

City of Belleville

Parks, Recreation and Greenways Master Plan



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Mission Statement

To be committed to wholesome, family oriented recreation in a fiscally responsible manner that interprets the culture and history of the community while expanding recreation opportunities in a healthy and safe environment for all generations of City residents.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Citywide Parks & Facilities Master Plan will function as the City of Belleville's system-wide recreation plan for the twenty-year period beginning in 2008. As such, it will become the Recreation section of the City of Belleville Comprehensive Plan upon adoption.

1.1 Recreation System Master Plan

A system-wide recreation master plan is a reflection of the city's goals, needs and priorities for the provision of land for recreation, recreation facilities, and various types of recreation and leisure programs. As such, the plan serves as a local policy and a guide for the decision-making process by addressing the quality, quantity and location of recreational opportunities required to meet the needs of present and future residents of the City of Belleville.

This system-wide recreation master plan seeks to achieve a balance between the benefits of providing public parks, facilities and programs and the costs of their development and operation. This is accomplished by considering the interests of stakeholders in the planning process – residents of the City of Belleville (users), professional staff from the Parks and Recreation Department (PRD), appropriate private sector stakeholders and elected officials. Consensus among stakeholders is critical to the ultimate success of this Plan. To achieve consensus, meetings were held with the public, surveys were administered and evaluated, interviews were conducted and workshops were held. In this way the interests and desires of all stakeholder groups was elicited.

As its end result, the system-wide recreation master plan presents the analysis of community needs and demand for parks, facilities and programs as the rationale for recommendations that can realistically be implemented within the planning period. These recommendations include an assessment of financial implications of plan implementation. Addressing recreation in a broad, holistic manner, the Plan assesses both the active and passive recreational needs of the city. Recommendations include the needs for land acquisition, improvements to existing recreation sites, development of new parks and facilities, and development of greenway trails and linkages.

1.2 Planning Approach

There are four methods that can be utilized to accomplish preparation of a system-wide recreation master plan. Each method places an emphasis on a different aspect of the physical and social characteristics of a city. These methods are commonly referred to as the resource, activity, economic, and behavioral methods.

The resource method emphasizes the resource instead of the user, and physical and natural resources are used to determine the types and quantities of recreation



opportunities. This technique is most effective in areas where there are well-defined resources such as greenspace requiring protection.

The activity method relies on past participation in recreational activities as a determinant for provision of future opportunities. This technique is effective when applied to a homogeneous population base in cities and counties with populations under 50,000, but tends to result in recommending more of the same type of facilities.

The economic method is weighted such that a city's economic base and fiscal resources determine the quantity, type and location of recreation facilities. Economic factors are more important than social or natural factors, and this method is most effective in moderate size and larger jurisdictions having diverse populations.

The behavioral method focuses on recreation as an experience. Human behavior and events influence choices as to how, where and when people use leisure time. This methodology is weighted toward public participation and leisure surveys as part of the planning process and is effective in urban and urbanizing areas.

Typically, a combination of methods using the positive aspects of two or more is successful when applied to cities that have experienced rapid growth, have become more densely developed and possess significant recreational resources. Based upon the City of Belleville's demographics, physical character and the type of parks and facilities that comprise the recreation system, a combination of the economic and behavioral methods are deemed an appropriate technique for developing the Citywide Parks & Facilities Master Plan. The Plan also utilizes aspects of the resource method when considering unique natural resource areas, green space, trails and linkages.



2.0 PLANNING PROCESS

The recreation system master planning process consists of four steps – a needs assessment, benchmarking, formulation of recommendations and the definition of a realistic financing and implementation program.

2.1 Needs Assessment

The needs assessment consists of developing and administering the public input mechanism, conducting an inventory of Belleville parks, facilities and programs, preparing a community profile with design populations, and determining standards for parks acreage and facilities to factor with population projections and result in “Belleville-Specific” needs determination for parkland and facilities.

2.2 Benchmarking

Subsequent to developing the needs assessment, the resulting standards for acreage and facilities were compared with those of adjacent communities. In this, the benchmarking aspect of the Plan, further comparisons are made to determine to what extent Belleville resident’s needs are met by city parks and facilities, and if it is necessary and possible to utilize other public, quasi-public, educational, cultural and private facilities to address some of these needs.

2.3 Recommendations

The recommendations section includes an overall vision for the city’s recreation system, goals and objectives, and recommendations for land acquisition, improvements or retrofitting of existing parks and facilities, and development of new parks, trails and linkages. In addition, the Plan contains recommendations for programs and services delivery and addresses system-wide maintenance needs throughout the planning period.

2.4 Financing and Implementation

The financing and implementation section of a system-wide recreation master plan presents order-of-magnitude cost estimates for recommended improvements, identifies funding opportunities, matches projects with the appropriate funding mechanism(s) and develops both a short-range (five-year) and long range (ten-year) implementation program.



3.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The community profile examines the Belleville community in terms of demographic and related data, including reference to planning documents that have been prepared that are of relevance to the recreation planning process. Demographic characteristics of the city are presented in order to obtain a picture of the city's population and age structure. Review of the city's comprehensive land use plan provides an overview of both past and anticipated future city development and is presented to build an understanding of the appropriate location for future recreational facilities with respect to residential concentrations. Finally, the community assessment includes planning-level population projections for the twenty-year planning period which are used to develop the recreation needs assessment.

The City of Belleville, established in 1814, is the county seat of St. Claire County. Near the edge of Illinois, Belleville is located just ten miles southeast of East St. Louis. Belleville occupies a land area of approximately 19 square miles and is the thirty-sixth largest city in the State by population according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

3.1 Population

The 2006 U.S. Census estimate placed the Belleville population at 41,095. This estimated population is down from the 2000 U.S. Census count of 41,410. According to the Census counts each decade, the population of Belleville has experienced an average decline since 1980 of 0.05% per year. Statistically, this average population decline is equivalent to stagnant population and is marginally less than the annual decline of 0.1% occurring within St. Claire County. In actuality, the population of Belleville grew by approximately 3.5% from 1980 to 1990 and then declined by 3.9% from 1990 to 2000, resulting in a net population loss of 170 persons over the twenty-year period. Although the Census Bureau has estimated continued population decline of 315 persons between 2000 and 2006, consideration of local information such as the numbers of building permits issued each year and the number of lots platted suggests population is increasing within the City.

In addition, data is provided in the Population Projections section that supports the City's position of a population increase. In addition, to verify the population increase, the City has contracted with the U.S. Census to perform a Special Census, which should be performed and completed in 2008.

3.2 Age Distribution

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the median age of Belleville residents was 37. At that time, 25.9% of the population was under the age of 19, and 17.2% of the population was 65 or older. In comparison with the overall State of Illinois statistics, Belleville residents are somewhat older (Illinois year 2000 median age was 34.7, and in Illinois 12.1% of the population was 65 or older).



Anticipated changes in the age cohort constitution of the population are based on age distribution forecasts that have been projected for the various age groups through the year 2030. The following observations are of relevance to the recreation planning process:

- In 2000, approximately 58 percent of the city's population was of working age (20-64 years). This number should decrease slightly to 55 percent by 2030.
- In 2000, approximately 19% of the population was between the ages of 5 and 19. The number in this age group is anticipated to grow in the short term and then remain at a stable rate into the long-term future.
- The largest age group in 2000 was the 35-44 year cohort, followed closely by the 25-34 and the 45-54 year cohorts, respectively.
- The Belleville population is comprised of approximately 53% females and 47% males, a statistic that has remained constant since 1980 and is anticipated to continue into the future.

The implication of age distribution on the recreation planning process is significant, as changes in the age structure of the community should be reflected in program offerings and service delivery.

Through 2030, the 20-64 year cohort will continue to be the largest segment of the population. These individuals are the primary participants in adult sports programs. Within this grouping, the 45 to 64 year age group (26 percent) represents those that have an increasing interest in non-sports programs, cultural arts and in passive-use activities.

The next largest cohort grouping with 27 percent of the total population will be the group under age 20. This preschool and school age population is the principal age group that participates in programmed youth athletics, and it is anticipated to remain at a steady rate or increase slightly over time.

The 65 and over age group is 17% of the Belleville population according to the 2000 census. The recreational focus of these individuals also includes passive-use activities and cultural arts, as well as a specific emphasis on participation in senior citizen programs.

3.3 Race And Ethnicity

The 2000 U. S. Census indicated that 82.8% of the population identified themselves as white, 16.1% as African-American, and 1.6% Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. In future years, it is anticipated that minority groups will increase in the share of total city population, though not dramatically.

Recreation needs and demand can vary based upon race and ethnicity. The racial and ethnic character of the Belleville population will be considered in developing recommendations for both active and passive recreational opportunities.



3.4 Income

According to the 2000 U. S. Census, the per capita income for Belleville was \$18,990, above that of St. Claire County (\$18,932), but lower than the state of Illinois (\$23,104) and the United States (\$21,587). Median household income was \$35,979 and median family income was \$46,426. Nine percent of Belleville families had incomes below the poverty level in 2000.

3.5 Educational Attainment

In 2000, 27% of Belleville residents possessed a college degree, and 6% held post-graduate degrees. In 1990, 23% of residents possessed a college degree, and 5% held post-graduate degrees. This change represented a 12% increase in the total number of people possessing a degree during a period of declining population.

Educational levels of the population can be a determinant of the type of recreational opportunities desired. The educational attainment of a city's population can also be an indication of the type of recreation facilities and programs that should be provided.

As educational attainment levels continue to increase, it is typical for participation in arts, cultural and environmental programs to increase, indicating that expanded programs in these areas are likely to be supported.

3.6 Population Projections 2008 – 2030

This Plan covers the twenty-year period from 2008 to 2028 with projections through 2030 to align with the decennial census schedule. The recommendations contained in this Plan for future park acreage and facilities needs are based upon target-year population projections. To prepare this Plan, population projections are necessary for years 2008 (a current estimate to determine present surpluses/deficiencies), 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025 and 2030.

To determine current surpluses or deficiencies, the year 2008 population estimate is applied to both the acreage and facilities standards developed in the modified needs assessment. The determination of future needs utilizes the design populations for the remaining five-year periods through the year 2030. As it is intended that this Plan will be reviewed every five years and updated accordingly, the projections for 2010-2030 are of primary importance to the recreation planning process.

As presented previously, several planning documents have been prepared for the City that present demographic data and include future population projections. The most recent citywide plan is the 2000 Comprehensive Plan, which presents and uses historical data to project future populations. Using the most recent population estimates and projections provided by the U.S. Census in addition to county-level projections prepared by the State of Illinois, new population projections have been prepared by MACTEC using four different methodologies. Comparing the results of multiple



methodologies provides the opportunity to explore the most likely growth scenarios occurring within the City limits.

The four methodologies or models used are the Share Ratio Trend, Average Annual Growth Rate, Straight Line Trend, and Forecasting (using historical trends).

Of the four methods used, the Share Ratio Trend, determined as a trend-based share of the St. Claire County population projections from the U.S. Census Bureau, will serve as the base projection method for recreation needs assessment and for determining age cohorts. This method is more closely aligned with population estimates reported in the “What a Difference A Few years Makes... (2006)” presentation and City of Belleville reporting of the number of residential building permits issued between 2000 and 2006. These population projections, rounded to the nearest hundred, are as follows:

- 45,700 – 2008 (base year)
- 46,200 – 2010
- 47,700 – 2015
- 49,000 – 2020
- 50,300 – 2025
- 51,500 – 2030

The remaining three methodologies should be considered as reference only. All methods are presented below.

3.7 Share Ratio Trend

In 1970, the city’s population was 14.6% of the total St. Claire County population. This ratio of city population to total county population was 15.5% in 1980 and increased again in 1990 to 16.4%. In 2000, there was only a very slight increase in the share of population in the city. Projecting historic trends forward, the city could be expected to increase its share of the total county population by approximately 0.6% each ten years, yielding a city population in the year 2030 that is 18.25% of the total county population. This trend is illustrated in Tables 1 and 2 below. County population projections for years 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025 and 2030 were provided by the US Census State Interim Population Projections by Age and Sex: 2004 – 2030 (note: the U.S. Census Bureau does not prepare similar population projections for geographic areas smaller than counties).

Table 1: Historical Population Share Ratios, 1970-2000

Place	1970	1980	1990	2000
St. Clair County	285,176	267,531	262,756	256,188
City of Belleville	41,699	41,580	43,058	42,105
City Population as % of County Population	14.62%	15.54%	16.39%	16.44%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity with calculations by MACTEC.



Table 2: Projected Population by Share Ratio Trend, 2008-2030

Place	2008	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
*St. Clair County	270,020	*271,255	*275,042	*277,971	*280,151	*282,091
City of Belleville	45,687	46,222	47,695	49,025	50,287	51,482
City Population as % of County Population	16.92%	17.04%	17.34%	17.64%	17.95%	18.25%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. The City-level projections have been computed by MACTEC using a ratio of City population to County population with 2000 Census as a basis or as noted below (*).

*Denotes US Census State Interim Population Projections by Age and Sex: 2004 – 2030.

3.8 Average Annual Growth Rate

The Average Annual Growth Rate method produces future population estimates by using historical annual growth rates. Projections have been provided for both County and City populations using the average annual population growth rate for years 2000-2006. These rates are 0.31% and -0.40%, respectively. This method projects an overall decline in city population of 8.4% or 3,441 people for the planning period. The results of this method may change with completion of the 2007 Special Census. The percentage share of city to county population is also shown for reference in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3: Population Estimates by Average Annual Growth Rate, 2000-2007

Place	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
St. Clair County	256,188	255,985	257,177	258,104	258,739	259,388	260,919	261,650
City of Belleville	42,105	41,893	41,832	41,669	41,367	41,019	41,095	40,931
City Population as % of County Population	16.4%	16.4%	16.3%	16.1%	16.0%	15.8%	15.8%	15.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The County and City-level projections have been computed by MACTEC using the average annual growth rate with the 2000-2006 Census estimate as a basis.

Table 4: Projected Population Estimates by Average Annual Growth Rate, 2008-2030

Place	2008	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
St. Clair County	262,382	263,854	267,568	271,335	275,155	279,029
City of Belleville	40,767	40,441	39,639	38,853	38,082	37,326
City Population as % of County Population	15.5%	15.3%	14.8%	14.3%	13.8%	13.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The County and City-level projections have been computed by MACTEC using the average annual growth rate with the 2000-2006 Census estimate as a basis.

3.9 Straight Line Trend and Exponential Growth Methods

The Straight Line Trend and Exponential Growth methods project population estimates by using historical data. The Straight Line Trend method predicts future populations along a mathematical straight line. The Exponential Growth method predicts future populations along a mathematical curved line. The results of these two methods are illustrated below in Tables 5 and 6. When the two methods are compared, the ending population years are similar with a variation of approximately 600 people. The population projections for the middle years, 2010-2025 may vary by as many as 2,800 people. Each method considers increases and decreases over time in population.



These two formulas required the use of City population estimates from 1960-2005. The City share of County population is provided for comparison.

Table 5: Straight Line Trend Population Projections, 2000-2030

Population Estimates	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
St. Claire County	256,532	259,388	251,306	247,052	247,903	238,544	243,649
City of Belleville	41,410	41,019	41,846	39,495	42,079	38,500	41,489
City Population as % of County Population	16.1%	15.8%	16.7%	16.0%	17.0%	16.1%	17.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. The County and City-level projections have been computed by MACTEC using the Straight Line Trend method using population estimates from U.S. Census for years 1960-2005.

Table 6: Exponential Growth Population Projections, 2000-2030

Population Estimates	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
St. Claire County	256,532	259,388	257,254	251,035	251,099	249,328	247,450
City of Belleville	41,410	41,019	42,718	42,011	41,967	41,718	42,177
City Population as % of County Population	16.1%	15.8%	16.6%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	17.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. The County and City-level projections have been computed by MACTEC using the Exponential Growth method using population estimates from U.S. Census for years 1960-2005.

3.10 Summary Table of Projection Methods

Table 7 provides a summary of all projection methods for comparison.

Table 7: Summary Results of Methods Used to Project Population Estimates

Population Estimates	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
City of Belleville-Share Ratio Trend	41,410	43,414	46,222	47,695	49,025	50,287	51,482
City of Belleville-Annual Growth Rate	41,410	41,019	40,441	39,639	38,853	38,082	37,326
City of Belleville-Straight Line Trend	41,410	41,019	42,653	41,989	41,934	41,669	42,117
City of Belleville-Exponential Growth	41,410	41,019	42,718	42,011	41,967	41,718	42,177

Source: Tables 1 through 6.

3.11 Historical and Projected Population by Sex and Age

Table 8 below provides population makeup projections by sex and age cohorts for plan years 2005-2030. The percentage makeup of males and females in the population has remained relatively constant since 1980 with males comprising approximately 47 percent and females 53 percent of the population. The percentage makeup of these groups has also remained relatively constant from 1980 to 2000. Therefore, the 2000 U.S. Census percentage makeup for sex and age cohorts has been used to project the respective makeup of the population using projections from the Share Ratio Trend method.



Table 8: Historical and Projected Population by Age Cohort- City of Belleville

	2000 (Census)	% Makeup	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total Population	41,410	100%	43,737	46,222	47,695	49,025	50,287	51,482
Total Male Population	19,486	47%	20,556	21,724	22,417	23,042	23,635	24,197
Total Female Population	21,924	53%	23,181	24,498	25,278	25,983	26,652	27,285
Under 5 Years	2,556	6%	2,773	2,862	2,942	3,017	3,089	2,773
5 to 9 Years	2,651	6%	2,773	2,862	2,942	3,017	3,089	2,773
10 to 14 Years	2,843	7%	3,236	3,339	3,432	3,520	3,604	3,236
15 to 19 Years	2,669	6%	2,773	2,862	2,942	3,017	3,089	2,773
20 to 24 Years	2,732	7%	3,236	3,339	3,432	3,520	3,604	3,236
25 to 34 Years	5,834	14%	6,471	6,677	6,864	7,040	7,207	6,471
35 to 44 Years	6,693	16%	7,396	7,631	7,844	8,046	8,237	7,396
45 to 54 Years	5,181	13%	6,009	6,200	6,373	6,537	6,693	6,009
55 to 59 Years	1,650	4%	1,849	1,908	1,961	2,011	2,059	1,849
60 to 64 Years	1,495	4%	1,849	1,908	1,961	2,011	2,059	1,849
65 to 74 Years	3,229	8%	3,698	3,816	3,922	4,023	4,119	3,698
75 to 84 Years	2,655	6%	2,773	2,862	2,942	3,017	3,089	2,773
85+ Years	1,222	3%	1,387	1,431	1,471	1,509	1,544	1,387

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. The City-level projections have been computed by MACTEC using a share ratio trend method of City population to County population with 2000 Census as a basis.

3.12 Citywide Growth Trends

The City has experienced an increase in new home and commercial construction during the last five years. This trend is expected to continue as the City pursues development and annexation opportunities within and adjacent to city limits. The City is linear in nature and oriented northwest to southeast along IL 15. The City is bordered on the northeast side by the townships of Canteen, Caseyville, St. Claire and Shiloh Valley. The City is bordered by St. Claire County, Stookey, and Canteen to the southwest. The southeastern boundary of the City of East St. Louis is the only city boundary that touches Belleville’s city boundary.

The 2000-2020 Comprehensive Plan update, Development Trends and Growth Projections, suggests that residential growth will outpace commercial development in and around the city limits. As many as 8,000 new residents are projected to locate in new developments to the southwest and northeast of the city. Many of these new developments would need to annex into the City. As the population grows and if the



development trends are accurate, the City will broaden its linear shape to include areas to the northeast and southwest.

Areas expected to experience commercial growth are smaller in area and in quantity. Many of the areas are also outside the 2000 city limits boundary and would require annexation. However, since 2000, many new, large developments have occurred such as Greenmount Commons with Lowes and Walmart, Belleville Crossing with Target, the Oliver C. Joseph Chrysler-Dodge dealership, and the Wagner Buick-Pontiac dealership.



4.0 PLANNING DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

4.1 Comprehensive Plan

The *Belleville Comprehensive Plan 2000-2020* was prepared to help guide the decision-making process concerning land use and development, annexation, infrastructure, cultural and recreational facilities, community services, and capital expenditures. The plan includes a community assessment, a neighborhood opinion survey and Plan recommendations. The plan is expected to be updated at a minimum of every 5 years.

Identified within the plan are several issues pertaining to greenways, open space and the recreation system, including: a lack of large recreational space and opportunities per NRPA standards, the limited contribution of pocket or mini parks to the overall system, and the absence of a comprehensive Greenway plan.

The plan advances the following goals of relevance to recreation:

- Acquire 500 acres for City-owned parkland, 100 acres or more should be developed into a large community park,
- New parks should be dispersed, on large sites (minimum 7-10 acres), and contain active and passive facilities,
- Eliminate the “mini” parks that do not contribute to the recreation system,
- Establish a comprehensive Greenway network plan,
- Expand and foster public-private partnerships to expand and maintain the recreation system,
- Implement zoning for conservation subdivisions,
- Establish links to the MetroLink and MetroLink BikeLink.

4.2 MetroLink Station Plans (1998-1999)

There are three operating MetroLink Stations within the Belleville municipal limits. From west to east, these stations are Memorial Hospital, Belleville, and College (SWIC). The Belleville station is adjacent to the proposed Scheel Street housing and commercial development. All of these stations were planned in the late 1990's as part of the MetroLink's planned expansion of MetroLink from East St. Louis to Scott Air Force Base.

4.3 The Scheel Street Housing and Commercial Development

In the early 2000's, Belleville began exploring a housing and commercial development associated with the Belleville MetroLink Station near Scheel Street. This is a 45-acre tract of land one mile northeast of the public square. The current proposal calls for apartments, townhomes, a 3800-square foot clubhouse/ leasing office, and 5000 square feet of commercial space. The project has taken several years to develop. Construction has not yet begun.



4.4 West Belleville Bike Trail Plan

The City of Belleville is working with a consultant to develop a plan for the West Belleville Bike Trail. This trail would run from the intersection of Frank Scott Parkway and West Main Street to Signal Hill Park. This planned connection would run along an old railroad bed for part of its length and then along Foley Drive. Formal designs for this trail have yet to begin as of the writing of this parks master plan report.

Associated with this plan is the development of a plan for a trail connection between Citizens Park and Bellevue Park. This planned connection would run along an abandoned railroad bed that exists between the two parks. The first phase of grant applications for design and development of this trail is expected to begin in Spring 2008.

4.5 North Municipal Gateway / Trail Interconnect Interface Plan

In 2001, the City of Belleville developed a trail connection across IL 159. This trail was developed to connect Skateboard Park to North End Park.

4.6 Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2003-2008

The Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was prepared to guide the conservation and development of Illinois' outdoor recreation resources. The ultimate goal is to provide parks and open space systems that are resource-compatible and serve the needs of all citizens. The plan supports the use of local parks and schools to deliver recreational opportunities to communities. The plan also references three local-level initiatives that communities are encouraged to support through action. They are:

Adaptive Reuse and Redevelopment of Urban Lands:

This idea reverses the impact between urban growth and the loss of open space and natural resources by encouraging the reuse or redevelopment of land.

Local Planning and Coordination:

Planning and coordination can increase the extent and diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities by combining the resources of multiple governmental jurisdictions.

Basic Facilities:

Open space alone cannot meet all outdoor recreation needs. Basic outdoor recreation facilities such as parking and restrooms are essential for most outdoor activities.



4.7 Metro East Park and Recreation District

The Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) was approved by voters in November 2000. The core responsibilities of the District include improving water quality, increasing park safety, providing neighborhood trails, improving, restoring, and expanding Parks, providing disabled and expanded public access to recreational areas, preserving natural lands for wildlife, and maintaining other recreation grounds within the boundaries of the Metro-East Park and Recreation District. Currently, these boundaries include Madison and St. Claire Counties.

The District supplements the efforts of local governments, special districts, and other jurisdictions already engaged in the management of parks and recreational facilities. The District is also responsible for the management and distribution of the Metro-East Park and Recreation District Retailers' Occupation Tax. This tax is a 1/10 percent sales tax that is applied toward the creation of and improvements to parks and trails. 50% of the revenue goes to the Metro-East Park and Recreation District and 50% of the revenue is returned to the county from which the tax was collected.

4.8 National Recreation and Parks Association

The National Recreation and Parks Association provides guidelines for recreational planning and management. Many of the common national guidelines are referenced in this plan.



5.0 INVENTORY OF PARKS, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

5.1 Definitions

Throughout this Plan, terms relating to the recreation system are used to describe recreational resources. Some, or all, of these definitions could be modified as part of the needs assessment process. Definitions for the common terms are defined below:

- **Athletic Complex** - A recreation site devoted in its entirety to programmed athletic fields and support activities.
- **Community Park** - The principal unit of the recreation system, the community park meets a broader range of active, passive and programmed athletic needs and serves a large geographic segment of the community.
- **Indoor Facility** - A recreation center, community center or other facility devoted to meeting singular or multiple active and/or passive needs. A recreation center typically contains one or more gymnasiums with sports courts. A community center is generally smaller than a recreation center and does not contain gymnasiums.
- **Linear Park** - A park or greenway typically passive in nature that has the potential to link other components of the recreation system together as part of a continuous park environment.
- **Neighborhood Park** - A basic unit of the park system, generally meeting informal, non-programmed active and passive recreation needs of a local neighborhood(s).
- **Pocket Park** - A small recreation site with or without facilities meeting some of the active or passive recreational needs of a discrete segment of the immediately adjacent residential neighborhood.
- **Private Or Quasi-Public Recreation Site** - A recreation site operated and maintained by a non-governmental agency, non-profit organization, sports association or civic group(s).
- **Recreation Facilities** - Improvements made to a recreation site such as ball fields, soccer fields, courts, and playgrounds etc. that provide recreational opportunities for users.
- **Recreation Site** - A parcel of land and/or water dedicated for use for specific recreation purposes (also referred to as "parks" or "parkland").
- **Recreation System** - The total of all recreation resources within the city that are under the jurisdiction of the PRFD.
- **Recreation Supply** - The total acreage of recreational resources under jurisdiction of the city and available for use at a given time.



- **Recreational Resources** - Sites that consist of land and/or water that afford recreation opportunities for city residents or visitors.
- **School Recreation Area** - A recreation site located at a school where a joint-use agreement or an informal agreement is in place permitting use of certain specific school recreation facilities by the PRD.
- **Special Use Area** - A recreation site that is devoted to a single type of facility or use.
- **Undeveloped Land** - A site presently undeveloped that is owned or leased by the city and is dedicated to, or is being held for recreational purposes.

5.2 Park Classifications and Criteria

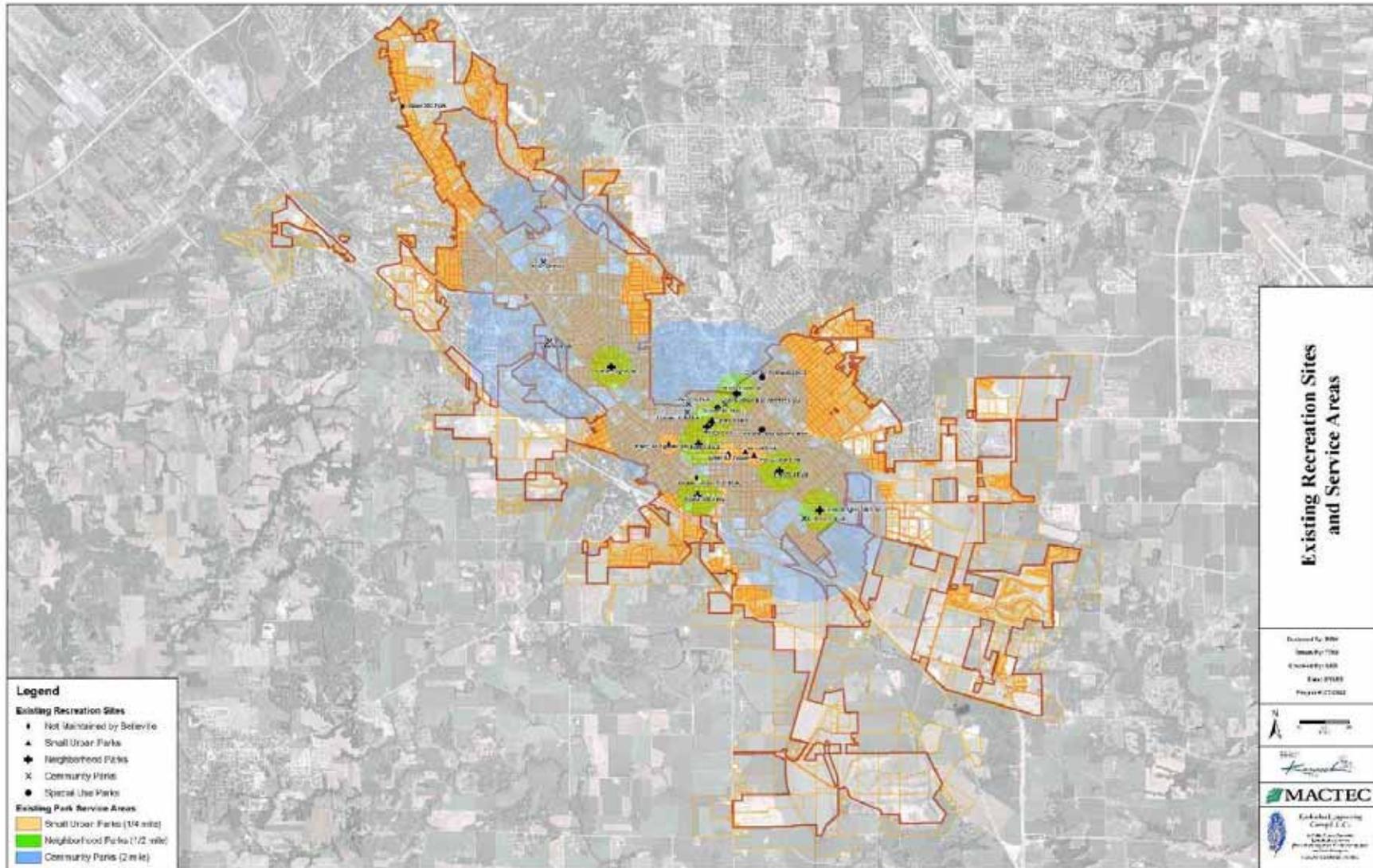
The majority of City of Belleville parks are classified as Neighborhood and community parks. Table 9 provides a general classification system for parks, which includes standards relating to service areas and size. The classifications are provided by the National Recreation and Parks Association.

Table 9: NRPA Classifications and Criteria for Parks

Classification	General Description	Service Area	Size Criteria
Pocket Park	Addresses Limited, Isolated Or Unique Recreational Needs Or Resources.	Up To 1/4 Mile	To 1.5 Acres
Neighborhood Park	A Basic Unit Of The Park System, Focuses On Informal Active And Passive Recreation, Meeting Some Of The Social And Recreational Needs Of Users.	1/4 - 1/2 Miles	1.5 - 10.0 Acres
Community Park	Serves Broader Purpose Than A Neighborhood Park, Focuses On	1/2 - 3 Miles	30.0 - 50.0 Acres
Regional/ Large Urban Park	Serves Broader Purpose Than Community Parks And Meets Wider Range Of Active And Passive Recreational Needs	Entire Community	75.0+ Acres
Athletic Complex	Consolidates Heavily Programmed Variable Athletic Fields And Related Facilities Into Larger Sites Strategically Located Throughout The Community.	Variable	40.0 - 80.0+ Acres
Special Use Area	Park Or Recreational Facility Oriented Towards A Specific Use	Variable	Variable
Indoor Facility	Community Center, Cultural Center Or Recreation Center Devoted To The Provision Of Multiple Active And/Or Passive Needs Of The Community	Variable	Typically Located Within Community Parks
School Recreation Area	Generally Provides A Venue For Indoor And/Or Outdoor Active Indoor And/Or Outdoor Active Recreation, Complementing Other Parks	Variable	Variable
Greenway/Linear Park	Passive Use Area Which Links Parks Or Other Recreational And Cultural Facilities Forming A Continuous Park Environment.	Determined By Resource Availability	Variable

Source: *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, NRPA 1994.*

Figure 1: Existing Recreation and Service Areas



5.3 Pocket Parks / Small Urban Parks



DOWNTOWN PUBLIC SQUARE

Located at the corner of Main Street and Illinois Street in the center of Belleville, Downtown Public Square encompasses the small urban plazas that surround the Memorial Fountain traffic circle. In addition to the Memorial Fountain, this small urban park contains the Veteran’s Memorial Monument, park benches, flower gardens and space to accommodate community events including festivals, concerts and parades.

EVER & ANON PARK

Ever & Anon Park is a 0.2 acre small urban park in downtown Belleville at the corner of East Main Street and Mascoutah Avenue. Developed by the Belleville Heritage Society, the park interprets the historic downtown context of the site. The park features a gazebo, park lighting and eight park benches set within a garden of roses, lawn panels, brick walkways and memorial trees.



GAS LIGHT PARK

Gas Light Park is a 0.1 acre small urban park in downtown Belleville at the corner of East Main Street and North High Street. This park contains picnic tables under shade trees to provide a comfortable seating opportunity in an urban setting. The park is situated at the entrance to the Belleville Main Street Organization Office.

5.4 Neighborhood Parks

CAMBRIDGE PARK

Cambridge Park is a 0.64 acre playground park located in west-central Belleville at 103 North 30th Street. The park consists of park benches, swinging benches, a play structure and a paved trail at the periphery of the park.



DAWN HEIGHTS MINI-PARK

Dawn Heights Mini Park is a 0.75 acre neighborhood park located in eastern Belleville at 1004 Wabash Avenue. This park is an enclosed playground park with shade trees, lighting, playground equipment, picnic tables and an open grassed play area.

EAST END PARK

East End Park is a 9-acre neighborhood park in southeast Belleville bounded by Forest Avenue to the northeast, East McKinley Street to the southeast, Park Avenue to the southwest and East Monroe Street to the northwest. At the southern end of the park, a small gravel parking area provides access to two lighted tennis courts, a grassed open play field and a playground area with a play structure and swing set. Six park benches, two picnic tables and two barbeque grills are available for use. The park extends to the northwest through a gently sloped valley of shade trees to a baseball practice field. Two additional picnic tables are located in the center of the park.



NORTH END PARK

North End Park is a 9 acre neighborhood park located in central Belleville at 1204 North Douglas Avenue. The Richland Creek Greenway Trail extends from Entrance Park along Richland Creek, through North End Park and terminates at the connection to the 6-mile MetroLink Bikeway. North End Park consists of a soccer field, a tree-shaded playground area, horseshoe pits, and a picnic area

with four picnic tables and a barbeque grill. A walking trail loop links the park amenities.



OPTIMIST PARK

Optimist Park is an 18 acre neighborhood sculpture park that lies along the Richland Creek Greenway Trail at the corner of North 3rd Street and West F Street. The park provides a greenspace connection between Hough Park to the south and Skateboard Park to the north. Beginning across North 3rd Street from Hough Park and extending through to the corner of North 2nd Street at West F Street, outdoor art sculpture installations may be viewed along the Richland Creek Greenway Trail.

ROTARY PARK

Rotary Park is a 7 acre neighborhood park located in central Belleville at 110 North 6th Street. The park lies along the Richland Creek Greenway Trail. Rotary Park contains a picnic pavilion with a barbeque grill, a large, grassed, open play area and a large outdoor art sculpture named 'Star'. Four smaller outdoor art sculptures also lie within the park along the Greenway Trail.



SOUTH SIDE PARK



This 14-acre community park currently represents the southern end of the Richland Creek Greenway. It is on the near south side of the Belleville CBD at 600 South 6th Street. The park is characterized by Richland Creek along its eastern boundary, a 2-acre fishing lake and a lighted softball field with an electronic scoreboard. The Richland Creek Greenway Trail runs through the park along the west bank of the creek. A gravel parking lot serves these facilities. A concession stand, picnic tables with barbeque grills and a playground structure with swing set are available for use. At the center field fence of the softball field is a flagpole with a memorial plaque. The park also has a group picnic pavilion with twelve picnic tables and a horseshoe pit. Three additional picnic tables are located throughout the park. There are three barbeque grills, six park benches, a water fountain, and a storage building near the parking lot.

5.5 Community Parks

BELLEVUE PARK

This park comprises 31.1 acres and is approximately 3.5 miles west of the Belleville Central Business District (CBD) at 401 Bellevue Park Drive just north of West Main Street. It is adjacent to Memorial Hospital and has a picturesque setting situated in a rolling valley of trees. Bellevue Park was the first City park. One of the principal features of the park is a three-acre fishing lake with an aeration fountain in the middle. Rock gabion walls surround the shoreline. A fitness trail runs along much of the shoreline of the lake as well. At the north end of the lake is a pedestrian bridge over the lake.



Other notable features of the park include: the Stone Lodge, a well-kept WPA-era stone building with distinctive white stone walls and a red clay-tile roof; an amphitheatre (Music/Drama Facility) that is home to a summer concert series; two unlighted tennis courts; the Angel of Hope Memorial (for families who have experienced the death of a child); a playground with a constructed play structure; a restroom and gravel parking. Additionally, the park features: three barbeque grills, three drinking fountains, a picnic shelter, and six picnic tables.

CITIZENS PARK



This is Belleville's largest park at 40.5 acres and serves as one of the city's principal community parks. It is located about 3 miles west of the Belleville CBD between West Main Street and IL-13 at 341 Citizens Park Drive. The most notable feature in the park is Whitey Herzog Field, a lighted baseball field that was dedicated in 2003, which serves as the home field for the American Legion and Althoff High School baseball teams. The field and surrounding complex are in excellent condition.

Key features of the field complex include:

- fully enclosed chain link fencing;
- a covered grandstand for seating (a mix of individual seats and bleachers);
- covered dugouts;
- a drinking fountain;
- a concession area;
- practice hitting cages; and
- an electronic scoreboard





Citizens Park also features two lighted softball fields, three picnic shelter pavilions, a BMX bicycle ramp three barbeque grills, two modular playground areas, three restroom buildings (for both men and women) and over 20 picnic tables.



HOUGH PARK

Hough Park is a 9-acre community park located in central Belleville at 417 North 3rd Street. The park lies along the Richland Creek Greenway Trail and is adjacent to Franklin School. Hough Park contains a large, hexagonal picnic pavilion with electric service, twelve picnic tables and barbeque grills, a tree-shaded playground with play structure and swing-sets, the Rowland Wittlich Memorial horseshoe courts, a large grassed open play area, large gravel parking area and a picnic area with nine electrical service towers and water service with drinking fountains and hose bibs.



JAYCEE'S PARK

Jaycee's Park is a 17-acre community park located at 750 West H Street in central Belleville. The park is an open, terraced hillside with three soccer fields. Parking is located between the fields as well as along the rear of the park.

LADERMAN PARK

John Laderman Park is a 22-acre community park located beside Walnut Hill Cemetery southeast of the Belleville CBD at 1105 Mascoutah Avenue. Laderman Park contains two lighted baseball/softball diamonds with bleachers, a playground area with two play structures and a swing set, a centrally located restroom building, two picnic shelters with twelve picnic tables and one barbeque pit each, a lighted soccer field with bleachers, a lighted open play field with three volleyball courts, two basketball half-courts, horseshoe pits, an open picnic area with barbeque pits and the Belleville Parks and Recreation administrative office.



Laderman Park facilities are linked by a one-mile asphalt fitness trail with exercise stations and park benches that winds through the park's wooded areas and mature tree plantings. The trail also provides a pedestrian connection to surrounding residential neighborhoods. Parking areas extend through the park providing convenient access to all park amenities.

NORTH MUNICIPAL GATEWAY PARK

North Municipal Gateway Entrance Park is a 14 acre community park located in central Belleville at North Illinois Street and Douglas Avenue. The park lies along the Richland Creek Greenway Trail and is adjacent to Skateboard Park. Entrance Park contains an ornamental pond and fountain set within a grassed open play area among mature deciduous trees. The park also contains a “Welcome to Belleville” monument and banner that spans over North Illinois Street, as well as streetscape lighting and walkways along North Illinois Street.



5.6 Passive-Use Parks

Within the Belleville park system, Hough Park, North Municipal Gateway Entrance Park, Optimist Park and Rotary Park are Passive-Use Parks. The majority of land within East End Park is dedicated to passive use recreation.

5.7 Special Use Areas

BELLEVILLE SWIMMING POOL

Belleville Swimming Pool is a 6 acre special use park located in northern Belleville at 1100 Hecker Street. The park retains the architectural character of its original opening date of 1958. The Belleville Swimming Pool park contains an Olympic-size pool, large pool-side deck area with picnic tables, a separate picnic area with barbeque grills, an observation deck, a concessions building and a shower house/locker-room building with covered, open air pavilion.



NICHOLS COMMUNITY CENTER

The Charles A. Nichols Community Center is located in northeast Belleville at 515 East D Street. This facility is a converted elementary school that provides indoor recreation facilities and activities. Rental facilities include classrooms, instructional rooms and a gymnasium. Activities and programs include arts & crafts, educational programs for all ages, ballet and dance classes, athletic programs such as basketball clinics and pitching lessons, gymnastics, aerobics, volleyball and seasonal programs such as ‘Halloween Blast’ and an Easter Egg hunt. An enclosed, gravel playground area with multiple pieces of play equipment is also available.

SKATEBOARD PARK

Skateboard Park is a 4 acre special use park located within Entrance Park in central Belleville at 709 North 2nd Street. The Richland Creek Greenway Trail extends from Optimist Park through Skateboard Park and continues through Entrance Park. Skateboard Park consists of a custom-designed skateboard facility with accommodations for both 'Street' style and 'Bowl' style skateboarding. The park provides paved pedestrian access, a drinking fountain, and emergency call-station. Also within the park is a radio-controlled car track.



5.8 Indoor Recreation

Belleville lacks an indoor recreation complex. Currently, indoor recreation is managed through programs and activities at the Nichols Community Center, the Stone Lodge at Bellevue Park and public school facilities.



Nichols Community Center.



Stone Lodge at Bellevue Park.



Table 10: 2007 Belleville Parks Inventory

Parks and Facilities	Location	Acres of Land	Acres of Water	Barbeque Grills	Basketball Court-Paved	Bleachers	Drinking Fountain	Bank Fishing	Meeting Room	Fitness Trail/ Miles	Horseshoe Courts	Little League Baseball Diamond	Multi-Purpose Field (soccer/ football)	Music/ Drama facility (outdoor)	Parking Lot	Park Security On-Site	Park and Rec Department Office	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Playground Equipment	Restrooms (Mens/ Womens)	Softball Diamond	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Under Construction	Greenway Trail	Art Sculpture	Neighborhood Park (66 Acres)	Community Park (131 Acres)	Comments	
Belleville Swimming Pool	1100 Hecker Street	5.5		2		2									X				4	1									● Good Condition		
Bellevue Park	401 Bellevue Park Drive	31.14	3	3		3	1	1	1						X	X		1	6	1	1		2						X	Tennis Courts not lighted	
Cambridge Park	103 North 30th Street	0.64													X					1										Playground Only	
Citizens Park/ Whitey Herzog Field	341 Citizens Park Drive	40.54		3		4	6					1		X				3	24	2	3	3							X	All field lighted and in good condition, also has a BMX ramp	
Dawn Heights Mini Park	1004 Wabash Avenue	0.75																	4	1									X	Run down, not well lighted	
Downtown Square	Main Street and Illinois Street	0.5																											▲		
East End Park	501 Forest Avenue	8.45		2			1						1	X					2	1			2						X		
Ever & Anon Park	416 East Main Street	0.2													X														▲	Good Condition	
Gas Life Park	127 East Main Street	0.07													X														▲		
Hough Park	417 North 3rd Street	9.05		2		2	1				4		1	X				1	12	1				X				X	X	Excellent Condition	
Jaycee's Park	750 West "H" Street	16.74					2						3	X					4										X		
Lademan Park	1105 Mascoutah Avenue	21.52		4	X	3				1	2	1		X	X	1	2	12	1	1	2								X	Home of Belleville Park & Rec.	
Nichols Community Center	515 East "D" Street	1.12				X			X						X					1	X									●	
North End Park	1204 North Douglas Avenue	9.12		1											X														X	Good Medium-sized park	
North Municipal Gateway Entrance Park		14.14																											X		
Optimist Park	510 North 3rd Street	17.56													X										X	2	X				
Pleasant Hill Park	601 North 6th Street	7.2					1					2		X				2	18	2	X		2						X	One of the T-ball fields is in bad shape	
Rotary Park	110 North Street	7.15		2											X			1	4					X				4	X	One of the barbeque grills is broken	
Skateboard Park	709 North 2nd Street			1											X															●	
Southside Park	600 South 6th Street	13.8	2	3			1	1			4			X				1	6		X				X			X		Pavillion is very worn, softball have large bleacherseating	
West End Square Park	1100 West Main Street	0.23																											▲	Located on both sides of Main Street	
Totals		205.4	5	23	X	11	15	2	1	2	10	2	7	0	X	X	1	11	96	11	6	5	6	0	0	X	6	---	---		

5.9 Trails and Greenways

Belleville, which is the county seat of St. Clair County, falls under the Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD), which was formed by voters in November 2000, and is responsible for the development of parks, trails, and greenways within the boundaries of Madison and St. Clair Counties in Illinois. MEPRD supplements the efforts of local governments, special districts, and other jurisdictions already engaged in the management of parks and recreational facilities.

RICHLAND CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL

Belleville's signature trail is the Richland Creek Greenway Trail, a six-mile paved pathway extending from South Side Park on Belleville's near south side to Southwest Illinois College (SWIC) east of Belleville near IL 158. This trail was originally two trails: the East Belleville Bikeway and the MetroBikeLink Trail but was re-branded the Richland Creek Greenway Trail in 2005. It winds for approximately two miles along the banks of Richland Creek through Belleville's central core to North End Park. In this central core, the trail connects South Side Park, Khoury League Fields, Rotary Park, Hough Park, Optimist Park, Skateboard Park and North End Park along a corridor that lies just west of the Belleville CBD. From North End Park, the trail runs approximately four miles along the MetroLink line to SWIC. It provides a mix of appeal from natural (Richland Creek) to man-made (art sculptures and an urban setting). Allowable uses include walking, jogging, bicycling and in-line skating.



OTHER TRAILS

Aside from the Richland Creek Greenway Trail, the remaining existing trails in Belleville are confined to specific parks. Both Bellevue Park and Laderman Park have one-mile fitness trails. However, the city is in the early stages of planning more trails in hopes of adding to the city's trail system.

There are plans in development for a bicycle trail connection between Citizens Park and Bellevue Park using an old railroad bed and a portion of the city street system. These plans are in the conceptual stage, but are enough along to conclude that the proposed trail would cross West Main Street in the vicinity of Althoff Catholic High School.

Additionally, there are plans to develop the West Belleville Bike Trail, from the intersection of Frank Scott Parkway and West Main Street to Signal Hill Park. This



planned connection would run along an old railroad bed for part of its length and then along Foley Drive. Formal designs for this trail have yet to begin as of the writing of this report.

REGIONAL TRAILS

As mentioned previously, the MEPRD oversees the development of parks, trails and greenways in Madison and St. Clair Counties. Within the MEPRD system, there are two trails that, if connected to Belleville's system, offer more trail connectedness in St. Clair County.

The longest of these is the 7.5-mile Metro-East Levee Trail, which runs along the Mississippi River levee from approximately 1.3 miles southwest of the IL-15 / IL-157 interchange to Cargill Elevator Road on the Mississippi River riverfront. It is an oil and chip trail used primarily by bicyclists and is managed by the St. Clair County Highway Department.

The Village of Swansea manages the 0.8-mile Richland Creek Bikeway, which runs through Centennial Park. It is an asphalt trail and is used primarily for walking and bicycling. Richland Creek runs through Centennial Park, which lies approximately 2/3 mile northeast of North End Park.

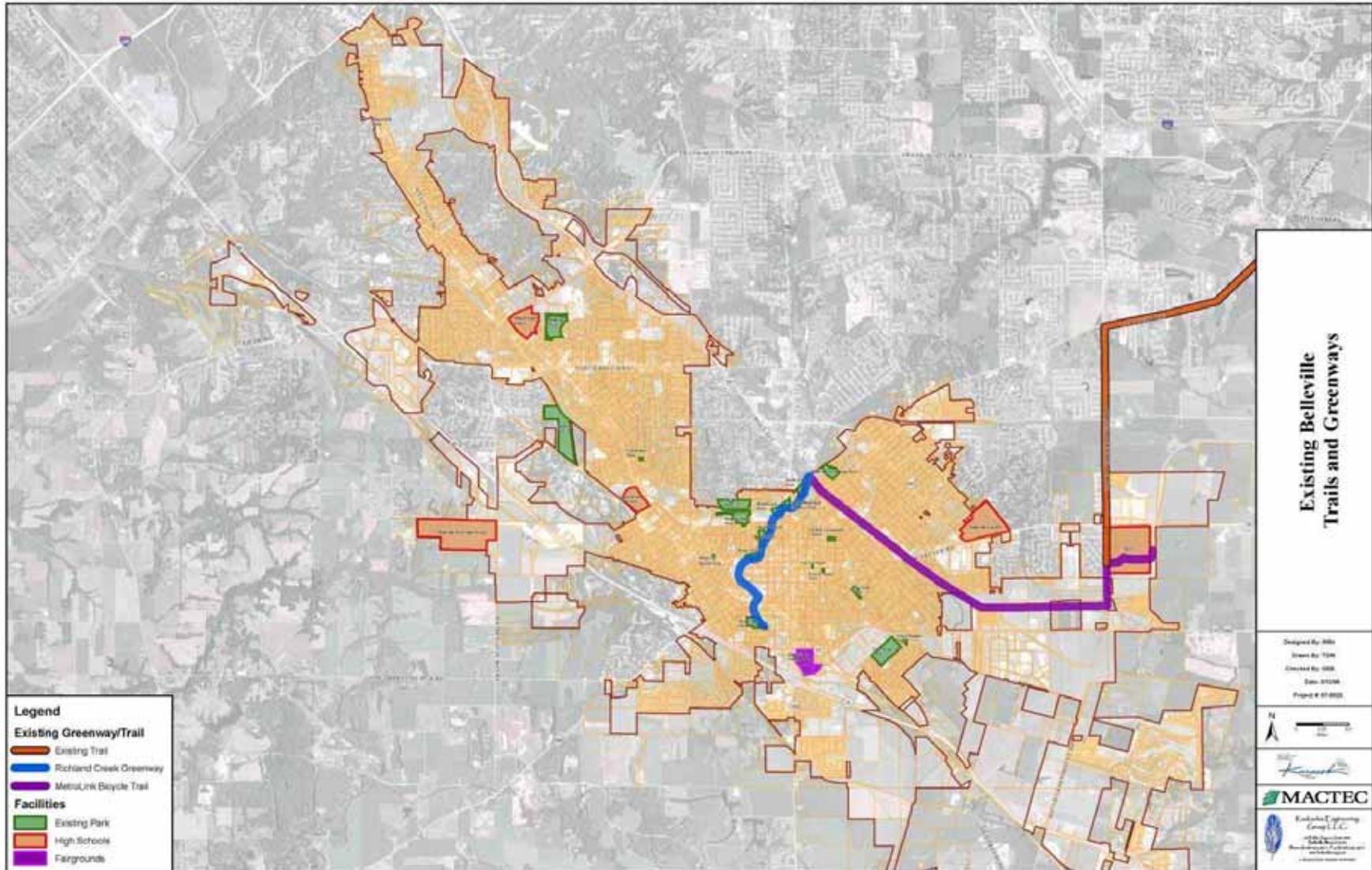
5.10 Maintenance Facilities

A proper maintenance program is essential to providing quality recreation services. The established level of maintenance will determine not only the service life of recreation facilities but also the satisfaction of users. The City of Belleville Parks and Recreation Department currently employs 5 full-time maintenance staff. Additionally, 2 to 4 staff are employed year-round on a part-time basis and, during summer months, 18 part-time staff are employed.

5.11 Other Recreational Opportunities

It is important to remember that other recreation opportunities exist outside of the City PRD jurisdiction. These include area golf courses, City schools and surrounding County schools, Lindenwood University and Southwestern Illinois University, Centennial Park and Melvin Price Memorial Park in Swansea, the St. Clair County Fairgrounds, Khoury League Park and Frank Holten State Park.

Figure 2: Existing Trails and Greenways





6.0 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Needs Assessment is the initial step in the recreation planning process. The following sections describe the community profile, present the inventory of existing recreation system parks, land and facilities, provide a description of existing recreation programs, record and evaluate information received from the stakeholder public input process, and provide a comparative analysis of existing recreation facilities with standards to generate the initial needs assessment.

The community profile presents a demographic overview of the Belleville community, examines historic population trends, and establishes planning-level population projections for the twenty-year planning period.

Inventory of the existing recreation system has included evaluation of city owned and operated recreation sites and facilities and other public, quasi-public and governmental recreation areas that are deemed to contribute to meeting the recreational needs of Belleville residents. Programs offered by the PRD are also described in this inventory.

The public input process was undertaken in order to ascertain specific opinions and desires of the community relative to existing recreational opportunities, and to elicit thoughts and suggestions relative to future system-wide needs. The process involved several levels of input, including:

- Recreation Advisory Board Meetings
- Stakeholder interviews
- Website-based survey

Information gathered as result of the community profile, inventory and through the public input process is used to determine the present and future need for parkland, active and passive facilities. "Belleville-Specific" standards for acreage and facilities are developed and applied to the population projections, helping to determine needs throughout the planning period.

DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICES

Parks are well distributed throughout the City limits of Belleville. Divided into quadrants based on cardinal points, each of the four quadrants within the City have at least three parks. Presently, the Northwest quadrant contains the largest quantity of parks as well as the largest acreage. Figure 1 indicates the location of parks and the dispersal of park service areas. Current growth trends indicate that the direction of growth in the City is to the southeast. Coupled with the City's overall need for a recreation center complex, new parks will be needed to serve this area. Additionally, a need for neighborhood parks throughout the City has been identified. Figure 3 indicates the approximate location of new neighborhood parks.



SUPPLY ANALYSIS

The City of Belleville Parks and Recreation Department currently operates twenty-one parks comprising approximately 205 acres of land. Based on an estimated 2008 City population of 45,700, the resulting present ratio of parks acreage to population is 4.48 acres per 1,000 persons. NRPA guideline ratios for park acreage per 1,000 residents range from 6.25 to 10.50. Assuming a ratio of 6.25 acres per 1,000 residents, the City currently needs to acquire 91.88 acres to balance the deficit. Table 11 illustrates acreage requirements based on population estimates for 2008, 2020 and 2030. Table 10 presents a comparison of NRPA standards and Belleville derived standards.

Table 11: Projected Needs Assessment Compared to Current Level of Service

Park Amenity	NRPA Standard (Unit/ population)	Belleville Standard (Unit/ population)	2008 Inventory	2020 Need per Belleville Standards*
Baseball/ Softball Fields	1/ 5,000	1/ 5,000	6	10
Soccer Fields	1/ 10,000	1/ 10,000	4	5
Multi-purpose Fields	1/ 25,000	1/ 25,000	2	2
Tennis Courts	1/ 2,000	1/ 4,000	6	12
Basketball Courts	1/ 5,000	1/ 10,000	1	5
Volleyball Courts	1/ 5,000	1/ 10,000	0	5
Running Tracks	1/ 20,000	1/ 20,000	0	2
Swimming Pools	1/ 20,000	1/ 20,000	1	2
Playgrounds	No standard	1/ 5,000	10	10
Pavilions	No standard	1/ 5,000	10	10
Multi-purpose Trails	1/ City	1/ City	1	(1) 5 miles long
Nature/ Fitness Trail	No standard	1/ Community Park	2	6
Recreation Center	1/ City	1/ 25,000	0	2
Community Center	1/ City	1/ 25,000	1	2
Maintenance Shop	No standard	1/ Community Park	0	6
Parking	No standard	65/ field	NA	NA
Schools/ Joint Use Agreement	No standard	All Schools	15	NA

Source: NRPA, City of Belleville, MACTEC visual survey

Table 12: Acreage Standards

Year	Population	Standard	Acres	Acres Required	Deficit
2000	42,105	6.25/1000	80	262.5	182.5
2008 Est.	45,700	6.25/1000	205	285.6	80.6
2020	49,025	6.25/1000	205	306.3	101.3
2030	51,482	6.25/1000	205	319.2	114.2

Source: NRPA and City of Belleville



PARK PROGRAMS ANALYSIS

Program opportunities will have to grow to fully utilize new facilities and meet citizen demand. In order to meet the recreation needs of all age groups, a variety of programs and instructional personnel needs to be provided. Two important factors in determining the successful utilization of programs are community awareness and location. In addition to listing of programs on the PRD web-site, programs should be advertised in public spaces such as libraries, park kiosks, and at other City municipal departments. The willingness of citizens to participate in recreation programs is directly related to the amount of effort required to attend the program's facility. As new community parks and neighborhood parks are developed, more programs will be located in closer proximity to citizens.

Realizing the goal of additional athletic facilities and parks means that recreation programs should also be added to the Parks and Recreation system. An increase in number of programs serves a wider range of citizens and eliminates the need for waiting lists. Programs such as Senior Pool, Men's softball, Select baseball, ASA softball, Little League baseball, Men's basketball have all experienced growing demand since 2003. Attendees of these programs will benefit from the addition of new community parks and new opportunities for additional attendees will be created.

Similarly, as indoor athletic facilities are developed, new indoor-oriented programs need to be introduced. These programs include youth and adult basketball, gymnastics, dance, health and wellness and senior-oriented programs.

Growing programs or programs with growing interest

(From Staff Interviews):

- Senior Pool Programs
- Men's Softball
- Select Baseball
- ASA Softball – Wait Listed
- Lacrosse
- Health and Wellness

Special Events Programs with the Largest Number of Participants (2007)

- Tour de Belleville +1,000
- Concerts: +2,000
- Santa Call: 650
- Daddy Daughter Dance: 300
- Halloween Blast: 600
- Kids Jam: 507



Table 13: Programs with the Greatest Growth Since 2003

Program	2003 Participants	2007 Participants	Total Change	Percentage Change
Tour de Belleville	0	1,038	1,038	---
Little Sluggers	0	110	110	---
Dance Team	0	37	37	---
Little Kickers Soccer	0	61	61	---
ASA fastpitch- Spring	660	880	220	33%
ASA fastpitch- Fall	160	320	160	100%
Men's Softball	960	1120	160	17%
Men's Basketball	135	255	120	89%
Senior Pool	149	381	232	155%
Pool Passes	480	948	468	97%

Source: City of Belleville

Table 14: Total Recreation Program Participation (2007)

Program	2007 Participants
Spring and Summer Programs	7,446
Fall Programs	2,643
Winter Programs	2,103
Facility Rentals	15,220
Nichols Center	2,291
Pool	16,147
Total Participants	45,850

Source: City of Belleville

SUMMARY OF ISSUES FROM THE STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS (REVISED)

1. Extend the trail system.
2. Develop and Provide more neighborhood parks.
3. Maintain and improve existing parks
4. Develop a family aquatics center that includes a swimming pool and a spray playground
5. Develop a community center to provide more indoor program opportunities (full size gym, health and fitness programs, senior programs, etc.)
6. Develop a community park with tournament level athletic fields, volleyball, lacrosse and tennis
7. Provide more pavilion rental opportunities



SURVEY RESULTS

A community survey comprised of 11 questions addressing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was made available to citizens on the City's website in December 2007. As of April 18, 2008, 289 responses were counted. The most responsive age groups were ages 30-39 and ages 40-49. The majority (58 percent) of respondents were female, 66 percent of respondents were married; and 54 percent have children under the age of 18.

Fifty-two percent of the respondents used a park on both weekdays and weekends, 65 percent of respondents reported feeling 'somewhat safe' when visiting a city park, and 46 percent of respondents reported being 'somewhat familiar' with the city's Parks and Recreation Department. Responses to the question, 'How often do you attend a park or recreational activity organized by the Parks and Recreation Department' were: 'often' at 10 percent, 'sometimes' at 34 percent, 'rarely' at 37 percent, and 'never' at 18 percent. Sixty-two percent of respondents were 'somewhat satisfied' with the organized activities they have attended.

The top six responses to the question, 'Which activities do you think the Parks and Recreation Department should provide more of' were:

- 'walking/jogging'— 63 percent,
- 'dog park'— 53 percent, '
- biking'—46 percent, '
- playgrounds'— 46 percent,
- 'picnicking'— 39 percent and
- 'swimming'— 34 percent.

Of these activities, only 'dog park' is not a current service provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Bellevue Park was the most visited park in the past 12 months with 67 percent of the responses. Citizen's Park, Downtown Square, East End Park, Hough Park, Laderman Park and South Side Park were all visited by at least 30 percent of the respondents. Cambridge Park, Dawn Heights Mini Park, Gas Lite Park, Jaycee's Park, Entrance Park and West End Square had the lowest visitation by respondents.

The complete survey results can be found in Appendix B.

7.0 GOALS, POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 Land Acquisition

Goal: To acquire a minimum of 115 acres of land for new recreation by the year 2030.

Policies:

- Advance acquisition of recreation land.
 - The City should achieve the recommended NRPA recommended range of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of land per 1,000 residents by the year 2020.
 - Locate and acquire at least one 50- to 130-acre parcel for development of a new community park.
- Prioritize the acquisition of land in the central portion of the city.
- Acquire new parkland in locations proximate to higher population concentrations and where there are comparable, adjacent land uses.
- Promote the Developers Green Space fund that encourages developers to allocate green space in new subdivisions or pay into a special fund for future parkland acquisition.
- Obtain green space parcels with a minimum of 7 to 10 acres unless property is adjacent to existing parkland.

7.2 Environment

Goal: Educate the citizens of Belleville to be stewards of the rich, natural communities of the City.

Policies:

- Promote cluster development to preserve the rural environment and to more effectively provide municipal services.
- Encourage preservation of forests, streams, and ponds as residential and commercial developments are planned and designed.
- Promote the use of parks and open space to provide buffer areas for separation between incompatible land uses.
- Encourage a City landscaping strategy as part of an appearance code designating green space and open space throughout the community and along major entryways.
- Preserve and use the Mississippi River bluff line to link forested and water areas in the western edge of the city, including the Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, Frank Holten State Park, the Harding Ditch corridor and its Metro-East Levee trail, subdivision greenways, and open land.



7.3 Park and Facilities Development

Goal: To provide parks and recreational opportunities that result in adequate geographic coverage and sufficient accessibility to all city residents.

Policies:

- Update the Needs Assessment every five years to insure that adequate parks, facilities and programs are in place to meet the needs and desires of City residents.
 - Partner with the Belleville-area school districts to share recreational amenities at neighborhood schools.
- Reserve and develop City owned land that is suitable for recreational purposes.
- Develop and maintain a master site plan for all existing parks. The plan should illustrate existing elements and proposed renovations, improvements and modifications that meet the changing recreational needs of the city residents.
 - Improve system-wide park accessibility and visibility by developing and implementing themed directional and entryway signage.
- Improve and expand existing neighborhood parks to serve larger geographic areas.
- Develop new neighborhood parks to serve city neighborhoods that fall outside of the service areas for existing neighborhood and community parks.
- Establish criteria and evaluate the contribution of existing mini-parks to the City's park system. Those parks not meeting the criteria should be released from the City's responsibility.
- Community gateways should promote the City's commitment to preserving and enhancing parks and greenspace.
- Protect available open space or green space in the City by promoting and maintaining growth planning tools such as the Agricultural Preservation zoning ordinance, using an Advisory Natural Resource Site Assessment (NRSA) process for rezoning requests, implementing a conservation-recreation zoning district for "marginal" development lands, and requiring green space allotments in the Subdivision Ordinance.
 - Establish zoning regulations for "Conservation Subdivisions" in areas determined to hold significant community value for their natural resources.



7.4 Trail Development

Goal: Expand the Richland Creek Greenway trail to link to additional City neighborhoods and the regional trail network.

Policies:

- Establish a Comprehensive Greenway Network Plan to preserve greenspace corridors, to interconnect neighborhoods, communities, regional parks, schools and other public places including the St. Clair County fairgrounds.
 - Connect the East Belleville/Richland Creek Bikeway Trail with the MetroLink Bikelink at appropriate locations.
 - Extend the Richland Creek Bikeway Trail northward from North End Park to the MetroLink BikeLink trail at MetroLink's intersection with the Norfolk Southern Railroad.
 - Extend the Richland Creek Bikeway Trail eastward to connect the depot area at Illinois 159 with the MetroLink BikeLink near SWIC at Greenmount Road.
 - Extend the Richland Creek Bikeway Trail westward to connect to Frank Holten State Park at the base of the Mississippi bluffs along Illinois 157.
- Promote the Richland Creek Greenway as a means to protect floodplains and connect the City's north/south park system.
- Promote public-private investment in the Richland Creek Greenway to improve its public appeal and user-friendliness.
- Promote the City's Bikeway system as an alternative, convenient, and safe transportation mode for residents, workers, and visitors to the Belleville area.
- Promote and encourage bike trail access via city parks.
 - Provide bikeway-related amenities, activities, and rest areas within the City's parks.
- Include walking/jogging trails within existing and future community parks.

7.5 Recreation Opportunities

Goal: Broaden the range of recreational opportunities for City residents by providing additional active and passive recreation facilities in existing and new parks.

Policies:

- Participate in the completion of the Metro East Gateway Alliance Greenway Plan for the entire region connecting water resources, forest preserves, cultural and historic sites and communities.
- Actively participate in the St. Clair County Green Space Foundation to encourage recreational and open space planning.



- Preserve and develop City owned land that is suitable for recreational purposes.
- Provide indoor and outdoor facilities to meet the cultural and performing arts needs of City residents.
 - Identify a location, plan and construct a performing arts center.
- Partner with the Belleville-area school districts to share recreational amenities at neighborhood schools.

7.6 Recreation Programs

Goal: Provide an expanded variety of programs and instructional personnel as necessary to meet the needs of all age groups.

Policies:

- Encourage cooperative agreements and working relationships with other non-profit groups in providing programs to the public.
- Work in conjunction with other non-profit agencies to expand the recreational programs for the community.
 - Expand program offerings for senior citizens to include the Senior Pool program.
- Indoor programs should be developed in conjunction with the construction of recreation community centers.
- Non-athletic programs that will enrich City residents in the areas of health and wellness will be added as needed.
- Athletic programs will be expanded as facilities are developed to support Men's Softball, Select Baseball, ASA Softball, and Lacrosse.
- The Parks and Recreation Department will add program personnel as necessary to meet changing demand.

7.7 Operations and Maintenance

Goal: To provide an effective level of system-wide maintenance that results in the superior operation of parks, recreation facilities and support facilities.

Objectives:

- Construct a full-service maintenance facility at new community parks.
- Supervisory maintenance personnel will receive training and obtain appropriate certification in their specific disciplines.
- Establish a volunteer program for routine maintenance tasks and beautification projects.



- Develop a maintenance plan for all parks and recreation facilities and coordinate with the training of maintenance personnel.
- Develop a full-service maintenance facility for each new community park.
- Expand operations and maintenance staff commensurate with the expansion of the recreation system.
- Partner with established and emerging community programs and organizations to clearly define roles, avoid duplication of efforts, and expand program offerings.

7.8 Financing Mechanisms

Goal: Implement new and innovative methods for funding recreation system improvements throughout the planning period.

Policies:

- Support the Metro-East Parks & Recreation District initiative as a source of funding for City parks and greenways improvements and to connect City parks, greenways, and trails with a regional network.
- Establish, support and maintain traditional or alternative sources of funding for greenspace development.
 - Consider implementation of recreation impact fees as a primary source for funding of small capital projects.
 - Consider a bond referendum as a means to fund land acquisition and development of new community parks.
 - Investigate securing foundation grants as a means of contributing to the financing of recreation system improvements.
 - Develop “partnering” agreements with large corporations, industries and area businesses as a means of providing more recreation opportunities for City residents.
- Continue to foster public-private partnerships to expand the City’s ability to purchase, develop, and maintain parkland. Examples include foundations, land trusts, and civic organizations.
- Utilize the “school-in-a-park” concept as a means of providing additional recreation land and facilities.



8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

This section of the Plan incorporates the Needs Assessment, Park Programs Analysis and Goals, Policies and Objectives into recommendations for the city's Parks and Recreation System. Taken together, these recommendations form 'The Plan' for City Parks and Recreation through 2030.

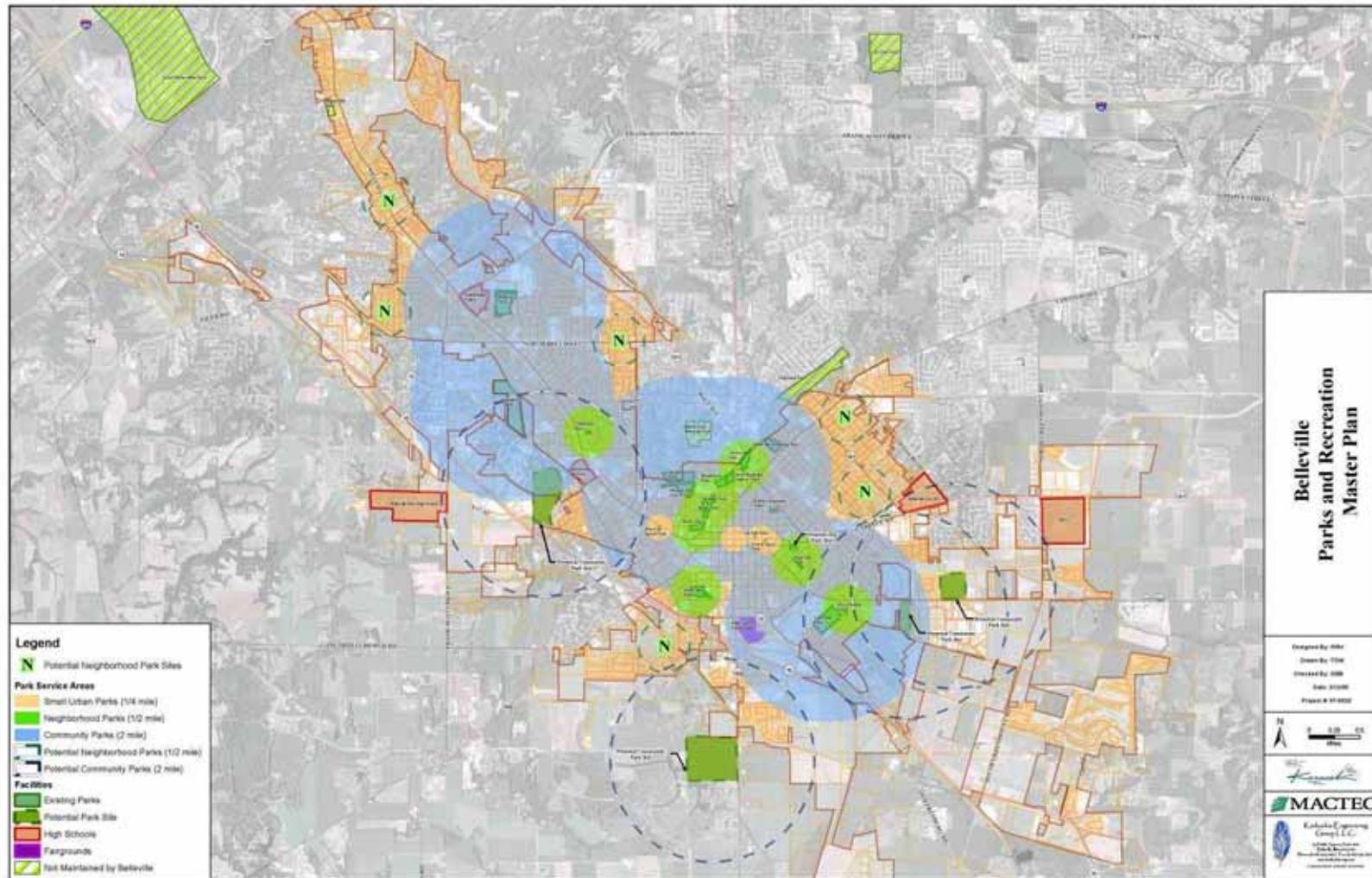
8.1 Land Acquisition, Parks and Facilities

The stated Goals, Policies and Objectives (Section 11) of the City represent an aggressive yet achievable Plan. In order that these goals may be met within the stated planning timeframe, the initiatives identified below will provide guidance throughout the planning and implementation process. The basis for the Plan Recommendations is formed by the following initiatives:

- Advance acquisition of land
- Develop new neighborhood parks to serve City neighborhoods that fall outside of the service areas for existing neighborhood and community parks.
- Developing a recreation complex that provides a single location for active and passive recreation opportunities in both indoor and outdoor facilities establishes a balance between service provision and operations costs.
- Indoor facilities are needed to meet the goal of broadening the range of recreational opportunities for the City.
- Continue to foster public-private partnerships to expand the City's ability to purchase, develop and maintain parkland. Utilizing existing relationships and developing new relationships with schools, businesses, municipal and county agencies and community organizations can provide efficient alternatives to land acquisition, park development and provision of services.



Figure 3: Parks and Recreation Master Plan





LAND ACQUISITION

Based on population projections in Section 4 – Community Profile, the City will have to add 115 acres of parkland to its inventory by the year 2030. Because of current growth patterns and land availability, land for new community parks should be acquired in the South-central portion of the City. Also, current park distribution and subsequent service areas as seen in Figure 1 (Existing Parks and Service Areas) indicate a need to acquire land for neighborhood parks in all quadrants of the City. Proposed areas where new neighborhood parks should be developed are illustrated in Figures 4 and 5. The following recommendations regarding land acquisition identify acreage allocations and proposed locations:

- Acquire a +50 acre parcel in the south-central portion of the City for a new community park.
- Acquire a +50 acre parcel in the western portion of the City for a new community park.
- Acquire a +10 acre parcel in the south-central portion of the City for a new community center facility.
- Acquire parcels of land ranging from 1.5 to 10 acres in each of the City's four quadrants for new neighborhood parks.

The above acquisitions of land comprise an approximate total of 130 acres of new park land.

Most municipalities tend to postpone land acquisition until current recreation systems become overburdened. Although financial realities constrain the process of acquiring land prior to a municipality's need, advance acquisition of park land is key to park planning and development. When a suitable and capable parcel of land becomes available, the City should pursue the purchase and retention of the parcel even when the land may need to remain undeveloped for many years.

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS

Existing neighborhood parks within the City should be improved and expanded to serve larger geographic areas. The contribution to the City's park system made by existing mini-parks should be evaluated through criteria established by the Parks and Recreation Department with public input. Those parks not meeting the criteria should be released from the City's responsibility. The potential savings in operations and maintenance costs should be applied to the expanded facilities of neighborhood parks. Recommendations, including improved and expanded neighborhood parks, for existing parks are described below. All parks should comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations when possible.



Note: these recommendations incorporate previous recommendations listed in *Belleville, Illinois Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan*, prepared by Belleville PRD, adopted January 1, 2002.

Belleville Swimming Pool

- Enclose dumpsters.
- Pave and landscape existing gravel parking.
- Address stormwater runoff concerns and repair subsequent wall failure.
- Provide or improve ADA access to pool deck.

Bellevue Park

- Resurface roadways and parking areas.
- Resurface asphalt pathways & repair gabion walls along lakeside.
- Add small picnic shelters throughout the park.
- Provide small shade structures and park benches adjacent to large playground structure.
- Replace/repair existing water fountains, provide additional fountains at pavilions and park entry points.
- Add warming kitchen facilities to Stone Lodge.
- Expand playground areas and add additional playground equipment.
- Replace footbridge across lake.
- Dredge the lake.
- Provide lighting at tennis courts.
- Add retaining wall behind Stone Lodge
- Enlarge / enclose Stone Lodge.

Cambridge Park

- Provide location/ directional signage on W. Main St.
- Re-grade playground edge for stormwater drainage.
- Resurface playground.
- Develop and implement a landscape plan for shade and beautification.

Citizen's Park

- Pave and landscape gravel parking areas
- Add a walking trail.
- Re-plank bleachers
- Provide / replace water fountains
- Repair concessions pavilion
- Provide additional playground equipment
- Provide additional skateboard equipment

Ever & Anon Park

- Maintain and enhance landscaping.
- Coordinate with City to improve pavement at rear alley.



Hough Park

- Provide pedestrian path within the park to link the parking area with the picnic area, playground, pavilion and open play area.
- Pave and landscape existing gravel parking areas.
- Provide pedestrian connection to West C Street.
- Provide fencing to enclose playground.
- Refurbish or replace drinking fountains and water spigots.
- Enclose the dumpster.

Jaycee's Park

- Provide pedestrian links to adjacent neighborhoods.
- Construct walking trail around the perimeter of the park.
- Provide pedestrian linkage to Richland Creek Greenway Trail (connect under train tracks to Pleasant Hill Park via North 5th Street.)
- Provide bleachers, shade pavilions, drinking fountains.
- Pave and landscape existing gravel parking.

Laderman Park

- Replace signage at Mascoutah Avenue entry.
- Refurbish or replace the scorer's booth, drinking fountains and lighting at the baseball fields.
- Refurbish or replace drinking fountains at soccer field.
- Fencing at baseball fields is nearing the end of its service life – plan to replace this fencing the next ten years.
- Adopt system-wide plan to replace existing plastic barrels with consistent trash receptacle furniture.
- Pave and landscape existing gravel parking areas.
- Enclose dumpsters at picnic area and at parking adjacent to Parks and Recreation building.
- Relocate or remove volleyball net poles from soccer fields.
- Provide pedestrian linkage to Mascoutah Avenue.

Optimist Park

- Provide additional outdoor sculpture and park benches.

Pleasant Hill Park

- Provide new fence at little league baseball field.
- Extend walking trail along entry drive to provide pedestrian connection to West E Street.
- Replace missing park bench.
- Landscape upper parking lot.
- Provide wall/terrace along slope between upper parking area and baseball diamond for seating.
- Provide additional playground equipment & enclose playground areas.
- Provide pedestrian connection to Jaycee's park along North 5th Street.
- Extend pedestrian connection along West E/F Streets, link with Richland Creek Greenway Trail at North 3rd Street (Optimist Park).
- Enclose dumpsters.



Rotary Park

- Provide additional outdoor sculpture and park benches.
- Landscape plantings to provide screening between park and adjacent neighborhood.
- Expand park acreage (Acquire adjacent homes backing up to park up to West C Street).
- Conceal exposed stormwater and sanitary sewage structures.
- Construct cross-walk at North 6th Street and construct extension of existing sidewalk along east side of North 6th Street.

Skateboard Park

- Provide shade pavilions and landscaping.
- Expand skateboard facility.
- Construct paved hockey rink.

South Side Park

- Pave and landscape parking area
- Relocate/replace restrooms within park
- Replace wood lighting poles with concrete or steel poles
- Replace water fountain, provide additional water service
- Replace outfield fencing & scoreboard

West End Square park

- Provide additional benches, lighting and landscaping to increase the park's capacity to provide recreation space for more citizens.

NEW PARKS AND FACILITIES

Three new community parks and six new neighborhood parks are recommended to be added to the Belleville system by the year 2030. Development of these new parks will satisfy the recreation service needs as described in Table 10 as well as satisfy the land acquisition goals of the City. Furthermore, well-located new neighborhood parks will enable the majority of citizens to be within one-half of a mile from a recreation facility.

New Community Park #1

A new community park should be developed on a suitable land parcel at least 50 acres in size that is located in the south-central portion of the City. The recommended program for this park includes:

- A 35,000 sf recreation center containing two gymnasiums, an upper-level running track, gymnastics facilities, exercise and fitness rooms, flexible space for community meeting rooms, a full-service kitchen, administrative office, restrooms and lockers, storage space.
- A family aquatics center including an Olympic-size outdoor swimming pool with adjacent zero-depth leisure pool, spray pool, restrooms and lockers, office space.



- Four lighted tennis courts
- Two unlighted outdoor basketball courts
- Four unlighted volleyball courts
- A perimeter walking trail (approx. 1 mile)
- One playground (with special-needs playground equipment)
- Two Picnic pavilions
- An open, grassed playfield
- One concession/restroom building
- A full-service maintenance facility
- Parking for 400 cars

Figure 4 illustrates a conceptual plan for New Community Park #1.

New Community Park #2

A new community park should be developed on a suitable land parcel approximately 50 acres in size that is located in the south-central portion of the City. The recommended program for this park includes:

- A 35,000 sf recreation center containing two gymnasiums, an upper-level running track, gymnastics facilities, exercise and fitness rooms, flexible space for community meeting rooms, a full-service kitchen, administrative office, restrooms and lockers, storage space.
- A four-field lighted baseball/softball complex (concession/restroom bldg. incl.)
- Two lighted baseball/softball practice fields
- One lighted soccer field
- A lighted lacrosse field
- Two lighted tennis courts
- Two unlighted basketball courts
- Two unlighted volleyball courts
- One playground
- Two Picnic pavilions
- One running track
- One lighted outdoor ice skating facility
- A perimeter walking trail (approx. 1 mile)
- One concession/restroom building
- A full-service maintenance facility
- Parking for 550 cars

Figure 4: Conceptual Plan- New Community Park #1



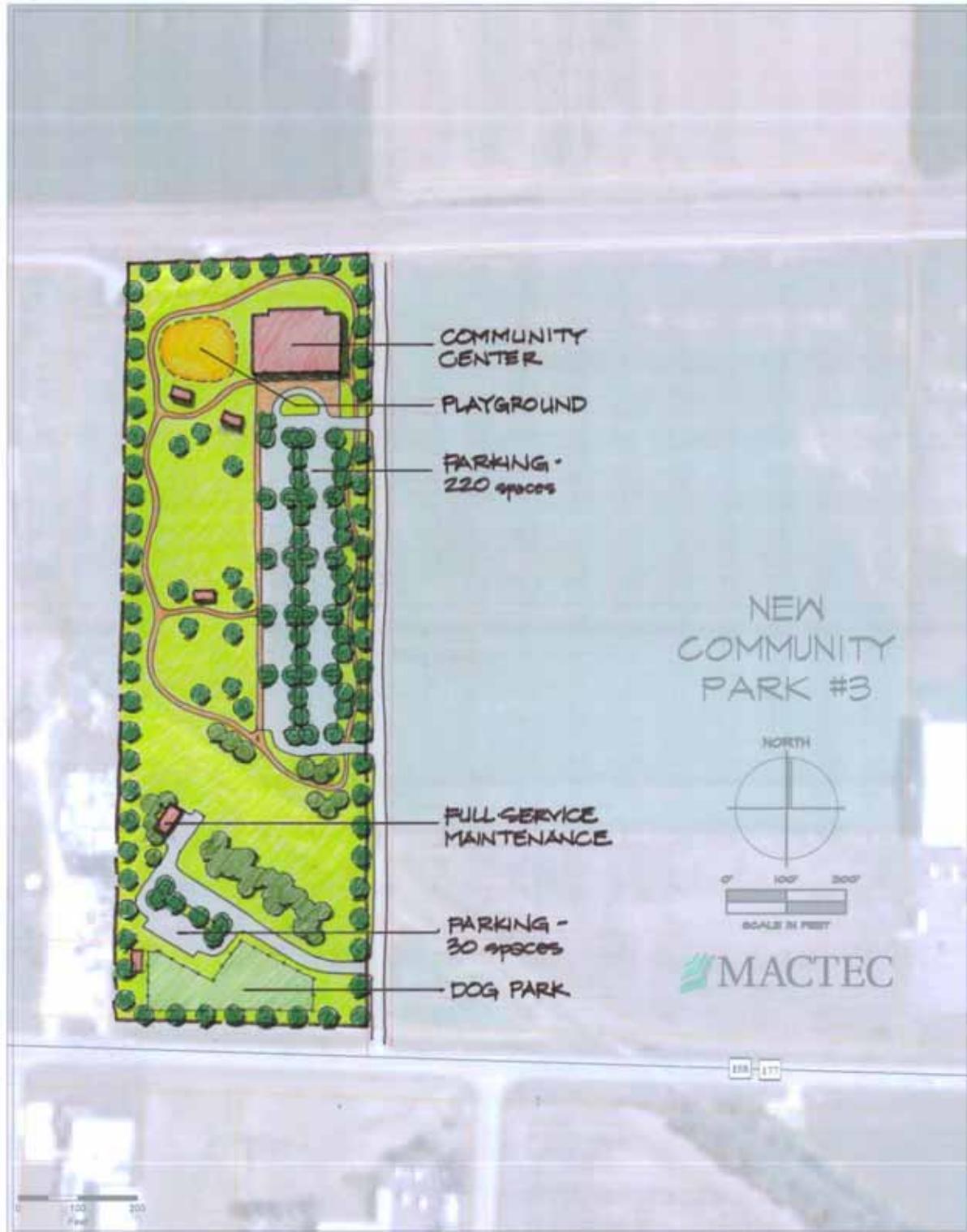
New Community Park #3

A new community park should be developed on a suitable land parcel approximately 10 acres in size that is located in the south-central portion of the City. The recommended program for this park includes:

- A 15,000 sf community center
- An open, grassed playfield
- One playground
- Two picnic pavilions
- A perimeter walking trail (approx. 1/2 mile)
- One dog park
- One concession/restroom building
- A full-service maintenance facility
- Parking for 250 cars

Figure 5 illustrates a conceptual plan for New Community Park #3.

Figure 5: Conceptual Plan- New Community Park #3





8.2 Trails And Greenways

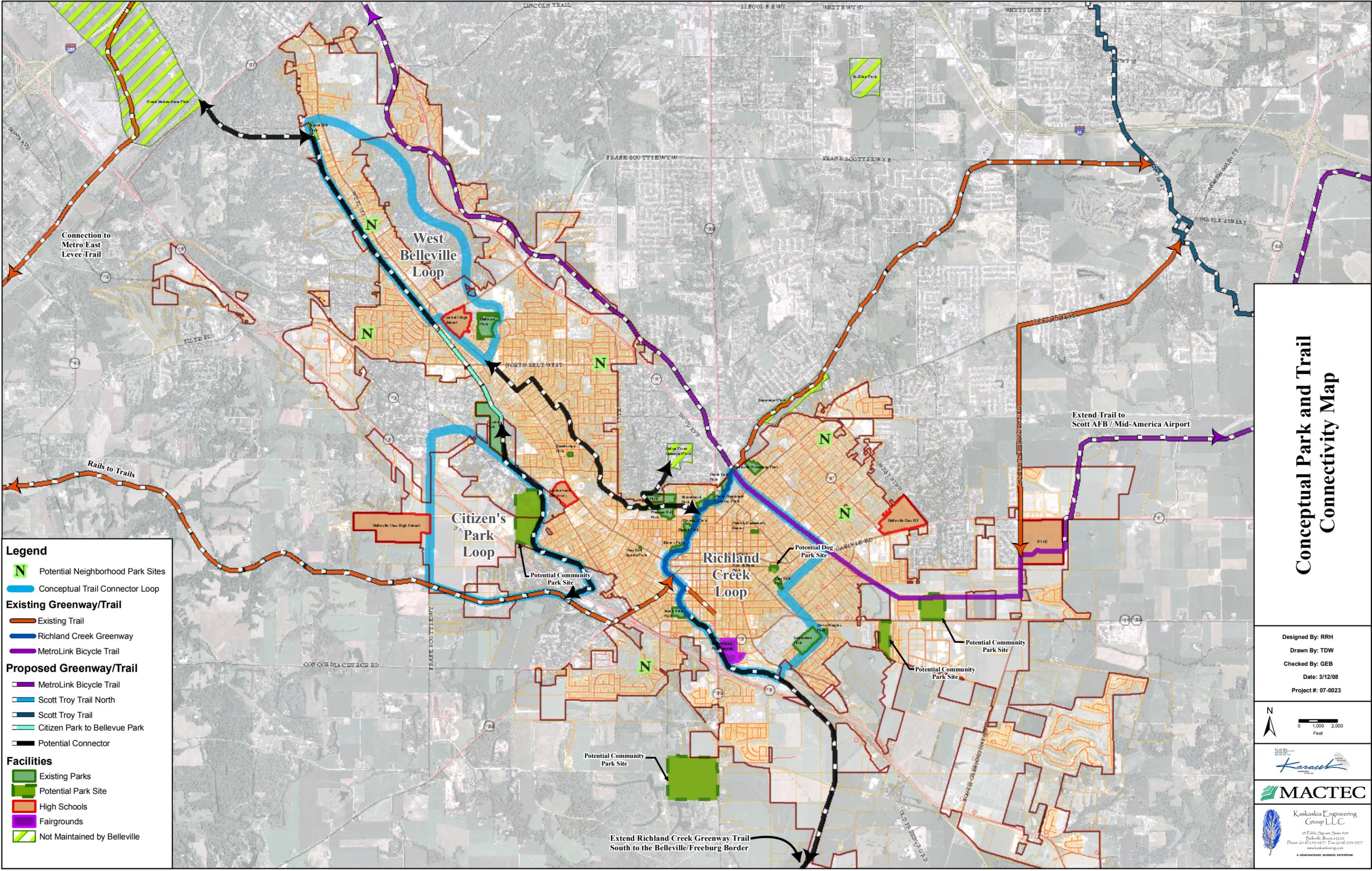
The city's Richland Creek Greenway Trail is one of the city's strongest park assets. It connects a string of parks that lie just west of the CBD and extends eastward and connects to SWIC. This is an example of an urban greenway trail system. Aside from being a very popular walking and bicycling trail, it is also rich with natural and cultural appeal.

NRPA standards suggest that a community the size of Belleville have at least one multi-purpose trail. The Richland Creek Greenway Trail supports this. However, one of the more frequent comments received through the public input web-survey was that the city needs more trails. Additionally, the MEPRD has identified a need for more trails in St. Clair County, specifically connectivity to Belleville. Additionally, the city should prioritize and develop connector trails feeding off of the existing Richland Creek Greenway and the Metrolink Trail. There should also be a focus on the development of trails and connectivity between existing and proposed subdivisions and between subdivisions and the Metrolink Trail. Specific subdivisions are not identified in this report, but the city should bear in mind the importance of connectivity between the trail system and existing and proposed subdivisions.

The following sub-sections provide recommendations for goals in order to achieve an expanded trail system within the community and trail linkages to points outside of Belleville. Refer to Figure 6 for a illustration of Proposed Trail Linkages.

SHORT TERM PLANNING (1-5 YEARS)

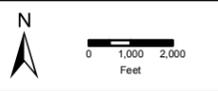
- Continue development on the Citizens Park to Bellevue Park connector trail,
- Continue development of the West Belleville Bike Trail,
- Initiate planning and development of an on-street trail connection between the Richland Creek Greenway and Citizens and Bellevue Parks,
- Initiate planning and feasibility study on an extension of the Richland Creek Greenway trail to the southeast to connect to the Belle-Claire fairgrounds;
- Coordinate planning efforts with Swansea to extend the Richland Creek Greenway to Centennial Park;
- Create an on-street linkage from the Richland Creek Greenway to Laderman Park;
- Investigate feasibility of a trail linkage from Signal Hill Park to Frank Holten State Park.



- Legend**
- Potential Neighborhood Park Sites
 - Conceptual Trail Connector Loop
 - Existing Greenway/Trail**
 - Existing Trail
 - Richland Creek Greenway
 - MetroLink Bicycle Trail
 - Proposed Greenway/Trail**
 - MetroLink Bicycle Trail
 - Scott Troy Trail North
 - Scott Troy Trail
 - Citizen Park to Bellevue Park
 - Potential Connector
 - Facilities**
 - Existing Parks
 - Potential Park Site
 - High Schools
 - Fairgrounds
 - Not Maintained by Belleville

Conceptual Park and Trail Connectivity Map

Designed By: RRH
 Drawn By: TDW
 Checked By: GEB
 Date: 3/12/08
 Project #: 07-0023



Karask
 CONSULTANTS

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 www.kaskaskiaeng.com
 A DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

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LONG TERM PLANNING (6-20 YEARS)

- Extend the Richland Creek Greenway to the south to the Belleville-Freeburg border;
- Create an on-street trail from Laderman Park to Belleville East High School to complete trail loop near the center of Belleville;
- Coordinate planning efforts with Swansea to develop a trail from Jaycees Park to Melvin Price Memorial Park;
- Develop a trail connection from Citizens Park to Belleville West High School,
- Develop a trail on the old railroad bed south of IL 15 from IL 158 to IL 163;
- Develop an on-street trail connection from IL 158 to the Richland Creek Greenway;
- Develop a trail connection from the old railroad bed south of IL 15 to Citizens Park.

OTHER PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES

There are other trail development opportunities that fall outside of the Belleville city limits that Belleville should support for the benefit of the St. Clair County region. These include:

- Extension of a trail system along the Richland Creek Greenway through Swansea to O'Fallon;
- Extension of a trail system from SWIC to the north and east to Shiloh and Scott AFB;
- Extension of a trail system from Frank Holten State Park along the Mississippi River levee to the Metro-East Levee Trail;
- Continue to actively cooperate with MEPRD to support overall trail development in St. Clair County and to work toward trail connections into Madison County.

8.3 Staffing

Excluding maintenance staff, the Belleville Parks and Recreation Department currently includes a staff of 13 persons. These positions include:

- Director of Parks and Recreation
- Superintendent of Recreation
- Custodian
- Office Clerk
- Office Manager
- (2) Recreation Programmers
- (4) Park Maintenance
- (1) Park Foreman
- Facility manager

This staff level is acceptable for proper administration of the PRD. Maintenance staff includes 5 full-time maintenance staff. Additionally, 2 to 4 persons are employed year-round on a part-time basis and, during summer months, 18 part-time staff are



employed. This level of maintenance staff is adequate to maintain current levels of maintenance; however, it is recommended that at least one additional, full-time employee be added. Additionally, The Director of parks and Recreation will become Director of Parks and Cultural Resources. The Superintendent of recreation will become Director of Operations.

8.4 Operations and Maintenance

A proper maintenance program is essential to providing quality recreation services. The established level of maintenance will determine not only the service life of recreation facilities but also the satisfaction of users. Because other entities also provide recreation facilities and programs for the community, the Belleville Parks and Recreation Department should, where possible, develop cooperative maintenance agreements such as the agreement with School District 118. The Department does not currently have a centralized maintenance facility. In addition to utilizing workshop space within the Nichols Community Center, use of maintenance equipment is shared with the City Public Works Department. Although all of the City parks are maintained to a consistent level, improvements to the overall maintenance program will be realized in an increased level of recreation experience. To achieve this goal, the following items should be implemented:

- Develop and adopt a system-wide maintenance plan;
- Include additional staff and equipment in annual Department budgets;
 - A minimum of two additional maintenance workers will need to be added
 - A need has been identified for a chipper/shredder, bucket truck and tractor
- Identify a central maintenance facility location – a new community park with adequate acreage would ideally contain this facility.

During the planning period represented by this Master Plan, additions to recreation facilities will require additional Parks and Recreation staff. The following personnel will be required:

- Community Park #1: park supervisor and recreation center supervisor and two employees;
- Community Park #2: park supervisor and recreation center supervisor and two employees;
- Community Park #3: park supervisor and community center supervisor and one employee.

8.5 Potential Funding Sources

The following are some examples of alternative funding sources, which may assist the city in financing projected capital and operational budgets for the proposed recommendations. At the Federal and state levels, these funding sources typically take the form of grants, matching grants programs and loan programs. At the local level, funding sources may include the capital portion of the general fund, impact fees,



special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST), dedicated millage rates, user fees, donations, bond referendums, foundation grants and public/ private partnerships.

Federal Funding Sources

There are four programs that offer potential for funding recreation projects in the City of Belleville. These are the Community Development Block Grant program, the Land & Water Conservation Fund, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program; the Recreational Trails Program, and the SAFETEA- LU Program (formerly TEA-21 and ISTEA). Other smaller programs exist which could be applicable during the planning period, but the likelihood of success coupled with relatively low dollar grants relegate these programs to the background. The publication "Guide to Federal Funding and assistance for Rivers, Trails and Open space Conservation" published in 1996 by the National Park Service is a good source for these other programs.

Community Development Block Grant

The Department of Housing and Urban Development sponsors the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). CDBG provides 100% grants for the acquisition, rehabilitation or construction of certain public facilities. Grants are highly competitive and use of the funds is restricted to projects that would benefit lower and moderate-income persons. The City of Belleville presently receives CDBG funds. These funds are historically expended for water and sewer projects. The CDBG program can be a viable funding source for community recreation facilities, recreation centers, trails and pedestrian facilities.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) sponsored by the Department of the Interior has been an unstable source of funding for recreation system improvements over the past decade. The LWCF provides 50% matching grants, which can be used for land acquisition and site development. The program is administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and is highly competitive. The City of Belleville has not received an LWCF grant.

It is possible that two or three LWCF grants could be secured during the ten-year planning period. The average Illinois LWCF grant award is \$183,894.

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal program created through the National Recreational Trail Fund Act (NRFTA) as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). This program was reauthorized under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) in 1996. This program provides funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails. By law, 30% of each state's RTP funding must be earmarked for motorized trail projects, 30% for non-motorized trail projects and the remaining 40% for multi-use (diversified) motorized and non-motorized trails or a combination of the two.



The RTP program is administered in Illinois by the IDNR and provides up to 80% federal funding on approved proved projects and requires a minimum 20% non-federal funding match. Applications for grant assistance must be received by IDNR no later than March 1st of each year. Awards are generally announced within 180 days following the application deadline date.

Examples of eligible project activities include:

- Trail construction and rehabilitation;
- Restoration of areas adjacent to trails damaged by unauthorized uses;
- Construction of trail- related support facilities and amenities; and
- Acquisition from willing sellers of trail corridors through easements or fee simple title.

SAFETEA-LU

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was authorized in 1996. This federally funded program provides several million dollars in enhancement finds available for transportation related projects, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, rail depot rehabilitation, landscaping and beautification projects.

The SAFETEA-LU program provides approximately 80 percent of project planning, design and development funding with the remaining 20 percent being contributed by the recipient. The SAFETEA-LU program is locally administered by the IDNR. Grant applications take approximately 2 years for approval and funding.

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) is a federal program administered through the National Park Service that was created in 1978 to provide grants to local governments for the purpose of rehabilitating parks, facilities and programs. Between the years 1979 and 2002, a total of 1,461 projects were funded through UPARR. Nine cities in Illinois have been awarded grants. The closest recipient to Belleville is East St. Louis, which received grants in 1981 and 1983. UPARR grants normally require local governments to provide 30 percent matching funds, but in some circumstances, the matching contributions can be as low as 15 percent.

Unfortunately, this program has not been funded since 2002, but should remain an option in the event funding is continued.

Federal Grants

A variety of special grants exists through the federal government. Other potential sources for recreational funding are available through the National Foundation of Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and Better America Bonds.



State Funding Sources

Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Program (OSLAD)

The OSLAD program began in 1986 to assist local government agencies in funding the purchase of land for open space and park development. The program is managed by the IDNR and is financed by a percentage of the Real Estate Transfer Tax. This program is very similar to the federal LWCF program with concurrent application dates, equal grant maximums and similar general rules. Funding assistance up to 50% of approved project costs can be obtained. Grant awards up to \$750,000 are available for acquisition projects, while development and renovation projects are limited to a \$400,000 grant maximum. Lands acquired with OSLAD funds are required to be operated and maintained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation.

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant

The Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant (UCFA) is to provide financial assistance to local units of government for the development of local urban and community forestry programs. These activities must help to establish, manage, conserve and preserve the urban and community forests from inner city to associated public lands. An important qualification for funding requires the recipient to establish a Tree Authority to preserve and protect trees in an urban environment. The program is set up as a 50/50 cost share reimbursement.

Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)

ITEP provides funding for community based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure. Project sponsors may receive up to 80 percent reimbursement for project costs. The remaining 20 percent is the responsibility of the project sponsor. A project must qualify as one of the twelve eligible categories listed in the ITEP Guidelines Manual and it must relate to surface transportation to be eligible for funding.

Illinois Green Streets Initiative Program

Governor Rod Blagojevich has enacted the new Illinois Green Streets Initiative, which is part of the Replanting the Prairie State Initiative to further reduce greenhouse emissions in the state. Although funded through the ITEP program, applications for the Illinois Green Streets Initiative will utilize a separate application unique to that program. Project sponsors may receive up to 80 percent reimbursement for project costs. The remaining 20 percent is the responsibility of the project sponsor. Funds for this program can only be used for planting of trees or prairie grasses.

Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program

The Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program was created in 1990 to financially assist eligible units of government to acquire, construct, and rehabilitate public, non-motorized bicycle paths and directly-related support facilities. Grants are available to any local government agency having statutory authority to acquire and develop land for public bicycle path purposes.



Financial assistance up to 50% of approved project costs is available through the program. The maximum grant award for development projects is limited to \$200,000 per annual request. There is no maximum for acquisition projects. The revenue for the program comes from a percentage of vehicle title fees collected pursuant to Section 3-821(f) of the Illinois vehicle code.

Applications for grant assistance must be received by IDNR by March 1 of each calendar year. Applications are evaluated on a competitive basis according to criteria set by IDNR. Grant awards are generally announced within six months following the application deadline date.

Eligible project costs include: Linear corridor land acquisition costs, including associated appraisal fees; and Bicycle path development or renovation including site clearing and grading, drainage, surfacing, bridging, fencing, signage, and directly-related support facilities such as potable water and restroom facilities.

Recreation User Fees

This is a dedicated user fee, which can be established by a local ordinance or other local government procedures for the purposes of constructing and maintaining recreation facilities. The fee can apply to all organized activities, which require a reservation of some type, or other purposes as defined by the local government. Examples of such activities include adult basketball, volleyball, and softball leagues, and special interest classes. The fee allows participants an opportunity to contribute toward the upkeep of the facilities being used.

Annual Appropriation/Leasehold Financing

This is a more complex financing structure which requires use of a third party to act as issuer of the bonds, construct the facility and retain title until the bonds are retired. The county enters into a lease agreement with the third party with annual lease payments equal to the debt service requirements. The bonds issued by the third party are considered less secure than general obligations bonds of the City, and therefore more costly. Since a separate corporation issues these bonds, they do not impact the City's debt limitations and do not require a vote. However, they also do not entitle the County to levy property taxes to service the debt. The annual lease payment must be appropriated from existing revenues.

Interlocal Agreements

Contractual relationships may be entered into between two or more local units of government and/or between a local unit of government and a profit organization for the joint usage/ development of sports fields, regional parks or other facilities.

Private Concessionaries

Contracts may be initiated with a private business to provide and operate desirable recreational activities financed, constructed, and operated by the private sector with additional compensation paid to the county.



Land Trust

Many counties have developed land trusts to help secure and fund the cost for acquiring land that needs to be preserved and protected for passive or resource conservation purposes. This could be good method for acquisition of future lands.

Local Funding Sources

General Fund

The City's general fund is currently the primary source of funding for capital outlay projects. For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the total recreational budget was approximately \$1,910,000. The City budgeted \$291,691 for recreation facility improvements. This investment is anticipated to generate \$83,000 in surplus earnings that could be applied towards other capital projects, operations, or debt servicing. If the capital outlay budget and the surplus revenue are combined and represent an accurate annual average, the funds available for proposed capital improvement projects could total over \$350,000 per year or \$3,500,000 over a ten-year period. However, some of this projected capital should be reserved for operations, overruns or unanticipated capital improvements to the current parks and trails facilities. A minimum of \$200,000 per year from the general fund for capital expenses during the ten-year planning period is recommended.

Recreation Impact Fees

The City is expected to add an additional 10,000 residents (based on planned housing units) over the next ten years. The new residents will be moving into approximately 3,700 new homes. A \$1000/unit recreation impact fee applied to 1500 new units would generate approximately \$1,150,000 for recreation. A special Study conducted before impact fees can be collected to the set the rate and to establish collection procedures.

Dedicated Millage

Dedicating a portion of the millage rate for recreation operating budgets and capital projects is an additional method of funding system-wide improvements. A dedicated millage has not been used to fund recreation projects. An increase of 1 mill by the City could yield approximately \$300,000 per year or \$3 million per ten-year period for recreation. This funding source could be applicable to both operating costs and capital projects. This rate of return would also adjust in concert with the population growth of the city and increasing property assessments.

Hospitality Tax

In addition to property taxes, the City could use a hospitality tax (placed on prepared meals and beverages served) to generate funds for recreation. The funds could be used to promote tourism or development.

Capital Project Sales Tax or Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)

This sales tax is enacted by approval of a city-wide referendum. The tax must be used for a specific purpose, must not last more than a preset number of years after the date of imposition, and may cap or limit the amount of revenue collected.



General Obligation Bonds

General tax revenue bonds for parks and recreation is usually devoted to current operation and maintenance of existing facilities. For the purpose of paying debt on these bonds, the local government is empowered to levy a special tax. Total bonding capacities would be limited to parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation.

Revenue Bonds

Revenue Bonds have become a popular funding method for financing high use specialties like golf courses, aquatic centers, ice rinks, tennis centers, and complexes for softball and soccer. The user and other revenue sources on-site pay for the revenue bonds.

Corporate Sponsorships

This funding source allows corporations to invest in the development or enhancement of new or existing facilities in the park system. Sponsorships are also highly encouraged for programs and events.

Partnerships

Partnerships are a joint development funding source or an operational funding source between two separate agencies, such as government entities, a non-profit and a City department, or a private business and a City agency. Two partners jointly develop revenue producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths and weaknesses of each partner.

Foundation/ Gifts

These dollars are raised from tax-exempt, non-profit organization established with private donations in promotion of specific causes, activities or issues. They offer a variety of means to fund capital projects, including capital campaigns, gift catalogs, fundraisers, endowments, sales of items, etc. A recent example is the Little League Association Urban Initiative Program that funds athletic facilities in urban areas.

Establish a Linear Park/Greenway Utility

Linear Park/greenway utilities are used to finance acquisition of greenways and development of the greenways by selling the development rights underground for fiber optics and other utilities.

Naming Rights

Many cities and counties have turned to selling the naming rights for new buildings or renovation of existing buildings and parks to finance the development cost associated with the improvement.

Cell Towers

Cell towers attached to existing light poles or cellular tower ground leases in game field complexes is another source of revenue that the City could seek. Lease agreements



vary but can be approximately \$500.00 per site per month. If five or six sites were leased in City parks, the revenue could approach \$30,000.00 per year.

Private Developers

Private developers lease space from City-owned land through a subordinate lease that pays a set dollar amount plus a percentage of gross dollars for recreation enhancements. These could include restaurants, sports complexes, equestrian facilities, recreation centers and ice arenas.

Licensing Rights

This revenue source allows the City to license its name on all resale items that private or public vendors use when they sell clothing or other items with the City's name on it. The normal licensing fee is six to ten percent of the cost of the resale item.

Capital Improvement Fees

These fees are on top of the set user rate for accessing facilities (such as golf courses, recreation centers and swimming pools) to support capital improvements that benefit the user of the facility.

Merchandising Sales

This revenue source comes from the public or private sector on resale items from gift shops and pro shops for either all of the sales or a set gross percentage.

Concession Management

Concession management is derived from retail sales or rentals of soft goods, hard goods, or consumable items. The City either contracts for the service or receives a set gross percentage or the full revenue dollars incorporating a profit after expense.

Friends Association/ "Friends of the Park"

These groups are formed to raise money typically for a single purpose that could include a park facility or program that will better the community as a whole and the group's special interest.

Advertising Sales

This revenue source is for selling tasteful and appropriate advertising on park and recreation related items such as the City's program guide, scoreboards, dasher boards and other visible products or services that are consumable or permanent.

Easements

This revenue source is available when the City allows utility companies, business or individuals to develop some type of an improvement above ground or below ground on City property for a set period of time and a set dollar amount to be received by the city on an annual basis.

Irrevocable Remainder Trusts

These trusts are set up with individuals who typically have more than a million dollars in wealth. The individuals will leave a portion of their wealth to the City in a trust fund that allows the fund to grow over a period of time. The City is then able to use a portion of



the interest to support specific park and recreation facilities or programs that are designated by the trustee.

Life Estates

This source of money is available when someone wants to leave their property to the City in exchange for the right to live on their property until their death. The City usually can use a portion of the property for park purposes while the person is living and then all of it after the person's death. This revenue source is very popular for individuals who have a lot of wealth and whose estate will be highly taxed upon their death. This allows the individual to receive a tax deduction yearly on their property while leaving a life estate. It is good for the City because the land is donated.

Permits (Special Use Permits)

These special permits allow individuals to use specific park property for financial gain. The City either receives a set amount of money or a percentage of the gross service that is being provided.

Catering Permits and Services

This is a license to allow caterers to work in the park system on a permit basis with a set fee or a percentage of the food sales returning to the county. Also many cities have their own catering service and receive a percentage of dollars off the sale of their food.

8.6 Capital Improvements Program

The first step in developing a Capital Improvements Program is determining the approximate amount of revenue that can realistically be anticipated from the wide variety of sources available to the City. No single source of funding should be relied upon to provide funding for the park, recreation, and cultural affairs program and associated capital projects. A varied approach that combines sources is the best approach and avoids an over reliance on one source that may or may not last the entire planning period. Once potential revenue has been determined, recommended plan improvements can be prioritized and scheduled by fiscal year.

Table 15 summarizes the approximate allocation of revenues from each potential revenue source for the ten-year implementation period. The dollar values assigned to each funding source are approximations, and are based upon historical experience, coordination with City officials and expected levels of local funding over the ten-year periods covered by the implementation program. Federal or State funding sources are estimated to account for 24 percent of the total funds that can be planned for capital projects. The Federal and State fund sources are also subject to termination due to political changes. If these sources become unavailable, then the total amounts allocated for capital projects should be decreased accordingly.

The primary funding sources for the Capital Improvements Programs include the General Fund, Impact Fees, SPLOST and a \$15,000,000 Bond Referendum. All costs are



shown in 2008 dollars. The Improvements Program does not include operations and staffing costs.

Table 15: Sources of Potential Revenue FY 2008-FY 2017

SOURCE	AMOUNT
FEDERAL	
CDBG	250,000
LWCF	500,000
RTP	500,000
SAFETEA- LU (formerly ISTEA)	3,000,000
UPARR	Not available at this time
Federal Grants	500,000
Subtotal	4,750,000
STATE	
Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Program (OSLAD)	\$500,000
Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant (UCFA)	\$100,000
Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (TE)	\$1,000,000
Illinois Green Streets Initiative Program (GSI)	\$200,000
Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program (Part of Illinois RTP)	\$500,000
Recreation User Fees	\$50,000
Annual Appropriation/ Leasehold Financing	\$50,000
Interlocal Agreements	\$25,000
Private Concessionaires	\$100,000
Land Trust	\$500,000
Subtotal	\$3,025,000
LOCAL	
General Fund	\$2,000,000
Impact Fees	\$1,500,000
Dedicated Millage	\$3,000,000
User Fees	\$500,000
Capital project Sales tax or SPLOST	\$100,000
Bond Referendums	\$15,000,000
Hospitality Tax	\$50,000
Donations	\$30,000
Public/ Private Partnerships	\$100,000
Non- Profit Organizations	\$50,000
Foundation Grants	\$250,000
Real Estate Transfer Tax	indeterminate
Other	\$2,000,000
Subtotal	\$24,560,000
Total	\$32,355,000
Anticipated Ten Year Implementation Costs (PY1-10) for Proposed Improvements to the Trail and Park systems.	\$32,353,125

Source: MACTEC Engineering and Consulting. All amounts are shown in 2008 dollars. Totals represent the amount of potential funds by source for the initial ten-year implementation period. Funding sources may change.



The projected funding sources were used to develop an initial ten-year Capital Improvements Program that is presented in Tables 16 and 17. These tables represent the implementation schedule and anticipated costs for Park and Trails projects, respectively, for both Fiscal Year and Plan Year periods. Table 18 presents the summary of costs for both Park and Trail projects during the planning periods.

Three Plan Year (PY) periods are shown in Tables 16 and 17 which correspond to an appropriate Fiscal Year period. The tables begin with FY2008-2009 (Plan Year 1 and represented as FY2009) because there is limited time remaining to apply the 2007-2008 budget towards capital improvement projects. PY1-2 represents smaller projects that would require the least amount of funding and would provide additional time to identify and procure funding for larger projects. PY3-5 generally represents mid-size projects and one large community park project that are expected to generate interest and enthusiasm for additional projects.

In PY6-10, larger projects are planned that build upon the mid-sized projects initiated in PY3-5. It is the intent that by PY8 funding will have been identified and secured for all projects in the PY6-10 and all small and mid-sized projects begun prior to PY8 would have been completed. Projects not completed or initiated may carry-over into the second ten-year planning period, PY11-20. This implementation period recommends development of the last Community Park (#2) and the completion of the various trail systems which are anticipated to begin sometime in PY6-10.



Table 16: Capital Improvement Plan for Parks, FY 2009 - FY 2029

Land Acquisition	Total (Plan Years 1-20)	Plan Year 1-5		Plan Year 6-10	Plan Year 11-20
		Fiscal Year 2009- 2011	Fiscal Year 2012-2014	Fiscal Year 2015-2019	Fiscal Year 2020-2029
115 ACRES (For 3 new Community Parks)	\$3,450,000	\$1,500,000	450,000	\$1,500,000	
Subtotal	\$3,450,000	\$1,500,000	450,000	\$1,500,000	
Improvements to Existing Parks					
Belleville Swimming Pool	\$425,000	\$425,000			
Bellevue Park	\$2,309,450	\$310,000	\$816,250	\$1,183,200	
Cambridge Park	\$27,700	\$27,700			
Citizens Park	\$137,500			\$137,500	
Ever and Anon Park	\$25,000	\$25,000			
Hough Park	\$265,875		\$265,875		
Jaycees Park	\$633,300			\$633,300	
Laderman Park	\$651,500	\$351,500	\$300,000		
Optimist Park	\$40,000	\$40,000			
Pleasant Hill Park	\$162,000	\$162,000			
Rotary Park	\$145,000	\$145,000			
Skateboard Park	\$250,000		\$250,000		
Southside Park	\$295,000		\$295,000		
Subtotal	\$5,367,325	\$1,486,200	\$1,927,125	\$1,954,000	
Conversion/ Upgrade Projects					
None	\$0				
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
New Community Parks Development					
New Community Park #1	\$13,559,800		\$6,779,900	\$6,779,900	
New Community Park #2	\$9,409,800				\$9,409,800
New Community Park #3	\$3,576,000			\$3,576,000	
(Land Acquisition Costs Not Included. See Above) Subtotal	\$26,545,600	\$0	\$6,779,900	\$10,355,900	\$9,409,800
New Neighborhood Parks Development					
(6) Neighborhood Parks @ \$1.6m ea. (4 acres included)	\$9,600,000		\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000
Subtotal	\$9,600,000	\$0	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000
Parks Capital Expense Totals	\$44,962,925	\$2,986,200	\$12,357,025	\$17,009,900	\$12,609,800
Average Capital Expense Per Year for Defined Period	\$2,248,146	\$1,493,100	\$4,119,008	\$3,401,980	\$1,260,980

Source: MACTEC Engineering and Consulting and City of Belleville. All amounts are shown in 2008 dollars. Actual quantities and prices may vary.



Table 17: Capital Improvement Plan for Trails, FY 2009 - FY 2029

Description	Total (Plan Years 1-20)	Plan Year 1-5		Plan Year 6-10	Plan Year 11-20
		Fiscal Year 2009- 2011	Fiscal Year 2012-2014	Fiscal Year 2015-2019	Fiscal Year 2020-2029
Multi-Purpose Trail System Improvements (1-5 years)					
Citizens Park to Bellevue Park	\$175,000	\$175,000			
West Belleville Bike Trail	\$700,000		\$700,000		
Richland Creek Greenway to Citizens/ Bellevue Parks	\$490,000		\$490,000		
Richland Creek Greenway to Belle Claire Fairgrounds	\$227,500	\$227,500			
Richland Creek Greenway to Centennial Park (coord w/ Swansea)	\$157,500	\$157,500			
Richland Creek Greenway to Laderman Park	\$297,500		\$297,500		
Signal Hill Park to Frank Holten State Park	\$262,500	\$262,500			
Subtotal	\$2,310,000	\$822,500	\$1,487,500	\$0	\$0
Multi-Purpose Trail System Improvements (6-20 years)					
Richland Creek Greenway to Belleville-Freeburg Border	\$910,000			\$500,000	\$410,000
Laderman park to Belleville East High School	\$105,000			\$105,000	
Jaycees Park to Melvin Price Memorial Park (coordinate with Swansea)	\$105,000				\$105,000
Citizen Park to Belleville West High School	\$280,000			\$280,000	
Old RR south of IL 15 from IL159 to IL 163	\$1,260,000			\$630,000	\$630,000
IL 158 to Richland Creek Greenway	\$105,000			\$105,000	
Old RR south of IL 15 to Citizens Park	\$350,000				\$350,000
Subtotal	\$3,115,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,620,000	\$1,495,000
Trails Capital Expense Totals	\$5,425,000	\$822,500	\$1,487,500	\$1,620,000	\$1,495,000
Average Capital Expense Per Year for Defined Period	\$271,250	\$411,250	\$495,833	\$324,000	\$149,500

Source: MACTEC Engineering and Consulting and City of Belleville. All amounts are shown in 2008 dollars. Actual quantities and prices may vary.

Table 18: Summary of the Capital Improvement Plan, FY 2009 - FY 2029

Description	Total (Plan Years 1-20)	Plan Year 1-5		Plan Year 6-10	Plan Year 11-20
		Fiscal Year 2009- 2011	Fiscal Year 2012-2014	Fiscal Year 2015-2019	Fiscal Year 2020-2029
Parks Capital Expense Totals	\$44,962,925	\$2,986,200	\$12,357,025	\$17,009,900	\$12,609,800
Trails Capital Expense Totals	\$5,425,000	\$822,500	\$1,487,500	\$1,620,000	\$1,495,000
Total System Wide Improvements	\$50,387,925	\$3,808,700	\$13,844,525	\$18,629,900	\$14,104,800
Average Capital Expense Per Year for Defined Period	\$2,519,396	\$1,904,350	\$4,614,841.67	\$3,725,980	\$1,410,480

Source: MACTEC Engineering and Consulting and City of Belleville. All amounts are shown in 2008 dollars. Actual quantities and prices may vary.

Appendix C contains detailed unit costs and budget-level cost estimates which were used to develop the Capital Improvements Program. Appendix C includes Units Cost



Estimates for each type of proposed park improvement. Unit Cost Estimates may assist the City in prioritizing individual facility improvements based on available funding, and could be used for grant writing, fundraising or sponsoring of separate items by individuals or businesses.

Table 19 below represents the average unit costs used to determine budget-level cost estimates presented in Appendix C.

Table 19: Table of Unit Cost Estimates. Recreation System Improvements by Type

Type of Improvement	Quantity	Unit Cost
Land Acquisition	1	\$30,000/Acre
Land Acquisition (Infill Parcels)	1	\$30,000/Acre
Site Preparation/Infrastructure	1	\$20,000/Acre
Baseball/Softball Field	1	\$300,000
Soccer Field	1	\$200,000
Football Field	1	\$200,000
Multi-Purpose Field	1	\$160,000
Grassed Playfield	1	\$100,000
Tennis Court	1	\$65,000
Tennis Court (with lights)	1	\$125,000
Multi-Purpose Court (Basketball/Volleyball)	1	\$65,000
Sand Volleyball Court	1	\$15,000
Grass Volleyball Court	1	\$10,000
Skate Park (approx 0.25 acres)	1	\$300,000
Dog Park (approx. 1-2 acres)	1	\$150,000
Playground	1	\$75,000
Picnic Pavilion	1	\$30,000
Group Pavilion (Large)	1	\$50,000
Horseshoe Pit	1	\$2,000
Botanical Garden	1	\$300,000
Park Trail (10 Ft width)	1	\$50/l.f.
Multi-Purpose Community Trail (10 Ft width)	1	\$50/l.f.
Nature Trail (10 Ft width)	1	\$50/l.f.
Environmental Education Center	1	\$400,000
Sprayground	1	\$600,000
Recreation Center	1	\$150/s.f.
Cultural Arts Center	1	\$165/s.f.
Community Center	1	\$150/s.f.
Restroom Building	1	\$50,000
Maintenance Facility	1	\$175,000
Directional/Entryway Signage	1	\$5,000
Parking	1	\$2,000/space

Source: MACTEC Engineering and Consulting



APPENDIX A

Meeting Minutes



APPENDIX A- Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 1, 2007 STAKEHOLDER MEETING #1 MINUTES

Date: 11/1/2007; 6:30 p.m.

Project: Belleville Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Project Number: 07-0023

Location: Nichols Center

Attendees: Geri Boyer, KEG
Steve Coates, MACTEC
Jeff Dozier, Asst Superintendent S. D. 201
Ryan Boike, Asst Superintendent S. D. 118
Suzette Lambert, Superintendent Signal Hill
Carol Wilson, Dir Admissions Gov. French Academy
Phil Elmore, Downtown Insurance Agent
Jim Schneider, City of Belleville
Jason Poole, Belleville Parks & Recreation
Rich Wilson, Belleville Parks & Recreation
Glenn Friederich, President Parks and Recr. Board
Debbie Belleville, Belleville Parks & Recreation
Gary Hopfinger, Belleville Parks & Recreation Director

Distribution: Attendees

Introduction:

The meeting began with introductions and examining the roles of the planning team and stakeholders.

Team: Kaskaskia Engineering Group (KEG) is the manager for the project. KEG is a local Belleville firm located in downtown Belleville and is very experienced in managing municipal projects.

Karasek Architecture and Fine Arts Company adds a cultural component to the team. Karasek understands Belleville's vision for integrating the arts into the parks and trail network.

MACTEC Engineering and Consulting: With over 100 park projects in the last 5 years, MACTEC Engineering and Consulting will be providing recreational planning and design.



Belleville Parks and Recreation Department: Provide background of current system, its weaknesses and strengths, and relay their own dreams for the future of the parks system.

Steering Committee: The planning team is looking for input to understanding the needs of the community. The committee is made up of stakeholders responsible for providing guidance to the professional team.

The Director of the Belleville Parks and Recreation Department, Gary Hopfinger, is retiring. Gary would like to leave his predecessor and staff with a master plan that will assist them in their goal of improving and updating park and recreational programs and facilities. Gary believes that there is a need for a new or updated community center because the existing one is currently run out of the Nichols Center which is an old school with limited access and room for spectators to observe participants in action. Gary wants the committee to look at the pool and the park operations. The park operations staff is housed in several buildings around town which makes communication a challenge.

Belleville Parks and Recreation Department takes pride in making something out of nothing and is proud of the good relationship with the schools. They believe the city's parks and facilities keep the community young and want to dispel the belief that parks and recreation is a luxury. There is an extreme need for places where one can unwind and get away from stresses. According to staff members, parks and recreation are quality of life facilities.

Background:

The goals of the Master Park Plan were discussed. The plan will inventory and assess the existing parks and recreational system, make comparisons to national and local benchmarks, develop a vision/mission statement with specific goals, recommend improvements to existing facilities, develop new sites, create linkages between facilities using trails and green space, and evaluate the need for new programs. It will also guide the future development of city parks and facilities. Recommendations will be made to address twenty-year system-wide needs, including: land acquisition, improvements to existing parks and facilities, development of new recreation sites and facilities, bikeways and trails, and programs and service delivery. Specific recommendations will also be made to address the potential for developing passive use facilities including greenspace, pedestrian facilities and linkages between parks and recreation sites.

The master park plan will look at the needs of the community for twenty years. It will include a five year work plan identifying projects and funding sources. It will also consider staffing and will consider NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association) standards and will use other communities as benchmarks.

An initial comparison of the existing park acreage (approximately 190.64 acres) to the NRPA standards of 6-10 acres of parkland per thousand population shows that the city



could be short 50 to 200 acres of parkland. The city currently has 4.6 acres per thousand residents. Belleville has a population of approximately 41,000. Although Belleville falls below the NRPA standards, NRPA standards are not met by a lot of communities.

All existing parks were classified. The small urban park has a very small radius, no driving. The neighborhood parks have small service areas, radius of less than .5 miles in which one could drive or walk. Community parks have a two mile radius. People will drive there.

The committee will look at which portions of the community are underserved. At first glance, the far western and eastern ends are underserved. We need to consider underserved areas for future neighborhood and/or community parks. Eventually, data will be collected on who is currently using the city's parks and how they're being used. The Belleville comprehensive plan will be reviewed. It is very important that the comprehensive plan and the recreation plan work together. Community perceptions and need analysis were discussed.

A public information meeting and open house will provide the citizens of Belleville with the opportunity to react to recommendations for land acquisition, improvements to existing recreation sites and development of new parks and facilities.

Discussion:

There was a significant amount of brainstorming that included the following:

- The regional connectivity of bike trails is important. Is there a way to connect Belleville trails to Madison County trail system? Is it possible to use transportation funding for trails? There is a need to identify railroad and utility corridors for trail construction.
- Is there a possibility to acquire land owned by the County for new parks?
- There needs to be better signage for existing parks.
- Why not develop an interpretive park?
- The problem with some of the existing parks is that much of the land is in the floodplain and you can't develop park structures in the floodplain.
- A dog park is needed near downtown. Rotary Park would be ideal. Mr. Poole commented that Rotary Park is only used for drinking. We need to make it worthwhile to use. The expense of the dog park is the chain link fence. What about the overflow parking lot of Renner's funeral home?
- The East End Park has a lot of NIMBY folks. The city had to take out basketball court, shuffleboard courts and bathroom.



- The Richland Creek Greenways is very popular. There is a need to incorporate new signage for the Greenway in master plan. A portion of the Richland Creek Greenway is owned by Metro Link Transit but maintained by Belleville.
- There is a need to consider a large community park (100 acres). Maybe Belleville needs to get away from the neighborhood parks and add one large park. The Neighborhood parks are a minimum of seven acres.
- Committee needs to look at the new development formula for greenspace and see if we need to increase the requirement.
- City needs enough space to build 8 – 12 ball fields to host tournaments.
- Committee is concerned that the master park plan be considerate of all economic groups. We should consider transportation to and from the parks and community center. There is land adjacent to Citizens Parks that may be available to expand the park. We need to consider properties next to schools. We need to look at the existing programs. These tie into cultural diversity. We need to tie this to existing community assets (schools) to needs (youth center). We need to connect thinking to community assets.
- ADA accessibility needs to be considered.
- We need to look at the needs of Generation Y and the growth of Belleville.
- There is a need to address THE POOL.
- Nichols Center offers a great deal to the community. There is a Dance Team at the Nichols Center. It is low in cost and there are 25 kids. The Daddy-Daughter Dance is growing. Approximately 200 couples will participate this year.

Softball Programs are well known in Belleville. Belle Claire Soccer Program is private and not a part of Belleville. Part of Belleville's population can't afford it.

Belleville is looking at a bike trail from Southside Park to Signal Hill Park.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 29 at 5:00 p.m. Committee members were asked to take a look at the Columbia Mo. Master Park Plan (http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/Master_Plan/) to get some ideas of possibilities and to begin talking to neighbors, friends and colleagues about what they would like to see in a park plan.

The goal is to have plan recommendations by January 15, 2008 and deliverable submitted to the city by February 28, 2008.

The above text constitutes our understanding of the meeting content. Please review these minutes and contact Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC with any corrections or additions. If after seven days, no comments are received, these minutes will become final and part of the project record.



End of Meeting Summary

Issue Date: 11/16/07, via e-mail distribution

Attachments n/a

Action Items:

- Review parks inventory and classifications.
- Add existing trails, abandon rail corridors, and utility easements to the master map.
- Review the city's inventory of land.
- Research new development formula for greenspace and bring to next meeting.
- Review Columbia Missouri Master Park Plan.



NOVEMBER 14, 2007 BELLEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF INTERVIEW NOTES

A. General Opinion of Parks

1. Trails and Greenbelts. *Is there strong support for trails and greenbelts in terms of citizen use and satisfaction with existing trails?*

DK – Need more trails and variety of trails; i.e., bike, walking, nature. Would like to see the parks interconnected.

JP – Bike trails are nice and 2 walking trails that are heavily used. We need to keep the North End Park (1/4 mile loop trail) as it is heavily utilized. A greenway is not needed so much because it doesn't have a purpose. We need an interpretive type trail.

JA – Uses bike trail himself and the walking trails are heavily used. Lots of positive response from the public.

CM – Bike trail has to cross too many streets

MS – Trails are used extensively for walking and biking. City offers fishing opportunities at the parks which are well received.

2. Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, and Picnic Facilities. *Do you feel that Belleville has a sufficient number of neighborhood parks, open space within 10 minutes of home, and picnic facilities?*

DK – Doesn't think there are enough parks for neighborhoods and not enough open space.

JP – Need more neighborhood parks as most parks are concentrated downtown.

CM – Some parks have a lack of interest and we need more neighborhood parks.

MS – Would like to hire 2 to 3 more people to keep up with a big park, The City doesn't really need a park. Bellevue Park lake should be fixed up and the bridge fixed. New play equipment is needed at East End Park and Hough Park.

3. Athletic Fields and Courts. *What is your Impression of the city's athletic fields, courts, and related support facilities, such as, concession stands, storage rooms, batting cages, parking lots, and restrooms?*

DK - Not enough fields and courts and what we do have needs updating. Bathrooms are not an issue.



JP – I'm not sure

TS – I would like to see no basketball courts because they bring trouble. There are not enough athletic fields and we need 8 – 12 fields in one area – 8 for softball and 4 for baseball. The fields need to be flexible so you can use outfields for soccer. The Family Sports Center is right down the road so we could build there and could partner with O'Fallon. We wouldn't have a problem keeping 8 – 12 fields busy with fast pitch baseball in the spring, summer and fall. Maybe have lacrosse fields using Kirkwood as an example. Belleville would like to get into select baseball.

MH – We only use parks for sports. They can use more school fields then city parks.

4. Ice Skating Facility. *Do you think there is interest in developing an ice skating facility in Belleville?*

DK – Yes and no – maybe outdoor.

JP – Outside ice skating

5. City-wide Special Events. *What type of special events does the parks department offer to citizens? Is participation good?*

DK – The Tour de Belleville is good. We need more special events.

JP – More events need to be added.

CW – The City should have a circus or carnival downtown.

6. Swimming Facilities. *Is the swimming pool adequate? Is it in the right location? Is there a need for an additional or new outdoor family aquatic facility that is more leisure-oriented? This facility might include items such as water slides, wave pools, lazy rivers, and spraygrounds. Would a recreation center alleviate the perceived need for an indoor facility?*

DK – A new facility is needed such as an outdoor/indoor mix with lots of amenities, Would like to see swimming lessons offered for schools and neighborhood associations.

JP – A community pool is needed but need to make it financially stable. It should be multi-use.

JA – I feel adults want the pool to stay open but it is at a point where it is going to need major maintenance. The pipes and filters need future repair as the pool is 30+ years old. The pool is within walking distance to MetroLink and has done an excellent job in safety. The pool steps are difficult for some people.

TS – Would like to see a retractable roof on aquatic centers.



CM – Thinks Belleville needs a pool but it doesn't need to be elaborate.

MS – The pool looks nice but the mechanics are the problem. You can see rebar on the pool wall when sandblasting.

RW – Pool is used for day camps by bus.

7. Benefits of Parks. *Should the City's emphasis be placed on renovation and maintenance of existing parks, building new facilities or on developer set asides?*

DK – There should be a mix of adding to the existing and building a new facility.

JP – Maintain the old pool as well.

8. Safety. *Are the parks safe? What kind of security is in place?*

DK – Most are safe but feels that Nichols might not be safe.

TS – Parks are not safe after dark or when programs are offered. The policy is that they are closed after dark.

A. Park Inventory and Classification

1. *Do we have the parks classified correctly?*

JP – East End Park is a neighborhood park.

Nichols Center

JA – It is constantly rented out but there is no seating and not a lot of maintenance problems. There is an older neighborhood around Nichols but because it's got some low income apartments around it some people stay away. It can be hard to find because of its location.

CM – Nichols Center needs to be replaced.

B. Parks and Recreation Need

1. *Can you provide us with a list of all your current recreation programs?*

DK – Can give a list of what they are offering but the programs are not well attended. We have trouble finding instructors and nothing to feed into. Part of the problem is that people don't know the Nichols Center is there. The preschool is not licensed because it can't pass and it doesn't have bussing. Kids can stay there only 12 hours per week so it's very limiting. The summer kiddy camp could be so much better in a better facility.

2. *Can you provide us with the participation rates for your existing programs?*



DK – People call and we work with them for participation rates.

3. *What do think are the City's biggest needs for recreational facilities? Programs?*

CM – We need a walking trail at Citizen's Park.

MS – Maintaining and fixing up what we have.

MH – Instead of building new parks we need to update and clean up the old ones. Finds that he uses school facilities like a park because it's in the neighborhood. Would like to see all staff be in one office and not so spread out. Would like to see on-line registration for programs. Most reservations are made by phone. Need a good map showing all parks. Would like to see a large facility to rent for family reunions and school functions.

RW – Need facilities that we can adequately program. Nichols Center works best as a rental facility. Most of pool business is day camps. Close to pulling plug on preschool programs. Community awareness is lacking. Southside bathrooms are disgusting. Need for electrical capabilities in the parks. We are lacking in senior citizen events; yoga and karate.

D. Management and Finance

1. *What are you biggest operational challenges?*

MS – My biggest challenge is graffiti and trash.

DS – Playgrounds have to keep watch because they are safety issues. Bellevue Park lake is a challenge because the slope is washing away along the trail. Steep hillside needs to be cleaned up and we need to replace the band shell roof.

DB – Changing demographics is a challenge. Need transportation to get to Camp Quackers. There are no premier parks and parks are not ADA. We can't offer aerobics, fitness equipment, wellness programs, etc.

E. Maintenance and Operations

1. *How big is the maintenance staff?*

JP – We have 5 full-time, 18 part time in the summer and 2 – 4 part time year round.

JA – Only 2 full-time staff at the pool but also handle 4 other buildings which are the pool, Nichols Center, Park office and Stone Lodge.

MS – We're a little understaffed.



2. ***What is the Parks Departments overall budget for maintenance?***

JP – I don't know

DS – Small tool budget was short this year

3. ***What maintenance equipment do you have in your inventory? What maintenance needs do you have?***

JP – We are near the Streets Department so they share equipment. We have plenty of mowers but it would be nice to own a new chipper. We have a Bobcat but we borrow the backhoe and chipper.

JA – We have a workshop in the Nichols Center and we have a very good relationship with the Streets Department.

CM – Our equipment is good and a place to store it is good. We rotate trucks and a chipper is needed instead of burning.

MS – The pavilion at Huff and the band pavilion at Bellevue Park both need roof repairs. We need a new tractor.

DS – The mowers are fine. We rotate 2 out every year. Need new tractor upgrades. We need a bucket truck especially during fall when the city is using it for Christmas decorations. The skateboard park has graffiti.

4. ***Do you have any particular safety issues with any of your parks?***

JP – I'm not aware of any right now and we're always correcting hazards. We have trouble keeping up with playground equipment maintenance; i.e., the bottom of slides. At East End Park the parking lot is paved or oil and chip so cars don't throw rocks on tennis courts. We have curbs instead of wood poles or blocks to keep people on parking lot.

MS – We spend most of the time on vandalism; i.e., spray painting. Need police presence in the parks but it is much better this year. A formal inventory is taken on the parks.

DS – Cambridge Park has wheelchair mulch that needs raking.

Wish List

- Big park with a recreation center and pool
- Shed for equipment in big parks
- New park with concessions



NOVEMBER 29, 2007 STAKEHOLDER MEETING #2 MINUTES

Date: 11/29/2007; 5:00 p.m.

Project: Belleville Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Project Number: 07-0023

Location: Nichols Center

Attendees: Geri Boyer, KEG
Steve Coates, MACTEC
Ron Huffman, MACTEC
Jeff Dozier, Asst Superintendent S. D. 201
Ryan Boike, Asst Superintendent S. D. 118
Suzette Lambert, Superintendent Signal Hill
Carol Wilson, Dir Admissions Gov. French Academy
Phil Elmore, Downtown Insurance Agent
Sr. Kathleen Koenen, Diocese of Belleville
Jim Schneider, City of Belleville
Jason Poole, Belleville Parks & Recreation
Rich Wilson, Belleville Parks & Recreation
Debbie Belleville, Belleville Parks & Recreation
Gary Hopfinger, Belleville Parks & Recreation Director

Distribution: Attendees

Minutes:

Meeting began with a welcome and introductions.

A summary of staff interview notes held on November 14, 2007 and a summary of issues from the staff interviews was distributed and discussed.

Additional comments to staff interviews were as follows:

- Gary Hopfinger stated they have gotten calls asking about the availability of RV parking in or near the city. The closest RV parking is at the Casino Queen parking lot in East St. Louis.
- Debbie Belleville reiterated that communication of parks and recreation staff is difficult because staff is spread out over several facilities.
- Committee discussed the Nichols Center. Some staff would like to see it go and others would like to see it stay in operation. The Nichols Center building has great history and adds to the viability of the surrounding neighborhood. It was noted that the center is hard to find and the neighborhood surrounding the center is somewhat of a detriment. A suggestion to convert the Nichols Center to a Neighborhood center was offered.



- The development of a large community park should be comprehensive.
- The existing pavilions are all rentable but they do not all have electric.

A summary of the Parkway/Greenland Strategies (excerpted from the 2000 Comprehensive Plan) was distributed and discussed. The following comments were made:

- The Comprehensive plan calls for a very aggressive goal for the development of parkland (10 acres/1000 projected residents). The city currently has 4.6 acres/1000 residents. The planning team feels a more appropriate goal is around 6.25 acres/1000 residents.
- Parks and Recreation discussed the difficulty of maintaining small sites or mini-parks (Dawn Heights and West End Square park). May want to eliminate some mini-parks or landscape in native plants to reduce overall maintenance.
- City should be responsible for gateway into the city ("Welcome to Belleville" entrance signs).
- City might want to partner with County on trail development in nature preserve areas of the county.
- There are no land trusts set up yet.
- The preservation of the Mississippi River Bluffline noted in the Comprehensive plan is outside the city limits.

Strategies of the 2000 Comprehensive plan were also discussed. The bikeway trail extension northward from North End Park to the MetroLink BikeLink trail has been completed. The bikeway extension southward to connect with South Side Park is completed but needs to be extended further down Richland Creek. There are plans to extend the trail eastward to connect to the depot at Illinois 159 is on the books. Trails will have benches. The city will pour concrete pads along the trails and place the benches that were removed from Main Street under the recent renovation.

A short discussion was held on the Mission Statement. The committee worked on re-envisioning it. Suggestions of words or statements to include in the mission statement were as follows:

1. Culture
2. Environment
3. Accessibility
4. Community Connections
5. History
6. Interpretation
7. Hub
8. Family

The committee was asked to look at the Facilities Standards Compared to Existing Level of Service sheet that was provided and think about the total projected number of items to be added to the park system. Is it enough? Is it too much? This will be discussed at the next meeting.



The next meeting is scheduled for January 10 at 5:00 p.m.

The above text constitutes our understanding of the meeting content. Please review these minutes and contact Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC with any corrections or additions. If after seven days, no comments are received, these minutes will become final and part of the project record.

End of Meeting Summary

Issue Date: 11/16/07, via e-mail distribution

Attachments n/a

Action Items:



JANUARY 10, 2008 STAKEHOLDER MEETING #3 MINUTES

Date: 01/10/2008; 5:00 p.m.

Project: Belleville Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Project Number: 07-0023

Location: Nichols Center

Attendees: Geri Boyer, KEG
Steve Coates, MACTEC
Ron Huffman, MACTEC
John Hunt, MACTEC
Jeff Dozier, Asst Superintendent S. D. 201
Ryan Boike, Asst Superintendent S. D. 118
Suzette Lambert, Superintendent Signal Hill
Phil Elmore, Downtown Insurance Agent
Sr. Kathleen Koenen, Diocese of Belleville
Jim Schneider, City of Belleville
Jason Poole, Belleville Parks & Recreation
Rich Wilson, Belleville Parks & Recreation
Debbie Belleville, Belleville Parks & Recreation
Gary Hopfinger, Belleville Parks & Recreation Director

Distribution: Attendees

Minutes:

Meeting began with a welcome and introductions.

A packet of material was distributed to all those present. The packet included the Recreational System Master Plan (needs assessment, community profile), program analysis, a draft mission statement and goals, community park survey and preliminary park symbols and branding ideas.

The draft needs assessment and community profile was presented by Ron Huffman. These items are the building blocks for the report. Team was asked to review these and send comments by e-mail to Geri Boyer.

Program analysis was presented by Ron Huffman. A suggestion was made by the committee that programs that have been declining should also be evaluated and included in the report. Ron Huffman agreed.



Mission statement brainstormed at the last meeting was reviewed. The committee was asked to review mission statement and goals. Send all revisions and/or comments by e-mail to Geri Boyer.

Parks

The community survey is currently available on the City website. Flyers will go home with all school children to participate. An article will be in the Belleville News Democrat asking all residents to participate. Committee members should encourage participation of the survey. Survey will close February 15, 2008.

A preliminary greenway plan was presented by Steve Coates including trail conductivity to large parks. Committee would like to see additional trail loops. Routes that have already been defined by city planning will be noted on map. A meeting will be set up to discuss greenway plan with the City of Swansea and Metro East Park and Recreation District.

Gary Karasek presented three (3) potential logos for the parks department. Logo option 2 and 3 represents the fountain, a person, and the sun or a seed. Option 3 (the tall fountain/person with the round ball) was the most popular with the committee. Discussion favored the idea of the park logo being a broad interpretation of the Belleville fountain being combined with people and nature. Any further comments should be e-mail to Geri Boyer. Gary will continue to work on logo and branding.

Action Items:

1. Review and comment on needs assessment and community profile.
2. Review and comment on Mission Statement.
3. Encourage participation of the community survey found on the Belleville website.
4. Send any additional comments on park logo.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21 at 5:00 p.m.

The above text constitutes our understanding of the meeting content. Please review these minutes and contact Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC with any corrections or additions. If after seven days, no comments are received, these minutes will become final and part of the project record.

End of Meeting Summary

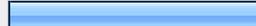
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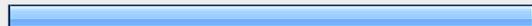
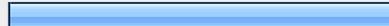


APPENDIX B

Survey Results

Belleville Parks and Recreation Master Plan - Community Survey

1. Which of the following ranges includes your age?			Response Percent	Response Count
0-6			0.3%	1
7-12			1.0%	3
13-17			1.4%	4
18-29			18.0%	52
30-39			27.3%	79
40-49			30.4%	88
50-65			18.0%	52
65+			3.5%	10
			<i>answered question</i>	289
			<i>skipped question</i>	0

2. What is your gender?			Response Percent	Response Count
Female			57.8%	167
Male			42.2%	122
			<i>answered question</i>	289
			<i>skipped question</i>	0

3. What is your current marital status?			Response Percent	Response Count
Single			22.1%	63
Married			66.0%	188
Divorced/separated			10.5%	30
Widow/widower			1.4%	4
Other (please specify)			0.0%	0
			<i>answered question</i>	285
			<i>skipped question</i>	4

4. Do you have any children under 18 living in your household?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			54.0%	155
No			46.0%	132
			<i>answered question</i>	287
			<i>skipped question</i>	2

5. When do you primarily use a park or recreational facility?			Response Percent	Response Count
weekday			5.6%	15
weekend			42.0%	113
both			52.4%	141
			<i>answered question</i>	269
			<i>skipped question</i>	20

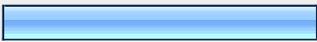
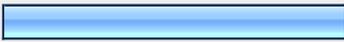
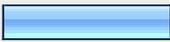
6. How safe do you feel when visiting a city park?

		Response Percent	Response Count
very safe		21.5%	59
somewhat safe		65.0%	178
somewhat unsafe		11.3%	31
very unsafe		2.2%	6
		answered question	274
		skipped question	15

7. How familiar are you with the city's Parks and Recreation Department?

		Response Percent	Response Count
very familiar		25.9%	71
somewhat familiar		46.4%	127
not too familiar		22.3%	61
not at all familiar		5.5%	15
		answered question	274
		skipped question	15

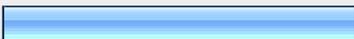
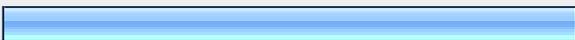
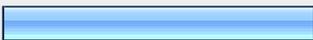
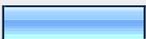
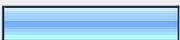
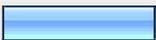
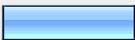
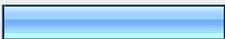
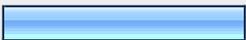
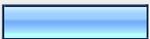
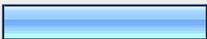
8. How often do you attend a park or recreational activity organized by the Parks and Recreation Department?

		Response Percent	Response Count
often		9.9%	27
sometimes		34.4%	94
rarely		37.4%	102
never		18.3%	50
		answered question	273
		skipped question	16

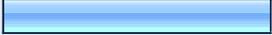
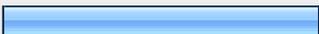
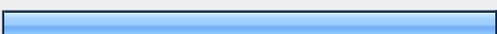
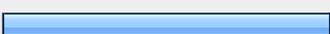
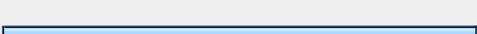
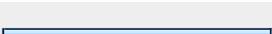
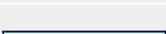
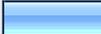
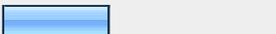
9. How satisfied are you with the organized activities you have attended?

		Response Percent	Response Count
very satisfied		25.0%	55
somewhat satisfied		62.3%	137
somewhat dissatisfied		8.6%	19
very dissatisfied		4.1%	9
		answered question	220
		skipped question	69

10. Which activities do you think the Parks and Recreation Department should provide more of?

		Response Percent	Response Count
playgrounds		45.8%	120
picnicking		38.5%	101
walking/jogging		63.0%	165
biking		45.8%	120
swimming		34.0%	89
rollerblading/skateboarding		15.3%	40
volleyball		19.1%	50
basketball		9.2%	24
baseball/softball		16.4%	43
football		9.2%	24
soccer		14.1%	37
fishing		24.0%	63
aerobics/exercise		26.3%	69
tennis		15.6%	41
golf		10.3%	27
camping		22.1%	58

dog park		52.7%	138
		answered question	262
		skipped question	27

11. Which city parks and/or facilities have you used in the past year?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Belleville Swimming Pool		29.1%	74
Bellevue Park		66.5%	169
Cambridge Park		5.9%	15
Citizens Park/Whitey Herzog Field		34.6%	88
Dawn Heights Mini Park		3.1%	8
Downtown Square		54.3%	138
East End Park		35.8%	91
Ever & Anon Park		11.0%	28
Gas Lite Park		7.5%	19
Hough Park		29.5%	75
Jaycee's Park		7.9%	20
Laderman Park		52.0%	132
Nichols Community Center		29.1%	74
North End Park		17.7%	45
North Municipal Gateway Entrance Park		5.1%	13
Optimist Park		7.9%	20
Pleasant Hill Park		13.4%	34
Richland Creek Greenway Trail		25.6%	65
Rotary Park		10.2%	26
Skateboard Park		11.4%	29
South Side Park		29.9%	76

West End Square Park		8.3%	21
	<i>answered question</i>		254
	<i>skipped question</i>		35

12. Additional Comments		
		Response Count
		106
	<i>answered question</i>	106
	<i>skipped question</i>	183



APPENDIX C

Cost Estimates for Proposed Park and Trail Improvement Projects



APPENDIX C- Cost Estimates for Proposed Park and Trail Improvement Projects

Existing Parks

Park and Proposed Improvements	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Unit Costs	
Belleville Swimming Pool					
Enclose dumpsters. (10' sides x 8ft ht) (wood or chain link with fabric)	2	allow- ance	\$5,000	\$10,000	
Pave and landscape existing gravel parking. (add dims)	65,000	sf.	\$5	\$325,000	
Address stormwater runoff concerns	1	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Repair retaining wall (70lf). (Stormwater damage)	1	allow- ance	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Provide or improve ADA access to pool deck.	1	allow- ance	\$25,000	\$25,000	
			subtotal		\$425,000
Bellevue Park					
Add small picnic shelters throughout the park. (15'x 15')	3	ea	\$15,000	\$45,000	Phase 1
Provide park benches adjacent to large playground structure	10	ea	\$2,000	\$20,000	Phase 1
Replace/repair existing water fountains, provide additional fountains at pavilions and park entry points	5	ea	\$1,000	\$5,000	Phase 1
Expand playground areas	1	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$50,000	Phase 1
Add additional playground equipment at expanded playground areas.	2	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$100,000	Phase 1
Provide lighting at tennis courts.	6	ea	\$15,000	\$90,000	Phase 1
Resurface roadways/ parking	74,250	sf	\$5	\$371,250	Phase 2
Resurface asphalt pathways	9,000	sf	\$5	\$45,000	Phase 2
Enlarge/ enclose stone lodge	1	allow- ance	\$300,000	\$300,000	Phase 2
Add retaining wall behind Stone Lodge. (Approx 200 lf)	1	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$50,000	Phase 2
Repair gabion walls along lakeside	1,800	lf	\$10	\$18,000	Phase 3
Add warming kitchen facilities to Stone Lodge	1	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$50,000	Phase 2
Replace footbridge across lake. (160' x 6')	960	sf	\$120	\$115,200	Phase 3
Dredge the lake. (assumes max of 2ft silt buildup)	175,000	sf	\$6	\$1,050,000	Phase 3
			subtotal		\$2,309,450
Cambridge Park					
Provide location/ directional signage on W. Main St.	1	allow- ance	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Re-grade playground edge for stormwater drainage.	1	allow- ance	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Resurface playground.	900	sf.	\$3	\$2,700	
Develop and implement a landscape plan for shade and beautification.	1	allow- ance	\$10,000	\$10,000	
			subtotal		\$27,700



Park and Proposed Improvements (continued)	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Unit Costs	
Citizens Park					
Pave and landscape gravel parking areas	113,500	sf	\$5	\$567,500	
Re-plank bleachers	1	allow- ance	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Provide / replace water fountains	5	ea	\$2,500	\$12,500	
Repair concessions pavilion	1	allow- ance	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Provide additional playground equipment	1	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Provide additional skateboard equipment	1	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$50,000	
			subtotal		\$137,500
Ever and Anon Park					
Maintain and enhance landscaping.	1	allow- ance	\$25,000	\$25,000	
			subtotal		\$25,000
Hough Park					
Provide pedestrian path within the park to link the parking area with the picnic area, playground, pavilion and open play area. (300' x 8')	2,400	sf	\$5	\$12,000	
New Trail Amenities- Benches, Trash Recpts, Bollards	7	ea	\$2,500	\$17,500	
Pave existing gravel parking areas. (40,500 sf)	40,500	sf	\$5	\$202,500	
Landscape around existing gravel parking areas.	1	allow- ance	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Provide fencing to enclose playground. (6ft height)	325	lf	\$35	\$11,375	
Refurbish or replace drinking fountains and water spigots.	3	ea	\$2,500	\$7,500	
Enclose dumpsters. (10' sides x 8ft ht)	1	allow- ance	\$5,000	\$5,000	
			subtotal		\$265,875
Jaycees Park					
Provide pedestrian links to adjacent neighborhoods.	1	allow- ance	\$2,500	\$2,500	
Construct walking trail around the perimeter of the park. (3200 x 8')	2,560	sf	\$5	\$12,800	
Provide bleachers.	6	ea	\$5,000	\$30,000	
Provide shade pavilions.	2	ea	\$15,000	\$30,000	
Provide drinking fountains.	4	ea	\$2,000	\$8,000	
Pave existing gravel parking.	105,000	sf	\$5	\$525,000	
Provide landscaping to existing gravel parking.	1	allow- ance	\$25,000	\$25,000	
			subtotal		\$633,300



Park and Proposed Improvements (continued)	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Unit Costs	
Laderman Park					
Replace signage at Mascoutah Avenue entry.	1	allow- ance	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Refurbish or replace the scorer's booth at the baseball fields.	1	allow- ance	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Replace the drinking fountains at the baseball fields.	3	ea	\$2,500	\$7,500	
Replace the lighting at the baseball fields.	1	allow- ance	\$60,000	\$60,000	
Refurbish or replace drinking fountains at soccer field.	1	ea	\$2,500	\$2,500	
Replace fencing at baseball fields (replace this fencing the next ten years.) (Field 1- 980 lf, field 2- 850lf)	1,830	lf	\$50	\$91,500	
Pave existing gravel parking areas.	84,500	sf	\$5	\$422,500	
Landscape existing gravel parking areas.	1	allow- ance	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Enclose dumpsters at picnic area and at parking adjacent to Parks and Recreation building.	2	ea	\$5,000	\$10,000	
Provide pedestrian linkage to Mascoutah Avenue.	1	allow- ance	\$2,500	\$2,500	
			subtotal		\$651,500
Optimist Park					
Provide additional benches.	5	ea	\$2,000	\$10,000	
Provide additional outdoor sculpture.	3	ea	\$10,000	\$30,000	
			subtotal		\$40,000
Pleasant Hill Park					
Provide new fence at little league baseball field.	1,000	l.f.	\$50	\$50,000	
Extend walking trail along entry drive to provide pedestrian connection to West E Street.	1	allow- ance	\$2,500	\$2,500	
Replace missing park bench.	1	ea	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Landscape upper parking lot.	1	allow- ance	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Provide wall/terrace along slope between upper parking area and baseball diamond for seating.	1	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Provide additional playground equipment	1	allow- ance	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Enclose playground areas.	1	allow- ance	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Provide pedestrian connection to Jaycee's park along North 5th Street.	1	allow- ance	\$2,500	\$2,500	
Enclose dumpsters.	2	ea	\$5,000	\$10,000	
			subtotal		\$162,000
Rotary Park					
Provide additional outdoor sculpture	5	allow- ance	\$5,000	\$25,000	
Provide additional park benches.	5	ea	\$2,000	\$10,000	
Provide landscape plantings to provide screening between park and adjacent neighborhood.	1	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Conceal exposed stormwater and sanitary sewage structures.	1	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Construct cross-walk at North 6th Street	1	allow- ance	\$10,000	\$10,000	
			subtotal		\$145,000



Park and Proposed Improvements (continued)	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Unit Costs	
Skateboard Park					
Provide shade pavilions (20' x 40')	1	ea	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Provide landscaping.	1	allow- ance	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Expand skateboard facility. (Small park = \$350k)	1	allow- ance	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Construct paved hockey rink.	1	allow- ance	\$100,000	\$100,000	
			subtotal		\$250,000
Southside Park					
Pave parking area	25,000	sf	\$5	\$125,000	
Landscape parking area	1	allow- ance	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Relocate/replace restrooms within park	1	allow- ance	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Replace wood lighting poles with concrete or steel poles	1	ea	\$175,000	\$175,000	
Replace water fountain, provide additional water service	2	ea	\$2,500	\$5,000	
Replace outfield fencing	1,000	lf	\$50	\$50,000	
Replace outfield scoreboard	1	allow- ance	\$15,000	\$15,000	
			subtotal		\$295,000
			Park Improvements Total		\$5,367,325

Source: MACTEC Engineering and Consulting



New Community Parks

New Community Park	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Costs	
Park #1					
Recreation Center	35000	sf.	\$150	\$5,250,000	
Aquatics center with Olympic-size pool	41000	sf.	\$150	\$6,150,000	
lighted tennis courts	4	ea	\$125,000	\$500,000	
Unlighted, outdoor BB courts	2	ea	\$25,000	\$50,000	
Unlighted volleyball courts	4	ea	\$10,000	\$40,000	
walking trail	5280	lf	\$35	\$184,800	
Playground w/ special needs eqpt	1	ea	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Picnic pavilions	2	ea	\$30,000	\$60,000	
grassed, playfield	1	ea	\$200,000	\$200,000	
Concession stand/ Restrooms	1	allowance	\$75,000	\$75,000	
maintenance facility	1	ea	\$175,000	\$175,000	
Parking	400	ea	\$2,000	\$800,000	
Land	0	ac	\$200,000	\$0	
			subtotal		\$13,559,800
Park #2					
Recreation Center	35000	sf.	\$150	\$5,250,000	
lighted baseball/ softball complex (4 fields)	4	ea	\$300,000	\$1,200,000	
lighted baseball/ softball practice field	2	ea	\$25,000	\$50,000	
lighted soccer field	1	allowance	\$325,000	\$325,000	
lighted lacrosse field	1	allowance	\$325,000	\$325,000	
lighted tennis courts	2	ea	\$125,000	\$250,000	
Unlighted volleyball courts	4	ea	\$10,000	\$40,000	
walking trail	5280	lf	\$35	\$184,800	
Playground	1	ea	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Picnic pavilions	2	ea	\$30,000	\$60,000	
Running Track	1	ea	\$200,000	\$200,000	
outdoor ice skating rink	1	ea	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Concession stand/ Restrooms	1	allowance	\$75,000	\$75,000	
maintenance facility	1	ea	\$175,000	\$175,000	
Parking	550	ea	\$2,000	\$1,100,000	
Land	0	ac	\$200,000	\$0	
			subtotal		\$9,409,800
Park #3					
Recreation Center	15000	sf.	\$150	\$2,250,000	
grassed, playfield	1	ea	\$200,000	\$200,000	
Dog Park	1	ea	\$150,000	\$150,000	
walking trail	2600	lf	\$35	\$91,000	
Playground	1	ea	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Picnic pavilions	2	ea	\$30,000	\$60,000	
Concession stand/ Restrooms	1	allowance	\$75,000	\$75,000	
maintenance facility	1	ea	\$175,000	\$175,000	
Parking	250	ea	\$2,000	\$500,000	
Land	0	ac	\$200,000	\$0	
			subtotal		\$3,576,000
				Subtotal	\$26,545,600
			Land Acquisition		\$3,450,000
			New Community Park Total		\$29,995,600

Source: MACTEC Engineering and Consulting



Trail Improvements

Trail Name and Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Costs	
SHORT-TERM (1-5 YEARS)					
Citizens Park to Belleview Park					
Extend trail system (10' width- asphalt trail)	5,000	lf	\$35	\$175,000	
West Belleville Bike Trail					
Extend trail system (10' width- asphalt trail)	20,000	lf	\$35	\$700,000	
Richland Creek Greenway to Citizens/ Bellevue Parks					
Extend trail system (10' width- asphalt trail)	14,000	lf	\$35	\$490,000	
Richland Creek Greenway to Belle Claire Fairgrounds					
Extend trail system (10' width- asphalt trail)	6,500	lf	\$35	\$227,500	
Richland Creek Greenway to Centennial Park (coord. w/ Swansea)					
Extend trail system (10' width- asphalt trail)	4,500	lf	\$35	\$157,500	
Richland Creek Greenway to Laderman Park					
Extend trail system (10' width- asphalt trail)	8,500	lf	\$35	\$297,500	
Signal Hill Park to Frank Holten State Park					
Extend trail system (10' width- asphalt trail)	7,500	lf	\$35	\$262,500	
				SubTotal	\$2,310,000
LONG-TERM (6-20 YEARS)					
Richland Creek Greenway to Belleville-Freeburg Border					
Extend trail system (10' width- granite fines)	26,000	lf	\$35	\$910,000	
Laderman park to Belleville East High School					
Extend trail system (10' width- granite fines)	3,000	lf	\$35	\$105,000	
Jaycees Park to Melvin Price Memorial Park (coord w/ Swansea)					
Extend trail system (10' width- granite fines)	3,000	lf	\$35	\$105,000	
Citizen Park to Belleville West High School					
Extend trail system (10' width- granite fines)	8,000	lf	\$35	\$280,000	
Old RR south of IL 15 from IL159 to IL 163					
Extend trail system (10' width- granite fines)	36,000	lf	\$35	\$1,260,000	
IL 158 to Richland Creek Greenway					
Extend trail system (10' width- granite fines)	3,000	lf	\$35	\$105,000	
Old RR south of IL 15 to Citizens Park					
Extend trail system (10' width- granite fines)	10,000	lf	\$35	\$350,000	
				SubTotal	\$3,115,000
				Trails Total	\$5,425,000

Source: MACTEC Engineering and Consulting



APPENDIX D

Full Sized Figures