



Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan
2022-2027
City of Dallas Center

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Introduction

The Five- Year Parks and Recreation Plan for the City of Dallas Center has been created to help facilitate orderly planning, to facilitate program development, to meet present and future recreational needs of the community of Dallas Center, and to create a family friendly environment of Parks for all to enjoy for generations to come. The plan outlines the five-year recreational goals for the community which were established by the Parks and Recreation Board after convening and gathering and collecting past Parks and Recreation information. The plan incorporates current community needs and potential community needs. The planning area encompasses the City of Dallas Center.

The members of the Parks and Recreation Board at the time of this plan and who were involved in this planning process include:

Mary Werch, President

Bob King

Ken Matteson

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Amy Jarnagin

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Nadine Stille

Community Description

Physical Characteristics

Location

The City of Dallas Center is located in the center of Dallas County, Iowa. The City is approximately 4.58 square miles in area and is located 20 miles west-northwest of Des Moines, and 9 miles west of Grimes.

Climate

Dallas County averages 36 inches of rain per year. The average in the United States is 38 inches. Dallas County averages 30 inches of snow per year, and the average in the United States is 28 inches of snow per year. The average number of sunny days is 205 per year, while there is some kind of precipitation (e.g., rain, sleet, snow, hail, etc.) seen on 106 days of the year.

¹ July is the hottest month of the year with an average temperature of 84.9 degrees, while January is typically the coldest with an average temperature of 11.

Parks Descriptions

Dallas Center has two primary traditional parks: Mound Park and Memorial Park. There is one recreational facility, Burnett Recreational Complex, one bike trail, the Raccoon River Valley Trail, which also includes Heritage Park, and Brenton Arboretum.

Mound Park

Mound Park is located on the west side of town at the intersection of Walnut and Percival streets. The Park currently includes notable greenspace, tennis courts, a roller skate rink, shelters, a gazebo, a sand volleyball court, multiple playground areas, including a newly installed ADA accessible playground area, and newly updated restroom facilities.

Memorial Park

Memorial Park is located on the east side of town at the intersection of 9th and Sycamore streets. The Park currently includes a paved walking path that surrounds the park, significant greenspace, a natural play structure, a playground, a basketball court, shelters, a full disc golf course, and restrooms.

Burnett Recreational Complex

Burnett Recreational Complex is located on the southwest corner of town at the intersection of Kellogg and Linden streets. The recreational complex

¹ In order for precipitation to be counted, there must be a reading of at least .01 inches on the ground to measure.

boasts two baseball fields and two softball fields, the potential for two youth soccer fields, a play area, several parking lots located around the complex, a shelter, concessions, restroom facilities, greenspace, and a cross country path, part of which is paved.

Raccoon River Valley Trail & Heritage Park

The Raccoon River Valley Trail runs through the heart of the town and bisects the town on the diagonal going northwest. The Trailhead is located at the intersection of 14th and Walnut streets, which is also where Heritage Park is located and has developed over the last couple of years. The Trailhead includes a map of the town, restroom facilities, bike racks and seating. The adjacent Heritage Park is a developing space that currently includes a winter ice rink and a storage shed. The storage shed operates as a skate rental and warming shed during the winter ice rink skate season.

The Brenton Arboretum

The Brenton Arboretum is south of town on 260th street. There are over 175 varieties of trees and shrubs on 140 acres of land. The Arboretum includes numerous walking trails, both paved and unpaved, and brings in outside tourism to visit and see the local Iowa landscape every year. The Brenton Arboretum runs as a registered non-profit, and it is not within the purview of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Lena Moser Swimming Pool

The Lena Moser Swimming Pool is south of town at 1108 Vine Street. Because of her optimistic faith in the future and her interest in young people, Lena E. Moser bequeathed \$150,000 to the City of Dallas Center for a municipal swimming pool which was built on land donated by the Brenton family and dedicated in 1982. The pool has been a wonderful amenity for our community but due to the age of our pool, which had an expected life span of roughly 30 years, and the fact that certain repairs would require the pool meet today's building standards and ADA compliance, a 'Swimming Pool Planning and Advisory Committee' determined that a new pool would be more cost effective. On June 23, 2021, the City Council approved proceeding with plans to construct a new pool. Pending a vote in the November 2021 election, the new pool is set to be constructed and will open in the summer of 2023.

Socioeconomic Characteristics

Population

The City of Dallas Center population has increased by 17 percent from 2010 to 2020 from 1,623 to 1,901 Dallas County population has increased 49 percent from 2010 to 2020 from 66,748 to 93,453.

Table 1: Population Change

Location	Year		Change
	2010	2020	
Dallas Center	1,623	1,901	+17.13
Dallas County	66,748	99,678	+49.33

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Population Age

The City of Dallas Center has a widespread age distribution with 26.1% under the age of 18, 6.4% from 18-24, 28.9% from 25-44, 20.8% from 45-64, and 17.7% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was about 39 years of age.

Dallas County's age distribution has 28.2% under the age of 18, 6.9% from 18-24, 32.1% from 25-44, 21.6% from 45-64, and 11.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age for those in Dallas County is 35 years of age.

Comparing the two, Dallas Center has a slightly higher in age population, while still respecting that the city is still comparably similar to the county at large.

Race & Ethnicity

The racial make up of Dallas Center is 98.2% White, .6% Black, .2% Native American, .8% from two or more races, .7% from Hispanic or Latinx, and .1% identifying with another race.

Comparing that to Dallas County which is slightly more diverse, although sees a similar breakdown of diversity at 90.57% White, 1.9% Black, .1% Native American, 2.04% from two or more races, and .75% identifying with some other race.

Employment & Income

Median household income in 2019 was roughly \$66,875, which shows a 3.4% decrease from 2015 when it was \$69,265. The city's median household income is less than the county's average of \$88,479 in 2019 (\$21,604 difference). Approximately 4.2% of the city lives at or below the federal poverty level including 3.6% of those being 0-18 years old. The city is below Dallas County, as it is estimated 9%-12% of the county population lives at or below the federal poverty level. The median income of those living in Dallas Center is less than those living in Dallas County, however there are less people living in Dallas Center at or below the federal poverty level than there are in Dallas County.

Administrative Structure

The Dallas Center Parks and Recreation Board is comprised of representatives from the community, confirmed by the mayor and the city council. The Board meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month to address recreation needs, facilitate programs, and address parks issues on an as needed basis.

The Board is funded by the City of Dallas Center. Maintenance is provided by public works staff and seasonal staff. Parks facilities are free to the public.

The Parks Board is interested in hiring part time parks staff or utilizing the AmeriCorps program in the future for program development and parks and rec management, and thinks that this position would fill a need in the community, and would bring enrichment and development to our community, especially during the summer months.

The following is a breakdown of the current and previous years Parks and Recreation budget:

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Table 2: Parks and Recreation Expenditure History

Budget Line	Fiscal Year:	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Budget 2021-22
Parks-Wages		\$26,634	\$32,356	\$44,389	\$45,721
Parks-Education/Training		\$0	\$0	\$200	\$200
Parks-Bldg Maint/Repair		\$6,687	\$8,736	\$27,000	\$12,000
Parks-Ground Maint/Repai		\$16,482	\$12,244	\$10,000	\$12,000
Parks-Vehicle Operation		\$1,620	\$1,656	\$2,000	\$2,000
Parks-Equip Repairs		\$247	\$779	\$1,000	\$1,000
Parks-Utilities		\$1,954	\$1,953	\$2,500	\$2,500
Parks-Prairie Meadow Gra		\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Parks-Dallas County Foun		\$0	\$5,500	\$10,000	\$5,000
Parks-Park Equip/Maint		\$30,158	\$324	\$60,000	\$20,000
Parks-Tree Maint		\$283	\$4,600	\$6,500	\$7,000
Trees Please Grant Expen		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Trees Forever Grant Expe		\$1,782	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
Parks-Activities		\$0	\$0	\$200	\$200
Parks-Wellmark Grant		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Parks-Misc Operating Sup		\$678	\$687	\$2,000	\$2,000
Parks Total		\$123,524	\$70,835	\$169,289	\$138,121
Swim Pool-Wages		\$51,335	\$43,558	\$52,427	\$52,650
Swim Pool-Cpo Training		\$410	\$500	\$500	\$500
Swim Pool-Equip/Bldg Rep		\$9,457	\$1,155	\$10,000	\$10,000
Swim Pool-Oper Equip Rep		\$576	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Swim Pool-Utilities		\$2,569	\$2,913	\$3,500	\$3,500
Swim Pool-Telephone		\$510	\$372	\$500	\$500
Swim Pool-Sales Tax		\$1,269	\$589	\$2,500	\$2,500
Swim Pool-Chem/Inspec		\$4,141	\$3,023	\$6,000	\$6,000
Swim Pool-Operating Supp		\$3,371	\$1,877	\$3,000	\$3,000
Recreation Total		\$73,639	\$53,987	\$79,427	\$79,650

Goals & Objectives

The members of the Parks and Recreation Board worked over the last several months to prioritize and discuss the goals and objectives for each of the parks for the next five years.

The goal of the Parks and Rec Board over the next five years is to maintain and improve Dallas Center's current parks and recreational spaces, and to create a healthy, welcoming, and sustainable environment for our town and community to thrive for all current and future generations.

Mound Park

The top priority identified for Mound Park is planned for completion within the next two years is a full-size basketball court to go in at Mound Park. Currently, there are basketball hoops located in Mound Park in the North parking lot. *See Appendix B.* The current recommendation is to resurface and repurpose the south parking lot into a basketball court. With the resurfacing and repurposing of the south parking, the north parking lot would need repainted to allow for more adequate and appropriate parking. Eventually, the Parks Board intends to either resurface or redo the north parking lot, as the surface has deteriorated beyond its useful life and needs replaced.

Large projects to be prioritized in the next five years in Mound Park include an update to the upper play area north of the water tower, as it requires a full replacement. The Board has discussed a complete overhaul of this area, as the equipment is beyond its useful life and needs replaced. It is likely that the Board can apply for grants to assist with this project due to the large scope and the impact it would have on the overall usefulness of the park.

Small projects that the Board would like to prioritize in Mound Park include adding more lighting along the sidewalk, completing the sidewalk around park, and adding local art features. Depending on the year and other projects planned, the Board plans to prioritize these smaller projects on an ongoing basis over the next five years as budgets allow and will apply for applicable grants as they come available.

Memorial Park

In identifying projects for Memorial Park, there were several medium to small sized projects that will be prioritized. They include the following projects- improving disc golf signage, which will likely be completed in 2022-2023 fiscal year, adding a park sign off of Walnut Street which will also likely be completed in 2022, expanding the natural play area, improving the current parking lot, and creating east end parking off of

Fairview- which is likely the largest of all of the projects. The Board plans to prioritize the latter three projects on an ongoing basis over the next five years as budgets allow and will apply for applicable grants as they come available.

Burnett Recreational Complex

The Burnett Recreational Complex has several small and large priorities that were identified for the Parks Board to be address over the next five years. The top priority identified is to add two youth soccer fields to the complex. The Board has identified grants to help complete this, and the Board plans to complete this in 2022-2023 fiscal year. This would require leveling the field, additional soccer equipment, and additional field equipment to paint the field on a regular basis.

Other large projects to be prioritized include, building a shelter near the concession stand, adding to the current children's play area with additional equipment, adding an additional soccer field that is adult sized in the complex, as both planned soccer fields in the complex at the moment are youth sized, and completing the paving of the trail surface around the complex (currently, it is partially paved, the Parks Board has been paving it in sections over the course of several years).

One small project that has been identified by the Board to add a program to the walking trail that includes signs of interest along the trail, which could easily be completed in 2022 or 2023, or has been suggested as a great Eagle Scout or Gold Scout project.

The Board has discussed and identified that there are likely going to be significant grants coming available for the soccer fields because of the soccer complex planned for Downtown Des Moines. Those will offset the cost for the soccer improvements planned for the complex.

The Board will likely prioritize one large project at Burnett per fiscal year over the next five years as the budget allows and will apply for applicable grants as they come available.

Raccoon River Trailhead & Heritage Park

The only large project identified for the trailhead and Heritage Park is to put in a pavilion for community use, and to give the park more identity. The Board has applied for grants to fund this project and is currently trying for additional grants to fund this project.

The Board has also tried to identify a useful feature that could go underneath of the location of the ice rink when the ice rink is not installed and is currently still investigating what surfaces are compatible underneath

the ice rink structure. Once identified, the Board will likely try to prioritize putting this feature in that space in the earlier part of the next five years.

Dallas Center Rotary is donating supplies and equipment to put in a bocci ball court, a horseshoe ring, and a little library to hold equipment. This is likely to be installed in 2022.

Conclusion

The projects planned for completion in 2021-2022 fiscal year are the Mound Park basketball court, disc golf signage in Memorial Park and Memorial Park signage off Walnut, adding two youth soccer fields in the Burnett Recreational Complex, a concrete walkway from the parking lot to the walking trail at Burnett Recreational Complex, and starting work on a concrete pad for an eventual shelter.

Likely slated over the course of the following years the Parks Board would discuss prioritizing the full replacement of the upper play area in Mound Park, resurfacing the north parking lot in Mound Park, completing the walking trail around the Burnett Recreational Complex, or creating east end parking at Memorial Park as those are likely the largest projects that require the most funds in the next five years, and in the absence of significant grant funding, could not be completed in the same fiscal year.

Other medium sized projects to be prioritized include adding additional sidewalk lighting in Mound Park, completing the sidewalk around the perimeter of Mound Park, improving the parking at Memorial Park, completing the sidewalk to the parking lot at the Burnett Recreational Complex, completing a shelter at the Burnett Recreational Complex, adding a children's play area at the Burnett Recreational Complex, adding an adult soccer field at the Burnett Recreational Complex, adding an additional feature at Heritage Park that coincides with the ice rink the other part of the year, as well as adding locally created art in all of the parks across Dallas Center. These projects will likely be prioritized not all at once, but over the course of the next five years, with plans to have them all completed at the end of the five-year period as the budget allows. The Board will apply for applicable grants as they come available to offset costs for any and all projects.

Small projects identified by the Board include adding signs of interest along the walking trail in Burnett Recreational Complex, which as the Board has pointed out, would make an excellent Eagle Scout or Gold Scout project, and updating the disc golf signage in Memorial Park, which is already slated for completion in the next fiscal year. Other small projects that come up such

as memorial trees, brush clearing, program development, activities, parks-sponsored events, proposed Eagle Scout or Gold Scout projects and alike are addressed on an ongoing basis by the Board.

Appendix A

Preliminary Priority Parks Periodical, First Annual

Parks and Recreation Priority Setting Planning Document									
Options are ranked from earliest to latest priority by park									
Option #	Bob	Mary	Ken	Amy	Gary	Nadine	Kelly	Mean	Planned Enhancement
For Mound Park									
E	5	3.5	4	3	4	3	5	3.93	Update the upper play area
F	2	1	5	5	5	5	1	3.43	Resurface the north/south/both parking lot(s)
A	0	0	5	5	5	5	4	3.43	Build a new basketball court in the south parking lot
D	4	3.5	3	4	0	3	4	3.07	Add more lighting near sidewalks
B	4	0	3	4	0	4	5	2.86	Complete a sidewalk around perimeter of Mound Park
C	1	1	1	0	2	2	3	1.43	Add locally created art within the park
For Memorial Park									
I	3	3.5	5	4	5	5	5	4.36	Provide better disc golf signage
H	3	3.5	3	4	3	3	4	3.36	Create/expand a natural play area
K	2	0	4	1	3	3	3	2.29	Pave the existing parking lot & improve parking
J	1	0	1	2	4	4	1	1.86	Create an east end parking area off Fair View
G	1	0	1	2	0	2	5	1.57	Build a splash pad
For the Burnett Complex									
M	5	4	4	5	5	5	3	4.43	Create the two youth soccer fields
Q	4	5	3	4	4	4	2	3.71	Build the sidewalk to the parking lot
P	5	3	3	3	5	3	1	3.29	Build the shelter near the concession stand
L	2	5	5	5	2	2	2	3.29	Complete the trail surface around the park
O	3	2	4	3	4	3	5	3.43	Add more play equipment
N	1	0	4	5	4	4	1	2.71	Create the one adult soccer field
R	2	3	2	1	1	4	2	2.14	Add signs of interest along the walking trail
For the Heritage Park									
T	5	5	5	3	0	4	3	3.57	Build a roller hockey/basketball court in the ice rink location.
S	0	0	5	1	0	2	2	1.43	Place an age 6-8 soccer field in the ice rink location.
Other Areas in town									
Y	5	5	3	1	2	4	1	3.00	Open up underbrush & add canopy trees by RRVt east of Spurgeon
U	4	1	1	2	3	4	3	2.57	Create a community garden in Spurgeon area
X	3	1	3	3	3	2	4	2.71	Create the 8th Street link to RRVt & Schools
W	3	1	0	0	1	4	2	1.57	Create 1 or 2 Pocket Parks downtown
V	1	0	4	1	1	0	4	1.57	Create a Dog Park somewhere

Appendix B

Mound Park Basketball Court Diagram from March 6, 2021 Parks Meeting

Mound Park – Proposal

Dallas Center, Park and Recreation Board
March 6, 2021

Includes:
Basketball court options
Parking lot options

These are merely proposal options for consideration.

Discussion from the board present at the 3/6 meeting from attendees and community members:

Preference is South Lot – Option 2 was most popular with only one person sharing that North lot – Full court option was preferred, and that South Lot Option 2 still felt amenable to them.

Mound Park – South Lot Option 1



Existing:

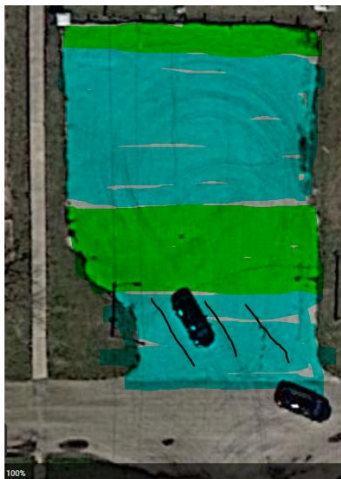
- 80' (N/S) x 83' (E/W) lot
- 24' set back from the road
- Not 'square'
- 6 car length width driveway

Proposed:

- Narrow the driveway
- Marked for 16 total parking spots
- 2 of the 16 are accessible
- 24' set back from road
- 80' x 80' lot



Mound Park – South Lot Option 2



Proposed: Remove the parking lot and add a full basketball court.

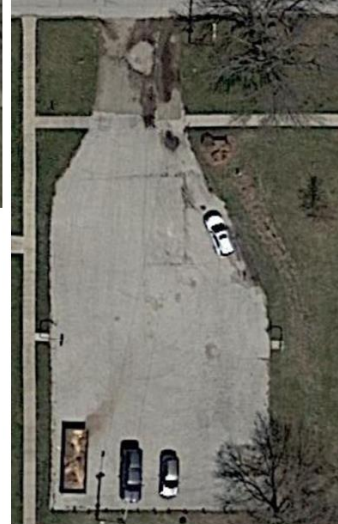
- Added green space (Green highlight)
- Full BB court to run 50' (N/S) x 84' (E/W) – this extends current surface by ~1'. Would require leveling.
- Keep current apron to street for angle parking or head in parking. (options shown).
Approx 4 spaces diagonal (left) and 6 spaces head in parking (right)



Mound Park – North Lot Existing

Existing:

- 117' (N/S) x 83' (E/W) lot at the widest (S end)
- 58' set back from the road
- Not 'square'
- Park signage near entrance, blocking room for additional parking
- On the South end of the lot, a sidewalk now connects to the lot from the accessible playground. It intersects at 42' from the West side and at 39' from the East side.



Mound Park – Proposal 1

- Move Park signage to the N side of the street. The set back is quite large and it would be seen more easily by passers-by
- Reduces parking lot to 83' (E/W) x 60' (N/S)
- Adds some green space
- Allows for arborvitae trees between court with 7' between court and lot pavement
- Hoops would be on E/W ends
- ½ BB court, allows for expansion to a larger full size court in the future (see next Full court view)
- Risk: Disconnects the new Accessible sidewalk from playground to lot. Either would need to extend to lot or up to N/S running sidewalk.



Mound Park – Full court look

- Move Park signage to the N side of the street. The set back is quite large and it would be seen more easily by passers-by
- Reduces parking lot to 83' (E/W) x 60' (N/S)
- Adds some green space
- Allows for arborvitae trees between court with 7' between court and lot pavement
- Hoops would be on E/W ends
- Full BB court
- Risk: Disconnects the new Accessible sidewalk from playground to lot. Would need to extend to N/S running sidewalk.
- This would add 1' running E/W to the current size of the paved area



Mound Park – Proposal 2

- Move Park signage to the N side of the street. The set back is quite large and it would be seen more easily by passers-by
- Reduces parking lot by removing the size of the ½ BB Court from the SE corner.
- Allows for arborvitae trees between court with 7' between court and lot pavement
- Hoops would be on E/W ends
- Sidewalk connects directly to where the 2 accessible parking spots are.
- RISK: Need to ensure lines are painted as there could be risks in parking on the NW side, mid area when Accessible parking is entering spaces. Need to ensure appropriate space provided for entry/exit.



Mound Park – Proposal 3

- Leave sign and extend parking around the sign on the S side.
- The remaining scope for proposal 1 or 2 would remain.
- This would remove 2 potential spaces from the lot and pinch entry / exit further.



References

A City in a Park: Dallas Center Park System, ISU Community Design Lab (Sept. 2018).

BestPlaces.Net/Climate/County/Iowa/Dallas

Census.Gov

DallasCenter.Com