

*City of Waverly*

# Park and Open Space Master Plan



Prepared By  
HRGreen

April 28, 2011

# Acknowledgements

## **City of Waverly - Office of the Mayor:**

Mayor Bob Brunkhorst

## **City of Waverly - City Council:**

Gene Lieb	1st Ward
Gary Grace	2nd Ward
Richard Lindell	3rd Ward
Jim Vowels	4th Ward
Tim Kangas	5th Ward
Kathy Olson	At-Large
Gary Boorum	At-Large

## **Master Plan Steering Committee Members:**

Paul Cheville	Park Maintenance Specialist
Cyndi Ecker	Local Business Owner; Past City Council Member
Richard Lindell	City Council Member
Steve Main	Wartburg College – Retired Biology Professor
David McCullough	Wartburg College – Biology Professor
Kathy Olson	City Council Member
Jim Rathe	Chairperson Trail Committee; Retired MD
Tab Ray	Waverly Leisure Services
Cara Schneider	Leisure Services Commissioner
Darrin Siefken	Local Business Owner; Past Naturalist
Doug Snook	Golf Course

## **Master Plan Project Team:**

### **City of Waverly Staff**

Tab Ray	Project Lead
---------	--------------

### **Master Plan Consultant - HR Green**

Jim Harbaugh	Principal in Charge
Phil Stuepfert	Planner
Marisa Currier	Landscape Designer



# ■ Executive Summary

HR Green is pleased to submit this Park and Open Space Master Plan (Master Plan), to the City of Waverly. This plan is both visionary and achievable, and will benefit Waverly and the surrounding region. Parks, open space, and trails are very important amenities for Waverly now and in the future. By implementing the recommendations set forth in this Master Plan, Waverly can take steps toward creating a more comprehensive and highly-utilized system.

The Master Plan process consisted of a data collection and analysis stage, followed by concept development and ultimately this final report. One of the primary goals of the Master Plan process was to develop a sense of the general public's desires. In an effort to gather and analyze input, a Steering Committee, that met regularly, was formed. Waverly additionally conducted surveys and held public open house meetings. These forums and resulting input were very valuable in helping to shape the vision, goals and objectives for the project.

During the Master Plan process the following elements were finalized:

- Goals and objectives
- Future community and neighborhood park locations
- Future trail locations
- Trail design standards
- Future park improvement priorities
- Cost estimates and funding options

Working together, Waverly residents, City leaders and staff, the Steering Committee, and other involved parties collectively established a Master Plan to create a more livable community utilizing a cohesive and interconnected open space system.



*Cedar River near existing bridge crossing*

# Table of Contents

<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background	2
1.2 Study Area	3
1.3 Purpose and Benefits	3
<b>CHAPTER 2 - VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Vision	6
2.2 Goals and Objectives	6
<b>CHAPTER 3 - DATA COLLECTION, INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 Collected Data and Inventory	10
3.2 Existing Conditions	10
3.3 Classification of Waverly's Parks	11
3.4 Needs Assessment	12
<b>CHAPTER 4 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1 Process and Importance	16
4.2 Steering Committee	16
4.3 Focus Groups	16
4.4 Public Workshops	21
4.5 City Leadership Involvement	21
<b>CHAPTER 5 - MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>23</b>
5.1 Overall Recommendations	24
5.2 Park and Open Space Recommendations	30
5.3 Trail System Recommendations	36
5.4 Policy Recommendations	50
<b>CHAPTER 6 - PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION</b>	<b>55</b>
6.1 Park and Open Space Implementation	56
6.2 Trail Implementation	60
6.3 Opinion of Probable Cost	61
6.4 Funding Strategies (Local, State, Federal, Other)	63

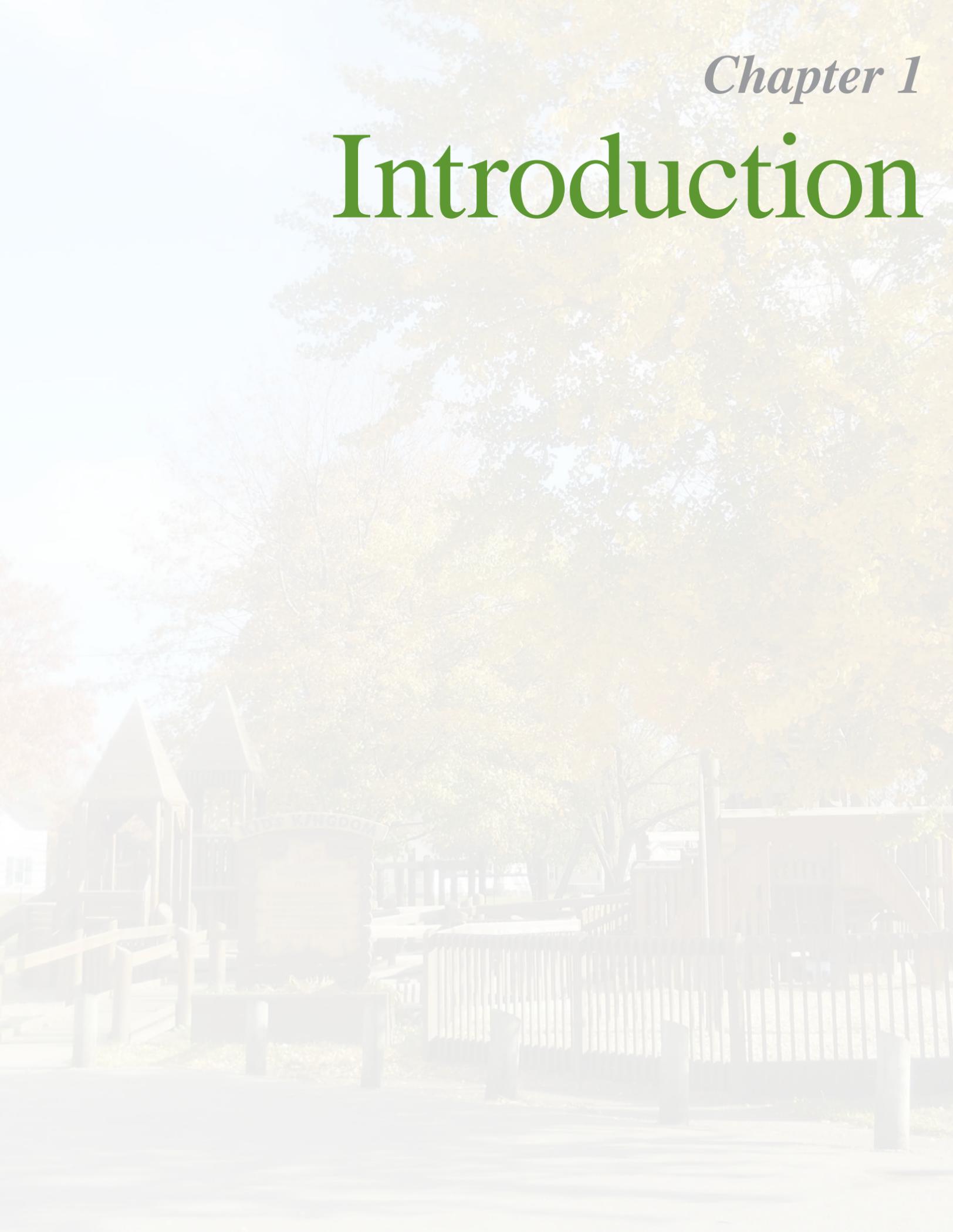


# Table of Contents

<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>APPENDIX A - EXHIBITS</b>	<b>67</b>
Exhibit 'A' Study Area Map	69
Exhibit 'B' Base Map	71
Exhibit 'C' Community Parks Service Area Map	73
Exhibit 'D' Neighborhood Parks Service Area Map	75
Exhibit 'E' Trail Master Plan	77
Exhibit 'F' Trail Master Plan Priorities	79
Exhibit 'G' Trail Master Plan Loops	81
Exhibit 'H' Dry Run Creek Corridors Study Area	83
Exhibit 'I' Dry Run/Cedar River Greenway Corridor Plan	85
<b>APPENDIX B - SURVEY RESULTS</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>APPENDIX C - RECREATIONAL LAND MATRIX</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>APPENDIX D - PARK/OPEN SPACE FACILITIES COMPARISON TABLE</b>	<b>123</b>

Page Left Intentionally Blank





*Chapter 1*

# Introduction

# Chapter 1

## 1.1 Background

### History of the Leisure Services Department

The City of Waverly Parks and Recreation Department (now called Leisure Services) was formed as a professional department in 1976. Prior to that time, recreation services were provided on a volunteer basis and supervised by a policy-making Recreation Commission. The golf course was started in the late 1920's with a private four-hole course. A full nine-hole course was completed in 1939. In the early 1950's, the city acquired more land and became involved in developing the current 18-hole golf course. Waverly has acquired 350 total acres of land over the years which have been turned into a variety of park facilities.



*The preserved tree by City Hall demonstrates Waverly's commitment to the natural environment*

The first recorded burial in Harlington Cemetery occurred in 1835. Up until 1979, the Park, Golf, and Pool maintenance divisions were under the supervision of the Superintendent of Public Grounds. In 1979, the Department of Public Grounds was divided into new, separate divisions, and placed within the Parks and Recreation Department.

Park/cemetery and pool maintenance was placed under the Parks and Cemetery Superintendent and golf course maintenance placed under the Golf Superintendent. In July of 1999 the parks/cemetery/pool maintenance position was further divided which made the Parks Superintendent responsible for the parks and pool divisions and the newly created Cemetery Supervisor position responsible for the Cemetery division. The Department has continued to grow and improve through changes in all aspects of programming and administration.

In June of 1992, the City of Waverly offices, including the Parks and Recreation Department, moved out of the old City Hall and into the new City Hall/Civic Center located at 200 First St. N.E. The Parks and Recreation Department took over the responsibility for programming and scheduling the Civic Center. The ground that the Civic Center is on was donated by the City Water and Electric Departments. In September of 2007, Wartburg College took over all of the youth and adult recreation programs and learn to swim programs. The Parks and Recreation Department was reorganized and is now the Leisure Services Department. The Leisure Services Department is in charge of the parks, golf course, pro shop, civic center, municipal pool, and Harlington Cemetery.

### 2011 Park and Open Space Master Plan

The City of Waverly's 2011 Park and Open Space Master Plan is an important document which will serve as a guiding resource for the next ten years and beyond. The community of Waverly hired the consulting firm of HR Green to assist them in preparing this Master Plan. Many steps were involved, but the primary purpose of this Master Plan was to identify the needs and desires of the community and convert those ideas into a framework plan for the future growth and development of Waverly.

One of the most crucial steps in the development of a Master Plan is public involvement in creating a vision and framework. Encouraging user groups, residents, stakeholders and staff to participate in the planning promotes a sense of pride and responsibility. While the overall quality of parks and programs offered to date is very good, it is important during this time that Waverly is able to maintain and enhance the services provided to the community. Maintaining quality parks and facilities requires that the daily management of buildings, amenities and grounds be completed in a proactive manner that utilizes state-of-the-art equipment and processes. It also requires that necessary enhancements be initiated in a timely manner that will meet the changing needs and desires of Waverly's residents while being fiscally responsible to those same residents.



## 1.2 Study Area

The study area encompasses all property currently annexed into the City of Waverly as well as future growth areas. The study area is approximately 7,300 acres/11.4 square miles (See *Exhibit 'A' and Exhibit 'B'*).

## 1.3 Purpose and Benefits

Parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities provide communities with many benefits. The specific purpose of this Master Plan is to guide Waverly in the planning of current and future parks, trails and open space, while meeting the needs of its residents. The benefits of completing this study and implementing the recommendations are many. The Master Plan will provide economic, health and safety benefits (described below), just to name a few. As Waverly's population continues to grow, the overall purpose is to create a livable community that offers recreational options that are convenient, reliable, safe, and efficient. Improved health, environmental protection and stewardship, open space preservation and increased property values are just some of the other benefits.

### Economic Benefits

A well-planned and well-constructed park and trail system offers potential economic benefits including higher real estate property values, increased tourism, recreation-related revenues and cost savings for public services. Residential properties, for example, in close proximity to public open space have been shown to have significantly greater value. Parks, open space and trails near commercial and industrial properties are often considered a free employee benefit. Providing opportunities that allow people to walk or bike rather than use their cars promotes a cleaner environment. Additionally, parks can help mitigate community storm water issues, by providing open space areas for storm water management. The Master Plan encourages implementing this concept to assist in minimizing flooding, improving water quality, protecting wetlands, conserving habitat for wildlife, and buffering adjacent land uses.

### Health Benefits

There are also health benefits to implementing a well-planned and integrated park and trail system throughout Waverly. Daily exercise (bicycling, walking, etc.) can significantly improve mental and physical health. Safe and convenient trails encourage people to walk and utilize bicycles. Additionally, they provide opportunities for people to travel to their workplace, retail shopping, or to simply enjoy the outdoors for recreational purposes. Simply providing shade for residents is often overlooked, however it can have long term health benefits (i.e. minimizing sun exposure). Healthy living is fundamental in improving one's physical

and emotional health and social well being. Parks and recreation services play a vital role in encouraging people to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles by providing the programs, the facilities and the protected environments that allow people to be physically and socially active.



### Safety Benefits

Safety for residents of all ages in Waverly and the immediate area is another important reason to implement the ideas and principles set forth in this Master Plan. For example, the consequences of bicycle/pedestrian accidents with vehicles are often serious and sometimes fatal. Children are especially vulnerable, because their movements are often unpredictable, and they are inexperienced at riding in traffic. Young children often ride their bikes or walk across busy streets and highways to schools, parks, neighbors' houses, or other destinations in Waverly. As an example Cedar Lane Road, along the river, is utilized for bicycling, walking and jogging, yet it is fairly unsafe due to the constrained space and lack of a defined path for non-vehicular travel. Therefore, it is a primary goal of this Master Plan to create a park and trail system that is safer for residents of Waverly.

### Stewardship of the Land

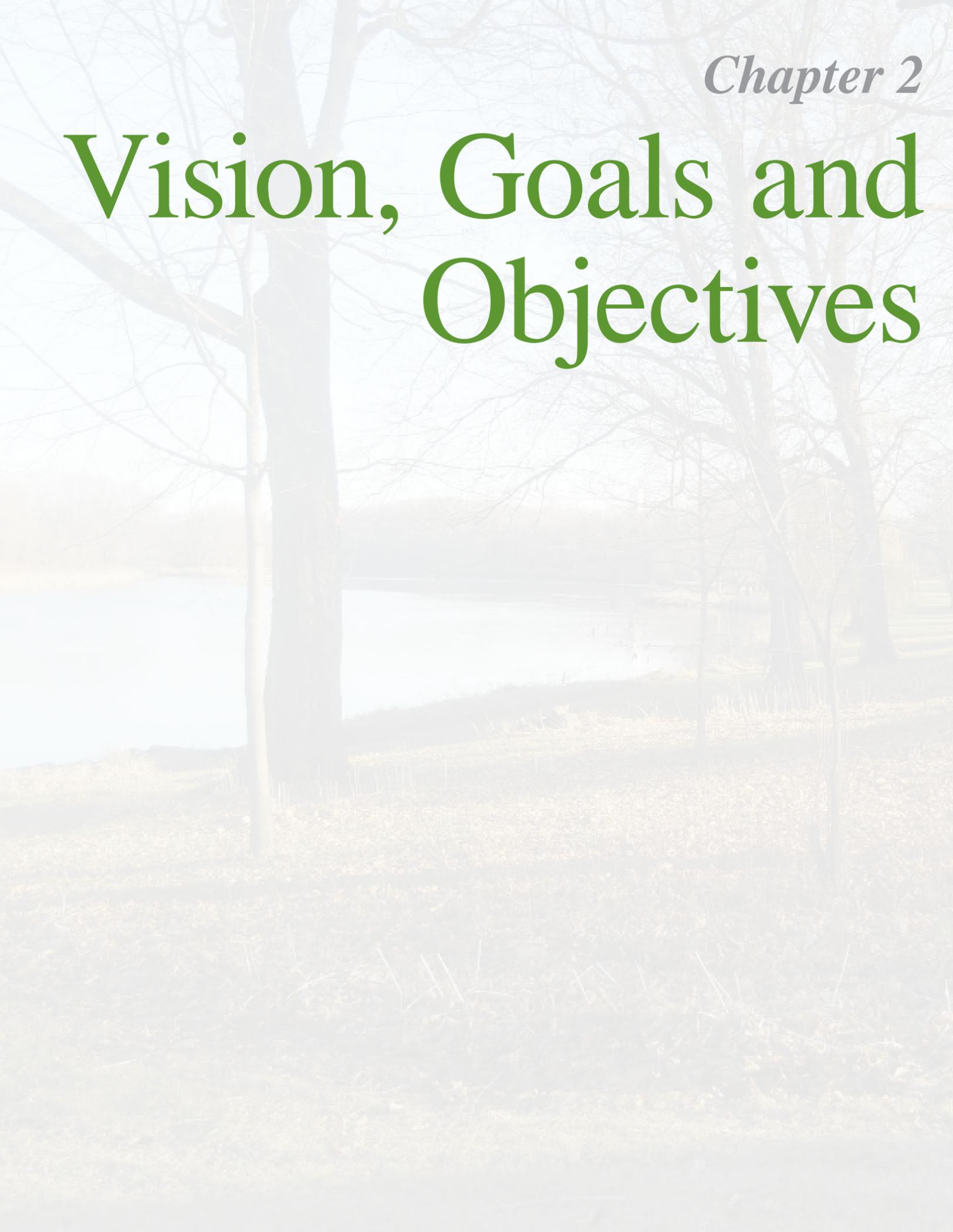
Preservation and stewardship of environmentally sensitive areas is extremely important now and in the future. All public lands including parks, conservation areas, open space, trails, greenways, lakes, streams and wetlands may offer significant fish and wildlife habitat that require a philosophy of protection and sustainability. The Cedar River and the associated natural environment is one of the most prized amenities of the Waverly area. This plan seeks to protect and preserve open space along that corridor as well as implement practices that embrace this natural feature. Equally important and related to this stewardship role is the need to provide programs to the public that promote a

greater understanding of our natural systems as well as an awareness of global environmental issues.

## **Meeting the Changing Needs of Waverly's Residents**

As the City of Waverly prioritizes its future goals and determines the direction of its programs and services, it is important to recognize park and recreation trends change over time. These trends can affect future program and facility development, therefore Waverly needs to self-evaluate the overall needs of its population base. For example, more than 75 million Americans turned 60 in 2006. By 2030 it is expected that 20% of the U.S. population will be considered a senior. Studies also suggest that the aging baby boomer generation may not be as interested in the types of activities and programs that are typically offered today. It is evident in Waverly that the teenage population was not being served very well and therefore needs to be addressed. Also, walking and bicycling trails are one of the most demanded amenities nationally and in Waverly. In response, this Master Plan will focus on the trail system.





*Chapter 2*

# Vision, Goals and Objectives

# Chapter 2

## 2.1 Vision

During and following the public process, a clear and specific vision statement capturing the goals and intentions of the project was developed to accurately describe the desired outcome of the Master Plan.

*Imagine Waverly has evolved into a connected network of parks, trails and natural areas. This integrated and comprehensive system accommodates all types and ages of users. The network is one that is safe and accessible. A variety of recreational opportunities, such as active recreation (sports-related), running, walking and bicycling are easily accessible City-wide. The trail system connects important destinations, such as Waverly parks, the “W”, schools, downtown and other key facilities. Safety features such as landscaping, design, and lighting provide a sense of security. Continued maintenance and high quality design of the parks and trails, maintain the infrastructure in useable condition, as well as creates a pleasing environment for its users. While implementation of the vision will take many years, this future scenario is the ultimate vision of the Park and Open Space Master Plan.*

## 2.2 Goals and Objectives

The following goals provide some context for the specific policies and recommendations discussed in the Master Plan Report. These goals support the long-term vision and serve as the foundation of the plan. The goals are broad and general statements of purpose, not intended to illustrate details, but rather show the plan’s direction and provide overall guidance. The corresponding objectives provide more specific descriptions.



Ridgewood Park

1

**Involve the community in the planning process by conducting a survey, focus group and/or public information meetings**

- Form a parks support group, as a result of community involvement

2

**Establish policies/design and set a community example of being effective stewards of the land**

- Encourage biodiversity of native plants and animals
- Reduce runoff
- Plan for the future

3

**Develop and encourage policies for a community-wide green infrastructure including using park and open space land**

- Assist in managing storm water quality
- Establish corridors/buffers between different land uses
- Establish park connectivity by non-motorized transportation system
- Use recycled materials and products

4

**Employ Best Management Practices to maintain and finance the facilities while providing high quality service**

- Promote efficiencies in design and construction
- Use sustainable practices and be an example and resource to the public
- Establish levels of maintenance for different areas
- Achieve universal accessibility

5

**As the community changes and facilities are built, develop a plan for the renovation of existing sites and future sites and define how they would change and serve the community for many years**

- Determine areas lacking green space
- Promote cultural arts and history
- Promote physical fitness
- Balance passive and active spaces
- Realize the potential of the river
- Determine long-term buyout property uses
- Advance a community identity





**Work efficiently with City Staff and the Steering Committee throughout the planning process**



**Coordinate with City's comprehensive planning process**



Page Left Intentionally Blank



*Chapter 3*

# Data Collection, Inventory and Analysis

# Chapter 3

## 3.1 Collected Data and Inventory

In preparing the Master Plan, the project team collected data and created an inventory of the City's parks and open space amenities. A sampling of the information and data collected is as follows:

- Community profile
- Existing park and open space amenities in the system
- Existing design standards
- Existing school locations
- Existing and currently planned trails

### Community Profile

Understanding the history, culture and traditions of a community plays a key role in planning for the future, as these are the underlying principles that help shape a community, as do its people. This chapter presents a synopsis of the community based on its geography, demographic information and history. This information provides an understanding of the community that fosters the exploration of recreation trends in the City of Waverly which will in turn assist in the formulation of recommendations for park and recreation programs, amenities and services. The following demographic information has been gathered from the City of Waverly's website and 2005 Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update.

### Geographic Location

The City of Waverly is located in Bremer County in Northeast Iowa. The Cedar River runs directly through the center of the community. Major transportation corridors include U.S. Highway 218 and Iowa Highway 3 which run east/west through the community. Waverly lies approximately eighty (80) miles west of the Mississippi River and sixty (60) miles south of the Iowa/Minnesota border. Surrounding communities include Denver, Janesville, Plainfield, Readlyn, Shell Rock, Sumner and Tripoli.

### Population

2010	9,874
2000	8,968
1990	8,539
1980	8,444
1970	7,205

### Distance to Major Cities

Cedar Falls, IA	16 miles
Waterloo, IA	21 miles
Des Moines, IA	132 miles
Minneapolis, MN	223 miles
Chicago, IL	291 miles
Omaha, NE	264 miles

### Physical and Natural Features

Other significant features inventoried and shown on the exhibit include:

- Municipal boundary
- Transportation corridors/streets/railroads/bridges
- Schools
- City Hall
- Existing municipal open space locations
- Existing municipal and non-municipal park locations
- Flood buyout properties
- Wetlands
- Floodway
- Floodplains (100 year and 500 year)
- Environmental corridors (minor and major drainages)

## 3.2 Existing Conditions

### Parks and General Open Space

An on-site evaluation of existing parks and amenities provided the basis for formulating future improvement recommendations. HR Green inventoried the existing park and open space facilities in two steps. The first step was to photo document the existing parks; the second was to determine the approximate size, how each is used, and what amenities and structures each site includes. See **Appendix C** for the complete Recreational Land Matrix outlining this inventory.

### Trail System

Waverly does not yet have a large, cohesive trail system and consequently residents listed this amenity as one of the biggest needs in the community. The existing Rail Trail is a heavily used corridor which is located in the "heart" of the City. The Rail Trail is a prized amenity in Waverly and it is the only significant trail corridor that is contiguous. In other areas, fragments of trail corridors have been built, but the connectivity is lacking. One of the primary goals of the trail system is to provide connectivity by linking parks and existing neighborhoods to other key destinations around Waverly.

This Master Plan recommends expanding upon the Rail Trail and connecting key nodes such as:

- Cedar River
- Schools
- Parks
- Waverly Public Library and City Hall
- Downtown Waverly
- Wartburg College
- Neighborhoods isolated by natural or man-made barriers



## Existing Challenges

After conducting on-site observation and analyzing feedback gathered throughout the public involvement process, the following challenges have been identified in regards to improving the park and open space system in Waverly:

- Funding
- Acceptance of new ideas
- Lowering maintenance costs
- Potential difficulty in acquiring property and/or easements (land owners and developers/home builders)
- Many existing sidewalks are fairly narrow, undefined and/or in poor condition needing major improvements
- Existing sidewalks often terminate and lack connectivity
- Limited space in downtown area (specifically for bicycle traffic)
- The Rail Trail needs safe crossings-currently it is very difficult to cross Bremer Avenue
- 2nd Street needs significant improvement
- City needs to follow State Code for walks

## 3.3 Classification of Waverly's Parks

There are a variety of different types of parks within any park system, each serving its own specific function within a community. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a classification system that can be used as a resource to describe most types of parks. These standards can be modified to address a specific agency and the unique types of parks that an agency offers. For example, for Waverly's Master Plan, Mini-Parks and Sports Complexes were eliminated from the classification system. Due to Waverly's somewhat smaller population, the project team felt it was not necessary to break down the categories to that level. Some parks may meet neighborhood needs but may also have specialized amenities that serve a broader community base; they appear to fit under more than one classification. However, ultimately they are placed under the classification that meets the broadest definition. The Waverly classification of parks includes Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks.

### Neighborhood Parks

The neighborhood park remains the most basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. They are generally designed with a focus on informal active and passive recreation that serves neighborhood recreation needs. Area is provided for recreational activities such as field games, court games, picnicking and playground areas. Many neighborhood parks

may also contain athletic fields that are used by community athletic organizations, thus serving the community as a whole.

### Service Area

Neighborhood parks serve an area within a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) to a half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) mile radius uninterrupted by major roads or other barriers (**See Exhibit 'D'**).

### Park Size

Up to ten (10) acres is considered optimal.

## Community Parks

Community parks are diverse in nature, serving a broader purpose than the neighborhood or mini park. While community parks may include neighborhood park amenities, and do act as neighborhood parks as well, the focus of a community park is on meeting community-based recreation, athletic and open space needs. These parks may contain significant athletic fields, aquatic amenities, walking paths, picnic areas and various other active and passive amenities depending upon community needs and site suitability. In some cases, a park with only a single athletic field that provides a venue for community athletic organizations may fall into this category regardless of its small size.

### Service Area

Community parks usually serve multiple neighborhoods, and community parks with special amenities may serve the residents of the entire City. With neighborhood park amenities, the community park typically is designated to serve an area within a half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) mile to two (2) mile radius (**See Exhibit 'C'**).

### Park Size

Ten (10) acres or more are preferred, but special amenities of community interest or athletic fields that provide for the community as a whole may be on much smaller sites. While Kohlmann Park and Rugby Park are both under the preferred ten (10) acre size, both function and serve as community parks as opposed to neighborhood parks.

See **Appendix C** for the complete Recreational Land Matrix which lists all of Waverly's parks and how each is classified.

### 3.4 Needs Assessment

To determine the potential needs of Waverly's park and open space system, HR Green and the City of Waverly gathered the following information:

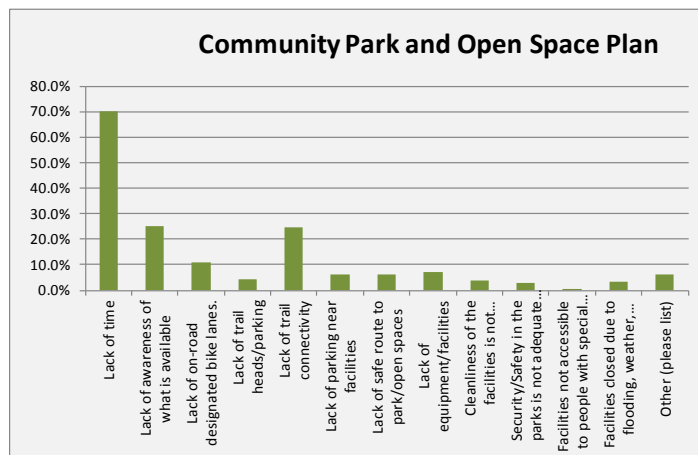
- The general public's input provided on the survey and at public open house meetings
- Comparative analysis of other cities
- On-site observations (See **Appendix C** for the Recreational Land Matrix)
- 2001 Facility Needs Assessment

#### Survey Results

The online survey (administered by Survey Monkey) was conducted to gain input from all interested parties. Collecting this feedback allows this Master Plan to effectively address respondents' attitudes and opinions on various subjects and issues. More importantly, this survey identified apparent needs of the community. Input gathered from the survey impacted the direction and decisions made throughout the development of the Master Plan. A few of the key survey questions and corresponding answers have been highlighted below. For complete detail of the survey results see **Appendix B**.

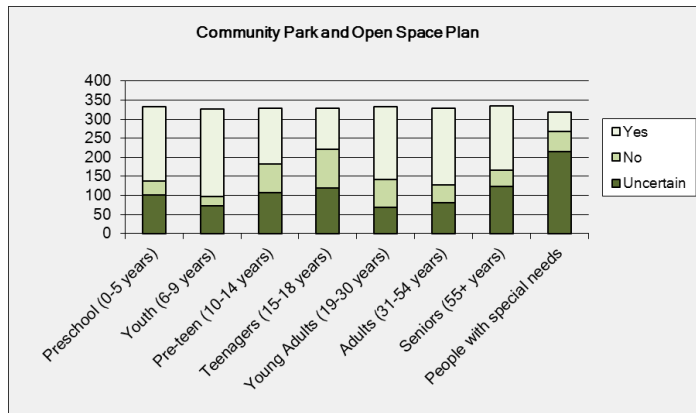
##### Question #7

If you do not use the park or trail system, or do not use them as often as you would like, what are the reasons?



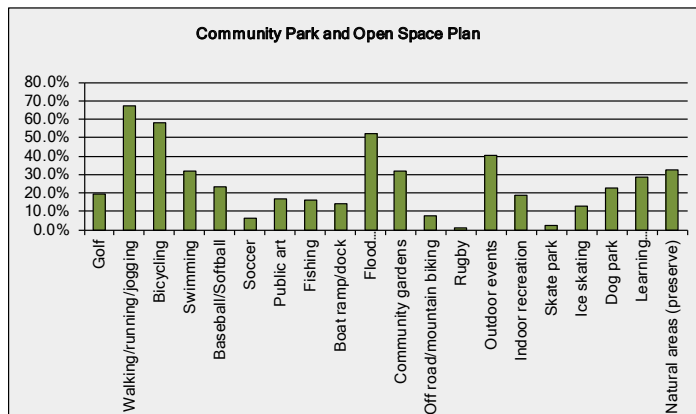
##### Question #9

Are there sufficient park and recreational opportunities in and around the city (e.g. playground equipment, ball fields, skate parks, golf courses, benches, trails, etc) for:



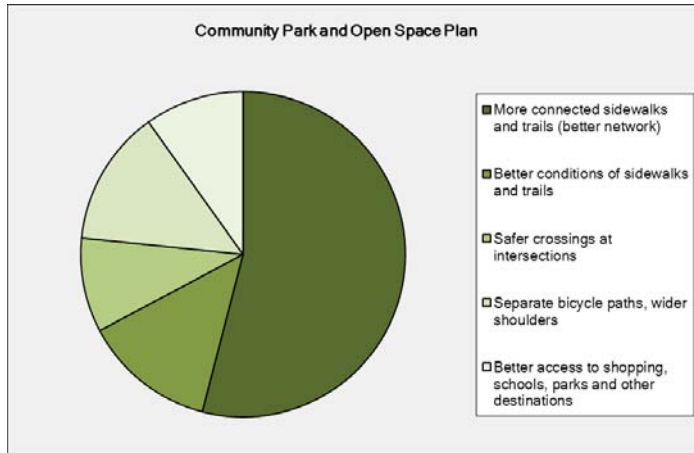
##### Question #10

When considering Park and Open Space needs over the next 5-10 years what do you think will be most important for the City of Waverly to focus on?



### Question #19

Which of the following would do the MOST to encourage yourself and other Waverly residents to utilize trails and sidewalks?



*Waverly's park and open space ratio to population is very good – trails, however, need to be expanded and better connected throughout the City*

### Comparative Analysis

Comparing park and recreation standards from various municipalities allows us to understand and measure how well Waverly's Leisure Services Department provides amenities and facilities to its residents. The comparison analysis does assume some measure of inconsistency given that park agencies often have various types of a single amenity that are simply identified on their web-sites and promotional materials without differentiating the type. See **Appendix D** for the Park/Open Space Facilities Comparison Table. This exhibit shows a comparison of Waverly to Grinnel, Decorah, Warrenville and Yorkville. Two cities in Iowa, that are more local to Waverly, and two cities from Illinois, similar in size, were selected to give examples of both in and out of state standards.

### On-Site Observations

See **Appendix C** for the Recreational Land Matrix.

### 2001 Facility Needs Assessment

In 2001 the City of Waverly conducted a Facility Needs Assessment. While about ten years old already, some of the information is still relevant to this Master Plan. The project team took this information into consideration, combined with the other compiled data, to determine the primary needs of the Master Plan.

### Conclusions

After analyzing the above information, the project team found Waverly's park and open space system rates fairly good overall. For example, the park and open space amenities ratio to population meets and in many cases exceeds the comparative cities. The survey results show most people are satisfied with many aspects of Waverly's system. The main weakness is the trail system and the lack of quality baseball/softball fields. Regarding trails, the Rail Trail is the only significant trail in Waverly that is contiguous. There are other trails throughout the City, however many are not well connected nor do they connect key destinations. It is clear the trail system needs particular focus in this Master Plan.

Therefore, the primary needs and challenges that have surfaced are as follows:

#### Primary Needs

- Trails (walking, running, bicycling)
- Connectivity of existing trails and sidewalks
- More public access to the Cedar River
- Quality baseball and softball fields (for youth and adults)
- Flood mitigation
- Plan for recently acquired flood lots (short term and long term)
- Outdoor events – finalize bandshell location
- Activities for teenagers

#### Most Significant Challenges

- Funding for improvements
- Maintenance of existing parks and facilities

Page Left Intentionally Blank



*Chapter 4*

# Public Involvement



# Chapter 4

## 4.1 Process and Importance

The City of Waverly implemented a variety of methods to engage the community, including the general public and key stakeholders who have a vested interest in the City and specifically the parks and open space system. Waverly solicited the views and needs of many individuals and groups in developing the Master Plan. Encouraging user groups, residents, stakeholders and staff in planning for parks and recreation promotes a sense of community, pride and responsibility. The City of Waverly shares in a philosophy of including various points of view to develop a vision for future planning efforts that represents a variety of interests. The vision that came from this involvement provides the basis for many of the goals and objectives in this Master Plan; these will act to guide Waverly over the next ten years and beyond.

This section describes the various methods used to gather public input and the findings that resulted from the process. The following groups were involved in the formulation of the Master Plan:

- Waverly area residents
- Steering Committee (participants listed below)
- Community leaders and elected officials
- Downtown business and local property owners
- Waverly School District
- Wartburg College
- Waverly Light and Power
- Youth and adult sports leaders

## 4.2 Steering Committee

The Master Plan Steering Committee was established to represent a cross-section of stakeholders and experts who volunteer their time to provide direction and input on the project. Steering Committee members have diverse backgrounds, interests, perspectives, and technical expertise. The Master Plan Steering Committee is comprised of the following representatives:

1. Paul Cheville  
Park Maintenance Specialist
2. Cyndi Ecker  
Local Business Owner; Past City Council Member
3. Richard Lindell  
City Council Member
4. Steve Main  
Wartburg College – Retired Biology Professor
5. David McCullough  
Wartburg College – Biology Professor
6. Kathy Olson  
City Council Member
7. Jim Rathe  
Chairperson Trail Committee; Retired MD

8. Tab Ray  
Waverly Leisure Services
9. Cara Schneider  
Leisure Services Commissioner
10. Darrin Siefken  
Local Business Owner; Past Naturalist
11. Doug Snook  
Golf Course

Steering Committee participation and input throughout the process was vital to the success and overall usefulness of the final document. Primary responsibilities of the Master Plan Steering Committee were as follows:

- Offer overall input and guidance for the Master Plan project development
- Provide a forum for consensus-building on key issues and decisions
- Review draft plans and exhibits
- Review the draft report at an 80% completion level

The Master Plan Steering Committee meetings provided a forum to directly communicate progress on the project and to receive input from the members on key issues and components of the plan. Additionally, public comments or concerns were communicated to the members for input and consensus-building.

### *Steering Committee Meeting Dates*

- Meeting #1 November 15, 2010  
Meeting #2 March 24, 2011

## 4.3 Focus Groups

As part of this Master Plan, focus groups were invited to participate in the process. The participants were provided with two opportunities to provide direction. Initially on December 13, 2010, three Focus Group meetings were held to gather input early in the process. The main purpose of these meetings was to explain the Master Plan Process, and gain valuable input and insight from the attendees. The second meeting on March 24, 2011 allowed the Focus Groups to review the draft plan.

The first Focus Group session on December 13th consisted of a brief power point presentation and then a series of questions were asked. The comments and results of this meeting are outlined below:



## Focus Group #1 12:00 PM Session

### *Strengths*

1. Trails
  - Rail Trail\*\*
  - Use bridge; South Riverside Park - Kohlmann Park
  - Make their own loop
  - Bridge is helpful to get around
  - River connectivity
2. Kohlmann Park
  - Within walking distance
  - Restrooms
  - Playground
  - Shelter
  - At the heart of the town
3. Memorial Park
  - Access is more difficult
  - Swimming pool
  - Skate park
  - Shelter
  - Kids Kingdom
4. Brookwood Park
  - Like it for access; it was close
  - Disc golf
5. WSRSA Soccer Complex
  - Best in state; even as good as Muscatine
  - Lots of volunteers
  - Planned trail connections
6. Little League Fields
  - Got flooded out
  - Use Wartburg Field
  - Sort of scattered
  - Not a lot of traffic; good for little kids
  - Memorial Park fields; State Tournament
7. Swimming pool
  - Added slides in the 90's; helped
  - Still needs updating
  - Wartburg Pool draws a lot of people
8. Wartburg Facilities
  - Tennis courts
  - Disc golf
  - Pool
  - Relationship with 'W' for programming could be improved
9. Opportunities surrounding the river
  - Lots we could do, but need to work 'upstream' to make it worthwhile
  - Connections to river and downtown; they're pretty well connected
  - Access (by foot) not canoe/boat
    - Brookwood Park
    - Three Rivers Park

- Signage is needed for access and portage
  - Tubing used to happen; not recently
10. Summer band concerts
    - Kohlmann Park
  11. Music festival by Jaycees
    - Held in Kiwanis Park/Little League Fields
    - Need a bandshell/event space
    - Sound ordinance limits Kohlmann Park
    - Memorial Park works
  12. County Fair
  13. Golf course
    - Reasonable rates
    - Best 18-hole course; 2008
    - Centennial Oaks; 2010
    - Municipal course just expanded
      - Water features
    - Centennial Oaks driving range is public
      - Could be promoted more
  14. Tendrils Meeting Facility on the roof of the hospital
    - Needs promotion
  15. Advantage of Rail Trail safety

### *Opportunities*

1. Spaces that we know are open; buyouts
  - Be a model to other communities
    - Sod roofs, permeable surfaces, turn streets into trails
    - Consider what do with houses that are not yet buyouts; how to connect everything
    - Get the plan figured out before things get built
    - Think about connections
2. Canoe/boat access at Kohlmann Park
  - Somewhere to dock in the downtown area
3. Community garden
  - Ornamental or 'rent-a-plot' type
4. County-wide ride each year (in its 3rd year)

### *Weaknesses*

1. Sidewalks; condition 'pushes' you to the street
  - What is the City's sidewalk program?
  - Waverly is not a pedestrian friendly town\*\*
  - Timing of pedestrian signals makes it difficult to get across the street
2. Lots of large open spaces but they are privately owned
  - Little green space in housing development
  - Lots of small neighborhood parks, not much for large public parks
3. Shelter houses are always rented, may need more
  - Flood/FEMA rules would apply to buyout properties

4. Parking at Kohlmann Park
  - Shuttle to events would be an opportunity
  - Some areas are being planned for parking
5. NE side not much in the way of parks/open spaces
6. Some parks exist but no one knows about them
  - Prairie Park
  - Neighborhood parks are fine, but do we really use them?\*\*
  - Expensive to maintain; people play in their backyards
  - Neighborhood parks promote 'community'
7. Opportunities for partnering with schools
  - Partner with daycare
8. Can't go wi-fi in the parks
9. Missing the late teens/early 20's demographic
10. Good basketball courts
11. In town camping
  - Fairgrounds at fair time
12. Signage is a weakness for all parks/trails

### *Constraints*

1. Money/funding
2. Council
  - E.g. prohibits biking downtown
  - Communication with community and stakeholders
3. Traffic; to allow for biking/walking
4. Signage/wayfinding (for visitors and residents and Wartburg students)\*\*
5. Lack of foresight and leadership (community-wide)
6. Parking/trailhead for Rail Trail
  - Bike access downtown
  - Promote a more livable/walkable community
  - Continued partnering with Wartburg

### *Priorities*

1. Change attitude/philosophy toward walkability
2. Focus efforts; make it easy for everyone

### Focus Group #2 2:00 PM Session

#### *Strengths*

1. Cedar Bend Park
  - Nice open space
  - Relaxing space by the river
  - Shelter; picnic tables
  - Access to river here or south of town and at Brookwood Park (opportunity for portage not signed)
  - Some take out at Pelikan Park, access to river is lacking

2. Historically lots of river activity
  - Across from Ridgewood Park
  - Boat/ski shows
  - Not any more; too much silt
  - Until upstream changes it will continue to silt in
3. Art show along Kohlmann Park and music in the park at Kohlmann Park
  - Event places; Kohlmann Park and Memorial Park
4. Relationship with Wartburg
  - "W" Facility
  - Programming
5. Kohlmann Park; trail, play equipment, route to downtown from college
6. Rail Trail get lots of use
  - Wish there was another option
  - Safe
  - Spine to community trail system
7. Soccer is big in town
8. Golf course is a successful recreation area
  - Two award winning courses
9. For older kids; basketball, tennis, soccer
10. Garden area by library gets a lot of use
  - Privately maintained (volunteer)
  - Bridge from daycare to garden
11. Diversity in parks available

### *Opportunities*

1. Access at Kohlmann Park
  - Pier, fishing doc, etc. might bring people
2. Kayak/canoe near Kohlmann Park 'ample' to listen to music in the park from the water
3. Clean up riverbank; concrete rubble, naturalize bank
4. Pier that is conducive to foot traffic
  - Buy a soda, bait at Crawdaddy's, etc.
  - Livable/walkable communities
5. Historic trails
  - San Antonio Riverwalk
  - Waverly's history could be highlighted
  - Hook into Babcock Woods SE of town (county owned)
  - Encourage people to get outside
6. Improve city swimming pool
7. Memorial Park is better suited to accommodate events
8. Football and softball plays at Memorial Park; better/more fields would be nice
9. How fairgrounds/ball fields fit into the overall plan West on Hwy 3 (1-north and 1-south) (current location; lease for 7 years)
10. Bandshell at Kohlmann Park or Memorial Park
11. Opportunity to do something with buyout properties



12. Nothing to connect college to community (also a weakness)
  - Trail connectivity; 10th Street plans are good for south side, but nothing NW side of town (5th St.?)
13. 'Dry Run' could provide connectivity to Memorial Park
14. Dog park; planning/grant writing underway
15. Public shooting range
16. Fitness trails; lack of use and maintenance had negative impact
17. Remove fairgrounds and Heritage Days; could have a phenomenal central park
18. Bike lanes on roads to fairgrounds/Wartburg, etc.
19. Create revenue generating destinations
  - Golf courses
  - Bandshell
  - Fairgrounds
  - Wartburg events
20. Get visitors here for day trips or one-time events
21. Anything else we can use the bridge for
  - Scenic overlook
  - Art festivals
  - Art/lighting
22. Can each park have something for everyone? In every season? Keep in mind neighborhood is in transition
23. Cedar Lane; road is on the river
  - Lots of people walk/bike it but not much space for them
  - Very popular

## Weaknesses

1. Access to river is lacking
2. No parking at Kohlmann Park
3. Fair and other events at Memorial Park tear up the turf
4. Memorial Park is by a busy street
5. Nothing to connect college to community (also an opportunity)
  - Trail connectivity; 10th Street plans are good for south side, but nothing NW side of town (5th St.?)
6. NE side lacks open space/parks
  - Developers fought trail corridor
  - P&Z/council allowed development without trail corridor
7. Age of amenities at Memorial Park
  - Pool
  - Skate Park
  - Equipment
8. Marketing of what's available\*\*
  - Bike routes

- Wayfinding
  - The college
  - Let people know what's here
9. Friction between Wartburg and City
  10. Look at efficiency of neighborhood parks; too fragmented?

## Constraints

1. Getting across Bremer Avenue is tricky
2. League facilities are spread out around town; Little League Fields in one area, older in others
3. Affordability comes into play for several community facilities
4. Difficult to go into established development and enforce open space
5. Money
6. Prioritization
  - Make it manageable for the community
  - Keep effort focused

## Focus Group #3 4:00PM Session Strengths

1. Brookwood Park\*\*
  - Walking trails; a good escape
  - Walks to system behind fire station get on there
  - Peaceful place
  - College kids playing disc golf
  - Fish; bike trail bridge
  - Biking; but not many bikes
2. Babcock Woods (county park)
  - Natural areas; prairie and forested areas
3. Kohlmann Park\*\*
  - Band concerts
  - Play equipment
  - Connection to river
  - Art in the park
  - Better when boating was going on
4. Golf course
5. Swimming pool
6. Kids Kingdom
7. Ridgewood Park
  - Cross-country skiing right out our door
8. Kids Kingdom – Memorial Park\*\*
  - Built by volunteers
  - Sense of pride
  - Field trips bus in for end of school events
  - Shade and trees
  - Open areas
  - Boating/ski shows from '80's and 90's

9. Memorial Park
    - Kids Kingdom
    - Pool
    - Golf course
    - Ball diamonds
    - Great opportunity when fields/fairs relocate
      - Bandshell
      - Aquatic center
  10. Golf course
    - Quality for cost esp.
    - Municipal 18-hole course for a town this size
    - Walkable
    - Seasonal
      - Sledding, skiing, golf
      - Difficult to cross Bremer Ave.
      - Doesn't connect to parks
      - Doesn't connect regionally
  11. Rail Trail
  12. Diversity of parks
  13. Community trees
    - Trees Forever partner through ordinance
    - Proactive on Emerald Ash Borer
    - Community will be impacted by E.A.B.
    - Save the Bur Oak by City Hall
  14. Walking; lots of walkers
    - By Rail Trail bridge
    - By fire station
    - Waverly is conducive for this
  15. Wartburg Cross Country Course\*\*
    - Lots of walkers here too
  16. Art Festival
    - Started by a Wartburg undergraduate
    - 5th year completed
  17. Good diversity of recreational programs
    - By Wartburg for City
4. Branding/identity of park system
    - Restroom design – Kohlmann Park
    - Brick/pavers in Kohlmann Park and downtown
    - Signage
  5. Community loops and connections
  6. Memorial Park
    - “Central” Park
    - New activities
    - Space available from fairgrounds relocation
    - Pool updates/relocation\*\*
      - Antiquated as compared to other communities
    - Path/trail system within park
      - Similar to Kohlmann Park
      - Internal loop
  7. 10th Avenue expansion
    - Widened sidewalk in 2011 and will connect to high school
    - Under/overpass on 10th at 4th
  8. How to get trail across Bremer Avenue
    - Safety
    - Cost
    - Feasibility
    - Access
  9. Trail connection to Shellrock
  10. Bike lanes on 5th
  11. Bike trail to college
  12. Take buildings at Brookwood Park out
  13. Fishing pier accessible at Brookwood Park
  14. Any improvement to promote use of river
  15. Non-navigable property at Three Rivers Park

## Opportunities

1. Relationship with Wartburg
  - Not as strong as it was
  - The “W” costs a lot for membership
  - “W” draws people into the community from out of town
  - Perception on how “W” developed; not necessarily a reality
2. Partnerships with private business
  - Rental from Crowdaddy's
  - Summer canoe/kayak rentals
  - Flood buyout property use
3. Dry Run/buyout properties
  - Extension of private yards
  - Community gardens
  - River access/river side lots
  - Expansion of parks

## Weaknesses

1. Sidewalks need some attention
  - 2nd Street
  - City to follow State Code
2. Ball diamonds
  - Over used; cannot recover from activities and be a quality field
  - Field as a suitable training field
3. Access to soccer
4. Cedar Bend; under utilized by some; mostly due to proximity
5. NE quadrant
6. Lower the maintenance requirements within parks
7. Restrooms near Kids Kingdom\*\*
8. Parks maintenance facility
  - Very visible; might be better suited someplace else
9. Winter activities; opportunity and P.R.
10. Connectivity of trails to parks and trails to Rail Trail



## Constraints

1. Balancing quantity of parks with quality of parks
  - Lots of neighborhood parks = lots of maintenance
  - It is better to pool resources in one large park?
2. Perception of fewer lanes = better traffic function
3. Differences in priorities
  - +/- For "W"
  - +/- Bike trails
4. Communication/promotion of plan
  - Informed consent
  - Minimize rumor mill
  - Don't alienate certain groups
5. Encourage "Big Picture" thinking
  - Show global benefits
  - Give them a "vision"; clear "vision"
  - Think beyond ten to fifteen years
6. Educate/inspire the community
7. Flood impacts in future

## General Comments

1. Cedar Bend; county facility for camping
2. Events at Memorial Park; music, circus, wild animal swap
3. Why does South Riverside Park get so much use when Crestwood Park and Brookwood Park do not?
  - Perceived security?
  - Mosquitoes?
  - Restrooms?
  - Shelter house?

**\*\* Mentioned more than once**

## 4.4 Public Workshops

Two public workshop/informational meetings were held for the Master Plan.

### *Public Workshop Meeting Dates*

Meeting #1 December 13, 2010  
Meeting #2 March 1, 2011

The purpose of these meetings was to gain an understanding of underlying issues and concerns regarding the plan, as well as solicit input and comments, thereby building consensus and ownership for the project. Valuable input was received at both public meetings through feedback from the survey and from verbally expressed opinions.

## 4.5 City Leadership Involvement

### City Staff

City staff was significantly involved throughout the Master Plan process at public and stakeholder meetings and in the creation of this report. Through internal coordination and ongoing communication with HR Green, the combined effort resulted in a document with significant input and support from City staff.

### Leisure Services Commission

#### *Meeting Date*

April 28, 2011

### City Council

#### *Meeting Date*

May 2, 2011

**Page Left Intentionally Blank**



*Chapter 5*

# Master Plan Recommendations

# Chapter 5

Proposed recommendations are a key component of the Park and Open Space Master Plan. Based on all of the research, analysis, visioning, evaluation and community input that was completed, recommendations have been formulated that provide direction for implementation. These recommendations have been divided into three areas:

- Overall Recommendations (Section 5.1)
- Park and Open Space Recommendations (Section 5.2)
- Trail System Recommendations (Section 5.3)

The Park and Open Space and Trail System recommendations provide specific items for each of these elements; however, there are some overall recommendations in this Master Plan that apply to the overall open space system which are outlined below. For specific Park and Open Space Recommendations and Trail System Recommendations see **Sections 5.2** and **5.3**.

## 5.1 Overall Recommendations

### Master Plan Recommendation # 1

*Protect the Cedar River by Implementing Environmentally Sensitive Techniques*

The Cedar River is an extremely valuable asset to Waverly. The Master Plan recommends environmentally-sensitive techniques be utilized in order to preserve and enhance this most valuable feature. Therefore, protecting the Cedar River through preservation of natural features utilizing various techniques, such as innovative storm water solutions, is the first Master Plan recommendation. Environmentally-friendly methods such as rain gardens and other Best Management Practices (BMP's) are highly recommended within the parks and trail system corridors, along the Cedar River or drainages like the Dry Run Creek, where feasible. These innovative storm water solutions will ensure steps are being taken to protect and preserve the Cedar River. Additionally, minimizing impervious areas such as excessive concrete and asphalt areas, roofs, etc. will have a significant impact on reducing runoff and may potentially limit flooding. These innovative storm water techniques allow infiltration of runoff into the ground to recharge the groundwater and aquifer water resources. These natural systems can occur in parking area medians, with native landscape material that absorbs and cleanses the water before releasing to the adjacent creeks and Cedar River.



*Cedar River*



*Example of a rain garden to cleanse storm water runoff before draining into the river*



In summary, the following recommendations are proposed to help protect the Cedar River:

- Implement rain gardens and bio-swales on a city-wide basis (create a rain garden incentive program for residents)
- Install multiple rain gardens and Best Management Practices (BMP's) along the Dry Run Creek Corridor and in the Cedar River watershed
- Native planting drifts will be used to collect stormwater runoff while removing pollutants from the water and allowing it to penetrate into the ground
- Create naturalized plantings along the Cedar River shoreline
- The City should acquire as much property as feasible along the river for parks, trails and fishing access
- Implement educational programs relating to sustainability and protection of the Cedar River
- Install educational signage at key locations along the river

## Master Plan Recommendation #2: *Improve Access to the Cedar River and Maximize the Potential of this Amenity*

Much discussion, debate and passion throughout this Master Plan process focused around the Cedar River. In years past this huge asset was the heartbeat of the community providing recreational opportunities such as boating, skiing, tubing and even ski/boat shows. In more recent years siltation has made the water depth too shallow for boating and therefore recreation has diminished. The flood of 2008 also caused significant damage that was catastrophic to the City. Therefore, in order to improve access and maximize the potential of this great amenity the following recommendations are advised:

- Create a regional trail along the Cedar River (long term goal)
- Provide canoe and kayak access at multiple locations (specifically northeast of the dam and City Hall)
- Acquire key properties adjacent to flood properties along the Cedar River for parks and trails
- Construct fishing piers at Kohlmann Park and other key locations along the Cedar River
- Create river overlook areas and more boat access/ramp locations
- Create limited access at the “River Bend Park” area (see exhibit this page)



*The “River Bend Area” is one of several important properties that have been acquired by the City of Waverly; this property could allow public access to the Cedar River*

### Master Plan Recommendation #3: *Create a Dry Run Creek Greenway Corridor*



*The Dry Run Creek can become a significant greenway corridor for the City of Waverly*

Due to the flood of 2008, the City has acquired a large number of properties along the Cedar River and the Dry Run Creek corridor. This Master Plan provides an overall framework plan or vision for these properties as well as potential future acquisitions (**See Exhibit 'I'**). It is understood that this effort would be a long term project, yet a very important effort. At this time the acquired properties are disjointed and spread throughout the city. In order to be a fully integrated and connected open space corridor more properties may need to be acquired. As mentioned above, it will be a very long term project which needs short and long term goals that are feasible for the City to implement. The following overall recommendations are provided for the Dry Run Creek Corridor:

- Connect the Dry Run Creek Corridor with the Cedar River as a city-wide greenway via trails and walkways
- Connect the Dry Run Creek Corridor to the existing Memorial Park/Bremer County Fairgrounds (future "Central Park")
- Create community gardens on selected flood properties
- Utilize the corridor for a network of rain gardens and bio-swales
- Create trailheads at identified locations
- Provide rest stops with benches and trash receptacles at key locations along the greenway
- Provide pocket parks along the trail corridor at key locations
- Develop a "first phase" plan for implementation in the next 1-3 years

This greenway project will take significant time and financial resources, however the benefits are multiple and potentially dramatic.

### Master Plan Recommendation #4: *Incorporate a Consistent Theme - Standardize Signage and Site Furnishings*



*The new shelter in Kohlmann Park will be the standard for future shelter improvements*

#### **Theme**

Having a consistent theme, signage program and standardized site furnishings throughout Waverly's park and open space system is very important. For example, it establishes a sense of pride and a sense of community. Important historical items, proximity to the Cedar River and the general character of the Waverly area should be incorporated into the overall theme. Newer elements at Kohlmann Park serve as a standard for future improvements to other parks throughout Waverly.

The theme can be incorporated into signage (park identification-entrance sign, trail markers, trail heads, wayfinding, etc.) at key locations. Signage should be placed in highly visible areas, along sidewalks, public parks, plazas, trailheads and the like.





*Restroom facility at Kohlmann Park that serves as an established standard*

## Site Furnishings

Once the theme is solidified, standardization of site furnishings and amenities should be implemented. Each park or open space feature can have its own specific character, but overall the Waverly system should have a common look. Having a standardized palette of certain furnishings and amenities can also have cost advantages due to buying multiple units of a single item. Waverly has already been initiating this branding process but much improvement can be made. Kohlmann Park is one such example. There are some existing parks and facilities, however, which have multiple types of furnishings or materials; sometimes in close proximity to one another which is not ideal.

The following elements should be standardized in terms of materials, style, and installation to present a distinct image for Waverly:

- Park entrance signage
- Shelters
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Trash receptacles
- Bicycle racks
- Drinking fountains
- Pedestrian and parking lot lighting

The exception to utilizing the same amenities is for neighborhood parks that are serving a specific purpose or specialty. For example, in some cases future neighborhood parks may focus around a particular theme and colors may be unique yet quality and type of materials should be similar to the overall system.



*Existing Waverly park signage could be improved in terms of readability, aesthetics, durability and quality*

## Signage

As mentioned previously, signage and way finding is extremely important to the park and open space system. Some signs have been upgraded in recent years (i.e. Willow Lawn Park), yet overall this is a weaknesses identified through the analysis stage of this Master Planning Process. Having easily identifiable signage allows for easy way finding and promotes a sense of pride in the community. The following recommendations should be pursued to improve signage for the parks and open space areas in Waverly:

- Develop a standard for park entrance and directional signage based upon the overall theme for the parks and trail system
- Consider utilizing the same style of signage currently found at the gateway to Waverly (see picture this page) or the old arch that existed across Bremer Avenue
- Add directional and wayfinding street signage for more parks/facilities that cater to overall community interests (i.e. community parks)
- Install lighting for entrance signage at all significant parks
- Signage should embrace the character of Waverly and display strength and quality



## Master Plan Recommendation # 5

### *Improve Safety Throughout the Park and Trail System*

While there are not major safety concerns in Waverly, residents did mention a few concerns in some of the parks and open space areas. Safety in Waverly's parks and facilities should always be a high priority, yet safety concerns can be quite diverse and sometimes difficult to address in a cost effective manner.



*Existing lighting  
at City Hall*

### **Lighting**

While many of the parks do not have good lighting (with the exception of athletic fields), some light poles are provided by shelters. Limited lighting can also be found in parks such as Kohlmann Park along the trail, yet across the system lighting could be improved where shelters and parking lots are present or where visibility to these areas is poor from the adjacent road. The selected type and location of lighting is also an important safety consideration. Flood lighting in particular should not be angled outward as the glare caused by such lighting can, in itself, create unsafe conditions. New lighting at all future parks should be similar to the lighting at City Hall and Kohlmann Park.

### **Visibility**

Another safety recommendation is to provide the highest visibility possible. For example place shelters and playgrounds in areas that have good visibility from an adjacent road. Also, reduction of shrubs and evergreen trees around active play areas is crucial to minimize the places where people can hide. While all parks and all shrub masses are not an issue, Waverly should consider this recommendation and, over time, minimize this type hazard. Lower growing shrub masses, grasses and other low prairie type plantings could be substituted for larger shrub massings in keeping with this recommendation.

### **Site Utilities**

Site utilities often have access panels, manholes or other maintenance devices that were installed flush with the ground elevation but that have, over time, either rose above or sunk into the ground. Others have had covers installed that are hazards because they are raised or have a slotted grate that is dangerous to bicycles. These create trip hazards in lawns and paved areas that can be unsafe and a liability. Ongoing maintenance should be completed to raise ground levels or add risers where they are needed, and to replace any grates that are of unsafe design.

## Master Plan Recommendation #6:

### *Update and Install Quality Materials Throughout the Waverly Park and Open Space System*

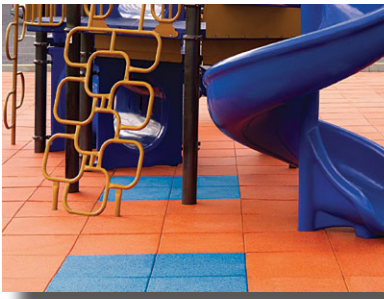
The City of Waverly has many great parks and facilities and the overall resident response on quality/physical condition is positive.

*Survey result - 88.4% of surveyed residents responded that the quality/physical conditions of the existing parks they utilize are in the category of good to excellent"*

In the future, it will be important to maintain quality materials in regards to equipment, furnishings and amenities within the parks and along the trail corridors. Aspects to consider include:

- Life cycle costs and durability in Waverly's weather/climate
- Vandalism resistance
- Product safety
- Short and long term maintenance
- Appearance of the element - does it look like it is high quality?





## Recycled Materials

Waverly strives to be environmentally conscious, therefore, utilizing recycled materials for site furnishings should be strongly considered if the quality is at the level it needs to be. Kohlmann Park and some other open space areas along the Cedar River currently have benches that are made of recycled materials. While they appear to be of good quality, many plastic benches and picnic tables currently being used in parks throughout the United States do not exhibit a quality aesthetic. Many become deformed and appear to have a low quality and durability. Therefore, recycled materials are encouraged, if the amenities are high quality.

## Playground Surfaces

Poured/sprayed surfaces present the highest quality image, while recycled rubberized or modified mulch products can also present a quality image. However, the disadvantage to these types of surfaces is the cost. The Leisure Services staff should review costs and make sure it is financially feasible to install these types of surfaces on a case by case basis. At the same time that the quality of the playground surfaces is being considered, ADA accessibility should also factor into the decision of which surfaces to use. As stated above, cost will be a primary consideration in determining what surface to use. At a minimum, ADA designated areas should be poured/sprayed rubber surfaces.

In some cases, mulched bark is the most effective and safe alternative for playground surfaces. Almost all of the parks in Waverly currently have mulch as the surface material. If mulch is maintained as the surface in some of the parks, a border (wood or poured concrete) should be installed to better hold the mulch in place.

Current practices in Waverly are summarized as follows:

- Mulch: within 500 year floodplain
- Pea Gravel: within 100 year floodplain

Overall, the City should strive to use the best surfaces available given the budget for the project.

## Park Signage

As stated above, the existing park signage for the overall system needs improvement. The materials should be substantial and have the appearance of quality and long term durability.

## Fencing and Screening

Fencing is an element that can significantly affect the character and quality of a park. Waverly has a variety of fencing types and materials within its parks, in different colors and forms. Vinyl-coated chain link provides aesthetic and some safety attributes that make it preferable for use, with black and brown coated fencing the least obtrusive aesthetically, also providing a backdrop that allows better visibility of baseballs, softballs and tennis balls. Replacement of existing galvanized fencing with black vinyl-coating should be carried out as replacements come due.



## Landscape Plant Materials

Appropriately selected plant material (trees, shrubs, perennials) will not only produce a better aesthetic, but may also be healthier and have greater longevity. With park and recreation agencies taking on a greater role as stewards of our natural resources, Waverly should likewise, using native plantings to enhance the environmental quality as well as the aesthetic character of the parks. Once established, many of the native plants are very low maintenance and live many years beyond non-native plant material.

## 5.2 Park and Open Space Recommendations

### Master Plan Recommendation #7: *Park and Facility Improvements*

The City of Waverly needs to ensure that its facilities continue to meet the community's needs. Many of the listed enhancement initiatives are city-wide while others are site specific.

- Pursue a sustainable management plan to minimize short and long term maintenance of all existing parks, trails and open space areas
- Implement a program of district-wide improvements that include standardized furnishings, quality materials, enhanced landscaping, improved safety, wayfinding, athletic field improvements and continued ADA compliance
- Continue to replace site furnishings, playground equipment and other site amenities on a programmed schedule that will provide regular improvements on a cyclical basis while maintaining an understanding of the capital expenditures needed to meet the ongoing cycles
- Utilize green (aka sustainable) building products and technologies in site development projects where applicable and feasible
- Track recreation trends, demographic changes and changes in local interests to determine redevelopment needs of parks and facilities

The following recommended improvements can be implemented over a ten year period. Specific priorities for individual parks are listed in Chapter 6.

#### **Overall Waverly Park Improvements**

##### *Park Amenities*

- Add bicycle racks at all parks and facilities with paved surfaces surrounding the bike rack
- Replace all wooden picnic tables with metal mesh tables or other styles that fit in with the overall brand of the park and open space system
- Replace trash receptacles (where needed) with a style that is consistent with the city-wide theme
- Establish a plan to replace old shelters in all parks to match the new standard at Kohlmann Park
- Add paved aprons in front of all benches

##### *Landscape Improvements*

- Install native landscaping in areas that are not being utilized for active recreation; this will minimize long term maintenance of existing turf grass areas
- Install shade trees in and/or around playground and spectator seating areas
- Add low level landscape plantings for seasonal interest/aesthetics (low maintenance perennial plantings)

##### *ADA Accessibility Improvements*

(See Recommendation #9)

##### *Signage & Wayfinding*

- Add directional street signage for more parks/facilities that cater to overall community interests
- Re-brand and redesign park entrance signage – replace associated site amenities and furnishings in the long term

##### *Athletic Fields/Courts*

- Finalize a site for one large sports field complex (primarily for baseball and softball)
- Consider irrigation on select remaining fields that are heavily used
- Replace fencing/backstops with black vinyl coated materials
- Initiate systematic improvements to all turf grass areas



- Add concrete pads under all team bench areas
- Add concrete pads under all spectator seating areas

### *Existing Waverly Pool*

The existing pool facility is worth keeping as an amenity for community patrons; however the City needs to consider whether it is more advantageous to update the existing facility or relocate and replace the facility altogether. Outlined below are some of the advantages and disadvantages of these two options. Advantages and disadvantages of updating the existing facility include:

- Repairs and renovations over the years have kept the facility fully operational; however there are many safety/functional issues and maintenance items that will need to be continually addressed to ensure the health and safety of patrons as well as continue to maintain the facility in working condition in the future
- Older pools, such as this one, were geared towards younger age groups and don't offer much of a family experience
- Current aquatic trends, such as providing shade structures, splash pads and zero depth wading pools that are more appealing to families are not present at the existing facility
- There is an opportunity to keep the existing pool basins and simply add unique amenities to encourage users without disturbing the existing infrastructure
- There will be a need to monitor and replace numerous components of the filtration system that are either not operational or that don't function as efficiently as newer system components currently on the market
- The City may want to consider bringing older pool components up to current code standards, including compliance with all applicable ADA codes
- The City will need to keep the pool updated and provide a pleasant, safe experience to encourage facility use
- Up-front repair costs may be less than replacing the pool facility, but maintenance costs will add up over time as the existing infrastructure is much older

Advantages and disadvantages of relocating and replacing the facility altogether include:

- There are limitations to renovating the existing pool facility; building new allows the City to include any desired elements without restriction
- Replacing the facility and building new would allow the City to develop a facility that maximizes programming and operational needs
- Maximizing the use of an aquatic facility will help the future success and legacy of the facility within Waverly
- Up-front costs may be higher than updating the current facility, but maintenance costs would be lower as the infrastructure is new
- New infrastructure would utilize the most current products on the market allowing for maximum efficiency and lower operational costs

*Note: For more information regarding the pool facility, see the Aquatic Facility Evaluation Report prepared by Larkin Aquatics (on file in the Leisure Services Department).*

*Note: Overall improvements are listed above in a summary format. For a detailed list of improvements and implementation priorities, see Chapter 6.*

## **Master Plan Recommendation #8:** ***Plan for Future Neighborhood and Community Parks***

Waverly has many existing community parks that serve the public very well (i.e. Kohlmann Park, Brookwood Park, WSRSA Soccer Complex). However, as the community grows and as needs change more community parks will likewise be needed.

### **Future Community Parks**

Future community park locations have been identified for possible addition to the City of Waverly's open space system. While the need is not immediate, as development and growth occur in the future, new parks will need to be constructed to serve those areas. This Master Plan has identified the northeast section of the city as deficient. General locations for proposed park sites and new amenities are shown on **Exhibit 'C'**.

### Baseball/Softball Fields

An overwhelming concern and need voiced by leaders and citizens was the need for quality baseball and softball fields for both adult and youth age residents. There are several recommendations that would begin to address this need:

- Create a new baseball/softball field complex – possible locations are west of the city on Highway 3, Memorial Park/ the Fairgrounds, the area north of the yard waste site or the area around the wastewater treatment facility
- Add irrigation systems to the existing fields that are being overused making them more operational
- Designate one field at Kiwanis Park or Memorial Park/the Fairgrounds to be a “practice only” field

A ball diamond task force has already been formed to move this effort forward. This task force is exploring locations for a new baseball/softball field complex as well as options for use of the Bremer County Fairgrounds.

*Note: See the February 2010 Master Plan on file with the Leisure Services Department for more information.*

As Waverly grows in the future (over the next 20-30 years) the City will need to consider locating additional community parks to meet the needs of the residents. This Master Plan identifies general locations for these parks as well as service areas (**See Exhibit ‘C’**). A brief summary of the recommendations for community parks includes:

- Plan for five (5) more community parks, primarily east and northeast of the City as shown on **Exhibit ‘C’**
- Focus on building a quality baseball/softball field complex in the immediate future

### Future Neighborhood Parks

Future neighborhood park locations have been identified for possible addition to the City of Waverly’s open space system (**See Exhibit ‘D’**). This Master Plan recommends the addition of small, more specialized, neighborhood parks to offer a variety of recreational choices as these areas develop. As with all other neighborhood parks, it is recommended that planning for the components and amenities in these parks wait until further indication of development in the surrounding area is known. It is also recommended that trail alignments be implemented that connect the neighborhood parks to each other and to other parks, trails and open spaces around the community.



*Future neighborhood parks should be designed around a specific theme or purpose (farm theme example shown above)*

Throughout the planning process participants expressed the concern that some existing neighborhood parks in Waverly are not well thought out and therefore not utilized. To ensure this is not the case with future neighborhood parks, this Master Plan recommends that each park have a unique element or theme. Kid’s Kingdom within Memorial Park is a great example of an element that has a unique and specific theme that could be a stand-alone neighborhood park. The concept is to only build neighborhood parks if there is a unique purpose and theme. Very small neighborhood parks (i.e. playground, swings, etc.) should still be considered as well; however, these parks could be mini-parks (aka pocket parks) that only serve an immediate service area.

A brief summary of the recommendations for neighborhood parks includes:

- Plan for eight (8) more neighborhood parks as shown on **Exhibit ‘D’**
- Each park should have a unique them or specialized purpose
- Parks should be built as development occurs in the identified areas

## Master Plan Recommendation # 9

### Improve ADA Accessibility

Improving ADA accessibility is one of the main goals of the Leisure Services Department and it intends to make all of the City’s parks and facilities ADA accessible. Currently accessible facilities include:

- Civic Center
- Rail Trail
- The river parks trails
- Swimming pool



- Kid's Kingdom
- Kohlmann Park (significant improvements were made to Kohlmann Park to make it ADA accessible)

Parks and facilities that should be a high priority to receive improvements to ADA accessibility include:

- Brookwood Park
- South Riverside Park
- Willow Lawn Park

Examples of specific improvements include:

- Add paved base pads and access walks to all athletic field bleachers, with additional space for wheelchair access
- Add ADA picnic tables at all locations where there are/will be picnic tables
- Initiate improvements system-wide to bring Waverly into full compliance with ADA

## Master Plan Recommendation # 10

### *Transfer Management and/or Relocate Skate Park to a Non-Profit Organization*



The skate park is approximately ten to twelve years old and does receive some use. However, the main need is to have an organization (i.e. non-profit organization, church, etc.) take over the management to ensure a safe environment is provided for the users and increase its use. The key to the success of this type of facility is to have set times for its use and adult supervision available when it is open. Non-profit organizations, such as churches, can be an ideal match for this type of a facility and its programming needs. The skate park equipment may need to be relocated in order for this to occur.

## Master Plan Recommendation # 11

### *Finalize Two Locations for Community Gardens and Plan for One Children's Garden*



*Existing flood properties along 7th Avenue are one of the identified areas for future community gardens*

Community gardens were a subject of discussion many times throughout the Master Planning process. Wartburg College currently operates a community garden and both residents and the City would like to add more around the City. These types of communal gardens can provide fresh produce and plants as well as foster a sense of community and connection to the environment. To function appropriately, they need to be publicly operated in terms of ownership, access and management. Community gardens encourage citizens to grow their own food or to donate what they have grown to others. Community gardens provide other social benefits, such as the sharing of food production knowledge with the wider community and safer living spaces. Since the City has acquired multiple properties along the Cedar River and Dry Run Creek Corridor due to past flooding issues, there are many opportunities to implement community gardens. The key will be to have a very organized group of volunteers to manage these gardens so they do not become an eyesore. Two (2) sites have been identified having strong potential for community gardens (**See Exhibit 'I'**).

### Site # 1

7th Avenue (west of 2nd Street SW and east of 3rd Street SW)

Grants have been submitted to establish a community orchard that would produce fruit for the food banks and community meal programs.

### Site # 2

Between 5th and 6th Avenue (east of 2nd Street SW)

Plans are for institutions to adopt a garden plot, to utilize the property in a positive manner, to raise vegetables for the NE IA Food Bank and the local Community Meals programs, and to teach people about gardening, canning, and where their food comes from. There would be eighteen plots at a dimension of approximately 30' x 30'.

The City should also consider a site for a children's garden in the near future. An area next to a school and visible to the public would be an ideal location.

## Master Plan Recommendation # 12

*Relocate Bremer County Fairgrounds and Create a "Central Park" at the Existing Location*

Related to Recommendation # 8, relocating the Bremer County Fairgrounds is a primary focus of the City. If this occurs, the existing grounds will be open for new improvements and programming. This master plan recommends the following elements be added to the new "Central Park":

- Walking trails
- New shelter
- Open fields for unprogrammed recreation (i.e. frisbee, camping, volleyball, etc.)
- Scenic drive

It is important to note that there will be a "domino effect" that will occur if the Bremer County Fairgrounds are moved from their current location.

- Ball fields will be eliminated and moved to the new Fairgrounds/Sports Complex
- The maintenance department will move from South Riverside Park to the new "Central Park"
- South Riverside Park and the upland area that is out of the floodplain can be improved

## Master Plan Recommendation # 13

*Relocate the Existing Maintenance Department to the Existing Bremer County Fairgrounds (Future "Central Park")*



*Existing maintenance building in  
South Riverside Park*

The existing maintenance department facilities are currently located at South Riverside Park, immediately adjacent to the Cedar River. If Recommendation #12 moves forward, the opportunity to relocate the maintenance department to Memorial Park has great potential. There are a couple of existing buildings at Memorial Park (aka future "Central Park") that would accommodate the current and future needs of this department. Eliminating the existing facilities at South Riverside Park would allow more public access to the Cedar River and improve the aesthetic quality of this park.



## Master Plan Recommendation # 14

### *Locate the Bandshell at the North End of Kohlmann Park or Consider a Mobile Band Stage for the Short Term*

Much discussion involved constructing a bandshell in Waverly. Kohlmann Park and Memorial Park (Fairgrounds) were both suggested as sites for consideration. Both locations have several advantages and disadvantages as outlined below:

Memorial Park (Fairgrounds)	
Pros	Cons
More space available for parking and the bandshell itself; some parking already exists	Not adjacent to the downtown
Topography allows parking to be easily located here (and there is room for expansion)	Restrooms need upgrading
Visibility is good and there is easy access	Noisy adjacent street
Will coordinate well with future changes to the park	In the floodplain, but better than Kohlmann Park
Adequate access for band equipment	Sunlight angle/time of day is not ideal for musicians

Kohlmann Park	
Pros	Cons
Immediately adjacent to the downtown	Limited space for parking and not nearby
Visibility is excellent	Potential noise issues for adjacent residents
Adjacent to the Cedar River	Significant flooding issue
Aesthetically pleasing area	Noisy street nearby, but not as close as Memorial Park
A lot of existing trees	Less visible than Memorial Park
New restrooms nearby	Sunlight angle/time of day is not ideal for musicians



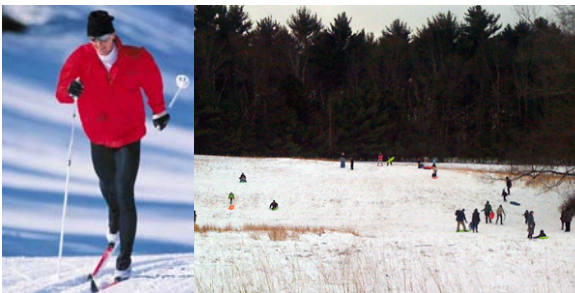
*Example of a mobile stage*

### Mobile Stage

This Master Plan recommends that the City consider a mobile stage unit as a short term solution to having an entertainment venue. These mobile stage units can be purchased or rented on an “as-needed” basis. This would allow utilization of both the Kohlmann Park and Memorial Park locations. The City will need to determine which location would work best. While the cost can be significant for larger units, it may be a viable alternative to a permanent structure for the short term. Further discussion and a detailed study should be conducted to solidify the future location of the bandshell and in the meantime a mobile stage should be considered.

## Master Plan Recommendation # 15

### *Maximize Opportunities for Winter Activities and Recreation*



Winter activities and recreation are sometimes lacking in many small to medium sized communities such as Waverly, yet residents desire to have a place to exercise during the winter months. Many Waverly residents expressed a need for more winter activities and recreation opportunities, therefore this Master Plan recommends the following amenities be considered (location of some amenities to be determined at a later date):

- Cross country skiing (golf course, Red Cedar Park and along the Rail Trail); groomed trails were identified as a need by several residents

- Ice skating rink, preferably in the downtown region such as Kohlmann Park (currently Pelikan Park and the Cedar River have been utilized for ice skating activities)
- Sledding hill (tee #2 at the golf course has been used informally but this caused maintenance issues in the past)
- Indoor water park

If the baseball/softball field complex relocates west of town on Highway 3 there may be multiple opportunities to create a sledding hill within that complex. Crestwood Park, one of the buildings at the Bremer County Fairgrounds or future community parks could also be considered as viable alternatives. This Master Plan recommends Waverly pursue a formal location for a sledding hill that would include parking and a warming house.

## 5.3 Trail System Recommendations



*The Rail Trail is Waverly's primary trail route; connectivity to this corridor is one of the main goals of this Master Plan*

This Park and Open Space Master Plan places significant focus on the trail system since that is one of the more noteworthy weaknesses identified in this study. As mentioned previously, the Rail Trail is a prized amenity in the City of Waverly. This Master Plan seeks to expand upon this great amenity by increasing the amount of trails connected to this corridor as well as expanding the trail system City-wide. It is understood that trail improvements will occur over the course of many years and design standards and guidelines will need to be periodically updated. Therefore, recommendations have been provided for the following categories:

- Types of trail users
- Trail locations
- Priority corridors
- Loop system concept
- Design criteria and standards

Trails play an important role that goes beyond functioning as a recreational amenity; they should serve as a means of transportation that allow residents of all abilities to travel to multiple destinations safely. Therefore, it is important to identify the intended users of the trail system and design or prioritize the corridors appropriately.

## Master Plan Recommendation # 16

### *Provide Trails Throughout Waverly for Various Skill Levels of Bicyclists*

The Master Plan recognizes that there are various skill levels of bicyclists and, if possible, each level should be accommodated within the overall trail system. There are three (3) common skill levels: avid or experienced bicyclists, basic bicyclists and children.



## Avid or Experienced Bicyclists

Avid or experienced riders generally use bicycles as they would a motor vehicle. They ride for convenience, speed and want direct access to destinations, usually via the existing street and highway system, with minimum detours or delay. Avid cyclists are typically comfortable riding on high speed routes (they comprise the majority of current users on collector and arterial streets) and in motor vehicle traffic; however, they desire routes that are relatively uninterrupted by traffic lights and stop signs. The avid cyclist will often choose to ride on the road and along major transportation routes without any bicycle facilities (i.e. bike lanes, signage, etc.). This group of experienced cyclists will typically avoid separated bike paths, particularly in neighborhood greenbelts, because they feel it slows them down. This group of riders is a relatively small segment of the overall cycling population.



*Basic or less confident riders typically prefer to be “off-road” on a trail*

## Basic Bicyclists

Basic (or less confident) adult riders may use their bikes for transportation purposes, but prefer to avoid roads with fast and busy motor vehicle traffic. Basic riders are typically more casual adults or younger riders who are less confident in their ability to operate in traffic without special provisions for bicycles. They are comfortable riding on lower traffic volume streets and trails, and prefer designated facilities such as bike lanes or wide shoulder lanes. This group of cyclists will typically utilize a bicycle as the preferred transportation mode, provided that the destination is reasonably close and a good bicycle route exists. This group is usually comprised of working adults or high school students and parents with child seats/carts. These cyclists desire safe and efficient bicycle facilities/routes, and sometimes avoid routes that may be hazardous

or dangerous. These cyclists typically feel uncomfortable riding along high-speed arterial streets, even when bike lanes are provided. This group of riders is a large segment of the overall cycling population.



*Trails through residential subdivisions are an inviting and safe environment for children to travel to a friend’s house or the park*

## Children

This group is comprised of school age children (elementary/junior high school) who routinely ride to and from school, to visit friends, neighbors, go to the park, and attend other after school activities. This group of cyclists tends to have less experience negotiating traffic, and is not always aware of potential hazards. They often disobey traffic laws and traffic control devices, and tend to prefer the shortest route possible. They also tend to prefer bike lanes and bike paths. Up to about age nine or ten, most children do not have well-developed peripheral vision and they have difficulty with concepts such as closure speed (e.g. speed of approaching motor vehicles). Younger bicycle riders typically have difficulty following a straight track, and they frequently weave from side to side when riding. Detached trails with ample separation from vehicular traffic are the ideal environment for children. This group of riders is a relatively smaller segment of the overall cycling population.

Although the trail master plan should be designed as much as possible to accommodate all three groups listed above and all types of trail users, it is expected that the basic bicyclist will be the primary user of Waverly’s system.

## Master Plan Recommendation # 17

### Create and Adopt the Trail Master Plan



*Some vehicular routes like Cedar Lane Road are a highly utilized corridor for walking, jogging and bicycling yet are unsafe*

### Trail Locations

The Trail Master Plan (**See Exhibit 'E'**) identifies the location of all existing and future trail corridors. The alignments are conceptual. Specific engineered designs and field verifications will need to be completed as each project comes to fruition, thus dictating the final location of each trail. Below are the general guidelines and goals as to the locations and alignments of the trails:

- Mid-block crossings were avoided, where possible, on high volume and/or low visibility roadways
- Street crossings were made at intersections, where possible, where a safer crossing can occur
- Railroad crossings were avoided, where possible, though a limited number of designated crossings will be needed to facilitate trail linkage throughout the community
- Trails were sited along greenways or waterways and some were located within floodplain areas, assuming no fill will occur
- For significant and highly-traveled trail corridors it is recommended that paths be

located outside of the floodway and ten year floodplain limits, to avoid frequent inundation

- Bridges with minimum spans were proposed on the Trail Master Plan to minimize impact to the natural (wetlands) or physical environment
- Prefabricated bridge structures with aesthetic features are recommended
- Trail locations were sited to minimize areas that cross or conflict with vehicular traffic (separate trails from traffic where possible)

*\*The locations and trail alignments shown on the Trail Master Plan are conceptual. Specific geometric and spatial constraints will need to be looked at carefully for each of the trail corridors. Additionally, development patterns and unknown road improvements may also dictate changes to the Trail Master Plan. As a result, the Trail Master Plan should be updated every two years or on an as-needed basis, according to the level or intensity of development activity.*

### Priority Corridors and Potential Bike Lane/Shared Roadway Routes

Once the Trail Master Plan was established, each corridor was examined and high, medium and low priority values were assigned in order to prioritize funding for future improvements (**See Exhibit 'F'**). As part of this step, the project team studied corridors where bike lanes or shared roadway trails might occur as well. If space exists on certain routes, bike lanes and signed shared routes would be fairly inexpensive to implement. The following streets should be considered for this type of a route:

- 6th Street NW - Many lots along this route are flood buyout properties, therefore parking could be eliminated on at least one side allowing the cross section to be redefined with a bike lane or shared roadway markings/signage. This is a key corridor connecting to the swimming pool and Memorial Park
- 3rd Street WE

### Loop System Concept

Creating a loop system was an idea discussed in the Steering Committee meetings. Discussion revolved around the desire to create short, medium and long distance loops to serve residents in the immediate downtown area. The various lengths would allow users to start in one location and loop back to their origin and have various options for distance to travel (**See Exhibit 'G'**).



## Cedar Lane Road Trail

Numerous discussions and comments throughout this Master Plan process revolved around having a trail or walkway along Cedar Lane Road. This corridor currently does not have a sidewalk or trail, yet it is frequently used due to the beauty and scenery along it.

The Master Plan has identified this corridor as a high priority yet many challenges exist, including the absence of public right-of-way and space limitations.



*The above exhibit demonstrates potential improvements to Cedar Lane Road to accommodate a non-vehicular route*

The following solutions should be studied in more detail:

- Add a widened shoulder where space exists and where it is not feasible add significant signage and pavement markings to make it a safer bicycle and pedestrian environment
- Shift the road to one side of right of way and add a narrow walk/path along the opposite side of the road (see image this page)
- Acquire right-of-way and reconstruct the road with an attached path
- Provide signage as a bike route and paint a shared lane for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Construct a cantilevered path along the Cedar River where space does not exist within the street cross-section; this would be a fairly expensive solution and needs to be studied in more detail

Overall, this Master Plan offers a handful of potential solutions, however each item needs to be studied in more detail to determine the best solution.

## Regional Trail Connections

The City of Waverly also wants to pursue regional trail connections to surrounding communities over the long term. A connection to Readlyn is already close to completion via the Rail Trail east of Waverly. Other regional trail connections to pursue include:

- Shell Rock (to the west)
- Cedar Bend (to the north)
- Cedar Falls (to the south)

It is recognized that to successfully implement these connections there will need to be a great deal of coordination between Waverly, the other cities and regulating organizations (i.e. county and state route agencies). One of the higher priority corridors identified as part of this Master Plan is a connection to Shell Rock via the Highway 3 Corridor. This will take significant funds and coordination, however, it should still be a priority for both communities.

## Master Plan Recommendation # 18

### *Implement Walk-able and Bike-able Streets Throughout Waverly*

This Master Plan recommends improving the bicycling environment and walkability across Waverly. Waverly participated in a “Complete Streets” study where this goal was further explored. “Complete Street” concepts accommodate the vehicle yet put high priority on the pedestrians and bicyclists as well.

This Master Plan proposes future improvements to the City's streets, specifically in order to create environments that are safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. Some of the design aspects to consider are as follows:

- Pedestrians and bicyclists should be effectively separated from moving traffic, using wide sidewalks or medians
- Pedestrians and bicyclists should be able to cross the street safely and easily at designated locations, such as clearly marked crosswalks with special paving and signage
- Intersections should be designed to reduce pedestrian crossing distances, using bump-outs
- Safe refuge (resting) islands should be provided periodically for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Barriers should be minimized; design for people with disabilities, older adults and children (ADA compatibility with curb ramps, etc.)
- Vehicle access, speeds and geometrics should be designed with the pedestrian and bicyclist in mind

## Master Plan Recommendation # 19

### *Implement Trail Design Standards*

### **Trail Design Criteria and Standards**

Design criteria and standards provide a regional-wide trail system of safe, convenient, and attractive bicycle and pedestrian networks. All trail development should follow these approved standards and, where items are not addressed in that document, users should follow other accepted planning and engineering guidelines such as:

- AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) “Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities”
- MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices)
- State of Iowa Regulations

### **Design Speed**

- Twenty (20) mph design speed should be utilized, unless the grade exceeds four percent (4%), whereupon thirty (30) mph is advisable
- The minimum horizontal radius of curvature at twenty (20) mph shall be at thirty (30) feet, and at thirty (30) mph it shall be ninety (90) feet

### **Grades**

- Vertical grade on the trail shall be kept to a minimum, although it may not be possible in some areas
- Horizontal grades should allow for sufficient drainage to occur (2% minimum)
- A ten foot (10') wide area with a gentle slope should be adjacent to both sides of the trail
- Culverts for drainage at ravines, ditches, swales, and small creeks may be required
- An inventory of existing facilities and site analysis of the existing conditions along the proposed trail shall be conducted
- Analysis of all bridges and drainage structures will be needed to determine their compliance with local and state requirements



## Trail Access

- Appropriate access to the trail system shall be designed for all authorized users, emergency and maintenance vehicles
- Entry points shall be designed to control and prevent access by unauthorized vehicles
- Parking facilities, information for users, site amenities, access for maintenance emergency and security vehicles, items to prevent unauthorized use and assist with security and landscaping for aesthetics shall be considered at appropriate access locations



## Railroad Crossings

- Coordination with the various railroads needs to occur to ensure safety precautions are taken into consideration when designing, constructing and maintaining these crossings
- Special pavement surfaces at railroad crossings may be installed to provide safe and smoother transitions

## Signage

Overall trail signs provide users with helpful information to assist in navigating the trail system. Waverly will utilize the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards for most signage within the system. However, trailhead and directional signage may be customized to resemble a unique theme for Waverly. All custom trail signs should incorporate consistent visual elements to reflect the look and feel of the Waverly community parks and trails system. Each sign should feature a consistent logo, material palette, sign shape, typeface and color scheme. There are five basic types of sign groups:

- Informational signs (educational or interpretative)
- Identification markers (mileage markers or trail names)
- Warning signs
- Regulatory signs
- Directional markers

### *Informational Signs*

Informational signs typically provide the trail user with educational or interpretative information.

### *Identification Markers*

Identification markers are for both trail and vehicular users. These may include mile markers which are important for trail users, maintenance forces, police and emergency personnel.

### *Warning Signs*

Warning signs alert users of safety issues (curves, intersections and steep slopes or terrain). Typically these signs are yellow and diamond-shaped with black lettering.

### *Regulatory Signs*

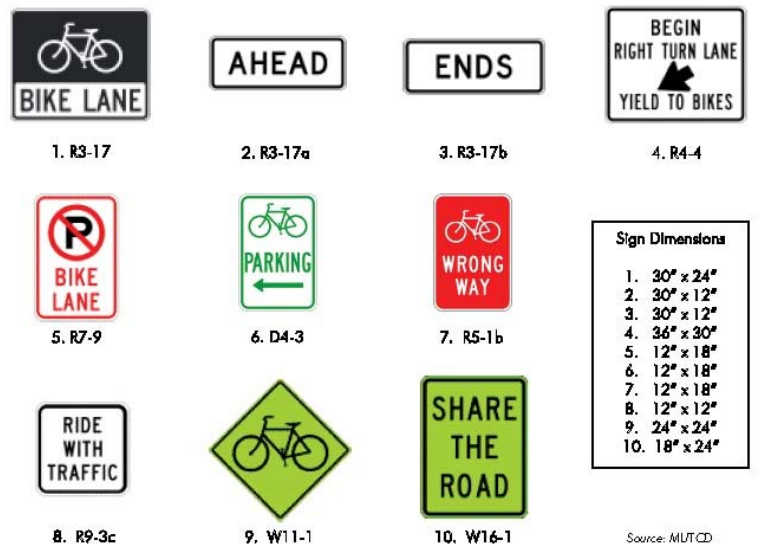
Regulatory signs are usually white and rectangular with black lettering. Regulatory signs provide information on trail use and etiquette.

### *Direction Markers*

Directional markers typically use arrows or wording to indicate in which direction to travel and include the trail name, distance and direction. Waverly will utilize customized directional signage at trailheads and key overlooks, or special points of interest.

The following standards apply to signage for the Waverly trail system:

- Approved standard precautions and signage shall be used in the design of the trail at intersections with the roadway
- Warning signs, stop signs and striped crosswalks should be utilized at all roadway crossings and must be ADA compliant
- All signage shall conform to the guidelines of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and AASHTO unless specified differently in this Master Plan
- All custom signage shall be approved by the Leisure Services Department prior to installation. Custom signs will be considered on a case-by-case basis



*Example of a major trail head*

## Trailheads

Designed to be effective and usable, the trail system shall incorporate trailheads and access points throughout the community. These elements should be designed to promote safe, efficient and easy access to the trail system.

One trail head currently exists along the Rail Trail next to the Quickstar Gas Station, however, residents expressed it needs to have better identification and signage. At least two more major trail heads should be incorporated either along the Rail Trail or along another significant trail corridor. In the future, a major trail head should be located along regional routes that connect with other cities (i.e. Highway 3 Corridor).

Major trail head locations should contain the following elements:

- Adjacent to public right-of-way
- Identification signage
- Parking (typically 5-10 spaces)
- Restroom
- Shelter
- Bike rack
- Informational kiosk/directional sign
- Landscaping
- Drinking fountain



Minor trail head locations may only contain the following elements:

- Adjacent to public right-of-way
- Parking (typically 5 spaces)
- Bike rack
- Informational kiosk/directional sign
- Landscaping

See **Exhibit 'E' (Trail Master Plan)** and **Exhibit 'I' (Dry Run/Cedar River Greenway Corridor Plan)** for potential trail head locations.

## Rest Areas and Overlooks

Rest areas and overlooks should be incorporated along the trail at key points. These areas allow users to rest, gather, socialize and, if located at a scenic location, encourage users to take in the view. Rest areas can be a simple shaded bench or more comprehensive, with educational and interpretative signage.

- Sitting areas will be located in conjunction with existing or proposed parks, historic, scenic, or unique points of interest
- Each location will be individually designed and take into consideration the existing features of the site and trail alignment

## Trail Widths and Clearances

- The trail width shall be eight feet (8') minimum, not including the area needed for shoulders
- In highly traveled areas the trail should be ten feet (10')
- Reduced widths of six feet (6') will be considered on a case-by-case basis according to use, site constraints or topographic features
- In some cases sidewalks may be widened to six feet (6') to accommodate a trail connection
- A minimum two foot (2') wide (preferable 3'), level graded shoulder with grass is required on each side for safety clearance
- Vertical clearance shall be a minimum of eight feet (8') above the trail
- A minimum separation of three feet (3') (preferable 5') from the face of curb of the roadway to the edge of trail shoulder is required
- Railings shall be considered on a case-by-case basis; steep slopes or a fixed hazard that cannot be removed or relocated may dictate railing locations



## Trail and Roadway Bridges

In places where trails cross creeks or drainage corridors, pre-fabricated single span bridges or culvert crossings may be utilized to create safe passage, while providing visual interest along the trail. Bridges provide trail access during periods of high water and mitigate safety concerns and maintenance costs associated with low water crossings.

- Bridges shall be installed to connect trails across valleys, streams, creeks, ravines, etc.
- New bridges shall be constructed with a minimum width of eight feet (8')
- A barrier shall be provided to prevent use by unauthorized vehicles
- The minimum clearance width for trails shall be the same as the approaching paved trail
- Handrails, barriers or fences shall be located on both sides of the trail, where appropriate
- Taller barriers or fence sections may be desired at locations such as a highway or ravine

## Landscape

While landscape adds to the aesthetic quality of a trail corridor or trailhead, it also provides shade and other environmental benefits. Below is a summary of landscape guidelines specific to trail routes and/or trailheads:

- Utilize native landscape plant material that is drought tolerant
- Trees should be installed with heights and patterns complementary to human scale, with high branches and upward branching habits along the trail, and with the capability to provide shade and shelter; avoid buckling of adjacent

- pavement by root systems
- At trailheads perimeter landscaping should define edges that reduce the impact of parked vehicles, and enhance the trailhead, yet provide visibility for security reasons
- Wind screens may be incorporated to protect users from cold winds, particularly on ridges and exposed areas

## Trail Cross-Section and Surface

- The trail shall be designed to accommodate the wheel loads of occasional service vehicles, such as emergency, patrol, construction and routine maintenance vehicles
- The trail surface shall be suitable for bicyclists, joggers, roller bladers, walkers, etc., and it shall be handicap accessible

There are several types of trail surfaces that may be implemented depending on location and the existing conditions. The City will determine which trail surface is appropriate for each location once more detailed studies are completed for the trail segments. The section below provides a summary of each surface type that is available for consideration.



### Types of Surfaces

#### *Hard or Paved Surfaces*

Many existing trails within Waverly have been constructed out of asphalt, however some corridors have been constructed out of concrete (specifically corridors where the sidewalk was widened). While a concrete surface is extremely durable, and perhaps aesthetically preferred in some cases, it is very costly. Additionally, the expansion and contraction joints required on concrete surfaces can cause discomfort for cyclists and in-line skaters. For these reasons, bituminous asphalt is the preferred surface for trails; however this material does require periodic maintenance (e.g. filling cracks, periodic resurfacing, etc.). Asphalt or bituminous paths should be constructed per the approved standards.

#### *Limestone Screening Surface*

Limestone screenings are another trail surface option. This surface is much more economical than asphalt, but requires more intensive maintenance. Additionally, stormwater runoff has to be handled very carefully so wash outs do not occur. This material is desirable for low traffic areas or environmentally sensitive areas. Many runners and joggers prefer this type of surface because it is softer than concrete or asphalt. Limestone screenings are typically constructed by stripping the topsoil, placing a compacted gravel base, and then applying a two inch (2") to three inch (3") surface of limestone screenings. The screenings compact very well and continue to harden over time. The surface provides excellent traction for cyclists, although it is undesirable for in-line skaters due to the loose material.

This type of surface actually creates more noise than other surfaces. This can improve safety in certain circumstances by providing a warning to pedestrians of an approaching cyclist, especially on curves with low visibility. Finally, because of their lower initial cost, limestone paths can provide an interim improvement until funds are available for an asphalt surface. Loose material is typically limited to the top eighth of an inch, while material below the surface has consolidated into a firm structure. The loose material provides good traction, but tends to erode on steep slopes.

As mentioned previously, proper drainage and storm water runoff control is extremely critical with limestone trails. In locations where slopes over 4% cannot be avoided, or within floodplains, an asphalt, concrete or grass surface should be used instead.

#### *Bark or Grass/Mowed Surface*

Bark or grass/mowed trail surfaces are rarely utilized for bicycle travel; however, for nature trails on steep slopes and within floodplains they may be appropriate. Bark or wood chips should be at least four inches (4") deep and should be replaced yearly, due to compaction and dislocation. Bark or wood chips should not be used near streams or wetlands or on portions of trails with cross-drainage or storm water runoff.



## Master Plan Recommendation # 20

### Construct Various Trail Types

#### Trail Types

This Master Plan proposes that the City implement various types of trails with associated cross-section options. This allows for adjustment to the trail section depending on the location, constraints and trail users' needs. There are six basic types of bicycle facilities that can be implemented: (1) Shared Use Roadways, (2) Signed Shared Roadways, (3) Wide Shoulders, (4) Striped or Marked Bike Lanes, (5) Roadway Separated Trails, and lastly, (6) Greenway and Nature Trails. This section provides a description of each trail type.

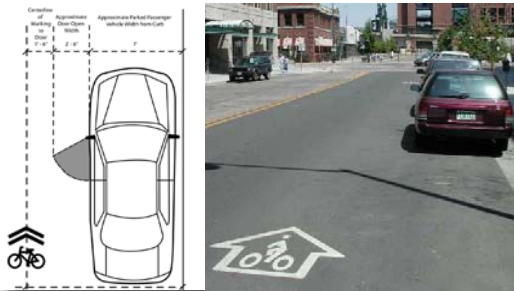


#### Shared Use Roadways

The term “shared use roadway” simply refers to roads and streets that cyclists may legally use. Generally bicyclists are only prohibited from using interstate highways and other high speed, limited access routes. While cyclists may legally use any public roadway, this does not guarantee that the routes are safe, and there may not be any significant signage designating the roadway as a bike route. Cyclists may utilize any part of the road lane which sometimes causes vehicular and bicycle conflicts. This type of facility should only be used when there are significant spatial constraints, or reasons that preclude other options in this section. Given these constraints, the corridor becomes very important for reaching destinations and, therefore, needs to be included as part of the system. For example, Cedar Lane Road may be a good candidate for this type of trail until future road improvement can occur or funding is provided for more significant trail improvements. Rural roads with low traffic volumes may be good candidates for this type of facility too.

Proposed locations for shared use roadways:

- Cedar Lane Road
- 6th Street NW
- 3rd Street SE
- Wartburg College to 1st Ave and 6th Street NW to get to downtown via Rail Trail bridge
- 2nd Ave NE



#### Signed Shared Roadways

A more recent practice, and an addition to the shared use roadway, is to paint shared use symbols on the pavement and place associated signage along the right-of-way. This facility type encourages the motorist and the bicyclist to share the road and, most importantly, shows the cyclist where they are expected to ride. This type of facility is most appropriate for roads with wider pavement lanes. Routes are typically signed, and serve to provide continuity with other bicycle facilities through corridors where construction of a dedicated five foot (5') bike lane or detached shared use path is not feasible. The signage along these routes indicates that these routes have been determined as suitable for bicycle use. Low traffic

neighborhood streets or collector streets without parking (or minimal parking) are the best candidates for this type of system.

Proposed locations for signed shared roadways:

- Cedar Lane Road
- 6th Street NW
- 3rd Street SE
- Wartburg College to 1st Ave and 6th Street NW to get to downtown via Rail Trail bridge
- 2nd Ave NE

## Wide Shoulders

A wide shoulder is another acceptable means to promote bicycle use on roadways. Occasionally they may only be two feet (2') to three feet (3') wide, but they allow some extra space so bicyclists feel more comfortable and have a specific area to ride in. As compared with the signed shared roadway, which may designate the bicyclist to ride within the vehicular travel lane, this use provides a wider shoulder, separating bicyclists from vehicular traffic a bit more. This can help minimize erratic maneuvers on the part of motorists, and enhance the comfort level for the bicyclist.

Proposed locations for wide shoulders:

- 39th SE
- 3rd Street SE (including across the green bridge)
- Cedar Lane Road (needs to be studied in more detail)
- Wartburg College to 1st Ave and 6th Street NW to get to downtown via Rail trail bridge
- 2nd Ave NE



*Bike lanes are typically utilized by more experienced riders*

## Striped or Marked Bike Lanes

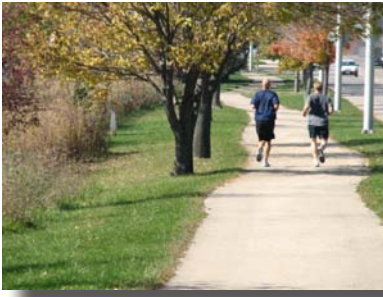
Spatial constraints within the right-of-way may not allow for the construction of a side path or detached trail. Therefore sometimes a bike lane, that is part of the street cross-section, makes more sense for the experienced bicyclist's direct travel. Bike lanes on roadways also provide an excellent means of achieving efficient, non-motorized transportation through Waverly and the surrounding region, without significant cost. Striped bike lanes are placed along the right edge of the roadway with a solid white painted line. They help define the space to ride, decrease stress for bicyclists, encourage bicyclists to ride in the correct direction, and alert motorists that cyclists have a right to the road. Overall, these types of facilities help to better organize the flow of traffic and reduce the chance that motorists will veer into a cyclist's path of travel. Bike lanes are intended for the exclusive use of bicyclists, so vehicular traffic is often prohibited from crossing into a bike lane, except when making a turn. Vehicles can sometimes be allowed to park in the bike lane on low traffic/low volume roads, or where minimal parking use occurs. If parking is allowed, there is typically space provided to pass the cars without veering into the adjacent travel lane. "Share the Road" signs and pavement markings can also be utilized in this type of facility. Design guidelines published by the American Association

of Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) do present recommendations for inclusion of bike lanes on routes that allow parallel parking.

Proposed locations for striped or marked bike lanes:

- 39th SE
- 3rd Street SE (including across the green bridge)
- Cedar Lane Road (needs to be studied in more detail)
- Wartburg College to 1st Ave and 6th Street NW to get to downtown via Rail Trail bridge
- 2nd Ave NE





*Separated trails are safer for families and children and offer a more relaxing environment*

### ***Roadway Separated Trails***

Typically, trails are physically separated from roadways and are normally shared by bicyclists, joggers, wheel chairs, strollers, pedestrians, roller bladers, skateboarders, and dog walkers. They are usually paved with an asphalt surface, but may also have a gravel or portland concrete surface. More importantly, trails serve as extensions of road networks. They offer viable connections between key nodes and destinations such as work, schools, libraries, parks, shopping areas, historical and cultural sites and tourist attractions. Most of the trails shown within the Master Plan study limits are intended to be this type of trail.

Proposed locations for roadway separated trails:

- See ***Exhibit 'E'*** for all locations

### ***Greenway and Nature Trails***

Greenway and nature trails typically cater to many types and intensities of uses. These include trails for recreation, travel and passive or active park facilities. Nature trails are a form of shared-use path, although they typically run through environmentally-sensitive areas. The surfacing and width specifications are more flexible than those for shared-use paths. For example, nature trails may have a soft, permeable surface, such as bark, wood chips, or crushed aggregate in lieu of asphalt. Therefore, nature trails are not necessarily designed to be ADA accessible, except when located at parking areas, restrooms and picnic areas. The width of the nature trail may be very narrow to allow for passage through densely vegetated areas and hilly terrain. Greenway and nature trails typically increase the value of adjacent private properties, as an available amenity to residential and commercial developments.

Proposed locations for greenway and nature trails:

- Crestwood Park to Brookwood Park to Red Cedar Park, 6th Street NE (along the dry run)
- Cedar Hill Park (existing)
- Kiwanis Park
- Riverbend Park
- See ***Exhibit 'E'*** for other locations

## **Master Plan Recommendation # 21**

### ***Plan for at Least One Future Cedar River Trail Crossing***

There is a lot of opportunity and potential surrounding the scenic Cedar River Valley and downtown Waverly. The Master Plan recommends the City maximize on this potential by taking actions such as pursuing additional public land along the Cedar River and acquiring easements to provide increased access along the River.

Currently, the Rail Trail is the only existing trail crossing of the River. In the future and as the City develops, it will be important to have more than one crossing of the Cedar River. In the near future, the 10th Avenue road extension will become one of those crossings, south of downtown Waverly. A crossing will likewise be necessary north of the downtown near the far north section of the study area.

Potential locations include:

- 1st Avenue NW
- Near 12th Avenue NW as it is adjacent to the Cedar River (See Trail Master Plan)

## Master Plan Recommendation # 22

### Improve Bicycle Access in Downtown Waverly



*Example of a designated bike lane in a downtown environment, intended for very slow speeds or walking bicycles (< 5 mph)*

Bicycle access in Downtown Waverly has been a debated subject over recent years. The downtown streets should be designed to be “bicycle-friendly”. However, in some areas bicycles should still not be allowed to travel on the sidewalk (at least not at higher speeds). Pedestrian traffic in downtown Waverly is currently fairly limited and therefore conflicts between bicycles and pedestrians are minimal. This Master Plan recommends that a clearly designated bicycle route be marked on the street or as part of the sidewalk area (see photo on the left). To further accommodate bicycle traffic in the downtown, additional bike storage facilities and bike racks should be provided at convenient locations. Ordinances may need to be modified and approved by the City Council to clearly dictate where bicycle access can occur. Other options could include:

- Create a designated bike lane as part of Bremer Avenue roadway section (will need to coordinated with IDOT)
- Clearly designate a bike lane (for slow speeds) as part of the sidewalk area

## Master Plan Recommendation # 23

### Implement Traffic Calming Techniques at Trail and Walkway Locations



*Bump outs and refuge islands shorten the length of the road crossing for pedestrians and alert vehicles of the trail or walkway*

Modifying or improving street cross-sections is an important step in making Waverly a more pedestrian friendly place. There are various traffic calming and safety techniques relating to street cross-sections that should be considered and recommended as part of this Master Plan. Traffic calming uses a combination of techniques to reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists. Traffic calming objectives are to enhance the street environment and aesthetics, reduce cut-through vehicle traffic, slow vehicles down, reduce accidents and increase safety perceptions. As further described below, the Rail Trail crossing of Bremer Avenue is a prime area to implement traffic calming techniques and safe crossing methods. The Master Plan recommends implementing traffic calming techniques such as:

- Refuge islands and bump outs with barriers (where needed) to protect the pedestrian
- Intersection improvements
- Alternative trail and sidewalk surfaces and colors at crossings
- Raised pavement areas
- Safe sight and stopping distances
- Clearly visible traffic and directional signage and pavement markings

## Intersection and Crosswalk Treatments

Crosswalk treatments can be applied at intersections and/or mid-block crossings. Improved crossings should be established at locations downtown on Bremer Avenue from 4th St. SW to 4th St. SE. When designing crosswalk treatments, appropriate signage and striping measures should be applied per the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices). The hierarchy and appropriate locations for markings include the following applications:

- Standard markings - all crossings should be identified with parallel lines
- Enhanced markings - ladder striping, if colored/textured pavement is not utilized (i.e. stamped concrete)



- Colored pavers - a distinctly patterned paver may be applied to distinguish intersection and/or mid-block crossings in the core or transition zone

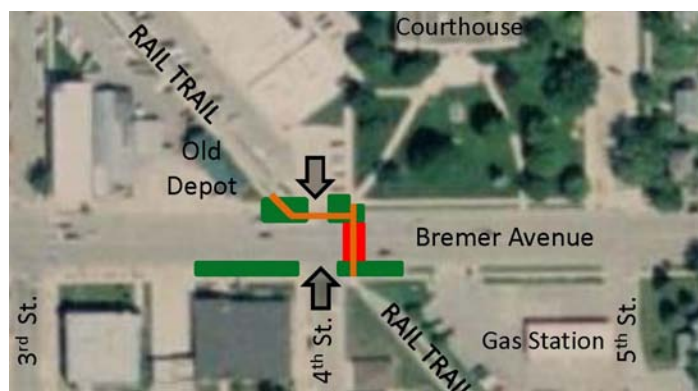


*The existing Rail Trail crossing of Bremer Avenue is unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists*

### ***Waverly Rail Trail Crossing***

The Waverly Rail Trail crossing at Bremer Avenue is a prime example of a crossing in need of safety improvements for bicyclists. The existing crossing is extremely wide making it dangerous. This Master Plan recommends the City work closely with IDOT (the regulating agency for Bremer Avenue) to move forward with the following recommendations:

- Install bump outs (shown in green on the exhibit below) to shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Create a ninety-degree (90°) crossing for the path
- Provide more signage warning pedestrians and vehicles of the crossing
- Add special paving and possibly rumble strips to warn vehicular traffic



*The length of the Rail Trail crossing of Bremer Avenue should be reduced and made safer by realigning the crossing, and adding green areas, special paving and signage*

### ***Intersection Sight Triangles***

A corner triangle of thirty feet (30') by thirty feet (30') should be kept clear of any unnecessary visual obstructions. In addition, minimal obstructions should be maintained in a sight triangle, as defined using AASHTO recommended methodologies and appropriate street cross-section and intersection designs.



### ***High Visibility Crosswalk Markings***

The use of high visibility crosswalk markings is an additional recommendation beyond the use of the standard or enhanced pavement markings, colored pavement or special pavers. High visibility crosswalk markings can be in the form of signage, special pavement markings, flashers or in-ground lights. High visibility crosswalk markings should be provided at all mid-block crossings and at intersection crossings where no traffic control is provided.

### ***Mid-Block Crossings and Pedestrian Refuge Islands***

Mid-block crossings and pedestrian refuge islands should be considered at locations where a substantial number of pedestrians or bicyclists attempt to cross streets, even if there isn't protection or identification of the crossing. These circumstances typically occur in locations having pedestrian attractions on both sides of a roadway, in areas with a combination of street-facing retail shops and on-street parking, and amidst long blocks (i.e., blocks six-hundred feet or longer). Multilane, un-signalized, controlled mid-block crossings should be avoided. Refuge islands should generally

be considered for crossings wherever there is a median. Refuge islands in medians should be at least six feet (6') wide.

### *Curb Extensions (Bump Outs)*

Curb extensions are the sidewalk areas that extend beyond the regular curb lines into the travel or parking lane. When on-street parking is provided, curb extensions should be provided at all intersections. They are encouraged at mid-block crossings in limited locations. Curb extensions should not be constructed beyond bicycle and vehicle travel lanes.

## **Master Plan Recommendation # 24**

### ***Focus on Safe Walks and Trails Adjacent to Schools***

Safe walkways and trails should be provided immediately adjacent to schools through programs like Safe Routes to School (SRTS). The purpose of SRTS is to increase the number of children who walk or bike to school by funding improvement projects that remove the barriers that currently prevent them from doing so. Existing barriers may include a lack of trails and walkways, unsafe crossings, and a lack of educational programs aimed at children, parents and the community that promote walking and bicycling. New sidewalks need to be constructed immediately surrounding schools that are both safe and ADA accessible. The City should continue to work with the Waverly School District to determine which routes need improvements, and apply for grants, as appropriate.

Regarding SRTS, the Waverly School District should take the lead (with the City's support) to promote education and encouragement projects such as:

- Celebrate Walk and Bike to School Week
- Teach pedestrian and bicycle safety skills in relevant physical education and extracurricular programs
- Discuss the sustainable transportation benefits of walking and bicycling in relevant health, environmental and academic classes
- The School District and Police Department should recognize Crossing Guard Day and honor the crossing guards that help keep the kids safe

To create a truly walkable and bikeable community for children, well-designed and signed school zones should be a high priority and primary goal. This Master Plan study recommends having additional discussions and developing action items in order to improve school zones and the environment for children traveling to school on foot or bike.

## **Master Plan Recommendation # 25**

### ***Develop and Implement Policy Guidelines for Leisure Services***

## **5.4 Policy Recommendations**

Creating a master plan goes beyond buildings, programs and facilities. The City of Waverly does not currently have policy guidelines in place, so this Master Plan will provide an outline addressing this issue. This section is not intended to be a final or comprehensive set of guidelines, however, it provides a general outline and ideas for the City to consider.

The recommendations have been organized into the following categories:

- Administration
- Commission/Staff Education
- Financial Resources
- Collaboration
- Communications
- Customer Service
- Volunteers



- Stewardship
- Maintenance and Planning
- Acquisition
- Capital Prioritization
- Programs
- Park & Facility Enhancement (not addressed)
- Marketing and Public Relations

The following recommendations vary from general to specific. Many of the recommendations are expressed as action items, while others provide guidance or overall direction.

## Administration

Developing administrative techniques will guide Waverly's Leisure Services Department in operating more efficiently and creatively and within the best interests of the community.

- Develop consistent approaches to all public procedures and services so the public becomes familiar with a well-known process
- Leisure Services Staff and Commissioners should continue to participate in community projects and civic organizations to develop working relationships throughout the community
- Encourage all staff participation in the development of departmental capital improvement recommendations
- Include departmental staff in decisions affecting their departments
- Promote and encourage conservation practices amongst all facilities, including reducing the amount of paper used, recycling, energy conservation and other techniques
- Periodically assess the structure of the staff and commission to ensure that Waverly operates in an efficient and effective manner that meets the changing needs of the community

## Commission/Staff Education

Providing training to the Leisure Services Staff is important in keeping up with recreation and management trends. For example, training to keep programming new and vibrant, and to understand the end user can help maintain quality.

- Develop a Leisure Services Commission training program to enhance awareness of national and regional issues, trends in parks and recreation, business planning, professional ethics, and team building
- Develop a staff training program that provides consistent annual educational courses in broad and job-specific areas that are tracked annually and expanded over time
- Provide ongoing customer service training for all front-line staff, including seasonal employees and volunteers

## Financial Resources

Per Chapter 6, pursuing alternative funding sources can supplement annual budgets and complete special projects. Balancing the "in-house" funding with grants from the state/federal government can assure Waverly has the necessary resources for daily operations and capital improvements.

- Work towards programs and facilities being self-sustaining
- Perform annual assessments of the relationships between facility/program user fees, quality and measure of use to determine if fee alignments are appropriate
- Seek to utilize alternative, non-tax funding sources, including sponsorships and grants, to fund new initiatives
- Pursue new and creative opportunities for sponsorship of parks, programs, events and facilities

## Collaboration

Relationships and good collaboration amongst Leisure Services staff, City officials and other public agencies is very important to the success of Waverly's park and open space system.

- Maintaining open communication, and understanding the common goals and interests of everyone, allows Waverly to work in a collaborative manner to provide enhanced services and facilities to the community
- Commit to collaborating with other groups, staff and leadership
- Attend and participate in quarterly meetings with library, schools, police, fire, etc.
- Encourage additional participation by the Forest Preserve District, Township, County and other agencies to establish common interests

- Continue to coordinate program offerings with Wartburg College and local schools to broaden recreation, education and fitness opportunities
- Collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to market the Leisure Services Department's programs and services

## Communications

Good communication can provide heightened interest in the variety of facilities and programs available and create a better understanding of funding and operations. Effective communication is the most important marketing tool used by most park and recreation agencies. It helps remove misconceptions about the Leisure Services Department's operations and promotes even greater community support.

- Broaden the utilization of social networking programs (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) to inform residents of news and events, and to encourage participation in programs
- Design the web-site to be more interactive and include volunteer opportunities and features that market the Leisure Services Department and keep the public informed
- Utilize all existing Waverly publications and the City web-site to post articles on operations, volunteer initiatives and events/programs
- Feature a park or facility and a program each month (using methods above) to increase the visibility of each facility; information such as history, amenities, events, future and recent improvements and other relevant data can also be sent monthly
- Develop a regional marketing effort to surrounding communities regarding programs that may be unique to Waverly
- Develop a Park/Open Space Ambassador Program to encourage increased participation by volunteers with increased responsibility

## Customer Service

Customer service is an important element in the Leisure Services Department. From assisting with program registration, to taking complaints, to ensuring access to programs and facilities, customer service requires communications skills, adequate technology and collaboration to operate effectively.

- Enhance on-line registration visibility to make it more accessible to all who prefer that method of registration
- Work with the athletic organizations to develop and maintain consistent policies for athletic field use, weather cancellations and concession scheduling that is clear and fair to the users, does not jeopardize quality and provides appropriate levels of service
- Work with local senior communities and transportation providers to ensure that schedules for programs are highly accessible to the non-driving senior population
- Continually monitor the quality of customer service through user satisfaction surveys, including direct point-of-contact questionnaires that can be placed in drop-boxes at each facility and on-line questionnaires when services are provided

## Volunteers

Volunteers are very important to park and recreation agencies. They are critical to the success of special events, maintenance, marketing, fund-raising activities, and for certain tasks as part-time employees. The coordination of volunteers requires staff time; however, the rewards are many. Below are some recommendations to consider regarding volunteers:

- Recruit young volunteers through schools and youth organizations
- Increase the visibility of volunteer opportunities (i.e. website announcements) to give the volunteer program a greater presence and appeal
- Provide volunteer training in order to maintain a high level of quality and customer service
- Maximize the utilization of volunteers with special events, general park maintenance activities, and to engage other organizations (i.e. schools, churches) to assist in annual clean-up events and tasks

## Stewardship

Stewardship should become a very high priority for the City and specifically the Leisure Services Department. Educational programs can help protect natural areas by providing a better understanding of the natural environment. It is also important that the City and the Leisure Services Department be a stewardship leader for the community.

- Plan and budget for a "nature center" or environmental education center to serve as the central facility for environmental programming (or modify an existing structure to house this type of a facility); possibly partner with



Wartburg college

- Install rain gardens and bio-swales on city park property; where native vegetation is installed add interpretative signage to explain the benefits of its utilization
- Encourage the use of biodegradable products throughout City-owned property and facilities
- Provide environmental education programs that promote environmentally sensitive techniques
- Utilize the expertise of area or state environmental agencies to develop environmental programs, presentations and lectures
- Utilize energy-efficient light bulbs throughout Waverly's parks and facilities

## Maintenance and Planning

Maintaining and enhancing existing parks and facilities is another key to the future success of the Leisure Services Department.

- Utilize materials and products that have extended life under extreme wear and tear to prolong replacement schedules
- Control exotic and invasive species that inhibit ecological diversity in natural areas
- Develop more prairie-style landscape areas (native to north central Iowa) on park sites and utilize no-mow grass mixes in non-sports field areas that will reduce the areas to be mowed and, over time, will require significantly less maintenance and care
- Consider training maintenance staff to modify shrub pruning techniques to promote natural growth habits that are healthier and provide greater seasonal interest
- Implement a tree replacement program to ensure long term diversity and health of trees within City-owned property
- Involve maintenance staff in planning for methods to reduce maintenance

## Acquisition

Waverly will likely see continued growth at a moderate pace in the future. This Master Plan demonstrates areas where future parks and open space will be needed to accommodate this growth. Acquiring land or receiving donations will be critical to ensure Waverly has a substantial park and open space system for years to come.

- Revise the subdivision ordinance to establish requirements for park dedication to the City of Waverly by developers
- In addition to the flood properties, target acquisitions of additional land along the Cedar River that can help to create a riparian ecosystem
- Pursue acquisition of land (non-flood property) adjacent to recently acquired flood properties to ensure usable land along the Cedar River
- Communicate and cooperate with the school districts in acquiring and developing lands that offer potential for joint use
- Target acquisition of properties that are adjacent to existing parks and facilities to allow expansion of recreation amenities or additional open space

## Capital Prioritization

The recommendations and implementation within this Master Plan have been developed to provide a focused effort on high priority areas. Capital prioritization will need to be examined closely and periodically to ensure that short and long term projects are funded. See Section 6.4 for funding and capital strategies.

## Programs

Specific programming was not addressed as part of this study since Wartburg College currently runs and manages all programming for the City of Waverly.

## Marketing and Public Relations

Marketing efforts are oftentimes not a primary focus of a city however, they are one of the more important items paramount to the success of the park and open space system. The main goal is to maximize the visibility of the Leisure Services Department's amenities.

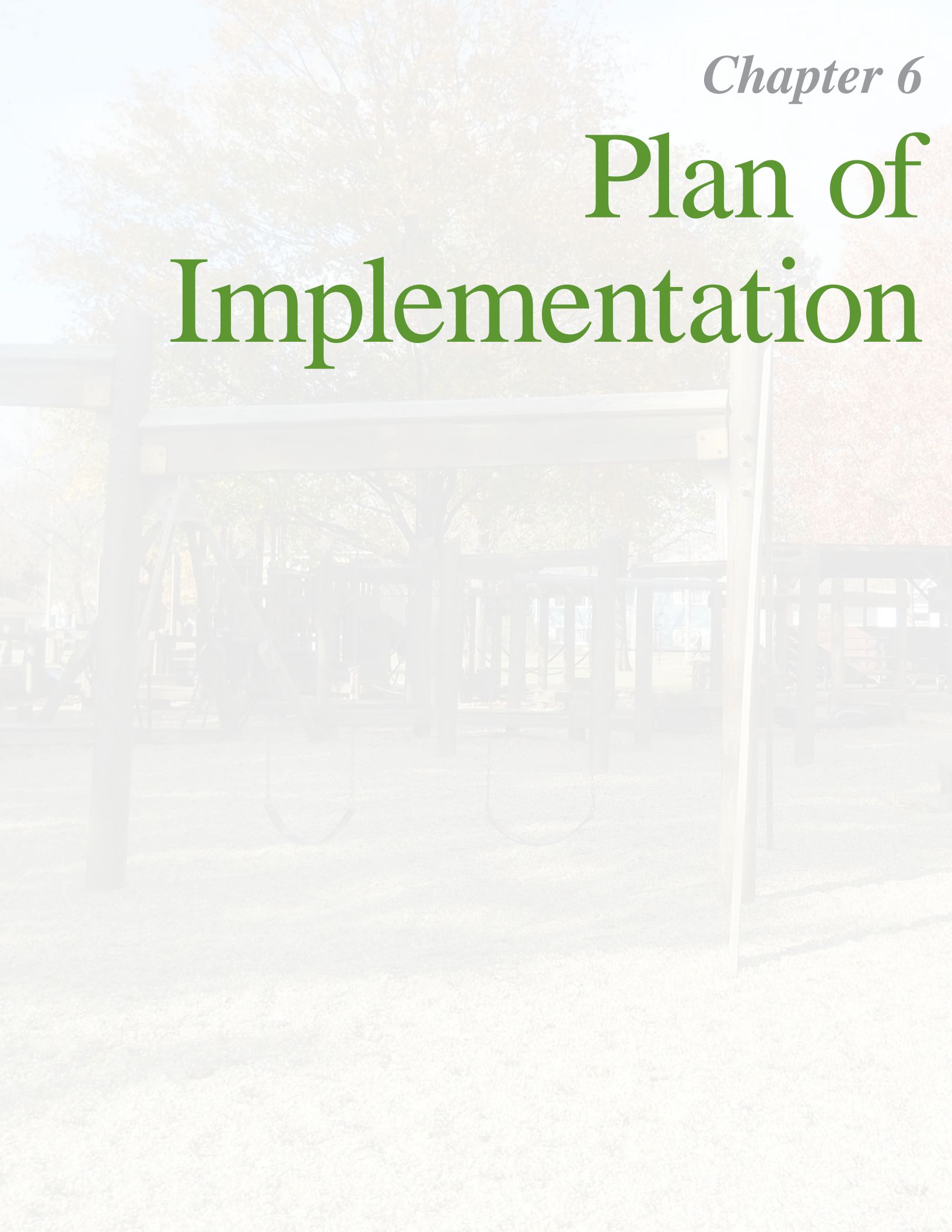
Wartburg College manages and runs the programming for the City of Waverly therefore, marketing efforts listed below focus around parks, trails and general services the Leisure Services Department controls.

- Increase community outreach efforts within Waverly and the surrounding communities
- Utilize e-blasts to promote the Leisure Services Department's programs and efforts
- Increase marketing efforts through Wartburg College and the School District; publicize city use of Wartburg facilities so all residents are aware of the opportunities
- Incorporate the Leisure Services Department's programs and information in new resident packages
- Issue weekly announcements on special events, services and programs to the newspapers, radio and TV stations
- Develop a monthly or quarterly newsletter
- Set up suggestion/complaint boxes in places such as City Hall, the library or the community center
- Develop an annual advertising budget and adopt at least a basic plan for how, when and where to expend the money
- Acquire testimonials and endorsements by end users and include them in promotional materials



*Chapter 6*

# Plan of Implementation



# Chapter 6

The most important part of the Master Plan study is its implementation. The implementation sections provide potential funding opportunities, define priorities, and suggest recommended monitoring methods. The plan also appeals to partners and the public (citizen-based groups) to provide oversight and to be actively involved in implementing the plan. Residents, local government, school districts, law enforcement, local businesses, developers, and other agencies will need to work together to accomplish the overall vision and goals. Successful implementation will require a conscientious effort over many years.

The Master Plan approval steps and process is shown below. Following approval of the plan, implementation steps and action items could be followed in order to ensure this plan moves from paper to reality.

## Master Plan Recommendation and Approval Process

- **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee has been informed of progress and has provided direction throughout the process. This group of individuals has contributed greatly to the creation of the Master Plan. Following approval, some of the members of this Steering Committee may choose to serve on the implementation/follow up team.

- **City Staff**

Waverly staff was involved throughout the process, and reviewed and commented on the 80% complete draft report, as well as the final draft. Once finalized, the Master Plan was submitted to the Economic Development Committee.

- **Leisure Services Commission**

The Leisure Services Commission reviewed the Master Plan and recommended approval to the City Council on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

- **City Council**

The Waverly City Council reviewed the Master Plan and adopted the document on \_\_\_\_\_ (date), as public policy.

## Master Plan Approval and Implementation Steps/Action Items

- **Implementation Team**

Appoint or accept volunteers and create an implementation team that will meet regularly and track progress and effectiveness.

- **On-going Communication and Education**

Promote constant cooperation and communication between all interested parties during and after completion of this study.

- **Modify Key Documents**

The Master Plan makes recommendations that may require modifications to City Codes and Ordinances. Additionally, this Master Plan should guide the Comprehensive Plan.

## 6.1 Park and Open Space Implementation

This section of the City of Waverly Park Open Space Master Plan recommends priorities of park improvements in order to make the plan a reality. Depending on funding opportunities, many of the phases could be combined into one project; or some of the larger recommendations could be split into several projects. It is also recommended that these phases be re-evaluated annually to identify current priorities each year. The recommendations for implementing this Master Plan are based on input received from citizens, city staff and leadership, and direction from HR Green staff. Several times during the process, participants talked about improving upon what is currently in the community before adding new parks and open space areas in Waverly. Therefore, this section focuses primarily on making improvements to existing facilities.

### Priority Recommendations for Specific Parks and Facilities

The following section outlines some of the improvements by priority. Focus was given to those upgrades or improvements that would have the most immediate benefit to the community of Waverly. The approximate time frames for each priority are provided and described below.

*Note: Trail and sidewalk improvements are not addressed in this section. Please refer to the Trail Implementation section for that information.*

#### 1 First Priority Recommendations

Recommendations identified as first priority should be initiated within the next one (1) to (3) three years. These priorities are deemed important because they represent current needs and initiatives, as well as initiatives relative to safety.

#### 2 Second Priority Recommendations

The second priority recommendations should be implemented in a range of three (3) to (5) five years depending on conditions, trends and funding opportunities.

#### 3 Third Priority Recommendations

Third priority recommendations would be scheduled more than five(5) years from now, unless funding opportunities make them viable sooner.



## Park Change of Use

- 1a Gateway Park-need to determine current stormwater capacity/needs; potential trail corridor to Wartburg College
- 1b Kiwanis Park-convert to a natural area and trails (potentially fishing access); eliminate existing playground
- 1c Memorial Park-convert from ball diamonds to other forms of use
- 2a Half Circle Park-change to a natural area/native plant display area
- 2b Second Home Park-convert half to a natural area and keep other half as an open play area (i.e. turf grass) for school use
- 2c Cedar Hill Park-improve trails
- 3a Knott's Playlot-convert to a trail head long term
- 3b Ridgewood Park-natural area with mowed access to the River
- 3c Rail Trail trail head-maybe develop it into a neighborhood park; play equipment, already a shelter there, no parks in SE and could serve part of NE too

## Park Expansion

- 1 Hickory Heights Park (expansion to the west)-may become a community park and thus the space will need to be re-programmed
- 2 Cemetery Expansion-1st phase during the Cedar River Parkway Project; trail along south and access from existing cemetery to expansion on the south
- 3a Prairie Park-need access in the near future
- 3b Northeast Park

## Playground Replacement/Upgrade

- 1a Bridge at East Gate
- 1b Willow Lawn Park
- 1c Brookwood Park (new)
- 2a Rolling Hills Park (new)
- 2b All parks with playground equipment-implement defined edges to hold in the surface material (i.e. mulch) on all playground areas
- 3a Rail Trail trail head-new train theme
- 3b Kid's Kingdom (long term)

## Picnic Shelter Additions/Improvements

- 1 Memorial Park-by Kid's Kingdom
- 2 Brookwood Park-shelter and restrooms
- 3a Hickory Heights Park (long term all parks should have standard pavilion structures)
- 3b South Riverside Park-historic shelter

## Improved Vehicular Access or Parking Improvements

- 1a Memorial Park-hard surface parking lot
- 1b Kohlmann Park-add parking spaces where feasible if bandshell is located here
- 2a Hickory Heights Park-currently no access or parking areas
- 2b Kiwanis Park-needs better defined access and parking areas
- 3a Rolling Hills Park
- 3b Rugby Park
- 3c Memorial Park
- 3d Prairie Park (no current access or parking)
- 3e Rail Trail trail head

## Ball Fields and/or Improvements

- 1a New complex west of City on Highway 3
- 1b Memorial Park-re-construct ball fields/create more fields if project does not come to fruition
- 2 Kiwanis Park (Little League Complex)-1 field for practice only (if new ball field complex moves forward)
- 3 Willow Lawn, Eastgate and Hickory Heights-improved backstops

## Fishing Pier/Access for Fishing

- 1a Kohlmann Park
- 1b "Riverbend Park"-new flood property
- 2a South Riverside Park-south end of the park
- 3a Ridgewood Park
- 3b Three Rivers Park-handicap fishing pier to existing pond and/or Cedar River
- 3c North of Civic Center
- 3d South Riverside Park-improve access

## Boat Access/Canoe/Kayak Launch

- 1a 12th Street NW (potential buy-out property)  
*Note: or another location on the north end of Waverly*
- 1b Three Rivers Park-make improvements for easier launching
- 2a Pelikan Park
- 2b South Riverside Park-improve accessibility to the Cedar River
- 2c "Riverbend Park"
- 2d North of Civic Center
- 3a Kohlmann (may be too close to the dam)
- 3b Brookwood Park

## Disc Golf Expansion/Upgrade

- 1 Brookwood Park

## Skate Park Expansion/Upgrade/Replacement

- 1 Currently at Memorial Park-potential relocation and improvements

## Tennis Additions/Improvements

- 1 Upgrade lights for energy efficiency

*No other tennis court needs at this time*

## Bleachers/Seating Areas

- 1 Rugby Park

## Basketball Additions/Improvements

- 1 Memorial Park
- 2 Brookwood Park-one nice court
- 3a South Riverside Park
- 3b Juhl Park-upgrade existing court

## Signage

- 1 All parks need entrance signage upgrades (exceptions are where signs have been more recently upgraded such as Juhl Park, Willow Lawn Park, others?)

Priority should be as follows:

Harlington Cemetery, Kohlmann Park, Three Rivers Park, South Riverside Park, Brookwood Park

## Landscape Improvements or Changes

- 1a Wastewater Treatment Facility-need to buffer area around this facility
- 1b Ridgewood Park-convert to native plantings
- 1c “Riverbend Park” (flood buy-out property)-convert to native plantings
- 2 Knotts Playlot-screen above ground infrastructure
- 3a Rugby Park-add defined spectator/gathering areas with plantings (i.e. shade trees) and naturalize existing concrete drainage north side of park/along Highway
- 3b Second Home Park-screen existing building
- 3c Three Rivers Park-screen water building
- 3d Cedar Hill Park
- 3e Prairie Park-need native prairie areas
- 3f Juhl Park

## Shade Trees

- 1a Memorial Park-around ball fields if facility is staying at this location
- 1b Juhl Park -for basketball area
- 1c City wide
  - Develop a program to manage current ash tree population
  - Shade trees to be placed in all “active” locations such as seating areas and playgrounds
- 2 Rugby Park-next to future seating areas
- 3a Ridgewood and Brookwood Parks-existing trees life expectancy is nearing an end; City should begin planting young oaks and native trees in these parks
- 3b Rolling Meadows-replace ash trees
- 3c Rolling Hills Park
- 3d Pool-replace Silver Maples with better species
- 3e Eastgate Park

## Benches & Picnic Tables

- 1 All parks with play equipment should have a bench and/or table

## Drinking Fountain

- 1 Upgrade Brookwood Park, Amvets Shelter, South Riverside Park, Droste, the Visitor Center

## Bicycle Racks

- 1 Kohlmann Park-on north side
- 2 Memorial Park
- 3 Trailheads

*Note: Long term all parks should have bicycle racks*

## View Area/Overlook

- 1 Ridgewood Park
- 2 Kohlmann Park
- 3a “Riverbend Park”
- 3b Cedar Hill Park

## Restrooms

- 1 Replace Visitor Center-Memorial Park
- 2 South Riverside Park
- 3 Brookwood Park



## Flood Buyout Properties

Regarding Master Plan Recommendations #3 and #11, ideas are provided for future use of the flood buy-out properties including the Dry Run Creek Corridor Greenway, community gardens, a network of rain gardens, trailheads and pocket parks to name a few. In order to achieve this long term plan an outline of steps for the initial phases is provided below. The first phase(s) of the Dry Run Creek Greenway are expected to begin on the south end of the project (**See Exhibit 'I'**).

First steps and phase(s) only:

- Install two community gardens **(2011/2012)**
- Install a minimum of two rain gardens for public display and education purposes **(2012/2013)**
- Provide funding in the city budget each year for potential purchase of key properties (non-flood properties) to create a cohesive and interconnected greenway **(annually beginning in 2012)**
- Stub and vacate at least 2 streets south of West Bremer Avenue and begin the process of converting to open space **(2012/2013)**
- Pursue funding and design plans for the sound end of the Dry Run Creek Greenway **(2012)**
- Pursue funding and design plans for 6th Street Greenway improvements. Include Complete Streets concepts such as including a bike trail (or bike lane) on one side, sidewalk on other side and storm water management solutions (i.e. rain gardens, bio-swales) **(2013)**
- Install 1st phase of Dry Run Creek Greenway Corridor (south end from 2nd Avenue SW to 7th Avenue SW) including one pocket park and the 1st phase of the trail from South Riverside Park to 2nd Avenue **(2014/2015)**
- Install 1st phase of 6th Street Greenway improvements **(2015/2016)**

*Note: Future phases need to be identified and studied over the next three to five years.*

## Memorial Park/Fairgrounds Property and the new 'Central Park'

Per Master Plan Recommendation #12, much discussion has revolved around the existing Bremer County Fairgrounds and Memorial Park Property. If the planned Sports Complex west of Waverly moves forward, the existing ball fields will be removed from Memorial Park. Additionally, the Bremer Country Fairgrounds would relocate to the same facility, therefore, the existing property would be open for re-development of park uses. Listed below are implementation steps the City of Waverly should pursue to make this concept become a reality.

First steps and phase(s) only:

- Finalize purchase of property for the new sports complex and finalize plans for the facility **(2011/2012)**
- Relocate Parks Maintenance Facility from South Riverside Park to the Bremer County Fairgrounds **(upon the Bremer County Fair moving to the new facility)**
- Demolish buildings at South Riverside Park **(after moving the maintenance facility)**
- Begin programming and design of new "Central Park" **(2013)**
- Begin construction of "Phase One" of Central Park **(2014/2015)**
- Begin programming and design of South Riverside Park **(2015-2016)**

*Note: Future phases need to be identified and studied over the next three to five years.*

## 6.2 Trail Implementation

The Trail Master Plan recommends specific priorities and action items to foster implementation. Continued communication and involvement by multiple individuals, organizations and agencies is critical to the success of this project. The stakeholders in the immediate region will need to work closely together to take this Master Plan study from paper to reality. Once the Trail Master Plan was drafted, the project team needed to prioritize and determine appropriate phasing of trail projects, in order to be most effective and efficient with the funding allocated to this effort. A consensus was reached regarding final trail locations and priority areas. Overall, the Trail Master Plan identifies routes of high priority and medium priority.

### Priority Trails

A priority list of trail projects (high, medium and low) has been created (**See Exhibit 'F'**). The following factors dictated and guided decisions when assigning trail priority:

- Potential connections linking to existing/constructed trail segments (**See Exhibit 'E'**)
- Responsive to community input and needs
- Direct routes and connections to key destination points (shopping areas, schools, residential areas)
- Potential funding and feasibility
- Safety factors
- Potential user volumes
- Equal geographic distribution to residents in the study area (loop system)
- Land availability and easements that may be needed
- Potential connections with other municipalities (i.e. Shell Rock)
- Pleasant environmental trail surroundings for various levels of riders
- Minimal crossings of natural features

Some segments in currently undeveloped sections of the study area are likely to be constructed as residential and commercial developments occur, as part of the improvements for that project, thus, the timing will be dictated by the location of development activity. Therefore, it is difficult to prioritize and predict the timing of these segments, as it depends on many factors, such as pace and location of development activity.

### List of High Priority Corridors

1. 10th Avenue SW
2. 8th Street SE/Brookwood Park Extension
3. Cedar Lane Drive
4. 3rd Street SW
5. 20th Street NW/Heritage Way/IA 3
6. Wartburg College Connection
7. 6th Street NW/SW

*Note: See **Exhibit 'F'** for medium and low priority corridors*

### General Trail Maintenance Program

All of the existing paths in Waverly are relatively new, and have not yet experienced significant deterioration. However, the importance of maintaining bicyclist safety and enjoyment through a proactive trail maintenance plan cannot be understated. Therefore, a trail maintenance component should be included within Waverly's Capital Improvement Program Budget, in order to keep the trail system operating at maximum effectiveness. Typical trail maintenance includes:

- Shoulder maintenance
- Re-painting striping and markings
- Crack filling, seal coating
- Pavement patching
- Resurfacing

*Note: For on-street bike lanes and routes, maintenance should be part of the annual Public Works Department budget program*



Waverly should keep track of user complaints and results from inspections, and then complete maintenance on an “as-needed” basis. It is important to identify and prioritize system maintenance needs often, and make sure a portion of the City’s Capital Improvement Budget is allocated to trail maintenance. An estimated time line of routine maintenance are outlined below:

Maintenance Item	Approximate Time Frame
Shoulder Maintenance	Annually
Re-Painting Pavement Markings	3 years
Bituminous (Asphalt) Seal Coating	3 years
Crack Filling	5 years
Pavement Patching (Bituminous-Asphalt)	5-8 years
Pavement Patching (Concrete)	7-10 years
Re-Painting Pavement Markings (If Thermoplastic)	10 years
Pavement Resurfacing	12-15 years
New Trail Construction/Reconstruction	20-25 years

### 6.3 Opinion of Probable Cost

#### Trail Maintenance Cost Estimates

The following are the typical annual maintenance costs for one mile of paved trail (these figures are based on national average – the costs will vary for individual trails):

Drainage and Storm Channel Maintenance	\$500-800
Sweeping/Blowing Debris off Trailhead	\$1,200-1,500
Pickup and Removal of Trash	\$1,200-1,500
Weed Control and Vegetation Management	\$1,000-1,300
Mowing of 3-Foot Grass Shoulder Along Trail	\$1,200-1,800
Minor Repairs to Trail Furniture/Safety Features	\$500-\$1,000

#### Park and Trail Cost Assumptions

Estimated costs provided are for budgetary purposes only. The following assumptions should be understood when utilizing this information.

- Cost ranges will depend on project size and are rough estimates only
- Cost ranges could vary based on various sizes of projects where a lower cost is more indicative of a large quantity project, and the higher cost associated with a smaller project
- Calculations for shared use trails assume a bituminous material only
- Costs do not including engineering, land acquisitions, testing or environmental fees and the like
- Contingency of 15% is added to cost



## Park Components Construction Costs

Because specific components for each of the parks and trails mentioned in this Master Plan have not been determined and every site is unique, a range of costs are provided for general budgeting purposes only. It is recommended that an opinion of probable cost be determined during the design phase of each of the aforementioned projects to more accurately determine construction costs for the projects.

Playground	\$12,500.00	-	\$65,000.00
Picnic Shelter	\$15,000.00	-	\$50,000.00
Restroom	\$45,000.00	-	\$75,000.00
Parking (per square yard)	\$65.00	-	\$90.00
Ball Field	\$10,000.00	-	\$20,000.00
Basketball Court (concrete base)	\$27,500.00	-	\$50,000.00
Disc Golf	\$7,000.00	-	\$10,000.00
Fishing Pier	\$20,000.00	-	\$40,000.00
Boat Access/Canoe/Kayak Launch	\$50,000.00	-	\$75,000.00
View Area/Overlook	\$10,000.00	-	\$20,000.00
Bandshell	\$50,000.00	-	\$75,000.00
Site Furniture			
Bench	\$750.00	-	\$1,500.00
Picnic Table	\$1,000.00	-	\$2,500.00
Water Fountain	\$8,000.00	-	\$12,000.00
Trash Receptacle	\$750.00	-	\$1,500.00
Bicycle Rack	\$500.00	-	\$1,000.00
Lighting (per light pole)	\$3,000.00	-	\$5,000.00
Signage	\$2,000.00	-	\$8,000.00
Bleacher/Seating Area	\$1,000	-	\$5,000
Landscape Improvements	Varies by type of improvement/restoration		
Shade Trees	\$300.00	-	\$600.00

## Trail Construction Costs (Approximate)

Trail construction costs can vary due to a variety of factors, including local conditions, trail type (use mode), and support services. These cost estimates, therefore, are general guidelines for the purpose of preliminary estimation of trail costs. More detailed cost estimation should be performed, particularly at the time of application for funding, during preliminary design, and prior to bidding for construction.

*Note: All costs per linear foot are assuming an 8' width*

Asphalt trail (off-street)	\$35-45 per linear foot
<i>Assumes 8" Aggregate Base, and includes excavation, aggregate bases course, bituminous material, landscape (grass shoulder) and drainage)</i>	
Asphalt trail (on-street)	\$30-40 per linear foot
Concrete (widened sidewalk or new)	\$45 per linear foot
Limestone aggregate path	\$10-15 per linear foot
<i>Assumes limestone material is 8" thick compacted</i>	
Striping and signing for bike lanes	\$3 per linear foot
Asphalt resurfacing (2 inch overlay)	\$10 per linear foot

## Trail Priority Corridors

(Refer to **Exhibit 'F' Trail Master Plan Priorities** for Locations)



#	Trail Corridor Name	Approx. Length (Feet)	Type of Surface	Cost Per Linear Foot	Approx. Total Cost
1	<b>10th Avenue SW</b> East/West direction to be built adjacent to follow new road alignment	14,817 lf	Concrete	\$45.00	\$666,765.00
2	<b>Brookwood Extension</b> North/South direction from Brookwood Park to Soccer Complex/Centennial Oaks Golf Club	4,438 lf	Asphalt	\$35.00	\$155,330.00
3	<b>Cedar Lane Drive</b> Where feasible add a widened shoulder with markings for a trail/walk	8,002 lf	Asphalt (Widened Shoulder)	\$35.00	\$280,070.00
4	<b>3rd Street SW</b> North/South direction-complete segments along this corridor	3,644 lf	Concrete	\$45.00	\$163,980.00
5	<b>Heritage Way (Highway 3)</b> Detached trail parallel to this vehicular route-connect to future sports complex and Shell Rock	8,431 lf	Concrete	\$45.00	\$379,395.00
6	<b>Wartburg College Connection</b> East/West connection from 12th Street NW to 20th Street NW west of Wartburg	2,695 lf	Asphalt	\$35.00	\$94,325.00
7	<b>6th Street NW</b> Bike lanes or detached asphalt trail where feasible	3,986 lf	Asphalt	\$35.00	\$139,510.00

## 6.4 Funding Strategies (Local, State, Federal, Other)

Based on the recommendations a listing of capital improvements and associated budgets will be presented as a guide for determining future capital expenditures for Waverly. The projects are given first, second, third and fourth priority ratings, with some recommended projects dependent upon the completion of other projects prior to initiation. While most of the recommendations will be small to medium-scale capital projects, there are some larger-scale projects included that should be considered and implemented as funding becomes available and needs become more evident. Additional projects will be included that may be considered as 'maintenance' or as capital projects should their scope warrant such designation. The projects are presented by park and by overall priority.

### Master Plan Recommendation # 26

*Pursue Multiple Forms of Funding Options in Order to Execute the Trail Master Plan and to Provide Financial Means for Short and Long-Term Maintenance of Trail Facilities*

Many trails are planned and implemented with funding assistance from the state or federal level. A variety of programs are available to assist local units of government with the development of trails and greenways. These programs differ in the amount of funding assistance, requirements of the local units of government and administration methodology. Funding for projects may come from a combination of Federal grant funds, State grant funds, City fee programs, TIF districts, special service areas or other community financing districts, gas tax, and transportation sales tax. The following funding strategies are recommended and described in detail below:

*Note: Funding programs through state and federal funding change periodically and the latest information should be obtained when pursuing.*

## Federal Funding

- The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and its successor, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), provided eligibility for pedestrian and bicycle transportation facilities, including trails. After 2003, new legislation, titled the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFETEA), should continue to provide funding for such projects.
- The Federal-Aid Highway Program provides financial assistance to the states to construct and improve the National Highway System, other major roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and trails. Trail projects have to compete for funding with other eligible transportation projects.
- The Surface Transportation Program (STP) provides funding for all types of transportation projects, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Projects are selected through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), created yearly by the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study, for projects within the metropolitan planning boundary. Outside the planning boundary, projects are selected through the State Highway Improvement Program. Within STP funding, there are several unique funding programs:
- Safety: 10% of STP funds are available only for safety programs, such as railway-highway crossing projects and hazard elimination.
- Transportation Enhancements: 10% of STP funds are available for projects that include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, educational programs, landscaping, and historic preservation, among other factors. Transportation Enhancement funds flow through the State of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the designated regional planning agency. This grant program is a competitive program that requires a full project submittal and there is typically a fund matching component.
- The Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) provides funding for greenways and trails projects, if one can demonstrate an air quality benefit. This program is administered by the State of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).
- The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the states to develop and maintain recreational trails for motorized and non-motorized trails and trail-related projects.
- The Public Lands Highways Discretionary Program (PLH) provides assistance to improve access to, and within, federal lands.
- The National Scenic Byways Program provides funding for state scenic byways programs and improvements.
- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, offers grants to communities for neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improvements to community facilities and services, which can include trails.
- The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants are used by federal agencies to acquire additions to national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. They are also available for communities.

## State Funding

### Parks

- Community Attraction and Tourism and River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism Program (CAT/RECAT, respectively) is administered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development and can provide up to 50 percent of the funding necessary for vertical infrastructure that is associated with a regional community attraction and/or tourism venue. A separate but related program provides funding for improvements that are associated with river, lake or other acceptable water related enhancements.
- Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and can provide 15 percent of its annual allocation for city parks and open space. Funding awards are based on current population figures. Waverly's current population 8,968 could provide up to \$100,000 in financial support – with no local match requirement. Parkland expansion and multipurpose recreational developments are typical projects funded by REAP.
- Iowa Brownfield Redevelopment Fund can be used to convert an environmentally impaired property to a constructive reuse – including parkland areas.

### Trails

- Community Attraction and Tourism and River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism Program (CAT/RECAT, respectively) – see description above.
- Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) – see description above.



- Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) is administered by the Iowa Department of Transportation and provides funding for transportation improvements that reduce air pollution produced by automobiles – including pedestrian trails.
- State Recreational Trails Program is administered by the Iowa DOT and as its name suggests, provides funding for recreational trails.
- Transportation Enhancement. This program is administered by the state and local Regional Planning Authority.
- Safe Routes to Schools is administered by the Iowa DOT and provides infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements to enable students to walk or ride bicycles to school.

## Local Funding Sources

### Parks

- General fund support can be directed by the City Council as part of its annual budgeting activities.
- A bond referendum is a local funding tool that, subject to an affirmative vote of the affected voters, creates a funding mechanism for new park area(s). This improvement is defined as a “general corporate purpose.” As such, cities choosing to create a funding mechanism for new parks are subject to a referendum of the affected voters. However, if the proposed project includes an expansion of an existing park, the project is defined as an “essential corporate purpose” and negates the requirement of a vote.
- Local Option Sales Tax is also subject to local voter approval. This option creates a \$0.01 local sales tax that can be dedicated to a wide array of purposes. These purposes are stated in a referendum and subject to vote of the citizenry.
- Parkland Dedication Ordinances can be adopted by City Councils. These ordinances can subject certain developments to dedicate or set aside a specific amount of land for parks and related open space needs.
- Tax Increment Financing is not directly associated with funding park improvements; however, tax increment revenue derived from taxable improvements within a designated urban renewal area can be directed to certain park related improvements.
- Self-Supported Municipal Improvement Districts can be used to create and/or maintain park areas. Areas are designated by the City Council and proceeds of the SSMID levy are directed by the SSMID Commission.
- INRCOG (Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments)-The City of Waverly and INRCOG have a partnership history and will continue to pursue funding through this association in future years

### Trails

*Note: Items listed above in the section “Local Funding Sources-Parks” are also relevant with Trail funding projects. Other funding potential funding sources are listed below for trails.*

- Sales taxes can be used to raise funds for trail acquisition and development.
- “Trail Bank” - one-time charges levied by a local government on new development that can be used to finance trails and other projects located outside the boundary of development.
- Require developers to provide public trails as part of development.
- General obligation bonds can be used to fund greenways and trails projects, but many but require referenda. Referendum is an opportunity to educate the public and build support for trail programs.
- The local Capital Improvements Program can have a yearly trails appropriation.

## Private Sector Funding Sources

### Parks

- Philanthropic organizations (i.e., foundations) also commit funds to local endeavors and certain project types. For example, the Waverly Community Foundation, sponsored by the State Bank of Waverly may be positioned to participate in various park and/or trail projects.
- Many community based organizations conduct project specific local fund raising efforts. Often times this includes hosting fund raising activities which can include selling personalized bricks to finding sponsors to purchase specific park improvements (e.g., benches, picnic tables, etc.).

*Note: Funding sources listed below for Trails may also be relevant for Private Sector sources for Parks.*

## *Trails*

- Local businesses can donate funds for specific trail segments or amenities, donate services to reduce the cost of developing trails, reduce the costs of materials for trail construction, and/or contribute employee volunteer time to work on trail projects.
- A land trust is typically a private, nonprofit organization that is engaged in the protection and conservation of real estate, which can include trail corridors. Local organizations can play a key role in trail development and construction.
- Local and national foundations can be solicited for trail funding; local foundations are more likely to fund local interests than national foundations.
- Service clubs can hold fund-raisers for greenways and trails projects.
- Individual sponsors can contribute to greenways and trails projects by sponsoring the purchase of facilities or parts of a trail.
- Volunteer work can decrease construction costs of trail projects.
- “Buy-a-Foot” programs raise funds and promote awareness of trail projects. Public-private partnerships have been deemed the most successful way to raise funding for greenways and trails projects.





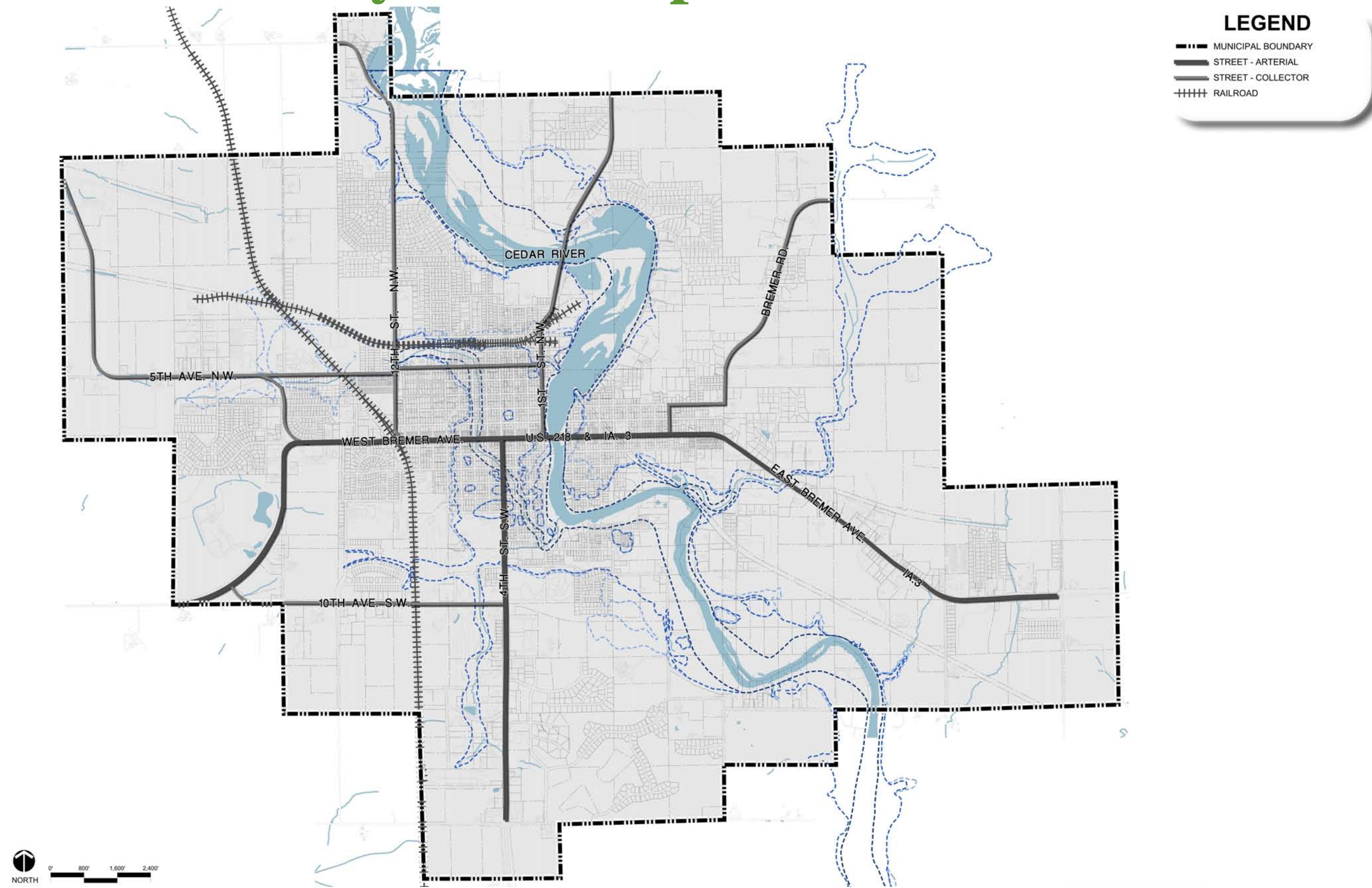
*Appendix A*

# Exhibits

**Page Left Intentionally Blank**



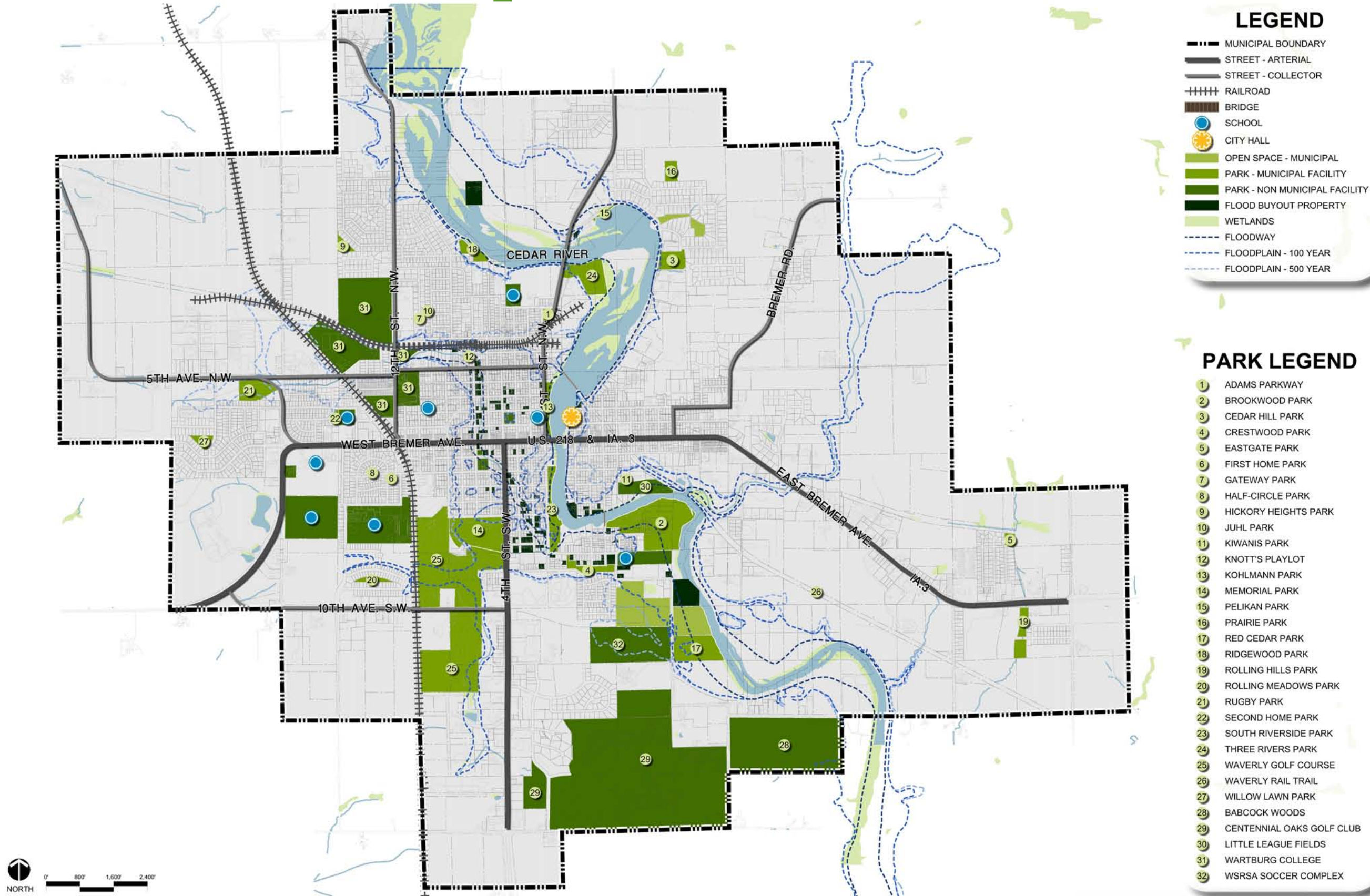
# Exhibit 'A' Study Area Map



Page Left Intentionally Blank



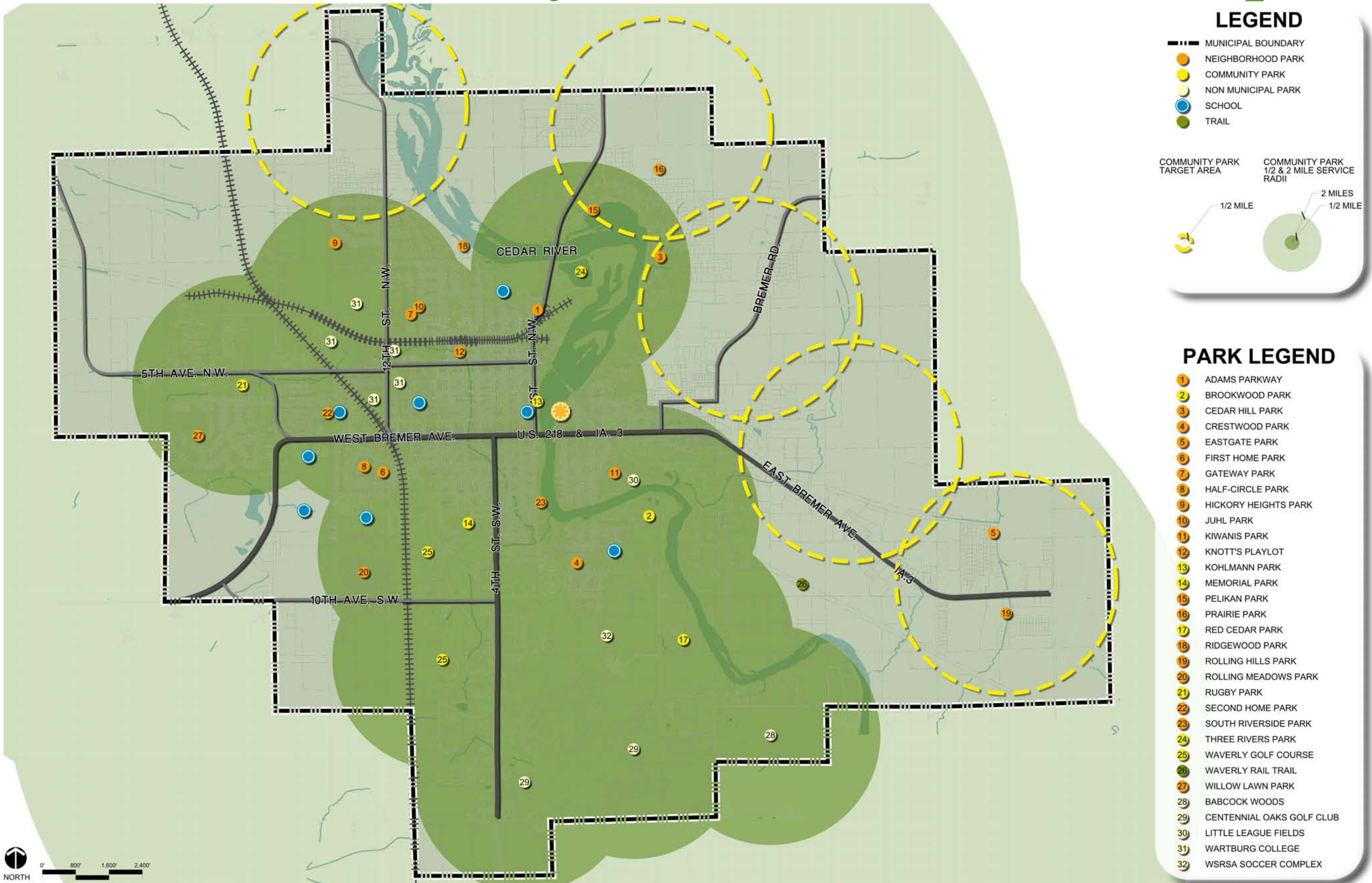
# Exhibit 'B' Base Map



Page Left Intentionally Blank



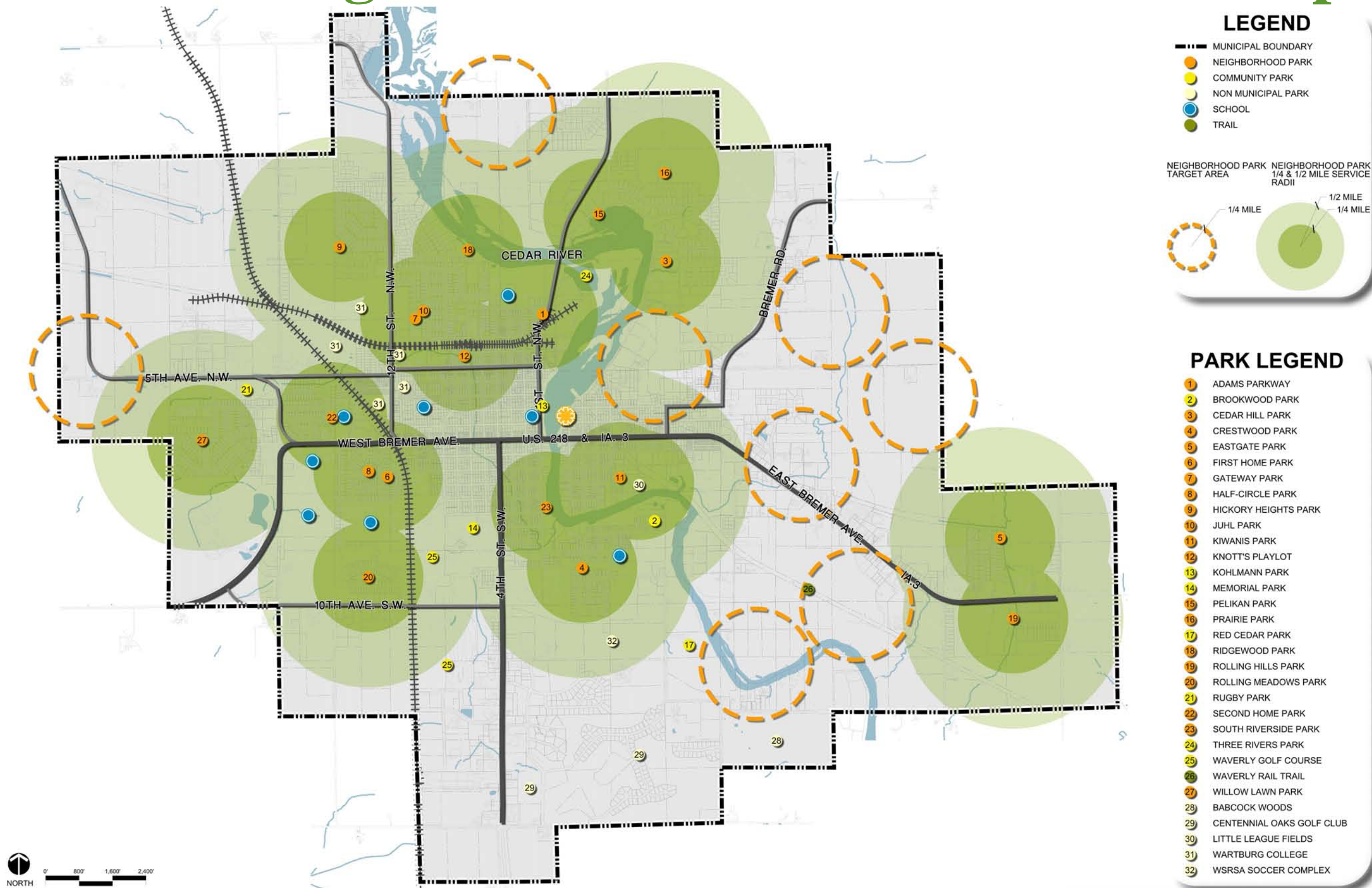
# ■Exhibit ‘C’ Community Parks Service Area Map



Page Left Intentionally Blank



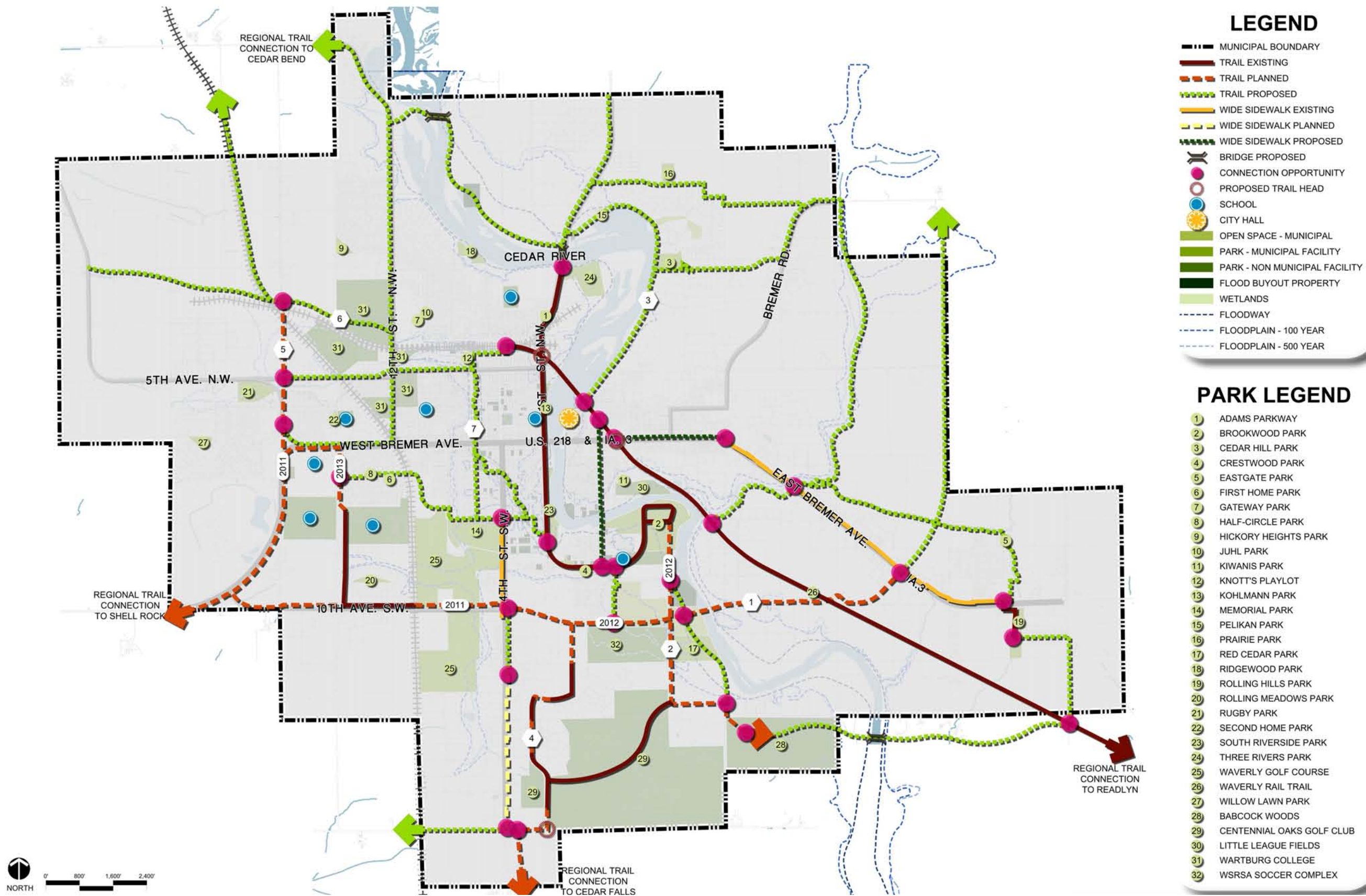
# Exhibit 'D' Neighborhood Parks Service Area Map



Page Left Intentionally Blank



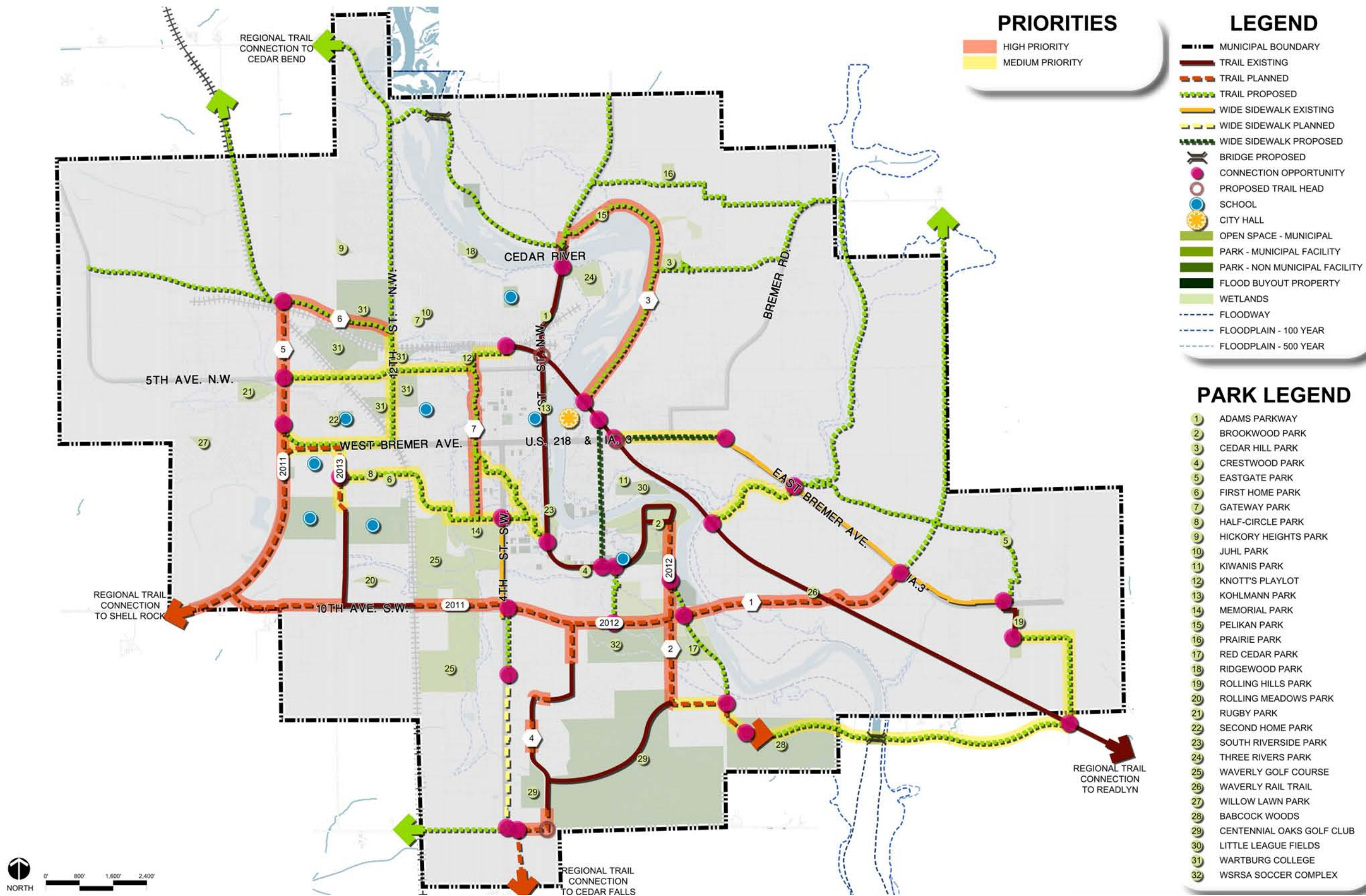
# Exhibit 'E' Trail Master Plan



Page Left Intentionally Blank



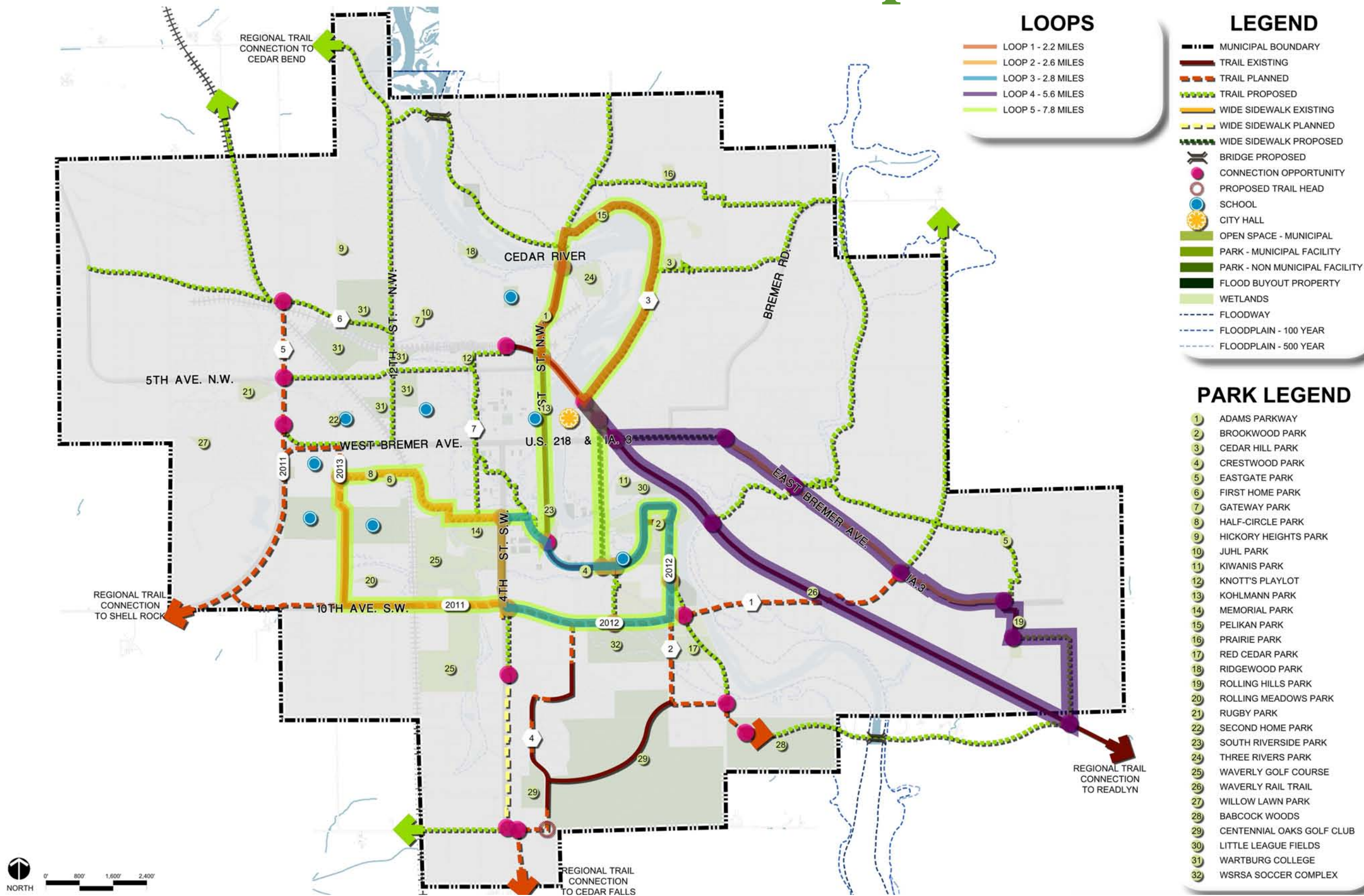
# Exhibit 'F' Trail Master Plan Priorities



Page Left Intentionally Blank



# Exhibit 'G' Trail Master Plan Loops



Page Left Intentionally Blank



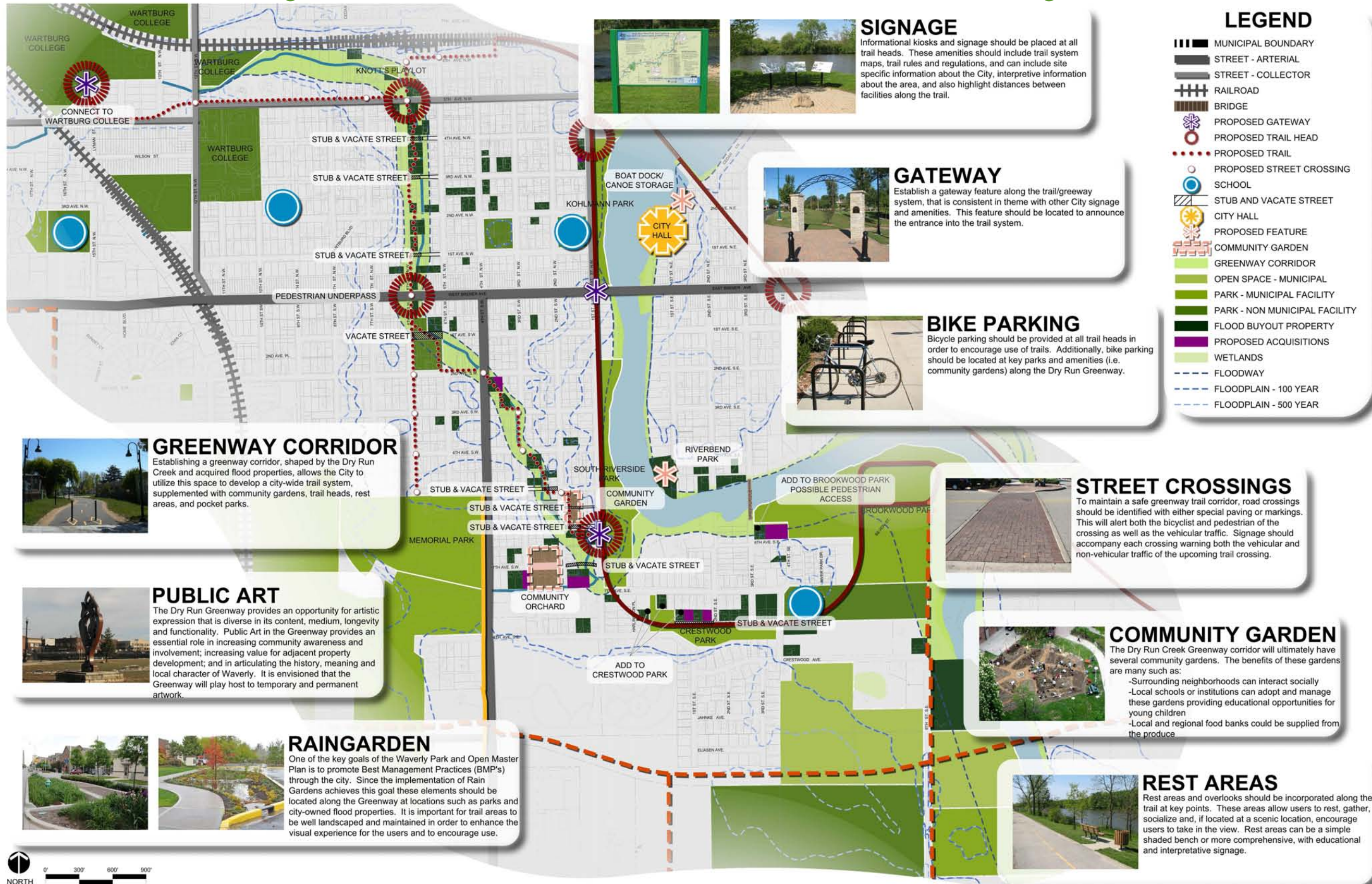
# ■Exhibit ‘H’ Dry Run Creek Corridors Study Area



Page Left Intentionally Blank



# ■ Exhibit ‘I’ Dry Run/Cedar River Greenway Corridor Plan

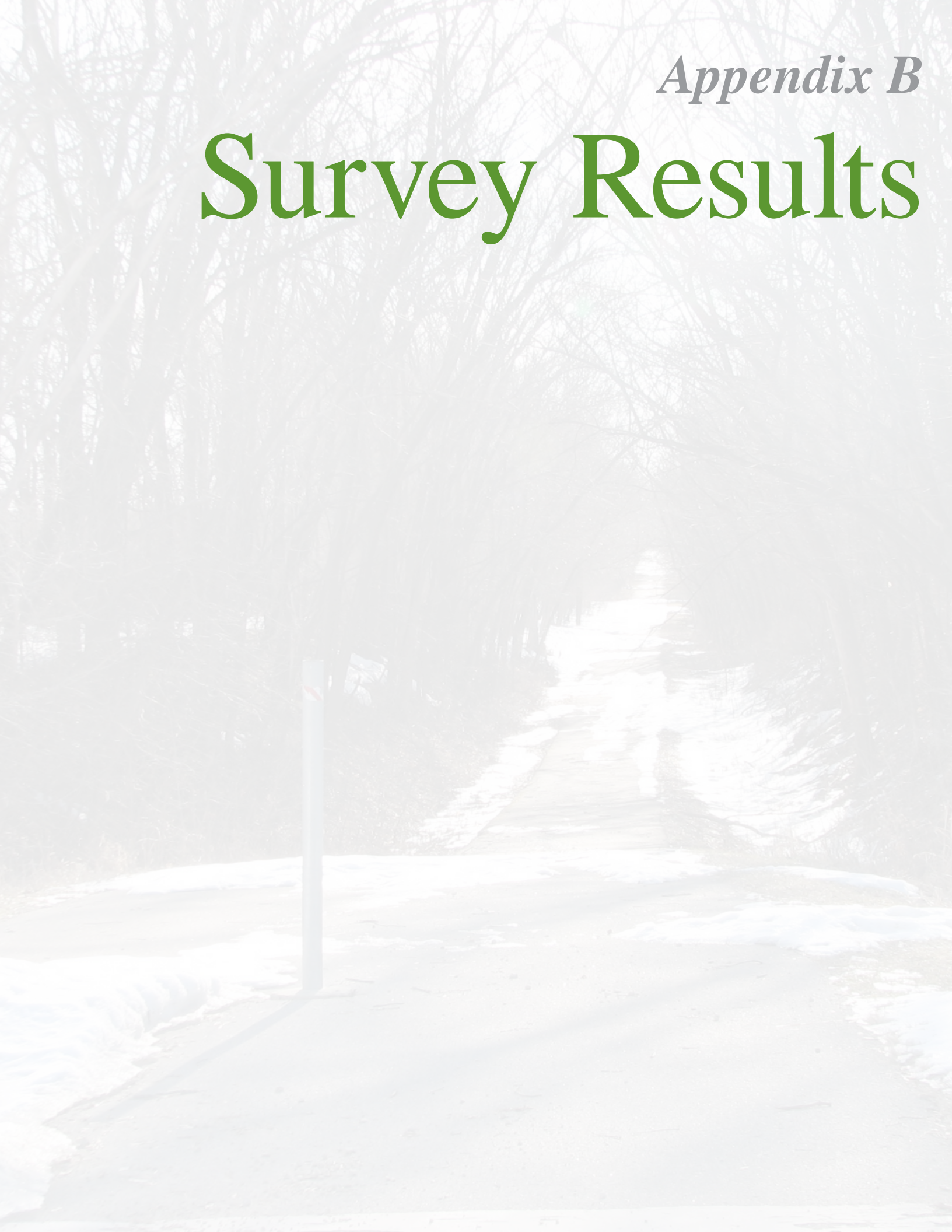


Page Left Intentionally Blank







*Appendix B*



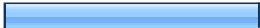
# Survey Results



## 1. How long have you or your family lived in Waverly?


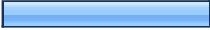





		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 1 Year		4.9%	20
1-5 Years		27.1%	110
6-10 Years		11.6%	47
Over 10 Years		56.4%	229
answered question			406
skipped question			2

## 2. How familiar are you with Waverly's Parks, Open Spaces and Trail system? Select one.




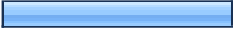

		Response Percent	Response Count
Not Familiar		7.4%	30
Somewhat Familiar		51.5%	210
Very Familiar		41.2%	168
answered question			408
skipped question			0





















**3. Where do you get information on Waverly's Parks, Open Spaces and Trails? Check all that apply.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
City maps (paper)		26.5%	106
On-line (internet)		33.3%	133
Community recreation brochure		27.0%	108
Driving around the community		67.5%	270
<b>Walking/Biking on the trails or while visiting the parks</b>		<b>71.5%</b>	<b>286</b>
Friends/Co-workers/Neighbors and other people in the community		59.3%	237
Other (Please List)		4.5%	18
	Other (please specify)		28
	<b>answered question</b>		<b>400</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>		<b>8</b>








**4. What importance do you think parks, outdoor facilities, open space and trails play in the quality of life in Waverly?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Not important		0.2%	1
Somewhat important		6.2%	25
Indifferent		1.7%	7
Important		36.9%	148
<b>Very Important</b>		<b>54.9%</b>	<b>220</b>
	<b>answered question</b>		<b>401</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>		<b>7</b>

### 5. Which of the following City Parks do you visit most frequently? Select 3

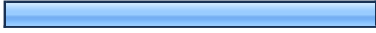






		Response Percent	Response Count
Waverly Golf Course (705 8th Street SW)		34.8%	126
Brookwood Park (415 6th Ave SE)		14.6%	53
Cedar Hill Park (400 Brown Lane NE)		3.9%	14
Crestwood Park (200 8th Parkway SE)		4.1%	15
Eastgate Park (220 Elm St. NE)		0.3%	1
First Home Park (1299 2nd Ave. SW)		4.4%	16
Gateway Park (903 9th Ave. NW)		3.6%	13
Half-Circle Park (1308 1/2 2nd Ave. SW)		1.9%	7
Hickory Heights Park (1312 Dalton Drive NW)		7.5%	27
Juhl Park (1001 9th St. NW)		8.8%	32
Kiwanis Park (405 3rd Ave. SE)		8.3%	30
Knott's Playlot (601 6th Ave. NW)		1.4%	5
<b>Kohlmann Park (101 1st St. NW)</b>		<b>79.0%</b>	<b>286</b>
Memorial/Fairgrounds Park (403 5th Ave. SW)		51.7%	187
Pelikan Park (1401 Cedar Lane Dr. NE)		11.6%	42
Prairie Park (311 Tumbleweed Trail)		2.8%	10
Red Cedar Park (1301 8th Street SE)		3.9%	14
Ridgewood Park (734 Greenfield Ave. NW)		3.0%	11



Rolling Meadow Park (1322 Robertson Road SW)		1.7%	6
Rugby Field (400 21st St. NW)		3.3%	12
Second Home Park (1714 2nd Ave. NW)		2.5%	9
South Riverside Park (319 1st St. SW)		23.8%	86
Three Rivers Park (1004 Adams Parkway NW)		6.6%	24
Willow Lawn (203 24th St. NW)		6.6%	24
Boat Ramp (1006 Adams Parkway)		9.7%	35
answered question			362
skipped question			46


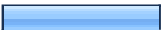













6. Why do you visit this/these park(s) most often? Check all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Proximity to home/work		60.0%	213
Type of equipment/amenity offered (playground equipment, ball field, disc golf course, etc.)		53.2%	189
Access to park from a sidewalk or trail		45.9%	163
Availability of parking on/near site		16.3%	58
Handicap accessible		1.4%	5
Type of activity held at the park (e.g. baseball games, community or school event)		43.1%	153
Other:		8.7%	31
Other (please specify)			37
answered question			355
skipped question			53



7. If you do not use the park or trail system, or do not use them as often as you would like, what are the reasons? Check all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Lack of time		69.9%	190
Lack of awareness of what is available		25.0%	68
Lack of on-road designated bike lanes.		10.7%	29
Lack of trail heads/parking		4.4%	12
Lack of trail connectivity		24.6%	67
Lack of parking near facilities		6.3%	17
Lack of safe route to park/open spaces		6.3%	17
Lack of equipment/facilities		7.0%	19
Cleanliness of the facilities is not adequate for me/my family		4.0%	11
Security/Safety in the parks is not adequate for me/my family		2.9%	8
Facilities not accessible to people with special needs		0.4%	1
Facilities closed due to flooding, weather, conditions, etc.		3.3%	9
Other (please list)		6.3%	17
Other (please specify)			24
answered question			272
skipped question			136

8. Please use letters A-C in the blank boxes below to identify how many times you or your family visited the following Waverly and surrounding facilities during the past year. (If you did not visit any of the following facilities, leave the box empty).

	A (1-4 Times)	B (5-10 Times)	C (More than 10 Times)	Response Count
Centennial Golf Driving Range	<b>74.0% (71)</b>	11.5% (11)	14.6% (14)	96
Waverly Golf Course	<b>60.1% (116)</b>	16.6% (32)	23.3% (45)	193
Community Trails	32.0% (78)	27.9% (68)	<b>40.2% (98)</b>	244
Rail Trail	32.3% (93)	25.0% (72)	<b>42.7% (123)</b>	288
Civic Center	<b>61.0% (141)</b>	24.2% (56)	14.7% (34)	231
Outdoor Pool	<b>55.2% (101)</b>	20.8% (38)	24.0% (44)	183
Picnic Areas/Shelters	<b>66.1% (150)</b>	25.1% (57)	8.8% (20)	227
Basketball Courts	<b>78.9% (56)</b>	16.9% (12)	4.2% (3)	71
Playgrounds	<b>38.0% (70)</b>	23.9% (44)	<b>38.0% (70)</b>	184
Soccer Fields	<b>51.4% (54)</b>	14.3% (15)	34.3% (36)	105
Softball/Baseball Fields	<b>49.2% (59)</b>	15.8% (19)	35.0% (42)	120
Library	19.7% (56)	25.7% (73)	<b>54.6% (155)</b>	284
Cedar River	<b>40.9% (90)</b>	20.9% (46)	38.2% (84)	220
Area lakes/ponds	<b>58.2% (71)</b>	24.6% (30)	17.2% (21)	122
Cemetery	<b>71.9% (115)</b>	17.5% (28)	10.6% (17)	160
Natural area (preserve)	<b>60.4% (61)</b>	25.7% (26)	13.9% (14)	101
Skate park	<b>81.3% (52)</b>	10.9% (7)	7.8% (5)	64
Fairgrounds	<b>52.5% (135)</b>	30.7% (79)	16.7% (43)	257
Disc golf	<b>64.1% (50)</b>	20.5% (16)	15.4% (12)	78
Rugby field	<b>73.6% (39)</b>	13.2% (7)	13.2% (7)	53
Neighborhood Park	29.9% (52)	20.1% (35)	<b>50.0% (87)</b>	174








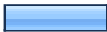


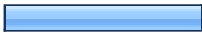


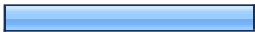








Wartburg/Waverly Sports and Wellness Center – The “W”	21.3% (57)	9.0% (24)	<b>69.7% (186)</b>	267
Other (please specify)				9
<b>answered question</b>				<b>374</b>
<b>skipped question</b>				<b>34</b>

**9. Are there sufficient park and recreational opportunities in and around the city (e.g. playground equipment, ball fields, skate parks, golf courses, benches, trail, etc) for:**





	Yes	No	Uncertain	Response Count
Preschool (0-5 years)	<b>58.6% (195)</b>	10.8% (36)	30.6% (102)	333
Youth (6-9 years)	<b>70.0% (229)</b>	7.6% (25)	22.3% (73)	327
Pre-teen (10-14 years)	<b>44.5% (146)</b>	22.6% (74)	32.9% (108)	328
Teenagers (15-18 years)	32.9% (108)	30.5% (100)	<b>36.6% (120)</b>	328
Young Adults (19-30 years)	<b>57.2% (190)</b>	22.0% (73)	20.8% (69)	332
Adults (31-54 years)	<b>61.3% (201)</b>	14.0% (46)	24.7% (81)	328
Seniors (55+ years)	<b>50.4% (169)</b>	12.5% (42)	37.0% (124)	335
People with special needs	16.3% (52)	16.6% (53)	<b>67.1% (214)</b>	319
<b>answered question</b>				<b>355</b>
<b>skipped question</b>				<b>53</b>





**10. When considering Park and Open Space needs over the next 5-10 years what do you think will be most important for the City of Waverly to focus on? (SELECT 5).**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Golf		19.1%	71
<b>Walking/running/jogging</b>		<b>67.2%</b>	<b>250</b>
Bicycling		58.3%	217
Swimming		32.0%	119
Baseball/Softball		23.4%	87
Soccer		6.5%	24
Public art		16.9%	63
Fishing		16.1%	60
Boat ramp/dock		14.2%	53
Flood protection/mitigation		51.9%	193
Community gardens		31.7%	118
Off road/mountain biking		7.5%	28
Rugby		0.8%	3
Outdoor events		40.3%	150
Indoor recreation		18.5%	69
Skate park		2.2%	8
Ice skating		12.9%	48
Dog park		22.3%	83
Learning about/monitoring sustainable practices (i.e. rain gardens, native plantings, etc.)		28.8%	107
Natural areas (preserve)		32.5%	121
Other (please specify)			36

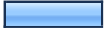
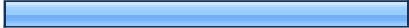




answered question	372
skipped question	36


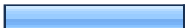



11. How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing parks you use?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent		18.8%	69
Good		69.6%	256
Fair		11.1%	41
Poor		0.5%	2
Comment			33
answered question			368
skipped question			40

12. How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing outdoor sports facilities you use?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent		15.6%	52
Good		59.6%	199
Fair		22.5%	75
Poor		2.4%	8
Comment			42
answered question			334
skipped question			74

13. How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing open spaces you use?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent		15.4%	55
<b>Good</b>		<b>65.3%</b>	<b>233</b>
Fair		18.2%	65
Poor		1.1%	4
Comment			17
answered question			357
skipped question			51

14. On average, how often do you use Waverly's trail system? (SELECT ONE)









		Response Percent	Response Count
once a day		9.3%	34
once a week		28.9%	106
<b>once a month</b>		<b>37.1%</b>	<b>136</b>
once a year		17.2%	63
never		7.6%	28
answered question			367
skipped question			41






15. When you use the city's trail system, which activity do you do? (Select one)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Walk	<div><div></div></div>	41.3%	151
Run	<div><div></div></div>	12.3%	45
Bicycle	<div><div></div></div>	37.4%	137
Skate	<div><div></div></div>	0.8%	3
I don't use the city's trail system	<div><div></div></div>	8.2%	30
Other (please specify)			7
answered question			366
skipped question			42




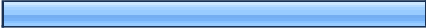



**16. What is your primary destination when you bike, jog or walk? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**






		Response Percent	Response Count
For recreation/exercise (i.e. no specific destination)		94.9%	335
To work		6.2%	22
To the park		14.7%	52
To my school		7.9%	28
To the library		9.3%	33
To the civic center		1.7%	6
To the home of a family member or friend		9.1%	32
To do errands, dining or shopping		13.3%	47
	Other (please specify)		14
	answered question		353
	skipped question		55

**17. When you bike, jog, or walk which do you use? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**












		Response Percent	Response Count
Designated trails		78.9%	280
Sidewalks		74.6%	265
Neighborhood streets/rural roads		74.4%	264
	Other (please specify)		11
	answered question		355
	skipped question		53



18. When you use the sidewalk/trail system, what is the distance you usually travel? (Select one)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 1 mile		10.5%	38
<b>1 – 4.99 miles</b>		<b>68.9%</b>	<b>250</b>
5-10 miles		12.9%	47
11 miles or more		5.0%	18
I do not use the City's trail system.		2.8%	10
answered question			363
skipped question			45






19. Which of the following would do the MOST to encourage yourself and other Waverly residents to utilize trails and sidewalks? (SELECT ONE)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
<b>More connected sidewalks and trails (better network)</b>		<b>54.1%</b>	<b>185</b>
Better conditions of sidewalks and trails		13.2%	45
Safer crossings at intersections		9.4%	32
Separate bicycle paths, wider shoulders		13.5%	46
Better access to shopping, schools, parks and other destinations		9.9%	34
Other (please specify)			34
answered question			342
skipped question			66

**20. What types of sustainable practices/Best Management Practices would you like to see incorporated into the City's Parks and Open Spaces (Please check as many boxes as apply.)**


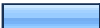


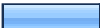

		Response Percent	Response Count
Native prairie plantings		54.8%	195
Rain water gardens/bioswales		39.3%	140
Permeable pavement/surfaces		31.5%	112
Use of recycled materials		57.0%	203
Protect, preserve and/or restore environmentally sensitive, unique or natural features		53.7%	191
<b>Provide connected routes for alternative transportation (walking, biking, rollerblading, etc.)</b>		<b>63.2%</b>	<b>225</b>
Conserve/Preserve important rural land and open space at the edge of town		37.1%	132
Establish community gardens		44.7%	159
Implement innovative stormwater management techniques/systems		41.9%	149
Make existing parks/open spaces accessible to people of all abilities		29.8%	106
I do not know what sustainable practices/Best Management Practices are		6.2%	22
Other (please specify)			12
<b>answered question</b>			<b>356</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>52</b>









**21. How important is it that the City incorporates sustainable practices/ Best Management Practices into the Park System?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Not Important		2.2%	8
Somewhat Important		23.1%	84
<b>Very Important</b>		<b>39.7%</b>	<b>144</b>
Extremely Important		29.2%	106
I do not know what sustainable practices are		5.8%	21
answered question			<b>363</b>
skipped question			<b>45</b>

**22. Age of person completing survey. Please select one.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
18-29		25.4%	93
30-39		15.6%	57
40-49		16.9%	62
50-59		22.1%	81
60-69		15.3%	56
70+		4.6%	17
answered question			<b>366</b>
skipped question			<b>42</b>

23. Do you have children in your household?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		36.2%	132
No		63.8%	233
answered question			365
skipped question			43

24. If you have children please select the age category(ies) of your children. Please select all that apply.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
0-5 years		45.5%	60
6-9 years		36.4%	48
10-14 years		37.9%	50
15-18 years		35.6%	47
answered question			132
skipped question			276

1. Where do you get information on Waverly's Parks, Open Spaces and Trails?		
Other (please specify)		
1	City Staff	Nov 9, 2010 5:21 PM
2	City website	Nov 9, 2010 9:20 PM
3	Newspaper and magazine articles	Nov 9, 2010 10:01 PM
4	news releases	Nov 10, 2010 12:04 PM
5	Waverly Newspaper	Nov 10, 2010 2:10 PM
6	lived here so long, i know where thigns are	Nov 10, 2010 2:57 PM
7	Newspaper	Nov 10, 2010 3:04 PM
8	Newspaper	Nov 10, 2010 3:12 PM
9	newspaper - city council mtgs	Nov 10, 2010 3:53 PM
10	I don't have any	Nov 10, 2010 4:59 PM
11	Chamber of Commerce	Nov 10, 2010 6:31 PM
12	Radio	Nov 10, 2010 9:25 PM



## 1. Where do you get information on Waverly's Parks, Open Spaces and Trails?

Other (please specify)		
13	Waverly news paper	Nov 10, 2010 11:19 PM
14	Heather Gamm, Bremer County Naturalist	Nov 11, 2010 3:03 AM
15	I call the city to find if there are any in a certain neighborhood	Nov 11, 2010 2:47 PM
16	geocaching.com, google.com	Nov 11, 2010 7:27 PM
17	Teacher	Nov 12, 2010 9:18 PM
18	Professor	Nov 12, 2010 9:20 PM
19	after all most 60 years living here I know where things are	Nov 12, 2010 10:18 PM
20	newspaper	Nov 13, 2010 5:57 PM
21	The Public Library	Nov 15, 2010 4:06 PM
22	To be honest, I don't know.	Nov 17, 2010 2:12 PM
23	Heather the naturalist who was a guest speaker	Nov 17, 2010 6:04 PM
24	A brochure with all bike trails in the Cedar Valley	Nov 18, 2010 9:50 PM
25	I haven't gotten any information	Nov 18, 2010 10:11 PM
26	work	Nov 19, 2010 4:51 PM
27	Been here a long time. Know the spaces.	Dec 2, 2010 3:08 AM
28	leisure services director	Dec 3, 2010 3:06 PM

## 2. Why do you visit this/these park(s) most often? Check all that apply.

Other (please specify)		
1	Nature of the park	Nov 8, 2010 10:07 PM
2	I also use the Rail Trail...it's not listed in No. 1	Nov 9, 2010 3:02 PM
3	We kayak and love the easy access to the water from these locations as well as access to the trails.	Nov 9, 2010 9:36 PM
4	play softball	Nov 9, 2010 10:04 PM
5	the beauty they offer	Nov 9, 2010 10:08 PM
6	proximity to center of town - errands and so forth	Nov 9, 2010 10:20 PM
7	visual stimulus	Nov 9, 2010 10:47 PM
8	WGC for golf and X-C skiing	Nov 10, 2010 12:29 PM
9	Family gatherings	Nov 10, 2010 2:14 PM
10	Near the river	Nov 10, 2010 3:10 PM
11	I do not visit the parks	Nov 10, 2010 4:21 PM
12	beauty of river	Nov 10, 2010 6:30 PM
13	Size of Park	Nov 10, 2010 11:40 PM
14	Prefer to have restrooms/water fountain	Nov 11, 2010 12:10 AM
15	view, breeze, safety for keeping young children out of river, away from road, etc.	Nov 11, 2010 3:06 PM
16	Ease of trail access from park	Nov 11, 2010 9:07 PM
17	To golf	Nov 12, 2010 3:06 PM
18	jogging	Nov 12, 2010 7:26 PM
19	The River	Nov 12, 2010 9:04 PM
20	never visited them	Nov 12, 2010 9:24 PM

## 2. Why do you visit this/these park(s) most often? Check all that apply.

Other (please specify)		
21	close to wartburg	Nov 15, 2010 7:09 PM
22	These parks seem to be maintained the best/most	Nov 15, 2010 7:30 PM
23	Kohlman's park is a nice place to take a relaxing stroll without fear of being run over by a cyclist.	Nov 16, 2010 3:49 AM
24	Walking/running trails, esp. at Cedar Hill Park	Nov 16, 2010 4:12 AM
25	access to water, fishing, kayaking, and hobbies I enjoy	Nov 16, 2010 5:03 PM
26	near the river	Nov 16, 2010 9:18 PM
27	walking	Nov 17, 2010 5:41 PM
28	Kid's Kingdom and Pool	Nov 17, 2010 6:15 PM
29	not usually anyone there, so I can hit golf balls	Nov 17, 2010 10:08 PM
30	I stumble upon them on walks because I'm a college student	Nov 18, 2010 6:25 PM
31	Entertainment/Recreation--Wartburg Students	Nov 19, 2010 2:23 AM
32	i like to run at the parks	Nov 19, 2010 3:12 AM
33	scenery	Nov 21, 2010 9:33 PM
34	Just to walk on the sidewalk provided through the park.	Nov 23, 2010 5:34 PM
35	Take the grandchildren	Nov 30, 2010 2:20 PM
36	No activities--a peaceful place	Dec 2, 2010 3:12 AM
37	where is Cent Oaks driving range listed?	Dec 7, 2010 1:55 AM

## 3. If you do not use the park or trail system, or do not use them as often as you

Other (please specify)		
1	Most of the parks are drainage areas and are not level surfaces and creates tripping hazards. The turf is not of the best quality.	Nov 9, 2010 3:02 PM
2	Along walking path	Nov 9, 2010 9:38 PM
3	Goose droppings make Kohlman Park very dirty	Nov 10, 2010 1:42 AM
4	More regular grooming of ski tracks/ walker trashing. Why not groom @ golf course?	Nov 10, 2010 12:29 PM
5	Do not live in Waverly	Nov 10, 2010 2:14 PM
6	Lazy	Nov 10, 2010 3:21 PM
7	Lack of interest	Nov 10, 2010 4:21 PM
8	No need	Nov 10, 2010 4:57 PM
9	Bathrooms closed too early/reopen too late	Nov 11, 2010 12:10 AM
10	physical restrictions	Nov 11, 2010 3:45 AM
11	many times there are prickly weeds so I have to remember to put pants on not shorts, the suitable playgrounds are too far to get to frequently, we can't get there safely with bike from Willow Lawn	Nov 11, 2010 3:06 PM
12	We like Rolling Meadows Park, but there aren't any sidewalks to it, so it feels like you're in someone's backyard. That's awkward!!	Nov 11, 2010 3:25 PM
13	Some Play equipment is old/rusty	Nov 11, 2010 9:07 PM
14	In College	Nov 12, 2010 9:24 PM
15	need more shelters	Nov 15, 2010 4:23 AM



### 3. If you do not use the park or trail system, or do not use them as often as you

Other (please specify)		
16	N/A	Nov 16, 2010 6:00 PM
17	I don't like going on the trails by myself for safety reasons so I have to find other people to go with me and sometimes I can't.	Nov 18, 2010 10:02 PM
18	With young kids we visit parks that have bathroom facilities.	Nov 21, 2010 5:37 PM
19	We're doing other things.	Nov 22, 2010 9:22 PM
20	poorly maintained	Nov 24, 2010 1:35 AM
21	No desire.	Dec 2, 2010 3:12 AM
22	time	Dec 3, 2010 9:07 PM
23	my physical limitations	Dec 7, 2010 1:33 AM
24	must drive, cannot walk to ...	Dec 20, 2010 2:52 PM

### 4. Please use letters A-C in the blank boxes below to identify how many times

Other (please specify)		
1	The "W" is a wonderful facility. Think it is WAY too expensive for a family to afford and use. it is always loud inside and think it was not built big enough for the area...	Nov 9, 2010 3:02 PM
2	W is to expensive for most!	Nov 10, 2010 2:39 PM
3	We enjoy the sale barn and local farms/ranches for a free 'zoo' sometimes. Pumpkin Paradise was a real treat.	Nov 11, 2010 3:06 PM
4	Couldn't use the Cedar River for boating if we wanted to, with all the silt, too shallow	Nov 12, 2010 7:52 PM
5	If not checked, did not visit in past year.	Nov 15, 2010 7:30 PM
6	Only-used-'W'-because-of-rec-programs-wish-it-was-city-run-rec	Nov 16, 2010 4:18 PM
7	cedar bend park	Nov 19, 2010 3:12 AM
8	River - we really do not have great place for canoe and kayaks to exit. Kohlmann park would be an excellent place to put canoe landing!	Dec 3, 2010 9:07 PM
9	where is skatepark	Dec 20, 2010 2:52 PM

### 6. When considering Park and Open Space needs over the next 5-10 years what

Other (please specify)		
1	Outdoor volleyball court areas...maybe a couple different locations around town would be nice. Near the downtown area (SE Waverly 500 block of 1st St. SE could be ideal!)	Nov 9, 2010 3:02 PM
2	Camping...	Nov 9, 2010 9:36 PM
3	Using well the gift of land the flood has made possible, despite the tragedy that precipitated the green spaces that we now have to consider. No junky stuff!!!	Nov 9, 2010 10:08 PM
4	while I love the W there are just not enough open times/spaces for kids 5 - 18...there are so often practices that occupy the gym and field house - the kids need more fitness opportunities on a regular basis	Nov 9, 2010 10:20 PM
5	More hanging baskets/flowers/beautification	Nov 10, 2010 12:10 PM

## 6. When considering Park and Open Space needs over the next 5-10 years what

Other (please specify)		
6	X-C ski	Nov 10, 2010 12:29 PM
7	river activities and access	Nov 10, 2010 2:26 PM
8	Give me 6 and it's swimming	Nov 10, 2010 2:29 PM
9	Dog park? Are you kidding me. Don't need a special park. They can go anywhere now. Just make sure thy're leashed and owners clean-up thier mess.	Nov 10, 2010 2:47 PM
10	Making the river usable to boating and watercraft recreational activities.	Nov 10, 2010 3:19 PM
11	Tennis	Nov 10, 2010 7:35 PM
12	An indoor play area during the winter months for young children is an absolute NEED for the city of Waverly!	Nov 10, 2010 11:50 PM
13	Indoor roller skating rink would be awesome. Indoor playground for very young children (W or school gym could host weekly).	Nov 11, 2010 12:10 AM
14	Playground equipment--upkeep/replacement/etc.	Nov 11, 2010 3:10 AM
15	Bandshell	Nov 11, 2010 12:12 PM
16	It'd be really nice if we had community events that involved everyone in a physical way, like dances with team building activities like ladder ball, pool, a live local band, board games, etc.	Nov 11, 2010 3:06 PM
17	We are always trying to be more helpful to bikers and runners, etc., and yet they have SO many options. What about the groups who need specific places to "play" - like softball and baseball.	Nov 11, 2010 3:25 PM
18	Indoor winter playgrounds for pre-schoolers. There is nowhere for stay at home mums to go in the winter!	Nov 12, 2010 4:14 AM
19	Would love to see more camping space available near WAverly. Cedar Bend is the only option right now. I have heard people talk about land near the river on the south side of Waverly to be used for campgrounds....fabulous idea! I would also suggest someone from the community to visit Clear Lake. Beautiful parks....band shell near downtown and also a public garden right in the center of town....beautiful....there was a wedding being held there the last time we were in town. I would definitely recommend a commitie to visit there.	Nov 12, 2010 12:35 PM
20	Frisbee Golf	Nov 12, 2010 9:21 PM
21	Boating!!!!	Nov 15, 2010 3:35 AM
22	Band Shell capable of hosting large/revenue producing events. More than just the local community band.	Nov 15, 2010 7:30 PM
23	I would like to see utilitarian walking/biking trails that possibly connect with recreational trails so we can integrate exercise into our daily lives ex. trail to Walmart, downtown areas, the grocery stores, library, schools etc.	Nov 15, 2010 9:29 PM
24	Disc Golf	Nov 16, 2010 12:27 AM
25	I think it is a shame that the city is unwilling to enhance and use our greatest natural resource, the river. This COULD be one of our greatest assets. Instead, because of flooding, it has only become something that the city wishes we didn't have to deal with. It should be enhanced to encourage tourism and recreation.	Nov 16, 2010 2:47 AM
26	WAVERLY NEEDS A BAND SHELL!!!!!!!	Nov 16, 2010 3:50 AM
27	Sidewalks (for walking)	Nov 16, 2010 3:26 PM
28	More connecting trails.	Nov 16, 2010 8:07 PM
29	Would love to see an emphasis on off road biking as well as more marketing put into outdoor events, concerts, etc.	Nov 17, 2010 3:20 AM
30	It's hard to utilize the river because of how low it is--it should be dredged and maximized for use.	Nov 17, 2010 3:38 PM
31	Basketball and footbal along with other activities activities for our youth and teens. Dredge the Cedar River	Nov 17, 2010 4:29 PM



## 6. When considering Park and Open Space needs over the next 5-10 years what

Other (please specify)		
32	Basketball Courts	Nov 17, 2010 10:31 PM
33	Expanding the Rail Trail; Hiking trails;	Nov 21, 2010 9:33 PM
34	We have enough parks for the size of our city	Nov 23, 2010 1:20 AM
35	All of these listed are all good. Something for everyone.	Nov 30, 2010 10:40 PM
36	splash pad would be nice for kids	Dec 10, 2010 9:59 PM

## 7. How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing parks you

Comment		
1	Think the turf could use some attention as the ground can be come packed and grass spotty in places.	Nov 9, 2010 3:02 PM
2	Some of the parks are just outdated and took a hit during the flood.	Nov 9, 2010 9:36 PM
3	They've been upgraded/redone since the flood, so they're in better shape now, and the materials used are more flood-resistant.	Nov 9, 2010 10:08 PM
4	But do not let the best asset "park" the city has, the golf course slip in conditions.	Nov 10, 2010 12:29 PM
5	Except the Waverly public pool is between Fair and Good. It would be nice to have a zero entry and water toys, but still keep the cost down. W is TOO expensive!!!	Nov 10, 2010 3:21 PM
6	Grass areas need attention - weed control	Nov 10, 2010 4:20 PM
7	don't use them	Nov 10, 2010 4:57 PM
8	Many need weed management.....kill the weeds and crabgrass and fertilize every few years	Nov 10, 2010 6:25 PM
9	The overall maintenance of the parks could be better. [trimming, weeding of flowers, the condition of the signs, etc] Appearance is or could be like a magnet to draw people. Employee attitude may have alot to do with how these things are taken care of.	Nov 11, 2010 2:27 PM
10	Kohlmann is vastly improved. I think Meadow view Park could use some help, especially with all the young families that utilize it.	Nov 11, 2010 3:25 PM
11	We are enjoying the new equipment	Nov 11, 2010 6:21 PM
12	cedar bend park needs a lot of work. The play quipment is not in good shape	Nov 11, 2010 10:13 PM
13	You have an excellent start on many things, but it would be better if you kept up the parks that you already have!	Nov 12, 2010 12:56 AM
14	Would love to see a shelter placed at Hickory Heights park.	Nov 12, 2010 12:35 PM
15	never visited any	Nov 12, 2010 9:24 PM
16	Please, please, please fix the boatramp N of Waverly Light and Power. We don't even try to boat in waverly anymore because of terrible experiences of the trailer falling off the cliff and the end of the ramp!!	Nov 13, 2010 6:03 PM
17	need more shelters	Nov 15, 2010 4:23 AM
18	I would like to see gradual replacement of the old picnic tables. They are very uncomfortable to sit at (try the one at Home Park, you'd have to look like Olive Oil to even sit on the bench and face the tabel :)). It would also be nice to add bench seating at all of the playgrounds for the parents to relax at. Having 2 tables at least might encourage more neighborhood use.	Nov 15, 2010 9:29 PM
19	Most-are-good-whoould-like-to-see-a-couple-parks-'highly-maintanied'-as-far-as-turf	Nov 16, 2010 4:18 PM
20	Trees could always use some periodic trimming.	Nov 16, 2010 8:07 PM

## 7. How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing parks you

	Comment	
21	Grass needs to be bagged or raked if cut when too long. Replace all basketball hoops with Fiberglass Square backboards. This would help attract middle school and high school kids to play neighborhood pick up games. The current hoops are very poor in most neighborhood parks. Re-paint the court lines as well. Kids from ages 9 to 18 need two things: 1. Exercise and 2. Constructive things to do. Partner with local basketball youth clubs and see if it can't be a joint effort.	Nov 17, 2010 2:26 PM
22	Rest rooms could be cleaner and maintained better. Would also like to see more gardens and flowers in parks, rail trail areas etc. The Garden Club should be used to help with this.	Nov 17, 2010 3:38 PM
23	.	Nov 17, 2010 4:29 PM
24	Golf course is exceptional.	Nov 17, 2010 10:08 PM
25	Just ok, nothing outstanding	Nov 17, 2010 10:31 PM
26	My children (ages 4 & 1) and I visited every park with a playground this summer. I was pleasantly surprised by the fact that almost every park had nearly new equipment. It was all very well-kept. A few of the neighborhood parks are a bit difficult to access, but that's just how it is.	Nov 18, 2010 3:19 AM
27	Some of the parks have equipment that is quite old and shabby looking...	Nov 18, 2010 10:02 PM
28	Some of the parks are kept up better than other.	Nov 19, 2010 4:57 PM
29	Sometimes seem weedy.	Nov 21, 2010 5:37 PM
30	dirty and poorly maintained	Nov 24, 2010 1:35 AM
31	It would be great to see development of a walking/biking loop around Cedar Lane. There needs to be better separation between cars and pedestrians.	Nov 24, 2010 6:16 PM
32	Great city golf course - lots of wonderful comments from out-of-town and local golfers about condition and beauty of course.	Nov 30, 2010 10:40 PM
33	We could sell some 1-2 parks and use that revenue to do some major park improvements. (murphy addition park could be sold)	Dec 3, 2010 9:07 PM

## 8. How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing outdoor

	Comment	
1	The soccer complex is in great shape but it's still new.	Nov 9, 2010 9:36 PM
2	softball diamonds are in poor shape with terrible fences and lights	Nov 9, 2010 10:04 PM
3	Pool needs to be updated	Nov 9, 2010 10:28 PM
4	Softball	Nov 10, 2010 1:01 PM
5	Don't let the Waverly Golf course quality decline through lack of mowing, fertilizing and green maintenance. Really ANNOYING to hear the council, every damn year, take 'shots' at the Golf Course budget and management while rarely discussing the cost of the pool, the library, softball fields and other public recreational facilities. The public course is a HUGE asset to the city. Don't ruin it. ps: We are members of Centennial Oaks and play City League on the public.	Nov 10, 2010 2:47 PM
6	Baseball/softball diamonds are in desperate need of improvement. Golf course is excellent and funding should not be cut.	Nov 10, 2010 3:02 PM
7	Need more ball diamonds	Nov 10, 2010 4:20 PM
8	don't use them	Nov 10, 2010 4:57 PM



## 8. How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing outdoor

	Comment	
9	All the volleyball courts at all the city parks are in poor condition. When all it would take to make them great again is a new net and a spray bottle of Round Up. Seems like a pretty cheap fix to have something the people of Waverly could use again.	Nov 10, 2010 5:09 PM
10	City Golf Course is Excellent, please keep it so.	Nov 10, 2010 7:35 PM
11	The equipment is generally in good shape.	Nov 10, 2010 11:40 PM
12	Great tennis courts from Wartburg.	Nov 11, 2010 12:10 AM
13	Golf course--And we want it to remain in excellent condition. The city needs to keep the subsidy money there!	Nov 11, 2010 3:10 AM
14	I didn't know there were public free adult facilities. Are there public Tennis courts? I guess I can think of frisbee golf and one half basketball court... Many parks listed here I've never seen or heard of, so I'll have to investigate more!	Nov 11, 2010 3:06 PM
15	The Fairgrounds and Ball diamonds and tennis courts are disgraceful and wasteful. The soccer fields and trails are fantastic. Biased much?	Nov 11, 2010 3:25 PM
16	You have an excellent start on many things, but it would be better if you kept up the parks you have in place!	Nov 12, 2010 12:56 AM
17	Excellent Golf Course	Nov 12, 2010 3:06 PM
18	Soccer complex has some drainage issues after it rains, and there are SIGNIFICANT issues with racoons destroying the turf.	Nov 12, 2010 9:24 PM
19	never visited any	Nov 12, 2010 9:24 PM
20	Don't use any	Nov 12, 2010 10:25 PM
21	For this--we only use WYSCA--not sure if that is on your list.	Nov 15, 2010 5:27 AM
22	Baseball fields at Fairgrounds need better maintenance, especially the various chain fences.	Nov 15, 2010 7:09 PM
23	Mens softball diamonds are in poor shape due to size restrictions of the playing fields. Lighting is poor, due to light poles being far to short.	Nov 15, 2010 7:30 PM
24	Don't use any personally	Nov 15, 2010 9:29 PM
25	Softball/baseball diamonds at the fairgrounds are a mess. The grounds are uneven and full of ruts due to the fair being placed on top of them. There is a giant lip where the lime rock meets the outfield for someone to trip on. Also, the fence used for the ball fields is a danger and an eye sore.  There needs to be better restroom facility at Brookwood Park. That port-o john has got to go. There is a tee pad or two that is cracked. Some of the signs are missing. Also, nine more holes added on to the disc golf course would be great.	Nov 16, 2010 12:27 AM
26	Soccer - Excellent Baseball / Softball - Fair	Nov 16, 2010 8:07 PM
27	Golf Course for City is excellent. Give the director a 2 or 3 year contract, with a raise, so he can plan long term.	Nov 17, 2010 2:26 PM
28	It appears that the time, effort and finances went to the soccer fields and the baseball, youth football, and even outdoor basketball were left behind.	Nov 17, 2010 4:29 PM
29	Soccer field is great, not sure where to check for the pool but it needs much work. Water is often cold. This summer was better than last year. It would be nice to have more activity at the pool and it can get very crowded.	Nov 17, 2010 6:15 PM
30	Golf course is exceptional.	Nov 17, 2010 10:08 PM
31	Need updating and continual care.	Nov 17, 2010 10:31 PM
32	N/A	Nov 18, 2010 3:19 AM
33	I don't use them	Nov 18, 2010 6:38 PM
34	The Waverly Soccer Complex is great!	Nov 18, 2010 10:02 PM

## 8. How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing outdoor

Comment		
35	I primarily use the outdoor pool, which needs a total overhaul of dressing rooms and staff space.	Nov 22, 2010 6:18 PM
36	Soccer fields are excellent! Baseball fields at the fairgrounds are lacking.	Nov 24, 2010 3:04 AM
37	The Waverly Municipal golf course is "over-the-top" for a Municipal Course and will continue to cost the taxpayer.	Nov 28, 2010 2:29 AM
38	Ball fields are badly needed.	Nov 28, 2010 5:08 AM
39	Don't	Dec 2, 2010 3:12 AM
40	Sandvolley cours (3) in area that allows adult beverage	Dec 3, 2010 9:07 PM
41	soccer-good	Dec 10, 2010 9:54 PM
42	Golf Course- Excellent Swimming Pool- Excellent Rail Trail- Good (lack parking)	Dec 20, 2010 2:52 PM

## 9. How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing open

Comment		
1	Could use some attention to more drinking fountains available for trail users in more locations. Singage along trail to indicate where restrooms and drinking locations are would be nice as well.	Nov 9, 2010 3:02 PM
2	Rail Trail will need re-surfacing, and dead trees on the trail are a battle with every wind storm	Nov 9, 2010 10:28 PM
3	don't use them	Nov 10, 2010 4:57 PM
4	They are generally too small to be of much use. The lot sized "play lots" are not of much use except to the people living next to them. There are not enough large connected open spaces.	Nov 10, 2010 11:40 PM
5	Needs to keep at a high level.	Nov 11, 2010 3:10 AM
6	You have nice areas around town, but it would be even better if they were kept up!	Nov 12, 2010 12:56 AM
7	never visited any	Nov 12, 2010 9:24 PM
8	I've traveled the world and called many places home, but Waverly has got to be one of the nicest towns in the world, so many great parks and opportunities.	Nov 16, 2010 5:03 PM
9	Don't really use any other than those associated with the neighborhood parks. Open space should have a mowed football and soccer field with appropriate field markings. Poured cement or asphalt basketball courts. I envision an open space that is absolutely bursting with kids playing a variety of sports on a nice saturday or sunday afternoon. Put in lights that are pay as you go and they can play later. Families move to Waverly for things like this. Things that will keep their kids from gettig bogged down with video games and get them outside.	Nov 17, 2010 2:26 PM
10	I've never really used much of the open space. gardens would be a great idea	Nov 17, 2010 4:29 PM
11	We mostly just went to playgrounds, but the open spaces I have observed seem very nice.	Nov 18, 2010 3:19 AM
12	Some of teh maintenance and lawns are kept up better than other. Parks can be environmental and be well maintained.	Nov 19, 2010 4:57 PM
13	Sometimes seem weedy.	Nov 21, 2010 5:37 PM
14	No comment	Dec 2, 2010 3:12 AM



## 9. How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing open

Comment		
15	We should partner with elementaries to improve their playgrounds longterm. Especially West Cedar with library so close and SE with the bike trail.	Dec 3, 2010 9:07 PM
16	signs help their visability	Dec 10, 2010 9:54 PM
17	Open spaces not accessible for me.	Dec 20, 2010 2:52 PM

## 2. When you use the city's trail system, which activity do you do? (Select one)

Other (please specify)		
1	and walking	Nov 9, 2010 5:32 PM
2	We also do a huge amount of biking but I was only able to pick one.	Nov 9, 2010 9:39 PM
3	bike or walk -- about an even split	Nov 9, 2010 9:39 PM
4	plan to get bicycles next spring	Nov 10, 2010 2:50 PM
5	run, bike, and walk	Nov 12, 2010 4:15 AM
6	CC SKI	Nov 16, 2010 6:02 PM
7	rollerblade	Nov 19, 2010 5:12 PM

## 3. What is your primary destination when you bike, jog or walk? (CHECK ALL

Other (please specify)		
1	If we can walk or bike verses getting in the car, we will. I ride the bike to the grocey stores as well and have done by bike a couple of times to Wal-Mart.	Nov 9, 2010 9:39 PM
2	if we had actual bike trails on the streets I'd bike more for errands and the library	Nov 9, 2010 9:39 PM
3	around neighborhood	Nov 9, 2010 10:08 PM
4	If I worked in Waverly I would bike to work. Work in Cedar Falls.	Nov 10, 2010 3:20 PM
5	don't use	Nov 10, 2010 4:59 PM
6	Frisbee Golf	Nov 12, 2010 9:22 PM
7	I would love to bike to work but there is no bike infastructure. The traffic can be heavy and there are no bike lanes. It can be dangerous to ride along 4th st SW.	Nov 13, 2010 6:05 PM
8	Definitely needs a wide sidewalk to the Walmart area.	Nov 15, 2010 4:15 PM
9	To the cemetery	Nov 16, 2010 3:29 PM
10	Fun-and-exercise	Nov 16, 2010 4:20 PM
11	To and from the W	Nov 16, 2010 5:04 PM
12	Intersection outside of town.	Nov 18, 2010 10:16 PM
13	Don't do any because am too far away from any of these destinations. If there were decent bike markings on the street, I would certainly bike more.	Nov 28, 2010 2:33 AM
14	go to Denver to eat	Nov 28, 2010 3:25 PM

#### 4. When you bike, jog, or walk which do you use? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Other (please specify)		
1	Have to use the seal coated streets due to no sidewalks in my neighborhood.	Nov 9, 2010 4:35 PM
2	Cedar Lane loop	Nov 10, 2010 2:48 PM
3	downtown side walks because no safe place to ride	Nov 10, 2010 11:27 PM
4	Sidewalks are NOT a trail system!!!	Nov 10, 2010 11:42 PM
5	Grass. Wish there were more unpaved trails to run in town as I try to stay off the concrete.	Nov 11, 2010 12:11 AM
6	Roads unsafe for bikes. Main road through town needs to be made smaller (2 lane not 4 lane, DIAGONAL PARKING) for shoppers and bikers. Not pedestrian friendly.	Nov 12, 2010 4:16 AM
7	I wish there was more information about trails other than just the rail trail.	Nov 12, 2010 9:25 PM
8	Sometimes I have to walk in the street because of the condition or disconnectedness of the sidewalks.	Nov 15, 2010 9:31 PM
9	Cuna Trail	Nov 18, 2010 12:05 PM
10	parts of trails as well as the neighborhood streets	Nov 19, 2010 7:04 AM
11	I can not walk on neighborhood roads	Dec 20, 2010 2:53 PM

#### 6. Which of the following would do the MOST to encourage yourself and other

Other (please specify)		
1	If they were better connected that would also help solve the later choice of access to shopping schools and parks.	Nov 9, 2010 9:39 PM
2	condition of walks and trails also important	Nov 9, 2010 9:39 PM
3	I would like to see trails through more natural areas connected to the residential neighborhoods.	Nov 9, 2010 9:40 PM
4	for walkers and bikers have them USE the bike trail provided for them	Nov 9, 2010 10:08 PM
5	especially paved areas	Nov 9, 2010 11:15 PM
6	I think it is fine as it is.	Nov 10, 2010 2:46 PM
7	Why are their gaps in sidewalks?? Check out 2nd Avenue NE. Good greif. Put 'em in and charge the homeowner.	Nov 10, 2010 2:50 PM
8	sidewalks on 5th Ave. are awful!	Nov 10, 2010 3:12 PM
9	Condition for sidewalks would be wider and there are some cracking	Nov 10, 2010 3:22 PM
10	You desperately need to do something with Lovers Lane before someone gets hit by a car. It needs a designated walking and biking path. This area has been unsafe for way too long.	Nov 10, 2010 6:27 PM
11	Bike trail connection from St. Mary's Church to Lovers Lane	Nov 10, 2010 6:35 PM
12	I feel there are plenty of ways to get me from point a to point b. The only danerous intersection for me is crossing Hwy 3 by the police station. I usually go down to the stop light and then cross.	Nov 11, 2010 4:00 PM
13	clarifying better conditions. The roads are in bad shape for running, walking, biking, and driving. When I can't use trails/sidewalks to go where I want to go, I have to use the roads and I think they need major improvment and flattening for all modes of travel. They are always cleaned well, but they have oo much of a slope from the shoulder to the center.	Nov 11, 2010 9:28 PM
14	Improved trail system around the river.	Nov 12, 2010 2:18 AM
15	al of the above	Nov 12, 2010 4:16 AM



## 6. Which of the following would do the MOST to encourage yourself and other

Other (please specify)		
16	Better knowledge of Waverly	Nov 12, 2010 9:22 PM
17	Sidewalks along the streets are in terrible condition. In a lot of places it is too dangerous to run!!	Nov 12, 2010 9:25 PM
18	Get rid of Dogs in parks and on the trails	Nov 12, 2010 10:26 PM
19	all of the above	Nov 12, 2010 11:20 PM
20	Better parking along the rail trail.	Nov 13, 2010 4:17 AM
21	Difficult to choose between #1 and #5	Nov 15, 2010 9:31 PM
22	Many sidewalks need repairs.	Nov 16, 2010 8:09 PM
23	We live on the far west edge of town crossing highway 3 or the road to the airport walking or on a bike is very dangerous for our children and everything is on the other side of that road from our house.	Nov 17, 2010 3:03 PM
24	Our trails are in great shape. I would think more advertising along with organized events.	Nov 17, 2010 4:31 PM
25	I don't like crossing Bremer with children.	Nov 17, 2010 6:17 PM
26	Really would like to see a bicycle connection between Waverly and Shell Rock, and Waverly and Janesville	Nov 17, 2010 10:11 PM
27	I would love to walk to and along the river more often, but it is very difficult and dangerous to cross 4th St SW with small kids on bikes and strollers without going all the way to Bremer Ave.	Nov 18, 2010 3:24 AM
28	The sidewalks all around Wartburg, the area where I walk the most, are in awful shape for the most part.	Nov 18, 2010 10:04 PM
29	A safe way to cross highway 218 (4th street)...from the sothwest side! Access to kids kingdom, swimming pool, schools, hospital, library etc. Crossing 218 (4th street) at the Bremer Ave. intersection is NOT safe for adults let alone children!!	Nov 18, 2010 10:25 PM
30	I think the Rail Trial should have emergency telephones and garbage containers along the side.	Nov 19, 2010 4:59 PM
31	It is much easier to run on the street because sidewalks are in such bad shape. Streeets aren't always safe - but seem safer than broken up sidewalks. Some sidewalks are impassable with a stroller - see SW Waverly	Nov 24, 2010 12:15 PM
32	End of bursitis.	Dec 2, 2010 3:13 AM
33	Warmer weather	Dec 3, 2010 9:08 PM
34	safer crossings on Bremer Ave Kohlmann Park to Rail Trail Bridge	Dec 10, 2010 10:03 PM

## 1. What types of sustainable practices/Best Management Practices would you

Other (please specify)		
1	This question won't let me select anything! I would say rain water gardens, provide connected routes, establishment of community gardens, perrenial plantings and plantings that require very little maintenance for colors year round, destination/vista spots along the river front would be nice.	Nov 9, 2010 4:38 PM
2	Energy efficient lighting	Nov 9, 2010 5:24 PM
3	Need to place a lot of emphasis on both sustainable practices (please don't have cement water runoff systems as are now on the NE side - use natural grass that is meant to slow water runoff down and can absorb water rather than cement that speeds up runoff) and community building events.	Nov 10, 2010 3:14 PM

## 1. What types of sustainable practices/Best Management Practices would you

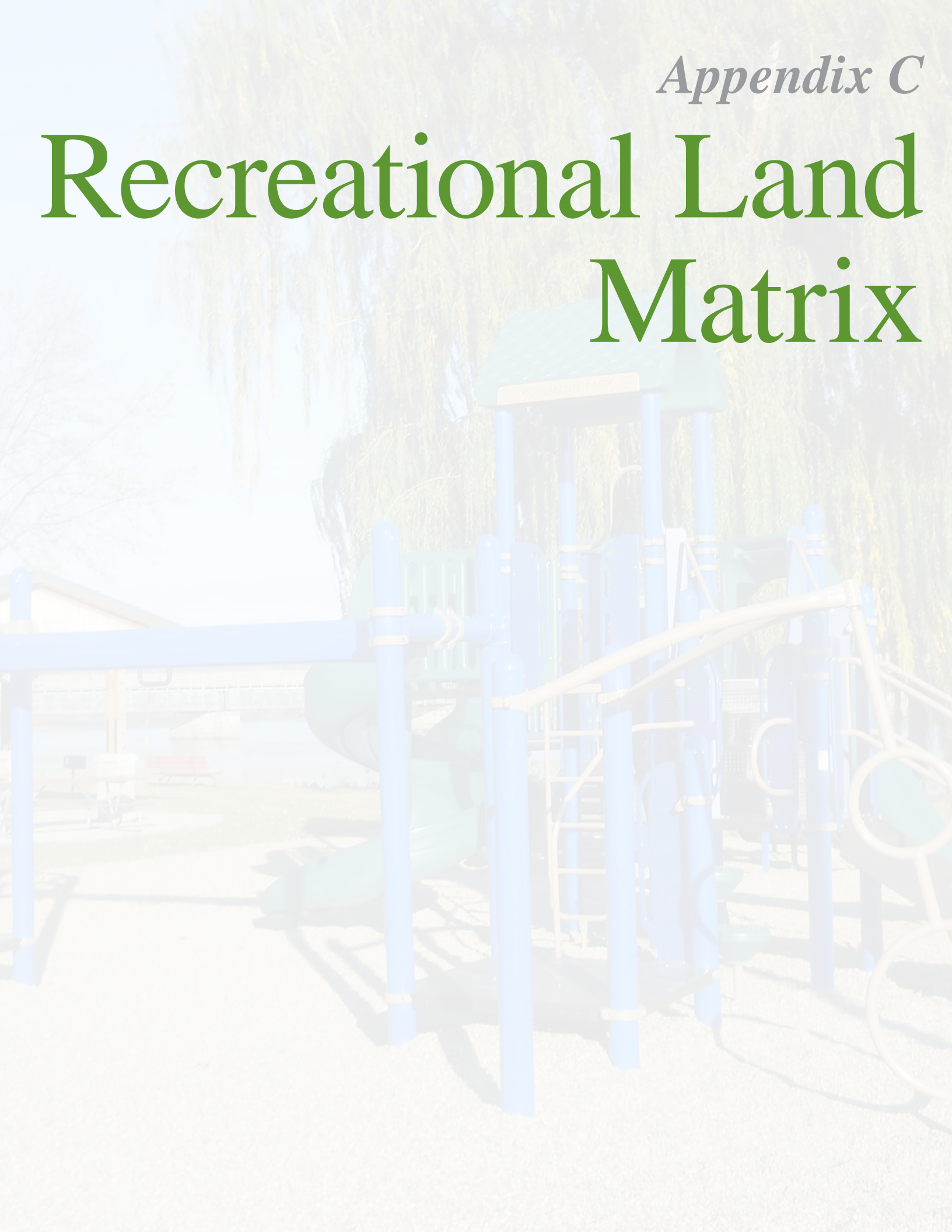
### Other (please specify)

4	plant trees in the spaces left open by removing flood damaged homes	Nov 10, 2010 10:29 PM
5	more handicapped swings would be cool	Nov 11, 2010 3:10 PM
6	not sure what these are, but these names sound good	Nov 11, 2010 9:37 PM
7	I would be in support of a "central garden" that such as that in Clear Lake. Very beautiful and maintained well. I have heard talk of "community gardens" which I think means letting people have the ability to have gardens in these open areas. I would not be in support of this. Leaving "garden maintanece" up to the people could be dangerous business. Everyone has their own idea of what "upkeep" means. We could end up with very unkept open spaces	Nov 12, 2010 12:40 PM
8	I don't think I have a thorough understanding of all of these practices...	Nov 15, 2010 4:18 PM
9	Storm water management is a must for clean Iowa rivers	Nov 15, 2010 9:37 PM
10	We did not need to add to the maintence loads for the parks	Nov 23, 2010 1:21 AM
11	ALL OF THE ABOVE !!!!	Nov 28, 2010 2:34 AM
12	Sustainabilty - make sure does not require a lot maintenance or staffing.	Dec 3, 2010 9:10 PM












*Appendix C*








# Recreational Land Matrix



LOCATION / PARK TYPE		SIZE (ACRES)	TRAILS (MILES)	SHELTER	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION STAND	FAIRGROUND	PLAYGROUND	BASKETBALL	BASEBALL	RUGBY	DISC GOLF COURSE	OPEN FIELDS	POOL	ICE SKATING	FISHING	DOCK	BOAT RAMP	SCULPTURES
MUNICIPAL PARK & OPEN SPACE FACILITIES																			
1.		Adams Parkway (neighborhood)	1.2	X															
2.		Brookwood Park (community)	19.0	0.8								1				1		1	
3.		Cedar Hill Park (neighborhood)	1.1	X															
4.		Crestwood Park (neighborhood)	3.1	0.3															
5.		Eastgate Park (neighborhood)	1.3					1	1	1									
6.		First Home Park (neighborhood)	0.5					1	1										
7.		Gateway Park (neighborhood)	0.8										1						
8.		Half-Circle Park (neighborhood)	0.1																
9.		Hickory Heights Park (neighborhood)	2.8					2	1	1									
10.		Juhl Park (neighborhood)	0.2					1	1										
11.		Kiwanis Park (neighborhood)	3.3					1											





LOCATION / PARK TYPE		SIZE (ACRES)	TRAILS (MILES)	SHELTER	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION STAND	FAIRGROUND	PLAYGROUND	BASKETBALL	BASEBALL	RUGBY	DISC GOLF COURSE	OPEN FIELDS	POOL	ICE SKATING	FISHING	DOCK	BOAT RAMP	SCULPTURES
12	 Knott's Playlot (neighborhood)	0.5							1										
13	 Kohlmann Park (community)	5.3	0.4	2	1			2							1				1
14	 Memorial Park (community)	17.0		4	2	1	1	1		3				1					
15	 Pelikan Park (neighborhood)	0.8													1	1			
16	 Prairie Park (neighborhood)	3.0						1											
17	 Red Cedar Park (community)	15.0	0.6																
18	 Ridgewood Park (neighborhood)	4.8																	
19	 Rolling Hills Park (neighborhood)	3.0	0.2																
20	 Rolling Meadows Park (neighborhood)	2.3						1	1										

LOCATION / PARK TYPE		SIZE (ACRES)	TRAILS (MILES)	SHELTER	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION STAND	FAIRGROUND	PLAYGROUND	BASKETBALL	BASEBALL	RUGBY	DISC GOLF COURSE	OPEN FIELDS	POOL	ICE SKATING	FISHING	DOCK	BOAT RAMP	SCULPTURES
21.	 Rugby Park (community)	8.1			1						1								
22.	 Second Home Park (neighborhood)	3.9																	
23.	 South Riverside Park (neighborhood)	6.1	X	1	1			1								1			
24.	 Three Rivers Park (community)	15.0		1												1	1	2	
25.	 Waverly Golf Course (community)	120.0																	
26.	 Waverly Rail Trail	85.0	7.0																
27.	 Willow Lawn Park (neighborhood)	2.7						1	1	1									
SUBTOTAL		325.9	9.2	8	5	1	1	13	7	6	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	3	1

\*Recreational Land Matrix inventory information was compiled from the best available information. All data should be considered as approximate, in need of verification, and subject to change.



LOCATION / PARK TYPE		SIZE (ACRES)
NON MUNICIPAL PARK & OPEN SPACE FACILITIES		
28.	Babcock Woods	79.1
29.	Centennial Oaks Golf Club	248.2
30.	 Little League Fields	8.7
31.	Wartburg College	86.5
32.	 WSRSA Soccer Complex	51.1
SUBTOTAL		473.6
*Recreational Land Matrix inventory information was compiled from the best available information. All data should be considered as approximate, in need of verification, and subject to change.		



LOCATION / PARK TYPE		SIZE (ACRES)
MUNICIPAL SITES (OTHER)		
33.	Civic Center	0.5
34.	Ledges	4.0
35.	Flood Lots/School Crossing	1.0
36.	HyVee Blvds/10th Ave	0.6
37.	Library/Yard Waste Site/Ind. Park/Recycle Center	5.0
38.	218/3 Triangles-Bremer Parkway	2.2
39.	Water Towers (2)/Well 7	4.3
40.	Downtown Parking Lots	0.7
41.	Airport	4.6
42.	Harlington Cemetery	47.0
SUBTOTAL		69.9
*Recreational Land Matrix inventory information was compiled from the best available information. All data should be considered as approximate, in need of verification, and subject to change.		



*Appendix D*

# Park/Open Space Facilities Comparison Table



Page Left Intentionally Blank



# Comparison Table

POPULATION		WARRENVILLE		YORKVILLE		GRINNELL		DECORAH		WAVERLY		
		13,670		16,717		9,087		7,767		9,138		
AMENITY TYPE	RECOMMENDED STANDARDS		recommended per 1000 pop comparison		recommended per 1000 pop comparison		recommended per 1000 pop comparison		recommended per 1000 pop comparison		recommended per 1000 pop comparison	MEETS STANDARD OR NEED EXISTS
Community Parks (acres)	7 acres per 1,000 pop.	43	95.69	121	117.02	26.1	63.61	374	54.37	194.1	63.97	meets standard
Neighborhood Parks (acres)	3 acres per 1,000 pop.	22	41.01	151	50.15	28.8	27.26	32.5	23.30	46.8	27.41	meets standard
Total Parks (acres)	10 acres per 1,000 pop.	65	136.70	272	167.17	54.9	90.87	406.5	77.67	240.9	91.38	meets standard
Trails (miles)	1 mile per 1,000 pop.	8.4	13.67	14	16.72	10.7	9.09	15	7.77	9.2*	9.14	need exists
Other Open Space (acres)	1.5 acre per 1,000 pop.	15	20.51	28	25.08	87.9	13.63	0	11.65	543.5*	13.71	meets standard
PARK TYPE		WARRENVILLE		YORKVILLE		GRINNELL		DECORAH		WAVERLY		
Playgrounds		X		X		X		X		X		
Pavillion/shelter		X		X		X		X		X		
Youth baseball fields		X		X		X		X		X		
Adult baseball fields		X		X		X		X		X		
Youth softball fields		X		X		X		X		X		
Adult softball fields		X		X		X		X		X		
Soccer fields		X		X						X		
Bandshell						?		X		X		
Canoe launch				X		?		X		X		
Outdoor pools		X						X		X		
Basketball courts		X		X		X		X		X		
Golf										X		
Tennis courts		X		X				X		X		
Trails		X		X		X		X		X		
Football/Rugby										X		
Volleyball		X						X		X		
Skate park		X				?		X		X		
Indoor pool		X						X		X		
Recreation/Fitness Center		X		X						X		
*Note-The following are assumptions:												
Amenities at public school facilities were not accounted for in the calculations-thefore certain park types may be located within the city, however, are not a part of the Parks/Recreation Department												
The numbers are estimates only												
Trail lengths have been compiled from the best available information. This number is not comprehensive and may not include all internal community trail lengths. All data should be considered as approximate, In need of verification, and subject to change.												
Park acreages for non-municipal parks have been approximated based off of aerial images												

Page Left Intentionally Blank



Page Left Intentionally Blank





[HRGreen.com](http://HRGreen.com)

Phone 319.841.4000 Fax 319.841.4012 Toll Free 800.728.7805  
8710 Earhart Lane SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404