

WEBSTER CITY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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PLAN OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the fall of 2018 and the spring of 2019, the team of graduate students from the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Iowa worked to create a Master Parks and Recreation Plan for the City of Webster City. This planning process engaged residents, involved research regarding best practices and references from other communities, proposed various recommendations to bolster existing assets and address deficiencies, and offered specific parameters for continued evaluation. Through various community engagement efforts, this plan captures the voices of a diverse group of residents, community leaders, city officials, and other stakeholders. This plan represents a shared vision for the future of Webster City's Parks and Recreation opportunities, and it is intended to inform future efforts within the community for the next decade. The introduction section begins with an overarching view of the planning process by formalizing a project statement along with a vision statement for the future. Next, the planning team describes the purpose and process of master planning. The planning team chose to define a set of guiding principles used to guide the overall planning process. Finally, a set of focus areas are described, as they are specific to this plan and used to define the main themes of this plan.

METHODOLOGY

This plan presents an overall view of both the current and future aspects that make up the Parks and Recreation system in Webster City. Planning efforts began with an examination of the history, demographics, and existing assets of this central Iowa community. Data was collected from a variety of sources including the US Census and the American Community Survey, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), Social Explorer, Google Maps, and from Webster City officials. This information was analyzed and presented using ESRI ArcMap, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Microsoft Word.

Community engagement was a central focus of this planning process, and several opportunities were available for the public to voice their opinions. The planning team visited Webster City in May, August, and October of 2018, and visited once more at the end of March of 2019. The October and March visits were announced to the public via several platforms to encourage public

input. A total of 80 completed paper surveys, 78 digital responses, 3 interviews, and 2 open house events provided valuable feedback which was used to form this plan. This process was accomplished through collaborative efforts involving city officials, community leaders, faculty members from the University of Iowa's Urban and Regional Planning program, residents, and the students tasked with developing this plan. This included biweekly meetings with both Lindsay Henderson and Kent Harfst to discuss goals and objectives for the project.

The visit in March was used to prioritize recommendations for Webster City parks. This information was obtained using a sticky dot exercise, with each poster representing a single park within Webster City. The posters used pictures to represent recommendations tailored to each park space. Each citizen was given one sticker for each park (10 stickers in total) and asked to place their dot next to the best recommendation. Participants also had the opportunity to add their own ideas to the posters using sticky notes to record their recommendation. Based on the results of the various community engagement efforts, the planning team shifted their focus to incorporate that feedback into an actionable strategy. The conclusion of this plan outlines those prioritized recommendations and recognizes resources Webster City can use to begin implementing the enhancements. Ultimately, this master plan strives to be a 'living document,' meaning it will provide guidance and context to Parks and Recreation decision making both now and in the future.

SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations outlined in this plan were formed through the collaborative efforts of numerous individuals and groups who have a desire to make Webster City a better place. This was apparent in all interactions with Webster City residents, ranging from residents who agreed to spend time answering questions to city officials who consider topics such as Parks and Recreation on a regular basis. The recommendations are derived from the research, analysis of the existing Parks and Recreation system, and the public and stakeholder engagement conducted throughout the planning process. Those recommendations range anywhere from publicity and promotion to land conservation, but each set of recommendations is unique. It considers the

current assets along with deficiencies in the system, and it describes alternatives to consider moving into the future.

These recommendations strive to address the needs identified through the multi-level planning process performed over the course of the project's ten-month time frame. Each recommendation was assessed according to the guiding principles of this planning process. The recommendations are directly associated with at least one guiding principle to ensure consistency throughout the plan. By pairing this with the input received from public and stakeholder engagement alongside best practices from outside resources, these recommendations establish credibility otherwise not present. That is, evidence-based content was an essential requirement the planning team used to form this plan. Ultimately, this section provides a strategic direction for Webster City in terms of the Parks and Recreation system developing and improving into the future.

PARK-BY-PARK AND RECREATION AMENITIES ANALYSIS

Webster City has an abundance of park space within and just outside of the city boundaries. Featuring 11 total parks within or adjacent to the city, this community has plenty of space to work with. Based on national averages calculated by the National Recreation and Parks Association, about 10 to 18 acres of city land should be designated as park space for every 1,000 residents. This equates to a need of about 80-140 acres in Webster City. However, Webster City is fortunate enough to enjoy much more than that, with around 238 acres in the city limits and 550 acres in

Briggs Woods County Park. However, specific residential areas within the city are lacking in terms of park space within walking distance and certain types of recreation opportunities and experiences are not available in all parts of the city. The North and West residential areas of the city have fewer park facilities than the rest of the community. The Boone River and the existing trail system can be leveraged to fill the gaps and provide value to the underserved neighborhoods. The inventory analysis provides an assessment of the existing eleven parks. This includes an evaluation of the quality of existing facilities and accessibility, an acknowledgement of recreation opportunities available or promoted within each park space, and an aerial map displaying the amenities featured in each space along with proposed connections between the parks.

IMPLEMENTATION

After understanding the specific areas in which the Parks and Recreation system can be modified, enhanced, or reimagined in any way, it is essential to consider the steps needed to accomplish each goal. This section provides a general guideline for executing this plan and translating the recommendations from paper to reality. This section is broad and overarching, as it includes cost estimates, ongoing benchmarks and evaluations, general time horizons for the prioritized recommendations, and various other aspects of the implementation in this plan. As this master Parks and Recreation plan intends to provide guidance for at least the next decade, it is essential to distinguish the actions steps required for successful achievement of each recommendation. By following these benchmarks, Webster City will reap the rewards of a multi-tiered and holistic approach to enhancing the Parks and Recreation system.

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT WEBSTER CITY

Webster City was originally settled by Wilson Brewer, who built a cabin near what is now known as Brewer Creek. The town was platted in October of 1854 under the name *Newcastle*, which was ultimately changed in 1855 to Webster City and became the county seat of Hamilton County (City of Webster City 2018). Located about an hour north of Des Moines in the center of the state, according to several residents, Webster City is a unique, small Iowa town that features many conveniences often found in larger communities. The individuals and families who call this place home often describe it as striking the perfect balance between rural Iowa characteristics and big-city amenities. Ranging from a holistic recreation center to an award-winning public library, Webster City is a place with a lot to offer. Moving forward into the future, this community is expecting a potential influx upwards of 1,000 new residents after the opening of the Prestage meat processing plant in Wright County at the end of 2018. Based on multiple influencing factors, Webster City is in a unique position to consider and implement strategies to enhance the community through Parks and Recreation.

Historic Context

In 1854, after Wilson Brewer settled in this area of central Iowa and called it ‘*Newcastle*,’ the town was platted 2 blocks wide and 4 blocks long. In 1855 Walter C. Willson purchased the plat of land from Wilson Brewer for \$22,000. Shortly after, he helped establish several city functions including a hotel, a post office and a sawmill. The town now called ‘*Webster City*’ began to take shape and through the years, Willson later brought in a functioning railroad line, an opera house and a coal clay tile company. By 1900, Webster City had over 130 buildings thanks in part to his contributions.



Figure 1 - Postcard of Second Street, Webster City

Webster City’s history is also rich in arts and culture. This community is home to two men who went on to become famous Pulitzer Prize winning authors. In 1956,

MacKinlay Kantor won his Pulitzer Prize for Literature and in 1958, Clark Mollenhoff won his Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. These award-winning writers are a big part of what defines Webster City today and continues to make residents proud. In 1976, a plaza in West Twin Park was dedicated to the two authors (MIDAS Council of Governments 2013).

Through the decades Webster City developed and flourished into a fully functioning city, with nearby farm families supporting it from the outskirts of town. In more recent history, the global economic landscape took a dramatic shift and following trends in the rest of the nation, Webster City saw a decline in jobs and economic opportunity. In 2011, Webster City’s largest employer, Electrolux washer and dryer manufacturing facility, shut its doors causing an approximate loss of 800 jobs and business struggled with the reduction of the local customer base (Electrolux plants close, leaving 880 Iowans jobless 2009). This was not only a financial loss, as the core of the shared community identity was shaken, and friends and families had to look elsewhere for employment opportunities. The Webster City community had to look for innovative ways to rebound and rise from this hardship.

Today, Webster City is working on recovering from its economic downturn. Downtown features, new vibrant businesses and investments, and the Parks and Recreation system remains an active and integral part of daily life. Webster City benefits from an affordable lifestyle which makes for a positive position to attract and welcome new families into the area (Lindsay Henderson 2018).

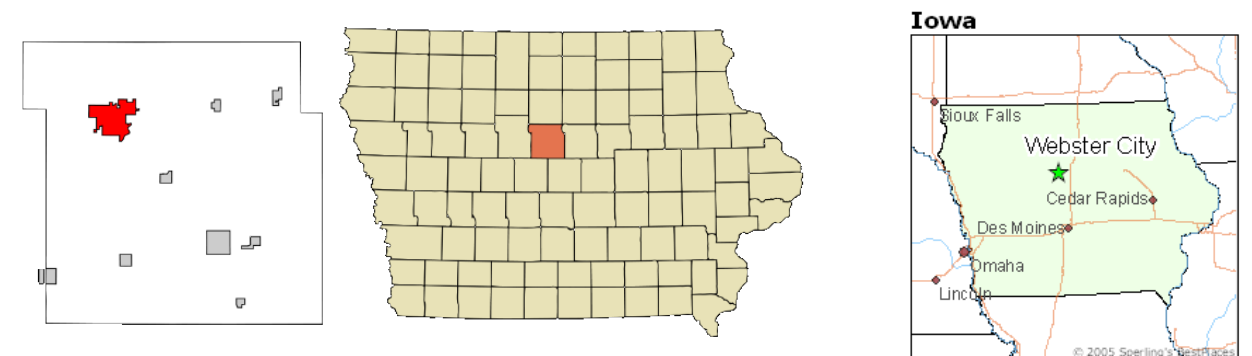


Figure 2 - Webster City Highlighted in red, Hamilton County highlighted in red

Physical Features and Demographics

Landform features here exhibit prairie fields along with ponds and wetlands that have been primarily transformed to agricultural use. Keeping this in mind, Webster City is located within the Boone River Watershed, so floodplain strategies for Parks and Recreation development are considered in this plan.

The city is easily accessible via Highway 20 and approximately 13 miles from Interstate 35. With its proximity to Des Moines, Webster City is a great alternative to the large city life while offering many special ‘small-town’ perks. This puts Webster City in a unique position to capitalize on opportunities for trail connections and extended signage to the rest of the region as well as self-promotion of the Parks and Recreation system. Webster City has many amenities including the Webster Theatre, shopping and dining options, and the Kendall Young Library (MIDAS Council of Governments 2013).

Webster City is Hamilton County’s largest city and is home to 8,070 people. The population of Webster City is 88% white, 9% Hispanic/Latino groups and 4% Asian, with a predominantly Laotian background. 11.3% of the people in Webster City, IA speak a non-English language, and 97.5% are U.S. citizens. As of 2018, 22% of the population is 65 years or older with a median age of 40 for males and 45 for females (Webster City Economic Development 2018).

Age & Gender 2018

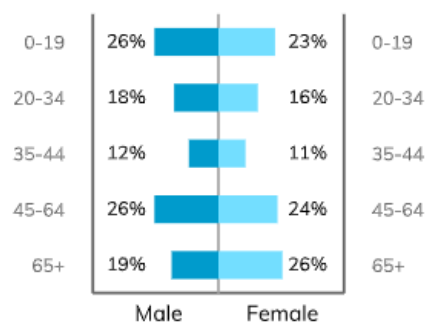


Figure 3 - Webster City Community Profile

Diversity in Webster City

With the creation of new job opportunities in the area, Webster City is preparing for a rise in population. In nearby Wright County the new development of a processing plant, Prestage Farms, could potentially bring in a population increase of 1,300 people by as early as late-2019. The Goss & Associates impact study noted that there was a regional industry gap in livestock production to livestock processing which provided reasoning for opening the new plant. Cultural integration and inclusion will be vital as the influx of new, ethnically diverse community members will rise, adding to the mix of Webster City resident’s backgrounds. The city’s new tagline ‘Opportunity Awaits’ suitably represents the rise in employment opportunities in addition to the boost the economy will see from increased regional activity. The new Prestage Farm facility will create a demand for housing and incentivizes Webster City to fill some of those needs. Along with the need for housing, the impact study points out that the effects of the facility location could also increase the number of children in the region, thus modifying the current community profile of population age in Webster City (Goss & Associates Economic Solutions 2017). This also impacts

the need for more amenities for children in parks and more recreational services for children and families.

Parks and Recreation

Webster City owns 837 acres of public land, some with park structures, including developed and non-developed land (Iowa GIS Data Repository 2019). There are currently 10 city parks along with one county park *Briggs Woods County Park and Golf Course*, which sits along the southeastern portion of the city, features camping and golfing amenities. *Sketchley Park* features a dog park and *East Twin Park* features a designated skatepark. Webster City offers unique recreational opportunities, from programs and activities in its fully equipped recreation center, *Fuller Hall Recreation Center*, to ball parks and ice skating in the winter at *Nokomis Park/ Middleton Sports Complex*.

The city’s main water feature, the Boone River, provides water recreation opportunities such as canoeing, kayaking and fishing. Other water amenities include an indoor and outdoor pool. Along this river is one of the 2 main biking and walking trails available in town, the *Boone River Recreation Trail*. This plan further details each park and recreation function in the ‘Park by Park Analysis’ section.

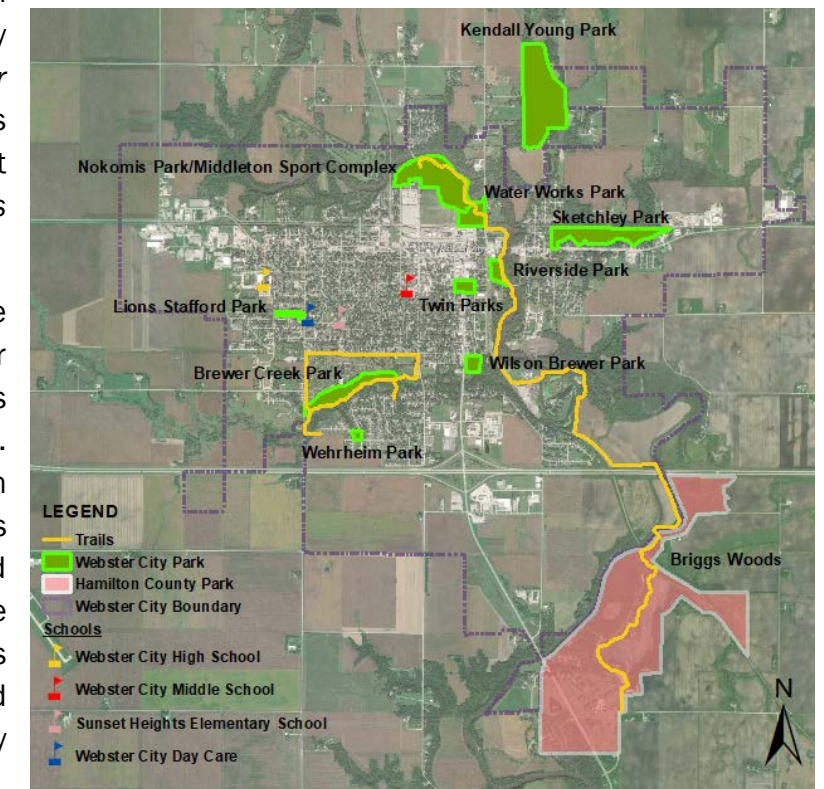


Figure 4 - Park Map, Webster City

Moving forward, the Parks and Recreation system has potential for updates, improvements and enhancements to the already well-established system. This plan offers a look ahead 10 years and showcases recommendations and strategies based on the plan’s focus areas, research, project partner feedback, and the evolving community and public input. Best practices and case studies were examined to better manage natural resources, enhance ecosystems and increase access to nature to better meet the needs of the whole community.

PROJECT STATEMENT AND VISION

The initial stages of this project relied upon thorough research and identifying the exact scope of the project. The first step was to identify the purpose, overall direction, and guiding principles for this planning process. The project statement below describes that overall purpose and direction of the work conducted between August 2018 and May 2019.

The overarching purpose of this Master Parks and Recreation Plan is to increase the usage opportunities provided by the Webster City Parks and Recreation system by reimagining, enhancing, and promoting the available assets, resources, and activities in and around the community.

The vision statement is a culmination of engagement and feedback received from the project partners, the community, the team's expertise, and award-winning Parks and Recreation plans from around the country used as references. The vision describes how the planning team foresees the Webster City Parks and Recreation system in the future and the hopes this plan can be inspiring for years to come. This following vision statement represents the vision for the future of both the physical spaces along with activities within said spaces.

An accessible and welcoming Parks and Recreation system supporting human, natural, and aesthetic uses of public spaces and promoting comprehensive activities within those spaces.

This vision statement highlights the need for a holistic approach when addressing the Parks and Recreation system. That approach should involve the human enjoyment, natural functions, and aesthetic impacts of the communal physical spaces, as well as the promotion of engaging activities within those spaces. A goal of this project is to stimulate cohesion between city leaders, community champions, and both current and future residents of Webster City when it comes to decision making related to Parks and Recreation. Webster City benefits from a thriving Parks and Recreation system in terms of social, environmental, and economic impacts.

PURPOSE OF MASTER PLANNING

Before delving into the details of this plan, it is imperative to understand the value of planning in this context. Webster City is in a unique position, unlike most Iowa communities, with potential population growth over the course of the next decade because of the Prestage meat processing plant which opened at the end of 2018 a few miles away, between Webster City and Fort Dodge. Being conveniently located on US Highway 20 and only a few miles away from US Interstate 35, Webster City is an ideal place to call home, especially for those future workers and their families.

Master planning considers uncertainties prevalent in the Webster City of today, but it also works to proactively address issues that might arise in the future. This preparation for the future can only be realized by establishing credibility and buy-in from the public. Public input is vital when it comes to successfully meeting residents' needs and preferences and to ensure this plan has community support. Thus, public engagement is a fundamental determinant of this plan's true impact. Through personal interviews, paper surveys, and open forum meetings, all forms of feedback were valuable in the planning process, especially for identifying recommendations for future improvements.

Outside of preparing for the uncertainties of the future, master planning is valuable in other ways as well. Resource allocation is a pressing, and sometimes controversial, topic for communities to evaluate on a regular basis. Whether that is related to fiscal impacts or providing services, resources are finite. Therefore, another purpose of master planning is to prioritize budget and resource allocation, and in this case, to guide decision making regarding Webster City Parks and Recreation for at least the next decade.

Finally, master planning serves as a linkage between knowledge and action. This plan uses a combination of various sources of knowledge to encourage action. Beginning with research of best practices and model plans to reference for ideas, this plan works to emulate proven methods of planning. In addition to outside material, this plan considers relevant historical information as a guide for ideas specifically tailored for Webster City. By learning from the past along with best practices from other communities, the planning team can ensure a more efficient and appropriate plan of action to propel the community forward.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Public service and outreach was an essential guiding principle for the team throughout the 10-month planning process. Parks and Recreation planning is one form of public service, as everyone in the community should have the ability to enjoy the physical spaces and recreation services maintained and provided by the city. The spaces and activities collectively **serve both residents and non-residents alike**, and this service will continue to be preserved through this guiding principle. The collaborative efforts of various stakeholders will determine the success and impact of this plan for years to come. Multiple opportunities were created to **involve the voices of the community** with the ultimate aspiration of creating a plan that is supported and instills a sense of pride in Webster City residents. This information continued to shape this plan through its entirety.



Health and wellness are directly associated with Parks and Recreation. Whether it is recognizing the aesthetic appeal of a physical space or measuring the impact of a specific community program, health and wellness is a valuable outcome of Parks and Recreation planning. The planning team used the concept of health and wellness to formulate a set of recommendations considering physical activity, contact with nature, outdoor activities, and alternatives found within indoor facilities. This plan **encourages healthy living for all people of all ages** thus boosting overall wellness in Webster City.



Safety is the final guiding principle within Parks and Recreation. Webster City is a small, friendly community with little to no safety concerns, and it should remain that way long after this plan is implemented. However, community input helped adapt this guiding principle to address specific details of **ensuring safety in the Parks and Recreation system**. Strategies such as additional lighting along specific trails and pedestrian safety are explored within this plan.



Ensuring equitable outcomes in relation to public usage of park and recreation amenities, is something this plan strives for. All individuals - regardless of race, color, religion, creed, sexual orientation, disability status, and nationality - will feel both welcome and comfortable enjoying the physical spaces and recreation opportunities in Webster City. With that in mind, the planning process made inclusiveness a fundamental focus of this plan by including all interested residents in the discussion. This idea guides this plan in avoiding all barriers, ranging anywhere from participating in the survey to accessing Parks and Recreation services, so all can enjoy and feel welcome.



Sustainability is another guiding principle, with every dimension of this plan being analyzed according to **appropriate ecosystem management practices, economic vitality strategies, and social justice impacts**. This plan considers ecology and ecosystems, management strategies, biodiversity, and impacts not only on humans, but also for wildlife, flora and fauna, and the quality of water and soil. For example, the Boone River is a tremendous community asset in Webster City, but it should be respected as a natural resource. The planning team defends this logic by discouraging structural development within the floodplain as designated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

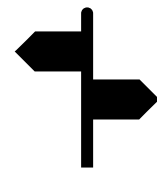
FOCUS AREAS



Trail connectivity is an area in which Webster City can and will experience future growth and development. Both local and regional scale connections have the potential to increase area residents' and visitors' overall quality of life. Therefore, the planning team investigated options to enhance the existing system. The proposed connections were identified by considering a quarter-mile radius around the new trails to represent a 5-minute walk to the trails. It would also connect all existing park and recreation amenities, including Fuller Hall and the existing network of trails.



Community engagement was vital to the planning process. The collaborative efforts of various stakeholders helped the planning team understand the needs and desires of residents and visitors alike. Multiple opportunities were created to involve the voices of the community with the ultimate aspiration of creating a plan that is supported and instills a sense of pride in Webster City residents. By acknowledging input from the community, the planning team identified and then prioritized specific recommendations tailored for each park and recreation facility within the community. After the plan enters its implementation phase, the true impact of this plan will depend on continuing evaluations along with the active public involvement to help enhance the Parks and Recreation system.



The general lack of public awareness regarding the Parks and Recreation system was a key finding in this planning process. City officials and community members emphasized the need for additional efforts to promote what Webster City has to offer. By actively and regularly **promoting Parks and Recreation**, the Parks and Recreation system can achieve optimal usage and enjoyment. Simple ideas such as signage, social media, or using facilities as gathering venues to inform all residents are simple solutions to this dilemma, but this plan explores specific strategies as well.



Beautification is an overarching focus area for this project based on a combination of research, community engagement, and city priorities. This focus area is directly associated with the planning team's vision statement in that Parks and Recreation incorporates the **aesthetic purpose of public spaces**. Beautification objectives include, but are not limited to, adding visually attractive plant life along otherwise unwelcoming and daunting fence lines (e.g., the Electrolux property north of downtown near Nokomis Park). These goals add a dimension to Parks and Recreation that are oftentimes taken for granted.



Finally, **riverfront development** is a focus area this plan addresses using a multifaceted approach. The preservation efforts and respect given to the Boone River and surrounding creeks will provide benefits for generations to come. The river serves as a great resource for recreation opportunities and the city could benefit from ideas like a public-private partnership to provide equipment or creating entry points after the low-head dam near Water Works Park. Many parks and nearly all the existing trails are adjacent to the river or a connecting creek, so the planning team evaluated ideas and proposed recommendations to leverage the river as a recreation asset.

METHODOLOGY

PLANNING PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The figure below visualizes the methods and actions used to complete this Webster City Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The creation of this master plan took place over a 10-month period and involved multiple steps. This plan was carried out through several specific steps involving data collection and using the rational planning process to reach conclusions and recommendations.

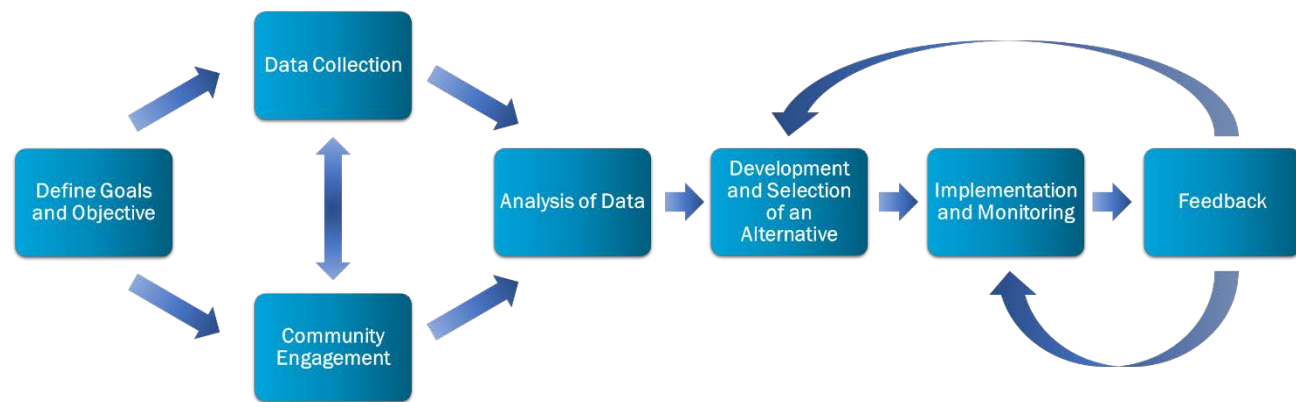


Figure 5 - Methods and Actions

The purpose of using this multi-step process was to combine knowledge gained from considering alternative strategies to create a final, holistic plan. The steps are as follows:

- defining the problem and identify gaps in Parks and Rec system
- Identifying and evaluating alternative strategies
- implementing the plan
- monitoring the effects of the strategies once implemented

The fundamental goal of this model and of this master plan was to produce a living document in which the Parks and Recreation department of Webster City will be able to draw from when it is implemented in the future. Another important part of the planning process was making sure that this master plan reflects input from all members of the community and represents the opinions of underserved

populations. The planning team sought to include all residents, regardless of income, gender, or ethnicity, as all members of the community should be represented and not feel left out. This involved the planning team reaching out to members of minority populations of Webster City and gathering their input about the future direction of Parks and Recreation. Through phone interviews, the planning team interviewed minority populations, primarily citizens of Latino and Laotian heritage. The planning team also held Biweekly meetings with project partners Lindsay Henderson and Kent Harfst to help guide goals and outcomes. Furthermore, the planning team also met with the Youth Advisory Commission to hear the opinions of Webster City's younger residents. Also, while in public meetings, the planning team made a conscious effort to educate citizens and community organization about the planning process to be sure everyone had a seat at the table and had their voices heard and reflected within this plan.

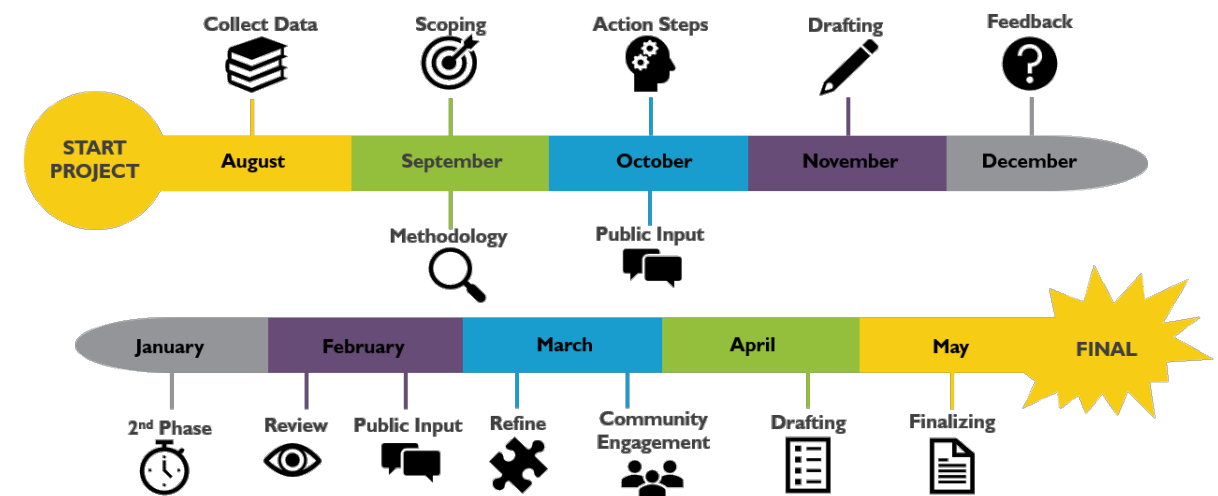


Figure 6 - Project Timeline

REFERENCE PLANS, BEST PRACTICES, AND OTHER RESOURCES

While crafting this plan, the planning team drew on multiple other plans to consider best practices from other cities. These plans included other Parks and Recreation plans, ecosystem plans, and capital improvement plans. The variety of the plans referenced provide a template to set goals

for the implementation of the Webster City Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The state of Colorado for example, published [Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards](#) that includes cost estimates and design standards. Although the Chicago Park District master plan operates at a significantly larger scale than this plan, the information about capital improvements and programming can be applied to the Parks and Recreation system of Webster City. The planning team also referenced award winning plans that were created by former Urban and Regional Planning students to see how other students went through the planning process to further guide the format of this plan. The planning team also referenced plans that have won awards on a national level such as the Golden, Colorado Parks and Recreation Master Plan which won the NRPA national award for best parks plan for a community with a population under 30,000. Bike trail master plans were also considered, such as the Winona, Minnesota Future Trails and Bikeways plan. This plan was referenced because of its comprehensive approach to bike use both on trails and streets while being a similar sized community compared to Webster City. The Iowa City Parks Master Plan was used as a guideline for formatting as well as for insights on how to perform a park inventory analysis.

In addition to previously published Parks and Recreation plans, the planning team also used other resources to gain background information about Webster City and the geographical location of the parks located within the city. Geographic Information Systems or GIS is a program used for all the maps within this document. Sociodemographic information was gathered from American Fact finder, using data provided by the American Community Survey and the US Census.

PUBLIC INPUT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Gathering public input and making sure the community had their voices heard was a very important part of the planning teams' purpose. Because of the variety of voices heard through our public outreach, communication was the cornerstone of crafting an effective plan. The first round of public input, which took place October 12-13th, involved discussing the future of the Webster City park system with the parks commission in a meeting that was open to the public. The planning team also set up a booth at three different local businesses, Morning Glory Coffee Shop, Webster City Community Theater, and Gridiron Sports Bar to converse with residents and conduct surveys about the current Parks and Recreation system within Webster City. This trip was advertised using Webster City's social media pages, as well as through the Webster City municipal building. In the meeting with park officials, the planning team discussed what they think should be improved within the system as well as concerns residents have brought up in meetings. The

residents who attended the open meeting were particularly concerned with the condition of Kendall Young Park, as well as trail connections. The primary goal of the survey conducted at local businesses was to understand public perception regarding the Parks and Recreation system. The questions gauged the public's appreciation for Parks and Recreation, it asked what residents would like to see improved in the current facilities, new additions to enhance existing spaces, and how safe they feel in the parks in Webster City and which park they feel least safe in.

The first location the planning team distributed the survey was at the Webster City Community Theater, before and after a show hosted by the children's theater group. The next morning, a booth was set up in front of Mornin' Glory Coffee Shop near downtown for additional community outreach. This involved interactions with community members and distributing paper surveys. In the afternoon, the planning team visited the Gridiron sports bar and set up a table, handing out surveys during a University of Iowa football game. This first trip was successful, with over 80 surveys filled out by both residents and visitors. This initial survey was not intended to engage with a specific group of people, but it was administered to form a general direction of the planning process and to ensure the public was involved. The survey responses were not entirely representative of Webster City, however. The average age of the survey respondents was 48, whereas the actual average age of Webster City residents is 43. Furthermore, only 26% of the survey respondents had children in their households. According to the US Census, 23% of Webster City's population is under the age of 18. In order to address this issue, the planning team interviewed members of the Webster City Youth Council. Through this interview, the planning team was able to get a better idea of how the younger population of Webster City felt about the current Parks and Recreation facilities, and what they would like to see improved.

The planning team also traveled to Webster City on the evening of March 29, 2019, to hold an open house event at Fuller Hall. The open house was promoted using multiple platforms, including the city website, the city's Facebook page, email, and KQ Radio. A total of 55 Webster City residents participated in a sticky dot exercise, placing one dot on each poster next to the recommendation they felt should be prioritized above all other options. This sticky dot exercise was done to ensure the planning team presented alternative park improvements to residents of Webster City. The participants also had the option to add an idea to each poster using sticky notes if they felt an improvement to a specific park was not featured on a poster. General findings from this sticky dot exercise involved ideas that will ultimately increase public utilization of the parks. The results of this sticky dot exercise at the open house helped the team understand public opinion regarding the best strategies to enhance Webster City parks, and the outcomes of the dot exercise will be discussed in the park-by-park recommendations below. The exact results of that exercise can be seen in the [Appendix](#) of this plan.



Figure 7 - Webster City Visit - Project Partners



Figure 8 - Park Commission Meeting



Figure 9 - Park Commission Meeting



Figure 10 - October Public Input



Figure 11 - October Public Input



Figure 12 - October Public Input



Figure 13 - March Open House



Figure 14 - March Open House



Figure 15 - March Open House

FINDINGS FROM PUBLIC INPUT: SURVEY RESULTS

The planning team utilized a unique and multi-tiered method for gathering input from the community. By visiting already-popular businesses and community hangouts, the team was able to collect varied responses from 80 different residents and Webster City visitors. This approach was considered appropriate based on the number of responses and the feedback received. In addition, a digital version of the survey was created in English and Spanish, which was shared with the public via social media platforms and the city website. The planning team utilized the platform, *Qualtrics*, to share the survey with the public and record responses. This strategy nearly doubled the total responses, with 78 digital surveys completed. Thus, the total number of survey respondents was 158. Alongside the survey, the planning team chose to engage with and conduct phone interviews with representatives of the Youth Advisory Commission, the All Cultures Equal (ACE) Center, and a member of the city council. The notes from these interviews were translated to surveys, and the planning team used quotes from these interviews throughout this plan when appropriate. Those sources of input along with an analysis of the existing conditions, amenities, and deficiencies within the Parks and Recreation system were used to formulate a set of recommendations for each park and recreation facility/opportunity within Webster City to enhance the current system and the programs offered to the public. The demographic breakdown of the survey respondents can be seen below:

- Of those 158, 64% were females, 36% were males, and 0.01% (1 respondent) identified as non-binary
- The median age of the respondents was 41 years (The average was 45.48 years)
- 83% of the respondents were Webster City residents, while 17% were not residents
- 45% of the respondents had children in their household, while 55% did not

The planning team translated the written survey responses to the digital platform then analyzed the total responses. The results are presented in the following graphs in the order the question was asked in the survey. Above each graph is the top three ranking answers/categories for each question. Below each graph is information regarding the “other” answers to that specific question.

1) *What do you think makes Webster City unique?*

- 34.33% of respondents view the small and safe feel of Webster City as being what makes it a unique place
 - 28.36% of respondents believe Webster City businesses make it a unique place
 - 15.67% of respondents view the parks and recreation system as the main reason Webster City is a unique place

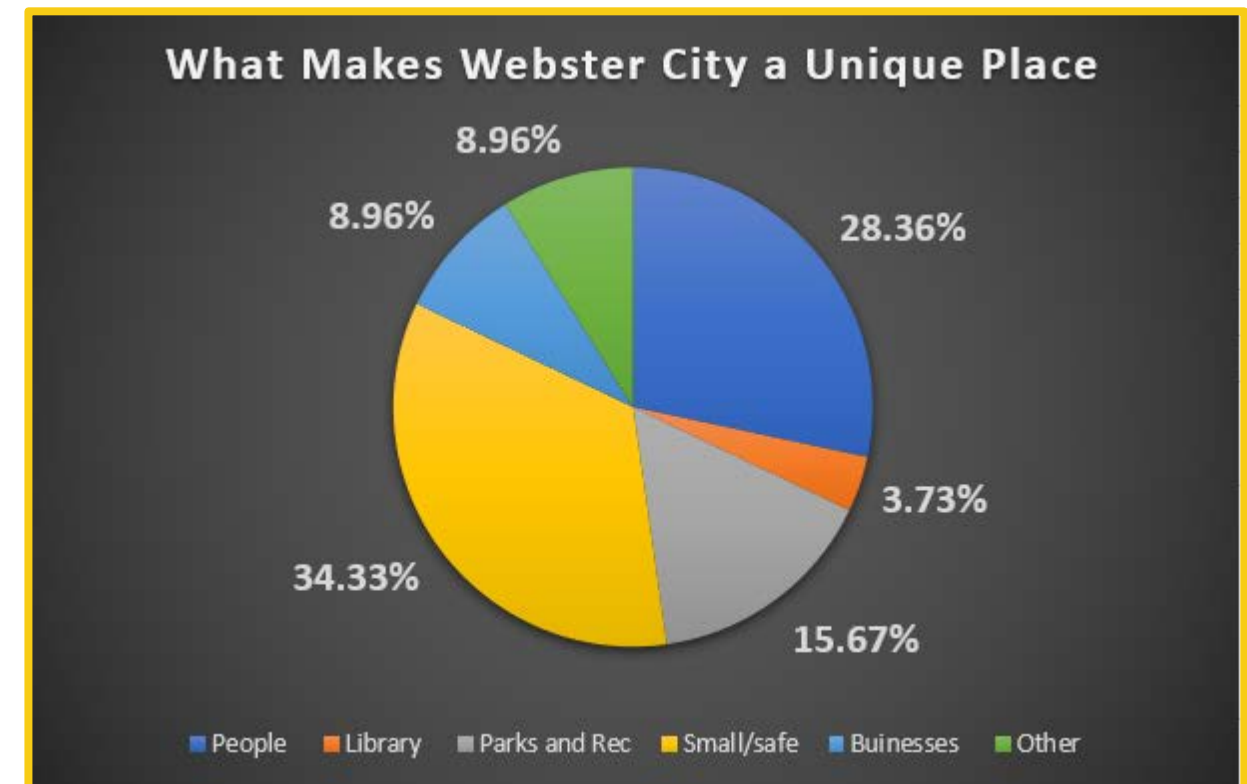


Figure 16 - What Makes Webster City a Unique Place

*" Other" answers: art in the park, city history, Pulitzer Prize authors, strength/resilience of the community

2) *What are you most proud of in Webster City?*

- 35.29% of respondents are most proud of the local businesses
 - 17.65% of respondents are most proud of Webster City schools
 - 14.71% of respondents are most proud of Webster City Parks and Recreation

3) *Where are you most likely to spend your day off within Webster City?*

- 37.50% of respondents are most likely to spend a day off enjoying Webster City Parks and Recreation
 - 33.33% of respondents are most likely to spend a day off at home
 - 21.53% of respondents are most likely to spend a day off at a local business

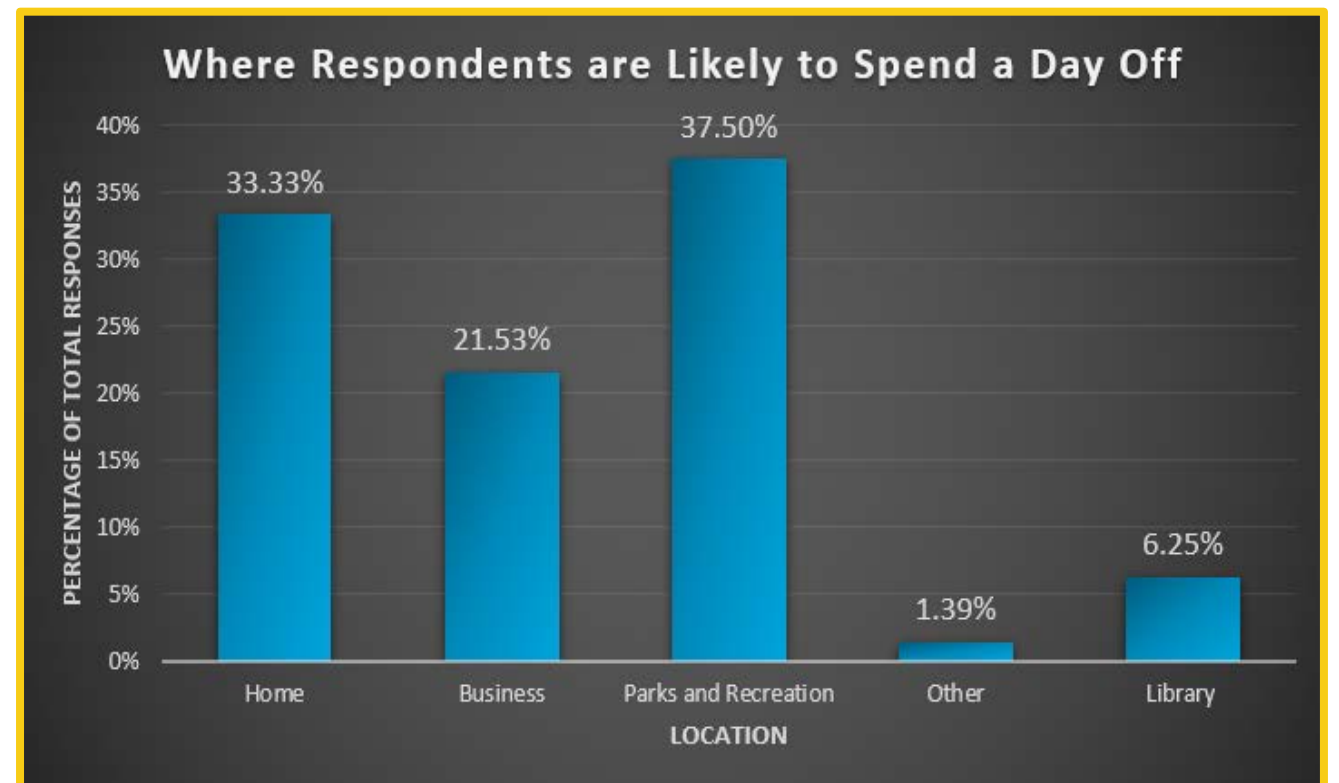
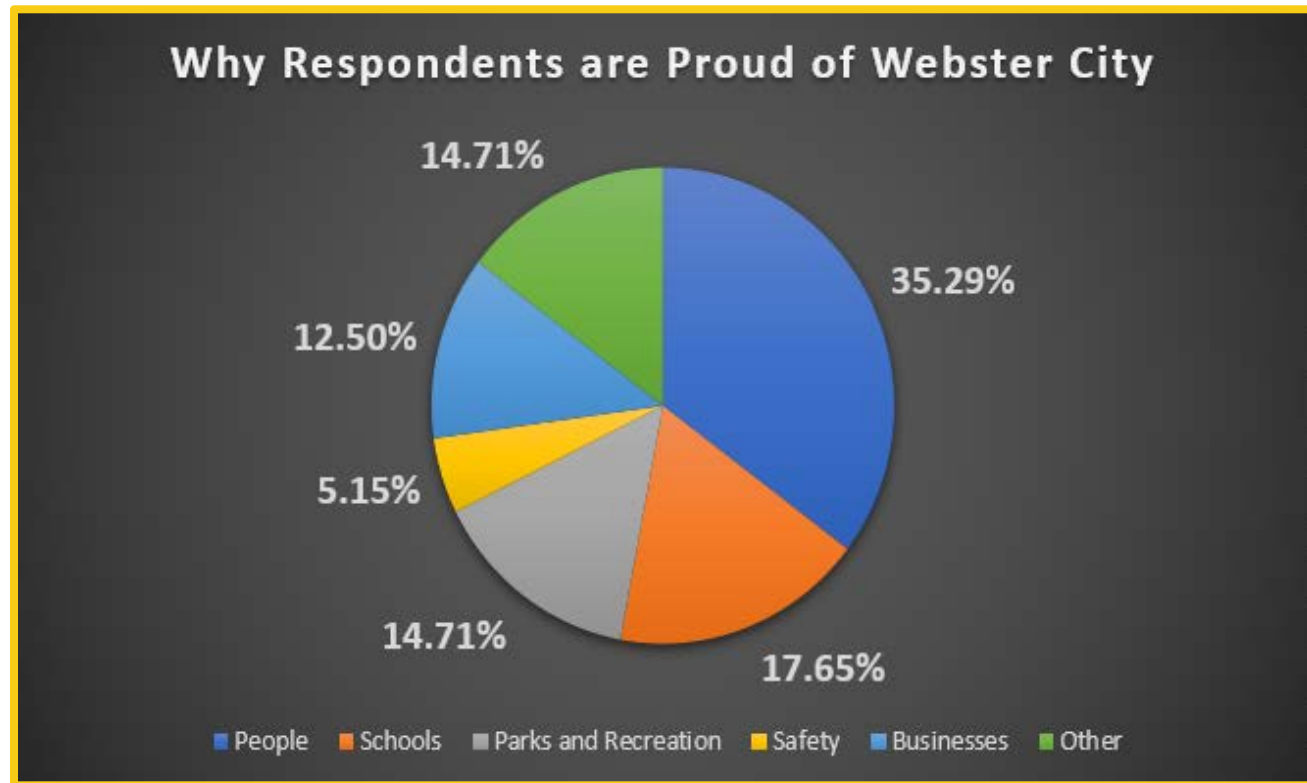


Figure 17 - Why Respondents are Proud of Webster City

Figure 18 - Where Respondents are Likely to Spend a Day Off

*" Other" answers: Kendall Young Library, the Webster Theatre, the "Junk Days" in June, renovation of Main Street, resilience of the community

*" Other" answers: outside of Webster City, "other"

4) What is your favorite park in or near Webster City?

- 42.11% of respondents ranked Briggs Woods County Park as their favorite local park
 - 10.53% of respondents ranked Kendall Young Park as their favorite local park
 - 7.52% of respondents ranked both Brewer Creek Park and Twin Parks as their favorite local park

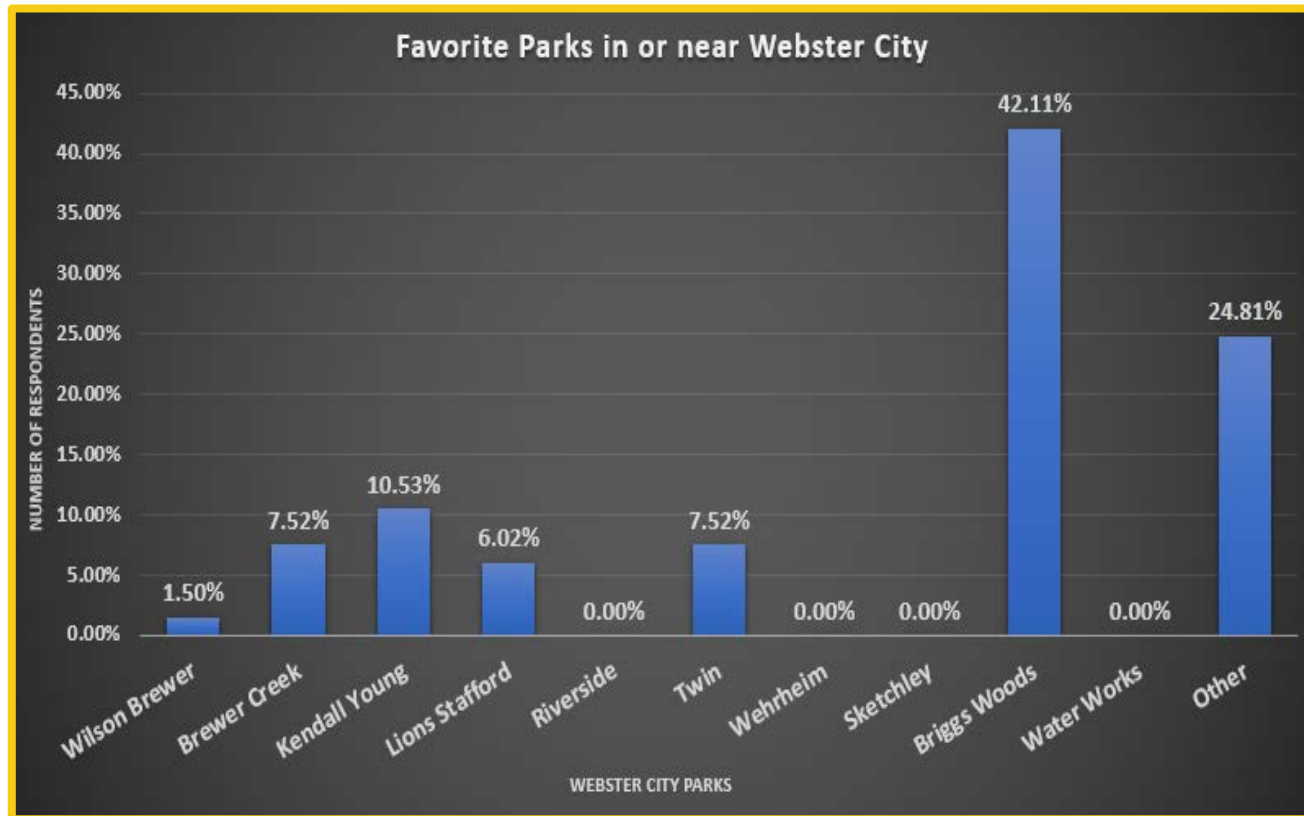


Figure 19 - Favorite Park in or near Webster City

*" Other" answers: trails, Webster City outdoor municipal swimming pool, Briggs Woods Golf Course, Boone River

5) What is your favorite public building?

- 44.35% of respondents ranked Kendall Young Library as their favorite public building
 - 33.87% ranked Fuller Hall Recreation Center as their favorite public building
 - 3.23% ranked both the Webster Theatre and the Hamilton County Courthouse as their favorite public building

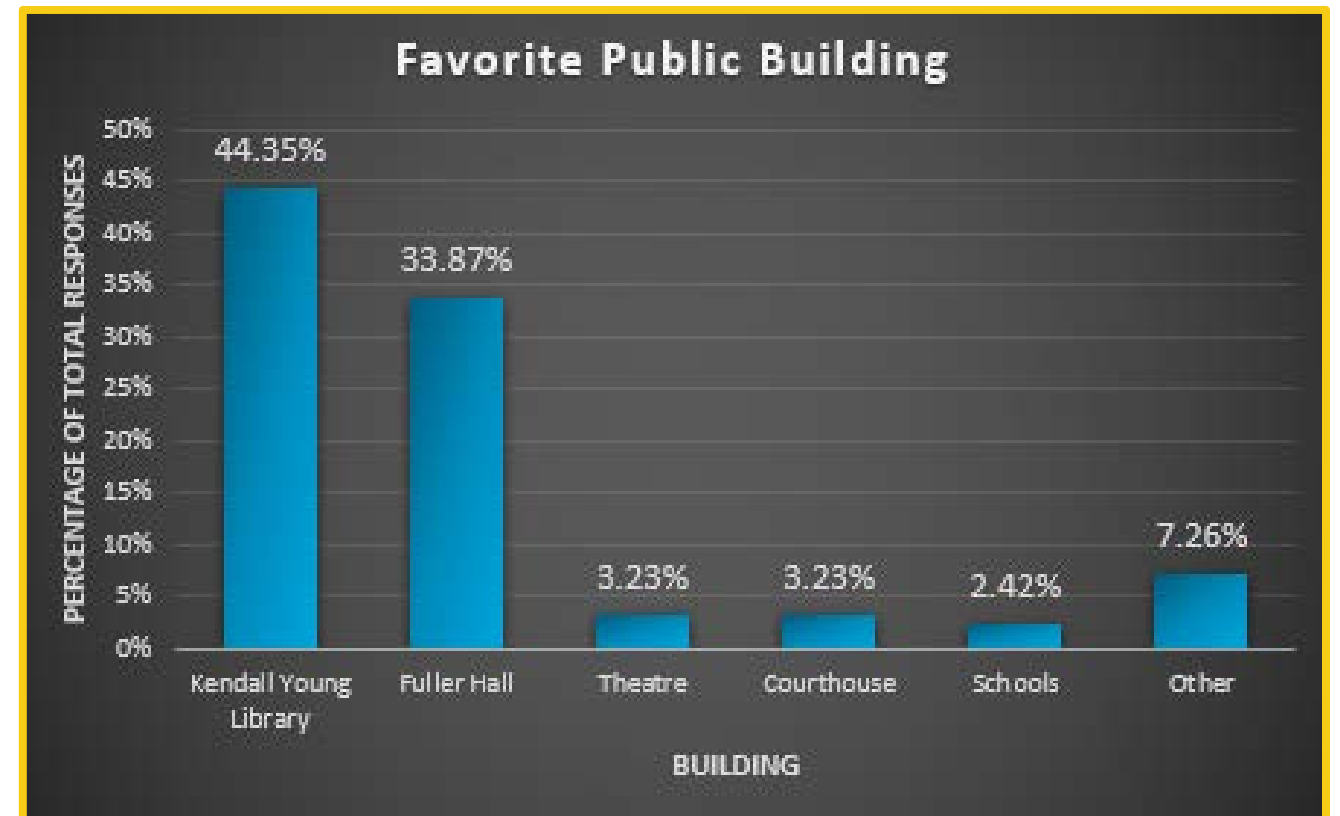


Figure 20- Favorite Public Building

*" Other" answers: Webster City Post Office, All Cultures Equal Community Center

6) What about Webster City Parks and Recreation do you like the most?

- 27.91% of respondents view the connection to nature and cleanliness as their favorite aspect of Webster City Parks and Recreation
 - 25.37% of respondents view the variety of recreation opportunities as their favorite aspect of Webster City Parks and Recreation
 - 20.90% of respondents view the trail network as their favorite aspect of Webster City Parks and Recreation

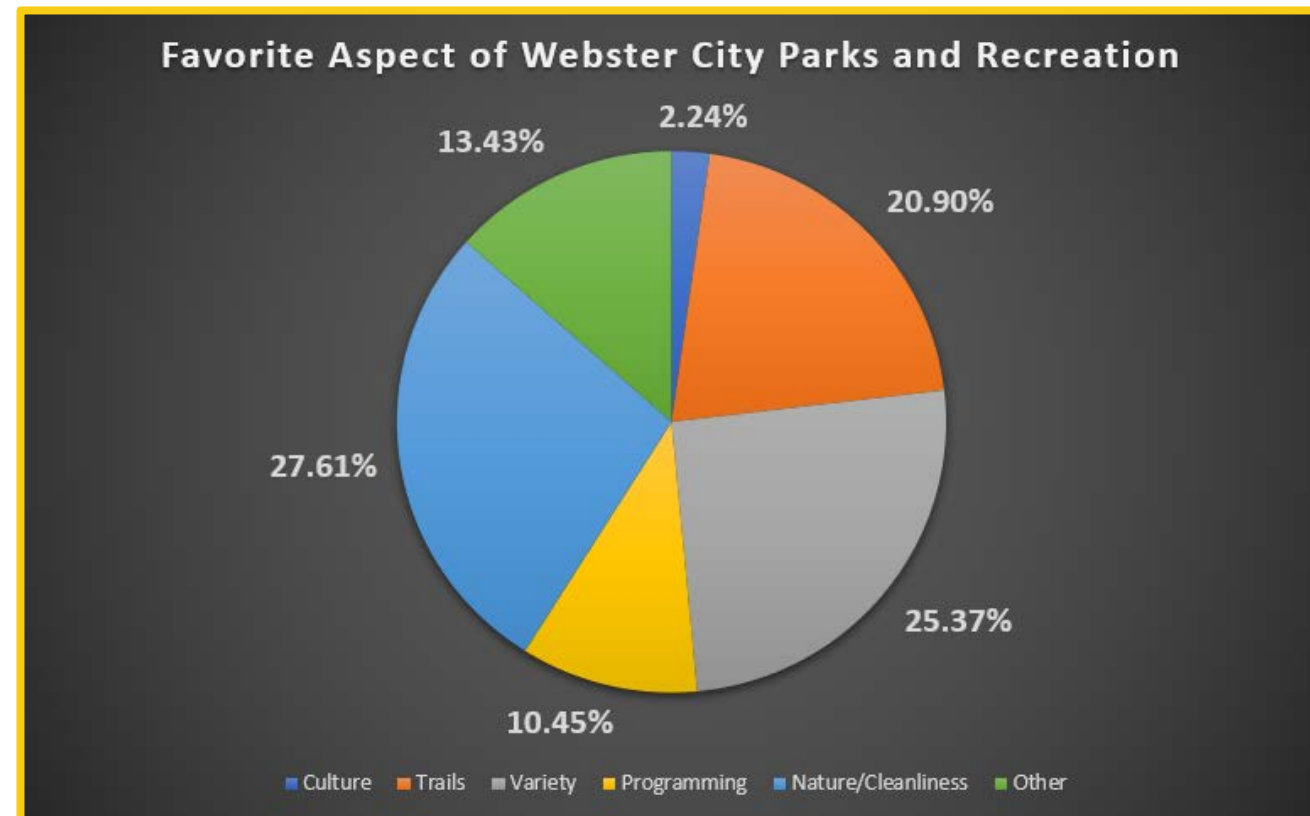


Figure 21 - Favorite Aspect of Webster City Parks and Recreation

*" Other" answers: several respondents named specific parks or recreation facilities

7) In Webster City, how can parks be improved/added to?

- 31.45% of respondents believe physical additions/renovations would be the best method to improve Webster City parks
 - 25.00% of respondents believe the parks require additional maintenance and cleaning efforts
 - 9.68% of respondents believe structured programming within the parks would be the best strategy to improve Webster City parks

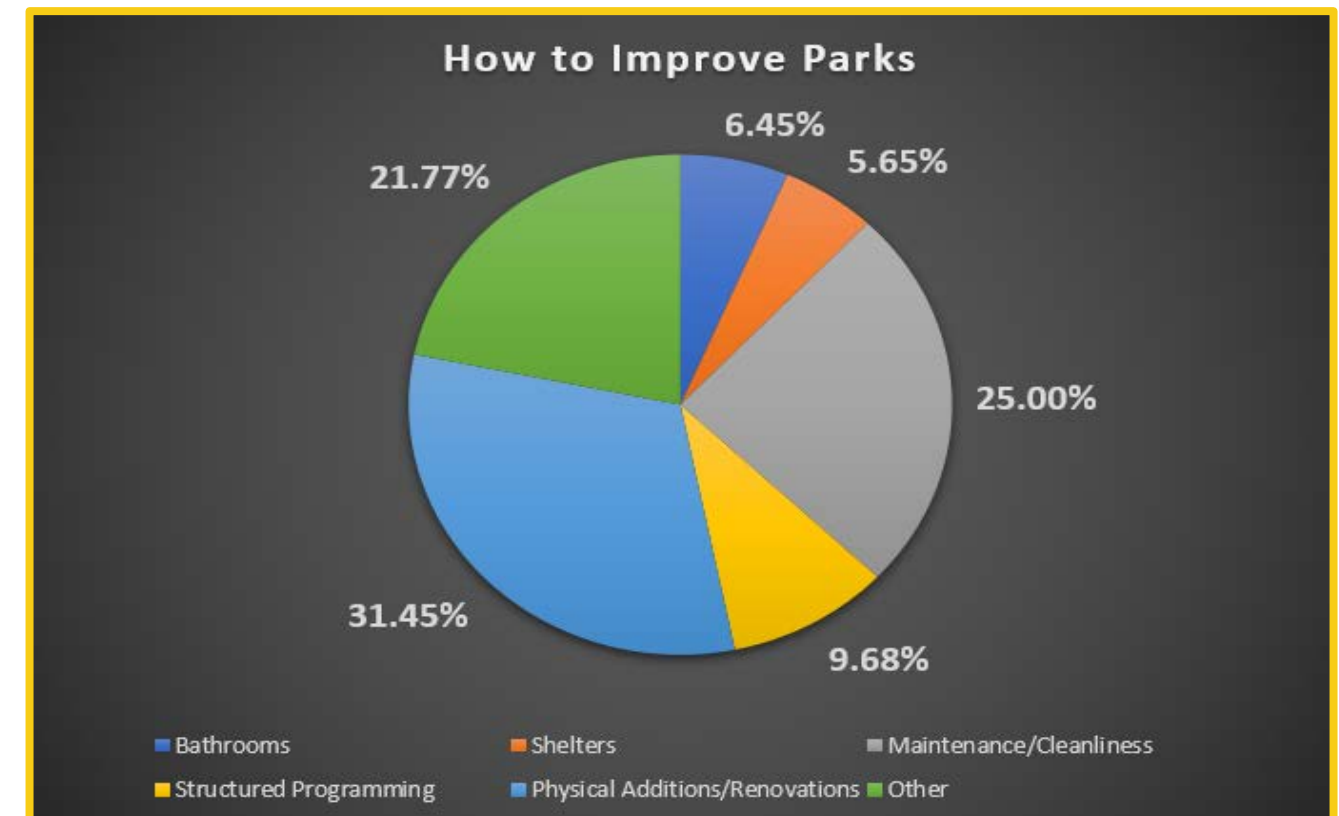


Figure 22- How to Improve Parks

*" Other" answers: Splash pad, trail connections, climbing wall, dog waste receptacles, grills, tree care, extending summer hours, 'zones' for specific age groups within parks

8) In Webster City, how can recreation opportunities be improved/added to?

- 31.78% of respondents believe organized activities would improve Webster City recreation opportunities
 - 16.82% of respondents believe additional water/pool activities would be the best improvement
 - 14.02% of respondents believe additional equipment in the parks and recreation facilities would be the best way to improve Webster City recreation opportunities

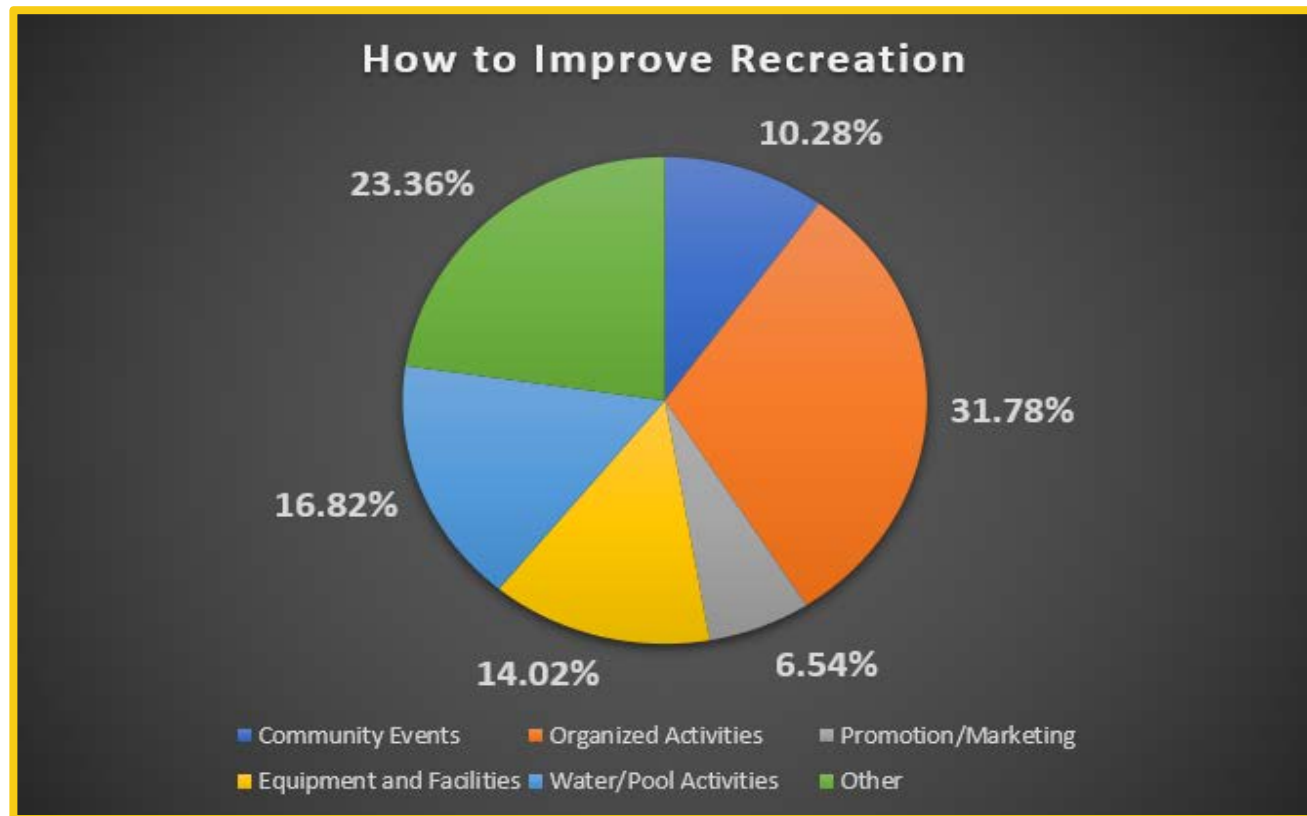


Figure 23 - How to Improve Recreation

*" Other" answers: climbing wall/dome, cleaning/maintaining recreation facilities (e.g., volleyball court), recreation rentals (e.g., kayaks, canoes, etc.), increase the budget, offer more organized activities in Fuller Hall for specific age groups

9) How would you rate the overall quality of Parks and Recreation in Webster City?

- 52.98% of respondents rated the overall quality of Webster City Parks and Recreation as "Good"
 - 27.15% of respondents ranked it as "Neither Good nor Bad"
 - 9.93% of respondents ranked it as both "Bad" and "Very Good"
 - *It is worthwhile to note that no respondents rated Webster City Parks and Recreation as "Very Bad"

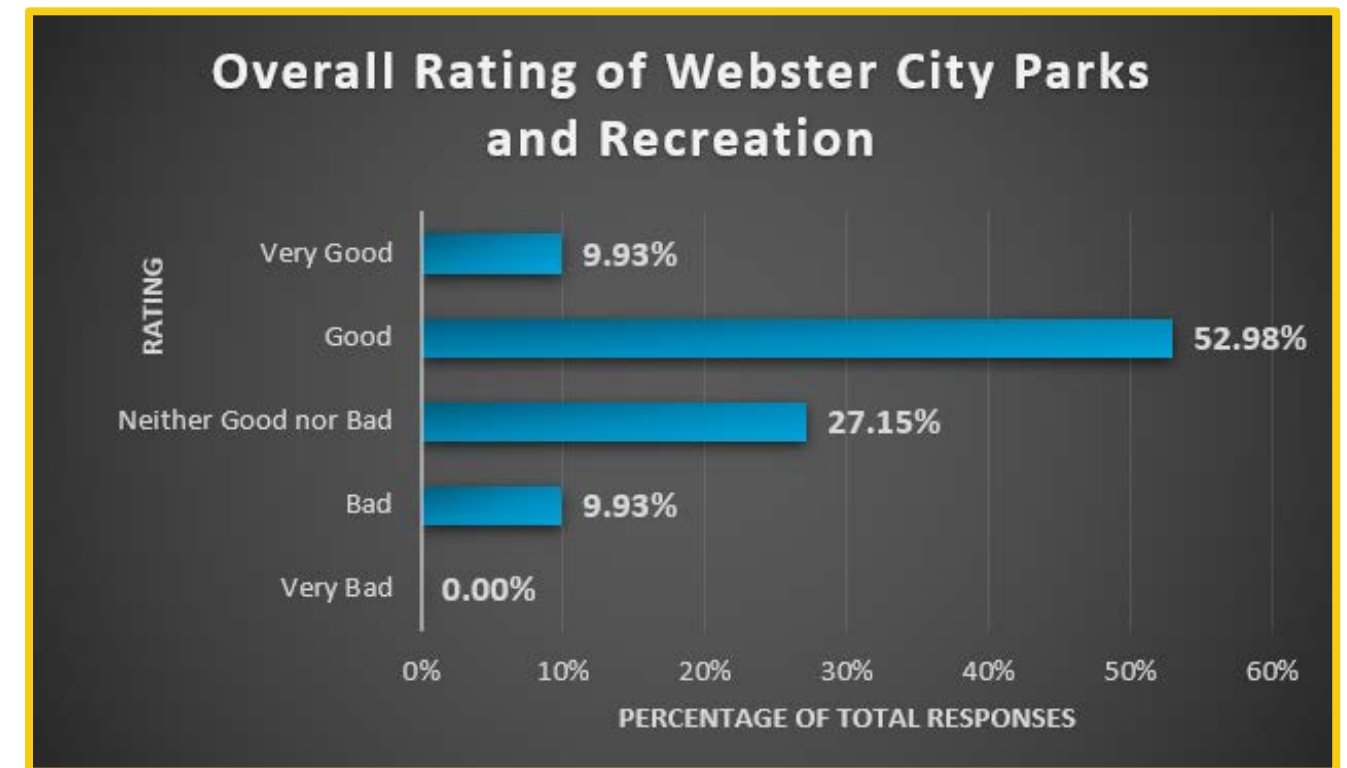


Figure 24- Overall Rating of Webster City Parks and Recreation

10) How often do you visit parks in Webster City?

- 34.44% of respondents visit Webster City parks “A few times per year”
 - 33.11% of respondents visit “A few times per month”
 - 23.84% visit “A few times per week”

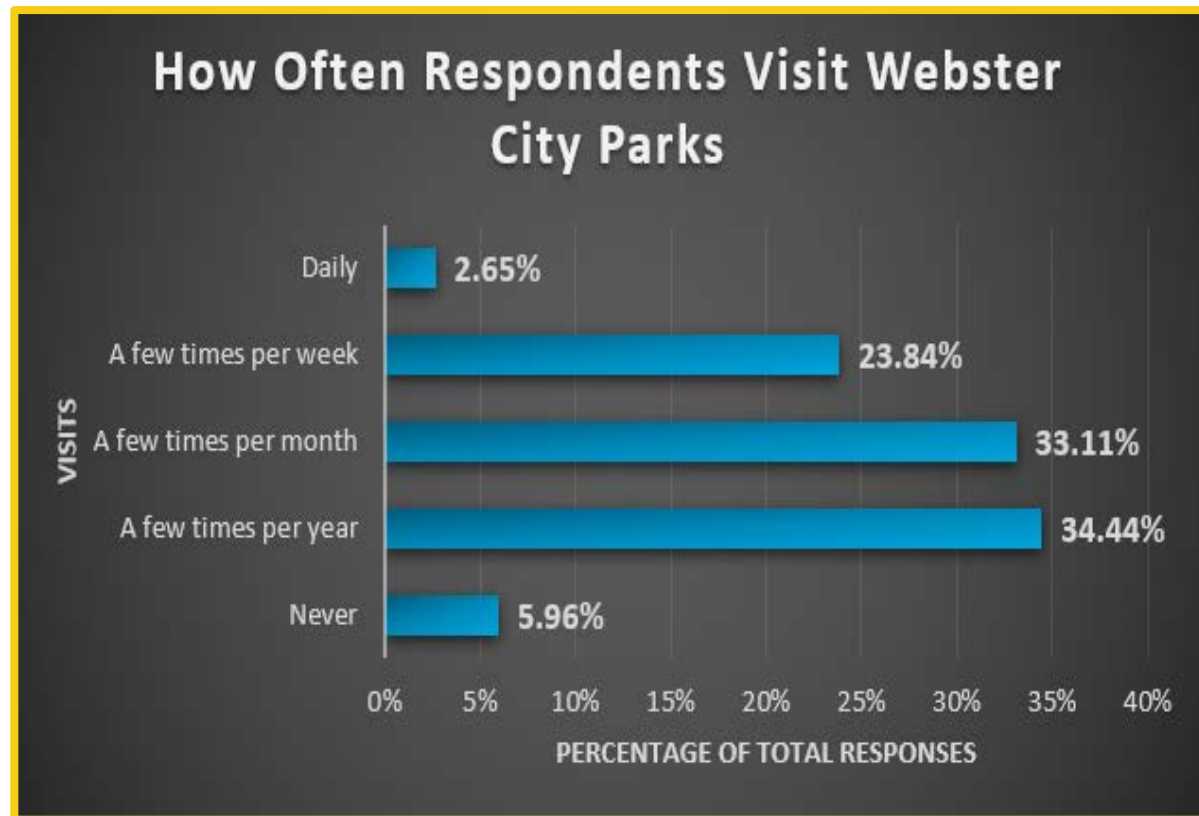


Figure 25 - How Often Respondents Visit Webster City Parks

11) What prevents you from using the parks?

- 35.19% of respondents feel as if a general lack of time is the main reason why they do not use Webster City parks
 - 18.52% of respondents feel as if weather is the primary reason as to what prevents them from using the parks
 - 18.52% of respondents feel as if a lack of equipment prevents them from using the parks

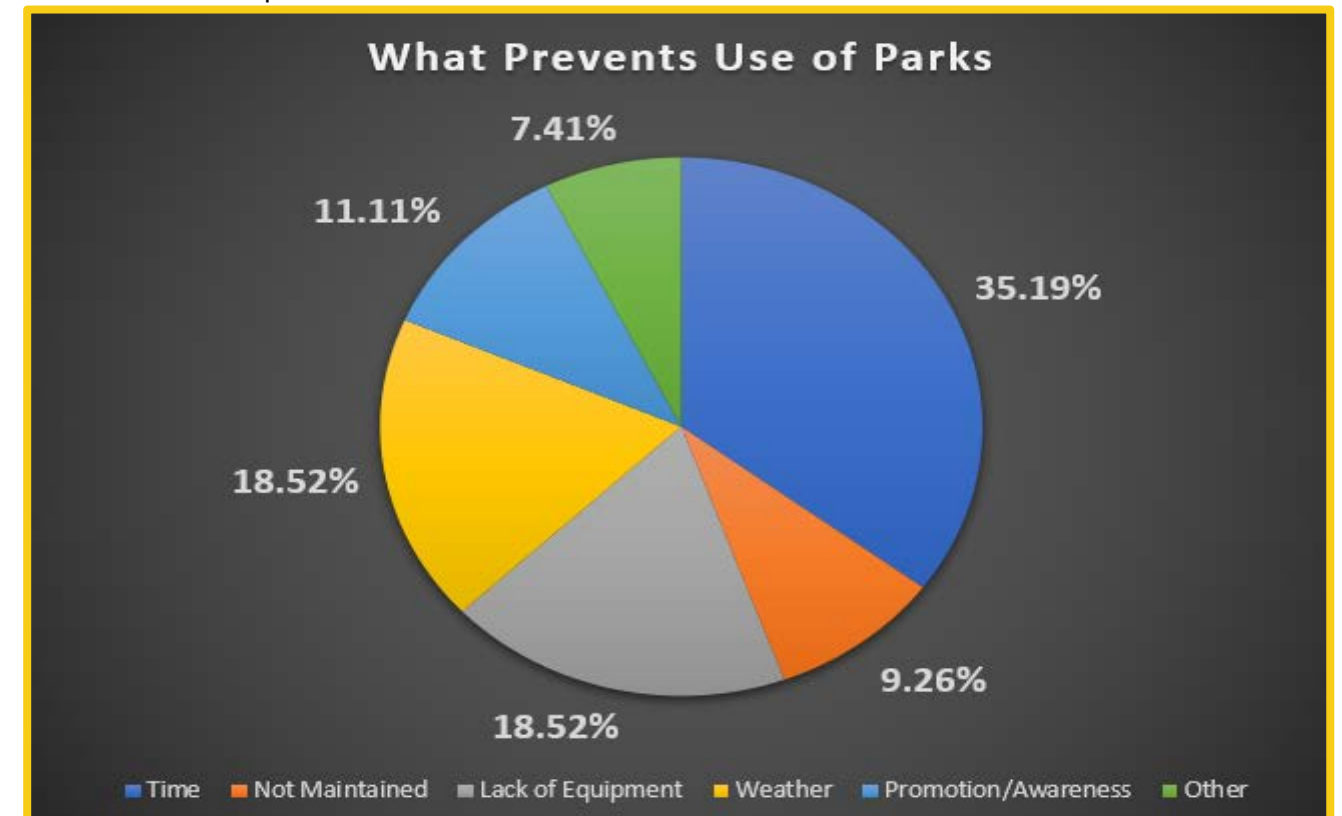


Figure 26 - What Prevents Use of Parks

*" Other" answers: lack of shade, cost of renting spaces, bugs/pests/mosquitos, age

12) How safe do you think the parks are in Webster City?

- 56.95% of respondents perceive Webster City parks as “Safe”
 - 24.50% of respondents perceive the parks as “Neither Safe nor Note Safe”
 - 14.57% of respondents perceive the parks as “Very Safe”
 - *It is noteworthy that no respondents perceive the parks as “Note Safe at All”

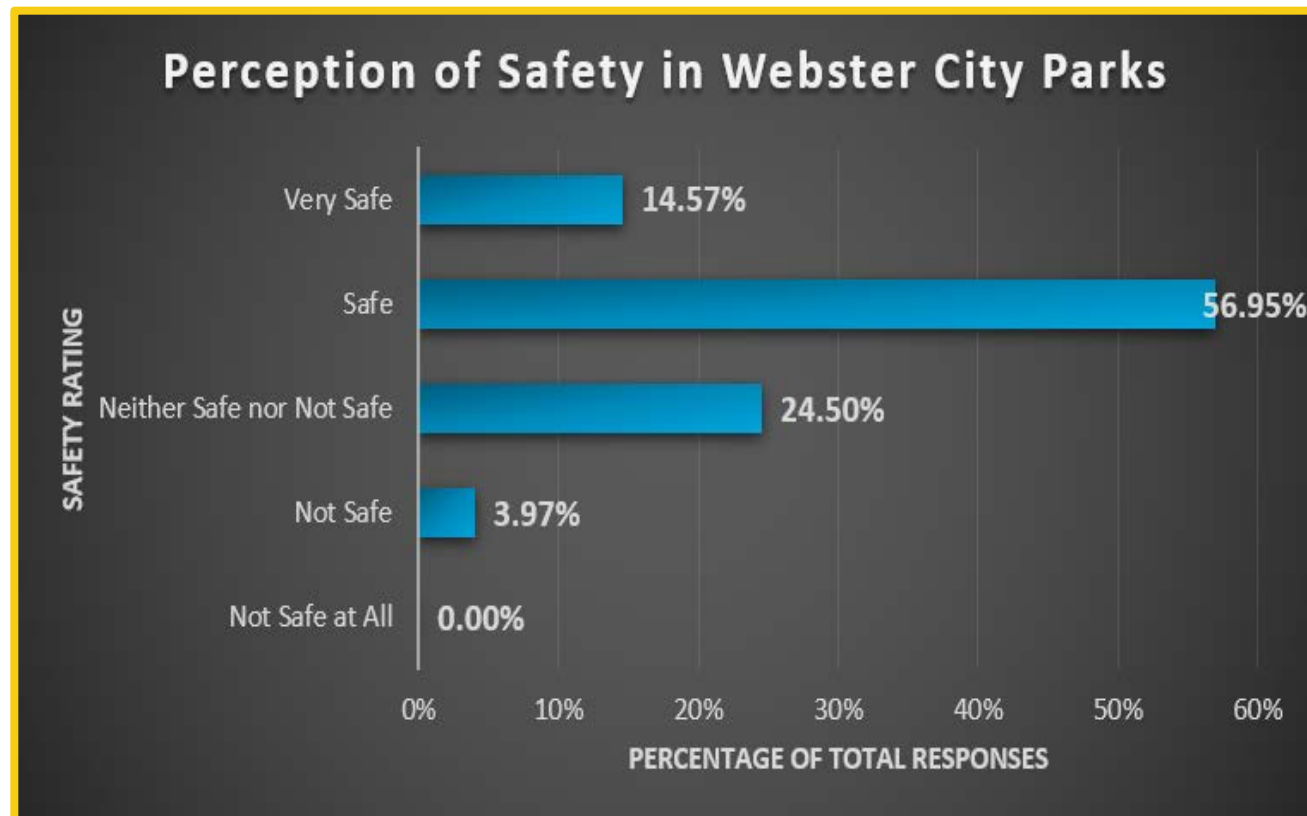


Figure 27 - Perception of Safety in Webster City Parks

*Of those who do not view Webster City parks as safe, Kendall Young Park was mentioned by 28 respondents as being the least safe. A total of 18 respondents mentioned Twin Parks as being the least safe (with two directly attributing that perception to its proximity to Highway 17), 7 mentioned Nokomis Park, 4 mentioned Briggs Woods County Park, and 2 mentioned Sketchley Park.

Below are word clouds created from two of the questions within the survey (paper copies) given to Webster City residents in October. These word clouds are a composite of the most commonly used words found in answers to the open-ended questions. The first question that the word cloud addresses is, what makes Webster City a unique place? The second question the word cloud addresses is, what are you most proud of in Webster City? These word clouds show that the residents of Webster City value the small-town atmosphere of the community. The word clouds also show how important the citizens of Webster City are to each other, more specifically, how friendly and connected the community is to one another.



Figure 28 - Word Cloud of What Makes Webster City a Unique Place



Figure 29 - Word Cloud of What Residents Are Proud of in Webster City

SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

The planning team outlined a specific set of system-wide recommendations that provide overarching ideas for all parks and recreation facilities. These ideas include trail connectivity, maintenance and upkeep, safety, inclusivity and equity, beautification, ecosystem management, and publicity and promotion. These ideas stem from a variety of sources, such as best practices that the City of Webster City can reference in the future, public input, and knowledge expressed from the planning team. Ultimately, the system-wide recommendations can be applied to all physical spaces and recreation opportunities. The fundamental motivation is to ensure residents and visitors alike feel welcomed, included, comfortable, and confident in enjoying what Webster City Parks and Recreation has to offer.

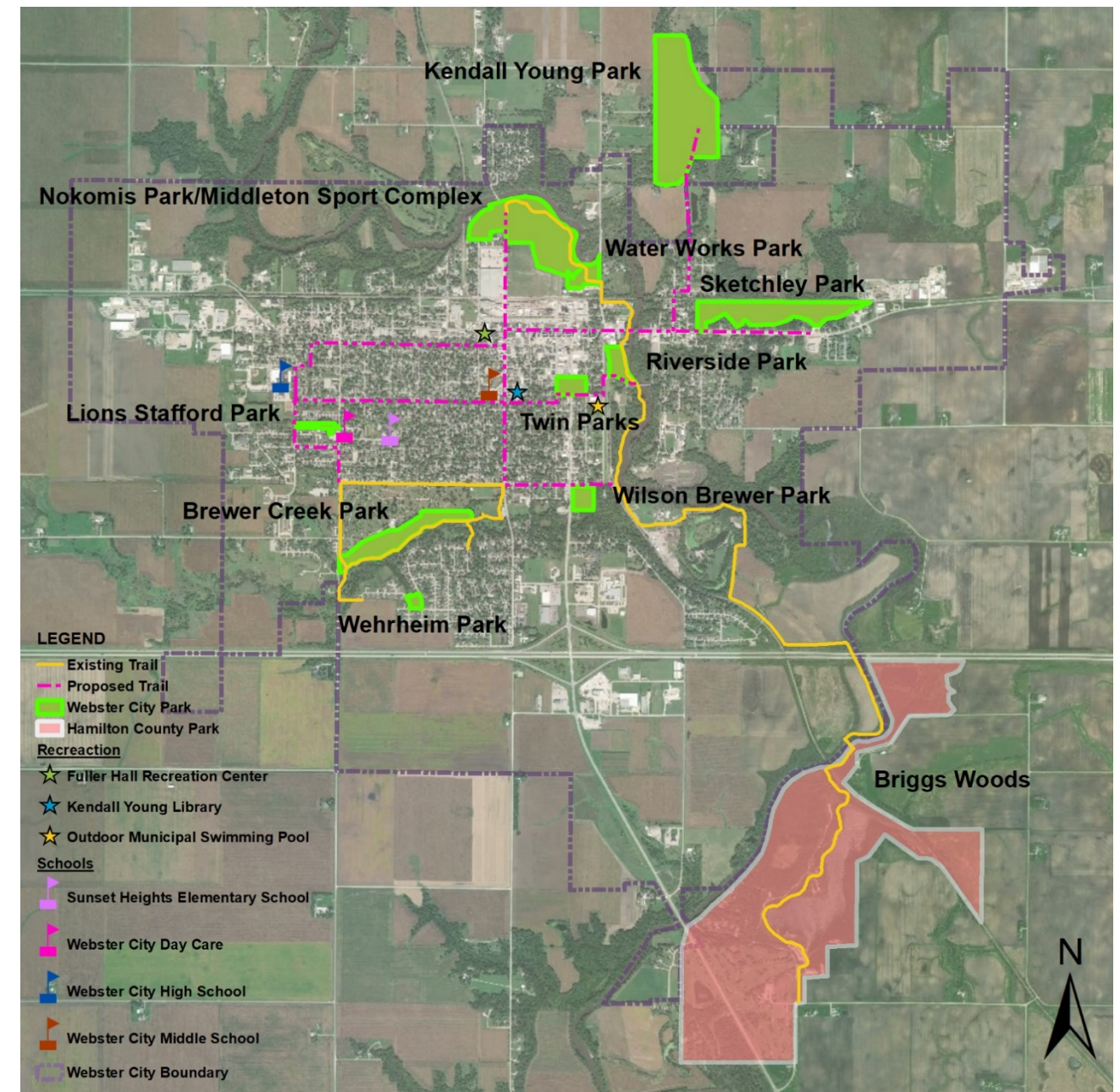


Figure 30 - Parks, and Existing and Proposed Trails, Webster City, IA

TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

Boone River Recreation Trail



Figure 31 - Boone River Recreation Trail

The Boone River Trail is one of the most popular recreation features in Webster City. Along the Boone River, the 5.7 mile, 10-foot wide concrete path begins at Nokomis Park/ Middleton Sports Complex, and ends at Briggs Woods Park. The trail provides a distinctive experience for users because its extension follows a scenic wooded area, has river views, passes by farmlands and prairies, and has an abundance of wildlife. Moreover, the trail provides an excellent outdoor adventure, given the several resting areas, picnic areas, and recreation opportunities throughout its extension. In addition, the trail is handicap accessible and perfect for walking, running, cycling and rollerblading. There are several different parking locations along the trail for users who prefer a shorter route.



Figure 32 - Boone River Recreation Trail



Figure 33 - Boone River Recreation Trail

Brewer Creek Recreation Trail



Figure 34 - Brewer Creek Recreation Trail

The Brewer Creek Trail is a multi-use loop recreation trail that stretches out for 2 miles. The northern section of the trail borders a flat natural prairie area, while the southern part of the trail follows the Brewer Creek waterway. This trail is a great option for users who want to enjoy a quick walking, running, or cycling experience. Dogs are allowed on the multi-use trail but must always be leashed.



Figure 35 - Brewer Creek Recreation Trail

Recommendations

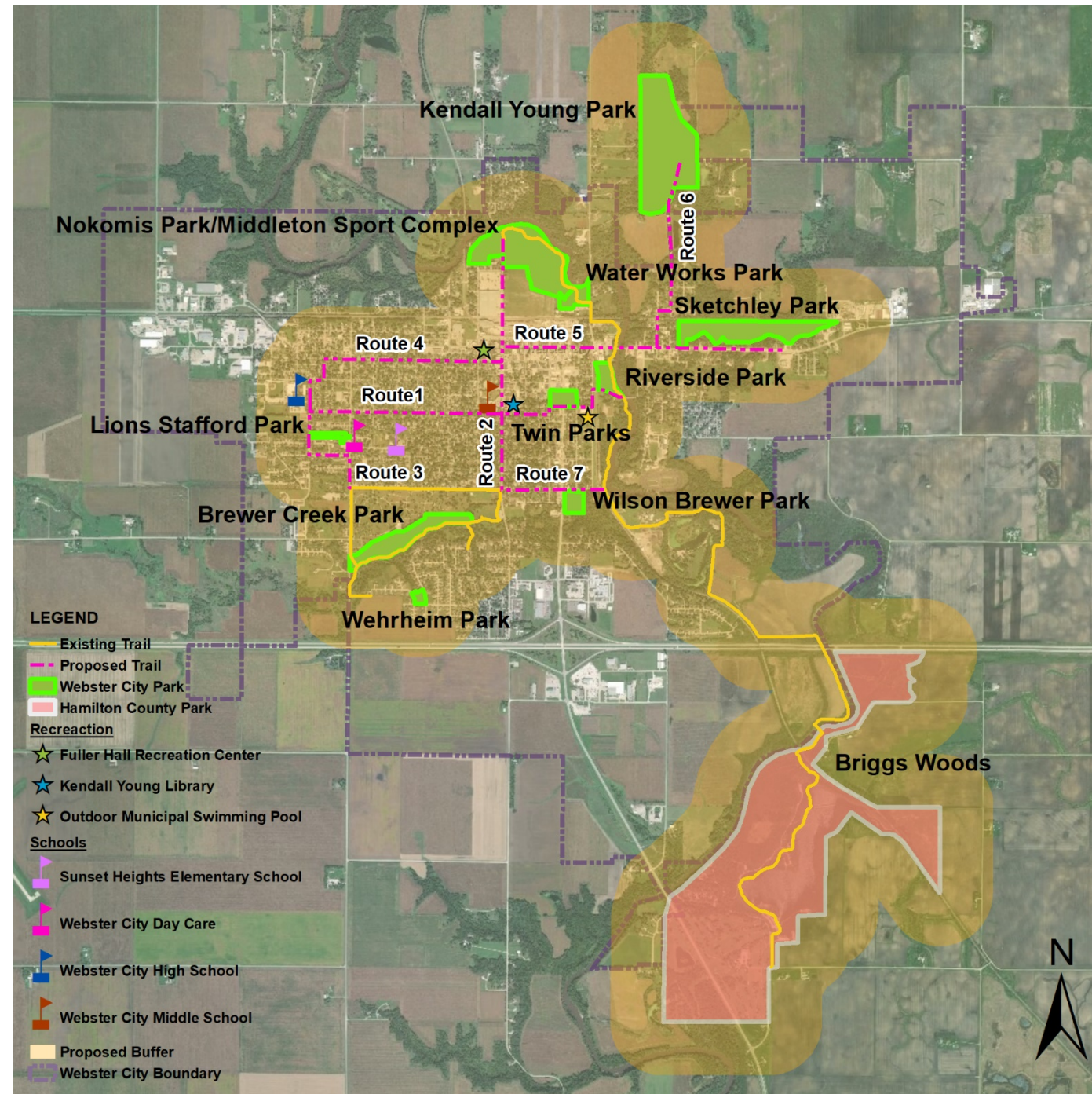


Figure 36 - Proposed Buffer - Parks and Trails - Webster City, IA

Improving opportunities for walking and cycling in Webster City is an essential mechanism to promote a healthy, environmentally friendly, and vibrant community. As defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), active transportation is “any self-propelled, human-powered mode of transportation, such as walking or bicycling.” Physical inactivity is a major contributor to the steady rise in rates of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and other chronic health issues in the U.S. This alone is the primary motivating factor for this recommendation. Easy access and safe connectivity to parks and trails is a feasible way to address concerns with bicycling and walking gaps in Webster City. Creating a more vibrant and active city is an important goal of the planning process and of the planning team, as it would help increase park usage. Moreover, according to the Urban Land Institute, active transportation could lead to other positive outcomes that could enhance and promote the economic development of the community. Additionally, the report shows examples that investing in bicycling and walking projects can increase property values and boost the retail, as well as help overall economic development.

In Radnor, Pennsylvania, properties values further than a quarter-mile buffer of Radnor Trail were on average \$69,193 lower than houses within a quarter-mile radius.

In Dunedin, Florida, a study found that after the opening of the Pinellas Trail, the city had a 50% reduction in retail vacancies, which resulted in attracting new businesses to the area. Examples of attracted businesses were restaurants, stores, and a coffee shop.

To address the gaps in Webster City between parks and both existing trails, a quarter-mile buffer was created to visualize about a 5-minute walk to existing parks and recreation amenities. The proposed trail network connections would increase accessibility for all residents of Webster City as shown in Figure 36. After analyzing the results, the planning team designed 7 different on-street routes to address the issue of trail connectivity in Webster City. The location of the on-street lanes is based on low-volume traffic, providing safer routes for users. The planning team recommends that Webster City follow the [Urban Bikeway Design Guide](#), according to National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) where the association provides standards and solutions to create complete streets. Additionally, the guide provides design standards to [Bikeway Signing & Marking](#).

The map shows the results from the yellow highlighted buffer surrounding the proposed on-street network. The results show that the proposed buffer decreases the gaps in Webster City. This buffer indicates that 85% of the residential parcels are inside of the quarter-mile buffer from

parcs and trails. Additionally, according to *Comparing the Walking Behavior between Urban and Rural Residents* a quarter-mile buffer is a minimum requirement to provide accessible and comfortable 5 minute-walks to parks and community facilities. Azmi and Karim (Azmi and Karim, Implications of Walkability towards Promoting Sustainable 2012) argue that a quarter mile buffer is the distance that the population is willing to choose an active transportation mode instead of driving.

Route 1: Starts at Webster City High School following east on Elm St, passing by the Webster City Middle School until reaching Seneca St, where it turns north then east on Water St. The route will follow east on Water St, passing by the Outdoor Municipal Swimming Pool, where it turns north on River St until reaching Riverside Park, then the on-street pathway will connect with the Boone River Recreation Trail.

Route 2: Starts at Brewer Creek following north on Des Moines St, passing by downtown and the on-street pathway and will continue until it reaches the beginning of the Boone River Trail in Nokomis Park/Middleton Sport Complex.

Route 3: Starts at Webster City High School on Lynx Ave following south, passing by Lions Stafford Park, until reaching Grant St, where it will turn east, then turn south on Beach St until the on-street pathway connects with the Boone River Trail.

Route 4: Starts at Webster City High School on Lynx Ave following north, then will turn east on Bank St, then turn north on Woolsey until reaching 1st St, where it will follow east until the on-street pathway connects with downtown.

Route 5: Starts in downtown Webster City on 2nd St following east, passing by the Boone River Trail, crossing the Boone River bridge until the on-street pathway connects with Sketchley Park.

Route 6: Starts at the Boone River Trail north of Riverside Park following east on E 2nd St until turning north on Oak Ave, then will cross the rail track where it will turn east on Willow St, then north on Maple Ave where it turns to Jane Young Rd and will follow north until it connects to Kendall Young Park.

Route 7: Starts at Brewer Creek Trail following east on Ohio St, passing by Wilson Brewer Park, until it reaches and connects with Boone River Trail.



[Figure 37 - Bike Lane - Washington, DC – Photo by Max Bushell](#)



[Figure 38 - Buffered Bike Lane - Cape Coral, FL – Photo by Dan Moser](#)



[Figure 39 - Contra-Flow Bike Lane - Chicago, IL](#)



[Figure 40 - Intersection Crossing Markings - Chicago, IL](#)



[Figure 41 - Intersection Crossing Markings - Missoula, MT](#)

SAFETY

In the community outreach survey, the planning team discovered that 60% of respondents ranked parks as safe. With only a little over half of respondents ranking the park spaces within Webster City as safe, the planning team concluded that safety should be a consideration for systemwide improvements. Safety is seen as an integral part of the Parks and Recreation planning process. The goal is to enhance the safety and security for Webster City's citizens and people visiting the city, to increase opportunities for recreation activities.

Strategies associated with the physical aspects directly relates to safety and security perception of the population. Key strategies to overcome the high-risk environments consist of:

- Physical isolation
- Layout and Legible Design
- Signage
- Lighting
- Help Assistance

Physical Isolation

One of the potential causes of residents not feeling safe within the parks could be due to the physical isolation or disconnect between parks and the rest of Webster City. For instance, survey responses mentioned that the isolation of Kendall Young Park and Sketchley Park is an issue in Webster City. The physical isolation concept comes from the planning and design approach of the theory of “eyes on the street” coined by Jane Jacobs. Reducing the physical isolation feeling provides a safer impression for its users and enhances the open spaces in Webster City. This recommendation is based on supporting and intensifying park activity, which will create more opportunities for Parks and Recreation usage; and ensure that open areas of the city are better utilized.

According to the survey, Kendall Young Park, located on the northern periphery of Webster City, is considered isolated in relation to the downtown. However, several residents mentioned that the park is one of the most attractive parks since it has such an authentic connection to nature. The park has an abundance of trees and White Fox Creek flows through the entire park. To overcome the perception that Kendall Young Park is isolated, trail connections from the downtown area to the entrance of the park would attract more people and help ease this concern. Overcoming the sense that parks are isolated provides opportunities for people to socialize and connect with nature. This is the main reason to address physical isolation, as doing so would

promote safety by creating routes through and between park areas. Moreover, these routes would support park activity, which would increase park and recreation usage.

Layout and Legible Design

A well-designed park allows users to easily navigate the spaces, which contributes to the sense of comfort and security. Additionally, an appropriate layout creates an efficient environment for pedestrians and cyclists, which includes clear pathways that improve accessibility. According to the best practice of Project for Public Spaces (Project for Public Spaces 2008), a sense of location increases park users' ability to get familiarized with points of interest and landmarks. A clear layout within park spaces, regardless of the size of the park, decreases the vulnerability of residents and visitors inside of parks.

For users to understand entrances and exits within park spaces, it is essential to improve the layout of the parks. This recommendation is associated with park signage, which creates an understanding of “where you are” inside and outside of the parks. Moreover, signage of points of interest throughout the parks are essential to create a reference where users easily move into and around the parks. Proper lighting is also recommended to provide visibility and clarify the layout of parks in Webster City, which enhances the feeling of comfort and safety for users.

Signage

Providing adequate signage is one of the key recommendations that increases the feeling of comfort and security for Webster City's Parks and Recreation users. During interactions with the community, the planning team heard that residents are not aware of many of the features available within park spaces. Signage aims to provide information and direction for users and promote awareness of opportunities within each park space. A well-planned signage system allows residents and visitors to confidently navigate unknown places, which increases the level of comfort and security. Additionally, signage is an important feature to encourage learning experiences and communicate park rules.

The goal is to determine the type of signage and the information that Webster City hopes to communicate to users. The information should identify park entrances, primary pathways, and points of interesting. Different types of signage have different purposes, such as parks maps, direction, education and information signs, communication boards, trail markers, and distance information. The installation location of the signage is an important consideration. The recommendation is to add signage in combination with other park features to assist the understand what is available in each park and provide directions for users.

Park Maps: Maps at the entrance of parks, with the information about the features of the area, should contain the exact location information where the user is.

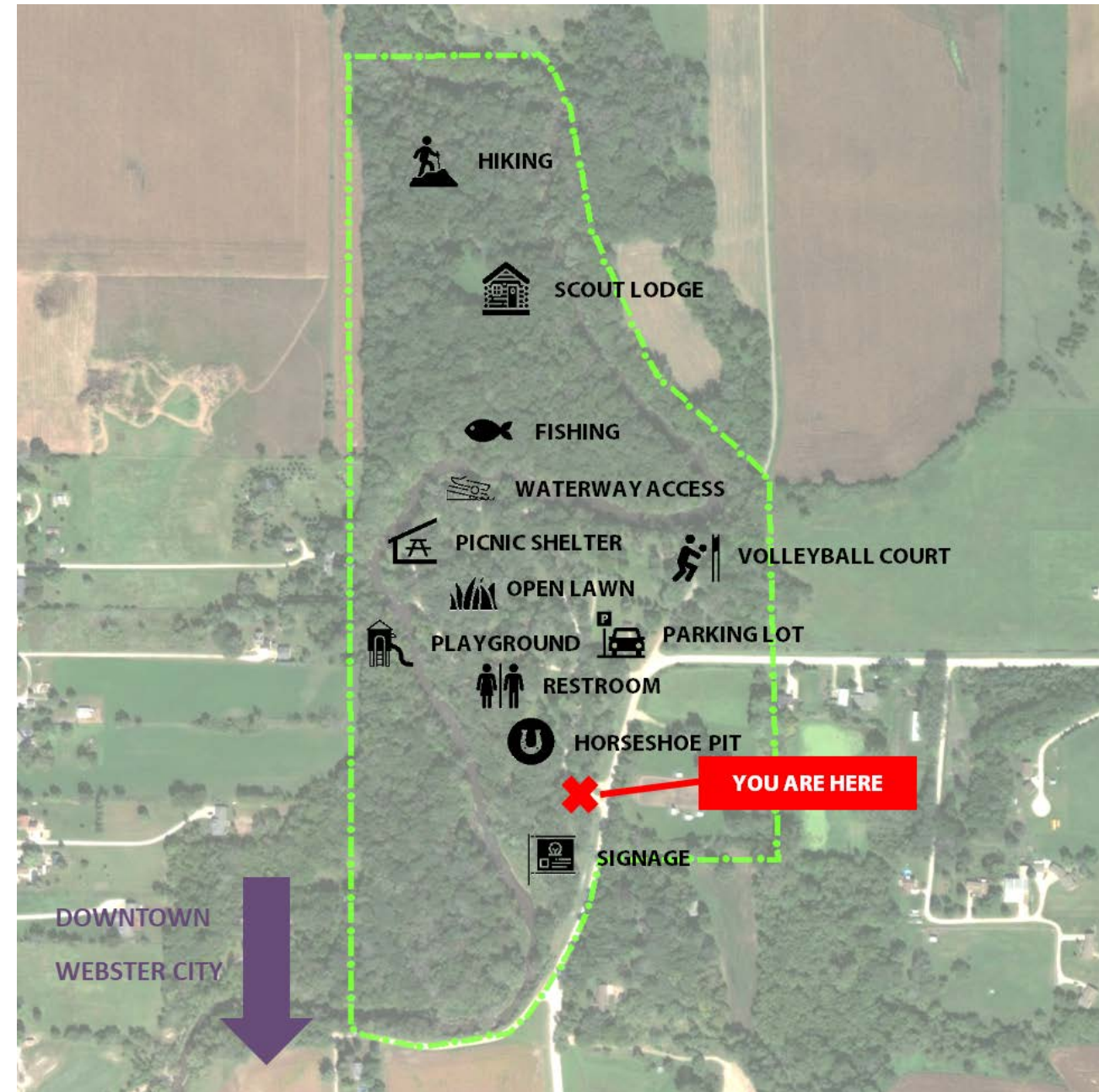


Figure 42 - Kendall Young Park - Location Information

Information/Bulletin Boards: The information and bulletin boards should be used to provide communication about tournaments, park events and managements plans. The feature is used to outreach and engage residents and visitors with information of the park and recreation system.



Figure 43 - Information Board and Bike Repair Stand – Gurney Lane. Lake George, NY



Figure 44 - Park Bulletin Board and Message Center

Interpretive/Educational Signs: Educational signs should be added in the parks to create education opportunities for users. Additionally, the information should highlight trees, flowers and other environment elements.



Figure 45 - Interpretive Nature Trail Signage

Directional Signs: Directional signs posted to assist users with the main features of parks.



Figure 46 - [Direction Signage Concept](#)

Proper installation of lighting infrastructure is highly recommended as adequate lighting within park spaces will help residents feel safer. The park by park analysis section of this plan describes where additional lighting would be best according to community feedback. It is important to know, that the city should avoid installing lights on low ground-levels. The ideal illumination should be installed with 10-foot light posts to avoid vandalism and maximize the potential of the light system. In addition, taller light posts create better visibility and helps provide a sense of safety. Coordination with signage is highly recommended to ensure that park user have direct visibility to improve comfort and security.

Finding Help

Easily accessible help assistance is a high priority in parks and trails. Help assistance consists of signage/wayfinding with geographic locations within the trail system. This helps users report their exact location in a case of emergency.

Webster City should identify geographic locations at each mileage point along the trails and signs inside of the parks for easy access to assistance in case of emergency. The city should ensure that the locations are visible on the signs.

Lighting

Lighting infrastructure improves the sense of comfort and security at night and is necessary for the safety and well-being of park users. Implementing an efficient lighting system is an invitation for people to confidently leave their homes and walk the streets, use parks, and enjoy recreation opportunities.

Lighting is a crucial recommendation to clarify the layout of open spaces by emphasizing entrances of parks, gathering places, and pathways and sidewalks. A well-planned lighting system is developed based on a hierarchy level to overcome the cost of implementation and emphasize the consistency of lighting. According to Project and Public Spaces, at the top of the hierarchy level, the lighting infrastructure should be implemented along the primary pathways and routes, the entrance of parks, and active areas. Since implementing the lighting infrastructure system comes with a high cost, the lowest level of the hierarchy describes areas that might suffer from inappropriate usage and provide an unsafe feeling for park users. Additionally, the hierarchy of lighting implementation encourages the evening usage of Parks and Recreation features. By installing the system in existing spaces, such as the skatepark, art features, the wetland retention pond, sport courts, and playgrounds, these features will be better suited for usage.



Figure 47 - [Emergency Location Signage](#)



Figure 48 - [Directional Trail Signage](#)



Figure 49 - [Help Locator Marker](#)

INCLUSIVITY AND EQUITY

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association’s (NRPA) [Park and Recreation Inclusion Report](#), inclusion is defined as “removing barriers, both physical and perceived, so that all people have an equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits of Parks and Recreation.” This section describes and encourages all stakeholders to not only consider, but also implement inclusive practices in programs and facilities throughout Webster City. This is a multidimensional aspect of Parks and Recreation planning, so it requires a multidimensional approach to address use barriers and accessibility restrictions. Such use barriers and accessibility restrictions identified by various respondents of the survey along with a member of the city council included the lack of playground equipment suitable for disabled users and a general lack of awareness when it comes to Parks and Recreation activities. As highlighted by the illustration below, a fundamental goal of Parks and Recreation should be to ensure that all users feel welcomed and comfortable.

According to a [poll conducted by the NRPA](#), nearly 9 in 10 Americans say communities should offer all-inclusive play options at playgrounds across the county. This includes playground equipment that is suitable for children of all physical and cognitive abilities. However, a fundamental barrier to park usage is a general lack of ADA

compliant playground equipment and inadequate park/facility infrastructure allowing users with disabilities full enjoyment of recreation spaces. Through engagement with a Webster City resident in October, the planning team learned of challenges associated with disabled residents’ enjoyment of certain parks. The example provided was the inadequate pathway, or lack thereof, leading uphill to the shelter in West Twin Park. For this reason, among many others, ADA compliant designs and an overall theme of inclusivity need to be key considerations in any Webster City park and recreation related decision. Lions-Stafford Park and Wehrheim Park are the only parks with ADA compliant playground equipment according to city staff. The [Park](#)

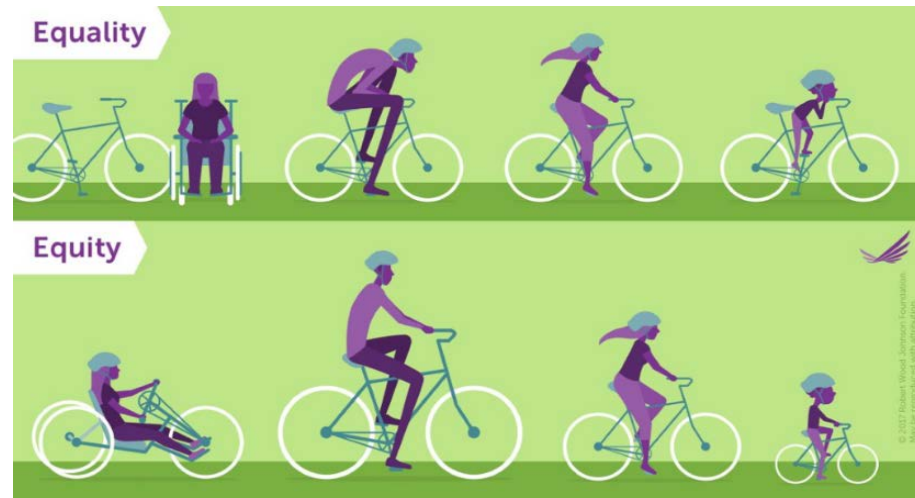


Figure 50 - Visualizing Health Equity: One Size Does Not Fit All, infographic by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

[Inventory](#) section of this plan describes the current conditions, analyzes the gaps and deficiencies, and it provides recommendations – some of which are based on feedback directly associated with ensuring inclusivity in the Parks and Recreation system. Ultimately, parks and playgrounds are spaces that should make all children feel welcome, regardless of any impediments, disabilities, or differences.

Webster City is in a unique position to ensure inclusivity for all with the advent of new park signage and wayfinding. Language barriers can be avoided with the simple addition of imagery and icons rather than exclusively text. Infographics, such as the “Visualizing Health Equity” example, can simplify messages and can accomplish much more with less. In addition to the signage and wayfinding in Webster City, creating safe routes to or within parks and facilities could relieve concern and encourage usage. This requires devoting attention to specific details along these routes including, but not limited to, lighting, seating, maintenance, signage, crosswalks, appropriate exposure to supervision (avoid secluded, lightly traveled paths), and beautification. A few examples can be seen in the images below. The “All Persons Trail” or the “[Braille Trail](#)” is from Watertown, Massachusetts. The safe route image is from a report created by the NRPA titled [Safe Routes to Parks](#), and it provides research and justifications for providing safe routes to parks. In addition to these safe routes, Webster City should aspire to provide access to the entire geographic area of Webster City. As mentioned in the trail connectivity recommendations of this plan, this highlights the value of extending trail connections within walking distance of all residents within city limits to create access points for all to utilize. Ultimately, use barriers to park spaces, facilities, and recreation programs should be reworked in every decision regarding the existing and future Webster City Parks and Recreation system.



Figure 51 - Watertown Riverfront Park and Braille Trail

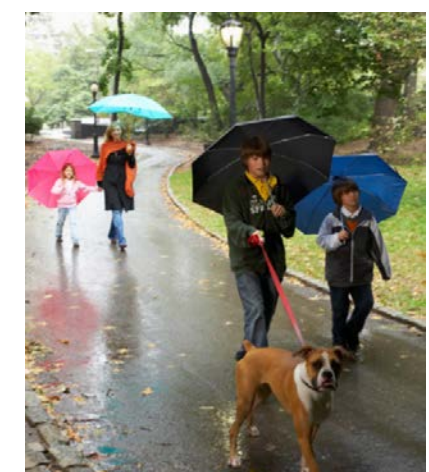


Figure 52 - Safe Routes to Parks

BEAUTIFICATION

To make sure parks are presented at their full capacity, it is important to maintain the overall quality and appeal of all park space and recreation functions. In the community survey, the planning team found that 25% of residents feel that maintenance and general upkeep is something that needed to be improved within park spaces. Beautification in this plan speaks to the visual aesthetic quality and project enhancement of the parks such as adding greenery and art. Beautification also touches on the foundation of general upkeep, maintenance, and cleanliness in addition to beautifying the space to keep the parks in beautiful conditions (University of Kansas 2018).



[Figure 53 - Community Landscaping Project - Dekalb County, GA](#)

Community Projects

Beautification projects can create strong sense of place and community pride, increase public engagement, and raise visibility of the parks. In the survey, the planning team found that 10% of residents feel that a community event around park cleanup will help bring awareness to recreation opportunities available in Webster City. The planning team sees this as an opportunity for beautification of all park spaces with various projects taking place with the community's help.

Landscape Related Beautification

Open green space is vital to all the parks and enhancing the landscaping in the parks is one way to beautify a space. Improvements to all park landscapes can be done through adding flower beds, gardens, native plantings and shrubbery, and tree plantings. The planning team suggests manicured and designed flower beds at each park entrance near the signage to enhance

aesthetic appeal. Near each playground or park shelter, the planning team recommends native plants and shrubbery.

“Sustainable landscapes using native plants help conserve plants and trees that are native to the region, protect and provide wildlife habitats and healthy ecosystems, achieve utility conservation, and demonstrate sustainable landscape management practices to the greater community.” (Parks and Recreation Department 2012)

Native wildflowers that make good additions to woodland gardens include wood anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*), wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), goat's beard (*Aruncus dioicus*), Canadian wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) and Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) (Richard Jauron 2016).



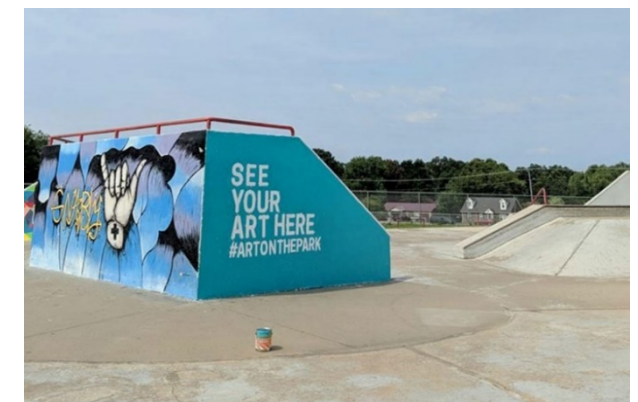
[Figure 54 - Youth Beautification of Chain-link Fence](#)



[Figure 55 - Kent Park Iowa Native Plantings](#)



[Figure 56 - Butterfly Garden Pammel Park, Forest City, IA](#)



[Figure 57 - Art Mural on Skatepark Walls - Clarksville, TN](#)

Art Related Beautification

Implementation of public art features can help contribute to the beautification of a space. The planning team suggests an art installation along the old Electrolux fence. The city does not own the fence but down the line can establish an agreement with the owners to beautify the fence with public community art. The team also suggests painting murals on the exterior edges of the East Twin Park skatepark. Keeping paint off the main impacted concrete will help slow down the natural wear and tear of the paint and keep the skateboard park looking well-kept.

Maintenance and Upkeep

Webster City has an abundance of park space as well as many structures and equipment within the parks. Maintenance is a crucial aspect of creating a safer environment in the Parks and Recreation system. The presence of litter, vandalism, and graffiti, as well as poorly maintained restrooms, pathways, and vegetation leads to the perception of unsafe open spaces.

Improvements and renovations to existing structures within the parks is also an important part of the planning process. Many survey responses mentioned that park bathrooms are lacking in terms of regular maintenance and upkeep. In the future, developing a maintenance program complements the different strategies in this Plan and could improve the quality standards for the city thereby improving the overall quality of the park system.

The addition of more trash and recycling receptacles in all the parks and along the Boone River Trail is an option to help keep the park areas clean. This action item will help alleviate the concern the planning team heard about cleanliness during public outreach sessions. Setting up a few dog waste disposal stations in high volume locations such as Twin Parks, Kendall Young Park, Brewer Creek Park, and Sketchley Park will also contribute to keeping the parks well-kept and visually appealing.



Figure 59 - [Waste and Recycling at a Park](#)



Figure 60 - [Pet Waste Disposal Station – Charles County, MD](#)

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Guidelines and Goals

Ecosystem management is an approach that helps solve conflicts between resource use, conservation, societal needs, and sustainability. Work must be conducted to identify knowledge gaps, gather inventory data, and make critical management decisions about where to focus Parks and Recreation funds and efforts for future enhancements. It is imperative to rely on enthusiastic and responsible leadership with a clear vision of what needs to be achieved. This can only be accomplished and enabled by an effective political environment, good working relationships between different jurisdictions and agencies, a well-defined adaptive management process, and a stable funding source. It ultimately hinges on the human element. Therefore, relationship-building is critical in developing the interagency collaboration, stakeholder involvement, and public trust necessary to implement ecosystem management.

Sustainability is a guiding principle of this plan, but it also plays a key role in Webster City Parks and Recreation. Whether it is the non-human use of the physical spaces, the aesthetic value parks provide to both residents and visitors, or the adaptive use of land, sustainability and resiliency are key factors in Parks and Recreation planning. For this reason, the planning team decided to emphasize 3 key elements of ecosystem management: land conservation, risk management, and biological diversity. According to the NRPA article, [Regenerative Land Management: Restoring Nature's Balance](#), "Increasingly, park and recreation agencies across the country are hearing from community members concerned about the use of pesticides and herbicides in their local parks. They want these products banned, particularly the use of Roundup, because studies have shown that some of these herbicides are probably carcinogenic to humans." The article outlines best practices for enhancing park space without using chemicals.

The planning team used this justification to create an overarching goal for Webster City Parks and Recreation. That is, minimize the use of chemicals in turf management over the course of the next decade, or utilize an alternative to mowing to avoid chemical-dependent weeding practices. This time horizon is based on both this plan's time horizon and the fact that it takes time – sometimes up to 4 years – to wean turfgrass away from the chemicals.

"When we welcome these other plants (a diverse palette) that will join in with the turfgrasses, you'll start to see all this insect life and life in the soil."
[\(National Recreation and Park Association\)](#)

Conservation

It is key for Parks and Recreation professionals to become active stewards in protecting open space for the common good of the community, and to practice sustainably managing resources for environmental conservation to benefit the public. There are 3 distinct themes of conservation according to the National Recreation and Parks Association. The first is green infrastructure implemented to protecting the land, water and trees. The second is conservation of public lands and open spaces. The final is providing and preserving wildlife habitats (Conservation n.d.). Webster City Parks and Recreation can implement the following strategies to protect and conserve the many acres of park land available in the city. In doing so, this will provide open green space for all generations while also providing an essential connection for residents of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to benefits from nature and the outdoors.

Parks are key to ensuring the health of our environment because they play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, providing clean water and clean air, and enabling conservation of natural resources. (Role of Parks and Recreation in Conservation n.d.)

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a way to actively combat the negative effects of flooding that are prevalent in Iowa. One example of green infrastructure is permeable pavements. Permeable pavements can assist in the treatment and infiltration of rainwater. It acts as a sponge and stores water during excessive rainfall in comparison to concrete, gravel, or asphalt. This type of material can be used in many different settings such as on walking and biking trails, parking areas, and side streets with light road use (Water Management and Conservation n.d.).



Figure 61 - Permeable Pavement Parking Lot - Brookside Gardens, Montgomery County, MD

A success story that Webster City can model is the “parking garden” found at Brookside Gardens that is situated within Wheaton Regional Park in Montgomery County, MD. This parking lot was renovated to include permeable pavers and bioswales to assist in natural stormwater management. Webster City can consider gradually implementing permeable pavements in park parking lots and in outdoor sport courts (Green Infrastructure - A Detailed Look n.d.).

A rain garden is a second example of green infrastructure that Webster City can implement. A rain garden has plantings of medium to tall grasses and flowers and is best suited in a low-lying area. It collects and filters stormwater runoff during excessive rainfall and allows it to penetrate slowly into the soil (Green Infrastructure - A Detailed Look n.d.). Aside from stormwater management, rain gardens also provide natural habitats and serve as effective educational opportunities. Because rain gardens leave a relatively small footprint and contain flexible design features, Parks and Recreation departments can easily embed them into their park’s landscapes.



Figure 62 - Rain Garden – Vine City Park, Atlanta, GA



Figure 63 – Parklands Meadow – Louisville, KY

In the picture above, a rain garden at Vine City Park in Atlanta displays educational signage explaining how the rain garden feature works to help control flooding caused by stormwater runoff (Rain Gardens n.d.). The NRPA Conservation Task Forces names rain gardens a best practice in stormwater management and further details on this type of project can be found in [Appendix 6](#). The planning team recommends rain gardens at parks along or near the riverfront.

Conservation of Public Lands and Open Spaces

Restoring and protecting open spaces can aid in the process of natural stormwater filtration as well. The water quality impacts of stormwater can be addressed by protecting open spaces and sensitive natural areas within and adjacent to a city or town (Green Infrastructure in Parks n.d.).

In the case of Barcroft Park in Arlington, VA, the restoration of a meadow called for the addition of native plants to help bring back the natural ecosystem and ecosystem benefits. The

implementation of the natural landscape also required invasive plant species removal projects and documentation and education of rare native plants. Webster City can define protected sensitive natural areas in parks to reduce foot traffic and minimize damaging effects.



Figure 64 - Meadow Restoration - Barcroft Park, Arlington County, VA

Prairie Implementation

Due to Webster City’s abundant amount of park space, the city is required to mow, fertilize, and weed more land than is recommended by national Parks and Recreation standards. One alternative to mowing involves installing flower beds, establishing community gardens, and converting some areas to natural prairie. Although converting park space to natural prairie will have a high upfront cost, over a 5-year period, the prairie will cost less than lawn grass. This is due to the relatively low maintenance prairie grass needs in comparison to lawn grass.



Figure 65 - Prairie Grass Examples

Providing and Preserving Wildlife Habitats

A way that Webster City can engage in efforts of providing and preserving wildlife habitats is by understanding the importance of pollinators. Pollinators are an essential component of our ecosystem, and a key piece of the puzzle when it comes to the creation of food supply. Parks serve as an outlet to facilitate this type of habitat in our open public spaces (Parks for Pollinators n.d.). The planning team sees that Webster City is in a unique position to advance the movement and education of pollinator health and protection strategies at the local level.

To preserve wildlife habitats, Webster City can join the Parks for Pollinators national campaign or create a plan for monarch conservation. This campaign helps to restore habitats for pollinators by advising on which native plants are best for the Midwest area (Monarch Joint Venture n.d.). In Iowa, Common Milkweed attracts Monarch Butterflies and easily plants in a wide variety of soil types. Joining a campaign like this one can encourage stewardship in younger population groups and allow them to take initiative in environmental preservation.

Table 1 - Species that Help Preserve Wildlife Habitats

Common Pollinators:	Threatened Species:	Native Plants that help:
Milkweed Tussock Moth	Rusty Patch Bumblebee	Wild Lupine
Blacktail Swallowtail Butterfly	Yellowbanded Bumblebee	Wild Bergmont
Red Admiral Butterfly	Frosted Elfin Butterfly	Gray Goldenrod
Cabbage White Butterfly		Purple Prairie Clover
Brown-belted Bumblebee		Pale Purple Coneflower
Pure Green Sweat Bee		Common Milkweed
Goldenrod Solider Beetle		

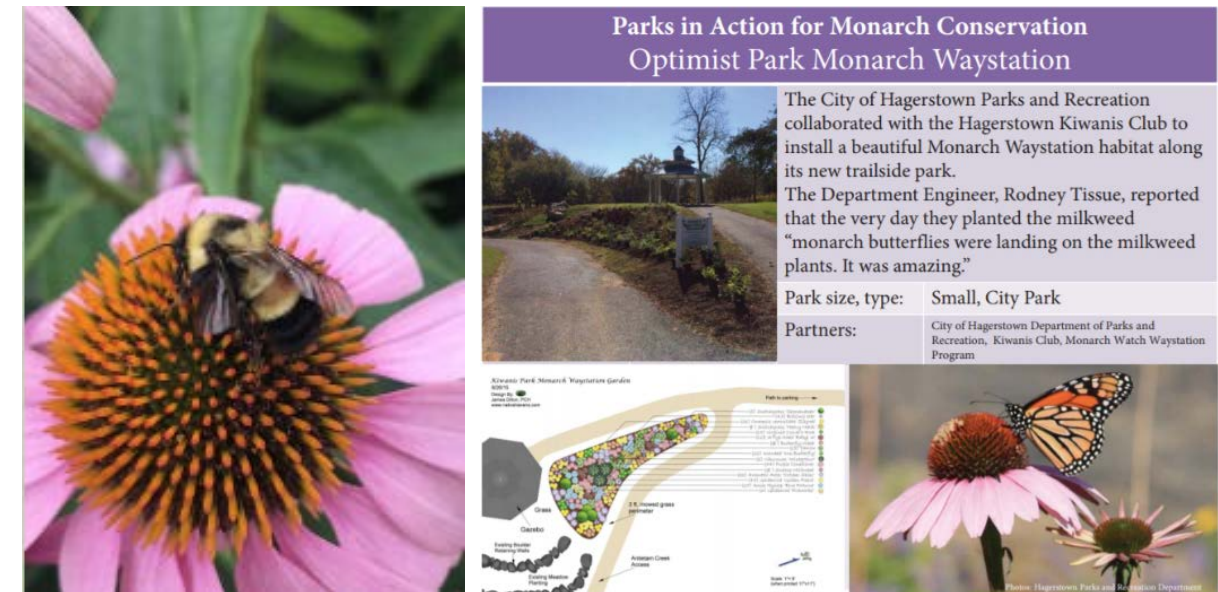


Figure 66 - Monarch Butterfly Preservation Case Study

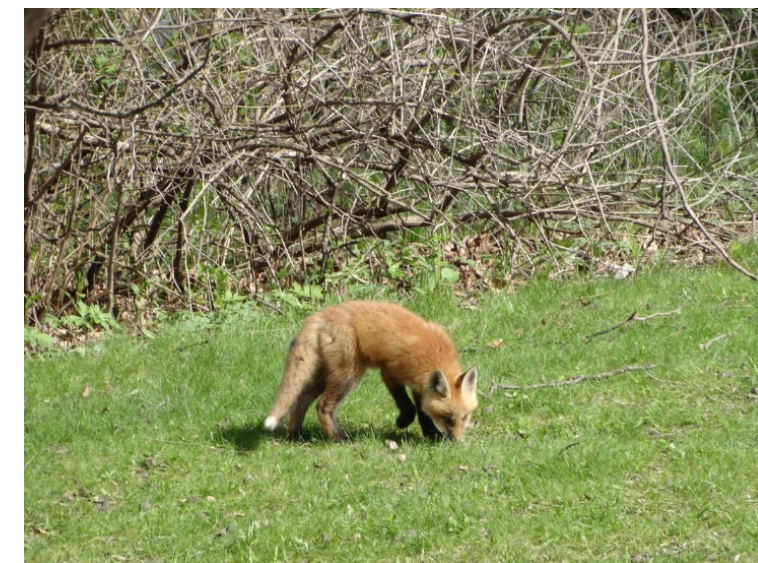


Figure 67 - Fox at Briggs Woods Park

Biological Diversity

Biological diversity can be defined as all the living things that reside within the parks. This covers well known animals and plants like flowers, squirrels, and bumblebees but also species that are not well known or hard to see like worms, microorganisms and fungi. Parks not only exist for humans but also animals and plants. The interaction between humans and natural flora and fauna is an important aspect of the feel and experience of a park but is often forgotten about. For this plan to be comprehensive, it must also address what ways biological diversity can be prioritized within Webster City.

One of the most important assets in Webster City is the Boone River. This river not only provides opportunities for water activities but also is an integral habitat to many animals that reside in Webster City and Hamilton County. Finding ways to make sure the river is cared for and cleaned up in an organized way is paramount when maintaining a healthy habitat for animals. The American Rivers Association has a National River Cleanup initiative where communities can sign up and receive free trash bags and free marketing/media coverage about the cleanup. This can be a great way to not only get the community involved in habitat restoration, but also can be used as education for younger generations on the importance of habitat management.

Tree Inventory

With trees suffering from oak wilt in Kendall Young Park, a tree inventory is a good way to keep track of tree problems so that the city can address these problems in the future. Webster City has been part of the Tree City USA program since 2000. They have gained this status by maintaining a tree quality board, having a community tree ordinance, and by spending at least 2 dollars per capita on urban forestry projects. However, Webster City could do much more in terms of making sure trees within the city remain a priority as part of the natural environment. One of the ways that Webster City can address potential urban forestry related problems in the future is conducting a tree inventory.

The purpose of a tree inventory is to gather accurate information about the composition and condition of a community's city-owned trees. This is done so that the community is able to manage its trees in the most effective way. This is specifically important for Webster City as many of the oak trees in Kendall Young Park have oak wilt. Oak wilt is a fungal infection within the roots of the trees, that eventually kill every tree that has been infected. A tree inventory will allow Webster City to get a count on how many trees within the community have been infected by

oak wilt or any other number of tree diseases so that the city can plan the appropriate steps to mitigate these problems. Other benefits of a tree inventory are as follows:

- Creation of a long-term management plan and justification for allocation of funding used within said plan
- Identification and assessment of hazard trees, which pose a potential threat to other animal life and property
- Determination of short and long-term management goals
- Prioritization of community's forestry resources, including staff time and equipment needed
- Maintenance and growth of a safe, healthy, and productive urban forest.

Additionally, the information that is gathered through the tree inventory and then translated into a management plan can give the community the tools it needs to move from a reactive position of responding to storm damage and invasive pests like the emerald ash borer, to a proactive position where the community can minimize the harm of these events before they happen. The emerald ash borer in particular has caused massive damage to urban forests around the Midwest since its introduction as an invasive species. Since its discovery, Emerald ash borer has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees across North America and subsequently has cost municipalities and property owners alike millions of dollars in the felling of effected trees. Completing a tree inventory will allow Webster City to become aware of how many ash trees reside in the area and give the city an opportunity to proactively plan for how to handle an Emerald ash borer infestation.

Information that is collected during a tree inventory are as follows:

- **Tree species**
- **Size:** DBH (diameter at breast height- 4.5 feet above ground), height and crown spread.
- **Condition:** Indicate what maintenance procedure is needed. Does the tree need corrective pruning? Does it require removal? It is important to note that if the tree is deemed to be a hazard to the public and removal is mandatory, rather than record "hazardous", it is prudent to record "removal."
- **Damage:** Record insect infestations, injuries and diseases by indicating the precise procedure necessary. For example, rather than describe lightning damage, indicate the need for pruning or removal. It is prudent to have a skilled tree crew correct the problem as soon as possible.
- **Management/maintenance:** Record need to fertilize, apply fungicide/insecticide, prune, repair curb and/or sidewalk damage inflicted by roots, remove stump/tree, or plant in an

empty planting site. Do so in order to schedule maintenance work, allocate equipment and prepare budgets.

- **Site characteristics:** How much space is available for the root system? What is the condition and health of the soil in the planting space? The proximity of overhead/underground utilities and tall buildings? The potential for road salt/traffic damage? Is it zoned commercial?
- **Planting spaces:** Research suggests that a community should give highest priority to planting trees on streets where yard trees are few. Identify planting spaces to encourage the planting of bare areas.
- **Historic/Distinctive Trees and Groves:** Special trees require more intensive management. (Note that trees of this nature may also serve to justify the inventory itself if the community is hesitant to undertake a management program.)

There are also multiple types of tree inventories that the community can complete.

- **Specific Problem inventory:** Gathers data about a specific problem or condition for work contracts or work schedules. For example, a survey of hazard trees or the extent of Dutch elm disease are specific problem inventories. Note that every community should conduct a yearly survey of hazardous trees. (Marking hazardous trees is not recommended since doing so may increase liability.)
- **Partial Inventory:** Gathers data from a sample (or samples) and information is extrapolated to apply to the whole forest. Survey is easily completed by an observer walking or driving and is generally used to work out maintenance contracts.
- **Complete Inventory:** Surveys the entire tree population but it is time consuming and expensive.
- **Cover-type Survey:** Information is gathered by at least partial use of aerial photographs and sometimes with geographical information system. This type of survey is used increasingly in urban areas to examine the entire tree population in order to plan long-term land use. It is especially useful in intensively managed areas such as parks and campuses, but it can be expensive and produces detail that few community tree management programs can use effectively.

For Webster City, the planning team suggests a Specific Problem inventory. This is so Webster City can find trees that are already experiencing problems or at risk of future problems and better prepare and maintain these problem trees in a specific manner. For reference, please see the [Iowa DNR Tree Inventory Information](#).

Herbicide and Pesticide Usage in Park Spaces

Balancing the need to effectively manage weeds and pests in parks, the mandate to protect and conserve valuable natural resources, and the demand for well-manicured recreational areas is a big challenge in park maintenance. In meeting with city officials, the planning team has identified that dandelions and other weeds have been a problem within larger park spaces such as Kendall Young Park and Wilson Brewer Park.

Alternatives to herbicide and Pesticide usage now exist that can alter grasses dependency on herbicides at no additional cost to the city. Another issue with large scale herbicide and Pesticide usage within park space is the negative effects on the environment. According to a U.S. Geological Survey, traces of pesticides were found in 96% of all fish, 100% of surface waters, and 33% of major aquifers within the United States. This is of importance to Webster City, as the health of the Boone River and the flora and fauna that are dependent on it make up Webster City's natural capital. Information on pesticide use in the Midwest can be found [here](#).

An example of an alternative herbicide usage can be found in Chicago, Illinois. Close to 90% of Chicago parks now practice natural lawn care and avoid spraying weed control chemicals.

This switch to a more natural weed management within Chicago parks stopped the use of 66,125 pounds of pesticide-active ingredients. By not spraying weed killer in the majority of parks, Chicago saves 1.4 million dollars a year in application. However, an organized informational campaign must be used so that residents understand that dandelions and other unwanted weeds will be present during the implementation of the more natural approach to weed management. An example of steps Webster City can take to change public opinions about dandelions and other weeds can be found [here](#).

The planning team suggests that Webster City look into implementing a more natural pesticide and herbicide management program to both save on money and help protect the health of the Boone River and the flora and fauna that rely on it for survival.

Flood Management

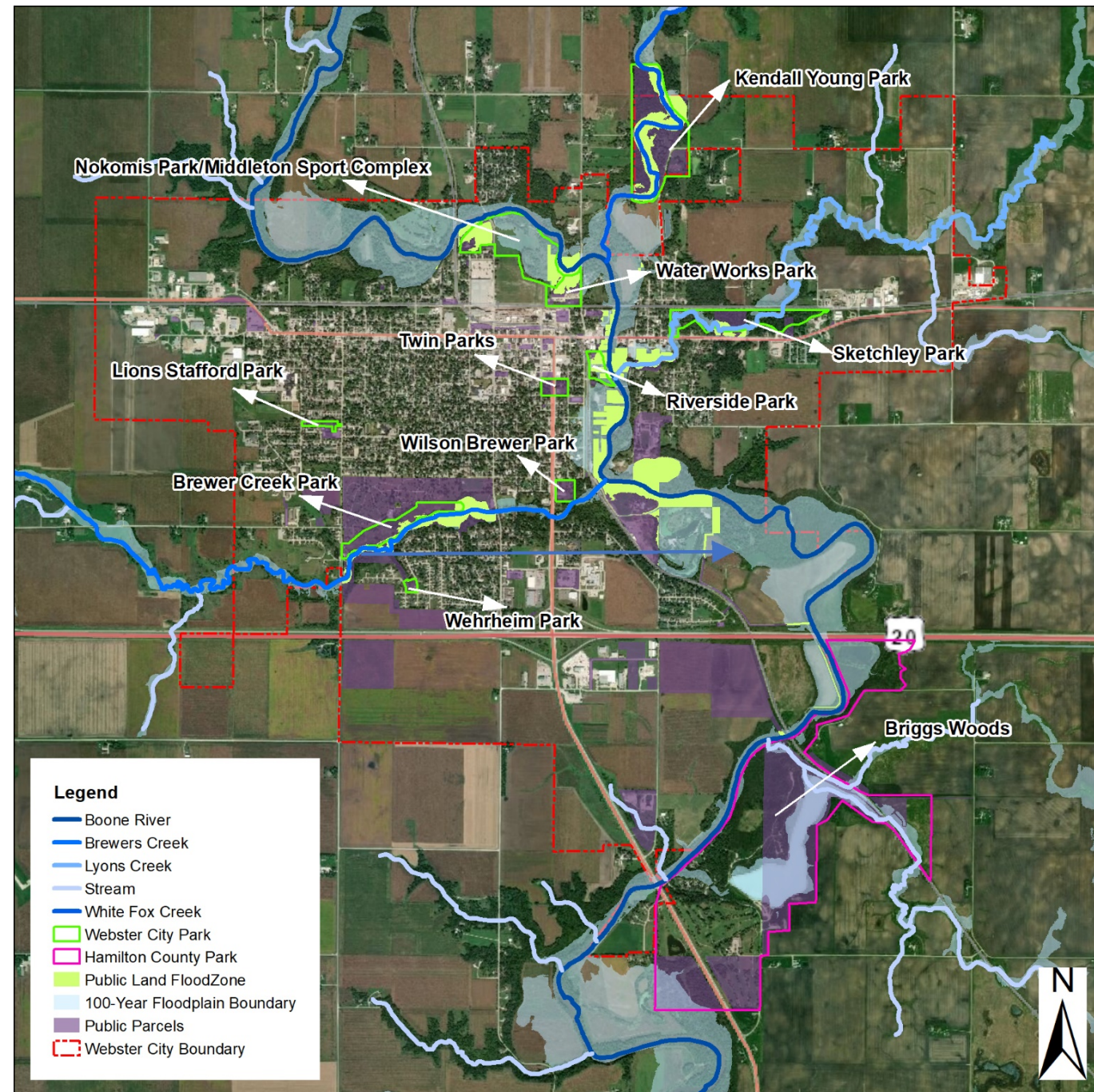


Figure 68 - Floodplain Map, Public Parcels and Parks, Webster City, IA

Flooding is a consequence of a high flow of water above the normal capacity of a river or the accumulation of surface water with low capacity of absorbency. Combinations of factors such as weather patterns, soil absorption, vegetation cover and topography of the river basin determine the degree of risk in flooding events. Based on this information, parks are an essential tool in mitigating the impacts of flooding caused by climate change. Natural vegetation plays a key role in absorbing excess water, so the preservation of natural areas and parks such as Nokomis, Water Works, and Riverside Parks can prove to be highly influential in dealing with flooding in the city.

The map provides a comprehensive analysis of all public parcels and parks inside and outside of the 100-year floodplain area surrounding the Boone River watershed. The 100-year floodplain is the land that is predicted to flood during a 100-year storm, which has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. The 100-year floodplain is used by FEMA to administer the federal flood insurance program. The primary goal is to ensure that Webster City understands the importance of coordinating the community land-use within the 100-year floodplain. The purpose is to address issues related to the floodplain map to reduce losses and decrease the magnitude of a disaster if it occurs. Additionally, FEMA recommends that the city should educate residents about issues related to the hazard to protect the natural environment of Webster City.

The map shows that parts of Kendall Young Park, Sketchley Park, and Brewer Creek Park are in the floodplain. Parks within the 100-year floodplain are Nokomis Park and Middleton Sports Complex, Water Works Park, and Riverside Park. According to Floodplain Management Requirements of FEMA, keeping developments out of floodplains is the best approach to prevent damage of buildings and structures. Instead, the area in the floodplain should be dedicated to open spaces for the community. Webster City should avoid building or developing any structure with potential loss in the floodplain. The planning team recommends that the floodplain area should be preserved according to its native conditions except for invasive vegetation which can be removed on a periodic schedule. Also, the installation of structures or infrastructure within the floodplain such as trails, waterway access points, or small structures like benches or playgrounds must be firmly attached to the ground.

Case Study: City of Roswell

The Big Creek Greenway trail is part of the City of Roswell's Wetlands Demonstration Project and consists of just over two miles of concrete sidewalk and boardwalks. The multi-user trail is heavily used by walkers, runners, dog walkers, bikers, etc. and now connects multiple communities.

Three water quality features were designed to address upland stormwater runoff and protect Big Creek and the adjacent wetlands.

Case Study: City of Savannah

Fernwood/Parkwood Walking trail is a newly paved walking trail that is a product of the City's Floodways to Greenways Program. Floodways to Greenways is a new way to address drainage issues through combining stormwater infrastructure with community amenities. Savannah's Water Resources Bureau has planned events throughout the year to introduce the ecological benefits of the new trail.

Case Study - Data Source: Best Practices: Greenspace and Flood Protection Guidebook

The figures on the right show two case studies of best practices in the City of Savannah and the City of Roswell.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

The planning team discovered early on through interactions with the Parks and Recreation Commission and various community members, that the Webster City Parks and Recreation assets are under-marketed. In the community survey, 7% of respondents said recreation opportunities can be improved through promotion and marketing. Because of the plentiful park space for a city this size, it is essential to create tools that highlight the parks and recreation features available in Webster City.

A marketing toolkit can help residents discover Parks and Recreation opportunities. In the community survey, the planning team learned that 10% of respondents feel programming and promotion can help improve the parks. The planning team suggested branding and categorizing each park, so that users can easily navigate to an experience/feature they are looking for.

Table 2 - Publicity and Promotion

Park:	Identity & Branding / Type & Category:
Brewer Creek Park	Neighborhood park, trail
Kendall Young Park	Rustic, nature oriented
Lions-Stafford Park	Neighborhood park, active play
Nokomis Park/Middleton Sports Complex	Organized sports play
Riverside Park	Riverfront, ecosystem education
Sketchley Park	Dog park
East Twin Park	Active play, youth oriented
West Twin Park	Connection hub, arts/culture
Water Works Park	Riverfront, ecosystem education
Wehrheim Park	Neighborhood park
Wilson Brewer Historic Park	Historic, educational

According to research completed by the planning team, currently the Webster City website has the most consolidated information about the Parks and Recreation system. The planning team suggests taking this information a step further and creating a brochure that lists all features available to Webster City residents and visitors in Spanish and in English as well as feature

information via icons on all marketing materials. These can be placed at city Hall, Fuller Hall, Kendall Young Library, churches, theaters, hotels, and school offices to increase visibility and awareness of Parks and Recreation by creating a one-stop-shop handout.

Aside from a physical presence, an online marketing presence is also key to promoting Parks and Recreation in Webster City. This means regularly updating the city website with comprehensive details of park and recreational offerings. This could also mean designing a social media campaign that promotes Parks and Recreation and encourages user participation within park spaces. The planning team suggests a 1-year promotional campaign where one park could be featured each month as the “park of the month.” This would enable park users to become more familiar with everything that is offered while also fostering collaboration with residents to learn about ways to continue improving the space.

Along with social media, the Parks and Recreation department could consider implementing a Parks and Recreation mobile app. This avenue would help capture a younger audience. Throughout all marketing components mentioned above, providing Parks and Recreation information in Spanish will help foster inclusiveness based on the diversity in Webster City and provide even more exposure to the Parks and Recreation system.

The Planning team partnered with the University of Iowa Sports and Recreation management program to refine strategies for publicity and promotion of the Parks and Recreation system in Webster City. The Sports and Recreation Management team developed a Strategic Communication Plan that Webster City can use as a starting point to increase awareness of the many opportunities already available. Please see [Appendix 5](#) for details.



Figure 69 - Parks and Recreation Brochure - City of Kingston, NY



Figure 70 - Parks and Recreation Mobile App - San Francisco

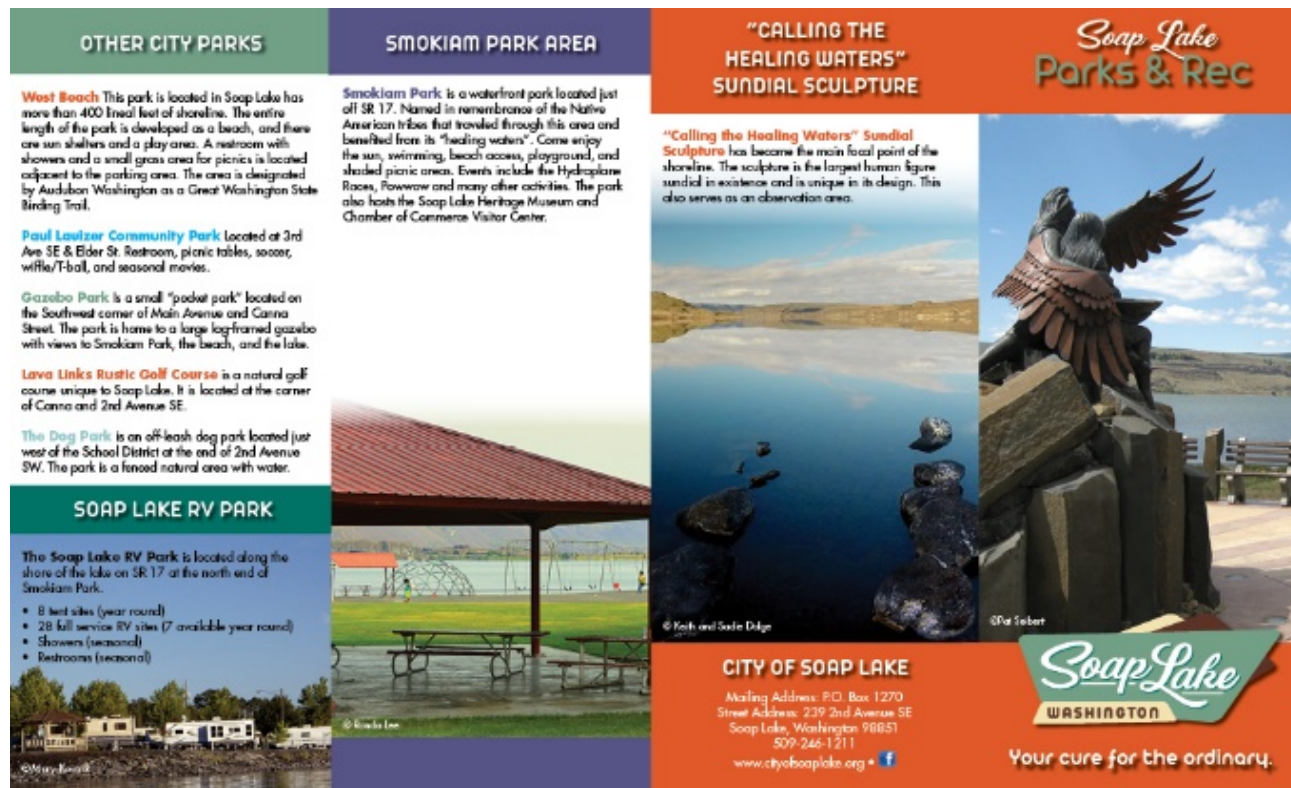


Figure 71 - Parks and Recreation Brochure Model - City of Soap Lake, WA

Additionally, efforts were also focused towards Briggs Woods Park, as the planning team believes Webster City could benefit from partnering with Hamilton County to promote and share this county park. The following information describes Briggs Woods Park and areas in which the team felt Briggs Woods Park could be improved based on community input:

While Briggs Woods is a Hamilton County park, the planning team felt it should be included in this plan. With more than 2 out of every 5 survey respondents (41%) identifying it as their favorite local park, this natural space presents a unique opportunity to partner with the county and promote it as a local parks and recreation attraction. Expanding across more than 500 acres, the park features an assortment of amenities and opportunities for recreation activities. Ranging from a ten-foot-wide, paved trail along the Boone River to an adjacent private golf course, this place has a lot to offer. One can easily realize an authentic connection to nature through various outlets such as hiking trails and/or cabins open to rent. Also featuring full hook-up campsites, Briggs Woods Park experiences high visitor counts – especially during the warmer months. For this reason, the planning team feels as if this space could serve the community in numerous ways. Programming is an essential component of Parks and Recreation success, and this could serve as the perfect venue for a variety of activities. Whether that be outdoor movies, holiday gatherings (e.g., Easter Egg hunts, Christmas light show, etc.), family reunions, food and/or music festivals, parties, play dates, outdoor exercise classes, among many other options. To encourage attendance at these types of events, promotion and publicity is imperative. Ultimately, Briggs Woods County Park is a beautiful space with seemingly endless opportunities for engagement and activity.

- Recognized as the best local park/physical space with a variety of recreational activities for folks of all ages
- Great opportunity to establish mutually beneficial relationship with Hamilton County by incorporating additional programming for regional visitors
- Beautiful natural area and the nearest full-service campground in the area proving highly valuable and popular – especially during the warm months

PARK-BY-PARK ANALYSIS

Webster City features a vast amount of park space within and just outside of the city boundaries. This park analysis evaluates the 10 parks within the city, but when considering Briggs Woods County Park along with public properties, there is more than 800 acres devoted to recreational uses. All city parks open for the season on April 15 and close on October 15 and official hours are from sunrise to 10 PM daily.

The park analysis is an essential part of this plan since it guides the recommendations for future improvements. It provides an objective assessment of what exists in each of the parks. The detailed inventory was produced by visiting each of the Webster City Parks and Recreation facilities, along with assistance from city staff. Using information provided by the city staff and the results of the survey, this section of the plan addresses what should be added or what feature should be updated to enhance the parks. Additionally, the data analysis was collected by assessing aerial photographs, using GIS data, and consulting online directories.

This section goes into a park-by-park inventory assessment which reviews all existing conditions for each park. The analysis then addresses gaps and recommends park improvements based on research, project partner input, and community feedback. All images within the recommendation sections are examples of what Webster City can replicate.

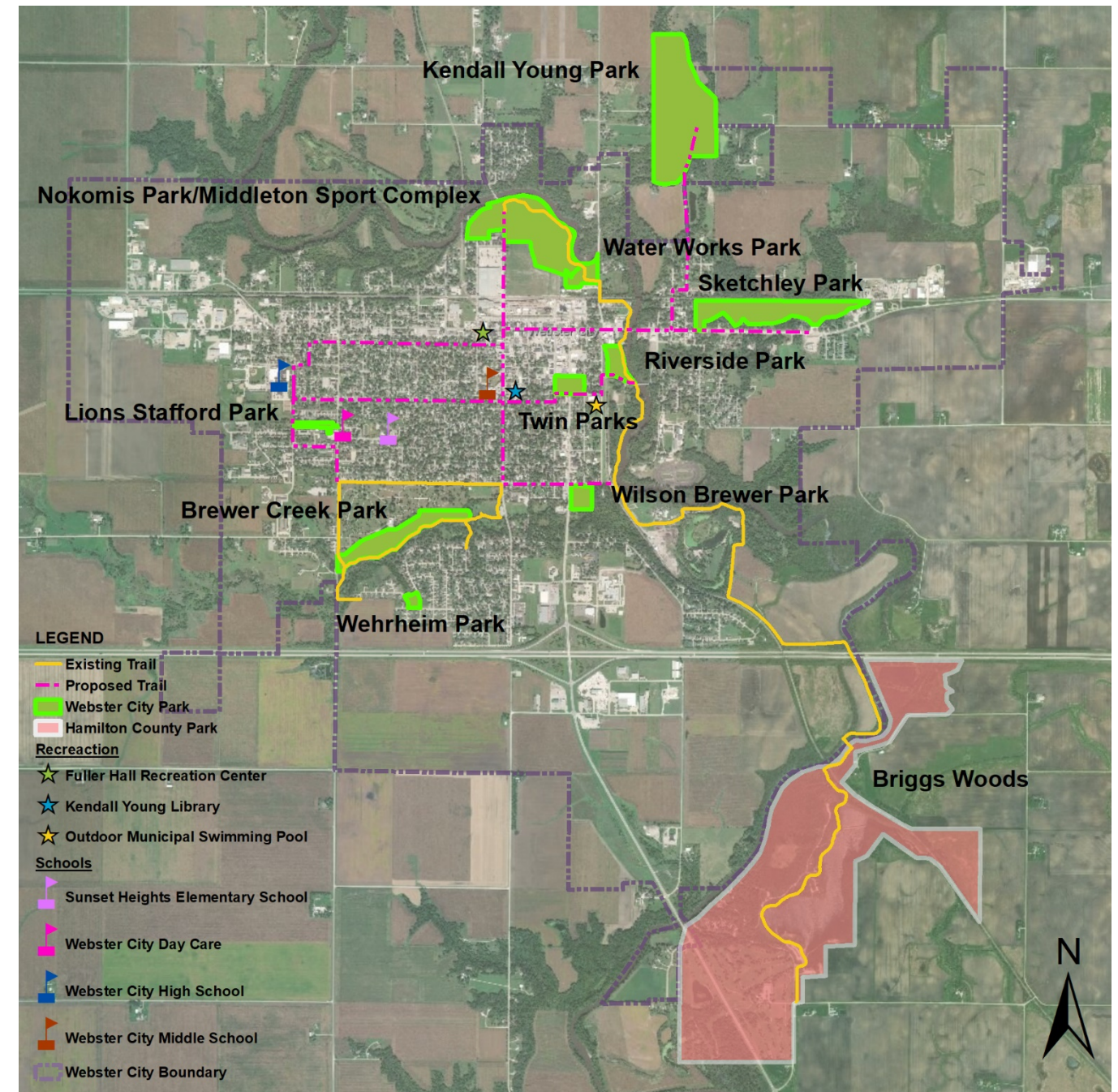


Figure 72 - Parks, and Existing and Proposed Trails, Webster City, IA

BREWER CREEK PARK

Inventory

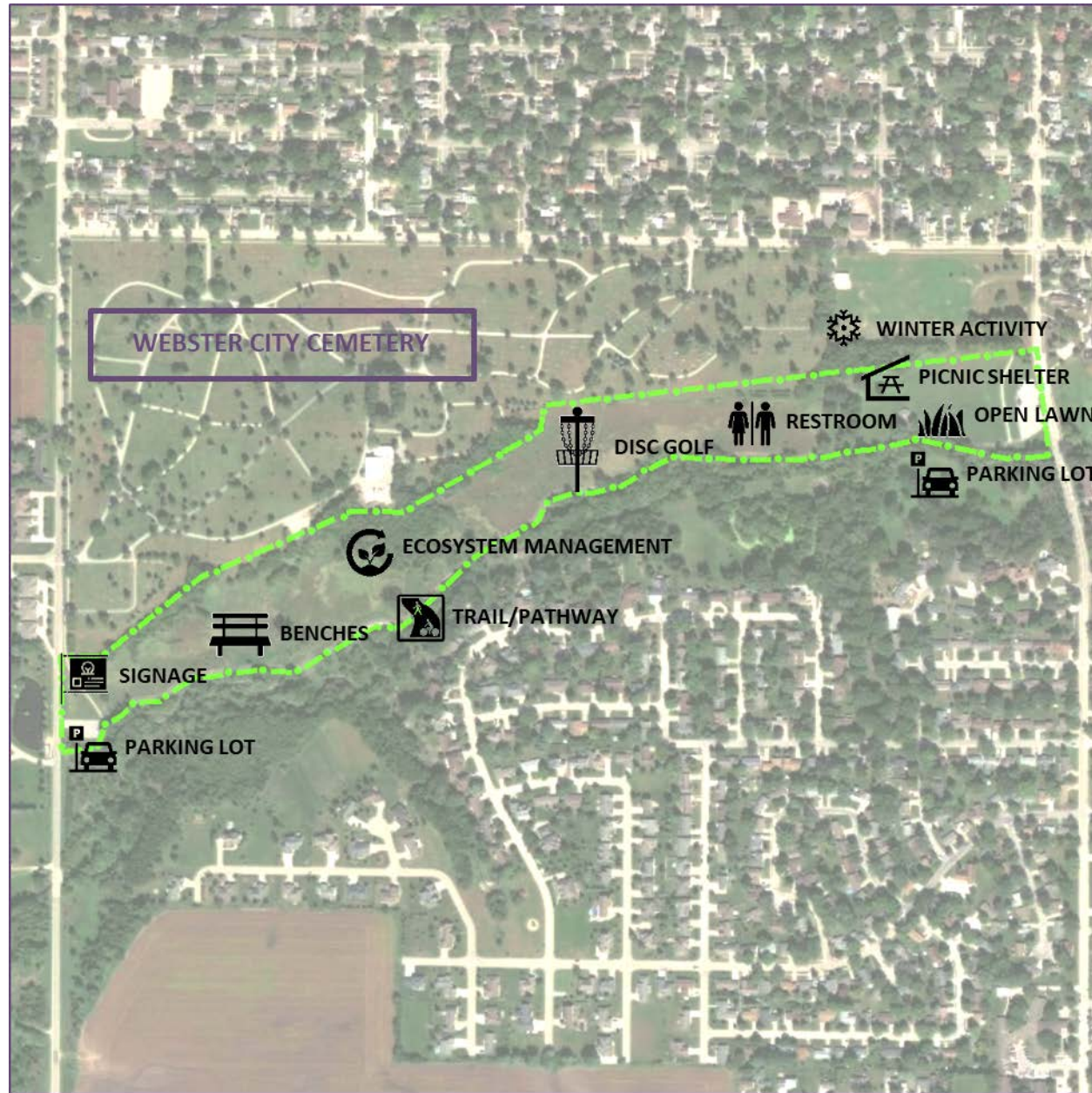


Table 3 - Brewer Creek Park Inventory

Brewer Creek Park - 1801 Des Moines Street - 37 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Benches		A few along the trail
Disc Golf	1	9-Hole (updated in 2013)
Ecosystem Mgmt.	1	Prairie area
Open Lawn	1	5-acres of mowed area
Parking Lot	2	35 parking spots
Picnic Shelter	1	Accessible by the Brewer Creek Trail
Restroom	1	
Signage	1	Park information and bulletin board
Trail/Pathway	1	2-mile looped concrete trail
Winter Activity	1	Sledding on "Hospital Hill"

Brewer Creek Park consists of 37 acres of open green space and is located in the southwestern part of Webster City. The park is open all year long and offers a 2-mile recreation trail. The northern section of the trail stretches along a flat prairie area, while the southern portion of the trail runs along Brewer Creek bordered by trees along the banks. The park accommodates a 9-hole disc golf course, with a length of 2,573 ft. The disc golf course, updated in 2013, uses a large hill and a few wooded areas to promote recreational opportunities for users. Brewer Creek has a shelter with restrooms and open space that supports recreation activities, along with a genuine connection to nature. The park has a parking lot on the west side that accommodates 13 vehicles and the east parking lot fits 22 vehicles. During the winter, the park offers sledding opportunities on “Hospital Hill.”

“Hospital Hill” was previously the site of the county hospital, until its demolition in 1930. The city envisions that the location could be used to accommodate a future amphitheater at the bottom of “Hospital Hill,” close to the existing shelter. This project is being designed by the Civil Engineering students from the University of Iowa.

Figure 73 - Brewer Creek Park



Figure 74 - Brewer Creek Park Signage



Figure 75 - Brewer Creek Disc Golf Course



Figure 76 - Brewer Creek Park Shelter



Figure 77 - Brewer Creek Trail

Recommendations

For better utilization of Brewer Creek Park, the planning team found that trail connectivity is essential to attracting people to the park. According to the survey results, 24% of the community views the trail as one of the favorite assets of Webster City. For a better understanding of the trail connectivity, see the [trail recommendation section](#) about the active connections. Moreover, the Brewer Creek Trail should include improved lighting infrastructure to create a safe environment for users. The existing disc golf course is expected to be updated according to an initiative spearheaded by the Youth Advisory Commission. The disc golf course will receive an additional 9 holes. An amphitheater is expected to be added to the park as part of a design project by the Civil Engineering students from the University of Iowa. More benches should be installed to accommodate all users and enhance their enjoyment of nature along the Brewer Creek Trail.

Table 4 - Brewer Creek Park Recommendations

Recommendations – Brewer Creek Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the lighting infrastructure on Brewer Creek Trail. The project could be implemented in two phases, the first phase installed lights close to Des Moines St and Beach St given the proximity of the road with the trail; then the second phase, the city should install on the rest of the trail.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add benches along the trail.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the existing Disc Golf Course.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An amphitheater is expected to be added to the park as part of a University of Iowa’s student project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add playground equipment next to the existing shelter.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider converting part of the open green space in the middle of the park into nature prairie or butterfly gardens as an alternative to mowing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add bike repair station and bike racks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add outdoor sports equipment in the open space in the middle of the park to create more opportunities for park users.



Figure 78 - [Light Infrastructure](#)



Figure 79 - [Playground Equipment](#)



Figure 82 - [Benches with Sponsor Plaques](#)



Figure 80 - [Bike Repair Station](#)



Figure 81 - [Outdoor Sport Equipment](#)



Figure 83 - [Butterfly Garden](#)



Figure 84 - [Landscaping](#)

KENDALL YOUNG PARK

Inventory

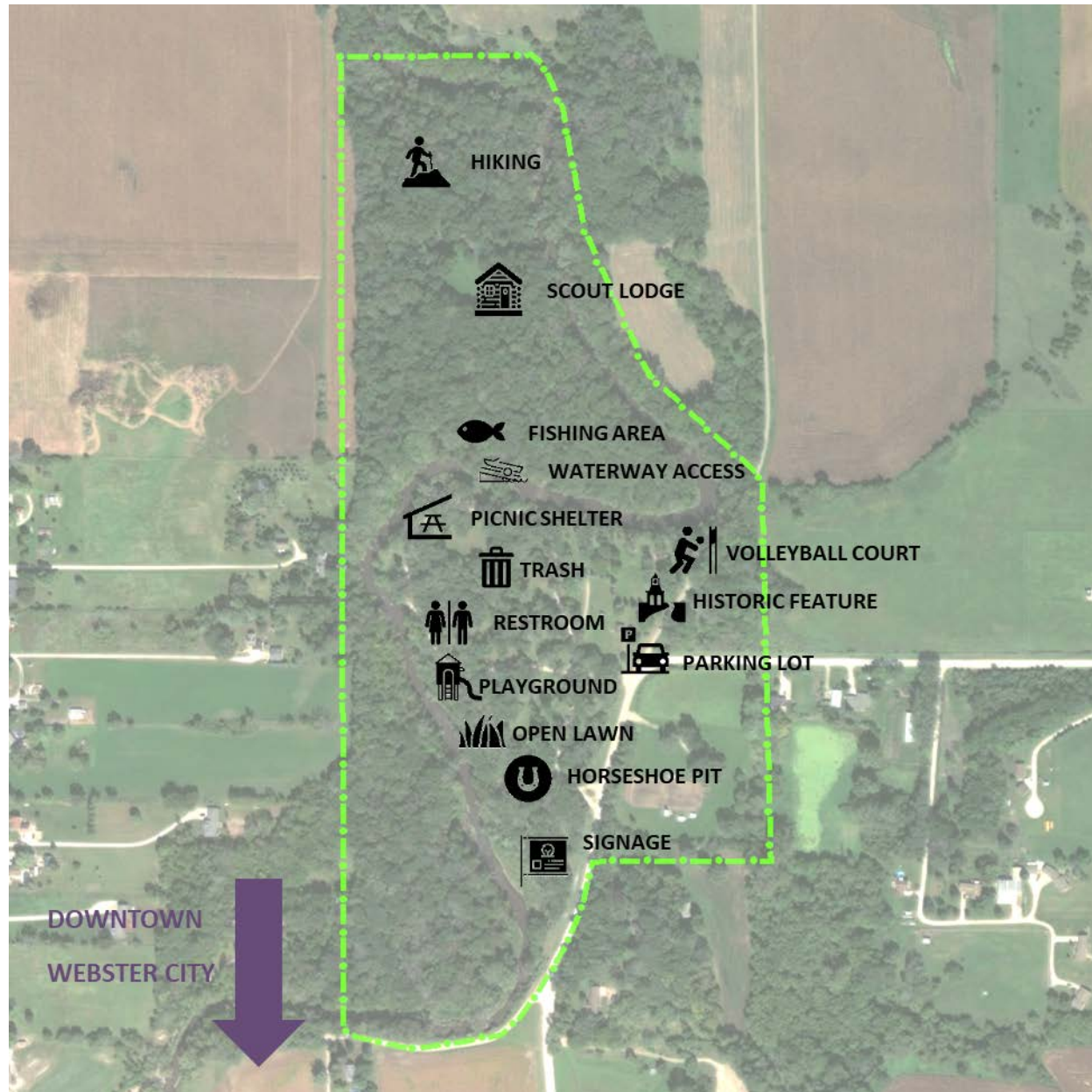


Figure 85 - Kendall Young Park

Table 5 - Kendall Young Park Inventory

Kendall Young Park - 600 Kendall Young Road - 84 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Fishing Area	1	
Hiking	1	Wooded area for hiking and mountain biking
Historic Feature	1	Park entrance
Horseshoe Pit	1	
Open Lawn	6	4-acres of mowed area
Parking Lot	1	Gravel parking
Picnic Shelter	4	No accessibility route
Playground	2	Small and old playground equipment
Restroom	1	Contaminated water, not able to use for washing hands
Scout Lodge	1	Old structure
Signage	1	Park information
Trash	1	
Volleyball Court	1	
Waterway Access	1	Non-structure waterway access ramp

Kendall Young Park is an 84-acre park located one mile north of Webster City. It has a beautiful scenic area and encompasses several acres of open green space. The area is a quiet place for users who want to interact with nature. Kendall Young Park has 4 shelters, 6 picnic areas, and a gravel parking lot. The park has 2 small playgrounds suitable for children. However, these features need to be updated. The park has several recreational opportunities including: a fishing area, hiking, a horseshoe pit, a large amount of open space, and waterway access to the White Fox Creek that is used for canoeing, kayaking, and tubing. Additionally, the entrance is one of Webster City's historical landmarks. From the survey performed by the planning team, it was mentioned that the park lacks bike and pedestrian paths as well as park maintenance.

Kendall Young Park is one of Webster City's largest parks. In recent years, the park has suffered from a decrease of use since the only connection to the park is by car and it is more than one and a half miles from the downtown of Webster City. This is also due to the disrepair of the Scout lodge that is in the northern most section of the park. Kendall Young Park has lost access to drinkable water as the result of a faulty well. According to Kent Harfst, Recreation and Public Grounds Director, the well water is contaminated with high levels of nitrates, which does not allow people to wash their hands or drink water.

With help from The University of Iowa Engineering students, a land bridge is being built over a Boone River tributary that runs through the northern section of the park. This bridge will provide better access to the preexisting Scout lodge as well as vehicle access in case of an emergency.



Figure 86 - Kendall Young Park Entrance



Figure 87 - White Fox Creek, Water Access and Bridge



Figure 88 - Kendall Young Park Playground - Photo by Lucie Laurian



Figure 89 - Kendall Young Park Shelter - Photo by Lucie Laurian

Recommendations

Through interactions with the public, the planning team learned that Kendall Young is many residents' favorite park in Webster City. This was supported within the community survey data that showed 10% of our survey respondents listed Kendall Young as their favorite park. However, the planning team survey also showed some negative aspects of the park. For example, 71% of our survey respondents listed that Kendall Young as the least safe park in the city. This question of safety can be addressed by better connecting the park to the rest of the city. Although the seclusion of Kendall Young Park is what makes it unique, the park being isolated from the rest of the community is what makes it feel unsafe. The connectivity within the park via trails, along with lighting at the entrance of the park would help make the park feel safer to residents. Our recommendations for this park are as follows.

The park would be enhanced by greater access and connectivity. Paving the road that leads into Kendall Young while also providing lighting along that road would make the park feel safer. A path leading to the various structures inside the park would be a great addition to increase the parks accessibility. Trail connectivity is also an essential part of allowing the park to get more usage. Providing drinkable water to the park is a key park improvement that will increase park usage, as the current well within the park does not pass Department of Natural Resources regulations. An update to the existing volleyball sandpit would also present opportunities to increase park usage. The amount of space within the park also allows for adding additional equipment and structures. For example, through community events, the planning team learned that an adventure playground with natural features would be a welcome addition to the park.

Table 6 - Kendall Young Park Recommendations

Recommendations – Kendall Young Park
• Water line connecting city water supply to Kendall Young
• Improvement of bathroom facilities
• Mountain Bike and hiking trails
• Nature playground
• Lighting and pavement at park entrance
• Improved volleyball court sandpit
• Various accessibility paths to structures

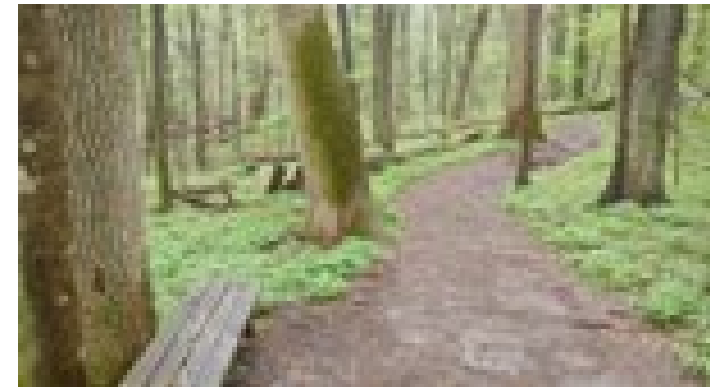


Figure 90 - [Improve Hiking Trail](#)

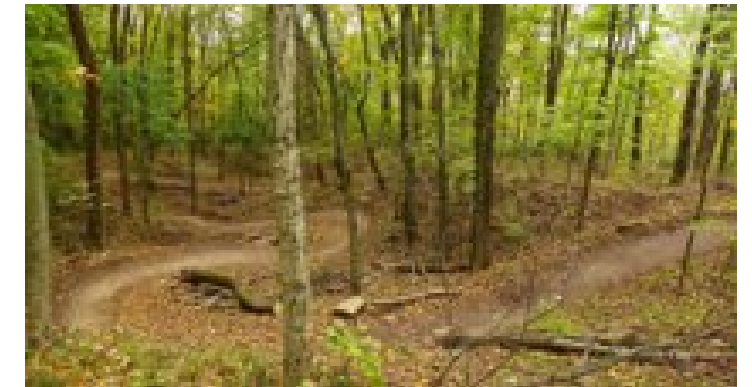


Figure 91 - [Mountain Bike Trail](#)



Figure 92 - [Improve Volleyball Court](#)



Figure 93 - [Nature Playground](#)



Figure 94 - [Improve Bathroom Facilities](#)

LIONS-STAFFORD PARK

Inventory



Figure 95 - Lions Stafford Park

Table 7 - Lions-Stafford Park Inventory

Lions-Stafford Park - 1312 Lynx Avenue - 3 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Basketball Court	1	
Open Lawn	1	3-acres of mowed area
Playground	1	New ADA compliant playground equipment
Signage	2	Park information
Trash	1	

Lions-Stafford Park is a 3-acre park located in the west side of Webster City. The park features a basketball court and an open area suitable for picnics. The park has new and completely ADA compliant playground equipment, but the equipment has a lack of path accessibility.

Adjacent to Webster City High School, Lions-Stafford Park serves as one of the few public parks in the western portion of Webster City. After revitalization efforts and fundraising occurred in 2017, this park was updated and made into a beautiful space thanks to the local Lions Club and community members offering a helping hand. Sporting purple and yellow playground equipment in support of the local school colors, this park is one of only a few spaces in the community featuring ADA compliant equipment. For this reason, among many others, Lions-Stafford is an important asset in this community for all residents, but especially so for those with disabilities.



Figure 96 - Lions-Stafford Park Signage and Playground



Figure 97 - Basketball Court



Figure 98 - Open lawn on east side of Lions-Stafford Park



Figure 99 - Playground Signage – Mobile Application



Figure 100 - Signage on east side of Park and Webster City Water Tower

Recommendations

Primarily surrounded by single-family detached homes, Lions-Stafford Park is seemingly a vast backyard. Several homes surrounding the park have constructed fencing, while some remain open as to essentially share the open greenspace. Roughly 6% of all survey respondents ranked Lions-Stafford as their favorite local park. Since this park is already considered to be one of the premier recreation spaces in the entire community, the planning team focused on strategies to leverage the existing strengths within this space. This includes the playground, the basketball court, the proximity to both the high school and daycare/preschool, and the open space.

To achieve that shared vision, Lions-Stafford Park needs an adequate pathway – a single, ADA-compliant (at least 60 inches/5-feet wide) pathway connecting the western end of the park bordered by Lynx Avenue to the eastern end bordered by Beach Street. This pathway will increase accessibility to the existing features within the park, and it will offer a safe pathway leading from the high school west of the park to the elementary school about a block to the east beyond Beach Street. By resurfacing the basketball court and using the concrete as a form of artistic expression, Lions-Stafford Park would be an inviting and unique place for all to enjoy.

The city, the Lions Club, students, park users, and volunteers could use this park to grow plants and/or flowers to beautify the space. Another option would be to consider communal gardening and butterfly gardens in this park as an alternative to mowing. With the high school, elementary, and the daycare/preschool being so close in proximity to Lions-Stafford Park, students could use the space for learning about topics ranging anywhere from horticulture to civic engagement. Ultimately, Lions-Stafford Park is viewed as a top-ranking community asset, but with a few modifications, it could serve a more expansive role in the Parks and Recreation system.

Table 8 - Lions Stafford Park Recommendations

Recommendations – Lions-Stafford Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● East-West pathway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Park shelter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basketball court: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resurface court ○ Add lighting to court ○ Use court for artistic expression
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alternatives to mowing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Butterfly gardens ○ Flower beds ○ Community gardens



Figure 101 - East-West Pathway



Figure 102 - Resurface Basketball Court



Figure 103 - New Park Shelter



Figure 104 - Butterfly Gardens



Figure 105 - Community Gardens



Figure 106 - Add Lighting to Basketball Court

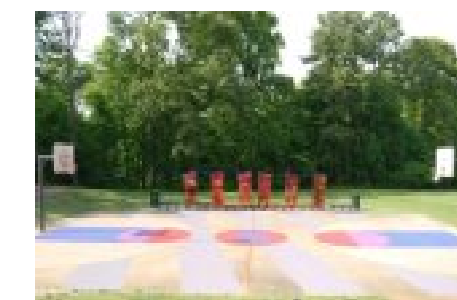


Figure 107 - Artistic Basketball Court Design



Figure 108 - Flower Beds

NOKOMIS PARK/MIDDLETON SPORTS COMPLEX

Inventory

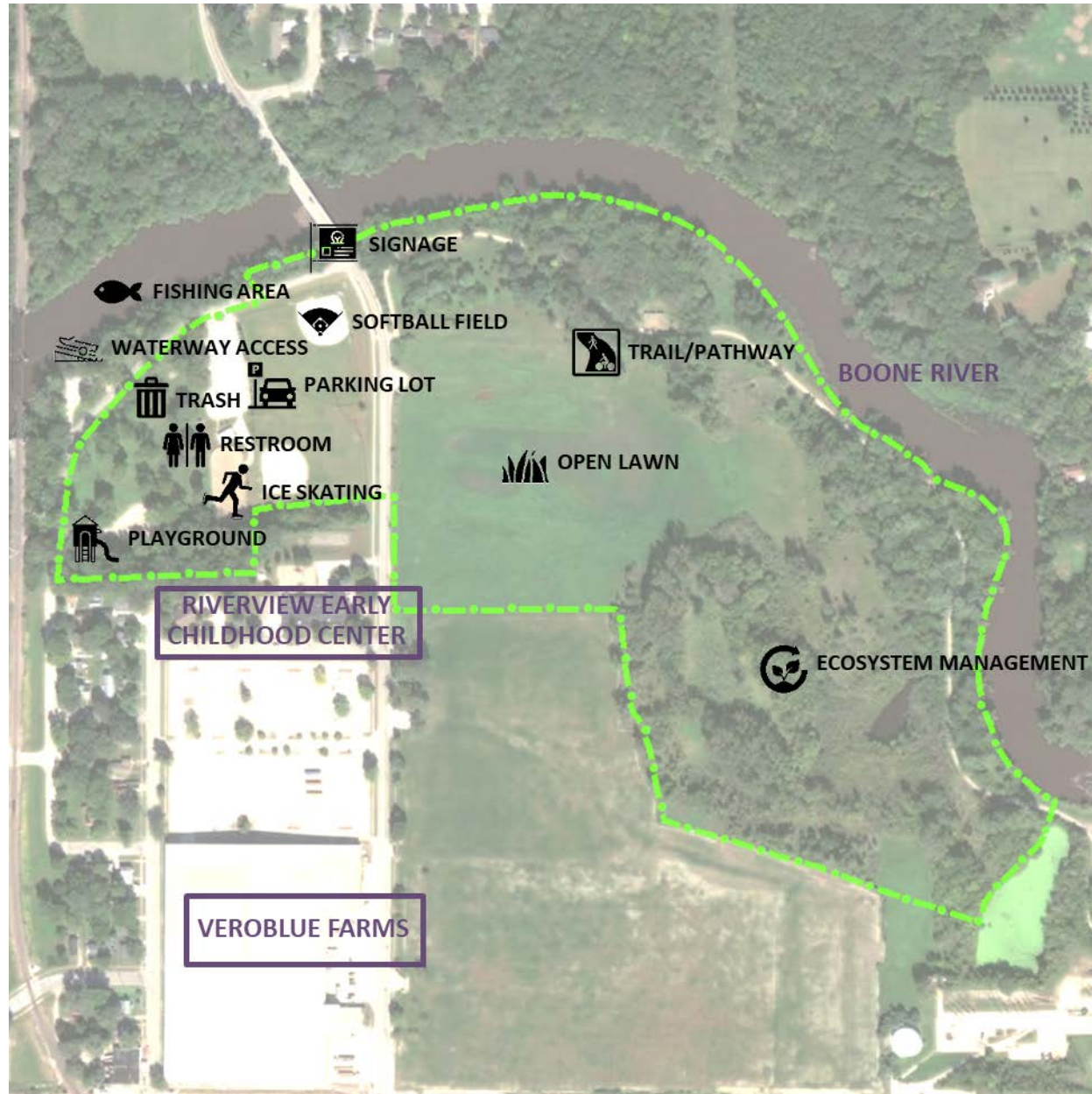


Figure 109 - Nokomis Park/Middleton Sports Complex

Table 9 - Nokomis Park/Middleton Sports Complex Inventory

Nokomis Park/Middleton Sports Complex - 700 East Street - 55 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Ecosystem Mgmt.	1	Prairie area
Fishing Area	1	
Open Lawn	1	25-acres of mowed area
Parking Lot	1	64 parking spots
Playground	1	
Restroom	1	
Signage	1	Park information
Softball Field	2	
Trail/Pathway	1	5.7 mile 10-foot-wide paved trail connecting Briggs Woods Park to Webster City
Trash	1	
Waterway Access	1	
Winter Activity	1	Carl Rhoer Ice Skating Rink

Nokomis Park and Middleton Sports Complex is a 55-acre park located in the northern portion of Webster City along the Boone River. The park serves as the Boone River Trail Head with waterway access to the Boone River. The trail offers recreation opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists since it is a paved trail connecting Webster City to Briggs Woods Park. Nokomis encompasses several acres of open space suitable for recreation. The complex has playground equipment, a restroom, 2 softball fields, and a parking lot for up to 64 vehicles. The fields are used for both adult and youth softball leagues. The southeastern portion contains a prairie area between the old Electrolux site and the Boone River. The park provides users with access to a fishing area on the Boone River. Nokomis Park and Middleton Sports Complex have the Carl Rhoer Ice Skating Rink, which offers ice recreation opportunities during the winter.



Figure 110 - Nokomis Park Signage



Figure 111 - Nokomis Park Softball Field



Figure 112 - Nokomis Park Ice Skating Rink



Figure 113 - Nokomis Park Swing Set

Recommendations

After the analysis of the existing features of Nokomis Park/Middleton Sports Complex, the planning team observed several gaps that should be addressed for better utilization of the area. Trail connectivity is essential for attracting more people to the park, since 24% of the community see the recreation trails as their favorite assets. For more information about the trail connectivity, see the [trail recommendation section](#).

According to the survey, it was mentioned that benches should be installed along trail and inside of the park. Webster City should improve access to fishing and the Boone River since there is a lack of a permanent, physical structures for water access. Moreover, the playground equipment should be improved by upgrading the existing space, which should comply with ADA specifications. Strategies for usage of the ice-skating rink during warm weather are important, as well as creating usage opportunities for the large open space in the east part of the park. Finally, the park must comply with ADA specifications along the side path connecting the parking lot with the different features of the park.

Table 10 - Nokomis Park/Middleton Sports Complex Recommendations

Recommendations – Nokomis Park / Middleton Sports Complex
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA compliant playground equipment and paths: Riverview Early Childhood Center would benefit from upgrading the playground equipment since kids could use the space.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add new shelter next to the baseball fields to create places to gather and watch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert part of the open green space, south of the park near the Electrolux fence, into natural prairie as an alternative to mowing. The project would create a barrier for toxins in the soil to avoid the contact with the Boone River, given the proximity of plant location and the river. Additionally, establishing a nature prairie would reduce the cost of mowing, which has a relatively low maintenance cost in comparison to lawns.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve fishing and water access to Boone River: Nokomis has about a mile of direct Boone River access. Fishing and water access should be ADA compliant.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches should be installed along the trail and throughout the park with sponsor plaques.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better maintain the restrooms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install bike repair station and bike racks since the park is located at the beginning of the Boone River Recreation Trail.

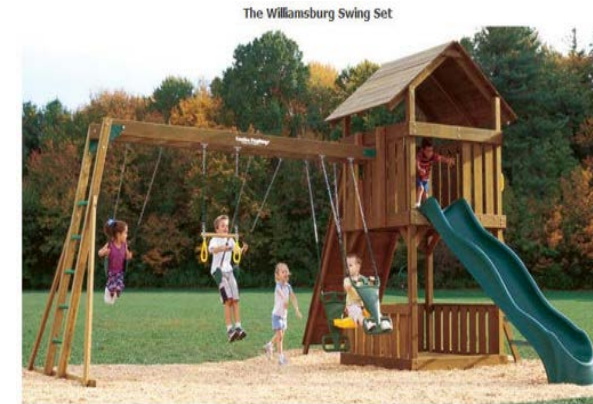


Figure 114 - Playground Equipment



Figure 115 - New Shelter



Figure 116 - Park Entrance Signage - Coralville Young Sports Park, City of Coralville, IA

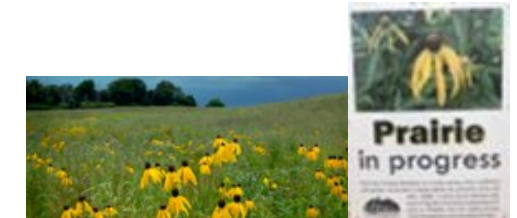


Figure 117 - Prairie Restoration



Figure 118 - Fishing and Waterway Access



Figure 119 - Benches with Sponsor Plaques

RIVERSIDE PARK

Inventory



Figure 120 - Riverside Park

Table 11 - Riverside Park Inventory

Riverside Park - 130 First Street - 13 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Benches	1	Near trail
Fishing Area	1	
Open Lawn	1	6-acres of mowed area
Parking Lot	1	6 parking spots
Signage	2	Interpretive educational signage
Trail/Pathway	1	5.7 mile 10-foot-wide paved trail connecting Briggs Woods Park to Webster City
Waterway Access	1	Structured access ramp
Wetland	1	Pond for stormwater retention

Located in the east part of Webster City, Riverside Park is a 13-acre city park with paved-structured waterway access for the Boone River. The park offers a parking lot for 6 vehicles and open space to accommodate recreational activities on its southernmost edge. The park is located on the route of the Boone River Recreation Trail, which offers an opportunity for walking and cycling. The park has a wetland, which is used for stormwater retention, and effectively slows down water drainage to the Boone River. Riverside Park includes informative signage about fish and river ecology near the wetland. The wetland has vegetation around and inside of it, showcasing an opportunity for education about maintaining a healthy natural water system. Webster City campground was previously located at Riverside, but camping is no longer allowed in this park.



Figure 121 - Riverside Park Signage - Photo by Lucie Laurian



Figure 122 - Boone River Access Ramp - Photo by Lucie Laurian



Figure 123 - Wetland - Photo by Lucie Laurian



Figure 124 - Wetland

Recommendations

Riverside Park is where the majority of waterway access takes place in Webster City. Better signage at the entrance will allow visitors and residents to be aware of the water access, as the signage is currently lacking. One of the most interesting aspects of the park is the wetland that was implemented by the DNR located due south of the parking lot. This wetland area was redesigned by a University of Iowa Engineering Team with help from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This wetland provides opportunities to inform the public about the effects of water runoff and water quality. Furthermore, the wetland presents opportunities to educate about the natural flora and fauna of the Boone River.

Another issue with Riverside Park is the private property that is adjacent to the park on the northside. Blocking the view of the junkyard at the entrance could be considered. This could be done using barriers to shield the public's view into the junkyard or by beautifying the pathway that leads into the park with natural plantings. In the future, an agreement to relocate the junkyard to a more secluded area could be reached between the property owner and Webster City.

Table 12 - Riverside Park Recommendations

Recommendations – Riverside Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish more signage for educational opportunity about wetland and importance water quality management next to DNR established wetland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beautification and signage leading to the park, allowing for people to be aware of the canoe access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce the junkyard to move cars off city property and into the private property
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the long term: reach agreement between property owner and city officials to relocate junkyard to a more remote location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially improve canoe ramp with ADA access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space for future canoe/kayak rentals and rental boathouse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gazebo shelter and picnic tables



Figure 126 - Canoe Rental Boathouse



Figure 127 - Picnic Tables



Figure 128 - Educational Signage



Figure 129 - Gazebo



Figure 130 - ADA Accessible Canoe Ramp



Figure 131 - Signage and Beautification of Park Entrance

SKETCHLEY PARK

Inventory

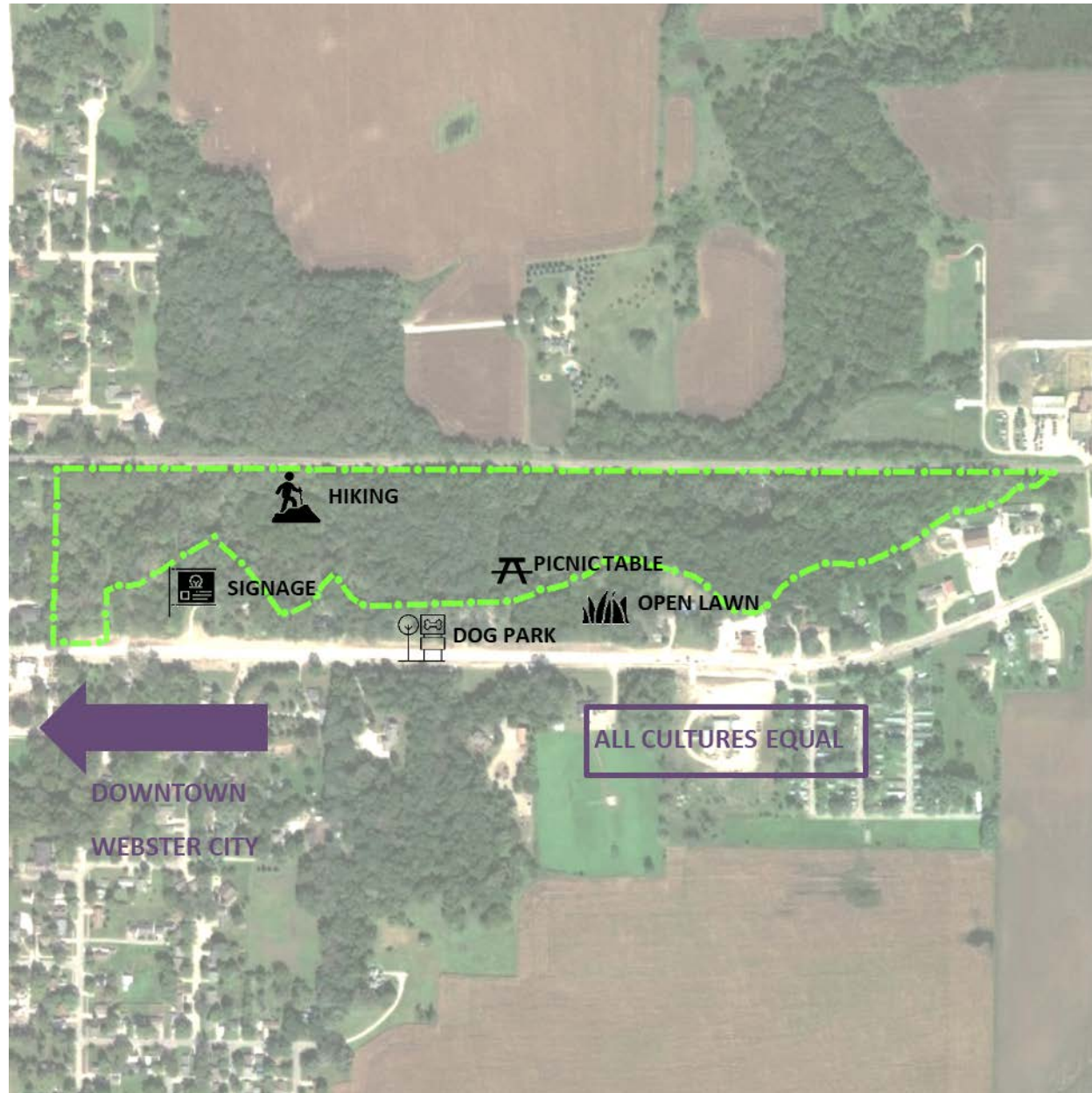


Figure 132 - Sketchley Park

Table 13 - Sketchley Park Inventory

Sketchley Park - East 2nd Street - 37 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Dog Park	1	
Hiking	1	Space behind the park
Open Lawn	1	2-acres of mowed area
Picnic Table	1	Located in dog park area
Signage	1	Park information

Located northeast of Webster City, Sketchley Park is comprised of 37 acres. The park contains the only dog park within Webster City, which offers friendly off-leash activities with several obstacles for all dogs. There is also a wooded area that offers an off-the-path hiking experience.



Figure 133 - Sketchley Park



Figure 134 - Sketchley Park Dog Area



Figure 135 - Sketchley Park Signage



Figure 136 - Sketchley Park

Recommendations

Sketchley Park is the only park that contains a dog park in Webster City. However, the city should consider expanding the dog park to create a better place for people to take their dogs, as the planning team heard during our public outreach that the current facility is lacking in quality. Moreover, a trail connection with the Boone River Recreation Trail should improve access for better park utilization. Webster City should consider the installation of new playground equipment east of the dog park to create activities for younger residents. These improvements would help create a family-friendly environment as parents would have the opportunity to enjoy recreational activities with both their children and their dogs. Additionally, the park does not have benches for people to sit or tables for picnic activities. The city should consider improving the existing roundabout to include education/art opportunities by installing a sculpture or other artistic feature in the middle of the roundabout. The area is also suitable for accommodating a hiking path or adventure activities in the wooded area of the park. Lastly, as the survey and conversations with Webster City’s residents and Park Commission members indicated, the planning team found that the park must be better advertised and promoted.

Table 14 - Sketchley Park Recommendations

Recommendations – Sketchley Park
• Expansion/Renovation of the dog park
• Welcome signage in the entrance of the park
• Add benches inside and outside of the dog area
• Add multi-purpose water fountain, for human and dog usage
• Add picnic tables
• Installation of new playground equipment east of the dog park
• Consider improving the existing roundabout by installing a feature in the middle



Figure 137 - Dog Park Expansion



Figure 138 - Dog Park Improvements

TWIN PARKS

Inventory

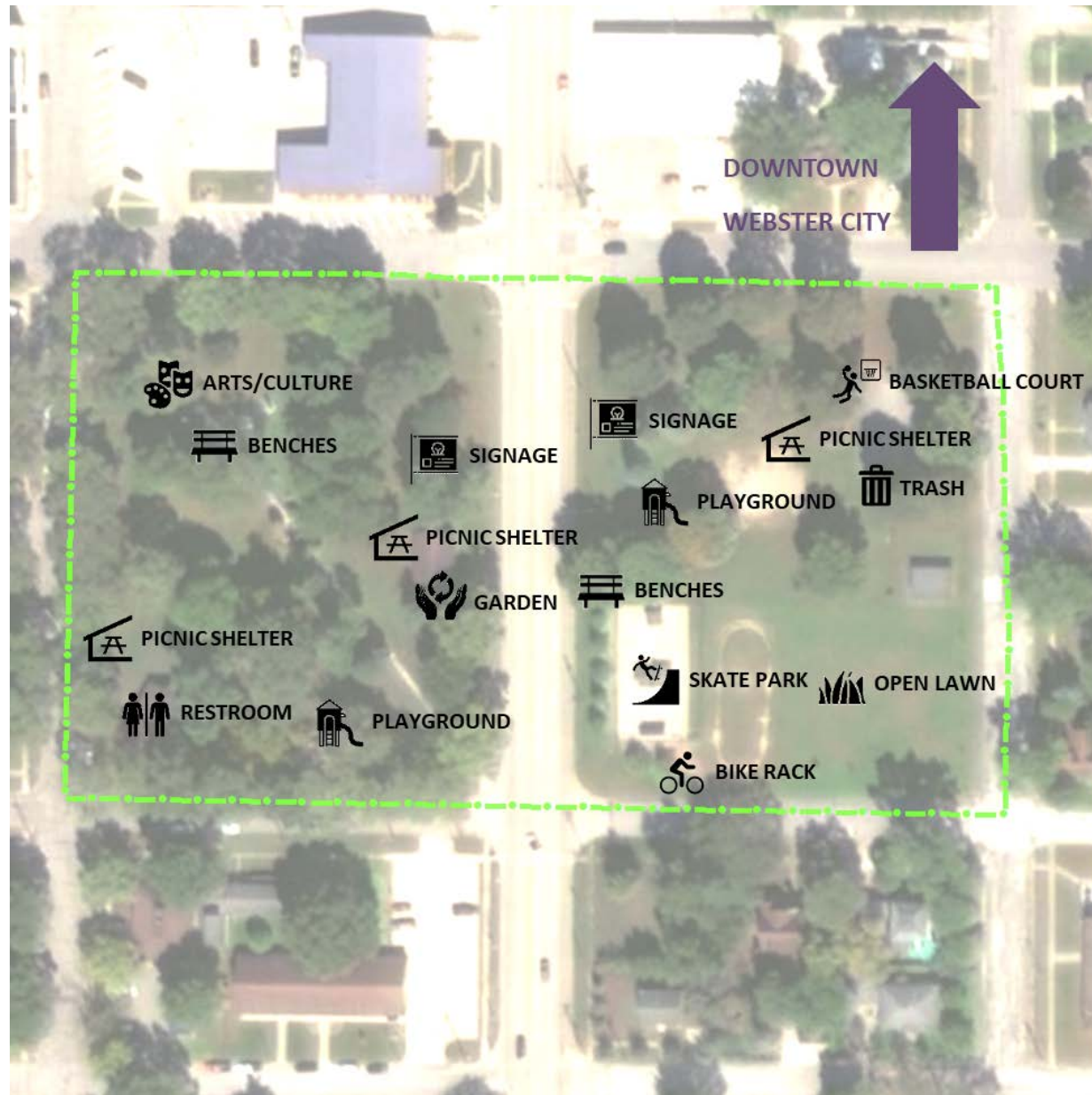


Table 15 - Twin Parks Inventory

Twin Parks- 1101 Superior Street- 6 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Arts/Culture	1	Sculpture installation at West Twin
Beautification	1	Small garden
Benches	3	Several benches on both sides
Bike Rack	1	Old bike rack near skatepark
Basketball Court	1	East Twin
Open Lawn	2	5-acres of mowed area
Picnic Shelter	3	Several picnic tables
Playground	2	Modern playground equipment at West Twin
Restroom	1	
Signage	2	Park information
Skatepark	1	Wired fence around the skatepark
Trash	1	Trash container in East Twin

East Twin Park and West Twin Park are located at the center of the community only 2 blocks south of downtown. Because of that, they are easily accessible and easy to navigate via signage and street access. East Twin Park invites more active play while West Twin Park offers a more connective and social experience.

East Twin Park offers a small shelter, a basketball court, playground equipment and open space for recreational activities. The park also features a skatepark, which provides recreational opportunities for youth. West Twin Park contains 2 shelters, one with restrooms, modern playground equipment and beautiful open green space for recreational activities. Through a partnership with the *Arts R Alive Sculpture Committee*, the park accommodates up to 10 seasonal sculptures to promote public art and enhance the artistic and cultural experience of Webster City residents and visitors.

Figure 139 - Twin Parks



Figure 140 - East Twin Park Signage and Skatepark



Figure 141 -East Twin Park Basketball Court



Figure 142 - East Twin Park Shelter



Figure 143 - East Twin Park Swings



Figure 144 - West Twin Park Signage and Shelter



Figure 145 - West Twin Park Playground



Figure 146 - West Twin Park Art Sculpture Installation



Figure 147 - West Twin Park Shelter

Recommendations

When it comes to assessing the gaps of Twin Parks, East Twin Park calls for a chance to revisit the aesthetic qualities of the skatepark to create a more welcoming skatepark facility for youth, along with a new use for the old dirt track located next to it. West Twin park can become an anchor for programs and activities and serve as a place for arts and cultural education experiences.

East Twin Park already has various features encouraging active play like playground equipment, basketball court, and a skatepark. Based upon public input from the community, the planning team learned that 31% of survey respondents felt parks can be improved with physical features and renovations. This plan suggests ideas to refresh what is already there and to incorporate new features.

The city must focus on skatepark beautification. To make this feature more appealing to residents, the planning team suggests removal of the top portion of the wired fencing. Public art can also be incorporated into the skatepark. This could involve a public art project that engages a younger population and may be done through art installation partnership agreements between local schools and Webster City. The city can engage in projects with the city’s younger population to decorate the fences and paint the outer sides of the pavement. This project can be done seasonally or yearly and opens the door for creative expression of the community.

Updating playground equipment is suggested for East Twin Park. Currently, there are only 2 sets of swings, a four-way teeter totter, and a set of monkey bars. Adding a new fully equipped playground can attract many young families to this centrally located park. For East Twin Park, the planning team suggest a modern and innovative take on a playground with obstacle course features for enhanced fitness and agility play or a therapeutic fitness playground for seniors to enhance active ageing (Hart n.d.).

The next recommendation for East Twin Park is to replace the basketball court backboards. Through our survey, the planning team heard the need of fixing up the old court. For the long term, there is an opportunity to engage in sustainable practices by upgrading the basketball pavement to porous concrete. Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and the Philadelphia Water Department collaborated to retrofit the former basketball court at Herron Playground to a basketball court with porous asphalt to manage stormwater runoff that enters into the combined sewer system, leading to healthier waters (Herron Playground 2018).

Currently there is only one small shelter serving East Twin Park. Replacing and upgrading it with a bigger shelter would help create an opportunity for more users to enjoy the park.

The final recommendation is to repurpose the old dirt track to incorporate a splash pad or adding a splash pad on the southeastern portion of East Twin Park. When surveying the public, this is something the planning team consistently heard about and that the city can consider in the future.

Table 16 - East Twin Park Recommendations

Recommendations – East Twin Park
• Skatepark beautification
• Updated playground equipment: obstacle/agility course or therapeutic fitness for seniors
• New basketball court backboards, porous pavement down the line
• Upgrade to East shelter
• Splash pad



Figure 148 - Painted Skatepark – Bentonville AR



Figure 149 - New Basketball Backboards



Figure 150 - Obstacle/Agility Playground



Figure 151 - Therapeutic Fitness Park for Ageing Seniors



Figure 152 - [Expanded Shelter - City of Riverside, CA](#)



Figure 153 - [Community Splash Pad - Town of Lapel, IN](#)

West Twin Park serves as the hub for social connections and has opportunities for further forms of expression through arts and culture. A recent poll conducted by the National Recreation and Parks Association showed that most Americans think it is important for youth to have access to community gardens to learn about where food comes and to facilitate community building. It was also revealed that nearly 50% of park and recreation agencies across the nation offer community gardening opportunities (New Survey: Children’s Access to Community Gardens Important 2018). The planning team’s first recommendation is implementing a community garden with edible planters (Weeks 2018). Because of West Twin Park’s proximity to Fuller Hall Recreation Center, the planning team feels that this project could serve to integrate activities in Fuller Hall with activities in West Twin Park. The community could engage in gardening and planting with events sponsored by the community garden club in town.

The next recommendation for West Twin Park is adding grilling stations to the park. There are none currently, and this feature could help activate parks and play off of the social aspects that this park is already known for. This suggestion was heard when interviewing a member of the Latinx community and could potentially increase usage for diverse populations.

Updated seating and benches in West Twin Park specifically by the art installation can help enhance the space. Many currently come to enjoy the arts in the park and more benches would allow for resting points. Seating throughout can help address concerns that the planning team heard from older population groups who took the community survey.

Bike racks are also recommended in West Twin Park. The planning team envisions this as a great park for people traveling about the town on bike to stop. Adding bike racks here allows for an easy walk to downtown while still promoting engagement with this downtown park. Both sides of Twin Parks can add bike racks to encourage bike usage within the community and downtown.

Table 17 - West Twin Park Recommendations

Recommendations – West Twin Park
• Community garden
• Grilling stations
• Updated benches
• Bike racks
• West shelter upgrade in progress, see Appendix 8



Figure 154 - [Community Garden - City of Powell, OH](#)



Figure 155 - [Grilling Stations - McCarren Park, NYC](#)



Figure 156 - [Updated Benches](#)



Figure 157 - [Bike Racks](#)

WATER WORKS PARK

Inventory

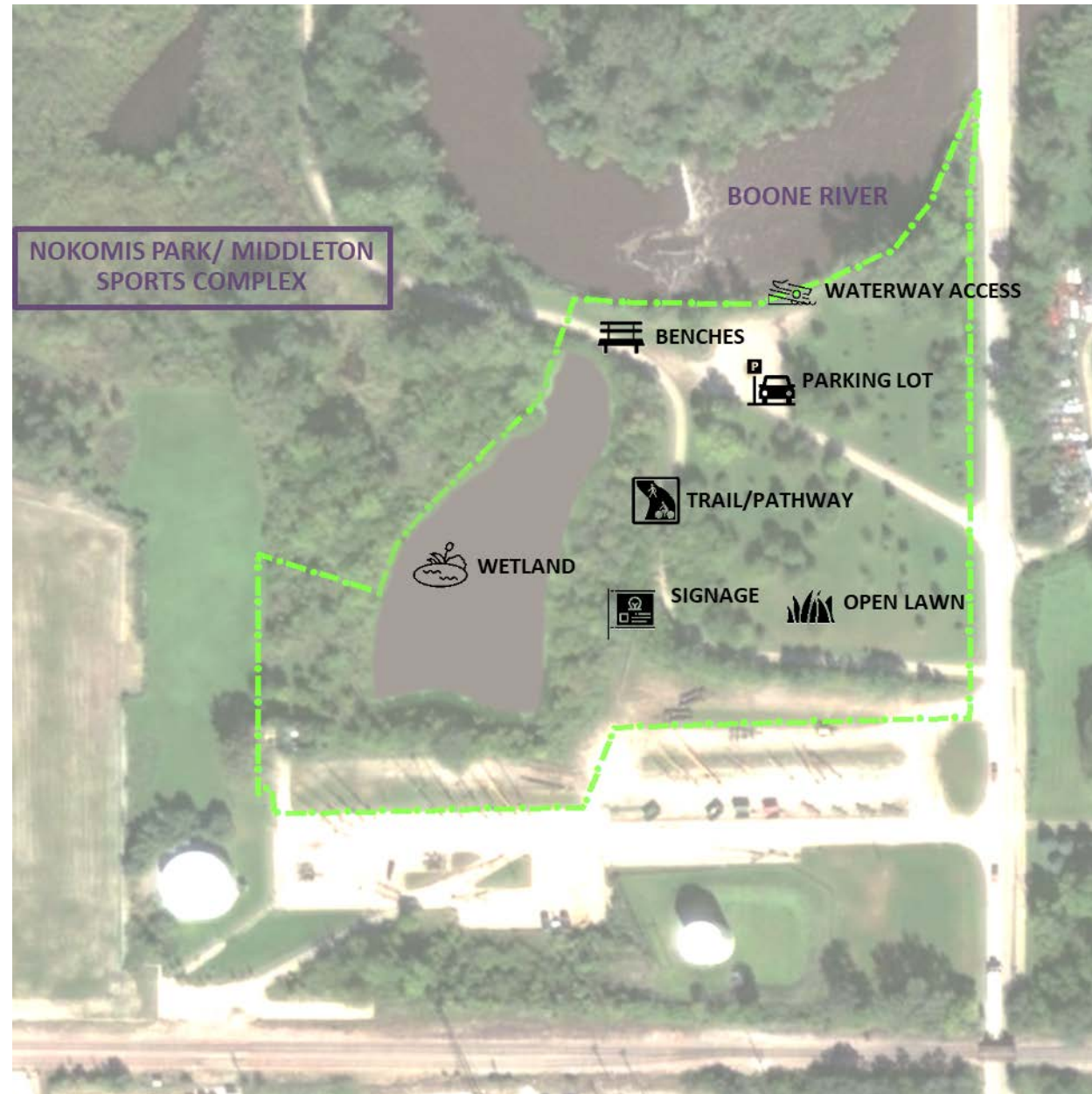


Figure 158 - Water Works Park

Table 18 - Water Works Park Inventory

Water Works Park - 446 White Fox Road - 13 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Benches	1	Near riverfront
Open Lawn	1	
Parking Lot	1	Gravel parking
Signage	1	Trail information
Trail/Pathway	1	5.7 mile 10-foot-wide paved trail connecting Briggs Woods Park to Webster City
Waterway Access	1	Non-structure waterway access ramp
Wetland	1	Pond for stormwater retention

Located next to Nokomis Park and Middleton Sports Complex, Water Works Park is a 13-acre park situated near and along the Boone River. This park, sometimes referred to as Boone River Park within the community, offers waterway access via a non-paved gravel ramp. Off the park's riverfront edge, the river has one of the last remaining dams in Webster City.

According to Brian Stroner, Webster City Environmental/GIS/Safety Coordinator, the dam was used by a private utility from 1907 to 1947. It brought in and distilled coal to make coal tar. In this area, coal tar was used to light street lamps, power tractors, and to remove ice of surface during the winter. [Appendix 1](#) shows the location of the current dam. Additionally, the plumes that were under the Boone River have since been removed. Coal Tar is a DNAPL (Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid), so it doesn't mix with water and it is heavier than water. It usually settles on top of the clay layer which is 10-15' below the surface.

Webster City currently envisions building a structured access ramp into the Boone River. The park has a gravel parking lot and open space to accommodate open space activities. The Boone River Trail cuts through the northern corner of the park and in the southern portion of the park, there is a parking lot used for the maintenance of the city's water plant.



Figure 159 - Water Works Park View from Bench



Figure 160 - Boone River Trail Running Through Water Works Park



Figure 161 - Water Works Park Low Head Dam – Photo by Lucie Laurian



Figure 162 - Wetland at Water Works Park

Recommendations

Water Works Park is located just off the northern portion of the Boone River. The main opportunity within Waterworks Park is to create an access ramp before and after the dam so that those on the river can easily bypass the dam. Along the western edge of the park land is a wetland area. Improvements of ecosystem management can take place here and serve as an educational tool tailored for Webster City’s younger population. As more traffic comes into the area with the establishment of a new water access point, trash and recycling receptacles should be added. Additionally, seating in the form of picnic tables can better establish Water Works Park as a quick pit-stop along the Boone River Trail.

Water Works Park should develop water access points on each side of the river’s dam for exit and re-entry. Currently the low head dam is an obstacle to continuous flow down the Boone River. To encourage canoeing or kayaking from Nokomis Park, a method for exit around the barrier and then re-entry to the river is necessary. Further progress and potential designs can be found within the [Appendix 7](#).

The next recommendation is to add picnic tables and benches. Water Works Parks can be utilized as space to observe the river. Tables and benches can be used to encourage users to stay longer in this space.

This plan recommends engaging in wetland restoration for the wetland located in this park. Constructed wetlands mimic the functions of natural areas to capture runoff, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat (Floodwater Detention and Retention Basins n.d.). These features filter stormwater by slowing down water flow and trapping sediments and other pollutants. A wetland in Adams Park, Omaha, Nebraska was designed to improve water quality, slow water during heavy rain events and provide a neighborhood amenity. Restoring the wetland will encourage biodiversity and also serve as an ecosystem education piece (Water Management and Conservation n.d.). The idea is to add features similar to those present at Riverside Park.

Natural prairie is suggested for the eastern strip of the park land. Prairie planting near the river will improve water quality by slowing down and infiltrating stormwater runoff and by removing sediments (Tall Grass Prairie Center: Plant Iowa Native n.d.). This recommendation also serves as an alternative to mowing and can contribute to reduced cost of city maintenance. Prairies contribute to returning land to its natural state while fostering natural environments.

Table 19 - Water Works Park Recommendations

Recommendations – Water Works Park
• River access points on each side of dam
• Picnic tables
• Wetland restoration
• Interpretive/educational ecosystem signage
• Native Prairie
• Trash and recycling



Figure 163 - River Access Point – Shores Yadkin River, NC



Figure 164 - Picnic Table



Figure 165 - Wetland Restoration – Galveston, TX



Figure 166 - Interpretive/Educational Signage – California State Parks



Figure 167 - Native Prairie Conservation – Polk City, IA



Figure 168 - Trash and Recycling

WEHRHEIM PARK

Inventory

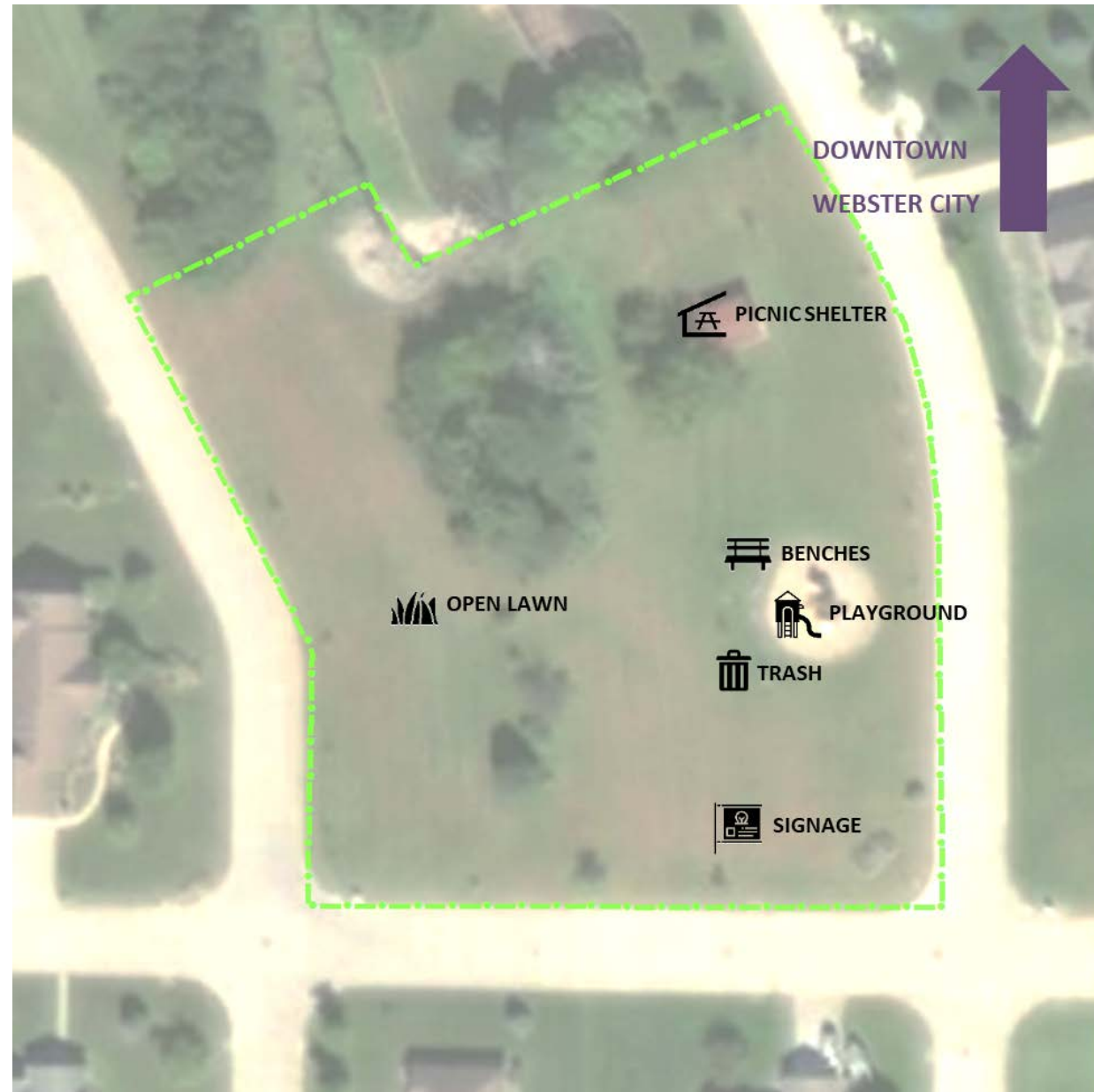


Figure 169 - Wehrheim Park

Table 20 - Wehrheim Park Inventory

Wehrheim Park - 2301 North Terrace Drive - 2 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Benches	5	Surrounding playground
Open Lawn	1	2-acres of mowed area
Picnic Shelter	1	New open shelter
Playground	1	Modern ADA playground equipment
Signage	1	Park Information
Trash	1	

Wehrheim Park is in the southwest portion of the city. Webster City's smallest park by size offers new ADA compliant playground equipment. The park also has an open picnic shelter with 4 picnic tables and open space for outdoor activities.



Figure 170 - Wehrheim Park Entrance Stone and Landscaping



Figure 171 - Shelter with 4 Picnic Tables



Figure 172 - Playground with 5 Benches and one Trash Receptacle



Figure 173 - Memorial Plaque and Tree Planted in Wehrheim Park



Figure 174 - Open Lawn and Shrubbery Surrounding Stormwater Runoff in Middle of Wehrheim Park

Recommendations

Areas for improvement include a path for easy access to the playground and picnic shelter. This will improve connectivity throughout the park and the surrounding neighborhood. Additionally, a looping pathway could encourage physical activity around the space. Seating along the western periphery can allow users of the park to sit and enjoy the views while watching those at play. Furthermore, with an abundance of open lawn, Wehrheim Park would be a prime location for alternatives to mowing. This includes, but is not limited to, butterfly gardens, prairie restoration, or landscaping – especially near the stormwater runoff area in the middle of the park.

With a small ADA-compliant playground already in the park, the community could expand the space to better serve the community. Being a smaller, neighborhood park, this space is an attractive venue for users of all ages. Based on feedback from the March event, outdoor sport equipment could be placed within the park to encourage recreation activities. Located in an area of Webster City recently developed and undergoing additional development, the use and coverage area of this park will grow in the future. This increased usage and demand should be met with ensuring the shelter is adequate and public restrooms should be added.

Table 21 - Wehrheim Park Recommendations

Recommendations – Wehrheim Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the shelter and add public restrooms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add walkway, walking loop, sidewalk as there is no current path
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional playground equipment, primarily a swing set, to increase usage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternatives to mowing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Butterfly gardens Prairie restoration Landscaping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feature outdoor sport equipment (mobile volleyball court, croquet, etc.)



Figure 175 - Path/Sidewalk



Figure 176 - Expand Shelter and Add Public Restrooms



Figure 177 - Butterfly Gardens



Figure 178 - Landscaping



Figure 179 - Outdoor Sport Equipment



Figure 180 - Prairie Restoration



Figure 181 - Add Swing Set

WILSON BREWER HISTORIC PARK

Inventory



Figure 182 - Wilson Brewer Historic Park

Table 22 - Wilson Brewer Historic Park Inventory

Wilson Brewer Historic Park - 220 Ohio Street - 6 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Historic Features	6	Railroad depot museum, relic log cabins, original Hamilton County courthouse, historic Mulberry church and old country schoolhouse
Open Lawn	1	
Parking Lot	1	Trail head parking
Restroom	1	
Signage	1	Park information

Located in the center of Webster City, Wilson Brewer Historic Park is a city park with historic features including: a railroad depot museum, the Harmony Center country school, 2 log cabins (Jamison Log Cabin and the Wilson Brewer/Alexander Groves Log Cabin), the original Hamilton County Courthouse, and the Mulberry Center Church. These buildings are a monument to the past of Webster City and are important historical features. Wilson Brewer Park is not so much a park as it is an opportunity for community members and visitors alike to get a glimpse into what life in Webster City was like in the past. The Jamison Log Cabin and the Wilson Brewer Log Cabin have recently been upgraded with concrete foundations to preserve them for the long term.



Figure 183 - Wilson Brewer Historic Park Signage



Figure 184 - Wilson Brewer Park Historic Features



Figure 185 - Mulberry Center Church



Figure 186 - Wilson Brewer Historic Park

Recommendations

The Harmony Center Country school, Old Hamilton County Courthouse, and Mulberry Center Church all present opportunities for improvement. Marketing and promoting are the main strategies around this park's improvements. Finding a place to connect the current bike trail to this park would not only help park connectivity but could also lead to more people visiting these historic landmarks. Placing an information kiosk at the entrance of the park will let visitors know what type of historic landmarks are within the park, as well as let residents and visitors alike know that the church within the park can be rented out for weddings and other celebrations.

Table 23 - Wilson Brewer Historic Park Recommendations

Recommendations – Wilson Brewer Historic Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better ways to promote historical features and their potential uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better signage indicating the historical significance of the museum, log cabins, and original Hamilton County Courthouse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor and information kiosk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors and residents can be made better aware about the rental opportunities of the church and coinciding space within the park for weddings or other celebratory gatherings via the recommendations above.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flower beds for beautification



Figure 187 - Signage Indicating the Historical Significance of Buildings



Figure 188 - Informational Kiosk



Figure 189 - Flower Beds for Beautification

BRIGGS WOODS PARK

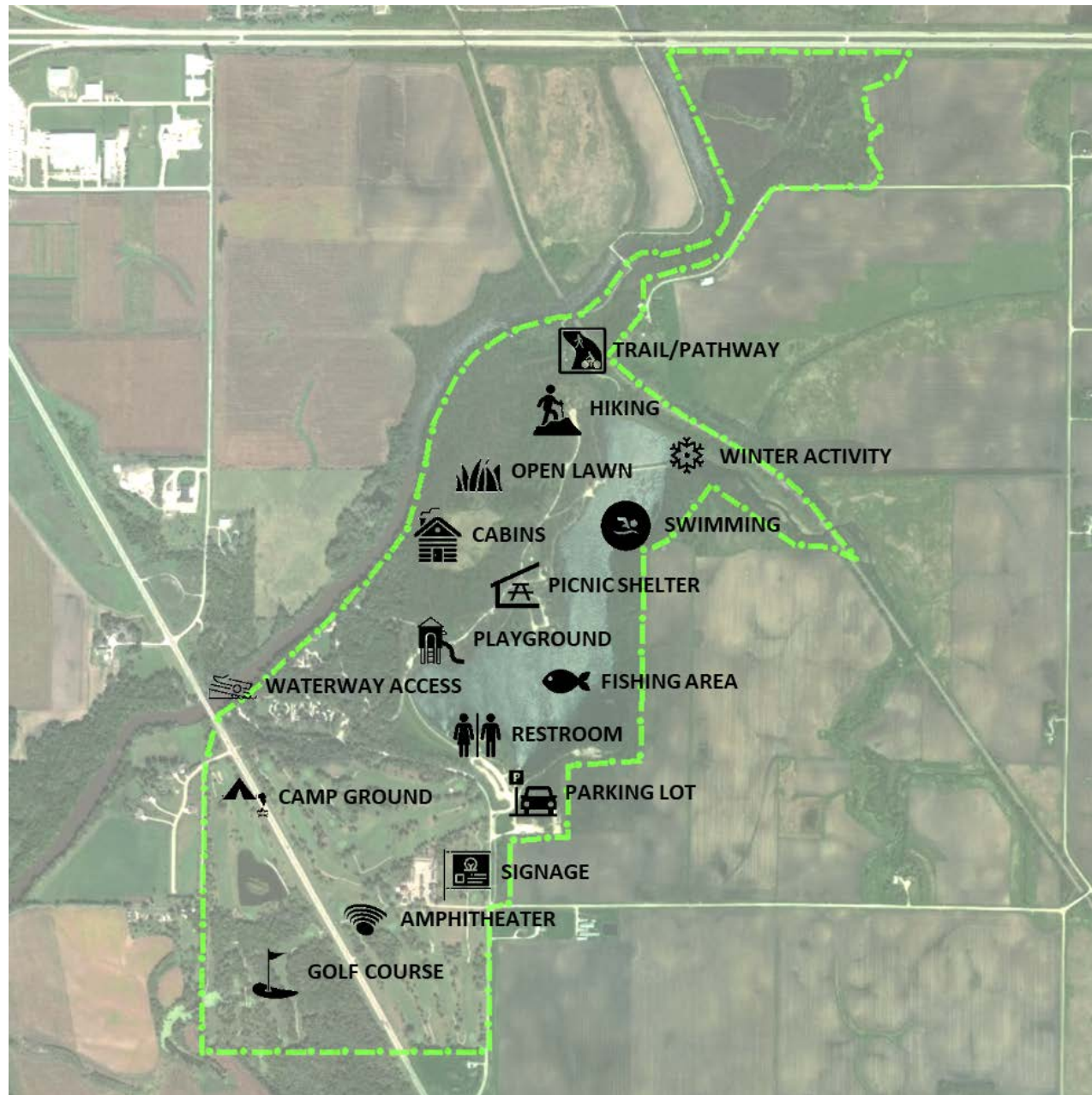


Figure 190 - Briggs Woods Park

Table 24 - Briggs Woods Park Inventory

Briggs Woods Park and Golf Course - 2940 Briggs Woods Trail - 550 acres		
Item	Quantity	Note
Amphitheater	1	Carry in/carry out refuse (gravel side ramps)
Cabins	7	Available all year long
Camp Ground	1	85 sites available for camping
Fishing Area	1	70 acre lake
Golf Course	1	18-hole golf course
Hiking	1	Trails available for hiking
Open Lawn	1	Open space
Parking Lot	2	Gravel parking lot at the park and 122 spots at the golf course
Picnic Shelter	3	
Playground	4	
Restroom	3	One full restroom with shower
Signage	1	Park information
Swimming	1	70 acre lake with a sand beach
Trail/Pathway	1	5.7 mile 10-foot-wide paved trail connecting Briggs Woods Park to Webster City
Waterway Access	1	Canoe access to Boone River and 70 acres lake allows electric boats
Winter Activity	1	Offers cross country skiing and snowshoe clinic

Located 2 and ½ miles southeast of Webster City, Briggs Woods Park spans across 550 acres and offers a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities year-round. This Hamilton County Park offers a connection to nature with a quiet wooded area and a variety of habitat types nearby. The park is at the end of the Boone River Recreation Trail which offers a scenic landscape for walking and cycling and is designed for easy access for all users since it is paved throughout the entire extension. The park has 2 picnic shelters - one with a capacity for 100 people - 85 camping sites with 30 full hook-ups, and several playgrounds. Briggs Woods Park has 4 rustic and 3 modern cabins available for rent all year long. Existing facilities are in great condition.

The park has a paved structured waterway access to the Boone River which offers the recreational experience of canoeing and kayaking downstream in the river and exit access for users who start the adventure in Webster City. Besides the waterway access to the Boone River, Briggs Woods Park has a 70-acre lake that provides opportunities for swimming with a sandy beach, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, and boating for non-electric motor boats only. Canoes and kayaks are available for rent, and the park offers canoe trips for visitors. According to the Briggs Woods Park website, rentals started in 2009. The Department of Natural Resources, because of the river's scenic and natural qualities, protected the stretch from Webster City to its confluence with the Des Moines River. Along the 26-miles there are several waterway access points that allow users to easily experience and utilize the river. See [Appendix 2](#) for more information on canoe trips. The park also has an adjacent 18-hole golf course in the Boone River Valley covering 6,500 yards.



Figure 191 - [Briggs Woods Park Signage](#)



Figure 192 - [Briggs Woods Park Cabin](#)



Figure 193 - [Briggs Woods Lake](#)



Figure 194 - [Boone River Recreation Trail](#)

PARK-BY-PARK SUMMARY TABLE

Table 25 - Park-by-Park Summary Table

LEGEND

EXISTING FEATURE  IMPROVEMENT  NEW FEATURE 

	ARTS/CULTURE			OUTDOOR SPORTS										PHYSICAL STRUCTURE										ECOSYSTEM		BUILDING/CAMPING			WATER OPPORT						
	ARTS/CULTURE	AMPHI THEATER	BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT	BASKETBALL COURT	DISC GOLF	GOLF COURSE	HIKING	HORSES HOE PIT	SPORT RENTAL EQUIP.	SKATEPARK	SOFTBALL FIELD	TRAIL/PATHWAY	VOLLEYBALL COURT	WINTER ACTIVITY	BENCHES	BIKE RACKS/REPAIR STATION	DOG PARK	PARKING LOT	OPEN LAWN	LIGHTING	PICNIC SHELTER	PICNIC TABLE	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	RESTROOMS	SIGNAGE	SPLASH PAD	ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT	TRASH/RECYCLING	CABINS	CAMP GROUND	HISTORIC FEATURE	INFORMATION KIOSK	FISHING AND WATER ACCESS	SWIMMING	
SKETCHLEY PARK																																			
N BREWER HISTORIC PARK																																			
WATER WORKS PARK																																			
WEHRHEIM PARK																																			
RIVERSIDE PARK																																			
LIONS-STAFFORD PARK																																			
TWIN PARKS																																			
KENDALL YOUNG PARK																																			
NOKOMIS PARK/ MIDDLETON SPORTS COMPLEX																																			
BREWER CREEK PARK																																			
BRIGGS WOODS PARK																																			

RECREATION AMENITIES ANALYSIS

Webster City has more than 7-miles of scenic trails, the water trail along the Boone River, a complete Recreation Center, outdoor swimming pool and a historic library.

This section of the plan covers an analysis of all recreation services and opportunities available in Webster City. Each recreation feature also includes discussion of gaps and recommends improvements based on research, project partner input, and community feedback.

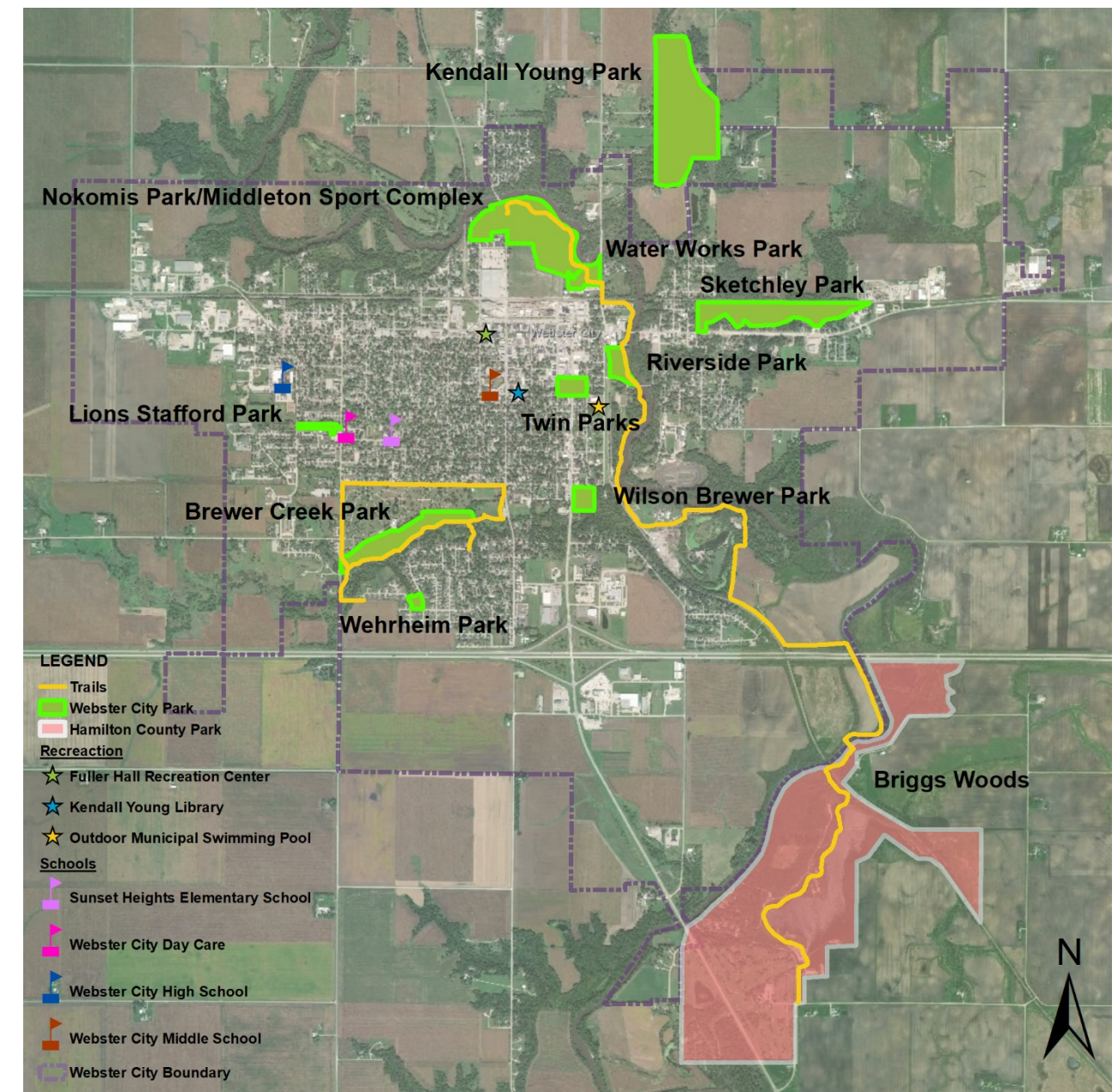


Figure 195 - Parks and Trails, Webster City, IA

BOONE RIVER

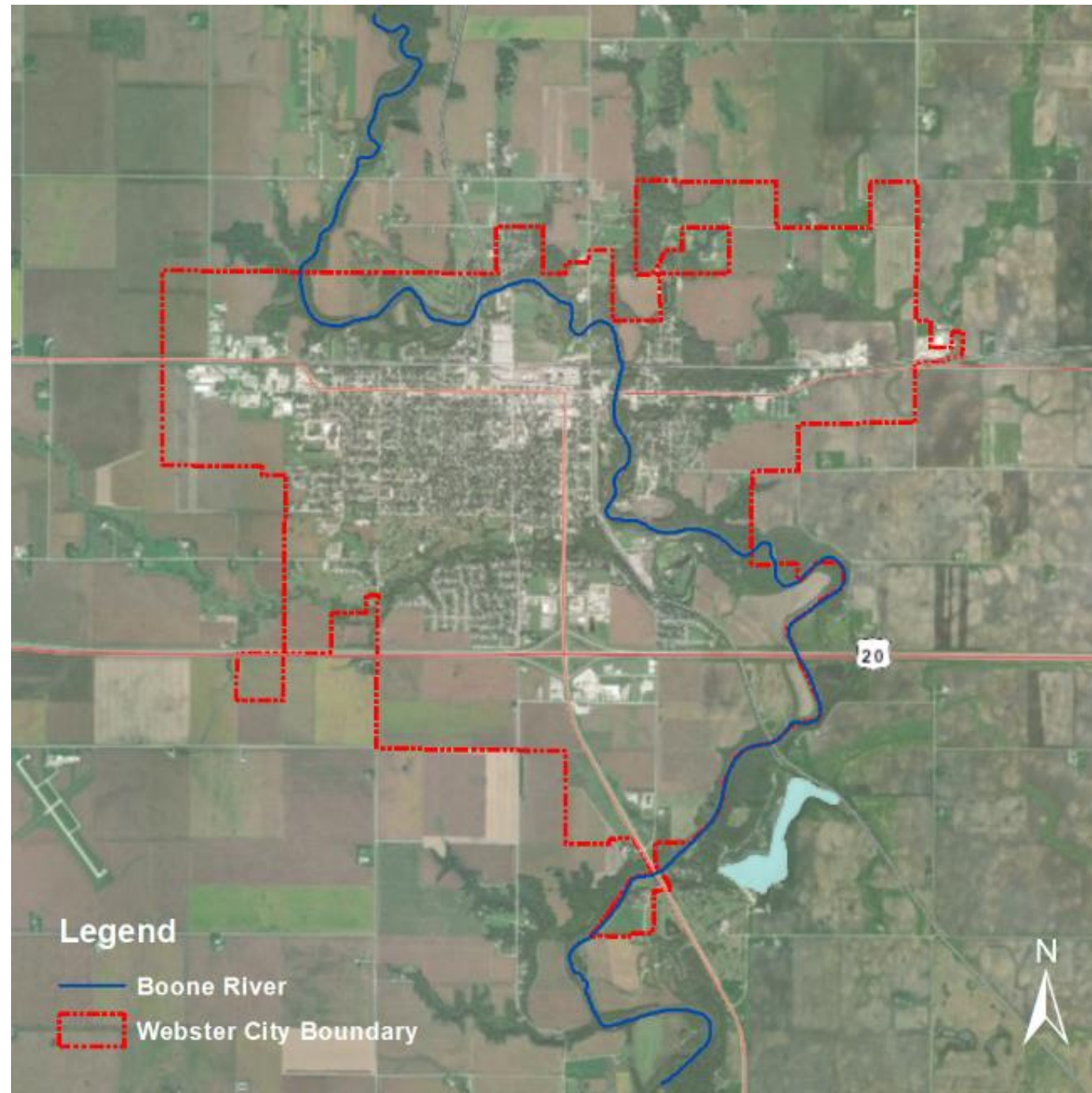


Figure 196 - Boone River

The Boone River offers a unique recreation opportunity for users who want a more challenging outdoor adventure. With an entire section located within Webster City, the river falls at 3 feet per mile for 4.5 miles connecting a paved-structure waterway access ramp in Riverside Park to the next exit at Briggs Woods Park. However, if users want to continue their river experience there are 4 exit points downstream ([Appendix 2](#)). The river flows through a wooded and scenic region and offers a variety of water related recreation opportunities such as kayaking and canoeing. Along the 4.5 miles, users can experience an area of wildlife in the woods along with sights of aquatic biodiversity. Throughout the water trail, sandbars provide an excellent opportunity for fishing as well as places to rest while enjoying the outstanding natural features.



Figure 197 - Boone River Water Recreation

FULLER HALL RECREATION CENTER

Fuller Hall Recreation Center is an indoor recreational facility opened all year long to the public. The facility, managed by the Fuller Hall Trust, is a great environment with many recreational opportunities for children, adults, and families. The recreation center features a large gymnasium with basketball and racquetball courts and a 25-meter swimming pool. It also has a game room with ping-pong and pool tables, a multi-purpose conference room, a television lounge, shower facilities, and weight and cardio rooms (Webster City Community School Calendar 2018-2019). Taken from the Webster City website, the table in [Appendix 3](#) highlights the costs associated with the usage of the recreational space.

Fuller Hall Recreation Center also provides several programs for both children and adults. Programs for children are based on engaging the young population with a positive experience to instill the value of fair play and sportsmanship. The focus of the program is to build self-esteem and help the children understand the essentials of playing a game. Examples of recreational programs for children are as follows:

- Youth Track
- Youth Tennis
- Youth Flag Football
- Youth Basketball
- Girls and Boys Pee Wee Softball/Baseball
- Girls and Boys Babe Ruth Softball/Baseball

The adult programs offered in Fuller Hall provide an opportunity to engage the community and increase the health and well-being of the population. Examples of adult programs are:

- Co-ed Softball League
- Summer Co-Ed Sand Volleyball League
- Annual Tour de Webster Bicycle Race and Ride
- Seniors Trip to the State Fair
- Yoga Classes
- Noon Hour Basketball
- Volleyball Leagues
- 'Aquacise'
- Seniors Bingo

Moreover, the Recreational Center offers an indoor park for parents and preschoolers, basketball, flag football, taekwondo, and aerobic and aquatic classes. In addition, Fuller Hall offers Family Night swimming for a family friendly option.

The table in [Appendix 4](#) highlights the usage of Fuller Hall Recreation Center. The table identifies a complete representation of the activities. This table is useful for understanding the amount of people using the recreational facility.

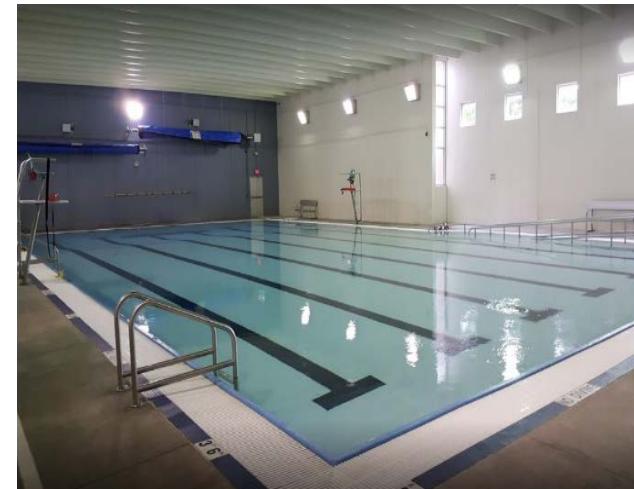


Figure 198 - Fuller Hall Indoor Swimming Pool



Figure 199 - Fuller Hall Entrance



Figure 200 - Fuller Hall Indoor Court

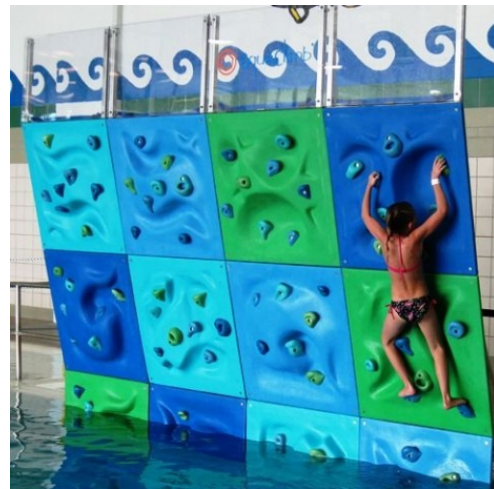
Recommendations

Fuller Hall features many opportunities for residents to engage in recreation activities, but it must incorporate more organized activities for the community. Based on community input from the survey, 32% of respondents' desire more organized activities and programming to improve recreation opportunities, and 10% of respondents feel community events can improve recreation opportunities. For Fuller Hall, this means considering management of more activities and programs housed directly within the facility. This also means that the Parks and Recreation department can collaborate with the city to determine if Fuller Hall is a space for community events, and if so, how to partner with the city's office to manage them.

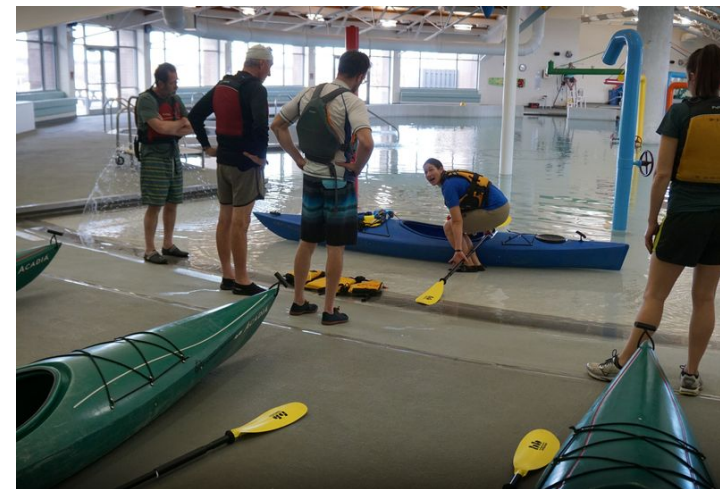
Some feedback the planning team received from residents through informal discussions at local businesses in October included topics of extended operating hours and physical extension to the facility, indoor playground and track areas, more organized activities: social events and holiday festivals, fitness programming for kids and the elderly, and providing more rental equipment options. Extending operating hours for those that may be working third shift with the new processing plant supports inclusiveness. Allowing indoor swimming year-round could increase usage opportunities to recreation by allowing residents to engage in indoor physical activity during the winter months. These are just a few examples of how community suggestions can help improve recreation usage opportunities in Webster City. A thorough list of recommendations based on feedback from community members is listed next.

Table 26 - Recreation Recommendations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extend hours: open earlier, stay open later during summer months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expansion of building space in future to support indoor track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climbing wall or dome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indoor playground and/or trampoline area for younger kids
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indoor swimming during winter months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized activities and fitness programming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yoga classes after work hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rental equipment: tubes, canoes, kayaks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boone River canoeing and kayaking class housed under Fuller Hall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biking, hiking, river trail tours offered through Fuller Hall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outdoor summer movies and 'picnic in the park' at Twin Parks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social events, mixers in Sampson Room
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seasonal and Holiday festivals



[Figure 201 - Pool Climbing Wall – City of Maple Grove, MN](#)



[Figure 202 - Indoor Kayak Class – Cuyahoga County Metroparks, Cleveland OH](#)



[Figure 203 - Indoor Playground – Orland Park Recreation Center, IL](#)



[Figure 204 - Outdoor Summer Movie– Denver, CO](#)



[Figure 205 - Picnic at the Park with Food Trucks – Chastain Park, Atlanta GA](#)

KENDALL YOUNG LIBRARY

Established in 1896, the Kendall Young Library is a unique feature for the community and offers services for all ages. A volunteer group supports the mission of the library. In 1984, the Friends of the Library supported a fundraising campaign to raise money to build an addition to the library. The group received several donations for an expansion of about 13,000 sq. ft. to the library. The original design was maintained.

Kendall Young Library is an important asset in the community and provides information and educational programming for children and adults. The library can serve as a place where residents can learn about recreational opportunities. According to a survey issued by the planning team, Kendall Young Library is a place that community members love to visit and as such, would be a great place for Webster City to promote Parks and Recreation opportunities.

Monthly programs include a movie club which meets monthly the DIY Club meets to find innovative ways to solve in-home problems, and the Noon Book Discussion is an opportunity to review inspirational texts. Teen Connection offers “Teen Tuesdays” events during the months of June and July. These free events offer activities to engage the younger population. Meeting rooms are also available at Kendall Young Library to serve the community.

The Friends of the Library is a volunteer group that supports the library, holding events throughout the year. Programs supported by the volunteer group include: two book sales a year in May and October, Friends Annual Meeting, subsidizing HeritageQuest Online (a genealogy resource), Winter and Summer Reading Programs, Books for Babies born at Van Diest Medical Center, the Festival of Chocolate Fundraiser, and the Annual Family Game Night that happens on the 3rd Friday in February.



Figure 206 - Kendall Young Library Entrance

Recommendations

Kendall Young Library is an important asset in the community as it is a space where children and adults alike gather for education opportunities. Although the library itself is not a park or recreation amenity, 47% of survey respondents listed Kendall Young Public Library as their favorite public building. This is an important piece of data as it shows how well regarded the library is by citizens. Taking this information into consideration, Kendall Young Public Library could serve as a place for members of the community to learn about upcoming or future Parks and Recreation activities, programs, and physical additions.



Figure 207 - Interior of Kendall Young Public Library



Figure 208 - Exterior of Kendall Young Library

MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

Located in the center of the city, the outdoor Municipal Swimming Pool is a great summer recreation opportunity in Webster City that is open from June to August. The facility features showers, restrooms with electrical outlets, zero-depth entrance ramp for ADA accessibility, an area for toddlers with running sprinklers, 25-meter lap lanes, a 180-foot waterslide, and 2 diving boards. The Municipal Swimming Pool is staffed by lifeguards during hours of operation. However, according to the pool rules, for open swimming, all children under the age of 7 must be accompanied by a person aged 16 years or over and in a swimming suit to use the pool.

The Municipal Swimming Pool also offers recreational opportunities to engage the community. Examples of the programs include:

- 'Aquatots'/Infant Preschool Aquatic Program
- Swim Team
- American Red Cross Outdoor Pool Swim Lessons

Taken from the Webster City website, the table below highlights the costs associated with enjoying the pool in the 2019 season

Table 27 - Municipal Swimming Pool Pricing

Pricing

Daily Admission	Resident	Non-Resident
Adult	\$5.25	\$6.00
Youth (2-17 Years)	\$4.25	\$4.75
Youth (Under 2 Years)	Free	Free
Summer (Season) Pass	Resident	Non-Resident
Youth	\$42.00	\$48.00
Adult	\$50.00	\$57.00
Family	\$108.00	\$124.00
Summer Pass w/ Fuller Hall Membership	Resident	Non-Resident
Youth	\$21.00	\$24.00
Adult	\$25.00	\$28.50
Family	\$54.00	\$62.00
Outdoor Pool Rental	\$260.00	\$300.00



Figure 209 - Webster City Outdoor Municipal Swimming Pool

Recommendations

The Webster City Municipal Swimming Pool is and has been viewed as a public asset for many years and is enjoyed by residents of all ages. Featuring a zero-depth entrance ramp and secluded area for toddlers and infants, the pool can accommodate all users regardless of ability level. Beyond this entrance area is 25-meter swimming lanes, a diving well with both low and high diving boards, and a 180-foot water slide. The pool also contains a full-service concession stand area. Many of these features are difficult to find in communities of Webster City's size, so it is a point of pride for many residents. In fact, the city pool was mentioned by several respondents in the survey when considering favorite Parks and Recreation amenities.

Based on feedback from both survey results and interviews, the city pool could be improved with additional organized activities for the community. It is especially important to engage with middle-school and high-school aged residents, according to the Youth Advisory Commission. Some ideas for implementation include social events, programming, competitive activities, and repainting.

- “Party” type events
- Additional lighting for night swims and after-dark activities
- Dog swims and pet activities
- Boone River canoeing and kayaking courses
- Free admission opportunities through volunteerism
- Children “triathlons” - tailored competition for young users
- Repaint equipment to reflect school pride



Figure 210 - View of the Zero-Depth Entrance



Figure 211 - Red and White Themed Equipment



Figure 212 - Fountain Features and Lane Swimming



Figure 213 - 180-Foot Water Slide

IMPLEMENTATION

Addressing the Parks and Recreation needs of Webster City is an ongoing process. The implementation section is addressing key strategies for park improvement over the next 10 years. The needs of Webster City include the enhancement and renovation of existing structures, developing ideas for improving overall park usage, preserving open space, and maintaining and promoting ecosystem management within the community.

In the action steps charts below, each park within Webster City has suggestions from the planning team of items or improvements that could be added to each park. These suggestions were based on the planning team's analysis, interest shown from the public through outreach and public events, examples of best practices, as well as the pricing and complexity of installation.

A breakdown of the categories within the charts are as follows:

- **Priority Ranking**
 - A combination of the planning teams' analysis, public interest, and best practices
 - Priority rank ranges from high, medium, and low.
- **Item**
 - The addition or upgrade being proposed within the park
- **Time-frame**
 - The amount of time it will take to implement the item suggested based on how important the planning team and public feels the improvement is, as well as how costly or complex the implementation will be.
 - The categories are 1-3 years, 4-6 years, and 7 years and beyond
- **Public Ranking**
 - Based on the information gathered through survey data, public outreach, and conversations with residents
 - The Public interest rank ranges from high, medium, and low
- **Note/Best Practices**
 - Shows information the planning team used to inspire the recommendations

ACTION STEPS

Brewer Creek Park				
Priority Ranking	Item	Time-frame	Public Ranking	Note/Best Practices
high	Add outdoor sports equipment	1-3	high	Source: Community input
high	Add benches along the trail	1-3/4-6	medium	Source: Community input
high	Update the existing Disc Golf Course	1-3	high	Source: Webster City is already upgrading
medium	Maintain the ecological management in the middle of the park	ONGOING	medium	Source: Best practice based on <i>Gather Here Park System Master Plan</i> of Iowa City, IA and <i>City of Iowa City Natural Areas Inventory and Management Plan</i>
medium	Add amphitheater	1-3/4-6	medium	The amphitheater is a project from a University of Iowa Civil Engineering student group
medium	Add bike repair station and bike racks	4-6	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis and best practice from NACTO
low	Add butterfly garden next to the existing shelter	4-6	medium	Source: Community input
low	Add playground near the existing shelter	1-3	high	Source: Community input
low	Add Lighting infrastructure	1-3	low	Source: Best Practice based on Project for Public Spaces and National Recreation and Park Association
Kendall Young Park				
Priority Ranking	Item	Time-frame	Public Ranking	Note/Best Practices
high	Improve restroom facilities	1-3	high	Source: Community input
high	Add nature playground	4-6	high	Source: Recommendation based on community input and best practice from Riverfront Crossings Park in Iowa City
medium	Improve water access	1-3	medium	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
medium	Improve hiking trail	4-6	medium	Source: Community input
low	Add mountain bike trail	7+	low	Source: The planning team analysis
low	Improve volleyball court	1-3	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis

Lions Stafford Park				
Priority Ranking	Item	Time-frame	Public Ranking	Note/Best Practices
high	Add lighting to basketball court	1-3	high	Source: Community input
high	Resurface basketball court	1-3	high	Source: Community input
high	Add East-West pathway	1-3/4-6	low	Source: Community input and ADA design guidelines
medium	Add a community garden	1-3	medium	Source: Community input
medium	Add butterfly garden(s)	4-6	low	Source: Best practice based on <i>Gather Here Park System Master Plan</i> of Iowa City, IA and <i>City of Iowa City Natural Areas Inventory and Management Plan</i>
medium	Add flower beds	1-3	low	Source: Best practice based on <i>Gather Here Park System Master Plan</i> of Iowa City, IA and <i>City of Iowa City Natural Areas Inventory and Management Plan</i>
low	Add artistic basketball court design	4-6	medium	Source: Community input and best practice from <i>Project Backboard in Memphis, Tennessee</i>
low	Add a new park shelter	4-6	medium	Source: Community input
Nokomis Park/Middleton Sport Complex				
Priority Ranking	Item	Time-frame	Public Ranking	Note/Best Practices
high	Ice-skating summer conversion by adding multi-use sport court	1-3	high	Source: Community input and best practice from <i>Moving Towards a Williamstown Winter Commons: A Skating Risk Feasibility Study</i>
high	Add benches along trail and throughout the park	1-3	low	Source: Community input
medium	Add a shelter near to the baseball fields	1-3	high	Source: Community input
medium	Maintain the restrooms	ONGOING	low	Source: Community input
medium	Improve the fishing and water access	4-6	high	Project from the University of Iowa Civil Engineering students, but the planning team recommends ADA compliant access
medium	Add bike repair station and bike racks	4-6	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis and best practice from NACTO
low	Add playground equipment	4-6	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
low	Ecological management - Natural Prairie	7+	medium	Source: Best practice based on <i>Gather Here Park System Master Plan</i> of Iowa City, IA and <i>City of Iowa City Natural Areas Inventory and Management Plan</i>

Riverside Park				
Priority Ranking	Item	Time-frame	Public Ranking	Note/Best Practices
high	Add a Canoe rental boathouse	7+	high	Source: Community input
high	Beautify park entrance	1-3	medium	Source: Community input
high	Add ADA accessible canoe ramp	4-6	high	Source: Community input and best practices via the American Canoe Association
medium	Add gazebo	1-3	medium	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
medium	Add educational signage	1-3	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
medium	Add picnic tables	1-3	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
Sketchley Park				
Priority Ranking	Item	Time-frame	Public Ranking	Note/Best Practices
high	Welcome signage in the entrance of the park	1-3	low	Source: Community input
high	Add benches	1-3	high	Source: Recommendation based on community input and best practice of Thornberry Off-leash Dog Park in Iowa City, IA
medium	Expansion/Renovation of the dog park	7+	high	Source: Recommendation based on community input and best practice of Thornberry Off-leash Dog Park in Iowa City, IA
medium	Add multipurpose water fountain	4-6	high	Source: Community input
low	Add picnic tables	1-3	low	Source: Recommendation based on community input and best practice of Thornberry Off-leash Dog Park in Iowa City, IA
Twin Parks				
Priority Ranking	Item	Time-frame	Public Ranking	Note/Best Practices
high	Upgrade East Playground	1-3	high	Source: Community input
high	Upgrade West Shelter	1-3	high	Source: Community input
high	Renovate basketball court	1-3	medium	Source: Community input
high	Skate park beautification	1-3	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
high	Add seating and benches	1-3	low	Source: Community input and the planning analysis
medium	Upgrade East shelter	4-6	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
medium	Add splash pad	7+	high	Source: Community input
medium	Add bike racks	1-3	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
medium	Add grilling stations	4-6	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
low	Add community gardens	4-6	medium	Source: Community input

Water Works Park				
Priority Ranking	Item	Time-frame	Public Ranking	Note/Best Practices
high	Add water access ramps to go around the low head dam	1-3	high	Source: Community input and the planning analysis. Plan is already in the works via a University of Iowa Engineering team
medium	Wetland restoration	4-6	high	Source: Community input and Iowa Department of Natural Resources
medium	Add educational signage	1-3	medium	Source: Community input
medium	Add natural prairie	7+	medium	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
low	Add picnic tables and benches	1-3	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team analysis
Wehrheim Park				
Priority Ranking	Item	Time-frame	Public Ranking	Note/Best Practices
high	Add outdoor sports equipment	1-3	high	Source: Community input
high	Expand shelter and add public restrooms	4-6	high	Source: Community input
medium	Add swing set and expand existing playground	1-3/4-6	high	Source: Community input and ADA design standards
medium	Add walking path or sidewalk	4-6	low	Source: Community input and ADA design standards
medium	Add butterfly garden(s)	1-3	medium	Source: Community input
medium	Improve the landscaping	1-3	medium	Source: Best practice based on <i>Gather Here Park System Master Plan</i> of Iowa City, IA and <i>City of Iowa City Natural Areas Inventory and Management Plan</i>
low	Ecosystem management - Natural Prairie	7+	low	Source: Best practice based on <i>Gather Here Park System Master Plan</i> of Iowa City, IA and <i>City of Iowa City Natural Areas Inventory and Management Plan</i>
Wilson Brewer Park				
Priority Ranking	Item	Time-frame	Public Ranking	Note/Best Practices
high	Better signage indicating the historical significance of buildings	1-3	medium	Source: Community input
high	Add flower beds	1-3	high	Source: Recommendation based on community input
high	Add visitor and information kiosk	1-3	low	Source: Recommendation based on the planning team the analysis

EVALUATION AND MONITORING BENCHMARKS

The Webster City Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Park Commission and the residents of Webster City, should conduct periodic reviews of this master plan to ensure the community is implementing the recommendations featured in this plan. To ensure the Parks and Recreation system is improving, regular community feedback is necessary. By taking the appropriate actions to reflect public input, the City of Webster City can enhance the physical spaces, the recreation programming within those spaces and facilities, and the environmental quality of the spaces. Additionally, the periodic review should identify staff or the department responsible for accomplishing the goals of this plan, and/or proposed programs to assist in accomplishing the goals. The periodic review must support the prioritization of goals according to the shared vision established by this planning process.

The periodic review is intended to:

- Measure success in achieving plan goals through the recommended strategies
- Propose strategic and appropriate changes to the city budget
- Identify the change of trends to align strategies to accomplish the goals
- List out action steps to accomplish the goals outlined by this plan
- Consider community input to create a better environment for Webster City
- Encourage the Park Commission to take a lead role in implementing this plan's recommendations

The following pages provide cost estimates according to outside sources that the City of Webster City can refer to when implementing this plan's recommendations. Although these cost estimates do not consider installation costs, they provide value by offering the city a reference when pursuing the implementation of this plan's recommendations. Each park is listed with its respective list of recommendations, along with links to the relevant online resource. Additionally, funding sources and parks and recreation related grant resources are listed with links leading directly to the website.

COST ESTIMATES

Below are cost estimation tables for the improvements suggested within each Webster City park. These cost tables do not consider construction or installation costs, only the cost of the item itself. The tables on the following pages lists:

- The Item in question
- A description of the item
- The estimated price of the item per unit
- How many are suggested by the planning team to be implemented
- The estimated total cost of the items grouped together
- A link to where the planning team found the pricing for the item

To better understand the overall cost estimates for this plan, the planning team calculated the general ranges of costs for each set of park recommendations. Those ranges are listed below each table for the respective Webster City parks. It is imperative to understand these ranges are rough estimates based on online references that list out cost estimates for specific park-related equipment that Webster City could consider in the future. To reiterate what was previously mentioned, those cost estimates do not address labor, installation, or any other costs associated with implementing these recommendations. While each park cost-estimate table lists out the exact references and alternatives, the table below lists out only the costs. With that, the table below lists out the ranges of cost estimates for each park and the overall cost estimate range for all parks highlighted in gray.

Webster City Park	Low	High
<i>Brewer Creek Park</i>	\$25,000	\$35,000
<i>Kendall Young Park</i>	\$20,000	\$100,000
<i>Lions Stafford Park</i>	\$30,000	\$125,000
<i>Nokomis Park/Middleton Sport Complex</i>	\$50,000	\$85,000
<i>Riverside Park</i>	\$25,000	\$40,000
<i>Sketchley Park</i>	\$20,000	\$30,000
<i>Twin Parks</i>	\$35,000	\$300,000
<i>Water Works Park</i>	\$15,000	\$35,000
<i>Wehrheim Park</i>	\$5,000	\$35,000
<i>Wilson Brewer Historic Park</i>	\$2,500	\$15,000
Overall Cost Estimate Range	\$227,500	\$800,000

Table 28 - Cost Estimation

Brewer Creek Park						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity (TBD)	Total Estimated Cost	Source
Lighting Infrastructure	10 foot above grade 36-watt streetlight	\$633.00	EACH	4	\$2,532.00	LINK
Bench	Personalized Park Bench, Pedestal Base	\$401.00	EACH	1	\$401.00	LINK
	Personalized Park Bench, Cantilever Base	\$347.00	EACH	1	\$347.00	LINK
	Personalized Park Bench, T-Leg Base	\$329.00	EACH	1	\$329.00	LINK
	Single Post Benches	\$198.00	EACH	1	\$198.00	LINK
	Steel Strap Benches	\$328.00	EACH	1	\$328.00	LINK
Sponsor Plaques	Outdoor Bench Plaque Cast Aluminum Black and Silver 3x9 Inches	\$54.99	EACH	1	\$54.99	LINK
Playground ADA Compliant	Challengers 350-1817	\$20,000.00	EACH	1	\$20,000.00	LINK
	Challengers 350-1733	\$21,984.00	EACH	1	\$21,984.00	LINK
Repair Station	Fixit with an Air Kit 2 - Galvanized	\$1,371.00	EACH	2	\$2,742.00	LINK
	Bike Repair Stand - Galvanized	\$1,458.00	EACH	2	\$2,916.00	LINK
Bike Racks	Wave Bike Rack	\$122.00	EACH	1	\$122.00	LINK
	Grid Bike Rack, 5-Bike Capacity	\$185.00	EACH	1	\$185.00	LINK
	Grid Bike Rack, 14-Bike Capacity	\$393.00	EACH	1	\$393.00	LINK
Outdoor Sports Equipment	Sonic Elite Outdoor Complete Volleyball System	\$734.95	EACH	2	\$1,469.90	LINK
	Viper Portable Volleyball Net System	\$279.00	EACH	2	\$558.00	LINK

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$25,000 - \$35,000

Kendall Young Park						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity (TBD)	Total Estimated Cost	Source
Water line connecting city water supply to Kendall Young	10 feet long 1-inch thick polyethylene water line (at least 4 feet deep)	\$9.00	EACH	30	\$270.00	LINK
	Drinking fountain (non-refrigerated)	\$250.00	EACH	1	\$250.00	LINK
	Digging and implementation costs (per foot)	\$100.00	EACH	300	\$30,000.00	LINK
Improvement in bathroom facilities	Sink	\$1,099.00	EACH	2	\$2,198.00	LINK
	Stall	\$165.00	EACH	3	\$495.00	LINK
	Urinal	\$150.00	EACH	1	\$150.00	LINK
	Toilet	\$130.00	EACH	3	\$390.00	LINK
Volleyball pit improvements	Outdoor volleyball net and posts	\$917.00	EACH	1	\$917.00	LINK
Trail connection to Boone River Mountain bike trail	5-foot bike lane for one mile	\$10,000.00	EACH	1	\$10,000.00	LINK
	Natural surface per mile	\$26,000.00	EACH	1	\$26,000.00	LINK
Nature playground	37' x 25' (11,28 m x 7,62 m)	\$25,000.00	EACH	1	\$25,000.00	LINK LINK LINK
Fishing and water access	ADA docks - 12' x 18'	\$14,177.00	EACH	1	\$14,177.00	LINK
	ADA docks - 16' x 18'	\$16,986.00	EACH	1	\$16,986.00	
	ADA docks - 16' x 26'	\$21,796.00	EACH	1	\$21,796.00	
Lighting at park entrance	10 foot above grade 36-watt streetlight	\$633.00	EACH	2	\$1,266.00	LINK

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$20,000 - \$100,000

Lions Stafford Park						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity (TBD)	Total Estimated Cost	Source
Lighting Infrastructure	10 foot above grade 36-watt streetlight	\$633.00	EACH	6	\$3,798.00	LINK
Resurface basketball court	Measuring 94' x 50'	These costs translate into a price of \$3.50-\$17 per square foot.	EACH	1	Ranges from \$11,000 on the low end, \$35,000 on average and \$76,000.	LINK
East-West Pathway	Concrete	\$29.25/SQ YD	EACH	500	\$14,625.00	LINK
	Concrete Pavers	\$50/SQ YD	EACH	500	\$25,000.00	LINK
	Rubber Sidewalk	\$80/SQ YD	EACH	500	\$40,000.00	LINK
	Asphalt	\$25/SQ YD	EACH	500	\$12,000.00	LINK
Butterfly garden(s)	Reach Approved for Digging Down 6-12 inches	\$558.35	EACH	1	\$558.35	LINK
Flower beds	Average landscaping costs in Polk County, IA	\$6.00 to \$7.00 per linear foot material costs.	LINEACHR FT.	250	\$1,281.00 and \$1,517.00 -Any general contractor fees, if used for the project. Such fees generally add another \$167.88-\$209.85 to the total.	LINK

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$30,000 - \$125,000

Nokomis Park/Middleton Sport Complex						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity (TBD)	Total Estimated Cost	Source
Park shelter	24 x 36 steel frame gable	\$26,199.00	EACH	1	\$26,199.00	LINK
Fishing and Water access	ADA docks - 12' x 18'	\$14,177.00	EACH	1	\$14,177.00	LINK
	ADA docks - 16' x 18'	\$16,986.00	EACH	1	\$16,986.00	
	ADA docks - 16' x 26'	\$21,796.00	EACH	1	\$21,796.00	
Playground ADA Compliant	Challengers 350-1817	\$20,000.00	EACH	1	\$20,000.00	LINK
	Challengers 350-1733	\$21,984.00	EACH	1	\$21,984.00	LINK
Ice-skating summer conversion by adding multi-use sport court	Block Tile Basketball Court 46ft x 78ft built using a 12 x 12-inch Interlocking Perforated tiles	\$14,995.00	EACH	1	\$14,995.00	LINK
	Full Court Basketball Floor, 46x78, Kit	\$9,995.00	EACH	1	\$9,995.00	LINK
	Beach Silver Basketball Hoop Portable	\$2,300.00	EACH	2	\$4,600.00	LINK
	Spalding 88880G 72-inch Glass In-Ground Basketball Hoop	\$1,450.00	EACH	2	\$2,900.00	LINK

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$50,000 - \$85,000

Riverside Park						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity (TBD)	Total Estimated Cost	Source
Gazebo	18 Ft. x 12 Ft. Solid wood Gazebo	\$4,554.99	EACH	1	\$4,554.99	LINK
Fishing and Water access	ADA docks - 12' x 18'	\$14,177.00	EACH	1	\$14,177.00	LINK
	ADA docks - 16' x 18'	\$16,986.00	EACH	1	\$16,986.00	
	ADA docks - 16' x 26'	\$21,796.00	EACH	1	\$21,796.00	
Picnic Tables	Traditional-style Picnic Tables	\$266.00	EACH	1	\$266.00	LINK
	Poly-Coated Metal Picnic Tables	\$540.00	EACH	1	\$540.00	LINK
Educational signage	Two 12"x12"x3/16" mount plates with sleeves set at a 45-degree angle	\$220.00	EACH	3	\$660.00	LINK
Canoe rental pole barn	20 ft. x 30 ft. x 8 ft.	\$6,471.00	EACH	1	\$6,417.00	LINK
Park entrance	Park entrance sign 60 in. x 90 in.	\$3,818.00	EACH	1	\$3,818.00	LINK
	Seeds per pound	\$37.00	EACH	3	\$111.00	LINK
	Mulch per cubic yard	\$19.00	EACH	7	\$133.00	LINK
	Soil per cubic yard	\$10.00	EACH	7	\$70.00	LINK
	SEE "PRAIRIE COSTS" SECTION	-	-	-	-	-

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$25,000 - \$40,000

Sketchley Park						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity (TBD)	Total Estimated Cost	Source
Expansion Fence of the dog park	1000 linear ft for both sides	\$17.05	LINEACHR FT.	1000	\$17,050.00	LINK
Welcome signage in the entrance of the park	Premium Welcome Sign – Bark-Park - Dog Park	\$422.00 – \$1,109.00	EACH	1	\$422.00 – \$1,109.00	LINK
Drinking Fountain w/ Pet Fountain	Multipurpose Water Fountain	\$3,000.00 - \$3,286.00	EACH	1	\$3,000.00 - \$3,286.00	LINK
Bench - dog park	Sit & Stay Paw Prints and Bone Bench	\$739.00	EACH	1	\$739.00	LINK
Picnic Tables - for the dog park	Dog Park Picnic Table	\$1,487.00	EACH	1	\$1,487.00	LINK
Dog Park Amenities Kit - 4 Pieces	Two boxes of waste bags Dog Bone Bench Tidy Up Trash Receptacle* Dog Leash Holder	\$1,749.00	EACH	1	\$1,749.00	LINK
Plastic Pet Waste Eliminator Station	Holds 600 of ANY dog waste bag	\$175.00	1 Unit	1	\$175.00	LINK
		\$149.00	4 Units - 15%	1	\$149.00	
		\$129.00	10 Units - 27%	1	\$129.00	
Picnic Tables	Traditional-style Picnic Tables	\$266.00	EACH	1	\$266.00	LINK
	Poly-Coated Metal Picnic Tables	\$540.00	EACH	1	\$540.00	LINK

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$20,000 - \$30,000

Twin Parks						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity (TBD)	Total Estimated Cost	Source
Stand-Up Grill	Stand-Up Grill, Standard	\$310.00	EACH	1	\$310.00	LINK
	Stand-Up Grill, Large	\$740.00	EACH	1	\$740.00	LINK
Bike Racks	Wave Bike Rack	\$122.00	EACH	1	\$122.00	LINK
	Grid Bike Rack, 5-Bike Capacity	\$185.00	EACH	1	\$185.00	LINK
	Grid Bike Rack, 14-Bike Capacity	\$393.00	EACH	1	\$393.00	LINK
Splash pad	Implementation	Between \$65,000 and \$500,000	EACH	1	\$100,000.00	LINK
	Cost per month	\$40.00	EACH	12	\$480.00	
Resurface basketball court	Measuring 94' x 50'	These costs translate into a price of \$3.50-\$17 per square foot.	EACH	1	Ranges from \$11,000 on the low end, \$35,000 on average and \$76,000.	LINK
Bench	Personalized Park Bench, Pedestal Base	\$401.00	EACH	1	\$401.00	LINK
	Personalized Park Bench, Cantilever Base	\$347.00	EACH	1	\$347.00	LINK
	Personalized Park Bench, T-Leg Base	\$329.00	EACH	1	\$329.00	LINK
	Single Post Benches	\$198.00	EACH	1	\$198.00	LINK
	Steel Strap Benches	\$328.00	EACH	1	\$328.00	LINK
Playground ADA Compliant	Challengers 350-1817	\$20,000.00	EACH	1	\$20,000.00	LINK
	Challengers 350-1733	\$21,984.00	EACH	1	\$21,984.00	LINK
Park shelter	24 x 36 steel frame gable	\$26,199.00	EACH	2	\$52,398.00	LINK
Skate Park improvements	3.5 X 12 Mini half pipe	\$2,599.00	EACH	1	\$2,599.00	LINK
	2 x 4 Quarter pipe	\$359.00	EACH	1	\$359.00	
	6-foot grind bench	\$299.00	EACH	1	\$299.00	
	Rail jam	\$299.00	EACH	1	\$299.00	
	Ramp to rail	\$399.00	EACH	1	\$399.00	
Flower beds	Seeds per pound	\$37.00	EACH	5	\$185.00	LINK
	Mulch per cubic yard	\$19.00	EACH	10	\$190.00	LINK
	Soil per cubic yard	\$10.00	EACH	10	\$100.00	LINK

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$35,000 - \$300,000

Water Works Park						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity (TBD)	Total Estimated Cost	Source
Water access ramps	ADA docks - 12' x 18'	\$14,177.00	EACH	1	\$14,177.00	LINK
	ADA docks - 16' x 18'	\$16,986.00	EACH	1	\$16,986.00	
	ADA docks - 16' x 26'	\$21,796.00	EACH	1	\$21,796.00	
Educational signage	Two 12"x12"x3/16" mount plates with sleeves set at a 45-degree angle	\$220.00	EACH	3	\$660.00	LINK
Ecological management - Natural Prairie	SEE " PRAIRIE COSTS " section				\$0.00	LINK
Picnic Tables	Traditional-style Picnic Tables	\$266.00	EACH	1	\$266.00	LINK
	Poly-Coated Metal Picnic Tables	\$540.00	EACH	1	\$540.00	LINK
Benches	Personalized Park Bench, Pedestal Base	\$401.00	EACH	1	\$401.00	LINK
	Personalized Park Bench, Cantilever Base	\$347.00	EACH	1	\$347.00	LINK
	Personalized Park Bench, T-Leg Base	\$329.00	EACH	1	\$329.00	LINK
	Single Post Benches	\$198.00	EACH	1	\$198.00	LINK
	Steel Strap Benches	\$328.00	EACH	1	\$328.00	LINK

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$15,000 - \$35,000

Wehrheim Park						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity (TBD)	Total Estimated Cost	Source
Park shelter	24 x 36 steel frame gable	\$26,199.00	EACH	1	\$26,199.00	LINK
Swing Set	Arch Swing 2-SEACHts	\$2,722.00	EACH	1	\$2,722.00	LINK
Outdoor Sports Equipment	Sonic Elite Outdoor Complete Volleyball System	\$734.95	EACH	2	\$1,469.90	LINK
	Viper Portable Volleyball Net System	\$279.00	EACH	2	\$558.00	LINK
Improvement in bathroom facilities	Sink	\$1,099.00	EACH	2	\$2,198.00	LINK
	Stall	\$165.00	EACH	3	\$495.00	LINK
	Urinal	\$150.00	EACH	1	\$150.00	LINK
	Toilet	\$130.00	EACH	3	\$390.00	LINK
Flower beds	Seeds per pound	\$37.00	EACH	5	\$185.00	LINK
	Mulch per cubic yard	\$19.00	EACH	10	\$190.00	LINK
	Soil per cubic yard	\$10.00	EACH	10	\$100.00	LINK
Butterfly garden(s)	Approved for Digging Down 6-12 inches	\$558.35	EACH	1	\$558.35	LINK
Ecological management - Natural Prairie	SEE "PRAIRIE COSTS" SECTION	-	-	-	-	-

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$5,000 - \$35,000

Wilson Brewer Historic Park						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity (TBD)	Total Estimated Cost	Source
Historical Building Marker	10 x 14 1-inch thick Metal Building marker with grounded stand	\$325.00	EACH	3	\$975.00	LINK
Message Center - Information Board	Message Center Sign w/ Posts	\$599.00	1 Unit	1	\$599.00	LINK
		\$569.00	3 Units	3	\$1,707.00	
Flower beds	Seeds per pound	\$37.00	EACH	5	\$185.00	LINK
	Mulch per cubic yard	\$19.00	EACH	10	\$190.00	LINK
	Soil per cubic yard	\$10.00	EACH	10	\$100.00	LINK
Ecological management - Natural Prairie	SEE "PRAIRIE COSTS" SECTION	-	-	-	-	-

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$2,500 - \$15,000

Overall Recommendations						
Item	Description	Estimated Unit Price	Unit	Quantity	Total Estimated Cost	
Message Center - Information Board	Message Center Sign w/ Posts	\$599.00	1 Unit	1	\$599.00	LINK
		\$569.00	3 Units	1	\$569.00	
Trash and Recycling receptacles	30-gallon concrete waste container	\$345.00	EACH	25	\$8,625.00	LINK
	42-gallon recycling can	\$514.53	EACH	10	\$5,145.30	LINK

Total Cost Estimate (General Range): \$5,000+

Prairie Costs

Prairie installation (Year 1)	Action	Cost per Acre
Vegetation Removal	Option 1 Herbicide	\$ 145
	Option 2 Tilling	\$ 75
	Option 3 Tilling + Cover crop (includes cover crop seeds)	\$ 130
	Cover crop broadcast Seeding	\$ 50
Seedbed Preparation	Harrow	\$ 76
Seeding	Seed Cost	\$ 176
	Broadcast Seeding	\$ 50
Post-Seeding Management	Mowing twice per year, at \$20 per cut per acre	\$ 40
	Spot Spray	\$ -
	Control Burns	\$ 200
	Re-seeding	\$ 147
Prairie maintenance Years 2, 3		
	Mowing (twice per year)	\$ 40
	NO Spot Spraying	\$ -
	Control Burns (every 3 yrs.)	\$ 67
	Re-seeding (first 3 yrs. of 10)	\$ 49
Total cost of prairie Year 1		
	Option 1 Herbicide	\$ 833
	Option 2 Tilling	\$ 763
	Option 3 Tilling + Cover crop	\$ 867
Total cost of prairie Years 2, 3		\$ 156
Total cost of prairie subsequent years (control burns every 3 yrs.)		\$ 67

Cover crop	Cost of cover crop seed
cover crop: buckweat	50 pounds per acre
Link to other crops	Cover Crop List

Cost of prairie burns

	acres	cost
Actual burn cost (high estimate due to difficult site)	30	\$ 10,000
		\$
Cost per acre	1	\$ 333
Estimated average cost per acre	1	\$ 200

Prairie Costs Vs Turf Costs Estimation in Iowa City

Cost Estimation of Turf V. Prairie in the City of Iowa City

Total costs of turf

		Mowing + turf management		
		Estimation One	Estimation Two	Average
Acreage estimate		455	533	
	2013	\$ 197	\$ 168	\$ 182
	2014	\$ 258	\$ 220	\$ 239
Average 2013-14		\$ 227	\$ 194	\$ 211

Total cost of Prairie

Year 1	Option 1 Herbicide	\$ 833
	Option 2 Tilling	\$ 763
	Option 3 Tilling + Cover crop	\$ 867
	Average	\$ 821
Years 2, 3		\$ 156
Subsequent years		0 \$ 67

Financial benefits of converting 1 acre of turf to prairie (Turf-Prairie costs) NOT ACCOUNTING FOR INFLATION

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cost of Turf	\$ 211	\$ 211	\$ 211	\$ 211	\$ 211	\$ 211	\$ 211	\$ 211	\$ 211	\$ 211
Cost of prairie	\$ 821	\$ 156	\$ 156	\$ 67	\$ 67	\$ 67	\$ 67	\$ 67	\$ 67	\$ 67
Savings per year	\$ (610)	\$ 55	\$ 55	\$ 144	\$ 144	\$ 144	\$ 144	\$ 144	\$ 144	\$ 144
Cumulative savings	\$ (610)	\$ (555)	\$ (500)	\$ (356)	\$ (212)	\$ (68)	\$ 76	\$ 220	\$ 364	\$ 508

Notes:

If these numbers are correct , it takes 6 years to recoup the investment of prairie construction. We start seeing some net gains Year 7.

Once prairie installation costs are recovered, we see significant savings (\$144 per acre per year)

If IC obtained some grants for installing prairie on a large scale, the return on investment would be much higher, with savings occurring right away.

Total net savings per year if all turf was converted to prairie (once cost of prairie construction are recovered)

	Estimation One	Estimation Two
Acreage estimate	455	533
Total savings (\$144 * acreage)	\$65,544	\$76,828

Dog Park Fencing Cost Information

Perimeter fence: to enclose both sides will add to 1000 linear feet of 72" tall chain-link fence.				
Item	Unit Cost		Quantity	Line Cost
Chain-link Fence: galvanized steel 2" mesh; 2-3/8" corner poles, 1-1/2" line poles and top rail; concrete post holes; incl. waste.	\$14.20	per foot	1000	\$14,200
Gates: 2 gates each 4' wide x 72" tall with closing latches; installed for drive-through.	\$227	each	2	\$454
Equipment rental: power posthole digger; and power cement mixer.	\$25	per day	5	\$120
	Material Cost	\$14.20 per foot	1000	\$14,774
	+ Labor Cost	\$38 per hour	60	\$2,280
	Total Cost	\$17.05 per foot	1000	\$17,054

FUNDING SOURCES

<u>Item</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding Level</u>	<u>Application deadline</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Source</u>
1	DOT/DNR Fund	Roadside beautification of primary system corridors with plant materials.	Maximum of \$100,000 per application per year	Letters of request are accepted all year and, if selected, are funded in the order in which they are received.		https://iowadot.gov/pol_leg_services/Funding-Guide.pdf#page=34
2	Recreational Trails Program (Federal)	Provide and maintain motorized and non-motorized recreational trails and trail-related projects.	\$1.3 million	October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum 20 percent match is required. • Trails resulting from successful applications must be maintained as a public facility for a minimum of 20 years. 	https://iowadot.gov/pol_leg_services/Funding-Guide.pdf#page=34
3	Recreational Trails Program (State)	Established to fund public recreational trails.	\$2.5 million (funding varies by year depending on allocation by the state legislature)	July 1 when funds have been allocated by the state legislature	Minimum 25 percent local match is required. Proposed projects must be part of a local, area-wide, regional, or statewide trail plan	https://iowadot.gov/pol_leg_services/Funding-Guide.pdf#page=34

4	Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	<p>Iowa's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; • recreational trail projects; • safe routes to school projects; and • projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways. 	Approximately \$7.5 million for Local Projects TAP projects	October 1 for Statewide TAP project applications. TMAs, MPOs, and RPAs determine their own deadlines for Local Projects TAP applications.	<p>A local match of 20 percent or more is required. Projects must have a direct relationship to existing or planned surface transportation facilities. Projects must fit into one or more of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. • Streetscaping and corridor landscaping. • Infrastructure-Related Safe Routes to School Projects • Non-Infrastructure Related Safe Routes to School Projects 	https://iowadot.gov/pol_leg_services/Funding-Guide.pdf#page=34
5	Wellmark - Small MATCH Grant	<p>Edible orchards,</p> <p>Community gardens and greenhouses,</p> <p>Public playground structures and spaces,</p> <p>Outdoor recreation and sport courts or fields,</p> <p>Public swimming pools, splash pads, aquatic centers,</p> <p>Trails, including links, spurs and connectors,</p> <p>Safe Routes to School plans and infrastructure,</p> <p>Accessible and safe walking paths or routes,</p> <p>Share-the-road plans and infrastructure,</p> <p>Bike-share program infrastructure</p>	Up to \$25,000	Proposals are due by 5 p.m. CST, June 7, 2019	<p>To be eligible to apply for a grant from The Wellmark Foundation, the primary applicant (fiscal agent) must meet all the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be classified as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code or a governmental entity. • Must be an organization within the states of either Iowa or South Dakota or seeking funding support for grant funding restricted for use in Iowa or South Dakota. • Cannot have a contractual relationship with Wellmark, Inc., Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota, Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc. or Wellmark Valued Health Plan. This does not include having health insurance coverage through Wellmark 	https://www.wellmark.com/foundation/documents/Wellmark-Foundation-MATCH-RFP.pdf
6	August Competitive Grant Cycle - Community Foundation	Addressing needs in the following categories:	Between \$2,500 and \$10,000	March 28, 2019 – July 24, 2019		https://givetogrant.org/grants/#recent

7	Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program	Street improvements,	Low interest direct loans and grants	Open	The median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 80 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program
		Educational services,				
		Community gardens and greenhouses,				
8	Community Assistance in Conservation and Outdoor Recreation	Design community outreach and participation strategies	Provide free, on location facilitation and planning of park space and trail improvements	Contact at early as possible before the June 30 application deadline to discuss your proposed project		LINK
9	AARP Community Challenge grant	Bicycling	If the idea is big, no project is too small! Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller short-term activities to several thousand for larger projects.	Currently closed by will reopen in November of next year		LINK

10	REAP City Grant through the Iowa DNR	Multiple types of park improvements - cannot be used for athletic fields, pools, or playground equipment. Can be used for bathroom improvements as well as trails	Projects must be completed within two years of the grant award. 90% of funds can be requested at the time a grant agreement is signed and the remaining 10% will be awarded upon successful completion of the project.	August 15th		LINK
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11	Enhance Hamilton County Foundation Grant	Any non-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) status, charitable projects of a governmental agency or the 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsors for an agency may apply. Organizations must exist within Hamilton County or serve the residents of Hamilton County. Projects must improve the quality of life for residents throughout Hamilton County.	\$90,000 annually (divided among selected applicants)	31-Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are funds remaining after the project is completed, the monies must be returned to the Enhanced Hamilton County Foundation. • Grants are committed to groups that look to improve the quality of life throughout Hamilton County. Grants proposals are strongly encouraged to address one or more of the following community needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---Arts and Culture ---Community Betterment ---Education ---Health & Human Services ---Recreation & Environment ---Youth Development 	LINK
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12	NRPA Grant Opportunities	<p>The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) periodically posts information about grant and fundraising opportunities that are available for park and recreation agencies and affiliated friends' groups and 501(c)(3) nonprofits.</p> <p>--- 16 different grants available focusing on specific parks and recreation related facility improvements/projects</p>	\$1,000+	Ongoing	In addition to the grants listed on the NRPA site, the link provides independent fundraising resources to consider. A list of ten different options to begin research when looking for funding and grants online.	LINK
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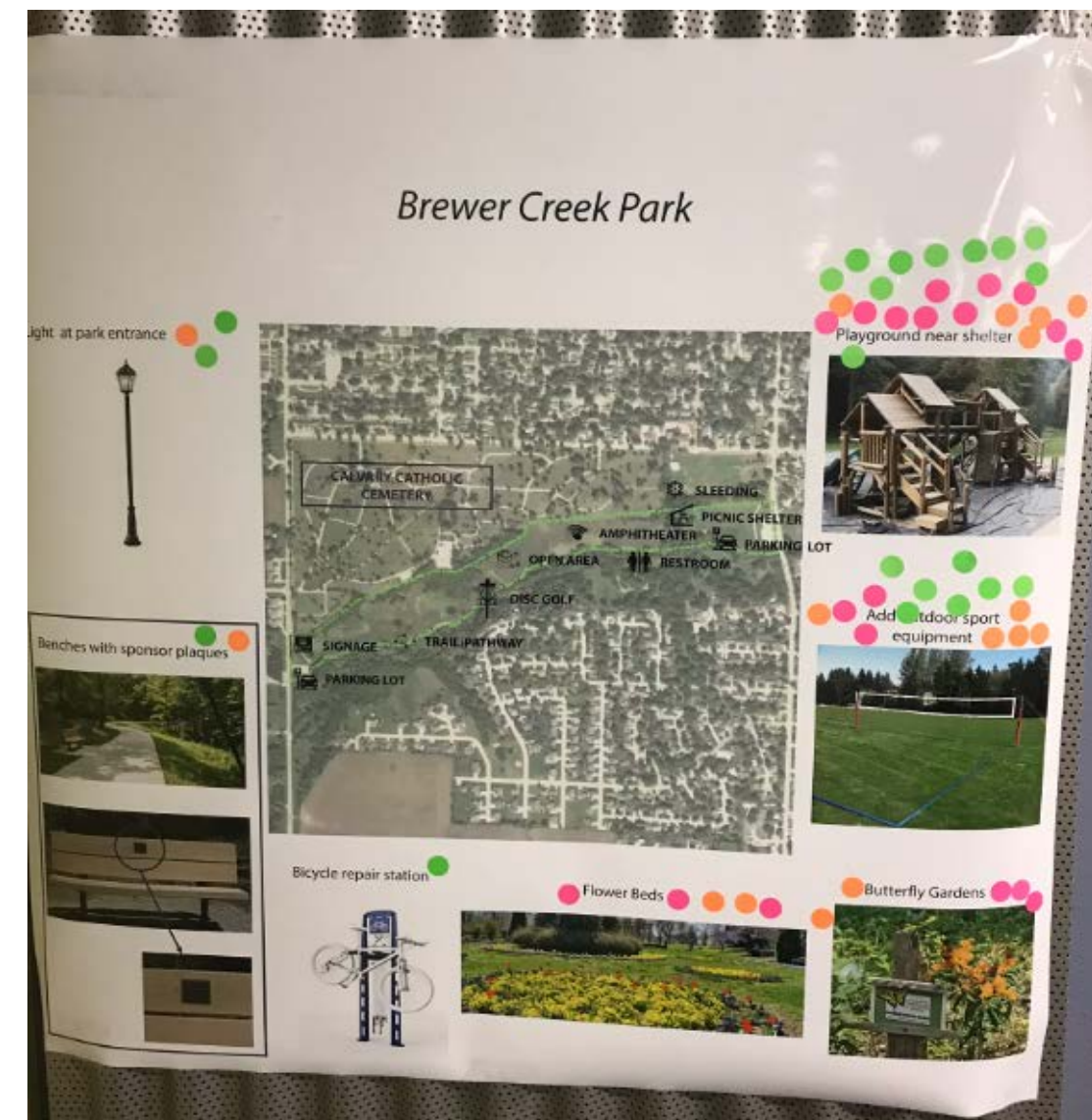
APPENDIX

Stakeholder Survey and Public Feedback

This is a copy of the paper survey handed out in October, and the questions asked were translated to the digital surveys shared with Webster City residents and visitors.

Webster City Parks and Recreation Survey				
What do you think makes Webster City unique?		What are you most proud of in Webster City?		
Where are you most likely to spend your day off within Webster City?				
Where are your favorite places in Webster City? Fill in all that apply.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business: _____ • Park/outdoor space: _____ • Public buildings: _____ 				
What about parks and recreation in this community do you like the most?				
In Webster City, how can parks be improved/added to?				
In Webster City, how can recreation opportunities be improved/added to?				
How would you rate the overall quality of parks and recreation in Webster City?				
Very Good	Good	Average	Bad	Very Bad
How often do you visit parks in Webster City?				
Never	A few times per year	A few times per month	A few times per week	Daily
What prevents you from using the parks?				
How safe do you think the parks are in Webster City?				
Very Safe	Safe	Average	Not Safe	Not Safe at All
Which park(s) do you feel are the least safe?				
Gender: _____ Age: _____ Webster City Resident [<input type="checkbox"/>] -or- Non-Resident [<input type="checkbox"/>]				
Do you have kids in your household under the age of 16? Y -or- N Ethnicity: _____				

The following images are from the March Open House event. The community preference sticky dot exercise was a unique activity for residents to express their opinions regarding each Webster City park and their favorite idea for enhancing each park. The color of the sticky dots was used by the planning team to gauge activity according to when participants attended the event.



Kendall Young Park

Improve hiking trail

Improve water access

Improve restroom facilities

Nature Playground

Mountain Bike trail

Improve volleyball court

Lions Stafford Park

East-West pathway

Resurface basketball court

Artistic basketball court design

Add lighting to basketball court

Flower Beds

Community Garden

New park shelter

Butterfly Gardens

Nokomis Park/Indianton Sports Complex

Alternative to mowing

Prairie
in progress

Improve park signage

Benches with sponsored plaques

Improve water access

Summer conversion - Ice Skating rink to a multi-sport court

New playground

Shelter near Baseball fields

Beautification on the Old Electrolux fence

Riverside Park

Canoe Rental boathouse

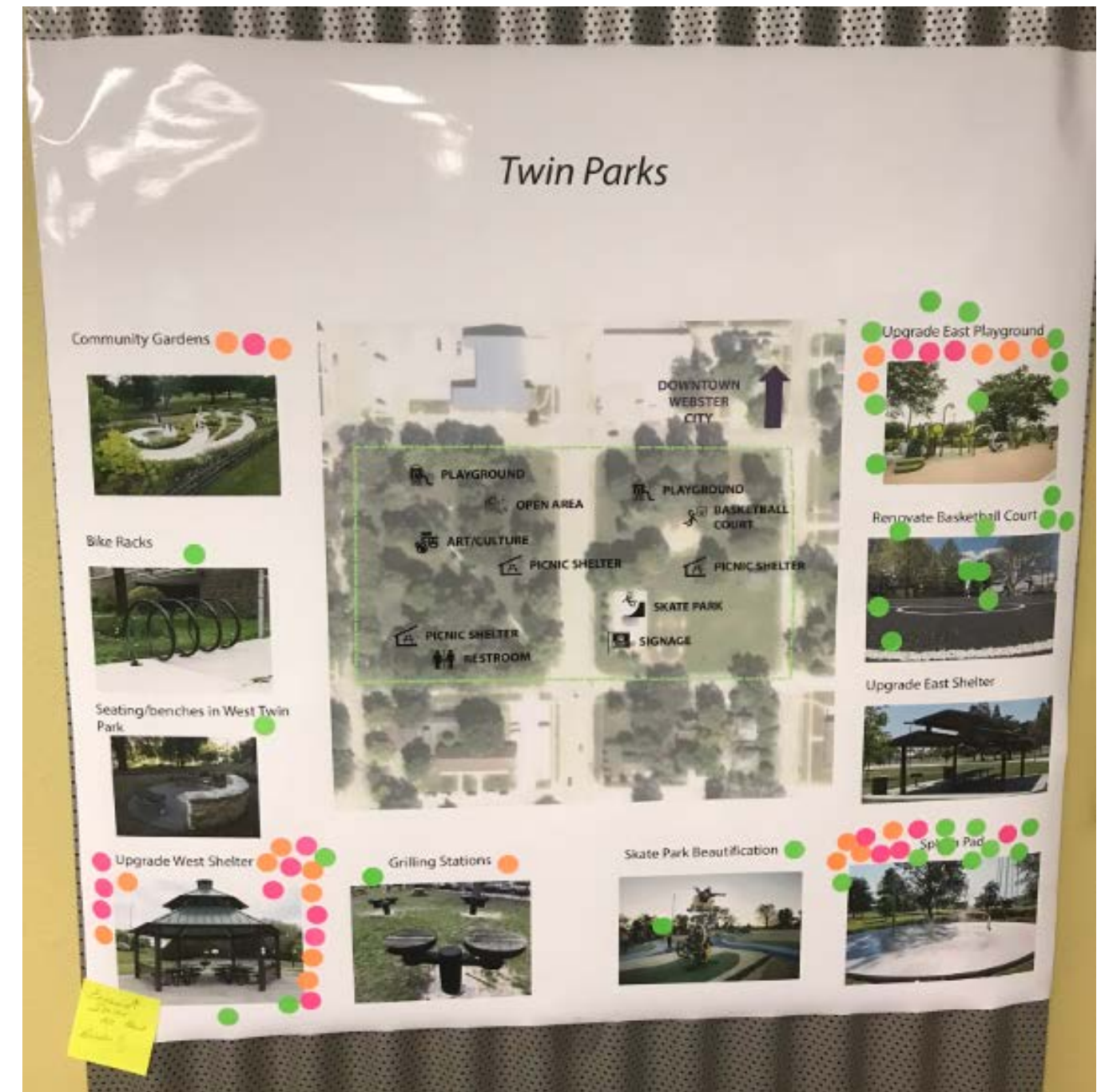
Educational signage

ADA accessible canoe ramp

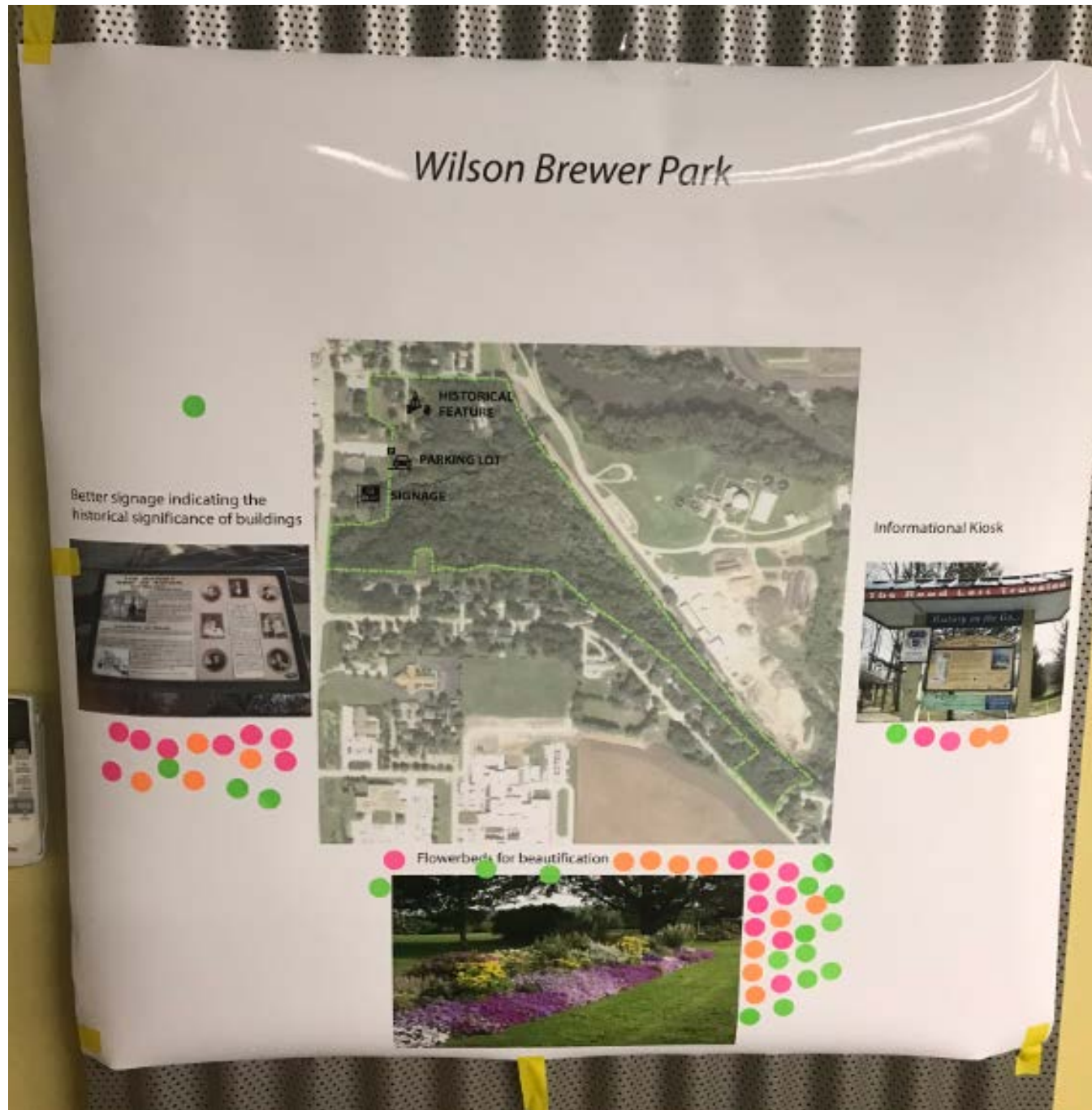
Beautification of park entrance

Add Picnic Tables

Gazebo







Dot Count

Brewer Creek:

playground near shelter	25
outdoor sports equipment	15
flower beds	5
butterfly gardens	5
light at park entrance	3
benches with sponsor	
plaques	2
bike repair station	1

Kendall Young:

nature playground	23
improve restroom	
facilities	12
improve hiking trail	10
improve waterway access	7
mountain bike trail	5
improve volleyball court	2

Lions-Stafford:

lighting to basketball court	18
resurface basketball court	16
community gardens	9
artistic basketball court	
design	7
new park shelter	5
butterfly garden	4
east to west pathway	1
flower beds	0

Nokomis / Middleton Sports Complex:

ice skating rink, summer conversion to multi-use court	23
improve waterway access	14
shelter near basketball fields	13
natural prairie	4
new playground	2
improve park signage	1
benches with sponsored plaques	1
beautification of Electrolux fence	1

Riverside:

water equipment rental	
boathouse	31
ADA accessible water ramp	13
beautification of park entrance	7
gazebo shelter	4
educational signage	0
picnic tables	0

Sketchley:

expansion of dog park space	22
dog friendly water fountain	18
benches	9
picnic tables	2
dog park entrance sign	0

West Twin:

upgrade west twin shelter	20
community garden	3
grilling stations	2
bike racks	1
seating/benches	1

East Twin:

splash pad	18
upgrade playground	17
renovate basketball court	10
skate park	
beautification	2
expand shelter	0

Water Works:

water access ramps	21
wetland restoration	14
trash and recycling	12
ecological education	5
natural prairie	4
picnic tables	0

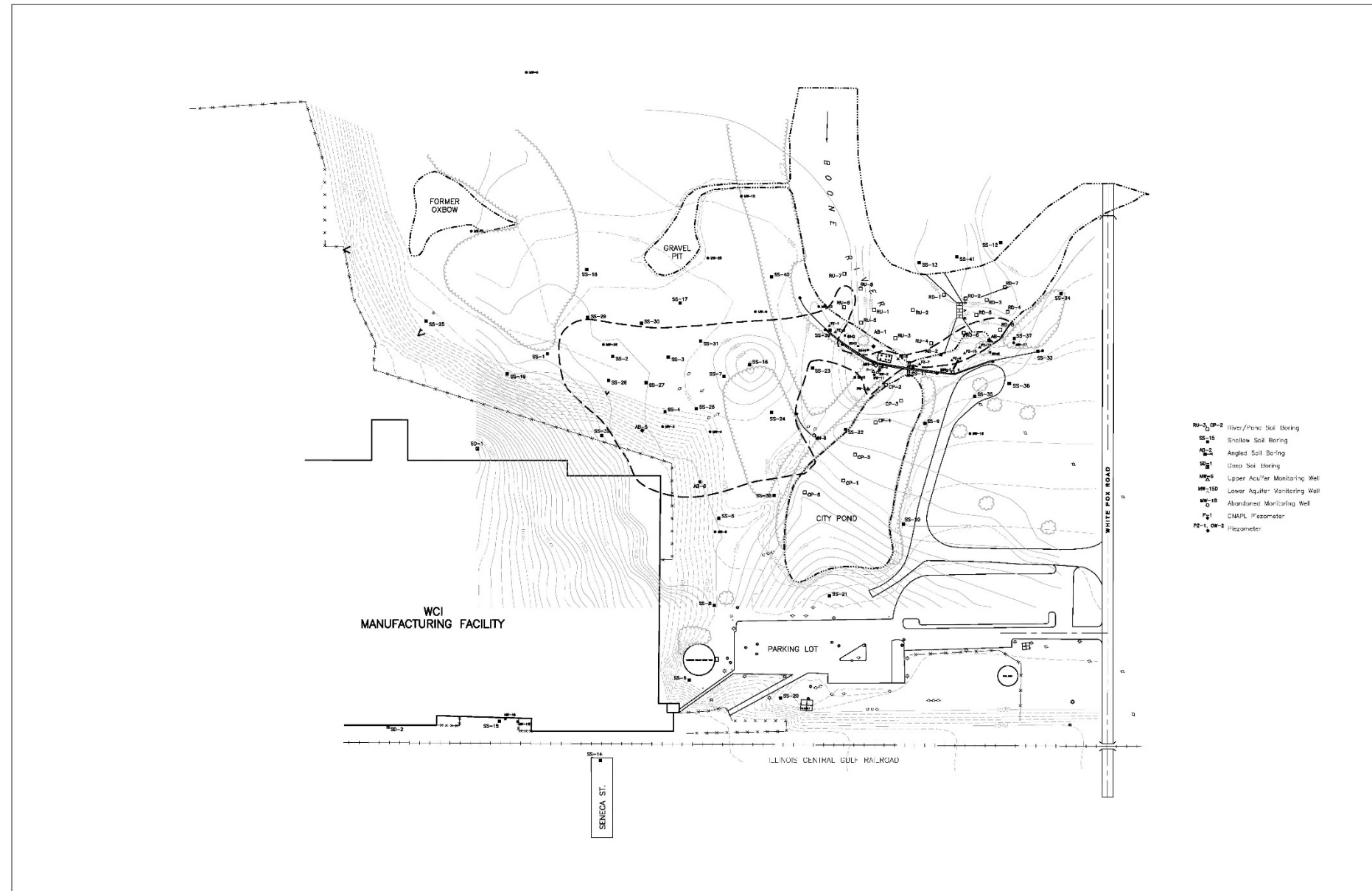
Wehrheim:

outdoor sports equipment	15
swing set	12
expand shelter and add restroom	11
butterfly garden	8
landscaping projects	7
path/sidewalks	3
natural prairie plantings	2

Wilson Brewer:

flowerbeds	33
historical signage	15
informational kiosk	5

Appendix 1- Dam at Water Works Park



Appendix 2 – Boone River Canoe Trip Information

BOONE RIVER INFORMATION

The **Boone River** starts in Hancock County and zigzags nearly 100 miles through Wright and Hamilton counties before emptying into the Des Moines River north of Stratford.

Check the current [Boone River](#) water conditions. If the CFS (cubic ft/sec) is 1100 or below than it is good for inexperienced canoeists. However, if the CFS is 1500 and above it is recommended for advance canoeists only.

The Department of Natural Resources has designated the 26-mile stretch from Webster City to its confluence with the Des Moines River as a Protected Water Area because of its outstanding scenic and natural qualities. Throughout this stretch, the stream bed gradient becomes increasingly steeper and cuts through a deep, heavily wooded valley. The frequent riffle-pool areas provide excellent fishing for smallmouth bass and channel catfish. Walleye and northern pike are periodically caught and an occasional flathead catfish is taken from the deep pools associated with the outside bends in the river.

Several Mills were built on the Boone River during the mid-1800s and give this stretch an intriguing historical background. One mill was located near Bever Bridge and was called **Bone's Mill**. This mill, built in 1854, had a colorful history, including its continual battle with ice and flood waters, its important business function, a dash of romance, an unsolved murder and the thunderous explosion which ended its existence.

Tunnel Mill access, located about 16 miles downstream of Webster City, is at the site of the mill built by Robert Watson in the mid-1800s. The 400 ft tunnel was built to bypass a sweeping horseshoe curve, thus increasing the natural current by a steeper fall to the turbine. Remains of the dam can still be seen on the north side of the ridge.

Bell's Mill Park is the site of a mill built in 1853 by Methodist preacher David Eckerson, which found its way to the Bell family. In 1888, flood waters swept away the dam, stopping the wheels of the mill. Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Bell donated the land for the present park as a memorial to pioneers who settled this area.

The second bridge downstream from Bell's Mill is Vegors Bridge. High on a scenic hill to the north and west is **Vegors Cemetery**, a historic spot of early Indian and white burial.

Canoeists can end their trip on the Boone River a short distance above the confluence with the Des Moines River, at the Boone Forks Wildlife Management Area.

BOONE RIVER TOURING INFORMATION

Riverside City Park to Briggs Woods Park:

Although this section is entirely within the City of Webster City limits, you would have a hard time knowing it due to the river bottoms forest community. The river falls at 3 feet per mile for 4.5 miles. There are a number of rapids but this section is known for calm water. This section is also known to be more prone to strainers (downed trees). Average float time under normal river conditions is 2 hours.

Briggs Woods Park to Albrights Canoe Access:

The river valley becomes more evident and is a very popular entry point for paddlers. The river falls at 5.2 feet per mile for 3.6 miles. There are a few rapids but this section is known for moderately swift water. This section is filled with rocks and boulders that could pose a challenge to novice paddlers. Average float time under normal river conditions is 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Albrights Canoe Access to Tunnel Mill Canoe Access:

This section is probably the least paddled section of the river and after Tremaine Bridge (Bever), you will be in some of the most remote places on the Boone. It is also very wooded and scenic and offers some great fishing. The river falls at 4.1 feet per mile for 7.5 miles. The first two miles the river falls at over 9 feet per mile. This gradient is the highest of anywhere on the Boone River. There are a number of rapids and calm water in this section and it changes frequently. The rapids here are class one and two which require occasional maneuvering. Trained paddlers will do fine. Approximately 4.5 miles below Bever Bridge is an abrupt shallow drop, which are the remains of the Tunnel Mill Dam. Average float time under normal river conditions is 3 hours and 30 minutes.

Note: Bevers Bridge has a canoe access that is on private property. Please respect private property. This access is located just two miles downstream of Albrights Canoe Access.)

Tunnel Mill Canoe Access to Bell's Mill Park:

This section is lined with dense hardwood forests and has a high elevation change. This is probably the most remote section of the Boone because of the limited access to the river. It does receive a fair amount of paddlers because its proximity to Bell's Mill Campground. The river falls at 2.7 feet per mile for 5.1 miles. This section is known for calm water and remoteness. Average float time under normal river conditions is 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Bell's Mill Park to Boone Forks Wildlife Area:

This section is heavily wooded and features long sections of sanded river bottom. The river falls at 3.7 feet per mile for 5.1 miles. This section is known for calm water. This section is known for strainers (downed trees). Average float time under normal river conditions is 2 hours and 30 minutes.

DATA SOURCE: My County Parks

Appendix 3 - Fuller Hall Pricing

Fuller Hall - Pricing Information

TYPE	CLASSIFICATION	COST	USAGE INFORMATION
Adult Annual Membership	RESIDENTS	\$187.00	This pass is good for unlimited use of Fuller Hall that includes: indoor swimming pool, weight room, cardio-fitness room, racquetball courts, gymnasium, and towel service. The pass is good for one year from date of purchase.
	NON-RESIDENTS	\$215.00	
Youth Annual Membership (under 18 years old)	RESIDENTS	\$101.00	This pass is good for unlimited use of Fuller Hall that includes: indoor swimming pool, weight room, cardio-fitness room, racquetball courts, gymnasium, and towel service. All youth need to be 15 years old to use the weight room or cardio room. Pass is good for one year from date of purchase.
	NON-RESIDENTS	\$116.00	
Family Annual Membership	RESIDENTS	\$345.00	This pass is good for immediate family units for unlimited use of Fuller Hall that includes: indoor swimming pool, weight room, cardio-fitness room, racquetball courts, gymnasium, and towel service. Pass is good for one year from date of purchase.
	NON-RESIDENTS	\$396.00	
Adult Gym Annual Membership	RESIDENTS	\$68.00	This pass is good for reserved gym time, including Adult Pick-Up Basketball, tennis, and pickle ball. This membership is good for one year from the date of purchase.
	NON-RESIDENTS	\$78.00	
Adult Punch Passes	RESIDENTS	\$51.75	These are similar to a monthly pass with no expiration date. This punch pass is good for 15 admissions for the swimming pool (indoor or outdoor), weight room, cardio-fitness room, or racquetball courts.
	NON-RESIDENTS	\$59.50	
Youth Adult Punch Passes (under 18 years old)	RESIDENTS	\$41.60	These are similar to a monthly pass with no expiration date. This punch pass is good for 15 admissions for the swimming pool (indoor or outdoor), weight room, cardio-fitness room, or racquetball courts.
	NON-RESIDENTS	\$47.80	
Adult Daily Passes (Daily Usage)	RESIDENTS	\$5.20	This pass is single admission to use the facility and pay on a daily basis. This includes the weight room, cardio-fitness room, swimming pool (when available), and racquetball courts.
	NON-RESIDENTS	\$6.00	
Youth Daily Passes (Daily Usage, under 18 years old)	RESIDENTS	\$4.45	This pass is single admission to use the facility and pay on a daily basis. This includes the weight room, cardio-fitness room, swimming pool (when available), and racquetball courts.
	NON-RESIDENTS	\$5.10	
Adult Daily Gym Hour Time	RESIDENTS	\$3.60	This is for adult noon hour basketball, indoor tennis, and pickle ball.
	NON-RESIDENTS	\$4.10	

Fuller Hall 2018-2019 Hours of Operation

Spring (April 29 - June 3)	Summer (June 4 - Aug 22)	Fall (Aug 23 - Sept 29)	Winter (Sept 30 - April 28)
M-F: 6 AM - 9 PM	M-F: 6 AM - 6 PM	M-F: 6 AM - 9 PM	M-Th: 6 AM - 9 PM
Sat: 7 AM - 9 PM	Sat: closed	Sat: 7 AM - 9 PM	Fri: 6 AM - 10 PM
Sun: 1 PM - 9 PM	Sun: closed	Sun: 1 PM - 9 PM	Sat: 7 AM - 10 PM
			Sun: 1 PM - 9 PM

Appendix 4 – Fuller Hall Usage Data

Feature	January 17	February 17	March 17	April 17	May 17	June 17	July 17	August 17	September 17	October 17	November 17	December 17	January 18	February 18	March 18	April 18	May 18	June 18	July 18	August 18	September 18
Fitness Room	1,938	1,938	1,798	1,326	1,218	971	899	943	870	1,067	1,133	1,149	1,417	1,233	1,437	1,316	1,057	930	843	865	779
Lap Swimming	428	428	484	406	447	46		139	395	380	418	329	348	288	360	414	439			128	339
Aquacise Total	118	118	150	65	-	-	-	-	107	122	116	65	93	85	94	56	-	-	-	-	210
Aquacise A.M.	76	76	108	52	-	-	-	-	83	92	77	60	88	81	94	56	-	-	-	-	137
Aquacise P.M.	42	42	42	13	-	-	-	-	24	30	39	5	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	73
Indoor Park	41	41	92	50	23	-	-	-	-	19	73	65	73	57	67	29	6	-	-	-	-
Pick Up Basketball	81	81	117	87	104	50	80	49	97	101	98	129	144	155	136	103	93	66	13	-	20
Family Night Swimming	29	29	52	13	29	-	-	2	9	5	16	16	5	13	24	31	4	-	-	-	-
Open Swimming – Youth	106	106	72	83	58	8	-	15	32	46	79	68	69	91	137	64	36	-	-	2	18
Open Swimming – Adult	46	46	40	41	27	7	-	13	29	28	29	33	33	74	45	43	14	-	-	3	11
Wellness Totals																					
Fitness Room	172	172	193	136	105	98	77	89	68	88	111	101	143	113	160	133	100	-	68	76	53
Pick Up B-Ball	-	-	4		1	-	-	-	1	11	8	9	11	6	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
AM/PM Swim	19	19	19	10	11	1	-	3	18	13	18	14	16	13	21	23	29	-	-	1	2
AM/PM Aquacise	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Racquetball/Wallyball	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ICCC Totals																					
Fitness Room	82	82	76	46	24	25	26	43	42	56	39	41	30	24	32	48	45	46	33	43	21
Pick Up B-Ball	-	-	-						1	-		4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AM/PM Swim	11	11	8	8	8	1		7	8	13	8	6	8	5	5	6	5	-	-	-	1
AM/PM Aquacise	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	5	7	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Racquetball/Wallyball	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix 5 – Sports and Recreation Management: Webster City Strategic Communication Plan

The following information was created by three distinct teams consisting of University of Iowa graduate students from the Department of Sports and Recreation Management program. During the Spring 2019 semester, these teams formulated unique strategies for the City of Webster City to consider when promoting and publicizing the parks and recreation system.

Phase 1 - Create social media platforms that WC is lacking that will be park specific? (see social media down below)

-Focus on different platforms for different uses

-*Twitter*

- fun facts
- updates
- community events / editions

-*Instagram*

- Utilize the 'Instagram Story' feature
- Create posts that are interactive with community
- Provides good opportunity to receive feedback from constituents
- Posts regarding large community events
- Posts regarding individual events at parks dept locations
- Updates the community can expect to see in the future
 - Work with programming and revitalization planning groups

-*Facebook*

- Promoting events
- groups
- pages
- Master Social Media Calendar that can be shared among a variety

of platforms

-*Snapchat???*

- *Look at translation tools available on social media platforms (Facebook specifically) in Lao and Spanish*

- Incorporate consistent branding images and messages across all platforms that will be associated with parks dept.

- Use library staff or current classroom settings/students/teachers/etc. to implement our social media strategies and recommendations as an intern (good opportunity to develop real world experience)

Phase 2 - Create a social content calendar that will provide key elements to highlight our target markets that utilizes all aspects of each social media platform -- Goals to promote education and build off the brand both on social platforms and printed

- Utilize Instagram "Highlight" feature for stories on each park
- Create events on Facebook
- Based on the programming: take photos, engage audiences, and social listening -- respond back to followers
- Printed brochures, flyers, signs
 - Cost estimates?

Phase 3 - Host social events at revitalized parks to continue education of opportunities and resources available to community

- Promote through the platforms the planning team has established

Timeline progress:

1. Create a full-time social media coordinator position -- *need to figure how much a position like this would be paid / responsibilities- Roughly \$50,000/year Webster City Community School District Employees*

UI SRM - COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND BRANDING

- *Current staff related to Social Media in Parks and Rec. Dept.*

-*Mark Murphy-Director of Technology*

-*Kathy Houck-Media Specialist*

-*Veldhuizen, Michele-English/Journalism Teacher*

City of Webster City Staff

-*Lindsay Henderson-Community Vitality Director*

1. Create an intern position as well (doesn't have to be paid) / define *what their responsibilities are – determine which full time position they will be reporting to* <https://www.simplyhired.com/search?q=social+media+coordinator-recreation+%26+parks&job=tES-GLo0wOBYkoX4gXlcXMRkcmBDO9YdJ6sLDKKfX5dBzdRwpiQ>

2. Determine a tentative budget

1. Sponsored posts costs

1. Instagram- Highest engagement from users on sponsored ads

1. Avg cost per thousand views: \$6.70

1. Facebook

1. Avg cost per thousand views: \$7.19

1. Twitter

1. Avg cost per engagement: \$1.35

2. Social media calendar program costs

1. Free, use Facebook

3. Webster City potential budget needs:

1. Majority of material will be organic (mostly cost free)

2. Stipend for Parks Dept. social media intern - reply to followers / post photos / stories
 1. Could also offer high school/college credit if an option
 2. How many hours/week does this involve?
1. Create handles for parks and rec pages across platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)
 1. Promote new platforms through current platforms --making the switch
 1. Utilize sponsored posts to promote new platforms
2. Create new permanent signage located in the parks with information (in different languages), include QR codes – the planning team will help to create some designs-
3. Communicate with programming and revitalization teams for specific implementation plans and timeline
4. Create calendar filled with known events at all parks and rec locations throughout the year (including holidays and national days) and share across all platforms (especially Facebook)
 1. Invite community members to events in advance
 2. Events on calendar:
 1. Specific events at parks
 2. Community events
 3. Holidays
2. Create evergreen content for slower days on social media -- campaigns – play on the WC tagline “opportunity awaits” “_____” awaits
3. Once parks have been revitalized, host free event(s) at the park to help promote it (also post on social media about the improved park)
 1. Create event on Facebook
 2. Post in story
 3. Provide Links in bios that allow users to learn more about specific events
 4. Create links to social media websites on the Parks and Rec website
 5. Post on twitter
 6. Post in advance
 7. After the event post videos and photos
 8. Thank all followers and visitors
2. Play on “Webster City Wednesdays” and Painting Benches Campaign as examples of how the planning team will use and implement style guides

Appendix 6 – Rain Garden Best Management Practice



CONSERVATION TASK FORCE
National Recreation and Park Association

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

Rain Gardens

Project Description and Purpose

A rain garden is simply a planted depression that slows and filters rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as building roofs and parking lots. To demonstrate the benefits of creating sustainable landscapes that actively improve environmental quality and save funds, three agencies worked together to install a demonstration rain garden at the Ohio Agricultural Service Center in Hancock County, Ohio. Creating a demonstration garden on a very active public site allows many people in the community to witness the process and see first-hand what sustainable landscapes are capable of achieving.

To create this small demonstration garden, soil was removed and organic material with good porosity was installed before a variety of water-tolerant plants was planted. A rain barrel was attached to the buildings' drain spout with an overflow pipe. As part of the design, once the rain barrel fills, it overflows onto rocks and flows into the rain garden. Water velocity of runoff from impervious surfaces is slowed, detained, and naturally filtered before percolating into the ground or flowing off site.



Hancock County's first rain garden

Project Goals of Creating Conservation Partnership and Educating Community Achieved

This project was the first rain garden in Hancock County, Ohio. The ongoing goal is to raise awareness and inform and educate the community about the benefits of a rain garden and its practical application in managing storm water runoff from impervious surfaces.

Three primary agencies were involved in this project: Hancock Park District, Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District, and Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Program. Each agency contributed staff time for planning, coordinating, plant growth, construction, upkeep, and education. Hancock County Commissioners contributed funds for signage and supplies.

The Hancock Park District propagated plants in the greenhouse and planted the rain garden, which was prepared by a local youth group, and then developed a rain garden brochure with plant listing. The general brochure is available at all three agency offices, including the Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District office, where the rain garden is located.

The Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District monitors water levels in the rain barrel. All agencies contribute staff time to weed control.

Small Project Produces Big Dividends

As a demonstration project, this rain garden serves as an excellent example of what can be done at low cost on public lands and home sites to reduce the negative effects of storm water. As added benefits, the rain garden creates a more permeable surface that drains water, reduces lawn maintenance, and adds beauty and wildlife habitat.

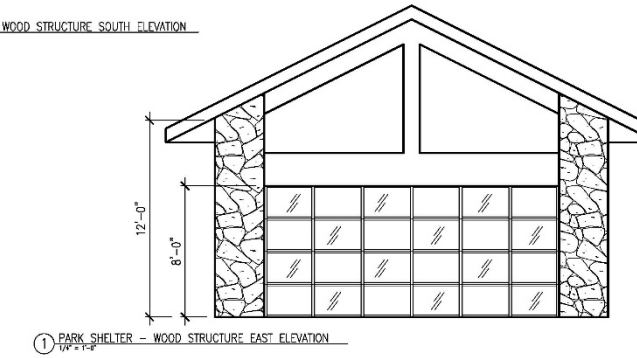
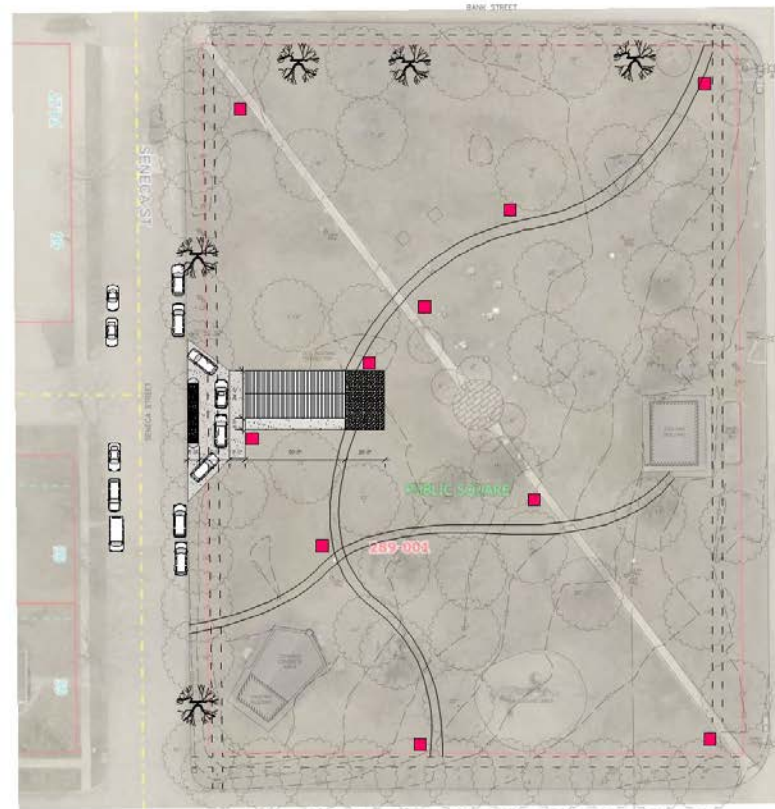
For more information on how the Hancock Park District partnered to create this rain garden and the lessons learned, contact: Gary Pruitt, Park District Director, gpruitt@hancockparks.com, 419.425.7275

Appendix 7 – Water Works Park Recreational River Access, University of Iowa Engineering



Appendix 8 – West Twin Park Shelter Plans

- Proposed infill Overstory Tree
- Relocated Sculpture Pads ■
- Proposed internal walkways
- Future Public Sidewalk
- Proposed Shelter
- Proposed Concrete Drop-off
- Proposed Outdoor Patio Space



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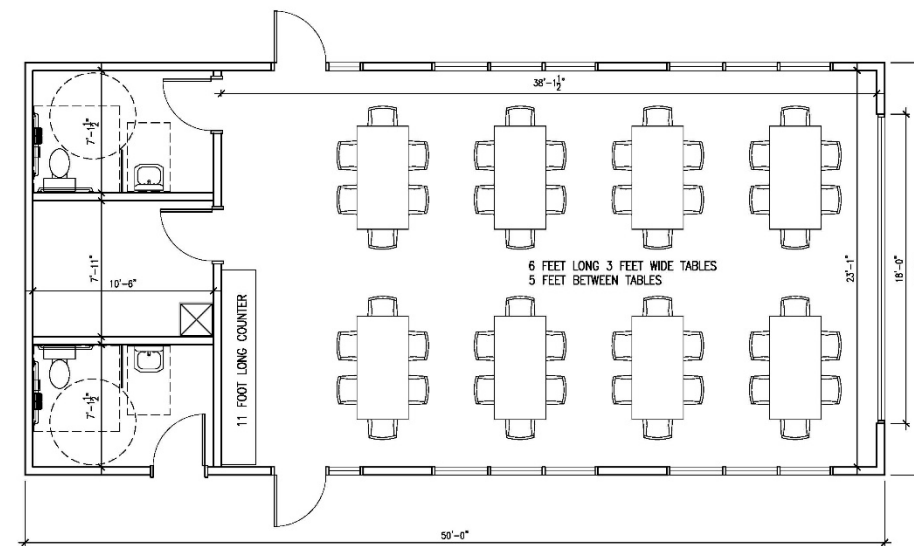
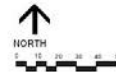
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West Twin Park Shelter, Walks, & Sculpture Placement

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1 PARK SHELTER PLAN IDEA - WOOD STRUCTURE

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