



City of Grand Island

Saturday, January 20, 2007

Council Retreat

Item -1

Council Retreat - 2007

The 2007 City Council Retreat will be held at Heartland Public Shooting Park, 6788 Husker Highway on Saturday, January 20, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Attached are the items that will be discussed.

Staff Contact: Mayor Margaret Hornady

COUNCIL RETREAT



JANUARY 20, 2007

COUNCIL PACKET

City Council Special Study Session Retreat

Saturday, January 20, 2007

8:30 a.m.

Heartland Public Shooting Park

6788 West Husker Highway

Agenda

Introduction	Mayor Margaret Hornady	8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Discussion Topics:	(See attached sheet)	8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Break		10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Discussion Topics:	(See attached sheet)	10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Lunch with County Board	Mayor Margaret Hornady	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heartland Public Shooting Park Presentation• City/County Emergency Management• City/County Efficiency Committee Update• Other Issues		Steve Paustian Brenda Sutherland Beth Stecker, Chair
Break		1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Goal Setting for 2007-2008	Mayor Margaret Hornady	1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Break		2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Goal Setting for 2007-2008	Mayor Margaret Hornady	2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Discussion Topics

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Funding Outside Agencies | City Council |
| • Stolley Park Arboretum | Councilmember Bob Meyer |
| • Smoking Ban | Councilmember Peg Gilbert |
| • Competitive Swimming Pool | Councilmember Peg Gilbert |
| • Golf Course Amenities | Councilmember Peg Gilbert |
| • Adequate Facilities for Girls Softball and Ownership of Fields | Councilmember John Gericke |
| • Truck Parking in Residential Areas | Councilmember Carole Cornelius/
Councilmember Scott Walker |
| • Parking on Non-Paved Surfaces | Councilmember Joyce Haase |
| • Auditor Report | Councilmember Joyce Haase |
| • Other Items | |

FUNDING OUTSIDE AGENCIES



Dale M. Shotkoski, City Attorney

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

*Working Together for a
Better Tomorrow, Today.*

DATE: January 11, 2007

TO: Mayor Margaret Hornady
Gary D. Greer, City Administrator
City Council Members

FROM: Dale M. Shotkoski, City Attorney

RE: Municipal Corporation/City Authority to Tax

Background

First class cities such as the City of Grand Island obtain their authority to tax from the Constitution for the State of Nebraska and the Nebraska Statutes. The authority to tax is granted to municipal corporations in order to allow for them to carry out their corporate purposes.

Discussion

The authority of a municipal corporation such as the City of Grand Island to tax can specifically be found in the Constitution for the State of Nebraska, Article VIII, Section 1 and Section 6. Section 1 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska grants to a governmental subdivision the authority to tax to raise necessary revenue. This section of the Constitution also requires that all taxes be levied and administered in a fair method. Taxes that are levied have to be levied by valuation uniformly and proportionately. Section 6 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska grants to the corporate authorities of cities, such as Grand Island, the authority to tax for local improvements. Furthermore, in Section 6 of Article VIII of the Constitution for the State of Nebraska, it states "For all other corporate purposes, all municipal corporations may be vested with authority to assess and collect taxes, but such taxes shall be uniform in respect to persons and property within the jurisdiction of the body imposing the same, ..."

Nebraska Revised Statutes further define the ability of a city to tax. In Section 16-201 for the general powers of a city of the first class, that statute defines what a city shall have the power to do. The general powers of the City are listed as (1) to sue and be sued, (2) to purchase, lease, lease with option to buy, or acquire by gift or devise and hold real and personal property within or without the

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limits of the city and real estate sold for taxes for the use of the city in such manner and upon such terms and conditions as may be deemed in the best interests of the city, (3) to sell and convey, exchange, or lease any real or personal property owned by the conditions as may be deemed in the best interests of the city, except that real estate owned by the city may be conveyed without consideration to the State of Nebraska for state armory sites or, if acquired for state armory sites, shall be conveyed in the manner strictly as provided in Sections 18-1001 to 18-1006, (4) to make all contracts and do all other acts in relation to the property and concerns of the city necessary to the exercise of its corporate powers, and (5) to exercise such other and further powers as may be conferred by law.

In regards to the general powers of the City in regards to the funding of outside agencies, a determination needs to be made that the outside agency, which is seeking funding, falls within one of the categories defined in Section 16-201 so that it can be funded by the City.

Neb. Rev. Stat., §16-203 does give specifically a city of the first class the authority to levy taxes for general revenue purposes and it sets out the limits on the amount of taxation allowed. Section 16-203 comes from the authority of the previous constitutional provisions cited above.

Neb. Rev. Stat., §16-204 allows for other taxes to be levied by a city of the first class. It specifically states "A city of the first class may levy any other tax or special assessment authorized by law, and appropriate money and provide for the payment of the debts and expenses of the city." This section has been used by cities as the authority to incur debt and then pay debts such as bonds to finance projects for the city.

Neb. Rev. Stat., §16-205 does allow for cities to impose a license or occupation tax. The requirement for these taxes again is that such taxes shall be uniform in respect to the class upon which they are imposed. This authority to tax does not broaden the purposes for which the tax can be spent upon, it is just an additional authority to tax. Neb. Rev. Stat., §16-206 is much like §16-205 in that it again gives a city of the first class the authority to collect a license tax and §16-206 pertains to the authority to issue a tax from the owners or harborers of dogs or other animals.

Neb. Rev. Stat., §16-702 is another statute that allows for a city of the first class to issue a property tax for general purposes. Subsection 1 of Neb. Rev. Stat., §16-702 does allow the city to levy and collect taxes for all municipal purposes on taxable property within the corporate limits of the city. This statute is very similar to Section 1 of Article VIII of the Nebraska Constitution that allows for taxes being tied to the municipal or corporate purposes. Section 16-702 again does not broaden the purposes, it is just another avenue for a municipal corporation to gain the revenue necessary to carry out its general purposes.

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Neb. Rev. Stat., §77-27,142 is part of Nebraska's Local Option Revenue Act. This section allows for a municipality such as Grand Island to impose a sales and use tax. The authority to use sales and use taxes is tied to the purpose of the sales and use tax which is tied to elections and votes of the citizens. Again, this section does not necessarily broaden the authority to fund outside of corporate or municipal purposes, it is simply another way for a city to acquire the revenue necessary to carry those purposes and for sales tax, the revenue is tied to specific purposes.

Recommendation

Funding for outside agencies should be reviewed annually and determinations made as to whether the outside agency seeking funding serves a municipal corporate purpose. If such agency is performing services, then there is authority to use tax funds for such services and corporate municipal purposes. Without the finding of the municipal purposes being served, there is no authority to tax and generate revenue for such funding.

DMS/sp

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>2003 FUNDED</u>	<u>2004 FUNDED</u>	<u>2005 FUNDED</u>	<u>2006 FUNDED</u>	<u>2007 REQUEST</u>	<u>2007 FUNDED</u>
Hope Harbor	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,500
Convention and Visitors Bureau	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000
Council for International Visitors	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000
Crisis Center	\$ 10,200	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 12,000
Family Violence Coalition of Central NE	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
G. I. Dive and Rescue Team - Trailer	\$ 9,772	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,265	\$ 2,000
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Senior Citizens Industries, Inc.	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Multicultural Coalition			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Fishing Derby	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Third City Community Clinic					\$ 1,500	\$ -
Kaufman-Cummings Park					\$ -	\$ -
Grand Theatre Foundation, Inc.					\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$ 72,472	\$ 57,000	\$ 64,500	\$ 66,500	\$ 75,265	\$ 66,500

AGENCIES WITH WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CITY DEPARTMENTS

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>2003 FUNDED</u>	<u>2004 FUNDED</u>	<u>2005 FUNDED</u>	<u>2006 FUNDED</u>	<u>2007 REQUEST</u>	<u>2007 FUNDED</u>
Central Nebraska Humane Society	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$157,500	\$157,500	\$241,500	\$167,500
Central Nebraska Health Department	\$374,440	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
Clean Community Systems	\$ 18,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Totals	\$542,440	\$305,000	\$312,500	\$312,500	\$386,500	\$312,500
TOTAL OUTSIDE AGENCIES	\$614,912	\$362,000	\$377,000	\$379,000	\$461,765	\$379,000

STOLLEY PARK ARBORETUM

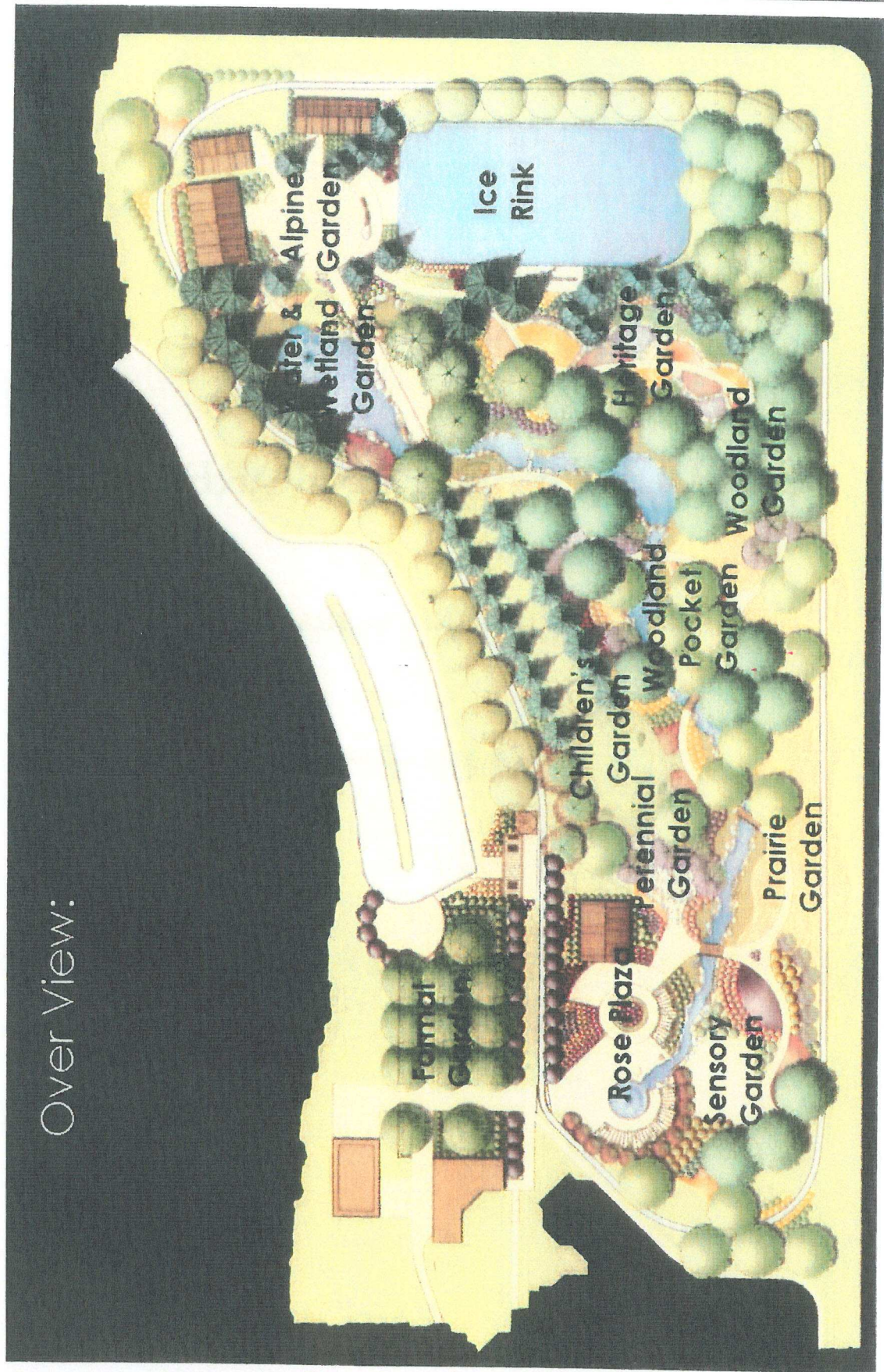
LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

STOLLEY PARK ARBORETUM

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

January, 2004





Over View:



OVERVIEW

This master plan was developed to assist the City of Grand Island establish an arboretum at the former Heritage Zoo site in Stolley Park. This plan is intended to provide general structure to the planning process for the City of Grand Island's future landscape goals at this site. Its main purpose is to focus upon the "big picture" landscape issues at Stolley Park and should be used to give direction in the planning of the general intent of future landscape at this site. The plan has intentionally been kept flexible so that it might adapt to future changes in program, site conditions, and funding opportunities.

MISSION

The mission of the development of the Stolley Park Arboretum landscape is six-fold:

- Display plant material in a beautiful setting. Develop the site in such a manner that the landscape enhances the activity that occurs there.
- Display plant material in such a way so that it becomes an educational resource for the public.
- Utilize a mix of diverse landscape plants that are well-adapted to the area.
- Utilize a mix of diverse new and underutilized landscape plant species that might be adaptable to the area.
- Develop the site so that it might achieve local and regional recognition as an outstanding arboretum site.
- Develop the site so that it is organized into individual themed areas that can be phased or funded separate from one another, if desired.

SITE CONDITIONS

Location: The Stolley Park Arboretum site is located on a contiguous property that totals approximately 7 acres in south central Grand Island, Nebraska south of West Stolley Park Road between South Blaine Street and Park Drive. It is located in Stolley Park.

Context: The Stolley Park Arboretum site is situated in the south central part of Grand Island, Nebraska, a growing community of approximately 44,000 persons located in east-central Nebraska. The arboretum site, situated at the former Heritage Zoo property is located in Stolley Park. Existing parking lots that will serve the arboretum are situated to the north and west of the arboretum entrance. A large new children's playground is located to the west of the arboretum. Large open park areas surround the arboretum to the north and west. No significant changes in elevation occurs within this site, but an existing water feature that includes a small pond and stream bisects the site. A miniature railroad track that served the Zoo has been rebuilt, and will now enhance the arboretum activity. All of the former Zoo exhibit areas have been removed, but a few existing buildings remain, as well as many trees and shrubs.

Access: Access to the site is straightforward, and uncomplicated via the City of Grand Island street system. Once at the site, parking is available in the existing Stolley Park parking areas, mentioned above. Stolley Park is open throughout the year.

Climate: The climate of east-central Nebraska is variable. Wide temperature fluctuations are common from season to season, and even within a specific season. Temperatures range from over 100 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer (June through September) to under -20 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter (December through March). Daily fluctuation in temperature can sometimes approach 50 or 60 degrees. Precipitation can also vary. The region receives an average of 25 inches of precipitation per



year. However, only approximately 18 inches of that amount falls as rain during the growing season (an average of 160 days between late April and early October). Periods of drought are common even during years that total annual precipitation is average. More severe droughts occur on average every seven years.

Plant Hardiness: The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone for this site is 5b. The average annual minimum temperature for this zone is -20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Soils: The soils on the site are urban, mixed soils. After decades of building and site improvements at the site, the top three or so feet of soil has been modified to the point of being undefined per typical USDA classifications.

Existing Collections and other Vegetation: No evidence exists of pre-settlement native mixed-grass prairie on this site. Existing trees do subsist throughout the site. This planting mainly consists of a number of species of deciduous trees. Landscape has also been installed and maintained throughout Stolley Park. Most of the landscape in and around Stolley Park is mature, and provides a pleasant overstory canopy.

Educational Activities: No formal educational activity currently occurs at this site.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Site Development Goal: The Stolley Park Arboretum site will be a visually attractive area. Users will be able to learn about plants and enjoy the benefits of a well-planned landscape.

- Emphasis will be placed on quality landscape design that provides a sense of beauty for the site
- Declining trees will be pruned or removed as necessary to improve the appearance of the site
- Additional plantings will be installed to augment existing specimens
- Additional plantings will be installed in order to provide pedestrian comfort including wind protection, shade, and visual screening on the site
- Native and naturalized plantings will be utilized whenever appropriate
- Landscape plants will be utilized to enhance specific themed areas including a formal garden, rose garden, sensory garden, children's garden, prairie garden, woodland pocket garden, woodland garden, water/wetland garden, heritage garden, and alpine garden.
- The primary arboretum entrances to the site will be enhanced through the use of landscape
- The arboretum development will integrate and enhance adjacent park uses, including the new children's playground and proposed community picnic pavilion
- The arboretum development will enhance the existing adjacent residential neighborhoods
- The arboretum should be developed to provide all-season activity and interest

Collections Goal: The Stolley Park Arboretum site will offer a diverse collection of plants that are appropriate for the area.

- A collections policy should be developed
- A list of desired species, appropriate to the site, will be developed (see Exhibit A)
- Emphasis should be placed on expanding the variety of trees, shrubs, perennials and groundcover plants displayed at the site

Education Goal: Stolley Park Arboretum site will serve as an educational resource center for Grand Island Public Schools, and for the Grand Island community.

- Emphasis should be placed on educational activities appropriate for Grand Island school youth



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- Plants should be properly labeled for easy identification
 - Consideration should be given to the development of interpretive information regarding site characteristics and planting
 - A site brochure that indicates plant location and layout should be developed
 - Efforts should be made to schedule outdoor public events that emphasize landscape development on the site

Maintenance Goal: The Stolley Park Arboretum site will serve as a model for proper landscape maintenance.

- High quality maintenance of the existing plant material on site as well as other site features, including the proper interface between landscape and pavements, buildings, and other site features will be advocated
- The arboretum will demonstrate desirable landscape cultural practices including planting, mulching, irrigation, pruning, weed control and pest control
- Emphasis will be placed on low-input maintenance techniques including reduced chemical use and increased biological control
- The design of the landscape will be completed to allow plantings to be maintained in their natural form
- The design of the landscape will be completed to allow for reduction in mowing and trimming
- Plants will be mulched on a regular basis
- The design of the landscape will be completed to allow for the grouping of plants in planting beds so as to promote the mulching of large, contiguous areas, rather than individual plant locations

Management, Funding and Volunteer Support Goal: Management, funding and volunteer support for the site will be initiated.

- Efforts to attract additional physical and financial support will continue
- Donations will be encouraged for the development of the master plan
- Local recognition of physical and financial support will continue



DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

The following concepts describe the significant design ideas for the development of the Stolley Park Arboretum site for the duration of the master plan. They are part of a phased approach to the implementation of the plan, as time and resources allow.

- The site should be organized into thematic areas. Each subarea should be designed to focus on a particular type of landscape. The subareas could include the following:
 - Formal Garden
 - Rose Plaza
 - Sensory Garden
 - Prairie Garden
 - Perennial Garden
 - Children's Garden
 - Woodland Pocket Garden
 - Woodland Garden
 - Water/Wetland Garden
 - Heritage Garden
 - Alpine Garden Plaza
- The **Formal Garden** is located at the north side of the arboretum to the east of the former Zoo entrance building. The Formal Garden is designed to serve as the entrance to the arboretum. This area should be pleasant, shady and inviting. The entrance to the Formal Garden should be located so that it is on axis with the existing ornamental fountain basin that exists inside the arboretum (former Zoo).

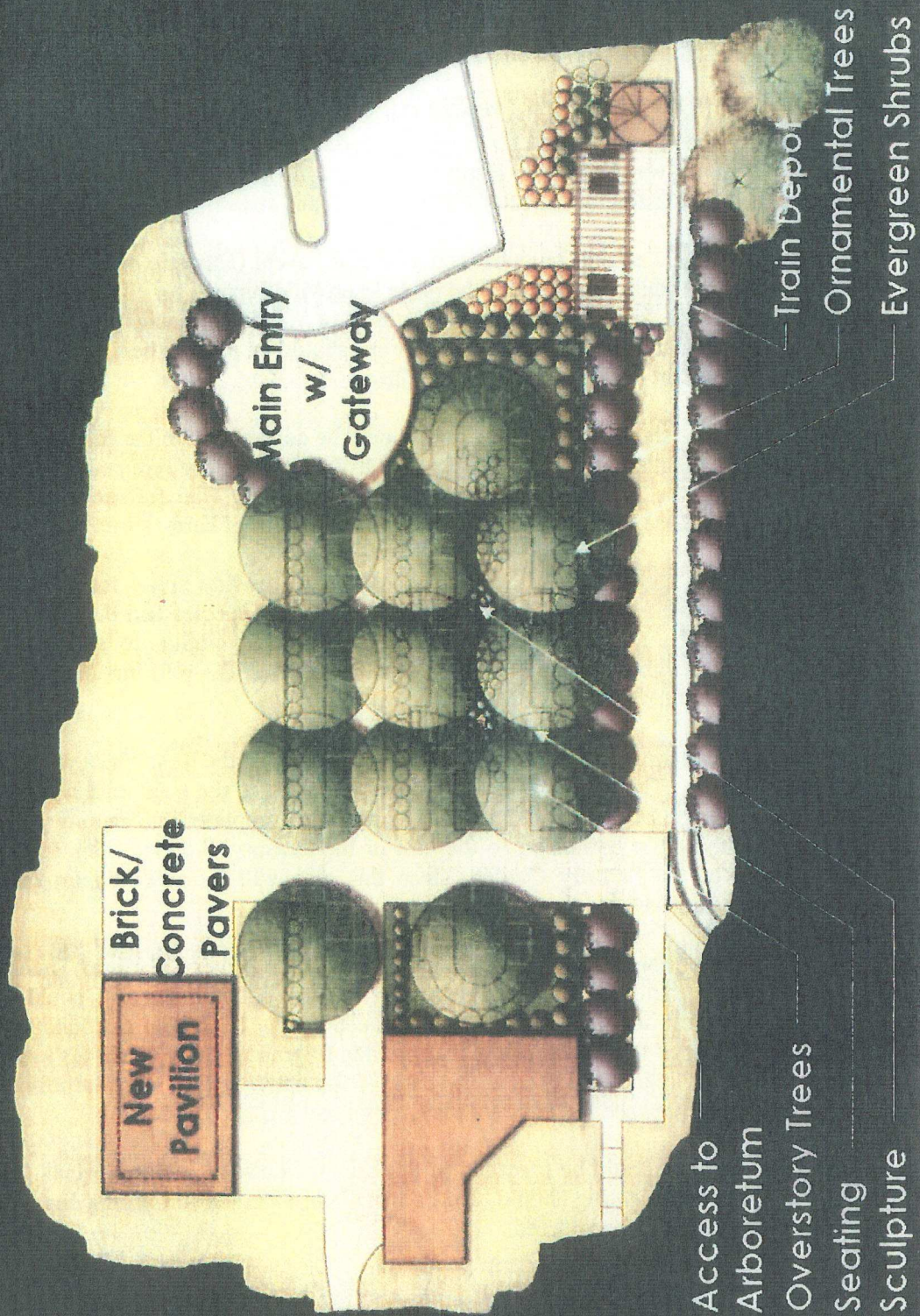
The Formal Garden would be designed to include a perimeter fence or wall. If the perimeter is contained with a fence, it should be constructed to a height of 6 feet with high quality materials such as wrought iron or powder coated steel. If the perimeter is defined by a wall, it should be constructed to a height of 6 feet with masonry or stone. A shrub hedge should be planted at the base of the perimeter fence/wall (interior and exterior). Vines should also be planted at the base of the fence or wall.

Overstory deciduous trees would be planted in planting areas to provide shade in the interior of the Formal Garden. A variety of shade tolerant perennials and ground covers would be planted at the base of the overstory trees. The planting areas that are created in the Formal Garden should be constructed to accommodate sculpture placements. Steel benches that reflect the character of the perimeter wall/fence should be located in the formal garden to accommodate visitors who are arriving or leaving the arboretum.

The ground pavement in the Formal Garden should be unit pavers (brick or concrete). The pavers should be selected to provide color (brown, tan, charcoal, red or other earth tones). They should be installed to create borders or other typical patterns observed in pedestrian plazas. Low level pedestrian lighting should also be installed in the Formal Garden.

The Formal Garden is connected to other park facilities that are related to the arboretum, but not directly integrated with it. A new drop off point at the west end of the existing parking lot that is located to the east of the former Zoo entrance building would be constructed to connect the parking

Formal Garden:





area to the arboretum Formal Garden and entrance. This drop off point would also connect to a new train depot that would be constructed directly to the west of the Formal Garden (outside of the perimeter wall), and a new community picnic pavilion that would be constructed to the north of the former Zoo entrance building. The existing park road that is currently routed through this area would be removed, and relocated to the north. The new train depot and picnic pavilion could be utilized during times that the arboretum was not open.

- Located directly to the south of the Formal Garden, across the railroad tracks is the **Rose Plaza**. This area would be mostly sunny with no overstory shade trees so that a variety of low-maintenance shrub roses and climbing roses could be displayed. This construction of this plaza would also include the renovation of the existing ornamental water fountain and stream.

The plaza pavement should be constructed of unit pavers (concrete or brick). Pergolas should be constructed at the south perimeter of the plaza to provide support for climbing roses. These pergolas would also provide filtered shade for the comfort of visitors. Benches should be located under the pergolas. Ornamental flowering trees and shrubs should be planted behind the pergolas to provide a colorful and fragrant backdrop to the Rose Plaza.

A central, circular shrub rose planting area should be constructed to the east of the ornamental water fountain. This planting area would direct pedestrian traffic to the remainder of the arboretum, or to the entrance of the renovated arboretum support building (the former Zoo herpetarium). The perimeter of the Rose Plaza would be planted with varieties of hardy shrub roses.

The former Zoo herpetarium should be renovated to provide space for arboretum maintenance, demonstrations, winter indoor storage for non-hardy plant species and the like. The interior of the building should be refinished to provide an environment similar to a nursery holding area or greenhouse. Skylights should be installed in the roof of the existing metal building to provide sunlight into the interior of the building.

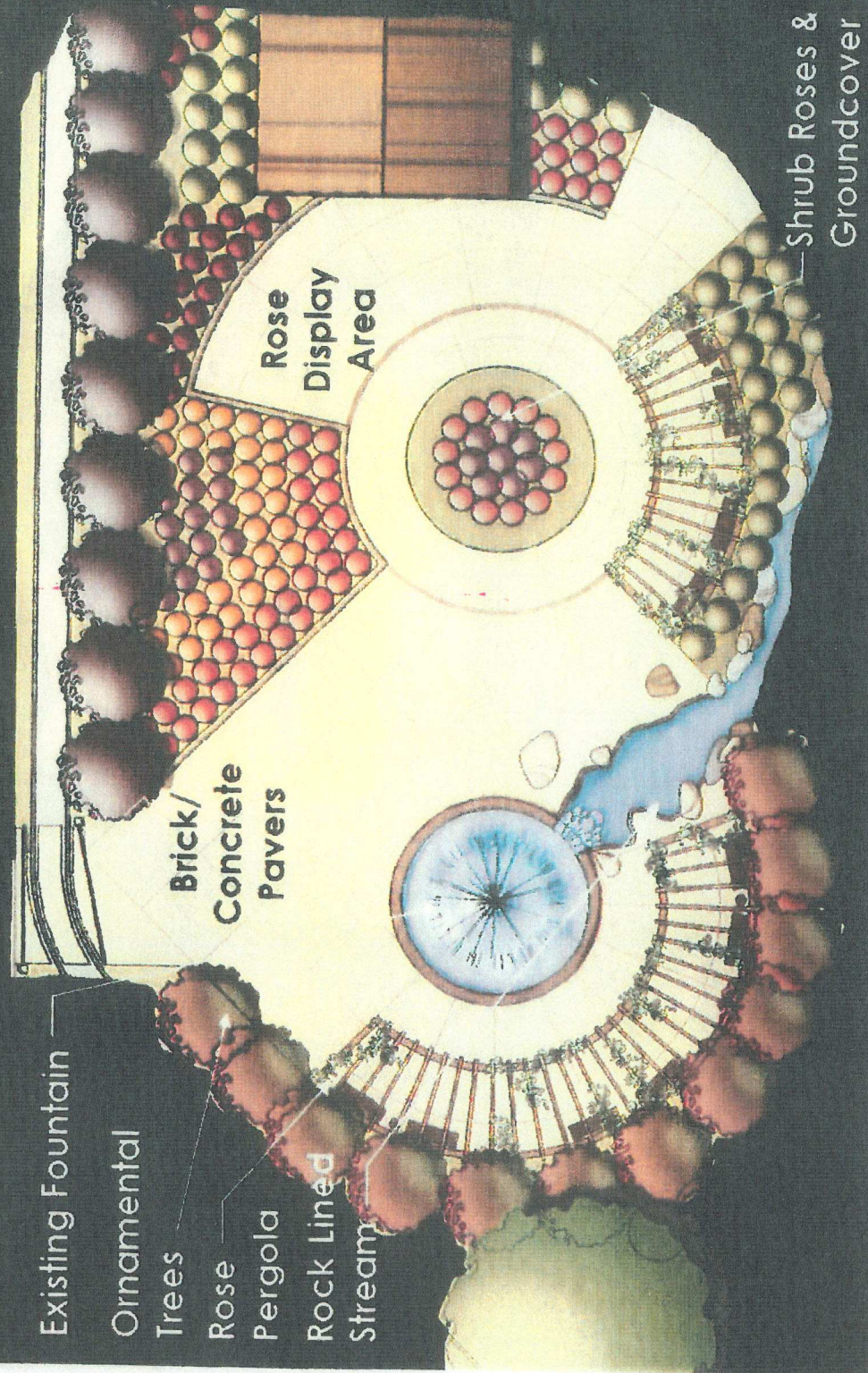
- A path that would cross the arboretum stream to the south of the Rose Plaza would connect to the **Sensory Garden**. The Sensory Garden would be located to the south and east of the Rose Plaza at the current location of the amphitheatre. The recently completed community playground is located beyond the arboretum perimeter, to the east of the Sensory Garden. This setting is ideal for the development of the Sensory Garden, since this area will be able support numerous children's activities at the arboretum.

The existing amphitheatre will be the primary focus of the Sensory Garden. This facility could serve as the primary outdoor educational setting at the arboretum. It could be accommodate demonstrations, classes, lectures and entertainment. The landscape surrounding the amphitheatre would be developed to include plants that provide fragrance, color, fruit, texture and sound. Large evergreen trees should be planted at the back of the amphitheatre stage to provide a natural visual and sound buffer between the adjacent playground and railroad track.

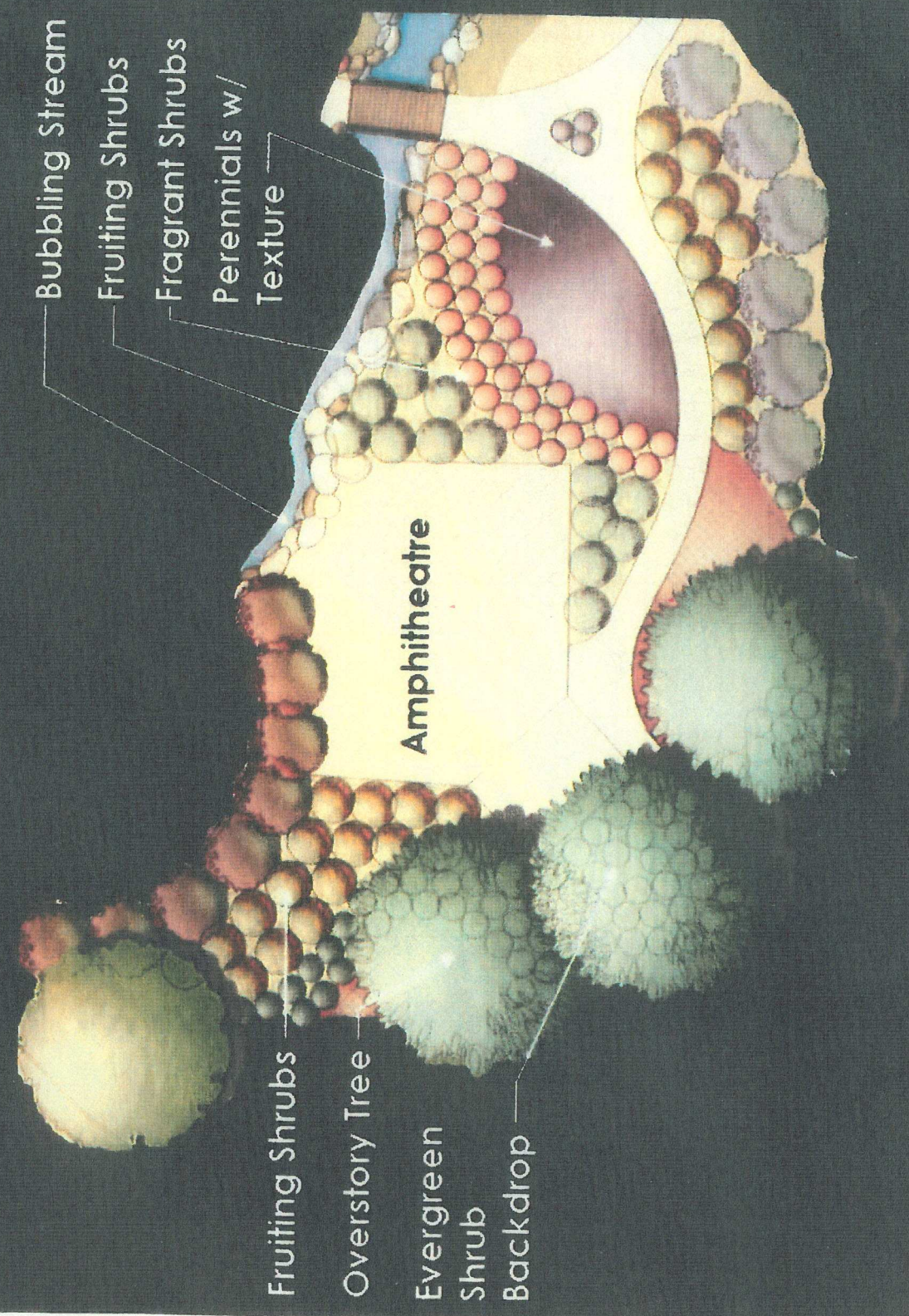
Pedestrian lighting should be provided in this area for dusk or evening events. Electrical capacity for stage and event lighting should also be installed. Conduit and wiring for sound reinforcement systems should also be considered.

Due to the likelihood that numerous young children, strollers, elderly and physically challenged persons may attend events at the amphitheatre, all pavements in the Sensory Garden should be paved. It is recommended that all main path surfaces in the arboretum with the exception of plaza or entrance areas should be paved with concrete for ease of maintenance, and cost considerations.

Rose Plaza:



Sensory Garden:





Located directly to the east of the Sensory Garden entrance at the south perimeter of the arboretum is the recommended site of the **Prairie Garden**. The Prairie Garden is a small area that borders the arboretum stream. A concrete path would be routed through the center of the Prairie Garden. Native grasses and wildflowers would be planted on either side of the path so that visitors to the arboretum could experience a short simulated walk through one of Nebraska's predominant historical landscapes. No trees would be planted in this area.

- The **Perennial Garden** is located to the north of the Prairie Garden, across the arboretum stream. It is connected to the Rose Plaza, which is located to the west. The Perennial Garden is a small area that would be devoted to the display of low-maintenance perennial plants. Access through this area would be provided by a large, curvaceous paved area. The surface would be constructed of flagstone.

The perennial display area to the south of the flagstone pavement would be planted with perennials that prefer lowland or wetland environments since this planting area is located adjacent to the arboretum stream. A few multi-stemmed ornamental trees and shrubs would be planted in this bed as well in order to provide some filtered shade for the perennials. The display area to the north of the pavement would be planted with perennials that prefer dryland environments.

The Perennial Garden is designed to provide an interactive, colorful and educational display area at the arboretum. However, it has also been designed to act as the western terminus to the main view corridor at the arboretum. The eastern terminus of this view corridor is the Alpine Garden Plaza. Between the areas lie the Wetland Garden, and the Children's Garden. A person standing at the Perennial Garden would be able to look through the Children's Garden and Wetland Garden to the Alpine Garden. This feature connects four of the arboretum's most important spaces and provides a sense of orientation for visitors.

- Located directly to the east of the Perennial Garden is the **Children's Garden**. The Children's Garden is designed to be a playful environment. The eastern edge of the flagstone path that provides access through the Perennial Garden would convert into a manicured, bluegrass or turf fescue lawn that acts as the central area of the Children's Garden. This oval shaped lawn would be bordered by overstory and ornamental trees.

Animal topiaries would be constructed and placed at the perimeter of the lawn. Animal forms to be used should include familiar and unfamiliar grazers, such as cattle, deer, bison, elk, horses, camels, etc. The lawn would be designed for visitor access and use.

As the lawn progresses to the east, it becomes linear. The width of the lawn narrows from west to east to create a forced perspective view. This design feature has been utilized throughout history and represents features that can still be seen in many European arboretums and gardens. Evergreen trees would border the linear portion of the lawn to create a formal space. Flowering shrubs and perennials would be planted at the base of the evergreen trees to provide a complete buffer between this area and the Woodland Garden located to the south.

- The **Woodland Pocket Garden** is located to the south of the Children's Garden, south of the arboretum stream. The Woodland Pocket Garden is a very small, shady area that is embedded in the larger Woodland Garden. It would be planted with a variety of shade-tolerant shrubs, perennials and groundcovers. It would also be a location for sculpture placement and benches. A small gravel path should provide access through the area. It should be known as a pleasant place at the arboretum to rest, pause, and relax.

Prairie Garden:

Native Shrubs:
• Sumac, American
Plum, Elderberry

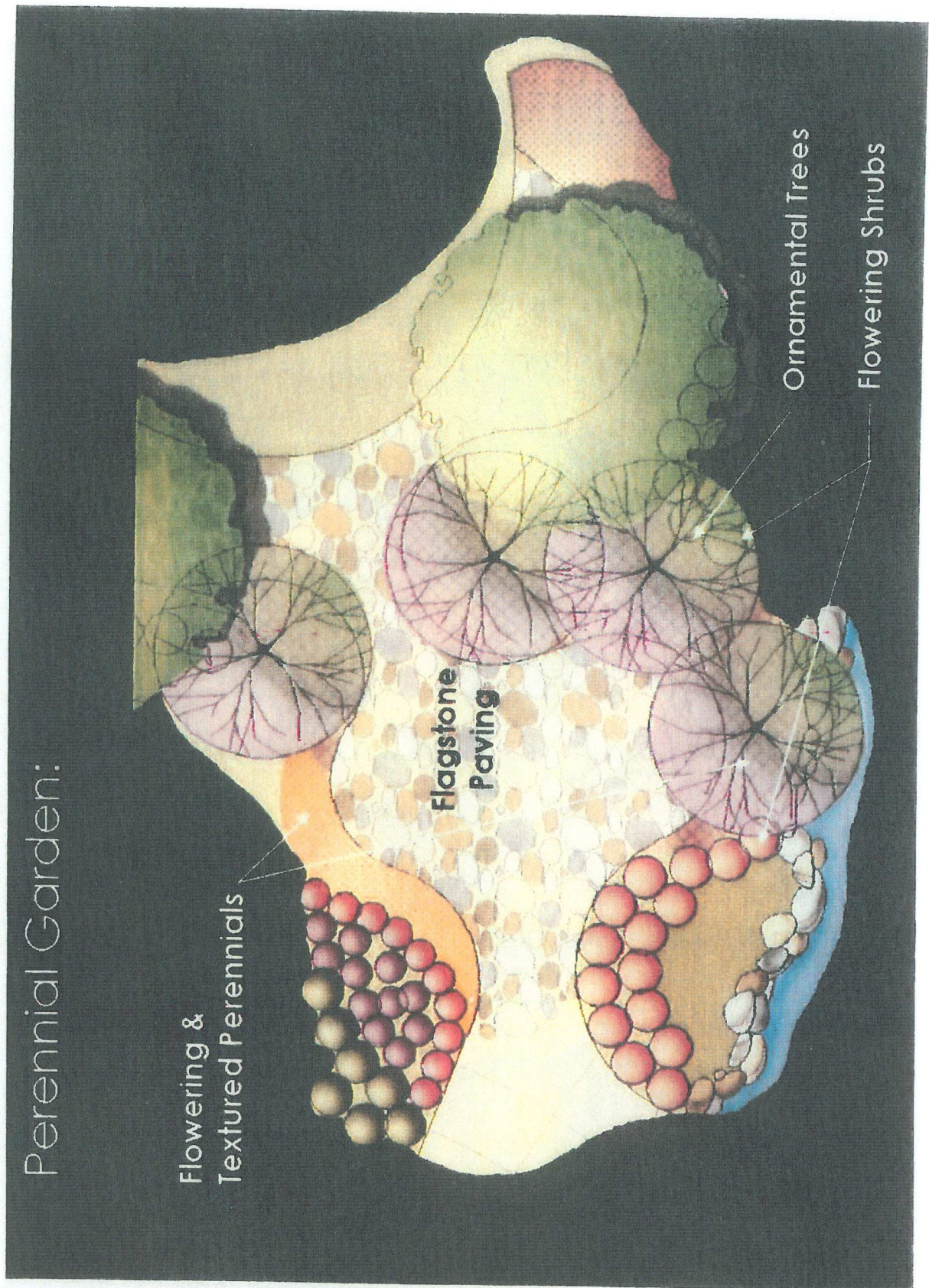
Native Trees:
Hackberry, Ash,
Maple...

Tallgrass
Prairie

Shortgrass
Prairie

**Native Grasses and
Wildflowers**

RR Tracks



Children's Garden:

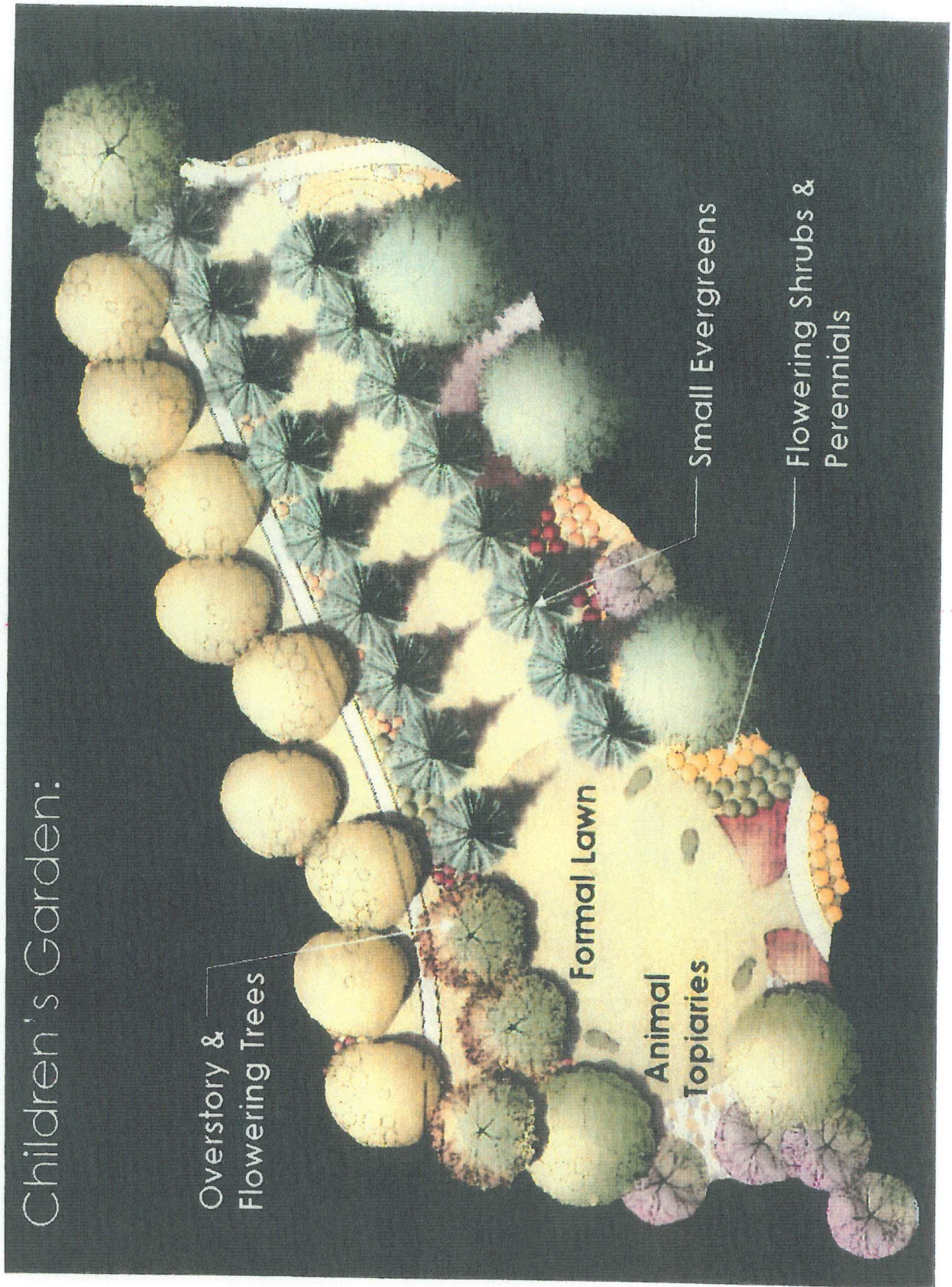
Overstory &
Flowering Trees

Formal Lawn

Animal
Topiaries

Small Evergreens

Flowering Shrubs &
Perennials





The Woodland Pocket Garden should be designed to be a desirable, intimate location to sit in the shade and listen to the adjacent stream, songbirds or the breeze rustling the leaves of the shade trees above. It should be designed so that the temperature difference between this environment and a sunny area at the arboretum could approach ten or more degrees (cooler).

Initially, at the inception of the arboretum development, the Woodland Pocket Garden should be planted with species that will tolerate a large amount of sun or not planted at all. Until the Woodland Garden is established overhead, shade-tolerant species will not survive in the Woodland Pocket Garden area. Many years or decades of growth will be required in the Woodland Garden to provide an environment that will support the Woodland Pocket Garden.

- The **Woodland Garden** occupies the largest amount of space in the arboretum. This is due to the fact that numerous overstory deciduous tree species that exhibit wide-spreading canopies at maturity will need to be planted in the area in order to create a woodland environment. Unlike many commercial landscapes, this area at the arboretum should exhibit spacing for trees as close as twenty or twenty-five feet. This type of spacing, over time, will create a shady, woodland environment. Numerous shrubs and small ornamental trees should also be planted in this area so that a variety of woody plant types can be displayed.

The Woodland Garden is located south of the arboretum stream, between the stream and the south perimeter fence in the middle part of the site. It is bordered to the west by the Prairie Garden (which should create a memorable contrast for visitors to experience) and to the east by the Heritage Garden. Two primary paths would carry visitors through the Woodland Garden. Both should be constructed with concrete for low maintenance. However, it would be desirable for a combination of turf and groundcover to be established below the overstory trees so that visitors could also walk throughout the area on a natural surface if they so choose.

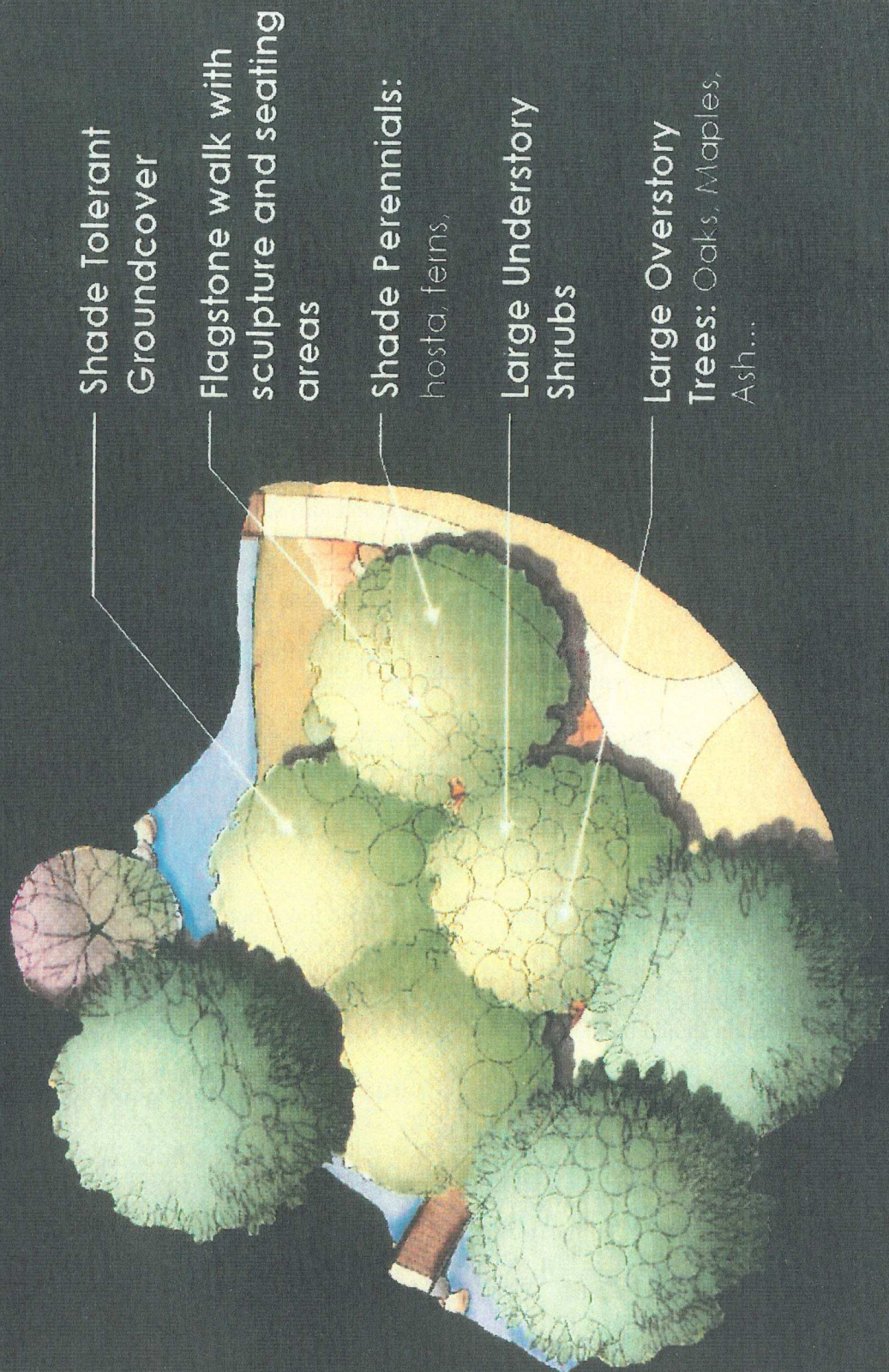
As the western path that is routed through the Woodland Garden approaches the Water/Wetland Garden, it would follow the arboretum stream. At this location the arboretum stream would widen, and a series of drop structures could be constructed to provide some low falls. These drop structures would provide the pleasant sound of trickling water, and would help set the stage for the next arboretum garden area.

- Located to the north of the Woodland Garden, across the arboretum stream is the **Water/Wetland Garden**. This garden is situated at and around the former Zoo duck pond. The existing pond would be renovated, and the banks of the pond would then be planted with wetland species. The pond itself could be renovated to support a variety of marginal and floating plants, including hardy water lilies. A water fountain should be located in the pond to assist with aeration and water quality.

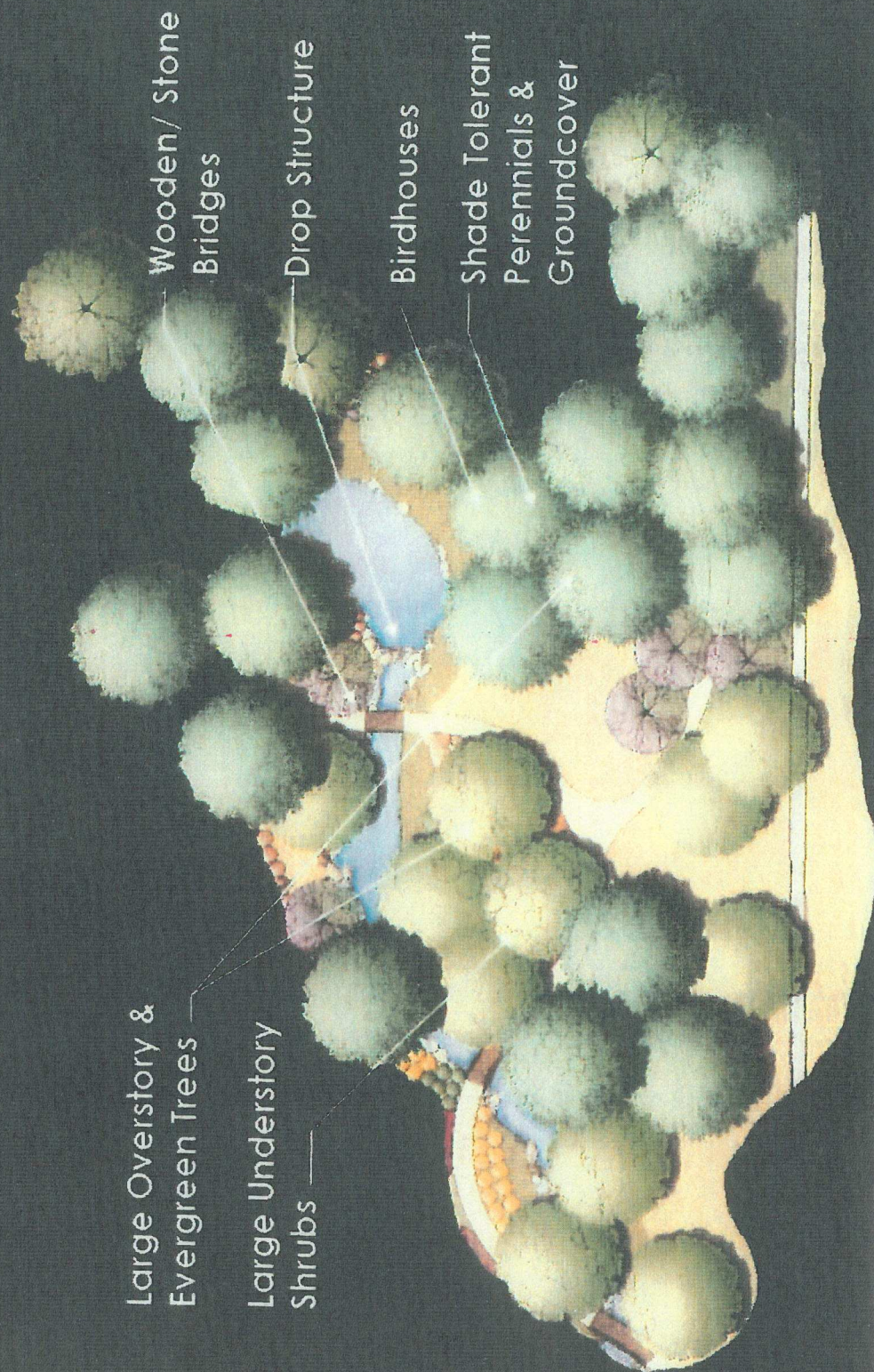
Visitors who would enter this area of the arboretum from the Woodland Garden to the south would cross the arboretum stream over a stone bridge. The path would widen at this location and a seating area that would overlook the pond would be developed. To the rear of the seating area (south) a series of earth mounds could be constructed to separate this garden from the Heritage Garden and future ice rink. Trees would provide shade at this seating location as views to the pond (to the north) or back to the Children's Garden (to the west) would be available. The seating area pavement would merge into a rocky pond edge that would also act as a safety barrier so that visitors could get a close-up view of the aquatic plants. Fish should be introduced to the pond to enhance this garden experience.

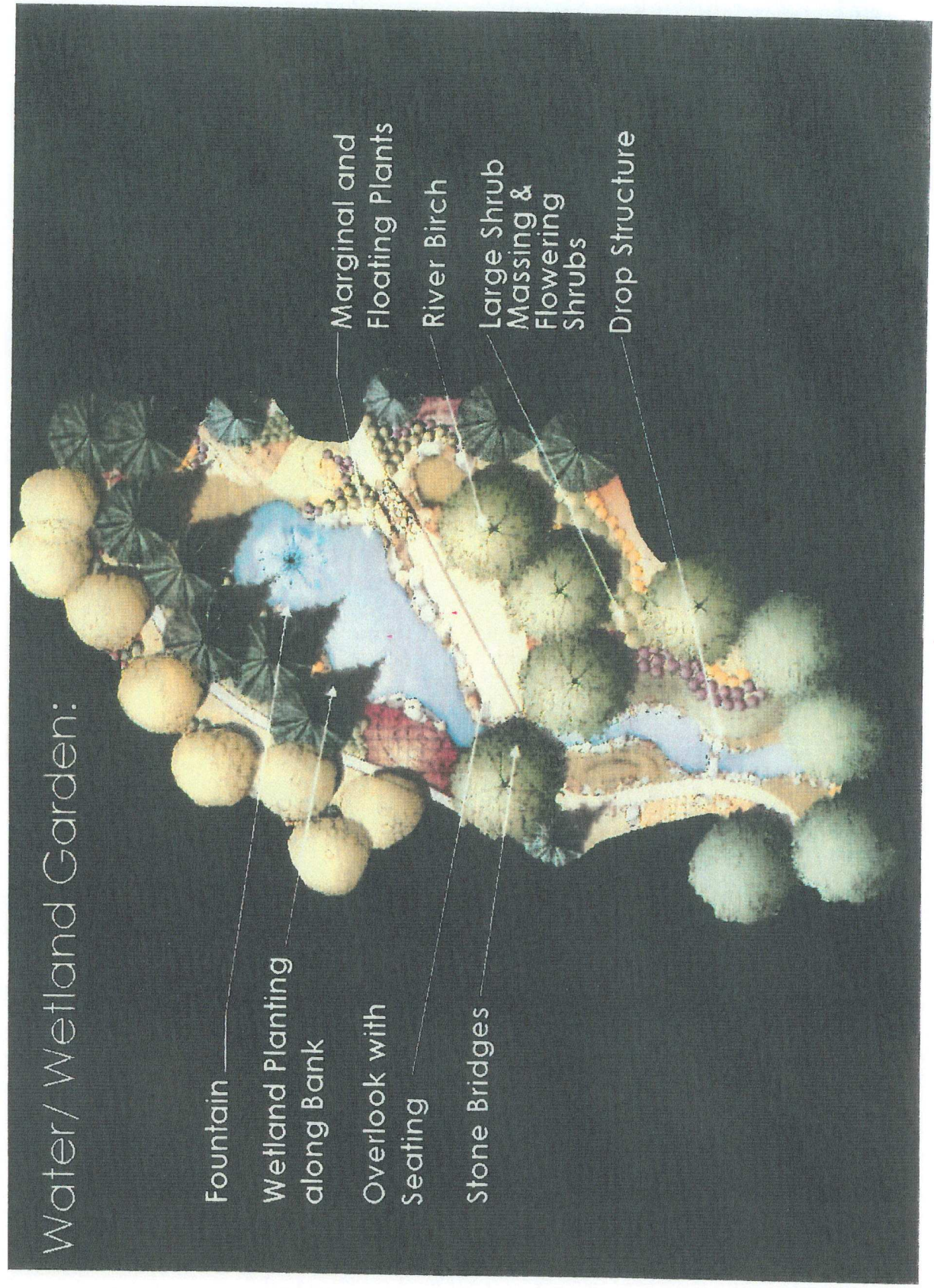
- The **Heritage Garden** is located directly to the east of the Woodland Garden. It would be designed around a series of secondary, gravel walkways that are intertwined with the main concrete arboretum path. Each gravel walkway would define a small planting area that would display introduced plants

Woodland Pocket Garden:



Woodland Garden:





Water/ Wetland Garden:

Fountain

Wetland Planting
along Bank

Overlook with
Seating

Stone Bridges

Marginal and
Floating Plants

River Birch

Large Shrub
Massing &
Flowering
Shrubs

Drop Structure



that were brought to Nebraska from other locations by previous generations. These types of plants include, daylilies, peonies, iris, bulbs, perennial garden fruits and vegetables such as rhubarb, and the like.

This area would be open and sunny. Volunteer garden organizations could be enlisted to help with the planting and maintenance of this area. Demonstrations could be held at different times of the year. Perhaps a partnership and connection with the Stuhr Museum could be made with the display of these plantings.

- The **Alpine Garden Plaza** is located at the northeast corner of the arboretum site. It would be positioned south of the former Zoo Diet and Care Center, which would be renovated for storage and support for the proposed ice rink. It is recommended that a second train depot be considered for construction to the east of the Alpine Garden Plaza. This depot location could be used for a drop-off and pick-up location for skaters that would function in tandem with the previously discussed depot location near the existing parking lots located near the arboretum entrance to the west.

The Alpine Garden Plaza would be designed to provide a large open plaza space for gatherings, ice rink open space and the like. The surface of the plaza should be constructed with unit pavers (brick or concrete). It should be designed to accommodate adequate seating, a fire ring (for cool autumn, winter and spring evenings), pedestrian lighting and banner poles. It should exhibit a festive atmosphere. Electrical capacity should be designed to accommodate extensive Christmas lighting. Conduit and wiring should be considered for a public address system, including the ability to play music.

The planting areas that surround the plaza should be constructed with large rock outcroppings. Evergreen trees and alpine plants (or plants that exhibit the texture and form of alpine plants) should be installed among the rock outcroppings.

- Prior to the construction of any major arboretum features, including planting, portions of the existing infrastructure at the site, including water distribution, electrical, sanitary sewer and storm sewer will need to be upgraded. Increased capacities to accommodate larger load demands for water, storm sewer and electrical will be especially critical. It will be advantageous for much of this construction to be completed prior to extensive development of arboretum facilities so that there are minimal impacts to the finished portions of the project.
- A minimal amount of earthwork operations will be necessary to prepare for the construction of the arboretum on this site. In addition, a minimal amount of demolition will be required to prepare the site. The existing fountain will require some demolition and repair, as will portions of the existing stream and pond. New bridge work will be required. And new earth mounds should be constructed near the Water/Wetland Garden and Alpine Garden Plaza. Finally, most of the existing site should be prepared for planting as garden areas are installed. Existing natural areas should be worked and soil amendments incorporated into new planting areas.
- Infrastructure for a new irrigation system should be constructed prior to any garden area implementation. Irrigation main lines should be installed at the outset. Ideally, each garden area should be controlled individually so that the different requirements for each planting type can be incorporated into the design. Following is a general description of the irrigation systems required for each garden area:

Formal Garden- All planting beds in the Formal Garden should exhibit a permanent, automated irrigation system with shrub spray heads. Quick coupler valves should be

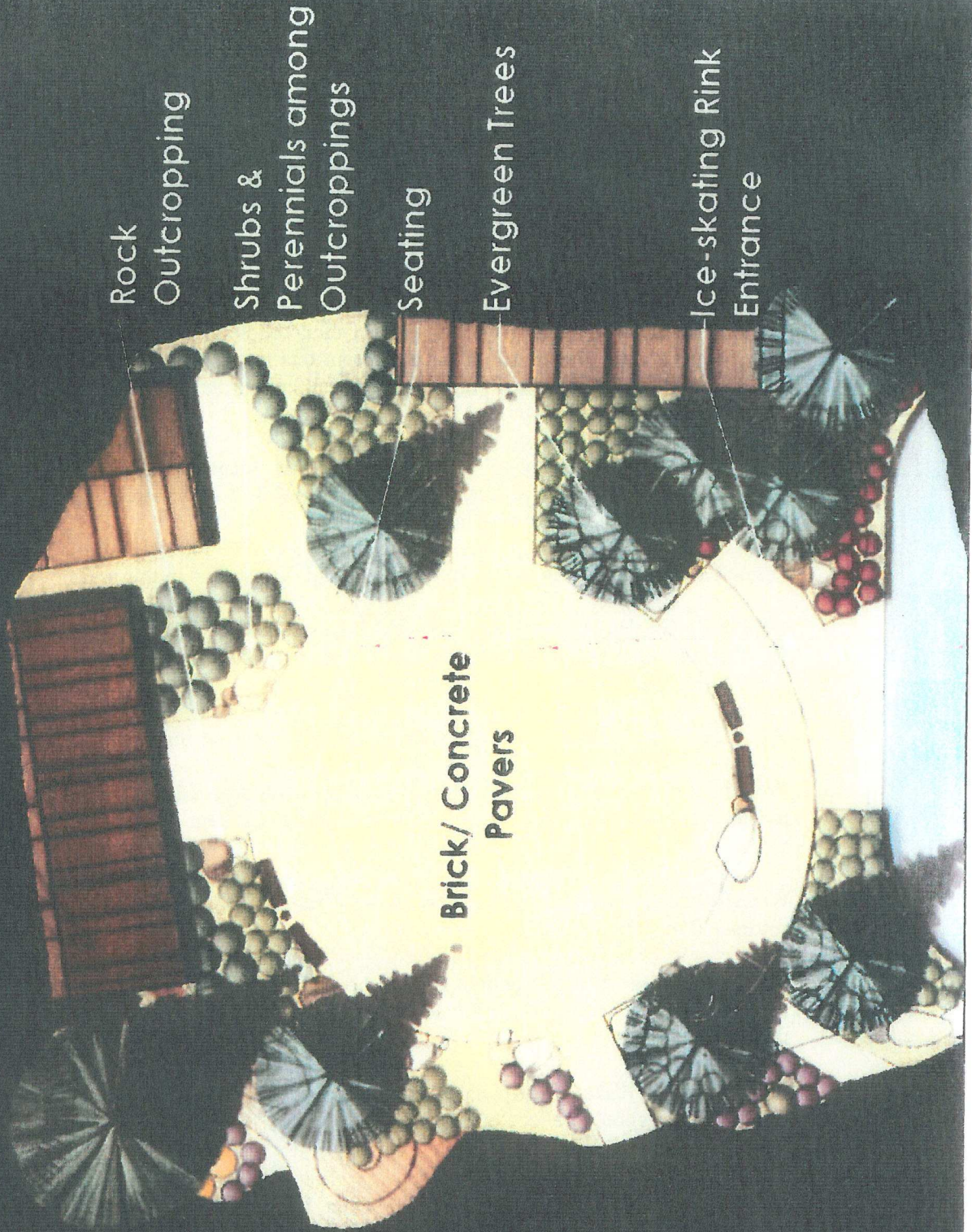


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Heritage Garden:



Alpine Garden Plaza:





located near pavements so that supplemental watering of shrubs and ground covers can occur during drought, and so that pavements can be washed if required. Overspray of pavements in this area should be avoided.

Rose Plaza- All planting beds in the Rose Plaza should exhibit a permanent, automated irrigation system with low trajectory shrub spray heads, or drip irrigation lines. It is important to apply water to roses without spraying foliage, if possible. Quick coupler valves should be located near pavements so that supplemental watering and pavement washing can occur, if necessary. Overspray of pavements in this area should be avoided.

Sensory Garden- Planting beds in the Sensory Garden that are located adjacent to amphitheatre seating areas should exhibit a permanent, automated irrigation system with shrub spray heads or drip irrigation lines. Quick coupler valves should be located near the seating areas. Overspray of pavements in this area should be avoided. The large areas behind the amphitheatre stage and between the railroad tracks and the garden could be irrigated with large lawn rotor type sprinkler heads.

Prairie Garden- Quick coupler valves should be located near the Prairie Garden pathways. No other type of irrigation system is required at this area. Once established, this area should not require supplemental water.

Perennial Garden- A drip irrigation system should be installed in this area.

Children's Garden- Lawn rotor type spray heads should be utilized to provide coverage for the turf and planting areas in the Children's Garden. This system should be automated.

Woodland Pocket Garden- A drip irrigation system should be installed in this area.

Woodland Garden- Lawn rotor type spray heads should be utilized to provide coverage for the turf and planting areas in the Woodland Garden. This system should be automated.

Water/Wetland Garden- Planting areas in the Water/Wetland should exhibit a permanent, automated irrigation system.

Heritage Garden- A drip irrigation system should be installed in this area. Quick coupler valves should be located near the seating areas. Overspray of pavements in this area should be avoided.

Alpine Garden Plaza- A drip irrigation system should be installed in this area. Quick coupler valves should be located near the seating areas. Overspray of pavements in this area should be avoided.

- The former Zoo stream that connected the formal water fountain to the duck pond should be preserved. It will need to be renovated to create a more nature setting for an arboretum site, but the routing of the stream works well with the arboretum concept. Rock ledges should be constructed along the edge of the stream, and the stream bed itself should be lined with rock and gravel. Planting areas should be developed directly adjacent to the stream so that they are integrated naturally with it. Any required repairs to the stream bed so that it will hold water should also be made. Renovations and modifications to the mechanical systems that make the stream functional should also be made.



- Two train depots are indicated on the master plan. It is not mandatory that both are constructed. However, it would be convenient in the future, as the arboretum gains popularity to have two stops for train access, especially to assist with access from existing parking lots to the ice rink. The train depots are not enclosed, conditioned buildings. Rather they should be designed and constructed as open air shelters to provide shade for waiting visitors. The depot near the main entrance could be designed to reflect a traditional Midwestern depot. The depot near the ice rink could be designed to reflect a depot building that might be observed in the Colorado Rockies, since it is located adjacent to the Alpine Garden Plaza.
- The community picnic pavilion is shown to be located north of the former Zoo entrance building, between it and the Castle. This is the current location of a park road, but it is recommended that this road be removed between the existing parking lot to the east and the existing parking lot to the west. Those parking lots would be connected by a new park road that would be routed to the north of the Stolley house. This would provide ample space to accommodate a new arboretum entrance and the community picnic pavilion with excellent adjacencies to the community playground and arboretum/park visitor center.
- Numerous bridge crossings over the arboretum stream are indicated in the master plan. Most of these crossings should be made with prefabricated wood bridge trusses. These would fit nicely with the other arboretum features and plantings. However, at the Water/Wetland Garden crossings, the bridges should be constructed with stone. The stone bridges would enhance the effect of stone ledges, walls and stream banks in this area.
- All of the arboretum garden areas have been described previously. However, a large number of planting areas located at the perimeter of the arboretum have not been described because they are not a part of any of the themed planting areas. Nevertheless, these perimeter areas are as important as any planned for the arboretum. They provide a natural buffer from the train tracks, and also provide a visual screen between the interior of the arboretum and the adjacent neighborhood. They will help soften the effect of the perimeter fencing. At the north edge of the arboretum, the perimeter plantings will screen the effect of the adjacent parking lot.



BUDGET

Cost figures presented in this master plan are estimates, not final construction costs. These figures are presented to assist in the development of project budgets. Estimated costs are based on experience with similar projects, industry standards, and information provided by project landscape architects, architects and engineers. Figures are stated in terms of today's dollars (2004). A list of estimated costs for projects is shown in Exhibit B.

LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

STOLLEY PARK ARBORETUM

EXHIBIT A

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

January, 2004





EXHIBIT A: DESIRED PLANT SPECIES (JANUARY 2004)

Abies concolor
Acer campestre
Acer ginnala

Acer platanoides

Acer rubrum

Acer saccharinum

Acer saccharum

Acer tataricum

Acer truncatum

Aesculus hippocastanum

Alnus glutinosa

Amelanchier arborea

Amelanchier alnifolia

Aronia arbutifolia

Aronia melanocarpa

Berberis koreana

Berberis thunbergii

Betula lenta

Betula nigra

Calycanthus floridus

Caragana arborescens

Carpinus betulus

Carpinus caroliniana

Concolor Fir

Hedge Maple

Amur Maple

Flame

Norway Maple

Columnare

Crimson King

Emerald Queen

Summershade

Red Maple

Armstrong

Autumn Blaze

Red Sunset

Silver Maple

Blair

Silver Queen

Sugar Maple

Bonfire

Green Mountain

Tatarian Maple

Shantung Maple

Pacific Sunset

Horsechestnut

Alder

Serviceberry

Autumn Brilliance

Cole

Princess Diana

Saskatoon Serviceberry

Regent

Red Chokeberry

Brilliantissima

Black Chokeberry

Viking

Iroquois Beauty

Korean Barberry

Japanese Barberry

Var. atropurpurea

Var. a. Crimson Pygmy

Var. a. Rose Glow

Kobold

Sparkle

Sweet Birch

River Birch

Heritage

Sweetshrub

Siberian Peashrub

Hornbeam

American Hornbeam



Carya cordiformis
Carya glabra
Carya ovata
Carya tomentosa
Catalpa speciosa
Ceanothus americanus
Celtis occidentalis

Cercidiphyllum japonicum
Cercis canadensis

Chaenomeles speciosa

Chionanthus virginicus
Cladrastis kentukea
Clethra alnifolia

Cornus alba
Cornus amomum
Cornus kousa

Cornus mas

Cornus racemosa
Cornus sanguinea
Cornus sericea

Corylus americana
Cotinus coggygria

Cotoneaster apiculatus
Cotoneaster divaricatus
Cotoneaster lucidus
Cotoneaster multiflorus
Cotoneaster acutifolius
Crataegus crusgalli
Crataegus phaenopyrum
Deutzia gracilis
Euonymus alatus

Euonymus atropurpureus
Euonymus fortunei

Bitternut Hickory
Pignut Hickory
Shagbark Hickory
White Hickory
Northern Catalpa
New Jersey Tea
Hackberry

Prairie Pride

Katsuratree
Redbud

Var. alba

Floweringquince

Cameo

Jet Trail

Texas Scarlet

White Fringtree
American Yellowwood
Summersweet Clethra

Hummingbird

Pink Spires

Tatarian Dogwood

Silky Dogwood

Kousa Dogwood

Var. chinensis

Corneliancherry Dogwood

Golden Glory

Gray Dogwood

Bloodtwig Dogwood

Redosier Dogwood

Baileyi

Cardinal

Flaviramea

Isanti

Kelseyi

American Filbert

Smoketree

Daydream

Cranberry Cotoneaster

Spreading Cotoneaster

Hedge Cotoneaster

Many-flowered Cotoneaster

Peking Cotoneaster

Cockspur Hawthorn

Washington Hawthorn

Slender Deutzia

Winged Euonymus

Compactus

Nordine Strain

Rudy Haag

Eastern Wahoo

Wintercreeper Euonymus

Var. coloratus

Var. radicans



Forsythia ovata

Fraxinus americana

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

Ginkgo biloba

Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis

Gymnocladus dioica

Hamamelis vernalis

Hamamelis virginiana

Hydrangea arborescens

Hydrangea paniculata

Hypericum prolificum

Ilex x meserveae

Ilex verticillata

Itea virginica

Juglans cinerea

Juglans nigra

Juniperus chinensis

Early Forsythia

Meadowlark
Northern Gold
Northern Sun
New Hampshire Gold
Sunrise
Vermont Sun

White Ash

Autumn Applause
Autumn Blaze
Autumn Purple

Green Ash

Cimmaron
Emerald
Marshall's Seedless
Patmore
Summit

Ginkgo

Autumn Gold
Princeton Sentry

Honeylocust

Imperial
Moraine
Shademaster

Kentucky Coffeetree

Vernal Witchhazel

Common Witchhazel

Smooth Hydrangea

Annabelle

Panicle Hydrangea

Grandiflora
Pee Wee

Shrubby St. Johnswort

Meserve Holly

Blue Princess
China Girl

Winterberry Holly

Afterglow
Red Sprite
Winter Red

Virginia Sweetspire

Henry's Garnet

Butternut

Black Walnut

Chinese Juniper

Armstrong
Hetzii
Mint Julep
Pfizeriana
Sea Green



Juniperus horizontalis

Juniperus sabina

Juniperus scopulorum

Juniperus virginiana

Koeleria paniculata

Lavandula angustifolia

Ligustrum amurense

Liriodendron tulipifera

Lonicera japonica

Lonicera xylosteum

Magnolia acuminata

Magnolia kobus

Magnolia x loebneri

Magnolia stellata

Malus sp.

Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Myrica pensylvanica

Phellodendron amurense

Philadelphus coronarius

Philadelphus x virginialis

Picea abies

Picea glauca

Picea omorika

Picea pungens

Creeping Juniper

Bar Harbor

Blue Chip

Blue Rug

Plumosa

Savin Juniper

Broadmoor

Skandia

Rocky Mountain Juniper

Cologreen

Skyrocket

Eastern Redcedar

Canaertii

Hillspire

Taylor

Goldenraintree

Lavender

Amur Privet

Tuliptree

Japanese Honeysuckle

Halliana

European Fly Honeysuckle

Emerald Mound

Cucumbertree Magnolia

Elizabeth

Ontario

Kobus Magnolia

Loebner Magnolia

Leonard Messel

Merrill

Star Magnolia

Royal Star

Flowering Crabapple

Prairiefire

Robinson

Selkirk

Snowdrift

Spring Snow

Dawn Redwood

Northern Bayberry

Amur Corktree

Sweet Mockorange

Mockorange

Minnesota Snowflake

Norway Spruce

White Spruce

Densata

Serbian Spruce

Colorado Spruce

Glaucia

Hoopsii

Moerheim



Pinus banksiana
Pinus bungeana
Pinus flexilis

Pinus koraiensis
Pinus peuce
Pinus ponderosa
Pinus strobus
Platanus x acerifolia

Populus deltoides
Populus tremuloides
Potentilla fruticosa

Prunus besseyi
Prunus x cistena
Prunus glandulosa
Prunus maackii
Prunus pensylvanica
Prunus serrulata
Pseudotsuga menziesii
Ptelea trifoliata
Pyrus calleryana

Quercus alba
Quercus bicolor
Quercus imbricaria
Quercus macrocarpa
Quercus palustris
Quercus coccinea
Quercus robur
Quercus rubra
Rhamnus frangula

Rhododendron sp.

Rhodotypos scandens
Rhus aromatica

Rhus typhina
Rhus glabra

Jack Pine
Lacebark Pine
Limber Pine

Vanderwolf's Pyramid

Korean Pine
Macedonian Pine
Ponderosa Pine
White Pine
London Planetree

Bloodgood

Cottonwood
Quaking Aspen
Potentilla

Abbottswood
Coronation Triumph
Goldfinger
Jackmanii

Western Sand Cherry
Purpleleaf Sand Cherry
Dwarf Flowering Almond
Amur Chokecherry
Pin Cherry
Japanese Flowering Cherry
Douglasfir
Hoptree
Callery Pear

Aristocrat
Capital
Chanticleer
Redspire

White Oak
Swamp White Oak
Shingle Oak
Bur Oak
Pin Oak
Scarlet Oak
English Oak
Red Oak
Glossy Buckthorn

Asplenifolia

Rhododendron/Azalea

PJM
Golden Lights
Northern Hi-Lights
Northern Lights
Orchid Lights
Rosy Lights
White Lights

Black Jetbead
Fragrant Sumac

Gro Low

Staghorn Sumac
Smooth Sumac



Ribes alpinum

Rosa sp.

Salix purpurea

Shepherdia canadensis

Sophora japonica

Spiraea albiflora

Spiraea x bumalda

Spiraea japonica

Spiraea nipponica

Spiraea prunifolia

Spiraea thunbergii

Spiraea trilobata

Spiraea x vanhouttei

Spiraea fritschiana

Symphoricarpos albus

Symphoricarpos x chenaultii 'Hancock'

Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'

Syringa microphylla

Syringa patula 'Miss Kim'

Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk'

Syringa villosa

Syringa vulgaris

Syringa chinensis

Taxodium distichum

Taxus cuspidata

Taxus x media

Alpine Currant

Green Mound

Shrub Roses

Frau Dagmar Hastrup

Apple Blossom

Flower Carpet

Carefree Delight

Surrey Sommerwind

Country Dancer

Golden Wings

Prairie Flower

Carefree Beauty

Nearly Wild

Knockout

Chuckles

Champlain

David Thompson

Starry Night

Purpleosier Willow

Nana (Arctic Blue)

Buffaloberry

Japanese Pagodatree

Japanese White Spirea

Bumald Spirea

Anthony Waterer

Froebelii

Japanese Spirea

Little Princess

Snowmound Spirea

Bridalwreath Spirea

Thunberg Spirea

Threelobe Spirea

Vanhoutte Spirea

Korean Spirea

Snowberry

Hancock Coralberry

Meyer Lilac

Littleleaf Lilac

Miss Kim Lilac

Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac

Late Lilac

Common Lilac

Chinese Lilac

Baldcypress

Japanese Yew

Anglojap Yew

Chadwickii

Densiformis

Everlow

Hicksii

Tauntonii

Wardii



Thuja occidentalis

Thymus serpyllum
Tilia americana

Tilia cordata

Tilia x euchlora
Tilia tomentosa
Ulmus americana

Viburnum x burkwoodii

Viburnum carlesii

Viburnum x juddii
Viburnum cassinoides
Viburnum dentatum

Viburnum lantana

Viburnum lentago
Viburnum prunifolium
Viburnum x rhytidophylloides

Viburnum sieboldii

Viburnum trilobum

Vinca minor
Weigela florida

Xanthoceras sorbifolium
Yucca filamentosa

American Arborvitae

Emerald
Hetz Midget
Nigra
Techny

Wild Thyme

American Linden

Dakota
Redmond

Littleleaf Linden

Greenspire
Rancho

Crimean Linden

Silver Linden

American Elm
Delaware #2
Liberty
New Harmony
Princeton
Valley Forge

Burkwood Viburnum

Mohawk

Koreanspice Viburnum

Cayuga

Judd Viburnum

Witherod Viburnum

Arrowwood Viburnum

Autumn Jazz
Chicago Lustre
Northern Burgundy

Wayfaringtree Viburnum

Emerald Triumph
Mohican

Nannyberry Viburnum

Blackhaw Viburnum

Lantanaphyllum Viburnum

Alleghany
Willowwood

Siebold Viburnum

Seneca

American Cranberrybush Viburnum

Andrews
Compactum

Periwinkle

Weigela

Centennial
Java Red
Minuet
Polka
Samba
Rumba

Yellowhorn

Adam's-needle Yucca

LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

STOLLEY PARK ARBORETUM

EXHIBIT B

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

January, 2004





Exhibit B

Stolley Park Arboretum

Budget Estimates

January 1, 2004

Component Description	Cost
A. General Infrastructure	
1. Water distribution for new irrigation system, stream/ornamental fountain, and pond features. This distributes water to entire site and all site features.	\$10,000.00
2. Water distribution for drinking fountains	\$5,000.00
3. Storm drainage, including 10 new drain inlets and pipe	\$30,000.00
4. Power distribution for site lighting and site electrical	\$15,000.00
Total, General Infrastructure	\$60,000.00
B. Earthwork	
1. Earth berms and grading (estimated 1,500 CY fill)	\$12,000.00
2. Site preparation for planting (clearing and grubbing, minor grading)	\$10,000.00
Total, Earthwork	\$22,000.00
C. Stream Renovation	
1. Earthwork and grading	\$10,000.00
2. Renovation of existing stream beds and pond, including repair and rock	\$15,000.00
3. Renovation of existing stream banks and pond banks, including rock	\$15,000.00
4. Renovation of existing stream and pond mechanical systems, including pumps, filters, equipment	\$50,000.00
5. Renovation of existing ornamental fountain	\$5,000.00
6. New aeration fountain at pond	\$5,000.00
Total, Stream Renovation	\$100,000.00



Component Description	Cost
D. Renovation/Addition of Bridge Crossings	
1. Wood bridge at Sensory Garden, 15' span	\$5,000.00
2. Wood bridge at Prairie Garden, 15' span	\$5,000.00
3. Wood bridge at Woodland Pocket Garden, 15' span	\$5,000.00
4. Wood bridge at Woodland Garden, 15' span	\$5,000.00
5. Stone bridge at Water/Wetland Garden, 15' span	\$7,500.00
6. Stone bridge at Water/Wetland Garden, 15' span	\$7,500.00
Total, Renovation/Addition of Bridge Crossings	\$35,000.00
E. Train Depots	
1. Train depot at main entrance, 500 square feet covered area	\$12,500.00
2. Train depot at Alpine Garden Plaza, 500 square feet covered area	\$12,500.00
Total, Train Depots	\$25,000.00
F. Building Renovation	
1. Renovate former herpetarium building, 1,500 square feet	\$50,000.00
Total, Building Renovation	\$50,000.00
G. Formal Garden	
1. Demolition and site preparation, 10,000 square feet	\$2,000.00
2. New perimeter wall, 350 lineal feet	\$15,000.00
3. New pavement, 3,500 square feet brick or concrete pavers	\$25,000.00
4. New planting areas, 4,000 square feet	\$1,500.00
5. New irrigation system	\$5,000.00
6. New lighting, 10 new fixtures	\$15,000.00
7. New site furniture including 10 benches, 5 receptacles	\$12,000.00



Component Description	Cost
8. New planting including trees, shrubs, groundcover, perennials	\$10,000.00
Total, Formal Garden	\$85,500.00
<hr/> H. Rose Plaza	
1. Demolition and site preparation, 9,500 square feet	\$4,000.00
2. New railroad crossing	\$1,500.00
3. New pavement, 6,500 square feet brick or concrete pavers	\$50,000.00
4. New pergolas, 2 each at 1,200 square feet covered area total	\$30,000.00
5. New planting areas, 2,200 square feet	\$1,000.00
6. New irrigation system	\$5,000.00
7. New lighting, 5 new fixtures	\$8,000.00
8. New site furniture including 10 benches, 5 receptacles	\$12,000.00
9. New planting including trees, shrubs, groundcover, perennials	\$15,000.00
Total, Rose Plaza	\$126,500.00
<hr/> I. Sensory Garden	
1. Demolition and site preparation	\$1,000.00
2. New pavement, 600 SF concrete	\$1,800.00
3. New seating area	\$15,000.00
4. New planting areas, 4,800 square feet	\$1,000.00
5. New irrigation system	\$5,000.00
6. New lighting and sound infrastructure	\$10,000.00
7. New planting including trees, shrubs, groundcover, perennials	\$15,000.00
Total, Sensory Garden	\$48,800.00



Component Description	Cost
J. Prairie Garden	
1. Seeding, 10,000 square feet including fine grading	\$1,500.00
2. New pavement, 750 square feet concrete	\$2,500.00
Total, Prairie Garden	\$4,000.00
K. Perennial Garden	
1. Site preparation, 7,500 square feet	\$2,000.00
2. New pavement, 2,000 square feet flagstone	\$25,000.00
3. New planting areas, 4,000 square feet	\$2,500.00
4. New irrigation system	\$3,000.00
5. New planting including trees, shrubs, perennials	\$7,500.00
Total, Perennial Garden	\$40,000.00
L. Children's Garden	
1. Site preparation, 20,000 square feet	\$5,000.00
2. New irrigation system	\$5,000.00
3. New planting areas, 10,000 square feet	\$3,000.00
4. New topiaries, 5 total	\$15,000.00
5. New planting including trees, shrubs, groundcover, perennials	\$15,000.00
6. New lawn, 10,000 square feet sod	\$2,500.00
Total, Children's Garden	\$45,500.00
M. Woodland Pocket Garden	
1. Site preparation, 3,200 square feet	\$1,500.00
2. New pavement, 500 square feet flagstone	\$7,500.00
3. New planting areas	\$1,000.00
4. New irrigation system	\$2,500.00
5. New site furniture including 2 benches, 1 receptacle	\$2,500.00



Component Description	Cost
6. New planting including trees, shrubs perennials	\$3,500.00
Total, Woodland Pocket Garden	\$18,500.00
<hr/> N. Woodland Garden <hr/>	
1. New pavement, 5,500 square feet concrete	\$16,500.00
2. New planting areas, 60,000 square feet	\$7,500.00
3. New irrigation system	\$15,000.00
4. New site furniture including 3 benches, 2 receptacles	\$4,000.00
5. New planting including trees, shrubs, turf	\$30,000.00
Total, Woodland Garden	\$73,000.00
<hr/> O. Water/Wetland Garden <hr/>	
1. Site preparation, 5,000 square feet	\$2,500.00
2. New pavement, 2,000 square feet concrete	\$6,000.00
3. New planting areas, 6,000 square feet	\$1,000.00
4. New irrigation system	\$5,000.00
5. New lighting, 5 fixtures	\$7,500.00
6. New site furniture including 4 benches, 2 receptacles	\$5,000.00
7. New planting including trees, shrubs, perennials, marginal plants	\$20,000.00
Total, Water/Wetland Garden	\$47,000.00
<hr/> P. Heritage Garden <hr/>	
1. Site preparation, 6,000 square feet	\$2,000.00
2. New paths, 2,400 square feet gravel with edging	\$4,000.00
3. New irrigation system	\$3,000.00
4. New planting including bulbs and perennials	\$5,000.00
Total, Heritage Garden	\$14,000.00



Component Description	Cost
Q. Alpine Garden Plaza	
1. Site preparation, 10,000 square feet	\$5,000.00
2. New pavement, 5,000 square feet masonry concrete pavers	\$40,000.00
3. New planting areas, 6,000 square feet	\$3,000.00
4. New irrigation system	\$5,000.00
5. New lighting (5 fixtures) and sound systems	\$15,000.00
6. New site furniture including 4 benches, 2 receptacles	\$6,000.00
Total, Alpine Garden Plaza	\$74,000.00
Total, All Improvements	\$868,800.00

SMOKING BAN

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

May 3, 2005

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Study Session of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on May 3, 2005. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on April 27, 2005.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmember's Meyer, Whitesides, Pielstick, Gilbert, Nickerson, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Gary Greer, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Finance Director David Springer, Public Works Director Steve Riehle, and City Attorney Doug Walker

Mayor Communication: Mayor Vavricek commented on the following:

- Wasmer Elementary School 1st Grade "Thank You's"
- City/County Efficiency Committee – two representative's from City Council needed
- Citizens' Review Committee – Tom Ward relocation and resignation
- Heartland Events Center funds to finish facility to be decided by the County
- Tourism Month – Cornhusker State Trap Shoot meet to be held in Doniphan on Thursday, May 5, 2005

Presentation by Central District Health Department Concerning a Smoking Ban. Mayor Vavricek commented on the community forums provided by the Central District Health Department (CDHD) and the public input that was gathered. Mr. Vavricek stated the public input part of the process was over and the Council would need to provide direction on this matter. Introduced was Teresa Anderson, Executive Director of the Central District Health Department (CDHD) who presented a report concerning their findings from community discussions and forums regarding a smoking ban and the effects of Second Hand Smoke (SHS).

The following recommendations were submitted by CDHD:

- CDHD officials recommend to the Grand Island City Council that the Council actively pursue policy that assures smoke-free environments particularly in places where children would be exposed, in workplaces and indoor public areas, and in all governmental facilities and vehicles.
- CDHD officials also recommend that the Council and all involved in policy change be alert to the several current legislative bills related to SHS. Tracking these bills will serve useful. Because it is a health issue, it is likely that enforcement may fall to CDHD Environmental Division. CDHD offers to work closely with the Council to develop policy that is comprehensive, enforceable, and fair.

Ryan King, Assistant Director of the CDHD commented on the Clean Indoor Air Act. The CDHD

Councilmember Hornady commented that there was no consensus with any group in our community or other communities and recommended the supporters of this issue use the petition process to move forward. Discussion was held concerning public places that were currently non-smoking, the Clean Air Act, people's choices/rights, and health issues.

Councilmember Walker commented on where we go from here, does the City Council write an ordinance. Mayor Vavricek stated that we had come full circle. The following decisions could be made by Council:

- A. Council create an Ordinance
- B. Council approve smoking-ban
- C. Council make no decision
- D. Public move forward with petition process for an election

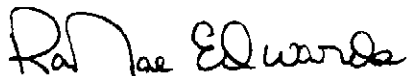
Councilmember's Gilbert, Haase, and Nickerson spoke in support of a smoking ban through the election process. Councilmember Gilbert recommended a complete smoking ban through a vote of the people at the next Primary Election. Councilmember's Hornady, Whitesides, Pielstick, Meyer, Pauly, Walker, and Cornelius did not support a complete smoking ban but supported the petition process for an election. Councilmember Pielstick recommended that city staff work with the Health Department in generating a petition for the General Election on November 2006.

City Attorney Doug Walker commented on the Nebraska statutes regarding the petition process to get this issue on the ballot. Discussion was held concerning the Council drafting ballot language. Councilmember Gilbert commented on the City Council's obligation to deal with this issue as the State Legislature killed a smoking ban bill because this was a local issue.

Mayor Vavricek mentioned the lack of consensus on the Council was in no way shirking their duty and that this issue was tailor made for an election. Councilmember Gilbert stated she did not agree with the Mayor's comments and this would delay the process further.

City Administrator Gary Greer stated that on June 22, 2004 an ordinance was brought before Council. City staff would wait for either a Councilmember or a request from the public to come forward with ballot language for an election.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



RaNae Edwards
City Clerk

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF JOINT CITY/COUNTY SPECIAL MEETING

July 12, 2004

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Special Joint Meeting of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, the Hall County Board of Supervisors, the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, the Merrick County Board of Commissioners, and the Central District Health Department was conducted in the Community Meeting Room of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on July 12, 2004. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on July 6, 2004.

Teresa Anderson, Executive Director of the Central Health District called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Health Board members were present: Bob Husmann, Anne Buettner, Dr. Jeff Clarke, and Jim Reed – County Representative, Jim Eriksen, and Mitch Nickerson – City Representative. The following Merrick County Supervisor was present: Rex Weller. The following City Officials were present: Councilmembers Margaret Hornady, Scott Walker, Mitch Nickerson, Jackie Pielstick, Joyce Haase and Peg Gilbert, Mayor Jay Vavricek, City Administrator Gary Greer, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, and Finance Director David Springer.

PRESENTATION BY TERESA ANDERSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Ms. Anderson presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the core functions of the Health Department which were assessment, assurance and policy.

The following 10 essential services were reviewed:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1.) Monitor | 6.) Enforce |
| 2.) Diagnose & Investigate | 7.) Link |
| 3.) Inform, Educate & Empower | 8.) Assure |
| 4.) Mobilize | 9.) Evaluate |
| 5.) Develop Policies & Plans | 10.) Research |

Presented were the budget, programming and staff overviews. Several areas covered were: nursing, environmental, water testing, immunization, WIC, HIV/Aids Testing & Education, Child Care Solution, and Health Education.

The following were listed at “hot issues” for the next fiscal year:

- West Nile Virus
- Lifestyle Related Illnesses
- Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- Preparedness & Response (Bioterrorism)
- Contagious Diseases
- Comprehensive Community Assessment
- Strategic Plan

Ms. Anderson stated that a 211 directory line for public health issues would be available by the end of July 2004 for Hall, Howard, Hamilton, and Merrick counties.

DISCUSSION: Discussion was had concerning the roles of the Health Department and Code Enforcement toward enforcing health issues. Ryan King, Assistant Executive Director mentioned that they were currently spraying for mosquitoes in the breeding areas. It was stated the Ms. Anderson and Ryan King would pursue the smoking ban issue.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RaNaë Edwards

RaNaë Edwards
City Clerk

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

June 22, 2004

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on June 22, 2004. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on June 16, 2004.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Meyer, Whitesides, Pielstick, Gilbert, Nicerkson, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Gary Greer, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Finance Director David Springer, Public Works Director Steve Riehle, and City Attorney Doug Walker.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was said followed by the INVOCATION given by Pastor Onamae Waddel, Trinity United Methodist Church, 511 North Elm Street. Pastor Waddel then sang "God Bless America".

RESERVE TIME TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: Fifteen individuals reserved time to speak on agenda items.

ADJOURN TO BOARD OF EQUALIZATION: Motion by Hornady, second by Cornelius, carried unanimously to adjourn to Board of Equalization.

#2004-BE-9 -- Consideration of Determining Benefits for Street Improvement District No. 1248, Faidley Avenue from Moore's Creek Drainway Easterly Towards Diers Avenue. Public Works Director Steve Riehle stated that work had been completed on Street Improvement District No. 1248 and action was required by the Council to set the assessments for this district. Motion by Pielstick, second by Hornady, to approve Resolution #2004-BE-9, carried unanimously.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: Motion by Hornady, second by Cornelius, carried unanimously to return to Regular Session.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public Hearing on a Change to the Grand Island Zoning Map for Property Being Proposed for Platting as Wal-Mart South Subdivision Located South of Highway 34 and East of South Locust Street from TA Transitional Agricultural to CD Commercial Development. Chad Nabity, Regional Planning Director reported that this change in zoning was for the Wal-Mart Super Center to be located on 36.19 acres at the southeast corner of U.S. Highway 34 and South Locust Street proposed for platting as Wal-Mart South Subdivision. Mentioned was that this item related to the Preliminary Plat and the Final Plat and Development Agreement for Wal-Mart South

Subdivision before council. Mr. Nabity explained two changes to the Development Agreement that City Administration recommended. Recommended changes were: a 10' Hike/Bike Trail instead of 5' and a 20" water main instead of 10" to be paid by Wal-Mart.

Ken Bunker, Attorney representing Wal-Mart spoke in support of the zoning change, annexation, and plat, but was opposed to the extra expense to Wal-Mart for the 20" water main. Mike Morrow and Gary Franz representing the owners at this location requested that if the development agreement were not approved, that Council wait with the annexation of this property. Don Day and Brett Martinez representing Olsson Associates on behalf of Wal-Mart were present to answer questions and encourage the city to pay for the increased size of the water main. No further public testimony was heard.

Public Hearing on Request of Mongolian Grill of Omaha, LLC dba Mongolian Grill Restaurant, 1816 Webb Road for a Class "J" Liquor License. City Clerk RaNae Edwards reported that Mongolian Grill of Omaha, LLC dba Mongolian Grill Restaurant, 1816 Webb Road had submitted an application with the City Clerk's Office for a Class "J" Liquor License which allows for the sale of wine and beer, on sale only within the corporate limits of the city. Ms. Edwards presented the following exhibits for the record: application submitted to the Liquor Control Commission and received by the City on June 7, 2004; notice to applicant of date, time, and place of hearing mailed on June 7, 2004; notice to the general public of date, time, and place of hearing published on June 12, 2004; and Chapter 4 of the City Code. No public testimony was heard.

Public Hearing on Acquisition of Utility Easement Located at 2719 South Locust Street. (William and Sandra Lawrey) Tim Lusinger, Utilities Assistant Director reported that acquisition of a utility easement located at 2719 South Locust Street was required in order to have access to install, upgrade, maintain, and repair power appurtenances, including lines and transformers. This easement would be used to locate underground electrical cables and a pad-mounted transformer to serve the new Harley Davidson Central Store. No public testimony was heard.

Public Hearing on Request of CXT/LB Foster Company for Renewal of Conditional Use Permit for Temporary Buildings Located at 710 East Highway 30. Craig Lewis, Building Department Director reported that CXT/LB Foster Company had submitted a request for renewal of a Conditional Use Permit for temporary buildings located at 710 East Highway 30. Mr. Lewis stated these buildings were initially intended for a five year period, but have extended to eight. It was recommended that Council approve the two year renewal as requested, but no future approvals were recommended. No public testimony was heard.

Public Hearing on Acquisition of all Real Estate Property Located in the Block Bordered by Walnut, Cedar, Koenig, and Charles Streets. Doug Walker, City Attorney reported that this was the site for construction of Fire Station #1 as discussed at the June 15, 2004 Study Session. This public hearing was required for Council approval to proceed with the acquisition of the real estate.

Jerry Benker, 1710 West Oklahoma Avenue stated that he realized that a new station was needed and that if this was the only location for Fire Station #1, he wanted to be treated fairly. Gene

McIntosh, 424 West Charles spoke regarding response times and coverage areas. No further public testimony was heard.

Public Hearing on Acquisition of Approximately 90 Acres of Real Estate Located South of Capital Avenue, East of Nebraska Central Railroad, North of Lincoln View Estates Subdivision, and West of Geddes Street. Doug Walker, City Attorney reported that this was the site for construction of the Fire Training Facility as discussed at the June 15, 2004 Study Session. This public hearing was required for Council approval to proceed with the acquisition of the real estate.

Doug Petersen, 1414 Capital Avenue and Brad Petersen, 2020 East Capital Avenue commented on a piece of property they owned north of Capital Avenue and east of McCain Foods that they would rather have the city look at for the fire training center. Bob Hines, 1304 North Geddes spoke in opposition. No further public testimony was heard.

ORDINANCES:

Councilmember Pielstick made the motion that the statutory rules requiring ordinances to be read by title on three different days be suspended and that ordinance numbered:

#8916 – Consideration of Change to the Grand Island Zoning Map for Property Being Proposed for Platting as Wal-Mart South Subdivision Located South of Highway 34 and East of South Locust Street from TA Transitional Agricultural to CD Commercial Development

be considered for passage on the same day upon reading by number only and that the City Clerk be permitted to call out the number of this ordinance on first reading and then upon final passage and call for a roll call vote on each reading and then upon final passage. Councilmember Hornady seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion adopted.

Mayor: Is there any one in the audience interested in this Ordinance? Ken Bunger, Attorney for Wal-Mart commented on the unfairness of having Wal-Mart pay for the increased water main and hike/bike trail. He stated that Wal-Mart would pay for the 10' hike/bike trail, but felt it was not fair to have them pay for the 20" water main. No further public comment was heard.

City Clerk: Ordinance #8916 on first reading. All those in favor of the passage of this ordinance on first reading, answer roll call vote. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion adopted.

City Clerk: Ordinance #8916 on final passage. All those in favor of the passage of this ordinance on final passage, answer roll call vote. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion adopted.

Mayor: By reason of the roll call votes on first reading and then upon final passage, Ordinance #8916 is declared to be lawfully passed and adopted upon publication as required by law.

Motion by Pielstick, second by Nickerson to defer Ordinance #8888 to a later time to work out the Development Agreement.

#8888 – Consideration of Annexation of Property Located South of U.S. Highway 34 and East of South Locust Street – Proposed Wal-Mart South Subdivision an Addition to the City of Grand Island (Final Reading)

Ken Bunger, Attorney for Wal-Mart requested that approval be given at this meeting so the project could move forward. Mike Morrow representing the owners of the property stated that if the Development Agreement were not approved by Council, the owners would not want to annex this property at this time. Discussion was held with regards to the development agreement and the 20" water main.

Upon roll call vote, Councilmembers Meyer, Pielstick, Nickerson, Pauly, and Walker voted aye. Councilmembers Whitesides, Gilbert, Cornelius, Hornady, and Haase voted no. Mayor Vavricek exercised his Mayoral right to break the tie vote by casting his vote against referring this matter to a later time. Motion failed.

Motion by Whitesides, second by Gilbert to approve Ordinance #8888 on Final Reading.

Mike Morrow requested that Resolution #2004-150 the Development Agreement for Wal-Mart South Subdivision be approved before the vote on Ordinance #8888. City Attorney Doug Walker stated that Council could repeal this Ordinance if the Development Agreement was not approved.

Upon roll call vote, Councilmembers Whitesides, Pielstick, Gilbert, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase voted aye. Councilmembers Meyer and Nickerson voted no. Motion adopted.

Motion by Pielstick, second by Hornady, to approve Ordinance #8912 on Final reading.

#8912 – Consideration of Annexation of Property South of Airport Road and East of Shady Bend Road being Platted as Frauen Subdivision (Final Reading)

Upon roll call vote, Councilmembers Whitesides, Pielstick, Nickerson, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase voted aye. Councilmembers Meyer and Gilbert voted no. Motion adopted.

Councilmember Pielstick made the motion that the statutory rules requiring ordinances to be read by title on three different days be suspended and that ordinances numbered:

#8914 – Consideration of Creation of Street Improvement District No. 1253, Island Circle – West of Webb Road in Lacy Subdivision

#8917 – Consideration of Assessments for Street Improvement District No. 1248, Faidley Avenue from Moore's Creek Drainway Easterly Towards Diers Avenue

#8918 – Consideration of the Sale of Excess Right-of-Way to Menard, Inc., Adjacent to the South Side of Menard's Property

be considered for passage on the same day upon reading by number only and that the City Clerk be permitted to call out the number of these ordinances on first reading and then upon final

passage and call for a roll call vote on each reading and then upon final passage. Councilmember Haase seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion adopted.

Mayor: Is there any one in the audience interested in these Ordinances? No public comment was heard.

City Clerk: Ordinances #8914, #8917 and #8918 on first reading. All those in favor of the passage of these ordinances on first reading, answer roll call vote. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion adopted.

City Clerk: Ordinances #8914, #8917 and #8918 on final passage. All those in favor of the passage of these ordinances on final passage, answer roll call vote. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion adopted.

Mayor: By reason of the roll call votes on first reading and then upon final passage, Ordinances #8914, #8917 and #8918 are declared to be lawfully passed and adopted upon publication as required by law.

CONSENT AGENDA: Item G-13 was pulled from the consent agenda. Motion by Hornady, second by Walker, to approve the Consent Agenda excluding item G-13. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion adopted.

Approving Minutes of June 8, 2004 City Council Regular Meeting. Councilmember Pielstick abstained.

Approving Minutes of June 15, 2004 City Council Study Session. Councilmember Cornelius abstained.

Approving Request of Mongolian Grill of Omaha, LLC dba Mongolian Grill Restaurant, 1816 Webb Road for a Class "J" Liquor License.

Approving Request of Tri Nguyen, 3122 North 168th Street, Omaha, Nebraska for a Liquor Manager Designation for Mongolian Grill Restaurant, 1816 Webb Road.

Approving Request of CXT/LB Foster Company for Renewal of Conditional Use Permit for Temporary Buildings Located at 710 East Highway 30.

Approving Preliminary Plat for Wal-Mart South Subdivision.

#2004-142 – Final Plat and Subdivision Agreement for Frauen Subdivision. It was noted that Karen Frauen had submitted a final plat for Frauen Subdivision, located on a parcel of land in the W1/2 NW1/4 of Section 1-11-9 South of Airport Road, west of Shady Bend Road for the purpose of creating 2 lots from an 80 acre tract of land. Councilmember Meyer voted no.

#2004-143 – Approving Acquisition of Utility Easement Located at 2719 South Locust Street. (William and Sandra Lawrey)

#2004-144 – Approving Discontinuation of Water Main District No. 448 – Stolley Park Road, Bellwood to Kingwood.

#2004-145 – Approving Bid Award for Horizontal Split-Case Pump with Electric Motor for Roger's Pumping Station Pump #3 Installation with Patterson Pump Company of Toccoa, Georgia in an Amount of \$113,00.00 Plus Sales Tax.

#2004-146 – Approving Discontinuation of Sanitary Sewer District No. 516, Along Stolley Park Road from Bellwood Drive to East of Kingswood Drive (Roush Subdivision).

#2004-147 – Approving Amendment to the Grand Island Employees Pension Plan.

#2004-149 – Approving Warranty Work for Burdick Station Combustion Turbines 2 and 3 with Donaldson Company, Inc. of Bloomington, Minnesota.

#2004-148 – Approving State Contract Award for Purchase of 20 Computers for the Public Library with Dell Computers of Round Rock, Texas in an Amount of \$24,971.08. Motion by Walker, second by Whitesides to approve Resolution #2004-148. Tim Victor, 4228 Springview Drive spoke in opposition. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion adopted.

RESOLUTIONS:

#2004-150 – Approving Final Plat and Development Agreement for Wal-Mart South Subdivision. Motion by Nickerson, second by Cornelius to approve Resolution #2004-150 with the modification that Wal-Mart pay for a 20" water main and a 10' hike/bike trail.

Ken Bunger, Attorney for Wal-Mart commented concerning the fairness of making Wal-Mart pay for the increased size of water main and hike/bike trail and requested that this item be deferred to a later date if the council were to require Wal-Mart to pay the full costs.

Upon roll call vote, Councilmembers Meyer, Whitesides, Gilbert, Nickerson, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase voted aye. Councilmember Pielstick voted no. Motion adopted.

#2004-151 – Approving Resolution Proposing a Ballot Measure Banning Smoking from all Enclosed Public Places and Places of Employment within the City of Grand Island. City Attorney Doug Walker reported that at the June 1, 2004 Study Session, representatives of Tobacco Free Hall County made a presentation requesting a ordinance banning smoking in all public places within the City of Grand Island. The consensus of Council was to place this issue on the ballot for voters to decide at the next general election. With further study from City Administration, it was recommended that this issue be referred to the Central District Health Department for further study.

A lengthy discussion by council followed with comments made with regards to health issues, business owner's rights, and ballot issues. Teresa Anderson, Central District Health Department Director supported further study of a smoking ban and the establishment of smoke free policies.

Collette Shaughnessy representing Tobacco Free Hall County commented that they had not been notified or had any input in what was being presented to council, but stated they would support a ballot issue. Ms. Shaughnessy read a letter from Dr. Richard Fruehling supporting the smoking ban.

The following people spoke regarding this issue:

Russell Wing, 3125 Westside Street	opposed ballot -- supported ordinance
Dean Burch, 407 East 18 th Street	opposed smoking ban
Robert Mahood, 123 North Locust	opposed smoking ban
Dean Pegg, 120 East 3 rd Street	opposed smoking ban
Richelle Cellar, 4258 Nevada Avenue	opposed smoking ban
Gene Dominick, 221 East 1 st Street	supported smoking ban
Cory Cameron, 3009 W. Stolley Park Road	opposed smoking ban

Motion by Nickerson, second by Meyer to refer this matter to the Central District Health Department for further study.

Upon roll call, Councilmembers Meyer, Nickerson, and Walker voted aye. Councilmembers Whitesides, Pielstick, Gilbert, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, and Haase voted no. Motion failed.

Motion by Whitesides to deny Resolution #2004-151. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Motion by Whitesides, second by Pauly to take the time necessary for further study of this issue and address ballot and/or ordinance language with the possibility of bringing this to an election. Upon on roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion adopted.

Council took a recess at 10:40 p.m. and reconvened at 10:50 p.m.

#2004-153 – Approving Acquisition of Approximately 90 Acres of Real Estate Located South of Capital Avenue, East of Nebraska Central Railroad, North of Lincoln View Estates Subdivision, and West of Geddes Street.

City Administrator Gary Greer commented on a discussion with the Petersen's of an alternate site. Mr. Greer recommended looking at the alternate site located north of Capital Avenue and east of McCain Foods. Doug Petersen, 1414 Capital Avenue commented on a preference for that site.

Motion by Pielstick, second by Meyer to approve Resolution #2004-153. Upon roll call vote, all voted no. Motion failed.

#2004-152 – Approving Acquisition of all Real Estate Property Located in the Block Bordered by Walnut, Cedar, Koenig, and Charles Streets.

Councilmember Gilbert stated she felt we were rushing this decision. Councilmember Haase supported the proposed site but had concerns about cost. Councilmember Meyer commented that

a Fire Station at Fonner Park solved no problems. Jerry Benker, 1710 West Oklahoma Avenue and Elaina Barber, 417 West Koenig Street spoke in opposition. Paul Jakubowski, 1511 Stagecoach Road commented on the lack of communication with regards to this issue.

Motion by Gilbert, second by Haase to refer Resolution #2004-152 to the July 20, 2004 Study Session meeting. Upon roll call, all voted aye. Motion adopted.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Motion by Cornelius, second by Hornady, carried unanimously to approve the Claims for the period of June 9, 2004 through June 22, 2004, for a total amount of \$3,451,550.11. Motion adopted.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



RaNae Edwards
City Clerk

RESOLUTION 2004-151

WHEREAS, members of Tobacco Free Hall County have made a request to ban smoking in all businesses, bars, restaurants and public places in Grand Island, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco Free Hall County has proposed a model ordinance that may be adopted if a majority of the voters at the next general election approve this ballot measure described as the Grand Island Smoke Free Air Act of 2004, a copy of this proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at the office of the Grand Island City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Grand Island wish to place this issue before the voters of the City of Grand Island for their decision at the statewide general election on November 2, 2004; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the ballot language set forth below be adopted for such measure to be submitted at the statewide general election scheduled for November 2, 2004.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

(1) Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §18-2520, in lieu of a separate special election, the following ballot shall be submitted at the statewide general election on November 2, 2004:

**(OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT)
OFFICIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION BALLOT**

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

Tuesday, November 2, 2004

Smoking Ban Proposal:

Shall the Mayor and City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, adopt an ordinance known as the Grand Island Smokefree Air Act of 2004 which would prohibit smoking in all enclosed public places within the City of Grand Island, and which would further prohibit smoking in all enclosed facilities within places of employment, and which would further prohibit smoking within twenty-five (25) feet outside of an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited?

Vote for or against the foregoing proposal.

- ☐ FOR the proposal
- ☐ AGAINST the proposal

(2) The City Clerk is directed to immediately certify the above issue to the Election Commissioner in the manner and form provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §18-2520.

- - -

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska on June 22, 2004.

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

At the June 22, 2004 City Council referred Resolution #2004-151 to a Study Session.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

June 1, 2004

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Study Session of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on June 1, 2004. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on May 26, 2004.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Meyer, Whitesides, Pielstick, Gilbert, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase. Councilmember Nickerson was absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Gary Greer, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Finance Director David Springer, and City Attorney Doug Walker.

RESERVE TIME TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: Twelve individuals reserved time to speak on agenda items.

MAYOR COMMUNICATION: Mayor Vavricek commented on the Memorial Day weekend and a reminder of those serving in the military.

Discussion Concerning Smoke Free Public Places and Workplaces in Grand Island. Susan Haeker, Kearney, Nebraska, Tobacco Free Hall County Chair introduced and gave an overview of Tobacco Free Hall County. Collette Shaughnessy, 1422 Jay Street, St. Paul, Nebraska, Tobacco Free Hall County Coordinator discussed an opinion survey results and presented a PowerPoint concerning the effects of smoking in public places and workplaces.

Tobacco Free Hall County requested the Grand Island City Council adopt an ordinance to prohibit smoking in public places and workplaces including restaurants and bars in Grand Island. Recommended was a 100% smoke free ordinance which would (1) protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking in public places and places of employment; and (2) guarantee the right of nonsmokers to breathe smoke free air, and recognize that the need to breathe smoke free air should have priority over the desire to smoke.

Lynn Cronk, 2806 Pioneer Blvd., President Grand Island School Board presented information concerning the smoking ban on school grounds. Dr. Dan Cronk, 2806 Pioneer Blvd. spoke concerning tobacco related diseases and the effects of second hand smoke.

Councilmember Pauly asked why this could not be put on a ballot for all citizens to decide. City Administrator Gary Greer commented on costs of an election and stated that 15% of the registered voters, approximate 3,600 signatures would be needed on an initiative petition. Ms. Shaughnessy stated that the city council has the jurisdiction and the cost was a concern.

Amy Osborne and Alexis, 2208 West 10th Street commented on a mother's perspective of second hand smoke. Dr. Michael McGahan, 2717 Lakewood Drive, Medical Director of Emergency Services at St. Francis Medical Center spoke concerning the changes in public health over the years, those being air and sewage.

Sarah Wirth, 2822 Dallas Avenue, Grand Island Central Catholic Senior, Tyler Stecker, 71 Ponderosa Drive, Grand Island Senior High and Valerie Williams, 211 South Avenue spoke concerning the youth perspective on second hand smoke in public places and workplaces.

Molly Goedecker, Omaha, Nebraska, Environmental Consultant and former Director of Surveillance & Enforcement of the NE Clean Indoor Act gave a brief overview of Nebraska's Clean Air Act passed in 1980. Smoke in the workplace and employee exposure was presented along with bar and restaurant definitions. Councilmember Pielstick commented on the federal government subsidizing the tobacco growers and asked why Tobacco Free Hall County was not going after them instead of coming to Council.

Don Bourne, 1023 Sherman Avenue, commented that he had been smoking since he was 10. He asked about his rights and the taxes that are being paid by smokers. He opposed the proposed ordinance.

Lee Elliott, Vice President of Human Resources and Foundation at St. Francis Medical Center commented on state statutes which were not very strong. Mentioned were the health care facilities that were non-smoking. Dr. Richard Fruchling, 3604 South Blaine Street, former President of the Nebraska Heart Association commented on primary and secondary illnesses. Asthmatics, children, and filtering systems were mentioned. Dr. Fruehling commented on his disappointment of the Health Departments view on this issue.

Councilmember Gilbert questioned Teresa Anderson, Central District Health Department Director about the health risks of smoking. Ms. Anderson commented that smoking was a health risk and they would support an ordinance, but that they would want more information. Planning was very important along with communication with those involved. Enforcement and awareness were mentioned. Councilmember Haase commented that it was time to act now because it was the right thing to do and it won't get any better.

Councilmember Walker questioned how many restaurants in Grand Island were smoke-free. Currently 80 establishments in Grand Island were smoke free. Councilmember Cornelius spoke in support, but asked about enforcement. Ms. Shaughnessy commented on models from other communities, but stated it could be the council's decision. The model ordinance was read.

City Attorney Doug Walker commented on the model ordinance and enforcement. Mentioned was Code Compliance, Police, or Health Department that could be used for enforcement along with a fine. Mr. Walker asked that the ordinance not be vague if passed by council. Councilmember Meyer questioned what a public place was. Ms. Shaughnessy stated it would be anywhere the public could go.

Ms. Shaughnessy stated that the City of Grand Island was the biggest community in Hall County and that was why they brought this before the council first. City Attorney Doug Walker commented that enforcement would only be within the city limits.

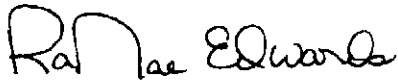
Mike Benischek, 4214 West Capital Avenue and Melanie Koperski, 335 St. Francis, Ashton, Nebraska spoke in support of the ordinance.

Mayor Vavricek questioned the direction of council. Should this to come back before council or should it go before the voters. Councilmember Pauly commented that the federal, state, Lincoln, or Omaha could not come up with a plan and felt this issue should go to a vote of the people. Councilmember Hornady commented on moral choices and supported a vote by the people. Councilmember Meyer commented on those people not represented such as bar owners and supported a vote by the people. Councilmember Gilbert supported the ordinance. Councilmember Whitesides requested more information before a decision would be made by council and supported a vote by the people. Councilmember Haase and Cornelius supported a vote by the people. Councilmember Walker opposed a vote to the people.

City Attorney Doug Walker recommended that his office look into the possibility of taking this to a vote of the people. City Administrator Gary Greer commented that wording for ballot language could be brought before council at in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



RaNae Edwards
City Clerk

Proposed Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. ____

An ordinance to amend Chapter 4 of the Grand Island City Code; to rename Chapter 4 of the Grand Island City Code to "Alcohol and Tobacco"; to designate Sections 4-1 through 4-23 of Chapter 4 as "Article I. Alcoholic Beverages"; to add Article II. to be designated "Smoking in Public Places" and Sections 4-30 through 4-47 pertaining to smoking in public places; to repeal any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; and to provide for publication and the effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. Chapter 4 of the Grand Island City Code is hereby renamed, "Alcohol and Tobacco".

SECTION 2. Article I. of Chapter 4 of the Grand Island City Code, consisting of Sections 4-1 through 4-23, inclusive is hereby named: "Article I. Alcoholic Beverages".

SECTION 3. Article II. of Chapter 4 of the Grand Island City Code is hereby added to read as follows:

Article II. Smoking In Public Places

§4-30. Title

This Article shall be known as the City of Grand Island Smokefree Air Act of 2004.

§4-31. Findings and Intent

The City of Grand Island finds and declares that the purposes of this Article are to protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking in public places and places of employment; and to guarantee the right of nonsmokers to breathe smokefree air, and to recognize that the need to breathe smokefree air shall have priority over the desire to smoke.

§4-32. Definitions

For the purposes of this Article, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

Bar shall mean a business establishment that serves alcoholic beverages and may or may not provide limited food service.

Business shall mean a sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other business entity formed for profit-making purposes, including retail establishments where goods or services are sold as well as professional corporations and other entities where legal, medical, dental, engineering, architectural, or other professional services are delivered.

Proposed Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____ (Cont.)

Employee shall mean a person who is employed by an employer in consideration for direct or indirect monetary wages or profit, and a person who volunteers his or her services for a non-profit entity.

Employer shall mean a person, business, partnership, association, corporation, including a municipal corporation, trust, or non-profit entity that employs the services of one or more individual persons.

Enclosed Area shall mean all space between a floor and ceiling that is enclosed on all sides by solid walls or windows (exclusive of doorways), which extend from the floor to the ceiling.

Health Care Facility shall mean an office or institution providing care or treatment of diseases, whether physical, mental, or emotional, or other medical, physiological, or psychological conditions, including but not limited to, hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals or other clinics, including weight control clinics, nursing homes, homes for the aging or chronically ill, laboratories, and offices of surgeons, chiropractors, physical therapists, physicians, dentists, and all specialists within these professions. This definition shall include all waiting rooms, hallways, private rooms, semiprivate rooms, and wards within health care facilities.

Limited Food Service shall mean serving or otherwise providing only snack items or commercially prepared and wrapped foods that require little or no preparation.

Place of Employment shall mean an area under the control of a public or private employer that employees normally frequent during the course of employment, including but not limited to, work areas, employee lounges, restrooms, conference rooms, meeting rooms, classrooms, employee cafeterias, hallways and vehicles. A private residence is not a "place of employment" unless it is used as a child care, adult day care, or health care facility.

Public Place shall mean an enclosed area to which the public is invited or in which the public is permitted, including but not limited to, banks, bars, educational facilities, health care facilities, Laundromats, public transportation facilities, reception areas, restaurants, retail food production and marketing establishments, retail service establishments, retail stores, shopping malls, sports arenas, theaters, and waiting rooms. A private residence is not a "public place" unless it is used as a child care, adult day care, or health care facility.

Restaurant shall mean any public place which (1) is kept, used, maintained, advertised and held out to the public as a place where meals are served and where meals are actually and regularly served for compensation; (2) has no sleeping accommodations; and (3) has kitchen and dining room equipment and employees to prepare, cook, and serve food to customers. The term restaurant, in this Article, does not include businesses that are strictly "take-out" facilities or retail stores where food is sold.

Retail Tobacco Store shall mean a retail store utilized primarily for the sale of tobacco products and accessories and in which the sale of other products is merely incidental.

Service Line shall mean an indoor line in which one or more persons are waiting for or are receiving service of any kind, whether or not the service involves the exchange of money.

Shopping Mall shall mean a public walkway or hall area that serves to connect retail or professional establishments.

Smoking shall mean inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, weed, plant, or other combustible substance in any manner or in any form.

Sports Arena shall mean sports pavilions, stadiums, gymnasiums, health spas, boxing arenas, swimming pools, roller and ice rinks, bowling alleys, and other similar places where members of the general public assemble to engage in physical exercise, participate in athletic competition, or witness sports or other events.

§4-33. Application of Article to City Facilities

All enclosed facilities, including buildings and vehicles owned, leased, or operated by the City of Grand Island, shall be subject to the provisions of this Article.

§4-34. Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places

Smoking shall be prohibited in all enclosed public places within the City of Grand Island.

§4-35. Prohibition of Smoking in Places of Employment

(A) Smoking shall be prohibited in all enclosed facilities within places of employment without exception. This includes common work areas, auditoriums, classrooms, conference and meeting rooms, private offices, elevators, hallways, medical facilities, cafeterias, employee lounges, stairs, restrooms, vehicles, and all other enclosed facilities.

(B) This prohibition on smoking shall be communicated to all existing employees by the effective date of this Article and to all prospective employees upon their application for employment.

Proposed Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____ (Cont.)

§4-36. Reasonable Distance from Enclosed Area

Smoking is prohibited within a reasonable distance of 25 feet outside an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited, so as to insure that tobacco smoke does not enter the area through entrances, windows, ventilation systems, or other means.

§4-37. Locations Smoking Not Regulated

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article to the contrary, the following areas shall be exempt from the provisions of §4-34 and §4-35:

- (A) Private residences, except when used as a licensed child care, adult day care, or health care facility
- (B) Hotel and motel rooms that are rented to guests and are designated as smoking rooms; provided that no more than twenty percent (20%) of rooms rented to guests in a hotel or motel may be so designated.
- (C) Retail tobacco stores; provided that smoke from these places does not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited under the provisions of this Article.
- (D) Outdoor areas of places of employment, except those covered by the provisions of §4-36.

§4-38. Declaration of Establishment as Nonsmoking

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, an owner, operator, manager or other person in control of an establishment, facility, or outdoor area may declare that entire establishment, facility, or outdoor area as a nonsmoking place. Smoking shall be prohibited in any place in which a sign conforming to the requirements of §4-39(A) is posted.

§4-39. Posting of Signs

(A) "No Smoking" signs or the international "No Smoking" symbol (consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it) shall be clearly and conspicuously posted in every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited by this Article, by the owner, operator, manager or other person in control of that place.

(B) Every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited by this Article shall have posted at every entrance a conspicuous sign clearly stating that smoking is prohibited.

(C) All ashtrays and other smoking paraphernalia shall be removed from any area where smoking is prohibited by this Article by the owner, operator, manager, or other person having control of the area.

§4-40. Nonretaliation

No person or employer shall discharge, refuse to hire, or in any manner retaliate against any employee, applicant for employment, or customer because that employee, applicant, or customer exercises any rights afforded by this Article or reports or attempts to prosecute a violation of this Article.

§4-41. Enforcement

(A) This Article shall be enforced by the Central District Health Department, the City Attorney's office, or an authorized designee.

(B) Notice of the provisions of this Article shall be given to all applicants for a business license in the City of Grand Island.

(C) Any citizen who desires to register a complaint under this Article may initiate enforcement with the Central District Health Department.

(D) The Central District Health Department, Grand Island Fire Department, Grand Island Police Department, or their designees shall, while an establishment is undergoing otherwise mandated inspections, inspect for compliance with this Article.

(E) An owner, manager, operator, or employee of an establishment regulated by this Article shall inform persons violating this Article of the appropriate provisions thereof.

(F) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, an employee or private citizen may bring legal action to enforce this Article.

(G) In addition to the remedies provided by the provisions of this section, the Central District Health Department or any person aggrieved by the failure of the owner, operator, manager or other person in control of a

Proposed Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____ (Cont.)

public place or a place of employment to comply with the provisions of this Article may apply for injunctive relief to enforce those provisions in any court of competent jurisdiction.

§4-42. Violations and Penalties

(A) A person who smokes in an area where smoking is prohibited by the provisions of this Article shall be guilty of an infraction, punishable by a fine.

(B) A person who owns, manages, operates, or otherwise controls a public place or place of employment and who fails to comply with the provisions of this Article shall be guilty of an infraction, punishable by a fine.

(C) In addition to the fines established by this section, violation of this Article by a person who owns, manages, operates, or otherwise controls a public place or place of employment may result in the suspension or revocation of any permit or license issued to the person for the premises on which the violation occurred.

(D) Each day on which a violation of this Article occurs shall be considered a separate and distinct violation.

§4-43. Public Education

The Central District Health Department may engage in a continuing program to explain and clarify the purposes and requirements of this Article to citizens affected by it, and to guide owners, operators, and managers in their compliance with it. The program may include publication of a brochure for affected businesses and individuals explaining the provisions of this Article.

§4-44. Governmental Agency Cooperation

The City Administrator may annually request other governmental and educational agencies having facilities within the City of Grand Island to establish local operating procedures in cooperation and compliance with this Article. This includes urging all Federal, State, City, and School District agencies to update their existing smoking control regulations to be consistent with the current health findings regarding secondhand smoke.

§4-45. Other Applicable Laws

This Article shall not be interpreted or construed to permit smoking where it is otherwise restricted by other applicable laws.

§4-46. Liberal Construction

This Article shall be liberally construed as to further its purposes.

§4-47. Severability

If any provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this Article or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this Article which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Article are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. Any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. That this ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage and publication, in pamphlet form, within fifteen days in one issue of the Grand Island Independent as provided by law.

Proposed Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____ (Cont.)

Enacted: _____, 2004.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

May 7, 2002

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on May 7, 2002. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on May 1, 2002.

Mayor Ken Gnadt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Ward, Seifert, Larson, Hornady, Whitesides, Haase, Murray, Walker and Sorensen. Councilmember Pielstick was absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Marlan Ferguson, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, City Attorney Charlie Cuypers, Public Works Director Steve Riehle and Finance Director David Springer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was said followed by the INVOCATION given by Pastor Dick Bacon, Hall County Chaplaincy Corps.

RESERVE TIME TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: One individual reserved time to speak on agenda items.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

Proclamation "Tourism Week" May 6-10, 2002. Mayor Gnadt proclaimed the week of May 6-10, 2002 as "Tourism Week". Trish Beam and Rene' Seifert representing the Hall County Convention Visitors Bureau were present to receive the proclamation. Introduced was Ted Lee Uubanks representing Fermata, Inc. was introduced and spoke about tourism.

Proclamation "Salvation Army Week" May 13-19, 2002. Mayor Gnadt proclaimed the week of May 13-19, 2002 as "Salvation Army Week". Captain Al Simmert representing the Salvation Army was present to receive the proclamation.

Proclamation "Older American Month" May, 2002. Mayor Gnadt proclaimed the month of May, 2002 as "Older American Month". Lois Stienike, Executive Director of the Grand Generation of Hall County was present to receive the proclamation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public Hearing on Request of Jerome Niedfelt for Conditional Use Permit for Telecommunications Tower Located at 1124 South Adams Street Craig Lewis, Building Department Director reported that Laurie Kelly representing Faulk & Foster and Western Wireless and Jerome Niedfelt, had submitted an application with the City Clerks Office for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the construction of a Telecommunication Tower located at

1124 South Adams Street. Laure Kelly representing Faulk & Foster spoke in support. No further public testimony was heard.

Public Hearing on Acquisition of Right of Way Located Along the North Side of Stolley Park Road From U.S. Highway 30 West to Freedom Acres. (Chief Industries, Inc.) Gary Mader, Utilities Director reported that acquisition of property located along the north side of Stolley Park Road, from U.S. Highway 30 west to Freedom Acres, was required in order to have access to install, upgrade, maintain, and repair power appurtenances. The overhead power line will be moved from the south side of Stolley Park Road to facilitate the installation of a sewer line to serve Freedom Acres. No public testimony was heard.

Public Hearing on Acquisition of Utility Easement Located at 707 North Diers Avenue. (Grand Island P.H., Inc.) Gary Mader, Utilities Director reported that acquisition of a utility easement located in the northeast corner of property at 707 North Diers Avenue - Faidley & U.S. Highway 281, was required in order to have access to install, upgrade, maintain, and repair power appurtenances. Pizza Hut was constructing a new building at this location. This easement would be used to locate a pad-mounted transformer to serve the new business. No further public testimony was heard.

ORDINANCES:

Motion was made by Larsen, second by Whitesides, to table Ordinance #8721 and Resolutions #2002-56 and #2002-78 until the May 21, 2002 Regular Council meeting. Motion was adopted unanimously.

#8721- Consideration of Conveyance of Real Estate in Meadowlark West Third Subdivision and Part of the SE1/4 NE1/4 of Section 13-11-10 Hall County, Nebraska to Reconfigure Detention Cell.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items G-5 and G-6 were removed from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Whitesides, second by Sorensen, carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda excluding items G-5 and G-6.

Approving Minutes of April 23, 2002 City Council Regular Meeting.

Approving Request of Nancy Smith, 1614 West 7th Street, Hastings, Nebraska for Liquor Manager Designation for Stratford Plaza, LLC dba Best Western Riverside Inn, 3333 Ramada Drive.

Approving Request of Olivia Llamas, 3005 East Highway 30, Grand Island, Nebraska for Liquor Manager Designation for El Tapatio of Grand Island Inc. dba El Tapatio Restaurant, 2610 South Locust Street.

Approving Request of Jerome Niedfelt for Conditional Use Permit for Telecommunications Tower Located at 1124 South Adams Street.

#2002-56 – Approving Reconfiguration of Detention Cell Including Acquisition of Real Estate and Approval of Exchange Agreement. This item was tabled until the May 21, 2002 City Council Meeting.

#2002-78 Approving Final Plat and Subdivision Agreement for Meadowlark West Fourth Subdivision. This item was tabled until the May 21, 2002 City Council Meeting.

#2002-122 – Approving Amending Resolution #2002-77 Final Plat and Subdivision Agreement for The Village Third Subdivision. It was noted that Resolution #2002-77 approved The Village Third Subdivision with one lot as it was originally presented in December of 2001. The Regional Planning Commission recommended approval of The Village Third Subdivision as presented in March of 2002 with 29 lots and 3 outlots. Resolution #2002-77 needed to be amended to show that The Village Third Subdivision was made up of 29 lots and 3 outlots.

#2002-123 – Approving Acquisition of Right of Way Located Along the North Side of Stolley Park Road From U.S. Highway 30 West to Freedom Acres. (Chief Industries, Inc.)

#2002-124 – Approving Acquisition of Utility Easement Located at 707 North Diers Avenue. (Grand Island P.H., Inc.)

#2002-125 – Approving Engineering Services for Well Field Collection Basin Project CH2M Hill, Englewood, Colorado in an Amount Not to Exceed \$74,414.00.

#2002-126 – Approving Utility Property Farm Leases. It was noted that The Utilities, Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments lease lands owned at the Platte Valley Industrial Park, Burdick Station, the Well Field, land north of the Wastewater Treatment site, the City Landfill and CHAAP to the following tenants: Larry Knuth, Kenneth Clausen, Jack Webb, Mike Peters, Gerald Bremer, Robert Nunnenkamp, Matt Turek and Bill Cure.

#2002-127 – Approving Continuation and Construction of Street Improvement District #1240, Grand West Third Subdivision.

#2002-128 – Approving Supplemental Agreement #1 to Project No. S-30-4(1019) with the Nebraska Department of Roads to Improve US Highway 30 in Grand Island.

#2002-129 – Approving Bid Award for (1) New Commercial Mulching Turf Mower with Midwest Turf & Irrigation, Omaha, Nebraska in the Amount of \$10,543.00.

RESOLUTIONS:

#2002-130 – Approving Bid Award for Motor Grader for the Street Department. Steve Riehle, Public Works Director reported that the Public Works Department, Street and Transportation Division, was replacing a 40 year old motor grader. Bids were received on April 16, 2002 for a 33,000 lb., 6-wheel drive, 180 horsepower grader. All bids that were received were higher than the estimate of \$137,221.00. The bids ranged from \$152,660.00 to \$172,360.00. A motor grader

was available from the state contract holder at a cost that was less than the estimate, under State of Nebraska Contract Number CA-5747. The Public Works Department recommended that the purchase be awarded to Spreitzer, Inc. of Omaha in the amount of \$135,173.00 per this contract. Mr. Riehle stated that if the Council did not award the bid to the lowest bidder, all bids would be rejected and the project re-advertised with bid specifications that took into account the other items that can be considered when selecting equipment.

Councilmember Larson stated that he felt the lowest bid was not always the best bid. His concern was what the motor grader would be worth in 40 years. Councilmember Whitesides wanted to know what Steve Riehle's opinion was in purchasing a Volvo motor grader instead of one of the others. Mr. Riehle stated that he had some reservations, but the Street Department personnel were in favor of purchasing a Volvo motor grader from the State Contract.

Bob Snodgrass, Norfolk, Nebraska representing Volvo spoke in support.

Motion by Seifert, second by Sorensen, to approve the purchase of a motor grader through State Contract Number CA-5747 with Spreitzer, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska in the amount of \$135,173.00. Motion carried unanimously.

#2002-131 - Approving No Smoking Policy. Marlan Ferguson, City Administrator reported that at the April 2, 2002 City Council Study Session, representatives from the Tobacco Free Hall County organization made a presentation requesting City Council establish a policy banning smoking in city facility and vehicles. As a result of that, a policy had been prepared for the Council's consideration.

Tim Gregory, 1403 North Howard Place; Luke McMahan, 1109 South Cherry Street; Laura Haberman, 3007 Sothman Drive; Jason Meis, 3121 Briarwood Boulevard; Clint McCarthy, 2210 Gateway Avenue and Tom O'Neill, 804 West Stolley Park Road spoke in favor.

Councilmember Sorensen questioned if this Resolution could be enforced. City Attorney Charlie Cuypers stated that typically resolutions are advisory or self enforced. Councilmember Whitesides stated he felt we pass too many laws that are not enforceable. Councilmember Haase felt that putting up signs would help and she congratulated the youth on taking a stand.

Councilmember Walker asked if there had been problems in the pool areas. Steve Paustian, Parks and Recreation Director stated that there would not be much of a change except in the bleachers, grandstands and athletic fields. Councilmember Hornady stated she feels that non-smokers are passing off the responsibility and she has problems with government intruding on people's lives.

Motion by Seifert, second by Haase, to approve Resolution #2002-131 regarding the No Smoking Policy. Upon roll call vote, Councilmembers Seifert, Larsen, Haase, Murray and Walker voted yes. Councilmembers Ward, Hornady, Whitesides and Sorensen voted no. The Mayor voted in favor casting the sixth and deciding vote. Motion was adopted.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Motion by Whitesides, second by Ward, carried unanimously to approve the Claims for the period of April 24, 2002 through May 7, 2002, for a total amount of \$3,259,355.66.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RaNaE Edwards

RaNaE Edwards
City Clerk

RESOLUTION 2002-131

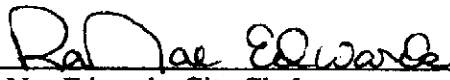
WHEREAS, on April 2, 2002, at the City Council Study Session, a representative from the Tobacco Free Hall County organization made a presentation requesting the City Council to establish a policy banning smoking in city facilities and/or city vehicles; and

WHEREAS, as a result of such presentation, a no smoking policy was drafted; and


WHEREAS, a copy of the proposed *No Smoking Policy* is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the *No Smoking Policy* attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is hereby approved and adopted effective immediately.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska on May 7, 2002.



RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	▼	
May 2, 2002	▲	City Attorney

City of Grand Island

No Smoking Policy

Purpose:

To provide, to the extent possible, a smoke-free environment for our employees, customers and visitors. Its success depends upon the consideration and cooperation of both smokers and non-smokers. All employees, customers and visitors are expected to respect the provisions of this policy.

Policy:

Smoking is prohibited by all persons in any city facility or vehicle. This policy does not prohibit smoking in designated outdoor areas.

A. Definitions:

1. **City Facility** shall mean
 - a) Any indoor office, work area, or location used by the general public or serving as a place of work for City employees that is owned, leased, or rented and under the day-to-day control of the City of Grand Island.
 - b) Island Oasis Water Park (except for areas outside the perimeter fencing).
 - c) Lincoln Pool (except for areas outside the perimeter fencing).
 - d) Wading pools (except for areas outside the perimeter fencing).
 - e) Skate Park (except for areas outside the perimeter fencing).
 - f) Athletic fields, bleachers and/or grandstands.
2. **Smoking** shall mean carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted smoking equipment or substance.
3. **Vehicle** shall mean any self-propelled conveyance designed for use upon City streets that is owned, leased, or rented by the City of Grand Island.

Exhibit "A"

B. Enforcement:

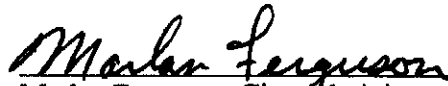
Department heads shall ensure that the supervisor in charge of such a City facility or vehicle shall make reasonable efforts to prevent smoking in the City facility or vehicle by:

1. Posting appropriate signs.
2. Asking smokers to refrain from smoking in a smoke-free area, citing the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act and this City policy.
3. Informing the violators that they are guilty of a Class V misdemeanor under the laws of the State of Nebraska.
4. Taking any other appropriate means, including disciplinary action for City employees pursuant to appropriate union contract or Human Resources Policy Manual.

C. Complaints:

Persons observing a violation of this policy should bring it to the attention of their supervisor.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2002.


Marlan Ferguson, City Administrator
City of Grand Island

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

April 2, 2002

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Study Session of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on April 2, 2002. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on March 27, 2002.

Mayor Ken Gnadt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Pielstick, Ward, Seifert, Larson, Hornady, Whitesides, Haase, Murray, Walker and Sorensen. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Marlan Ferguson, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Public Works Director Steve Riehle, City Attorney Charlie Cuypers and Finance Director David Springer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was said.

Presentation by Tobacco Free Hall County. Susan Haecker, Chairwoman for Tobacco Free Hall County spoke concerning second hand smoke and requested the City Council to establish a policy banning smoking in or within 20' of the entrance to any municipal building, city vehicle, or parks where youth play ball. Ms. Haecker explained LB-1292 passed by the State Legislature. Collette Shaughnessy representing Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism introduced the IMPROV Team, students associated with Youth Leadership Tomorrow. The IMPROV Team performed a skit regarding the use of tobacco. Bill Gavers, Boys Tennis and Basketball Coach spoke about children and the effects of smoking and tobacco use. Jason Meis, Anna Speed, Barb Zaruba and Jason Harper spoke in support of the smoking ban. Discussion was held concerning the enforcement of this policy in the parks. John Luna, 712 East 8th Street spoke concerning the negative effects of smoking and commended the youth for their efforts.

Presentation of Police Department's Annual Report. Police Chief Kyle Hetrick presented the 2001 Police Department Annual Report. Briefly reviewed were the accomplishments and activities of the Grand Island Police Department. Statistics and financial summaries were mentioned. Special features of the department were highlighted which included, Military Service, Retirees, Gang Investigation Unit, Honor Guard, Special Weapons and Tactics, Central Nebraska Drug Court, Kids, Cops, Counselors, and Character, National Night Out and others.

Discussion Regarding Community Policing. Police Chief Kyle Hetrick reviewed "Community Orientated Policing". Mentioned were the strategies that had been implemented within the Grand Island Police Department and the community. Highlighted were the current programs, partnerships and internal changes that were being done within the department. John Luna, 712 East 8th Street spoke in favor of "Community Orientated Policing" and encouraged community involvement. George Solt, 3523 East Seedling Mile Road spoke about what the Police

Department does that the people in the community do not see because of confidentiality. Mr. Solt complemented the Officer's and the department.

Presentation of Northwest Traffic Improvement Study. Steve Riehle, Public Works Director reported that safety concerns on Manchester, Mansfield and Cannon Roads near Westridge Middle School had been expressed by the Northwest Neighborhood Association with recommendations of extending Independence Avenue from Manchester to 13th Street as a solution.

Olsson Associates presented an overview of the Northwest Area Traffic Study. The following recommendations were presented:

- Extend Independence Avenue from Manchester Road to 13th Street
- Extend Shanna Street to Independence Avenue
- Extend Lariat Lane to Shanna Street
- Build School Drive from Independence Avenue (Loop Drive Desirable)
- Construct a Complete Sidewalk System Around Westridge Middle School
- Improve Cannon Road from Mansfield Road to North Road
- Improve Geometrics at Cannon Road/Mansfield Road Intersection
- Install Crosswalks at:
 - All Legs at Cannon/Mansfield
 - West Leg at Manchester/Mansfield
 - All Legs at Manchester/Independence
- Install all Traffic Control Devices per MUTCD Standards
- Provide 3-Lane Section (one for exclusive LT Lane) where Collector Streets Intersect Arterial Streets
- Continue Traffic Monitoring Program

Conceptual designs were reviewed along with preliminary costs and assessments for each design. Council discussed conceptual designs with regards to traffic access and drainage.

Mark Miller, 4246 Vermont Avenue representing the Northwest Neighborhood Association spoke in support of extending Independence Avenue south.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



RaNae Edwards
City Clerk

Council Agenda Memo

From: Gary D. Greer, City Administrator

Meeting: May 3, 2005

Subject: Health Department Recommendation on Smoking Policy

Item #'s: 1

Presenter(s): Teresa Anderson, Executive Director, Central District Health Department
Ryan King, Assistant Director, Central District Health Department

Background

Over the last year the community has been involved in a process to become more familiar with the various issues associated with second hand smoke. This community process has included a great deal of information, input and discussion. Additionally, the community has been watching various other Cities across the nation in their processes and policies regarding the issue. It is very clear that there is a phenomenal amount of information concerning the subject and there are very strong opinions concerning this subject.

Following is a list of activities that have taken place during the public dialogue:

June 1, 2004	Study Session conducted to take public input
June 22, 2004	Regular Council Meeting to take public input and consider placing a smoking ban on the General Election Motion passed to take time to further study the issue and address ballot language with the possibility of bringing the issue to an election
July 20, 2004	Health Department officials visit various restaurants for input
August 23, 2004	Health Department officials visit various Bars for input
February 22, 2005	Community Forum #1 held to gain input
February 24, 2005	Community Forum # 2 held to gain input

Attached is a report from the Central District Health Department concerning their findings along with detailed information derived from their discussions and forums.

Discussion

At this time, it is appropriate for the City Council to receive the report from the Central District Health Department (CDHD) and discuss the next step in the process. The recommendation of the Health Department Board is included on Page 8 of the report and states:

CDHD officials recommend to the Grand Island City Council that the Council actively pursue policy that assures smoke-free environments particularly in places where children would be exposed, in workplaces and indoor public areas, and in all governmental facilities and vehicles.

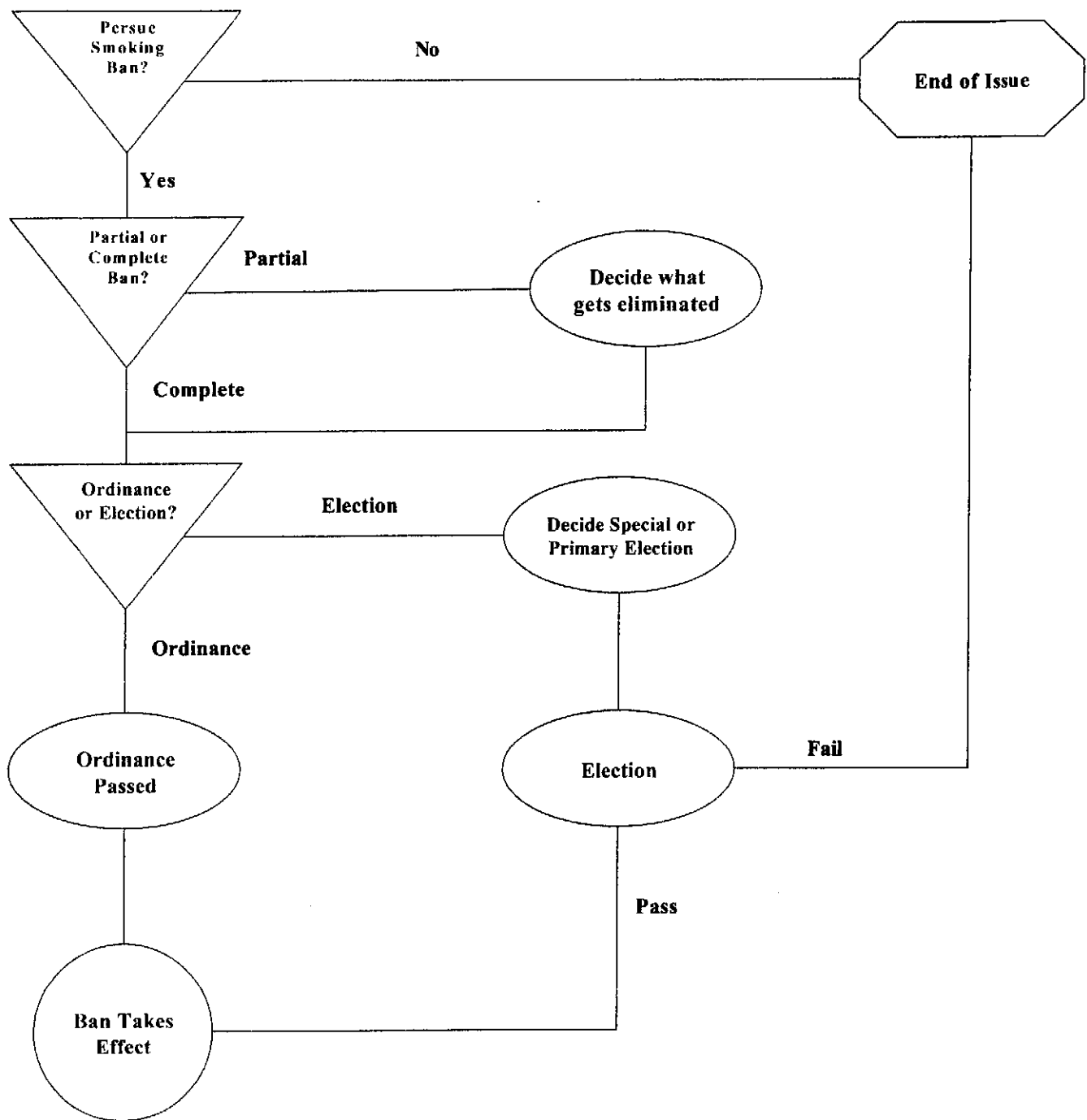
CDHD officials also recommend that the Council and all involved in policy change be alert to the several current legislative bills related to SHS. Tracking these bills will serve useful. Because it is a health issue, it is likely that enforcement may fall to CDHD Environmental Division. CDHD offers to work closely with the Council to develop policy that is comprehensive, enforceable, and fair.

Now that the public input part of the process is over and the Health Department has made their recommendation it is appropriate for the Council to provide direction on this important matter.


The issue at hand is fairly complicated and has evaded clear direction over the last year. It appears that discussions have not developed a clear consensus during deliberations by the State Legislature, City Council, Public or Health Department. Therefore, in order to attempt to provide discussion points City Administration has identified decision milestones which allow for the development of policy consensus. Attached is a decision tree which may help identify key decision points and facilitate the discussion.

Conclusion

Study Sessions are conducted to allow the Council to discuss far-reaching issues in an informal setting. It is appropriate for the Council to receive the report from the Central District Health Department and discuss what action should be taken concerning their recommendation. Furthermore, City Administration would recommend that the Council attempt to build consensus concerning policy direction on the issue at hand. The last year has been an opportunity for extensive public input and debate. At this time direction is needed on how the City should move or not move on this important issue.



Memo

To: Gary Greer, City Administrator
From: Teresa, Anderson, Executive Director 
Date: March 15, 2005
Re: Second Hand Smoke Community Forum Report

Please find enclosed the Second Hand Smoke Community Forum Report. I will forward a copy of the report by email as well. Also enclosed, please find written letters and published information that was given to CDHD at the forums to be forwarded to the Council.

The report, including the recommendation to the Council, was approved by all seven board members in attendance at CDHD's Board Meeting, Monday, March 14, 2004.

Both Ryan King and I plan to attend the Council's study session scheduled for May 3, 2005 at 7pm. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us prior to that time with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

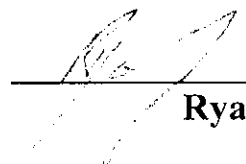
Second Hand Smoke Community Forum Report

Prepared For: Grand Island City Council

Prepared By: Central District Health Department

Date Submitted: March 15, 2005

By: 
Teresa Anderson, Executive Director

By: 
Ryan King, Assistant Director

Background

The Central District Health Department (CDHD) Board and Staff acknowledge that the issue of secondhand smoke (SHS) is necessarily complex. Tobacco has long been a part of the American culture, glamorized in Hollywood films, and touted as a symbol of freedom, sophistication, and success by the tobacco industry. Business owners, who take the financial risks related to their establishments, deliver convincing arguments defending their rights to choose the smoking status for their businesses.

The more accurate representation of SHS is displayed in mortality and morbidity numbers of the American population. The Environmental Protection Agency classifies secondhand smoke as a Group A (known human) carcinogen. More than 4,000 chemical compounds have been identified in tobacco smoke including formaldehyde, cyanide, carbon monoxide, ammonia, and nicotine. Of these, at least 43, such as benzene and N-nitrosamines, are known to cause cancer in humans or animals. Detectable amounts of nicotine, carbon monoxide, and other evidence of secondhand smoke can be found in the body fluids of nonsmokers exposed to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS).

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that SHS accounts for nearly 3,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States. Additionally, scientific studies conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (1997), and reported by the CDC conclude that there are as many as 62,000 deaths annually from coronary heart disease among adult nonsmokers exposed to SHS. Studies show exposure to SHS increased risk of a range of illnesses, particularly among children, including asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, and other respiratory illnesses. In addition, substantial evidence now indicates that secondhand smoke is associated with low birth-weight and sudden infant death syndrome.

Nebraska's adult cigarette smoking rate has remained at approximately 22% for the past ten years. The adult smoking rate in Central Nebraska is slightly lower, but comparable (20%). While the smoking rate has been stable, the percentage of Nebraskans who are protected from SHS exposure in their workplace has increased from 65% in 2000 to 77% in 2003 (NE Health and Human Services System [NHHSS], 2004).

A study sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (Gerlach, 1997) found a fourfold difference among occupational groups with respect to smoke-free policies. An estimated 80% of health care employees (physicians, dentists, veterinarians, etc.) are provided with smoke-free policies compared to only 21% of food service employees (waiters, cooks, bartenders, etc.) Nearly 22% of the more than 5 million Americans employed in the food service industry are teenagers. Employees in blue-collar and service jobs, such as craft workers, laborers, and hospitality workers, are still disproportionately exposed at the workplace.

Some believe SHS should not be regulated by government at any level; that individuals can choose whether or not to be exposed to SHS. Others believe it is essential that the government intervene to protect the health of the majority. People on both sides of the issue continue to look to local government for guidance. CDHD held two community forums on February 22 and February 24, 2005 at the request of the Grand Island City Council. The purpose of these

meetings was to explore the attitudes and beliefs of the Grand Island community as they relate to second hand smoke (SHS) exposure and to potential policy restricting SHS in public places and workplaces. This report is being submitted to the Grand Island City Council for the Council's consideration.

Method

A news release was issued to area media on Wednesday, Feb. 16th. Ads were placed in the Grand Island Independent weekend editions on February 19th and 20th. Teresa Anderson, CDHD Executive Director appeared on the noon show on KHAS-TV on Monday, Feb. 24th. A news article appeared in the Grand Island Independent on Tuesday, Feb. 25th, and interviews with Teresa Anderson were taped by KOLN/KGIN 10/11, NTV, and KHAS-TV, and aired on the 10pm news following the Tuesday evening forum. Nebraska Public Radio taped the Tuesday evening forum with the intent of airing it in its entirety. Following the forums, all three television stations and the Independent continued to run follow-up stories.

Those attending the forum signed in upon arrival supplying name, city of residence, occupation, gender, and age category. A second sign-up form was used for those wishing to speak. In order to assure both sides of the issue were heard, speakers were asked to commit to speaking either for or against policy change at sign-up. Speakers supporting policy change were given odd numbers starting with #1. Speakers against policy change were given even numbers starting with #2. Speakers were then called to the podium in numerical order, resulting in alternation of speakers for policy change with speakers against policy change.

Speaker's themes were recorded individually by Teresa Anderson RN, MSN, Ryan King REHS and Jane Miller RN, BSN all of CDHD. These notes were reviewed and compared post-event by the recorders, and general themes identified and synthesized for this report.

The rules for the forums were read each night prior to the first speaker as follows:

"In order to conduct the forum in an orderly fashion, we ask all speakers to adhere to the following rules:

1. Those of you who signed up to speak received a number. Your number will be called when it is your turn to speak. At that time, please make your way to the microphone. If you speak tonight, you will not be allowed to speak on Thursday night. We will continue to call speaker numbers up to 8:25 at which time we will have a few closing remarks.
2. Limit your speaking to 3 minutes. Deb will issue a halfway warning at 1½ minutes with a yellow card. At three minutes, Deb will hold up the red card. Please finish your sentence and immediately take your seat. The time limit is designed to allow as many speakers as possible. Please be considerate of others.
3. While others are speaking, we ask that those of you in the audience remain respectfully quiet. This evening's format does not allow for dialogue. If you wish to speak to someone, please leave the auditorium in between speakers.

4. We will maintain an environment of fairness, respect and courtesy. While you may not agree with what another person says, you will agree that each person here has a right to speak uninterrupted.

We ask your full cooperation in following these rules. We have a short time in which to complete these forums, and any interruptions will result in less speaking time.”

Participants

Tuesday’s forum attendance was 28 with 23 speakers, 20 in favor and 3 opposed to policy change. Thursday’s forum attendance was 59 with 24 speakers, 15 in favor and 9 opposed to policy change. The two-day attendance was 87. However, there were 13 people who attended both nights, making the actual total forum attendance 74.

Of the two-night total, 45 (61%) were female and 29 (39%) were male. Ages ranged as follows: Age 5-17= 22 (30%); Age 18-29= 6 (8%); Age 30-49= 15 (20%); Age 50-69= 27 (36%); and Age 70 or older= 3 (4%). Occupations ranged as follows: Health professional: 22 (30%); Restaurant/bar owner= 7 (10%); Student= 22 (30%); and Other= 22 (30%). Forty-four (94%) of speakers reside in either Grand Island or Hall County. Three (6%) of the speakers reside in Kearney, Lincoln or Omaha, all of whom support policy change. One phone call was received from a Grand Island resident in support of smoke free policy.

Approximately one-third of those attending were high school students. It was noted that approximately 15 students requested verification of attendance to receive credit for government class. All youth who spoke favored a policy change.

Approximately one third of those attending were health professionals, and comprised 40% of the speakers favoring policy change. Letters in support of smoke free policy were received from the American Lung Association and Public Health Association of Nebraska.

Just 10% of attendance was composed of bar/restaurant owners, all of whom spoke in opposition to policy change. Of the 47 speakers, 35 (74%) favored and 12 (26%) opposed policy regulating SHS.

Results

Several themes emerged on both sides of the issue of smoke free policy.

Comments of those supporting smoke free policy fell into five categories.

1. Youth Support
2. Health implications
3. Nonsmoking sections/ventilation systems
4. Economics
5. Responsibility to set policy

Comments of those opposing smoke free policy fell into two categories.

1. Economics
2. Government Intervention vs. Freedom of Choice

The themes are listed below, along with quotes from speakers.

In Favor of Smoke Free Policy

Youth Support

"We are the future. We don't want to have to worry about our health."

"An ordinance would ensure the safety of our future."

"There are places like the bowling alley... we just won't go, because we reek of smoke when we leave."

"Kids believe SHS is a problem and that their rights are being violated. There are places they just won't go because of the smoke."

"My friend was pregnant and she was forced to work in the smoking section."

"According to a survey conducted by the Hall County Tobacco Free Youth Board of students at Grand Island Senior High (n= 950), Northwest (n= 404), Central Catholic (n= 155) and Heartland Lutheran (n= 22), the large majority of teens believe:

1. Smoking in workplaces and public places should be eliminated.
2. They would support an ordinance to eliminate smoking in all workplaces and public places including bars and restaurants in Grand Island.
3. They believe there are health risks associated with SHS."

"My folks are relieved that I am working in a restaurant where smoking is not allowed."

"It is illegal for me to smoke, but not to breathe SHS."

"They had Children's Day at Fonner Park, and the kids don't like to be somewhere there is smoke."

"The smoke tempts kids to start smoking."

"SHS policies help prevent children from starting and help adults to quit."

Health Implications

"SHS is deleterious to health. The studies on SHS are well founded and accurate"

"I have asthma. I can't go where there is smoke."

"I am allergic to smoke. I get flu like symptoms and then I miss work."

"SHS harms employees and customers."

"Tobacco Free Hall County is committed to eliminating SHS because of the health risks."

"The body is the temple of God. When exposed to SHS, it is compromised emotionally, spiritually and physically."

"Smoking is a health and safety issue."

"People need to be free not to be exposed to SHS."

"Science supports that SHS can kill."

"Nobody should have to risk lung cancer to hold a job."

Nonsmoking sections/Ventilation Systems

"There is no system that can filter the air."

"Saying you can't smoke in a certain area of a building is like saying you can't pee in a certain area of the pool. It gets around."

"You have to walk through the smoking section to get to the nonsmoking section."

Economics

"I have spoken with the owner of the Zoo Bar in Lincoln. They say business is great! I had a call from the Red Fox Tavern. They say business is great and they want to get help for employees who want to quit smoking."

"My friends drive from Omaha to Lincoln to be in a smoke free bar."

"When you look at studies on economic impact of going smoke free, always look to see who is funding the study."

"A lot of people I know would go to bars more often if they were smoke free."

"For 90-100% of kids in substance abuse treatment centers, tobacco is the first substance they try. Medicaid costs to get these kids treated can exceed \$24,000 per kid for one treatment course, or \$50,000 per kid in a year's time."

Responsibility to set policy

"An individual has a right to do legal activity. Bar owners have rights. However, government is the will of the majority. They set policy on sanitation, seatbelts, and alcohol consumption in public. The majority of people in Grand Island don't smoke. I urge City Council to pass an ordinance."

"Last time I checked, the health department was not a health and finance department. They need to protect the health of the public. Bar owners need to protect the health of the customer."

"The best policies are made at the local level. City Council was elected to make laws for local options."

"72% of citizens in Grand Island support smoke free workplaces, 88% believe SHS presents health dangers, and 64% would support a smoke free ordinance."

"Many countries, states and 358 U.S. cities are 100% smoke free."

"I would like to see Grand Island go smoke free. I would like to see Hall County go smoke free. I would like to see Nebraska go smoke free."

"Smoking has been grandfathered in for centuries. Evolution takes up toward smoke free environments."

"People spoke last summer on this issue. What's the holdup for Grand Island? The people want to go smoke free."

Opposed to Smoke Free Policy

Economics

"We hear the food business may be up in Lincoln, but the bar business is down anywhere from 2% to 52%. Big Red Keno is down by 24%."

"Three establishments in Lincoln have closed their doors."

"I understand one of the public pools in Lincoln won't open next summer because of decreased tax revenue from Keno."

"There will be no more Friday Happy Hour. People will party at home."

"Bar owners donate to schools. These donations would go down because of reduced business."

"This will probably hurt bar owners financially."

"It is pure economics. I'll be out of business in 3 months. I have 20 employees, many who are single moms putting themselves through school. They will all be out of work."

"Don't try to put me out of business. SHS policy is anti-American."

"When you let people go outside to smoke, you have a lot of walk-aways. People leave without paying."

"If anyone here wants to put up the capital to start a smoke free bar, I will help them get started. Then we will see what the demand for smoke free bars is."

Responsibility to set policy

"NE is a state of choice. It is great to have choices- freedom of religion; freedom of the press... people can choose whether or not to go to a business where there is SHS."

"If a business has a tobacco license, people should be able to smoke there."

"Smokers are members of the minority. The government keeps bludgeoning us with more laws that restrict our freedom. If you don't like SHS, stay outside."

"You have to be 21 to go into my bar. We already have the Clean Indoor Air Act, and it works. This is the last place left where smoking is allowed."

Entering a business is a privilege, not a right. If you don't like smoke, don't come in."

"What is right is not always popular and what is popular is not always right. Life is not without risks. This is a childish pursuit of this policy effort. If you don't like SHS, get out of the bar. That is what we call capitalism."

"I don't smoke and I don't encourage my kids to smoke. The science of SHS is overrated. In bars, the air is filtered; those filters do a better job now. Don't go into an establishment where it is not well filtered."

"Bar owners should determine whether smoking is allowed. No one regulates tailpipes or high fat foods. Smoking should be customer driven, not government regulated."

"I am in favor of a smoke free environment. I am not in favor of a Grand Island ordinance. We should not force local differences. I challenge the coalition to make the state free from smoke."

Discussion

Arguments raised at the forums by those supporting policy change contained the central theme of health. Youth support for policy change was very strong, with youth asking that their health be protected from SHS exposure. Speakers suggested exposure to SHS contributes to increased youth smoking rates. They further propose that people, especially those with asthma or allergies to smoke, often make the decision to avoid certain establishments where smoking was allowed, even if the owners of those businesses have ventilation systems. Those favoring a policy change suggested that eliminating SHS might actually improve business. Most of those speaking for policy change urged these changes be made on the local level, but also favor policy at regional, state, and federal levels.

Arguments raised at the forums by those opposing smoke free policy centered on economics. Speakers proposed that customers make the choice of whether or not to be exposed to SHS. They suggested that the business owner be allowed to determine how to conduct business, and therefore determine smoking status on the establishment. Speakers suggested current policy

(Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act) was sufficient, and questioned the need for smoke free policy on the local, regional, state, or federal level.

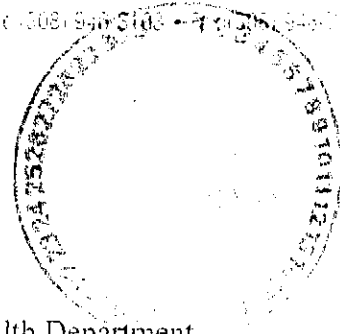
Limitations

It is noted that these forums were not conducted in a scientific manner. Comments of the speakers were categorized into general themes, with only superficial attempts to quantify and qualify the responses. It is impossible to determine if the speakers represent the opinions of the majority of Grand Island residents. The number of speakers was small in comparison to the number of residents affected. Both sides accepted the premise that SHS is present in public places in Grand Island.

Recommendations

CDHD officials recommend to the Grand Island City Council that the Council actively pursue policy that assures smoke-free environments particularly in places where children would be exposed, in workplaces and indoor public areas, and in all government facilities and vehicles.

CDHD officials also recommend that the Council and all involved in policy change be alert to the several current legislative bills related to SHS. Tracking these bills will serve useful. Because it is a health issue, it is likely that enforcement may fall to CDHD Environmental Division. CDHD offers to work closely with the Council to develop policy that is comprehensive, enforceable, and fair.



MEMO

Date: September 29, 2004
To: Gary Greer, City Administrator
From: Teresa Anderson, Executive Director, Central District Health Department
Re: Smoke Free Ordinance Study

Ryan King, Assistant Director, and I visited a total of 15 five restaurants, bar/grills, and bars to determine the perceived impact of a smoking ban as reported by bar and restaurant owners/managers. Accepted criteria for categorization as either bar or restaurant have not been established. For purpose of this report, restaurants are defined as those eating establishments that have national franchises. Even though it is not a national franchise, but because it does not serve alcohol, Tommy's Restaurant is included in the "restaurant" category. It should also be noted that Tommy's is a 24-hour smoke-free restaurant.

Data were gathered through informal dialogue in a relaxed and nonconfrontational atmosphere. Owners/managers were eager to express their opinions, and no one refused comment. I have included a summarization of general themes of the restaurant owners/managers and of the bar owners/managers. I have also included a list of establishments visited and a list of responses to questions/discussion topics addressed. Those interviewed were assured that comments would/could not be linked to specific individuals or establishments. This information is intended for you to share with city council members. Ryan and I are available should you and/or the city council members request further information or additional studies. Thank you for this opportunity to work toward improving the health of our community.

Summary of restaurant owners/managers

In general, those interviewed saw more benefits than disadvantages to a smoke-free law. They wanted the law to be uniform and consistent. They felt that because their product was unique and/or specialized, that business would suffer only slightly or not at all. One of the restaurants is currently smoke-free.

Summary of bar owner/manager comments.

In general, those interviewed were strongly opposed to a smoke-free ordinance. Many cited economic reasons, such as increased prices of consumables that have already reduced profit. Some stated that they had already experienced a general decrease in business this year, and that being forced to become smoke-free would force them to close their doors. Several said their business would fail if the ordinance was passed, stating that

their businesses were different from restaurants in that customers come and stay for hours to socialize, in the process spending money on alcohol and tobacco.

Many of those interviewed believe that Grand Island will suffer from reduced tourism and sales taxes as a result of a smoking ban. Almost all interviewed believe that the determination of smoking status should be the right and responsibility of the owner who has invested time and money in the business. All who were asked, estimated the percent of customers who smoke at somewhere between 60 -100%.

Bar owners/managers were concerned at not having been informed or consulted earlier regarding the potential of a smoke-free ordinance. Several mentioned that the idea of a smoke-free ordinance was a project of a special interest group not representative of the community. Some mentioned that over time, smoking has been reduced, and will in time be eliminated, and that this process should not be rushed.

Several cited compliance to the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act as sufficient, and mentioned the cost of such compliance. Enforcement of a smoke-free ordinance was a concern for some bar owners, who questioned which agency would enforce the ordinance, and how that enforcement would be activated in the case of violation. Another common theme was the difficulties the ordinance would create in controlling traffic in a bar, with smokers entering and exiting often. Bar owners felt this would create an environment more conducive to minor consumption of alcohol, theft, and littering outside of the bar.

Bar owners believe in general, that a state-wide ordinance is preferable to a city ordinance, so that business isn't diverted to establishments outside of city limits and in other cities. One bar owner stated he preferred the city council handle the matter as opposed to having it placed on the ballot. This is because much of his business comes from those living outside of Grand Island, and he felt it unfair for GI residents to decide the matter.

RESTAURANTS VISITED

(August 20, 2004)

Tommy's

Whiskey Creek

Carlos O'Kelly's

Applebee's

Red Lobster

Benefits of being smoke-free.

No ash trays.

Increased business over restaurants that allow smoking.

No stains on walls.

No people putting out cigarettes in coffee cups or on the floor.

Faster service. Less hassels.

Disadvantages of being smoke-free?

Initially, some business might be lost, but many will come back.

Reasons smoking currently allowed?

Company policy

Barriers/challenges to going smoke-free?

Why or why not is a law needed that mandates all restaurants/bars as smoke-free?

We serve more nonsmokers than smokers.

What impact would such a law have?

If everyone was nonsmoking, it wouldn't hurt food sales. but it might hurt alcohol sales.

It would please the nonsmokers.

None.

What outside resources would you need to go smoke-free?

If you were talking to a city council member, what would your most important reasons be for:

1. Promoting a smoke-free law?

Our restaurant is more specialized. People will still come for our product no matter what.
The ordinance should be across the board.

It would be fine to go smoke-free. Only about 1% of our customers smoke.

Make all restaurants smoke-free.

It is a non-issue.

2. Opposing a smoke-free law?

BARS VISITED

(July 23, 2004)

Balls

Bandits

Alibi Lounge

Library

Chicken Coop

Fitzgerald's / TJ's

Gibby's

Nathan Detroit's

Sluggers

Benefits of being smoke-free.

None if city only. Wouldn't hurt so much if statewide.

None

Disadvantages of being smoke-free?

Less business – would go down by at least 25%.

Will kill neighborhood bars.

City wide ban would result in decreased tourism, conventions, etc.

Jobs would be eliminated.

Economics

Enforcement difficult.

75% of customers smoke.

60% of customers smoke.

70% of customers smoke.

After 10pm, everyone (100%) smokes.

Customers won't stay so long if they can't smoke.

Customers will have to smoke in parking lots.

Almost all employees smoke. If have to go outside, productivity is decreased.

It isn't fair to smokers.

Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act already protects the air.

Reasons smoking currently allowed?

Needs to be all or none

Barriers/challenges to going smoke-free?

Very difficult to enforce.

Litter problem outside of bars, on streets and sidewalks.

Owners have no control over outside smokers.

More difficult to enforce alcohol laws with people going in and out all the time to smoke.

Minors can enter more easily.

Employees have to go outside to smoke.
Greater risk of theft due to increased traffic in and out of bar.

Why or why not is a law needed that mandates all restaurants/bars as smoke-free?

A state law would be easier.
Should be pursued statewide.
Owner can put up a sign saying, "Smoking allowed. Enter at own Risk."
If it is on the ballot, only locals vote. 65% of customers are from outside GI. Would be better if the city council addressed the issue.
The law should be statewide, so everyone is equal, and there would be less business lost.
It is my business. I take the risk.
I just put in \$7000 for a smoke eater purchased here in GI.

What impact would such a law have?

This law will put us out of business. Business is already slow.
It will put us out of business.

What outside resources would you need to go smoke-free?

Building a beer garden would cost money.

IF you were talking to a city council member, what would your most important reasons be for:

1. Promoting a smoke-free law

Write the law so that if you have a liquor license, you are exempt from being smoke-free.

2. Opposing a smoke-free law

It has been a tough year economically- meat, poultry and milk prices have all gone up.
If a bar is well established, it can survive.
Employees who work in the bar, no one cares about smoke.
All but two employees smoke.
Hotels should be 100% smoke-free as well.
Special interest groups like this think everybody is stupid.
The special interest group was hiding the ordinance from retailers.
The people pushing this ordinance aren't even from GI.
There will be a revenue loss to GI in city sales tax.
People will drink and drive outside of town – more drunk drivers.
This will reduce new business opportunities.
This is inconsistent. The government subsidizes tobacco growers.
There should be some compromise. Place carbon monoxide monitors in businesses to check air quality.
Let nature take its course.
This is moving too far and too fast.
Given enough time, everyone will go smoke-free.
Retailers take the business risk and should be able to make the decisions.

Special interest groups represent 75% of the population. The other 25% are our customers and they are the ones who will be most affected.

Give owners credit for knowing their customers.

People go to bars for entertainment. They stay for hours. It isn't like in restaurants where people go in for an hour. These people stay and drink and smoke and socialize.

Split restaurants from bars.

Show me a study that links health risks to spending a few hours in a smoky bar once in a while. Studies have all been on spouses of smokers or people who live and work in smoky environments for long periods of time.

It is all about dollars and cents. If there was a demand for a smoke-free bar, there would be one already.

The ordinance will displease the customer base.

There should be compromise. If an establishment is full service, it should be smoke-free.

Make it an owner option.

Should be owner's choice.

GI can't support smoke-free bars.

G.I. City Council to hear report on smoking ban study

By Robert Pore

rpore@grandislandindependent.com

Members of the Grand Island City Council will hear a report tonight at their study session on recommendations by the Central District Health Department on a city smoking policy.

Last year, the Grand Island City Council asked the Central District Health Department to do a study on a possible smoking ban instead of putting the issue on last November's election ballot.

Prior to the city council's decision to ask for the study, Tobacco Free Hall County and other smoking ban advocates requested a smoking ban to improve the health of the public and workers subjected to secondhand smoke. Smoke from the burning end of cigarettes, pipes or cigars and smoke ex-

haled from addictive smokers contains more than 4,000 substances, more than 40 of which are known to cause cancer in humans and animals.

Exposure to secondhand smoke, also called involuntary smoking or passive smoking, is concentrated indoors, where it becomes a significant pollutant.

Secondhand smoke is responsible for about 3,000 lung cancer deaths in nonsmokers in the United States each year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Passive smoking produces significant other ill effects on the respiratory system of nonsmokers, including coughing, phlegm production, chest discomfort, and reduced lung power.

It is especially harmful to infants and young children. The EPA estimates that secondhand smoke is responsible for 150,000 to 300,000 lower respiratory tract infections annually in children younger than 18 months of age and results in 7,500 to 15,000 hospitalizations each year.

According to Teresa Anderson, executive director of the Central Health District, the recommendation of the report is "pretty straightforward."

She said the CDHD report is recommending that the Grand Island City Council actively pursue policy that assures smoke-free environments in places where children would be exposed, in workplaces and indoor public areas and in all governmental facilities and vehicles.

"In the past year we have been able to meet with the people that would be affected by such policy," Anderson said. "We have given people within the community an opportunity to have a voice and to have their voices heard."

She said a number of forums were held to discuss a city smoke-free policy with the potential stakeholders and the results of those forums will be discussed tonight at the council's study session.

"We have given people some time to think about the issue and to voice their opinion," she said.

A bill sponsored by Sen. Ray Aguilar that would create a statewide smoking ban in restaurants was defeated by lawmakers several weeks ago.

Anderson said the scientific evidence

that secondhand smoke poses a significant health risk, especially to young children who accompany their parents to restaurants, is very real.

"Preparing this report has given us the opportunity to educate the public and to give the opportunity to those who wanted to speak to have their voices heard," she said.

In a council agenda memo by City Administrator Gary Greer, he said that the city administration would recommend that the council attempt to build consensus concerning policy direction on a smoking ban.

"The last year has been an opportunity for extensive public input and debate," Greer said. "At this time direction is needed to how the city should move or not move on this important issue."

City council: Study needed

Continued from page 1-A

One of Anderson's predecessors, Bruce Dart, who is now health director in Lincoln/Lancaster County, advised Grand Island to take the time to study the issue.

"City administration believes in including all citizens in the public policy process," Walker said. "Additionally, we believe in allowing those who we have charged to advise us to be allowed to do so in specialized areas such as public health.

"Therefore, we strongly recommend that we allow the Health Department to engage in a public dialogue at this time in order to develop a community consensus and a plan of action concerning implementing smoking regulations in the community," Walker said.

Tobacco Free Hall County and numerous smoking ban advocates requested the ban in order to improve the health of the public and of workers subjected to secondhand smoke.

In the event that the city council wants to do something now, Walker also prepared a resolution that would place a smoking ban question on the November general election ballot.

The council will decide Tuesday evening whether it wants the matter sent to the Health Department for study or whether to put the matter to a public vote.

The council meeting will be open to the public and will begin at 7 p.m. at Grand Island City Hall, 100 E. First St.

On the agenda

Other issues before the Grand Island City Council include:

- Directing city staff to proceed with buying 13 houses and a business on the block bordered by Walnut, Charles, Cedar and Koenig. A new headquarters fire station would be built on the block.
- Directing city staff to proceed with buying 89 acres of farm ground owned by Brad Petersen, located south of Capital Avenue, north of Eighth and Taft and east of the Nebraska Central Railroad lines. A fire training center would be built on the site. Petersen had no comment on the potential sale.
- Public hearing to change the zoning of land at the southeast corner of Highway 34 and South Locust Street from TA transitional agriculture zoning to CD commercial development, and give final round approval to annex the same property into the city, for a Wal-Mart Supercenter. Also to accept the preliminary and final development plan for the Wal-Mart subdivision and require Wal-Mart to install a 10-foot-wide hike-and-bike trail in the development and install a 20-inch water main on the north side of the property.
- Give final round approval to annex the Frauen Subdivision south of Airport Road and east of Shady Bend Road.
- Discontinue a sanitary sewer district in Roush Subdivision on Bellwood Drive to east of Kingswood Drive.

City officials recommend smoking ban be studied *6-22-09*

City officials want to thoroughly study effects of such a ban before putting it to a vote

By Tracy Overstreet

tracy.overstreet@theindependent.com

Instead of placing a proposed Grand Island smoking ban before voters in November, city officials are recommending that the ban be studied by the Central District Health Department.

"Under an interlocal agreement, the Health Department is charged with implementing and administering all health-related programs and policies," City Attorney Doug Walker said. "A letter from the Health Department indicates that they would like to take time to include all stakeholders in the community and take input on the issue before enacting smoking ban legislation."

IF YOU GO

Grand Island City Council meeting

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday

Where: Council chamber, main floor, Grand Island City Hall, 100 E. First St.

Major topics: Purchase of a city block to relocate Fire Station No. 1, purchase of farm ground for a fire training center, discussion of a smoking ban in public places and workplaces.

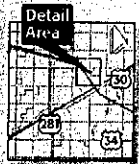
Central District Health Department Director Teresa Anderson said Lincoln passed a similar ban but only after much study and debate. What was approved was different from what was first proposed, she said.

Turn to **City Council** page 10-A

Likely candidate for fire training center

This farm ground, owned by Brad Petersen of Petersen Farms, is the city's top pick for a proposed fire training center. The land is immediately east of the Nebraska Central Railroad line and

property that Lincoln developer Fred Hoppe wants to turn into an affordable housing subdivision known as El Huerto.



VIEW FROM THE AIR



Source: Grand Island Fire Department, Terraserver

Josh Awtry/Independent

Group to request that Grand Island go smoke-free 6-1-04

Tobacco Free Hall County to make request before city council

By Tracy Overstreet
tracy.overstreet@theindependent.com

Tobacco Free Hall County wants all workplaces, bars, restaurants and public places in Grand Island to be smoke-free. The group will make the request Tuesday night to the Grand Island City Council.

"The Centers for Disease Control is now warning people at risk of heart disease to avoid all buildings and gatherings places that allow indoor smoking," said Tobacco Free Hall County Chairwoman Susan Haeker. "As little as 30 minutes of exposure can have a serious effect," she said.

But the smoke-free request is not supported by the Central District Health Department — at least not now.

Central District Health Department Director Theresa Anderson said Lincoln/Lancaster County recently passed a smoke-free ordinance and what was approved was drastically different than what was proposed.

Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Director Bruce Dart, who formerly served as health director in Grand Island, advised that thorough study and lots of discussion is needed before approving a second-hand smoke ordinance.

"Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Central District Health Department that prior to development of a second-hand smoke ordinance in our district, we continue to observe, study and learn from the experience of those in Lincoln and others across the nation

IF YOU GO

City council

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday

Where: City Hall, 100 E. First

Information: The council will hear a request by Tobacco Free Hall County that all workplaces, bars, restaurants and public places in Grand Island be smoke-free. The council will take no action. The public is invited to attend.

over the next year," Anderson said.

"During that time, we will continue with the processes designed to raise awareness of the issues related to second-hand smoke exposure and foster dialogues designed to generate a community consensus on reducing/eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke," she said.

Those scheduled to speak to the council about the second-hand smoke issue are Haeker; Collette Shaughnessy, Tobacco Free Hall County coordinator; Grand Island school board President Lynn Cronk; surgeon Dr. Dan Cronk; mother Amy Osbourne; emergency room doctor Dr. Mike McGahan; Sarah Wirth, Tyler Stecker and Val Williams on the youth perspective; Molly Goedecker, an environmental consultant and former director of the surveillance and enforcement of the Nebraska Clean Indoor Act; St. Francis Human Resource Director Lee Elliott; and family practice doctor Dr. Richard Fruehling.

The council can take no action, as Tuesday's 7 p.m. meeting is a study session. The meeting is open the public in council chambers at City Hall, 100 E. First.

COMPETITIVE SWIMMING POOL

GRAND ISLAND PARKS

PARKS	FACILITIES		Acreage
Ashley Park - 220 W Capital Ave			19.6
Augustine Park - 500 S Blaine			2.0
Broadwell Park - 2003 W 6th			2.1
Buechler Park - 2316 W Division			3.0
Cedar Hills Park - 2909 S North Rd			8.0
Eagle Scout Park - 3050 N Broadwell			65.0
George Park - 2221 Independence Ave			32.8
Grace Abbott Park - 601 W State			5.4
L.E. Ray Park - 3315 S Blaine			73.4
Lincoln Park - 715 N Beal			8.6
Lions Club Park - 511 N Sycamore			2.3
Memorial Park - 2000 W 3rd			4.5
Pier Park - 500 S Oak			30.9
Pioneer Park - 615 W 2nd			2.1
Ryder Park - 202 N Custer or 121 N Piper			45.4
Schluff Park - 930 E Bismark			0.5
Shoemaker Park - 370 Redwood Rd			5
Soltman Park - 2315 Brentwood Blvd			4.4
Stolley Park - 2103 W Stolley Pk Rd			33.0
Sucks Lake - 809 S Harrison/1707 W Oklahoma			6.0
MINI PARKS			
Capital Heights Mini Park - 4254 Vermont Av			0.5
Capital & Webb- 2425 N Webb Rd			3.1
Custer & George St. - 215 N Custer			1.6
Custer & Fairley St. - 2515 W Fairley Ave			3.0
Custer & Tenth St. - 904 N Custer			1.6
Custer & Fifteenth St. - 1450 N Custer			1.6
Custer & Eighteenth St. - 1716 N Custer			1.6
Custer & Forrest St. - 2311 N Custer			1.6
North-side Fun Park - 2405 N Lafayette			1.0
O'Neill Cell - 1414 Hope St			3.3
Piper & Eighteenth St. - 1725 N Piper			3.0
White & Fairley St. - 2010 W Fairley			1.6
GOLF COURSE			
Jackrabbit Run Golf Course - 2800 N Shady Bend			175.0
SWIMMING FACILITIES			
Island Oasis Water Park - 321 Former Rd			13.0
Lincoln Pool - 716 N Lambert			
MISCELLANEOUS FACILITIES			
G.I. Racquet Center-2204 Bellwood Dr			
Heartland Public Shooting Park - 6788 W Husker Hwy			15.0
Soccer Complex Former Park-1503 S Locust			12.0
Softball Complex Former Park-1503 S Locust			16.0
Webb Rd Athletic Field - 1212 S Webb Rd			22.0
Skate Park - 300 S Pine - Pier Park			
Total			707.9

REFERENCE

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

January 17, 2006

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Study Session of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on January 17, 2006. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on January 11, 2006.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmember's Meyer, Pielstick, Gilbert, Nickerson, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase. Councilmember Whitesides was absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Gary Greer, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Finance Director David Springer, City Attorney Doug Walker, and Public Works Director Steve Riehle.

INVOCATION was given by Councilmember Mitch Nickerson followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

MAYOR COMMUNICATION: Mayor Vavricek commented on the following:

- "With One Voice" Concert held in Grand Island over the week-end
- Public Works had made an installation of flashing warning lights near Walnut, Howard, and Stolley Park schools
- January 28, 2006 City Council Retreat
- January 31, 2006 Study Session for Waste Water Treatment Plant issues.

Presentation of Alternative Fuel Report. Assistant to the City Administrator Paul Briseno reported on an Alternative Fuel Report as requested by the Mayor. A PowerPoint presentation was given explaining Alternative fuels E10, E85, and Biodiesel. Environmental impact was presented along with the benefits of using ethanol fuels. Fuel flex vehicles were discussed.

Mr. Briseno stated that according to Public Works and Fleet Services all diesel will be switched to a blend of B4 by this spring and will continue to purchase this blend till the winter months.

It was recommended that the City of Grand Island utilize alternative fuels and obtain fuel flex vehicles when possible. The utilization of alternative fuels would provide optimal operation and longevity of the municipal fleet and enhance the future environment of our city.

The following recommendations were made:

Recommendation 1:

Mandate all post-1986 vehicles within the municipal owned fleet utilize only E10.

Recommendation 2:

Require departments to purchase Fuel Flex Vehicles when available. Fuel Flex Vehicles must meet the requirements of the application.

Recommendation 3:

Mandate that all summer blends of on/off road diesel fuel contain a biodiesel splash blend of 4% but not greater than 5%.

Dale Roberts, 593 East 20th Street spoke in support of alternative fuels. Mr. Roberts explained his personal experience with using biodiesel since 1992.

Comments were made by several Councilmember's encouraging the city to use alternative fuels. A resolution will be brought back to Council at the January 24, 2006 meeting.

Request by Connie Van Wie to Discuss Pool Facilities. Connie Van Wie presented information on the lack of competitive pool facilities in the city. Ms. Van Wie stated the cost of a competitive community indoor facility from Grand Haven, MI population 25,000 was \$5 million. The Norfolk competitive swimming pool cost \$1.6 million.

Wellness centers were mentioned which offer swimming, exercise, and areas for sporting events for people of all ages. Ms. Van Wie encouraged the Council to move forward with a competitive swimming pool.

Irene Abernethy spoke in support of a competitive swimming pool. Mentioned were the other facilities in Grand Island which offered sporting events but no competitive swimming.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



RaNae Edwards
City Clerk

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

June 3, 1996

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Study Session of the City of Grand Island was conducted in the Community Meeting Room of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on June 3, 1996. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on May 29, 1996.

A quorum present, Mayor Gnadt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor Gnadt, Councilmembers Hosier, Preisendorf, Mehring, Murray, Johnson, Solt, Sorensen, and Lueth. Councilmembers Kehm and Seifert were absent.

Presentation of Joint City/County Health Department Budget. Ray Rabe, Health Department Director, presented the proposed 1996-1997 Budget which had been approved by the Board of Health. Mr. Rabe noted that special funding had been included to maintain the Weed Control Program for the City and the Paunch Manure Program for the County. Mr. Rabe advised that the budget provided for maintaining existing programs but that it would be prudent for the City and County to review alternative ways to fund and deliver public health services. Councilmember Murray questioned whether Mr. Rabe had recommendations to accomplish that objective. Mr. Rabe suggested that an extensive process would need to be undertaken and should include various segments of the community. Tammie Stelk, Chair of the Hall County Board of Supervisors, spoke in support of forming a committee to look at a long range plan. City Administrator Dale Iman stated that if privatization were considered, staff would have an opportunity to bid on providing the services. Mr. Iman commended Mr. Rabe for taking a hard look at the issues affecting the Health Department. Councilmember Preisendorf spoke in support of privatization. Councilmember Solt questioned why the cost of the paunch manure program was not paid for by the instigator. It was determined that Mayor Gnadt and Chair Stelk would provide a recommendation to the Board of Health for a long range plan for the Health Department.

Presentation on City's Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. Steve Paustian, Parks and Recreation Director, and Jeff Winston, Winston and Associates, presented the completed Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. Mr. Winston reviewed the results of the survey which indicated that additional park acreage would be needed by 2010 to address the needs of the growing population. Mr. Winston pointed out that a high number of residents supported the creation of a pedestrian/bike path system within the community and stated that there was strong support for an additional [REDACTED] pool. Mr. Winston added that park infrastructure needed to be repaired and/or replaced in many parks throughout the City. Councilmember Mehring noted that the Racquet Center realized low usage and questioned its operation. Mr. Winston replied that adjusted programming would help. Mr. Paustian noted that the plan would be presented to the City Council for their consideration at the City Council Meeting of June 10, 1996.

Feb. 24, 1992

Page 5, Regular Session, February 24, 1992

improvements in Koenig Street area on the east side of the City. Two bids have been received ranging from \$234,628.15 to \$282,000.00. Motion by Seifert, second by Kuzma, carried unanimously to award the bid to Diamond Engineering Company in the amount of \$234,628.15 for construction of Water Main Project 92-W-1.

#92-041 - Approving Quit Claim Deed for Aquatics Facility Site. In August 1991, the Hall County Livestock Improvement Association offered to donate 14 acres of land at the northwest corner of the Fonner Park grounds to the City as the site for the new aquatics facility. The City will assume title by transference of a Quit Claim Deed. The terms of the agreement provide that the real estate shall be used by the City for the propose of building, maintaining and operating a [REDACTED] pool and water park for the use of the general public. Motion by Wit, second by Seifert, carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #041 authorizing acceptance of the Quit Claim Deed for Aquatics Facility Site.

#92-042 - Authorizing Renewal of Agricultural Leases for land assigned to Utilities Department. Various parcels of city-owned property, under the jurisdiction of the Utilities Department, are leased for agricultural uses. The leases were entered into in February 1991. Motion by Shafer, second by Murray, carried unanimously to renew the agricultural leases with Jack Webb, Charles McDonald, Kenneth Claussen and Larry Knuth for land assigned to the Utilities Department.

Council Member Neal requested that a study be made of the cost of providing utilities out to the Platte Valley Industrial Park.

#92-043 - Adopting Phase II of Personnel Compensation and Classification Plan. The City Council approved Phase I of the plan relating to personnel classification on December 9, 1991 when it approved Classification Concepts, Point Factor Job Evaluations, and Classification Specifications. Phase II is entitled "Final Compensation Report" and contains salary recommendations and addresses implementation. Consultant Donna Starling of the firm Ralph Anderson and Associates was present to explain the available procedures for implementation and recommended that employees be placed in the range step closest to their current salary. Motion was made by Kuzma, second by Wit, to approve paragraphs one and three of Resolution #92-043, which is the adoption of Phase II of the Personnel Compensation and Classification Plan; to delete paragraphs two and four regarding the implementation and after further study to come back to council with an implementation plan. Upon roll call vote, Hutchinson, Wit, Murray, Johnson, Neal, Feaster, and Kuzma voted aye. Seifert, Sorensen and Shafer voted nay.

#92-044 - Authorizing execution of Consulting Agreement with Excel Communications Group, Inc. for Municipal Cable Television System Feasibility Study. The City Council took action at the February 10, 1992 City Council meeting to proceed with a feasibility study on a Municipal Cable Television System. They selected the firm of Excel Communications, Inc. of San Antonio, Texas to perform the study. Motion by Seifert, second by Neal, was made to authorize execution of Consulting Agreement with Excel Communications Group, Inc. in the amount of

Oct. 28, 1991

Page 3, Regular Meeting, October 28, 1991

Authorizing development of agreement between City of Grand Island and Hall County for photogrammetric mapping program. This project, which would provide for photo mapping of the entire city and Hall County, is intended to be conducted in conjunction with Hall County. In order to proceed, it is necessary to enter into a cooperative agreement with them. It is anticipated that the County Public Works Department will fund \$66,000 or 29% of the total project cost of \$226,000. Actual work would commence in early Spring 1991, for completion by end of 1993. Motion by Johnson, second by Hutchinson, carried unanimously to approve this resolution. Motion carried.

Approving [REDACTED] Pool Cost Construction Budget and Facility Master Plan. The proposed facilities master plan and construction budget for the new Swimming Pool facility has been completed by Heery Engineering of Atlanta, Georgia. Motion was made by Shafer, second by Kuzma, for approval. Upon roll call vote, Hutchinson, Wit, Murray, Neal, Seifert, Shafer, and Kuzma voted aye. Johnson, Feaster and Sorensen voted nay. Motion carried. By passage of this resolution, the engineer will be enabled to proceed with plans and specifications.

Approving establishment of Electric Sinking fund. The Electric Utility Fund has a projected fund balance of \$24,129,053. In September 1991, the State Auditor's Office advised the City that this balance exceeded the maximum amount allowed by State Statutes which limit fund balances to 50% of the operating budgets. It is possible to establish reserve funds for specific purposes, such as a sinking fund intended for the payment of debt service. It is therefore possible to address the technicalities associated with the Electric Fund reserve by establishing and transferring funds to a "Debt Service Sinking Fund." Motion was made by Wit, second by Murray, for approval of this resolution. Upon roll call vote, Hutchinson, Wit, Murray, Johnson, Neal, Feaster, Seifert, Shafer and Kuzma voted aye. Sorensen voted nay. Motion carried.

Approving Agricultural Deferment for property in Water Main District 402. In order to provide water service to the Gosda Subdivision, Water Main District #402 was created in September 1991. A portion of the property south of Lillie Drive was unsubdivided and undeveloped and was being used for agricultural purposes. Mr. Stanley Peterson, owner of this property, has requested an agricultural deferment on the assessments. Motion by Shafer, second by Seifert, carried unanimously to approve the deferment.

ORDINANCES:

Councilmember Sorensen moved that the statutory rules requiring ordinances to be read by title on three different days be suspended and that the ordinances numbered:

- | | |
|-------|---|
| #7764 | To change Land Use Designation of property on the west side of U. S. Highway 281, immediately north of Wal-Mart. |
| #7765 | Authorizing the issuance of Various Purpose Bonds for purpose of paying costs of improving streets and intersections. |

Sept. 16, 1991

Page 4, Regular Meeting, September 16, 1991

be considered for passage on the same day upon reading by number only, and then placed on final passage, and that the City Clerk be permitted to call out the number of the Ordinances on their first reading, and then upon their final passage, and call for a roll call vote on each reading and final passage. Councilmember Seifert seconded the motion.

After inviting questions or comments, and there being none, the Mayor called for a roll call vote on the motion. Murray, Johnson, Feaster, Seifert, Sorensen, Shafer and Kuzma voted aye. Hutchinson and Wit voted nay. Motion failed.

Councilmember Hutchinson moved that ordinances numbered:

#7712	New Cable Television Ordinance
#7755	To create Water Main District 401
#7756	To create Water Main District 402
#7757	To amend Section 31-20 of City Code pertaining to Signs in Residential Districts

be approved on their first reading. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Wit. Upon roll call vote, with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Councilmember Feaster relayed that he would like to consider adding \$310,000 to the 1993-94 budget so that an adequate pool and water park could be built. He asked the council to consider it.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.

Motion by Hutchinson, second by Seifert, carried unanimously to pay the claims of September 16, 1991 in the amount of \$1,520,566.67.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Muritta F. Czaplewski

Muritta F. Czaplewski
City Clerk

Aug. 28, 1991

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
AUGUST 28, 1991

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special study session of the City Council of the City of Grand Island was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall on August 28, 1991. Notice of this meeting was given in the Grand Island Daily Independent on August 24, 1991.

A quorum present, Mayor Dobesh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor Dobesh, Councilmembers Hutchinson, Wit, Murray, Johnson, Neal, Feaster, Seifert, Sorensen, Shafer and Kuzma. The following officials were present: City Administrator Zachary Zoul and City Clerk Muritta Czaplewski.

Discussion with Engineer on [REDACTED] Pool Facility. Jim Wilgus informed that he and Dave Hoffman of Heery Engineering, and Kevin Prior of Olsson and Associates met with Parks & Recreation Director Steve Paustian and City Administrator Zachary Zoul to obtain input for the design of the water park and swimming pool. He explained it was the intent to have something for every age group. He had made a sketch of the proposed facility and pointed out the features which include a six-lane, 50-foot meter pool with zero depth, two water slides, associated play structures and crossing activities. Specifications would be written for a wave making apparatus for 25 of the 50 meters. There would be sand volley ball.

He indicated in the non-water park future expansion, an ice skating rink, amphitheatre and softball facilities could be incorporated.

City Administrator Zachary Zoul explained that with the donation of the land from Fonner Park, there is a cost savings of \$200,000 and since the contingency fund has been identified as another fund sufficient to finance a competitive pool, the engineers and the staff felt it would be more cost efficient to bid it as part of the base bid. There would be a savings in the engineering costs and more competitive bids could be obtained. Mr. Zoul reiterated that the purpose of the meeting this evening was to get the feedback of the council. If they did not feel comfortable with this approach, changes could be made.

Gene McCormick, 707 South Pleasantview Drive, and Earl Wilson, 2323 Bellwood Drive, of the audience had questions. Paul Hamilton, 305 Cherokee Ave., expressed his concerns about spending 1.7 million for a water park. Glendale Reiss, Centennial Towers, felt this issue should have been put on the ballot.

The engineers will be meeting in the morning and then will go back and drawup a concept plan incorporating the input that was received from the councilmembers. Mayor Dobesh stated that perhaps since the engineers were able to spend only ten hours on this date on this project, perhaps they needed more time. Mr. Wilgus indicated he did not feel they needed more time.

Aug. 19, 1991

Page 4, Regular Session, August 19, 1991

Approving Modification of Intergovernmental Agreement for Wood River Flood Control Project Feasibility Study. The City was notified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the scope of the Feasibility Study must be broadened. This will result in a cost increase to the City for their share in the amount of \$21,490. The City was notified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the scope of the Feasibility Study must be broadened. This will result in a cost increase to the City for their share in the amount of \$21,490. Motion was made by Feaster, second by Neal, to approve the modified agreement. Upon roll call vote, Hutchinson, Wit, Murray, Johnson, Neal, Feaster, Seifert, Sorensen, Shafer and Kuzma voted aye. None voted nay. Motion carried.

Approving Engineering Contract for New [REDACTED] Pool Facility. Mayor Dobesh announced that Fonner Park would donate 14.1 acres of land for the City's new swimming facility. Motion by Seifert, second by Hutchinson, carried unanimously to approve receipt of this offer and to authorize the execution of the engineering contract with Heery International, Inc. for engineering work for the City's proposed aquatic facilities, which would include a competitive pool, at the proposed Fonner Park site.

ORDINANCES:

Councilman Sorensen moved that the statutory rules requiring ordinances to be read by title on three different days be suspended and that the ordinances numbered:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| <u>#7745</u> | To create Sidewalk District #1991-1 |
| <u>#7746</u> | To assess and levy special tax to pay the cost of construction of Sanitary Sewer District #469. |
| <u>#7747</u> | To change Land Use Designation of certain Lots in Pleasant View Ninth Subdivision |
| <u>#7748</u> | To authorize conveyance of easterly one-half of Lot 6, Block 129, Union Pacific Railway Co's Second Addition. |
| <u>#7749</u> | To amend Salary Ordinance to provide for tool allowance. |
| <u>#7750</u> | To amend City Code regarding term of Bingo permits |

be considered for passage on the same day upon reading by number only, and then placed on final passage, and that the City Clerk be permitted to call out the number of the Ordinances on their first reading, and then upon their final passage, and call for a roll call vote on each reading and final passage. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion.

Mayor: "Any discussion? Anyone in the audience interested in the Ordinances? There being none, he called for a roll call vote on the motion. Hutchinson, Wit, Murray, Johnson, Neal, Feaster, Seifert, Shafer and Kuzma voted aye. Sorensen voted nay. Motion carried.

AUG. 12 1991

NOTICE OF
GRAND ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION

255

Aug. 12, 1991

MINUTES
Study Session
Grand Island City Council
August 12, 1991, 7:00 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that the Grand Island City Council Study Session of the City of Grand Island will be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 12, 1991 in the Council Chambers, Second Floor, City Hall, Grand and Pine. The meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at City Hall in the office of the City Clerk. Said agenda may be modified at the meeting with concurrence of the City Council.
Aurilia F. Czaplewski
City Clerk

Councilmembers Present: Hutchinson, Wit, Murray, Johnson, Neal, Feaster, Seifert, Sorensen, and Kuzma.

Public Notice of this Study Session was given in the Grand Island Daily Independent on August 9, 1991. The agenda for the meeting was available for public inspection in the City Clerk's office prior to the meeting.

Mayor Dobesh presided at the meeting.

Request of Dan Cimino, 3012 Brentwood Ct., for an extension of sidewalk installation. Mr. Cimino was present and stated he requested a 90 day extension because of the short notice. He purchased the property in February and was not informed by the previous owner that sidewalk was to be put in. This item was referred to the next regular city council meeting on August 19, 1991.

Review of Asphalt Paving Specifications. One bid was received from Knight Brothers, Inc. on the Asphalt Maintenance Project 91-AC-1 and was rejected at the council meeting on July 22, 1991. Bill Knight and his attorney, John Brownell, were present and requested that Mr. Knight be permitted to proceed with the work. Wayne Bennett, Director of Public Works, reviewed the specifications and informed that the Asphalt Maintenance Project 91-AC-1 will be readvertised. This item was referred to the next regular council meeting.

Request of Ponderosa Estates Subdivision for City Council support of Stuhr Museum annexation. R.W. Giesenhagen, representative of this Subdivision, has asked for a letter of support from the City Council for annexation of Stuhr Museum which would make Ponderosa contiguous. It was agreeable with all councilmembers to do so. This letter will be presented to the Board of Directors of Stuhr Museum.

Swimming Sites, Engineering and Timetable. At 8:00 p.m., motion was made by Seifert, second by Neal, to go into Executive Session to discuss sites and price of land. Upon roll call vote, Hutchinson, Wit, Murray, Johnson, Neal, Seifert, and Kuzma voted "Yes." Feaster and Sorensen voted "No." Motion carried. At 8:37 p.m., motion by Kuzma, second by Hutchinson, carried unanimously to reconvene to regular session. Zachary Zoul, City Administrator, announced that from this time forward, the swimming pool issue will be dealt with by the full council. A timetable was provided.

Funding Completion of Wood River Flood Protection Feasibility Study. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers informed the City that the scope of the Feasibility Study must be broadened significantly which will increase the cost of the study. Wayne Bennett recommended approving

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Exhibit A - Page 1

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND

DAVID WEITZEL CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Aug. 27, 1990

TO: Mayor and Council
DATE: August 23, 1990
REFERENCE: Swimming ~~Pool~~ Addition

- (1) Originally it was anticipated that, from the Capital Improvement Plan, \$ 800,000 from Sales Tax, plus 400,000 cigarette tax money (MIRF), leaving a projected \$1,200,000 available to build a swimming pool facility.

Any addition to that cost could be covered in an additional year's Sales Tax or M.I.R.F. asking, to a total of \$300,000 per year.

This would represent "Pay as you go financing" with little or no long-term financing costs (interest), and with completion of the project by the next twenty-four (24) months.

- (2) The alternative now suggested by the adoption of the budget represents a total project cost of \$2,060,000

\$1,200,000 Available to build
860,000 Interest over twenty (20) years
\$2,060,000

This represents the debt financing approach. It represents about a 40% increase in the cost of the project without increasing the pool facility.

- (3) Pros and Cons of the Ballot issue on the debt financing approach:

Pro: (a) No additional Property Taxes will be needed if M.I.R.P. revenues are not reallocated by the State and remain constant.

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Aug. 27, 1990

Memorandum to Mayor and Council
August 23, 1990

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Pros: (b) State allows for bonding using this cigarette tax money.

(c) Previous projects such as the Devaney Sports Center have been built in this manner by the State.

Cons: (a) This approach adds 40% more cost to the project without adding any facilities (+ \$800,000).

(b) This will commit the entire allotment of cigarette tax money for nearly twenty (20) years instead of three or four.

(c) Sufficient information on site selection, cost, design, etc. does not exist at this time. Will it be available in time to address a voting campaign?

(d) Taxpayers already feel they have voted for a pool, and it is already expected to be built.

(e) If an additional \$800,000 is financed by the facility, why not use it for increased pool facilities or other capital priorities?

- (4) Additional Comments: With the passage of the so-called 2% Amendment in November, an additional one million in property tax money will be needed, with next year's budget resulting in a nearly 23% increase in property taxes. This will be necessary just to stay even with this year's budget. If Council decides not to raise taxes services such as the [REDACTED] pool may have to be eliminated.

DW:jkh

(2)

July 23, 1990

Page 2, Special Session, July 23, 1990

Discussion centered on the reserve funds. It was recommended last year to replenish these funds by a 5% reserve each year for two years. Motion by Sydow seconded by Sorensen to across the board reduce the replenishing of the funds from the remaining 5% down to 3%. Motion by Goa and seconded by Greer to amend Sydow's motion to read that whatever is left should go to property tax relief only. Amendment carried with Sydow, Schroeder, Goa, Johnson, Dobesh, Greer, Feaster, Hutchinson and Sorensen voting "Yes", Kuzma voting "No". The main motion carried with Sydow, Schroeder, Goa, Johnson, Dobesh, Greer, Feaster, Hutchinson and Sorensen voting "Yes", Kuzma voting "No".

Motion by Feaster and seconded by Sorensen to delete the 3 new positions from the Budget. Motion by Sydow to amend the motion to delete reference to the personnel director position. Motion seconded by Hutchinson. Amendment carried with Sydow, Schroeder, Goa, Johnson, Dobesh, Greer, Hutchinson and Kuzma voting "Yes", Feaster and Sorensen voting "No". Original motion would now be to delete the two positions carried with Sydow, Goa, Dobesh, Greer, Feaster, Hutchinson, Sorensen and Kuzma voting "Yes", Schroeder and Johnson voting "No".

Motion by Sorensen and seconded by Johnson to delay the Procurement Code for 1 year until the new administration decides what they want and whether they want to combine two positions or give it to someone else, carried with Sydow, Goa, Johnson, Dobesh, Feaster, Hutchinson, Sorensen and Kuzma voting "Yes", Schroeder and Greer voting "No".

After some discussion a motion was made by Sorensen to place the [REDACTED] Pool on the November ballot and take the money budgeted for the swimming pool this year and reduce property tax and use MRF money for the engineering. Motion seconded by Hutchinson and carried with Sydow, Schroeder, Goa, Dobesh, Greer, Feaster, Hutchinson, Sorensen and Kuzma voting "Yes", Johnson abstained.

Motion by Goa and seconded by Hutchinson that the County pick up the \$10,000 for the Bookmobile in fund 145 carried unanimously.

City Attorney Sinor clarified for the council what would be involved in adopting the budget in terms of an appropriation ordinance. Sinor recommended the council agree to suspend the rules on the reading of the ordinances. After the budget review has been completed, the Finance Director will incorporate all of the motions into an appropriation ordinance and a tax asking ordinance and come back to the council for formal adoption along with the Salary Ordinance.

Motion by Goa seconded by Kuzma to meet tomorrow night at 7:00 P.M. to consider the Ordinances. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion centered on additional manpower for the Police Department. Motion by Johnson seconded by Dobesh to increase funding for the Police Department to allow for 5 additional officer. Motion by Hutchinson to amend Johnson's motion, to allow for 3 additional officers for a total of 4, was seconded by Sorensen. Johnson agreed to accept a friendly amendment as did Dobesh. Motion carried with Schroeder, Goa, Johnson, Dobesh, Greer, Feaster, and Hutchinson voting "Yes", Sydow, Sorensen and Kuzma voting "No".

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Jerenne J. Garzoutte
Jerenne J. Garzoutte
Deputy City Clerk

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Mr. Rasmussen showed a drawing of the PROPOSED STREET RIGHT OF WAY on BROADWELL AVENUE - U.P. Railroad to 4th Street.

Mr. Carpenter called attention to the study which is needed for the Storm Sewer System on Broadwell, and referred to Mr. Rasmussen's Memo of December 12th.

Motion by Reeser, second by Burke, to PROCEED with the KNOX PROPOSAL for a STORM SEWER STUDY from the U. P. Tracks to Capital Avenue. Roll Call Vote. Voting "Aye" - All Councilors present. Voting "No" - None. (Exhibit "K")
Page 11.

Motion by Burke, second by Albee, to have PLANS DRAWN for a DESIGN of the BROADWELL AVENUE CONSTRUCTION including Gap Paving on West North Front Street, and to EXCLUDE the SOPHISTICATED INTERSECTION LIGHTING SYSTEM at 4th Street. Roll Call Vote. Voting "Aye" - All Councilors present. Voting "No" - None.

Mr. Carpenter reviewed his COMMUNICATION 73-A-16 on CHARGES to be made for REPRODUCTION of AERIAL PHOTOS and CONTOUR MAPS. (Exhibit "L") Page 10-9.

Motion by Burke, second by Butts, that a charge of \$56.50 for the first two prints be made, with additional copies to be charged for on TIME and MATERIAL BASIS. If reproducible are requested, the charge will be \$160 for a quarter section. Roll Call Vote. Voting "Aye" - All Councilors present. Voting "No" - None.

Mr. Carpenter reviewed his COMMUNICATION 73-A-17 - TRAINING POLICY FOR CITY EMPLOYEES. (Exhibit "M") Page 8.

Mr. Burke asked what the additional cost would be, and Mr. Carpenter pointed out that we would not have figures at this time because new courses are coming up all the time, and some should qualify for Federal Funding.

Mr. Reeser led the discussion on the Section of LEAVE with or without pay.

Mr. Carpenter gave an example of a Police Training Course where an officer might be absent from two to four years without pay, but the Program would guarantee him work when he returned.

Mr. Ross made some comments relative to the Refund Section of the Contract.

Motion by Lemke, second by Reeser, that the CITY ADOPT THE TRAINING PROGRAM as outlined, with the provision that Adjustments could be made later if desired. Roll Call Vote. Voting "Aye" - All Councilors present. Voting "No" - None.

J. F. Minor explained the PROPOSAL for REFUNDING the 1970 STORM SEWER BOND ISSUE and the possibility of Refunding the 1970 SANITARY SEWER BOND ISSUE.

Motion by Burke, second by Butts, that the Clerk-Finance Director be AUTHORIZED to proceed with arrangements for Refunding Both the 1970 Storm Sewer Bonds, and the 1970 Sanitary Sewer Bonds. Roll Call Vote. Voting "Aye" - All Councilors present. Voting "No" - None. (Exhibit "N") Page 7-6.

Mr. Burns led the discussion on possible ORDINANCE AMENDMENT for LIQUOR LICENSES. He referred to his Memos of December 12th, 13th, and 20th.

Mr. Albee referred to Mr. Snaha's December 7th recommendations, stating that he would like to incorporate those recommendations along with requirements for a credit report, and that the Applicant be present at the City Council Hearing.

Mr. Albee also recommended that the Memo of December 13th relative to Section 4-2.3, be considered in the amendment, as well as certain sections in the Omaha and Lincoln Ordinances.

Council Members discussed the grandfather clause on the Willman and Schmidt Beer Licenses, and Mr. Reeser discussed the total concept of the total problem of alcohol as it faces the American people today. It was his feeling that it is the number one problem, and other Council Members agreed.

Mr. Burke recommended that the full amount of OCCUPATION TAXES allowable should be charged by the City of Grand Island.

Mr. Albee reported on a Committee Meeting with the School Board on PLANS for a POOL at SENIOR HIGH. The School District would anticipate that the City can acquire some type of Federal Funds, which would permit the City to participate in the building of an INDOOR - OUTDOOR POOL at the High School.

Mr. Ross said that Martin Sterkel had indicated that B.O.R. Funds are not available for such construction.

Mr. Carpenter was asked to send Mr. Sterkel a letter asking for the exact status on the availability of Funds for Indoor-Outdoor Pools.

The Council discussed the possibility of receiving Funds for the GOLF COURSE in 1974. Motion by Burke, second by Albee, that the Priority List of Projects as submitted by Mr. Hancock, plus the Swimming Pool as a 5th priority be FILED with the State Parks and Games Commission. Roll Call Vote. Voting "Aye" - All Councilors present. Voting "No" - None.

Apr. 8, 1968

-2-

3. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ITEM - PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS ON RYDER PARK STADIUM.

Mr. Helm stated this item was referred to the Commission by the City of Grand Island. He stated he had attended the CDAC Sports and Recreation Committee meetings where discussions were held as to how the improvements might be made. The CDAC had recommended it might be handled with a bond issue and several other recreational features attached to the bond issue.

Mr. Helm stated the cost of the stadium construction could be included in a yearly operating budget under the Capital Improvements item, or this item could be placed on a bond election so the public could decide whether or not they wanted the recreational improvements.

The other items that might be included in such a bond issue would be new tennis courts, with some lighted, horseshoe areas and an indoor-outdoor pool.

Mr. Wagoner stated he felt this decision should be left to the elected representatives of the City of Grand Island.

Mr. Thomezin moved the Commission recommend the City Council include this project in a future bond election in order to have citizen participation in the decision of wanted park improvements. Mrs. Breiner seconded the motion. The motion carried with seven of the members voting yes; Mr. Wagoner abstaining.

Mrs. Breiner moved the Commission endorse the recommendations of the CDAC Parks and Recreation Committee that a total recreation "package" be submitted for bond election at the same time including repair of existing tennis courts (ten), construct and light six new tennis courts to also be used for skating, construction of indoor-outdoor swimming pool, light four softball diamonds, develop six new horseshoe courts. Mr. Thomezin seconded the motion. The motion passed with seven members voting yes; Mr. Wagoner abstaining.

Mr. Wagoner stated he had no objections to any one or all of these improvements but did not think it was the jurisdiction of this body as to how these items were to be financed.

4. DISCUSSION ITEM - AMENDMENT TO GRAND ISLAND GAS CODE.

Mr. Helm stated this item had been reviewed by the Building Inspector with the help of the Public Works Director. The present code in use in Grand Island is dated 1959 and this would update the code to the 1964 code. The purpose of amendment was to clarify jurisdictional authority by placement of authority under the Plumbing Code; clarify relationships between plumbers, gas fitters, appliance installers and contractors; adopt an updated gas code which includes additional safety features.

Mr. Wagoner moved the Commission recommend acceptance of this code. Mr. Cline seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. PRELIMINARY AND FINAL SUBDIVISION PLATS - ISLAND ACRES #2, 3 & 4 (REPLATS OF EXISTING LOTS LOCATED IN THE AREA NORTH OF W. 13th STREET AND EAST OF WEBB ROAD).

Mr. Helm stated the lots were originally approximately one acre in size. Now that the area has access to city water and sewer facilities the lots could be broken into smaller sizes. The #2 area would now have 37 single lots with the smallest lot being 6545 sq. ft. Two street names and increasing the right-of-way to 60' was required on this plat. Island Acres #3 and #4 each would be separated into four lots each. All the lots on these plats would face on existing streets.

Mr. Wagoner moved the Commission approve the preliminary and final plats, authorize the chairman to sign the final plats and recommend the City Council approve the preliminary and final plats subject to:

- (1) Island Acres #2 shall provide full 60' R.O.W. and street names (?).
- (2) Island Acres #3 and #4 shall provide utility easements between lots 1-2 and 3-4 as required by utilities.
- (3) Provision of utility, drainage and roadway features to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works and Utilities Commissioner.

Mr. Larson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

RaNae Edwards**To:** Gary Greer**Subject:** RE: requesting a look into swim team / pool pass requirement

-----Original Message-----

From: DAVID METTENBRINK [mailto:rmetten@msn.com]**Sent:** Monday, January 08, 2007 9:01 PM**To:** Electeds; Todd McCoy; Steve Paustian**Cc:** Brian Jensen; Svoboda**Subject:** requesting a look into swim team / pool pass requirement

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I was happy to read that you were planning an upcoming Parks and Rec. retreat soon to discuss policy on use of city property by teams within the city. I would like to ask that at this meeting you include discussion on the requirement that the Grand Island YMCA/Quicksilver swim team members must hold season passes in order to practice at Island Oasis from 5:30 am - 7:00 am weekday mornings.

I know that you have all heard more than you would like from the few staunch supporters of club swimming; complaints that we need another pool, that we need an outdoor 50m pool, that swimming costs too much. I know that I am fighting a losing battle with those issues, however, I was very interested to see that the city does not require the baseball, softball and soccer teams/clubs around Grand Island to pay any comparable fees (to that of a aquatics season pass).

I spoke with Todd McCoy last Spring about this subject and was told that there wasn't anything in the fee schedule to allow him to reduce our costs to the city and that the swimmers were causing there to be more work on the Island Oasis filtering system. Since that time my investigations have shown me that even though GI soccer fields at Fonner park and both Legion and other organized ball leagues around the city use the fields that are kept up (for that purpose only) by the city, I could not find in the city budget any indication of fees required by the end users or their league organizations. Some of these fields have dedicated summer personnel that appear to work only at that one location. According to a Dec. 8 article in the Independent "There's no charge to use the city property, Paustian said. But each league is responsible for providing game officials, equipment, uniforms and insurance."

I explained to Mr. McCoy last Spring that the members of the Quicksilver Swim team are all members of USA Swimming and thus covered by that organization's insurance. Our coach has to pass rigorous training to be a coach and half of the team using Island Oasis are certified lifeguards. So, why are we required to pay for the water park pass? The filters are running whether swimmers are there or not. They are swimming only, not eating or drinking so as to require extra cleaning. Your grounds-keepers arrive around the same time our swimmers do. We have our own insurance and officials. Our coach does water checks in the morning to make sure water quality is adequate. Why then, are we the only group asked to pay an extra fee to "use" city recreational property?

Another quote from Mr. Paustian's Dec. 8 interview was "If the city wants to support

1/9/2007

youth groups, we have to provide the facilities." I understand that this is slightly out of context. Mr. Paustian was referring to needing lights and more softball fields. But we aren't asking for any more expense from the city. just a decrease in expense to our swim families. As you all know, it is possible to make it to the Olympics by starting out as a 6 year-old swimming at the Y. Dropping the cost of a water park pass from a swimmers expenses might mean the difference in what that swimmer is able to accomplish - allowing more practice time, equipment or money for meet expenses.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to reading about your retreat.

Robin Mettenbrink
2416 Riverside Dr.
Grand Island, NE 68801

1/9/2007



Islander Coaches

A Commitment to Excellence

Kevin Bartlett
Golf

Dale Burch
Cross Country

Nancy/Scott Cowgill
Tennis

Chuck DeWitt
Girls Soccer

Brett Erickson
Debate

Mark Fritch
Football

Kurt Frohling
Wrestling

Montie Fyfe
Boys Track

Kelli Jeffries
Girls Basketball

Barb Johnson
Softball

Rick Kissack
Baseball

Jim Kordik
Instrumental Music

Dave Oman
Boys Basketball

Joni Ramsey
Vocal Music

Bill Root
Volleyball

Melissa Sears
Speech

Mark Staroscik
Boys Soccer

Jeff Stern
Girls Track

Greg Ulmer
Play Production

Joy Utecht
Journalism

Melinda Wathen
Swimming

Renee Albers
Administrative Assistant

Greg Uhrmacher
Events Coordinator

Joe Kutlas
Activities Director

Pool Project Vision

We believe that there are some distinct advantages to locating a swimming facility at Grand Island Senior High.

- Through the PE department, each student at Senior High could be taught how to swim.
- In a cooperative effort, the other Grand Island high schools could also access the facility during the day.
- GISH students would have the opportunity to get certified as lifeguards, providing them with employment opportunities.
- A pool facility would give us the opportunity to bring the community into Senior High...
 - We already have senior citizen walkers use our hallways early in the morning; those same folks, and others, could access the pool for workouts and therapy.
 - With the exception of after school during swim season, the pool facility could be accessed by the public after school and on weekends during the school year, and all day during the summer months.
 - We would schedule time for those needing therapy to access the warm water pool during the school year (even during the school day).
- A warm water pool would tie in very well with the coming medical academy, which will be offered at GISH next year. Students in the medical academy, in partnership with St. Francis and/or area physical therapists, would work with patients needing water therapy.
- School groups, and other groups, could use the pool facility to sponsor group swims, fun nights, or other activities of that ilk.
- A pool facility on the Senior High grounds would require no additional site acquisition. And parking facilities are already available.
- The pool would certainly be used for swim practice for the co-op swim team (GISH, NW, and GICC).
- The YMCA could use a swim facility on the west side of town to provide a practice times for its own competitive swim teams.
- Injured GISH athletes could use the pools, under the direction of our trainers and coaches, to rehab.
- Under the direction of their teachers and para-educators, special education students at Senior High could use the pool facility as part of their class work.

Grand Island Senior High
2124 N. Lafayette
Grand Island NE 68803
Phone: 308.385.5950
Fax: 308.385.5721

7. Why is a warm-water pool being considered?

The YMCA has had long-standing complaints about the pool temperature – too cool for therapeutic users and too warm for lap swimmers. It's difficult to satisfy all pool users in Grand Island with one pool/one temperature.

Who would use a warm-water pool?

- People with arthritis and other medical conditions.
- Children in beginning swimming classes
- Athletes needing warmer water
- Aquatic participants while the main pool is being used for other activities

8. How did a community committee form to explore a second pool in Grand Island?

A committee was formed in 1999 with representatives from the YMCA, city of Grand Island, Grand Island Public Schools and St. Francis Medical Center after the YMCA's Aquatic Committee received complaints on an ongoing basis about the pool temperature.

The committee explored the possibility of constructing a second pool at Grand Island Senior High that would be constructed with money from the city from a half-cent sales tax, managed and maintained by the YMCA and used by numerous schools. The committee made a presentation at a Jan. 17, 2000, Grand Island City Council meeting but disbanded after the city's half-cent sales tax was not approved in May 2000.

A similar committee began meeting again in June 2002 to explore getting a second pool in Grand Island.

9. What did the study by Neuman Pools of Beaver Dam, Wisc., tell about our pool in August 2002?

- The existing turnover rate of the pool appears to be between 7-8 hours and should be in the 4-hour range.
- The filtration, piping and chemical system need to be updated, which would involve new piping at the pool, new and larger filters, new pumps, chemical feed equipment and chemical control equipment.
- The HVAC system should also be evaluated to see that proper air changes in the room are occurring.
- The cyanuric acid levels in the pool seem to be high for an indoor pool, which can tend to cloud the water.
- "The last thing you would want to happen is for complaints to begin or increase on any health and safety concerns of the aquatics area, which could cause long-term effects on your membership to begin to decline."**

10. What feedback have we received from Grand Island's medical community about a warm-water pool?

Dr. David Swift, Grand Island rheumatologist: "I wish to have it be known that I wholeheartedly support such an undertaking. The benefits to my patients alone would be tremendous. ...Temperatures below 84 degrees often make muscles and joints feel stiffer and more achy. A true warm water therapy pool would be much more beneficial, particularly if the temperature could be kept between 88 and 92 degrees, as recommended by the Arthritis Foundation for aquatic exercise programs.

Your Wedding Questions Answered

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Published Saturday, July 8, 2000

Pool project stuck in low tide

Last modified at 11:52 p.m. on Friday, July 7, 2000

By **Harold Reutter**
The Independent

The idea of a partnership between the city, school district, YMCA and St. Francis Medical Center for a new swimming pool at Grand Island Senior High is worse than merely dead in the water.

"It's dead without the water," said Steve Paustian, Grand Island parks and recreation director.

Paustian said two events conspired to derail the idea of a joint pool, which actually would have consisted of two pools.

One would have been a competitive pool, while the second would have been a warm-water area to serve people with arthritis and other medical conditions. The warm-water pool also might have served as an area for young people taking their first swimming lessons.

Paustian said the first factor that derailed the proposed joint project was the defeat of the half-cent city sales-tax increase in the May primary.

Using a portion of the sales tax was the only realistic way the city could have financed construction of new pools at Senior High, Paustian said. The sales tax would have been outside the city's state-imposed budget lid.

Without the sales tax, the only other way to build the pools would have been through a bond issue, which could have required a public vote and which would have required the city going into debt, Paustian said.

"A bond project doesn't count against the lid. It would have to go to a public vote."

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Paustian said voter approval would not have given an automatic green light to building a swimming area at Senior High. The project still would have needed specific approval from the Grand Island City Council and Grand Island school board, among others.

The general plan for the proposed pools would have included the city financing their construction, Paustian said. The YMCA and school district then would have been responsible for programming and would have shared in the operational and maintenance costs.

Paustian said the need for a joint operation was reassessed by the new school district administration, creating the second factor stalling the project.

Virgil Harden, school business manager, confirmed that. He said the school district needs to build up its cash reserves, not add new programs at this time.

"We're going to avoid spending right now that takes anything out of the cash reserves," he said.

He said preliminary talks indicated that operation and maintenance costs for the pool or pools might run to \$120,000 each year. Even if the YMCA and school district split those costs evenly, that would be \$60,000 the school district cannot afford right now.

And Harden pointed out that preliminary talks indicated the school district might have been responsible for more than half the annual operating costs.

Once the district's financial picture brightens, Harden said, discussions about a new joint swimming pool might begin again. But he also pointed out that becomes a matter of setting priorities.

"A swimming pool augments a program that is already in place, physical education," Harden said. New programs that address unmet school district needs likely would take precedence.

"There are probably five or six things in front of a pool," he said, citing all-day, everyday kindergarten as just one example of a new program that likely would take precedence.

That does not mean a joint swimming pool at Senior High is without merits, Harden said.

"It would be good for kids. It would be good for the community."

YMCA Aquatics Director Robin Hitchler said the YMCA would have put any fees it collected for programming at the new pool into covering operating expenses.

However, she confirmed that still would have left the school district responsible for more than half the annual operating costs.

She said the new facility would have met a number of needs. The warm-water area would have benefited people with fibromyalgia, arthritis and other joint conditions, and heart patients who take classes through the YMCA.

Warm water would have helped younger children who are taking beginning swimming lessons.

The high school and YMCA competitive swim teams need cooler water, Hitchler said.

"They need 82-degree water to swim in," she said.

Because of those varying needs, the YMCA remains interested over the long term in the idea of a new pool at Senior High.

Paustian said the city remains interested in the idea over the long term as well. An aquatics committee is no longer meeting about the idea of a new pool, he said, but could be reactivated in the future.

"We'll put it on a shelf and wait for the climate to change," he said.

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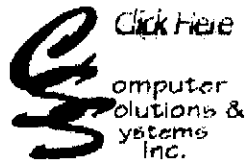
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G.I. must work together on indoor pool

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Building a new indoor "community" swimming pool at Grand Island Senior High School will take a community effort. That's not just a play on words -- it's how it should be.

We support a community pool provided everyone involved bears both a financial and administrative commitment. A general proposal calls for the pool to be built just south of the high school but be available to the community, including other local high schools. The plan calls for the city to provide the construction costs, the bulk of the funding. Some city council members have expressed doubts that nothing short of a bond issue will produce the money, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2.5 million.

We encourage the city to consider a variety of funding options. This year's budget may not be a good fit, but the budget process is a yearly exercise. While we have little enthusiasm for the sales tax to fund the pool, a bond issue is not altogether a bad idea. Giving the entire community a voice through the ballot box may be most appropriate for this type of project.

Moreover, the school district, the YMCA and St. Francis Medical Center, all three of which would be direct beneficiaries of the pool through their programs and curriculum, need to explore what financial resources they too can bring to the table. That might include budgetary funds, grants or reserves.

The initial brick-and-mortar cost of the pool aside, funds to maintain the pool also need to be built into any measure. It would be

foolhardy indeed to build a pool only to do maintenance on the cheap, effectively shortening the facility's life and diminishing its long-term quality.

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All of which calls for a detailed business plan, including a blueprint for scheduling and administration. While various segments of the community may come together to share costs and complete this project, bickering over its use and management could be a disaster. Such plans -- especially how much community time would be available -- must be in place early on and evaluated regularly.

An indoor community pool is a good idea whose time has come. The rest is up to Grand Island to work together for its completion.

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Before You Travel The Globe...

News

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Published Tuesday, January 18, 2000

School pool plan rides a wave

Last modified at 6:57 a.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2000

By [Tracy Overstreet](#)
The Independent

A full house turned out at the Grand Island City Council meeting Monday to listen to and show support for an indoor pool at Grand Island Senior High.

"The lion's share of cost of construction would be born by the city of Grand Island," Parks and Recreation Director Steve Paustian told the council.

That cost, based on similar pool projects in Lincoln and at YMCAs across the country, would be \$2 million to \$2.5 million, Paustian said.

It would pay for two pools -- an eight-lane competitive lap pool and a two-lane warm-water pool.

The council heard from the public but decided its final answer will come after a Feb. 12 council retreat.

Senior High Activities Director Jeff Johnson said the 12,000 to 14,000 square feet of pools could be constructed immediately south of the high school's west gym.

It could serve not only the 1,700 students at Senior High, including the competitive swim team, but could also benefit students at Central Catholic and Grand Island Northwest through cooperative curriculum agreements.

Johnson said people with physical ailments could use the warm-water pool for special water exercises.

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That idea garnered support from citizens, St. Francis Medical Center and the YMCA, which offers a water therapy exercise class.

Richard Pelland, 4164 Norwood Drive, said he has participated in the water therapy exercise class at the YMCA, but the water temperature is often set for competitive swimmers, which is too cold for therapy.

"If it's too cold for you, you start to cramp up, and you don't get the benefits of the exercise," he said.

Dr. David Swift, a rheumatologist who works with arthritis and joint patients, agreed about the need and the benefits of a new warm-water pool.

"It's sometimes not always possible to have the water warm for exercise and cooled down for swim meets," he said of the current setup at the YMCA.

YMCA Director T.J. Niehaus said the Y's indoor pool has been the only public one in Grand Island for the last 35 years.

"The YMCA pool is crowded at this time," he said.

Doug Whitman, Senior High swimming coach, said that despite the crowding, the YMCA has worked to provide practice time for the school's competitive swim team.

The team works out at the Y from 6 to 7 a.m. twice weekly and from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the afternoons.

"The Y has been very gracious to us," he said. "But not everyone is being served to the utmost."

YMCA competitive swimming coach Brian Jensen likened the situation to expecting the boys basketball team to win a state championship while practicing at Dodge Elementary School or the track team to win a championship while working out at a discount store parking lot.

Whitman said the pool could serve as an asset to the community that could be used beyond the school year.

"We're talking about recreation available year round," he said.

Andrew Dalton, a Senior High freshman, said it's dangerous for swim team members to have to drive to the YMCA for practice. He said many of the freshmen don't even have licenses and are forced to rely on others to get to practice.

Grand Island Senior High senior swimmer Kelli Penrose, 905 E. Delaware, said many students never take swimming lessons because the classes are offered on evenings during the school year or in the mornings during the summer when pool water is cold.

She's a lifeguard at the water park and said more swim training is needed in Grand Island.

"In the last few years, we've had a lot of drownings in our area," Penrose said.

"It's a need not just for kids," St. Francis Vice President Maria DeMartinez said, "but there are many people with chronic disease and limited mobility."

"We face an aging population," Jerry Bryant of 1313 W. Hagge said, noting that his wife uses the water therapy program.

Only one negative comment came from the public during the discussion.

"I thought we had a spending lid," said Glendale Reiss, 910 N. Boggs. "Where is this money going to all come from?"

Paustian said the operations and maintenance of the pool would come from Senior High and the YMCA. The school would staff the pool during school hours during the school year. The YMCA would provide staff the remainder of the time.

Councilman Glen Murray asked if the construction cost could be born by the city through a bond issue.

"The ball's in you folks' court as far as how to proceed," Paustian answered. "We're looking to the city for the bricks and mortar."

Councilman Dick Preisendorf liked the idea.

"It's not a dollar-sign issue," he said. "It's a quality-of-life, betterment-of-community" issue.

Councilman Bob Sorensen also liked the idea but was concerned about cost.

"We don't have any money anymore," he said, noting a significant increase in police and fire personnel.

"It would have to go to a bond issue if we want this," Sorensen said.

He said such a bond issue might just pass given the broad band of support Monday.

"I'm impressed it's come as a cooperative effort from the community," Councilman Gale Larson said.

City Administrator Marlan Ferguson also took note of the full council chambers.

"There are three high schools, the Y, the hospital and the city," he said. "It's a cooperative effort you don't see very often."

When asked if the city had the \$2.5 million needed available, Ferguson was quick to answer.

"No we don't," he said.

Even getting the money from a sale tax increase, if passed by voters, may be a challenge with other interests ranging from public safety to economic development eyeing the revenue.

"That's the challenge of an opportunity like this," Ferguson said.

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Published Monday, January 17, 2000

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Senior High pool proposal goes to the Grand Island City Council

Last modified at 7:05 a.m. on Monday, January 17, 2000

By **Tracy Overstreet**
The Independent

The Grand Island City Council will dive into the discussion of a possible new pool at Grand Island Senior High Monday.

"Discussion on joint effort for swimming pool at Senior High School" is the first item on the council's 7 p.m. study session at City Hall, 100 E. First.

City Parks and Recreation Director Steve Paustian said he has attended committee meetings about the pool, but has done little else.

"I've done nothing until I see what happens," he said earlier this month.

The Grand Island School Board gave a cursory review of the proposal last week and wanted more information. That prompted the matter to come before the city council to see if the city is interested in participating.

No research on possible city funding has been conducted. Paustian

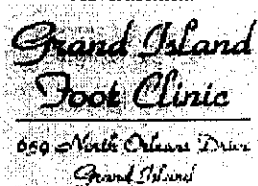
On the agenda

Other issues before the city council Monday are:

- * Discussion on Independence Avenue.
- * Report on a traffic study of W. Third St. from Blaine to Eddy street.
- * Presentation of the year-end financial report.
- * Report on the council goals and priorities.

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said that will be done only if the council shows interest in the project.

Senior High Activities Director Jeff Johnson told the school board that the pool could be built on the south side of Senior High.

It could be a cooperative effort with the school, city and YMCA. Johnson said possibly the hospital could become involved also in programming, operations and maintenance.

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Principal Kent Mann said the pool could be used by students and the community such as the Red Cross for lifeguard certification.

The cost of constructing the pool was not addressed before the school board. Johnson said the capital expenses would be presented at the city council meeting.

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Published Tuesday, January 11, 2000

Pool proposal remains afloat

Last modified at 6:15 a.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2000

By **Harold Reutter**
The Independent

A proposal to build a pool at Grand Island Senior High remains afloat after being reviewed by the Grand Island school board Monday night.

Activities Director Jeff Johnson provided the broad outlines of a pool at Senior High. The facility would include an eight-lane competitive pool as well as a warm-water section.

Johnson said the pool would be built on the south side of Senior High, toward College Street.

Senior High Principal Kent Mann said the pool could be used for Red Cross certification and lifeguard certification for students. Lifeguard certification would provide employment opportunities for students.

The warm-water pool could appeal to the senior or retired population in the community, Mann said, and might lead to greater public use of Senior High.

Mann said he could envision opening the school to early-morning walkers and early-morning swimmers. Once school begins, the pool would be reserved for student use.

However, he said seniors could then go into the high school for a variety of activities. A retired carpenter could be a mentor in an industrial technology program, while a retired businessman or woman could mentor in other areas.



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Senior citizens might be able to use computer labs or take technology classes at Senior High, Mann said. He noted that people already come to the high school to be part of vocal music groups with students.

Board member Clay Schutz said he was intrigued by the idea of making greater public use of school buildings. He noted the millions of dollars that taxpayers spend on the buildings, which often sit unused for many hours and days in a year.

Board member Stephanie Schulte noted the difficulty for students getting lifeguard certification, which is now only offered at limited times.

But there also was some hesitation by board members. Kevin Carpenter wanted to know what the facility would cost.

Johnson did not answer that question, saying capital expense would be addressed when the issue is taken to the Grand Island City Council next week.

He said the role for the school, YMCA and possibly hospital would be programming, operations and maintenance.

Board member Fredda Bartenbach said she would want to see a pool that would be a break-even operation or as close to it as possible.

Johnson said the pool would not break even financially.

Still, board President Lynn Cronk told Johnson she felt she was hearing enough interest that the committee should at least continue to pursue and study the project.

The next stop is the Grand Island City Council, where the proposal to build a pool at Senior High might hit rougher waters. Several council members expressed interest in the project during their own meeting Monday night, but at least one expressed opposition.

Council President Doug Samuelson wanted to know more about the Senior High pool proposal.

He made a motion to table the awarding of an engineering contract to replace city park wading pools and to link the engineering with the Senior High pool study.

The motion died for lack of a second.

"I don't think one has anything to do with the other," Councilman

Fred Whitesides said.

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Councilwoman Jackie Pielstick agreed, saying the city's wading pool replacement project should proceed regardless of other possible pool projects.

"It's not a necessity," she said of the proposed Senior High pool. "We have the water park, the Y and Capital Heights."

Independent reporter Tracy Overstreet contributed to this report.

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Draft

Grand Island Aquatics Group

For City Planning Study Session

January 5, 2000

Aquatics Development Group: Rick Pelland - YMCA, Steve Paustian - City of GI, Jeff Johnson - GISH, Robyn Hitchler - YMCA, TJ Niehaus - YMCA, Carol Bryant - YMCA, Nanette Redman - YMCA, Dr. David Swift - IMA, and Marie de Martinez - SFMC.

This group has been meeting for the past several months and has explored several alternatives to the provision of additional facilities for aquatics programs. Specifically the group has considered the following needs.

- A warm water environment for continuation or maintenance of exercise programs.
- A provision of an Olympic-size pool for use by area High Schools to provide exercise programs and to improve competitive position.
- A recreational aquatic area for individuals who live in the Northwest (Capital Heights) section of Grand Island

After a great deal of discussion this group has arrived at a solution which will provide an Olympic size pool, warm water therapy pool with consistent temperature, and a recreational area for Northwest (Capital Heights) Grand Island families. In order to provide the most economical solution with the highest utilization we have attempted to combine interests of not only the Grand Island schools and City of Grand Island, but also the YMCA, Saint Francis Hospital, and area physicians. We will identify additional groups as appropriate. In order to insure that any new facility constructed is well utilized, location and scheduling will be key factors in its operation.

GISH, Northwest and Central Catholic have each agreed that an Olympic size pool for competitive swimming has been a need for several years. All schools report that the lack thereof has hindered their schools competitive standing. Jeff Johnson has spoken with each of the institutions and proposes that a competitive facility be located at GISH attached to the existing locker and athletic facilities. This location will minimize costs, increase utilization of GISH facilities by the community and also serve the Capital Heights neighborhood. Any other location for such a pool would result in much higher costs due to the need to build locker and bleacher facilities. Our proposal alleviates that need.

There is a very active contingent of swimmers and exercisers through the YMCA who are subjected to temperature changes, which greatly effect their ability to perform exercises. This issue is one of quality of life, affecting individuals with chronic disease and/or difficulty in free movement.

At this time it is estimated that an 8,000 sq. ft facility would be required. This will provide for an Olympic size pool to be built adjacent to the existing GISH locker and athletic facilities. This figure also includes the construction of a warm water pool in the same area. To provide seating and concessions as well as the 8,000 sq. ft. facility the estimate is \$1.5 - \$1.7 million. Locating the pool anywhere other than attached to the existing locker and athletic facilities at GISH would cost up to \$2.5 in total. This is a rare opportunity for the city, school, recreation and health care communities to come together on a collaborative project to benefit the entire community.

We respectfully request that the city of Grand Island approve this project in concept which will encourage this group to move forward with more concrete information and plans.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project.

**YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA
AQUATIC COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, December 13, 1999
12:00 p.m. (noon)**

Present: Rick Pelland, Steve Paustian, Jeff Johnson, Robin Hitchler, T.J. Niehaus, Marie DeMartinez, Carol Bryant

Absent: Nanette Redman, Marla Kutz, Todd McCoy, Dr. David Swift

Jeff Johnson has talked to the school board's facility committee about the pool project. Their initial response was to continue with planning.

Johnson has also talked to athletic directors at Central Catholic & Northwest, who would be interested in the pool.

Steve Paustian has placed the pool project on the city council's 7 p.m. January 17 study session agenda.

Senior High would use the pool 4 of 8 periods a day. Other schools could use it in remaining time. Existing locker rooms at Senior High would be used.

College Street would need to be closed for one possibility of Senior High location.

The preferred plan is to put a new competitive pool and a new warm water pool at Senior High.

Next meeting is at 7 a.m. Wednesday, January 5, at Senior High. Report to school office on the west side for location.

Carol Bryant

Special Meeting
YMCA Aquatics
Wednesday, Sept. 22, 1999, 7 a.m.

Present: Mayor Ken Gnadt; Steve Paustian, Grand Island Parks and Recreation Director; Jeff Johnson, G.I. Senior High athletic director; Charlie Gordon, Northwest High athletic director; Marie de Martinez, St. Francis Medical Center; Dr. David Swift; Tom Bednar, Grand Island Physical Therapy; Marla Kutz, YMCA AAP Program; Robin Hitchler, YMCA Aquatic Director; T.J. Niehaus, Interim YMCA Director; Jim Bishop, YMCA President; Joan Albright, YMCA participant; John Wayne, Wayne Cyclery; Connie Pearson, YMCA participant; Rick Pelland, YMCA participant; Carol Bryant, Nanette Redman. YMCA board members

Bryant explained what events led to the Sept. 22 meeting. Possibilities being considered are a warm water pool and an Olympic-size pool. Redman explained possible benefits of the pools.

Kutz said she's had up to 75 participating in the AAP classes. Swimming could be incorporated into PE classes. Possible design for a warm water pool includes capacity for 30 people, depth ranging from 3 to 5 feet, and a long, narrow rectangular shape.

Gnadt talked about the importance of city, schools, YMCA, hospital, county, and other groups' involvement. Locating a pool at Grand Island Senior High would place a pool in north Grand Island. Gnadt said the city is considering a half-cent city sales tax that could be used to fund police, fire department, and recreation items.

Paustian gave some history of Grand Island pools. The former Pier Park pool was built in the 1930s as a WPA project. It was replaced with the water park, Island Oasis. There's interest in a pool in the Capital Heights area. Approximate cost of a competitive pool would be \$3.5 million. Paustian asked for \$1.5 million for a pool in his latest budget, but that was not allowed.

Hitchler and Niehaus talked about annual maintenance costs for a pool. Chemical cost is about \$15,000 to \$17,000 per year. Total maintenance cost yearly ranges from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

A subcommittee will meet at 7 a.m. Monday, Oct. 11 at the YMCA to begin planning. Those on the subcommittee are: Paustian, de Martinez, Johnson, Hitchler, Niehaus, Swift, Kutz, Redman, and Bryant. Entire group will meet again at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 8 a.m. Sept. 22.

Carol Bryant
YMCA Aquatics Committee Chairwoman

GOLF COURSE AMENITIES

Golf Course Operational Plan

In an effort to insure greater usage, a quality golfing experience and an efficient operation the City Parks & Recreation Department is implementing the following activities:

- Return to the market place to hire a new contractor to serve as the Golf Professional.
- Develop an incentive based contract eliminating guarantees found in the previous contract.
- Through succession, eliminate one maintenance position by October 1 of 2007.
- Conduct a comprehensive user survey to receive input regarding the golf courses overall operation, suggested improvements and operational modifications.

The goal of this makeover is to enhance the golfing publics experience, increase course usage and create a larger revenue stream while continually monitoring cost.

ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR
GIRLS SOFTBALL AND
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July 1996

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Grand Island, Nebraska

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"DOING MORE WITH WHAT WE HAVE"

Grand Island's city fathers managed to assemble, over the years, a park system that has served the City well. From observation and local opinion, one would conclude that the City's overall park acreage is adequate to meet the needs of the current population. It is comparable to, or slightly less than, national standards and the systems of other communities of a similar size.

Due to the fact that many of the parks were developed years ago, and the Parks Department has not been exempt from the budget constraints that have restrained all City services, the park system is showing its age: the process of upgrading the parks has been slow, some parks still have old, outmoded play equipment, there are park remodeling steps that could be taken that would not only improve the appearance of the parks but also greatly increase the efficiency of the maintenance staff, and there are significant needs to replace capital equipment that is long past normal life expectancies and requires increasing levels of maintenance.

Therefore, while many communities today are facing a shortage of parks, Grand Island's challenge is to capitalize on the excellent system that is in place and focus on upgrading the quality, safety and appearance of the existing facilities. Indeed, the overriding theme of Grand Island's challenge is "doing more with what we have."

PARK NEEDS

Notwithstanding the adequacy of today's park supply, if we are to maintain the availability of parks that residents enjoy today — so they don't become increasingly crowded as the City grows — we must add parks to anticipate the needs of future residents, as did the City before many of the current residents arrived.

- By 2010 the City's population is projected to increase by 15% — from 39,000 in 1990 to over 46,000. To maintain the current ratio of parks-to-population (Level of Service) will require approximately 48 acres of additional parks by 2010.

We must not only look at the total acreage of parks, but also where they are located. Are they located so as to be reasonably close to all of the residential areas of the City?

- The City's Community parks are reasonably well-distributed; most residents have a Community park within 1 mile.

-
- Neighborhood parks are less evenly distributed: there are several areas of the City with more than one Neighborhood park within fi mile, and some areas that have none within fi mile.

Finally, recreation in Grand Island is provided not just by the City, but by a variety of organizations that all work in partnership with the City and each other to offer a broad range of recreation opportunities. It is important that the City do all it can to foster and assist these partnership relationships — they are the most cost-effective means possible to provide for the recreation needs of the community.

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS

A public opinion survey was conducted in conjunction with this Recreation Master Plan. The results, incorporated with a 1994 City survey, suggest the following:

- Grand Island households appear to have broad participation in some form of recreation — at all ages, employment conditions, and locations throughout the City.
- A relatively high number of residents participate in walking/jogging/running and biking and strongly support the creation of a pedestrian/bike path system within the community. Indoor walking is also popular, primarily at the two malls.
- There is reasonably strong support for an additional swimming pool, indoor or outdoor.
- There is a relatively high reliance upon "other" facilities (home, private clubs, etc.) for activities such as aerobics, weight lifting, outdoor volleyball, and even swimming.
- Not surprisingly, potential new facilities that would receive the highest use are, in order of ranking: walking/jogging trails, bike trails, swimming pool (indoor or outdoor) and ice skating rink.
- The recognition of the need to pay more attention to upgrading the appearance of City parks.
- Within Neighborhood parks basic comfort amenities, including shade and restrooms, are more important than any specific piece of equipment or facility (other than children's play equipment).
- There is strong support for assigning a high priority to repairing/replacing possibly unsafe play equipment, upgrading playgrounds and creating additional wading pools.

-
- Approximately 5% of the households have a member with a disability that requires a wheelchair or walking aid — which is significant in considering the importance of barrier-free access to all parks.

These results should be confirmed by further testing and evaluation before final conclusions are drawn, but they do indicate general areas of community need, interest and support.

RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

In addition to general *park* needs, specific *facility* needs were identified through focus groups, the Advisory Committee and the Public Opinion Survey. These needs are reflected in the description of each recreation activity and in the recommendations for each specific park. Through a combination of these sources there are indications of current deficiencies with respect to hike/bike trails, baseball/softball fields and a swimming pool. There are other needs with less consensus, but which are nevertheless important to providing as broad a range of opportunities as possible, particularly for youth and teenagers in Grand Island. As with the parks generally, these needs will also increase with future population growth.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Current Parks and Recreation Department projects include:

- the development of Eagle Scout Park (formerly the Super Cell) as a water-oriented passive park with a hike/bike trail around the perimeter; and
- an addition to Island Oasis water park.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAJOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

There are a variety of opportunities within and near Grand Island to meet some of the recreation needs identified. They include:

- a large natural area in the northwest corner of the Husker Ordnance Plant that could be used for passive park and bike/pedestrian trails;
- several utility rights-of-way and abandoned railroad lines that could be used for trails;

-
- the proposed Wood River diversion channel that could be used for a trail connection;
 - future drainage detention cells which, as in the past, can be designed to serve as Mini-parks or even as Neighborhood parks.
 - School grounds are being used by many neighborhoods for recreation. With cooperation between the City and School District, and modest improvements by the City, they can very inexpensively be turned into true Neighborhood or Mini parks for developed areas of the City that lack park amenities.

IMPROVEMENTS TO INDIVIDUAL PARKS

Within the existing parks there are a number of needs and opportunities for cost-effective improvements. They revolve around four objectives:

1. Increase the efficiency of the Parks staff and the use of equipment.
2. Assure that current safety standards are met.
3. Upgrade the appearance and attractiveness of parks.
4. Make the majority of facilities accessible to people with disabilities.

General recommendations, some of which have already been initiated, include:

- Consolidate picnic and playground equipment into common areas with a mulch bed.
- Gradually replace older, potentially hazardous play equipment.
- Improve park signage and the appearance of park entries.
- Unify the materials, colors and furnishings of the parks.
- Provide hard surface walks to heavily used locations.
- Increase the variety of tree species, and cluster trees in common mulch beds.
- Continue to replace older restrooms with newer, more durable and maintainable ones.

-
- Replace daily-fill wading pools with filtrated systems.
 - Upgrade lighting, bleacher seats and fences at selected fields.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS NEEDS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The efficient functioning of the Parks and Recreation system is highly dependent upon the condition of the maintenance equipment it uses. A well-trained and diligent staff can be greatly hampered by equipment that is outmoded and subject to frequent repairs.

- A large percentage of the major maintenance equipment is overdue for replacement, even by very conservative measures of useful equipment life. The staff has done an excellent job of nursing along this aged inventory, but with probable loss of efficiency to repairs and extensive maintenance.
- An annual capital equipment fund should be established that will allow the department to gradually upgrade the current inventory of equipment and begin a process of regular replacement.
- Productivity of park maintenance operations should be closely monitored to identify opportunities for increased efficiency through changes in equipment and procedures.
- It is possible that some infrequent jobs, or jobs that require specialized equipment could be done less expensively through subcontracting. Examples include janitorial service, fertilization, spraying, etc. Since this determination is dependent on local capabilities and technology that changes periodically, staff will need to continue to evaluate such opportunities.

II. INTRODUCTION

THE NEED FOR A MASTER PLAN

Grand Island enjoys a comfortable level of parks development and recreational amenities. Grand Island's numerous neighborhood parks are some of the City's most important assets. Stolley Park, for example, provides a broad range of active and passive recreation amenities for the entire region and is heavily used throughout the year. The private sector also contributes to recreation opportunities in Grand Island. An indoor swimming pool, weight rooms and gym are provided by the YMCA. The race track at Fonner Park is an important spectator facility. There are also rifle, skeet and archery ranges, and several quality golf courses.

Grand Island's parks and recreation facilities have evolved as the result of vision, perseverance, and a commitment by previous generations to the importance of recreation amenities for the community. As a result, Grand Island's residents have a broad range of facilities available. Judging from other "livable cities," using and enjoying Grand Island's recreation facilities will become an increasingly important reason why residents, businesses and visitors choose to come to Grand Island. The City is committed, as evidenced by this Master Plan, to preserving this legacy and assuring that future residents enjoy the same high standards as those of today.



Figure 1: Pier Park

Yet, in recent years the City has found itself under increasingly strained budgets, and the development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities have shared diminished funding. Nevertheless, Grand Island is a regional commercial center, and continues to grow as people and businesses are attracted to its location, ambiance, and quality of life. As the City grows, existing facilities will be subject to greater use. If the *rate* of growth increases, it is unlikely City tax revenues from new development will cover the costs of providing the additional facilities that will be needed. Looking forward to these conditions there are a number of important parks and recreation concerns:

- Are there enough of the right kind of facilities to meet current and future needs?
- Are the right facilities in the right places?
- Can today's recreation Levels-of-Service be afforded in the future?

- If choices must be made, what should the priorities be?
- Can public and private recreation resources be integrated so as to avoid costly duplication and yet still provide adequate access by all to a well-rounded recreation opportunity?

The purpose of this Master Plan is to identify the needs of today's residents, to anticipate those of tomorrow, and to assure they will be met through proper planning.

HOW IS A PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UTILIZED?

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a general long-range planning tool used to guide future decision making with regard to parks and recreation facilities and programs. Although Grand Island has

had a Comprehensive Plan for many years, the recreation portion of that plan is very general in nature. This Recreation Master Plan summarizes the City's recreation needs and public desires, and details a course of action that will enable the City and other private and public entities to work together in a coordinated fashion to realize the goals and objectives. This document will be referred to constantly by the City staff in establishing priorities and annual work plans for park and recreation facilities.

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The community needs in this preliminary Master Plan were identified, to a large degree, through a variety of public inputs including: work sessions with the Parks and Recreation Department staff and Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee; an interview with a focus group of residents; and a random sample survey of residents.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to be an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. As such, it must be regularly coordinated and reconciled with the many other issues the City faces. In

City of Grand Island
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Opinion Survey for the Parks Master Plan

Dear Resident,

As you probably know, the park system of the City of Grand Island has benefited greatly from the farsightedness and commitment of citizens and City Councils dating back to the beginning of the City. The majority of our parks were created over 70 years ago. With some of our parks beginning to show their age, and with the prospect of continued growth of the City, the City Council has directed the Parks and Recreation Department to prepare a master plan to identify future park needs and to guide decisions about improving our parks system over the next 10 to 15 years. We would very much appreciate your opinions and insights as we attempt to identify needs and priorities with regard to the Grand Island park system.

We encourage you to discuss the following questions with the other members of your household, so that your answers reflect the combined opinion of your household.

1. What is the City park nearest to you? _____
(Place park number from map on last page)
2. On the average, how often do you visit/use this park IN THE SUMMER?
(1) ☐ Not at all
(2) ☐ Several times over the summer
(3) ☐ Several times per month
(4) ☐ Once a week or more
3. What prevents you from using this park more?
(Check all that apply)
(1) ☐ Too far to walk
(2) ☐ Doesn't have equipment or facilities I like
(3) ☐ Isn't well maintained
(4) ☐ Prefer to use a different park (which park do you prefer? _____)
(5) ☐ Prefer to use private recreation facilities
(6) ☐ Park is fine, just not interested in using it more
(7) ☐ Other _____
4. Do you think the maintenance (painting, fixing, mowing) of Grand Island's parks:
a. ☐ Should be improved dramatically
b. ☐ Should be somewhat higher than it is
c. ☐ Is about right
5. How important is it to upgrade the appearance of Grand Island's parks, such as with better signage, modern play equipment, add more flower beds, etc.
Very important 5 4 3 2 1 Not important
6. On a scale of 1 to 5, CIRCLE THE NUMBER that best expresses how desirable to your household are the following neighborhood park amenities, recognizing that some may not currently exist in the park nearest to you:

	Not Desirable	1	2	3	4	5	Very Desirable
a. Tennis courts	1	2	3	4	5		
b. Basketball courts	1	2	3	4	5		
c. Children's play equipment	1	2	3	4	5		
d. Picnic tables	1	2	3	4	5		
e. Picnic shelter	1	2	3	4	5		
f. Benches	1	2	3	4	5		
g. Horseshoe pits	1	2	3	4	5		
h. Sand box	1	2	3	4	5		
i. Restroom	1	2	3	4	5		
j. Wading pool	1	2	3	4	5		
k. Shade trees	1	2	3	4	5		
l. Night lighting	1	2	3	4	5		
m. Sand volleyball	1	2	3	4	5		
n. Bike racks	1	2	3	4	5		
o. Drinking fountains	1	2	3	4	5		
- Any other amenities you feel are important?
p. _____ 1 2 3 4 5
q. _____ 1 2 3 4 5

Figure 2: Front page of the 1996 public survey

addition, there are trends and fads in recreation which cause needs to change, and future growth and development may vary from the projections made here. Therefore, revisions to the Master Plan should be considered at least every five years.

Change is in fact built into the policies of the Master Plan, which requires regular reviews and amendments to the plan. The result is a Master Plan that will be truly effective in guiding recreation and open space decision-making in Grand Island for the next two decades.

HOW IS THE RECREATION MASTER PLAN ORGANIZED?

The Recreation Master Plan report follows approximately the same steps that were followed to develop the plan. The first step was an overall assessment of city-wide and regional context — the natural and manmade features that create opportunities and constraints for recreation.

The next step was an inventory of current recreation facilities — public, semi public and private. It included not only a count of the number and kinds of facilities that exist today, but also observations about how intensively they are used and their condition.

A demand analysis followed. How many people are using the facilities, and, with projected growth, how many facilities will be needed in the future? Parks and recreation planners often use a Levels-of-Service analysis (LOS). An LOS is a ratio of the number of facilities to the population (usually per thousand people). For example, there are currently 17 tennis courts in Grand Island's parks, which, relative to the City's population of 39,000, is a Level-of-Service of .43. The value of this LOS ratio is that it can be used to project future needs as the population grows. For example, as Grand Island grows from 39,000 to 50,000 population, in order to preserve the same availability of facilities as exists today (to maintain the same .43 LOS ratio) would require approximately three more tennis courts.

A second kind of needs analysis is based upon location — how far apart should parks be located? By using simple walking distance criteria, (e.g. a 1/2 mile radius) a circle around each park shows the areas of the city that are within walking distance of each park. It also shows the areas that need a park closer, that are more than 1/2 mile from a neighborhood park.

The parks and recreation needs, for the present and future, that are identified through this inventory and LOS analysis are then summarized in three elements: (1) the Recreation Plan map generally showing where future park sites are needed; (2) Goals, Objectives

and Policies to guide future decisions; and (3) recommendations for specific, near-term steps to fill the needs and implement the Goals, Objectives and Policies.

The Master Plan recommendations have been evaluated to assure that to the greatest extent possible they are:

1. Achievable - within realistic funding and legislative capabilities; and
2. Coordinated - internally consistent with other departments and externally consistent with adjacent governments.

This Master Plan focuses on the City of Grand Island. It does not specifically address the population of the County that is near Grand Island — many of whom are undoubtedly using the facilities of Grand Island. At the same time, it does take into account certain County and State parks, such as Hall County Park and Mormon Island State Park, which serve both city and county populations.

As a result, the demand figures in this Master Plan are probably only a partial picture of the use of, and need for, recreation facilities for the Grand Island region.

A final section of the Plan also addresses maintenance and equipment — the operational details of the Parks and Recreation System — and makes recommendations regarding phasing and budgeting considerations.



Figure 3: 1982 Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan

PREVIOUS RECREATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Even though Grand Island has not previously had a formal recreation master plan, it is clear that previous City Councils and citizen committees have recognized the importance of parks and recreation to Grand Island's quality of life. For example, the 1992 Grand Island Comprehensive Plan contains a number of recommendations related to parks and recreation:

- “Maximize the opportunities to provide a diverse regional network of recreational and cultural facilities and activities which afford all residents with convenient access to a wide range of leisure opportunities and provide for continued expansion of leisure facilities as they become needed.
- “Require new residential development to dedicate land or easements for linear parks, open space, or walking/biking trails. This could be accomplished by adding appropriate language in subdivision regulations.

-
- "Acquire lands with desirable natural features for public use and enjoyment.
 - "Develop a comprehensive trail system (including former railroad rights of way and surface water drainage ways) to link together neighborhood, community and regional open space.
 - "Parks and Open Space: The integration of neighborhood, community and regional park areas with a network of trails and pathways for walking and biking can be assisted in zoning and subdivision regulations. Easements on private land; mandatory dedication of land in new residential development, and adequate rights of way in new roadways for sidewalks and trails can be used over time to create an open space trail system. This trail system also provides an alternative transportation network for Grand Island bicyclists.
 - "Provide for safe circulation and pedestrian and bicycle traffic including access from Capital Heights and other areas by foot or bicycle.
 - "Plan for mass transit, pedestrians and bicycles in future street right of way requirements and system layout.
 - "Provide handicap access to public parks (handicap ramps in sidewalks).
 - "Provide citywide jogging and bicycle trails.
 - "Promote Grand Island's landmarks - Stuhr, Zoo, Fonner Park, Water Park, Parks and Recreation, Wings Over the Platte."

GRAND ISLAND'S PARK TRADITION

"Grand Island has a fair beginning made in the matter of parks," begins the Parks chapter of the *History of Hall County*. It was referring to Pioneer Park, one of the first parks created in Grand Island — on the site of the first court house. Another early park was Schimmer's Lake (near what is now Hall County Park) which was constructed by damming up the Wood River. Originally the lake had an island in the middle, reached by numerous small bridges, and was surrounded by cabins. Across the road from Schimmer's Lake was Sand Krog resort, with picnic grounds and a large dancing pavilion.

Grand Island's current park system is a tribute to the farsightedness of its early citizens. They recognized the value to the community of readily accessible parks of all kinds and put in place the basic foundation upon which subsequent generations have built.



Figure 4: William Stolley

A number of Grand Island's current parks were named after several of its more illustrious citizens. William Stolley was born in Germany and died in 1911 after residing in Grand Island for nearly 54 years. His parents were teachers and he helped organize School District #1 and served as a director for 40 years. He was a strong advocate of tree planting and distributed vast numbers of seedling trees for planting on the treeless plains. His own farm was characterized by a beautiful orchard and shade trees. The first English sparrows in the area were 25 he carried from New York City to his farm. He learned to speak local Indian languages and translated many Indian names into English in a 1907 history of Hall County he wrote.

A.F. Buechler was a long-time editor of the *Grand Island Daily Independent*, editor of the *History of Hall County*, and one of the first directors of the local Red Cross during the first World War. Grace Abbott was a superintendent of the League for the Protection of Immigrants, and was later involved in child labor laws and a related assignment as an advisor for the War Labor Policy Board in Washington, D.C.

III. CITY CONTEXT

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION

Hall County lies near the eastern margin of the Great Plains. Generally the terrain in the whole county is nearly level.

The Platte River Valley crosses Hall County in a southwest-northeast direction. It varies in width from 12 to 19 miles. Near the southern border of the valley the Platte River separates into several channels and forms a group of low-lying, elongated islands. The largest of these islands was named Grand Isle by early French trappers, and gave Grand Island its name. The city of Grand Island is actually located 4 miles north of the Platte River.

The Wood River joins the north channel of the Platte and flows parallel to the Platte through the southern edge of the Grand Island. Moore's Creek flows in a northeasterly direction on the north side of the city.

Although the Platte River is controlled by the Kingsley Dam, and is not likely to flood, heavy rains can cause significant local runoff.

Groundwater is the primary source of both drinking and irrigation water. It is contained in the Pleistocene sands and gravels, which in the vicinity of Grand Island are between 100 and 150 feet thick.

The groundwater is recharged by streamflow of the Platte River and its tributaries, local precipitation and irrigation seepage. The underground water does not move more than 10 feet per day. The water table is extremely shallow in the vicinity of Grand Island, varying from 10 to 20 feet below the ground surface. Grand Island's municipal well field is located near the Platte River southeast of the city.

Two major railroad lines, the Union Pacific and the Burlington Northern, cross each other at Grand Island. This access to rail transport established Grand Island as a major shipping center for regional agricultural products.

Interstate 80 passes only six miles south of Grand Island, accessed via Highway 281, a major north-south artery. The Grand Island airport, located north of the city, accommodates regional air carriers.

Grand Island's major commercial areas are adjacent to the Union Pacific tracks (and Highway 30) and along Highway 281. Most of the commercial development occurs along Highway 30 (the Union Pacific Railroad tracks) and Highway 281. The most significant recent residential development appears to be focussing toward the northwest quadrant of the city.

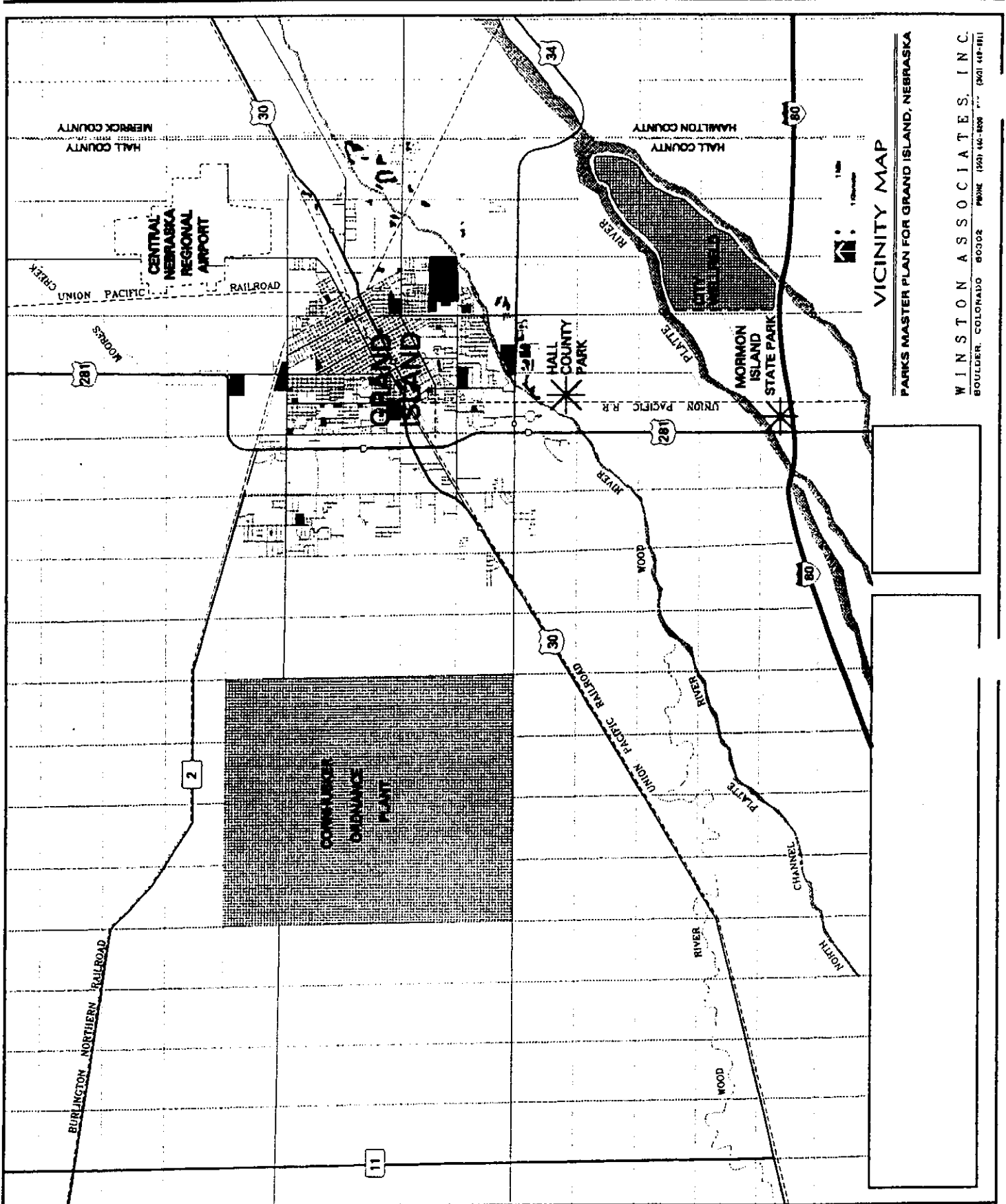


Figure 5: Grand Island Vicinity Map

In addition to the City's own landholdings (generally City parks) the other major public landholder in Grand Island is the State Department of Institutions which owns the 600+ acres of land adjacent to the Veteran's Home and Memorial Park.

WELL FIELD

The Grand Island well field is located south of the city near the Platte River. Because of high water tables and permeable soils groundwater supplies are susceptible to contamination. For example, past activities at the Ordnance Plant have resulted in a large plume of contaminated ground water. As a result, it is important to protect the integrity of the well field.

The skeet range has occupied a small portion of the well field for over 20 years. Monitoring wells are not showing any contamination yet from the accumulation of lead. However, continued use and accumulation could eventually reach a level that would require environmental cleanup, which would be prohibitively expensive.

FLOODING CONSIDERATIONS

Flood Detention Cells

The Grand Island area is subject to significant flooding potential. As a result, the City requires new development to detain any increased flood flows on-site for gradual release at pre-development rates after flood waters have subsided. This is usually accomplished through the excavation of flood detention cells. A number of flood detention cells are located throughout the City. A few of these have wet bottoms and sustain cattails and other wetland plants, and have become valuable riparian wildlife habitats. Other cells are above the water table and the turfgrass is mowed by the City for use as informal play fields. On the bordering upland, all of the cells have playground equipment, and some have picnic tables, allowing them to function as mini-parks for the immediate neighborhood. There are several additional cells planned for the west side of the city.

A large (45 acre) flood detention cell on the north side of the City, formerly known as the "Super Cell," was recently renamed "Eagle Scout Park." It was originally a borrow pit for highway fill, and as a result was excavated well below the water table. As a result, it is a year-round lake of almost 40 acres, varying from 8 to 30 feet deep. It has recently been conveyed to the City and the shoreline area is being developed with boat docks, parking and an asphalt pedestrian path.



Figure 6: Eagle Scout Park (formerly Super Cell)

Moore's Creek

In the northwest section of the city, a flood drainage channel conveys water to the north and then east to Moore's Creek.

Proposed Wood River Diversion Channel

The Corps of Engineers has completed preliminary plans for a Wood River Diversion Channel that will convey flood waters around the southern edge of the City from the Warm Slough to the Platte River. Although the project is estimated to cost between \$10 million and \$11 million, it is estimated by the Corps to have a relatively high cost/benefit ratio. Given recent Federal budget cutbacks however, it is not clear how soon, or whether, it will be constructed. If it is constructed, the levees have the potential to serve as trail surfaces, providing a long and significant cross-town connection and linkage to the Platte River.

ORDNANCE PLANT

The now-defunct Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant is located on 18.65 square miles of federal land five miles west of Grand Island. It is in the process of being decommissioned and privatized by the Army. The local Reuse Committee has drawn up a preliminary land use plan that includes the following:

Husker Harvest Days tract	960 acres
Industrial development (private)	4,250 acres
Agriculture (private)	5,192 acres
Natural open space	1,300 acres
Riparian habitat (Silver Creek)	146 acres

The Husker Harvest Days is a long-standing use of its tract. It is the largest working farm show in the U.S. Crops are grown on site to be used to demonstrate harvesting equipment during a three-day show each fall. The Husker Harvest Days attracts many thousands of visitors each year.

The designated natural open space is located in the northwest corner of the property in existing wetland areas. There are additional opportunities for trails throughout the property. A small tract also in the northwest corner has also been suggested as a relocation site for the skeet range (from the City Well field site). A railroad spur through the property links the Burlington Northern rail line to the north with the Union Pacific rail line to the south, a unique asset for potential industrial uses.

Formal re-use planning is expected to be completed in 1996 or early 1997. It is possible that a significant part of the land will become a regional wildlife and natural recreation area.



Figure 7: Husker Ordnance Plant



Figure 8: Northwest Corner of Ordnance Plant Site

POPULATION HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS

The first white settlement in Hall county was established in 1857. The settlers raised corn and sold it to the government for the troops at Fort Kearney. The Union Pacific Railroad reached Grand Island in 1868, which stimulated settlement in the whole county. In 1870, when the first newspaper was established, the population of Grand Island was 1,057. From 1874 to 1878 grasshoppers and crop failures caused much financial distress. In 1880 the Union Pacific built shops at Grand Island, which initiated industrial growth in the area. Ten years later a factory was built to process sugar beets. By 1900, the population of Grand Island had reached 7,554 and grew steadily, reaching 32,186 by 1950. In 1990, Grand Island had a population of 39,386. It is estimated to reach 43,000 by 2000 and 46,700 by 2010.

To assure consistency with other City actions, we have used the population projections from the 1992 City of Grand Island Comprehensive Plan.

HALL COUNTY/GRAND ISLAND POPULATION FORECASTS, 1990-2010

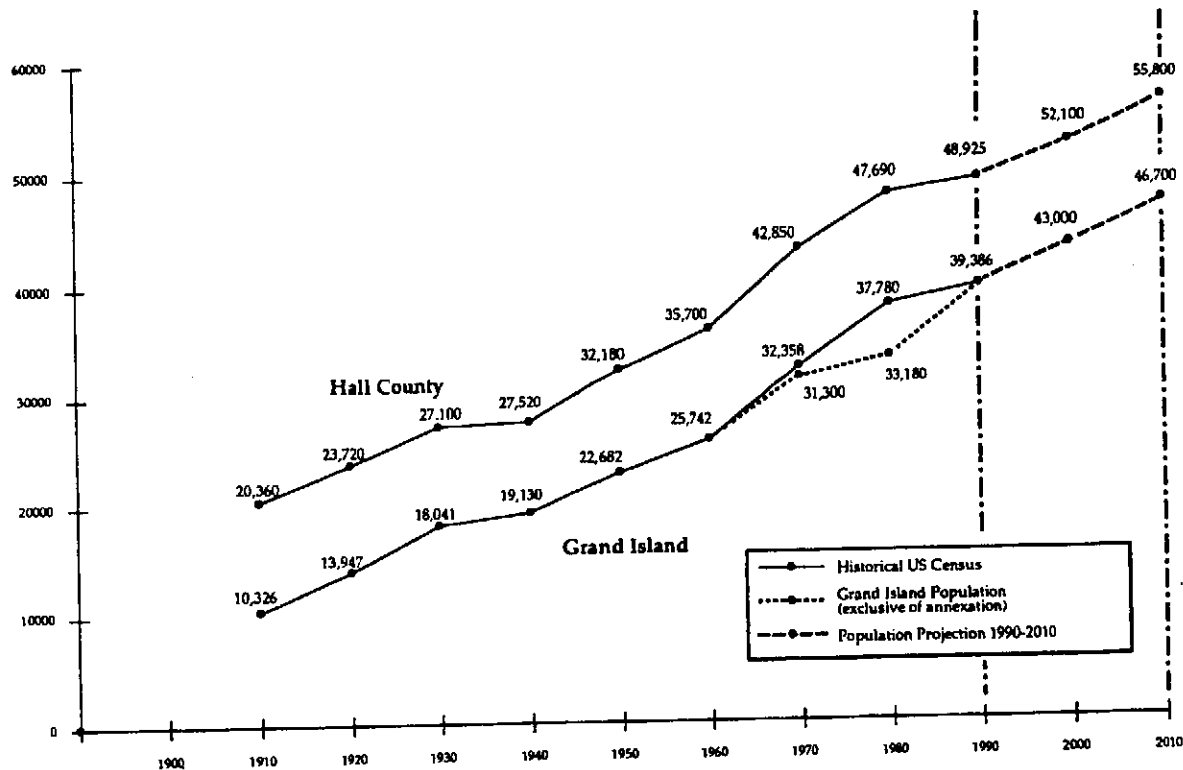


Figure 9: Population History and Projections (Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan)

GRAND ISLAND'S ROLE IN THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Hall County's primary industry is agriculture. Grand Island is the principal farm market for the County, and thus the commercial center for the region. It is estimated that over 250,000 visitors (non-residents) come to Grand Island annually. As a result, from 60% to 65% of Grand Island's sales tax comes from non-residents. The 6% sales tax is comprised of 5% State and 1% City. There is an additional, unlevied five percent of potential sales tax remaining under the State-mandated cap of 6 percent.

IV. EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

TODAY'S RECREATION PROVIDERS

Recreation in Grand Island is provided through the cooperative efforts of many different public and private entities. The City's primary focus is to provide facilities (e.g., soccer and baseball fields) that are used by individuals and the many community groups that organize and sponsor active recreation activities in Grand Island. The major *active* recreation activities, and their sponsors, are shown in Figure 11 on page IV - 2.

There are other smaller groups that are not included in Figure 10 that also organize sports events (such as Sunday soccer games) on City and School District facilities.

In addition, Hall County provides Hall County Park south of Grand Island near the Wood River, and Hall County Memorial Park near the Veteran's Home. The State provides Mormon Island Recreation Area near the Platte River approximately 4 miles south of Grand Island.

The City also organizes and supervises a number of specific activities that are not provided by other organizations: adult athletic leagues (e.g. tennis and men's basketball) and a number of children's programs in the summer. The Parks and Recreation Department acts as a facilitator for new recreation needs — either encouraging and helping other organizations to provide activities or, when no sponsor can be found, providing the activity through the City's own staff resources. For example, when a resident recently offered to teach windsurfing, the City organized a class.

The fees charged for activities vary. Overall, fees charged for adult activities attempt to recapture 100% of the direct costs for those activities. Youth activities recoup little if any of their direct costs.

Public schools provide a variety of intramural and interscholastic sports activities. It is being expanded in a few areas. Due to Federal Title IX (gender equality) regulations, the School District is adding a girls softball program. However, for the most part growing financial constraints in public education are increasingly threatening traditional sports activities. Concerns have been expressed that athletics may have to shift increasingly to club sports in the future, with a reduced emphasis on interscholastic athletics.



Figure 10: Hall County Park

City of Grand Island Recreation Master Plan																
PRIMARY NON-PROFIT RECREATION PROVIDERS																
● Sponsors the activity ○ Provides facilities only	archery	baseball or softball	basketball	fitness (weights, aerobics)	football	racquetball	shooting	soccer	swimming - indoor	swimming - outdoor	tennis - indoor	tennis - outdoor	track and field	volleyball - indoor	volleyball - outdoor	
1. G.I. Softball Assoc.		●														
2. ABCD (girl's) Softball		●														
3. Grand Island Rifle Club							●									
4. Black Hawk Baseball Club		●														
5. Grand Island Soccer Assoc.								●								
6. Izaak Walton							●									
7. J.C.Flag Football					●											
8. Am.Legion Baseball		●														
9. Third City (L.L.) Baseball		●														
10. Capital Heights Baseball		●														
11. Platte Deutsche Club		●														
12. G.I. Skeet/Sporting Clays							●									
13. Third City Archery Club	●															
14. YMCA			●	●		●		●	●				●	●		
15. Grand Island Parks & Rec		○	●		●	●	○	○		●	●	●		●	○	
16. Grand Island Sch. District			○					○				●	●			
17. Y Islanders Swim Club									●	●						
18. G.I. Swim Club									●	●						
19. Quicksilver Swim Club										●						

Figure 11: Primary Non-Profit Recreation Providers

AVAILABLE RECREATION EXPERIENCES AND FACILITIES

In general, the City has an excellent range of active recreation activities available. Private entities also fill a significant role, including indoor walking at the malls, bowling alleys, an archery range, amusement park and private softball club. Grand Island has activities for old and young, male and female, and team and individual sports. The following assessment is derived from input from sport representatives and focus groups.

Basketball

The YMCA rents 13 elementary and junior high school gymnasiums from the school district for youth basketball programs. It also sponsors a men's 3-on-3 basketball league. Over 40 teams participate in the program, which is held three days per week from September to April. The City sponsors an adult basketball league, with approximately 25 men's teams (Sunday) and six women's teams (Monday nights). They use the Central Catholic High and West Lawn Elementary Schools. The Senior High, Barr Jr. High and Walnut Jr. High gyms are not available for non-school use due to the heavy use for school functions.

Baseball

The Ryder Park large baseball field (American Legion size) is in relatively good shape. There are currently four American Legion teams, with sufficient demand for one more team.

The Little League uses 13 fields and has 300 kids on 30 teams in seven different leagues. The senior division (13 to 18 year old group) uses two City fields that have the 90' base paths they require: one each in Pier and Ashley parks. The League has indicated that one more 90' field would be very helpful, while two 90' fields would be excellent. A third City field with 90' base paths is located in George Park in the northwest section of the city. It is used primarily by the Capital Heights Baseball Association (Northwest Baseball).

The Little League junior division, from 6 to 13 years old, uses seven fields located in Stolley, George, Grace Abbott and Pier parks. They also utilize and maintain three fields at the Veteran's Memorial Park. The Ashley Park field needs a new fence and lighting. Pier Park recently upgraded the lights but some feel there are still inadequate light levels in the outfield.

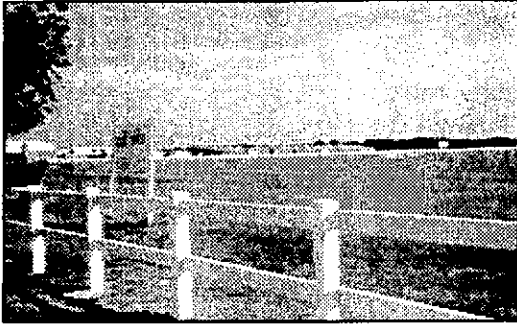


Figure 12: Fonner Park Soccer Complex

The Little League is in the process of adding another age group. As a result, there is a need for one new full-size field, and to upgrade an existing one (including replacing the old, sub-par lights). An indoor field house with a batting cage would be very popular.

The Black Hawks is a competitive baseball club accommodating youth of four age groups: 11, 12, 13 and 14 years old. They have a total of approximately 60 players. The club utilizes several of the City fields and travels to play other communities throughout the state.

Soccer

Soccer, predominantly a spring and fall sport in Grand Island, is provided primarily through the YMCA and Grand Island Soccer Association. There are approximately 400 kids enrolled in the YMCA program (open enrollment, from pre-school through 7th grade) and approximately 500 kids involved in Grand Island Soccer, which is a competitive league (requires tryouts) for ages up to 14. The YMCA, playing afternoons Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, uses the open turf field at Stolley Park to create three youth soccer fields. Grand Island Soccer Association, playing only on Saturdays, uses the seven fields recently developed at the Fonner Park complex. They pay a user fee that helps reimburse the City for maintenance. These fields are only used for games. (In order to preserve the grass, there are no practices permitted on these fields during the week, or even warm-ups in the goal areas before games.) Practices are held in parks and open areas throughout the City. There are no bleachers or benches and only portable toilets at Fonner Park. A small playground area would be useful for the many young siblings that attend games with parents.

Notwithstanding the new fields at Fonner Park, the user groups feel there is a need for one to two more full-size fields to meet current demand. An alternative would be to light existing fields to extend play. A field house would also be used for indoor soccer in the winter.

The school district supports soccer only at a varsity (high school) level, and school field facilities are generally considered adequate to meet their needs.

Softball

Girls softball started 35 years ago. Now there are 900 to 1,000 girls involved. There are six fields available at Ryder Park.

The Adult Softball Association uses three private fields (the Vanosdall fields). The fields have not been well maintained, and as

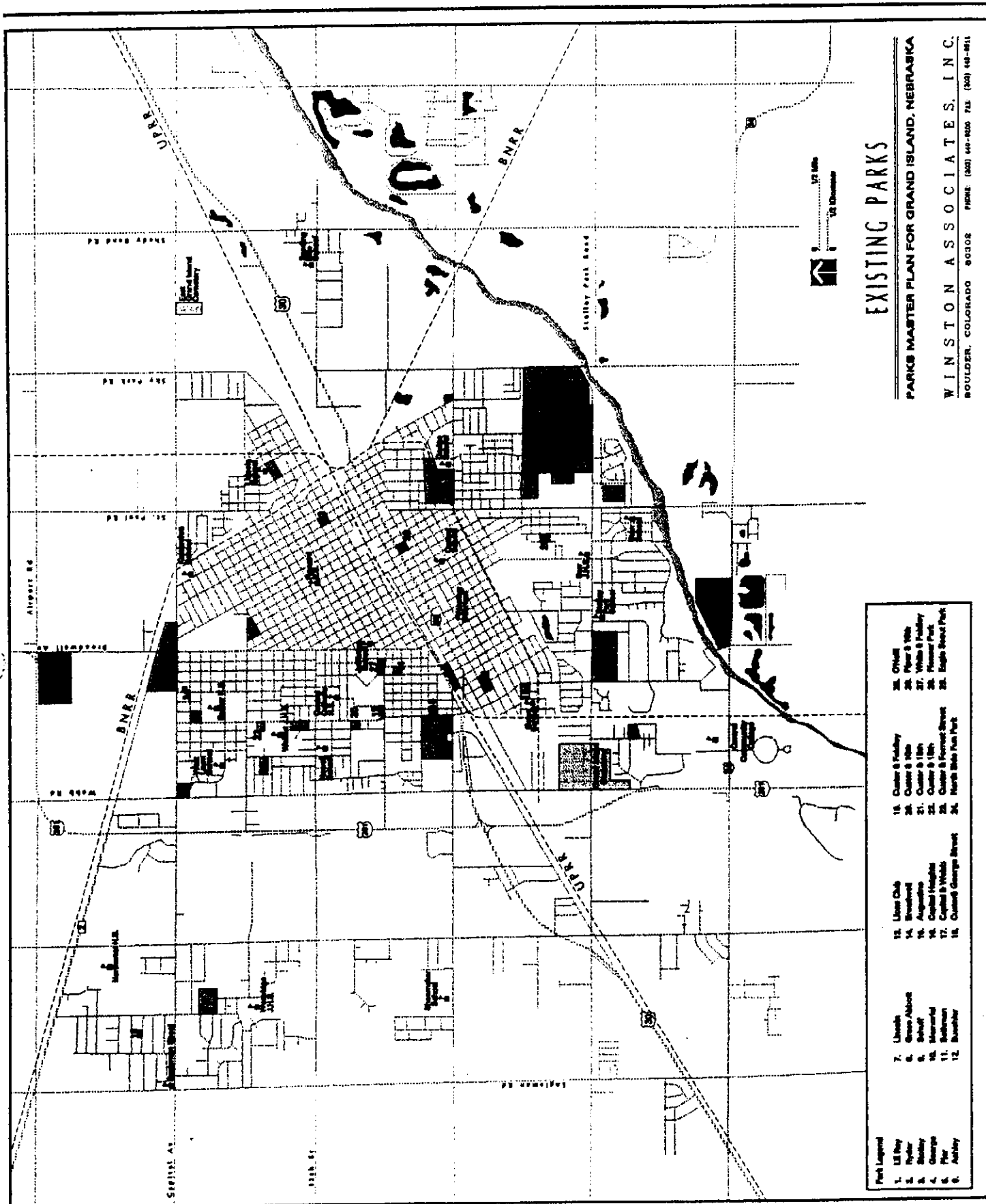


Figure 13: Map of Existing Parks

a result participation is dropping. In fact, the organizer may cease operations. If the Vanosdall fields close, it will place increasing pressure on the City's existing fields, requiring approximately three to four new adult softball fields to replace them. There are indications that adult women's softball participation in general is dropping off, losing popularity in favor of coed softball.

The Platte-Deutsche Club is a private, men's fast-pitch softball club with approximately 100 participants. They use the club's own two fields and sponsor several tournaments a year.

Swimming

There are three summer swim teams (YMCA, Grand Island, and Quicksilver), with a total of over 100 kids participating. Organizers estimate that there is a demand of twice as many kids, if the facilities were available.

The Island Oasis Water Park pool was designed with a moveable bulkhead to permit competitive swimming as well as recreation water play. The lane swimming capability is scheduled for summer mornings when it is used only for swim team practices.



Figure 14: Island Oasis Water Park

The other outdoor pool, Lincoln Park pool, is considered to be a neighborhood pool, although its service area is broader than the immediate neighborhood. It is "L"-shaped with the deep leg used for teaching and diving. It also has a water slide that is heavily used. Users indicate that it is not very conducive (because of its size and competing uses) for lap and/or competition swimming.

The YMCA pool is a 6-lane 25 meter indoor pool. It is the only indoor pool in the city, and is fully utilized by YMCA teams, YMCA lessons and school district use. Two periods per week are designated for handicap use.

There are no pools associated with any schools. Since there is no school busing program in Grand Island, transportation would be an obstacle to school use of non-school pools, if they were available. Consequently no swimming instruction is provided in the physical education program. High maintenance costs associated with indoor pools are a major obstacle to the school district being able to construct a pool.

Swimming groups feel there is sufficient demand to support another swimming pool in Grand Island. Preferences are for a 25 yard pool, built indoors for maximum year-round use (outdoor pools get used only three months out of the year). There is potential for cost savings if a pool were to be built adjacent to an existing high school, or in conjunction with a new school in the future. If it were built at a school many feel it would enrich the curriculum as well as serve public needs.

Grand Island has four wading pools for children: at Stolley, Lincoln, Pier and Grace Abbott parks. The Lincoln, Pier and Grace Abbott wading pools are over 50 years old and have no recirculating/filtering systems and therefore are drained and filled each day. Nevertheless, the wading pools appear to be very popular.

Tennis

The City has a total of 17 tennis courts located generally in pairs in a number of parks throughout the city (see inventory table). Only Ryder, the Racquet Center and Buechler courts have modern, colored asphalt surfaces (total of seven). The remainder have concrete surfaces. In addition to the two outdoor tennis courts, the Racquet Center provides three indoor tennis courts and three indoor racquetball courts.

Tennis is a growing sport in Grand Island and is very popular in the high schools. It is a fall sport for boys, spring sport for girls. There are four courts at Senior High School. The schools also use Ryder Park, the Racquet Center and Buechler courts. However, there is a shortage of courts for both public and school needs. The high schools have to limit team size due to restricted court availability. With the exception of the three Ryder Park courts, the City's courts are scattered in pairs throughout the park system. A group of six to eight courts in one location is needed to conduct a tournament or a high school dual meet. Last year 114 kids participated in the Grand Island tennis tournament. Had there been additional facilities, there was a perceived demand for 400 to 500 attendees. The additional need might well be met by adding several courts adjacent to existing courts, either in a City park or at the Senior High School.

There is a direct correlation between participation in tennis and the quality of the courts. Even greater usage would be made of the older courts in the city if they were refurbished with modern top-pings, nets and windscreens.

Shooting

Skeet and sporting clay ranges located on the City well field serve about 250 active members. There has been a recent increase in use. They are operated by volunteers, except for 50 to 75 youngsters hired each summer. The use of the ranges is approaching capacity. Approximately two more are needed to meet the demand. The clubhouse needs expansion, including indoor restrooms for men and women, and a meeting room.

There is concern for the impacts of continued use of the skeet range on the well field site. Years of use have resulted in the deposition of significant amounts of lead shot on the skeet range. Tests of water quality have not indicated any lead infiltration; however, there is concern that if the accumulation is to continue, the costs of remediation would be significant. An alternative site has been suggested on the Ordnance Plant property.

Volleyball

There is very strong interest for volleyball in Grand Island, with leagues for men, women and coed play.

Courts are located at the National Guard Armory and several schools, as well as a sand court at the Island Oasis Water Park. Some of the private bowling alleys also have sand courts and league competition. The City's adult volleyball league runs in two sessions from September through March. Each session has approximately 95 teams and over 1,000 participants. They use the National Guard Armory, Starr and Stolley Park elementary schools.

The YMCA also sponsors youth volleyball for girls. A spring league for 3rd to 8th grade girls had approximately 600 participants in 1996. A summer league for high school girls has 160 to 200 participants.

Bicycling, Walking, Jogging and Cross-Country Skiing

The Senior Center sponsors a walking club which typically completes a 10 kilometer walk. They currently use sidewalks and streets in various sections of Grand Island. If a continuous trail system were available it would very much benefit and be used by senior citizens.

The Grand Island Joggers Club has approximately 40 to 50 members that participate in training runs (Wed, Sat, Sun). They coordinate major events such as a 10 kilometer race, a half marathon race, and the Spring Classic.

Trails would also likely be used for cross-country skiing during the four to five typical annual snowstorms.

The City currently has one 1-mile segment of bike/ped trail on west State Street and a 1-mile loop trail is planned for Eagle Scout Park. In addition, there are internal park roads that serve as jogging/walking/bike trails in Ashley and Stolley Parks. Walkers, joggers, bicyclists and in-line skaters often use the loop road at Hall County Park.



Figure 15: The new State Street Bike/ped Path

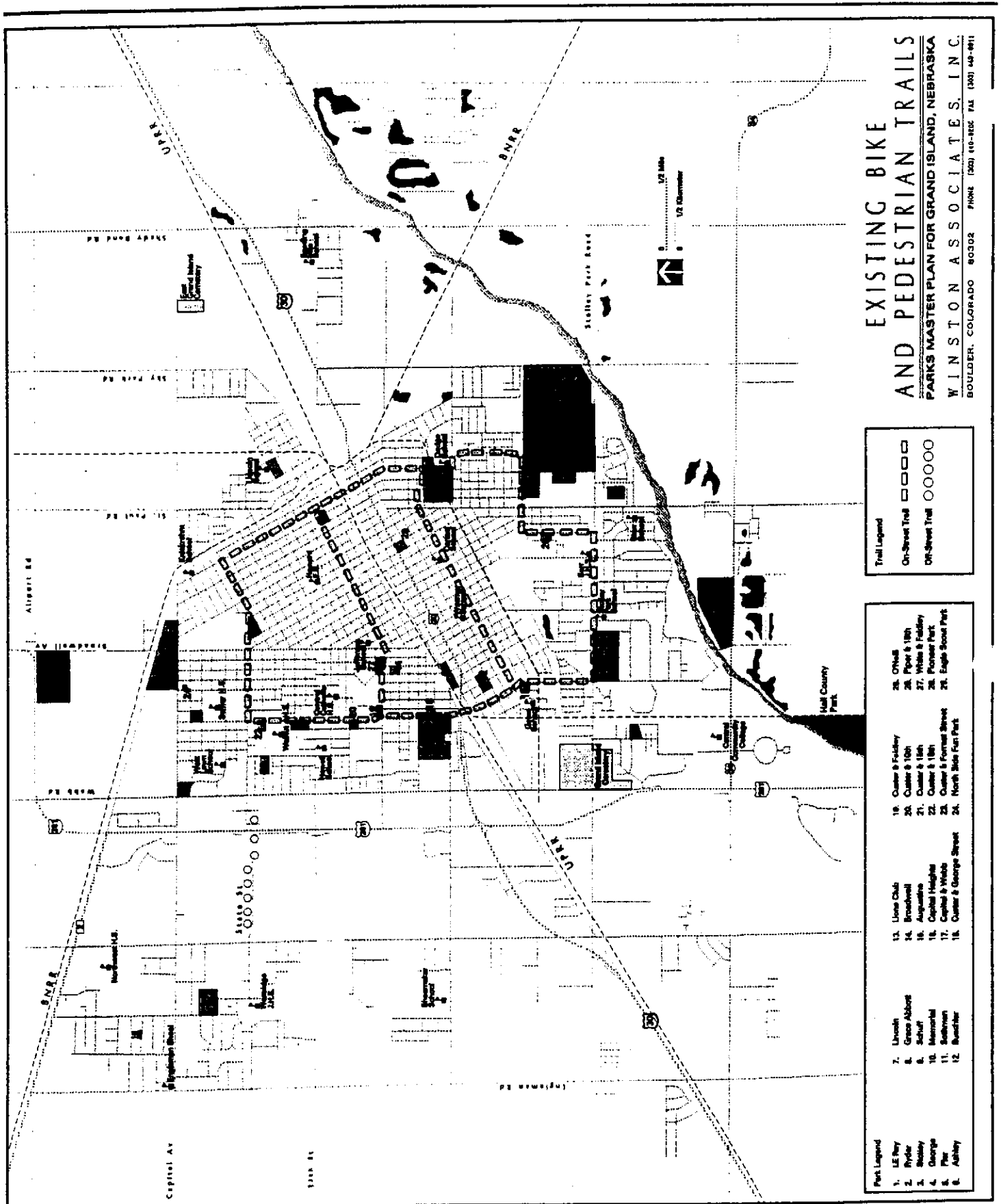


Figure 16: Map of Existing Bike and Pedestrian Trails

City of Grand Island PARK FACILITIES INVENTORY	● Available	racquetball	baseball: Am. Legion/Sr. L.L.	baseball: Little League	softball	baseball courts	soccer/football field	open turf fields	swimming pool	tennis courts-outdoor/indoor	sand volleyball courts	playground	boating (acres)	wading pool	restrooms	picnic shelters	off-street walk/jog path (mi)	horseshoe courts	skidding	shooting range	fishing	bandstands
District Parks																						
L.E. Ray Lake												1	45		1	1					●	
Fanner Soccer Complex							7															
Community Parks																						
Ryder		1		6						3		1			3	2			●			
Stolley			2		1		3			2		2		1	2	2		20				
George		1	3				1			2		1			1	2						
Pier		1	2							2		1		1	2	3		2			●	
Ashley		1			1							1			1	2	.5	2				
Neighborhood Parks																						
Lincoln									1	2		1		1	1							
Grace Abbott				1						2		1		1	1							●
Schuff																						
Memorial												1			1							
Sothman												1										
Buechler										2		1										●
Lion's Club					1							1										
Broadwell												1										
Augustine																			●		●	
Mini-Parks																						
Capitol Heights												1				1						
Capital and Webb												1							●		1	
Custer and George												1							●			
Custer and Faidley												1							●			
Custer and 10th												1							●			
Custer and 15th												1							●			
Custer and 18th												1							●			
Custer and Forrest												1							●			
North Side Fun Park												1										
O'Neill												1							●			
Piper and 18th												1							●			
White and Faidley												1							●			
Special Facilities																						
Island Oasis									1		1	1			1	1						
Skeet Range																				1		
Raquet Club		2								2/3												
Eagle Scout Park												1	43		2	2	1				●	
Other																	.5					
TOTAL		2	4	8	6	3	7	4	2	17	1	28	88	4	16	16	2	24		1		
LOS		.05	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.08	0.18	0.10	0.05	0.43	0.03	0.70	2.20	0.10	0.40	0.40	0.05	0.60		0.03		

Figure 17: Park Facilities Inventory

V. RECREATION DEMAND — CURRENT AND FUTURE FACILITY NEEDS

Notwithstanding the overall adequacy of park acreage in Grand Island, there are a number of needs with respect to specific facilities. The following preliminary assessment of recreation facility needs has been assembled from a variety of sources. Three separate work sessions were held, two with the Recreation Master Plan advisory committee and one with individuals representing various recreation interests in the community.

NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY A FOCUS GROUP OF RESIDENTS

Prior to any formal survey of residents the following facilities were identified by the focus group and generally prioritized:

- three to four lighted adult softball fields
- upgrade lighting at three fields: American Legion fields, Pier and Ashley Park fields (and fence at Ashley)
- indoor field house for use by baseball, softball and soccer
- indoor 25 yard pool, perhaps in conjunction with a school building
- a six- to eight-court tennis complex
- two youth softball fields
- two additional skeet ranges
- an outdoor pool, 50 meters if possible
- trail connections of the parks
- bathrooms, especially for kids — the fields are often far from bathrooms
- a natural park such as Hall County Park

It is interesting to note how closely this list parallels, to a significant degree, the needs and priorities expressed in the public opinion poll.

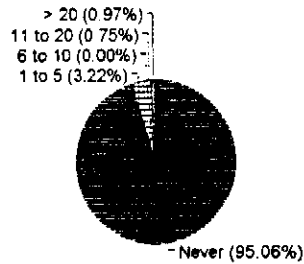
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS

1994 Opinion Survey

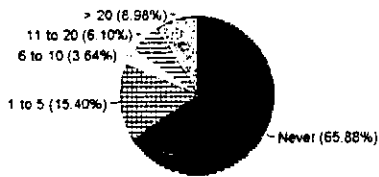
From time to time the City conducts a City Services Survey of a random sampling of Grand Island residents. From the 1994 survey (with a 50% overall response rate) the questions related to parks and recreation facilities were answered as graphed below:

Figure 18: **In the past 12 months, how many times have you used/visited...**

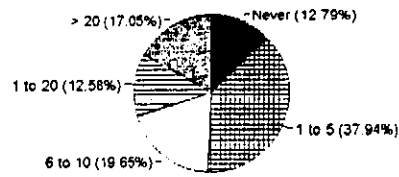
Racquet Center



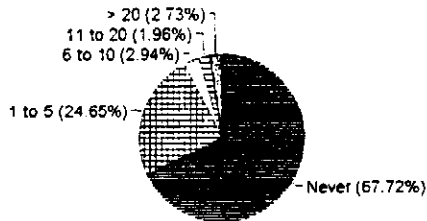
G.I. Golf Course



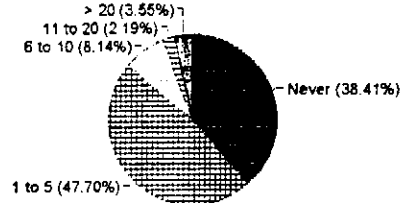
Neighborhood Parks



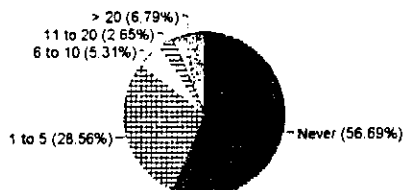
City Recreation Program



Heritage Zoo



Water Park



Stuhr Museum

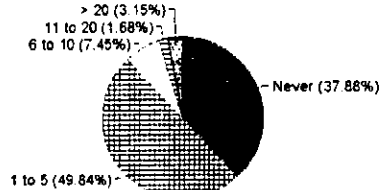
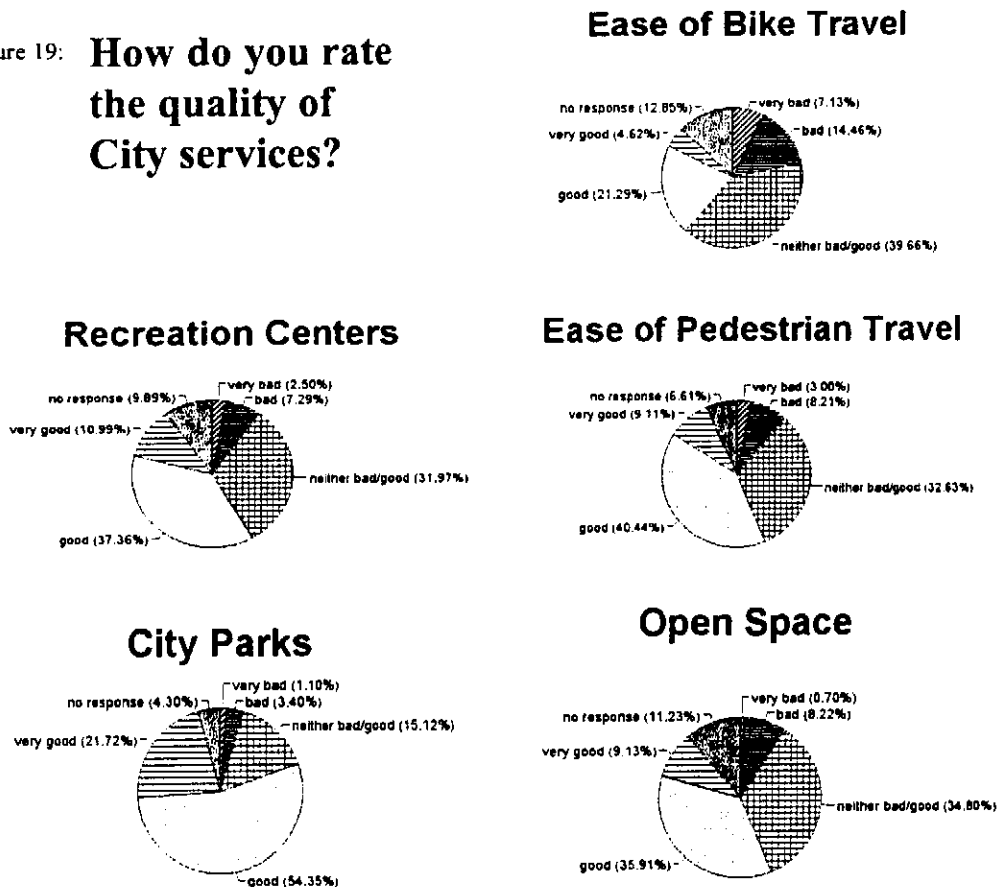


Figure 19: **How do you rate the quality of City services?**

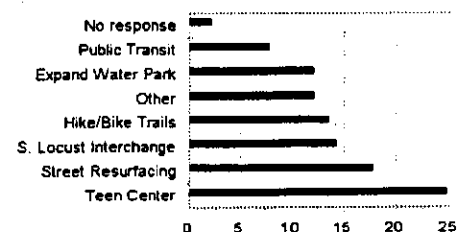


These 1994 results indicate that:

- **Use** — residents tend to use *neighborhood parks* at a reasonably high level (11 to 20 times per year by 30% of the respondents) — more than other City recreation facilities. The Racquet Center received the lowest overall use of the facilities listed, reflecting the specialized nature of indoor tennis.
- **Quality** — Neighborhood parks were given the highest *quality* rating (“good” or “very good” by 70% of the respondents) of the facilities listed. Ease of bike travel was given the lowest quality rating.
- **Ratings of City services** — “City parks” received the highest (the most “very goods” and “goods”). The second highest appears to be “recreation centers” (which we assume to be the YMCA) and “ease of pedestrian travel.” Ease of bike travel received the lowest rating (the most “very bads” and “bads”).
- **Allocate \$100,000?** — The fact that “Teen Center” received the highest priority reflects a high level of community concern for providing more recreation facilities for teens. Hike/bike trails also received a fairly high priority, exceeded only by street resurfacing (which is a strong concern in most communities).

Figure 20:

If the City could allocate \$100,000 I would like to see...



1996 Opinion Survey

Figure 21:

Overall Household Composition

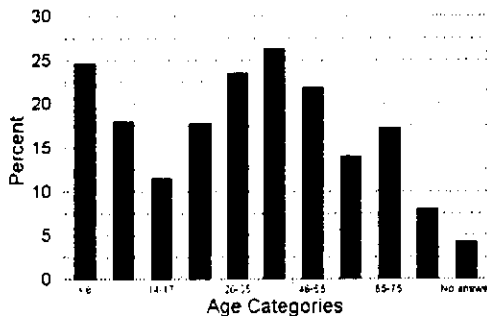
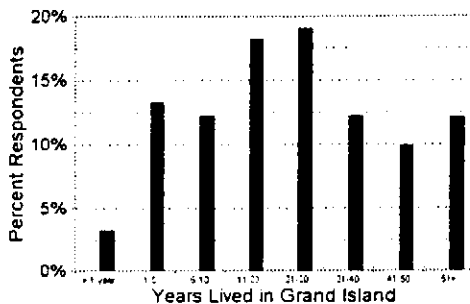


Figure 22:

Years Lived in Grand Island



A public opinion survey was conducted in conjunction with this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Over 1500 surveys were mailed to a random selection of residents throughout the City. (A copy of the survey is found in the Appendix.) Almost 400 surveys were returned, which statistically supports a more than 90% "confidence level" that the responses accurately reflect the attitudes of the general public. It should be noted, however, when interpreting the data, that while most questions had high response rates, not all respondents answered every question. A few questions (primarily the "how many times" and "where" questions related to participation in indoor and outdoor recreation) had a less than 30% response rate. This was probably due to the fact that the table format for these questions required extra effort on the part of the respondent. In the analysis below these low-response questions are not used to draw any specific conclusions about the *absolute* use levels of recreation facilities in Grand Island recreation use, but rather to indicate the *relative* use levels *between* facilities.

Throughout the survey graphs and comments below, the percentages used are *relative to the number of people who responded to each particular question*, not to the total number of surveys returned. Nevertheless, in most cases the high level of responses should allow the survey data to reasonably reflect the general attitudes of the community as a whole.

Demographic Characteristics of the survey respondents

Although the survey asked questions about the entire household, the actual person who filled it out included:

- slightly more women (58%) than men (42%)
- mostly people working full time (58%)
- 25% who were retired
- the majority of respondents have lived in Grand Island for more than 10 years, and 22% have lived in Grand Island over 40 years!
- the average household size of the respondents is 2.77
- the population pyramid clearly parallels the national profile, with a high number of baby boomers and young children and fewer young teens and elderly.

The distribution of survey respondents throughout the City is indicated on the map below (Figure 23). It is interesting to note that 5% of respondents indicated that a member of the family was disabled to the point of requiring a wheelchair or walking aid — which is important when considering barrier-free accessibility to parks facilities.

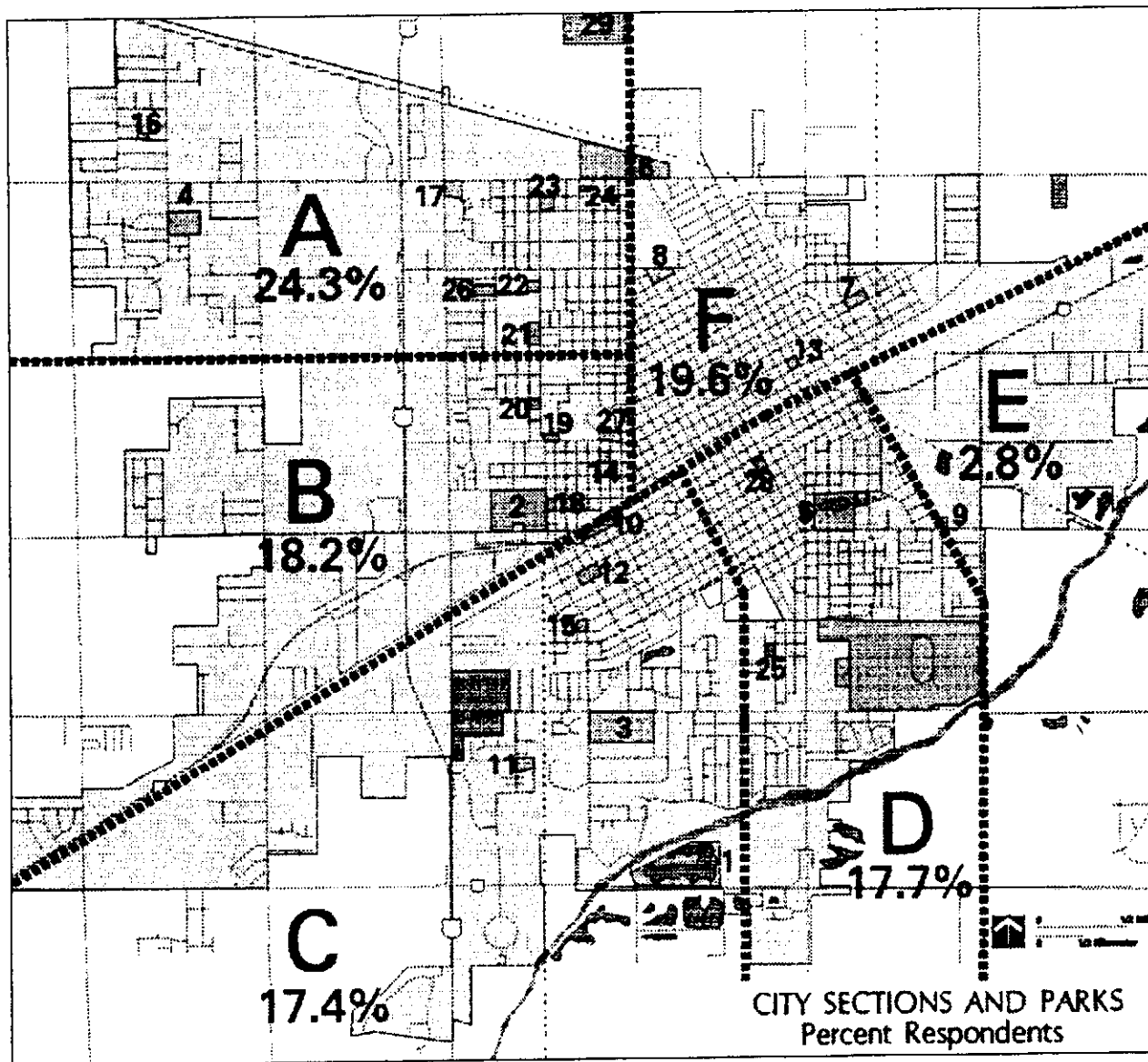


Figure 23: Percentage of Survey Respondents from City Sectors

Participation Levels and Locations

General Participation in Outdoor and Indoor Recreation

Grand Island's population is recreationally active. A very large portion of the respondent's (86%) indicated household (at least one member) participation in outdoor activity and almost 70% indicated household participation in indoor recreation.¹

These responses, however, do not reflect "how many" or "how often" household members participated. Due to the low number of responses to the details of this question, the data cannot be used to reliably reflect the *actual* participation rates in any specific activity. Nevertheless the responses are useful in comparing *relative* participation rates — comparing one activity to another. Although a single picnic or swimming event in the previous year was counted as a household participation, in actuality most of the responses indicated much more than one or two participants or times.

Figure 24:

Do You/Household Participate In any Outdoor Activities?

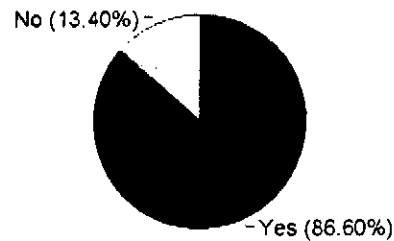
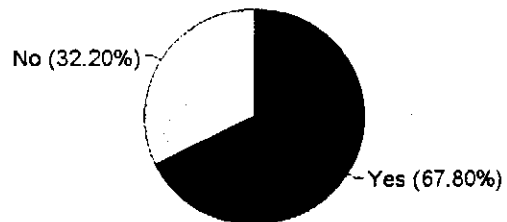


Figure 25:

Do You/Household Participate in any Indoor Activities?



¹ If the respondent filled in either a household member, or a number of times participated (or both) for any activities on the list, they were counted as a "yes" (participating in recreation). Also, in addition to those that indicated zero participation, respondents who skipped this question were also counted as a "no" when in reality at least some of them would likely have had some qualifying recreational participation during the year.

Comparative Participation Rates between Activities

It is common knowledge, confirmed by the survey results, that soft-ball, baseball, soccer, volleyball and basketball are popular sports in Grand Island. One of surprising revelations of the survey is the relatively high participation rate in walking/jogging/running, both indoors and outdoors. Respondents indicated that in over 60% of their households at least one person walks, jogs or runs *outdoors*. A relatively high number of households (over 35%) indicated that they have one or more members that walk, jog or run *indoors*. In fact, walking/jogging/running received the highest percentage of participation of all the activities listed.

The relative participation rates for various activities is only one measure of priority that should be given to various new facilities. This should not, however, be considered by itself. Decisions about priorities should also consider adequacy of current facilities and the relative cost of the facilities (cost/benefit consideration).

Figure 26:

At least one household member participates in an outdoor sport

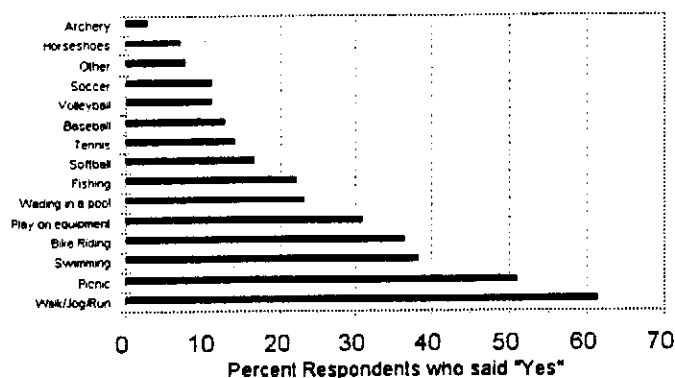
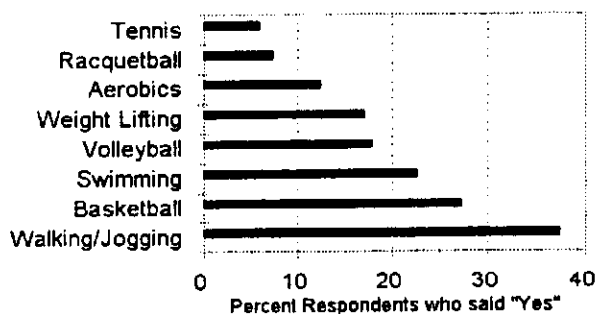


Figure 27:

At least one household member participates in an indoor sport



Most Used Locations for Specific Activities

Figure 28:

Where do you most frequently Walk or Jog Indoors?

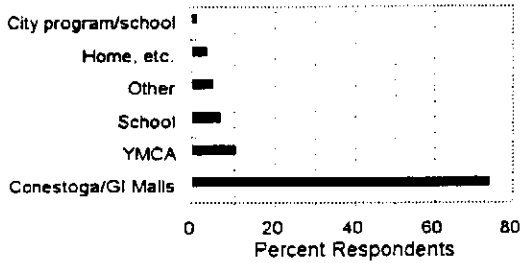


Figure 29:

Where do you most frequently Run/Walk/Jog outdoors?

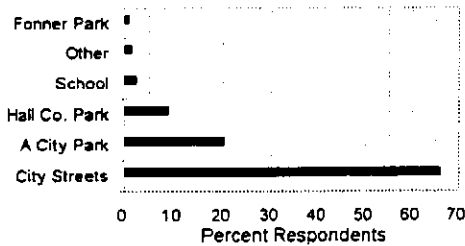
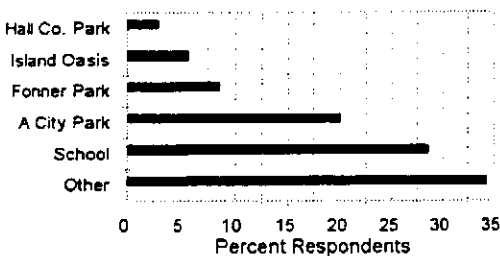


Figure 30:

Where do you play outdoor Volleyball the most?



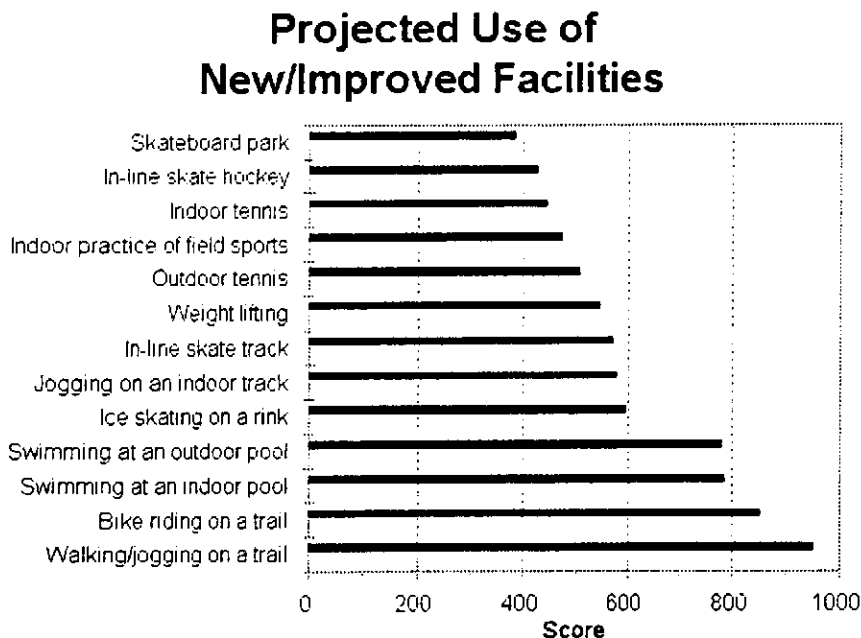
Even though the "where" data is not very reliable due to the low number of responses to that portion of this question, it is interesting to note the most used locations from among those who did respond. Many of the responses were predictable, given the facilities that are available (softball, soccer, etc.). However, there were several patterns that were unusually strong:

- The two malls (Grand Island, Conestoga) are by far the most heavily used locations for indoor walking/jogging. City streets are naturally the most heavily used facilities for outdoor walking/jogging/running as well as biking — undoubtedly due to convenience and the fact that there aren't many alternatives. City parks and Hall County Park receive reasonably high levels of walking/jogging/running use, probably reflecting a preference to be away from traffic.
- For outdoor volleyball, the "other" category (which refers primarily to the courts at private facilities such as Super Bowl) is more heavily used than school or park courts, indicating a strong private sector role in outdoor volleyball.
- In aerobics and weight lifting, there is a strong reliance on the YMCA but also significant use of private clubs (the primary facilities mentioned in "other") and "home," particularly for weight lifting.
- Although Island Oasis appears to be the most heavily used outdoor swimming pool, "home" and "other" pools were mentioned almost as often as Lincoln Pool.

What new or improved facilities do residents desire?

Respondents were asked to indicate on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (very often) how often they would use "additional or improved" facilities from a list of facilities developed through committee and focus group input. The following "scores" were obtained by assigning 1 point for "never" to 5 points for "very often." The score reflects both the level of anticipated participation at the facility as well as the frequency that the level was chosen. The results are moderately reliable, as there were almost 300 total responses. However, some respondents only answered selective questions, leaving some variability in the response rate. The significance of the results of this question is in the *relative* ranking of the activities rather than the absolute values. Further surveying is recommended, perhaps with a more extensive list of facilities to choose from.

Figure 31:



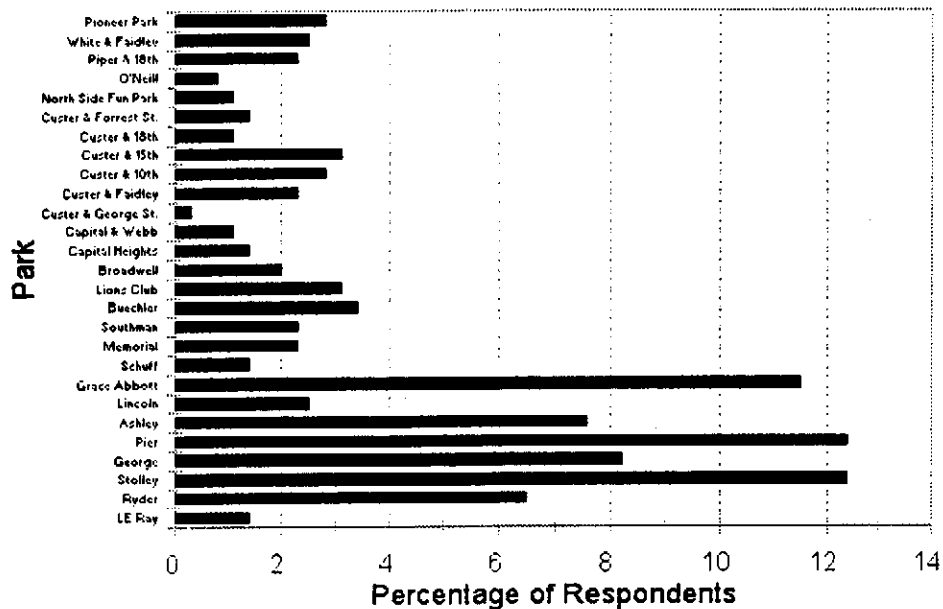
Evaluation of Park Facilities and Most Desired Improvements

What City park is nearest to you?

Since the responses to some of the general questions may reflect participants' experiences with the park closest to home, we wanted to see if there were any parks under- or over-represented in the survey. Generally, all of the parks are reasonably evenly represented in the survey. The larger parks serve larger populations, with only Lincoln under-represented among the large parks. Among the mini-parks only Shuff and Custer/George were under-represented. Few identified L.E. Ray as being nearest — because there aren't many residences nearby.

Figure 32:

City Park Nearest You



Frequency of visits to the nearest park, and reasons

The majority of respondents visit the park nearest them either "not at all" (41%) or "several times a year" (36%). In response to the question "What prevents you from using this park more?" the four most frequent responses were:

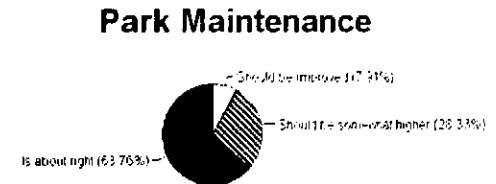
1. Park is fine just not interested 49%
2. Other (see list of reasons in the Appendix) 29%
3. Prefer to use another park 21%
4. Level of equipment and facility maintenance 14%

Further analysis shows that respondents in category #1 above are predominantly full-time workers, not the retirees that one might have anticipated. Based on written responses, however, a large number of them might be parents whose children have left home. The "other" category (#2 above) includes a variety of reasons, from dissatisfaction with type of facilities to concerns about personal safety. A complete list is included in the Appendix. Of those who preferred another park, the park most preferred was Stolley, followed by Ryder and Pier.

Park maintenance levels and appearance

A significant number of people are satisfied (64%) with the current level of park maintenance. However, many (almost 30%) think maintenance should be somewhat higher. When we consider this response with the over 50% that think it is important or very important to upgrade the appearance of the parks (Question 5), there is a fairly clear mandate to pay greater attention to the appearance of parks in future design and refurbishing.

Figure 33:



Which park amenities are most important?

Respondents clearly and uniformly emphasized the importance of basic comfort factors, such as shade trees, restrooms, picnic tables, drinking fountains and benches over specific recreation facilities. The exceptions were children's play equipment, which is clearly a basic requirement of any park, and bike racks, which were not ranked in the first tier of important amenities.

Restrooms ranked as the second most desirable amenity, is both important and challenging. In some respects this is surprising because although the restrooms in Grand Island's parks are gradually being replaced, the process is slow (due to budget limitations) and a number of restrooms are old, in relatively poor condition and not desirable to use. Furthermore, restroom facilities are very expensive to build and maintain. In fact, some cities' park departments selectively place restrooms only in larger parks and in parks that have activities that engage people over an extended time period, such as athletic competitions, concerts, etc. Further evaluation of when and where the public feels restrooms are essential is recommended.

Figure 34:

How important is it to upgrade Park Appearances?

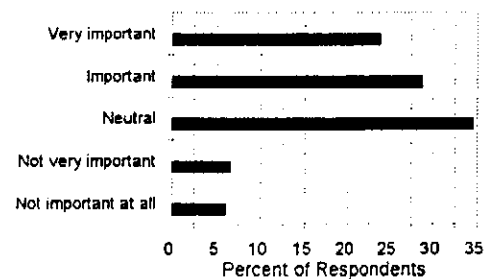


Figure 35:

Relative Desirability of Park Amenities

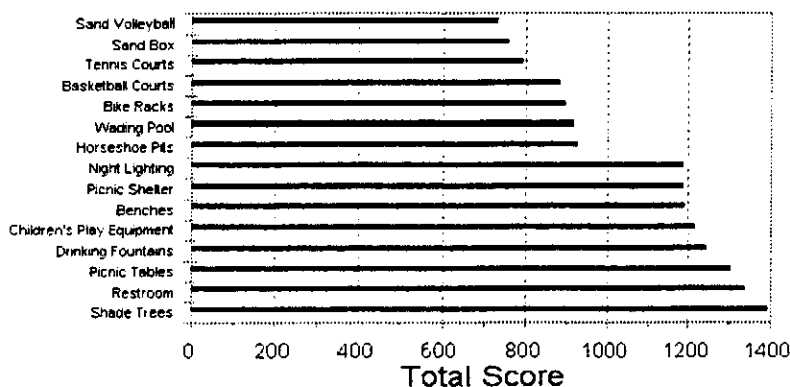


Figure 36:

Rank of Potential Improvements to Parks/Park System

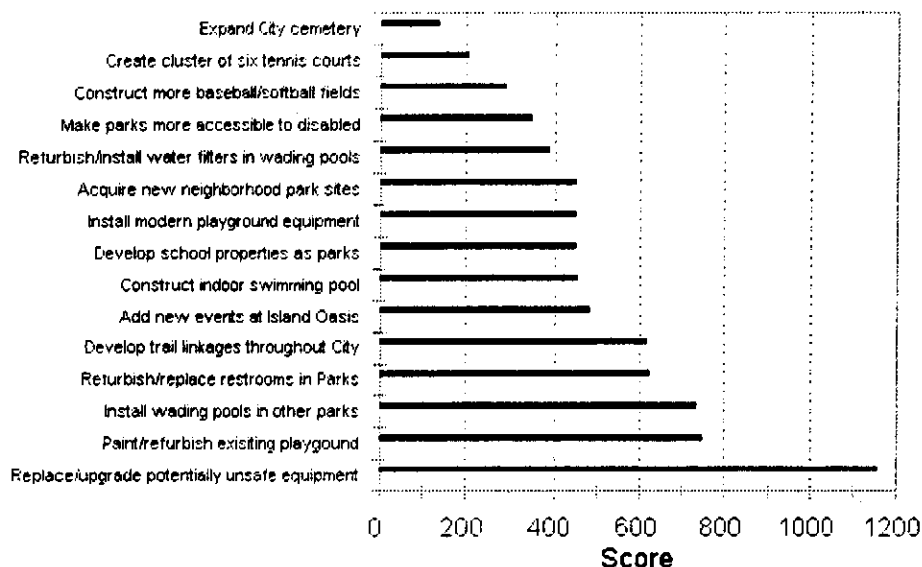


Figure 37:

All residential areas should have a Neighborhood Park within 1/2 mile

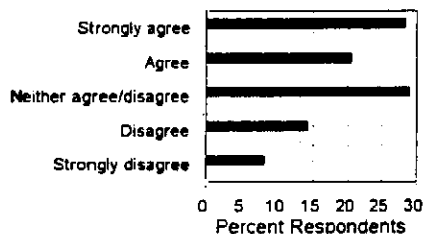
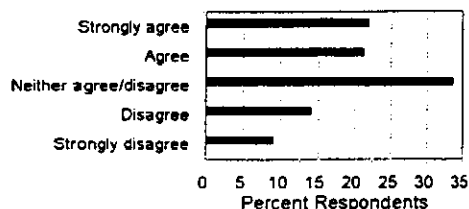


Figure 38:

All residential areas should have a Neighborhood Park within 1 mile



Ranking of potential improvements to parks or the Park system

Respondents were asked to identify from a list, in order of importance, the top seven capital improvements needed for Grand Island's parks. By giving 7 points when an item was chosen for 1st priority, 6 points for second priority, etc., the following "scores" were obtained, which reflect both the priority assigned to the improvement and the number of times it was assigned.

Policy statements

Respondents were asked to indicate the degree to which they agreed with a number of potential policy statements that could be used to guide future Parks Department decision-making.

There was a high level of response, and strong support, for the goals of:

- placing a neighborhood park within fi mile of all residents
- locating a community park within 1 mile of all residents
- preserving the current ratio of parks-to-population (Level of Service).

There was fair consensus that adult activities should be subsidized 50% or less, and that youth activities should be subsidized at least 50% or more.

Summary

Some of the key observations that can be drawn from the survey, to help guide future decision-making, are:

1. Grand Island residents appear to have broad, strong participation in some form of recreation, at all ages, employment conditions and locations throughout the city.
2. A high number of residents participate in walking, jogging, running and biking and strongly support the creation of a pedestrian/bike path system within the community.
3. There is reasonably strong support for an additional swimming pool, indoor or outdoor.
4. There is support for paying more attention to, and upgrading, the appearance of City parks.
5. Within neighborhood parks, basic comfort amenities, including shade and restrooms, are more important than any specific equipment or facilities other than children's play apparatus.
6. There is a strong mandate to make a high priority of repairing or replacing potentially unsafe play equipment, upgrading playgrounds and creating additional wading pools.
7. Approximately 5% of Grand Island's households have a member with a disability that requires a wheelchair or walking aid — which should be taken into account in providing barrier-free accessibility to the City's parks.
8. There is general support for the goal of distributing parks evenly throughout the residential areas of the community.
9. There is support for the current policy of subsidizing youth activities at a higher level than adult activities.

Figure 39:

What Percent of Direct Costs Should City Subsidize Adult/Youth Activities?

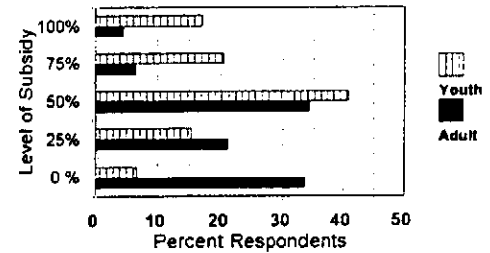
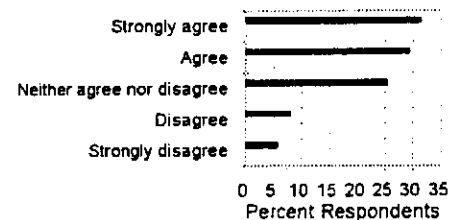


Figure 40:

The City should add parks to keep current park-to-people ratio



LEVEL-OF-SERVICE (POPULATION-BASED) ANALYSIS

A Level-of-Service (LOS) is the ratio of the number of facilities (tennis courts, ball fields, etc.) to the population — usually in the form of facilities-per-thousand population (such as 1.5 courts/1000 pop.). Since Levels-of-Service are population-based, this method relies on the demographic profile of Grand Island presented in Chapter III. As these population projections are modified by interim estimates or the 2000 census they will impact the recreation LOS projections.

Figure 41 summarizes the LOS computation for parks based on current population estimates.

LEVEL OF SERVICE COMPUTATION

Grand Island Recreation Master Plan

PARK ACRES

District Parks	Acres	Neighborhood Parks	Acres	Mini-Parks	Acres
Le Ray	40.0	Ryder	5.0 *	Capital Heights	0.5
Fonner Soccer Complex	50.0	Stolley	5.0 *	Capital & Webb	1.5
		George	5.0 *	Custer & George	1.6
Subtotal	90.0	Pier	5.0 *	Custer & Faidley	2.5
LOS	2.29	Ashley	5.0 *	Custer & 10th	1.6
		Lincoln	8.6	Custer & 15th	1.6
Community Parks		Grace Abbott	5.4	Custer & 18th	1.6
Ryder	45.4	Memorial	4.5	Custer & Forrest	2.5
Stolley	33.9	Sothman	4.4	North Side Fun Park	1
George	32.8	Buechler	3.9	O'Neill	3.3
Pier	30.9	Lion's Club	2.3	Piper & 18th	3
Ashley	19.6	Pioneer	2.1	White & Faidley	1.6
				Broadwell	2.1
Subtotal	162.6	Subtotal	56.2	Augustine	2.0
LOS	4.13	LOS	1.43	Schuff	0.5
				Subtotal	26.9
				LOS	0.68
				Total Park Acres	310.7
				Total LOS	7.89

* Note: Credit given for portion of Community Park that serves as Neighborhood Park. Acreage not double counted in Actual Total Existing.

Figure 41: Level-of-Service Computation

Here, LOS have been computed for each of four park *types*: Mini, Neighborhood, Community and District. These park types, clarified according to size and use characteristics, are defined in Figure 48 in Chapter VI.

Although each park type is defined by its size and function, a park can, and often does, serve more than one function. For example, a Community park serves as a Neighborhood park for homes in the immediate vicinity (residents immediately adjacent to a community park will walk to it and use it as a neighborhood park). Similarly, a District park performs both Community and Neighborhood park functions for the homes within their service areas.

Therefore, in the Level-of-Service analysis above, a portion of the acreage of community and district parks is included in the total acres of neighborhood parks. Similarly, a portion of the acreage of District parks has been included in the acreage of Community parks. For consistency, the acreage of a large park that is "credited" for smaller park functions has been standardized (five acres for Neighborhood park, 20 acres for a Community park).

Level of Service Summary and Comparison

The LOS for a number of Grand Island's key recreation facilities is shown in Figure 42.

Level of Service Summary

Park Type/Facility	Grand Island
Mini parks	0.68
Neighborhood parks	1.43
Community parks	4.13
District parks	2.29
Total park acres	7.89
Playgrounds	0.70
Open turf fields	0.10
Tennis courts	0.43
Softball fields	0.15
Baseball fields	0.20
Soccer/football fields	0.18
Swimming pools	0.05

Level of Service Comparison

NRPA	Kearney NE	Lincoln NE	Aurora CO
0.40		0.03	
1.50	1.50	2.93	1.20
6.50	1.20	2.61	1.00
7.50	0.90	5.42	3.00
16.00	3.50		
			0.40
			0.50
0.50			0.50
0.20			0.25
0.20			0.25
0.10			0.30
0.05			

Figure 42: Level of Service Summary and Comparison

The National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) has developed nationwide standards for parks planning. The NRPA standards are averages of the Levels-of-Service of many large cities throughout the U.S. To put Grand Island's proposed LOS in perspective, they are compared in Figure 42 with the standards of the NRPA as well as several comparable communities in the region: Kearney and Lincoln, Nebraska, as well as communities of similar size such as Aurora, Colorado. In a few cases there are no NRPA standards for some facilities, or information is lacking to allow a comparison with other communities.

Summary — Level-of-Service Recreation Needs

It should be noted that the existing LOS may not reflect current needs. There may be current deficiencies as reflected by waiting lists for softball and baseball teams, crowded swim facilities and waits for tennis or basketball courts. Thus, the LOS can be adjusted to reflect current *needs* rather than just reflect current conditions. For example, if the current LOS for baseball fields is .08, and it is generally agreed that three more fields (i.e. an LOS of .12) are needed to meet today's needs, then to project the current .08 LOS into future population levels will only extend current deficiencies into the future. Alternatively, if the LOS standard is set at .12 (as if the needed fields were already constructed) this new LOS becomes a goal and more accurately reflects current as well as future needs. The LOS that is recommended is based on input from Parks and Recreation Department staff, the Advisory Committee, opinion survey results and public hearings, and an evaluation of resources available.

On the whole, the City is reasonably well-served with Park acreage. With regard to Neighborhood and Community Parks, Grand Island compares favorably with NRPA guidelines as well as the similar communities. Deficiencies can be noted with respect to specific park types and other facilities, such as bike paths, baseball fields and tennis courts. The most significant divergences occur at the District Park level, where Grand Island is significantly below NRPA guidelines as well as the LOS of several of the comparison cities. Nevertheless, public input to date suggests that at a general level, the current LOS for parks are acceptable to the public.

Impact of Population Growth on Level-of-Service

Two scenarios are evaluated in order to portray the impacts of growth on the usage level of parks and recreation facilities. In Scenario A, the amount of park acres is held constant as the community grows, to illustrate what the Level-of-Service will be (reduced) if no new facilities are added. Scenario B illustrates how many acres or facilities will be required to maintain the current Level-of-Service.

Even at current LOS it is clear that a significant amount of additional park acres (a total of 44 acres) will be required by the year 2010 to provide City residents with the same accessibility to parks that they have today.

PROJECTED PARK NEEDS Grand Island Recreation Master Plan

Scenario A <i>LOS declines if no new parks added as population grows.</i>				Scenario B <i>Acres required to maintain LOS at current level.</i>				Additional Acres Needed by 2010
TOTAL PARKS	1990	2000	2010	TOTAL PARKS	1990	2000	2010	
Acres Available	310.7	310.7	310.7	Total Acres Needed	310.7	339.2	368.4	57.7
Resulting Level of Service	7.89	7.23	6.65	Level of Service	7.89	7.89	7.89	
DISTRICT PARKS	1990	2000	2010	DISTRICT PARKS	1990	2000	2010	16.7
Acres Available	90	90	90	Total Acres Needed	90	98.3	106.7	
Resulting Level of Service	2.29	2.09	1.93	Level of Service	2.29	2.29	2.29	
COMMUNITY PARKS	1990	2000	2010	COMMUNITY PARKS	1990	2000	2010	30.2
Acres Available	162.6	162.6	162.6	Total Acres Needed	162.6	177.5	192.8	
Resulting Level of Service	4.13	3.78	3.48	Level of Service	4.13	4.13	4.13	
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	1990	2000	2010	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	1990	2000	2010	10.4
Acres Available - City	56.2	56.2	56.2	Acres Needed	56.2	61.4	66.6	
Resulting Level of Service	1.43	1.31	1.20	Level of Service	1.43	1.43	1.43	

Figure 43: Projected Park Needs

THE DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS SERVICE AREAS

Having determined that the amount of park acreage is generally adequate, at least for current needs, the second question is, "Are the parks located so as to be accessible to each neighborhood and the population in general?"

By superimposing a service radius of each park type we can see whether portions of the City fall outside the resulting coverage areas.* As can be seen from the following maps, the Community Parks provide reasonably good coverage of the developed portions of the City. With regard to Neighborhood Parks, the distribution is not as complete — there are areas of overlap and other areas with low accessibility to Neighborhood parks.

School playgrounds often serve as neighborhood parks, too, insofar as play equipment and play fields or open turf are available to the public. In Grand Island, the school facilities have not been designed with neighborhood functions in mind, and therefore in some cases the facilities are not of comparable quality to that of the City's parks. Nevertheless, in many areas school grounds are the only available resource for neighborhood park facilities.

Similarly, many detention cells fulfill at least the playground and open turf functions of neighborhood parks. Since they have fewer facilities, and serve a younger age, people will not walk as far to use them and they are presumed to have a smaller service area. Nevertheless, they do serve a *partial* neighborhood park function.

A second neighborhood map is included that illustrates the neighborhood park coverage that would result if school facilities and detention cell mini-parks are included.

Therefore, even though today's population is reasonably well-served with park *acreage*, to provide parks *convenient* to all neighborhoods and meet the needs of future growth will require creative use of all of the City's resources, including:

- Utilization and upgrading of the many small, City-owned parcels (including detention cells) scattered throughout the community
- Capture all possible land through land dedication as new developments are subdivided
- Cooperative improvement of public school lands
- Where possible, and when other remedies are not available, purchase vacant land for parks

*Since District Parks serve the whole City, the service areas have not been mapped

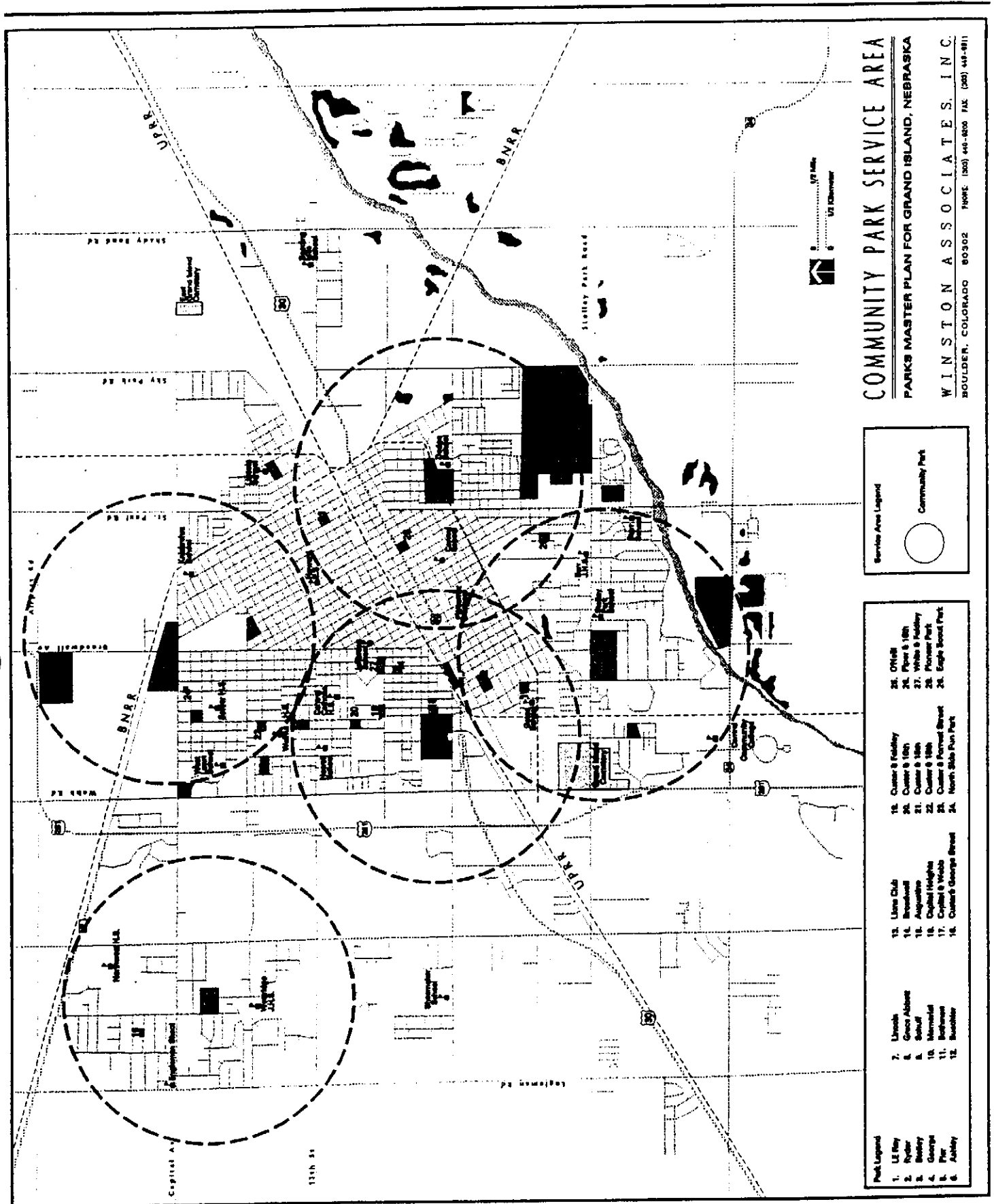


Figure 44: Map of Community Park Service Areas

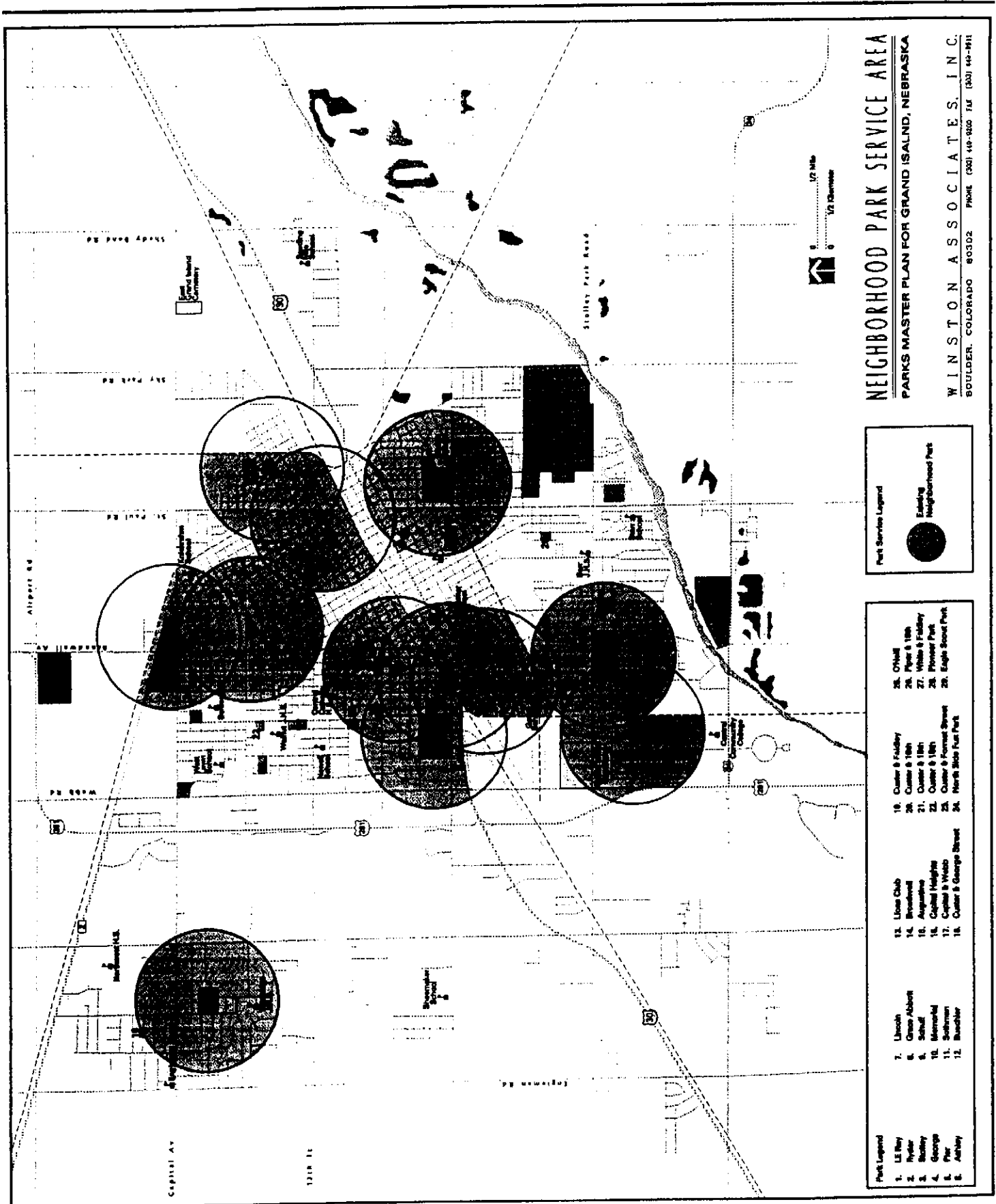
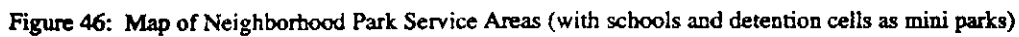


Figure 45: Map of Neighborhood Park Service Area



VI. THE MASTER PLAN AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter presents the various elements of the Master Plan. It is based on the existing conditions and opportunities in Grand Island, and the needs analysis derived from Steering Committee recommendations, public input through a focus group and public opinion survey.

MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Objectives and policy statements, guided by a mission statement, are key aspects of any master plan. When used effectively they help:

- prioritize projects for annual budgeting;
- evaluate and rank unanticipated projects and needs that are often identified after annual budgets have been established;
- justify projects and actions to the City Council and citizens;
- provide criteria for evaluating the recreation aspects of private development proposals.

The following Mission Statement and Objectives are built upon work that was done in conjunction with the 1992 Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan, modified and augmented by the input received during the development of this Master Plan.

Mission Statement

Provide a diverse regional network of recreational and cultural facilities and activities which afford all residents convenient access to a wide range of leisure opportunities and provide for continued expansion of leisure facilities as they become needed.

Objectives

The following objectives are "guideposts" that lead to the realization of the Mission Statement above. In a general sense, progress toward meeting these objectives is measurable: they can be used in annual evaluations to evaluate achievements. They can also be used to identify future needs of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

1. Maintain, and upgrade, existing parks to achieve a high level of quality, safety and attractive appearance.
2. Expand the supply and diversity of parks and leisure facilities in the regional area to meet the unfilled needs of the current, and future, population.

-
- Encourage — or if possible require — developers of new residential areas to dedicate land for park use.
 - Work with the school district to cooperatively develop and maintain school properties to serve as neighborhood or mini parks.
3. Preserve and utilize the City's unique natural areas such as stream courses and wooded areas. They should be considered as recreation resources and be developed with recreation facilities when such development will not destroy their natural and wildlife habitat qualities.
 4. Create an integrated system of on- and off-street paths for pedestrians, bicycles and other non-motorized movement to connect parks, residential and commercial areas, and other key public destinations.
 - Develop a system of linear parks following stream courses, utility easements and abandoned railways to create hiking and bicycling trails connecting recreation areas and commercial areas.
 - Plan for pedestrian and bicycle paths in future street right of way requirements and system layout.
 5. Provide support for leisure services in terms of staff, materials and technologies to keep pace with community needs. Make use of cable television technologies to inform citizens of recreation, leisure and cultural opportunities.
 6. Cooperate with other public, semi-public and private recreational providers to:
 - assure that a broad range of recreational activities are available to Grand Island residents at low cost;
 - avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities;
 - coordinate seasonal calendars of activities;
 - expand services in areas of need.
 7. Develop opportunities for volunteer services in the parks and recreation system, and encourage and support volunteer efforts by citizens of all ages.
 8. Identify and protect historic monuments, structures and sites throughout the community, evaluate their desirability for preservation, and utilize public and private resources for their preservation.

-
9. Provide convenient opportunities for people with disabilities to access, use and enjoy the amenities of the park system.
 10. A major emphasis of the City is to provide recreation facilities (fields, pools, courts, etc.) that are available to the general public. The City endorses the programming and use of City facilities by other public and semi-public recreation providers whenever possible.
 - Act as a facilitator in encouraging and coordinating other recreation providers to address community needs and opportunities.
 - Sponsor recreation activities when it is efficient for the City to do so and when activities cannot be better provided by other entities.
 11. The cost of recreation programs should be born by the participants, but only to the degree that ability-to-pay is not a constraint to participation.
 12. Repair, replace and install recreation equipment in a manner that places a high priority on public safety.

Policies

Policies are "decisions made in advance." Often policies are created as a result of issues encountered in a controversial decision ("from now on it will be our policy to..."). Policies can also be created through independent deliberation. Regardless of how they are generated, the purpose of policies is to bring consistency to decision-making, generally about recurring issues. The following policies are intended to guide the design and use of park facilities.

The City is committed to:

1. Acquire land and develop park facilities to maintain the Level-of-Service ratios adopted in this Master Plan.
2. Develop future parks in accordance with the Park Type Standards of the Park and Recreation Master Plan.
3. Subsidize youth recreational activities at a level greater than 50%.
4. Subsidize adult recreational activities at a level less than 25%.
5. Install restrooms:

- in parks with facilities that have long-term participation (i.e. more than a 3 hour period, such as softball games, band concerts, etc.);
- in conjunction with children's wading pools

Where demand for restroom facilities is seasonal, the City may utilize portable toilets.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND PARK NEEDS

A Level-of-Service (LOS) standard is a ratio of facilities-per-thousand population. It is derived by the following formula:

$$\text{existing facilities} \div \text{population (in thousands)} = \text{LOS}$$

It can be used to determine the number of additional facilities needed for a given population level, by the following calculation:

$$\text{LOS} \times \text{population (in thousands)} - \text{existing facilities} = \text{new facilities needed}$$

For example,

$$.43 \text{ (tennis LOS)} \times 43 \text{ (year 2000 population)} - 17 \text{ (existing courts)} = 1.5 \text{ (new courts needed by 2000)}$$

The following Level-of-Service standards are adopted to guide, and measure, the provision of adequate recreation facilities for the City of Grand Island. The difference between the LOS Standard and the Current LOS is a reflection of current deficiencies identified earlier in this document.

Facility	Existing Facilities	Current LOS	LOS Standard	Additional Facilities Needed in 1996	Additional Facilities Needed by 2000	Additional Facilities Needed by 2010
District parks*	40	1.0	1.0	0	2	6
Community parks*	162.6	4.0	4.0	0	8	23
Neighborhood parks*	56.2	1.4	1.4	0	3	8
Mini parks*	26.9	0.7	0.7	0	1	4
Total parks*	260.7	6.4	6.4	0	13	36
Playgrounds	28	0.7	0.7	0	1	4
Open turf fields	4	0.10	0.10	0	0	1
Tennis courts	17	0.41	0.41	0	1	2
Outdoor basketball courts	3	0.07	0.07	0	0	0
Softball fields	6	0.15	0.23	3	4	5
Baseball fields	8	0.20	0.20	0	1	1
Football/soccer fields	7	0.17	0.18	0	1	1
Swimming pools	2	0.05	0.06	0	1	1
Trails**	2	0.05	0.20	6	7	7

*=acres

**=miles

Figure 47: Level-of-Service Standards and Park Needs

PARK TYPE DEFINITIONS AND SERVICE AREAS

Like most cities, Grand Island's parks come in a variety of sizes, shapes and characteristics. Some combination of features are better suited than others to provide certain kinds of recreation experiences. For example, natural areas can usually best be provided in a large park. Athletic fields for competitive, spectator events can often be provided most efficiently in medium-sized parks that serve the whole city, or at least multiple neighborhoods. On the other hand, residents also desire some sort of 'green oasis' within convenient walking distance of their home. This is especially true of households with small children. The parks that best meet this need are often smaller, more passive and preferably do *not* have intensive sports facilities. These various types and functions of parks can be classified into various park type definitions.

In order to provide variety and balance in its park and recreation facilities, Grand Island has adopted the following Park Type Standards, which have been derived from conditions existing in the city. These Standards will be used to guide the design and location of future parks of each type.

With regard to facilities, these Standards suggest additional emphasis on locating basketball courts (even half-courts) in Neighborhood parks, and concentrating active play fields (with striping and goals or backstops) in Community parks.

How do these standards guide location of parks? It should be noted that the above Standards not only suggest size, functions and facilities for each park type, they also suggest a Service Area, or radius of population that the park is intended to serve.

Even though the City's population is reasonably well-served with an adequate *amount* of park acreage, the service area analysis in Chapter V revealed that there are several areas of the City that do not have parks, particularly Neighborhood Parks, within the desired Service Area radius. That is, the parks in these areas are not as convenient as they are in most other areas of the City. The analysis in Chapter V identified park locations that would remedy the Service *Area* deficiencies. These park locations are identified in the Park Master Plan (later in this Chapter) as the preferred location for future parks as they are needed in response to future population growth.

The City has been well-endowed with parks by farsighted City fathers in the past. Large parks have generally been well-spaced throughout the community. They were well-designed in their time and although they need to be upgraded, they will continue to provide even more effective facilities for today's needs. There are numerous opportunities for hike-and-bike trail corridors to connect

GRAND ISLAND PARK STANDARDS

TYPE OF PARK	OPTIMUM SIZE	SERVICE AREA	USE
<i>Mini Parks</i> (such as Schuff, Broadwell and detention cells)	.2 to 1 acres	residential neighborhoods within ¼ mile radius	<p>A walk-to facility that provides play and passive recreation for the immediate vicinity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground equipment • Picnic tables, shelters • Open turf • Natural areas
<i>Neighborhood Parks</i> (such as Grace Abbott and Lincoln)	5 to 10 acres	residential areas within ½ mile radius	<p>A walk-to facility with amenities that are predominantly neighborhood-oriented (not competitive sports):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play areas • Tennis courts • Basketball courts • Open field for casual, multi-use play
<i>Community Parks</i> (such as Ryder and Ashley)	20 to 40 acres	1 mile radius	<p>A drive-to facility that serves multiple neighborhoods and includes both competitive sports and passive recreation facilities that are typically not provided in neighborhood parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active sports facilities, grouped for efficiency where possible (three to four tennis courts, two or three basketball courts, etc.) • Lighted sports fields with bleachers • Small passive areas for neighborhood park function • Community center for indoor recreation including kitchen, meeting rooms and large open exercise area • Natural area with trail
<i>District/Regional Parks</i> (such as L.E. Ray)	40 to 150 acres	5 mile radius	<p>A city-wide drive-to resource primarily for nature-oriented activities and/or major sports facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large children's playground (with theme) • Lighted active sports facilities (tennis, baseball, soccer, etc.) grouped in complexes for efficiency • Significant dedicated natural areas with trails and passive park uses • Community center

Figure 48: Grand Island Park Standards

parks and other important destinations throughout the City. The decommissioned Army Ordnance Plant holds great promise as a major regional open space and recreation resource.

The Needs Analysis identified a number of deficiencies — a few to meet current needs, but the majority to meet the needs of future growth. As the City grows, into areas that are now undeveloped, additional neighborhood parks will be needed. They can and should be acquired gradually, in advance of the need using any and all means available.

However, the most immediate challenge for Grand Island is not to greatly expand the park system, but rather to do more with the resources that the City already possesses. The following section evaluates specific needs and potentials of the existing parks, facilities and maintenance operation.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING PARK SYSTEM

General, System-Wide Needs and Opportunities

A thorough evaluation of the park facilities identifies a number of needs and opportunities that are common to multiple sites throughout the park system. These observations are based upon several basic principals:

Time is money — labor is one of the primary costs of the park system. Efforts that result in time-saving will return multiple, significant benefits to the City.

Safety is essential — even with legislation that protects Nebraska communities from the nuisance lawsuits that afflict many communities across the U.S., there are conditions and equipment that have potentially lower safety levels. The public has a natural expectation that the City's facilities are reasonably safe. Some of the equipment in the parks has been discontinued by manufacturers, and is being replaced in many communities with equipment that is more accessible, colorful, varied and safety-conscious.

Appearance is important — although design quality and attractiveness is highly subjective, an attractive appearance can increase the attraction to and enjoyment of recreation facilities. Many of the newer, brightly-colored play structures in Grand Island are significantly more used than their older, drab neighboring facilities. As with other public facilities, the appearance of parks is also a statement about the values of the community. To the degree that it increases Grand Island's attractiveness to potential employers and residents, the park system makes a subtle but valuable contribution

to economic development. Grand Island's parks are an important aspect of the attractiveness of Grand Island as a community. Standardized design has time-saving benefits as well — reducing the number of parts and paint colors that have to be stored.

Accessibility is a courtesy — for many years we have ignored the needs of people with disabilities, often needs that could have been met with a small attention to details that would make parks more accessible to wheelchairs, baby strollers and crutches. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) there is strong encouragement to incorporate accessibility as a design objective. Without great additional effort, barrier-free access can be built in to new construction and renovation of existing areas and facilities with relatively minor cost impacts.



Figure 49: Integrated play structure at George Park

Based on these principals, there are a number of steps that can be taken to improve the City's existing facilities. A number of these measures have already been initiated by the Parks and Recreation staff and should be continued and expanded.



Figure 50: Play equipment grouped in mulch bed

1. Consolidate playground equipment into groupings in a common sand or mulch bed. In many of the parks, playground equipment was installed piecemeal, in scattered locations. This leads to several problems: mowing and trimming around each individual piece of equipment is time-consuming (and therefore expensive), from a safety standpoint grass is not as resilient as other materials, and the depressions in the ground around play structures often fill with water during storms and render the equipment unusable for some time afterward. Consolidating play equipment into groups with a common sand or mulch bed allows easier mowing, less hand trimming, and a safer and more durable condition for children.
2. Remove play equipment that is potentially hazardous or is little used, such as the heavy, solid swings with pipe chains. Phase out the whirls and teeter-totters. Return the areas occupied by this equipment back to general park usage.
3. Upgrade the park signage and create attractive entry statements at major park entries. Create more visible signs that utilize the City logo, and surround them with planting beds.
4. Gradually redo roofs of picnic shelters with one or two colorful, durable materials:

- consider hail-resistant steel roofs on major shelters
- lock tab asphalt is a durable alternative to steel
- roofs should have a single color, preferably dark, to give a unified identity to all the parks and require storing only a single replacement material



Figure 51: Visible, attractive signage with flower accents

5. Consider adding paved walks to restrooms, playgrounds and other heavily-traveled destinations (both reducing maintenance and increasing handicap accessibility). For example, at Stolley Park there are no connections suitable for wheelchairs or strollers to the flower garden, play areas or pavilions. Where walks will serve also as multi-use trails or service roads (e.g. for trash collection) they should be 6" in depth and 10' wide. A 5' wide walk is adequate for most other applications. Concrete is recommended over asphalt for long-term durability.
6. Even though the City has not been challenged with respect to handicap accessibility, as a general courtesy all future restroom renovations should provide handicap stalls. For small restrooms, make the single stall handicap accessible.
7. The parks generally need greater variety tree species. There is a high proportion of Hackberry and Cottonwoods. In spite of the Hackberry's hardiness in Grand Island, the near total loss of elms to Dutch Elm disease is ample evidence that a broad range of tree species is desirable.
8. Plant trees in clusters rather than in geometric patterns or random spacing throughout the turf area. Rather than fill in the park with trees, make a clear distinction between tree groves and open turf areas.
9. Remove or replant shrubs that do not fit into an overall park planting design. There are a number of tree and shrub plantings that are remnants of structures or paths that no longer exist. These plantings could be removed or embellished to enhance the appearance of the park.
10. Creating or enlarging large, bright flower beds in key, highly visible locations such as park entries and near park signage will do much to upgrade the overall appearance of the park system. Where located along major roadways the rule of thumb is one



Figure 52: Pier Park shelter roof needs repair



Figure 53: Example of colorful flower beds at park entry



Figure 54: Group mulching of trees reduces hand trimming of grass

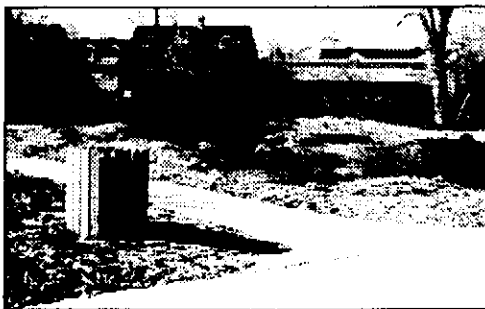


Figure 55: Decorative trash containers

linear foot of bed for every mile per hour of posted speed. Depth should be at least two feet.

Design should concentrate on solid colors for roadside beds, and pastel arrangements for pedestrian locations.

Additional beds will require an increase in staff time, although seasonal workers are usually very capable with modest supervision. Volunteer support from service clubs works in some communities.

11. Continue to place mulch around trees and shrub beds to reduce trimming and damage to trees. Mulch closely-spaced trees as a group to reduce mowing around individual trees.
12. The 50 gallon drums used for trash containers not only detract from a park's appearance, they are also unwieldy, when full, for park employees. Consider a three part trash container system:
 - 20 gallon ornamental containers (similar to those used at Island Oasis) in prime high-level pedestrian areas;
 - 30 gallon containers (easier to handle) with plastic bag liners throughout the park
 - fully screened dumpsters in large picnic areas and at a collection point in other well-used parks

Paint all containers black or another uniform color, and use containers to post park regulations (silk screen application).

13. Provide complete restroom facilities in Community Parks, at wading/swimming pools and other parks or facilities that have development or uses that hold people for more than three hours. Address periodic needs for restrooms with rented chemical toilets, placed within an attractive screen/structure where they are used for several months at a time or in large numbers.
14. Tennis court popularity is growing. Even though the expressed demand is low, experience shows that upgrading their appearance often significantly increased level of use. Since a number of older, unimproved tennis courts exist, the system capacity can be increased at relatively low cost (\$2,500 per court for a color bond surface). Cracked or unstable slabs may require a slip sheeting" approach that is more expensive (\$11,000) than color bond but still much less than the \$25 to 35,000 a new court requires.

ANALYSIS OF INDIVIDUAL FACILITIES

Ashley Park

Ashley Park is a drive-to park: as a Community Park, it serves several neighborhoods that are beyond walking distance, and its location on a busy roadway makes it preferable to be reached by car. The Burlington Northern rail line along the north edge of the park precludes access from that direction.

The park's internal circular drives are used by walkers as well as cars. With its numerous picnic pavilions and a spacious grass area, it receives heavy picnic use. A number of vinyl-coated steel picnic tables are very effective (durable, attractive and require little maintenance). The fluted-block restroom (new style) has lower maintenance than the wood restrooms in other parks, is less susceptible to vandalism, and gives the park a modern appearance. A play area with specialized play equipment designed for children with disabilities is aligned along sidewalk. There is also an asphalt basketball court and a lighted Little League baseball diamond with bleachers and scoreboard.



Figure 56: Ashley Park play equipment for disabled

Recommendations:

1. The park frontage on busy Broadwell Avenue is noisy and as a result that area of the park is less used. Create a screen with a berm and planting buffer to increase the utility of the park.
2. To reduce hand trimming or moving picnic tables, cluster them in permanent locations with wood mulch ground cover.
3. Plant trees, in clumps, in locations that will shade the picnic areas.
4. With single-species trees (mono-culture), there is a risk of major devastation from tree virus such as Dutch elm disease, fire blights, pine beetles, etc. Future plantings should diversify tree species.
5. The baseball field bleachers need cleaning and painting, with the installation of new seats or fiberglass caps over the old ones.
6. Upgrade the ballfield lighting and replace the ballfield fence.
7. Improve accessibility for disabled by extending rubberized surfaces from sidewalk to specialized play equipment.

8. Increase visibility/impact of park with improved park entry signage reinforced with a floral display.
9. For easier maintenance, relocate existing (non-specialized) playground equipment to clusters (near picnic shelters) with sand or wood mulch ground cover and wood edging flush with the ground. As budgets allow, replace older play equipment with modern, integrated equipment. Remove little-used or potentially accident-prone equipment such as teeter-totters, whirls and fixed-chain swings.
10. When a picnic shelter roof needs repair/replacement, use roof material/color standardized for the whole park system.
11. Paint and/or screen the trash dumpsters to make them less visible.

Buechler Park

Buechler Park is a classic neighborhood park in an older section of Grand Island. The Victorian-style bandstand that graces the park is popular with children for play and is also used for concerts. A new, integrated play structure has been installed, but older play equipment is still found in various freestanding grass locations throughout the park.



Figure 57: Buechler Park bandstand



Figure 58: Evenly-spaced trees in open turf area require individual trimming

Recommendations:

1. Avoid linear, evenly-spaced tree plantings in open grass areas that increase trimming and tend to reduce areas for open play. Instead, cluster trees within informal mulch beds.
2. Place future trees within existing clusters or new ones that will shade play/picnic areas.
3. Increase visibility/impact of park with improved park entry signage reinforced with a floral display.
4. With the new integrated play structure, the older, existing play equipment (especially heavy-seat swings, whirl and teeter totter) should be removed, or painted and consolidated in areas with a uniform sand or wood mulch ground surface.
5. When the picnic shelter roof needs repair/replacement, use roof material/color standardized for whole park system.

6. Add ornamental trash containers or paint and/or screen the trash dumpsters to make them less visible.
7. Paint and re-roof band shelter.

George Park

Located in the fast-growing northwest section of city, this park was originally developed as a County park and later transferred to the City. It has a new, integrated play structure as well as a variety of older pieces scattered through the park. A concrete block restroom is located in the middle of the park and a garage-like equipment shed is located near the parking lot. It also has:

- 2 picnic shelters
- picnic tables
- lighted ball diamond
- lighted tennis/basketball courts

A majority of the park is unstructured open turf area, although previous tree planting layouts have constricted the areas that are available for soccer or other field games.

Recommendations:

1. Repaint the bathroom and equipment building (currently light green) to a brown tone or another color used consistently throughout the park system.
2. Resurface asphalt parking lot.
3. Add trees along the edge of the parking lot and in one or more tree islands in each row of parking to shade parking and lessen the impact of asphalt.
4. Mulch or plant ground covers around the posts that border the edge of the parking lot to reduce hand trimming.
5. Strategically plant new trees within existing clusters and in locations that will shade play/picnic areas. Cluster trees within informal mulch beds.
6. Increase visibility/impact of park with improved park entry signage reinforced with a floral display.

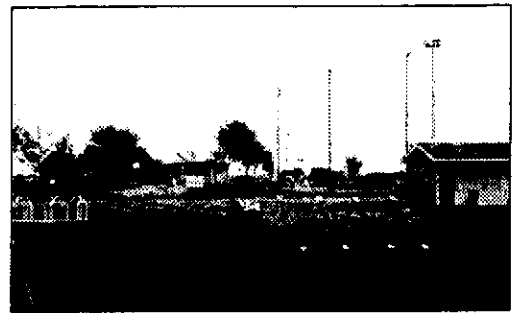


Figure 59: George Park free-standing play equipment and rest room

7. With the new integrated play structure, the older, existing play equipment should be removed, or painted and consolidated in areas with a uniform sand or wood mulch ground cover.
8. When picnic shelter roof needs repair/replacement, use roof material/color standardized for whole park system.
9. Paint trash cans and screen dumpsters to make them less visible.
10. Renovate tennis courts; jointing pattern and cracks indicate probable need for slip-sheet approach.
11. Add sidewalks to restrooms, play areas and picnic pavillions.
12. Consolidate monuments in new park entry composition, including park sign, to upgrade park appearance as well as to free up usable turf area.
13. Screen vacuum breaker at entry with shrub planting in a bed.

Grace Abbott

Located in the northern end of the city, Grace Abbott has a full range of facilities, including two tennis courts, a baseball diamond with scoreboard and bleachers, and a brick band shelter. There is a children's wading pool and attractive (exterior) restroom/changing room that were constructed over 50 years ago. The pool has no filtration or pumping equipment. It is filled and emptied daily. Play equipment is scattered singly and in small groups throughout the park.



Figure 60: Grace Abbott wading pool

Recommendations:

1. Avoid planting future trees in linear, evenly-spaced patterns in open grass areas (which increases trimming and reduces areas for open play). Instead, cluster trees near existing trees and in new groves, all with informally shaped mulch beds. Also, site trees (groves) in locations that will shade seating/play/picnic areas.
2. Increase visibility/impact of park with improved park entry signage reinforced with a floral display.

3. Much of the existing older play equipment should be gradually removed (heavy swing seats, teeter totter), or painted and consolidated with a sand or wood mulch ground surface. If possible, install a new, integrated play structure.
4. Add ornamental trash containers or paint trash cans; screen trash dumpsters to make them less visible.
5. Replace wading pool with new pump/filtered pool with restroom.
6. Preserve existing restroom building either by remodeling as a restroom/changing room or converting it to another use.
7. The band shelter appears to have been subject to vandalism (broken glass, graffiti). Evaluate whether its use and popularity with the neighborhood is sufficient to warrant preservation. If so, repair fascia and repaint.
8. Extend sidewalks to provide accessibility to play equipment and other high use facilities.
9. The bleachers at the ballfield need new seats or fiberglass seat caps. Consider also raising height of the outfield fence to keep balls out of the street and tennis courts.
10. Refurbish tennis courts and fencing.

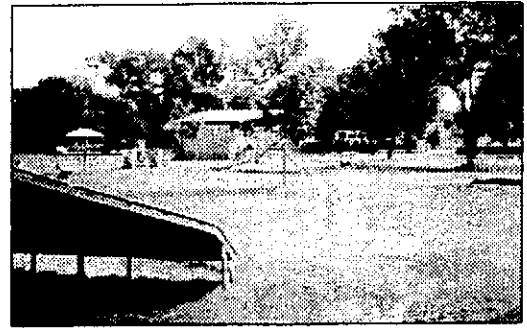


Figure 61: Free-standing play equipment at Grace Abbott Park requires individual hand trimming

L.E. Ray

L.E. Ray is a large, natural park with a 45-acre lake for boating and windsurfing. On the peninsula are located a bathhouse and small sand beach for lake swimming. The day use area at the west end of the park consists of a picnic shelter, picnic tables and grills and scattered play equipment. Most of the park facilities are older. A renovation plan has been prepared that expands and paves the parking, installs a boat ramp and develops an island in the lake with gazebo and floating bridges. Car camping pull-ins (21) are proposed along the south edge of the lake, adjacent to



Figure 62: LE Ray Park

Highway 34. Finally, a combination of concrete and wood chip trails are proposed around the lake.

Recommendations:

1. Ray Lake has potential for campsite development for short-term visitors in RV's and tents.
 - Use an honor system fee (only provide a host for over 100 spots)
 - Establish a short term parking requirement
 - Do not provide showers or electric hookups — encourages longer-term stays
2. Provide more visible identity signage, and instructional/regulatory signs to inform the occasional user.
3. Paint play equipment or replace with a contemporary, integrated play structure. Some equipment removed from other parks could be relocated here.
4. For easier maintenance, cluster playground equipment in single area (near picnic shelter) with sand or wood mulch ground surface. Add picnic tables and barbeque stands.
5. Provide flagpole or wind indicator for boats and sailboards.
6. Use buoys to demarcate no-boating swim area.
7. When picnic shelter roof needs repair/replacement, use roof material/color standardized for whole park system.
8. Replace wood frame restroom with current city standard design.

In proposed design:

1. Meander the proposed concrete path in and around trees in an informal alignment consistent with the natural character of park.
2. Verify the parking layout for boat trailers — diagonal orientation may be more convenient to users.
3. Provide boat pull-up near restrooms.

4. Gently curve the parking lot and insert tree islands every 10 to 15 spaces to reduce the amount of asphalt visible at one time.
5. Provide a planting plan to guide tree placement in informal clusters.

Lincoln Park

The swimming pool is a 25-yard pool with an "L" for diving. The water slide was relocated from another park. Although it continues to function adequately, the fiberglass has severely faded and the steel structure is rusty in places. The 1972 pool pumps have recently been replaced. The pool changing/equipment room is a flat-roofed concrete block structure. It has bare concrete floors and does not meet ADA requirements (wider doorways, accessible toilet facilities, etc.).

The two lighted concrete tennis courts are 30 to 40 years old. They have not been upgraded with colored asphalt overlay.

Lincoln Elementary School is adjacent to the park. Its turf is poorly maintained. The older, makeshift school play equipment is less appealing than the newer, integrated equipment installed in Lincoln Park.

The wading pool is popular with children. Like the wading pool at Grace Abbott Park, the Lincoln Park wading pool was constructed over 50 years ago. As a result there is no recirculating pump or filtration. It is drained and filled daily. The restroom/changing room building near the wading pool is very old, and despite regular maintenance, it has declined: doorways sag, walls and floors are cracked and patched. Toilets and sinks have been subject to vandalism and misuse, and do not meet current standards for accessibility for the disabled.

Recommendations:

1. Install new wading pool with pump/filtration equipment.
2. Replace the restroom/changing room. (It is probably not feasible to salvage the existing building for reuse.)
3. Replace the bathhouse — it is probably not feasible to remodel the existing facility to meet current accessibility and hygiene standards — and install more durable, vandal-proof fixtures, to create a more attractive appearance.



Figure 63: Lincoln Park pool/slide

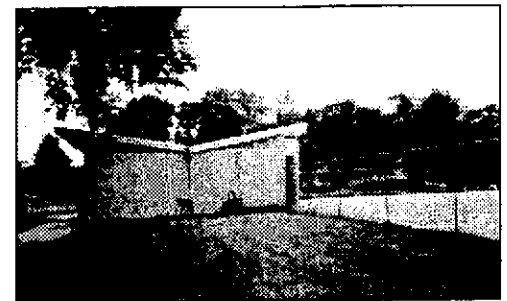


Figure 64: Lincoln Park bath house

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4. To reduce trimming at the base of the pool fence, create a shrub or mulch bed along the fence.
 5. Improve the pool's appearance with retractable umbrella tables, concrete dye color the deck surface, paint chain link fence a dark color, and create a shade area near the pool with tree plantings or shade structure. Create an inviting entry to the pool/bathhouse with flowers, decorative paving, and graphics on the building.
 6. Fill in areas of bare dirt under the water slide with brick or colored/patterned concrete paving.
 7. If there is sufficient interest/demand in the neighborhood for tennis, resurface the existing tennis courts. If not, convert tennis courts to basketball courts. If ice skating is still desired by the neighborhood, create a separate temporary ice skating rink.
 8. Explore with the School district the possibility of joint use of land and facilities: school use of park playground, City use of school land for expanded play areas/fields/basketball court, etc.
 9. Increase the visibility/impact of the park with improved park entry signage reinforced with a floral display.
 10. Add ornamental trash containers or paint trash cans; screen trash dumpsters to make them less visible.

Memorial Park

This in-town park has a small effective service area: it is cut off from surrounding residential areas by the heavy traffic on 2nd Street one block to the south and the railroad tracks along the north edge of the park. Nevertheless, 3rd Street adjacent to the Park carries little traffic and the park has an overall quiet setting. On the east end of the park a short chain link fence enclosure separates a small play area from the rest of the park, including adjacent play equipment.

Recommendations:

1. Planting along the railroad right-of-way to screen out views of storage yards to the north and to enclose the park.
2. Eliminate the "3rd City Kiwanis" playground enclosure and reconsolidate the play equipment into a single area, with safe surface, near the east picnic pavilion.
3. Preserve open turf areas, especially the large area along the north edge of the park, by planting trees in clumps near existing trees.

4. Install prominent, attractive park signage, reinforced with a flower display if a volunteer group is willing to provide maintenance.
5. Utilize ornamental trash containers.
6. Pour concrete pads around bases of barbecue grills to reduce hand trimming and fire potential.

Northside Fun Park

The Northside Fun Park is a small neighborhood (almost mini) park in a higher density (apartment) neighborhood. Its play equipment has already been consolidated into a sand-based cluster.

Recommendations:

1. Site new trees in one or more clusters that will shade the play area.
2. Improve park visibility/appearance with new signage reinforced with a floral display.

Pier Park

One of the older parks in the system, Pier Park is also one of the favorite parks in Grand Island. The stone gate pillars, the Statue of Liberty replica, the old stone building — all focused around the large lake with flocks of ducks and geese give Pier Park a classic identity recalling Grand Island's history and genteel values.

An abandoned remnant of the Beltline railway runs along the southern edge of the park. Oak Street bisects the park, separating one of the ballfields from the rest of the park. The two concrete tennis courts have not been upgraded, and the playground equipment is scattered in various locations along Oak Street, opposite the Dodge School to the east.

The seawall around the lake is collapsing in several locations, primarily due to erosion when lake levels have allowed waves to overtop the wall. The repairs with stacked concrete "bags" stand out dramatically from the original construction.

The stone concession building on the edge of the lake has been boarded up. Old, classic picnic shelters are in need of re-roofing and other repairs. A new fluted-concrete block restroom has been constructed, and several new picnic pavillions have been installed.



Figure 65: Pier Park seawall erosion



Figure 66: Pier Park seawall repair

Recommendations:

1. Replace the concrete-sack sea wall repairs with stone or interlocking split-faced concrete block wall that will more closely match the original construction. Line the back of the walls (before backfilling) with a geotextile filter fabric to prevent soil fines from being washed out.
2. Offer a very low rent concession license (snacks, paddle boat rental, etc.) for the stone building in exchange for modest renovation.
3. Replace roofs on small, wood picnic shelters at lake edge. Use standard roof material common to the system (see recommendations for other parks). Repaint or stain as warranted.
4. Create more visible, attractive park entry signs, with expanded flower beds, at stone pillars and other entries.
5. Refurbish tennis courts with color-bond coating and new fencing.
6. Upgrade ballfield lighting.
7. Replace heavy swing seats, remove teeter totter, remove whirt when repairs needed, and consolidate (or replace) play equipment in sand or mulch ground surface area.
8. Work with Public Works to evaluate whether traffic use will allow some portion, or all, of Oak Street to be removed to reconsolidate the park.
9. Extend paved walkways to play area, picnic pavillions and other high use areas to reduce maintenance and increase barrier-free access for all residents. Make restrooms handicap-accessible.



Figure 67: Pier Park stone building

Pioneer Park

Pioneer park was one of the first parks in Grand Island, created after the first City Hall was demolished and relocated. Today it is a passive urban park — the diagonal walks connecting opposite corners of the park are lined with evenly space ornamental trees. There are several benches in free-standing locations in the lawn, and a non-functioning wrought iron drinking fountain that could be restored to an interesting feature. Along 2nd Street are located several historic information panels, and a collection of historic road signs showing the evolution of highway signage over a number of years.

Recommendations:

1. Move benches closer to sidewalk, extend paving beneath benches to reduce hand trimming.
2. Repair historic drinking fountain.
3. Accentuate historical information signs and historic road signs by either:
 - consolidating them into a single display area (perhaps with the old fountain, with benches and a bark mulch surface, enclosed by a hedge); or
 - add decorative paving or a bark mulch area around the base of each sign (to reduce hand trimming) and reinforce their visibility with strategically placed flower beds.
4. Increase the visibility of the park with a floral display bed along 2nd Street, and an attractive park identity sign.



Figure 68: Pioneer Park

Racquet Center

The Racquet Center has three tennis courts and two racquetball courts indoors and two outdoor courts. The Center is reasonably well used in the winter but is largely underutilized in the summer.

It is important to find a revenue-producing activity to fill in low use times at the Racquet Club indoor tennis center. It is an ideal facility for tennis lessons, even in summer, since it is not affected by the vagaries of rainy, windy or very hot weather. Wally ball and an Indoor Golf Simulator also seem to have some potential for increased use of the facility.

Recommendations:

1. Experience in other communities suggests that an exercise/wellness center with resistance weight equipment (stairmaster, stationary cycles, Nautilus equipment, etc.) would be well received. The high use level at the YMCA facilities and survey results both confirm that there is a demand for weight lifting.
2. An area west of the Center building appears to be adequate in size to accommodate a medium-sized indoor fieldhouse; an air supported structure would be the most cost-effective. This location would allow integration with the Center and sharing of administrative restroom and maintenance facilities.

3. Improve the visibility of the Center with more prominent, attractive signage and tree/shrub planting to screen the building/parking from residential neighbors.
4. Install, or relocate from another park, a small sun shelter for the outdoor tennis courts.

Ryder Park

Ryder Park provides a community-wide resource with a Class A American Legion baseball field and six softball fields. It also has the largest hill for miles — Tornado Hill — a large foothill formed from debris of the last major tornados that passed through Grand Island. There are also three tennis courts, a fairly new restroom, a variety of play equipment, and large areas of open turf. Adjacent to Ryder Park is the National Guard Armory in which indoor volleyball events are held.

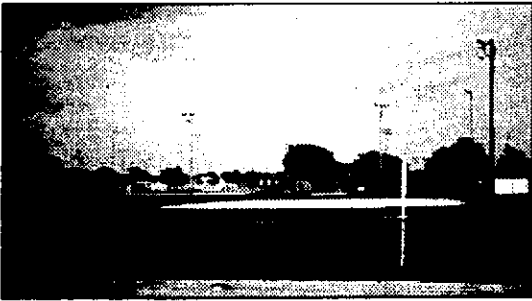


Figure 69: Ryder Park

Recommendations:

1. Upgrade the lighting at the American Legion baseball field. The bleachers need new seats or fiberglass caps.
2. Playground equipment should be consolidated in an area with sand or mulch ground surface. Older equipment (heavy swing seats replaced with strap seats, teeter totters) should be replaced or removed.
3. The picnic shelter roof needs repair/replacement. Materials should be consistent with other park structures.
4. Upgrade the appearance and visibility of the park with attractive entry signage reinforced with flower displays.
5. Add ornamental trash containers.
6. Extend existing sidewalks to restrooms, play areas and other high use destinations.

Sothman Park

A small, primarily passive neighborhood park, Sothman Park has older, individual play equipment and a new, integrated play structure. The balance of the park is open turf, dotted with trees. A number of trees have recently been planted evenly spaced and filling in some of the open areas.

Recommendations:

1. Avoid planting trees in evenly spaced patterns that fill in the open grass areas. Rather, plant trees in groups, extending or filling in existing tree patterns to create linear bands of trees that shape and enclose open turf areas of various sizes. Create mulch beds that include multiple trees to reduce hand trimming of grass.
2. Increase the visibility of the park with improved park identity signage reinforced with a floral display bed.
3. Gradually remove or consolidate the free-standing play equipment to reduce grass trimming.
4. Add a walkway (soft surface) to play area.

Stolley Park

Stolley is a major civic park for Grand Island; its origin dates back to the City's pioneer era. It contains a variety of features. The central area of the park is densely treed — a shady area that is very popular for company picnics, reunions, and small group gatherings. The Heritage Zoo contains an aviary, small animal and historical displays (pioneer main street) and can be toured via a mini train. It is managed by the Zoological Society, partially funded through an annual grant from the City. Adjacent but separate from the zoo is a fenced enclosure containing a small group of deer.

Tucked back in the park, not highly visible from the central drive, is a floral garden composed of annual and perennial beds separated by walks made of bricks from Grand Island streets.



Figure 70: Stolley Park flower garden

Also located in the park are: a winding river wading pool, two integrated play structures, two lighted tennis courts, a bank of 20 horse-shoe courts, restrooms, picnic pavillions, three soccer fields (used for YMCA soccer), and two Little League baseball fields.

Recommendations:

1. Consolidate picnic table locations — the jumble of tables scattered everywhere gives an unsightly appearance and greatly increases manpower costs to mow around them or move them for mowing.
 - Create permanent groupings of tables. Most groups can be adapted to fixed locations. With a fixed location mulch can be placed underneath the tables to avoid mud and minimize mowing (permanently edge the mulch area).
 - The total number of tables can be reduced (to reduce park clutter) without significant inconvenience to park users. In most picnic uses, particularly in large groups, there is inevitably some milling that takes place, as not everyone sits down at once.
 - Create several picnic table groupings, of different sizes, but close enough that a large party could use several groupings.
2. Continue gradual replacement of picnic tables with vinyl clad tables (more durable, colorful, and less subject to vandalism).
3. To reduce hand trimming, continue tree mulching program. Where trees are closely spaced, mulch entire groups of trees for even greater efficiency, and a more natural appearance.
4. Some sections of roadway, particularly in northwest sector of park, appear unnecessary and could be removed — increasing the 'soft' area of park without reducing accessibility.
5. Increase visibility and accessibility of the floral display garden. Renovate shrub plantings in eastern section of park.
6. Increase visibility/impact of park entrances with improved signage and added floral display areas.
7. Several integrated play structures have been constructed. The older, existing play equipment should be removed, or painted and consolidated in areas with a uniform sand or wood mulch ground cover.
8. Plant trees to shade play areas.
9. When picnic shelter roof needs repair/replacement, use roof material/color standardized for whole park system.
10. Paint and/or screen the trash dumpsters to make them less visible.

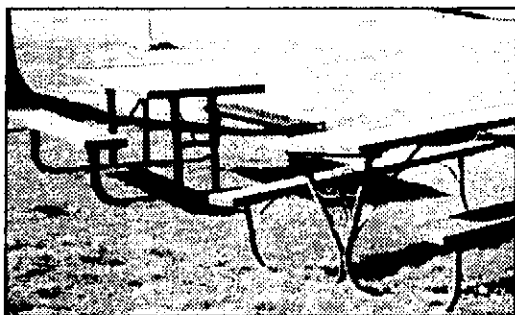


Figure 71: Picnic tables in transition:
from old to new

11. At the Heritage Zoo, deer pen and Wading Pool, paint chain link fence black (black is least visible color for fences and other furniture). Also at the Heritage Zoo, repair/replace screen material (or plant dense vegetation screens) to block out views of dumpsters and service yard.

12. At the Wading Pool, add color and liveliness with flags, banners, and bright colored furnishings.

13. Tennis courts need renovation.

14. Additional walks/paths are needed to provide access to flower garden, restrooms and other high use areas.



Figure 72: Heritage Zoo at Stolley Park

15. Remodel/replace restrooms to increase durability and accessibility. Brighten interiors with skylights and light colors.

16. Relocate interpretive signs to the edge of one of the parking lots.

17. Refurbish seating at the horseshoe courts.

Detention Cell Mini Parks

Detention cells are large basins, generally depressed 6 feet or more below the surrounding ground level. The cells have relatively steep sides and flat bottoms. They are usually grassy areas which are mowed regularly. These cells can, and usually are, used for informal play fields. In some cases the cell bottoms are wet and, being unmowable, support wetland vegetation ranging from tall grasses to dense stands of reeds, cattails and sedges. Each cell usually has a small upland area with play equipment.

Recommendations:

1. Give a name to each mini-park. This might be an opportunity for memorial donations, civic group sponsorship (such as Lion's Club park) or, as with many other City parks, to honor outstanding citizens.
2. Install prominent, attractive park sign, reinforced with a flower display if a volunteer group is willing to provide maintenance.
3. Consolidate playground equipment in a common area with a safe surface, such as mulch or sand. As other parks are upgraded, surplus equipment could be moved to Mini Parks.

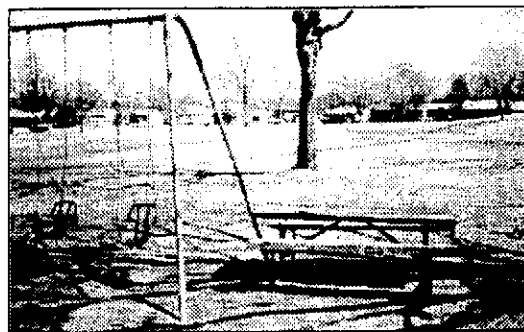


Figure 73: Broadwell Park (detention cell)

4. Design considerations for future detention cell parks:

- give the detention basin an informal shape (curved rather than rectangular);
- vary the steepness of the sideslopes to create a more park-like character;
- vary the depth of the basin bottom to create a mixture of wetland and turf field conditions;
- plant water-tolerant tree species in the bottoms and on the sideslopes to further soften rectilinear shapes and increase the “park” character.

Eagle Scout Park

The Super Cell is currently being developed into a park. It was used as a borrow pit for nearby highway construction and, unlike the detention cells, has filled with water. As a result, it has been designed as a water-oriented park, with boat ramp and boat trailer parking. It also has an asphalt bike/walk trail around the lake.

Recommendations:

1. Install prominent, attractive park entry signage, reinforced with a natural character, low-maintenance (perennial) flower display.
2. Install the majority of picnic tables in fixed arrangements in groups with a common sand or mulch ground surface. Provide several picnic spots with moveable tables.
3. Install playground equipment in a common area, near the largest picnic grouping, with a safe surface such as mulch or sand. As other parks are upgraded, surplus equipment could be moved to Eagle Scout Park.
4. Plant trees in informal groups, with a common mulch bed to minimize grass trimming.
5. Install screen planting along the highway right-of-ways to minimize highway impacts and create a sense of enclosure for the park.

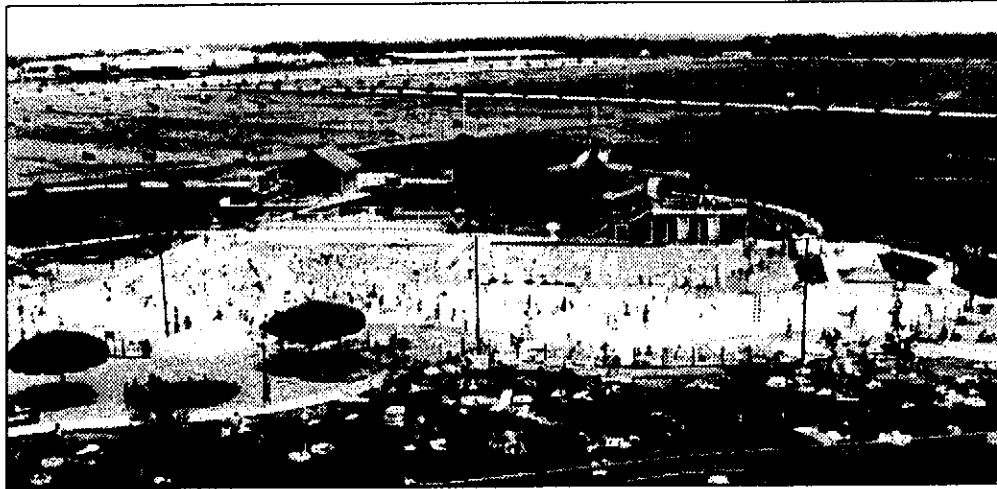


Figure 74: Island Oasis Park

Island Oasis Water Park

From its relatively recent inception the water park has been a popular addition to the City's recreation amenities. It is well utilized by residents as well as visitors to Grand Island. It includes water slides, a wave pool, shallow wading areas, sand beach and sand volleyball, and numerous picnic areas. Additional attractions are being added in 1996. Over its short history thus far, with modest attendance fees for a facility of this type, it has proven to be a consistent revenue producer.

Recommendations:

1. In order to keep repeat visitation strong, and discourage (or at least maintain a strong image against) competing facilities in other nearby communities, it will be important to continue to upgrade and add water events and other activities in the park. Examples might include a "lazy river" inner-tube float, additional shady rest areas and even additional dry-land play structures for children.
2. Although there is obvious sensitivity to keeping the user fees affordable, it is also important to maintain an image of quality, convenience and progress. The fee structure should be maintained at a level that supports an ongoing development budget for new activities and upgrades every 3 to 4 years.
3. Reinforce the identity of the Park from Locust Street by adding trees and flower beds to the Locust signage.

TRAILS

In the public opinion survey conducted with this Master Plan, the desire for off-street bike, walk and jogging trails was strongly expressed. Furthermore, the level of existing participation reinforces that such improvements would be well utilized. Off-street trails can also do double duty as cross-country ski trails in the winter.

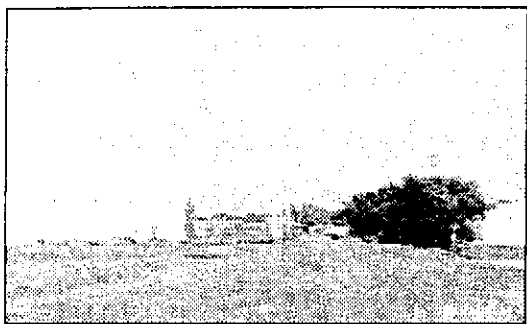


Figure 75: Abandoned railroad ROW in a potential trail location

The City has recently completed one section of off-street 'hike/bike' trail — a one-mile (approximately) section on State Street just west of Highway 281. There is small paved loop in Ashley Park and Eagle Scout park has a one mile paved loop trail around the lake.

A reasonably long, interconnected, off-street system is generally necessary before it will be utilized extensively for recreation. In other cities, the most successful recreational trails typically connect parks and other significant destinations (shopping areas, schools, etc.). They often follow natural features when possible (rivers, lakes, wooded areas), and have an informal (curvilinear) alignment.

Potential alignments for significant trail segments include:

- Along the north-south drainage canal (in NW Grand Island)
- Along the Wood River
- On the proposed Wood River flood diversion dike
- In abandoned railroad rights-of-way
- In/through existing parks and school grounds

Obviously these segments can be further interconnected by additional off-street trails, striped paths in road rights-of way, sidewalks, etc. to make a complete system.

Concerns have been expressed about several aspects of trails:

- Will there be dangerous auto/bike conflicts when trails are brought into urban areas?
- Will private homes be subject to reduction in privacy if trails are introduced in off-street utility and railroad easements in residential areas?
- Can trails in off-road locations be adequately monitored for safety and vandalism?



Figure 76: Potential trail location along Wood River

These are all understandable concerns. Fortunately, there are a significant number of communities that have developed trail systems that there is comforting evidence to allay most concerns.

Obviously, introducing trail systems into existing residential areas, even when usable rights-of-way exist, is challenging. A new trail brings a change in conditions, which can be temporarily disruptive to adjacent residents. It is important that the presence of the trail not become a burden on existing residents. For example, it may be important to include in the trail design considerations such as privacy fences, landscaping, etc. Nevertheless, experience indicates that eventually the trail presence becomes an acceptable and desirable amenity for the neighborhood.

Trails are easier to create in new subdivisions and undeveloped areas. A number of desirable trail alignments are shown on the Parks Master Plan. Every effort should be made to incorporate these trails in future development. For example, as new schools are built, provisions should be made to tie the schools in the trail system.

The Nebraska Comprehensive Trails Plan (A Network of Discovery) developed in 1994 identifies potential trail connections to link many Nebraska communities into a State-wide network. Some locals are finding that such a regional trail system can be a boon to tourism, attracting both individuals and groups, locally, regionally and occasionally even nationally. The Bike and Pedestrian Trail Map (Figure 79, page VI-31) incorporates ties to this regional trail network (see Figure 80: Regional Trail Extensions Map, page VI-32).

Recommendations:

1. An effort should be made to develop a significant trail segment that will be scenic and that has a park or other public setting at either end to serve as a trail head. This can serve as Phase II of the trail system (the State Street section being Phase I). A Phase II project should also be one that is relatively easy to implement (i.e. will not result in protracted right-of-way negotiations). Possible Phase II options include the following, which are illustrated on the Phase I Map:
 - *Eagle Scout Park to George Park* — Using Eagle Scout Park as one trail head, the path could be located on the large tract of State land (the undeveloped remainder of the section that includes the Veteran's Home) west to Webb Road, and then south to Capital Avenue, using the Webb Road railroad crossing. Since this portion of Webb Road

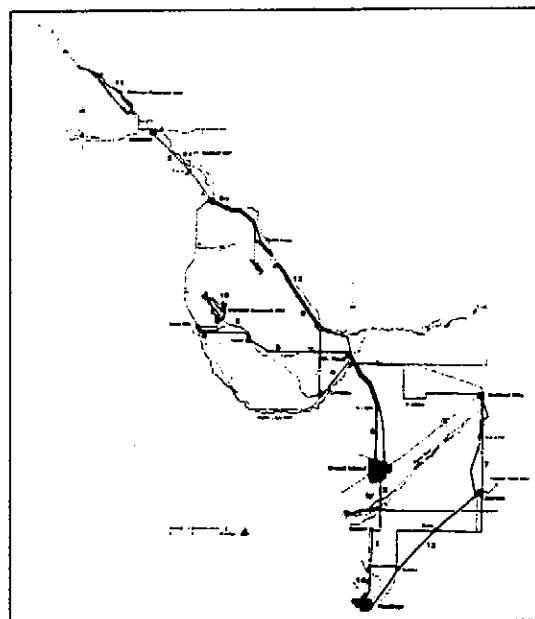


Figure 77: Plan of Grand Island Area from 1994 Comprehensive Trails Plan for State of Nebraska

carries low traffic, an on-street alignment is a potential alternative route. The route could tie into an existing sidewalk just west of Hwy 281 and then continue west on a path adjacent to Capital (similar to the State Street path), or perhaps a more attractive alignment could be negotiated in the wooded shelter that borders the north side of Capital.

- *Pier Park to Hall County Park* — Even though this trail segment passes through a developed portion of the City, by taking advantage of abandoned railroad rights-of-way, it could be accomplished entirely off-street. At the south end a bridge over the Wood River would be required to connect directly to Hall County Park. An alternative worth exploring would be to connect to the Stuhr Museum trail along the north side of the Wood River, and then into Hall County Park further south.
- *L.E. Ray to Hall County Park* — This trail section along the Wood River is very scenic, but also very short. The most promising alignment is along the north side of the Wood River, avoiding a highway crossing by passing *under* the Hwy 34 bridge, then either recrossing at Hall County or connecting to the Stuhr Museum trail.



Figure 78: Bike/pedestrian signage

2. Embellish the trail system with functional, attractive signage, including such elements as:
 - stop and yield signs when the path re-enters traffic
 - safety rules on the path (pass left, ride single-file, etc.)
 - mileage/kilometer markers
 - interpretive signs for natural or historical features
4. Acquire rights-of-way wide enough to incorporate a path, buffering space on either side of the path (or landscape screen planting), and future trail widening (or possibly the addition of a secondary soft-surface trail). A minimum right-of-way should be 20', with 30' desired.
5. If appropriate to preserve privacy of building or yards that are close to the path, install protective and/or screen fences.
6. For a path that will accommodate strollers, bikes and rollerblades, as well as maintenance vehicles, a concrete path at least 10' wide and of 6" depth is recommended. If, for cost reasons, asphalt is used, it should be underlain with geotextile fabric to increase strength and reduce weed penetration. For paths intended only for foot traffic, wood mulch or compacted crusher fines can be used.

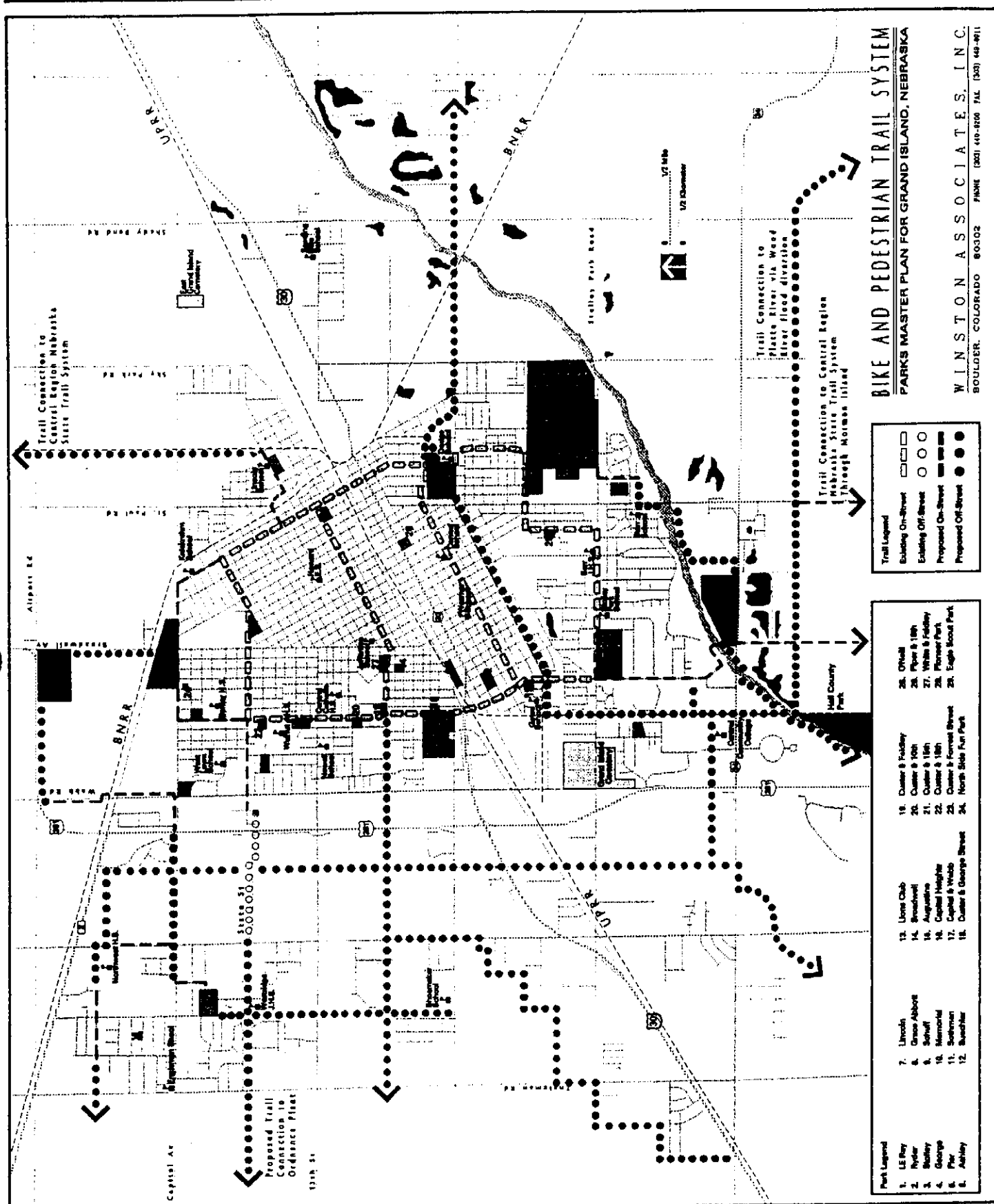


Figure 79: Map of Bike and Pedestrian Trail System

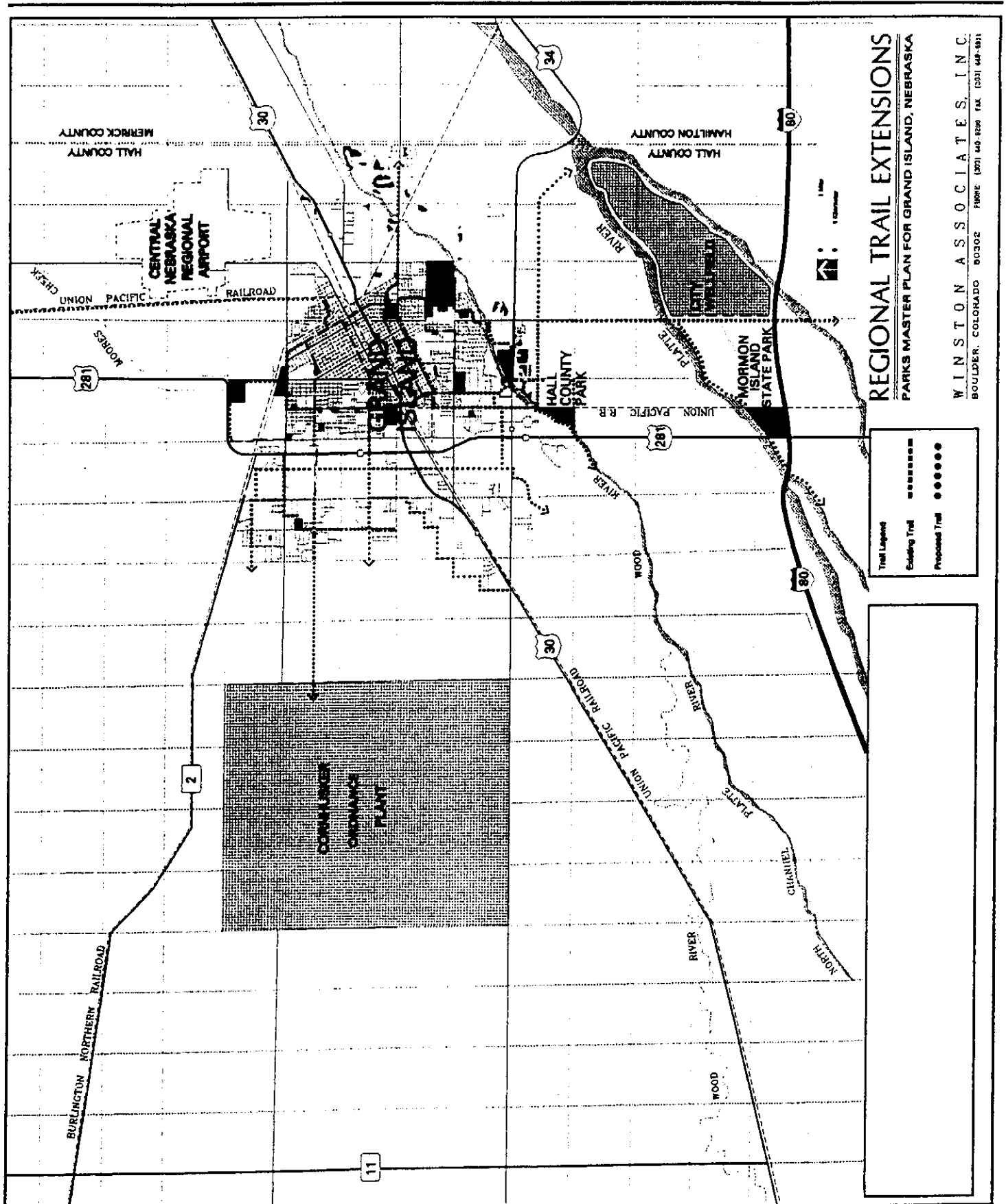


Figure 80: Map of Regional Trail Extensions

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth Activities

It is clear from input received during this Master Plan process, as well as prior community surveys, that there is a general desire to provide wholesome and healthy activities for teens and adolescents. There is less consensus in the community as to what facilities and activities will be effective and popular. Emerging trends from other communities suggest several possibilities:

1. Skateboard/inline skate park
2. Indoor field house
3. Artificial climbing wall
4. Recreation center

Senior Activities

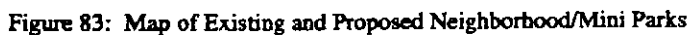
Population profiles, both national and local Grand Island, show an imminent increase in the number of seniors as the baby boomer population moves into retirement age. It is predicted that the next wave of seniors will be more active and fitness-oriented than their predecessors. As a result, there will be a growing demand for amenities for low impact fitness activities such as walking, jogging, biking, swimming and tennis. There will also be desire for more comfort considerations in parks such as shaded sitting areas, drinking fountains, group picnic areas, etc.

Spokespersons for seniors suggest that separate and unique facilities are not desired. Rather, merely assure that facilities for all age groups are available, and are designed and maintained with an awareness of senior's particular needs (i.e. safety, accessibility, visibility, etc.).

THE MASTER PLAN MAP

The Master Plan Map below is a general depiction of existing and proposed park and trail improvements to meet City needs through the year 2010.





VII. MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT/ PROGRAM

Parks maintenance operates out of a central building/storage yard. There are separate facilities for the Cemetery and Golf Course. The maintenance staff and fleet are operating at maximum efficiency. With current manpower and equipment it requires approximately five days to mow the park system, and all parks are maintained at approximately the same frequency. However, there is only one backup mower to cover for breakdowns, and the existing equipment cannot be extended to cover new parks. Therefore, if additional parks are added to the system, additional equipment will also be required. *Reel mowers are used for the ballfields.*

An examination of the Parks and Recreation maintenance equipment reveals that a large percentage of the fleet is due, or long overdue, for replacement. For example, some of the rotary mowers are over 30 years old and are no longer manufactured. In fact, using very conservative aging tables, 40% of the equipment, representing over 50% of the equipment value, is due for replacement in or before 1996.

There are a number of reasons making this percentage as large as it is. Often, specialized equipment has relatively low use. Used equipment is retained as backup units or is acquired used for relatively low cost. The most common reason is that because of budgetary constraints, equipment is simply operated long after it should be replaced. Unfortunately, the result for the owner is that older equipment, past retirement age, often requires costly repairs or, worse, it suffers significant down time which results in less efficient manpower utilization. The costs of over-age equipment are often difficult to isolate amongst manpower expenses and general departmental inefficiency, and can accumulate after years of "nursing" along outmoded equipment.

The best fleet is one that contains a relatively small number of well-maintained, high efficiency units operated a high percentage of the year. Large fleets of infrequently used equipment require extensive storage and servicing, and result in hourly operating costs that are out of proportion to their productivity.

Core operating equipment such as mowers, snow equipment and personnel transportation units are the most critical to keep in top working condition because they most affect productivity and service delivery. Some infrequently used larger equipment may not actually be needed, as their service may be provided by a contractor at more economical rates than owning them. Admittedly, the convenience of in-house equipment is attractive. However, unless the Parks Department is involved in a great number of earthwork projects each year, the need for large vehicles to be owned in-house

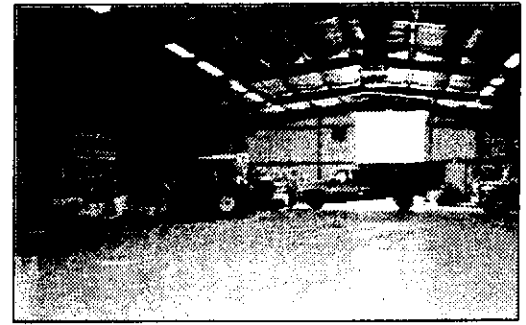


Figure 85: Parks maintenance shop

should be questioned and evaluated against the cost of rentals or contract trucking.

Machines with both mowing and snow removal capacity are efficient since they are busy a greater part of the year, as compared with single function units.

In order to adequately assess the replacement needs of the Parks Department, Equipment Replacement Schedule (aging and amortization table) was prepared (see Appendix for entire table). It identifies the effective age and replacement date of each equipment unit, and then amortizes the replacement cost over the remaining years of the current equipment's life. It then further amortizes the cost of replacement equipment over its life span in order to arrive at an annual capital replacement budget that will maintain the fleet into the future. Since a high percentage of the fleet is due, or past due, for replacement in the next several years, there is a disproportionately high budget requirement early in the schedule. As a result, it was necessary to adjust life expectancies to more closely average the annual budgetary requirements. This will require continuing to nurse additional years out of some of the equipment.

As can be seen from the Equipment Replacement Schedule graph, over the next ten years it will be necessary to set aside major capital funds to replace the present fleet. If all the units are replaced with new equipment, the total amount required will be almost \$900,000, an average of almost \$90,000 per year. In addition to the adjustments that have been made in the table to more evenly spread the capital requirements over the 10 year period, the annual variations can be further smoothed by establishing a yearly contribution into a sinking fund, from which deductions can be made as adequate funds are accumulated.

With this in mind, the following recommendations are aimed at implementing effective management, efficiency and capital improvement measures.

Recommendations:

1. Request funding for the Equipment Replacement Schedule. Update the Schedule regularly and use it to carefully optimize capital expenditures.
2. Measure productivity of park maintenance operations. For example: determine true acres/hour of mowing crews and evaluate changes in equipment and procedures. Provide productivity sheet for staff.
 - To measure productivity, first determine net mowing area (gross park acreage minus non-mowable areas: parking

areas, lakes, roads, zoo, buildings, tennis courts, etc.).
Record man-hours per park. Calculate true acres/hour.

3. Evaluate whether some machinery can be replaced with higher capacity units. When replacing mowers, improve productivity by replacing with the largest cuts that can be used in the parks. A 72 inch mower has three times the cutting capacity of a 36 inch mower.
4. To reduce transportation time/costs, consider assigning an employee (even seasonal) at every park over 10 acres in size and assign him/her all maintenance except large area mowing and irrigation repair. Provide a small tools shed in each park. If no on-site storage is available, consider low-cost portable units. The result: reduced travel time and greater accountability and ownership. The fewer crews that need to be transported the better. The exception to this rule is for very high capacity equipment such as 12 foot or larger mowers.
5. Consider spot contractual jobs when they save money or improve services such as: janitorial service, tree maintenance, fertilization, spraying, spray painting and other equipment-intensive activities. For example, the cost of bulk rate fertilizer applicators is often less than the cost of fertilizers purchased in bags. Contracting the servicing of remote locations (both mowing and snow removal) may allow a larger reduction in equipment and manpower.
6. Avoid nursing a piece of equipment that is a lemon — this results in too much lost time in personnel costs. Manpower is the biggest part of the parks maintenance budget. Extend a units reasonable life by no more than one or two years if possible.
7. Consider using rotary mowers everywhere but athletic fields.
 - Rotary mowers are faster than reel mowers, and their quality is increasing.
 - With a rotary mower you can sharpen and change blades daily because they are so much easier to replace. An operator can even keep a spare set of sharpened blades ready whenever needed.
 - Off-season top dressing to level out uneven terrain will reduce or eliminate scalping.
 - Rotary mowers need to be set at 3-3fi" cutting height for parks, 2-2fi" on athletic fields.

-
8. Mow low-use areas no more than once every ten working days.
 9. Cut grass no less than 3" (except sports fields) for a more resilient grass, less crabgrass, and greener appearance. Fall fertilization will improve turf vigor and further reduce crabgrass.
 10. To further reduce hand trimming, use growth retarders and herbicides (such as Roundup) in difficult-to-trim areas e.g. around non-vegetative elements such as signs, poles, parking barriers and fences. The quality of growth retarders is improving every year, and has the potential of significantly reducing the need for small mowers, hand trimmers and seasonal employees.
 11. Cut irrigation down in fall (beginning October 1) to allow for grass to prepare for winter and reduce risk of backflow devices freezing. Play fields can be irrigated slightly longer.

ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES

The priorities in the following action plan take into account several considerations:

- items that are urgent due to safety
- actions that will create immediate efficiencies in manpower and equipment
- tasks that are relatively inexpensive to accomplish within current budgets
- projects/plans that have long lead times and are important to begin now in order to meet future needs

Priority Actions:

1. Replace old, outmoded or dangerous play equipment.
2. Cluster play equipment and picnic tables in common areas with sand/mulch surfaces.
3. Construct hard surface paths to high use areas.
4. Group mulch trees
5. Establish and maintain annual capital equipment replacement fund for maintenance equipment.

-
6. Demonstration trail project:
 - evaluate alternative Phase II options, select demonstration project
 - develop detailed design and cost estimate
 - solicit development assistance (right-of-way donations, in-kind construction services, financial donations, etc.)
 - project proposal to City Council for approval and implementation
 7. Upgrade appearance of parks (signage, flowers, paint-up/fix-up)
 8. Implement other park-specific improvements identified in this Master Plan
 9. Begin exploration of opportunities, and costs, to meet current and future park and facility needs:
 - additional softball fields
 - trail system additions
 - wading pools
 - future indoor swimming pool
 - parks to meet needs of population growth
 - upgrades of existing parks (restrooms, lighting, etc.)
 - development of Ordnance Plant park
 - other facilities to meet needs of teens
 10. Evaluate community support for tax and or bond issue to fund needed improvements
 11. Continue to survey community attitudes with respect to parks and recreation needs and priorities.

FUNDING SOURCES

Nebraska cities have not been granted authority by the State Legislature to impose land dedication requirements in conjunction with the subdivision process. Nor is there a strong precedent for Nebraska cities to levy impact fees. Therefore, the means of funding land acquisition and the development of parks are limited to one or more of the following:

General Tax Revenues

Grand Island's two major sources of tax revenue are from property and sales taxes. Property taxes account for approximately 49% of revenues, and sales taxes account for approximately 43%. (The remaining income is derived from a variety of smaller sources). Since a majority of each property tax assessment typically goes to school districts, it takes a significant increase in property tax rates to equal the revenues received from a sales tax increase. Therefore, many communities find the sales tax a preferred source of revenue, if it is available.

As a regional commercial center, the City receives a relatively high visitation from non-residents. It is estimated that over 60% of the City's sales tax revenue comes from non-residents. Therefore, a modest increase in City sales tax, for a finite period, would yield a level of funding that would address the majority of the City's parks and recreation needs — and would be subsidized to a significant degree by the visitor population. Obviously, consideration must be given to setting the sales tax at a level that will not weaken Grand Island merchants' competitive position in the region.

User Fees

This alternative can be used for improvements that directly benefit the group(s) paying the fee. For example, a fee was levied on softball teams in Lincoln to finance new softball fields. Setting the fee at a low enough level to be affordable to all generally means this is a long-term financing option.

Donations/Gifts

In the softball field example above, the desired fields in Lincoln were eventually provided through a single generous donor. Donations can often be obtained as a memorial, through service clubs (Lions, Elks, etc.), as a corporate citizenship gesture, and even anonymously. Because of its unpredictability, this funding source generally cannot be used for the majority of park and recreation needs, especially capital-intensive ones.

Voluntary Dedications by Developers

In some communities developers are required to dedicate land, or fee-in-lieu of land, to offset the impacts of the residents of each development. Grand Island, and Nebraska communities in general, do not require park land dedication from developers. However, many developers recognize not only that their new developments

are increasing the usage of existing parks, but also that accessible parks are a valuable sales tool. Therefore, developers can often be persuaded to voluntarily donate land and parks to the City system.

Bond Issues

Often, when existing revenues are steady but not high enough to finance major improvements, the revenue stream can be committed by a community to repay bonds sold to raise the necessary capital. This is similar to borrowing the money from many lenders (the bond purchasers) who are then repaid in installments over ten or twenty year periods. As with any installment purchase (such as a car or house) there is a cost: depending on the interest rates in effect when the bonds are sold, interest can total up to 1/3 of the bond amount.

Purchase Land at Tax Sales

With foresight and close monitoring, a budget can often be stretched by buying land inexpensively through County tax sales. Land purchased in this manner is seldom prime development land. It must often be held for a number of years before it falls in the path of development. For example, if the purchased land is not in the best location for a park, the City may be able to trade it for a more desirable location at a future date.

State or Federal Land Grants

Two good examples in the Grand Island vicinity are the decommissioned Cornhusker Army Ordnance Site and the State-owned land adjacent to the Veteran's Home. If, and when, these kind of properties are no longer needed or appropriate for their intended use, they can often be obtained at modest cost by local communities. Similarly, abandoned rights-of-way can be obtained from railroad companies at reasonable cost for civic uses.

Joint Purchase, and/or Cooperative Land Trades, with School District

Since school districts often purchase sites well in advance of needs, they often have an inventory of undeveloped land. There are a number of options in working with the school district:

- Jointly *plan and develop* school sites with integrated parks (if needed, the park might be developed before the school);

-
- Work with the school district to *select* and *purchase* sites that will be optimal for both schools and parks;
 - Trade land with the school district, if school and community needs can better or equally be met through another configuration of properties.

APPENDIX

Survey
Equipment Replacement Schedule

City of Grand Island
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Opinion Survey for the Parks Master Plan

Dear Resident,

As you probably know, the park system of the City of Grand Island has benefitted greatly from the farsightedness and commitment of citizens and City Councils dating back to the beginning of the City. The majority of our parks were created over 70 years ago. With some of our parks beginning to show their age, and with the prospect of continued growth of the City, the City Council has directed the Parks and Recreation Department to prepare a master plan to identify future park needs and to guide decisions about improving our parks system over the next 10 to 15 years. We would very much appreciate your opinions and insights as we attempt to identify needs and priorities with regard to the Grand Island park system.

We encourage you to discuss the following questions with the other members of your household, so that your answers reflect the combined opinion of your household.

1. What is the City park nearest to you? ____
(Place park number from map on last page)

2. On the average, how often do you visit/use this park
IN THE SUMMER?

- (1) ☐ Not at all
(2) ☐ Several times over the summer
(3) ☐ Several times per month
(4) ☐ Once a week or more

3. What prevents you from using this park more?
(Check all that apply)

- (1) ☐ Too far to walk
(2) ☐ Doesn't have equipment or facilities I like
(3) ☐ Isn't well maintained
(4) ☐ Prefer to use a different park (which park do you prefer? _____)
(5) ☐ Prefer to use private recreation facilities
(6) ☐ Park is fine, just not interested in using it more
(7) ☐ Other _____

4. Do you think the **maintenance** (painting, fixing, mowing) of Grand Island's parks:

- a. ☐ Should be improved dramatically
b. ☐ Should be somewhat higher than it is
c. ☐ Is about right

5. How important is it to upgrade the **appearance** of Grand Island's parks, such as with better signage, modern play equipment, add more flower beds, etc.

Very important Not important
5 4 3 2 1

6. On a scale of 1 to 5, CIRCLE THE NUMBER that best expresses how **desirable** to your household are the following neighborhood park amenities, recognizing that some may not currently exist in the park nearest to you:

	Not Desirable			Very Desirable		
a. Tennis courts	1	2	3	4	5	
b. Basketball courts	1	2	3	4	5	
c. Children's play equipment	1	2	3	4	5	
d. Picnic tables	1	2	3	4	5	
e. Picnic shelter	1	2	3	4	5	
f. Benches	1	2	3	4	5	
g. Horseshoe pits	1	2	3	4	5	
h. Sand box	1	2	3	4	5	
i. Restroom	1	2	3	4	5	
j. Wading pool	1	2	3	4	5	
k. Shade trees	1	2	3	4	5	
l. Night lighting	1	2	3	4	5	
m. Sand volleyball	1	2	3	4	5	
n. Bike racks	1	2	3	4	5	
o. Drinking fountains	1	2	3	4	5	

Any other amenities you feel are important?

p. _____ 1 2 3 4 5
q. _____ 1 2 3 4 5

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9. The availability and quality of recreation facilities often affects participation. In the list below, some facilities don't currently exist in Grand Island, some may be too small or of poor quality, and some are excellent. Please **CIRCLE THE NUMBER** that most closely reflects how often you, or other members of your household, would use any of the following facilities if additional, or improved, facilities were available.

Not at All					Very Often	
1	2	3	4	5		
1	2	3	4	5		Jogging on an indoor track
1	2	3	4	5		Indoor practice of field sports in the winter in a fieldhouse
1	2	3	4	5		Weight lifting
1	2	3	4	5		Ice skating on a rink
1	2	3	4	5		Bike riding on a trail
1	2	3	4	5		Walking/jogging on a trail
1	2	3	4	5		Roller hockey
1	2	3	4	5		In-line skating
1	2	3	4	5		Skateboard park
1	2	3	4	5		Swimming at indoor pool
1	2	3	4	5		Swimming at outdoor pool
1	2	3	4	5		Indoor tennis
1	2	3	4	5		Outdoor tennis

10. Please circle the degree of your agreement/disagreement with the following possible policy statements:

Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree	
1	2	3	4	5		
a.	1	2	3	4	5	All residential areas should have a neighborhood park (such as Buechler and Grace Abbott Parks) within ½ mile.
b.	1	2	3	4	5	All residential areas should have a community park (a larger park with ballfields, such as Stolley, Ashley and Pier Parks) within 1 mile.
c.	1	2	3	4	5	The City should add new parks as the population grows, so as to preserve the same ratio of parks-to-people as we have today.

11. Since the City has budget limitations each year, it will undoubtedly be necessary to make choices. From the list below that has been developed from various citizen groups, please **RANK the 7 most important facility improvements**. (1 =most important, 7 =7th most important, PLEASE DO NOT ASSIGN THE SAME RANK TO MORE THAN ONE ITEM)

- Replacing and refurbishing (painting, fixing) existing play equipment.
- Install more modern playground equipment (such as at Buechler and George parks) in .
- Acquiring *new* neighborhood park sites to meet future recreation needs as the City grows.
- Working with the School District to develop school properties as neighborhood parks.
- Developing trail linkages throughout the City.
- Expansion of the City cemetery.
- Making parks more accessible to people with disabilities.
- Construct more baseball/softball fields
- Construct an indoor swimming pool, perhaps in conjunction with a school building.
- Create a cluster of 6 tennis courts so the City and School district can hold tennis tournaments.
- Refurbish or replace the restrooms in Lincoln, Grace Abbott and Pier parks.
- Refurbish and install water filters in the wading pools in Lincoln, Grace Abbott parks.
- Install wading pools in other parks.
- Add new events to Island Oasis water park to keep it competitive.
- Replace or upgrade equipment that is potentially unsafe.

12. For City-sponsored ADULT activities the City charges user fees to recapture ALL of the direct costs (such as staff time, publicity, gym rental, etc.). For YOUTH activities the City charges vary. For some (e.g., swimming lessons), A PORTION of the direct costs are charged, for others (e.g., summer playground program) there are no charges, which means that the costs are fully subsidized through general tax revenues. What percent of direct costs do you feel the City should SUBSIDIZE for:

a.	Adult activities	100%	75%	50%	25%	0%
b.	Youth activities	100%	75%	50%	25%	0%

Finally, we need a little information about you to help us compare the characteristics of the respondents:

13. Please check your ethnicity

- (1) ☐ Anglo/Caucasian
 (2) ☐ Afro-American
 (3) ☐ Asian
 (4) ☐ Native American
 (5) ☐ Hispanic
 (6) ☐ Other _____

14. How many members are there in your household in the following age groups?

- a. _____ Under 8 years old
 b. _____ 9 to 14
 c. _____ 14 to 17
 d. _____ 18 to 25
 e. _____ 26 to 35
 f. _____ 36 to 45
 g. _____ 46 to 55
 h. _____ 56 to 64
 i. _____ 65 to 75
 j. _____ Over 75
 k. _____ Total in household

15. Are you presently (CHECK ONE)

- (1) ☐ working full time
 (2) ☐ working part time
 (3) ☐ retired
 (4) ☐ student
 (5) ☐ homemaker
 (6) ☐ not working

16. Your gender is:

- ☐ male ☐ female

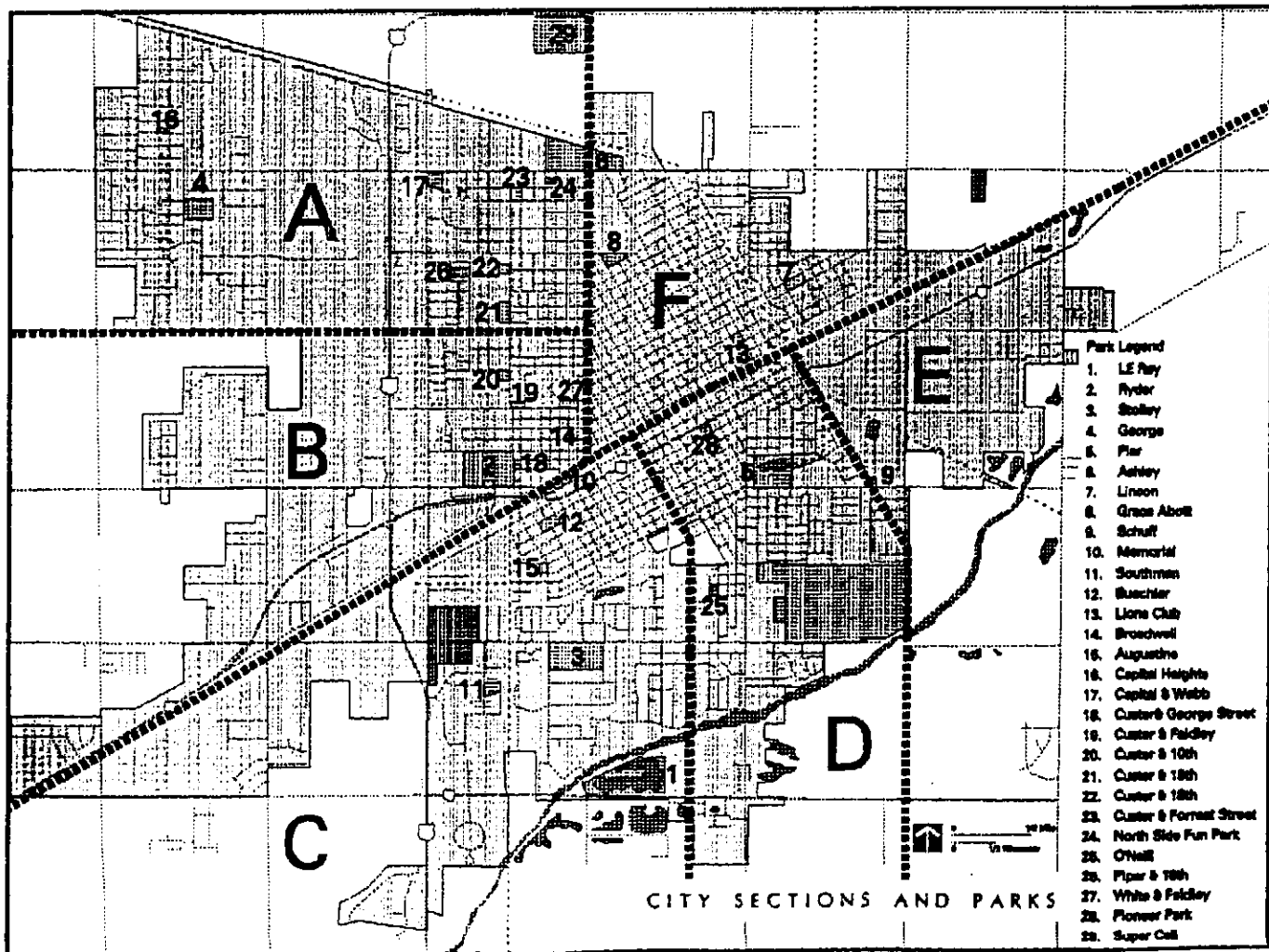
17. Are there members of your household that are permanently physically disabled (requiring a walking aid or a wheelchair)?

- ☐ yes ☐ no

18. About how many years have you lived in Grand Island?

- _____ years, or ☐ check if less than 1 year

19. From the map below, write in the number of the section of town in which you live _____.



City of Grand Island
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Opinion Survey for the Parks Master Plan

Dear Resident,

As you probably know, the park system of the City of Grand Island has benefitted greatly from the farsightedness and commitment of citizens and City Councils dating back to the beginning of the City. The majority of our parks were created over 70 years ago. With some of our parks beginning to show their age, and with the prospect of continued growth of the City, the City Council has directed the Parks and Recreation Department to prepare a master plan to identify future park needs and to guide decisions about improving our parks system over the next 10 to 15 years. We would very much appreciate your opinions and insights as we attempt to identify needs and priorities with regard to the Grand Island park system.

We encourage you to discuss the following questions with the other members of your household, so that your answers reflect the combined opinion of your household.

1. What is the City park nearest to you? see graph
(Place park number from map on last page)

2. On the average, how often do you visit/use this park
IN THE SUMMER?

- (1) ☐ Not at all
(2) ☐ Several times over the summer
(3) ☐ Several times per month
(4) ☐ Once a week or more

3. What prevents you from using this park more?
(Check all that apply)

- (1) ☐ Too far to walk
(2) ☐ Doesn't have equipment or facilities I like
(3) ☐ Isn't well maintained
(4) ☐ Prefer to use a different park (which park do you prefer? _____)
(5) ☐ Prefer to use private recreation facilities
(6) ☐ Park is fine, just not interested in using it more
(7) ☐ Other see last following survey

4. Do you think the **maintenance** (painting, fixing, mowing) of Grand Island's parks:

- a. ☐ Should be improved dramatically 8%
b. ☐ Should be somewhat higher than it is 25%
c. ☐ Is about right 64%

5. How important is it to upgrade the **appearance** of Grand Island's parks, such as with better signage, modern play equipment, add more flower beds, etc.

Very important Not important
5 4 3 2 1
14% 29% 35% 7% 6%

6. On a scale of 1 to 5, CIRCLE THE NUMBER that best expresses how **desirable** to your household are the following neighborhood park amenities, recognizing that some may not currently exist in the park nearest to you:

	Not Desirable	Highest %	Very Desirable	TOTAL SCORE		
a. Tennis courts	①	2	3	4	5	729
b. Basketball courts	1	2	③	4	5	880
c. Children's play equipment	1	2	3	4	⑤	1215
d. Picnic tables	1	2	3	4	⑤	1301
e. Picnic shelter	1	2	3	4	⑤	1187
f. Benches	1	2	3	4	⑤	1190
g. Horseshoe pits	①	2	3	4	5	725
h. Sand box	①	2	3	4	5	756
i. Restroom	1	2	3	4	⑤	1337
j. Wading pool	1	2	③	4	5	916
k. Shade trees	1	2	3	4	⑤	1391
l. Night lighting	1	2	3	4	⑤	1185
m. Sand volleyball	①	2	3	4	5	729
n. Bike racks	1	2	③	4	5	892
o. Drinking fountains	1	2	3	4	⑤	1244

Any other amenities you feel are important? see list

p. _____ 1 2 3 4 5
q. _____ 1 2 3 4 5

7. This question is a little complicated, but we'd really appreciate if you'd make an effort to work through it. We'd like to know how many MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATE in the following recreation activities in Grand Island. APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY TIMES they participated in each activity in the last 12 months (make only a rough estimate, include the number of times for all household members), and WHERE they participated MOST OFTEN:

Note: very small response rate, % for comparative use only
Check the ONE where you participated MOST OFTEN.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

	Number of participants in household	Number of times last 12 months (all participants)		City				Other private facility (HealthPlex, Skate Island, Conestoga/G.I. Malls, etc.)
				YMCA	School	Program at School	Racquet Center	
	AT LEAST 1							
a.	27%	—	Basketball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 45%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Home/apt/trailer 3%
b.	18%	—	Volleyball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 26%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 45%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> " " " 12%
c.	13%	—	Aerobics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 29%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Home 22% Other 22%
d.	17%	—	Weight lifting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 27%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 27%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 5%
e.	7%	—	Racquetball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5%	<input type="checkbox"/> Malls 74%
f.	6%	—	Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95%	<input type="checkbox"/> Private/home 6%
g.	37%	—	Walking/jogging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1%	<input type="checkbox"/>	
h.	23%	—	Swimming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 83%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Note: very small response rate, % for comparative use only
Check the ONE where you participated MOST OFTEN.

	Number of participants in household	Number of times last 12 months (all participants)		City					Other private facility (Platte-Deutsche club, Super Bowl, country club, etc.)
				a City park	Fonner Park	Island Oasis	Hall Co Park	School Streets	
	AT LEAST 1								
i.	11%	—	Soccer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 65%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18%	<input type="checkbox"/>
j.	14%	—	Tennis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 91%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5%	<input type="checkbox"/>
k.	11%	—	Volleyball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 27%	<input type="checkbox"/>
l.	16%	—	Softball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 81%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15%
m.	13%	—	Baseball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2%
n.	51%	—	Picnic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 77%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7%
o.	23%	—	Wading in a pool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 84%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.5%
p.	31%	—	Play on equip	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 96%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2%	<input type="checkbox"/>
q.	7%	—	Horseshoes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 64%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18%
r.	3%	—	Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 85%
s.	61%	—	Walk, jog, run	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6%
t.	36%	—	Bike riding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 87%
u.	22%	—	Fishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 49%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 46%
v.	20%	—	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Other private facility (HealthPlex, country club, etc.)					
				- write in -					
w.	38%	—	Swimming		Lincoln Pool	Island Oasis			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Home/apt/trailer park 8%

8. Suggestions? Please list up to three new FACILITIES, OR ACTIVITIES, not now available in Grand Island, that you think would be well-used by the following age groups: *see list following survey*

	Youth	Teens	Adults	Seniors
1.				
2.				
3.				

9. The availability and quality of recreation facilities often affects participation. In the list below, some facilities don't currently exist in Grand Island, some may be too small or of poor quality, and some are excellent. Please CIRCLE THE NUMBER that most closely reflects how often you, or other members of your household, would use any of the following facilities if additional, or improved, facilities were available.

Not at All					Very Often	
1	2	3	4	5		
1	2	3	4	5		Jogging on an indoor track
1	2	3	4	5		Indoor practice of field sports in the winter in a fieldhouse
1	2	3	4	5		Weight lifting
1	2	3	4	5		Ice skating on a rink
1	2	3	4	5		Bike riding on a trail
1	2	3	4	5		Walking/jogging on a trail
1	2	3	4	5		Roller hockey
1	2	3	4	5		In-line skating
1	2	3	4	5		Skateboard park
1	2	3	4	5		Swimming at indoor pool
1	2	3	4	5		Swimming at outdoor pool
1	2	3	4	5		Indoor tennis
1	2	3	4	5		Outdoor tennis

10. Please circle the degree of your agreement/disagreement with the following possible policy statements:

Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree	
1	2	3	4	5		
a.	1	2	3	4	5	All residential areas should have a neighborhood park (such as Buechler and Grace Abbott Parks) within ½ mile.
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c.	1	2	3	4	5	The City should add new parks as the population grows, so as to preserve the same ratio of parks-to-people as we have today.

11. Since the City has budget limitations each year, it will undoubtedly be necessary to make choices. From the list below that has been developed from various citizen groups, please RANK the 7 most important facility improvements. (1 = most important, 7 = 7th most important, PLEASE DO NOT ASSIGN THE SAME RANK TO MORE THAN ONE ITEM)

- Replacing and refurbishing (painting, fixing) existing play equipment.
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- Construct more baseball/softball fields
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12. For City-sponsored ADULT activities the City charges user fees to recapture ALL of the direct costs (such as staff time, publicity, gym rental, etc.). For YOUTH activities the City charges vary. For some (e.g., swimming lessons), A PORTION of the direct costs are charged, for others (e.g., summer playground program) there are no charges, which means that the costs are fully subsidized through general tax revenues. What percent of direct costs do you feel the City should SUBSIDIZE for:

a. Adult activities	100%	75%	50%	25%	0%
	5%	7%	35%	21%	34%
b. Youth activities	100%	75%	50%	25%	0%
	17%	20%	41%	15%	7%

Finally, we need a little information about you to help us compare the characteristics of the respondents:

13. Please check your ethnicity

- (1) ☐ Anglo/Caucasian 83%
 (2) ☐ Afro-American 1%
 (3) ☐ Asian 1%
 (4) ☐ Native American 12%
 (5) ☐ Hispanic 1%
 (6) ☐ Other 2%

14. How many members are there in your household in the following age groups?

	0	1	2	3	4
a. Under 8 years old	74%	16%	8%	1%	1%
b. 9 to 14	80	13	6	1	
c. 14 to 17	87	10	3		
d. 18 to 25	81	13	6		
e. 26 to 35	75	12	13		
f. 36 to 45	72	13	15		
g. 46 to 55	77	11	12		
h. 56 to 64	85	8	8		
i. 65 to 75	82	10	8		
j. Over 75	91	6	3		

k. 364 Total in household

15. Are you presently (CHECK ONE)

- (1) ☐ working full time 57%
 (2) ☐ working part time 9%
 (3) ☐ retired 25%
 (4) ☐ student 1%
 (5) ☐ homemaker 3%
 (6) ☐ not working 2%

16. Your gender is:

- ☐ male 42% ☐ female 58%

17. Are there members of your household that are permanently physically disabled (requiring a walking aid or a wheelchair)?

- ☐ yes 5% ☐ no 95%

18. About how many years have you lived in Grand Island? see chart

____ years, or ☐ check if less than 1 year

19. From the map below, write in the number of the section of town in which you live ____

see chart

OPINION SURVEY FOR GRAND ISLAND PARKS MASTER PLAN

Written responses for questions 3, 6 and 8

3. *WHAT PREVENTS YOU FROM USING THIS PARK MORE?*

A. USE ANOTHER PARK

Go to Mormon Island
Need one for water sports, fishing, boating and
camping
Use LE Ray for fishing

B. NO TIME

Time constraints (7)
Some people have to work and don't have time
to spend at parks.
Am busy working during week then on
weekends go boating or hunting
Work a lot - child not old enough to walk alone
- she will use it more in the next few
years
Work and other activities
No time - kids are older now - but we still go to
enjoy it
Too busy
Work two jobs - have no time to go to the park

C. KIDS GROWN/RETIRED/DISABLED

Retired and don't get out much (3)
Kids grown up and moved on (3)
Use it only when grandkids are over (2)
Don't go to parks any longer
Physically unable to enjoy it - wish I could!
In our 70's - not able to use equipment or parks
Age
Age - but grandchildren play there all the time
(Custer and 10th)
Disabled
I'm handicapped age is 85
We are an older couple and do not use parks on
a regular basis
Do not have kids

D. SAFETY

Very strange people are parked in here most of
the time (Ashley)
Scared to be at the park (Lions Club)
Park has too many people sitting in cars (we feel
these are drug dealers). Can't or won't
let daughter go down there alone. (Pier)
Kids say they do not feel safe there (Pier)
Safety (Pier)
Concerned about disturbances caused by kids
(George)
Work schedule and safety. I had a bad
experience at Stolley once, so I scout
out a park before going there or make
sure I'm not alone. I would not go to a
park at night.
I love to walk there, but sometimes the
atmosphere is a bit frightening (Ashley)
Some "seedy" people in this park after 11pm
(Grace Abbott)
There is a major problem with drugs and alcohol
at that park (Lions)
I don't feel very safe at certain times of the day
(Ashley)
No fence along railroad track or highway- too
dangerous

E. SPECIFIC PARK COMPLAINT

Equipment is so far apart - only one picnic area
(Ryder)
Not enough space for all who go there - too
crowded (Stolley)
Lighting at night (Stolley)
Road surface and the loud stereos booming
(Stolley)
It is never kept clean from the ducks, there's no
where to sit (Pier)
Tennis courts not well maintained nor well lit
for evenings/nights. Whole park is not
very well lit (Pier)

Major problem at LE Ray lake - the number of IV syringes thrown about for the public to step on. Better supervision of LE Ray is needed - all night parties with loud noise from radios, etc. can be heard from blocks away, generally at night in the summer time.

Undesirable elements roaming the park in evening hours (Pier)

There seems to be a lot of garbage and glass. Also, the bathrooms are always dirty. (Pier)

Mud holes around equipment (Pier)

Duck droppings over all the walks, junk in water. Need wood chips under all playground rides and slides (Pier)

Pier Park would be much more desirable if it had facilities presently not available

No equipment for adults

People leave children unattended and leave trash around (Grace Abbot)

I don't like some of the people that hang out there tennis courts are full, or they claim to have reserved the courts for private lessons (Ryder)

The equipment is far too spread out - not enough small children equipment

Doesn't have swings for toddlers (Broadwell)

We use this park a lot! (Buechler)

Needs better bathrooms, needs picnic shelters (Grace Abbot)

Park is over crowded (Lions Club)

Park has a lot of stickers, very run down equipment and the up-keep of the park is very poor. (Piper and 18th). The small neighborhood parks seem to be very neglected. There has been a lot of focus on Island Oasis water park and it is time some of this focus went to parks that are used daily by families year long.

Wish it had a bike/jogging trail for better access (Stolley)

Too crowded and too much trash and broken glass (Lions Club)

Like to go for walks and use other facilities for a variety

It's really only a detention cell (Piper and 18th)

Would like more trees - improve retaining wall

Attend band concerts at other parks

We just don't think about it when we have time

It's for children - few trees, few flowers

F. OTHER

Too many busy streets to cross (Buechler)

Didn't realize there was a park there.

It's a detention cell (Capital and Webb)

We play a lot in our own yard

Attend parks with ball games mostly

6. OTHER AMENITIES YOU FEEL ARE IMPORTANT:

Walk/bike/run/hike trails (12)
(around a new lake/pond)
(especially at Ryder)

Parking (7)

Pay phones (7)

Trash cans/dumpster with lid (6)
(leave out in winter)

Flowers/shrubs/beds (6)
(cut all bushes and grow new ones)

Grills (5)

None (2)

A. MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Trash pickup (2)

Clean Restrooms (2)

Pier Park's lake is often dirty. Maybe more
trash cans might help? We love this
park!

The trash in the water is terrible. There are dead
ducks around the water. (Pier)

Fountains in Pier park are beautiful when they
work

B. SAFETY ISSUES

Security (3)

More surveillance/Police patrol (2)

Supervision

More police and drug control on Sunday

C. SPECIFIC AMENITIES

Baseball fields (5)

Ice skating (3)

Good fishing area (3)

Skateboard park

More places to fish, camp, do water sports

Lake

More wading pools

Softball fields

Picnic tables

Picnic shelters

Adult swings/board seats (please!)

Tall swings

Basketball courts

A northside pool

Exercise stations

Physical Fitness course with stations

Chairs/benches

More bleachers

Shooting range
Swimming pool

D. OTHER

More modern play equipment (2) and more
picnic areas by the play equipment

Keep dogs out of parks

Paved road

Water hydrants

Restrooms unlocked

Modernize current fields

Zoo is going downhill

Coal railroad track

Interstate S. Locust

Affordable children's train outside the zoo (e.g.

Wichita's Watson Park - \$1/person;

Fort Smith, AR Central Park and

swimming - 25 cents). Some families

would enjoy train but can't afford zoo

admission (\$20/family)

Rental paddle boats at Pier (e.g. Story Book

Island a tremendous drawing card for

Rapid City, SD)

Snack bar

Lights around fountain at Pioneer Park

Shelter from wind

Swings for the infant/toddlers

Changing area in the bathrooms for babies

Better access to South-East end of LE Ray

Open all night (LE Ray)

Rolling hills

Band stage

RV camping with hookups and dump

Handicap Accessible

Activities in the parks for children in the
summer

Lots of room for private parties

Barrier free equipment

Open all hours

No restricted areas (ie: for family use)

Decent grass

Art work (sculptures)

Updated equipment at Pier Park

8. LIST UP TO 3 NEW FACILITIES OR ACTIVITIES NOT NOW AVAILABLE THAT YOU THINK WOULD BE WELL-USED BY THE FOLLOWING AGE GROUPS:

With the tax limits being imposed let's improve on what we've got as we can afford it
Anything that doesn't cost an arm and a leg. GI "dads" don't seem to care about the average guy - just dollars and cents

YOUTH

Ice rink/ice hockey/ice skating (9)
Youth center (ie with pool tables, darts, concession stand, TV's, and dance floor) (6)
Skateboard area/inline skating/roller hockey (5)
Rec center (ie. need something like the old YMCA for basketball, swimming etc) (4)
Diving/swimming/olympic pool (4)
More baseball fields (3)
None
Mini golf
Tubing
Trains
Paddle boats
More soccer fields
Camping pads
Girls softball complex
More basketball facilities
Bike route
Summer program of things to do
Crafts
More wading pools
More activities in parks in the summer
Group activities
Detention Center
Arcade
Summer Camps

TEENS

Teen center (18)
(well maintained and supervised)
(ie with games - putt putt golf, sand volleyball, music)
Swimming/diving/olympic pool (5)
Skateboard park/roller hockey (5)
Dances/dance club (4)
Ice Skating (3)
Bike trail (2)
Jogging track
Mountain climbing
Amusement park

Concerts
Riding stables
Mini golf
Tubing
Boat rides at LE Ray, paddle boats, canoes, floats, concession stand
Rec center
Organized events at water park - teen night, video games, dances, etc.
Indoor basketball
Indoor weights
Soccer fields
Snow mobile racing
Camping pads
Nature trails
Non-requirement softball league
More ball facilities
Group Activities
Detention Center
Arcade
Off road vehicle trails

ADULTS

Hike/Walking paths (12)
Bike trail (10)
Campgrounds/campouts (7) (ie w/ electric hookups)
Regular size swimming pool (4)
(ie 50 yard pool with diving well for lane swimming. Pier park pool should never have been demolished, but updated instead. Water park is geared only for pre teens.)
(ie Indoor swimming pool with diving well - the water park is boring)
Dance hall (4) (not country)
Casino (2)
Civic Center (2)
Better fishing (2)
Snow skiing
Dance clubs
Dog show
RV facilities
Softball field

- Concerts
- Canoeing
- Archery
- Rafting
- Grills
- More volley tourneys
- Horseback riding ranch
- Archery store
- More public hunting and fishing land
- Healthplex for women
- More tennis courts
- Bird watching area with beautiful landscaping,
small fountains and bird feeders
- Scenic water fountain
- Card house
- Indoor basketball
- Indoor weights
- Public driving range for golf
- Sidewalk on Capital Ave.
- Recreation center
- Dog racing
- Snow mobile racing
- Horse Shoes
- New Softball complex for adults
- Rock Climbing
- Dirt bike track
- Free meeting place (for group meetings)
- Library
- More clubs
- Garden Programs
- Comedy Club
- Shooting Range
- Hunting dog areas
- Ice skating
- Off road vehicle trails

SENIORS

- Walking trail (5)
- Senior center (2)
- Camps for seniors (2)
- Bike trails (2)
- Dance hall
- Horseshoes
- Winter golf indoor
- More free fishing places
- Sit down games in parks
- Card party clubs
- Indoor walking track
- Indoor pool
- Casino

- A place where senior citizens can go on
Saturdays and Sundays
- Civic Center
- Free Rec Hall (for bingo)
- Better bus service
- More flexible trips
- More clubs
- Crafts

ALL AGES

- Walk/hike/bike paths (32)
(that is safe and doesn't cross Webb
Road)
(Connecting RR ROW for walking,
jogging and biking)
(that does not cross Hwy 281)
(path around town and connecting parts
of the city - not a system on the
streets!)
- (i.e. developed at the Cornhusker Army
Am. Plant. People would come
from miles to use it)
- Civic Center (19)
- (Indoor and Outdoor) ice skating (18)
- Indoor recreational pool (ie not just a 25 yd! -
combined w/ city-operated rec center)
(5)
- Outdoor pool (3) (ie in the North Central Part of
town)
- Regulation pool (3)
- Roller blading (ie paths through a big park; with
rentals) (4)
- Dancing (2)
(ie. and not have to be a member of a
club)
(ie Public Dance Hall - not a bar scene)
- Convention hall (for concerts, community
events) (2)
- Large baseball complex (for little league to
senior league - no admission charges)
(2)
- Fishing (2)
- Camping area (2)
- Rec Center (ie in west part of Grand Island) (2)
- Basketball courts in parks
- Par course
- Motorized off road vehicle park or trails
- Horseshoe pits
- Rodeo
- More sand volleyball
- Basketball

Diving pool
Bike racing and riding
Community center or auditorium by Fonner
Park
Shuffleboard
Fun Plex
Archery
Gun Club
Fishing lakes
Cross country ski
Indoor bike track
Summer Concerts
Champion Fun Center
Horseback riding
More Arts
Driving Range

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT BUDGET/SCHEDULE

Parks and Recreation Department

City of Grand Island, NE

August 6, 1996

For year: 1995

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Item	Equip. #	Model Year	Purchase Price	Current Age	Current Miles/hrs	Life Expect.	% Life Expend.	Replace Cost	Current Annual	
									Annual Sinking Fund	Repl. Year
									Requirement	
Budget: Parks - #1442										
Vermeer Stumper	Mac00131	1994	8,000	1	394.8	15	7%	8,500	567	2009
Case Mini Sneaker	Mac00132	1983	8,750	12	509.9	10	120%	10,000	1,000	1993
Jacobsen Blitzzer Mower	Mac00134	1977	6,000	18		10	180%	15,000	1,500	1987
Honda Generator	Mac00135	1994	1,075	1		10	10%	1,200	120	2004
Brush Bandit Chipper	Mac00140	1992	10,736	3		10	30%	16,500	1,650	2002
John Deere Snow Blower	Mac00141	1979	700	16		10	160%	1,100	110	1989
Toro Snow Blower	Mac00142	1993	1,099	2		10	20%	1,100	110	2003
Jacobsen F10 Reel Mower	Mac00143	1971	5,000	24		10	240%	22,000	2,200	1981
Massey Ferguson Tractor	Mac00144	1960	3,000	35		15	233%	15,000	1,000	1975
Danurer Digger	Mac00145	1990	1,795	5		10	50%	2,200	220	2000
Toro Groundsmaster 72	Mac00147	1980	750	15	3321.8	7	214%	16,000	2,286	1987
Cushman Truckster w/ sprayer	Mac00148	1986	3,500	9		10	90%	11,000	1,100	1996
Buntion Edger	Mac00149	1993	735	2		7	29%	750	107	2000
Allen Marsh Mower	Mac00150	1990	620	5		10	50%	700	70	2000
Heckendorn Mower	Mac00151	1974	500	21		10	210%	1,600	160	1984
Heckendorn Mower	Mac00152	1975	600	20		10	200%	1,600	160	1985
Heckendorn Mower	Mac00155	1985	8,434	10		10	100%	9,500	950	1995
Cushman Rotary Mower 72	Mac00156	1991	7,686	4	2758	10	40%	16,000	1,600	2001
Industrial Compressor	Mac00157	1993	1,250	2		15	13%	1,500	100	2008
Hotsy Washer	Mac00158	1982	4,427	13		15	87%	5,000	333	1997
Pontoon Boat	Mac00159	1990	510	5		20	25%	1,000	50	2010
John Deere Utility	Mac00160	1990	2,600	5		10	50%	3,000	300	2000
Smithco Groomer	Mac00161	1993	7,302	2	434.9	10	20%	8,500	850	2003
484 Compact Tractor	Mac00163	1994	27,335	1		15	7%	30,000	2,000	2009
Cushman Truckster	Mac00166	1984	600	11		10	110%	11,000	1,100	1994
M/F Tractor	Mac00170	1975	4,000	20		15	133%	15,000	1,000	1990
Grasshopper Mower 72"	Mac00351	1981	5,950	14	163.1	10	140%	9,500	950	1991
Cushman Truckster	Mac00352	1981	4,500	14		10	140%	11,000	1,100	1991
Landpride Blade	Mac00353	1994	600	1		20	5%	700	35	2014
Jacobson Trailer	Mac00354	1970	500	25		20	125%	3,500	175	1990
Turf aerator	Mac00355	1972	500	23		15	153%	7,500	500	1987
Snow Blower Int.	Mac00356	1979	1,250	16		10	160%	1,500	150	1989

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT BUDGET/SCHEDULE

Parks and Recreation Department

City of Grand Island, NE

August 6, 1996

For year: 1995

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Item	Equip. #	Model Year	Purchase Price	Current Age	Current Miles/hrs	Life Expect.	% Life Expend.	Replace Cost	Annual Repl. Cost	Current Annual Sinking Fund Requirement	Repl. Year
Land Pride Rotary Cutter 72"	Mac	1995	960	0		10	0%	1,000	100	100	2005
Toro Sand Pro 2000 Field Groomer	Mac	1995	6,350	0		10	0%	6,500	650	650	2005
Lely Fertilizer Spreader (Tractor mt.)	Mac	1995	2,350	0		10	0%	2,500	250	250	2005
GMC Pickup	Veh00035	1993	9,024	2	13,465	8	25%	16,000	2,000	2,667	2001
Chevy Pickup S-10	Veh00036	1991	12,211	4	35,206	8	50%	16,000	2,000	4,000	1999
Chevy Dump Truck	Veh00037	1992	15,937	3	12,298	10	30%	18,500	1,850	2,643	2002
Ford Dump Truck	Veh00039	1984	9,800	11	37,873	10	110%	18,500	1,850	18,500	1994
Toyota Pickup	Veh00040	1990	8,204	5	32,489	8	63%	16,000	2,000	5,333	1998
Ford Half Ton Pickup	Veh00041	1981	6,900	14		8	175%	16,000	2,000	16,000	1989
GMC Pickup	Veh00042	1993	11,433	2	12,468	8	25%	16,000	2,000	2,667	2001
Ford Half Ton Pickup	Veh00043	1989	9,174	6	40,195	8	75%	16,000	2,000	8,000	1997
GMC Half Ton Pickup	Veh00046	1986	8,650	9	55,298	8	113%	16,000	2,000	16,000	1994
Chevy Half Ton with Tree Spade	Veh00047	1977	5,500	18	85,956	8	225%	15,500	1,938	15,500	1985
Chevy Caprice	Veh00048	1991	900	4	69,280	8	50%	15,000	1,875	3,750	1999
Chevy w/ aerial lift	Veh	1995	42,000	0	1,069	8	0%	45,000	5,625	5,625	2003
GMC TC10903	Veh	1995	13,424	0	312	8	0%	16,000	2,000	2,000	2003
Half-ton pickup	Neh										
TriPlex Reel Mower	Mac										
Used 5 yd dump truck	Veh										
Grading Rake (PTO)	Mac										
Roto-tiller (tractor mount)	Mac										
Budget: Cemetery - #1443											
Heckendorn 36"	Mac00104	1967	695	28		30	93%	1,600	53	800	1997
Heckendorn 36"	Mac00105	1968	695	27		30	90%	1,600	53	533	1998
Heckendorn 36"	Mac00106	1969	850	26		30	87%	1,600	53	400	1999
Heckendorn 36"	Mac00107	1969	850	26		30	87%	1,600	53	400	1999
Heckendorn 36"	Mac00108	1992	500	3		30	10%	1,600	53	59	2022
Heckendorn 36"	Mac00109	1992	500	3		30	10%	1,600	53	59	2022
Jacobson 60"	Mac00111	1989	6,200	6	2508	6	100%	8,100	1,350	8,100	1995
Jacobson 60"	Mac00112	1991	7,535	4	1621	6	67%	8,100	1,350	4,050	1997
John Deere 54"	Mac00113	1993	6,380	2	1243	6	33%	8,100	1,350	2,025	1999
Ariens 24" Snowblower	Mac00114	1984	799	11		20	55%	800	40	89	2004

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT BUDGET/SCHEDULE

Parks and Recreation Department

City of Grand Island, NE

August 6, 1996

For year: 1995

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Current
Annual

Item	Equip. #	Model Year	Purchase Price	Current Age	Current Miles/hrs	Life Expect.	% Life Expend.	Replace Cost	Annual Repl. Cost	Sinking Fund Requirement	Repl. Year
Olathe 48" Sweeper	Mac00115	1983	6,850	12		20	60%	11,000	550	1,375	2003
Massey Tractor	Mac00116	1957	700	38		15	253%	15,000	1,000	15,000	1972
John Deere 54"	Mac00384	1995	7,935	1	422	6	17%	8,500	1,417	1,700	2001
Land Pride 96" Rear Blade	Mac00117	1994	650	1		15	7%	700	47	50	2009
Boss Snow Blade	Mac00118	1987	4,091	8		15	53%	5,000	333	714	2002
Yazoo Snow Blower 48"	Mac00119	1979	1,200	16		20	80%	1,500	75	375	1999
Case Backhoe Loader	Mac00120	1983	25,590	25	1703	25	100%	32,000	1,280	32,000	2008
Chevy Half Ton Pickup	Veh00029	1980	5,995	15	81596	8	188%	16,000	2,000	16,000	1988
Ford 350 Dump Truck	Veh00030	1980	6,000	15	19429	12	125%	20,000	1,667	20,000	1992
Chevy 4WD Pickup	Veh00031	1982	4,500	13	64638	8	163%	18,500	2,313	18,500	1990
Dodge Aries Wagon	Veh00032	1988	7,699	7	23410	8	88%	16,000	2,000	16,000	1996
Dodge 4WD Dump Truck	Veh00033	1966	2,000	29	19762	12	242%	48,000	4,000	48,000	1978
Ford Dump Truck	Veh00034	1981	5,000	14	23,795	12	117%	48,000	4,000	48,000	1993

Budget: Greenhouse - #1444

Rototiller	Mac00165	1984	850	11		7	157%	900	129	900	1991
Soil Sterilizer	Mac00169	1993	637	2		15	13%	750	50	58	2008
Toyota Half Ton Pickup	Veh00045	1988	8,360	7	26,218	8	88%	16,000	2,000	16,000	1996

Budget: Island Oasis - #1452

John Deere Mower 54"	Mac00164	1994	6,870	1		6	17%	7,500	1,250	1,500	2000
Club Golfcart	Mac00181	1993	4,069	2		7	29%	4,500	643	900	2000
Maxi Sweep Vacuum	Mac00183	1994	2,965	1		7	14%	3,500	500	583	2001
Maxi Sweep Vacuum	Mac00184	1993	3,075	2		7	29%	3,500	500	700	2000
TOTAL								\$820,500	\$83,853	\$533,512	\$155,803
AVERAGE											

FOOTNOTES:

a. No longer manufactured

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

Parks and Recreation Department

City of Grand Island, NE

August 6, 1996

For year:

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Item	Scheduled Replacement Year/Cost										2006 and beyond
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
Budget: Parks - #1442											
Vermeer Stumper											\$8,500
Case Mini Sneaker					\$15,000						\$10,000
Jacobsen Blitzzer Mower						\$35,000					\$15,000
Honda Generator									\$1,200		
Brush Bandit Chipper							\$16,500				
John Deere Snow Blower			\$1,300								\$1,100
Toro Snow Blower								\$1,100			
Jacobsen F10 Reel Mower				\$25,000							
Massey Ferguson Tractor		\$45,000									
Danurer Digger											
Toro Groundsmaster 72				\$15,000				\$16,000		\$2,200	\$2,200
Cushman Truckster w/ sprayer		\$15,000									\$16,000
Burton Edger										\$750	\$750
Allen Marsh Mower										\$700	\$700
Heckendorn Mower	\$18,000										\$1,600
Heckendorn Mower	\$18,000										\$1,600
Heckendorn Mower	\$18,000										\$9,500
Cushman Rotary Mower 72					\$16,000						
Industrial Compressor											\$1,500
Hotsy Washer	\$7,000										
Pontoon Boat											
John Deere Utility				\$11,000							\$1,000
Smithco Groomer					\$8,500						\$3,000
484 Compact Tractor											\$30,000
Cushman Truckster			\$11,000								\$11,000
M/F Tractor	\$15,000										
Grasshopper Mower 72"			\$15,000								\$9,500
Cushman Truckster			\$11,000								\$11,000
Landpride Blade											\$700
Jacobson Trailer	\$4,500										
Turf aerator		\$12,500									
Snow Blower Int.	\$1,500										\$1,500

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

Parks and Recreation Department

City of Grand Island, NE

August 6, 1996

For year:

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Item	Scheduled Replacement Year/Cost											2006 and beyond
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Land Pride Rotary Cutter 72"										\$1,000		
Toro Sand Pro 2000 Field Groomer										\$6,500		
Lely Fertilizer Spreader (Tractor mt.)										\$2,500		
GMC Pickup						\$16,000						
Chevy Pickup S-10				\$16,000								\$16,000
Chevy Dump Truck					\$30,000							
Ford Dump Truck			\$28,000									
Toyota Pickup			\$16,000									\$18,500
Ford Half Ton Pickup			\$15,000									\$16,000
GMC Pickup						\$16,000				\$16,000		
Ford Half Ton Pickup				\$16,000								\$16,000
GMC Half Ton Pickup	\$16,000								\$16,000			
Chevy Half Ton with Tree Spade	\$15,500								\$15,500			
Chevy Caprice					\$22,000							
Chevy w/ aerial lift												
GMC TC10903								\$45,000				
Half-ton pickup	\$16,000							\$16,000				
TriPlex Reel Mower		\$12,000										
Used 5 yd dump truck		\$8,000										
Grading Rake (PTO)			\$5,000									
Roto-tiller (tractor mount)												
Budget: Cemetery - #1443												
Heckendorn 36"		\$1,600										
Heckendorn 36"			\$1,600									
Heckendorn 36"				\$1,600								
Heckendorn 36"				\$1,600								
Heckendorn 36"												\$1,600
Heckendorn 36"												\$1,600
Jacobson 60"	\$8,100											\$8,100
Jacobson 60"		\$8,100					\$8,100					
John Deere 54"											\$8,100	
Ariens 24" Snowblower									\$800			

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

Parks and Recreation Department

City of Grand Island, NE

August 6, 1996

For year:

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Item	Scheduled Replacement Year/Cost											2006 and beyond
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Olathe 48" Sweeper								\$11,000				
Massey Tractor	\$15,000											
John Deere 54"						\$8,500					\$8,500	
Land Pride 96" Rear Blade											\$700	
Boss Snow Blade							\$5,000				\$5,000	
Yazoo Snow Blower 48"				\$1,500								
Case Backhoe Loader											\$32,000	
Chevy Half Ton Pickup	\$16,000								\$16,000			
Ford 350 Dump Truck	\$20,000										\$20,000	
Chevy 4WD Pickup	\$18,500								\$18,500			
Dodge Aries Wagon	\$16,000								\$16,000			
Dodge 4WD Dump Truck	\$48,000										\$48,000	
Ford Dump Truck	\$48,000										\$48,000	
Budget: Greenhouse - #1444												
Rototiller	\$900							\$900			\$900	
Soil Sterilizer											\$750	
Toyota Half Ton Pickup	\$16,000								\$16,000			
Budget: Island Oasis - #1452												
John Deere Mower 54"					\$7,500						\$7,500	
Club Golfcart					\$4,500						\$4,500	
Maxi Sweep Vacuum						\$3,500					\$3,500	
Maxi Sweep Vacuum					\$3,500						\$3,500	
TOTAL	\$336,000	\$102,200	\$103,900	\$95,800	\$107,000	\$79,000	\$29,600	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$53,750	\$407,800	
AVERAGE	117,938	117,938	117,938	117,938	117,938	117,938	117,938	117,938				

FOOTNOTES:

- No longer manufactured
- Purchased used 1972
- Purchased used 1990
- Purchased used 1987
- Unique equipment for conditions

TRUCK PARKING IN
RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Article VII. Stopping, Standing, and Parking
Division 1. Generally

§22-92. Parking Trucks in Residential Districts

It shall be unlawful for any person to park a truck or trailer, except a truck or trailer being used for the purpose of delivering or collecting goods, wares, merchandise or materials, on any street adjacent to property zoned as a residential property pursuant to Chapter 36 of this code or on any street designated as a snow emergency route street for a period of time longer than is necessary for the expeditious delivery or collecting of goods, wares, merchandise or materials, and in no event for a period of time exceeding two hours; provided, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to trucks or trailers being used in connection with building, repair, service, or moving operations.

Truck Parking

The Police Department enforces violations of semi tractor/trailer parking on streets either by observation or complaint. The violator is issued a parking ticket for the offense.

The Police Department enforces violations of semi tractor/trailer units driving on streets not designated as truck routes. These also are enforced typically by officer observation but can also be by complaint. A violator can be issued a summons or a warning for the violation.

The Police Department cannot enter onto private property and issue a parking ticket for a semi tractor/trailer parked at a private residence. We cannot issue a summons for the person driving the truck on residential streets even though it would be required to get the truck to the private residence.

We could possibly refer the property owner for this violation; however, this is a time consuming and costly process that is also very difficult to prosecute in court as no one was observed operating the truck.

Parking in Side and Back Yards

Residents are allowed to park vehicles in their side and back yards. This typically includes motor vehicles, campers, trailers and boats on trailers.

The Police Department can take enforcement action when a vehicle is abandoned and or has expired license plates on private property. Community Service Officers work these calls on view or by complaint. The Police Department can also take enforcement action when weeds and grass around the vehicles are too tall. Normally the resident is allowed a certain amount of time to correct the violation before being referred for prosecution. Violators are referred for prosecution to the City Attorney.

PARKING ON NON-PAVED
SURFACES

Article XII. Off-Street Parking

§22-140. Definitions

For the purpose of this Article, off-street parking shall be that as defined in §36-8 of this Code and any vehicles parked on such off-street parking spaces.

Amended by Ordinance No. 8992, effective 8-10-2005

§22-141. Violations; Penalty; Persons Responsible

(1) It shall be unlawful for any owner, lessee or bailee or person to park a motor vehicle in a non-conforming off-street parking space as defined in §36-96 and 36-97.

(2) If the identity of the person who parked the vehicle in violation of this Article cannot be readily determined, the owner or person in whose name the vehicle is registered shall be held prima facie responsible for such violation and shall be guilty and subject to the penalties and procedures described in this Article.

(3) All violations of this Section shall be enforced by the Parking Violations Bureau and the provisions of Sections 22-101 through 22-104, inclusive.

Amended by Ordinance No. 8992, effective 8-10-2005

§22-141.1. Parking In Front Yards

It shall be unlawful for anyone to park a motor vehicle on any unimproved area of a front yard of any property in the city of Grand Island. For the purpose of this section, "unimproved area" shall mean any area that has not been improved with concrete, asphalt, brick, stone, gravel, or crushed rock. The term "motor vehicle" shall mean every self-propelled land vehicle, not operated on rails, except mopeds or self-propelled invalid chairs. No front yard area shall be improved for parking unless it meets all of the requirements of the Grand Island City Code for off-street parking, including but not limited to, the provisions of Section 36-48.

Added by Ordinance 8828, effective 8-6-2003

§22-141.2. Parking Busses In Yards

It shall be unlawful for anyone to park a bus (as defined in §22-1), in the back yard, front yard or side yard of any residence (as defined in §36-8) in any zone of the City of Grand Island or its extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction.

Added by Ordinance 8992, effective 8-10-2005

§22-142. Removal; Duty of Property Owner

It shall be the duty of every owner, landlord or person in possession, charge or control of the real estate upon which any non-designated off-street parking is allowed, to remove or cause to be removed from the premises such vehicle parking in the non-conforming area.

It shall be unlawful to allow such vehicle to remain in a non-conforming off-street parking area.

§22-143. Non-Conforming Off-Street Parking; Public Nuisance

It shall be unlawful and hereby declared a public nuisance to allow off-street parking in non-conforming areas, as described in §36-96 and 36-97 or to allow to remain on any property within the City such vehicles in non-conforming areas.

§22-144. Penalty for Violation

Any person violating §22-143 shall upon conviction be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day shall constitute a separate offense and be punishable as provided in this Code.

§22-145. Notice to Remove; Non-Compliance with Notice; Procedure

It shall be the duty of the Grand Island Police Department or the Code Compliance Officer in any case where a vehicle is allowed to remain in a non-conforming area and in any non-conforming off-street parking space, to deliver or send a Notice to Abate and remove such nuisance to the owner of the real estate or the owner's duly authorized agent or person, in possession, charge or control, and to the occupant, if any, by personal service or ordinary first class mail. Within five days after delivery or mailing of such notice, if the owner, agent or occupant of the real estate or piece of ground fails to comply with the order to abate and remove the nuisance, or if such owner, agent or occupant cannot be notified by personal service or mail upon written request from the Grand Island Police Department or the Code Compliance Officer to the City Attorney, the City of Grand Island may proceed to abate said public nuisance pursuant to §20-15 of the Grand Island City Code.

§22-146. Assessment; Levy; Collection

If the costs and expenses of removing the vehicle from the nonconforming off-street parking area are not paid within the time provided, the City Council shall, and it does hereby empower to, levy and assess the costs and expenses of such removal upon the property so benefited. The same shall be levied on all lots, tracts or parcels of land to the extent of the special benefit to such real estate, by reason of such improvement, such benefits to be determined by the City Council sitting as a board of equalization after publication in a newspaper having general circulation in the City and personal notice at least ten (10) days prior thereto. The assessment so levied shall be a lien on the property on which levied from the date of levy and shall be due and payable to the City Treasurer thirty (30) days after such levy and shall become delinquent fifty (50) days after such levy and shall bear interest at the rate of seven percent (7%) per annum from the date they become delinquent; and, at the time of the next certification for general revenue purposes to the County Clerk, if not previously paid, this special tax shall be certified to the County Clerk, be placed upon the tax list and be collected as other real estate taxes are collected and be paid over to the City Treasurer.

§36-8. Definitions

Off-Street Parking Area or Vehicular Use shall refer to all off street areas and spaces designed, used, required, or intended to be used for parking, including driveways or access ways in and to such areas.

Article VII. Supplemental Regulations

§36-96. Off-Street Parking Requirements

(A) Purposes:

(1) It is the intent of this section that all buildings and uses shall provide off-street parking and loading facilities in a minimum amount as required herein to meet the needs of such buildings and uses on private property and under the same ownership as such buildings or uses. The accommodations may consist of lots, garages, or other buildings, and accessories; they may be surface facilities or facilities above or under the ground.

(2) It is the further intent of this section that all off-street parking and loading spaces and facilities shall be sited and built according to the requirements contained in this section, and shall require an application for and issuance of a building permit pursuant to §8-22.

(B) Application. Each building or use hereafter constructed, and each addition to or altered building or use shall be provided with off-street parking and loading spaces as required herein. Each off-street parking space or loading facility and space hereafter constructed, upon proper application and permit being granted shall be sited and constructed pursuant to the requirements of this section. No application for a building permit for such building, addition, alteration, or use shall be approved unless accompanied by a plot plan showing the location and amount of off-street parking and loading spaces as required herein for the existing or proposed building or use and including all such additions or alterations. No occupancy or use permit shall be issued unless the required parking and loading facilities shall have been provided in accordance with the approved plot plan. Requirements shall be applicable to all zones and districts but not to include the following business districts:

(1) *Central Business District* as identified and described in Chapter 13 of this code as the Downtown Improvement and Parking District No. 1.

(2) *Fourth Street Business District.* Beginning at the intersection of Eddy Street and the alley in the block between Fourth and Fifth Streets; thence easterly on the alley to the intersection of the alley with Sycamore Street; thence southerly on Sycamore Street to 100 feet south of the south right-of-way line of North Front Street; thence westerly on the aforesaid line to its intersection with Eddy Street; thence northerly on Eddy Street to the point of beginning.

(C) Area and Computation: An off-street parking space shall be of appropriate dimensions of not less than 180 square feet exclusive of access or maneuvering area, ramps, columns, etc., and shall have a vertical clearance of not less than seven feet. An off-street loading space shall be of appropriate dimensions of not less than 360 square feet exclusive of access or maneuvering area, ramps, columns, etc., and shall have a vertical clearance of not less than fourteen feet. When determination of the number of off-street parking or loading spaces required by this chapter results in a requirement of a

fractional space, any fraction of one-half or less may be disregarded while a fraction in excess of one-half shall be counted as one parking space.

(D) Location: All off-street parking spaces shall be on the same lot as the building or within 300 feet of the lot. Permanent off-street parking spaces shall not be permitted within the required front yard setback, provided, however, that for a building containing three dwelling units or less, one space per unit may be placed within the front yard setback if such space is not directly in front of the building excluding garages or carports. Parking facilities located separate from the building or use as listed shall have a substantial portion of same within a specified distance of the building or use which it serves. All off-street loading spaces shall be on the same lot as the building or use served.

(E) Collective Facilities: Off-street parking facilities for separate or mixed buildings or uses may be provided collectively so long as the total number of spaces is not less than the sum of the separate required spaces, and provided further, that the requirement concerning location of such facility with respect to distance from the building or use served shall be complied with. In order to eliminate a multiplicity of entrances and exits and diminish traffic hazards to conserve space where space is at a premium and to promote orderly development generally, the city council is hereby authorized to plan and group parking facilities collectively for a number of businesses in a given area, and especially in the central business district, in such a manner as to obtain a maximum of efficiency and capacity in parking and traffic movement.

(F) Employee Parking: Parking spaces required on an employee basis shall be based on the maximum number of employees on duty on the premises at any one time.

(G) Design Standards. All off-street parking and loading facilities shall be designed with appropriate means of vehicular access to a street or alley and contain adequate and safe maneuvering areas. No driveway or curb cuts shall exceed twenty-six feet in width in residential districts, or thirty-five feet in width in business or industrial/manufacturing districts, and detailed plans shall be submitted to the public works director for approval of all curb cuts or driveway openings before a permit may be obtained therefor. No signs shall be displayed except such signs as required for the orderly use of the facilities. All facilities shall be provided with a permanent type, dust-free surface such as asphaltic cement concrete, Portland cement concrete, or paving brick.

All parking lots containing five or more parking spaces, which are within 30 feet of property occupied by a residential use in a Transitional Agricultural Zoning District or of property within a Suburban Residential Zoning District, Low Density Residential Zoning District, Medium Density Residential Zoning District, High Density Residential Zoning District or Residential Development Zoning District, shall provide a sight-obscuring fence or screen not less than six feet nor more than eight feet in height along the boundary of the parking lot adjacent to such districts. No fence or screen shall be required between abutting parking lots or adjacent to an alley. The height of any fence or screen shall be subject to other restrictions provided by the City Code.

(H) Maintenance: The parking and loading facilities required by this section shall be provided and maintained so long as the use exists which the facilities are designed to serve. Reasonable precautions must be taken by the owners of particular uses to assure the use of the parking facilities only by the employees or the social or business visitors of the premises for which the facilities are provided. The facilities must be so designed and

maintained as not to constitute a nuisance at any time and must not be used in such a manner as to constitute a hazard or unreasonable impediment to traffic.

(I) Reduction of Number of Spaces: Off-street parking or loading facilities shall not be reduced in total extent, after their provision required hereunder, except upon the approval of the Board of Adjustment, and then only after proof that the parking or loading spaces are no longer required by reason of a change in use of the premises of which the facilities are adjunct.

(J) Requirement for Uses Not Listed: For any use not listed, the Board of Adjustment shall determine the proper requirement by classifying the proposed use among the uses specified herein so as to assure equal treatment.

(K) Administration and Enforcement: The off-street parking and loading provisions of this section shall be administered by the zoning official and enforced by the chief building official, who shall also serve in advisory capacity to the city council on matters relative to any phase of such provisions.

(L) Penalty for Violation: The provisions of parking and loading facilities as required by this section shall be a continuing obligation of the owner or sponsor of a given building or use so long as the building or use is in existence and so long as parking and loading facilities are required hereunder in connection therewith, and it shall be unlawful to discontinue, change, or dispense with such facilities without establishing alternate facilities that meet the requirements herein. Penalty provisions applicable to this chapter as a whole shall apply to the violations of these provisions. In addition, at such time as the facilities required hereunder shall fail to continue to be available for the purpose, the building permit for the structures to which the facilities are adjunct and the use or occupancy permits issued for the premises shall be canceled and become null and void.

Amended by Ordinance No. 8976, effective 06-08-2005

§36-97. Schedule of Minimum Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements

Uses	Parking Requirements	Loading Requirements
Adult entertainment establishments	One (1) space per 2 persons of capacity	None required
Bowling Alleys	Four (4) spaces per alley	One (1) space per establishment
Churches, Synagogues, and Temples	One (1) space per 4 seats in main worship area	None required
Clubs, including fraternal organizations	One (1) space per 500 s.f. of net floor area	None required
College/University	One (1) spaces per every two (2) students of occupancy plus one (1) per employee.	Two (2) spaces per structure
Commercial Uses		
Agricultural Sales / Service	One (1) space per 500 s.f. of net floor area	One (1) per establishment
Automotive Rental / Sales	One (1) space per 500 s.f. of net floor area	One (1) per establishment

Automotive Servicing	Three (3) spaces per repair stall	None required
Bars, Taverns,	Parking equal to 30% of licensed capacity	Two (2) spaces per establishment
Nightclubs	Four (4) spaces per repair stall	None required
Body Repair	One (1) space per 500 s.f. of net floor area	One (1) Space
Equipment Rental / Sales	One (1) space per camping unit	None required
Campground	One (1) space per 4 persons of licensed capacity	One (1) per establishment
Commercial Recreation	One (1) space per 500 s.f. of net floor area	One (1) per establishment
Communication Services	One (1) space per 500 s.f. of net floor area	One (1) per establishment
Construction Sales / Service	One (1) space per 300 s.f. of net floor area	One (1) per establishment
Food Sales (limited)	One (1) space per 200 s.f. of net floor area	Two (2) per establishment
Food Sales (general)	One (1) space per 500 s.f. of net floor area	Two (2) per establishment
Furniture Sales	One (1) space per 200 s.f. of net floor area	One (1) per establishment
General Retail Sales establishments	One (1) space per 200 s.f. of net floor area	None required
Laundry Services	Parking equal to 2 of every 5 seats	Two (2) spaces per establishment
Restaurants (General)	One (1) space per 3 beds plus 1 per employee on the largest shift	Two (2) space per structure
Convalescent and Nursing Home Services	One (1) space per employee plus 1 space or loading stall per each 10 persons of licensed capacity	None required
Day Care	Two (2) spaces per classroom	Two (2) spaces per structure
Educational Uses, Primary facilities	Eight (8) spaces per classroom plus 1 space per employee on largest shift	Two (2) spaces per structure
Educational Uses, Secondary facilities	Eight (8) spaces per reposing room	Two (2) spaces per establishment
Funeral Homes and Chapels	One (1) space per 4 persons of licensed capacity	Two (2) space per structure
Group Care Facility	One (1) space per 4 persons of licensed capacity	Two (2) space per structure
Group Home	One (1) space per 300 s.f. of net floor area	None required
Guidance Services	One and one-half (1 1/2) spaces per 2 licensed beds; plus, .75 times the maximum number of employees during the largest shift.	Three (3) spaces per structure
Hospitals		

Hotels and Motels	One (1) space per rental unit	One (1) space per establishment
Housing		
Assisted-living facilities	One (1) space per two dwelling unit plus 1 space per employee on the largest shift	One (1) per structure
Duplex	Two (2) spaces per dwelling unit	None required
Independent (restricted) facilities	One (1) space per dwelling unit	None required
Multi-family / Apartments	Two (2) spaces per dwelling unit	None required
Single-family, attached & detached	Two (2) spaces per dwelling unit	None required
Industrial Uses	.75 times the maximum number of employees during the largest shift	Two (2) spaces per establishment
Libraries	One (1) space 500 s.f. of net floor area	One (1) per structure
Boarding Houses / Bed and Breakfasts	One (1) space per rental units	None required
Medical Clinics	Five (5) spaces per staff doctor, dentist, chiropractor	None required
Manufactured Home Park	Two (2) per dwelling unit	None required
Offices and Office Buildings	One (1) space per 200 s.f. of net floor area	None required
Roadside stands	Four (4) spaces per establishment	None required
Service Oriented Establishments	One (1) space per 200 s.f. of net floor area	One (1) per establishment
Theaters, Auditoriums, and Places of Assembly	One (1) space per 4 persons of licensed capacity	One (1) space per establishment
Veterinary Establishments	Three (3) spaces per staff doctor	None required
Wholesaling / Distribution Operations	One (1) space per 2 employees on the largest shift	Two (2) spaces per establishment
	Amended by Ordinance No. 8947, effective 1-5-2005	
	Amended by Ordinance No. 8976, effective 6-8-2005	

AUDITOR REPORT

Gary Greer

From: CouncilHaase

Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2006 10:02 PM

To: Gary Greer

Cc: mhornady@grand-island.com

Gary,

Since we can't pay the salaried owed, because of the salary ordinance, I have asked Terry Galloway to be at our council retreat to talk about our finances. I think this would be a great opportunity to learn about our finances. We never have enough time or a opportunity to discuss anything. I think this would be a great learning tool, for city council members understand how the city works. He said he'd be happy to be there. Please put him down on the agenda to speak.

Thanks,

Joyce

1/11/2007

CITY/COUNTY
AGENDA

CITY/COUNTY AGENDA

JANUARY 20, 2007

Lunch with County Board

Mayor Margaret Hornady

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Heartland Public Shooting Park Presentation
- City/County Emergency Management
- City/County Efficiency Committee Update
- Other Issues

Steve Paustian
Parks & Recreation Director

Brenda Sutherland
Human Resources Director

Beth Stecker, Chair

Break

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 2007

District 1 Supervisor

Robert Rye

3211 Magnolia Ct

Grand Island, NE 68803

(308) 389-4781

District 2 Supervisor

Jim Eriksen

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District 3 Supervisor

Daniel J. Wagoner

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Wood River, NE 68883

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District 4 Supervisor

Pamela E. Lancaster

****Vice-Chair****

2809 Apache Road

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(308) 381-2754

District 5 Supervisor

William (Bud) Jeffries

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District 7 Supervisor

Scott Arnold

****Chair****

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Hall County Board Assistant

Stacey Ruzicka

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e-mail: staceyr@hcgj.org

Hall County Clerk

Marla Conley

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(308) 385-5080

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*Working Together for a
Better Tomorrow. Today.*

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Project Manager: Brenda Sutherland, Human Resources Director
Assisted by members of H.R. department

Interview Committee: Hall County Representative – Jim Eriksen
Hall County Sheriff – Jerry Watson
G. I. Police Chief – Steve Lamken
G. I. Fire Chief – Jim Rowell
Rural Fire Chief – Chuck Hoffman
Human Resources – Brenda Sutherland

Committee members were chosen based on their interactions with Emergency Management. A member of the Hall County Board was also selected to participate as the County has an inter-local agreement for funding of the department.

This process will require a measurable time commitment from committee members. Should their schedules be too busy to participate at the level needed, they may designate a member of their organization to participate instead. However, for the purposes of fairness and consistency, the members of the interview committee need to remain the same throughout the process.

Timeline: This position is advertised as “open until filled”. The actual recruitment process began on December 26, 2006 and will continue until the ideal candidate is placed in the position. This position is an important one and the committee cannot *settle* on a candidate. The estimated duration of this process is 30-60 days.

Recruitment Process: The position is advertised in/on the following:

The Grand Island Daily Independent
The Omaha World Herald
The Lincoln Journal Star
Workforce Development website
City of Grand Island website
International Assoc. of Emergency Mgr's website
Nebraska Emergency Mgt. Assoc. website

Once the candidates are identified for interviews, the narrowing process will begin. It will be important for candidates to understand that once they accept an interview with the committee their names may be shared with the press and their anonymity will be gone at that point. The following activities will be part of the interview process:

1. Interview with committee
2. In basket written exercise
3. Assessment test given by Kenexa
4. Final interview with the Mayor, City Administrator and Human Resources Director

In addition to the exercises mentioned above, an extensive background check will be done by Human Resources and the Police Department. The process will be quite comprehensive and time consuming, so it will be important to narrow down the candidates that we are serious about.

Again, this point cannot be stressed enough, we cannot settle on a candidate. We must be patient and chose the best!

CC: Margaret Hornady, Mayor
Gary Greer, City Administrator

GOAL SETTING FOR
2007 - 2008

Public Safety

Continue to develop a Fire Training Facility	Training site has a large portion paved using millings from street repair program and the street department is using this paved area to hold the damaged tree debris and grinding it into mulch. We are developing the business plan for the training facility
Start Construction on Fire Station #1	Construction is moving along well and interior work has begun. The previous masonry company has been replaced with a faster company
Implement Police Vision Plan	<p>The Police Department has continued the many programs that contribute to the vision of the organization. In addition the Department has had the following activities over the past year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developed communications and a level of trust with the Hispanic business community by working on problems and assisting with the pro immigration march. 2. Revitalized the drug enforcement efforts of the department including a much more proactive approach by uniformed patrol. 3. Team work and problem solving to suppress an increase in gang related activity and a surge in business burglaries in the City. 4. Revision of the department Operations Manual to provide clear guidance but recognize the use of discretion. 5. Team work and proactive approach to working on alcohol problems in licensed establishments
Start Construction of Police/Sheriff Public Safety Center	<p>The Law Enforcement Center construction began in the summer of 2006 with Chief Construction being awarded the bid. Work started out well and then fell behind schedule due to delays in steel deliveries. The completion date could be late summer or early fall of 2007 due to delays. The Department has continued to prepare by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning furnishing and equipment needs and purchases. 2. Meeting regularly with the Sheriff's Office staff to prepare protocols and standards for working in the building. 3. Meeting with service providers to plan services such as communications for the building. 4. Oversight of construction progress. 5. Preparing documents to acquire contract services for the facility.

Economic Development

Assist in Creating and retaining quality jobs through LB 840 program	Funding requests were approved for \$370,000 to CNH and \$45,000 to O'Neill Wood Resources targeted to create 80 to 100 new jobs. The City continues to be involved in the recruitment process.
Assist CRA in identifying and creating new business redevelopment projects	CRA has approved 3 Commercial TIF projects one in Northeast Grand Island and two on South Locust. CRA has hired RDG to conduct a blight study and write a redevelopment plan for West 2 nd Street, Broadway, Eddy and Five Points. This study should be ready for approval in February
Participate in creating a new vision for Downtown	CRA paid for the Harmony Park Study. That is complete. CRA will be looking at additional ideas for the Downtown in the next year

Infrastructure

Support Infrastructure for sustained housing/commercial development	<p>8 water projects, 27 easements, 629 electric water drawings updated/created, Street Paving Projects - , 2006-P-1 Public Safety Drive to serve Law Enforcement Center and Hall County Correctional Facility, 2006-P-3 Woodland Park 4th Subdivision, 2006-P-6 Summerfield Estates 5th Subdivision, 2006-P-9 LaRue Subdivision, 2006-P-10 Copper Creek Estates, 2006-P-11 Northview 2nd Subdivision</p> <p>Street Paving Districts - 1254 - Dale Roush Subdivisions (Indian Acres) - Asphalt Paving, 1257 - Shanna Street in Western Heights 4th Subdivision, 1258 - Faidley Avenue in Crane Valley 6th Subdivision</p> <p>Sanitary Sewer Projects - 2006-S-1 Copper Creek Estates, 2006-S-2 Woodland Park 4th Subdivision, 2006-S-3 Wasmer Detention</p>
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	Cell relocation, 2006-S-4 Summerfield Estates 5 th Subdivision, 2006-S-5 Northview 2 nd Subdivision, 2006-S-6 Larue Subdivision, 2006-S-7 PedCor 2 nd Subdivision, 2006-S-8 Sterling Estates 1 st Subdivision
Develop funding for southern sewer expansion project	Grant funding found by Community Development to date is tied to income levels. Community development is researching grants that are not tied to income levels in conjunction with researching for grants for water mains in the Parkview Area.
Rework and implement annexation policies	The City continues to annex upon the request of the property owner and while property is proposed for development. No actions have been taken to annex outlying areas that are already developed (eg. East Lakes and Schroder Subdivision)
Complete Railroad Corridor Study and develop implementation plan	Corridor study has been completed and a study session has taken place. Plan will be incrementally carried out as funds become available. Consultant Kirkham Michael presented the final report to the City Council on July 18 th , 2006.

Government Efficiency

Move to lower City tax rate to 22.5 cents per \$100	City property tax rate lowered 4.67% to 23.8 cents for fiscal 2007
Seek inter local partnerships that eliminate duplication and promote efficiency	Continued cooperation with County has occurred on Law Enforcement/Corrections Center, infrastructure and other programs. Grand Island is taking the lead in a Phase 2 Storm Water Cooperative with 10 other Nebraska communities to carry out the requirements of the cities Storm Water Management Plan.
Reduce costs by streamlining city services	The General Fund Budget, which the City operates under, only increased \$262,202, or less than 1%, from 2006 to 2007. Unneeded positions were eliminated in the budget.
Complete a comprehensive City Code review and update	Subdivision Regulations were updated in October 2006.
Identify and develop citizen-friendly programs and policies	GiTV and the City Administrators Report are reaching the public and helping departments become user friendly

Quality of Life

Continue construction of the Library expansion project	Construction of expanded portion of project continues with cornerstone ceremony held October 22, 2006. As of November 14, 2006 62.7% of the \$7,000,000 allocated from ½ % sales tax has been spent.
Support ethnic diversity programs through Multi-cultural Coalition	The MC is supporting multiple ethnic programs providing services and collaborative efforts for new immigrants and low income families. The second year conference geared toward the education of diversity issues throughout the community saw great attendance. Currently developing a funding plan, more programs and the launch of the website for exposure. www.grandislandmulticulturalcoalition.com
Develop a children's play area at Island Oasis	Engineering is being completed. Construction was not funded for this fiscal year
Continue to support development of the Heartland Public Shooting Park	Rifle and Pistol ranges are nearing completion. All shooting venues should be operational by early spring. Additional funding will be required to construct the camp ground
Evaluate Racquet Center Redevelopment	In-house discussions have taken place. No Council discussions have taken place
Complete projects at WWTP including odor reduction measures	Aerated static pile experiments have been conducted. City Council approved permanent solutions for future construction.
Develop policy concerning recreation facility operation funding	Some discussions with Council have taken place, more are needed. A policy statement drafted by staff and endorsed by Council would be ideal.

Community

Manage/Support/Create Awareness of Community Youth Council	The CYC continues to be a strong voice for the youth in the community. The selection process for the 2006-07 year was completed in September and a total of 23 sophmore, junior, and senior students representing all four high schools were selected for membership. The students also continue to raise community awareness of their group by doing both service projects and sponsoring community events. In addition to once again participating and sponsoring the same events as last year, the 2006-07 council will be attending the Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony and then Christmas caroling at various assisted living facilities. The group will also be producing their own monthly CYC G!TV show, find out more at Grand Island City Administration Homepage at grand-island.com
Support start up of the Heartland Events Center	Many departments have supported the startup of the facility
Develop a Community Appearance Plan	In progress, creation of many items through the Problem Resolution team, Code Revision, Involvement of Building CSO's, etc.
Develop Alternative Fuel Policy for the City	Completed January 24, 2006. Statistics can be viewed in the City Administrators Report under fleet services for gallons used. As a result of the change there were no extra maintenance or breakdowns. Prices of unleaded and E10 continue to fluctuate.
Form a community partnership to set a timeline and recommendation by year end on a 50-meter swimming pool	A meeting was held with representatives from the YMCA, Schools, and the City Parks Division. The Schools has offered to provide the land, the city has been asked to provide funding, and the YMCA has been asked to provide the services. Each entity present will need to have discussions with their boards.
Participate in discussions with the Community Transportation Association regarding a public transportation system	The Community Development Division participated with TAP, providing grant administration and support. A study session was conducted on 09/05/06 to discuss findings from a survey of the community

Public Health

Design Household Hazardous Waste Facility	The design was completed in July with grant funding from the DEQ. With a determined committee and efficient design the design process was completed \$25,650 under budget, thus returning money to be reallocated in the future. Currently have a construction grant submitted to the Environmental Trust for 2/3 of the construction cost and a DEQ grant in Feb 07 will be submitted for the final 1/3 grant as well as a cash match of \$85,000. Grants will be notified of award in late fall early summer 2007.
Continue to address environmental issues	On going efforts concerning the Parkview well site, north east contamination problem have been carried forward
Implement storm water plan/program	Grand Island is taking the lead in a Storm Water Cooperative with 10 other Nebraska communities to carry out the requirements of the cities Storm Water Management Plan. The report for 2006 will be submitted to the NE Department of Environmental Quality in January 2007. 2006 is year 1 of a 5 year storm water permit.
Re-establish septic tank inspection program	On February 17, 2006 Craig Lewis met with the Advisory Committee for Private Onsite Wastewater System to discuss amending the regulation to allow for local inspections, at that time Gary Buttermore, Environmental Engineer supervisor for the Onsite Wastewater Unit of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, stated it would take almost one year to modify the regulations to allow for local governmental inspections. At this time we are still waiting for the regulations to be amended to allow for a modification for local involvement.



City Council Goals 2007-08 (Recommended)

Public Safety

1. Seek and secure funding for the development of the Fire Training Facility
2. Complete construction on Fire Station #1
3. Complete construction of Police/Sheriff Law Enforcement Center
4. Secure funding and begin upgrade of Emergency Communications Center

Economic Development

5. Assist in creating and retaining quality jobs through LB 840 program
6. Assist CRA in identifying and creating new business redevelopment projects

Infrastructure

7. Support infrastructure for sustained housing/commercial development
8. Begin incremental implementation of the Railroad Corridor Study

Government Efficiency

9. Seek interlocal partnerships that eliminate duplication and promote efficiency
10. Complete a comprehensive City Code review and update

Quality of Life

11. Complete construction of the Library expansion project
12. Construct a children's play area at Island Oasis
13. Continue to support development of the Heartland Public Shooting Park
14. Update Parks and Recreation master plan
15. Start construction of Aerated Static Pile facility
16. Implement the Community Appearance Plan

Public Health

17. Secure funding and begin construction of the Household Hazardous Waste facility
18. Continue to aggressively address environmental issues