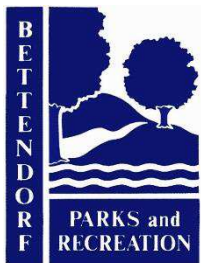




# Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Approved by the  
City of Bettendorf Park Board

January 2017 - Draft



Document Prepared by:



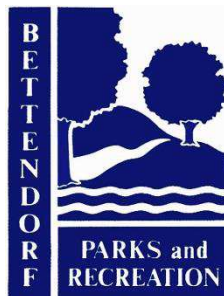
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Prepared by:





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## 1. Executive Summary

The City of Bettendorf is located in eastern Iowa within Scott County along the Mississippi River. It is the fourth largest city in the Quad Cities. According to the 2010 Census, the city has a population of 33,217 residents. The city's population has experienced a 110% growth increase since 1950 and, on a small scale, has experienced a 6.2% population growth since 2000. ESRI Community Analyst has projected Bettendorf to increase in population by approximately 4,500 residents by 2021. As population continues to rise, planning efforts for the city's parks and recreation system must continue to be reevaluated to meet the demands of the increased population and changing identified trends. Bettendorf's vision for its parks and recreation system is steered from national trends, park and recreation standards, and the active, living needs and desires of the citizens and users of Bettendorf's parks and recreation system. The development of this document is crucial to identifying the community's goals through the collection of stakeholders, elected officials, and the general public's comments to ensure that the community vision is being implemented through effective, feasible, and time-appropriate strategies.

Development of this document provides a comprehensive vision for the City of Bettendorf's parks and recreation system and can serve as a framework to achieve the identified goals and objectives. The plan identifies what the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department does, who it serves, and outlines implementation strategies to enhance the community's efforts. Components of the plan include the community's vision, goals, and objectives; a current and future needs analysis; policies; and recommended strategies and implementation activities.

The second portion of the plan outlines Bettendorf's background and general information, including population characteristics, trends and forecasts, crime prevention and safety, and a community health element. Lastly, the final section itemizes each park and facility's amenities and short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals, as well as the feedback collected at the public input opportunities in regard to the system's operations and maintenance, programming and experience, management, and marketing and outreach.

Input provided by the public has been influential in the completion of the plan. The ideas offered at numerous input sessions from the public and internal and external stakeholders helped to steer the vision of the community and shape the direction in which the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department will head. Young families generally desire a range of amenities, and parks and recreation in a community is often at the top of the list. Parks and recreation options offer fitness-related activities, serve as a social gathering place, and assist with the overall well-being and quality of life for residents.

Bettendorf has completed a comprehensive analysis of the current and future needs for its parks and recreation system to increase efforts to appeal to the largest number of residents possible. Identifying increased accessibility opportunities with equity in mind, current and future trends, and the acquisition of land areas to increase parks and recreation opportunities in the community continues to aid in further determining the parks and recreation needs of Bettendorf residents. While developing new opportunities, the city will continue to assess the physical setting, natural setting, and social setting, such as the age of the surrounding population, prior to the development of new parks and/or recreation facilities. While addressing the needs

and focus areas for the future, the city has gathered extensive feedback from the public in regard to parks and recreation facilities inventory and coverage area, operations and maintenance, programming and experience, and marketing and outreach efforts. Assessing this feedback has led to the development of short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals and suggested implementation activities to achieve such goals.

Developing strategies for implementation coincides with the city's vision to address consistency, opportunity, health, livability, and connectivity. Regular review and evaluation of park sites and amenities offered, maintenance and operational practices, the effectiveness of marketing and outreach, and managerial efforts will be necessary to maintain on-going strategies and to retain a premier parks and recreation system. On-going strategies that have been identified include:

- Preserve and maintain parks, equipment, and facilities
- Support existing parks and recreation programming
- Continue marketing and outreach to maximize usage and participation
- Monitor parks and recreation trends and assets to address effective management of the park and recreation system
- Monitor effects on the parks' environment related to invasive species, climate and storm effects, and environmental quality

The *Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* outlines short-term strategies, defined as those projects, actions, or purchases that are anticipated to occur in the next five years; mid-term strategies in the next five to ten years; and long-term strategies of more than ten years. The recommended strategies are categorized by the plan's policies, and include the roles of the key contacts to further their progression and the proposed implementation activity.

The *Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is a living document. Annual review of the plan goals, objectives, and policies are recommended for the Park Board and Parks and Recreation Department staff. This annual review will determine whether the course of action to implement strategies outlined in this plan continue to be supported or should be revised to address changing needs and priorities. The annual review should also consider the public's feedback and the plan policies including system, parks and facilities, programs, and land policies.

## 2. Future Vision and Goals

### *Plan Purpose*

A parks and recreation master plan is intended to compliment other planning efforts within the City of Bettendorf. It is prepared to ensure the community vision is being implemented through the parks and recreation system. This vision is guided by plan goals and objectives and channeled from national trends; park and recreation standards; and the active, living needs and desires of the citizens and users of Bettendorf's parks and recreation system.

According to the National Recreation and Park Association in its 2016 Field Report on the state of practice, seven key trends were identified looking forward for parks and recreation departments and programs. These included:

- Addressing social equity and fair treatment within the parks and recreation system
- Promoting parks and recreation as an economic generator
- Tapping funding opportunities for revitalization of infrastructure
- Embracing hazards mitigation for parks facilities in light of climate volatility
- Defining clear core services and looking for partnerships to expand opportunities
- Seeking ways to promote safe play
- Embracing community engagement, including volunteerism to facilitate public service and benefits to the community

### *Community Wellness and Active Lifestyles*

Community wellness and active lifestyles are of growing interest in order to encourage longevity and reduce obesity in our communities across America. Recreational pursuits are ever changing and evolving. Some sports and physical activity are seeing diminishing interest, while new ones are taking their place, as demonstrated by the soaring interest in Dekhockey in Bettendorf. Communities monitor trends and use them to make decisions on retaining programs and facilities and/or providing new opportunities to support wellness and active living.

The link between physical inactivity and health effects are well-documented. In the 2008 *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports adults need at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week and muscle-strength activities 2 or more days a week. For children and adolescents, 60 minutes or more of physical activity each day is recommended. According to the "2015 CDC Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity: Data: Trends and Maps," 30.9% of adults and 13.2% of adolescents were reported as obese in Iowa. In the same report for Iowa, 46.9% of adults were aerobically active for 150 minutes and 29.1% of adolescents were physically active daily.

Locally, the *2015 Quad Cities Community Health Assessment* noted factors positively associated with adult physical activity – higher education and income, enjoyment of exercise, expectation of benefits, belief in ability to exercise, history of activity in adulthood, social support, satisfaction with facilities, enjoyable scenery, and safe neighborhoods. The same report noted that 48% of adults meet the recommended levels of physical activity, slightly lower than Scott County at 49.8% and the U.S. at 50.3%.

### *Coverage*

The *Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* covers the land area and facilities contained within the extraterritorial boundary of the City of Bettendorf. Under State of Iowa code, cities can plan for up to two-miles from their current city limits. The *Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan* outlines this planning area for the city. The *Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* covers the same geographic area for future land expansion in the city to address needs today and in the future. It also provides an inventory of existing parks, facilities, and recreation programs, and addresses future plans and recreation opportunities.

### *Relationship with Surrounding Area*

As part of the Quad Cities metropolitan area, Bettendorf is well situated to expand its parks and recreation reach to neighboring communities. Additionally, there are 17 contiguous communities comprising the Quad Cities where residents can enjoy and explore numerous parks, recreation facilities, trails, and sporting venues to enhance their active lifestyles and support wellness goals.

Because there is a common border with the City of Davenport, inter-jurisdictional use of existing facilities is common. One of Davenport's largest parks, Duck Creek Park, is immediately located adjacent to Bettendorf along Kimberly Road and used by Bettendorf residents. Similarly, Meier Park, a neighborhood park in Bettendorf, is located in Bettendorf and used by Davenport residents. Beyond these two cities, to the north a few miles is a large regional park and golf course, Scott County Park. This park provides active and passive recreational options for Bettendorf residents outside the city limits. The key to developing Bettendorf's parks and recreation system is to understand the inventory of parks facilities and recreation programs/venues within the area to maximize usage, avoid duplication, and serve the specific needs of residents that are needed nearby or not available elsewhere in the metro area to support active lifestyles and community wellness.

### *Vision for the Future*

Parks and recreation are often seen as the “face” of a community. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) indicates that parks and recreation have three values as essential services in cities. These include economic value, health and environmental benefits, and social importance.<sup>1</sup> Parks and recreation are valued for encouraging economic development, increasing wellness opportunities, providing natural areas in a city, and making livable communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: *Why Parks and Recreation are Essential Services*

As part of the essential services in the city, Bettendorf's Parks and Recreation System plays a role in supporting the community vision, and is called out specifically in the vision statement as seen in the following box.

**Bettendorf "Premier City" Vision Statement:**

*The City of Bettendorf is a premier city in which to live.*

*The City of Bettendorf is a most livable community with rich educational, cultural and recreational opportunities where we enjoy a vibrant riverfront and a growing, competitive business environment. We take pride in our great community.*

In the *Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan*, parks and recreation are cited under "Quality of Life" with the goal to "Promote recreational and cultural activity." The key element being to identify upgrades to the parks and trails system.

### *Plan Goals and Objectives*

To provide desirable, quality, and accessible parks and recreation opportunities for citizens of Bettendorf and other park users in the metropolitan area, goals and objectives have been refined from the *2008 Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* as part of the update process. Goals are used to achieve the community vision. Objectives are used to attain the goals noted.

### **Parks and Recreation Goals**

#### **1. Consistency**

Establish consistency between the *Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* and other local, regional, and state plans. (Examples include the city's *Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, and *Parks Facilities Needs Assessment & Feasibility Study*.)

#### **2. Opportunity**

Plan for and set aside land for the developing needs in parks and recreation, and protect natural resources for existing and future citizens of Bettendorf.

#### **3. Healthy**

Provide facilities and programming to encourage active lifestyles and support community wellness.

#### **4. Livability**

Enhance the physical beauty and quality of life in the City of Bettendorf through a well-maintained, safe, and comprehensive parks and recreation system.

#### **5. Connectivity**

Use the parks and recreation system to connect residents both socially and physically.

**Parks and Recreation Objectives**

Existing and future parks and recreation amenities, facilities, and programs fall under the following objectives. Objectives are to be measurable and tangible. The Parks and Recreation System is the parkland, trails, amenities and equipment, facilities, and programs under the jurisdiction of the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department and Park Board oversight. The overall Bettendorf Parks and Recreation System should be:

Function	Parks and Recreation System Objective	Suggested Measurement
Accessibility	Accessible to all ages and to special needs populations	Ratio of city population by age, sex, disability, ethnicity, and minority status and income
Desirability	Based on the desires and needs of residents and users	Community assessments or surveys
Impact	Examined and prioritized based on level of service, degree of impact (essential, important, and/or value-added), and reach or usage	Comparison of parks and recreation service standards Classification of essential, important, or value-added Assessment of reach (attendees, visitors, members) or user numbers
Cost-Effectiveness	Consider cost-effectiveness, cost recovery, and value	Costs/Revenues analysis compared with reach or users Revenues generated as a percent of costs
Coverage	Located within a set distance of residential or commercial areas based on park type or recreational type, or provide coverage based on desire and needs of resident population or users of the programs/facilities	Comparison of parks and recreation standards by area or program Comparison of desires and needs by neighborhood or program
Connectivity	Link residents or users together through programming, events, parks, trails, or facilities	Actual linkages or connections
Investment	Based on planned analysis and prioritization of operating, maintenance, improvements, acquisition, and development costs and revenues	Costs-benefits analysis
Health	Beneficial for the mind, body, and spirit of the community	Health metric – weight, physical activity, users/participants per capita

***Policies Summary***

Policies provide a framework for helping to meet the goals and objectives. They correspond to the plan focus areas and relate to the strategies for implementation of this plan. When considering the development of a parks and recreation system, there should be an understanding of basic policies. Policies should be developed and implemented by elected officials with input from the public. Effective policies will serve as guidelines to develop new and sustainable parks and recreation opportunities in the community, while not jeopardizing the integrity of the current infrastructure. The following policies are paramount in obtaining a balanced allocation of land and facilities to meet the community’s needs.

**System Policy:** Utilize objective and clear processes, standards, and criteria for decision-making to ensure the success of Bettendorf's parks and recreation system in meeting the plan's goal themes of consistency, opportunity, healthy, livability, and connectivity.

- **Opportunities for All** – The parks and recreation system should not alienate any demographic group. It should provide opportunities for all persons regardless of age, race, creed, sex, economic status, or ability. The development of an ADA-accessible infrastructure should be integrated into newly-constructed infrastructure, while updating current infrastructure where needed to accommodate the prescribed requirements.
- **Proper Distribution** – The parks and recreation system must be a unified development with the areas properly distributed and continuity maintained within the community. Facilities should be appropriately located within the area that they are intended to serve and must have safe and adequate access. Pocket neighborhood parks are strongly desired within walking distance of all neighborhoods (approximately ¼ mile to a ½ mile radius). The size of such parks can range from small open spaces with benches to playgrounds and shelters.
- **Resource Evaluation** – An analysis must be made of all resources available in the community, including but not limited to flood plains; mature woodlands and forest areas, marshlands, and bluffs; unique ecological areas; historical and archeological sites; vacant lots; and lands that may be reclaimed for recreation. Where lack of space is critical, alternative use of facilities such as parking lots should be considered.
- **Citizen Involvement** – There should be comprehensive citizen involvement during all phases of the planning effort through neighborhood groups, citizen task forces, or the most effective means that can be established for mutual cooperation and adequate communications. Public input can be continuously collected throughout the year and not strictly during plan update processes.
- **Relationship with Other Agencies** – There should be cooperation and coordination with other agencies responsible for the planning, administration, and/or operation of parks and recreation services. This includes other public bodies and voluntary, private, church, and business agencies. Inter-governmental coordination may be necessary for parks lying on the edge of Bettendorf city limits or to develop recreational facilities that may serve as regional destinations, such as a sports complex.
- **School-Park Coordination** – Wherever possible, outdoor recreation and open space areas at the neighborhood and community levels should adjoin and be planned in conjunction with public and private schools. This can avoid duplication of facilities and make schools park-like in character and additional assets to the community that they serve. Consideration should be given to joint planning, financing, acquisition, programming, and maintenance to ensure the most effective use of school buildings and grounds. Examples of this coordination effort already taking place in Bettendorf include the jointly constructed tennis and pickleball courts at Bettendorf High School and Bettendorf Middle School. In addition, there are jointly developed and/or programmed sites at locations such as Pleasant View School, Kiwanis Park and Paul Norton School,



Hoover Park and Hoover School, and Meier Park and Jefferson School.

**Parks and Facilities Policy:** Integrate planning and funding decision-making processes related to parks and facilities operations/maintenance, acquisition, and development to provide a balance between system preservation and growth to meet residents' needs.

- **Architectural Barriers** – Special efforts should be made to provide for easy access to and the use of all facilities by the elderly, ill and disabled, very young, and other less mobile groups in the community. To ensure that recreational opportunities are available to these and any other special needs groups:
  - All recreation and park facilities should be required to develop and implement a schedule designed to eliminate architectural barriers and provide integrated facilities.
  - Representatives from organizations working for people with disabilities should be asked and encouraged to attend public hearings, meetings, etc., to express their park, recreation, and leisure needs.
  - Bettendorf Park Board members, city staff, and elected officials must be aware of the existing federal and state legislation that requires barrier-free facilities where state and federal funds are used.
  - The Bettendorf Park Board should reach out to differently-abled individuals or groups for guidance concerning the identification of architectural barriers within their jurisdiction and for information of how best to eliminate them.
- **Loss of Park and Recreation Land** – All park facilities, outdoor recreation, and open space land should be protected in perpetuity against encroachment and non-recreation-related purposes. It should not be considered the “path of least resistance” for highways, city streets, public utilities, and public buildings not suitable for recreation-related purposes or activities.

**Programs Policy:** Facilitate programming at parks and facilities to be effective toward realizing the plan goals.

- **Integrate Health-Related Components** – Integrating health-related components, such as recreational opportunities for children, infrastructure such as exercise equipment at the park, and an increase of trails, will aid in decreasing negative health-related effects such as adult and child obesity. The development of pocket neighborhood parks will allow increased accessibility for more residents in the community. Coordination with health-related agencies will help to maximize efforts and increase the needs and issues residing in the community.

**Land Policy:** Integrate planning and funding decision-making processes related to parks and facilities land acquisition to meet residents' current and future needs.

- **Planning Ahead** – Advanced acquisition based upon a comprehensive parks and recreation plan is essential. Unless sites are acquired well in advance of burgeoning growth, land costs may make their acquisition prohibitive. An analysis should be made

on an ongoing basis of recreation activity needs and trends in order to project space facility requirements realistically.

- **Consideration of Land Uses Best Suited to the Soil** – The land or site should be evaluated to identify the appropriate uses of the site based on soil types. This will involve reference to the soil survey of Scott County, which was completed in 1996. The survey will provide detailed soil information, which can be used to determine the suitability of tracts of land for farming, industry, and recreation.
- **Ordinance for Developers** – Acquisition of land for new trails and parks can take place through required dedication by developers. Iowa law allows cities to establish policies to require dedication, through an addition to the city's land development ordinances. Adopting an ordinance of this nature will assist with developing neighborhood parks with the construction of new housing developments.



### 3. Needs Analysis

#### *Introduction*

Section 5 covering “Background and General Information,” “Natural Characteristics,” and “Demographic Characteristics and Trends” stresses those characteristics of Bettendorf that have implications for parks and recreation, and identify physical constraints and potentials for development. However, other criteria assist in analyzing the current and future needs of those who utilize parks and recreation facilities. This section will view guidelines and consider citizen input that further assist in determining the current and future park and recreation needs of Bettendorf residents.

#### *Guidelines/Accessibility/Inclusion*

Organizations that plan from a firm set of principles stand to benefit from increased continuity over time. Sustainable parks and recreation systems address the economic, physical/environmental, and social needs of the community. Guidelines provide background data and information to assist decision-makers with the benefit of often nationwide research and surveys. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) serves as a national organization that promotes public parks, recreation, and conservation. Through research and surveys, the data that has been collected by NRPA, including from Bettendorf, serves as insight for the department and the city as it continues to grow and develop.

Other sets of guidelines, such as those published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) regarding transportation facilities, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) offer guidance for transportation and trail-related projects. Recently, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has offered guidance for using federal monies through documents published in September 2015 entitled “Bicycle and Pedestrian Provisions of Federal Transportation Legislation.” FHWA recommends a flexible approach to both funding and designing bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

**Physical Setting.** The positive reputation of parks and recreation opportunities in Bettendorf was affirmed throughout the public input and survey process. According to the *Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan (2015)*, “the generous parks and trails system is a draw for many residents, and ranked high in importance among all ages,” (p. 88). Parks and recreation directly affect quality of life in Bettendorf, and the continuation of their high quality will set Bettendorf apart in its vision of being a premier city.

Great parks and recreation opportunities were repeatedly brought up in surveys and interviews as why many people choose to buy a home in Bettendorf. Some concerns to come out of that input included the issue of continued maintenance in existing parks and the continuity of services in the years to come.

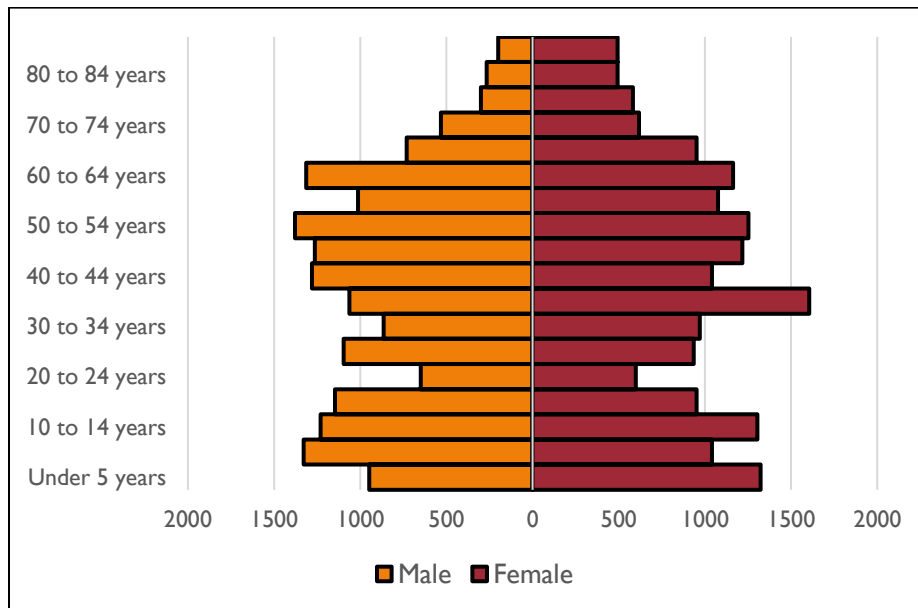
**Natural Setting.** Environmental stewardship is becoming increasingly important with the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The EAB has resulted in the destruction of millions of ash trees throughout the Midwest and has continued its movement west through Illinois and Iowa. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the responses to EAB infestation nationwide will

cost an estimated \$10.7 billion<sup>2</sup>. The presence of the EAB was confirmed in Rock Island County in 2013, and in Scott County in 2015. While Bettendorf does not have as many ash trees in public parks or on public rights-of-way as neighboring communities, a significant investment will be needed to prevent any public safety hazard as a result from dying or dead ash trees. An estimated 300 trees are located in parks, on publicly-owned land, and along major arterial streets, with more on residential streets that the city may be responsible for removing. The city has budgeted \$25,000 a year to stay on top of tree removals, but the final cost will most likely reach over \$100,000. Removing and replacing large trees will, for a time, negatively affect the streetscape and overall aesthetics of parks where large numbers of ash trees can be found.

Many parks have the goal of incorporating native grasses and plants. The purpose of this overarching goal is to promote the health and diversity of natural and native ecosystems through removing invasive species. One outcome of this strategy will be the improved health of pollinators, such as the monarch butterfly, whose populations have decreased substantially over the past couple decades.

**Social Setting – Aging.** Providing a comfortable environment will make Bettendorf a better community to age in place for older members of the community. Providing and meeting the new expectations of aging populations will become increasingly important in the near future. The population of Bettendorf can be described as either young families with children, with approximately 27% of the population under the age of 20, or reaching or surpassing the age of retirement. See Figure 3.1 for a breakdown of age and gender. Approximately 28.5% of the population of Bettendorf is over the age of 55. These two groups desire and require varied recreational facilities.

**Figure 3.1 – Bettendorf Population**



<sup>2</sup> [http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/disturbance/invasive\\_species/eab/effects\\_impacts/cost\\_of\\_infestation/](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/disturbance/invasive_species/eab/effects_impacts/cost_of_infestation/)

In most areas of the city, the median age of the population is between 37.3 and 42 years. The national average is 37.4 years. There are two locations in the city that have a higher median age, namely the area in the southwest on the border with Davenport with a median age of 47.2 years and in the northernmost top of the city with 47.6 years, though some portions of that area lie outside the city limits, as shown on Map 3.1.

American Association of Retired Persons' (AARP) Livable Communities initiative states that, "In a Livable Community, people of all ages can go for a walk, cross the street, ride a bike, get around without a car, spend time outdoors," etc. to make a community or neighborhood a lifelong home. Achieving a livable community for people of all ages will necessitate that all parks be accessible by all modes of transportation, as well as allowing for safe and comfortable movement within parks. Accessibility to and within parks must also reasonably accommodate the needs of people with disabilities to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

**Social Setting – Equity.** Providing more equitable access to parks and recreation opportunities will create a more inclusive environment for all residents. Lower income areas of the city may require outreach for full inclusion into all of the opportunities that the Parks and Recreation Department provides, including organized programs and events. Map 3.2 depicts poverty by census tracts within Bettendorf as an indicator of where these populations are located in relation to the city's park and trails facilities. Large portions of low-income residents reside in older parts of town, which generally have small, neighborhood parks. These types of parks are often good for unorganized activities and general recreation. Large, organized events and sports leagues, however, require larger spaces that may be located too far from certain populations, including the young, the elderly, and low-income residents. As the city grows, it must be cognizant of its continued investments in neighborhood parks that affect vulnerable populations and their recreational opportunities.

### *Public Input*

Comments received from public input opportunities, stakeholder interviews, city staff, and Park Board Commissioners may be viewed throughout the text of the *Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan*. To avoid duplication, this section will not highlight the input received, but rather outline when the opportunities were made available to provide public input.

Through the planning process, public input was collected for the *Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* beginning with two initial public input sessions held in September and October 2015. There was a third meeting, formatted as an open house, held in November 2015. All three meetings were facilitated by Bi-State Regional Commission, and an individual service report and sign-in sheet or list of attendees for each meeting may be found in Appendix A.

During the initial public input process, staff at Bi-State also surveyed external and internal stakeholders with involvement in parks and recreation in Bettendorf. A universal survey was used for each individual and is attached in Appendix B. The list of questions for the external stakeholders slightly varied from the interview for the internal stakeholders. A summary highlighting common themes from the external and internal surveying process is also in Appendix B.

Lastly, three focus groups were held in May and June 2016. The first focus group consisted of internal stakeholders, such as elected officials, Park Board Commissioners, and city staff. Attendees at the final two focus groups were external stakeholders and consisted of current or former representatives from an affiliated organization in the community. Feedback from each focus group is provided in Appendix A. Sign-in sheets from each focus group are also included Appendix A.

### *Current/Future Trends*

The delivery of community parks and recreation evolves with the changing interests and characteristics of the residents, visitors, and other users that utilize the parks and other facilities. The community's desires have evolved over time as well, and the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department has met the expectations of residents admirably according to input received from public meetings and surveys. One example of this is the city's Dekhockey courts that are popular and well-used. The sport of Dekhockey is growing in popularity, and the City of Bettendorf is positioned well to serve the community's demand. Staying informed and current on these types of trends and activities will help the Parks and Recreation Department retain its reputation as a forward-thinking and receptive department.

As Bettendorf grows, there is an increasing importance to retain the same high level of service that residents have come to expect. The city's population is expected to grow by an estimated 8,000 residents by 2035. The National Recreation and Parks Association recommends approximately 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Bettendorf currently has approximately 15 acres per 1,000 residents (*2015 Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan, Section 4*). While the significant addition of Forest Grove Park on the city's northern edge will provide much of the overall addition of acreage, it will not serve every need of the future population. A number of smaller neighborhood parks in new subdivisions will be required to maintain the recommended acreage of park land in the city. Required set-asides for greenspace and parks could be combined from multiple subdivision developments to create larger, more robust parks and greenspace for the benefit of new and existing residents.

Given the generally positive reviews by interviewees and participants at public input sessions, there are still areas where issues remain. A number of parks and recreation facilities in the city are aging and will require significant upgrades or replacement in the coming years. The Herbert Goettsch Community Center is one such facility that serves a diverse array of community needs, particularly for seniors, small affinity groups and organizations, and seasonal youth volleyball programming. Any change in the services provided by this facility must take into account its geographic location and its service to underprivileged populations.

The City of Bettendorf has been investing in alternative transportation for residents throughout the community, providing choices for commuting and recreating that do not require an automobile. This is of great importance for the varied populations without access to or the ability to drive an automobile, which includes children, seniors, and people who cannot or choose not to own a car. Nationwide, there has been a growth in alternative transportation awareness. The movement toward Bicycle Friendly Community status by the League of American Bicyclists has affected all 50 states. Bettendorf was awarded bronze status by the League in the fall of 2015, becoming one of seven communities in Iowa to achieve that status. The report card offered by the League to encourage the improvement of the bicycling

environment provided feedback on areas where the city could improve the situation for bicyclists. The feedback included increasing bicycle parking, educational opportunities, and closely evaluating traffic crashes. These closely align with the overall goals of the Federal Highway Administration's Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation (2016): improved networks, safety, equity, and trips.

### *Land Acquisition*

The number one priority of the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Board is to accommodate the park, recreation, and leisure time needs of Bettendorf residents. This section identifies areas of growth or potential growth within the community. Population projections will be used to help determine the areas where the greatest need will be for future park land. This section will also identify existing areas inadequately served or deficient of suitable parks and/or open space.

The purpose of including future land acquisition as a planning component is to have a working document in place when looking toward future procurement of properties for open space or facility expansion and development.

The information provided in this section is not the only option for the Park Board and City Council when analyzing land acquisition for future parks and recreation. All options should remain open due to the fact that property ownership and intended land use changes over time. What may appear today as an improbable area in which to acquire property could be a top priority for purchasing land in the future.

### *Location Identification Process*

Established residential areas lacking adequate open space and the projected growth areas over the next 20 years were the main variables used to identify potential land acquisition sites within the community.

A few Bettendorf neighborhoods lack access to a nearby park. The city's goal is to have all residential areas within ¼-mile to ½-mile walking distance of a neighborhood park. There are particular neighborhoods that lack a park within walking distance. As a result, in some cases, the acquisition of land by the city may be necessary to achieve such a goal. Map 3.6 identifies areas in the city that are top priority, high priority, and considered other priority for land acquisition. The city recognizes that the acquisition of all land cannot happen short-term, thus the reasoning for the higher prioritized land areas.

During the planning process, identifying other obstacles to park access should be a priority. For planning purposes, the community has been divided into neighborhoods. Major arterial roadways, forming obstacles or barriers, or suppressing pedestrian (most notably children, elderly, and physically impaired residents) access to parks and recreation areas may be used to demarcate the neighborhoods. Through this process, neighborhoods with inadequate parks and recreation opportunities have become identifiable. It may become clear which neighborhoods have inadequate parks and recreation opportunities.

For the most part, the City of Bettendorf serves the needs of the current population well, with the exception of some of the newly-developed or developing areas. These growth areas, mainly to the north, represent the most challenging areas of the city in regard to addressing



access to parks and recreation opportunities. The “Parks and Recreation” section in the 2015 *Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan* was used as a base for updating identified acquisition areas.

Population estimates for 2016 and population projections for 2021 were completed using ESRI Community Analysis. Table 3.1 illustrates that between 2016 and 2021, there will be an increase in population of approximately 2,000 residents, equating to a 13.56 percent increase. This growth will continue, resulting in the need to provide more parks to newly developed neighborhoods.

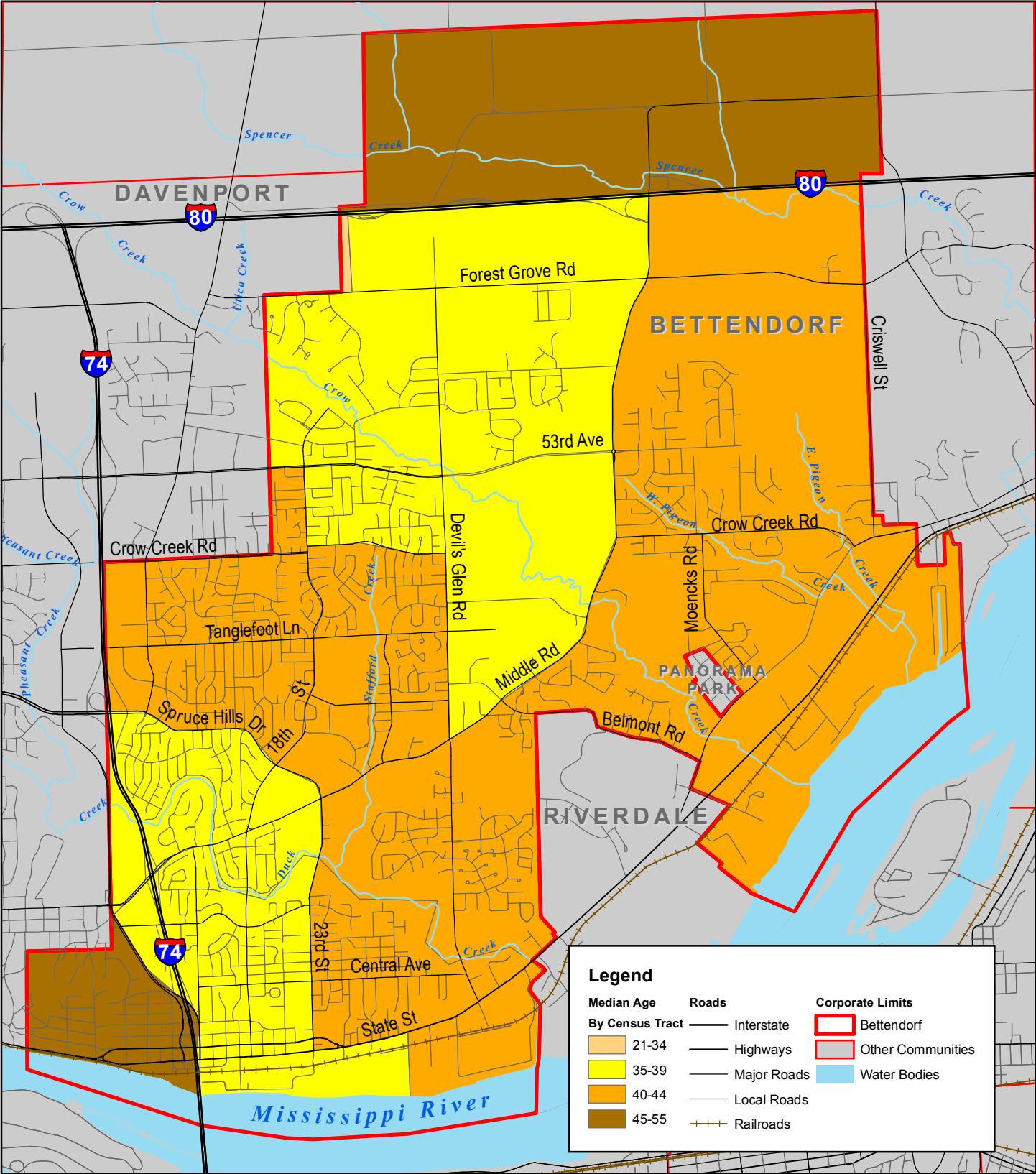
Using 2010 Census data, Map 3.4 displays the residents per square mile in each identified Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ). Most zones are home to anywhere from 201 to 6,500 residents. There are a few zones that contain 6,501 to 15,750 residents per square mile. The TAZs containing more residents per square mile would require the availability of more accessible parks to supplement the larger populations. Using the TAZs and projections from city staff and officials, Map 3.5 shows the projected population density change from 2010 to 2045. This analysis is long-term, but displays where the highest population growth is expected take place in the City of Bettendorf. Using this information, the city can plan where more open space and parks may need to be acquired to accommodate such population growth.

**Table 3.1 – City of Bettendorf Age Cohorts 2010 and Projected Cohorts for 2021**

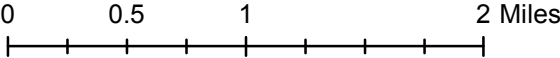
Age	2010 Census Data	2016 Estimates	2021 Estimates	2010-2021 Change	2010-2021 % Change
0-4	1,997	2,029	2,113	116	5.81%
5-9	2,454	2,380	2,395	(59)	-2.40%
10-14	2,526	2,621	2,579	53	2.10%
15-19	2,114	2,248	2,320	206	9.74%
20-24	1,315	1,759	1,725	410	31.18%
25-29	1,805	1,646	1,927	122	6.76%
30-34	1,980	2,092	2,050	70	3.54%
35-39	2,091	2,287	2,428	337	16.12%
40-44	2,295	2,319	2,498	203	8.85%
45-49	2,500	2,314	2,336	(164)	-6.56%
50-54	2,669	2,573	2,435	(234)	-8.77%
55-59	2,468	2,801	2,668	200	8.10%
60-64	2,099	2,423	2,647	548	26.11%
65-69	1,475	2,072	2,366	891	60.41%
70-74	1,057	1,530	2,068	1,011	95.65%
75-79	890	989	1,326	436	48.99%
80-84	736	797	854	118	16.03%
85+	746	916	987	241	32.31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,217</b>	<b>35,796</b>	<b>37,722</b>	<b>4,505</b>	<b>13.56%</b>

Source: ESRI Community Analyst, Community Profile Report, October 20, 2016

MAP 3.1  
**Median Age**  
 City of Bettendorf, Iowa



**DISCLAIMER:** This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.



Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)

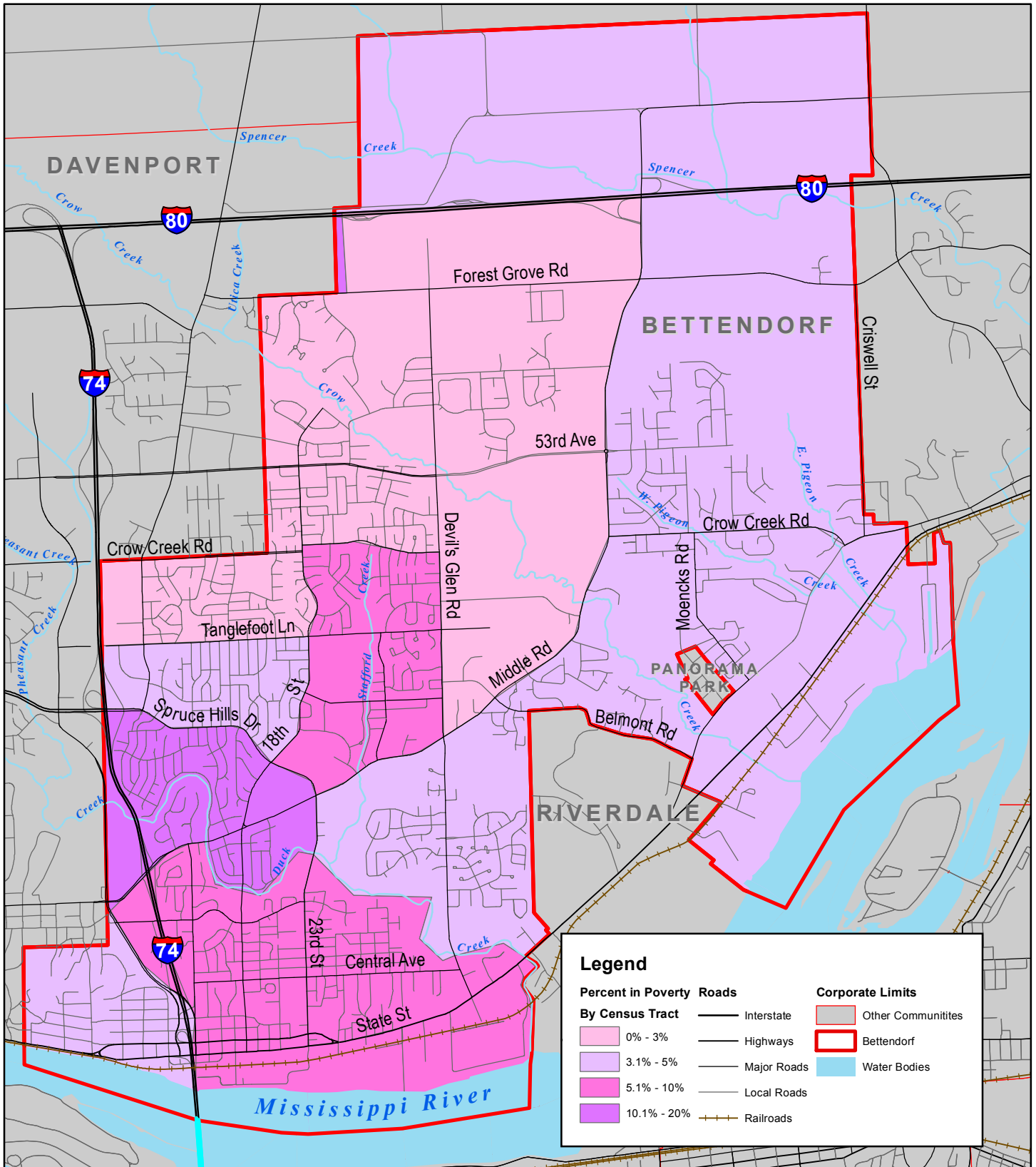


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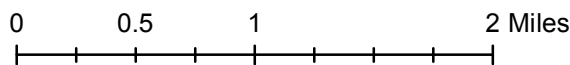


# Percent in Poverty

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



**DISCLAIMER:** This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.



Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)

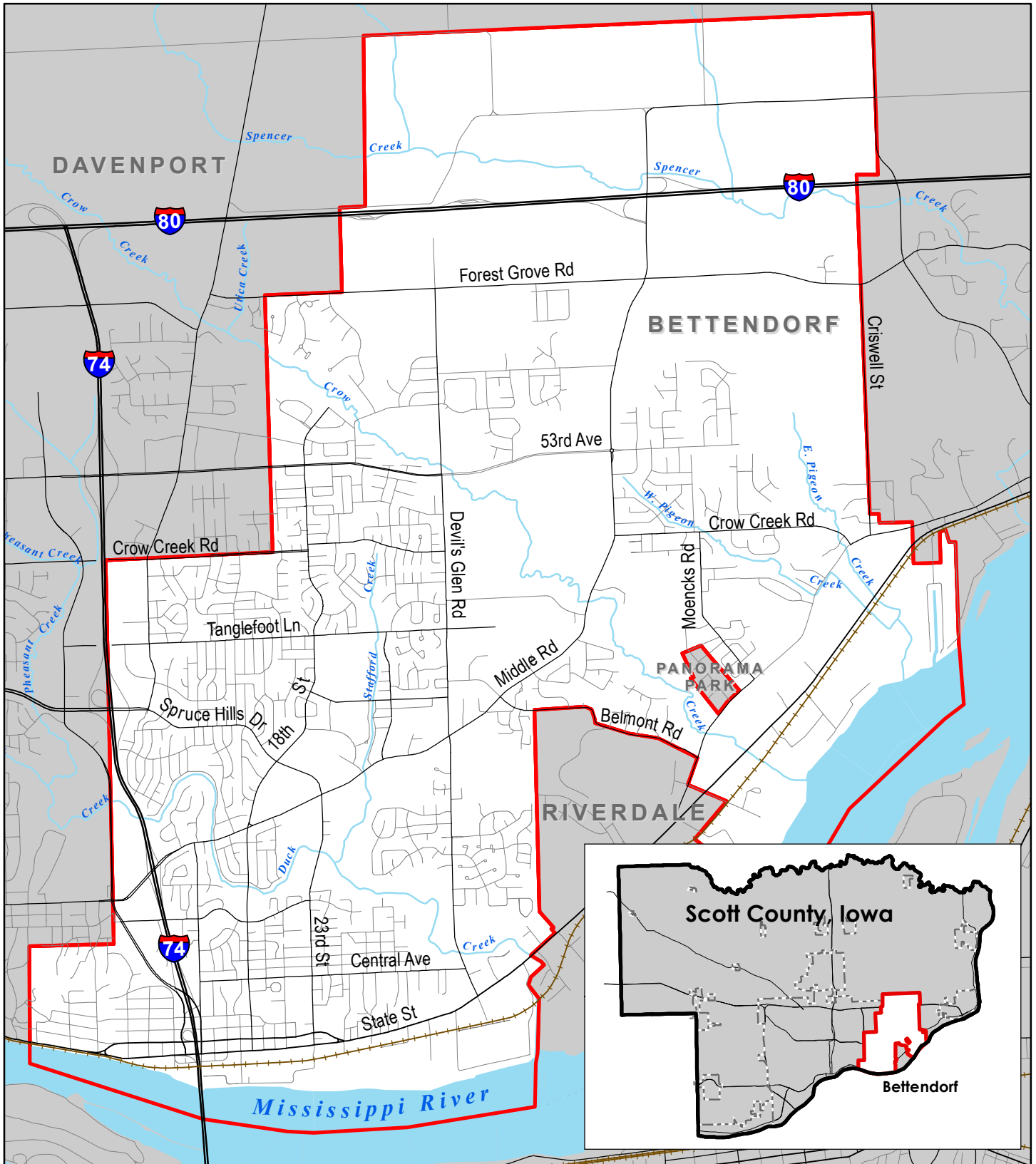


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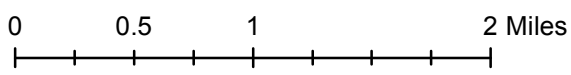


# General Location Map

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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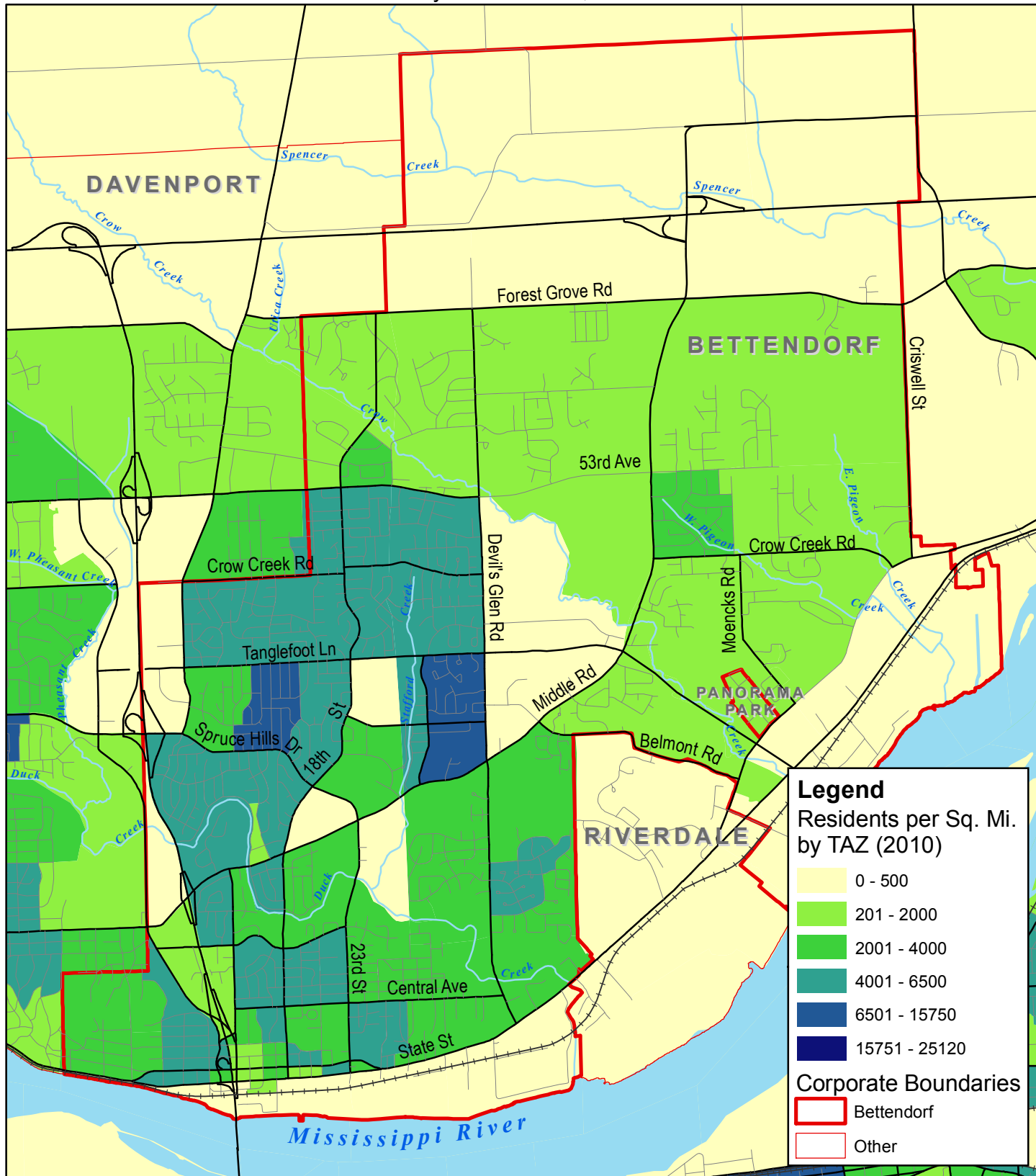
Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)



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 Bi-State  
 Regional Commission  
 January 2017

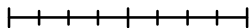
# Residents per Square Mile by Traffic Analysis Zone (2010)

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



*DISCLAIMER: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.*

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)

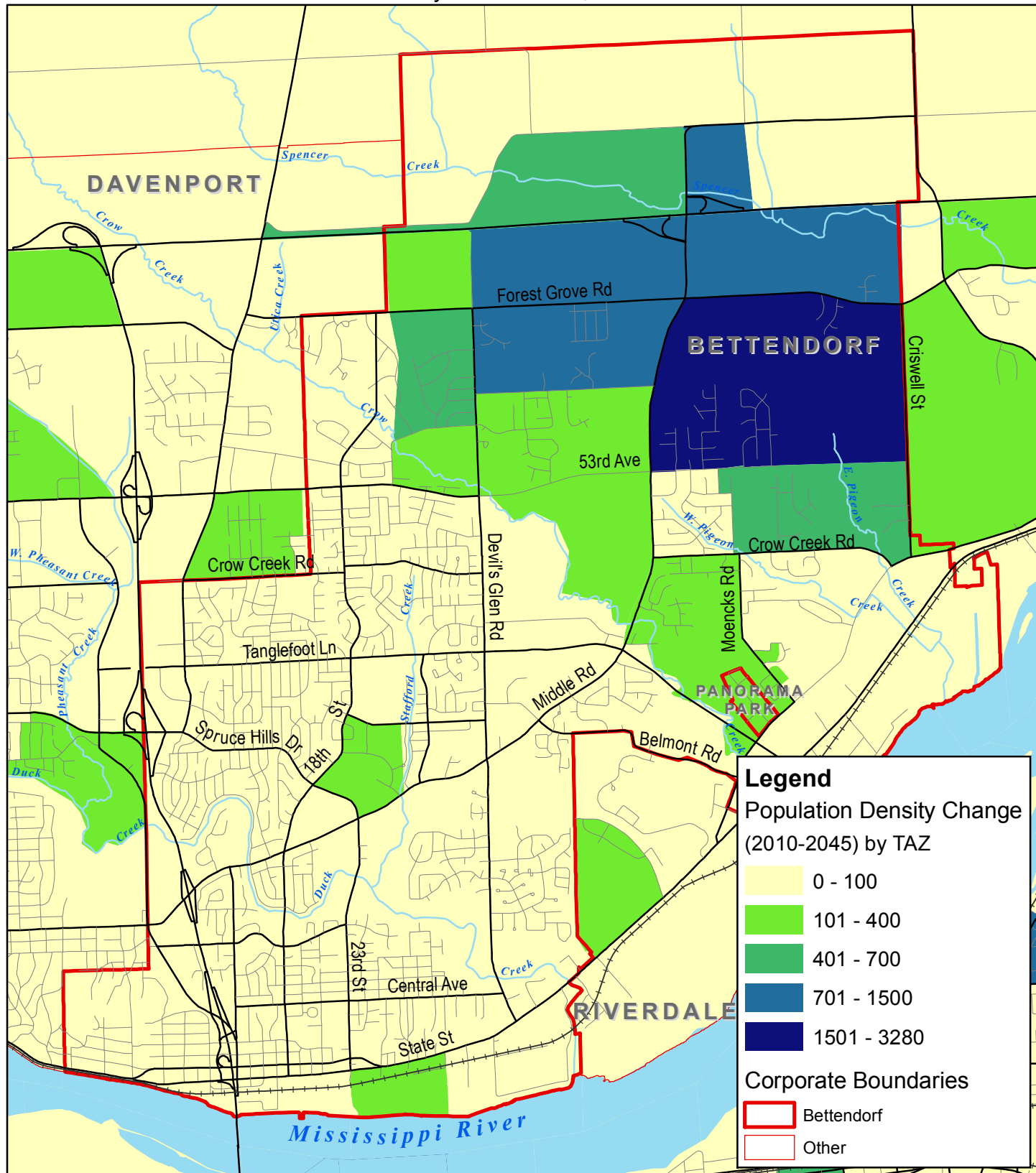


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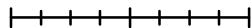
# Population Density Change from 2010 to 2045 by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



**DISCLAIMER:** This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)



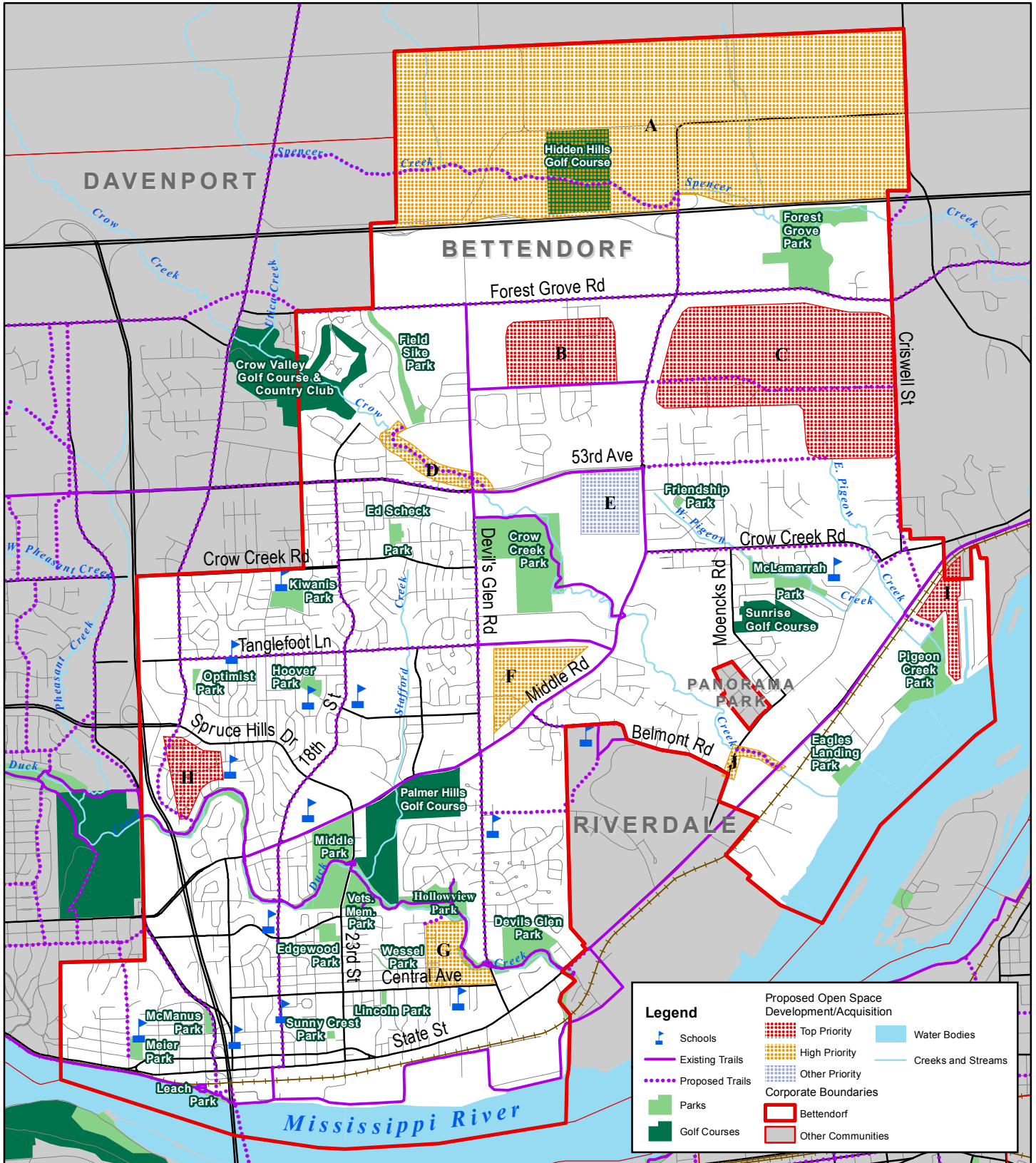
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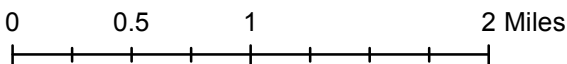
December 2016

# Proposed Areas for Park & Open Space Acquisition and Development

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



**DISCLAIMER:** This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.



Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)



Prepared by:



## *Acquisition Area Locations and Descriptions*

**Area: A** – This area covers the northern section of Bettendorf from Interstate 80 north to the city limits. This is a section of land not anticipated to be a major residential growth area over the next 20 plus years, but is an area with potential for commercial and industrial development. Interstate 80 currently has an interchange at Middle Road. Property surrounding this area is expected to see commercial or industrial development over the next five to ten years.

During the planning process, this was recognized as a high-priority area for a community or neighborhood park at some time. Though not an immediate need, the procurement of a sizeable portion of land in this vicinity may be a wise Park Board or city investment for long-term potential. The acquisition would guarantee the preservation of the land as an open space recreational area for future generations. This area should be integrated with future development.

**Area: B** – Area B is a top priority interest because of Pleasant Valley School District property in the center of the identified acquisition area. Development of park and open space adjacent to or near the school property would be a great asset to the area. Area B is a projected residential growth area and would benefit from a neighborhood park or mini park. It's bordered by Forest Grove Road on the north, Devils Glen Road to the west, Middle Road to the east, and Hopewell Avenue on the south. Projected increases in traffic along these major arterials will limit mobility and raise safety concerns for children and other pedestrians attempting to access park and recreation facilities. As neighborhoods in this area continue to grow, one possible solution to ensure the availability of neighborhood parks will be to enact a park dedication policy. This means that acquisition of land for new trails and parks can take place through required dedication by developers. Iowa law allows cities to establish policies to require dedication through an addition to the city's land development or ordinances.

**Area: C** – Area C is recognized based on current deficiencies of open space and recreational facilities in the vicinity. Residential development is projected to significantly affect this section of the community. Area C encompasses lands south of Forest Grove Road and north of the 53rd Avenue extension. The remainder of its perimeter consists of Middle Road to the west and Criswell Street to the east. Acquisition opportunities in this area should focus on the need for mini parks and possibly a future community park.

**Area: D** – This linear corridor is recognized for the potential recreational benefits along Crow Creek. Primary interest is the potential to extend the multi-use recreational trail along the linear greenway from 53rd Avenue to Field Sike Park.

**Area: E** – This section is located south of 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and west of Middle Road. A neighborhood park or special-use facility may fit well in this area. The acquisition of land for park space in this vicinity should take into account the location of the former landfill, which may limit intended park and recreation use or development.

**Area: F** – This is an area that is east of Devil's Glen Road and west of Middle Road. Several residential areas around this intersection lack nearby access to a neighborhood park. Vacant parcels reside in the area, which the city should consider purchasing for neighborhood parks or mini-parks, and/or requiring park land dedication from future developers as part of a parks dedication policy.



**Area: G** – This area located north of Central Avenue, east of 30<sup>th</sup> Street and to the southwest of the Duck Creek Parkway is a possible location for open space acquisition. Opportunities may exist in this area to obtain land for the development of park and recreation space. Consider acquisition of property owned by the Church of Latter Day Saints or other parcel(s) in the vicinity. This section of the community has relatively easy access to Duck Creek Parkway. However, the procurement of a parcel and development of a neighborhood or mini-park in this area has merit and would provide additional services to the residents of Bettendorf.

**Area: H** – Area H is the Hillside Drive Neighborhood, which is east of I-74, between Spruce Hills Drive and Duck Creek. This area has a considerably higher residential density that would greatly benefit from the development of a neighborhood park. Currently, the Grant Wood Elementary playground and surrounding open space does provide some nearby park service.

**Area: I** – An area considered a top priority for acquiring or securing an easement for the extension of the MRT upstream to LeClaire, Area I is located east of Pigeon Creek Park and west of Harbor Drive.

**Area: J** – This area would allow development of the multi-use recreation trail along the Crow Creek greenway from Valley Drive to State Street.

### *Land Acquisition Priorities*

The areas identified in the previous section are those where a need has been established for the acquisition and potential development of future recreation and park space. These areas have been prioritized as *Top Priority*, *High Priority*, or *Other Priority* based on the following criteria that are listed in no particular order:

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Cost                        | 4. Current Need/Demand                                     |
| 2. Availability                | 5. Relationship to Existing City Plans                     |
| 3. Projected Population Growth | 6. Expected Benefit to Bettendorf and Bettendorf Residents |

#### **Top Priority Areas:**

Area B, Area C, Area H, Area I

#### **High Priority Areas:**

Area A, Area D, Area F, Area G

#### **Other Priority Areas:**

Area E

## 4. Direction

### *Strategies for Implementation*

As outlined in Section 2, the City of Bettendorf's Parks and Recreation Department is tasked with providing residents and visitors locations, services, and facilities that contribute to community wellness, active living, and overall well-being. The goals for implementing the vision address consistency, opportunity, health, livability, and connectivity.

Section 6 outlines needs and focus areas related to parks and facilities, operations and maintenance, programming, management, marketing and outreach, and how Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department compares to other communities.

### On-Going Strategies

The overall consensus from the public input was to keep up the satisfactory work and continue to invest in the parks and recreation system. This will require regular review and evaluation of the park sites and the amenities offered, review of maintenance and operational practices, and of the effectiveness of marketing and outreach, and managerial efforts. Ongoing implementation strategies to retain a quality parks and recreation system will include:

- Preserve and maintain parks, equipment, and facilities
- Support existing parks and recreation programming
- Continue marketing and outreach to maximize usage and participation
- Monitor parks and recreation trends and assets to address effective management of the parks and recreation system
- Monitor effects on the parks environment related to invasive species, climate and storm effects, and environmental quality

### Plan Review

Annual review of the plan goals, objectives, and policies are recommended for the Park Board and Parks and Recreation Department staff. This annual review confirms or determines whether the course of action to implement strategies outlined in this plan are still supported or should be revised to address changing needs and priorities.

Consideration may be given to measuring success through performance-based objectives. In Section 2, suggested measurement criteria were outlined on [page 5](#). Measuring success can range from the number of participants in a program (impact) to the persons within a distance from a park and/or recreation facility (access). The suggested measurements can be used to guide decision-making and quantify success toward plan objectives: Accessibility, Desirability, Impact, Cost-Effectiveness, Coverage, Connectivity, Investment, and Health. The annual review should consider the plan policies, as well.

- **System Policy:** Utilize objective and clear processes, standards, and criteria for decision-making to ensure the success of Bettendorf's parks and recreation system in meeting the goal themes of consistency, opportunity, health, livability, and connectivity.

- **Parks and Facilities Policy:** Integrate planning and funding decision-making processes related to parks and facilities operations/maintenance, acquisition, and development to provide a balance between system preservation and growth to meet residents' needs.
- **Programs Policy:** Facilitate programming at parks and facilities to be impactful on the plan goals.
- **Land Policy:** Integrate planning and funding decision-making processes related to parks and facilities land acquisition to meet residents' current and future needs.

#### *Capital Planning and Facilities/Services Review*

The Park Board in cooperation with the City Council annually evaluate programs and expenditures through a budget process. A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a tool used to plan for larger capital expenses over a period of time, such as five years. This document is examined each year, and there is an opportunity to plan for greater cost and larger park facilities improvements, new construction, or land acquisition as part of this process. The annual budget review process examines the needs of public facilities and services related to maintenance, operations, and program expansions. Regular Park Board meetings are the on-going point of decision-making related to charting the course and fulfilling the priorities of this plan.

#### *Strategic Planning and Work Program Development*

In order to accomplish the broad strategies outlined in this plan within the timeframes suggested, the Park Board in cooperation with the City Council will need to conduct further refinement of more specific priorities and tasks to accomplish the broader objectives. As an example, the city completed its *Parks Facilities Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study* in 2015. The recommendations included investing in short-term minor and major improvements in the current facilities. The study recognized the opportunity to enhance the quality of life in the city through the development of a new regional outdoor waterpark and need for additional study for indoor turf facilities. A new indoor recreation facility was not recommended because of improvements to the Bettendorf YMCA. However, citizens expressed interest in such a facility during the public input pointing to a need for further examination of these facilities. In the short-term, there will need to be a more comprehensive community discussion of municipal facilities and needs as a whole. This would include initiating conversations with other service providers on potential partnerships for serving the community needs.

It is recommended the city tap community volunteers with expertise and interest in the areas of priority to develop task forces or working groups to move priorities forward. Resources needed to pursue volunteer-based community planning and implementation require a task or project champion or leader to whom the groups would report their recommendations, such as the Park Board.

#### **Short-Term Strategies (0-5 Years)**

Short-term implementation strategies are defined as those projects, actions, or purchases that are anticipated to occur in the next five years. Targeted timelines may fluctuate based on a number of factors, such as workload, funding, and changes in priorities. At the park and facility level, short-term strategies are outlined within the park inventory in Section 6, pages 49 to 100. Overall implementation strategies in the next 5 years are noted and followed by

implementation activities linked to the plan policies.

- Expand bike lanes and trails or shared-use paths
- Continue to expand and enhance winter recreation opportunities
- Determine next steps related to parks facilities’ needs
- Implement new Forest Grove Park phases
- Examine popular park usage – effects, congestion, capacity, and alternatives

**System Policy (0-5 Years)**

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council and Park Board	Work to implement non-motorized transportation alternatives through expansion of bike lanes, shared-use paths, and trails to maximize connectivity and opportunities for walking and bicycling outlined in the city’s transportation plan. Planned locations include Forest Grove Road (Utica to International Drive), U.S. 67 (Fenno to Harbor), Roundabout at Hopewell, Spruce Hills Drive (18 <sup>th</sup> Street to Utica Ridge Road), Crow Creek to Middle Road from Valley Drive, Belmont to Crow Creek, and Crow Creek to U.S. 67.
City Council and Park Board	Look for opportunities to partner with other public or private organizations in the development of parks, facilities, and programming.
Park Board	Continue solicitation of feedback and citizen involvement as part of parks and recreation system planning.
Park Board	Monitor staffing needs as parks and recreation system expands and demands for services and commitments increase.
Park Board and Staff	Evaluate the effects of popular parks’ usage related to capacity, congestion, and alternative options within the parks system. Evaluate high use assets and whether these can be duplicated elsewhere in the existing park system. Example given in the public input process was heavy use of Crow Creek Park – field sports and dog park noted.
Park Board and Staff	Update business plans for facilities/programs with cost recovery goals. Focus on core services provided by the Parks Department, addressing markets served, program trends, cost-of-service to provide, market duplication, pricing based on cost recovery, standards, and life cycle of current services.

**Parks and Facilities Policy (0-5 Years)**

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council and Park Board	Continue to maintain quality parks and recreation facilities. Replace or improve equipment to address safety, aging, trending opportunities, and out-of-date issues. Note specific parks and facilities recommendations in Section 6 related to the parks/facilities inventory. Facility improvements planned for golf course, aquatic center, fitness center, and community center.
Parks Department Staff	Monitor effects on the parks environment related to invasive species; diseases or parasites (emerald ash borer); climate and storm effects or hazards; environmental quality of water resources, such as creeks, streams, ponds and lakes; and tree management.
City Council and Park Board	Determine winter recreation opportunities to offer residents, such as an outdoor ice skating rink, and implement to expand winter outdoor activities in the city.
City Council and Park Board	Determine next steps related to consideration of new regional indoor multi-use recreational facility, as it relates to the useful life of Life Fitness Center, Community Center, and Splash Landing. Consider multi-generational and multi-use facility in an accessible location.
City Council and Park Board	Consider next steps related to the downtown I-74 Bridge park development.
City Council and Park Board	Continue phased development of Forest Grove Park. Develop Great Lawn Area, continue restoration of natural areas, and develop associated parking on school district property.

**Programs Policy (0-5 Years)**

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council and Park Board	Support existing parks and recreation programming.
Park Board and Staff	Continue parks and recreation programming to support plan goals. Monitor programming for effectiveness, effect, and changing community needs and desires and/or trends and innovations.
Park Board and Staff	Evaluate opportunities for additional programming related to particular seasons, holidays, trends, and/or festivals.
Park Board and Staff	Evaluate need for parks and recreation marketing position or promotions contract. Seek opportunities to market and outreach to encourage participation in programs and park usage.

**Land Policy (0-5 Years)**

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Park Board	Develop ordinance to allow for land set-asides for parkland as part of residential developments and subdivisions for creation of neighborhoods parks serving the new development.
Park Board	Review recommendations of the comprehensive plan related to land acquisition.

The Park Board, in cooperation with the City Council, uses investment-planning tools, such as the city's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Parks and Recreation Department operations and maintenance budget, to implement priorities based on available funding or the city's ability to secure user fees, grants, donations, or other resources. The city's CIP is one source for short-term major parks and recreation investments. From Fiscal Year 2016/17 through Fiscal Year 2020/21, major parks and recreation improvements greater than \$49,000 are summarized in Table 4.1. Anticipated investments are well over \$17 million in improvements and upgrades.

**Table 4.1 – Five-Year Capital Improvements for Major Parks and Recreation Projects (Greater than \$49,000) Fiscal Years 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Project Type	Anticipated Investment
Road Bike Lanes/Trails	\$13,018,000
Community Center	\$170,000
Equipment/Shelters	\$625,000
Fitness Center Improvements	\$200,000
Golf Course	\$680,000
Other – Courts/Surfaces & Winter Recreation	\$1,725,000
Park Improvements	\$585,000
Pool Improvements	\$175,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,178,000</b>

Source: City of Bettendorf

The Parks and Recreation Department operations and maintenance budget is another source of short-term activities during this period of time. The Parks and Recreation Department's operations and maintenance budget is approximately \$1.2 million annually.

### **Mid-Term Strategies (5-10 Years)**

Mid-term implementation strategies are defined as those projects, actions, or purchases that are anticipated to occur in the next 5 to 10 years. Targeted timelines may fluctuate based on a number of factors, such as workload, funding, and changes in priorities. At the parks and facilities level, mid-term strategies are outlined within the park inventory in Section 6, pages 49 to 100. Key overall implementation strategies in the next five years include:

- **Plan and move forward with recommendations for parks' facilities improvements or replacement.**
- **Expand bike lanes and trails or shared-use paths**
- **Plan for feasible parks facilities' needs and/or alternatives**
- **Implement downtown park development related to I-74 reconstruction**

- **Continue Forest Grove Park implementation phases**
- **Address popular park usage with alternatives and solutions**

**System Policy (5-10 Years)**

<b>Key Contacts</b>	<b>Implementation Activities</b>
City Council and Park Board	Work to implement non-motorized transportation alternatives through expansion of bike lanes, shared-use paths, and trails to maximize connectivity and opportunities for walking and bicycling.
Park Board	Update the <i>Parks and Recreation Master Plan</i> .
City Council and Park Board	Foster opportunities to partner with other public or private organizations in the development of parks, facilities, and programming.
Park Board	Continue solicitation of feedback and citizen involvement as part of the parks and recreation system planning.
Park Board	Monitor staffing needs as the parks and recreation system expands and demands for services and commitments increase.

**Parks and Facilities Policy (5-10 Years)**

<b>Key Contacts</b>	<b>Implementation Activities</b>
City Council and Park Board	Continue to maintain quality parks and recreation facilities. Replace or improve equipment to address safety, aging, and out-of-date issues. Note specific parks and facilities recommendations in Section 6 related to the parks/facilities inventory.
City Council and Park Board	Determine direction for parks facilities requiring improvements versus replacement. Develop investment strategy to maintain those facilities, such as the Community Center and Golf Course. Determine clear vision for Life Fitness Center and Splash Landing, either as part of a regional or citywide sports complex or continuing as stand-alone facilities.
City Council and Park Board	Work to implement downtown park development related to the I-74 reconstruction.

**Programs Policy (5-10 Years)**

<b>Key Contacts</b>	<b>Implementation Activities</b>
City Council and Park Board	Continue to initiate and expand upon innovative programming opportunities in the city for all age groups, including youth and seniors.
Park Board and Staff	Evaluate need in regard to city staff based on the city’s increase in population and growth in parks and recreation opportunities.
Park Board and Staff	Determine the need for larger facilities and programming opportunities on a regional level, and integrate if financially feasible and in greater demand.

## Land Policy

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council and Park Board	Work to implement non-motorized transportation alternatives through expansion of bike lanes, shared-use paths, and trails to maximize connectivity and opportunities for walking and bicycling.

## Long-Term Strategies (>10 Years)

Long-term implementation strategies are defined as those projects, actions, or purchases that are anticipated to occur in the more than 10 years. At the parks and facilities level, long-term strategies are related to larger investments and time for planning, engineering, and construction. Key overall implementation strategies in more than 10 years include:

- **Implement feasible facilities improvements and/or replacement**
- **Facilitate acquisition of parkland to address community coverage and expansion**

## Potential Funding Sources

The following discussion attempts to analyze the ways in which the various financial methods can be used to implement the plan. Actual use in the future will depend on the policies adopted by the Park Board.

- **Current Revenues** – The main advantage of financing parks and recreation improvements from current revenues is that it is less expensive in the long run, because interest charges can be eliminated. Financing from current revenues is the most appropriate when expenses are of a recurrent nature, which is not the normal situation in the area of parks and recreation development.
- **Borrowing** – In some cases, deficit financing can be used to finance acquisition of land and construction of recreation improvements. The sale of bonds to be paid back with future revenues can provide for the construction of recreation facilities in those instances where existing needs exceed current revenues. In addition, bond financing provides equitable means by which the cost of parks and recreation facilities can be shared by both present and future users. The disadvantage of financing recreation improvements with the sale of bonds is the amount of potential funds lost in the payment of interest charges.
- **Grants-In-Aid** – To aid local governments and private individuals in the development of recreation and open space areas, the federal and state governments have instituted various financial assistance programs. Some programs require local matching dollars (a percentage of the total project to be cost-shared), and in many cases the grantee will have to assume 100% of the project costs up front, then request reimbursement of the awarded grant amount. The assistance programs in the following list are by no means inclusive of the available sources the city can and should pursue to aid in funding parks and recreation-related projects. Most of the programs are highly competitive and require submission of a thorough and concise application. At a minimum, several



months should be devoted to the application preparation process, and the city should be ready to proceed with the project if awarded funds. Some of the funding assistance opportunities the city may be inclined to pursue include:

- **Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program** – The TA Set-Aside under the federal transportation bill, Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as “transportation alternatives,” including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities; infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility; community improvement activities such as historic preservation and vegetation management; environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways. Projects funded under this program require a 20% local match. Many Quad Cities bike trails have been funded in part through the TA Set-Aside program or its predecessors.
- **Recreational Trails Program (Federal)** – This federal program funds the development and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails and trail-related projects within the state of Iowa. It is administered by the Iowa Department of Transportation. Applications are accepted annually. A minimum 20% match is required for projects.
- **Recreational Trails Program (State)** – Administered by the Iowa Department of Transportation, this program funds trail development and land acquisition on a statewide competitive basis. This state program requires a minimum 25% local match (volunteer services and other state grants are not eligible as matching funds). Proposed projects must be part of a local, area-wide, regional, or statewide trail plan.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** – The LWCF Grant Program is a federal program that provides funds to incorporated cities and county conservation boards for projects that include the acquisition and/or development of land for outdoor recreation. The renovation of existing facilities is also eligible. This program is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and requires 50% local participation. Funding assistance is provided on a reimbursement basis. Funding assistance is population based.
- **Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)** – This state program is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and funds land acquisition and development projects that have a positive impact on the environment. This program is funded on a competitive basis. In 1994, a 54-acre parcel was acquired at Crow Creek Park with assistance from the REAP program. The Crow Creek Park Quarry Restoration and the Forest Grove Park natural area were also supplemented through this funding program.
- **Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Fund** – Iowa cities, counties, nonprofit organizations, or school districts may receive grants, loans, forgivable

loans, and loan guarantees from the Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Program. The objective of the CAT component is to provide financial assistance for community-sponsored attraction and tourism projects. CAT projects may include but are not limited to the following: museums, theme parks, cultural and recreational centers, heritage attractions, sports arenas, and other attractions. Applications are reviewed by the Vision Iowa Program Board, which takes into account the application information as well as the location of the project, the geographic diversity of the applications, and whether the applicant has received financial assistance in the past. CAT funds may comprise up to one half of the total project cost.

- **Riverboat Development Authority** – The Riverboat Development Authority is a local Scott County entity that distributes a portion of the proceeds gained from the Rhythm City Casino. Types of activities that are funded include riverfront development, economic development, neighborhood development, arts, culture, heritage, education, and human services. Applicants must be located in the Quad Cities metropolitan area and provide programs or services in or to residents of Scott County, Iowa.
- **Scott County Regional Authority** – The Scott County Regional Authority is a nonprofit corporation affiliated with the Isle of Capri Casino in Bettendorf that distributes a portion of the proceeds gained from the casino. Types of activities that are funded include riverfront development, economic development, neighborhood development, arts, culture, heritage, education, and human services. Applicants must be located in the Quad Cities metropolitan area and provide programs or services in or to residents of Scott County, Iowa. Joint applications can be submitted with the Riverboat Development Authority, on their respective forms, for large projects or programs.
- **Other** – The State of Iowa provides other grant and funding assistance programs through a variety of state agencies including the Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, and the Iowa Economic Development Authority. There are also many not-for-profit groups, such as America Walks or Smart Growth America, and agencies as well as private corporations and other federal government programs to consider as possible funding resources.
- **Gifts and Trusts** – Another method for enhancing the park and recreation system is through donations of land or money. Encouraging contributions through estate planning is another method of financing the acquisition, improvements, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. Trusts and endowments play an important role in providing park and recreation facilities in various communities across the nation.
- **Land Dedication Ordinance** – Land dedication by developers is allowed using a land development ordinance. The exaction would require land to be set-aside for public park or open space development to serve the new development as a condition of a subdivision platting process or land development ordinance.

## 5. Background and General Information

### *Park Board Background*

The City of Bettendorf's Parks and Recreation Department is overseen by an elected Park Board with five representatives. Their mission is to provide recreational opportunities that enrich the quality of life for all residents. The Park Board oversees the planning, operations, and maintenance of the Parks and Recreation Department. Funding for parks is provided through the City Council. The Park Board and City Council work cooperatively to meet the parks and recreation needs of the city.

### *Coverage Area/Geography*

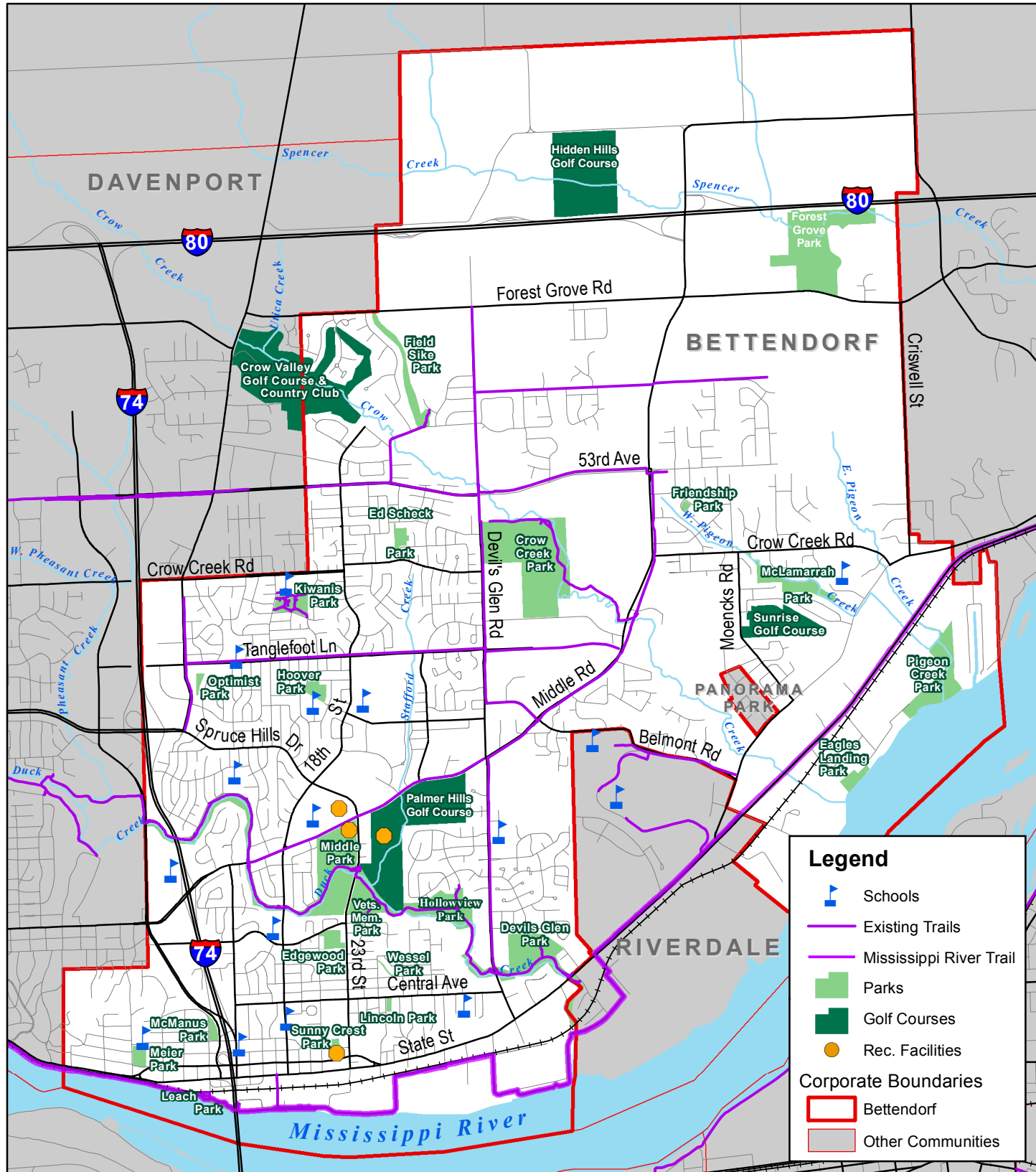
The area used in the formation of this master plan consists of the land and facilities within the corporate limits of Bettendorf, Iowa. There is an inventory of the existing parks and recreation facilities of the city included in this plan, as illustrated in Map 5.1.

### Relationship with Surrounding Area

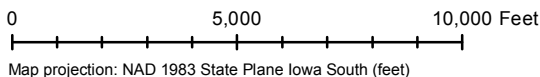
All planning efforts involving the City of Bettendorf must recognize the city's relationship with the larger community of Davenport and the other communities in the Quad Cities Metropolitan Area. Because there is a common border with Davenport, inter-jurisdictional use of existing facilities is commonplace. One of Davenport's largest parks, Duck Creek Park, is located immediately across Kimberly Road from Bettendorf and is utilized by many Bettendorf residents. Conversely, Meier Park, a neighborhood park in Bettendorf, is located in close proximity to Davenport and is used by Davenport citizens. Furthermore, Scott County Park, a large regional park operated by the county, is located a few miles north of Bettendorf and is used by people throughout Scott County.

# Existing Parks and Trails

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



**DISCLAIMER:** This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.



## *Natural Characteristics*

### Topography and Drainage

There were numerous glaciations that created the topography of Scott County. The oldest glaciations are collectively termed Pre-Illinoian. The Pre-Illinoian was followed by the Illinoian glaciation in the eastern portion of Iowa. The native rock material of the county is buried under glacial till that was overlain at varying depths with windblown loess after the retreat of the glaciers.

The major topographical feature in Scott County is the Mississippi River. In pre-glacial time, the Mississippi River followed its current course until reaching the present day northern tip of Rock Island County, Illinois, where the river turned to the east following the Meredosia channel and eventually entered the present Illinois River valley near Hennepin, Illinois. This course was altered to its existing route through the Quad Cities in an east-west direction when a westward moving ice lobe blocked the eastern flow of the Mississippi River. Over the past 10,000 to 15,000 years, the present channel has deepened and narrowed forming the distinct bluffs and lowlands found in the areas bordering the Mississippi River.

A distinctive depositional feature of Scott County is the hilly area in the northwest part of the county stretching from Mud Creek to the Mississippi River at Princeton, Iowa. Contained in this area are boat-shaped hills and long, narrow ridges running from northwest to southeast. The composition of these hills and ridges are Eolian (windblown) sand and silt and ice-molded glacial debris referred to as "the Paha." The remainder of Scott County is level to gently rolling with the stream valleys becoming deeper and the slopes increasingly pronounced as the valleys approach the Mississippi and Wapsipinicon Rivers.

Another feature of Scott County topography is the drainage network. The northern portions of Scott County drain into the Wapsipinicon River, which eventually flows into the Mississippi River. The southern portions of Scott County drain into the Mississippi River via streams and creeks. Major waterways in the Bettendorf area of Scott County include Duck Creek, Crow Creek, Pigeon Creek, and Spencer Creek, along with lesser streams and tributaries. These waterways serve as drainage systems for the upland regions of Bettendorf and more fully, Scott County. The largest drainage system or watershed in the Scott County Area is associated with Duck Creek. However, Crow Creek drains the majority of the City of Bettendorf.

### Climate

The climatic characteristics of the City of Bettendorf can best be described as temperate continental with a wide temperature range throughout the year. Periods of hot, humid weather are not uncommon during the summer months, with an average summer temperature of 71.6°F. Severely cold weather and storms can occur during the winter. Average snowfall is 31.63 inches per year while the average winter temperature is 24.1°F.

The region's central geographic location and proximity to major storm tracks make it vulnerable to rapid shifts in weather and severe weather patterns. Low-pressure areas associated with weather fronts cause frequent fluctuations in temperature, cloudiness, humidity, and wind direction throughout much of the year. Annual precipitation amounts to an average of 36.03 inches total.

## Geology

Geology relates to outdoor recreation planning when discerning the potential of different areas for recreation or acquiring and preserving geologically interesting and important sites. Geology is important in making sound land use decisions to avoid potential geologic hazards. Hazards pertinent to outdoor recreation planning include flooding of alluvial plains, gulying and landslides, pollution of shallow well water supplies, and sinkhole occurrences. In addition, the availability, quality, and quantity of ground water supplies and the potential for future recovery of mineral resources should be known to determine the land most suitable for parks and recreational development.

The sedimentary bedrock units present in Bettendorf evolved from deposition of sediments in shallow seas that covered Iowa during several geologic periods of time spanning hundreds of millions of years. Underlying the entire region is approximately 500 million-year-old bedrock of the Cambrian and Ordovician periods. The bedrock closest to the surface in Bettendorf can be classified into one general type: the Middle Devonian. This type covers the area south of Interstate 80 throughout Scott County.

## Soils

Soils in Bettendorf were formed by three main forces attributed to the results of glacial and post-glacial activity. The three forces include glacial drift, alluvial (water deposited) action, and windblown or silt-like (loess) soil movement. The loess soils regime is generally 25 feet or more in depth and covers a majority of the land on or above the bluff in Bettendorf. Alluvial deposits are found along the river lowlands, while glacial drift materials are located mainly in the northern part of the community.

## Vegetation

Natural vegetation of the city consists primarily of low deciduous trees, bushes, and grasses. The dominant species include oaks and maples. The remainder of the land in the area of interest contains mixed broadleaf weed species. Much of the land in and around the City of Bettendorf has been used and is still being used for agricultural production, with corn and soybeans being the dominant crops.

## Wildlife

Bettendorf is fortunate to be home to a wide variety of species of birds, fish, and other wildlife. Some species of wildlife include: American and Fowler's toads; bullfrog; various turtle species; white-footed and deer mice; raccoon; beaver; fox; ground, red, black, and grey squirrels, cottontail rabbit; muskrat; skunk; opossum; coyote; groundhog; and white-tailed deer.

Birds in the area consist of common songbirds such as swallows, sparrows, robins, redwing blackbirds, cardinals, orioles, bluebirds, northern chickadees, finches, mourning doves, and wrens. Woodpeckers, owls, purple martins, blue jays, ring neck pheasants, quail, blackbirds, crows, pigeons, eagles, and hawks are also common in the area.

The Endangered Species Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1973, provides protection for plants or animals endangered or threatened with extinction. Endangered or threatened species

located in Scott County Iowa, as reported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, include the Indiana Bat, Northern Long-Eared Bat, Sheepnose Mussel, Spectaclecase Mussel, Higgins Eye Pearlymussel, Peregrine Falcon, and the Bald Eagle (when wintering).

The Bald Eagles are a federally protected species through the Bald Eagle Protection Act, which prohibits the take, transport, sale, barter, trade, import, export, and possession of eagles. Other wildlife that is protected by the Endangered Species Act in the area are the; Higgins Eye Pearlymussel (endangered), Sheepnose Mussel (endangered) and the Spectaclecase Mussel (endangered candidate).

### *Demographic Characteristics and Trends*

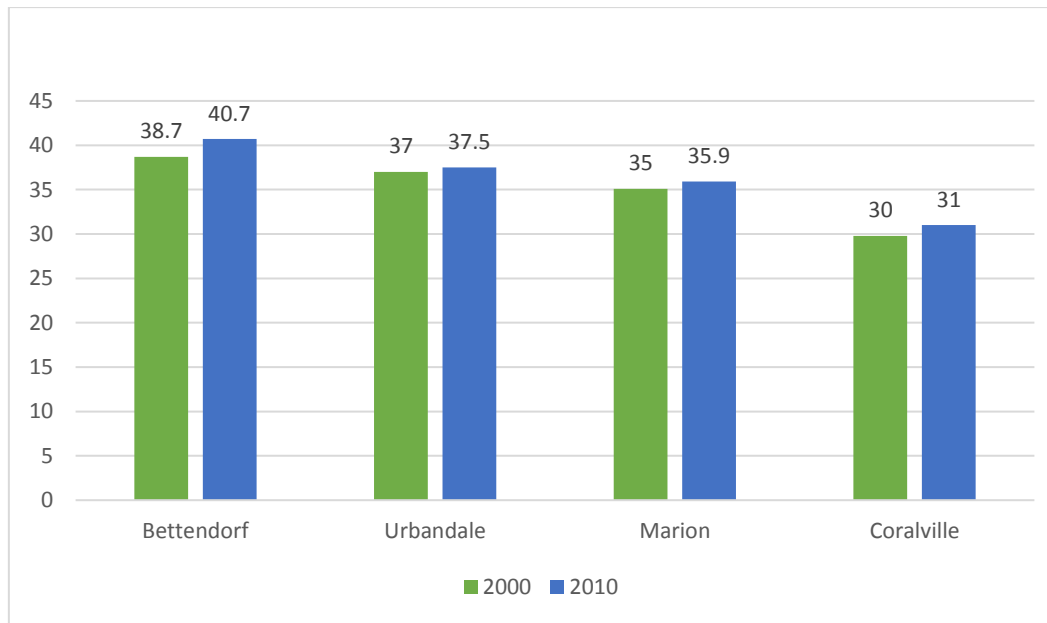
In order to develop a viable master plan, it is necessary to evaluate not only the age composition and location of the present residents, but also information about the expected future population. Location and age composition are both important since small and medium-sized parks must be located near people and designed with facilities compatible to the desires and capabilities of nearby residents. Large parks draw from all or most of the community, thus citywide figures must be evaluated.

### *Population Characteristics*

Based on Bettendorf's demographics, the City of Urbandale, a suburb of the Des Moines Metropolitan Area, has been selected as a peer comparison city. Comparing Bettendorf with a city of similar status summarizes how parks and recreation in Bettendorf is scoring in relation to a peer community. Bettendorf will also be compared to its neighboring community, Davenport, although there is a major difference in size and population, as well as Scott County and the State of Iowa.

The City of Bettendorf has a high percentage of people 54 years of age or younger. Data shows that 40.2% of the population is between 25 and 54 years of age. This is similar to the age distribution for all of Scott County and the State of Iowa. The next largest age cohort is residents 19 years of age or younger at 27.4%.

The median age in the city increased from 38.7 years in 2000 to 40.7 in 2010. This corresponds to the national trend of an aging population. The median age in Bettendorf is 3.2 years older than the median age of 37.5 in Urbandale, 5.4 years older than the median age of 35.3 in Davenport, 3.3 years older than the median age of 37.4 in Scott County, and 2.6 years older than the State of Iowa median age of 38.1 years. Figure 5.1 illustrates the median age of all five jurisdictions.

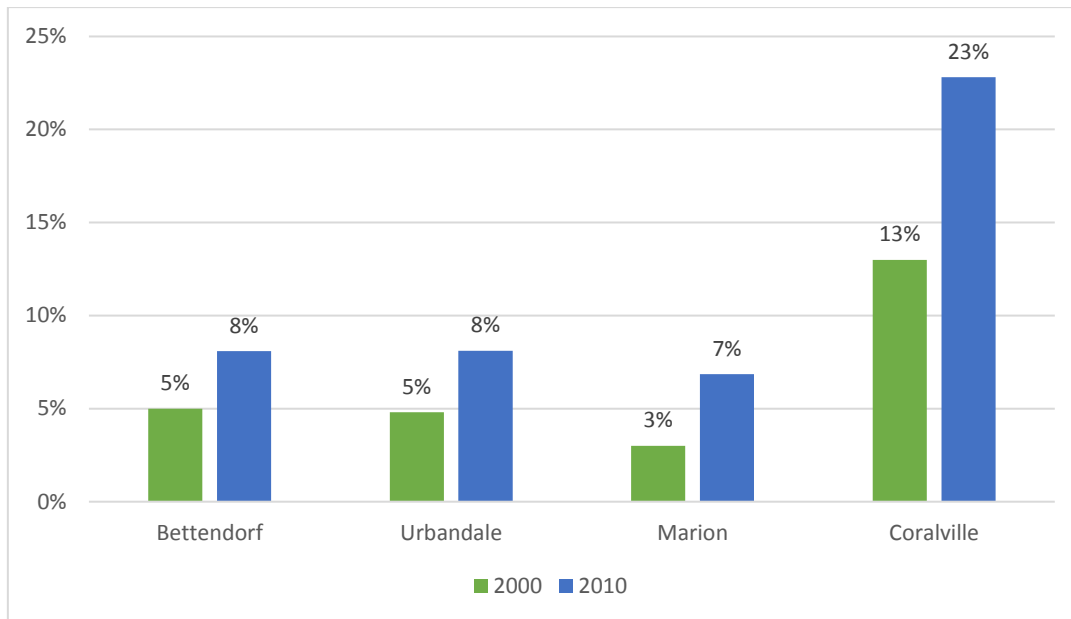
**Figure 5.1 – Median Income by Peer Community**

Source: 2000 and 2010 Census Bureau

Gender populations have remained stable over the last 10 years from 2000 to 2010 with the female population remaining at 51.5% of Bettendorf's total population.

In 2010, the city had a relatively small minority population accounting for 8.0% of Bettendorf residents. This is comparable to Urbandale's percentage of 8% but considerably less than the 19% minority distribution Davenport and 13% in Scott County. Bettendorf's percentage is only slightly lower than the 9.0% compilation of the State of Iowa. Figure 5.2 outlines a comparison of the four different jurisdictions and the State of Iowa.



**Figure 5.2 – Percent Racial Minority by Peer Community**

Source: 2000 and 2010 Census Bureau

The 2010 Census showed a decrease in percentage of residents over the age of 5 with a disability, from 12.89% in 2000 to 9.29%. The number of persons per household decreased from 2.62 in 2000 to 2.43 in 2010. The number of families increased from 2000 by 5.9% totaling 9,225 families in 2010. During the same period, the average number of persons per family declined from 3.01 in 2000 to 2.97 in 2010.

### *Trends and Forecast*

The population of the City of Bettendorf has increased dramatically since 1950. The population more than doubled from 10,534 to 22,126 between 1960 and 1970 for a 110% growth rate. This population increase was uncharacteristic of the Bi-State region for the same time period. Population growth slowed during the 1980s, which was common throughout the region and is attributed to a recession that occurred during this time period. Bettendorf experienced only modest growth of 2.7% during this time, while the population of Scott County witnessed a decrease of 5.5% for the same period. The 1990 Census showed Bettendorf with a population of 28,139. A special Census taken in Bettendorf in 1996 reported the population at 30,878, which increased to 31,275 by 2000. The 2010 Census identified 33,217 residents in Bettendorf, which is a 6.2% increase from 2000. Based on an ESRI Community Analyst profile, a population forecast of 37,719 persons is estimated for 2021. Table 5.1 illustrates a comparison of population change for Scott County and Bettendorf.

**Table 5.1 – Comparison of Population Change**

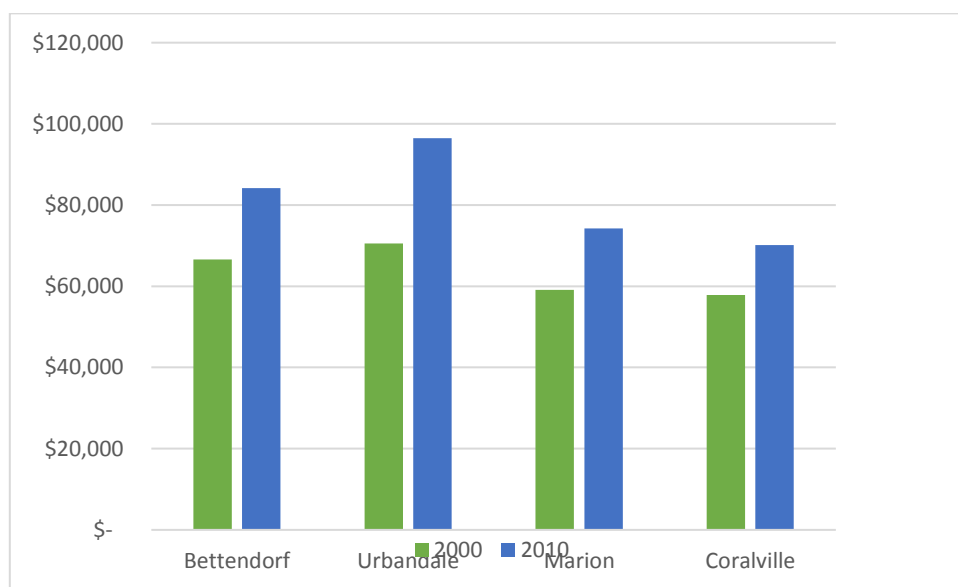
Population Changes	1990	2000	2010	Percent Change 2000-2010
Scott County	150,979	158,668	162,184	2.2%
City of Bettendorf	28,139	31,275	33,217	6.2%

Source: 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census Bureau

**Income and Educational Attainment**

The City of Bettendorf’s median family income (two or more related individuals) increased 42.4% from \$66,620 in 2000 to \$84,142 in 2010. Comparatively, Urbandale’s median family income is \$96,440, Davenport’s median family income is \$53,757, Scott County’s is \$64,513, and the State of Iowa’s is \$61,804. Figure 5.3 compares the 2010 median family income for all five jurisdictions. Bettendorf families with incomes between \$35,000 and \$49,999 made up 10.7%, 18.0% had incomes in the range of \$50,000 to \$74,999, and 57.4% had a median family income of \$75,000 or greater in 2010.

**Figure 5.3 – Median Family Income by Peer Community**



Source: 2000 and 2010 Census

In 2000, Bettendorf’s labor force contained 16,721 persons – 9,151 (54.7 %) were male. There were 7,376 persons between the ages of 16 and 64 who were not in the labor force, 4,937 (66.9 %) were females. Over 21% of the labor force was employed in education and health and social services in 2000, 17.3% were in wholesale or retail, and 16.9 % were in manufacturing.

The 2010 Census indicates 1.3% of Bettendorf residents 25 years or older have less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education, 20.7% are high school graduates, 20.8% had some college but did not obtain a degree, 10.0% have an associate’s degree, 28.2% have a bachelor’s degree, and 15.9% have a graduate or professional degree. The levels of educational attainment have increased from the 2000 to the 2010 Census in all categories except those having less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education and the percentage of high school graduates.

## *Crime Prevention and Safety*

Based on an FBI Uniform Crime Report, Bettendorf reported 42.7 crimes per 1,000 residents in 2009. Urbandale had a similar rate with 37.9 reported crimes per 1,000 residents. The Bettendorf Police Department has a crime prevention unit that provides information on public safety education and crime prevention programs to citizens, children, schools, businesses, and civic groups that express interest. The crime prevention unit facilitates the Neighborhood Watch Program. The Bettendorf Police Department also sponsors a Citizens Police Academy each year in February to promote community safety. The Academy lasts for eight weeks and provides participants with a basic knowledge of how local law enforcement agencies operate in the community.

## *Community Health Assessments*

In the *2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports adults need at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week and muscle-strength activities two or more days a week. For children and adolescents, 60 minutes or more of physical activity each day is recommended. In the 2015 *CDC Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity: Data: Trends and Maps*, 30.9% of adults and 13.2% of adolescents were reported as obese in Iowa. In the same report for Iowa, 46.9% of adults were aerobically active for 150 minutes and 29.1% of adolescents were physically active daily.<sup>3</sup>

The 2015 Quad Cities Community Health Assessment, funded by Genesis Health System and UnityPoint Health-Trinity, noted that 48% of adults meet the recommended levels of physical activity, slightly lower than Scott County at 49.8% and the U.S. at 50.3%. The quality of life in a community is often associated with available and accessible amenities, including parks and recreational trails. The 2015 Quad Cities Community Health Assessment reports that a total of 63.3% of adults residing in the Quad Cities area rate their community as an “excellent” or “very good” place to live. The Quad Cities was rated as a “good” place to live by 25.3% of residents, and 11.5% rated the Quad Cities as either “fair” or “poor.” These statistics do not highlight information relating solely to Bettendorf, but provide insight on the region as a whole.

## *Recreation Considerations*

Studies on leisure time activities indicate that there is a correlation between the amount of disposable income and educational attainment with the demand for the type of leisure activities. Considering median age, age distribution, income, and educational attainment, it is expected that high quality recreational opportunities will be needed to meet the demands of all age groups in the City of Bettendorf. The population of Bettendorf is expected to grow at a significant rate. This will increase the pressure on the Park Board to maintain and provide a full range of recreational opportunities and facilities. Refer to Tables 5.2 and 5.3 for a breakdown of demographic figures and statistics.

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<sup>3</sup> Sources: [http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications\\_and\\_Research/Research/Papers/SOPARC-Report.pdf](http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Papers/SOPARC-Report.pdf)  
[https://nccd.cdc.gov/NPAO\\_DTML/LocationSummary.aspx?statecode=73](https://nccd.cdc.gov/NPAO_DTML/LocationSummary.aspx?statecode=73)  
[http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications\\_and\\_Research/Research/Papers/Role-Parks-Obesity-Prevention.pdf](http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Papers/Role-Parks-Obesity-Prevention.pdf)

**Table 5.2 – Income and Education Figures**

	<b>Bettendorf</b>	<b>Scott County</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>Dollars</b>
Median Household Income	\$65,604	\$49,964
Median Family Income	\$84,142	\$64,513
<b>Educational Attainment</b>	<b>Number of Residents (% of Population)</b>	<b>Number of Residents (% of Population)</b>
Persons 25 Years of Age or Older	22,160 (66.7%)	107,368 (66.2%)
Less than 9th Grade	288 (1.3%)	3,006 (2.8%)
High School Graduate	4,587 (20.7%)	30,815 (28.7%)
Some College, No Degree	4,609 (20.8%)	24,050 (22.4%)
Associate Degree	2,216 (10.0%)	10,307 (9.6%)
Bachelor's Degree	6,249 (28.2%)	21,366 (19.9%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	3,523 (15.9%)	10,629 (9.9%)

Source: 2010 Census

**Table 5.3 – City of Bettendorf Demographic Statistics**

<b>Population Trends</b>	
1950	5,132
1960	10,534
1970	22,126
1980	27,381
1990	28,139
1996	30,878
2000	31,275
2010	33,217
2015	est. 35,505

<b>Census Year</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Households/Families</b>		
Number of Households	12,474	13,681
Number of Families	8,714	9,225
Average Household Size	2.48	2.42
Average Family Size	3.01	2.97
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	15,180 (48.5%)	16,145 (48.6%)
Female	16,095 (51.5%)	17,072 (51.4%)
<b>Age Group Distribution</b>		
Under 5 Years	1,924	1,997
5 to 19 Years	7,016	7,094
20 to 24 Years	1,368	1,315
25 to 44 Years	8,756	8,187
45 to 54 Years	5,298	5,169
55 to 59 Years	1,771	2,468
60 to 64 Years	1,264	2,099
65 to 74 Years	2,040	2,532
75 Years and Over	1,838	2,372
Median Age	38.7	40.7
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin</b>		
White	29,715	30,540
Black	494	747
American Indian and Alaskan Native	64	65
Asian	444	1,025
Hispanic or Latino Origin of any race	772	1,205

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010

## *Current Policies Review*

As with the other sections of this plan, the policies and strategies for implementation need to be continually examined. These should be revised and updated as needed, based on progress that has been made and changes in parks and recreation interests or trends.

### **2016 Plan Policies**

When considering the development of a parks and recreation system, there should be an understanding of basic policies. The 2008 plan was reviewed in context to the changing conditions of the city and its resident's needs. Policies should be developed and implemented by elected officials with input from the public. Effective policies will serve as guidelines to develop new and sustainable parks and recreation opportunities in the community, while not jeopardizing the integrity of the current infrastructure. The following policies are paramount in obtaining a balanced allocation of land and facilities to meet the community's needs. A notation follows those policies that were revised or updated from 2008.

**Opportunities for All** – The parks and recreation system should not alienate any demographic group. It should provide opportunities for all persons regardless of age, race, creed, sex, economic status, or ability. The development of ADA-accessible features should be integrated into newly constructed infrastructure, while updating current infrastructure where needed to accommodate the prescribed requirements. [Revised from 2008 to address accessibility.]

**Resource Evaluation** – An analysis must be made of all resources available in the community, including but not limited to: flood plains, mature woodlands and forest areas, marshlands and bluffs; unique ecological areas; historical and archeological sites; vacant lots; and lands that may be reclaimed for recreation. Where lack of space is critical, alternative use of facilities such as parking lots should be considered.

**Planning Ahead** – Advanced acquisition based upon a comprehensive park and recreation plan is essential. Unless sites are acquired well in advance of burgeoning growth, land costs may make their acquisition prohibitive. An analysis should be made on an ongoing basis of recreation activity needs and trends in order to realistically project space facility requirements.

**Proper Distribution** – The parks and recreation system must be a unified development with continuity maintained and areas properly distributed within the community. Facilities should be appropriately located within the area that they are intended to serve and must have safe and adequate access. Pocket neighborhood parks are strongly desired within walking distance of all neighborhoods – approximately ¼-mile to a ½-mile radius. The size of such parks can range from small open spaces with benches to playgrounds and shelters. [Revised from 2008 to address neighborhood parks.]

**Architectural Barriers** – Special efforts should be made to provide for easy access to and the use of all facilities by the elderly, ill and disabled, very young, and other less mobile groups in the community. To ensure that recreational opportunities are available to these and any other special needs groups:

- All recreation and park facilities should be required to develop and implement a schedule designed to eliminate architectural barriers and provide integrated facilities.
- Representatives from organizations working for people with disabilities should be asked and encouraged to attend public hearings, meetings, etc., to express their park, recreation, and leisure needs.
- Bettendorf Park Board members, city staff, and elected officials must be aware of the existing federal and state legislation that requires barrier-free facilities where state and federal funds are used.
- The Bettendorf Park Board should reach out to differently-abled individuals or groups for guidance concerning the identification of architectural barriers within their jurisdiction and for information of how best to eliminate them.

**Consideration of Land Uses Best Suited to the Soil** – The land or site should be evaluated to identify the appropriate uses of the site based on soil types. This will involve reference to the soil survey of the county, which was completed in 1996. The survey will provide detailed soil information, which can be used to determine the suitability of tracts of land for farming, industry, and recreation.

**Citizen Involvement** – There should be comprehensive citizen involvement during all phases of the planning effort through neighborhood groups, citizen task forces, or the most effective means that can be established for mutual cooperation and adequate communications. Public input can be continuously collected throughout the year and not strictly during plan update processes. [Revised from 2008 to address on-going, frequent, or regular public input to monitor changing needs and desires.]

**Relationship with Other Agencies** – There should be cooperation and coordination with other agencies responsible for the planning, administration, and/or operation of park and recreation services. This includes other public bodies and voluntary, private, church, and business agencies. Inter-governmental coordination may be necessary for parks lying on the edge of Bettendorf city limits or to develop recreational facilities that may serve as regional destinations, such as a sports complex. [Revised from 2008 to look for partnerships beyond the city limits.]

**School-Park Coordination** – Wherever possible, outdoor recreation and open space areas at the neighborhood and community levels should adjoin and be planned in conjunction with public and private schools. This can avoid duplication of facilities, and make schools park-like in character and additional assets to the community that they serve. Consideration should be given to joint planning, financing, acquisition, programming, and maintenance to ensure the most effective use of school buildings and grounds.

**Ordinance for Developers** – Acquisition of land for new trails and parks can take place through required dedication by developers. Iowa law allows cities to establish policies to require dedication, through an addition to the city's land development ordinances. Adopting an ordinance of this nature will assist with developing neighborhood parks with the construction of new housing developments. [Added new policy to integrate park creation with the development process.]

**Integrate Health Related Components** – Integrating health-related components, such as recreational opportunities for children, infrastructure such as exercise equipment at the park, and an increase of trails, will aid in decreasing negative health-related effects such as adult and child obesity. The development of pocket neighborhood parks will allow increased accessibility for more residents in the community. Coordination with health-related agencies will help to maximize efforts and increase the needs and issues residing in the community. [Added new to tie parks and recreation to community health and wellness.]

**Loss of Park and Recreation Land** – All park facilities, outdoor recreation, and open space land should be protected in perpetuity against encroachment and non-recreation-related purposes. It should not be considered the "path of least resistance" for highways, city streets, public utilities, and public buildings not suitable for recreation-related purposes or activities.

## 6. Needs and Focus Areas

### *Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory and Coverage Area*

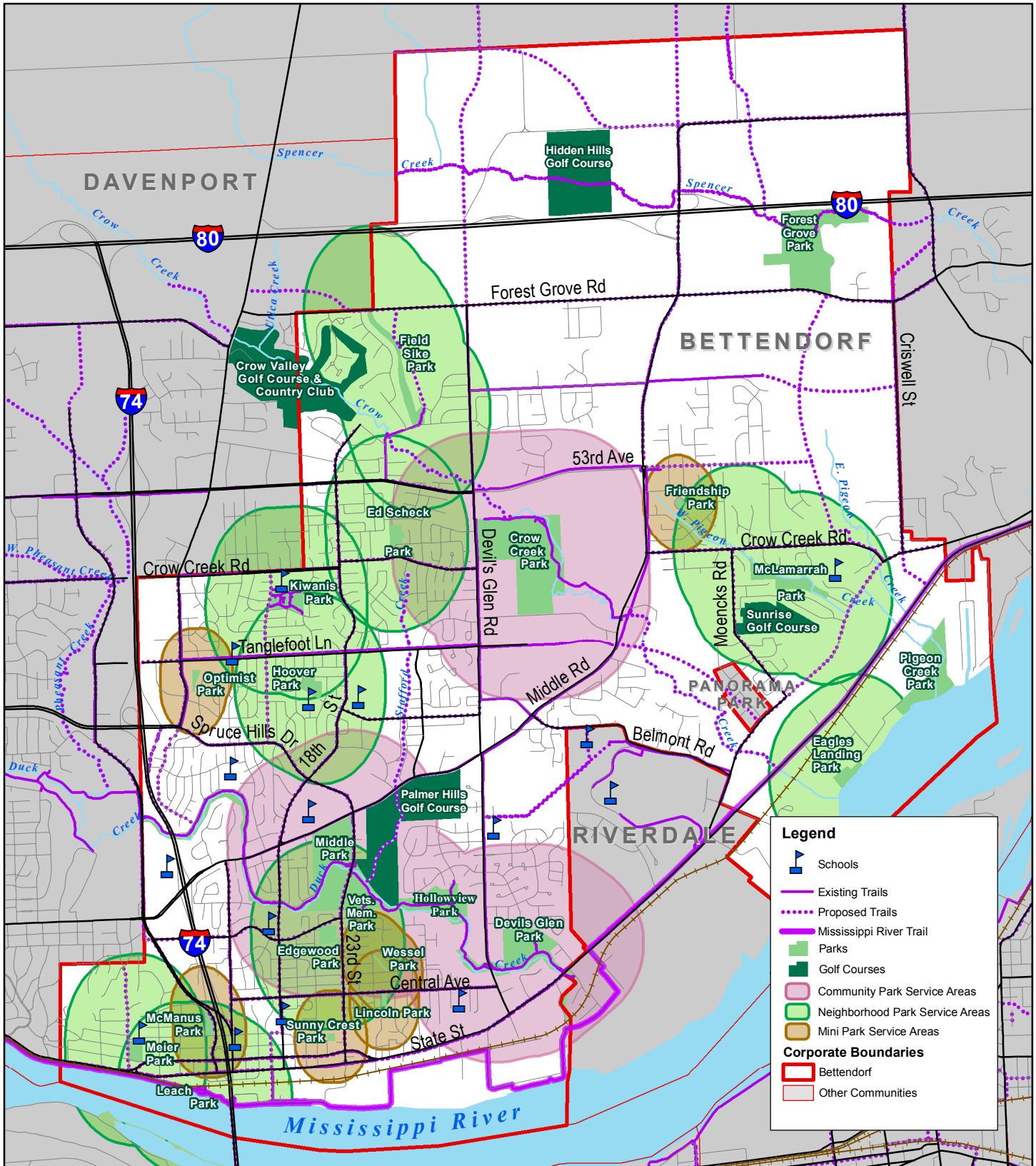
In order to determine the adequacy of a recreational program or the number and size of existing parks and recreational facilities, it is necessary to conduct an inventory. This section lists a comprehensive profile of existing parks and facilities, their locations, existing amenities, and their approximate size.

Map 5.1 in Section 5 provides an illustration of existing park facilities within Bettendorf. Map 6.1 profiles the service or coverage area for each park facility. The service areas as noted previously in this plan are based on guidelines established by the NRPA and the AAPRA and depend on the acreage of the park. This plan utilizes park facility location and amenities provided as additional variables in determining service area for each existing park and recreation facility. For example, Crow Creek Park, Devils Glen Park, Middle Park, and Veterans Memorial Park are large and diverse enough to serve the entire community, but also provide sufficient amenities to serve as neighborhood parks.

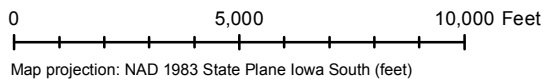


# Service Areas

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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## *Summary of Individual Park Goals*

Individual park goals and a prospective time frame have been established for guidance in implementing the proposed improvements. Maps for each park accompany the respective narrative portions.

## *Parks/ Facilities Inventory*

In 2015, the Sports Facilities Advisory, LLC (SFA) conducted the Park Facilities Needs Assessment & Feasibility Study, which sought recommendations to many of the questions regarding Splash Landing Family Aquatic Center, the Herbert D. Goettsch Community Center, and Life Fitness Center. The consultant team also looked into the feasibility of two new facilities: an outdoor regional waterpark and an indoor recreation facility.

The consultant team summarized the following recommendations:

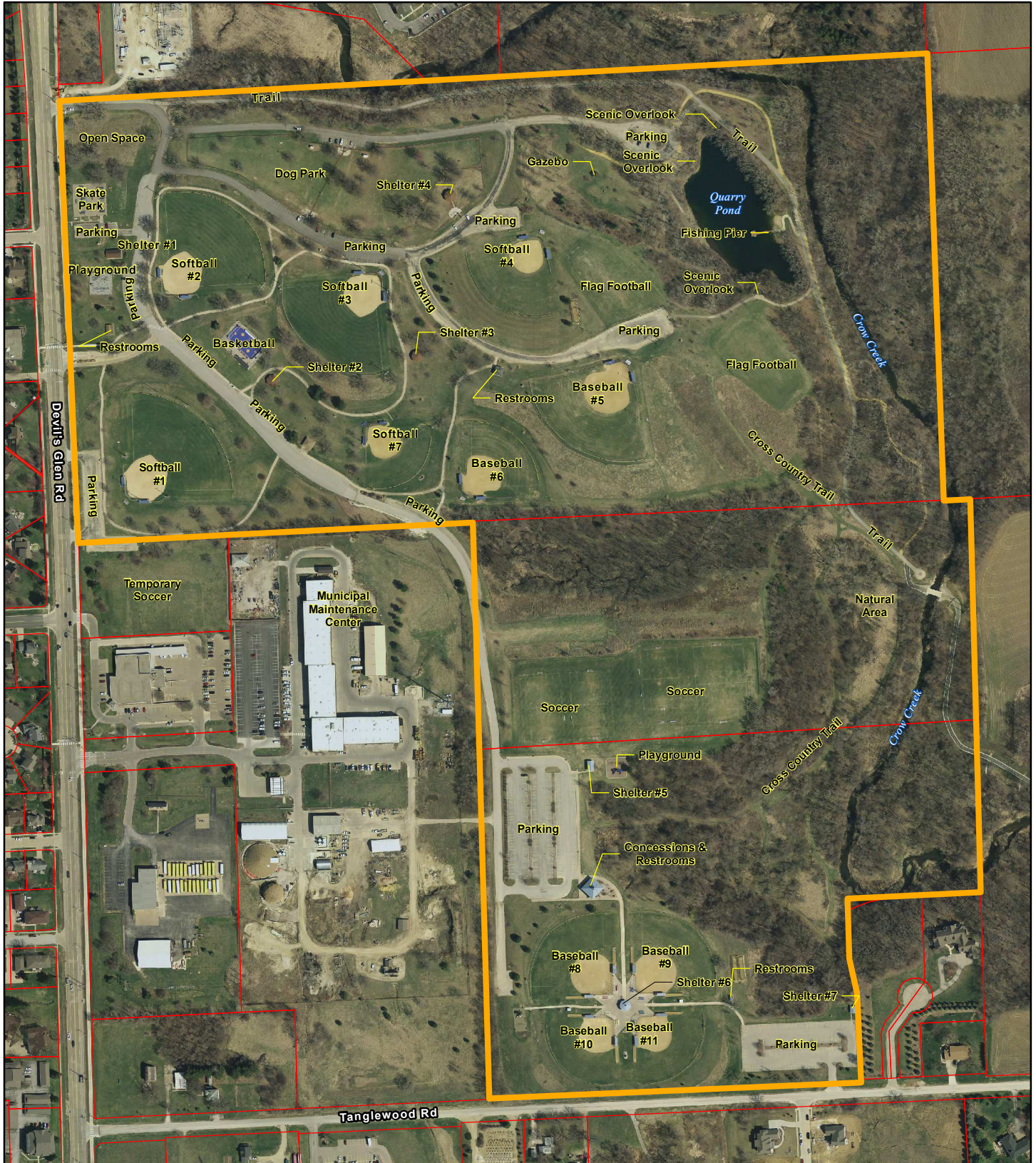
1. “The consultant team recommends that all three existing facilities analyzed continue to operate and serve the community through services similar to those historically provided at each.
2. The consultant team recommends that \$144,000 be invested into upgrades to the Life Fitness Center to rehabilitate the pool and continue serving residents. The consultant team does not recommend any changes to the operating model unless there is an opportunity to partner with an outside organization.
3. The consultant team does not recommend any major improvements to the community center of its operations. The consultant team does not believe there are opportunities for partnerships that would enhance the operations of the community center.
4. The consultant team recommends that \$468,000 is invested into upgrades to Splash Landing Family Aquatic Center to rehabilitate the pools and continues serving residents. The consultant team does not recommend any major changes to the operating model.
5. Alternatively, SFA has analyzed an outdoor regional water park that is forecasted to produce a positive cash flow and would be recommended to replace Splash Landing if it is pursued by Bettendorf.
6. Additionally, the consultant team recognizes that there is an opportunity to further enhance the quality of life in Bettendorf through the development of a new indoor recreation facility; however, the consultant team does not recommend pursuing the development because of the confirmed enhancements to the Bettendorf YMCA which would cover the majority of existing service gaps that were identified through this study.”

**Crow Creek Park**  
**4800 North Devils Glen Road**

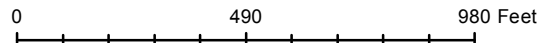
Park Size: 134.0 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 ball fields (5 lighted)</li> <li>3 to 5 soccer fields</li> <li>2 flag football fields</li> <li>7 picnic shelters (grills)</li> <li>3 playgrounds</li> <li>4 restrooms</li> <li>11 drinking fountains</li> <li>Passive/open space</li> <li>Quarry pond</li> <li>Fishing pier</li> <li>Walking and interpretive trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiuse recreation trail</li> <li>Cross country trail</li> <li>Concession stand</li> <li>1 skate park</li> <li>1 dog park</li> <li>Gazebo</li> <li>3 scenic overlooks</li> <li>Parking (approx. 350 spaces)</li> <li>2 Dekhockey courts</li> <li>2 batting cages</li> </ul>
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and promote winter uses/activities</li> <li>Consider adding more lights to the ball fields</li> <li>Consider adding more restrooms</li> <li>Continue development of the Crow Creek Recreation Trail to Field Sike Park</li> <li>Develop a plan to install nature trails in the northeast quadrant of the park once access is available</li> <li>Resurface remaining park roads</li> <li>Renovate shelters</li> <li>Work to reduce invasive plant growth in natural areas</li> <li>Consider development of off-road cycling trails</li> <li>Enhance wayfinding signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the feasibility of developing a miniature golf course (fee-based)</li> <li>Renovate playground by soccer fields</li> <li>Replace restroom near park entrance</li> <li>Renovate scenic overlooks</li> </ul>

# Crow Creek Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



Park Boundary  parcels



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Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
 Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
 Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



**Devils Glen Park**  
**1101 Devils Glen Road**

Park Size: 43.9 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
1 baseball field (lighted)	4 drinking fountains
1 indoor archery range and upstairs meeting area	1 disc golf course
4 picnic shelters (grills)	Passive/open space
1 playground	Parking (approx. 110 spaces)
2 restrooms (1 accessible)	Fire pit
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals (6 – 10 Years)
Continue to implement a tree management program to add additional trees Enhance natural aspects of the trail through the park and work on improving native plantings Provide directional signage Add amenities along multipurpose trail Resurface roadway Replace playground Renovate shelters Renovate archery range restroom	Consider re-use or removal of old stone structures

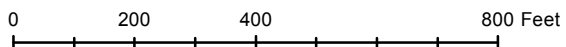
# Devils Glen Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



 Park Boundary  Parcels

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Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



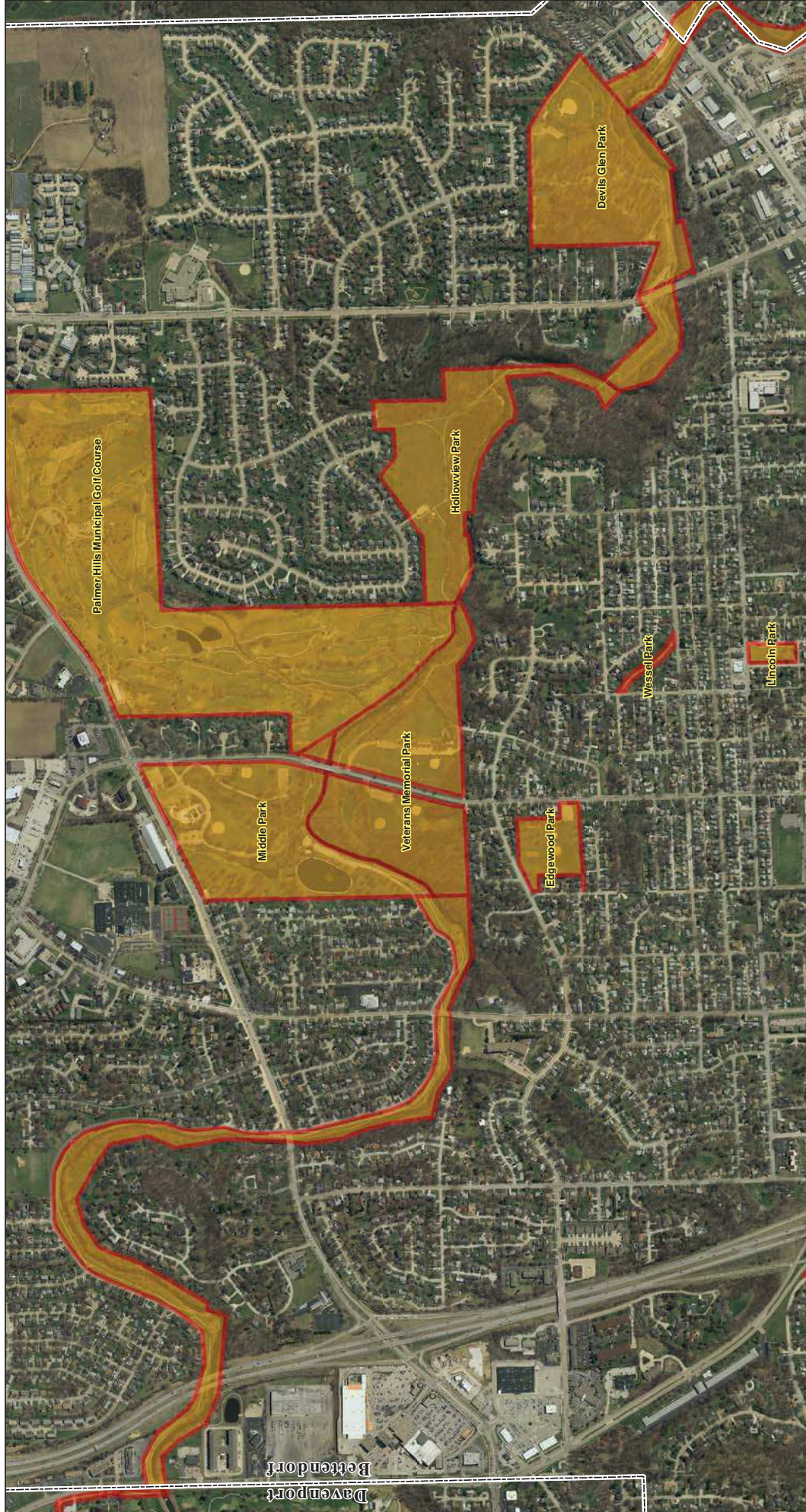
Prepared by:



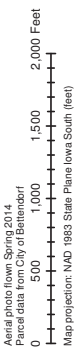
**Duck Creek Parkway**  
**Davenport to Riverdale**

Park Size: 103.0 acres	
Existing Amenities: Multi-use Trail (5.95 miles) Signage Benches Landscaping	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Continue Erosion Control Practices (also long-term goal) Incorporate Native Grasses and Plants (also long-term goal) Install Benches along Older Sections of Parkway Enhance wayfinding signage Plant additional trees along Parkway	Continue Erosion Control Practices (also short-term goal) Incorporate Native Grasses and Plants (also short-term goal)

MAP 6.4  
**Duck Creek Parkway**  
 City of Bettendorf, Iowa



Prepared by:  
**BI-State**  
 INCORPORATED  
 January 2017



Aerial photo from Spring 2014  
 Parcel data from City of Bettendorf  
 Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)

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**Legend**

- Parks
- Corporate Limits

Bettendorf  
 Davenport



**Eagles Landing Park**  
**2731 62nd Street Court**

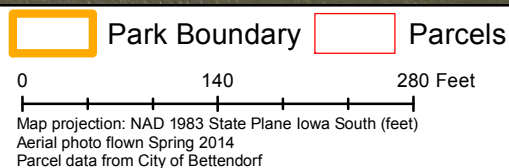
Park Size: 7.1 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
1 boat launch area	1 restroom
1 courtesy dock	Passive/open space
1 shelter	Parking (approx. 20 spaces)
1 gazebo	
Walking trails	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Expand boat-trailer parking area Add seating and viewing areas	Construct a fishing pier Extend trails in the park capitalizing on scenic views Improve shoreline aesthetics (explore alternatives to rip-rap)

# Eagles Landing Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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**Ed Scheck Park**  
**4792 Mayfield Drive**

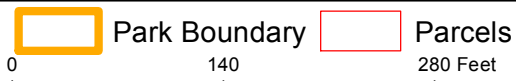
Park Size: 5.9 acres	
Existing Amenities	
I playground	I drinking fountain
I baseball field	Passive/open space
I shelter/restroom structure	Parking (approx. 30 spaces)
I restroom	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Add park benches/social seating areas	Replace Playground Equipment

# Ed Scheck Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



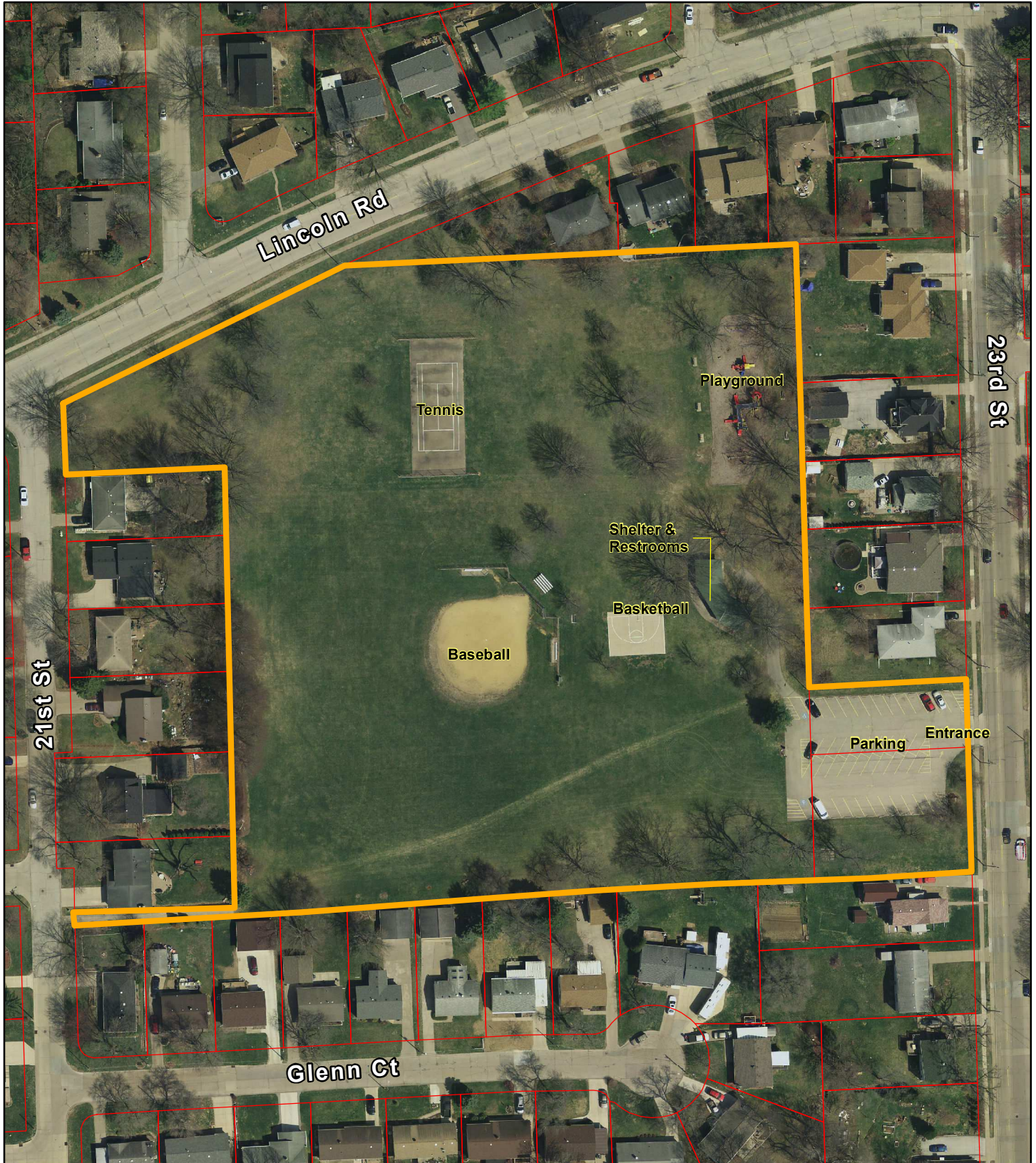
Prepared by:  
  
Bi-State  
Regional Commission  
January 2017

**Edgewood Park**  
**1400 23rd Street**



Park Size: 7.5 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
I tennis court	I drinking fountain
I playground	Passive/open space
I shelter	Parking (approx. 50 spaces)
I restroom	
I baseball field	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Evaluate options for the tennis court area Install an interior park path connecting 23rd Street to Lincoln Road and the ball field Replace playground equipment	None identified

# Edgewood Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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 Park Boundary  Parcels

0 140 280 Feet

Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



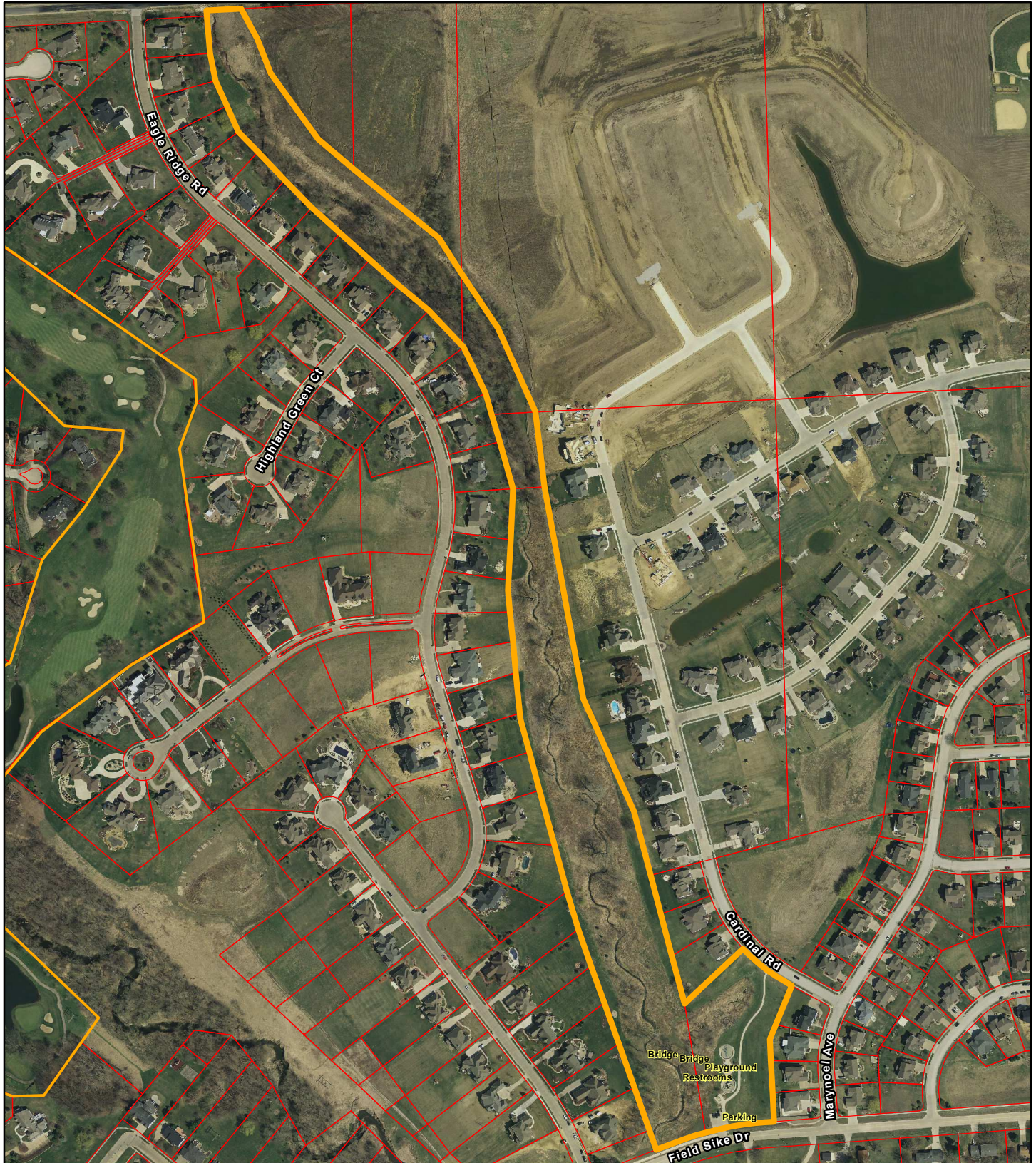
Prepared by:  
  
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Regional Commission  
January 2017

**Field Sike Park**  
**Field Sike Drive & Marynoel Avenue**

Park Size: 19.7 acres	
Existing Amenities: 1 playground 1 restroom Greenway, trails and natural areas	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Install Interpretive signs Improve the greenway by establishing and maintaining native plantings and re-seeding	Expand greenway development to the upper portion of the Cardinal Creek Corridor Install benches and other suitable trail/greenway amenities

# Field Sike Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



 Park Boundary  Other Parks  Parcels

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0 490 980 Feet

Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
Parcel data from City of Bettendorf





**Friendship Park**  
**5038 White Post Road**

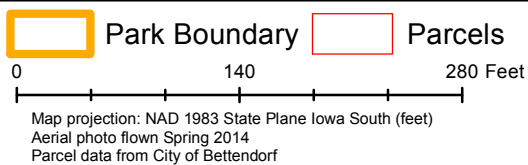
Park Size: 1.4 acres	
Existing Amenities: 1 sand volleyball court 1 playground 1 shelter Passive/open space	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Consider installing waterless restroom	Renovate the playground

# Friendship Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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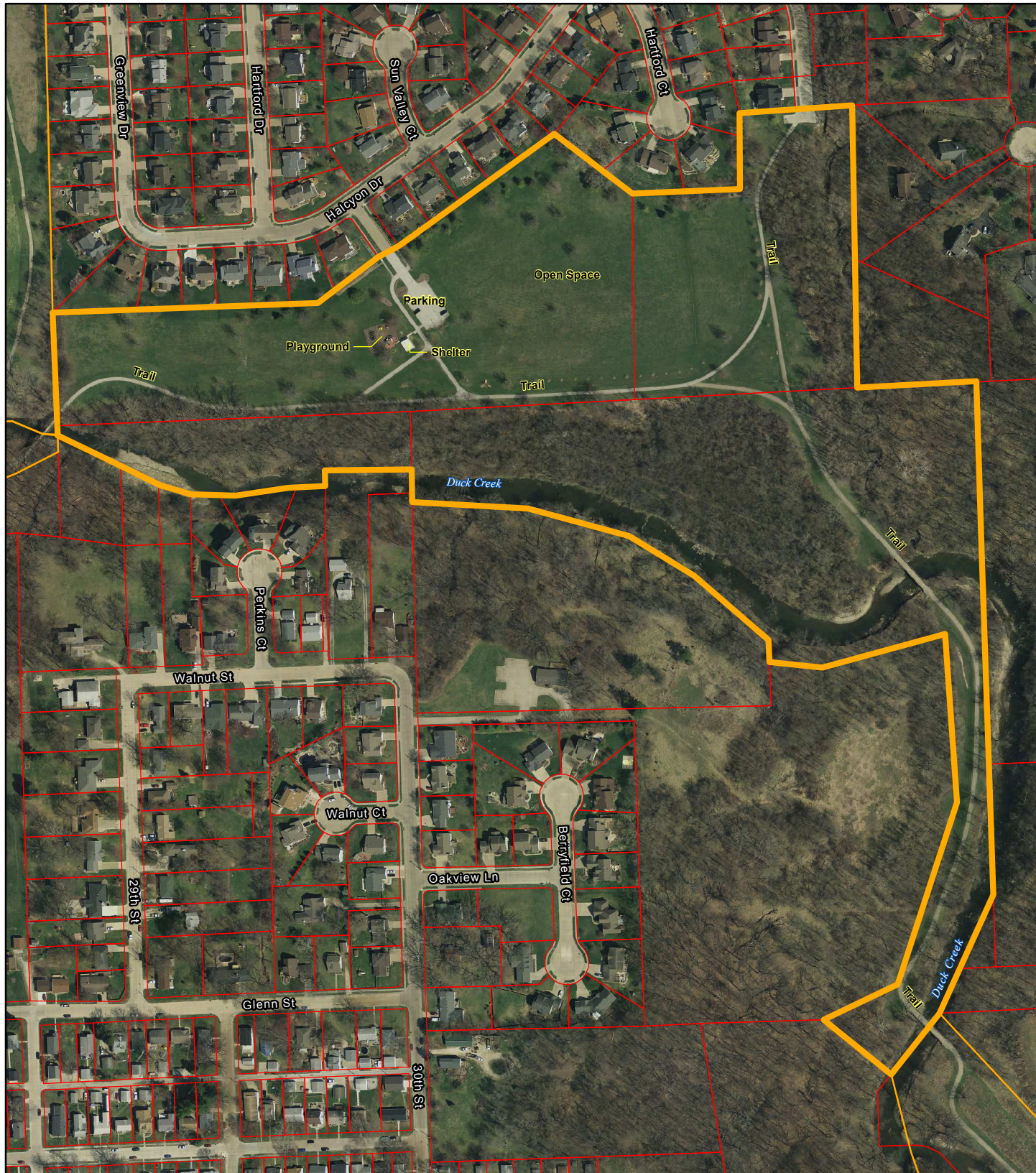


**Hollowview Park**  
**1700 Sun Valley Drive**

Park Size: 35.9 acres	
Existing Amenities: 1 playground Multiuse trail 1 drinking fountain Shelter Waterless restroom Parking (approx. 20 spaces)	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Consider installing recreational backstop Renovate the playground Enhance wayfinding signage	None identified

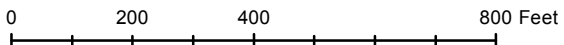
# Hollowview Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



Park Boundary
  Other Parks
  Parcels

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Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
 Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
 Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



**Hoover Park**  
**3223 South Hampton Drive**



Park Size: 6.9 acres	
Existing Amenities:   playground   shelter   baseball field   tennis court   soccer field (school) Passive/open space Waterless restroom	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
None identified	Renovate playground and shelter

# Hoover Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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 Park Boundary  Parcels

0 100 200 400 Feet

Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



Prepared by:



**Kiwanis Park**  
**4223 Greenbrier Drive**

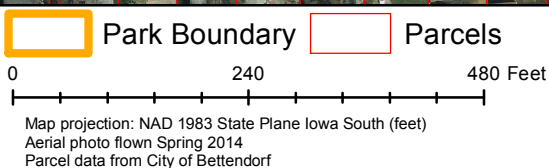
Park Size: 13.1 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
1 baseball field (lighted)	Passive/open space
2 tennis courts	Walking paths
1 basketball court	1 shelter with grill
6 pickle ball courts	1 restroom
2 drinking fountains	Parking (approx. 25 spaces)
1 playground	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Resurface the parking area Renovate tennis courts Replace playground	Consider installing irrigation for the ball field

# Kiwanis Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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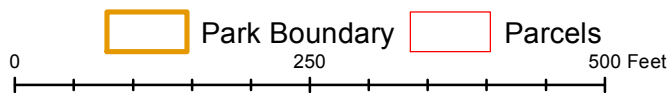
**Leach Park**  
**100 12th Street**

Park Size: 5.7 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
1 boat launch area	1 drinking fountain
1 restroom	1 courtesy dock
2 gazebos/picnic shelters	Multiuse trail (MRT)
3 mini-shelters	Outdoor art
1 plaza area	Boat trailer parking
3 fishing piers	Parking (approx. 15 spaces)
1 handicapped accessible fishing pier	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
<p>Work with the City Council on opportunities to expand the park area (Add more area for parking and improvements/additional amenities)</p> <p>Install bicycle racks and bike repair station</p> <p>Dredge boat launch if needed</p> <p>Remove dead trees and shrubs</p> <p>Incorporate I-74 Bridge and urban park under the bridge into the overall park maintenance plan</p> <p>Renovate mini-shelters</p>	<p>Replace or renovate the west shelter</p> <p>Dredge boat launch area when needed</p>

MAP 6.13  
**Leach Park**  
 City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
 Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
 Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



Prepared by:  
  
 January 2017

**Lincoln Park**  
**951 27th Street**



Park Size: 1.7 acres	
Existing Amenities: 1 basketball court 1 playground 1 shelter Perimeter walking path Passive/open space	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Consider adding a splash pad Renovate the playground	None identified

# Lincoln Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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 Park Boundary  Parcels

0 90 180 Feet

Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



Prepared by:  
  
Bi-State  
Regional Commission  
January 2017

**McLamarrah Park**  
**4100 Pinebrook Lane**

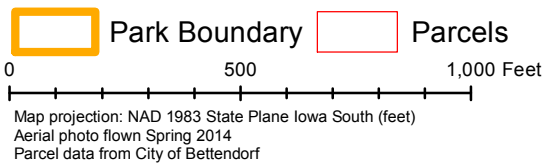
Park Size: 19.3 acres	
Existing Amenities: Passive/open space Interpretive trail Parking (approx. 15 spaces)	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Improve the access across Pigeon Creek for park maintenance equipment Add interpretive signage	Maintain natural features and emphasize passive use and benefits

# McLamarrah Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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Regional Commission  
January 2017

**McManus Park**  
**1200 Mississippi Blvd.**

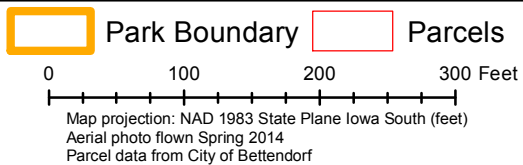
Park Size: 3.9 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
2 playgrounds	Flower garden
3 shelters	1 restroom
1 multiuse court	Parking (approx. 30 spaces)
Passive/open space	
Picnic area	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Improve the parking area Add benches on north along 12th Street Build a landscape buffer along East Kimberly/13th Street Renovate older playground	Renovate multi-use court Renovate newer playground

# McManus Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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**Meier Park**  
**601 Holmes Street**

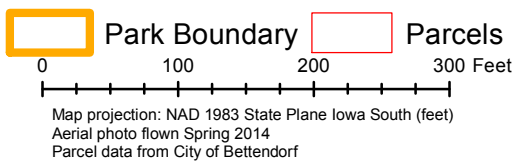
Park Size: 6.1 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I playground</li> <li>I shelter (grills)</li> <li>I gazebo</li> <li>I ball field</li> <li>I tennis court</li> <li>I drinking fountain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passive/open space</li> <li>I restroom</li> <li>Parking (approx. 10 spaces)</li> <li>I storage building</li> </ul>
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add dugouts to ballfield</li> <li>Update playground equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renovate shelter</li> </ul>

# Meier Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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 Regional Commission  
 January 2017

**Middle Park**  
**2407 Middle Road**

Park Size: 45.7 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
<p><u>Upper Playground Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 playground</li> <li>1 shelter</li> <li>1 drinking fountain</li> <li>Passive/open space</li> <li>Parking (approx. 20 spaces)</li> </ul> <p><u>Lagoon Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 lagoon (3 acres)</li> <li>Ice skating</li> <li>1 restroom/warming house</li> <li>1 shelter</li> <li>Grills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 drinking fountains</li> <li>Multiuse trail (Duck Creek Parkway)</li> <li>Parking (approx. 40 spaces)</li> </ul> <p><u>Pool Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 aquatic center (Splash Landing)</li> <li>1 shelter</li> <li>2 baseball fields</li> <li>Passive/open space</li> <li>18 target disc golf course</li> <li>Centennial Gardens</li> <li>Parking (approx. 200 spaces)</li> <li>Ice rink (seasonal)</li> <li>1 gazebo</li> </ul>
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add restroom near upper playground area</li> <li>Develop a plan for renovation of Splash Landing</li> <li>Install covers on the 23rd Street ball field dugouts</li> <li>Add a waterless restroom near the 23rd Street ball field</li> <li>Resurface upper park roadways</li> <li>Add additional tree planting</li> <li>Prune and remove existing trees and dead trees</li> <li>Enhance wayfinding signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace Lagoon shelter</li> <li>Resurface roadway and parking lots</li> </ul>

# Middle Park

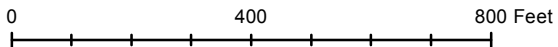
(Area North of Duck Creek)

City of Bettendorf, Iowa

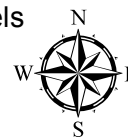


Park Boundary
  Other Boundaries
  Parcels

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Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
 Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
 Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



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 Regional Commission  
 January 2017

**Optimist Park**  
**1130 Belair Road**

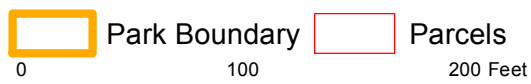
Park Size: 2.2 acres	
Existing Amenities: 1 playground 1 shelter 1 grill Passive/open space	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Upgrade the playground	Renovate the shelter

# Optimist Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
Parcel data from City of Bettendorf

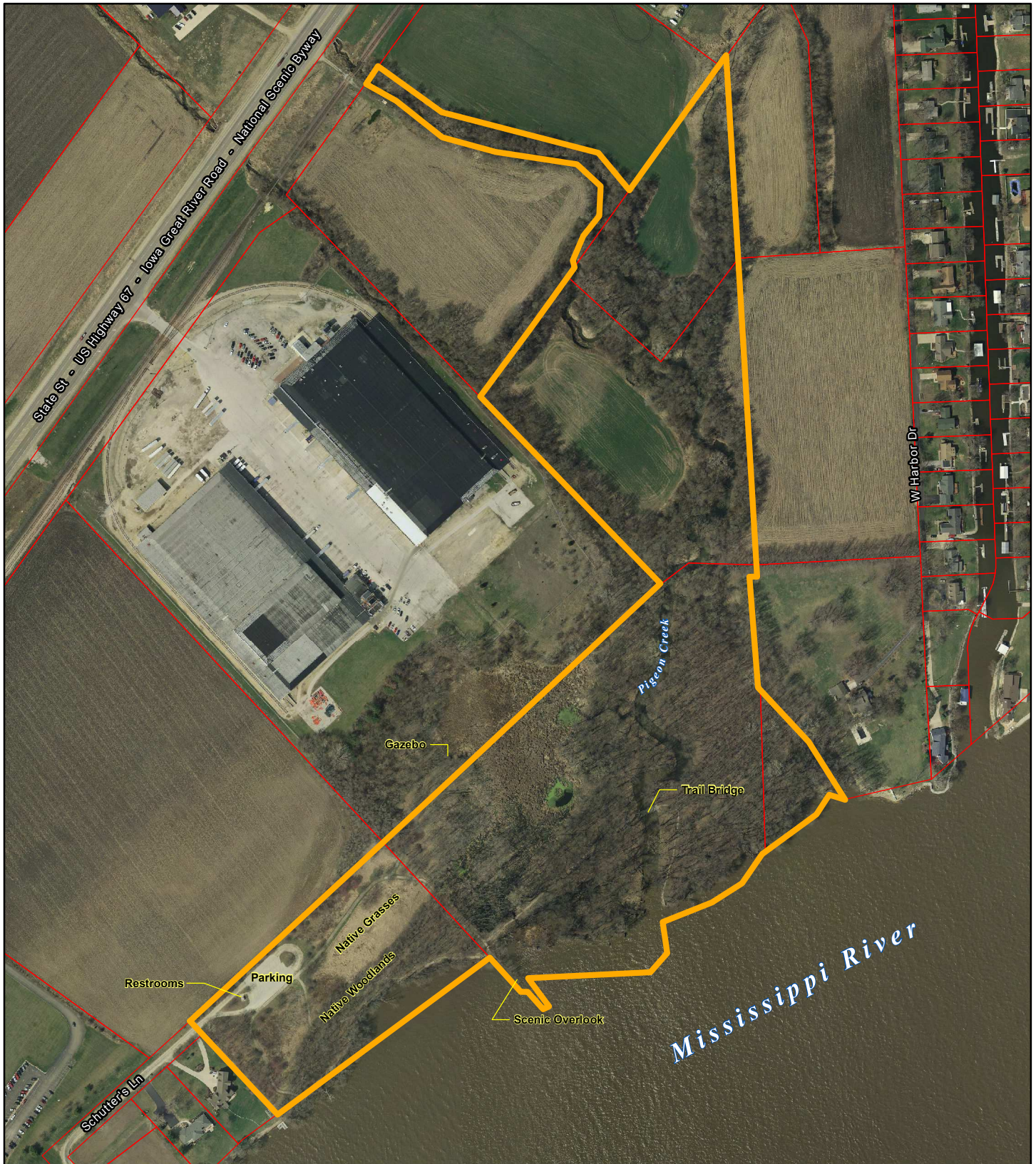


**Pigeon Creek Park**  
**6729 Marigil Lane**

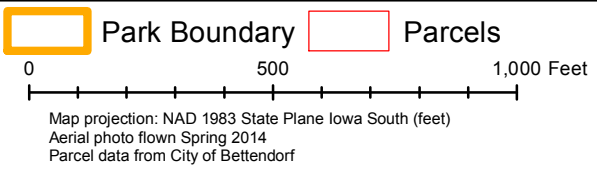
Park Size: 43.0 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
Passive/natural setting	1 gazebo/shelter
Native grasses and woodlands	Scenic overlook
Trails	Parking (approx. 20 spaces)
1 restroom	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Work on MRT connection/s with signage Add interpretive signage Continue restoration efforts and trail development to those areas	Continue to expand interior nature trails Add native plantings

# Pigeon Creek Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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Regional Commission  
January 2017



**Sunny Crest Park**  
**2204 Grant Street**

Park Size: 1.3 acres	
Existing Amenities: 1 playground 1 shelter 1 basketball court Passive/open space	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Replace shelter	None identified



NOTE: (Community Center Facilities Service Park)

# Sunny Crest Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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 Park Boundary  Parcels

0 150 300 Feet

Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



Prepared by:  
  
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Regional Commission  
January 2017

**Veterans Memorial Park**  
**1645 23rd Street**

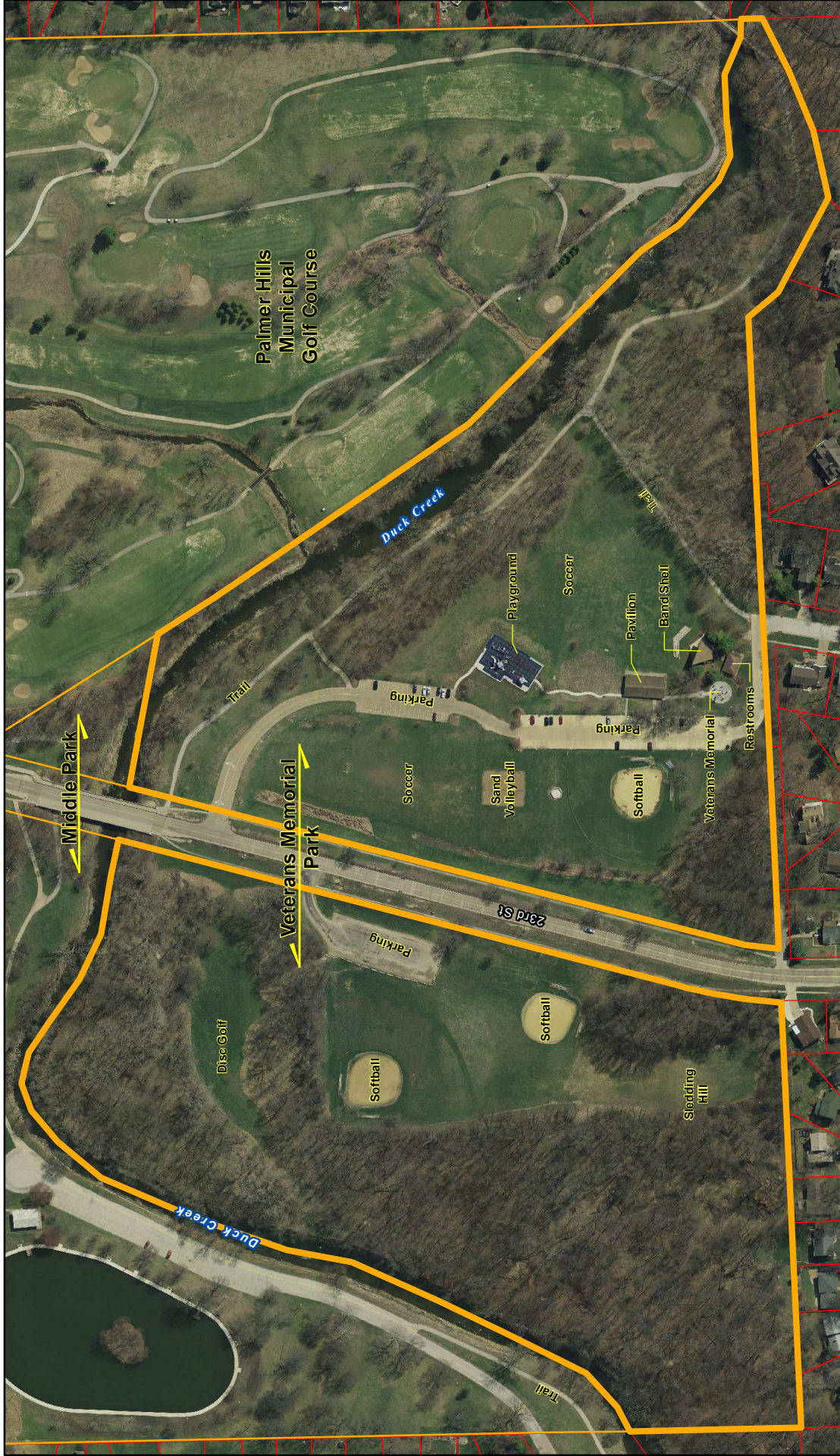
Park Size: 47.0 acres	
Existing Amenities:	
3 softball fields	2 drinking fountains
2 soccer fields	Military veterans memorial
2 sand volleyball courts	18 target disc golf course
Multiuse trail (Duck Creek Parkway)	Passive/open space and wooded areas
1 playground	Sledding hill
1 bandshell	Parking (approx. 150 spaces)
1 pavillion/shelter	
1 restroom	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Install benches/sitting areas near the sand volleyball courts Address flooding and drainage issues on both sides Enhance interpretive signage	Renovate shelter Renovate band shell Resurface parking lot and roadway

MAP 6.22

# Veterans Memorial Park

(Area South of Duck Creek)

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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 Park Boundary  Other Boundaries  Parcels

0 500 1,000 Feet

Prepared by:  
  
January 2017

N  
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S

Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
Parcel data from City of Bettendorf

**Wessel Park**  
**2720 Oak Street**

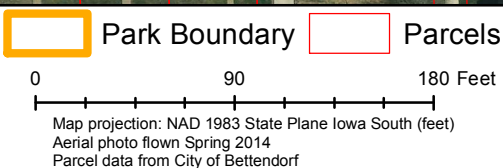
Park Size: .8 acres	
Existing Amenities: Passive greenway Bio-swales and rain gardens	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Add a designated linear earthen path along the greenway	None Identified

# Wessel Park

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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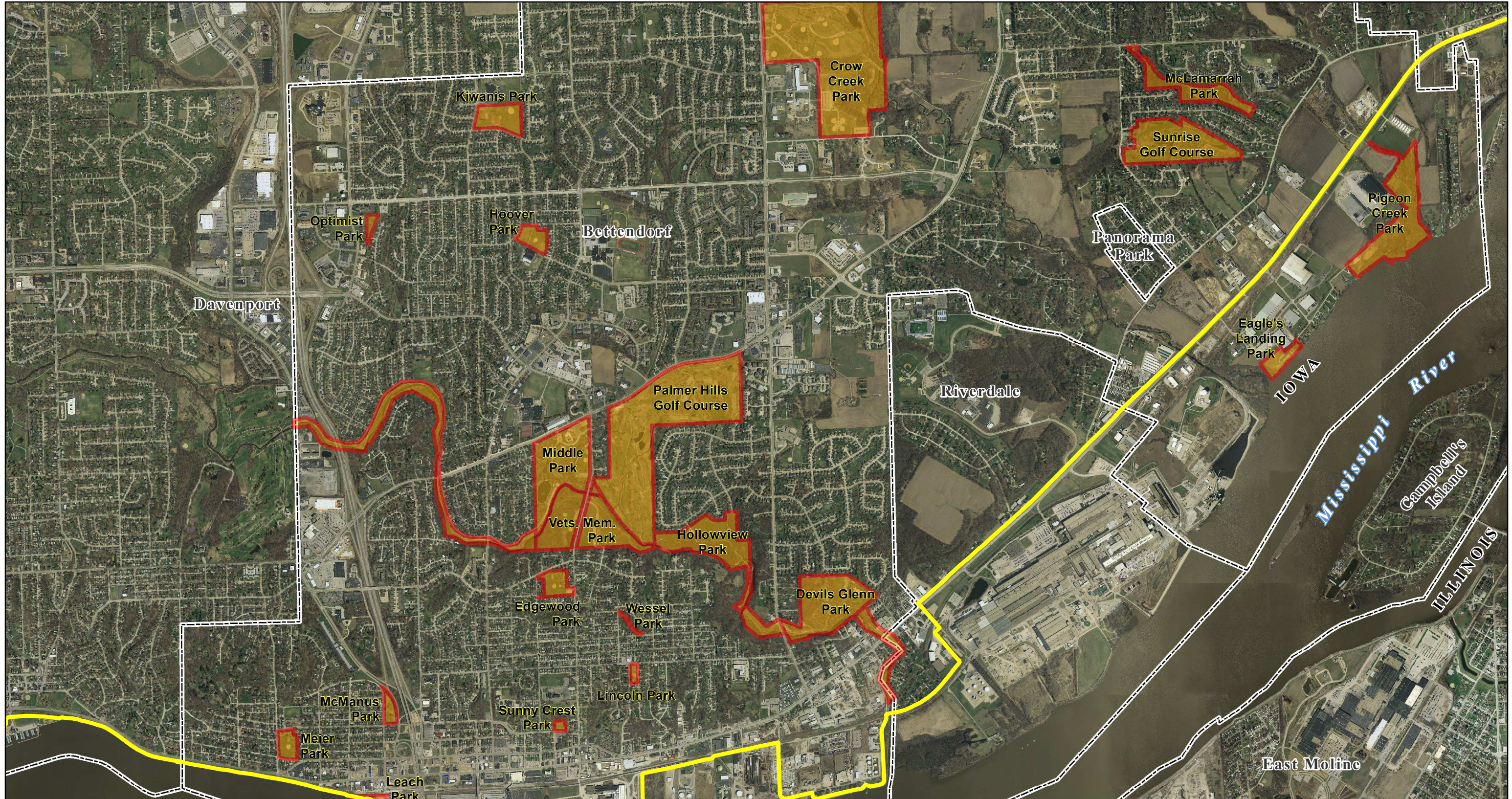


**Mississippi River Trail (MRT)**  
**Headwaters to the Gulf (Bettendorf segment)**

Multi-use trail length: Approximately 4.2 miles	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Complete section from Riverdale to Scott County border along US-67 Enhance wayfinding signage Enhance tree plantings and landscaping along trail area	Resurface older sections of trails

# Mississippi River Trail

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



- Existing Trails
- - - - Proposed Trails
- Parks
- Corporate Boundaries

*DISCLAIMER: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.*

Aerial photo flown Spring 2005  
 Parcel data from City of Bettendorf  
 0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 Feet  
 Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)



Prepared by:  
  
 Bi-State  
 Regional Commission  
 January 2017

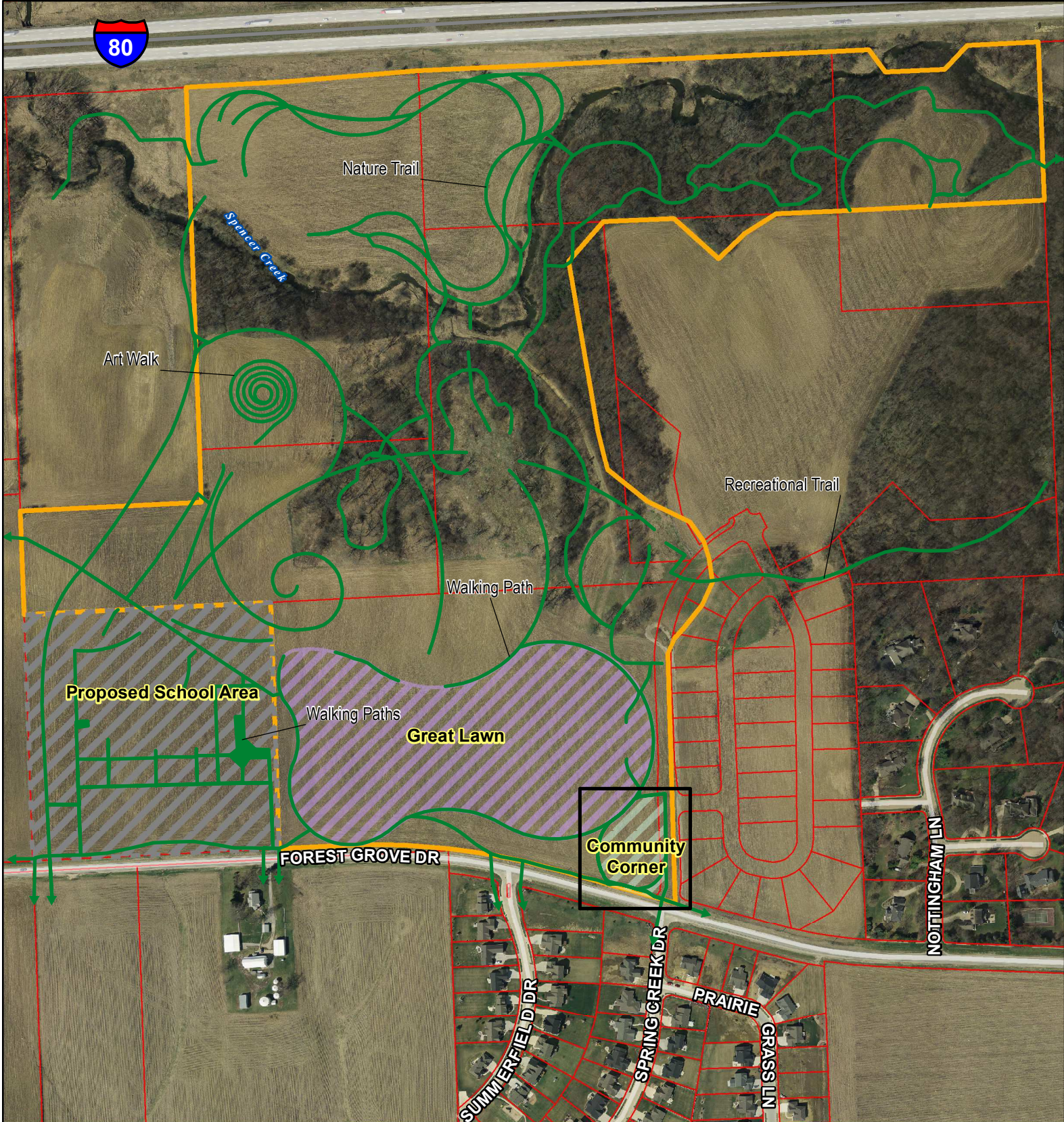




**Forest Grove Park**  
**6000 Forest Grove Road**

Park Size: 100 acres	
Existing Amenities: 1 playground 1 pavilion Basketball court Parking	
Short Term Goals: (0 – 5 Years)	Mid-Term Goals: (6 – 10 Years)
Install ball fields and soccer fields Add additional shelters Construct recreational pathways Reestablish native plantings and create natural area with trails and natural play features Restoration of Spencer Creek	

Map 6.25  
**Forest Grove Park**  
 Community Corner and Great Lawn Proposal  
 City of Bettendorf, IA



Park Boundary
 
 Proposed Trails
 

 Parcels
 

 Community Corner Inset (See Map 6.26)

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0 300 600 900 1,200 1,500 Feet

Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
 Aerial photo flown Spring 2014  
 Parcel data from City of Bettendorf

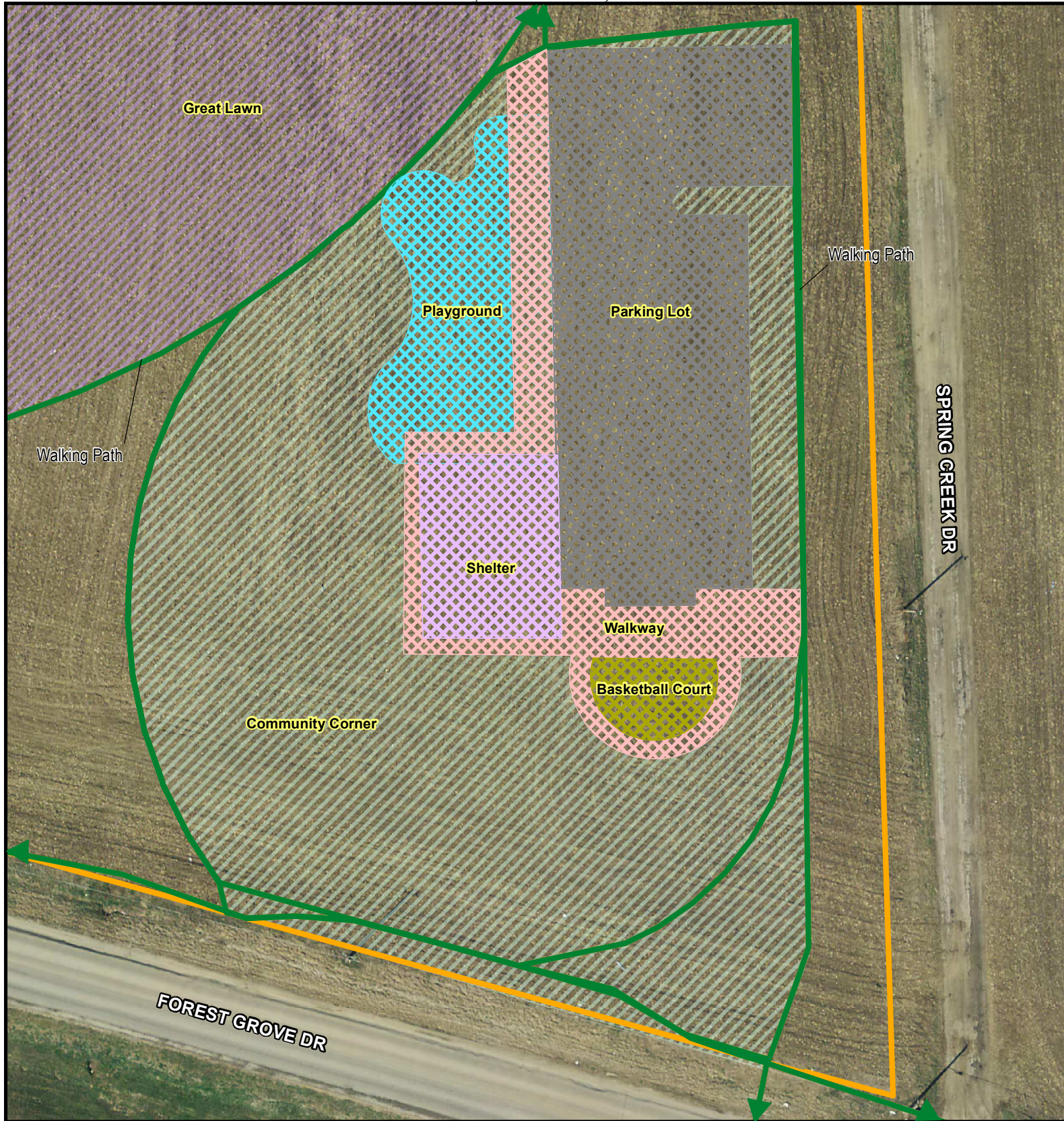


Prepared by:  
  
 Bi-State  
 Regional Commission  
 January 2017

# Map 6.26 Forest Grove Park

Community Corner - Phase I, 2016

City of Bettendorf, IA



Proposed Trails Park Boundary



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Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)  
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Parcel data from City of Bettendorf



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**Bi-State**  
Regional Commission  
January 2017

### *Operations/Maintenance/Safety/Inspections*

The Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department consists of administrative staff; park operation and maintenance staff; and program supervisors, management, and maintenance staff at individual facilities such as the Life Fitness Center and Palmer Hills Golf Course. All of the employees ensure the upkeep of maintenance and safety at each park and facility while providing the best possible product to the residents. Contact information for all of the aforementioned employees may be found on the city's website.

Naturally, as development of parks and recreation opportunities in the City of Bettendorf continue to grow, an increase in staff may be necessary to maintain the current integrity of the parks and recreation system. At a number of the public input sessions, it was mentioned by the general public and internal and external stakeholders in the community that an increase in staff might be necessary to preserve the upkeep of current parks while maintaining a strong image with the development of new parks. In addition, the development of new green space that is expected to increase downtown will most likely result in the need for more maintenance staff. Comment on the addition of a forester on staff would be beneficial as Bettendorf continues to grow. In addition, it was suggested that street planting be initiated to increase landscaping efforts, and that staff ensures there are enough resources available to maintain streets and plants that currently exist.

Public comment recommended renovations be made to a number of park shelters, including brighter light fixtures. As the shelters have aged, a number of them have become outdated aesthetically and operationally. More bathrooms were recommended at parks and more drinking fountains dispersed throughout the growing trail systems. To add a safety component to the current parks, the public would like to see the installation of fences around playgrounds to allow parents to feel more at ease with younger children utilizing the playgrounds.

The public highly encourages the continuing effort to expand the trail growth in the community. As trails expand, maintaining and keeping up the appearance of current trails is crucial. With the development of new trails, members of the public expressed an interest in constructing wider trails and switching to natural surfaced trails. The public was also highly interested in integrating safety into the construction of new trails such as proper signage and adequate cross walks and cross lights along streets. Educating the public on proper use and safety precautions when utilizing the trails will assist with instilling confidence in the residents and will allow for more seamless use of the trails. With the existing trails, the public expressed a desire for increased drinking fountains, the availability of year-round restrooms, adequate drainage along certain segments, reducing poison ivy, and ensuring sufficient maintenance. Trail upkeep such as clearing trails of sand and silt was highly encouraged, especially after heavy rainfall.

Lastly, the longevity of city facilities such as the Life Fitness Center, Splash Landing, and the Community Center needs to be assessed. Many suggested developing one large facility to house all of the above components, while others suggested preserving and renovating what currently exists. The Parks Facility Needs and Feasibility Study conducted in 2015 for Bettendorf by Sports Facilities Advisory, LLC recommended renovations to all three community facilities, although an outdoor regional water park to replace Splash Landing would be forecasted to produce a positive cash flow.

## *Programming and Experience*

Currently, the Bettendorf Park Board administers numerous recreation programs for the community. Recreation programs are available to both active and passive recreation enthusiasts without discrimination to gender, physical ability, race, or any other demographic characteristic.

The projected population growth within the City of Bettendorf will likely create the demand for the Park Board to increase the number of recreational activities that it provides to all its residents. Ongoing communication during the planning process is a key element for all involved. It is recommended that the Park Board work jointly with school officials, private enterprise, and members of the community in planning future recreational activities within the City of Bettendorf. Bettendorf residents could benefit from such cooperation. There may be opportunities to use the existing school facilities as recreation centers for youth-oriented activities. Many outdoor school facilities are available for use by the general public when not being utilized for school-sponsored activities. School facilities should be considered as viable opportunities for increased park and recreational space providing service to various areas throughout the community. Table 6.1 provides a list of public school recreation facilities made available by each school located in Bettendorf. Map 6.26 illustrates the location of each school park and their accompanying service area. Furthermore, if a need exists or there is the demand for specific programs that currently are not available, it would be beneficial for the Park Board to consider providing such programs to the residents of Bettendorf. Table 6.2 highlights existing programs and activities currently available to Bettendorf residents.

During the planning process, an emphasis from the public and internal and external stakeholders was placed on the following needs related to programs, activities, and facilities in Bettendorf:

- Explore opportunities for providing more wintertime programming and activities
- Develop a plan for the future of the Life Fitness Center, Splash Landing, and the Community Center – consider developing a regional sports complex with surrounding jurisdictions
- Provide recreational programming for individuals of all ages, including the growing senior population
- Provide equipment for games in more parks that do not require park staff supervision, such as chess and bocce ball
- Integrate community outdoor physical art into the parks, such as fountains and sculptures, to encourage private parties
- Continue to provide innovative programming opportunities to the community
- Provide childcare at the Life Fitness Center
- Ensure that parks are meeting the needs of surrounding neighborhoods

- Activate Park Ambassador Program
- Add nature programming such as hiking programs
- Maintain reasonable pricing for recreational programs
- Consider expanding the Dekhockey space, especially the surrounding parking area
- Increase disc golf opportunities
- Develop more soccer fields as youth soccer continues to increase in numbers
- Integrate horse shoe pits into some of the parks
- Improve partnerships with school districts and not-for-profits such as the YMCA to increase usage of amenities such as tennis courts

Accomplishing all of the recommended programming is not something that will happen simultaneously. The city will need to prioritize which projects will be feasible to complete in the short-term and which will need to be deferred to the long-term. Again, accomplishing such tasks will most likely require operational goals to be met, such as increased staff.

Appendices A and B contain additional comments related to programs, activities, and facilities received at the public input meetings and through the stakeholder interview process.

**Table 6.1 – Public School Recreation Facilities**

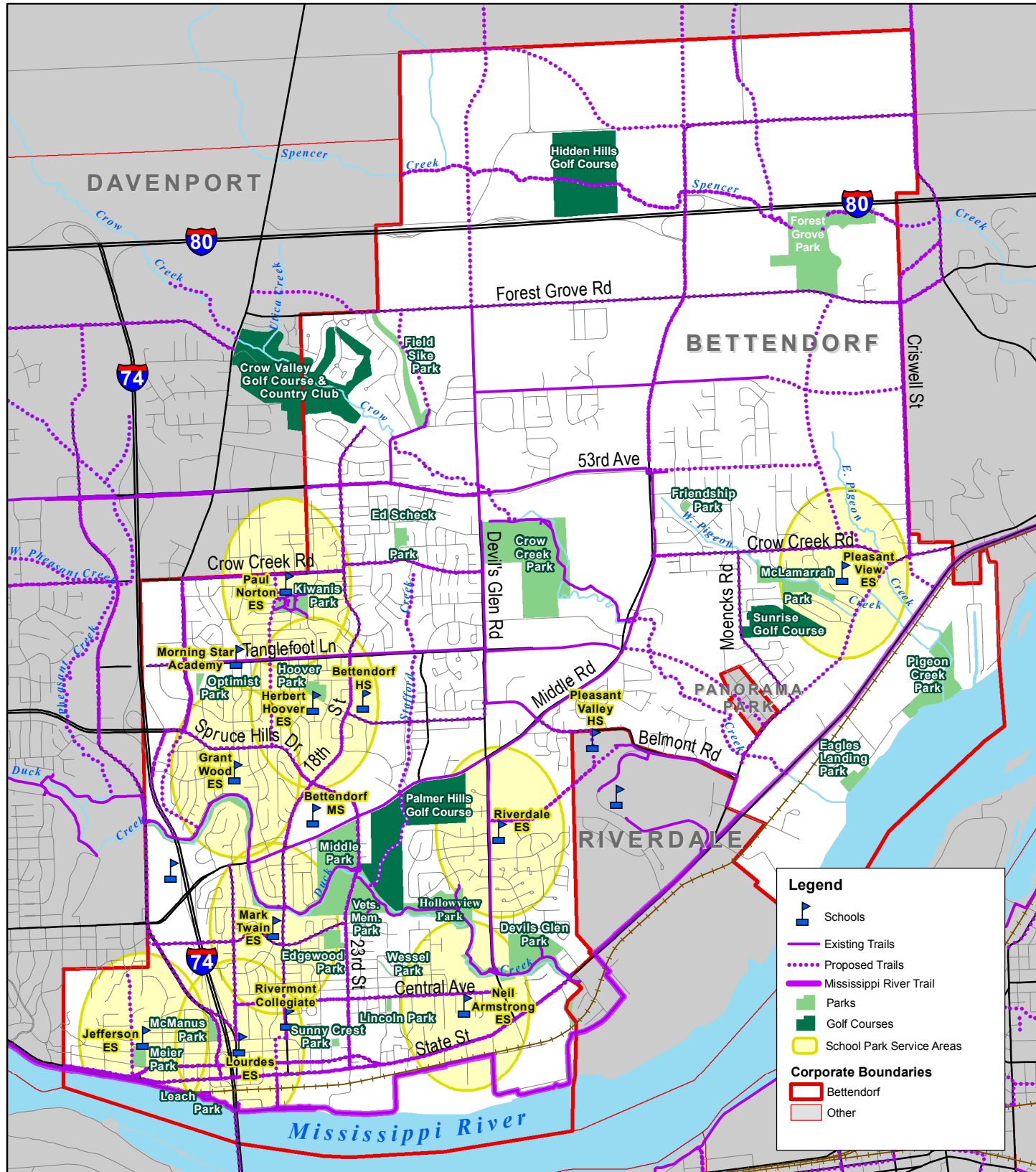
School	Location	Amenities
Bettendorf High School	3333 – 18th Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Football Stadium (Seats 6,000 &amp; Equipped w/ 8-lane All-weather Track)</li> <li>3 Athletic Practice Fields</li> <li>1 Baseball Field</li> <li>1 Softball Field</li> <li>12 Tennis Courts</li> <li>1 Indoor 25-Meter Swimming Pool</li> <li>4 Basketball Courts</li> <li>1 Weight Training Room</li> <li>1 Wrestling Practice Room</li> </ul>
Bettendorf Middle School	2030 Middle Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Athletic Fields</li> <li>6 Tennis Courts</li> <li>6 Pickle Ball Courts</li> <li>4 Indoor Basketball Courts</li> <li>1 Weight Training Room</li> </ul>
Neil Armstrong Elementary School	3311 – Central Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Basketball Hoops</li> <li>1 Playground Facility</li> <li>1 Indoor Gymnasium</li> </ul>
Hoover Elementary School	3223 South Hampton Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Playground Facility</li> <li>6 Basketball Hoops</li> <li>1 Indoor Gymnasium</li> </ul>
Thomas Jefferson Elementary School	610 Holmes Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Recreational Backstop</li> <li>1 Playground Facility</li> <li>3 Basketball Hoops</li> <li>1 Indoor Gymnasium</li> </ul>
Paul Norton Elementary School	4485 Greenbrier Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Playground Facilities</li> <li>1 Playing Field</li> <li>4 Basketball Hoops</li> <li>1 Indoor Gymnasium</li> </ul>



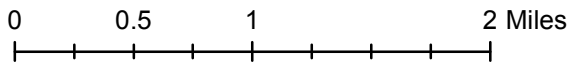
School	Location	Amenities
Mark Twain Elementary School	1620 Lincoln Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Basketball Hoops</li> <li>1 Playing Field</li> <li>1 Softball Field</li> <li>3 Playground Facilities</li> <li>1 Indoor Gymnasium</li> </ul>
Grant Wood Elementary School	1423 Hillside Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Playground Facility</li> <li>2 Basketball Hoops</li> <li>1 Playing Field</li> <li>1 Indoor Gymnasium</li> </ul>
Pleasant Valley High School	604 Belmont Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Football Stadium (Seats 5,000 &amp; equipped w/ 8-Lane All-weather Track)</li> <li>2 Athletic Practice Fields ("The Pit")</li> <li>1 Baseball Field</li> <li>2 Softball Fields</li> <li>1 Soccer Field</li> <li>8 Tennis Courts</li> <li>1 Indoor 25-Meter Swimming Pool</li> <li>2 Indoor Gymnasiums</li> <li>4 Basketball Courts</li> <li>1 Weight Training Room</li> </ul>
Pleasant View Elementary School	6333 Crow Creek Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Playground Facilities</li> <li>2 Baseball/Softball Fields</li> <li>1 Playing Field</li> <li>1 Indoor Gymnasium</li> </ul>
Riverdale Heights Elementary School	2125 Devils Glen Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Basketball Hoops</li> <li>2 Non-Regulation Basketball Hoops</li> <li>2 Playground Facilities</li> <li>1 Baseball/Softball Field</li> <li>1 Soccer/Open Play Field</li> <li>1 Indoor Gymnasium</li> </ul>

# School Park Service Areas

City of Bettendorf, Iowa



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Map projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Iowa South (feet)



Prepared by:



**Table 6.2 – Recreation Programs and Activities**

<b>Season</b>	<b>Activity/Program</b>	<b>Age Group</b>
<b>Aquatics</b>		
Summer	Parent-Tot Program	8 mo. – 2 years
Summer	Tot-Poles	3 – 4 years
Summer	Red Cross Level 1 – Introduction to Water Skills	5+ years
Summer	Red Cross Level 2 – Fundamental Aquatic Skills	5+ years
Summer	Red Cross Level 3 – Stroke Development	5+ years
Summer	Red Cross Level 4 – Stroke Improvement	5+ years
Summer	Red Cross Level 5 – Stroke Refinement	5+ years
Summer	Red Cross Level 6 – Swimming Skills Proficiency	5+ years
Summer	Deep Water Exercise Class	5+ years
Summer	Shallow Water Exercise Class	5+ years
Summer	Adapted Aquatics – Special Populations	Varies
Summer	Adult Lessons	18 and older
Summer	Lap Swimming	18 and older
<b>Baseball/Softball</b>		
Summer	Coach-Pitch Baseball	5 – 7 years
Summer	Coach-Pitch Softball	5 – 7 years
Summer	Girls Softball – Junior Division	2 – 3 grades
Summer	Girls Softball – Novice Division	4 – 6 grades
Summer	Girls Softball – Intermediate Division	7 – 12 grades
<b>Tennis</b>		
Summer	Beginners – Advanced Beginners	5 – 7 years
Summer	Intermediate	8 – 11 years
Summer	Advanced	12+ years
<b>Soccer</b>		
Summer	Youth Soccer (Spring)	Pre K-5 <sup>th</sup> grade
Summer	Soccer Camp	Pre K-5 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b>Volleyball</b>		
Summer	Junior High-High School Girls	7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades
<b>Toddler/Youth</b>		
Summer	Tot-Lot	3 – 5 years
Summer	Summer Playgrounds	5 – 12 years

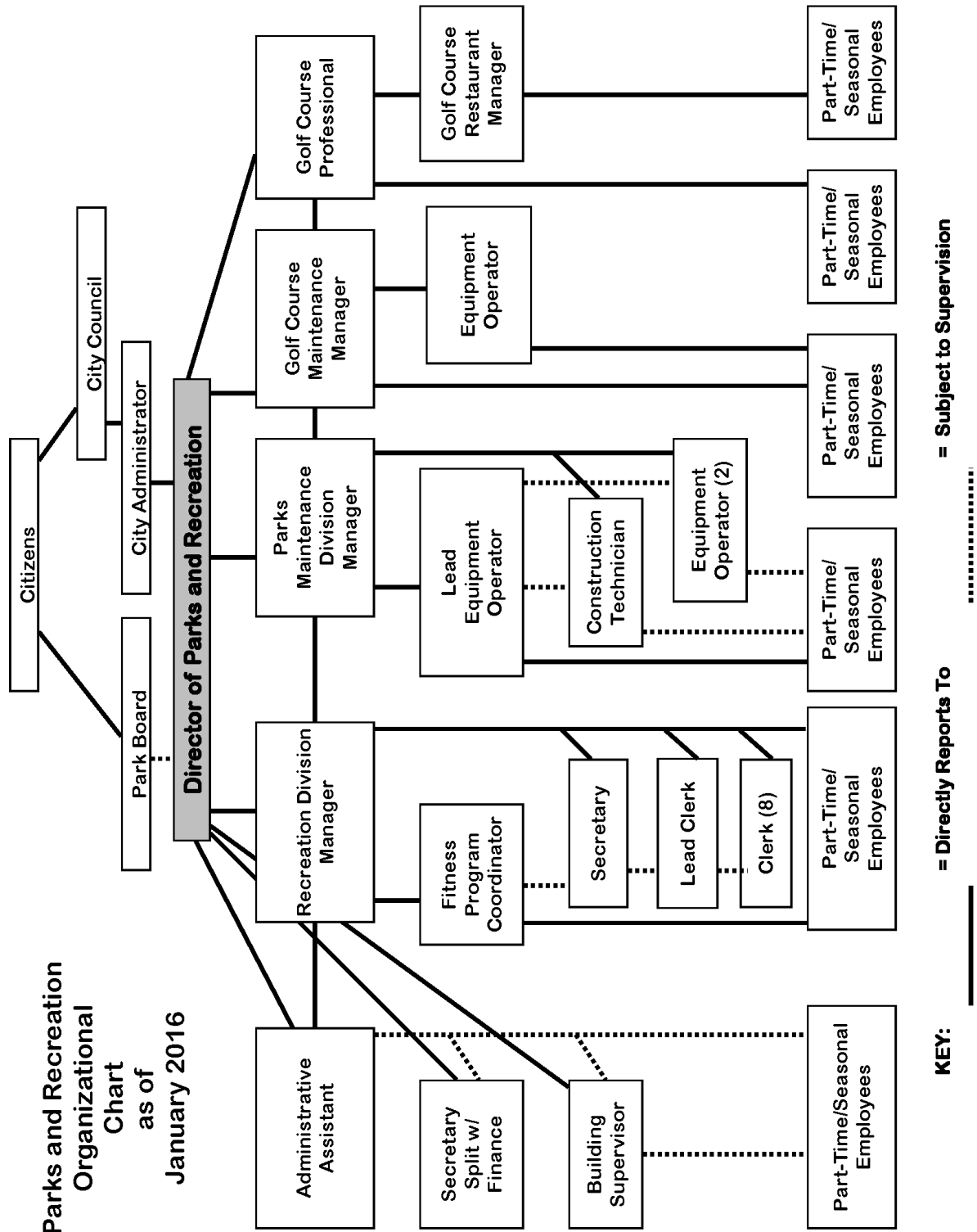
Season	Activity/Program	Age Group
<b>Special Populations/Activities for Persons with Special Needs</b>		
Summer	Camp Mac	7 – 18 years
Summer	Stepping Stones	Varies
Summer	Dances (Spring Formal, Swim Bash, and Hoe Down)	Varies
<b>Area Activities</b>		
Summer	Bettendorf Swim Club	5 – 18 years
Summer	Mississippi Valley Track Club	9 – 18 years
Summer	Bettendorf/Pleasant Valley Baseball	7 – 18 years
Summer	Bettendorf Park Band	High School+
Summer	Movies in the Park	All Ages
Summer	“For Sale By Owner” Event	All Ages
<b>Day Camp</b>		
Summer	Week of Champions	5/6–8 & 9-12 years
Summer	Animal Kingdom	5/6–8 & 9-12 years
Summer	Survivor	5/6–8 & 9-12 years
Summer	Sports and Games	5/6–8 & 9-12 years
Summer	Around the World	5/6–8 & 9-12 years
Summer	Super Hero	5/6–8 & 9-12 years
Summer	Into the Wild	5/6–8 & 9-12 years
Summer	Fun in the Sun	5/6–8 & 9-12 years
Summer	Camp Olympics	5/6–8 & 9-12 years
Fall/Winter	Active Games	6-11 years
<b>Mentoring</b>		
Summer	Counselor in Training (CIT)	13 – 15 years
<b>Golf Lessons</b>		
Summer	Beginner and Intermediate	All Ages
<b>Youth Sports Activities</b>		
Fall/Winter	Little All-Stars Basketball Program	5 – 8 years
Fall/Winter	Flag Football	2 <sup>nd</sup> –6 <sup>th</sup> grades
Fall/Winter	Soccer	K-5 <sup>th</sup> grades
Fall/Winter	NFL/Gatorade Punt, Pass, Kick Competition	8 – 15 years
<b>Adult Sports Activities</b>		
Fall/Winter	Women's Volleyball	18 and older
Fall/Winter	Men's Volleyball	18 and older
Fall/Winter	Co-ed Volleyball	18 and older

Season	Activity/Program	Age Group
Fall/Winter	Basketball "A, B, and C" Leagues	18 and older
<b>Group Fitness Classes</b>		
All Seasons	Total Body Blast	All Ages
All Seasons	Total RX	All Ages
All Seasons	Pilates Plus	Varies
All Seasons	Active Adult: Strength & Balance or Cardio & Stretch	50+ years
All Seasons	Aqua Fit	All ages
All Seasons	Fitness Combo	All ages
All Seasons	Body Rock	All ages
All Seasons	Zumba	Varies
All Seasons	Yoga	Varies
All Seasons	HIIT Xpress	All Ages
<b>Specialty Wellness Classes</b>		
Fall/Winter	Senior Strength and Fitness Classes	Varies
Fall/Winter	Women's Strength Training	Varies
Fall/Winter	Youth Strength Training	Varies
Fall/Winter	Muscle Restoration & Regeneration	Varies
Fall/Winter	Weight Management	Varies
Fall/Winter	Yoga	Varies
Fall/Winter	Karate	Varies
Fall/Winter	Balance & Movement (Tai Chi-based exercise)	Varies
Fall/Winter	Sport-related conditioning/training classes	Varies
Fall/Winter	Walking Group, 100/250 Mile Club	Varies
<b>Other Activities</b>		
Fall/Winter	Personal Training	Varies
Fall/Winter	Training Packages	Varies
Fall/Winter	Nursery	7 and younger
Fall/Winter	Play Gym	6 and younger
Fall/Winter	Youth Events and Activities	Varies
Fall/Winter	Birthday Party Special	Varies
Fall/Winter	Golf Cart Tour	All Ages

## *Management*

Funding for current parks and recreation opportunities are funded through the Bettendorf City Council, and day-to-day operations are monitored by the Bettendorf Park Board Commissioners. The Park Board is compiled of elected officials and plays a unique role in serving the community to obtain and foster desired goals. The city also has a Parks and Recreation Director that is tasked with managing the oversight of parks and facilities. Managers with distinct roles assist with oversight in particular areas, such as the Administrative Assistant and the Recreation Division Manager. Table 6.3 is an organization chart of the Parks and Recreation Department in the City of Bettendorf. As more open space continues to be acquired by the city and increased recreation opportunities arise, the City Council and the Park Board will need to discuss the hiring of more staff to fulfill and maintain the visions of Bettendorf's Parks and Recreation System. This will most likely include an increase in full-time and seasonal staff.

**Table 6.3 – Parks and Recreational Organizational Chart as of January 2016**



## *Marketing and Outreach*

One major hub for park and recreation opportunities provided in the City of Bettendorf is available at the city website under the Parks and Facilities Department section. All of the parks are listed on the site with that park's location, a map of the park, and included amenities. Some parks have a virtual tour of the park and its amenities. The city website also contains maps for recreational trails and bike lanes throughout the City of Bettendorf. Links are provided to facilities such as Palmer Hills Golf Course, Splash Landing Aquatic Center, Life Fitness Center, and information on the Community Center and Crow Creek Dog Park. Users have access to information and registration forms for available youth programs. Access to other recreational opportunities are available such as Dekhockey and adult softball opportunities.

Although the city website serves as an advantageous tool to market available parks and recreation opportunities in the City of Bettendorf, there was some feedback received throughout the public input process in regard to marketing and outreach efforts. It was highly recommended that the city staff hire someone whose sole job is to provide marketing for the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department. Members of the public mentioned that user-friendly materials should be developed to promote the parks and recreation, including a user-friendly website.

Input was received that suggested facilities should promote programs to all ages including seniors and youth. It was also recommended that information be presented to residents marketing the influential role that parks and recreation in a community have on the overall quality of life. Access to parks and recreation opportunities play an effective role in assisting with the decrease of negative health risks. Furthermore, the promoting of winter activities should be increased to encourage use of parks and recreation in the community all year round.

In regard to trails, it was recommended that an interactive trail application or website be developed on the city website to give residents information on trail closures, weather updates, and accessibility and skill level of trails. This type of interactive website has recently been developed on a regional level by Bi-State Regional Commission and the Quad City Health Initiative. Bettendorf is included in the interactive website.

The public commented that the Life Fitness Center should market to individuals and families that are not already members of the facility. One potential marketing effort includes offering a free class or a free class week to non-members with an interest in joining.

Further outreach efforts to collaborate with schools and surrounding communities can aid in making the best use of limited resources that may be available. The Quad Cities, on a regional level, can maintain more recreational programs when partnering with one another. Demonstrating open communication and coordination while thinking regionally will assist in attaining what is needed in the region for larger projects.



## *National Park Standards/How City Ranks – Comparison (NRPA)*

National standards are one way in which a community may compare their current parks and recreation facilities to those of other similar communities. The purpose of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards is to present guidelines or standards that are applicable nationwide for planning, acquisition, and development of park, recreation, and open space lands, primarily at the community level. While this plan will be developed utilizing the standards of the NRPA, deviations may occur to the standards to reflect community desires.

Bi-State Regional Commission completed an inventory of existing outdoor park and recreation facilities within the corporate limits of Bettendorf. The location of each area was identified, and facilities open and available to the public were noted for each location. When inventorying existing parks and recreation facilities, the total land acreage was determined. This inventory will serve the community in planning and implementing future park and recreation development and acquisition.

## *City of Bettendorf Comparison to National Standards*

The national standard used for years by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) recommends a minimum of 9.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 population. This means the City of Bettendorf should have at least 315.56 acres of public park and recreation space based on its 2010 Census population. The city has surpassed this figure with approximately 525 acres of parkland, providing 15 acres per 1,000 residents. Bettendorf has a strong balance of neighborhood and community parks, and additional special areas and facilities. Bettendorf already has a sufficient amount of acres or parkland for a city its size, but will need to continue to expand in acres as the population continues to increase. Forest Grove Park, designed to expand for 105 acres and intended to provide a lengthy list of amenities, will assist in serving the community's park needs. Table 6.4 categorizes Bettendorf's parks by their size and function. Forest Grove Park was not included because it is in beginning stages of construction. Table 6.5 lists the park names and acreage under their park function classification.

**Table 6.4 – Standards by Classification and Population Ratio as Recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Acres/ 1000 Pop.</b>	<b>Desirable Size Range</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Bettendorf Comparison</b>
Neighborhood Parks	1 – 2 acres/ 1000 pop	5 – 10 Acres	¼ to ½ mile (walking distance)	Bettendorf is currently served by 13 parks; 64 acres
Community Parks	5 – 8 acres/ 1000 pop	30 – 50 Acres	½ to 3 Miles	Bettendorf is currently served by 4 parks; 155 acres
Large Urban Parks	Variable – no set standard	50 – 75+ Acres	Within ½ hr. Drive Time	Bettendorf is currently served by 1 parks; 134 acres
Special Use Parks	Variable – no set standard	Variable – depending on specialized use	Variable – usually within communities	Duck Creek Parkway, Pigeon Creek Park

Source: National Park and Recreation Association and the *2015 Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan*

**Neighborhood Parks** – A neighborhood is often defined as the one-fourth to one-half mile service area from an elementary school and should contain enough persons to support the school facility. A neighborhood park is between five and thirty acres in size and is used both as a passive and active recreation area serving the immediate neighborhood. A neighborhood park may contain a playground that is an active recreation area primarily serving the needs of the five to thirteen-year-old age group. A neighborhood play field provides space for active play such as baseball and football for children, teenagers, and young adults and is commonly included in the development of a neighborhood park. Ease of access and walking distance are critical factors in locating a neighborhood park. A person's tendency to use a neighborhood park is greatly reduced if they perceive it to be difficult to access, not within a reasonable walking distance, or if there are boundary restrictions such as main thoroughfares or difficult terrain to cross that may inhibit walkers from safely reaching the park.

**Community-Wide Parks** – A community-wide park serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. Its focus is meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. A community-wide park is usually for both passive and active use with a recommended size of at least 30 to 50 acres. A community park should serve two or more neighborhoods, be serviced by arterial and collector streets, and be easily accessible from throughout its service area. Parking lots should be provided as necessary to accommodate user access. Community-wide parks typically cover a 1/2 to 3-mile service area and are accessible by car, bicycle, or on foot.

**Large Urban Parks** – Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. The focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. The large urban park is usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more being optimal. They are typically within a half-hour drive time for users and usually serve the entire community. Adequate off-street parking should be available for users of these parks and their facilities.

**Special Use Parks** – Specialty use parks meet a niche recreational need for the community, such as a sports park or wilderness area.

**Table 6.5 – Park Name and Size**

<b>Large Urban Parks</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Crow Creek Park	134
<b>Total Large Urban Parks</b>	<b>134</b>
<i>*Forest Grove Park (Future Park)</i>	<b>105</b>
<b>Community Parks</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Devils Glen Road	43
Middle Park	35
Veterans Memorial Park	35
Hollowview Park	42
<b>Total Community Parks</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Eagles Landing Park	5
Ed Scheck Park	6
Edgewood Park	7
Friendship Park	1
Hoover Park	6
Kiwanis Park	15
Leach Park	11
Lincoln Park	2
McManus Park	3
Meier Park	5
Optimist Park	2
Sunny Crest Park	1
Wessel Park	1
<b>Total Neighborhood Parks</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Special Use Parks</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Field Sike Park	18
McLamarrah Park	20
Duck Creek Parkway	88
Mississippi River Trail (MRT)	3.3 Miles
Pigeon Creek Park	45
<b>Total Special Use Parks</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL PARKS</b>	<b>525</b>

# Appendix A



# SERVICE REPORT

**COMMUNITY:** Bettendorf, IA  
**DATE:** September 24, 2015  
**FILED BY:** Lindsay Whitson  
**MEETING:** Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Input Session #1

**PRESENT:**

<u>County/Community</u>	<u>Bi-State</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Copies to:</u>
Refer to attached sign-in sheet	Gena McCullough Lindsay Whitson Bryan Schmid	Steve Grimes, Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Director	Plan Committee File

A visioning and park and recreation mapping exercise was held at Bettendorf City Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. to solicit input from residents on what is working well, where improvements can be made, and future opportunities to be pursued within the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation system. Steve Grimes, Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Director, and Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission Planning Director, provided the opening remarks.

Ms. McCullough reviewed the parks and recreation planning concept, process, and the timeframe of the updated plan. A full draft of the updated plan is anticipated by fall 2016. The visioning and mapping exercise was framed as an opportunity for citizens to provide input on the future of their community's parks and recreation offered by the City of Bettendorf and to express their vision for preserving existing parks and programs while expanding opportunities to enrich the quality of life, and to express their vision for long-term and short-term needs by fall 2016. The visioning and mapping by fall 2016. The visioning and mapping exercises the updated plan.

Following the overview, Ms. Whitson asked participants to answer a list of questions clarifying a vision for the future of parks and recreation planning in Bettendorf. The exercise was completed as one large group with 14 participants. Below are the results of the discussion.

**1. What is working well for the Parks and Recreation in Bettendorf?**

- Trails
- Programming
  - Adult and Youth
  - Youth Camps
- Dog Park
- Existing Facilities
  - Well-Maintained
- Willingness to support new ideas
- Fitness Center
- Palmer Grill (Golf Course)
- Splash Landing
- Community Center
- Public Art
- Network Connectivity
- Regional Programming
- Progressive Thought Process
- Cooperation Between Boards
- Elected Park Board

**2. What improvements are needed?**

- Coordinate with other fitness facilities
- Convenient access to park

- facilities
- Life Fitness Center
    - Outgrowing facility
  - Year round multi-purpose sports facility
    - Meet year round training needs
    - Excessive number of youth in soccer – will cater to this increasing number
  - Duck Creek Path
    - Maintenance and cleaning
    - Convert to concrete or resurfacing
    - Patch and address draining issues
  - Provide interactive trail tool
    - Allows updates, concerns, etc.
  - Coordinate with other fitness facilities
  - Splash Landing
    - Aging and needs renovations
    - Five to ten years for replacements
  - Mountain biking trails
  - Rocket Park and Community Center
    - Preserve and provide facilities that serve underserved populations
    - Don't lose with new development

**3. What role does Bettendorf Parks and Recreation play in the long term growth and development of the community?**

- A very influential role considering most people choose Bettendorf because of schools, roads, and the parks and recreation that are offered

Following the vision session, Ms. Whitson split the group into two separate groups. Each group was provided with a large map illustrating the layout of Bettendorf's boundaries and all existing and potential parks, trails, and facilities that have been identified. Both groups were given three stickers and asked to place on the map to identify three locations recognized as prioritized areas. In addition to the three prioritized areas, each group was allowed to identify more areas in need by using marker to provide a brief explanation on the map. The following table was included with the instructions to suggest mapping topics that could be identified.

### Mapping Topics

- **Existing Parks-** Look at where improvements can be made in existing areas to meet the needs of more residents.
  - Amenities
  - Maintenance
- **Future Parks-** Potential land acquisition opportunities.
- **Existing Programs and Future Programs-** Identify if the current programs are diverse enough and suggest what types of programs should potentially be added in the future.
- **Facilities-** Recognize what is being done well and how improvements can be made.
- **Trails-** Zone in on what is working well for the trails, improvements that are needed, and areas for expansion.
- **Short-Term-** Identify any short-term opportunities (next five years).
- **Long-Term-** Identify any long-term goals (next ten years).
- **Emerging Park and Recreation Trends-** Note if there are any emerging types of programming, events, facilities, etc. that Bettendorf should pursue.
- **Other-** Any other areas of interest that are not provided in the aforementioned list.

The purpose of this mapping exercise is to define the community's vision for the future of Bettendorf's Parks and Recreation. Should there be more parks built? Should current parks be renovated? How are the trails in the community? Are the programs offered diverse? Is accessibility equitable throughout the community? As a participant of the mapping exercise, people were christened a citizen planner working to improve Bettendorf Parks and Recreation and were asked to have fun!

#### Group 1-

##### *Three Prioritized Areas:*

1. Develop smaller "pocket parks" throughout the community so that all neighborhoods are within walking distance of at least one park (half mile to one mile). Consider making it a requirement for developers to have to provide adequate space for a "pocket park" in exchange for building new housing and expanding development.
2. Provide renovations to a number of park shelters including brighter light fixtures. A number of the shelters have become outdated.
3. Continue expand the new Forest Grove Park as surrounding developments such as housing and

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commercial continue to grow.

*Additional Comments:*

1. Develop more park equipment at Hoover School.
2. Encourage street tree planting for landscaping efforts
3. Ensure enough resources are available to maintain trees and plants, and consider hiring a full-time forester.
4. Foster Drove Park should offer diverse and unique programs for all ages.

**Group 2-**

*Three Prioritized Areas:*

1. Construct a multi-use facility in the northern part of Davenport to allow training all year round.
2. With the reconstruction of the I-74 bridge, consider adding more greenspace to the downtown area.
3. Between 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Forest Grove Road continue to develop and expand parks as development continue to arise and/or grow.

*Additional Comments:*

1. Construct more parks in the northern part of Bettendorf.
2. Maintain Sunny Crest Park.
3. The Community Center must stay open.
4. Middle Park green space is important.
5. Golf courses are popular to the community.
6. Offer sledding along 18<sup>th</sup> Street.
7. Develop a half of a block of open space near bus stations.

After approximately 20 minutes, both groups were asked to share their three prioritized locations and/or projects. The following highlights those projects and the additional areas that were recognized.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants were thanked for their participation and invited to attend future public input workshops and open houses. Closing comments were made by Mr. Grimes and Ms. McCullough.



**MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD  
MEMBERS, GUESTS & STAFF  
(Please Print Legibly)**

Meeting of: Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Public Input Session #1

Date: 9/24/2015 Time: 6:30 p.m. To: 8:00 p.m. Minutes: Yes  No

Place of Meeting: Bettendorf City Hall, 1609 State Street

Name:	Title/Representing:	Contact # or Email:
1. Cindi + Joe Epping	citizen of Bettendorf	JC Epp@msn.com
2. Liz Solis-Wilfus	STAFF P+Rec	lsoliswilfus@bettendorf.org
3. Clayton Lloyd	Resident	cmeynard@g.com
4. Natalie Glynn	Resident	Natalie@NatalieGlynn.com
5. Chad White	Resident	Chad.white4@gmail.com
6. Tom Drye	Park Board, Citizen	tomdrye@gmail.com
7. DONNIE MILLER	BETT Bike & Ped COORD	DMiller@BETTENDORF.ORG
8. LARRY MAKOBEN	Park Board	L.Makoben@BETTENDORF.ORG
9. Barb Emerson	Bett. Comm. Food Pantry	barbemerson@gmail.com
10. Bryce Johnson	Bett Resident	brycealynn@yahoo.com
11. KENTLEY LOEWESTEIN	BETT RESIDENT	KENTLEY@AOL.COM
12. CORBIN STONE	BETT RESIDENT	Corbinleestone@gmail.com
13. Don Buss	Resident	donald.buss@sbcglobal.net
14. Lindsay Winkler	BSRC	
15. Bryan Schmid	BSRC	
16. Genia McCullough	BSRC	
17. Steve Ormes	Bettendorf Parks & Rec Director	
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# SERVICE REPORT

**COMMUNITY:** Bettendorf, Iowa  
**DATE:** October 29, 2015  
**FILED BY:** Lindsay Whitson  
**MEETING:** Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Input Session #2

**PRESENT:**

**County/Community**

Refer to attached sign-in sheet

**Bi-State**

Gena McCullough  
Lindsay Whitson  
Bryan Schmid

**Others**

Steve Grimes,  
Bettendorf Parks and  
Recreation Director

**Copies to:**

Plan Committee File

A visioning and park and recreation mapping exercise was held at the Surrey Heights Fire Station beginning at 6:30 p.m. to solicit input from residents on what is working well, where improvements can be made, and future opportunities to be pursued within the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation system. Steve Grimes, Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Director, and Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission Planning Director, provided the opening remarks.

Ms. McCullough reviewed the parks and recreation planning concept, process, and the timeframe of the updated plan. A full draft of the updated plan is anticipated by fall 2016. The visioning and mapping exercise was framed as an opportunity for citizens to provide input on the future of their community's parks and recreation offered by the City of Bettendorf. Also, to express their vision for preserving existing parks and programs while expanding opportunities to enrich the community's quality of life.

Following the overview, Ms. Whitson asked participants to answer a list of questions clarifying a vision for the future of parks and recreation planning in Bettendorf. The exercise was completed as one large group. Below are the results of the discussion.

## 1. What is working well for the Parks and Recreation in Bettendorf?

- Nice looking and well-maintained
- First Class Golf Course
  - High Quality Sand Traps
  - Great Restaurant
- Path through Crow Creek
- Youth, adult, and dog recreational activities
- New activities and additions (Dek Hockey)
- Day camp program and other youth sports
- Friendly Staff
- Distribution of playgrounds
- Gates would be nice
- Inclusive for whole community
  - Life Fitness Center

## **2. What improvements are needed?**

- Life Fitness marketing free class week
- Provide child care at Life Fitness – currently for mature adult use
- More neighborhood parks in new additions
- Shaded playgrounds and fenced with gates
- Trail along Hopewell could use curb appeal
- More regional and neighborhood parks on the north side of the community
- Master Land Use Plan for parks
- Crow Creek Trail
  - Drainage
  - Widen in size at certain spots
  - Expand natural trails
  - Reduce poison ivy
  - Keep Maintained
  - Offer the availability of year-round restrooms in a more centralized location for cross country skiing/sledding
- Duck Creek Trail
  - Add more drinking fountains

## **3. What new park developments should be utilized?**

- Natural surfaced trails
- Wider trails
- New fitness center or sports facility with basketball courts included
- Green space downtown (maybe close to Leach Park)
- Leverage facilities with other groups

Following the visioning session, a large map illustrating the layout of Bettendorf's boundaries and all existing and potential parks, trails, and facilities that have been identified was provided. Participants were given three stickers and asked to place on the map to identify three locations recognized as prioritized areas. In addition to the three prioritized areas, participants were allowed to identify more areas in need by using markers to provide a brief explanation on the map. The following table was provided with the instructions to suggest mapping topics that could be discussed.

### **Mapping Topics**

- **Existing Parks** – Look at where improvements can be made in existing areas to meet the needs of more residents.
  - Amenities
  - Maintenance
- **Future Parks** – Potential land acquisition opportunities.
- **Existing Programs and Future Programs** – Identify if the current programs are diverse enough and suggest what types of programs should potentially be added in the future.
- **Facilities** – Recognize what is being done well and how improvements can be made.
- **Trails** – Zone in on what is working well for the trails, improvements that are needed, and areas for expansion.
- **Short-Term** – Identify any short-term opportunities (next five years).
- **Long-Term** – Identify any long-term goals (next ten years).
- **Emerging Park and Recreation Trends** – Note if there are any emerging types of programming, events, facilities, etc. that Bettendorf should pursue.
- **Other** – Any other areas of interest that are not provided in the aforementioned list.

The purpose of this mapping exercise is to define the community's vision for the future of Bettendorf's Parks and Recreation. Should there be more parks built? Should current parks be renovated? How are the trails in the community? Are the programs offered diverse? Is accessibility equitable throughout the community? As a participant of the mapping exercise, people were christened a citizen planner working to improve Bettendorf Parks and Recreation and were asked to have fun!

The following list highlights the prioritized projects that were recognized, and no additional areas of interest were identified.

*Prioritized Areas (in no particular order):*

1. Leach Park
2. Sunny Crest Park
3. Life Fitness Center
  - a. Provide Childcare at the Life Fitness Center
4. Palmer Hills Golf Course
5. Eagles Landing Park
6. Develop Natural Trails

7. Develop more neighborhood parks between 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Forest Grove Road
8. Develop a new park on Devil's Glen Road and Forest Grove Park Road
9. Aesthetic Improvement to Hopewell Trail
10. More Trails

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants were thanked for their participation and invited to attend future public input workshops and open houses. Closing comments were made by Mr. Grimes and Ms. McCullough.

**MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD  
MEMBERS, GUESTS & STAFF  
(Please Print Legibly)**

Meeting of: Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Date: 10/29/2015 Time: 6:30 p.m. To: 8:00 p.m. Minutes: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Meeting: Surrey Heights Fire Station – 5002 Crow Creek Road Bettendorf, IA 52722

Name:	Title/Representing:	Contact # or Email:
1. <u>Lindsay Wilson</u>	<u>BS RE</u>	<u>(309) 793-6300</u>
2. <u>Tom Egts</u>		<u>tomegts@gmail.com</u>
3. <u>TOM SCHNELL</u>		<u>TKSCHNELL@gmail.com</u>
4. <u>STEVE WILGER</u>	<u>PARK BOARD</u>	
5. <u>Tracy Tufree</u>	<u>citizen</u>	<u>319-415-9021</u>
6. <u>Steve Beck &amp; Tessa Beck</u>	<u>citizen</u>	<u>563-332-0337</u>
7. <u>DON COOK</u>	<u>CITIZEN</u>	<u>COOK51@MEHSI.com</u>
8. <u>Cheryl Traum</u>	<u>Citizen</u>	<u>CTraum23@MSN.com</u>
9. <u>Sue Ellen Johnson</u>	<u>Citizen</u>	<u>johnson.sue.ellen@gmail.com</u>
10. <u>Bryan Schmid</u>		
11. <u>Cena McCullough</u>		
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# SERVICE REPORT

**COMMUNITY:** Bettendorf, Iowa  
**DATE:** November 19, 2015  
**FILED BY:** Bryan Schmid  
**MEETING:** Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan Open House

**PRESENT:**

<u>County/Community</u>	<u>Bi-State</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Copies to:</u>
Refer to attached sign-in sheet	Gena McCullough Lindsay Whitson Bryan Schmid	Steve Grimes, Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Director	Plan Committee File

A public open house was held at the Bettendorf Public Library at 6:30 p.m. to solicit input from residents on various topics regarding parks and recreational opportunities in Bettendorf. Members of the public were greeted by Bi-State and city staff and asked to share their thoughts on topics including what works well in parks, where improvements are needed, trail facilities in the city, recreational programming, existing facilities, and operations, maintenance and safety.

Ms. McCullough and Mr. Schmid were available at two mapping stations, where participants were encouraged to explicitly point out areas that were working well and areas that could see some improvement. Numbered dots were placed on the map and corresponded to a larger discussion about each area. Below are the results of the mapping exercise and discussion.

1. Bike trail north to LeClaire
  - a. Maintenance along existing trails is excellent
  - b. Avoid using paved shoulders as bike facilities; Separated trails are better
  - c. Improve mileage and wayfinding signage along trails
  - d. Extend Pigeon Creek – Riverdale to Crow Creek to Mississippi River Trail
2. Fitness Center and Middle Park
  - a. Friendly and welcoming especially to older adults
  - b. Indoor tennis courts unique in the Quad Cities
  - c. Well-used by young families on weekends
3. Sunny Crest Park
  - a. Nice pocket park with potential for development and enhancement
4. Crow Creek Park
  - a. East side of park is inaccessible
  - b. Build a pedestrian bridge over the creek to access the east side of the park
5. Leach Park
  - a. Expand to include green space east of the bridge
  - b. Cleanliness of restrooms is appreciated
  - c. Magnetic locks on bathrooms to reduce vandalism at night
6. Forest Grove Park
  - a. Mountain biking trails would be a good fit given the hilliness

Other topics included in the discussion included:

- The future of Splash Landing as an indoor-outdoor facility
- Improving connectivity of multiuse trails to everyday amenities such as grocery stores
- Continued development of pocket or neighborhood parks.

Participants were also encouraged to write down their thoughts and ideas on placemats located near the entrance. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants were thanked for their participation and invited to attend future public input workshops and open houses. Closing comments were made by Mr. Grimes and Ms. McCullough, who thanked the participants for their time and input.

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**MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD  
MEMBERS, GUESTS & STAFF  
(Please Print Legibly)**

Meeting of: Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Plan Public Meeting #3 (Open House)

Date: 11/19/2015 Time: 6:30 p.m. To: 8:00 p.m. Minutes: Yes  No

Place of Meeting: Bettendorf Public Library

Name:	Title/Representing:	Contact # or Email:
1. Lindsay Wilson	Bi-State Regional Commission	
2. Larry Decker		LARRY DECKER@GMAIL.COM
3. Mary Laake		
4. Gary & Joyce Kamp		
5. Christina McDonough	Scott County Health Dept.	Christina-mcdonough@scottcountyiaiaa.com
6. Douglas M. Donald		dmdonald100@yahoo.com
7. PATRICK EIKENBERRY	MISSMAN, INC	PATE@MISSMAN.COM
8. TOMOTTY CARROLL		TOMOTTY.CARROLL@Q.COM
9. Patty Herzberg		jherzberg5@msn.com
10. Tom Dryg	Bett Park Board	tomdryg@gmail.com
11. Bruce Grell	Healthy Habits Biddle Shop	vancatsman@AOL.COM
12. Robert Lee		relee727@gmail.com
13. Gena McCullough	BSEC	
14. Bryan Schmid	BSEC	
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# SERVICE REPORT

**COMMUNITY:** Bettendorf, Iowa  
**DATE:** May 18, 2016  
**FILED BY:** Lindsay Whitson  
**MEETING:** Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Focus Group #1

**PRESENT:**

**County/Community**

Mayor Bob Gallagher  
Frank Baden, Aldermen  
Gary Mohr-Aldermen  
Debe LaMar-Aldermen  
Jerry Sechser-Aldermen  
Steve Wigler-Park Board  
Jennifer Bennett-Planning and Zoning Commission  
Roy Wennlund-Planning and Zoning Commission

**Bi-State**

Gena McCullough  
Lindsay Whitson

**Others**

Steve Grimes,  
Bettendorf Parks and  
Recreation Director

**Copies to:**

Plan Committee File

A focus group was held at the Herbert Goettsch Community Center in Bettendorf at 7:00 a.m. to solicit input from the members of the Bettendorf City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Park Board. The purpose of the input session was to gather input on the existing goals and strategies for implementation. First, Ms. McCullough provided a brief presentation on areas that the Bettendorf Park and Recreation Master Plan Update will address, the public input collected to date, and the existing goals already identified. The participants were then asked to split into two groups. Each group was given time to discuss if there were any items missing from the existing goals. Recommendations from the two groups are provided below.

1. Add a “safety” goal to the list.
2. Add “park maintenance and upkeep” to one of the current goals. Consider adding this topic under the “opportunity” goal to address maintenance and upkeep by stating the following;  
*“Plan for and set aside land for the developing needs in park and recreation, and protect, **enhance and upkeep** natural resources for existing and future citizens of Bettendorf.”*

Participants were then asked to discuss implementation strategies and to identify priority needs within a list of topics. The five topics include: Parks & Facilities, Operations & Maintenance (includes safety and inspections), Programming & Experience, Marketing & Outreach, and Park Management – Roles and Responsibilities. The priorities discussed are listed below.

**Parks & Facilities**

1. The discussion of a multi-use facility or collaboration efforts for the Splash Landing, Community Center, and Fitness Center needs to take place in the near future. The planning would begin now and the implementation process needs to take place within the next five to fifteen years due to these facilities reaching their life expectancy. Collaboration will be

necessary to intertwine all of these facilities.

2. Development of neighborhood parks on the north side of town with the increasing housing developments.

### **Programming & Experience**

1. Expand upon the winter programming choices for all ages.
2. Continue to provide innovative programming opportunities to the community such as dek hockey and pickleball. These innovative opportunities continue to attract more individuals into the community.

*\*Participants are each being individually e-mailed this exercise and are asked to complete and submit to Bi-State staff so that we can accumulate more prioritization responses.*

There were other ideas that were discussed that may not fit into the list of goals or the implementation strategies. These ideas are listed below.

1. Develop some sort of system that is recognized in the annual budget where stakeholders, City employees, etc. review the system every five years to identify where improvements may need to be made as well as the operational management of the system.
2. Do not just market programs towards children. The age 60 plus demographic is rapidly increasing as a target audience that utilizes recreational programs and trails.
3. Make sure each park meets the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. An example would be to put a basketball court in a neighborhood that largely consists of young families so that their children may use the court.



# SERVICE REPORT

**COMMUNITY:** Bettendorf, Iowa  
**DATE:** June 1, 2016  
**FILED BY:** Lindsay Whitson  
**MEETING:** Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Focus Group #2

**PRESENT:**

**County/Community**

See Attached Sign-in Sheet

**Bi-State**

Gena McCullough  
Lindsay Whitson

**Others**

Steve Grimes,  
Bettendorf Parks and  
Recreation Director

**Copies to:**

Plan Committee File

A focus group was held at the Herbert Goettsch Community Center in Bettendorf at 6:00 p.m. to solicit input from external stakeholders involved with parks and recreation in the City of Bettendorf. The purpose of the input session was to gather input on the existing goals, priority needs, and strategies for implementation. First, Ms. McCullough provided a brief presentation on areas that the Bettendorf Park and Recreation Master Plan Update will address, the public input collected to date, and the existing goals already identified.

Participants were then asked to discuss implementation strategies and to identify priority needs within a list of topics. The five topics include: Parks & Facilities, Operations & Maintenance (includes safety and inspections), Programming & Experience, Marketing & Outreach, and Park Management – Roles and Responsibilities. The priorities discussed are listed below. Following the discussion, each participant were given three stickers and asked to identify the top three topics that he or she believed to be the highest priority. The number in parentheses recognizes how many stickers were placed next to each topic.

## **Parks & Facilities**

1. Walkable parks in developing neighborhoods (2)
2. Opportunities for water features in parks (1)
3. Downtown urban park and focal point at I-74 (2)
4. Cost sharing on development of green space (0)
5. Implementing more community gardens (1)
6. Regional sports facility to replace fitness center and aquatic center (5)
7. Connectivity north to south (3)
8. Better utilize existing facilities (5)
9. Partner with neighboring communities (trails for example) (3)

## **Programming & Experience**

1. Outreach to underserved populations (1)
2. Parking and logistic issues (2)
3. Connections to new I-74 and trails (1)

4. Reach out to all ages and demographics with the types of programs offered (1)
5. Develop partnerships with individual neighborhoods (1)

### **Operations and Maintenance**

1. Maintain old parks while new parks are being developed (1)
2. Manage growth of the system in its entirety (2)
3. Downtown urban park (2)
4. Continuation of trails maintenance (0)
5. Community gardens ran by community groups (0)
6. Regional sports facility (0)
7. Enhancing existing facilities and fine tuning (4)

### **Marketing and Outreach**

1. Cross promotion between parks (5)
2. Word of mouth and social media (0)
3. Life Fitness Center marketing not just to current users (0)
4. Unified City marketing approach (1)

**MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD  
MEMBERS, GUESTS & STAFF  
(Please Print Legibly)**

Meeting of: Bettendorf Parks and Recreation External Stakeholders Meeting #1

Date: June 1, 2016 Time: 6:00 p.m. To: 7:30 p.m. Minutes: Yes        No       

Place of Meeting: Bettendorf Community Center – Canteen Room

Name:	Title/Representing:	Contact # or Email:
1. BOB TAPPA	PRESIDENT /BPV	563 499 4702
2. Kathleen Behncke	Crow Creek Dog Park	k.behncke@mehsi.com
3. RYAN FEUNTUN	ISLE CASINO	563-449-2046
4. Sue Ellen Johnson	BLFC Advisory Comm.	johnson.sue.ellen@gmail.com
5. Gary Threpp	Baseline	garyt@beyondthebaseline.com
6. Matt Mooney	Friends of Bettendorf Parks	mattmooney52@gmail.com
7. Kerin Kraft	Citizen	KKbluenote2@gmail.com
8. BRANT CARLUS	CITIZEN	BRANT.CARLUS@Scotts.com
9. Dave Tallman	Shive Hattery	dtallman@Shive-hattery.com
10. STACEY BROCKETT	SHIVE-HATTERY	SBROCKETT@Shive-hattery.com
11. STEVE TAPPA	SECRETARY /BPV	563 676-8111 TAPPA@CONLINE.COM
12. SUE GUSTAFSON	FMR PB COMMISIONER	LOWE@HOTMAIL.COM
13. Doug Nelson	Citizen	on file
14. Thomas Wauer	Koestner, McGivern & Assoc.	5633404869 tomw@marketvalue.com
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# SERVICE REPORT

**COMMUNITY:** Bettendorf, Iowa  
**DATE:** June 21, 2016  
**FILED BY:** David Soliz  
**MEETING:** Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Focus Group #3

**PRESENT:**

<u>County/Community</u>	<u>Bi-State</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Copies to:</u>
See Attached Sign-in Sheet	Gena McCullough Bryan Schmid Lindsay Whitson	Steve Grimes, Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Director	Plan Committee File

A focus group was held at the Bettendorf City Hall Council Chambers at 7:00 a.m. to solicit input from external stakeholders involved with parks and recreation in the City of Bettendorf. The purpose of the input session was to gather input on the existing goals, priority needs, and strategies for implementation. First, Ms. McCullough provided a brief presentation on areas that the Bettendorf Park and Recreation Master Plan Update will address, the public input collected to date, and the existing goals already identified.

Participants were then asked to discuss implementation strategies and to identify priority needs within a list of topics. The five topics include: Parks & Facilities, Operations & Maintenance (includes safety and inspections), Programming & Experience, Marketing & Outreach, and Park Management – Roles and Responsibilities. The priorities discussed are listed below.

**Parks & Facilities**

1. Indoor regional sports facility- public/private partner
2. Develop parks in neighborhoods (ordinance, dev's pay, etc.)
3. Expand Leach Park
4. Thoughtful replacement of existing facilities
5. Create visually appealing and welcoming open spaces
6. Natural Park- ponds, natural grasses, walking spaces
7. Plan a new river front park north of current park
8. Utilize all city facilities to maximize efforts- inventory of school pools, tennis courts to have more options

**Programming & Experience**

1. Equipment available in more parks for games without park staff- chess, bocce ball, etc.
2. Healthy initiatives- incorporate blue zone thinking
3. Community outdoor physical art-fountains, encourage private parties to engage
4. Outdoor programming opportunities in the winter

## **Operations and Maintenance**

1. Safety trails oriented- safe streets (Middle/Forest Grove)- continued trail expansion- design and education
2. Landscape Standards
3. Adopt trail program
4. Park equipment fund- endowment

## **Marketing and Outreach**

1. OK to spend money on quality of life issues
2. Maximize use of all fitness facilities- schools, YMCA
3. Discuss future development plans with YMCA



**MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD  
MEMBERS, GUESTS & STAFF  
(Please Print Legibly)**

Meeting of: Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Stakeholder Focus Group

Date: 6/21/2016 Time: 7:00 A.M. To: 8:30 A.M. Minutes: Yes  No

Place of Meeting: City Hall – Council Chambers

Name:	Title/Representing:	Contact # or Email:
1. JOE TAYLOR	QUAD CITIES CVB	JTAYLOR@VISITQUADCITIES.COM
2. Steve Van Dyke	Retired	stevenjvandyke@gmail.com
3. Tracey Knehl	Retired. -self	tracyk56@gmail.com
4. Row Madaay	Bettendorf Park Ambassadors	R.Madaay@Bettendorf.org
5. Jim Spelhang	PVUSD	spelhangjim@pleasant.k12.iowa.us
6. PATRICK EIKENBERRY	NISSAN GROUP	PATE@NISSAN.COM
7. Mike Raso	Bett CS D	mraso@bettendorf.k12.iowa.us
8. DAVE NICHOLS	DOWNING ARCHITECTS	nicholsd@downingarch.com
9. Steve Wauer	M. DAVIS INC.	swauer-mdi@Att.net
10. Diane Lichtenberg	Bett H.S.	dlichten@bettendorf.k12.iowa.us
11. BOB MAJCHERZAK	SCOTT COMM. COLLEGE	BMJCHERZAK@EICC.EDU
12. Tom Dryg	Bettendorf Park Board	tomdryg@gmail.com
13. Robert Lee	Rekon Corp Wealth Mgt	relee127@gmail.com
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# Appendix B

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## City of Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

### Stakeholder Interview Questions

#### External Questions

#### **I. What things are working well for the Parks and Recreation in Bettendorf?**

- a. Attuned to what the public is looking for such as pickle ball, baseball, park restrooms, etc.
- b. Understanding of what sells to the people in Bettendorf.
- c. Good communication with residents
- d. Dog park
- e. Outreach to other communities
- f. Comprehensive list of services
- g. Trails
- h. Summer clubs and camps
- i. Promotion of the parks, assets and programming
- j. Sweeping and plowing the trails

#### **2. What improvements are needed? In the parks, programming, operations/maintenance or marketing?**

- a. Some of the facilities and restrooms could use upgrading
- b. Vandalism, and storm damage.
- c. Running out of room at Crow Creek Park
- d. Add another restroom closer to soccer fields in Crow Creek Park
- e. More agility features at dog park
- f. Convert the tile floor in the Community Center gym to hardwood
- g. Maintain open and regular communication with other entities and groups
- h. Improve partnerships with school districts (especially for tennis courts at PV High School)
- i. Maintain what exists
- j. Market partnerships, look for more
- k. Proactive maintenance
- l. More dog water stations and garbage receptacles
- m. More seasonal programming
- n. Trail upkeep after rain events – clearing trails of sand, silt, etc.

**3. What are the three most important issues facing Parks and Recreation in Bettendorf?**

- a. Revenue flow, maintenance
- b. Life Fitness Center – Some controversy among folks because of the YMCA.
- c. Golf course viability
- d. Limited resources
- e. Thinking regionally
- f. Environmental sustainability/stewardship
- g. Maintenance while expanding to meet growth
- h. Partnerships with school districts, not-for-profits, the Y
- i. Residents’ changing habits moving toward more indoor activities
- j. Completing/expanding bike network
- k. Keeping Life Fitness Center up to date and relevant

**4. What opportunities should Bettendorf Parks and Recreation pursue? In the short-term or next five years? In the long-term or next ten years?**

Short Term	Long Term
Trails along Middle Rd., Hopewell, and Forest Grove area - Act now for things like right of way acquisition	Forest Grove Park; and development along Forest Grove Rd.
Expand Dek Hockey	Continue to be open to new ideas and trends; Expand when needed
Continue trail building efforts	Long-term partnerships with hospitals, Be Healthy Quad Cities, etc.
Growing active senior population may require different activities/program	Seek as many partnerships as possible
Partnership with Pleasant Valley Schools similar to Bettendorf Schools	Slow down traffic downtown to create more walkable, bikeable downtown
Work toward more Complete Streets in most roadway projects	

**5. What role does Bettendorf Parks and Recreation play in the long term growth and development of the community?**

- Quality of life
- Increases value of nearby homes
- Attracts people to the community
- Expands growth of the city
- Driver of economic development
- Helps neighborhoods grow
- Park and rec amenities make for a vibrant community
- Continued work on trails helps make a healthier community
- Physical activity leads to healthier lifestyles overall

**6. What key issues should be investigated or discussed in the Park and Recreation Master Plan Update?**

- Funding and staffing to operate and maintain.
- Expansion of Dekhockey
- Continuing to keep parks clean and safe
- Continue to expect and welcome new opportunities
- Trail connectivity to other communities
- Further opportunities to collaborate – makes the best use of limited resources
- Partnership with Pleasant Valley School District
- How can we both address growth while maintaining what we have? I.e. is the community center in the best location?
- Growing green space assets
- Funding strategies from state/federal sources
- Every home within a half mile of a bicycle facility

**7. Are there any services the Park and Recreation Department is providing that you do not think they should be providing?**

None (x3)

**8. On a scale of 1-5 - with 5 being excellent and 1 being poor, how would you rate the quality of parks and recreation facilities provided by the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department, and why?**

5 – for Crow Creek Park because it's nice, safe, clean and welcoming  
 5 – Great ADA accessibility; Wonderful maintenance  
 3 – for the ageing facilities  
 5 – for trails, Crow Creek Park, Golf course

**9. On a scale of 1-5 - with 5 being excellent and 1 being poor, what do you think the image of the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department is in the community, and why?**

4 – Could increase marketing of programs  
 5 for Crow Creek Park  
 5 – Well maintained; engaged staff

4 or 5 – Good structures and opportunities in place – the city is putting money behind it

5 – Seen as progressive in the QC for their funding for facilities

**10. How would you rate the quality of the services and programs that the Parks and Recreation Department provides on a scale of 1 to 5 – with 5 being excellent and 1 being poor.**

5 - for Crow Creek Park

5 – probably but a little disassociated from this

5 – bike racks are needed, but the city is taking steps to remedy that situation

**11. Is there anything that I have not asked that is an issue that should be addressed in the Master Plan?**

New development of the new park in Forest Grove Area

Develop archery range given newfound interest among Hunger Games fans

Only concern is if/when there's any change in Park & Rec staff – Continuity would be great

Trail connectivity between communities, especially the northern sections of the city

Try to avoid duplicative services and activities. For instance, Bettendorf has Dekhockey so Davenport won't pursue that in the future

Urban forestry program – complement to the trails and the overall cityscape

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## City of Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

### Stakeholder Interview Questions

#### Internal Questions

#### **I. What things are working well for the Parks and Recreation in Bettendorf?**

- Support from officials and residents (x2)
- Quality Staff (x2)
- Trail development (x4)
- Responsive to citizens' needs (x3)
- New amenities in the parks
- Adaptability
- New playground additions and equipment (x2)
- Dekhockey (x2)
- Summer programming (x5)
- Indoor tennis courts
- Growing golf course (x2)
- Upkeep of parks
- Diverse park amenities
- Soccer programs (x2)
- Youth programs filling up (x2)
- Adult programming (x2)
- Dog Park
- All team sports
- Cross-country course
- New winter programming

#### **2. What improvements are needed? In the parks, programming, operations/maintenance or marketing?**

##### **a. Parks –**

- Green space downtown
- New public pool (x2)
- Competitive sports venue and green space for baseball, softball and soccer
- Keep improving and adding to the dog park
- Pools should stay open later in the summer
- Tree management
- Parking concerns at parks
- Spectator facilities esp. for team sports facilities
- Expansion of bike trails
- More bathrooms and drinking fountains
- More soccer fields
- Trail connectivity

- b. **Programming –**
  - Activate the Park Ambassador Program
  - Life fitness center programs need cohesion
  - Youth volleyball
  - Disc golf
  - Swimming lessons
  - Tennis lessons
  - Space for soccer (x2)
  - Add nature programming – hikes, etc.
  - Not overpricing programs
  - Dekhockey outgrowing space; parking issues
- c. **Operations/Maintenance –**
  - More green space downtown means more maintenance staff
  - Aging facilities pose many questions (x2)
  - Upkeep of trails may be difficult and costly
  - Higher and better use of Life Fitness Center should be defined (x2)
  - Member management and retention
  - Grounds upkeep and tree maintenance especially with the Emerald Ash Borer (x4)
  - Support Life Fitness Center
  - Sand in Splash Landing pool
- d. **Marketing –**
  - Hire someone whose sole job is to provide marketing for Parks Department
  - Better winter marketing
  - Promote facilities
  - Create user friendly website and materials (x4)
  - Update brochures/maps (x2)
  - More marketing for fitness center
  - Blue Zone tie in
  - Better coordination between city departments
  - Summer concert series

### 3. **What are the three most important issues facing Parks and Recreation in Bettendorf?**

- Forest Grove Park development (x3)
- Maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities (x6)
- Uncertainty associated with aging facilities
- Develop parks in the growing areas of the city (x3)
- Life Fitness Center (x2)
- Community center identity
- Monitoring the dog park
- Funding for maintenance (x3)



Marketing to all audiences and all ages (x2)  
 Walkability; bike path and trail expansion and connectivity (x2)  
 Ongoing facility subsidies (x2)  
 Low temp worker wages  
 Ensuring participation for all residents given increased participation  
 Staffing (x3)  
 Not outgrowing the community  
 Parking  
 Soccer facility improvements and expansion  
 Natural area degradation  
 Splash Landing expansion  
 Need arborist; Tree City program  
 Future of pool

**4. What opportunities should Bettendorf Parks and Recreation pursue? In the short-term or next five years? In the long-term or next ten years?**

Listen to residents & take risks  
 Continue to be creative  
 Privatize Life Fitness Center  
 Develop new park facility near I-80 and Middle Road; Forest Grove Park (x4)  
 Continue land acquisition in the growing areas of the city (x2)  
 Appeal more to teenagers  
 Improved implementation of programming  
 Programming throughout the year, not just summer (x2)  
 Staffing issues – temp wages, seasonal workers  
 Renovate Splash Landing (x3)  
 Appeal to whole age spectrum (x2)  
 Completion of Field Sike Park  
 Act as more of a regional attraction  
 Community center's future (x2)  
 Partnerships with schools, YMCA, businesses, other cities and the county (x4)  
 Environmental stewardship in parks  
 Team sports for young kids  
 Another dog park  
 More shelters to rent  
 Playground upgrades  
 Development near I-74 Bridge

**5. What role does Bettendorf Parks and Recreation plan in the long term growth and development of the community?**

Essential, especially considering demographics (high income and education levels) (x4)  
 Quality of life (x4)  
 Continued growth in the city (x4)  
 Public health and obesity  
 City beautification

Aides in community and economic development (x2)  
 Partnerships with groups like the Scouts  
 Trail development for commuting and recreation purposes  
 Grooming for leadership in community  
 Would like more festivals

**6. What key issues should be investigated or discussed in the Park and Recreation Master Plan Update?**

Aging facilities – Splash Landing, Life Fitness Center, Community Center (x7)  
 New programming – What's affordable?  
 Implementation and strategies for the defined goals and objectives  
 Entirely new building for the Life Fitness Center  
 Marketing existing opportunities  
 Completion of Forest Grove Park (x2)  
 New facility needs: Soccer or baseball fields?  
 Maintaining existing amenities (x2)  
 Integration with other plans  
 Staffing  
 Expectations environmental stewardship  
 Hiring an arborist

**7. Are there any services the Park and Recreation Department is providing that you do not think they should be providing?**

Nothing comes to mind  
 Hip hop dance classes – What is the mission of the fitness center?  
 Investigate opportunities with the YMCA but don't duplication  
 No role in competitive travel teams

**8. Is there anything that I have not asked that is an issue that should be addressed in the Master Plan?**

Reassessment of partnership with youth baseball program  
 Splash Landing  
 Ageing population  
 Facility reservation system  
 Becoming regional hub for sports and recreation  
 Crow Creek Park amenity improvements  
 Regional coordination  
 Timelines for implementation  
 Staff retirements in coming years  
 Program registration online  
 Potential problem of overreaching  
 Premier facility



# Appendix C

