpose of the park analysis is to guide the action plan development and to serve as a general park reference guide. This not only allows for the Park District to use these pages to reference the existing conditions of each park at the time of the CMP, but also document the ongoing changes and updates to each park as capital improvements and Master Plan action items are completed.

The St. Charles Park District offers its residents 12 Mini Parks, 15 Neighborhood Parks, 10 Community Parks, 10 Natural Areas, 7 Special Use Sites, and 5 trails, corridors, and linear parks/greenways.
Aintree Park
Highgate Course off Fox Chase Boulevard

General Observations:

Context
• residential

Natural Features
• native plantings
• wetland

Users / Programs
• detention

Park Access
• vehicular: not accessible
• pedestrian: not accessible

Comforts
• seating at sidewalk

Site Furnishings
• wood bench

Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenity</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Artesian Springs Park
St. Germaine Place, west of Renaux Boulevard

**General Observations:**

**Context**
- residential

**Natural Features**
- mature trees
- perennials at entry sign

**Users / Programs**
- neighborhood users

**Park Access**
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: sidewalk connections

**Comforts**
- benches along path

**Site Furnishings**
- wood benches
- wood picnic table
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

---

**Amenities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>small octagon, 1 picnic table, wood frame, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good to excellent</td>
<td>2-5 play structure, 2 tot / 2 belt swings, independent play piece, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber, seating available, accessible route to play area, no ramp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Mini Park
Baker Field Park
Culter Street and S. 5th Street

General Observations:

Context
• residential

Natural Features
• mature trees

Users / Programs
• neighborhood users

Park Access
• vehicular: limited street parking available
• pedestrian: sidewalk connections

Conforts
• seating available at tennis courts and playground

Site Furnishings
• wood benches
• picnic tables
• bike rack
• metal litter and recycling receptacles
• drinking fountain (no path access)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair to good</td>
<td>2 to 5 and 5-12 structures, 2 tot / 2 belt / 1 ADA swings, 2 spring riders, timber curb with engineered wood fiber, available seating is not accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>non-standard courts size, concrete is in fair condition, hoops in poor condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2 courts, color coat and striping, 1 solo board in poor condition, nets in good condition, fence in excellent condition, lit, seating available outside court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>backstop, line fence, no infield, field in fair to good condition, player's benches not accessible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Neighborhood Park
**Baker Memorial Park**
Main Street and N. 5th Avenue

**General Observations:**

**Context**
- commercial, institutional

**Natural Features**
- mature vegetation
- deciduous and evergreen shrubs
- perennials

**Users / Programs**
- drop-in gathering space

**Park Access**
- vehicular: limited street parking available
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

**Comforts**
- benches along path
- shade available

**Site Furnishings**
- metal benches
- lightposts
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

### Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>concrete paths, granite steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sculpture</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>Framework for a Donut</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Mini Park
Belgium Town Park
9th Street, north of Dean Street

General Observations:

Context
- residential
- industrial

Natural Features
- hilly
- mature and juvenile vegetation
- native planting

Users / Programs
- neighborhood

Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no sidewalk access

Comforts
- seating available at playground

Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- picnic tables
- interpretive sign

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good to excellent</td>
<td>asphalt, crushed stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>small hexagon, 2 tables, metal structure and roof, concrete paving and brick retaining wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 structure, concrete curb and stone retaining wall with engineered wood fiber, concrete ramp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>color coat and striping with minimal wear, net, fence, seating outside courts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Boyscout Island
State Route 31 at River Drive

General Observations:
Context
• residential, natural
Natural Features
• mature trees
• native vegetation
• river access
Users / Programs
• fishing
• boating
Park Access
• vehicular: parking lot
• pedestrian: no sidewalk access
Comforts
• fire pit
• porta-potty
Site Furnishings
• wood benches
• concrete and wood picnic tables
• metal litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>dirt paths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat launch</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>concrete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Special Use
Cambridge Park
End of Cumberland Green Drive

General Observations:
Context
• residential
Natural Features
• mature trees
• hilly
Users / Programs
• neighborhood users
Park Access
• vehicular: street parking available
• pedestrian: public sidewalk connections
Site Furnishings
• wood benches
• picnic tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Classification: Neighborhood Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>partial</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>asphalt, some slopes over 5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair to good</td>
<td>2-12 structure, 2 tot/2 belt swings, talk tubes, 2 spring riders (excellent), timber curb in poor condition, engineered wood fiber with concrete access ramp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstop</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>metal backstop, no infield, field in good condition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>1 field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Charlemagne/Kingswood Park
Indian Way and Oxbow Lane

General Observations:
Context
• residential
Natural Features
• mature trees
Users / Programs
• neighborhood users
Park Access
• vehicular: street parking available
• pedestrian: public sidewalk connections
Site Furnishings
• metal bike rack
• metal litter and recycling receptacles
• drinking fountain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2-5 and 5-12 play structures, 4 belt/2 tot swings, independent play piece, timber curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstop</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>backstop only, no infield, field in good condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2 fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Neighborhood Park
Cranston Meadows Park
Cloverfield Drive and Falcons Trail

General Observations:
Context
- residential
Natural Features
- mature shrubs and trees
Users / Programs
- neighborhood
Park Access
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks
Comforts
- seating available at playground
Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- picnic tables
- bike racks
- metal litter receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 2 tot / 2 belt swings, timber curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstop</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>backstop only, no infield, field in good condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacrosse Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>3 fields, no permanent fixtures, no benches or spectator seating</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Davis Park
Horne Street, west of S. 8th Street

#### General Observations:

**Context**
- residential
- institutional (Davis Primary School)

**Natural Features**
- mature trees
- native plantings

**Users / Programs**
- neighborhood users
- school use

**Park Access**
- vehicular: street parking available, school lot available when building not in use
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

**Site Furnishings**
- picnic tables
- metal bleachers
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

### Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Character Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good to excellent</td>
<td>large hexagon, wood frame, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground (P1)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 play structure, 4 belt and 2 tot swings, 2 spring riders, concrete cub with engineered wood fiber, concrete access ramp, owned by school and maintained by SCPD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground (P2)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2-5 and 5-12 play structures, track ride, steppers, four seats, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber, owned by school and maintained by SCPD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>one 50’ court, one 150’ court, hoops in fair condition, lit with wood poles, concrete paving and curb in poor condition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Field (B1)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>70’ baseline, backstop, line fence, metal players’ benches not accessible, spectator seating accessible</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Field (B2, B3, B4)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>60’ baseline, backstop, line fence, metal players’ benches not accessible, spectator seating accessible</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Skating</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>flooded basketball court</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DeInor Woods Park
Rt. 25 at Fulton Avenue or Wing Avenue, west of N. 11th Avenue

General Observations:

Context
- neighborhood

Natural Features
- mature trees
- native plantings
- pond

Users / Programs
- neighborhood users
- community users

Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks

Comorts
- benches available along path
- shade available
- restrooms available

Site Furnishings
- wood and metal benches
- picnic tables
- metal litter receptacles
- interpretive signage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair to good</td>
<td>asphalt, wood boardwalk, some steep slopes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 2 tot/4 belt swings, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter One (S1)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>small hexagon, 4 tables, metal structure and roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter Two (S2)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>large hexagon, 9 tables, wood structure, tongue and groove decking, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>1 field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sculpture</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>Timless Tags, St. Charles Dog Memorial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Dunham Pond**
Dunham Road, north of Fairfax Road

**General Observations:**

**Context**
- residential
- institutional

**Natural Features**
- mature trees
- pond

**Users / Programs**
- neighborhood users
- Fox Chase Park access

**Park Access**
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

**Site Furnishings**
- metal bleachers
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Mini Park
East Side Sports Complex
3565 Legacy Boulevard off Kirk Road

General Observations:

Context
- commercial
- light industrial

Natural Features
- mature trees
- native plantings

Users / Programs
- athletic events
- community users

Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no sidewalk access

Comforts
- seating available at some amenities
- restrooms available

Site Furnishings
- metal benches
- picnic tables
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

Classification: Community Park
## East Side Sports Complex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter 1 (S1)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>large square, 6 tables, metal structure and roof, rust on structure, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter 2 (S2)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>large hexagon, 6 tables, wood structure, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter 3 (S3)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>large hexagon, 6 tables, wood structure, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter 4 (S4)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>large rectangle, 8 tables, wood structure, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter 5 (S5)</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>small rectangle, 2 tables, wood structure, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground (P1)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 and 2-5 structures, 4 belt/ 2 tot swings, 2 spring riders, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground (P2)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 2 tot/ 2 belt swings, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2 courts, color coat and striping cracking, lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2 courts, color coat and striping, nets in fair to good condition, perimeter fencing in excellent condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair to poor</td>
<td>wood timber curbs with sand, posts and nets, lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball (B1 and B2)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair to good</td>
<td>50’ baseline, backstop, line and outfield fence in excellent condition, warning track, player’s bench, metal bleachers, lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball (B3 and B4)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>50’ baseline, arched backstop, line and outfield fence in excellent condition, warning track, player’s bench, metal bleachers, lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball (B5)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>50’ baseline, backstop, line and outfield fence in excellent condition, warning track, wood player’s bench, metal bleachers, lighting, scoreboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball (B7 and B8)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>50’ baseline, backstop, line and outfield fence in good condition, warning track, wood player’s bench, shade sail with metal bleachers, lighting, scoreboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball (B6)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>50’ baseline, backstop, line and outfield fence, synthetic turf infield in fair condition, warning track,brick dugout with player’s bench, shade sail with metal bleachers, lighting, scoreboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>1 field, bleachers, lit, scoreboard, no accessible path to field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>10 fields, no player's benches or spectator seating, no accessible path to fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Stations</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair to good</td>
<td>leg press, back stretch, slated chest press, sit up boards, tai chi spinner, wood chip surfacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog park</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>wood chip surfacing, small dog area, seating, perimeter fencing, obstacles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate park</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>perimeter fencing with turnstile, composite wood ramps, lighting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Fairview Park**
Oak Street and S. 19th Street

**General Observations:**

- **Context**
  - residential

- **Natural Features**
  - mature trees

- **Users / Programs**
  - neighborhood

- **Park Access**
  - vehicular: street parking available
  - pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

- **Comforts**
  - seating available at playground

- **Site Furnishings**
  - metal and recycled timber benches
  - wood picnic tables
  - metal litter and recycling receptacles
  - concrete hot coal bin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>5-12 functionally linked features, 1 expression / 1 ADA / 2 belt swings, talk tubes, spin chair, PIP mounds, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Mini Park
Ferson Creek Fen Nature Preserve
State Route 31, north of Ferson Creek Park

General Observations:
Designated Illinois State Nature Preserve

Context
• natural
Natural Features
• native plantings
• river access
Users / Programs
• community users
Park Access
• vehicular: parking lot
• pedestrian: no local sidewalks
Site Furnishings
• wood benches
• litter and recycling receptacles

General Observations:
Designated Illinois State Nature Preserve

Classification: Natural Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>mown turf, boardwalk, asphalt trails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Structure</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>wood frame, shingle roof</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ferson Creek Park
State Route 31, east of Wildrose Springs Drive

General Observations:
Context
- natural
Natural Features
- mature trees
- river access
Users / Programs
- community users
- boating
- fishing
Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks
Comforts
- seating at playground
- restrooms available
- fishing overlock
- interpretive sign
Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- picnic tables
- metal litter and recycling receptacles
- boat rack

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td></td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 1 seesaw, 2 tot / 2 belt / 1 group swings, 1 spring rider, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter (S1)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>large hexagon, 10 tables, metal structure, tongue and groove decking, metal roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter (S2)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>medium hexagon - metal with tongue and groove, 2 tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Launch</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>metal dock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Five Islands Park
Along Fox River, south of Blackhawk Drive

General Observations:
Context
  • residential
  • natural
Natural Features
  • native plantings
Users / Programs
  • conservation
Park Access
  • vehicular: not accessible
  • pedestrian: not accessible
Site Furnishings
  • none

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fox Chase Park
Fox Chase Boulevard at Hawkins Court

General Observations:

Context
- residential

Natural Features
- sparse vegetation
- berms

Users / Programs
- neighborhood users

Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

Comforts
- seating at playgrounds

Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- bike racks
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good to fair</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground 1 (P1)</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2-5 structure, 2 tot / 2 belt swings, 1 spring rider, wood timber curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground 2 (P2)</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>5-12 play structure, 2 tot / 2 belt swings, funnel ball toss, timber curb with engineered wood fiber, seating available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sled Hill</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harvest Hills Park
Heritage Street at Langston Circle

General Observations:

Context
• residential

Natural Features
• sparse vegetation
• berms

Users / Programs
• neighborhood users

Park Access
• vehicular: parking lot
• pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

Comforts
• seating available at playground

Site Furnishings
• metal benches
• bike racks
• metal litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good to fair</td>
<td>small hexagon, 4 tables, metal structure and roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2 courts, color coat and striping, fence and fabric in excellent condition, solo board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>5-12 play structure, 1 spring rider, 2 tot / 2 belt swings, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber, seating available, accessible route to play area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>backstop only, no infield, field in good condition, fence fabric in poor condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2 fields, no spectator seating, no permanent fixtures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Neighborhood Park
Hazeltine Park
S. Riverside Avenue and Ohio Avenue

General Observations:

Context
• residential, natural
Natural Features
• mature trees
Users / Programs
• neighborhood users
Park Access
• vehicular: street parking available
• pedestrian: local sidewalk connections
Comforts
• seating at playground
Site Furnishings
• metal benches
• picnic tables
• metal litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>concrete, brick plazas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>2-5 structure, 2 belt / 2 tot swings, 1 independent climber, 2 spinner, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hickory Knolls Natural Area
2nd park entrance on Campton Hills Road, west of Peck Road

General Observations:
Context
• natural area
• residential
Natural Features
• native planting
Users / Programs
• community users
• education programming
• rentals
Park Access
• vehicular: parking lot
• pedestrian: no local sidewalks
Comforts
• restrooms available
Site Furnishings
• benches
• litter and recycling receptacles
• interpretive sign

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>asphalt, concrete, boardwalk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hunt Club Park
Persimmon Drive, between Wing Avenue and Hunt Club Drive

**General Observations:**

**Context**
- residential

**Natural Features**
- sparse vegetation
- berms

**Users / Programs**
- neighborhood users

**Park Access**
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: public sidewalk
  connections

**Comforts**
- seating available at playground

**Site Furnishings**
- wood benches
- bike rack
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

### Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>small octagon, wood structure, shingle roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 structure, functionally linked pieces, 2 tot / 2 belt swings, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Neighborhood Park
Hunt Club Wetland
Fox Chase Boulevard at Waverly Circle

General Observations:

Context
- residential

Natural Features
- native plantings
- pond

Users / Programs
- neighborhood users

Park Access
- vehicular: street parking prohibited
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

Site Furnishings
- interpretive sign

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Natural Area
Route 38 Property

Lincoln Highway at Karl Madsen Drive

General Observations:

Context
- residential
- natural
- leased from the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

Natural Features
- mature trees

Users / Programs
- none

Park Access
- vehicular: not accessible
- pedestrian: not accessible

Site Furnishings
- none

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
James O. Breen Community Park
Campton Hills Road and Peck Road

**General Observations:**

**Context**
- residential
- natural

**Natural Features**
- mature trees
- native plantings

**Users / Programs**
- community users
- athletics events

**Park Access**
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks

**Comforts**
- concessions available (seasonal)
- restrooms available (seasonal)

**Site Furnishings**
- benches
- picnic tables
- litter and recycling receptacles
- interpretive signs

Classification: Community Park
## James O. Breen Community Park

Classification: Community Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>asphalt, concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>large rectangle, CMU block, shingle roof, attached to building, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good to fair</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 2 belt/2 tot swings, wood timber curb with engineered wood fiber,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>4 courts, asphalt, striped, paving in poor condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>excellent to good</td>
<td>15 fields, some irrigated, no player benches or spectator seating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Fields</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>excellent to good</td>
<td>4 fields, 3 scoreboards, striped, goal posts, no player benches or spectator seating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc Golf</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>9 holes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>small dog area with obstacles, large dog run, seating available within fencing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kane/Woodlawn Playground
Kane Avenue and Maple Avenue

General Observations:
Context
• residential
Natural Features
• mature trees
Users / Programs
• neighborhood users
Park Access
• vehicular: street parking available
• pedestrian: no local sidewalks
Site Furnishings
• wood benches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2-12 structure, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber, seating available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Mini Park
Kehoe Park
Prairie Street and Howard Street

**General Observations:**

**Context**
- residential

**Natural Features**
- mature trees
- evergreen and deciduous shrubs
- perennials

**Users / Programs**
- neighborhood users

**Park Access**
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections, no designated pedestrian crossings

**Comforts**
- seating available at playground

**Site Furnishings**
- wood benches
- picnic tables
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair / good</td>
<td>concrete, brick pavers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>small octagon, 1 table, wood structure, shingle roof, brick paver pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>1 spring rider, 5-12 structure shows signs of age, 2 tot/ 2 belt swings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Langum Park
7th Avenue and Madison Avenue

General Observations:

Context
- residential
- institutional

Natural Features
- mature trees

Users / Programs
- athletics
- community users

Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

Comforts
- seating available at playground
- restrooms available
- concessions available

Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- metal bleachers
- bike racks
- litter receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 4 belt/2 tot swings, 2 spring riders, timber curbs with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball (S1)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>scoreboard, outfield fence, backstop, lighting on wood posts, metal bleachers, batting cage frame, covered player benches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball (S2)</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>scoreboard, outfield fence, backstop, lighting on wood posts, metal bleachers, batting cage frame, covered player benches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>2 courts, color coat and striping, posts and nets in good condition, solo board, 2 pickleball courts striped</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Community Park
**Lincoln Park**  
Main Street between 4th Street and 5th Street

**General Observations:**

- **Context**
  - commercial
  - residential
  - institutional

- **Natural Features**
  - perennial plantings
  - mature trees

- **Users / Programs**
  - neighborhood users

- **Park Access**
  - vehicular: street parking available
  - pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

- **Site Furnishings**
  - benches
  - bike rack
  - litter and recycling receptacles
  - pedestrian lighting

**Amenities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>concrete, asphalt, brick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>small rectangle, wood structure, tongue and groove deeking, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>timber curb, engineered wood fiber, 2-5 and 5-12 play structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sculpture</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>The Official Guitar of St. Charles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Mini Park
Majestic Oaks Park
Majestic Oaks Drive at Majestic Oaks Lane

General Observations:
Context  
- residential
Natural Features  
- mature trees
Users / Programs  
- neighborhood users
Park Access  
- vehicular: street parking available
  - pedestrian: public sidewalk connections
Site Furnishings  
- none

<table>
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<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Majestic Oaks Playground
Majestic Oaks Drive at E. Frances Circle

General Observations:

Context
- residential

Natural Features
- mature evergreen trees

Users / Programs
- neighborhood users

Park Access
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: local sidewalk connections

Comforts
- seating available at playground

Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- picnic tables
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair to good</td>
<td>asphalt, slopes reach 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent to good</td>
<td>2-5 and 5-12 structure, 2 belt / 2 tot swings, independent climbing structure, see-saw, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>wood structure, shingle roof, concrete pad, 2 tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstop</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>backstop only, no infield, filed in good condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>1 field</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Neighborhood Park
Majestic Oaks Wetland
Majestic Oaks Drive at Black Walnut Lane

General Observations:
Context
- residential
Natural Features
- wetland
Users / Programs
- detention
Park Access
- vehicular: not accessible
- pedestrian: not accessible
Site Furnishings
- none

General Observations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Paths</td>
<td>partial</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>compacted dirt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moody Park
Moody Street and S. 3rd Street

General Observations:
Context
- residential
Natural Features
- hilly
- mature trees
Users / Programs
- neighborhood
Park Access
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections
Comforts
- perimeter fencing around playground
- seating available at playground
Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- picnic tables
- litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good to excellent</td>
<td>2 - 12 play structure, independent climber, 2 tot / 2 belt swings, timber curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mt. St. Mary Park
Prairie Street, east of Route 31

**General Observations:**

**Context**
- residential
- commercial
- native

**Natural Features**
- mature trees
- evergreen and deciduous shrubs
- perennials
- river access

**Users / Programs**
- community users
- art exhibition

**Park Access**
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

**Comforts**
- restrooms available

**Site Furnishings**
- metal benches
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

Classification: Community Park
# Mt. St. Mary Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter (S1)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>large hexagon, 8 tables, metal structure and roof, tongue and groove decking, lit, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter (S2)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>4 part pergola, 4 benches, wood frames</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 2 belt / 2 tot swings, 2 spring riders, concrete curb with poured-in-place surface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>two half courts, color coat and striping with significant cracking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Court</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>one court, color coat and striping, net in good condition, solo board in good condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate Park</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>plywood ramps with metal bars, sunken concrete paving with curb, fence in excellent condition, turnstile in poor condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Launch</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>concrete ramp with plastic timber guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sculptures</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>Permanent collection: refer to stsculpture.org</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Community Park
Norris Woods Nature Preserve
Johnor Avenue and 3rd Avenue

General Observations:
Designated Illinois State Nature Preserve

Context
- natural area
- Illinois Department of Conservation Partnership

Natural Features
- native plantings

Users / Programs
- trail users

Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks

Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- interpretive signs

Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Structure</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>wood frame, shingle roof</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Natural Area
Otter Cove Aquatic Park
3615 Campton Hills Road

General Observations:

Context
- natural area
- residential

Users / Programs
- pool users

Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks

Comforts
- restrooms available
- concessions available

Site Furnishings
- fabric deck chairs
- shade sails

Classification: Special Use

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>large hexagon, x tables, wood frame, shingle roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatics</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>25-yard pool, zero-depth entry activity pool, toddler pool, lazy river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>splash park</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair to good</td>
<td>3 splash pad areas, ground sprays, overhead sprays, water table, poured-in-place tile surfacing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Otter Creek Bend Wetland Park
Crane Road, south of Silver Glen Road

**General Observations:**

**Context**
- residential
- natural

**Natural Features**
- native plantings

**Users / Programs**
- trail users

**Park Access**
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks

**Comforts**
- restroom
- seating along trails

**Site Furnishings**
- wood benches
- interpretive signs

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>partial</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>asphalt transitioning to gravel, brick pavers, steep slopes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Persimmon Woods
Keim Trail off Fox Chase Boulevard

General Observations:

Context
- residential
- Illinois Department of Conservation Partnership

Natural Features
- native plantings

Users / Programs
- conservation

Park Access
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks

Site Furnishings
- wood benches

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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>asphalt paths, gravel paths</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Natural Area
Pottawatomie Park
8 North Avenue

General Observations:

Context
• commercial
• natural

Natural Features
• mature trees
• perennial plantings
• riverfront

Users / Programs
• community users
• miniature golf

Park Access
• vehicular: parking lot
• pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

Comforts
• seating available throughout park
• restrooms available
• concessions available (seasonal)

Site Furnishings
• picnic tables
• metal litter and recycling receptacles
• concrete hot coal bin
• bike racks
• bike repair station
## Pottawatomie Park

Classification: Community Park

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good to excellent</td>
<td>asphalt, concrete, stone pavers, crushed stone, brick pavers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter (S1)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>wood and metal structure with tower, shingle roof, raised concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter (S2)</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>large rectangle, 12 tables, wood structure, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground (P1)</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>2-5 and 5-12 structure, 2 belt / 2 tot swings, rope and rock climber, timber curb and retaining wall with engineered wood fiber, wood stairs and dirt ramp access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground (P2)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 4 belt / 2 tot / 1 ADA swings, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber, perimeter fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good to excellent</td>
<td>40' baseline, backstop, infield in fair condition, outfield in poor condition, tiered stone spectator seating, lit with wood poles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>timber curb with sand, post and net in good condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>color coat and striping with minor cracking, nets in good condition, 1 solo board, lit, seating available outside of courts is not accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Equipment</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>back and arms cardio, 3-person static combo, 2 person accessible vertical press, 2-person accessible lat pull, 2-person accessible chest press, 2-person ski, 4-person low body combo, 4-person leg press, and pendulum, abs, and dip station, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pottawatomie Golf Course
845 N 2nd Avenue

General Observations:
Context
- commercial
- natural
Natural Features
- mature trees
- perennials at buildings
- riverfront
Users / Programs
- golfers
Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks
Comforts
- restrooms available
- benches along course
Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

Other Observations
- 9-hole course designed by Robert Trent Jones
- Includes certified Audubon Society Natural Area
- There is designated golf course parking included in the northeast Pottawatomie Park parking lot

<table>
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<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cart paths</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>concrete paths installed 2015/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro-shop</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>renovations completed in 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restroom building</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>constructed in 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance building</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>poor to fair</td>
<td>roof and coping need repair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Primrose Farm
5N726 Crane Road

General Observations:
Context
- residential
- agriculture
Natural Features
- mature trees
- perennials at buildings
- crop fields
- garden plots
Users / Programs
- community users
- education programing
- gardners
Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks
Comforts
- restrooms available
Site Furnishings
- concrete and wood benches
- picnic tables
- metal litter and recycling receptacles
- interpretive sign

Amenities Accessible Condition Character
Trails / Park Pathways no excellent, fair brick paver, concrete, gravel

Classification: Special Use
Primrose Farm Park
Bolcum Road and Crane Road

General Observations:

Context
- residential
- agriculture

Natural Features
- juvenile trees

Users / Programs
- community users
- athletic events

Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks

Comforts
- restrooms available

Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- metal bleachers
- metal litter and recycling receptacles
- metal bike rack

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good to fair</td>
<td>large rectangle, 8 tables, wood structure, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>solo board, color coat and striping in poor conditions, fence and fabric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>2-5 structure, timber curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Court</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>2 courts, concrete paving and curb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>4 fields, backstop and line fencing fabric in poor condition, player’s benches, metal bleachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball Court</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good to fair</td>
<td>2 courts, post and nets, wood curb in poor condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>2 fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Red Gate Park
Greenwood Lane, south of Red Gate Road

General Observations:

Context
- residential
- institutional

Natural Features
- juvenile trees
- deciduous shrubs
- perennials at entry sign

Users / Programs
- neighborhood users
- students

Park Access
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

Comforts
- seating available at playground

Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- picnic tables
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 2 belt/2 tot swings, timber curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>small square, 2 tables, metal structure and roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regency Estates Park
Regency Court East off Woodward Drive

General Observations:
Context
- residential
Natural Features
- evergreen and deciduous shrubs
Users / Programs
- neighborhood users
Park Access
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

Comforts
- seating at playground

Site Furnishings
- wood and metal benches
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>brick pavers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 3 independent interpretive panels, concrete curb and retaining wall with engineered wood fiber, concrete ramp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Renaux Manor Park
State Route 64 and Peck Road

### General Observations:

**Context**
- residential

**Natural Features**
- flat
- detention

**Users / Programs**
- neighborhood users

**Park Access**
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

**Comforts**
- seating available at playground
- perimeter fencing along Peck Road

**Site Furnishings**
- wood benches
- picnic tables
- metal litter and recycling receptacles
- drinking fountain

### Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair / good</td>
<td>asphalt, concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>2-5 and 5-12 structures, 4 belt / 2 tot swings, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>small rectangle, picnic tables, wood structure, shingle roofs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstop</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>backstop only, no infield, field in good condition, equipment box.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good to fair</td>
<td>half court, color coat and striping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>1 field</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Neighborhood Park
River Bend Community Park
Courier Avenue and Geneva Avenue

General Observations:

Context
- residential
- natural

Natural Features
- native plantings
- pond

Users / Programs
- community users
- athletic events
- fishing

Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks

Comforts
- restrooms available

Site Furnishings
- wood benches
- picnic tables
- metal litter and recycling receptacles
- interpretive sign

Amenities | Accessible | Condition | Character
--- | --- | --- | ---
Trails / Park Pathways | yes | good | asphalt, boardwalk
Shelter | yes | good | large square, ~20 tables, metal structure and roof, tongue and groove decking, concrete pad
Playground | yes | excellent | 2-5 structure, 2 belt / 2 tot swings, concrete curbs with engineered wood fiber, concrete ramp
Basketball | yes | excellent | 2 courts, color coat, stripping
Tennis | yes | excellent | color coat, stripping, nets, fence
Softball (B1 and B2) | no | fair to good | 65' baseline, backstop, line fence, foul pole, player's benches and spectator seating, outfields in fair condition, no accessible route to fields, field B1 poorly sloped
Multi-use field | no | good | 2 fields, no path to field, no striping
Skate park | yes | excellent | metal ramps, concrete pad, fence in excellent condition
Dog park | yes | good | small and big dog areas, transition area, fence, mulch, seating available
River’s Edge/Reserve Park
Prairie Crossing Drive between Meadow View Drive and Reserve Drive

General Observations:

Context
• residential

Natural Features
• juvenile trees

Users / Programs
• neighborhood users

Park Access
• vehicular: street parking available
• pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

Comforts
• seating at playground

Site Furnishings
• wood benches
• picnic tables
• metal litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 2 belt / tot swings, concrete curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>half court, color coat and striping, rising at goal footing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacrosse Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>2 fields, no permanent fixtures, no benches or spectator seating</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Riverside/Buie Park
State Route 25 and Division Street

General Observations:
Context
• residential
• natural
Natural Features
• mature vegetation
• wetland
Users / Programs
• trail users
Park Access
• vehicular: parking lot
• pedestrian: public sidewalk connections
Site Furnishings
• wood benches
• interpretive sign

Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good to excellent</td>
<td>asphalt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Trails, Corridors and Linear Park
Rotary Park
Adams Avenue at S. 13th Avenue

General Observations:
Context
• residential
Natural Features
• mature vegetation at park edges
Users / Programs
• detention
Park Access
• vehicular: street parking available
• pedestrian: public sidewalk connections, no internal paths
Site Furnishings
• wood benches
• bike rack, no path connection
• drinking fountain
• metal litter and recycling receptacles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 play structure, 1 spring rider, 2 tot / 2 belt swings, timber curb with engineered wood fiber, seating available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstop</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>backstop only, no infield, field in good condition, players benches in poor condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>1 field</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Royal Fox Wetland
Royal Fox Drive, east of N. Kirk Road

General Observations:

Context
• residential

Natural Features
• native plantings
• wetland

Users / Programs
• conservation

Park Access
• vehicular: street parking available
• pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

Site Furnishings
• none

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Classification: Natural Area
Steeplechase Detention
South end of Steeplechase Road

General Observations:
Context
- residential
Natural Features
- wetland
- native plantings
Users / Programs
- neighborhood users
Park Access
- vehicular: street parking prohibited
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections, no park paths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Surrey Hill Park**
N. Tyler Road by Wing Lane

**General Observations:**

**Context**
- residential
- commercial

**Natural Features**
- mature trees

**Users / Programs**
- neighborhood users

**Park Access**
- vehicular: adjacent parking lot owned by businesses
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks, no internal paths

**Site Furnishings**
- wood benches
- picnic tables
- metal litter and recycling receptacles
- bike racks

### Amenity Accessible Condition Character

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenity</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5-12 structure, 2 belt / 2 tot swings, spinner, timber curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>1 field</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Taly Park

**Tula Avenue and Lincoln Street**

## General Observations:

### Context
- residential
- natural

### Natural Features
- mature trees
- riverfront (no access)

### Users / Programs
- neighborhood

### Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot
- pedestrian: no local sidewalks

### Comforts
- shade available

### Site Furnishings
- shelter
- metal benches
- metal litter and recycling receptacles

## Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>no paths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair to good</td>
<td>5-12 play structure, 1 independent play piece, 2 tot / 2 belt swings, timber curb with engineered wood fiber, seating available, concrete ramp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification: **Mini Park**
Timber Trails Park
North end of N. 17th Street

General Observations:

Context
- commercial
- residential

Natural Features
- mature vegetation
- hilly

Users / Programs
- community users
- bike trail connections

Park Access
- vehicular: parking lot, poor visibility to park entrance from Foundry Street
- pedestrian: bike trail access

Comferts
- seating at playground

Site Furnishings
- wood and metal benches
- picnic tables
- pedestrian light at basketball court

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenity</th>
<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails / Park Pathways</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>asphalt, boardwalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter (S1)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good to fair</td>
<td>large rectangle, 6 tables, wood structure, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter (S2)</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>poor to fair</td>
<td>small rectangle, 2 tables, wood structure, shingle roof, concrete pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>5-12 structure, track ride, 2 belt / 2 tot swings, spring rider, timber curb with engineered wood fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>2 courts, concrete paving and curb, no striping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Skating</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>flooded basketball court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sled Hill</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>1 hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use Field</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>2 fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Williams Wetland
Keim Court off Keim Trail

General Observations:
Context
- residential
Natural Features
- mature vegetation
- wetland
Users / Programs
- water management
Park Access
- vehicular: street parking available
- pedestrian: public sidewalk connections

Classification: Natural Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
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</table>
Facility Inventory

This inventory offers a snapshot of the existing conditions for all facilities during the time Comprehensive Master Plan was developed.

Introduction
This section includes a detailed inventory and analysis of the major Park District facilities including site images and observations. The Project Team performed a site visit and evaluation for each building to determine the opportunities for potential recommendations for improvements. Each site visited was photographed. Staff provided information on how the facility is used and any known issues.

Listed in alphabetical order, each facility page includes general information about the facility’s use and history, observations made by the Project Team and staff, overall quality of the facility and specific areas of concern.

Utilization
While the inventory and analysis informs the action plan, the information is also documented to serve as a general facility reference guide. This not only allows for the Park District to use these pages to reference the existing conditions of each facility at the time of the CMP, but also documents the ongoing changes and updates to each park as capital improvements and Master Plan action items are completed.

The St. Charles Park District has four buildings and complexes to provide recreation, aquatic, program and support services.
Baker Community Center
101 S 2nd Street

General Information:
- Three story Tudor-style building with a slate roof
- STC Underground Teen Center is located on the lower basement level
- Recently renovated interior with ADA and finish improvements
- Accessibility improvements include exterior access to lower level and elevator
- The Edward J. Baker Foundation owns the building; capital improvements are typically funded by the Edward J. Baker Foundation

Notes / Observations:
- Accessible entrance is separated from main building entrances
- One office is not accessible
- Second egress at upper level office area is through a potential storage area
- Building has three mostly unattended entrances; main reception area is hidden from direct view upon entry
- Split system units have been added throughout the building to improve heating and add cooling
- New chiller units sit on grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Conditions</th>
<th>A = Excellent / B = Above Average / C = Average / D = Below Average / E = Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Considerations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Interior / Furniture / Finishes</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 HVAC (Office + Concessions)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Plumbing / Fire Protection</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Electrical</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Roof</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Building Exterior / Windows / Doors</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Security</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 ADA Compliance</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Square Footage 19,150 GSF
Built 1926/2017
Parking Spaces 32
Denny Ryan Service Center
37W755 Bolcum Road

General Information:
- Pre-engineered main building houses offices and several workshop/maintenance bays
- Quonset hut contains large tank and fire pump
- Pre-engineered unheated storage building with wood framed mezzanines built for storage
- Gas/diesel filling station on site
- Greenhouse used by horticulturists
- Supports 20-30 regular staff; may see 60 people during the summer

Notes / Observations:
- Showers are not used but required due to chemical use and storage on site
- Meeting room is adequate for staff purposes
- Radiant flooring in semi-conditioned spaces (shop + storage); makes additional maintenance pits or anchoring equipment expensive and problematic
- Possible upgrade to lighting in high bay areas
- The building is on well water; fire protection is served by a large tank and fire pump; there is no generator serving the fire pump; electrical may be on a separate service than the building
- Recessed dock at the end of the building is wasted space; potential infill floor, open up wall to create a more usable shop/storage space

Facility Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Considerations</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interior / Furniture / Finishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>HVAC (Office + Concessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plumbing / Fire Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roof</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Exterior / Windows / Doors</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Security</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA Compliance</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Square Footage 12,900 GSF
Built 2001
Parking Spaces 80
Hickory Knolls Discovery Center
3795 Campton Hills Drive

General Information:
- One story building with exhibition spaces and large multi-purpose room available as a rental space
- Storage and mechanical spaces on the basement level
- Building is LEED Certified
- Geothermal system, passive cooling system, photovoltaic panels have been implemented at this building

Notes / Observations:
- Parking location/number of spots is inadequate for weddings and large gatherings
- Site lighting needs improvement for late night rental events
- Building lacks storage for all the various nature programs; received donations take up space; programming is broad and changing
- Carpeting needs to be replaced (visible wear and tear, spills, etc.)
- Heat within the vestibules is inadequate; interior door is propped open during the winter to keep the sprinkler head from freezing
- Storefront system was installed poorly and leaks at the larger openings
- Water tends to flow towards the vestibule during heavy rains
- Cement fiberboard panels are showing splitting and cracking; manufacturer should be contacted to resolve the issue.

Facility Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Considerations</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Interior / Furniture / Finishes</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 HVAC</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>3 Plumbing / Fire Protection</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Electrical</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Roof</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Building Exterior / Windows / Doors</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Security</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 ADA Compliance</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Square Footage 12,100 GSF
Built 2011
Parking Spaces 22
John B. Norris Recreation Center
1050 Dunham Road

General Information:
- Building owned by Community Unit School District 303 and operated by the Park District
- School District maintains the exterior of the building and other capital improvements
- Currently being renovated in five phases.
- A building fire has further modified renovation plans to address damage and expand scope
- Recent addition of fitness space at north corner of the building
- Adjacent high school uses pool for high school swim team and swim class programming
- Park District sub-contracts operator for the pool portion of the building
- Mechanical systems were replaced as part of renovations

Notes / Observations:
- Building houses four tennis courts and a 50-meter swimming pool with diving area
- Racquetball courts have been recently converted to a minigym and cycling studio with TRX equipment
- No acoustic separation from the upper level; no acoustic treatment within the courts; acoustic improvement should be considered
- Building has steep ramping and misaligned levels that make full ADA compliance difficult

<table>
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<tr>
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Total Square Footage: 91,421 GSF
Built: 1975
Parking Spaces: 351
Otter Cove Aquatic Park
3615 Campton Hills Drive

General Information:
- Seasonal outdoor water park with four single-story, block-bearing wall and wood truss buildings
- Men’s and Women’s changing/shower facilities in main building

Notes / Observations:
- Exterior thin metal truss connector plates have a limited life span when exposed to elements; occurs at the splash park building
- Air conditioning from guard room bleeds into the control room and out the doors and windows that are frequently open or accessed; potentially could separate spaces to increase energy efficiency
- VFD’s are going bad; Park District is replacing as needed
- The Park District plans to replace the boilers at Otter Cove with a model that has a condensing boiler with plat exchanger to heat pool water; currently pool water is directly heated and the pool water damages the boiler components leading to short life span
- Chemical controllers are in need of replacement; Park District desires a system that can be monitored remotely
- The Park District is looking at expanding outdoor seating area at concessions as the current outdoor area is not enough
- Holding tank for splash park should be expanded to help with water quality issues
- Outdoor covered seating space splash park is hidden and not well utilized

Facility Conditions

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Pottawatamie Community Center
8 North Avenue

General Information:
- Original north building constructed in 1991 with brick on block construction
- Two-story brick veneered addition was added in 2004
- Offices for Parks and Recreation are housed here and split up due to space constraints
- Pre-K and senior center on the ground floor in the south addition with multipurpose spaces on the second floor
- Indoor gym and multipurpose rooms are within the original building
- Activity room with demonstration kitchen and dance/group exercise room housed in second story of the addition

Notes / Observations:
- Attic insulation is pulling away from the trusses in areas
- Piping freezes in Men's locker room; maintenance keeps showers dripping to prevent issues
- North face of gym has issues with water penetrating block and infiltrating gym after heavy rains and spring thaw
- Fire protection consists of wet and dry systems; sprinklers in perimeter soffits freeze in winter
- Rooftop packaged units serving the gym have been replaced
- Gym lighting was replaced in 2005 but could be upgraded to LED in the future

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Total Square Footage: 40,000 sf
Parking Spaces: 160
Pottawatomie Golf Course Pro Shop
845 N 2nd Avenue

General Information:
• Building constructed as part of the WPA in 1938
• Building is a single story
• The stone veneer building is the same age as the building
• This building is seasonal and drained in the winter
• Building also houses the Swanson Pool's locker rooms, guard room and mechanical rooms

Notes / Observations:
• No insulation within the main Pro Shop space
• Offices and back attic space have been insulated
• Asphalt shingle roof
• Cracks in exterior stone knee wall need to be repaired
• Exterior stone knee walls show more deterioration than the existing building
• Limited fire protection in back of house areas

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Total Square Footage: 2,200 GSF
Built: 1938
Parking Spaces: 217 shared
Primrose Farm
5N726 Crane Road

General Information:
- Farm is composed of many unheated seasonal structures and outdoor livestock areas
- Two-story farmhouse is rented out as a residence; currently a Park District employee is the tenant
- Basement used by the Park District as the farm office

Notes / Observations:
- Electrical needs to be inspected and upgraded in office and residence
- Interlocking roofing shingles were replaced recently but are not holding up; manufacturer should be contacted for replacement or roof replacement should be pursued
- Sheep House is showing signs of sagging; joists should be inspected and shored
- Some staves at the silo are showing considerable wear and spalling at feed chute
- Foundation crack on west side of Main Barn should be inspected and repaired; water must be prevented from getting into the crack and worsening the condition
- Foundation walls have been previously buttressed in prior improvements
- Barn stage has been cited as a fall hazard

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Total Square Footage: 8,650 GSF
Built: 1860/2017
Parking Spaces: 13
River View Miniature Golf Course
8 North Avenue

General Information:
• Single-story wood framed structure with steel posts
• Building provides concessions and rental equipment for pedal boats, kayaks and minigolf course
• Building consists of open point of sale / concession prep area, minigolf point of sale station and storage area
• Building is seasonal and drained in the winter

Notes / Observations:
• No fire protection
• Relatively new point of sale equipment
• Adjacent restroom building has been recently renovated

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Total Square Footage 1,400 GSF
Built
Parking Spaces 160 shared
Swanson Pool
8 North Avenue

General Information:
• Building is seasonal and drained in the winter
• Building constructed as part of the WPA in 1938
• Recent extensive renovations have been made to accommodate ramps for accessibility and add restrooms
• Building also houses the golf course’s Pro Shop

Notes / Observations:
• Outdoor changing areas offer a unique experience
• Pool equipment is modernized
• Exterior stone veneer appears in good condition. Mortar should continually observed for signs of problems
• Additions or modifications to masonry will be challenging with currently available materials and labor

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Total Square Footage 10,840 GSF
Built 1938
Parking Spaces 217
CHAPTER Four
Connect: Community Engagement and Needs Assessment
Overview

Chapter Four focuses on the Connect: Community Engagement and Needs Assessment Phase and documents trends in the recreation industry and specific input received from the St. Charles community.

Purpose
The purpose for understanding park and recreation trends is to determine probable demands for certain services and amenities. Recreation trend reports were compiled from nationally-recognized sources to explore spending, participation and inactivity.

In order to increase participation, knowing the trends and interests of various user groups is crucial. Significant changes in specific activities (both increases and decreases) over the past two years are summarized. Summaries of all engagement sessions follow the national, state, and local trends report.

During the needs assessment phase of the master planning process, the Project Team reviewed trends, conducted stakeholder surveys, and led workshops with Park District staff and the Park Board. An online engagement platform, available 24/7 for a six-week period, gathered input from residents about their thoughts on parks, programs, and facilities. The Project Team also considered the results of the community survey conducted in November 2016, independently of the planning process.

Chapter Outline
- Methodology
- Review of Trends
  - National
  - State
  - Local
- Community Meetings
- Online Engagement
- Community Survey
- Stakeholder Input
- Staff Workshops
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Park Board Input
- Summary
METHODOLOGY

Review of Trends
National trends were derived from the 2017 Sports, Fitness and Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report that was facilitated by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (a top national researcher in the sports and fitness industry) as well as the 2017 Outdoor Foundation's Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report. State trends were derived from the 2015 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. ESRI's Business Analyst provided local recreation participation trends.

Online Engagement
Park District residents were invited to participate in an online survey. In total, 771 people completed the survey.

Community Survey
The community survey was conducted by aQity Research & Insights in Fall 2016 and distributed to a random sample of households within the St. Charles Park District’s boundaries. In total, 406 completed surveys were returned by mail, internet or phone. The results for this statistically-valid sample have a 95% level of confidence with a precision rate of at least ± 4.8%

Stakeholder Input
Stakeholder input consisted of stakeholder interviews and staff workshops. Stakeholder interviews were held for specific interest groups relevant to the Park District. These meetings, facilitated independently of one another, presented a series of questions about goals, objectives and desires of how groups might use the Park District in the future. Stakeholders were also asked for their opinions on the current state of the Park District.

Staff workshops consisted of three workshops held to gather input from staff representing all of the Park District’s departments including administration, parks and recreation. Input was provided about their goals, objectives, desires and hopes for the next five years as well as their opinions on the current state of the Park District.

Park Board Input
A workshop was held to allow board members the opportunity to generate and prioritize ideas for potential improvements, additions and goals for the Park District over the next five years.
National Trends

Derived from the statistically-valid surveys facilitated by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association with the Physical Activity Council and the Outdoor Foundation, the following data will help inform the Project Team’s recommendations.

The Physical Activity Council (PAC) is a partnership of seven major trade organizations in U.S. sports, fitness and leisure activities:

- Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
- National Golf Foundation (NGF)
- Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)
- International Health, Racquet and Sports Club Association (IHRSA)
- Tennis Industry Association (TIA)
- United States Tennis Association (USTA)
- Snowsports Industries America (SIA)

The following variables were used: gender, age, income, household size, region, population density and panel join date. Other research incorporated in this Chapter references the Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report, created by the Outdoor Foundation, in association with the Outdoor Industry Association. This annual report tracks American outdoor recreation trends with a focus on youth, diversity and the future of the outdoors.

Sports and Fitness Participation
Leisure activity has fluctuated over the past six years with 2016 showing an overall increase in total activity but a decrease in the number of both active and casual participants. The majority of Americans prefer participating in fitness sports followed by outdoor sports, individual sports team sports, water sports, racquet sports and winter sports. Among these categories, participation rates in fitness, outdoor, racquet, team and winter sports have increased over the past year. Individual and water sport participation decreased in 2016.
Activity participation is measured by core participation and growth. Core participants are defined as those who participate in a sport or activity on a regular basis. Based on core participation, the top ten activities in 2016 defined by millions of participants are:

- Walking for fitness (50+ times/year): 73.4
- Hiking (1+ times/year): 42.1
- Free weights-dumbells/hand weights (50+ times/year): 33.3
- Treadmill (50+ times/year): 28.4
- Camping within 1/4 mile of vehicle/home (1+ times/year): 26.5
- Running/jogging (50+ times/year): 25.6
- Stretching/flexibility, training/warm up/cool down/mobility (50+ times/year): 24.0
- Weight/resistance machines (50+ times/year): 21.4
- Wildlife viewing more than 1/4 mile from home/vehicle (1+ times/year): 20.7
- Bicycling-road/paved surface (26+ times/year): 19.1

In addition to referencing the current most popular activities by measuring core participation, the Overview Report also lists the growth of activities over one-, three- and five-year periods. These predictions can be used to recognize ongoing recreation trends and predict future areas of growth. The top ten core growth activities over the past three years are:

- Stand-up paddling (18.2%)
- Adventure racing (17.4%)
- Mixed martial arts for competition (17.2%)
- Cardio tennis (11.5%)
- Squash (9.7%)
- Trail running (8.1%)
- Boardsailing/windsurfing (7.7%)
- Hiking-day (7.1%)
- Boxing for competition (6.6%)
- Climbing-traditional/ice/mountaineering (6.4%)

As evidenced by these lists of activities, outdoor fitness-related activities are currently a popular form of recreation with four of the ten activities falling into this category, based on number of participants. Aerobics activities are
also popular with three of the top ten items listed in this category. However, growth trends indicate a different, more diverse trend. The largest growth is occurring in individual sports (four activities in the top ten) with racquet sports, outdoor activities and water sports each having two activities in the top ten growing activities.

These trends reveal that active people are increasingly looking for non-traditional health and recreation experiences that offer a fun physical, emotional and mental experience. While the largest amount of growth is being seen in less traditional sectors, class-based group fitness and exercise programs remain strong and are expected to grow in popularity, albeit at slower rates.

While many Americans enjoy watching team sports, both in-person and on television or electronic devices, they are increasingly disinterested in participating in them for their fitness needs. Ultimate frisbee and touch football had the largest decrease in participation over the past three years. Other team sports including basketball, soccer, softball, wrestling, volleyball and track & field are also declining. While team sport participation is declining as a whole, a few team sports are growing: rugby, roller hockey and lacrosse.

Racquet sports such as squash, tennis, cardio tennis and pickleball have maintained popularity over the last three years. Pickleball, in particular, is a trend to watch as it has been growing in popularity in the recreation industry, but it was overtaken in 2016 by cardio tennis in growth and had nearly equal participation.

The above findings are confirmed by the Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends for 2017 which conducts an annual international survey among practitioners in the commercial, clinical, community, and corporate fitness industries.

In the predictions for 2017, the majority of activities in the top ten and the top 20 could be described as related to fitness, while other trends can be classified as outdoor sports or technology. Seventeen of the top 20 trends reported remained from the previous year but worksite health promotion, smartphone exercise apps and outcomes measured all moved out of the top 20 trends for 2018. The following is a list of the top 20 trends for 2018:

- High-intensity interval training (short bursts of high-intensity exercise followed by short recoveries)
- Group training (motivational, instructor-led classes of five or more people)
- Wearable technology (activity trackers, smart watches, heart rate monitors, GPS trackers and smart eyeglasses)
- Body weight training (uses minimal equipment for cost savings)
- Strength training (common but limited to using weights; strength training is often incorporated into comprehensive exercise routines)
- Educated, certified and experienced fitness professionals (training by third-party accredited exercise professionals)
- Yoga (series of specific bodily postures for health and relaxation)
- Personal training (services provided by professionals with proper education, training and credentials)
- Fitness programs for older adults (older, retired adults are increasingly healthier than previous generations and interested in participating in safe, age-appropriate exercise)
- Functional fitness (strength training to improve balance, coordination, force, power and endurance as applies to one’s daily functions)

OUTDOOR SPORTS & PARTICIPATION

According to the Outdoor Foundation 2017 Topline Report, almost half the U.S. population (48.6%) participated in one or more outdoor sport or activity. These 144 million people went on a reported total of 11 billion outings over the course of the year. While these numbers reflect an overall increase in participation, the total number of outings declined as individuals went on fewer outings each. Compared to previous years, outdoor sports participation has increased. The largest increase last year compared to all other outdoor sports has been in BMX biking while stand-up paddling has had the most growth over the last three years. Running, jogging and trail running has continued to be the most popular activity by participation for several years.

Across all age groups, running, jogging, and trail running remained the top form of outdoor outings by both participation rates and frequency. Bicycling and fishing were also among the top five activities for all ages. The most popular activities for youth (age 6-24) determined by participation rates were:

- Running, jogging and trail running (25.3%)
- Bicycling-road, mountain and BMX (22.6%)
- Fishing-fresh, salt, and fly (19.5%)
- Camping-car, backyard and RV (19.0%)
- Hiking (15.5%)

The favorite activities for youth, based on frequency of participation, were running, jogging, trail running, bicycling, fishing, skateboarding and camping.
For adults (age 25+), the most popular activities by participation rates were:
• Running, jogging and trail running (14.8%)
• Fishing-fresh, salt and fly (14.6%)
• Hiking (13.7%)
• Bicycling-road, mountain and BMX (12.8%)
• Camping-car, backyard and RV (11.7%)

The top favorite adult activities based on frequency of participation were running, jogging, trail running, bicycling, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing.

Three-year growth trends indicated that the following ten activities have seen increased participation and will likely continue to provide opportunities to engage more people in the future:
• Stand up paddling
• BMX bicycling
• Cross-country skiing
• Adventure racing
• Kayak fishing
• Boardsailing/windsurfing
• Trail running
• Triathlon-traditional/road
• Hiking-day
• Climbing-traditional/ice/mountaineering

Three-year trends also identified ten activities with declining participation in the last three years. In order of largest to smallest decrease, they are:
• Birdwatching more than 1/4 mile from home/vehicle
• Running/jogging
• Snowshoeing
• Wakeboarding
• Rafting
• Camping within 1/4 mile from vehicle/home
• Bicycling-road/paved surface
• Wildlife viewing more than 1/4 mile from home/vehicle
• Scuba diving
• Canoeing

Engaging Inactives
An “inactive” person is defined by the PAC as one who does not participate in any of the sports/activities covered in the PAC Overview Report. In the past year, 8.1 million Americans or 27.5% of the population, were inactive, reflecting an increase in activity from last year with 0.2 million people becoming active. By age group, 6-12 year-olds are the most active with activity among 13-17 year-olds rising to nearly the same levels. Of the eight age groups, only 35-44 year-olds saw a decrease in percent of active population from 2015 to 2016. Americans over 65 have the largest rates of inactivity, reflecting the trend that people generally become less active as they age.

In order to understand how to engage inactives in sports and activities, the PAC survey lists “aspirational” activities that inactives are interested in participating in. For all age groups under age 65, camping is in the top three aspirational activities. Swimming for fitness and bicycling are also listed in the top ten for every age group and both are in the top five activities for all groups over age 12.

For inactives ages 6-12, other activities of interest focus on team sports such as football, soccer, and team swimming. As Americans age, interest in outdoor sports such as hiking, fishing and backpacking grows as does working out with weights and machines. Ages 65 and older list bird watching/wildlife viewing followed by fishing as their top aspirational activities. Hiking and camping are also in the top ten activities for this age group resulting in four of the ten items focused on outdoor activities.

Active adults, as well as inactives, are interested in social programs and sports leagues as well as active recreation. Active Network recommends the following activities for adult recreation programs:
• Sports-broomball, inner tube water polo, pickleball, wallyball
• Exercise-zumba gold, dance buffet, kettlebells
• Outdoor fitness technology-beginner’s guide to iPad, social media, digital photography
• Entertainment-karaoke, improv, murder mystery dinners, speed dating, Wii for seniors
• Art-cooking, drawing/painting, jewelry making, mixed media arts, pottery, quilting
• Professional/other-languages, estate planning, self-publishing, brain fitness, voice-overs, memoirs

Many agencies are “branding” their active adult programs for younger populations rather than the traditional senior.
State Trends

Data from SCORP is used to compare St. Charles Park District’s amenities to other Park Districts in the State of Illinois.

SCORP is prepared as a five-year document by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to maintain Illinois’ eligibility to participate in the Land Water Conservation Fund program. Its purpose is to “evaluate the outdoor recreation needs of Illinois citizens and determine how best to meet those needs”. Illinois’ natural resources, recreational lands, facilities, and socioeconomic factors are considered in this vision document.

A major finding in the 2015-2019 Illinois SCORP is the State’s long-standing deficit of outdoor recreation lands and facilities. While Illinois has not been able to achieve the per capita equivalent of other states with more lands and fewer people, park and recreation agencies throughout the State consistently plan for and achieve a high level of excellence with the recreation opportunities provided to their communities.

Recreation Facilities and Park Lands Inventory

There are more than 1.5 million acres of outdoor recreation land in Illinois ranging from federal and state lands to schools and private commercial lands. Municipal agencies, which include park and recreation departments, park districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts and county-level park departments, provide a total of 350,915 acres of park sites. They also own 195,753 acres of natural areas and lease/manage another 15,612 acres of open space.

The State, itself, offers 470,000 acres of open space primarily managed by the IDNR. State lands include parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation areas and recreation areas. Federal lands include the 280,000-acre Shawnee National Forest and seven National Wildlife Refuges sites. Other providers include schools, non-profits and private entities that provide unique outdoor recreation opportunities for the people of Illinois. The lands managed by these providers were not included in the SCORP.
Based on the 2015 Illinois Community Recreation Facilities and Park Lands Inventory, there are approximately 347.08 acres and 17.9 park sites on average per community throughout the State. Typically, park districts provide more acreage and park sites than city/village recreation agencies.

Top trends across the State are pickleball, disc golf and splash pads. The increasing popularity of pickleball is in response to aging populations found in all communities across the State, while the popularity of splash pads is in response to the financial constraints of outdoor swimming pool renovations. The popularity of disc golf demonstrates a growing preference for alternative outdoor recreation activities. Disc golf is another example of an alternative outdoor recreation activity that has increased as golf course owners look for new uses for their assets.

**Top Activities**
The top activities identified by the IDNR community-wide survey were pleasure walking and observing wildlife/bird watching. Picnicking, using a playground, on-road bicycling and swimming at outdoor pools were also among the most prevalent activities for Illinois residents. Activities with lower participation numbers include lacrosse, pickleball, snowmobiling, trapping, in-line skating, sailing and cross-country skiing. Reasons for some sports having lower participation rates may include smaller interest groups, no available facility or that the trend is still growing, like pickleball.

According to the survey, city parks or county preserves are used most for visiting an amphitheater or band shell, softball/baseball, lacrosse, soccer and mountain biking. State parks are used most for tent camping, vehicle camping, hiking, motor boating and water skiing. Federal lakes or forests are primarily used for sailing, water skiing and motor boating. Hunting is the most prevalent reason residents visit private areas for recreation.

**Attitudes about Outdoor Recreation**
Respondents were asked to rate the various factors they considered to be important when making decisions about engaging in outdoor recreation opportunities. Top contributing factors to respondents’ decisions to participate in outdoor recreation activities include exercise/health, experiencing nature, having fun and spending time with family and friends.

Survey respondents indicated that the primary role of parks and recreation facilities for Illinois communities should be to preserve open space. Other primary roles include making the community more desirable, improving fitness, enhancing a sense of place and increasing property values. Most (56.3%) respondents believe that local, state, and federal open space and recreation agencies are underfunded. The top two priorities for state providers are the operation and maintenance of existing park facilities and long-term planning and management. The most important items in terms of park and open space development are recreational facility variety, followed closely by camping, trails, fishing and boating facilities. Regional and community trails are also important to approximately 80% of respondents.

**Outdoor Recreation Priorities**
Priorities identified by the IDNR are listed in the 2015-2019 Illinois SCORP as:
- Healthy people and communities
- Access to outdoor recreation
- Natural resource stewardship
- Conservation education
- Cooperative partnerships
Local Trends

Trend information was derived from ESRI’s Sports and Leisure Market Potential Report.

The following data is based upon national inclination to use various products and services, applied to the local demographic composition of the St. Charles Park District area. Usage data was collected by Growth for Knowledge Mediamark Research and Intelligence, LLC in a national survey that was representative of U.S. households. Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the relative likelihood of the adults in specific areas to exhibit certain consumer behaviors or purchasing patterns compared to the U.S. population as a whole. An MPI of 100 represents the U.S. average while numbers under 100 indicate a lower than average representation and numbers above 100 represent a higher than average representation.

Based on projected population, the top ten recreational activities St. Charles residents will participate in are:
  - Walking for exercise (12,663)
  - Attending sports events (10,000)
  - Swimming (7,576)
  - Jogging/running (7,002)
  - Hiking (5,367)
  - Weight lifting (5,059)
  - Bicycling-road (5,003)
  - Golf (4,656)
  - Bowling (4,221)
  - Aerobics (4,196)

The number of MPIs over 100 for St. Charles is higher than what the Project Team typically finds, which indicates an active community. With 24 activities that score over 100 compared to most communities where only 12-15 score over 100, the St. Charles Park District bodes well for future program expansion. With activities split between indoor and outdoor recreation, there are several areas in which the District can grow its parks and facilities.
## Sports and Leisure Market Potential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product/Consumer Behavior</th>
<th>Expected # of Adults/HHs</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>MPI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participated in skiing (downhill)</td>
<td>1,546</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in yoga</td>
<td>4,063</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in tennis</td>
<td>2,054</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in golf</td>
<td>4,656</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in bicycling (mountain)</td>
<td>2,195</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in jogging/running</td>
<td>7,002</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in hiking</td>
<td>5,367</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in Pilates</td>
<td>1,388</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in weight lifting</td>
<td>5,059</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in aerobics</td>
<td>4,196</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend sports events</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in bicycling (road)</td>
<td>5,003</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in swimming</td>
<td>7,576</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in canoeing/kayaking</td>
<td>2,753</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in walking for exercise</td>
<td>12,663</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in soccer</td>
<td>1,962</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in bowling</td>
<td>4,221</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in ice skating</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in Frisbee</td>
<td>1,959</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in softball</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in backpacking</td>
<td>1,342</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in baseball</td>
<td>1,883</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in boating (power)</td>
<td>2,010</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in basketball</td>
<td>3,305</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in target shooting</td>
<td>1,795</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in football</td>
<td>1,918</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in volleyball</td>
<td>1,236</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in horseback riding</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in fishing (fresh water)</td>
<td>4,088</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Participation in the last 12 months
Moving Forward

Residents shared their ideas for the next five years via an online survey called *Moving Forward*.

The online engagement platform consisted of a webpage and a survey hosted by SurveyMonkey. Both were available 24/7 to provide information on the planning process and allow participants the opportunity to give input on programs, parks and facilities at their leisure.

The survey consisted of 11 multiple choice questions with opportunities for residents to add comments after several questions. The platform served as a replacement to in-person community meetings and to supplement the previously completed mail-out survey. It did not produce statistically valid results.

**Participation and Traffic**

Launched on October 27, 2017, Moving Forward was one method for engaging Park District users about parks, programs and facilities. Over a four-week period, the website was viewed 357 times and 771 people completed all or part of the survey. The average completion rate for the survey was 100%. In addition to links on the project website, the survey was shared on the Park District’s website, Facebook page, and with printed promotions at the Pottawatomie Community Center.

**Topic Overview**

The survey questions were divided into four overarching question groups: Demographics, Parks, Facilities and Future Initiatives. The survey was open for the full four-week period. All questions were optional and provided participants the opportunity to skip the question. The following results do not reflect the views of all respondents but are a summary of the multiple-choice questions and the most prevalent comments.
Responses

1. Are you a resident of the St. Charles Park District? (Y / N) Skipped: 3
   - 82.4% yes
   - 17.6% no

2. What is your age? Skipped: 4
   - 28.4% 50-64
   - 41.5% 34-49
   - 20.7% 25-34
   - 8.1% 18-24
   - 0.8% 19-24
   - 0.5% under 18
   - 65+

3. Do you currently have any children under the age of 18 in your household? (Y / N) Skipped: 8
   - 54.0% yes
   - 46.0% no

4. Thinking of the Park District’s properties you have recently visited, are there park amenities that need improvements? Select all that apply. Skipped: 232
   - Restrooms: 38.4%
   - Trail system/park connectivity: 32.5%
   - Drinking fountains: 28.8%
   - Playgrounds: 21.7%
   - Parking: 17.6%
   - Water access (boat launches, fishing areas): 15.0%
   - Natural areas: 14.5%
   - Shaded areas: 14.5%
   - Athletic fields: 13.7%
   - Lighting: 13.4%
   - Pavilions/shelters: 13.2%
   - Additional seating: 13.2%
   - Open space: 10.0%
   - Bike racks: 8.0%

5. Are there outdoor recreation opportunities/amenities that you would like to see added to the Park District? Select all that apply. Skipped: 111
   - Off-street, multi-purpose walking and biking trails: 48.9%
   - Nature / interpretive trails: 34.2%
   - Aquatic play spray areas: 29.2%
   - Outdoor ice hockey rink: 19.6%
   - Other (please specify): 17.3%
   - Charging stations: 15.9%
   - Outdoor fitness equipment: 15.3%
   - Garden plots: 12.4%
   - Bike pump track: 11.8%
   - Pickleball: 11.8%
   - 18-hole disc golf: 10.6%
   - BMX bike park: 6.8%
   - Platform tennis: 6.0%
Many respondents used the “Other” comment box to restate their preferred amenity from the above list, walking and biking trails and garden plots each received two additional comments and aquatic play spray areas, nature/interpretive trails and outdoor ice hockey each received one additional comment.

The most prevalent suggestions were the addition and improvement of river access (10 related comments), the addition of restrooms with running water and flushable toilets (8) and the addition of an outdoor ice rink for uses other than hockey (6). Other comments ranged from the addition of park amenities such as playgrounds, sport and racquet courts, and additional golf amenities to requests for programming such as increasing the number of senior trips, accommodating users with special needs, or providing multi-generational options. A few items focused on specific use facilities such as natural areas, shooting sports, a climbing wall and a dog park.

6. Of the park sites you have visited, please select the following activities that you or your household has participated in over the last 12 months. Select all that apply. Skipped: 67

122 respondents left comments for this question. The most frequently mentioned uses were playgrounds (26 comments), pool (25 comments) and golf (12 comments). While significantly lower, other comments referred to residents’ use of sports facilities (for competition or pick-up games), viewing art at Mt. St. Mary Park, gardening, playing disc golf and using trails.

7. Are there indoor recreation opportunities/amenities that you would like to see added to the Park District? Select all that apply. Skipped: 124

Once again, some respondents used the other section to restate amenities that were listed above, 12 comments supported gymnasium/activity courts specifically for pickleball, 7 restated the need for better access to an indoor pool, and 3 referenced an indoor playground.

Many of the comments (12) stated that there were no new indoor amenities needed. Other respondents asked for new programming such as gymnastics, additional senior and tot programs and offering more evening times. Suggested physical improvements included upgrading the fitness equipment and improving Wi-Fi access. Three comments also requested that free meeting/event rooms be made available to community and non-profit groups.
8. Of the indoor facilities you visited, are there areas that need improvements? Select all that apply. Skipped: 360

- **Restrooms**: 88.6%
- **Other (please specify)**: 51.7%
- **Program/rental space cosmetic upgrades flooring, finishes, etc.**: 20.3%
- **Parking access**: 15.5%
- **Locker rooms**: 15.2%
- **Equipment (sound systems, audio/visual, Sports Apparatus, etc.)**: 13.6%
- **Exterior/interior lighting**: 14.5%

The clear majority of comments stated were from participants who did not feel any indoor facility improvements were needed (33 comments). The next two most frequent comments (4 each) requested updates to the Norris Recreation Center and improved cleanliness in general. Baker Community Center was also suggested by 2 respondents as needing updates. Other comments referred to accessibility challenges at the pool, scheduling conflicts and improving lighting throughout the District.

9. Based on the Park District’s 2016 Community Survey, participants indicated that incorporating more “green/sustainable” strategies in parks, facilities, and operations was somewhat important to important. Costs to incorporate these types of strategies may require re-allocation of funds from other projects or improvements. For each potential “green/sustainable” strategy listed, please indicate how important you support incorporating this strategy knowing this may require re-allocation of funds. Skipped: 31

The following strategies are organized from the highest support to the lowest based on the weighted average of the responses. Participants were given the options of not important (1), somewhat important (2), important (3) or very important (4) for the following strategies.

- **Stormwater management (permeable pavers, biowale, etc.)**: 2.54
- **Organic turf maintenance**: 2.18
- **Solar power**: 2.47
- **Alternative fuels (propane, biodiesel, etc.)**: 2.16
- **Electric vehicles**: 2.04
10. The following list represents potential major initiatives or developments for the Park District. Please indicate how much you support each project. Skipped: 13

The following strategies are organized from the highest support to the lowest based on the weighted average of the responses. Participants were given the options of not important (1), somewhat important (2), important (3) or very important (4) for the following strategies.

- Add indoor walking opportunities: 2.78
- Add indoor gym space: 2.51
- Implement the Active River Project: 2.48
- Develop recreation opportunities at the newly leased 88 acres on Rt. 38 west of James O. Breen Community Park: 2.38
- Acquire land for additional recreation opportunities: 2.24
- Renovate mini-golf course: 1.91
- Construct indoor synthetic turf fields: 1.66
- Construct outdoor synthetic turf field: 1.51

11. The following list represents potential actions items for the Park District. Please select the top three items your household would most support. Skipped: 13

There were no comments that introduced new ideas for supported amenities. Of the suggestions listed, providing indoor fitness/recreation (especially with a walking track), increasing trail connectivity and expanding ecological/native programming each received more than five comments. Four responses suggested that the Park District reduce spending on activities. Other items listed suggested adding community gardens to the downtown, acquiring more river frontage, updating aquatics, adding an 18-hole golf course and adding to the programs and events offered.
Summary

Overall trends show that most residents prioritize walking trails (indoor and outdoor) and amenities that support this use such as restrooms and water fountains. This matches the Project Team’s findings in other Illinois communities in recent years. St. Charles Park District’s position along the Fox River also generated strong community interest in river access and outdoor aquatic activity as well as ecologically-focused amenities and programs.

Court space was also generally supported in the survey with particular focus on providing indoor and outdoor pickleball courts. Indoor gym and court space, in general, was also widely identified as a shortage throughout the community, and providing an indoor walking track to replace the local malls was in high demand.

In general, survey participants who filled out “other” comment responses indicated satisfaction with the Park District, however, a small number of residents did not support indoor amenities/programs and would prefer the Park District only focus on outdoor spaces. A few also expressed displeasure with District spending and suggested finding ways to reduce costs.
Community Survey

aQity Research & Insights administered a community survey for the Park District from September 9 to October 31, 2016 prior to the beginning of the Comprehensive Master Plan.

This report contains the following survey information:
- Methodology
- Major findings
- Overall survey results (see appendix for the executive summary)

Methodology
An eight-page survey was mailed to a random sample of households throughout the St. Charles Park District boundaries with a paid postage return envelope. Recipients were also given the option to complete the survey online or over the phone.

Survey data was collected from September 9 to October 15. From October 15 through 31, a portion of the data collection was re-fielded to ensure that all Park District residents, especially those living outside the City of St. Charles were adequately represented.

In total, 406 households completed the survey: 285 by mail, 81 online and 40 by phone. Assuming no bias, the margin of error is ±4.8% with a 95% confidence level.

Major Findings by Category
Local Issues and Overall Opinions
On average, respondents rated the Park District higher than the statewide and DuPage/Kane County benchmarks. 91% of people have favorable opinions of the Park District with 48% rating it extremely favorable with scores of nine or ten out of ten. When asked, one in four residents were unable to identify anything negative about the Park District. Satisfaction with District facilities is particularly high among recent users, pass-holders and with residents living in the northwest areas of the District. Residents living in the northeast of the District and people who rent were typically the least satisfied.

Respondents identified the Park District’s programs and events followed by the quality and variety of parks, buildings or facilities as the District strengths. When asked to identify weaknesses, respondents identified a need for improving buildings and facilities by adding space and improving maintenance. Other comments were that costs/fees are too high and administration improvements are needed.

Survey participants were asked to describe one local issue most important to them. This question was not limited to responses pertaining to the Park District. The most common issue was “property taxes” by 31% of respondents. “More/Improve/Maintain parks and recreation facilities” was the second most-cited issue receiving 14% of the responses and was common from residents in the northeast of the Park District. Other issues that could directly impact the Park District were safety...
(9%), improve sidewalks/trails/connectivity (6%), environmental issues (6%) and quality of life (5%).

Perceived Value
Very few residents are aware of the percent of taxes the Park District receives. On average, residents estimated that 9.2% of their property taxes went to the Park District compared to the actual 7%. When told the District’s tax revenue, resident response was mostly positive, with 80% rating the Park District value as good or excellent.

This is similar with the larger Kane and DuPage County areas where 77% of the population rated the value of their park district good/excellent but better than the Illinois benchmarks of 70% good/average. Significantly fewer respondents rated the Park District value as poor (8%) compared to Kane and DuPage Counties (17%) and the State of Illinois (16%).

Households with children and adults between age 35 and 44 tended to report the highest-perceived value as did residents with the highest participation rates. Respondents who found the least value relative to property taxes were users from outside the Park District, non-white residents, renters, male residents over 55 years of age and residents who have lived in the area less than 20 years.

Parks and Facilities Usage and Satisfaction
Almost nine out of ten respondents visited a St. Charles Park District park or facility in the last 12 months. Pottawatomie Park was the most visited location (54%) and the Community Center and golf course also drew a significant number of visitors (14% and 12%). Otter Cove Aquatic Park followed by Mt. St. Mary Park were also popular locations with about 30% of the respondents visiting in the last year. Typically, residents visit the parks and facilities closest to their homes. Hickory Knolls and Norris Recreation Center are notable exceptions to this trend. Both draw a significant number of visitors from all areas of the District.

Nearly all Park District users are either somewhat or extremely satisfied with the overall Park District experience (97%). Respondents are dissatisfied with are overall access and overall cleanliness, maintenance, and upkeep with about 2% of residents dissatisfied with each.

Very few non-users report negative reasons for their lack of use. Respondents who do not use the Park District largely report a lack of time as the primary reason followed by not having children in their households. The only Park District criticism that prevented use was that the parks are hard to get to or that there is nothing nearby.

Awareness and Opinions of Specific Facilities
Of the residents surveyed, only 1% were not familiar with any of the major facilities listed. The most familiar facilities in the Park District are the River View Miniature Golf Course (81% aware) and Otter Cove Aquatic Park (80%). Swanson Pool, Pottawatomie Golf Course, Primrose Farm, Baker Community Center and Hickory Knolls Discovery Center were also known of by at least half of the respondents. Only the STC Underground Teen Center and Adult Activity Center were known by less than half the respondents (35% and 28% aware).
Awareness of facilities is typically defined by region, age, and household composition with the facilities’ typical user group and closest residents the most aware. Of all residents, those in the northwest and men are the most likely to be unfamiliar with any facility.

STC Underground Teen Center is the facility with the least awareness but is well regarded by the community with 81% of respondents including the majority of every subgroup feeling it plays a somewhat or very important role in the community. Supporters of the Teen Center cited it as a safe place for activities and many had personal experiences with it. Residents who do not think it is important feel it is under-utilized or that there are other places for teens to go.

65% of survey respondents are aware of the Park District’s management of Norris Recreation Center. The most common uses of the facility are the pool, the fitness center and the tennis courts. Overall, 86% of residents feel that this facility is somewhat or very important. Despite its location east of the river, residents in the north and southwest of the District were the most likely to rate it as very important but are also most likely to feel it is too far away to use. Only 14% of the respondents are members of or use the Norris Recreation Center. The most common reason for not using the facility is lack of awareness (23%) followed by distance/far away (18%).

Although Otter Cove Aquatic Park is well known, very few respondents identified needed improvements. 39% of respondents don’t know/unfamiliar with the facility and 9% felt it is fine as-is/no improvements are needed. The top recommendations that were offered were improving the pool features (11%), offering different amenities (10%) or improving the facility (9%).

About 60% of respondents are aware of rental opportunities at Baker Community Center and the Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, and about half of the community is somewhat or very likely to considering renting these facilities. The most-likely renters are adults between 35 and 54 years of age, central west residents and recent visitors. Residents who would not rent these facilities mostly cite that they have no need for rentals or that they are not familiar with these spaces. The most common complaints about Baker and Hickory Knolls is that they are inconvenient (9%), facilities do not fit my needs (9%) or they prefer other options (6%).

Overall, 36% of survey respondents are very or somewhat interested in improving the River View Miniature Golf Course while 41% are not interested in seeing any changes. The remaining 23% are unfamiliar with the facility.

**Level of Interest and Unmet Needs Among Facilities/ Amenities**

This graph shows the percent of residents who are interested in adding these amenities to the Park District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities/Amenities of Interest/Need</th>
<th>% of Residents Interested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails for Walking/Biking</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Areas</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Flushable Toilets</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Gymnasium Space</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Garden Plots</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Soccer/Lacrosse Game Fields</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Soccer/Lacrosse Practice Fields</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Turf Fields</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor All-Weather Turf Fields</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleball Courts</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Facilities/Amenities of Interest/Need**

Although trails (hiking and biking) and natural areas were the highest desired needs, further analysis shows that these needs are already meeting a high demand. This is also the case with playgrounds. The only other need that was supported by over 50% of respondents was that outdoor flushable toilets were found to not be well met in the community, thus making it a high priority need. Other needs that are unmet but are low priority based on resident demand are gym space, community garden...
garden plots, indoor turf fields, pickleball courts and outdoor all-weather turf fields. Available amenities that are currently exceeding resident demand are outdoor game fields and outdoor practice fields. These results are summarized in the following table.

Of the potential improvements and additions to the Park District, the top priority is placed on maintaining existing parks and facilities, ranked 7.9 out of 10. Other highly ranked initiatives were converting the former railroad line to new trails (6.7/10) and incorporating more green/sustainable strategies (6.7/10).

Program Participation and Satisfaction
Approximately half of the survey respondents participated in a program or event in the last 12 months. The top programs were sports and fitness, nature, farm, environmental programs and family events. Residents who were least likely to participate typically live in the northeast area of the District and rent their homes.

The majority of participants (94%) are either somewhat or extremely satisfied with the Park District’s programs and events. The remaining 6% were neutral, with no residents indicating dissatisfaction with the programs and events.

When asked to identify new programs for the Park District, half of the respondents indicated no additional programs needed/fine as is. Program suggestions were split evenly between sports and non-sport activities and were scattered between diverse topics.

Information Sources
The most common way residents get information about the Park District is through the quarterly activity guide/brochure (71%) followed closely by the website (71%). The activity guide remains the preferred source of information.

Other Local Recreation-Related Agencies/Issues
There is very little awareness of the major agencies in the St. Charles area. Only 33% of respondents are aware of the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association (3% of households have used their services), 26% are aware of the Active River Project, 24% are aware of Park District volunteer opportunities and 12% are aware of the St. Charles Park Foundation.

After receiving a description, 71% of residents indicated some level of support for the Active River Project with only 10% opposed.
Stakeholder Input

The following summary is an overview of input received from the stakeholder interviews and staff workshops.

Stakeholder input was collected through two processes. On November 16, 2017, the Project Team conducted workshops with three groups of Park District employees where participants were asked to generate ideas answering the question “What should the St. Charles Park District focus on over the next five years?” Each participant submitted their highest priorities, and the group voted on the items they thought were the most important. In total, 36 staff members provided input.

The Project Team also facilitated a series of stakeholder interviews in which 29 stakeholders from associated resident, business and government organizations shared their observations about the Park District and suggestions for the future in a conversational format. The following summarizes the results of staff and stakeholder meetings.

Indoor Facilities
Participants provided suggestions for improvements to both existing indoor space and new developments and consistently rated indoor facilities as high priorities. High priority improvements include the need to renovate the lower level at Baker Community Center, upgrade the Pottawatomie Community Center and its maintenance building, improve restrooms and increase storage capacity.

Recommendations for new indoor spaces ranged from suggested amenities to new developments. Providing a new fitness center, athletic centers, a camp space, an indoor skate park and climbing walls were all prioritized items. The need for an indoor walking track was also frequently mentioned in all of the groups but was not given highest priority. Other low priority suggestions included adding gym and studio space including additional courts and a minigym. Among staff, several suggested the addition of an indoor aquatic facility.

Programs and Events
Program suggestions were varied with suggestions ranging from expanding seasonal offering to increasing flexibility in attendance policy. Age-specific items, specifically providing for teens, young adults and seniors, were the most cited concerns.

Parks Improvements and Additions
Parks and open spaces were addressed by all of the staff groups with several types of needs identified. It also received a significant number of votes from each group making it one of the highest prioritized items. Popular park improvements were largely focused on creature comforts such as adding flushable bathrooms, water fountains, lighting and improving or completing shelters. Parking was also frequently mentioned either as a District-wide need or for specific locations with one group prioritizing the need as an independent category. Other park improvements included general maintenance and...
enhancements of amenities such as fields and courts.

In addition to overall park improvements, stakeholders recommended a variety of amenity additions. Synthetic turf fields, specialty playgrounds (ADA, adventure, zipline, nature), driving range, passive adult activities and adding boat launches each received support from multiple people. A splash pad was also suggested by multiple participants but was not highly prioritized.

**Open Space**
Several categories pertaining to outdoor open space emerged from the different staff groups. Trail improvements including increasing connectivity, expanding the existing network and installing amenities such as restrooms and drinking water were frequent and popular recommendations. Trail safety, particularly for younger users, was mentioned as a priority. Land acquisition to provide better access to parks was also recommended and received support from all of the groups. Finally, natural area restoration and expansion was proposed by one staff group but received low priority.

Within the stakeholder discussions, the role of the Fox River in the community is a key concern. Many stakeholders expressed a desire to see increased riverfront activation in the form of commercial development, recreation opportunities, and conservation and restoration efforts. How people use the river was also a major concern for some stakeholders to determine what uses are appropriate and to improve safety.

**Staffing**
A few of the staff groups identified needs for increasing the number of staff and overall participation in the decision-making process.

**Partnership**
Several stakeholders expressed support of the current relationships with the Park District and many expressed a desire to expand collaboration. Norris Recreation Center specifically was highlighted as a successful arrangement. The Active River project was frequently cited as an organization residents would like to see more Park District involvement.

**Communications**
Among one group of staff, improving Park District communication was a priority. Participants felt that awareness of programs and parks could be improved with suggestions including improving signage, greater utilization of social media or the development of an app. For the Park District, social media specifically was cited as a way to communicate with the young adult and teen demographics.

**Technology**
Staff had few specific ideas about how to use technology but agreed that improvements to speed and sophistication of the existing system has the potential to improve resource management and patron interaction.

**Location**
While not identified by staff, the location of Park District resources is a critical issue to many stakeholders. Residents feel a strong east/west divide across the river and are aware of real and perceived equity of the location of existing and proposed amenities. A few participants suggested the Park District remain aware of expected growth when planning new parks and facilities to justify location selections.

**User Groups**
Stakeholders identified a few groups whom they feel are underserved or whose growing population necessitates additional services. The senior population of St. Charles is growing, and some participants suggested that more varied programs are needed to support changing lifestyles. In particular, the addition of an indoor walking track to support this group was a popular recommendation.

The Teen Center was identified as having a positive impact but some stakeholders questioned if it is reaching enough people. Many residents also feel that is the only option available to teenagers other than organized sports and suggest that the Park District provide other amenities for this age group in parks and through programs.

Special needs groups that partner with the District also provided recommendations. These users have a shortage of indoor recreation space in the Chicagoland area. Members are limited by transportation restrictions. Providing dedicated, thoughtfully-located amenities for this user group may attract new users to St. Charles.
The seven-member Park Board met on January 23 to provide suggestions for the Park District’s direction over the next five years. Board members were asked to approach the question from their perspectives as residents and users of the Park District and as elected officials. Each person contributed the five ideas most important to them and the group voted on the ideas to determine which had the most support.

**Expanded and New Programs**
Expanded and new programs were rated highly by Board members. Many of the specific items within the category focused on programming targeted at specific age groups including early childhood, teens, aging adults and inter-generational groups. Other items included increasing successful offerings such as summer fitness or early childhood classes.

**Parks and Open Space**
The Park Board generated several categories focused on outdoor holdings and activities. Expanding and improving trails was prioritized highly and included suggestions to connect existing spurs, expand the system and add activities for trail users. Board members specifically identified extending the trails along the river and the proposed Union Pacific Railroad property as locations to expand service.

The idea of a sports complex/tournament space was also popular with the participants. This category focused on the addition of turf fields to provide large-scale championship and tournament options.

River recreation was presented as a category to expand access and activities, with the Active River Project named as a viable partner.

Other suggestions pertaining to outdoor space were ideas to add new amenities. Restrooms were an individual category as was new park amenities, although the only suggestion within this category was to provide more winter recreation options.

Land acquisition for underserved residents, specifically in the northeast and northwest of the District, was the final category suggested.

**New Indoor Spaces**
Providing new indoor spaces was the highest prioritized item determined by the Park Board. Within this category, several recommendations were made for adding gym space and courts for recreation and building a walking track. The construction of new facilities such as the proposed Swim City Facility were also addressed by this group.
Improve Existing
While prioritized in the middle of the group, the idea of caring for existing assets generated a variety of suggestions including maintaining and upgrading park space, modernizing facilities and retrofitting buildings to meet environmental goals, and adapting indoor recreation space to meet community needs.

Green Strategies
This final category was determined by the Park Board to be highly important and was identified as an overarching policy that would affect all aspects of the Park District. Specific items within the category include making green infrastructure a matter of course and moving off carbon-based fuels.
COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR THE
ST. CHARLES PARK DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 30, 2016

aQity Research & Insights
Evanston, IL
Opinions of the SCPD: Esteem, Strengths, and Improvements Sought

Overall the SCPD is held in very high esteem by District residents.

- On average, they rate the District an 8.2 on a 0-10 scale, surpassing park district benchmarks statewide (7.2 average) and in the DuPage/Kane county area (7.9).
  - Ninety-one percent have favorable opinions about the SCPD, including 48% who are extremely favorable (scores of 9 or 10).
  - By comparison, only 2% hold the District in negative esteem, with the remaining 7% voicing neutral opinions.
  - Other agencies also receive favorable ratings, but are below the SCPD’s 8.2 average:
    - The City of St. Charles and the Forest Preserve District each receive a 7.8. School District 303 receives a positive 7.5 score.

- Residents express a wide range of strengths for the District, mostly around its range of quality programs, followed by the number and variety of its parks and trails, and then its well-maintained facilities and pools/aquatic centers.

- When asked what they dislike most about the SCPD, the most frequent response was “nothing” at 27%. The rest cite:
  - The need for more or better-maintained facilities (in general and specifically Norris Center and the outdoor pools);
  - Lower fees and costs;
  - Administrative issues (especially improved communication and dislikes of specific policies).
Importance of Local Issues and the SCPD’s Perceived Value

Property Taxes Clearly Represent the Top Local Concern

- In an open-ended format, nearly a third of respondents (31%) volunteered that high property taxes is the most important local issue.
  - Older residents, men, and those in the NW area are the most tax-sensitive.
- Half as many residents feel the biggest local concern is:
  - Improving/Maintaining/Expanding parks and recreation opportunities (14%, especially among NE residents);
  - Maintaining and improving local schools (13%, especially among younger adults with children, women, and SCPD visitors/pass-holders);
  - Improving the local economy (13%, especially in the SE and Central-West).

When Informed of the SCPD’s Share of Property Taxes, Residents Feel the District Represents a Good Overall Value

- On average, residents estimate that 9% of their property taxes goes to the SCPD. While this is close to the District’s actual proportion of seven percent:
  - 20% estimate the District accounts for more than ten percent of their taxes, and 26% think it represents less than five percent – indicating that many have no strong sense of the District’s actual share.
- When informed that the District represents seven percent of their property taxes, 80% feel that this represents an “excellent” (37%) or “good” (43%) overall value considering the range and quality of SCPD programs, facilities, and services.
  - Women, younger adults with children, SPCD users and pass-holders, and newer residents to the area tend to rate the value higher than average.
  - Lower scores come from men, non-users, older and long-term area residents.
High Usage and Satisfaction with SCPD Parks, Facilities

Most Have Recently Visited SCPD Park and Facilities

- Nearly nine out of ten residents (88%) report that they or a household member has used or visited a District park or facility in the past twelve months. Most often they report going to:
  - Pottawatomie Park (65%), including the community center and golf course;
  - Otter Cove (37%);
  - Mt. St. Mary Park (35%);
  - Swanson Pool (24%);
  - Hickory Knolls (20%), including the Discovery Center.

- Satisfaction with these parks and facilities overall is very positive:
  - On a 0-10 scale, at least 71% are “extremely satisfied” (scores of 9-10) with the overall experience at these parks facilities, along with the maintenance, safety, and overall accessibility of these properties.

- The relatively few non-users/non-visitors (12% overall) usually cite a lack of time or a lack of interest in outdoor activities and recreation as reasons for not using these facilities.

  - Others report that they have no young children (or their children are now grown) as reasons for not using the Park District, suggesting that their impression that the SCPD is primarily geared toward younger children/families.
Awareness/Opinions of Specific SCPD Facilities

Relatively Few Are Aware of the STC Underground Teen Center

➢ Overall, only 35% of residents are familiar with the Teen Center. <pg. 40>
  ➢ When informed that the facility is available to middle and high school students at no charge (supported by property taxes), the vast majority of residents feel that the Teen Center is “very important” (50%) or “somewhat important” (33%) to the community as a safe place for teenagers to socialize and have activities.
  ➢ Those who feel it is not important to the community (17% overall) question it’s lack of need, whether or not it’s heavily used, believing that there are plenty of activities and opportunities for teenagers elsewhere.

Many Remain Unaware that the SCPD is Managing Norris Recreation Center

➢ Just over a third (35%) do not know that the SCPD operates Norris. <pg. 46>
➢ Regardless of this level of awareness, residents overall feel the facility is important to the community (45% “very important” and 40% “somewhat important”). <pg. 47>
➢ Overall, 14% report being members or currently using the Norris Rec Center. Non-users most often cite a lack of awareness with the facility (23%), or feel it is too far away from them (18% -- mostly older residents and those living west of the Fox River).
  ➢ One in nine (11%) feel the fees are too high.
Awareness/Opinions of Specific SCPD Facilities (cont’d)

Many Know of the Rental Opportunities at Baker Community Center and the Discovery Center

- Roughly three in five residents are aware that these facilities can be rented for private events.
  - However, should a rental need arise only about half would be likely to consider these facilities. Most are only “somewhat” likely to do so (only 10% are “very likely” to consider these options).
  - Most often, those disinterested report lacking a need for such facilities (42%), or general unfamiliarity with these facilities (20%). The rest offer a wide range of other reasons (inconvenience, preference for private facilities, cost).

Few Suggest Specific Improvements for Otter Cove

- The most frequent suggestions include:
  - Expanded pool features (11% -- more lap lanes, larger pool, separate splash park);
  - Other amenities (10% -- more slides, more chairs, better concessions);
  - Facility upgrades (9% -- shade area, better maintenance)

- About as many (9%) feel no improvements are needed, that Otter Cove is fine as-is. The rest are not familiar enough with the facility to offer ideas (39% overall).

Residents are Divided Over River View Improvements

- Overall, 36% are interested in seeing improvements made at River View Miniature Golf course (including 10% “very interested”).
- However, 41% are not interested, and another 23% do not use the facility.
Priorities and Unmet Needs for Facilities/Amenities

The vast majority of District residents express an interest or need for walking and biking trails (96%) and natural areas (86%).

Nearly two-thirds likewise express demand for outdoor flushable toilets (62%) and playgrounds (60%).

The remaining amenities and facilities tested are of interest or are used by less than half (but still sizeable proportions) of residents:

- Indoor gym space (43%);
- Community garden plots (36%);
- Outdoor practice and/or game fields for soccer and lacrosse (24%-26% each);
- Indoor turf fields (24%) and outdoor all-weather turf fields (23%);
- Pickleball courts (15%).

The feature that represent the greatest unmet demand is providing outdoor flushable toilets (biggest gap between current demand and existing supply).

These are especially important to women and households with children, and align with the two most popular SCPD offerings – trails and natural areas.

Additional gym space is the second biggest opportunity in terms of potential unmet needs.

Residents feel that trails, natural areas, and playgrounds are all readily available. Similarly, those who use or need outdoor sports fields for soccer and lacrosse feel they are sufficiently available currently.
SCPD Program Participation and Satisfaction

Among potential SCPD initiatives, residents feel the top priorities should be:

- Maintaining existing facilities and properties (7.9 average on a 0-10 scale);
- Converting the abandoned east-west rail line into a walking and biking trail (6.7 average score, with 69% saying it is “extremely” (39%) or “somewhat (30%) important;
- Pursuing more sustainable “green” operations in the Districts parks and facilities are considered somewhat important (6.0 average rating).

Residents were less likely to agree (more divided) on the need to:

- Acquire more land for open space;
- Improving/expanding indoor recreational facilities;
- Or becoming the primary source for environmental education.

Adding more sports fields is again considered least important.
SCPD Program Participation and Satisfaction

- The most popular (self-reported) are:
  - Sports and fitness programs (especially for children age 15 and under);
  - Farm, nature and environment programs;
  - Family events;
  - Swimming lessons, summer camps, and preschool programs (again for children).

- Overall satisfaction with these programs and events is very strong. On a 0-10 scale:
  - Recent participants give an average rating of 8.5.
  - Virtually all (94%) are either “extremely” satisfied (59%) or “somewhat satisfied” (35%). No one expressed dissatisfaction with their SCPD program experience.

- The most frequent response for suggested new programs or events is “None/No suggestions” (51%), reflecting strong support for the current offering.
  - 16% want more specific programs (e.g., arts and crafts, classroom/learning programs, etc.);
  - 13% seek more fitness or sports-related offerings (in general, or river activities, specific fitness programs).
Sources of SCPD Information, and Other Recreation Issues

The SCPD Website and Program Are The Top Park District Information Sources

- Equal numbers report going to the District website or the quarterly activity guide when seeking information about SCPD programs, parks, facilities, or services (71% each).
- Many also go to non-SCPD sources for Park District information, most often:
  - Word-of-mouth from friends or family (37%);
  - The City of St. Charles website or offices (32%);
  - The Public Library (22%);
  - Local newspapers (18%).
- In terms of their preferred information source, the printed activity guide slightly edges the SCPD website.

Low Awareness of Other Recreation Groups/Issues, But Active River Project Has Strong Potential

- Most people are unaware of the Park Foundation, volunteerism programs at the SCPD, or the FVSRA.
- Similarly, only 26% of residents said they are somewhat (20%) or very familiar (6%) with the St. Charles River Corridor Foundation’s Active River Project or its proposals. Half of the community (48%) said they have never heard of it.
  - However, after a brief description of the group’s proposals for riverfront, 71% said they strongly (44%) or somewhat support (27%) these efforts.
  - Only ten percent are unopposed. The rest (19%) are undecided – probably due to lack of awareness.
Staff Workshop Summary

Meeting Summary

The first group consisted of 12 participants. Below is a compilation of the categories and comments.

1. **Park additions**
   - Expansion of water parks/deck space
   - Driving range/sports complex
   - More natural play areas/structures

2. **Land acquisitions**
   - Outdoor expansion tennis courts
   - More natural play areas/structures
   - Driving range/sports complex

3. **Trails**
   - Connect east-west trail system
   - Hickory Knolls Natural Area: Improve access to rear of park

4. **Parking**
   - Increased number of employees

5. **Park improvements**
   - Memorial trees limit number in parks
   - Drinking fountains at Norris Woods Trail
   - Lighting improvements
   - Dumping in parks

Purpose of Meeting: Staff Input

Meeting:

RE: St. Charles Park District Comprehensive Master Plan

See sign in sheet for residents

Bridge Design: HDG

Attendees: Steve Konters, Hitchcock Design Group (HDG)

Location: St. Charles Park District

Time: 9:30 AM

Date: November 16, 2017

Meeting Summary
6. Communications
   a. Park District cell phone app
   b. Awareness of existing parks
   c. Remind community of parks not widely utilized
   d. Get the word out. Push social media advertisement
   e. Advocation to more secluded parks
   f. Updated signs in parks

7. Programs
   a. Programming activities ages 18-35
   b. Older adults expert educational opportunities
   c. More outdoor winter time activities

8. Indoor additions
   a. Indoor space for PCC Camp
   b. Renovate/update PCC – more gym space/dance studio
   c. Update PCC. More gym and dance studio space
   d. Add walking track (indoor)
   e. More pickleball courts indoor + outdoor
   f. Bigger better athletic indoor facilities
   g. Add pickleball courts / space (indoor and outdoor)

9. Indoor improvements
   a. Bathroom improvements
   b. Bathroom availability
   c. City water on PCC shops
   d. More storage
After the categories were established, participants were given three stickers to vote on the items most important to them. They could vote on a category or an item within it and could vote for the same thing multiple times. The following breakdown is the compilation of the results of the three workshops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park improvements</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor recreation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bigger, better athletic indoor facilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land acquisition</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving range/sports complex</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness of existing parks</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathroom improvements</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve access to rear of HKNA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting improvements</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking at all</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor space for PCC camp</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Improvements</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City water on PCC shops</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More storage</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The second group consisted of 12 participants. Below is a compilation of the categories and comments.

1. Park additions
   - Pump track / bike park
   - Zipline / fitness obstacle course
   - Free park with water / splash feature
   - Splash pad

2. Park improvements
   - More parking
   - Parking (Pottawatomie and pavilions)
   - Update / enhance existing parks
   - Finish the large pavilion in Pott. Park with bridge and small pavilion
   - More drinking fountains (2 comments)
   - Sport field upgrading
   - Restrooms in parks
   - Maintain existing courts
   - Flush toilets
   - Upgrade restrooms / more restrooms

3. Boat Launch
   - Another boat launch
   - Large boat launching location
   - Better boat launch facilities

4. Trails
   - More walking trails
   - Park trail with fitness equipment
   - More light along trails
   - Bike trails

5. Indoor improvements
   - Remodel / update community center

6. Indoor additions
   - Climbing wall and zipline
   - Indoor walking track (4 comments)
   - Indoor skate park. Bike park
   - 2nd indoor court
   - Indoor playground
   - Indoor fitness center. West side STC
   - Fitness center
   - West side community center
After the categories were established, participants were given three stickers to vote on the items most important to them. They could vote on a category or an item within it and could vote for the same thing multiple times. The following breakdown is the compilation of the results of the three workshops.

Staff Workshop Priority Breakdown - Group 2

- Park improvements: 5
- Fitness Center: 4
- Parking (Pottawatomie and pavilions): 3
- Boat Launch: 2
- Flush Toilets: 2
- Upgrade restrooms/more restrooms: 2
- Allow programs with drop-in options: 2
- Indoor skate park, Bike park: 2
- Indoor fitness center, West side STC: 2
- More parking: 1
- Update/enhance existing parks: 1
- Trails: 1
- Zipline/fitness obstacle course: 1
- Maintain existing courts: 1
- Finish large pavilion at Pottawatomie: 1
- Park trail with fitness equipment: 1
- Bike trails: 1
- Indoor additions: 1
- Remodel/update Community Center: 1
- Climbing wall and zip line: 1
- Indoor walking track: 1
The third group consisted of 14 participants. Below is a compilation of the categories and comments.

1. Programs and Events
   a. Fences along river during events
   b. Increased nature programs: school, public, outreach, staff

2. Facilities Improvements
   a. Covered bus storage Denny Ryan Service Center
   b. Renovate the Keg area at Baker Community Center
   c. Upgrade Pott. Park Maintenance Facilities

3. Natural Areas
   a. Conservation and preservation of natural areas
   b. Improve quality of natural areas

4. Trails
   a. Bike trail connectivity
   b. Connecting bike trails
   c. Connect hiking and biking trails to connect parks
   d. Resolution and development of abandoned railroad tracks

5. Staffing
   a. More full-time staff
   b. More maintenance staff

6. Park additions
   a. Splash playground for kids / tots (free access)
   b. Outdoor synthetic fields
   c. More ADA playgrounds
   d. More outdoor fitness equipment on west side
   e. Expand disc golf course
   f. More activities for adults in parks (chess tables, shuffleboard)
   g. New nature treehouse playground

7. Park improvements
   a. Renovate Swanson Pool locker rooms
   b. Bathrooms at ESSC
   c. Finish the small pavilion!
   d. Water fountains at ESSC
   e. Flush bathrooms Primrose Farm
   f. Improve park drainage athletic fields

8. Parking
   a. Parking at Pottawatomi Park (2 comments)
   b. Closer parking at Hickory Knolls
   c. More parking at nature center
   d. Additional handicap parking at PCC
9. New Indoor
   a. Indoor walking opportunities
   b. Indoor walking areas
   c. Indoor walking facility
   d. Indoor walking track
   e. Walking track - indoor
   f. Indoor play areas
   g. Additional gym space
   h. Mini gym

10. New and Improved Technology
    a. Improved technology, faster and interactive
    b. Implementing and increasing use of technology at golf course
    c. Central system to record resident and patron issues

After the categories were established, participants were given three stickers to vote on the items most important to them. They could vote on a category or an item within it and could vote for the same thing multiple times. The following breakdown is the compilation of the results of the three workshops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Indoor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities improvements</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovate the Keg at Baker</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remodel Swanson Pool locker rooms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathrooms at ESSC</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New and Improved Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More ADA playgrounds</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade Pottawatomie maintenance facilities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor synthetic fields</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More activities for adults in parks</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park improvements</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finish the small pavilion</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water fountains at ESSC</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meeting Summary

Date: January 26, 2018  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Location: St. Charles Park District  
Attendees: Bob Carne, Board President  
           Brian Charles, Board Vice President  
           Trish Beckjord, Board Secretary  
           Karrsten Goettel, Board Treasurer  
           James Cooke, Board Assistant Treasurer  
           Bob Thomson, Board Assistant Secretary  
           Mike Hoscheit, Commissioner  
           Lindsey Peckinpaugh, Perkins + Will (PW)  
           Brent Ross, PW  
           Steve Konters, Hitchcock Design Group (HDG)  
           Bill Inman, HDG  
           Bridget Deatrick, HDG

RE: St. Charles Park District Comprehensive Master Plan

Purpose of Meeting: Board of Commissioner Input

The Park District Board of Commissioners participated in a workshop to answer the question “What should the St. Charles Park District focus on over the next 5 years?”. Participants were given a notecard and asked to write down their comments and suggestions for St. Charles Park District relating to facilities, parks, and programs. They then selected the five items most important to them and then the planning team, along with the participants, organized the responses into categories.

1. Expanded and New Programs
   a. Increase outdoor fitness programming during warm weather months
   b. Expand aging adult programs
   c. Capacity for early childhood classes
   d. Activities to bring age groups together (i.e. grandparents/ grandchildren)
   e. Increase promotion of social events in parks
   f. Expand FVSRA programming and office space
   g. Add nature-based play/therapy programs
   h. Expand teen recreation programs / teen center

2. Bathrooms
   a. Bathrooms for outdoor areas
   b. Bathroom with running sewer/water at Mt. St. Mary’s Park

3. Expand / Improve Trails
   a. Additional connection and construction of bike/running trails
   b. Trail acquisition/development
   c. Trails: signage, maintain connections
   d. North-south river bike/walking trail (through parks)
   e. Trail connection to connect Pottawatomie and St. Mary’s parks to downtown
   f. Union Pacific Railroad
   g. Outdoor trails with activities
4. Land Acquisition for Underserved
   a. Northeast/northwest land acquisition

5. River Recreation
   a. River based amenities and programs
   b. River access and activities
   c. Active river

6. New Indoor Space
   a. Track for running/walking
   b. Indoor gym space
   c. Indoor courts (target young adults)
   d. Swim City
   e. Expansion of indoor recreation facilities
   f. Indoor spaces/courts (basketball, volleyball, pickleball)

7. New Park Amenity
   a. Outdoor winter activities (ice skating rink, ski hill)

8. Sports Complex/Tournament Space
   a. Develop dedicated tournament/park facility
   b. Championship outdoor tournament facilities with turf
   c. Community park development for large sporting events
   d. Turf fields

9. Improve Existing
   a. Continued maintenance, upgrade of existing parks
   b. Existing facility modernization
   c. Retrofit buildings based on LEED silver goals
   d. Utilize/adapt renovated Norris fitness facility and SportsPlex space based on community needs

10. Green Strategies (policy)
    a. Move off all carbon-based fuels and heating/cooling systems
    b. Make green infrastructure a matter of course
After the categories were established, participants were given three stickers to vote on the items most important to them. They could vote on a category or an item within it and could vote for the same thing multiple times. The board determined that the Green Strategies category is an overarching goal and was removed from the voting. The Board identified these items as a high priority.

![Board Workshop Priority Breakdown](chart)

- **New Indoor Space**: 5
- **Expanded and New Programs**: 4
- **Expand / Improve Trails**: 4
- **Sports Complex/Tournament Space**: 3
- **River Recreation**: 2
- **Bathrooms**: 1
- **Expansion of Indoor Recreation Facilities**: 1
- **Improve Existing**: 1
Memorandum

Date: January 2, 2018
To: Laura Rudow, St. Charles Park District
From: Steve Konters, Hitchcock Design Group (HDG)

RE: Comprehensive Master Plan
Online Survey Summary

Overview
The online engagement platform consisted of a webpage and survey. Both were available 24/7 to provide information on the planning process and allow participants the opportunity to give input on programs, parks, and facilities at their leisure. The survey consisted of 11 multiple choice questions with opportunities for residents to add comments after several of the questions.

Participation and Traffic
Launched on October 27, 2017, Moving Forward was one method for engaging Park District users about parks, programs, and facilities. Over the four-week period the website was viewed 357 times and 771 people completed all or part of the survey. The average completion rate for the survey was 100%. In addition to links on the project website, the survey was shared on the Park District’s website, Facebook page, and publicized with fliers at the Pottawatomie Community Center.

Format
The survey questions were divided into four overarching question groups: Demographics, Parks, Facilities, and Future Initiatives. The survey was open for the full four-week period. All questions were optional and provided participants the opportunity to skip the question. The following results do not reflect the views of all respondents but are a summary of the multiple-choice questions and the most prevalent comments.

Survey Results

Are you a resident of the St. Charles Park District? (Y / N)
Yes: 633
No: 135
Skipped: 3

What is your age?
18 and under: 4
19-24: 6
25-34: 62
35-49: 318
50-64: 218
65+: 159
Skipped: 4

Do you currently have any children under the age of 18 in your household? (Y / N)
Yes: 412
No: 351
Skipped: 8
Thinking of the Park District's properties you have recently visited, are there park amenities that need improvements? Select all that apply.
- Restrooms: 207
- Trail system/park connectivity: 175
- Drinking fountains: 155
- Playgrounds: 117
- Parking: 95
- Water access (boat launches, fishing areas): 81
- Natural Areas: 79
- Shaded areas: 78
- Athletic fields: 74
- Lighting: 72
- Pavilions/shelters: 71
- Additional seating: 71
- Open space: 54
- Bike racks: 43
  (Skipped: 232)

Are there outdoor recreation opportunities/amenities that you would like to see added to the Park District? Select all that apply.
- Off-street, multi-purpose walking and biking trails: 323
- Nature / interpretive trails: 226
- Aquatic play spray areas: 193
- Outdoor ice hockey rink: 129
- Other (please specify): 114
- Charging stations: 105
- Outdoor fitness equipment: 101
- Garden plots: 82
- Pickleball: 78
- Bike pump track: 78
- 18-hole disc golf: 70
- BMX bike park: 45
- Platform tennis: 40
  (Skipped: 111)

Many respondents used the “Other” comment box to restate their preferred amenity from the above list, walking and biking trails and garden plots each received two additional comments and aquatic play spray areas, nature / interpretive trails, and outdoor ice hockey each received one additional comment.

The most prevalent suggestions were the addition and improvement of river access (10 related comments), the addition of restrooms with running water and flushable toilets (8), and the addition of an outdoor ice rink for uses other than hockey (6). Other comments ranged from the addition of park amenities such as playgrounds, sport and racquet courts, and additional golf amenities to requests for programming such as increasing the number of senior trips, accommodating users with special needs, or providing multi-generational options. A few items focused on specific use facilities such as natural areas, shooting sports, a climbing wall, and a dog park.
Of the park sites you have visited, please select the following activities that you or your household has participated in over the last 12 months. Select all that apply.

- Trail usage (biking, running, walking, etc.): 624
- Activities on the Fox River: 364
- Outdoor exercise equipment: 143
- Baseball/softball: 109
- Tennis: 107
- Yoga/fitness: 102
- Basketball: 96
- Pickleball: 34

(Skipped: 67)

122 respondents left comments for this question. The most frequently mentioned uses were playgrounds (26 comments), pool (25 comments), and golf (12 comments). While significantly lower, other comments referred to resident’s use sports facilities (for competition or pick-up games), viewing art at Mount Saint Mary Park, gardening, playing disc golf, and using trails.

Are there indoor recreation opportunities/amenities that you would like to see added to the Park District? Select all that apply.

- Walking/running track: 341
- Indoor swimming pool: 320
- Fitness Center (free weights, cardio equipment, etc.): 266
- Indoor playground: 193
- Gymnasium/ activity courts (pickleball, basketball, Volleyball, etc.): 149
- Indoor synthetic turf (soccer, lacrosse, etc.): 98
- Other (please specify): 94
- Child care services: 85
- Charging stations: 65

(Skipped: 124)

Some respondents used the “other” section to restate amenities that were listed above with 12 comments that supported gymnasium/ activity courts specifically for pickleball, 7 restated the need for better access to an indoor pool, and 3 referenced an indoor playground.

Many of the comments (12) stated that there were no new indoor amenities needed. Other respondents asked for new programing such as gymnastics, additional senior and tot programs, and offering more evening times. Physical improvement suggestions included upgrading the fitness equipment and improving Wi-Fi access. 3 comments also requested that free meeting/event rooms be made available to community and non-profit groups.

Of the indoor facilities you visited, are there areas that need improvements? Select all that apply.

- Restrooms: 132
- Program/rental space cosmetic upgrades (flooring, finishes, etc.): 107
- Parking access: 87
- Locker rooms: 76
- Equipment (sound systems, audio/visual, Sports Apparatus, etc.): 73
- Exterior/interior lighting: 45
- Other (please specify): 15

(Skipped: 360)
The majority of comments stated were from participants who did not feel any indoor facility improvements were needed (33 comments). The next two most frequent comments (4 each) requested updates Norris Recreation Center and improved cleanliness in general. Baker Community Center was also suggested by 2 respondents as needing updates. Other comments referred to accessibility challenges at the pool, scheduling conflicts, and improving lighting throughout the District.

Based on the Park District’s 2016 Community Survey, participants indicated that incorporating more “green/sustainable” strategies in parks, facilities, and operations was somewhat important to important. Costs to incorporate these types of strategies may require re-allocation of funds from other projects or improvements. For each potential "green/sustainable" strategy listed, please indicate how important you support incorporating this strategy knowing this may require re-allocation of funds.

Based on the weighted average of the responses. Participants were given the options of not important (1), somewhat important (2), important (3), very important (4) for each strategy.

- Storm water management (permeable pavers, bioswale, etc.): 2.54
- Solar power: 2.47
- Organic turf maintenance: 2.18
- Alternative fuels (propane, biodiesel, etc.): 2.16
- Electric vehicles: 2.04
(Skipped: 31)

The following list represents potential major initiatives or developments for the Park District. Please indicate how much you support each project.

Based on the weighted average of the responses. Participants were given the options of not important (1), somewhat important (2), important (3), very important (4) for each strategy.

- Add indoor walking opportunities: 2.78
- Add indoor gym space: 2.51
- Implement the Active River Project: 2.48
- Develop recreation opportunities at the newly leased 88 acres on Rt. 38 west of James O. Breen Community Park: 2.38
- Acquire land for additional recreation opportunities: 2.24
- Renovate mini-golf course: 1.91
- Construct indoor synthetic turf fields: 1.66
- Construct outdoor synthetic turf fields: 1.51
(Skipped: 13)

The following list represents potential actions items for the Park District. Please select the top three items your household would most support.

Developing new recreation center (walking track, gym, fitness center, etc.): 371
Upgrading existing parks and amenities: 311
Indoor swimming: 290
Developing new biking trails: 276
Developing new outdoor recreation amenities (playgrounds, aquatic spray areas, shelters, etc.): 229
Implementing ‘green/sustainable’ strategies for parks and facilities: 224
Upgrading existing indoor facilities: 213
Other (please specify): 87
None of the above: 30
There were no comments that introduced new ideas for supported amenities. Of the suggestions listed, providing indoor fitness/recreation (especially with a walking track), increasing trail connectivity, and expanding ecological/native programming each received more than five comments. 4 responses suggested that the Park District reduce spending on activities. Other items listed suggested adding community gardens to the downtown, acquiring more river frontage, updating aquatics, adding an 18-hole golf course, and adding to the programs and events offered.

**Summary**

Overall trends show that most residents prioritize walking trails (indoor and outdoor) and amenities that support these uses, such as restrooms and water fountains. This matches the planning team’s findings in other Illinois communities in recent years. St. Charles Park District’s position along the Fox River also supports strong community interest in river access and outdoor aquatic activity as well as ecologically focused amenities and programs.

Court space was also generally supported in the survey with particular focus on providing indoor and outdoor pickleball courts. Indoor gym and court space in general was also widely identified as shortage throughout the community and providing an indoor walking track to replace the local malls was in high demand.

In general, survey participants who filled out “other” comment responses indicated satisfaction with the Park District, however, a small number of residents did not support indoor amenities/programs and would prefer the Park District only focus on outdoor spaces. A few also expressed displeasure with District spending and suggested finding ways to reduce costs.

cc: Team
Memorandum

Date: November 16, 2017
Time: 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 PM
Location: St. Charles Park District
Attendees: Steve Konters, Hitchcock Design Group (HDG)
          Bridget Deatrick, HDG
          See Sign-in Sheet for Participants

RE: Comprehensive Master Plan
Stakeholder Interview Summary

Overview
Four separate stakeholder group discussions were conducted with a total of 29 participants representing 20 different special interest groups, organizations, and agencies. Participants were asked a series of focus questions related to what the St. Charles Park District’s focus should be for the next 5 years relating to facilities, parks, and programs. The comments from each group were compiled and a summary of the most common themes and topics are provided below.

Stakeholders
The 29 participants represented the following groups:
- City of St. Charles
- St. Charles School District
- St. Charles Library
- St. Charles River Corridor
- Convention and Visitor Bureau
- Downtown Partnership
- Fox Valley Special Rec Association
- FREP
- KCCN
- Nature program participant
- Early Childhood/Camp participant
- Adult Activities Center participants
- Aquatics participants
- Teen Center participant
- Open Gym participant
- Tri Cities Soccer
- Strikers Soccer
- St. Charles Youth Baseball
- St. Charles Canoe Club
- Bachelors and Bachelorettes

The most common themes/topics discussed included:
- Connectivity and trail improvements (additional trails, river access, signage, bike lanes, better route(s) through downtown) came up often.
- Stakeholders were complimentary of the natural areas and wanted to see improved access to those areas and improved awareness. This was closely related to the trail discussions.
• Many participants complemented the Park District on its staff, partnerships, and current offerings as being great.
• Parking challenges and the need for more parking at several parks and facilities came up in several discussions.
• The need for indoor space and indoor sport courts came up as a common theme throughout the day.
• Several stakeholders supported continuing to advance river access and beautification initiatives.
• The challenges of a divide between east and west sides of the community and drive time to facilities came up with some discussion in one group about considering more centralized services.
• There was interest across many groups at continuing to explore new recreation offerings indoor and outdoor but no one item that rose to the top beyond the following:
  o Providing an indoor walking track may be more important to the community now that the mall has dis-continued allowing use of their building.
  o Indoor rock walls and pools were brought up a few times.
• Some groups discussed the need for more intergenerational activities and keeping up with offerings for the growing senior demographic in the community and teens.
• Improved river access, safety, and increased utilization was supported by many groups.
• The expectation of having artificial turf fields in the community is increasing and very common in other communities.

cc: Team
Executive Summary

Dear Community Leaders:

From the time that St. Charles was first settled, the Fox River has been one of its most important assets. Today, thanks to the vision of past leaders who recognized the importance of the river, St. Charles prospers and enjoys a sparkling regional reputation. The future of the Fox River and riverfront in St. Charles is extraordinary. Actively nurtured, the river corridor will feature a compelling package of natural and man-made assets that will define the community's environmental, cultural and economic prosperity for decades to come.

Building on a tradition of visionary planning, the 2002 River Corridor Master Plan illustrated the community's concept of a signature riverwalk along both sides of the river that would attract visitors, connect parks and neighborhoods to downtown, and stimulate downtown investment. The plan also recommended design guidelines and described an incremental implementation process. Spearheaded by the St. Charles River Corridor Foundation, the City of St. Charles and the St. Charles Park District have completed some key projects including the riverwalk between Prairie and Illinois Streets along the west bank of the river, named in honor of the late Bob Leonard, the 2002 Downtown St. Charles Partnership River Corridor Committee co-chairman. However, many of the master planned projects remain unrealized.

In 2015, led by the Active River Task Force of the River Corridor Foundation, the City of St. Charles, the St. Charles Park District and the Forest Preserve District of Kane County sponsored this master plan update. Consistent with the 2002 master planning process, the consultant team analyzed the multitude of existing resources and intriguing market conditions, and gathered valuable input from residents and dozens of civic, jurisdictional, business and special interest organizations. In addition, the team gave extra attention to the multi-dimensional characteristics of the river. This 2015 update describes the Exceptional Opportunity, Active River Strategy and Incremental Implementation Process that will enable the community to realize its goal to “create a lively riverfront environment that is the centerpiece of the community.”
Exceptional Opportunity

Clearly, St. Charles is not the only town in the region with a downtown river. Every Fox River Valley town was settled along the river, and many other towns in the region have rivers flowing through their downtown. Some towns have begun to reverse decades of riverfront neglect caused by industrialization and cyclical flooding issues in order to leverage their riverfronts as recreational and cultural assets. Regionally, downtown Naperville has built its brand, in part, on the success of its riverwalk, and Chicago recently opened the first phase of its $43 million Riverwalk. Nationally, countless communities have turned to their rivers to reinvigorate their downtowns. Four example communities are referenced in this plan. What, then, sets St. Charles apart from the crowd? As summarized in the Opportunity Analysis, the Fox River Corridor in St. Charles has an exceptional combination of desirable resources, attractive markets and market trends, and engaged stakeholders; all of which set the stage for success.

Almost four miles long, the St. Charles reach of the Fox River is uncommonly scenic, with much of the shoreline, particularly north and south of downtown, in public ownership and attractively improved for recreation. The impounded pool upstream of the dam is a beautiful and treasured asset for rowing and motorboat enthusiasts, and the Fox River Trail is an enormously successful regional bike trail that draws thousands to the vicinity. In addition to iconic commercial properties like the Baker Hotel, the 2013 Comprehensive Plan identified many properties, small and large, that could be redeveloped to take advantage of the river and riverfront improvements.

The local market is affluent and aging, with many more single adult and empty-nester households forecasted. Nationally and regionally those populations, along with the younger adults, are often seeking active urban and suburban lifestyles that support walking, cycling, canoeing, kayaking and rowing activities. St. Charles’ domination of the local hotel market makes for an especially intriguing opportunity on the riverfront.

As can be expected, diverse Fox River Corridor stakeholders often have conflicting interests, but everyone seems to agree on the importance of the river and the need to manage it with great care. What, if anything, to do with the dam seems to be the topic that crystallizes the recreation vs. preservation, activation vs. restoration, and even old vs. new differences among those who love the river and their community. This debate is particularly important to the Fox River Study Group (FRSG), which includes representatives from state regulatory agencies, the City of St. Charles and other Fox River communities. The FRSG was formed to develop data-supported water quality recommendations for the Fox River, focusing primarily on discharge from sewage treatment plants, in lieu of an IEPA mandated phosphorous Total Maximum Daily Load requirement. The FRSG has studied the potential benefits of dam removal as one option to improve water quality of the Fox River. Dam removal proponents argue that the IDNR has indicated a willingness to contribute as much as $2.5 million to remove the dam and that a complete removal of the dam will improve water quality and supplement the need for sewage treatment plant modifications. By comparison, dam retention advocates suggest that the current upstream pool is a priceless community asset and cannot be altered.

Given the abundant opportunities and daunting challenges, how can St. Charles best capitalize on its remarkable assets and attractive markets to distinguish itself in the Fox River Valley and achieve the community’s heartfelt goal to be the centerpiece?
Active River Strategy

The City of St. Charles, the St. Charles Park District, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, business owners, property owners and all other partners who love this important river corridor need to embrace a long-term, multi-dimensional strategy to complete a package of seasonal and year-round river-centric attractions and complementary destinations; complete the river, riverwalk and trail connections; embellish the natural, cultural and recreational assets, refine and align brand communications; and act systematically and incrementally to gain and sustain momentum.

Each one of these five strategic dimensions supports and builds on existing assets, past achievements and important recommendations from the 2002 master plan. For instance, this 2015 Fox River Corridor Master Plan reinforces the need to complete a barrier-free, signature riverwalk and to improve and extend the Fox River and Great Western Trails. Both the riverwalk and trail improvements advance four strategic dimensions, simultaneously, as brand-defining magnet attractions, valuable connections and cultural/recreational assets.

Another brand-defining attraction, the spectacular multi-dimensional “River Park” featured in this 2015 update extends from Main Street to the railroad trestle along both sides of the river. River Park includes an expansive riverwalk, barrier-free trail extensions, a nature-based children’s play environment, naturalized shorelines, exciting pedestrian bridges, and a paddling course – all made possible by a major dam modification that is conceived to maintain the slow-moving, flat-water surface of the upstream impoundment that is ideal for rowing and power boating while creating a narrower, more natural, stepped river channel that allows wildlife passage and accommodates canoeists, kayakers and other river enthusiasts of all skill levels. In fact, River Park creates a connection between downtown and Pottawatomie Park and also creates an unmatched catalyst for the substantial redevelopment of relatively large tracts both east and west of the river.

Closely related ecological and infrastructure improvements at Boy Scout Island will improve water quality, wildlife habitat and boat launching while creating a distinctive water garden opportunity. Grade-separated and safer at-grade crossings will improve pedestrian and cyclist access to and along the riverfront, and dozens of smaller scale projects will embellish the natural, cultural and recreational features that will strengthen and define the St. Charles riverfront brand. In addition, all of the river and riverfront amenities will help attract much-needed smaller-scale residential, office and restaurant infill development. They will also promote private sector investment in seasonal recreation activities such as camping, cycling, boating, climbing and ropes courses.

This Active River Strategy will elevate St. Charles’ brand from good to great. When fully realized, the St. Charles river corridor will boast a package of extraordinary natural, cultural and recreational attractions, complimentary commercial and residential destinations, and vital connections that will appeal to an active and growing regional population. Other river towns may have some of these amenities, but St. Charles can have the most. Along the way, the river corridor partners – and the City of St. Charles, in particular, should craft a coordinated brand platform and communications around the river and the complete riverfront package.

The last dimension of the Active River Strategy, gaining and sustaining momentum, may be the most daunting. Like the 2002 plan, this update comes on the heels of a severe recession, and is compounded by unprecedented financial problems at the State of Illinois. Nonetheless, the long-term benefits are clear and compelling, the public is enthusiastic, and the process, when subdivided into small components, is manageable.
Incremental Implementation Process

Led by the City of St. Charles, the river corridor partners should all adopt this plan and commit to incremental implementation of the Active River Strategy by systematically executing a series of correlated policy, capital and operational improvements. The City and its river corridor partners should, initially, concentrate on key public policies that will set the stage for future work, vigorously promote the strategy to all stakeholders, and coordinate public and private sector capital improvements-in-progress to align with the updated master plan.

Policy Improvements

- Vigorously advocate the Active River Strategy with the FRSG to promote consideration of ecological, water quality and habitat improvements to supplement and offset conventional treatment plant improvements in their upcoming Fox River Improvement Plan that supports the “River Park” concept in this plan.
- Select river corridor improvements, including the Phase I study of the dam modification, for the 2016 and the 3 year Capital Improvement Plans (approx. $4.1M).
- Seek funding through state and federal sources to complete the Phase I study of the dam modification. Confirm local match requirements.
- Assign someone to research grant funding and produce periodic memoranda to be shared and compared with other corridor partners. Identify the best opportunities and partnerships, and apply for/facilitate grant awards.
- Complete the Police Facility Study and determine the availability of this important site for redevelopment.

Capital Improvements

- Align the Piano Factory Bridge rehabilitation, temporary city hall/police station bulkhead wall rehabilitation, and Fox River Trail sign improvement projects-in-process with the Active River Strategy.
- Align the First Street redevelopment project-in-process with the Active River Strategy.
- Commence the Preliminary Design/Engineering study of the dam modification (approx. $1M).
- Complete the Preliminary Design/Engineering of the Riverside Drive Riverwalk (approx. $50K).
- Complete the Preliminary Design/Engineering of selected shoreline improvements and Leonard Memorial Walkway pedestrian amenities and enhancements (approx. $25K).
Operational improvements

- Synchronize the 2016 City, Park District and County operational plans with other river corridor partners to prioritize the Active River Strategy.
- Continue to actively communicate and promote the Active River Strategy with all jurisdictional, organizational, commercial and residential stakeholders.

Timely community action is critical because the FRSG’s Fox River Improvement Plan is due to be released at the end of 2015. Given the circumstances, if FRSG supports the Active River Strategy, then St. Charles is in a better position to obtain IDNR funding support for a dam modification.

Yes, this is an ambitious vision. However, since St. Charles was first settled, visionary leaders have understood that the Fox River has been, is, and will continue to be central to the success of the community. With the focused support of community members and their leaders, the Fox River corridor in St. Charles will be “a lively riverfront environment that is the centerpiece of the community.”

Thank you for allowing us to participate in this exciting Active River Strategy.

Sincerely,

Hitchcock Design Group, in association with
Wills Burke Kelsey Associates, Ltd.
S2O Design and Engineering
Market and Feasibility Advisors