



CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY SHAPING THE FUTURE



FREEPORT PARK DISTRICT

MASTER PLAN

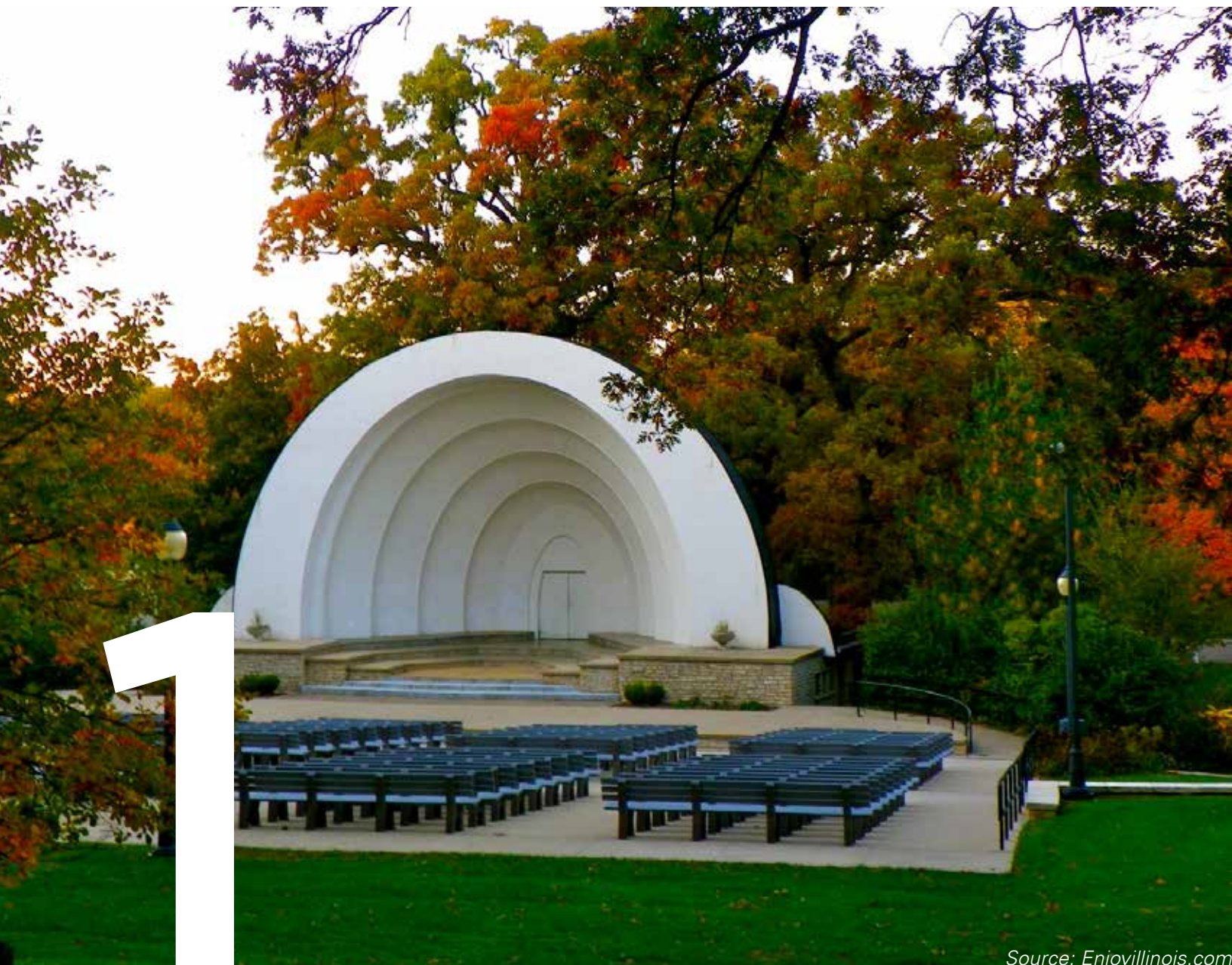
Source: Freeportparkdistrict.com



Sourée: Enjoyillinois.com

Table of Contents

01	Executive Summary	04
02	Overview	17
03	Community Profile	23
04	Existing Conditions	29
05	Asset Inventory	43
06	Level of Service Analysis	49
07	Park and Facility Inventory	67
08	Strategic Vision Framework	87
09	Design Guidelines	114
10	Implementation	150
11	Appendix	156



Source: [Enjoyillinois.com](https://enjoyillinois.com/)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Letter from the Executive Director

Freeport Park District has a rich history of providing outstanding parks and recreation services. With over 700 acres of dedicated parkland under its management, the Park District is charged with maintaining an expansive system of natural resources and facility infrastructure. The mission of the Freeport Park District is “to promote the use of recreation in generating an exciting, dynamic quality of life by providing the highest quality facilities and programs to meet the ever-changing needs and interests of individuals of all ages and abilities. The Park District will preserve and protect land and resources for the enrichment of the community and future generations.” This mission is as timeless as many of the District’s remarkable features such as the waterfall in Krape Park, Lincoln statue in Taylor Park, and the granite entrance to Read Park. The Park District’s Master Plan is an extension of the mission statement that will remain dynamic and flexible to accommodate for trends, evolving community needs and shifting priorities.

Quality of Life – Parks are as important as ever and have become essential during our current challenging times. They serve as a physical, psychological, and social outlet for individual and community wellness. In addition, the local economy, property values, businesses, tourism, and employment all benefit from a strong park system.

Ever-changing needs and interests – One of the main reasons for a master plan is to engage community members to find out what their needs and desires are from their park system. A committed and professional staff, involved Board of Commissioners, and an engaged public are crucial to the visioning process. The information and feedback from stakeholders, focus groups, and public meetings became the basis for decisions in this document.

Individuals of all ages and abilities – Parks are for everyone! From playgrounds to picnic shelters, access is at the forefront of development initiatives. The Freeport Park District is committed to making parks equitable and inclusive for all to enjoy and benefit from. If there is a barrier, the Park District will continue to work together with the community through open discussion and diligent planning.

Preserve and protect land and resources – The Park District operates over 700 acres of land which is three times the national average. Protecting land resources is an important and costly part of our operation. In addition to real property, the District owns an impressive set of buildings and structures. Preserving and protecting natural and cultural resources demands prudent maintenance, community partnerships, and allocation of funds to meet the desired outcome.

Enrichment of the community and future generations – What will Freeport’s parks look like in 5, 10 or 20 years? What does future generations want from their park system? These are some of the important questions that should be answered in the master plan. By engaging and listening to the community, this master plan provides a roadmap of the Park District’s future.

Thank you to everyone that engaged with our team to shape this master plan whether it was through participation at planning meetings, focus groups or public forums. It is also important to recognize individuals who were instrumental in building the foundation for a world-class park system over the last 100+ years. This master plan celebrates that rich history while challenging stakeholders to invest in our future.

Sincerely,

Ron Schneider, Executive Director





INTRODUCTION

Freeport's parks and open spaces are a source of great pride for the community. With over 700 acres of land under its management, the Park District offers Freeport's residents an expansive range of programs and amenities that contribute significant benefits to the health, economy, and environment of the City. Furthermore, the District works in conjunction with other open space providers – schools, churches, non-profits and more – to create a system of more than 1,500 acres that together provides Freeport's residents with a regionally-admired quality of life.

The Freeport Park District Master Plan is the comprehensive guide for planning, maintaining, and developing the District's parks and open spaces in the coming decades. The Master Plan is based fundamentally in the District's Mission Statement:

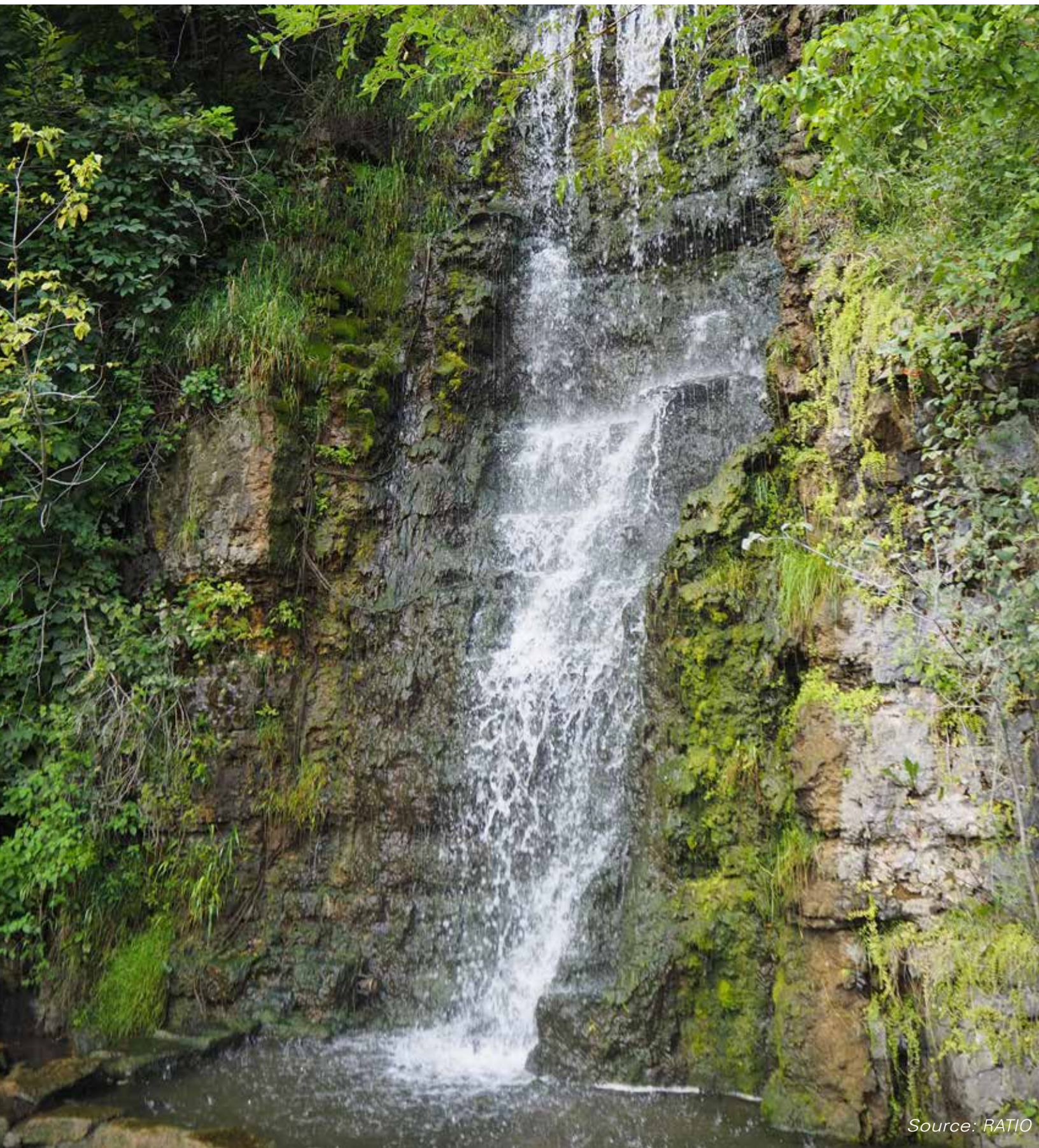
The mission of the Freeport Park District is:

To promote the use of recreation in generating an exciting, dynamic quality of life by providing the highest quality facilities and programs to meet the ever-changing needs and interests of individuals of all ages and abilities. The Park District will preserve and protect land and resources for the enrichment of the community and future generations

The Master Plan is being completed seventeen years after the previous plan and comes at a critical time for the City of Freeport. The City's population has continued to decline slightly, demographics are significantly changing, and flooding continues in the City's east end. Paired with constantly-evolving recreational preferences, these trends mean that the District must adapt to continue offering a top-class park system for the residents of Freeport that is resilient and support the changing community.

The planning process builds off of and informs the concurrent City of Freeport Comprehensive Plan. These parallel planning processes seek to ensure a vibrant community that can safely and comfortably access the great range of parks and open spaces in Freeport.

The Master Plan recommendations are organized around three themes: Connect, Organize and Enhance. These three themes concentrate the District's efforts into ensuring that its parks are easy to access, are enriched by cooperation with the larger community, and are constructed, improved and maintained to meet the high standards set by the District since its inception.



Source: RATIO

THE PARK DISTRICT TODAY

Since the last Park District Master Plan, park planning research methodologies have improved, allowing for detailed analysis of existing conditions and comparison with similar park systems across the country. This Master Plan incorporates the state-of-the art analysis tools and provides a clear picture of the District's strengths and opportunities for improvement.

The Plan measures the District's performance in terms of park acreage and programmatic amenities using three tools: National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Level of Service Standards, the Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and the Park and Recreation Operating Ratio and Geographic Information System (PRORAGIS). Generally, the District performs better than its peers in each of the three analyses.

The NRPA analysis measures the District's acreage against recommended acreage amounts in six park categories (Mini, Neighborhood, Community, Ornamental, Regional and Special Use). In three categories – Community, Regional and Special Use – the District exceeds the recommended levels of service. In only two categories – Mini and Neighborhood – does the District provide fewer acres than is recommended. However, it should be noted that within the larger Community parks like Krape, Read, and Taylor, there are elements of mini and neighborhood parks that are not captured by the NRPA LOS analysis. In addition to analysis of park acreage, the NRPA analysis considers service areas for each park type to identify which parts of the city are adequately served for each park type and which areas should be considered for new parks. Altogether, the Plan's analysis shows that the District performs exceedingly well in terms of acreage of park space provided to the City's residents.

The SCORP analysis considers individual park amenities in four categories – water-based facilities, trails, day-use facilities, and sports courts and facilities - and how the District compares against statewide averages in Illinois. In 15 of 25 amenity types, the District performs better than its peer districts in Illinois.

Finally, the PRORAGIS analysis allows the District to measure its provision of individual amenities against communities of similar size across the United States. Similar to the Illinois SCORP analysis, the District outperforms its peers across the country in eight of 15 categories. Both the SCORP and PRORAGIS analyses inform the Master Plan's recommendations for new and improved amenities.

Beyond objective data analysis, the Master Plan also incorporates input from the general public and key stakeholders. Participants highlighted goals and concerns, but overall there is a general recognition among Freeport residents that the City's parks are among its greatest assets. Freeport residents take great pride particularly in Krape Park and Read Park, both of which are destinations not just locally, but for visitors from throughout the region.



Source: EnjoyIllinois.com

THE MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan is a guide to the Freeport Park District's next twenty years.

- Chapters 1-2 - Describes the Freeport community and the history of the Park District.
- Chapter 3 - a summary of existing conditions and provides mapping to describe the District's properties, as well as trail networks, floodplains and land uses in the City of Freeport.
- Chapter 4 - Documents the existing amenities in the Park District.
- Chapter 5 - Analyzes amenities to determine the District's performance against national standards and peer communities.
- Chapter 6 - Provides a more in-depth description of each park and the amenities they contain.
- Chapter 7 - Establishes the Plan's Strategic Vision Framework, which lays out broad goals, the rationale for such goals, and strategies that the District can employ to ensure that the goals are met.
- Chapter 8 - Contains a set of design guidelines

that will direct the District and its design and construction contractors in implementing a well-branded, accessible and maintenance-minded Park District that respects and honors its rich legacy.

- Chapter 9 - Includes the matrix of implementation items, each of which includes a phase, order of magnitude cost estimate and location.

The Strategic Vision Framework is the foundation upon which the Design Guidelines and Implementation chapters of the Plan rest. The three frames – Connect, Organize and Enhance – and their associated strategies will create a well-connected network of parks that provide diverse year-round programming for all generations and neighborhoods in Freeport.

CONNECT

Freeport is a compact community with a well-formed grid of streets and roads. Sidewalks are common. A growing trail network provides amenities for those who prefer or rely on active mobility options like walking or cycling. Yet improving connectivity remains a high priority for Freeport Park District users.

CONNECT encompasses a broad range of concepts and ideas geared toward making the District's facilities easier to access and traverse, for all users.

Goal 1: Expand existing and establish new bicycle amenities, including routes to and within all city parks, bicycle lanes, off-street multi-use paths and parking facilities.

Goal 2: Ensure that all parks and trails have sufficient and well-maintained parking facilities.

Goal 3: Ensure that all parks and programs are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Goal 4: Implement and maintain new and improved access to all parks and trailheads where boating is allowed.

ORGANIZE

Freeport is a mature community with a strong network of institutions, businesses and other organizations that provide programming and physical spaces for recreation. The Park District currently engages with many of these organizations to offer Freeport residents and visitors a diverse array of activities and venues.

ORGANIZE recommends a range of partner organizations and programming to continue expanding the Park District's offerings.

Goal 5: Create a Freeport Park District branding package that includes brand standards for communication and physical elements.

Goal 6: Create a wayfinding plan that includes signs, gateways, trailheads, and other wayfinding features.

Goal 7: Expand Freeport Park District's programming relationships with community organizations.

Goal 8: Expand Freeport Park District's relationships with organizations in the natural resource sector.

Goal 9: Strengthen the Park District's relationships with community athletics organizations to active lifestyles and increase sports tourism.

Goal 10: Engage the Greater Freeport Partnership in a joint hospitality and tourism campaign.

ENHANCE

The Park District is well-known within Northwestern Illinois for having a collection of parks that is larger and more memorable than comparable communities. From award-winning Krape Park to Read Park, Oakdale Nature Preserve and beyond, the District offers residents and visitors a wealth of programming and venue options. However, the Park District will need to respond to an aging population and changing use patterns. Rather than expanding

the District's portfolio of parks and open spaces, the focus should be on enhancing the spaces that already exist.

ENHANCE provides recommendations that focus on the District's current properties. Strategies address ways to expand programming, make parks more accessible, and establish a strong foundation for the coming years.

Goal 11: Protect natural areas and increase biodiversity within Park District properties.

Goal 12: Retrofit and redesign park facilities that are frequently affected by flooding.

Goal 13: Enhance existing Park District facilities to meet evolving community needs and to stay at the forefront of recreation trends.

Goal 14: Protect and highlight the Park District's cultural heritage.

Goal 15: Address inconsistencies of park distribution as noted in level of service analysis.

Goal 16: Provide increased arts and culture programming.

Goal 17: Enhance safety at all parks facilities and programs by implementing a variety of strategies, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies

Goal 18: Expand opportunities and create facilities for indoor winter recreation.

Goal 19: Use of technology to enhance visitor experience and increase efficiency in park operations.



Source: Wikimedia.org

OVERVIEW



IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

Freeport is experiencing a slight, but significant population decline. In addition, the city's population is growing older. The combination of these two demographic patterns will have a dramatic effect on the Park District's primary funding source – property taxes. The outcome is likely that taxes funding will begin to shrink in coming years. In fact, a common concern voiced during public meetings for the Master Plan was that funding limitations will hinder the District's efforts.

The Master Plan's recommendations lay out a program of renovations, improvements, new park land and programs. While the District's current funding stream will cover the costs of some of the Plan's recommendations, in addition to general maintenance, alternative funding sources will need to be identified. Additionally, as the wages increase, all funding will be more scarce. The District is proactive in pursuing grant funding from state and federal sources and will continue to identify these opportunities as it implements the Master Plan. Additional grant funding from foundations should be pursued. To complement tax revenue and grants, the District should consider the following funding mechanisms:

- **Local Taxes** – The District should work with the City to explore opportunities to augment local taxes, create equitable splits, and increase tourism efforts.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** – The LWCF provides matching grants to create and expand parks, develop recreational facilities, and further local recreation plans. A particular LWCF program that the District should consider is the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, which is intended for areas like east Freeport that are “underserved in terms of parks and recreation resources and where there are significant populations of people who are economically

disadvantaged.”

- **New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC)** – This federal tax credit programs encourages private investment in low-income neighborhoods. The NMTC has been used successfully to construct parks and community recreation facilities, including the Pullman Community Center in Chicago, which will ultimately be co-owned by the Chicago Park District and a local non-profit.
- **Community Development Block Grants** – Traditionally used for housing, economic development and public services, CDBG funds are used for parks and recreation projects. In 2018, \$120.5 million in CDBG funds went toward parks and recreation projects.
- **Conservancies** – These citizen-led organizations are often dedicated to the preservation and development of individual parks or collections of parks. They are particularly effective in areas with a rich park history and pride, like Freeport. The District should explore establishing one or more conservancies to develop and/or maintain parks like Taylor, Oakdale and Krape. Philanthropic institutions can play a strong role in conservancies.
- **Community Ownership** – Though rare, park districts and systems have successfully coordinated true community ownership or leasing of public land in the name of recreation. This model could be explored for mini parks in Freeport.
- **Public Private Partnerships** - Many of Freeport's iconic parks were privately developed or supported by private funding. As new development moves in to the community, this may be an important model.
- **Fee based Services** - The District operates many fee based services and facilities. Expanding these fees provides another avenue to enhance existing facilities and fund new projects and maintenance. .



Overview

The Existing Conditions Report describes the existing conditions of the Freeport Park District's facilities, as well as the demographic and land use context in which the District operates. The information in this chapter will establish a basis to inform subsequent Master Plan phases.

Purpose

This Master Plan will guide the planning and development of the Freeport Park District's parks and trails over the next ten years (2019-2029). The planning process includes three key phases: Investigation, Envision and Implementation.

Investigation details existing conditions in Park District properties and collects information on the profile of the Freeport community. This Existing Conditions Report is the culmination of the Investigation phase and compiles all analysis, including initial public engagement, and will serve as a basis to inform subsequent Master Plan phases.

The Freeport Park District Master Plan will achieve the following objectives:

- Inventory and analyze existing facilities
- Engage the Freeport community to determine the diversity of sentiment regarding existing facilities and programs
- Identify gaps and shortcomings in existing facilities and programs
- Determine location and character of future amenities in both existing and new parks and trails
- Create a phased action plan that will allow the Park District to implement the community's vision



Source: GreaterFreeport.com

Chapter Outline

- Demographics
 - Age
 - Income
 - Race and Ethnicity
- Existing Conditions
 - Land Use
 - Future Land Use
 - Other Open Space Providers
- Natural Resources
 - Watershed
 - Floodplain
 - Federal flood buyout program
- Trails and Bike Routes
 - Existing Facilities
 - Sidewalks
- Park Classification
 - NRPA park classifications
 - Useful life of existing facilities
- Level of Service
 - NRPA
 - Illinois SCORP

Mission Statement

The District's Mission Statement is the foundation upon which decision-making and evaluation of resources is made:

The mission of the Freeport Park District is to promote the use of recreation in generating an exciting, dynamic quality of life by providing the highest quality facilities and programs to meet the ever-changing needs and interests of individuals of all ages and abilities. The Park District will preserve and protect land and resources for the enrichment of the community and future generations.

Park District Master Plan & Freeport Comprehensive Planning

This Park District Master Planning process is taking place concurrent to an update of the City of Freeport's Comprehensive Plan. The following concepts and principles from the Comprehensive Plan inform this Park District Master Plan:

Multi-modal Transportation: Freeport should become a more pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly community. The Comprehensive Plan calls for an inventory of sidewalks and trails, and a plan to improve them. The Plan also calls for an improved network of paths connecting destinations within the City. This finding aligns with community input from the Park District Master Planning process that identifies improved bike and pedestrian access to parks as a major community priority.

Stormwater Management: Portions of many Park District properties, as well as the communities that surround them, are within flood zones. The Comprehensive Plan calls for increasing the City's canopy cover and expanding the use of green stormwater infrastructure, in addition to the federal plans already being implemented.

Shared Recreational Facilities: The Comprehensive Plan recommends identifying opportunities for shared recreational facilities, specifically between the Park District and School District 145.

New Parks: Community input aligns with findings from the Park District Master Plan that the eastern side of Freeport lacks adequate park facilities. The Comprehensive Plan identifies a goal of creating a new park along the Adams Street corridor.

Freeport Park District Inter-Governmental Relationships

The Park District is one of three jurisdictions with relevance to recreational planning, along with School District 145 and the City of Freeport. The boundaries of the Park District and the City are approximately coterminous. The District's policy is to annex for incorporation into the District any land previously annexed by the City. Areas to the north and west of the City are most likely to be annexed in the future. The extent of these and other annexations is governed by an annexation agreement. Most of the areas considered for annexation are primarily single family residential in use. Future park planning efforts should consider these annexations.

The School District 145 boundary is also essentially coterminous with the Park District. The two jurisdictions currently share agreements for shared use of facilities. Given the School District's properties and indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, there is a potential for expanding shared use agreements. The School District operates five elementary schools, two junior high or middle schools, and one high school.



Source: Journalstandard.com

COMMUNITY PROFILE



GLOBE PARK, FREEPORT, ILL.

Source: Freeport Illinois Happenings



Source: Journalstandard.com

Park District History

The following history is adapted from the 2003 Freeport Park District Master Plan

A history of Freeport parks is presented in "Public Parks of Freeport, Illinois: The First Hundred Years," compiled and edited by Mabel Goddard and published in 1949. According to this history, two parks were established and dedicated to the early settlement of Freeport. A piece of land, known as Purinton's Green, at current day Carroll Avenue, was given to the town of Freeport for park purposes by O.H. Wright and Judge George Purinton in 1849. This park was officially named Wright-Purinton Park but later became known as Third Ward Park. The second was Knowlton Park, donated by pioneer merchant and landowner Dexter A Knowlton. Located on the western edge of Downtown Freeport, the park remains a historic part of the Park District. In addition to these two publicly managed parks, additional privately-owned parks and open spaces operated throughout Freeport.

Knowlton and Third Ward Parks were managed by the City of Freeport until 1911, at which point the newly formed Freeport Park District assumed control. The District was formed in that year after a two-year campaign for a bond referendum. The referendum passed largely in response to the potential sale of the privately-owned Taylor Park in the City's northeast corner. Within two years, the Park District purchased Taylor and Krape Parks. Read Park was purchased ten years later. These three parks remain the most visited and iconic parks in the Park District.

The District became a member of the American Recreation and Playground Association and completed its first master plan in 1923. In 1939, the District's Board authorized a Works Progress Administration (WPA) program to construction park improvements in Krape and Read Parks. Six years later, the community approved a referendum establishing a supervised recreation program. These early commitments earned the district acclaim from Henry P. Chandler, President of the Chicago City Club, when he said, "What Freeport has done in this direction should be an inspiration to other cities of the state. It is an evidence of progress in

city planning that a municipality, through its park board, can develop waste spaces into such beauty spots."

Early recreation programming focused on children's recreation and the increasingly popular sport of baseball, in addition to more traditional passive recreation programming. Baseball and softball fields were constructed in Taylor, Krape, and Read, and a YMCA-sponsored league began play in 1920. The Park District hired playground supervisors in 1919 and a recreation director in 1933.

The Early History of Taylor and Krape Parks

What is now known as Taylor Park was first recorded as 80 acres of land purchased by J.B. Taylor, a wealthy local tannery owner, in 1873. Taylor developed a horse track and the park became a hub of community activity. Racing began in 1874 and for years the Taylor Park race Track was considered the fastest one-mile track in the country. An amphitheater was built that could seat 1,500 spectators. After J.B. Taylor died in 1909, citizens of Freeport feared the loss of their park, and a Citizens Commercial Club was formed to find a way to preserve the park for the public.

After Taylor Park was purchased by the park district, the Board of Commissioners hired the H.C. Klehm Company of Arlington Heights, Illinois to clean up the grounds, take down buildings, and remove dead trees that were in the way of proposed improvements. Roads, walks and bandstand were constructed, a lawn was seeded and shrubs and gardens were planted. Tennis courts, playgrounds and a wading pool were also installed. In 1913 bids were taken for a shelter house and a refreshment stand. Croquet, horseshoes, and bicycle riding became popular activities at the park. According to Mabel Goddard's history of the Freeport Parks, the lakes were excavated around 1914 a bridge was constructed in 1919. Swimming and ice staking were popular activities for a period of time. The large lake was dredged in 1952, and again in the late 1970s. In 1928, Taylor Park became home to the Lincoln the Debater statue, which had been donated to the citizens of Stephenson County by W.T. Rawleigh, a Freeport manufacturer.

Taylor Park has been the location for a variety of community festivities and events. Theodore Roosevelt spoke to a crowd of approximately 30,000 at Taylor Park in 1910. Throughout its 125-year history, the park has been a horse racing mecca, a popular tri-state baseball park, site of the Illinois State Fair (1877 & 1878) and the Stephenson County Fair (1908 – 1952).

In 1911 Dr. W.W. Krape suggested that the Park Commissioners buy his park and add it to the Park District. The property consisted of approximately 120 acres just south of the city that included rugged cliffs and caves, deep ravines, wooded hillsides with wildflowers, and Yellow Creek winding through the grounds. This park had long been popular for family and group events and picnics and a variety of public performances. William Jennings Bryant and Father Vaughn are among the notable speakers who gave lectures at Krape Park.

At a special election in 1912 voters favored including this tract in the Park District and the deal was closed in May, 1913. The commission repaired the roads, bridge, and dam, and new lights were installed. The roads were also repaired and the streetcar line was extended to the Park entrance. Fireplaces were added for picnickers and playground equipment was installed. Bath and boat houses were erected and six boats purchased. At one time, 20 men from the SPA cut a two-year supply of firewood for the stoves and fireplaces from trees felled in the Park. In 1929 a shelter house was built on Flagstaff Hill and a community house was built on the lower level of the park in 1934. A cistern and pump house were built on the lower level of the park in 1934. A cistern and pump house were built in 1917 to provide a clean flow of water over a newly constructed waterfall. The water system was modernized in 1937 as part of a WPA project.

Several scenic drives were constructed through the Park, including Demeter Drive and Woodside Drive. Krape Park also contained a zoo that operated from 1918 until 1927.

The Koenig Theater, donated as a memorial to a World War I sailor, is located in Krape Park. In 1921 the Board began to fund a concert series that played alternately in Krape and Taylor Parks. The good roads, scenic drives, heated shelter house, and the availability of winter sports, such as skating and tobogganing, made Krape Park a popular year-round park.

The commitment of District officials and staff over the years has resulted in the District owning and managing 12 beautiful parks and facilities, including the two 18-hole golf courses at Park Hills. However, like everything else, recreational facilities age with time and may no longer conform to current safety and accessibility standards. Over the same period, there has also been a national trend increasing demand for recreational facilities and programs and preferences and attitudes have undoubtedly changed. Therefore, it is important to review the park system periodically to examine the District's entire open space and recreation system to determine how well it is capable of meeting the needs and expectations of current and future residents.

The Park District completed a Master Plan in 2003 that guided facilities management and programming for 16 years. This Master Plan builds on, updates and expands that plan.



Source: Grandriverhall.com

Freeport Overview

Chapter Two details Freeport's demographic makeup. The analysis includes documentation of age, income and ethnic distribution. The Community Profile will provide a basis for better understanding future needs of the Park District.

Trends

Many rural areas in the Midwest, including rural centers like Freeport, continue to lose population. Like the U.S. overall, populations in these same rural communities are also aging. The implications for population change affect all sectors and institutions, especially schools and the Midwest's colleges and universities.

90% of rural counties nationally experienced increased diversity from 1990-2010.¹ Rural communities are becoming increasingly diverse, ethnically and racially. Some communities, like Freeport, have a history of diversity. Immigration is a factor in many rural communities, as additional workers needed to supplement the local workforce or replace aging workers. The diversity in the Midwest is expected to increase.

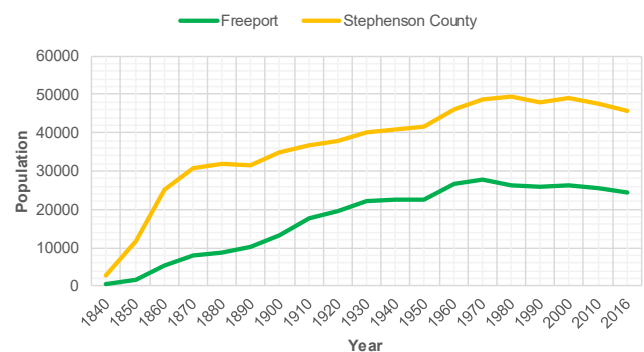
¹ Jennifer Van Hook and Barnett Lee. "Diversity is on the Rise in Urban and Rural Communities, and It's Here to Stay." *The Conversation*. Published February 20, 2018. This article uses U.S. Census data and data provided by Pew Research.

Table 1: Population Characteristics
Freeport, Illinois

	2018	Projected 2023
Total Population	24,943	24,524
Total Households (HHs)	10,546	10,511
Average HH	2.4	2.3
Population Per Sq. Mi.	2,122.41	2,086.81
Median Age	42.9	43.2
Projected Population Change by 2023		-1.7%
Average HH Income	\$53,240	\$60,630
Median HH Income	\$41,525	\$46,768
Per Capita Income	\$22,887	\$26,369
% HHs with Incomes < \$25,000	32.3%	28.0%
% HHs with Incomes \$75,000+	21.6%	15.7%

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Population (1840-2016)



Race & Ethnicity
Freeport, Illinois

Population By Race	2018	Projected 2023
White	74.5%	73.3%
Black	17.4%	17.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	0.3%
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.9%	0.9%
Some Other Race	2.3%	2.6%
Two or More Races	4.8%	5.4%
Population By Ethnicity		
Hispanic	5.4%	6.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	94.7%	94.0%

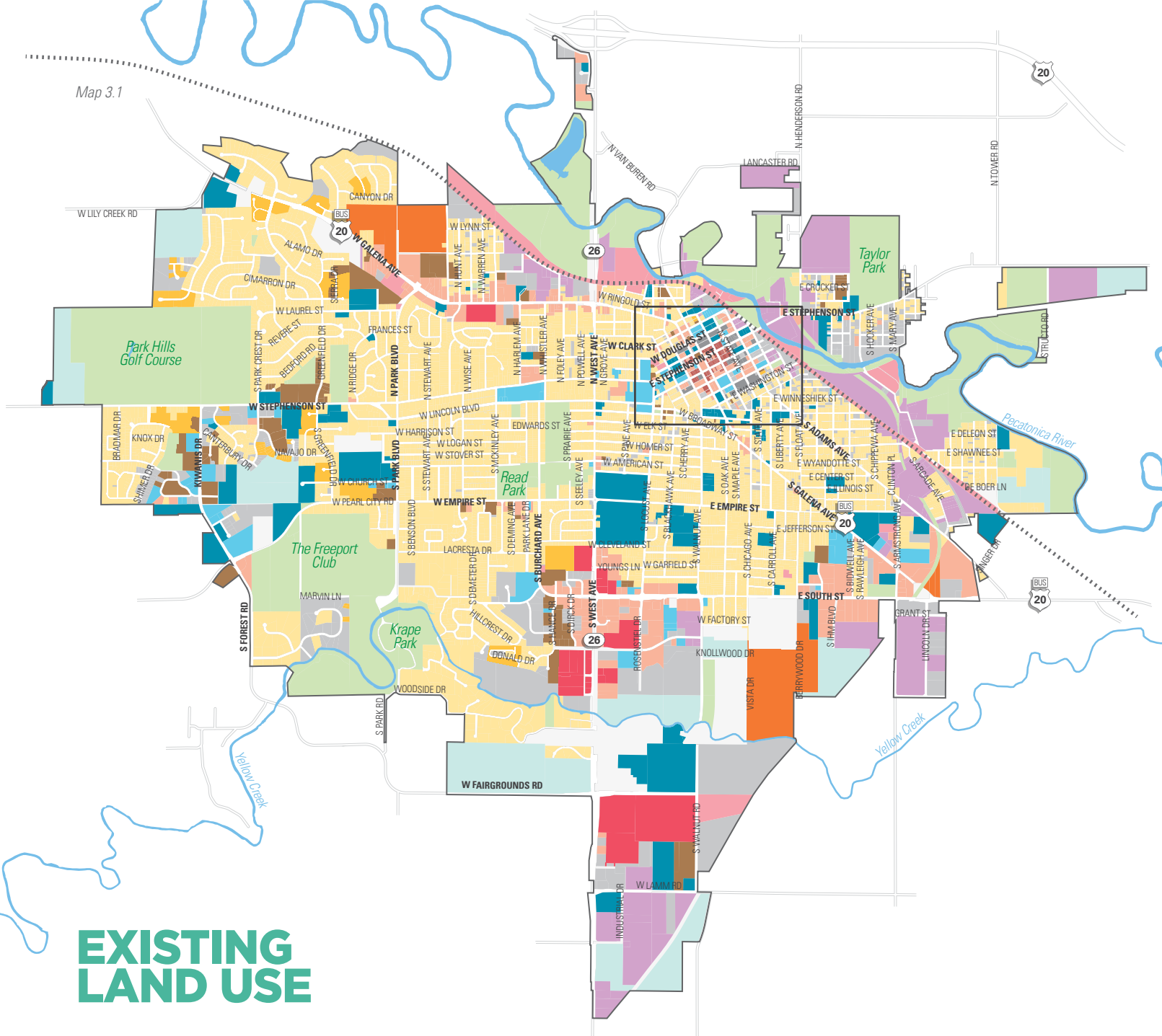
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Source: Enjoyillinois.com

EXISTING CONDITIONS

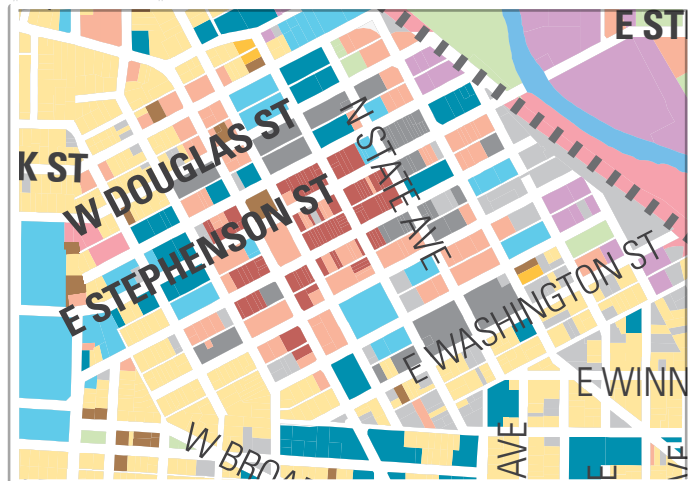
Map 3.1



EXISTING LAND USE

Legend

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Freeport Municipal Boundary | Mixed-Use |
| Agriculture | Office |
| Single-Family Detached | Industrial |
| Single-Family Attached | Institutional |
| Multi-Family | Park/Open Space |
| Mobile Home | Transportation/Utilities |
| Commercial | Parking |
| Regional Commercial | Vacant |





Source: Greaterfreeport.com

Overview

The Existing Conditions chapter provides a comprehensive picture of parks and open space facilities within the Freeport Community, including those provided by the Freeport Park District, the City of Freeport, Freeport School District 145, religious organizations, and private open space providers. The chapter also documents existing land uses in the City of Freeport and examines the city's adopted Future Land Use Map that will inform future park and open space planning.

Future Land Use

Concurrent with the Freeport Park District Master Plan, the City is undertaking a Comprehensive Planning process that will update and clarify future land use objectives.

Existing Land Use

Freeport contains approximately 12,600 acres of land consisting of 18 unique land use classifications. Generally, Freeport's land use reflects prevailing auto-oriented patterns dominant throughout the twentieth century. Commercial and employment land uses are located along the periphery of the city, surrounding a core of single-family residential neighborhoods. The predominant land use category is single family detached residential use, which accounts for approximately 36 percent of all land in Freeport. Park land accounts for 18 percent of land and is the only other land use in Freeport that accounts for more than 10 percent of the City.

Park and Open Space Providers

Freeport Park District is the primary park and open space provider in the community. Additional providers include the YMCA, Freeport School District 145, churches and other religious organizations, and other private open space providers.

Other Open Space Resources and Recreational Facilities (Private, Semi-Private, & Public)

In addition to School District 145 recreational resources, there is a variety of other open space and recreational facilities throughout the City of Freeport. Map 3.3 details the location of these facilities. These facilities, while important recreational resources for many in the community, are not part of the Park District and are not included in the analysis.

In addition to private and city-owned recreational facilities, School District 145 and private school facilities offer residents more space and programming. These schools offer extensive programming and provide opportunities for all ages.

Below are the most significant non-park and school district recreational facilities in the City of Freeport:

- Stephenson County Fairgrounds
- Freeport Country Club
- Highland Community College
- Martin Luther King Community Campus
- Debate Square
- Piety Hill Park
- YWCA and Fitness Lifestyles Facilities
- Silver Creek Antique Railroad/Silver Creek Museum
- Malcolm Eaton/AYSO Facility

- Freeport City Cemetery
- Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens
- Oakland Cemetery
- St. Mary's Cemetery
- St. Joseph Cemetery

Public Schools

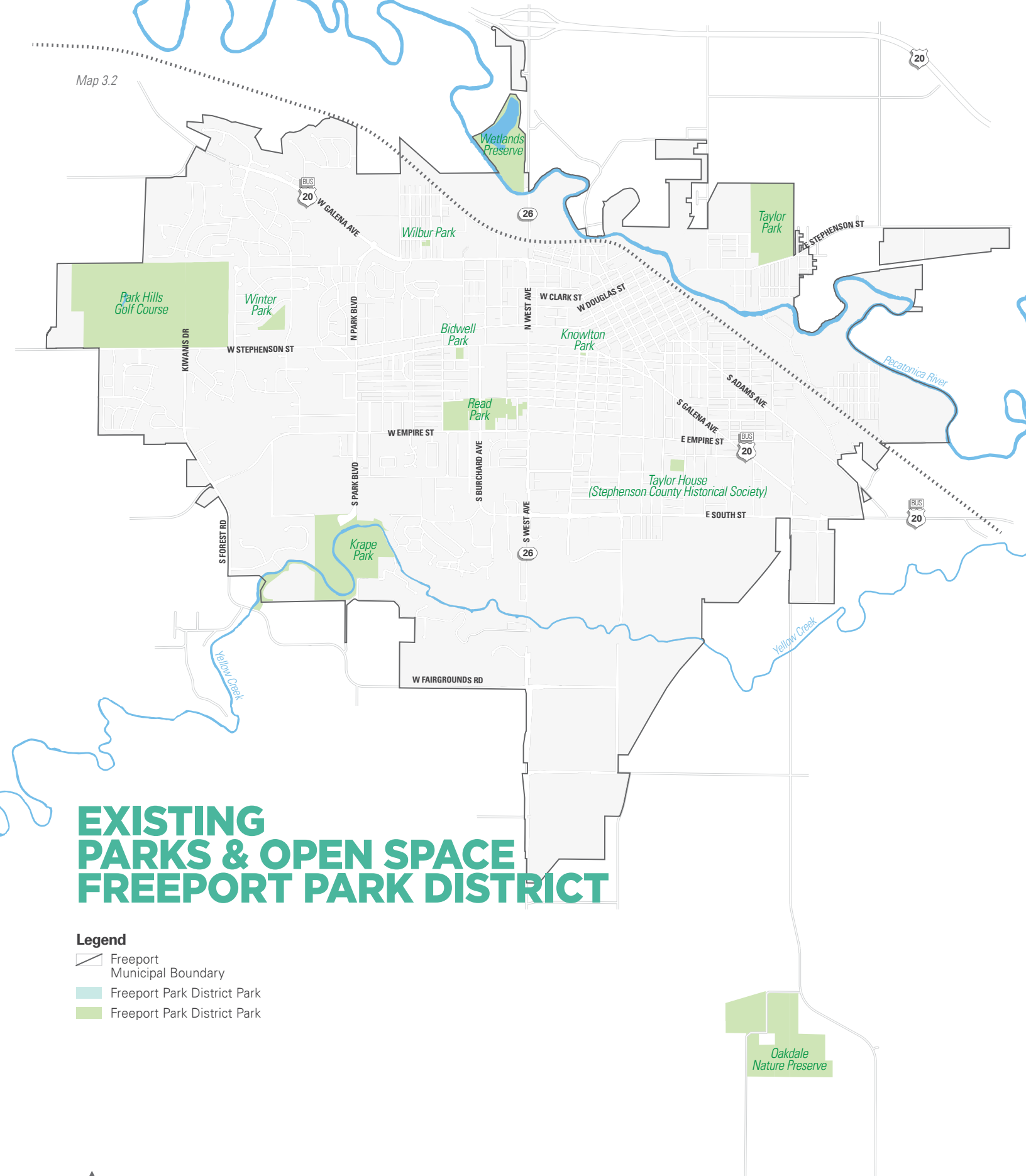
- Blackhawk School
- Carl Sandburg Middle School
- Empire Elementary School
- Freeport High School
- Freeport Jr. High School
- Lincoln Douglas Elementary School
- Taylor Park School

Private Schools

- Aquin Central Catholic High School
- Freeport Christian Academy
- Immanuel Lutheran School
- St. Joseph Elementary School
- Tri-County Christian School

Cemeteries





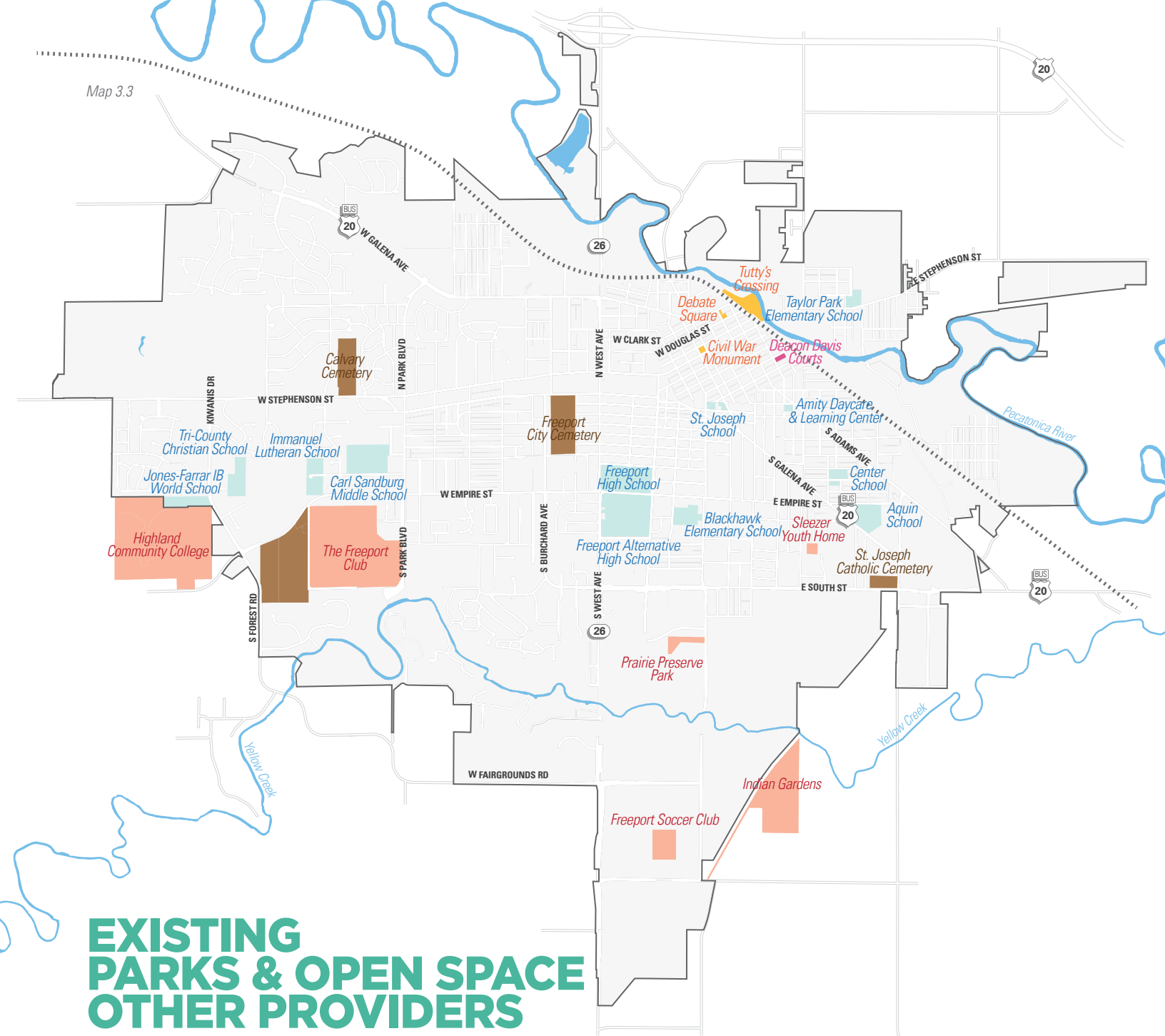
EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACE FREEPORT PARK DISTRICT

Legend

- Freeport Municipal Boundary
- Freeport Park District Park
- Freeport Park District Park



Map 3.3



EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACE OTHER PROVIDERS

Legend

-  Freeport Municipal Boundary
-  City Park
-  School
-  Cemetery
-  Private Open Space
-  Privately Owned FPD Facility





NATURAL RESOURCES

Overview

The Freeport Park District includes some of the City's most important natural resources. Chapter four documents existing natural resources, particularly water bodies, which will provide for a responsible and resilient allocation of park and open space facilities over the next ten years. An important consideration will be the significant floodplain that affects large portions of the Freeport Park District and the City as a whole.

Watershed

The Freeport Park District falls entirely within the Rock River Watershed that begins in southern Wisconsin and extends southward into north-central and northwest Illinois. The Pecatonica River, upon which Freeport was founded, is a major tributary to the Rock River, which in turn empties into the Mississippi River at Rock Island. The Pecatonica is 194 miles long and courses through both developed and undeveloped areas, including the Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve 18 miles east of Freeport.

Floodplain


The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identifies and assesses flood hazards and risks through its Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning program (MAP). Maps produced through this program are the basis for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The maps – Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and related risk assessments include data on river flow, rainfall, topographical surveys and hydrologic/hydraulic analyses. These maps delineate the 1% Annual Chance Floodplain, or Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), 0.2% annual floodplain (Shaded X zone), Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) and floodways. The SFHA, otherwise known as the 100-year floodplain, is that area that has a one percent chance, or greater, risk of flooding in any given year. The SFHA and 0.2% floodplain (500-year floodplain) are depicted in the map to the right.

The NFIP is the federal program that makes flood insurance available to municipalities that enact and enforce floodplain management regulations that meet or exceed the criteria established by FEMA. Under this program, properties within the floodplain with a federally backed or regulated mortgage, or those that receive federal housing subsidies, are required by law to buy flood insurance. Communities participating in the NFIP must incorporate flood-resistant construction standards into building codes.

ROCK RIVER WATERSHED

Legend

 Freeport

 Rock River Watershed

 North 0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile

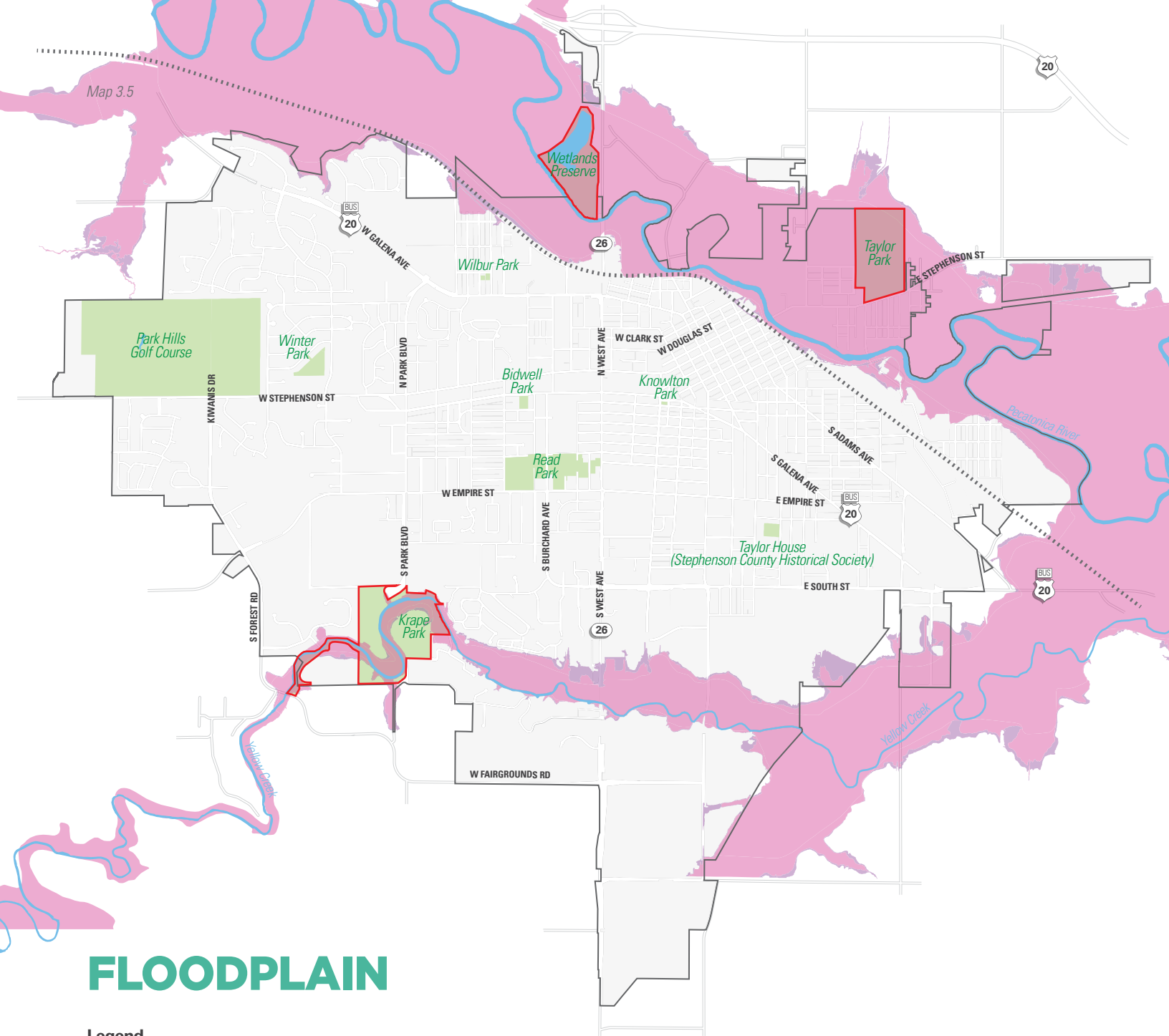


Source: Rockford Register Star

Flood Buyout Programs

FEMA and other state and federal agencies offer funding to communities affected by catastrophic and/or repeated flood events for the purchase of damaged homes and properties. Properties participating in the buyout program are typically converted to floodable open space, which reduces the impacts of future flood events on the immediate vicinity and community at large.

FEMA Mitigation Grant Buyouts are the primary tool at Freeport's disposal and cover 75 to 100 percent of the buyout costs. Additionally, many states and municipalities offer matching grants to augment the relief offered through the FEMA program. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has created such a program that would allow Freeport and other Illinois municipalities to purchase affected homes and later receive reimbursement. The City of Freeport has also created a \$1.1M matching grant that would go toward purchasing flood-prone properties.



FLOODPLAIN

Legend

- Freeport Municipal Boundary
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain
- FPD Park
- FPD Park within Floodplain





TRAILS AND BIKES

Trails and Bike Routes

The City of Freeport and Stephenson County adopted a Greenways and Trails Plan in 2000. The Plan establishes suitable trail locations and prioritizes them to assist local and regional organizations with implementation. While the plan focuses on greenways and trails along natural corridors, the guiding vision of the Plan, and the associated 1995 Illinois State Trails Plan, is to create a network of pedestrian and bicycle paths that can promote active mobility throughout Freeport and the surrounding region.

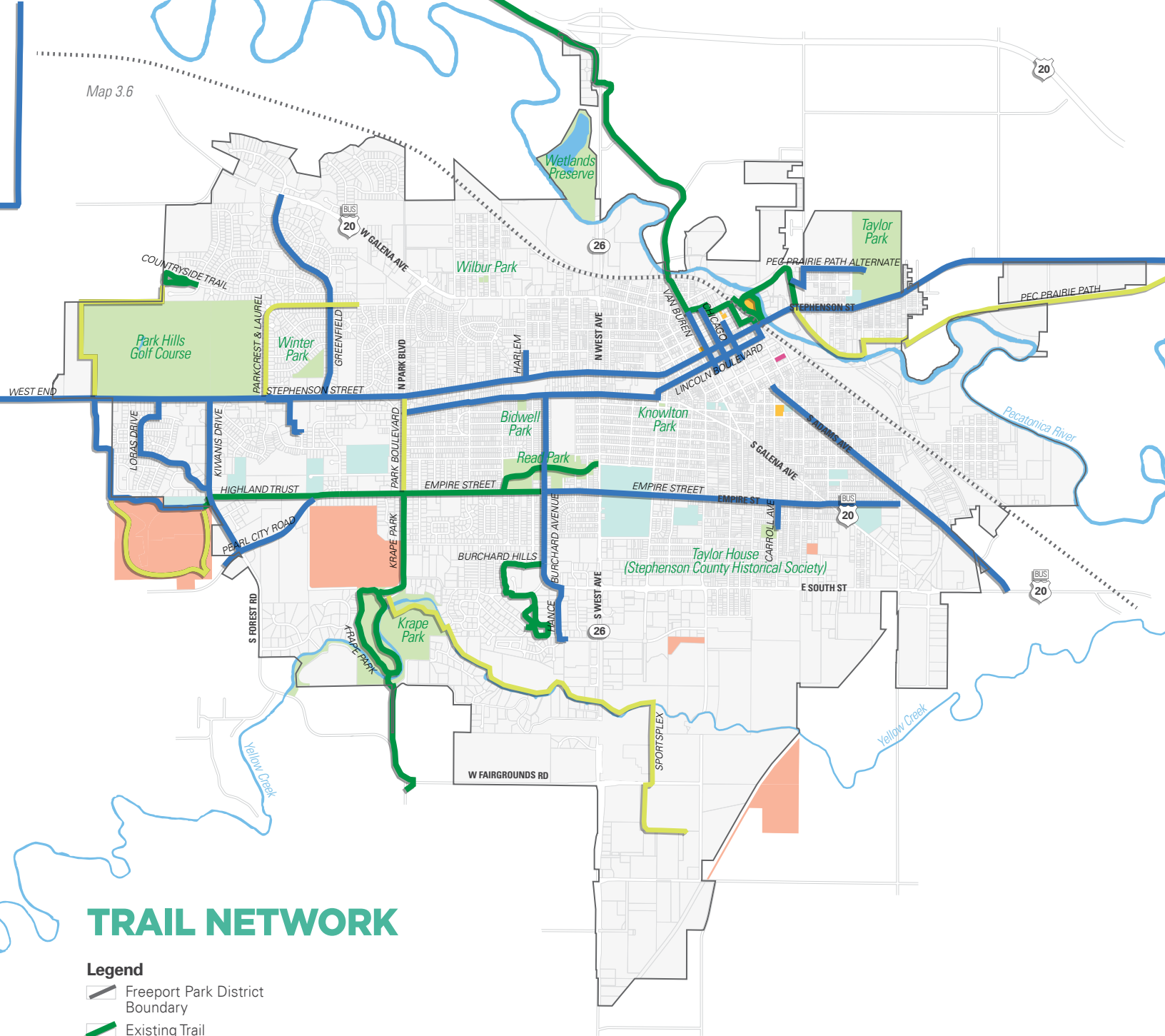
that on-street bicycle lanes would lead to more cycling in Freeport.

Regarding parks and bicycling activity, the survey asked respondents to identify frequent destinations. The most-cited destination in Freeport was Krape Park. Generally, parks are a common destination for cyclists in Raleigh.

2016 Freeport Biking survey

In 2016, the District, in partnership with the City of Freeport, surveyed the public regarding bicycling preferences, behaviors and attitudes. Generally, Freeport is a community where the majority of cycling activity is for general health, fitness, and exercise. Few members of the community commute or travel for errands by bike. However, survey results demonstrate a desire for more cycling activity and amenities.

Generally, the biking survey showed strong support for increased investment in bicycle facilities, programs and services. Seventy-one percent of respondents stated that more multi-use trails would encourage more cycling in the community, while over half (53%) felt



TRAIL NETWORK

Legend

- Freeport Park District Boundary
- Existing Trail
- Future Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Freeport Park District Park
- School
- Private Open Space
- Privately Owned FPD Facility





5

Source: Freeportparkdistrict.com

ASSET INVENTORY

PARK CLASSIFICATION

NRPA Guidelines

The National Recreation and Park Association establishes guidelines for classifying parks to better organize park planning efforts. NRPA Guidelines establish six individual classifications, provide a general description of these types of parks, a recommended service area and a recommended size, in terms of acreage.

The park categories are Mini; Neighborhood; Community; Natural Areas; Special Use; and Trails, Corridors and Linear Parks. Such categories are critical to providing a comprehensive Level of Service Analysis. The table to the right documents the presence of 34 individual facility types across five categories – Trails, Indoor Facilities, Day Use Amenities, Sports Courts and Amenities, and Water-Based Amenities. The table also documents the size of each park.

Classification	Description	Service Area	Typical Size	Freeport Park District Parks and Facilities
Mini Park	Mini Parks provide nearby open space within residential areas that is within walking distance of users. Typical elements include playgrounds, picnic areas, and plantings.	0.25 miles or less	1 acre or less	Bidwell Park, Knowlton Square, Wilbur Park
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Parks are located in residential areas and accessible to a range of users, including pedestrians. These parks typically contain equal amounts of active and passive space and include playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and courts, trails, plantings and shade structures. Parking is typically included.	0.25 to 0.5 miles; users should not have to cross or navigate non-residential roads or other significant barriers to access Neighborhood Parks	1-20 acres	Winter Park
Community Park	Community Parks meet the needs of large communities or collections of neighborhoods. Typically located in undevelopable or intentionally-preserved areas, these parks include both active (e.g. playgrounds, trails, sports fields and courts, swimming pools) and passive spaces (e.g. lawns, picnic areas, performance venues, water features). Community Parks should be accessible to pedestrians, cyclists, cars and transit-users.	1 to 2 miles	15 acres or more	Krape Park, Read Park, Taylor Park
Natural Area	Natural Areas are open spaces that have either never been developed or have reverted to open space following abandonment of a prior use. These spaces preserve unique natural or man-made features. They often include wooded areas, meadows, waterways and significant wildlife populations. They are typically maintained to remain in a natural state.	Unlimited	No standard; however Natural Areas should be sufficiently-sized to support wildlife populations.	Oakdale Nature Preserve, Wetlands Preserve
Special Use	Special Use spaces provide community-wide recreational facilities that are often designed to provide for single-use recreational activities. Examples include golf courses, museums, natura centers and recreation centers.	Unlimited	Varies	Stephenson County Historical Society Museum (Taylor Home Museum); Debate Square*, Civil War Monument*, Deacon Davis Courts*
Trails, Corridors, and Linear Parks	Trails, Corridors and Linear Parks include a wide range of facilities and amenities. Examples include urban boulevards, nature trails and paved paths through neighborhoods and along waterways or other transportation infrastructure. Ideally, these spaces connect the other facilities within a park system.	Unlimited	Varies	Jane Adams Trail, Countryside Trail, Krape Park Trail, Burchard Hills Trail, Highland Trail,

		Trails					Indoor Facilities			Day Use Amenities				
	Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball
Park Name														
Ornamental Parks														
Lincoln Boulevard														
Park Boulevard														
Mini Parks														
Bidwell	2.0							1				1	1	
Knowlton Square	0.3												1	
Wilbur Park	1.0											1	1	
Neighborhood Park														
Winter Park	7	1										1	1	
Community Park														
Krape Park	131.0	1						3	1			4	5	
Read Park	36.0	1		1				2	2			3	4	2
Taylor Park	75.0	1			1			1				2	1	4
Regional Park														
Wetlands Preserve	58.0				1									
Special Use														
Deacon Davis Courts	0.8							1						4
Oakdale Nature Preserve	133.0		1		1			2				2		
Taylor House (SCHS)	3.3							1						
Park Hills Golf Course	280													
Total FPD Parks and Facilities	726.6	4	1	1	3	0	0	11	3	0	0	14	14	10

Sports Courts and Amenities															Water-Based Amenities						
	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
	1												1								
	1												1								
	1		1	1									1	3					1	1	1
	6			1						1		1	6	4	3	1		1			
	3												3	1	1						
																					1
					2	1	4														
0	12	0	1	2	2	1	4	0	0	1	0	1	12	8	4	1	0	1	1	1	2



6

Source: Freeportparkdistrict.com

LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

NRPA Standards

Planning for parks and open space is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Each community possesses unique characteristics and contexts that determine adequate provision of facilities, amenities and programs. Due to the complexity inherent in park planning, the National Recreation and Parks Association has developed a Level of Service (LOS) approach to park system planning that is a quantification of park and recreation delivery, philosophy and policy of a given community. Level of Service analysis in park system planning includes four primary metrics that help communities determine not only how comprehensive their systems are, but also how equitable they are across the diversity of their populations and geographies:

1. Acreage – the minimum amount of land required to meet the recreation needs of a community
2. Distribution – an analysis of park locations to ensure equitable access across geography (regions, cities, neighborhoods) and demography (race/ethnic, age and income groups)
3. Amenities – the minimum number of facilities (park types) and specific amenities (e.g. sports courts, swimming pools, trails, etc.) needed to meet state and/or national standards

National LOS Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association has refined its approach to LOS metrics in recent years. For years, a national benchmark of 10 acres per 1,000 population was the standard. However, a recognition that local context matters has led to a more nuanced approach, which is reflected in NRPA's Park and Recreation Operating Ratio and Geographic Information System (PRORAGIS) database. PRORAGIS is a tool that allows park system planners to compare their community with peer communities of similar size, location, budget and other indices. With over 600 profiles of park system across a wide range of community types across the United States, PRORAGIS allows the Freeport Park District to compare its system-wide offerings with providers of similar size and characteristics.

In addition, the Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which documents the state's communities' outdoor recreation resources and needs, provides for an additional set of statewide benchmarks. The SCORP is submitted to the National Park Service every five years to allow the state to remain eligible for Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance. This Master Plan relies on the Illinois SCORP for useful life benchmarks for specific park and recreation amenities. The analysis in this section compares the Freeport Park District's properties to state and national benchmarks using both the SCORP and NRPA PRORAGIS database.

Acreage

Traditionally, the most common level of service metric used in parks and recreation planning has been the relationship between recreation space acreage and population. Typically, this has been a calculation of acreage per 1,000 population. Freeport Park District's total acreage is also compared to the PRORAGIS benchmark for communities in the United States between 20,000 and 30,000 in population.

Based on the NRPA benchmark for Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Park space of 10 acres per 1,000 population, the Freeport Park District should provide a total of 240.9 acres of active recreation area. With a current portfolio of 245.3 acres within these active areas, the Park District is currently surpassing the recommended standard, though not by much. This translates to 10.2 acres per 1,000 population, just above the recommended 10.0 acres.

LOS (10 acres/10,000 population)					
District-Owned Parks and Open Space					
Classification	FPD Acreage	FPD Existing Level of Service Acres (acres/1,000 population)*	PRORAGIS Recommended Acreage	IAPD/NRPA Recommended (LOS)acres/1,000 population)	Acreage Deficiency / surplus
Total Active Recreation Areas	245.3	10.2	231.3	10	14.0
Tota FPD-Managed Open Space	727.4	30.2	231.3	10	496.1

When considering additional Freeport Park District properties, including large natural areas and other smaller recreation spaces, the Park District far surpasses NRPA recommendations. With a total of 725.4 acres, the Park District achieves a surplus of

484.5 acres above the NRPA standard. In sum, Freeport Park District provides more than three times the acreage per 1,000 population (30.1) as recommended by NRPA (10.0).

LOS (10 acres/10,000 population)					
All FPD-Owned Space					
Classification	FPD Acreage	FPD Existing Level of Service Acres (acres/1,000 population)*	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Acreage	IAPD/NRPA Recommended (LOS)acres/1,000 population)	Acreage Deficiency / surplus
Mini Park	3.3	0.1	12.0	0.5	-8.7
Neighborhood Park	7	0.3	48.2	2	-41.2
Community Park	242	10.0	180.7	7.5	61.3
Ornamental Park		0.0	0.0	0	0.0
Regional Park	58	2.4	0.0	0	58.0
Special Use	417.1	17.3	0.0	0	417.1
Total Active Recreation Areas	727.4	30.2	240.9	10.0	486.5

To provide a more nuanced understanding of acreage level of service in the Park District, the full 725.4 acres of total recreation area under the Park District's management is measured against the PRORAGIS recommended acreage for communities of similar

population. The PRORAGIS benchmark of 231.3 acres within communities with population between 20,000 and 30,000 is far below the Park District's total acreage. In sum, Freeport Park District achieves a surplus of 494.1 acres above PRORAGIS standards.

Distribution

Freeport is a relatively compact community with high degree of road connectivity. The City also lacks significant highways and corridors that could present impassable barriers to park access. Whereas traditional park planning accounts for sub-areas to take into account such barriers to access, this analysis considers the entire community. That said, as the distribution analysis shows, there are clearly identifiable areas within the City that are not currently served, or are under served, by the Freeport Park District.

The NRPA establishes standard services areas for each park type. Generally, the smaller the park type, the smaller the service area. Similarly, smaller parks should be accessible to pedestrians and cyclists and should not require driving or transit to access. Conversely, larger neighborhood and community parks have larger service areas that frequently require longer bicycle, auto, or transit trips for access.

The following maps illustrate the suggested service area for each FPD park, as well as areas of the community that are not served. A similar trails distribution map details areas of the community served by trails.

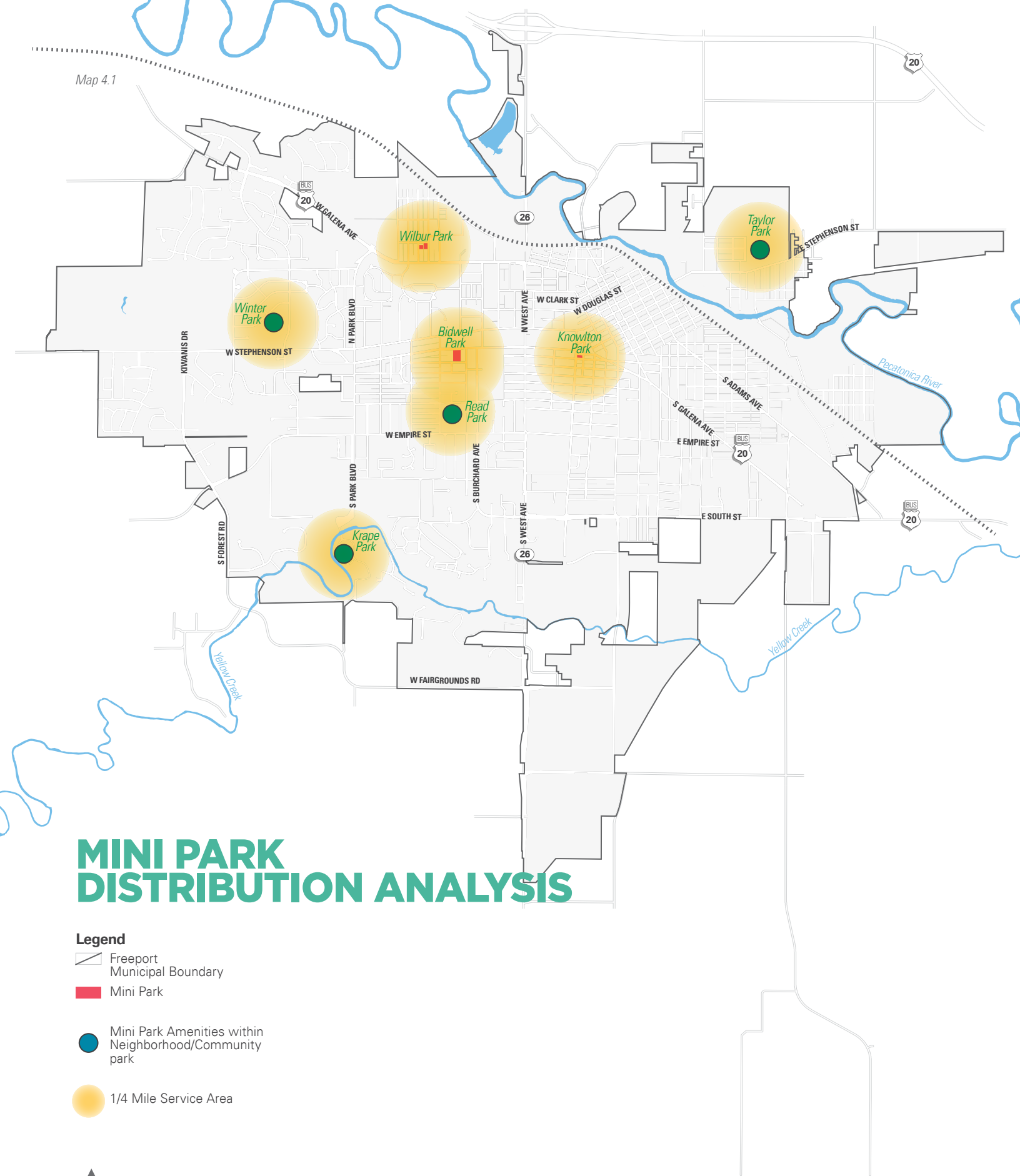
Mini Park Distribution Analysis

Mini Parks provide nearby open space within residential areas that is within walking distance of users. Typical elements include playgrounds, picnic areas, and plantings.

The Mini Park distribution map illustrates a 0.25-mile service area radius around each mini park. In addition to the three mini parks in the District, four larger parks contain elements of mini parks that serve their surrounding neighborhoods. These larger parks are Krape, Winter, Read and Taylor. The 0.25-mile buffer distance is reflective of the walking distance that families with children will typically walk to a recreation opportunity.

As the map shows, there is considerable need for mini parks in much of the District. In fact, the majority of Freeport is not served by mini parks. The southeast portion of Freeport is the most under served area of town in terms of mini parks.

Map 4.1



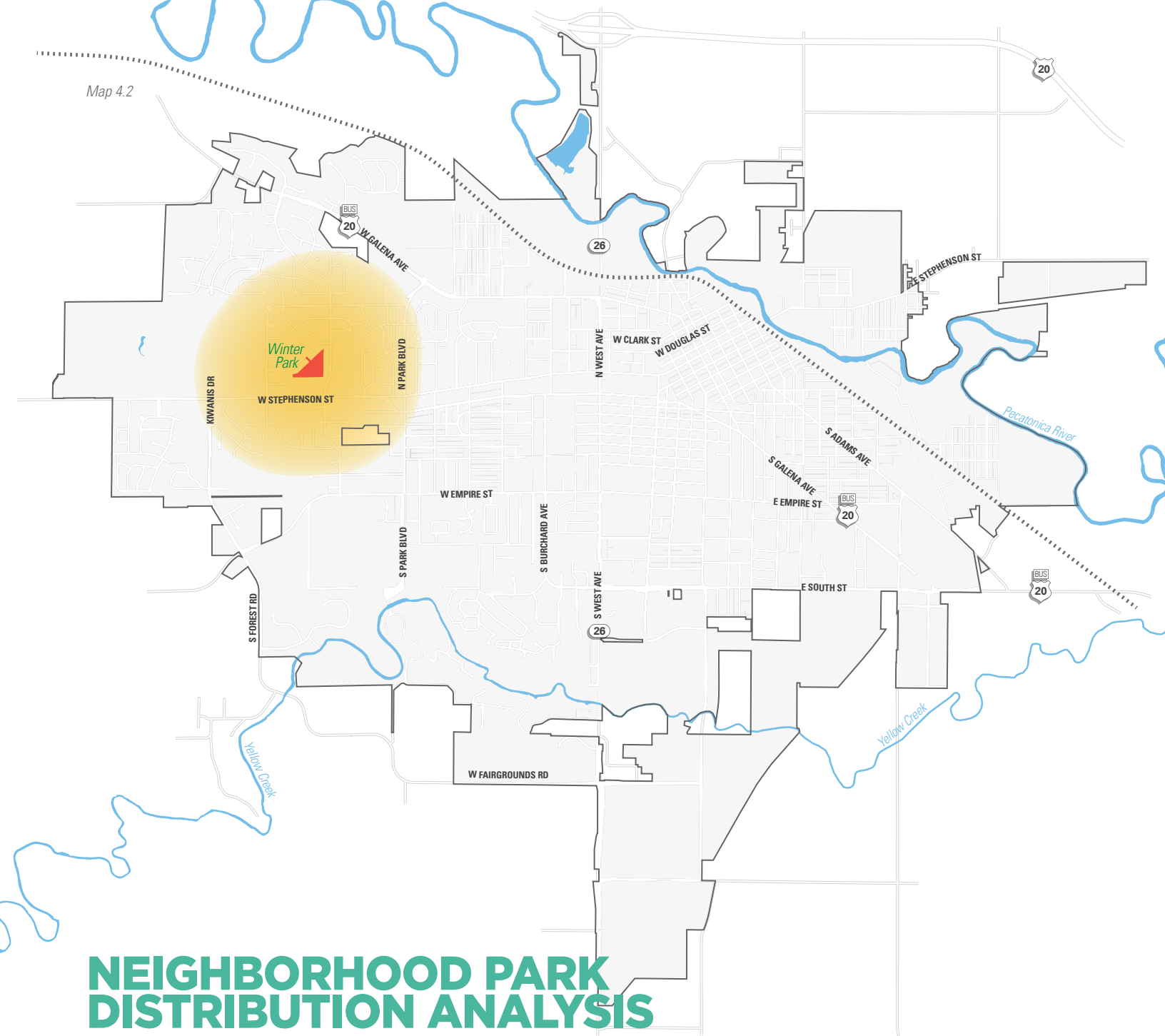
MINI PARK DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS



Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis

Neighborhood Parks are typically located in residential areas and are accessible to a range of users, including pedestrians. These parks typically contain equal amounts of active and passive space and include playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and courts, trails, plantings, and shade structures. Parking is typically included within these parks.

The service area buffer radius is 0.5 miles. Winter Park is the only Neighborhood Park in the District. As such, the bulk of the city is not adequately served. However, when considering Community Parks, which provide some function of a neighborhood park, a greater amount of the city comes within the service area.



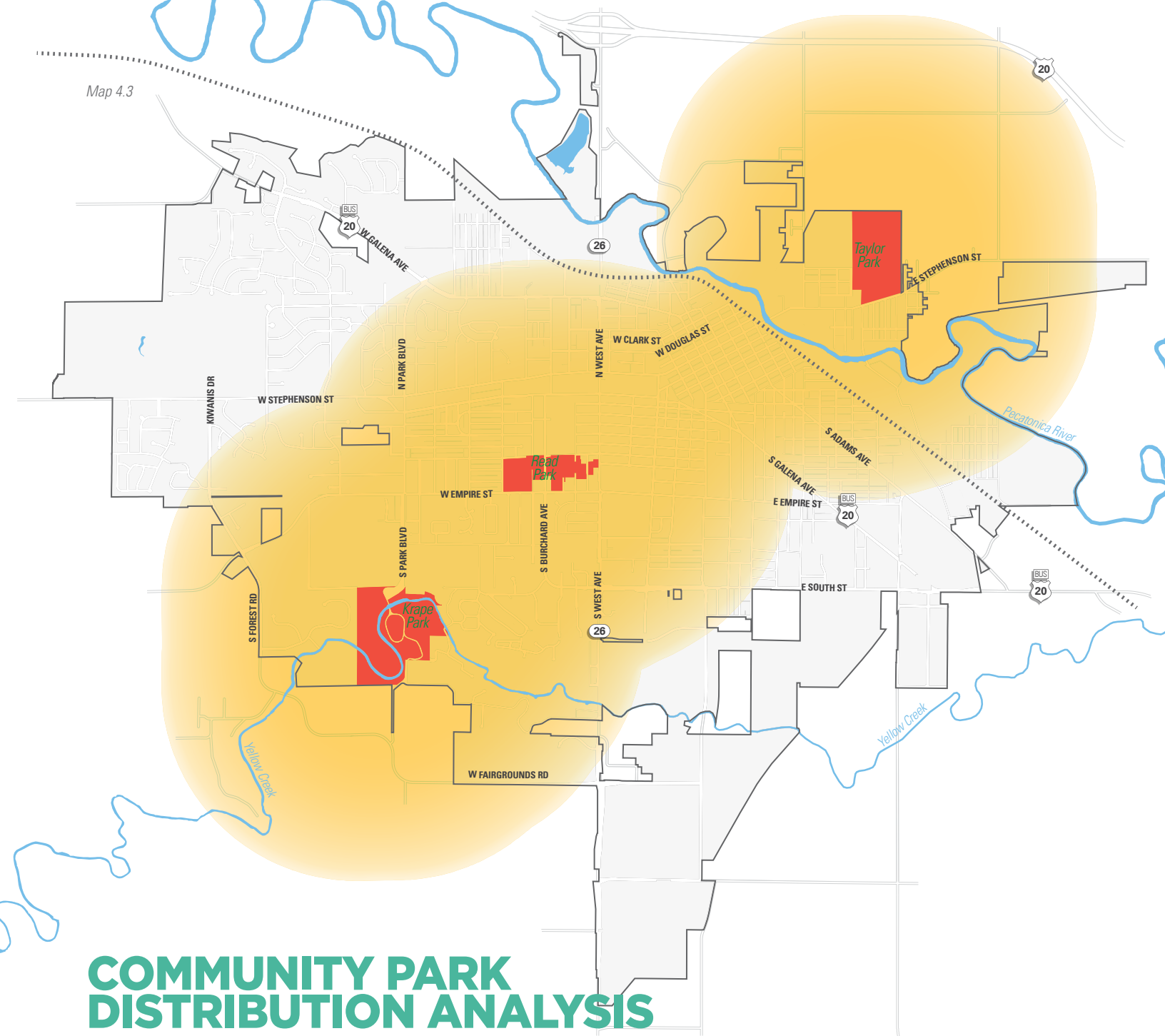


Community Park Distribution Analysis

Community Parks are the largest of the three main park types as described by NRPA. These parks meet the needs of large communities or collections of neighborhoods. They are typically located in undeveloped or intentionally-preserved areas and include both active and passive spaces. Community parks should be accessible by all modes of transportation present in the community.

The service area buffer radius is one mile. Together, the three Community Parks in the district – Krape, Read, and Taylor – provide service to nearly the entire community. Furthermore, these parks provide elements of both smaller neighborhood and mini parks. These three parks offer a wide range of facilities and programs to the community and are a tremendous asset to the population.

Map 4.3



COMMUNITY PARK DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

Legend

- Freeport
Municipal Boundary
- Community Park

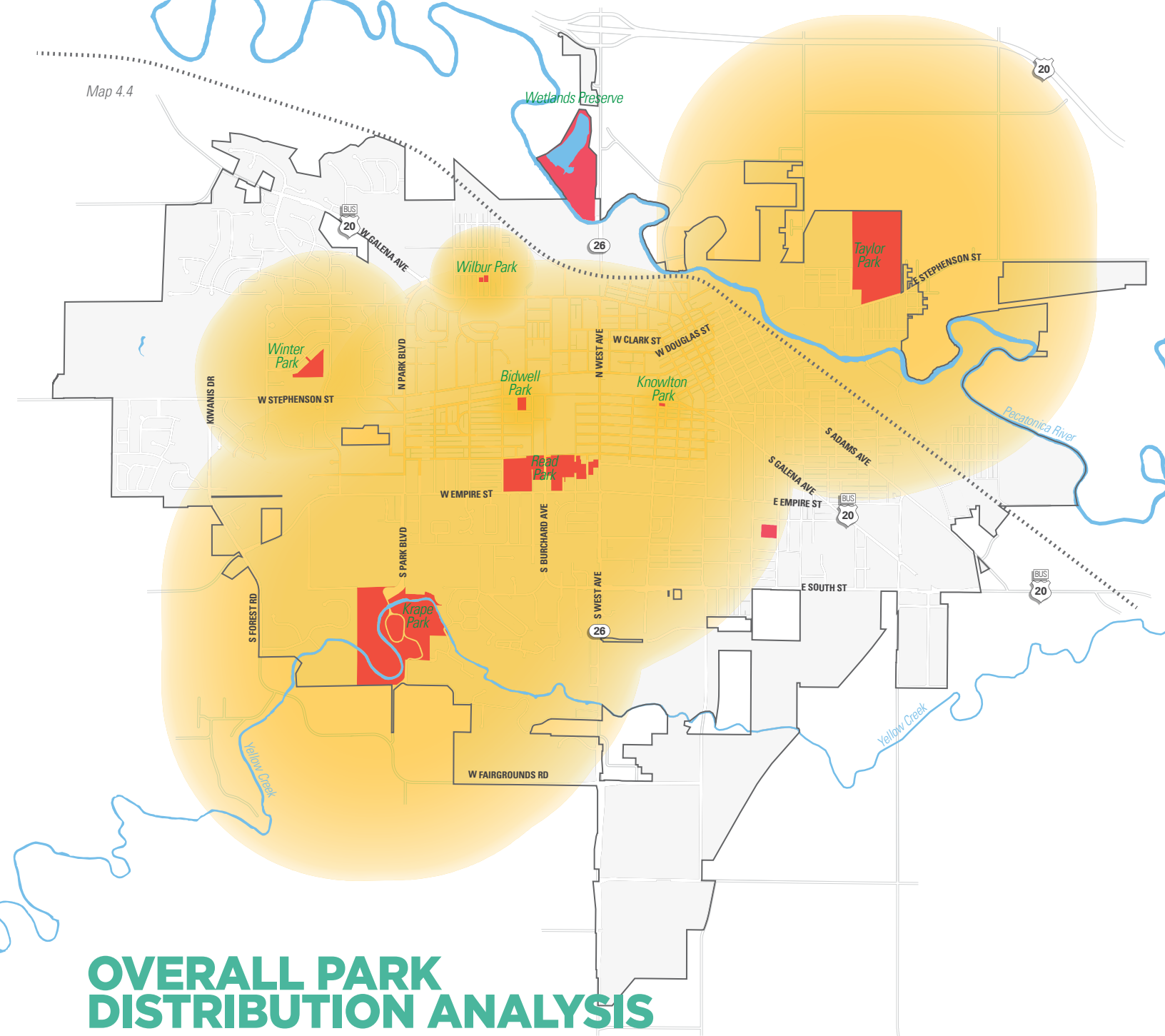
1 Mile Service Area





Overall Park Distribution Analysis

Taken together, the Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Park service areas cover nearly all of the Freeport Community. Furthermore, additional spaces like Oakdale and the Wetlands Preserve provide added amenities. Together, the surplus of acreage and distribution coverage indicate that overall park distribution in the District is good. However, the eastern portions of Freeport remain underserved in terms of both Mini and Neighborhood Parks.



OVERALL PARK DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

Legend

- Freeport Municipal Boundary
- Freeport Park District Park

1/2 Mile Service Area





Trails Distribution Analysis

Trails and other multi-modal transportation corridors are important components of any park system. They help to create a continuous, linear park arrangement that is safe especially for pedestrians and cyclists.

Existing Trails: There are five existing trails in the Freeport Park District that total approximately 9 miles in length:

- Jane Adams Trail: At 5.07 miles in length, this trail is the longest in the District and provides connections to the larger 17-mile trail that extends from Freeport to the Wisconsin state line. The trail serves pedestrians and cyclists alike.
- Burchard Hills: This 1.08 mile trail serves the neighborhoods in the south-central portion of the community and provides trail amenities to both residents and patients and their families at the FHN Family Healthcare Center.

- Countryside Park: This short 0.3 mile trail provides a walking path for the neighborhoods in the northwest corner of the city.
- Highland Trust Trail: This trail is 0.75 miles in length and connects Kiwanis Drive to Pearl City Road west of Park Boulevard. This is a crucial multi-modal connection on the west side of the city.
- Krape Park Trails: Krape Park contains 1.7 miles of trails within the community park.
- Oakdale Nature Preserve: Oakdale has a large 4 mile network of trails winding through the 133 acres of forest.

In addition to these existing trails are 24 future trails. Taken together, the existing and future trails, with a 1.2-mile service area buffer radius, cover nearly the entire city of Freeport. An important consideration for the Park District Master Plan will be to identify additional trail connections and opportunities to provide sidewalk and bicycle facilities to provide greater access to the

trails.

Amenities

Acreage and Distribution analyses provide a broad understanding of parks and open space level of service. However, they are unable to provide a detailed understanding of specific programs and facilities available both within individual parks and within the entire park district. To understand what amenities are available in each park, and therefore to individual neighborhoods, analysis is provided based on the Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Park and Recreation Operating Ratio and Geographic Information System (PRORAGIS).

SCORP

The Illinois SCORP provides a benchmark for the supply of specific park amenities as an average taken from all Illinois municipalities. In addition to documenting available amenities, the SCORP provides recommendations regarding the useful life of each amenity type. The table to the right documents the existing total amenities and those still within their useful life range within the District, and compares those totals to the average across all Illinois communities (based on a per 1,000 population metric). SCORP comparisons only document outdoor facilities. Items in green in the far-right “Surplus/Deficit” column

	Existing # of Amenities (Total)	Existing # of Amenities Within Useful life	Existing # of Amenities per 1,000 population	IL Average # of Amenities per 1,000 Population	Total # of Amenities Needed to Meet IL Average	Surplus / Deficit
Water-Based Facilities						
Swimming Pools	1	1	0.04	0.02	0.53	0.47
Spray Grounds / Splash Pads	0	0	0.00	0.02	0.60	-0.60
Trails						
Multi-Use Trails (Miles)	4	4	0.16	0.23	5.59	-1.59
Hiking Trails	0	0	0.00	0.12	2.94	-2.94
Nature / Interpretive Trails (Miles)	2	1	0.08	0.02	0.49	0.51
Cross-Country Trails	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Day Use Facilities						
Picnic Shelters	14	12	0.57	0.23	5.58	6.42
Playgrounds	12	8	0.49	0.34	8.39	-0.39
Interpretive Centers	0	0	0.00	0.01	0.21	-0.21
Sports Courts and Facilities						
Tennis Courts	8	8	0.33	0.17	4.23	3.77
Basketball Courts	12	8	0.49	0.14	3.33	4.67
Volleyball Courts	4	4	0.16	0.17	4.15	-0.15
Baseball Fields	12	10	0.49	0.17	4.27	5.73
Softball Fields	12	10	0.49	0.12	2.99	7.01
Football Fields	3	3	0.12	0.04	0.96	2.04
Soccer Fields	2	2	0.08	0.16	3.85	-1.85
Golf Course (18-Hole Course)	2	2	0.08	0.01	0.24	1.76
Golf Course (9-Hole Course)	0	0	0.00	0.01	0.24	-0.24
Golf Driving Range	1	1	0.04	0.00	0.00	1.00
Ice Rinks	1	1	0.04	0.04	0.98	0.02
Bocce Court	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Parks	0	0	0.00	0.01	0.29	-0.29
Disc Golf	1	1	0.04	0.01	0.24	0.76
Skate Park	0	0	0.00	0.01	0.35	-0.35
Field Hockey	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

are those amenities that the Freeport Park District exceeds the statewide average. Items in red are amenities for which there is a lack of provision in the community.

PRORAGIS

PRORAGIS is an innovative and comprehensive park planning tool developed by the National Recreation and Park Association. This tool allows for the comparison of Freeport Park District amenities to communities of similar size across a certain population and geography. This analysis compares the District to all communities in the United States between 20,000 and 30,000 in population. The PRORAGIS tool provides information on the total population per facility for a range of amenities, including swimming pools, playgrounds, basketball courts, volleyball courts, baseball fields, softball fields, football fields, soccer field, golf course, outdoor ice rinks, dog parks and skate parks.

Like the SCORP table, items in green in the “Surplus/Deficit” column are amenities that the District provides in greater quantities than counterpart communities. Items in red are amenities that are not provided in Freeport to the extent that they are in similar communities nationwide.

	Existing # of Amenities (Total)	Existing # of Amenities Within Useful life	Existing # of Amenities per 1,000 population	Total # of Amenities needed to meet PRORAGIS median	Surplus / Deficit	Population per Facility (per PRORAGIS)
Water-Based Facilities						
Swimming Pools	1	1	0.04	1.00	0.00	24,413
Day Use Facilities						
Playgrounds	12	8	0.49	8.55	-0.55	2,853
Sports Courts and Facilities						
Tennis Courts	10	10	0.41	4.98	5.02	4,900
Basketball Courts	12	8	0.49	3.53	4.47	6,911
Volleyball Courts	4	4	0.16	1.19	2.81	20,540
Baseball Fields	12	10	0.49	5.74	4.26	4,250
Softball Fields	12	10	0.49	3.30	6.70	7,395
Football Fields	3	3	0.12	1.35	1.65	18,027
Soccer Fields	2	2	0.08	6.83	-4.83	3,570
Golf Course (18-Hole Course)	2	2	0.08	0.94	1.06	25,851
Golf Course (9-Hole Course)	0	0	0.00	0.99	-0.99	24,616
Golf Driving Range	1	1	0.04	7.81	-6.81	3,125
Ice Rinks	1	1	0.04	1.89	-0.89	12,886
Dog Parks	0	0	0.00	0.98	-0.98	24,775
Skate Park	0	0	0.00	0.99	-0.99	24,516



Source: RATIO

PARK AND FACILITY INVENTORY

INVENTORY MAPS

The following inventory documents each park in terms of size and facilities, in addition to providing an aerial snapshot to assist in understanding each park's layout.

The following maps provide a detailed inventory of each park based on site visits, consultation with Park District

staff, and previous planning documents. This analysis will provide for focused recommendations for each park in terms of needed programs and facilities. Parks are listed in alphabetical order.

BIDWELL PARK

Address: 1124 W. Pleasant Street

Tax ID/PIN: 13-36-401-016

Acres: 2.0

		Trails					Indoor Facilities			Day Use Amenities				Sports Courts and Amenities														Water-Based Amenities							
Acreage		Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Bidwell Park								1				1	1		1											1									



DEACON DAVIS COURTS

Address: 315 E. Jackson St.
Tax ID/PIN: 14-31-278-001
Acres: 0.8

		Trails					Indoor Facilities		Day Use Amenities				Sports Courts and Amenities														Water-Based Amenities									
		Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Court	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Deacon Davis Courts	0.8							1						4																						



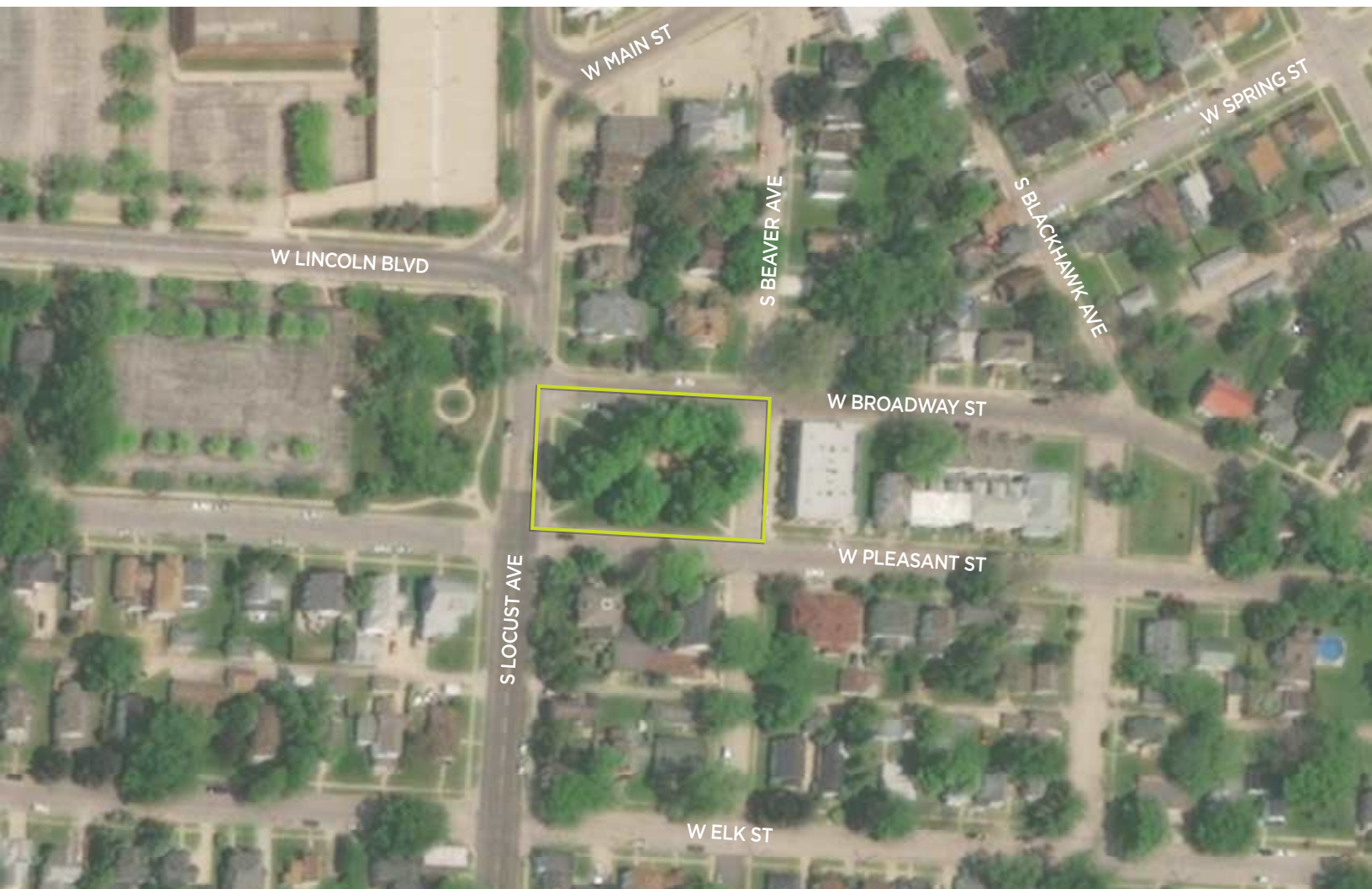
KNOWLTON SQUARE

Address: Locust St. at Broadway St.

Tax ID/PIN: 14-31-331-001

Acres: 0.3

		Trails					Indoor Facilities		Day Use Amenities			Sports Courts and Amenities														Water-Based Amenities									
	Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Knowlton Square	0.3												1																						



KRAPE PARK

Address: 1799 Park Blvd.
Tax ID/PIN: 18-01-303-010
Acres: 131.0

		Trails					Indoor Facilities			Day Use Amenities				Sports Courts and Amenities														Water-Based Amenities							
	Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Krape Park	131.0	1						3	1			4	5		1		1	1								1	3						1	1	1

*Krape Park also includes a Multiuse Rental Facility



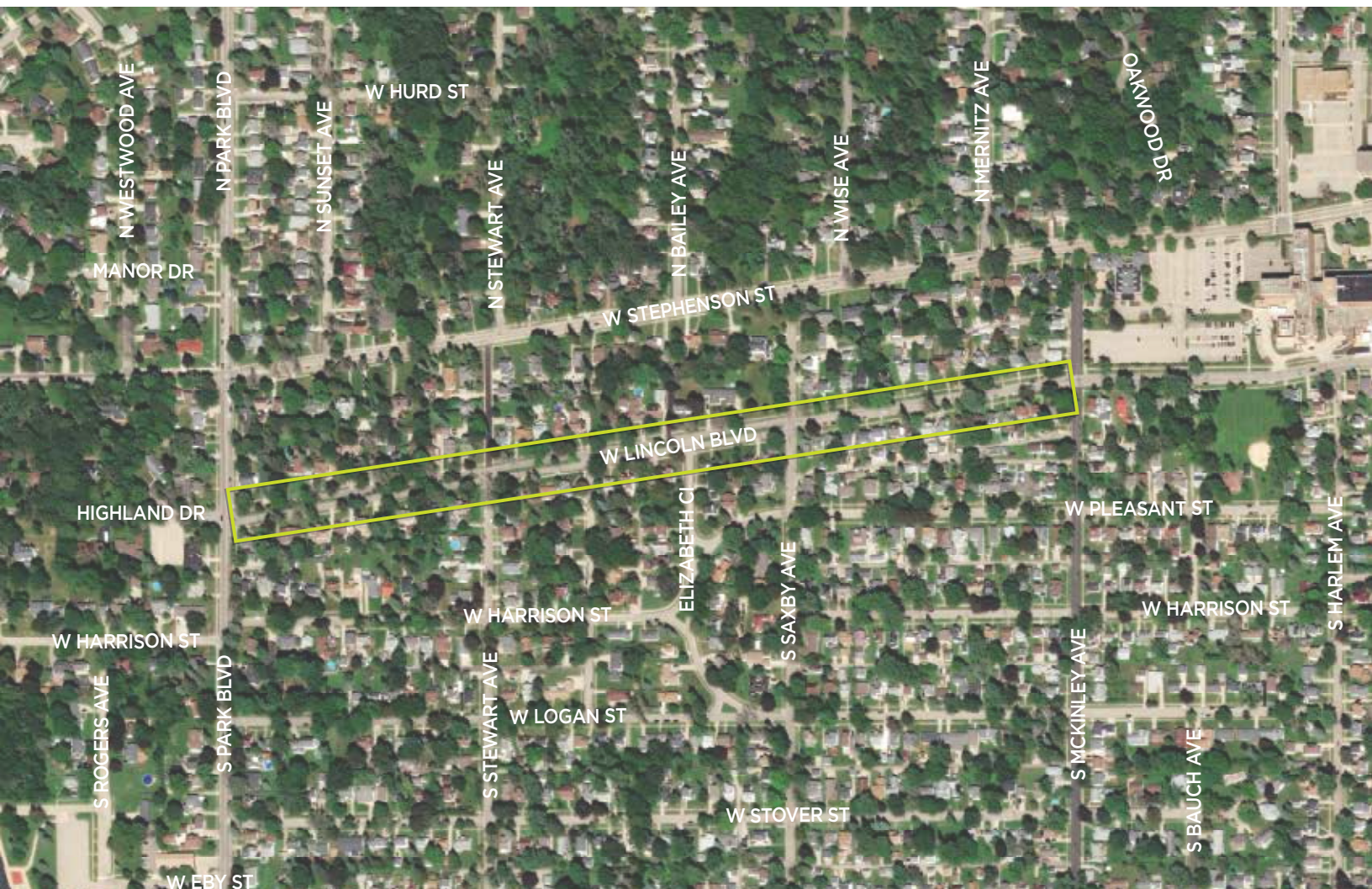
LINCOLN BOULEVARD

Address: Lincoln Blvd.

Tax ID/PIN: N/A

Acres: N/A

		Trails					Indoor Facilities		Day Use Amenities				Sports Courts and Amenities														Water-Based Amenities								
	Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Lincoln Boulevard	NA																																		



OAKDALE NATURE PRESERVE

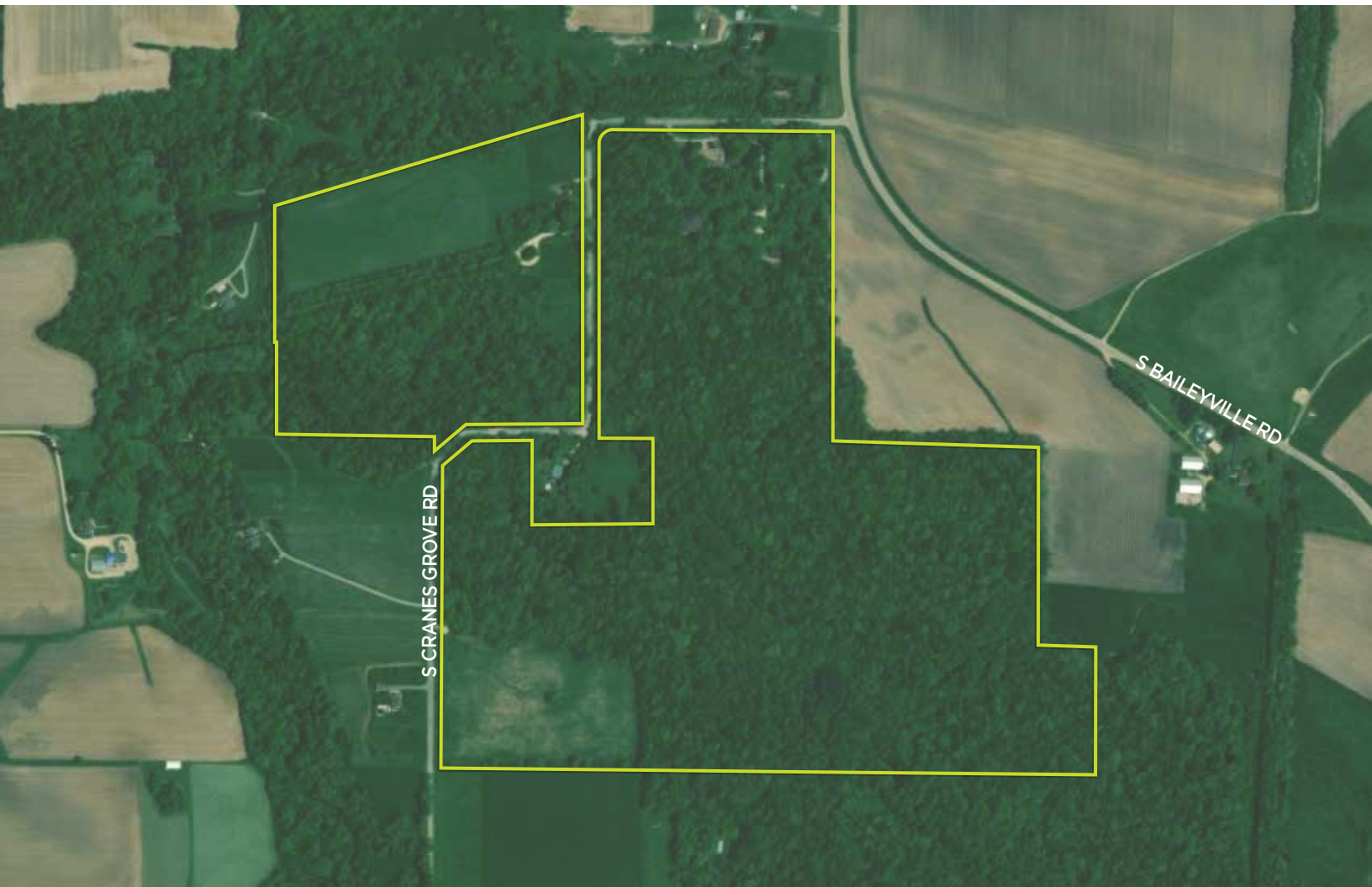
Address: 4433 S. Cranes Grove Rd.

Tax ID/PIN: 19-20-100-018

Acres: 133.0

		Trails					Indoor Facilities		Day Use Amenities				Sports Courts and Amenities														Water-Based Amenities								
	Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Oakdale Nature Preserve	133.0		1		1			2				2																							

*Oakdale Nature Preserve also includes an Indoor Classroom



Oakdale Nature Preserve Master Plan

In 2015, the Park District completed a Master Plan for Oakdale Nature Preserve. The Goals of the Master Plan include the following:

- 1. Restore, maintain, and preserve the ecological integrity of Oakdale Nature Preserve
- 2. Achieve a sustainable ecosystem health and biological diversity
- 3. Reduce or eliminate maintenance of unused facilities
- 4. Provide for educational opportunities
- 5. Develop a unique location for revenue to support and enhance the other goals

Master Plan Objectives

The Master Plan provides recommendations for the following three sub-categories:

- 1. Natural Area Restoration
- 2. Trails and Cultural Interpretation
- 3. Central Area

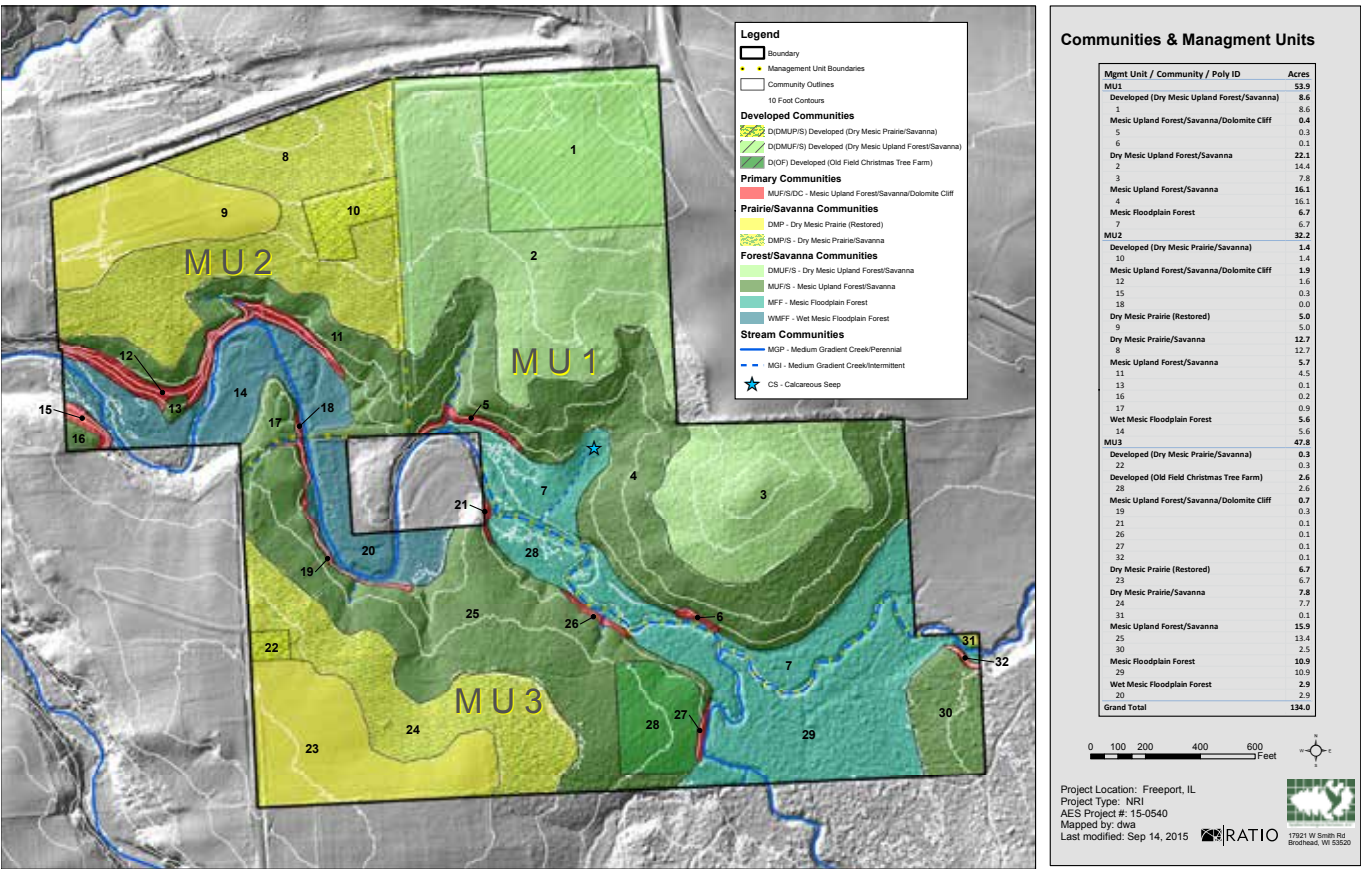
Implementation

The Park District is currently in the process of restoring natural areas and assessing the structures within the park.

Natural Areas

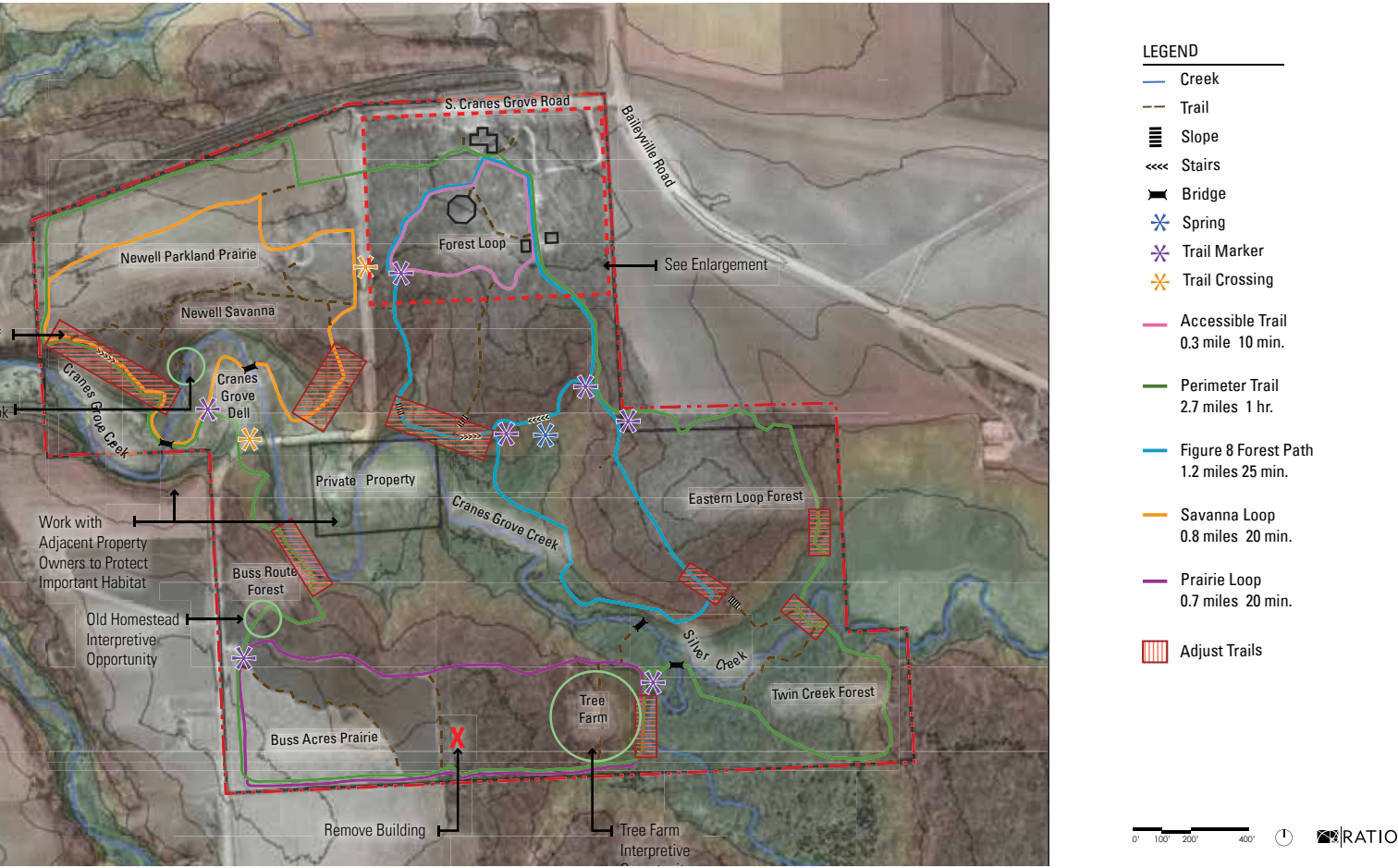
The Master Plan identifies objectives related to erosion, promoting native flora and fauna, site hydrology, and cultural resources. This section also outlines management and maintenance regimes that will help implement the Master Plan

Communities and Management Units Map



Trails and Cultural Interpretation

The trails connect the site. The trails are important to meet the educational goals and the recreational goals of Oakdale. The trails also connect the people to the features of Oakdale including the Central Area, the Limestone Cliffs and the Tree Farm.



The Central Area

The center of activity; where most people go when they come to Oakdale. This is split into phases and the phases should be developed as need arises. These are implementation scenarios and there are several different scenarios that could be developed.

Center Area Master Plan



PARK HILLS GOLF COURSE

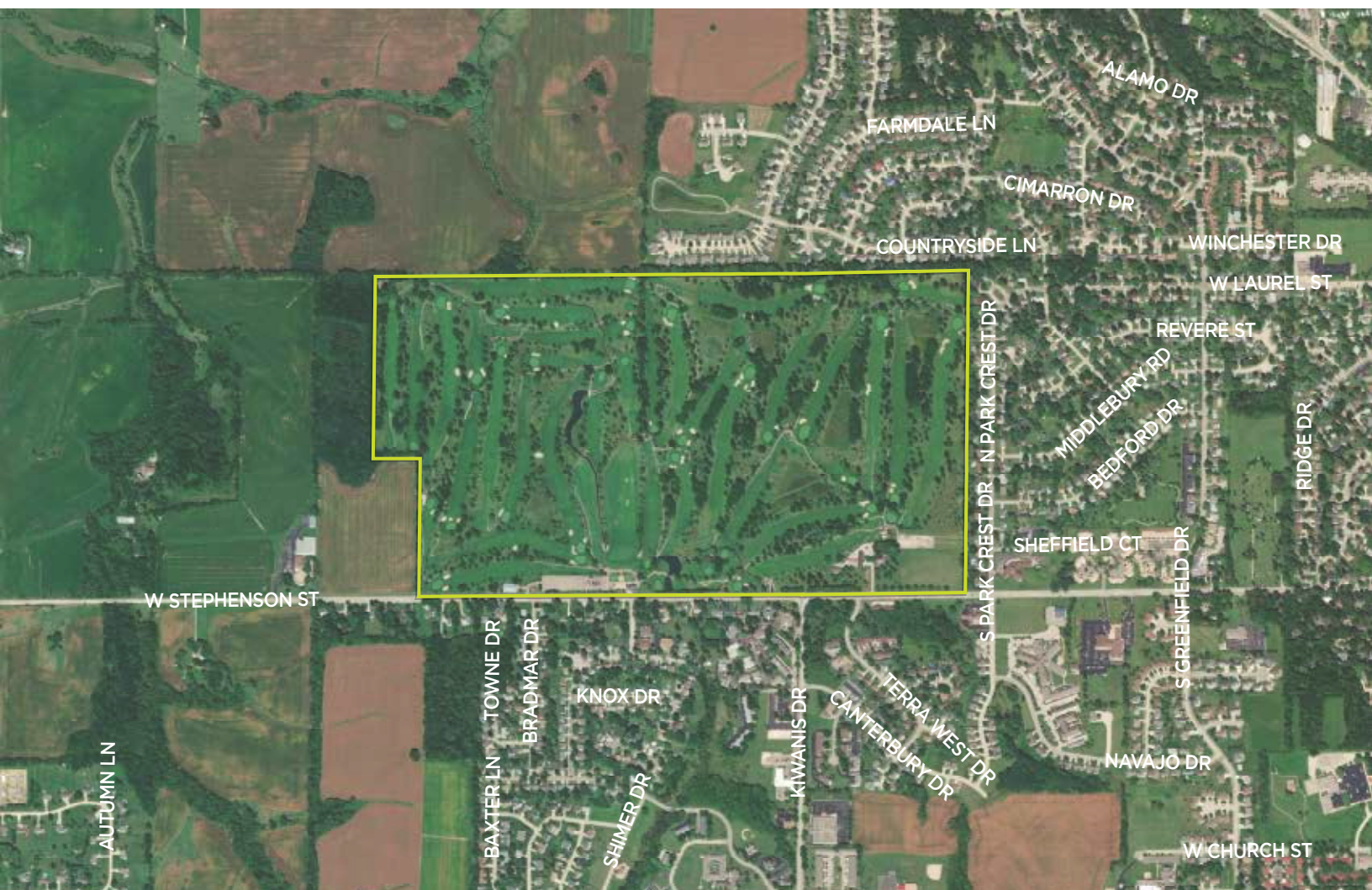
Address: 3240 W. Stephenson St.

Tax ID/PIN: 13-34-200-001

Acres: 280.0

		Trails					Indoor Facilities			Day Use Amenities				Sports Courts and Amenities												Water-Based Amenities									
Acreage		Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Park Hills Golf Course	280																		2	1	4														

*Park Hills Golf Course also includes an Observatory and Banquet Hall



READ PARK

Address: 1200 Park Lane Dr.

Tax ID/PIN: 13-36-477-004

Acres: 36.0

		Trails				Indoor Facilities		Day Use Amenities				Sports Courts and Amenities													Water-Based Amenities										
	Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Ice Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Read Park	36.0	1		1				2	2			3	4	2	6			1						1		1	6	4	3	1		1			



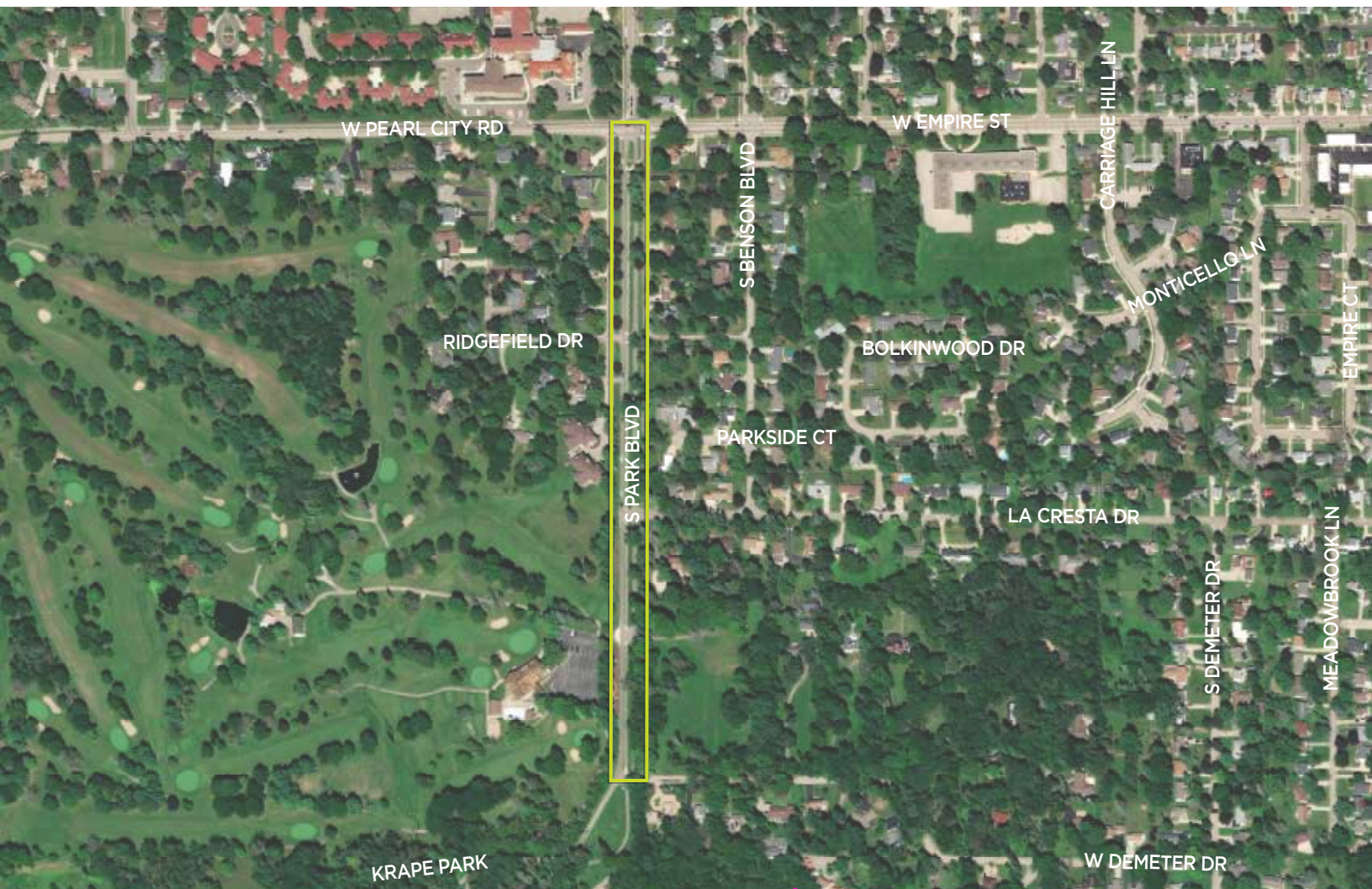
SOUTH PARK

Address: South Park Blvd

Tax ID/PIN: N/A

Acres: N/A

		Trails					Indoor Facilities			Day Use Amenities				Sports Courts and Amenities													Water-Based Amenities								
Acreage		Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Park Blvd.	NA	1																																	



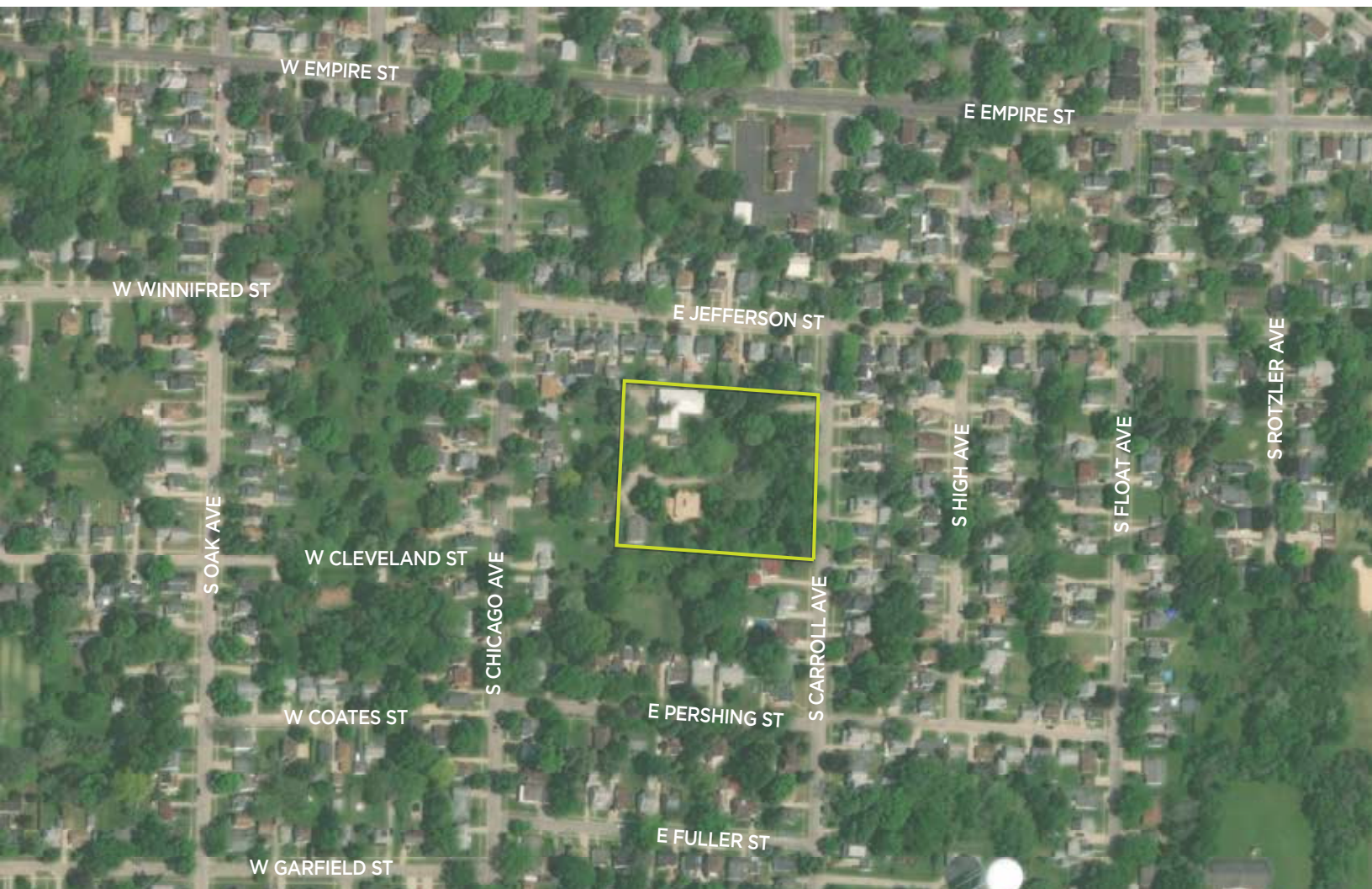
TAYLOR HOUSE (SCHS)

Address: 1440 S. Carroll Ave.

Tax ID/PIN: 19-06-229-042

Acres: 3.3

		Trails					Indoor Facilities		Day Use Amenities			Sports Courts and Amenities													Water-Based Amenities										
Acreage		Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Taylor House (SCHS)	3.3							1																											



TAYLOR PARK

Address: 900 E. Stephenson St.

Tax ID/PIN: 14-29-326-002

Acres: 75.0

		Trails					Indoor Facilities		Day Use Amenities			Sports Courts and Amenities														Water-Based Amenities									
Acreage		Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trail	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Taylor Park	75.0	1			1			1				2	1	4	3											3	1	1							



WETLANDS PRESERVE

Address: 830 IL-26
Tax ID/PIN: 13-25-200-013
Acres: 58.0

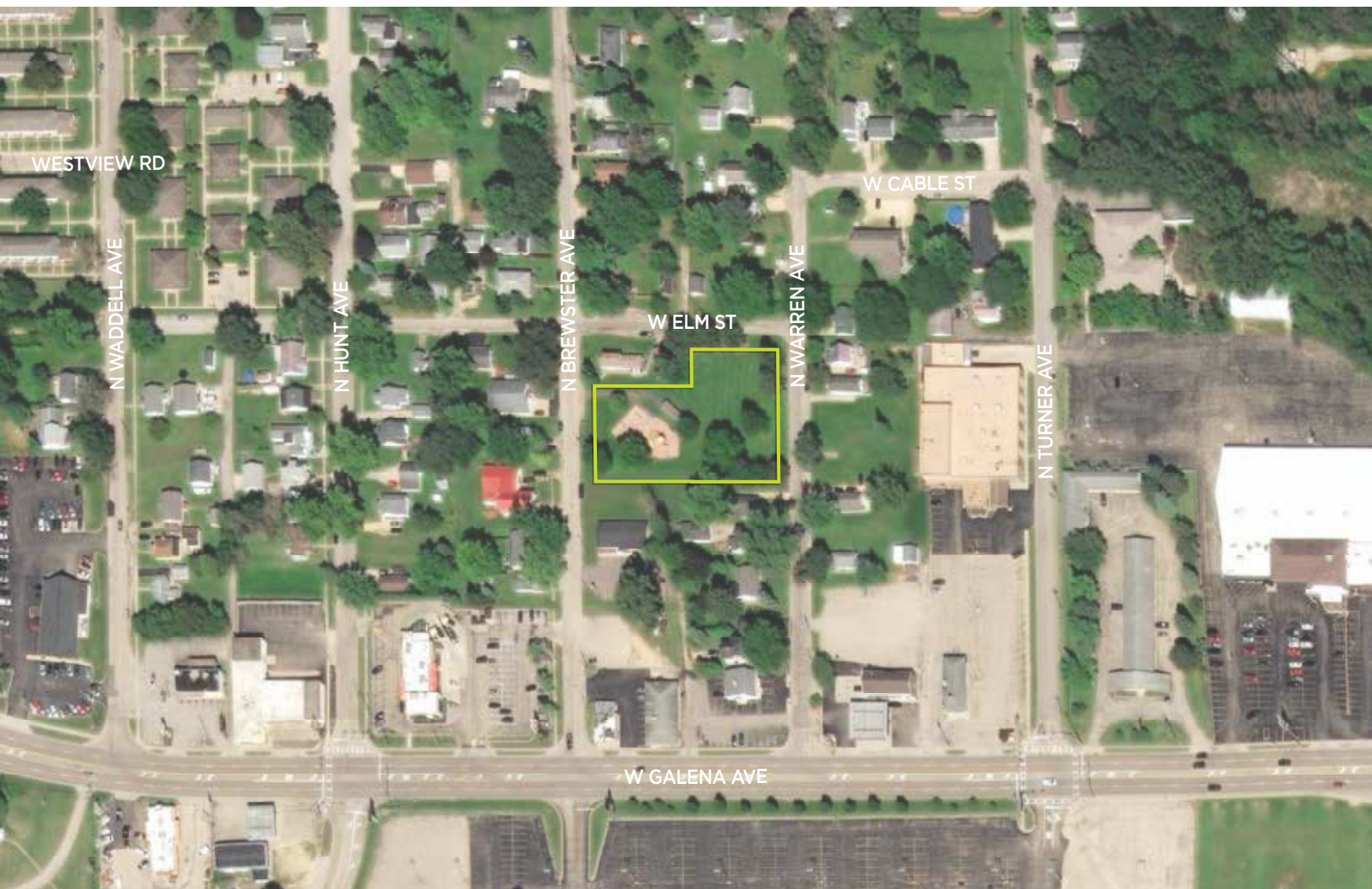
		Trails					Indoor Facilities		Day Use Amenities			Sports Courts and Amenities													Water-Based Amenities										
Acreage		Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Wetlands Preserve	58.0				1																													1	



WILBUR PARK

Address: Warren Ave.
Tax ID/PIN: 13-25-382-017
Acres: 1.0

		Trails					Indoor Facilities		Day Use Amenities			Sports Courts and Amenities													Water-Based Amenities										
	Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
Wilbur Park	1.0											1	1																						



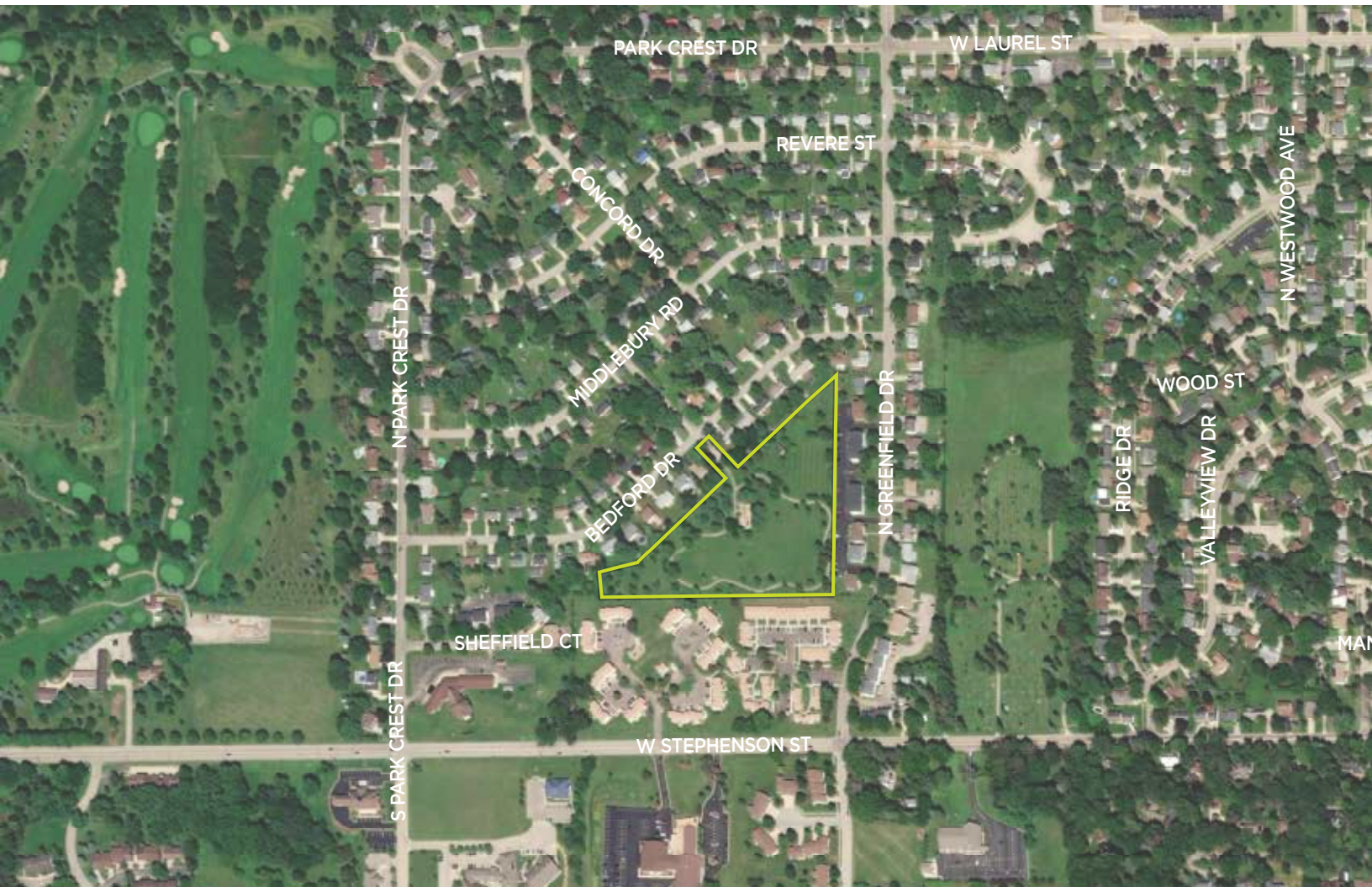
WINTER PARK

Address: 2023 Bedford Rd.

Tax ID/PIN: 13-35-252-013

Acres: 7.0

		Trails					Indoor Facilities		Day Use Amenities			Sports Courts and Amenities												Water-Based Amenities											
	Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretative Trails	Cross Country Trails	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations / Equipment	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Batting Cages	Disc Golf	Football / Rugby	Golf Course	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Velodrome /Cycling Track	Pickleball Courts	Roller Hockey Rink	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing
		1									1		1		1																				
		Winter Park	7.0																																





8

Source: RATIO

STRATEGIC VISION FRAMEWORK

OVERVIEW

Purpose

The foundation for the Master Plan is a strategic framework that will guide the District in implementing its visionary mission to provide residents and visitors in Freeport an enhanced and expanded network of the highest quality open space and recreational facilities. This chapter lays out a set of goals, each with its own aspirational and realistic implementation strategies. The goals fall within three broad categories:

1. **Connect** encompasses a broad range of concepts and ideas geared toward making the District's facilities easier to access and traverse, for all users.
2. **Organize** recommends a range of partner organizations and programming to continue expanding the Park District's offerings.
3. **Enhance** provides recommendations that focus on the District's current properties. Strategies address ways to expand programming, make parks more accessible, and establish a strong foundation for the coming years.

These goals, and their accompanying strategies, represent a holistic approach to enhancing the Park District. Strategies focus on physical improvements to the parks themselves, district-wide accessibility, and operational excellence. Together, these strategies reflect the aspirations of the Freeport community and their leadership and participation through the planning process.

CONNECT

The Vision

Freeport is a compact community with a well-formed grid of streets and roads. Sidewalks are common.

A growing trail network provides amenities for those who prefer or rely on active mobility options like walking or cycling. Yet improving connectivity remains a high priority for Freeport Park District users.

CONNECT encompasses a broad range of concepts and ideas geared toward making the District's facilities easier to access and traverse, for all users.

CONNECT

Goal 1

Expand existing and establish new bicycle amenities, including routes to and within all city parks, bicycle lanes, off-street multi-use paths and parking facilities.

Rationale

Improving access for cyclists is one of the priorities most-cited by Park District users. The Park District, in coordination with the City of Freeport, should increase the amount of bicycle facilities, prioritizing off-street multi-use paths but also including on-street bike lanes, with a particular focus on routes that provide access to parks. Given Freeport's gradual population decline, certain streets should be redesigned to reduce the amount of space given to cars while increasing that given to other transportation options.

Strategies

- Evaluate bike lanes identified in the City of Freeport Comprehensive Plan for additional connections.
- Construct new mountain biking trails in large community parks like Krape, Oakdale, and Taylor.
- Rebuild the Highland Path and construct new multi-use path through Highland Community College, Highland Foundation property, and Park Hills Golf Course, with connection to Countryside Loop.
- Create new multi-use path into Krape Park from Fairgrounds Road.
- In partnership with the City of Freeport locate bike share locations in or adjacent to park destinations.
- Extend connections where possible to community attractions and businesses.
- Work with the Greater Freeport Partnership, the City, and private partners to create Public-Private Partnerships to establish shared funding programs.



Example of a bicycle pavement marking on a bike lane



Example of a multi-use path marking



Example of a mountain biking trail in a prairie landscape

CONNECT

Goal 2

Ensure that all parks and trails have sufficient and well-maintained parking facilities.

Rationale

Rationale: For most park users, driving will remain the primary mode of access, so parking is important. Yet, high quality parking facilities are unevenly distributed throughout the Park District. To ensure that access is equitable, safe, and comfortable, the Park District should prioritize improvements at parks that currently lack adequate parking facilities and implement a maintenance regime that ensures all parking facilities are accessible, safe, and sustainable.

Strategies

- Implement stormwater BMPs at all new parking facilities, where feasible.
- Install safe pedestrian walkways through and around all new and existing parking facilities.
- Provide highly visible bicycle parking facilities at all Park District parks and facilities.



Example of a sheltered bike parking with secured bike storage facilities.



Parking lot with dedicated pedestrian safety facilities



Green infrastructure integrated into parking lot

CONNECT

Goal 3

Ensure that all parks and programs are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Rationale

Parks are for everyone. Freeport has a stable, yet aging and slowly declining population, so the District must guarantee that all parks and trails are equipped with amenities to assist older users and others with mobility or sensory impairments. This will ensure that the Park District's facilities continue to be well-used into the future by all generations.

Strategies

- Equip all trails, specifically locations with potential tripping or fall hazards, with handrails and other anti-fall measures.
- Retrofit existing and construct new trails that are ADA-accessible.
- Retrofit or construct new playgrounds that are accessible to children with mobility and other disabilities.
- Continue implementation of ADA transition plan.
- Work with Northlands Association of Special Recreation to develop programs and facilities that are accessible to individuals with special needs.



E-scooter



Paving differentiation in trail surface to notify visually impaired users of educational signage



Accessible boardwalk trail

CONNECT

Goal 4

Implement and maintain new and improved access to all parks and trailheads where boating is allowed.

Rationale

Freeport is graced with accessible water features that provide unique recreational opportunities. The Park District should maintain existing boat launches at Krape Park, and partner with allied organizations to maintain safe water access and to provide boat rental and repair. Increased access to the District's and the City's water resources could be a significant economic development and tourism initiative.

Strategies

- Partner with the Pecatonica River Foundation and Paddle the Pec to provide educational opportunities for park users interested in boating activities.
- Install new water access facilities at Wetlands Preserve.
- Install new accessible boat launch facilities.



Kayakers on the Pecatonica River



ADA accessible boat launch

ORGANIZE

The Vision

Freeport is a mature community with a strong network of institutions, businesses and other organizations that provide programming and physical spaces for recreation. The Park District currently engages with many of these organizations to offer Freeport residents and visitors a diverse array of activities and venues.

ORGANIZE recommends a range of partner organizations and programming to continue expanding the Park District's offerings.

ORGANIZE

Goal 5

Create a Freeport Park District branding package that includes brand standards for communication and physical elements.

Rationale

The Park District is one of Freeport's signature features, for residents and visitors alike. The story of this regionally significant Park District needs to be communicated clearly to the region through a consistent brand that represents the history and charter. Clearly communicating the vision, mission, and brand make will identify how to effectively position the District for success.

Strategies

- Engage with a branding firm to design refine the Park District brand,
- Partner with the City of Freeport and Greater Freeport Partnership to integrate the brand into the communities outreach efforts.
- Implement the new messaging using social media applications like Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest to market the Park District to residents and visitors



Social media is an important way to share the District's message.

ORGANIZE

Goal 6

Create a wayfinding plan that includes signs, gateways, trailheads, and other wayfinding features

Rationale

Both residents and visitors to Freeport are often unaware of the short distance to another amenity or and entire park that they might enjoy. Creating visually exciting and clear wayfinding helps direct and attract users. Making the signage consistent within parks and the system reinforces the park District's brand.

Strategies

- Engage with a wayfinding consultant to design a signage package based on existing parks District standards and the branding plan.
- Partner with the City of Freeport and Greater Freeport Partnership to create a continuous wayfinding experience that directs visitors on a continuous path from park to park and connecting parks to other cultural and entertainment destinations.
- Assess larger parks for gaps in wayfinding within parks.



Creative park wayfinding and branding



Traditional park wayfinding

ORGANIZE

Goal 7

Expand Freeport Park District's programming relationships with community organizations.

Rationale

The City of Freeport has a rich network of educational and cultural organizations that offer both additional physical space for recreation programming, as well as institutional capacity to augment the Park District's current programming. Expanding on relationships with these organizations will create awareness of the Park District's offerings and improve community buy-in.

Strategies

- Work with Freeport School District 145 and the City's religious schools to ensure access to playgrounds and athletic fields for community members after school hours.
- Partner with Highland Community College to increase educational programming in areas of study offered at the College. Students in programs such as Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Early Childhood Education, Environmental Science, Geology could lead in educational programming offered at Park District facilities.
- Continue the Youth Art program through the Freeport Art Museum.
- Partner with the Freeport Art Museum and other local partners to conduct Sculpture Walks.
- Continue the Art in the Park event at Krape Park and consider expanding and/or rotating to additional parks.
- Open indoor park facilities to the community for flexible programming like crafts, maker-spaces, computer classes and other enrichment programs.



Freeport Youth Art Program event

ORGANIZE

Goal 8

Expand Freeport Park District's relationships with organizations in the natural resource sector.

Rationale

Freeport and the surrounding Northwest Illinois region have significant natural resources that should be protected, both to preserve its unique landscapes, but also to promote economic development and tourism. Partnering with allied organizations will help the Park District maintain its own nature-based parks, like Oakdale Nature Preserve, Wetlands Preserve, and the future Taylor Park, as well as expand awareness of additional natural areas in the region.

Strategies

- Partner with local and regional agencies to promote volunteer efforts.
- Explore eco-tourism opportunities and how its potential in the Freeport community and region.



Jane Addams Trail



Birdwatching classes

ORGANIZE

Goal 9

Strengthen the Park District's relationships with community athletic organizations to promote active lifestyles and increase sports tourism.

Rationale

The Park District has mutually beneficial relationships with programming providers in Freeport, including the YMCA, Stix Baseball and Softball, Little Cubs Field, and Freeport Soccer Club. These organizations depend on Park District facilities for play space, while the Park District accesses their private spaces for its youth programming. The District should continue to expand and formalize these relationships as a cost-effective way of expanding access.

Strategies

- Create a sports tourism planning group in conjunction with the greater Freeport Partnership to support tournaments and other events.
- Create a funding partnership with Stix Baseball and Softball and the Freeport Soccer Club to provide additional maintenance funds for practice facilities.
- Partner with the YMCA to provide indoor athletic programming, particularly in the winter months. The Park District should look to construct its own in the long term.
- Create a marketing program to increase tourist trips to Little Cubs Field.
- Continue to enhance athletic facilities to meet the ever changing needs and interests of user groups.



Little Cubs Field

ORGANIZE

Goal 10

Engage the Greater Freeport Partnership in a joint hospitality and tourism campaign.

Rationale

The Park District competes with its counterparts in neighboring communities for youth sports events and regional tourism dollars. A frequent concern among Park District users and stakeholders is a poorly-defined visitor experience, particularly in terms of restaurants and lodging.

Strategies

- Work with the business community to solicit sponsorships to promote recreation facilities.
- Leverage Freeport Park District's assets to reach tourists.
- Undertake a study of the local tourism tax to identify potential strategies to capture additional tourism dollars.
- Market the Freeport Park District online as a regional recreation, arts and culture destination. Market the Freeport Park District on regional highways and in larger regional population centers like Rockford and Chicago.



ENHANCE

The Vision

Freeport Park District is well-known within Northwest Illinois for having a collection of parks that is larger and more memorable than one might expect from a city of just under 25,000. From award-winning Krape Park to Read Park, Oakdale Nature Preserve and beyond, the Park District offers residents and visitors a wealth of programming and venue options. However, the Park District will need to respond to an aging population and changing use patterns. Rather than expanding the District's portfolio of parks and open spaces, the focus should be on enhancing the spaces that already exist.

ENHANCE provides recommendations that focus on the District's current properties. Strategies address ways to expand programming, make parks more accessible, and establish a strong foundation for the coming years.

ENHANCE

Goal 11

Protect natural areas and increase biodiversity within Park District properties.

Rationale

Increased user interest in nature-focused programming, along with significant flooding at numerous facilities, requires unprecedented attention from the Park District. The Park District should be a leader in Freeport in increasing awareness about the region's unique and changing landscapes. Ultimately, increasing biodiversity in the Park District can be a significant economic development and tourism boost for Freeport.

Strategies

- Implement redesign of Taylor Park that prioritizes natural areas that promote biodiversity.
- Implement educational signage to educate the public on the roles that parks play in climate resiliency.
- Acquire development rights and easements when necessary to protect open space, scenic views, woodlands, wetlands and flood plains.
- Implement planting strategies that incorporate native plants and that promote healthy ecosystems.
- Promote nature and birding walks at all parks.
- Evaluate feasibility of and implement green stormwater BMPs.
- Develop a tree management plan for the park system.



Educational signage



Green infrastructure in an urban park setting

- Implement the following improvements to Oakdale Nature Preserve:
 - New shelter
 - Nature-themed play structures
 - ADA restrooms
 - Trail signage
 - Bridge replacement

ENHANCE

Goal 12

Retrofit and redesign park facilities that are frequently affected by flooding.

Rationale

Freeport has experienced significant flooding in recent years. Some parks like Krape and the Wetlands Preserve experience occasional flood events while others experience more regular inundation. The Park District should develop and implement flood mitigation efforts at all affected parks. The plans do not need to eliminate all flood risks, but should make the parks more resilient to inundation.

Strategies

- Create raised topographical and architectural elements in the park that provide refuge and visual access during rain and flooding events.
- Implement planting strategies that accommodate persistent wet and underwater conditions.
- Address storm water flow and flooding issues and repair structurally deficient bridge along the Jane Addams Trail.



Constructed wetlands as flood mitigation in park design

ENHANCE

Goal 13

Enhance existing Park District facilities to meet evolving community needs and to stay at the forefront of recreation trends.

Rationale

The Park District maintains and programs numerous facilities throughout the city and within each park. The facilities range from golf courses to aquatic facilities to multi-purpose buildings to sports fields, each one presenting unique challenges.

The Park District will need to continue to budget for updating and replace facilities to meet the needs of the community as demographics change and trends evolve.

Strategies

- Evaluate existing facilities District wide to establish a schedule for updates.
- Consider expanding facilities offered based on community input survey and gap analysis with surrounding communities.
- Evaluate the distribution of facilities geographically throughout the city to determine new locations.



Little Cubs Field



Source: RATIO

Maintenance Facility at Krape Park



Source: RATIO

Play structure in Krape Park



Source: RATIO

Picnic shelter in Krape Park

ENHANCE

Goal 14

Protect and highlight the Park District's cultural heritage.

Rationale

The Park District owns an impressive set of buildings and landscape structures like walls, bridges, signs and paths. In general, the Park District is uncommonly large and rich for a community the size of Freeport. However, the design of park elements is diverse and uneven, and some historic sites suffer from neglect and lack of funding. Strategies to preserve and extend the District's cultural heritage will help create a cohesive brand and ensure that the distribution of resources is equitable across the city.

Strategies

- Create design guidelines that draw inspiration from the District's most successful holdings and that create consistency in detail between older and newer park facilities.
- Implement the Design Guidelines to ensure that future construction of buildings and other elements is consistent with Park District goals.
- Identify facilities and structures with cultural significance.
- Take care in preserving and maintaining facilities and structures with cultural heritage.



WPA-era bridge in Krape Park

Source: RATIO



Monuments at Read Park

Source: RATIO



Statue and fountain in Read Park

Source: RATIO

ENHANCE

Goal 15

Address inconsistencies of park distribution as noted in level of service analysis.

Rationale

Park distribution analysis illustrates that neighborhoods in the eastern and northern portions of Freeport are not adequately served by the Park District. There is a particular lack of mini and neighborhood parks in these communities specifically, but within the District generally. The Park District should initiate a plan to construct new mini parks in under-served neighborhoods.

Strategies

- Engage the communities in eastern and northern Freeport in a planning process to determine ideal locations and programs in future parks.
- Consider a land bank as a means to acquire property for future parks.
- Continue to apply for local, regional, state and federal grants for the construction of parks in these under-served communities.
- Create a replacement plan for existing playground equipment.

ENHANCE

Goal 16

Provide increased arts and culture programming.

Rationale

The Krape Park bandshell is famous throughout Illinois as a cultural landmark. Concerts at the bandshell are a unique constant to life in the City. However, users and stakeholders frequently cite the need for additional concerts, as well as public art, throughout the City. Through partnering with local organizations, the Park District should implement a public art plan.

Strategies

- Implement a Freeport Sculpture Park at one or more park facilities.
- Create a rotating concert series that features each of the Park District's facilities.
- Implement improved street access and new exhibit space at the National Arcade Toy Museum.



Music concert in Krape Park



Sculpture park arranged along path



Sculpture park in pastoral setting

ENHANCE

Goal 17

Enhance safety at all parks facilities and programs by implementing a variety of strategies, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies.

Rationale

Safety is a primary concern for park users. Park users and District stakeholders note that the parks are safe, yet there remain safety concerns. The Park District should implement CPTED strategies in all parks to promote a safe and comfortable experience for all.

Strategies

- Conduct CPTED audits of all parks.
- Maintain trees, shrubs and grasslands to ensure sufficient sight lines.



Ample lighting in a city park as part of a CPTED approach



Visual transparency and generous sight lines as part of a CPTED approach

Profile: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

CPTED recognizes that environmental design can affect the safety of public spaces. Designing safe spaces should consider the following principles:

Natural Surveillance - A person is less likely to commit a crime if he/she perceive someone would see him/her do it

Natural Access Control - Using and designing pathways, fences, lighting, signage, and landscaping to clearly direct traffic to and from the appropriate entrances. Having a proper flow of people can decrease opportunities for crime.

Territorial Reinforcement - Physical designs, such as signage, pavement treatment, and landscaping enable users to develop a sense of ownership of the space. Clearly distinguishing public and private areas would discourage potential trespassers.

Maintenance / "Broken Window Theory" - Neglected or poorly maintained properties are breeding ground for criminal activities.

Activity Support - Design the space so it enhances or creates new form of activities in the space. Diverse land uses around the space brings activity throughout the day.

Image - Appearance that an area is not conducive to crime.

Motivation Reinforcement - Utilizing physical design to improve the community's social cohesion and sense of territory.

ENHANCE

Goal 18

Expand opportunities and create facilities for indoor winter recreation.

Rationale

Freeport has long, cold winters. A frequently-cited desire of Park District users and stakeholders is an indoor multi-purpose facility that can accommodate a broad range of recreational programming in the winter months. The facility should be centrally-located and accessible to all residents. Consider a venue that can host athletic events.

Strategies

- Engage the community in a planning process to determine ideal location and programs for the future indoor winter recreation facility.
- Implement improvements to Krape Community Room and the Read Park Pavilion.



The Pavilion, exterior (Bend, OR)



The Pavilion, outdoor fire pits (Bend, OR)



The Pavilion, open-air ice rink (Bend, OR)



Profile: Indoor Recreation Facility

An indoor recreation facility is a vital resource in communities with cold, long winters. These facilities should be flexible enough to accommodate a range of recreational activities at varying levels of competitiveness. Competitive sports leagues and more passive activities like walking should be accommodated. The location and programs offered at an indoor recreation facility should be determined through a public engagement process.

Facility Design

Public indoor recreation facilities range from simple inflatable dome structures that can be erected only during cold months, to indoor/outdoor pavilions and fully enclosed structures. Ultimately, the design of the facility should be guided by input into the type of activities that the residents of Freeport desire to be accommodated.

The Fieldhouse - Plymouth, Minnesota

Plymouth, Minnesota experience long, cold winters. To provide its residents and visitors with opportunities to remain active during the cold months, Plymouth operates an inflated dome fieldhouse from November to early April at the site of a multi-purpose artificial turf field. During the warmer months, the dome is deflated and the artificial turf fields remain in use. The dome membrane is a soft gray, durable fabric that is coated for superior UV and mildew resistance. Walking and jogging the fieldhouse track is free of charge, while open play on the surfaces and play equipment is subject to a \$4 fee for Plymouth residents (\$5 for non-residents). Children 12 and under can use the facility for free. In addition, the fieldhouse can be rented for events and athletic league activities.

The Pavilion - Bend, Oregon

The Pavilion is a beautiful open-air facility that accommodates winter sports in and non-athletic indoor activities. The Pavilion is a public facility that includes a large ice rink that can be used for hockey, open skating, figure skating, curling and more. Residents and non-residents can use the rink for a small fee (\$6-\$12 for single visits). Seasonal and multi-visit passes are also available. The Pavilion can also be rented for parties and larger events. The facility was designed by Opsis Architecture and opened in 2016.

ENHANCE

Goal 19

Use of technology to enhance visitor experience and increase efficiency in park operations.

Rationale

Technology has been integrated into every part of our society and Parks and Park Districts are no different. As the different become less expensive and more seasoned

New software and hardware presents opportunities for the Park District improve existing facilities, programs, and operations. Some of the technology will be public-facing and will become an interface for visitors, like electronic kiosks or smart phone applications.

Other technology, like wireless controls and monitoring may allow staff to refocus their attention on more pressing issues and increase efficiency.

Strategies

- Compare remote monitoring and counting systems. Consider piggybacking on lighting controls.
- Look for photovoltaic options to reduce construction costs in remote locations.
- Create a policy for private drone use, and program for drone events or courses.
- Implement GIS based databases to schedule and monitor maintenance, usage, and connectivity.
- Add E-sports to the mix of programs the park district offers.
- Create nodes or other physical touchpoints for people to engage with on personal devices, through a custom or pre-made application.
- Make WiFi available in key locations.



Technology infrastructure is a vital component of new technologies.



Connectivity is a theme of all new systems.



People are interacting with parks using personal devices.



9

Source: RATIO

DESIGN GUIDELINES

DESIGN GUIDELINES

Introduction

The Park District provides the Freeport community with an impressive system of parks and recreation spaces that contribute to the health and quality of life of its residents. The District is also a source of great pride for the community, as it is known in the region for offering a range of popular and beautiful spaces for play, socialization, and reflection.

The guidelines in this Master Plan are intended to catalog existing Park District features, recognize outstanding and unique elements, and encourage high quality investments in the community's existing and new parks. Features include built elements like structures, walls and bridges; site features such as lighting, furniture and trail surfaces; and trees and plantings. Together these elements maintain the vernacular that defines Freeport's park system.

The guidelines do not designate specific detailed designs. Rather, they are a framework for future construction and park maintenance projects. The guidelines achieve three primary tasks:

1. Codify existing elements that the District intends to standardize across the system
2. Recommend a general design language for new design elements that are currently lacking
3. Recognize unique aspects of individual parks and ensure that the District's rich character is preserved

Signage

Signage encompasses the full range of signs and wayfinding elements that will make the District and each of its parks highly legible and user-friendly. This section recommends an easily discernible hierarchy of information: entry, direction, identification, and information. Entry signs or gateways let visitors know that they have arrived at a park. Directional signs provide immediate information to users and act as a thread between entrances, destinations and key decision points. Information on directional signs should be simple and visually organized for easy navigation. Identification signs indicate the name and function of a place or facility and are typically located at the beginning or end of a route. Informational signs situate pedestrians to their surroundings and communicate regulatory and etiquette information.

Entry

The Park District currently uses four types of entry signs. In addition, Krape and Read Parks each have unique, historic gateway signage. The District shall standardize entry signs across the parks for user-friendliness and to strengthen its brand.

Design Considerations:

- Entry signs should be monumental and civic in scale.
- Signs should be located to maximize visibility from multiple angles for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.
- All signs should include the Park District logo.
- Plantings should be used, when possible, to integrate the sign into the surrounding landscape.
- Integrate the sign into the surrounding landscape.
- Signs shall be lit indirectly so they are visible at night.

Recommendations:

The District's standard entry sign is based on the existing Read and Krape Park entry sign design but proposes some changes. The sign will retain the basic design concept that includes two pre-cast concrete plinths with inset wrought iron supporting a wooden sign. The wrought iron design is unique to the district and consists of a circular frame with a floral motif.

The entry sign will differ from that used at Krape and Read to utilize a more modern font and the Freeport Park District logo. The colors used in the sign differ as well.



Source: RATIO



Source: RATIO



Source: RATIO

Figures 8.1-8.4 The four primary entry signs used in the Park District.



Source: RATIO

The standard Park District entry sign is based on the existing sign used at Krape and Read Parks. The font and color of the park name is updated, and the "Freeport Park District" text is replaced with the District's logo. The pre-cast plinths with inset wrought iron remain the same.



Directional - Vehicular

Directional signage across the Park District is inconsistent. Signs range from simple blue and white directional signage that is consistent with the City of Freeport's wayfinding, to a few unique wooden signs and one-off signs used in one park only. The District should standardize directional signage for safety and legibility, and achieve consistency with the City of Freeport's directional wayfinding.

Design Considerations:

- Directional signage should use the same blue background and white font used in the City's wayfinding.
- Signs should be installed on metal posts or on existing light/utility poles.
- Consideration should be given to maintenance when siting directional signs. When placed amidst vegetation, ensure that signs do not become obscured by growth or detritus.

Recommendations:

Directional signage should resemble the signs to the right and depicted below. The Park District should coordinate with the City of Freeport to match the blue base color and font type and size.



Figure 8.5 The standard vehicular directional sign for use in all Park District properties. The sign is identical to that used by the City of Freeport.



Figure 8.6 A typical vehicular sign used throughout the Park District. The signage becomes cluttered and lacks contrast and visibility at night and during inclement weather.

Source: RATIO

Directional - Pedestrian/Hiking/Cycling

The Park District employs a range of signs to direct park users on foot or bicycle. The most prevalent of these is a variation of a simple stained wood sign with large white lettering (Figure 8.8).

Design Considerations:

- Signs should be consistent with materials, color and font used in the entry signs.
- Signs should be located prominently and visible from multiple locations to pedestrians and cyclists.
- Avoid siting signs in locations likely to be obscured by vegetation or other objects. Basal planting should be perennials or shrubs that do not require regular mechanical maintenance.
- Place signs appropriately to avoid string trimmer damage in lawn areas. This may include a bark mulch bed or integrated into a site landscape bed.

Recommendations:

Directional signage shall resemble the sign below. The sign consists of two wood posts with a wood background and bold white font.



Figure 8.8 Typical pedestrian directional sign in use throughout the District. All pedestrian/hiking/cycling directional signage will resemble that shown here.



Figure 8.7 A pedestrian sign in Wetlands Preserve Park. This sign design is not used elsewhere in the District. Such one-off signs will no longer be installed in the District.

Identification

Identification signs are important markers for park users, particularly in large parks like Taylor, Read and Krape, where there are multiple destinations and where the size of the park limits their legibility. These signs also function as address signs for facilities within parks.

Design Considerations:

- Signs are placed immediately adjacent to main entries to buildings, open space amenities, or trails.
- Signs should be mounted on buildings when possible, or on posts or fencing.
- Mounting style should be determined base on visibility from main points of entry.
- Avoid mounting signs on trees or historic structures, where possible.
- Place signs appropriately to avoid string trimmer damage in lawn areas. This may include a bark mulch bed or integrated into a site landscape bed.
- Avoid siting signs in locations likely to be obscured by vegetation or other objects. Basal planting should be perennials or shrubs that do not require regular mechanical maintenance.

Recommendations:

Identification signs should closely resemble recommended entry and pedestrian/hiking/cycling signs. Materials, colors and fonts should match.



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.9 A typical identification sign in use today and the standard for use in all Park District properties.



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.10 Detail of identification sign. The sign is attached to the wood frame with wrought iron brackets and a black chain.

Informational

Informative and interpretive signage is an important element of park systems. These signs provide users with detailed information about specific sites or amenities, including those with historical or ecological significance. The Freeport Park District includes many such historic or ecologically-significant sites.

Informational signage within the District has traditionally been inconsistent in design but will be standardized through consultation with individual vendors on a park-by-park basis.

Design Considerations:

- Interpretive sign design should be determined by a separate consultant service.
- While the design of interpretive material should and will vary across signs, depending on the nature of the object being described, materials and construction type should be standardized throughout the District.

Recommendations:

The Park District will identify consultants for individual park projects where information signage is needed.

Figure 8.11



Figure 8.12



Figures 8.11-8.14 depict contemporary informational signs.

Figure 8.13



Figure 8.14



Site Furnishings

Benches

There is variety among the benches in the parks today. However, the DuMor 57 Memorial Bench predominates and should remain the standard bench throughout the Freeport Park District.

Design Considerations:

- Benches should be located in areas for potential gathering and periodically along long, continuous paths.
- Children's play areas should be accompanied by a sufficient number of benches to accommodate supervising adults.
- Benches should be placed in comfortable locations. When possible, one or more benches should be provided under covered structure.
- Anchor all benches to concrete pavement or footing, 12" min. from lawn areas.
- Provide companion seating space alongside all benches for users in wheelchairs and for strollers.
- Benches siting should follow Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines.

Recommendations:

- Product: DuMor 57 PL (with recycled plastic)
- Arms
- Color: Black metal coating
- Mounting: surface mount, tamper-proof bolt and expansion sleeve



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.15 Wood bench in Krape Park.



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.16 Historic stone bench and wall in Read Park. Such unique designs shall be considered as part of detailed park designs.

Figure 8.17 Standard DuMor park bench.



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.18 Standard DuMor park bench.



Source: RATIO

Litter Receptacles

The Park District employs a variety of trash receptacles. Until recently, most receptacles consisted of a 55-gallon metal drum trash can base with a plastic lid. Colors vary throughout the District. However, the District has begun installing Thomas Steele _____ receptacles.

Design Considerations:

- Receptacles should be placed in heavily-trafficked areas near buildings, trails, sports facilities and children's play areas. Additional locations should be determined on an as-needed basis. However, receptacles should be placed a minimum of 25 feet from building entrances.
- Receptacles should be grouped with benches and other furniture to minimize visual impact.
- Receptacles should be consistent in color and material with other furnishings.
- Provide removal insert for pickups.
- Ensure that receptacles are located in areas that are accessible to users in wheelchairs and those with physical and mobility handicaps.

Recommendations:

- Product: DuMor 57 PL (with recycled plastic)
- Arms
- Color: Black metal coating
- Mounting: surface mount, tamper-proof bolt and expansion sleeve



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.19 Typical metal drum trash receptacle used throughout the Park District, which will no longer be installed.

Drinking Fountains

There is a variety of drinking fountain in the Park District. However, the newest fountains, like that shown in Figure 8.20 to the RIGHT, should be the precedent for future installations.

Design Considerations:

- All fountains should be ADA-compliant.
- When located adjacent to trails and sports facilities, fountains should be equipped with bottle fillers to facilitate use of reusable water bottles and discourage use of single-use plastic water bottles.
- Fountains should be grouped with benches and other furniture to minimize visual impact.
- Fountains should be sited to maximize visibility.
- Dog bowls
- Height for easy bending (above 38")

Recommendations:

- Product: DuMor 57 PL (with recycled plastic)
- Arms
- Color: Black metal coating
- Mounting: surface mount, tamper-proof bolt and expansion sleeve



Figure 8.20 Standard Park District Drinking fountain

Bicycle Parking

At the time of writing this document, there is a general paucity of bicycle parking facilities throughout the Freeport Park District. However, the Park District and the City of Freeport have initiated conversations to identify a standard bicycle parking design for use in streetscape and park design. The Park District should advocate for bike parking that maximizes convenience for cyclists.

Design Considerations:

- Designs should be simple, use space efficiently and be easily maintained. Unique bike parking designs may be appropriate at specific locations, which shall be determined in coordination with the City of Freeport.
- Bike parking should not conflict with pedestrians or constrain pedestrian movement.
- Bike parking should be located near entrances to buildings, sports facilities, walking and biking trails, and children's play areas, but should not create visual clutter or barrier to movement.

- Bike parking should be well lit and designed according to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- Racks should be integrated into park landscapes and planting areas, when possible.
- Racks need to have at least two points of contact for each bike. Should include an option for surface mount and direct embedment.
- Surface under the racks should be ADA accessible and support easy maintenance around the racks for snow and leaf clearing.

Recommendations:

- Single Bike Rack:
 - Product: Dero Bike Hitch
- Multiple Bike Rack:
 - Product: Dero Campus Rack

Figure 8.21 Dero Bike Hitch

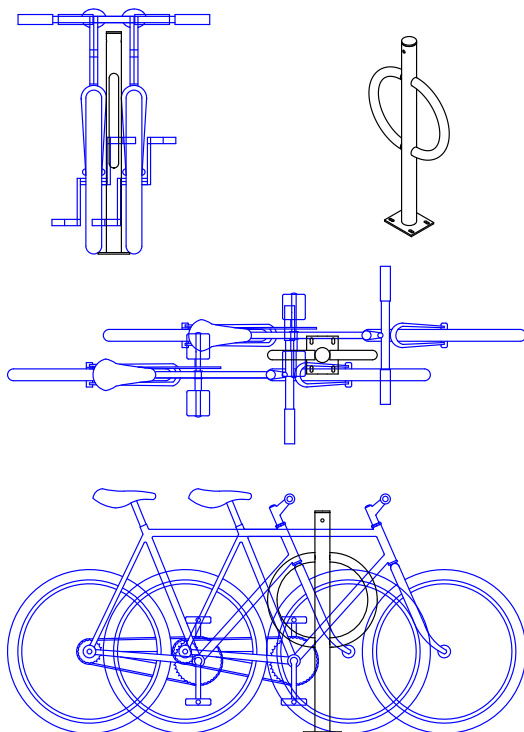
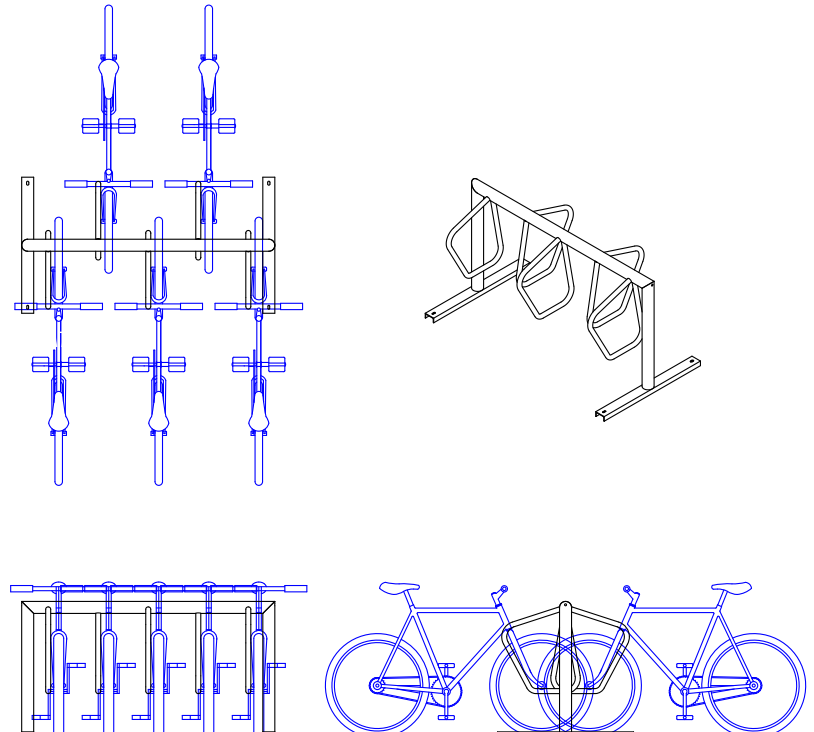


Figure 8.22 Dero Campus Rack



Memorial Markers

Memorial markers provide cultural and social meaning to parks and the communities who use them. The Park District today employs a variety of memorial markers. Some markers are located alongside trees or other planted areas to honor the memory of a community member. Other markers commemorate important figures or events in the community’s history. The Park District should standardize tree markers while remaining flexible regarding the design of commemorative markers.

Figure 8.23 Memorial Marker in Knowlton Square



Figure 8.24 Memorial Marker in Taylor Park



Figure 8.25 Memorial Marker in Taylor Park

Lighting

The Park District employs a range of decorative and safety lighting. Historic and decorative fixtures are common in the older parks such as Krape, Taylor and Read. The neighborhood, community and mini parks are lit typically with common street lamps affixed to utility poles.

All park lighting should adhere to the following standard unless otherwise approved. Color temp of 2700K, CRI 80 or greater, and a BUG ratings that have a U rating of U0 or U1, very low back-lighting and low glare. The qualities of the fixtures and mounting heights need to emphasize light on walking surfaces for legibility, but also lighting at pedestrian heights to make faces visible for safety.

General Lighting Recommendations

- All lighting should follow current AMA guidelines for color temperature (2700K CCT or lower).
- All lighting should have a CRI of 80
- All lighting should be designed with CPTED principles in mind and provide sufficient illumination to provide safety and comfort to pedestrians at night (i.e. lighting will illuminate faces at night).

Decorative Lighting

Historic lighting provides a sense of place and honors the rich history of the Park District. Three primary decorative lights are employed in the park district. The antique Boulevard light fixture used in Krape Park and along Park Boulevard are no longer in use, but similar fixtures remain available and should be used in certain historic areas that are not currently served by decorative fixtures. Additionally, Krape and Taylor Parks contain unique light fixtures that are consistent with the WPA-era bridges upon which they are located.

Design Considerations:

- Decorative lighting should be used in historic areas or in the District's older parks, such as Knowlton and Read, in addition to Taylor and Krape.
- Poles should be aligned and laid out in formal pattern, with emphasis on symmetry.

Recommendations:

- Product: Light: Old Town A850 SRLED / Base: Windsor 7100 / Pole: Tapered Smooth Shaft
- Manufacturer: Sternberg



Figure 8.26 Decorative Lighting on Park Blvd



Figure 8.27 Decorative Lighting in Krape Park

Figure 8.29 Old Town A850 SRLED



Parking and Street Lighting

The District's larger parks all contain parking areas, drives and roads. As such, lighting is extremely important to maintain safety, comfort and legibility.

Design Considerations:

- Lights should be spaced to provide full light coverage of parking and roadway areas and should be in accordance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design recommendations (CPTED)
- Street lighting photometrics should comply with IDOT standards.
- Full cutoff fixtures should be used in all locations, but particularly in areas near hospitals and residences.

Accent Lighting

Accent lighting is an important element for wayfinding, safety, display of park features, and branding. Accent lighting is installed to highlight trees, signage, public art and other features.

Design Considerations:

- Fixtures should be aimed directly only at the intended features
- The maximum illumination on any vertical wall surface or angular roof surface shall not exceed 2.5 footcandles



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.30 Windsor 7100 Base



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.31 Pedestrian security lighting in Krape Park

Pedestrian Lighting

Most people who use the parks are on foot. As such, special care should be taken when considering pedestrian lighting. A suite of fixtures should be identified that is consistent with the District's parking and street fixtures.

Design Considerations:

- Establish a suite of fixtures that can be applied consistently throughout the Park District.
- A hierarchy of fixtures should be established to coincide with the hierarchy of pedestrian spaces present in the District's parks (e.g. paved trails, plazas, hiking trails, etc.)
- Accent lighting should be applied to emphasize public art, statues, important landscapes and historic facades. Such lighting should be installed to avoid glare for passing vehicles and pedestrians.
- All lighting fixtures should be tamper-proof, weather-proof, and be resistant to vandalism.
- All pedestrian lighting should be dark-sky compliant and a lighting regime should be determined to minimize light pollution.
- All LED pedestrian lights should follow AMA recommendations for color (3000K CCT or lower) to reduce glare and health issues.
- Lighting should be spaced consistently to create rhythm and avoid dark areas.



Figure 8.31 Pedestrian security lighting in Krape Park



Figure 8.32 Pedestrian security lighting in Winter Park

Comprehensive Lighting Suite

The following lighting standards will establish a consistent suite of lighting fixtures that is legible and easy to maintain.

Recommendations:

- Product: Light: Old Town A850 SRLED / Base: Windsor 7100 / Pole: Tapered Smooth Shaft
- Manufacturer: Sternberg

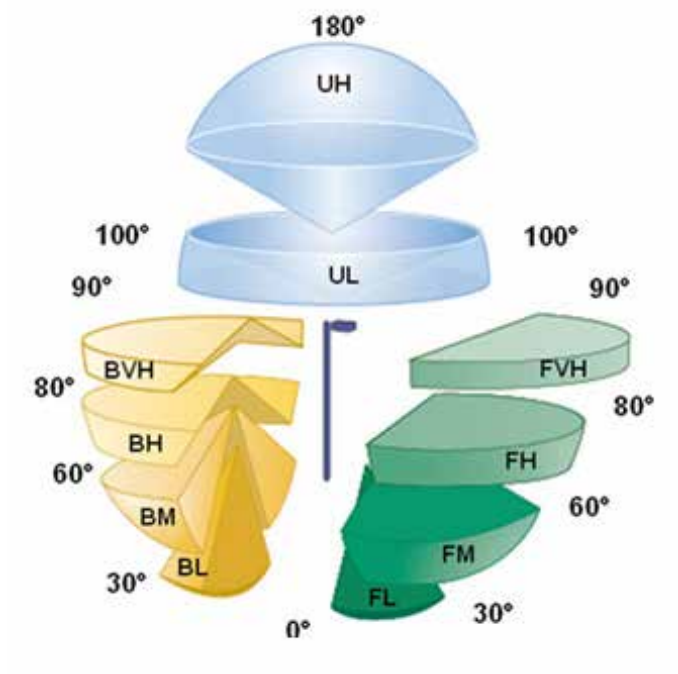


Figure 8.25 Memorial Marker in Taylor Park

Fencing, Walls and Stone Work

The District's parks possess a broad spectrum of fences, walls and stone work, ranging from historical and decorative to modern and purely utilitarian. Future installation of fences and walls should be based on immediate context in terms of materiality, history, and function.

Stone Walls and Fencing Elements

Natural stone walls are an important part of the District's character, helping to reinforce the historic character of the District's oldest and best-used parks. Locally-sourced limestone and granite form the bulk of stone walls and gating in the District's parks. Krape and Read Parks, in particular, possess a rich and varied collection of stone walls and gating elements.

Design Considerations:

- Finish and construction should seek consistency with adjacent architecture and any existing or preceding stone work.
- New and replacement stone work should match that existing in individual parks. For example, the Commissioner's Garden's limestone and wrought iron gate should set the precedent for any future stone work in the vicinity of the Garden.
- Limestone should be evaluated for hardness to avoid premature deterioration.
- Cap stones should be larger format, particularly in areas where sitting may occur.
- Stone walls should be composed of running bond and possess coursed rubble masonry with larger bond stones.
- Walls should extend at least one course below grade.
- Ease of maintenance should be a primary consideration in future stone work.
-

Recommendations:

Stone walls should continue to be a characteristic element in Krape and Read Parks. Additional parks should be considered for stone walls and gating on a park by park basis.



Figure 8.33 Stone fencing posts in Krape Park



Figure 8.34 Limestone wall stream bank stabilization in Read Park

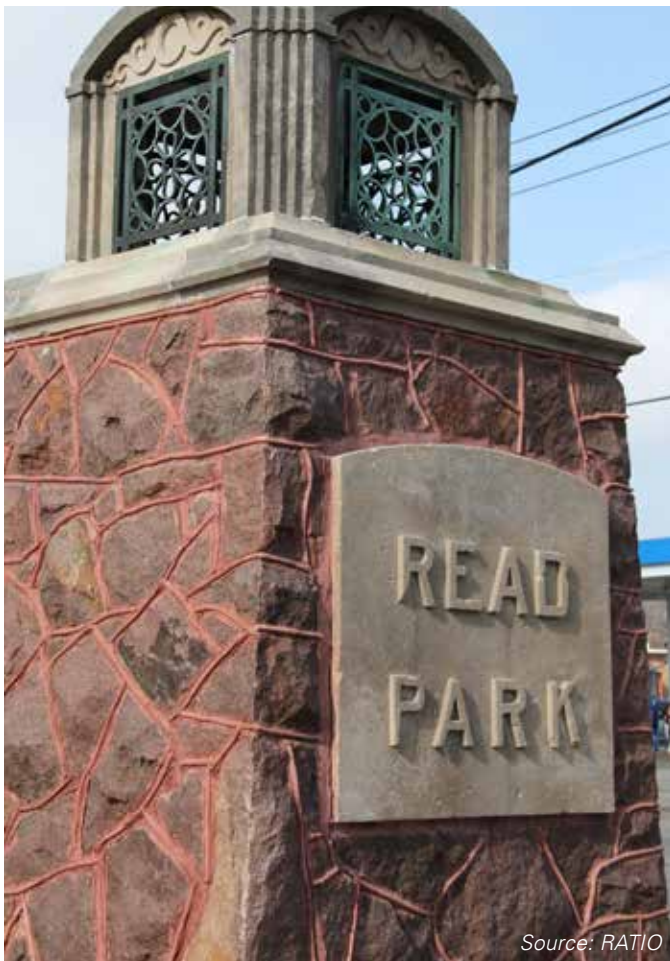


Figure 8.35 Limestone fence posts in Krape Park



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.36 Historic stone wall in Krape Park



Source: RATIO



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.37 Read Park entry sign stone detail

Figure 8.38 Read Park stone entry gate post

Stone and Stone Work

Stone memorials and artisanal stone work are common in the District's parks and are utilized as memorials and landscape elements. In addition, boulders can be used to create a naturalistic setting that mimics those areas of the region with a glacial landscape history.

Given the historic quality and character of much of the District's stone work, the District will seek to designate such stone work as historical and will implement a maintenance and restoration regime to ensure the long-term viability of the District's historic assets.

Design Considerations:

- Memorials set in or constructed upon stone should be consistent with contextual architecture and stone work.
- Memorial set in or constructed upon stone should be placed in prominent locations and installed with ease of maintenance in mind.
- Stone work should be native to the region.
- Boulders should be used as accents in natural park areas.
- Boulders should not be used as traffic control,

edging, or as a base for railings.

- Large landscape stones and boulders should be placed and graded into the soil or water features to avoid the appearance of being unnaturally dropped into a site.

Recommendations:

Limestone should be the primary stone for walls, planting areas and other stone work. When alternative stones are used, they should be taken from regional sources.



Figure 8.39 Stone wall in Read Park



Figure 8.40 Granite bench, well and spring in Read Park

Fencing

Fences are used throughout the Park District and serve as safety and security devices. They can also be used to help delineate boundaries of sub-areas and to control vegetation. The District contains a range of types, from purely utilitarian chain link fencing to highly ornamental and historic types in parks like Krape and Read.

Design Considerations:

- New fencing design should match existing fencing and built character.
- Fencing in and adjacent to historic areas should mimic local built context and typically be constructed of stone and wrought iron.
- Fencing should not be used in areas with heavy pedestrian or bicycle traffic to avoid creating bottlenecks.
- Security fencing should be a minimum of 6 feet in height, with a top treatment to discourage climbing.
- Chain link fencing should be used minimally, but when necessary, should be coated in vinyl (black or green).
- Sports facilities and courts, particularly ball sports, should be surrounded by chain link fencing at heights of 4 feet, 6 feet or 8 feet.
- 1-5/8 inch top rail and 0.177 inch bottom tension wire should be used for all chain link fencing.

Recommendations:

FPD to provide fence product.



Figure 8.41 Chain link fence at Deacon Davis Basketball Courts



Figure 8.42 Brick and iron fence at Deacon Davis Courts



Figure 8.43 Read Park ball fields

Structures

Bridges

Freeport is a community graced with water bodies. The Park District contains urban and natural streams, as well as man-made ponds and lakes. As such, bridges are important design elements within the system. They provide functionality but also unique design aesthetics. Of note, Krape, Read and Taylor Parks possess historic bridges of different historical eras that provide significant character to those parks.

Design Considerations:

- New bridge design should match the design of existing designs. But, not try to replicate historic designs.
- Replacement of historic bridges should respect precedent and seek to recreate the pre-existing design to the highest degree possible.
- Stone bridges should be composed of limestone and designed to mimic historic context.
- WPA-era bridges in Krape and Taylor Parks should be restored to their original character and be highlighted with educational signage and used in marketing material for the District.
- New bridges have been constructed of concrete and steel (typically weathering steel). These bridges are long-lasting and low maintenance and should be used as a precedent in areas that need new bridges and where no historic precedent exists. Truss design should be consistent to reinforce the character of the parks.
- Wooden foot bridges should be used to traverse small streams. They should be constructed with ease of maintenance in mind and should be accompanied by plantings to contribute to the design aesthetics of the parks.

Recommendations:

Bridge construction should primarily be based on context. No standard should be established for the entire District, but each park should have one or more typical bridge type.



Figure 8.44 WPA-era bridge at Krape Park



Figure 8.45 Steel bridge at Krape Park



Figure 8.46 Steel bridge at Krape Park



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.47 WPA-era bridge at Krape Park



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.48 WPA-era bridge at Taylor Park

Buildings and Shelters

The District's buildings range from utilitarian shed, picnicking and restroom facilities to character-rich historic buildings that serve as event and office space. Buildings should be constructed of materials native to the region.

Design Considerations:

- Materials used in building and shelter construction should be locally-sourced.
- Where historic buildings exist, new shelters and buildings should be contextually designed, but not necessarily be copies of historic aesthetics or design styles.
- New buildings should be ADA-compliant and existing buildings should be retrofitted to be accessible.
- Restroom facilities should be clearly identified and designed to be accessible to all park users.
- Ease of maintenance should be a primary concern in the construction of new buildings.
- Buildings should be designed to CPTED standards and be free of areas that could present unsafe or uncomfortable surroundings for park users.

Recommendations:

The District should not seek to establish one typical building design aesthetic, but rather construct buildings to match the built and landscape character of the parks in which they are located. However, shelters in non-historic areas should be consistent adhere to the following recommendations:

- **FPD to identify supplier**



Figure 8.51 Maintenance Facility at Krape Park



Figure 8.49 Stone building in Krape Park



Figure 8.50 Stone and brick building in Krape Park



Figure 8.52 Stone picnic shelter at Krape Park



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.53 Event building in Read Park



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.54 Picnic shelter in Krape Park

Playgrounds and Surfacing

The Park District's playgrounds are an invaluable resource for the Freeport community. Play areas are more than spaces for children to exercise, they are learning environments and also cultural and historic landscapes. The District's playgrounds range from the new and colorful to historical examples like the Krape Park carousel.

Design Considerations:

- All park typologies, including mini parks and neighborhood parks, should include some type of playground area.
- Playgrounds should be prominently located and should be visible from multiple vantage points to ensure user safety.
- Play area surfaces should be poured-in-place where possible.
- When maintenance is required on historic playground equipment, care should be taken to replicate as close as possible the original design and character of the equipment.
- Historic playground areas should be retrofitted with ADA-accessible equipment.
- Consideration of user age should be given in determining specific playground amenities.
- Playgrounds and surface areas should be vibrantly colored to enhance park space and provide a sense of whimsy to the user experience.
- Sun, shade and wind exposure should be considered when siting and designing playground areas.
- All playgrounds and play areas should be ADA accessible and universally designed.



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.55 Play structure



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.56 Play structure in Winter Park



Figure 8.57 Play structure in Krape Park



Figure 8.58 Play structure in Read Park

Public Art

Public Art enriches the public realm and provides opportunities for shared cultural experiences. The Park District has a rich collection of public art, primarily sculptures. The District's art holdings range from formal and literal to abstract and whimsical.

Design Considerations:

- Public art should be installed throughout the District, but one location (e.g. Taylor Park) should be designed as an art park or sculpture park that hosts a large collection of works.
- Public art should be placed prominently and be situated contextually. Art works that are not meant to be climbed or sat upon should not be placed near children's play areas.
- The District should partner with community arts organizations to review concepts and projects involving public art.

Recommendations:

- The District should continue to fund and install public art throughout the District. The District should coordinate artwork selection with the community, the Freeport Art Museum, Greater Freeport Partnership, Illinois Arts Council Agency, and others.



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.59 Lincoln statue in Taylor Park



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.60 Art in Krape Park



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.61 *Morgan Memorial in Read Park*

Surfaces

Paths and Trails

The District's paths and trails are heavily used and are one of the main attractions for users and visitors to the community. The range of trail and paths includes formal stone paths to utilitarian asphalt and crushed stone trails through naturalized areas.

Design Considerations:

- All paths and trails should meet ADA requirements, where feasible.
- Ease of maintenance and management should be a primary concern when constructing new or modifying existing paths and trails.
- Paths and trails should accommodate use by pedestrians and cyclists, where feasible, and be constructed to AASHTO or other standards for width.
- In high-use areas, separated bicycle paths should be created to promote safe use of park space.

Recommendations:

- Trails in naturalized areas should be constructed of crushed limestone screenings where feasible and where slopes are shallow enough.
- Multi-use paths intended as bicycling and walking routes should be constructed of standard asphalt paving or standard concrete paving.
- Paths in historic sections of the District's older parks should be designed to match the materials and aesthetics of the context.



Figure 8.62 Asphalt path and road in Krape Park



Figure 8.63 Concrete path with brick edging



Figure 8.64 Asphalt multi-use path in Taylor Park

Athletic Fields and Courts

The District's athletic facilities provide an important service for the Freeport community and its visitors. These facilities provide space for both formal sports leagues and activities and more informal gatherings.

Design Considerations:

- Athletic surfaces and equipment should be constructed with maintenance and management in mind.
- Functionality should be a primary priority when considering new or modifying existing athletic fields and courts.
- Should the District construct an indoor winter sports facility, its playing surface should be constructed of a durable artificial turf material that can be exposed to the elements in the summer months and maintained indoors in the winter months.
- When feasible, athletic fields and courts should be designed to accommodate a range of activities.

Recommendations:

- Freeport Park District will select products.



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.65 Skate park in Read Park



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.66 Deacon Davis basketball courts



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.67 Multi-sport field at Read Park



Figure 8.68 Little Cubs Field Read Park

Parking Areas

Parking lots are necessary elements of most of the District's parks that, when given consideration, can facilitate safe and comfortable transportation and provide additional benefits to park users.

Design Considerations:

- Parking lots should be designed to satisfy Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), including adequate lighting, maintenance of landscaping to ensure an adequate field of vision, and controlled access.
- All parking stalls should be no larger than 9' x 18', except where needed to provide ADA accessible parking.
- Large expanse of parking areas should be broken up with landscaped and planted areas.
- The borders and interior spaces of large expanse of parking areas should include shade trees to reduce the heat island effect.
- Earthworks and plantings should be used to visually screen parking areas.
- Adequate space for snow storage should be provided in all parking facilities.
- Where feasible, permeable pavers and/or green stormwater infrastructure should be installed in parking areas to mitigate flooding concerns and promote ease of use.



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.69 Parking at Krape Park Maintenance Facility



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.70 Parking at Read Park



Figure 8.71 Parking at Krape Park

Plantings

Trees

Trees are vital toward creating a sense of place as well as providing user comfort, clean air and biodiverse habitat. The Park District possesses both formally planted tree areas and natural forests. Park systems are rapidly becoming modern day equivalents of arboretums as urban forests become less diverse due to lack of space and difficult planting conditions.

Design Considerations:

- Spacing
 - Do not plant trees in front of building entrances in order to permit easy emergency services access.
 - Plant no closer than six feet from water mains.
 - Do not plant trees within 25 feet of streetlights or utility poles.
 - The minimum distance between a stop sign and the trunk of any tree should be 30 feet.
 - The minimum distance between any other type of road or directional sign and a tree trunk should be 6 feet.
 - The minimum distance from a fire hydrant to any tree trunk should be 6 feet.
 - Trees should be placed no closer than 40 feet from the corner of any street intersection. Maintain sight lines.
 - Grouped plantings, where trees are planted closer than 20 feet from each other, are appropriate in natural areas and in densely planted open space areas within parks.
- Planting
 - In areas with high pedestrian, cyclist and/or auto traffic, trees should be planted in structural soils (e.g. CU and Swedish Structural Soils).
 - Trees should not be planted directly in structural soils, but rather the soils should be used directly under hard surfaces.
 - Permeable pavers may be appropriate in certain locations but should only be used when considered carefully by maintenance and parks staff.
 - Balled and burlapped trees should have a minimum earth ball size of 32 inches. Burlap should be non-treated and only stout rope should be used. Nylon rope should not be used.
 - Backfill material should consist of natural loam topsoil with the addition of humus. Topsoil should be of uniform quality and be free of hard clods, stiff clay, hardpan, sods, stone, lime, cement, ash, slag, concrete, tar residue, or any other material that could inhibit healthy tree growth.
 - Shredded bark mulch should be applied as a ground cover at the site of all newly planted trees.
 - Trees should be planted only during the fall period (early October through November) and during the early spring (April to early May). Planting outside these time periods shall be prohibited.
 - When new trees are planted, they soil around them should be saturated with a minimum of 20 gallons of water (pH no less than 6.0 or greater than 8.0).
 - For appropriate tree species selection, see the City of Chicago Urban Tree Planting List. Selected specimen should be straight species and not cultivars, in order to provide habitat and pollinator benefits

- Maintenance
 - Planted trees should be watered at two-week intervals from mid-May through October.
 - Watering should not damage adjacent plants or erode soil or mulch.
 - All planted trees should be maintained with hoes or other appropriate tools during the May-October maintenance period.
 - Trees should be pruned to ensure clear sight lines to all District facilities, buildings and signage.
 - Fruiting trees should be maintained during the fruiting season. Trail, path and roadway surfaces should be cleared of fallen fruit at regular intervals.
 - Trees that are susceptible to falling branches should be monitored regularly. Such trees shall not be planted in areas where park users congregate, where there is heavy traffic, or in areas near play equipment.

Recommendations:

Tree species should be native to the region and selected with maintenance and longevity in mind. Non-native trees should be considered in certain circumstances as dictated by specific design intent. The District should maintain an active tree maintenance regime and ensure that its parks have a safe and healthy tree canopy.



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.72 Trees at Taylor Park



Source: RATIO

Figure 8.73 Trees at Krape Park

Landscape and Planting

The District contains a wide range of landscape types, from naturalized areas to formal gardens and more urban public realm landscapes. These areas enhance the park visitor experience and provide important biodiverse habitat. A primary concern in all planted areas should be ease of maintenance.

Design Considerations:

- Planting areas with higher maintenance needs should be placed at entrances and prominent gathering sites.
- Planting areas should contain a diversity of planting types and be designed to maximize visual interest throughout the year. Species with different flowering periods should be selected and grouped together.
- Planting areas should be designed with sculptural qualities in mind to create visual interest
- Ease of maintenance and management should be a primary concern when considering planted areas.
- Automated irrigation systems should be installed, where feasible, in new planting beds. Priority should be given to planting areas in more urban environments and where park user activity levels are high.
- Unless otherwise specified for particular design or aesthetic reasons, only native species should be selected for planting areas.

Recommendations:

Planting areas are some of the most important elements of any park. The District should develop formal landscape plans for each park, but give priority to high use areas.



Figure 8.73 Planting at Krape Park



Figure 8.73 Meadow at Oakdale Nature Preserve



Figure 8.73 Planting at Read Park

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Parks are one of the Freeport community's best assets in managing stormwater. Both large and small parks play a role in absorbing stormwater and maintaining safe and clear streets for the community.

Design Considerations:

- BMPs should be clearly defined to indicate to park users that naturalistic areas and areas of standing water are intentional.
- Educational, interpretive signage should accompany BMPs to indicate to users that green stormwater practices are in use.
- Native plant species should be selected for use in BMPs.
- Planting strategies should place high importance on ease of maintenance.
- Ensure the BMP area is designed to accommodate sediment removal and ease of access.



Source: RATIO

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation Matrix

The Master Plan was prepared with input from residents, property owners, District staff, Town Staff, selected stakeholders, commissioners, vendors, and consultants who we will continue to work with to implement the plan. The primary intended users for this document are Park District staff, Board of Commissioners, consultants, and the vendors and consultants with whom they will work to implement the Plan.

Time Frame & Funding

Within the matrix, every objective is assessed with an estimated time frame and required funding levels required for successful implementation. The following indicates the approximate range of estimated funding levels:

- \$: Less than \$100,000
- \$\$: \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$\$\$: \$500,000 - \$1,000,000
- \$\$\$\$: Greater than \$1,000,000

- Phasing:
- Phase I: 1 - 5 years
 - Phase II: 5 - 10 years
 - Phase III: more than 10 years

CONNECT

Goal 1 Expand existing and establish new bicycle amenities, including routes to and within all city parks, bicycle lanes, off-street multi-use paths and parking facilities.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
1.1	Evaluate bike lanes identified in the City of Freeport Comprehensive Plan for additional connections.	1	\$	System-wide
1.2	In partnership with the City of Freeport locate bike share locations in or adjacent to park destinations.	3	\$	System-wide
1.3	Create new multi-use path into Krape Park from Fairgrounds Road.	2	\$	Krape
1.4	Construct new mountain biking trails, where feasible, in large community parks like Krape, Oakdale, and Taylor.	2	\$\$	Krape, Taylor, Oakdale
1.5	Extend connections where possible to community attractions and businesses.	3	\$	System-wide
1.6	Rebuild the Highland Path and construct new multi-use path through Highland Community College, Highland Foundation property, and Park Hills Golf Course, with connection to Countryside Loop.	3	\$\$	Park Hills
Goal 2 Ensure that all parks and trails have sufficient and well-maintained parking facilities.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
2.1	Implement stormwater BMPs at all new parking facilities, where feasible.	2	\$\$	System-wide
2.2	Install safe pedestrian walkways through and around all new and existing parking facilities.	1	\$	System-wide
2.3	Provide highly visible bicycle parking facilities at all Park District parks and facilities.	1	\$\$	System-wide
Goal 3 Ensure that all parks and programs are accessible to individuals with disabilities.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
3.1	Equip all trails, specifically locations with potential tripping or fall hazards, with handrails and other anti-fall measures	1	\$	System-wide
3.2	Retrofit existing and construct new trails that are ADA-accessible	2	\$\$	System-wide
3.3	Retrofit or construct new playgrounds that are accessible to children with mobility and other disabilities.	1	\$\$\$	System-wide
3.4	Continue implementation of ADA transition plan.	1	\$\$\$	System-wide
3.5	Work with Northlands Association of Special Recreation to develop programs and facilities that are accessible to individuals with special needs.	2	\$\$	System-wide
Goal 4 Implement and maintain new and improved access to all parks and trailheads where boating is allowed.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
4.1	Partner with the Pecatonica River Foundation and Paddle the Pec to provide educational opportunities for park users interested in boating activities.	1	\$	Pecatonica River
4.2	Retrofit existing and construct new trails that are ADA-accessible	2	\$\$	System-wide
4.3	Install new water access facilities at Wetlands Preserve.	2	\$\$	Wetland Preserve
4.4	Install new accessible boat launch facilities.	3	\$\$\$	System-wide
4.5	Explore opportunities for expanded boating and kayaking on Yellow Creek through dam updates.	2	\$\$\$	Krape

ORGANIZE

Goal 5 Create a Freeport Park District branding package that includes brand standards for communication and physical elements.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
5.1	Engage with a branding firm to design refine the Park District brand,	2	\$\$	System-wide
5.2	Partner with the City of Freeport and Greater Freeport Partnership to integrate the brand into the communities outreach efforts.	2	\$	System-wide
5.3	Implement the new messaging using social media applications like Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest to market the Park District to residents and visitors	1	\$	System-wide
Goal 6 Create a wayfinding plan that includes signs, gateways, trailheads, and other wayfinding features				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
6.1	Engage with a wayfinding consultant to design a signage package based on existing parks District standards and the branding plan.	2	\$\$\$	System-wide
6.2	a continuous path from park to park and connecting parks to other cultural and entertainment destinations.	2	\$\$	System-wide
6.3	Assess larger parks for gaps in wayfinding within parks.	1	\$	System-wide
Goal 7 Expand Freeport Park District's programming relationships with community organizations.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
7.1	Work with Freeport School District 145 and the City's religious schools to ensure access to playgrounds and athletic fields for community members after school hours	1	\$	System-wide
7.2	Partner with Highland Community College to increase educational programming in areas of study offered at the College. Students in programs such as Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Early Childhood Education, Environmental Science, Geology could lead in educational programming offered at Park District facilities.	2	\$	System-wide
7.3	Continue the Youth Art program through the Freeport Art Museum.	1	\$	System-wide
7.4	Partner with the Freeport Art Museum and other local partners to conduct Sculpture Walks.	3	\$\$\$	System-wide
7.5	Continue the Art in the Park event at Krape Park and consider expanding and/or rotating to additional parks.	1	\$	Krape, others
7.6	Open indoor park facilities to the community for flexible programming like crafts, maker-spaces, computer classes and other enrichment programs.	1	\$	Krape, Read
Goal 8 Expand Freeport Park District's relationships with organizations in the natural resource sector.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
8.1	Partner with local and regional agencies to promote volunteer efforts.	2	\$\$	Read Park, Jane Addams Trail
8.2	Explore eco-tourism opportunities and how its potential in the Freeport community and region.	1	\$	Oakdale, Taylor, Krape, Wetlands Preserve
Goal 9 Strengthen the Park District's relationships with community athletic organizations to promote active lifestyles and increase sports tourism.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
9.1	Create a sports tourism planning group in conjunction with the greater Freeport Partnership to support tournaments and other events.	1	\$	Read, Taylor
9.2	Create a funding partnership with Stix Baseball and Softball and the Freeport Soccer Club to provide additional maintenance funds for practice facilities.	1	\$	System-wide
9.3	Partner with the YMCA to provide indoor athletic programming, particularly in the winter months. The Park District should look to construct its own in the long term.	1	\$\$	YMCA
9.4	Create a marketing program to increase tourist trips to Little Cubs Field.	2	\$	Read
9.5	Continue to enhance athletic facilities to meet the ever changing needs and interests of user groups.	3	\$\$\$	System-wide
Goal 10 Engage the Greater Freeport Partnership in a joint hospitality and tourism campaign.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
10.1	Work with the business community to solicit sponsorships to promote recreation facilities.	1	\$	System-wide
10.2	Leverage Freeport Park District's assets to reach tourists.	2	\$	Krape, Read, Taylor, Oakdale
10.3	Undertake a study of the local tourism tax to identify potential strategies to capture additional tourism dollars.	2	\$	System-wide
10.4	Market the Freeport Park District online as a regional recreation, arts and culture destination. Market the Freeport Park District on regional highways and in larger regional population centers like Rockford and Chicago.	1	\$	System-wide

ENHANCE

Goal 11 Protect natural areas and increase biodiversity within Park District properties.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
11.1	Implement redesign of Taylor Park that prioritizes natural areas that promote biodiversity.	1	\$\$\$\$	Taylor
11.2	Implement educational signage to educate the public on the roles that parks play in climate resiliency.	2	\$	System-wide
11.3	Acquire development rights and easements when necessary to protect open space, scenic views, woodlands, wetlands and flood plains.	Ongoing	\$\$\$\$	System-wide
11.4	Implement planting strategies that incorporate native plants and that promote healthy ecosystems.	2	\$\$	System-wide
11.5	Promote nature and birding walks at all parks.	1	\$	System-wide
11.6	Evaluate feasibility of and implement green stormwater BMPs.	2	\$\$	System-wide
11.7	Develop a tree management plan for the park system.	1	\$\$\$	System-wide
11.8	Implement improvements to Oakdale Nature Preserve including: shelter, play structures, ADA restrooms, trail signage, bridge replacement	2	\$\$	Oakdale
Goal 12 Redesign park facilities that are frequently affected by flooding.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
12.1	Create raised topographical and architectural elements in the park that provide refuge and visual access during rain and flooding events.	3	\$\$\$	System-wide
12.2	Implement planting strategies that accommodate persistent wet and underwater conditions.	1	\$\$	System-wide
12.3	Address storm water flow and flooding issues and repair structurally deficient bridge along the Jane Addams Trail.	2	\$	Jane Addams Trail
Goal 13 Enhance existing Park District facilities to meet evolving community needs and to stay at the forefront of recreation trends.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
13.1	Evaluate existing facilities District wide to establish a schedule for updates.	1	\$	System-wide
13.2	Consider expanding facilities offered based on community input survey and gap analysis with surrounding communities.	2	\$	System-wide
13.3	Evaluate the distribution of facilities geographically throughout the city to determine new locations.	1	\$	System-wide
Goal 14 Protect and highlight the Park District's cultural heritage.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
14.1	Create design guidelines that draw inspiration from the District's most successful holdings and that create consistency in detail between older and newer park facilities.	1	\$	System-wide
14.2	Implement the Design Guidelines to ensure that future construction of buildings and other elements is consistent with Park District goals.	3	\$\$\$	System-wide
14.3	Identify facilities and structures with cultural significance.	1	\$	System-wide
14.4	Take care in preserving and maintaining facilities and structures with cultural heritage.	Ongoing	\$\$\$	System-wide
Goal 15 Address inconsistencies of park distribution as noted in level of service analysis.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
15.1	Engage the communities in eastern and northern Freeport in a planning process to determine ideal locations and programs in future parks.	1	\$	System-wide
15.2	Consider a land bank as a means to acquire property for future parks.	3	\$\$\$	System-wide
15.3	Continue to apply for local, regional, state and federal grants for the construction of parks in these under-served communities.	Ongoing	\$	System-wide
15.4	Create a replacement plan for existing playground equipment.	1	\$	Knowlton, Wilbur, Bidwell
Goal 16 Provide increased arts and culture programming.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
16.1	Implement a Freeport Sculpture Park at one or more park facilities.	3	\$\$\$	Taylor, Krape, Read, others
16.2	Create a rotating concert series that features each of the Park District's facilities.	1	\$	System-wide
16.3	Implement improved street access and new exhibit space at the National Arcade Toy Museum.	1	\$\$\$	National Arcade Toy Museum

Goal 17 Enhance safety at all parks facilities and programs by implementing a variety of strategies, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
17.1	Conduct CPTED audits of all parks.	1	\$	System-wide
17.2	Maintain trees, shrubs and grasslands to ensure sufficient sight lines.	1	\$	System-wide
Goal 18 Expand opportunities and create facilities for indoor winter recreation.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
18.1	Engage the community in a planning process to determine ideal location and programs for the future indoor winter recreation facility.	2	\$	System-wide
18.2	Implement improvements to Krape Community Room and the Read Park Pavilion.	2	\$\$\$\$	Krape, Read
Goal 19 Use of technology to enhance visitor experience and increase efficiency in park operations.				
Objective		Phase	Cost	Location
19.1	Compare remote monitoring and counting systems. Consider piggybacking on lighting controls.	1	\$\$	System-wide
19.2	Look for photovoltaic options to reduce construction costs in remote locations.	3	\$\$\$	System-wide
19.3	Create a policy for private drone use, and program for drone events or courses.	1	\$	System-wide
19.4	Implement GIS based databases to schedule and monitor maintenance, usage, and connectivity.	1	\$\$	System-wide
19.5	Add E-sports to the mix of programs the park district offers.	1	\$	System-wide
19.6	Create nodes or other physical touchpoints for people to engage with on personal devices, through a custom or pre-made application.	3	\$\$\$	System-wide
19.7	Make WiFi available in key locations.	2	\$\$\$	System-wide



Source: RATIO

APPENDIX

Appendices

A	Kickoff Meeting Summary	142
B	Community Outreach Summary.....	150
C	Workshop #2 Summary.....	185



PROGRESS MEETING SUMMARY

RATIO

Project: Freeport Park District Master Plan

RATIO Project No.: 19012

Date/Time: April 05, 2019, 1:30-4:00pm

Purpose: Kick-off Master Plan

Held at: Freeport Park District Administration Center, 1122 S. Burchard Ave

Participants: Ken Collin, Park Board of Commissioners, Freeport Park District
Deb Schwartz, Park Board of Commissioners, Freeport Park District
George Yarzak, Park Board of Commissioners, Freeport Park District
Dana Stewart, Park Board of Commissioners, Freeport Park District
Tom Jungen, Park Board of Commissioners, Freeport Park District
Jeff Hartman, Golf Professional at Park Hills Golf Course, Freeport Park District
Dave Fisher, Superintendent of Park Hills Golf Course, Freeport Park District
Vickie Witt, Office Manager, Freeport Park District
Jack Carey, Executive Director, Freeport Park District
Berin Jackson, Recreation Supervisor, Freeport Park District
Anna Schulz, Recreation Supervisor, Freeport Park District
Ron Schneider, Superintendent of Recreation, Freeport Park District
Merle Hull, Maintenance Supervisor, Freeport Park District

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1. The initial kick-off meeting of the Freeport Park Master Plan was held to discuss the following goals:
 - Maintain and update existing assets
 - Increase connectivity between parks and city resources
 - o Identify opportunities for potential partnerships
 - Establish long term implementation plan
 - o Potentially include multi-phase plans ranging from 5-10 years that project necessary funding
 - Expand the types of recreation and recreational opportunities
 2. RATIO conducted a 'Park District/Master Plan Vision Exercise' for the attendees to divide into three groups and illustrate their goals for the Freeport Park District and Master Plan using sets of abstract visioning cards. Overall, the participants concluded:
 - a. **Add environmental value and green space.** The group discussed enhancing and restoring the natural beauty in the community and adding more environmental value in response to the loss of trees along Krape Park.
 - b. **Recreational progression.** The Park District discussed building for kids and planning for fun, accessible recreational use and outdoor activities and implementing them into the future.
 - c. **Flood Action.** The Park District discussed prioritizing the need to control persistent flooding concerns throughout the city.
 - d. **Endless Improvements.** The Park District participants discussed reflecting on Freeport's history in order to come up with a unified plan to bring together the community's diverse ideas and tools to maintain the city's existing assets.
 3. The park district attendees then divided into four groups and participated in a 'Mapping the Parks' Exercise to highlight challenges and opportunities, underserved areas, city connections, and the most used spaces on a map of the City of Freeport. Overall, the key elements of the discussion include:

- a. **Connecting paths throughout the city.** The groups discussed opportunities for the city to add bike path routes to the downtown area and connect to existing routes. Stephenson street, Kiwanis Drive, and Adams Street was noted as a heavily traveled corridors and an opportunity for bike lanes. Other opportunities included connecting schools to parks and making plans for the Wetland Preserve trail connection.
 - b. **Oakdale Nature Preserve development.** Participants also discussed expanding bike and mountain bike paths into Oakdale and creating more outdoor adventure and marketing opportunities in order to create more visitors. Outdoor education is an ongoing theme for Oakdale and building infrastructure for that development.
 - c. **Recreational development.** Participants discussed Read Park being a heavily visited location and prioritizing updating its aquatic facility, updating the recreational facilities, pavilions and parking lots. Krape Park was noted as another heavily used park with a lot of activities going on in a small space. Noted potential opportunities included updating the recreational facilities and relocating the ball fields from Krape Park into a new complex. The use of the Sportsplex was discussed as an opportunity to possibly expand its facility to more offer more than a soccer complex.
 - d. **The Third Ward is underserved.** Participants noted the Third Ward as an underserved location in the community and an opportunity to use this area for a new connection and creating a new park.
 - e. **Future of housing development.** Participants discussed the unknown of future housing development because of the lack of growth in the last 15 years. If there was new growth where the new housing and parks go? Along with the future of housing development, participants noted the decline in recreational leagues and how it may potentially affect the need for them in parks. Participants noted the North West expansion as a potential location for parks.
 - f. **Flood concerns.** Participants noted flooding around the community being an ongoing issue. This has affected the recreational use for Taylor Park.
4. The participants then moved onto discussing the validation of previous Park District studies. Overall, the key items were:
 - a. **Taylor Park pond system expansion is no longer valid.** The shift in focus for Taylor Park is to relocate and repurpose the activities. The participants discussed coming up with a plan on what Taylor Park becomes based on the future neighborhood development in 20 years and government plans.
 - b. **Renovations for Read Park are incomplete.** The participants discussed that the parking lots and ball fields have been changed or reallocated. These unfinished plans could instead be repurposed to being implemented in future park plans.
 5. For the last exercise, the attendees participated in a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) Analysis for different Park Typologies”
 - a. **Ornamental Parks** (Lincoln Boulevard, Benson Boulevard, South Park Boulevard)
 - i. Strengths:
 1. They can help improve property values and beautify neighborhoods.
 2. They provide trail and bike paths connections.
 - ii. Weaknesses:
 1. They can become a maintenance nightmare.
 2. Mowing and maintaining the path on South Park Boulevard.
 3. Snow blowing.
 4. They don’t serve the community well.
 - iii. Opportunities:
 1. They provide more connection to trails.
 2. Ban parking on Lincoln to Benson to create a bike lane because Lincoln Boulevard is too narrow.
 3. Implementing a street diet is a potential opportunity, however it will be highly resistant.
 - iv. Threats:
 1. Memorial trees planted in this area creates a threat in implementing a bike lane.
 - b. **Mini-Parks** (Bidwell Park, Knowlton Park, Wilbur Park)
 - i. Strengths:
 1. They serve the community and adjacent neighborhoods.
 2. They provide more walkability within the community.
 - ii. Weaknesses:
 1. They provide limited recreational use and opportunity.
 2. They are susceptible to vandalism.
 3. The maintenance and mowing are a nightmare.
 4. They provide limited parking availability for recreational activities.
 5. They are probably not a ‘bang for the buck’.

- iii. Opportunities:
 1. There is plenty of space to implement mini-parks.
 2. They would elevate satisfaction of residents if more were implemented.
 - iv. Threats:
 1. They only serve the immediate communities around them because of limited parking.
 2. The travel time is extensive.
 3. The immediate neighbors aren't going to like mini-parks, so they will need distance and setbacks.
 4. Criminal activity and misuse can be common, so they need to be very well lit.
 - c. **Neighborhood Parks** (Winter Park, Portions of the other three community parks function like a neighborhood park)
 - i. Strengths:
 1. They provide bigger open spaces and trails.
 2. They serve communities well.
 - ii. Weaknesses:
 1. They tend to have poor walkability and connectivity.
 2. There is limited parking for these parks.
 - iii. Opportunities:
 1. They have potential to implement better connectivity, for Winter Park in particular.
 2. They have potential to implement accessibility.
 3. They would impact fees.
 - iv. Threats:
 1. Finding new locations for neighborhood parks is a challenge.
 - d. **Community Parks** (Krape Park, Read Park, Taylor Park)
 - i. Strengths:
 1. They are used heavily.
 2. They provide multiple activities and recreational use.
 3. There is rich history behind them.
 4. They have unique attractions and natural features.
 5. They draw out-of-town visitors.
 6. They serve multiple roles and have multi-functionality.
 7. They are in great locations.
 8. They provide huge revenue generators.
 - ii. Weaknesses:
 1. These locations have flooding concerns.
 2. Erosion is a common issue.
 3. They need ADA accessibility upgrades.
 4. They have high maintenance needs.
 5. They need updated renovations and parking lots.
 6. They don't have access from underserved neighborhoods and communities.
 - iii. Opportunities:
 1. They provide more space for more activities.
 2. They meet the needs of multiple different groups.
 3. Taylor Park has a changing role to be utilized in the community, and potential recreational use includes trails, drones, and biking.
 - iv. Threats:
 1. The overall cost is expensive.
 2. They provide limited parking capacity.
 3. There is less recreational usage because of the changing demographics of the population.
 4. Persuading the neighborhood and community that they provide a positive change is a challenge.
 - e. **Krape Park**
 - i. Strengths:
 1. They have a lot of historical value, and the landscape is full of natural beauty and terrain.
 2. They are heavily used and provide the potential for multiple activities.

f. Oakdale Preserve

i. Strengths:

1. The nature, diverse ecosystem, and size of the preserve are key aspects.
2. The trail system is a bonus.
3. The Oakdale Preserve holds historical value.
4. It has a variety of use opportunities.

ii. Weaknesses:

1. It is widely unknown and underused in the community because of the distance being 5 miles out of town.
2. The parking needs to be upgraded because it is currently only gravel.
3. There is a lack of a shared vision amongst stakeholders.
4. It is overall expensive.
5. The buildings are considered a weakness, opportunity, and threat because of their conditions.

iii. Opportunities:

1. It holds potential programming use.
2. It provides new seasonal recreational opportunities, such as skiing.
3. It has room to expand in terms of its trail connections.
4. Trail connections

iv. Threats:

1. The building costs are expensive, and overall the preserve is not considered a 'bang for your buck'.

g. Golf Courses (Park Hills Golf Course, Freeport Club)

i. Strengths:

1. Having two courses is a strength because of the ability to host special events without closing them both off to the public.
2. They are well maintained.
3. They hold historical value.
4. They are considered a regional asset and provide no debt.
5. The landscape's terrain is an advantage.

ii. Weaknesses:

1. They are expensive to implement.
2. They provide a lack of revenue (rounds).
3. With wage increases, there will be an employee cutback.

iii. Opportunities:

1. They have room for expansion.
2. They have an opportunity to increase revenue (rounds).

iv. Threats:

1. Flooding is an ongoing issue and forces the course to be temporarily closed.
2. A lot maintenance is involved.
3. There is a lack of (revenue) rounds.

h. Wetlands Preserve

i. Strengths:

1. The location provides easily accessibility, visibility, and is a prime fishing location,
2. It provides nice wildlife viewing.
3. It provides recreational use, such as still water kayaking.

ii. Weaknesses:

1. There is a regulation on what can be done because flooding is an ongoing concern.
2. There is a lack of access to pond for kayaking.
3. There is no easy access outside of commuting by driving.

iii. Opportunities:

1. There is potential to create trail connectivity.

iv. Threats:

1. Flooding generates threats to this location.

i. Stephenson County Historical Society Museum (Taylor Home Museum)

i. Strengths:

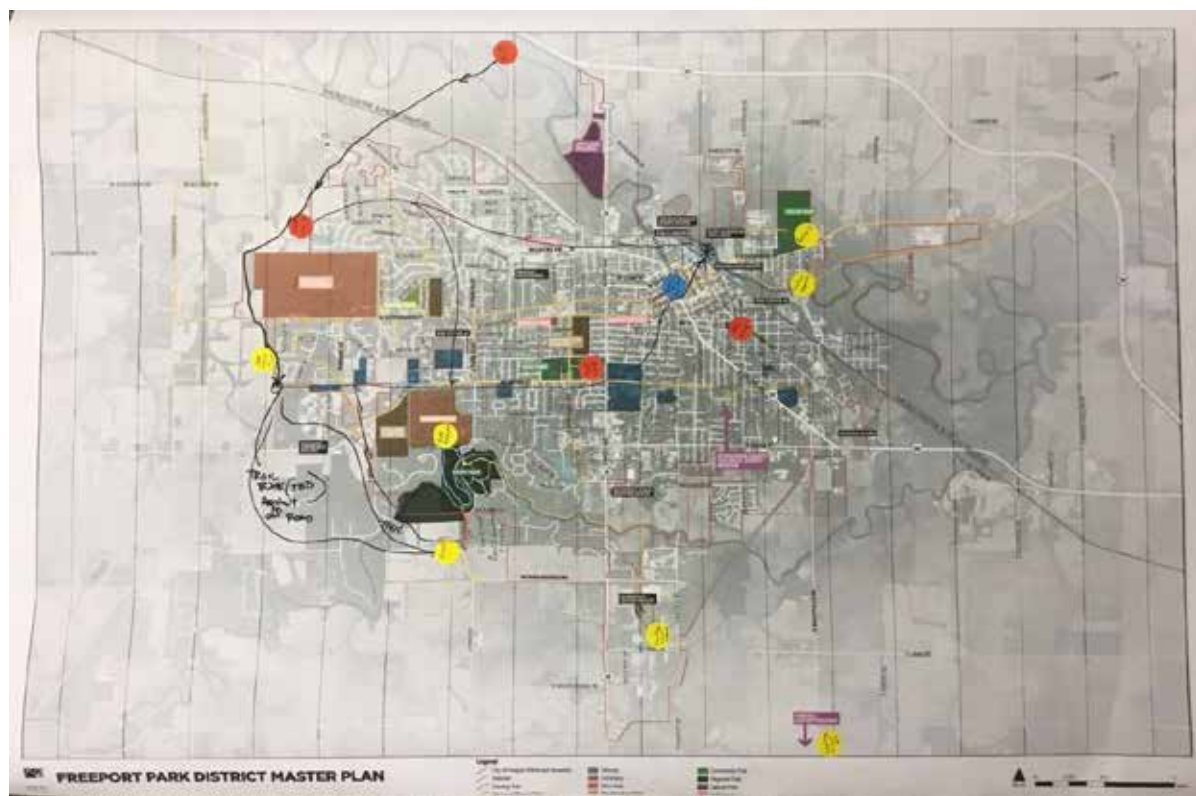
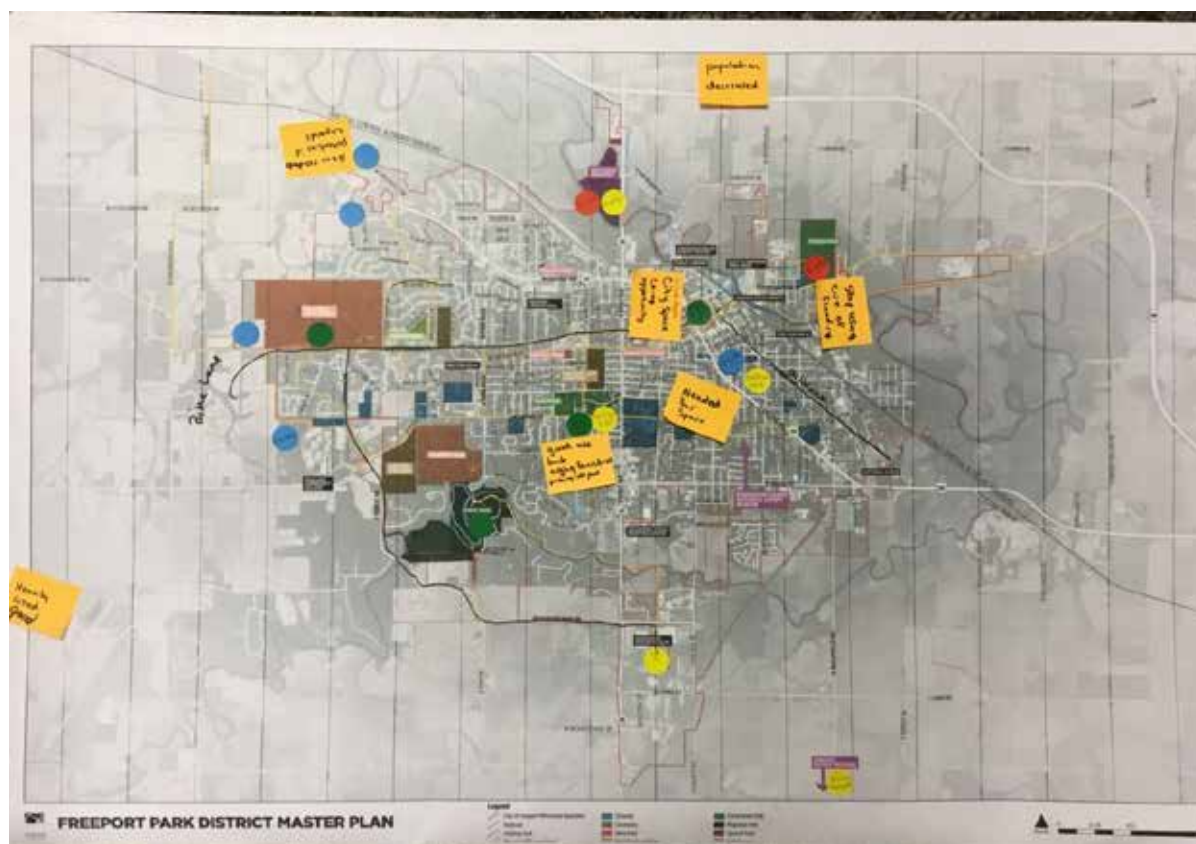
1. It holds historical value with its architecture, and collections and artifacts that draw in defined user groups.
 2. The arboretum is a key aspect state wide.
- ii. Weaknesses:
 1. The connection to community and immediate neighborhood is detrimental due to its location and not having enough space for a playground or accessible parking.
 2. The architecture provides high levels of maintenance.
 - iii. Opportunities:
 1. It provides the opportunity for the community and visitors to learn.
 2. The collections and artifacts provide marketing for local history and attract tourism to the city.
 - iv. Threats:
 1. There is limited youth interest, and general long-term viability.

j. Deacon Davis Courts

- i. Strengths:
 1. The facility is in good quality.
 2. It serves the community well because of its location and is a good reuse of property.
 3. It is not under FPD ownership.
- ii. Weaknesses:
 1. It is susceptible to vandalism.
 2. The maintenance is extensive because it is an aging/deteriorating site, and the site grading is an issue because of poor design and installation.
 3. It isn't used much because of its location, lack of connection, and visibility within the community.
 4. Visibility within community
 5. It's study in '14- '15 is incomplete.
 6. It provides limited parking.
 7. Site grading.
- iii. Opportunities:
 1. n/a
- iv. Threats:
 1. There is no safety or visibility.
 2. It is susceptible to vandalism.

6. Follow up Items

- a. Ongoing
 - i. Inventory and Analysis of Existing Facilities
 - ii. Level of Service Analysis
 - iii. Demographics
- b. Next Steps
 - i. Stakeholder Meetings
 - ii. Public Meeting



Any additions or corrections to these Minutes should be submitted in writing to RATIO Architects, Inc., within ten (10) days of receipt. Otherwise, these Minutes stand as correct.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Wilson
Landscape Architecture

cc: Client Personnel - Full Company Name, Inc.
Consultant Personnel - Full Company Name, Inc.
Contractor Personnel - Full Company Name, Inc.
RATIO Personnel –
RATIO Architects, Inc. / CF #####.### XX

Freeport Park District Master Plan Community Outreach Summary

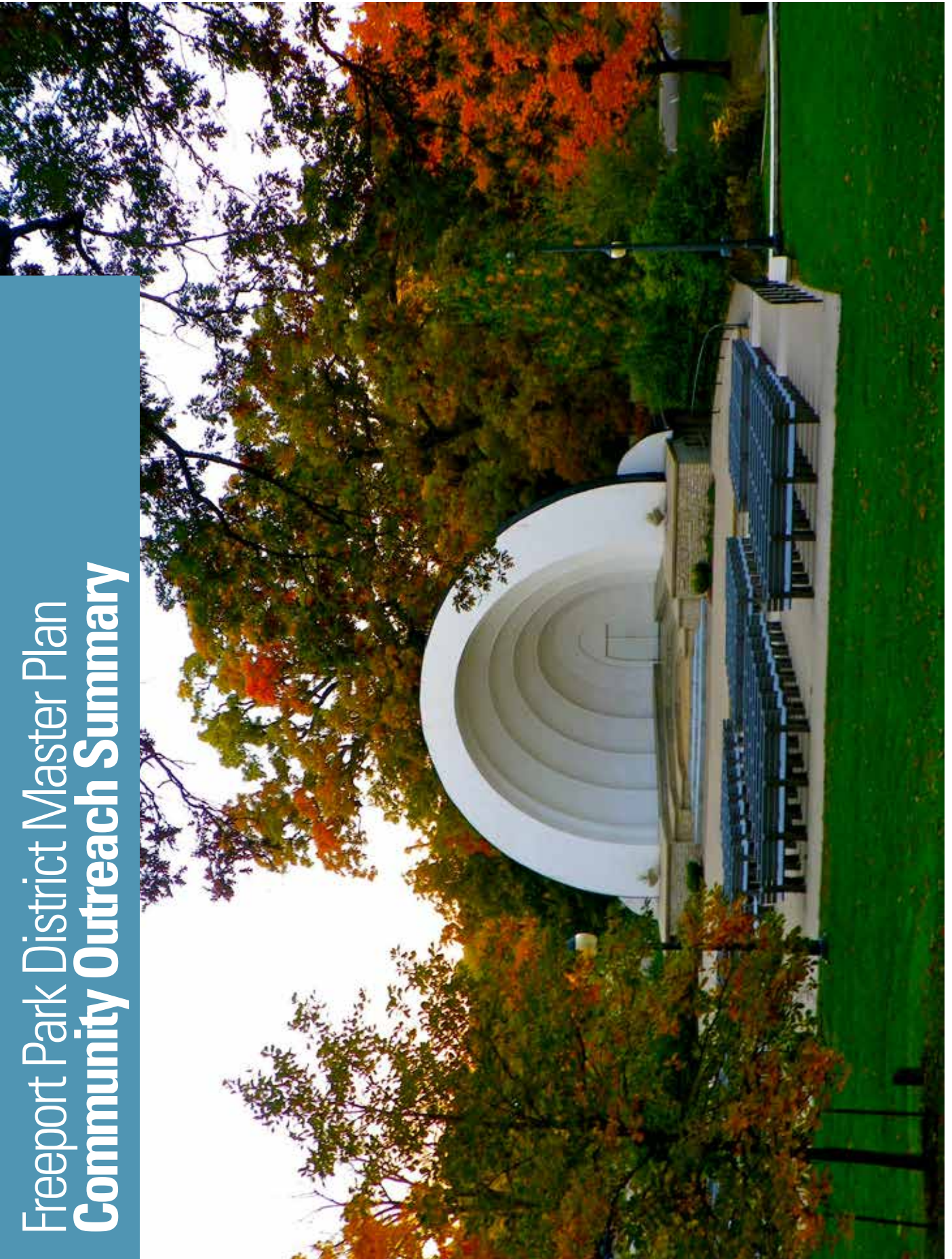


Table of Contents

Stakeholder Interviews	03
Workshop - Summary	10
Workshop - Mapping Exercise	11
Workshop - Park Programs	12
Workshop - Facilities and Amenities	14
Budget Development Exercise	16
Comment Cards	18
Appendices	19

Stakeholder Interviews

- Hosted on May 16th.
- Interviews gathered thoughts from stakeholders on a range of topics, including the following:
 - » Budget
 - » Transportation/connectivity
 - » Maintenance
 - » Demographics
 - » Future Goals
 - » Existing Challenges
- Approximately 35 people attended interview sessions or participated individually.
- The following slides are a summary of the input gathered from the interviews conducted.



Stakeholder Interviews

Participating stakeholders represent the following departments/agencies:

Youth Sports

- Stix Baseball and Softball
- Freeport Aquatic Swim Team
- Little Cubs Field

Partner Groups -

- Greater Freeport Partnership
- Senior Resource Center
- Freeport Health Network
- YMCA
- Northwest Illinois Trail
- Boys and Girls Club of Freeport and Stephenson County
- United Way
- Stephenson County Historical Society

Local Government

- City of Freeport
- Freeport Public Library
- Freeport Planning Commission

Private Sector

- State Bank
- Plager, Krug, Bauer & Rudolph
- Fehr Graham
- CF&A
- Fishburn Thruman

Design and Development Community

- Jacobs Engineering
- VSB

Stakeholder Interviews - Questions

- The questionnaire to the right was used for the stakeholder interviews
- Stakeholders were provided the questions in advance to facilitate the discussions
- Questions were used as prompts to start conversations
- Strictly answering each question was not the main objective
- Instead the goal was to gathering experiences, preferences, and opinions.



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Architecture
Preservation
Interior Design
Landscape Architecture
Urban Planning & Design
Graphic Design

MEMORANDUM

To: Affiliated Programs
Project No: 19012.000
Date and Time: May 16th, 2019 at 4:00pm
Location: Park District Offices - 1122 S Burchard Ave, Freeport, IL 61032
Subject: Freeport Park District Master Plan – Stakeholder Interview

Thank you for agreeing to participate in a key stakeholder interview. Your input is important to understanding the priorities, challenges and opportunities in the Freeport Park District. We are interested to better understand your experience and opinions regarding the Freeport Park System.

Prior to attending the session, please take a few moments to review the questions below. RATIO, our planning consultant, will use the following questions as a way to guide our conversation. (you do not need to bring written answers)

1. Are you a resident of Freeport? If not, which community do you live and work in?
2. How often do you use a city park? And for what purpose?
3. Which park do frequent most often?
4. Are the parks easily accessible from your home or job?
5. What elements or programs are critical to keep in the future?
6. Are there special venues or elements the Park District is lacking?
7. What Community needs do the current facilities and programs best meet?
8. What is your biggest concern about his planning process?
9. What are the greatest resources of the Park District?
10. Ten years (10) from now, what kind of park system do you envision for Freeport?
11. What are the opportunities for improving the District to meet your needs?
12. What should the District's number one priority be?

RATIO Architects, Inc.
RATIOdesign.com

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Chicago, IL Indianapolis, IN Champaign, IL Raleigh, NC

Stakeholder Interviews - Common Themes

The following are common themes that were repeated during the sessions.

Park Usage (Most Visited)

- Krape Park
- Read Park is most visited for swimming and baseball
- Taylor Park
- Oakdale Nature Preserve

Connectivity/Access

- Krape Park access is limited (bridge and road connectivity issues)
- Some neighborhoods lack sidewalks
- Walkability to parks is limited
- Driving is required to access parks
- One-way traffic in Krape Park is confusing
- Lack of accessible trails for seniors and mobility-challenged individuals

Assets to Retain

- Swimming Pool
- Natural Areas (Oakdale and Krape)
- Krape Park amenities (bandshell, carousel, creek)
- Park Hills Golf Course
- Small (mini) parks for families and children
- Taylor Park
- Firebaugh Observatory
- Kayaking opportunities
- Holiday events
- Walking paths

Stakeholder Interviews - Summary of Input

Issues/Concerns

- East side of city is underserved
- Maintenance
- Mosquitoes
- Funding limitations
- Visitors and Tourists are not paying
- Population and tax base are shrinking
- Flooding at Read Park pool
- Flooding at Krape Park
- Lack of amenities and activities for families visiting Read Park for baseball tournaments
- Limited hotels options for visitors
- Lack of coordination between partner organizations
- Gladewood Bridge in poor conditions (Krape Park)
- Safety at Krape Park at night

Planning Process Concerns and Goals

- Retain each park's uniqueness
- Establish realistic expectations (give/take scenarios)
- Difficult to prioritize decisions
- How will implementation be monitored?
- Ensure that the entire community is represented
- Engage the youth
- Will plan address buildings/architecture?
- Will there be more public engagement?
- Perceived lack of credibility in process among east side/Taylor Park area residents

Stakeholder Interviews - Summary of Input

Programming/Amenity Gaps

- Expanded youth and seniors programming
- Cycling amenities and programs
- Expand partnerships with private and non-profit sectors
- Lack of marketing capabilities among partner organizations
- Trap and Skeet Shooting
- Food vendors
- New grills are needed in parks
- Facilities for kayaking the Pecatonica
- Winter Programming
- Holiday-specific programming
- Volleyball
- Indoor/Outdoor Pickleball
- Circuit Training
- Outdoor education

Park District's Greatest Resources

- Staff
- Catalog of events and programs
- Efficiency of investments and expenditures
- Parks have improved significantly in last 20 years
- Natural Areas
- More programming for seniors
- Bike Share
- More focus on sustainability
- Create a land bank
- Improved Signage and Visibility

Stakeholder Interviews - Summary of Input

10-Year Park Vision

- Krape Park access improvement
- Flood preparation and prevention at Krape and Taylor Parks
- Increased access to natural areas
- Protect and highlight legacy features (groves, springs, architecture, cluster of pines)
- Maintained local governance
- Expanded aquatic park
- Multi-purpose facility
- Improved access for all mobility types (pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, drivers)
- More programming for seniors
- Bike Share
- More focus on sustainability
- Create a land bank
- Improved Signage and Visibility

#1 Priority

- Connectivity
- Adaptability/Flexibility
- Tourism
- Aquatics
- Keep Taylor Park
- Public-Private Partnerships
- More biking and walking
- Designated bike lanes to parks
- Prioritize partnerships
- Expand access to east side of Freeport
- Conservation of natural areas and stream banks
- Marketing effort to attract visitors

Outreach Summary - Community Workshop

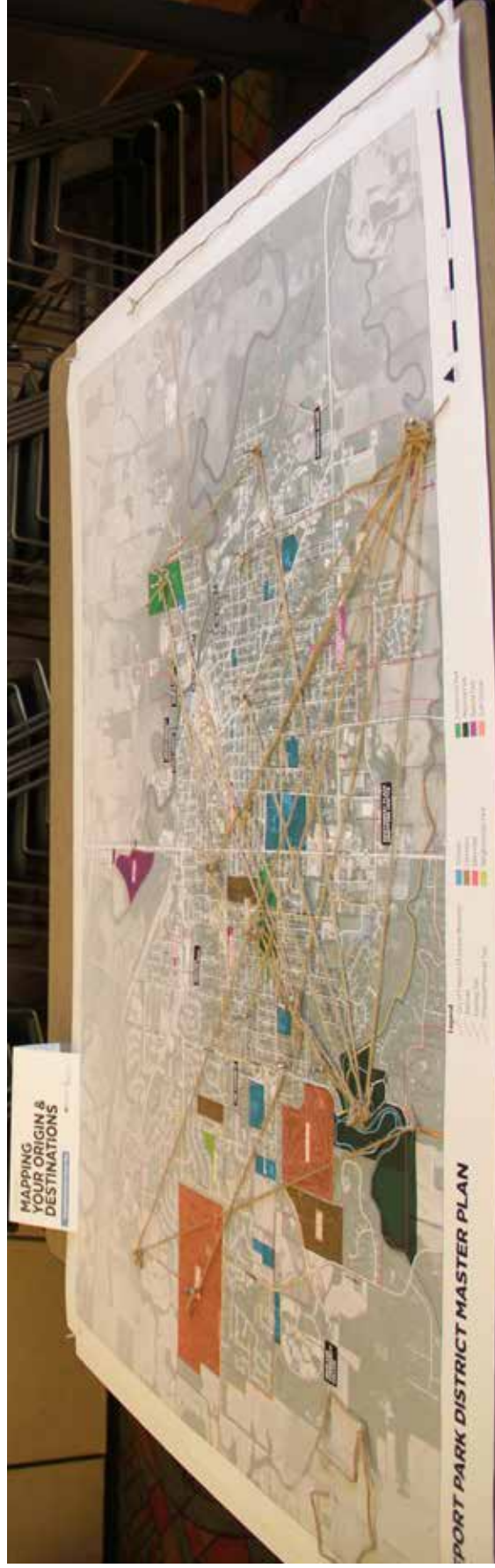
- Hosted on May 16th.
- Approximately 15 people attended the workshop.
- The following slides are a summary of the input gathered from the workshop's participants.



Mapping Exercise

How the Mapping Exercise Works

- Participants placed a pin on the map where they live.
- Next, they selected the two to three parks they most use, and place a pin on those parks.
- Finally, a string is tied to each pin, showing us which parks are most popular and from where in Freeport park users are traveling.



Results

- The most popular parks, in order, are Oakdale Nature Preserve, Krape Park, Taylor Park, and Read Park
- Most participants stated that driving was the most common form of accessing parks.
- The majority of residents lived in central Freeport

Park Programs - Top 5 Voted

8
Votes

Nature Education Programs

4
Votes

Community Concerts

2
Votes

Senior Programs

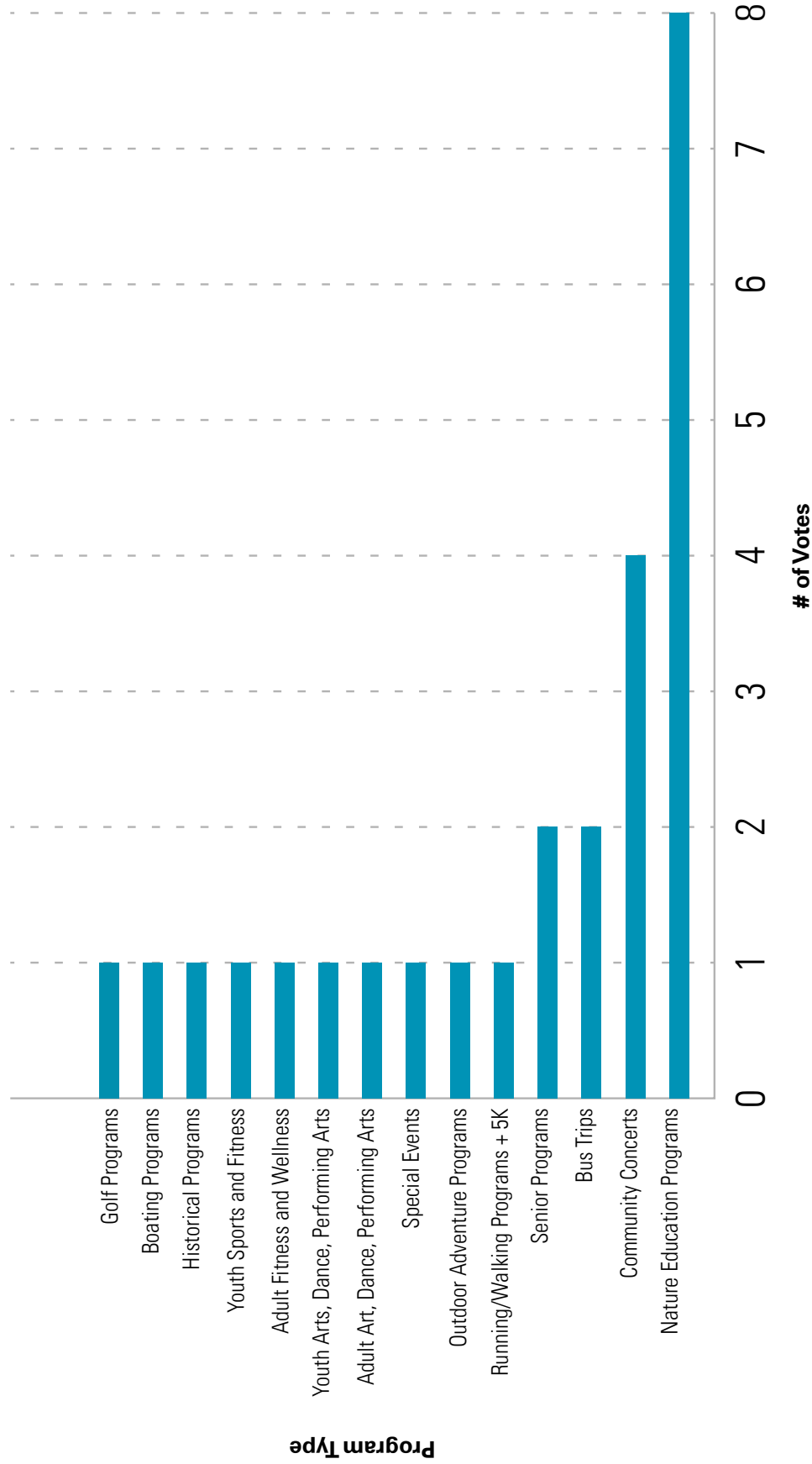
2
Votes

Bus Trips

1
Vote

All Others

Park Programs - Full Results



*The following Programs did not receive any votes: All Age Water Safety Programs (Swim Lessons), Adult Instructional Programs, Adult Sports + Fitness, Adaptive (Special Recreation) Programs, Martial Arts or Self-Defense, Yoga and Pilates, Family Programs (Dad/Daughter Dance)

Facilities & Amenities - Top 5 Voted

8
Votes

Nature Education Programs

4
Votes

Community Concerts

2
Votes

Bus Trips

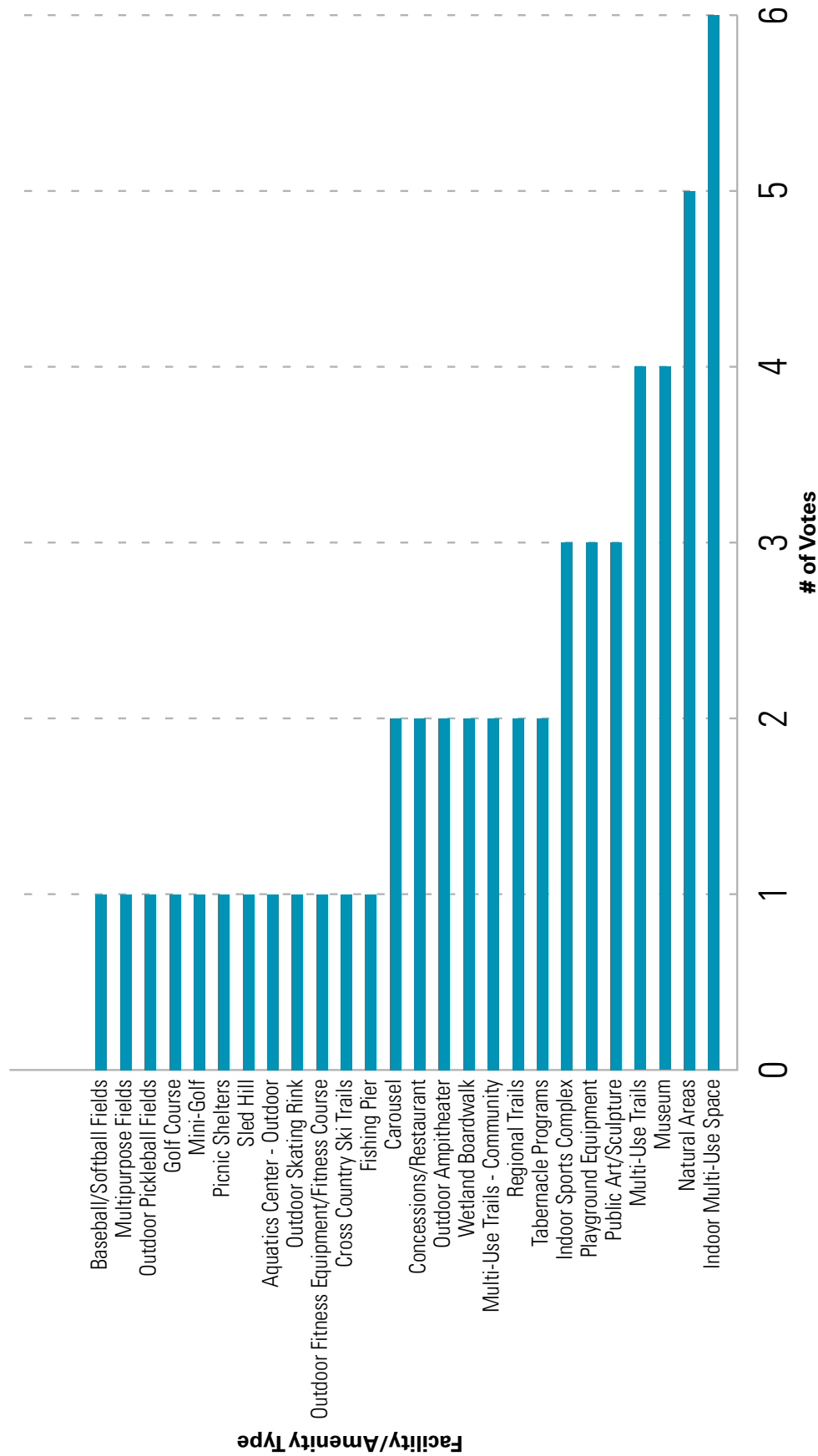
2
Votes

Senior Programs

1
Vote

All Others

Facilities & Amenities - Full Results



*The following Amenities or Facilities did not receive any votes: Soccer Fields, Football Fields, Outdoor Tennis Courts, Outdoor Basketball Court, Outdoor Volleyball Court, Fill Size Hockey Rink - Outdoor, Skateboard Facility, Disc Golf, Boat Rentals, Observatory, Indoor Fitness and Exercise Facilities, Teams Course, Climbing Wall/Rock, Outdoor Multi-Use/Yoga Platform

Budget Development Exercise

How the Budget Exercise Works

- Participants have \$13 to spend on a range of amenities
- The purpose of the exercise is to prioritize Park District spending based on relative typical costs for park amenities

Freeport Park District Master Plan
Workshop #1

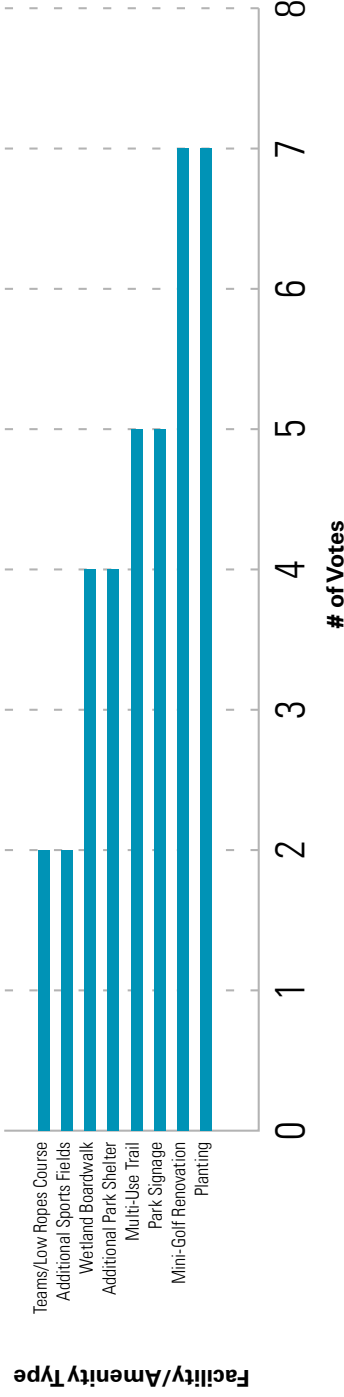
Budget Development Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

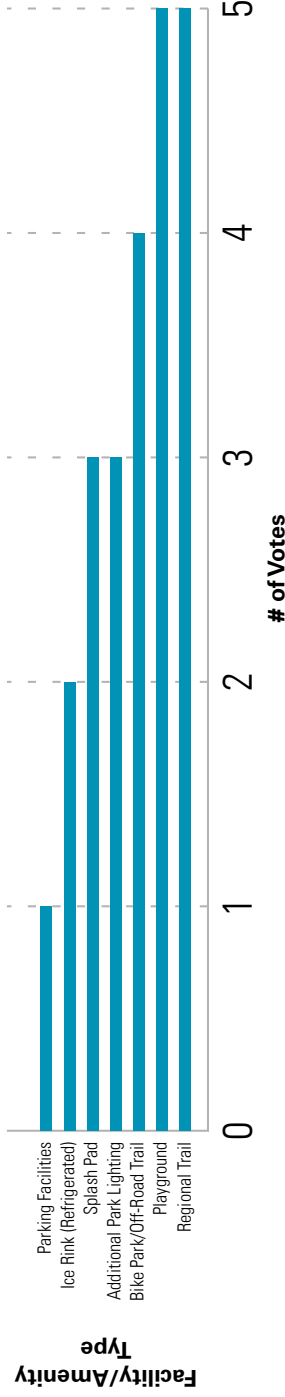
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Golf Course Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Nature Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Additional Park Lighting
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Wetland Boardwalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Mini-Park/Pocket Park
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Teams / Low Ropes Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Regional Trail
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Bike Park / Off-Road Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Neighborhood Park
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Ice Rink (refrigerated)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Sport Court Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Parking Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Additional Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Fieldhouse Facility
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Additional Sport Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Park Signage
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Artificial Turf Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Planting
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Multi-Use Trail		

Budget Development Exercise

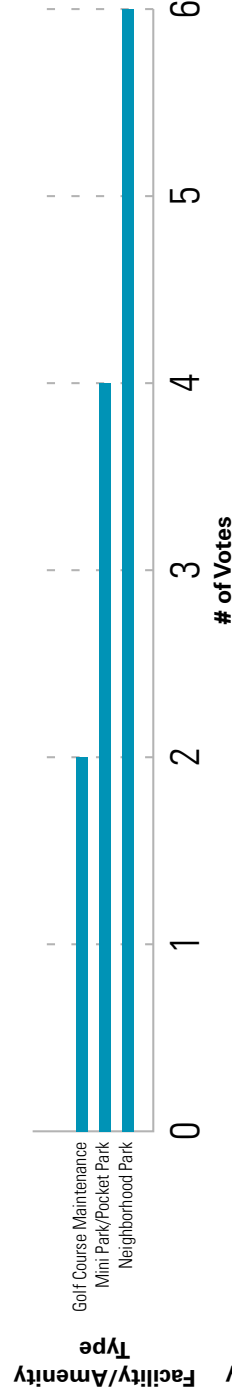
\$1 Amenities



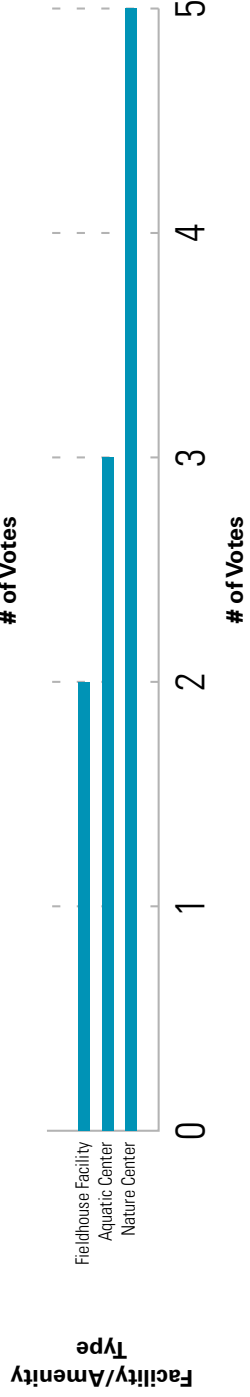
\$2 Amenities



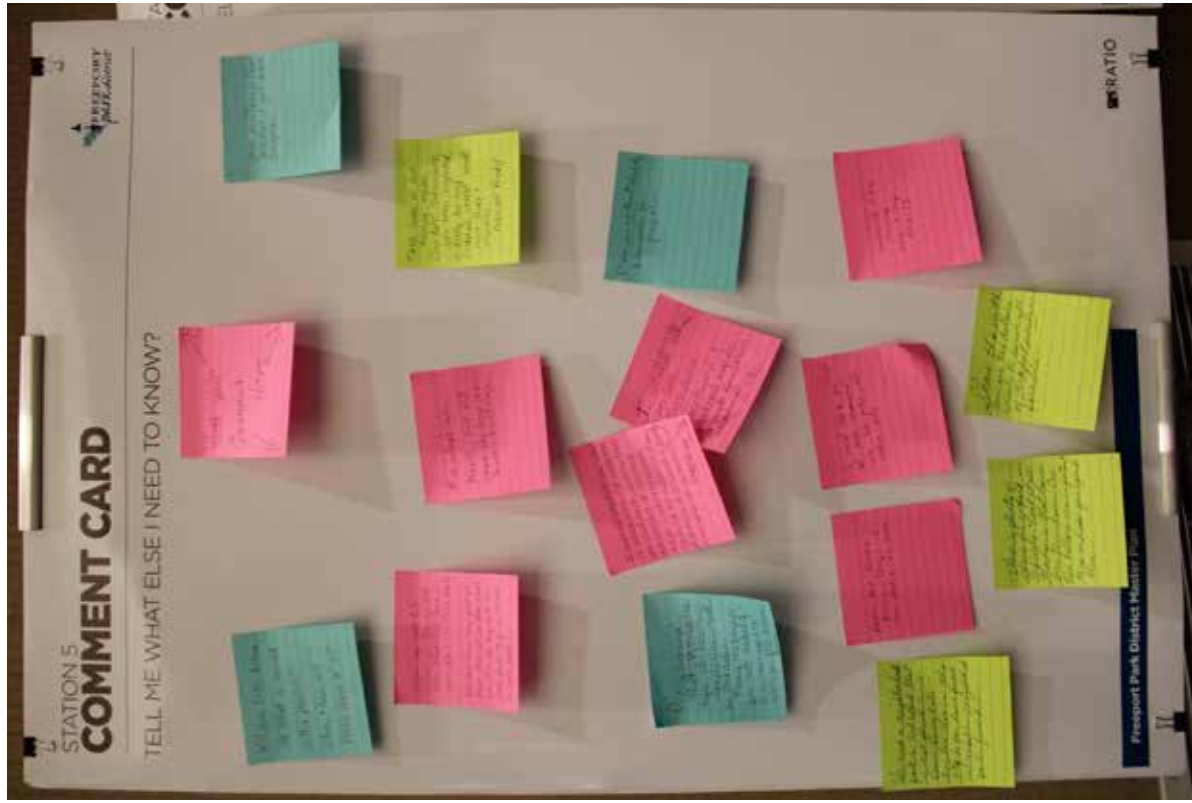
\$3 Amenities



\$4 Amenities



Comment Cards



Oakdale Nature Preserve

- Clean up Oakdale trails. Fix up and use what is there – great place to take family.
- I would like to know what is being done for protection at Oakdale. I worry that education is needed and conservation should be a priority. Nachusa Grasslands is a good example.
- I would like to see Oakdale maintained and developed especially for corporate functions, weddings, etc.
- Make use of the Oakdale Tabernacle for programming.
- Take care of our existing assets. Oakdale Tabernacle has been neglected willfully too long. Oakdale itself needs more focus and resources.
- Programming that promotes the use of existing facilities, such as Oakdale.
- May taxpayers are not aware of or encouraged to utilize Oakdale.

Spending and Park Allocation

- There is plenty of space for a park in 3rd Ward. Look at all the homes that have been torn down. Our tax dollars are important to us and how you spend them.
- Share the wealth. Use our tax dollars wisely to serve all of Freeport evenly as possible.

Programming

- More kid-friendly activities.
- Maintenance
- Fix what we have. Folks will come for tourism and historic buildings.

Connectivity

- Sidewalk from large parking lot at Krape Park. Small lots fill up – long walk for older people to up sidewalk or cross grass.
- I would like to see all parks connected via bike paths and or walking paths.
- Would like more walking trails.

The Planning Process

- Will you take action on what is learned in this process? When and how will the public learn about it?
- Have another session to get more public input

Appendices

- A:** Workshop Boards
- B:** Comments Cards
- C:** Sign-in Sheets
- D:** Outreach Materials
- E:** Stakeholder Interview Notes
- F:** Email Responses

Appendix A - Workshop Boards



Appendix A - Workshop Boards

STATION 4
PROGRAM/ACTIVITY TALLY

Freeport Park District

Programs	
Community Concerts	● ● ● ● ●
Golf Programs	● ● ● ● ●
Boating Programs	● ● ● ● ●
Historical Programs	● ● ● ● ●
Youth Sports + Fitness	● ● ● ● ●
Adult Fitness & Wellness	● ● ● ● ●
All Age Water Safety Programs (Swim Lessons)	● ● ● ● ●
Youth Art, Dance, Performing Arts	● ● ● ● ●
Adult Instructional Programs	● ● ● ● ●
Adult Art, Dance, Performing Arts	● ● ● ● ●
Adult Sports + Fitness	● ● ● ● ●
Adaptive (Special Recreation) Programs	● ● ● ● ●
Senior Programs	● ● ● ● ●
Special Events (Trick-or-Treat Trail, Art in the Park)	● ● ● ● ●
Martial Arts or Self-Defense	● ● ● ● ●
Yoga and Pilates	● ● ● ● ●
Outdoor Adventure Programs	● ● ● ● ●
Nature Education Programs	● ● ● ● ●
Running/Walking Programs + 5K	● ● ● ● ●
Bus Trips	● ● ● ● ●
Family Programs (Dad/Daughter Dance)	● ● ● ● ●

Freeport Park District Master Plan

RATIO

STATION 4
PROGRAM/ACTIVITY TALLY

Freeport Park District

Facility / Amenity	
Soccer Fields	● ● ● ● ●
Baseball/Softball Fields	● ● ● ● ●
Football Fields	● ● ● ● ●
Multipurpose Fields	● ● ● ● ●
Outdoor Tennis Courts	● ● ● ● ●
Outdoor Basketball Court	● ● ● ● ●
Outdoor Volleyball Court	● ● ● ● ●
Full Size Hockey Rink - Outdoor	● ● ● ● ●
Skateboard Facility	● ● ● ● ●
Outdoor Pickleball Courts	● ● ● ● ●
Disc Golf	● ● ● ● ●
Golf Course	● ● ● ● ●
Mini-Golf	● ● ● ● ●
Carousel	● ● ● ● ●
Picnic Shelters	● ● ● ● ●
Boat Rentals	● ● ● ● ●
Concessions/Restaurant	● ● ● ● ●
Observatory	● ● ● ● ●
Sled Hill	● ● ● ● ●
Indoor Fitness & Exercise Facilities	● ● ● ● ●
Indoor Sports Complex (Fieldhouse, Walking/ Running Track, Baseball, Soccer, Etc.)	● ● ● ● ●
Indoor Multi-Use Space (Meeting Rooms, Camps, Classes, Rentals, Etc.)	● ● ● ● ●

Freeport Park District Master Plan

RATIO

Appendix A - Workshop Boards

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STATION 4

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY TALLY

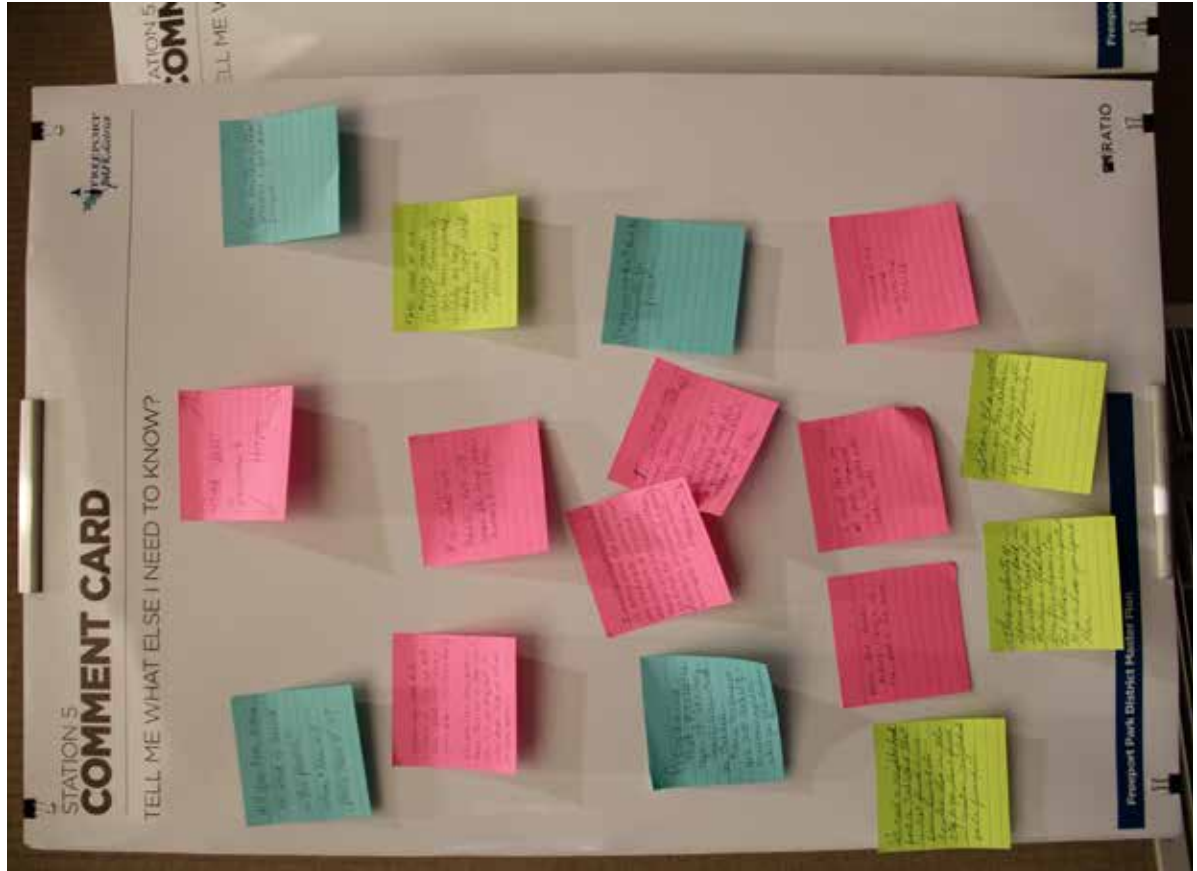
Other Ideas? - Write them down or vote on those you like.

nature preservation / Oakdale education / protection

Freepoint Park District Master Plan

APPENDIX B

Appendix A - Workshop Boards



Appendix A - Budget Exercise Cards

Freeport Park District Master Plan Workshop #1

Budget Development Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$4 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Golf Course Maintenance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$4 Nature Center	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Additional Park Lighting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Wetland Boardwalk	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Mini-Park/Pocket Park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Tennis / Low Ropes Course	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Regional Trail
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Blue Park / Off Road Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Neighborhood Park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Ice Park (refrigerated)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Sport Court Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Parking Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Additional Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Fieldhouse Facility
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Additional Sport Field	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Park Signage
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$4 Artificial Turf Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Planting
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Multi-Use Trail	

Freeport Park District Master Plan Workshop #1

Budget Development Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Golf Course Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Nature Center	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Additional Park Lighting
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Wetland Boardwalk	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Mini-Park/Pocket Park
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Tennis / Low Ropes Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Regional Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Blue Park / Off Road Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$3 Neighborhood Park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Ice Park (refrigerated)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Sport Court Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Playground	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Parking Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Additional Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Fieldhouse Facility
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Additional Sport Field	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Park Signage
<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Artificial Turf Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Planting
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Multi-Use Trail	

✓

Freeport Park District Master Plan Workshop #1

Budget Development Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Golf Course Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Nature Center	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Additional Park Lighting
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Wetland Boardwalk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$3 Mini-Park/Pocket Park
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Tennis / Low Ropes Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Regional Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Blue Park / Off Road Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$3 Neighborhood Park
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Ice Park (refrigerated)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Sport Court Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Parking Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Additional Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Fieldhouse Facility
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Additional Sport Field	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Park Signage
<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Artificial Turf Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Planting
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Multi-Use Trail	

Freeport Park District Master Plan Workshop #1

Budget Development Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Golf Course Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Nature Center	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Additional Park Lighting
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Wetland Boardwalk	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Mini-Park/Pocket Park
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Tennis / Low Ropes Course	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Regional Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Blue Park / Off Road Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Neighborhood Park
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Ice Park (refrigerated)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Sport Court Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Playground	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Parking Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Additional Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Fieldhouse Facility
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Additional Sport Field	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Park Signage
<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 Artificial Turf Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Planting
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Multi-Use Trail	

ES: N/A to 1/1/16
\$130,000.00 - 1/1/16

Appendix A - Budget Exercise Cards

Freeport Park District Master Plan
Workshop #1

Budget Development
Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Golf Course Maintenance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Nature Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Additional Park Lighting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Wetland Boardwalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Mini-Park/Pocket Park Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Teams / Low Ropes Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Regional Trail
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Blue Park / Off-Road Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Neighborhood Park
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Ice Park / Refrigerated	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Sport Court Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Parking Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Additional Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Fieldhouse Facility
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Additional Sport Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Park Signage
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Artificial Turf Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Planting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Multi-Use Trail		

Freeport Park District Master Plan
Workshop #1

Budget Development
Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Golf Course Maintenance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Nature Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Additional Park Lighting
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Wetland Boardwalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Mini-Park/Pocket Park Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Teams / Low Ropes Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Regional Trail
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Blue Park / Off-Road Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Neighborhood Park
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Ice Park / Refrigerated	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Sport Court Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Parking Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Additional Park Shelter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Fieldhouse Facility
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Additional Sport Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Park Signage
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Artificial Turf Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Planting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Multi-Use Trail		

Freeport Park District Master Plan
Workshop #1

Budget Development
Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Golf Course Maintenance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Nature Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Additional Park Lighting
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Wetland Boardwalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Mini-Park/Pocket Park Course
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Teams / Low Ropes Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Regional Trail
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Blue Park / Off-Road Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Neighborhood Park
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Ice Park / Refrigerated	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Sport Court Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Parking Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Additional Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Fieldhouse Facility
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Additional Sport Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Park Signage
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Artificial Turf Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Planting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Multi-Use Trail		

Maintain 1st
Oakdale Takeaway

Freeport Park District Master Plan
Workshop #1

Budget Development
Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Golf Course Maintenance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Nature Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Additional Park Lighting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Wetland Boardwalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Mini-Park/Pocket Park Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Teams / Low Ropes Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Regional Trail
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Blue Park / Off-Road Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$3 Neighborhood Park
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Ice Park / Refrigerated	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Sport Court Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Splash Pad	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2 Parking Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Additional Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Fieldhouse Facility
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Additional Sport Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Park Signage
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$4 Artificial Turf Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Planting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1 Multi-Use Trail		

Appendix B - Comments Cards

Freeport Park District Master Plan
Workshop #1

**Budget Development
Exercise**

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the right that you are willing to spend. The

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

\$4	Aquatic Center	\$3	Golf Course Maintenance
\$4	Nature Center	\$2	Additional Park Lighting
\$1	Warren Boardwalk	\$3	Mini-Golf/Football Park
\$1	Tennis/Low Impact Courts	\$2	Regional Trail
\$2	Bike Path / Off-Road Trail	\$3	Neighborhood Park
\$2	Ice Rink (winterized)	\$2	Sport Court Improvement
\$2	Playground	\$1	Mini-Golf Renovation
\$2	Spa/Hot Tub	\$2	Parking Facilities
\$1	Additional Park Shelter	\$4	Hatchery Facility
\$1	Additional Sport Field	\$1	Park Storage
\$1	Artificial Turf Fields	\$1	Hunting
\$1	Mini-Golf		

Freeport Park District Master Plan
Workshop #1

**Budget Development
Exercise**

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the left to see how much you are willing to spend. The

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

\$4	Aquatic Center	\$3	Golf Course Maintenance
\$4	Nature Center	\$2	Additional Park Lighting
\$1	Wetland Boardwalk	\$3	Mini-Park/Pocket Park
\$1	Therma-Low Ropes Course	\$2	Regional Trail
\$2	Blue Park/Off-Road Trail	\$3	Neighborhood Park
\$2	Ice Park (Hempstead)	\$2	Sport Court Improvement
\$2	Playground	\$1	Mini-Golf Renovation
\$2	Splash Pad	\$2	Hiring Facilities
\$1	Additional Park Shelter	\$4	Fieldhouse Facility
\$1	Additional Sport Field	\$1	Park Sculpture
\$4	Artistic Trail/Facility	X	Trail Thinning
\$1	Multi-Use Trail		1/3 Oak Ridge to be sold to be sold

Freeport Park District Master Plan
Workshop #1

**Budget Development
Exercise**

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the right what you would like to spend. The

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$4 Aquatic Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$3 Golf Course Maintenance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$4 Nature Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Additional Park Lighting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Wetland Boardwalk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$3 Mini-Park/Pocket Park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Trails / Low Impact Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Regional Trail
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Blue Park / Off-Road Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$3 Neighborhood Park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Ice Rink (Refrigerated)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Sport Court Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Splash Pad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2 Parking Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Additional Park Shelter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$4 Fieldhouse Facility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Additional Sport Field	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Park Entrance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$4 Artificial Turf Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Painting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1 Maintenance	

Freeport Park District Master Plan
Workshop #1

**Budget Development
Exercise**

You've got \$13 to spend. Check off the box on

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on this box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

\$4	Aquatic Center	\$3	Golf Course Maintenance
X	Nature Center	\$2	Additional Park Lighting
\$1	Wildland/Trailways	\$3	Mineral/Pond Park
\$1	Trails/Low Ropes Course	X	Regional Mall
X	Bike Park/Climb Wall	X	Neighborhood Park
\$2	Ice Rink/Recreational	\$2	Sport Court Improvement
\$2	Playground	\$1	Mini-Golf Renovation
X	Splash Pad	\$4	Paving Facilities
\$1	Additional Park Shelter	\$4	Pedestrian Facility
\$1	Additional Sport Field	X	Park Storage
\$4	American Turf Fields	\$1	Planning
\$1	Major Events		

Appendix B - Comments Cards

Freeport Park District Master Plan Workshop #1

Budget Development Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 54 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/> 53 Golf Course Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> 53 Golf Course Maintenance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 54 Nature Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52 Additional Park Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Additional Park Lighting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Wetland Boardwalk	<input type="checkbox"/> 53 Mini-HighSchool Park Course	<input type="checkbox"/> 53 Mini-HighSchool Park Course
<input type="checkbox"/> 51 Tennis / Low Traps Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52 Blue Park / Off-Road Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52 Regional Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Blue Park / Off-Road Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Low Park Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Sport Court Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Low Park Improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52 Playground	<input type="checkbox"/> 51 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52 Playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Additional Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Parking Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Additional Park Shelter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Additional Sport Field	<input type="checkbox"/> 54 HighSchool Facility
<input type="checkbox"/> 51 Additional Sport Field	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 54 Additional Turf Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Park Signage
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 54 Additional Turf Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Multi-Use Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Planting

Freeport Park District Master Plan Workshop #1

Budget Development Exercise

You've got \$13 to spend. Check on the box on the improvement you are willing to spend. The total cost must add up to \$13.

<input type="checkbox"/> 54 Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/> 53 Golf Course Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> 53 Golf Course Maintenance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 54 Nature Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52 Additional Park Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Additional Park Lighting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Wetland Boardwalk	<input type="checkbox"/> 53 Mini-HighSchool Park Course	<input type="checkbox"/> 53 Mini-HighSchool Park Course
<input type="checkbox"/> 51 Tennis / Low Traps Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52 Blue Park / Off-Road Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52 Regional Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Blue Park / Off-Road Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Low Park Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Sport Court Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Low Park Improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52 Playground	<input type="checkbox"/> 51 Mini-Golf Renovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52 Playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Additional Park Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Parking Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Additional Park Shelter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Additional Sport Field	<input type="checkbox"/> 54 HighSchool Facility
<input type="checkbox"/> 51 Additional Sport Field	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 54 Additional Turf Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Park Signage
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 54 Additional Turf Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Multi-Use Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51 Planting

Appendix C - Sign-In Sheets

[illegible][illegible]

MIRATIO

RATIO

Workshop 1
May 16, 2019

[illegible]

2.2 RATIO

Appendix D - Stakeholder Interview Notes



PROGRESS MEETING SUMMARY

Project: Freeport Park District Master Plan
RATIO Project No.: 19012
Date/Time: May 16, 2019, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Purpose: Kick-off Master Plan
Held at: Freeport Park District Administration Center, 1122 S. Burchard Ave

Andrea

- Walkability is a challenge. East side/Arcade District and others do not have parks in walkable or comfortable distance

What are some of the assets that must be retained?

Alan

- Natural areas — Oakdale and Krape Park. Maintenance is expensive but this is critical to this area.

Andrea

- There is a piece of Freeport iconography with Krape Park. People associate the two together. People take visitors there.

Gary

- Krape Park has so many amenities (carousel, bandshell, etc)

Chris

- The wilderness trails on the western side of Krape Park.
- The 18-hole golf course, which when non-golfers appreciate?
- All of the natural areas area great assets as well.
- Mini-golf

What are the biggest concerns about the planning process?

Rebecca

- Each park is unique. We don't want to lose any of the features. We need to create new parks in underserved areas.
- The park system is a huge asset for visitors and people moving here.

Gary

- Funding is a concern. A priority list should be identified.
- The FPD is positioned with a handicap. I live in the city and pay library taxes. Outsiders have to pay a fee at the library. There is no way to charge visitors to use the park. The financial sustainability of the parks is the single biggest issue in Freeport. The burdensome way that Illinois apportions property taxes is not fair. Consumption taxes may be the only long-term solution — that will be difficult.

Sarah

- Can structured program fees be increased? Can FPD draw on other champions to pay, draw in people?

Andrea

- People need to understand that it's a give/take scenario.

Gaps in programming? Do you see any specific tournaments that could be brought here?

Andrea

- Hosting tournaments is an area of opportunity to generate money for the park system.
- Distribution of parks is a problem.

Pam

- People will travel to Rockford to ice skate. There is some leakage.

Stephen

- There is a big bike community. Businesses are bringing bikers to the community.

What are the greatest resources of the Park District?

Andrea

- The catalog of events and programs is great.

Sara

- People may use Facebook or social media more — Should the FPD share information more on social media?
- Jack is wonderful. The staff is great.
- FPD has done a great job of using the money that it has. There was a lot of turnover on the Board when the building in Read Park was built because of the expense and negative publicity. When you have capital issues, this causes turmoil.
- The Parks have been improved greatly in the last 20 years.

10 years from now, what kind of park system do you envision for Freeport?

Alan

The key stakeholder interviews for the Freeport Park Master Plan were held to discuss the following challenges, opportunities, assets, and goals of key Freeport Park District stakeholders.

9:30 – 10:30 am

Participants:

Gary Quinn, VSB/GFP
Alan Nowicki, Resident
Andrea Winter, GFP
Rebecca Moley, GFP
Larry Thomas, Resident
Karen Thomas, Resident
Pam Rosman, Famous Fossil Winery and Vineyard
Chris Fye, CF + A

How often do you use the parks and which do you visit most often?

Pam

- Parks have always been an important part of the County, not just the community. Parks are part of the destination. People have bought vacation homes near Read Park.

Gary

- I've been here 29 years. I take the dog to the park daily. There is active and passive use, as well as supervised and unsupervised programming in many of the parks.

Sarah

- I use the pools after hours 5-6 hours a week.

Alan

- I use the parks daily.

How close/accessible are the parks?

Alan

- The Gladewood Bridge is closed to vehicular traffic. The main bridge on Park Blvd. is 10 years old, not in terrific shape. Access to Forest Drive is older and narrow and needs a lot of work. Krape Park also has flooding issues that impact access.

Sarah

- Freeport has a number of areas without sidewalks. My house is 1-2 miles from the park (near Stephenson Park). If there was a pedestrian path/sidewalk through the FPD golf course then people would use the park more.

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Appendix D - Stakeholder Interview Notes

- I would like to see access to Krape Park improved, as well as to the Carousel and water park. I would like to see trail improvement and flood maintenance/protection. I would also like to see increased access to natural land. We should highlight and protect the legacy features, including the groves, springs, architecture and clusters of pines.
- Also, the tax base and population are shrinking.

Karen

- Maintain strong local governance

Sara

- Make a bigger aquatic park. Magic Waters in Rockford is sold to Six Flags. The aquatic park does not necessarily need to be in Read Park, but should be.
- We also need a multi-purpose facility for club sports and other activities.

Chris

- We need flood control protections for the pool.

Steve

- Maintenance and revenue issues are huge. We need careful and targeted improvements in facilities. Programs do not make money or just break even.
- Improving access within the parks and trails is important.

Pam

- We have to figure out how to get revenue from folks who do not live in Freeport. Do we charge a higher fee? Do we have a fee for non-residents? Can tourists pay more?

Gary

- Population change is a big concern. There are probably programs that can be established to capture older folks. The park system is a draw for seniors.

Stephen

- There is a huge biking community. The more we can connect to different spots is super important.

What is your #1 priority?

Steve

- Adaptability

Andrea

- Connectivity and social networks. The idea of parks as a third place.

Sara

- Aquatics programming and tourism

Gary

- 10-year cash-in/cash-out (money)

Steve

- Connectivity – this will attract businesses.

Alan

- Flexibility

11:00 – 12:00 am

Participants:

Chris Schneiderman, State Bank/Little League
Keith Beach, Six

Which parks do you use the most now?

Chris

- Anything with a diamond. Read Park, where the facilities are great compared to regional facilities. We use Bidwell Park for practices and Taylor Park for softball.

Keith

- Our teams travel far. We use most often the Six facility at Harmony United Methodist Church, especially for younger kids (below 13-14). Older boys are mostly in Taylor Park, where the field is mostly used for practices, small scrimmages and tournaments. The seating is not great at Taylor Park. I have put a lot of sweat equity into the park. UMC would like Six to use more of the field.

Ideas for improvement?

Chris

- FPD could offer Read park visitors who are here for baseball tournaments a swim pass. Otherwise, there is nothing for them to do here – no mall, no food options for visitors. And there are limited hotels.

What is your primary concern?

Keith

- That Taylor Park will go away.

Chris

- I don't think the Foundation does a good job of marketing the city to visitors who are here for tournaments. We need the Chamber to identify things for visitors to do. The best places we have traveled to are Quad Cities and Oconomowoc.
- There are not enough fields in the city to host some of the bigger tournaments but there is a lot of grassroots support for creating new baseball fields.

What are the critical assets that need to be kept?

Chris

- The small parks for young kids
- Taylor Park – the fields are great, but flooding is a problem. Flooding at the park puts it out of commission for baseball at least one month a year. Losing Taylor Park would be huge.

What things are missing that we need?

Chris

- We need to look at demographics and programs. We need to develop better relationships with businesses to create an ecosystem of parks and economic development.

Keith

- Nobody at Six is able to do a good job of promotion. I think the Partnership could play a bigger role. We need more hotels, and the ability to attract traveling teams. Most tournaments are \$350-\$500 for everyone. With sponsorship, we can drive process down and increase participation.
- An indoor facility would allow baseball and basketball. This would be well utilized. Currently, Six and Flames use vacant buildings. We could use a bunch of fields in one place to allow for larger tournaments, but there are limitations (hotels, locations). These aren't in the control of the Park District.

How close/accessible are the parks?

Chris

- People have to drive through the city to get to the parks, which is good from an economic development perspective.

Are there ideas from other communities that you would bring to Freeport?

Chris and Keith

- Food trucks have not been tried in Freeport.

Is the Cubs field a draw?

Keith

- The allure begins to wear off. Six does not utilize it at all, since these players are older. There is a 20-team tournament of 8-year old kids.

Do you have any comments about any of the other parks?

Chris

- My family and I don't have time to visit the other parks.

Appendix D - Stakeholder Interview Notes

Keith

- I spent every day as a kid at the pool. I lifeguarded there. We go to the pool sometimes for family time.
- There is only one field at Krape Park, but it's for high-schoolers. The outfield is too small, though, for those older kids.

10 years from now, what kind of park system do you envision for Freeport?

Chris

- Continue to diversity based on demographics
- The Park District is very good compared to other communities

Keith

- Trap and skeet shooting. There is nothing like it in the immediate area and it is something that older people can do.

General Comments?

Keith

- The Park District is great. There is a lot to offer for diverse groups. The new concession vendor at Read Park is great – very organized.

Chris

- Water management at Read Park is a big concern. We should explore the possibility of public-private partnerships, or even just sponsorship.

Participants:

Denise Kinney, SCHS
Nicole Bauer, Pleger, Bavena, Rudolph, Ltd.
Scott Leisen, Fehr Graham
Suzanne Borchert, Jacobs Engineering
Julie Hilliger, Senior Resource Center
Nicole Haas, Greater Freeport Partnership

How accessible are the parks?

Nicole

- I visit Read Park several times a week to go to the pool.
- I also visit Krape Park often. The one-way traffic pattern is confusing to folks who don't live in Freeport.

Suzanne

- There is never a parking problem.

Scott

- I do a walk at Krape Park during the day, not on the sidewalk.

Julie

- For seniors, additional handrails would be welcomed, as well as benches.
- Tutty's Crossing should also be made more accessible.

What amenities have to be kept? What is working very well?

Nicole B.

- The Read Park swimming pool. Our out of town guests come to the pool. The hours are great and the nighttime family swim (\$2 per person) is excellent.
- I also visit the golf course. Parking and accessibility is good. This is a great facility that is affordable. The twilight hours are great and reasonably priced. The course is really a beautiful amenity. Lessons are very cheap and the kids programming is great.
- Krape Park: the shelter rental is a great amenity.

Suzanne

- Firebaugh Observatory. The limited opening hours make it difficult to visit. This place could be expanded as an educational tool. Now, more adults than children visit the observatory.

Nicole H.

- Firebaugh Observatory. FPD should look to partner with other communities who don't have this kind of facility.

- Quality over quantity is a priority. The parks are a huge draw and they need to be well-maintained. Would like to see FPD do a few things very well.

Julie

- Taylor Park needs to be kept.
- Oakdale Nature Preserve – the opportunity for people to be in nature is great.

Scott

- The golf course, where the pricing is great.

Are there special elements or venues that need to be added to the FPD?

Denise

- Krape Park – the grills need to be replaced.
- Freeport and the FPD could partner on a bike rental or bike share program.

Suzanne

- Music – the bandstand should be used more.
- Kids – they should be getting out more. Perhaps the parks can host jam sessions for kids.

Nicole H

- We need more trails and kayaking venues.

Julie

- The Pecos River needs to be addressed. Kayaking should be encouraged.
- We also need one or more new indoor facilities, especially for winter activities and programming. I worry about the youth having places to go.

What community needs do the current facilities and programs best meet

Nicole H

- The parks area great attractor for people considering relocating to Freeport. Small parks provide spaces for kids so parks need to be well distributed.

Nicole B

- We need more affordable space rental for events.

Julie

- The parks area huge economic development asset.

What is missing? What amenities in smaller parks would help make them better known?

Denise

- There is a lack of familiarity with the smaller parks.

Julie

- It seems the smaller parks lack amenities, but that may just be perception.

Scott

- FPD should create a map of the city and put them in the parks to make people aware of smaller parks and the parks they don't typically visit.

What are the biggest concerns about the planning process?

Nicole B

- It would be good to gauge the users of the park. We should create a Capital Improvement Plan that prioritizes items. Prioritization is a challenge – we have to decide what the big ticket items are. I also hope that the implementation element will include timeframes for completion.

Nicole H

- I hope that information is made public.

Denise

- Community input is critical

Suzanne

- Community input – diverse representation is especially needed.

What are the changes you're hoping to see in the next 10 years?

Appendix D - Stakeholder Interview Notes

Nicole B

- Maintenance will be a huge issue. We may be forced to make difficult decisions. Parks are the one thing about Freeport that many people agree are great.
- I hope that the protection and preservation of the Pecatonica River is increased and expanded.
- I hope to see more people biking and walking – parks work with that vision.

Nicole H

- Bike share, which would make the city more accessible.

Julie

- Bike share
- Also, the senior resource center located downtown could attract more people.

Suzanne

- I'd like Freeport to project a more progressive image in terms of sustainability. This would act as a motivator for the community. An example is renewable energy at the FPD buildings.

Denise

- There should be more tie-ins with the college for programming and amenities/facilities.

What is your #1 priority?

Nicole H

- Maintenance. Labor is more expensive and harder to find. We need to find ways to get more work done with less manual labor and park design and programming that requires less upkeep.
- Also, designated bike lanes.

Denise

- Make better use of the parks that aren't Krape and Taylor. There are many other parks.

Julie

- Priority needs to be partnering with other organizations to improve the Pecatonica River. This will bring more tourism.

Scott

- We need to get everyone involved. There are parts of town that do not have access to parks and the FPD does not provide equal access. Specifically, the east side of town lacks access.

Suzanne

- Improved coordination with the City.

Nicole B

- Preserving what we have. If you can get folks to the park, they recognize what a great place the city is.

Group 4 2:30 – 3:30 pm

Participants:

Jenn Nowicki, Resident/Volunteer
Jodi Miller, City of Freeport
Lowell Crow, City of Freeport
Amanda Meyers, Freeport Public Library
Ashley Huffines, Library Director
Craig Bentema, Stephenson City Health
Peter Flynn, Retired Superintendent
Gertrude Heimerdinger, United Way
Connie Kraft, United Way

How accessible do you think the parks are?

Lowell

- I would like to connect all the parks with bike paths. Parking at Oakdale could be a problem. And we know we need to address the Gladewood Bridge.

Peter

- Parking is good and the parks are accessible.

Ashley

- The parks seem easy to get to and there are sidewalks almost everywhere. Bike lanes and paths will make the parks even more desirable.
- The Empire bike lanes are great and the Krape Park boulevard is ideal. It would be nice to be able to get to Oakdale safely by bike.

Jennifer

What are the critical elements that must be kept?

Peter

- I am the Director for the 5K race. This used to be run downtown, but this put the city in a bind in terms of traffic and safety. The race was moved from Debate Square to Taylor Park. At Taylor, the race has been flooded out.
- Taylor Park is great for events that need to avoid the traffic.

Amanda

- The holiday events are great, specifically Easter and Halloween.

Craig

- The walking paths are the best asset. Walking is the cheapest way to exercise.

Jodi

- The programming, such as fireworks, castle, kids park and mini golf.

Are there any amenities/venues that the FPD lacks that you wish it had?

Jodi

- It would be nice to have a Festival of Lights in the winter time.

Ashley

- We could use a bike safety park for kids where all the signs are at child level. Day cares and schools could use them.
- Also, more bike trails.

What are the biggest concerns about the planning process?

Lowell

- Exploring the option of a land bank for park use.
- I also want to address the neighborhood parks that don't belong to FPD
- Finally, I want to know what would bring today's youth back to Freeport in 15 years.

Craig

- I hope the plan focuses on making Freeport a 21st Century Healthy Community. Parks and recreation amenities and facilities are considered the #1 asset.

Jennifer

- Consider a wide representative swath of society.

Gertrude

- I hope that the park district's buildings are considered in the plan.

What is the #1 priority for you?

Gertrude

- Krape Park does not always feel safe at night. Addressing safety should be a consideration. Many people use the park at night for family reunions or dog walking.

Jennifer

- Restoration and conservation, especially along stream banks and at Wetland Park.

Peter

- Accessibility to parks for underserved populations. Parks are great places to be for everyone. Providing new parks for the east side of the city should be a priority.

Ashley

- Community engagement.
- The most effective way to implement the plan will be to build partnerships.
- Expanding services is the top priority.

Appendix D - Stakeholder Interview Notes

Connie

- Spread amenities out.

Craig

- Expand partnerships and create signage and other marketing information to educate the community.

Group 5 – 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Participants:

Jim Dole, Planetary Studies Fund
 Danny Garkey, Little Cubs Field
 Rich Wright, YMCA
 Melissa Forth, Freeport Aquatic Swim Team
 Lynn Feaver, Resident
 Mark Gridley, FHN
 Steve Spryson, Northwest Illinois Trail
 James Rhyner, BQCFSC

What are accessibility issues we should be considering?

Lynn

- Parks should be accessible to kids and families
- I am interested in nature parks.

Marty

- Biking trails need to be expanded and should connect the parks.

Marty

- There should be more facilities for trail runners.

Jim

- Also, the sled hill could use something to help folks back up the hill.
- Cyclists and pedestrians have to go to Stephenson Street.
- The Observatory is isolated

What are the critical elements that must be kept?

Lynn

- Special events should be repeated and expanded to other parks.

Marty

- Read Park and sports fields

Melissa

- The swimming pool.

Rich

- The outdoor skating rink

Jim

- Firebaugh Observatory

What amenities and facilities are not currently provided?

Rich

- We could use more organized sports facilities.
- We also need more indoor space for sports such as volleyball, baseball, basketball, pickleball, and others.
- The YMCA could provide some outdoor education/exploring opportunities.

Melissa

- A 50M pool would be great and would allow FPD to attract swim tournaments.

Rich

- Facilities for shuffleboard, bocce, and other sports for seniors.

Marty

- Circuit training, which would be a great place for healthcare providers to send patients to.

Lynn

- Outdoor education facilities and programs.

What are the Park District resources that serve the community well?

Rich

- The walking paths

Marty

- The smaller mini parks. Many people do not have access to larger parks, so smaller parks provide some local space.
- Specifically Taylor Park as well
- Bidwill Park is a great resource.

Melissa

- The Krape Park bandshell, but there is a need to better located local talent.

Steve

- Kayaking and the Pecatonica River. There is a women's group that has taken this activity up.

What are your biggest concerns about the planning process?

Melissa

- Will there be more public meetings? I want to make sure outreach is effective. It would be nice to get the county involved.
- I want to make sure Wetland Park is addressed.

Marty

- I hope to set expectations and be open about potential loss of open space or impacts to programming.

Lynn

- I hope there is overlap with the comprehensive plan.

James

- I am concerned about Taylor Park. The park is unique to Freeport and is special to the community around it. Taylor Park is one of the jewels of the park system. The frustration levels among residents on the east side are at levels not seen before. The city and FPD have very little credibility among residents of the neighborhoods around Taylor Park. I was a Park Board member during the 2003 Comprehensive Plan, which was only introduced to the residents at the end of the process. Today, the east side residents believe there is a plan to remove the community from the East side. The neighborhood has changed significantly.

What is your #1 priority?

Jim

- Protecting the Firebaugh Observatory.

Steve

- Open spaces for passive recreation

Lynn

- Access to nature for kids and families
- Continuing to do things at a very high level of service.

Melissa

- The parks are well maintained. Keep it up.
- Safety is the #1 priority.

Rich

- Convert empty lots to parks.

Danny

- Marketing ideas. People in the region and locally do not know about the city. 60% of the people who visit Little Cubs aren't from Freeport.

James

- Accessibility
- Safety – the three major parks are embedded in the communities and this helps provide safety.

Marty

- Signage and visibility

ditional Comments

icpants: Friends of the Freeport Park District

r often do you use a city park? And for what purposes?

- Weekly, for walking
- Once or twice a week, for relaxation
- Once a week, for walking
- Several times a week, for hiking, photography, biking, exercise, enjoying the beauty of nature.
- Three to four times a week, for walking, viewing wildflowers and wildlife and cross-country skiing
- Three to four times weekly, for hiking and biking
- Frequently, bird watching, cross-country skiing, tennis, carousel
- At least once a week, for walking, picnics, boating, biking, cross-country skiing

ch park do you frequent most often?

- Winter Park
- Oakdale, Taylor and Krape Parks
- Tutty's Crossing, and Jane Addams Trail
- Krape and Oakdale
- Oakdale
- Krape,
- Krape

the parks easily accessible from your home or place of work?

- Yes
- Yes, very
- Yes
- Yes (if you have a vehicle), No (if you do not have a vehicle)
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes, Read and Krape are close by and Oakdale is near enough to access easily
- Yes
- Yes

it elements or programs are critical to keep in the future?

- Natural areas for recreational walking
- The parks' historic buildings
- Oakdale Nature Preserve and renovation of the Tabernacle
- Natural elements of Oakdale
- Habitat and solitude are important

there special venues or elements the Park District is currently lacking?

- Consider an Oakdale facilities report.
- A smaller picnic shelter at Oakdale
- Large indoor gathering places
- Nature programs and use of tabernacle
- Large group spaces somewhere in the district, food preparation venues and adequate restrooms at Oakdal

it community needs to the current facilities and programs best meet?

- Krape Park and Read Park are well-kept
- Undertake study of participation in golf programming
- Swimming pool
- Swimming, baseball/softball/little league and golf

- Ball parks seem to take high priority
- Golfing community is well-funded and maintained despite shrinking numbers of golfers
- Children's recreation
- Playground equipment and programming and facilities for kids.

at is your biggest concern about this master planning process?

- Consideration of facilities at Oakdale
- That the Park District actually use the Master Plan
- Too little community-wide and minority input. Plans made before have been ignored. Concerned that all voices should be heard.
- That more of the public is not aware of the process

at are the greatest resources within the Park District?

- Krape Park, Read Park
- Bandshell, Taylor Park track, Oakdale Tabernacle
- Variety of parks of west side of town and Oakdale
- The lands they administer
- The variety of parks we have
- Oakdale, Krape, Read
- Oakdale and Krape

years from now, what kind of park system do you envision for Freeport?

- Reclaim Oakdale as an attractive destination
- No golf courses and historic park features
- Selling the golf course (Park Hills)
- One that spreads its ample tax resources across all parks. One that cherishes and maintains all facilities equally.
- One that offers high priority on nature programs and maintains Oakdale as a genuine, unique asset.
- One that is an attraction to people moving into the area and one that preserves land in its natural state
- More programming to explore, explain and enhance appreciation of the natural world

at are the opportunities for improving the Park District that meet your needs?

- A restored Tabernacle would bring tourism and rental fee
- Greater focus on Taylor Park and improved and increased programming in Taylor Park.
- More activities for seniors. Walking club, yoga, arts and crafts.
- Consider opportunities for Oakdale
- Consider the growth outlook for the community in the planning process

at should the Park District's number one priority be moving forward?

- Family, nature-centered facilities and properties
- Take pride in what we already have and take care of our history
- Focus on the entire system, not just those parks perceived as revenue generators.
- Maintaining the lands and facilities it already has and not adding more to maintain.
- To increase public awareness of the Board's activities.
- Preserve and maintain what we have.
- Continuation of reforestation of a variety of native trees and plants to prevent incidents such as the loss from over-planting of most of th
- American elms, beeches and ash trees

additions or corrections to these Minutes should be submitted in writing to RATIO Architects, Inc., within ten (10) days of receipt. Otherwise, these

utes stand as correct.

pectfully submitted,

ries Dillard
an Planning

liquidity, and training, cross-country skiing, winter, various

- At least once a week, for walking, picnics, boating, biking, cross-country skiing

Which park do you frequent most often?

- Winter Park
- Oakdale, Taylor and Krape Parks
- Tutty's Crossing and Jane Addams Trail



RATIO

MEETING SUMMARY

Architecture

Preservation

Interior Design

Landscape Architecture

Urban Planning & Design

To: Project Team, Freeport Park District

RATIO Project No.: 19012

Date: August 16, 2019

Subject: Freeport Park District Master Plan – Workshop 2 Summary



On August 15, 2019, the RATIO team with the Freeport Park District hosted a public workshop to solicit public input on the Park District Master planning process. The workshop was held at the Freeport Park District's Administrative Building (1122 S Burchard Ave, Freeport, IL 61032). Over 20 participants, consisting of residents, stakeholders, business leaders, Project Advisory Committee members, Park District and City staff, and elected and appointed City officials, attended the workshop. The workshop consisted of a 20-minute presentation that oriented participants about the work-to-date in the planning process and introduced the workshop's format. Participants then cycled through six stations during the two-hour workshop. These stations were designed to optimize input from the public in an informal fashion, and participants were welcomed to join at any time. The six stations included:

- Station 1 – Welcome
- Station 2 – Taylor Park Concept
- Station 3 – Visioning
- Station 4 – Trail Mapping
- Station 5 – Toss, Keep, Create
- Station 6 – Comment Card

The results and input gathered from the participants pertaining to each station are summarized in the following sections.

Station 1 – Welcome

The first station included a staffed sign-in and welcome table. Adjacent to the sign-in sheet were refreshments for the participants to enjoy.



Station 2 – Taylor Park Concepts

The second station featured a board introducing participants about Taylor Park's history. Three other boards depicted different concepts to redesign Taylor Park. Each concept recognized that Taylor Park is situated within a floodway and proposed uses that are durable and cost-effective to maintain, even if Taylor Park were to be flooded in the future. Participants reviewed the concepts and offered their viewpoints to the RATIO Team and the Freeport Park District Staff. The boards are presented below:



RATIO Architects, Inc.

RATIOdesign.com

30 West Monroe Street, Suite 500 Chicago, Illinois 60603 312.465.2359

Chicago, IL Indianapolis, IN Champaign, IL Raleigh, NC

STATION 2: TAYLOR PARK CONCEPTS

Taylor Park was one of the first public parks in the United States. It was the first park to be designed by a professional landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. The park has a long history of being a place where people can enjoy nature and recreation.

Taylor Park is a place where people can enjoy nature and recreation. The park has a long history of being a place where people can enjoy nature and recreation. The park has a long history of being a place where people can enjoy nature and recreation.



RATIO



TAYLOR PARK CONCEPTS | TRACKS

RATIO





Station 3 – Visioning

At this station, participants selected words they felt answered the question ‘What Makes Our Parks Great?’. The station facilitator documented each participant’s selection. Participants were encouraged to write new words if those provided did not capture their vision. They can also vote on the words that are already selected. The following summary shows the descriptive words that participants selected. The number next to the words indicate the number of times a word was re-selected among different participants. Words with stars (*) are descriptive words written by participants. It should be noted that some of the words participants wrote occurred throughout public workshop. Some participants who completed the exercise earlier may not have seen some of these words.

3 Votes

- Family-friendly

2 Votes

- History
- Festival/Events
- Accessible
- Passive Recreation
- Active Recreation

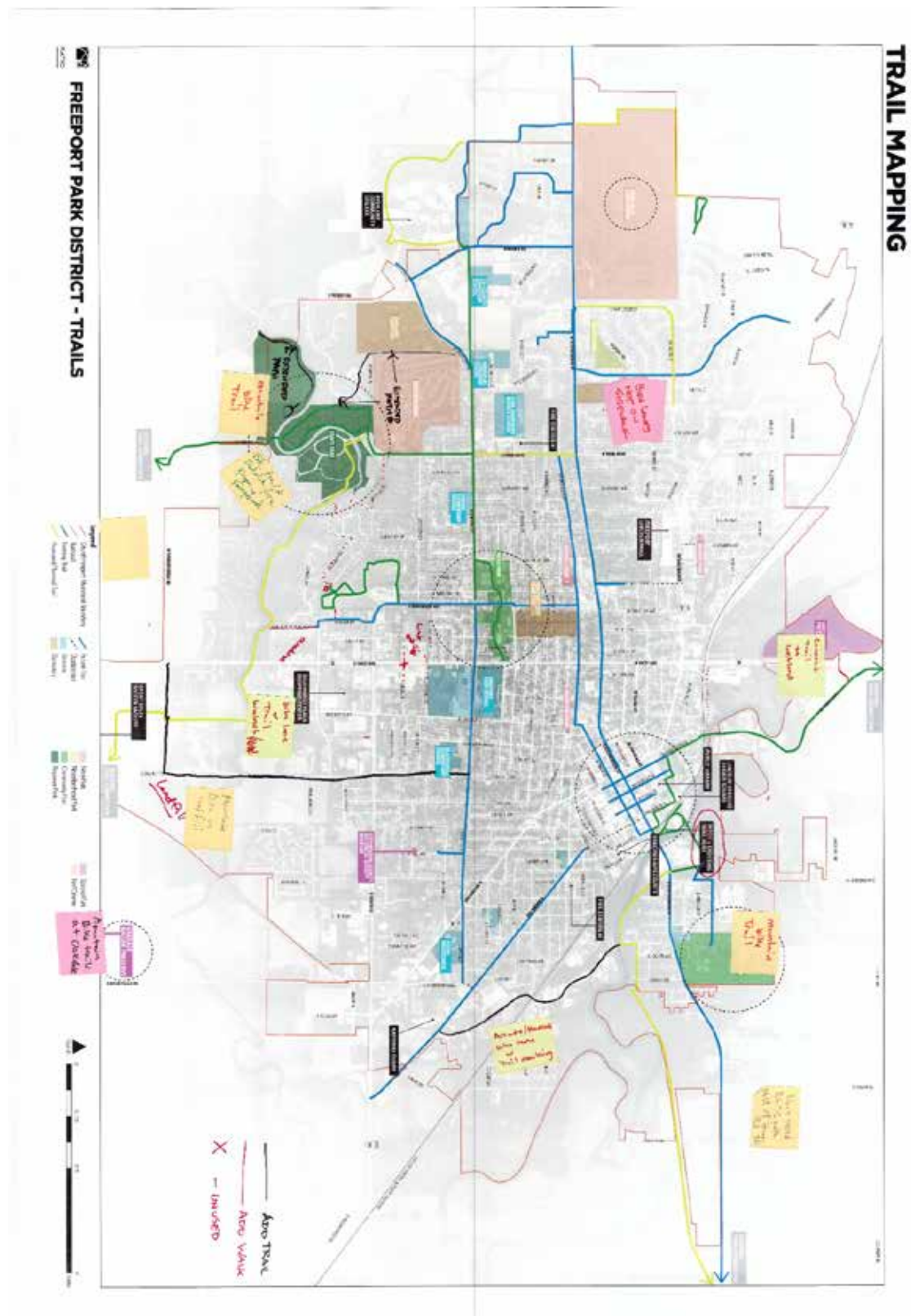
1 Vote

- Destination
- Active
- Walkable
- Bike Lanes
- Heritage
- Green Space*
- Ecology
- Safe/Protected
- Nature-based



Station 4 – Trail Mapping

In the fourth station, participants reviewed a poster showing existing parks and trails in the City of Freeport. The poster also depicted planned trails. Participants can draw on street lines to indicate where there should be additional trail and sidewalk segments. They can also write comments on sticky notes. The poster with comments and mark-ups are shown below.



Station 5 – Keep, Toss, Create

In the fifth station, participants evaluated the proposed goals for the Park District Master Plan. Each proposed goal was organized under a key theme, which would be used to organize the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the Park District Master Plan. Participants voted to “keep” the goal if they liked it, vote to “toss” the goal if they thought the goal was not good or irrelevant, or “create” a new goal to replace or add contents to the proposed goal. The following images below show the results of each goals.



STATION 5: KEEP, TOSS & CREATE PRIORITIES AND GOALS ORGANIZE			
Proposed Key Goals	Keep	Toss	Create
Create a Freeport Park District wayfinding and branding package that includes signs and other wayfinding features throughout the City	10	1	1 <i>Update wayfinding package to include more signs and other wayfinding features throughout the City</i>
Expand the Park District's programming relationships with Freeport's educational and cultural institutions, including Freeport School District 185, Highland Community College, religious schools, the Children's Hands-On Museum of Northwest Illinois and the Freeport Art Museum	10	0	1 <i>Let's work on this one</i>
Expand the Park District's relationships with organizations in the natural resource sector	10	0	1 <i>Let's work on this one</i>
Strengthen the Park District's relationships with youth athletics organizations	10	0	1 <i>Let's work on this one</i>
Engage the Greater Freeport Partnership in a joint hospitality and tourism campaign	10	0	0

STATION 5: KEEP, TOSS & CREATE PRIORITIES AND GOALS | CONNECT

Proposed Key Goals	Keep	Toss	Create
Expand existing and establish new bicycle routes to and within all city parks, including bicycle lanes, and off-street multi-use paths			
Establish official rural bicycle routes to provide active mobility connections to regional parks and trails			 
Maintain existing and establish new sidewalk and other pedestrian amenities to provide greater park connectivity			  
In parks where parking is needed, ensure it is sufficient for facilities and well maintained			
Partner with the City of Freeport, the local cycling club, bike enthusiasts and businesses to identify public/private property suitable for off-path mountain biking trails and collaborate on development			
Ensure that all parks are accessible to users with mobility impairments			
Implement and maintain new and improved boat launches at all parks with navigable water features			 

STATION 5: KEEP, TOSS & CREATE PRIORITIES AND GOALS | ENHANCE

Proposed Key Goals	Keep	Toss	Create
Protect natural areas and increase biodiversity within Park District properties			
Retrofit and redesign park facilities that are frequently effected by flooding			
Highlight the Park District's cultural heritage			<div> <div> Habitat - natural history - common - development </div> <div> Kober, Campbell District 10/11/12 </div> </div>
Create a more equitable park distribution			<div> good in District 10/11 </div>
Provide increase arts and culture programming			
Construct one or more indoor facilities for winter recreation			<div> Not necessary just the activity like for (gym, ice skating) (indoor) (indoor) </div>
Implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies			<div> box & drive but not really family park </div>

Station 6 – Comment Card

In the last station, participants can fill out a comment card that asks basic questions about the participant's demographic background. Participants can write additional comments for the Park District Master Plan. The following are the results of the comment cards.

Question 1: Are you a resident of Freeport?

Yes: 8 No: 2

Question 1A: Which neighborhood/district in Freeport do you live in?

- New Kroke Park
- Indian Springs
- South Demeter
- North Harlem
- Greenfield
- Northwest Side
- W. Stephenson Street
- Kroke Park

Question 2: What is your age?

- 17 & Under: N/A
- 18-24: N/A
- 25-34: N/A
- 35-44: 1
- 45-54: N/A
- 55-64: 5
- 65 & Over: 4

Question 3: Do you own a business in Freeport?

Yes: 4 No: 5

Question 4: Do you have additional comments you would like to share?

- I have lots of ideas to make the park more photo-friendly for families and weddings. Would be happy to discuss.
- Preserve what we have not spent on new we can't afford to maintain.
- Like the "gather" concept for Taylor Park. I think the other concepts are not likely to pan out. Strongly support inter-city trail system. Extending Empire eastward should be first priority at least. Strongly support links to Rec Path. Key take to preserve or county board. Do not let those yahoos off the hook!!

CONNECT

Goal 2

Expand rural bicycle and trail routes to provide active mobility connections to regional parks, adjacent communities and other regional destinations.

Rationale

Freeport is surrounded by a wealth of regional parks, trails, and neighboring communities with their own park districts. The Park District, in coordination with partner organizations, municipalities and park districts, should engage in and implement a regional bicycle plan to provide safe and convenient active mobility access to these facilities.

Strategies

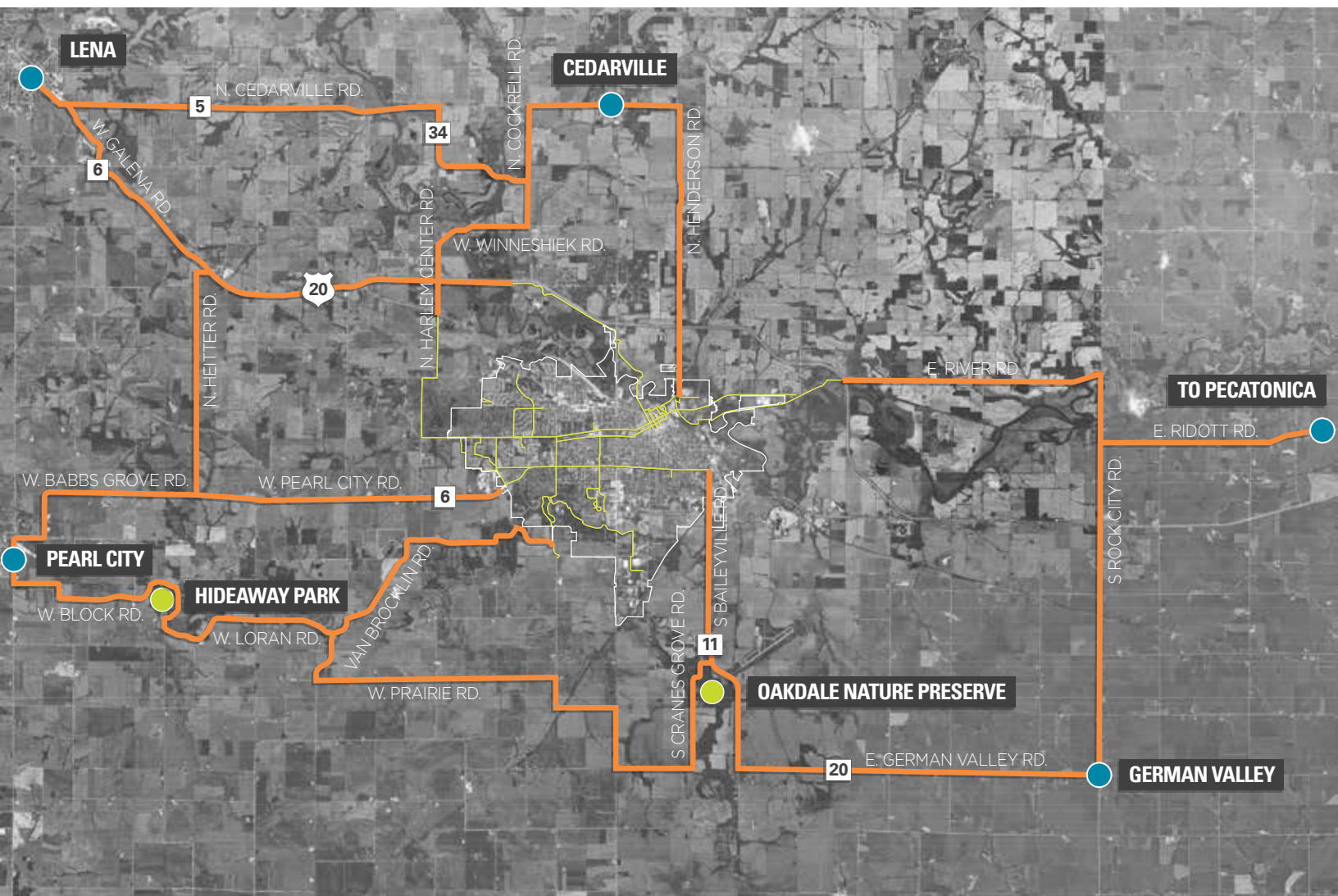
- Engage community, including cycling groups and Freeport Bicycle Co. to identify preferred rural bicycle routes.
- Seek designation for rural routes in the US Bicycle Route System (USBRS).
- Stabilize or replace deteriorated bridges along the Jane Addams Trail.
- Complete Pecatonica Prairie Trail to County line.



Example of a USBRS bicycle route in a rural setting






Official USBRS bicycle route signage



RURAL BIKE ROUTES

Legend

-  Freeport Park District Boundary
-  Existing Trail
-  Proposed Rural Route

CONNECT

Goal 3

Maintain existing and establish new sidewalk and other pedestrian amenities to provide greater park connectivity.

Rationale

Freeport has an extensive network of sidewalks. However, lack of maintenance and crosswalks makes walking to Park District facilities uncommon. The Park District should lead in the planning and implementation of crosswalks at strategic locations to provide improved pedestrian access to park facilities. Of particular importance is the need for pedestrians connections to mini parks and those elements of larger parks that serve the roles of mini parks.

Strategies

- Partner with local artists and arts organizations to implement painted crosswalk program, with an emphasis on pedestrian routes that provide access to parks.
- Engage the City of Freeport to identify appropriate crosswalk locations.
- Install curb bump-outs to provide safer pedestrian crossings in high traffic areas.
- Create new multi-use path into Krape Park from Fairgrounds Road.



Creatively-painted pedestrian crosswalk in a suburban setting



Curb bump-out with crosswalk

CONNECT

Goal 5

Partner with the City of Freeport and local organizations and businesses to implement expanded mobility options to and within Park District properties.

Rationale

Technological innovation is changing the way people move through cities. Bike and electric scooter programs can reduce car trips while providing safe, affordable, active and fun ways to access parks. The Park District should work with the City, the Greater Freeport Partnership and other organizations to implement a municipal bike and scooter share program that is free or low-cost to residents and visitors.

Strategies

- In partnership with the City of Freeport and the Greater Freeport Partnership, implement a bicycle share program.
- In partnership with the City of Freeport and the Greater Freeport Partnership, implement an electric scooter program.



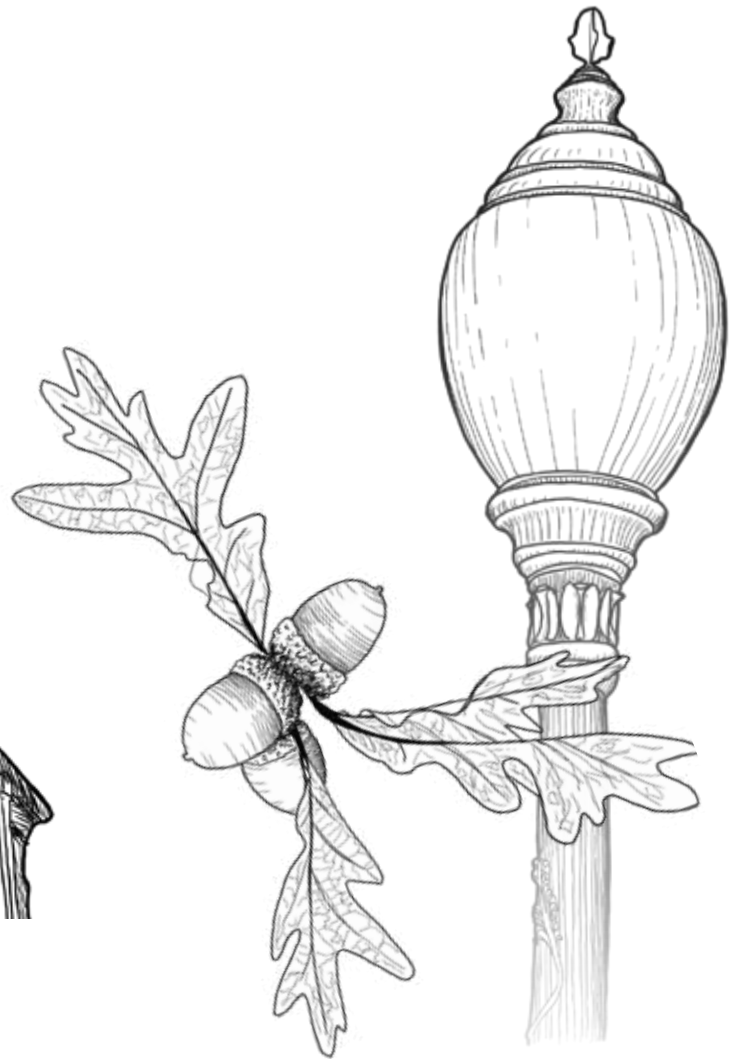
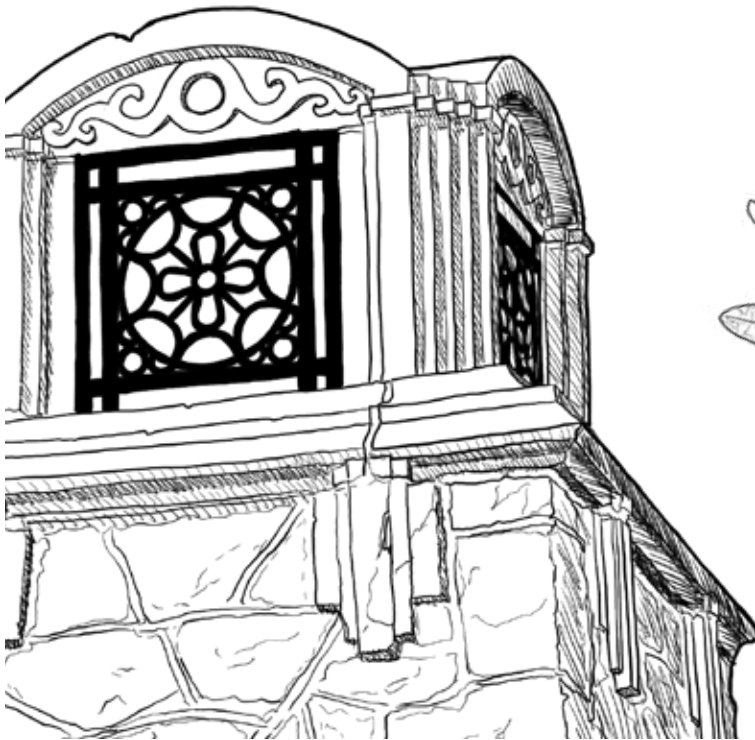
Bike share docking station adjacent to city park



E-scooter



CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY SHAPING THE FUTURE



FREEPORT PARK DISTRICT

MASTER PLAN



CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY SHAPING THE FUTURE



FREEPORT PARK DISTRICT

MASTER PLAN

Source: Freeportparkdistrict.com