

Dallas Center Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

09/04/18 Minutes

In Attendance: Robert King; Ken Matteson; Mark Mernone; Dan Oberender;; Mary Werch; Gary Licht (community)

Absent: Kathy Pantzar

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. **Motion:** Approve agenda for tonight's meeting (**motion made by:** Dan; **seconded by:** Mark)
 - b. **Results:** Approved (5-0)
3. **Approve minutes of the August 8,2018 meeting**
 - a. **Motion:** Motion to approve minutes of the 08/08/18 (**motion made by:** Bob; **seconded by:** Dan)
 - b. **Results:** Approved (5-0)
4. **Public Communications-** none
5. **ISU study-next step, Public Forum September 18,2018**
 - a. **Discussions-** We discussed format for public forum, we are going to have go through each park space identify three strategic levels of goals (immediate, mid-term, long-term) using an interactive model of presentation to give input into these strategic levels. We are going to work to make the presentation available on-line possibly to be included in the minutes that are posted on city website. There will also be a presentation to the city council as well. Bob will coordinate the details of the presentation with Chad and Carl from ISU Community Design Lab
 - b. **Motion:** no action needed
 - c. **Results:** n/a
6. **Use of Burnett Sports Complex by International Soccer League**
 - a. **Discussion:** The ISL has requested use of the unused soccer field space at the complex for some of their games and/or practices on the weekend. They have offered to put up the nets and stripe the field. Discussed logistical issues such as parking and kybos.
 - b. **Motion:** Allow ISL to utilize Burnett Complex for playing and/or practicing soccer.Kybos to be moved over near the soccer field and ISL to have their participants parked in designated parking areas only not on the grass itself. (**motion made by:** Bob;**seconded by:** Mark)
 - c. **Results:** Approved (5-0)
7. **Pool pass pricing and discussion with the sales in the spring.**
 - a. **Discussion-** It has been mentioned by some in our community that the season pass prices for the Adel aquatic center are the same as our season pass with our pool not having the same attraction features as and being smaller than the Adel pool. In examining this issue the discussion did acknowledge the differences in the pools however we also need to help cover the expenses of operating the pool and there is the convenience factor of having the pool in town where many kids can walk to the pool. The cost for the pass during the early sale is lower than the Adel pass is lower and it is our understanding that the Adel pool has a price for residents and one for non-residents while our pool does not make any differentiation. One of the things that we could do is extend our early pass sale into mid-April, this would allow more time for families to take

advantage of the reduced price. We also still offer a punch card so those who may not want a season pass but still want to purchase more than once at a time. Additional discussion was held about making a nanny pass available. The Friends of the Dallas Center pool would like for us to consider adding to the pool pass some type of opportunity to donate towards the new pool. There would be some logistical issues that would be need to be worked out such as if someone uses a check there has to one check for the pool pass and another check for their donation towards the pool so that the monies are kept separate; however the board is not opposed to this idea.

- b. **Motion:** Extend pre-season sale, offer the opportunity to donate to the new pool with the purchase of the pass, and offer a nanny pass with the family pass at a slightly higher price. (**Motion made by:** Bob; **seconded by:** Ken)
 - c. **Results:** Approved (5-0)
8. **Replacement of sign at Mound Park-**
- a. **Discussion-** The sign at Mound Park needs replaced and Scott Deaver has offered to replace it. It would be an opportunity to get a design and see if it possibly could be one that we could use in all of the parks since we are looking to being some uniformity to the signage across all of the parks.
 - b. **Motion-** Recommend that Scott be asked to present a design option to be presented to the board. (**Motion made by:** Bob; **Seconded by:** Mark)
 - c. **Results:** Approved (5-0)
9. **Cooperative agreement on library request for city LOST funds**
- a. **Discussion-** The library has presented a proposal that a portion of the Capital Improvements funds(not LOST funds) be given to towards the new pool.
 - b. **Motion:** Move to express general agreement with proposal by the Library board that they will present to the city council regarding the Capital Improvement funds. (**motion made by:** Bob; **seconded by:** Ken)
 - c. **Results:** Approved (5-0)
10. **Ordering Items for tennis/ice rink**
- a. **Discussion:** Since we are proceeding with the tennis court project and the removable post holes need to be figured in when the new court is poured so the equipment (Posts and sleeves) need to be a part of the process. Current quote on equipment is from 2017.
 - b. **Motion:** Move that Brian get us a new quote on the striping of the tennis courts and Bob check on the posts and have the city(Cindy) purchase the posts and tennis nets. (**motion made by:** Bob; **seconded by:** Dan)
 - c. **Results:** Approved (5-0)

11. Adjourned

Next Meeting:

Public Forum: 09/18/18 at 7pm at City Hall

Regularly Scheduled Meeting 10/02/18 at 7pm Roy R Estle Memorial Library



A City in a Park

DALLAS CENTER PARK SYSTEM: MASTER PLAN


Prepared By: Iowa State University Community Design Lab | May 2018

CDL
community design lab



Iowa State University Community Design Lab
2321 N. Loop Dr.
Suite 121
Ames, IA 50010
515.294.2213
isucdl@iastate.edu
research.design.iastate.edu/communitydesignlab

Director: Carl Rogers
Design Fellow: Chad Hunter
Research Assistant: Shan He

An aerial photograph of a park area, showing a dense canopy of green trees. A light-colored, winding path or stream cuts through the forest. In the upper right, there's a clearer area with some buildings and a parking lot. The overall tone is natural and serene.

DALLAS CENTER PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

Inventory & Analysis

GDL



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Working in collaboration with the Iowa State University Community Design Lab (CDL), the Dallas Center Parks and Recreation Board have developed this master plan for expanding and enhancing the Dallas Center park system. The direction of the plan is rooted in the goals laid out by the board at the onset of the project. As part of the design process, the analysis and strategies were presented to the public at the 2018 Fall Fest, to gather community input. The following document represents the inventory and analysis of the existing system and the strategic vision that has been developed to date to guide future park updates and additions to the system.



PARK SYSTEM GOALS

Connectivity

Enhance physical and visual connectivity between parks

Identity

Establish a cohesive identity for park system while maintaining individual identities at each park

Encourage Use

Add additional features and implement updates that encourage use of the parks and increased participation in physical activity especially by the teen and tween population

Accessibility

Make parks safer and more convenient to get to and utilize

New Parks

Identify the location and need for adding parks in the system

Visibility

Increase the visibility and awareness of the parks for visitors to the community

Security

Improve safety and security within the parks

Program

Analyze existing programs and determine need for additional programs not currently offered

Policy Guidelines

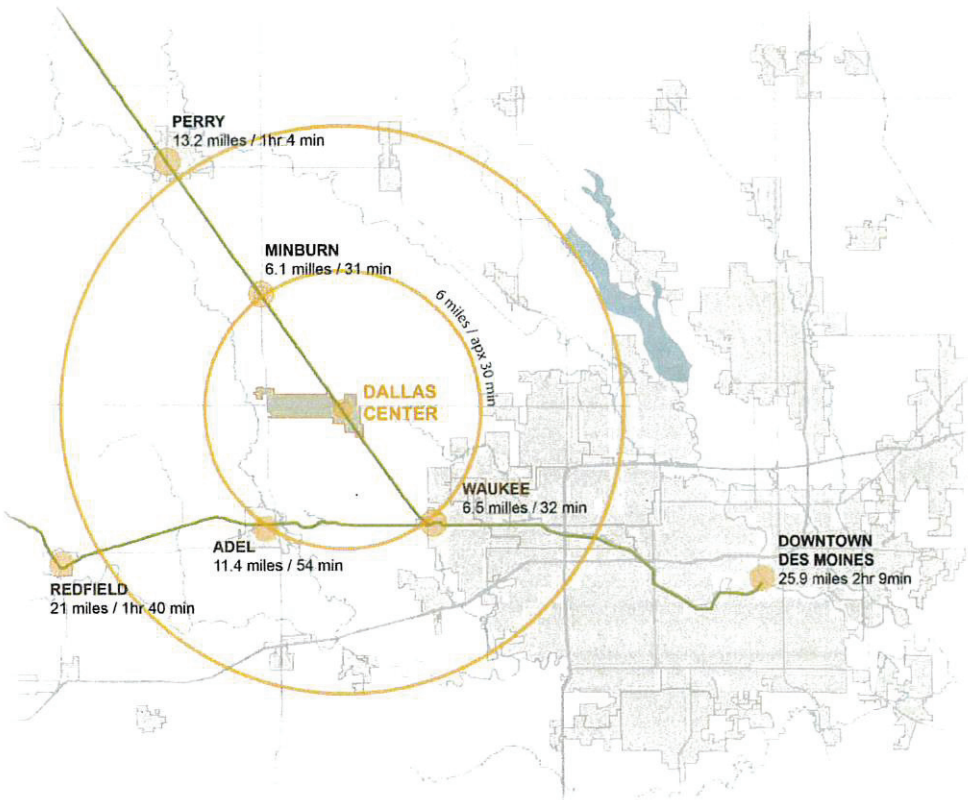
Guide recommendations for open space planning requirements related to zoning and land use regulations

Signage

Develop signage and wayfinding to increase park awareness and use. Provide recommendations for locations and types of interpretive signage and wayfinding

Dallas Center is located in central Iowa, northwest of Des Moines. For its size, this community of 1600 people has a substantial park system with great amenities. There are three main parks in the community, a public pool, and the Raccoon River Valley Trail passing diagonally through the heart of the community. The Brenton Arboretum, which is a notable regional attraction, is also located less than four miles south of town.

The Raccoon River Valley Trail is a great asset for Dallas Center. The trail provides a unique, safe way to connect to neighboring communities and into Des Moines. The trail attracts visitors to Dallas Center and provides residents with access to other communities. Being located along the trail may attract new residents who are looking to live in communities with active transportation and recreation opportunities.



Dallas Center's three primary parks all have very different identities, from highly programmed to more open and natural spaces. The parks do not currently share any major common characteristics that link them as part of the same system. Even within the parks the styles and types of landscape elements can be quite varied making it hard to determine a cohesive identity for the individual parks. As a whole the community parks provide a wealth of programs for people to enjoy and are so close in proximity that they are fairly easy to access even on foot from almost anywhere in the core of the city. Beyond the core there are other opportunities to engage with larger regional amenities and natural spaces along the river.

LEGEND

- Parks & Greenways
- Commercial/Industrial Business Nodes
- Schools
- 1 Downtown Business District
- 2 Library & Depot
- 3 Lena Moser Memorial Swimming Pool
- 4 Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School
- 5 Dallas Center Elementary School
- 6 Private Trailhead & Food Truck Parking
- 7 North Raccoon River Wildlife Area

MOUND PARK

- Historic city park
- Playground Equipment
- Tennis Court
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Basketball Court
- Shelters
- Skating Rink
- Open Lawn for Flexible Programming

MEMORIAL PARK

- Neighborhood park
- Disc Golf Course
- Walking Trail
- Shelters
- Playground Equipment
- Open Lawn for Flexible Programming

BURNETT COMPLEX

- Recreation facility
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Soccer Fields
- School Track
- Shelters
- Walking Path

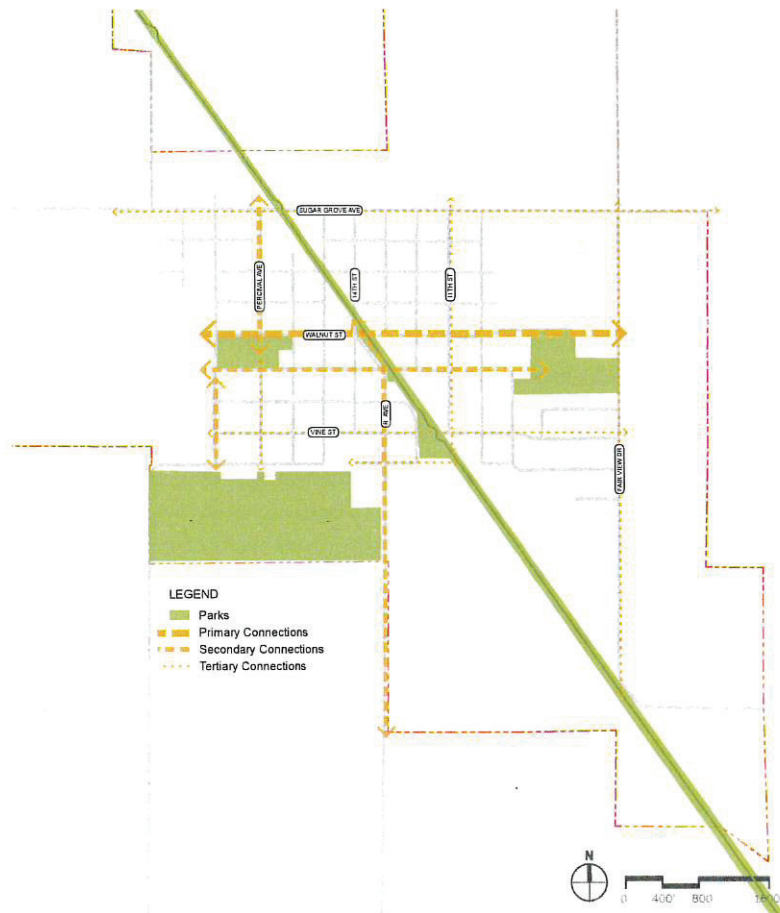
BRENTON ARBORETUM

- Tree & Shrub Collections - Over 450 Species
- Education Opportunities
- Restoration & Conservation Areas

RACCOON RIVER VALLEY TRAIL

- 89 Mile Trail
- Connecting 15 Communities & Into Des Moines
- Paved Path





A primary goal of the community park plan is to create better connections and accessibility between the parks and within the community. Enhancing the connections will help to transform individual parks into a park network. The following streets are those that provide strong links between the three parks, downtown, the schools and the Raccoon River Valley Trail



Walnut St

- Main east west street through the heart of the community
- Connects Mound and Memorial Park at their northern boundaries and bisects the main street district and trail hub at the center of town
- This link however is not apparent from either park nor at the center of town



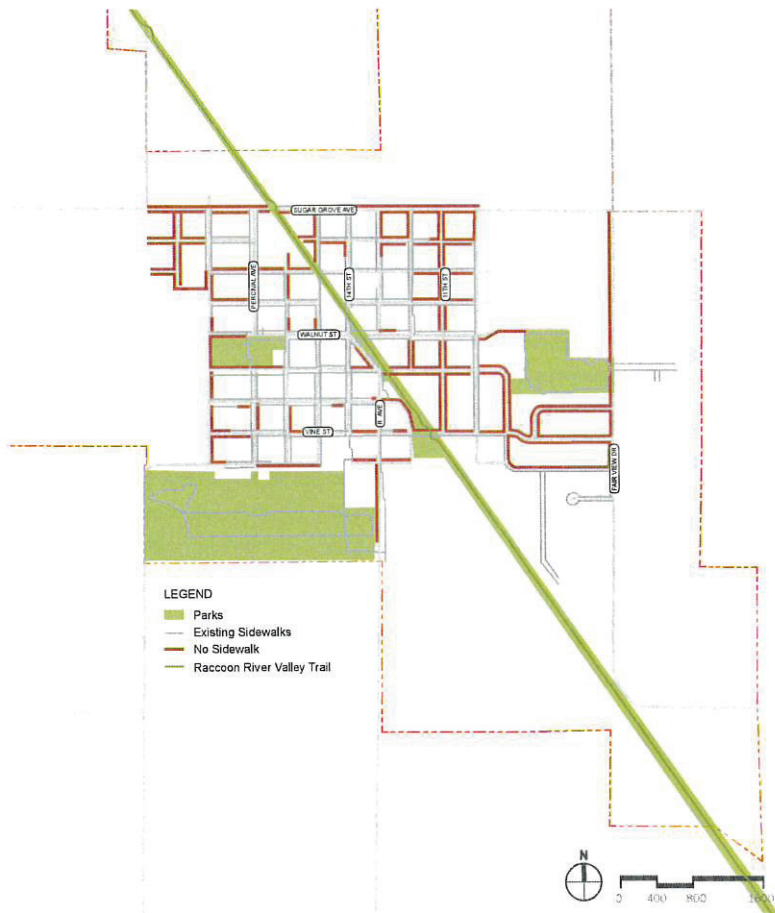
Percival Ave

- Connects Mound Park with the Burnett Recreation Complex, though the road does not continue through the park
- As a trail this link could be more realized
- Biker's Haven on the north end of town and Burnett Recreation Complex on the south are the road's bookends



Fair View Ave

- provides the eastern border of the community and is the most direct route from Hwy 44 to Memorial Park, if an east entrance was established
- As new development continues to the southeast a connection along Fair View becomes more necessary
- Potential to establish a smaller community park and connection to the Raccoon River Valley Trail at the south end of town which would increase Fair View's use and importance



The availability of sidewalks is hit or miss throughout the community, which reduces accessibility for pedestrians. Unfortunately accessibility is reduced around the parks, especially Memorial Park. The roads that lead to Memorial Park are also in need of repair.

As well, Mound Park has a lack of sidewalks surrounding it, especially on the south and west sides.

The Raccoon River Valley Trail becomes a prominent and necessary feature for providing a safe, even and accessible surface through the community. Its link to the heart of the community and the community's commercial and civic institutions makes it even more relevant.



No Sidewalk



Basic Sidewalk



Shared Use Path



Wide Sidewalk With
Paving Detail



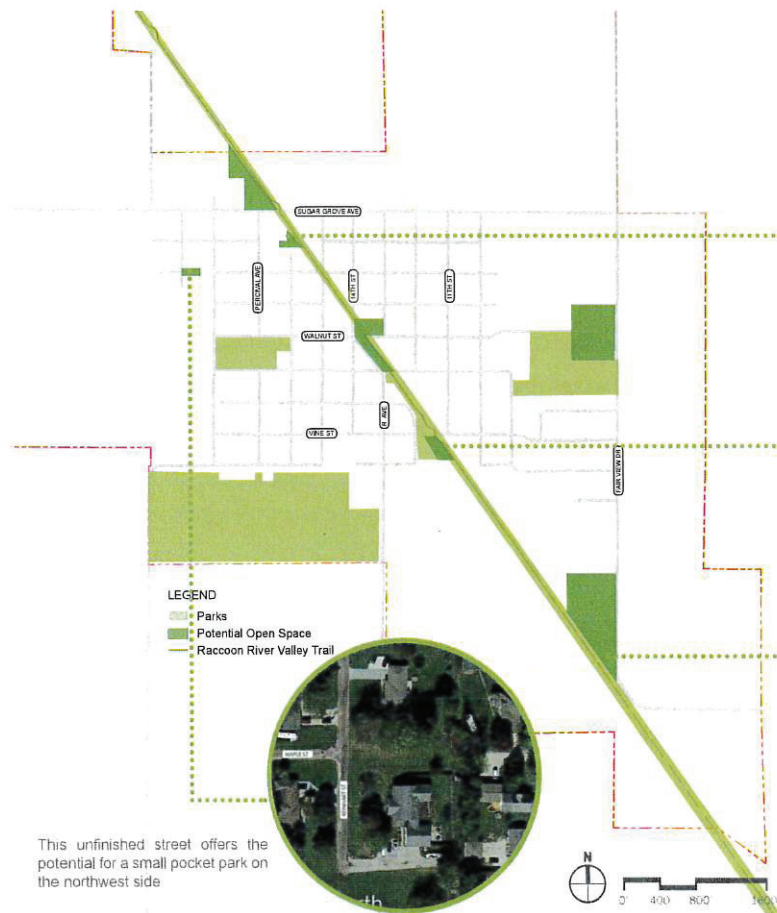
Detailed Paving with
Safety Features

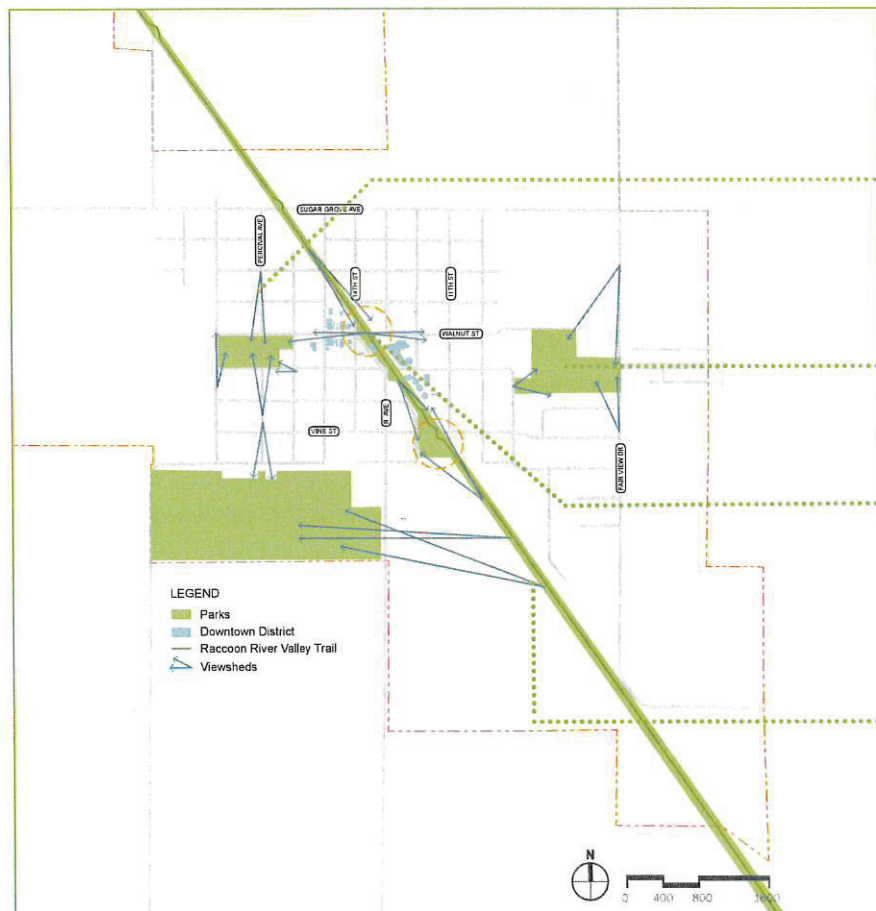


- Though 1/4 mile is not far to some, for aging populations this distance can become a barrier
- For younger children this distance may be too far to be away from home
- The area of town represented in the reddish tone represents residential properties that exist beyond the 1/4 mile distance from any of the three primary parks



- At 1/2 mile all of the residential properties within the main part of the city have access to one of the three primary parks
- In most cases all homes are within 1/2 mile of at least two of the parks.
- This distance may provide a planning and policy strategy for future development in other areas of the community, when related to a large park.
- The 1/4 mile distance then may be the needed proximity to open space in general. In which case additional green space/open space will need to be identified





Though the city of Dallas Center is not large, the parks remain fairly hidden from view to passers by on both the main roads and the trail. Better exposure of the parks along main roads and trails will increase awareness of them and potentially encourage greater use.

Mound Park has some nice vantage points along Percival Ave, because the road intersects with the heart of the park. However, this is not the street that motorists along HWY 44 are directed to.

Memorial Park does not come into view until you are very close to it. The stronger connection lies on Fair View Dr, however, there is not currently an official entrance or parking here. The west parking/entrance is not seen until you arrive at the park.

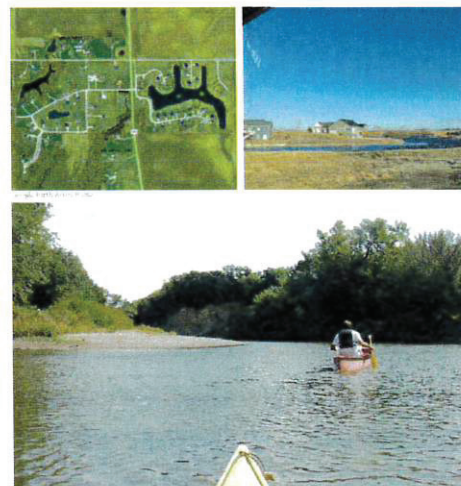
The trail head downtown and the pool site are directly connected with the Raccoon River Valley Trail and have greater exposure because of their proximity to other community assets such as the library, commercial district and the schools.

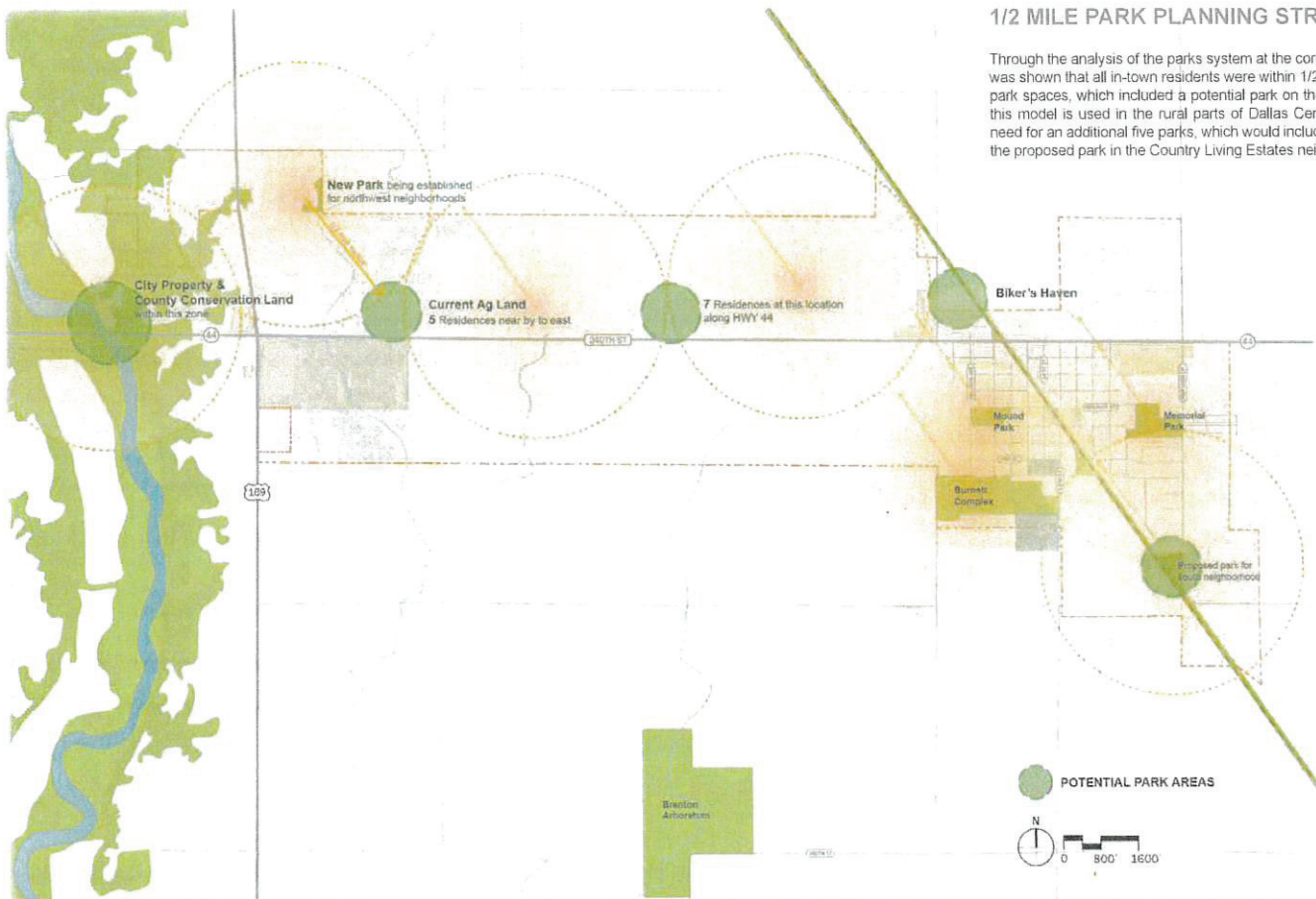
Burnett Recreation Complex is the only primary park visible, but still at great distance, from the Raccoon River Valley Trail. The public pool's adjacent landscape directly connects to the trail, which sets it up to become a more prominent space within the park system.



POTENTIAL WEST PARK SPACES

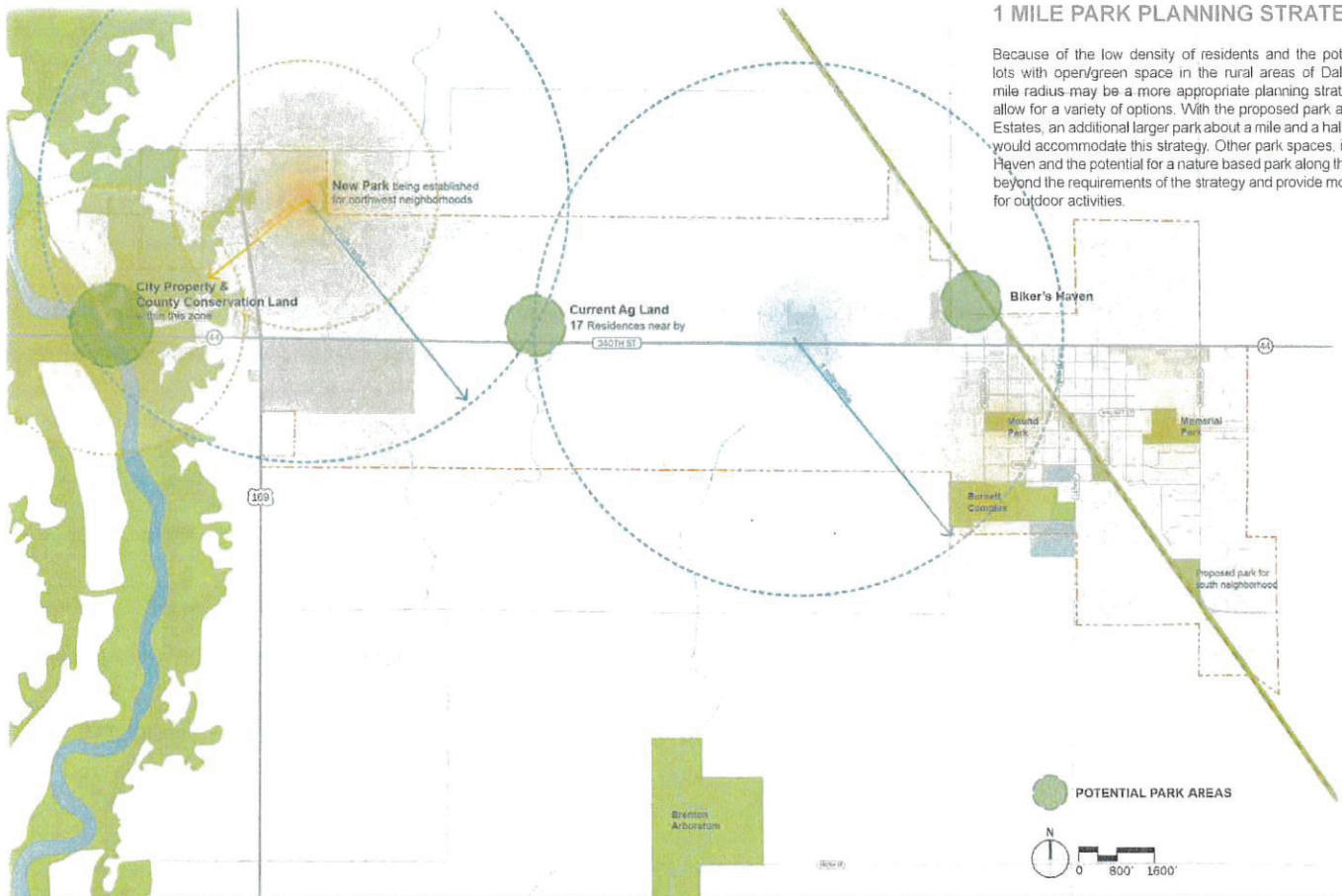
There are currently no established parks on the west side of Dallas Center. Within the Country Living Estates neighborhood, some land has been designated to become public open space. There are similar undeveloped properties in other west side neighborhoods that have potential to increase public green space and parks. Along the Raccoon River Greenway and Midland Trail, there are 3 city owned properties. If combined with adjacent land to connect them, these parcels could create a more nature based park for Dallas Center and tie into county conservation land as well.





1/2 MILE PARK PLANNING STRATEGY

Through the analysis of the parks system at the core of Dallas Center it was shown that all in-town residents were within 1/2 mile of the primary park spaces, which included a potential park on the south side. When this model is used in the rural parts of Dallas Center it highlights the need for an additional five parks, which would include Biker's Haven and the proposed park in the Country Living Estates neighborhood.



1 MILE PARK PLANNING STRATEGY

Because of the low density of residents and the potential for larger lots with open/green space in the rural areas of Dallas Center, a 1 mile radius may be a more appropriate planning strategy. This would allow for a variety of options. With the proposed park at Country Living Estates, an additional larger park about a mile and a half outside of town would accommodate this strategy. Other park spaces, including Biker's Haven and the potential for a nature based park along the river would go beyond the requirements of the strategy and provide more opportunities for outdoor activities.



Water storage infrastructure creates unique challenges for how it is included in the park programming and design



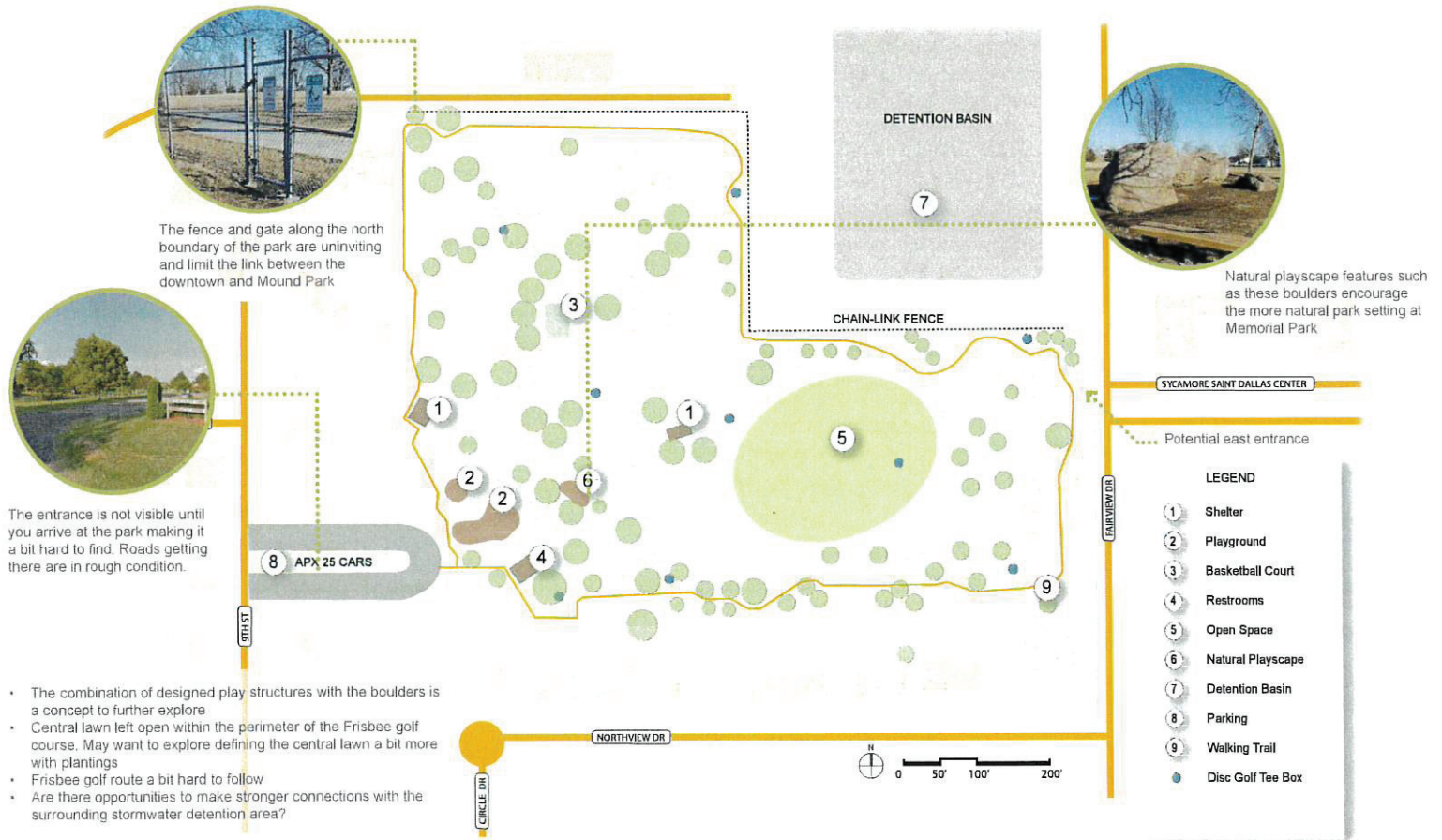
Skating rink is a rare feature within a park and could become a more integral component



The inclusion of basketball courts within the parking lot, limits the potential for a game if cars are present and can create unsafe conditions for those playing



- This park is loaded with programming
- The many features, structures, and landscape elements as well as the infrastructure have such varied styles and characteristics that it can feel a bit chaotic in terms of an identity
- Though this is the historic city park, it does not appear to have any significant historical elements or style presently
- The site elements feel as if they are operating independently of each other rather than integrated within a larger park concept
- Tennis court to be updated with ice skating option
- Potential to be a more modern park with activities to attract tweens and teens



- The combination of designed play structures with the boulders is a concept to further explore
- Central lawn left open within the perimeter of the Frisbee golf course. May want to explore defining the central lawn a bit more with plantings
- Frisbee golf route a bit hard to follow
- Are there opportunities to make stronger connections with the surrounding stormwater detention area?



North parking lots lack a sense of arrival and wayfinding



Great park setting along the tree-lined trails. The south trail provides an inviting link to the community and schools



Many ball fields compacted into the space allowing for lots of events and bringing people together around the common areas

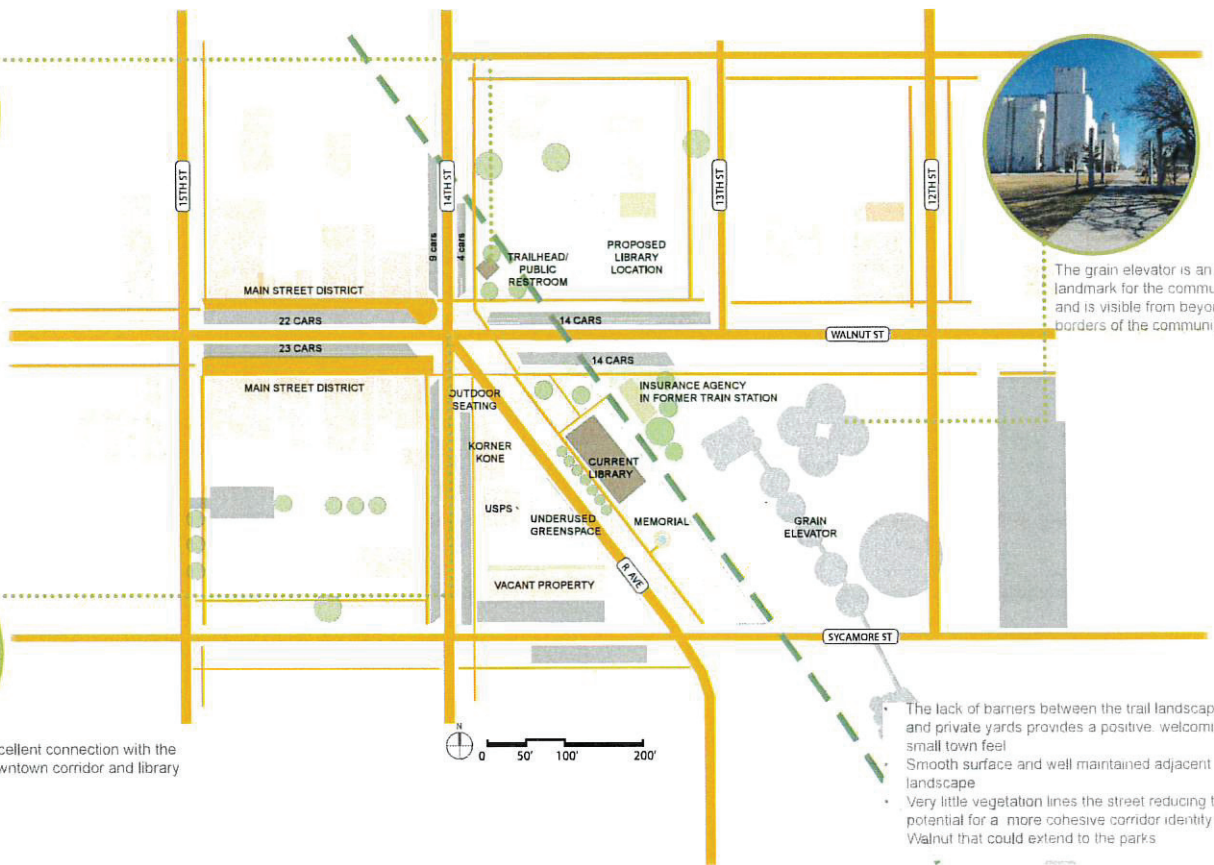
- Well maintained
- Awkward edge condition as it meets up with residential on the north side
- Paths into/between fields can be hard to navigate
- Some moments along the gravel paths take on a more park-like feel which helps to provide a more relaxed character to a highly programmatic space
- Unclear of which point is a primary entrance



Restrooms and bike station and nearby restaurants creates opportunities for visitors to exit the trail and potentially explore the community



Excellent connection with the downtown corridor and library



The grain elevator is an iconic landmark for the community and is visible from beyond the borders of the community

- The lack of barriers between the trail landscape and private yards provides a positive, welcoming small town feel
- Smooth surface and well maintained adjacent landscape
- Very little vegetation lines the street reducing the potential for a more cohesive corridor identity on Walnut that could extend to the parks



DALLAS CENTER PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

Park System Strategies

CDL



City in a Park Strategy



Google Earth
aerial photo

Capitalizes on the city's green landscape fabric and mature tree canopy

The mature tree canopy and green lawns which extend across Dallas Center provide a park-like landscape fabric that underlies the community. This lush fabric of green space along with the compactness of the community and axial organization of the primary parks creates a *community identity that is inviting and walkable*. The primary parks acts as expansions of this landscape fabric, offering *recreation activities and events that encourage use of the parks and healthy lifestyle choices*.



Walnut Street

Extends the reach of the parks and makes connections between them through Green Streets

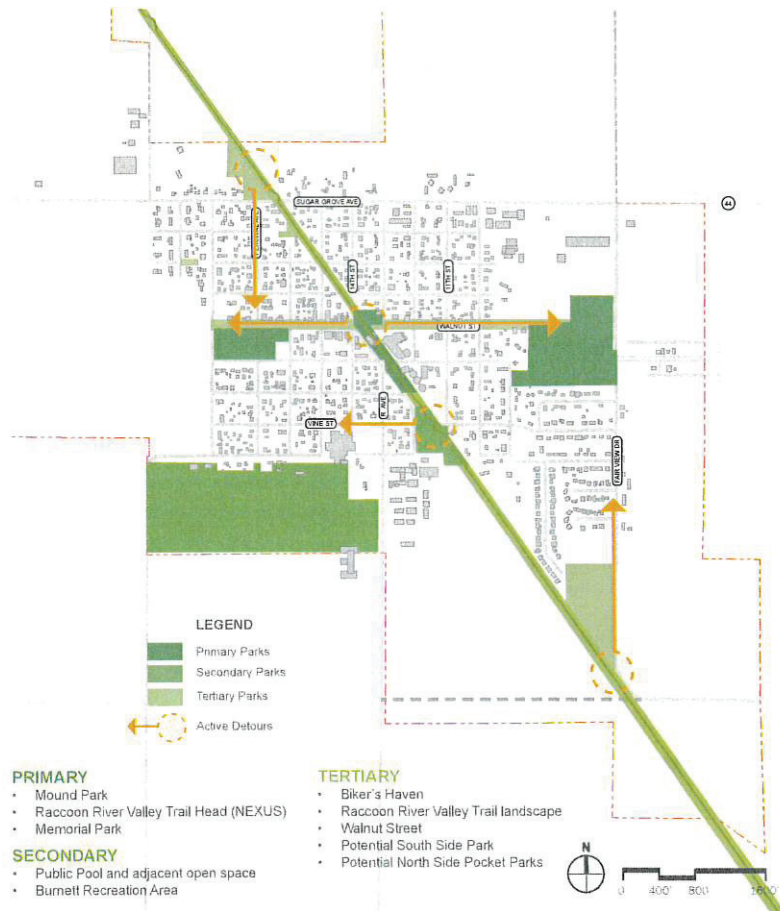
To increase the strength of the parks as a network and promote exploration, this strategy proposes *connecting the parks* through a series of green streets. These streets would be enhanced with streetscape improvements that would *increase accessibility, convenience and safety for pedestrians and cyclists*. These improvements would also build on and reflect the branding and identity components developed for the park system, including: Wayfinding, signage, lighting, trees and other plantings.



potential north side
pocket park

Introduces additional park space to the system

Based on locations of residential neighborhoods, distance to parks or open space, and the availability of undeveloped land, additional parcels have been determined for *new parks, to extend and enhance the park fabric*. These parcels will accommodate neighborhoods with less park opportunities and add *new park programs and amenities* to the park system as a whole.



Active Detours

sets up a hierarchy of parks based on their prominence in the community and the types of programming and amenities they do or could offer. In addition this strategy identifies key locations where trail side activities can provide the means for engaging cyclists and pedestrians using the Raccoon River Valley Trail to stop and explore Dallas Center. Each of these points acts as a detour into parks and onto routes that link to other parks and amenities in the town.



Biker's Haven

- Northern rest stop on the RRV Trail
- Offers food trucks and scenic walk
- Located at the north terminus of Percival Rd. connecting to Mound Park and Burnett Recreation Area



RRV Trail Head (NEXUS)

- Central hub at the intersection of the RRV Trail and Walnut St.
- Offers bike amenities and restrooms
- Immediate connection to the library and downtown amenities
- Centrally located on the axis between Mound and Memorial Park



Potential South Side Park

- Open space prime for a neighborhood park to serve the residents on the south side of town
- Could offer general park amenities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, and restrooms
- No programmed park activities currently exist this close to the trail



EXISTING TREE CANOPY ALONG WALNUT STREET

Walnut Street: Existing

- Main east west street through the heart of the community
- Connects Mound and Memorial Park at their northern boundaries and bisects the main street district and trail head at the center of town
- Current tree cover along Walnut is minimal to none in and around the downtown corridor



POTENTIAL GREEN STREET TREE CANOPY ALONG WALNUT STREET

Walnut Street: Green Street

- Additional plantings would help create a more inviting and walkable character for the street
- The Green Street identity would link the street to the park network
- Tree-lined streets will increase the comfort of the street environment to encourage greater exploration between parks



DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR

A key feature of Dallas Center is its vast mature tree canopy. This condition however, is not present along the primary business corridor of Walnut Street. The lack of vegetation here disconnects it from the surrounding neighborhoods and parks. Street trees could be inserted into the Walnut Street corridor in bump-outs that would be approximately the size of one to two parking spaces. This adds character to the business district, increases visual connectivity and while minimizing impact on available parking.



GREEN STREETS

Green streets should include updates to give them a park like quality while increasing accessibility and safety. These streets serve as the main route through the community and connecting the parks. Each of the identified Green Streets plays a role in the Active Detour strategy to get visitors off the trail and into the community and parks. To do this these streets will effectively be seen as a component of the park system. Dallas Center already has a great mature tree canopy throughout most of the community, with most roads in town having trees near the roadway creating a welcoming experience for the street. Green Streets should maintain that mature canopy along the routes and fill in where trees are not present in or adjacent to the right-of-way. This is most needed along Walnut, where vegetation is not present in and near the commercial district.

Green Streets will provide the most direct connections to the parks from the trail and from park to park. It is imperative that these streets are safe and convenient. Sidewalks along these streets should be updated where the condition has become poor and new sidewalks should be put in where there are gaps in the network. The minimum width for the sidewalks should be four feet (4'). Where new sidewalk is matching up with existing sidewalk, the width should match the existing.

Lighting is also key to creating safe, comfortable streets. At the very least lighting should illuminate each intersection and connection to the park. Having lighting along the route would help extend use of the routes into evening hours as well as define the identity of that street.

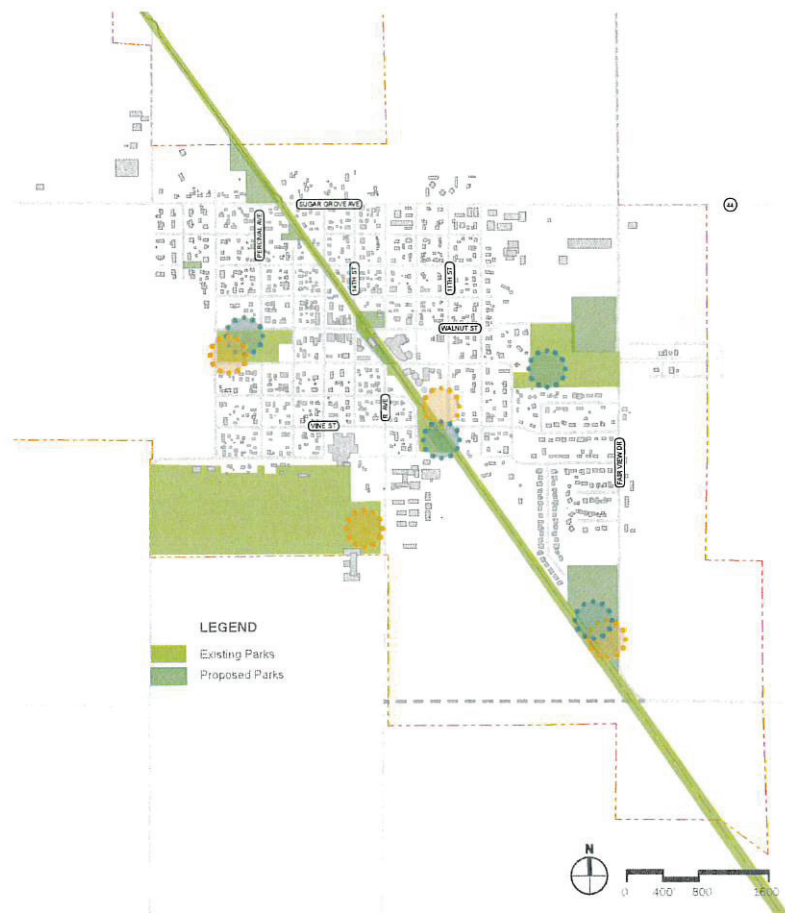
Because these streets will be the main detour for both pedestrians and cyclists, there will be a greater need for space and appropriate infrastructure to accommodate them safely and efficiently. Based on the road type, the volume of traffic and the type of traffic that is common on these streets, various infrastructure updates could be recommended, including:

- Bike Lanes
- Wide Shoulders
- Sharrows
- Shared Use Paths

All intersections along the Green Streets should have clearly marked crosswalks to increase safety. Crosswalks help encourage pedestrian and driver awareness.

Directional signage will be most important along the Green Street routes.

Most of the updates for the green streets require painting of bike route markings, trees or signage, and can be implemented at a fairly low cost.



Two park amenities that have been mentioned as possible updates are a splash pad and a skate park. The following highlights potential locations for those two features based on the introduced strategies. Depending on the determined location, the style and scale of the feature would vary.



Splash Pad

- **Mound Park:** Modern style looking to engage wide age range
- **Memorial Park:** Naturalistic in style to tie in with other nature play amenities
- **Pool:** Would act as an extension of the pool scape and be a potential detour activity from the RRV Trail
- **Proposed South Side Park:** Plenty of space and no determined program. Also adjacent to RRV trail and could become the active detour feature



Skate Park

- **Mound Park:** Modern style looking to engage tween and teen population, could replace existing skate track
- **RRV Trail Site:** This is a prominent visible location on open land belonging to Heartland Co-Op
- **Burnett Complex:** Near schools and other rec programming
- **Proposed South Side Park:** Plenty of space and no determined program. Also adjacent to RRV trail and could become the active detour feature

		Mound Park	Memorial Park	RRV Trail Head Central Hub	Burnett Complex	Public Pool (adjacent landscape)	Potential South Side Park	Potential North Pocket Parks	Biker's Haven (private)	Walnut Street Streetscape
Network Branding Opportunities	GENERAL LIGHTING									
	BENCHES									
	ENTRY/ACCESS									
	TREES									
	ADDITIONAL PLANTINGS									
	SIGNAGE									
	PARKING			on-street				on-street		on-street
	PUBLIC ART									
	PLAYGROUNDS									
	PICNIC SHELTERS									
	OPEN/EVENT SPACE									
	RESTROOMS									
	WALKING PATH/TRAIL									
	BASKETBALL									
	VOLLEYBALL									
	TENNIS									
	SKATING									
	DISC GOLF									
	BASEBALL/SOFTBALL									
	HORSESHOES									
	WATER PLAY									

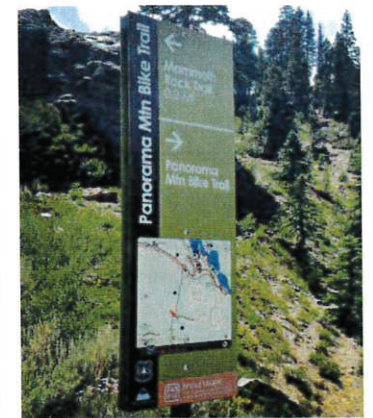
EXISTING AMENITY/ PROGRAM
 PROPOSED AMENITY/ PROGRAM
 AMENITY/PROGRAM TO BE ENHANCED

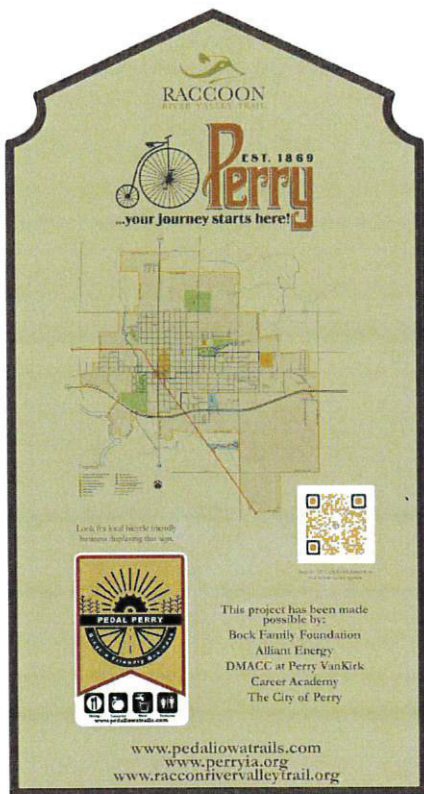
Each park and open space is unique and offers different opportunities and environments to its users. It is important that the parks continue to retain their individuality, but as a system they should compliment each other through the programs they offer and have some general branding features that tie them together as a team. The following table shows the programs and amenities that currently exist and offers concepts for expansion.



SIGN CONCEPTS

There are multiple styles and scales of signage that can be implemented in the parks. The primary goals should be: establish consistency in style throughout the park system, provide clear information to encourage utilization and encourage exploration, connect visitors to Dallas Center with engaging information about history or things to do within the community.



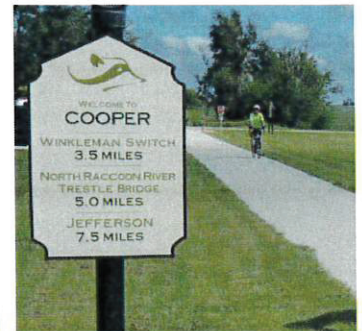


TRAIL SIGNAGE

The Raccoon River Valley Trail supports a variety of sign styles. There are smaller welcome signs, trail branding, and community signage as seen in the Perry sign to the left. The Parks and Recreation board have expressed interest in a sign of this type which could feature a map of Dallas Center, highlighting the parks and community amenities. There would be a space for sponsorship and the reverse side could give additional information about the community, its events and/or its history. This sign could be located at major nodes on the trail where the Active Detours strategies are implemented. Most importantly it would be located downtown at the Central Hub. A concept for that is pictured on the right.



Dallas Center Trail Sign Concept

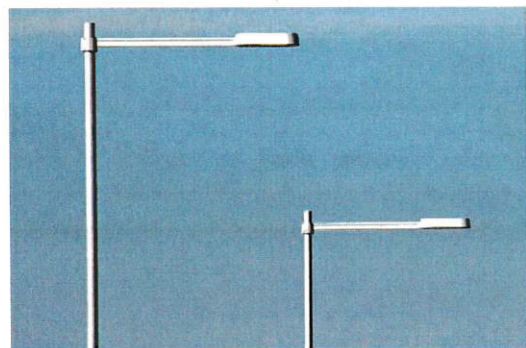


In all parks, lighting should be present and enhanced at entrances, major features and along paths. This will increase safety and security, highlight key areas and extend use. A consistent lighting regime throughout all of the parks will help establish a more cohesive park system identity. Community members have noted the need for lighting along paths and expressed concern over visibility in the parks in the evening hours especially if more activities are added to encourage use by the teen and tween population.

A modern, sleek street lamp would blend into the landscape, provide a contemporary updated look, and compliment other lighting used in town. A modern take on the historic lantern style, pedestrian-scale street lamps would also provide the contemporary update and establish a connection between the parks and the historic lantern style lighting along the Walnut Street business district.

Bollards can help define a walk or entrance area. It is important that the bollards be from the same design family or complimentary to the style of pole lights used in the park.

Lighting can also be integrated into features, such as bike racks, and provide a similar service as the bollard. The lit bike rack would show that the community caters to the biking population and is interested to promote active transportation.



Modern Street Lamp
landscapeforms.com




Modern/Historic Combination Style
landscapeforms.com



Bollard Lighting
landscapeforms.com



Bike Racks with Integrated-Lighting
landscapeforms.com

An aerial photograph of a park system, showing a dense grid of green spaces and light-colored paths. A central pond is visible, surrounded by trees and walkways. The overall tone is green and natural.

DALLAS CENTER PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

Park Strategies

CDL

CENTRAL HUB THEME

An urban park feel will compliment the character of the downtown. The Central Hub should be a plaza for social gathering, and be seen as a transition point from the trail to the library, downtown or toward other parks and amenities. The extent of the Central Hub would include the all of the adjacent trail landscape from Sycamore Street at the south end to 14th Street on the north.

The Hub is the location of civic activities in the community. Its immediacy to the main street area and prominence at the node of Walnut Street with 14th and 13th Street, R Avenue, as well as the Raccoon River Valley Trail, help to extend the presence of the downtown corridor to the east.

The site responds to the bike culture of the trail by offering recent updates such as restrooms, signage and a bike station. Additional signage should be included at this site to direct visitors to other key locations and encourage exploration of the community. Proposed vegetation will increase shade along the trail and add variety to the environments encountered along the trail as it passes through the community.

The coop elevator is an important feature in the town and should be visually incorporated into the park and downtown as a landmark and iconic symbol of the community.





1 Trailhead Restrooms and Bike Station

- Relatively new feature for the community which is serving visitors to the community.
- Picnic tables, drinking fountain and vending are also encouraging people to stop here.

2 Open Space for Activities

- Create open space that can be used for events sponsored through the library, by the city, or related to the trail. This space would also allow for larger groups passing through on the trail to stop and gather together before heading on or out into the community.
- Signage highlighting other opportunities and trails in the community would be posted adjacent to this space.

3 New Library

- The proposed library is slated for this space and will take up a large portion of the lot.
- Landscaping should be included around the parcel to create the park-like environment for this space.

4 Memorial

- Continue regular maintenance of this feature.

5 Grove

- Increase and vary plantings along the trail to create a diverse park-like environment and a variety of landscapes for those using the trail to experience.
- The grove can offer a shady place to sit and rest along the trail.

6 Current Library with New Function

- Once the library relocates, the old building will need a purpose that connects it to the trail and park landscape. Having businesses that are bicycle related or cater to cyclists could be a strong draw for the community.
- The strength of businesses like these has been shown in the communities along the High Trestle Trail.
- This structure could also be successful as a civic structure, like a community center or official city building.

Signage

- New signage in the style of the Raccoon River Valley Trail could provide information about other amenities and opportunities in town.
- The signage would show how visitors might take a quick tour of the town or spend some time at the parks and easily reconnect with the trail.

Parking

- There is ample street parking surrounding the Central Hub, which can accommodate the parks visitors.
- Depending on the success of the reuse of the existing library, additional parking may need to be considered in the future.

CENTRAL HUB UPDATES

Smaller Scale Projects/Catalyst Projects

- Increase and vary vegetation to create a more diverse park landscape and trail experience
- Install directional signage (Raccoon River Valley themed) to connect visitors with other opportunities in the community

Larger Scale Projects/Long-Range Vision

- Implement new library on north side of Walnut Street
- Redevelop existing library into trailside businesses or community/civic building



Landmark

rsu/cdl



Tree-lined Trail

rsu/cdl



Trailside Businesses

rsu/cdl

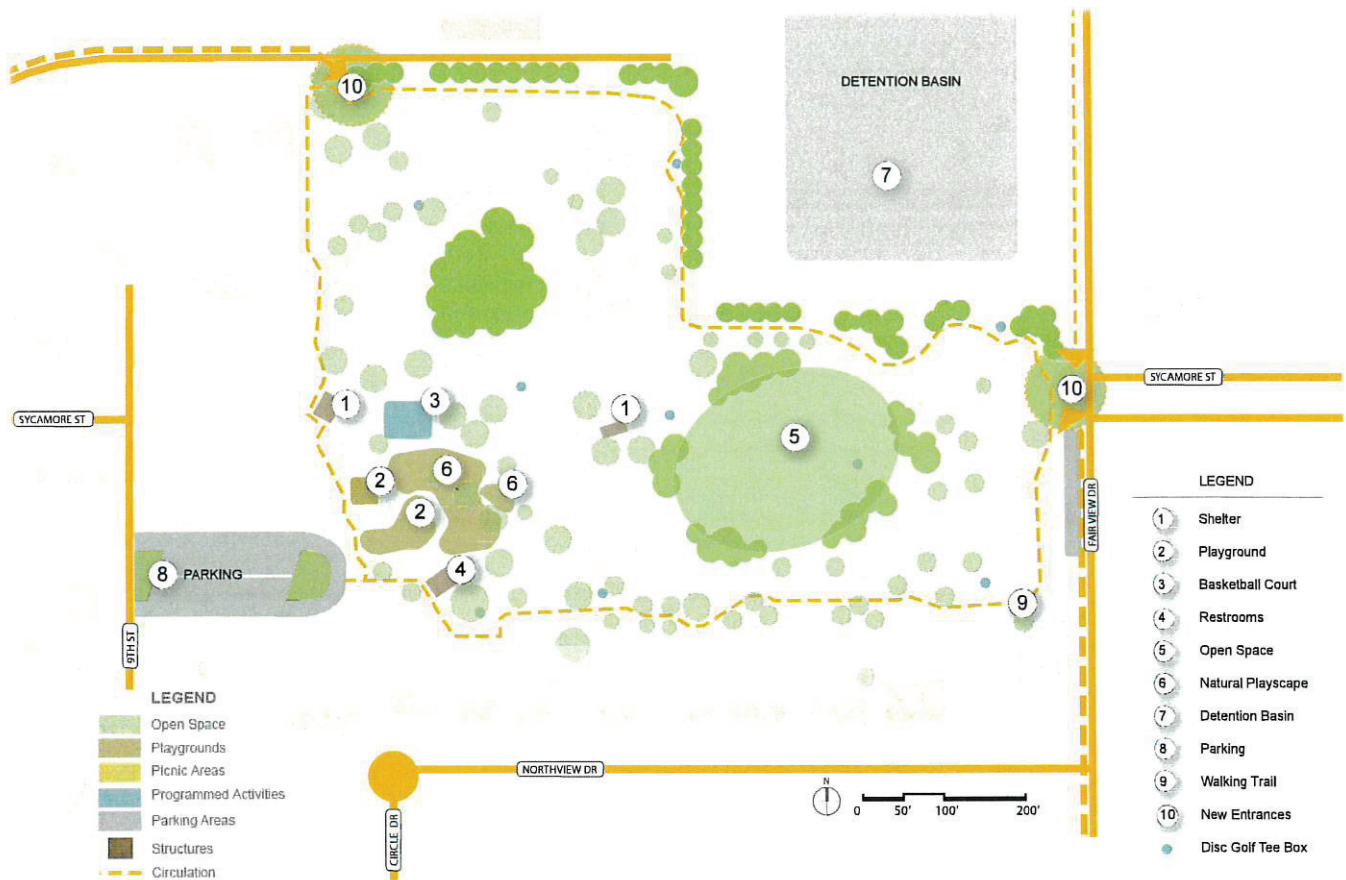
MEMORIAL PARK THEME

Memorial Park has a neighborhood feel, offering plenty of open space with a few programmed activities. The wide open spaces, combined with the large boulders and adjacent bioretention area increase the more naturalistic qualities in this park. This character can be enhanced through additional vegetation to define areas of the park, more natural playscape offerings and a stronger connection to or incorporation of the bioretention area into the park. The nature play and adventure play concept can be implemented through more hands on activities and naturalistic playground elements. A splash pad or water play area could be the highlight of this concept and be a major draw for the park and community.

Additional entrances on the north and east sides of the park are aimed at increasing connections between parks and the trail and being more inclusive of development on the east side of town.

The parking should be reconfigured to allow for centralized angled parking and keep the loop drive open for circulation.





1 Shelter

- Continue regular maintenance of this feature.
- New shelters added at a later date should maintain the style of the current structure.

2 Playground

- Continue regular maintenance of existing playground
- Compliment these standard play features with more nature play or adventure play components.

3 Basketball Court

- Remove current basketball court to bring programmed activity closer to the activity zone at the west entrance and out of the disc golf area.
- Introduce new full court basketball court or two half courts next to each other.

4 Restrooms

- Continue regular maintenance of this feature.

5 Open Space

- Define the open space with additional trees and landscaping.
- This will create a distinct gathering and activity area independent from the disc golf flow

6 Natural Playscape

- The nature play features will create a more naturalistic feel for this large neighborhood park
- Utilize nature play and adventure play elements to encourage more tactile and imaginative play
- A splash pad/water play area could be the highlight of the nature play area and help to define the identity of the park.

7 Detention Basin

- Incorporate the basin into the character of the park.
- Remove fence and allow for interaction.
- Including a path with benches around or near the basin will encourage interaction and create greater awareness of water management.

8 Parking

- Reconfigure parking lot so that parking occurs in the center with an outer loop drive.
- Maintain portions of the central berm on the ends to define the parking zone.
- Potential additional parking on the east side of the park along the street to make a stronger connection with Fair View Drive.

9 Walking Trail

- Continue regular maintenance of this feature.
- Potential for trail expansion around the detention basin.
- Connect the trail to an east entrance on Fair View Drive.

10 New Entrances

- Establish new entrances on the north side down from Walnut Street and on the east side along Fair View Drive.
- Remove the chainlink fence to create a more welcoming park edge.
- Add signage and landscaping to define entry locations.

MEMORIAL PARK UPDATES

Smaller Scale Projects/Catalyst Projects

- Create entry landscapes on north and east side
- Remove fence
- Define open lawn with trees and landscaping
- Add lighting throughout park, especially at entry points

Medium Scale Projects

- Install nature play and/or adventure play elements
- Reconfigure parking

Larger Scale Projects/Long-Range Vision

- Relocate basketball court closer to west entry; make one full court or two half courts
- Create a naturalistic splash pad / water play area
- Add trail and benches around detention basin



Integration of Stormwater Features
cfac.com



Adventure Play
ruadl



Naturalistic Splash Pad
freshmagnolia.com



Defined Clearing/Open Space
ruadl

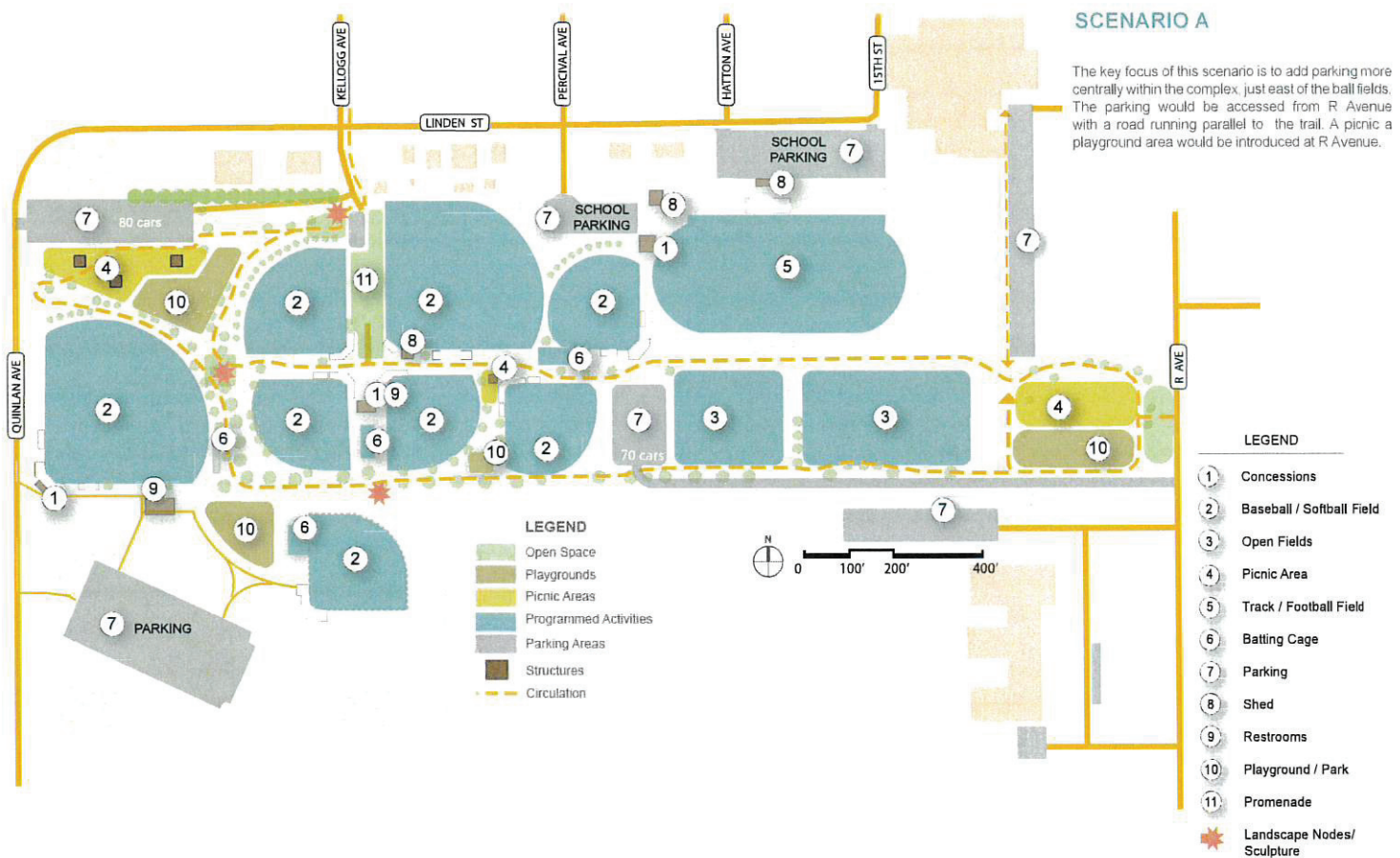
BURNETT COMPLEX THEME

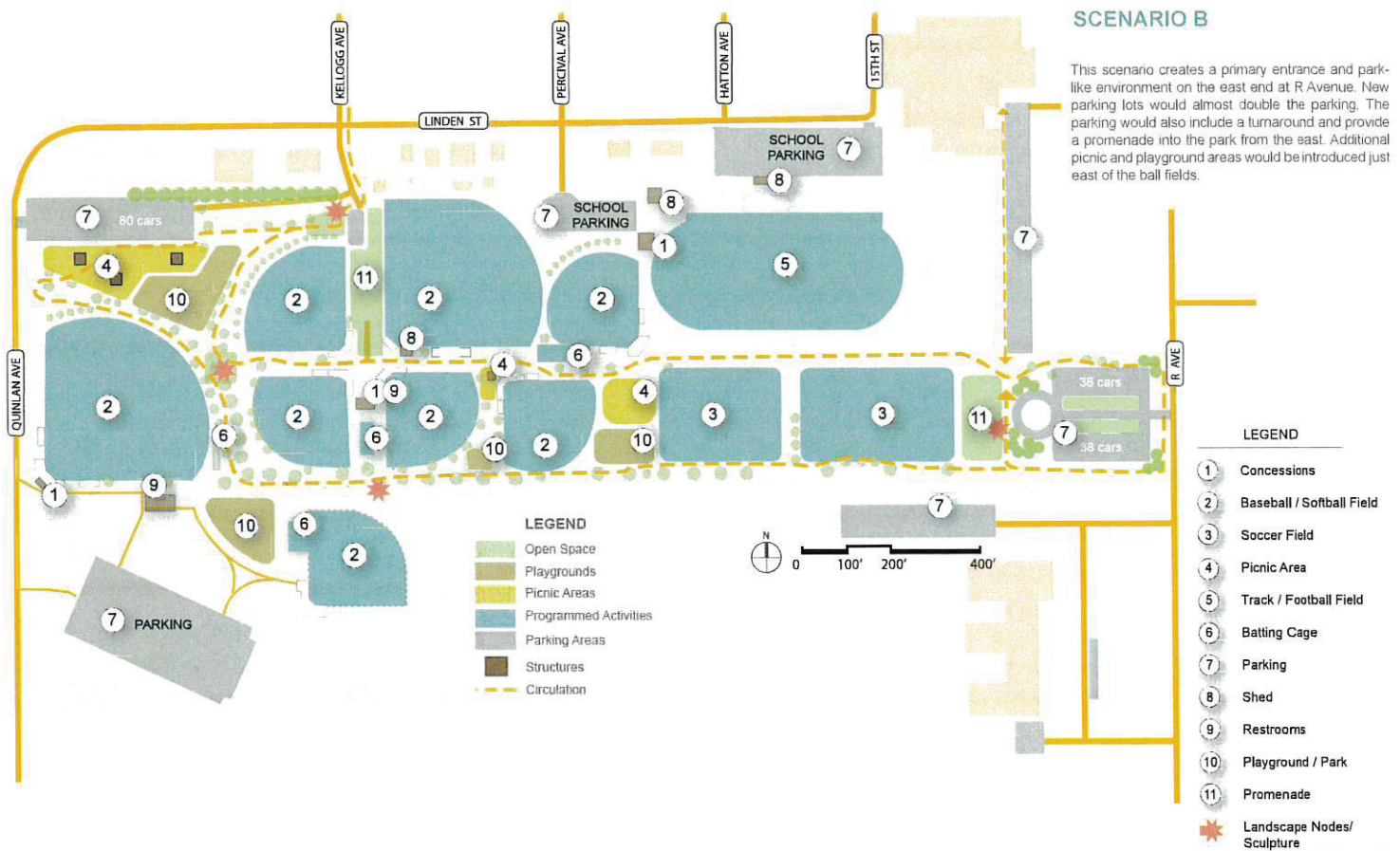
The primary strategies for the Burnett Complex is to create a more welcoming entry into the park and a more organized flow within it. This is accomplished through reorganization and expansion of parking to accommodate additional landscaping, promenades into the site and family picnic and play areas.

Through these updates the sports complex would take on a more park-like feel and offer programming and amenities that would extend the use of the space beyond game days. The playground and picnic areas would also provide activities for families to engage in while watching and waiting during games.

The following scenarios present different options for the east side of the park related to new parking, amenities and entry experience.







1 Concessions

- The concession stand/restrooms at the center of the park could be remodeled to modernize the park.
- The stand should maintain a set back slightly from the hub of circulation to keep crowds and lines independent of pedestrian flows.

2 Baseball/Softball Fields

- Continue regular maintenance of these features.

3 Open Fields/Soccer Fields

- Some of the space currently dedicated to open field activities is proposed to be removed to accommodate expansion of playground and picnic areas as well as additional parking on the east side of the park.
- The remaining spaces can be delineated as needed for various field events and soccer games.

4 Picnic Areas

- Dedicate space for social gathering and picnicking which can be used to accommodate those eating during games, but also to give the park more use when games are not on.
- Consistent style of picnic shelters within the park. Have picnic tables and trash receptacles with same style throughout park system.
- A larger shelter could be introduced which would allow the complex to be utilized for gatherings both sports and non-sports related.

5 Track/Football Field

- This is a public school amenity, but is connected visually into the complex.
- Coordination with the school system is essential in creating updates that will allow for mutually beneficial use of the space and circulation throughout.

6 Batting Cage

- Continue regular maintenance of these features.

7 Parking

- Reconfigure and expand parking to accommodate more cars and provide multiple access points.
- Parking currently located between the ball fields will be removed to create a landscape promenade into the site.
- Additional parking on the east end of the park will help establish this as an entrance to the Burnett Complex and give the site more awareness from R Avenue.

8 Shed

- Continue regular maintenance of this feature

9 Restrooms

- Remodel restrooms at central location with remodel of the concession stand

10 Playground Park

- New modern play equipment and play spaces to be integrated into a couple of locations in the park.
- These features will provide activities for children while waiting for siblings and friends playing sports at the complex.
- These features will also provide additional opportunities for people to utilize the complex for non-sports related events.

11 Promenade

- A landscape promenade will welcome people into the park and provide the sense of arrival. promenades are suggested for the north and east entrances.
- The promenade will provide a green and safe environment for pedestrians to walk in larger groups into the park. This will keep the larger flow of people out of parking areas and make arrivals and departures safer for pedestrians and drivers.

Trail

- The trail surface should be updated to be regular and even with broken chunks of asphalt removed.
- The trail would connect up and out to the entry points to bring pedestrians and cyclists into the park more effectively and safely

Landscape Node

- These nodes would help provide the sense of arrival and create a welcoming entry point into the park.
- The landscaping details would reduce the very programmatic and structured feel of the complex and enhance the more park-like quality of the space.
- The nodes could be further enhanced with sculptural elements that relate to the sports programming

BURNETT COMPLEX UPDATES

- Add play equipment in key locations to provide activities for the families of the spectators
- Reorganize parking to allow for a promenade entrance into the heart of the complex
- Establish an entry landscape to welcome both pedestrians, cyclists and those arriving by car
- Rearrange the concession stand to create more gathering space at the structure and reduce congestion along the central circulation routes
- Potential to add public art throughout, to enhance the landscape character



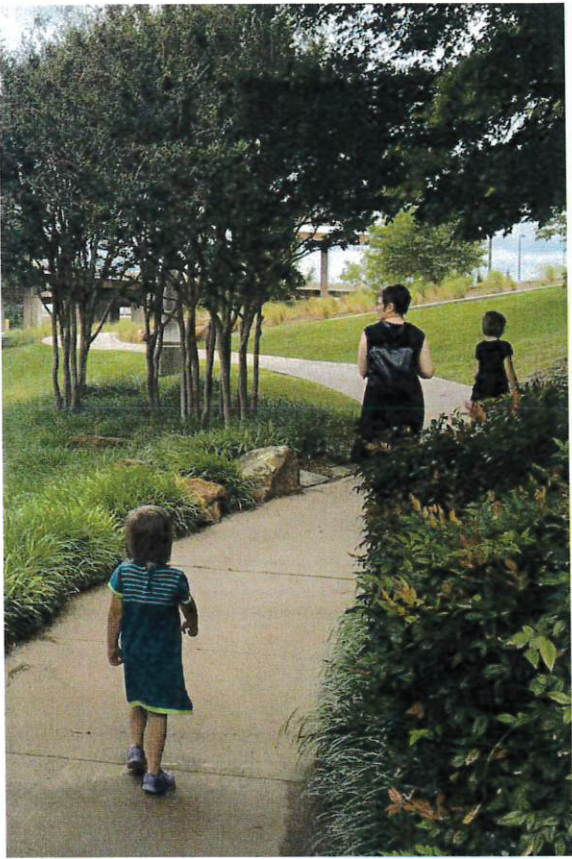
Modern Play Equipment

10110011



Promenade

lasplash.com



Landscape Gateway

10110011

MOUND PARK THEME

The land for Mound Park was dedicated to the community so that future generations would have access to public open space. To accommodate those future generations, especially the tween and teens of the community, a more modern approach to the character of the park is proposed. These age groups also prefer places and structures that allow for smaller social gathering spots.

Updates to the existing amenities including, landscaping, playgrounds, basketball court, parking areas and shelters will help in enhancing the look and feel of the park while creating a more cohesive identity. The most iconic features of the park are the gazebo and the skating rink which are important to preserve. Currently the gazebo structure is in need of repair. The master plan proposes refurbishing the roof of the gazebo which is its iconic form and relocate the entire pavilion to be incorporated with the adjacent sloping hill as an amphitheater lawn and stage.

Additional lighting throughout the park will create safer spaces and extend use of the park. A more consistent look and feel for benches, shelters and play equipment is suggested to give the park a cohesive identity.

The addition of a skate park and proposed ice skating rink with the tennis court remodel, will provide the park and community with new amenities to encourage park use by residents and visitors. Skate park and playground expansion options are considered in the following scenarios.



SCENARIO A

This scenario provides space for the addition of skate park elements to compliment the existing skating rink. A skate park ramps and rail features would provide a new draw for the park and community. The space would be well lit and open to create a safe and welcoming space.



SCENARIO B

Instead of introducing a skatepark, this scenario would use that same space to expand family picnic areas and additional playground space for younger children. This option would allow the park to feel a bit more open and less programmed.



1 City Water Infrastructure

- Could be updated with a fun and unique canopy or shelter covering
- Add distinct plantings to define the space
- Create a hangout zone focused on the tween and teen population
- Could be a stage, but have movable seating

2 Youth Playgrounds

- Update with contemporary play equipment and consistent style for the park
- Intended for younger crowd 2-8 years old
- Sandbox
- mini splash play areas
- Small mounds for running and playing on

3 Tennis Court / Ice Rink

- update and resurface tennis court
- reuse and expand skating rink shelter to connect the two features and provide storage and rental of equipment for tennis, ice skating and roller skating

4 Family picnic areas

- Consistent style of picnic shelters within the park
- Have picnic tables and trash receptacles throughout park system

5 Skating Rink

- Once storage/rental structure is relocated and expanded, create staging areas for putting on skates and welcoming people into the feature.
- Add landscaping to create connections to the tennis court and reduce awkward points where the two features meet

6 Parking lots

- Reconfigure and resurface parking to better structure parking use and remove other programs and activity from the parking area

7 Tween Playground

- Update play areas with funky and modern play structures that are more suited for older kids
- Utilize structures that encourage inventiveness
- Create spaces that can accommodate outdoor learning activities

8 Sand Volleyball Court

- Continue regular maintenance of this feature

9 Basketball Court

- Full court independent of the parking lot

10 Restrooms

- Remodel and expand restrooms at current location

11 Horseshoes

- Continue regular maintenance of this feature
- May be reconsidered for removal at a later date if it is not utilized

12 Open Space for Tween and Teens

- This open lawn is intended for activities and unprogrammed sports for tweens and teens. It is tucked away on the west side so that it is not disruptive to other activities and family play areas. Though it is removed to the west it is intended to be open and exposed for good visibility into the space

13 Amphitheater Lawn / Stage

- The east hill down from the tennis court is intended to be regraded to provide amphitheater style seating focused at the gazebo/stage area to the northwest.
- The historic gazebo structure should be reconstructed and relocated to this location. The roof is what contains the iconic look associated with the park so it should be maintained. The pillars and surrounding base could be reconsidered to create a more open pavilion that would work as a stage.
- The structure could also be lifted up onto a concrete base giving it some extra height as a stage and making it more visible as a landmark within the park.

MOUND PARK UPDATES

Smaller Scale Projects/Catalyst Projects

- Create entry landscapes
- Add lighting throughout the park

Medium Scale Projects

- Install modern play equipment geared at tween and teen age population
- Enhance water storage tank cap with an overhead structure and/or landscape to make a hangout area for youth
- Update playground equipment for younger kid play areas
- Replace picnic shelter structures with new structures with consistent style
- Establish a central garden hub where the north-south paths and the proposed diagonal trail will meet

Larger Scale Projects/Long-Range Vision

- Replace and resurface tennis court with potential for ice rink
- Create a new structure to accommodate both roller skating and ice skating/tennis storage and rental
- Remodel and relocate gazebo
- Regrade hill east of the tennis court to act as an amphitheater style seating for the gazebo stage
- Reconfigure and resurface parking and basketball courts, making separate locations for each
- Implement a new trail connecting the northeast and southwest corners
- Update restroom facility
- Potential for skate park element additions



Small Scale Skate Park

rotastin.wordpress.com



Amphitheater Lawn

Hint Hill Audubon Society



Multi-functional Water Infrastructure

ritankt.com



Modern Playground for Tweens

landscapestructures.com

PROPOSED PARKS

SOUTHEAST PARK

- Playgrounds for multiple ages
- Open space for gathering and activities
- Trees and landscaping
- Paved connection from Raccoon River Valley Trail to Fair View Drive
- Picnic shelters
- Public restrooms
- Benches
- Lighting
- Paved area for basketball court, which can be used for other activities as well
- Potential for dog park
- Potential water play components

The water play elements and/or a dog park would help to serve as the Active Detour from the trail to encourage visitors to explore deeper into the community

NORTH SIDE POCKET PARKS

- Playgrounds for younger children
- Benches
- Landscaping

PUBLIC POOL LANDSCAPE

- Potential skatepark elements
- Remodel and expansion of pool
- Create a park-like environment linking the pool entrance and the trail

Establishing a landscape open to the public to draw them off of the trail at the pool location will create the Active Detour along Vine Street

COUNTRY LIVING ESTATES PARK

- Playground that can accommodate multiple ages
- Open space for gathering and events
- Picnic shelter
- Trail around the development and pond
- Access to the water





DALLAS CENTER PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

Input & Summary

CDL

key discussions raised at the public input event included:

- The need for additional lighting in the parks, especially if teens and tweens will be more present in the parks during later hours
- Concerns related to skate park or any tween and teen activities and having good visibility to reduce unwanted behavior
- Interest in a dog park
- With the prominence of R Avenue and people coming in on this road from the south, bike and pedestrian infrastructure should be in place
- Interest in having a connection to the Raccoon River with trails and park
- Walnut Street is lacking in aesthetics and vegetation
- Would like to have parking lots with two exits at Burnett Complex
- Sidewalks and access in town is limited
- The trail at Burnett Complex has broken chunks of asphalt in it which makes it unsafe
- Would like to see a full court basketball court at Memorial Park
- General enthusiasm for the naturalistic playscape and splash pad proposed for Memorial Park
- Snow mobile utilize R Avenue and Fair View Avenue and it could be beneficial to designate trails along there to create awareness and increase safety



