

— Winfield —
Master Plan for
Parks, Trails & Recreation
2020-2040



Acknowledgments

This *Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation* was prepared under the supervision and with the aid of the Winfield City Planning Commission, the Park Board, and City staff, with help from a Steering Committee of citizen volunteers, and with technical assistance by planning consultants Foster Design Associates LLC of Wichita.

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COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic began about halfway through this planning process, preventing completion of the originally intended sequence of Steering Committee and public input meetings. Fortunately, the Community Questionnaire had already been finished, along with the early meetings that provide the most essential guidance on community interests and concerns. During the pandemic, feedback on the draft Plan was achieved through email reviews.

At the time this Plan was written, the long-term economic impacts of the pandemic could not be reliably predicted. Nevertheless, the goals expressed in this Plan are valid, and should be pursued—when they reasonably can be, with whatever resources are then available.

Acknowledgments

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Park System Overview

Why Parks?

Parks matter. They improve our quality of life and enhance community livability, making them an important factor in attracting new business and contributing to economic growth. They serve people of all ages, all abilities, and all ethnic and economic backgrounds, strengthening our sense of community. They protect open space that preserves wildlife habitat, improves air and water quality, and helps mitigate flooding.

Winfield's existing park system is extraordinary in many ways, but will need to adapt over time to meet evolving expectations for park services. For that task, a park system master plan is an indispensable tool. A master plan consolidates information on resources, constraints, and opportunities. It provides an outline of where the park system is, where it is going, and how it will get there. Having a park system master plan on hand also enhances funding opportunities, since many grant providers require a master plan as a prerequisite in any proposal.

This *Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation* provides an **overview** of existing park and recreational resources in the Winfield area. It lists community **goals** for the park system, determined through recommendations from the Steering Committee, the Park Board, and City staff, public meetings, and a Community Questionnaire and Student Survey. It provides background information on **park and recreation concepts** and **options for new facilities**, and proposes development ideas for each park. It defines **implementation strategies** for the City to develop a balanced **park system** that cost-effectively achieves the community's highest priority goals over the next twenty years.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

In 2019 the City engaged *Foster Design Associates LLC (FDA)*, a landscape architecture and planning firm based in Wichita, to produce a new *Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation* for the community. FDA was simultaneously contracted to produce an updated Comprehensive Development Plan for Winfield, allowing cost-effective synergy in developing much of the necessary background research. FDA worked with City staff, the Planning Commission, the Park Board, and a Parks Plan Steering Committee of City leaders, staff, and community volunteers, and facilitated public input meetings—all to develop a Plan that would *fit* Winfield's unique needs, expectations, and resources.

Producing a master plan document is just the beginning of the process, however, not its end. This *Plan* is an essential tool, but it will take dedicated people to turn concepts into detailed site designs, and designs into reality. With imagination and perseverance, Winfield's park system will continue to be an asset that benefits the community for generations to come.

*If you plan cities for cars and traffic,
you get cars and traffic.*

*If you plan for people and places,
you get people and places.*

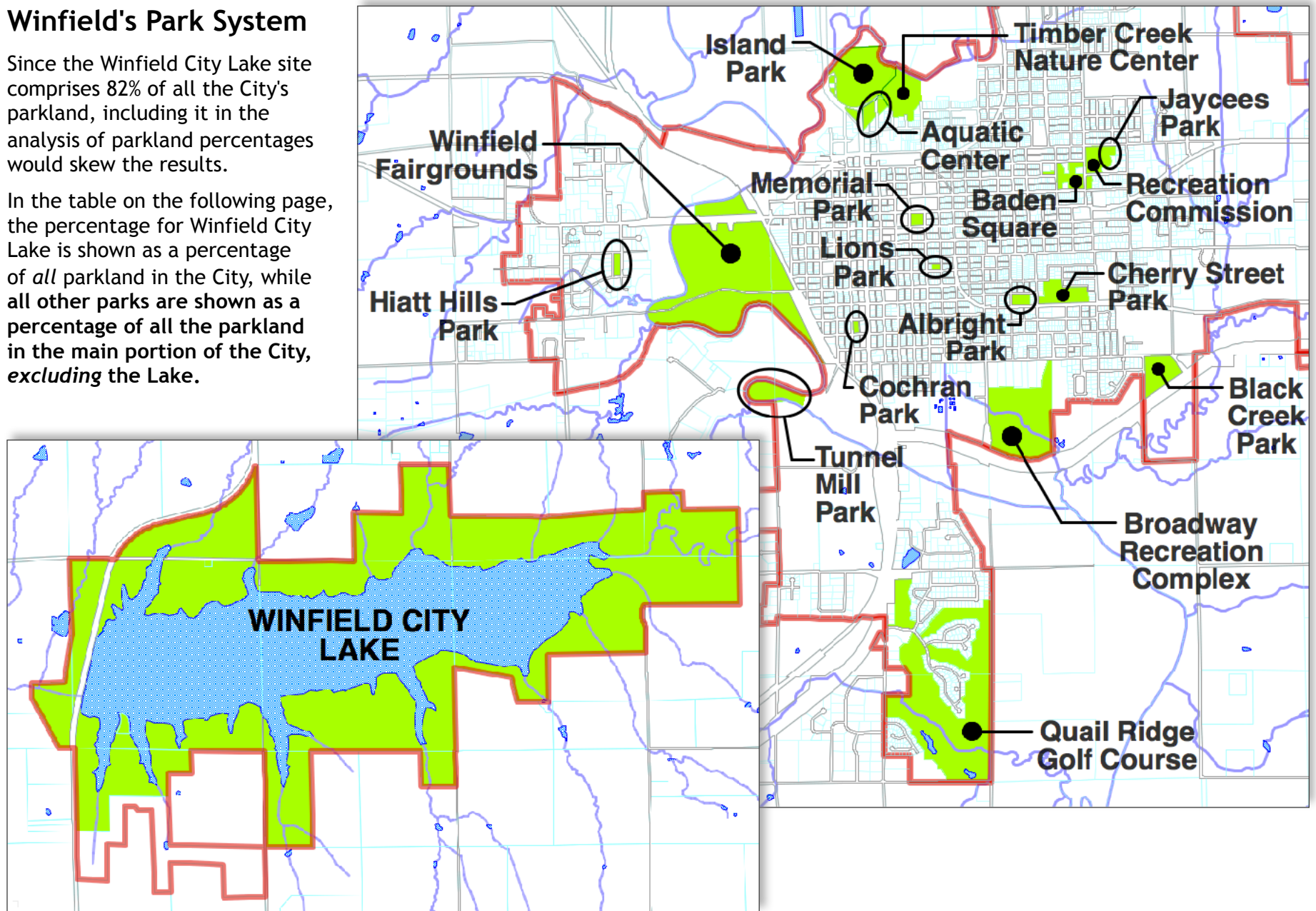
— Fred Kent, *Project for Public Spaces* —

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Winfield's Park System

Since the Winfield City Lake site comprises 82% of all the City's parkland, including it in the analysis of parkland percentages would skew the results.

In the table on the following page, the percentage for Winfield City Lake is shown as a percentage of *all* parkland in the City, while all other parks are shown as a percentage of all the parkland in the main portion of the City, *excluding* the Lake.



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WINFIELD CITY PARKS	Location	Size (acres)	percentage of Winfield parkland
Winfield City Lake	10348 141st Road	2,424.55	82.0% of <i>all</i> Winfield parkland
Baden Square	605 College Street (west of College Street, between 6th & 8th)	8.38	1.57% of Winfield parkland, <i>excluding</i> Winfield Lake
Broadway Recreation Complex	2200 Broadway Street	64.22	12.04% "
Joe Thornton Recreation Center	624 College Street	6.55 *	1.23% "
Quail Ridge Golf Course	3805 Quail Ridge Drive	161.97	30.36% "
Timber Creek Nature Center	200 Main Street	21.20	3.97% "
Winfield Aquatic Center	300 Main Street	5.26	0.99% "
Winfield Fairgrounds	1105 W. 9th Avenue	171.23	32.09% "
Black Creek Park	2021 E. 19th Avenue (19th Avenue & Wheat Road)	14.57	2.73% "
Cherry Street Park	1516 Cherry Street (15th Avenue & Cherry Street / NE corner)	12.96	2.43% "
Island Park	200 Main Street	41.43	7.76% "
Tunnel Mill Park	316 Tunnel Mill Road (West 19th Avenue & Walnut River)	14.78	2.77% "
Albright Park	1514 John Street (15th Avenue & John Street / SE corner)	2.68	0.50% "
Cochran Park	1600 Manning Street (16th Avenue & Manning Street / SE corner)	0.96	0.18% "
Hiatt Hills Park	1119 Grand Street (Grand Street & Crestline Drive / SW corner)	2.02	0.38% "
Jaycee Park	No street address (At Houston Street, S of Simpson Avenue)	2.64 *	0.49% "
Lions Park	1223 Bliss Street (13th Avenue & Bliss Street / NW corner)	0.64	0.12% "
Memorial Park	401 E. 9th Avenue (9th Avenue & Fuller Street / SE corner)	2.07	0.39% "
Total acres:		2,958.1	
Total acres, <i>excluding</i> Winfield City Lake:		533.6	

*** Note:** The Joe Thornton Recreation Center, Jaycee Park, and a municipal water tower are all located on the same 9.9 acre City-owned parcel. Approximately 5.25 acres of that parcel are included in the Recreation Center site, about 2.64 acres are included in Jaycee Park, and about 2.0 acres are dedicated to the water tower. An additional 1.3 acre parking lot is located south of the Recreation Center on a separate parcel, and is included in the Recreation Center acreage.

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Winfield's park system incorporates a total of 2,958 acres of parkland—2,425 acres at the Lake, and 534 acres in the main part of the City. The park system includes a total of **18 sites—Winfield City Lake, seven special use facilities, four large parks, and six small parks.**

- **Special use facilities** include Baden Square, Broadway Recreation Complex, Quail Ridge Golf Course, Timber Creek Nature Center, Winfield Aquatic Center, Winfield Fairgrounds, and the Joe Thornton Recreation Center (which is operated by the Winfield Recreation Commission but owned by the City of Winfield).
- **Large parks** include Black Creek Park, Cherry Street Park, Island Park, and Tunnel Mill Park.
- **Small parks** (less than 3 acres in size) include Albright Park, Cochran Park, Hiatt Hills Park, Jaycee Park, Lions Park, and Memorial Park.

Winfield City Lake was created by damming Timber Creek, which was done both to control flooding and to create an abundant and reliable water source for the City. Although the Lake is utilized for recreational purposes, such uses must never compromise its primary functions. Located about ten miles northeast of downtown Winfield, the 2,425-acre site includes 1,446 acres of land (60%), and 979 acres of water (40%). All together, the site comprises 82% of all the parkland in the City of Winfield.

After the Lake, the largest parks in the system are the 171-acre Winfield Fairgrounds, and the 162-acre Quail Ridge Golf Course, each taking up nearly a third of the parkland in the main portion of the City (excluding the Lake). The next largest parks are the 64-acre Broadway Recreation Complex, the 41-acre Island Park, and the 21-acre Timber Creek Nature Center. The other twelve parks in the system range from 15 acres to six-tenths of an acre in size.

Baden Square was originally part of the campus of St. John's College. The college closed in 1986, and the City of Winfield purchased the campus in 1988. Five of the buildings are now in other ownership, but the balance of the campus is City-owned and maintained by the Park Department—including the commons area, the Public Library, Baden Community Center, and Meyer Hall (which now hosts Winfield Community Theatre).

Broadway Recreation Complex is a sports facility, with baseball, football and soccer fields. **Quail Ridge** is an 18-hole golf course. The **Aquatic Center**, adjacent to Island Park, is the community's outdoor swimming pool complex. The **Fairgrounds** host a variety of activities, from rodeos to the Walnut Valley Festival. (Both the north and south Pecan Groves are included in the Fairgrounds acreage.) The **Recreation Center**, also once part of the St. John's College campus, has outdoor basketball courts, a practice field, and a building that houses a Fitness Center, a Gymnasium, and offices for the Winfield Recreation Commission.

Island Park contains an extraordinary playground, an outdoor amphitheater, picnic shelters, and fishing areas. It is the site of many community events and celebrations, including the Farmers Market, the "Isle of Lights" holiday event, and the "Duck Jam in the Park" summer music series. The adjacent **Timber Creek Nature Center** is a wildlife area with nature trails.

Black Creek Park has softball fields, a skate park, and a new dog park that was completed in 2020. **Cherry Street Park** has two baseball practice fields, a basketball court, a playground and a 9-hole disc golf course. **Tunnel Mill Park** has scenic views of the Walnut River and a low dam, and is used for fishing.

Memorial Park, on the eastern edge of downtown, is dedicated to military memorials. Winfield's **other small parks** are neighborhood parks, typically with playground equipment and picnic shelters; some have basketball, tennis, or racquetball courts.

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WINFIELD CITY PARKS FACILITIES	
Park / Recreation Facility	Major Facilities
Winfield City Lake	picnic shelters, camping, RV hookups, memorial forest, restrooms, limestone sign
Baden Square	Commons area, the Winfield Public Library, Baden Community Center, & Meyer Hall (which now hosts Winfield Community Theatre)
Broadway Recreation Complex	6 soccer fields, football field, 5 lighted ball diamonds, batting cages, warm-up areas, concessions, restrooms, path with exercise equipment, 4 parking lots, maintenance facilities, limestone signs
Joe Thornton Recreation Center	Fitness Center, Gymnasium, 2 outdoor basketball courts, practice field, parking lot, digital sign
Quail Ridge Golf Course	18-hole par-72 golf course, clubhouse, maintenance building, golf cart trail, parking lot
Timber Creek Nature Center	gateway feature, entry signage, nature trails
Winfield Aquatic Center	pool house, swimming pool / slides, playground, picnic shelter
Winfield Fairgrounds	Event Center; rodeo arena, 4-H arena, grandstand, 2 exhibit barns, 2 wash racks, hog shelter, pole barn, RV hookups & dump station, camping, restrooms
Black Creek Park	2 lighted softball fields, picnic pavilion, dog park, skate park, sand volleyball court, walking path, accessible restrooms, parking lot
Cherry Street Park	playground, 2 baseball practice fields with backstops, 2 basketball courts (1 non-functional), 9-hole disc golf course, path with footbridge, picnic shelters, accessible restrooms, limestone sign
Island Park	amphitheater, playground, picnic shelters, fishing pond, horseshoe pits, accessible restrooms, path, parking lots, public art, pedestrian bridge
Tunnel Mill Park	dirt parking area, fishing access to Walnut River
Albright Park	playground equipment (swings, spring rider, merry-go-round; on mulch surfacing), emergency siren, drinking fountain, backstop, 3 tennis courts (non-functional)
Cochran Park	2 picnic shelters, playground (swings, slide; with engineered wood fiber surfacing), basketball court, 2 racquetball courts, drinking fountain, ADA parking space
Hiatt Hills Park	picnic shelter, playground (unit, with engineered wood fiber and resilient tiles surfacing), open space with gentle slopes, parking lot with ADA space
Jaycee Park	basketball half-court, open space with sledding slopes, parking lot
Lions Park	playground (unit with engineered wood fiber surfacing, spring rider, climbing structure), drinking fountain, fencing, benches, lion sculpture
Memorial Park	War Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, POW/MIA memorial; lighting

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TRAILS

While a number of Winfield's parks have sidewalks or roads that people use for exercise, the existing pathways are typically not connected to destinations outside of each park, and do not form an interconnected network. Most of these routes are not suitable for bicycling, and are not ADA accessible.

Black Creek Park has a narrow, mostly-asphalt trail almost a quarter-mile long, that loops around the west baseball field; it has no shade, and is in poor condition. A sidewalk a little over a quarter mile in length extends across **Cherry Street Park**.

The **Winfield Fairgrounds** site has a network of asphalt and dirt roads. Walkers or runners sometimes use the cart path at **Quail Ridge Golf Course**.

Broadway Recreation Complex has a collection of sidewalks that connect the parking lots and ball diamond facilities, and incorporate exercise equipment along the path. There is also a gravel maintenance road on top of the levee that extends along the east and south perimeter of the site, which is not intended for recreational use, but which is likely used as a trail occasionally.

Island Park has a collection of sidewalks that connect the park facilities. A footbridge connects them to a gravel path on top of the levee that extends about a mile along the south edge of Timber Creek, from Minnesota Street on the east side of the Park, to Island Park Avenue on the west side.

While these facilities are a recreational asset of sorts for the community, they are disconnected, and do not work together to provide the synergy of a true bicycle and pedestrian trail *network*—which is more than the sum of its parts, and can serve as an alternative transportation system.

PARKS IN FLOODPLAINS

Land in floodplains, while generally not suitable for most development, *can* be utilized for purposes tolerant of occasional flooding, and is often used for public parks.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) produces maps which identify floodplains, and classify them based on degree of risk. The three broadest categories of floodplain designation are floodway, 1% annual chance floodplain, and moderate flood hazard areas.

- **Floodway:** The channel of a river or stream.
- **1% Annual Chance Floodplain:** Areas that will be inundated by a flood event having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Also referred to as the base flood area or *100-year floodplain*.
- **Moderate Flood Hazard Area:** Areas between the limits of the 1% annual chance floodplain and the area that will be inundated by a flood event having a 0.2-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Also referred to as the *500-year floodplain*.

Located as Winfield is, on the banks of the meandering Walnut River, much of the land in and around the City is floodplain. Downtown and many of its adjacent historic neighborhoods were built in floodplain, but are now protected by levees; more recent development has taken place on higher ground.

All of **Tunnel Mill Park** and very nearly all of the **Winfield Fairgrounds** are located in the floodway of the Walnut River. Roughly the southern third of **Black Creek Park** is in either the 500-year or 100-year floodplain. **Broadway Recreation Complex** is entirely in floodplain, though much of it is protected by a levee; 3% is actually in the floodway. All but the northern edge of **Island Park** is protected by levees, as are all of **Memorial, Lions, and Cochran Parks**.

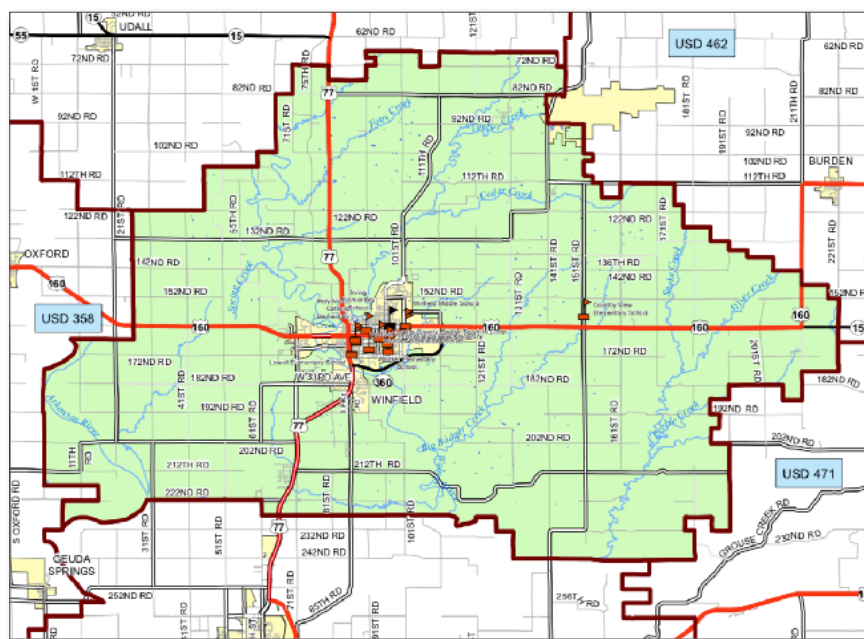
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Other Local Recreational Resources

Winfield Unified School District (USD 465), the Winfield Recreation Commission, and Southwestern College also contribute to local recreational opportunities. The privately-owned Winfield Country Club is just outside the city limits on the southwest side of town. Regionally, Winfield is close enough to Derby, Wichita, Andover and Goddard to take advantage of a wide variety of recreational opportunities available in those cities.

USD 465

The Winfield Unified School District operates a preschool and four elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. The playgrounds, gymnasiums, and other athletic facilities and programs at the schools provide a wealth of recreational opportunities for the children of the District.



2019 map of Winfield Unified School District 465 (shown in green)

T.H. Vaughn Tennis Complex is located at 1500 Mound Street, on the same site as Whittier Elementary School. Owned and maintained by the USD 465 Board of Education, this public tennis complex has seven lighted courts. The facility is managed by a joint committee that oversees its operations, with representatives from USD 465, the Winfield Recreation Commission, the City of Winfield, and Southwestern College.

WINFIELD RECREATION COMMISSION

Kansas state statutes allow communities to choose to support recreational programs through a mill levy based on School District boundaries. This system allows the population of an entire School District to support school-based recreational facilities and programs—which, after all, benefit the citizens of the entire School District.

Created in 1955, the Winfield Recreation Commission (WRC) is financially supported by property owners of USD 465, which includes the City of Winfield and surrounding rural areas. State statutes require that funds dedicated to a Recreation Commission may not in any way reduce the dollars provided to the School District for educational purposes.

The WRC operates the **Joe Thornton Recreation Center and Fitness Center**, which is owned by the City of Winfield. WRC administrative offices are located there. The WRC also operates a public **indoor swimming pool**, which is owned by Southwestern College, and located on campus in the White Physical Education Building.

The Winfield Recreation Commission mails out quarterly program guides to all mailing addresses in Winfield, which provide information on the wide variety of programs, sports leagues, special events, and fitness and aquatics programs sponsored by the WRC, for Winfield community members of all ages. For more information on WRC programs, see www.winfieldrec.com.

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SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

Recreational facilities on the Southwestern campus include the Stewart Field House and Jantz Stadium, as well as the Jim Farney Center in the White Physical Education Building.

Stewart Field House is dedicated to basketball, and can seat 1,396 fans. Originally built in 1924, it was completely renovated in the 1990s, and is considered one of the finest small college basketball facilities in the country.

The \$4.2 million **Richard L. Jantz Stadium** opened in 2010. It includes a synthetic turf playing field for football and soccer, an eight-lane track, facilities for jumping and vaulting events, as well as a press box, a concession stand and renovated restrooms. It provides seating for 3,600, including ADA seating.

The 5000-square-foot **Jim Farney Center** is the College's training facility for student athletes, and includes weight and cardio equipment.

Though dedicated to use by Southwestern College students and staff, the availability of these facilities reduces the load on City recreational facilities in Winfield.



Stewart Field House



*Stewart Field House, Jantz Stadium
& White Physical Education Building*



Farney Center

WINFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

Located just outside of the city limits on the southwest side of Winfield, the Winfield Country Club was established in 1917. In 1970, a new clubhouse and swimming pool were built; the sale of adjacent residential lots provided funding for the purchase of additional land, and expansion of the course to 18 holes.



Winfield Country Club

REGIONAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A wide variety of recreational opportunities are available in cities within an hour's drive of Winfield.

Derby has the Rock River Rapids water park, High Park, and Madison Avenue Central Park. The City began construction of Decarsky Park in 2019. High Park has an amphitheater, gazebo, soccer fields, baseball/softball complex, playgrounds, sand volleyball courts, fishing and more than two miles of hike and bike paths. Madison Avenue Central Park has two splashpad features, an accessible playground, and a major event venue. Decarsky Park will feature ball diamonds, a dog park, and pathways.



The Venue at Madison Avenue Central Park



Rock River Rapids

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Wichita has 144 parks, 53 athletic fields, 8 swimming pools, and an extensive pathway system. Other facilities—such as the Great Plains Nature Center, Sedgwick County Zoo, Botanica, the Wichita Art Museum Gardens, and Old Cowtown Museum—offer recreational experiences in a park-like setting.



*Wichita Art Museum—
The Art Gardens*



Botanica, The Wichita Gardens



Sedgwick County Zoo



Great Plains Nature Center

Andover has the 13th Street Sports Park, the Redbud Trail, the Andover YMCA with its waterpark, and Andover Central Park, with its lake, playground, trails, and Amphitheater. Andover is also home to two nationally-ranked private golf courses—Terradyne Country Club and Flint Hills National Golf Club.



Goddard has access to the Prairie Sunset Trail, a public railtrail that runs for 15 miles from Goddard to Garden Plain. As of spring 2020, it will also have the Goddard Aquatic Center and Genesis Sports Complex. This 82,000-square-foot, \$50 million facility is currently under construction on a 90-acre site west of downtown Goddard. It will have a hotel, an indoor water park, a natatorium for competitive swimming, and baseball fields.



Prairie Sunset Trail



*Goddard Aquatic Complex—concept rendering
(hotel in front of aquatic center,
ball diamonds behind)*

Community Perceptions of Winfield's Parks

As part of the process for developing Winfield's Comprehensive Plan and this Master Plan, a Community Questionnaire was distributed to people in the Winfield area, both inside and outside the city limits. Distributed late in 2019, it was available in hardcopies and on the web, and was mailed to every electric utility customer within three miles of the City.

The Questionnaire included 17 questions on Winfield's park system and individual parks.

A total of **935 Questionnaires were completed and returned**—a testimony to the level of citizen involvement in this community. Note that, although 935 questionnaires were returned, not every person answered every single question—so sometimes the total responses for a specific question don't add up to 935.

Twice as many females responded to the Questionnaire as males, and only 3 people under 19 years of age filled it out.

Student Focus Groups Children often use parks and parks facilities far more than adults, so their opinions provide essential insight into how the park system is working for the community as a whole. In March of 2020, City staff met with focus groups of elementary, middle school and high school students to gather their opinions of Winfield's parks.

Periodically in this document, references will be made to some of the results of the Community Questionnaire and the student focus group discussions.

The complete tabulated results of the Questionnaire are available to the public on the City website, and from the office of the City Clerk at Winfield City Hall.

The first part of the parks Questionnaire asked for information on how often people visited parks, then asked people to rate various parks facilities and programs. The results of these questions are in this section.

Then another series of questions asked people what new facilities they would like to have, and what improvements they would like to see to existing facilities. The results of these questions are shown later in this report.

PARK VISITS

The table on the following page shows the responses received on the 2019 Community Questionnaire, when Winfield area residents were asked which of the community's parks and recreation facilities they had visited in the previous 2 years, and how often they visited.

Among the special use facilities, frequent visitors (those who visited a particular park more than ten times in the previous two years) used the **Fairgrounds** and the **Recreation Center** most often.

Among large parks, **Island Park** was the most frequently visited, by a wide margin. In fact, it was visited more often than any of the special use facilities.

Memorial Park was the most visited of the small parks, which makes sense given its special function and downtown location. Small parks are typically not intended to attract visitors from across the community, but rather are intended to serve their immediate neighborhood. **Albright Park**, the largest of the small parks and only half a block from Cherry Street Park, was the second most frequently visited small park.

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The 11 girls and 3 boys in the **High School focus group** visited Island Park roughly twice as often as any other park. For these students, Winfield City Lake was the second most-visited park, followed by Cherry Street, the Aquatic Center, Broadway

Recreation Complex, and the Indoor Pool. The Fairgrounds and Memorial Park were visited occasionally, the other parks rarely, and none of the students in the focus group had ever visited Hiatt Hills, Jaycee or Albright Parks.

NOTE: At the time the Community Questionnaire was created, **Baden Square** was not yet included on the list of Winfield's parks, and **Timber Creek Nature Center** was considered part of Island Park. Neither facility is included in the following tables.

PARK VISITS — Community Questionnaire —	Never Visited		Visited in the Last 2 Years							
			0 times		1 to 3 times		4 to 10 times		more than 10 times	
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	98	2.5%	182	5.1%	316	10.2%	153	8.8%	163	7.6%
WINFIELD FAIRGROUNDS	25	0.6%	21	0.6%	242	7.8%	319	18.3%	313	14.5%
REC CENTER / FITNESS CENTER	138	3.5%	153	4.3%	207	6.7%	126	7.2%	289	13.4%
BROADWAY RECREATION COMPLEX	170	4.3%	137	3.8%	247	8.0%	159	9.1%	200	9.3%
WINFIELD AQUATIC CENTER	205	5.1%	169	4.7%	270	8.7%	136	7.8%	131	6.1%
QUAIL RIDGE GOLF COURSE	424	10.6%	255	7.1%	133	4.3%	42	2.4%	53	2.5%
ISLAND PARK	12	0.3%	13	0.4%	124	4.0%	230	13.2%	541	25.1%
CHERRY STREET PARK	124	3.1%	178	5.0%	277	8.9%	157	9.0%	173	8.0%
BLACK CREEK PARK	237	5.9%	257	7.2%	232	7.5%	97	5.6%	86	4.0%
TUNNEL MILL PARK	289	7.2%	276	7.7%	225	7.3%	75	4.3%	45	2.1%
MEMORIAL PARK	194	4.9%	204	5.7%	318	10.3%	102	5.8%	89	4.1%
ALBRIGHT PARK	365	9.1%	381	10.6%	111	3.6%	31	1.8%	21	1.0%
HIATT HILLS PARK	508	12.7%	308	8.6%	55	1.8%	22	1.3%	17	0.8%
LIONS PARK	323	8.1%	358	10.0%	167	5.4%	45	2.6%	16	0.7%
COCHRAN PARK	401	10.0%	346	9.7%	115	3.7%	35	2.0%	12	0.6%
JAYCEE PARK	481	12.0%	346	9.7%	60	1.9%	15	0.9%	5	0.2%

NOTE: In this table, each percentage shown is a percentage of the sum of the entire column of numbers to its left.

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PARK FACILITIES RATINGS

The following tables show the responses received on the 2019 Community Questionnaire, when Winfield area residents were asked how they would rate the listed Winfield parks. The table is sorted by lowest to highest "inadequate" rating.

FACILITIES RATINGS	Excellent		Adequate		Inadequate		Don't Know	
QUAIL RIDGE GOLF COURSE	238	8.2%	251	4.4%	10	0.7%	415	9.5%
ISLAND PARK <i>(playground, picnic areas, amphitheater, horseshoe pits, fishing / lake, restrooms)</i>	632	21.9%	259	4.5%	14	0.9%	13	0.3%
BROADWAY RECREATION COMPLEX	399	13.8%	325	5.7%	25	1.6%	168	3.8%
MEMORIAL PARK <i>(monuments)</i>	287	9.9%	380	6.6%	26	1.7%	202	4.6%
WINFIELD AQUATIC CENTER	310	10.7%	412	7.2%	27	1.8%	169	3.9%
HIATT HILLS PARK <i>(playground, picnic pavilion)</i>	43	1.5%	266	4.6%	65	4.2%	525	12.0%
REC CENTER / FITNESS CENTER	275	9.5%	446	7.8%	69	4.5%	127	2.9%
CHERRY STREET PARK <i>(playground, picnic areas, baseball, basketball, disc golf, restrooms)</i>	164	5.7%	502	8.8%	80	5.2%	161	3.7%
BLACK CREEK PARK <i>(picnic pavilion, skatepark, softball, sand volleyball, restrooms)</i>	91	3.2%	431	7.5%	82	5.3%	305	7.0%
COCHRAN PARK <i>(playground, picnic areas, racquetball courts, basketball court)</i>	40	1.4%	348	6.1%	95	6.2%	419	9.6%
WINFIELD FAIRGROUNDS	188	6.5%	588	10.3%	112	7.3%	29	0.7%
JAYCEE PARK <i>(basketball court, open space)</i>	23	0.8%	242	4.2%	128	8.3%	504	11.5%
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	107	3.7%	439	7.7%	159	10.4%	211	4.8%
ALBRIGHT PARK <i>(playground, open space)</i>	25	0.9%	280	4.9%	191	12.5%	407	9.3%
LIONS PARK <i>(playground, open space)</i>	31	1.1%	337	5.9%	214	14.0%	320	7.3%
TUNNEL MILL PARK <i>(picnic areas, fishing/river, camping areas)</i>	32	1.1%	230	4.0%	236	15.4%	407	9.3%
Totals	2,885	100.0%	5,736	100.0%	1,533	100.0%	4,382	100.0%

Island Park had the highest "Excellent" ratings (22%), followed by Broadway Recreation Complex (14%) and Winfield Aquatic Center (11%). Facilities rated the most "Inadequate" were Tunnel Mill Park, Lions Park, Albright Park, and Winfield City Lake.

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Student Ratings & Goals

City staff asked High School and Middle School student focus groups to rate Winfield's parks.

Both groups agreed that Island Park and Memorial Park are **excellent**; that their school classes, programs, and activities are **adequate**; that Broadway Sports Complex, Cochran Park, and Winfield Fairgrounds are **adequate**; and that Albright Park and Black Creek Park are **inadequate**.

Both groups had split opinions on **Winfield City Lake**, some rating it adequate, and some inadequate.

The Middle School focus group thought **Cherry Street Park** was excellent, and that **Jaycee Park** was inadequate.

The High School focus group thought **Lions Park** was adequate.

High School students considered the **Aquatic Center** to be excellent, while Middle School students considered it merely adequate. **Tunnel Mill Park** was considered inadequate by Middle School students, while High School students didn't know. The **Indoor Pool** was rated adequate by Middle Schoolers, but inadequate by High Schoolers.

Recreation Commission programs were rated excellent by the High School focus group, while the Middle School group thought the programs were good for younger students, but not for them.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT GOALS

- Add **drinking fountains** to all the parks.
- Add facilities in the parks suitable for **birthday parties**.
- **Aquatic Center**: Add a climbing wall. Replace the dragon. Provide healthier food options. Add a splashpad.
- Improve **Cherry Street Park**.
- **Lions Park**: Add more things to do.
- **Tunnel Mill Park**: Utilize the green space.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT GOALS

- Add equipment to the parks, and make them more colorful & inviting. Provide clean places for teens to hang out.
- Encourage a **Bowling Alley** to locate in Winfield.
- **Albright Park**: Considered abandoned. **Renovate** it.
- **Aquatic Center**: Add more slides and things to do in the water. Eliminate the sand playground (too hot).
- **Black Creek Park**: Add more seating at fields, improve bathrooms, provide more shade, and remove the skatepark.
- **Broadway Recreation Complex**: Add batting cages.
- **Cherry Street Park**: Improve bathrooms and water fountains. Eliminate double rims on the basketball goals.
- **Cochran Park**: Keep the racquetball courts.
- **Indoor Pool**: Reduce chlorine levels.
- **Island Park**: Stock more fish. Improve drainage to eliminate muddy areas.
- **Memorial Park**: Do not change.
- **Recreation Center**: Fix cracks in the basketball courts.
- **Tunnel Mill Park**: Clean up litter, and make it safe.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GOALS

- Add **paved paths, tables, hammocks, disc golf, lighting, and gathering places for teens** to the park system.
- Add **Bowling** as a Recreation Commission program.
- **Broadway Recreation Complex**: Improve softball diamonds.
- **Black Creek Park**: Remove the skatepark.
- Improve Tunnel Mill, Cochran & Black Creek Parks.

Park Planning Principles

Planners seek ways to correct the mistakes of the past, preserve the best of the present, and deal with the challenges of the future. Effective planning should be farsighted, realistic in terms of existing resources and potential capabilities, and adaptable to changing community needs and opportunities.

This chapter contains information on several fundamental planning principles which may influence decisions regarding park facilities and priorities—including environmental sustainability, community health, accessibility, and community identity.

Environmental Sustainability

Parks contribute to a healthy environment. They protect open space that preserves wildlife habitat, supporting native plants and birds, mammals, butterflies and other animals. Trees and other plants in parks sequester carbon, improve air quality, and reduce urban heat island effects. Park waterways protect riparian plants that filter runoff and improve water quality, help recharge aquifers, and mitigate flooding.

As each park in Winfield is developed or renovated, strive to incorporate elements that contribute to environmental sustainability.

Native landscaping, particularly along waterways, provides ecological advantages for water, soil, and wildlife, and can also reduce the costs of watering, mowing, and disposal of grass clippings. Already adapted to the Kansas climate, native trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials are also less vulnerable to local insects and diseases.

Information on Kansas native plants is available from [Kansas Wildflowers & Grasses](#), [Dyck Arboretum of the Plains](#), and the [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#), among others.

Green infrastructure uses landscaping to slow and absorb stormwater runoff as close to its source as possible, rather than using conventional drainage structures and storm sewers to relocate runoff away from buildings and other structures.

The first inch or two of rain that falls washes pollutants off of road and parking lot surfaces, creating a concentrated pollutant load. It is especially important to keep this "first flush" out of creeks and rivers. Parks can be used for green infrastructure installations, while continuing to support recreational uses.

- **Bioswales** are shallow open channels intended to convey runoff, but slow it down. Lined on the sides and bottom with dense vegetation, ideally of native species, the plants in a bioswale slow flow velocity, filter impurities, and promote infiltration. Bioswales require more space than curb and gutter systems, but manage runoff better.
- A **raingarden** is a shallow depression in the landscape, planted with a variety of native wetland and prairie vegetation. A raingarden should never hold standing water for more than 48 hours before it soaks into the ground. Compared to conventional turfgrass, a **raingarden** reduces runoff by about 30%.
- **Permeable pavement** is made of materials which have enough air space to allow water to drain right through into a stone aggregate reservoir below. The aggregate acts as a reservoir, reducing runoff and allowing the water to slowly infiltrate into the ground. Asphalt, concrete and concrete paver units are all available in permeable versions. Typical uses include sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and low-traffic roads.



Bioswale, raingarden & permeable concrete



*Rainwater detention area
with native plants & interpretive sign*

GOALS — ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Reduce the use of non-native trees, shrubs, and turf in parks, utilizing **native plants** instead where it is possible to do so while maintaining compatibility with the characteristics of surrounding neighborhoods. Dedicate some areas to native grasses and wildflowers for **butterfly gardens**. Though not suitable for playing fields, consider **buffalograss** for lower-traffic turf areas.
- Where appropriate, consider incorporating **permeable pavements, raingardens or bioswales** into the park system, both to aid in handling stormwater runoff, and to act as demonstration projects to inform residents about green infrastructure solutions.

Community Health

Parks contribute to people's physical, mental and emotional health, in a variety of ways. They offer opportunities for exercise, relaxation, family bonding, and connecting with friends both old and new. Studies have shown that the length of stay in visits to parks significantly correlates with reductions in stress, lowered blood pressure, and perceived physical health.

Obesity Epidemic General levels of fitness for both adults and children have been declining for decades in America, resulting in a well-documented obesity epidemic with profound effects on public health, including increasing rates of heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers. Reliable information on the obesity epidemic is available from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [National Institutes of Health](#), and the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), among other sources.

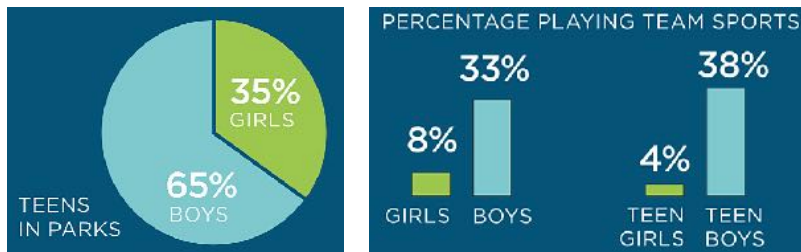
More than a third of U.S. adults are obese, and another third are overweight. The same percentages hold for American children and teens, who are becoming overweight and obese at earlier ages. Early obesity increases both the likelihood of adult obesity, and the risk of future heart disease.

Typically, only about a third of the population will voluntarily maintain an individual exercise regimen. To stay fit, **most people need the incentives of convenience and fun in order to build exercise into their daily routines**. Attractive parks and pathways encourage participation in physical activity, and support healthier lifestyles for Winfield's residents.

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Active Parks, Healthy Cities In 2018, after two years of research to identify to what degree neighborhood parks encourage people to be physically active, the nonprofit *City Parks Alliance* produced a national study of neighborhood parks called *Active Parks, Healthy Cities*. Results included:

- Simple proximity to a park does not necessarily make people more inclined to use it. Instead, **amenities, signage, and programming have more impact** on use.
- **Marketing** Banners, posters and signs are proven effective at increasing park use, and social media can connect people with park programs. Such marketing can increase the number of a park's users by **62%**.
- **Girls are significantly less likely to use parks than boys.**



- 25% of children's park use is at **playgrounds**. Every play element added to a playground increases its use by 50%.
- **Adults** are 49% of park visitors.
- **Seniors** are 18% of the population, but only 4% of park users.
- **Walking loops increase park use by 80%**, and **double** the number of seniors using the park.

Multigenerational Play Traditionally, playgrounds have been designed strictly for children, with perhaps a seating area nearby where the accompanying adults can sit and wait for the kids to get done playing. What a wasted opportunity!

Playgrounds offer more physical, social and emotional benefits when they *don't* focus solely on children. Research shows that children who play with adults are more creative and have better language and problem-solving skills—and that adults who play with children have less stress, improved cognitive skills, and better mood and relationships.

- A British study showed that **75% of children preferred outdoor play with parents or grandparents over video games.**

Multigenerational playgrounds often include children's play equipment, and outdoor fitness equipment for both adults and children. Recently, manufacturers have started to offer playground equipment designed for adults and kids to play on together, such as wide slides and tandem swings.



For maximum synergy, multigenerational playgrounds should be near a loop walking path, and close to shaded seating and game tables.



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Contact with Nature Though people are spending more and more of their time focused on a digital interface of one kind or another, natural landscapes still appeal to human beings in a very fundamental way.

For children, playing outside in nature is critically important for healthy development, improving their hand-eye coordination, ability to learn, and emotional stability. Being in nature can help train a child's developing brain to focus better, reducing the symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The results of insufficient contact with nature, especially for children, have been described by author Richard Louv as "Nature Deficit Disorder", beginning in his 2005 book *Last Child in the Woods*. More information on the physical and psychological impacts of too little interaction with nature is available at www.childrenandnature.org.

Incorporate **natural areas and nature trails** into the park system, giving them at least as much thought as sports fields and playgrounds.

Nature playgrounds are another option, incorporating natural elements like rocks, water, and tree trunks. For more information, see the National Wildlife Federation [Nature Play](#) website, and a case study from the American Society of Landscape Architects on [Making Nature Play Areas That Work](#).



Examples: Nature Playgrounds

GOALS – COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Develop a **network of bicycle and pedestrian pathways**, that connect residential neighborhoods to community destinations.
- Add **walking path loops** to every park where they are feasible.
- Offer other **on-demand opportunities for exercise**. Encourage special-use parks such as dog parks or outdoor fitness zones, that encourage frequent use and enhance social connections.
- Add **multigenerational playgrounds** to every park possible.
- Add **game tables** to parks, wherever appropriate.
- Include **shade and drinking fountains** near all active park facilities.
- **Market** park and recreation programs with banners, posters and signs, and via social media.
- Design park programs specifically to **encourage more girls to participate**.
- Improve access, signage and habitat at the **Timber Creek Nature Center**.
- **Help people to notice and understand nature** in parks. This could be something as simple as a patch of milkweed along a path and some information on Monarch butterflies, or a sign alerting people to listen for woodpeckers in an area where they can often be heard.

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Accessibility

The *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* is a civil rights law intended to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. It took effect originally in 1990, and was updated in 2009. The ADA prohibits discrimination against disabled individuals in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public—such as parks and pathways.



To meet ADA requirements, park system facilities should comply with the standards described in the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). The guidelines are complex, and do contain exceptions for extraordinary circumstances, but in general they can be expected to come into effect once a facility or space is altered beyond the requirements of routine maintenance.

Meeting ADAAG standards typically involves providing at least one **ADA parking** space, a sidewalk that qualifies as an **accessible route** connecting the ADA parking to **accessible facilities**, and some accessible versions of each category of park equipment available. So for example, if picnic tables are provided, at least some of them should be accessible; if playground equipment is provided, at least some of it should work for handicapped as well as non-handicapped kids.

ADA Transition Plan Currently, Winfield's parks are in transition, gradually being upgraded to meet ADAAG standards. As new facilities are added or existing equipment is updated, each is brought into compliance.

Consider developing an overall **Park System Accessibility Plan** for the park system as a whole, to make sure that improvements built at individual parks over the course of years will eventually fit into a comprehensive and coordinated solution for ADA accessibility throughout Winfield's park system.

- ADA Access Guides on Recreation Facilities, including **Play Areas, Play Surfaces, Sports Facilities, Swimming Pools, Fishing Docks and Golf Facilities** are available at www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/guides.
- New guidelines are currently being developed by the U.S. Access Board for public rights-of-way, which are likely to be adopted within the 20-year span of this Plan. Among other things, they address **Sidewalks, Shared-use Paths, and On-street Parking**. See www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks.

GOALS — ACCESSIBILITY

- Every park should, at minimum, have ADA parking and an accessible path to an accessible picnic table.
- Continue to implement the **ADA Transition Plan** for the entire Winfield park system.
- Develop and implement a **Park System Accessibility Plan**.

Universal Access
Picnic Table



Community Identity

Good parks are a major factor in a community's perception of its own quality of life. Parks are a source of public pride and cohesion, helping to strengthen our sense of community. Parks host events from ball games to concerts, from family picnics to holiday light spectaculars, providing a setting for moments that turn into cherished memories.

Parks serve people of all ages, all abilities, and all economic backgrounds. They provide a destination where residents can interact with each other and meet new people. They are great places to teach children—about everything from trees and birds, to winning with grace and losing with dignity, to getting along with other kids without adults enforcing the rules.

Winfield's park system should have an identity of its own—one that is a reflection and a reinforcement of the community's character. This can best be achieved with a **coherent palette of colors and materials used in all the parks, a consistent parks signage system, and a system-wide landscaping theme**—all selected to showcase Winfield's own style.

This does *not* mean that all the parks should look the same. On the contrary, it is critical that each park maintain its own individual personality. This apparent contradiction can be resolved by **selecting certain design elements to be consistent throughout the park system, while designing other aspects to be unique to each park**. For example, all picnic tables or trash receptacles might be of one design, but each specific park might have its own signature color. Or, all park signs might be constructed of similar materials, but in different designs and sizes, each appropriate to the particular type of park.

Furnishings & Lighting

Consider selecting furnishings and lighting designs that incorporate traditional design elements updated with today's clean lines, achieving a contemporary look that is still compatible with existing historic structures. Basic furnishings that will be in every park, such as trash receptacles, benches, picnic tables and bike racks, should be selected to reflect a **signature style**.

Select furnishing manufacturers that offer enough **options** to allow for both functional and design flexibility. For example, a single style of park bench might be offered in models with backs and without, with arms and without, in several sizes, and in a variety of colors. Such diversity allows varying practical needs to be met, while maintaining a coherent design scheme.

Long-term replacement and maintenance costs should also be figured into the selection criteria for furnishings. Typical materials options include powder-coated steel, plastic-coated steel, aluminum, wood, plastics, and composites. Consider life-cycle costs, since less expensive materials tend to need replacement more often, and in the long run may not be as economical as they seem. Park furnishings that look old and worn do nothing positive for a community's perception of its identity.

Lightpoles and luminaires should also be selected for both design flexibility, maintenance efficiency, and low life-cycle costs. LED luminaires are energy efficient, typically designed for ease of maintenance, and have very low operating costs compared to other light sources. They are available in light colors from pure white "daylight" bulbs to ones that mimic the golden glow of incandescent lighting. Ideally, luminaires should be a **full-cutoff design**, which reduces the environmental impacts of light pollution, and avoids the cost of wasted light.

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When selecting a **color palette** for park system furnishings, remember to consider the effects of hot summer sun on items like metal benches. Lighter colors tend to absorb less heat than dark colors. Selecting from a manufacturer's available colors is more cost-effective for most items, since custom colors can add significantly to the cost of park furnishings.

Bicycle Racks Every park should be equipped with bicycle racks. Locate racks so they are convenient to destinations within the park, clear of pedestrian traffic patterns, and clearly visible for security. Ideally, they should be placed on a paved surface, adjacent to a sidewalk or pathway.

Select a **rack design** that meets functional requirements for proper two-point bicycle support, is lockable, and is constructed of low maintenance materials. Racks located in a streetscape usually need a crossbar for ADA vertical-element compliance, but those located in a bicycle parking area that is clear of the adjacent pathway often do not need a crossbar.

The simplest rack design which meets these functional criteria is the inverted "U" type, with or without a crossbar. There are endless variations on the theme. This style of bike rack can easily be customized to be unique to Winfield's parks, helping in one more small way to reinforce an identity for the park system.

Consider specifying bike racks with a specific color, or with a crossbar or panel insert of water-jet or laser-cut metal. Such metal work can be cut with just about any design imaginable—the City's name, a donor's name, a Winfield Parks logo, or even a unique piece of art.



Avoid ribbon racks, spiral racks and schoolyard racks. These styles do not provide effective two-point support and proper lockability.



Ribbon Rack

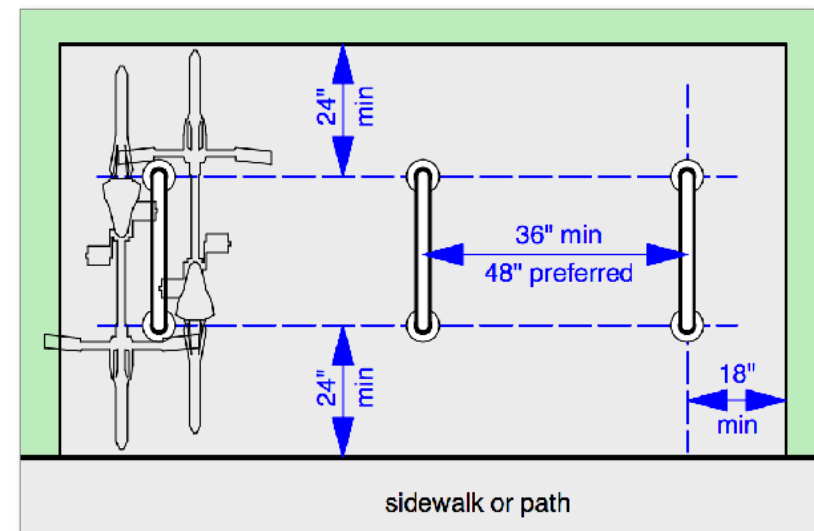


Spiral Rack



Schoolyard Rack

Multiple racks can be installed in a row, in numbers appropriate to need. Racks should be at least 3 feet, preferably 4 feet apart. To make sure bicycles don't block the adjacent path when racks are in use, the back of each rack should be at least 2 feet, preferably 3 feet clear of the sidewalk's edge.



Visit the [*Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals*](#) website to find more information about bicycle rack design and installation.

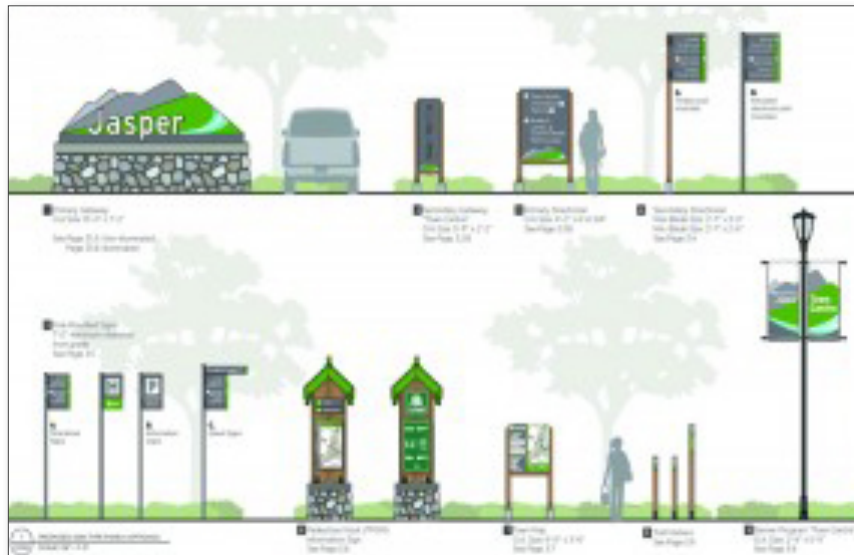
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GOALS – FURNISHINGS & LIGHTING

- Develop an identity for the park system with a consistent colors and materials palette, signage system, and landscaping theme that reflect and reinforce Winfield's character.
- Select **LED full-cutoff luminaires** for future use in the parks.
- Select a **park system bike rack design**, and install racks at destinations in every park.

Signage

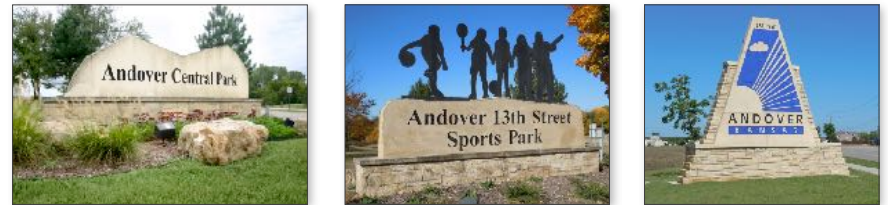
One of the most effective ways to create an identity for the park system as a whole is with a sign system. A system of coordinated signs can have a distinctive style, utilizing the same basic palette of colors and materials, yet be varied in shape, scale, and details in order to fit the needs of each individual park—providing both continuity and individuality.



Example: Sign System diagram

Most signs fall into one of four **functional categories**: Identification signs, wayfinding signs, regulatory signs, and interpretive signs.

Identification signs confirm location for new visitors. Placed at arrival points or main entries, they should be oriented to be seen by people looking for the park from nearby traffic ways. They should be clearly visible, standing out against their background, and have a font that is readable by approaching drivers traveling at the speed limit. Most of all, identification signs provide the **best opportunity to establish a first impression** of Winfield's park system. They should be designed to create an image of quality and welcome.



Examples of identification signs, each individual, yet with a similar materials palette.

Wayfinding signs identify location, and indicate directions to selected destinations. They sometimes incorporate maps or site plans. Especially in larger parks, such as Broadway Recreation Complex or Winfield Fairgrounds, a good wayfinding system is essential to make visitors feel comfortable and welcome.



Examples of wayfinding signs—in wood, metal, stone, and combinations of materials

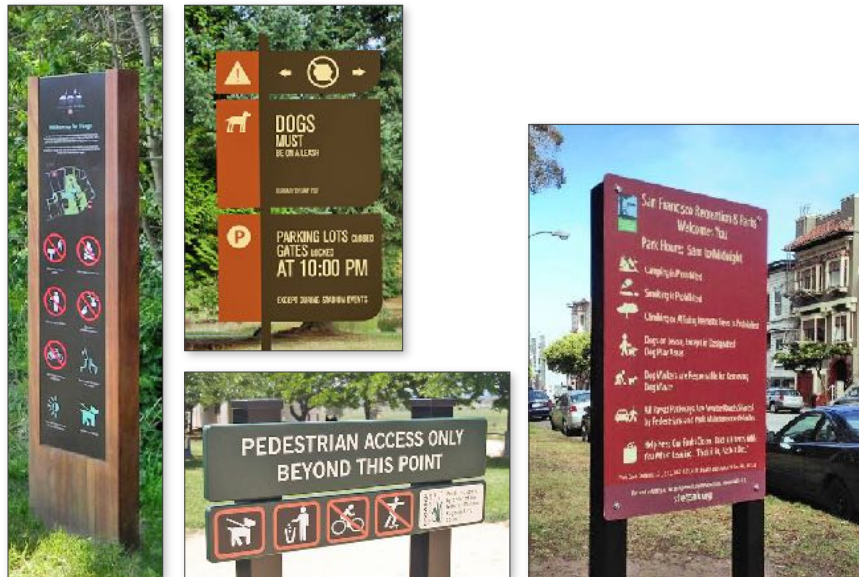
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Regulatory signs communicate basic rules of behavior for a park. Such signs should be easily recognizable, of the same design, material and color in every park—even if the regulations themselves may vary. Try to avoid a long list of "do nots", which is not very welcoming. Instead, provide a concise list of expectations for good behavior.

- What hours is the park open?
- Are dogs allowed, and do they have to be leashed?
- Please don't litter!

...and whatever other *essential* points need to be made.

To be effective, the regulations shown on these signs must be *very clear* and *very simple*. Icons are more likely to be noticed and remembered than text. Almost no one will stop to read a long list of rules. Incorporating both courtesy and humor into regulatory signs helps to encourage compliance.



Examples of park regulatory signs—using icons, and a combination of both icons & text.

Interpretive signs offer information that helps to educate and engage visitors. Such signs may offer tidbits about local history, describe the environmental impact of the local river, identify birds to look for, explain art on display, or any number of other possibilities. Modern graphics production methods allow outdoor interpretive signs to incorporate text, images, and color at a reasonable price.



*Interpretive sign—
graphic panel*



*Interpretive signs
in decorative metal frame
& in rustic wooden frame*

GOAL – SIGNAGE

- Establish a **balanced signage system** that uses all four categories of signs, as appropriate, in designs that coordinate with each other.
- Locate each sign precisely** where appropriate and necessary. **Avoid unnecessary signs**, both to prevent clutter, and to enhance the impact of the signs that *are* needed.

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Park Landscaping

A City's park and other public landscapes can be instrumental in creating the kind of ambience that gives a community unique character. It is not necessary to landscape every inch of every park according to a specific theme, but **repeating certain landscape elements in key locations** can create an impression of **continuity**. Landscaping is one more component in the strategy of **creating an identity for the park system as a whole**.

Landscaping can also be used to reinforce the **individuality** of each specific park. As with furnishings and signage, it's a matter of keeping some elements consistent, while varying others. For instance, every park in the system might use redbud trees as a backdrop for each park's identification sign, but frame one sign in ornamental grasses, another in evergreen shrubs, and a third in native wildflowers.

Parks are a community's primary provider of public greenspace, and well-maintained landscapes are an essential feature of a good park system. Note that **"well-maintained" does not necessarily mean manicured mowed turf**. While mowed turf has its place, it is not a low-maintenance solution, and it should not be the default landscape for every part of every park.

Natural landscapes appeal to people in a very fundamental way, are essential to support wildlife, and are generally much less costly to maintain than turfgrass. A **defined edge** between natural areas and mowed turf helps park users perceive the natural landscape as intentional, and not as neglect.

Currently, most of Winfield's park landscapes are mown turf, with the exception of riparian areas along the banks of creeks and the Walnut River, which retain their natural character.

Plants that are either **native or adapted to the Kansas climate** need less water and require less maintenance, and are therefore more cost-effective for public landscapes. They are still capable of creating a memorable statement, particularly if massed at entries and other photo-worthy locations. In the Winfield park system, consider reducing turfgrass areas in general, replacing bermudagrass with buffalograss where appropriate, and opting for natural landscapes wherever fitting.



As a beginning, consider landscapes that use ornamental grasses and native wildflowers as settings for any new **park identification signs**.

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Trees

Many of Winfield's parks contain a number of over-mature trees, which will need to be replaced during the 20-year span of this Plan. Develop a **tree-selection strategy** now, to make sure that replacement trees are **chosen with long-term, system-wide goals in mind**. Generate a list of park tree options, selecting species and varieties that are **hardy and long-lived** in our harsh Kansas climate. Include options for **shade trees, ornamental trees, and evergreen trees** in the list.

Also make sure that all replacement trees are **planted in locations where they fill a specific functional need** according to the plan for each park—whether shade, screening, or ornamental impact.

This sort of landscaping objective for the parks does not need to be implemented as a single major project. By their nature, landscapes are best accomplished slowly, over the course of years. It simply requires a **recognized long-term landscaping goal**, and a change in perspective so that any work done to a park would be regarded as an opportunity to take one more step toward creating a unique system-wide landscape for Winfield's parks.

Tree Maintenance Though the City maintains an ongoing tree maintenance program, a series of natural setbacks in recent years, from drought to disease to insect invasions, has put it behind schedule. Nearly every park in Winfield's system has trees in need of removal, or damaged trees in need of significant restorative pruning. Every park has areas where new trees would be welcome, for shade, as screening, to define spaces, or as a landscape accent.

Tree Farm As so many of Winfield's existing trees age out over the next 20 years, the City will need an ample supply of young trees for replacements—not just in the parks, but for street trees as well. A municipal tree farm could be a cost-effective way of acquiring those trees.

A tree farm allows saplings to be purchased when they are young and inexpensive, then planted and field grown to a size where they can be safely installed in public landscapes. Such a facility requires some land with reasonably good soil, mulch to keep the weeds down, and a convenient water source for a drip irrigation system. Deer protection may be necessary, depending on the location.

Once saplings are planted, required maintenance time is quite low. Typically, staff will need to check up on the trees and irrigation system once a week or so during the growing season, to make sure everything is all right. Once a year, when the trees are dormant, the saplings will need to be pruned to shape.

When it is time to dig the trees for planting in a permanent location, a **tree spade** will be needed.



Tree Farm

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Turf

In our climate, **fescue** grass must be irrigated, and requires a great deal of care to thrive.

Bermudagrass is the turf of choice for sports fields in our region. Very tough and drought-tolerant, it can also be very invasive, and is not considered acceptable in neighborhoods trying to maintain fescue lawns. While it will usually survive without irrigation, it is more attractive and can withstand much heavier use when watered; it does not need as much water as fescue.

Buffalograss is a native warm-season grass which, once established, can thrive without irrigation. It generally needs to be overseeded with annual grasses for the first few years, to keep weeds down until it is thoroughly established. It is naturally short, and seldom requires mowing. It is not invasive, so it is compatible with neighboring residential fescue yards. It will not withstand the punishment sustained by heavily utilized sports fields, but it can be used successfully in less busy areas.



*Buffalograss—
mowed, and unmowed*

Defining a mowed edge along unmowed areas helps make it clear to the public that the lack of mowing is a deliberate choice, and not neglect.

Whenever turf needs to be replaced in a park, in every location where it is appropriate, take the opportunity to begin establishing buffalograss in preference to bermudagrass.

Weed Control

"Weeds" are simply plants growing where people don't want them to be, but they are not necessarily bad in and of themselves. Particularly in parks, the chemicals necessary to control weeds are potentially a worse problem than the weeds themselves would be.

However, a policy of tolerance toward wild plants has a few notable exceptions. **Poison ivy** (*Toxicodendron radicans*), **sandbur** (*Cenchrus longispinus*), and **stickyweed** (*Galium aparine*) cause enough real harm to make them unacceptable in a public park setting. Maintain an ongoing weed control program in the park system, aimed specifically at these three species, particularly near pathways and picnic areas.

GOALS — PARK LANDSCAPING

- Use **ornamental grasses and native wildflowers in landscapes** as settings for any new park identification signs.
- Continue to promptly remove and properly dispose of **pine trees** as they succumb to pine wilt and/or pine tip moth, and **ash trees** infested with emerald ash borer.
- Develop a **list of acceptable tree species and varieties** to be planted in the parks. Begin with recommendations listed in the document "[Preferred Trees for South Central Kansas](#)", produced by the Kansas Forest Service.
- Consider instituting a **municipal tree farm**.
- **Plant replacement trees** in the parks *before* old trees have to be removed.
- When an appropriate opportunity presents, **replace bermudagrass with buffalograss**.
- Institute an **ongoing weed control program, especially for poison ivy, sandburs and stickyweed** near paths and picnic areas in the parks.
- Institute an **ongoing turf improvement program** in the parks.

Facilities Design Criteria

In order to provide a common baseline of information for decision-makers, this chapter contains a basic overview of design criteria for some of the facilities and equipment that will be proposed in this Plan—particularly those that may be less familiar.

Parking

In a park, parking lots or parking areas should be **close to destinations**. They should be large enough to serve the number of vehicles likely to be at that destination simultaneously, but no larger. Provide an appropriate number of **ADA accessible spaces** in each park, including van-accessible spaces as necessary.

For facilities that draw crowds, such as the Aquatic Center, one or two large parking lots make sense. However, in parks where green open space is a primary attraction, it is usually less intrusive to instead have a larger number of smaller on-street parking areas, each in a precisely selected location.

All park system parking areas should be **well screened** with trees and sometimes shrubs. Ideally, provide **shade** for cars as well.



Gravel parking areas may be appropriate in more lightly-used locations. They actually require more maintenance than paved lots, but they cause less runoff and are less expensive to install. They should be **clearly defined, with wheel stops and edging**. If people park outside designated parking areas, they compact soil and damage root zones, eventually killing turf and trees.

Restrooms

Restrooms in parks are a high-maintenance and expensive amenity. They should be provided only where they are truly needed, but be built to a high standard of quality.

Winfield has public restrooms available at every park in its system, except for Tunnel Mill Park and the six small parks. Length-of-stay times in the small parks are short enough to make restrooms nonessential, and Tunnel Mill is a special case.

However, some of the park system's existing restroom buildings are quite old, and due for renovation. Public expectations are higher than they used to be, and **upgrading the quality of existing restrooms** was one of the most frequent requests in the public's response to the Community Questionnaire.

Many of the freestanding restroom buildings in the City's parks are fundamentally sound, and already supplied with plumbing and electrical services. Upgrading them typically involves:

- Renovating interior **finishes**.
- Replacing interior **fixtures**.
- Improving the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system.
- Improving **lighting**.
- Making sure that **ADA requirements** are met.

Family Restrooms Especially in parks with playgrounds, consider providing two or three **family restrooms**, as opposed to the traditional split between men's and women's rooms. Even at large parks with sports venues, where gender-specific restrooms are likely necessary to handle crowds, provide at least one family restroom in each building.



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Interior **colors** should be generally light and neutral, perhaps with an accent color to give the space a less institutional feel.

All interior **surface treatments** should be selected to allow fast, thorough and effective cleaning, keeping maintenance costs down and visitors comfortable enough to actually use the facilities. **Floors** should have a seamless and waterproof epoxy coating with a continuous cove extending at least six inches up the walls. Options for **walls** include high-gloss epoxy paint on masonry, glazed masonry, and tile. **Stall partitions** are typically made of high-quality plastics designed for such use, and are also available in stainless steel.



Select heavy duty **sinks**, **toilets**, and **urinals**, which are available in vandal-resistant and ADA accessible models, including stainless steel options. A single **trough sink** with multiple faucets, as opposed to multiple individual sinks, can simplify cleaning.

Motion activated faucets save water, and **motion activated soap dispensers** and **self-flushing toilets** help keep the facility clean. **Hand dryers** are lower-maintenance than paper towels. Stainless steel **mirrors** are available; at least one should be tilted for ADA compliance. If a family restroom is not available, provide **diaper changing stations** in both men's and women's restrooms.

Amenities Simple and inexpensive amenities can make a world of difference to the level of visitor satisfaction. Near the door, provide a **trash receptacle**, **coat hooks** and a **shelf**, and enough **space to park a stroller**. Make sure the inside of partition doors have **hooks** for purses or backpacks. The exit door should be equipped with a **toe pull**, to allow visitors to open it with a foot.



Lighting Dim lighting can make any restroom feel dingy and unsafe. Provide ample motion-activated bright-white LED lights when updating park restrooms. If possible, also provide natural daylight, with glass block clerestory windows or skylights.

HVAC Kansas winters are not so severe that park use ceases for the season, and modern park restroom buildings are expected to be temperature controlled to allow use all year long. A **ductless mini split heat pump** system is often the most cost effective solution to maintain these small isolated buildings at reasonably comfortable temperatures in every season.

Lingering unpleasant smells are one of the fastest ways to make anyone detest a public restroom, so **positive airflow** is essential, and can be provided by a properly selected heat pump operating in low-power mode.

Pre-fabricated Restrooms If a restroom building should prove structurally unsound for some reason, and need to be replaced, consider the option of replacing it with a prefabricated turnkey park restroom building. There are a wide variety of styles and sizes available, and they can be a very cost-effective solution.



Safety Surfacing

Falls are the leading cause of playground injuries. To minimize the risk, modern playgrounds have equipment that is clustered in age-appropriate groupings of similar heights, with surfacing beneath that is designed with a shock absorption capacity to suit the maximum fall height of the associated equipment. These surfaces are expensive, often 10% to 20% of the total budget, so playgrounds are compact in order to minimize their cost.

A number of options are available for such safety surfacing, which vary in life-cycle cost, maintenance requirements, and effectiveness. They fall into two basic categories: bound surfaces (poured-in-place rubber, synthetic turf and rubber tiles), and loose-fill surfaces (shredded rubber, wood chips, pea gravel, sand, and similar materials).

Solid rubber surfacing is expensive compared to other choices, but it is the most resilient option. It is installed over a base, either as a monolithic poured-in-place surface, or as interlocking prefabricated rubber tiles. **Poured-in-place rubber surfaces** are installed over a base layer of concrete, asphalt or crushed stone, which is then covered by a mixture of about 80% recycled rubber with a urethane binder. They are offered in a variety of colors, are slip resistant, allow easy access for wheelchairs and strollers, and require the least amount of maintenance. Poured-in-place surfaces may be as much as 5½ inches thick, and can support fall heights of up to 12 feet. **Rubber tile surfaces** are also installed over a base layer of concrete, asphalt or crushed stone; they come in different thickness and colors.



Synthetic turf which is designed for playground use

can be installed over a sufficiently resilient substrate to comply with safety recommendations. It is typically somewhat less expensive than solid rubber surfacing, is ADA accessible, and is low-maintenance compared to loose-fill options.



Loose-fill options are less expensive to install, but are more expensive to maintain. They are easily displaced, particularly in high-traffic areas such as beneath swings or slides, which can create a safety hazard. Even with edging all around, loose materials can end up tossed or tracked into adjacent turf, which can be a mowing hazard. Keeping weeds out of these materials is also a continuous maintenance headache, and use of chemical herbicides is particularly problematic around children. Loose fill surfaces are not usually ADA accessible.

Loose fill options include rubber mulch, sand and pea gravel, and engineered wood fiber.

More information on playground safety surfaces is available at http://recmanagement.com/feature_print.php?fid=200809su06.

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Shade Structures

Parks are heavily used in summer, and in our climate that means intense heat and intense sun. Shade has long been a welcome amenity in parks, but more recently has been recognized as a significant health and safety issue as well.

Every year, over one million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the United States. The best way to prevent skin cancer is to provide lifelong protection of the skin against the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

Currently, there are three typical methods of furnishing shade over broad outdoor areas: trees, overhead structures such as picnic shelters or pergolas, and fabric shade structures. Because fabric shade structures may be less familiar, some additional information on them is provided here.

Fabric shade structures are initially less expensive than solid-roof shelters, but the fabric portions need to be replaced more often. While the poles and foundations of fabric shade structures are permanent, the fabric itself will typically need to be replaced every 5 to 10 years, depending on the quality of the fabric and connections, and the conditions in which the shade fabric is deployed. Some facility managers bring the fabric sails inside for the winter each year, to extend their lifespans, but this procedure comes at a cost in staff time.

Fabric materials may be waterproof (canvas, vinyl, or coated fabrics), or breathable (knitted polypropylene). While the waterproof fabrics offer protection from rain, the **breathable fabrics** let hot air escape through their porous weave, **reducing temperatures beneath them by as much as twenty degrees.**

Fabric structures can be designed in an endless variety of shapes, but two types are typically used in park applications: shade sails and hypars.

- A **shade sail** is a triangular piece of fabric, tension mounted on three poles, typically with one corner higher to encourage precipitation to slide off.
- A **hypar** (short for hyperbolic paraboloid) is a rectangular piece of fabric, mounted under tension on four poles, with two diagonally-opposite corners high, and the other two corners low. This results in a continuously curved surface that sheds water very effectively, is more wind-resistant than an equivalently sized shade sail, and can be oriented so the low corners help protect users from low-angle eastern and western sunlight.



Triangular Shade Sail



Tensioned Hypar

Fabric shade structures are so visually striking that they tend to become landmarks. **Shade structures of a uniform design** could be one more factor in establishing a park system identity for Winfield.

The American Academy of Dermatology offers a *Shade Structure Grant Program* to public schools and non-profit organizations, for up to \$8,000 to install permanent shade structures, particularly at playgrounds. The City may be able to associate with a nonprofit organization to pursue such a grant.

More information is available at www.aad.org/spot-skin-cancer/what-we-do/shade-structure-grant-program.

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Outdoor Fitness Centers

When first available, outdoor fitness equipment for adults was often dispersed along a jogging path to provide a sequence of individual exercise stations for runners. Now such fitness equipment is typically grouped in a single outdoor fitness area, often located adjacent to a playground, to encourage multigenerational social interaction.

Like indoor fitness equipment, outdoor units are designed to help improve cardiovascular fitness, increase flexibility, and tone muscles. They are often made of similar materials as children's playground equipment, in order to be robust enough to withstand outdoor conditions.

Outdoor fitness units tend to be simpler in design than indoor units, which makes them less intimidating to many people. Some units accommodate two to four users simultaneously, to promote the social interaction which makes them fun, therefore encouraging people to continue using them. Units designed according to ADA guidelines, which are accessible for the handicapped, are available and should be incorporated.

Outdoor fitness equipment tends to appeal to those who do not typically go to indoor fitness centers. It helps to engage that population and introduce them to healthy exercise habits. It allows people of all ages and all fitness levels to have free access to non-intimidating but effective fitness equipment, which they can use as an individual or a family, on their own schedule and at their own pace.

The fresh air and changing scenery of an outdoor exercise session reduce the tedium of an indoor workout. Health studies have shown that simply being outside helps decrease tension and depression levels, and improves people's mood and sense of well-being.



Pickleball Courts

Invented in Seattle in 1965, pickleball combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. Players use paddles to hit a perforated polymer ball over a 36-inch high net. Designed to be a game for the whole family, it is now an international sport. Rapidly growing in popularity, particularly with seniors, it can be played indoors or outdoors, all year round.

Indoors Until recently, indoor pickleball was most often played on indoor tennis or basketball courts, which were temporarily taped off into pickleball courts and equipped with portable nets. But as the sport has grown, the demand for customized courts has increased, and more and more communities are developing dedicated indoor pickleball facilities, often complete with spectator seating, scoreboards, and associated lounge areas.



Fabric Structures Open-span tensile fabric structures can provide a solution halfway between indoor and outdoor courts. Made of specialized fabric stretched over an extruded aluminum frame, such structures can provide shade, shelter from wind and rain, and a climate-controlled interior, but are far less expensive than a conventional building.



Outdoors In Kansas, outdoor pickleball can be a challenge because of the affect our windy conditions have on the game's light-weight polymer ball. Outdoor courts should be screened with trees and shrubs, particularly on the west side, to help block the wind.

Outdoor pickleball court surfaces can be made of concrete, interlocking rubber tiles, or a monolithic acrylic surfacing on a concrete or asphalt base. They also require striping, nets, and fencing between courts. A single court is 20x44 feet in size, and with perimeter margins takes up an area of 34x64 feet—roughly a third the size of a tennis court.

For more information on developing outdoor pickleball courts, see [How to Build an Outdoor Pickleball Court](#), [The Definitive Guide to Pickleball Court Construction](#), and the [Pickleball Court Construction Guide](#).



Splashpads, Spray Parks & Water Parks

The terminology for these sorts of water-oriented facilities has long been confused and confusing, but is finally beginning to sort itself out. The following definitions provide general guidance for distinguishing the three categories, although there is often overlap from one type to another.

- **Splashpads:** Typically for use by children 12 years old or younger, they are smaller than spray parks, with equipment that is all safe for pre-schoolers, though still fun for older kids. Splashpads may have features that spray or pour water on users, but are designed to have *no standing water* on the pad—so they can be, and typically are, unsupervised by lifeguards.
- **Spray Parks:** Also for use by children 12 years old or younger; also designed with no standing water, and generally unsupervised. However, spray parks are big enough to have separate areas for pre-schoolers and school-age children. Some of the equipment in a spray park, such as dumping buckets or big water cannons, may be more than a pre-schooler can handle.
- **Water Parks:** Designed for use by people of all ages, including teens and adults. Have multiple attractions ranging from toddler pools with spray elements, to huge water slides, wave pools, and lazy rivers. Requires the same sort of lifeguard staffing as a swimming pool.



Plaza Style Splashpad While splashpads may contain the same sort of vertical playground-style elements as spray parks, they also have the option to be designed in a plaza style. Such a plaza may be paved in concrete, brick, or pavers in patterns, but also incorporates ground-level water jets. The jets, which can be programmed to dance in patterns, make the plaza into a splashpad in the summer. When the jets are turned off in cold weather, the paved area still functions as a public plaza.



Playground style



Plaza style

Timers The water elements at splashpads and spray parks are generally on a timer, to prevent their use when the park is closed. They are usually also motion-activated or user activated, so they only function when someone is there to enjoy them. When in use, different water elements can be programmed to activate in varying sequences, to keep the experience fresh and full of surprises for users.

Recirculation or Flow-through Splashpads and spray parks can be designed to have a recirculation and filtering system, which requires the same daily water quality checks as a swimming pool system, as well as regular maintenance for pumps and filters. Alternatively, they can use fresh water in a flow-through system, with some means to recycle the used water—often as irrigation water at a nearby park or golf course. There are advantages and disadvantages to each option, based on a number of variables including local water costs and potential nearby uses for the flow-through water.

For more information, see [Key Considerations When Building a Splash Pad](#).

Winfield Parks & Goals

This chapter contains a short assessment of **existing conditions** at each of Winfield's parks. Most of the photos of existing facilities were taken in September 2019. An **aerial photo** shows the extent of each park, labeled with the locations of both existing and proposed facilities. In addition, **goals** specific to each park are included at the end of the section for that park.

Winfield City Lake

As municipal parks go, Winfield City Lake is in a class by itself. Located about ten miles northeast of downtown in an island annexation, this 1.5 square mile park accounts for nearly a third of the area of the entire City of Winfield.

Flooding of agricultural lands in the Timber Creek watershed was an ongoing problem before a system of 35 flood retarding dams were built on Timber Creek and its tributaries, included the dam that created Winfield City Lake. Completed in 1970, the Timber Creek Dam is owned by the City of Winfield. It is an earthen flood control dam, 91 feet high and 5,800 feet long, with a maximum capacity is 65,300 acre-feet of water.

Winfield City Lake is the primary **water supply** for over 60 percent of Cowley County, including the cities of Winfield, Burden and Dexter. To help protect the Lake's water quality from runoff pollutants, the City acquired additional land surrounding the Lake.

The majority of water pollution does not come from faulty sewage treatment plants or industrial sites, but from rain that carries diffuse pollutants into streams, and from there to rivers, lakes and oceans. Called **non-point source pollution**, this contamination can include anything from oil and grease off roads, to fertilizers and herbicides from farms and yards, to manure from livestock or pets, to sediment from eroding ground.

The **Timber Creek Watershed District** was established to help prevent contamination of Winfield City Lake by nonpoint source pollution. A watershed is an area of land where every watercourse inside it drains into a common body of water. Watershed management, which is authorized under the federal Clean Water Act, establishes programs and regulations designed to minimize or eliminate nonpoint source pollution within a particular watershed.



It is possible for Winfield City Lake and the land around it to safely serve some recreational purposes, in addition to its more important functions. However, Winfield City Lake exists primarily for **flood control** and as a **water supply**, and is only secondarily a **recreational** facility. Continued protection of this critical resource is essential, and any decisions regarding recreational uses must always **keep these priorities in mind**.

The Lake's facilities are currently focussed on powerboats and personal watercraft, and on RV camping. Diversify and improve facilities to attract a broader range of users, including canoe and kayak users, swimmers, hikers, fisherfolk, birders, and horseback riders.

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Winfield City Lake Facilities Map



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Access to the Winfield City Lake Park is primarily from 141st Road, a north-south mile-line road that actually crosses the dam that holds back the Lake waters. The main entrance to the Park serves the south shore, and a secondary entrance serves the north shore. There is another minor entrance to the south shore off 151st Road.



South Shore Entrance



North Shore Entrance

From the two main entries, a network of dirt roads provides access to the north and south shorelines. However, the road networks do not connect with each other at the east end of the Lake. Instead, there is a **wildlife area** east of the Lake, with nature trails and mountain bike trails, but no vehicular roads across it.

The **south entrance** off 141st Road is the main entry point for the Park, providing access to the **Lake Office** and information center. There are maintenance buildings in a fenced storage yard just south of the entry drive. A water tower for Rural Water District 4 is right behind the self-pay station at the entrance.



South shore facilities include two restroom buildings (one accessible), a picnic shelter, an accessible fishing dock, three boat ramps, a showerhouse, two RV camping areas with electric power and another with full utilities, and an RV dump station.

The north entrance off 141st Road provides access to **north shore facilities**, including two self-pay stations (one with accessible restrooms and showers), a restroom building, two picnic shelters, two boat ramps, four RV camping areas with electric power and another with full utilities, and an RV dump station. The north shore also has a swimming beach with a showerhouse, a Boy Scout camping area with a showerhouse, and a Memorial Forest.



Typical restroom building



Typical picnic shelter



Boy Scout Area



Memorial Forest

Any vehicle parked on the Lake grounds must have a permit, and off-road vehicles are prohibited. Canoes, kayaks, sailboats and powerboats must have a permit, and are allowed on the western part of the Lake. The eastern third of the Lake is reserved for use by personal watercraft, such as jet skis or wave runners.

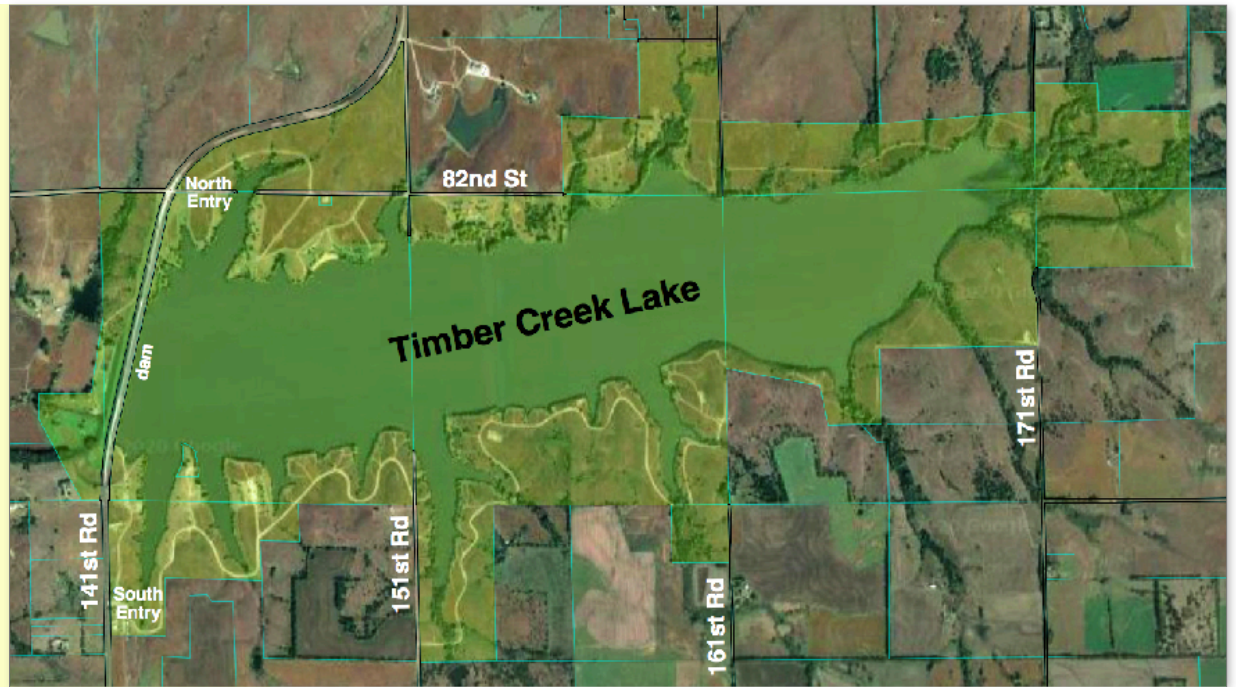
A recreation permit and a state fishing license are required to fish at the Lake. Certain areas are open to hunting during the Kansas waterfowl season, for hunters with required federal and state licenses as well as a Winfield City Lake hunting permit. Hunting for anything but waterfowl is prohibited.

Regulations are enforced by Lake Rangers.

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GOALS – WINFIELD CITY LAKE

- Above all, continue to protect the Lake's **flood control** functions, and its **water quality**.
- Design and install a new **wayfinding signage system** for the entire Lake.
- Improve the **swimming beach**. Either expand the existing swimming beach, or add another one.
- Improve the **roads**. Remove potholed concrete. Either grade the roads more frequently, or pave the main north and south roads.
- Define **parking areas for short-term visitors**, and use them to anchor a network of **looped trails** strictly for pedestrians, that offer hikers and birdwatchers good views of the Lake.
- Design and install new **interpretive signage for birdwatchers**. Add more information about birding at the Lake to the City website, including unusual sightings and migration dates.
- Improve the restrooms.
Add **ADA accessible family restrooms**.
- Add more **ADA accessible fishing docks**, with cleaning stations.
- Add more **picnic shelters**.
- Add dedicated **canoe and kayak launch docks**. **Reserve a part of the Lake**, including some of the larger inlets, for canoe, kayak, and paddle board use.
- Improve **equestrian trails**. Add **paddocks** at the equestrian site. Add **electric and water hookups** for the horse trailers. Develop a **dedicated horse camping site**.



- Develop a cluster of **rentable cabins, with utilities**, so people who don't own RVs can enjoy a stay at the Lake, too.
- Add more **RV utility hookups**.
- Where possible, convert existing **RV camping areas** to pull-through layout concrete pads.
- Select additional locations suitable for **RV camping**. Provide pull-through layout concrete pads and utilities.
- Taking into account economic feasibility and the impact on water quality, consider the possibility of contracting with a vendor to manage an improved **marina** at the Lake, and /or a **performance venue** for "Concerts on the Lake".

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Special Use Facilities

Winfield has seven special use facilities, each of which serves a unique function in the park system.

- **Baden Square** is an urban park that was once part of a college campus.
- **Broadway Recreation Complex** is the City's biggest field sports facility.
- **Joe Thornton Recreation Center** is primarily an indoor fitness and recreational center, with a few outdoor facilities, and is managed by the Recreation Commission.
- **Quail Ridge Golf Course** is a public 18-hole golf course.
- **Timber Creek Nature Center** is a wildlife area with a nature trail, just east of Island Park.
- **Winfield Aquatic Center** is the community's public outdoor swimming pool complex.
- **Winfield Fairgrounds** hosts agricultural events and large community festivals. It has exhibition buildings and a rodeo arena.

Baden Square

St. John's College was a two-year Lutheran college in Winfield, which operated from 1893 until 1986. The City of Winfield purchased the campus in 1988, and over time sold five of the buildings. The balance of the campus is still City-owned. Part of it is now the Joe Thornton Recreation Center, and the rest functions as an 8.4-acre urban park called Baden Square.

One of the five buildings sold, Stevenson Hall, was purchased by Cowley County in 1997, and is now the site of Cowley College's emergency medical services and allied health programs.



Another, the former Timothy Hall, is now owned by TFI Family Services, Inc., a nonprofit agency that provides statewide child welfare and behavioral services.

The other three buildings that were sold, which are all on the National Register of Historic Places, are now owned by MetroPlains Development, and used for apartments.

- **Baden Hall**, built in 1893 and 1894, was the first building on campus. Originally serving as classroom and dormitory space, it has now been converted into 24 low-income apartments.
- **Rehwinkel Hall** was built in 1916. Originally called West Dormitory, it has been renovated and converted into 36 low-income apartments for the elderly and handicapped.
- **Mundinger Hall** was constructed in two phases, in 1950 and 1953. Originally the Girls Dormitory, it has been converted into 36 general occupancy apartments.



These former College buildings continue to impart historic character to the area. Combined with the Recreation Center and Baden Square, they form one of Winfield's premier walkable neighborhoods.

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Baden Square itself includes the Winfield Public Library, Baden Community Center, Meyer Hall, as well as greenspace, public parking lots and a Maintenance Building.

The **Winfield Public Library** moved from the historic Carnegie Library building to Baden Square in 1990. Located at the southeast corner of 6th Avenue and College Street, the more spacious quarters have allowed the Library to expand its collection and services.

Baden Community Center is located on Gary Street. It houses a number of community facilities and services.

- The Community Center is an **event venue**, that hosts over 300 functions each year. Ranch House Catering provides food service and manages the main dining room and kitchen.
- **Winfield Arts & Humanities Council** provides programs in literature, dance, theater, visual arts, and music. Classes and workshops are available on topics ranging from drawing, carving, painting and clay, to drama, literature, and cooking. Its Art Gallery offers year round exhibitions.
- **The Senior Center** provides programs and activities for area seniors, as well as space for various club functions. Services include Friendship Meals, hearing tests, legal services, and blood pressure screening.
- **Cowley County Council on Aging** offers services that help seniors to maintain their independence, including transportation, health screening, outreach, advocacy, and referral.

Meyer Hall was completely renovated by the City in 2000.

The building has offices, activity rooms, and an auditorium. *Creative Community Living* is the anchor tenant, leasing nearly 10,000 square feet of the building for offices and activity space. **Winfield Community Theater** productions have taken place in the restored auditorium since 2003.

Sidewalks The existing pathway network in Baden Square is harshly geometric and focused on connecting parking lots to building entrances. Sidewalks are not currently designed to make walking a pleasure for pedestrians.

Look for ways to **adjust the existing sidewalk network to link pedestrian destinations to each other**, and to create a continuous looping path connecting the entire site. Even small adjustments in the pathway network, to cut corners with gentle curves, would help.

The Commons The large lawn in the southeast corner of Baden Square is a pleasant urban greenspace, but severely underutilized. Consider adding a meandering **loop walking path**, with connections to existing sidewalks. Provide amenities like **benches, bistro tables and chairs, and dog waste stations**, to encourage people to actually use the space. It could be a wonderful location for **outdoor sculptures** or a **bookwalk**.

Nearby apartments for the elderly and handicapped mean it is even more important than usual that all sidewalks and furnishings in Baden Square should be **ADA accessible**. Given evening performances at Meyer Hall, provide good **lighting** for all pedestrian pathways. Consider using bollard lights, to maintain a pedestrian scale and to help reduce excess ambient light on the site.

The **Maintenance Building, parking lots and signage** are sufficient for need, and in good condition.

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GOALS – BADEN SQUARE

- **Sidewalks** Add revisions to existing sidewalks to create a continuous looping ADA accessible path which connects pedestrian destinations throughout Baden Square to each other.
- Create a meandering **loop walking path** in the commons open space at the southeast corner of Baden Square, with connections to existing perimeter sidewalks. At appropriate intervals along the path, provide **dog waste stations**, and accessible amenities like **benches**, and **bistro tables and chairs**.
Consider the possibility of adding at least one **outdoor sculpture** to the area, or coordinating with the Library to create a **bookwalk** along the path.
- Provide good lighting for all pedestrian pathways. Where appropriate, use **bollard lights** (as opposed to area lights on tall poles), both to reinforce the pedestrian scale, and to help reduce excess ambient light.
- **Evergreen Trees** Pine trees are likely to succumb to pine wilt in the near future. Begin planting alternative evergreens on site, to maintain winter interest. Consider Canaert Junipers, Keteleeri Junipers, or Bruns Serbian Spruce.



Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Broadway Recreation Complex

This 64-acre sports complex is located at the south end of Broadway, extending from 19th Avenue on the north, to Highway 360 on the south. Its gated main entrance is off Broadway, directly across from the City Parks Department headquarters building.



The main road for the complex is **Broadway Court**, which extends east from the entrance past the ball diamonds, then curves south, ending in a roundabout. Along the way, it provides access to **four separate gravel parking lots**, each with concrete ADA spaces. The lots are dispersed on site to offer conveniently close parking options to all of the complex's facilities.

- **Parking lot 1** is the biggest, and the closest lot to the entrance. It has curbed median islands that define parking areas, and is lighted. It has about 130 standard parking spaces, as well as four ADA parking spaces and one ADA van-parking space on its east end.
- **Parking lot 2** also has curbed median islands that define parking areas; it is not lighted. It has about 104 standard parking spaces, as well as five ADA parking spaces and one ADA van-parking space on its southeast end.
- **Parking lot 3** is an open gravel lot, with a row of utility poles down the middle to provide some definition. It currently has room for about 30 vehicles to park.
- **Parking lot 4** has curbed median islands that define parking areas, and is lighted. It has about 210 standard parking spaces, as well as four ADA parking spaces and one ADA van-parking space at its northwest corner.

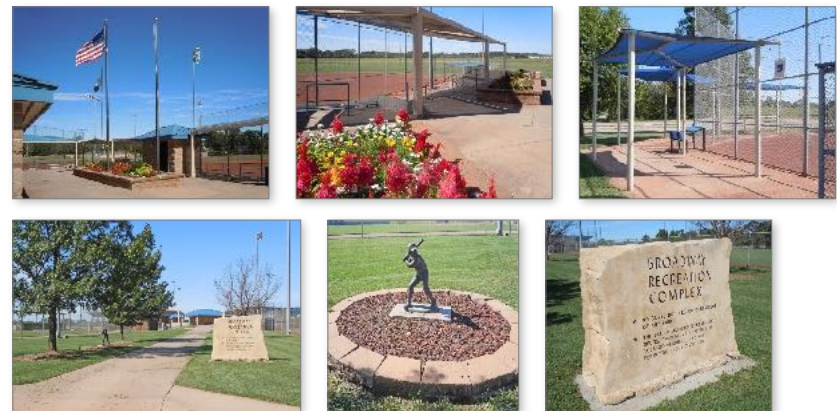
Altogether, there are approximately 474 standard parking spaces, 13 ADA spaces, and 3 ADA van spaces in the Recreation Complex.

A network of **sidewalks** interconnects the parking areas to the various sports facilities. There are various pieces of **outdoor fitness equipment** located along the sidewalk, each in its own isolated location.



A **levee** with a **gravel maintenance road** on top starts at the northeast corner of the site, and extends along the perimeter on the eastern and southern sides. **Locked gates**, which are intended to prevent unauthorized vehicles from accessing the maintenance road, also discourage pedestrians and bicyclists from using it.

The core of the Broadway Sports Complex is a set of four ball diamonds, backed up to a shared central **plaza** with a **concessions building**, **restrooms**, and a **press box**. There are **two softball fields** to the west, and **two baseball fields** to the east. The pedestrian access for the central plaza extends west from the Broadway Court roundabout.



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A third **softball diamond** is in the southeast corner of the site. There are also two sets of **batting cages** in the Complex – one south of the main ball complex, and another, with pitching machines, just east of the roundabout restroom. Additional batting cages were being added as this Plan was written.



*batting cage
with
pitching machines*

The northern and northeastern portions of the site have two large turf fields, used for both **soccer and football**. A smaller **secondary concessions building**, with an announcers booth on the second floor, is just off the northeast corner of parking lot 2, between the two field sports areas.



In addition to the restrooms incorporated in the main plaza area, there are **three freestanding restroom buildings** on site – one on the north edge of parking lot 1, one at the southeast corner of parking lot 2, and one at the northwest corner of parking lot 4. The restroom buildings at parking lots 2 and 4 are adjacent to the ADA parking areas.

A **maintenance garage and storage building** for the Recreation Complex lies just southeast of parking lot 3.

This is a high-quality facility, but it is beginning to show its age. Input from the Community Questionnaire focused on a desire for updated restrooms, paved parking lots, improvements to parking lot 3, additional parking, and a playground.

Criteria for updating **restrooms** are discussed earlier in this Plan.

Paving the parking lots might actually be a cost-effective option, reducing long-term maintenance requirements. For stormwater management purposes, the paving should either be permeable, or the lots should incorporate stormwater best management practices. Some minor revisions to the width of **parking lot 3** might be able to generate another row of parking spaces. There is very little space available for **additional parking lots** on this site, unless a portion of a soccer/football area was sacrificed.

A **playground** on site would be a very welcome amenity, since other family members sometimes have to wait for significant amounts of time while players finish a game. The area just south of the main road, and north of the north baseball diamond, has potential as a playground site. It is centrally located, reasonably close to restroom options, shaded by mature trees, and appears to be large enough to serve.

Ideally, the playground should have **shaded seating and tables** adjacent to it. Consider adding **fitness equipment** nearby as well, so caregivers can get a work out while waiting, while still keeping an eye on the playground.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040



GOALS — BROADWAY RECREATION COMPLEX

- From high school students: Improve the softball diamonds.
- Redesign and if possible expand **parking lot 3**. Use curbed median islands to define parking areas and clarify the traffic pattern.
- **Improve the gravel parking lots.**
- Update the **restrooms**, both in the plaza and in the three freestanding restroom buildings.
- Complete a **loop path** by connecting existing sidewalks with new sidewalks along the site's north and west perimeters. If the safety of the levee allows, include the **levee path** as an optional loop for pedestrians and possibly bicyclists. This would require a **switchback** path up the levee, similar to that in Island Park.

Replace the gates which block vehicle traffic from the levee path with **bollards**, which would still block vehicles, but would allow pedestrians and bicyclists to use the path. **Lockable fold-down bollards** are available, to give access for maintenance or emergency vehicles.
- Explore the possibility of developing a small shaded **playground** area, possibly in the area to the north of the north baseball field. If space allows, incorporate **shaded seating** for caregivers, and possibly some **outdoor fitness equipment** for adults.
- **Trees** Remove dead trees. Plant new trees as necessary to provide shade in **parking lots**. Plant **ornamental trees** along the vehicle entry drive and along the pedestrian path from roundabout to plaza.
- Improve **landscape** at entrance and around signs.
- Consider pursuing options to **expand this site** by acquiring additional adjacent property.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Joe Thornton Recreation Center

Once part of the St. John's College campus, the Recreation Center is now owned by the City, and managed by the Winfield Recreation Commission (WRC). It has two outdoor basketball courts, a practice field with a backstop, and a building that houses a Fitness Center, a gymnasium, and the WRC's administrative offices.

The Recreation Center is the western portion of a City-owned parcel of land that also hosts a municipal water tower and Jaycee Park. The area devoted to the Recreation Center is about 5.25 acres in size; the Center also includes a 1.3-acre parking lot to its south, which is on a separate parcel.

Winfield Recreation Commission (WRC) moved their offices to the Thornton Building in 1989, and opened the fitness center in 1999. Over 120,000 people per year now participate in WRC activities.

The Recreation Center site includes two parking lots. The **south parking lot** is on the other side of 7th Avenue from the Thornton Building's main entrance. However, that entrance is not ADA accessible. The south lot is asphalt, and in poor condition.



*main entrance
to Thornton Building*



*view from main entrance
across 7th Avenue
to south parking lot*

The **east parking lot** is concrete, and in good condition. It has three ADA van parking spaces, and connects to a long exterior ramp which leads to the building's ADA entrance.



East parking lot



ADA parking



*ADA ramp
(behind freestanding wall)*



ADA entrance

The **Thornton Building** is on the northeast corner of College Street and 7th Avenue. Its main entrance is on the southwest corner, and there is a **drop-off lane** along the east side of College Avenue, near the entrance. The large central part of the building (with the arched roof) houses the gymnasium. Various types of fitness equipment occupy a number of other rooms. The building also has men's and women's locker rooms, showers, and restrooms.



Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

The outside facilities at the Recreation Center are north of the building. Two **basketball courts** occupy the north end of the space. While mostly in good condition, there are a number of cracks in the concrete surface, which will only continue to get worse until they are repaired.



The chainlink fence along the north side of the site has a pedestrian access to the basketball courts. There is no parking on the adjacent street.



Between the building and the basketball courts, there is a large turf **practice field** with a backstop in its northwest corner, which can be used for baseball, soccer and football.



Along its western side, the practice field has a rather steep **slope** down to College Avenue. Chainlink fence at the top of the slope protects players from falling over the edge. There are a few offset openings in the fence, to allow pedestrians through it without long detours. At the south end, near the building, the slope is terraced with low limestone retaining walls.



Just north of the building, adjacent to College Street, an **electronic message center** provides up-to-date information on Recreation Center events to the community.



Plant beds on the building's south and west sides, as well as those around the base of the electronic sign and just west of the entrance lobby, had become overgrown and were recently renovated.

Along the east side of the building, higher ground and HVAC condenser units combine to allow all-too-easy access to the roof for people inclined to climb on it—which is both dangerous for them, and bad for the roof. Signs threaten criminal prosecution in order to try to prevent the problem. A fencing or landscaping solution may be a more effective option.



Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040



GOALS — JOE THORNTON RECREATION CENTER

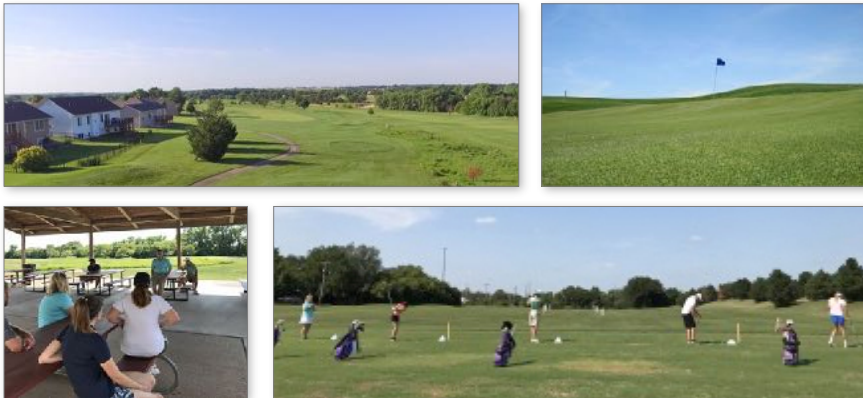
- Explore options to improve **temperature control** and HVAC energy efficiency in the Recreation Center building.
- Expand the Gym's evening hours.
- Explore options for providing **childcare** on-site.
- Resurface the basketball courts.
- Add a **sidewalk** which starts at the College Street sidewalk, goes along the south edge of the basketball courts, and then goes south along the east edge of the site, linking the basketball courts to the Recreation Center's east parking lot and the 7th Avenue sidewalk.
- Add a **sidewalk along the south side of Simpson Avenue**, to connect Jaycee Park to the Recreation Center and Baden Square. This will involve significant regrading, and possibly the construction of some retaining walls.
- Remove the island **plant bed** near the building's main entrance, and use the space to add a **bike parking area** with better bike racks.
- Renovate the **south parking lot**.
Add a **crosswalk** across 7th Avenue, between the Recreation Center's main entrance and the south parking lot.
- Install a **path** connecting the Recreation Center to both Baden Square and Jaycee Park. Northwest of the building, significant regrading or a switchback may be necessary, in order to take the path safely down to the level of the College Street sidewalk.
Add a **crosswalk** across College Street at 6th Avenue, to better connect the Recreation Center to the Library and the rest of Baden Square.
- Renovate **plant beds** on the building's south and west sides, as well as those around the base of the electronic sign.
- Along the east side of the building, explore options for a fencing or landscaping solution to discourage climbing on the roof.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Quail Ridge Golf Course

This public 18-hole golf course and its associated residential subdivision were developed on a half-section of land at the south end of Winfield.

Quail Ridge Golf Course, which opened in 1992, is regularly rated one of the top courses in Kansas. Designed by Tulsa golf course architect Jerry Slack, the par-72 course has zoysia fairways with native grass roughs. The **Club House** has a pro shop and an outdoor pavilion with picnic tables. **Practice facilities** include a driving range, a putting/chipping green, and an area designed for practicing pitching, lob, and sand shots.



GOALS – QUAIL RIDGE GOLF COURSE

- Pave all cart paths with concrete.
- Improve bridges and crossings over the creeks on front and back nine.
- Update irrigation system.
- Consider parking options for large events.
- Consider options for **shared use activities** to increase public use of the site.



Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Timber Creek Nature Center

Like Island Park, the Nature Center site is defined by a natural oxbow loop lake. However, this meander of Timber Creek was apparently cut off from the main flow a longer time ago, and has accumulated more sediment deposits. It is shallower and narrower than the Island Park channel.

The Nature Center includes a section of Timber Creek itself, but a flood-control levee creates a barrier between the Creek and the rest of the Nature Center. Though the Creek can be seen from up on the levee path, its shore is quite difficult to access. The balance of the Nature Center site, south of the levee, is heavily forested. High-tension power lines cross the site, roughly northeast to southwest.

The Nature Center's primary entrance is adjacent to the eastern edge of Island Park. The loop drive from the east end of Island Park Avenue provides vehicular access to some small parking areas in Island Park, near the Nature Center's entrance. A pedestrian bridge across the Island Park Channel supplies a convenient pedestrian link between the two facilities.

The Nature Center entry is defined by a **gateway feature**, and has **signage** that includes a map of the trail system. Looped **nature trails** provide access to the Nature Center's forested habitat.

GOALS — TIMBER CREEK NATURE CENTER

- Improve the condition of the trails by trimming back overgrown brush and filling in low spots with gravel or mulch. Consider establishing a relationship with a nonprofit group (Birders? Scouts? Geocachers?) who may be able to take on the maintenance as a volunteer project.
- Develop and install **interpretive signage** along the trails.
- Contact local disc golfers to explore the possibility of incorporating a **disc golf course** on the nature trail.



Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Winfield Aquatic Center

Opened in 1998, the Aquatic Center has Pool House, two pools and a playground. The **Pool House** has a pump room, office area, and men's and women's showers and locker rooms. The **main pool** has a lap area, a deep area (without diving boards), and giant **water slides**. There is a **kiddie pool** with a spouting dragon with slides, and a small **playground** nearby. Just southeast of the Pool House, a **pergola** provides shade for **picnic tables** on a concrete patio. It offers adults a comfortable place to sit, with clear views of the kiddie pool and playground.



East of the Pool House, a one-way **crescent driveway** off the Island Park entry road provides vehicle access for the main parking lot, as well as to the Pool House loading area for pool chemicals and equipment. The lot has **diagonal parking** for 17 standard parking spaces, 2 ADA spaces, and one ADA van space.

There is also a parking lot on the north end of the site, off Island Park Avenue. The **north parking lot** has 23 additional 90-degree on-street parking spaces.

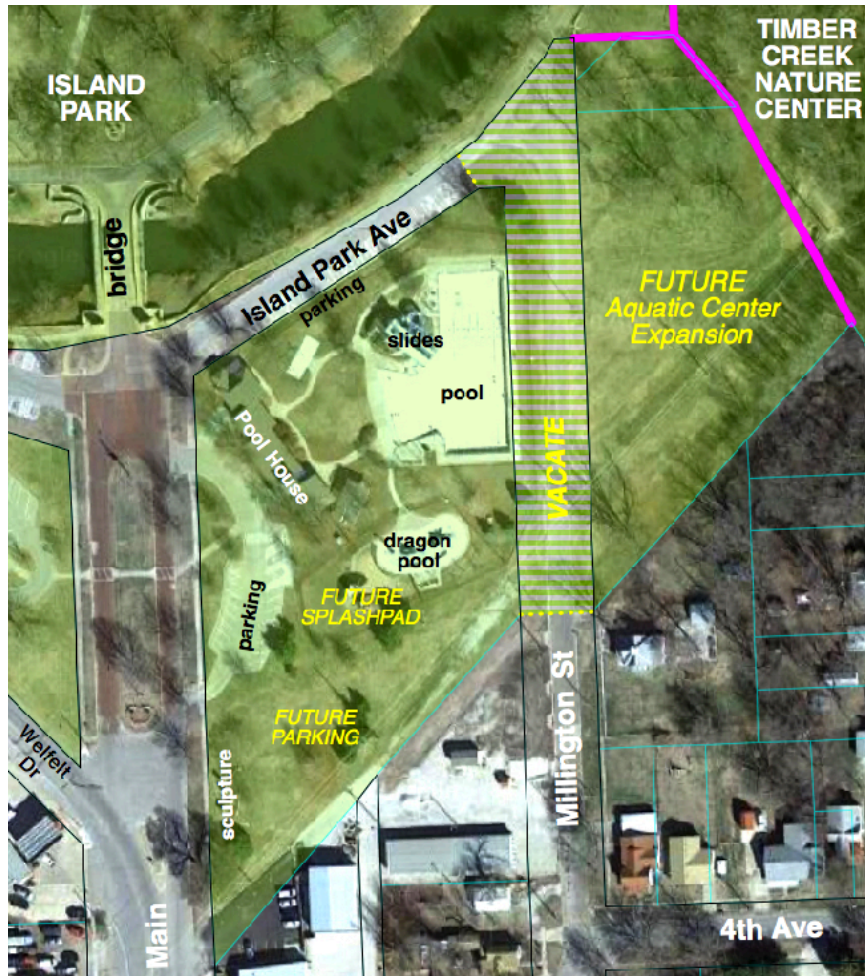
The **sculpture set** called *May the Circle Be Unbroken*, celebrating Winfield's musical heritage, is on the south end of the Aquatic Center property, adjacent to the Island Park entry drive.



During this planning process, the community expressed a desire to have a water park in Winfield. A water park anywhere in Winfield besides the Aquatic Center would compete with it—for funding, staff and users. Locating one at the Aquatic Center could create synergy, and help attract more visitors to both.

However, such an investment should take into account the proximity of Rock River Rapids in Derby, the YMCA water park in Andover, and the new Aquatic Center in Goddard, all within a half hour to an hour's drive from Winfield.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040



GOALS – WINFIELD AQUATIC CENTER

- From elementary school students: Replace the dragon. Add a climbing wall. Provide healthier food options. Add a splashpad.
- From middle school students: Add more slides and things to do. Eliminate the sand playground – it's too hot.
- Update the **Pool House** locker rooms, showers, and restrooms.
- Add a **splashpad** in the location of the current playground, next to the Dragon Pool.
- Consider adding another similarly-sized **parking lot**, to the south of the main parking lot, possibly with an exit onto Millington Street.

This will be especially important if a permanent Farmers Market pavilion is built in the parking lot west of the Island Park entry drive. That lot currently acts as auxiliary parking for the Aquatic Center.
- Consider **vacating the northern part of Millington Street**, to allow more flexibility in the design of any future expansion to the Aquatic Center and associated parking. The vacated street right-of-way would add 0.88 acres to the existing Aquatic Center site, connecting it to its logical expansion zone.
- Survey site boundaries to determine if the parking lots of neighboring commercial buildings on Main Street encroach on park property. If **encroachment** is confirmed, consider next steps.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Winfield Fairgrounds

The Fairgrounds are primarily designed and intended to host agricultural events. They have a large **grandstand** adjacent to a **rodeo arena**, a 72 by 150 foot unheated metal building with concrete floors and heated accessible restrooms (**Building 4**), a number of open-sided **livestock barns**, a **stable** with paddocks and an exercise track, and a **4-H building**.



Late each September, the Fairgrounds are also the site of the **Walnut Valley Festival**, an internationally renowned celebration of bluegrass and other acoustic music. For this event, a huge team of volunteers helps to set up temporary structures to support the Festival.

A secondary municipal **Power Plant** is on the western edge of the site, on the north side of 14th Avenue just west of the Walnut River. An **electrical substation** is on the eastern edge of the site, on the south side of 14th Avenue just west of the levee. Both of these facilities are located on some of the highest ground on the site.

Flooding The Fairgrounds are 171 acres of public land that is bordered by a levee on the east, and by the Walnut River on the north, west and south. With the exception of the tiny portion of the property that is east of the levee, the Fairgrounds are entirely in floodway.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency defines "**floodway**" as "the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood". In other words, the Fairgrounds are *intended* to flood during any high-water event, in order to help protect other areas from flooding.

The structures that have been built on the Fairgrounds are all designed to be able to withstand fairly frequent flooding – although a major maintenance effort is required after each flood, for cleaning and repairs. As climate change continues to affect weather patterns, they may be flooded more often.

Any additional structures developed on the site should be **designed and built to withstand periodic flooding**. The City should continue to **pursue flood mitigation and erosion control efforts**, particularly on the north end of the Fairgrounds.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

GOALS – WINFIELD FAIRGROUNDS

- Continue to pursue **flood mitigation and erosion control** efforts, particularly on the north end of the Fairgrounds.
- Design and build any additional structures on the site to withstand periodic flooding.
- Study alternatives to **reduce mowing maintenance**.
- Add landscaping to **screen the power plant and substation**.
- Improve restrooms, and add **ADA accessible family restrooms**.
- Develop continuous loop **hiking and biking trails**. Consider a measured-mile trail.
- Provide more **shady places to sit and eat**.
- Add another **youth livestock barn**.
- Upgrade and reconfigure **RV hookups** for Walnut Valley Festival visitors. Consider revising flood protocols to leave some electrical panels elevated.



Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Large Parks

The four large parks in Winfield are Black Creek Park, Cherry Street Park, Island Park, and Tunnel Mill Park. They range from 13 to 41 acres in size.

Black Creek is an active park, while Cherry Street functions as the largest of the City's neighborhood parks. Tunnel Mill Park is subject to so much flooding that it is undeveloped and likely to remain so. Island Park is the jewel of the Winfield park system.

Black Creek Park

Originally constructed by Binney and Smith (Crayola) as a park for their employees, and later acquired by the City, this 14.6-acre park is located on the southeast edge of Winfield. There is residential development and agricultural land to the Park's west and industrial development to the north. Highway 360 is adjacent to the Park's southeast boundary.

A deep narrow **drainage channel** runs north to south along the Park's western edge. There is a **bridge** across it from Joel Mack Road, which allows City maintenance crews to bring in trucks and large mowers.

The Park's **sign** is in a rather overgrown plant bed in the Park's northwest corner. The deciduous tree behind the sign is in poor condition.



Public access to Black Creek Park is from 19th Avenue, into a large **gravel parking lot**, with five concrete ADA parking spaces. Wheel stops define diagonal parking spaces.

A **restroom building** is just south of the parking lot, between the two **ball diamonds**.



South of and between the diamonds is a large **picnic shelter** with seven large picnic tables. Just south of the picnic shelter is a **skatepark**, almost entirely surrounded by tall chainlink fencing.



The plaque for a **memorial tree** just west of the picnic shelter is almost lost in overgrown brush. An asphalt **walking path** around the perimeter of the western diamond has no shade and is very deteriorated. A **dogpark** has recently been constructed in the southwest portion of Black Creek Park, south of the tree row.





Black Creek Park

— aerial with existing facilities & future possibilities —

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

GOALS — BLACK CREEK PARK

- **Sign** Remove the existing sign, and locate a new park identification sign adjacent to 19th Avenue, in the area between the two parking lot driveways. Design it to be visible from both directions.
- **Parking** Improve the existing gravel parking lot. Redesign the parking lot layout and rearrange the wheel stops so they work with the new ADA parking spaces and entry drives. Improve and if necessary expand **parking along Joel Mack Road**, to better serve the dogpark.
- **Restrooms** Improve the restrooms.
- **Baseball** Expand and improve the ball diamond **bleachers**, and provide **ADA seating areas** nearby. Upgrade the **dugouts**.
- **Sidewalks** Eliminate the existing deteriorated asphalt path. Add an **accessible route sidewalk** connecting both parking lots to the rest of the Park's facilities, including the dogpark, the picnic shelter, and the skatepark area.
- **Picnic Shelter** Renovate the picnic shelter. Add accessible tables.
- **Dogpark** Add basic amenities to the new dogpark, including **seating** and **shade**. Add **shade trees** in and around the new dogpark. Those accessible to dogs should be protected by fencing, to defend the trees from death by urine. Pursue organization of an associated **Dog Park volunteer support group** to help sponsor programs and special events, and raise funds for additional amenities.

- **Skatepark** Either renovate the skatepark equipment or replace the skatepark with another facility. (*Student focus groups wanted it removed.*) Alternatives to a skatepark might include an **outdoor fitness area**, **basketball courts** or **pickleball courts**.
In any event, remove the chainlink **fencing** around the skatepark. Either use the existing **concrete pad** to the east to expand the facility, or remove it.
Revise the **landscaping** and **pedestrian connections** to make the skatepark area feel less isolated.
Consider adding **lighting**.
Consider adding a **shade** structure or shade sails.
- **Landscaping**
Remove and properly dispose of **dead and diseased pine trees** and **declining ash trees**.
Prune the **memorial tree**, and the brush around the dedication plaque.
Plant a row of tall narrow trees, such as Crimson Spire Oak, between the west ball diamond outfield and the future south parking lot, to help **protect cars from fly balls**.
Remove the declining deciduous tree by the existing park sign. **Renovate the plant bed** to protect the evergreen tree, using a less problematic edging.
Remove the **tree row** between the skatepark and the picnic shelter.
- Plant a boundary of **native sedges and riparian plants along the drainage channel**, to simplify mowing and discourage visitors from approaching its edges.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Cherry Street Park

This 13-acre park is located in a residential neighborhood, adjacent to a South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad spur that dead-ends at the industrial district on the east side of Winfield. Cherry Street Park is just east of Albright Park, separated only by one quiet residential street and a single row of houses.

Parking The Park is served by two small 90-degree on-street parking lots along Cherry Street, one on either side of the entry sign. The north lot has 8 standard spaces; the south lot has 4 standard spaces and one ADA space. People also use 15th Avenue for parallel parking.



Sign Cherry Street Park has a masonry monument sign on its east side, facing Cherry Street. While reasonably attractive, it is not particularly readable unless you're directly in front of it.

Drainage A shallow drainage ditch runs from north to south through the western part of the Park. A swale running southwest from the western corner of 15th Avenue joins it at the railroad right-of-way. There is standing water in the southwestern corner of the Park, in spite of several drains and culverts.



Sidewalks The main sidewalk across the Park extends from the Cherry Street parking area east across the Park, then curves north to meet the eastern corner of 15th Avenue. It is lighted. A pedestrian bridge in good condition provides passage across the drainage ditch, and a culvert accommodates the swale.

Two north-south segments of sidewalk connect the main path to 15th Avenue, with a shorter east-to-west segment linking both of them to the playground.

Dog waste stations along the main path are a practical and welcome amenity.

A locked **electrical panel** is located near the middle of the Park, northwest of the restroom building.



Restroom and Drinking Fountain

Cherry Park's restroom is located just south of the main sidewalk, near the middle of the Park, conveniently close to the playground and the new basketball court. The drinking fountain, located just north of the restroom building, is fairly new and in good condition.



Picnic Shelters There are three mid-century modern style concrete center-post picnic shelters dispersed in the Park — one in the sunny northwest corner, one in the trees south of the restroom, and one in the shady southeast corner. None of them are convenient to parking or ADA accessible.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Playground Nicely shaded by mature trees, a modern playground unit is located just north of the main sidewalk, in the middle portion of the Park. Engineered wood fiber surfacing is reinforced with resilient mats in heavy use areas. There are two benches in the shade to provide seating for accompanying adults.

On the other side of the path are swings. A single frame supports 4 standard seats and 2 toddler seats. The area has an engineered wood fiber surface, heavily worn directly under each standard swing seat.



Baseball & Basketball There are two baseball practice fields in Cherry Street Park, each with a backstop. A newer basketball court, located near the western corner of 15th Avenue, is in good condition, but an older asphalt court in the southwestern corner of the Park is dilapidated and unusable.



Disc Golf Course Goals for a 9-hole disc golf course are scattered about the Park.

Furnishing Rectangular concrete pads here and there may once have had benches on them, but currently the only available seating in the Park is provided by the picnic tables in the three shelters, and the two benches by the playground.

Landscape Trees and turf are in generally good condition, and young trees have been planted to provide future shade.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040



Cherry Street Park

— aerial with existing facilities & future possibilities —

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

GOALS — CHERRY STREET PARK

- **Operations** Develop a process to allow families to conveniently rent a picnic shelter for a child's birthday party.
- **Parking** Develop additional parking, located to more conveniently serve the eastern half of the Park. Consider a 90-degree on-street parking lot along 15th Avenue, east of the new basketball court. Include at least one ADA van space.
- **Sign** Decide whether to maintain the Park's existing sign for nostalgia's sake, or replace it with one that reflects a system-wide standard and is more visible. If more parking is added off 15th Avenue, add a sign at that entry as well.
- **Drainage** Study the Park's drainage well enough to determine whether some of the existing culverts can or should be removed. Consider incorporating a **raingarden** in the southwestern corner of the Park as part of the drainage solution; include interpretive signage.
- **Restroom & Drinking Fountain** Update the restroom, and maintain the drinking fountain.
- **Basketball** Remove the old asphalt basketball court in the southwest corner of the Park. Properly maintain the newer basketball court. Eliminate double rims on the goals.
- **Playground** The playground equipment is generally in good condition. Some routine maintenance is currently required on the swings—painting, and seat replacement. Review the condition of the **surfacing**, relative to equipment fall height requirements. Where needed, replace engineered wood fiber surfacing with playground-grade artificial turf or poured in place surfacing.

- West of the current playground, add **fitness equipment** geared to teens and adults.
- **Splashpad or Spray Park** Add a small splashpad or spray park in the area east of the basketball court. Depending on its size, additional parking may be necessary off 15th Avenue.
- **New Loop Path** Develop a gently curved, meandering, **double-loop walking path** around the perimeter of the Park. A **bridge** or boardwalk over the drainage ditch would be necessary at the south edge of the Park. Ideally, provide **lighting**.
Use the path to provide an **accessible route** linking both parking areas to all the Park's facilities, particularly the picnic shelters.
Provide **dog waste stations** along any new pathways.
- **Seating** Add more seating in the Park, including ADA seating. Include some benches with arms and a center arm. Also include seating areas composed of a **bistro table** with 2 to 4 chairs, here and there in locations adjacent to a path, with shade and good views—for people who simply want to have a coffee or lunch in the Park, as opposed to a full-fledged picnic.
- **Connect Albright & Cherry Street** Consider contacting the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad to pursue an **easement for a pedestrian connection linking Albright and Cherry Street Parks**. The easement would have to be fenced, preferably with black, six-foot-high, low-maintenance metal fencing, and would need a defined crosswalk across Cherry Street.
- **Picnic Shelters** Preserve and maintain the iconic picnic shelters. Once they are on an accessible route, provide at least one accessible picnic table at each shelter.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

- **Baseball** Either upgrade the practice fields to meet modern requirements, or remove one or both sets of backstops and dugouts. Consider replacing the west diamond with a **youth soccer field**.
- **Landscape** Retain enough greenspace to maintain the Park's character.
Consider planting native ornamental grasses and wildflowers along the south side of the Park, to **screen the railroad tracks**.
Consider developing a **raingarden** in the southwestern corner of the Park, with interpretive signage.
Periodically **plant new trees** in the Park, in locations that shape spaces while maintaining vistas. Precise locations for new trees should be determined based on their function of shading or screening facilities.
- **Potential Vehicle Intrusion** A private garage backing up to the southeast corner of the Park has two garage doors on the back, which could provide vehicle access directly into the Park. Based on the turf condition by the garage, it is not currently a problem; however, it might someday become one. Consider blocking access now, while it's *not* an issue, with fencing, boulders, bollards, trees, or some combination of similar elements.

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Island Park

Island Park has been the site of community festivals and celebrations for generations, making it by far the city's most beloved park. Located at the north end of Main Street, this 41-acre park is well developed and heavily utilized. Island Park is adjacent to Timber Creek Nature Center to the east and the Aquatic Center to the south.

Oxbow Lakes The site of Island Park is bordered by a natural oxbow loop lake, formed when a circular meander of Timber Creek was cut off from the main flow by sediment deposits. Over time, oxbow lakes naturally fill in with sediment, so the channel which defines Island Park will need to be dredged periodically if it is to continue as a body of water.

Levee There is a levee along the south shore of Timber Creek, for the entire length of Island Park and beyond. The levee helps to protect not just the Park itself from flooding, but much of downtown Winfield as well. The maintenance road atop the levee also serves as part of the Park's pathway system.



Entry Sequence Main Street comes north out of downtown Winfield, curves northwest in order to bypass the Park's oxbow lake (becoming Welfelt Drive in the process), then continues north as Highway 77. As the road curves, the entry drive to Island Park continues straight north, still aligned with Main Street.

While locals are accustomed to the rather odd intersection that results, it can be confusing to visitors. Consider expanding the median island just south of the Park's entry drive, to help clarify the traffic pattern, and to provide a location for two more-visible Park identification monument signs.

New park identification signs for Island Park, the Aquatic Center, and the Farmers Market should be oriented so that they are clearly visible both to drivers headed north on Main Street and to southbound drivers on Highway 77.

Also add pavement markings and/or signage in the approach lane to help give northbound drivers more warning that they have to be in the left lane in order to stay on Highway 77.



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Between the Main Street curve and the bridge over the oxbow lake, the **entry drive** to Island Park is paved in red brick, and divided by a center median with trees. The entrance to the City's Aquatic Center is off the east side of the drive. A parking lot to the west of the entry drive is host to the community's Farmers Market each summer.

Just south of the bridge, the entry drive intersects with **Island Park Avenue**, which parallels the outer shore of the southern half of the oxbow lake. The west branch leads to a park maintenance building, and provides vehicle access to the levee road. The east branch leads to the Aquatic Center's north parking lot, then connects with the north end of Millington Street.

The **bridge** over the oxbow loop lake has two lanes for traffic, protected pedestrian sidewalks on both sides, and wall features of ashlar limestone on both ends.



Island Park entry drive



Pedestrian bridge

On the island portion of the Park, a one-way counter-clockwise **asphalt park road** has an outer loop and an inner loop, plus a short crescent drive serving the playground parking lot.

A **pedestrian bridge** connects the island to the small portion of the Park which lies east of the channel. A **loop drive** that extends northwest from Island Park Avenue provides vehicle access to that part of the Park, linking to the serpentine pedestrian path leading up to the levee trail, and also to the entrance for Timber Creek Nature Center.



Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Facilities Island Park has three large picnic pavilions and six small picnic shelters, restrooms, a playground, and an amphitheater. Smaller facilities include a fishing dock and a small bookwalk. Electrical **utilities** on the island portion of the Park are extensive, designed to support the *Isle of Lights* holiday event.

Community consensus in Winfield is that the main part of Island Park has been developed as much as it should be, and that the current amount of greenspace ought to be preserved in order to maintain the ambience of the Park. Any changes to this Park will be a matter of maintenance and improvements to existing facilities, rather than adding any significant new facilities.

Farmers Market West of the main entry drive, a parking lot which is adjacent to and clearly visible from Highway 77 is the site of Winfield's seasonal Farmers Market. Vendors set up portable shelters in rows in the parking lot.

This site is an ideal location for a **permanent open-air pavilion**, which would provide a more comfortable venue, with more of the amenities that attract both high-quality vendors and more customers. Such a structure could provide shade and shelter for an expanded Farmers Market, as well as similar activities such as artisan markets, craft fairs, art shows, vintage markets, flea markets, holiday markets or swap meets.



Existing sign & site



Typical market pavilion

A market pavilion should provide shelter from the weather for vendors' goods, ready access for vendor vehicles to their booths, and ample parking for customers. Ideally, it should have shade for visitors, lighting to support pre-opening setup on dark mornings, power outlets for vendors to use at need, and public restrooms available for both vendors and visitors. Some markets include extra features such as a demonstration kitchen, a small performance stage, or an outdoor dining area.

- [An Exploration of Permanent Farmers' Market Structures](#) is a 2014 Smith College report that includes case studies of seven successful farmers markets, organizational models, design options, estimates of start-up costs, economic impact data, an analysis of why markets fail, and an overview of federal grant programs.

GOALS – ISLAND PARK

- From middle school students: **Stock more fish.**
Improve drainage to eliminate muddy areas.
- Improve **ADA access and equipment** in the Park.
- Install better **bike racks** at destinations within the Park.
- Add a **temperature controlled storage room** to the **Amphitheater**, completing the original plans.
- Pursue development of a permanent **Market Pavilion** on the site of the current Farmers Market. Consider using a color and materials palette similar to that of the Island Park Amphitheater.
- Should **additional parking** need to be developed, consider expanding the Aquatic Center's south parking lot.
- As needed, **dredge the channel** defining the Island.
- Consider expanding the **median island** just south of the Park's entry drive, and adding two new signs.

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Tunnel Mill Park

Located south of the Fairgrounds and the historic Kickapoo Corral, and north of Highland Cemetery, Tunnel Mill Park is an isolated 15-acre parcel of public land that is bordered on almost all sides by the Walnut River. It is accessible only from the east via a dirt road that extends from the west end of 19th Avenue across a narrow neck of land to the Park.

The dam was originally built in 1872, to maintain reliable water levels to drive the water wheels that powered a flour mill. Adjacent to and named after the Tunnel Mill Dam, the Park provides scenic views of the Walnut River and the dam, and offers opportunities for fishing in the River.



Located within a loop of the Walnut River, Tunnel Mill Park is entirely in floodway – not in floodplain, but in floodway. FEMA considers "floodway" to be *"the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood"*.

In other words, this entire Park is *intended* to flood during any high-water event, in order to help protect other areas from flooding. Tunnel Mill Park does indeed flood frequently, and therefore is largely undeveloped and likely to remain so.

Tunnel Mill Park should be regarded primarily as a flood control element, secondarily as a wildlife area, and only to a minor degree as a recreational facility. Any improvements made in the Park must be designed to tolerate repeated flooding.

Fishing in the River, viewing the dam, and birdwatching are the primary activities in Tunnel Mill Park. Primitive camping is currently allowed, but has created problems; it will not be a permitted use in future.



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GOALS – TUNNEL MILL PARK

- **Realign drive** and establish **defined parking area**, to discourage long-term RV camping in the Park.
- **Revise regulatory signage** so camping is not permitted in the Park.
- **Dam Overlook** Develop a flood-proof viewing platform, using natural stones, with enough of a barrier between the platform and the water to allow visitors to get a good view of the dam and the rapids downstream in safety.
- **Improve signage**, including wayfinding signage at the east end of Tunnel Mill Drive, an entry sign where the Park begins, and an updated regulatory sign in the Park itself.
- **Birdwatching / Nature Trail** This Park has fresh water and a great deal of edge habitat (areas where mature trees are adjacent to sunny open fields) which attracts a wide variety of birds. Consider developing a looped pedestrian birding trail around the site.
- **Landscape** Institute a control program for the worst of the poison ivy and Johnson Grass infestations. Improve wildlife habitat by planting native trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials which are adapted for the conditions.



Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Small Parks

The six small parks in Winfield are Albright, Cochran, Hiatt Hills, Jaycee, Lions and Memorial Parks. Each of them is under three acres in size.

Albright Park

This 2.68 acre park is located in a residential neighborhood, adjacent to railroad tracks that serve the industrial district on the east side of Winfield and dead-end there. Albright Park is just west of Cherry Street Park, separated only by one quiet residential street and a single row of four houses.

Albright Park has no on-site **parking**. The Park has **playground equipment** in its northwest corner—a swing with two standard seats and a tot seat, one two-seat spring rider, and a merry-go-round — all very old but apparently well-used, based on the wear patterns in the deteriorated engineered wood fiber surfacing.



A **drinking fountain** north of the playground is old but still functional. A **trash receptacle** and a **bench** (the only seating available in Albright Park) are placed under trees next to John Street, just west of the playground. The **Park sign** is a basic wood-post-and-painted-board type.



An **emergency siren** is in Albright's northeast corner, next to three **tennis courts** which are in unplayably poor condition. There is some fencing in the southeast corner which may have been intended as a **backstop**, but which now serves no purpose.



The turf in the Park's open space is in good condition, and some new young trees have recently been planted southeast of the playground.

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GOALS — ALBRIGHT PARK

- **Sign** Install a new identification sign at the corner of John & 15th, visible from traffic in both directions on both roads. Protect and frame the sign with a landscaped plant bed.
- **Parking** Develop a defined on-street parking area off 15th Avenue or John Street, near the Park's identification sign. Include ADA parking, connected by a **looped accessible route** to the Park's facilities.
- Consider contacting the railroad to pursue an easement for a **pedestrian connection linking Albright and Cherry Street Parks**. The easement would have to be fenced, preferably with black, six-foot-high, low-maintenance metal fencing, and would need a defined crosswalk across Cherry Street.
- **Facilities** Rather than competing with the playground in Cherry Street Park, consider removing the old playground equipment, and focusing new facilities in Albright Park toward **adults and teens**.
Remove the old tennis courts. Install up to four lighted **pickleball courts** in the wind-sheltered eastern half of the Park, and plant a few more trees to their west. In the western part of the Park, install a lighted **basketball court** or two.
Restroom Construct a restroom building with one unisex stall and a utility space, between the pickle ball courts and the basketball courts.



Drinking Fountain Consider updating and relocating the drinking fountain, to be conveniently located to serve the new facilities.

- **Trees** Remove over-mature trees, and prune the rest. Add new trees as needed to provide wind-screening and shade around new facilities.
- **Landscape** Retain enough greenspace to maintain the Park's character. Consider planting a border of native ornamental wildflowers along the south side of the Park, to screen the railroad tracks.

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Cochran Park

This 1-acre park is located on the border between an urban residential neighborhood and the Main Street commercial corridor, just west of Wendy's.

There is one ADA-compliant **parking** space on the south end of Cochran Park, and 90-degree on-street parking available on the south side of 17th Avenue. On-street parking east of the alley is monopolized by the adjacent Ford dealership.

Cochran Park has **playground equipment** — a slide, and a swing with two standard seats — both aging but in good condition. The playground area has engineered wood fiber surfacing, which is slightly worn at the base of the slide, and completely worn away under the swings.



There are two picnic shelters with tables designed to be accessible, and a basketball court, all in good condition. The two massive concrete racquetball courts in the southeast corner of the Park are beginning to deteriorate.



Cochran has a fairly new two-station, ADA-compliant **drinking fountain** just west of the basketball court. The Park **sign** is a basic wood-post-and-painted-board type.



There is a masonry **planter** next to the drinking fountain. Some of the trees in the Park and in adjacent rights-of-way are over-mature, and one is a **hazard tree** which should be removed as soon as possible. Consider a fence or a row of narrow evergreens along the east side of the Park—to help contain stray basketballs, and **screen the view** of the Wendy's parking lot.

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GOALS — COCHRAN PARK

- Consider focusing new facilities in Cochran Park toward **teens**, providing activities & hang-out space.
- Include a **bicycle rack parking** area in the middle of the park, near the drinking fountain.
- **Lighting** Provide timer-controlled LED lighting to make the Park attractive and safe in the evenings.
- **Sign** Install a new identification sign in the southwest corner of the Park, at Manning & 17th—visible from traffic in both directions on both roads. Protect and frame the sign with a landscaped plant bed.
- **Parking** Develop more parking along the Park's south edge, off 17th Avenue. Protect the existing ADA parking space.
- **Sidewalks** Add a sidewalk link to the south picnic shelter.
- **Facilities** Maintain the existing picnic shelters, basketball court, and drinking fountain, which are all in good condition.

Remove the existing play equipment and surfacing. Install equipment designed for **active adventurous play**, and appropriate resilient surfacing. Consider including challenge elements such as an overhead spinner, slacklining anchors, a climbing wall or a zip line.

Examine options for the **racketball courts** — either renovating them for continued use, removing them, or remodeling them for some other purpose. (Middle school students want them to stay.)
- **Screening** Along the eastern perimeter of Cochran Park, particularly between the basketball court and the Wendy's parking lot, consider planting a low landscape buffer to contain stray basketballs, but maintain a view of the park from Main Street.
- **Trees** Remove the hazard tree and other over-mature trees. Prune remaining trees. Add new trees as necessary to provide shade and screening.

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Hiatt Hills Park

Constructed in 2007, this 2-acre park is in a residential subdivision west of the River. It has a concrete **parking lot** with four standard spaces and one van-accessible ADA space. The wooden Park identification **sign** is deteriorated.

An accessible route sidewalk connects the parking area to a picnic shelter and a playground. The **picnic shelter** has two ADA-accessible tables. The **playground** has a play unit with several slides, platforms, and other play elements on a surface that is part engineered wood fiber and part resilient tiles. The play unit itself is not ADA accessible.



With the exception of the park identification sign and some of the young trees, Hiatt Hills Park's existing facilities are generally still in very good condition. The playground surfacing may need to be upgraded in the next decade or so, depending on how much use it gets.

The southern two-thirds of Hiatt Hills Park is an **open field**, with turf in good condition and no trees. The open space has a number of berms that create multiple slopes—which are steep enough to make the area unsuitable for a practice sports field, but not steep enough to be useful for sledding. There is a water hydrant in the middle of the open space.

Some of the Park's recently planted **trees** are in poor condition, and should be replaced—ideally, with varieties better suited to the conditions. The **irrigation system** is not protected from vandalism. Valves near the parking lot are exposed, as is the hydrant in the middle of the field.



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GOALS – HIATT HILLS PARK

- Install lockable covers to protect exposed elements of the **irrigation** system from vandalism.
- **Sign** Remove the existing park identification sign, and add a new sign in the northeast corner of the Park, at Crestline & Grand. The new sign should be visible from traffic on both roads, and should be protected and framed with a landscaped plant bed.
- Add a **bicycle rack parking** area, on the southeast side of the sidewalk to the playground.
- **Trees** Remove those recently-planted trees that are in poor condition, and examine soil conditions in their vicinity. If necessary, replace debris fill with soil, and replace trees with more suitable species/varieties.
- **Open Space** Examine options for the open space in the southern two-thirds of the Park. Consider allowing turf in certain defined areas to remain unmowed, particularly on the berms.

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Jaycee Park

Jaycee Park is the northeastern portion of a City-owned parcel of land that also hosts a water tower and the Recreation Center. The area devoted to Jaycee Park is about 1.33 acres in size. The water tower is on high ground, on a wooded ridge which separates the Park in the east from the Recreation Center to the west.

The Park is in a mostly single-family residential neighborhood, though the multi-family Canterbury Heights low income senior apartments are adjacent to the south.

A dirt **parking lot** is on high ground in the northwest corner of the Park. Chainlink **fencing** along the Park's boundary at Simpson Avenue seems unnecessary and unwelcoming, although the fencing between the Park and adjacent residential properties may be appreciated by the neighbors.



Jaycee Park has an asphalt **basketball court** in the northeast corner. Both the surface and the baskets are in poor condition. The Park's slopes are used for **sledding** on those rare occasions when there is enough snow to allow it.

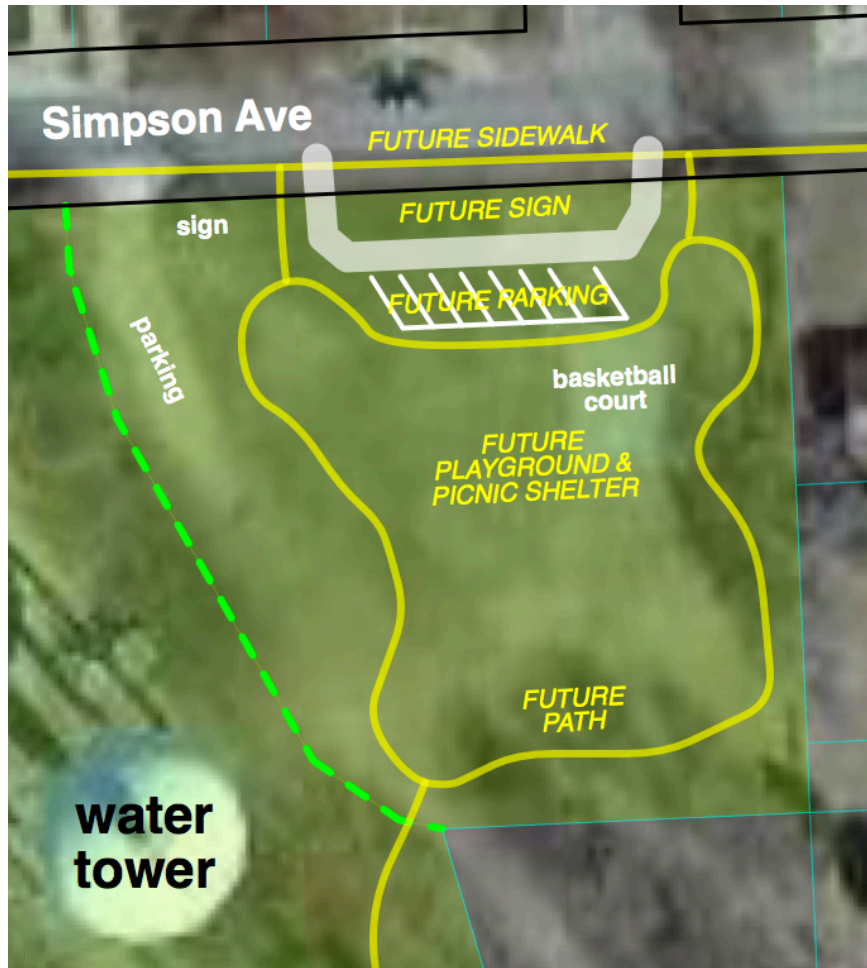


A dirt path leads from the Park into a wooded area on the north end of the Canterbury Heights property. The area is overgrown and unwelcoming, with poison ivy.



Two young **trees** have been recently planted near the north edge of the Park. **Invasive ailanthus trees should be removed and stump-killed**, especially the one growing *through* the fence near the Park **sign**.

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GOALS – JAYCEE PARK

- **Fencing** Remove the chainlink fencing along Simpson Avenue. Retain, and repair as necessary, fencing along the Park's east and west boundaries. To discourage park visitors from inadvertently trespassing onto the Canterbury Heights property, consider adding fencing along the south boundary.
- **Parking** Eliminate the existing gravel parking lot on the hill, and create a new small off-street parking lot farther to the east on flatter ground, with access from Simpson Avenue. Include an ADA space, with an accessible route sidewalk to any new facilities.
Add a **bicycle parking area** adjacent to the sidewalk which connects the parking area to any new facilities.
- **Sign** Remove the existing park identification sign. Add a new sign which is visible from both directions on Simpson Avenue. The sign should be protected and framed with a landscaped plant bed.
- **Facilities** Remove the existing dilapidated basketball court. Retain the sledding slopes; any new facilities should be constructed in the flatter northeastern portions of the Park.
Consider adding facilities which will **make Jaycee Park a true neighborhood park** for the northeast part of town. Include a **playground** and a **picnic shelter**. Both should be accessible. Additional options for Jaycee Park might include a new **basketball court**, **pickleball courts**, or an **outdoor fitness center**.
- **Path** Explore the possibility of creating a loop walking path in Jaycee Park, connecting to the Recreation Center, and if desired, to Canterbury Heights Apartments. Institute a control program for poison ivy along the path.
- **Trees** Remove invasive Ailanthus trees. Add new trees as appropriate to shade or screen any new facilities.

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Lions Park

This tiny park, the smallest in the Winfield park system, is only 0.64 acres in size. Located at the northwest corner of 13th Avenue and Bliss Street, in a residential neighborhood southeast of downtown, the Park has both open space and mature trees, including a dense tree row along its western boundary. It is named in honor of the *Lions Club* which helps support it.

When the following photos were taken in late 2019, Lions Park had chainlink fencing along its Bliss Street and 13th Avenue frontages, a scattering of playground equipment and benches, a fairly new drinking fountain, a typical wooden sign, and a lion sculpture. There was parallel parking available along the alley.



photos of Lions Park before renovations



*aerial of
Lions Park
before 2020
renovations*

In 2020, Lions Park was completely renovated. It now has a new concrete ADA parking space off the alley, sidewalks, an accessible picnic table, and play equipment with resilient artificial turf surfacing. The fencing along Bliss Street has been replaced with attractive metal fencing and landscaping. Of the original equipment, only the drinking fountain was retained, along with the lion sculpture, which has sentimental value.



photos of Lions Park after renovations

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Memorial Park

This urban 2-acre park lies on the eastern edge of downtown Winfield. The square site occupies an entire city block. Dedicated to military memorials, the Park is intensely valued by community members of all ages.

Dedicated in 1925, Memorial Park's original design was rigidly geometric, with a central obelisk on a circular plaza, and four lighted diagonal sidewalks running from the middle to each corner, dividing the Park into four symmetrical triangular segments. The obelisk honors America's war dead.

The Park's Vietnam War Memorial was later built in the west quarter of the Park. Its design carefully harmonizes with the original geometry of Memorial Park. Honoring the 777 servicemen and nurses from Kansas who were lost or missing in the Vietnam War, it is a smaller-scale replica of the Vietnam War memorial in Washington D.C.

A small 2002 memorial—dedicated to veterans, POW/MIAs, and women who served—is randomly placed in the north quarter of the Park, it includes three small stone monuments and a flagpole. Nearby, a VFW plaque honoring America's POW/MIAs is mounted on a concrete ground-level slab.

On the eastern edge of Memorial Park, one of five Kansas historical markers commemorates the approximate route of the **Black Dog Trail**. The Black Dog Band of the Osage Nation lived in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. Established by Chief Black Dog, who was born in about 1780 in the area that is now St. Louis, the Trail stretched for 200 miles from the area of Baxter Springs in Kansas, to the Great Salt Plains in Oklahoma.



Parking On-street parallel parking is available to the east, west and south of Memorial Park, and an on-street diagonal parking lot on the west side of Fuller offers another nearby parking option. No ADA parking spaces provide direct access to the Park.

Seating The only seating in Memorial Park is provided by two concrete-and-wood benches on the central plaza, and a "Proud to be a Veteran" concrete bench near the east sidewalk.

Landscape Each corner of Memorial Park has a pair of well-maintained **plant beds**, edged with short limestone walls. **Turf** is in good condition. The **trees** on site are generally fine mature specimens, though a few are over-mature, and there are some declining ash trees which should be removed.

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(LP indicates a lightpole.)

GOALS — MEMORIAL PARK

- Do needed **restoration maintenance** on the **Obelisk**.
- **Parking** Evaluate the option of creating a small dedicated on-street parking area with one or two ADA spaces, possibly adjacent to Andrews Street, across from the Braum's parking lot, where it will not interfere with views of the Park from adjacent historic homes. Divert the Park's perimeter sidewalk around the parking area, as necessary.

- **Signs** Locate a park identification sign in the middle of the Park's northern edge, oriented to be visible to traffic from both directions on 9th Avenue. This Park may warrant a sign design unique to Memorial Park, simple and fitting. Alternatively, consider the option of two smaller park identification signs, one at the northwest corner, and one near the parking area at the northeast corner.

- **Sidewalks** Make sure that the existing sidewalk network meets standards as an **ADA accessible route**. Consider some careful additions to the sidewalk network, to open up more of the greenspace for use and enjoyment.

A radius arc sidewalk centered on the obelisk would play off the existing geometry, provide some gently curving paths on the ground plane, and might help make the location of the 2002 POW/MIA Memorial make some sense. On the west side, straight paths extending from the radius arc could accommodate the Vietnam War Memorial.

- **Seating** Without compromising the dignity of the Park, provide some basic amenities to make people feel welcome to enjoy this lovely urban greenspace. Provide comfortable **chairs, bistro tables and trash receptacles** in a few carefully selected locations adjacent to the new sidewalk. Once better seating is available, remove the asymmetrically located and uncomfortable **benches** on the Obelisk plaza.
- **Trees** Remove declining ash trees. Plan to plant a new tree or two each decade, so the wonderful Memorial Park tree canopy is continually rejuvenated and never ages out.

• Policy Goals

Develop a **memorial tree policy**.

Develop **design standards** for any future memorials in Memorial Park, to protect the quality of the Park as a whole.

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New Parks & Facilities

Indoor Sports Facility To meet growing demand in Winfield over the next 20 years, a new indoor sports facility will be needed, to provide indoor basketball, pickleball, volleyball, racketball, and running track facilities for the community.

Such a facility should be located on a major road, with space for ample parking, yet be conveniently close to residential neighborhoods. It should not be developed in a floodplain. None of the City's existing parks would be a suitable location.

Highland Cemetery is located on a large parcel of City-owned land, much of which is not currently in use by the cemetery, nor likely to be needed for such use any time in the next century. A small portion of this parcel could provide an ample site for a new indoor sports facility, in a part of the City where future growth is expected to follow the development of the southwest bypass.

GOALS — WINFIELD PARKS SYSTEM

- **Seating** Add more bistro-size tables and chairs, where one or two people can sit and have coffee or eat lunch.
- Provide outdoor athletic facilities for solitary use, especially to engage kids who are not interested in team sports.
- Focus on developing programs and facilities to engage girls.
- Develop facilities to engage mid-adolescent to young adult age groups.
- Pursue acquisition of **new parkland** on Winfield's west side, in anticipation of future development in that area following construction of a southwest bypass.
- Pursue acquisition of **new parkland** on Winfield's northeast side.
- When reviewing **new subdivisions** for approval, always consider how they might be integrated into the parks and pathways system.

Pathway Network & Goals

Transportation systems involve more than just streets and highways. They work best when different modes of travel—by car, bus, bicycle, foot, airplane, or train—are interconnected.

A **pathway network** is that part of a balanced municipal transportation system which is focused on serving pedestrians and bicyclists. Such a network may include **sidewalks, bike lanes and routes, mixed-use paths**, and a variety of support accessories ranging from benches to bike racks to signs.

- **Bike lanes** are located on a street or its shoulder, and dedicated to bicycle use only. They are typically five feet wide, and defined with pavement markings.
- **Bike routes** are streets specifically intended for use by both cars and bicycles, designated with pavement markings and "Share the Road" signs.
- **Mixed-use paths** are separate from vehicle traffic lanes, and used by both pedestrians and bicyclists.



Bicycle and pedestrian pathway systems are most successful when they **interconnect residential neighborhoods to community destinations**, including schools, parks, churches, and downtown businesses.

Bike Racks If a pathway network is to serve as an alternative transportation option for cyclists, it must include parking facilities for bicycles. The design and placement of bike racks is covered in the [Furnishings & Lighting](#) section of the *Park Planning Principles* chapter of this Plan.

Streets are Part of the Pathway Network

The **right-of-way** for a typical street holds far more than just the street itself. In addition to traffic lanes, a right-of-way generally hosts drainage structures or ditches, underground and overhead utilities, street trees, and sidewalks.

Sidewalks, bike lanes and bike routes almost always share a right-of-way with a public street. Mixed-use paths may be located in street rights-of-way, or in abandoned railroad rights-of-way, drainage ways, on levees, or on public property such as parkland.

Sidewalks are intended primarily for pedestrians, though as a safety measure, young children riding bikes usually ride on sidewalks rather than streets. **Adult bicyclists are expected to ride on streets**, following the same rules of the road as those using motorized vehicles. **Mixed use paths** accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Achieving a successful pathway network in Winfield will necessarily involve **redesigning some of the City's streets** to better accommodate pedestrians and cyclists, along with cars. Drivers may be inconvenienced in this process, as their needs will no longer take sole priority; for instance, some on-street parking may need to be eliminated in order to make room for a bike lane.

Drivers can and will adapt to multi-modal transportation infrastructure, but **public engagement** in the process of developing the pathway system will be essential, in order to keep the community informed of what changes are coming, and why.

Every single street does not need to provide for every type of user, but a community's street **system** should serve the needs of all its citizens—including those who don't or can't drive cars.

Historic Overview

Community transportation systems were once built to support pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit systems (trolleys, buses, and local trains), as well as cars and trucks. But from the 1950s through the 1980s, when the interstate highway system was being built, almost all U.S. transportation funding went to new infrastructure for personal motorized vehicles. Most state and local funding followed suit.

Streets were designed with the central goal of maximizing speed and traffic volume for cars and trucks. They became more and more dangerous for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Interstate highways enabled suburban sprawl. Residential subdivision design favored large lots that increased the cost of sidewalks per household, compared to the smaller lots in traditional neighborhoods. Subdivision street layouts were designed to maximize cul-de-sacs, and to minimize connections to the outside world, making walking routes to any possible destination dauntingly long. As a result, suburban developments were frequently built with no sidewalks at all.

During the same era, as schools consolidated, after-school activities surged, and media sensationalized the risk of "stranger danger", parents began to chauffeur their children to and from school. As fewer and fewer children walked to school, the incentive to maintain and improve sidewalk systems diminished, and existing sidewalks were allowed to deteriorate.

By the 1990s, recognition finally began to dawn that we were losing something of great value, and that other modes of transportation, such as walking and biking, mattered. Since then, American communities have been slowly trying to chip away at that 40-year backlog of neglect, working to retrofit pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure back into rights-of-way that were designed with cars as their overriding focus.

Complete Streets

Street design philosophy is now based on the idea of **complete streets**, which recognizes that while rights-of-way are intended to serve drivers of motorized vehicles, they are also meant to serve other members of the public as well.

The complete streets planning concept calls for street design that utilizes the public right of way to support safe and comfortable travel by *all* users, of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, and motorists.

Complete streets include sidewalks with curb ramps, and good crosswalks. Some streets may also have curb extensions, crosswalk medians for pedestrian refuge, bike lanes or bike routes, or countdown signals. Amenities might include shade and benches for pedestrians, and bike racks. Complete streets may also include on-street parking, and bus stops or bus lanes.

What constitutes a complete street varies widely because they are always designed to fit a community's specific local needs.

For more information on complete streets, see:

- [National Complete Streets Coalition](#).
- USDOT's [Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center](#), for links to more resources on complete streets, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, e-scooters, e-bikes, and bike share programs.

*"The role of streets
is to build communities,
not the other way around."*

Gary Toth — Project for Public Spaces

Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040

Walkability & Bikeability

Cultural changes in America are making walkable neighborhoods highly desirable again. Property values in such places are rising, particularly where residential areas are within walking distance of shopping, restaurants, service businesses and entertainment.

Walkability and bikeability are now recognized as primary assets for enhancing quality of life and improving community health. In this highly mobile era, an excellent quality of life is essential, both for retaining young professionals, and for attracting new residents and new businesses to a community.

Quality of life describes the overall happiness and well-being of a person or a community. Factors that play a role include everything from housing, schools, and culture, to business and job opportunities, to recreational options. One of the most important factors in quality of life is physical and mental **health**.

Since the 1950s, planning decisions across the United States have produced unintended consequences for our physical health. Suburban sprawl and its associated car-dependence are now considered a major contributing factor to the current obesity epidemic in America.

In 1950, approximately 10% of American adults were obese, as measured by body mass index. By 2018, that number was 42%. Currently, about 1 in 5 American children are obese.

Obesity is a significant public and personal health problem, related to a number of serious chronic diseases—including diabetes, arthritis, hypertension, heart disease, and a variety of cancers.

As the American obesity epidemic becomes more severe, more communities are realizing the value of offering residents safe venues for **biking and walking, which are some of the very best and most widely accessible forms of exercise.**

Social connections, especially those with depth and continuity, are important to mental health. Sidewalks and pathways help **reduce social isolation and enhance a sense of community**, as people get to know their neighbors and their neighborhoods in a way not possible from the seat of a car.

Sidewalks and paths that support walking and biking for exercise and recreation also provide an **alternative transportation option**. For children who are too young to drive, for people unable to drive, and for those who simply prefer not to drive when they can avoid it—a sidewalk and pathway network offers an alternative way to safely get to where they want to go.

However, most people will not choose to walk or cycle unless they can do so safely and conveniently. To be well used, sidewalks and bike paths must be **well-designed and well-maintained**.

Walkability & Bikeability in Winfield

Winfield has the size, compactness, and grid-type street layout that give it the potential to be a very walkable community. The City also has an extensive network of existing sidewalks—but unfortunately, many of them are old and in need of repair.

Currently, the only mixed-use paths in the City are recreational. Located in parks (Black Creek, Cherry Street, the Fairgrounds, Broadway Recreation Complex and Island Park), they are not connected to any other community destinations, and so do not function as a transportation system.

A community-wide network of well-maintained sidewalks, bicycle lanes and routes, and mixed-use paths, helps to encourage physical activity, promote good health, and nurture social connections. It also serves as an alternative, and more environmentally sustainable, transportation option.

Investment in a pathway network is an investment in Winfield's walkability, its bikeability, its quality of life, and its future.

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Winfield has long had a goal of making the community safer and more inviting for pedestrians and bicyclists. Over the years, a number of plans have been developed to help achieve this goal – the most recent, in 2010.

MKEC Transportation Assessment Study 2010

A 2005 path system master plan for Winfield was updated by MKEC Engineering Consultants, Inc., in a 2010 study entitled *Assessment & Maintenance Plan for Transportation Networks – City of Winfield, Kansas*. While it focused mainly on a block by block assessment of the condition of the City's 92 miles of streets, the study also addressed sidewalks and paths.

In 2010, there were only about 2.7 miles of relatively new concrete paths in the City, mostly in Island Park and in the Broadway Recreation Complex. The rest of the sidewalk system had been constructed by previous generations, during an era when most children regularly walked to school.

The older sidewalks were inventoried as part of the street assessment. Then a targeted inspection was conducted of 5.3 miles of sidewalk pavement and wheelchair ramps along College Street, 9th Avenue and Millington Street.

Based on this sample, it was estimated that Winfield had a total of about 67 miles of paved public sidewalk. Of that total, it was estimated that about 125,000 linear feet of sidewalks and 2,200 curb ramps across the City were in need of repair, at an estimated cost of more than seven million dollars.

The study recommended a **Sidewalk Repair Program** with a beginning annual budget of \$100,000, which would allow repair of about 1800 linear feet of sidewalk and 30 ramps each year. Unless such a budget were significantly increased over the long term, it would require 70 years just to clear the backlog of needed repairs.

The study also made recommendations for a **hike/bike pathways network**, separate from the sidewalk system, linking destinations throughout Winfield. Future pathway locations were proposed, all on public land such as drainage ways, levees, or parks, or in railroad corridors which might be available for railbanking at some future date.

Options for different types of pathway connections were described, including multi-use pathways, railtrails, sidepaths, bicycle lanes, road diets, shared roadways, bicycle routes and paved shoulders. A budget was not estimated for such a pathways network, since costs would vary widely depending on the types of options selected for each link in the system.

Options for establishing priorities for implementation of a pathways network were discussed, including the possibility of linking the most important destinations first, or instead applying funds to less expensive solutions first.

The study also provided information on grant opportunities for pathways projects, that were available at the time.

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Sidewalks

While public support for an excellent sidewalk system is apparently very strong in Winfield, a number of questions on sidewalks were included in the 2019 Winfield Community Questionnaire in order to see if that perception was correct.

Residents were asked to name the **number one improvement to Winfield** that they would like to see, and many responded with requests for more and better sidewalks and bicycle paths.

Other questions were more specific.

Does anyone in your household walk to work or school?					
Regularly (4 times/week or more)		Occasionally		Never	
96	11%	172	19%	640	70%

Only 11% of Questionnaire respondents said they walk to work or school regularly, while 70% said they never do. This result may stem from both reluctance to risk hazardous sidewalks and street crossings, and a general midwestern cultural assumption that driving is the only way to get anywhere.

Paying for Sidewalks

Since the 1950s, American states and cities have regularly subsidized car usage, while regarding sidewalks as an unnecessary frill. Now that the importance of walkability is being reevaluated, communities are beginning to treat sidewalks as essential infrastructure, to the same degree as streets.

Currently, there is no national standard for how sidewalk repair and installation projects are paid for, and sidewalk policies show no pattern based on region or party-politics. While public streets and parking areas are regularly funded with tax dollars, sidewalk funding is a patchwork of solutions that varies from city to city.

Some cities maintain the entire public right-of-way, including sidewalks, as a municipal responsibility. Some cities require adjacent homeowners to foot the entire bill for sidewalk repair or installation, under a deadline and the threat of substantial daily fines for non-compliance. Other cities split the difference, with the city at large and the adjacent homeowner each paying a percentage of the cost; the percentages vary from city to city.

When Winfield residents were asked which payment method they preferred to see implemented in Winfield, half thought the cost should be split, nearly half thought the City at large should pay for sidewalks, and only 3% of respondents thought that adjacent landowners should have to pay for public sidewalks.

Should each sidewalk project be paid for by the City, by the adjacent landowner, or by a share-the-cost split?					
City		Landowner		Cost Split	
430	47%	23	3%	454	50%

Cities that have **adjacent homeowners pay the full cost** for sidewalks are typically trying to keep property taxes down. But when homeowners pay directly for pedestrian infrastructure, there are no economies of scale in the construction or repair of the sidewalk system, significantly increasing its overall cost. This method also costs heavily in staff time for implementation and enforcement, it makes quality control challenging, and it can expose residents to legal liabilities. Also, it inevitably generates ongoing public resentment, often making elected leaders reluctant to have sidewalks installed at all.

Full city funding and **cost-split** programs can both be successful. Deciding which method will work best in Winfield is a matter of both philosophy and financial analysis. If a sidewalk system is a transportation network that benefits the entire community, should the entire community pay for it? And, taking staff time into account, which method will be the most cost-effective?

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In Winfield, there is strong public support for dedicating a reliable and consistent funding stream to sidewalks, with 95% of respondents to the 2019 Community Questionnaire supporting the idea of an annual **City budget allocation** for sidewalk improvement and expansion projects.

Should the City allocate a regular annual budget to fund sidewalk improvement and expansion projects?					
Yes		No		I Don't Know	
736	95%	40	4%	139	15%

Additional funding to improve and expand Winfield's sidewalk system was supported by 84% of the respondents to the Questionnaire.

Would you support additional funding to improve and expand Winfield's sidewalk system?					
Yes		No		I Don't Know	
633	84%	122	16%	162	18%

Sidewalk Policies

Many of Winfield's existing sidewalks are in need of repair, and some rights-of-way do not have sidewalks at all. Results of the Community Questionnaire indicate very strong public support for sidewalk policies that will work to improve and expand Winfield's sidewalk system.

Municipal sidewalk policies should stipulate an ongoing program to properly **maintain existing sidewalks**, provide a means to **retrofit new sidewalks into existing neighborhoods** where they were never built, and address sidewalk construction in **new development and remodeling projects**.

Every sidewalk policy document should incorporate the need for community-wide **ADA compliance**. Accessibility makes the system function better for everybody, and reduces potential liability for the City.

Incorporating **high standards of construction** in a sidewalk policy's design standards will help keep life-cycle costs down, reducing the system's future maintenance load.

Winfield could require that all **municipal street construction projects include new or repaired sidewalks** in their scope. While this will marginally raise the cost of each street project, it generally results in a lower cost-per linear-foot for sidewalks, since the construction crew and equipment are already mobilized and on site. Over the long term, it would save tax dollars.

The City may choose to establish a policy requiring **sidewalks in new residential or commercial developments**, a concept supported by 92% of Winfield Questionnaire respondents.

Should new residential or commercial development in Winfield be required to include sidewalks?					
Yes		No		I Don't Know	
743	92%	66	7%	111	12%

Such a policy may require that sidewalks be paid for as a **developer-funded improvement**, which would not be a competitive disadvantage for the developer, so long as the policy applies to *all* developers. Sidewalks would increase the value of the completed development, an advantage to both the developer and the community.

Sidewalk policies should also establish the **priorities** that will be used to determine which areas of the City get their existing sidewalks repaired first, or new sidewalks installed where there are none. Though some flexibility is essential, strive in general to prioritize urban centers first, then school neighborhoods second, and the areas around social service providers third.

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Sidewalk Design

Well-designed sidewalks encourage more people to walk—and more pedestrians mean that streets are activated both socially and economically.

Sidewalk design is concerned with elements beyond the dimensions of the concrete strip that people walk on—it deals with the entire area between the street curb and the edge of the right-of-way, and even beyond. For design purposes, this area is generally divided into several zones, each serving a different purpose.

The **pedestrian zone** is the actual pedestrian path—it is what people generally think of, when they think of "sidewalk". The **furnishing zone** is the area between the sidewalk and the street curb. The **frontage zone** is what lies between the sidewalk and adjacent buildings.

The **pedestrian zone** is the sidewalk itself, the route on which people walk. Sidewalks must be clear of all obstacles, from the ground plane up to at least seven feet in height. They should incorporate curb ramps with tactile surfaces, and have slopes and cross-slopes that provide good drainage, yet meet ADA requirements. As a rule, sidewalks should be installed on both sides of a street.

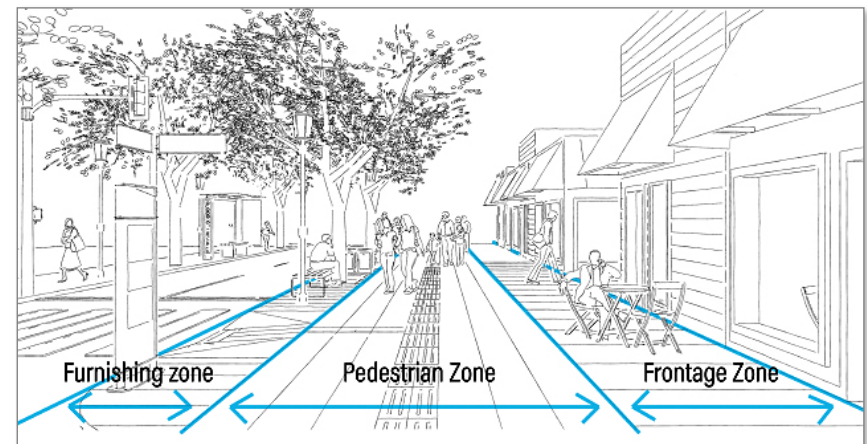
- In residential neighborhoods, the sidewalk is typically a concrete strip, 4 inches thick and at least 5 or 6 feet wide, parallel to the street, and with its outer edge adjacent to the right-of-way boundary.
- In urban areas, the pedestrian zone is typically 8 to 12 feet wide, to accommodate higher volumes of pedestrian traffic. The paving material may extend into adjacent zones, so the pedestrian zone may incorporate joint patterns or ornamental paving to help define its edges.

The **furnishing zone** is the part of the right-of-way between the sidewalk itself and the street curb. It goes by various names, including planting strip and tree lawn.

- In residential neighborhoods, it may contain mostly driveway entries, turf and street trees, along with utility poles, lightpoles, and an occasional traffic sign or fire hydrant.
- In urban areas, it is the place where all the untidy essentials of urban streets are located—including utility poles, traffic signal poles, lightpoles, manholes, street signs, fire hydrants, drainage structures, and so on. It also accommodates driveway entries, trash receptacles, bike racks, landscaping and street trees.

The **frontage zone** is that portion of the sidewalk in urban areas which serves as the transition between the public pedestrian zone and privately-owned building facades. It provides space for people to negotiate building entrances, to socialize without disrupting the flow of those walking, and to window shop.

The frontage zone is intended to accommodate those elements of a streetscape that enliven urban street life—like colorful awnings, benches, planters, sidewalk dining tables, newspaper kiosks, and even sandwich-board signs.



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More information on the principles of sidewalk design is widely available, including on the following websites:

- [Designing for Pedestrian Safety / Sidewalk Design](#), a presentation from the Federal Highway Administration's Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center.
- [Sidewalk Design Guide](#), from the National Association of City Transportation Officials.
- An overview of [8 Principles to Better Sidewalks](#) on the CityFix website, and the complete report at [The 8 Principles of Sidewalks](#).

GOALS FOR SIDEWALKS

- Incorporate **complete streets** principles in Winfield's rights-of-way, particularly downtown, in the Baden Square area, and in neighborhoods around schools, the College, and the Hospital.
- Determine whether sidewalks in Winfield can be most cost-effectively paid for with **full city funding** or a **cost-split** program.
- Establish **sidewalk policies** for the City of Winfield that will work to improve and expand Winfield's sidewalk system.
- Dedicate an **annual City budget allocation** for sidewalk improvement and expansion projects.
- Begin a program of **repairing existing sidewalks**, as needed, in targeted locations that connect neighborhoods to community destinations, including downtown, Baden Square, schools, parks, the College, and the Hospital.

Bike Lanes & Bike Routes

While sidewalks in Winfield easily have the potential to provide pedestrians with access to neighborhoods and destinations throughout the city, the community's bicycle facilities are currently very limited. Winfield's existing mixed-use paths are in several parks, in disconnected segments, and its streets are not designed with bicycle use or safety in mind.

In order to create a bikeable network in Winfield, on-street bike lanes and perhaps some bike routes will be essential.

Many city streets have the capacity to safely support bicycle facilities, with minimal redesign. In many cases, new pavement markings and signage may be enough to achieve the transition. Using a careful selection of such existing streets, a bikeable pathway network can be developed that connects neighborhoods to community destinations, and to Winfield's existing mixed-use paths.

Bike Lanes Installed on a street or its shoulder, a bike lane is typically 5 feet wide, and located between a motor vehicle traffic lane and the gutter or road edge. Ideally, bicycle traffic should flow in the same direction as adjacent vehicle traffic, with one bike lane on each side of a two-way street, or one bike lane on the right side of a one-way-street.

Two-way bike lanes may work in some situations, where they can be protected from vehicle traffic by a lane of on-street parallel parking, or by bollards or other physical barriers. When unavoidable, contra-flow bike lanes are occasionally used.



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Bike lanes that are defined solely with pavement markings work best on streets with a speed limit lower than 35 miles per hour, low traffic volume, limited truck traffic, and little parking turnover. On streets where such conditions do not apply, more substantial separation is needed between the bike lane and vehicle traffic.

Several strategies are commonly used to **make room for bike lanes on existing streets**. Sometimes a four-lane street is reduced to three lanes (two traffic lanes and a continuous turn lane in the middle). Sometimes an on-street parallel parking lane can be eliminated. In particularly tight rights of way, conversion to a one-way street may allow a traffic lane to be eliminated. With any of these strategies, additional space can be gained simply by narrowing traffic lanes, which is a helpful traffic calming measure in its own right, especially on streets with bicycle lanes.

Bike Routes Designated with "Bike Route" and "Share the Road" signs, and often with pavement markings called sharrows, bike routes are streets specifically intended for simultaneous use by both motor vehicles and bicycles.



Bike route designations are meant to help bicyclists find safer streets, and to remind drivers to give cyclists a little more space when passing. However, bike routes do not increase bicycle use or improve bike safety to the same degree as bike lanes.

While bike lanes identify road space that is reserved for cyclists, bike routes require bicyclists and drivers to *share* the same lane. They only work if drivers are educated to understand what bike route signs mean, and are willing to recognize that bicyclists also have a right to the road.

Because the success of bike routes depends on changing driver attitudes and behavior, they **should never be used in places where it is possible to install bike lanes instead**. Nevertheless, bike routes can still serve an important role, particularly when they are the only available solution to provide a crucial link in a pathway network.

GOALS FOR BIKE LANES & BIKE ROUTES

- Prioritize **ADA accessibility in the vicinity of the Hospital, Clinic and Baden Square**, with improvements to sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks.
- Repair and install **pedestrian-activated crossing signals** at Main & 9th, Main & 10th, and 9th & Andrews (at Braum's).
- Prioritize the streets with proposed bike lanes, establishing short-term, mid-term, and long term goals for constructing the bike lane system.
- Select a pilot project, develop a budget, identify funding, implement a public engagement process, and begin construction of a pair of **demonstration bike lanes** in Winfield. Evaluate the process before implementing additional projects.
- Coordinate with KDOT to pursue the option of reducing the center median on the Highway 77 south River bridge, and adding pedestrian paths and bike lanes at the sides.

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Mixed-use Paths

Pathways intended for pedestrians and bicyclists that are completely separated from street traffic lanes are called **mixed-use paths**. They may be constructed on public land, in street rights-of-way, on levees, along drainage routes, in abandoned railroad-right-of-way, or on parkland.

Because they are separated from motor traffic, mixed-use paths are more comfortable for users, and are therefore often used for recreation as much as transportation.

When lightly used, a single paved mixed-use path can safely serve both pedestrians and bicyclists. As use increases, it may become necessary to install pavement markings to separate walkers from cyclists. In places where such paths are very heavily used, they are sometimes doubled, with a dedicated pedestrian path and a dedicated bike path running parallel along the same right-of-way, separated by a landscaped median.



Winfield's primary existing mixed-use path is located along the levees in Island Park. Sidewalks and paths that function to some degree as mixed-use paths are located in Cherry Street Park, Broadway Recreation Complex, and the Fairgrounds. An existing path in Black Creek Park is in such disrepair that it is not useable by cyclists.

GOALS FOR MIXED-USE PATHS

- Consider the possibility of a mixed-use path on the levee at the Fairgrounds.

Proposed Pathway System Map

In the decade following the 2010 MKEC Transportation Assessment Study, little progress was made on the goals expressed for Winfield's sidewalks and bicycle paths.

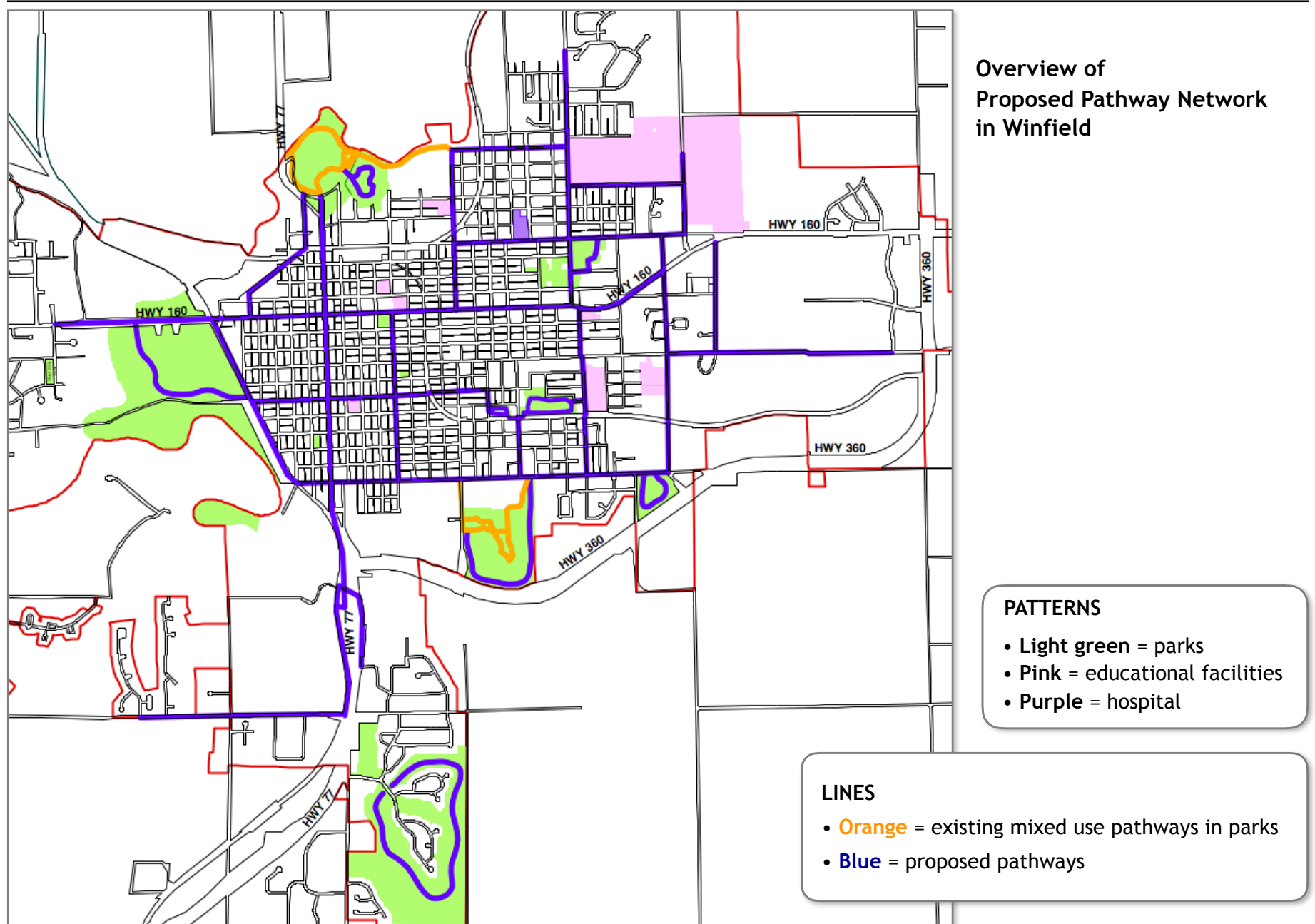
But in 2020, active transportation options have become a much higher priority—because quality of life is now recognized as a crucial economic driver, walkability is known as a key factor in community health, and the need to reduce our carbon footprint has become critical.

The **diagram on the following page shows the proposed pathway network** which was generated during the course of developing this Plan. It includes some, but not all, of the routes proposed in the 2010 MKEC study, as well as some routes that were not suggested by MKEC.

Proposed routes for pedestrians and bicyclists are intended to **make sure that most houses in Winfield are within three or four blocks of a path**, to provide reasonably **direct routes across town** for pedestrians and cyclists, and to **ensure good connections to downtown businesses, Baden Square, William Newton Hospital, and all the schools and parks in Winfield.**

It will take some time—and resources, and patience, and persistence—for the City to complete the pathway network described in these diagrams. In the meantime, **every planning decision should be made with an eye toward supporting the future development of Winfield's bicycle and pedestrian pathway network.**

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Plan Implementation

This *Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation* is a tool for use by Winfield's community leaders. It can:

- Provide baseline data on existing parks facilities.
- Offer direction for City officials and staff as they develop future parks facilities.
- Communicate Winfield's parks development plans to the community.
- Expand funding opportunities, since many grants require a master plan as a prerequisite.
- Help meet Winfield's community planning goals.

At the heart of this Plan are its goals – goals which express the needs and wishes of this community for the future of Winfield's park system. But goals are just dreams on paper until they are actually implemented. Goals will become reality only with **organization and leadership** from City staff and civic leaders.

As each goal is addressed, an action program will need to be developed for its implementation. An **action program** is a way to make sure that goals turn into reality, by describing specific tasks that must be achieved in order to reach each goal. To be effective, an action program must include clear-cut implementation information for each goal:

- **Define the tasks** necessary to achieve the goal.
- **Determine who is responsible** for making sure each task is achieved.
- Set a **schedule** and a **deadline**.
- **Assign resources** (funding, staff, equipment, etc.) sufficient to achieve each task.
- **Establish communication hierarchies** (Who needs to know what, when?).

Adoption & Amendments

The first step in implementation of this Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation 2020-2040 is for the City Commission to approve and adopt it. Proposals to update or amend the Plan may originate from City staff, the Park Board, the Planning Commission or the Governing Body. Proposed amendments must be reviewed by the Park Board and Planning Commission, who then make a recommendation to the City Commission, which makes the final decision on approval.

The Parks Master Plan was developed simultaneously with an update to Winfield's [Comprehensive Plan](#), but it is **not intended to be adopted as an element of the *Comprehensive Plan***. Instead, it should be adopted by the Governing Body as an independent City document. This will allow more flexibility in the implementation of the Parks Plan, since updates and revisions will not need to follow the detailed and statutorily-regulated process that is required for any change at all to a comprehensive plan or its elements.

Annual Review

This *Winfield Master Plan for Parks, Trails & Recreation* should be reviewed annually—first by City staff, then by Park Board members, and finally by the Planning Commission. Schedule the annual review for the same month each year, ideally in early winter, if Commission and Board agendas allow.

An annual review can identify which projects have been completed, which are underway, and which are next up for implementation—a yearly reminder of progress that helps to keep the whole process of plan implementation on track.

Each yearly review should reassess project priorities. Factors such as funding availability, site constraints, or phasing considerations will affect the details of implementation over the course of the next 20 years — yet so long as the fundamental intent is achieved, this *Master Plan* will have served its primary purpose.

Priorities

In this *Master Plan*, concept plans for each park provide an overview of projects which might be developed in Winfield's park system. When a number of major projects are proposed, prioritizing them over time helps to spread out the costs, and maintain a sustainable rate of investment in the park system.

City leaders, utilizing their knowledge and understanding of the public interest in the community, will decide the order in which these projects are developed.

Priorities will be determined by fulfilling highest community needs first, as well as on budget availability and practical sequencing requirements. Priorities may be applied both to development within each park, and to each park in relation to the others.

Priorities for a twenty-year plan are typically categorized as:

- **Short-term** — within 5 years
- **Mid-term** — 5 to 10 years
- **Long-term** — 10 to 20 years

Priorities will undoubtedly be revised and adapted over the course of this Master Plan's implementation, reflecting changing community expectations, and changes in opportunities and constraints that will occur over the next 20 years. Such revisions are normal and expected, and should cause no problems so long as they are based on a solid understanding of how the various parks and park facilities balance each other within the system as a whole.

Staffing & Operations

Selecting parks facilities that require less staff time, in management or in maintenance, contributes to the economic viability of the park system. Investing in good design and high quality materials results in long-term maintenance savings.

As each project approaches implementation, staff time will have to be dedicated to **project design**, as staff members help to make decisions on scope and materials—a necessary precursor for development of accurate budget projections. Later, when a project is built, staff will have to be involved in **construction supervision**.

Many of the goals listed in this Plan will not notably increase ongoing operational responsibilities. However, some proposed facilities will likely require additional staff and operational funding, a factor which must be taken into account when budgeting for new development.

Funding

Funding the development and operation of a park system is a challenge for every community, for parks must compete for City dollars with other public needs. But parks are worthy of support, and will return value on investment for the community.

The Winfield park and recreation system has many demands on its resources. Existing facilities must be well maintained, and new facilities should be periodically developed to continue fulfilling patrons' highest priority interests. The cost of the park system must remain within a budget that respects not only capital costs and program expenditures, but also ongoing maintenance and staffing requirements. The park system should have enough land to meet current open space requirements, as well as the financial ability to make property acquisitions to answer future needs.

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Public funding sources may include local capital improvement funds, bond referendums, or state and federal grant programs. Federal and state grants are often matching grant programs, and require partial local funding of each project. Park systems may also be able to generate income through facilities rental, naming programs, or other entrepreneurial activities.

Private Funding Sources

Parks have an advantage over most other public services—they can and do compete successfully for private funding. While most people are not inclined to donate to a government, many will happily support public parks through a nonprofit organization.

Private funding sources may include grants from foundations, land acquisition with the help of land trusts, or corporate sponsorships for projects or special events.

- [KABOOM!](#) is a national nonprofit that can help fund community-build multigenerational playgrounds in neighborhoods facing disinvestment.
- The PetSafe annual [Bark for Your Park](#) competition helps communities build or revitalize dog parks.

Dedicating some staff time or hiring a professional grant writer to produce grant proposals can produce significant financial benefits for the parks system. While some grants are available only to governmental entities, others are available exclusively to private nonprofits—so having a strong and active partnership between the City and a local parks support nonprofit organization offers access to the greatest range of potential funding opportunities.

Other partnerships—with the County, the School District, the Recreation Commission, the Legacy Regional Community Foundation, the corporate community, developers, nonprofit organizations, and community volunteers — may enable other funding options.

Volunteers

Dedicating some staff time to providing support and liaison with a parks volunteer nonprofit organization can result in donated work-hours, positive financial benefits for parks projects and programs, expanded grant opportunities, and increased community involvement and public support for the park system.

For information on developing volunteer organizations, see:

- The Nature of Cities / Opportunities and Challenges in Working with Volunteers in Local Parks.
- The National Association of Parks Foundations / What is an Optimally-Functioning Friends Group or Park Foundation?.
- National Recreation and Park Association / Park Advocate Handbook.
- Arbor Day Foundation —[Alliance for Community Trees](#)

Information Resources

As each park development project in Winfield is implemented, more detailed and current information on the value of parks may be needed to encourage public support for the project. A variety of information resources, particularly from the Trust for Public Land (TPL), offer helpful background information and parks data.

- TPL / [Center for City Park Excellence](#)
- TPL / [Creating & Funding Parks](#)
- TPL / [Economic & Health Benefits of Parks](#)
- City Parks Alliance / [Active Parks, Healthy Cities](#)
- Project for Public Spaces / [Parks](#)

Appendix 1: Consolidated Tables of Goals

Winfield's park system should be both environmentally and economically sustainable, enhance residents' health and social connections, be accessible to all, reflect Winfield's character and identity, and contribute to the community's quality of life. When choices must be made among the many goals mentioned in this Plan, the available options should each be assessed based on how well they contribute to these overarching goals.

Resources of time, energy, and funding are never ample enough to allow every goal to be achieved immediately. In addition, some goals must necessarily be accomplished in a specific sequence. Therefore, **goals are prioritized** as intended to be achieved within a short-term, mid-term, or long-term time frame relative to the 20-year Planning Period. Other goals are ongoing, and will need to be addressed on a continuing basis.

O = Ongoing goal

S = Short-term: Within 5 years

M = Mid-term: Within 5 to 10 years

L = Long-term: Within 10 to 20 years

The following tables contain a consolidated list of all the goals mentioned in other parts of this Plan, repeated here as a convenient aid for City leaders. Tables are categorized as follows:

- Policies & Operations
- System-wide Goals
- Landscaping
- Trees
- Sidewalks & Pathways / General
- Winfield City Lake

Special Use Facilities

- Baden Square
- Broadway Recreation Complex
- Joe Thornton Recreation Center
- Quail Ride Golf Course
- Timber Creek Nature Center
- Winfield Aquatic Center
- Winfield Fairgrounds

Large Parks

- Black Creek Park
- Cherry Street Park
- Island Park
- Tunnel Mill Park

Small Parks

- Albright Park
- Cochran Park
- Hiatt Hills Park
- Jaycee Park
- Memorial Park

Lions Park was completely renovated as this Plan was being written, and so is not included in the tables of goals.

GOALS – Policies & Operations	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Memorials				
Develop a memorial tree policy , particularly for Memorial Park .		○		
Develop design standards for any future memorials in Memorial Park , to protect the quality of the Park as a whole.			○	
Sidewalks				
Establish sidewalk policies for the City of Winfield that will work to improve and expand Winfield's sidewalk system.		○		
Determine whether sidewalks in Winfield can be most cost-effectively paid for with full city funding or a cost-split program.		○		
Dedicate an annual City budget allocation for sidewalk improvement and expansion projects.		○		
Linking Albright & Cherry Street Parks				
Consider contacting the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad to pursue an easement for a pedestrian connection linking Albright and Cherry Street Parks . Once acquired, the easement would have to be fenced, preferably with black, six-foot-high, low-maintenance metal fencing, and would need a defined crosswalk across Cherry Street.	○			
Investigate Encroachment				
Survey Winfield Aquatic Center site boundaries to determine if the parking lots of neighboring commercial buildings on Main Street encroach on park property. If encroachment is confirmed, consider next steps.				○
Operations				
Develop a process to allow families to conveniently rent a picnic shelter for a child's birthday party , particularly at Cherry Street Park .		○		
Pursue organization of a Dog Park volunteer support group to help sponsor programs and special events, and raise funds for additional amenities.		○		

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GOALS – System-wide	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Parkland Acquisition				
Pursue acquisition of new parkland on Winfield's west side, in anticipation of future development in that area following construction of a southwest bypass.	○			
Pursue acquisition of new parkland on Winfield's northeast side.	○			
Consider pursuing options to expand the Broadway Recreation site by acquiring additional adjacent property.	○			
Consider vacating the northern part of Millington Street , to allow more flexibility in the design of any future expansion to the Aquatic Center and associated parking. The vacated street right-of-way would add 0.88 acres to the existing Aquatic Center site, connecting it to its logical expansion zone.		○		
When reviewing new subdivisions for approval, always consider how they might be integrated into the parks and pathways system.	○			
Facilities for Engaging New Users				
Diversify seating options – add bistro-size tables and chairs, where one or two people can sit and have coffee or eat lunch.	○			
Provide outdoor athletic facilities for solitary use , especially to engage kids who are not interested in team sports.	○			
Develop programs & facilities to engage mid-adolescent to young adult age groups, especially girls .	○			
Green Infrastructure				
Where appropriate, consider incorporating permeable pavements, raingardens or bioswales into the park system, both to aid in handling stormwater runoff, and to act as demonstration projects to inform residents about green infrastructure solutions.	○			

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GOALS – Landscaping	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Weed Control				
Institute an ongoing weed control program , especially for poison ivy , sandburs and stickyweed near paths and picnic areas in the parks. Special focus on the path connecting Jaycee Park to the Recreation Center!	○			
Native Plants				
Reduce use of non-native trees, shrubs, and turf. Use native plants (but maintain compatibility with neighborhood characteristics).	○			
Grasses & Wildflowers				
Use ornamental grasses & native wildflowers as settings for park identification signs.			○	
Dedicate some areas to native grasses and wildflowers for butterfly gardens .				○
Turf				
Institute an ongoing turf improvement program in the parks.	○			
Consider buffalograss for lower-traffic turf areas (not for playing fields). When appropriate, replace bermudagrass with buffalograss .	○			

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GOALS – Trees <i>(Part 1 of 2)</i>	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
General				
Develop a list of acceptable tree species and varieties to be planted in the parks. Begin with recommendations listed in the document " Preferred Trees for South Central Kansas ", produced by the Kansas Forest Service.		○		
Consider instituting a municipal tree farm.		○		
Continue to promptly remove and properly dispose of pine trees as they succumb to pine wilt and/or pine tip moth, and ash trees infested with emerald ash borer.	○			
Plant replacement trees in the parks <i>before</i> old trees have to be removed.	○			
As new facilities are added in the parks, add new trees as appropriate for shade, screening, or as ornamental accents.	○			
Baden Square				
As pine trees succumb, and as new pathways are constructed, plant alternative evergreens on site, to maintain winter interest. Consider Canaert Junipers, Keteleeri Junipers, or Bruns Serbian Spruce.	○			
Broadway Recreation Complex				
Remove dead trees.		○		
Plant new trees as necessary to provide shade in parking lots.			○	
Plant ornamental trees along the vehicle entry drive and along the pedestrian path from roundabout to plaza.				○
Black Creek Park				
Remove and properly dispose of dead and diseased pine trees and declining ash trees.		○		
Remove the declining deciduous tree by the existing park sign.		○		
Prune the memorial tree, and the brush around the dedication plaque.		○		
Remove most or all of the tree row between the skatepark and the picnic shelter.		○		
Plant shade trees in & around dogpark; fence those accessible to dogs.			○	
Plant a row of tall narrow trees, such as Crimson Spire Oak, between west ball diamond outfield and future south parking lot, to help protect cars from fly balls.			○	

GOALS – Trees <i>(Part 2 of 2)</i>	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Cherry Street Park				
Periodically plant new trees in the Park, in locations that shape spaces while maintaining vistas. Precise locations for new trees should be determined based on their function of shading or screening facilities.	○			
Albright Park				
Remove over-mature trees.			○	
Prune remaining trees.			○	
Cochran Park				
Remove the hazard tree.		○		
Remove over-mature trees.			○	
Prune remaining trees.			○	
Hiatt Hills Park				
Remove those recently-planted trees that are in poor condition, and examine soil conditions in their vicinity. If necessary, replace debris fill with soil, and replace trees with more suitable species/varieties.			○	
Jaycee Park				
Remove invasive <i>Ailanthus</i> trees.		○		
Memorial Park				
Remove declining ash trees.		○		
Plant a new tree or two each decade, to make sure the tree canopy is continually renewed.	○			

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GOALS – Sidewalks & Pathways / General	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Pedestrians				
Repair and install pedestrian-activated crossing signals at Main & 9th, Main & 10th, and 9th & Andrews (at Braum's).		○		
Prioritize ADA accessibility in the vicinity of the Hospital, Clinic and Baden Square , with improvements to sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks .		○		
Begin a program of repairing existing sidewalks , as needed, in targeted locations that connect neighborhoods to community destinations, including downtown, Baden Square, schools, parks, the College, and the Hospital.		○		
Bicycling				
Develop a network of bicycle and pedestrian pathways , that connect residential neighborhoods to community destinations.	○			
Select a pilot project, develop a budget, identify funding, implement a public engagement process, and begin construction of a pair of demonstration bike lanes in Winfield. Evaluate the process before implementing additional projects.		○		
When doing street projects, evaluate opportunities to establish bike lanes that will accomplish the goals of the pathways network plan.	○			
Both				
Consider the possibility of a mixed-use path on the levee at the Fairgrounds .			○	
Incorporate complete streets principles in rights-of-way, particularly downtown, in the Baden Square area, and in neighborhoods around schools, the College, and the Hospital.	○			
Coordinate with KDOT to pursue the option of reducing the center median on the Highway 77 south River bridge , and adding pedestrian paths and bike lanes at the sides.			○	

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GOALS – Winfield City Lake	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Operations				
Above all, continue to protect the Lake's flood control functions, and its water quality .	○			
Diversify and improve facilities to attract a broader range of users, including canoe and kayak users, swimmers, hikers, fisherfolk, birders, and horseback riders.	○			
Taking into account economic feasibility and the impact on water quality, consider the possibility of contracting with a vendor to manage an improved marina at the Lake, and /or a performance venue for "Concerts on the Lake".				○
Signs				
Design and install a new wayfinding signage system for the entire Lake.		○		
Design and install new interpretive signage for birdwatchers . Add more information about birding at the Lake to the City website, including unusual sightings and migration dates.			○	
Roads, Parking & Paths				
Improve the roads . Remove potholed concrete. Either grade the roads more frequently, or pave the main north and south roads.		○		
Define parking areas for short-term visitors , and use them to anchor a network of looped trails strictly for pedestrians, that offer hikers and birdwatchers good views of the Lake.		○		
Facilities				
Improve the restrooms. Add ADA accessible family restrooms .			○	
Either expand and improve the existing swimming beach , or add another one.				○
Add more ADA accessible fishing docks , with cleaning stations.		○		
Add more picnic shelters .				○
Add dedicated canoe and kayak launch docks . Reserve a part of the Lake, including some of the larger inlets, for canoe, kayak, and paddle board use.		○		
Improve equestrian trails . Add paddocks at the equestrian site. Add electric and water hookups for the horse trailers. Develop a dedicated horse camping site .			○	
Develop a cluster of rentable cabins, with utilities , so people who don't own RVs can enjoy a stay at the Lake, too.			○	
Add more RV utility hookups .		○		
Where possible, convert existing RV camping areas to pull-through layout concrete pads.		○		
Select additional locations suitable for RV camping . Provide pull-through layout concrete pads and utilities.				○

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GOALS – Baden Square	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Sidewalks				
Add revisions to existing sidewalks to create a continuous looping ADA accessible path which connects pedestrian destinations throughout Baden Square to each other.		○		
In the commons open space at the southeast corner of Baden Square, create a meandering loop walking path with connections to existing perimeter sidewalks.		○		
Facilities				
At appropriate intervals along the southeast loop walking path, provide dog waste stations , and accessible amenities like benches , and bistro tables and chairs .		○		
Consider the possibility of adding at least one outdoor sculpture to the southeast commons open space.				○
Consider the possibility of coordinating with the Library to create a bookwalk along the southeast commons loop walking path.				○
Lighting				
Provide good lighting for all pedestrian pathways . Where appropriate, use bollard lights (as opposed to area lights on tall poles), both to reinforce the pedestrian scale, and to help reduce excess ambient light.		○		

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GOALS – Broadway Recreation Complex	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Parking				
Redesign and if possible expand parking lot 3 . Use curbed median islands to define parking areas and clarify the traffic pattern.		○		
Improve gravel parking lots .	○			
Sidewalks				
Complete a loop path by connecting existing sidewalks with new sidewalks along the site's north and west perimeters.		○		
If the safety of the levee allows, include the levee path as an optional loop for pedestrians and possibly bicyclists. This would require a switchback path up the levee, similar to that in Island Park.		○		
Replace the gates which block vehicle traffic from the levee path with bollards , which would still block vehicles, but would allow pedestrians and bicyclists to use the path. Lockable fold-down bollards are available, to give access for maintenance or emergency vehicles.		○		
Facilities				
Improve the softball diamonds.			○	
Update the restrooms , both in the plaza and in the three freestanding restroom buildings.			○	
Explore the possibility of developing a small shaded playground area, possibly in the area to the north of the north baseball field. If space allows, incorporate shaded seating for caregivers, and possibly some outdoor fitness equipment for adults.				○
Landscaping				
Improve landscape at entrance and around signs.			○	

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GOALS – Joe Thornton Recreation Center	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Operations				
Expand the Gym's evening hours.			○	
Explore options to improve temperature control and HVAC energy efficiency in the Recreation Center building.		○		
Explore options for providing childcare on-site.				○
Parking				
Remove the island plant bed near the building's main entrance, and use the space to add a bike parking area with better bike racks.		○		
Renovate the south parking lot .		○		
Sidewalks				
Add a sidewalk which starts at the College Street sidewalk, goes along the south edge of the basketball courts, and then goes south along the east edge of the site, linking the basketball courts to the Recreation Center's east parking lot and the 7th Avenue sidewalk.				○
Install a path connecting the Recreation Center to both Baden Square and Jaycee Park. Northwest of the building, significant regrading or a switchback may be necessary, in order to take the path safely down to the level of the College Street sidewalk.				○
Add a sidewalk along the south side of Simpson Avenue , to connect Jaycee Park to the Recreation Center and Baden Square. This will involve significant regrading, and possibly the construction of some retaining walls.			○	
Add a crosswalk across 7th Avenue, between the Recreation Center's main entrance and the south parking lot.		○		
Add a crosswalk across College Street at 6th Avenue, to better connect the Recreation Center to the Library and the rest of Baden Square.		○		
Facilities				
Resurface the basketball courts.		○		
Landscaping				
Renovate plant beds on the building's south and west sides, as well as those around the base of the electronic sign.			○	
Along the east side of the building, explore options for a fencing or landscaping solution to discourage climbing on the roof .				○

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GOALS – Quail Ridge Golf Course	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Parking				
Explore parking options for large events.		○		
Sidewalks				
Pave all cart paths with concrete.			○	
Improve bridges and crossings over the creeks on front and back nine.			○	
Facilities				
Consider options for shared use activities to increase public use of the site.			○	
Update irrigation system.		○		

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GOALS – Timber Creek Nature Center	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Signs				
Develop and install interpretive signage along the trails.				○
Facilities				
Improve the condition of the trails by trimming back overgrown brush and filling in low spots with gravel or mulch.			○	
Consider establishing a relationship with a nonprofit group (Birders? Scouts? Geocachers?) who may be able to take on the trail maintenance as a volunteer project.		○		
Contact local disc golfers to explore the possibility of incorporating a disc golf course on the nature trail.				○
Landscaping				
Contact Southwestern College faculty for ideas on improving wildlife habitat .				○

GOALS – Winfield Aquatic Center	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Parking				
Consider adding another similarly-sized parking lot , to the south of the main parking lot, possibly with an exit onto Millington Street. This will be especially important if a permanent Farmers Market pavilion is built in the parking lot west of the Island Park entry drive. That lot currently acts as auxiliary parking for the Aquatic Center.				○
Facilities				
Update the Pool House locker rooms, showers, and restrooms.			○	
Add a splashpad in the location of the current playground, next to the Dragon Pool.		○		
Consider adding a climbing wall .		○		

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GOALS – Winfield Fairgrounds	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Sidewalks				
Develop continuous loop hiking and biking trails . Consider a measured-mile trail .			○	
Facilities				
Design and build any additional structures on the site to withstand periodic flooding.	○			
Provide more shady places to sit and eat .			○	
Improve restrooms, and add ADA accessible family restrooms .			○	
Upgrade and reconfigure RV hookups for Walnut Valley Festival visitors. Consider revising flood protocols to leave some electrical panels elevated.		○		
Add another youth livestock barn .			○	
Landscaping				
Continue to pursue flood mitigation and erosion control efforts, particularly on the north end of the Fairgrounds.	○			
Study alternatives to reduce mowing maintenance .		○		
Add landscaping to screen the power plant and substation .				○

GOALS – Black Creek Park	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Signs				
Remove existing sign. Locate new park identification sign adjacent to 19th Avenue, between the two parking lot driveways; design it to be visible from both directions.			○	
Parking				
Improve existing gravel parking lot . Redesign parking lot layout & rearrange wheel stops so they work with the new ADA parking spaces and entry drives.		○		
Improve and if necessary expand parking along Joel Mack Road, to better serve the dogpark.		○		
Sidewalks				
Eliminate existing deteriorated asphalt path .		○		
Add an accessible route sidewalk connecting both parking lots to the rest of the Park's facilities, including the dogpark, the picnic shelter, and the skatepark area.		○		
Facilities				
Add basic dogpark amenities , including seating and shade .		○		
Renovate the picnic shelter . Add accessible tables .		○		
Improve the restrooms .			○	
Expand & improve ball diamond bleachers ; include ADA seating nearby.			○	
Upgrade dugouts .			○	
Remove the chainlink fencing around the skatepark. Revise landscaping and pedestrian connections to make the area feel less isolated.		○		
SKATEPARK OPTION 1: Renovate the skatepark equipment. Consider adding lighting . Consider adding a shade structure or shade sails.			○	
SKATEPARK OPTION 2: Replace the skatepark with another facility. Options might include an outdoor fitness area , basketball courts or pickleball courts . Use the existing concrete pad to the east to expand the facility, or remove it.			○	
Landscaping				
Renovate the sign's plant bed , using a less problematic edging; protect the evergreen tree.		○		
Plant a boundary of native sedges and riparian plants along the drainage channel , to simplify mowing and discourage visitors from approaching its edges.				○

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GOALS – Cherry Street Park (Part 1 of 2)	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Signs				
Decide whether to maintain the Park's existing sign for nostalgia's sake, or replace it with one that reflects a system-wide standard and is more visible.			○	
If more parking is added off 15th Avenue, add a sign at that entry as well.			○	
Parking				
Develop additional parking to serve the eastern half of the Park. Consider a 90-degree on-street parking lot along 15th Avenue , east of the basketball court. Include at least one ADA van space .			○	
Sidewalks				
Develop a gently curved, meandering, double-loop walking path around the perimeter of the Park. A bridge or boardwalk over the drainage ditch would be necessary at the south edge of the Park. Ideally, provide lighting . Use the path to provide an accessible route linking both parking areas to all the Park's facilities, particularly the picnic shelters. Provide dog waste stations along any new pathways.		○		
Landscaping				
Retain enough greenspace to maintain the Park's character.	○			
Block vehicle access from the private garage at the southeast corner of the Park, with fencing, boulders, bollards, trees, or some combination of similar elements.		○		
Plant native ornamental grasses and wildflowers along the south side of the Park, to screen the railroad tracks .				○
Drainage – Study the Park's drainage well enough to determine whether some of the existing culverts can or should be removed. Consider incorporating a raingarden in the southwestern corner of the Park as part of the drainage solution; include interpretive signage .			○	

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GOALS – Cherry Street Park <i>(Part 2 of 2)</i>	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Facilities				
Review condition of the playground surfacing , relative to equipment fall height requirements. If needed, replace engineered wood fiber surfacing with playground-grade artificial turf or poured in place surfacing.		○		
Provide routine maintenance on the swings —painting, and seat replacement.		○		
Remove the old asphalt basketball court in the southwest corner of the Park.		○		
Properly maintain the newer basketball court.	○			
Eliminate double rims on the newer basketball court goals.		○		
Either upgrade the baseball practice fields to meet modern requirements, or remove one or both sets of backstops and dugouts .			○	
Preserve and maintain the iconic picnic shelters .	○			
Once the picnic shelters are on an accessible route, provide at least one accessible picnic table at each shelter.		○		
If the the west backstop is removed, replace it with a youth soccer field .			○	
Update the restroom .			○	
Add a small splashpad or spray park in the area east of the basketball court. Depending on its size, additional parking may be necessary off 15th Avenue.			○	
Seating Add more seating in the Park. Include ADA seating, such as benches with arms and a center arm. Include seating areas composed of a bistro table with 2 to 4 chairs, here and there in locations adjacent to a path, with shade and good views—for people who simply want to have a coffee or lunch in the Park, as opposed to a full-fledged picnic.			○	
Add fitness equipment geared to teens and adults, west of the current playground.				○

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GOALS – Island Park	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Signs				
Expand the median island just south of the Park's entry drive, and add pavement markings to clarify which northbound lane is for Highway 77. Include two new signs , oriented for north and south bound traffic – for Island Park, the Nature Center, the Aquatic Center, & the Farmers Market.			○	
Improve wayfinding signage system in the Park.			○	
Sidewalks				
Improve ADA access in the Park.		○		
Facilities				
Improve ADA equipment in the Park.		○		
Install better bike racks at destinations within the Park.		○		
Add a temperature controlled storage room to the Amphitheater , completing the original plans.			○	
Pursue development of a permanent Market Pavilion on the site of the current Farmers Market. Consider using a color and materials palette similar to that of the Island Park Amphitheater.				○
As needed, dredge the channel defining the Island.	○			

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GOALS – Tunnel Mill Park	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Signs				
Revise regulatory signage so camping is not permitted in the Park.			○	
Improve signage, including wayfinding signage at the east end of Tunnel Mill Drive, an entry sign where the Park begins, and an updated regulatory sign in the Park itself.			○	
Parking				
Realign drive and establish defined parking area, to discourage long-term RV camping in the Park.			○	
Facilities				
Dam Overlook – Develop a flood-proof viewing platform, using natural stones, with enough of a barrier between the platform and the water to allow visitors to get a good view of the dam and the rapids downstream in safety.				○
This Park has fresh water and a great deal of edge habitat (areas where mature trees are adjacent to sunny open fields) which attracts a wide variety of birds. Consider developing a looped pedestrian birdwatching/nature trail around the site.				○
Landscaping				
Institute a control program for the worst of the poison ivy and Johnson Grass infestations.			○	
Improve wildlife habitat by planting native trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials which are adapted for the conditions.				○

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GOALS – Albright Park	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Signs				
Install a new identification sign at the corner of John & 15th, visible from traffic in both directions on both roads. Protect and frame the sign with a landscaped plant bed.			○	
Parking				
Develop a defined on-street parking area off 15th Avenue or John Street, near the Park's identification sign. Include ADA parking		○		
Sidewalks				
Install a looped ADA accessible route connecting the parking to the Park's facilities.		○		
Facilities				
Rather than competing with the playground in Cherry Street Park, consider removing the old playground equipment , and focusing new facilities in Albright Park toward adults and teens.		○		
Remove the old tennis courts.		○		
Install up to four lighted pickleball courts in the wind-sheltered eastern half of the Park, and plant a few more trees to their west.		○		
Construct a restroom building with one unisex stall and a utility space, between the pickle ball courts and the basketball courts.		○		
Update and relocate the drinking fountain , to be conveniently located to serve the new facilities.		○		
Install a lighted basketball court or two in the western part of the Park.			○	
Landscaping				
Retain enough greenspace to maintain the Park's character.	○			
Consider planting a border of native ornamental wildflowers along the south side of the Park, to screen the railroad tracks.				○

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GOALS – Cochran Park	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Signs				
Install a new identification sign in the southwest corner of the Park, at Manning & 17th—visible from traffic in both directions on both roads. Protect and frame the sign with a landscaped plant bed.			○	
Parking				
Develop additional parking along the Park's south edge, off 17th Avenue, while protecting the existing ADA parking space.			○	
Include a bicycle rack parking area in the middle of the park, near the drinking fountain.			○	
Sidewalks				
Add a sidewalk link to the south picnic shelter.			○	
Facilities				
Focus new facilities in Cochran Park toward teens , providing activities & hang-out space.	○			
Maintain the existing picnic shelters, basketball court, and drinking fountain.	○			
Remove the existing play equipment and surfacing. Install equipment designed for active adventurous play , and appropriate resilient surfacing. Consider including challenge elements such as an overhead spinner, slacklining anchors, a climbing wall or a zip line.			○	
Examine options for the racketball courts – either renovating them for continued use, removing them, or remodeling them for some other purpose.				○
Landscaping				
Plant a low landscape buffer along the eastern perimeter, particularly between the basketball court and the Wendy's parking lot. Contain stray basketballs, but maintain a view of the Park from Main Street.				○
Lighting				
Provide timer-controlled LED lighting to make the Park attractive and safe in the evenings.			○	

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S = Short-term Goal
(within 5 years)M = Mid-term Goal
(5 to 10 years)L = Long-term Goal
(10 to 20 years)

GOALS – Hiatt Hills Park		Priority			
		O	S	M	L
Signs					
Add new sign in the northeast corner, at Crestline & Grand. The new sign should be visible from traffic on both roads, and be protected and framed with a landscaped plant bed. Remove existing park identification sign.				○	
Facilities					
Add a bicycle rack parking area, on the southeast side of the sidewalk to the playground.				○	
Install lockable covers to protect exposed elements of the irrigation system from vandalism.			○		
Examine options for the open space in the southern two-thirds of the Park. Consider allowing turf in certain defined areas to remain unmowed, particularly on the berms.					○

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(10 to 20 years)

GOALS – Jaycee Park	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Fencing				
Remove chainlink fencing along Simpson Avenue.		○		
Retain and repair fencing along the Park's east and west boundaries.		○		
Add fencing along the south boundary, to discourage inadvertent trespassing onto the Canterbury Heights property.			○	
Signs				
Add a new sign which is visible from both directions on Simpson Avenue; protect and frame sign with a landscaped plant bed. Remove existing park identification sign.			○	
Parking				
Create a small off-street parking lot to the east on flatter ground, with access from Simpson Avenue. Include an ADA space, with an accessible route sidewalk to any new facilities.		○		
Add bicycle parking area adjacent to sidewalk; connect parking area to any new facilities.		○		
Eliminate existing gravel parking lot on the hill.			○	
Sidewalks				
Create a loop walking path in Jaycee Park. Connect it to the Recreation Center, and if desired, to Canterbury Heights Apartments. Institute a control program for poison ivy along the path.			○	
Facilities				
Remove existing basketball court.		○		
Add an accessible playground & picnic shelter.		○		
Consider adding a new basketball court, pickleball courts, or an outdoor fitness center.				○

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(10 to 20 years)

GOALS – Memorial Park	Priority			
	O	S	M	L
Signs				
Locate a park identification sign in the middle of the Park's northern edge, oriented to be visible to traffic from both directions on 9th Avenue. This Park may warrant a sign design unique to Memorial Park, simple and fitting. Alternatively, consider the option of two smaller park identification signs, one at the northwest corner, and one near the parking area at the northeast corner.			○	
ADA Parking				
Consider creating a small dedicated on-street parking area with one or two ADA spaces , adjacent to Andrews Street, across from the Braum's parking lot, where it will not interfere with views of the Park from adjacent historic homes. If necessary, divert the Park's perimeter sidewalk around the parking area.				○
Sidewalks				
Check existing sidewalks & replace as necessary to be an ADA accessible route .		○		
Install a radius arc sidewalk centered on the obelisk, with straight tangent paths on the west side to accommodate the Vietnam War Memorial, to open up more of the greenspace for use and enjoyment.		○		
Facilities				
Do needed restoration maintenance on the Obelisk .		○		
Without compromising the dignity of the Park, provide comfortable chairs, bistro tables & trash receptacles in a few carefully selected locations adjacent to the new sidewalk. Once better seating is available, remove existing benches .		○		

KEY

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(within 5 years)M = Mid-term Goal
(5 to 10 years)L = Long-term Goal
(10 to 20 years)

Appendix 2: Parks Facilities in Comparable Cities

Comparisons to other park systems, both nationally and in comparable communities, can provide a **context for decisions regarding Winfield's recreational needs**. The results of these comparisons should not be regarded as prescriptive, however. Instead, they can be used to help **establish a pattern of typical expectations for facilities**, which should then be **adjusted by local knowledge to reflect Winfield's particular needs**.

National Data on Parks

The Center for City Park Excellence (CCPE) at The Trust for Public Land gathers information on public parks from the hundred most populous cities across the country. Although the CCPE does not collect data from cities as small as Winfield, its information can still provide a frame of reference. The following information is from its most recent report, *2017 City Park Facts*.

- Ten cities reported the number of **ball diamonds** per 10,000 residents, with ratios ranging from 3.5 to 5.4. Winfield has 7 diamonds, for a ratio of 5.8.
- Ten cities reported the number of **tennis courts** per 10,000 residents, with ratios ranging from 3.5 to 6.1. T.H. Vaughn Tennis Complex in Winfield is owned by USD 465, but is available to the public. It has 7 courts, giving Winfield a ratio of 5.8.
- Forty four cities reported the number of **basketball hoops** (not courts, *hoops*) per 10,000 residents, with ratios ranging from 2.7 to 9.8. Winfield has 4 full courts, plus a half court at Jaycee Park (in poor condition) for a total of 9 hoops, and a ratio of 7.5.

Annual Spending on Parks and Recreation per Resident

- Median for 100 largest cities: \$83 Total Expenditure (\$66 Operating, \$16 Capital)
- Wichita: \$53 Total Expenditure (\$46 Operating Expenditure, \$7 Capital Expenditure)
- Winfield's estimated 2019 expenditure on parks and recreation per resident was: \$118.54 Total Expenditure (\$109.78 Operating, \$8.76 Capital)

Comparable Communities

This overview of park systems in comparable cities is intended to show a pattern of public expectations for facilities and services, and public willingness to invest in parks, in cities similar to Winfield. How Winfield might want to fit into that pattern — in the middle, at the top, or not at all—is a decision the community will make.

To find comparable communities, we started with a list of Kansas cities with populations within a range from roughly a third more to a third less than Winfield's population. Cities that are suburbs of major metropolitan areas were eliminated, and college towns and communities closer to Winfield were given preference.

No other city is perfectly comparable to Winfield, but after a discussion with City staff and Steering Committee members on general cultural and economic similarities, six of the cities still on the list were then selected for park system comparisons: **Wellington, Augusta, Atchison, Arkansas City, El Dorado, and McPherson**.

Basic similarities between Winfield and the six comparable cities are shown in the following table.

	Wellington	Augusta	Atchison	Winfield	Arkansas City	El Dorado	McPherson
2010 population	8,172	9,274	11,021	12,301	12,415	13,021	13,155
college town	—	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
county seat	Sumner	—	Atchinson	Cowley	—	Butler	McPherson
YMCA	—	—	✓	—	—	✓	✓
Recreation Commission	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	Educational Facilities Authority of Butler County	✓
Tree Board / Tree City USA (as of June 2019)	—	—	37 years	38 years	25 years	—	41 years
large lake	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓ (state)	—
number of city-owned parks	13	8	13	18	16	16	18

NOTE: The *Tree City USA* program is maintained by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. Participating cities commit to having a Tree Board, and to spending at least \$2 per capita annually on community forestry.

The table on the following page provides a comparison between the total number of certain park facilities in Winfield and the numbers in comparable cities. The data in the table is a compilation of the information described in more detail in the pages that follow the table, which provides an overview of each comparable city's park system and facilities.

The quantities of facilities in cities other than Winfield are estimated, based on each city's website data, and on an evaluation of aerial and street view photos of each park.

The table focuses on **City-owned facilities**, and does not include additional recreational facilities that may be available to a community—such as those owned by a Recreation Commission or similar entity, provided by a YMCA, or available in a nearby state park.

Facilities at lakes—such as boat ramps, fishing docks or camping areas—are not included in the table, since they are highly dependent on the capacity of a specific lake to support such activities.

Also, **restrooms** that are part of aquatic center facilities or sports complex concession buildings are not included, nor are temporary restrooms located in parks seasonally—only permanent freestanding restroom buildings in parks are included in the table.

These comparisons to comparable communities are offered to provide a context for decision making. But in the end, Winfield's park and recreational needs will be determined by the people of Winfield. The overall goal is a park and recreation system that fits *this* community, balancing local expectations for recreational services with the resources that can be realistically committed to providing those services.

PARK FACILITY	Wellington	Augusta	Atchison	Winfield	Arkansas City	El Dorado	McPherson
baseball/softball diamonds	7	5	9	7	12	9	8
T-ball diamond	1						2
soccer/football fields	4		3	9	2		
basketball courts (full)	3	3	4	5	3	5	2
tennis courts	6		1	14	8	4	10
racquetball courts, outdoor				2			
sand volleyball court	3		2		1		
aquatic center/outdoor pool	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
splashpad (separate from aquatic center)		1	1			2	1
dog park		1	1	1		1	1
BMX/skatepark	1			1	1	1	1
disc golf course, 18 hole	1	1	2			1	1
disc golf course, 9 hole				1			
golf course, 18-hole (city-owned)	1			1			1
golf course, 9-hole (city-owned)					1		1
playground	2	3	7	7	10	14	10
playground, accessible	4	2		3		1	2
picnic shelter	4	6	8	17	11	10	10
horseshoe pit			18		6	15	
exercise trail			1	1			
park restroom buildings	4	3	4	6	3	4	2
stage/amphitheater/bandshell		1		1		1	1
community garden			1				
singletrack mountain bike trail	1						
Karting racetrack	1						
hammock grove		1					

Looking strictly at quantities in comparable cities, Winfield should be exploring the possibility of developing **more playgrounds (particularly ADA accessible ones)**, **more high-quality horseshoe pits**, a neighborhood splashpad, and **water park elements** at the Aquatic Center.

Based on current trends in recreation, Winfield and its comparable cities all need to be considering options for **more looped walking paths**, a network of **bike paths**, **pickleball courts** (indoors and outdoors), **multi-use courts**, **more soccer fields**, **more outdoor fitness plazas**, **more high-quality dog parks**, and **more downtown pocket parks** with shade and seating.

Wellington

Located about a half-hour drive south of Wichita, Wellington is the smallest of Winfield's comparable cities. It does not have a college in town, but it does have two lakes within the city limits, a golf course, and a municipal airport.

The Parks Department and the Wellington Lake Department are sub-departments of Public Works. Each sub-department has just three full-time staff members, supplemented by seasonal summer workers.

About 6 miles west of the main part of the city, in an island annexation, **Wellington City Lake** has 674 acres of water and 10 miles of shoreline. It has picnic shelters, a swimming beach, restrooms with showers, a handicap accessible fishing pier, a fish cleaning station, and several boat ramps. There is also a multiple-loop singletrack mountain bike trail on the east side of the Lake, built and maintained by the Kansas Singletrack Society.



Map of singletrack mountain bike trail



The City Lake has nearly 200 camp sites with electric and water hookups (some with wifi access available), as well as primitive camping in designated areas. The Lake Office offers concessions, bagged ice and basic groceries. Waterfowl hunting is permitted in season.

There is also a smaller lake in the northeast quadrant of the main part of the City. It is surrounded by the 182.5-acre **Hargis Creek Watershed Park**, which has an ADA accessible playground, boat ramps, fishing areas, and a restroom building.

Built in 1999, the **Wellington Family Aquatic Center** is managed and operated by the Wellington Recreation Commission, but is owned and maintained by the City. It has a 25 meter lap swim area, diving boards, a tot pool, concessions, shower facilities, and shaded deck areas with lounge chairs. **Waterpark** elements include waterslides, spray and bubble features, tumble buckets, a cascading waterfall, and a lily pad play course.



Candy Cane City is small 0.87-acre park adjacent to the Aquatic Center entrance, which may be reserved for birthday parties and similar events. It has an ADA accessible playground and restroom.

Other small neighborhood parks include the 4.73-acre **Century Park**, which has a lighted walking path and a picnic shelter; the 2-acre **Jefferson Park**, with a play structure, a picnic shelter, a basketball court, and a parent pitch/T-ball field; the 1.4-acre **Madison Park**, with an ADA accessible playground, a basketball court, and a backstop; and the 1-acre **McKinley Park**, with a playground, a basketball court, and two sand volleyball pits.



Wellington's **Rock Island Ball Fields** are a 6.4-acre park with two softball fields and a restroom building.

The 13.5-acre **Sellers Park** has 6 tennis courts, a baseball stadium, a high school football field, a skatepark, and the Panhandle Railroad Museum with a steam engine on display.



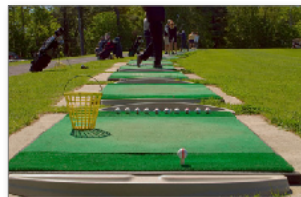
The 60.8-acre **Worden Park** has four softball fields, three soccer/football fields, a lighted walking path, an ADA accessible playground, and a Karting Association racetrack.

Woods Park has restrooms, reservable picnic shelters, swings, a sand volleyball pit, an 18-hole disc golf course, and fishing.



*Map of
Woods Park
disc golf course*

Originally built in 1919, the City-owned **Wellington Golf Club** is a public, 18-hole, par 70 golf course. It has a clubhouse with a pro shop, two putting greens and a driving range.



Augusta

Located at the confluence of the Whitewater River and the Walnut River, Augusta is a rural city, but within easy reach of the Wichita metropolitan area. It does not have a college in town. It does have a municipal airport. Like Winfield, Augusta has floodplains and an extensive levee system.

The 190-acre **Augusta City Lake** has four miles of accessible shoreline, and offers boating, kayaking and fishing. A two-mile concrete walking trail along the shore connects two lakeside parks, and provides access to two fishing docks.



Shryock Park, on the eastern shore of the Lake, has a fairy tale-themed splashpad with a stand-up body dryer, a medieval-themed playground, a drinking fountain, and climate controlled restrooms with diaper changing stations. There is a small pavilion and a large picnic shelter with grills, a boat ramp, a fishing dock, and a new hammock grove.



Garvin Park, on the southwest shore of the Lake, is Augusta's biggest park. It has a community stage, an ADA-accessible playground, a drinking fountain, climate controlled restrooms with baby changing stations, four lighted baseball diamonds, a new concession stand, a small pavilion and a large picnic shelter, concrete fire pits, and grills.

A unique 18-hole glow-in-the-dark disc golf course winds through the edges of Garvin Park and the Elm Creek watershed. Access to the top of the dam provides beautiful views of the Lake, and is an especially favored site for watching Independence Day fireworks.



Opened in 2018, the 1.4-acre **Augusta Dog Park** is in a residential subdivision just west of Garvin Park. It has fenced separate sections for large dogs and small dogs, mature shade trees, benches, six dog waste stations, a dog-friendly drinking fountain, and basic dog agility equipment.



The **Dalton Palmer Memorial Playground** is adjacent to the City's Frisco Depot Welcome Center in the downtown historic district. The extreme playground features a 30-foot high slide, a ropes course, climbing elements, and a gravity rail.



Bill Reed Park is a six-acre neighborhood park adjacent to Augusta's Lincoln Elementary School. It has a softball diamond, a playground, a picnic shelter, a new basketball court and a restroom building. **Jim Brown Park** is a neighborhood park with an ADA accessible playground, a basketball court, and a small picnic shelter.

Augusta's **Municipal Swimming Pool** is ADA accessible, with chair lifts and zero-depth entry. The pool also has a diving board and a slide. The site includes a pergola for shade, a basketball court a restroom/showers building, and vending machines.



Atchison

Located on the Missouri River, about an hour's drive northwest of Kansas City, Atchison is just a little smaller than Winfield. It has a municipal airport, and is the home of Benedictine College and the Highland Community College Technical Center.

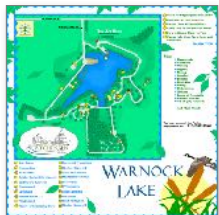
Opened in 2017, the **Atchison Family YMCA** is a branch of the YMCA of Greater Kansas City. It has a fitness center, indoor pool, gymnasium, walking track, community room, teen room, and teaching kitchen.



Atchison's parks are maintained by the Public Works Department, which supports a **Friends of the Parks** program through which community volunteers help maintain the parks.

Warnock Lake is a 39-acre lake located just a few miles southwest of downtown Atchison in an island annexation, which offers fishing and no-wake boating. The expansive park surrounding the Lake has a campground, a playground, three reservable picnic shelters, an 18-hole disc golf course, a restroom and walking trails.

Overlooking Lake Warnock from the south, the **International Forest of Friendship** is an arboretum and memorial dedicated to the history of aviation and aerospace. Just east of the Lake is a one-acre earth portrait of Atchison native Amelia Earhart, by famed Kansas artist Stan Herd.



Lions Pool is a 50-meter outdoor swimming pool with a water slide and diving boards. It also has a separate wading pool, a large deck, and a picnic area. The facility can be rented for special functions.



Fetch & Stretch Dog Park has two fenced sections, one for all dogs and one for small dogs, which incorporate dog play ramps, tire climbs, tunnels, and "fire hydrants". Park amenities include water hydrants, benches, and a walking trail.

Millard Allen Ball Park has a lighted baseball field with spectator seating, a parking area, drinking fountain, and a seasonal restroom. **Walt Wilburn Ball Park** has a lighted baseball field with spectator seating, a parking area, drinking fountains, seasonal restrooms, and a concession stand. Both facilities can be rented. The **Atchison Sports Complex** is adjacent to Atchison Elementary School, and has three soccer fields, three baseball fields, and three softball fields.

Atchison's first park, **Jackson Park** has over 100 acres of rolling wooded hills and scenic overlooks of the Missouri River. It has walking trails, two playgrounds, 16 horseshoe pits, two sand volleyball courts, an 18-hole disc golf course, picnic tables, grills, two rentable picnic shelters, and a seasonal restroom.



Riverfront Park and Independence Park are adjacent to the Missouri River, and to each other.

Riverfront Park has a veterans memorial, fishing docks, a boat ramp, and the Lewis & Clark Pavilion, which displays information on the Lewis & Clark expedition, the Missouri River, and the Kanza Nation. Riverfront Park hosts Atchison's Amelia Earhart Festival and Fourth of July fireworks.



Independence Park has concrete parking lots, including spaces suitable for boat trailers, as well as a boat ramp, a splashpad, playground equipment, an exercise trail, picnic tables, a drinking fountain, restrooms, and outdoor showers.

Morrow Park has a basketball court, and also hosts Atchison's first community garden. There are 20 individual garden plots for rent, with access to water.



Originally created for the employees of the Locomotive Finished Materials Company, **LFM Park** is the site of the largest free Juneteenth celebration in the country. It has two new basketball courts, a picnic shelter, a playground, a baseball field, two horseshoe pits, a volleyball net, and seasonal restrooms.



Bromley Park has a gravel parking area with one ADA parking space, a tennis court, a basketball court, a picnic shelter, a playground, a drinking fountain, and walking trails.



Reisner Park is a small neighborhood park with restrooms, play equipment, and a rentable picnic shelter.

Atchison Event Center is a 16,000 square foot, full-service, rentable event venue, with meeting rooms of several sizes, and two ballrooms. The **Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall**, built in 1922, is another rentable venue, and also houses the offices of the **Atchison Recreation Commission**.



Arkansas City

Of all the comparable cities, Arkansas City is closest to Winfield both geographically and in population. Located at the confluence of the Arkansas and Walnut Rivers, it is only about a 15 minute drive south from Winfield on Highway 77. Ark City is home to the main campus of Cowley College.

The Arkansas City Recreation Commission (ACRC) maintains a **Rec Center** downtown, with a fitness center, basketball courts, a walking track, and meeting rooms. ACRC also manages recreational facilities owned by others, including the Family Aquatic Center, Paris Park Pool, C Dow Sports Complex, AC Skate Park, and the Ark City Sports Complex.

All City-owned Parks, including those managed by the ACRC, are maintained by the Arkansas City Parks Department.

Veterans Lake Park has 16-acre lake with a boat ramp and a fishing dock, a picnic table with a small shelter, and a walking trail around the lake that connects to the levee path.



Located on the west side of Highway 77 just north of the River levee, **Newman Park** has two picnic shelters, a small restroom building, space to park RVs, and an RV dump station.

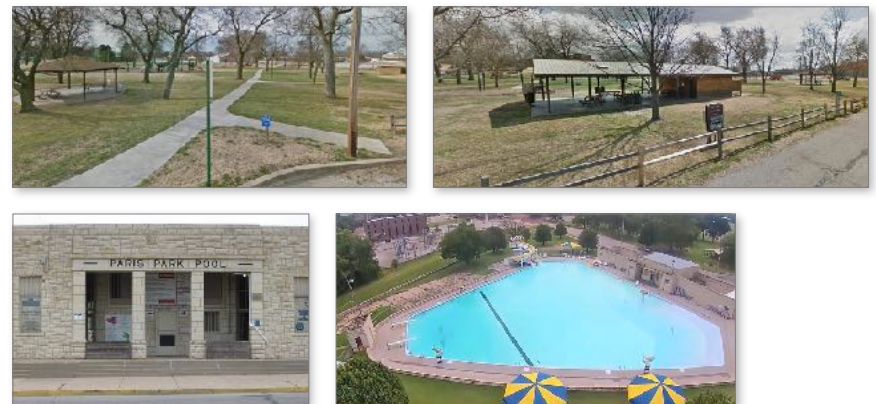


The **Ark City Sports Complex** (its signs call it the South Ball Complex) is a partnership facility among the City, the School District, and the Recreation Commission. Located just south of the High School, it has 9 ball diamonds and a soccer/football practice field. It serves both the high school teams and the ACRC summer leagues.



Sleeth Ball Park has a restroom building, with two lighted ball diamonds. **Carver Park**, located just west of Paris Park Pool, has a skatepark, and practice fields for football and baseball.

The southern part of **Paris Park** has four on-street parking lots, a large picnic shelter/restroom building, two smaller picnic shelters and three playgrounds. There are also two lighted tennis courts. The northern section is occupied by the **Paris Park Swimming Pool**, with a pool house, a pool with slides, a tot pool, a sand volleyball court, and shaded seating areas.



Neighborhood parks include Brock, Cox, Pershing, Ranney, Winton and Watson Parks.

Brock Park, with six horseshoe pits and some open turf, and **Robert Cox Memorial Park**, which has a playground and four picnic tables, one with a small shelter.



Pershing Park has an on-street parking lot, a picnic shelter, a playground, and a basketball court. **Ranney Park** has a playground, and an open field with two backstops.



Winton Park has a playground, a small picnic shelter, a basketball half-court with two hoops, and an open field with a backstop. **Lovie Watson Park**, with a playground, a picnic shelter, a basketball court, some open space, and a walking path.



Wilson Park has two playgrounds, a large picnic pavilion and a smaller picnic shelter, a restroom building, six tennis courts, mature shade trees and lush turf, ornamental plant beds, and a locomotive on display.



Ben Givens Park is a tiny but treasured tree shaded greenspace, located in the heart of downtown. It has benches along a broad meandering brick pathway, turf and shrubs, and a mural.



Arkansas City also has a collection of **paved walking trails**.

The City-owned **Spring Hill Golf Course** is a public 9-hole, par-36 course, built in 1928.



El Dorado

With a population about 6% larger than Winfield's, El Dorado is home to the main campus of Butler Community College, and has a municipal airport. The City is located on the Walnut River just southwest of El Dorado Lake, an easy half hour drive from the Wichita metropolitan area.

El Dorado does not have a Recreation Commission, but it does have the **Educational Facilities Authority of Butler County**, which is a collaboration among the City of El Dorado, Butler Community College, and El Dorado Public Schools USD 490. The Authority owns both the **Walnut River Athletic Complex** and the **BG Products Veterans Sport Complex**.

The **Walnut River Athletic Complex** is just outside the city limits, on federal property just west of the El Dorado Reservoir dam. Opened in 2012, the complex has two parking lots, four softball/baseball diamonds with a central concessions/restroom building, and four soccer/football fields. The facility can be reserved.



The **BG Products Veterans Sport Complex** is the home of the football, soccer, and track and field programs for both Butler Community College and El Dorado High School. It also hosts concerts and other community events, including the annual AAU Track Meet, and Drums Across Kansas.

Opened in 2012, the Complex has a stadium with a seating capacity of 6000, 11 skyboxes, media facilities, a high definition video board, 2 concession stands with pavilion seating, locker rooms, and two sets of full service and family restrooms. Track facilities include a regulation 8-lane track with a steeple chase pit, two long jump pits, a high jump pit, a pole vault pit, as well as discus, hammer throw, shot-put and javelin arenas.



The 1-acre **Martin Park** is on the site of the BG Products Veterans Stadium, and has a playground.



The City is also home to the **El Dorado YMCA**, a branch of the Greater Wichita YMCA. The Y has a fitness center, program studios, a gymnastics center, racquetball courts, gymnasiums, and an indoor track, as well as indoor family and lap pools, a sauna, and a steam room. The YMCA offers drop-in child care, in an area which has both indoor facilities and an outdoor playground.



Completed in 1981, the 8400-acre **El Dorado Reservoir** is not a municipal lake. However, it is only about a mile away from El Dorado, and the recreational facilities at the State Park there are a significant recreational asset for the community.

There are four main campground areas in the **El Dorado State Park**. Facilities include a full service marina, boat ramps, and a sailing club; roughly 1000 campsites (some with utilities); rental cabins; picnic shelters, ADA playgrounds, and swimming beaches; horse, biking and hiking trails; and restrooms, shower houses and a laundry facility.



Prairie Trails Golf Course is a public, 18 hole, par-71 course, with a clubhouse and pro shop. Originally built in 1938, it is now owned and operated by GreatLife.



CITY-OWNED FACILITIES

East Park has a large parking lot, three regulation softball diamonds with bleachers, a batting cage, a concession stand, scoreboards, and restrooms. The north part of the Park has a pond, a large picnic pavilion, two playgrounds, six horseshoe pits and a walking path. East Park can be reserved.



The **Central Park Baseball Diamonds** have five baseball/softball diamonds, a central concession stand and restrooms, a full-size turf batting cage, wireless scoreboards, spectator seating, and a playground.



The 18-Hole **El Dorado Disc Golf Course** opened in 2017, on the site of a former golf course. It had to be completely redesigned soon after its original installation, to have better flow and require less backtracking, to take advantage of the existing walking path and foot bridges, and to have the first and last holes closer to the parking lot. The revised course opened in early 2020, and is still using temporary tees, but will eventually have dual tee pads and baskets at every hole to allow both amateur and professional level play.



The **El Dorado Dog Park** is a very basic 0.4-acre fenced enclosure on a 3.1-acre wooded site, with a gravel parking lot.



The 4-acre **Forest Park** is home to the municipal swimming pool, the El Dorado Bandshell, and a lighted skatepark. It also has two parking lots, a large picnic pavilion, a basketball court, three horseshoe pits, and a playground. Forest Park facilities, including the pool, can be reserved.



The 11-acre **North Main Park** has two parking lots, four new tennis courts, a large picnic shelter, a gazebo used as a picnic shelter, a playground, six horseshoe pits, walking paths, a restroom building, and a splashpad. North Main facilities can be reserved.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

The 5-acre **Graham Park** has a small splashpad, a playground plus additional play equipment, a basketball court, two small picnic shelters, and a lighted memorial sculpture commemorating the community's rebuilding efforts following a 1958 tornado.



The 5-acre **RIO Park** has a playground, a picnic shelter, a basketball court, and a restroom building.



The 5-acre **Riverview Park** has a small paved parking lot, a playground, a pedestrian bridge over a small dam, and access to the Walnut River for fishing.



The 3-acre **Summit Park** has a paved ADA parking area, an inclusive playground, two small picnic shelters, a practice field with a backstop, and a restroom building.



Close to downtown, the 2-acre **Gordy Park** has on street parking lots, a basketball court, a playground and some additional play equipment, and a small gazebo.



The 2-acre **Rice Park** has a large picnic shelter, a playground plus additional play equipment, and a restroom building.



The 0.5-acre **South Summit Park** provides a playground for its residential neighborhood.



The 1.7-acre **McCollum Park** has a playground, and is the site of a municipal water tower. The 1-acre **Library Park** has two paved parking lots, the Bradford Memorial Library, a basketball court, a playground and swings.



TRAILS

The City-owned 6.3-mile concrete **El Dorado Bike/Walking Path** has accesses at East Park, at North Main Park, at Par Drive, and at East 12th Avenue near the Prairie Trails Golf Course. The Path borders the Walnut River, and connects the city to trailheads below the dam at El Dorado State Park.



El Dorado State Park Trails

There are two State Park trailheads at the Walnut River Campground, in the area just below the El Dorado Reservoir dam. The 2-mile **Double Black Diamond Trail** is a challenging bike trail through the trees along the Walnut River. The three-quarter mile **Walnut Ridge Hiking Trail** is a scenic walking path along the riverbank.

The trailhead for the three-quarter mile **Teter Nature Trail** is below the dam near its eastern end. The trail winds through the Flint Hills down into a bottomland hardwood forest and a small stand of pawpaw trees.

Additional trails at the State Park include the 12-mile **Boulder Bluff Horse Trail**, on the north shore of the El Dorado Reservoir, with a trailhead at the State Park's Area 2 Horse Campground. The 1-mile **Cross Country Course** is nearby, also on the north shore of the Reservoir. This trail meanders through the Flint Hills, and is used for cross country and walk/run competitions.

On the south side of the Reservoir, the half-mile **Tallgrass Prairie Trail** winds through the Flint Hills past a marsh and small stream. Its trailhead is near the Shady Creek self pay station.

McPherson

McPherson is the largest of the cities selected for comparison, with a population about 7% greater than Winfield's. McPherson is a county seat, and has a Recreation Commission and a YMCA. The City and County cooperatively own and manage McPherson Airport. McPherson College and the Central Christian College of Kansas are located in McPherson; they are both private 4-year colleges.

Over 300 acres of city parks and public rights-of-way in McPherson are maintained by the City's Public Lands and Facilities Department. A recent program to update playground equipment throughout the city is the result of a fundraising campaign spearheaded by four local elementary school students.

The **McPherson Family YMCA** has two indoor swimming pools, a hot tub, and a sauna; a gymnasium; two racquetball/handball courts, a fitness center, spin room, gymnastics gym, aerobic studio, and program room; a toddler area, and locker rooms.



The **McPherson Community Building**, built in 1927 and on the National Register of Historic Places, was completely renovated in 2019. Its gymnasium has one large or two practice-size hard-surface indoor courts.



SPORTS FACILITIES

The **McPherson Recreation Commission**, which is headquartered at the McPherson Family YMCA, has provided recreation programs to the community since 1946. The MRC maintains sports facilities for public use, including the Grant Sports Complex, Homeside Diamond, Rolf Park, and Wall Park.

Sports facilities are used by local teams from USD 418, McPherson College, and Central Christian College.

Grant Sports Complex is adjacent to an Elementary School, and has two baseball fields, two softball fields, two T-Ball fields, batting cages, concessions, two playgrounds, a picnic shelter, and restrooms.



Grant Sports Complex



Complex by Dog Park

On the same property as McPherson's Dog Park, there is a **baseball complex**. The complex is on the west side of Centennial Drive, a quarter mile south of Kiowa Road. It is inside the city limits, but is not mentioned on the City website. It has a baseball diamond and a softball diamond, a large gravel parking lot with concrete ADA parking, batting cages, and a restroom building.

Light Capital Complex has a paved parking lot, a baseball field with stadium seating, a T-Ball field, two batting cages, and concessions. **Rolf Softball Diamond** is reserved for softball and youth baseball for ages fifth grade and younger.



Light Capital Complex



Rolf Softball Diamond

The 60-acre **Wall Bicentennial Park** is McPherson's largest park. Dry Turkey Creek and Mingenback Lake, with 4 acres of water surface, separate the main part of the park from the baseball complex. The **Wall Bicentennial Park Complex** has a dedicated paved parking lot, four baseball/softball diamonds, coin-operated batting cages, a playground, and a restrooms/concessions building.



LARGE PARKS

The main part of **Wall Bicentennial Park** has two gravel parking lots plus on-street paved parking, walking paths, a lake overlook plaza, an 18-hole disc golf course, six tennis courts that were renovated in 2019, three picnic shelters with lake views, a playground, a BMX/skatepark, and public restrooms.



McPherson's second largest park is **Lakeside Park**, located just a quarter mile north of Wall Bicentennial Park. It has a number of paved parking lots, a bandshell, six picnic shelters, three playgrounds, a handicap accessible playground, a 9-hole disc golf course, walking paths, the Swan Court fountain, a garden bridge and a fishing lagoon. It is adjacent to the City's Water Park.



SPECIALIZED PARKS

The **Downtown Plaza** is a small paved urban plaza that provides seating and an event space in the heart of downtown. The Park Department and McPherson Main Street manage the Downtown Plaza cooperatively.



The **McPherson Water Park** is operated cooperatively by the City of McPherson and the McPherson Recreation Commission. The 600,000 gallon facility has a large concrete parking lot with ADA parking, a lap pool with eight 50-meter lanes and a diving well, a zero-entry pool, a splashpad, a 188-foot water slide, a 500-foot lazy river, and ample shaded seating, as well as restrooms, locker rooms and showers.



Opened in 2016, the 3-acre **Bremyer Dog Park** has a gravel parking lot with concrete ADA parking, separate sections for large and small dogs, a shelter with benches in each section, watering stations, and waste receptacles.



McPherson's municipal **Turkey Creek Golf Course** is an 18-hole, par-70 course with irrigated bluegrass fairways and bent grass greens. It has a large parking lot, a clubhouse and pro shop, a driving range, and a cart barn. Built in 1990, it is considered one of the top golf courses in Kansas.



There are also two privately owned golf courses about five miles north of McPherson. The 9-hole, par-36 **Rolling Acres Golf Course Club** is open to the public, while the 9-hole, par-35 **McPherson Country Club** is private.

Just west of downtown and adjacent to the County Courthouse, **Memorial Park** pays tribute to the veterans of McPherson County. The Park has a gazebo, an arbor, a fish pond, and various monuments, including a statue of General McPherson.



Wickersham Park, on the other side of Kansas Avenue from Memorial Park, is a city block that was once occupied by McPherson's first high school. Now it is green space with trees and turf, which serves as the site of the city's annual All Schools Day carnival.



Wickersham Park sculpture



Sunflower Triangle Park sign

In the late 1800s, **Sunflower Triangle Park** was the site of a train depot on the City's outskirts. Adjacent to Kansas Avenue, the Park now provides a picnic area for travelers coming into town from the east.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Just east of downtown McPherson, **Challengers Park** has paved parking, two lighted basketball courts, and four lighted tennis courts.



Linnea Park, just across the street from Challengers Park, has green space and mature trees, a large picnic shelter and a playground.



Homeside Park has a playground, a shaded picnic table, and a T-ball/coach pitch practice field.



Located in a residential subdivision, **Tall Grass Park** is fenced, and has two playgrounds, a gazebo and a 1/10 mile walking track.



Created with funds donated by a local family, **Whitlock Park** has a play area for neighborhood children. It is across the street from Wall Park.



The 7-acre **Hess Park** was recently constructed by community volunteers. Located near a trailhead for Meadowlark Trail, it has a playground with some handicap accessible equipment.



TRAILS

In addition to the many sidewalks and paths throughout McPherson, there are two railtrails linking the city to other Kansas communities. Both trails are maintained by community volunteers.

The **Sunflower Santa Fe Trail** is a railtrail stretching for 33 miles from McPherson to Marion.



The 12.6-mile **Meadowlark Trail** is being developed along a former Union Pacific railroad corridor between McPherson and Lindsborg.

