

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



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HEARTLANDS
CONSERVANCY
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Table of Contents

Chapter 1 – Introduction and Summary

Chapter 2 – Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities Standards and Guidelines

Chapter 3 – Existing Conditions

Chapter 3 Exhibits:

- Existing Park Amenity Matrix
- Existing Parks and Open Space
- Existing Trails
- Existing Schools
- Existing Cultural and Environmental Points of Interest

Chapter 4 – Needs Assessment

Chapter 5 – Robert P. Wadlow Golf Course

Chapter 6 – Public Engagement Summary

Chapter 7 – Recommendations

Appendix – Public Engagement Summary

- Questionnaire Results
- May 30, 2012 Public Open House #1 Exhibits
- August 28, 2012 Public Open House #2 Exhibits
- May 23, 2012 Stakeholder Meeting Notes and Exhibits
- Citizen Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes #1
- Citizen Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes #2
- Citizen Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes #3
- Citizen Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes #4
- June 1, 2012 Alton Telegraph Article

The planners at HeartLands Conservancy would like to extend a sincere Thank You those who live and/or work in Alton that took time to participate in the Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan. The keen insights, rich anecdotes, and thoughtful feedback by so many enabled this plan to portray existing conditions and to propose recommendations for the future of parks, open space, and recreation facilities in Alton. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the following individuals' commitment and energy to the plan:

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Chapter 1 – Introduction and Summary

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities Management Plan

The Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan provides a future vision and framework for parks, open space, and recreation facilities in the City of Alton.

Alton is blessed with some of the best parks and facilities in the region. Alton's parks and open space compliment the City's rich cultural history. Whether it is the views from Riverview Park, the outstanding amphitheater at Riverfront Park, or the many amenities of Gordon Moore Park, the parks of Alton are the envy of most communities.

However, there are challenges for Alton parks. Maintenance requirements, tight municipal budgets, and capital improvement needs are all challenges that the park system will have to address in the future. It is important to note that this plan is not a capital improvement plan. While capital improvements are identified, more importantly the plan creates a broader vision of building on existing strengths and addressing weaknesses and threats.

A Vision for Alton Parks

The vision statement for Alton Parks is:

"A well connected system of clean, safe parks, comprised of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism."

The above vision statement attempts to explain the often intangible components of a healthy park system. The intent is that this vision statement will remind future community leaders, park staff, and residents of the core values and desired direction of the park system.

A Set of Values for Alton Parks

At the July 31, 2012 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, members of the CAC were asked to perform a visual valuing exercise. Committee members were shown over two dozen photos of park elements and activities. Using sticker dots to vote, committee members were asked to vote on three photos which most represented their vision of Alton's parks, open space, and recreation facilities. After voting, committee members then explained some of the reasons why the photos they selected represented their values for parks, open space, and recreational facilities.

The results of the valuing exercise are shown on this page. Core values of Alton parks, open space, and recreation facilities included:

- Scenic views
- Cultural traditions
- Volunteerism
- Ecological integrity
- Community pride
- Mississippi River
- Connections
- Biking
- Camaraderie
- Native plants
- Mature trees

At the August 28th, 2012 public open house, 76% of attendees who responded said that they "strongly" or "somewhat" agreed with the vision statement and values above.



Summary of the Planning Process

The Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan was an approximately six month planning process from April to October, 2012.

Questions that were analyzed during the planning process included:

- How does the City compare with National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities?
- What are the existing service areas for facilities within the City? Are areas of the City underserved?
- What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
- How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?
- What are residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks? How does that change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?

Public and Stakeholder engagement included:

- Two public open houses: May 30, 2012 and August 28, 2012
- Stakeholder Interviews: May 23, 2012
- On-line questionnaire: May 24 - June 4, 2012
- Four Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings

Public Review and Comments

An interim submittal of Chapters 1-6 was submitted on June 7, 2012 and posted on the City website for public review and comment from June 7 - July 5, 2012. An outline of the recommendations in Chapter 7, the vision statement, and values were presented at the August 28, 2012 public open house.

See the Appendix for all public engagement materials.

Key Findings

Comparisons to Benchmarks and Guidelines

Analysis was conducted to compare City of Alton parks, open space, and recreational facilities to benchmarks and guidelines including the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and community averages for the state of Illinois. The results are discussed in detail in Chapter 4. Overall, the City compares favorably to NRPA and state of Illinois benchmarks and guidelines. Analysis included park acreage per population and the number of facilities/activities per population.

Former Robert P. Wadlow Municipal Golf Course

A key component of the study was to analyze the impacts to the parks system if the Wadlow Golf Course was removed from the park system. Chapter 5 discusses in detail the results of the analysis and process. The summary of the results include:

What are the system wide impacts to parks, open space, and recreation facilities if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?

Limited Impact

How does the residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for parks change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?

Limited to No Change

How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?

Limited Significance (Below Average Compared to Other City Parks)

On June 27, 2012, the Alton City Council voted to remove in its entirety the land on which the former Robert P. Wadlow Municipal Golf Course existed from the inventory of the Alton Park and Recreation system.

On October 24, 2012, the Alton City Council voted to approve the rezoning of the former Robert P. Wadlow Municipal Golf Course to a 'Mixed Use Transportation District' (MUT) from 'Conservation/Recreation' (CR).

Recommendations

Chapter 7 'Recommendations' reviews in detail the plan recommendations and goals. Categories of recommendations included: Connections, Programs and Facilities, Natural Resources, Financial, Partnerships, and Communication.

Key recommendations and goals included:

- Parks, open space, and playground facilities should be within walking distance for all residents.
- Increase paths and walking trails within existing parks.
- Focus on maintaining existing parks and facilities and not increasing parks and facilities.
- Provide bike and pedestrian connections to all parks.

At the August 28th, 2012 public open house, 83% of attendees who responded said that they "strongly" or "somewhat" agreed with the recommendations.

Chapter 2 – Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Standards and Guidelines

Introduction

As a guide to the planning process; parks, open space, and recreational facilities can be categorized to assist in comparing to various benchmarks. The most common benchmark is standards and guidelines by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). These standards and guidelines can help communities quantitatively measure how their existing parks, open space, and recreation facilities compare with common benchmarks and other communities.

Illinois municipal and park district averages from survey results in the 2009 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) 'Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan' were also used as a benchmark.

It is important to realize, however, that these standards and guidelines are just recommendations. Local need, demand, and priorities are often much different than national benchmarks.

Below are the various categories of parks, open space, and recreational facilities. In Chapter 3 'Existing Conditions', the existing facilities will be described in more detail. In Chapter 4 'Needs Assessment', an analysis and assessment of existing facilities compared to recommended benchmarks will be discussed.

Park Categories

Regional Parks

- Gordon Moore Park

General Description: Regional parks are large areas able to accommodate visitors not only from Alton, but from the region and multiple communities. Regional parks have multiple activities including active and passive recreation, athletic fields, natural areas, and other significant features.

Service Area: Variable - Multiple Communities

Desirable Size: Usually 200+ acres, but can be variable to accommodate activities and functions.

Acres per 1,000 Population:

NRPA Standard: 5-10 acres

Recommended Local Standard: 7.5 acres

Typical Facilities and Activities:

- Active recreational and athletic facilities such as tennis courts, soccer/football fields, ball diamonds, playgrounds, basketball courts, etc.
- Passive facilities such as walking trails, picnic areas, natural areas, etc.
- Restrooms, shelters/meeting rooms, storage buildings.
- Facilities for cultural activities.
- Lighting.
- Off-street parking.
- Easily accessible to regional population.

Community Parks

- Riverfront Park
- Rock Spring Park
- Russell Commons

General Description: Community parks are intermediate in size and can accommodate visitors from multiple neighborhoods and the whole community. Community parks usually have both active and passive facilities.

Service Area: 2-3 mile radius

Desirable Size: Usually 30-50 acres, but can vary.

Acres per 1,000 Population:

NRPA Standard: 5-8 acres

Recommended Local Standard: 6.5 acres

Typical Facilities and Activities:

- Active recreational and athletic facilities such as tennis courts, soccer/football fields, ball diamonds, playgrounds, basketball courts, etc.
- Passive facilities such as walking trails, picnic areas, natural areas, etc.
- Restrooms, shelters/meeting rooms, storage buildings.
- Facilities for cultural activities.
- Lighting.
- Off-street parking.
- Easily accessible to community population.

Neighborhood / Mini Parks

- Barth
- Dormann
- Haskell
- Hellrung
- James H. Killion (Salu)
- Milton
- Northside
- Olin
- Riverview

General Description: Often neighborhood parks and mini-parks are two separate categories, however with the overall number of neighborhood/mini parks in Alton, the categories were combined. Neighborhood / Mini parks accommodate residents within neighborhoods, and ideally within a 10 minute walk. Depending on the size, they may have a combination of active and passive facilities, but often have limited activities or even singular activities such as a playground.

Service Area: 1/4 - 1/2 mile radius, or within a 10 minute walk. Ideally accessible by walking that is uninterrupted by real or perceived barriers such as major highways, railroad, etc.

Desirable Size: Usually 4-10 acres, but mini-parks can be smaller than 2 acres.

Acres per 1,000 Population:

NRPA Standard: 0.25 - 0.5 acres for mini-parks; 1-2 acres for neighborhood parks.

Recommended Local Standard: 1.0

Typical Facilities and Activities:

- Active recreational and athletic facilities such as tennis courts, soccer/football fields, ball diamonds, playgrounds, basketball courts, etc. But usually limited in number and based on the need of the neighborhood. Often informal or practice facilities. Playgrounds usually the key activity.
- Passive facilities such as walking trails, picnic areas, natural areas, etc. But usually limited in number and based on the need of the neighborhood.
- Restrooms, if needed, based on programming within the park
- Lighting, if needed, for security.
- Parking typically not required. Often parking is served by on-street parking. Based on neighborhood need and park programming.
- Easily accessible to neighborhood population, especially by walking or biking.

Specialty Parks

- Lincoln Douglas Square
- Piasa Park
- State House Square
- Union Park

General Description: Specialty Parks are parks that do not fit easily within the other categories of regional, community, neighborhood, and mini parks. They often have a specific or unique purpose, may have significant cultural or historical significance, and enhance the overall park and open space system. Size and activity can vary greatly since each park tends to have unique characteristics.

Service Area: Variable. Could be community or regional for culturally significant sites or neighborhood for specialized uses.

Desirable Size: Variable. Depends on activity and use.

Acres per 1,000 Population:

Not defined.

Typical Facilities and Activities:

- Variable. Often cultural and historic areas with related interpretive signage, kiosks, information, etc.
- Restrooms, if needed, based on use and activities.
- Off-street parking, if needed, based on use and context of site.
- Lighting, if needed, based on use and activities.

Other Public Open Space, Recreational Facilities, and Amenities

Golf Courses

- Robert P. Wadlow Golf Course – 9 Hole Course
- Rock Spring - 9 Hole Course
- Spencer T. Olin - 18 Hole Course
- Spencer T. Olin - 9 Hole Learning Course

General Description: For this planning study and analysis, golf courses within Alton will be considered as a separate category to more easily compare overall park acreage to golf course acreage.

Service Area: Variable. A more detailed discussion of benchmarks for the number of courses (or holes available) for a community is discussed in Chapter 5 'Needs Assessment' and Chapter 6 'Robert P. Wadlow Golf Course'.

Desirable Size: Typically for 9 holes, the minimum size is 50 acres. For 18 hole course, the minimum size is 110 acres. Size can vary greatly depending on topography and related activities such as driving ranges, putting greens, etc.

Typical Facilities and Activities: Besides the course, other facilities may include:

- Driving range.
- Practice green.
- Pro-shop.
- Restaurant / meeting space.

Fountains and Other City Owned Greenspace and Beautification Areas Maintained by Parks Department

- 3rd Street Fountain
- 4th, 5th, and 6th Court Fountains
- Rufus Easton Fountain
- State and Bell Fountain
- Washington Avenue Fountain
- State and Willion Fountain
- State and Bond
- Sugar Alley
- Market Street
- McKinley Blvd
- Police Station
- City Hall
- Welcome to Alton at Ridge
- Welcome to Alton at Scenic Byway

General Description: These areas are an important supplement to the overall parks and open space systems. Some areas may have open space available for the public or part of City beautification efforts. While these facilities are not a key component of this planning study, documenting these facilities are important since they are maintained by park staff.

Recreation Trails / Greenways

General Description: Recreation Trails and Greenways cover a wide variety of outdoor activities. Greenways are considered linear parks and typically have a trail with related green space. For the purpose of this planning study trails shall be broken into two sub-categories of on-street bicycle facilities and multi-use (off-street) facilities. On-street and multi-use facilities shall be those trails that are outside of existing park boundaries or trails that connect two or more parks. Trails limited to within a single park shall

be documented as an activity within that specific park.

On-Street Facilities

Service Area / Design Criteria: Service area is variable. Type and location of facility should be guided by city-wide bicycle / pedestrian master plan. In 2010, the State of Illinois passed legislation requiring that state highway projects must equally consider pedestrian and bicyclists. This legislation was known as 'Complete Streets'. This does not mean that all roads/highways must accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians, but bicycle and pedestrian demand must be considered and evaluated.

Typical on-street facilities include:

- Striped bike-lane
- Sharrows
- Share the road signs.
- Paved shoulders

Multi-Use Trail:

Service Area / Design Criteria: Service area is variable. Type and location of facility should be guided by city-wide bicycle / pedestrian master plan. Multi-use trails typically allow bicyclists, walkers, runners, and other associated modes of travel. Where demand is high, a multi-use trail may have a "wheel and heel" separation where bicycles or other wheeled equipment utilizes the paved trail and walkers / runners utilize the outside "soft" shoulder of the trail or a separate aggregate trail.

- Typical "Low Demand" Multi-Use Trail: 8'-10' in width. Surface is typically aggregate, asphalt, or concrete.
- Typical "High Demand" Multi-Use Trail: 12'-14'+ in width. Surface is typically asphalt or concrete surface.

Other Open Space and Recreational Facilities (Public, Semi-Public and Institutional)

Other open space and recreational facilities are areas that may be public, semi-public, or private. These areas may be open to the public or partially open to the public. These areas are an important supplement to the overall parks and open space system as they provide additional overall open space, and sometimes provide key recreational opportunities such as school playgrounds.

It is not the intent of this plan to document every public, semi-public and private open space within the City of Alton. It is important to this study how these facilities supplement City of Alton parks, open space, and recreational facilities. See Chapter 3 'Existing Conditions' for a listing of these facilities and open spaces. Categories include:

- Schools
- Cemeteries

Chapter 3 – Existing Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities

Regional Parks

Gordon Moore

Gordon Moore Park contains 695 acres and is the newest facility. Of the overall 695 acres, 245 acres is the Spencer T. Olin golf course. Without the golf course, Gordon Moore's acreage is 450 acres.

It is located in the northeast portion of the city, east of Homer G. Adams Parkway and primarily on the south side of Illinois Route 140. Approximately 84 acres are currently leased to a farmer. Because of its size and facilities available, it serves as a regional park.

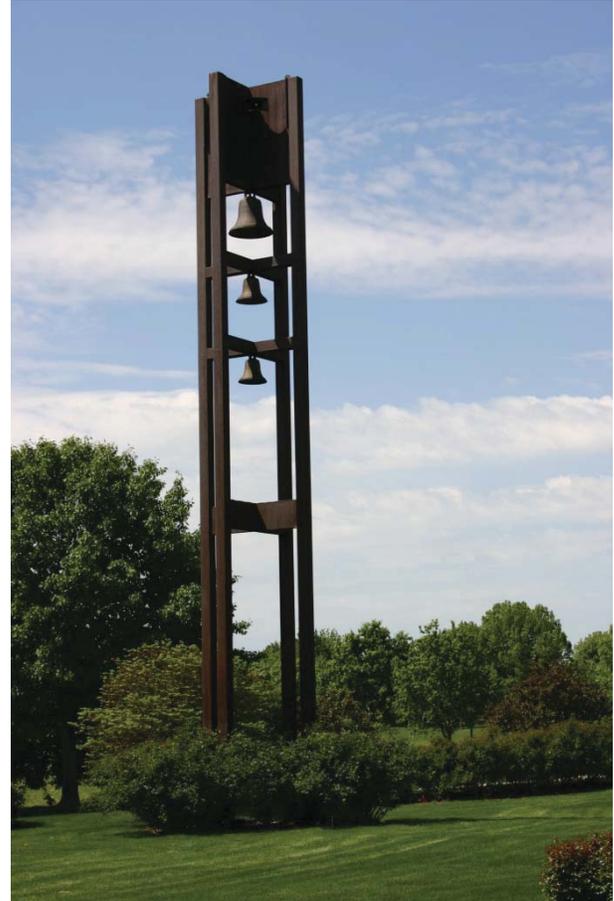
This park is one of the best maintained parks in the city. Because of its size and facilities, it is often used for tournaments for a variety of sports.

Active Recreation:

- A 9 hole disc golf course located between the rose garden and the Oriental garden.
- Six playgrounds, one strictly for toddlers. Surfaces vary including sand, poured in place, and fibar.
- Play areas were upgraded from wooden to Gametime structures and stand alone pieces at diamond #3 in 2002, East End and Nature trail in 2004 and a play area added behind the Muenstermann Pavilion in 2007.

Athletic Facilities:

- 54 acres of athletic fields with 10 baseball diamonds with a drinking fountain and bleachers on each diamond (Diamond #5 is irrigated) and seasonal restroom at t-ball/machine pitch fields (9&10).



- Baseball diamond #5 has an air-conditioned press box with a public address system and lighted score board, ability for TV capacity, and field lighting.
- 21 soccer fields (four irrigated) for tournaments and league play, mostly with bleachers.
- Dr. Raymond Simpson Tennis Center has 8 tennis courts (4 lighted), a two-story viewing stand, and bleachers. It also includes 78 permanent and 10 portable picnic tables and 31 moveable chairs. Other facilities include: a pro shop, signage with bronze statue, and adjacent seasonal restroom facility. Tournaments, adults and junior programs, and clinics are also available.
- Drinking fountains at each diamond were added in 2005; also bleachers on soccer field #4.
- Diamond #8 was lit in 2003, Diamond #3 lights replaced 2006, and Diamond #2 lights was replaced in 2009.



Passive Uses:

- A 19-acre lake and dam with a walking bridge. The lake is stocked by Illinois Department of Natural Resources with blue gill, bass, and catfish.
- A 400 shrub Hosta Garden with a walking path and benches.
- A 1,800-bush rose garden with a fountain and the Carillon system and House. Roses are replaced by donations and a procurement fund.
- An Oriental garden features a pond with a waterfall, Koi fish, and a walkway around the pond includes a small bridge and access to a pagoda. This also begins the Handicap Nature Trail, a ¼ mile walkway with Braille signage.
- A natural area with prairie grass restoration with a 1/3 mile non-paved walking path w/southeast perimeter chat roadway.

Buildings / Facilities:

- Six picnic shelters with grills.
- Three concession buildings with seasonal restroom facilities.
- 5,400- square-foot pavilion (Muenstermann Pavilion) with central air and heat, a large 60' by 60' room, a 30'x30' kitchen with stove, refrigerator and restroom facilities; newly added play equipment located directly behind.

Other Notable Features:

- Over 10,000 Memorial trees have been planted within the parks boundaries.
- A Memorial fountain for our Veteran's with memorial bricks and flags of 5 branches lies

adjacent to the Rose Garden in the center of the park.

- A Memorial on the east side of the main entrance is a statue of our fallen Union family.
- Located near softball diamonds is a Freedom Shrine with replicas of several Historical Documents to the State of Illinois.



Known Needs and Future Plans:

- All ball fields and soccer fields will eventually be lit. In addition irrigation and water fountains will be added.
- Bleachers should also be added for soccer and football viewing.
- New dugouts.
- Concession upgrades.
- The northern side (north side of Route 140) of the park needs to have restroom facilities and water fountains added.



Community Parks

Riverfront

Located south of downtown alongside the Mississippi River, its 30 acres (14 acres irrigated) are located between the Alton Belle Casino and the Alton Marina.

It is one of the newest parks in Alton and is in good condition. New additions added to the park are a 4,000 seat amphitheater planted with 500 trees, 700 shrubs and thousands of grasses encompassing this circular beauty.

Many concert and weddings have occurred at this site since completion.

In addition to the amphitheater a pedestrian bridge was built across Landmarks Blvd. from Broadway into the park. This helps with parking and access to the park for large events. The bridge is lit with side panel lighting and lighted bollards lining the sidewalk down into the park with a park bench to sit and catch a river sunset before entering the park. Trees and shrubs also highlight this pedestrian bridge on both sides of Landmarks.

A masonry and painted metal fence separates a walking path from the Mississippi River bank.

An additional storage facility was added from a PEP grant and FEMA house trailer was purchased and energized for green rooms or staff supplies. Cam locks were added to the pillar electrical boxes for easy electrical usage as well as two power distribution boxes purchased for the vending area and the performer's trailers. Asphalt was laid in fall of 2009 at stage right for performer's trailers, sound and light trailers for staging and the vending ring. Picnic tables were purchased for the vending area and cutouts were created in the landscape for the tables adjacent to the vending ring in 2010. In 2011 seasonal restrooms were given a face lift with painting and fixtures.



Active Recreation:

- A playground with poured rubber surface with a concrete surrounding border.
- A kid's fountain is located along the old lock wall.

Buildings / Facilities:

- 4,000 seat amphitheater

The 7,000 sq ft red paver stage area is canopied by front and back cords and white tensile fabric roof. The stage has underground channels to the transfer platform and is cam lock ready for power. There is decorative black iron fence surrounding the open green space south of the stage for ticketed events and ticket booths at each sidewalk entry.

The seating area is north of the performing stage on a 40 foot grassed berm installed with 2 foot risers built of tumbled stones and 10 foot deep grass terraces divided by 5 sets of stairs and ADA landscaped ramps on both ends of the seating area. Open grass seating is above the terrace seating with the area illuminated by lighted bollards, step and stage lights. All the sidewalks are lined with walkway lighting. Temporary restrooms are brought in for large events. This new addition has generator backup.



- A portable mobile home is located on the south side of the storage facility for performers and staff to relax or shower.
- Two picnic shelters.
- A vending area with 10 picnic tables and a split face brick storage facility of 3250 sq feet matching the seasonal restroom facility.
- Seasonal restroom facilities

Other Notable Features:

- A sail-shaped canopy serves as a sculpture and sun shade.
- Located directly in the center of the back stage is a large fountain pool with a center jet able to shoot 40 feet and 5 outer jets inside the pool. Two rings of interaction ground level jets for kids and adults to walk or play in. These rings were designed with 18 jets in the small ring and 37 jets in the outer ring for the year Alton was established. All of this was done in red brick pavers with a splash of river

brown colored concrete meandering through to simulate the meeting of the rivers here in Alton.

- Pedestrian bridge across Landmarks Blvd. from Broadway into the park.

Known Needs and Future Plans

- Widening sidewalks for truck access to amphitheatre stage.



Rock Spring

Rock Spring Park contains 78 acres, with an additional 70-acre 9-hole irrigated golf course. Of the park acreage, approximately 47 acres are left natural. This park is located near the center of the city.

32 trees that were dead and dangerous were removed within the perimeter of the park using funds from the income of the cell towers located within the Park. Also funding from the income of the cell towers was used to pay for paving roads and parking areas. There are seasonal restroom facilities located at Rock Spring Golf Course pro shop and a portable restroom is located near #1 tee at Rock Spring's disc golf course (dogwood ridge).

Active Recreation:

- 18 hole disc golf course.
- 9 hole golf course.
- Sledding.
- Playground with wood mulch.

Athletic Facilities:

- Four tennis courts.
- Ball diamond with two bleachers.

Passive Uses:

- Unmowed woodland.

Buildings / Facilities:

- Three picnic areas with pavilions and grills.
- Seasonal restrooms.

Other Notable Features:

- Winter holiday light display.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- The fountains at the entry to the park need to be improved.
- The bathroom facilities need to be replaced.
- Playground upgrades.
- Park Road overlays and maintenance.
- Additional signs need to be added to direct people to different amenities within the park.
- ADA upgrades.
- Erosion control.



Russell Commons

Russell Commons Park is located near the Mississippi River at the south end of Ridge Street. It has 12 acres with 9 acres mowed. The park contains a nature area, walk bridge, ½ basketball court, three picnic pavilions with grills, and seasonal restroom facilities. It is close to the marina under the Clark Bridge. A grassy berm hides a view to the river. A bike route terminates here. The Vadalabene bikeway links the park to both the Great River Road and the Katy Trail over the Clark Bridge into Missouri. There is ample off-street parking with four designated handicapped parking spaces.

An asphalt walking path, approximately ¾ of a mile long, winds through the natural area and mowed portion of the park.

In 2011 the seasonal restrooms were refurbished with paint and fixtures. In 2008 and 2010 attempts were made to stop the settling of the asphalt trail near the play area with geotextile and rock; both attempts were unsuccessful. In 2009 picnic shelters were all repainted. In 2011 an announcement was made that Russell Commons will be the site of the dog park as it had the most available land for a 3 ring dog park allowing one ring to be closed for repairs if needed. Established trees exist, as does a walking trail for accessibility.



Active Recreation:

- The playground equipment combines plastic and metal with a school age and toddler section. There is bench seating available around the equipment. Playground surface is wood mulch.
- Walking Path.
- Connection to Vadalabene bikeway.

Athletic Facilities:

- Half basketball court.

Passive Uses:

- Natural area.

Buildings / Facilities:

- Seasonal restrooms.
- Three picnic pavilions.

Other Notable Features:

- Views of Clark Bridge
- Trailhead for bike connects via the Vadalabene bikeway.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- Dog Park
- Bike Trailhead Signage: The start of the bike path should indicate that it starts the Vadalabene bike trail between Alton and Pierre Marquette State park. It should also be noted that if you travel into Missouri from this point, it is connected to the Katy Trail.

Neighborhood Parks / Mini-Parks

Barth

Barth park located at 6th and Langton Street is 4.5 acres. It has a football/soccer field. This is the site of the Paul Owens Holly Memorial which includes a Holly tree lined brick sidewalk with benches and drinking fountain.

Athletic Facilities:

- Football/Soccer field. Informal type field with no lighting.

Passive Uses:

- Flower garden and landscaping.

Other Notable Features:

- Paul Owens Holly Memorial which includes a Holly tree lined brick sidewalk with benches and drinking fountain.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- Tree plantings and enhancements.
- Playground and some restroom facilities would make this park more inviting.



Dormann Park

Dormann Park is a one acre park located in the Middletown area of the city and has extensive landscaping. There are four brick staircases centered on each side of the park that lead to a center circle garden. Brick walkways connect the staircases to the center. There are historic style street lights around the park but they are ill-placed in the center of the walkways. While the four brick paths lead to the center of the park, there are four benches to sit in the center area to observe the lavish landscape that was put in and maintained by the neighbors.



Passive Uses:

- Flower beds and extensive landscaping.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- Upgrade electric.
- New water line.



Eunice Smith Arboretum

The arboretum consists of a four-acre passive park. It has minimal off-street parking which has not been well maintained. Most of the trees are mature. Shields Creek has low visibility from the surrounding park space due to shrubs and other vegetation.

Passive Uses:

- Natural area.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- The parking lot should be repaired and resurfaced.
- The creek has been allowed to become overgrown and needs to be restored. A number of the trees need to be replaced.
- The park would be more inviting and useful if a walking path and benches were added.
- Since this is a city arboretum, it creates an opportunity to teach community members about trees native to Illinois. A map depicting park plan and species information would be an asset.



Haskell

Haskell Park is 6.4 acres. The Haskell Doll House, built in 1885, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is available for rent for small tea parties. It houses a collection of antique toys and is utilized for Santa’s visit. It also has a cellar and contains seasonal restrooms. The brick sidewalk leading to the Doll House is lined with engraved bricks of memorials and memories. Free weekly concerts are given by the municipal band between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Concerts are performed on a concrete pad south of the Doll House. Limited bench seating is available.



Haskell House- The parks administrative offices used to be housed in the first floor of Haskell House and the city’s personnel department on the second floor. Currently, the building is rented for meetings and conference space. The upper floors include a kitchenette and conference room.

Beautiful stained glass flanks the oversized front door. The interior of the house appears to have been renovated in the 1970s. New thermal windows were installed on the south and west side of the building. Shutters were refurbished and installed back on the building.

Restrooms, located in the Doll House, were updated in 2006-2007.

Haskell – cont.

Active Recreation:

- Sledding.
- Playground equipment with fibar wood chip and poured in place rubber surfaces.

Other Notable Features:

- The Haskell Doll House, built in 1885, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- Haskell House: The exterior of the house is in need of tuck pointing and painting. These maintenance issues should be addressed before damage begins to occur to the house. The drive around the house is concrete and has many damaged pads. The stairs of the porch are steep. There is an access ramp in the rear of the house although the interior of the house is not ADA accessible. To make the house ADA accessible would be too costly to justify demand.
- Doll House: Continued maintenance.
- Additional Lighting Near Playground



Hellrung

Hellrung Park is located in midtown Alton. This 3 acre park is surrounded by residential and commercial development. It also serves as a neighborhood park. In 2006, a complete overhaul of the park was completed. Thousands of yards of fill were brought in to raise the park. Raising the elevation of the park and clearing vegetation resulted in increased visibility.

Additional improvements included a basketball court and a turn style fenced skate park. The playground was upgraded for all ages and separated for the younger child's safety. A brick wall was installed to border the play area on Union Street and children of the neighborhood did hand tiles and are inset in the wall. There is a four leaf clover shaped raised community garden beds with water for residents to grow vegetables. A drinking fountain is located just about center of the park. A picnic shelter and grill were installed again along the edge of walking trail around the park with walk way lighting. The park is well used by the neighborhood residents.



Hellrung - cont.

Active Recreation:

- Playground.
- Skate park.
- Walking trail.

Athletic Facilities:

- Basketball court.

Passive Uses:

- Community garden beds.

Buildings / Facilities:

- Picnic shelter.

Other Notable Features:

- Children art tiles along brick wall.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- Additional tree plantings.
- Drainage problems (evaluate potential rain garden).



James H. Killion (Sulu)

The James H. Killion (Sulu) is a 3.5 acre park that has two lighted basketball courts, one picnic area with grills, and a relatively small playground near the storage facility. A new play system was installed with a rubber poured in place surface and several small landscape areas. A park bench was placed along Washington Avenue in honor of James H. Killion. It is located in the northeast portion of the city at the corner of Salu and Locust and serves as a neighborhood park. This is a well-used park. Portable restrooms are brought in for the summer season due to the volume of park users.



Active Recreation:

- Two playgrounds.

Athletic Facilities:

- Two basketball courts.

Buildings / Facilities:

- Picnic shelter.
- Portable restrooms during summer.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- Upgrade remaining playground equipment.
- Upgrade lighting.
- New restrooms.

Milton

Milton is an 11.2 acre park located in the eastern portion of the city. It mainly serves as a neighborhood park with playground equipment and a football/soccer field. Organizations often arrange to use the field for practice of soccer, football, and softball. Temporary restroom facilities are brought in on an as-needed basis. The existing gravel parking lot is in poor condition and the surfacing does not allow for proper drainage. There is an abandoned concrete pad that poses a safety hazard. There is an electrical box and storm water drain entrance hatch; these items are currently a focal point as one enters the park.

The 2003 Alton Comprehensive Plan recommended that the view of Homer Adams Parkway to the east should be screened by landscaping. Parks department recommends keeping this visibility open to this park from the highway for better security within the park.

Active Recreation:

- Playground.

Athletic Facilities:

- Football/Soccer field.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- The gravel parking lot should be paved in the future and should be engineered for proper drainage.
- The current focal point upon entering the park is a large electrical box and storm water drain. Without affecting the function of these elements an enclosure and/or landscape buffer should be added. The abandoned concrete pad should be removed due to the safety hazard it poses.
- Water line improvement.



North Side

North Side Park is 7 acres and is located in the northwest portion of the city. It has playground equipment, one lighted baseball field and a football/soccer field.

Active Recreation:

- Playground.

Athletic Facilities:

- Ball Diamond.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- Replace old basketball court with parking.
- Select vegetation removal for increased visibility.

Olin

Located at State and Grand, the 4.7 acre park (3.2 acres mowed) underwent a major renovation in 2010. The park offers playground equipment with kitty cushion fall surface and park benches surrounding the play area and drinking fountain. This park has 1 basketball court, and a lighted walk trail encompassing an open playing field. Two picnic shelters with grills were added along the walk trail which borders the newly renovated park. The shuffle board courts were refurbished and painted located next to the upper picnic shelter adjacent to the play area. Along State Street is the old limestone wall that was built by the WPA. 70 trees were planted within the boundaries of the park that serves as a neighborhood park.

Active Recreation:

- Playground.
- Walking Trail.

Athletic Fields:

- Football/Soccer (Open Field).
- Basketball Court.

Buildings / Facilities:

- Two picnic shelters.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- Future community garden planned.



Riverview

Located on the southwest side of town overlooking the river at the end of Belleview, this 3.7-acre park has a natural area, mature trees and flower gardens. Sledding is an activity here during appropriate weather. From Memorial Day thru Labor Day a weekly concert by the municipal band is given at the band shelter. This octagonal shaped structure is stucco and has an asphalt shingle roof and is the site for many weddings. The shelter also provides storage for miscellaneous park supplies. The structure overall is in disrepair and should be renovated in the near future. In 2011, the City applied for a scenic byway grant for renovations to the overlook, restrooms, bandstand, retaining walls and sidewalk connectivity. The City of Alton will apply for an OSLAD grant in 2012 for the sunken garden area for landscaping, solar lighting, step and sidewalk repairs, and drive entrance.



The City of Alton has applied for the scenic byway grant to:

- Replace the barrier from the cliff from chain link to a curb with decorative fence.
- Replace the crack brick walls at Summit Street and Belleview Streets also topped with decorative fence. Repairs to the gazebo roof and lighting as well as the basement floor new layer of chat added.
- Upgrade the overlook with seating and a compass for river directions as it runs east and west.
- Add solar lighting near the roadway area and near the restrooms.
- Upgrade the seasonal restrooms making them accessible.

- Add sidewalks for connectivity from the parking lot to the gazebo to the restrooms.



Passive Uses

- Natural Areas.
- Flower Gardens.

Buildings/Facilities

- Restrooms.
- Bandstand/Gazebo

Other Notable Features

- One of the most popular small parks in Alton.
- One of the best viewsheds within Alton. Views of Mississippi River from bluff.

Known Needs and Future Plans:

- Overlook improvements.
- Restroom renovations.
- New flag pole.
- Bandstand/Gazebo upgrades including roofing and structural improvements.
- Sunken garden improvements including landscaping, lighting, step/sidewalk repairs.



Specialty Parks

Lincoln Douglas Square

This site located just north of Broadway Street is 0.5 acres. It features irrigated landscaped gardens and brick pavements inscribed with donor names. It was the site of the final debate in the 1858 U.S. Senate election between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. The platform built in front of city hall located at Broadway and Market is commemorated. Life-size statues of Lincoln and Douglas stand at the site. The first weekend in October is the time of the annual Lincoln-Douglas Days.

Piasa Park

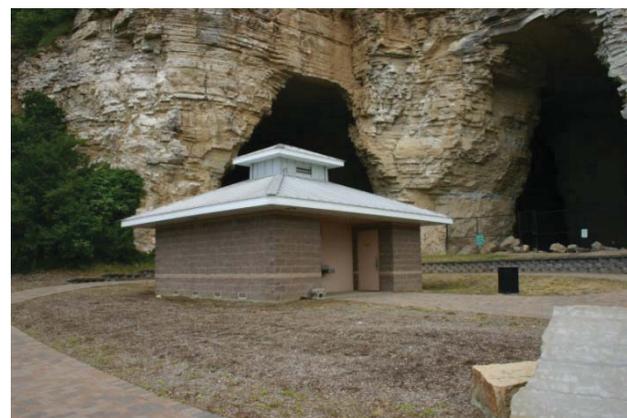
On Highway 3 with a view of the river, the park is under the bluffs where the historic Piasa bird is located. Since 2003, park facilities have been constructed to increase visitor access to be able to view the historic Piasa bird. Improvements have included: a picnic shelter, seasonal restrooms, and parking lot. The Illinois Department of Transportation is providing partial funding for project construction. The park also serves as the starting point of the River Road bike trail. Landscape upgrades have included 45 trees, 450 shrubs (evergreen and flowering) and flowers.

State House Square

State House Square is a circular open space of approximately 1 acre at the intersection of College Avenue and Central Street. Although not readily accessible, it provides a visual landmark along College Avenue and has amenities including a fountain and landscaped areas.

Union Park

Union Park is a small triangle wedge park at the corner of Union Avenue and Central Street. The main feature of the park is the fountain.



Other Open Space, Recreational Facilities, and Amenities

Golf Courses

Robert P. Wadlow Golf Course (9 Hole Course)

The Robert P. Wadlow Municipal Golf Course is approximately 56 acres and is a nine hole course. The course was built in the 1940's and was named after Robert Pershing Wadlow, who is buried in nearby Oakwood Cemetery.

The course was managed by the City of Alton until 2008, when a private operator took over management of the course. The private operator managed the course until April 2012 when the course was closed. The course has been closed since April 22, 2012.

Spencer T. Olin

(18 Hole Course and 9 Hole Learning Course)

Spencer T. Olin is a 245 acre facility located within Gordon Moore Park. The course has an 18 hole main course and a 9 hole learning course.

Rock Spring Course (9 Hole Course)

Rock Spring is a 9 hole course located within Rock Spring Park. The course is approximately 70 acres.

Fountains and Other City Owned Greenspace and Beautification Areas Maintained by Parks Department

- 3rd Street Fountain
- 4th, 5th, and 6th Court Fountains
- Rufus Easton Fountain
- State and Bell Fountain
- Washington Avenue Fountain
- State and Willion Fountain
- State and Bond
- Sugar Alley
- Market Street
- McKinley Blvd
- Police Station
- City Hall
- Welcome to Alton at Ridge
- Welcome to Alton at Scenic Byway

General Description: These areas are an important supplement to the overall parks and open space systems. Some areas may have open space available for the public or part of City beautification efforts. While these facilities are not a key component of this planning study, documenting these facilities are important since they are maintained by park staff.

Recreation Trails / Greenways

Confluence Trail
 Rosewood Heights
 Vadalabene Bikeway
 West Delmar
 College Avenue (Share the Road Signage)

Other Open Space and Recreational Facilities (Public, Semi-Public and Institutional)

Other open space and recreational facilities are areas that may be public, semi-public, or private. These areas may be open to the public or partially open to the public. These areas are an important supplement to the overall parks and open space system as they provide additional overall open space, and sometimes provide key recreational opportunities such as school playgrounds.

Schools

Schools - Grade/Middle School

Alton Middle School

- 4-6 Tennis Courts.
- 2 Ball Diamonds.
- 2 Football/Soccer Fields.

East Elementary School

- 1 Playground.
- 1 Ball Diamond /Multi-purpose field.

Eunice Smith Elementary

- 1 Playground.
- 1 Multi-purpose field (grass area).

Gibson Brown Elementary

- 1 Playground.
- 1 Multi-purpose field (grass area).

Lovejoy Elementary School

- 1 Playground.
- 1 Multi-purpose field (grass area).

Motivational Achievement Center

- 1 Playground.
- 1 Basketball Court.

North Elementary (*)

- 1 Playground.
- 1 Ball Diamond.
- 1 Football/Soccer Field.
- 1 Partial Track.

St. Mary's School

- 1 Playground.

St. Peter and Paul Catholic School

- 1 Playground.

West Elementary

- 1 Playground.
- 1 Football/SoccerField with Track and Seating.
- 1 Basketball Court.
- 1 Multi-purpose field (grass area).

Schools – High School

Alton High School (*)

- 6 Tennis Courts.
- 2 Soccer/Football Fields.
- 3 Ball Diamond.

Marquette Catholic High School

- No facilities.

Schools – Other

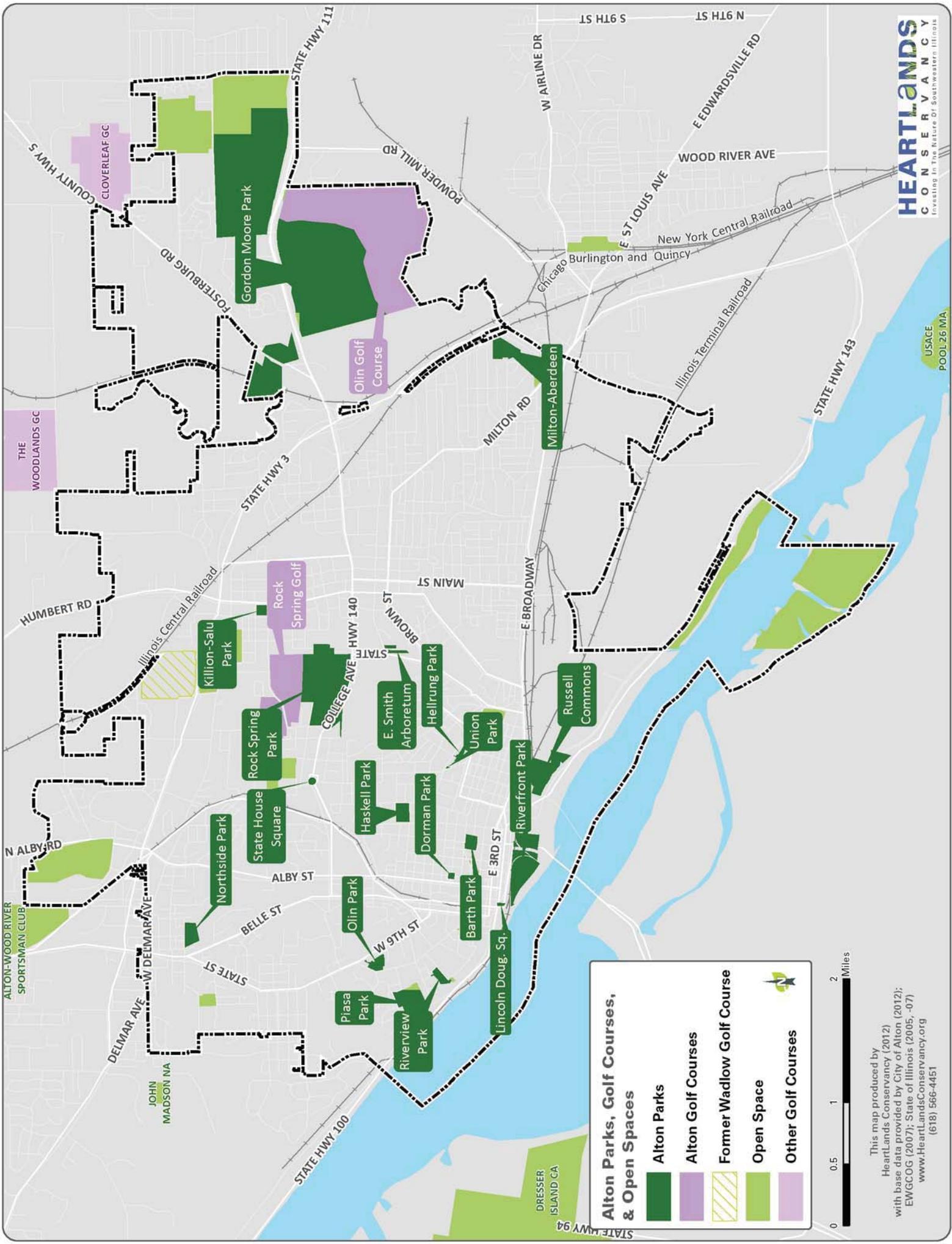
Missouri Valley Christian School

- 1 Playground.
- 1 Multi-purpose field (grass area).

SIU-E Alton Campus

Cemeteries

Confederate Soldiers Cemetery
East Alton Cemetery
National Cemetery
Oakwood Cemetery
Saint Joseph Cemetery

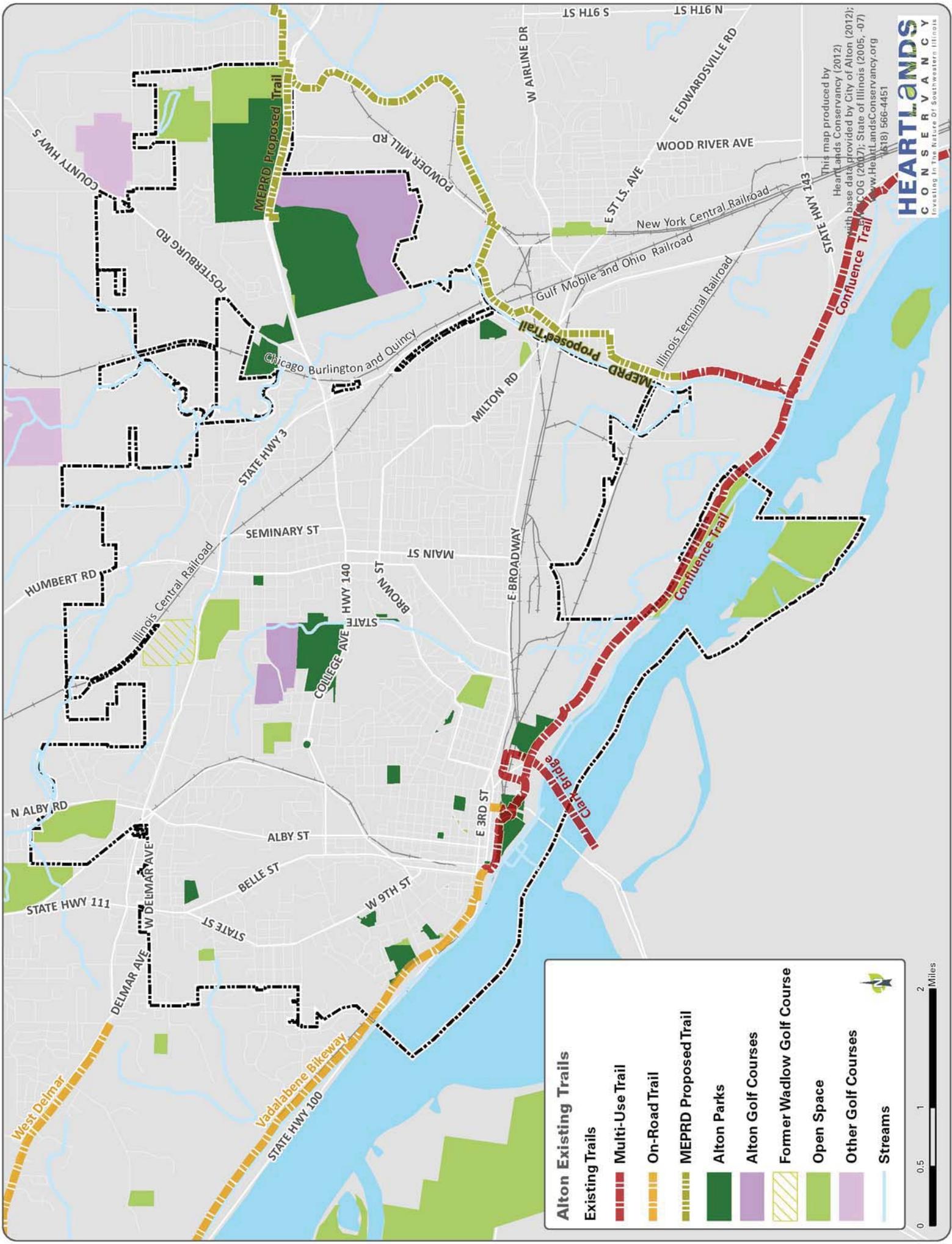


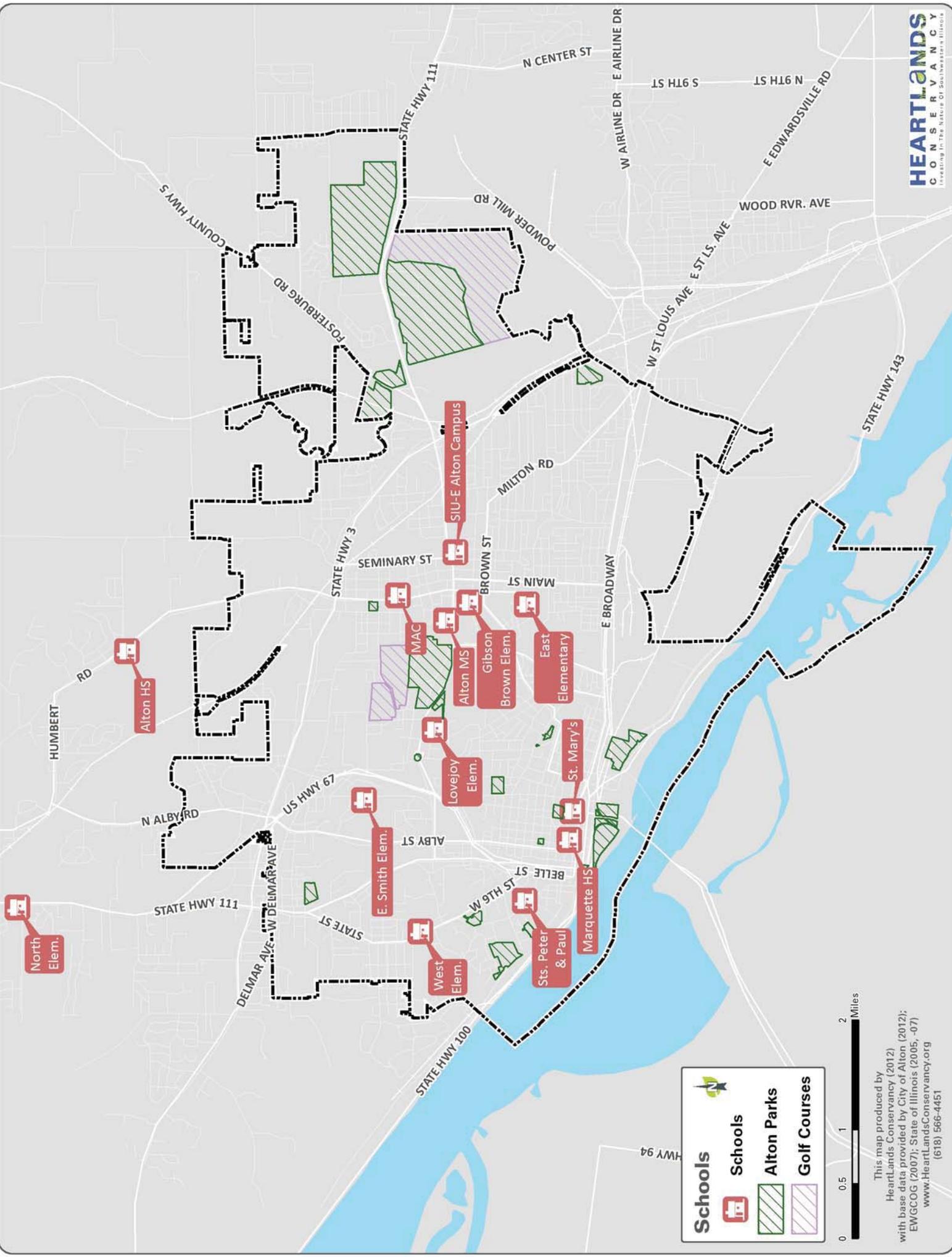
Alton Parks, Golf Courses, & Open Spaces

- Alton Parks
- Alton Golf Courses
- Former Wadlow Golf Course
- Open Space
- Other Golf Courses



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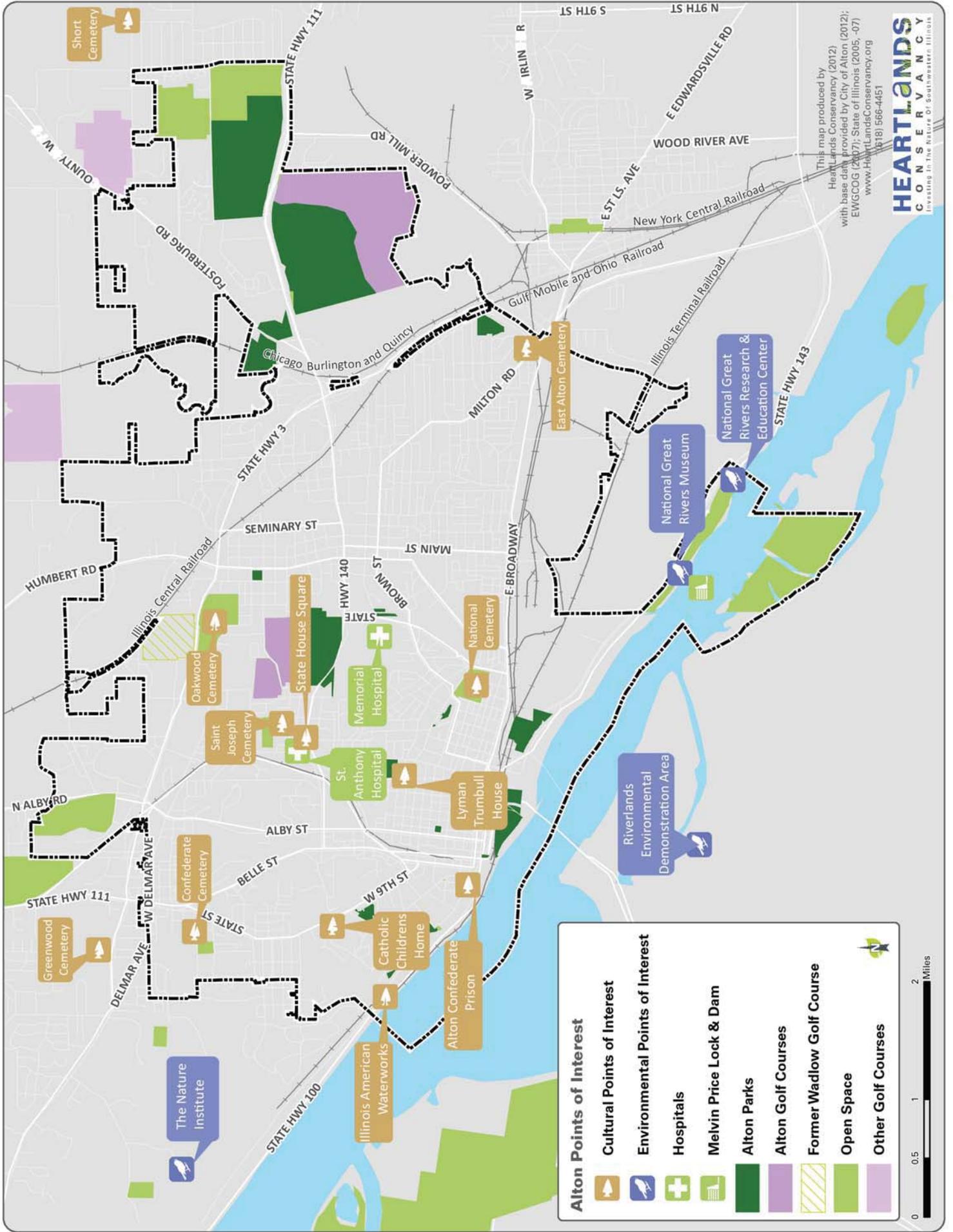
Schools  **Schools**

 **Alton Parks**

 **Golf Courses**



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HEARTLANDS
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 Investing in the Nature of Southwestern Illinois

Alton Points of Interest

- Cultural Points of Interest
- Environmental Points of Interest
- Hospitals
- Melvin Price Lock & Dam
- Alton Parks
- Alton Golf Courses
- Former Wadlow Golf Course
- Open Space
- Other Golf Courses



Chapter 4 – Needs Assessment

Introduction

This chapter presents an analysis on how well the City of Alton's parks, open space, and recreation facilities measure against common benchmarks. The two primary benchmarks that will be used are the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards and guidelines and Illinois municipal and park district averages from the 2009 IDNR 'Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan'. It is important to realize, however, that these standards and guidelines are just recommendations. Local need, demand, and priorities are often much different than national benchmarks.

Besides analysis conducted by HeartLands Conservancy, extensive public engagement has taken place to assist in identifying needs. A full description of public engagement is described in Chapter 6 'Public Engagement Summary', however a brief summary of public engagement includes:

- A nine (9) person Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to assist in the planning process.
- Public Open House on May 30, 2012 to solicit feedback and input for the plan.
- An on-line questionnaire to gather feedback from the public about park usage, activities, programs, strengths, and weaknesses. The questionnaire was active from May 22 through June 4, 2012.
- Stakeholder interviews with Alton civic and volunteer organizations.
- This report's public comment period for residents to make additional comments and suggestions.



This Chapter Includes:

- Park Acreage Analysis - Overall
- Park Acreage Analysis - By Park Type
- Park Service Area Analysis - By Park Type
- Park Activity and Facility Needs Assessment
- Public and Stakeholder Input Regarding Needs
- SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threat) Analysis

Park Acreage Analysis - Overall

The analysis of overall park acreage is summarized in Table 5.1. The approximately 638.5 total City of Alton park acreage excludes all City golf courses (Wadlow Golf Course, Spencer T. Olin, and Rock Spring Golf Course). If Wadlow Golf Course, Spencer T. Olin, and Rock Spring Golf Course are included in the overall park acreage, the total acreage for the City is 1,008.5 acres. For this analysis, the 638.5 acres, excluding the golf courses, shall be used.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has recommended 10 acres of park per 1,000 residents. This has been a common guideline for several decades. However, in recent years this guideline has been recognized as somewhat outdated. Instead, it has been recognized that a nationwide standard may not be practical and that each local community should set its own standard based on local context, need, and demand.

Based on the benchmarks listed above, the City of Alton well exceeds all these benchmarks for park acreage. Based on the 2010 population of 27,865, the City of Alton has 22.9 acres per 1,000 residents. This is over two times the NRPA and Illinois average benchmarks, and 14% higher than the 2003 Alton comprehensive plan goal. Future population that the existing City of Alton park space would support includes:

- NRPA Benchmark of 10 acres per 1,000 residents = 63,750 population
- Illinois Average of 11.3 acres per 1,000 residents = 56,167 population
- 2003 Comprehensive Plan goal of 20 acres per 1,000 residents = 31,875 population

Again, this analysis of park acreage excludes the golf courses within the City of Alton.

Table 4.1: Overall Park Acreage Analysis

	Acres per 1,000 Person	Recommended Acreage Based on Alton 2010 Population	Existing Alton Park Acreage (Excluding Golf Courses)	Percentage Above/Below Standard	Alton Population to Support Benchmarks
NRPA Guideline	10	279	638.5	129%	63,850
Illinois Average (*)	11.35	316	638.5	102%	56,256
2003 Alton Comprehensive Plan Goal	20	557	638.5	15%	31,925

Alton Population (2010 Census)

27,865

(*) Average statewide supply of community outdoor recreation lands which includes park districts and municipal lands. Source 2009-2014 IDNR Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

A 2009 survey by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources of Illinois municipal and park districts indicated that the Illinois average is 11.35 acres of park per 1,000 residents (Source 2009 IDNR Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan). The 2003 Alton Comprehensive Plan stated a goal of 20 acres of park per 1,000 residents.

Park Acreage Analysis - By Park Type

The analysis of park acreage by park type is summarized in Table 5.2. The park type categories and recommended acreage are based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines. See Chapter 2 'Standards and Guidelines' for descriptions of each park type. Park types are:

- Regional Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood / Mini Parks
- Specialty Parks

As the information in Table 4.2 illustrates, the City of Alton exceeds recommended acreage for the categories of Regional Park and Neighborhood/Mini Park, but falls short for Community Parks. It needs to be stated, that the guidelines for park acreage by park type are recommendations only. But the analysis is helpful used in conjunction with the needs assessment and public input. It suggests that perhaps the City may need to consider community park facilities in the future.

Also, while the City is a little short on Community Park acreage, with the size of Gordon Moore Park, the City far exceeds the Regional Park recommendations. Regional parks often serve as Community Park for many activities.



Table 4.2: Park Acreage Analysis – By Park Type

	NRPA Standard (Low) Acres per 1,000 Person	NRPA Standard (High) Acres per 1,000 Person	Recommended Local Standard	Recommended Acreage Based on Alton 2010 Population	Existing Alton Park Acreage	Percentage Above/Below Standard
Regional Park	5.0	10.0	7.5	209	450	115%
Community Park	5.0	8.0	6.5	181	120	-34%
Neighborhood / Mini Park	1.0/0.25	2.0/0.5	1.0	28	49	76%
Specialty Park	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.5	N/A
Total Parkland (Excludes Golf Courses)					638.5	

Alton Population (2010 Census)

27,865

Park Service Areas - By Park Type

Service areas for parks are the areas of population that have access to a given park. For neighborhood and mini parks, the service area includes the ability to walk or bicycle to the park. For community and regional parks, while accessibility by walking and biking is important, it is generally understood that this category of park will be accessed by users driving to the park.

Community Parks

The recommended service area for community parks is 2-3 miles. As the map (Figure 4.1) illustrates, the City of Alton has good service coverage by its three community parks.

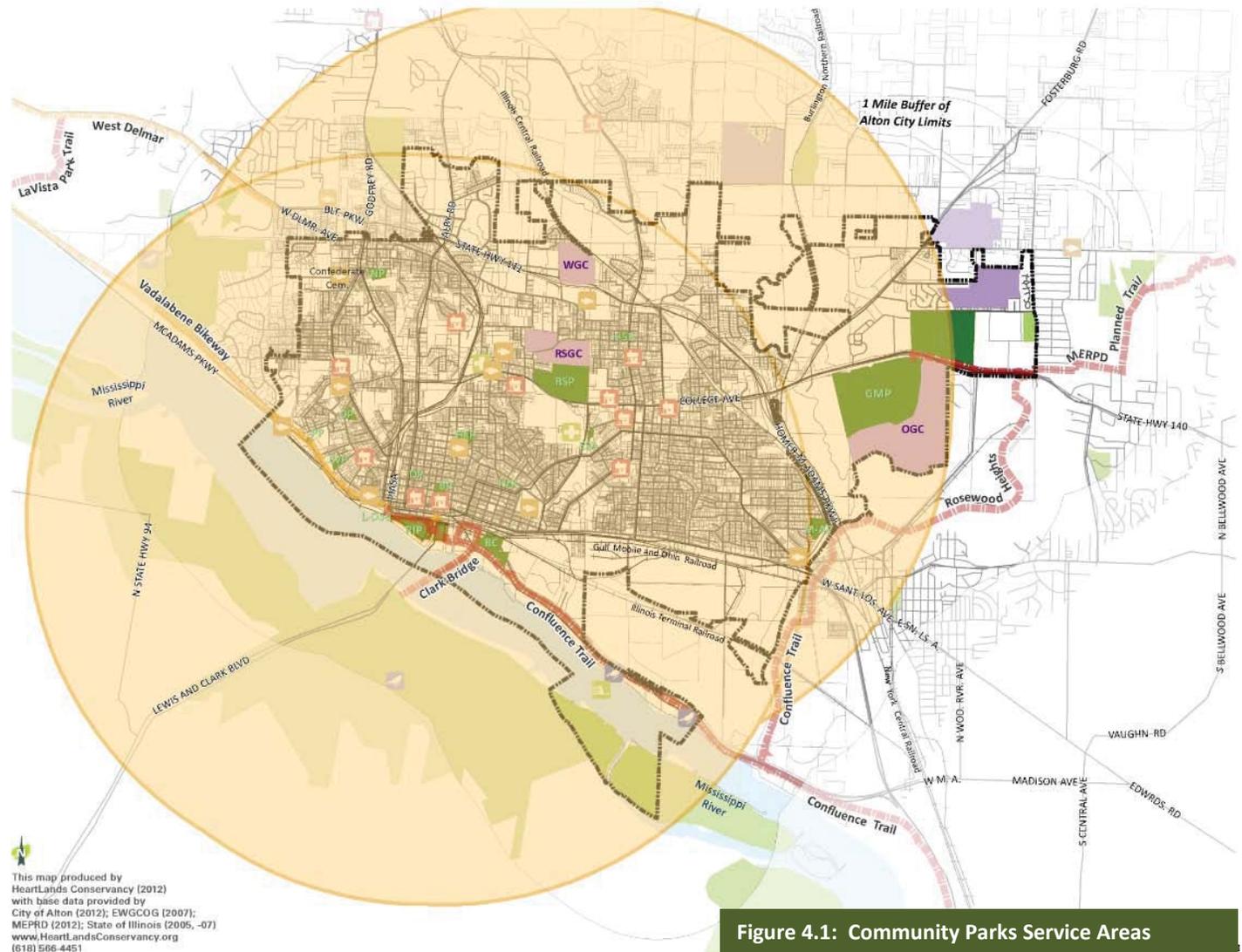
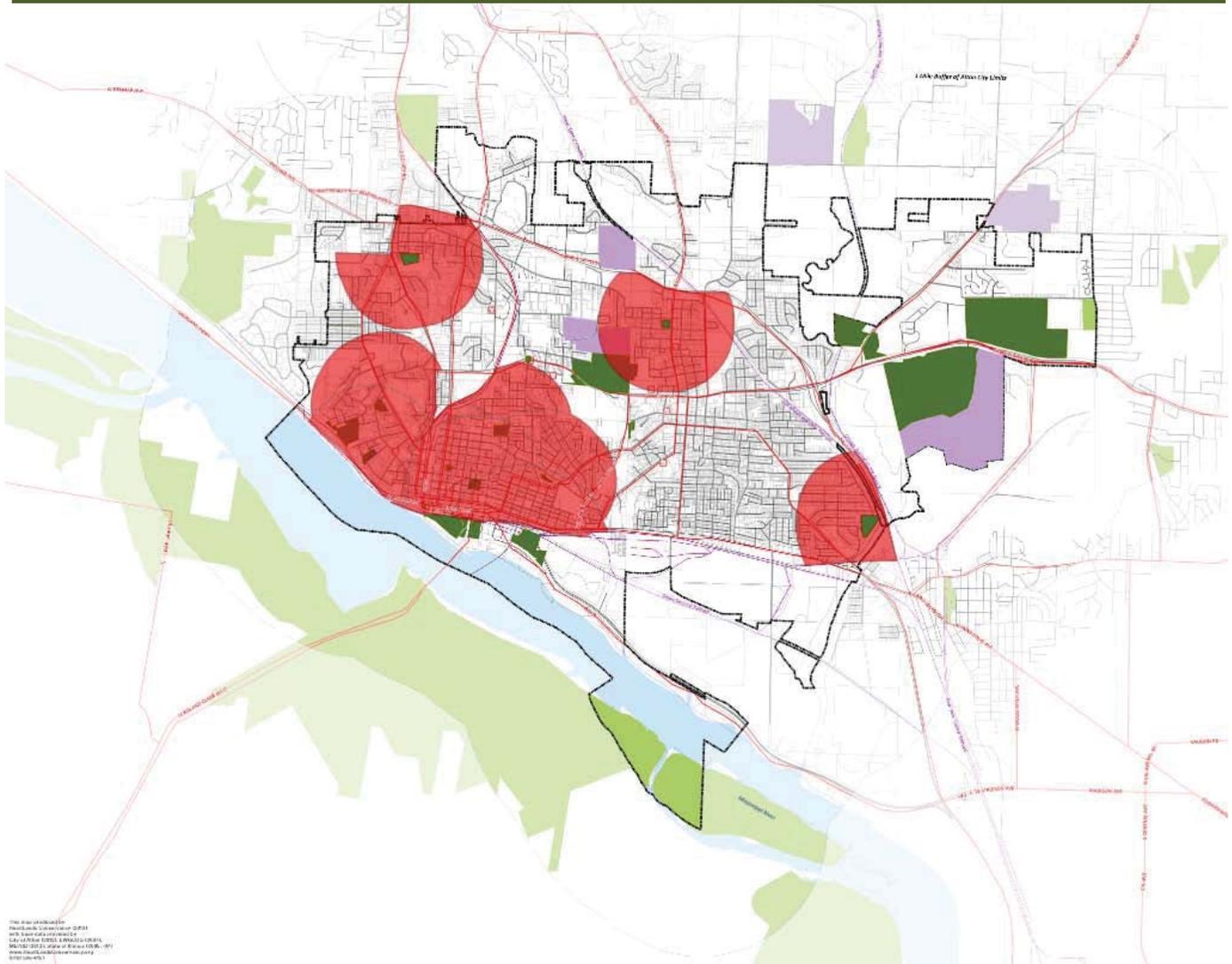


Figure 4.1: Community Parks Service Areas

Neighborhood / Mini parks should be readily accessible by walking and biking. To analyze biking and walking accessibility, the 1/2 mile service area is further refined by eliminating portions of the service area that have barriers such as major roads or rail tracks that physically prevent or discourage users from walking or biking to the park. Figure 4.3 shows the neighborhood / mini parks service areas with barriers included.

Figure 4.3: Neighborhood Parks Service Areas with Barriers



Park Activity and Facility Needs Assessment

Tables 4.3a and 4.3b provide a matrix of park activities and facilities and comparison to the benchmarks of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines, a survey of other municipal parks and recreation guidelines, and Illinois averages from the 2009 IDNR 'Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan'.

Generally, for the population of Alton, the number and type of park and recreation activities and facilities meet the NRPA guidelines and exceed Illinois averages.

Table 4.3a: Park Activity and Facility Needs Matrix

Facility Type	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (Low) (a)	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (High) (a)	Illinois Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)
Active Recreation			
Playgrounds	1 playground per 2,000 population	1 playground per 1,250 population	1 per 2,500 population
Water Play Area / Splash Pool	N/A	N/A	1 per 34,200 population
Skate Park	1 skate park per 50,000 population	1 skate park per 50,000 population	1 per 61,350 population
Disc (Frisbee) Golf Course	N/A	N/A	1 per 125,000 population
Swimming	1 pool per / 20,000 population	1 pool per / 6,500 population	1 per 35,000 population
Fishing	N/A	N/A	1 fish pier/dock per 24,000 pop
Athletic Facilities			
Football / Soccer Fields	1 field per 5,000 population	1 field per 1,500 population	1 per 5,600 population
Basketball Courts	1 court per 5,000 population	1 court per 5,000 population	1 per 4,000 population
Ball Diamonds	1 per 5,000 population	1 per 2,500 population	1 per 2,500 population
Tennis Courts	1 court per 4,000 population	1 court per 2,000 population	No data
Sand Volleyball	1 per 7,500 population	1 per 7,500 population	No data
Passive Use / Facilities			
Picnic Pavilions/Shelters	1 per 2,000 population	1 per 1,300 population	1 per 4,800 population
Dog Parks	1 dog park per 40,000 population	1 dog park per 20,000 population	1 per 135,000 population
Recreation Center	1,000 square feet per 1,000 population	2,000 square feet per 1,000 population	No data
Golf Courses			
Golf Course - Including Wadlow Golf Course	0.36 holes per 1,000 population	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	0.20 holes per 1,000 population
Golf Course - Excluding Wadlow Golf Course	0.36 holes per 1,000 population	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	0.20 holes per 1,000 population

Notes

- (a) Recommended benchmarks based on National Recreation and Parks Association guidelines, and survey of other municipal recreation and parks guidelines.
 (b) Source for Illinois averages for park districts and municipal departments: *2009-2014 IDNR Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*
 (c) Based on Alton population of 27,865 (2010 Census)

Table 4.3b: Park Activity and Facility Needs Matrix

Facility Type	Recommended Local Standard	Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service	Comments
Active Recreation					
Playgrounds	1 playground per 1,500 population	19	16	1 playground per 1,750	
Water Play Area / Splash Pool	1 per 15,000 population	2	1	1 per 28,000	
Skate Park	1 skate park per 50,000 population	1	1	1 skate park per 28,000	
Disc (Frisbee) Golf Course	1 disc golf per 25,000 population	1	2	1 disc golf per 14,000	
Swimming	1 pool per 20,000	1	0	N/A	
Fishing	1 fishing pond/lake per 25,000	1	1	1 fishing pond/lake per 25,000	
Athletic Facilities					
Football / Soccer Fields	1 field per 2,000 population	14	25	1 field per 1,100	
Basketball Courts	1 court per 5,000 population	5	4.5	1 court per 6,200	
Ball Diamonds	1 per 2,500 population	11	12	1 ball diamond per 2,300	
Tennis Courts	1 court per 4,000	7	12	1 court per 2,300	
Sand Volleyball	1 per 7,500 population	3	1	1 per 28,000	
Passive Use / Facilities					
Picnic Pavilions/Shelters	1 shelter per 1,500 population	18	18	1 per 1,500	
Dog Parks	1 per 30,000 population	1	1	1 per 28,000	Based on planned dog park at Russell Commons.
Recreation Center	1,500 square feet per 1,000 population	42,000 square feet	0	N/A	
Golf Courses					
Golf Course - Including Wadlow Golf Course	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	21 holes	45	1.6 holes per 1,000 population	Includes Wadlow (9 holes), Rock Spring (9 holes), Spencer T. Olin Main Course(18 holes), and Spencer T. Olin Training Course (9 holes).
Golf Course - Excluding Wadlow Golf Course	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	21 holes	36	1.3 holes per 1,000 population	Includes Rock Spring (9 holes), Spencer T. Olin Main Course(18 holes), and Spencer T. Olin Training Course (9 holes).

Notes

(a) Recommended benchmarks based on National Recreation and Parks Association guidelines, and survey of other municipal recreation and parks guidelines.

(b) Source for Illinois averages for park districts and municipal departments: *2009-2014 IDNR Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*

(c) Based on Alton population of 27,865 (2010 Census)

Public and Stakeholder Input Regarding Needs

Several methods were used to gather input from the public and stakeholders. They included:

- A nine (9) person Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to assist in the planning process.
- Public Open House on May 30, 2012 to solicit feedback and input for the plan.
- An on-line questionnaire to gather feedback from the public about park usage, activities, programs, strengths, and weaknesses. The questionnaire was active from May 22 through June 4, 2012.
- Stakeholder interviews with Alton civic and volunteer organizations.
- This report's public comment period for residents to make additional comments and suggestions.

The complete questionnaire and responses are included as an appendix as part of Chapter 6 'Public Engagement Summary'. Below are highlights from the questionnaire.

Desire for New or Additional Park and Recreation Facilities (Top Five)

- 1. Walking/Bike Trails**
2. Natural Areas
3. Ponds/Lakes
4. Flower Gardens
5. Picnic Shelters

Input from stakeholders in addition to the above responses:

- Swimming / Splash Facilities
- Indoor Recreational Facility

New or Additional Programming and Events (Top Five)

- 1. Concerts**
2. Nature Programs
3. Fitness and Wellness Programs
4. Walk / Run Events
5. Cultural Arts Programs

Reasons Preventing People from using Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities (Top Four)

- 1. Lack of Time**
- 2. Don't Feel Safe While at the Park**
3. Quality of the Facilities
4. Inconvenient Location
(Difficult access by walking or biking)

SWOT Analysis **(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats)**

Below is a summary of key findings in regard to strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to Alton's parks, open space, and recreation systems. This is a summary of public and stakeholder comments as well as analysis. See appendix in Chapter 6 'Public Engagement Summary' for all comments.

Strengths

- Natural beauty of the parks system.
- Diversity of park types and uses.
- Very mature park system.
- Organized activities within the park system.
- Parks that take advantage of the river (Riverview, Riverfront, Russell Commons).
- Strong civic and volunteer spirit with parks and open space.
- Some of best facilities in the region (Riverfront amphitheatre, Gordon Moore).
- Strong cultural and historical significance with many of the parks.

Weaknesses / Items to Improve

- Perception of crime and lack of security in some parks.
- Imbalance of activities / facilities between some parks.
- Lack of maintenance at some parks.
- Communication of park events and activities.
- Bicycle / Pedestrian connections to parks, especially Gordon Moore.

Opportunities

- Water features (spray fountains, etc). Currently only Gordon Moore and Riverfront have water features.
- Coordination with other Riverbend communities on park, open space, and recreation planning and facilities.
- A system-wide connection of bicycle / walking access to the parks.
- More passive uses such as natural areas.

Threats

- Lack of Funding.
- Potentially losing athletic tournaments. Can Gordon Moore stay competitive with newer community athletic facilities being built elsewhere in southwestern Illinois.
- Development pressure of parks and open space.
- Loss of park users to other communities because of maintenance, perception of safety, or lack of facilities. Especially residents using Glazebrook park in Godfrey.

Summary

Key items to note from the activity and facility needs assessment are:

1. While the City is somewhat short in Community Park acreage, there is limited demand/priority for community level facilities:
 - Walking / biking trails (connections to parks)
 - More passive uses (could be incorporated into existing parks)
 - However, two community level facilities: splash/swimming and indoor recreation center should be evaluated further.
2. Although the City of Alton has a high number of overall soccer, football, baseball, and softball facilities, the type of these facilities may need to be evaluated further to ensure that the City stays competitive in hosting tournaments and leagues as other communities in southwestern Illinois expand their facilities.
3. Expanding coordination and planning between the parks and recreation departments of the communities within the Riverbend Area may benefit all communities by capitalizing on economies of scale.
4. Expanding park acreage or even new facilities does not seem to be a major priority. Priorities may need to focus on continued upgrades and maintenance of existing facilities, and active programming. Also, better communication of existing facilities and programs.
5. Evaluate further the demand for neighborhood / mini parks in southeast Alton. Could school playgrounds/open space meet the need in this area.

Chapter 5 - Robert P. Wadlow Municipal Golf Course

Introduction

The former Robert P. Wadlow Municipal Golf Course is approximately 56 acres and was a nine hole course. The course was built in the 1940's and was named after Robert Pershing Wadlow, who is buried in nearby Oakwood Cemetery.

The course was managed by the City of Alton until 2008, when a private operator took over management of the course. The private operator managed the course until April 2012 when the course was closed. The course has been closed since April 22, 2012.

The former Wadlow Golf Course site is the preferred location by the City of Alton for the future high speed rail station and related public and private investments. A large component of the overall Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan is to determine if Wadlow should be removed from the parks system to accommodate the high speed rail station and related development. To make this determination, the plan is addressing the following questions:

- What are the system wide impacts to parks, open space, and recreation facilities if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
- What are residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks? How does that change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?
- How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?

Removing Wadlow Golf Course from the park system and designating a new land-use for the site is a multi-step process including the following:

- Citizen Advisory Committee
- Park Commission Board
- Planning Commission
- City Council

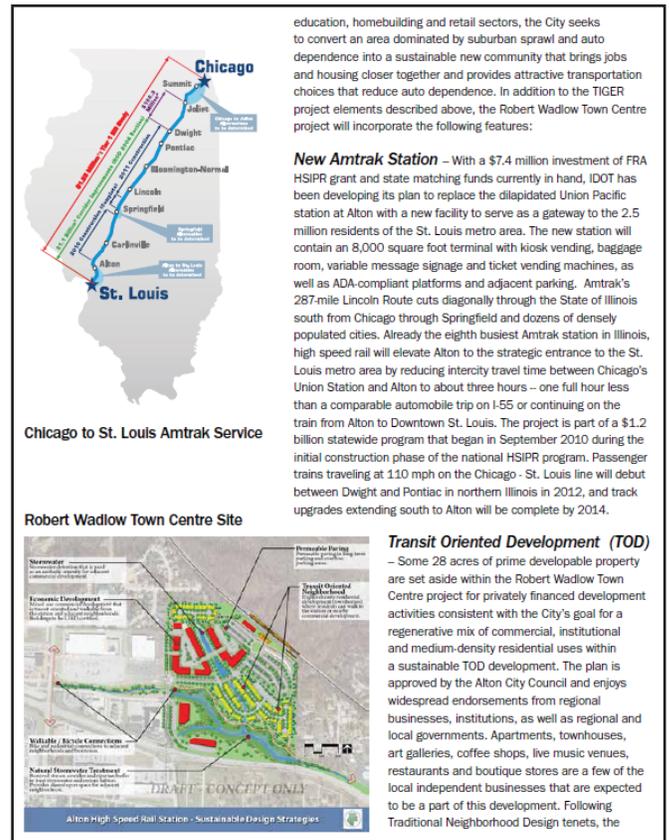


Figure 5.1: Page from 2011 TIGER grant application. Source: www.alton-il.com/html/PDF/Alton_Multimodal_Grant.pdf

What are the system wide impacts to parks, open space, and recreation facilities if the land-use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?

Overall impacts are limited. The following sections in this chapter offer more detail, but in general the impacts are limited because even if Wadlow Golf Course is removed from the park system:

- The City is still meeting its 2003 Comprehensive Plan Goal of 20 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.
- The City well exceeds the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines of 10 acres per 1,000 residents.
- The City well exceeds the Illinois municipal and park district average of 11.35 acres per 1,000 residents.
- The City has an excess supply of golf facilities while the demand for golf at Wadlow has steadily decreased in recent years.
- If Wadlow was converted to a neighborhood park, the service area of the park is limited with the Union Pacific rail line and Homer Adams Parkway acting as major barriers for residents to walk or bike to the park.
- If Wadlow was converted to a community park, significant investments would be needed to provide community level facilities at Wadlow. Also, input from the public and stakeholders have not indicated a high demand for community park type facilities. In addition, the City has been deeded 35 acres for future park use along Alby Road. These 35 acres could be used for future community park space if needed.



Figure 5.2: Potential High Speed Rail Station Location
Source: IDOT - High Speed Rail Programming Study

Overall City Park Acreage

The City of Alton does very well with overall park acreage. Excluding all existing City golf courses (Wadlow, Rock Spring, and Spence T. Olin), the City of Alton has approximately 637.5 acres of park space. For a 2010 population of 27,865, this park acreage translates in 22.9 acres per 1,000 population. As Table 5.1 illustrates, the City exceeds the benchmarks of 10 acres per 1,000 population guideline by the NRPA and the Illinois average of 11.35 acres per 1,000 population. The City also currently exceeds the City of Alton's 2003 Comprehensive Plan goal of 20 acres per 1,000 population.

Impacts to Golf Recreation in Alton

Alton has numerous existing golf course both within the City limits and nearby the City. As Figure 5.3 illustrates, in addition to Wadlow Golf Course, existing golf facilities include:

Within the City Limits of Alton

- Rock Spring Golf Course (9 holes)
- Spencer T. Olin (18 holes)
- Spencer T. Olin Practice Facility (9 holes)

Nearby Golf Facilities

- Cloverleaf Golf Course (18 holes)
- Rolling Hills Golf Course (18 hole main course and 9 hole executive course)
- The Woodlands Golf Club (18 holes)

One analysis of golf recreation is to compare Alton to benchmarks for the number of golf holes available per

the population. Table 5.2 summarizes this benchmark information. One benchmark source is the guidelines from the National Recreation and Park Association supplemented with a precedent survey of other municipal recreation standards. This provides a "low" and "high" guideline for number of holes per 1,000 population of 0.36 to 0.75 holes per 1,000 population. The other benchmark source is the Illinois average of municipalities and park districts as surveyed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in 2009. The Illinois average is 0.20 holes per 1,000. Using the "high" benchmark of 0.75, the recommended number of golf holes for Alton's population would be 21 holes. Excluding Wadlow, the City would still have 36 holes of golf available through Rock Spring and Spencer T. Olin. Including nearby facilities, residents of Alton have access to 99 holes of golf (excluding Wadlow).

Another analysis of golf recreation is to examine local demand for golf facilities. While benchmarks such as

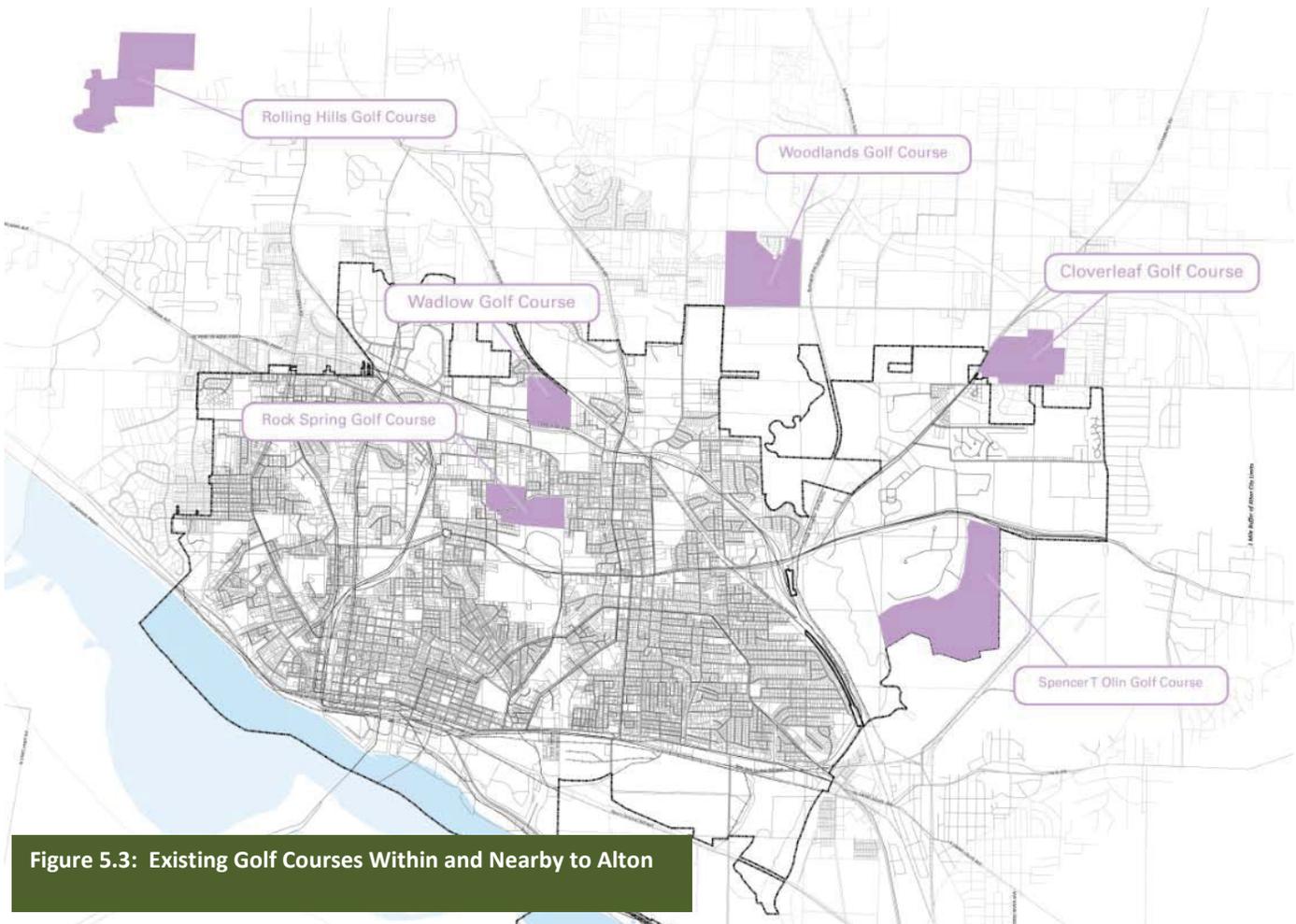


Figure 5.3: Existing Golf Courses Within and Nearby to Alton

Table 5.1: Overall Park Acreage Analysis

	Acres per 1,000 Person	Recommended Acreage Based on Alton 2010 Population	Existing Alton Park Acreage (Excluding Golf Courses)	Percentage Above/Below Standard	Alton Population to Support Benchmarks
NRPA Guideline	10	279	638.5	129%	63,850
Illinois Average (*)	11.35	316	638.5	102%	56,256
2003 Alton Comprehensive Plan Goal	20	557	638.5	15%	31,925

the Illinois average and the NRPA guidelines are helpful in assessment, local demand can sometimes be higher or lower than national or statewide benchmarks. For this local demand analysis, rounds of golf played at Wadlow were analyzed from 1999-2008 (2008 was the last year data was available). Figure 5.4 shows this information. In 1999-2000, 28,771 rounds were played. In 2007-2008, 15,450 rounds were played. From 1999 to 2008 the number of rounds declined by almost 47%.

since taken over operations of Rock Spring Golf Course. However, no private operator took over Wadlow, and Wadlow Golf Course has been closed since April 22, 2012.

Declining golf demand in Alton is not just a local trend. As discussed elsewhere in this Chapter, the National Golf Foundation has recently reported that 500 to 1000 golf facilities are expected to close nationwide between 2010 and 2020.

Declining demand at Wadlow was further illustrated when the private course management company (Alton Golf Management) that had been operating Wadlow, decided to close in April, 2012. Alton Golf Management also operated Rock Spring Golf Course. A new private operator, VVH Golf Management, has

Figure 5.4: Rounds Played at Wadlow Golf Course (1999-2008)

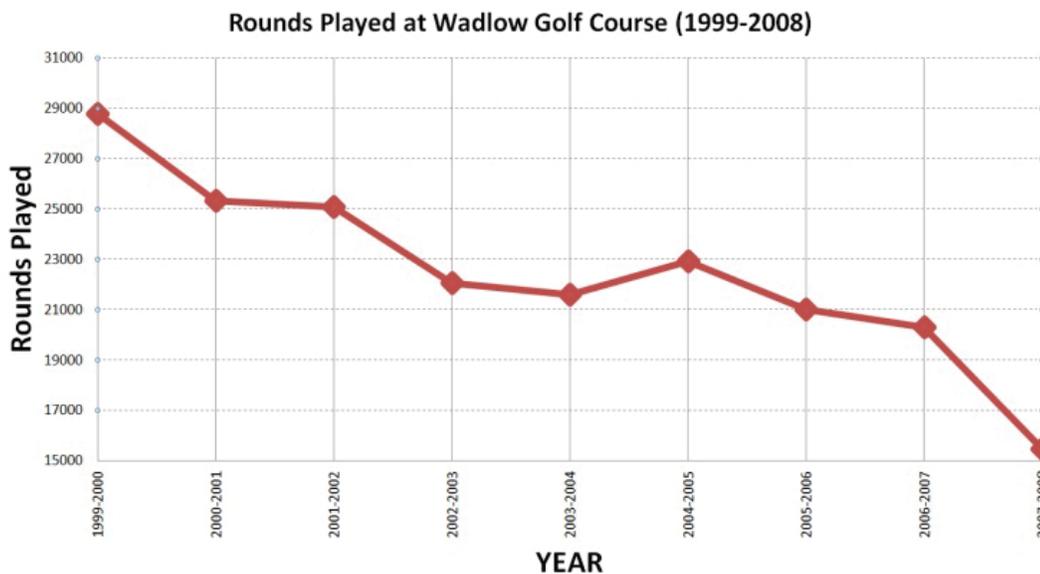


Table 5.2: Analysis of Golf Courses – Holes per Population

Facility Type	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (Low) (a)	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (High) (a)	Illinois Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)	Recommended Local Standard
Golf Courses				
Golf Course - Including Wadlow Golf Course	0.36 holes per 1,000 population	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	0.20 holes per 1,000 population	0.75 holes per 1,000 population
Golf Course - Excluding Wadlow Golf Course	0.36 holes per 1,000 population	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	0.20 holes per 1,000 population	0.75 holes per 1,000 population

Facility Type	Recommended Local Standard	Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service	Comments
Golf Courses					
Golf Course - Including Wadlow Golf Course	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	21 holes	45	1.6 holes per 1,000 population	Includes Wadlow (9 holes), Rock Spring (9 holes), Spencer T. Olin Main Course(18 holes), and Spencer T. Olin Training Course (9 holes).
Golf Course - Excluding Wadlow Golf Course	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	21 holes	36	1.3 holes per 1,000 population	Includes Rock Spring (9 holes), Spencer T. Olin Main Course(18 holes), and Spencer T. Olin Training Course (9 holes).

Conversion to Another Park Type

Wadlow as a golf course has not proven viable in the near term. There is excess supply of golf facilities in Alton. The local and national trend is declining golf facilities and demand. However, to fully analyze the impacts to the Alton parks and recreation system, Wadlow must also be considered within the context of other possible park facilities. At approximately 55 acres, Wadlow would be considered a potential community park or a large neighborhood park. An analysis of both is presented below.

Conversion to Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Parks tend to serve a 1/2 mile radius of residents and have facilities that are desirable for residents to walk or bike to including playgrounds, shelters, and passive open space.

The location of Wadlow limits its opportunity as a neighborhood park because of a limited potential service area. A 1/2 mile radius around Wadlow does not include a large amount of potential park users. To

the west, there are existing commercial and retail. To the east and south, the service area is limited by the walking and biking barrier of the Union Pacific railroad line and Homer Adams Parkway.

Conversion to Community Park

There are several opportunities that could potentially be met by converting Wadlow to a Community Park. As noted in Chapter 4 'Needs Assessment', Alton is short park acreage in the Community Park category compared to NRPA benchmarks. At approximately 56 acres, converting Wadlow to a Community Park would help Alton meet the benchmark for Community Park acreage.

Second, Alton's other three community parks (Rock Spring, Riverfront, and Russell Commons) are located in the central and southern portions of Alton. Wadlow as a Community Park would serve the northern area of Alton. Finally, Wadlow has existing utilities and mature trees that would be an asset if Wadlow was converted to a Community Park.

The biggest reason against converting Wadlow to a Community Park would be the significant investment in facilities and infrastructure needed. Park roads, parking, lighting, restrooms, and other facilities would be needed. Utilities would have to be extended throughout the park.

Second, while Alton is short in acreage for Community Parks compared to the NRPA benchmark, overall City park acreage well exceeds NRPA benchmarks and the Illinois average for municipalities and park districts. Also, it is unclear whether the City truly needs additional Community level park facilities. With current City park budgets, increasing the number of facilities and thus maintenance would be impractical. Finally, input from the public and stakeholders have not indicated a high demand for community park type facilities.

If additional Community level facilities do become a priority for the City in the future, the City also has an opportunity for future parkland along Alby Road north of Homer Adams Parkway. This area is already zoned Conservation/Recreation. According to the City, approximately 35 acres has been deeded for future

park use. Portions of this area currently serve as a landfill.

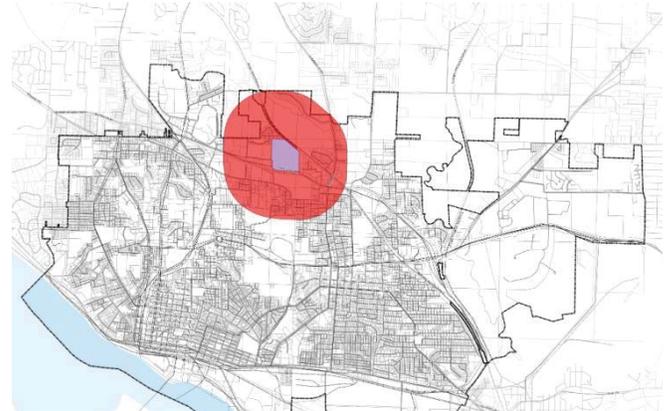


Figure 5.5: Wadlow as Neighborhood Park with 1/2 Mile Service Area

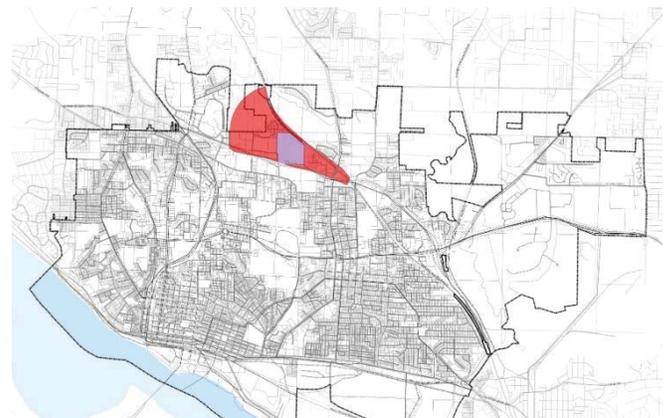


Figure 5.6: Wadlow as Neighborhood Park with 1/2 Mile Service Area Including Barriers

What are residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks? How does that change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?

Residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for parks, open space, and recreational facilities appear to be little changed if the land-use for Wadlow Golf Course changes.

The reasons for this analysis are:

It appears from input from the public and stakeholders to date that a priority for the future should be upgrading existing facilities, and not necessarily adding additional facilities. If Wadlow was converted to a community or neighborhood park, extensive investment would be required in new facilities. Additional facilities would require additional maintenance. Lack of proper maintenance of existing facilities has been identified as a top concern and issue.

Demand for golf has declined significantly. As discussed elsewhere in this Chapter, golf demand has declined both locally and nationally. Wadlow as a golf facility does not seem viable.

There is limited priority/demand for Community Park type facilities. Some of the top needs identified for Alton parks, open space, and recreational facilities are walking/bicycle trails and passive uses. For walking and bicycle trails, connections to the various parks are a key priority. Having Wadlow removed from the parks system does not affect the goal / need for walking/bicycle trails and passive uses. Passive uses can be expanded within the existing park system. If needed, the future 35 acres deeded for future park use along Alby Road could be utilized as passive park space.

How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?

Eight factors were examined to analyze the significance of the Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf course, parks, open space and recreational facilities in the City of Alton. These factors help supplement the analysis mentioned elsewhere in this report including acreage analysis, activity assessment, and service areas. The categories of factors were:

- Existing Park Usage
- Accessibility
- Infrastructure
- Historical / Cultural Significance
- Viewsheds
- Ecological Significance
- Existing Native Trees
- Existing Native Understory / Groundcover

It is important to note that this comparison of significance is an attempt to compare existing parks and facilities within the City of Alton to each other, and not necessarily an attempt to rate the value of each park and open space. Every park and open space has strengths and community wide benefits such as helping provide clean air and water, increased recreational opportunities, and connecting residents to nature.

Below is a discussion of how Wadlow measures in each category. For each category, Wadlow is ranked in one of three categories:

- *Limited Significance* (Below average compared to other City parks)
- *Equal Significance* (Has strengths in that category, but other City parks have similar characteristics and strengths)
- *High Significance* (Above average compared to other City parks)

Existing Park Usage

As a golf course, Wadlow has experienced significant decline in use. As shown in Figure 5.4, rounds of golf at Wadlow have decreased consistently from 1999-2008 (2008 was the last year data was available). The total decline in rounds was almost 47% from 1999 to 2008. Lack of demand led to the course being closed in April, 2012.

National Trends

The loss of golf facilities and decline in golfers is not limited to Alton, it is a nationwide trend. According to a report by the National Golf Foundation titled, 'Golf Participation in America, 2010-2020', it is expected that there will be a decline of 500 to 1,000 golf courses in the United States between 2010 to 2020 (an annual rate of decline of approximately 0.5%.) The number of golfers is expected to increase slightly at an annual 1% rate.

Recent declines in the number of golfers and facilities are a contrast to the increase in golf since the 1960's. The decade of 2000 to 2010 was the first decade since the 1960's to experience a decline in the number of golfers, and it appears the decade of 2010 to 2020 will be the first decade since the 1960's to experience a decline in the overall number of golf courses.

Existing Park Usage Significance:

Limited significance since golf course demand has declined significantly.

Accessibility

Accessibility refers to the ability of residents to access a park by walking/biking or by a motor vehicle. Accessibility is also determined by the category of the park. Neighborhood and Mini Parks should be accessible by walking and biking, with less importance for motor vehicle access. For community and regional parks, access for motor vehicles is important, while accessibility by walking and biking is also encouraged.

Wadlow has high accessibility for motor vehicle with its location just off the intersection of Homer Adams Parkway and Golf Road. The Homer Adams Parkway / Golf Road intersection is also signalized.

For pedestrians and bicycles, Wadlow has poor accessibility. Homer Adams Parkway to the south, and the Union Pacific railroad line to the northeast act as significant barriers for existing pedestrian and bicycle connections to the site. Also, there are limited residents within walking distance of the site. Residential areas are limited to the northwest and the southeast.

Existing Accessibility Significance:

Motor Vehicle Accessibility:

Equal Significance. Most of Alton's parks, especially its Regional and Community Parks, have good motor vehicle accessibility due to their locations off of major roads and highways. So while Wadlow has good motor vehicle access off of Homer Adams Parkway, it is no more significant than other Alton parks.

Pedestrian / Bicycle Accessibility:

Limited Significance. For bicycle and especially pedestrian access, Wadlow is less significant than other Alton parks. Currently, Wadlow is very limited to the number of residential areas that are within walking distance of the park.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure refers to the age and condition of roads, parking, buildings, utilities, and other facilities within a park.

Most of the infrastructure within Wadlow is limited to golf course facilities (parking lot, club house, etc). With declining golf usage at Wadlow, it would be anticipated that significant upgrades in infrastructure would be required for either improving the number of golf rounds at Wadlow or to convert Wadlow to another park type.

Wadlow has received upgrades in green infrastructure. In 2012, through an Illinois EPA Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG), a stream restoration project is being completed.

Infrastructure Significance:

Limited significance. Overall significance of infrastructure at Wadlow would be below average compared to other Alton parks. Significant upgrades

in infrastructure would be required to maintain Wadlow as a golf facility or to convert to another park type. However, the current stream restoration project is an important upgrade to the green infrastructure of the site.



Existing Green Infrastructure (Stream Restoration) Project at Wadlow

Historical / Cultural

Historical / Cultural refers to the site or elements within the park with historical or cultural significance. Wadlow has many memorial trees that have been planted over the years. However, memorial trees can be found in most of Alton's parks. Furthermore, many of Alton's parks have extremely high historical / cultural significance such as Piasa Park and Lincoln Douglas Square.

Historical / Cultural Significance:

Limited significance.

Viewsheds

Viewsheds refers to views from parks that are an asset to visitors and users of the park. Views can be within the park or views looking from the park to certain vistas. Alton is blessed with a number of parks with outstanding viewsheds. Examples include: Riverview park with views from the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, Riverfront and Russell Commons parks with views of the Mississippi River and the Clark

Bridge, Piasa Park with views of the bluff and the river, Rock Spring Park with its topography offers several internal views of wooded hillsides, and Gordon Moore Park with its bell tower and rose garden offering several internal vistas.

Wadlow is limited in either internal or external viewsheds. While some mature trees provide a nice visually backdrop for some views within the park, overall viewsheds are limited.

Viewshed Significance:

Limited significance.

Ecological Significance

Ecological significance is measured from data recently completed by the East West Gateway Council of Governments (EWGCOG) which mapped ecological significance for the region. Areas were rated on a scale of 1 to 8, with 1 having limited ecological significance, and 8 having high ecological significance.

As shown in Figure 5.7, most of Alton parks rate between a 1-3 for ecological significance. Wadlow rates a 1-2 for ecological significance.

Ecological Significance:

Limited Significance.

Existing Native Trees

Existing native trees refers to the number of existing mature native trees within a park. A large number of mature trees provide significant benefits to the park and the City of Alton. Benefits include infiltration of stormwater, cleaner air, shade for park users, wildlife habitat, and visual backdrops within the park.

Wadlow has many mature trees both native and non-native, including several large oaks. Existing mature trees is a strength of Wadlow. However, most other parks within Alton also have significant mature trees.

Existing Native Tree Significance:

Equal significance compared to other City parks.



Existing Mature Trees at Wadlow

Existing Native Shrubs / Groundcover:

Limited Significance

Existing Native Shrubs / Groundcover

Existing native shrubs and groundcover closely supplements existing native trees by referring to the amount of understory (shrubs) and groundcover (grasses and other low vegetation) that are within a park. A high amount of native understory and groundcover can provide significant benefits to the park and the City of Alton. Benefits include high infiltration of stormwater, cleaner air, wildlife habitat, and reduced maintenance from mowing. Turf grass, the most common park groundcover, has limited benefits in terms of stormwater and wildlife habitat. Turf grass, especially when mowed short and compacted, often can be just as impervious to stormwater infiltration as many hard surfaces.

Wadlow has very limited native shrubs and groundcover. As a golf course, a majority of the ground plane was turf grasses. An exception is the current green infrastructure project that is restoring the stream corridor within Wadlow. Once completed in fall of 2012, the stream restoration will include a riparian buffer on each side of the stream which will include native grasses, shrubs, and trees.

While turf grass is the most common groundcover within Alton parks, several parks have significant native and natural understories and groundcover. Examples include: the wooded natural areas within Rock Spring, the prairie at Gordon Moore, and the wooded hillside at Riverview Park.

Public Comment to Land-Use Changes for Wadlow Golf Course

A major goal of the planning study was to have extensive public engagement of both the overall plan and the land-use changes for the Wadlow Golf Course. This section summarizes public comment to date in regards to the Wadlow Golf Course. Chapter XX 'Public Engagement Summary' includes a summary of the overall public engagement as well as an appendix of all meeting notes, presentations, meeting exhibits, and public comments.

Significant public outreach has taken place in regard to the proposed land-use changes for Wadlow Golf Course. For Wadlow Golf Course to properly be considered as a high speed rail station location, the Wadlow site would need to be removed from its current zoning designation of 'Conservation / Recreation' to another zoning designation.

Awareness of proposed changes to Wadlow began in the summer / fall of 2011 when the City of Alton and Madison County Transit applied for and received a \$13.85 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant. The grant application showed the Wadlow site as the preferred location for the high speed rail station. In addition, the grant application outlined millions of dollars in public and private investment than would be made at the Wadlow site including a new Regional Multimodal Transportation Center (RMTC), transit-oriented development, and ecotourism opportunities.

With the 'Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities Management Plan' beginning late April, 2012, significant public outreach has taken place regarding not only the overall parks and open space plan, but the impacts to Wadlow Golf Course and the proposed land-use change.



One of the Stakeholder Meetings on May 23rd

Public and Stakeholder Outreach has Included:

Citizen Advisory Committee

A nine (9) person Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to advise this planning process. The CAC has met on May 8th and June 5th to date.

Stakeholder Meetings

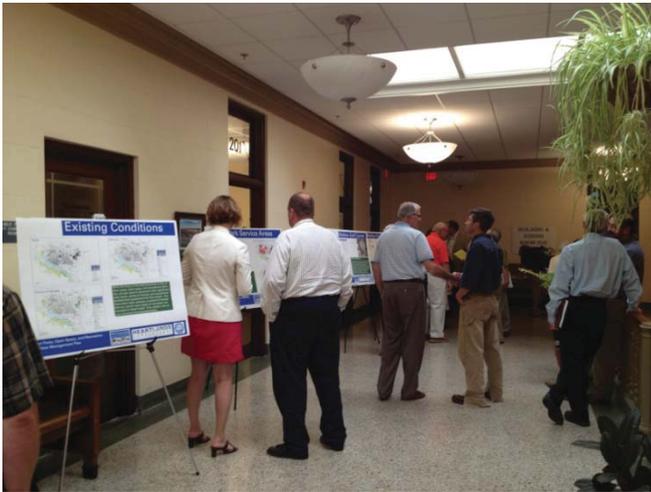
A series of stakeholder meetings were held on May 23rd to gather input for the study. See Chapter 6 'Public Engagement Summary and Appendix' for meeting notes and groups that attended. Invited stakeholders included:

- Stakeholder Meeting #1: Cultural/Historical Organizations
- Stakeholder Meeting #2: Weed & Seed, Drug Free Alton
- Stakeholder Meeting #3: Schools
- Stakeholder Meeting #4: Business Associations
- Stakeholder Meeting #5: Environmental Groups
- Stakeholder Meeting #6: Beautification/Civic Groups

May 30th Public Open House

On May 30th, 2012 a public open house was held from 4:30 to 6:30pm at Alton City Hall to discuss the overall park plan and the proposed impacts to Wadlow Golf Course.

Meeting notes and presentations from the Citizen Advisory Committee, exhibits and notes from the stakeholder meetings and the public open house can be found in the Appendix.



Public Open House on May 30th

At part of both the stakeholder meetings and the public open house, a question about the future land-use of Wadlow was asked of attendees. The question was:

"If the land-use changes for Wadlow Golf Course to accommodate a high speed rail station and public / private investments, would you:"

- A. Be supportive of development of the whole site, regardless of the type of proposed development.
- B. Be supportive of development if additional green space or park space were acquired in the future, elsewhere in Alton.
- C. Be supportive of partial development of the site (preserving the Wadlow stream corridor).
- D. Be supportive of development if the development is transit-oriented, walkable, and follows best practices for sustainable development.
- E. Be supportive of development with a combination of B, C, and D above.
- F. Not supportive of development of the site.
- G. Other

Wadlow Golf Course

If the land-use changes for Wadlow Golf Course to accommodate a high speed rail station and public / private investments, would you:

- A. Be supportive of development of the whole site, regardless of the type of proposed development.
- B. Be supportive of development if open space or park space were acquired in the future, elsewhere in Alton.
- C. Be supportive of partial development of the site (preserving the Wadlow stream corridor).
- D. Be supportive of development if the development is transit-oriented, walkable, and follows best practices for sustainable development.
- E. Be supportive of development with a combination of B, C, and D above.
- F. Not supportive of development on the site.
- G. Other



Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



One of the Exhibits at the Public Open House and Stakeholder Meetings

(See Appendix in Chapter 6 for All Exhibits)

The majority of respondents selected "E", that they would be supportive of development with a combination of:

- Acquiring additional green space or park space in the future, elsewhere in Alton.
- Preserving part of the site as open space (i.e. the Wadlow stream corridor).
- Developing the site as transit-oriented, walkable, and following sustainable best practices.

Summary

Based on the analysis and input from the public and stakeholders to date, the following summary (explained in detail previously in this Chapter) was presented to the Citizen Advisory Committee on June 5, 2012.

- What are the system wide impacts to parks, open space, and recreation facilities if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
Limited Impact
- How does the residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for parks change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?
Limited to No Change
- How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?
Limited Significance (Below Average Compared to Other City Parks)

The Citizen Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that Wadlow Golf Course be taken out of the park and recreation system in anticipation of mixed-use sustainable development, with said recommendation being forwarded to the Park and Recreation Commission for further consideration.

On June 18, 2012 the Alton Park Commission voted to remove Wadlow from the City's Park and Recreation system.

On June 27, 2012 the Alton City Council voted to remove in its entirety the land on which the former Robert P. Wadlow Golf Course existed from the inventory of the Alton Park and Recreation system.

On October 24, 2012, the Alton City Council voted to approve the rezoning of the former Robert P. Wadlow Municipal Golf Course to a 'Mixed Use Transportation District' (MUT) from 'Conservation/Recreation' (CR).

Chapter 6 – Public Engagement Summary

Overview

A robust public engagement process was facilitated by HeartLands Conservancy to ensure that diverse and representative feedback from Alton residents was considered as part of the Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan and also the proposed changes to the land-use of Wadlow Golf Course. The public engagement process consisted of three main components:

- (1) A Citizen Advisory Committee
- (2) Stakeholder Interviews
- (3) Public Open Houses

Multiple methods of gathering public input were used to garner various levels of specificity in public comments and to reach as broad an audience as possible. The City of Alton was instrumental in coordinating these public engagement components with HeartLands Conservancy. Detailed notes were taken, in addition to other tools (e.g., surveys), to document each step in the public engagement process. To view meeting minutes, survey results, and exhibits used during the public engagement process, see the Appendix to this Chapter.

Citizens Advisory Committee

Citizens Advisory Committee Members:

A nine (9) person Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to assist with the overall planning effort, including other components of the public engagement. The City, with guidance from HeartLands Conservancy, selected Committee members the represented various interest such as schools, businesses, and the environment.

Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings: The Citizens Advisory Committee will meet four times throughout the entire planning process. Meetings of the Citizens Advisory Committee were held at the Alton City Hall. Committee meetings were scheduled to occur just before and just after a public open house so that the Committee could efficiently prepare for, and then debrief, those events.

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on:

- May 8, 2012
- June 5, 2012
- July 24, 2012
- September 25, 2012

Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder interviews were conducted on May 23, 2012 at the Alton City Hall. The objective of the stakeholder interviews was to allow various entities throughout Alton an opportunity to sit down with planners and weigh in on the City's Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan. The discussions between key stakeholders (selected through recommendations by the City, Citizens Advisory Committee, and HeartLands Conservancy).

Based on the conversations with key stakeholders, the planning team came away with a deeper understanding of what these key organizations and individuals value in relation to parks and open space. For more detail on those included in this process and the outcomes of these interviews, see Appendix to this Chapter.

In addition to providing valuable insights related to Alton Park's strengths and weaknesses, the participating stakeholders were provided with flyers and information to distribute to through their networks, in order to make a greater number of Alton citizens aware of the planning process, specifically the upcoming open house and public survey.



One of the May 23rd Stakeholder Meetings



Attendees View Exhibits at the May 30th Public Open House at Alton City Hall

Public Open House Events

Two public open house events will be held during the planning process. These meetings are an opportunity for the public to share their ideas and needs related to Alton parks and recreation, and for planners to share with the public, the goals and progress of the plan.

First Public Open House:

An initial open house was held on May 30, 2012 at Alton City Hall from 4:30-6:30pm. Exhibits included the Management Plan goals and schedule, maps of Alton's existing conditions, and information on the topic of Wadlow Golf Course land-use changes. Exhibits from the Open House are included in the Appendix to this Chapter.

Those that attended the first open house (about 30 people total) were asked to comment on the information presented, talk with planners about their use of Alton's park and open space, and discuss needs and desires related to parks and recreation in the future. Hard copies of the survey were made available for those attending to complete.



Attendees View Exhibits at the May 30th Public Open House at Alton City Hall

Second Public Open House:

The second open house was held in late summer, August 28, 2012 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM. See Chapter 1 'Introduction' for an overall schedule. At the second open house, residents and those who work in Alton were invited to view the outcomes of the public engagement summary and the recommendations of the planning team as a result of their research and this various feedback. Attendees were also updated on the status of the former Wadlow golf course site.

Those that attended the second open house (about 15 people) were asked to comment on the information presented by the planners through a questionnaire. The questionnaire had attendees provide feedback on the vision statement for the future of Alton's parks and the recommendations presented, more in depth questions were included to explore attendees thoughts on aquatic facilities and indoor recreation facilities.

On-Line Questionnaire

An on-line questionnaire was used to gather feedback from the public about park usage, activities, programs, strengths, and weaknesses. A hard copy of the questionnaire was available at the Public Open House on May 30. The questionnaire was active from May 22 through June 4, 2012. A summary of the results is included in Chapter 4 'Needs Assessment'. The complete results of the survey are included in the Appendix to this Chapter.

Table 6.1: Public / Stakeholder Coordination Meeting Summary

Date	Location	Groups Representing	Subject Discussed
May 8, 2012	Alton City Hall	Citizen Advisory Committee, HeartLands Conservancy, Alton City Staff/Officials	Kickoff meeting of Citizen Advisory Committee; review of planning goals (including evaluation of Wadlow Golf Course site), schedule, tasks; visioning and SWOT discussion of parks, open space, and recreational facilities.
May 23, 2012	Alton City Hall	Alton Area Landmarks Association, Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau, Hayner Public Library District, Historic Commission, HeartLands Conservancy,	Stakeholder Meeting to gather input and discuss study. Review of planning goals (including evaluation of Wadlow Golf Course site), schedule, and tasks. SWOT discussion of parks, open space, and recreational facilities. Discussed opinions on proposed land-use change to Wadlow Golf Course.
May 23, 2012	Alton City Hall	Alton Main Street, HeartLands Conservancy	Stakeholder Meeting to gather input and discuss study. Review of planning goals (including evaluation of Wadlow Golf Course site), schedule, and tasks. SWOT discussion of parks, open space, and recreational facilities. Discussed opinions on proposed land-use change to Wadlow Golf Course.
May 23, 2012	Alton City Hall	The Nature Institute, Madison County, HeartLands Conservancy	Stakeholder Meeting to gather input and discuss study. Review of planning goals (including evaluation of Wadlow Golf Course site), schedule, and tasks. SWOT discussion of parks, open space, and recreational facilities. Discussed opinions on proposed land-use change to Wadlow Golf Course.
May 23, 2012	Alton City Hall	Pride Inc. (NonProfit Community Beautification Organization), HeartLands Conservancy	Stakeholder Meeting to gather input and discuss study. Review of planning goals (including evaluation of Wadlow Golf Course site), schedule, and tasks. SWOT discussion of parks, open space, and recreational facilities. Discussed opinions on proposed land-use change to Wadlow Golf Course.
May 30, 2012	Alton City Hall	General Public, Stakeholders, HeartLands Conservancy, Alton City Staff/Officials	Public Open House to gather input and discuss study. Exhibits included Schedule, Goals, Existing Conditions, Activities and Service Area Assessments, and Wadlow Golf Course. Questionnaire / Comment Form provided.
May 22 - June 3, 2012	On-Line	General Public	On-line questionnaire. Same questions at May 30, 2012 Open House.
June 5, 2012	Alton City Hall	Citizen Advisory Committee, HeartLands Conservancy, Alton City Staff/Officials	Results from public open house, questionnaire, needs assessment, and analysis of Wadlow Golf Course. The committee unanimously recommended that Wadlow Golf Course be taken out of the park and recreation system in anticipation of mixed-use sustainable development, with said recommendation being forwarded to the Park and Recreation Commission for further consideration.
June 18, 2012	Parks Department	Park Commission	Park Commission meeting, commission voted to remove Wadlow from the City's Parks and Recreation system.
June 27, 2012	Alton City Hall	City Council, HeartLands Conservancy, Alton City Staff/Officials, General Public	Alton City Council Meeting, the Alton City Council voted to remove in its entirety the land on which the former Robert P. Wadlow Municipal Golf Course existed from the inventory of the Alton Park and Recreation system.
July 24, 2012	Alton City Hall	Citizen Advisory Committee, HeartLands Conservancy, Alton City Staff/Officials	Citizen Advisory Committee meeting to review information for public meeting #2, conduct a visioning and value exercise, review draft recommendations, update of Wadlow process.
August 28, 2012	Alton City Hall	General Public, Stakeholders, HeartLands Conservancy, Alton City Staff/Officials	Public open house #2. Review plan recommendations, vision, and goals. Update of Wadlow process. Questionnaire to gain feedback on recommendations.
September 25, 2012	Alton City Hall	Citizen Advisory Committee, HeartLands Conservancy, Alton City Staff/Officials	Final Citizen Advisory Committee to review input from public open house #2 and to finalize plan.

Chapter 7 – Recommendations

Overview

Chapter 7 reviews in detail the plan recommendations and goals. Categories of recommendations include: Connections, Programs and Facilities, Natural Resources, Financial, Partnerships, and Communication.

Key recommendations and goals include:

- Parks, open space, and playground facilities should be within walking distance for all residents.
- Increase paths and walking trails within existing parks.
- Focus on maintaining existing parks and facilities and not increasing parks and facilities.
- Provide bike and pedestrian connections to all parks.

At the August 28th, 2012 public open house, 83% of attendees who responded said that they "strongly" or "somewhat" agreed with the recommendations. This high percentage shows that there was strong consensus for the recommendations.

Goals and Metrics

For each recommendation, a series of goals and metrics are listed. It is important to remember that this plan should be considered a "living" document. Goals and metrics may change. The goals and metrics listed are a summation of the results of the planning team's analysis, along with stakeholder and public input. The goals and metric should be considered a guide and a flexible framework for future decision making in regards to parks, open space, and recreational facilities in Alton.



Connections

1. Parks, open space, and playground facilities should be within walking distance for all residents.
2. Provide bike and pedestrian connections to all parks.
3. Provide increased bike/pedestrian connections to Gordon Moore Park.
4. Increase access to the Mississippi River.



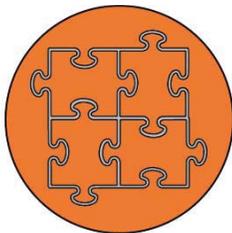
Programs and Facilities

1. Focus on maintaining existing parks and facilities and not increasing parks and facilities.
2. Increase paths and walking trails within existing parks.
3. Evaluate further swimming pool/splash fountains/aquatic facilities.
4. Evaluate further indoor recreational facility.



Financial

1. Continue to successfully leverage grant programs such as OSLAD.
2. Continue partnerships with stakeholder, civic groups, and volunteers to leverage available resources. Look for increased opportunities for partnerships.
3. Evaluate opportunities to decrease maintenance costs.
4. Promote the value of the park system in economic development and tourism.



Partnerships

1. Continue partnerships with stakeholder, civic groups, and volunteers to leverage available resources.
2. Before starting new programs, find partners for collaboration (nature programs, etc).
3. Consider opportunities for increased communication and partnering with other Riverbend communities (athletic tournaments, programs, etc).



Natural Resources

1. Look for opportunities for additional natural areas within existing parks.
2. Connect residents to natural resources both within parks and outside of parks (i.e., connections to Mississippi River).
3. Utilize the regional 'Ecological Significance' data in planning and decision making.
4. Leverage "green infrastructure" opportunities.



Communication

1. Celebrate the successes of the park system.
2. As part of bike/pedestrian connections to parks, install wayfinding/interpretive signage.
3. Create system wide map of parks and connections.
4. Work with partners and stakeholders to communicate park programs, events, successes.
5. Look for opportunities within existing city communications to increase park awareness.
6. Prioritize park improvements to communicate.



Connections

Goal #1: Parks, open space, and playground facilities should be within walking distance for all residents.

The goal of parks, open space, and playgrounds to be within walking distance for all residents was one of the top priorities for residents. Overall, the City does very well with having parks, open space, and playgrounds within walking distance.

Chapter 4 illustrated walking distance of existing neighborhood and community parks. Walking distance is defined as a distance of no more than a ½ mile that can generally be walked within 10-15 minutes.

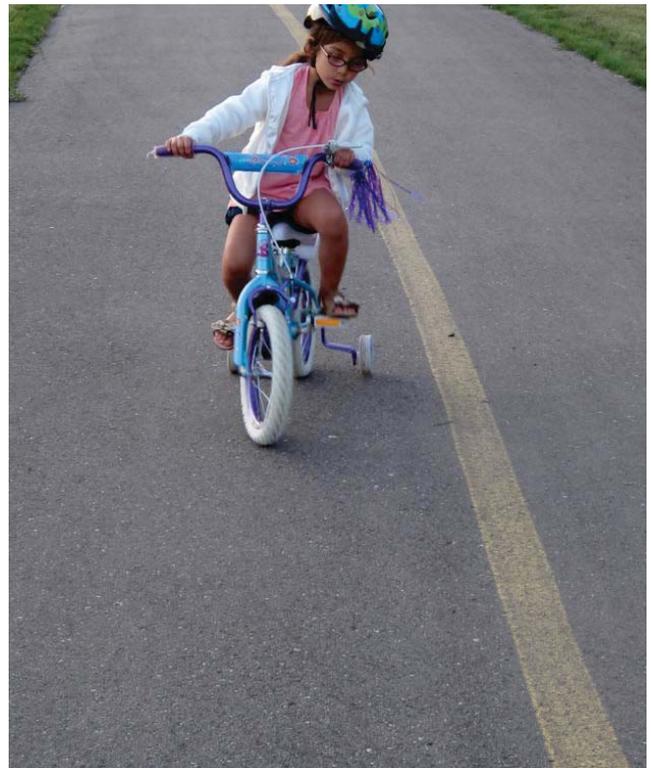
Figure 7.1 illustrates areas within walking distance of all parks within Alton, including neighborhood, community, regional, and specialty parks. As the map shows, there are some areas of the City that lack being within walking distance of a City park, most notably southeast Alton. The map also takes into account barriers such as railroads or streets with heavy traffic, that are real or perceived barriers for pedestrians.

Prioritize Areas

The first step for addressing the goal of walking distance for all residents is to prioritize areas. Figure 7.1 shows the priority areas for future parks or facilities to ensure residents are within walking distance of a park, facility, or open space. As shown, southeast Alton is ranked as the highest priority. Southeast Alton is the largest area of the City without walking access to parks or open space.

Connections Goals

1. *Parks, open space, and playground facilities should be within walking distance for all residents.*
2. *Provide bike and pedestrian connections to all parks.*
3. *Provide increased bike and pedestrian connections to Gordon Moore Park.*
4. *Increase access to the Mississippi River.*



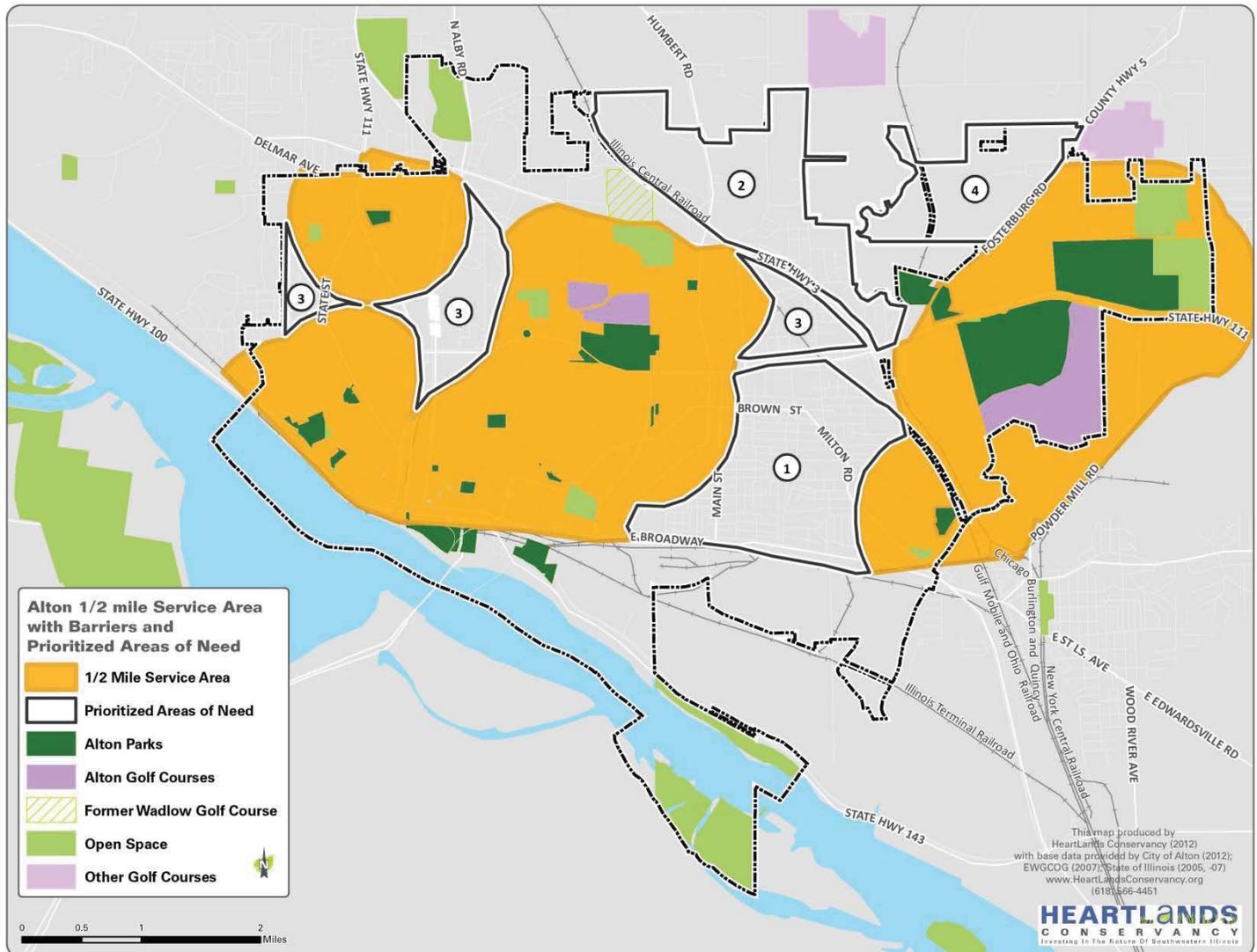


Figure 7.1: Existing Park Service Areas. Areas designated “Prioritized Areas of Need” are areas of the city that should be priority areas for future park and playground facilities.

The areas of the city to address in order of priority are (as shown in Figure 7.1):

1. Southeast Alton
2. North Central Alton
3. Areas within Central Alton
4. Northeast Alton

Short Term Strategies

Utilize existing neighborhood school playgrounds to supplement city park facilities.

Short terms solutions do not necessary require acquisition of new park space. In southeast Alton (Area 1 on Figure 7.1), existing school playgrounds can assist in meeting the demand of having facilities

within walking distance of residents. Two grade schools exist in this area of southeast Alton. The two schools are: St. Matthews School (1015 West Milton) and Mark Twain Elementary School (907 West Milton). Mark Twain has a playground. St. Matthews does not have a playground. The playground at Mark Twain appears to be open to neighborhood residents during non-school hours. The City should coordinate with the school to ensure that the playground remains open for use to neighborhood residents during non-school hours. Also, the playground equipment at Mark Twain would benefit from upgrades. The City should be supportive and assist the school where possible in grant applications or fundraising efforts to upgrade the playground.

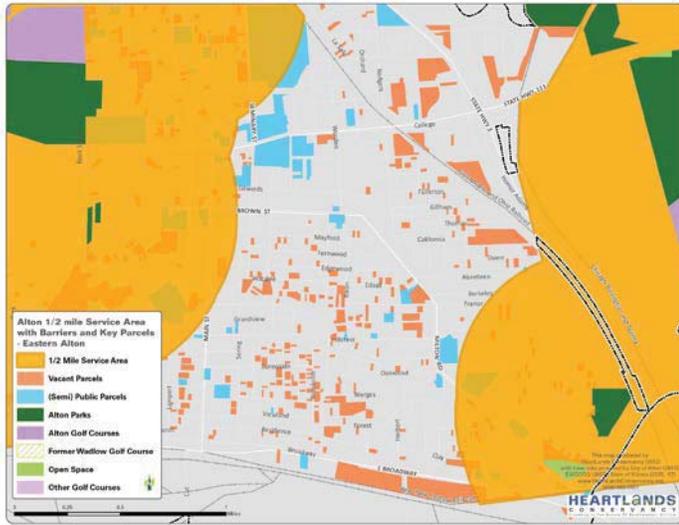


Figure 7.2: Public, semi-public, and vacant parcels in southeast Alton that were evaluated as a potential future neighborhood park. The former school site at 409 Main Street could be an opportunity for a future park

St. Matthews does not currently have a playground. If the school moves forward with a playground in the future that would be open to neighborhood residents, the City should be supportive of the effort.

Long Term Strategies

Seek opportunities for acquire and develop small neighborhood parks that provide playground facilities.

In southeast Alton, there are opportunities to use vacant or underutilized parcels for a future neighborhood park. Figure 7.2 shows parcels that were evaluated for suitability for a future neighborhood park. Note that Figure 7.2 shows parcels that are vacant, but most are privately owned.

The former school site at 409 Main Street could be suitable for a future neighborhood park. However, extensive site work would be necessary because of the existing building and infrastructure on site.

Many potential sites within southeast Alton are undesirable for a neighborhood park due to topography or lack of visibility. However, within the Franor Street and Rixon Street corridors, there are several private vacant parcels that would be suitable for a small neighborhood park because of good topography and access from the street.



Existing Playground at Mark Twain Elementary. School playgrounds can help supplement City park playgrounds in providing park/recreation facilities that are within walking distance for residents.

In north Alton, existing property zoned Conservation/Recreation along North Alby Road has been reserved for future park use.

Potential Metrics for Goal #1:

- New or improved playground facilities at St. Matthews School or Mark Twain School (that are open to the public during non-school hours).
- A new neighborhood scale park in southeast Alton.
- A master plan for park development of the property zoned Conservation/Recreation along North Alby Road.

Goal #2: Provide bike and pedestrian connections to all parks.

Most Alton parks already enjoy excellent pedestrian connections, as well as streets that are conducive (low speed, low traffic) for bicycle connections. However, the goal of providing bike and pedestrian connections to all parks is still very applicable as connections can further be improved. Also, certain parks, such as Gordon Moore, need better bike and pedestrian connections.

“Green Street” Corridors

A key strategy for meeting the goal of bike and pedestrian connections to all parks is the development of a “Green Street” network. A “Green Street” is very similar to a “complete” street in that the goal of the street would be to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians equally with vehicular traffic. In addition, a “Green Street” would accommodate green infrastructure elements such as street trees, storm water infiltration, and other storm water best management practices.

The recommended network of “Green Streets” is shown in Figure 7.4. The proposed network shown should be used as a framework and guide for future improvements. Implementation of the “Green Street” network will be a long term effort, however, elements can be phased. The proposed “Green Street” network would include the following streets:

- State Street
- Alby Street
- Henry Street
- Elm Street
- Brown Street
- Rock Springs Drive
- College Avenue
- Seminary Street
- Milton Road
- West Delmar Avenue

“Green Streets”: Short Term - Share the Road Signage

In the short term, the highest priority should be designating the network with “Share the Road” signs for bicyclists. Parts of the proposed network already has “Share the Road” signs including segments of

College Avenue, State Street, and Elm Street. Other streets that are part of the recommended network should have “Share the Road” signage.

The “Green Street” network should also be included in the Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) interactive website of regional trails. The “Green Street” would be shown in the category of ‘bike lanes and shared roads’ on the MEPRD website. Currently, only the Vadalabene Trail and the Confluence Trail along the Mississippi River and a few internal park trails are shown on the MEPRD website.

“Green Streets”: Intermediate Strategies

There are several strategies in the intermediate term (3-5 years) to further implement “green streets”.

1. A wayfinding system should be developed for the “Green Street” network with enhanced signage. The signage could designate only park and trail information or also include other City destinations and attractions. The design of the signs, locations, and phasing should be part of a more comprehensive bike/walk master plan.
2. A comprehensive bike/walk master plan should be conducted to analyze in more detail infrastructure improvements along the “Green Street” network, connections to the “Green Street” network, location and design of wayfinding signage, and other bicycle and pedestrian improvements. For example, the bike/walk plan would prioritize projects and locations for crosswalk improvements, streetscape enhancements, and green infrastructure.
3. Develop a public friendly map of the City park system along with “Green Streets” and trail connections. This map should be developed in conjunction with the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“Green Streets”: Long Term Strategies

Long term strategies (5+ years) should focus on infrastructure improvements along the “Green Street” network. These should include, but are not limited to:

- Street Tree Plantings
- Intersection Improvements:
 - Crosswalks
 - Curb Ramps
 - Bump Outs
- Green Infrastructure
 - Stormwater Infiltration Islands
 - Permeable Paving
- Bike Improvements

Locations of the above improvements should correspond to high priority locations such as within a ¼ mile and ½ mile radius of parks, schools, and other pedestrian and bike destinations and centers.

Improving the Connection Between the Confluence Trail and the Vadalabene Trail

The 2011 Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) *Long Range Development Plan* identified the connection between the Confluence Trail and the Vadalabene Trail has a high priority. The City should work closely with MEPRD to ensure completion of this segment.

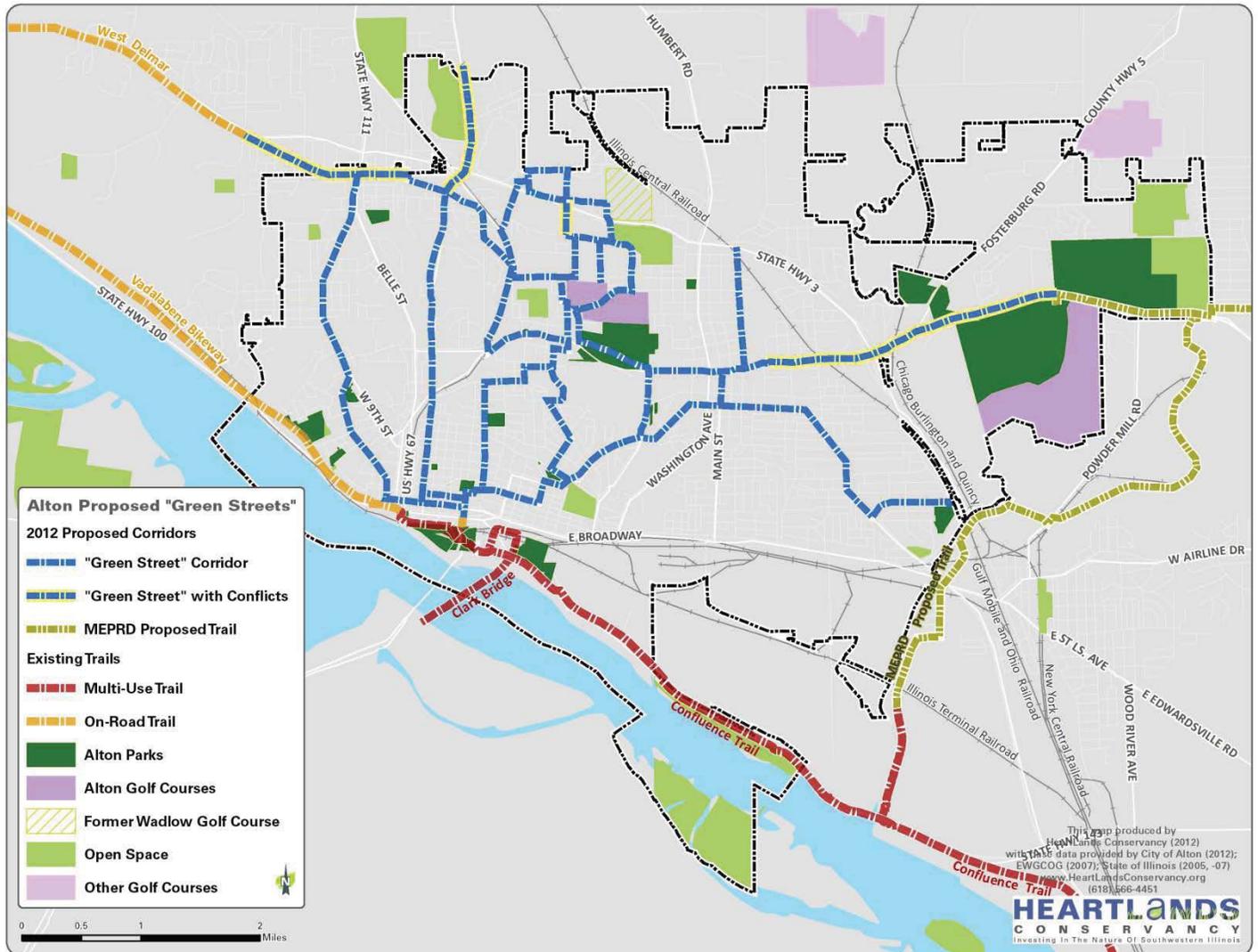
Potential Metrics for Goal #2:

- Installation of Share the Road signs along the recommended “Green Street”s network.
- Map of “Green Street” network included on MEPRD’s website listing of ‘shared road’ bike facilities.
- Public friendly map of City park system, trails, and “Green Street” corridors.
- Wayfinding signage system for “Green Street” corridors.
- Comprehensive bike/walk master plan for City.
- Greenway alternative analysis study for connection to Gordon Moore Park via south route (Wood River) and a north route.
- Improvements to the connection between the Confluence Trail and the Vadalabene Trail.
- Number of “Green Street” improvement projects.
- Street trees planted along “Green Streets”.
- Number of “Green Street” green infrastructure projects and volume of storm water infiltrated versus to storm drains.



Fig 7.3: Improving existing on road trail connection between Piasa Park and Riverfront Park was identified as a priority trail. (Source: 2011 MEPRD Long Range Development Plan)

Figure 7.4: Proposed “Green Street” Corridors. Streets would include: State Street, Alby Street, Henry Street, Elm Street, Brown Street, Rock Springs Drive, College Avenue, Seminary Street, Milton Road, and West Delmar Avenue.





Example of “Green Street” elements and possible phasing:

Short Term (Above Left): Share the Road signs and crosswalk striping at key intersections.

Intermediate (Above Middle): Wayfinding/Signage system, bike lane striping, prioritization of improvements.

Long Term (Above Right): Infrastructure improvements (sidewalks, intersection improvements, etc) and green infrastructure (storm water infiltration, permeable paving, street trees).

Goal #3: Provide increased bike and pedestrian connections to Gordon Moore Park.

College Avenue to Gordon Moore Park can be improved for pedestrians and bicyclists to better access Gordon Moore Park. However, there are limitations for using College Avenue as the most effective bike and pedestrian route to Gordon Moore Park. College Avenue east of Evergreen Avenue widens to a multi-lane road with higher speed traffic.

The biggest barriers to alternative bike and pedestrian routes to Gordon Moore Park are Homer Adams Parkway and the Union Pacific Railroad. In addition, Wood River to the east of Homer Adams Parkway is a barrier with limited existing crossing points.

There are opportunities for improved connections. The Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) identifies a future trail extending from the existing trail along Wood River and Levee Road. The proposed trail would follow the East Fork Wood River to West MacArthur Drive (Highway 111) and then continue west along West MacArthur Drive to Gordon Moore Park. While this route greatly serves the Riverfront Trail (Confluence Trail), it would not readily serve residents in southeast or north Alton.

Also, the proposed trail alignment back tracks a good distance to reach Gordon Moore by continuing all the way to West MacArthur Drive. There is an old abandoned bridge just south of the confluence of the West and East branches of the Wood River. This bridge may be an opportunity to bring the trail north into Gordon Moore Park. Further planning and research would be needed to evaluate this opportunity.

Other recent initiatives have identified the need for better connections to Gordon Moore Park. At the July 24, 2012 Riverbend Community Planning Area meeting as part of the *St. Louis Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD)*, attendees identified the need for better connections to Gordon Moore. However, other connection opportunities would need further evaluation and study beyond the scope of this plan. Further study should evaluate the potential for

grade separated crossings, especially over Homer Adams Parkway.

Potential Metrics for Goal #3:

- Bicycle and pedestrian improvements to College Avenue.
- Conduct a greenway/trails study for additional trail connections from Gordon Moore Park to the Wood River multi-use trail and from Gordon Moore Park to areas west of Homer Adams Parkway.
- Implementation of the Wood River multi-use trail which would connect Gordon Moore Park to the Confluence Trail (Part of MetroEast Park and Recreation District [MEPRD] Trails Master Plan).

Goal #4: Increase access to the Mississippi River.

Alton is a river town, and there is a strong passion among residents to connect to the river. There are many existing ways to access the river. The Confluence Trail provides a bicycle connection. Riverfront Park, Russell Commons and Piasa Park are all adjacent to the river. Riverview Park provides some of the best view in the region of the river. The Alton Marina provides boat access.

Additional access opportunities can take many forms including:

- Physical access (park facilities, trails, etc)
- Viewsheds (investments at Riverview Park and other locations)
- Programs (events, fishing, hikes, etc)

Potential Metrics for Goal #4:

- Capital projects that increased access to the river.
- Programs that include or promote access to the river.



Programs and Facilities Recommendations

Goal #1: Focus on maintaining existing parks and facilities and not increasing parks and facilities.

The City should focus on maintaining existing parks and facilities and not increasing parks and facilities.

Reasons include:

- Existing and future budget constraints for new parks and facilities.
- Overall, the City does very well with parks and recreation metrics (See Chapter 4 ‘Needs Assessment’).
- Emphasis from resident and stakeholder input during this planning process to focus on existing parks and facilities.

The City will need to balance the goal of focusing on maintaining existing parks and facilities with other goals of this plan.

Potential Metrics for Goal #1:

- Development of a five year “wish list” of park capital improvements.

Programs and Facilities

1. Focus on maintaining existing parks and facilities and not increasing parks and facilities.
2. Increase paths and walking trails within existing parks.
3. Evaluate further swimming pool/splash fountains/aquatic facilities.
4. Evaluate further indoor recreational facility.



Goal #2: Increase paths and walking trails within existing parks.

Bike and walking trails were the top responses to the questionnaire question “What parks and recreation facilities would you like to see in Alton?”.

An internal walking trail at Gordon Moore Park should be evaluated as a top priority. Rock Spring Park should also be considered for an internal trail.

Potential Metrics for Goal #2:

- Linear feet, annually, of new walking trails within existing parks.



Splash fountains are a way to meet the need for aquatic facilities.

Goal #3: Evaluate further swimming pool/splash fountains/aquatic facilities.

An outcome of the stakeholder meetings and the first public open house was the identification of the potential need for a community swimming pool or other aquatic/water recreation. Currently, the City does not have a public, community swimming pool. Based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines a community the size of Alton should have at least one public swimming pool.

The main barrier to a swimming pool or aquatic facility is cost. The initial capital cost can be high, in addition to annual maintenance costs. While the scope of this study did not include the ability to conduct a detailed quantitative assessment of a swimming pool or aquatic facility, the study did include a concise qualitative assessment of the need.

At the second public open house on August 28, 2012, meeting questions were designed to gain an approximation of community desire for a swimming pool or aquatic facility. Two questions were asked. One, "Where do [attendees] go for swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?" Answers varied, including private home pools, Raging Rivers, Wood River, and Nautilus Fitness. The second question was, "Would splash fountains in existing city parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?" It appeared that the answer to this question was generally yes, splash fountains could meet the need for aquatic and water recreation.

There is an existing splash fountain at Riverfront Park. Additional splash fountains in city parks could meet the need for aquatic and water recreation. The advantages of splash fountains are they are much less costly to build and maintain than other aquatic and water recreation options. The disadvantage is that they do not provide a complete aquatic experience as pools or other facilities. However, in the near to intermediate term, splash fountains would meet a need in a much more cost effective manner. Long term, if there is strong community desire for a pool or aquatic facilities, an in-depth assessment and feasibility would need to be conducted.

Potential Metrics for Goal #3:

- At least one splash fountain in an existing park within each quadrant of the City.

Goal #4: Evaluate further an indoor recreational facility.

An outcome of the stakeholder meetings and the first public open house was the identification of the potential need for an indoor recreation center. Currently, the City does not have an indoor recreation center. Based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines a community the size of Alton should have at least one indoor recreation facility.

The main barrier to an indoor recreation center is cost. The initial capital cost can be high, in addition to annual maintenance costs. While the scope of this study did not include the ability to conduct a detailed quantitative assessment of an indoor recreation center, the study did include a concise qualitative assessment of the need.

At the second public open house on August 28, 2012, meeting questions were designed to gain an approximation of community desire for an indoor recreation facility. Two questions were asked. One, "Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility, and if yes, where?" Answers varied, but popular responses included Nautilus Fitness and the YWCA. The second question was, "Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?" The majority of the responses were yes, that there was a need for an indoor recreation facility.

The next step would be a feasibility study by the City. The decision to move forward with an indoor recreation facility should be carefully considered by the City. Capital, maintenance, and even feasibility study costs can all be significant. However, there does seem to be enough community support to at least consider conducting additional feasibility assessments of an indoor recreation center. A feasibility study

would include determining need and use, programs and activities, size, capital and maintenance costs, and fee/membership revenue.

Potential Metrics for Goal #4:

- Conduct a feasibility study for an indoor recreation facility.



Financial

Goal #1: Continue to successfully leverage grant programs such as OSLAD (Open Space Land Acquisition and Development).

The City has been very successful with grant applications such as the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and should continue to leverage OSLAD in the future.

A big reason for the City's success with OSLAD is the City's commitment to individual park master planning and overall system wide plans. Grantees look favorably on Cities and organizations that plan strategically and can show funding requests that meet the long term vision of their strategic and master plans.

The City should also evaluate other grant programs. One future trend in grants will be an increase focus on storm water. Green Infrastructure and Section 319 grants are examples of funding dedicated for storm water that may be applicable for certain park projects or connections to parks.

Potential funding/grant resources include:

Bike, Trail, Pedestrian Facilities

- Illinois Department of Natural Resource Bike Path Grant Program (*Illinois Department of Natural Resources*)
- National Recreational Trails Program (*Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, FHWA*)
- Bike Belong – Community Partnership Grants (*Bike Belong Foundation*)
- Safe Routes to Schools (*Illinois Department of Transportation*)

Financial Recommendations

1. *Continue to successfully leverage grant programs such as OSLAD.*
2. *Continue partnerships with stakeholder, civic groups, and volunteers to leverage available resources. Look for increased opportunities for partnerships.*
3. *Evaluate opportunities to decrease maintenance costs.*
4. *Promote the value of the park system in economic development and tourism.*



Playgrounds

- Let's Play Playground Construction Grant (*Dr. Pepper Snapple Group and KaBOOM*)
- Shade Structures (*American Academy of Dermatology*)

Stormwater

- Section 319 (*EPA*)
- Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (*Illinois EPA*)

Forestry/Trees

- Urban and Community Forestry (*Illinois Department of Natural Resources*)
- Project Communitree [Adjacent Illinois Communities Qualify] (*Forest ReLeaf of Missouri*)

Potential Metrics for Goal #1:

- Minimum of one (1) OSLAD application every two years.
- Submit at least one (1) Section 319 or IGIG grant application for a Park related project in the next three to five (3-5) years.

Goal #2: Continue partnerships with stakeholder, civic groups, and volunteers to leverage available resources. Look for increased opportunities for partnerships.

The City has been very successful with partnerships including neighborhood groups, civic groups, and volunteers and should continue to leverage these great resources.

The partnerships could take many forms including:

- Annual volunteer projects.
- Special projects and initiatives utilizing volunteers.
- Leveraging volunteer hours as local match for grant funding.
- Leveraging partner monetary contributions for capital and maintenance needs.

Leveraging volunteer hours as a local match for grant funding can be a great way to meet local match requirements. Grants vary in the ability to utilize volunteer hours, so each application requirements must be verified. Also, tracking volunteer hours can require significant record keeping. However, if known large volunteer projects are planned, those volunteer hours can be a great potential resource.

Partners can also be a source for monetary contributions for capital and maintenance projects. Usually monetary contributions are dedicated for specific projects. Local non-profits are good partners to help assist in matching donors with specific park projects.

Potential Metrics for Goal #2:

- Number of park projects utilizing volunteers.
- Number of yearly volunteer hours.
- Amount of capital funding received from partners and third parties.
- Monetary value of local match utilizing volunteer hours.

Goal #3: Evaluate opportunities to decrease maintenance costs.

Maintenance costs can be a huge burden for the Park's department budget for equipment and labor. Opportunities for decreasing maintenance costs should be further evaluated. Expected opportunities for decreased maintenance include:

- Reduced mowing.
- Lighting.
- Park Building Energy Uses.

Reduced Mowing

Mowing can be a huge maintenance effort, especially in seasons with frequent rain. There are two main strategies to reduce mowing.

One, replace areas of turf grass with native grasses and forbs. Once native grass is established, the areas of native grass only have to be mowed once a year. Within parks, areas most suitable for conversion to native grass would be perimeter and edge areas. Starting with the Gordon Moore Park, the Parks Department should look for opportunities to convert perimeter or open turf areas to native grass. A recommended minimum width for conversion to native grass would be fifteen (15') feet. The additional benefit of perimeter native grass areas would be increase storm water quality and wildlife habitat areas.

The second strategy for reduced mowing would be to mow existing perimeter turf grass areas less frequently. Frequency of reduced mowing may vary by location, but should ideally be no more than four (4) times a year.

With both strategies, signage and staking would be recommended. Signage would explain to the public of why the areas are native grass and mowed less frequently. Staking (with 3" diameter cedar posts) should be used to help guide maintenance personnel in knowing which areas should not be mowed.

Lighting and Building Energy Use

The City should invest in an energy audit for recommendations to address park lighting and park building energy use.

For example, a recommendation for park lighting may be to incorporate LED fixtures. LED fixtures provide long term saving both in energy costs and reduce labor because of less frequent replacement.

Potential Metrics for Goal #3:

- Number of acres per year converted to native grass or reduced mowing areas.
- Park system energy audit and recommendations for park lighting and buildings.

Goal #4: Promote the value of the park system in economic development and tourism.

The City of Alton parks include some of the best facilities and spaces in the region. The amphitheatre at Riverfront Park, the rose garden at Gordon Moore Park, the views at Riverview Park, and the significant history of Piasa Park are just a few examples of unique amenities that Alton parks offers to both residents and visitors.

The City's parks have economic value in creating a great quality of life to retain and attract residents and businesses. The parks also have economic value as a draw for visitors. Visitors may come for a variety of reasons including athletic tournaments at Gordon Moore Park, concerts at the Riverview Park amphitheatre, or generally as part of the greater emphasis on ecotourism within the Riverbend.

Ecotourism in the Riverbend area will have an even greater potential when High Speed Rail becomes operational and a multi-modal station is developed in Alton.

Measuring Visitors

In the short term, the City should coordinate with the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau and other partners and begin to quantify the number of visitors that utilize City Parks. Types of park visitors that could be quantified include:

- Number of weddings.
- Number of athletic tournaments.
- Number of teams or participants at athletic tournaments.
- Number of attendees at amphitheatre concerts / events.

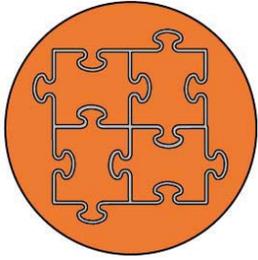
These types of visitors should be able to be quantified by existing reservations. A yearly summary of these visitors to the parks board and city council would provide a snapshot of usage and also help identify any downward trends.

Long term, the City should consider an economic impact study to measure and quantify the economic

impact of the park system. The impact study should analyze: visitors, increase value in properties, and the ecological system value of parks.

Potential Metrics for Goal #4:

- Number of visitors:
 - Weddings
 - Athletic Tournaments
 - Number of Teams
 - Attendees at Events
- Economic Impact Study



Partnerships

Goal #1: Continue partnerships with stakeholders, civic groups, and volunteers to leverage available resources.

The City has had great success with partnerships with stakeholders, civic groups, and volunteers. This trend just needs to continue. Various partnerships have helped stretch park budgets by helping with maintenance, capital programs, and events.

One way to potentially leverage these partnerships would be to use volunteer hours as a local match for grant funding. Tracking volunteer hours would require additional administrative time, so it would best be used for large, infrequent volunteer projects.

As noted in the Section ‘Financial’ recommendations, partners can also be a source of monetary contributions for capital and maintenance projects.

Usually monetary contributions are dedicated for specific projects. Local non-profits are good partners to help assist in matching donors with specific park projects.

Potential Metrics for Goal #1:

- Number of park projects utilizing volunteers.
- Number of yearly volunteer hours.
- Amount of capital funding received from partners and third parties.
- Monetary value of local match utilizing volunteer hours.

Partnerships

1. Continue partnerships with stakeholders, civic groups, and volunteers to leverage available resources.
2. Before starting new programs, find partners for collaboration (nature programs, etc).
3. Consider opportunities for increased communication and partnering with other Riverbend communities (athletic tournaments, programs, etc).



Goal #2: Before starting new programs, find partners for collaboration (nature programs, etc).

Input received from stakeholders and residents indicated a desire for new programming and events. The top responses for potential programs were: concerts, nature programs, fitness and wellness programs, walk/run events, and cultural arts programs. New programs and events should be encouraged since they bring more visitors to the parks and raise awareness and support of the parks system.

However, before any new event or program is implemented, the City should find a partner to collaborate on the event or program. Ideally, the partner should take the lead and provide all or the majority of the time and resources necessary to implement the program or event.

Finding partners for any new program or event is critical in the short term as the City and Parks Department do not have the staff resources to take on additional events or programs.

Many existing partners already exist in the Alton area that could potentially take the lead on any new program or event.

Potential Metrics for Goal #2:

- New program/event and corresponding partner.

Goal #3 Consider opportunities for increased communication and partnering with other Riverbend communities (athletic tournaments, programs, etc).

The Alton area already has had tremendous success partnering on tourism promotion through the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau. The same type of partnership should be considered to manage, communicate, and coordinate: park, recreation, and open space.

There are several reasons why increase partnering between the Riverbend communities would be beneficial. They include:

Athletic Tournaments

There is a threat of new athletic field complexes in other southwestern Illinois communities drawing athletic tournaments away from Alton.

The scope of this study did not include analysis of the future capacity of Alton to hold athletic tournaments, except for anecdotal input as part of stakeholder interviews and public input. An athletic tournament capacity analysis would be beneficial to compare Alton to other communities for hosting future tournaments including the type of sport, age levels, and support facilities. Any future study should include other Riverbend communities. The marketing and hosting of future athletic tournaments would benefit from the economies of scale of multiple Riverbend communities.

Shared Economies of Scale

Increased partnering with other Riverbend communities would also have potential cost savings associated with shared economies of scale. Examples of economies of scale include:

- Maintenance
- Combining capital projects
- Programs

Increased Advocacy and Awareness

Grant applications, state funding, tourism, awareness, and advocacy for parks and open space would all benefit from the Riverbend communities coordinating and communicating on parks, recreation, and open space issues.

While the goal of increased communicating and partnering should be a long term goal, it is never too early to begin dialogue to explore opportunities.

Potential Metrics for Goal #3:

- Riverbend athletic tournament capacity analysis.
- Meeting of the various parks departments in the Riverbend to discuss opportunities for shared economies of scale or increased advocacy.



Natural Resources Recommendations

Goal #1: Look for opportunities for additional natural areas within existing parks.

Examples of existing natural resources within the City of Alton parks include: the woodland at Rock Spring Park, the prairie at Gordon Moore Park, and edge areas of several parks.

The advantages of natural areas in parks are many. Key advantages include: increased areas of habitat, the opportunity for visitors to connect with natural ecological systems, storm water infiltration, increased water quality, and decreased park maintenance (less mowing).

The City should look for increased opportunities for adding natural areas within existing parks. The most suitable parks for additional natural areas would be the larger parks such as Gordon Moore, Rock Spring, and Russell Commons.

The edges of parks are the best places for opportunities to increase natural areas. Starting with Gordon Moore Park, the Parks Department should look for opportunities to convert perimeter or open turf areas to native grass. A recommended minimum width for conversion to native grass would be fifteen (15') feet.

An additional strategy to create natural areas would be to stop mowing in certain locations and let succession take place. The downside of this strategy is that the un-mowed area can look un-kept for many years. Also, without a strategy for natural restoration, leaving areas un-mowed will increase the likelihood that invasive species such as bush honeysuckle will encroach.

Natural Resources Recommendations

1. *Look for opportunities for additional natural areas within existing parks.*
2. *Connect residents to natural resources both within parks and outside of parks (i.e. connections to Mississippi River).*
3. *Utilize the regional ‘Ecological Significance’ data in planning and decision making.*
4. *Leverage “green infrastructure” opportunities.*



Potential Metrics for Goal #1:

- Number of acres per year converted to native grass, naturalized areas, or no-mow areas.

Goal #2: Connect residents to natural resources both within parks and outside of parks (i.e. connections to Mississippi River).

A high priority for residents was additional walking paths within parks and connections to natural resources, both within and outside of parks. Connections to the Mississippi River were identified as especially important.

The development of an internal walking trail within Gordon Moore should be a priority.

See Section ‘Connections’ for a detailed discussion on a “Green Street” network that would better link Alton parks for pedestrian and bicyclists. The Section ‘Connections’ also discusses the development of a trail along Wood River, the need for a more in-depth analysis of better connecting Gordon Moore Park, and connections to the Mississippi River.

Potential Metrics for Goal #2:

- Linear feet, annually, of new walking trails within existing parks.
- Implementation of the Wood River multi-use trail. Which would connect Gordon Moore Park to the Confluence Trail (Part of MetroEast Park and Recreation District [MEPRD] Trails Master Plan).
- Greenway alternative analysis study for connection to Gordon Moore Park via south route (Wood River) and a north route.
- Number of “Green Street” improvement projects.
- Capital projects that increased access to the river.
- Programs that include or promote access to the river.

Goal #3: Utilize the regional ‘Ecological Significance’ data in planning and decision making.

In 2011, the East West Gateway Council of Governments (EWGCOG) mapped ecological significance for the region (see Figure 7.5). The ratings are based on multiple factors, including, but not limited to:

- Occurrences of natural vegetation
- Patch size of contiguous vegetation
- Occurrences of wildlife species
- Distance from water bodies
- Protected/conservation areas

Areas were rated on a scale of 1 to 8, with 1 having limited ecological significance, and 8 having high ecological significance.

Most Alton parks rate between a 1-3 for ecological significance. However, areas to the outside of the City limits rate much higher, especially along the Mississippi River. Other areas that rates somewhat significant are:

- North of Fosterburg Road along the Wood River.
- West of Humbert Road north of Homer Adams Parkway

The City should use the ecological significance data in planning and decision making, especially for projects that will extend beyond the City limits.

The data should also be used to guide restoration and creation of natural areas within the City. Investment in natural areas in Gordon Moore Park, Russell Commons, and the Wood River corridor would connect and expand nearby ecological significant areas.

Potential Metrics for Goal #3:

- Use of the ecological significance data in future planning decisions.

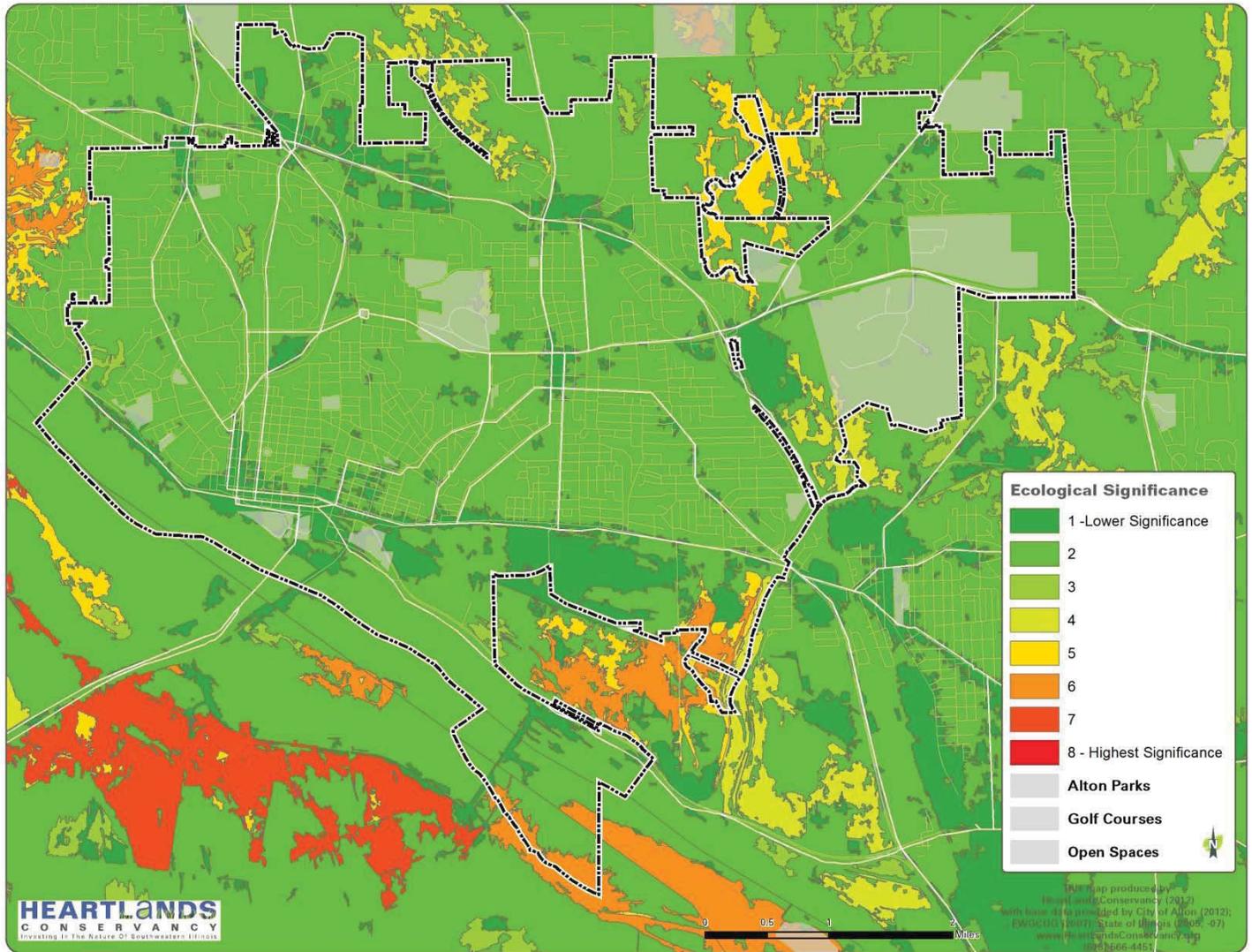


Figure 7.5: Existing Ecological Significant Areas. Opportunities for restoration and increased natural areas in Gordon Moore Park, Russell Commons, and the Wood River corridor would help expand and connect existing ecological significant areas.

Goal #4: Leverage “Green Infrastructure” Opportunities

Green infrastructure is both a noun and a verb. As a noun, green infrastructure refers to all natural resources including natural lands and working landscapes. At an urban scale, examples of green infrastructure include: parks, street trees, gardens, green roofs, and open space. As a verb, green infrastructure refers to a process to manage storm water mimicking natural ecological systems.

The benefits of green infrastructure include: an increased quality of life, reduced “grey infrastructure”, increased water quality, reduced localized flooding, and increased property values.

Alton already has a strong foundation of green infrastructure with the existing park system, proximity to the Mississippi River, and open space.

There are multiple ways the City can leverage “green infrastructure” opportunities in the future:

Future Funding

It will be likely that future infrastructure funding, including transportation, will be tied to concepts of green infrastructure. Communities that are pro-active in incorporating green infrastructure will be more competitive for future infrastructure funding.

“Green Streets”

“Green Streets” are discussed in the Section ‘Connections’. The goal of a “green street” network is to increase bike and pedestrian connections between parks and also create park like corridors with street trees, landscape plantings, and storm water best management practices.

Park Capital and Restoration Projects

There will be opportunities in the future to tie together capital projects and green infrastructure. For example, managing storm water within park areas can have multiple benefits including habitat and native restoration.

Potential Metrics for Goal #4:

- Number of “Green Street” improvement projects.
- Number of acres per year converted to native grass, naturalized areas, or no-mow areas.
- Number of street trees planted per year.
- Number of overall trees planted per year in Alton parks or open space.



Communication Recommendations

Goal #1: Celebrate the successes of the park system.

There have been a tremendous amount of successes within the City of Alton Parks system. Events, volunteer efforts, recent new facilities such as the amphitheatre, and grant awards are just some of the examples of successes. Attendees at the public open house and stakeholders interviewed were sometimes surprised by some of the successes the Parks department has had. Also, some attendees (even life long Alton residents) were unaware of all the various parks within the City.

The City should celebrate the successes of the park system whenever possible. Some of the ways the City can celebrate successes include:

- Whenever a grant is awarded to the Parks: send press releases to local media, post on City website, and mention at City Council meeting.
- Hold ribbon cuttings for improvements to Park facilities. Even for partial park improvements such as a new playground, parking improvements, etc. Goal should be for at least one ribbon cutting a year. If there is not a capital improvement to celebrate, a volunteer work day should be celebrated.

Potential Metrics for Goal #1:

- Send press release, post on City website, and include on City council agenda all grant awards.
- Yearly ribbon cutting or volunteer work recognition of a park project.

Communication Recommendations

1. Celebrate the successes of the park system.
2. As part of bike and pedestrian connections to parks, install wayfinding/interpretive signage.
3. Create system wide map of parks and connections.
4. Work with partners and stakeholders to communicate park programs, events, successes.
5. Look for opportunities within existing city communications to increase park awareness.
6. Prioritize park improvements to communicate.



Goal #2: As part of bike and pedestrian connections to parks (“green streets”), install wayfinding/interpretive signage.

A key recommendation for the Section 'Connections' is to development a system of "green streets" that will develop enhanced bicycle and pedestrian connections between parks. These "green streets" are existing City streets with short and long term strategies for improvements. Short term strategies would include signage. Long term strategies would include intersection improvements, street trees, and green infrastructure improvements.

In the short term along the "green street" network, the City should install 'Share the Road' signs. Some existing 'Share the Road' signs exist along College Avenue, State Street, and Elm Street. However, the network of signs should be completed.

In the intermediate term, the City should develop a wayfinding/interpretive sign plan for bicycles and pedestrians. The benefits of having wayfinding signs include:

- For visitors to Alton: the signs help visitors locate parks and facilities, and provide key pieces of information.
- For residents to Alton: the signs help residents become aware of parks they normally may not visit. During stakeholder meetings, many residents mentioned that there were parks they had never visited, even though they lived in Alton most of their lives.

Although the wayfinding signs would primarily be focused on bicycle routes and connections to Parks, the development of a wayfinding sign plan should include other partners such as the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Historical Society, and the business community. The wayfinding plan needs to balance the need to communicate multiple points of interests along with parks. Also, any wayfinding sign system would need to complement existing effort such as Walking with Lincoln Trail.

To implement a wayfinding/interpretive sign system for the "green street" corridors would require:

- A comprehensive wayfinding sign study to determine the location, style, and content of the signs.
- Coordination with the streets department and the Illinois Department of Transportation.
- Developing a cost estimate for sign implementation and any necessary phasing of sign installation.
- Fabrication and installation of the wayfinding sign system.

Potential Metrics for Goal #2:

- Installation of ‘Share the Road’ signs along the recommended “Green Street” network (within two years)
- Development of a citywide wayfinding sign plan, with a focus on bicycle corridors and park directions (within four years)
- Installation of a first phase of wayfinding signs (within six years)



Examples of wayfinding signs.

Goal #3: Create system wide map of parks and connections.

Develop a public friendly map of the City park system along with “Green Streets” and trail connections. This map should be developed in conjunction with the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau and other partners. The map would need to supplement other Alton and regional maps

A map would serve not only as a functional piece of information, but would help market and brand the City as park and bicycle friendly.

Potential Metrics for Goal #3:

- o Creation of a public friendly map of the City park system, “green streets”, and trail connections.

Goal #4: Work with partners and stakeholders to communicate park programs, events, successes.

The City has been very successful with partnerships including neighborhood groups, civic groups, and volunteers and should continue to leverage these great resources to help communicate park programs, events, and successes.

Communicating park programs, events, and successes can be both an art and a science. Availability of staff time and the frequency and hierarchy of messages, are all items to be factored. However, a strength of the Alton area is the existing network of non-profit, business, and tourism organizations that have existing networks of websites, newsletters, and social media. The City should discuss with local partners what park programs, events, and success stories would be of most interest to partner organization members and ways to disseminate communications.

Potential Metrics for Goal #4:

- o Meeting and discussion with local partners (non-profit, business, and tourism) what park programs, events, and success stories can be communicated to partner organization members.

Goal #5: Look for opportunities within existing city communications to increase park awareness.

The Parks Department should look for opportunities within existing city communications to increase park awareness and celebrate success stories. Examples of existing City communications include: the City website and Facebook page. For example, a success of a grant award or a recent project completion could be posted as a news item on the website or Facebook page.

Awareness should also include update of Park success stories at City Council and other City meetings.

Potential Metrics for Goal #5:

- o Number of news items about park programs, events, or success stories on the City website and Facebook page.



Alton already has multiple modes of communication to further communicate park programs, events, and successes.

Goal #6: Prioritize park improvements to communicate.

The City has had success in improving and upgrading parks and facilities. Recent examples include significant investments in Hellrung Park and Olin Park. The City also has an extensive list of needed park improvements at all parks (see Chapter 3).

However, the City should communicate more effectively planned improvements to various parks. While a detailed breakdown of park improvements, costs, and timeframes may not be practical due to fluctuations in funding and other factors, at minimum, park improvements should be prioritized.

For example, a five year “wish list” of capital improvements should be developed and communicated to residents. The “wish list” of projects should be updated annually.

Potential Metrics for Goal #6:

- Development of a five year “wish list” of park capital improvements.
- Annual updating of five year “wish list”.

***Wadlow Town Center
Land Use and Zoning Process -
Appendix:***

- August 7, 2012 – Plan Commission Meeting Presentation
- August 21, 2012 – Plan Commission Meeting Presentation
- October 16, 2012 – Plan Commission Meeting Presentation
- Mixed Use Transportation (MUT) District Ordinance



Former Robert P. Wadlow Golf Course Land Use / Zoning Changes

August 7, 2012

Alton Plan Commission

Agenda



- Introductions
 - Background of Process to Date
 - Requirements to Qualify Site for Potential High Speed Rail (HSR) Station Location
 - Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant at Wadlow
 - Proposed HSR Station Infrastructure
 - Process for Land Use / Zoning Changes
 - Goal Tonight: Listening Session
-

Background – Process to Date



- Late 2011: Alton/MCT Receive Tiger Grant
 - April 2012: Began Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Management Plan
 - April – June 2012: Analysis of Impacts if Wadlow Golf Course was Removed from City Park System for HSR Station and Related Development
Analysis Questions:
 - What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
 - How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?
 - What are residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks? How does that change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?
-

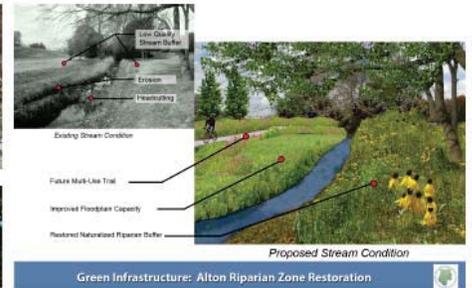
Background – Process to Date



Background – Process to Date

If the land-use changes for Wadlow Golf Course to accommodate a high speed rail station and public / private investments, would you:

- A. Be supportive of development of the whole site, regardless of the type of proposed development.
- B. Be supportive of development if open space or park space were acquired in the future, elsewhere in Alton.
- C. Be supportive of partial development of the site (preserving the Wadlow stream corridor).
- D. Be supportive of development if the development is transit-oriented, walkable, and follows best practices for sustainable development.
- E. Be supportive of development with a combination of B, C, and D above.
- F. Not supportive of development on the site.
- G. Other



Current Illinois Green Infrastructure Project: Wadlow Stream Corridor Restoration. To be completed in Fall, 2012



From the TIGER grant application: an example of future sustainable design strategies for development of the Wadlow Golf Course site. This would be an example of answer "E" to the left with a combination of green space, walkable / transit-oriented development, and sustainable development practices.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



Background – Process to Date



June 5 – Citizens Advisory Committee:

Voted to recommend to remove Wadlow from the City's Parks and Recreation system in anticipation of a sustainable development.

June 18 – Parks and Recreation Commission:

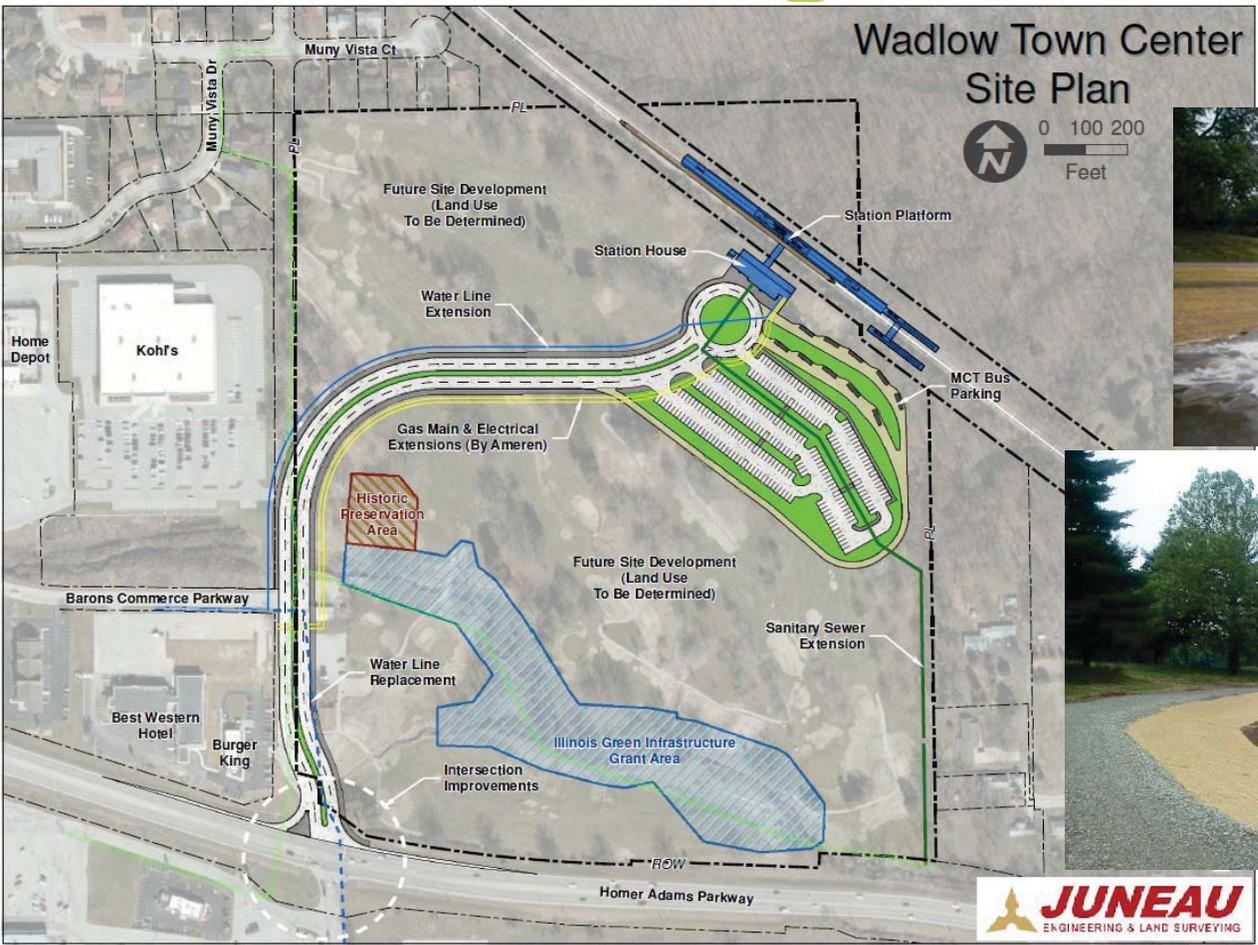
Voted to remove Wadlow from the City's Parks and Recreation system.

June 27 – City Council

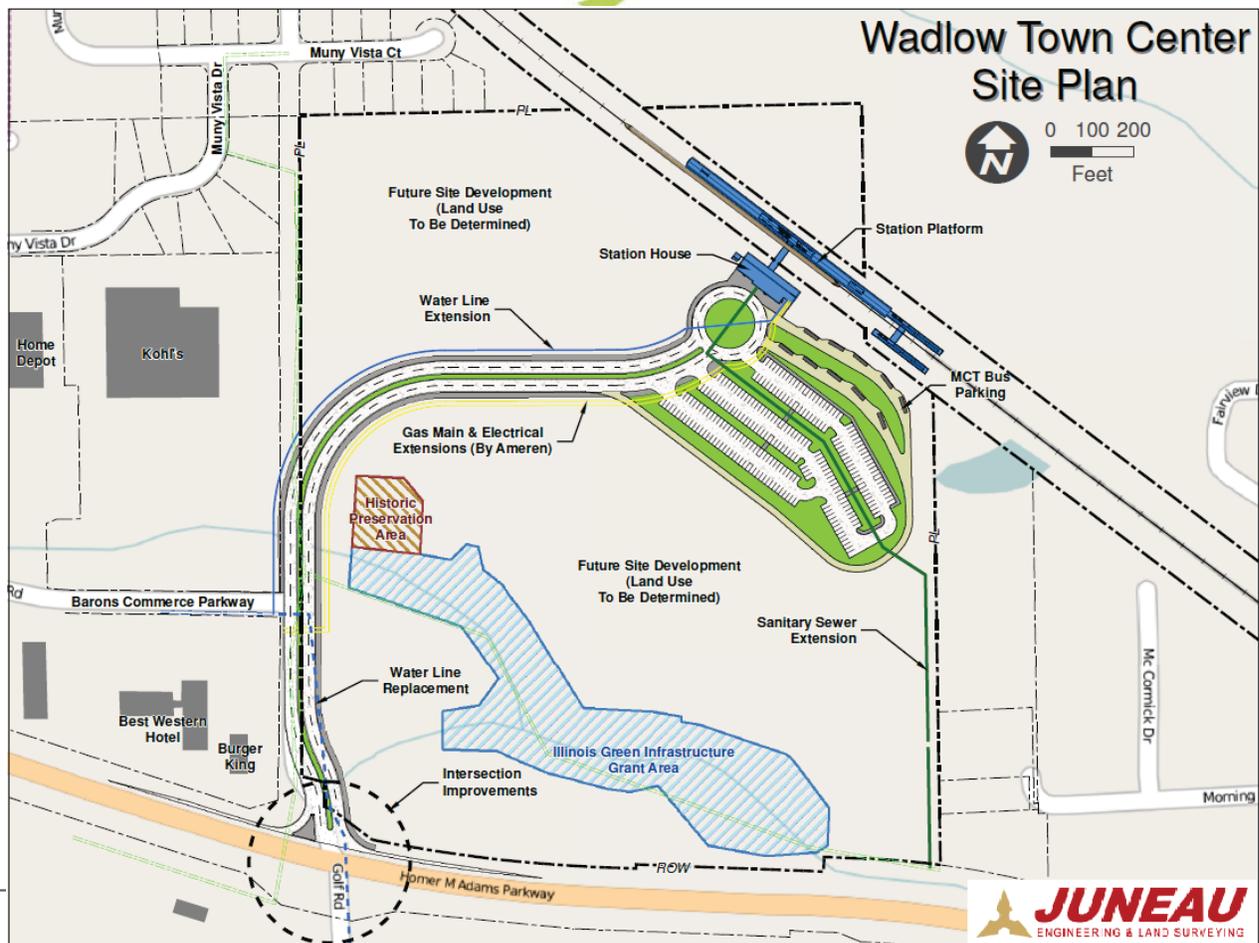
Voted to remove in its entirety the land on which the former Robert P. Wadlow Golf Course existed from the inventory of the Alton Park and Recreation system.

August 7 – Alton Plan Commission

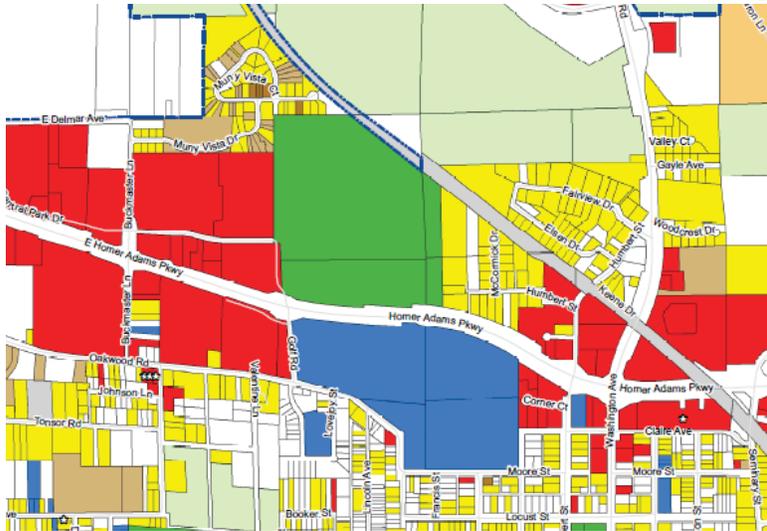
Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG)



High Speed Rail (HSR) Infrastructure / Multi-Modal Facility

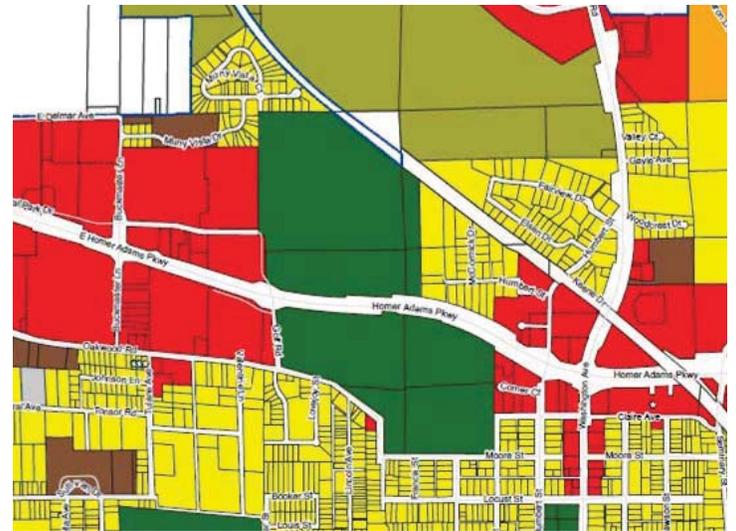


Existing Land Use / Zoning



Existing Land Use

	Agricultural		Parks and Open Space
	Commercial		Public/Semi Public
	Hospital		Single-Family Residential
	Industrial and Utilities		Two-Family Residential
	Mobile Home		Vacant Land
	Multiple-Family Residential		



Zoning Code

	R-1 Single-Family Residential		M-1 Light Industrial
	R-2 Single-Family Residential		M-2 General Industrial
	R-3 Mixed Single-Family Residential		M-3 Mining
	R-4 Multiple Family Residential		M-4 Planned Business Park
	R-6 Mfg. Home Residential		CR Conservation/Recreation
	C-1 Neighborhood Commercial		HE Higher Education
	C-2 General Commercial		MED Medical
	C-4 Downtown Commercial		MR Marina/Recreation
	C-5 Heavy Commercial		

Land Use / Zoning



Process to Accommodate HSR Station: Comprehensive Plan Amendment, then Zoning Process

Tonight: Listening Session

Comprehensive Plan Amendment:

Next Steps – Submit Draft Land-Use Modifications to Alton Plan Commission

Potential Zoning Options:

- Modify C/R Zoning to allow HSR station: Permitted or Special Use
 - Use Existing C-2 Commercial Zoning with Planned Development Procedure (PDP)
 - Potential TOD Overlay or Zoning District in Future
-

Input Tonight



Vision for the former Robert P. Wadlow Municipal Golf Course:

Concerns:



Former Robert P. Wadlow Golf Course Land Use / Zoning Changes

August 21, 2012

Alton Plan Commission

Agenda



- Comply with Requirements and Timetable to Allow for Site Selection by IDOT
 - Address Concerns Regarding Future Site Development
 - Address Concerns Regarding Initial Station Area Design
-

Land-Use Modifications and Zoning Recommendations



Zoning Options:

1. Modify C/R Zoning to allow HSR station: Permitted or Special Use
2. Use Existing C-2 Commercial Zoning District with Planned Development Procedure (PDP)
3. Create New TOD Overlay or Zoning District

First step for all options would be to modify City's future land use map from 'Parks and Open Space' to 'Mixed-Use'.

Adoption of 'Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan' as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.

Land-Use Modifications and Zoning Recommendations



- Modify C/R Zoning to allow HSR station: Permitted or Special Use
 - Does not meet requirements for IDOT site selection.
-

Land-Use Modifications and Zoning Recommendations



- Use Existing C-2 Commercial Zoning District with future Planned Development Procedure (PDP)
 - Short Term
 - Change to C-2 Commercial Zoning
 - Develop Wadlow Town Center Overlay District with Additional Regulations for:
 - Buffering
 - Lighting
 - Landscaping
 - Stormwater
 - Long Term
 - Planned Development Procedure (PDP) when site is ready for development.
-

Land-Use Modifications and Zoning Recommendations



- Use Existing C-2 Commercial Zoning District, new Wadlow Town Center Overlay District, and apply future Planned Development Procedure (PDP) when site is ready for development.
 - Benefits
 - Allows use of an existing zoning district. Shortens process.
 - Development of additional regulations addresses concerns regarding buffering, light pollution, etc.
 - Weaknesses
 - C-2 Doesn't allow for residential. Would have to re-zone portions of the site if mix-use or residential is desired.
 - C-2 allows development not traditionally associated with mixed-use/TOD development.
-

Land-Use Modifications and Zoning Recommendations



- Model TOD Zoning Districts:
 - Lindbergh Transit Station Area:
Special Public Interest District (Atlanta, GA)
 - Transit Oriented Development District (Austin, TX)
 - Transit Oriented Development Overlay District: Model Bylaw
-

TOD Zoning – Types of Uses



Allowed by Right

- Residential
- Townhouses
- Service-oriented office uses
- Non-service oriented office uses on upper floors only
- Mixed uses with ground floor retail, personal services and/or service-oriented offices
- Banks
- Retail under 10,000 square feet
- Government buildings
- Hotels
- Transit stations
- Restaurants (except fast food establishments which may only be authorized by Special Permit)
- Civic, cultural and community facilities
- Theaters, except drive-ins
- Dry cleaners stores with cleaning facilities outside the TOD Overlay District
- Buildings and uses accessory to the above, such as parking garages, gift shops, cafeterias
- Day care facilities.

Prohibited Uses

- Auto sales, auto service and repair, auto storage and auto rental uses
- Gasoline sales
- Heavy equipment sales and service
- Manufactured home sales
- Salvage yards
- Industrial uses
- Towing services and vehicle storage yards
- RV mobile home sales yards and storage
- Car wash
- Mini-storage and self-storage facilities
- Commercial laundries with dry-cleaning operation on site
- Warehousing and distribution facilities
- Low density housing (less than 7 units per acre)
- Golf Courses
- Cemeteries
- Boat sales and storage yards
- Freight terminals
- Amusement parks
- Building contractors
- Retail uses, except grocery stores, larger than 10,000 square feet, unless part of a mixed-use development
- Drive-in theaters
- Drive-through facilities
- Commercial parking facilities

Uses by Special Permit

- Single family homes
- Commercial surface parking lots
- Laboratories
- Fast Food Establishments
- Research facilities
- Stadiums and sports facilities with over 10,000 seats
- Grocery stores over 10,000 square feet

TOD Zoning – Transitional Yards (Buffer)



- Setbacks
 - 15-30' Rear Setback (Model)
 - 20' Landscape Strip (Lindbergh)
 - Landscape
 - Plantings as approved by City Arborist (Lindbergh)
 - Screening
 - 6' height opaque wall (Lindbergh)
 - Building Height Restrictions Adjacent to Residential (All)
 - Other
 - Transition Zones and Station Area Plans (Austin)
-

TOD Zoning – Site Development

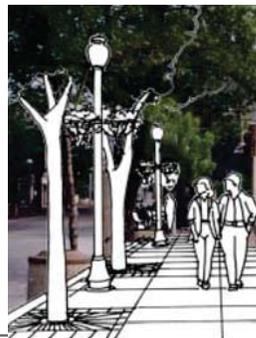
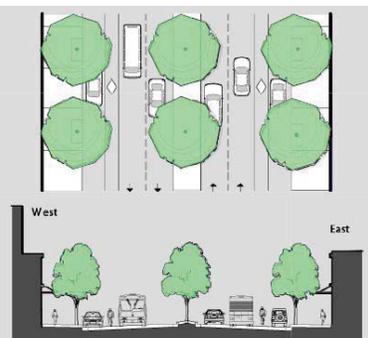


- Parking (All)
 - Parking in rear of buildings.
 - Building Setbacks (All)
 - Limited setbacks to encourage pedestrian-friendly environment.
 - Streetscape / Design Guidelines (Austin)
 - Development of Station Area Plans provide detailed requirements.
-

TOD Zoning – Other Recommendations



- Station Area Plans (Austin)
 - Public and stakeholder driven process.
 - Establishes the permitted and conditional uses.
 - Detailed requirements for street, streetscape, other public improvements, architectural standards, etc.
 - Gives flexibility to more closely define standards once development potential is better informed.
 - Use LEED ND (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design: Neighborhood Design) as benchmark.



Potential Wadlow Town Center Overlay District or New TOD District: Additional Regulations



- Create a 3-5 Person Zoning Work Group
 - Using model ordinances and best practices guidelines (2009 'Sustainable Site Initiative Guidelines' and 'LEED-ND' as benchmarks), create a list of desirable components and prepare text for new Overlay District or Zoning District:
 - Buffers
 - Stormwater Treatment
 - Landscaping
 - Lighting
 - Etc.
 - Work Group to also coordinate with City/IDOT/MCT/Amtrak and design team on station area design.
-

Precedent – Buffers



Mundelein METRA – Approx 80' buffer with landscaping.



Geneva METRA – Approx 20' buffer with landscaping and fence.

Application of Buffers or Zones at Wadlow



With Landscape Buffers



With District, Development, or Design Zones

Recommendation



Modify City's future land use map from 'Parks and Open Space' to 'Mixed-Use'. Adoption of 'Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan' as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.

- Existing C2 Zoning with New Wadlow Town Center Overlay District and future PDP.

September: Zoning Work Group Meets Twice to Discuss and Reach Consensus on Overlay District Regulations

October: Plan Commission Meets Twice to approve Land Use and Zoning Change with Overlay District

November: City Council approves Land Use and Zoning Change with Overlay District

2013: Work Group coordinate with IDOT/City/Amtrak on Station Area Design

TBD: PDP (When site is ready for development)

or

- Prepare new TOD Zoning District with Station Area Plan.

September – Early October: Zoning Work Group meets 2-3 times to develop TOD Zoning District

October early November: Plan Commission Meets Twice to approve Land Use and Zoning Change with Overlay District

Late November: City Council approves Land Use and Zoning Change with Overlay District

2013: Work Group coordinate with IDOT/City/Amtrak on Station Area Design

TBD: Station Area Plan (When site is ready for development)

Next Steps



- **Direction from Plan Commission on Recommendation:**
 - Existing C2 Zoning with New Wadlow Town Center Overlay District and future PDP
or
 - Prepare new TOD Zoning District with future Station Area Plan
 - **Creation of 3-5 Person Zoning Work Group**
 - **Work Group to begin meeting in September**
-



**Former Robert P. Wadlow Golf
Course
Land Use / Zoning Changes**

OCTOBER 16, 2012
ALTON PLAN COMMISSION

Agenda



- Review of Previous Plan Commission Meetings in August
 - Review of Proposed Mixed Use Transportation (MUT) Zoning District
 - Comments/Questions
-

August Plan Commission Meetings



- **Heard Concerns About:**
 - Buffers
 - Lighting
 - Landscaping
 - Stormwater
 - Architectural Standards
 - **Reviewed Previous Goals Heard from Stakeholders:**
 - Walkable, Mixed-Use, Sustainable, Preserve Open Space (Creek)
 - **Discussed Precedent TOD Examples**
 - **Discussed Options:**
 - Modify C/R Zoning to allow HSR station: Permitted or Special Use
 - Use Existing C-2 Commercial Zoning District (with Overlay) and Planned Development Procedure (PDP)
 - Create New Zoning District with Station (Development) Area Plan.
-

New Zoning District: Mixed Use Transportation (MUT) District



- Utilized for Precedent:
 - Model/Precedent TOD
 - LEED Neighborhood Development, Sustainable Sites Initiative
 - Regional Precedent
 - Existing Alton Code
-

Typical TOD/Mixed Use



Goals for the Mixed Use Transportation District



- Flexibility for Future Market Demands
 - Provide a Framework for a Walkable / Sustainable District
 - Limited Setbacks, Parking in Rear, Stormwater BMPs
 - Address Concerns Regarding Adjacent Residential
 - Buffers / Setbacks
 - Lighting
 - Building Heights
 - Use Development Area Plan for additional design requirements.
-

Mixed Use Transportation (MUT) District - Sections



- Mixed Use Transportation (MUT) District Sections:
 - Permitted Uses
 - Special Uses
 - Dimensional Regulations
 - Building Design
 - Parking Regulations
 - Bicycle Parking
 - Lighting
 - Landscaping: Buffers/Parking Lots/General
 - Existing Tree Protection
 - Signs
 - Stormwater
 - Preparation of Development Area Plan
-

Mixed Use Transportation (MUT) District - Sections



- Mixed Use Transportation (MUT)

District Sections:

- Permitted Uses
- Special Uses
- Dimensional Regulations
- Building Design
- Parking Regulations
- Bicycle Parking
- Lighting
- Landscaping: Buffers/Parking Lots/General
- Existing Tree Protection
- Signs
- Stormwater
- Preparation of Development Area Plan



Development Area Plan

- Architectural Standards
- Streetcape Standards
- Overall General Plan
- Parking Submittals
- Landscape Plan
- Sign Design

{ B } Permitted and { D } Special Uses



Permitted Uses

- Residential single family detached
- Residential single family attached at 2 units (e.g. Townhomes)
- Service oriented office uses, including:
 - Business support services (uses within NAICS code 5614)
 - Travel agencies (uses within NAICS code 561510)
 - Offices of physicians (uses within NAICS code 6211)
 - Offices of dentists (uses within NAICS code 6212)
 - Offices of other health practitioners (uses within NAICS code 6213)
 - Legal services (uses within NAICS code 5411)
 - Office of real estate agents and brokers (uses within NAICS code 5312)
 - Accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping, and payroll services (uses within NAICS code 5412)
- Non-service oriented office uses on upper floors only, including:
 - Office administrative services (uses within NAICS code 5611)
 - Employment services (uses within NAICS code 5613)
 - Architectural, engineering and related services (uses within NAICS code 5413)
 - Management, scientific, and technical consulting services (uses within NAICS code 5416)
- Mixed use buildings with ground floor retail, personal services and/or service oriented offices and residential on upper floors
- Financial institutions, including:
 - Commercial banking (uses within NAICS code 522110)
 - Savings institutions (uses within NAICS code 522120)
 - Credit unions (uses within NAICS code 522130)
- Retail use buildings under 15,000 square feet, including:
 - Department stores (uses within NAICS code 4521)
 - Other general merchandise stores (uses within NAICS code 4529)
 - Pharmacies and drug stores (446110)
 - Miscellaneous Store Retailers (uses within NAICS code 453998)
- Government office and service oriented buildings (uses within NAICS code 921190)
- Hotels (uses within NAICS code 72111)
- Mixed Use Transit Systems (uses within NAICS code 485111)
- Restaurants-except drive-through establishments which may only be authorized by Special Permit (uses within NAICS code 722511)
- Civic, cultural and community facilities (uses within NAICS code 712)
- Theaters, except drive-ins (uses within NAICS code 512131)
- Dry cleaners stores with cleaning facilities outside the Mixed Use Transportation District (uses within NAICS code 81232)
- Day care facilities (uses within NAICS code 624410)
- Educational facilities (uses within NAICS code 611310)

Special Uses

- Commercial surface parking lots or parking structures (uses within NAICS code 81293)
- Laboratories (uses within NAICS code 541380)
- Drive-Through Restaurants and Fast Food Establishments (uses within NAICS code 722511)
- Research facilities (uses within NAICS code 541712)
- Stadiums and sports facilities (uses within NAICS code 711211)
- Grocery stores over 15,000 square feet (uses within NAICS code 445110)
- Retail uses over 15,000 square feet (uses within NAICS code 452111)

{ E } Dimensional Regulations

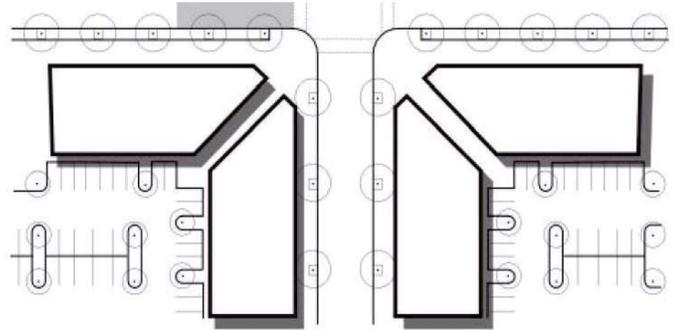


Minimum lot size	No limitation
Minimum lot width	0
Minimum lot depth	0
Minimum front yard	None
Maximum front yard	15 feet, unless a courtyard, plaza, or seating area is provided in which case there may be a front yard of up to 25 feet.
Minimum street side yard	None
Minimum side yard	None, unless the side of the lot abuts land zoned residential in which case there shall be a side yard of at least 5 feet. If a side yard is not required but is provided, it shall be at least 5 feet in width.
Maximum side yard	15 feet, including for side yards facing a street, unless a side yard is required to accommodate two-way traffic to rear parking and loading areas in which case the side yard maximum shall be 30 feet.
Minimum rear yard	None, unless the rear of the lot abuts land zoned residential in which case there shall be a rear yard of at least 25 feet. If a rear yard is not required but is provided, it shall be at least 5 feet in width.
Maximum building height	4 stories or 60 feet, except when the lot is located within 120 feet of land zoned residential district in which case it shall be 2 stories or 35 feet.
Minimum building coverage	No limitation
Maximum building coverage	No limitation
Minimum district size	50 acres

{ E } Dimensional Regulations



Minimum lot size	No limitation
Minimum lot width	0
Minimum lot depth	0
Minimum front yard	None
Maximum front yard	15 feet, unless a courtyard, plaza, or seating area is provided in which case there may be a front yard of up to 25 feet.
Minimum street side yard	None
Minimum side yard	None, unless the side of the lot abuts land zoned residential in which case there shall be a side yard of at least 5 feet. If a side yard is not required but is provided, it shall be at least 5 feet in width.
Maximum side yard	15 feet, including for side yards facing a street, unless a side yard is required to accommodate two-way traffic to rear parking and loading areas in which case the side yard maximum shall be 30 feet.
Minimum rear yard	None, unless the rear of the lot abuts land zoned residential in which case there shall be a rear yard of at least 25 feet. If a rear yard is not required but is provided, it shall be at least 5 feet in width.
Maximum building height	4 stories or 60 feet, except when the lot is located within 120 feet of land zoned residential district in which case it shall be 2 stories or 35 feet.
Minimum building coverage	No limitation
Maximum building coverage	No limitation
Minimum district size	50 acres



{ E } Dimensional Regulations



Minimum lot size	No limitation
Minimum lot width	0
Minimum lot depth	0
Minimum front yard	None
Maximum front yard	15 feet, unless a courtyard, plaza, or seating area is provided in which case there may be a front yard of up to 25 feet.
Minimum street side yard	None
Minimum side yard	None, unless the side of the lot abuts land zoned residential in which case there shall be a side yard of at least 5 feet. If a side yard is not required but is provided, it shall be at least 5 feet in width.
Maximum side yard	15 feet, including for side yards facing a street, unless a side yard is required to accommodate two-way traffic to rear parking and loading areas in which case the side yard maximum shall be 30 feet.
Minimum rear yard	None, unless the rear of the lot abuts land zoned residential in which case there shall be a rear yard of at least 25 feet. If a rear yard is not required but is provided, it shall be at least 5 feet in width.
Maximum building height	4 stories or 60 feet, except when the lot is located within 120 feet of land zoned residential district in which case it shall be 2 stories or 35 feet.
Minimum building coverage	No limitation
Maximum building coverage	No limitation
Minimum district size	50 acres



{ F } Commercial Building Design Standards

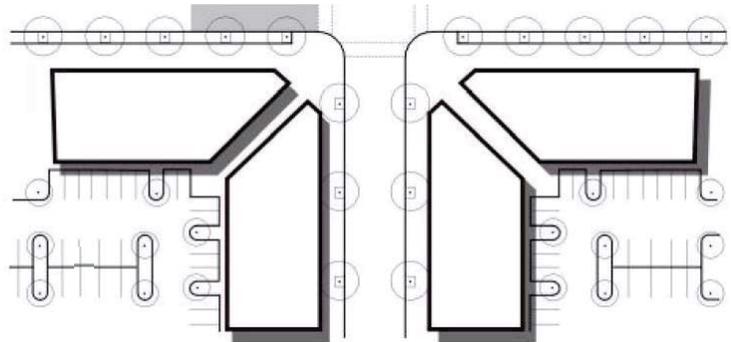


- Simple base criteria:
 1. Main entrance on the façade of the building facing the street.
 2. Facades over fifty feet in length shall be divided into shorter segments by architectural treatments.
 3. All ground-level retail, service, and trade uses that face a public space have clear glass on at least 60% of their façades.
 - Additional Architectural Standards
Required as Part of Development Area Plan
-

{ G } Parking Regulations



- Parking must be to rear of buildings.
- Parking maximums per existing Alton code.
- Reductions in parking may be allowed by special permit.
- Shared parking is encouraged.
- On-street parking is permitted and encouraged.



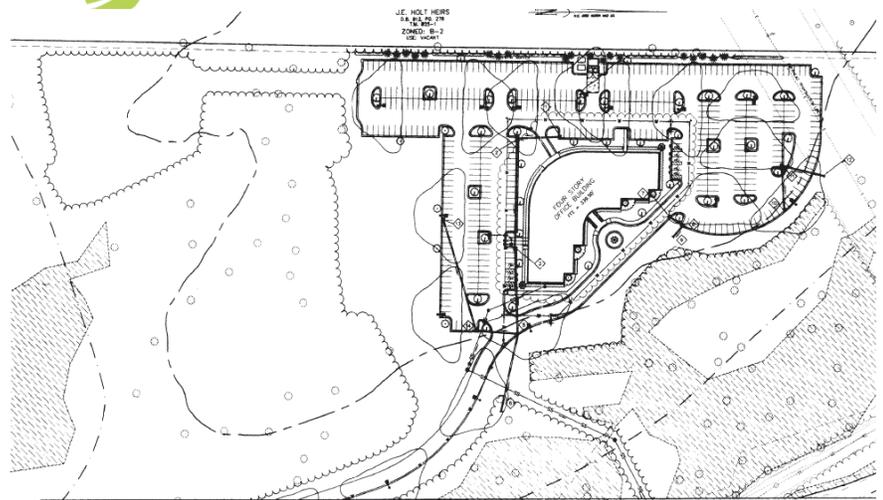
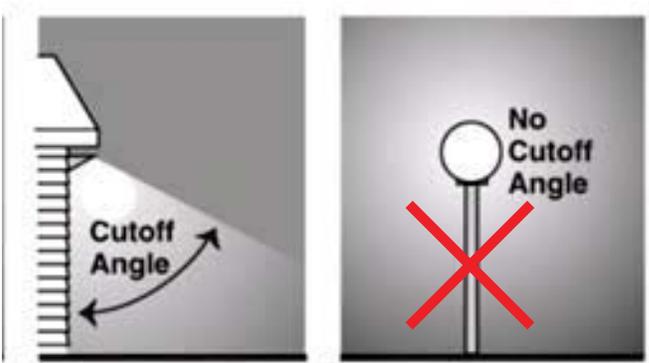
{ H } Bicycle Parking



- Bicycle Parking
 - Requires minimum number of bike parking spaces.



{ | } Outdoor Lighting

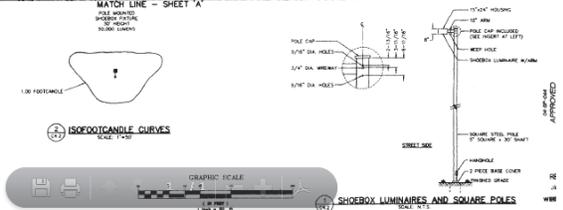


- All lighting to be shielded and directed downward.
- Limits of 1 foot candle at lot lines.
- Limits of 0.5 foot candle at residential lot lines.
- Lighting plan required to show foot candles.

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL SITE LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL WORKING AND FINISHING BY DATE SHOWN ON THESE PLANS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF SAN JOSE.
2. ALL EXTERIOR LIGHTING SHALL NOT EXCEED 1.2 FOOT CANDLE AT LOT LINES AND 0.2 FOOT CANDLE AT RESIDENTIAL LOT LINES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.
3. ALL LIGHT FIXTURES SHALL BE SHIELDED TO PREVENT LIGHT POLLUTION AND GLARE.
4. EXTERIOR LIGHTING SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF SAN JOSE LIGHTING ORDINANCE.

SITE LIGHTING PLAN IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY. THIS PLAN DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE CONTRACTOR.

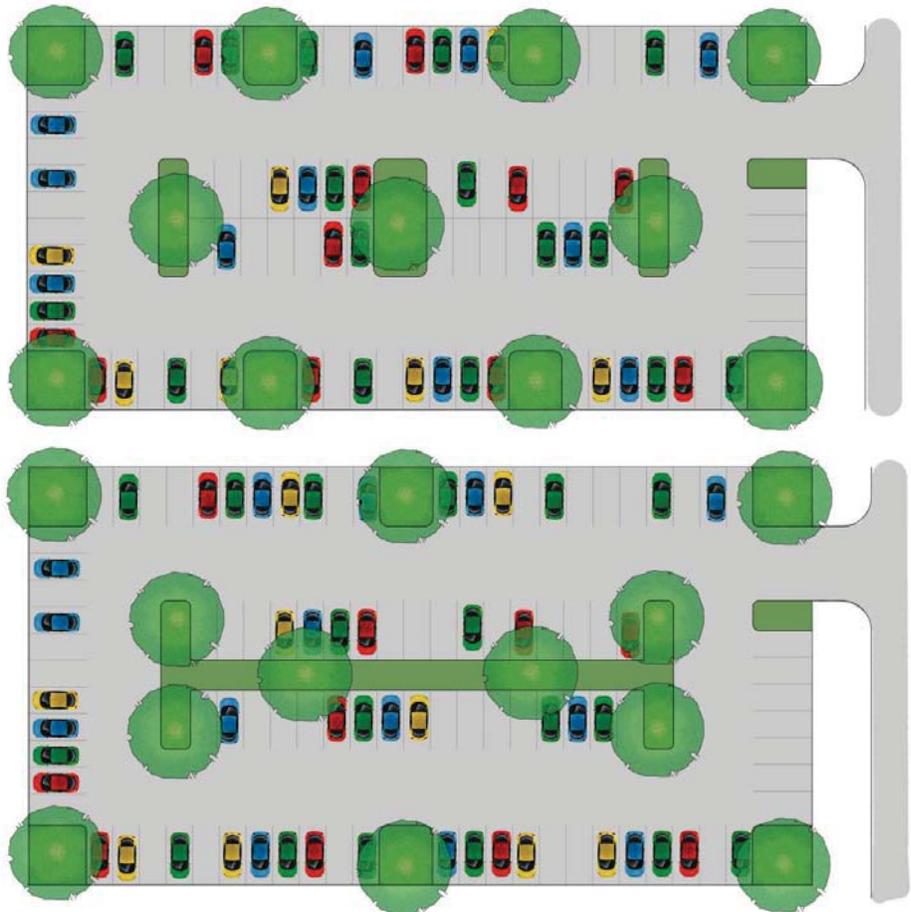
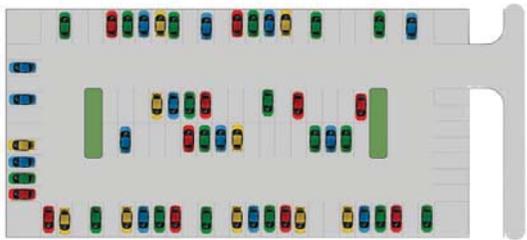


{ J } Landscaping - Buffers



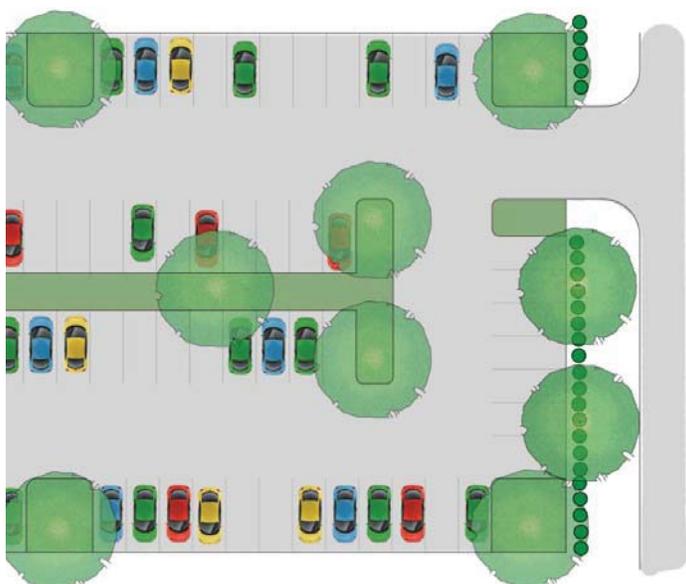
- Buffer required when non-single family uses are adjacent to existing residential zoning districts.
- Buffer Option #1
 - 25' width
 - 1 tree per 15 linear feet of buffer
 - 1 shrub per 5 linear feet of buffer
- Buffer Option #2
 - 6' height fence or wall (solid)
 - 15' width
 - 1 tree per 50 linear feet of buffer
 - 1 shrub per 10 linear feet of buffer
- Other requirements:
 - Mix of evergreen and deciduous

{ K } Landscaping – Interior Parking Lot



- 15% of Parking Lot (Impervious) to be Green Space
- 1 tree per 25 spaces
- Each parking space to be within 50' of a tree
- Stormwater BMPs are encouraged

{ L } Landscaping/Screening – Perimeter of Parking Lot



- Two options for parking lot perimeter screening, adjacent to public right-of-way or walkway.
- Option #1
 - Architectural wall 36" – 48" height
- Option #2
 - 5' wide landscape buffer
 - 1 tree per 35 linear feet
 - 1 shrub per 5 linear feet

{ M } Landscaping – General

{ N } Existing Tree Protection and Replacement



- 70% of new plantings to be native or native cultivars of species to Illinois
- All existing trees larger than 3" caliper shall be surveyed.
- Existing trees removed shall be replaced:
 - 1 new tree for every existing tree removed

plus

 - 1 new tree for every 9" of total caliper of existing trees removed



{ O } Signs



- **Signs**

- Supplements existing Alton sign regulations
 - Follows Clark Bridge/US 67 Overlay District regulations regarding on premise signs, free standing signs, and billboards.
-

{ P } Stormwater



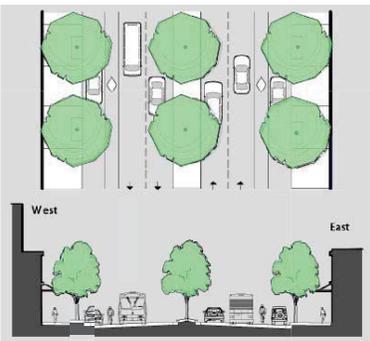
- Supplement existing Alton stormwater ordinance with additional requirements for water quality.
- Promote and encourage post-construction stormwater best management practices.



{ Q } Development Area Plans (DAP)



- Provides for a Process for Additional Design Details:
 - Architectural Standards
 - Streetscape Standards
 - Parking Demand Study (If applicable)



{ Q } Development Area Plans (DAP)



- **Development Area Plan:**

Purpose

1. Preparation and Adoption of DAP
 2. Amendments to the DAP
 3. Submittal Requirements
 4. Building Design (Architectural Standards) Submittal Requirements
 5. Parking Submittal Requirements
 6. Streetscaping Submittal Requirement
 7. Landscaping/Open Space Requirements
 8. Signage Submittal Requirements
-

Questions / Comments



- Questions and Comments
-

Disclaimer:

This is provided for informational purposes only. The formatting of this ordinance may vary from the official hard copy. In the case of any discrepancy between this ordinance and the official hard copy, the official hard copy will prevail.

ORDINANCE NO. 7333
AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE MIXED USE TRANSPORTATION ZONING DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the City of Alton has identified the opportunity to participate in the development of high speed rail services to serve the residents of the City of Alton and the greater area near the City of Alton; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission of the City of Alton has considered the input of members of the public at numerous open meetings and has considered the contributions of expert consultants retained by the City of Alton to address the issues likely to arise in preparing for the development of a high speed rail service within the City of Alton and the related mixed mode transportation systems associated therewith; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission of the City of Alton has made a series of recommendations to the zoning ordinance of the City of Alton, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alton has considered the recommendations of the Plan Commission and accepts the same as in the best interest of the City of Alton.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALTON, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE

The City of Alton is a Home Rule Unit of Government and as such may exercise any powers or perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs.

SECTION TWO

That Chapter 5 of Title 11 of the City Code of the City of Alton shall be reorganized by changing Section 14 to be Section 15, Section 15 to be Section 16, Section 16 to be Section 17, and Section 17 to be Section 18.

SECTION THREE

That Section 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 11 of the City Code of the City of Alton shall be amended by the addition of an additional zoning district as follows:

“Mixed Used Transportation District
 MUT, Mixed Use Transportation”

SECTION FOUR

That Chapter 5 of Title 11 of the City Code of the City of Alton shall be amended by adding a new Section thereto, Section 14, which shall provide as follows:

“11-5-14: MUT, Mixed Use Transportation District

Mixed Use Transportation (MUT) District

A. Purpose:

The purpose of the MUT, mixed use transportation district is to permit mixed use activities in association with mixed mode transportation systems, including high speed rail, light rail, bus transit, and other intercity or commuter transportation systems, in appropriate areas. The MUT district is considered consistent with and designed to implement the provisions of the comprehensive plan for land designated as Mixed Use Transportation on the city's future land use map.

B. Permitted Uses:

Buildings, structures, or land may be erected or used for the following:

1. Residential single family detached
2. Residential single family attached at 2 units (e.g., Townhomes)
3. Service oriented office uses, including:
 - a. Accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping, and payroll services (uses within NAICS code 5412)
 - b. Business support services (uses within NAICS code 5614)
 - c. Legal services (uses within NAICS code 5411)
 - d. Offices of physicians (uses within NAICS code 6211)
 - e. Offices of dentists (uses within NAICS code 6212)
 - f. Offices of other health practitioners (uses within NAICS code 6213)
 - g. Office of real estate agents and brokers (uses within NAICS code 5312)
 - h. Travel agencies (uses within NAICS code 561510)
4. Non-service oriented office uses on upper floors only, including:
 - a. Architectural, engineering and related services (uses within NAICS code 5413)
 - b. Employment services (uses within NAICS code 5613)
 - c. Management, scientific, and technical consulting services (uses within NAICS code 5416)
 - d. Office administrative services (uses within NAICS code 5611)
5. Mixed use buildings with ground floor retail, personal services and/or service oriented offices and residential on upper floors
6. Financial institutions, including:
 - a. Commercial banking (uses within NAICS code 522110)
 - b. Savings institutions (uses within NAICS code 522120)
 - c. Credit unions (uses within NAICS code 522130)
7. Retail use buildings under 15,000 square feet, including:
 - a. Department stores (uses within NAICS code 4521)
 - b. Miscellaneous store retailers (uses within NAICS code 453998)
 - c. Other general merchandise stores (uses within NAICS code 4529)
 - d. Pharmacies and drug stores (446110)
8. Government office and service oriented buildings (uses within NAICS code 921190)
9. Hotels (uses within NAICS code 72111)
10. Mixed Mode Transit Systems (uses within NAICS code 485111)
11. Support Activities for Rail Transportation (NAICS 488210)
12. Restaurants-except drive-through establishments which may only be authorized by Special Permit (uses within NAICS code 722511)
13. Civic, cultural and community facilities (uses within NAICS code 712)
14. Theaters, except drive-ins (uses within NAICS code 512131)

15. Dry cleaners stores with cleaning facilities located outside the Mixed Use Transportation District (uses within NAICS code 81232)
16. Day care facilities (uses within NAICS code 624410)
17. Educational facilities (uses within NAICS code 611310)

C. Accessory Uses and Structures:

Uses and structures customarily accessory to a permitted use may be allowed within the MUT district. Within the MUT district, there shall be no outdoor storage of materials and supplies except as specifically allowed by a provision of this zoning ordinance.

D. Special Uses:

The following uses may be allowed within the MUT district subject to the criteria established in Chapter 11 of this title and the performance standards contained in sections 11-7-1 and 11-7-3 of this title:

1. Commercial surface parking lots or parking structures (uses within NAICS code 81293)
2. Laboratories (uses within NAICS code 541380)
3. Drive-through restaurants and fast food establishments (uses within NAICS code 722511)
4. Research facilities (uses within NAICS code 541712)
5. Stadiums and sports facilities (uses within NAICS code 711211)
6. Grocery stores over 15,000 square feet (uses within NAICS code 445110)
7. Retail use buildings over 15,000 square feet (uses within NAICS code 452111)

E. Dimensional Regulations:

Minimum lot size	No limitation
Minimum lot width	0
Minimum lot depth	0
Minimum front yard	None
Maximum front yard	15 feet, unless a courtyard, plaza, or seating area is provided in which case there may be a front yard of up to 25 feet.
Minimum street side yard	None
Minimum side yard	None, unless the side of the lot abuts land zoned residential in which case there shall be a side yard of at least 5 feet. If a side yard is not required but is provided, it shall be at least 5 feet in width.
Maximum side yard	15 feet, including for side yards facing a street, unless a side yard is required to accommodate two-way traffic to rear parking and loading areas in which case the side yard maximum shall be 30 feet.
Minimum rear yard	None, unless the rear of the lot abuts land zoned residential in which case there shall be a rear yard of at least 25 feet. If a rear yard is not required but is provided, it shall be at least 5 feet in width.
Maximum building height	

	4 stories or 60 feet, except when the lot is located within 120 feet of land zoned residential district in which case it shall be 2 stories or 35 feet.
Minimum building coverage	No limitation
Maximum building coverage	No limitation
Minimum district size	50 acres

F. Commercial Building Design Standards:

1. All buildings must provide a main entrance on the façade of the building facing the principal street.
2. Facades over fifty feet in length shall be divided into shorter segments by means of façade modulation, repeating window patterns, changes in materials, canopies or awnings, varying roof lines, and/or other architectural treatments.
3. All ground-level retail, service, and trade uses that face a public space, including streets, shall have clear glass on at least 60% of their façades between 3 and 8 feet above grade.

G. Parking Regulations:

1. Surface parking lots must be to the rear of buildings.
2. The number of parking spaces shall be the required number of off-street parking spaces contained in Chapter 9 of this title.
3. Reduction in the number of required parking spaces may be permitted by a Special Permit granted by the City Plan Commission after a finding by the Commission that the development will be adequately served by users of public transportation.
4. Shared parking is strongly encouraged. On lots serving more than one use, the total number of spaces required may be reduced, provided that the applicant submits credible evidence to the satisfaction of the City Plan Commission that the peak parking demand of the uses do not coincide, and that the accumulated parking demand at any one time shall not exceed the total capacity of the facility. Such evidence must take into account the parking demand of residents, employees, customers, visitors, and any other users of the lot. It must also take into account parking demand on both weekends and weekdays, and both during the daytime and overnight.
5. Where feasible, ingress and egress from parking shall be from side streets or alleys.
6. Surface parking lots shall provide pedestrian walkways and connections to the sidewalk system.
7. On-street parking is permitted and encouraged.
8. Parking structures shall have well-designed and marked pedestrian walkways and connections to the sidewalk system.
9. Parking structures must include ground level retail, office, or other permitted uses along all the streets and sidewalks.
10. Parking structures shall be designed to be compatible with adjacent buildings and architecture.
11. See section 'Landscaping' for requirements of green space and landscape requirements within a parking lot.

H. Bicycle Parking:

1. Residential: Multi-Unit
 - a. Provide at least one secure, enclosed bicycle storage space per occupant for 30% of the planned occupancy but no fewer than one per unit. Provide secure visitor bicycle racks on-

site, with at least one bicycle space per ten dwelling units but no fewer than four spaces per project site.

2. Retail:
 - a. Provide at least one secure, enclosed bicycle storage space per new retail worker for 10% of retail workers planned occupancy. Provide visitor or customer bicycle racks on-site, with at least one bicycle space per 5,000 square feet of retail space, but no fewer than one bicycle space per business or four bicycle spaces per project site, whichever is greater.
3. Nonresidential other than retail:
 - a. Provide at least one secure, enclosed bicycle storage space per new occupant for 10% of planned occupancy. Provide visitor bicycle racks on-site with at least one bicycle space per 10,000 square feet of new commercial nonretail space but not fewer than four bicycle spaces per building.
4. Visitors' and customers' bicycle racks must be clearly visible from a main entry, located within 50 feet of the door, served with night lighting, and protected from damage from nearby vehicles. If the building has multiple main entries, bicycle racks must be proportionally dispersed within 50 feet of each.

I. Outdoor Lighting:

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Section is to provide reasonable regulations to direct the location, design, illumination level and use of outdoor lighting to minimize its undesirable effects. Specifically, this Section is intended to promote the public health, safety and general welfare by:
 - a. Maintaining safe night-time driver performance on public streets by minimizing both brightly lit surfaces and lighting glare.
 - b. Promoting lighting that provides security but protects the privacy of adjacent properties.
 - c. Allowing lighting that is not unduly intrusive or a nuisance to nearby residents, property occupants, and drivers.
 - d. Eliminating intrusive artificial light and lighting that unnecessarily contributes to "sky glow" and energy consumption.
2. Lighting Plan. The following information shall be included for all City Plan Commission reviews.
 - a. A site plan drawn to a scale of one (1) inch equaling no more than thirty (30) feet (1"=30') showing the buildings, landscaping, parking and service areas, and location and type of all proposed outdoor lighting.
 - b. A photometric grid overlaid on the proposed site plan.
 - c. Analyses showing that the proposed installation conforms to the lighting level standards in this Chapter. A photometric plan shall indicate lighting levels at ground level based on no greater than a twenty five (25) foot on-center grid and shall project twenty five (25) feet onto adjacent properties or to the setback limit line, whichever is greater. Illumination levels shall also be measured for all surrounding streets at the public right-of-way.
 - d. Specifications for all proposed lighting fixtures including mounting heights, photometric data, designation as Illuminations Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) "cut-off" fixtures, Color Rendering Index (CRI) of all lamps (bulbs), and other descriptive information on the fixtures. All lighting shall have the intensities and uniformity ratio consistent with the *Lighting Handbook* of the IESNA.
3. Type. All outdoor lighting, including free-standing, canopy, pole, and building mounted, shall be fully shielded and directed downward to prevent off-site glare and illumination.

4. Intensity - General. The intensity of light within a site shall not exceed ten (10) footcandles within any part of the site and one (1) footcandle at any lot line, except where it abuts or faces a residential use, a maximum of 0.5 footcandles is permitted. In all public areas, install automatic controls that turn off exterior lighting when sufficient daylight is available
5. Uniformity Ratios. In order to maintain uniformity in light levels across a development and prevent or minimize dark areas, the ratio of maximum to minimum lighting levels on a given lot is measured in footcandles at ground level, and shall not exceed a ratio of fifteen-to-one (15:1). Parking lots shall maintain the same uniformity ratios as the main building or principal use served.
6. Height. Except as otherwise required, the mounting height of fixtures that are located in a residential area or within one-hundred twenty (120) feet of such area shall not exceed the following light source to ground level height limits, except as permitted by the City Plan Commission.
 - a. Twenty two and one-half (22.5) feet, including a 2.5 foot base, for parking lots.
 - b. Twenty (20) feet for sidewalks and pathways.
7. Fixtures.
 - a. All outdoor fixtures, including building mounted fixtures, shall be full cut-off, shielded fixtures as defined by IESNA.
 - b. High Intensity Discharge (HID) fixtures shall be used in an effort to prevent "sky glow." High pressure sodium fixtures shall be prohibited.
 - c. The City Plan Commission may approve decorative light fixtures as an alternative to shielded fixtures when it can be proven that there shall be no off-site glare or illumination and the proposed fixtures will improve the appearance of the site.
8. Security Lighting.
 - a. The need for security lighting (e.g. the lighting for safety of persons and property) shall be demonstrated. To the extent that an area is illuminated for other purposes, independent security lighting shall not be allowed.
 - b. All security fixtures shall be shielded and aimed so that illumination is directed only to designated areas. In no case shall lighting be directed above a horizontal plane through the top of the lighting fixture, and the fixture shall include full cut-off shields that prevent the light source or lens from being visible on adjacent lots and streets.
 - c. The use of general floodlighting fixtures shall not be allowed.
9. Architectural Lighting.

When buildings and structures are to be illuminated, the City Plan Commission shall approve a design for the illumination using the following standards:

 - a. Direction of Lights. Lighting fixtures shall be carefully located, aimed and shielded so that light is directed only onto the building façade. Lighting fixtures shall not be directed toward adjacent streets, or properties, and light shall not trespass onto surrounding properties.
 - b. Façade Lighting. Lighting fixtures mounted on the building and designed to "wash" the façade with light are permitted.
 - c. Accent Lighting. Luminous tube (neon), LED or fluorescent lighting shall be allowed as an architectural detail on the exterior of any structure, provided however that exposed bulbs shall be shielded. The City Plan Commission may approve internally illuminated architectural bands or similar shielded accents as part of a review, upon determining that such accents would not cause off-site glare or light pollution and such lighting is not used to the extent that it constitutes a sign.
 - d. Landscape Lighting. The illumination of landscaping shall not generate excessive light levels, cause glare, or direct light beyond the landscaping.

10. Other Lighting.

- a. Electrical feeds to lighting standards shall run underground, not overhead.
- b. The use of a laser light source, search lights or any similar high intensity light for outdoor advertisement or entertainment is prohibited.
- c. Lighting shall not consist of or have the appearance of movement or flashing components.

11. Public Street Lighting.

The cost of installing and operating approved street lighting on any public street shall be through a financial method approved by the City or Illinois Department of Transportation. The costs of all other lighting systems shall be borne by the developer/property owner.

12. Exemptions.

The following outdoor light fixtures are exempt from the provisions of this Section.

- a. Lighting necessary for street or utility construction or emergencies.

J. Landscaping – Buffers:

1. Applicability. Landscape buffers shall be required to separate all uses, except single family residential (detached or attached), from adjacent residential zoning districts in order to eliminate or minimize potential nuisances such as dirt, noise, glare of lights, signs, building bulk, parking areas, or to provide spacing to reduce adverse impacts of the above, or danger from fires or explosions.
2. Location. Where required by this Section landscape buffers shall be located on the outer perimeter of the lot or site, extending to the lot or site boundary line. Landscape buffers shall not be located on any portion of an existing or dedicated public or private street or right-of-way.
3. Landscape Buffer Credit. If a landscape screen, consisting of different plants than required below, is already in place, the City Plan Commission may substitute the existing bufferyard screen for the table of plant units required below.
4. Minimum Landscape Buffer Standards. Minimum width of the landscape buffer shall be twenty-five (25) feet.
 - a. 1 tree per 15 linear feet of landscape buffer.
 - b. 1 shrub per 5 linear feet of landscape buffer.
5. Trees shall be made up of the following:
 - a. 30% Evergreen species--
Minimum size for evergreens shall be six (6) feet in height.
 - b. 30% Deciduous species (Understory)--Understory trees generally defined as species such as redbud, dogwood, serviceberry, etc., that are considered understory.
Minimum size for understory, deciduous trees shall be 1.5” caliper.
 - c. 40% Deciduous species (Canopy)--Canopy trees generally defined as species such as oaks, maples, ash, etc., that are considered canopy.
Minimum size for canopy, deciduous trees shall be 2.5” caliper.
6. Shrubs shall be made up of the following:
 - a. 30% Evergreen species
 - b. 70% Deciduous species
 - c. Shrub species shall be chosen that can reasonably be expected to create an opaque visual screen at least six (6) feet high within five (5) growing seasons.
7. The installation of a six (6) foot high solid wall or fence within the landscape buffer shall reduce the requirement of the landscape buffer to:
 - a. Minimum width: fifteen (15) feet
 - b. 1 tree per 50 linear feet of landscape buffer
 - c. 1 shrub per 10 linear feet of landscape buffer

8. The exact placement of required plants and structures shall be the decision of each user except that the following requirements shall be satisfied:
 - a. All bufferyard areas shall be seeded with lawn, ground cover or prairie grass unless a natural ground cover is already established.
9. The following items shall be permitted within the landscape buffer, provided that the total width of the landscape buffer is maintained, no plant material is eliminated, and all other regulations of this Chapter are met:
 - a. Sidewalks, trails and bike paths; and
 - b. Stormwater management facilities provided they do not interfere with the performance and maintenance of the buffer area.

In no event, however, shall any other structure be permitted in bufferyards, except: Fences or walls as provided for in this Section; signs as provided for in this Section; and driveway or street serving as access to a site or lot as approved by the City Plan Commission, provided that the access does not unreasonably encroach on the width of the bufferyard, and is not located within seventy (70) feet of a street intersection or of another drive, and no pavement serving as access be located closer than ten (10) feet to an adjacent property line.

K. Landscaping – Interior of Parking Lots:

1. A minimum of 15% of impervious interior of parking lot area to be dedicated to green space.
2. A minimum of one (1) tree shall be provided per 25 parking spaces, with each parking space to be within 50' of a tree. Each tree shall have a minimum of 160 square feet of landscaped area.
3. Stormwater best management practices (BMP) are encouraged to be placed between parking aisles, at the end of drive aisles, or around the perimeter of the parking lot. Landscape islands with notched curbs (to allow stormwater) which contain native plants or deep rooted perennial plants are preferred.

L. Landscaping/Screening – Perimeter of Parking Lots:

1. Any side of a parking lot or loading area which abuts a public right-of-way or public walkway shall be screened by one of the architectural and/or landscape elements described in this Section. Any of the following screening methods may be used singly or in combination, provided clear vision areas are maintained:
 - a. Type I - Architectural Screen. Walls used as a screening device shall be constructed of permanent, low-maintenance materials such as concrete, brick, or architectural block. Such screens shall have minimum eighty (80) percent opacity. Wire or chain link fencing, painted or stained wood screens and unpatterned or unpainted concrete or concrete block shall not be permitted. Architectural screens shall not be less than thirty six (36) inches nor greater than forty eight (48) inches in height. An architectural screen may be placed at the lot line. A two (2) foot minimum buffer shall be provided between the architectural screen and the parking or loading area to accommodate the overhang of cars and protect the wall wherever cars are likely to park adjacent to the wall.
 - b. Type II - Landscape Buffer. A minimum five (5) foot wide landscape buffer shall be provided. The buffer shall have a minimum height of three (3) feet when planted, and shall be maintained to form a minimum visual screen of a maximum of four (4) feet in height with eighty (80) percent summer opacity within three (3) years after planting. The buffer shall be planted with a minimum of one (1) canopy tree per 35 linear feet and one (1) shrub per five (5) feet of lot frontage, or fraction thereof.

M. Landscaping – General:

1. At least seventy (70) percent of new plantings shall be species native (or cultivars of natives) to Illinois, including those plantings within Landscape Buffers and Parking Lots.
2. Managed stands of native plants, ornamental grasses, or shrubs, including plants that function in a stormwater BMP, exceeding twelve (12) inches in height are permitted provided they are maintained free of turf weeds, noxious weeds, invasive plants, and nuisance plants, are kept at least four (4) feet from a property line, and do not impair sight distance, or constitute a public nuisance to the public or residents and occupants of the immediate vicinity.

N. Existing Tree Protection and Replacement:

1. The applicant shall identify all existing trees in a tree protection plan. The plan shall include:
 - a. Identify the location, size and species of all existing trees or groups of trees over 3" caliper. Trees shall be identified by botanical/common names and applicable size.
 - b. Trees to be removed or altered in any way shall be marked in the field and matched on the tree plan. Number of trees, species, and sizes (diameter breast height -dbh) shall be identified on the plan.
 - c. Delineation of all construction zone limits.
 - d. Provide a protection program defining construction methods that will be incorporated to protect trees during and after construction. Methods should include but not be limited to barriers, signs, soil stabilization, and contractor notices.
 - e. Identify the size and number of replacement plantings. Replacement plantings shall be calculated with the following:
 - i. 1 replacement tree for every tree removed larger than 3" caliper, with an additional 1 replacement tree for every 9" of total caliper of trees removed larger than 3" caliper. Replacement trees shall be a minimum of 1.5" caliper for understory trees and 2.5" caliper for canopy trees. Tree replacements can be used in required landscape buffers and parking lots as required elsewhere in this Chapter.
 - f. Provide plans for supervising and/or monitoring implementation of any required tree protection or replacement measures.
 - g. The name and qualifications of the person responsible for preparing the tree plan.

O. Signs:

The signage provisions of the Mixed Use Transportation District supplement the Sign Regulations of Chapter 10 of this title. Within the Mixed Use Transportation District, Signs Permitted in Nonresidential Zoning Districts (11-10-3 B.) shall be permitted in the nonresidential areas of the District under the following conditions and upon obtaining all proper permits:

1. On premises signs provided that:
 - a. On premises signs shall not exceed the sum of two (2) square feet for each lineal foot of sign frontage, with the maximum square footage of all on premises signs on a lot not exceeding three hundred (300) square feet.
 - b. The maximum square footage of individual freestanding on premises signs shall not exceed one hundred fifty (150) square feet.
 - c. Freestanding signs must be monument-style with a base affixed to the ground.
 - d. The maximum height of a freestanding on premises sign shall not exceed fifteen feet (15') or the height of the ground story, whichever is less.
 - e. No portion of a freestanding sign shall extend beyond the property line of the zone lot upon which it is located.
 - f. The maximum number of freestanding on premises signs shall not exceed two (2) per lot.

- g. The maximum square footage of individual building on premises signs shall not exceed one hundred fifty (150) square feet.
 - h. The maximum number of building on premises signs shall not exceed five (5) per lot.
2. Off premises signs (billboards), containing a commercial message, shall not be permitted within the Mixed Use Transportation District.
 3. Design. All signs within the Mixed Use Transportation District shall be complimentary in their use of color, shape, and material.

P. Stormwater:

The stormwater provisions of the Mixed Use Transportation District supplement the Storm Water Drainage and Detention of Article III of this zoning ordinance.

1. Replicating Pre-Development Hydrology: Stormwater management designs shall preserve the natural hydrologic functions, stream channel characteristics, and ground water recharge of the pre-developed site, to the extent practical. This shall be accomplished by treating runoff at the source, disconnecting impervious surfaces, preserving or enhancing natural flow paths and natural cover, preserving or enhancing natural open spaces and riparian areas, and other measures that replicate pre-development hydrologic conditions.
2. Water Quality Criteria:
 - a. Post-development runoff that is not permanently removed through the application of the runoff reduction criterion shall be captured and treated in a water quality BMP to prevent or minimize water quality impacts from land development. The design and selection of these BMP's shall comply with the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, Volumes I & II (October 2000; effective date July 1, 2001) or other approved Design Manual.
 - b. The applicant shall comply with the following criteria:

Water Quality Volume Standard: Structural and non-structural practices shall be designed to capture and treat the site's Water Quality Volume (WQv). The WQv shall be computed as follows, unless another volume is specified elsewhere in this Chapter.

$$WQv = [P \times Rv \times A]/12, \text{ where:}$$

P = rainfall depth generated by the 90% storm event (inches)
 Rv = Site Runoff Coefficient
 Where:
 $Rv = 0.05 + 0.009(I)$ where I is percent impervious cover
 A = Area draining to stormwater BMP (acres)
3. Maintenance Plan:

Prior to approval of a stormwater management design plan, the applicant shall submit a maintenance agreement and maintenance plan in accordance with the following:

 - a. Designate Responsible Party: Designate for the land development the owner, governmental agency, or other legally established entity (responsible party) which shall be permanently responsible for maintenance of the structural or non-structural measures required by the plan.
 - b. Pass Responsibility to Successors: Pass the responsibility for such maintenance to successors in title.
 - c. Right of Entry for Stormwater Authority: Grant the right of entry for the purposes of inspecting all stormwater BMP's at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner. This includes the right to enter a property when there is a reasonable basis to believe that a violation of this Ordinance is occurring or has occurred and to enter when necessary for abatement of a public nuisance or correction of a violation of this Ordinance.
 - d. Maintenance Plan: Ensure the continued performance of the maintenance obligations required by the plan and this ordinance through a maintenance plan (which may be an attachment to the actual maintenance agreement). The plan shall include a list of inspection and maintenance

tasks, a schedule for routine inspection and maintenance, and actions to be taken when maintenance is required.

Q. Development Area Plan:

The preparation of a Development Area Plan, or area plan, by interested persons or the city, and adoption by the City Plan Commission and City Council shall be required before any development may commence in the Mixed Use Transportation zoning district. The purpose of the area plan is to supplement the regulations in this zoning district by adopting and adhering to a more detailed plan for all or a portion of the district prior to development. The area plan is intended to incorporate a mix of related uses, and provide for appropriate site, building, circulation, parking, lighting, streetscaping, landscaping, signage, and stormwater design standards, consistent with the intent of the city's comprehensive plan and the spirit and intent of this zoning ordinance.

1. Preparation and Adoption of the Development Area Plan:

a. The City Plan Commission shall cause to be prepared a Development Area Plan for the Mixed Use Transportation District with input and participation from city residents, stakeholders, and other interested persons.

b. The City Plan Commission shall hold a public hearing on the area plan. Notice and publication of such public hearing shall conform to the procedure for hearings on amendments prescribed in section 11-14-4 of the Zoning Regulations. When the City Plan Commission has taken official action to approve the area plan, it shall then be submitted to the City Council for their consideration and action. The City Plan Commission's approval and recommendations shall be accompanied by a report stating the reasons for approval and that the area plan meets the requirements of the Mixed Use Transportation District as set forth in this code.

2. Amendments to the Development Area Plan:

a. The City Council may, by zoning ordinance, amend the Development Area Plan at any time.

b. Amendment of the area plan also may be initiated by the owner or owners of record or the contract purchasers by an application with the proposed area plan, accompanied by the required fee, and filed with the zoning administrator. The application must be filed at least twenty (20) days prior to the City Plan Commission meeting at which it is to be first considered.

c. Amendment of the area plan shall be referred to the City Plan Commission for study and report and for public hearing. Notice and publication of such public hearing shall conform to the procedure for hearings on amendments prescribed in section 11-14-4 of this title. When the City Plan Commission has taken official action to approve or disapprove the plan amendment, it shall then be submitted to the City Council for their consideration and action. The City Plan Commission's approval or disapproval shall be accompanied by a report stating the reasons for approval or disapproval and that the application either meets or does not meet the requirements of the Mixed Use Transportation District as set forth in this code.

3. Development Area Plan and Amendment Submittal Requirements:

a. Development Area Plans shall be prepared at a scale no smaller than one inch equals 100 feet (1"=100')

b. The plans shall include the following:

1. The name of the proposed Development Area Plan development.

2. Scale, north arrow and the date drawn.

3. Proposed uses and development of the development area.
4. Boundaries, dimensions, and area of the development area.
5. Location of the development area in relation to the surrounding uses, buildings and zoning.
6. Location of the development area in relation to major thoroughfares, and any roadways or drives connecting the development area to those major thoroughfares.
7. Names of adjacent subdivisions, layout of streets (with names and rights of way widths), connections with adjoining platted streets, location and widths of adjoining alleys, easements and public sidewalks, and location and dimensions of all existing sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and supply facilities within two hundred fifty feet (250') of the development area.
8. Existing conditions in the development area showing all easements, streets, drives or alleys, bridges, and existing structures.
9. Existing topography (at least 5 foot contour intervals). All topographic data shall directly relate to USGS data.
10. Boundary lines of school districts, fire districts, and municipal limits must be identified on the plan where applicable.
11. General plan layout of the development area showing proposed land uses, streets, parking areas, open space areas, sidewalks and highways or other major improvements planned by public authorities for future construction, with significant dimensions indicated where appropriate to clarify the plan.
12. All areas must be clearly labeled as to the proposed use and all parcels of lands to be dedicated or reserved for public use or for use in common by property owners in the development area shall be indicated on the plan dedication or reservation.
13. Proposed stages of development.
14. Site plan data, if required by the City Plan Commission, shall include the items below:
 - a. The total gross land area of the development area in acres.
 - b. The breakdown of total gross land area by land use type, such as detached residential homes, attached residential townhomes, retail, offices, and mixed use buildings, open space, civic uses such as government, churches and schools, etc.
 - c. Residential data:
 - i. The estimated total residential units by type of unit.
 - ii. The average square feet of residential lots per each type of residential unit.
 - iii. The amount of non-residential land area by type of use.
 - iv. The total parking for residential use and the parking ratio per dwelling unit for each type of residential unit.
 - d. Commercial/Mixed Use data:
 - i. The estimated total building square footage by type of commercial use.

- ii. The percentage of lot building coverage by type of commercial use.
 - iii. The total parking for commercial use and the parking ratio per floor area for each type of use.
 15. Any additional information deemed necessary by the zoning administrator to adequately illustrate the planned development.
4. Building Design Submittal Requirements:
 - a. Building Architecture: The Development Area Plan shall identify Architectural Standards for the development area utilizing text and appropriate graphics to define architectural treatments.
 - b. For commercial/mixed use and civic buildings, the Architectural Standards shall include definitions of the architectural treatment for the following:
 1. Four-Sided Design
 2. Signage & Design Elements
 3. Building Height & Transition
 4. Building Materials
 5. Use of Brick & Stone
 6. Building Color
 7. Building Modulation & Articulation
 8. Building Scale
 9. Parapets & Cornices
 10. Pitched Roofs & Eaves
 11. Gutters, Downspouts, & Scuppers
 12. Customer & Public Entrances
 13. Windows
 14. Glazing
 15. Awnings
 16. Canopy Lighting
 17. Building-Mounted Lighting
 - c. For residential buildings, the Architectural Standards shall include definitions of the architectural treatment for the following:
 1. Building Variety
 2. Building Character
 3. Four-Sided Design
 4. Building Height & Transition
 5. Building Length
 6. Building Materials
 7. Roof Materials
 8. Use of Brick & Stone
 9. Building Modulation
 10. Building Articulation
 11. Parapets & Cornices
 12. Pitched Roofs
 13. Building Fronts & Entries
 14. Windows
 15. Garage Doors
 16. Accessory Structures
5. Parking Submittal Requirements:

- a. A Parking Demand Study shall be included as part of the Development Area Plan. The Parking Demand Study shall include:
 1. Location of parking spaces, loading spaces, stacking areas, and parking structures, as well as on-site circulation for automobiles, pedestrians, and bicycles.
 2. Demonstration of how the plan complies with, or varies from, applicable standards of this ordinance, and how any variations from this ordinance either to reduce the number of required parking spaces or exceed the required parking were calculated and upon what assumptions such calculations were based.
 3. All entrances and exits for any structured parking and the relationship between parking lots or structures and the circulation.
 4. Use, number, location, and typical dimensions of parking and loading for various vehicle types including passenger vehicles, trucks, vehicles for mobility-impaired persons, motorcycles, buses, other transit vehicles, and bicycles.
 5. Phasing plan for the construction of parking facilities and any interim facilities planned.
 6. Such other information as determined by the zoning administrator to be necessary to process the Parking Demand Study.
6. Streetscaping Submittal Requirements:
 - a. Streetscape standards shall include for all proposed streets within the Development Area Plan the following:
 1. Various street type standards with widths of traffic lanes, parking lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, trees and furniture zones.
 2. Maximum street tree spacing and recommended species.
 3. Spacing and architectural style of light fixtures.
 4. Special paving styles.
 5. Architectural styles of waste receptacles, benches, and other streetscape furniture elements.
7. Landscaping/Open Space Submittal Requirements:
 - a. An overall concept Landscape Plan shall be developed showing general location, quantity, and species of landscape planting including buffers, interior parking lot, parking lot perimeter, streetscape, and overall plantings.
8. Signage Submittal Requirements:
 - a. Design guidelines for all signage shall include definitions for materials, colors, size, and locations.

SECTION FIVE

If any part of this Ordinance is found to be unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance or any part thereof and said Ordinance shall be read as if said invalid provision was struck there from and the context thereof changed accordingly with the remainder of the Ordinance to be and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION SIX

All ordinances or parts of other ordinances in conflict herewith shall be and hereby are repealed to the extent of any such conflict, provided that nothing herein

shall in any way excuse or prevent prosecution of any previous or existing violation of any ordinance or part of any ordinance repealed or superseded hereby. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding now pending in any court, any rights acquired, any liability incurred, any cause of action acquired or existing by reason of this Ordinance or any part thereof repealed by this Ordinance. No accrued legal right or remedy of any kind or character shall be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance.

SECTION SEVEN

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect, following its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Alton, Illinois, this 24th day of October, 2012.

Approved by the Mayor of the City of Alton, this 25th day of October, 2012.

 s/Tom

Hoechst_____

Mayor of the City of Alton, Illinois

ATTEST:

 s/Mary T. Boulds_____

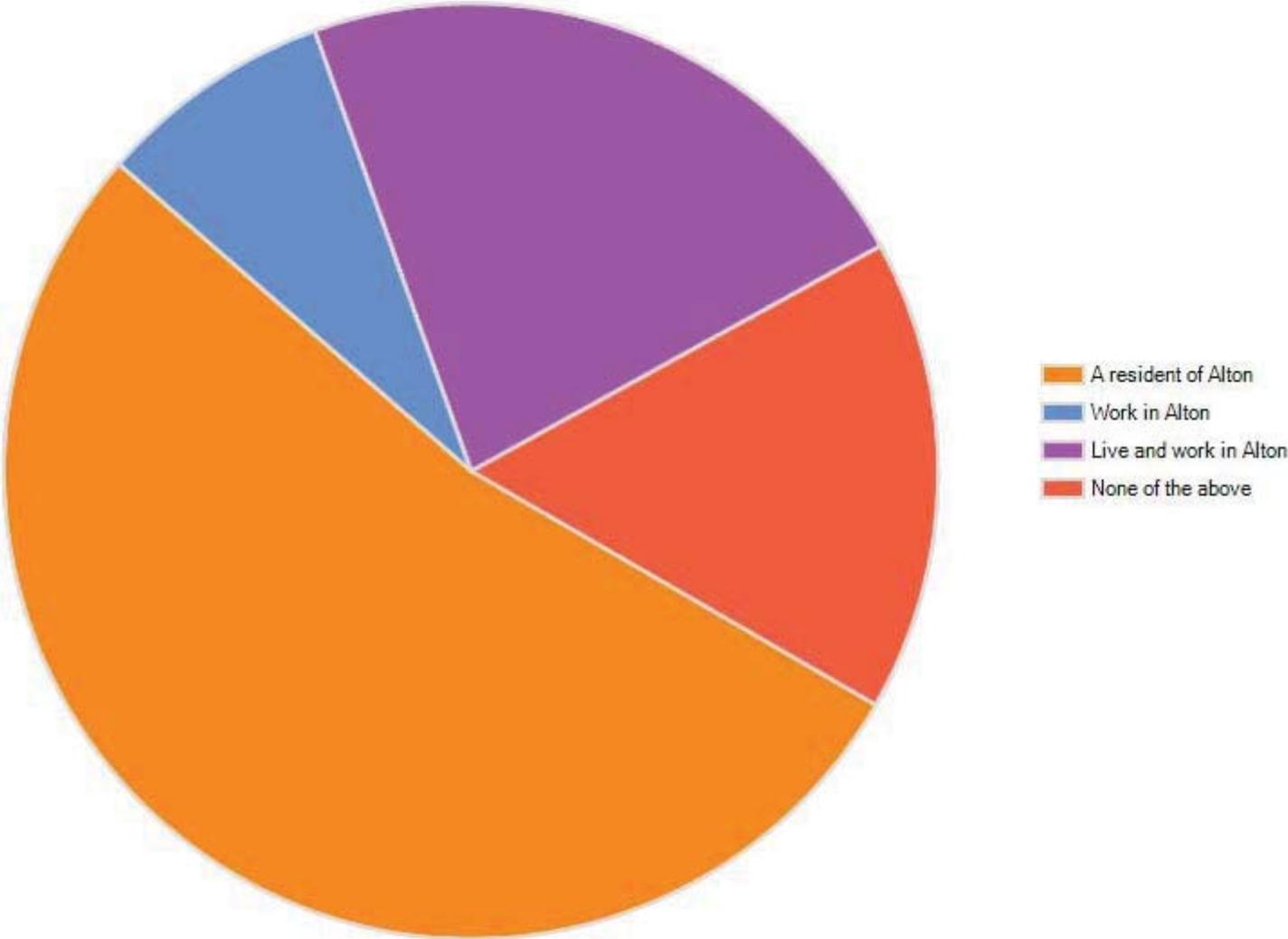
City Clerk, Alton, Illinois

***Public Engagement Summary
Appendix:***

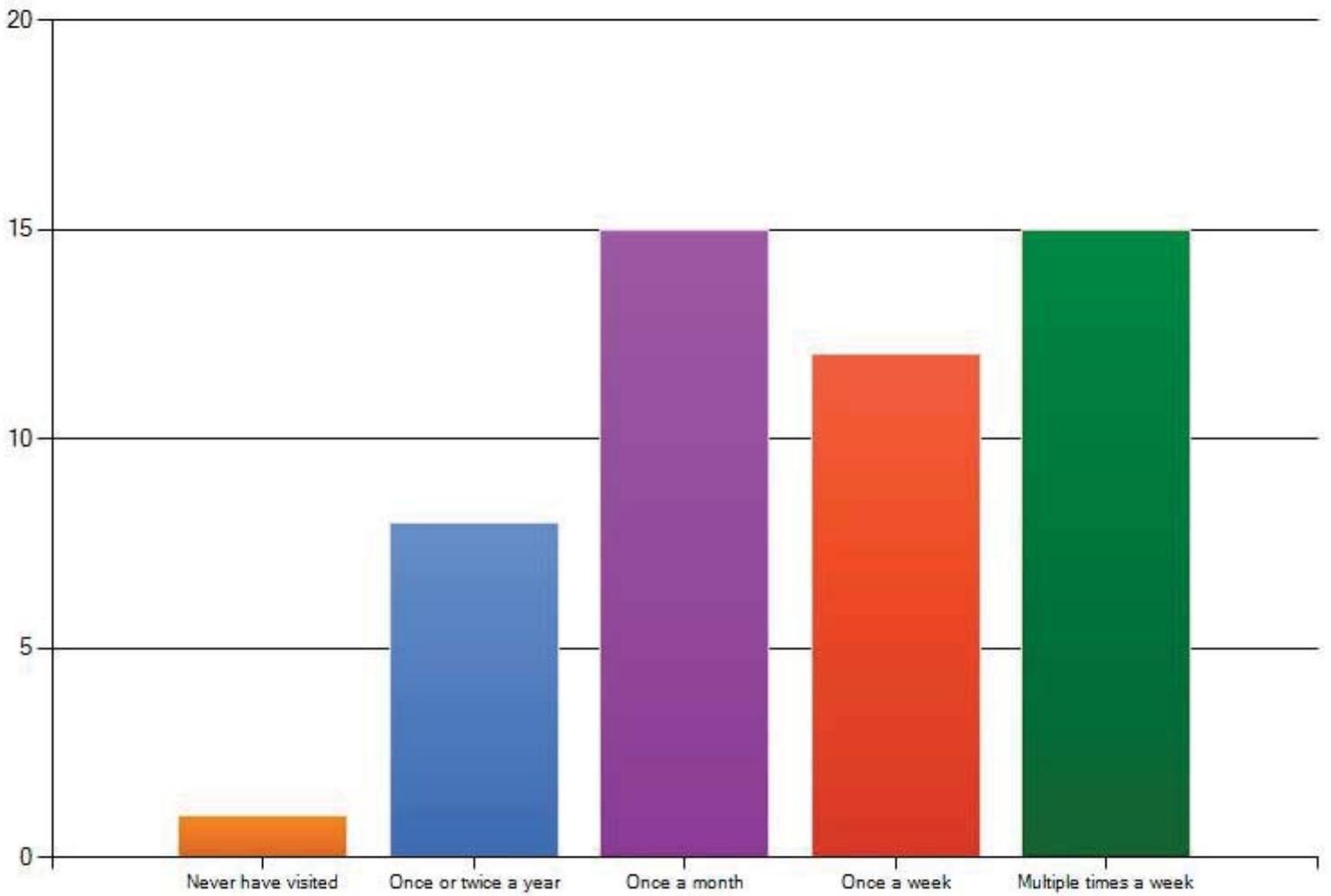
- Questionnaire Results
- May 30, 2012 Public Open House #1 Exhibits
- August 28, 2012 Public Open House #2 Exhibits
- May 23, 2012 Stakeholder Meeting Notes and Exhibits
- Citizen Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes #1
- Citizen Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes #2
- Citizen Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes #3
- Citizen Advisory Committee - Meeting Notes #4
- June 1, 2012 Alton Telegraph Article

Questionnaire Results
On-line questionnaire from May 22 – June 4, 2012

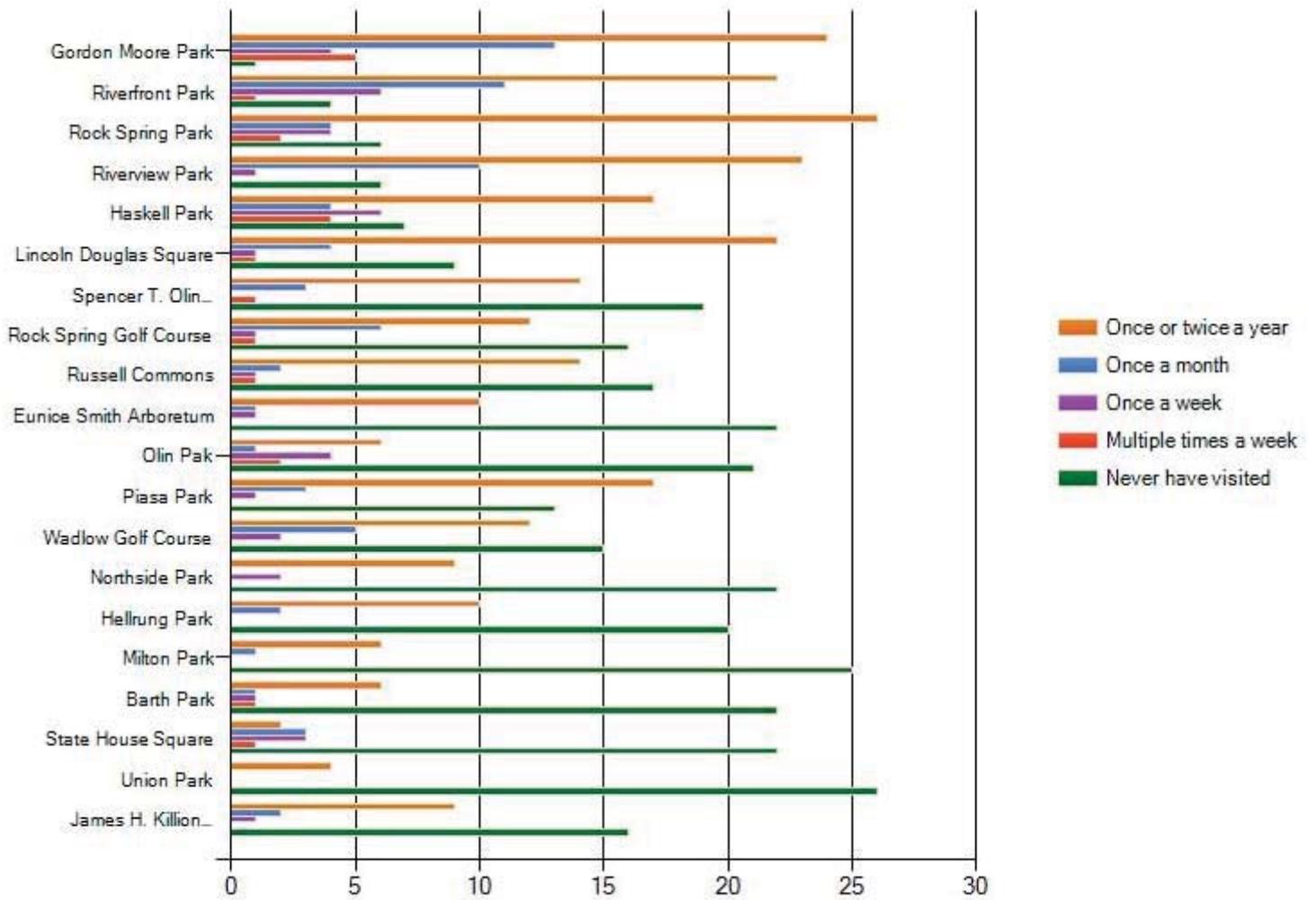
Where do you live and work? (Choose one)



How often do members of your household visit City of Alton parks, open space, or recreation facilities?



Which City of Alton parks, open space, or recreation facilities do you or members of your household use? If so, how often?



Where do YOU play? Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Survey



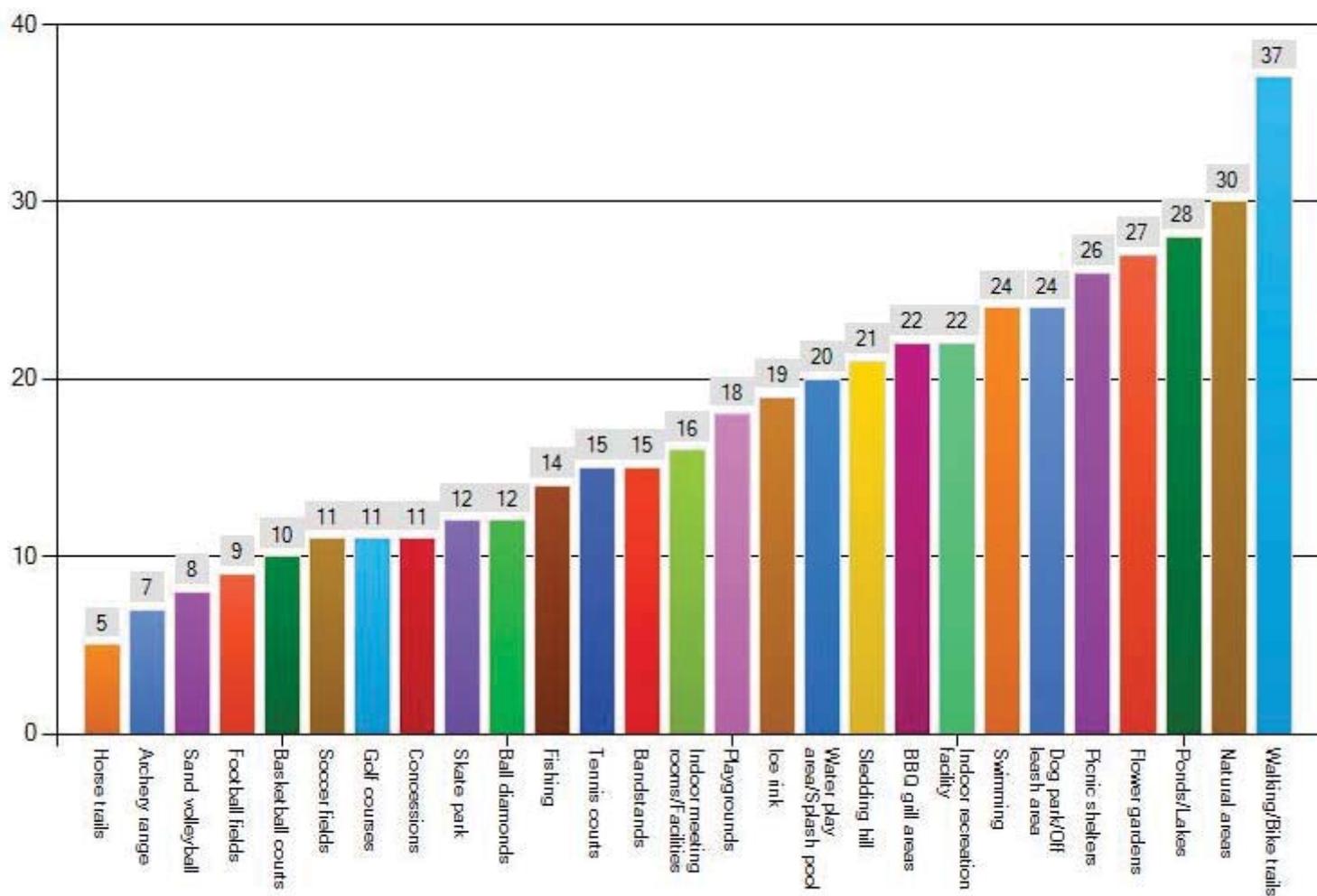
Are there other parks, open space, or recreation facilities not mentioned in the previous question that you or members of your household use? Describe below.

	Response Count
	12
answered question	12
skipped question	40

Page 1, Q1. Are there other parks, open space, or recreation facilities not mentioned in the previous question that you or members of your household use? Describe below.

1	Glazebrook walking trail	Jun 4, 2012 8:00 AM
2	N/A	Jun 1, 2012 10:03 AM
3	We need a park in the Pie Town area...Main/Brown area near Horace Mann...perhaps you could take over their playground as a city park...there is really nothing within reasonable walking distance.	May 31, 2012 5:34 PM
4	Bike Paths from the Damn to the River Road.	May 31, 2012 11:43 AM
5	Riverview Park. Nice gazebo and nice views.	May 29, 2012 9:09 PM
6	not currently	May 29, 2012 7:56 PM
7	I know it's godfrey, but we love glazebrook	May 29, 2012 5:04 PM
8	Bike trails	May 29, 2012 4:49 PM
9	We prefer to visit Godfrey's Glazebrook Park more than any.	May 29, 2012 3:56 PM
10	Have been to some of the little "pocket" parks found particularly in downtown area.	May 29, 2012 1:28 PM
11	Triangle parks at Court Street	May 29, 2012 1:18 PM
12	I walk the levy multiple times a week.	May 29, 2012 12:21 PM

What park and recreation facilities would you like to see in Alton? (Can be new or existing facilities.) Choose all that apply.



Where do YOU play? Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Survey



What park and recreation facilities would you like to see in Alton? (Can be new or existing facilities.) Choose all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Playgrounds		38.3%	18
Water play area/Splash pool		42.6%	20
Skate park		25.5%	12
Sledding hill		44.7%	21
Swimming		51.1%	24
Ice rink		40.4%	19
Fishing		29.8%	14
Archery range		14.9%	7
Football fields		19.1%	9
Soccer fields		23.4%	11
Basketball courts		21.3%	10
Ball diamonds		25.5%	12
Tennis courts		31.9%	15
Sand volleyball		17.0%	8
Golf courses		23.4%	11
Natural areas		63.8%	30
Flower gardens		57.4%	27
Ponds/Lakes		59.6%	28
Horse trails		10.6%	5

Dog park/Off leash area		51.1%	24
Walking/Bike trails		78.7%	37
Picnic shelters		55.3%	26
BBQ grill areas		46.8%	22
Indoor meeting rooms/Facilities		34.0%	16
Concessions		23.4%	11
Bandstands		31.9%	15
Indoor recreation facility		46.8%	22

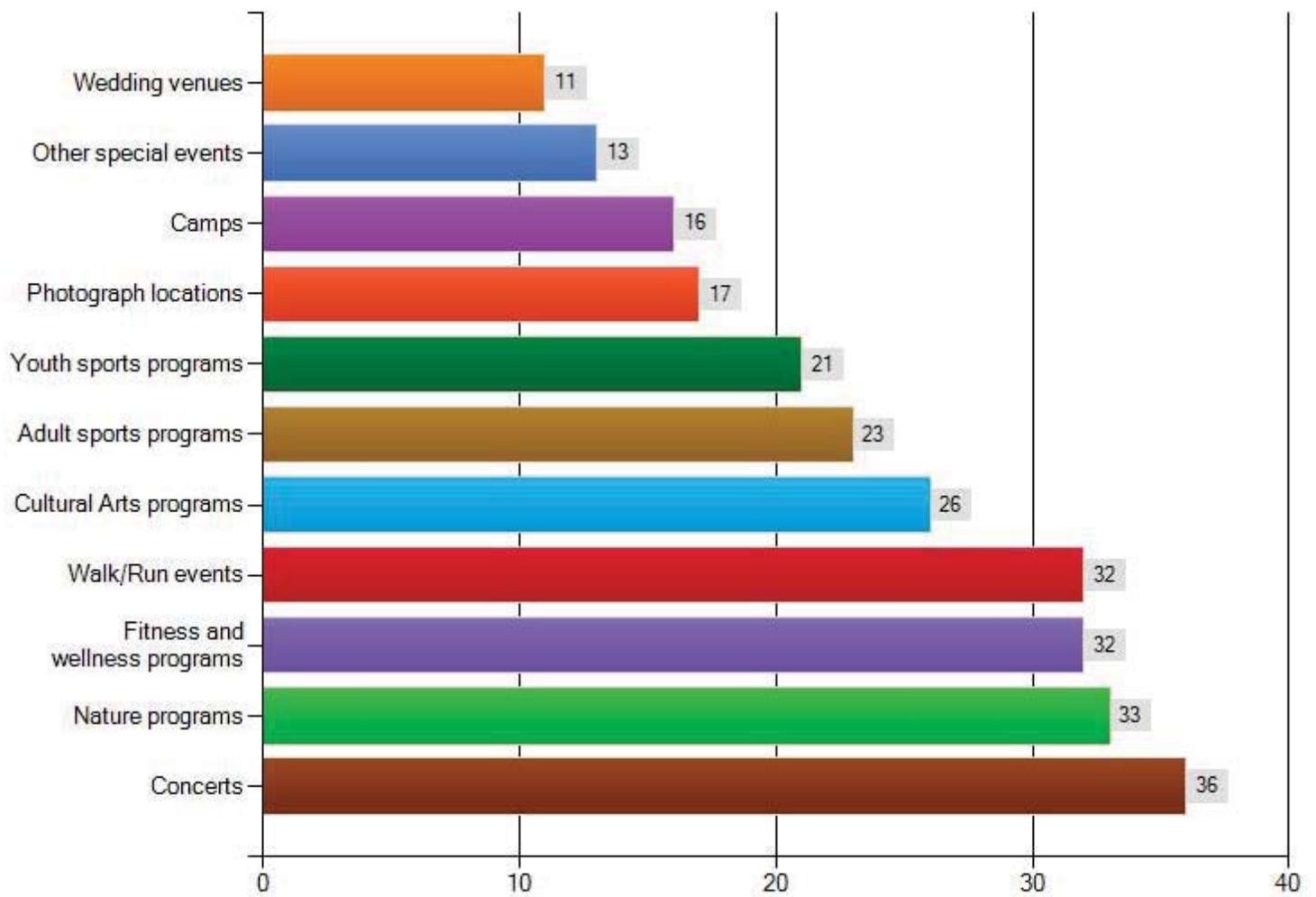
Other (please specify) 2

answered question	47
skipped question	5

**Page 2, Q1. What park and recreation facilities would you like to see in Alton? (Can be new or existing facilities.)
Choose all that apply.**

1	climbing wall, fitness course, canoeing, rain garden	May 31, 2012 7:16 AM
2	Arts and Craft Fair, Par Fitness Course	May 29, 2012 12:25 PM

What park programming or events would you like to see in Alton? (Can be new or more of existing programs and events.) Choose all that apply.



Where do YOU play? Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Survey



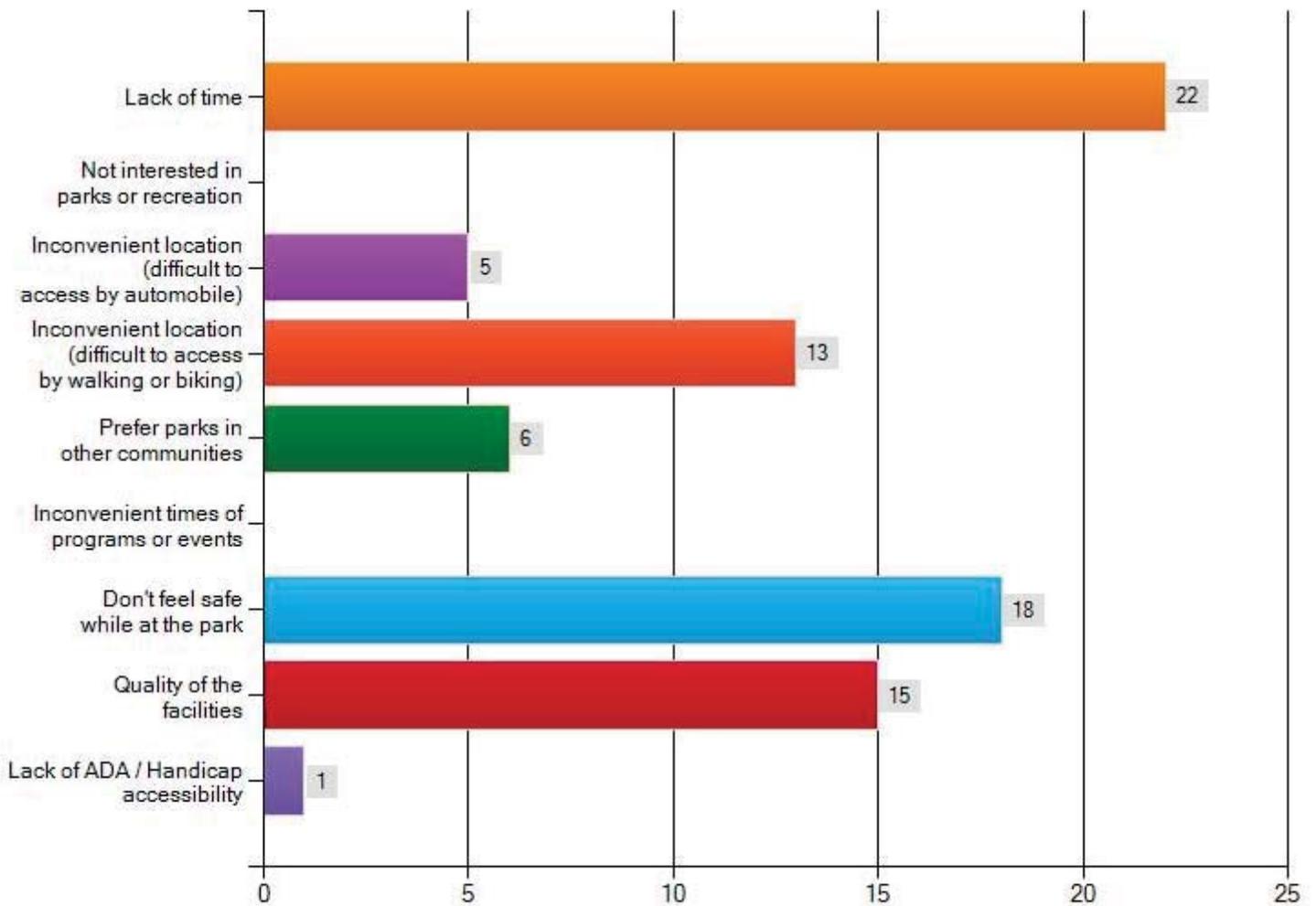
What park programming or events would you like to see in Alton? (Can be new or more of existing programs and events.) Choose all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Concerts		83.7%	36
Walk/Run events		74.4%	32
Wedding venues		25.6%	11
Photograph locations		39.5%	17
Other special events		30.2%	13
Fitness and wellness programs		74.4%	32
Youth sports programs		48.8%	21
Adult sports programs		53.5%	23
Cultural Arts programs		60.5%	26
Camps		37.2%	16
Nature programs		76.7%	33
	Other (please specify)		2
answered question			43
skipped question			9

Page 2, Q1. What park programming or events would you like to see in Alton? (Can be new or more of existing programs and events.) Choose all that apply.

1	geocaching, organic gardening, water craft,	May 31, 2012 7:16 AM
2	Adult co-ed soccer!!!!	May 29, 2012 12:22 PM

What are some of the reasons that prevent you or members of your household from visiting or using parks, open space, and recreation facilities in Alton more often? Choose all that apply.



Where do YOU play? Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Survey



What are some of the reasons that prevent you or members of your household from visiting or using parks, open space, and recreation facilities in Alton more often? Choose all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Lack of time		55.0%	22
Not interested in parks or recreation		0.0%	0
Inconvenient location (difficult to access by automobile)		12.5%	5
Inconvenient location (difficult to access by walking or biking)		32.5%	13
Prefer parks in other communities		15.0%	6
Inconvenient times of programs or events		0.0%	0
Don't feel safe while at the park		45.0%	18
Quality of the facilities		37.5%	15
Lack of ADA / Handicap accessibility		2.5%	1
	Other (please specify)		7
answered question			40
skipped question			12

Page 2, Q1. What are some of the reasons that prevent you or members of your household from visiting or using parks, open space, and recreation facilities in Alton more often? Choose all that apply.

1	Most are not kept up, or taken good care of.	Jun 1, 2012 11:59 AM
2	Many parks do not have functioning bathrooms available to the public - Problematic for families with children	Jun 1, 2012 9:30 AM
3	The ball field was removed from Olin Playground, and neighbors complain when kids play baseball in Riverview Park, so we go to Northside.	May 31, 2012 7:58 PM
4	need more Botanical & Wildlife Incorporated into the parks that exist.	May 31, 2012 11:53 AM
5	Rude employees	May 31, 2012 7:16 AM
6	someone to enjoy going with me	May 29, 2012 8:01 PM
7	No working bathrooms or drinking fountains	May 29, 2012 12:25 PM

**Where do YOU play? Alton Parks, Open Space,
and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Survey**



What are the best aspects or elements of parks, open space, and recreation in Alton?

	Response Count
	34
answered question	34
skipped question	18

Page 3, Q1. What are the best aspects or elements of parks, open space, and recreation in Alton?

1	open spaces, leaving some land and open spaces (trees) in the area	Jun 4, 2012 8:26 AM
2	Bike paths look at Edwardsville	Jun 4, 2012 8:19 AM
3	we have many park programs and events. there are a lot of good facilites with many offerings. one just needs to take advantage.	Jun 4, 2012 8:17 AM
4	abundance of parks, green space. well maintained	Jun 4, 2012 8:14 AM
5	fresh air, room to walk/relax/exercise	Jun 4, 2012 8:10 AM
6	view of Mississippi River	Jun 4, 2012 8:07 AM
7	variety of spaces	Jun 4, 2012 8:06 AM
8	we have great topography for parks and recreation	Jun 4, 2012 8:05 AM
9	city parks provide recreational acitvities all year round	Jun 4, 2012 8:02 AM
10	regional facilities, well-maintained, with regional events	Jun 4, 2012 7:59 AM
11	within walking distance	Jun 4, 2012 7:57 AM
12	open space	Jun 4, 2012 7:13 AM
13	Nature. Locations throughout the city make our park system unique.	Jun 1, 2012 12:04 PM
14	Need more things to envole the kids	Jun 1, 2012 10:07 AM
15	Lots of Trees.	May 31, 2012 12:03 PM
16	preserving greenspace, providing recreation opportunities,	May 31, 2012 7:16 AM
17	Variety of activities available (frisbee golf, golf, skateboarding, basketball, baseball, fishing, etc.) The fountains in Alton are nice. Would like to see more of them (especially downtown) because they are pretty.	May 29, 2012 9:11 PM
18	location - history	May 29, 2012 8:07 PM
19	beautiful location on Mississippi River; lush green space	May 29, 2012 7:13 PM
20	Lots of choices	May 29, 2012 4:54 PM
21	Convience of location, free access, community programs.	May 29, 2012 4:11 PM
22	The parks that I have been to are clean,,no trash	May 29, 2012 4:10 PM
23	That there seems to be a lot of them.	May 29, 2012 2:14 PM
24	GREEN! Great for helping restore clean oxygen to the air. Love the flowers and places to walk...very restful. A break from all the clutter. Like the golf course; I am not a big golfer but it is so nice to have some green grass and ginormous trees alongside the busy road instead of everything just being stores and concrete and asphalt. Way too much of that going on. Then they close and sit	May 29, 2012 1:35 PM

Page 3, Q1. What are the best aspects or elements of parks, open space, and recreation in Alton?

	empty...so attractive.	
25	Meeting people, my kids meeting other kids. Sports. places to walk and ride bikes.	May 29, 2012 1:27 PM
26	Many parks, many with water features, variety of parks.	May 29, 2012 1:22 PM
27	There are so many pocket parks that add to the beauty of Alton. They are quite an aesthetic addition to our city.	May 29, 2012 12:54 PM
28	Size and diversity offered at olin	May 29, 2012 12:46 PM
29	We have so many. Rocksprings is gorgeous! Love the Marina area-Riverview park.	May 29, 2012 12:32 PM
30	I definitely appreciate the parks to which one can walk. Neighborhood parks are wonderful for the community.	May 29, 2012 12:23 PM
31	plenty of options to go to no matter the location of the city you're in.	May 29, 2012 12:19 PM
32	Gordon Moore Park is a great park with plenty to do.	May 24, 2012 1:50 PM
33	Clean, safe and usually has options for most age groups	May 22, 2012 7:49 PM
34	Most of Gordon Moore is well taken care of. It is always clean. The parks near the water front are also very nice for families.	May 22, 2012 2:29 PM

Where do YOU play? Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Survey



What are the weaknesses (or items to improve) in regard to parks, open space, and recreation in Alton?

	Response Count
	32
answered question	32
skipped question	20

Page 3, Q1. What are the weaknesses (or items to improve) in regard to parks, open space, and recreation in Alton?

1	should have biking trails from Katy Trail and up to Walmart all over Godfrey and Alton like Edwardsville. From downtown Alton, Old Riverfront allover and up to Grafton and Godfrey (no street).	Jun 4, 2012 8:26 AM
2	no off street bike trails	Jun 4, 2012 8:19 AM
3	budget problems for manpower and improvements and maintenance	Jun 4, 2012 8:17 AM
4	I believe Alton has great parks	Jun 4, 2012 8:10 AM
5	parking needs to be improved	Jun 4, 2012 8:07 AM
6	upgrade existing areas, but we have a good start	Jun 4, 2012 8:05 AM
7	poison ivy must be eliminated in park areas	Jun 4, 2012 8:02 AM
8	the ones not within walking distance	Jun 4, 2012 7:57 AM
9	the lake, swimming areas, hasd been closed for 25 years. No public pool. The lake looks great this year.	Jun 4, 2012 7:54 AM
10	recreational facilities other than organized team sports	Jun 4, 2012 7:13 AM
11	Most parks, except Gordon Moore, are not taken very good care of. No restroom facilities, overgrown weeds/brush, trash, roads are in terrible condition. Picnic areas are in terrible condition.	Jun 1, 2012 12:04 PM
12	Need more space for swimming pool.	Jun 1, 2012 10:07 AM
13	Need more species variety of the trees planted. Need more flowering plants. Need to attract more wildlife by catering to their needs. Establish clubs and groups in neighborhoods near the parks that people can help to improve, and fund it through the city. HIRE MORE EMPLOYEES TO TAKE CARE OF THE PARKS!	May 31, 2012 12:03 PM
14	Lack of input from community for wants and needs. Poor quality maintenance, especially of landscape areas.	May 31, 2012 7:16 AM
15	People that use them often tend not to clean up after themselves. Also lack clear signage of park regulations in some locations, especially Piasa Park.	May 29, 2012 9:11 PM
16	safety	May 29, 2012 8:07 PM
17	bathroom facilities; design of sustainable landscaping	May 29, 2012 7:13 PM
18	Dangerous, not patrolled by police often enough, poor quality of facilities, lack of regular proگرامing or special events for a wide variety ages, and lack of speciality parks (off leash dog parks, adult and senior play equipment, roller hockey rink, volleyball, horseshoes, camping, clean fishing ponds, etc...)	May 29, 2012 4:11 PM
19	I didn't see any thing that needed improvement.	May 29, 2012 4:10 PM
20	That they aren't being used to their maximum potential. Why is the beach at	May 29, 2012 2:14 PM

Page 3, Q1. What are the weaknesses (or items to improve) in regard to parks, open space, and recreation in Alton?

	Gordon Moore on such a scummy pond?	
21	Can always use more before it all disappears. Some things like really tall trees are hard to grow in a lifetime.	May 29, 2012 1:35 PM
22	no pool. No good place to walk dogs.	May 29, 2012 1:27 PM
23	Gang/drug type activity.	May 29, 2012 1:22 PM
24	We seem to want to use any open space for commercial properties that, while adding to the economy of the area, detract from the very reason why people move to this area or want to spend time in this area. The shoreline of Chicago is beautiful because it is open space, and the buildings have been built back from the shore, leaving a huge area for everyone to enjoy, not just those who work in those office buildings or come for a one-night visit and stay in one of those hotels.	May 29, 2012 12:54 PM
25	most of the smaller parks in alton seem to be unsafe for visitors. I wouldnt want to be in most of them by myself, let alone with my children.	May 29, 2012 12:46 PM
26	Sometimes it feels like I am the only person in the park. Even though I don't mind, I wonder about safety. The playground equipment is so outdated at Rockspring and there's so much poison ivy! The picnic areas need sprucing up... and the paths to them need to feel accessable and continuously maintained. There needs to be a drinking fountain available. Generally-maybe vending machines?	May 29, 2012 12:32 PM
27	Everything. My husband would like to mess around with a soccer ball at Gordon Moore but gets run off the crappy fields by some woman on a gator. Nobody is ever out there using the fields and as tax paying citizens, we should be able to use the fields whenever. Put fences/gates up around the "good" fields if you don't want the general public to play around.	May 29, 2012 12:25 PM
28	Maintaining parks is key. One thing that really disappointed us when Olin Park was refurbished was that the picnic tables had bowed seats at the time they were installed. A little quality control would go a long way! Here we had a new park, but right off the bat the picnic tables looked awful and were not as functional as new picnic tables should be.	May 29, 2012 12:23 PM
29	lack funds seem to effect aspects of the ball field. Not well kept at times, burnt out lights, and lack of employes (umps, refs, ground keepers, etc.)	May 29, 2012 12:19 PM
30	Safety for youngsters to actually use the parks.	May 24, 2012 1:50 PM
31	The biggest one with all the bells and whistles (Gordon Moore) is not conveniently located while the Wadlow Course could easily accomodate some great outdoor opportunities in a great location	May 22, 2012 7:49 PM
32	The benches and walk ways of Gordon Moore need some care.	May 22, 2012 2:29 PM

Where do YOU play? Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Survey



What are the three Alton parks you visit most often?

Response
Count

39

answered question

39

skipped question

13

Page 3, Q1. What are the three Alton parks you visit most often?

1	Bike on Riverroad, park at concrete park (I think its called Piasa); Riverview park for summer concerts; bike thru riverfront park with my life in my hands, thru the parking lot of the Casino	Jun 4, 2012 8:26 AM
2	Gordon Moore, Riverview, Riverfront	Jun 4, 2012 8:19 AM
3	Haskell, Riverfront, Gordon Moore	Jun 4, 2012 8:17 AM
4	Riverview, Haskell, Riverfront	Jun 4, 2012 8:14 AM
5	Gordon Moore, Riverfront, Riverview	Jun 4, 2012 8:10 AM
6	Arboretum, Gordon Moore, Killion Park	Jun 4, 2012 8:06 AM
7	Rock Spring, gordon Moore, Riverview	Jun 4, 2012 8:05 AM
8	Rock Spring, Gordon Moore, Wadlow golf course	Jun 4, 2012 8:02 AM
9	Gordon Moore, Riverfront, Spencer T Olin	Jun 4, 2012 7:59 AM
10	Haskell, Gordon Moore, Barth	Jun 4, 2012 7:57 AM
11	Haskell, Riverfront, Gordon Moore	Jun 4, 2012 7:54 AM
12	russell commons, gordon moore	Jun 4, 2012 7:13 AM
13	Gordon Moore Haskell Rock Spring	Jun 1, 2012 12:04 PM
14	Gordon Moore, Rock Springs, Hellrung	Jun 1, 2012 11:20 AM
15	SULA Gordan Moore Riverfront	Jun 1, 2012 10:07 AM
16	Riverview, daily. Olin, weekly Northside, monthly	May 31, 2012 8:01 PM
17	Gordon Moore/Spencer T. Olin Golf Course Riverfront Park	May 31, 2012 12:03 PM
18	Heartland prairie, Riverview, Haskell	May 31, 2012 7:16 AM
19	the riverfront park, gordon moore and olin	May 30, 2012 2:34 PM
20	Rock Spring, Wadlow Golf Course, Haskell.	May 29, 2012 9:11 PM
21	River View River Front Piasa Park	May 29, 2012 8:07 PM
22	Riverfront Park; Lincoln Douglas Park; Riverview Park	May 29, 2012 7:13 PM
23	Gordon Moore, Riverfront, Russell Commons	May 29, 2012 4:54 PM
24	Riverview Park, Gordan Moore and Piasa Park.	May 29, 2012 4:11 PM
25	River Front,Gordon-Moore,Rocks Spring I was doing some metal detecting	May 29, 2012 4:10 PM
26	Riverfront Park Gordon Moore	May 29, 2012 2:14 PM

Page 3, Q1. What are the three Alton parks you visit most often?

27	Gordon Moore, Rock Springs, Aberdeen Park	May 29, 2012 1:35 PM
28	Gordon Moore, Riverfront, Haskell	May 29, 2012 1:27 PM
29	Barth, Haskell, Riverview	May 29, 2012 1:22 PM
30	Riverfront, Gordon Moore, and Riverview	May 29, 2012 12:54 PM
31	Olin (really the only one)	May 29, 2012 12:46 PM
32	Riverview Park Rockspring Park The Levy	May 29, 2012 12:32 PM
33	Gordon Moore, Glazebrook (well, that's not Alton) and Haskell	May 29, 2012 12:25 PM
34	Olin Park & Riverfront Park	May 29, 2012 12:23 PM
35	Gordon Moore	May 29, 2012 12:19 PM
36	Gordon Moore Park, Riverfront Park and Riverview	May 24, 2012 1:50 PM
37	Olin, Riverfront, Riverview	May 22, 2012 7:49 PM
38	Gordon Moore or the parks near the river.	May 22, 2012 2:29 PM
39	Gordon Moore Riverfront Rock Spring	May 22, 2012 7:59 AM

Where do YOU play? Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Survey



If you were going to take out-of-town guests to three Alton parks, what would they be?

	Response Count
	37
answered question	37
skipped question	15

Page 3, Q1. If you were going to take out-of-town guests to three Alton parks, what would they be?

1	riverview park because of history, brick streets and houses; riverfront park for free concerts and tai chi classes; Gordon Moore for the roses Why not make a bike trail around Gordon Moore park like Creve Couer park does. What a golden opportunity the city is missing out on.	Jun 4, 2012 8:26 AM
2	Riverview, Gordon Moore	Jun 4, 2012 8:19 AM
3	Haskell, Gordon Moore, Riverfront	Jun 4, 2012 8:17 AM
4	Riverfront, Riverview, Haskell It's a great idea to develop Wadlow, keeping some green space for workers/visitors to enjoy.	Jun 4, 2012 8:14 AM
5	Riverview, Riverfront, Gordon Moore	Jun 4, 2012 8:10 AM
6	Lincoln Douglas Square, Rock Springs, Arboretum	Jun 4, 2012 8:06 AM
7	Gordon Moore, riverview, (Wadlow Statue Area) Lincoln Douglas Statue	Jun 4, 2012 8:05 AM
8	Rock Spring (Christmas Wonderland), Piasa park, Gordon Moore	Jun 4, 2012 8:02 AM
9	Gordon Moore, Riverfront, Spencer T Olin	Jun 4, 2012 7:59 AM
10	Riverview, Haskell, Lincoln Douglas Square	Jun 4, 2012 7:57 AM
11	Haskell, Riverfront, Gordon Moore	Jun 4, 2012 7:54 AM
12	Gordon Moore Haskell	Jun 1, 2012 12:04 PM
13	same as above	Jun 1, 2012 11:20 AM
14	SULA to play basketball Gordan Moore for pinic Riverfront for festivity	Jun 1, 2012 10:07 AM
15	For historical reasons, I would like to take them to Rock Springs, where Civil War soldiers camped.	May 31, 2012 8:01 PM
16	Gordon Moore/Spencer T. Olin Golf Course Riverfront Park	May 31, 2012 12:03 PM
17	Heartland prairie	May 31, 2012 7:16 AM
18	Gordon Moore, Riverview, Riverfront	May 29, 2012 9:11 PM
19	River View Lincoln Douglas Piasa Park	May 29, 2012 8:07 PM
20	same as above	May 29, 2012 7:13 PM
21	Same as # 10	May 29, 2012 4:54 PM
22	Riverview Park, Piasa Park and Gordan Moore.	May 29, 2012 4:11 PM
23	River Front,Gordon-Moore and maybe Rock Spring	May 29, 2012 4:10 PM
24	Gordon Moore	May 29, 2012 2:14 PM
25	same	May 29, 2012 1:35 PM

Page 3, Q1. If you were going to take out-of-town guests to three Alton parks, what would they be?

26	Gordon Moore, Haskell.	May 29, 2012 1:27 PM
27	Riverview, Gordon Moore, Haskell	May 29, 2012 1:22 PM
28	Gordon Moore, Riverfront, and Riverview.	May 29, 2012 12:54 PM
29	Olin (really the only one), Rock springs golf course	May 29, 2012 12:46 PM
30	Riverview-It's brightly lit, has a nice walking area, the marina looks/feels nice and welcoming; and of course, the river is there! Walking around the amphitheater is neat too.	May 29, 2012 12:32 PM
31	Glazebrook, Glazebrook, Glazebrook. Oh wait, you wanted Alton? Maybe the rose garden at Gordon Moore, but that's it. We don't visit half of the parks because of their location in dangerous areas.	May 29, 2012 12:25 PM
32	Riverfront Park	May 29, 2012 12:23 PM
33	Gordon Moore Haskel Park Riverview	May 29, 2012 12:19 PM
34	same	May 24, 2012 1:50 PM
35	Piasa, Riverfront, Riverview	May 22, 2012 7:49 PM
36	Same as above.	May 22, 2012 2:29 PM
37	Gordon Moore Riverview Piasa	May 22, 2012 7:59 AM

Public Meeting #1 Exhibits
May 30, 2012

Welcome!

Goals & Questions to be Answered During the Planning Process

- Citywide Analysis of Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities
- How does the City compare with NRPA guidelines for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities?
- What are the existing service areas for facilities within the City? Are areas of the City underserved?
- What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
- How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?
- What are residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks? How does that change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?

We appreciate your attendance at the Open House tonight.

Thank you for your valuable time and insights. Please make sure to fill out a survey while you are here. We look forward to meeting with you again at the second Open House later this summer!

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



HEARTLANDS
CONSERVANCY
Investing In The Nature Of Southwestern Illinois



Schedule*

	April				May				June				July				Aug				Sept				Oct							
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Task 1 - Public and Community Engagement																																
Public Meeting #1 - Input on Needs / Facilities																																
Public Meeting #2 - Review Needs Assessment and Draft Plan																																
Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings																																
Key Stakeholder Interviews																																
Task 2 - Document Existing Conditions and Facilities																																
Document existing conditions including mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, recreational facilities, golf courses, special use areas, and other green and natural areas.																																
Task 3 - Needs Assessment and Service Areas																																
Based on National Recreation and Park Association standards, conduct a system wide needs assessment and service area of parks, open space, and facilities identified in Task 2.																																
Public review and comment period of the Needs Assessment and Service Areas.																																
Task 4 - Open Space Plan and Recommendations																																
Draft Plan and Recommendations.																																
Public review and comment period of draft plan and recommendations.																																
Final Plan and Recommendations.																																
Formal adoption of Final Plan by the Alton City Council.																																

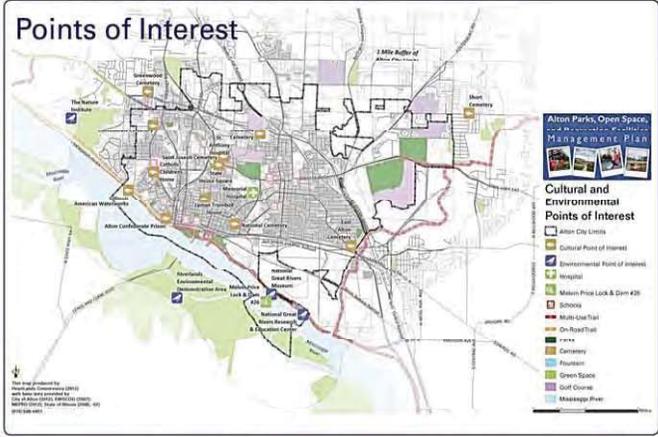
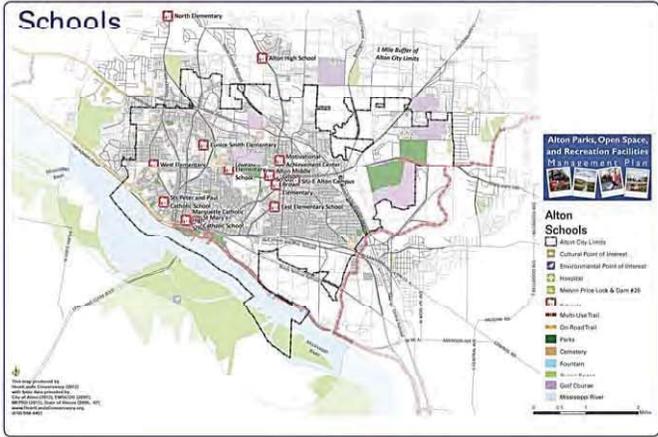
* Schedule for overall planning study. However, for the Wadlow Golf Course site to properly be considered by IDOT for the location of the High Speed Rail station, the land use designation will move at an accelerated schedule. The next two steps for the Wadlow Golf Course will be the June 5th Citizen Advisory Committee and the June 18th Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

 We Are Here

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



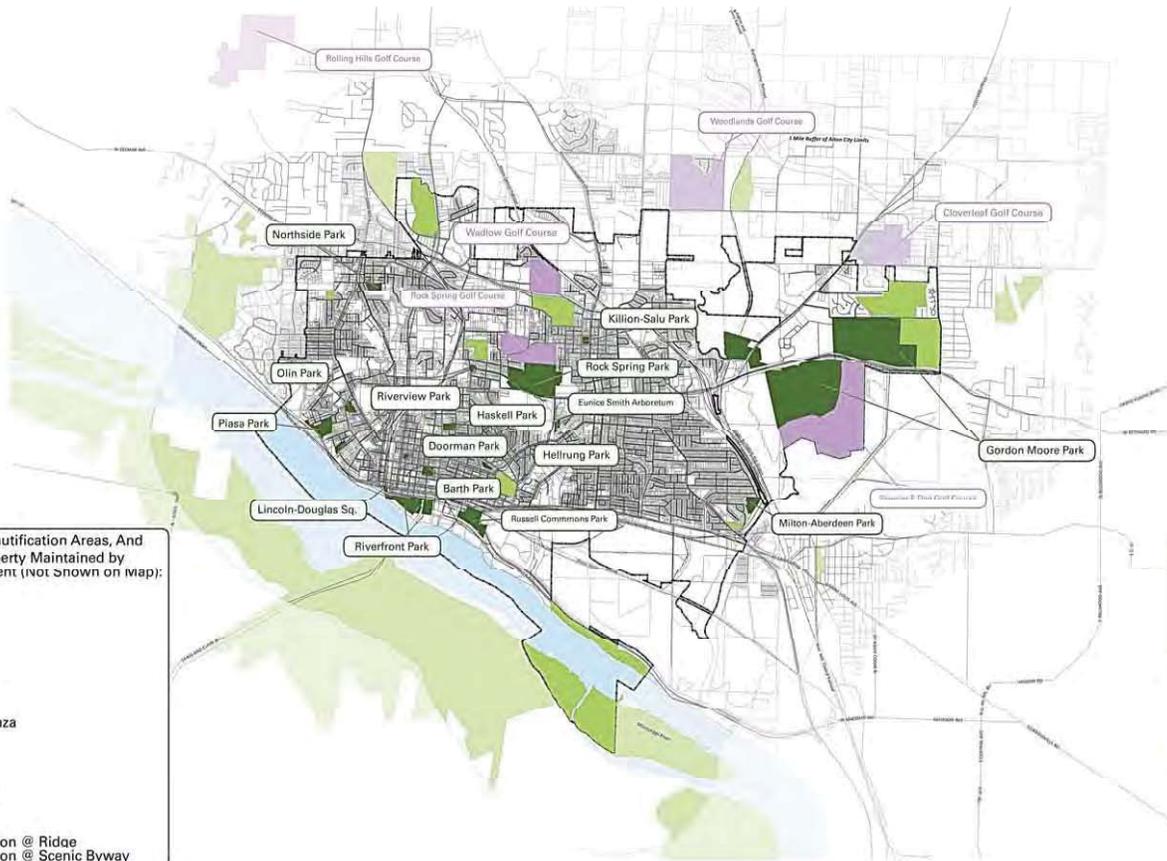
Existing Conditions



While the focus of the planning study is City of Alton parks, open space, and recreational facilities, we also want to document other significant open space, points of interest, and recreational facilities that supplement the City system. Are there other trails, schools, or points of interest that you use for open space or recreation not included on these maps? If so, please note on your comment form/questionnaire.



Existing Parks and Open Space



Fountains, Beautification Areas, And Other City Property Maintained by Parks Department (NOT SHOWN ON MAP):

- 12th & Belle
- 4th & Court
- 5th & Court
- 6th & Court
- Rufus Easton
- State & Bond
- State & Wm.
- Washington Plaza
- 3rd & Belle
- Sugar Alley
- Market Street
- McKinley Blvd.
- Police Station
- City Hall
- Welcome to Alton @ Ridae
- Welcome to Alton @ Scenic Byway

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

Existing Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities

- Park
- Golf Course
- Open Space & Cemeteries
- Alton City Limits

0 0.275 0.55 1.1 Miles

HEARTLANDS CONSERVANCY
Investing In The Nature Of Southwestern Illinois

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



Park Service Areas



- Regional Parks:**
Gordon Moore
- Community Parks:**
Riverfront Park
Rock Springs Park
Russell Commons Park
- Specialty Parks:**
Lincoln-Douglas Square
Piasa Park
State House Square
Union Park

- Neighborhood/Mini:**
Barth Park
Eunice Smith Arboretum
Haskell Park
Hellrung Park
Milton Park
Northside Park
Olin Park
Riverview Park
James H. Killion Park



Activity Assessment



Facility Type	Level of Service (Low) (a)	Level of Service (High) (a)	Service Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)
Playground	1 playground per 2,000 population	1 playground per 1,300 population	1 per 1,700 population

Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service
18	16	1 playground per 1,700

Playgrounds



Facility Type	Level of Service (Low) (a)	Level of Service (High) (a)	Service Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)
Skate Park	1 skate park per 10,000 population	1 skate park per 10,000 population	1 per 10,000 population

Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service
1	1	1 skate park per 10,000

Skate Parks



Facility Type	Level of Service (Low) (a)	Level of Service (High) (a)	Service Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)
Soccer Field	1 field per 1,000 population	1 field per 1,000 population	1 per 1,000 population

Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service
5	4.5	1 court per 6,200

Soccer/Football/Basketball



Facility Type	Level of Service (Low) (a)	Level of Service (High) (a)	Service Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)
Disc Golf Course	N/A	N/A	1 per 10,000 population

Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service
1	2	1 disc golf per 14,000

Disc Golf



Facility Type	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (Low) (a)	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (High) (a)	Service Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)
Ball Diamonds	1 per 1,000 population	1 per 2,000 population	1 per 1,500 population

Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service
11	12	1 ball diamond per 2,300

Ball Diamonds



Facility Type	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (Low) (a)	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (High) (a)	Service Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)
Tennis Courts	1 court per 1,000 population	1 court per 1,000 population	No data

Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service
7	12	1 court per 2,300

Tennis Courts



Facility Type	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (Low) (a)	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (High) (a)	Service Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)
Dog Parks	1 dog park per 40,000 population	1 dog park per 20,000 population	1 per 130,000 population

Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service
1	1	1 per 26,000

Dog Parks



Facility Type	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (Low) (a)	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (High) (a)	Service Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)
Picnic Shelter/Tables	1 per 2,000 population	1 per 1,000 population	1 per 1,500 population

Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service
18	18	1 per 1,500

Picnic Areas

Wadlow Golf Course



Alton Regional Multimodal Transportation Center at Robert Wadlow Town Centre

Project Narrative

City of Alton Illinois
Madison County Metro East Transit District



education, remodeling an existing station, the City seeks to increase an area developed by a suburban sprawl and with a dense urban core. The project is a multimodal transportation center that will include a new Amtrak station, a new light rail station, a new bus rapid transit station, and a new transit center. The project is a multimodal transportation center that will include a new Amtrak station, a new light rail station, a new bus rapid transit station, and a new transit center.

New Amtrak Station - This is a \$10 million investment in the new Amtrak station. The new station will be a 100,000 square foot structure with a modern design. The station will include a new Amtrak station, a new light rail station, a new bus rapid transit station, and a new transit center. The project is a multimodal transportation center that will include a new Amtrak station, a new light rail station, a new bus rapid transit station, and a new transit center.

Chicago to St. Louis Amtrak Service - This is a \$10 million investment in the new Amtrak service. The new service will be a 100,000 square foot structure with a modern design. The station will include a new Amtrak station, a new light rail station, a new bus rapid transit station, and a new transit center. The project is a multimodal transportation center that will include a new Amtrak station, a new light rail station, a new bus rapid transit station, and a new transit center.

Robert Wadlow Town Centre Site - This is a \$10 million investment in the new Robert Wadlow Town Centre site. The new site will be a 100,000 square foot structure with a modern design. The station will include a new Amtrak station, a new light rail station, a new bus rapid transit station, and a new transit center. The project is a multimodal transportation center that will include a new Amtrak station, a new light rail station, a new bus rapid transit station, and a new transit center.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD) - This is a \$10 million investment in the new Transit Oriented Development (TOD). The new TOD will be a 100,000 square foot structure with a modern design. The station will include a new Amtrak station, a new light rail station, a new bus rapid transit station, and a new transit center. The project is a multimodal transportation center that will include a new Amtrak station, a new light rail station, a new bus rapid transit station, and a new transit center.

TIGER Selection Criteria	Project Benefits
State of Good Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate the transportation of high speed rail services in Illinois. Provide for an existing Provide for a new Provide for a new
Economic Competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for a new Provide for a new Provide for a new
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for a new Provide for a new Provide for a new
Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for a new Provide for a new Provide for a new
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for a new Provide for a new Provide for a new
Job Creation / New Firm Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for a new Provide for a new Provide for a new
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for a new Provide for a new Provide for a new
Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for a new Provide for a new Provide for a new
Cost/Benefit Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for a new Provide for a new Provide for a new



City Receives TIGER Grant

At the end of 2011, the City of Alton received notice that they had been awarded a \$13.85 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant. The grant application by the City of Alton and Madison County Transit included a new Regional Multimodal Transportation Center (RMTCC). In addition, the grant application outlined leveraging millions in public and private partnerships including a new Amtrak Station, Transit Oriented Development (TOD), and ecotourism opportunities.

Pages from the 2011 TIGER grant application: For complete application, visit www.alton-ill.com/html/PDF/Alton_Multimodal_Grant.pdf

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



HEARTLANDS CONSERVANCY

Investing In The Nature Of Southwestern Illinois

Wadlow Golf Course

If the land-use changes for Wadlow Golf Course to accommodate a high speed rail station and public / private investments, would you:

- A. Be supportive of development of the whole site, regardless of the type of proposed development.
- B. Be supportive of development if open space or park space were acquired in the future, elsewhere in Alton.
- C. Be supportive of partial development of the site (preserving the Wadlow stream corridor).
- D. Be supportive of development if the development is transit-oriented, walkable, and follows best practices for sustainable development.
- E. Be supportive of development with a combination of B, C, and D above.
- F. Not supportive of development on the site.
- G. Other



Current Illinois Green Infrastructure Project: Wadlow Stream Corridor Restoration. To be completed in Fall, 2012



From the TIGER grant application: an example of future sustainable design strategies for development of the Wadlow Golf Course site. This would be an example of answer "E" to the left with a combination of green space, walkable / transit-oriented development, and sustainable development practices.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



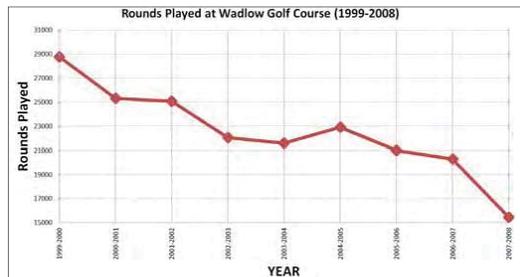
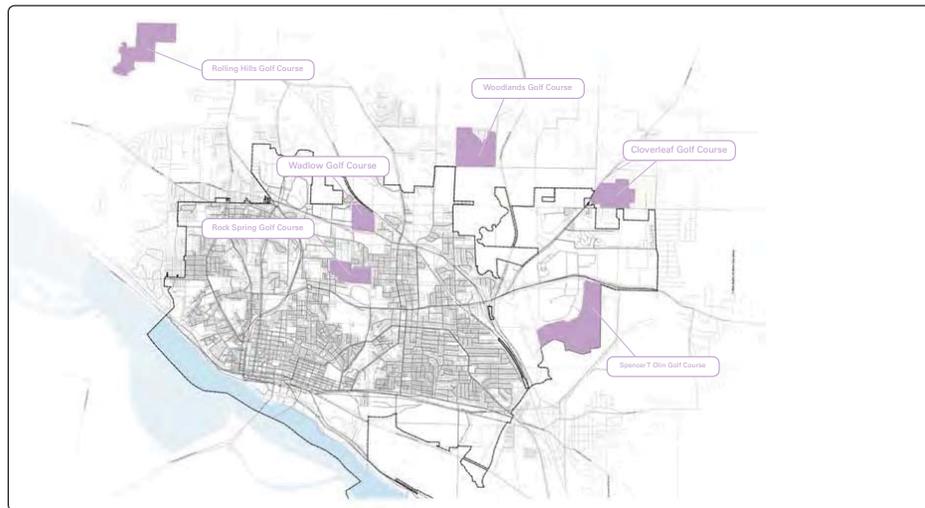
Wadlow Golf Course

Park Acreage Analysis: Overall Park System

	Acres per 1,000 Person	Recommended Acreage Based on Alton 2010 Population	Existing Alton Park Acreage (Excluding Golf Courses)	Percentage Above/Below Standard	Alton Population to Support Benchmarks
NRPA Guideline	10	279	637.5	129%	63,750
Illinois Average (*)	11.35	316	637.5	102%	56,467
2003 Alton Comprehensive Plan Goal	20	557	637.5	14%	31,875

Park Acreage Analysis: By Park Type

	NRPA Standard (Low) Acres per 1,000 Person	NRPA Standard (High) Acres per 1,000 Person	Recommended Local Standard	Recommended Acreage Based on Alton 2010 Population	Existing Alton Park Acreage	Percentage Above/Below Standard
Regional Park	5.0	10.0	7.5	209	450	115%
Community Park	5.0	8.0	6.5	181	120	66%
Neighborhood / Mini Park	1.0/0.25	2.0/0.5	1.0	26	48	72%
Specialty Park	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.5	N/A
Total Parkland (Excludes Golf Courses)					637.5	



Next Steps:

For the Wadlow Golf Course site to properly be considered by IDOT for the location of the High Speed Rail station, the land use designation will move at an accelerated schedule. The planning team will take input received at tonight's open house, comment forms, and stakeholder meetings in account for the analysis and land use designation.

Upcoming Meetings Concerning Wadlow Golf Course:
 June 5th – Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
 June 18th – Park and Recreation Commission Meeting



Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

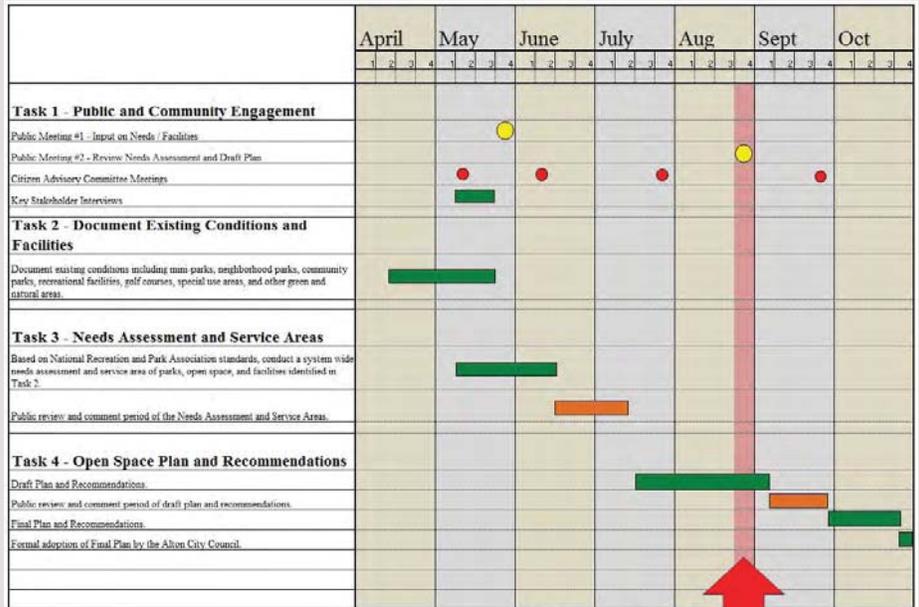


***Public Meeting #2 Exhibits
August 28, 2012***

Welcome to the 2nd Open House for the Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

Goals & Questions to be Answered During the Planning Process

- Citywide Analysis of Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities
- How does the City compare with NRPA guidelines for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities?
- What are the existing service areas for facilities within the City? Are areas of the City underserved?
- What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
- How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?
- What are residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks? How does that change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?



We Are Here



Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation
Facilities Management Plan



Key Findings



Process

Public feedback is the driving force behind the Alton Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities Management Plan. To be sure that a diverse array of comments were received, the City of Alton and planners used several public engagement processes:

- A nine person Citizen's Advisory Committee to meet regularly and focus on the content and structure of the plan
- Key stakeholder interviews with schools, businesses, environmental interests, and other entities with a unique relationship to Alton's parks
- Two Open House events to discuss with Alton residents the vision and future of Alton's parks

What We Heard:

Overwhelmingly, those who work and live in Alton, are proud of their parks. **Unique topography, proximity to the Mississippi River, and rich traditions such as the band concerts** were the most often mentioned benefits of Alton's park and recreation offerings.

Feedback also included some concerns about **safety** and restoring older parks to their former levels of beauty, use, and family-friendliness.

There is a desire for more **water features** and more direct connections to the Mississippi River.

Planners also took note of comments by many to create more **connections** - both bike trails and pedestrians walkways - to link all of the various parks throughout Alton. With this, there is an opportunity to improve residents' awareness of the many parks and recreation opportunities around town.

Evolving to meet the changing needs of residents, is necessary. The Alton Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities Management Plan will allow the City to **strategically focus their efforts to retain the many gems of their current systems while updating other aspects to exceed residents' expectations.**

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



Vision Statement

"A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism."



Values represented: Biking, connections, Mississippi River



Values represented: Mississippi River, topography, scenic views, cultural traditions (band concerts), mature trees



Values represented: Mississippi River, growth and expansion, opportunities for camaraderie, scenic views



Values represented: Volunteerism, ecological integrity, maintenance, native plants, community pride

Members of the Citizens Advisory Committee were asked to 'vote,' using round stickers, on three (out of two dozen) photos which most represented their vision of Alton's parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

The four images to the left, rose to the top, as those symbolizing Committee members' essential values towards Alton parks.

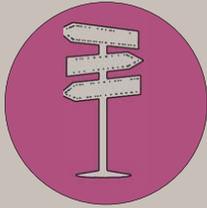
Based on their responses, feedback from stakeholders, public comments, and discussions with City leaders, planners put into words the many stories, pictures, sights, sounds, and history that create a future vision for Alton's parks.

A vision statement attempts to explain the often intangible components of a healthy park system. The intent is that this vision statement will remind future leaders, park staff, and residents of the core values and desired direction of the park system by users today.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation
Facilities Management Plan

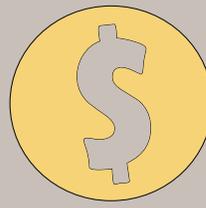


Recommendations



Connections

- Parks, open space, and playground facilities should be within walking distance for all residents.
- Provide bike/pedestrian connections to all parks.
- Provide increased bike/pedestrian connections to Gordon Moore.
- Increase access to the Mississippi River.



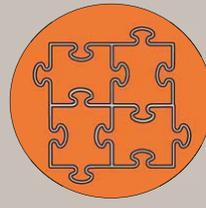
Financial

- Continue to successfully leverage grant programs such as OSRAD.
- Continue partnerships with stakeholder, civic groups, and volunteers to leverage available resources. Look for increased opportunities.
- Evaluate opportunities to decrease maintenance cost (converting mowed areas to natural areas).
- Promote the value of the park system in economic development and tourism.



Programs & Facilities

- Focus on maintaining existing parks and facilities and not increasing parks and facilities.
- Increase paths and walking trails within existing parks.
- Look for opportunities for additional natural areas within existing parks.
- Evaluate further swimming pool/splash fountains/aquatic facilities.
- Evaluate further indoor recreational facility.



Partnerships

- Continue partnerships with stakeholder, civic groups, and volunteers to leverage available resources.
- Before starting new programs, find partners for collaboration, i.e., Nature Programs, Wellness Programs.
- Consider opportunities for increased communication and partnering with other Riverbend communities, i.e., athletic tournaments, programs.



Communication

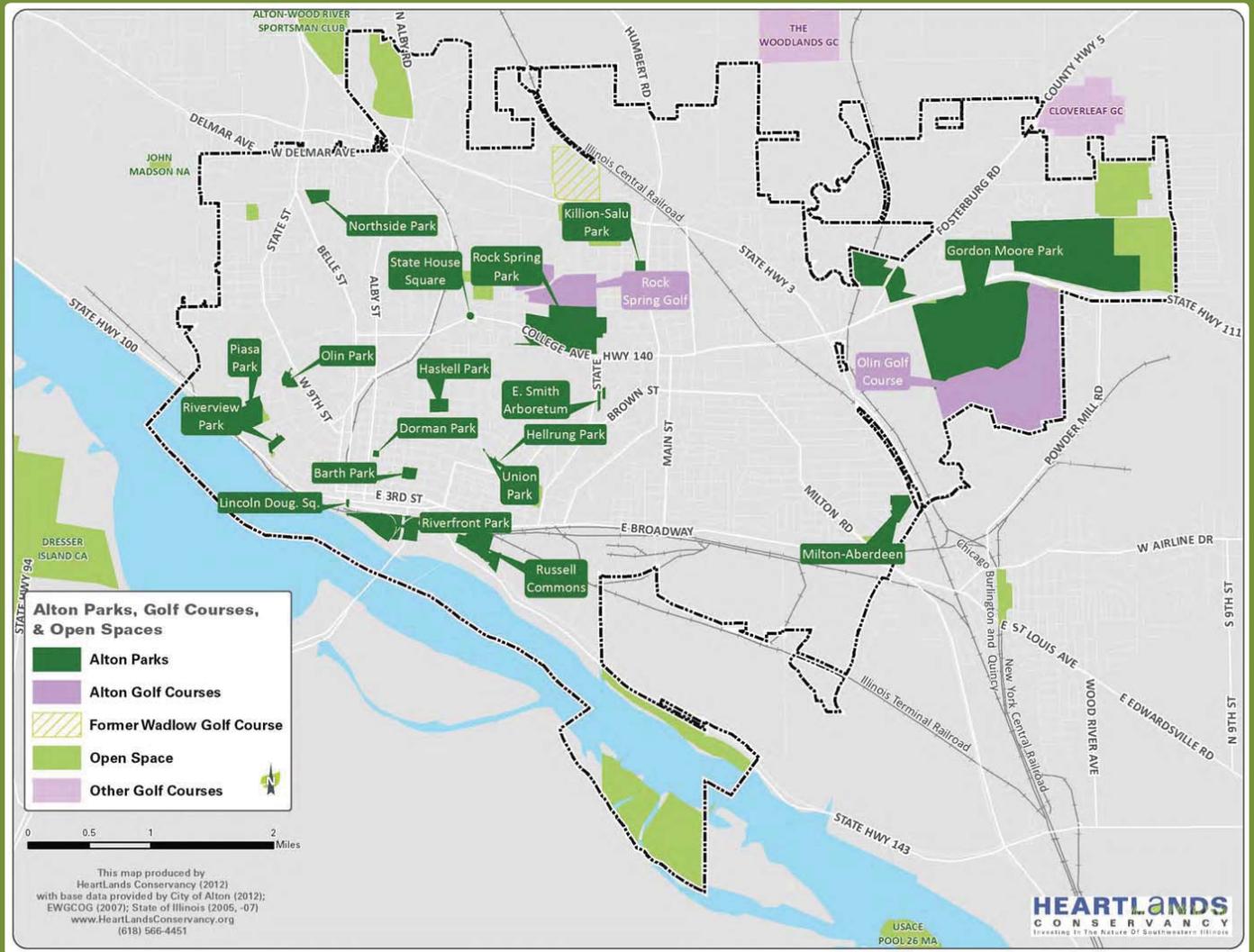
- Celebrate the successes of the park system.
- As part of bike/ped connections to parks, install wayfinding/interpretive signage.
- Create system wide map of parks and connections.
- Work with partners and stakeholders to communicate park programs, events, successes.
- Look for opportunities within existing city communications to increase park awareness.
- Prioritize improvements to communicate.



Natural Resources

- Look for opportunities for additional natural areas within existing parks.
- Connect residents to natural resources both within parks and outside of parks (ie connections to Mississippi River).
- Utilize the regional 'Ecological Significance' data in planning and decision making.
- Leverage "green infrastructure" opportunities.

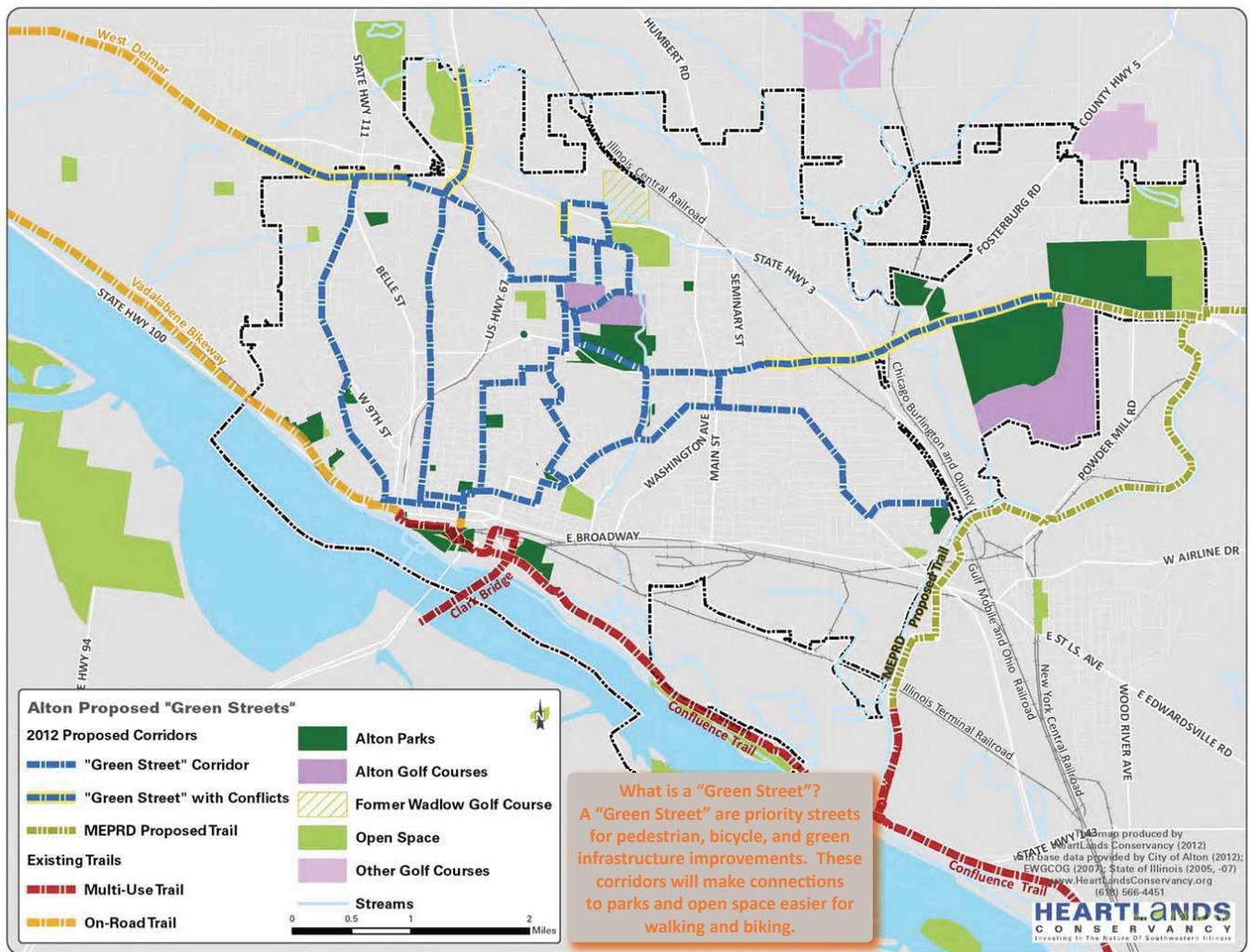
Existing Parks and Open Space



This map produced by
Heartlands Conservancy (2012)
with base data provided by City of Alton (2012);
EWGCOG (2007); State of Illinois (2005, -07)
www.HeartlandsConservancy.org
(618) 566-4451

HEARTLANDS
CONSERVANCY
Investing in the Nature of Southwestern Illinois

Proposed "Green Street" Corridors



What is a Green Street?



Short Term: Signs, Crosswalks

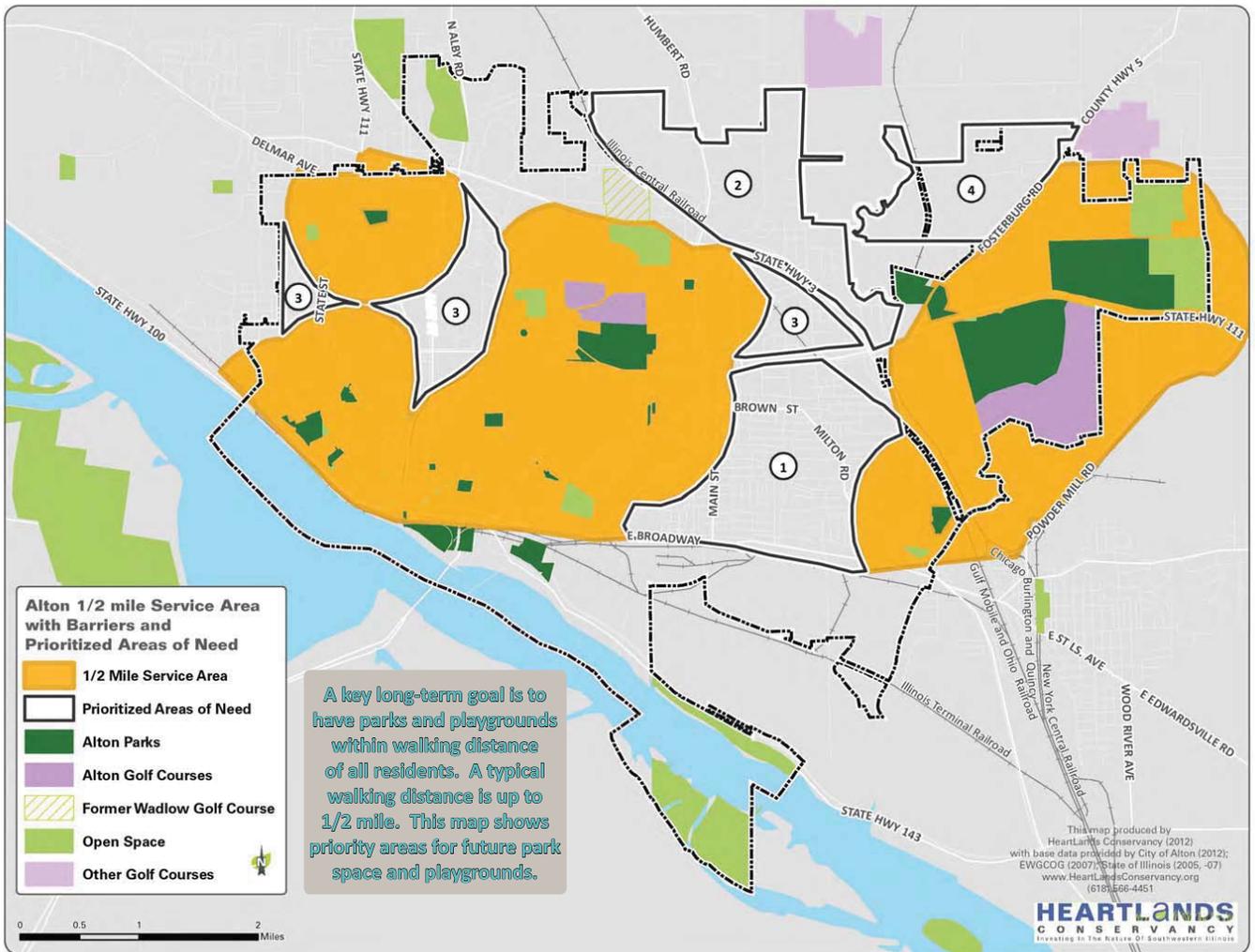
Mid Term: Sharrows, Destination/
Wayfinding Signs, Bike Parking

Long Term: Bike Lanes,
Sidewalks, Green Infrastructure

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation
Facilities Management Plan



Park Service Areas



Facilities & Programs

Splash Fountains



Splash pad, photo courtesy of: Chaco Companies



Splash pad, City Garden, St. Louis, MO (day & night)



Natural Feature Splash pad, City Garden, St. Louis, MO

SPLASH FOUNTAINS are areas for water play that have no standing water, which may eliminate the need for lifeguards or other supervision.

Typically there are ground nozzles that spray water upwards and showers that pour down. The showers and ground nozzles are often controlled by a hand activated-motion sensor and run for limited time.

Typically the water is either freshwater, or recycled water, that is treated to at least the same quality as swimming pool water standards.

Results of the survey and previous public open house comments mentioned the possible need for pools/splash facilities and an indoor recreation facility. Especially for pools or an indoor recreation facility, additional feasibility studies would be required. For this plan, we would like to know your general thoughts:

- Where do you go for swimming now?
- Would splash facilities instead of pools be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic recreation?
- Would you use an indoor recreation facility?

Pools



Standard lap pool

SWIMMING POOLS

can be any size and shape. Wading pools are shallow bodies of water intended for use by small children. There are features such as artificial waterfalls, fountains, wave machines, and bridges that are also incorporated into some swimming pools.

Often public swimming pools have lockers for clothing and other belongings. There are usually showers for patron use before and/or after swimming. There are also lifeguards to ensure the safety of users. Staff also ensure health and safety standards.



Lap pool with adjacent "zero entry" and water feature area

Indoor Recreation Facility



Indoor track



Treadmills



Indoor recreation programs

Indoor gym



RECREATION CENTERS

are often open to the public through memberships or day passes, some are free or reduced-fee for residents.

Recreation centers typically offer recreation facilities (e.g., a basket ball court) and equipment (e.g., basketballs) for general use as well as specialty fitness classes, youth camps, and activities for older adults.

Status of the Wadlow Site

Process to Date:

June 5 – Citizens Advisory Committee:
Voted to recommend to remove Wadlow from the City's Parks and Recreation system in anticipation of a sustainable development.

June 18 – Parks and Recreation Commission:
Voted to remove Wadlow from the City's Parks and Recreation system.

June 27 – City Council
Voted to remove in its entirety the land on which the former Robert P. Wadlow Golf Course existed from the inventory of the Alton Park and Recreation system.

August 7 – Plan Commission Meeting #1
Update on process to date. Listening session with Plan Commission and public to hear input on the potential vision for the Wadlow site and concerns. Potential options were presented for land use and zoning designation.

Aug 21 - Plan Commission Meeting #2
Additional information of potential zoning options.

Upcoming:
September - Formation of a Zoning Work Group to help develop a new zoning district.

October 16 - Plan Commission Meeting #3

Wadlow Golf Course

By its location, the land is suitable. The property is open, well-maintained, and suitable for the Golf Course.

If Wadlow was a Neighborhood Park, 1/2 mile Service Area

If Wadlow was a Neighborhood Park, 1/2 mile Service Area with barriers

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

HEARTLANDS CONSERVANCY

Wadlow Golf Course

If the land-use changes for Wadlow Golf Course to accommodate a high speed rail station and public / private investments, would you:

- A. Be supportive of development of the whole site, regardless of the type of proposed development.
- B. Be supportive of development if open space or park space were acquired in the future, elsewhere in Alton.
- C. Be supportive of partial development of the site (preserving the Wadlow stream corridor).
- D. Be supportive of development if the development is transit-oriented, walkable, and follows best practices for sustainable development.
- E. Be supportive of development with a combination of B, C, and D above.
- F. Not supportive of development on the site.
- G. Other

From the TIGER grant application: an example of future sustainable design strategies for development of the Wadlow Golf Course site. This would be an example of answer "E" to the left with a combination of green space, walkable / transit-oriented development, and sustainable development practices.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

HEARTLANDS CONSERVANCY

Boards Presented at the first Public Open House on May 30th, 2012

Wadlow Golf Course

City Receives TIGER Grant

At the end of 2011, the City of Alton received notice that they had been awarded a \$13.85 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant. The grant application by the City of Alton and Madison County Transit included a new Regional Multimodal Transportation Center (RMTCC). In addition, the grant application outlined leveraging millions in public and private partnerships including a new Amtrak Station, Transit Oriented Development (TOD), and ecotourism opportunities.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

HEARTLANDS CONSERVANCY

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....**Strongly matches my vision**

What changes, if any, would you make to the vision statement?

B. After reviewing the recommendations for:

- Connections
- Facilities and Programs
- Communications
- Financial
- Partnering
- Natural Resources

Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....**Strongly matches my priorities**

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

Natural resources + partnering over new financial development

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

Raging Rivers

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

Yes

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes / No If yes, where? *Edwardsville's Y*

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

Yes

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below. Thank you for attending!

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

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Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my priorities

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

Private Pools

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes / No If yes, where?

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

yes

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below.

Thank you for attending!

Parks must be a priority for quality living in Alton.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my vision

What changes, if any, would you make to the vision statement?

Connect pedestrians both walking & Biking to N. side of Adams Parkway esp. at Alton Sq. Wall Dr. & Seminary & Washington Ave. R467 to Riverfront & Downtown with trails on both shoulders plus Rumble Strips.

B. After reviewing the recommendations for:

- Connections
- Facilities and Programs
- Communications
- Financial
- Partnering
- Natural Resources

Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my priorities

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

Alton is blessed to have the variety of parks available but we need new infrastructure & facilities expanded to attract our future young families to make Alton their home.

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

Lochlaver, Davenport & Rogers Rivers Water Park. (Lochlaver may be closing)

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

Properly done, they could certainly fill the gaps but we could use an Indo Rec. Center.

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes / No If yes, where? Member at Natalis

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility? yes

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below. Thank you for attending!

Keep up the good work.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

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What changes, if any, would you make to the vision statement?

B. After reviewing the recommendations for:

- Connections
- Facilities and Programs
- Communications
- Financial
- Partnering
- Natural Resources

Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

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What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

Raging Rivers, private pools

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

Yes for the short-term, people love the ones at Riverfront & Gordon Moore

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes/No If yes, where? YWCA

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

Possibly, although there are several options already: Metro Sports, Nauticus, YWCA, Senior Services Plus, 24-hour etc.

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below.

Thank you for attending!

I would like to see maintenance of the streetscape beds on 3rd Street and Broadway incorporated into the plan. More landscaping is planned for Landmarks Blvd which is nice, but the existing streetscape is not well taken care of as it is.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

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Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

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What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

RAGING RIVERS

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

No. Re-Open the beach and lake at Gordon Moore.

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes No If yes, where?

NAUTILUS

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

YES

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below.

Thank you for attending!

MAINTAIN the parks we have
NOW. Rock Springs has been neglected for years. Haswell now
has increasing suspicious activity. The lake, looking camp,
beach at Gordon Moore is terrible.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

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- Connections
- Facilities and Programs
- Communications
- Financial
- Partnering
- Natural Resources

Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my priorities

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

Extend blue route along 67 out to Alton Square.
Create blue route from College north to on Seminary
as far as you can go.

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities, whether it's splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

YW or vacation

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

No - We need both. One for fitness & the other as

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility. *interactive, fun*

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes No If yes, where?

Can't afford it!

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

Yes

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below.

Thank you for attending!

How many free or low-cost PUBLIC docking stations are available for "tourist" recreational boaters along the Alton riverfront? Are they skipping us in favor of Effington??

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

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Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my priorities

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

private home

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

yes

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes/No If yes, where? Nautilus

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

Public, inexpensive would be great; however, not really feasible

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below.

Thank you for attending!

thanks for asking!

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my vision

What changes, if any, would you make to the vision statement?

B. After reviewing the recommendations for:

- Connections
- Facilities and Programs
- Communications
- Financial
- Partnering
- Natural Resources

Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my priorities

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes / No If yes, where?

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below.

Thank you for attending!

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS WHEREAS GROUPS
WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ~~THE~~ WATER AND
THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK OUT GARDEN TOOL
FROM PARK AND REC.

Contact Information! →

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

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Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my vision

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- Connections
- Facilities and Programs
- Communications
- Financial
- Partnering
- Natural Resources

Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my priorities

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

*water fountains maintained + in use - esp. Rock Springs park
splash water fountain pads + lights in more parks*

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities? *I don't*

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

yes

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes / No If yes, where?

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility? *maybe*

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below.

Thank you for attending!

safety within parks -

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

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Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my vision

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B. After reviewing the recommendations for:

- Connections
- Facilities and Programs
- Communications
- Financial
- Partnering
- Natural Resources

Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my priorities

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

yes

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes No If yes, where? *Nautilus Health Center*

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

yes

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below. Thank you for attending!

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my vision

What changes, if any, would you make to the vision statement?

NEEDS MORE TOWARDS GODFREY
MORE BIKE TRAILS

B. After reviewing the recommendations for:

- Connections
- Facilities and Programs
- Communications
- Financial
- Partnering
- Natural Resources

Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my priorities

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

WOODRIVER POOL — GRANITE CITY

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

YES, PLUS A FEW NEW ONE AREAS

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes No

WOULD IF I KNEW OF ONE

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

YES

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below.

Thank you for attending!

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my vision

What changes, if any, would you make to the vision statement?

B. After reviewing the recommendations for:

- Connections
- Facilities and Programs
- Communications
- Financial
- Partnering
- Natural Resources

Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my priorities

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

summersport, Raging Rivers, private pools

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

maintenance and safety issues are important

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes / No If yes, where?

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

Yes
could co-op with school system

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below.

Thank you for attending!

We're working with Christine

Hill Neighbors to rehab Riverview Park

Best scenic view in Alton Region
Steve Cowden and Mary Jean

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Questionnaire - Open House #2

A. Of the choices below, how well does the vision statement, "A well connected system of clean, safe parks, composed of native vegetation, that are accessible by all residents, provide opportunities to interact with the Mississippi River and natural landscape, take advantage of the scenic views and vistas of Alton, and bring neighbors together to share in opportunities for celebration and volunteerism" match your vision of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my vision

What changes, if any, would you make to the vision statement?

B. After reviewing the recommendations for:

- Connections
- Facilities and Programs
- Communications
- Financial
- Partnering
- Natural Resources

Of the choices below, how well do the recommendations meet your priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational facilities in Alton?

Circle your choice below:

Not at all.....Somewhat disagree.....No opinion.....Somewhat agree.....Strongly matches my priorities

What changes, if any, would you make to the recommendations?

Keep gravel, rather

than paved walk-ways

C. The planning team has heard the potential need for aquatic facilities whether its splash fountains or swimming facilities. Where do you currently go for access to swimming, pools, or other aquatic facilities?

Wood Lake Pool — Nantelus fitness

Would additional splash fountains in existing parks be sufficient to meet the need for aquatic and water recreation?

Somewhat

D. The planning team has heard the potential need for an indoor recreation facility.

Do you currently use an indoor recreation facility? Yes/ No If yes, where?

Nantelus

Do you think there is a need for an indoor recreation facility?

Maybe

E. Please leave any other comments or suggestions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities in Alton below.

Thank you for attending!

bike parking throughout the

city

Stakeholder Meetings: Notes and Exhibits
May 23, 2012

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

Stakeholder Interview Questions:

1. What are the strengths / best qualities of parks, open space, and recreational facilities in Alton.
 - The number/variety of parks
 - Starting to have a lot more neighbor involvement – doing the planting and maintenance
 - The amphitheater – her organization does a couple of events there
 - In the past year, Rock Springs has been pushed to be improved by local groups/organizations (e.g. Middle School)
 - Specialty parks are tourism draw
 - Their existence, some communities do not have this quantity of parks. Some I have not heard of even though I grew up here
 - Haskell House park
 - Organized activities at parks (Riverfront, Riverview, Haskell, etc.)
 - The river
 - Gordon Moore has an excellent sports/ Khoury League and is well maintained
 - Riverfront – you always people that stop by because of the visibility of activity down there.
 - Pride is able to count on the parks department to maintain areas. Parks dept maintains entrances to parks, medians, etc. that Pride plants.
 - Gordon Moore is a safe, well maintained place to go

2. What things need to be improved in terms of parks, open space, and recreational facilities.
 - Rock Springs Park needs to be reclaimed (resources went to Gordon Moore and Rock Spring became more seedy)
 - Hellrung also has issues related to crowds loitering, Skate Park doesn't get utilized as much as it should- kids are scared to use it. It's a wonderful facility/park – anything the City can do to discourage bad behavior? Seems to be adults hanging out, might prohibit children from using it.
 - Status of the dog park – there is a lot of demand
 - No access to the water – feeding ducks or putting your feet in. There should be access.
 - There are some parks that they would not take their family to, because of crime or feeling of danger. Perception and reality of danger.
 - It seems that a park is either over-the-top (Gordon Moore) or under-served (Killion).
 - Parks where there are not a lot activities are not as well maintained
 - Gordon Moore only serves a limited population, feels like you are driving out of town to go there, it's not walkable – if you jog or bike there you will get hit by a car. There is no connectivity to there and nothing really around there

- Size is good – other than Gordon Moore there are not any big parks – wishes there was more large parks
 - Educating the public on all parks and activities (e.g., Basketball); would like a Park Dept. specific events calendar
 - In general, trying to keep the parks clean.
3. What are future opportunities for in terms of parks, open space, and recreational facilities in Alton.
- Tie in with Lewis & Clark or SIUE
 - Tourism-friendly, promotion to tourists – the more activities we have the better for our community
 - Water features (only Gordon Moore has one, and Riverfront)
 - Better curb appeal. Polish Alton parks and historic areas so that they stand out. This will change people’s view of Alton. Make it a more appealing place.
4. What are future threats to parks, open space, and recreational facilities in Alton.
- Parks Dept is understaffed and underfunded; they have done a good job of balancing the budget, but need more resources (i.e., staff, money)
 - Incidents of crime that occur at parks – people are discouraged to use parks after episodes of crime (station police near parks to discourage crime from happening)
 - Haskell House is vacant – community is concerned about what will happen to the house if it is left vacant. Also, need to keep the playhouse open more frequently
 - Funding – parks may be unkempt, they are running on a skeleton budget. Want to go to a park that is mowed, clean bathrooms, lights, etc. School playgrounds are in nicer shape than city parks – with nice rubber mulch, nice playgrounds.
 - Parks should not cast a negative light on the City, but there was just a story about someone stealing lights from Rock Spring. Crime/danger is perceived, I do not know what the actual rate is. But there is a perception that Alton (not just parks) may not be 100% safe.
 - Funding – civic amenities/beautification would go first, not high on the priority list.
5. What are the needs for parks, open space, and recreational facilities in Alton. (Can be new elements or more of existing elements.)
- Do a good job as far as programming (e.g., sports at Gordon Moore). TNI/Sierra Club provide nature activities. NEED to get more activities going at Rock Spring (e.g., disc golf tournament)
 - There is not necessarily a relationship between Gordon Moore and Main St. activity, but people who use Riverfront Park are more likely to visit/dine/shop in downtown (Main St.) area
 - Signage improvements – at city parking lots? Maps of the entire park system. The park system is too segregated.
 - Water features.
 - Funding.

- Groups that are willing to put in the work – some of these exist, just need to find that funding to make projects possible.
- Not duplicating efforts.
- There is some (inter-city) coordination that goes on (outside the school system) Gordon Moore is a good place to do that.
- When there is something to be done people are interested, it is just getting it all coordinated. Volunteers need the feeling of accomplishment.

6. What are the three parks you use/visit most often?

- Haskell
- Pere Marquette
- TNI Mississippi Sanctuary +
- Riverfront ++
- Riverview +++
- Glazebrook
- Gordon Moore ++
- Park behind Godfrey City Hall
- Rock Springs

- Glazebrook (Bethalto, but closer to where she lives)
- La Vista (Bethalto)

This symbol: “+” added each time the park was mentioned, after the initial listing.

7. If you were going to take out of town guests to three parks, what would they be?

- Riverfront
- Riverview
- Gordon Moore+
- Rock Springs
- Lincoln-Douglas Square
- Piasa Park

- Pere Marquette
- TNI Mississippi Sanctuary
- Wilson Park (Granite City)
- Bethalto’s Culp Lane

8. If the land-use changes for Wadlow Golf Course to accommodate a high speed rail station and related development, would you:

- A. Be supportive of development of the whole site, regardless of the type of proposed development.
- B. Be supportive of development if green space or park space were acquired in the future, elsewhere in Alton.
- C. Be supportive of partial development of the site (preserving the Wadlow stream corridor).

- D. Be supportive of development if the development is transit-oriented, walkable, and follows best practices for sustainable development.
- E. Be supportive of development with a combination of B, C, and D above.
- F. Not supportive of development on the site.
- G. Other

- Between E and F. When she first heard that they would develop the last bit of green space on the belt line, she was not thrilled. **If B, C, and D were truly implemented that she would not oppose it.** Seems like big box stores may be told they need trees/landscaping but no one ever makes sure they do. Need to have sustainable design and open space requirement of Wadlow development followed through on.
- Make a pocket park/transportation museum out of abandoned train station in upper Alton.
- **D** - Transit station is good because it brings people to the area, loss of green space is bad but golf course is not ideal green space anyways (turf grass and chemicals). Would be ideal to have development (economic) and keep green space, bike-walk connections, etc. The entire thing should not be paved over. It is right in the heart of the city – a highly visible park with mixed use/TOD would be the best bet.
- Love what they are doing with the TIGER grant and the struggling golf course – my hesitation is that it is a highly trafficked area; a park there may be spreading the City too thin – why would someone go there rather than Gordon Moore/Rock Springs. Also, family might not want to be recreating in a transient place. Adding another park would be spreading the park department too thin. I like the idea of it being a green space – it should correlate with the small residential population and visitors passing through that it would serve. Commercialization in the area discourages biking there to the Wadlow area.
- Not a park that families would go to – it would be better to serve just next to a coffee shop or passengers waiting to board the train. It would be better if the stream there was consistently wet. Not ideal for playground.
- **E** seems the most preserving yet also uses it the most usable. Looks the most community-friendly if it is not going to be what it is.

Welcome!

Goals & Questions to be Answered During the Planning Process

- Citywide Analysis of Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities
- How does the City compare with NRPA guidelines for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities?
- What are the existing service areas for facilities within the City? Are areas of the City underserved?
- What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
- How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?
- What are residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks? How does that change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?

We appreciate your attendance at the Open House tonight.

Thank you for your valuable time and insights. Please make sure to fill out a survey while you are here. We look forward to meeting with you again at the second Open House later this summer!

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



HEARTLANDS
CONSERVANCY
Investing in The Nature Of Southwestern Illinois



Schedule*

	April				May				June				July				Aug				Sept				Oct							
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Task 1 - Public and Community Engagement																																
Public Meeting #1 - Input on Needs / Facilities																																
Public Meeting #2 - Review Needs Assessment and Draft Plan																																
Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings																																
Key Stakeholder Interviews																																
Task 2 - Document Existing Conditions and Facilities																																
Document existing conditions including mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, recreational facilities, golf courses, special use areas, and other green and natural areas.																																
Task 3 - Needs Assessment and Service Areas																																
Based on National Recreation and Park Association standards, conduct a system wide needs assessment and service area of parks, open space, and facilities identified in Task 2.																																
Public review and comment period of the Needs Assessment and Service Areas.																																
Task 4 - Open Space Plan and Recommendations																																
Draft Plan and Recommendations.																																
Public review and comment period of draft plan and recommendations.																																
Final Plan and Recommendations.																																
Formal adoption of Final Plan by the Alton City Council.																																

* Schedule for overall planning study. However, for the Wadlow Golf Course site to properly be considered by IDOT for the location of the High Speed Rail station, the land use designation will move at an accelerated schedule. The next two steps for the Wadlow Golf Course will be the June 5th Citizen Advisory Committee and the June 18th Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

↑ We Are Here

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



Wadlow Golf Course



Alton Regional Multimodal Transportation Center at Robert Wadlow Town Centre

Project Narrative

City of Alton Illinois
Madison County Metro Local Board District



TIGER Selection Criteria	Project Benefits
State of Good Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate implementation of High Speed Rail service in Illinois Reduce Airborne Emissions Reduce impact of fuel and regional transit system Reduce traffic congestion in I-55
Economic Competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase economic vitality in the Chicago - St. Louis travel corridor Benefits an economically distressed community Support growth of the ecotourism industry
Locality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve quality of life in the North Robert Wadlow Town Centre and surrounding neighborhood Expand transit mobility options
Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce Amtrak's dependence on foreign oil Restore and improve the natural environment Reduce Amtrak's carbon footprint
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the rate of crashes, injuries and fatalities on I-55 Increase bicyclist and pedestrian safety
Job-Creation / Near Term Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create 45-6 full-time jobs during the 2012 & 2013 construction periods and major substantial economic activity in an economically distressed area with unemployment above 11%
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITD facilities will expedite transit vehicle and customer/visitor traffic
Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is widely supported by area governments and public officials
Cost/Benefit Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will return \$284,000 in marginal social benefits for each dollar of marginal social costs The Social Cost per passenger mile (SCPM) of the new TIGER investment is \$4.04 per mile.



recreation, transit-oriented development, the City seeks to transform this area into a sustainable community that brings jobs and housing closer together and provides other transportation options that reduce auto dependence. In addition to the TIGER project elements described in the Robert Wadlow Town Centre project will incorporate the following features:

New Amtrak Station - This is a major investment of \$10.5 million to plan and construct a new 100,000 sq ft station. The station will feature an 800-seat train hall with waiting, baggage claim, and transit connections. It will be located on I-55 south of the Chicago through Springfield and Station of Illinois. The station will be located on I-55 south of the Chicago through Springfield and Station of Illinois. The station will be located on I-55 south of the Chicago through Springfield and Station of Illinois.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD) - Over 20 acres of prime development property are not only near the Robert Wadlow Town Centre project but also in the surrounding area. The City and Madison County are working together to develop a sustainable TOD development. The plan is to develop a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational uses around the transit hub.

Innovation

The project includes a **Transit Oriented Development (TOD)** located in a prime location near the station and other transit options. The project will include a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational uses around the transit hub.

Partnership

The project is widely supported by area governments and public officials. The project is a joint effort between the City of Alton, Madison County, and Amtrak. The project is a joint effort between the City of Alton, Madison County, and Amtrak.

The project is a joint effort between the City of Alton, Madison County, and Amtrak. The project is a joint effort between the City of Alton, Madison County, and Amtrak.

City Receives TIGER Grant

At the end of 2011, the City of Alton received notice that they had been awarded a \$13.85 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant. The grant application by the City of Alton and Madison County Transit included a new Regional Multimodal Transportation Center (RMTTC). In addition, the grant application outlined leveraging millions in public and private partnerships including a new Amtrak Station, Transit Oriented Development (TOD), and ecotourism opportunities.

Pages from the 2011 TIGER grant application: For complete application, visit www.alton-ill.com/html/PDF/Alton_Multimodal_Grnt.pdf

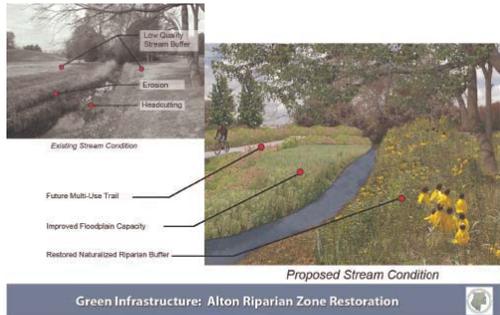
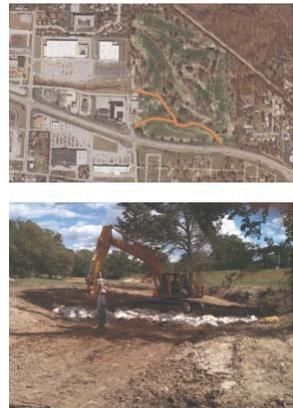
Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



Wadlow Golf Course

If the land-use changes for Wadlow Golf Course to accommodate a high speed rail station and public / private investments, would you:

- A. Be supportive of development of the whole site, regardless of the type of proposed development.
- B. Be supportive of development if open space or park space were acquired in the future, elsewhere in Alton.
- C. Be supportive of partial development of the site (preserving the Wadlow stream corridor).
- D. Be supportive of development if the development is transit-oriented, walkable, and follows best practices for sustainable development.
- E. Be supportive of development with a combination of B, C, and D above.
- F. Not supportive of development on the site.
- G. Other



Current Illinois Green Infrastructure Project: Wadlow Stream Corridor Restoration. To be completed in Fall, 2012



From the TIGER grant application: an example of future sustainable design strategies for development of the Wadlow Golf Course site. This would be an example of answer "E" to the left with a combination of green space, walkable / transit-oriented development, and sustainable development practices.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan



***Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), Meeting #1: Notes
May 8, 2012***

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee

HeartLands Conservancy's Sustainability Planner, Stephen Ibendahl called a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee to order at 6:30 P.M., on May 8, 2012, at Alton City Hall, 101 E. Third Street, Alton, Illinois.

Members Present: Jared McCain, Mark Hackworth, Dale Neuduker, James Dooley, Thomas Fleming, Christine Favilla, Scott Adams, Mike Slaughter

Members Absent: Orlando Panfile

Ex-Officio and Guests: Rhonda Lewis, Mary Lou Conisley, Steve Cousley, Donna Cunningham, Brad Cunningham, Jeff Moody, Matt Asselmeier, Phil Roggio, Charles Brake, Greg Caffey, Mayor Tom Hoechst

Introductions were made by the Committee members and HeartLands Conservancy planning team, Stephen Ibendahl and Allie McCreary. Stephen provided a few slides on the background of the HeartLands Conservancy organization. For more information, those interested can visit the website www.HeartLandsConservancy.org or contact Stephen directly at (618) 566-4451 ext. 20 or Stephen.Ibendahl@heartlandsconservancy.org

The Committee then reviewed the goals and purpose of the Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities planning process. A schedule of the planning process was provided to committee members. A citizen-input driven process that occurs over the next six months is envisioned to establish Alton's priorities, values, and wants towards parks and recreation.

Next, the Committee reviewed some preliminary analysis of existing conditions. Maps featured schools, trails, parks and recreation spaces, and cultural and environmental points of interest were presented for the Committee's review. HeartLands Conservancy will edit these maps to reflect additional/current trails and park spaces not included in the existing data.

The Committee then participated in a number of "visioning" exercises. Committee members were asked to think about Alton parks and recreation from a future perspective, the Committee brainstormed strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats to Alton's parks and recreation, and Committee members assessed which park spaces they most frequently visited alone and with out-of-town guests. Please see the attachment to view the outcomes of these conversations.

Then, the Committee discussed what is planned to be a very robust and inclusive public engagement process comprised of (1) the Citizens Advisory Committee, (2) one-one-one stakeholder meetings, and (3) public open house events. HeartLands Conservancy asked the Committee to provide potential ideas for groups to meet with during the one-on-one stakeholder meetings. Municipal bands, the Christmas Wonderland committee, Pride beautification organization, senior legion, neighborhood watch groups/weed and seed, Rotary, golfer leagues, and "Friends of..." groups were also mentioned in addition to school districts/athletic interests and the Sierra Club. Citizens Advisory Committee members

were provided with a draft list of questions that would guide the discussions with the stakeholder groups.

The first public open house will be held May 30, 2012, from 4:30-6:30 P.M. at the Alton City Hall, 101 E. Third Street, Alton, Illinois. Committee members were provided with a draft questionnaire that will be used to as one of many tools to solicit resident feedback at the open house.

Last, the Committee discussed the Committee's meeting schedule. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 6:30 P.M at the Alton City Hall, 101 E. Third Street, Alton, Illinois. Also, the Committee decided to operate without a designated Chair of the Committee; HeartLands Conservancy planners will act as facilitators for this and future Committee meetings.

There was one comment from the attending public, Mayor Hoechst, to thank the committee for their time and to ascertain their feeling that this planning process will garner valuable information on Alton's parks and recreation through citizen input.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie McCreary
HeartLands Conservancy

Citizen Advisory Committee #1:

Management Plan for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities

Date: May 8, 2012, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Agenda:

A. Introductions (5 Min)

B. Background on HeartLands Conservancy (5 Min)

C. Review Goals and Purpose of Planning Process (10 Min)

- Citywide Analysis of Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities
- Questions to be analyzed during the Planning Process:
 - How does the City compare with National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities?
 - What are the existing service areas for facilities within the City? Are areas of the City underserved?
 - What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
 - How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?
 - What are the residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities? How do the vision, needs, wants, and priorities change if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?

D. Schedule of Planning Process (5 Min)

E. Review of Existing Conditions / Park, Open Space, Recreation Standards (15-20 Min)

- Are there existing facilities that we are missing?

F. Visioning Session of Alton's Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities (10 Min)

G. SWOT Discussion (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of Alton's Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities (15 Min)

H. Rating System for Measuring Significance of Parks and Open Space. (15 Min)

I. Public Engagement Process: (5 Min)

- Very robust and inclusive process.
- Summary table of discussions.
- All public input will be included as an appendix in the final report.

J. Upcoming Stakeholder Interviews: (10 Min)

- Four to six (4-6) interviews with stakeholder groups. To be confirmed with CAC, but potentially to include:
 - Sierra Club
 - School District
 - Athletic Clubs

K. Preview of Public Meeting #1 (10 Min)

- Publicizing Public Meeting
- Draft Agenda/Format:
 - Open house style format with different stations displaying information.
 - Service area of existing parks:
 - Mini/Neighborhood
 - Community
 - Regional
 - Overview of potential needs based on National Recreation and Park Association Standards.
 - Gather input on:
 - Vision of Alton parks, open space, and recreation facilities.
 - Usage of existing facilities.
 - Needs/Desires of parks, open space, and recreation facilities.
- Questionnaire for gathering public feedback.

L. Schedule of Future CAC Meetings

M. Comments from the Public / Questions

End Agenda

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan
 Citizens Advisory Committee Visioning Exercises
 05-08-2012

HEADLINES: Committee members were asked to take a few moments and jot down on a note card what they envision as a future newspaper headline relating to Alton parks.

- “City Parks Create Brighter Future”
- “Did the Planning Committee Get it Right?”
- “Alton Parks: Continue to Over Serve the Needs of Residents”
- “Neighborhood Groups Protecting Parks”
- “Park Success Linked with Trails and Greenways”
- “The Green Plan That Worked!”
- “Residents, Community Leaders and Officials Carry Out Balanced Park Plan”

SWOT: Committee members provide feedback on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats related to Alton parks.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Citizen involvement, ownership of parks	Accessibility to Gordon Moore (have to drive)	Connect bike trail to the river, to Godfrey, etc.	Lack of funding
Accessibility/walkability of neighborhood and community parks	Maintenance of substantial acreage can be burdensome, need more resources to maintain parks	More interaction with the river (e.g. a fishing pier)	Transportation routes
A variety of recreation opportunities through different parks	Need more passive use opportunities (e.g., bike trails that connect the different sides of town and connect Alton with nearby towns)	Enhance safety, especially related to biking in the riverfront area	Development
Park board and staff and their good relationship with the community		Take advantage of unique topography (i.e., views)	Decommission of parks sites (due to lack of support if parks/ recreation opportunities were to become irrelevant to users)
Substantial acreage		Increase ADA accessibility to existing facilities	
Park events		Put neighborhood “pocket parks” into areas with ‘tight’ development	
Good park neighbors			
Proximity to the river			
Bike trails			

Future Needs: Following the SWOT exercises, Committee members quickly brainstormed what they felt are future needs of the Alton’s park and recreation system.

- Indoor facilities for winter programming, such as indoor basketball courts
- An aquatic facility or opportunities
- Lighting in parks – low/solar lighting that is neighborhood-friendly
- Mountain biking opportunities
- Hiking trails linking Alton in all directions, multi-use trails that allow walking, biking, etc.

Parks You Use: The Committee shared what parks in Alton they most visit (the top three), in follow-up they were asked which parks they would most likely take an out-of-town guest to (the top three).

Park	Most Visit	Take guests to*
Riverfront	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Olin	✓	
Riverview	✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Haskell	✓✓✓✓	✓✓
Gordon Moore	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓
Russell Commons	✓	
Rock Springs (for golf)	✓	
Northside	✓	
Wadlow Statue		✓
Lovejoy Cemetery		✓
Piasa		✓

* Following this exercise, it was discussed that popular places to take guests, including the Wadlow Statue, Lovejoy Cemetery, and Piasa Park, were not mentioned as prominently in this exercise because they are not thought of as “parks” per se.

***Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), Meeting #2: Notes
June 5, 2012***

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee

HeartLands Conservancy's Sustainability Planner, Stephen Ibendahl called a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee to order at 6:30 P.M., on June 5, 2012, at Alton City Hall, 101 E. Third Street, Alton, Illinois.

Members Present: Orlando Panfile, Jared McCain, Mark Hackworth, Christine Favilla, Scott Adams, Mike Slaughter

Members Absent: Dale Neuduker, James Dooley, Thomas Fleming

Ex-Officio and Guests: Rhonda Lewis, Donna Cunningham, Brad Cunningham, Matt Asselmeier, Phil Roggio, Greg Caffey, Tom Morrissey

Introductions were made by the Committee members and HeartLands Conservancy planning team, Stephen Ibendahl and Allie McCreary. For more information, those interested can contact Stephen at (618) 566-4451 ext. 20 or Stephen.Ibendahl@heartlandsconservancy.org

The Committee reviewed the Goals and Purpose of the planning process:

- Citywide Analysis of Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities
- How does the City compare with National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities?
- What are the existing service areas for facilities within the City? Are areas of the City underserved?
- What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
- How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?
- What are the residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities? How does the vision, needs, wants, and priorities change if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?

Next, the Committee reviewed public engagement that had occurred since the last Committee meeting. On May 23, 2012 planners met with key stakeholders to discuss the Plan and Wadlow golf course land use. On May 30, 2012, a public open house event was held at City Hall, about 30 people attended to weigh in on the planners documentation of Alton's existing parks, open space, cultural, trails and other existing conditions and comment on the Wadlow issue. The Committee commented that maps used at the public meeting could be improved with bigger/easier to read labels on the parks. Planners understand this constraint and have also provided copies of the maps/ public meeting materials for the public to view, more easily, online.

Next, the Committee reviewed the results of a public survey that was available online and at the public open house. Around 60 people took the survey, which is an expected amount for a project of this type and community of this size. Survey results included which parks residents most often visit, how often

they visit parks, what recreation opportunities they prefer, and what constrains them from visiting the park (see Attachment, slides, for more information).

The Committee then reviewed a park, open space, and recreation facilities assessment prepared by the planners. The reviewed park service areas and discussed a matrix that compared Alton park amenities (e.g., skate park, pavilions, ball fields, etc.) to national standards.

The Committee then focused on the topic of the Wadlow golf course. Planners presented slides on possible impacts if the land use of the Wadlow course was changed. This included comparing the Wadlow golf course to the other community golf courses and looking at the golf course as either a community or neighborhood park. The Committee discussed the limited accessibility of the site through walking or biking and the cultural/ecological significance of mature trees that also act as “memorial trees.”

Part of the analysis of Wadlow also included looking at rounds played per year. While rounds played at Wadlow had decreased between 2002 and 2008 (a decrease in rounds played is also a national trend) there are no data for 2008 to the close of the site. However, it was brought up that the management company that operated the Wadlow site from 2008 on went out of business, which speaks to the declining support for playing at the Wadlow course.

Phil Roggio, from the City of Alton, gave an update on IDOT’s schedule for the location of the high speed rail station. For the Wadlow site to be properly considered by IDOT, the site would need to be removed from the current land use of Conservation/Recreation.

The committee discussed the importance of preserving the stream corridor on the Wadlow site through a conservation easement. It was also important to note that a property off Alby Road may help mitigate the need for parkland in that area of town in the future.

The committee unanimously recommended that Wadlow Golf Course be taken out of the park and recreation system in anticipation of mixed-use sustainable development, with said recommendation being forwarded to the Park and Recreation Commission for further consideration.

The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at 6:30 PM at Alton City (101 E. Third St, Alton, IL).

Respectfully submitted,

Allie McCreary
HeartLands Conservancy

Citizen Advisory Committee #2:

Management Plan for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities

Date: June 5, 2012, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Agenda:

A. Introductions (5 Min)

B. Review of Schedule (5 Min)

C. Review Goals and Purpose of Planning Process (10 Min)

- Citywide Analysis of Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities
- Questions to be analyzed during the Planning Process:
 - o How does the City compare with National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities?
 - o What are the existing service areas for facilities within the City? Are areas of the City underserved?
 - o What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
 - o How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?
 - o What are the residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities? How does the vision, needs, wants, and priorities change if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?

D. Review of Public Engagement Since Last Meeting (5 Min)

- Stakeholder Meetings on May 23
- Public Open House on May 30

E. Review of Results of Questionnaire / Stakeholder Meetings (10 Min)

F. Review of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities Assessment (15 Min)

- Methodology
- Acreage
- Service Areas
- Activities / Programs

G. Review of Wadlow Golf Course (15 Min)

- System wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes.

- Significance of Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City.

- Review of public / stakeholder input to changes in land-use of Wadlow Golf Course.

H. Update from City on the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) schedule for the location of the High Speed Rail (HSR) station. (20 Min)

- For the Wadlow site to be properly considered by IDOT, the site would need to be removed from the current land-use of Conservation / Recreation.

- Next Steps:

- Recommendation from the Citizen Advisory Committee
- June 18th - Park Commission Meeting
- TBD - Planning Commission Meetings

I. Next Meeting

J. Public Comments / Questions

End Agenda

Public Engagement – Stakeholder Meetings on May 23

- Stakeholder Attendees**
 - Alton Area Landmarks Association
 - Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau
 - Hayner Public Library District
 - Historic Commission
 - Alton Main Street
 - The Nature Institute
 - Madison County
 - Pride Inc.
- Other Stakeholders Invited**
 - Business Associations
 - Weed & Seed and Drug Free Alton
 - Schools, YWCA



Public Engagement – Online Questionnaire from May 22 – June 4

Where do YOU play? Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Survey

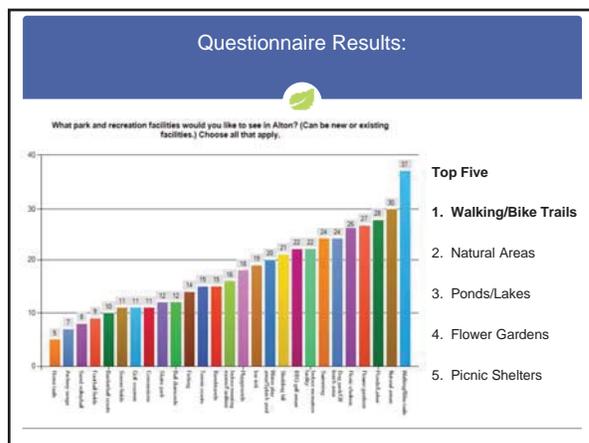
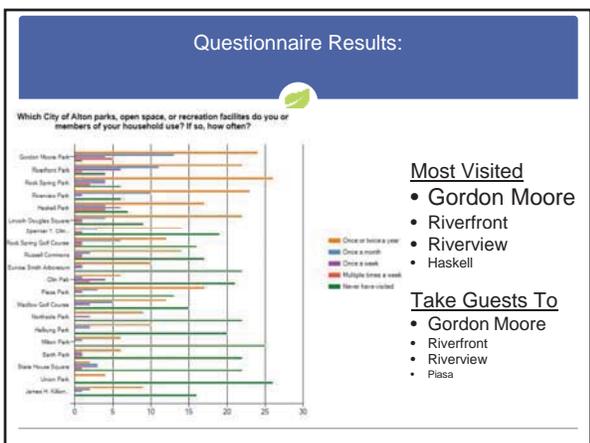
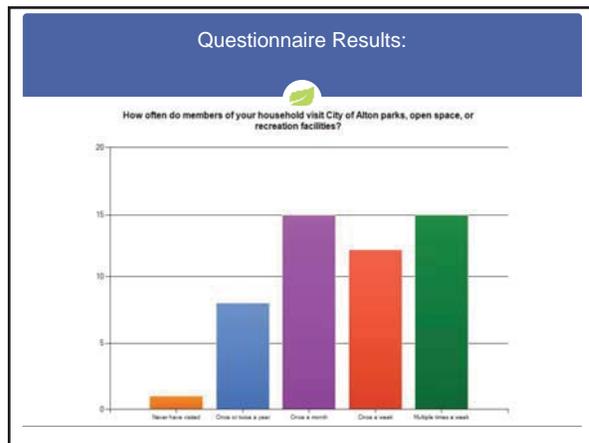
This survey is to help with the planning process of the Alton parks, open space, and recreation facilities management plan. These questions will provide the questions at the May 30th Open House. The results will be available in early June.

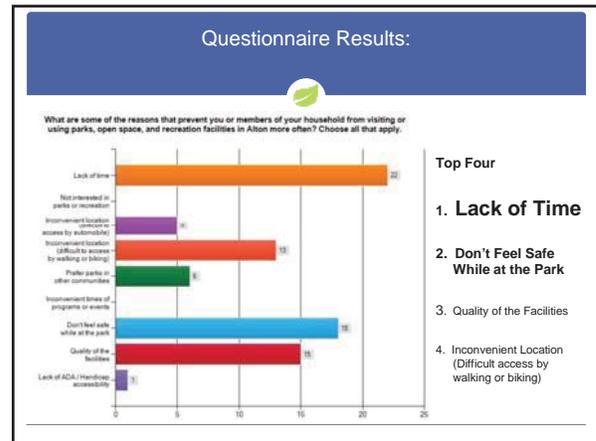
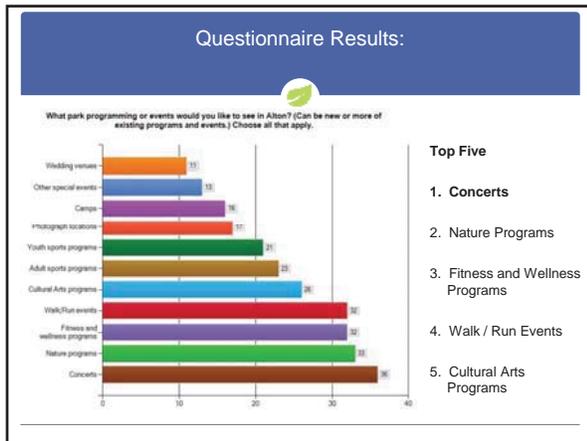
This survey will close June 30!

1. Where do you live and work? (Choose one)

2. How often do members of your household visit City of Alton parks, open space, or recreation facilities?

3. Which City of Alton parks, open space, or recreation facilities do you or members of your household visit? How often?





- ### SWOT Analysis - Strengths
- Natural beauty of the parks system.
 - Diversity of park types and uses.
 - Very mature park system.
 - Organized activities within the park system.
 - Parks that take advantage of the river (Riverview, Riverfront, Russell Commons).
 - Strong civic and volunteer spirit with parks and open space.
 - Some of best facilities in the region (Riverfront amphitheatre, Gordon Moore).
 - Strong cultural and historical significance with many of the parks.

- ### SWOT Analysis – Weaknesses / Items to Improve
- Perception of crime and lack of security in some parks.
 - Imbalance of activities / facilities between some parks.
 - Lack of maintenance at some parks.
 - Communication of park events and activities.
 - Bicycle / Pedestrian connections to parks, especially Gordon Moore.

- ### SWOT Analysis - Opportunities
- A system-wide connection of bicycle / walking access to the parks.
 - More passive uses such as natural areas.
 - Water features (spray fountains, etc). Currently only Gordon Moore and Riverfront have water features.
 - Coordination with other Riverbend communities on park, open space, and recreation planning and facilities.

- ### SWOT Analysis - Threats
- Lack of Funding.
 - Potentially losing athletic tournaments. Can Gordon Moore stay competitive with newer community athletic facilities being built elsewhere in southwestern Illinois.
 - Development pressure of parks and open space.
 - Loss of park users to other communities because of maintenance, perception of safety, or lack of facilities. Especially residents using Glazebrook park in Godfrey.

Needs Assessment

Methodology

- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Standards and Guidelines
- Survey of Other Municipalities and Recreation Standards
- 2009 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Statewide Recreation Plan (Survey of Municipalities and Park Districts)

Needs Assessment – Park Acreage Analysis

	Acres per 1,000 Person	Recommended Acreage Based on Alton 2010 Population	Existing Alton Park Acreage (Excluding Golf Courses)	Percentage Above/Below Standard	Alton Population to Support Benchmarks
NRPA Guideline	10	279	638.5	129%	63,850
Illinois Average (*)	11.35	316	638.5	102%	56,256
2009 Alton Comprehensive Plan Goal	20	557	638.5	15%	31,925

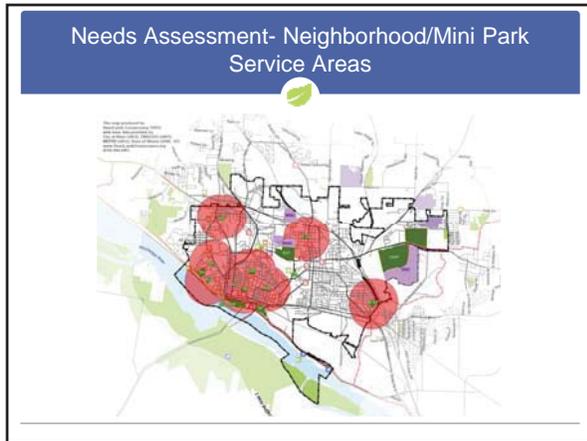
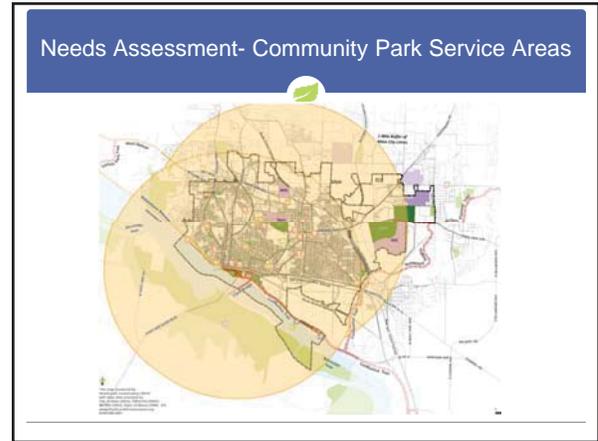
Alton Population (2010 Census) 27,865

(*) Average statewide supply of community outdoor recreation lands which includes park districts and municipal lands. Source 2009-2014 IDNR Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Needs Assessment – Park Acreage Analysis by Park Type

	NRPA Standard (Low) Acres per 1,000 Person	NRPA Standard (High) Acres per 1,000 Person	Recommended Local Standard	Recommended Acreage Based on Alton 2010 Population	Existing Alton Park Acreage	Percentage Above/Below Standard
Regional Park	5.0	10.0	7.5	209	450	115%
Community Park	5.0	8.0	6.5	181	120	-34%
Neighborhood / Mini Park	1.00/2.5	2.00/3.5	1.0	18	49	76%
Specialty Park	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	193	N/A
Total Parkland (Excludes Golf Courses)					638.5	

Alton Population (2010 Census) 27,865



Wadlow Golf Course

If the land-use changes for Wadlow Golf Course to accommodate a high speed rail station and public / private investments, would you:

- Be supportive of development of the whole site, regardless of the type of proposed development.
- Be supportive of development if open space or park space were acquired in the future, elsewhere in Alton.
- Be supportive of partial development of the site (preserving the Wadlow stream corridor).
- Be supportive of development if the development is transit-oriented, walkable, and follows best practices for sustainable development.
- Be supportive of development with a combination of B, C, and D above.
- Not supportive of development on the site.
- Other

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

Wadlow Golf Course

Dark Springs Station - Street View Station

Dark Springs Station - Park Type

Dark Springs Station - Number of Parks per 1,000 Residents

Next Steps:

For the Wadlow Golf Course site to properly be considered by IDOT for the location of the high speed rail station, the land use designation will move at an accelerated schedule. The planning team will take input received at tonight's open house, comment forms, and stakeholder meetings in account for the analysis and land use designation.

Upcoming Meetings Concerning Wadlow Golf Course:
 June 5th - Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
 June 19th - Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

Wadlow Golf Course: What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?

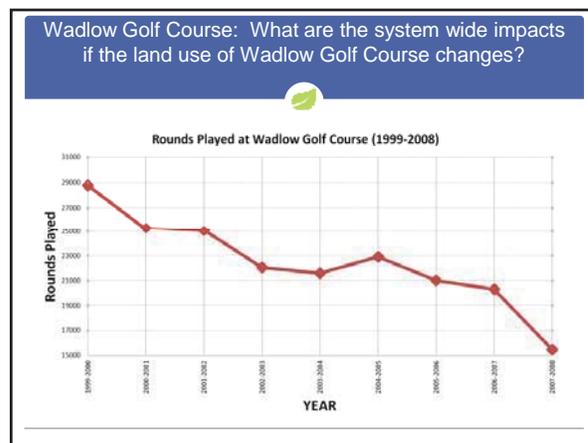
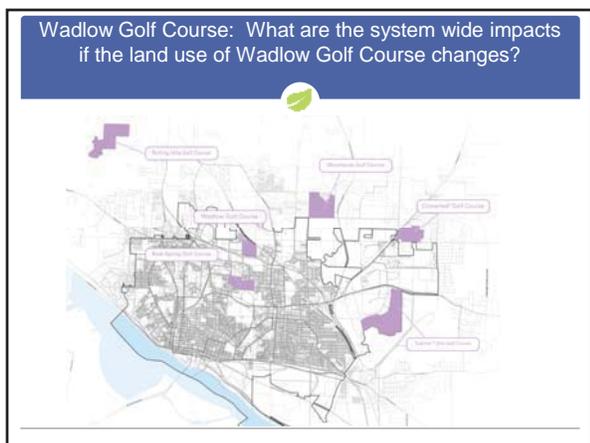
Limited Impacts:

- The City is still meeting its 2003 Comprehensive Plan Goal of 20 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.
- The City well exceeds the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines of 10 acres per 1,000 residents.
- The City well exceeds the Illinois municipal and park district average of 11.35 acres per 1,000 residents.
- The City has an excess supply of golf facilities while the demand for golf at Wadlow has steadily decreased in recent years.
- If Wadlow was converted to a neighborhood park, the service area of the park is limited with the Union Pacific rail line and Homer Adams Parkway acting as major barriers for residents to walk or bike to the park.
- If Wadlow was converted to a community park, significant investments would be needed to provide community level facilities at Wadlow. Also, input from the public and stakeholders has not indicated a high demand for community park type facilities. In addition, the City has been deeded 35 acres for future park use along Albany Road. These 35 acres could be used for future community park space if needed.

Wadlow Golf Course: What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?

Facility Type	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (Low) (a)	Recommended Benchmark or Level of Service (High) (a)	Mean Average for Park Districts and Municipal Departments (b)	Recommended Local Standard
Golf Courses				
Golf Course - Including Wadlow Golf Course	0.36 holes per 1,000 population	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	0.28 holes per 1,000 population	0.75 holes per 1,000 population
Golf Course - Excluding Wadlow Golf Course	0.36 holes per 1,000 population	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	0.28 holes per 1,000 population	0.75 holes per 1,000 population

Facility Type	Recommended Local Standard	Need Based on Alton Population (c)	Existing City of Alton Amenities / Facilities	Existing City of Alton Level of Service	Comments
Golf Courses					
Golf Course - Including Wadlow Golf Course	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	21 holes	40	1.8 holes per 1,000 population	Includes Wadlow (9 holes), West Spring (9 holes), Spencer T. Oak Man Course (18 holes), and Spencer T. Oak Training Course (3 holes).
Golf Course - Excluding Wadlow Golf Course	0.75 holes per 1,000 population	21 holes	30	1.3 holes per 1,000 population	Includes Rock Spring (9 holes), Spencer T. Oak Man Course (18 holes), and Spencer T. Oak Training Course (3 holes).



Wadlow Golf Course: What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?

Wadlow Golf Course: What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?

Wadlow Golf Course: How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?

Overall Limited Significance (Below Average Compared to Other City Parks)

Existing Park Usage: *Limited Significance*
 Accessibility (Driving): *Equal Significance*
 Accessibility (Walking/Biking): *Limited Significance*
 Infrastructure: *Limited Significance*
 Historical / Cultural: *Limited Significance*
 Views: *Limited Significance*
 Ecological Significance: *Limited Significance*
 Existing Native Trees: *Equal Significance*
 Existing Native Shrubs / Groundcover: *Limited Significance*

Wadlow Golf Course: What are residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks? How does that change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?

- Priority to Upgrade and Maintain Existing Facilities
- Demand for Golf has Declined Significantly
- Limited Priority/Demand for Community Park Type Facilities
 - If demand occurs, 35 acres available along Alby Road.

Wadlow Golf Course

If the land-use changes for Wadlow Golf Course to accommodate a high speed rail station and public / private investments, would you:

- Be supportive of development of the whole site, regardless of the type of proposed development.
- Be supportive of development if open space or park space were acquired in the future, elsewhere in Alton.
- Be supportive of partial development of the site (preserving the Wadlow stream corridor).
- Be supportive of development if the development is transit-oriented, walkable, and follows best practices for sustainable development.
- Be supportive of development with a combination of B, C, and D above.
- Not supportive of development on the site.
- Other

Current Illinois Green Infrastructure Project: Wadlow Stream Corridor Restoration. To be completed in Fall, 2012.

From the TIGER grant application: an example of future sustainable design strategies for development of the Wadlow Golf Course site. This would be an example of answer "E" to the left with a combination of green space, walkable / transit-oriented development, and sustainable development practices.

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

HEARTLANDS CONSERVANCY
 MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Next Steps

- Recommendation by Citizen Advisory Committee
- June 18th – Park Commission Meeting
- TBD – Planning Commission

***Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), Meeting #3: Notes
July 31, 2012***

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee

HeartLands Conservancy's Sustainability Planner, Stephen Ibendahl called a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee ("CAC", "the Committee") to order at 6:30 P.M., on July 31, 2012, at Alton City Hall, 101 E. Third Street, Alton, Illinois.

Members Present: Mark Hackworth, Christine Favilla, Dale Neuduker, James Dooley

Members Absent: Thomas Fleming, Orlando Panfile, Jared McCain, Scott Adams, Mike Slaughter

Ex-Officio and Guests: Rhonda Lewis, Matt Asselmeier, Phil Roggio, Greg Caffey, Tom Hoechst

First, the Committee reviewed the overall schedule for the rest of the Alton Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities Plan. There will be a public open house coming up Tuesday, August 28th from 4:30 – 6:30 PM at Alton City Hall, 101 E. Third Street, Alton, Illinois. This meeting will allow residents to review results of public engagement and recommendations made by the City and planners. A final CAC meeting will be held after the second public open house.

Next, Stephen gave an update on the Wadlow site. Wadlow has been removed from the park system by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Land use discussion related to the site will begin at the next Planning Commission meeting.

Then Stephen and the Committee discussed the Interim Draft Submittal. There was one comment from the public received by planners; a copy of that comment was handed out to Committee members. Then discussion moved to goals of the planning process and how these have changed due to public engagement/input, and how they will shape major components of the Final Plan. The goals will probably also change per comments from the remaining CAC meetings and from input gathered from residents at the second Open House. The current framework of goals to guide the final plan includes:

- Connections: Complete/green streets. The Committee discussed what streets are better options (low traffic volume and speed, wide shoulders, etc) such as Central Ave. More potentially dangerous connections may be College and Oakwood (from Delmar). It was also discussed the MCT could provide routes to connect people to parks.
- Facilities & Programs: There is a desire for more water-based recreation. Specifically, splash pads were discussed, water is filtered and fresh, and there are 2 at Riverfront Park and 1 at Gordon Moore currently.
- Communication: Improving resident's awareness of park/recreation options. It was discussed that planners have gathered data on what parks are used most frequently.
- Financial: Programs such as Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) that the City has been very successful within the past and other funding mechanisms.
- Partnering: to provide additional nature, wellness, and athletic programs
- Natural Resources: protecting the diversity and integrity of resources at the parks.

Next, the Committee participated in a Vision exercise where they voted on photos that symbolized their vision for the future of Alton's parks, recreation, and open space. Images of a bicyclist, volunteer planting, the bandstand at Riverview Park, and the amphitheater at Riverside Park were the most-oft voted for images. The Committee was then encouraged to discuss why they voted for the images they did. Respondents liked the volunteer image because the City is built on volunteer efforts; they feel they have a good volunteer base but that there is a need to have more constructive projects for volunteers to work on. Volunteers can leverage the limited resources the City has to dedicate towards parks and recreation. The bandstand was chosen because it represents the tradition of neighbors gathering to enjoy the park space and family-friendly recreation. A water feature image was chosen because water always fascinates children who a primary target of park improvements. An image of a natural landscape was chosen because there is a feeling that the City should make the most of natural features and not worry about always building facilities.

Rhonda then gave the Committee and update on the Riverview Park grant.

The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 6:30 PM at Alton City (101 E. Third St, Alton, IL). The Final report will be prepared in October. All CAC members are also encouraged to attend the next Planning Commission meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie McCreary
HeartLands Conservancy



HEARTLANDS
CONSERVANCY
Investing In The Nature Of Southwestern Illinois

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan

July 31, 2012

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda

- Review of Schedule
- Set Date of Final Public Open House
- Update on Wadlow Process
- Review of Interim Draft Submittal
- Proposed Goals to Address in Final Plan
- Review of Vision
- Update on Riverview Park Grant Application
- Next Steps
- Next Meeting
- Public Comments / Questions

Schedule

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Task 1. Public and Community Engagement							
Public Open House, Open to Public, Feedback							
Public Open House, Open to Public, Feedback							
Public Open House, Open to Public, Feedback							
Public Open House, Open to Public, Feedback							
Task 2. Document Existing Conditions and Facilities							
Document existing conditions including open space, neighborhood parks, recreation paths, recreational facilities and services, special use areas, and other parks and open space.							
Task 3. Needs Assessment and Service Areas							
Identify existing and potential parks, recreational facilities, and other parks and open space.							
Identify existing and potential parks, recreational facilities, and other parks and open space.							
Task 4. Open Space Plan and Recommendations							
Develop an open space plan and recommendations.							
Develop an open space plan and recommendations.							
Develop an open space plan and recommendations.							

↑ We Are Here

Update on Wadlow Process

- June 5 – Citizens Advisory Committee:
Voted to recommend to remove Wadlow from the City's Parks and Recreation system in anticipation of a sustainable development.
- June 18 – Parks and Recreation Commission:
Voted to remove Wadlow from the City's Parks and Recreation system.
- June 27 – City Council:
Voted to remove in its entirety the land on which the former Robert P. Wadlow Golf Course existed from the inventory of the Alton Park and Recreation system.
- August 7 – 1st Planning Commission Meeting
- August 21 – 2nd Planning Commission Meeting

Second Public Open House

Agenda:

- Present Results of the Survey
- Present Top Priorities
- Present Vision/Goals/Recommendations

Get Input:

- Vision/Goals/Recommendations
- Park Bike/Trail Connections
- Priorities

Second Public Open House

Possible Dates:
August 22 (Wed)
August 28 (Tues)
August 29 (Wed)

4:30 – 6:30 PM (City Hall)

Interim Draft Submittal

- Overall Parks, Open Space, Recreation Plan
 - Interim Draft of Chapters 1-6 was Posted on City Website
 - Public Comment Period from June 7 - July 2
- Public Comments
- Other Committee Comments

Goals of the Planning Study

• Questions to be Analyzed during the Planning Process

- How does the City compare with NRPA guidelines for Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities.
- What are the existing service areas for facilities within the City? Are areas of the City underserved?
- What are the system wide impacts if the land use of Wadlow Golf Course changes?
- How significant is Wadlow Golf Course compared to other golf courses, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the City?
- What are residents' vision, needs, wants, and priorities for Parks? How does that change if the land use for Wadlow Golf Course changes?

Public Engagement – Online Questionnaire from May 22 – June 4

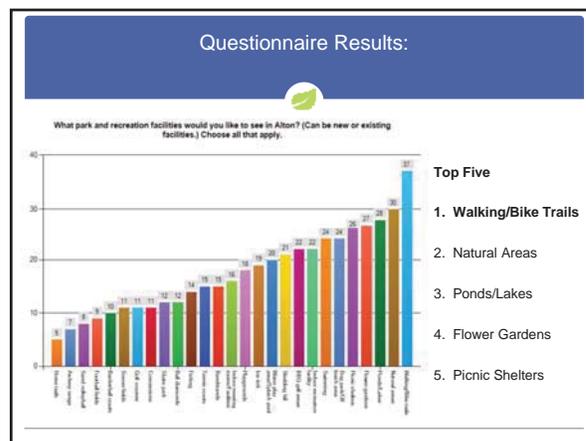
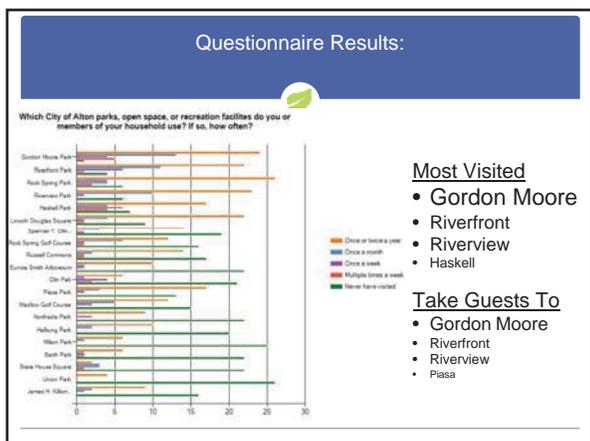
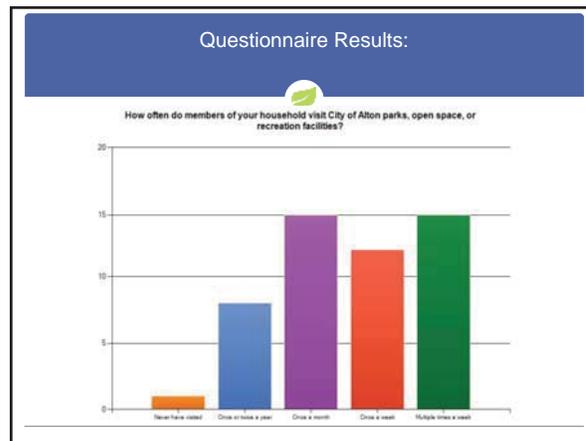
Where do YOU play? Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan Survey

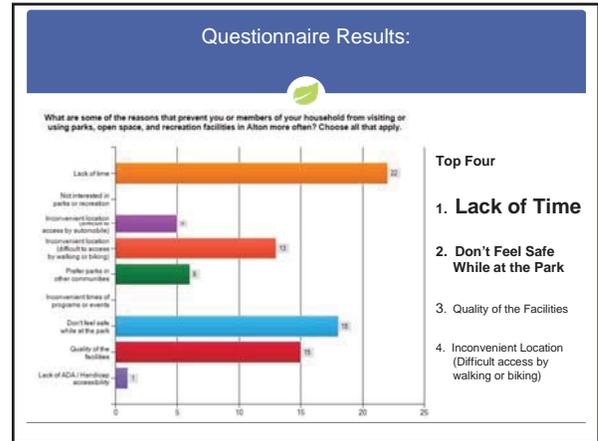
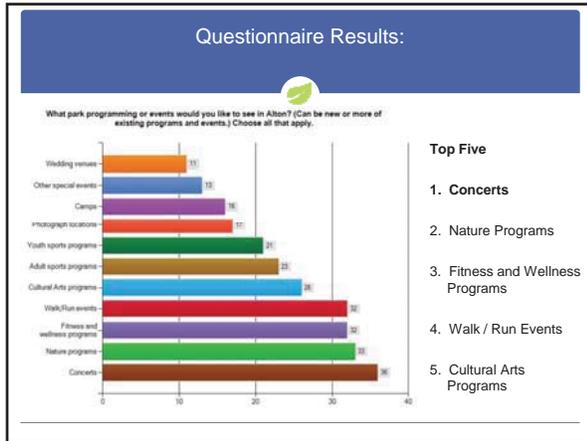
This survey is to help with the planning process of the Alton parks, open space, and recreation facilities management plan. These questions will be similar to the questions at the May 20th Open House. The results will be available on July 31st.

1. Where do you live and work? (Choose one)

2. How often do members of your household visit City of Alton parks, open space, or recreation facilities?

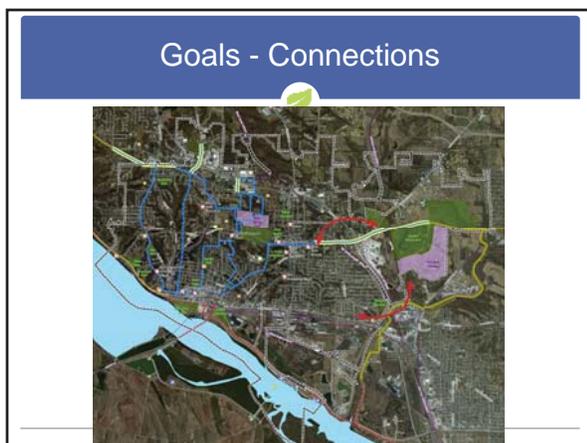
3. Which City of Alton parks, open space, or recreation facilities do you or members of your household visit? If so, how often?





- ### Proposed Goals - Categories
1. Connections
 2. Facilities / Programs
 3. Communications
 4. Partnering
 5. Financial
 6. Natural Resources

- ### Goals - Connections
- Parks, open space, and playground facilities should be within walking distance for all residents.
 - Provide bike/pedestrian connections to all parks.
 - Provide increased bike/pedestrian connections to Gordon Moore.
 - Increase access to the Mississippi River.



Complete / Green Streets

Short Term Intermediate Long Term

This collage illustrates various stages of street improvement for bicycles. The 'Short Term' section shows a yellow pedestrian crossing sign and a green bicycle sign. The 'Intermediate' section features a 'BIKE STREET' sign with a bicycle icon and a list of destinations: Lafayette Square, Riverside Market, Cedar Runway Market, and Bluffport Exit. The 'Long Term' section includes images of a paved path, a person riding a bicycle, and a construction site for a new path.

Connections – West

This slide shows a network of bicycle routes in the western part of the city. It includes an aerial map with blue and green lines indicating routes, and three street-level photographs showing road conditions, utility poles, and trees.

Connections – East

This slide displays bicycle routes in the eastern part of the city. It features an aerial map with red and green lines and a photograph of a large body of water, likely a reservoir or lake.

Connections – Conflict Areas

This slide shows an aerial map of the city with several red circles highlighting specific areas of conflict or concern for bicycle routes. The map also shows various colored lines representing different types of bicycle paths.

Connections – Walkable Parks

This slide presents a map of the city with various colored overlays (orange, green, blue) indicating different zones or parks. A blue line representing a waterway is visible on the left side of the map.

Walkable Parks – SE Alton

This slide provides a detailed map of the SE Alton area, showing a dense grid of streets and buildings. It features colored overlays (orange, blue, red) and two red circles highlighting specific locations of interest.

Walkable Parks – SE Alton

This slide features a map of SE Alton with red arrows pointing to specific park locations. To the right of the map are two photographs: the top one shows a playground with a swing set, and the bottom one shows a fenced-in area with a splash pad.

Walkable Parks – SE Alton

This slide features a map of SE Alton with red arrows pointing to specific park locations. To the right of the map are two photographs: the top one shows a dirt path through a wooded area, and the bottom one shows a fenced-in area with a splash pad.

Goals - Facilities / Programs

- Focus on maintaining existing parks and facilities and not increasing parks and facilities.
- Increase paths and walking trails within existing parks.
- Look for opportunities for additional natural areas within existing parks.
- Evaluate further swimming pool/splash fountains/aquatic facilities.
- Evaluate further indoor recreational facility.

Goals - Communication

- Celebrate the successes of the park system.
- As part of bike/ped connections to parks, install wayfinding/interpretive signage.
- Create systemwide map of parks and connections.
- Work with partners and stakeholders to communicate park programs, events, successes.
- Look for opportunities within existing city communications to increase park awareness.
- Prioritize improvements to communicate progress.

Goals - Financial

- Continue to successfully leverage grant programs such as OSLAD.
- Continue partnerships with stakeholder, civic groups, and volunteers to leverage available resources. Look for increased opportunities.
- Evaluate opportunities to decrease maintenance cost:
 - Converting mowed areas to natural areas.
- Promote the value of the park system in economic development and tourism.

Goals - Partnering

- Continue partnerships with stakeholder, civic groups, and volunteers to leverage available resources.
- Before starting new programs, find partners for collaboration.
 - ie: Nature Programs, Wellness Programs
- Consider opportunities for increased communication and partnering with other Riverbend communities:
 - Athletic Tournaments
 - Programs

Goals – Natural Resources

- Look for opportunities for additional natural areas within existing parks.
- Connect residents to natural resources both within parks and outside of parks (ie connections to Mississippi River).
- Utilize the regional 'Ecological Significance' data in planning and decision making.
- Leverage "green infrastructure" opportunities.

Vision Statement / Exercise

"City Parks Create Brighter Future"

"Did the Planning Committee Get it Right?"

"Alton Parks: Continue to Over Serve the Needs of Residents"

"Neighborhood Groups Protecting Parks"

"Park Success Linked with Trails and Greenways"

"The Green Plan That Worked!"

"Residents, Community Leaders and Officials Carry Out Balanced Park Plan"

Vision Statement / Exercise



Update on Riverview Grant

- Update on Riverview Park Grant

Next Steps

- Public Open House – Late August
- Draft Final Report – September
- Public Comment Period – September
- Final CAC Meeting – Late September (25th?)
- Final Report - October

***Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), Meeting #4: Notes
September 25, 2012***

Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee

HeartLands Conservancy's Sustainability Planner, Stephen Ibendahl called a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee ("CAC", "the Committee") to order at 6:35 P.M., on September 25th, at Alton City Hall, 101 E. Third Street, Alton, Illinois.

Members Present: Scott Adams, Mark Hackworth, Jared McCain, Orlando Panfile, Thomas Fleming, Mike Slaughter

Members Absent: Christine Favilla, Dale Neuduker, James Dooley

Ex-Officio and Guests: Rhonda Lewis, Matt Asselmeier, Phil Roggio, Tom Hoechst

Stephen gave the Committee an update on the Wadlow Process. In the summer (2012), the City removed the Wadlow property from the City's Park & Recreation system. The City and planners are now working on zoning for the property. The next meeting related to the Wadlow site will be a Plan Commission Meeting on October 16, 2012.

The Committee was then briefed on the outcomes of the second open house for the Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan. A questionnaire was provided for attendees at the second open house to fill out.

- A Vision Statement, based on feedback from the 3rd CAC meeting, was presented at the Open House. Questionnaire responses indicate that 76% of attendees at the open house agreed with the Vision Statement presented.
- Recommendations (see below) were also presented to the public at the open house. 83% of attendees agreed with the recommendations for the future of Alton's parks, open space, and recreation facilities.
 - Connections: Complete/green streets. The Committee discussed what streets are better options (low traffic volume and speed, wide shoulders, etc) such as Central Ave. More potentially dangerous connections may be College and Oakwood (from Delmar). It was also discussed that MCT could provide routes to connect people to parks.
 - Facilities & Programs: There is a desire for more water-based recreation. Specifically, splash pads were discussed, water is filtered and fresh, and there are 2 at Riverfront Park and 1 at Gordon Moore currently.
 - Communication: Improving resident's awareness of park/recreation options. It was discussed that planners have gathered data on what parks are used most frequently.
 - Financial: Programs such as Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) that the City has been very successful within the past and other funding mechanisms.
 - Partnering: to provide additional nature, wellness, and athletic programs
 - Natural Resources: protecting the diversity and integrity of resources at the parks.

- Green Street corridors were presented at the open house. Based on feedback from attendees, the green street corridor recommendations were updated to include additional corridors in the northern part of the City and Seminary St.
- The concept of Park Service Areas was also presented at the public open house, and with that, prioritized areas of need for future park development. The final plan will include some preliminary recommendations for parcels that may be used to provide open space/recreation facilities in these service area gaps (e.g., existing school playground, revitalize vacant lot).
- Facilities & Programs were also included at the second open house. According to questionnaire responses, most residents feel that splash pads would meet the aquatic needs of the City. Additionally, attendees to the second open house felt that an indoor recreation center (which could include a fitness/lap pool) is desired.
 - Currently, residents are using private pools or health clubs or the YW/MCA to meet their aquatic and indoor recreation needs
 - These components (pool, indoor recreation center) are major investments, but desire is there for these facilities.

The planners also discussed the importance of the communication recommendation: to highlight successes of the park system and utilize existing channels of communication (e.g. the city website and newsletter) to communicate park locations and program offerings.

The Final Report will soon be available for comment. Next, the City will be able to formally adopt the plan. An annual review of the Alton Park, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan was suggested, with this possible being done by the group that has served as the CAC during the planning process.

There was some discussion about how to get residents safely out to Gordon Moore either by bike or walking. MEPRD has drafted a bike-ped corridor, although it is not a direct route. The green streets recommendation includes a more direct route although there are potential conflicts highlighted along the route (i.e., high speed and volumes of traffic). Planners established that the lesson learned from Gordon Moore is to pay attention to bike-able/walk-able routes when establishing new park locations (e.g., future park property in northern Alton).

The Committee also raised concern towards the current maintenance of the former Wadlow site. Stephen informed the Committee that there will be additional plantings (seedlings, trees, shrubs) this fall as part of the IGIG project at the property. Rhonda let the Committee know that the Parks Dept will continue to maintain the site to their best ability (e.g., mow, remove dead trees).

The planners at HeartLands Conservancy extended a sincere thank you to the CAC members and city officials who dedicated their time and energy to the Alton Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Management Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie McCreary
HeartLands Conservancy