



**City of Ottawa
2010
Park Acquisition
and
Development Plan**



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North Central Illinois Council of Governments
for the Ottawa Playground and Recreation Board

Table of Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	Page 1-1
	Park Plan Development.....	1-1
	Review of Existing Plans and Studies	1-2
2.	INFLUENCING FACTORS	2-1
	Population Characteristics	2-1
	Geography.....	2-2
3.	ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PARKS.....	3-1
	Overall Needs at Existing Parks	3-1
	Community Parks	3-1
	Neighborhood Parks.....	3-11
	Linear Parks	3-15
4.	PARK AND RECREATION STANDARDS	4-1
	Parks Site Analysis	4-1
	Safety and Accessibility.....	4-2
	Playground Design.....	4-3
	Sports Facilities Design	4-5
	Trail Design.....	4-9
	Additional Amenities.....	4-10
5.	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT SITES	5-1
	Proposed Trails and Riverwalk.....	5-14
6.	ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS	6-1
	Park Development and Acquisition	6-1
	Maintenance and Safety	6-6
	Park Planning.....	6-7
	Funding	6-8
7.	FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION.....	7-1
	Implementation Guidelines.....	7-1
	Funding Opportunities	7-3

Chapter One: Introduction

Parks, open space, and trails are an integral part of any community. It is Ottawa's responsibility to provide adequate areas for recreation and leisure for its residents. Parks, open space, and trails are necessary for the community, and the resident's physical health and well-being. While Ottawa has a well-maintained and extensive parks system, there is always room for improvement and expansion of existing parks as well as acquisition and development of new parks.

The purpose of the Ottawa Park Development and Acquisition Plan is two fold: first, the City must identify improvements and additional amenities needed at their existing parks and second, they must determine sites for future development and acquisition of new parks, open space, and trails. Ottawa currently has 124.5 acres of existing parks. The current statewide average for the supply of local open space and parkland acreage according to the Illinois Recreation Facilities Inventory (IRFI) is approximately 11.35 acres per thousand of population for overall parkland acreage. Currently, Ottawa does not meet this threshold. With a 2000 Census population of 18,307, Ottawa would have to have 207.7 acres of park land to meet the statewide average.

With the residents' best interests in mind, this document forms the basis to guide policy for the implementation of the park development and acquisition goals and objectives for the City of Ottawa. This plan was created by North Central Illinois Council of Governments with the input and involvement of the Mayor, Ottawa City Council, Playground and Recreation Board, city staff, and residents. Through the cooperative efforts of all of those involved, this plan can be the foundation for visions to become reality.

The Plan came together as follows:

1. An inventory of all the existing parks and amenities was completed. A matrix was developed to record the inventory (see *Appendix A*).
2. The first meeting with city staff, elected officials, and the Playground and Recreation Board was held. This initial fact finding meeting was to gather information about Ottawa's current and future acquisition and development plans (see *Appendix B* for meeting summary and attendance sheet).
3. Individual interviews were conducted with city staff and elected officials. Individual interviews allowed those who participated to offer information in a private setting (see *Appendix C* for meeting summary and attendance sheet).
4. A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (S.W.O.T.) meeting was held next. The meeting with officials and residents involved identifying items for the four SWOT categories (see *Appendix D* for meeting summary).



Chapter One: Introduction

5. A second meeting was held with the Playground and Recreation Board to prioritize acquisition and development goals.
6. A third public meeting was held for residents to prioritize the acquisition and development goals (see *Appendix E* for meeting summary and attendance sheet).
7. The plan was recommended by the Ottawa Playground and Recreation Board on October 14, 2010 and approved by the City Council on November 16, 2010.

Review of Existing Plans and Studies

Some of the material in this plan was derived from existing City plans and studies. Many of the goals and objectives of these earlier plans are still relevant today. This plan shall be used in conjunction with the following plans and studies.

City of Ottawa 2002 Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan has large sections dedicated to planning future parks, open space, and trails. The comprehensive plan identifies planned park areas and trails within the current city limits and within Ottawa's 1.5 mile planning jurisdiction. The Comprehensive Plan is designed to plan for 20 years into the future.

The Comprehensive Plan breaks Ottawa into five (5) districts: Central, West, East, South, and North. The following list shows the planned new parks within each district and planned trails.

Central District - 1 Park, 15.7 Acres
West District - 5 Parks, 1190.7 Acres
East District - 3 Parks, 314.3 Acres
South District – 9 Parks, 361.6 Acres
North District – 1 Park, 35.2 Acres
New Trails – 29.9 Miles

See *Appendix F* for a map showing the Comprehensive Plan locations of the planned parks and trails.

The Ottawa Park Development and Acquisition Plan will not include all of the previously listed parks. This plan will focus on park areas and trails that will most likely be implemented in the next 10 years and provide greater detail into these sites. This plan shall be used in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan

Chapter One: Introduction

City of Ottawa 2007 Parks and Recreation Study

The Parks and Recreation Study was completed in order to identify Ottawa's park and recreation personnel and programming needs. The Study also has a small section that outlines park property acquisitions and programming analysis, which will be utilized for this plan. The Parks and Recreation Study shall be used with this plan to help determine personnel and programming needs for future parks.

2010 City of Ottawa Bicycle Plan

The City of Ottawa collaborated with the League of Illinois Bicyclists for the creation of this plan. The plan will provide maps and specific recommendations for appropriate on-road or off-road bikeways for each priority road corridor, with specific dimensions and signage if on-road. The plan will outline strategies for seeking grants and other implementation approaches. The Ottawa Bicycle Plan should be used in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan for future bike path/route planning.

Chapter Two: Influencing Factors

Population Characteristics

Table 1 – City of Ottawa and LaSalle County– Population

	Ottawa	% Change	LaSalle County	% Change
1940	16,005	-----	97,801	----
1950	16,957	5.90%	100,610	2.90%
1960	19,408	14.50%	110,800	10.10%
1970	18,716	-3.60%	111,409	0.55%
1980	18,166	-2.90%	112,033	0.56%
1990	17,451	-3.90%	106,913	-4.60%
2000	18,307	4.90%	111,509	4.30%

Source: U.S. Census

Ottawa is the largest municipality in LaSalle County. Throughout the years, the population of Ottawa has followed the population trends of LaSalle County. Ottawa’s population peak was in 1960, but between 1990 and 2000 the City has shown considerable growth. The recent growth of Ottawa’s manufacturing, commercial, and logistics sectors has led to an increase in employment opportunities in the community and with all likelihood will lead to population growth. An increasing population and expansion of residential areas within the city will require growth of Ottawa’s park system and additional amenities within the City’s existing parks.

Table 2 – City of Ottawa Age Distributions

Year	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Population	18,716	18,166	17,451	18,307
0-4 Years	7.5%	6.5%	7.0%	6.4%
5-17 Years	36.8%	20.6%	17.0%	18.6%
18-24 Years	8.8%	12.7%	7.9%	8.1%
25-44 Years	22.0%	24.1%	29.7%	28.2%
45-64 Years	22.1%	22.0%	19.6%	20.8%
65& over	12.8%	15.9%	8.9%	17.9%
Median Age	31.9	32.9	36.2	38.2

Source: U.S. Census

From 1970 to 2000 there has been relatively modest changes in population percentages between age groups, except for the “Baby Boomer Generation” working its way through the age brackets. This generation can be seen as increases on a diagonal (highlighted) through the age distribution chart. This increase is significant due to the fact that there is, and will continue to be in the coming years, a massive increase in number of retired and elderly people. When planning for new parks, this increasing demographic should be factored into the location, design, and the types of parks that are developed.

Chapter Two: Influencing Factors

Geography

The City of Ottawa is located in the center of LaSalle County, in north central Illinois. Interstate Route 80 runs east and west through the northern portion of the City. Several heavily traveled highways cross through Ottawa including U.S. Route 6, State Route 23, and State Route 71. The major thoroughfares bring both local and regional tourists to Ottawa and the nearby Starved Rock State Park. These roads also form barriers for residents in accessing community and neighborhood parks. Several railroads traverse the City and form additional barriers to the accessibility of parks.

The City of Ottawa is situated in a prime location for outdoor recreation. The City is located at the confluence of the Illinois and Fox Rivers. Both river valleys are lined with natural areas which can be used for parks and recreational areas. The rivers provide scenic vistas, as well as, offer many opportunities such as boating, fishing, and kayaking.

The Illinois and Michigan Canal Corridor state bike trail runs through downtown Ottawa. The I&M trail is part of a larger network of bike trails called the Grand Illinois Trail which covers northern Illinois and the American Discovery Trail which links the east and west coasts of America.

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

Evaluation of Existing Parks

The City of Ottawa contains several different types of parks including community parks, neighborhood parks, and linear parks. Most of these parks are city owned, however, some of these parks are privately owned or owned by another governmental entity. This chapter will outline Ottawa's existing parks and amenities located therein. For those existing parks that are in need of redevelopment or additional amenities, this chapter will detail possible solutions. (Please see MAP 1 for locations of Ottawa's existing parks)

Overall Needs at Existing Parks

During an assessment of the Ottawa park system, it was found that most of Ottawa's parks are in need of the following:

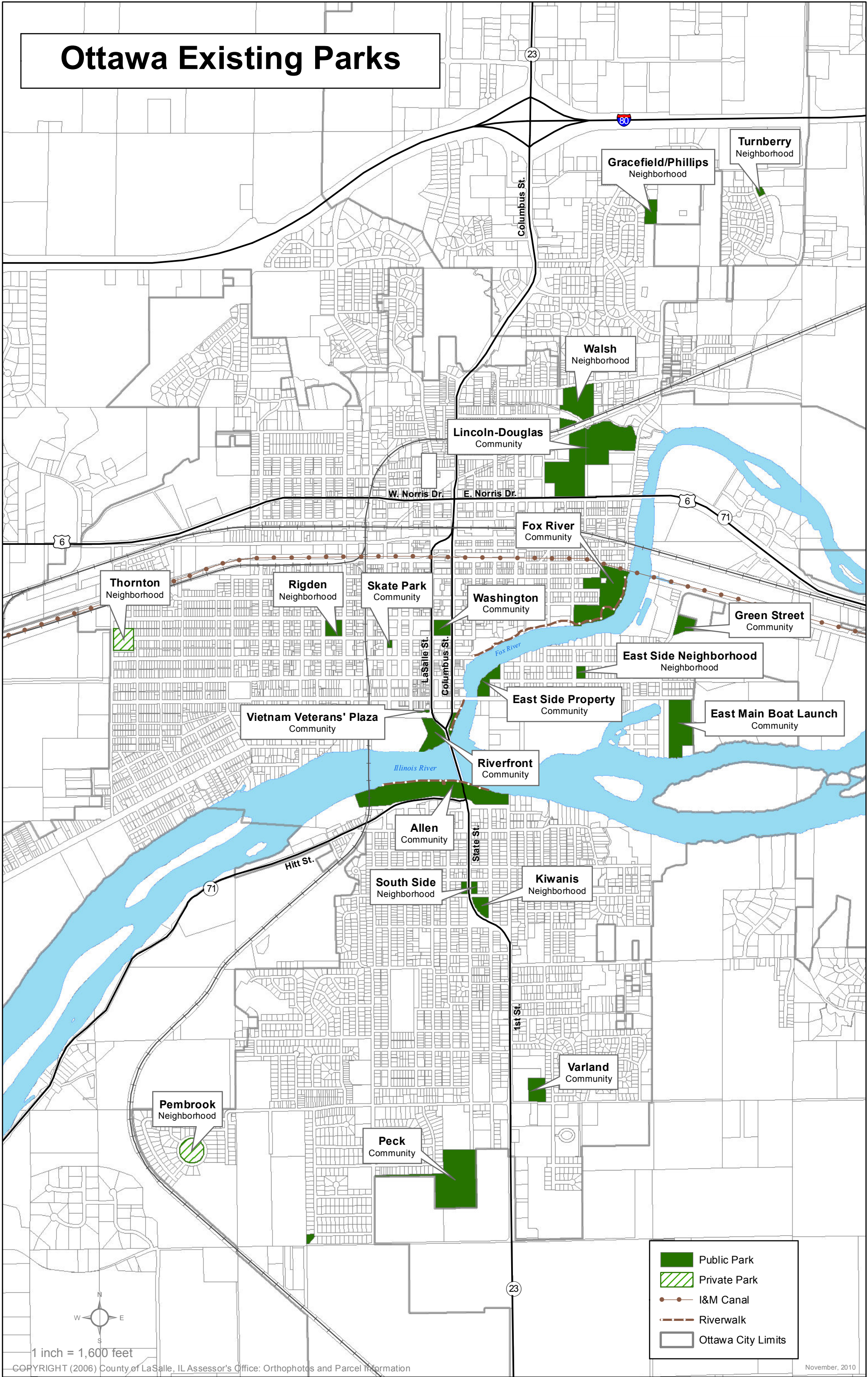
- 🌲 Unified signage throughout parks
- 🌲 Wayfinding signage
- 🌲 Resurfacing of many parking areas, roads, and sports areas throughout the parks
- 🌲 Additional landscaping
- 🌲 Additional amenities

Community Parks

Community parks should be created for the enjoyment of a diversified population, including individuals, family groups, and community organizations. These parks should be multi-purpose in design or contain specialized uses not available in other parks throughout the city. Multi-purpose parks shall provide for both active and passive recreation. Special use parks shall be designed for a specialized active or passive recreational use. Community parks should be provided on a basis of 9.08 acres per thousand of population and range in size depending on use. The service radius of a community park is 1.5 miles or 30-minute walking distance.

Ottawa currently has 96.6 acres of community parks. This averages to 5.33 acres per thousand of population (per the 2000 Census population of 18,307).

Ottawa Existing Parks



- Public Park
- Private Park
- I&M Canal
- Riverwalk
- Ottawa City Limits



1 inch = 1,600 feet

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

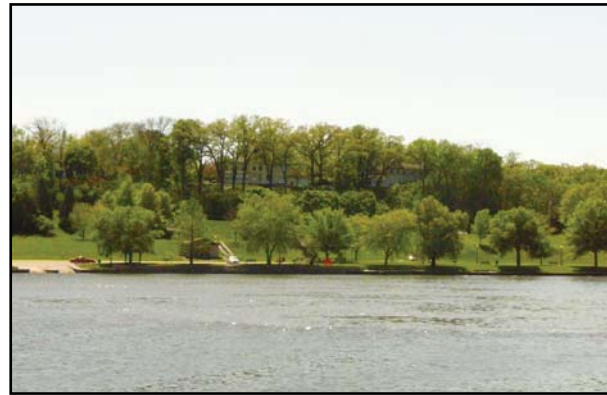
1. Allen Park

Allen Park is a 21.2 acre park located on the south side of the Illinois River. This park has both active and passive recreational opportunities. The amenities located in Allen Park are:



- 🌲 Two (2) Boat Launches
- 🌲 Three (3) Docks
- 🌲 One (1) amphitheater
- 🌲 Eighteen (18) benches
- 🌲 Fishing Area
- 🌲 Parking

- 🌲 Two (2) Playgrounds
- 🌲 One (1) Monuments/art
- 🌲 Picnic Tables
- 🌲 Riverwalk
- 🌲 One (1) toboggan Run
- 🌲 One (1) washroom
- 🌲 Thirteen (13) shelters



Allen Park is located in the flood plain and partially in the floodway of the Illinois River. Frequent flooding of the park is a continuing maintenance issue. The bank of the Illinois River has eroded over the years and in turn has damaged the riverwalk. The riverwalk has many gaps and uneven surfaces (see photo) creating a potential danger and liability. The bank needs to be stabilized and the riverwalk needs to be repaired or replaced. The parking areas and road in the park have been badly damaged by flooding.

Some of the road and parking areas need to be resurfaced. Flood waters have also caused the play equipment at the park to rust. This equipment should be replaced.

Allen Park is in need of re-development; but the park is located in a floodplain. Due to its location the re-development should be well planned and include limited structures. Possible ideas for redevelopment include: removing some of the paved areas and replacing them with natural flood-resistant plantings, repairing/replacing the riverwalk, replacing the playground equipment, exposing the natural sandstone bluffs, moving the

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

existing metal sculptures to compliment each other, added more sculptures, installing docks, and adding fish cleaning stations.

2. East Main Boat Launch Area

The 10.6 acre East Main Boat Launch Area is located at the end of East Main Street on the north bank of the Illinois River. The area includes the following amenities:

- 🌲 Fishing areas
- 🌲 Open Space
- 🌲 Boat Ramp
- 🌲 Two (2) Boat Docks
- 🌲 Parking



This park is situated entirely in the floodplain. The area should remain as a multi-use open space. Various amenities could be added to park including restrooms, more docks, landscaping with native flood resistant plants, picnic areas, and fish cleaning stations. The road leading to the boat launch is currently gravel and could be paved.

3. East Side Property

The one (1) acre East Side Property is located on the east bank of the Fox River just north of Main Street. The property includes the following amenities:

- 🌲 Fishing areas
- 🌲 Open Space
- 🌲 Picnicking
- 🌲 Benches



East Side Property is located in the floodplain of the Fox River. The property offers views of the scenic Fox River sandstone bluffs. This property should be kept as open space and as overflow parking for the nearby Ottawa High School due to flooding. The property could be landscaped with flood resistant plants to improve its appearance. Additional amenities could be added to the park such as docks, more picnic tables, and a shelter.

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

4. Fox River Park

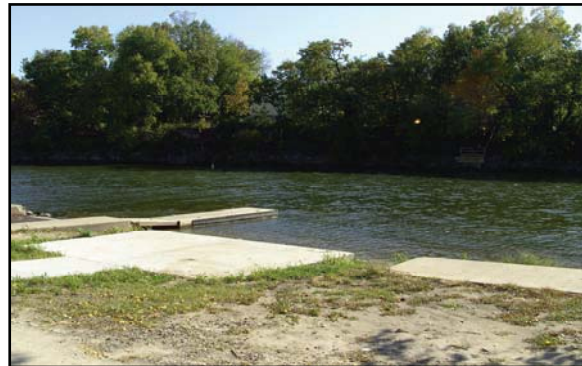
The fifteen (15) acre Fox River Park is located on the north bank of the Fox River on the eastern side of the City on Hudson Street. The park is situated on an area which used to have Repetitive Loss Properties (RLP's). RLP's are properties that due to being in the floodplain had insurance claims more than once. FEMA helped the City of Ottawa with a program to buy-out and demolish 65 structures to make way for Fox River Park.

Fox River Park has the following amenities:



- 🌲 One (1) boat launch
- 🌲 Eight (8) docks
- 🌲 Fishing areas
- 🌲 Open Space
- 🌲 (1) Bench
- 🌲 Biking and Hiking
- 🌲 Riverwalk
- 🌲 Picnicking
- 🌲 Basketball Court

- 🌲 Two (2) Play apparatuses
- 🌲 Ice Skating
- 🌲 A 9-hole Frisbee golf course
- 🌲 One (1) Restroom
- 🌲 Gazebo/ shelter
- 🌲 Community Garden
- 🌲 Water play apparatus



Fox River Park is one of Ottawa's newest parks. The park is up to date and very well maintained. The park is multi-use and offers many amenities. While the park does not need any additional amenities, several residential structures still stand within the park area. These structures need to be acquired by the city and demolished to complete the park.

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

5. Green Street Park

Green Street Park is located east of the Fox River on North Green Street. The park occupies 2.53 acres and offers the following:

- 🌲 Open space
- 🌲 Picnic area
- 🌲 Baseball practice field

This park is under developed. Additional amenities such as a soccer field, play apparatus, and additional landscaping could be added to the park.



6. Lincoln-Douglas Park

This adult/family community park complex is located east of US Route 23 and north of US Route 6. The park is a 15.1 acres and serves the entire community. The amenities at Lincoln-Douglas Park include:



- 🌲 Open space
- 🌲 Five (5) ball diamonds
- 🌲 Swimming pool
- 🌲 One (1) basketball court
- 🌲 Three(3) play apparatuses
- 🌲 Two (2) washrooms
- 🌲 One (1) parking area
- 🌲 Two (2) concession

The City has updated a few areas within this large community park. They include removing two sections of a central roadway and replacing them with shelters, landscaping and a walking path to create a pedestrian friendly environment. New playground equipment has also been added.

Even with the improvements that have been completed, rehabilitation and redesign of several areas within



Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

this large park are needed. The swimming pool is outdated and in need of serious renovation or replacement. Redesign of several parking areas should be considered due to a lack of parking during sporting events. Other improvements to the park include; renovation of an existing soccer field and the addition of two new fields, a new baseball field/soccer field, three to four tennis courts, a basketball court, a ten foot wide concrete path around the perimeter of the entire park with lighting, additional shelters, water fountains and landscaping.

7. Peck Park

Peck Park is a multi-use 19.7 acre community park located at the south-central edge of the City limits. This is the largest community park within the City. The amenities located in the park are:



- 🌲 Open Space
- 🌲 Three (3) tennis courts
- 🌲 Five (5) baseball diamonds
- 🌲 One (1) basketball court
- 🌲 Play apparatus
- 🌲 Two (2) washrooms
- 🌲 Picnicking
- 🌲 Two (2) concession stands
- 🌲 Three (3) shelters/ gazebos
- 🌲 Parking area

Some current maintenance and updating is need throughout the park including but not limited too; basketball courts, tennis courts and parking lot asphalt.

From the park going west to Adams Street is a forty foot wide linear strip which was acquired to construct a ten foot wide asphalt path ideal for pedestrian and bike traffic.

Peck Park's location on the edge of Ottawa, near undeveloped land, makes it an ideal park to expand. Expanding the park could include; a youth football field, soccer fields, rehab of the existing tennis courts, youth baseball fields, little league baseball fields, an additional parking facility, a second playground and shelter area. These improvements could make Peck Park into a much needed multi-use youth sports complex. Many residents have expressed an interest in a central sports complex.

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

8. Riverfront Park

The Riverfront Park is 5.23 acres located directly south of downtown Ottawa at the confluence of the Fox and the Illinois Rivers. The amenities include:

- 🌲 Seven (7) seating areas
- 🌲 Two (2) boat launches
- 🌲 Fishing areas
- 🌲 Open space
- 🌲 Riverwalk
- 🌲 One (1) Shelter
- 🌲 Four (4) docks
- 🌲 One (1) Stage/band stand



Riverfront Park is fully developed and in good maintenance. Additional landscaping and public/art could be added to the park to enhance its character. The park could be expanded in the future if the old Central School site is acquired by the City.

9. Ottawa Skate Park

The Skate Park is a specialized community park that serves the entire city. The 0.32 acre skate park is located in downtown Ottawa. The park includes the following amenities:



- 🌲 Skateboarding apparatuses
- 🌲 One (1) Parking area

The ramps and rails at the skate park need regular maintenance. The paved surface of the skate area needs to be resurfaced. Some additional landscaping and benches could be added to the park.

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

10. Varland Park

Varland Park is located in southern Ottawa to the east of US Route 23. This is a 3.44 acre public park.

- 🌲 Four (4) benches
- 🌲 Two (2) ball diamonds
- 🌲 One (1) play apparatus
- 🌲 One (1) washroom
- 🌲 One (1) gazebo/ shelter
- 🌲 One (1) concession
- 🌲 Batting cages
- 🌲 Picnicking



The land for Varland Park was donated to the City in 1961 by Edger and Henrietta Varland. The park is now home to the Ottawa National Little League. Varland Park is in good condition and already contains several amenities. The park does need additional parking to accommodate the volumes of vehicles during baseball games. The park could also use additional amenities such as horseshoe pits, connecting paths, playground equipment, additional landscaping, and basketball courts.

11. Vietnam Veteran's Plaza

This small, 0.28 acre plaza is located north of the Riverfront Park. The park is in memoriam to the soldiers of the Vietnam War and contains the following:

- 🌲 Two (2) seating areas
- 🌲 Monuments

This park is fully developed and well-maintained. No further work needs to be done to this park.



Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

12. Washington Square

Washington Square is located in downtown Ottawa between the north-bound and south-bound lanes of US Route 23. The park is a 2.22 acres in size and includes the following amenities:



- 🌲 26 benches
- 🌲 Open space
- 🌲 Three (3) monuments/art
- 🌲 One (1) concession stand
- 🌲 Parking areas



Washington Square is Ottawa's oldest park and marks the location of the first Lincoln-Douglas debate on August 21, 1858. The park is very well maintained, mostly by volunteers. The park is fully developed, however, a permanent stage could be added to the park for the frequent summer concerts that are held at the park. Currently, a temporary stage is set up in the street as needed for these concerts.

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the smallest component of Ottawa’s park system. Typically, neighborhood parks are developed for both active and passive recreation. Also, they are designed to serve the residents who live within walking distance of the park. The service radius should be 1/2 miles or 5 minutes, barrier-free walking distance from any home in the neighborhood. Neighborhood parks should be provided on the basis of 2.25 acres per thousand of population.

Ottawa currently has 21.8 acres of neighborhood parks. This averages to 1.19 acres per thousand of population (per the 2000 Census population of 18,307).

1. Walsh Park

The land for Walsh Park was donated to the City by Henry Walsh Sr. in 1983. The park was improved in 2006 with funding from an OSLAD grant received in 2004. The park is located just north of Lincoln-Douglas Park in northeast Ottawa. The park covers 8.53 acres and contains the following amenities:



- 🌲 11 benches
- 🌲 One (1) biking/hiking trail
- 🌲 Four (4) shelters
- 🌲 Two (2) basketball courts
- 🌲 One (1) parking area
- 🌲 One (1) volley ball court
- 🌲 Six (6) horseshoe pits
- 🌲 One (1) baseball diamond

Walsh Park is well maintained and developed. The park has play equipment for all ages of children and offers recreation for adults. The park has space for additional amenities including seating, bocce courts, and restrooms. Walsh Park and Lincoln Douglas Park should be connected with a path under the railroad tracks.



Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

2. East Side Neighborhood Park

East Side Neighborhood Park is located on the northeast corner of York and Congress streets. The park occupies one (1) acre of land and contains the following amenities.

- 🌲 Seven (7) seating areas
- 🌲 Four (4) basketball courts
- 🌲 One (1) play apparatus
- 🌲 One (1) picnic area
- 🌲 One (1) shelter



East Side Park is very well maintained and is fully developed. The park does not need any additional amenities.

3. Turn Berry Park

Turn Berry Park is a small park located in the far northeast section of Ottawa. The park occupies 0.6 acres and contains the following amenities:



- 🌲 One (1) bench
- 🌲 One (1) basketball court
- 🌲 Two (2) play apparatus
- 🌲 One (1) shelter

This park is small and has some space for additional amenities such as benches, landscaping, and horseshoe pit or volleyball courts.

4. South Side Neighborhood Parks

The South Side Neighborhood Parks are located on opposite sides of Route 23 between Glover and Campbell Streets. The parks contain a combined open space of one (1) acre.



- 🌲 Open space

The parks are narrow and close to a busy highway. The parks should be well landscaped because of high visibility. Also, benches could be added to each park.

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

5. Gracefield/Phillips Park

The Gracefield/Phillips Park is located in the far northeast section of Ottawa. The park occupies 2.7 acres and offers the following amenities:

- 🌲 Open space
- 🌲 Walking/hiking trail
- 🌲 Picnicking

This park has limited use due to access and terrain restraints. Most of the park area is forested and contains a steep ravine. A shelter or playground could be added to the east side of the ravine, however, the limited access and view from the street may lead to safety issues.

6. Alice Rigden Park

Alice Rigden Park is located west of downtown Ottawa on Chestnut Street. The park occupies 2.21 acres and contains the following amenities:

- 🌲 Nine (9) benches
- 🌲 Open space
- 🌲 One (1) ball diamond
- 🌲 Three (3) basketball courts
- 🌲 One (1) play apparatus
- 🌲 One (1) picnic area
- 🌲 One (1) monument/art



Alice Rigden Park is updated and well-developed. The park could use additional seating and improvements to the baseball diamond.

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

6. Kiwanis Parkway

Kiwanis Parkway is located south of the Illinois River on Route 23. This park occupies 2.03 acres and contains the following amenities:

- 🌲 Eleven (11) benches
- 🌲 Open space
- 🌲 One (1) play apparatus
- 🌲 Picnic areas
- 🌲 Two (2) shelter/gazebo
- 🌲 One (1) public monument

Kiwanis Park is fully developed. While the park is well landscaped, it could use additional landscaping.



8. Thornton Park (Private)

Thornton Park is an 3.75 acre, private park, located on the western side of Ottawa near the Railroad tracks and Boyce Memorial Drive. While the park is privately owned, area residents are still allowed to use the park. The park is maintained by the Thornton Foundation.

- 🌲 Open space
- 🌲 Three (3) tennis courts
- 🌲 Picnicking
- 🌲 Play apparatus
- 🌲 One (1) basketball court
- 🌲 One (1) gazebo/ shelter
- 🌲 Monuments/ public art
- 🌲 Parking area



This park is in need of some general maintenance. The shelter, tennis courts, and basketball court are in need of repair.

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

Linear Parks

Linear parks are parks that are much greater in length than width and are usually designed to include bike paths and trails. Linear parks often follow bodies of water such as rivers, streams, canals, and lakes. Linear parks offer both active and passive recreational opportunities.

1. I&M Canal State Trail

The Illinois and Michigan (I & M) Canal was closed to water navigation in 1933. Since this time the canal and towpath running beside the canal have been developed for recreation by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The towpath biking and hiking trail runs 61.5 miles from Rockdale to LaSalle, IL.



The canal and towpath occupy 6.1 acres in Ottawa. The now empty canal runs through Ottawa in an east west direction just north of downtown. The empty canal is now green space and is covered with grass and trees. The City of Ottawa has developed a trailhead just north of Fox River Park. This trailhead includes restrooms, informational signage, parking area, and bike racks.

A toll house used to collect tolls on the canal still stands near the empty canal.

The toll house is owned by the IDNR and maintained by the City. A replica canal boat, owned and maintained by the City, was just recently added to the toll house site.

The City of Ottawa has conducted a preliminary engineering study to re-water the canal through portions of the City. The City should pursue the recommendations of the plan and continue to support this effort.

Chapter Three: Analysis of Existing Parks

2. The Ottawa Riverwalk

The Ottawa Riverwalk follows the east side of the Fox River and parts of the north and south side of the Illinois River in Ottawa. The Riverwalk is located in Riverfront Park, Allen Park, and Fox River Park in Ottawa. The Riverwalk also crosses the Route 23 bridge over the Illinois River and is located in some areas that are not designated parks.



There is a break in the Riverwalk between East Main and Jefferson Streets. This area has commercial development all the way to the edge of the Fox River, making development of a riverwalk in that area difficult. Some of the existing Riverwalk is in need of repair or replacement in Allen Park due to riverbank erosion. Also, near the bend in the Fox River, near Jackson Street, the Fox River bank is in need of stabilization.

Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

Usable park space is defined as land that can be utilized for the purposes of active or passive recreation. The following standards are broken into categories: park site analysis, safety and accessibility, playground and sports facilities design, and trail design.

Park Site Analysis

The purpose of site analysis is to find a place for a particular use or find a use for a particular place. Many resources should be used to properly determine the ability to develop parkland. These resources include topographic maps, aerial photos, and maps showing existing boundaries, easements, roads, buildings, and other man-made objects. Besides trying to build around existing buildings, environmental conditions are the primary construction obstacle. Though possible flood-prone areas are often ideal candidates as park sites, open space and natural elements should be considered instead of brick and mortar construction.

Soils and Geology – The proper drainage is reliant on the soil type. Playgrounds, ballfields, or courts should be constructed on well-drained soils. Installation on heavy clay, peat, or bedrock is discouraged. Soil surveys should be done to determine any compacted or eroded areas. These can be obtained from the local Agricultural Extension or Soil and Water Conservation District Office.

Drainage – Water should always drain away from the playground. If it drains toward the playground, land grading or underground drainage lines may be necessary. Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain maps will determine if a park is within a floodplain and possibly indicate any drainage hazards.

Topography – Depending on the type of park, topography is an influencing factor. Changes in slope can be more beneficial for parks that emphasize passive recreation or that do not have athletic fields. However, slight changes in slope between 1-4% are often necessary to properly drain any water. Slopes of less than 1% may result in drainage problems and slopes of greater than 4% may require site modifications. Changes in topography often add to the visual interest in the park. Grading should be kept to a minimum depending on the drainage and erosion control.

Vegetation – Shade is a desired component of many parks. Trees should be located on the south and west sides to create shade during the afternoons of hot summer days. A minimum of ten (10) years is often necessary to generate enough differential shade. Trees should be located away from fields, where they could interfere with games, and away from playgrounds, where overhanging limbs can cause safety problems. Common trees found in the Midwest, such as oaks, elms, or evergreens, would offer the desired amount of shade. Native landscaping



Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

should be used in open space, green spaces, and steep slopes. The native landscaping requires less maintenance and blends with the environment. Flood resistant landscaping should be installed in floodplains and floodways.

Man-made elements must be categorized as well. A park should not be located over or under utility lines that could pose safety hazards during inclement weather. However, locating near some utility lines, such as water or electrical lines if drinking fountains or electricity are desired, may be beneficial and cost-effective. Utility easements grant the company the right to do any necessary repairs and could disrupt the operation of the park. Utility lines that are exposed to park users must be buried. If possible, utility lines should also be buried if they are near the park property.

A land use inventory should be taken of all nearby structures and a transportation analysis would determine transit patterns. The land use inventory would help indicate how many people may be expected to frequent the park. Certain land uses could have a detrimental effect on the park due to factors such as noise, odors, traffic, or aesthetics. A transportation analysis would include a study where parking would be located and access to the site.

Fencing or landscaped berms may be necessary for sites near hazardous sites, including busy roads, railroads, ponds, or drainage ditches. If a park is aimed at both active and passive recreation users, there should be as little conflict as possible. Picnic tables should not interfere with players on a playing field. Ballfields or courts should be proportionally scaled according to the amount of space available. For example, a soccer field requiring a minimum of 50,000 ft² should not be built on a lot that has a total of 50,000 ft² of open space available.

Safety and Accessibility

Parks must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and the Illinois Accessibility Code (IAC) requirements. The Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted in 1992, making access to recreation and play settings a guaranteed civil right for all Americans. The IAC was established in 1997 and implements the Environmental Barriers Act. Parks should be designed through a process known as universal design, or planning for the use by all people. Many components must be considered to comply with ADA. These include:

- Parking must be accessible by all users. The Illinois Accessibility Code requires one handicap accessible stall for every 25 stalls and two more handicap spaces for every additional 50 spaces.
- Any paths to the parks must meet ADA requirements. They must be a minimum of 5' wide, cannot slope more than 5%, and cannot have a cross slope greater than 2%. The surfacing must be firm, stable, and slip resistant to allow for unimpeded travel during wet and dry travel.

Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

- Conveniences and use areas must be accessible. These include water fountains, restrooms, and concession areas.
- Signage must be appropriate. This could include the use of Braille signs in areas with hearing impaired people.
- Use areas must be designed to ensure proper interaction by people with and without disabilities.
- If there is seating, there must be a minimum clear width of 3' for passing in order to prevent obstructing the path of handicapped people.



Other components are needed to have a safe park complex. These range from having plastic tubing on the top of chain link fences to installing the padding around lightposts. Regular maintenance also helps to ensure a safe park system. Fields and playground equipment can deteriorate without a commitment to an inspection process. Many manufacturers have a recommended inspection program for equipment they sell. A city may be liable for any potential injuries without frequent maintenance of the parks.

Playground Design

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) issue guidelines for playground safety standards that must be followed with the construction of new parks. Proper playground design can provide a much safer environment for children. According to the CPSC, an estimated 148,000 children are injured annually from public playground equipment-related injuries. Most occur when kids fall off swings, monkey bars, climbers, or slides. In general, the playground use zone extends to a minimum of 6' from the outside of a piece of equipment.

Protective Surfacing – About 60% of all injuries are caused by falls to the ground. Many materials are acceptable, including double shredded bark mulch, wood chips, fine sand, and fine gravel. These provide the needed cushion for any fall. They vary in terms of function, cost, appearance, installation difficulty, containment, cleanliness, and needed maintenance. Some of the materials, such as wood chips, are cheaper but are easily displaced and require continuous maintenance. Others, such as chopped rubber, are well-cushioned and have lower maintenance costs but could be a potential fire hazard and have initial costs four times that of loose materials. The material should be between 6-12" in uncompressed depth for fall heights of between 5-12'. The fall height is the vertical distance between the top of the play object and the surfacing beneath. The equipment height should not exceed the maximum fall height depending on the surfacing. The topography of the site may have an effect on which surface are the most appropriate. Asphalt and concrete should be avoided. They do not protect against injury due to falls in the use zone. The fall zone should extend a minimum of a six-foot radius from the outer edge of the support structure on each side.

Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

Swing Spacing – No more than two swing seats should be suspended from the same section of a support structure. As a rule, the horizontal distance between adjacent swing seats or from a structural component should be at least 30 inches. Any swing should not be attached to other equipment. The fall zone should extend a minimum distance of twice the height of the pivot point and not interfere with other equipment. Tire swings can be safety hazards unless the swinging clearance is at least 36 inches from any other structure.

Playground Materials – Wood must be naturally rot and insect resistant. Splinters or decaying wood can cause the structure to deteriorate. Steel should be galvanized and contain a rust inhibitor. Steel also tends to be affected by the heat from the sun. “S” hooks should be closed as tightly as possible on playground equipment to eliminate any risk of entanglement. Potential pinch or shearing points from moving points should be inspected. Many playground materials have been constructed from recycled materials. Aluminum is rust resistant and rather lightweight. Aluminum can be somewhat more costly, but takes less maintenance. Plastic is a general material that can be used for a wide variety of uses. Some communities have recycled plastics in order to provide for playground equipment. Plastics do have a tendency to sag or bend over time. UV inhibitors added to the plastic can extend the life expectancy and color.

Age Guidelines – It is important to note what type of park is built and at which age group it is aimed. A park directed at preschool age kids would not be an ideal site for a football field. Also, certain playground equipment is more conducive for certain age groups. Older children would not be as likely to frequent a park if sand diggers or a 48” slide were available. The CPSC and ASTM recommend separate play areas for children age 2-5 and 6-12. Park areas should also be designed for older adults. These areas should contain passive recreation opportunities, outdoor exercise equipment, and/or sports areas.

Potentially Unsafe Equipment – A number of pieces of equipment are not recommended due to safety hazards. The equipment includes:

- Spinning equipment without speed governors
- Seesaws that do not meet current safety standards
- Heavy swings (metal, wood, animal-type)
- Ropes/cables that are not attached at both ends
- Swinging exercise rings and trapeze bars
- Multiple occupancy swings
- Trampolines
- Homemade equipment
- Swinging gates

Each piece of equipment should be evaluated on a yearly basis to ensure that it complies with ASTM standards. Any purchased equipment should contain Product Liability Insurance. This insurance coverage is carried by the manufacturers against accidents due to the design of the equipment. However, a regular maintenance program must be

Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

fulfilled. The insurance is not covered if an accident is caused by a lack of maintenance or unauthorized modifications of equipment.

Sports Facilities Design

Baseball/Softball Fields – Baseball fields typically contain 2-2.5 acres for each field, while a softball field is about 1.7 acres for each field. Different age groups require different sized fields. Little League baseball fields for 9-12 year olds use a 46’ pitching distance, 60’ baselines, and a 200’ outfield distance. League for kids 13 and up use a 54’ pitching distance, 80’ baselines, and 265-315’ outfield distances. Most fields have temporary plastic fencing for safety and to increase the usefulness of the fields for other sports. Chain link fences around the field should be 6’ high; the backstop fencing should be at least 20’ high. Smaller gauge galvanized steel fencing is appropriate behind home plate for greater durability. All fields should be oriented with home plate facing north-northeast. Baseball fields have a grass outfield with dirt cutouts in the infield.



Softball fields have grass outfields and dirt infields. Each field should have a warning track 8-10’ in front of the outfield fence and all fences surrounding the field. The material should differ from the infield dirt so as to provide a caution for oncoming fielders that the fence is approaching. Materials, such as crushed limestone, are appropriate.

The infield dirt is usually composed of a mixture of sand (30-40%) and clay (60-70%). The fields should have surface gradients between 1-2%. Many fields have a gentle slope directly behind the infield to allow for water runoff. Fields with tiling beneath the field help further facilitate water filtration, though a solid drainage system can be expensive. Vitriified and/or calcined clay particles can be added to enhance water absorption. Regular maintenance is necessary, including frequent watering, mowing, and raking. Some fields require lighting for higher classification leagues. Lights should be on 70’ poles in order to properly light the entire field and avoid large shadow areas. Ten (10) to fifteen (15) parking spaces should be provided per acre. Seating should be provided for a minimum of 50-100 spectators

Soccer Fields – According to the United States Youth Soccer Association, soccer fields can range from 0.66 acres for girls fields to 1.9 acres for men’s fields. Thirty (30) feet of unobstructed space is necessary around the field perimeter. If additional space is allowed the field can be moved around to reduce the wear patterns that result near the goal areas and at the center circle. Goal sizes range from 5’ x 10’ to 8’ x 24’ depending on the desired age group. Assuming the fields would be



Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

used during all seasons, the field should be oriented on a north-south axis. The grass field can be either Kentucky Bluegrass or Perennial Ryegrass.

Drainage is made easier with a slight crown down the center of the field. The slope on either side should be no more than 1-2%. Tiling can further increase drainage. Drainage is generally easier on soccer fields than baseball/softball fields due to the crown and an entirely grass field. Light posts should not be placed behind either of the goals because of the blindness they can cause to the goalkeeper. The posts do not need to be as high as with the baseball/softball fields (minimum 50') since the ball is bigger and on the ground most of the time. Ten (10) to twenty (20) parking spaces are sufficient per field.

Football Fields – Football fields can range from 120' x 300' to 150' x 360'. It is recommended that one (1) acre of unobstructed space be available. Football fields can be used in combination with soccer or baseball fields if there is little overlap in the seasons of use. Goal posts must have padding around the poles. The posts can be permanently fixed or be temporarily set to increase the field flexibility. If the fields are primarily used during the fall, the field should be oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The grass field can be either Kentucky Bluegrass or Perennial Ryegrass.

As with soccer fields, drainage is made easier with a slight crown down the center of the field. Light posts should have an illumination of thirty (30) horizontal footcandles (HFC) or higher and have at least four (4) poles at least 50' in height. Less than standard lighting can lead to safety problems. At least fifteen (15) parking spaces should be provided per field.



The need for fewer fields can be accomplished through shared lighting, irrigation, parking, and washroom facilities. Schedules must be arranged on an annual basis to ensure enough time for each sport. More maintenance is required with shared fields. Frequent turf replacement or slit seeding is often necessary.

Basketball Courts – Basketball court dimensions are typically 84' x 50'. A minimum of 5,000 ft² including a 3' radius of unobstructed space is required. Full courts require 7,280 ft² and a 10' radius of unobstructed space. Smaller courts can be built for general recreation, including circle courts. The court should be built on a north-south axis in order to keep the baskets away from the sun as much as possible. Asphalt or concrete surfaces are appropriate. Asphalt is highly resilient and can be used for many purposes. It has a high cost compared with concrete and can soften in very hot weather. Concrete can be used year-round and is a good surface for most play areas when laid properly. It can be rough and abrasive and has a lack of resiliency. Many courts use a colored (green), resilient surface over the asphalt. The court should be cleared of any sand or debris that may cause slipping. There should be a minimal slope



Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

of .8-1.2% from end to end. The rim must be exactly 10' from the ground for all courts. The basket standard should be at least 2' behind the baseline. The backboard must be exactly 4' in front of the baseline. The backboards should be white or clear and can be either fiberglass or metal. Fiberglass produces less noise than metal.

If lights are desired, they only need to measure 20 HFC. Five (5) to ten (10) parking spaces per court is sufficient. The court should be connected to the parking lot via a 36" wide firm path. Landscaped berms around the court provide a better visual impression and help keep balls inside the court area. It can also provide seating for any spectators. Fencing is generally not necessary. Little maintenance is required for basketball courts besides changing the nets occasionally and repaving the court when cracking occurs.

Volleyball Courts – At least 5,000 ft² of square footage is necessary for sand and hard volleyball courts. The court dimensions are 80' x 50' with a minimum of 10' of unobstructed area. Outdoor sand courts should be oriented on a north-south axis. The net height varies from 7'4" for women and high school players to 8' for men or recreational leagues. The nets should be constructed from a durable cable or rope. The net should be secured with metal eyebolts at the top and bottom of the net. Sand courts have a depth of 12"-20" of high quality, clean sand. Washed mason sand is generally the best sand, though others may be used depending on the topography. It should neither be too coarse or too fine. Hard courts may use asphalt or concrete surfacing.



The boundaries should be marked using a material that will not hurt the players. Rope, webbing, or thick tape are appropriate markers. They can be tied to anchors in each corner and buried in the sand. Depending on the existing topography and soils, a drainage system may not need to be installed for sand courts. Plastic perforated tile encased in non-compacting aggregate stone can be used for further irrigation. Hard courts should have a minimum slope of 1% from side to side. Little maintenance is needed besides occasional raking of the sand and removal of small rocks and pebbles.

Tennis Courts – At least 7,200 ft² is required per court. The court dimensions are a standard 78' x 36'. It should be oriented on a north-south axis. Surfaces can be asphalt, concrete, har-tru, clay, or grass. Har-tru, clay, and grass are used infrequently because of the high cost and maintenance required. An acrylic surface should be painted green or red to define the court boundaries. Additional surfacing can add cushioning to the surface. The netting should be a highly durable rope with cable at the top. It rises 3'6" from the top of the iron cap on both sides and 3' at the center line. There should be 12' between the side boundary lines if more than one court is constructed.



Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

The court should ideally have a slope of about 1% side-to-side or end-to-end. Additional drainage systems are not needed. Lighting should be between 30-40 HFC and be 30' above the court. Fencing surrounding the court should be 12' in height. The fence behind the service lines can be reinforced to prevent distortion over time. Fences should be angled in the corners to reduce the number of balls that would collect. Wind screens to protect from wind and sun should at least be located behind both service lines and ideally on all four sides. They should be tied down to prevent wind movement and vandalism. Two parking spaces are sufficient per court. Some regular maintenance is needed. All courts eventually suffer some cracks in the pavement over time and need resurfacing. Paint may also be removed with frequent use or weatherizing of the court.

Hockey Rinks – In-line skating or in-line hockey rinks should have 28,000 ft² of play area, including 5,000 ft² for area including benches and penalty boxes. Dimensions range from 100' x 50' for junior hockey to 180' x 90' for full size rinks, with slightly larger surfaces for ice hockey rinks. A north-south axis is the ideal orientation. Asphalt or concrete can be played on but acrylic surfacing should also be added. Ice hockey rinks are often used on underutilized parkland during the winter months by flooding and freezing a pond. The dasher boards should have a recommended height of 42". The boards should not be much lower to prevent tripping into them. They can be portable or permanent.



Clear plexiglass is needed above the dasher boards, though steel fencing or other screening can be used as an alternative. A minimal slope of .8-1.2% is required to allow for drainage of the rink. A small cut-out is needed on the low-end to permit liquid to flow out for in-line rinks. Two cooling systems are used for permanent ice rinks: brine solution and ethylene glycol. Brine solution is highly corrosive and uses less energy to cool than ethylene glycol, which has a higher solution cost. Many hockey rinks are used during night hours. Therefore, lighting may be essential. Illumination should measure 20-30 HFC. The number of required parking spaces varies from 15-30 spaces per rink. Considerable maintenance is mandatory for ice hockey rinks. Ice grooming equipment must be used at regular intervals to ensure a clean, level ice surface. A tarpaulin would help prevent melting by the sun.

Skate Parks – Skate parks are among the fastest growing park amenities. About 10,000 ft² is sufficient. The park may be built on a concrete base or built over a plywood structure. The cost can vary depending on the type of desired objects. Elements can include a rounded bowl, grinding rail, or a fun box. It is recommended that a minimum of 4-5 runs/routes be incorporated in the skate park design. Areas designated for beginners and experts should be kept separate. Room must be given



Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

to allow for inevitable falls off the objects. Local skaters should be utilized during the design process.

Lighting is not required, though minimal illumination of 10-20 HFC may be desired. The skate park should be fenced from other park users. Five (5) to ten (10) parking spaces is adequate, though it should be as a shared lot. Frequent maintenance is necessary. Regular inspection of the equipment may require eventual replacements. Signage must clearly state the rules of the skate park upon entrance. The signs should be placed at locations where the park users must view them. The requirement of safety equipment such as helmets, elbow, and knee pads is strongly recommended. The town must analyze insurance options before opening any publicly available skate park.

Trail Design

Prior to the design and construction of a trail, the purpose and vision must first be understood. Trails are built to serve many ideals. They can promote an area's natural history, cultural resources, conservation features, wildlife, or provide general physical activity and access to other features. The purpose of the trail will have an impact on which type of surface is the best choice. In addition, the type of trail might mean the need to follow ADA and IAC guidelines and specifications. As with parkland used for active recreation, the site conditions and natural features demand if, how, and where the trail can meander. Aerial photos and topographic maps should be consulted to identify any natural openings, changes in elevation, vegetation types, and waterways. A new map should be designed using the different sources available, pointing out any objects that may be utilized or those that could be harmful.

Any possible trails should be walked prior to the commencement of any construction or movement of land to ensure the stability of the land. The actual trail corridor consists of three components: the actual walking surface; the right-of-way, which includes any land cleared for the walking surface; and the buffer zone, the area beyond the right-of-way that shields the trail from outside influences. In general, many areas favor trail placement. These include: well-drained soils; scenic vistas; vegetation conducive to easy travel; access to and view of waterways; natural drainage; natural contours; safe crossings of roads, railroads, and waterways; easy access from parking areas; and minimal conflict with bordering land uses. Greenways that are not straight and contain many visually attractive landscapes tend to be preferred and are more likely to be utilized. They should appear as natural as possible by blending it in with the surroundings. A large percentage of people frequent trails to escape from the nearby built environment and its noise. A number of areas to avoid include: wet, flat, and frequently flooded depressions; unstable or fragile soils; steep slopes; areas with heavy vegetation requiring costly clearing and maintenance; areas where endangered species might be affected; fragile cultural or archeological sites; road and rail crossings; and crossings over streams needing bridges.

Various materials are utilized depending on the trail location. Native materials are preferred for trails through natural areas to help it blend in with the surroundings as much as possible. Materials such as sawdust, shavings, wood chips, and mulch can be applied

Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

for trails whose main use is walking or hiking. These are only recommended for shorter trails, since the cost can be a prohibitive factor because of the need to spread them or do mulching on site. Trail width for natural trails should be a minimum of 2-4'. The greater the width, the greater the ability to accommodate multiple uses. Gravel and rock can be used in poorly drained or slippery areas. Larger rocks also can be used as steps where short elevation changes occur. Irregularly shaped rocks can also be used as ballast for trail subsurfaces. Trails primarily used for bicycling, in-line skating, or snowmobiling should have a harder surface. Suitable materials include asphalt, concrete, and crushed limestone. Bicycle trails must have a minimum width of 4-6'. Snowmobiling may only be allowed for trails that are not plowed during the winter months. It is important to note that trails that allow for bicyclists/pedestrians and other travel modes of greater speeds are incompatible on the same path. There should be separate corridors for each mode if conflicts of interest may result.

Most trails are short in the initial stages of construction. Land acquisition can often be difficult to create a long trail at one time. Therefore, unless the trail is an extension of another trail system the desirable length is between ½ and 2 miles. Looping allows users to return via untraveled right-of-ways and allows handicapped people the ability to utilize the trail.

A trail is much more than merely a linear path. It should contain places for resting and relaxation. While these could be in the form of benches or picnic tables, they could also be exercise areas or open areas away from the path. Signage is important for any trail. Informative signs are vital for self-guided nature and interpretive trails. Some trails develop decorative boxes containing brochures regarding nearby sites, vegetation, and wildlife. Mileage markers can be located on longer bicycle trails, such as the I&M Canal Trail. Maps are recommended to help people become acclimated with the routes available and point out any interesting facts that may be encountered. Wayfinding signs make visitors feel more welcome. Wayfinding is a method of directing people into and around the community through the use of readable and easily identifiable sign graphics. They offer a repetitive element by utilizing common graphics, shapes, and colors to communicate the message to be portrayed.

Additional Amenities

Following is a list of other amenities that can complement the parksite:

- An automatic irrigation system is useful for larger parks with multiple fields. While the system has a high upfront cost, it lessens the need for continual maintenance. Pop-up heads are built into the ground and can be timed to water the fields at certain times.
- Drinking fountains should be located in a central use area. The fountain can contain spigots to fill water receptacles.
- Washroom facilities are often necessary for community parks, or parks designated as destinations. One toilet stall shall be equipped for handicapped in both genders' washrooms.

Chapter Four: Parks and Recreation Standards

- Benches should be placed near trees or buildings to provide shade. However, they should not be hidden where they do not allow for supervision. As with the water fountains, they should be on a handicapped accessible path.
- As stated earlier, vegetation helps beautify the park and make it a more primary destination. Unusual annual and perennial flowers can offer an arboretum feel, particularly to passive recreation spaces. Decorative fountains, ponds, and sculpture could also be added to beautify the parks.
- Bicycle racks should be provided whenever possible. Bicycle racks should be located at parks with playgrounds or ballfields.
- Trash and recycling cans should be found at all parks to discourage littering. Lids discourage animals and vandalism. Regular pickups should be done to keep garbage from piling up and creating pungent odors.
- Fish cleaning stations can be installed near fishing areas. A central area for cleaning fish will keep the waste from being spread throughout the park.
- Zero depth water features or splash pads may be installed parks throughout the system.
- Minimum lighting should be provided. Low-intensity lighting will provide for a safer night-time environment while also discouraging evening users.

Signs can add to the interaction with park participants. They are particularly desirable along trails and greenways or where important historical or cultural events have taken place. Each park should have a simple sign at the most visible entrances. Signs should be placed at each park showing the location of all parks for visitors. Safety warnings should be placed near the corresponding equipment.

Chapter Five: Potential Acquisition and Development Sites

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) set state recreation guidelines for local governments to follow during park and recreation planning. The current statewide average for the supply of local open space and parkland acreage according to the Illinois Recreation Facilities Inventory is approximately 11.35 acres per thousand of population for overall parkland acreage. The IDNR recommends that municipalities meet or exceed this average. Approximately 20% of the local parkland shall be allocated to neighborhood or mini-park facilities serving up to a ½ mile radius and approximately 80% be allocated to community parks serving a community wide area or up to a 1.5 mile radius.

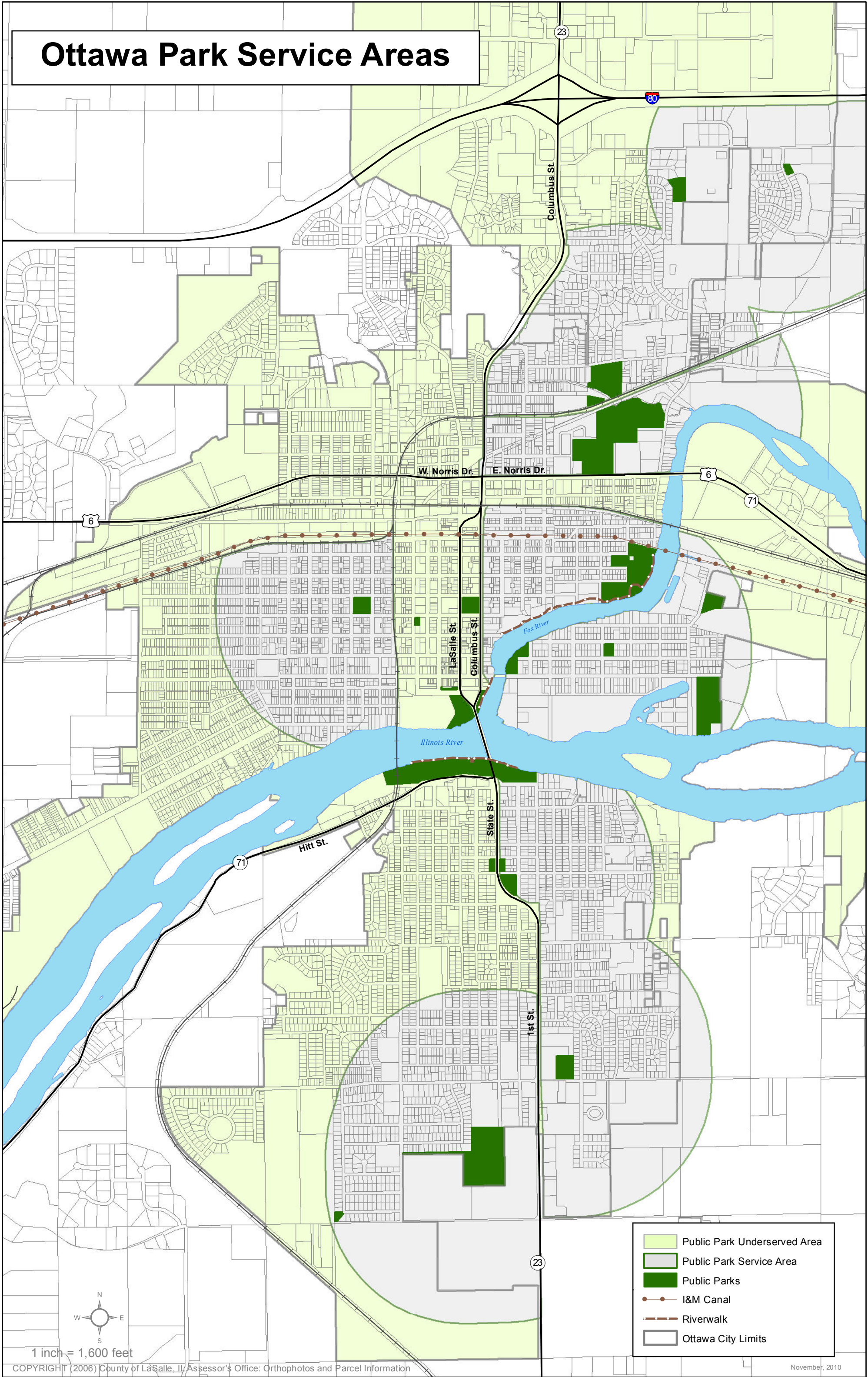
Ottawa currently has 125.52 total acres of parkland. This averages to 6.86 acres per thousand of population (based on a population of 18,307 from the 2000 Census). This total is below the Illinois average. In order to meet the average, Ottawa will have to add 82.2 acres of parkland to its existing system. The total acreage of community and linear parks (80%) that need to be added to meet the average is 62.46 acres. A total of 19.74 acres of neighborhood parks (20%) need to be added to meet the statewide average.

PARKLAND NEEDED TO MEET STATEWIDE AVERAGE			
	Existing Acreage	Additional Acreage Needed	Total for 11.35 Acres/1000
Community Parks and Linear Parks	102.7	63.46	166.16 (80%)
Neighborhood Parks	21.8	19.74	41.54 (20%)
Total	124.5	83.2	207.7 (100%)

Due to a lack of parkland in southwest and northwest Ottawa, priority acquisition should take place in these areas. The areas lacking neighborhood park access are shown on the Park Service Area Map (*Map 2*). The map displays service area buffers around neighborhood parks. These buffer cover ½ mile distance except for areas that have natural or manmade barriers or impediments to pedestrians. These barriers include major roads, railroad tracks, rivers, and steep bluffs.

This chapter reviews potential park acquisition and development sites. The sites have been chosen for their location, size, quality, and natural features. Please see (*Map 3*) Ottawa Park Acquisition and Development Sites.

Ottawa Park Service Areas

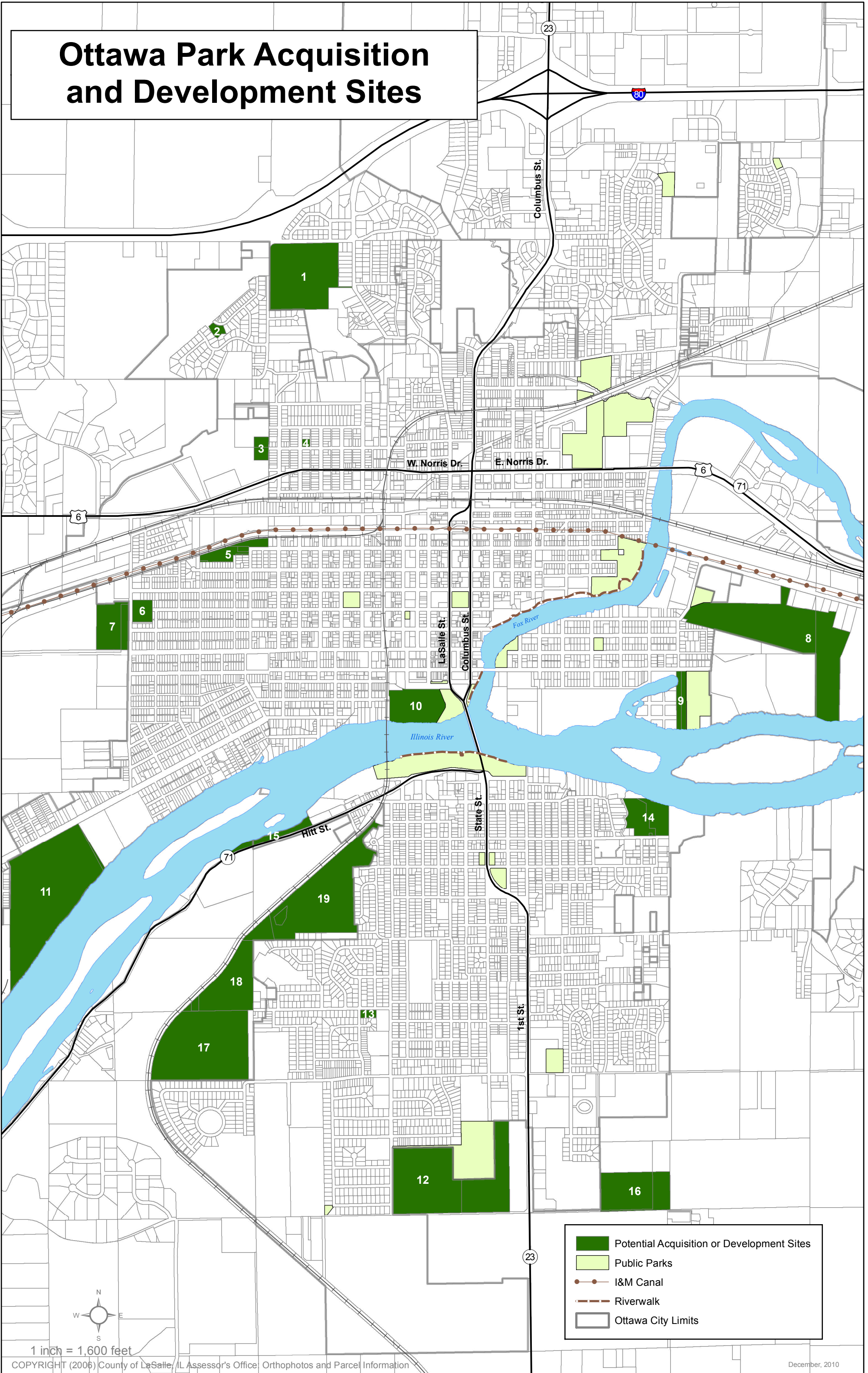


- Public Park Underserved Area
- Public Park Service Area
- Public Parks
- I&M Canal
- Riverwalk
- Ottawa City Limits

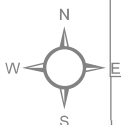


1 inch = 1,600 feet

Ottawa Park Acquisition and Development Sites



	Potential Acquisition or Development Sites
	Public Parks
	I&M Canal
	Riverwalk
	Ottawa City Limits



1 inch = 1,600 feet

Potential Land Acquisition and Development Sites



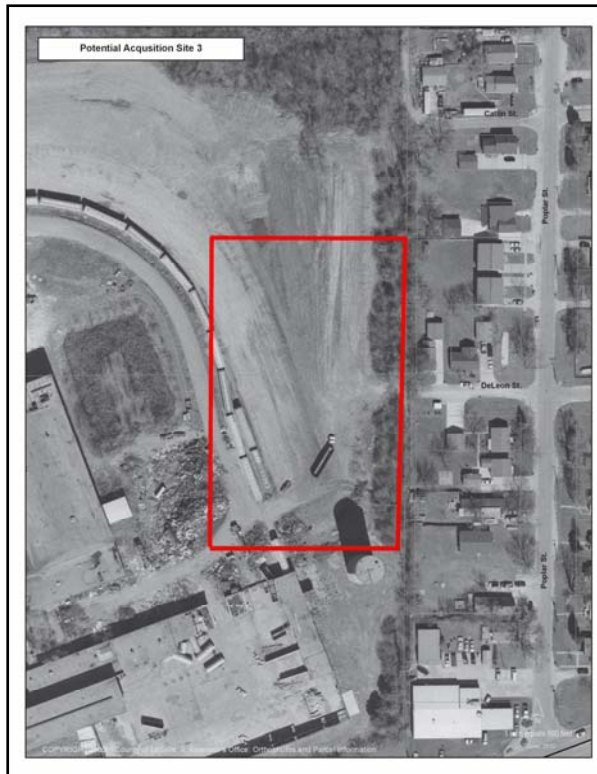
Site One (1):

The 36.7 acre site is located on top of a bluff. This site would be ideal for the development of a large community park. Currently this area of Ottawa is lacking a community park. Flat topography dominates the site and is conducive for the development of sports fields. The south side of the site is heavily wooded and could be used for picnic areas or a nature trail. Access to the site is available from three (3) different streets.

Site Two (2):

This 1.35 acre parcel of land will be deeded to the City upon completion of the second phase of the Autumnwood Subdivision in northwest Ottawa. Neighborhood park development would be ideal for the site.



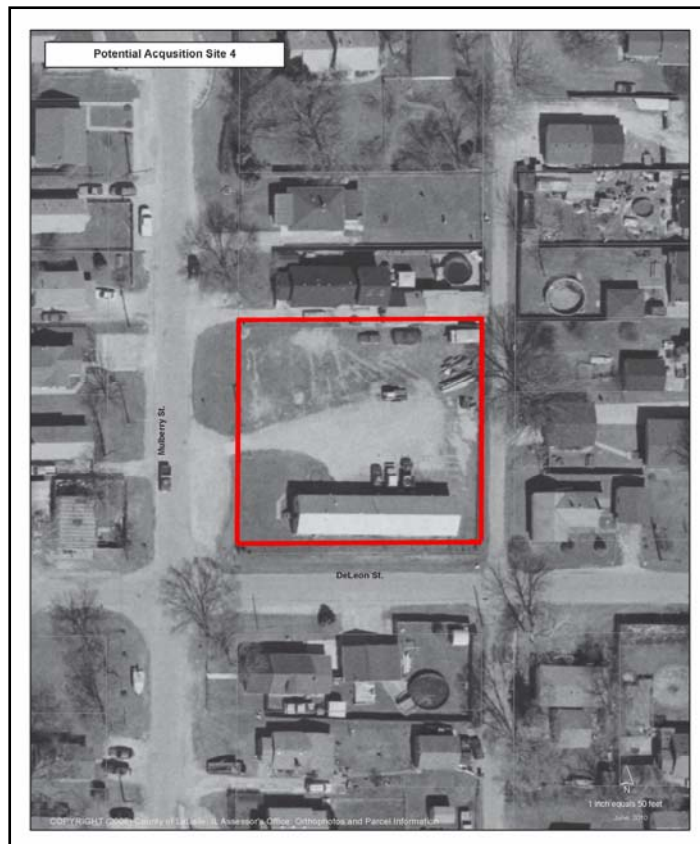


Site Three (3):

Site Three consists of 2.78 acres of land and is located at the end of DeLeon Street in an underserved area. The site is cleared, except for a buffer of trees between the site and neighboring homes. A neighborhood park located at this site would serve a currently underserved area.

Site Four (4):

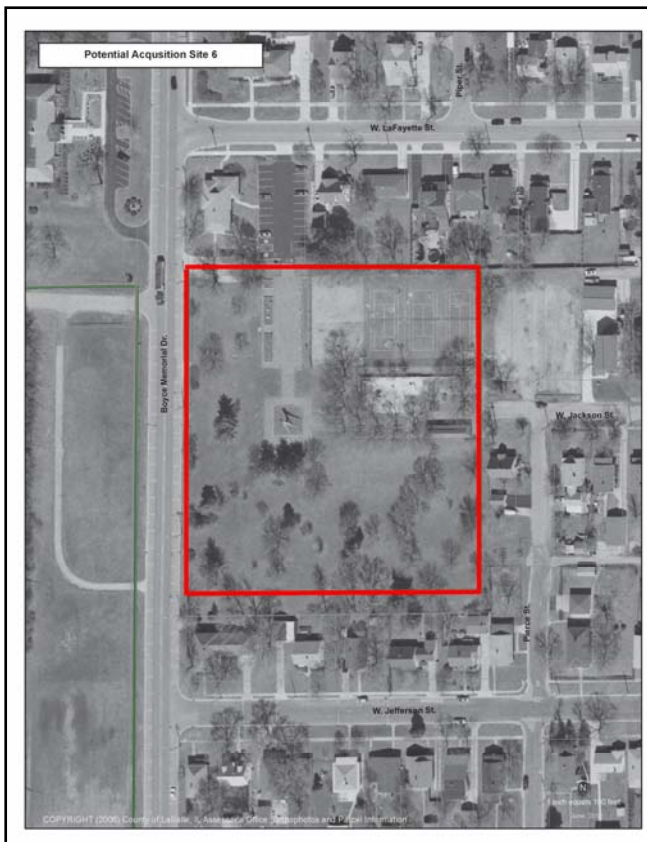
Site Four is located in the Hollywood Neighborhood and fronts both Mulberry and DeLeon Streets. An OSLAD grant was applied for in 2009 to acquire this half acre site for the development of a neighborhood park. Unfortunately, the grant was not funded, but currently the City is under contract for purchase of this site. The site is located in an underserved area. The site will need to be cleared by demolishing the structures on the site. Further improvements will need to be done to the site.



Chapter Five: Potential Acquisition and Development Sites

Site Five (5):

This is a site of a former factory located south of the railroad tracks. The 6.3 acre site has been cleared, except for a few remaining buildings on the east side of the site. An underserved area surrounds the site, making it an ideal location for the development of a park. There is sufficient acreage for the development of sports fields.



Site Six (6):

Site Six is currently named Thornton Park. The park contains several amenities; though the amenities are showing signs of age and wear. The existing facilities are in need of repair or replacement. The site contains 3.78 acres of land. The Thornton Foundation currently owns and maintains the site. The City of Ottawa and the Foundation could work on an agreement to obtain the park or form a partnership to maintain and update the park.

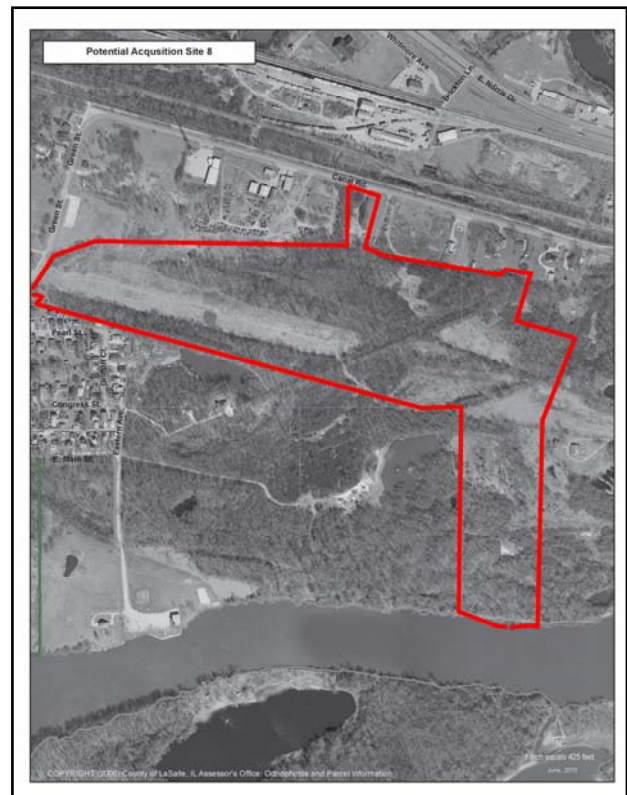


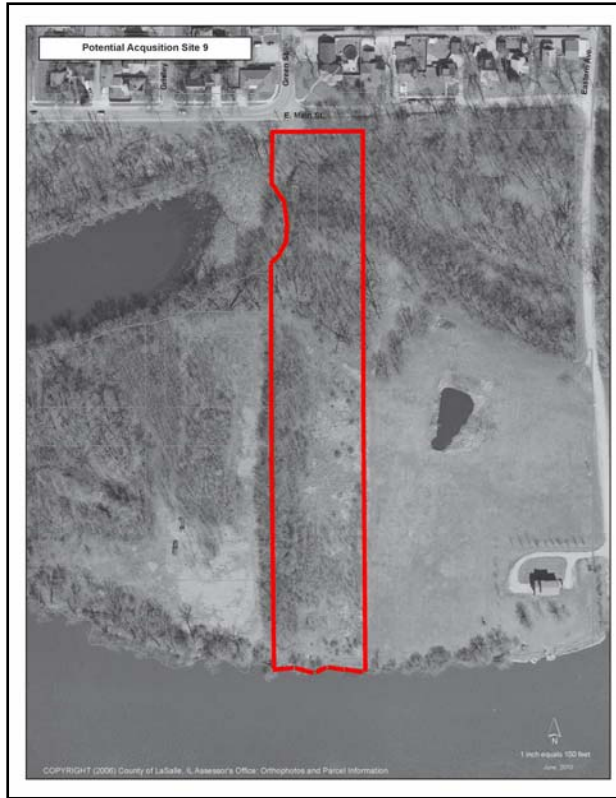
Site Seven (7):

Site Seven covers 12.8 acres and is located along the west side of Boyce Memorial Drive. The eastern third of the site is flat and clear, while the remainder of the site is wooded and varies in topography. Sports facilities or practice fields could be located on the east side of the site and natural areas for passive recreation could be located on the western side.

Site Eight (8):

This 61.75 acre site will be deeded to the City in 2012 as part of a land donation from a developer. The property is located in far eastern Ottawa. The site contains dense vegetation, open space, and riverfront access. The topography of the site varies, but is predominantly lowland resulting in frequent flooding. The property could be used as conservation/natural space with trails and limited development. Open space amenities such as soccer and football fields could be located at this property. The west end of the site can be accessed from Green Street.





Site Nine (9): East Side Boat Launch

Site nine contains 4.79 acres and is located west of the East Main Boat Launch. This land is heavily wooded and located in the flood plain. This property would make acceptable land for open space and trails. The additional land would also allow for expanded boat launch facilities.

Site Ten (10):

This is the site of the old Central School. The school was damaged during flooding in 2008 and the property has been left vacant. The 14.9 acre site presents a great opportunity to expand Ottawa's Riverfront Park. Future development of the site could include: a conservatory, farmer's market, community center, and/or a transient marina. The riverwalk could be continued along this property, as well as, adding open and passive recreational amenities. This site could become a centerpiece for Ottawa's park system.



Site Eleven (11):

Site eleven (11) consists of 69.98 acres of land. This riverfront property is located on Ottawa's far west side. A large lake is located on the site, as well as grassland and wooded areas. The site already contains a parking area with a road/path to the lake. The lake at the site could possibly be converted to a marina due to its close proximity to the river. This site would be ideal for the creation of a community park/natural recreation area.



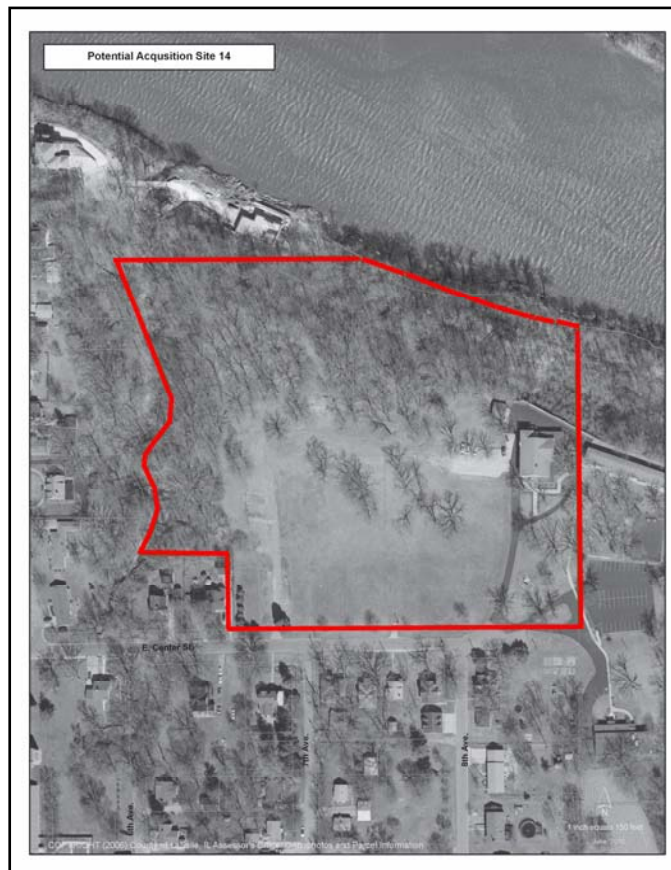
Site Twelve (12):

Site Twelve consists of 56.54 acres located to the east, west, and south of Peck Park could be acquired for an expansion of Peck Park. Peck Park is an ideal location for development of a youth sports complex. The park already has several different types of sports areas, and with additional youth football, soccer, and baseball fields the park would become an all-purpose youth sports complex. The existing tennis courts and basketball courts should be repaired or replaced. An additional playground, shelter, and parking area could be added.

Site Thirteen (13):

Chapter Five: Potential Acquisition and Development Sites

This 1.04 acre property is located on Adams Street in southwest Ottawa. The site is located in an underserved area for neighborhood parks. The property contains a historic stone well shelter and open space with some mature trees. The property would be ideal to convert to a neighborhood park site. The property is currently owned by the LaSalle County Historical Society.

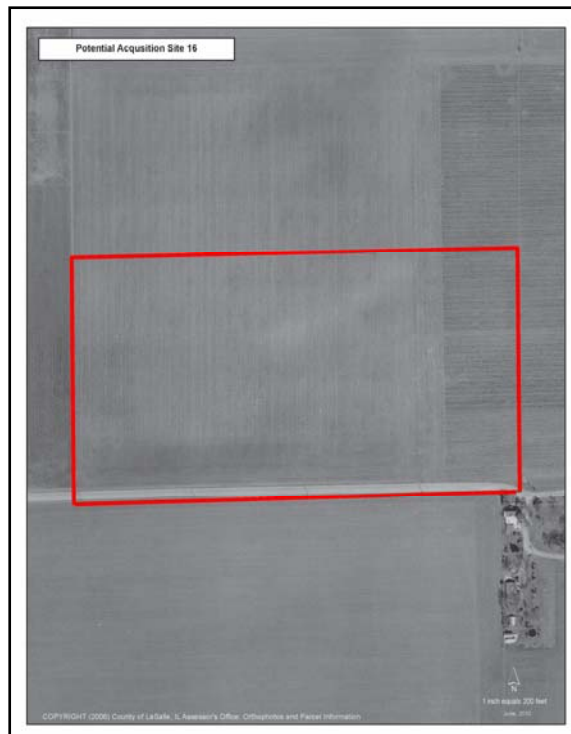


Site Fourteen (14):

This 12.05 acre parcel of land is located on the south bank of the Illinois River. Half of this land is open space, but some of the area near the river bluff is covered by a stand of mature oaks. The City of Ottawa should continue to work with the United Auto Workers (UAW) to create a public-private partnership to develop a neighborhood or community park near the UAW retreat.

Site Fifteen (15):

This 4.17 acre site is located on the north side of Route 71 at Ottawa's west entrance. Currently the property is an eyesore; it is filled with junk and is not maintained. This property could be cleaned up and transformed into a gateway park. The park should be well landscaped to welcome visitors to Ottawa. The property is located on the bluffs of the Illinois River and would offer scenic views of the river valley.



Site Sixteen (16):

Site Sixteen is comprised of 22.57 acres of flat farmland. Ottawa School District will be constructing the new Central School directly north of this site. This site could be the future location of shared sports facilities/complex or community park.

Chapter Five: Potential Acquisition and Development Sites

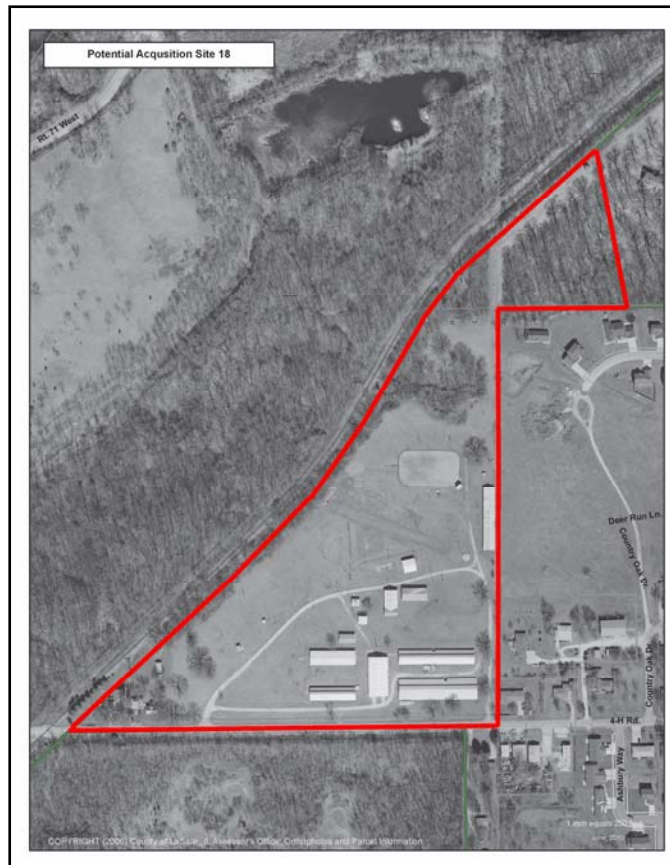


Site Seventeen (17):

This 51.59 acre site is located on the far southwest side of Ottawa. The site is heavily wooded and has varying topography. Hiking/biking trails and picnic areas would be the ideal use for this site. Development of the site should be limited in order to preserve the natural aspects of the site.

Site Eighteen (18):

Site Eighteen is currently the 4H Fairgrounds. The site contains 25.74 acres of open space, wooded areas, and exposition buildings. If this property becomes available, the City may want to acquire the property to create a community park or fairgrounds.





Site Nineteen (19):

This 46.29 acre property is located in western Ottawa, south of the Illinois River. The site contains a vast area of flat open space surrounded by woodland on the periphery. The site would be ideal for the development of a community park due to its size, location, and land cover.

Ottawa Proposed Trails and Riverwalk

The City of Ottawa has several proposed trails and extensions its Riverwalk system. These proposed trails are shown in (*Map 4*) Ottawa Proposed Trails and Riverwalk.

The following trails are proposed:

- A pedestrian/bicycle trail will follow the route of the old lateral canal (Canal Street) from Riverfront Park to the I and M Canal State Trail.
- A pedestrian/bicycle trail will follow a railroad bed from Allen Park along the west side of Ottawa to Route 23.
- A trail will follow West Main St. from the Fox River to Green Street and follow Green Street to the I & M Canal State Trail.
- A trail will follow Champlain Street north from Fox River Park to, and around, Lincoln-Douglas Park and end at Walsh Park.
- A trail will run under a railroad viaduct to connect Lincoln-Douglas Park and Walsh Park.
- A trail will run from McKinley School, thru Peck Park, to Adams Street, onto Fosse Road, and connect to the path on the railroad.

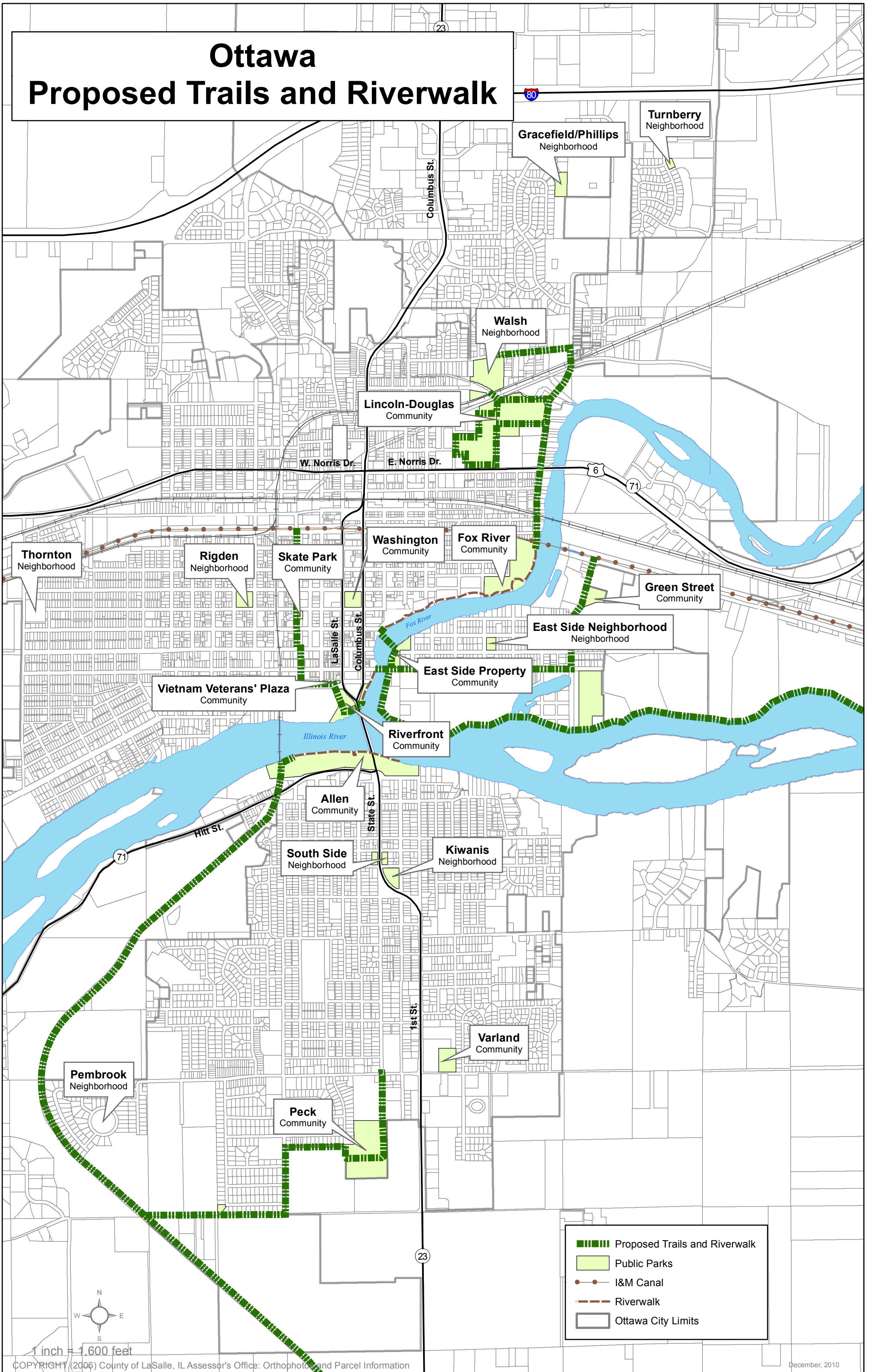
The trails will accommodate for both pedestrian and bicycle traffic and connect many of Ottawa's parks. Some of the trails will share the road with vehicular traffic and/or have dedicated lanes for bicycle traffic.






The Riverwalk

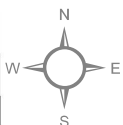
The Ottawa Riverwalk needs a safe way to cross the Illinois and Fox Rivers. Currently, there are walkways on the Route 23 bridge across the Illinois River. However, these walkways should be wider to accommodate both pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Also, a pedestrian/bicycle bridge should be built over the Fox River from the east end of Jefferson Street to East Side Property. The Fox River bridge and Route 23 bridge improvements would allow for a continuous Riverwalk from the I & M Canal State Trail at Fox River Park all the way to Allen Park.

The Riverwalk should also be extended from downtown Ottawa to Heritage Harbor. The proposed route will run from Main Street along the Fox River south to the north bank of the Illinois River and then east along the bank to Heritage Harbor.

Ottawa Proposed Trails and Riverwalk



-  Proposed Trails and Riverwalk
-  Public Parks
-  I&M Canal
-  Riverwalk
-  Ottawa City Limits



1 inch = 1,600 feet

Chapter Six: Acquisition and Development Goals

Future goals for Ottawa's parks have been developed through the following sources: results of public meeting, interviews with officials, administration, and staff, review of the 2002 Ottawa Comprehensive Plan, and the review of the 2007 VOA Ottawa Parks and Recreation Study. This chapter also lists strategy recommendations to help the City of Ottawa reach its goals.

Park Development and Acquisition

All residents should have equal access to parks and recreational opportunities. The parks should be safe and provide the components necessary for the enjoyment of the target user groups. New developments or redevelopments should not lessen the number of recreational opportunities.

Goal 1: Create a integrated park system throughout Ottawa

- Strategy 1:* Install a uniform signage system for park identification and wayfinding.
- Strategy 2:* Install gardens, public art, and signage throughout the park system to proliferate Ottawa's horticulture and arts theme.
- Strategy 3:* Strive to connect parks with bike and walking paths wherever possible.
- Strategy 4:* Require new residential developments to include bike paths and/or sidewalks connecting parks inside and outside the developments.

Goal 2: Provide access and facilities for all ages and abilities to Ottawa's existing and future parks and trails.

- Strategy 1:* Make all parks and trails compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the IAC.
- Strategy 2:* An inventory of all park components that are not ADA or IAC compliant should be completed and equipment shall be updated by priority.
- Strategy 3:* Install ADA compliant play equipment and exercise equipment throughout Ottawa's park system.
- Strategy 4:* Due to the significant aging population, parks shall include more facilities specifically for this population.
- Strategy 5:* Install adult outdoor exercise equipment throughout Ottawa's park system.

Chapter Six: Acquisition and Development Goals

Goal 3: Preserve and protect Ottawa’s existing natural and historic resources and provide opportunities for integration of these resources into existing and future parks.

Strategy 1: Discourage the rezoning of natural areas for building development.

Strategy 2: Limit the amount of floodplain development. The portions of Ottawa within a floodplain are ideal candidates for future park and open space creation.

Strategy 3: Attempt to develop a greenway system for Ottawa by interconnecting large public open spaces and trails with smaller open/green spaces.

Strategy 4: Cleanup vacant or underutilized lots and create green space as small pocket parks within the surrounding built environment.

Strategy 5: Park development should compliment existing natural and historic areas.

Strategy 6: Improve and protect the visual and physical access to the Illinois and Fox Rivers.

Strategy 7: When available, use green building materials and techniques for constructing park amenities.

Strategy 8: Green storm water management techniques should be used throughout the park system. Bio-swales should be installed for parking lot runoff near bodies of water.

Strategy 9: Whenever possible, increase the use of native plantings to add to blend with the natural landscape and to reduce maintenance costs.

Goal 4: Enhance the current recreational qualities and amenities within Ottawa’s existing parks.

Strategy 1: Continue to add landscaping and trees to offer a more visually-pleasing experience. Shade, in the form of maturing trees, should be offered near passive recreation areas.

Strategy 2: Continue to update playground equipment throughout the parks including Allen Park. A variety of equipment for different age groups should be offered throughout the park system.

Chapter Six: Acquisition and Development Goals

- Strategy 3:* Continue to add benches, drinking fountains, bike racks, and shelters throughout the parks.
- Strategy 4:* Permanent restroom facilities should be added/updated at heavily used parks such as Walsh and Lincoln-Douglas Parks.
- Strategy 5:* Consider making some of the existing sports fields into multi-use practice or game fields for football, soccer, and baseball.
- Strategy 6:* Improved and/or additional parking is needed at Varland and Lincoln-Douglas parks due to increased use during sporting events.
- Strategy 7:* Fish cleaning stations should be added to Ottawa's riverbank parks in order to centralize and provide proper facilities for this activity within the parks.
- Strategy 8:* The tennis courts at Peck Park should be repaired or replaced. Care should be taken to ensure that the courts are regulation in size.
- Strategy 9:* Allen Park is in need of re-development. The re-development could include removing some of the paved areas and replacing them with natural flood-resistant plantings, repairing/replacing the riverwalk, replacing the playground equipment, exposing the natural sandstone bluffs, moving the existing metal sculptures to compliment each other, add more sculptures, installing docks, and adding fish cleaning stations.
- Strategy 10:* The swimming pool in Lincoln-Douglas Park is in need of an upgrade to meet current safety and handicapped accessibility guidelines. Also, the feasibility of enclosing the pool for three-season or year-round use, as well as, additional amenities and expansion of the pool should be explored.
- Strategy 11:* A path connecting Lincoln-Douglas Park to Walsh Park should be constructed under the railroad viaduct.
- Strategy 12:* The skating surface at Ottawa Skate Park should be resurfaced.
- Strategy 13:* Several residential structures still stand within the Fox River Park area. These structures need to be acquired by the city and demolished to complete the park.
- Strategy 14:* Existing areas of the Ottawa Riverwalk on the Illinois and Fox Rivers are in need of repair and bank stabilization.
- Strategy 15:* Consider adding more amenities to Green Street Community Park, East Side Property, and the East Main Boat Launch.

Chapter Six: Acquisition and Development Goals

Strategy 16: Consider adding an inline/ice hockey rink with lighting in one of Ottawa's existing parks.

Strategy 17: Consider adding a city owned bike rental at the toll house near the canal or Riverfront Park.

Strategy 18: Consider the addition of a dog park to one of the existing community parks.

Strategy 19: Consider adding more water play features to the park system.

Goal 5: Acquire new parkland and develop to expand Ottawa's park system and compliment Ottawa's existing parks.

Strategy 1: Acquire enough land to meet and eventually surpass Illinois Department of Natural Resources standards of 11.35 acres of usable parkland per 1,000 residents.

Strategy 2: Fill the parkland void in the underserved areas of Ottawa. The southwest and northwest areas of Ottawa are lacking neighborhood parkland.

Strategy 3: Acquire additional land to create a multi-use sports complex that includes baseball/softball, tennis, soccer, football, roller hockey, and other sports areas. Consider expanding Peck Park to develop this complex, as it already contains several sports facilities and is adjacent to vacant land.

Strategy 4: Acquire and develop land on the northwest side of Ottawa for the development of a community park (Site 1)

Strategy 5: Acquire and develop the proposed Autumnwood Park into a neighborhood park (Site 2).

Strategy 6: Acquire property located on the northwest side of Ottawa, south of the bluff, for development of a neighborhood park (Sites 3 and 4).

Strategy 7: Acquire and develop located on the northwest side into a community park. (site 5)

Strategy 8: Acquire Thornton Neighborhood Park and vacant property directly to the west. Repair or replace existing facilities at the park (Sites 6 and 7).

Chapter Six: Acquisition and Development Goals

Strategy 9: Acquire land adjacent to Green Street Community Park . This land should be used for trails and open space. (Site 8)

Strategy 10: Acquire additional land west of the East Main Boat Launch (Site 9).

Strategy 11: Acquire and develop the old Central School site to extend Riverfront Park. Future development of the site could include: a conservatory, farmer's market, community center, outdoor theater/stage, and a transient marina. (Site 10)

Strategy 12: Acquire the undeveloped west side Pilkington property located on the north bank of the Illinois River to create a large community park. (Site 11)

Strategy 13: Acquire additional land to expand Peck Park. (Site 12)

Strategy 14: Acquire and develop the historic well property on the Ottawa's southwest side into a neighborhood park (Site 13).

Strategy 15: Work with the United Auto Workers (UAW) to obtain a public-private partnership to develop a community park near the UAW retreat. (Site 14)

Strategy 16: Acquire land near the west side entrance of Route 71 into Ottawa (site 15). This land should be developed into a gateway park.

Strategy 17: Consider partnering with the school district to create a public shared use park with the new Central School (Site 16).

Strategy 18: Acquire undeveloped land on Ottawa's southwest side adjacent to the railroad tracks (Sites 17,18, and 19).

Goal 6: Acquire right of way or additional land to further develop Ottawa's Trail and Riverwalk system.

Strategy 1: Work with the Illinois Department of Transportation to improve the pedestrian/bike lanes on the Route 23 bridge. The pedestrian lanes should be widened or an additional lane/walk shall be added.

Strategy 2: Acquire right of way or additional land to develop a trail on the old site of the I&M lateral canal through downtown Ottawa.

Strategy 3: Complete a trail around Lincoln Douglas Park and connect to Walsh Park

Chapter Six: Acquisition and Development Goals

- Strategy 4:* Complete the Riverwalk from the I & M Canal State Trail to Riverfront Park. This can be completed with the construction of a bridge crossing the Fox River from the east end of Jefferson Street to the East Side Property.
- Strategy 5:* Create trail on Ottawa's southwest side.
- Strategy 6:* Create a trail along East Main Street and Green Street that connects to the I and M Canal State Trail.
- Strategy 7:* Obtain right of way/easements to create a trail from the East Side Property south along the Fox River to the north bank of the Illinois River and then east along the north bank to Heritage Harbor.

Maintenance and Safety

The safety of existing parks must never be compromised. The general maintenance of each park operated by the City of Ottawa takes priority over any other requests to ensure the safety of park visitors. Each park visitor user should feel a sense of security.

Goal 7: Provide safe park facilities and environment for all users.

- Strategy 1:* The City must provide adequate routine maintenance through sufficient funds in its operating budget.
- Strategy 2:* An annual maintenance program should be instituted to bring improvements to the highest priority items based on age and wear.
- Strategy 3:* Priority maintenance items should be the repair or replacement of uneven walking surfaces, damaged decks and railings, damaged play equipment, damaged docks and piers, and inadequate lighting.
- Strategy 4:* Eliminate any potential for violence or vandalism by coordinating with the Police Department to develop policies to monitor high crime areas near parks.
- Strategy 5:* Lighting shall be sufficient in all areas of the parks during nighttime hours.
- Strategy 6:* Install a uniform signage system at each park to clearly identify any rules and regulations for usage.

Chapter Six: Acquisition and Development Goals

Park Planning

In order to properly respond to residents' recreation needs, certain ongoing principles must be met. A challenge is to ensure that the recreational facilities are appropriate for a changing demographic system. This encourages a continual updating of the overall parks plan. An inclusive framework must be in place to guide the development and acquisition of Ottawa's Parks.

Goal 8: Plan to provide sufficient parks and facilities for every age, gender, and socioeconomic group that lives in or visits Ottawa and identify public input and support of the parks system.

Strategy 1: Review and formulate updates to the plan as needed. The plan should be reviewed at least every five years.

Strategy 2: Make sure that facilities are developed for all residents of Ottawa including seniors, children, and the disabled.

Strategy 3: Provide at least 11.35 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents as a guide for future planning.

Strategy 4: Identify the potential need for future parks and trails through multiple means of public participation.

Strategy 5: Analyze the possibility of hiring a part-time parks coordinator to develop yearly parks priorities and guide the Playground and Recreation Board in decision-making.

Strategy 6: Maintain and stick to an annual budget that meets the most important needs of the residents.

Strategy 7: Encourage cooperation among residents and the Playground and Recreation Board by actively promoting citizen group input through parks planning sessions and user surveys.

Strategy 8: Develop an annual maintenance plan for all parks in Ottawa with safety issues taking top priority.

Strategy 9: Neighborhood level parks must not be built on arterial roads or roads that experience high traffic levels in order to provide safe access for all users.

Strategy 10: Develop smaller lots of one-half acre or less into parks for activities such as bocce ball, croquet, or horseshoes.

Chapter Six: Acquisition and Development Goals

Strategy 11: Require sufficient parking be designed as part of any new parks. If the space allows, off-street lots are most desired, though on-street parking is allowed if it does not create safety problems for pedestrians. Studies should be completed whenever possible to better understand any future traffic flow changes or lot designs.

Strategy 12: The existing and future parks shall not be overdeveloped. Open space should be left at parks for passive recreation or for non-structured active recreation.

Funding

A well-managed and maintained parks system must have a steady flow of income. The funding can come from a variety of sources to lessen the burden to the taxpayers. The utilization of partnerships and grants helps make it easier to acquire and develop land for future parkland. A limited budget does not have to be a hindrance for implementing desired policies. As the population continues to grow, the necessary fiscal resources must be provided to ensure the high quality of life in Ottawa.

Goal 9: Ensure that the Playground and Recreation Board can rely on a standard or steadily increasing operating budget to maintain and expand Ottawa's parks.

Strategy 1: Utilize state and federal grant programs for the acquisition and development of parks and trails.

Strategy 2: Study the issue of increasing the current property tax levy, sales taxes, or bonding to be used to further maintain and enhance the existing parks.

Strategy 3: Work with public and private landowners to consider land donations. This can be used in lieu of the City's portion for obtaining grants such as the Illinois Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development program (OSLAD).

Strategy 4: Organize fundraising efforts with private and non-profit firms for park development and acquisition.

Strategy 5: Establish a non-resident fee for reserving park shelters or any activities coordinated through the Ottawa parks.

Strategy 6: From time to time, the Subdivision Ordinance should be re-examined to update the amount of land donation or cash in lieu required for new development. The land required per thousand of population should be equal or exceed the statewide average according to the Illinois Recreation Facilities Inventory.

Chapter Seven: Funding and Implementation

Implementation Guidelines

The City of Ottawa's Parks Development and Acquisition Plan is a comprehensive community policy statement comprised of a variety of both graphic and narrative policies intended to provide basic guidelines for making parks development decisions. The completion of the plan is only one part of the process. The implementation of the objectives and policies of the plan can only be attained over a period of time and only through the collective efforts of the public and private sectors. The implementation step is the most critical in the planning process and determines the success of this plan. This document will be used to guide park development and acquisition within the City over the next five (5) to ten (10) years.

The development of a parks plan in itself is an important implementation tool. It can influence public decisions by providing a readily available source of information and ideas. The plan document is essentially a coordinated set of advisory proposals. The degree to which this influences decisions depends upon the soundness of the plan, its relevance to the actual situation, and its availability to developers and the public. A plan that is not available to the public and is not used can hardly be influential.

Printing and disseminating the plan is an important step toward its implementation. This document must be made available to the city staff and members of the public. The Plan should be posted on the Ottawa's website.

Playground and Recreation Board

The Playground and Recreation Board consists of nine (9) members appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. The Playground and Recreation Board has the power to establish, conduct, and maintain the City of Ottawa's recreation system. The Board's funding to maintain the recreation system comes from a recreation tax that was originally adopted by referendum in 1946. Additional funding sources should be looked at for all projects and traditional and non-traditional professional and labor resources should be analyzed. It would be beneficial to have the Playground and Recreation Board involved in development agreements and preliminary plat discussions for new parks and amenities.

City Council

The Ottawa Council is the final authority on policy formulation for the community. It adopts the budget, passes local ordinances, and develops planning policy under direction of the Mayor. City Council member support is essential for effective functioning of the planning process. The City Council should work with the Playground and Recreation Board to implement the Parks Development and Acquisition Plan.

Chapter Seven: Funding and Implementation

Updating the Plan

The Parks Development and Acquisition Plan, in whole or in part, may be amended from time to time, as necessary and as planning and legislative bodies deem appropriate. Because of the timeliness of the information and goals presented in this plan, this document must be reviewed regularly to remain updated, ideally every five years. New goals and objectives, along with added or amended maps and information, must be added. The policies should be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Prioritized Timeline

Following is a list of priority items to be completed in the implementation of the Ottawa Parks Development and Acquisition Plan. These items are broken into two periods: immediate, 0-5 years and medium range, 6-10 years. The immediate priorities are further broken into the most vital physical planning and organizational planning matters. These items are listed in order of importance for that timeframe.

Rate of Priority (Listed in order of importance):

- Immediate Physical and Organizational: 0-5 years (2010-2015)
- Medium Range: 6-10 years (2016-2020)

Immediate Physical (0-5 years; 2010-2015):

1. Acquire land on the southwest side and northwest side (below the bluff) for development of neighborhood parks.
2. Install uniform signage system for park identification and wayfinding.
3. Complete the Lincoln-Douglas Park re-development and trail around park.
4. Complete Fox River Park buyout program.
5. Add the following additional amenities to the existing parks or new parks: regulation tennis courts, soccer fields, football fields, and splash pads.
6. Redesign and develop Allen Park.
7. Acquire and develop the old Central School site.
8. Acquire land adjacent to Peck Park for expansion.
9. Work with the Ottawa School District to develop shared use park facilities at the new Central School site.
10. Redesign and renovate the pool at Lincoln-Douglas (perform feasibility study to enclose pool for three-season or year-round use).
11. Acquire and develop lot in the Autumnwood Subdivision for development into a neighborhood park.
12. Develop Green Street land donation property into a conservation/natural space with trails.

Chapter Seven: Funding and Implementation

Immediate Organizational (0-5 Years; 2010-2015):

1. Utilize state and federal grant programs for the acquisition, development, and redevelopment of parks and trails.
2. Maintain and stick to an annual budget that meets the most important needs of the residents.
3. Develop an annual maintenance plan for all public and private parks in Ottawa with safety issues taking top priority.
4. Encourage cooperation and consensus among residents and the Playground and Recreation Board by actively promoting residential and citizen group input through parks planning sessions and user surveys.

Medium Physical (6-10 years; 2016-2020):

1. The development of a sports complex on the far south side, possibly at Peck Park.
2. Acquire land at Ottawa's Route 71 entrance. Develop this land into a gateway park and scenic overlook.
3. Complete the Riverwalk from Fox River Park to Riverfront Park (with the possible construction of a new trail bridge over the Fox River).
4. Create a trail on the site of the old lateral canal.
5. Acquire land and develop a community park on Ottawa's northwest side.
6. Acquire land and develop a community or neighborhood park on Ottawa's southwest side.
7. Work with the Illinois Department of Transportation to improve the pedestrian/bike lanes on the Route 23 bridge.
8. Develop a shared use agreement with UAW for public use of the UAW property.
9. Acquire or develop shared use agreements with the Thornton Foundation for the Thornton properties.

Medium Organizational (6-10 Years; 2016-2020):

1. Analyze the entire plan five years after implementation.
2. Develop partnerships with private and non-profit firms to take advantage of possible underutilized programs that organizations have that aim to help with community functions.
3. Consider a regional partnership with surrounding communities as the overall populations increase to develop a shared athletic field complex with open space to be used for community parks programs or school athletics.

Chapter Seven: Funding and Implementation

Funding Opportunities

IDNR:

- Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program

These matching grants are provided to eligible local units of government to assist them in the linear corridor land acquisition and/or development of public, non-motorized bicycle paths. The projects must be locally operated and maintained. Eligible projects can include corridor site acquisition costs, appraisal fees, site clearing and grading, drainage, surfacing, bridging, fencing, and signage. The program can provide up to a 50 percent reimbursement. Assistance for development (construction) projects is limited to \$200,000 per annual request. No maximum limit exists for acquisition projects. A percentage of Illinois vehicle title fees provide funds for the program. Preference is given to projects proposing development of a bicycle trail system, particularly long distance trails, that are identified in state, regional, or local parks and recreation plans. They should also offer a diversity of trail user experiences, amenities, convenient access, and connect to other public lands. Bike path applications may be submitted January 1 – March 1 of each year.

- Boat Access Area Development Grants

These grants encourage the acquisition and/or construction/renovation of approved public boat and canoe access areas to improve the recreational use of the state's water resources. The program provides additional public boat launching ramps and canoe access areas and facilities that support the use of the access areas, including courtesy docks, parking, lighting, roads, and walkways. The program can provide up to 100 percent funding for approved project design and development costs and 90 percent funding for approved land acquisition costs. Selection is based on financial cooperation, projected usage, impact on business, site suitability, program suitability, ability to maintain user fees, population served, and regional needs. Maximum development grant assistance for any one project in a given fiscal year is limited to \$200,000 for powerboat access facilities and \$50,000 for non-motorized, canoe, and other car top boat launch facilities. Acquisition projects are limited to \$200,000 per annual request. Funds are derived from the marine motor fuel tax and from boat and canoe registration fees. Preference is given to projects that receive high use and serve many registered boaters. Boat access area applications may be submitted July 1 – September 1 of each year.

- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

Grant funds are available to local government authorities, public marinas, and boatyard operators on navigable waterways for facilities which benefit transient recreational boats 26 feet or more in length, not to exceed 10 consecutive days, for temporary shelter from storm, way station, or recreation purposes. This is a cost-reimbursement program, where

Chapter Seven: Funding and Implementation

the marina covers the full amount of an approved project and is then reimbursed up to 75% of the approved project expenses.

- Clean Vessel Act Funds

Funds available to marinas for the installation of pumpouts and dump stations for boaters to dispose of human waste. The program is a cost-reimbursement program, where the marina covers the full amount of an approved project and is then reimbursed up to 75% of the project expenses.

- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreational Trails Program

These grants are available to provide financial aid to government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and others to develop, operate, maintain, and acquire land for parks and trails that are open and accessible to the public in Illinois. They can also be used to restore areas damaged from unauthorized OHV use and to establish education and safety programs. The program can provide up to 100 percent reimbursement assistance to local governments and private organizations for the acquisition and development of lands for public OHV areas and trails. The program is financed from revenues taken from vehicle title fees and public access stickers. Preference is given to projects that propose long distance, integrated, intra- and inter-county trails and for the construction of new trails. There should be a long term, stable management of the trails in place. The grants cannot be used for land acquisition through eminent domain. OHV applications may be submitted January 1 – March 1 of each year.

- Open Land Trust (OLT) Grant Program

This program provides grants to local governments to acquire lands from willing sellers, for public, outdoor, natural resources for recreational purposes. Funding assistance is available for 50 percent of the eligible project costs or 90 percent for agencies qualifying as “economically disadvantaged.” The maximum grant assistance is \$2 million per year. A conservation easement shall be conveyed to IDNR for all property acquired with OLT assistance. OLT applications can be sent July 1 – September 1 of each year.

- Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grants

This grant program provides local governments with funding to acquire and/or develop public outdoor recreation areas which serve a wide range of open space and recreation purposes. The grants are used for basic recreational opportunities, including land for parks and facilities like ballfields and playgrounds. Project sizes range from small pocket lots to large community parks. Renovation of existing facilities, such as sports courts, playgrounds, swimming pools, park roads, and architectural/engineering services, can be accomplished as well, since aging infrastructure is a dilemma in many communities. Approved projects are eligible for up to 50 percent reimbursement. Maximum grant assistance for development/renovation projects is \$400,000 per annual request.

Chapter Seven: Funding and Implementation

Acquisition projects are limited to \$750,000 per annual request. The program is financed through a portion of the state's real estate transfer tax. Preference is given to projects that are located in areas that fall below the statewide average for parks and recreational facilities. The project should be consistent with the adopted local plan and demonstrate site suitability for the proposed use. A local financial contribution and a no-fee public use are also priorities. OSLAD applications must be submitted May 1 – July 1 of each year.

- Park and Recreational Facility Construction Grant Program (PARC)

This grant program was announced in October 2010 and provides funds for park or recreation unit construction projects. The projects may include the acquisition, development, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvements, architectural planning, and installation of capital facilities consisting, but not limited to, buildings, structures, and land for park and recreation purposes and open spaces and natural areas. The PARC program operates on a reimbursement basis providing up to 75% of approved project costs, with the exception of those local governments defined as “disadvantaged”, which will be eligible for up to 90% funding. Priorities for this grant program include the evaluation of the useful life of existing facilities and improvements in comparison to the Department's schedule of Useful Life of Parks and Recreation Facilities; addressing public health and safety needs; economically disadvantaged units of local government; correcting accessibility deficiencies as defined by the Americans With Disability Act; projects that provide the greatest benefit in terms of cost per capita within the applicant's jurisdictional boundaries; and land acquisition.

- Recreational Trails Program

These federal grants are available to provide up to 80 percent funding for both motorized and non-motorized trail acquisition, development, rehabilitation, enhancement, and maintenance of trails open to the public. The grants can be used to acquire trail corridors from willing sellers through easements or fee simple title. A minimum 20 percent non-federal funding match must be in place. The program was created through the National Recreation Trail Fund Act (NRTFA) as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), which later was reauthorized as the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21). TEA 21 is currently being examined for reauthorization. Law dictates that 30 percent of Illinois' RTP funding be used for motorized trail projects, 30 percent for non-motorized projects, and the remaining 40 percent for multi-use motorized or non-motorized trails. Any projects must comply with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards and Illinois Department of Transportation bike facility policies in order to use federal funds. Preference is given to projects that appeal to a diversity and number of user groups and have maintenance capabilities. Development or enhancement of the American Discovery Trail and Grand Illinois Trail are also priorities. Applications may be submitted January 1 – March 1 of each year.

Chapter Seven: Funding and Implementation

- Local Government Snowmobile Grant Program

This grant program provides financial assistance for the acquisition and development/rehabilitation of public snowmobile areas, trails, and facilities. Any local agency with statutory authority to acquire and develop lands for public park and recreation purposes may apply. Reimbursement provides up to 100 percent of development/rehabilitation/equipment costs that solely benefit public snowmobiling, 90 percent of linear trail acquisition costs, and 50 percent of acquisition and development costs that seasonally benefit snowmobiling. Preference is given to projects that are located in areas that have a high number of registered snowmobiles in the project service area and that have documented support from the snowmobiling public. The grants should be used for new construction of trails instead of renovation of existing trails. The program is financed through snowmobile registration fees. Applications may be submitted March 1 – May 1 of each year.

- Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund Grant Program

This program is not intended for local governments. It provides 100 percent project financial assistance to incorporated, private snowmobile clubs in Illinois. They may develop and maintain snowmobile trails and related facilities on private land for public snowmobiling. The grants can be obtained for trail development costs, signing, fencing, trail groomers, bridges, and parking facilities. Preference is given to projects that promote trails linking public lands having existing snowmobile trails or facilities. They should have minimal adverse environmental and social impact. The program is funded through snowmobile registration fees. Applications may be submitted March 1 – May 1 of each year.

****Acquisition Involving the Donation of Parkland***

This is an important concept for the City to understand and incorporate into its policies. The IDNR places a value on parkland donations. This concept applies when the land acquired may be used for parkland and the City may apply for a grant from the IDNR for development of the site from the OSLAD/LWCF grant programs.

It is possible for the City to receive up to 50% grant reimbursement on the approved market value of the land anticipated for donation to the City, and use the value of the donation as all or part of the required local match on an approved OSLAD/LCWF project provided the land donation meets the eligibility requirements. Land donations can be combined with either an acquisition or development project.

Combination projects involving both acquisition and development of land for outdoor recreation under a single project scope will only be accepted when an eligible land donation constitutes the project acquisition. The proposed land donation does not have to be the site being developed nor does it have to be located at the proposed development site.

Chapter Seven: Funding and Implementation

In order for the value of the proposed land donation to be eligible as part or all of the local project match, it must meet the following criteria: 1)the donation cannot be mandatory as required by local ordinance or part of a pre-existing legal agreement, 2) the land being donated will be used and maintained, in perpetuity, for public outdoor recreation purposes, 3) the donation cannot be from another public entity or involve land that was in public ownership within (5) years prior to the OSLAD/LWCF application submittal and 4) title to the property being donated cannot be transferred to the project sponsor (applicant) prior to DNR grant approval.

FEMA:

- Property Acquisition Projects (Buyouts)

Acquisition or Buyout projects, while 75 percent funded by FEMA, are administered by the State and local communities. Buyouts are an important way to reduce the risk of future disasters. In a property acquisition project, the community buys private property, acquires title to it, and then clears it. By law, that property, which is now public property, must forever remain open space land. The community can use it to create public parks, wildlife refuges, etc. but it cannot sell it to private individuals nor develop it. Property acquisitions work the same way as any other real estate transaction. Property owners who want to sell their properties will be given fair prices for them.

IDOT:

- Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program

This grant program allows for the acquisition of scenic lands along transportation byways for the preservation of scenic views. The program also allows for bicycle and pedestrian paths and structures crossing rivers, railroads, and roads. The program funds construction projects at 80 percent and acquisition projects at 50 percent.

Existing Outdoor Recreation Amenities		Size (acres)	District/ Location	Benches	Boat Launch	Open Space	Docks	Swimming Pool	Bikeway/Hiking	River walk	Tennis Courts	X-Country Skiing	Ball Diamonds	Track	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Basketball Courts	Play Apparatus	Picnicking	Monuments/Art	Snowmobiling	Ice Skating	Fishing Area	Washrooms	Shelter/ Gazebo	Concession	Sand Beach	Toboggan Run	Parking	Amphitheater	Golf Holes	Frisbee Golf Holes	Bocce Ball	Volleyball	Horse Shoes	Skateboarding			
Community Parks																																							
1	Allen Park	21.2	S	18	2	1	3			1								2	1	1			1	1	13		1	1	1	1									
2	East End of Main/Boat Launch	10.6	E	0		1	2																							1									
3	East Side Property (Across from OHS)	0.99	E	0		1													1				1																
4	Fox River Park at the Flats	15	C	1	1	1	8		1	1						1	2	1				1	2	1					1										
5	Lincoln-Douglas Park	15.1	C	0		1		1			3		6		3		2	2	1					2	1	2				1									
6	Peck Park	19.7	S	0		1					3		5				1	1	1					1	3	1			1										
7	Riverfront Park	5.23	C	7	2	1	4			1												1		1															
8	Skate Park	0.32	W	0																									1								1		
9	Varland Park	3.44	S	4									2					1	1					1	1	1													
10	Vietnam Veteran's Plaza	0.28	W	2		1																																	
11	Washington Park	2.22	W	26		1																							1										
12	Green Street Park	2.53	E	0		1							1																										
	Subtotal:	96.6		58	5	10	17	1	1	3	6	0	14	0	3	0	4	8	7	5	0	0	5	5	20	5	1	1	7	1	0	9	0	0	0	0			
Neighborhood Parks																																							
14	Alice Rigden Park	2.21	W	9		1							1				3	1	1	1					1														
15	East Side Park (Congress & York)	1	E	7													4	1	1						1														
16	Gracefield/ Phillips Park	2.7	C			1																																	
17	Kiwanis Parkway	2.03	S	11		1																			2														
18	South Side Neighborhood Parks	1	S			1																																	
19	Turnberry Park	0.6	C														1	1	1																				
20	Thornton Park (Private)	3.75	W	0		1					3						1	1	1	1					1				1										
21	Walsh Park	8.53	C	11		1			1				1				2	1	1						4											1	6		
	Subtotal:	21.8		38	0	6	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	11	6	7	3	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	6			
Linear																																							
22	Illinois & Michigan Canal (Tow Path)	6.1	C/W						1			1										1	2																
	Subtotal:	6.1							1			1										1	2																
	TOTAL:	124.5		76	5	17	17	1	3	3	9	1	16	0	3	0	15	14	14	9	0	1	7	5	29	5	1	1	9	1	0	9	0	1	6	1			

Minutes from 4/7/10 Meeting with Mayor, City Planner, and Playground and Recreation Board

Overall Objectives

- Unified signage plan
- Bike racks in parks
- Riverwalk section in plan
- Mesh acquisition plan with bike path plan that is currently in the works
- Subdivision ordinance require path to park

Improvements to Existing Parks

- Handicapped accessibility
- See report by P and R Board
- Clean up skate park
- East side community property (add benches, flood resistant landscaping)
- Finish Lincoln/Douglas
- Upgrade pool/waterpark
- Add landscaping
- Add monuments/public art
- Allen Park

Trails

- Bike trails connecting parks
- Extend riverwalk

Possible Acquisition Sites

- SEE MAP # 3

Priorities

- Finish Lincoln/Douglas
- Served underserved areas (Northwest and Southwest sides)
- Easter Seals site

CITY OF OTTAWA
 PARK BOARD MEETING
 PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN
 APRIL 7, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE SHEET

NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION/ E-MAIL	Check all that apply						
		Citizen	Elected or appointed official	Municipal employee	Engineer / Contractor	Grant Administrator	Business Owner	Other
Steve Kuhn	s.kuhn@meclureengineering.ca		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Andrée-Marie Koban	andreemarietoban@yahoo.com		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Jamie Hustel	planning@cityofottawa.org			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Eido. Leenhuis	leenhuis@yahoo.com		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Brian Gift	bgift@ncicg.org							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NORA Fesco-Ballerine	norafb@ncicg.org							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Suzanne Miske	smiske@ncicg.org							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Appendix C

Ottawa Park and Acquisition Plan Staff Meeting Minutes April 27, 2010

Existing parks repairs/re-development

General Comments

- Most parks are handicapped accessible
- Re-surfacing of parking areas and courts needed throughout park system (2)
- Create uniform signage and wayfinding signage (boat ramps)
- Fish cleaning stations at riverside parks
- Remove little legume from Varland and move to Peck
- More water features
- Need more variety of playground equipment
- Vandalism at Rigden and Skate Park
- Foam surface mats for playgrounds
- More drinking fountains in parks
- More permanent restrooms
- Peck park the best opportunity to expand
- Maintain open spaces (do not over-develop)
- Use stormwater management methods and pervious surfaces

Allen Park

- Fix seawall and riverwalk (4)
- Replace playground equipment – water/boat theme
- Less parking and more native planting areas (flood resistant)
- Reveal some of the bluffs sandstone features
- More green space
- Move sculptures, add more
- Landscaping
- More boat docks

Lincoln-Douglas Park

- Redesign parking areas (more parking in front)
- Replace tennis courts
- Create indoor pool
- Repair/replace swimming pool
- Connect with Walsh park via path under existing railway
- Restroom and Drinking fountain near playground

Appendix C

Fox River Park

- Riverbank stabilization at fox river bend (3)
- Complete buy-out and demolition of houses

East Side Boat Launch

- Pave road and parking area

Acquisition and Development

- Green St. large greenway (natural space, trails)
- Central School property (conservatory, farmers market, transient marina, botanical gardens, aquatics center) (3)
- Community garden (vacant city-owned properties)
- Complete riverwalk
- Add a new playground on the City owned property at the intersection of Dairy Lane and Jeremiah Lane
- Add to Peck with sports complex
- Youth football fields (3)
- LaSalle County Historical well (Neighborhood Park)
- Acquire and upgrade Thornton Park and Boyce Memorial area
- Western entry of 71 property on south side of river (redevelop)
- Ottawa First Church site 22 acres (public/private)
- Park at north standpipe in Gracefield neighborhood
- Marquette St. redevelopment (scrap yard)
- Allied Asphalt Site
- Bridge over Fox for bike path
- Venue for concerts in Washington Park

**Ottawa Park Development and Acquisition Plan
Public Meeting
April 27, 2010**

S.W.O.T

Strengths:

1. Many playgrounds throughout the parks system.
2. Most parks have updated play equipment
3. The long term plan of the Ottawa Riverwalk
4. Great boat access to the rivers
5. Landscaping at the parks (Washington)
6. Volunteers
7. Water features
8. Fox River Park – reclamation of flood plain

Weaknesses:

1. Lack of adequate tennis courts
2. Underserved areas
3. Lack of parking at the pool and ball diamonds
4. Lack of restroom facilities at some parks
5. Not frequent enough trash pick up at some parks
6. Lack of dog park
7. Lack of pedestrian connections to parks
8. Park lighting
9. Lack of use of green materials for parks
10. Lack of trash receptacles
11. Lack of basketball courts
12. Lack of uniform signage and wayfinding signage
13. Lack of winter activities
14. Swimming pool has a short season
15. Tennis courts at Lincoln-Douglas need to be rebuilt
16. Lack of I&M trail connection on West Side

Opportunities:

1. I&M canal
2. Central school property redevelopment
3. Thornton Park – purchase
4. Countryside
5. Park development in northwest and southwest sides (Hitt Park)
6. Cooperation with school district for shared facilities
7. Bike rental at the tow house
8. Labyrinths or mazes made of hedge or stone
9. Clay hills across from hospital
10. Youth football fields
11. Outdoor band shell
12. Community Center
13. Sports complex – possible vacant big box store
14. Natural resources (protect, display, and access river corridor)

Threats:

1. Over-specialization and over-development of parks
2. Lack of lighting for safety and security
3. Vandalism of restrooms
4. Communication about park uses, facilities, and events
5. Litter,
6. Maintenance
7. Profanity
8. Drug use
9. Lack of money and funding sources

Possible Acquisition

- Boyce Memorial and Thornton properties
- Thrush park
- Scrap yard on Marquette St.
- Historical Society well property (Hitt Park)
- Land by new school
- Bike path along 23 and rails to Streator
- Two lots west of East Side Boat Ramp

**Ottawa Park Development and Acquisition Public Meeting
June 22, 2010
Strategy and Goal Prioritization**

Large copies of the eight (8) plan strategies and goals were available for the public to view. In order for the public to prioritize the strategies to meet the plan goals, all those in attendance to the meeting were given two stickers to place on their top two (2) strategies for each goal. The results of the exercise are listed below showing the eight goals and the top two strategies (2) that were chosen to meet those goals.

Goal 1: Create a integrated park system throughout Ottawa

Strategy 1: Install gardens, public art, and signage throughout the park system to proliferate Ottawa's horticulture and arts theme.

Strategy 2: Strive to connect parks with bike and walking paths wherever possible.

Goal 2: Provide access and facilities for all ages and abilities to Ottawa's existing and future parks and trails.

Strategy 1: Due to the significant aging population, parks shall include more facilities specifically for this population.

Strategy 2: Install adult outdoor exercise equipment throughout Ottawa's park system.

Goal 3: Preserve and protect Ottawa's existing natural and historic resources and provide opportunities for integration of these resources into existing and future parks.

Strategy 1: Whenever possible, increase the use of native plantings to add to blend with the natural landscape and to reduce maintenance costs.

Strategy 2: Improve and protect the visual and physical access to the Illinois and Fox Rivers.

Goal 4: Enhance the current recreational qualities and amenities within Ottawa's existing parks.

Strategy 1: Continue to add landscaping and trees to offer a more visually-pleasing experience. Shade, in the form of maturing trees, should be offered near passive recreation areas.

Strategy 2: The swimming pool in Lincoln-Douglas Park is in need of an upgrade to meet current safety and handicapped accessibility guidelines. Also, the feasibility of enclosing the pool for three-season or year-round use should be explored.

Appendix E

Goal 5: Acquire new parkland and develop to expand Ottawa’s park system and compliment Ottawa’s existing parks.

Strategy 1: Acquire and develop land on the Ottawa’s southwest side into a neighborhood park.

Strategy 2: Acquire property located on the northwest side of Ottawa, south of the bluff, for development of a neighborhood park.

Goal 6: Provide safe park facilities and environment for all users.

Strategy 1: The City must provide adequate routine maintenance through sufficient funds in its operating budget.

Strategy 2: An annual maintenance program should be instituted to bring improvements to the highest priority items based on age and wear.

Goal 7: Plan to provide sufficient parks and facilities for every age, gender, and socioeconomic group that lives in or visits Ottawa and identify public input and support of the parks system.

Strategy 1: The existing and future parks shall not be overdeveloped. Open space should be left at parks for passive recreation or for non-structured active recreation.

Strategy 2: Analyze the possibility of hiring a part- time parks coordinator to develop yearly parks priorities and guide the Playground and Recreation Board in decision-making.

Goal 8: Ensure that the Playground and Recreation Board can rely on a standard or steadily increasing operating budget to maintain and expand Ottawa’s parks.

Strategy 1: Utilize state and federal grant programs for the acquisition and development of parks and trails.

Strategy 3: Work with public and private landowners to consider land donations. This can be used in lieu of the City’s portion for obtaining grants such as the Illinois Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development program (OSLAD).

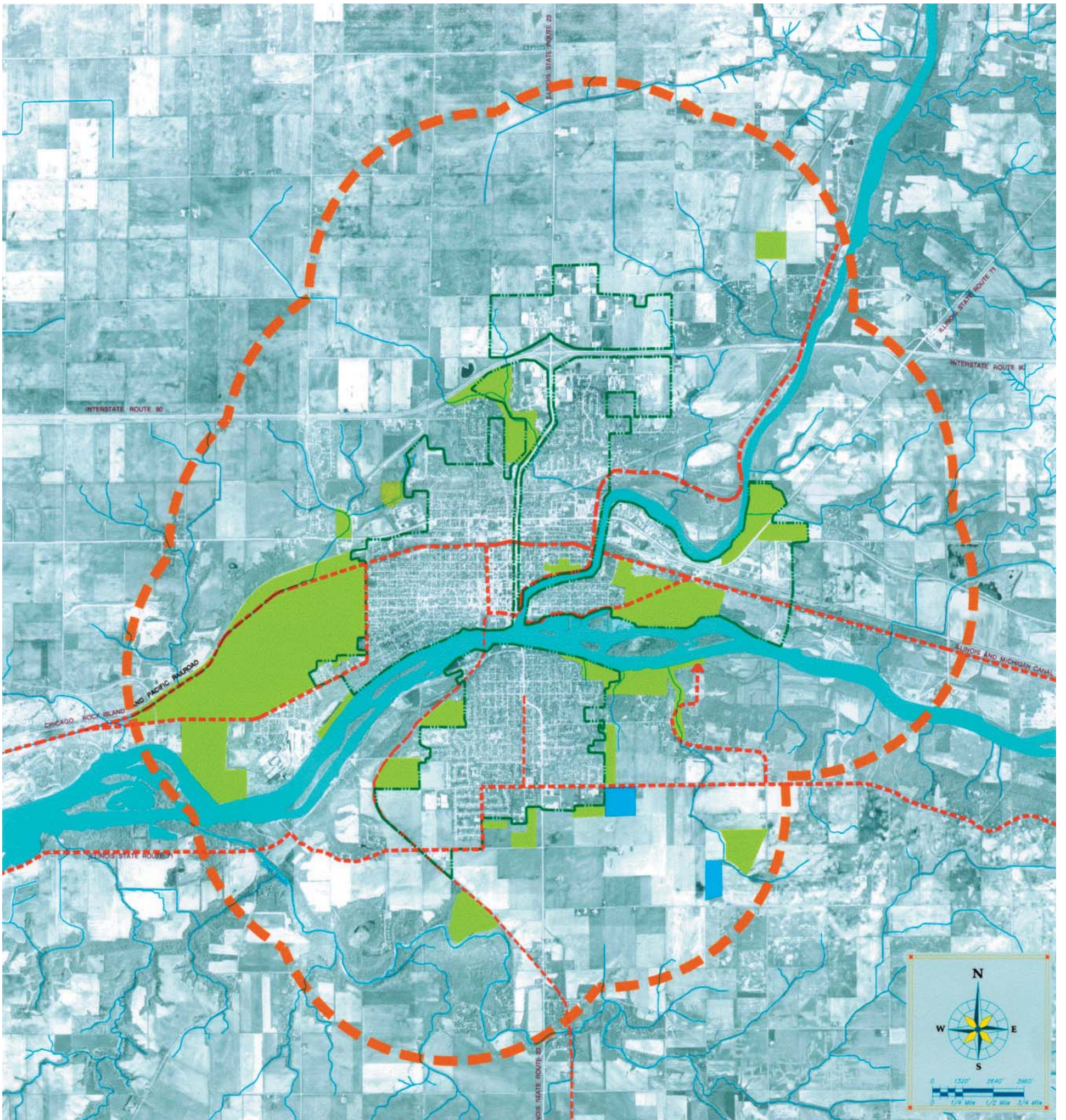
Attendees of the meeting were also asked to rank their top two (2) acquisition and development sites. The sites were chosen from a map displaying (19) possible acquisition and development sites throughout Ottawa. The top two sites that were chosen were the old Central School Site and the old pickle factory site in western Ottawa south of the railroad tracks.

**CITY OF OTTAWA
PARK MEETING
PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN
June 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.**




ATTENDANCE SHEET

NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION/ E-MAIL	Check all that apply						
		Citizen	Elected or appointed official	Municipal employee	Engineer / Contractor	Grant Administrator	Business Owner	Other
WAYNE EICHELLRODT	CITY HALL		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Peggy Schneider	Ottawa							
Jeanne Suda	The Times							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Todd Volker	toddvolker@att.net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
GARY ROWLEY	gpdrgrowley@yahoo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Eldon Keenhuus	Park; Rec Board							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
James Edment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Marc Rowley	Garden Crew mnr_ill@yahoo.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrée-Marie Koban	Park / Rec Board		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Tom Hufel	City Hall		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Alan Howarter	Plan Comm. ss. 04, Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

2002 Ottawa Comprehensive Plan Map



LEGEND

-  PROPOSED NEW TRAILS
-  TARGET SCHOOL PARK
-  TARGET PARKS

The map above illustrates the location for proposed new parks and trails.

PROPOSED NEW PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- CENTRAL DISTRICT – 1 PARK, 15.7 ACRES
- WEST DISTRICT – 5 PARKS, 1190.7 ACRES
- EAST DISTRICT – 3 PARKS, 314.3 ACRES
- SOUTH DISTRICT – 9 PARKS, 361.6 ACRES
- NORTH DISTRICT – 1 PARK, 35.2 ACRES
- NEW TRAILS – 29.9 MILES