





Y(OUR) STORY

Dubuque Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan







December 2025

MASTER PLAN

REPORT

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi



Y(OUR) STORY

Dubuque Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan was made possible through the leadership and foresight of the Mayor and City Council. During their annual goal-setting session in August 2024, the Mayor and City Council prioritized the Parks Maintenance/ Refresh Action Plan for 2024-2026. In the August 2025 goal-setting session for 2025-2027, the Mayor and City Council identified the adoption and implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a high priority and designated the Sports Complex Development as a top priority. Additionally, the Council has supported improvements to Eagle Point Park. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to Parks and Recreation, which has resulted in this plan document and will continue to guide future implementation efforts for the Department moving forward.

The project team would like to acknowledge the following people for their leadership and efforts during the development of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan: Thank you to all Parks and Recreation Department staff and City departments that contributed to this plan.

The resident-appointed commissions provide invaluable thoughts, insights, and honest dialogue that assist the Council and staff by advising on matters specific to each commission. Their contributions help keep us grounded in our work and bring forward important perspectives from the community, which we then share with the City Council.

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Mayor Brad M. Cavanagh
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Council Member David T. Resnick
Council Member Laura J. Roussell
Council Member Danny C. Sprank
Council Member Chris Staver
Council Member Katy A. Wethal
Council Member Susan R. Farber *(2021-2025)*
Council Member Ric W. Jones *(2006-2025)*

Parks and Recreation Commission

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Robin Kennicker
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Thank you to the Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, the Resilient Community Advisory Commission, and the Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission

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Special thanks to all the Dubuque residents

who shared their unique perspectives on what makes Dubuque Parks and Recreation great and how it can be even better in the future. Thank you for taking the time to attend public meetings, participate in focus groups, stop by at pop-up events, complete surveys, and use the website feedback tools. Your input and passion for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan has truly helped craft Y(O)ur Story.













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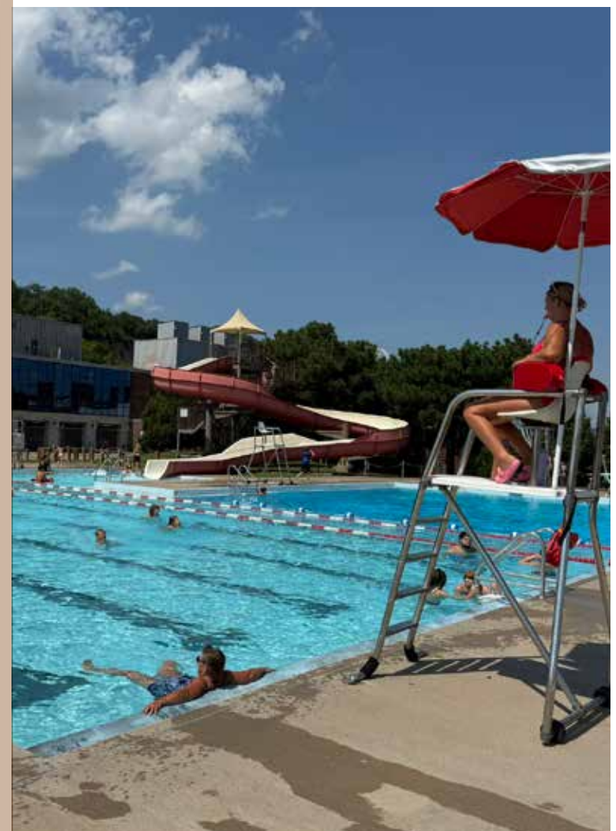
Appendix



Chapter 1

Introduction

Prologue





Y(OUR) STORY

Dubuque
Parks and Recreation
Comprehensive Plan

WHAT IS THE Y(O)UR STORY DUBUQUE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN?

The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan is a long-range plan that offers strategies providing guidance to meet the needs of current and future City of Dubuque residents. The plan defines opportunities, challenges, and recommendations for the next 10 years and beyond. The theme of the plan, Y(O)ur Story, is based on the idea that a well-crafted master plan would tell the story of Dubuque and its residents—where it was, where it is, and where it is going.

Dubuque Parks and Recreation is dedicated to providing safe, accessible, and well-maintained parks, recreation programs, and outdoor spaces. The Department's mission aims to foster community, promote healthy lifestyles, and preserve natural resources for future generations.

The Master Plan enables the City to engage in a public process to ensure future parks and recreation priorities and goals are resident driven and meet the evolving demands of the community. To carry out this mission as it relates to Parks and Recreation, the plan has been organized around the following objectives:

- Creating a comprehensive and compelling vision and direction for Parks and Recreation
- Identifying our community's needs and priorities regarding our city's facilities, programs, parks, and services
- Addressing land use planning, community needs and desires, environmental management, and resource assessment
- Gaining understanding of current and desired levels of service and facilities in order to demonstrate more proportional access to services and opportunities
- Identifying, assessing, and prioritizing the deferred and upcoming maintenance of parks, pools, and facilities
- Evaluating operations and maintenance practices and staffing with an aim to generate long-term sustainability and resilience benefits

PLANNING WITH PURPOSE

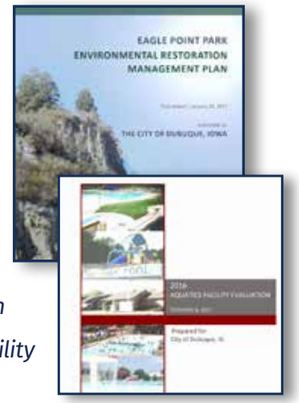
Y(O)ur Story Dubuque is the Parks and Recreation Department's first long-range comprehensive master plan in 45 years. This plan and other recent Dubuque planning efforts demonstrate the City's commitment to planning for a successful future. The City has a track record of translating vision, engaging the residents, and planning into action and partnerships. This plan aims to align its guiding principles, goals, strategies, and recommendations in the context of the following key planning documents relating to parks and recreation.

A CITY OF PARTNERSHIPS

Dubuque delivers its residents exceptional amenities and experiences that exceed expectations given its size and population. This is largely due to long-standing and successful partnerships. For decades, Parks and Recreation has sought out creative ways to deliver recreation opportunities to the community utilizing their limited resources, facilities, and funding to their full extent. To this day, the City of Dubuque and its residents have been greatly benefiting from these partnerships and solution-based decisions. Parks and Recreation leverages numerous partnerships, internally and externally, that allow the City to be good stewards of the land, a good neighbor, beautify the city, host regional-scale events, and utilize indoor facilities for programs. The City has a responsibility to preserve, maintain, and advance these partnerships while also recognizing the limitations of these partnerships and, in some cases, the need for parks and recreation dedicated facilities and additional staff. Parks and Recreation continues to build positive partnerships and seek out others with similar goals. Residents support these existing partnerships and seeking new partnerships to improve the parks and recreation system. Existing partnerships that serve the community include but are not limited to DRA operating the ImOn Arena and Amphitheater, the Miracle League of Dubuque program and complex at Veterans Memorial Park, Dubuque Main Street's coordination of the Dubuque Farmers' Market, City support for the Hills and Dales Senior Center, Dubuque Community School District shared facilities use, volunteer programs at the Dubuque Arboretum at Marshall Park, and the E.B. Lyons Interpretive and Nature Center at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area.

ALIGNMENT WITH KEY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

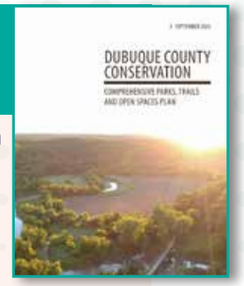
Recent planning efforts by Dubuque and its key partners demonstrate the City's commitment to planning for a successful future. This plan aims to align its values, goals, strategies, and recommendations in the context of the following key planning documents relating to parks and recreation.



2017 Eagle Point Park Environmental Restoration Management Plan

2016 Aquatics Facility Evaluation

2020 Dubuque County Conservation Comprehensive Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces Plan



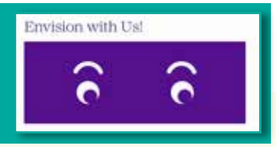
The 2020 Dubuque County Conservation Comprehensive Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces Plan aims to enhance the county's natural resources by improving parks, expanding trail networks, and preserving open spaces. The plan emphasizes sustainability, accessibility, and community involvement to ensure the recreational and conservation needs of current and future residents are met.

2024 Historic Millwork District Master Plan Update



The Historic Millwork District Master Plan Update focuses on revitalizing the district by preserving its historic character while promoting mixed-use development, including residential, commercial, and cultural spaces. The updated plan emphasizes environmental resilience, improved infrastructure, and community engagement to create a vibrant, walkable urban neighborhood.

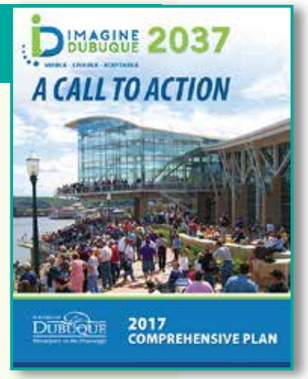
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque Envision 2030 (In Progress)



The Envision 2030 initiative by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque is a strategic plan aimed at creating a thriving future for the Dubuque region. It focuses on addressing key areas like education, health, economic opportunity, housing, and community engagement. The goal is to build a resilient, inclusive, and vibrant community by 2030. This initiative involves collaboration with local organizations, businesses, and residents to ensure that the region's development is comprehensive and sustainable.

2016 — 2017 — 2020 — 2023 — 2024 — 2030

2017 Imagine Dubuque 2037: A Call to Action



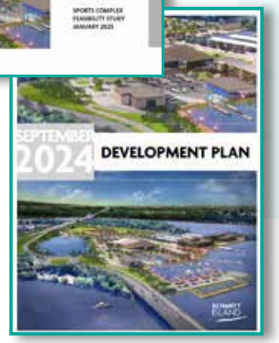
Imagine Dubuque 2037: A Call to Action is the city's comprehensive plan focused on sustained growth and development, emphasizing community resilience, economic vitality, and environmental stewardship. The plan involved active community engagement to implement strategies that enhance quality of life, infrastructure, and cultural belonging in Dubuque by 2037.

2023 Dubuque Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan

2020 City of Dubuque Climate Action Plan







2024 Schmitt Island Development Plan and 2025 Schmitt Island Sports Complex Feasibility Study

The Schmitt Island Development Plan aims to transform Schmitt Island into a vibrant recreational and cultural destination by enhancing public amenities, improving sports facilities, and promoting economic growth. The plan emphasizes environmental sustainability, accessibility, and community engagement to ensure the project's long-term success and benefit to the local community.

DUBUQUE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Who We Are...

Mission Statement

Dubuque Parks and Recreation is dedicated to providing safe, accessible, and well-maintained parks, recreation programs, and outdoor spaces. We aim to foster community, promote healthy lifestyles, and preserve natural resources for all people and future generations.

Vision

To create and maintain vibrant community spaces and memorable experiences that improve the lives of all residents through opportunity and connection.

Guiding Principles

Community Belonging and Connection

Our programs, spaces, and services strengthen the bonds between neighbors through shared experiences and ensuring residents feel heard and valued.

Excellence in Care and Maintenance

We take pride in clean, safe, and well-maintained parks and facilities, reflecting our respect for both our system and the people who use it.

Lifelong Enjoyment and Discovery

We create opportunities for recreation, learning, and wellness at every age — from childhood adventures to lifelong passions.

Community Engagement and Ownership

We ensure our improvements are guided by active community participation and transparent processes. We empower residents to take ownership of their public spaces, ensuring our parks remain welcoming, dynamic, and responsive to community needs.

Viability and Innovation

We embrace sustainable and fiscally responsible practices and forward-thinking solutions to meet today's needs without compromising tomorrow's resources.

Active Stewardship

We protect and preserve the natural landscapes and amenities that make our city unique ensuring their beauty and vitality for generations to come.

Pride of Place

We foster a deep sense of local pride — where every playground, trail, and park tells the story of our region's natural heritage and resilient spirit

What We Do...

The Parks and Recreation Department comprises a Park Division, a Recreation Division, and a Civic Facilities Division. Together, the Parks and Recreation Department maintains more than 1,200 acres of parkland. The department is responsible for multiple diverse offerings and supports the following functions:



**Note: Not included in the master plan effort but a part of the Parks and Recreation Department is Grand River Center, Five Flags Civic Center, and ImOn Arena.*

PARKS DIVISION

PARKS: The Dubuque parks system offers a myriad of outdoor amenities and scenic landscapes. Our parks cater to the diverse needs of the community, promoting outdoor activities, leisure, and environmental education. Parks Maintenance maintains all of the City's parks, trails, and public spaces and performs routine activities to ensure the parks are clean, safe, and operational. The goal of parks maintenance is to ensure the parks serve the needs of the public.

TRAILS: Dubuque's well-developed trails network caters to hiking, biking, and outdoor enthusiasts. The network is connected to The Heritage Trail, a 26-mile limestone trail, traversing from Dubuque to Dyersville, offering a scenic route through wooded areas and alongside waterways. The Dubuque Water Trail provides paddlers with a marked route along the Mississippi River. Additionally, the Mines of Spain Recreation Area, a partnership that includes the City of Dubuque, features over 15 miles of trails that lead through diverse terrains such as forests, prairies, and bluffs, providing educational opportunities about the area's natural and historical significance. The City's trail system integrates with parks and natural areas, ensuring accessibility, promoting active lifestyles, and providing a means of transportation to help people get from place to place.

OPEN SPACES AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Dubuque's natural resources are rich in habitat diversity, including oak savannas, prairies, and bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. There are a finite number of open spaces containing Natural Resources in Dubuque. These features are unique, improve water quality, and provide ecological habitats for insects, birds, and mammals. The need to manage Dubuque's natural resources will ensure the City's long-term environmental, economic, and social well-being to improve the quality of life both for its residents but also all of the life these environments support.

E.B. Lyons Prairie and Woodland Preserve and E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center are gems of natural beauty, offering residents and visitors the opportunity to explore diverse ecosystems including prairies, woodlands, and wetlands. These opportunities educate and provide insightful information about local flora, fauna, and local conservation efforts. Activities include engaging in outdoor activities like hiking, bird-watching, and guided tours to connect with nature.

CAMPGROUND: Miller Riverview Park and Campground offers a scenic and convenient riverside retreat for campers and outdoor enthusiasts. The park features primitive campsites and modern campsites equipped featuring electrical hookups, water access, dump station, and nearby restroom facilities. The campground is designed to accommodate both tent and RV campers, ensuring a comfortable stay for all visitors. The park provides ample recreational opportunities such as fishing, bird watching, nearby boating, and riverside picnicking. Green spaces and walking trails within the park further contribute to this well-rounded outdoor experience in the north end of Dubuque.

RECREATION DIVISION

POOLS: Dubuque's aquatics facilities include Flora Pool and Sutton Pool, both of which feature amenities such as lap swimming lanes, diving boards, water slides, and children's play areas. These pools also offer swimming lessons, aquatic fitness classes, and seasonal activities that encourage healthy lifestyles and social engagement. The City's investment in these park pools ensures a clean, safe, and enjoyable aquatics environments for residents and visitors.

GOLF COURSE: Bunker Hill Golf Course features a scenic 18-hole public golf course. The course welcomes players of all ages and abilities. Bunker Hill offers a full schedule of golf events, a variety of men's and women's leagues, programs for junior golfers, private lessons, and more. Amenities include a fully-stocked pro shop, a public bar and clubhouse, putting green, an on-course beverage cart, and equipment rentals.

MARINA: The Port of Dubuque Marina is a 70-slip transient marina in downtown Dubuque, Iowa, located along the upper Mississippi River inside the protected Ice Harbor. Guests can spend a day, night, or a few hours enjoying the many downtown and Port of Dubuque attractions. The marina offers seasonal slip rentals including full electric and water hookups, access to private and secure shower suites, and a personal keycard for dock entry. The marina includes a full-service fuel dock and a convenience store carrying a selection of boating supplies, food, and refreshments.

ADAPTIVE PROGRAMS AND MIRACLE LEAGUE: The Miracle League of Dubuque is an extraordinary organization dedicated to providing children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to play baseball, actively use the playground, and enjoy programming in the center in a specialized, inclusive environment at Veterans Memorial Park. Established to ensure that everyone, regardless of their abilities, can enjoy the thrill of athletics and activities, this league uses custom-designed fields equipped with features like cushioned, rubberized surfaces to accommodate wheelchairs and other assistive devices.

(CONTINUED) RECREATION DIVISION

MOBILE RECREATION: The Dubuque Rec ‘n Roll Trailer is a mobile recreation program that brings games, activities, and equipment to community parks and events across the city. Rec ‘n Roll represents an innovative approach to dynamic programming and community engagement by bringing recreational activities directly to neighborhoods and community spaces. This program is designed to increase accessibility to physical and social activities for residents of all ages by providing a variety of games, and other portable recreational equipment right to their neighborhood.

YOUTH PROGRAMS: The Let's Go! Programs include recreational and educational programming, including parent/caregiver and child classes, youth enrichment classes for kids of all ages, karate, after-school sports, swimming lessons, adaptive sports, adult dance classes, adult athletics, and more. The programs strive to create a fun environment for all ages to play, learn, socialize, and express their creativity. Programs are offered across the city, The Let's Go! activities guide is published three times per year: Winter/Spring, Summer, and Fall communicating offerings to residents and getting the word out about programs via marketing channels like social media.

SPORT FIELD ALLOCATION: Sport field allocation manages the availability and scheduling of athletic fields to meet the needs of local sports leagues, schools, and community groups. The recreation division’s oversight and organization ensures fair and efficient access to facilities such as softball and baseball diamonds, and multi-use sports fields. Allocation is based on factors like season, demand, and specific requirements of each sport or event. This programming and planning ensures that all community members have ample opportunities to engage in sports activities, enhancing the overall quality of life in Dubuque through organized and accessible recreation options.

CIVIC FACILITIES DIVISION*

GRAND RIVER CENTER: The Grand River Center is a convention and event venue situated along the picturesque Mississippi River. This facility includes flexible spaces that cater to any occasion including meeting and exhibition space, a grand ballroom, numerous meeting rooms, and a spacious exhibit hall. Its prime location, adjacent to lodging, gaming, and entertainment venues and within walking distance of historic downtown Dubuque and Historic Millwork District make it a sought-after destination for both local and regional events.

FIVE FLAGS CIVIC CENTER: The Five Flags Civic Center is a versatile multi-use facility that serves as a cultural and entertainment hub for the community. Comprising an arena, theater, and historic center, this venue hosts a wide range of events including concerts, sporting events, and theatrical productions.

IMON ARENA: The ImOn Arena is Schmitt Island's premiere ice rink and event center. Featuring a 3,200 seat, single sheet ice rink and event space that serves the City of Dubuque and surrounding communities in Iowa, as well as nearby communities in the tri-state area. The arena, a partnership with the Dubuque Racing Association (DRA), offers hockey and skating programs and clubs for all skill levels and ages.

AMPHITHEATER: Construction of a new city-owned outdoor concert amphitheater on Champlain Schmitt Island is currently underway and anticipated to open for the 2026 concert season. The Amphitheater is being operated in partnership with the DRA.

**Please note while the Civic Facilities Division is part of Dubuque Parks and Recreation, these facilities were considered in the formation of recommendations but are not included as a part of this plan.*

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

The master planning process enables the City to assess the community's parks and recreation needs and interests and it enables decision makers to prioritize resource allocation decisions for existing and new amenities and facilities, programs, services, and overall system maintenance. The Dubuque Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan provides the following for the community:

- Evaluates the existing park system and utilizes benchmarks of regional and national standards and potential service-level improvements
- Incorporates the vision, goals, and tasks outlined in other recently adopted planning documents
- Documents priorities, trends, and demands of the current population and charts a long-range plan for accommodating anticipated population growth and demographic evolution
- Informs the community about park needs and the system's community assets
- Develops an implementation plan that outlines projects, potential funding sources, and operations and maintenance implications
- Identifies and prioritizes capital improvement projects for both existing parks and future park facilities based on community needs
- Guides critical decisions about parks and recreation facilities, infrastructure, programs, and services
- Develops guidelines for park design standards and park maintenance

This long-range plan is designed to be flexible and adapt to constantly evolving circumstances. It is intended to be a working document that will guide parks and recreation efforts, resources, and funding over the next 10-year period and beyond.

HOW THE PLAN IS ORGANIZED

The plan is organized by major elements of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Vision	Guiding Principles	Strategies and Recommendations
Key themes that have emerged through stakeholder and community engagement that align with the City's vision and other City plans and policies.	High-level ideals that support the values and outcomes the master plan aims to achieve.	Short-, mid-, and long-term actions the City may take to realize the goals and embody the vision of the plan.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Summary

- The 2025 total population projection in the city (59,818) and the School District (80,095) are such that they would support a variety of parks and recreation facilities and programs. Furthermore, those population figures would support the existence of public, non-profit, and private providers in the same market.
- The median age in both the city and School District follow the rate of increase for both the state and national figures. While the median age in the city is slightly less than that of the School District, all figures are comparable to those of the state and national median. Interestingly, while the median age is comparable to that of the national figure, the city (24.1%) and School District (26.4%) both have fewer households with children compared with the state (28.75) and nation (30.2%).
- The age distribution in the City of Dubuque is unique with 20.8% of the population under 18 years of age, and 30.78% of the population over the age of 55. The age categories of -5 , 5-17, 18-24, and 55-64 are projected to decrease between 2020-2030. The rate of cumulative decrease of those four age categories (-40.9%) does not outpace the cumulative increase of the other four age categories (51.4%).
- The median household income in the city is lower than that of the School District. The School District is lower than the state figure, and the state figure is lower than the national figure. This highlights the need for the City to be realistic with their revenue generating expectations and pricing policy, as there is limited bandwidth to absorb discretionary spending.
- It is important to note that the rate of spending on categories of "housing" and "entertainment of recreation" follows the same pattern as that of median household income.
- B*K and the project team would characterize the city as a diverse community with more than 15% of the population being non-White. This is an important data point as it can impact the level of importance that different cultures place on parks and recreation programs and facilities. It is also important because the rate of participation amongst the Black and Hispanic communities (tracked by the National Sporting Goods Association) show some significant variances in some activities.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

B*K accesses demographic information from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) who utilizes 2020 Census data and their demographers for 2025-2030 projections. In addition to demographics, ESRI also provides data on housing, recreation, and entertainment spending and adult participation in activities.

Service Areas

The information provided highlights what B*K has come to define as key indicators of success for municipal parks and recreation departments. B*K has provided data on the City of Dubuque, Dubuque School District, and comparisons with state and national figures. Given this project is a master plan, it is assumed that the City of Dubuque is the primary service area.

A primary service area is defined as the distance people will travel on a regular basis (a minimum of once a week) to utilize recreation facilities. Use by individuals outside of this area will be much more limited and will focus more on special activities or events.

Service areas can flex or contract based upon a facility's proximity to major thoroughfares. Other factors impacting the use as it relates to driving distances are the presence of alternative service providers in the service area. Alternative service providers can influence participation, membership, daily admissions, and the associated penetration rates for programs and services.

Service areas can vary in size with the types of components in the facility.



Demographic Summary

	City of Dubuque	Dubuque School District
Population:		
2020 Census	59,710	79,840
2025 Estimate	59,818	80,095
2030 Estimate	59,983	80,354
Households:		
2020 Census	25,146	32,534
2025 Estimate	25,418	32,912
2030 Estimate	25,656	33,219
Families:		
2020 Census	13,995	19,822
2025 Estimate	13,642	19,387
2030 Estimate	13,633	19,342
Average Household Size:		
2020 Census	2.23	2.34
2025 Estimate	2.20	2.32
2030 Estimate	2.19	2.30
Ethnicity (2025 Estimate):		
Hispanic	4.2%	3.6%
White	84.1%	86.6%
Black	6.4%	5.0%
American Indian	0.4%	0.4%
Asian	1.2%	1.2%
Pacific Islander	1.8%	1.4%
Other	1.4%	1.2%
Multiple	4.8%	4.4%
Median Age:		
2020 Census	37.3	38.7
2025 Estimate	38.4	39.4
2030 Estimate	39.7	40.3
Median Income:		
2025 Estimate	$64,472	$71,525
2030 Estimate	$71,189	$77,939

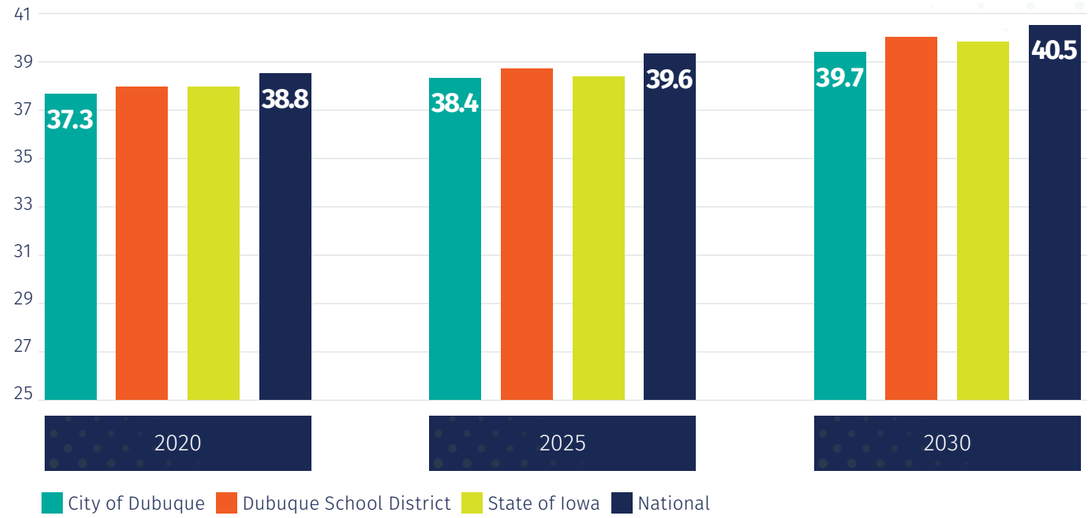
Age and Income

The median age and household income levels are compared with the national number as both factors are secondary determiners of participation in recreation activities. The lower the median age, the higher the participation rates are for most activities. The level of participation also increases as the median income level goes up.

Table A – Median Age

	2020 Census	2025 Projection	2030 Projection
City of Dubuque	37.3	38.4	39.7
Dubuque School District	38.7	39.4	40.3
State of Iowa	38.6	39.3	40.2
National	38.8	39.6	40.5

Chart A – Median Age:



The median age in the city and School District have slight differences with the city being lower. The School District, State of Iowa, and national figures are almost identical. The role of parks and recreation departments is ever evolving, but a consistent theme is that they offer a wide variety of programs and facilities that address the full age spectrum.

Table B – Household with Children

	Number of Households with Children	Percentage of Households with Children
City of Dubuque	6,213	24.1%
Dubuque School District	8,788	26.4%
State of Iowa	373,466	28.7%
National	-	30.2%

The following chart provides the number of households and percentage of households in the City of Dubuque and Dubuque School District with children.

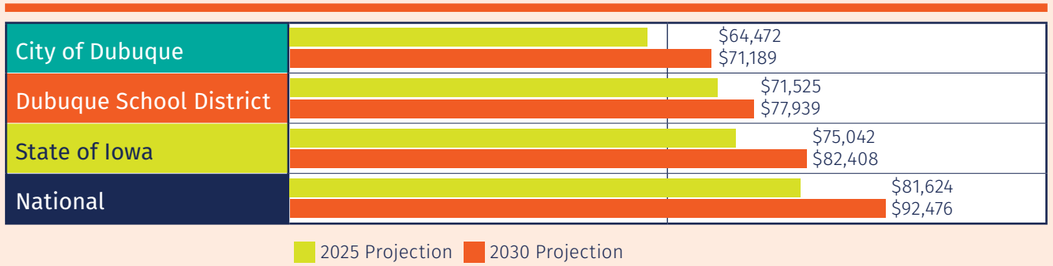
The information contained in Table B helps further outline the presence of families with children.

Table C – Multi-Generational and Unmarried Partner Households

	City of Dubuque	Dubuque School District	State of Iowa
Multi-Gen Households	1.9%	1.8%	2.0%
Unmarried Partner Households	6.9%	6.7%	6.7%
Male-Female	6.4%	6.2%	6.2%
Same-Sex	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%

B*K could not locate specific information on single-parent households for the City of Dubuque. However, as of 2023, approximately 26.1% of households with children in Dubuque County, IA are single-parent households.

Table D – Median Household Income:



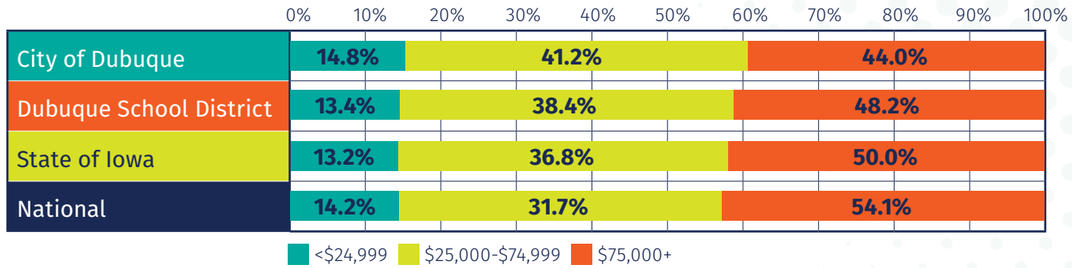
Based on 2025 projections for median household income, the following narrative describes the service area:

In the City of Dubuque, the percentage of households with income over $75,000 per year is 44.0% compared to 54.1% on a national level. Furthermore, the percentage of households in the service area with median income less than $25,000 per year is 14.8% compared to a level of 14.2% nationally.

In Dubuque School District, the percentage of households with median income over $75,000 per year is 48.2% compared to 54.1% on a national level. Furthermore, the percentage of households in the service area with median income less than $25,000 per year is 13.4% compared to a level of 14.2% nationally.

While there is no perfect indicator of use of recreation facilities, the percentage of households with more than $75,000 median income is a key indicator. Therefore, those numbers are significant and balanced with the overall cost of living.

Chart D (2) – Median Household Income Distribution



In addition to looking at the Median Age and Median Income, it is important to examine Household Budget Expenditures. Reviewing housing information; shelter, utilities, fuel, and public services; along with entertainment and recreation can provide a snapshot into the cost of living and spending patterns in the services areas. The table below looks at that information and compares the service areas.

Table D – Household Budget Expenditures[3]

City of Dubuque	SPI	Average Amount Spent	Percent
Housing	73	$23,728.87	32.0%
Shelter	72	$19,140.85	25.8%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	77	$4,588.02	6.2%
Entertainment and Recreation	75	$3,091.22	4.2%

Dubuque School District	SPI	Average Amount Spent	Percent
Housing	79	$25,841.95	31.9%
Shelter	78	$20,869.91	25.7%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	84	$4,972.04	6.1%
Entertainment and Recreation	83	$3,389.85	4.2%

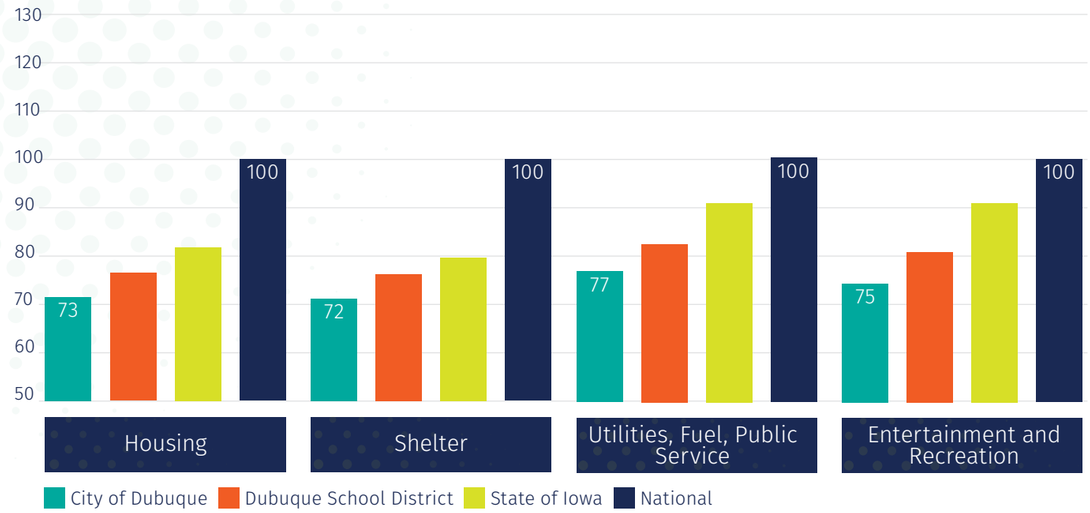
State of Iowa	SPI	Average Amount Spent	Percent
Housing	84	$27,361.19	31.5%
Shelter	82	$21,916.69	25.3%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	92	$5,444.50	6.3%
Entertainment and Recreation	91	$3,723.27	4.3%

SPI: Spending Potential Index as compared to the National number of 100.
Average Amount Spent: The average amount spent per household.
Percent: Percent of the total 100% of household expenditures.

Note: Shelter along with Utilities, Fuel, and Public Service are a portion of the Housing percentage.

[3] Consumer Spending data are derived from the 2019 and 2021 Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ESRI forecasts for 2025 and 2029.

Chart E – Household Budget Expenditures Spending Potential Index



The consistency between the median household income and the household budget expenditures is important. It is important because it illustrates that the spending patterns of the service area align with the resources available. It also points to the fact that compared to a national level the dollars available, the money being spent in the City of Dubuque and Dubuque School District is comparable to the state and less than the national level.

Housing Inventory

The total number of housing units in the City of Dubuque is 27,194 and 92.5% are occupied, or 25,146 housing units. The total vacancy rate for the service area is 7.5%. As a comparison, the vacancy rate nationally was 10.8%.

The total number of housing units in Dubuque School District is 34,901 and 93.2% are occupied, or 32,534 housing units. The total vacancy rate for the service area is 6.8%. As a comparison, the vacancy rate nationally was 10.8%.

These statistics point to a stable housing market in both service areas.

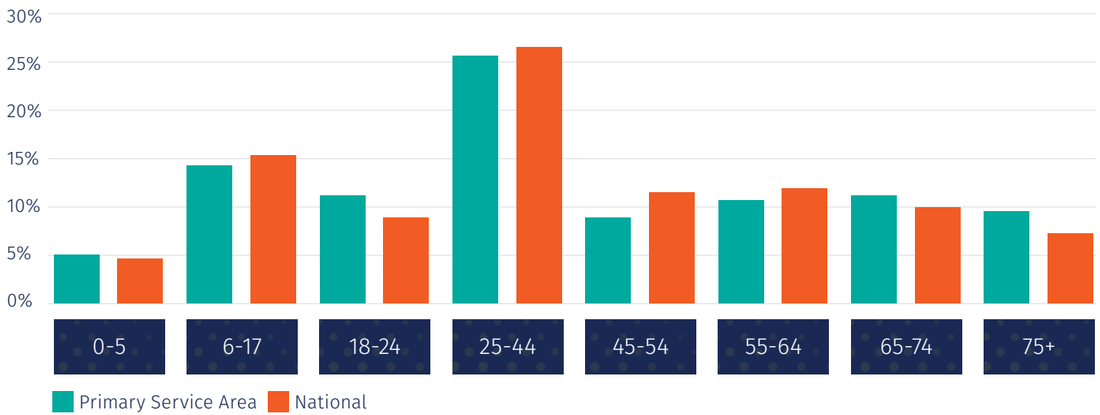
Population Distribution by Age: Utilizing Census information for the Primary Service Area, the following comparisons are possible.

Table F – 2025 Primary Service Area Age Distribution (ESRI estimates)

Ages	Population	% of Total	Nat. Population	Difference
0-5	3,354	5.6%	5.4%	+0.2%
6-17	8,589	14.5%	15.4%	-0.9%
18-24	6,937	11.6%	9.4%	+2.2%
25-44	15,768	26.5%	26.9%	-0.4%
45-54	5,685	9.5%	12.0%	-2.5%
55-64	6,669	11.1%	12.1%	-1.0%
65-74	6,670	11.2%	10.7%	+0.5%
75+	6,146	10.2%	8.0%	+2.2%

Population: 2025 Census estimates in the different age groups in the Primary Service Area.
% of Total: Percentage of the Primary Service Area population in the age group.
National Population: Percentage of the national population in the age group.
Difference: Percentage difference between the Primary Service Area population and the national population.

Chart F – 2025 Primary Service Area Age Group Distribution



The demographic makeup of the Primary Service Area, when compared to the characteristics of the national population, indicates that there are some differences with a smaller population in the age groups 5-17, 25-44, 45-54, and 55-64 age groups. The greatest positive variance is in the 18-24 and 75+ with +2.2%, while the greatest negative variance is in the 45-54 age groups with -2.5%.

Population Distribution Comparison by Age: Utilizing Census information from the Primary Service Area, the following comparisons are possible.

Table G – 2025 Primary Service Area Population Estimates (U.S. Census Information and ESRI)

Ages	2020 Census	2025 Projection	2030 Projection	Percent Change	Percent Change National
0-5	3,471	3,354	3,287	-5.3%	+0.3%
6-17	8,779	8,589	8,300	-5.5%	-8.0%
18-24	7,428	6,937	6,921	-6.8%	+2.4%
25-44	14,956	15,768	15,476	+3.5%	+7.2%
45-54	5,875	5,685	6,264	+6.6%	+4.0%
55-64	7,555	6,669	5,791	-23.3%	-9.6%
65-74	6,228	6,670	6,719	+7.9%	+15.3%
75+	5,418	6,146	7,225	+33.4%	+46.0%

Chart G – Primary Service Area Population Growth

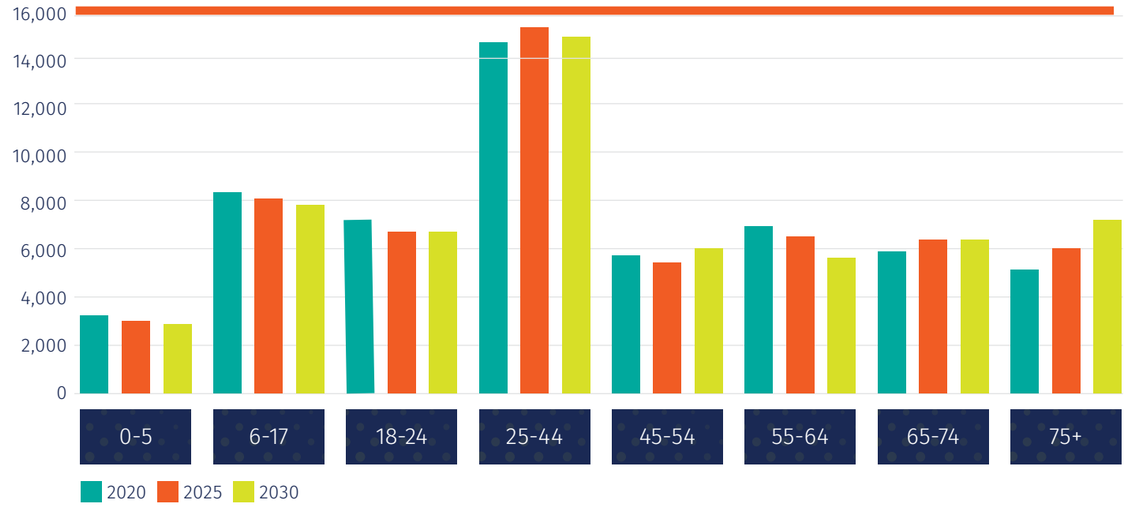


Table H illustrates the growth or decline in age group numbers from the 2020 Census until the year 2030. It is projected that the age categories 25-44, 45-54, 65-74, and 75+ will see an increase in population with all others a decrease. The population of the United States is aging, and it is not unusual to find negative growth numbers in the younger age groups and significant net gains in the 45-plus age groupings in communities which are relatively stable in their population numbers.

Below is listed the distribution of the population by race and ethnicity for the Primary Service Area for 2025 population projections. Those numbers were developed from 2020 Census data.

Table H – Primary Service Area Ethnic Population and Median Age 2025
(Source – U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI)

Ethnicity	Total Population	Median Age	% of Population	% of IA Population
Hispanic	2,494	23.2	4.2%	7.6%

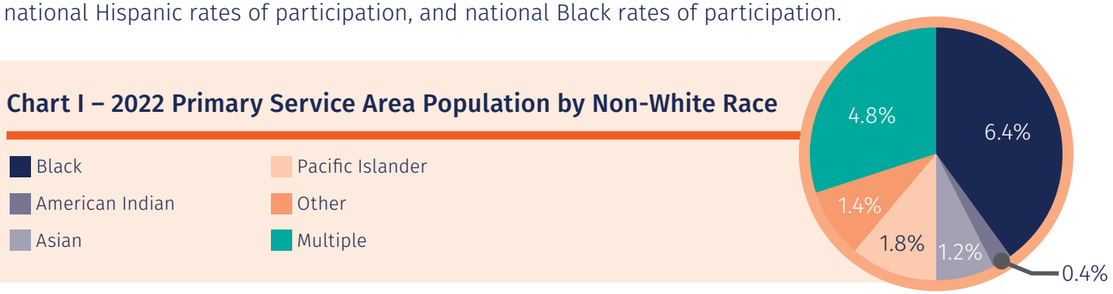
Table I – Primary Service Area by Race and Median Age 2025
(Source – U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI)

Race	Total Population	Median Age	% of Population	% of IA Population
White	50,281	42.2	84.1%	83.0%
Black	3,816	23.4	6.4%	4.5%
American Indian	262	31.6	0.4%	0.5%
Asian	711	35.0	1.2%	2.5%
Pacific Islander	1,046	24.3	1.8%	0.3%
Other	839	25.9	1.4%	3.1%
Multiple	2,863	21.1	4.8%	6.1%

2025 Primary Service Area Total Population: 59,818 Residents

Given Dubuque's geographic location, having over 15% of the population non-white would make it, in the opinion of B*K, a diverse community. It is important to note that the race and ethnicity of a community can increase or decrease participation in activities. In the participation section of the report, there is a comparison between participation in the city, the national rate of participation, national Hispanic rates of participation, and national Black rates of participation.

Chart I – 2022 Primary Service Area Population by Non-White Race



REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TRENDS FOR RECREATION

General

Public parks and recreation agencies have been tested in the last 10 to 20 years to alter their approach to providing parks and recreation services. This has been based on the following:

Increasing Demands

Ever increasing facility, program, and service demands from the public.

Inclusiveness

The requirement that agencies provide access to facilities, programs, and services to an ever more diverse population. This includes meeting the needs of different ethnic groups, and those with varying economic status, age, and ability.

Cost Effectiveness

A demand that parks and recreation agencies be more cost effective in their development and operations of services and facilities.

Measurable Outcomes

A strong need to be able to quantify the results and benefits of the programs and facilities that are provided. Establishing well-defined levels of service (LOS) is critical.

As a result of these factors, the following general parks and recreation best practices have been adopted.

- Parks and recreation agencies have a clear vision statement regarding their roles and responsibilities in providing services to their constituents.
- The vision statement is backed up by several pointed goals. These goals are updated on an annual basis.
- Utilizing the vision and goals, a professional and updated master plan is in place to guide future development and operations of parks and recreation facilities and programs.
- There are on-going, long-range planning efforts to position the agency for success in the future.
- There is a realization that an agency cannot effectively be all things to all people in the delivery of parks and recreation services and facilities. As a result, specific areas of focus are determined, and certain functions are left to other organizations and entities.
- Careful analysis is being done to determine which services should be provided in-house and which should be contracted to other providers.
- There is strong record keeping that allows for trends and directional analysis. This also results in the development of specific performance measures. For this to be effective, there must be full computerization of all management records. This includes program registration, point of sale, rentals, facility scheduling, time card management, maintenance, etc.
- There are well written and comprehensive policies and procedures in place that cover all aspects of an agency's management and operation. These are updated on a regular basis.
- Virtually every aspect of an agency's operation is evaluated, tracked, and measured on a regular basis.

Recreation Facilities

Developing and managing a variety of recreation facilities is the main focus of public agencies in larger communities. The types of facilities that are now provided by parks and recreation departments have become more diverse and expensive to acquire, develop, and maintain. As a result, establishing a master plan is critical to determining facility development roles, timelines, and priorities.

Recreation/Community Centers

Recreation/Community centers are usually developed on three levels:

Clubhouse/Community Building

Smaller buildings that are designed to serve as a community room(s) for individual neighborhoods. The size is usually less than 5,000 sq. ft. and requires less than 3 acres. These amenities are usually located next to a neighborhood pool or park.

Community Center

Larger community buildings with multiple, more passive use, spaces that serve an area of a community. These vary in size and amenities and can range from 5,000 to over 20,000 sq. ft. and require 3 to 5 acres. This level of center can also be combined with a comprehensive community recreation center or community aquatic center. These centers are usually part of a community park.

Comprehensive Community Recreation Center

This is a large center that contains both active (pool, gym, fitness, etc.) and passive use elements (community rooms) and is designed to serve a substantial geographic area (30,000 or more). The facility is usually more than 40,000 sq. ft. to as much as 80,000 sq. ft. and requires 8 acres or more. These are often developed through partnerships with other organizations or other groups (YMCA, etc.). These centers are normally part of a community or regional park.

Senior Center

A center that has a focus on senior services from recreation to education and social services. These centers can be as small as 10,000 sq. ft. to more than 50,000 sq. ft. depending on the amenities that are included. More traditional centers have a strong passive use orientation with a large multi-purpose room and a commercial kitchen that supports a daily lunch program and larger events and programs. There are also usually smaller classrooms, card rooms, game rooms, small libraries, and other amenities. More cutting-edge centers have cafes, multi-purpose rooms, and active use spaces including fitness areas, gyms, and even swimming pools.

There is also a movement away from developing standalone senior centers and integrating these into community recreation centers to provide greater opportunities for the more active senior. Most senior centers in California tend to be on the smaller end of the size spectrum and focus more on the passive senior rather than active. Most senior centers are also standalone facilities and are not part of a larger community recreation center.

Specialized Facilities

This includes unique facilities such as aquatic centers, nature/interpretative center, amphitheater, tennis centers, and other amenities. The following is a breakdown of basic specialized facilities.

Aquatic Centers

Aquatic centers or swimming pools are usually developed on four levels.

Neighborhood

Smaller pools that are designed to serve specific neighborhoods. The bather load is usually less than 500. These amenities are often built next to a neighborhood park.

Community

Larger pools that serve a community. These vary in size and amenities (competitive to recreational) and can range from a bather load of 500 to over 1,000. They are developed as part of a community park.

Regional

These are large water parks or competitive pools that are designed to serve a significant geographic area. They usually contain an expansive recreational pool but can also have a strong competitive focus. Bather loads are 1,000 or more. These are often developed through a partnership with other organizations. They would be in a regional park or as a standalone facility.

Splash pad

Many communities are either replacing existing neighborhood pools with splash pads or adding them to the inventory of aquatic facilities.

Most aquatic centers are in the community category and there are an increasing number of splash pads being built.

Performing Arts Center (PAC)

A performing arts center is a regional indoor facility with a large theater. Seating can vary from 300 to more than 1,000. The center can be 30,000 to 70,000 sq. ft. and requires 8 acres or more. This type of center is normally developed by several organizations or large communities. They can be located as part of a larger civic campus, in conjunction with a comprehensive recreation center, or as an amenity in a regional park.

Because of their sheer size and cost, these types of facilities are not built in significant numbers in most communities (or even nationally). Many communities do have smaller PACs or utilize community center rooms (usually with flat floors) for these types of activities. Some communities that do have a PAC are at times managed and operated by other entities rather than parks and recreation.

Fieldhouse
Steadily gaining in popularity is an indoor sports facility that features hardcourt gym space and/or turf-based fields for sports such as soccer, lacrosse, football, and even softball and baseball. These buildings support both youth and adult sports leagues, tournaments, and camps. They tend to be most popular in colder climates but are also being built in very hot regions of the country. These facilities are either built as standalone amenities or may be included in recreation centers in a regional park.

Tennis Center

An 8-24 lighted court complex on 2-4 acres that has a stadium court, central restroom, concession, and pro-shop area. Many larger communities have a tennis center.

Pickleball Center

Many communities are building outdoor pickleball facilities. Sometimes these facilities are located in proximity to tennis facilities because tennis courts could be stripped for pickleball. However, most are standalone facilities. The minimum number of courts at one location is 4, but some communities are building 20+ courts at a single location which allows hosting tournaments.

Amphitheater
An amphitheater can be either a community sized amenity (under 1,000 seats, some permanent and some lawn with a small stage and storage area) or a large regional facility (1,000 to 3,000 seats, some permanent and some lawn with a large, covered stage, restrooms, and concessions). An amphitheater requires 2 to 4 acres of land with a community facility being in a community park and a regional facility in a regional park.

Nature Center/Interpretive Center
A small indoor and outdoor space (usually under 10,000 sq. ft.) for viewing and observing nature as well as for classroom space and exhibits. A nature center is usually located in conjunction with a preserve or open space area.

Other Recreation Facility Trends

- Many communities are now developing an indoor facility LOS standard that is between 1SF to 2SF per person.
- The development of capital replacement budgets for key facility amenities with an established funding source.
- Outsourcing operations and management to other organizations. This is particularly true for specialty facilities.
- Much stronger emphasis on generating revenues to offset the cost of operations.
- Moving away from smaller community buildings and neighborhood pools to more comprehensive facilities that serve a larger population base. This is less of a trend on the east coast and west coast, where there is still a desire to have smaller dedicated spaces.
- Comprehensive tracking of operations, utilization, and budget metrics to justify facilities.
- For new facilities it is common for the following to occur:
  - The completion of a feasibility study to determine need, site, amenities, and capital and operations costs.
  - Identification of specific funding sources for capital and operations.
  - Integration of the public into planning and development.

Recreation Programs

It is important to understand the trends that have been seen nationally and regionally with recreation programming over the last 10-plus years.

Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
Their 2024 Sports, Fitness and Leisure Activities Top-Line Participation Report indicated the rate of participation by major sports activity categories over the last 5 years.

Percentage of Participation Comparisons

Activity Category	2018 Percentage	2023 Percentage
1. Fitness Sports	66.0%	67.8%
2. Outdoor Sports	50.5%	57.3%
3. Individual Sports	45.3%	42.1%
4. Team Sports	22.8%	25.7%
5. Water Sports	13.7%	15.7%
6. Racquet Sports	13.2%	18.0%
7. Winter Sports	8.2%	9.8%

Fitness-related sports continued to be the most popular activity category, but racquet sports have shown the greatest percentage increase over the last 5 years due in large part to pickleball. Team sports, water sports, and outdoor sports have all seen an increase as well. Individual sports and winter sports have seen a decrease in participation.

Much of the participation data was affected by COVID-19 during 2020.

Key impacts include:

- Fitness activities that require amenities typically found in fitness clubs (group exercise, stationary cycling, cross-training, aqua exercise, etc.) decreased in numbers.
- Fitness activities that require limited equipment and do not require a fitness center (running/jogging, free weights, and yoga) showed the greatest increases.
- Outdoor activities that experienced large increases were road biking, skateboarding, and surfing.
- Team sports had a mixed impact with basketball and soccer having increases (mostly attributed to pick-up play) while volleyball, swimming on a team, gymnastics, and cheerleading all had decreases.

Top Activities with Intent to Participate by Age (Ranked by Participation)

Age 6-12	Age 13-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
Fishing	Fishing	Running/ Jogging	Working out with weights	Working out with weights	Fishing	Fishing	Fishing
Running/ Jogging	Running/ Jogging	Working out with weights	Working out using machines	Cardio Fitness	Working out with weights	Camping	Working out using machines
Bicycling	Swimming for Fitness	Cardio Fitness	Cardio Fitness	Fishing	Camping	Working out with weights	Camping
Sledding	Working out with weights	Working out using machines	Camping	Working out using machines	Working out using machines	Working out using machines	Working out with weights
Swimming for Fitness	Camping	Bicycling	Yoga	Swimming for Fitness	Cardio Fitness	Cardio Fitness	Swimming for Fitness
Cardio Fitness	Cardio Fitness	Swimming for Fitness	Fishing	Running/ Jogging	Hiking	Swimming for Fitness	Cardio Fitness
Yoga	Bicycling	Camping	Running/ Jogging	Camping	Yoga	Shooting	Shooting
Camping	Working out using machines	Fishing	Hiking	Yoga	Shooting	Hiking	Yoga
Soccer	Hiking	Yoga	Swimming for Fitness	Hiking	Swimming for Fitness	Yoga	Hiking

Recreation Management Magazine

Annually the magazine prints their State of the Industry Report that examines trends in parks and recreation. Their 2024 report indicated the following as it relates to recreation programs and services.

Programming Most Commonly Offered in 2024

	Activity Category	Percent of Agencies
1.	Holiday and Other Special Events	78.3%
2.	Group Exercise Programs	65%
3.	Educational Programs	61.8%
4.	Fitness Programs	61.5%
5.	Day Camps/Summer Camps	60.2%
6.	Youth Sports Teams	57.1%
7.	Arts and Crafts Programs	55.5%
8.	Mind-Body Balance Programs (Yoga)	54.1%
9.	Active Older Adult Programs	52.4%
10.	Sports Tournaments and Races	47.5%

Most Commonly Planned Program Additions in 2024

	Activity Category	Percent of Agencies
1.	Environmental Education Programs	26.4%
2.	Educational Programs	24.1%
3.	Holiday Events and Other Special Events	23.8%
4.	Fitness Programs	22.5%
5.	Mind-Body Balance Programs	22.2%
6.	Adult Sports Teams	22.2%
7.	Teen Programming	22.2%
8.	Programs for Active Older Adults	22.2%
9.	Group Exercise Programs	20.6%
10.	Special Needs Programs	19.6%

There is a wide range of program areas that public parks and recreation agencies planned to add in 2024.

Outdoor Foundation

The 2024 Outdoor Participation Report indicates the most popular outdoor activities by rate of participation.

	Activity	National Participation *(% of the total population aged six and older)*
1.	Hiking	26.4%
2.	Fishing	24.1%
3.	Running	23.8%
4.	Camping	22.5%
5.	Biking	22.2%

Participation in outdoor recreation grew 4.1% in 2023 to 175.8 million, amounting to 57.3% of the U.S. population. 22.2 million more Americans aged six and older are participating in outdoor recreation in 2023 than were participating in 2019.

Specific Recreation Program Trends

Below are shown current recreation program trends by major program areas as developed by Ballard*King and Associates. However, it should be noted that each community is unique, and this has a strong bearing on individual trends and other operational factors.

Area	Specific Programs
Sports	Youth Lacrosse
	Adult Soccer
	Adult Cricket
	Youth and Adult Rugby
	Pickleball
	Youth Camps and Clinics
	Individual Sports (Fencing)
	Adventure/Non-Traditional (BMX, Mountain Biking, Disc Golf, Ultimate Frisbee)
	E-Sports Competitions and Tournaments
	Youth Sports Specific Training
Fitness/Wellness	Functional Training Classes
	Personal/Small Group Training
	Yoga
	Nutrition/Cooking
	Healthy Lifestyle Education
	Mindfulness Programs
Cultural Arts	Music Production for Youth
	Digital Media
Youth	Before- and After-School Programs at Recreation Centers, Specialty Summer Camps
Education	Camps, STEAM
Outdoor	Eco-Tourism
	Environmental Education
Seniors	Fitness/Wellness
	Sports (pickleball)
	Baby Boomer Focused Activities
Aquatics	Therapy
	Triathlon Training
General Interest	Personal Finance
	Cooking
Special Events	Community Wide Events
	Health and Wellness
Social Services	Feeding Programs, Job Training, Educational Support, Childcare
Other	Virtual Programming

Other Programming Trends

- Recreation departments now often serve as a coordinating agency and a clearinghouse for multiple recreation organizations and providers, to bring a comprehensive scope of recreation programs to a community. This has also increased the number of partnerships that are in place to deliver a broader base of programs in a more cost-effective manner.
- There is a greater emphasis on a fee for service concept, especially for more specialized programming. This is supported by a formal fee policy.
- Programming continues to emphasize the needs of youth and seniors but has also focused more on adults, and the family unit.
- Specific programming development trends include:
  - Virtual programming remains even after COVID-19.
  - Developing programs that are single day or no more than four sessions in length.
  - Developing programs for youth during non-school days, Christmas break, spring break, and any other extended breaks.
  - Offering a variety of summer camps with different areas of interest.
  - More Saturday programs and the introduction of some Sunday programming (especially in adult sports leagues).
  - Senior programming that occurs in the evening or on the weekends to appeal to seniors who are still in the work force.
  - Introducing programs that are oriented toward specific ethnic groups.
  - Developing a baseline of programs that appeal to the family unit.
  - Staggering the days and times of similar programs that are offered at multiple locations.
  - Drop-in pay-as-you-go fitness classes.
  - Expanded senior programming to include a greater focus on the Baby Boomer generation which often means programs and services that are available in the evenings and on weekends and those that have a more active orientation.

- There has been a concerted effort to integrate conventional recreation programming with community based social service programs and education. Most of the social service programs are offered by other community-based agencies and education is often coordinated with school districts.
- Program characteristics (performance measures) are tracked including:
  - Program registration comparisons by year for each season.
  - Rates of fill (especially for fee-based programming).
  - Participation numbers and comparisons to past years/seasons.
  - Rate of program cancellations (for fee-based programming).
  - Financial performance including cost per participant.
  - Evaluations from participants.
- A lifecycle analysis is completed for all programs offered by the agency. Programs are classified in three categories and agencies strive to have program offerings distributed equally among each category.



New

Programs in the start-up phase that are just starting to build in popularity.



Mature

Programs that have consistent high levels of registrations and are still growing in popularity.



Old

Programs that are seeing a decline in popularity

Organizational and Management Planning

To become more efficient and effective in the delivery of parks and recreation services, there is greater emphasis on organizational and management planning.

Organizational Structure

- Organizational structures have become more streamlined with direct lines of responsibility established. There are now fewer mid-management positions.
- While most agencies still include both parks and recreation functions, there continues to be a trend of placing parks functions within public works. This is particularly true for smaller cities.
- A number of cities have preserves, open space, and greenway divisions, some of which are separate departments within the organization.
- Facilities and recreation programming that can generate strong revenues are often placed outside the normal organizational structure as enterprise funds.
- Most organizational structures tend to be functionally based, but in larger communities there can also be a geographic structure as well. This can be based on areas or regions of a community where there are multiple facilities or parks that need to be managed or maintained.
- Hiring and retaining both full-time and part-time staff has become much more difficult and has resulted in significant increases in part-time pay rates as well as some increases in full-time salaries.
- There is a stronger focus on full-time staff to reduce the dependence on part-time staff. The level of movement to full-time staffing reflects the levels of service that have been established, any seasonal operations, and the budget requirements of the department.
- There is a formal communications protocol in place. Staff meetings for all segments of the organization are held on a regular basis and the minutes and actions are documented.
- There is greater emphasis on having strong leadership at the administrative level that is supported by an overall team concept. Mid-managers (or supervisors) have the primary responsibility for directly managing line staff and facilities.
- There are conduct standards in place for all.
- There is a formal, annual, staff training program with adequate levels of funding.
- To minimize the reliance on paid staff, establishing a strong volunteer program is often in place. To effectively make use of volunteers, there must be a staff person who is responsible for managing and recruiting volunteers. If the program becomes large enough, then a full-time volunteer coordinator position is often necessary.

Staffing Philosophy

- Agencies have a well-defined staffing philosophy that clearly defines the role and responsibilities for all staff.
- A determination of key positions that need to be full-time and those that are appropriate for part-time status is made to ensure a strong staffing plan.
- Job descriptions for all full-time and part-time staff are in place that accurately describe the job requirements and skills that are necessary for the position.
- There are basic staffing standards for common facilities such as community and recreation centers as well as aquatic centers and other facilities (senior centers, etc.).
- The role of contract positions is growing, especially for program instructors and specialized services.
- Union issues often dictate staffing plans, schedules, and management practices.
- Staff is empowered and expected to make important management and supervisory decisions but are also held accountable for the performance of their areas. Supervisory staff have budget responsibilities as well.
- Levels of service are established based on the number of full-time employees (FTEs) per thousand of population, acreage maintained, and facilities operated.
- Full-time staff are cross trained to handle most operational or supervisory responsibilities for a variety of program areas and facilities.
- The staffing philosophy is backed up by a comprehensive staff manual that is updated regularly to guide staffing standards and regulations.
- Background checks are completed on all new hires, including volunteers, especially those that have direct contact with youth.
- Agencies have developed succession plans to ensure staffing knowledge is not compromised when they leave employment of retirement.

Performance Evaluation

- Full-time staff have an annual performance review completed that clearly indicates areas of excellence, areas of compliance and where improvements should be made. Detailed and specific annual work plans are developed for each full-time and major part-time staff member, and these are monitored by their direct supervisor on a regular basis. The work plans cover issues such as budget development, financial transactions, programming, marketing, community outreach, and staff interaction and communication. It is important to have measurable benchmarks and outputs for each plan. Staff are then held accountable to meet these goals.
- There is a strong staff training and education program in place to provide opportunities for staff growth and improvement. The staff training program focuses on financial transactions, customer service, program development, budgeting, revenue growth, and maintenance functions, emergency procedures, safety concerns, and facility operations. A specific training program for new hires, including part-time and seasonal staff, is also in place.

Maintenance of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Over the last 10 to 15 years there have been significant changes in how maintenance of parks and recreation facilities is accomplished. Some of the more significant trends include:

- The responsibility for maintenance and custodial services now varies considerably by agency. As has been noted, many municipalities have moved parks maintenance functions to public works departments and recreation facilities maintenance and custodial services to a separate facilities maintenance department or a division within public works.

  Specialized facility maintenance (athletic fields, aquatic centers, etc.) still often remain the responsibility of parks and recreation departments or even the recreation division.

  On the other hand, functions such as right-of-way maintenance are now being moved from public works to parks operations.

- The development of a comprehensive maintenance management plan for parks, open space, trails, and recreation facilities is now considered essential. This document must not only deal with an overall plan for the parks and recreation agency but also specific plans for each park or facility. This plan should include:
  - Classification of outdoor parks preserves and open space into six levels of maintenance standards (see Chapter 3: Parks).
  - A listing of specific maintenance tasks that need to be performed, their frequency and the quality level that is expected.
  - A schedule of daily or weekly documented inspections of parks, facilities, and equipment.
  - A determination of manpower, equipment and operating supplies that are required to complete the tasks.
  - Tracking of maintenance tasks, overall performance, and costs by location.
  - The establishment of a preventative maintenance plan.

- The maintenance division develops specific levels of service for each facility that is under their responsibility utilizing the NRPA's maintenance standards (or other LOS standards that may have been developed) that divides outdoor park maintenance into 6 different levels. These include:

Level 1	**High-visibility areas that require the highest level of maintenance.**
Level 2	**Is the normal standard and what an individual expects to see on a regular basis.**
Level 3 and 4	**These two levels are just below the norm and include reductions in frequency of maintenance with a focus on safety. These levels are often utilized when there are budget and manpower reductions.**
Level 5	**This level is one step above allowing the land to return to its original state.**
Level 6	**This level allows the land to return to its original natural state or open space that is already in its natural condition.**

Some agencies have reduced the levels to only 3 or 4 to make maintenance more streamlined and easier to understand.

- When assigning levels of maintenance to a park, it is acceptable to have varying levels within different areas of the same park. Highly developed areas often have a higher level assigned while less developed areas have a lower level.

  For indoor facilities, there is usually a similar three level classification for building maintenance functions. Each existing indoor facility would then be classified in the same manner as parks.

- More parks maintenance functions are now being contracted. As a result, agencies are developing specific guidelines to determine which maintenance functions or activities could possibly be considered for contract service. A primary aspect of this plan is a cost/benefit assessment of providing a function in house vs. contracting for the service. General guidelines often include:
  - Basic maintenance functions that occur on a regular basis usually are not contracted if they occur in highly visible locations or for facilities where there is a very strong level of public use. However, other basic functions such as trash removal and mowing are often contracted regardless of the location.
  - Specialized functions that require special training or equipment are inherently dangerous, or do not occur on a regular basis could be considered for contract service. This could include functions such as tree trimming, fertilization, and chemical applications.
  - Basic maintenance functions that occur in remote or low use areas could be considered for contract.
  - Very small parks (under 2 acres) that require the allocation of a high level of time and resources are often considered for contract.
  - Remote locations that take significant travel time to maintain could also be considered for contract.

- Many parks and recreation agencies are contracting for custodial services for indoor facilities as well as restrooms and other amenities in parks.
- Developing strong contracts that detail specific tasks to be completed, the frequency and expected quality of service is essential. Contracts must have specific performance standards to ensure that recreation facilities are adequately cleaned. Contract maintenance also must be supervised, managed, and evaluated on a regular basis.
- Parks maintenance (and even facilities maintenance) either have their own maintenance centers or yards or share with public works. For larger communities which cover significant geographic areas, there is often the need to develop smaller satellite maintenance yards to reduce travel time and the trailering of equipment.
- A maintenance cost assignment system is developed that tracks costs by major parks or recreation facilities so that the true costs of maintaining these facilities are known. This system is also valuable in estimating future costs for any new or renovated parks or facilities. Cost assignments are also done by task (mowing, sweeping, fertilization, etc.) to develop costs per function or for determining a cost per acre or mile.
- Agencies are establishing lifecycle cost estimates (capital replacement) for major capital assets associated with parks and recreation facilities and equipment. An asset inventory is established for all major equipment as well.
- For each new proposed park or recreation facility, a detailed projection of the cost of maintaining the amenity on an annual basis is completed. This usually includes not only additional manpower requirements but also equipment, operating supplies, and necessary contractual services. An on-going system with specific procedures is often in place to accomplish such estimates in a consistent and organized fashion.
- Maintenance supervisors and administrative staff are becoming more actively involved in the design review process for all new planned facilities. The review process often focuses on materials and surfaces/finishes being specified, maintenance equipment required to maintain the amenity, access for maintenance equipment, and brand of materials for continuity.
- Many parks and recreation agencies develop an energy management plan for all buildings and structures, which attempts to not only control energy costs but promotes energy conservation and attempts to utilize alternative forms of energy. Agencies in the western area of the country are also developing water management plans to reduce water usage in parks and facilities.
- Most agencies have a risk management plan that deals with safety, security, and an emergency action plan. This responsibility is usually in parks or agency administration.
- Agencies have multiple Certified Playground Safety Inspectors (CPSI) on staff. For aquatic centers, in addition to the aquatic staff, at least one maintenance person is a Certified Pool Operator (CPO).
- Maintenance tasks, schedules and costs are managed by a maintenance management software system. This includes work order management and preventative maintenance tracking.

PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

Market Potential Index for Adult Participation: Using ESRI, B*K accessed data regarding adult participation in a variety of activities that could take place within a park and recreation system. The following data illustrates the Market Potential Index (MPI) in the primary service.

MPI measures the relative likelihood of the adults or households in the specified trade area to exhibit certain consumer behaviors or purchase patterns compared to the U.S. An MPI of 100 represents the U.S. average.

Source: The data is based upon national propensities to use various products and services, applied to local demographic composition. Usage data were collected by MRI-Simmons in a national representative survey of U.S. households, with ESRI providing forecasting.



Table A - Market Potential Index (MPI) for Participation in Sport-Like Activities

Adults Participated in:	Expected # of Adults	Percent of Population	MPI
Aerobic Exercise	3,324	6.9%	93
Baseball	1,415	3.0%	99
Basketball	2,439	5.1%	89
Bicycle (mountain)	1,364	2.9%	90
Bicycle (road)	4,567	9.5%	95
Boating (power)	2,261	4.7%	108
Boxing	689	1.4%	80
Canoe or Kayak	3,754	7.8%	109
CrossFit	749	1.6%	91
Fishing (fresh water)	5,268	11.0%	115
Football	1,390	2.9%	105
Frisbee	1,574	3.3%	114
Golf	3,857	8.1%	100
Hiking	8,452	17.7%	96
Ice Skating	1,150	2.4%	94
Jet Skiing	800	1.7%	106
Jogging or Running	4,399	9.2%	89
Kickboxing	573	1.2%	85
Marathon/Triathlon	564	1.2%	105
Martial Arts	555	1.2%	88
Paddleboarding	1,141	2.4%	92
Pickleball	1,655	3.5%	95
Pilates	1,391	2.9%	90
Ping Pong	1,839	3.8%	96
Rock Climbing	812	1.7%	95
Skateboarding	507	1.1%	85
Soccer	1,538	3.2%	86
Softball	805	1.7%	93
Spinning	713	1.5%	90
Swimming	7,804	16.3%	100
Tennis	1,482	3.1%	87
Volleyball	1,255	2.6%	99
Walking for Exercise	15,376	32.1%	99
Weightlifting	6,810	14.2%	93
Yoga	4,471	9.3%	98
Zumba	1,211	2.5%	93

Expected # of Adults: 18 years of age and older, participating in the activity in the Service Area.
Percent of Population: Percent of the service area that participates in the activity.
MPI: Market potential index as compared to the national number of 100.

This indicates that out of the 36 activities identified, the rate of adult participation is greater than the national figure of 100 in only nine activities. Of the remaining 27 activities, 19 of them have a MPI between 90-100 which is still strong participation, just not the same as the national rate.

A lack of participation can point to an inability to pay to use facilities or participate in programs, it can indicate a lack of facilities available, or it could be attributed to the activities adults do like to participate are not tracked. Active adults also point to active youth.

In addition to analyzing the demographic realities of the service areas, it is possible to project possible participation in recreation and sport activities.

Participation Numbers

On an annual basis, the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) conducts an in-depth study and survey of how Americans spend their leisure time. The data is collected in 1 year and the report is published in May of the following year. This information provides the data necessary to overlay the rate of participation onto the City of Dubuque to determine market potential.

B*K takes the national average and combines that with participation percentages of the City of Dubuque based upon age distribution, median income, region, and National number. Those four percentages are then averaged together to create a unique participation percentage for the service area. This participation percentage, when applied to the population of the City of Dubuque, then provides an idea of the market potential for a variety of recreation activities.

Table B – Participation Rates in the City of Dubuque

Typical Indoor Activities	Participation Based On:				Unique Average
	Age	Income	Region	Nation	
Aerobic Exercise	15.4%	10.6%	20.6%	15.8%	15.6%
Basketball	7.5%	5.3%	7.1%	7.7%	6.9%
Billiards/Pool	7.1%	7.3%	6.2%	7.3%	7.0%
Boxing	1.9%	2.2%	1.3%	1.9%	1.8%
Cheerleading	1.2%	0.8%	0.4%	1.3%	0.9%
Exercise with Equip	16.6%	10.1%	18.6%	16.4%	15.4%
Gymnastics	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%	2.1%	1.9%
Hockey (Ice)	1.1%	0.4%	0.7%	1.1%	0.8%
Ice/Figure Skating	2.8%	1.5%	2.8%	2.8%	2.5%
Martial Arts/MMA	2.0%	1.2%	1.1%	2.0%	1.6%
Pilates	2.6%	1.3%	2.0%	2.6%	2.1%
Table Tennis/Ping Pong	4.5%	2.9%	3.8%	4.6%	3.9%
Volleyball	3.4%	2.4%	3.2%	3.5%	3.1%
Weightlifting	12.2%	6.7%	16.0%	12.2%	11.8%
Workout at Clubs	10.1%	5.9%	8.6%	9.9%	8.6%
Wrestling	1.1%	1.6%	0.5%	1.2%	1.1%
Yoga	9.2%	6.0%	7.2%	9.3%	7.9%

Typical Outdoor Activities	Participation Based On:				Unique Average
	Age	Income	Region	Nation	
Baseball	3.2%	2.1%	3.6%	3.5%	3.1%
Bicycle Riding	12.6%	10.2%	12.2%	13.2%	12.0%
Boating (Motor/Power)	5.2%	3.2%	7.7%	5.4%	5.4%
Camping (Overnight)	12.1%	9.7%	14.6%	12.7%	12.3%
Canoeing	2.2%	1.5%	4.9%	2.4%	2.8%
Exercise Walking	34.0%	28.0%	33.8%	34.0%	32.5%
Fishing (Freshwater)	9.6%	11.3%	15.3%	9.9%	11.5%
Football (Tackle)	2.0%	2.5%	1.7%	2.1%	2.1%
Golf	7.0%	3.4%	5.7%	7.0%	5.8%
Hiking	17.1%	10.9%	17.7%	17.8%	15.9%
Kayaking	3.9%	2.1%	5.2%	4.1%	3.8%
Lacrosse	0.8%	0.5%	0.6%	0.9%	0.7%
Mountain Biking	2.0%	1.4%	1.3%	2.2%	1.7%
Pickleball	4.8%	1.8%	2.3%	5.0%	3.5%
Running/Jogging	12.7%	10.0%	10.8%	13.1%	11.7%
Skateboarding	2.2%	3.0%	1.4%	2.3%	2.2%
Soccer	4.9%	3.2%	2.9%	5.1%	4.0%
Softball	2.4%	1.7%	1.2%	2.5%	2.0%
Swimming	14.7%	9.9%	13.1%	15.2%	13.2%
Tennis	4.7%	3.0%	3.3%	4.8%	3.9%

Age: Participation based on individuals ages 7 and up of the Service Area.
Income: Participation based on the 2024 estimated median household income in the Service Area.
Region: Participation based on regional statistics (West North Central).
National: Participation based on national statistics.
Average: Average of the four columns



Anticipated Participation Number

Utilizing the average percentage from Table B above plus the 2020 Census information and Census estimates for 2024 and 2029 (over age 7), the following comparisons are available.

Table C –Participation Growth or Decline for Activities in the City of Dubuque

Activities	Average	2020 Population	2025 Population	2030 Population	Growth/ Decline
Aerobic Exercise	15.6%	8,548	8,591	8,642	93
Basketball	6.9%	3,775	3,794	3,816	41
Billiards/Pool	7.0%	3,818	3,838	3,860	42
Boxing	1.8%	1,004	1,010	1,015	11
Cheerleading	0.9%	504	507	510	6
Exercise with Equip	15.4%	8,448	8,490	8,540	92
Gymnastics	1.9%	1,014	1,019	1,025	11
Hockey (Ice)	0.8%	446	449	451	5
Ice/Figure Skating	2.5%	1,350	1,357	1,365	15
Martial Arts/MMA	1.6%	858	862	867	9
Pilates	2.1%	1,164	1,170	1,177	13
Table Tennis/Ping Pong	3.9%	2,162	2,173	2,186	24
Volleyball	3.1%	1,713	1,722	1,732	19
Weightlifting	11.8%	6,447	6,480	6,518	70
Workout at Clubs	8.6%	4,725	4,749	4,777	52
Wrestling	1.1%	609	612	616	7
Yoga	7.9%	4,339	4,361	4,387	47

Activities	Average	2020 Population	2025 Population	2030 Population	Growth/ Decline
Baseball	3.1%	1,700	1,708	1,718	19
Bicycle Riding	12.0%	6,602	6,635	6,674	72
Boating (Motor/Power)	5.4%	2,948	2,963	2,980	32
Camping (Overnight)	12.3%	6,721	6,755	6,794	73
Canoeing	2.8%	1,509	1,517	1,525	16
Exercise Walking	32.5%	17,785	17,875	17,979	194
Fishing (Freshwater)	11.5%	6,314	6,346	6,383	69
Football (Tackle)	2.1%	1,137	1,143	1,149	12
Golf	5.8%	3,158	3,174	3,193	35
Hiking	15.9%	8,699	8,743	8,794	95
Kayaking	3.8%	2,101	2,112	2,124	23
Lacrosse	0.7%	383	385	387	4
Mountain Biking	1.7%	949	954	959	10
Pickleball	3.5%	1,910	1,920	1,931	21
Running/Jogging	11.7%	6,384	6,417	6,454	70
Skateboarding	2.2%	1,222	1,228	1,235	13
Soccer	4.0%	2,203	2,214	2,227	24
Softball	2.0%	1,072	1,077	1,084	12
Swimming	13.2%	7,242	7,278	7,321	79
Tennis	3.9%	2,158	2,169	2,182	24

Note: These figures do not necessarily translate into attendance figures for various activities or programs.

National Summary of Sports Participation:

The following chart summarizes participation for indoor activities utilizing information from the 2024 National Sporting Goods Association survey.

Table D – Sports Participation Summary

Sport	Unique Percent	Nat'l Rank [1]	Nat'l Participation (in millions)
Exercise Walking	32.5%	1	105.1
Hiking	15.9%	2	54.9
Exercising with Equipment	15.4%	3	50.7
Swimming	13.2%	4	46.9
Bicycle Riding	12.0%	5	40.6
Running/Jogging	11.7%	6	40.4
Camping (Overnight)	12.3%	7	39.2
Weightlifting	11.8%	8	37.6
Workout at Club	8.6%	9	30.7
Fishing (Freshwater)	11.5%	10	30.7
Yoga	7.9%	12	28.6
Basketball	6.9%	13	23.9
Billiards/Pool	7.0%	14	22.5
Golf	5.8%	16	21.6
Boating (Motor/Power)	5.4%	17	16.6
Soccer	4.0%	18	15.8
Pickleball	3.5%	19	15.4
Tennis	3.9%	20	15.0
Table Tennis/Ping Pong	3.9%	21	14.2
Kayaking	3.8%	23	12.6
Volleyball	3.1%	26	10.8
Baseball	3.1%	27	10.7
Ice/Figure Skating	2.5%	29	8.8
Pilates	2.1%	30	8.0
Softball	2.0%	31	7.9
Canoeing	2.8%	32	7.3
Skateboarding	2.2%	33	7.2
Mountain Biking	1.7%	38	6.7
Football (Tackle)	2.1%	39	6.6
Gymnastics	1.9%	40	6.5
Martial Arts/MMA	1.6%	41	6.3
Boxing	1.8%	45	6.0
Cheerleading	0.9%	50	3.7
Wrestling	1.11%	51	3.7
Hockey (Ice)	0.8%	52	3.5
Lacrosse	0.7%	56	2.6

National Rank: Popularity of sport based on national survey.
National Participation: Population that participate in this sport on national survey.

[1] This rank is based upon the 58 activities reported on by NSGA in their 2024 survey instrument.

The NSGA also lists several sports activities and the percentage of growth or decline that each has experienced nationally over the last 10 years (2014-2023).

Table E – Sports Activity Participation Changes Over Time

Activities	5-Year Change	Activities	10-Year Change
Pickleball	646.5%	Pickleball	805.9%
Boxing	61.7%	Boxing	66.7%
Table Tennis/Ping Pong	43.0%	Pilates	42.9%
Cardio Fitness	36.7%	Kayaking	37.0%
Pilates	35.9%	Strength Training	35.8%
Skateboarding	35.1%	Table Tennis/Ping Pong	35.2%
Strength Training	30.1%	Cardio Fitness	35.1%
Tennis	22.7%	Hiking	30.7%
Golf	20.7%	Skateboarding	26.3%
Mountain Biking (Off Road)	18.8%	Wrestling	23.3%
Kayaking	17.8%	Mountain Biking (Off Road)	19.6%
Hiking	14.1%	Paintball Games	19.6%
Soccer	11.3%	Boating (Motor/Power)	17.7%
Wrestling	10.9%	Tennis	17.2%
Gymnastics	9.4%	Golf	16.1%
Billiards/Pool	8.7%	Ice/Figure Skating	15.8%
Bicycle Riding	7.5%	Bicycle Riding	12.8%
Boating (Motor/Power)	7.1%	Gymnastics	12.1%
Cheerleading	6.6%	Soccer	12.1%
Hockey (Ice)	6.4%	Weightlifting	8.0%
Martial Arts/MMA	4.5%	Hockey (Ice)	6.1%
Ice/Figure Skating	1.9%	Cheerleading	5.4%
Volleyball	1.7%	Billiards/Pool	4.7%
Fishing (Freshwater)	1.3%	Fishing (Freshwater)	4.1%
Weightlifting	-0.5%	Basketball	3.6%
Exercise Walking	-1.3%	Swimming	1.3%
Swimming	-2.4%	Volleyball	0.9%
Canoeing	-3.2%	Exercise Walking	-1.1%
Camping (Vacation/Overnight)	-3.7%	Canoeing	-1.4%
Basketball	-5.3%	Camping (Vacation/Overnight)	-2.2%
Lacrosse	-7.0%	Martial Arts/MMA	-4.5%
Football (Tackle)	-9.9%	Yoga	-6.8%
Yoga	-10.2%	Running/Jogging	-9.2%
Running/Jogging	-12.2%	Exercise with Equipment	-9.9%
Exercise with Equipment	-13.1%	Baseball	-10.2%
Baseball	-13.5%	Lacrosse	-10.3%
Softball	-21.5%	Football (Tackle)	-15.4%
Workout at Club	-22.5%	Workout at Club	-16.1%
		Softball	-19.4%

Over the last 10 years, key areas of program growth have occurred in fitness-related activities. Many of the declines in participation are related to traditional team sports such as baseball, football, basketball, and softball. Pickleball has not been included as it has only been tracked for the last 3 to 4 years.

Non-Sport Participation Statistics

It is important to note that participation rates in non-sport activities. While there is not an abundance of information available for participation in these types of activities as compared to sport activities, there are statistics that can be utilized to help determine the market for cultural arts activities and events.

There are many ways to measure a nation's cultural vitality. One way is to chart the public's involvement with arts events and other activities over time. The NEA's Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA) remains the largest periodic study of arts participation in the United States. It tracks various arts activities that Americans (aged 18 and over) report having done in a year. It also asks questions about adults' preferences for different kinds of music, and it seeks to understand participation in non-arts leisure events such as sports and exercise, outdoor activities, and civic and social affairs.

The NEA provides insight into how Americans are spending their time with art and art-like activities. The SPPA is the nation's largest, most representative survey of adult patterns of arts participation in the United States. The NEA completes its survey on only an occasional basis with the last 3 years being 2012, 2017, and 2022.

Table F – Non-Sports Population in Dubuque Adult Participation

Activity	Rate of Participation	Population
Attend a live music, theater, or dance performance	23.20%	15,416
Attend an Art Exhibit	20.20%	9,671
Visit historic neighborhoods, parks, or monuments	30.80%	14,746
Read novels, short stories, poetry, or plays	39.90%	19,102
Use a device to watch, listen to, or download art	55.30%	26,475
Do leatherwork, metalwork, or woodwork	6.50%	3,112
Do weaving/crocheting	9.20%	4,405
Play a musical instrument	9.60%	4,596
Perform or practice signing	7.90%	3,782
Take photographs	10.40%	4,979
Create visual art	8.10%	3,878
Do creative writing	4.90%	2,346

National Figures

Table G – Percentage of U.S. Adult Attending a Performing Arts Activity at Least Once in the Past 12 Months

Music	2012	2017	2022	Rate of Change 2012-2022	Rate of Change 2017-2022
Outdoor Performing Arts Festival	20.8%	24.2%	18.7%	-2.1%	-5.5%
Jazz	8.1%	8.6%	6.3%	-1.8%	-2.3%
Classical Music	8.8%	8.6%	4.6%	-4.2%	-4.0%
Latin Music	5.1%	5.9%	3.9%	-1.2%	-2.0%
Opera	2.1%	2.2%	0.7%	-1.4%	-1.5%

Plays	2012	2017	2022	Rate of Change 2012-2022	Rate of Change 2017-2022
Musical Plays	15.2%	16.5%	10.3%	-4.9%	-6.2%
Non-Musical Plays	8.3%	9.4%	4.5%	-3.8%	-4.9%

Dance	2012	2017	2022	Rate of Change 2012-2022	Rate of Change 2017-2022
Ballet	5.6%	6.3%	3.3%	-2.3%	-3.0%
Other Dance	2.7%	3.1%	2.0%	-0.7%	-1.1%

- Following a minimal increase in almost all arts attendance that occurred from 2012-2017, participation rates decreased from 2017-2022.
- Changes in the U.S. demographic composition appear to have contributed to performing arts attendance. Still, various subgroups of Americans have decreased attendance rates for individual art forms. COVID-19 played its role in the decrease in participation as well.
  The most popular site to attend in-person arts events was an open-air facility (parks, pavilions, amphitheaters) at 17.1%. The next venue is restaurants, bars, nightclubs and coffee shops (10.3%) with the remainder fairly equal including schools, churches, community centers, and libraries.
- Those who attended learned about the event most frequently through social media (17.0%), then through friends (14.7%), with traditional media next (11.3%).

Table H – Percentage of U.S. Adults Attending Visual Arts Activities and Events

	2012	2017	2022	Rate of Change 2012-2022	Rate of Change 2017-2022
Parks/Historical Buildings	22.4%	28.3%	26.0%	+3.6%	-2.3%
Art Museums/Galleries	21.0%	23.7%	17.7%	-3.3%	-6.0%
Craft/Visual Arts Festivals	23.9%	23.8%	17.1%	-6.8%	-6.7%

- Art Museums/Galleries and Parks/Historical Buildings attendance has increased from 2012 to 2017 but decreased in 2022.
- Craft/Visual Arts Festivals have seen a decline between 2012-2022.

Reading Books and Literature

Table I – Reading Activity

	2012	2017	2022	Rate of Change 2012-2022	Rate of Change 2017-2022
Read any Book, Non-required	54.6%	52.7%	48.5%	-6.1%	-4.2%
Literature	47.0%	44.2%	39.6%	-7.4%	-4.6%
Novels and Short Stories	45.2%	41.8%	37.6%	-7.6%	-4.2%
Plays	2.9%	3.7%	2.4%	-0.5%	-1.3%
Poetry	6.7%	11.7%	9.2%	+2.5%	-2.5%

Table J – Percent of U.S. Adults Who Read and/or Listened to Books in 2022

	Percentage
Read Books and/or Listened to Audiobooks	51.9%
Read Books	48.5%
Listened to Audiobooks	18.5%

Table K – Percentage of U.S. Adults Who Read Literary Works and/or Listened to Them via Streaming, Broadcasts, or Recordings in 2022

	Read	Listened via Media	Read and/or Listened via Media
Novels or short stories	37.6%	17.6%	43.2%
Poetry	9.2%	4.8%	11.5%
Plays	2.4%	N/A	N/A

- Read any Book (non-required), Literature, and Novels and Short Stories have seen a decline between 2012 and 2022. In 2022, fewer than 50 percent of adults read any book (in print or electronically) in the previous 12 months. This rate is four and six points lower than in 2017 and 2012.
- Plays and Poetry saw an increase between 2012 to 2017, but decreased 2017 to 2022.

Consuming Art Through Electronic Media

Table L – Percent of U.S. Adults Who Consumed Art via Electronic or Digital Media

	2017	2022	Rate of Change
Watched or listened to other kinds of music	65.2%	63.0%	-2.2%
Watched or listened to documentaries of any kind	N/a	37.0%	N/a
Watched or listened to programs, podcasts, or other video or audio content about music, dance, or theater	N/a	18.4%	N/a
Watched or listened to jazz music	20.0%	16.3%	-3.7%
Watched or listened to Latin, Spanish, or salsa music	18.5%	16.8%	-2.7%
Watched or listened to classical music or opera	20.6%	14.3%	-6.3%
Watched or listened to programs, podcasts, or other video or audio content about books or writers	19.1%	13.6%	-5.5%
Viewed art via device	16.0%	11.1%	-5.9%
Watched or listened to theater productions	16.2%	11.0%	-5.2%
Watched or listened to dance performances	14.1%	9.9%	-4.2%
Watched or listened to programs, podcasts, or other video or audio content about the visual arts	14.0%	9.0%	-5.0%
Viewed or interacted with an art exhibit or performance via device in a museum, theater, or concert hall	16.0%	7.1%	-8.9%

- Sixty-three percent of adults used media in 2022 to listen to music other than jazz music, Latin, Spanish, or salsa music, or classical music or opera.
- In 2022, 14 percent of adults consumed programs or podcasts about books or writers in 2022.

Making and Sharing Art

Table M – Percent of U.S. Adults Who Performed or Created Art, by Selected Activities

	2017	2022	Rate of Change
Do social dancing, including dancing at weddings, clubs, or other social settings	24.0%	21.8%	-2.2%
Sing alone, in a social gathering, or in a group or choir	25.4%	20.2%	-4.2%
Take photographs as an artistic activity	13.8%	13.3%	-0.5%
Do weaving, crocheting, quilting, needlepoint, knitting, or sewing	11.7%	11.7%	––
Play a musical instrument	10.9%	11.4%	+0.5%
Create other visual art	13.4%	10.7%	-2.4%
Create leatherwork, metalwork, or woodwork	6.6%	9.0%	+2.4%
Do creative writing, such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or plays	6.6%	6.9%	-0.3%
Create any performance or work of visual art using a computer or mobile device	3%	4.5%	+1.5%
Create pottery, ceramics, or jewelry	4.1%	4.4%	-0.3%
Create films or videos as an artistic activity	5.2%	4.0%	-1.2%
Play a musical instrument with one or more partners, a band, orchestra, or other music group	3.9%	3.0%	-0.9%
Perform or practice dance	3.5%	2.0%	-1.5%
Design, code, or create any games, software, or tools	N/a	2.0%	––
Do acting	2.3%	1.6%	-0.7%

- The proportion of adults singing declined from 2017 to 2022, by five percentage points.
- Social dancing took the place of singing as the most popular activity across all forms of personal arts performance and creation.

Participating in Arts Learning

Table M – Percent of U.S. Adults Who Learned an Art Form 2022

	Who Took Classes or Lessons	Who Learned by Other Means	Who Learned Either Through Class/Lesson or Other Means
Any Arts Subject	11.8%	25.5%	29.1%
Music	3.8%	12.1%	14.2%
Dance	2.1%	6.7%	8.0%
Photography or filmmaking	1.8%	6.6%	7.4%
Other visual arts	2.6%	6.4%	7.1%
Art history or art or music appreciation	2.1%	5.8%	6.9%
Creative coding, computer animation, or digital art	2.3%	4.1%	4.8%
Creative writing	1.9%	3.6%	4.7%
Acting or theater	0.8%	1.7%	2.1%

- Just under 4 percent of adults learned vocal or instrumental music through classes or lessons, while 12 percent learned through other means (e.g., through friends, as part of a family tradition, or teaching oneself).
- Six percent of adults took classes or lessons in photography, while 2 percent learned through other means.
- Whether through classes/lessons or other means, nearly 5 percent of adults learned about computer animation, creative coding, or digital art making.





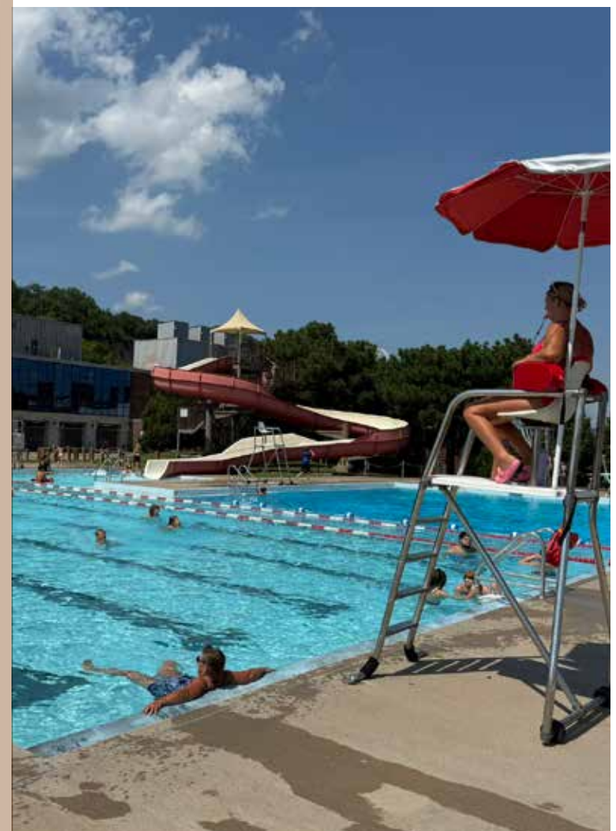




Chapter 2

Community Needs

The Main Characters





Y(OUR) STORY

Dubuque
Parks and Recreation
Comprehensive Plan

CRAFTING THE STORY

The Y(O)ur Story Dubuque Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan included a robust community engagement strategy that resulted in thousands of community inputs. The values, goals, and recommendations put forward by this plan have truly been shaped by the community. It is clear the City of Dubuque residents value and recognize the importance of parks and recreation. Dubuque's strong parks and recreation system, ample opportunities to connect with nature, topography, and riverfront location, set it apart from neighboring cities and provide the opportunity for Dubuque to be known as a great parks and recreation city. This plan's purpose is to lay the groundwork to reinvigorate the parks system and recreation offerings, continue a legacy of great parks, open spaces, and recreation, and utilize those as a catalyst for growth and economic development.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Y(O)ur Story Dubuque Parks and Recreation Master Plan utilized a comprehensive and widespread process to engage the community, understand needs, and analyze results of community feedback. The Master Plan's robust outreach process gathered input from staff, stakeholders, user groups, and thousands of residents to obtain diverse and well-rounded feedback on Dubuque Parks and Recreation currently and what opportunities exist for the future. A second phase of community feedback included sharing a draft of the master plan with the community for feedback prior to its final review and adoption.

Focus Groups and User Groups

In addition to touch points with the public via pop-up events, social media, public meetings, website visits, and intercept feedback, groups that provided input include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Audubon Society
- Black Men Coalition
- City Departments
- Dream Center
- Dubuque Arboretum Board
- Dubuque Area Land and Water Legacy
- Dubuque Community School District
- Dubuque County Conservation
- Dubuque Girls Independent League
- Dubuque Main Street
- Dubuque Pony League
- Dubuque Trees Forever
- Dubuque Zoo Boosters
- Friends of the Mines of Spain
- Greater Dubuque Development Corporation
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Montessori School
- Multicultural Family Center
- NAACP
- Neighborhood Groups
- Program Partners
- Sierra Club
- Tri-State Trail Vision
- Youth Sports Groups
- And Others

Project Dedicated Website

The interactive, project-dedicated website is yourstorydubuque.com. The website provides updates on the project, events where community members can provide input, and interactive tools that allowed for one or multiple methods of participation. Visitors were encouraged to provide input utilizing the following website tools:

- An electronic survey
- Interactive mapping tool
- Share your big idea on a public forum
- Help determine priorities with an interactive budgeting tool
- Submit general comments or inquiries



Statistically Valid Survey

A statistically valid survey is one that uses proper sampling techniques to ensure that the results accurately and proportionally represent the entire City of Dubuque population demographically. Performing this type of survey helps in making informed decisions by providing reliable and unbiased data insights.

The community engagement results of the statistically valid survey and the website survey were incredibly well aligned, meaning the community is unified in the perception of the top capital needs and programming needs for Dubuque Parks and Recreation. This alignment also indicates the website survey results were not highly influenced by one specific special interest group and truly reflect the opinion of the broader community.

Community Outreach

The community engagement process prioritized meeting residents where they are and ensuring multiple ways to participate and provide feedback for the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The total number of inputs represents the number of touches with the community through website comments, business cards, survey responses, dotocracy votes, and other engagements. The estimated number of participants that provided feedback is 12,598.

Total Inputs 35,384

Estimated Participants: 12,598



108
Stakeholder and User Group Meeting Participants



48
Staff Participants



8
Pop-Up Events



920
Website Visits



3
Public Workshops



27,059
Social Media Engagements



1,274
Website Interactions



406
Statistically Valid Survey

High-Priority CAPITAL NEEDS

Statistically-Valid Survey:

1. Aquatic/Pool Facilities
2. Multi-Use Paths and Trails
3. Walking/Running Track
4. Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat
5. Fitness/Exercise Facilities (Indoor)
6. Recreation/Community Center
7. Pavilions/Picnic Shelters
8. Splash Pads
9. Off-leash Dog Parks
10. Fishing Areas

Website and Intercept Surveys:

1. Aquatic/Pool Facilities
2. Multi-Use Paths and Trails
3. Splash Pads
4. Recreation/Community Center
5. Off-Leash Dog Parks
6. Campsites
7. Playground Equipment (Outdoor)
8. Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat
9. Multi-Use Fields
10. Walking/Running Track

High-Priority PROGRAM NEEDS

Statistically-Valid Survey:

1. Hobby/Interest Classes
2. Fitness and Wellness Classes
3. Art Programs
4. Free/Low-Cost Special Events
5. Outdoor Fitness Programs
6. Nature/Environmental Education
7. Senior Programs
8. Water Fitness Classes
9. Education Classes/Lectures
10. Adult Sports

Website and Intercept Surveys:

1. Free/Low-Cost Special Events
2. Nature/Environmental Education
3. Learn-to-Swim Programs
4. Youth Sports
5. Art Programs
6. Outdoor Fitness Programs
7. Pickleball Lessons/Leagues
8. Youth Day Camps
9. Adaptive Recreation Programs
10. Adult Sports

OVERVIEW

ETC Institute administered a community interest and opinion survey for the City of Dubuque during the Spring of 2025. The survey was administered as part of the City's efforts to plan the future for parks and recreation opportunities. The survey and its results will guide the City of Dubuque in making improvements to the City's existing and future parks, trails, and recreational programs to best serve the needs of residents. The survey will also help the City establish priorities for the future improvement of parks and recreation programs and services within the community.

METHODOLOGY

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Dubuque. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at dubuquecommunitysurvey.org.

After the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute followed up with residents to encourage participation. To prevent people who were not residents of Dubuque from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not included in the final database for this report.

The goal was to collect a minimum of 400 surveys from residents. The goal was exceeded with 406 surveys being collected. The overall results for the sample of 406 surveys have a precision of at least +/- 4.7 at the 95% level of confidence.

This report contains the following:

- Charts showing the overall results of the survey
- Priority Investment Rating (PIR) that identifies priorities for facilities and programs
- Benchmarks comparing data from Dubuque to national averages
- Importance-Satisfaction Analysis that sets priorities for improvements to parks
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey
- A copy of the cover letter and survey instrument

The major findings of the survey are summarized on the following pages.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Use of Parks and Facilities

Eighty-nine percent (89%) of respondents report visiting City of Dubuque parks or recreation facilities in the past year.

Barriers to Facilities Use

Respondents were asked to indicate all the reasons that prevent them and members of their household from visiting Dubuque parks and recreation facilities more often. The top three barriers were lack of features we want to use (19%), health-related concerns (16%), and old and outdated facilities (14%).

Program Participation

Thirty-six percent (36%) of respondents report participating in programs, special events, or activities offered by the City of Dubuque during the past 12 months. Most of these respondents (84%) rated the overall quality of these programs as either "good" (62%) or "excellent" (22%).

Barriers to Participation

Respondents were asked to identify why they do not participate in these programs or events more often. The top three barriers to participation they indicated were that they do not know what is offered (34%), too busy/not interested (22%), or program times are not convenient (15%).

Communication Methods

The three ways respondents most often learn about City of Dubuque Recreation and Arts Department programs and activities are word of mouth (58%), social media (Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter) (56%), and City website/online brochure (38%). The three methods respondents prefer most are social media (Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter) (59%), City website/online brochure (35%), and banners/signs around Dubuque (33%).

Support for Improvements

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for actions the City of Dubuque could take to improve its parks and recreation system. The highest percentage of respondents supported (rating "supportive" or "very supportive") Improve existing parks infrastructure (96%), Improve existing large community parks (96%), and improve existing swimming pools (94%). The actions respondents are most willing to fund with additional tax dollars are to improve existing large community parks (30%), improve existing paved walking and biking trails (27%), and improve existing swimming pools (25%). Regarding various funding mechanisms that could be used to fund the actions they indicated they would be most willing to support are, grants from state (70%), corporate sponsorship and donations (61%), and creation of Friends of Dubuque Parks and Recreation group (27%).

RECREATION FACILITIES/AMENITIES NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

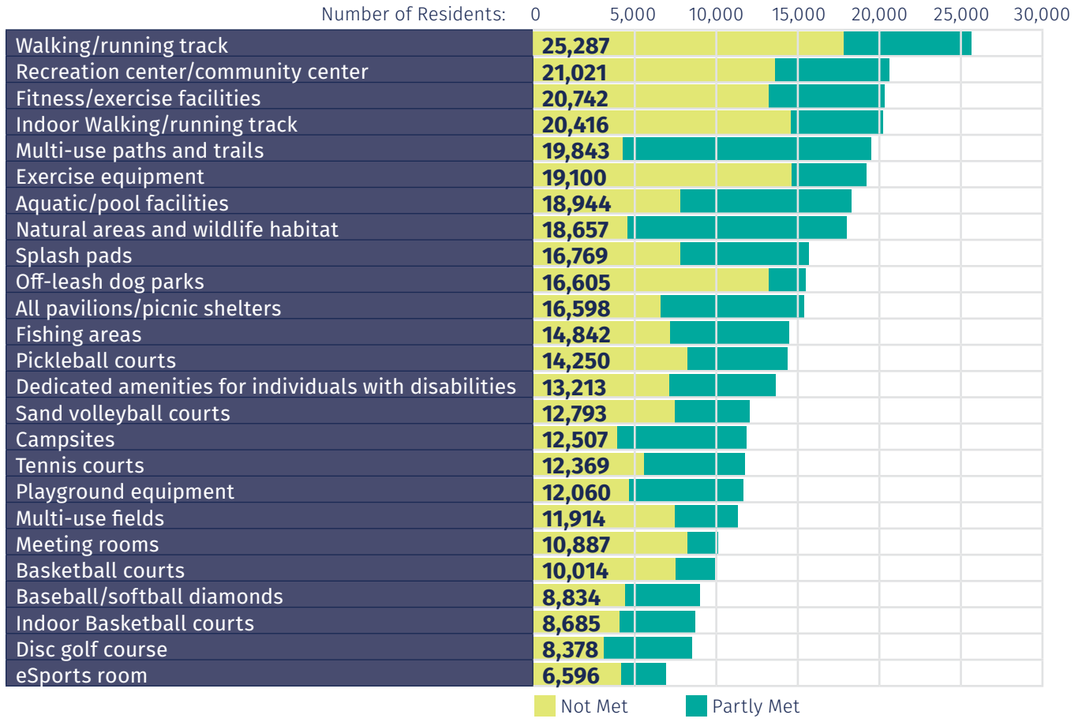
Amenity/Facility Needs: Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 25 facilities/amenities and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of residents in the community that had the greatest "unmet" need for various facilities/amenities.

The three amenities/facilities with the highest percentage of residents that have an unmet need:

1. **Walking/running track – *25,287 residents***
2. **Recreation center/community center – *21,021 residents***
3. **Fitness/exercise facilities – *20,742 residents***

The estimated number of residents that have unmet needs for each of the 25 facilities/amenities assessed is shown on the chart below.

Q10d. Estimated number of residents whose facility and amenity needs are only "partly met" or "not met" BY NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS WITH NEED BASED ON AN ESTIMATED 59,667 RESIDENTS



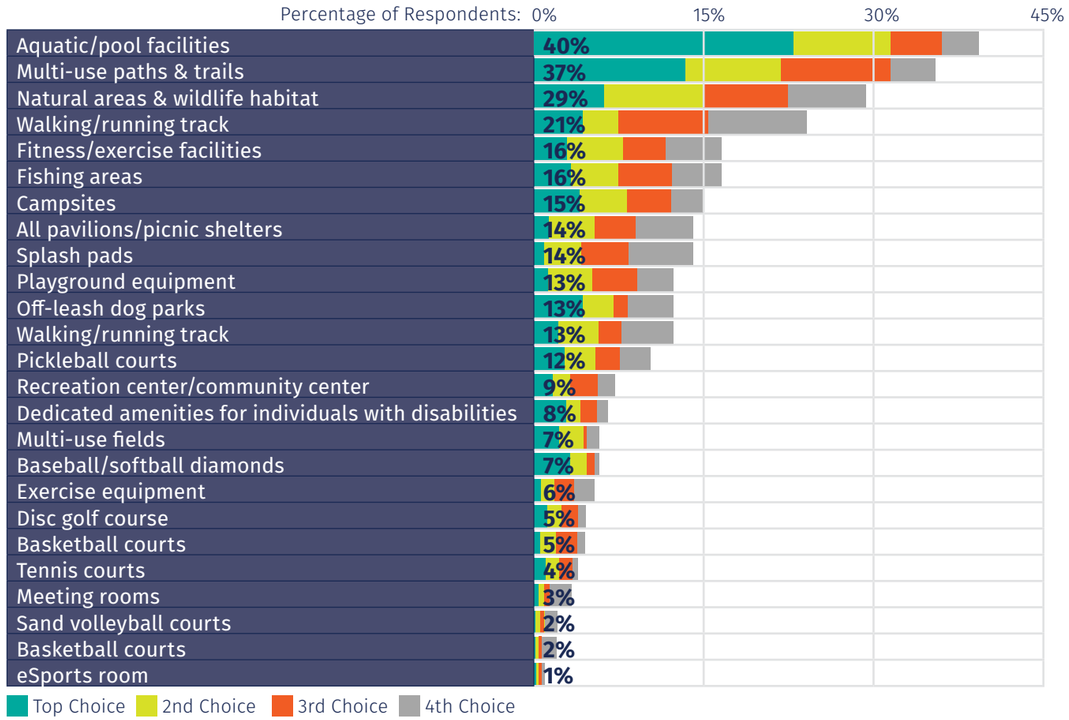
Amenities/Facilities Importance

In addition to assessing the needs for each amenity/facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each item. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, these were the four amenities/facilities ranked most important to residents:

1. **40% Aquatic/pool facilities**
2. **37% Multi-use natural trails**
3. **29% Natural areas & wildlife habitat**
4. **21% Walking/running track**

The percentage of residents who selected each amenity/facility as one of their top four choices is shown on the chart below.

Q11. Which FOUR items are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?
BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SELECTED THE ITEMS AS ONE OF THEIR TOP FOUR CHOICES



Priorities for Facility Investments:

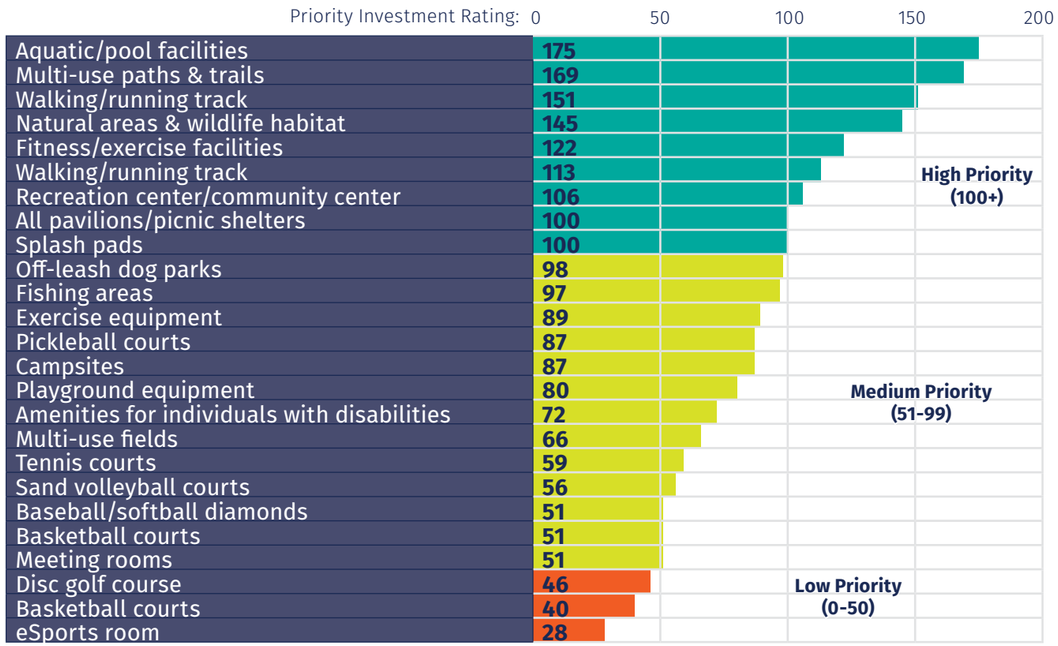
The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs (1) the importance that residents place on amenities/facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the amenity/facility. [Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 3 of this report.]

Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following amenities/facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

Aquatic/pool facilities (PIR=175)	Walking/running track (PIR=113)
Multi-use paths & trails (PIR=169)	Recreation center/community center (PIR=106)
Waking/running track (PIR=151)	All pavilions/picnic shelters (PIR=100)
Natural areas & wildlife habitat (PIR=145)	Splash pads (PIR=100)
Fitness/exercise facilities (PIR=122)	

The chart below shows the PIR for each of the 25 amenities/facilities assessed on the survey.

Top Priorities for Investment for Parks and Recreation Programs Based on Priority Investment Rating



RECREATION PROGRAM/ACTIVITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

Program Needs

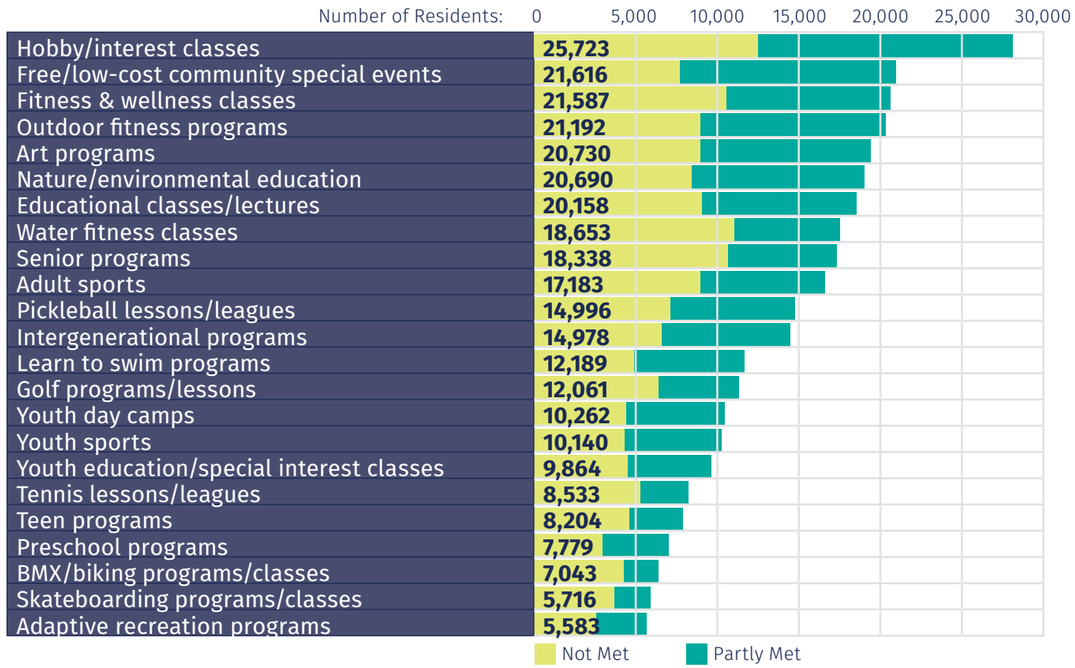
Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 25 recreation programs and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of residents in the community that had the greatest "unmet" need for various programs.

The three programs with the highest number of residents that have an unmet need:

1. **Hobby/interest classes – *25,723 residents***
2. **Free/low-cost community special events – *21,616 residents***
3. **Fitness & wellness classes – *21,587 residents***

The estimated number of residents that have unmet needs for each of the 23 programs assessed is shown on the chart below.

Q4d. Estimated number of residents whose program/activity needs are only "partly met" or "not met" BY NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS WITH NEED BASED ON AN ESTIMATED 59,667 RESIDENTS



Programs Importance:

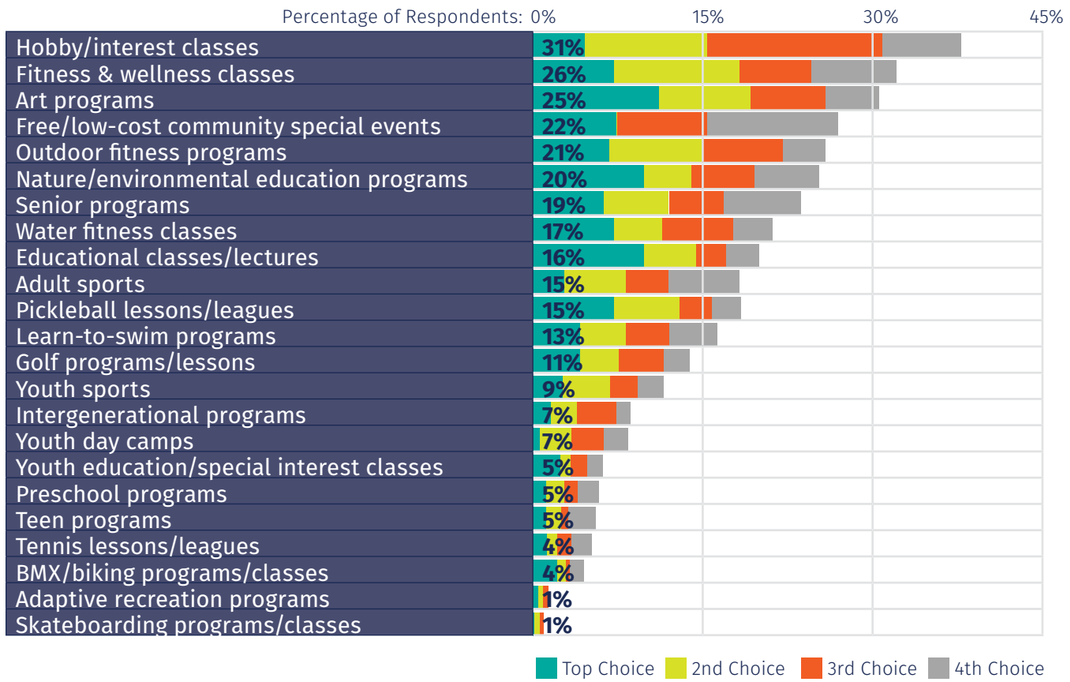
In addition to assessing the needs for each program, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each item. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, these were the four programs ranked most important to residents:

31%	Hobby/interest classes
26%	Fitness & wellness classes
25%	Art programs
22%	Free/low-cost community special events

The percentage of residents who selected each program as one of their top four choices is shown on the following page.

Q5. Which FOUR items are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SELECTED THE ITEMS AS ONE OF THEIR TOP FOUR CHOICES



Priorities for Program Investments

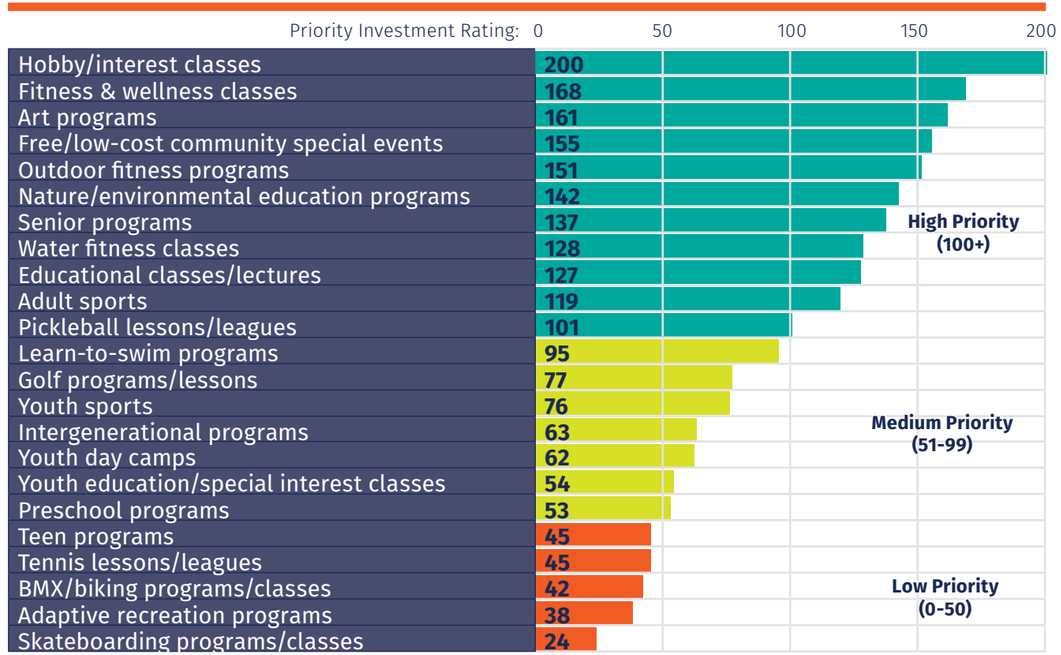
The PIR was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The PIR equally weighs (1) the importance that residents place on programs and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the program.

Based the PIR, the following activities/programs were rated as high priorities for investment:

Hobby/interest classes (PIR=200)	Senior programs (PIR=137)
Fitness & wellness classes (PIR=168)	Water fitness classes (PIR=128)
Art programs (PIR=161)	Educational classes/lectures (PIR=127)
Free/low-cost community special events (PIR=155)	Adult sports (PIR=119)
Outdoor fitness programs (PIR=151)	Pickleball lessons/leagues (PIR=101)
Nature/environmental education programs (PIR=142)	

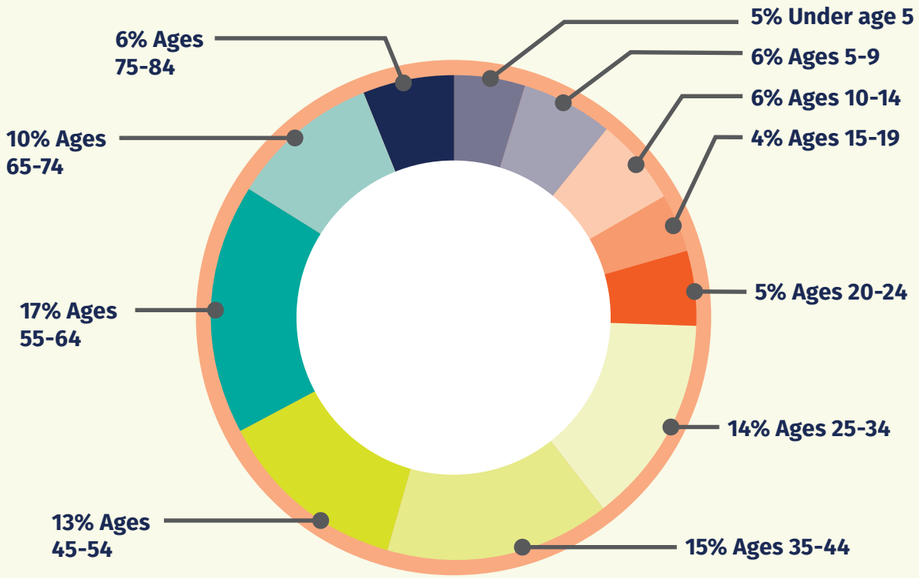
The chart below shows the PIR for each of the 23 programs assessed on the survey.

Top Priorities for Investment for Parks and Recreation Programs Based on Priority Investment Rating



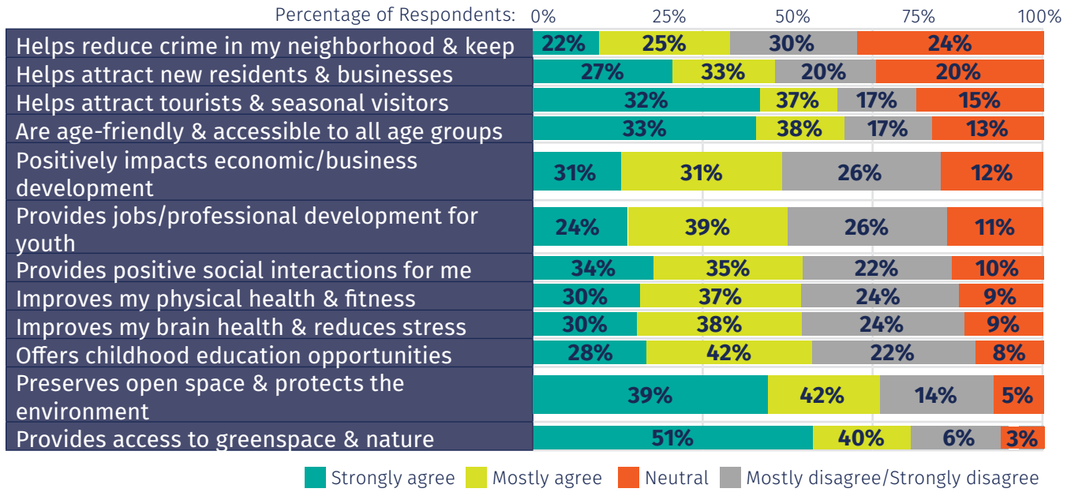
Q1. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...

BY PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD



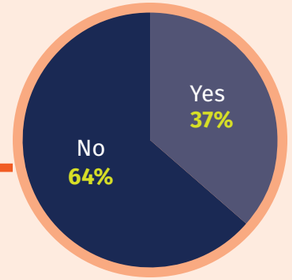
Q11. Which FOUR items are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SELECTED THE ITEMS AS ONE OF THEIR TOP FOUR CHOICES



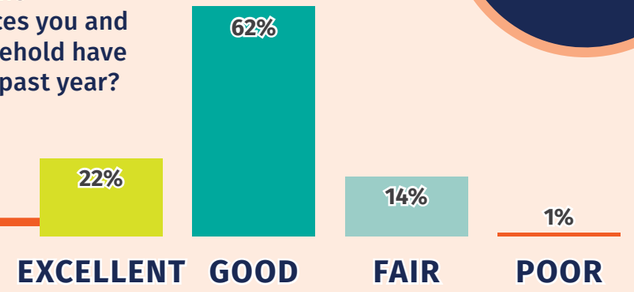
Q3. Have you and/or members of your household participated in any programs/activities/services offered by City of Dubuque Parks and Recreation (formerly called Leisure Services) during the past year?

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS (EXCLUDING "NOT PROVIDED")



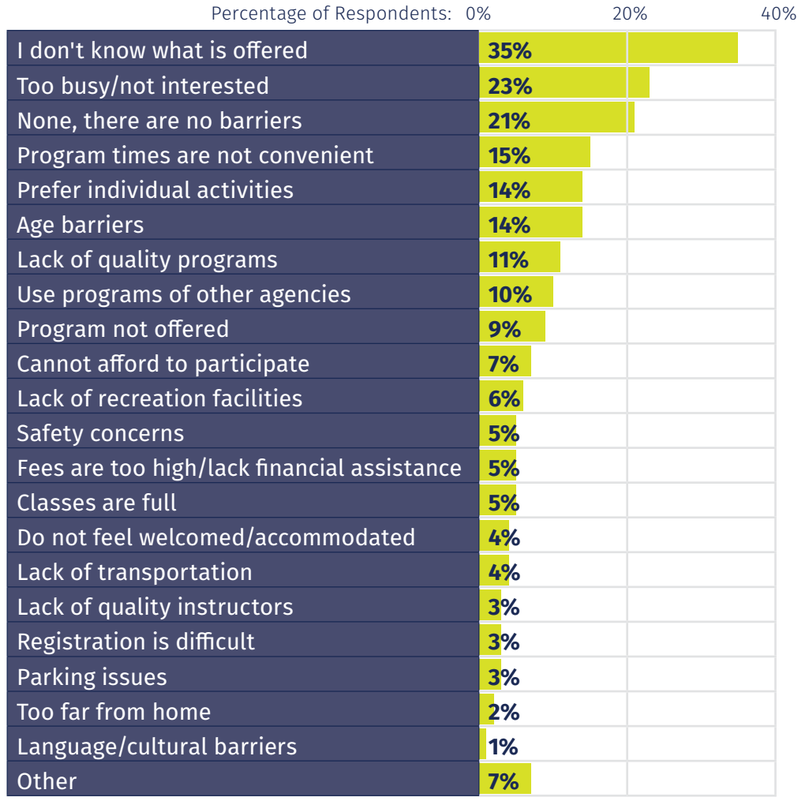
Q3a. How would you rate the programs/activities/services you and the members of your household have participated in during the past year? (without "not provided")

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS (EXCLUDING "PREFER NOT TO SAY")



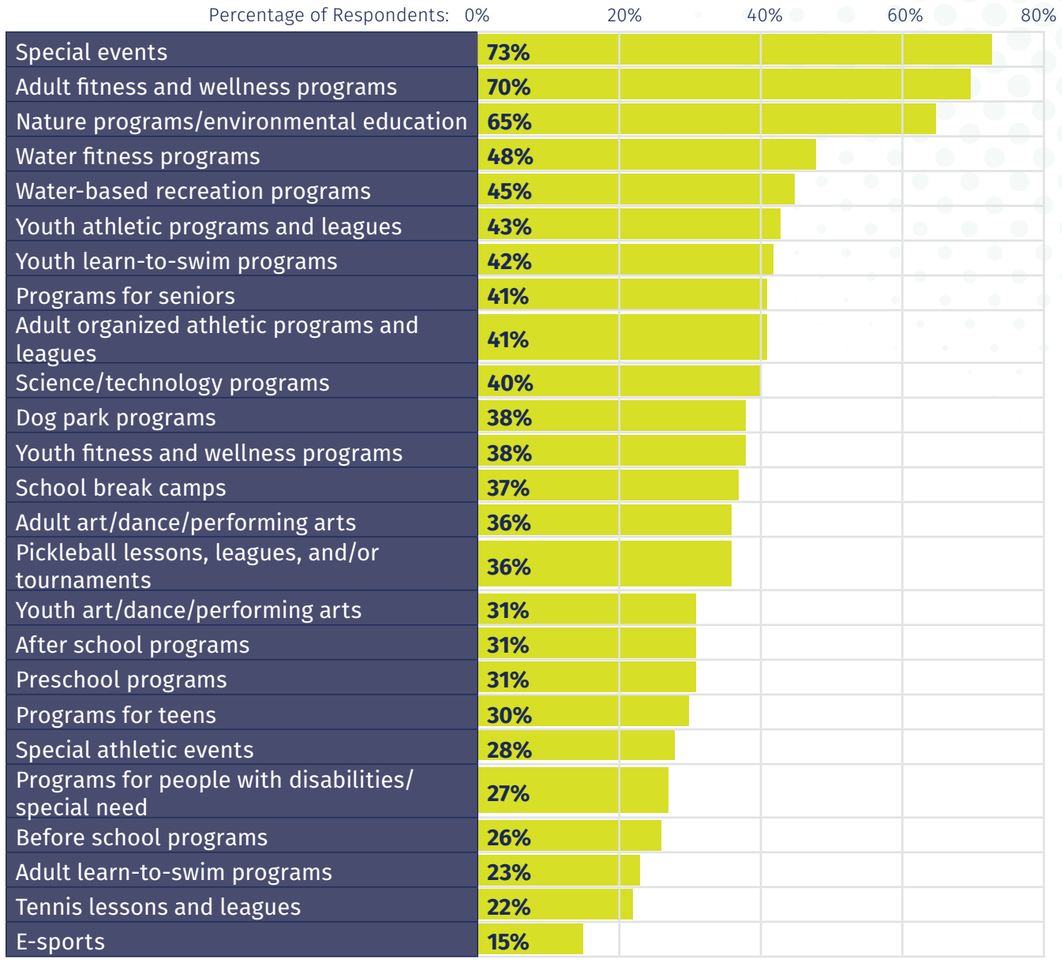
Q3b. Please CHECK ALL the reasons you have not participated or have not participated more often in Dubuque Parks & Recreation programs/activities/services.

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SELECTED THE ITEMS AS ONE OF THEIR TOP FOUR CHOICES



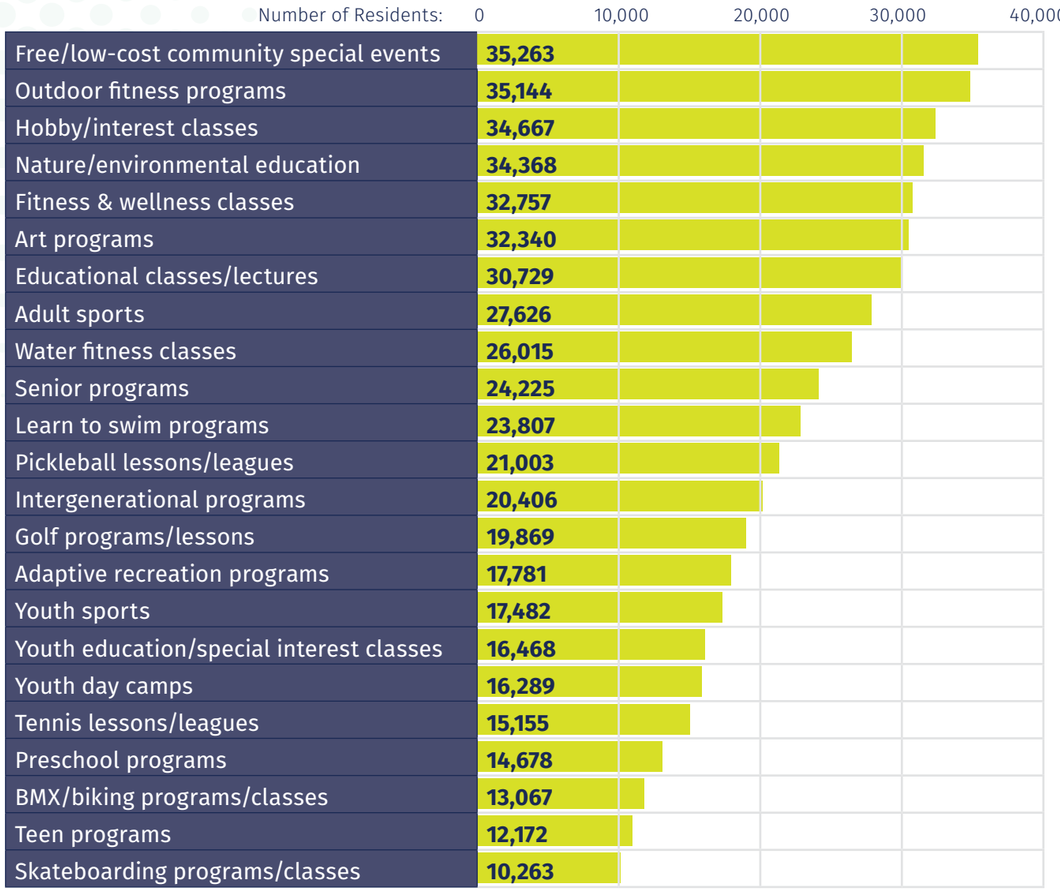
Q4. Need for Recreation Programs and Activities

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO INDICATED NEED



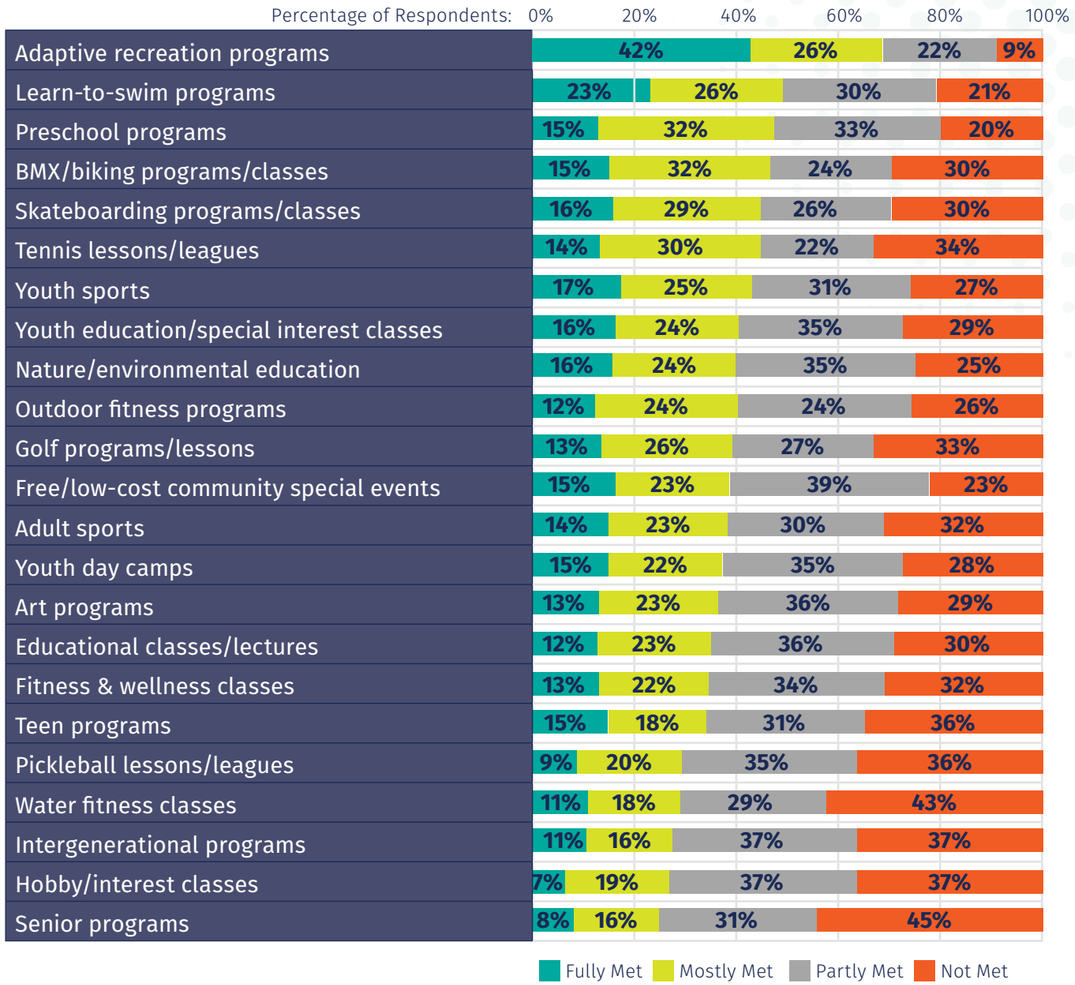
Q4b. Estimated number of residents who have a need for Recreation

BASED ON AN ESTIMATED 59,667 RESIDENTS



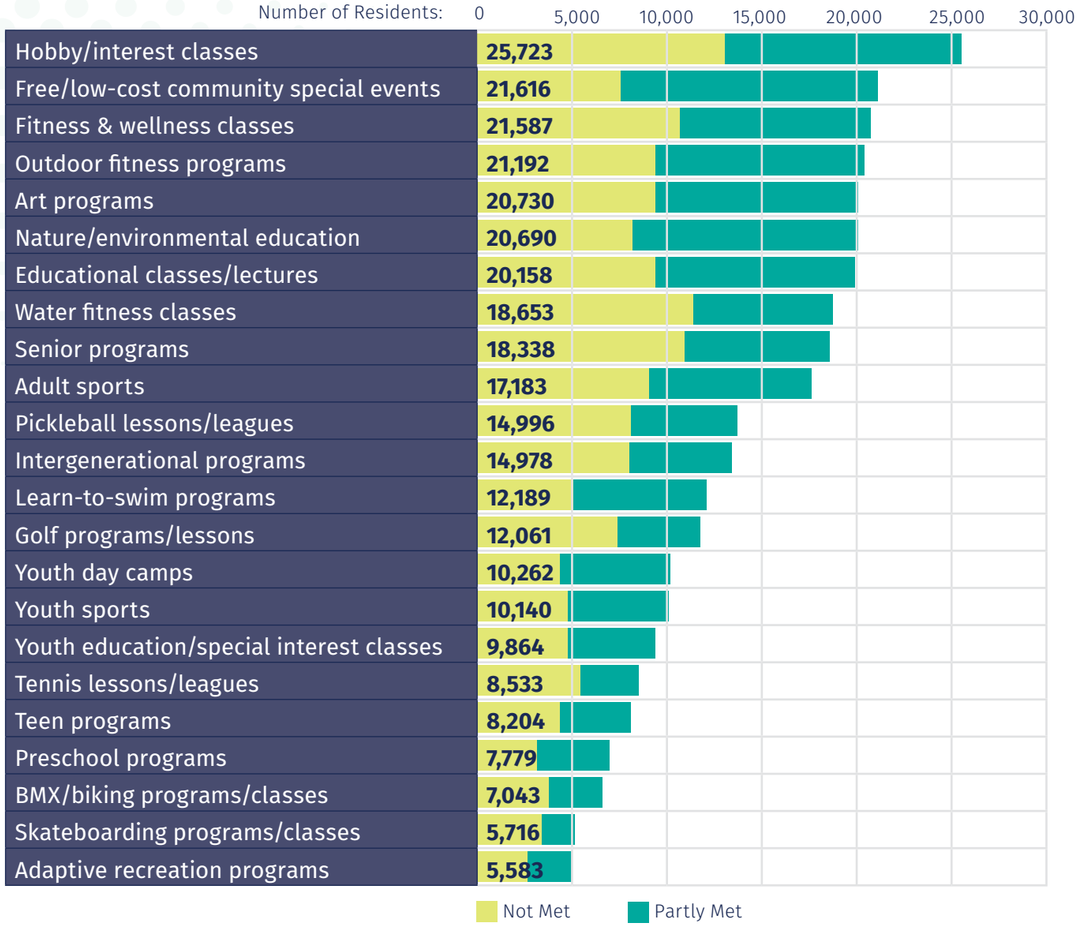
Q4c. Please indicate how well your needs are met for need for Programs and Activities

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS (EXCLUDING "NO NEED")



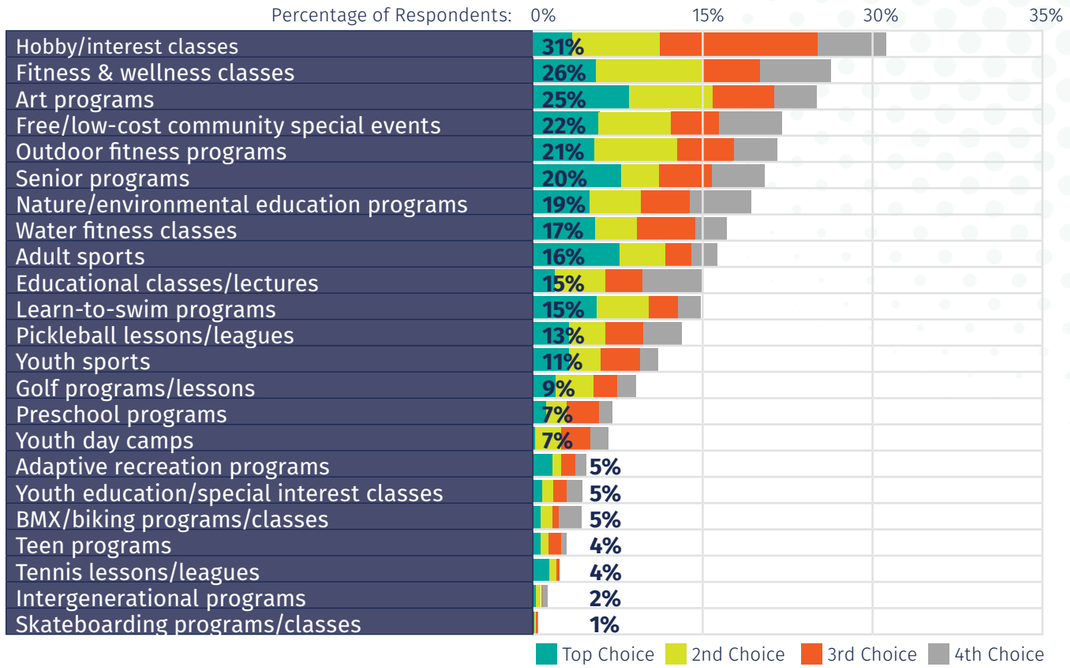
Q4d. Estimated number of residents whose program/activity needs are only "partly met" or "not met"

BY NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS WITH NEED BASED ON AN ESTIMATED 59,667 RESIDENTS



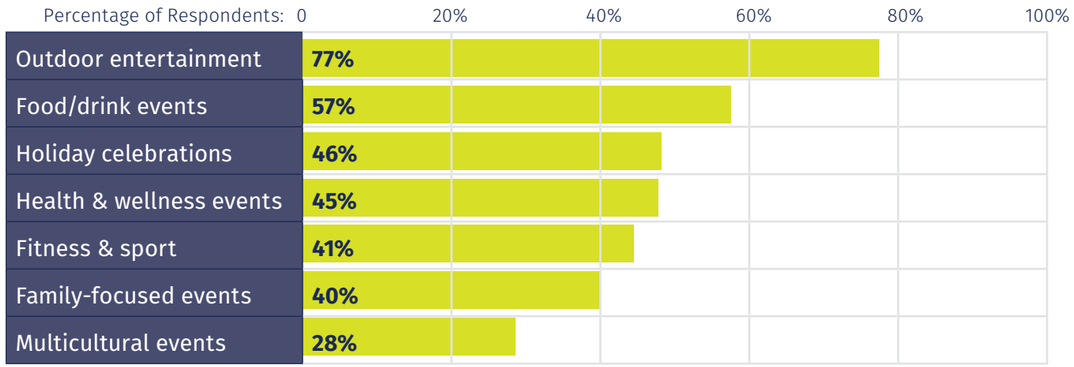
Q5. Which FOUR items are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SELECTED THE ITEMS AS ONE OF THEIR TOP FOUR CHOICES

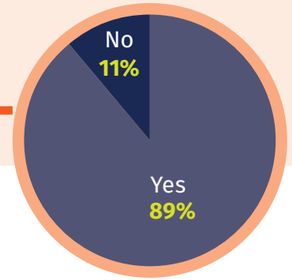


Q7. Please CHECK ALL the following single-day or multi-day event concepts you or members of your household would most enjoy or are interested in.

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS

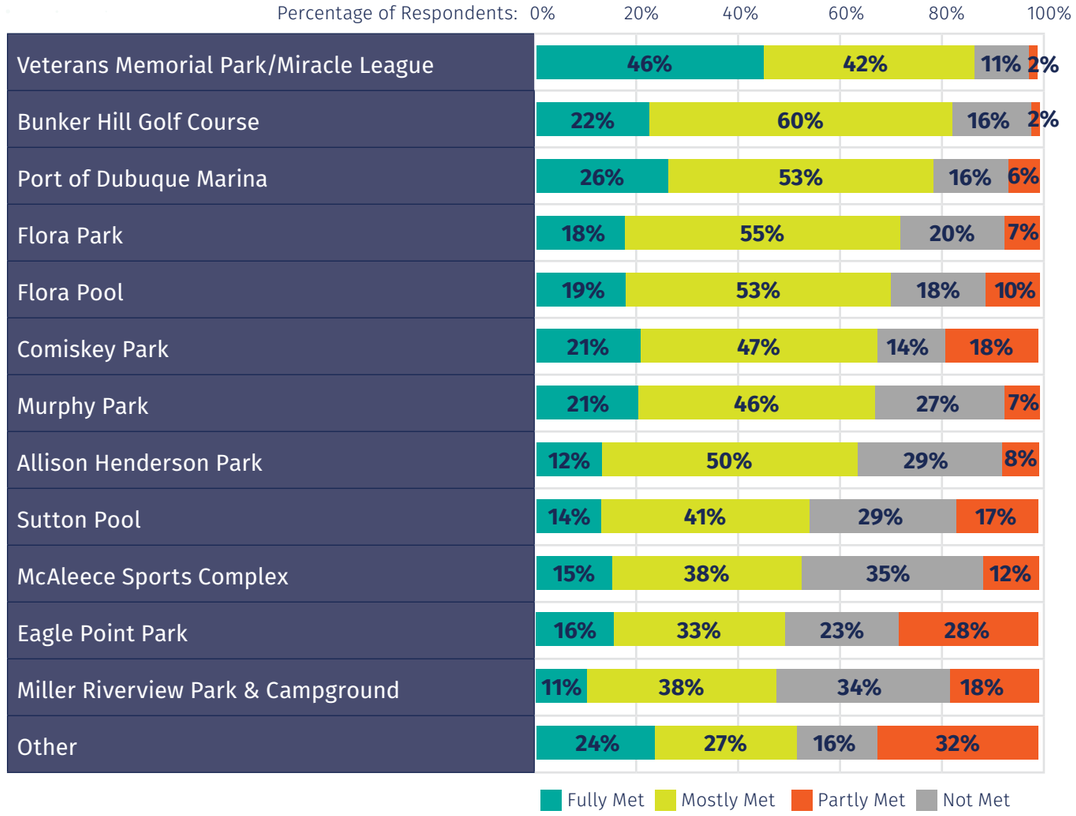


Q8. Have you and/or members of your household visited any City of Dubuque parks or recreation facilities during the past year? BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS



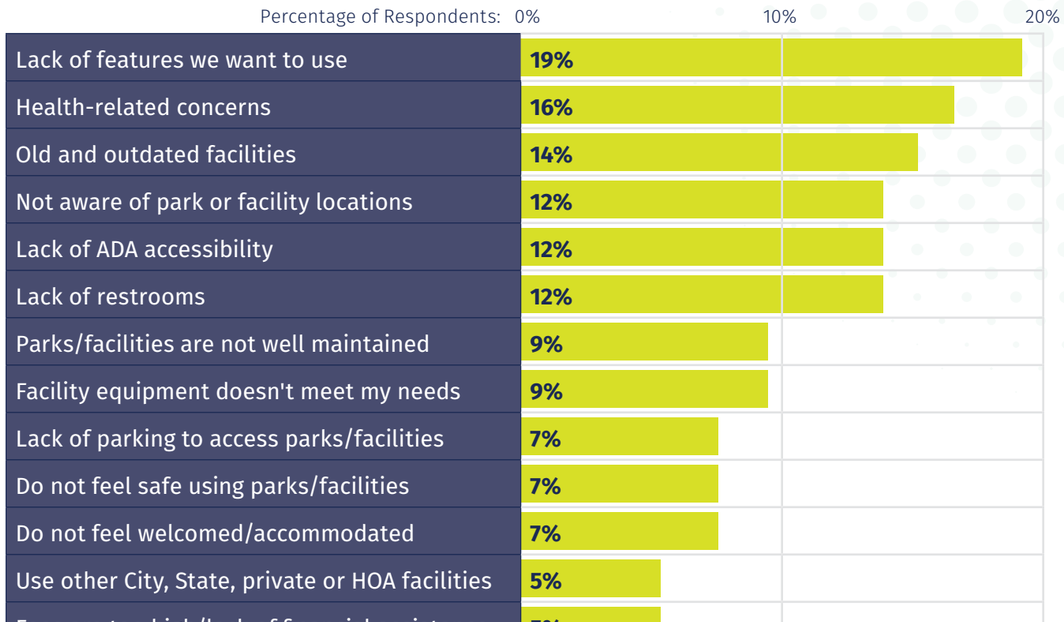
Q8a. Please rate the maintenance level and overall condition of each of the parks and recreation facilities listed below.

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS (WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW")



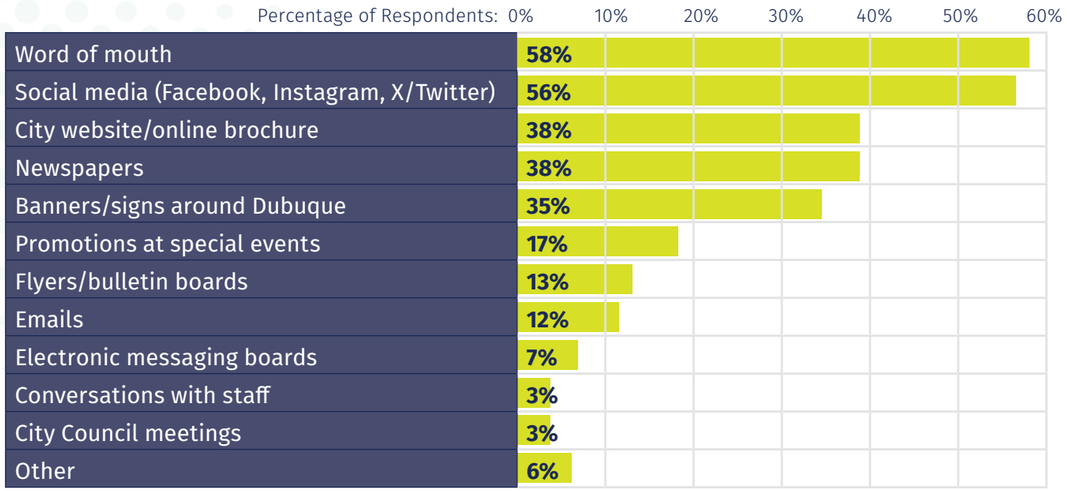
Q8b. Please CHECK ALL the reasons you have not visited or have not visited City of Dubuque parks or recreation facilities more often.

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS (WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW")



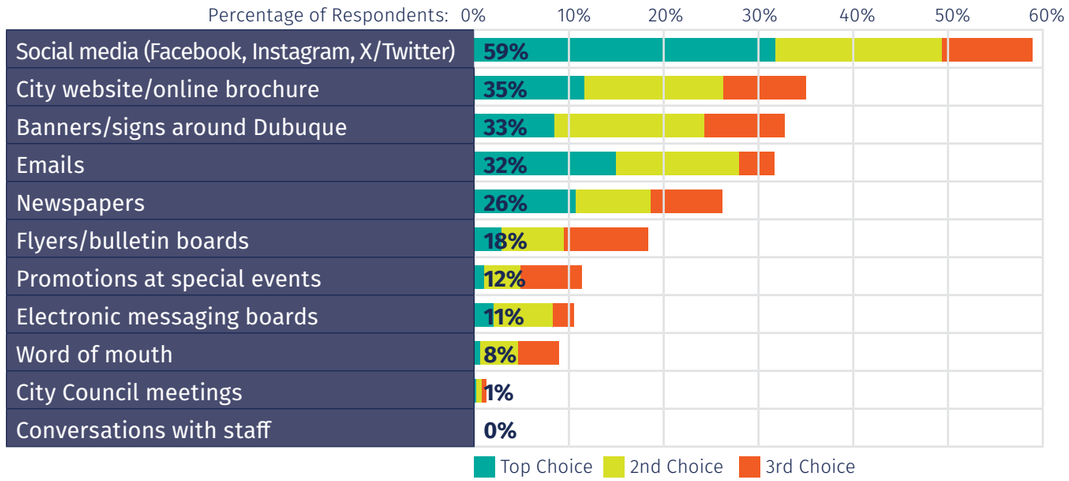
Q9. From the following list, please CHECK ALL the ways you learn about City of Dubuque parks, recreation facilities, programs, and events.

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS



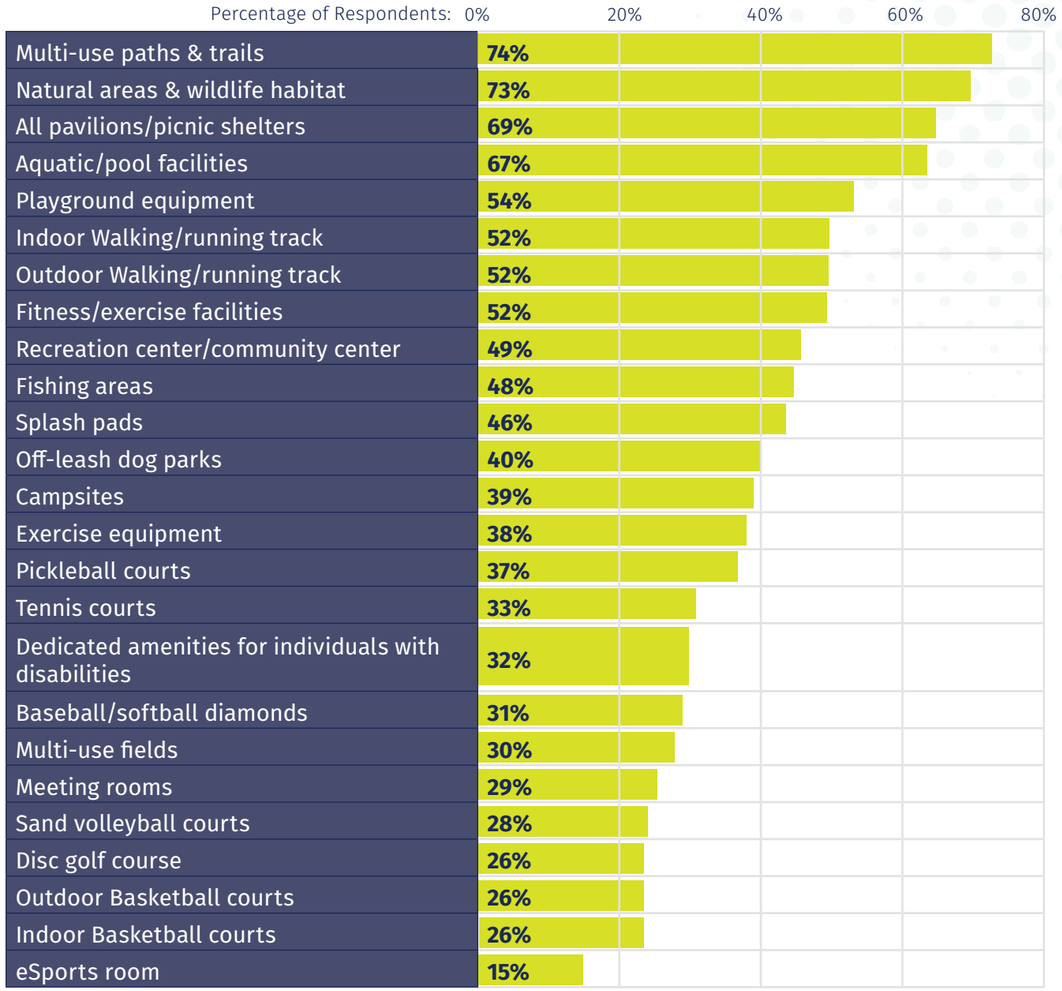
Q9a. Which THREE methods of communication would you MOST PREFER the City to use to communicate with you about Parks and Recreation services?

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SELECTED THE ITEMS AS ONE OF THEIR TOP THREE CHOICES



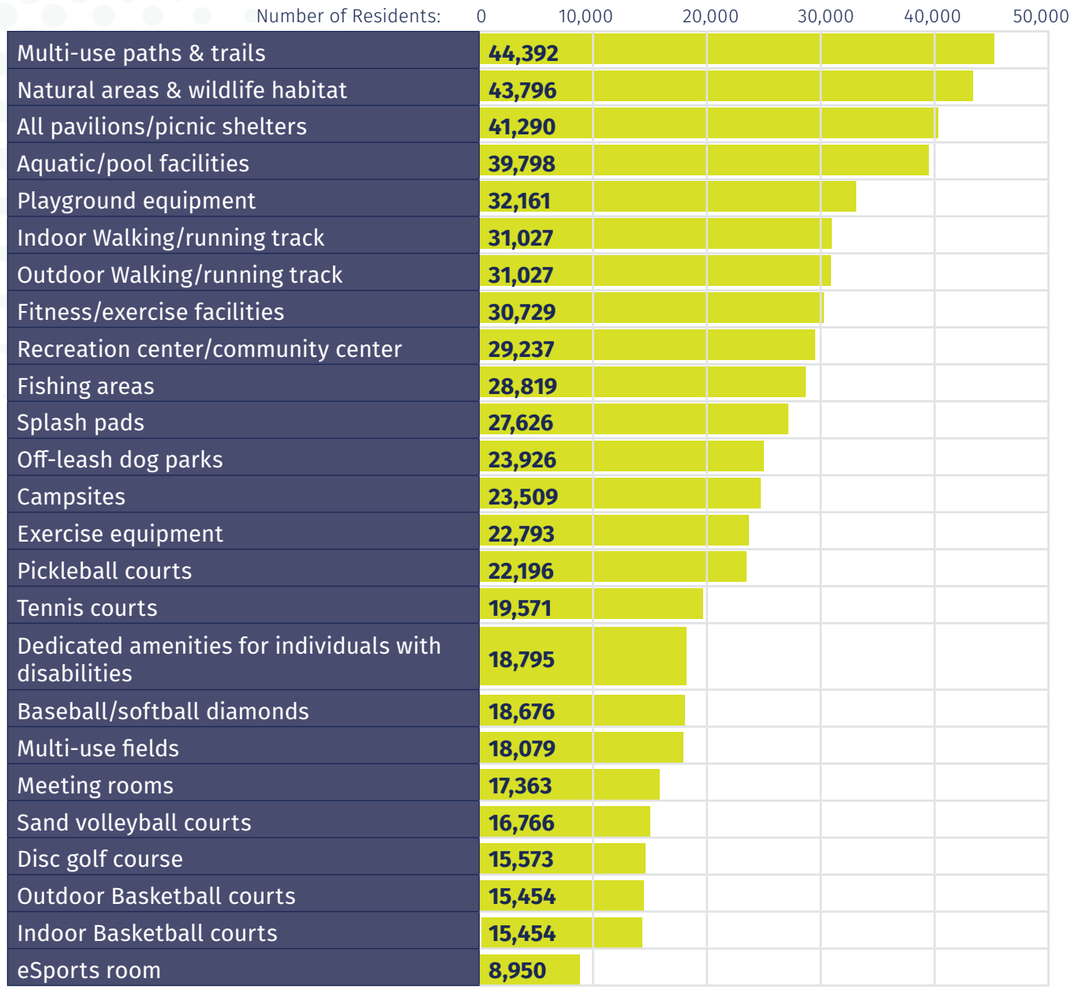
Q10. Need for Facilities and Amenities

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO INDICATED NEED



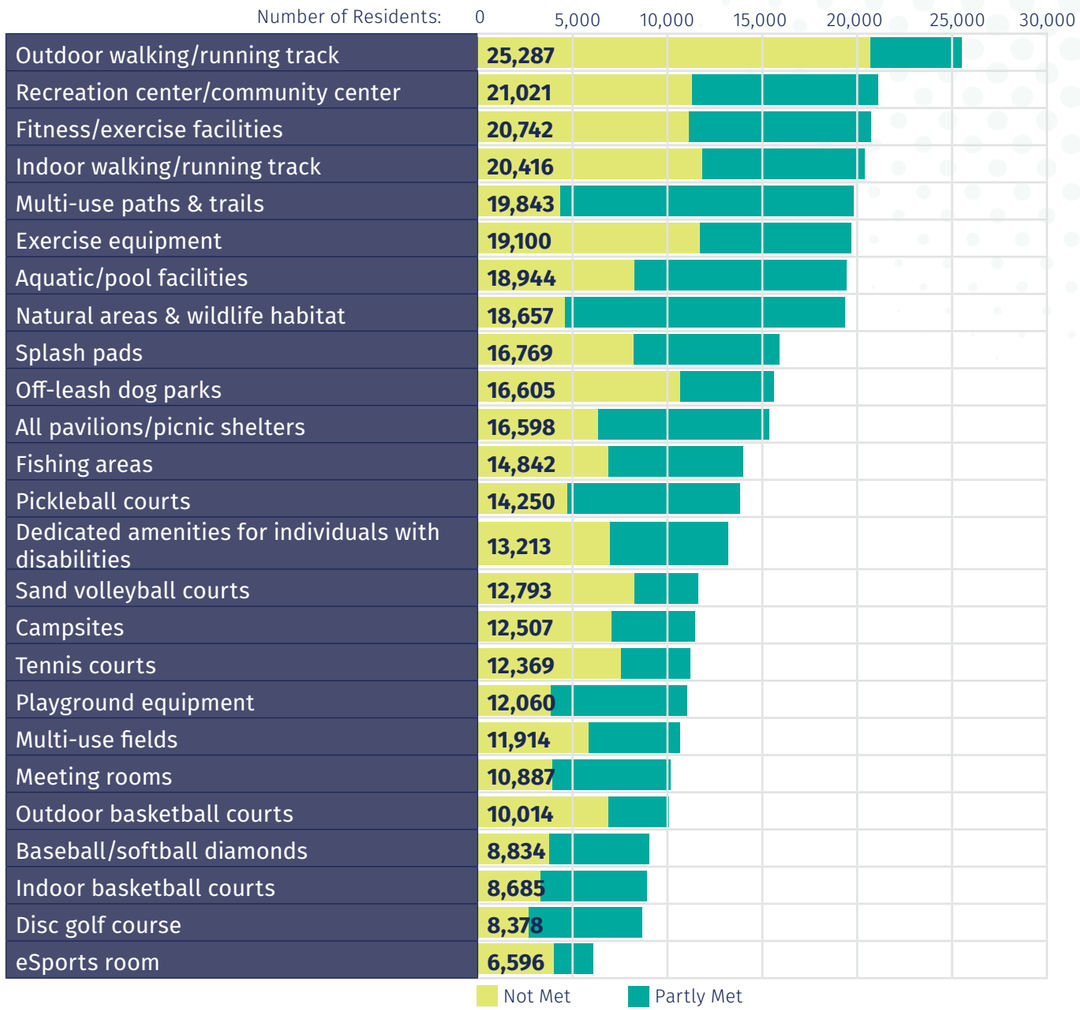
Q10b. Estimated number of residents who have a need for facilities & amenities

BY NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON AN ESTIMATED 59,667 RESIDENTS



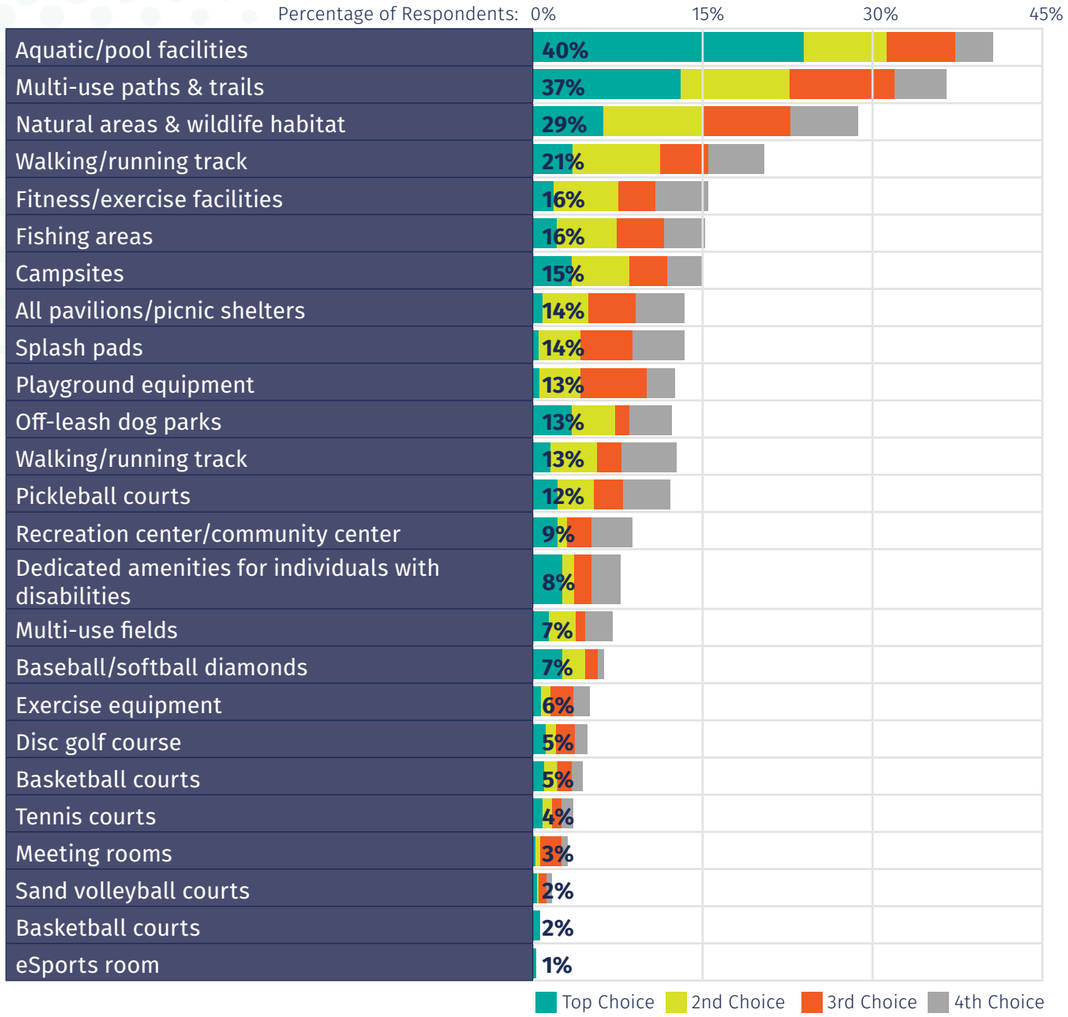
Q10d. Estimated number of residents whose facility and amenity needs are only “partly met" or “not met”

BY NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS WITH NEED BASED ON AN ESTIMATED 59,667 RESIDENTS



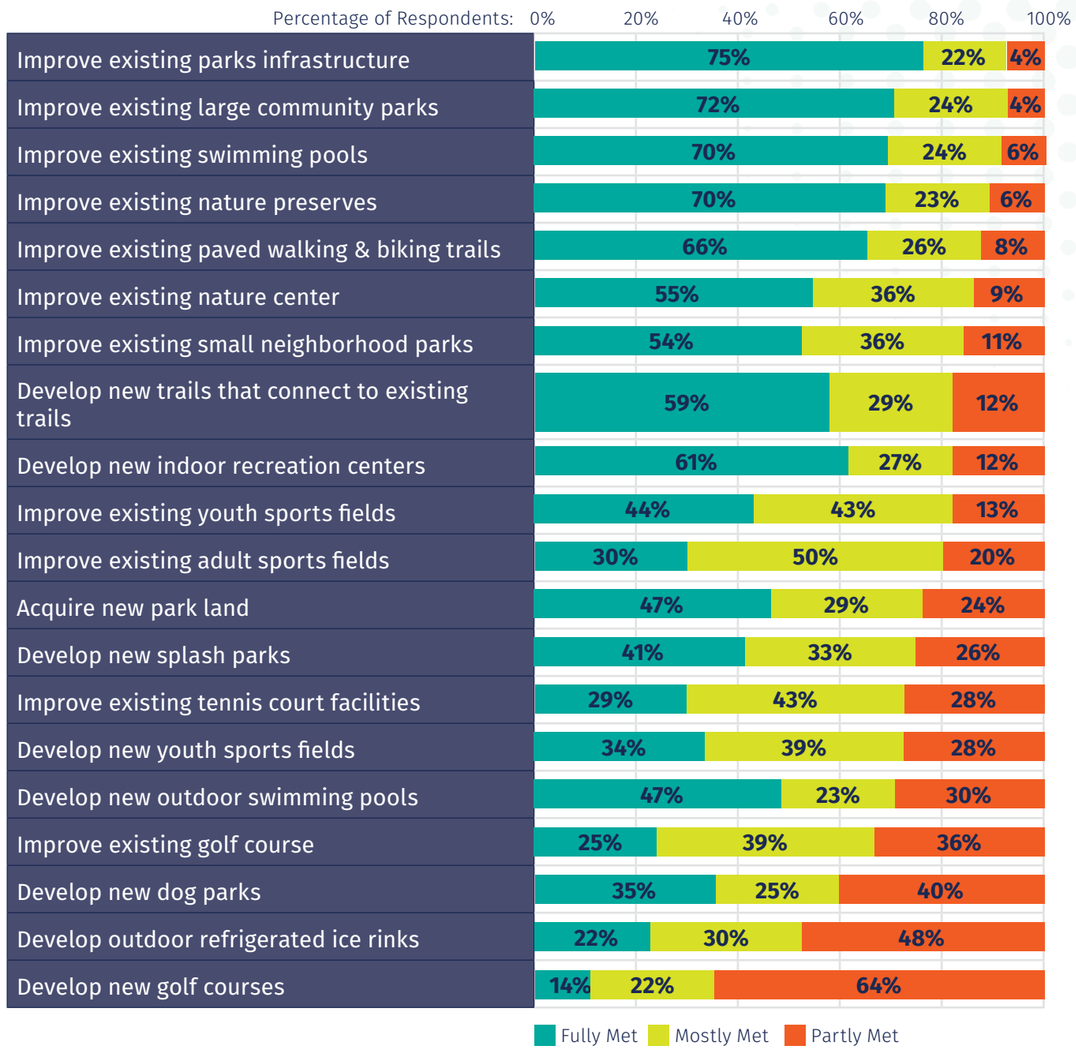
Q11. Which FOUR items are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SELECTED THE ITEMS AS ONE OF THEIR TOP FOUR CHOICES



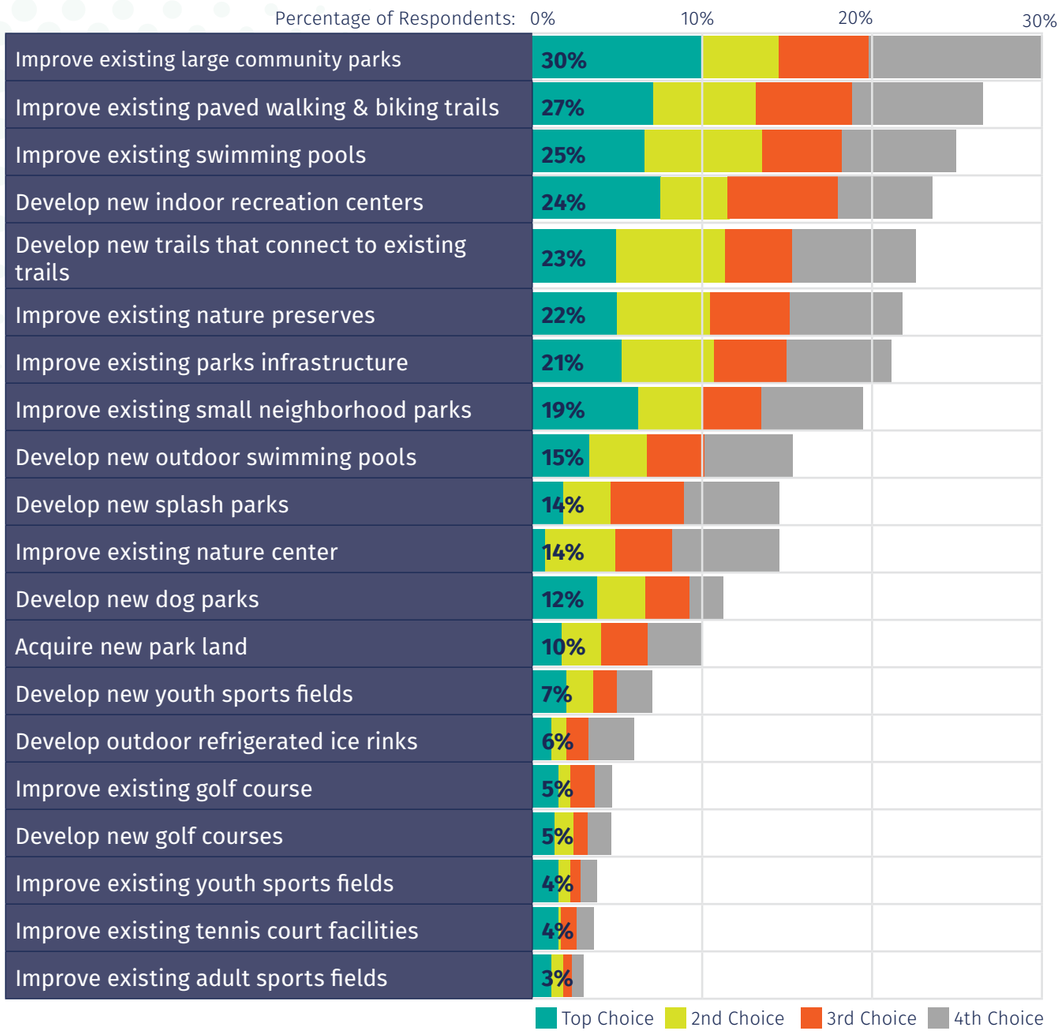
Q13. Listed below are actions the City of Dubuque could take to improve its parks and recreation system. Please indicate your support for each potential action.

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS (EXCLUDING "NO NEED")



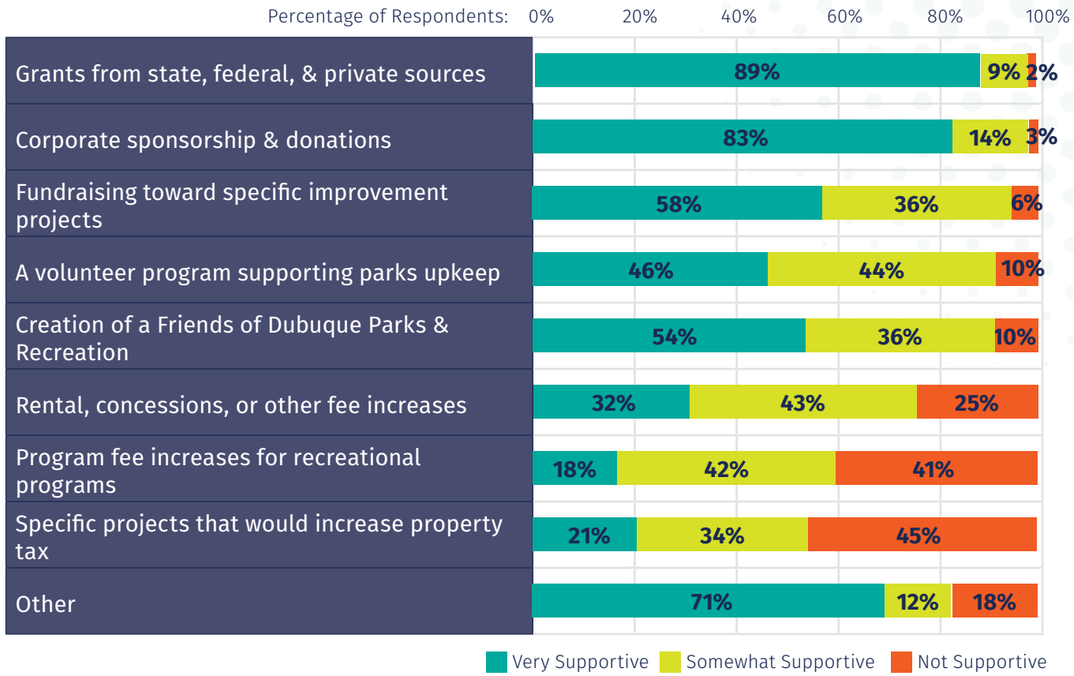
Q14. Which FOUR of the items listed in Question 13 would you be MOST WILLING to fund with additional tax dollars?

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SELECTED THE ITEMS AS ONE OF THEIR TOP FOUR CHOICES



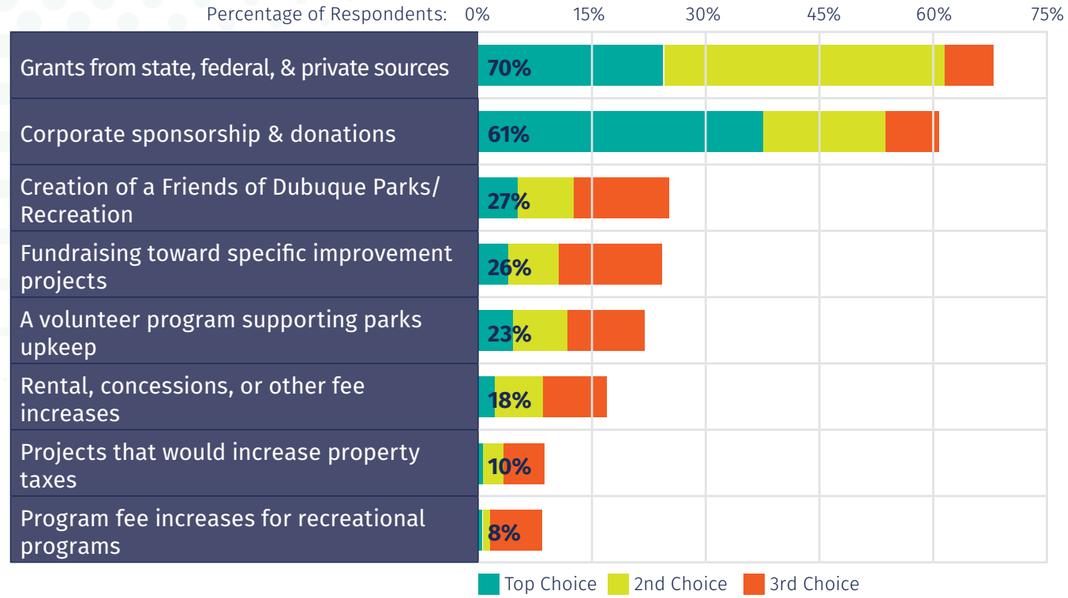
Q15. Listed below are various funding mechanisms that could be used to fund the actions you indicated you would be most willing to support in Question 14.

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS (WITHOUT "NOT SURE")



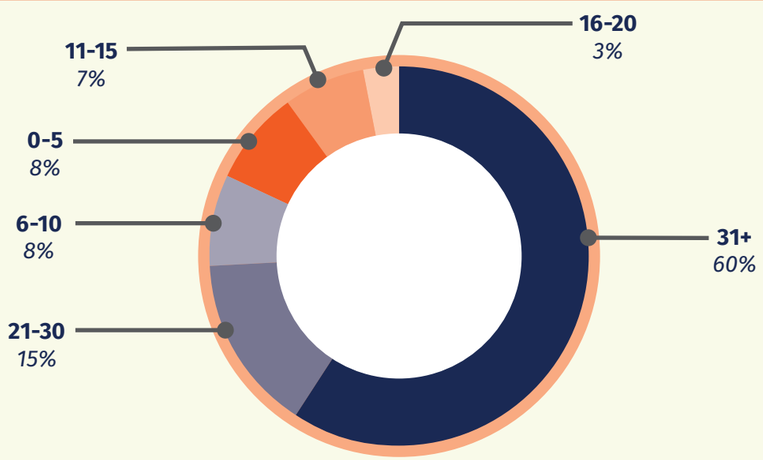
Q16. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 15 would you be MOST WILLING to support?

BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SELECTED THE ITEMS AS ONE OF THEIR TOP THREE CHOICES

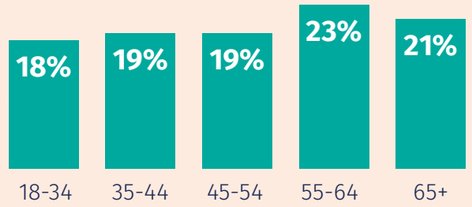


Q17. How many years have you lived in Dubuque? (without "not provided")

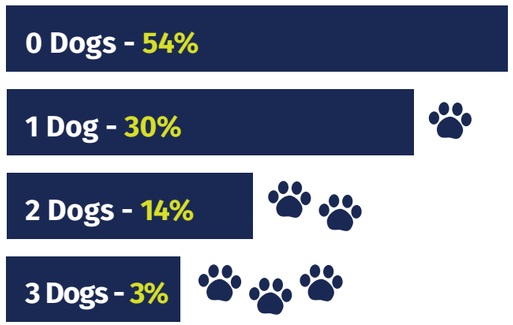
BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS (WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")



Q18. What is your age?
BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")

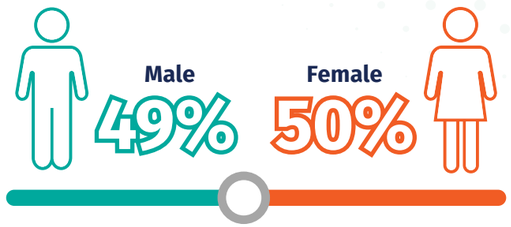


Do you have any dogs in the house?
122 RESPONSES



Q20. Your gender identity
BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")

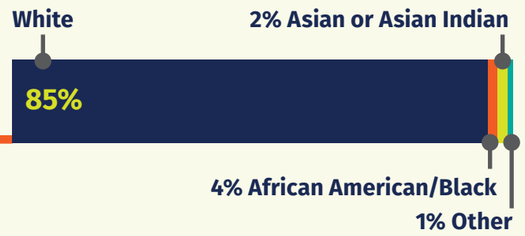
1% prefer to self describe



Q21. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic or Latino Ancestry?
BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")



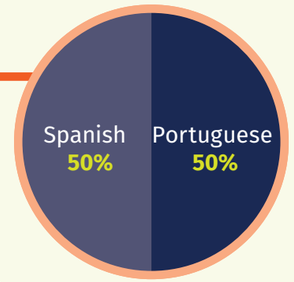
Q22. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?
BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS



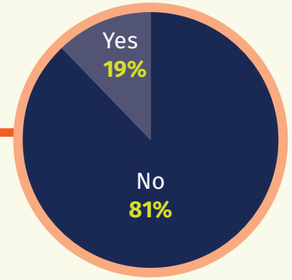
Q23. Is English the primary language spoken in your home?
BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")



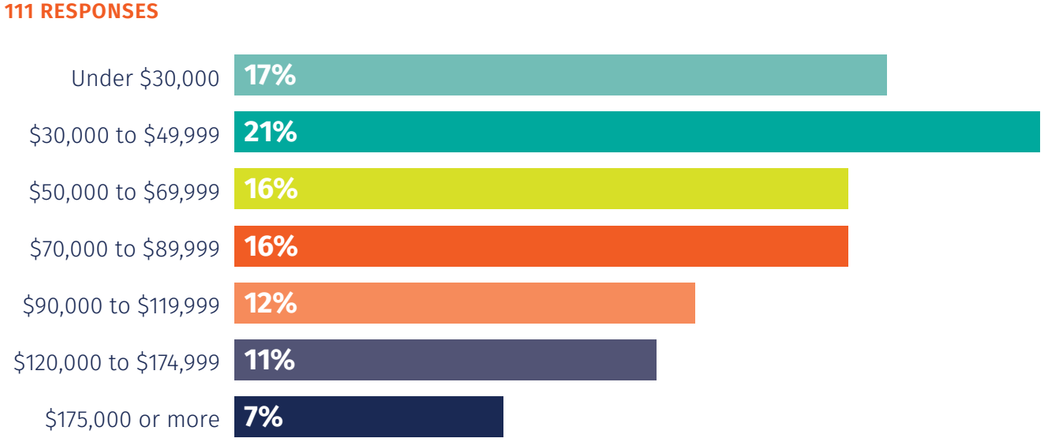
Q23a. What is the primary language spoken in your home?
BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO DID NOT INDICATE ENGLISH



Q24. Does anyone in your household have a disability?
BY PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")



What is your total annual household income?
111 RESPONSES



PRIORITY INVESTMENT RATINGS

The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide governments with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation investments. The PIR was developed by ETC Institute to identify the facilities and programs residents think should receive the highest priority for investment. The PIR reflects the importance residents place on items (sum of top 4 choices) and the unmet needs (needs that are only being partly or not met) for each facility/program relative to the facility/program that rated the highest overall. Since decisions related to future investments should consider both the level of unmet need and the importance of facilities and programs, the PIR weights each of these components equally.

The PIR reflects the sum of the Unmet Needs Rating (UNR) and the Importance Rating (IR) as shown in the equation below:

PIR = UNR + IR

For example, suppose the UNR for playgrounds is 26.5 (out of 100) and the IR for playgrounds is 52 (out of 100), the PIR for playgrounds would be 78.5 (out of 200).

How to Analyze the Charts:

High-Priority
Areas are those with a PIR of at least 100. A rating of 100 or above generally indicates there is a relatively high level of unmet need and residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements in this area are likely to have a positive impact on the greatest number of residents.

Medium-Priority
Areas are those with a PIR of 51-99. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a medium to high level of unmet need or a significant percentage of residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas.

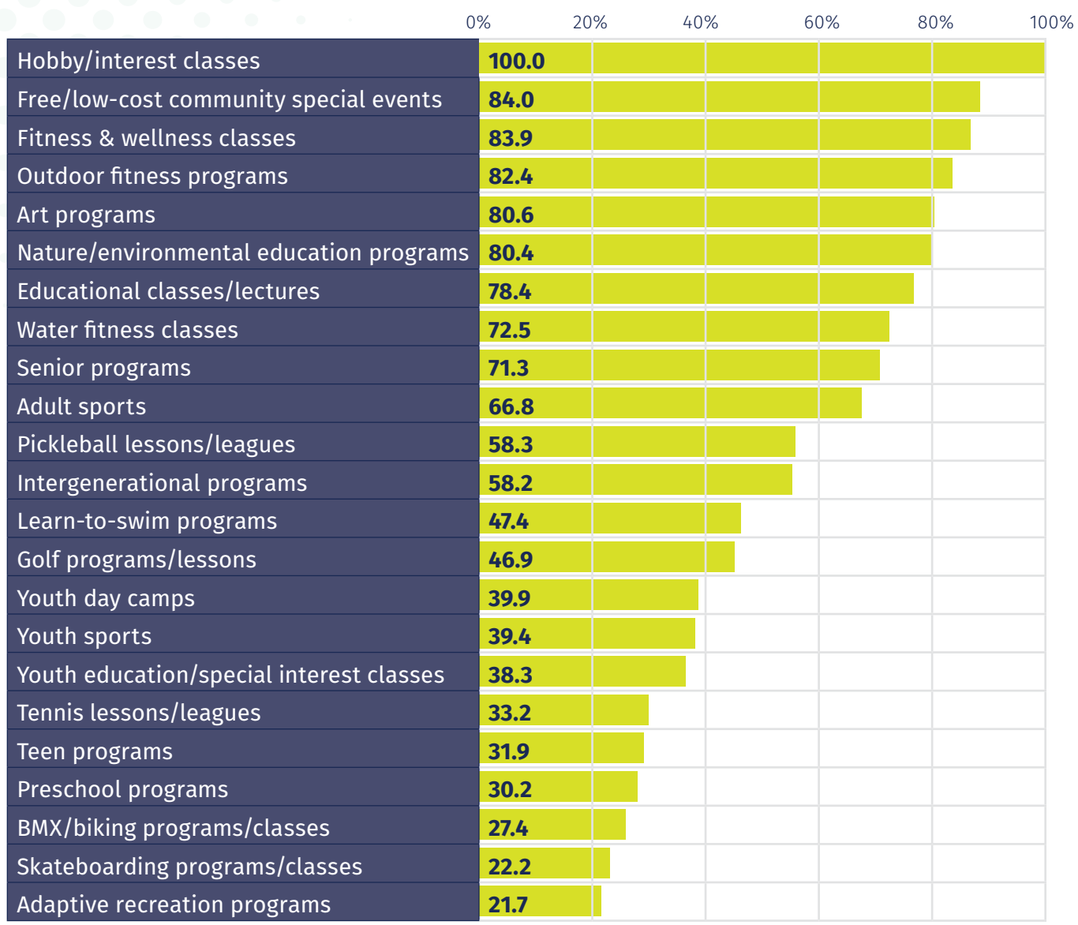
Low-Priority
Areas are those with a PIR below 50. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a relatively low level of unmet need and residents do not think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements may be warranted if the needs of very specialized populations are being targeted.

The following pages show the UNR, IR, and PIR for facilities and programs.

Unmet Needs Rating for Programs/Activities

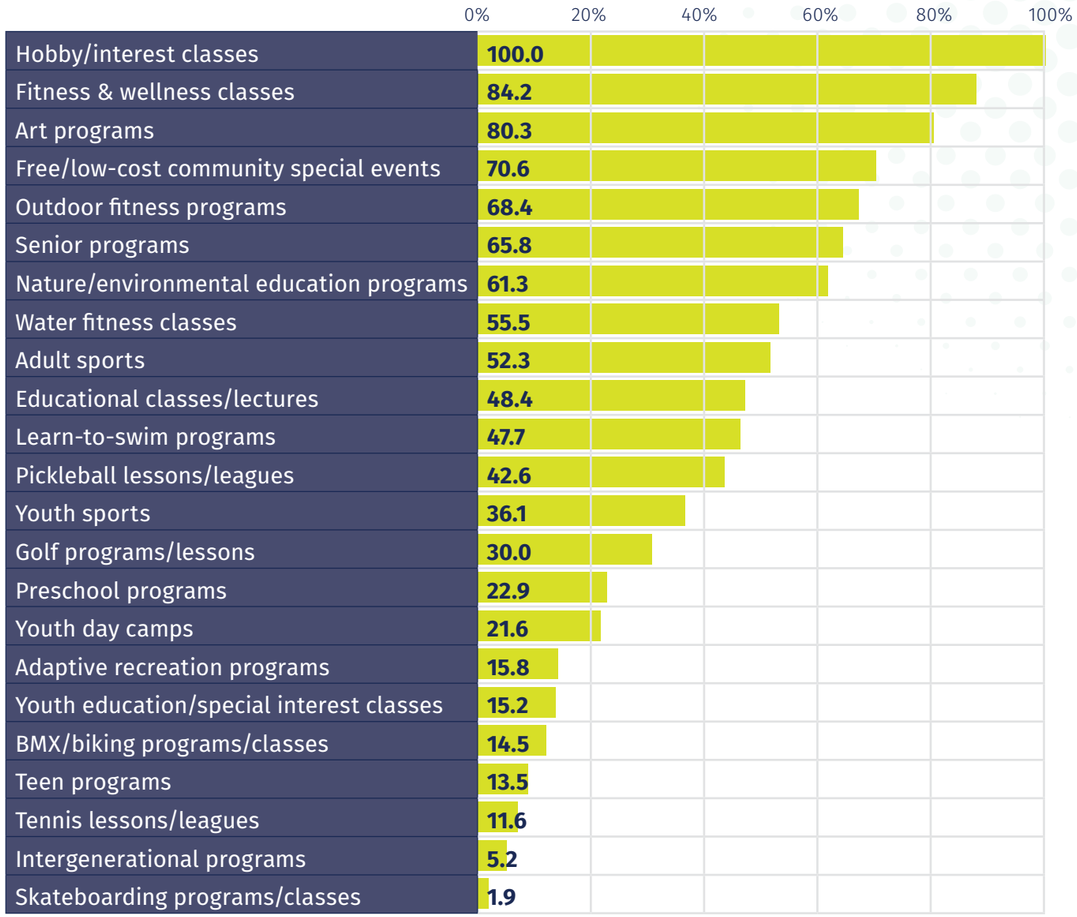
THE RATING FOR THE ITEM WITH THE MOST UNMET NEED=100

THE RATING OF ALL OTHER ITEMS REFLECTS THE RELATIVE AMOUNT OF UNMET NEED FOR EACH ITEM COMPARED TO THE ITEM WITH THE MOST UNMET NEED

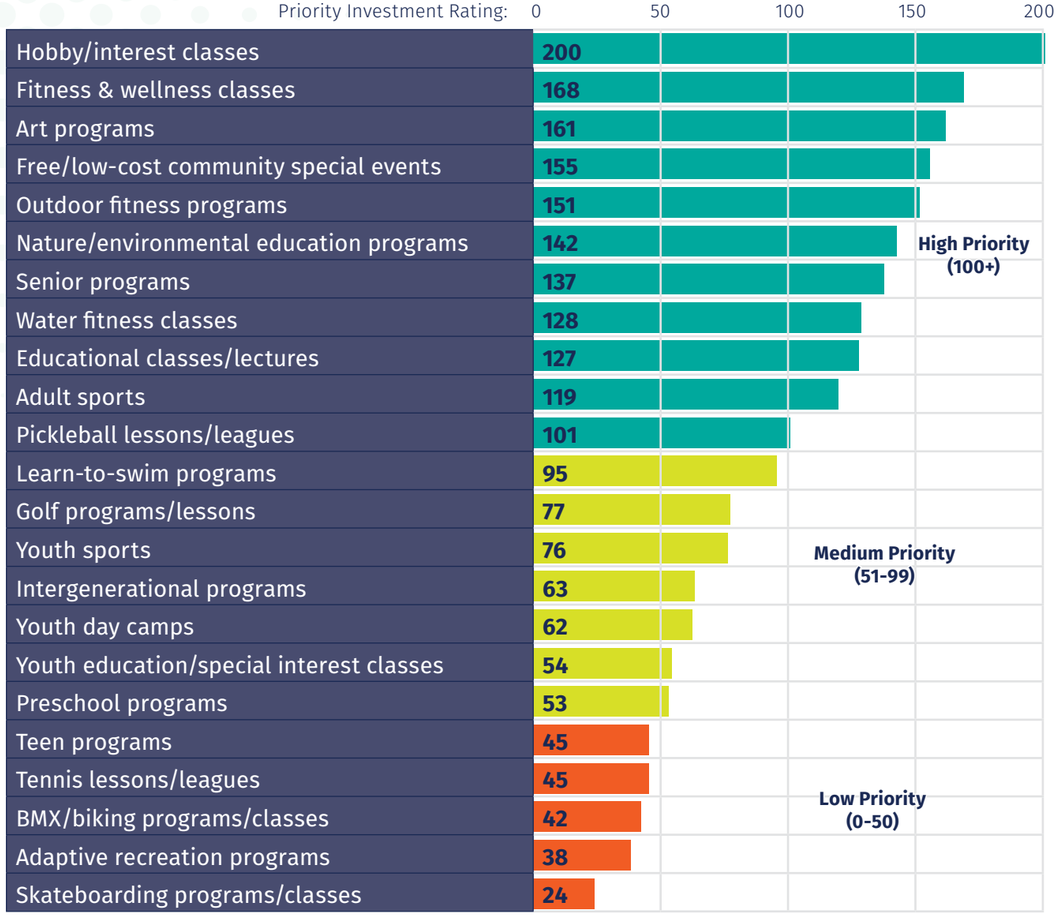


Importance Rating for Programs/Activities

THE RATING FOR THE ITEM RATED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT=100



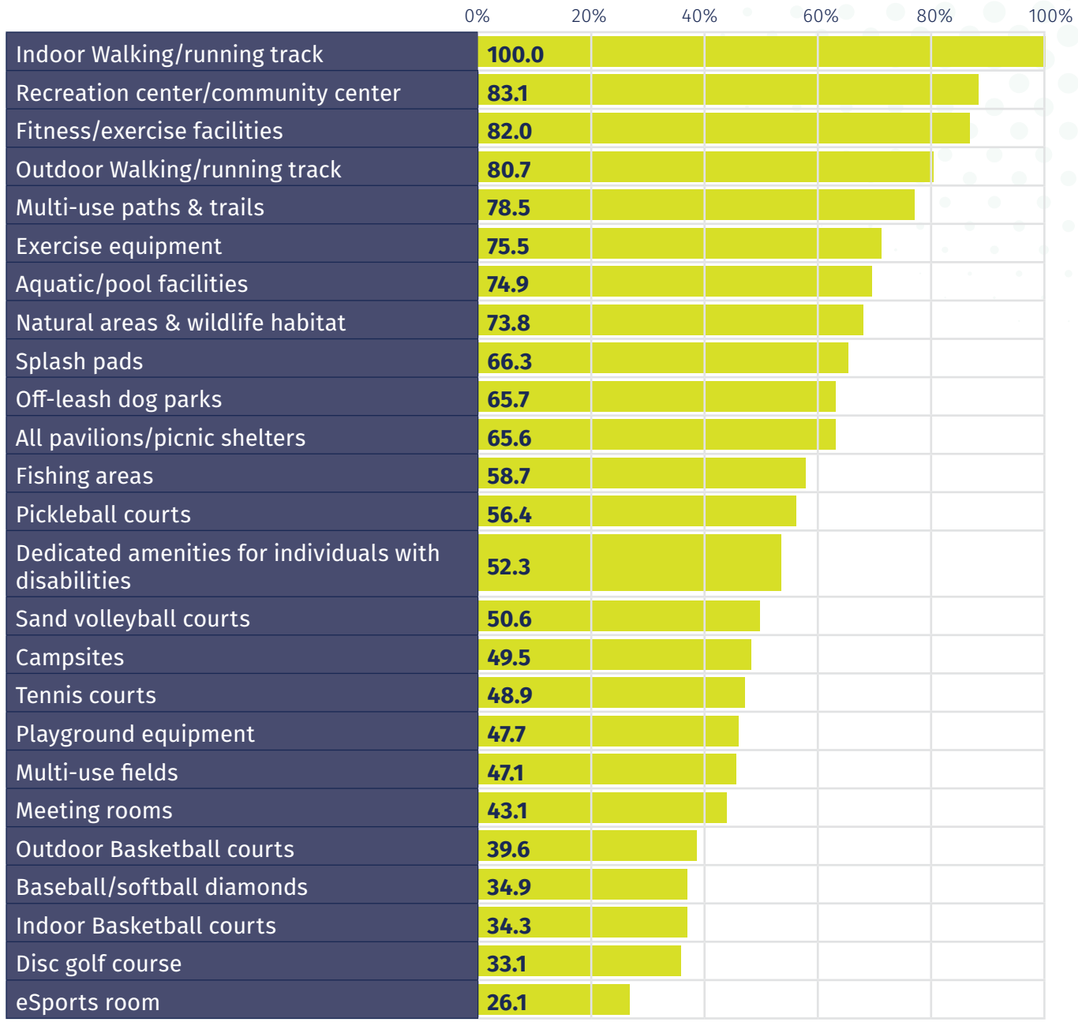
Top Priorities for Investment for Parks and Recreation Programs Based on Priority Investment Rating



Unmet Needs Rating for Facilities and Amenities

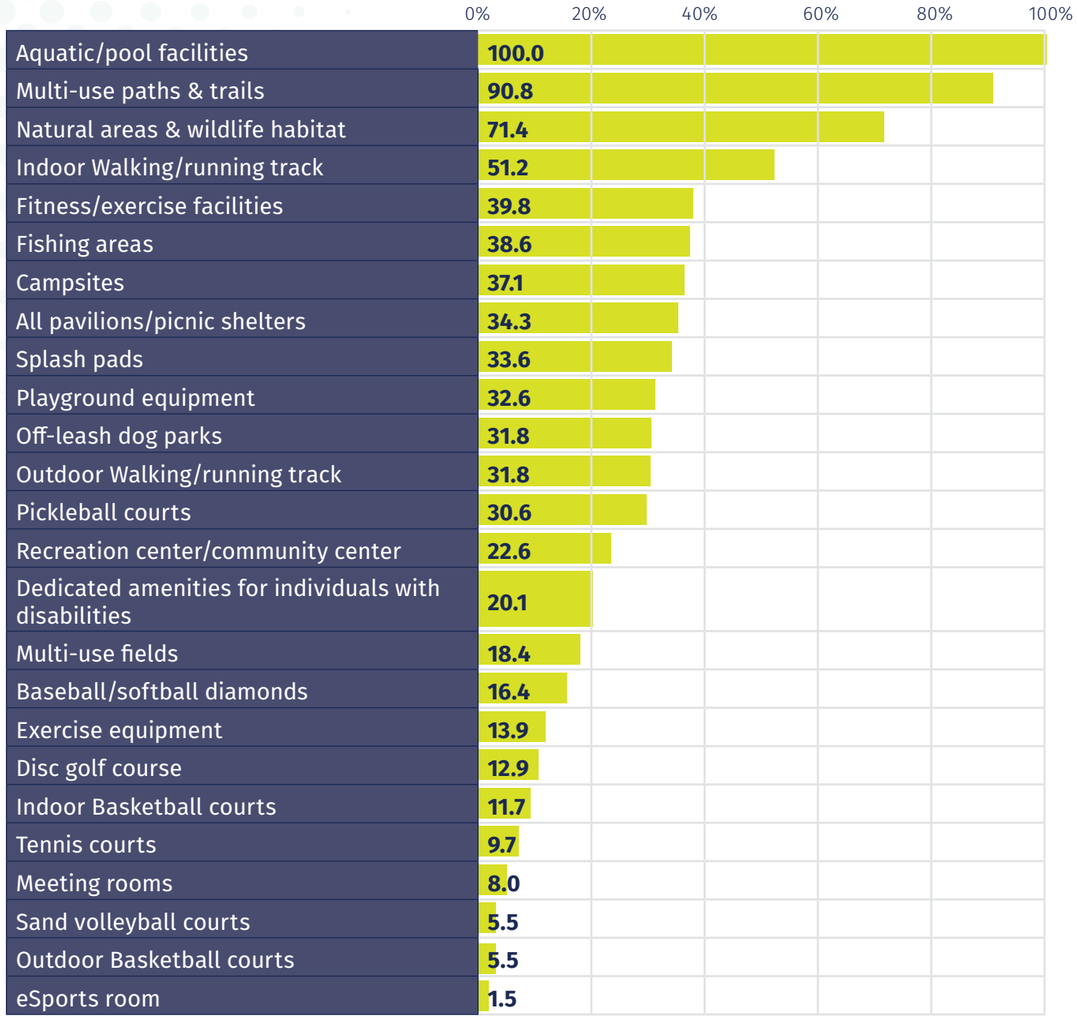
THE RATING FOR THE ITEM WITH THE MOST UNMET NEED=100

THE RATING OF ALL OTHER ITEMS REFLECTS THE RELATIVE AMOUNT OF UNMET NEED FOR EACH ITEM COMPARED TO THE ITEM WITH THE MOST UNMET NEED

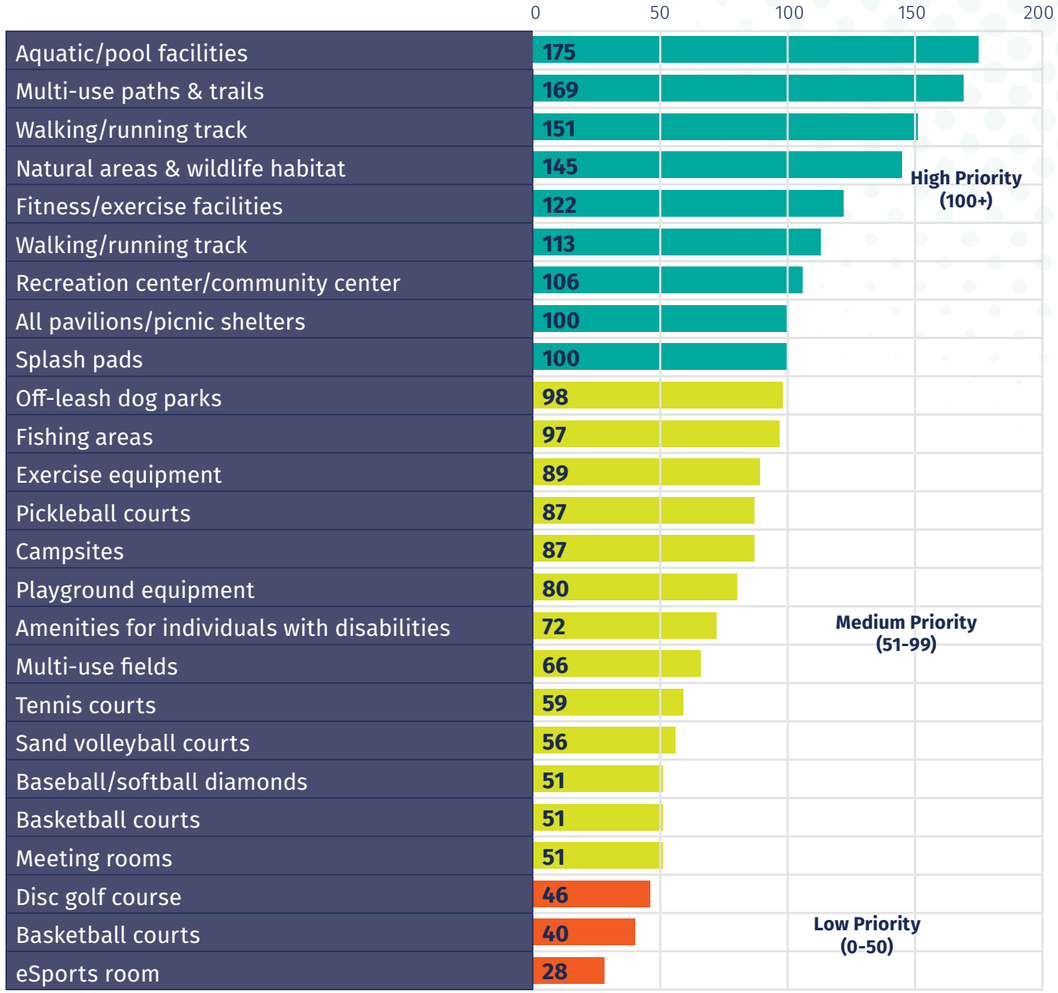


Importance Rating for Facilities and Amenities

THE RATING FOR THE ITEM RATED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT=100



Top Priorities for Investment for Facilities and Amenities Based on Priority Investment Rating

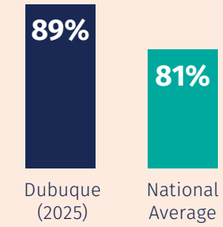


NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Note: The benchmarking data contained in this report is protected intellectual property. Any reproduction of the benchmarking information in this report by persons or organizations not directly affiliated with the City of Dubuque is not Authorized without written consent from ETC Institute.

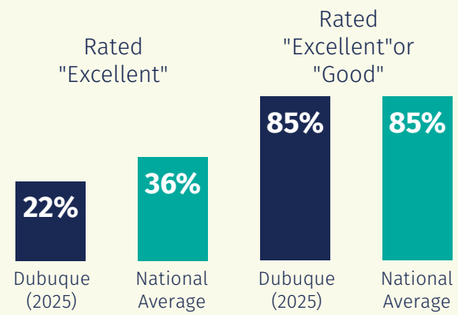
Have you or any members of your household visited any parks or recreation facilities or amenities in your community during the past year?

BY % OF RESPONDENTS



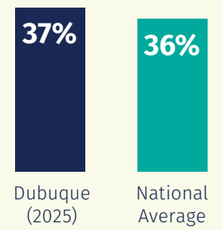
Overall condition of all the parks and recreation facilities and amenities you and the members of your households have visited over the past year.

BY % OF RESPONDENTS



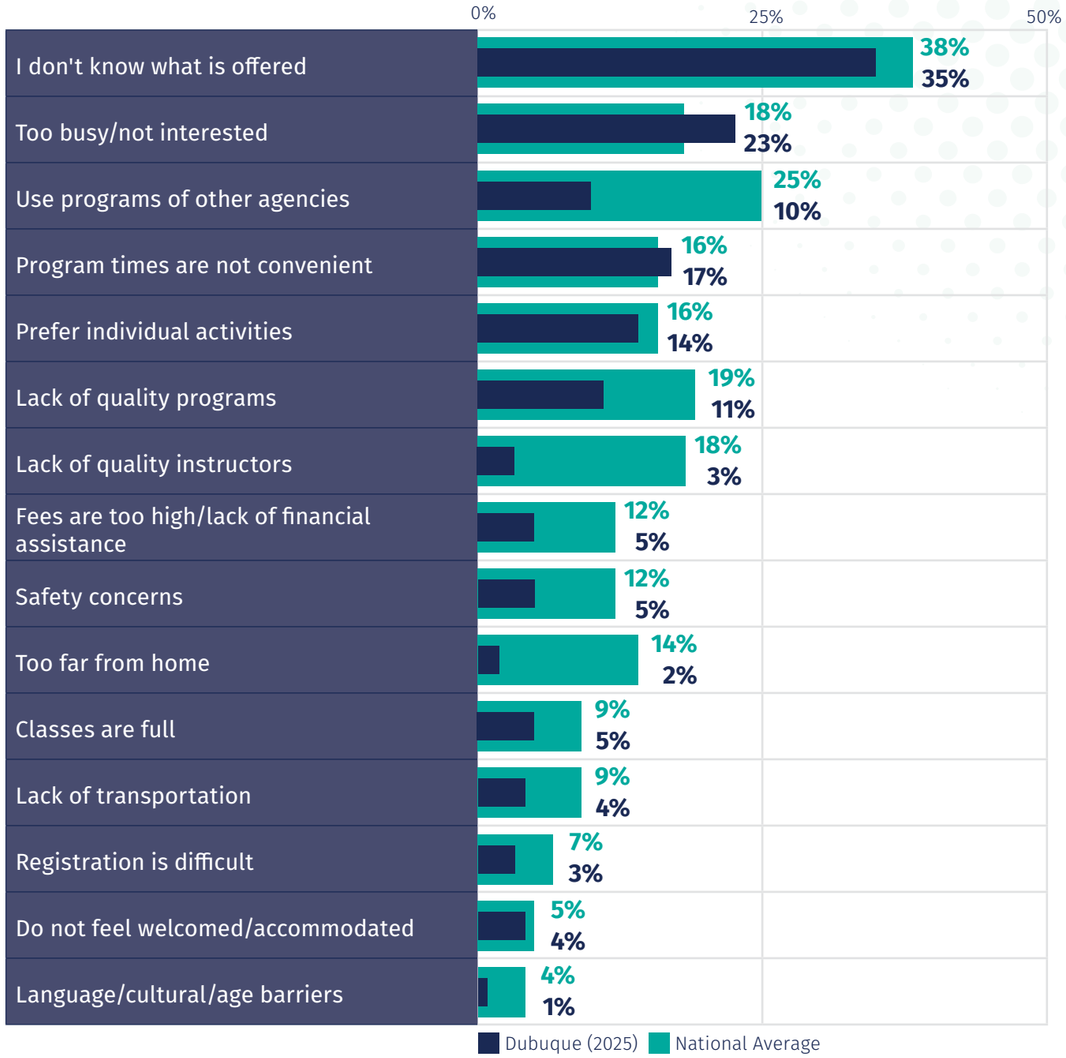
Have you or any members of your household participated in any recreation programs offered in your community during the past year?

BY % OF RESPONDENTS



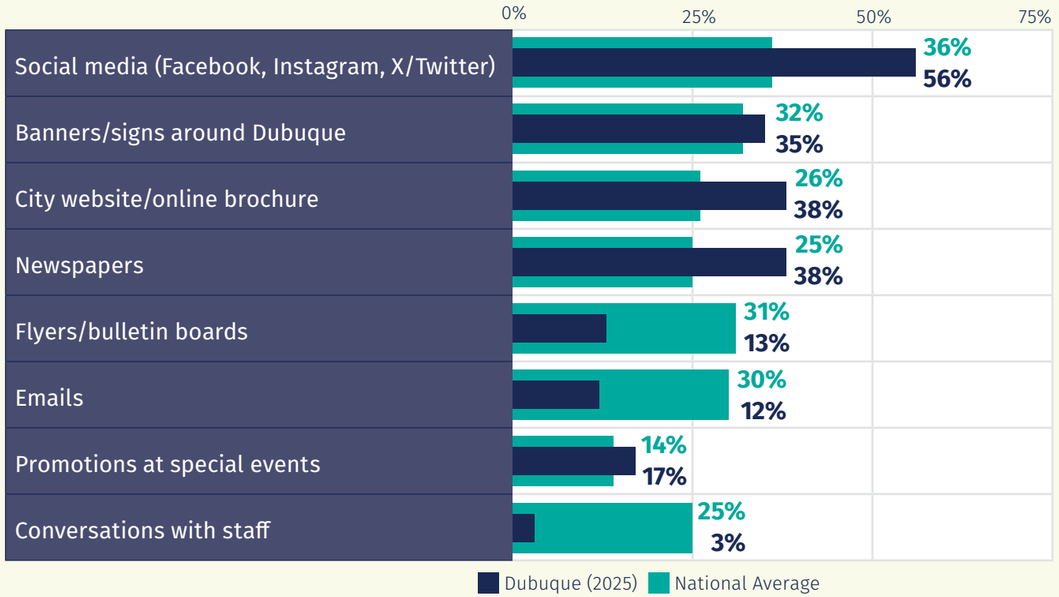
Barriers to Recreation Program Participation

BY % OF RESPONDENTS



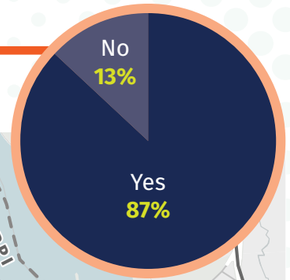
Barriers to Recreation Program Participation

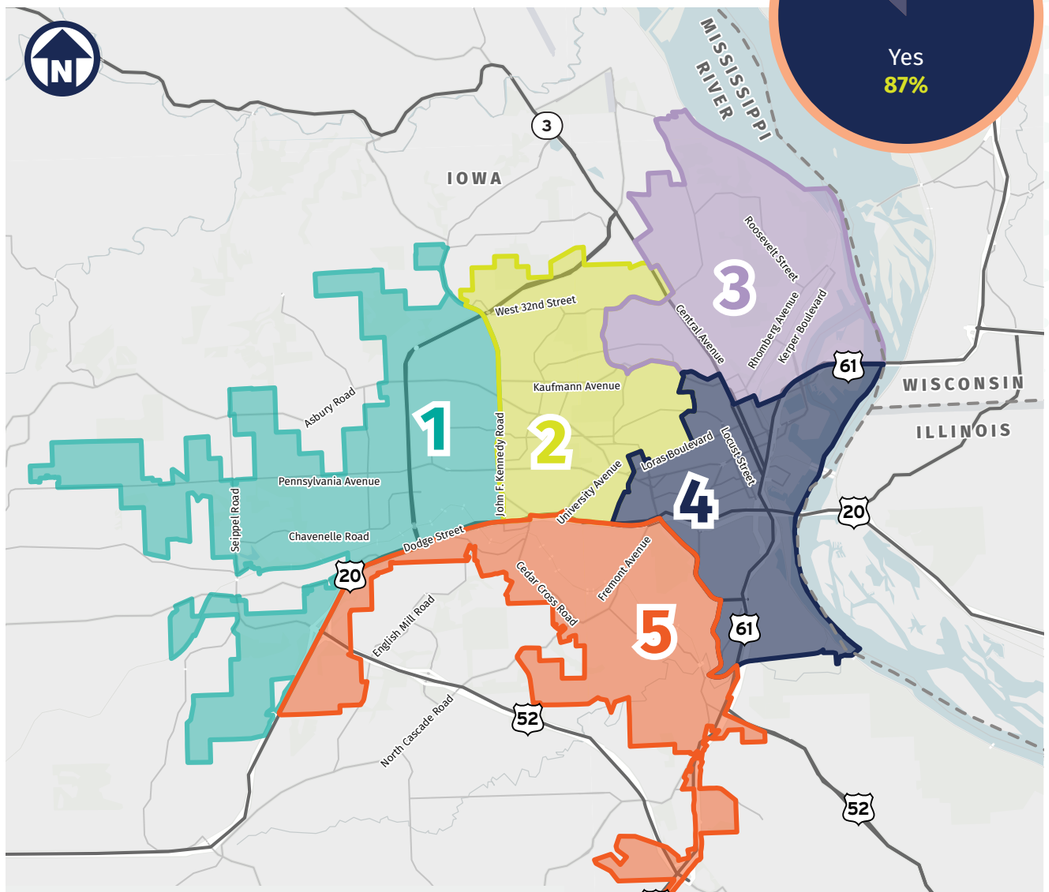
BY % OF RESPONDENTS



Do you reside within the City of Dubuque?

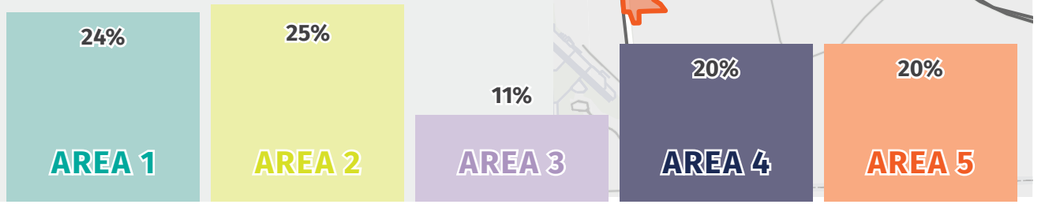
127 RESPONSES





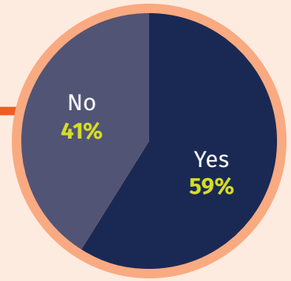
If yes, which area of the City do you live in?

112 RESPONSES



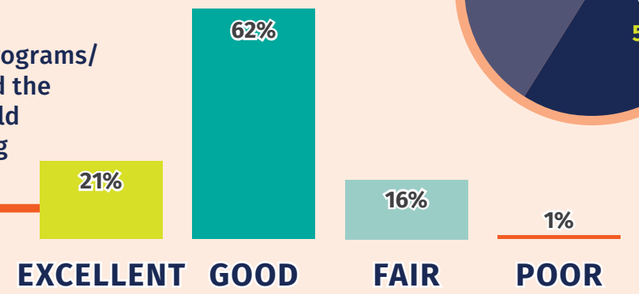
Have you and/or members of your household participated in any programs/activities/services offered by City of Dubuque Parks and Recreation during the past year?

128 RESPONSES



How would you rate the programs/activities/services you and the members of your household have participated in during the past year?

84 RESPONSES



What are the reasons you have not participated or have not participated more often in Dubuque Parks & Recreation programs/activities/services?

(Multiple responses allowed)

123 RESPONSES

Other:

- Not enough classes for active elderly
- Too few options for adults, especially senior citizens
- Not needed/interested
- We do not have a full service aquatic center
- No indoor soccer
- Too busy even though we are interested
- The Rec Department used to do brochures listing programs, not every one uses digital
- Toddler times are during M-F work hours
- We need indoor Pickleball courts on Valentine park
- When our children were young they participated, to be honest, I'm not sure what might be available that would be of interest

None; there are no barriers	8%
I don't know what is offered	46%
Use programs of other agencies	11%
Lack of quality instructors	2%
Lack of quality programs	10%
Prefer individual activities	7%
Too far from home	2%
Program times are not convenient	24%
Classes are full	7%
Safety concerns	3%
Fees are too high/lack financial assistance	5%
Prefer virtual programming	1%
Do not feel welcomed/accommodated	2%
Program not offered	10%
Registration is difficult	2%
Lack of transportation	3%
Too busy/not interested	12%
Language/Cultural barriers	0%
Age barriers	8%
Lack of recreation facilities	16%
Parking issues	2%
Other (please specify)	10%

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements about Parks and Recreation.

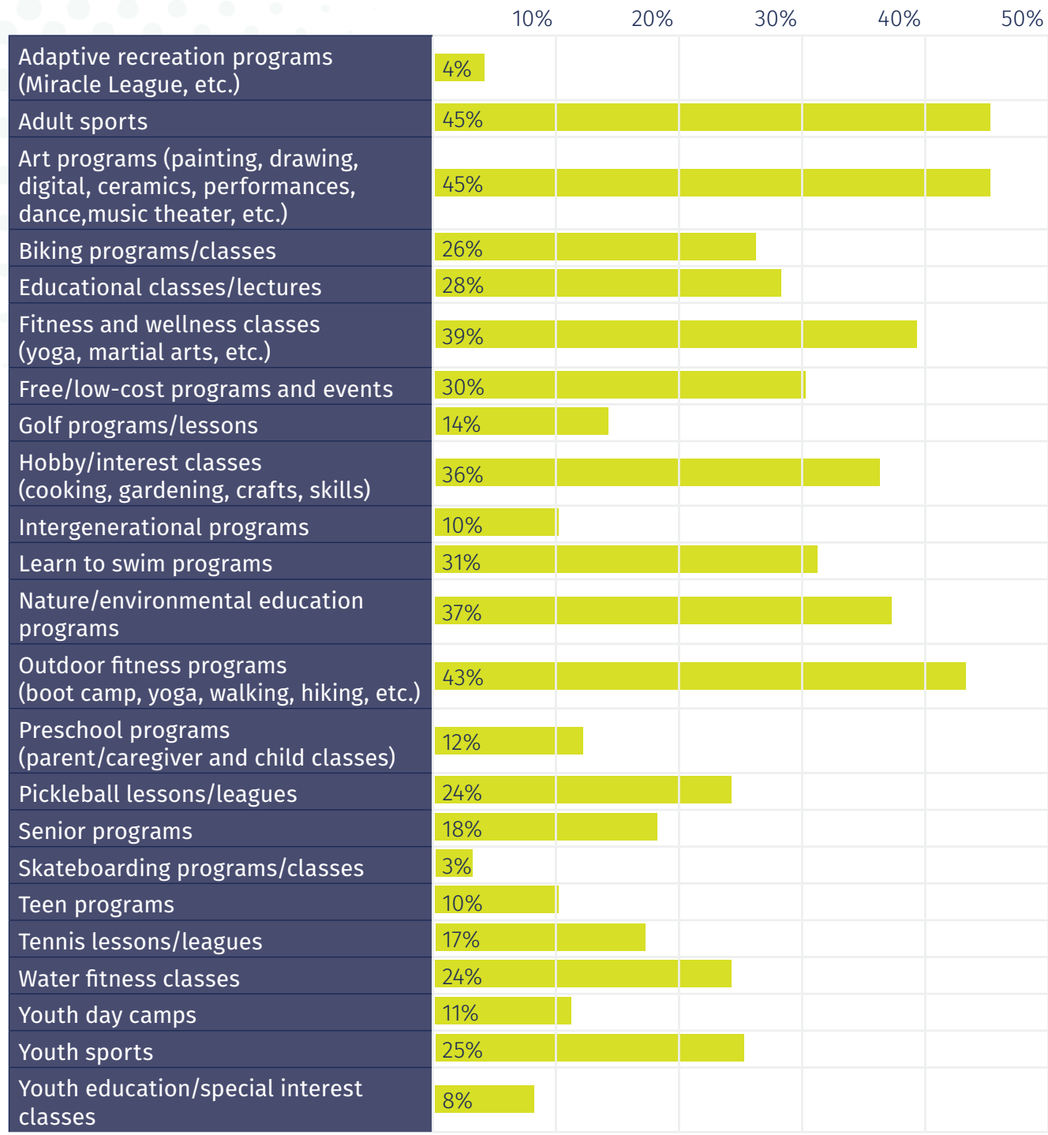
127 RESPONSES

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
Provide access to greenspace and nature, or playgrounds	42%	46%	7%	5%	0%	1%
Preserve open space and protect the environment	27%	40%	21%	8%	2%	2%
Improve my (my household's) physical health and fitness	28%	38%	20%	10%	2%	2%
Are age-friendly and accessible to all age groups	28%	43%	13%	10%	3%	4%
Improve my (my household's) brain health and reduce stress	28%	35%	25%	6%	3%	2%
Positively impact economic/ business development	25%	30%	27%	10%	3%	4%
Provide positive social interactions for me (my household/family)	33%	39%	20%	4%	1%	2%
Help to attract new residents and businesses	32%	25%	20%	16%	4%	3%
Help to attract tourists and seasonal visitors	28%	28%	19%	17%	6%	3%
Offer childhood education opportunities to develop the whole child	32%	32%	21%	5%	2%	7%
Provide jobs/professional development for youth	18%	39%	24%	7%	2%	9%
Help to reduce crime in my neighborhood and keep kids out of trouble	20%	31%	28%	11%	2%	7%

Percentage of Needs Met:	<11%	11-15%	16-20%	>20%

Please indicate if you or any household member have a need for the following programs, activities, or events.

114 RESPONSES



If you have indicated a need, please describe how well your need is currently being met for that program, event, or activity.

114 RESPONSES

	Fully	Somewhat	Barely	Not Met at All
Adaptive recreation programs (Miracle League, etc.)	25%	25%	25%	25%
Adult sports	11%	20%	39%	30%
Art programs (painting, drawing, digital, ceramics, performances, dance,music theater, etc.)	9%	42%	30%	19%
Biking programs/classes	0%	35%	22%	44%
Educational classes/lectures	0%	33%	29%	38%
Fitness and wellness classes (yoga, martial arts, etc.)	11%	22%	54%	14%
Free/low-cost programs and events	25%	50%	21%	4%
Golf programs/lessons	8%	33%	33%	25%
Hobby/interest classes (cooking, gardening, crafts, skills)	3%	36%	39%	21%
Intergenerational programs	0%	20%	40%	40%
Learn to swim programs	25%	56%	13%	6%
Nature/environmental education programs	6%	34%	41%	19%
Outdoor fitness programs (boot camp, yoga, walking, hiking, etc.)	10%	30%	48%	12%
Preschool programs (parent/caregiver and child classes)	33%	33%	33%	0%
Pickleball lessons/leagues	5%	23%	41%	32%
Senior programs	6%	6%	44%	44%
Skateboarding programs/classes	0%	33%	33%	33%
Teen programs	10%	30%	30%	30%
Tennis lessons/leagues	0%	17%	44%	39%
Water fitness classes	0%	13%	35%	52%
Youth day camps	9%	64%	27%	0%
Youth sports	12%	28%	40%	20%
Youth education/special interest classes	0%	44%	44%	11%

Percentage of Needs Met:	<11%	11-15%	16-20%	>20%

Which FOUR types of PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

103 RESPONSES

Top 10		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
1	Youth sports	14%	5%	4%	0%	23
2	Nature/environmental education programs	11%	8%	7%	6%	31
3	Fitness and wellness classes (yoga, martial arts, etc.)	9%	8%	11%	6%	32
4	Learn to swim programs	9%	5%	2%	5%	20
5	Tennis lessons/leagues	8%	1%	1%	0%	10
6	Outdoor fitness programs (boot camp, yoga, walking, hiking, etc.)	7%	8%	10%	9%	32
7	Art programs (painting, drawing, digital, ceramics, performances, dance,music theater, etc.)	7%	2%	7%	5%	20
8	Free/low-cost programs and events	6%	6%	10%	9%	29
9	Pickleball lessons/leagues	5%	6%	4%	1%	16
10	Adult sports	4%	14%	7%	5%	29

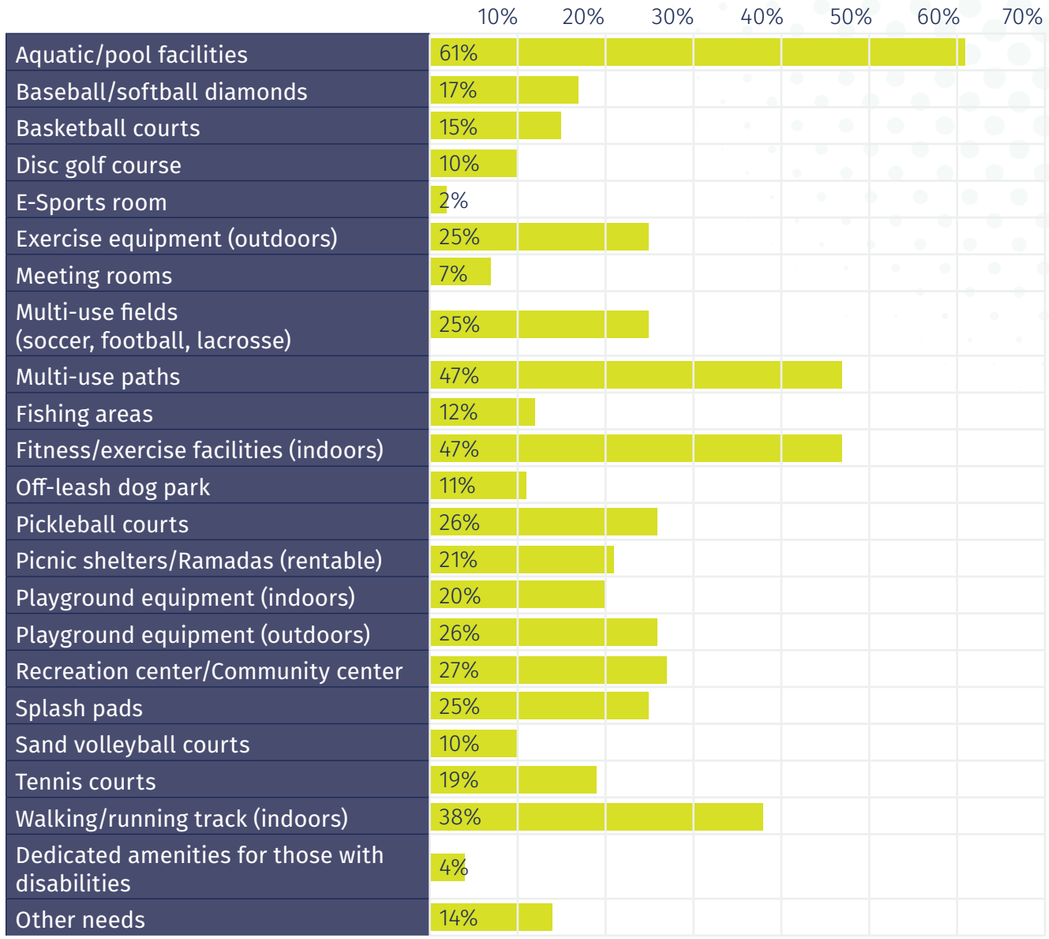
8. What is one new program or service that Dubuque Parks and Recreation does not currently have that you would love to see?

72 RESPONSES



Please indicate if you or any household member have a need for the following amenities and facilities.

112 RESPONSES



If you have indicated a need, please describe how well your need is currently being met for that facility or amenity.

112 RESPONSES

	Fully	Somewhat	Barely	Not Met at All
Aquatic/pool facilities	22%	43%	30%	5%
Baseball/softball diamonds	13%	31%	44%	13%
Basketball courts	27%	47%	13%	13%
Disc golf course	18%	64%	9%	9%
E-Sports room	0%	0%	100%	0%
Exercise equipment (outdoors)	4%	4%	35%	57%
Meeting rooms	0%	14%	71%	14%
Multi-use fields (soccer, football, lacrosse)	4%	12%	52%	32%
Multi-use paths	13%	64%	22%	0%
Fishing areas	0%	64%	21%	14%
Fitness/exercise facilities (indoors)	12%	27%	27%	33%
Off-leash dog park	0%	11%	67%	22%
Pickleball courts	12%	35%	38%	15%
Picnic shelters/Ramadas (rentable)	47%	47%	0%	6%
Playground equipment (indoors)	0%	5%	30%	65%
Playground equipment (outdoors)	48%	41%	11%	0%
Recreation center/Community center	7%	11%	22%	59%
Splash pads	30%	41%	22%	7%
Sand volleyball courts	0%	0%	44%	56%
Tennis courts	5%	20%	50%	25%
Walking/running track (indoors)	3%	15%	15%	67%
Dedicated amenities for those with disabilities	0%	0%	67%	33%

Percentage of Needs Met:	<11%	11-15%	16-20%	>20%

Which FOUR types of FACILITIES/AMENITIES are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

101 RESPONSES

Top 10		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
1	Aquatic/pool facilities	25%	11%	5%	8%	45
2	Multi-use paths	16%	11%	14%	10%	45
3	Multi-use fields (soccer, football, lacrosse)	13%	5%	6%	6%	27
4	Pickleball courts	7%	4%	4%	4%	17
5	Walking/running track (indoors)	6%	9%	12%	14%	34
6	Playground equipment (outdoors)	6%	4%	6%	1%	16
7	Tennis courts	6%	2%	2%	3%	12
8	Recreation center/Community center	5%	13%	8%	6%	28
9	Fitness/exercise facilities (indoors)	4%	4%	8%	7%	20
10	Playground equipment (indoors)	0%	7%	4%	7%	15

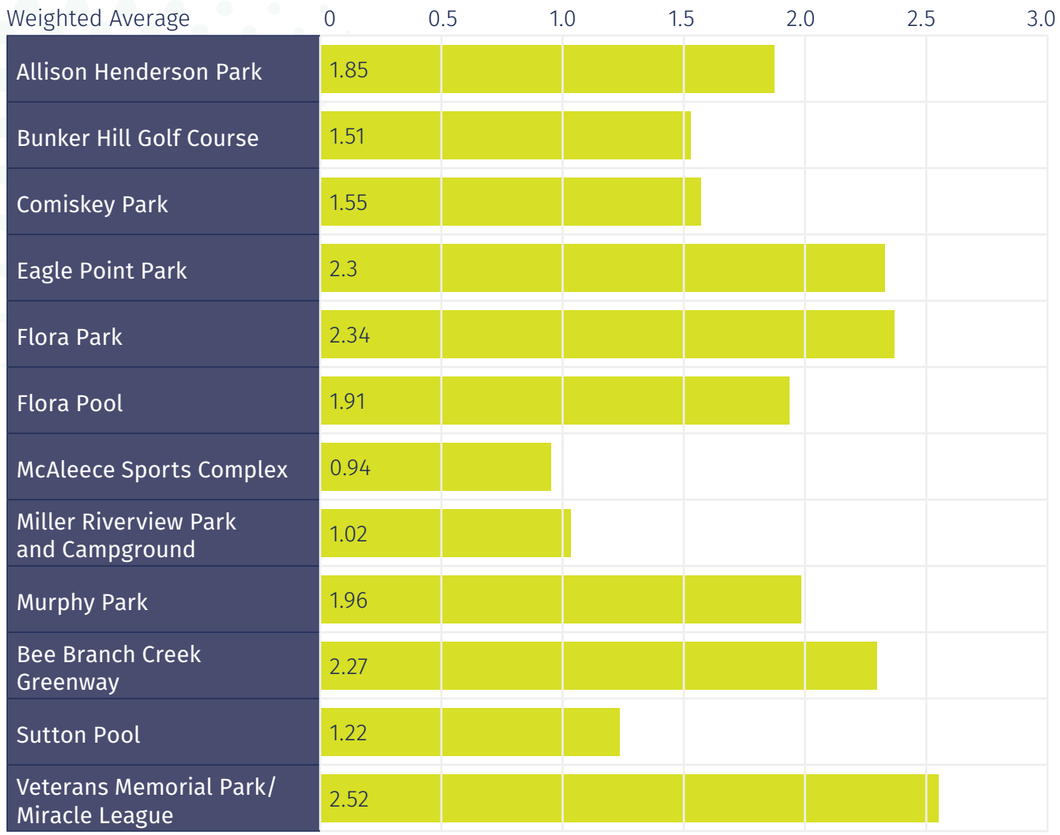
What is one new amenity or facility that Dubuque Parks and Recreation does not currently have that you would love to see?

70 RESPONSES



Please rate the maintenance level and overall quality of each of the parks and recreation facilities you/your household have visited over the past year.

122 RESPONSES

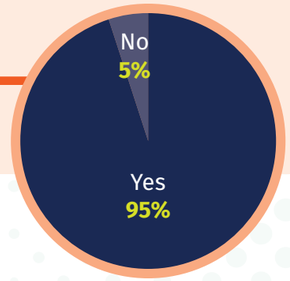


Other:

- Eagle Point Park is in disgraceful shape. That's a huge, "shame on you," City of Dubuque. For this treasure to have been neglected this long is unfathomable to me.
- Sister Cities International Park - Poor
- Please invest something in madison park! The playground is in shambles and is not elderly or disability friendly.
- Jackson park needs updates, repairs, rehabilitation.
- Valentine park is excellent
- I love the native plant areas you have added at Eagle Point, this is essential for nature to thrive
- Maus Lake Park - needs attention badly
- Jaycees Floodwall path--good; Bergfeld pond trail--good

Have you and/or members of your household visited any City of Dubuque parks or recreation facilities during the past year?

123 RESPONSES



What are the reasons you have or have not visited the City parks/facilities more often?

(Multiple responses allowed)

81 RESPONSES

Use other city, state, private or HOA facilities	17%
Too far from home	14%
Not aware of park or facility locations	12%
Parks/Facilities are not well maintained	31%
Old and outdated facilities	37%
Lack of features we want to use	37%
Lack of parking to access parks/facilities	1%
Do not feel safe using parks/facilities	12%
Facility equipment doesn't meet my needs	14%
Lack of ADA accessibility	4%
Do not feel welcomed/accommodated	4%
Lack of transportation	1%
Lack of restrooms	20%
Language/Cultural barriers/age barriers	1%
Fees are too high/lack of financial assistance	5%
Health-related concerns	4%
Lack of recreation programs	17%
Other (please specify)	16%

Other:

- We visit natural areas for hiking; are less interested in built structures and more interested in preserving native ecosystems for all to enjoy, including the and essential night
- Need more shade (parks in summer)
- Busy life
- No need
- We rented a pavilion at Flora and had to call dispatch because we had no power to heat crockpots. The breaker flipped from too much use. A couple of crockpots shouldn't cause that.
- Concerned at the lack of upkeep at Eagle Point Park
- Mobility issues
- I don't go to the dangerous parks
- No dogs allowed
- I do not have a park that is walking distance from my home
- Lack of lighted tennis courts
- Lots of trash along bee branch and routes to get there
- I realize there are budget constraints.
  I believe the arboretum is all volunteer, could we utilize volunteers to help maintain our park system?

The following is a list of actions the City of Dubuque could take to improve its parks and recreation system. Please indicate your support for each potential action by selecting very supportive, somewhat supportive, not sure, or not supportive.

124 RESPONSES

	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Sure	Not Supportive
Improve existing small neighborhood parks	50%	32%	13%	6%
Improve existing large community parks	70%	23%	6%	1%
Improve existing nature preserves	65%	26%	6%	3%
Improve existing youth sports fields	46%	36%	16%	3%
Improve existing paved walking and biking trails	64%	27%	8%	2%
Improve existing golf courses	18%	20%	33%	29%
Improve existing tennis court facilities	26%	27%	39%	7%
Improve existing adult sports fields	24%	35%	37%	4%
Improve existing swimming pools	55%	31%	12%	3%
Improve existing playgrounds	47%	39%	12%	2%
Acquire new park land	40%	18%	28%	13%
Replace aging outdoor swimming pools	53%	28%	14%	5%
Develop new indoor recreation areas	68%	13%	13%	5%
Develop new splash pads	22%	41%	27%	11%
Develop new outdoor swimming pools	33%	29%	25%	13%
Develop new youth sports fields	32%	28%	29%	11%
Develop multi-use outdoor sports fields	37%	35%	23%	6%
Develop new trails that connect to existing trails	62%	25%	10%	3%
Develop new dog park	15%	25%	28%	32%
Develop new indoor youth courts	28%	32%	29%	11%
Develop new pickleball facilities	23%	22%	30%	26%
Percentage of Support:	<15%	16-30%	31-45%	>46%

Other:

- Preserve natural areas; stop adding built structures that replace what we all are short of: wild natural places.
- Hockey rink
- Develop aquatic centers for year round use and readily available to elderly
- Valentine Park
- Develop prairie plots

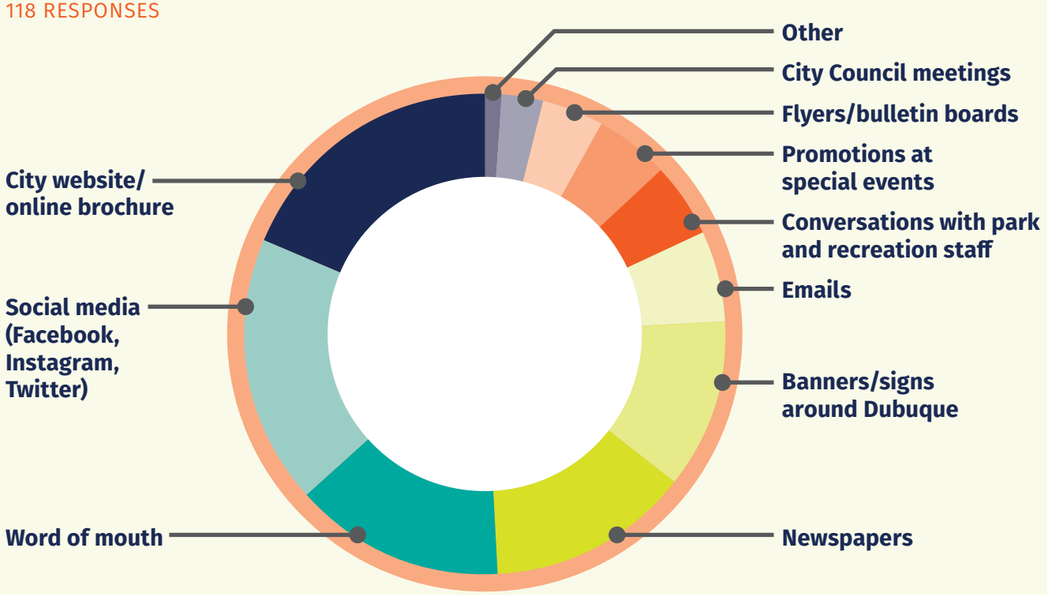
Which THREE improvements would you be MOST WILLING to support with your tax dollars?

120 RESPONSES

1. Develop new indoor recreation centers
2. Improve existing large community parks
3. Develop new trails that connect to existing trails
4. Improve existing swimming pools
5. Improve existing nature preserves
6. Replace aging outdoor swimming pools
7. Improve existing paved walking and biking trails
8. Improve existing small neighborhood parks
9. Acquire new park land
10. Develop multi-use outdoor sports fields

Please check all of the following ways you learn about Dubuque Parks and Recreation services.

118 RESPONSES



Which THREE methods of communication would you MOST PREFER the City to use to communicate with you about Parks and Recreation services?

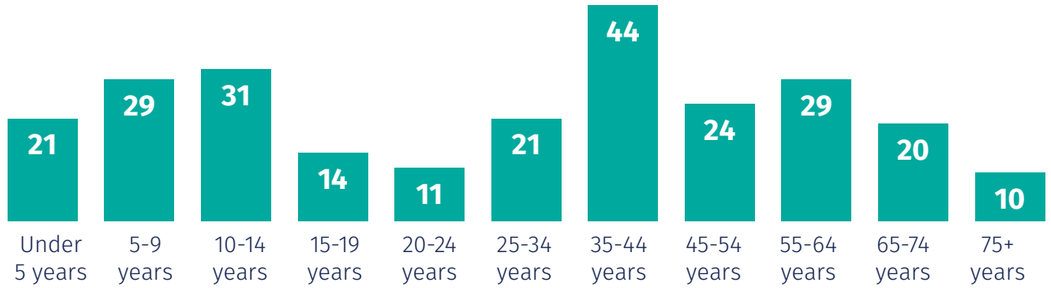
109 RESPONSES

1. Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)
2. City website/ online brochure
3. Emails
4. Newspapers
5. Banners/ signs around Dubuque

Counting yourself, what are the age ranges of people in your household?

(Multiple responses allowed)

122 RESPONSES



What is your age?

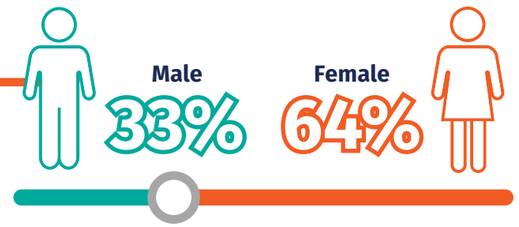
113 RESPONSES

Average age of **49**

Your gender:

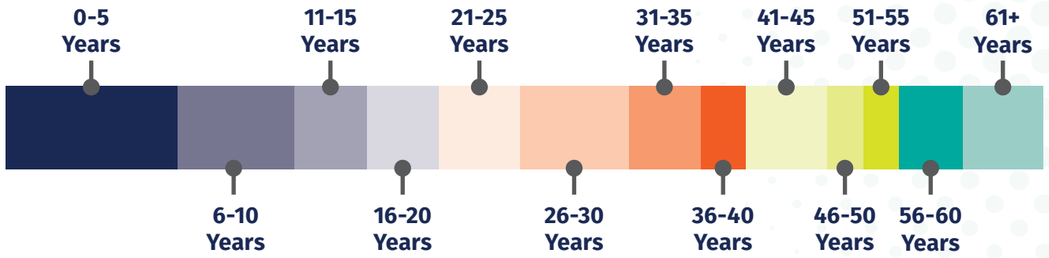
118 RESPONSES

3% prefer to self describe



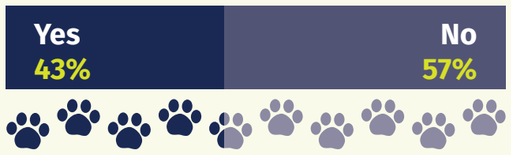
How long have you lived in Dubuque?

118 RESPONSES



Do you have any dogs in the house?

122 RESPONSES



If yes, how many?

51 RESPONSES

Average number of dogs **1.5**

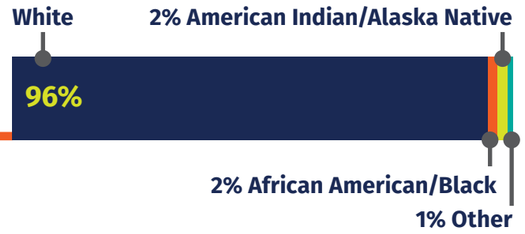
Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic or Latino Ancestry?

118 RESPONSES



Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

120 RESPONSES



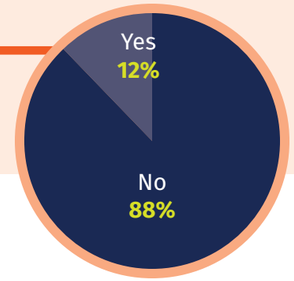
Is English the primary language spoken in your home?

120 RESPONSES



Does anyone in your household have a disability?

120 RESPONSES



What is your total annual household income?

111 RESPONSES

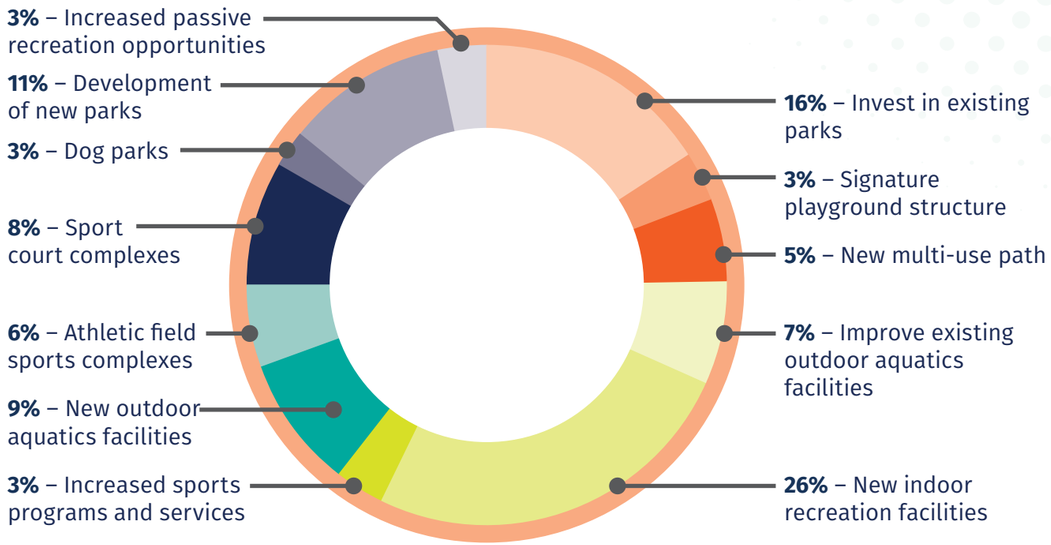


Social Pinpoint

Fund It Tool

This tool identified park and programming priorities by utilizing a budgeting tool to help determine priorities utilizing budget constraints. Each category was given a weighted value identified below. Respondents were able to choose their priorities with a $100 budget.

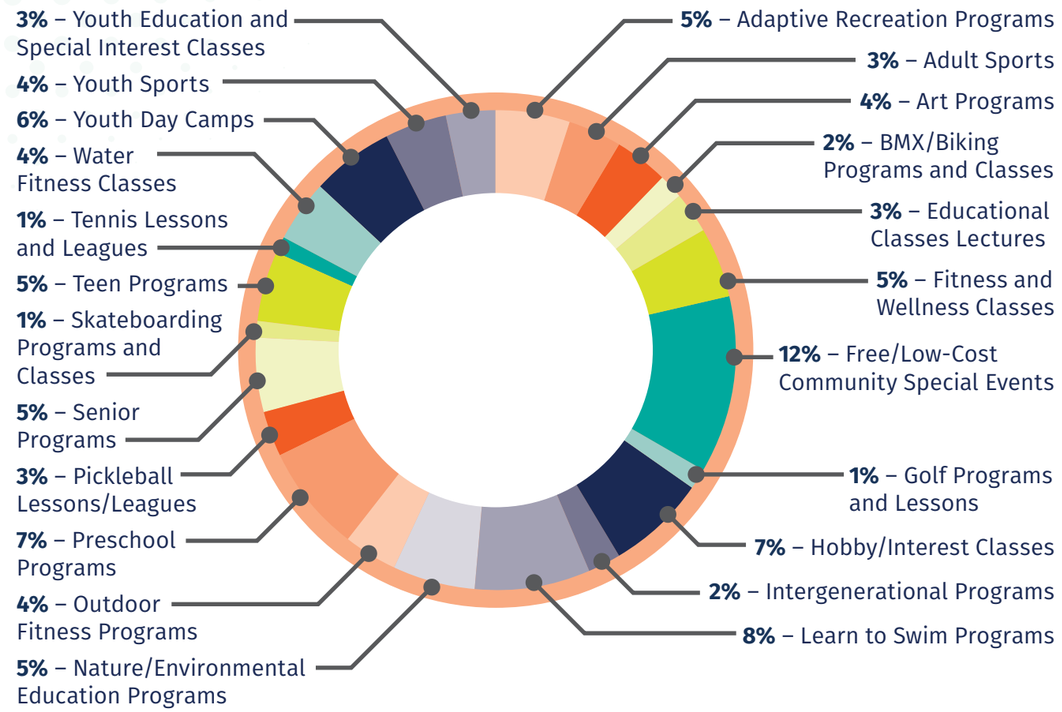
Budgeting Exercise to Determine Park Priorities



The following categories were not chosen as priorities:

- Increase Connectivity to Places
- Increase connectivity to other trails and multi-use paths
- Provide comfort amenities
- Provide aesthetic amenities
- Provide parking opportunities
- Provide signage or markers to identify location
- Provide clear wayfinding signage and/or surface markings
- Install etiquette signage
- Publish online maps and guides

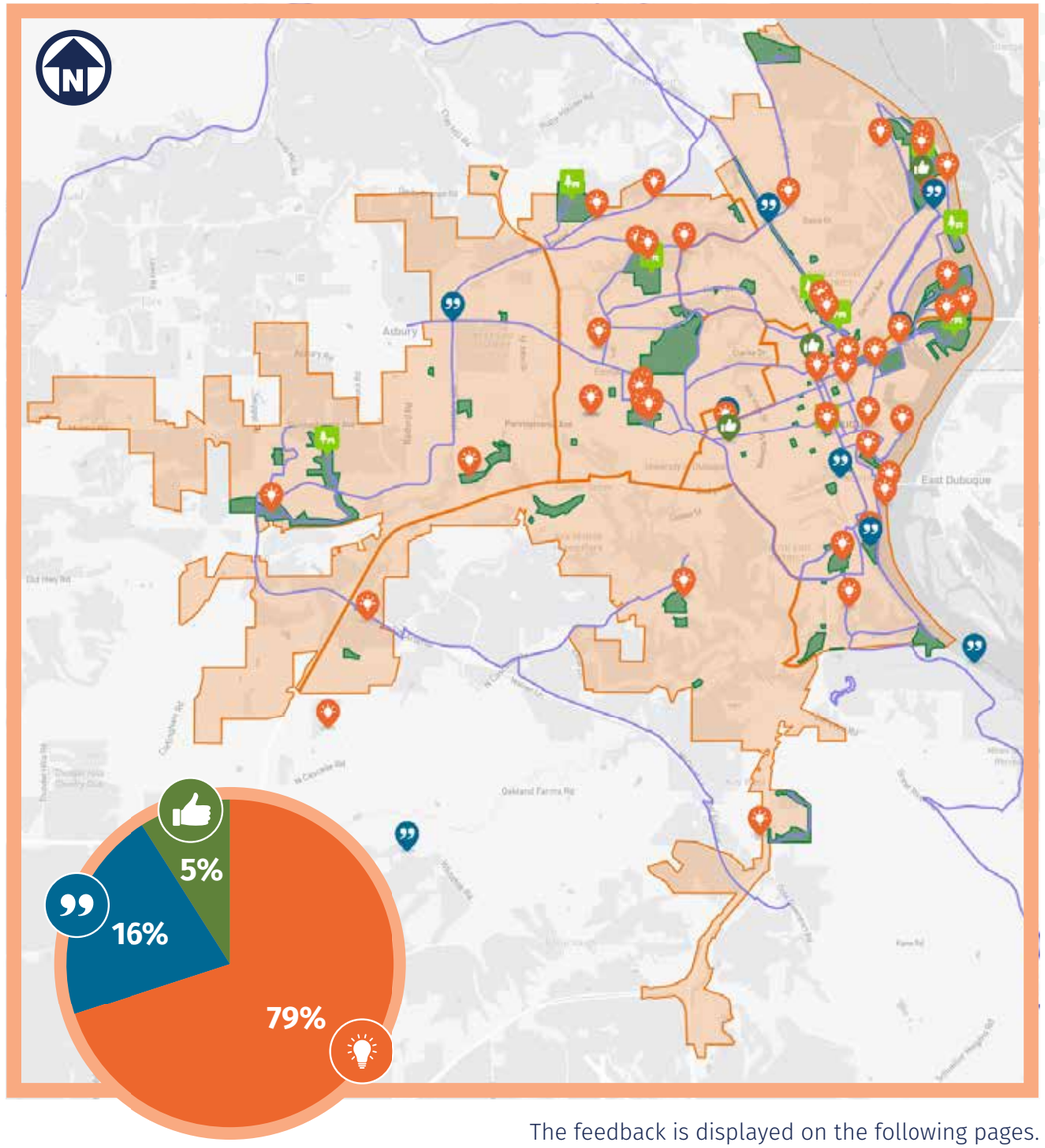
Budgeting Exercise to Determine Programming Priorities



Interactive Map

This tool allowed participants to comment and contribute on three categories including:

Ideas and Suggestions **Make a Comment** **Something I like**



The feedback is displayed on the following pages.

Make a Comment

Summary: Residents want improved connectivity and safety for walking and biking, including loop paths around the lake, links to Mines of Spain, pedestrian bridges over rail yards, and overpasses at major intersections. Concerns include lack of sidewalks, dangerous trail-to-road transitions, and the need for traffic calming. Suggestions include renovating and expanding bike paths, adding bike lanes, and improving ramps. There's strong support for replacing deteriorated tennis courts and expanding indoor aquatics facilities to better serve all ages, with emphasis on health, wellness, and accessibility.

Something I Like

Summary: Madison Park is highly appreciated as a relaxing oasis, with features like the sandbox being well-loved. Residents praise the innovative management strategy of converting underutilized turf into prairie and savannah ecosystems, noting benefits such as beautification, stormwater management, cost savings, safety, and wildlife diversity. Suggested improvements include adding walking trails, small gathering spaces, and nature play areas within these restored zones, and replicating this approach in other parks.

Ideas and Suggestions

Summary: Residents suggested a wide range of improvements to parks, trails, and recreational facilities. Key ideas include enhancing connectivity with new multi-use trails, bike lanes, and safer crosswalks; expanding river access with kayak/canoe rentals and fishing docks; and adding amenities like dog parks, public bathrooms, and lighting for trails. There is strong interest in upgrading existing facilities—such as playgrounds, tennis courts, skate parks, and Flora Pool's bathhouse—and creating new spaces like turf fields, splash pads, and a park around the drained lagoons. Other priorities include collaboration with schools, better maintenance, environmental initiatives, and community engagement through events and clean-up programs.

Please see the Appendix to see all comments and feedback.

Dubuque Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Workshop #1 Summary

Community Workshops #1a and #1b were held on two separate dates and in two separate locations on different sides of the city. The workshops offered an overview of the project, including project goals, process, and future outreach opportunities. The workshops were in a drop-in format which allowed for greater opportunities for the community to provide input regarding amenities and facilities as well as programs, activities, and events for the comprehensive parks and recreation master plan. In addition to the dotocracy exercise where participants provided quantitative feedback, they were also able to provide qualitative feedback in the form of post-it comments. Participants shared their favorite parks and recreation stories, things they like best about Dubuque Parks and Recreation, changes they would like to see, and their big ideas for parks and recreation with an eye to the future!

Meeting Information:

Workshop #1a:
April 1, 2025 | 5:00pm-8:00pm | Multicultural Family Center

Workshop #1b:
April 3, 2025 | 5:00pm-8:00pm | Veterans Memorial Park

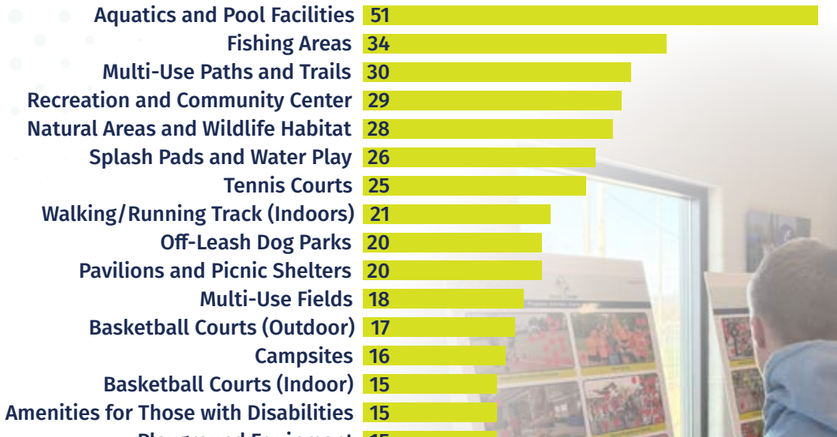
Total Number of Participants:

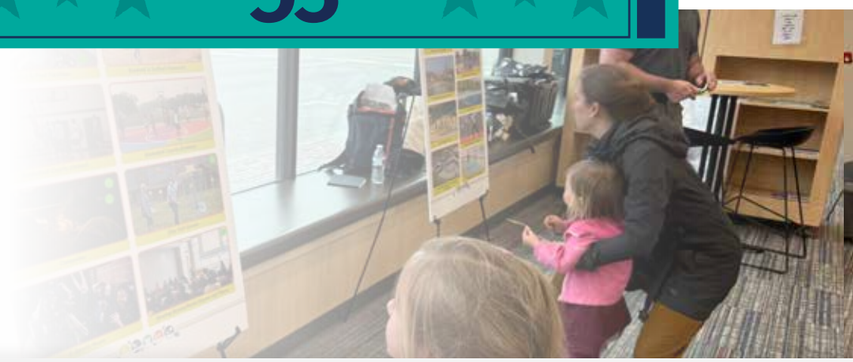
53

Dotocracy Results:

Facilities and Amenities Needs

Amenity/Inputs





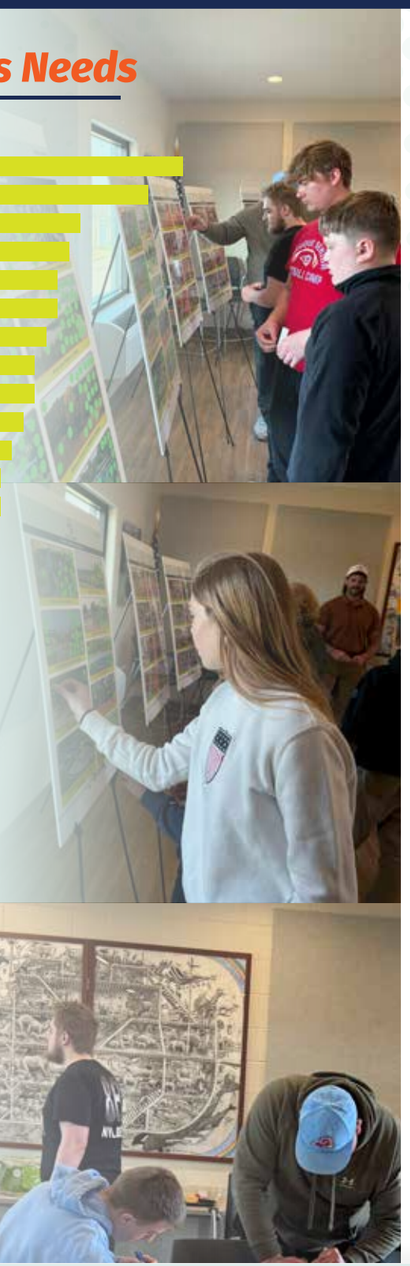




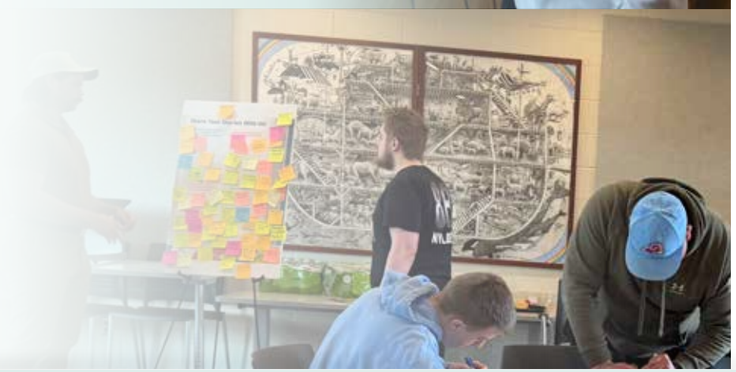
Dotocracy Results:

Programming, Activities, and Events Needs

Amenity/Inputs



Free/Low-Cost Programs and Events	34
Youth Sports	31
Biking Programs and Classes	25
Learn to Swim Programs	24
Nature/Environmental Education Programs	23
Outdoor Fitness Programs	23
Teen Programs	22
Fitness and Wellness Classes	21
Senior Programs	21
Youth Day Camps	20
Adaptive Recreation Programs	19
Golf Programs and Lessons	18
Pickleball Lessons/Leagues	18
Hobby/Interest Classes	17
Skateboarding Programs and Classes	17
Preschool Programs	16
Art Programs	15
Active Adult Fitness Programs	13
Adult Sports	13
Youth Education and Special Interest Classes	13
Water Fitness Classes	12
Intergenerational Programs	9
Educational Classes and Lectures	7
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	7



Share Your Big Idea!

- More coordination of the City with the schools. Like they do in small towns
- Adaptive trails and adaptive play areas in more areas
- Neighborhood park(s) on the North end of Dubuque
- Community garden
- More libraries and community parks

- Community center
- Driving range
- Connect Eagle Point Parks to Four Mounds
- A big community garden
- A catfish bike/hike trails
- Completely renovating Flora and Murphy tennis courts
- Sign boards for prairie plan education—better perception/value of prairies to the public
- Football field
- Another skate park

- Updated outdoor ice rink
- Biking/walking overpass at NW Arterial + Asbury intersection
- Urban trail path connectivity
- Safe bike paths
- Nice and lit tennis courts
- We need state-of-the-art facilities that attract young families and keep them here
- Bike lanes on the Northwest arterial
- There should be parks reserved for humans only
- Ice rink/roller blade

- Community garden/ garden containers
- Interactive games
- A big, tall tree house/ playground
- Add more pickleball courts at Veterans Memorial Park
- Open markets in parks
- Places for more unique activities/sports
- Biodome greenhouse park

- Indoor sports facility
- A shared community garden
- Keep up the good work
- Help save tennis (outdoor) in Dubuque, please
- Sharable community garden

- Big community garden (food sovereignty, local food, learn from experienced gardeners, sustainable, seed saving integration)
- Fishing access for all
- Develop Maus Park for accessible fishing
- Prairie expansion in parks and along trails with informational signage
- Add a recreation center! We like the one at Peosta

"Share Your Story With Us!" Comments

What is your best memory in a Dubuque park or recreation program?

- Jochum family fish frys
- Easter sunrise service at eagle point park
- Field days in the park
- Football games
- My sister's baptism at bee branch
- Teaching my kids to play tennis at flora park
- Swimming at flora pool

- A smooth rollerblading circuit
- Time at the football field
- Relying on children's programs so i could take time to learn new interests
- Go-kart track
- Time at the splash pad

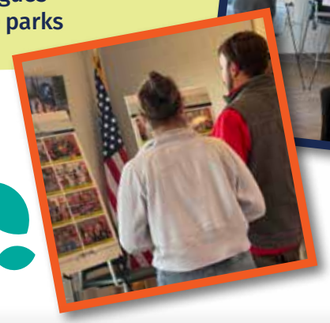
- Eagle point park is a treasure
- Jack black at the Dubuque Orchestra
- Ice rink
- Rollerblading
- Playing softball at the parks
- I loved the park programs that always happened in the summer
- Jujitsu classes with dubuque jujitsu



What do you like best about Dubuque Parks and Recreation?

- The community
- Children's programs
- Eagle Point park
- Ice skating
- Adult leagues
- All of the parks







What changes would you like to see made in Dubuque Parks and Recreation?

- More fishing opportunities
- More trees planted along downtown streets
- Scheduled food sources during events
- Better restrooms throughout the city
- A smooth rollerblade circuit
- Resurface tennis courts at flora park and eagle point park

- Mark tennis courts for pickleball also
- Weekly or bi-weekly inspections of park equipment along with repair/signs with email address for who to contact for repairs
- Updated boat ramps and more parking spaces for trailers and vehicles

- No dogs in parks
- Fix tennis courts lights
- More benches in parks
- We need better locations for our baseball and softball little league
- Pave southwest arterial trail and add connector to key west at Military rd.
- More bike/walking trails and walking-friendly streets and sidewalks
- Extend south port trail from Maus Park to Riprow Valley at Mines of Spain along river
- Expand the Bee Branch and north end with more walking paths







INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENTS

July 4th | Mathias Ham Historic Site

The Independence Day Celebration took place at Mathias Ham Historic Site. On the Forth of July, the 61st Annual Audrey Hammer Fourth of July Ice Cream Social included picnic opportunities, games, and historical demonstrations.

240 INPUTS

40 PARTICIPANTS



Facilities, Amenities, and Needs	Votes
Aquatics and Pool Facilities	23
Free/Low-Cost Programs And Events	19
Splash Pads And Water Play	18
Multi-Use Paths and Trails	11
Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat	11
Learn To Swim Programs	11
Art Programs	11
Golf Programs and Lessons	9
Civilians and Picnic Shelters	8
Multi-Use Fields	7
Fishing Areas	7
Off-Leash Dog Park	7
Dedicated Amenities For Those With Disabilities	7
Hobby/Interest Classes	6
Nature/Environmental Education Programs	6
Outdoor Fitness Programs	6
Campsites	6
Playground Equipment	6
Recreation And Community	6
Pickleball Court	5
Intergenerational Programs	5
Senior Programs	5
Baseball and Softball Diamonds	5
Biking Programs and Classes	5
Preschool Programs	4
Adaptive Recreation Programs	4
Educational Classes and Lectures	4
Walking/Running Track (Indoors)	4

Facilities, Amenities, and Needs Continued	Votes
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Outdoors)	3
Fitness and Wellness Classes	3
Pickleball Lessons/Leagues	3
E-Sports Room	2
Meeting Rooms/Rental Spaces And Places	2
Adult Sports	2
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Indoors)	1
Basketball Courts (Indoor)	1
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	1
Tennis Courts	1
Walking/Running Track (Outdoors)	1
Disc Golf Course	0
Sand Volleyball Courts	0





FARMERS MARKET

Saturday, May 10, 2025 | 7 am - 12 pm | Downtown Dubuque - Iowa Street

The Dubuque Farmers' Market is an event the City contracts with Dubuque Main Street. As Iowa's oldest open air market, the Farmers' Market is a popular event every Saturday morning (seasonally) in the heard of downtown Dubuque. The project team attended the event to gather input from the community. Activities included a dotocracy exercise, inviting participants to place dots on the six park amenities/ facilities and the six programs/activities they were most interested in seeing Dubuque Parks and Recreation provide in the future. Participants were also given bookmarks with a QR code to the project's interactive website where they could learn more about the project, take the survey, and share their big idea for parks and recreation.

701 INPUTS

85 PARTICIPANTS



Facilities, Amenities, and Needs	Votes
Splash Pads and Water Play	32
Dedicated Amenities for Those With Disabilities	30
Playground Equipment	29
Pavilions and Picnic Shelters	28
Recreation Center/Community Center	22
Sand Volleyball Courts	20
Walking/Running Track (Indoor)	17
Tennis Courts	12
Walking/Running Track (Outdoor)	5



Programs, Activities, Events, and Needs	Votes
Free/Low-Cost Programs and Events	54
Nature/Environmental Educational Programs	33
Learn-to-Swim Programs	32
Youth Day Camps	31
Preschool Programs	27
Adaptive Recreation Programs	26
Hobby/Interest Classes	23
Pickleball Lessons/League	23
Art Programs	23
Outdoor Fitness Programs	22
Adult Sports	22
Teen Programs	22
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	20
Biking Programs and Classes	19
Youth Sports	19
Youth Education/Special Interest Classes	19
Senior Programs	17
Golf Programs and Lessons	13
Active Adult Fitness Programs	12
Intergenerational Programs	11
Fitness and Wellness Classes	11
Water Fitness Classes	11
Skateboarding Programs and Classes	10
Educational Classes and Lectures	6

JUNETEENTH PICNIC IN THE PARK EVENT

Saturday, June 14, 2025 | 11 am - 4 pm | Jackson Park

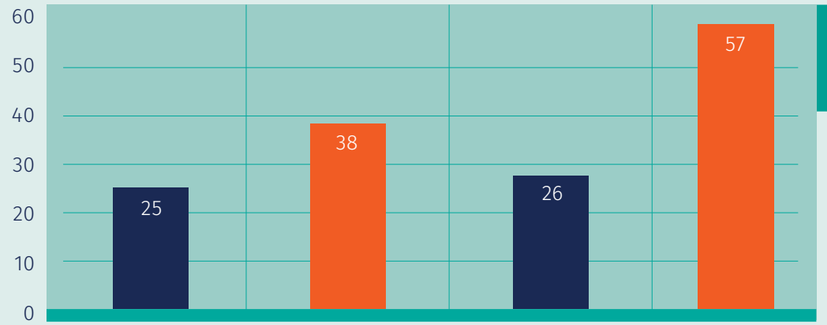
The project team attended the Juneteenth Celebration at Jackson Park. The Picnic in the Park was one of three Juneteenth celebrations in Dubuque and included a talent show, raffles, a bounce house, games, food, and prizes. The team invited attendees to participate in dotocracy exercises, providing feedback on the amenities/facilities and programs/activities they were most interested in. The team also raised project awareness and passed out bookmarks to direct participants to the website to provide additional feedback utilizing the interactive outreach tools available.

1,006 INPUTS

97 PARTICIPANTS

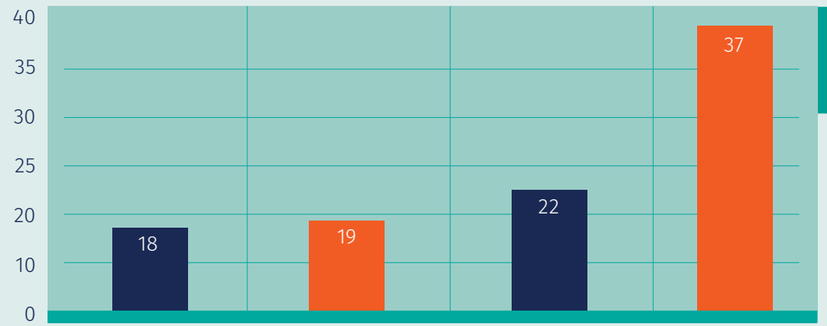


Playground Support Amenities



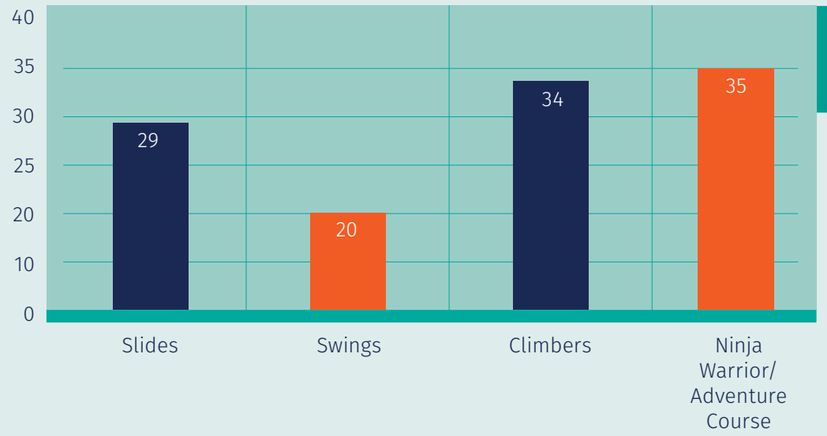
146 Inputs

Playground Surfacing



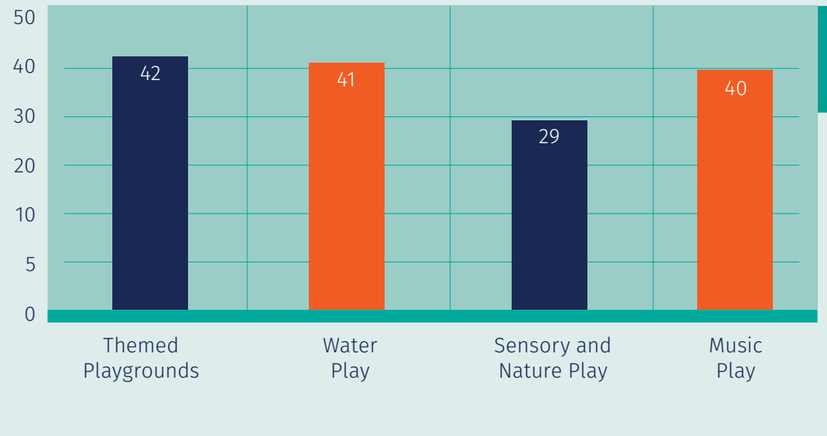
96 Inputs

Playground Types and Equipment



118 Inputs

Playground Types and Equipment



152 Inputs

JUNETEENTH PICNIC IN THE PARK EVENT CONTINUED

Saturday, June 14, 2025 | 11 am - 4 pm | Jackson Park



Programs, Activities, Events, and Needs

Free/Low-Cost Programs and Events	35
Nature/Environmental Education Programs	27
Youth Sports	21
Youth Educational/Special Interest Classes	19
Teen Programs	17
Learn-to-Swim Programs	17
Youth Day Camps	15
Adaptive Recreation Programs	14
Art Programs	14
Pickleball Lessons/Leagues	13
Intergenerational Programs	12
Biking Programs and Classes	12
Hobby/Interest Classes	11
Senior Programs	10
Fitness and Wellness Classes	10
Active Adult Fitness Programs	9
Outdoor Fitness Programs	9
Preschool Programs	9
Adult Sports	8
Water Fitness Classes	7
Educational Classes and Lectures	7
Skateboarding Programs and Classes	6
Golf Programs and Lessons	5
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	2



Facilities, Amenities, and Needs

Aquatics and Pool Facilities	36
Splash Pad and Water Play	27
Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat	25
Multi-Use Fields	22
Multi-Use Paths and Trails	22
Off-leash Dog Parks	19
Campsites	19
Recreation and Community Center	18
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Outdoors)	18
Dedicated Amenities for Those with Disabilities	16
Pavilions and Picnic Shelters	12
Basketball Courts (Indoors)	11
Sand Volleyball Courts	10
Walking/Running Track (Indoors)	10
Playground Equipment	9
Pickleball Courts	9
Disc Golf Courses	9
Walking/Running Track (Outdoors)	8
Fishing Areas	8
Baseball and Softball Diamonds	8
E-Sports Room	8
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Indoors)	7
Basketball Courts (Outdoors)	4
Tennis Courts	2
Meeting Rooms/Rental Spaces and Places	0

KIDS TO PARKS DAY "KITE TALES" EVENT

Saturday | May 17, 2025 | 11 am - 1 pm | Usha Park

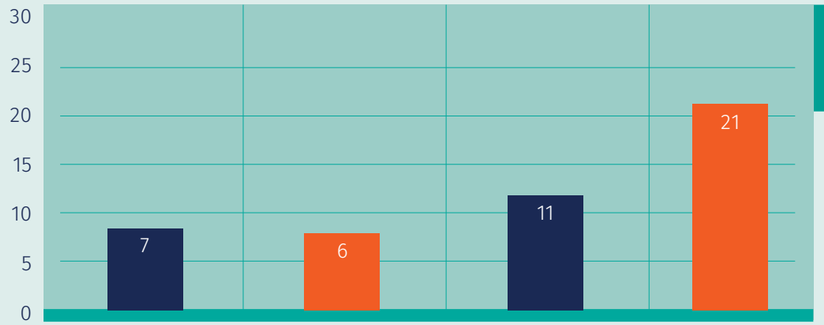
Kids to Parks Day is a national initiative encouraging families to explore the outdoors and connect with public lands. Dubuque's Kite Tales event encouraged creativity through a Create Your Own Kite activity station, kite flying demonstrations, and giant show kites. The project team attended this community event to raise awareness and collect input on the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan. Participants learned about the plan, provided input on amenities/facilities and programs/activities via dotocracy exercises, a project survey, and through the interactive project-dedicated website.

672 INPUTS

56 PARTICIPANTS

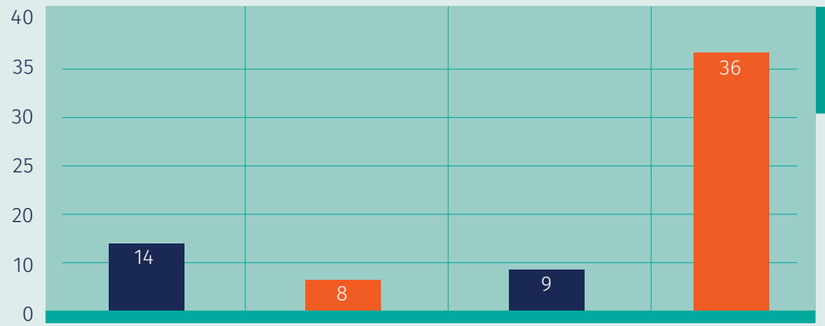


Playground Support Amenities



45 Inputs

Playground Surfacing



67 Inputs

Playground Types and Equipment



83 Inputs



Y(OUR) STORY

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE Masterpiece on the Mississippi

KIDS TO PARKS DAY "KITE TALES" EVENT CONTINUED

Saturday | May 17, 2025 | 11 am - 1 pm | Usha Park



Programs, Activities, Events, and Needs

Free/Low-Cost Programs and Events	24
Nature/Environmental Education Programs	21
Adaptive Recreation Programs	20
Youth Sports	13
Learn-to-Swim Programs	13
Art Programs	13
Preschool Programs	11
Pickleball Lessons/Leagues	11
Adult Sports	11
Biking Programs and Classes	11
Youth Day Camps	9
Youth Educational/Special Interest Classes	9
Golf Programs and Lessons	9
Intergenerational Programs	8
Outdoor Fitness Programs	6
Senior Programs	6
Skateboarding Programs and Classes	5
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	5
Water Fitness Classes	4
Hobby/Interest Classes	4
Fitness and Wellness Classes	4
Teen Programs	2
Active Adult Fitness Programs	2
Educational Classes and Lectures	0



Facilities, Amenities, and Needs

Aquatics and Pool Facilities	23
Splash Pad and Water Play	19
Multi-Use Paths and Trails	19
Off-Leash Dog Parks	19
Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat	18
Playground Equipment	16
Campsites	16
Fishing Areas	15
E-Sports Room	15
Dedicated Amenities for Those with Disabilities	14
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Outdoors)	10
Sand Volleyball Courts	9
Walking/Running Track (Indoors)	8
Disc Golf Courses	8
Pickleball Courts	7
Baseball and Softball Diamonds	7
Recreation and Community Center	6
Walking/Running Track (Outdoors)	6
Multi-Use Fields	6
Basketball Courts (Outdoors)	6
Pavilions and Picnic Shelters	3
Basketball Courts (Indoors)	3
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Indoors)	2
Tennis Courts	1
Meeting Rooms/Rental Spaces and Places	0

MOTHER'S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday | May 11, 2025 | Eagle Point Park

The project team attended the popular annual Order of the Arrow Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast. The project team raised awareness about the plan, invited participants to visit the project website to provide feedback, and hosted a dotocracy exercise where participants placed six dots on the amenities/facilities and six dots on the programs/activities they most wanted to see in the future of Dubuque Parks and Recreation.

1,503
INPUTS

126
PARTICIPANTS





Facilities, Amenities, and Needs

Aquatics/Pool Facilities	69
Campsites	65
Off-Leash Dog Parks	63
Splash Pads and Water Play	52
Multi-Use Paths and Fields	52
Fishing Area	51
Pickleball Courts	50
Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat	46
Playground Equipment	40
Baseball/Softball Fields	38
Pavilions and Picnic Shelters	38
Multi-Use Fields	37
Dedicated Amenities for Those With Disabilities	32
Recreation Center/Community Center	32
E-Sports Rooms	30
Sand Volleyball Courts	29
Tennis Courts	28
Walking/Running Track (Outdoor)	19
Disc Golf Courses	17
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Outdoor)	15
Walking/Running Track (Indoor)	15
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	12
Basketball Courts (Indoor)	9
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Indoors)	4
Meeting Rooms	3

Programs, Activities, Events, and Needs

Free/Low-Cost Programs and Events	70
Learn-to-Swim Programs	46
Youth Sports	44
Nature/Environmental Educational Programs	38
Senior Programs	38
Pickleball Lessons/League	34
Art Programs	34
Youth Day Camps	34
Water Fitness Classes	29
Teen Programs	28
Hobby/Interest Classes	25
Outdoor Fitness Programs	25
Golf Programs and Lessons	25
Preschool Programs	23
Adaptive Recreation Programs	22
Biking Programs and Classes	22
Active Adult Fitness Programs	18
Skateboarding Programs and Classes	17
Youth Education/Special Interest Classes	17
Intergenerational Programs	15
Adult Sports	15
Fitness and Wellness Classes	15
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	14
Educational Classes and Lectures	9

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday | August 5, 2025 | 6 pm - 8 pm | Comiskey Park

The Master plan team and the Dubuque Parks and Recreation team staged a pop-up event at Comiskey Park during the Dubuque National Night Out celebration. The team provided all attendees with bookmarks containing a link to the project website to learn more about the project, take the survey, and utilize the outreach tools provided. The pop-up event featured a dotocracy activity that allowed participants to place 12 dots on images of what physical features they valued most within parks and what programs or activities most interested them.

367 INPUTS

31 PARTICIPANTS



Facilities, Amenities, and Needs

	Votes
Off Leash Dog Parks	22
Aquatics/Pool Facilities	19
Splash Pads and Water Play	15
Dedicated Amenities for those with Disabilities	15
Fishing Area	14
Campsites	13
E-Sports Rooms	9
Walking/Running Track (Indoor)	9
Pavilions and Picnic Shelters	8
Walking/Running Track (Outdoor)	8
Multi-Use Paths and Fields	7
Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat	7
Playground Equipment	7
Basketball Courts (Indoor)	6
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Outdoor)	5
Multi-Use Fields	5
Pickleball Courts	5
Recreation Center/Community Center	5
Sand Volleyball Courts	5
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	4
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Indoors)	4
Baseball/Softball Fields	3
Disc Golf Courses	3
Tennis Courts	2
Meeting Rooms	0
Multi-Athletic Court Gym	0



Programs, Activities, Events, and Needs

	Votes
Art Programs	15
Free/Low Cost Programs and Events	15
Learn to Swim Programs	15
Youth Sports	13
Youth Education/Special Interest Classes	12
Biking Programs and Classes	10
Skateboarding Programs and Classes	10
Nature/Environmental Educational Programs	8
Water Fitness Classes	8
Fitness and Wellness Classes	7
Golf Programs and Lessons	7
Youth Day Camps	7
Adaptive Recreation Programs	6
Preschool Programs	6
Adult Sports	5
Outdoor Fitness Programs	5
Senior Programs	5
Hobby/Interest Classes	4
Teen Programs	4
Active Adult Fitness	3
Intergenerational Programs	3
Pickleball Lessons/League	2
Education Classes and Lectures	1
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	1

WORKSHOP #3

Wednesday | August 6, 2025 | 6 pm - 8 pm | Dubuque Montessori School

The Master plan team and the Dubuque Parks and Recreation team staged a pop-up event at Dubuque Montessori School. The team provided all attendees with bookmarks containing a link to the project website to learn more about the project, take the survey, and utilize the outreach tools provided. The pop-up event featured a dotocracy activity that allowed participants to place 12 dots on images of what physical features they valued most within parks and what programs or activities most interested them.

59 INPUTS

5 PARTICIPANTS



Facilities, Amenities, and Needs	Votes
Campsites	3
Multi-Use Paths and Fields	3
Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat	3
Pavilions and Picnic Shelters	3
Dedicated Amenities for those with Disabilities	2
Sand Volleyball Courts	2
Aquatics/Pool Facilities	1
Basketball Courts (Indoor)	1
Fishing Area	1
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Indoors)	1
Meeting Rooms	1
Multi-Use Fields	1
Off Leash Dog parks	1
Pickleball Courts	1
Recreation Center/Community Center	1
Tennis Courts	1
Walking/Running Track (Indoor)	1
Baseball/Softball Fields	0
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	0
Disc Golf Courses	0
E-Sports Rooms	0
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Outdoor)	0
Multi-Athletic Court Gym	0
Playground Equipment	0
Splash Pads and Water Play	0
Walking/Running Track (Outdoor)	0



Programs, Activities, Events, and Needs	Votes
Adult Sports	4
Free/Low Cost Programs and Events	4
Nature/Environmental Educational Programs	4
Active Adult Fitness Programs	3
Pickleball Lessons/League	2
Senior Programs	2
Teen Programs	2
Adaptive Recreation Programs	1
Art Programs	1
Biking Programs and Classes	1
Education Classes and Lectures	1
Fitness and Wellness Classes	1
Hobby/Interest Classes	1
Intergenerational Programs	1
Outdoor Fitness Programs	1
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	1
Water Fitness Classes	1
Youth Sports	1
Learn to Swim Programs	0
Preschool Programs	0
Golf Programs and Lessons	0
Skateboarding Programs and Classes	0
Youth Day Camps	0
Youth Education/Special Interest Classes	0

FLORA POOL POP-UP EVENT

Wednesday | August 6, 2025 | 12 pm - 3 pm | Flora Pool

The Master plan team and the Dubuque Parks and Recreation team staged a pop-up event at Flora Pool. The team provided all attendees with bookmarks containing a link to the project website to learn more about the project, take the survey, and utilize the outreach tools provided. The pop-up event featured a dotocracy activity that allowed participants to place 12 dots on images of what physical features they valued most within parks and what programs or activities most interested them.

513 INPUTS

43 PARTICIPANTS



Facilities, Amenities, and Needs	Votes
Campsites	57
Aquatics/Pool Facilities	40
Fishing Area	30
E-Sports Rooms	20
Multi-Use Fields	18
Baseball/Softball Fields	17
Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat	16
Sand Volleyball Courts	16
Walking/Running Track (Indoor)	14
Dedicated Amenities for those with Disabilities	12
Disc Golf Courses	12
Pickleball Courts	11
Basketball Courts (Indoor)	10
Multi-Use Paths and Fields	10
Off Leash Dog Parks	10
Playground Equipment	10
Recreation Center/Community Center	9
Splash Pads and Water Play	9
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	8
Walking/Running Track (Outdoor)	6
Tennis Courts	5
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Outdoor)	4
Pavilions and Picnic Shelters	2
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Indoors)	1
Multi-Athletic Court Gym	0
Meeting Rooms	0



Programs, Activities, Events, and Needs	Votes
Youth Sports	21
Pickleball Lessons/League	14
Youth Education/Special Interest Classes	14
Golf Programs and Lessons	13
Learn to Swim Programs	12
Senior Programs	9
Youth Day Camps	9
Art Programs	8
Biking Programs and Classes	8
Free/Low Cost Programs and Events	8
Water Fitness Classes	8
Preschool Programs	6
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	6
Hobby/Interest Classes	5
Nature/Environmental Education Programs	5
Skateboarding Programs and Classes	4
Teen Programs	4
Active Adult Fitness Programs	3
Intergenerational Programs	3
Fitness and Wellness Classes	2
Outdoor Fitness Programs	2
Adult Sports	1
Education Classes and Lectures	1
Adaptive Recreation Programs	0

SUTTON POOL POP-UP EVENT

Thursday | August 7, 2025 | Sutton Pool

The Master plan team and the Dubuque Parks and Recreation team staged a pop-up event at Sutton Pool. The team provided all attendees with bookmarks containing a link to the project website to learn more about the project, take the survey, and utilize the outreach tools provided. The pop-up event featured a dotocracy activity that allowed participants to place 12 dots on images of what physical features they valued most within parks and what programs or activities most interested them.

368 INPUTS

32 PARTICIPANTS



Facilities, Amenities, and Needs

Aquatics/Pool Facilities	33
Playground Equipment	14
Off Leash Dog Parks	13
Multi-Use Paths and Fields	12
Splash Pads and Water Play	12
Campsites	10
Walking/Running Track (Indoor)	9
Baseball/Softball Fields	8
Fishing Area	8
Pickleball Courts	8
Dedicated Amenities for those with Disabilities	7
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Indoors)	7
Fitness and Exercise Equipment (Outdoor)	7
Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat	7
E-Sports Rooms	6
Basketball Courts (Indoor)	5
Recreation Center/Community Center	5
Pavilions and Picnic Shelters	4
Disc golf Courses	3
Sand Volleyball Courts	3
Walking/Running Track (Outdoor)	3
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	2
Meeting Rooms	2
Multi-Athletic Court Gym	2
Multi-Use Fields	2
Tennis Courts	0



Programs, Activities, Events, and Needs

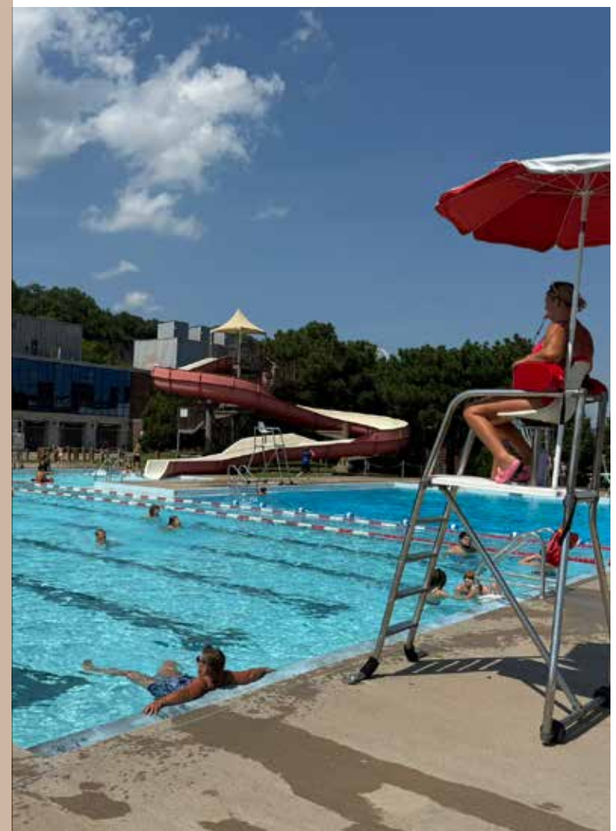
Learn to Swim Programs	18
Free/Low Cost Programs and Events	16
Youth Sports	13
Water Fitness Classes	13
Senior Programs	10
Art Programs	9
Biking Programs and Classes	9
Hobby/Interest Classes	9
Teen Programs	9
Youth Education/Special Interest Classes	9
Intergenerational Programs	7
Pickleball Lessons/League	7
Active Adult Fitness Programs	6
Adaptive Recreation Programs	6
Fitness and Wellness Classes	6
Nature/Environmental Education Programs	6
Adult Sports	5
Outdoor Fitness Programs	5
Youth Day Camps	5
Preschool Programs	3
Skateboarding Programs and Classes	3
Education Classes and Lectures	2
Golf Programs and Lessons	2
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	0



Chapter 3

Parks

Every Story Needs
A Good Setting





Y(OUR) STORY

Dubuque
Parks and Recreation
Comprehensive Plan

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The City of Dubuque Park Division manages over 1,200 acres of parkland and over 300 facilities, from iconic outdoor areas like the Port of Dubuque Marina and Eagle Point Park to small neighborhood parks and parks and pavilions rentals. Dubuque's location along the Mississippi River at the junction of Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin, along with its rich history and cultural opportunities, give the city a unique flavor as a regional tourism destination. Whether it's a stroll along the Mississippi at Miller Riverview Park, a game of adaptive T-ball at Veteran's Memorial Park, or a wintertime skate at the outdoor ice rink, opportunities to get outside abound within Dubuque.

Assessing and inventorying the current park system's assets is a crucial phase in the development of the master plan. By conducting a thorough inventory, the Plan can identify gaps in service, areas needing improvements, and where resources are allocated effectively and are meeting the needs of the community. An in-person audit of each park was conducted between April and August 2025, which included photos, inventory, and assessment of every park asset based on location, quantity, and quality.

FINDINGS

Conditions and Maintenance

Dubuque contains some truly stand-out parks with creative new playgrounds, boldly painted basketball courts, and access to scenic natural beauty. However, many of the established parks contain aging assets that are heading toward or are at the end of their life cycle. Some of these aging assets, such as heavily rusted benches or play equipment and lack of wood fiber chips in play areas, are becoming hazards to public safety. Ongoing issues like asphalt court cracking, turf mowing, or public pool leaks can be difficult to keep up with as new projects appear. With many parks closed to the public during winter, maintenance cycles run with the changing seasons and spring can be an incredibly busy time. A deeper dive into maintenance conditions and recommendations is contained later within this chapter.

ADA Compliance

It is advisable that the City conduct a comprehensive Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance review; this effort would involved inspecting existing facilities, performing self-evaluations and updating the transition plan necessary to adhere to ADA standards and regulations for accessible parks and facilities. Although a thorough ADA compliance review was not included in this assessment, on-site investigations revealed many potential areas for attention, particularly with parking lots, sidewalks, and playground surfacing. The vast majority of Dubuque's parks do not meet ADA compliance standards and requirements. Lack of paved circulation routes throughout parks, amenities on steep hillsides without stairs or easy access, and inaccessible seating were frequently noted.

Buildings and Facilities

Dubuque's park system contains incredible structures and buildings constructed by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s Prairie-style park architecture golden age within Eagle Point Park, historic estates at Four Mounds Estate and Ham House, and many other pavilions constructed over the last century throughout other parks. Keeping up with maintenance and preservation care on aging structures is a difficult task to fund and implement, made trickier to navigate with certain historic and cultural designations.

The 2025 Historic Structures Report examined the Alfred Caldwell-designed structures within Eagle Point Park. A full conditions assessment for structures was not conducted as part of this project; only visual inspections were performed. It is advised that the City initiate an assessment for all of its facilities that ascertains condition, averages remaining useful life expectancy, examines possible code violations and deficiencies and the impact of structure or occupancy, and outlines required maintenance, repair, costs for deficit conditions using nationally recognized estimated standards, and possible funding strategies and scheduling.

Connectivity and Wayfinding

While parks are distributed across the city, and approximately half of the city's land is within a ten-minute walk of a park, connectivity between parks could be improved. Trails route through the eastern and western edges of the city and connect some parks, but lack central access, greater connectivity, and an overall loop. Many parks were constructed at different times, so more uniform signage and unifying elements or plant palettes across parks could make the system as a whole feel more cohesive.

Overall Impressions

Dubuque has many distinct park points of pride for the community that anchor different parts of the city (such as Eagle Point, Comiskey Park, McAleece Park and Recreation Complex, and Miracle League Complex at Veterans Memorial Park).

Park gaps occur mostly in the north and southwestern edges of the City, with much of the core of the City within a 10-minute walk of a park.

Dubuque's unique relationship with the Mississippi allows for iconic views and recreation opportunities in parks along the eastern edge of the city.

Some parks could be easily perceived as being part of residential developments and not for general public use due to location, street parking only, etc.

Some pocket parks do not have any amenities or are simply grass medians or wooded areas; opportunities exist to add benches and make them more usable space, or to reclassify them.

Many park assets are nearing the end of their life cycles and should be replaced or removed quickly to maximize public safety.

Lots of turf exists at each park; opportunities to revert slopes and unused areas to native prairie or woodland could cut down on mow time and irrigation costs each year, as well as provide habitat, educational, and sustainability value.

Circulation routes throughout most parks do not exist or are not ADA compliant.

Opportunities exist to unify signage across the parks system (monument, rules and regulations, and wayfinding).

Inventory and Assessment Summary

PARK	ACRES
Asbury Park	9.3
AY McDonald Park	11.5
Bee Branch Greenway	44.6
Bee Branch Greenway	11.4
Cloie Creek Park	32.4
Eagle Point Park	126.4
Flora Park	34.2
Granger Creek Nature Trail	29.3
Heritage Trail	13.4
John G Bergfeld Recreation Area	125.6
Marshall Park/Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Garden	56.6
Maus Park	21.7
McAleece Park and Recreation Complex	64.1
Medical Associates Greenbelt	24.9
Miller Riverview Park	62.3
Mines of Spain	1447.7
Murphy Park	23
Port of Dubuque Marina	5.4
Roosevelt Park	204.7
Sister City International Park	0.4
Veterans' Memorial Park	68
Washington Park	1.5
Pet Park	1.2
Bunker Hill Golf Course	135.5
The Meadows Golf Club	151
Avon Park	0.5
Burden Park	1.4
Cancer Survivor Park	0.3
Clay Ridge Park	0.8
Cleveland Park	4.1
Eagle Valley Park	2.3
Elmwood Green Park	0.2
Falk Park	0.8
Flat Iron Park	0.4
Grant Park	0.2

PARK	ACRES
Harvest View Park	1.8
Hillcrest Park	1.8
Hilltop Park	1.1
Jackson Park	2.1
Jefferson Park	0.5
Madison Park	1.3
Marna Ridge Children's Forest	4.2
Orange Park	0.2
Pinard Park	0.3
Riley Park	0.4
Rocco Buda Jr. Park	0.2
Southern Park	2.1
Teddy Bear Park	0.9
Waller-Cooper Park	0.4
Welu Park	1.1
Allison-Henderson Park	5.2
Althaus Wetland and Nature Preserve	6.2
Arrowhead Park	3
Brook Haven Park	3.4
Comiskey Park	5.6
Creek Wood Park	1.9
English Ridge Park	4
Gay Park	5.9
Maple Hills Park	4.7
Rustic Point Park	0.9
Usha Park	8
Valentine Park	19.2
Valley High Park	6.4
Wedgewood Preserve	32.1
Westbrook Park	0.2
Center Grove Open Space	22
Four Mounds Park	59.8
Grandview Green Space	0.5
Ham House Historic Site	2.7
Oakwood Park	3.3
Prescott Elementary School	1.4

Evaluation Methodology

The quality of each asset within the overall City system is an important factor when evaluating the current level of service (LOS) provided. Parks that are not properly maintained, have exceeded their lifecycle, and/or do not provide a certain quality of experience to the user will not attract park visitors. By examining how each park compares to one another, department management and staff can evaluate and prioritize park improvement projects and identify gaps in coverage across the entire City system. The quality of each asset was assessed as a part of the on-site review and inventory, including quantity of each asset within each park as well as condition and quality.

For each asset, a grading standard has been assigned to the observed amenities within it. These scores are qualitative in nature and are determined based on the observations of the personnel conducting the field inventory. These categories were evaluated based on the individual asset's condition as opposed to the overall system during the inventory. If the amenity and/or facility was noted to exist in a condition well below that of similar equipment within other parks, then it was noted within the matrix as such. The number values then were used to provide a numerical score for the park based on the number of opportunities and quality of opportunities offered.

Grading Standard 1: Currently Critical

Conditions in this category require immediate action to:

- Correct a safety hazard
- Stop accelerated deterioration
- Return a facility/system to operational status

Grading Standard 2: Potentially Critical

Conditions in this category, if not corrected expeditiously, will become critical soon.

Situations within this category include:

- Potential for a critical safety hazard
- Potential for accelerated deterioration that would cause need for immediate action in the near future
- The need to replace or return a facility/system to operational status soon

Grading Standard 3: Necessary, but Not Yet Critical

Conditions in this category require appropriate attention to preclude predictable deterioration and associated damage or higher costs if deferred further.

Grading Standard 4: Recommended

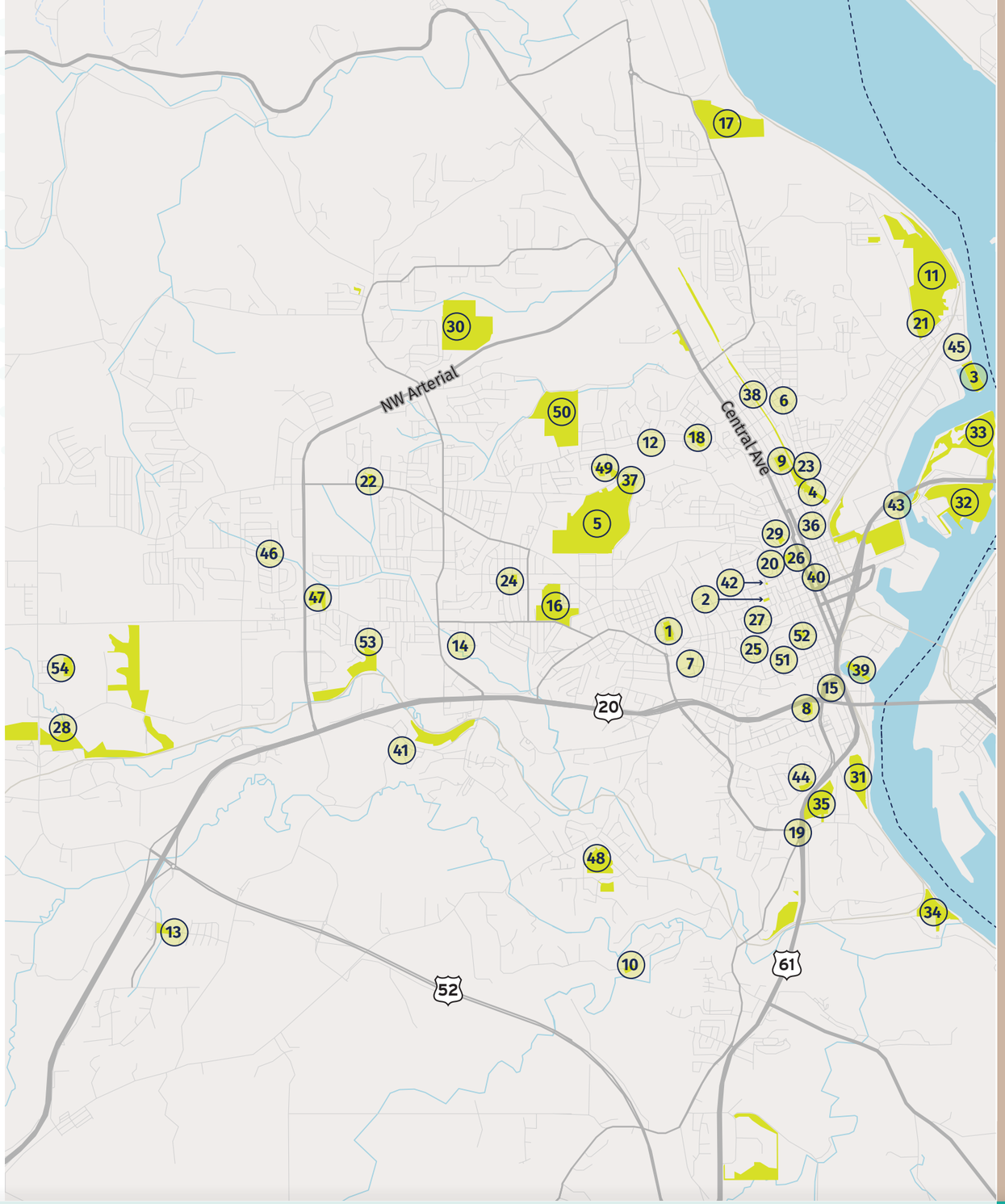
Conditions in this category include items that represent a sensible improvement to existing conditions, include finishes that have deteriorated and are required to maintain the required aesthetic standards. These are not required for the most basic functioning of the facility.

Grading Standard 5: Early in Lifecycle

Conditions in this category function properly and are early enough in their lifecycle that improvements are not currently needed. Quality and function seem to be a "like new" condition.

PARKS

1. Allison-Henderson Park
2. Avon Park
3. A.Y. McDonald Park
4. Bee Branch Greenway
5. Bunker Hill Golf Course
6. Burden Park
7. Cancer Survivor Park
8. Cleveland Park
9. Comiskey Park
10. Creek Wood Park
11. Eagle Point Park
12. Elmwood Green Park
13. English Ridge Park
14. Falk Park
15. Flat Iron Park
16. Flora Park
17. Four Mounds Park
18. Gay Park
19. Grandview Green Space
20. Grant Park
21. Ham House Historic Site
22. Harvest View Park
23. Heritage Trail
24. Hillcrest Park
25. Hilltop Park
26. Jackson Park
27. Jefferson Park
28. John G Bergfeld Recreation Area
29. Madison Park
30. Marshall Park/Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Garden
31. Maus Park
32. McAleece Park and Recreation Complex
33. Miller Riverview Park
34. Mines of Spain
35. Murphy Park
36. Orange Park
37. Pet Park
38. Pinard Park
39. Port of Dubuque Marina
40. Prescott Elementary School
41. Riley Park
42. Rocco Buda Jr. Park
43. Sister City International Park
44. Southern Park
45. Sutton Pool
46. Teddy Bear Park
47. Usha Park
48. Valentine Park
49. Valley High Park
50. Veterans' Memorial Park
51. Waller-Cooper Park
52. Washington Park
53. Welu Park
54. Westbrook Park



ALLISON HENDERSON PARK

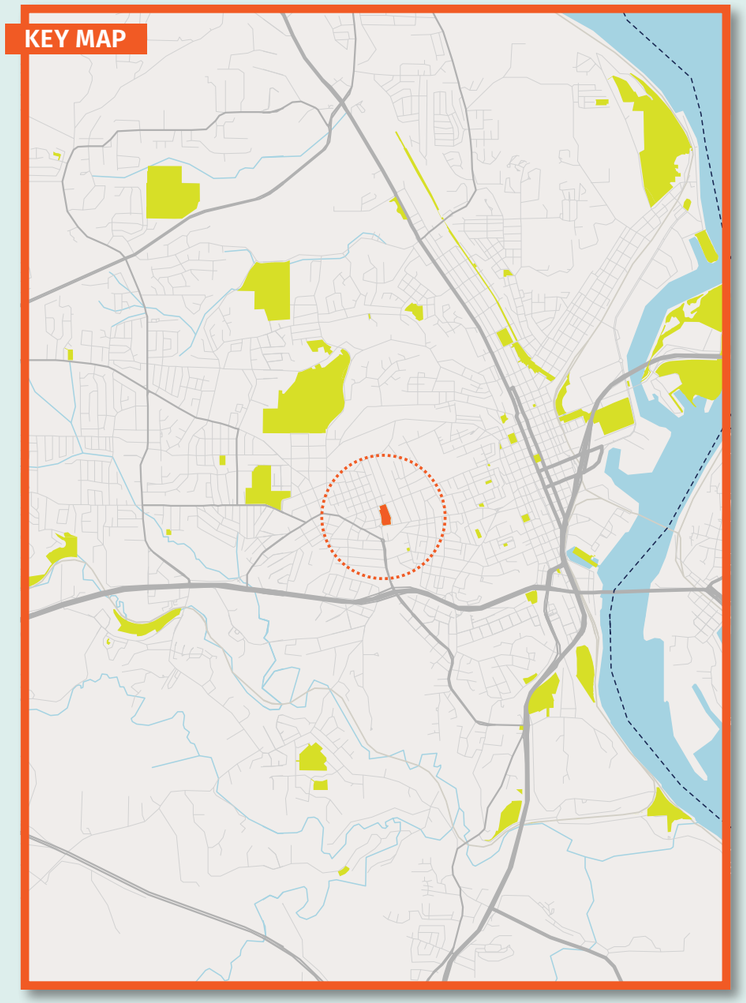
5.2 ACRES

1500 LORAS BLVD

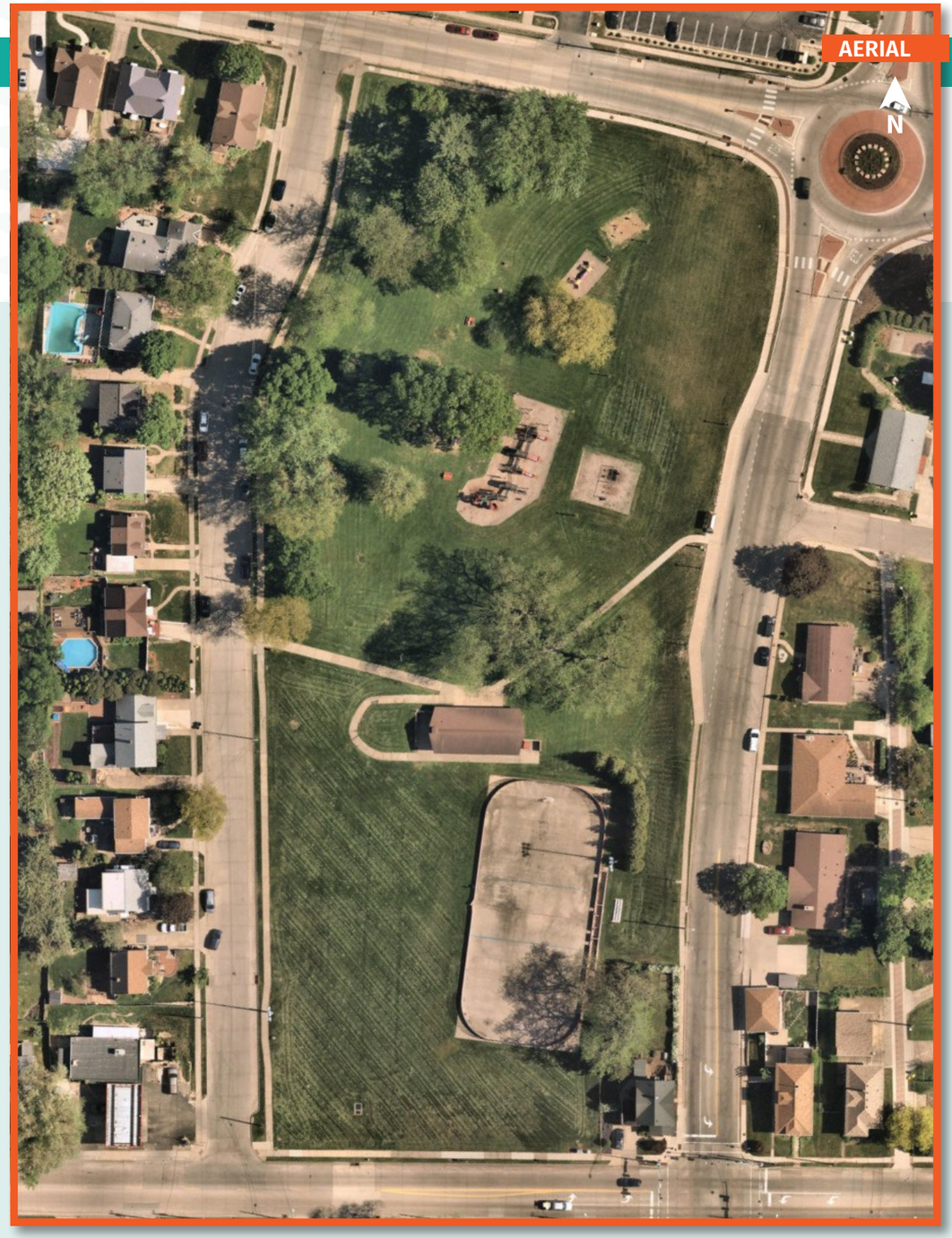
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **NEIGHBORHOOD**

Allison Henderson Park is a centrally located 5.2 Acre Park with various amenities. These include Swing sets, Playgrounds, a Hockey Rink, Digging equipment for toddlers and a Multipurpose building with open classroom space. All the playground equipment is in decent shape showing normal sign of wear with some rust beginning to show on the swing sets. The wood fiber surrounding these areas needs attention to adequately protect the fall zones. Pathways to these play structures are non-existent. The Hockey Rink is in overall good condition but just like the play structures there is no apparent pedestrian access.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



ALLISON HENDERSON PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Drinking Fountain	1	3	ADA, some wear and rusting
Exterior Sidewalk	.4 Mile	3	Decent condition
Lighting	10	2	Major wear, not all LED, two stadium lights around hockey rink
Other	1	4	Hockey rink, concrete is in good shape
Other	1	4	Multi-purpose building, great condition
Other	1	5	Camera mounted on pole
Other	1	4	Emergency 911 beacon, minor wear
Picnic Table (Metal)	2	3	Some wear, no ADA
Playground (5-12 Years)	1	4	Lacks ADA access
Playground (2-5 Years)	1	3	2-5 age play area, decent shape, no access
Playground Equipment	4	3	Two spring rockers, two sand diggers, decent condition
Playground Surfacing (Wood Mulch)	6,225 SF	3	Needs refreshed, but decent condition
Retaining Wall (Railroad Tie)	85 LF	2	Appears to be failing/old
Swings (Two Bay)	1	3	Decent condition
Sidewalk	4,950 SF	3	Concrete sidewalk panels cracked, tripping hazard
Swing Set	3	3	Two regular, two tot swings, wearing and rusting
Sign	1	4	Stone monument sign, good condition
Signage	1	5	Park hours sign, new
Trash	2	3	Decent condition, dog waste station as well











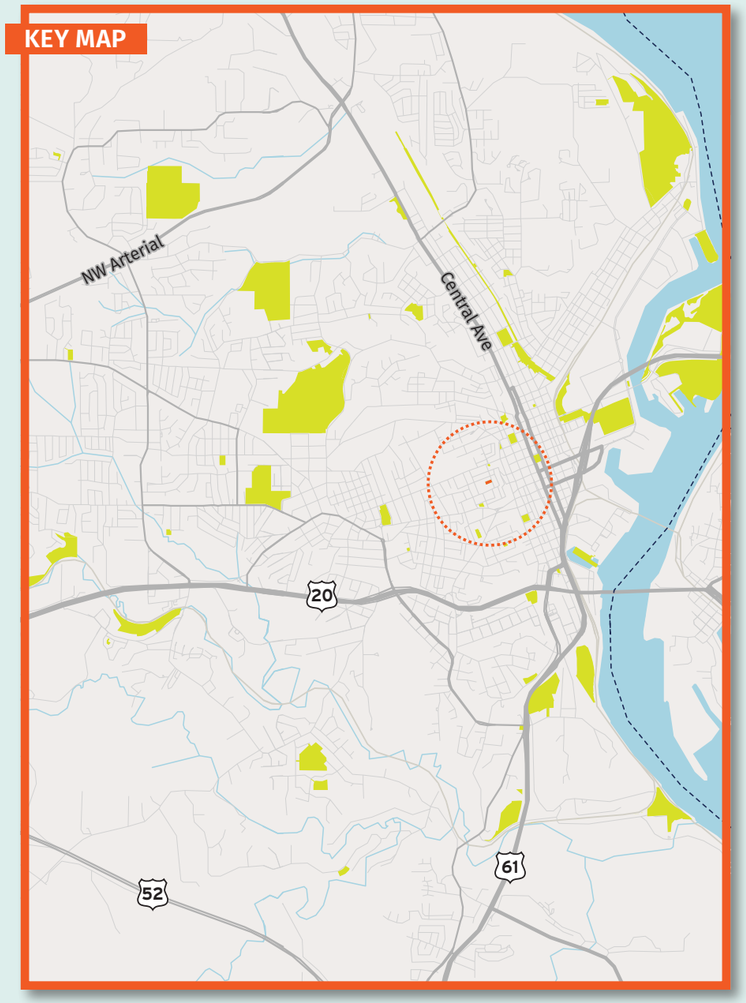
AVON PARK

0.5
ACRES

500 AVON ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Avon Park includes several amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, a playground, a drinking fountain, and a basketball court. The park's benches show varying conditions with chipping and some rusting. Trash bins are generally in decent shape. The playground is a small tot lot in new condition with a fresh surface but lacks shade. Walkway lighting fixtures, though older and with some paint chipping, are functional. The basketball court has an unscripted surface with minor heaving issues. Overall, Avon Park displays a mix of well-maintained and aging elements, requiring ongoing maintenance and upgrades to improve its condition for public enjoyment.



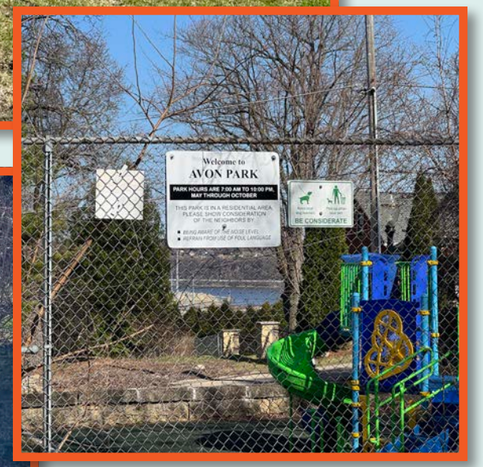


AVON PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)	2	4	Great condition
Basketball Court Surface (Asphalt)	3,100 SF	3	No striping, some cracking
Bench	3	2	Some rusting, chipping
Chain link fence	455 LF	2	Okay condition, overgrown in some areas with plants
Drinking Fountain	1	3	Good condition
Lighting Walkway	5	3	Older fixture model, some paint chipping
Picnic Table (Wood)	2	3	Decent condition
Playground	3	4	Small tot lot, new condition, new pour-in-place surfacing, no shade
Playground Surface (Rubberized Surface)	1,280 SF	4	Good condition
Retaining Wall (Block)	365 LF	3	
Sidewalk	670 SF	3	Decent condition
Sign	1	4	Park name sign attached to retaining wall
Sign (Traffic Style)	3	3	Traffic style park name signs and park rules signs
Trash	3	3	









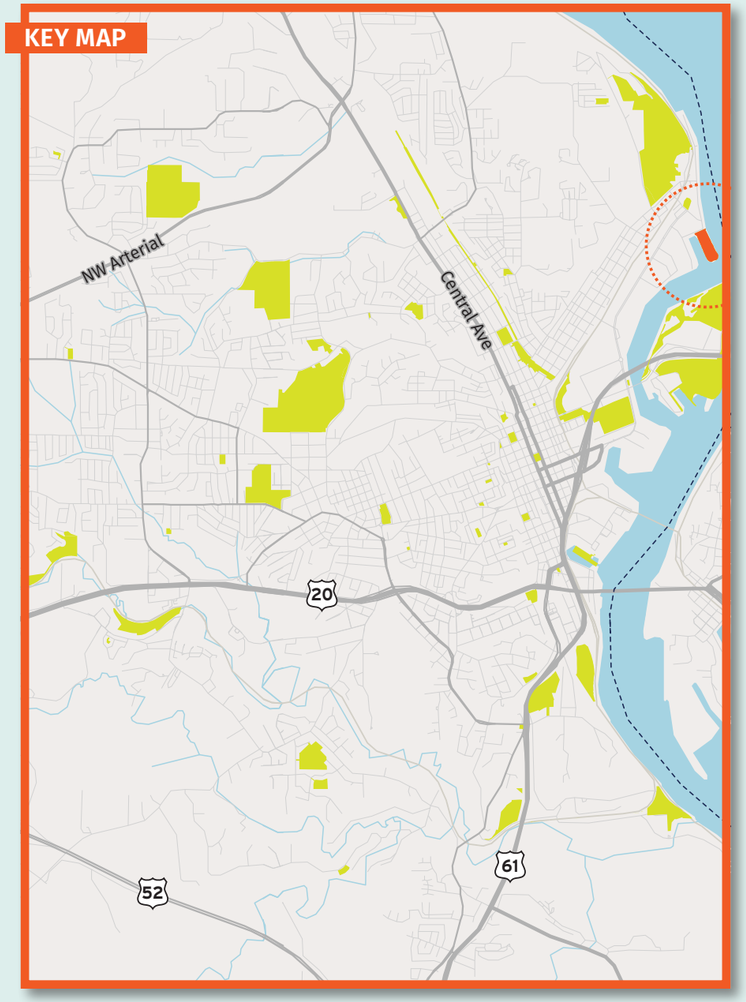
A.Y. MCDONALD PARK

11.5
ACRES

1200 HAWTHORNE ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

A.Y. McDonald Park features a variety of amenities including picnic tables, benches, playgrounds, and parking areas. Some picnic tables show wear and vandalism, while others are in great shape. The playground equipment is mostly in good condition, although certain elements need replacement and maintenance. The parking area includes ADA spots with some cracking and faded striping. Benches vary from excellent condition to needing attention due to fading and rust. The park's trash bins generally appear worn and vandalized. The park requires some upkeeping, particularly in playground fall zones and older infrastructure, to maintain safety and usability





A.Y. MCDONALD PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	11	4	Three new benches, remainder are heavily worn
Bike Rack	2	2	Rusting, exposed metal, chipped coating
Bollard (Stone)	75	4	
Drinking Fountain	1	3	Building attached, ADA, regular and pet fountain
Electric Pedestal (50 AMP)	10	N/A	
Lighting Bollard	11	3	Bollard lighting with concrete foundation. Decent condition, some wear present
Lighting Parking	7	3	25' light, LED, some wear, decent condition
Lighting Pathway	9	3	Metal pole with ornate glass housing
Other	1	4	Art installation with plaque, not ADA
Other	11	N/A	Electrical cabinets
Parking	117,000 SF	3	Faded striping, cracks present 1/4"+, drainage issues
Picnic Table (Metal/Wood)	8	2	Four metal picnic tables, four wood picnic tables rusting, exposed metal, chipped coating, no ADA
Pier Dock	2	5	
Planters	2	4	Limestone raised planters, great condition
Playground	1	4	Lacks ADA access
Playground Equipment	5	3	Small playground equipment, spinners and rockers
Playground Surfacing (Wood Mulch)	2,100 SF	3	Wood mulch needs refreshed
Railing	390 LF	4	Wrought iron railing around viewing platform. Good condition
Restroom	1	3	Exterior evaluation only, locked for season
Retaining Wall	405 LF	4	Concrete and block retaining Walls, varying in height, great condition overall
Sidewalk (Integral Color)	7,000 SF	4	
Sign (Specialty/Dubuque Bike Map/Interpretive Sign)	3	3	A.Y. McDonald sign in parking area/Dubuque bike map and interpretive sign
Sign (Traffic Style)	7	3	Different park signage, decent condition
Swing (One Bay)	1	3	Wear on frame
Trail (Asphalt)	3,000 LF	3	Decent condition
Trash	9	3	Some rusting, some chipping, faded/worn







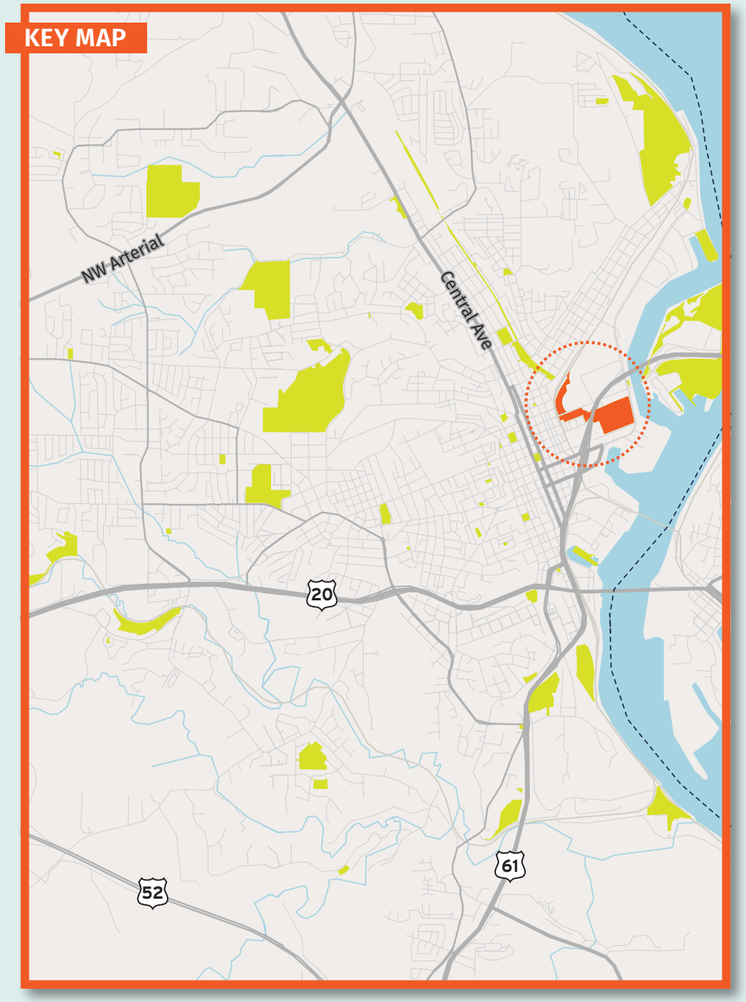
BEE BRANCH GREENWAY SOUTH

44.6
ACRES

1020 E 16TH ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Bee Branch Greenway offers various amenities along its trail such as benches, picnic tables, bike racks, lighting, and signage. The benches are generally in good condition but display minor rust and wear. Picnic tables are well-maintained with light rust and surface damage. Bike racks and trash bins are in decent shape with minor wear. Signage and lighting along the walkway also show light wear but are functional. The greenway includes unique amenities like an emergency beacon, bike repair station, and little free library, though some components need attention for rust and wear. Regular maintenance will enhance this greenway's appeal and safety.





BEE BRANCH GREENWAY SOUTH CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Amphitheater	2,275 SF	4	Concrete and stone block retaining steps, great condition
Backflow Preventer with Insulated Enclosure	2	4	
Bench	27	3	Decorative metal benches, most in good condition, some minor wear
Bicycle Repair Station	1	2	
Bike Rack	9	3	Most in good condition, some minor wear
Concrete Ped. Bridge/ Overlook with Railing	105 LF	4	Great condition, provides great views into Bee Branch
Combined Trash and Recycle Container with Decorative Metal	9	4	
Concrete Ribbon Curb	3,500 LF	4	
Concrete Stairs with Railing			
Crosswalk Beacon	2	5	
Decorative Parking Lot Lighting	4	5	
Decorative Pedestrian Light Poles with Planters /Irrigation	57	5	
Decorative Pedestrian Light Pole with Banners	52	5	
Decorative Street Lighting	10	5	
Drinking Fountain	4	3	Some surface scratching and rusting
Emergency Call Box	3	3	
Flag Pole	12	4	Great condition
Fountain	1	3	Spillway, fountain and internal lights, good condition
Galvanized Railing	1,100 LF	4	
Irrigation System	635,670 SF	4	
Large Metal Awning	1,825 SF	4	
Metal Awning	225 SF	4	
Metal Awning (Bus Shelter)	320 SF	4	
Metal Awning with Electronic Display	150 SF	4	
Parking (Asphalt Pavement with Striping	10,260 SF	4	
Parking (Concrete)	545 SF	4	Parking area by Nature Play
Parking Light Pavers	20,737 SF	4	
Pavilion Open	3	4	Lighted
Picnic Table (Metal)	3	2	Rusting, fading, surface scratching
Planter (Raised Type 2)	55 LF	4	
Playground Curb turndown	330 LF	4	
Playground Equipment (Nature play)	1	4	Great condition natural feeling play area
Playground Equipment (Slides)	1	4	Four slides, great condition
Playground Surfacing	1,670 SF	4	Pour in place rubberized surfacing
Retaining Wall (Type 2)	1,124 LF	4	
Retaining Wall (Type 3)	1,677 LF	4	
Security Cameras	98	5	
Sidewalk (Asphalt)	8,930 SF	3	Asphalt Pathway section, underpass - 16th St.
Sidewalk (Grey Concrete)	119,184 SF	4	
Sign (Specialty Memorial)	5	3	Light wear, fading (Storyboards)
Sign (Interpretive)	15	3	Some erosion on posts, light wear on signs, interpretive signs
Sign (Traffic with Post)	16	3	Wayfinding
Sign (Plaque)	1	5	
Trash	9	3	
Wrought Iron Fence - 30" HT	2,217 LF	4	
Wooden Split Rail Fence	1,100 LF	4	



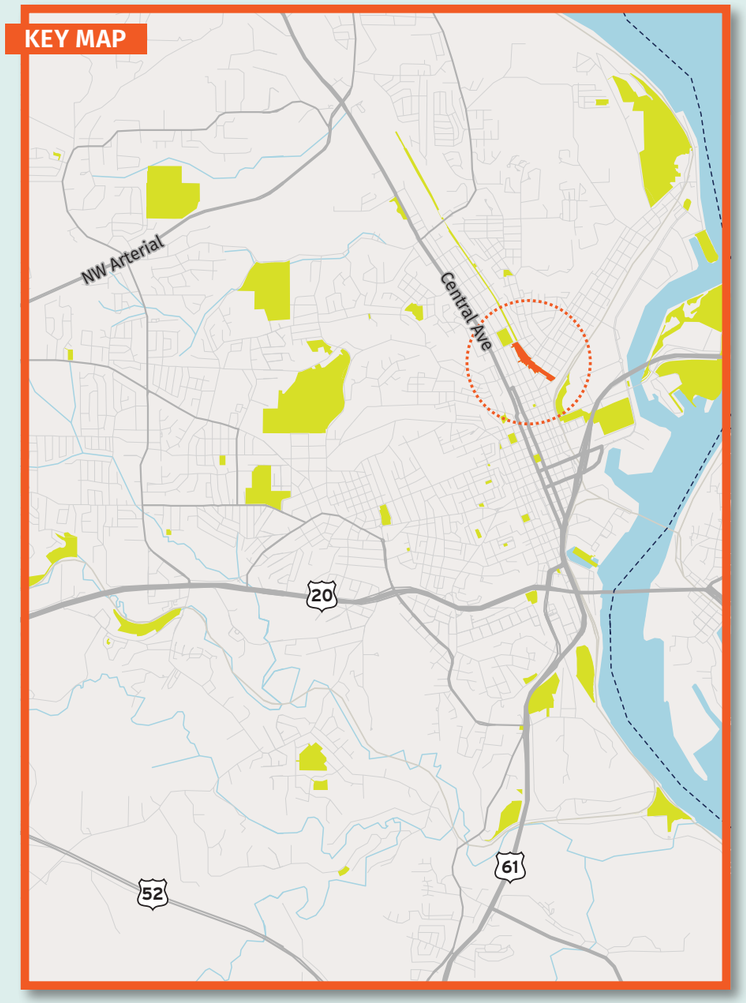
BEE BRANCH GREENWAY NORTH

11.4
ACRES

507 E 22ND ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Bee Branch Greenway offers various amenities along its trail such as benches, picnic tables, bike racks, lighting, and signage. The benches are generally in good condition but display minor rust and wear. Picnic tables are well-maintained with light rust and surface damage. Bike racks and trash bins are in decent shape with minor wear. Signage and lighting along the walkway also show light wear but are functional. The greenway includes unique amenities like an emergency beacon, bike repair station, and little free library, though some components need attention for rust and wear. Regular maintenance will enhance this greenway's appeal and safety.





BEE BRANCH GREENWAY NORTH CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Metal Awning	225 SF	4	
Metal Awning (Bus Shelter)	320 SF	4	
Metal Awning with Electronic Display	150 SF	4	
Parking (Asphalt Pavement with Striping	10,260 SF	4	
Parking (Concrete)	545 SF	4	Parking area by nature play
Parking Light Pavers	20,737 SF	4	
Pavilion Open	3	4	Lighted
Picnic Table (Metal)	3	2	Rusting, fading, surface scratching
Planter (Raised Type 2)	55 LF	4	
Playground Curb Turndown	330 LF	4	
Playground Equipment (Nature Play)	1	4	Great condition natural feeling play area
Playground Equipment (Slides)	1	4	Four slides, great condition
Playground Surfacing	1,670 SF	4	Pour in place rubberized surfacing
Retaining Wall (Type 2)	1,124 LF	4	
Retaining Wall (Type 3)	1,677 LF	4	
Security Cameras	98	5	
Sidewalk (Asphalt)	8,930 SF	3	Asphalt pathway section, underpass - 16th St.
Sidewalk (Grey Concrete)	119,184 SF	4	
Sign (Specialty Memorial)	5	3	Light wear, fading (storyboards)
Sign (Interpretive)	15	3	Some erosion on posts, light wear on signs, interpretive signs
Sign (Traffic with Post)	16	3	Wayfinding
Sign (Plaque)	1	5	
Trash	9	3	
Wrought Iron Fence - 30" HT	2,217 LF	4	
Wooden Split Rail Fence	1,100 LF	4	







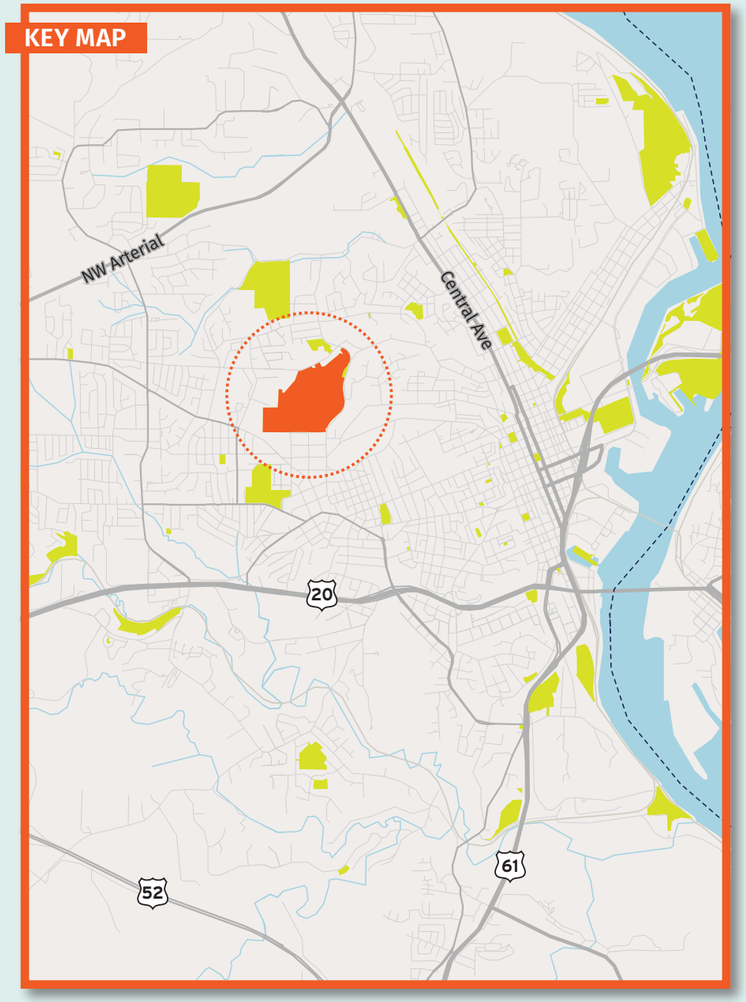
BUNKER HILL GOLF COURSE

135.5
ACRES

2200 BUNKER HILL RD

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Golf**

Bunker Hill Golf Course features amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, and parking lots. Benches here are significantly rusted and weathered. Trash bins are rusted, dented, and faded, while the parking lot has large cracks and faded striping. Maintenance buildings show signs of superficial damage and rotting wood paneling, needing urgent repair. Lighting in the parking area is adequate with a tall wooden pole supporting LED lighting. Overall, the golf course infrastructure shows considerable wear and aging, requiring substantial maintenance and repairs to ensure safety and improve the overall experience for visitors.





BUNKER HILL GOLF COURSE CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	1	2	Rusting, weathered
Bench (Golf)	12	4	
Bench (Memorial)	1	4	Granite bench, great condition
Bench (Wrought Iron without Back)	15	2	Rust and signs of wear present
Golf Ball Washer with Trash Can	12	4	
Golf Irrigation System Complete	4,800,000 SF	3	
Lighting Parking	1	3	One fixture in parking lot, wooden pole
Maintenance Yard	4,945 SF	3	Superficial damage to metal exterior, paint chipping on buildings
Parking (Asphalt with Striping)	44,640 SF	3	Large cracks 1/2"+, has been patched previously
Pavilion Open	2	4	
Retaining Wall	60 LF	4	
Sign (Golf Hole)	18	4	
Sign (Monumentation with Planter)	2	4	Wooden monument sign, needs updated to City standard
Sign (Traffic with Post)	10	3	Fading, cracking, signs of wear
Trash	3	2	Rusting, fading









BURDEN PARK

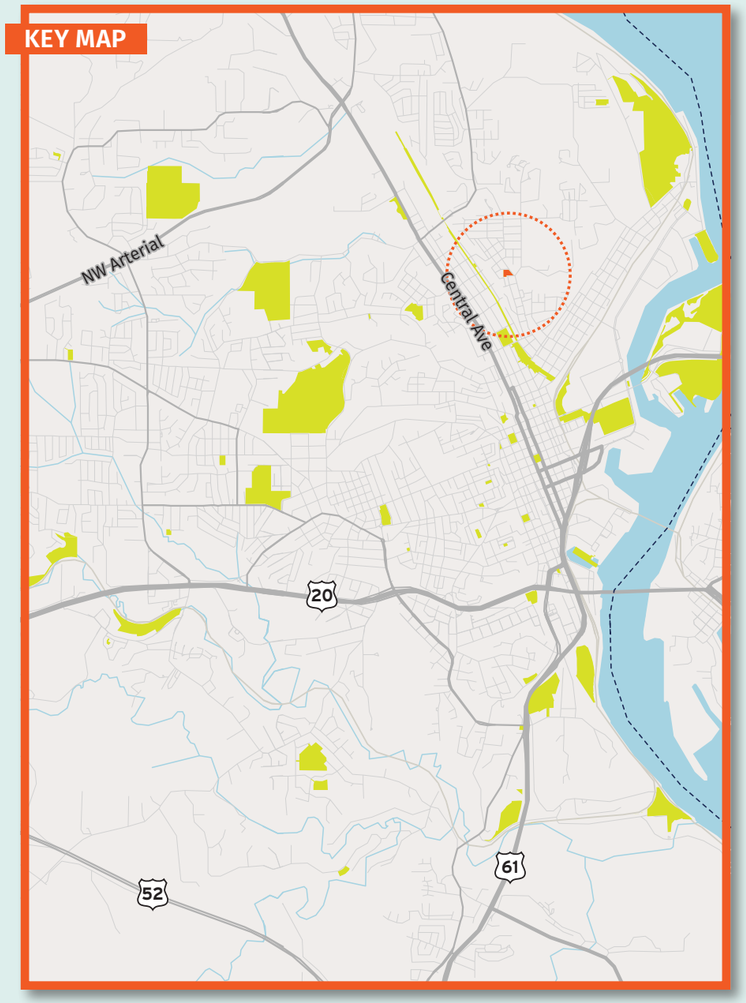
1.4
ACRES

2701 BURDEN ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Burden Park offers amenities like picnic tables, a swing set, playground, and basketball court. The swing set has rust issues and lacks ADA access. Playground equipment is visibly rusting, dented, and scratched, with low wood chip coverage. Picnic tables are rusting and present erosion, requiring urgent replacement. The basketball court is in poor condition with cracked asphalt, no striping, and accessibility issues. Burden Park also features a little free library and a trash can on a new post. Further maintenance and upgrades are essential to ensure safety and usability for community enjoyment.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



BURDEN PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)	1	5	Good, looks new
Basketball Court Surface	1,450 SF	2	Asphalt, cracking, not striped, no ADA access
Bench	1	3	No ADA access
Picnic Table (Metal)	2	2	No ADA access, rusting
Playground	1	3	No ADA access, rusting, denting
Playground Surfacing	4,365 SF	1	Wood mulch needs replaced
Swings (Two Bay)	1	2	Rust present
Sign	1	1	Wooden park sign, needs updated
Trash	1	4	









CANCER SURVIVOR PARK

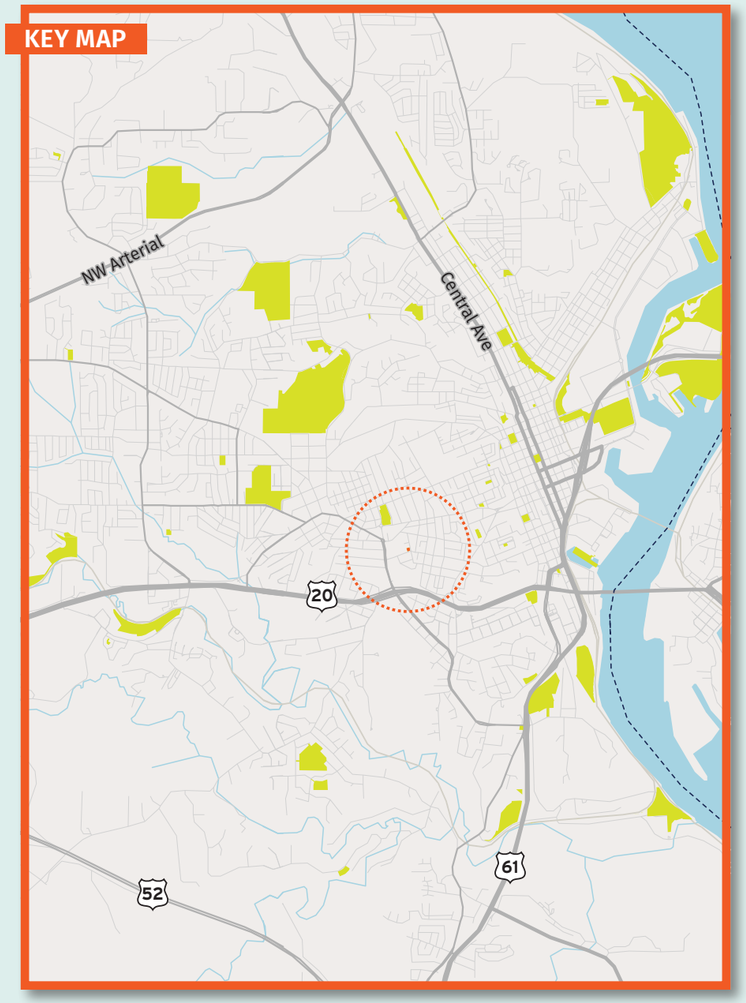
0.3
ACRES

1503 W 3RD ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini Park**

Cancer Survivor Park is a small Mini Park Located directly Southwest of the Finley Hospital. This park hosts only a few amenities to include benches, picnic tables, a pavilion and a single small playground. The benches and Picnic table are made of stone and are in decent condition. The Pavilion is of open design and the condition is fair, showing signs of aging and chipping also not being ADA accessible. The playground is in poor condition, showing signs of erosion and around the play area, minimal wood fiber for fall support and the metal structure is aged and rusted.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



CANCER SURVIVORS PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	2	3	Stone benches in fair condition
Lighting Walkway	2	1	Rusting, aged lamp posts, one fixture missing shade/exposed wiring
Pavilion	1	2	Signs of aging, chipping, no ADA access
Picnic Table	2	3	Stone picnic table in fair condition
Playground	1	1	No border around wood fiber surfacing, needs additional fiber, aging and rusting equipment
Retaining Wall	190 LF	4	Good condition









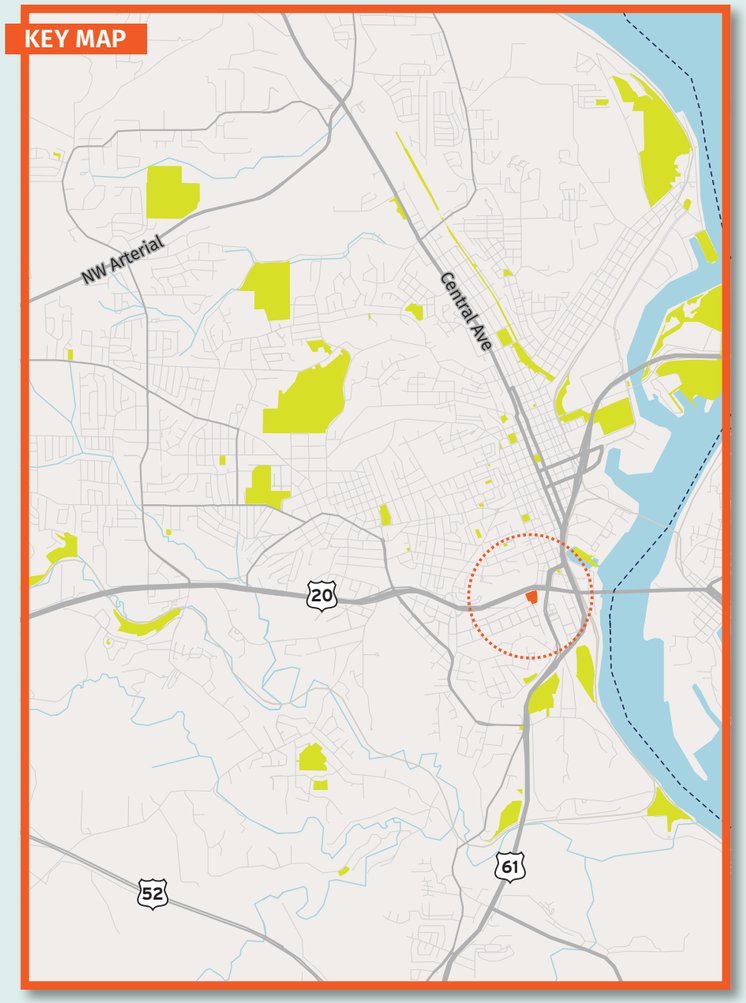
CLEVELAND PARK

4.1
ACRES

625 CLEVELAND AVE

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Cleveland Park offers a playground, pavilion, BBQ grill, benches, and signage. The playground shows sun fading, chipped equipment surfaces, and mulch that does not meet ADA requirements. The pavilion is solid but wood fading and lack of shade is evident. The BBQ grill is rusted and dilapidated with no ADA access. Benches are in good condition but lack ADA accessibility. Signage, especially the park name sign, is fading and the wood is deteriorating. Improvements on ADA accessibility and resolving fading and wear will significantly enhance the park's appeal and functionality for visitors.





CLEVELAND PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
BBQ Grill	1	2	Rusted and dilapidated, no ADA access
Bench	2	3	Good condition, no ADA access
Pavilion Open Air	1	3	Wooden open air deck with integrated picnic table, feels solid, wood fading, no shade
Picnic Table	1	3	Metal picnic table
Playground	1	3	Mulch not to depth, not ADA, sun faded, some shade provided on structure, no safety signs, equipment surface chipping and fading
Sign	4	1	Park name sign, wooden, paint fading, wood breaking down, three park hours and safety signs
Trash (City Bin with Metal Post)	1	3	









COMISKEY PARK

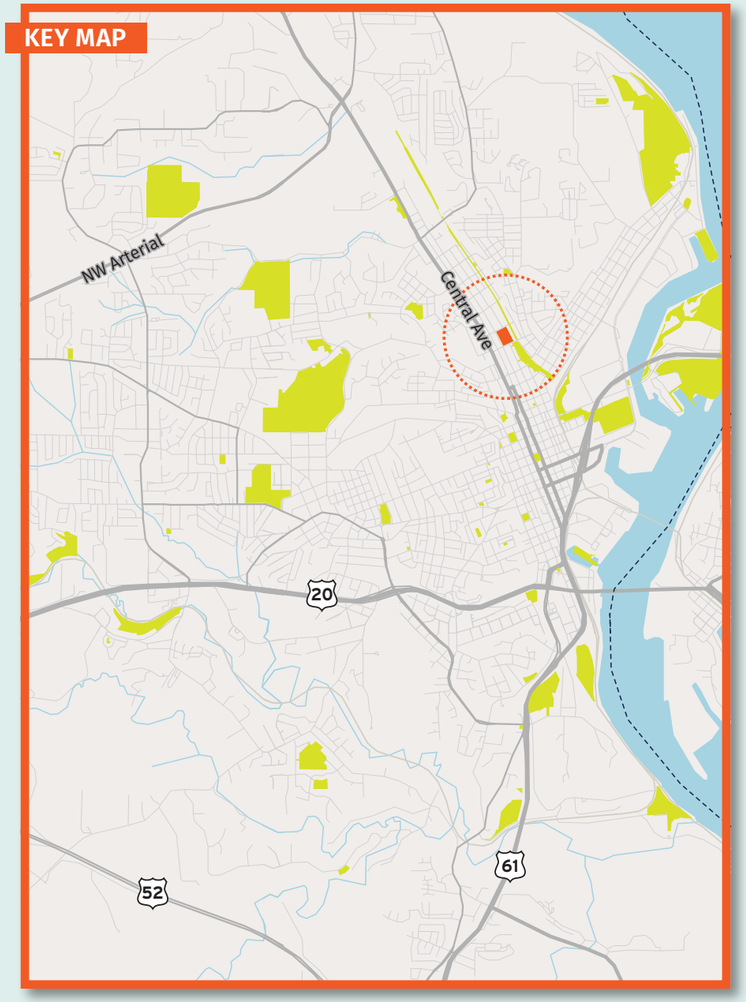
5.6 ACRES

255 E 24TH ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Neighborhood**

Comiskey Park is well-equipped with multiple benches, playgrounds, trash receptacles, bike racks, lighting, picnic tables, pavilions, and a skatepark. The playground areas boast new equipment, though some PIP surfacing is slightly discolored. Benches and trash receptacles are mostly new and in great condition. The concrete benches show some discoloration but are generally well-maintained. The trash cans and bike racks are also new. The skatepark has drainage issues but is otherwise in good condition. Addressing the minor wear issues and maintaining the new facilities will support the park's continued usability and enjoyment.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



COMISKEY PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Ball Field	1	2	Not maintained
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)	10	4	Great shape, new hoops and posts, one court's asphalt is beginning to crack in areas
Basketball Court Surface	7,700 SF	3	Old courts asphalt decent shape, new court is superb
BBQ Grill	3	5	Great condition
Bench	21	4	Come show signs of fading and discoloration however all are in great condition
Bike Rack	9	4	Great condition
Drinking Fountain	2	4	Slightly dirty but great condition
Lighting Sidewalk	1	5	Great condition
Lighting Walkway	1	5	Great condition
Parking	6,547 SF	3	ADA spots are great, cracking and spalling prevalent throughout
Pavilion Open	3	5	Great condition and lighted
Picnic Table	21	4	Minor wear and tear and some superficial damage but great overall
Playground	1	5	Beautiful new equipment, some discoloration of pour in place
Sign	1	5	Great condition
Skate	3,825 SF	4	Some drainage issues but good condition
Splash Pad	1	5	Looks brand new and great condition
Tennis	1	3	Wear and tear but still usable
Trash	5	4	Some are showing signs of vandalism but good condition overall









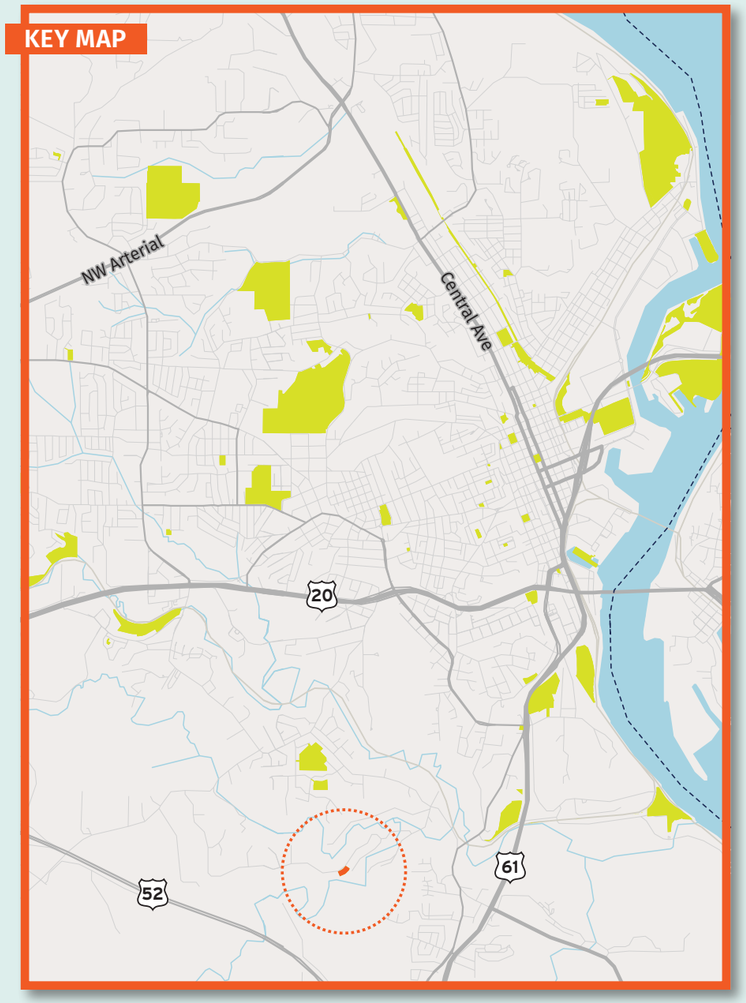
CREEK WOOD PARK

1.9
ACRES

1798 CREEK WOOD DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Neighborhood**

Creek Wood Park offers amenities including benches, picnic tables, playground equipment, a bike rack, and lighting. The park's amenities are mostly in excellent condition, with newer benches and a well-maintained playground. Surface rust on some metal elements and sun fading on playground plastics are noted, as well as slight wear on the bike racks. A poured-in-place surface on the playground shows some fading. The multi-purpose picnic tables and benches are ADA accessible. Minor maintenance on the metal elements and faded surfaces will ensure the park remains welcoming and safe for all visitors.





CREEK WOOD PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	3	5	Great condition
Bike Rack	1	5	New, great condition
Lighting	2	5	New and nice
Picnic Table	1	5	New and great condition
Playground	1	5	Great new equipment
Playground Equipment (Swing - One Bay)	1	5	Tire swing
Playground Surfacing	1,770 SF	5	Brand new rubberized surfacing
Retaining Wall	150 LF	5	
Sign (Specialty)	1	5	Great condition
Sign (Traffic)	2	5	Located on light pole
Trash (Metal)	5	5	Trash and recycling, great condition









EAGLE POINT PARK

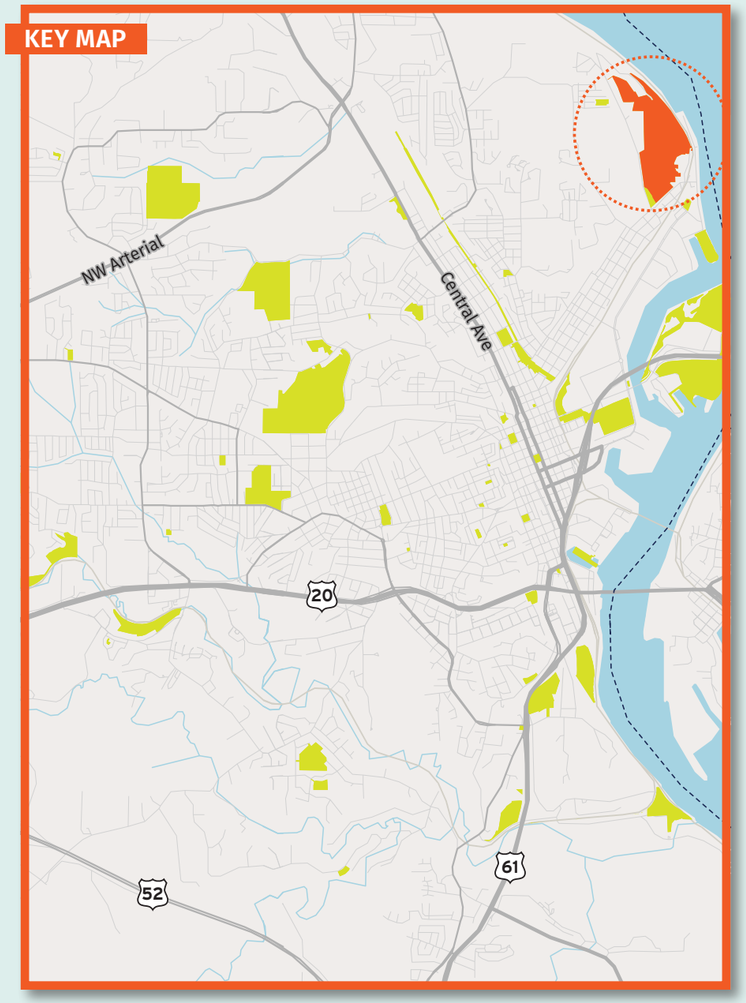
126.4
ACRES

2601 SHIRAS AVE

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Eagle Point Park includes a diverse range of amenities such as parking areas, benches, picnic tables, BBQ grills, playgrounds, and a water feature. Some benches and tables exhibit rust and fading, while various BBQ grills are heavily rusted and not ADA accessible. The water feature and pond demonstrate significant wear, requiring renovation to address safety concerns. Notable improvements include the locked pavilions and multiple picnic tables in good condition. Addressing the rust issues and enhancing ADA accessibility across amenities can significantly improve the park's functionality and visitor experience.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



EAGLE POINT PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Amphitheater	11,760 SF	3	Wear on bandshell ceiling and doors, drainage issues
BBQ Grill	34	2	Rusting, poor condition
Bench	46	3	Rust showing, wear and tear, most have no ADA Access, one memorial bench
Drinking Fountain	8	2	
Horseshoe	6	2	Wood degradation
Lighting Parking	39	3	Wooden poles show wear, LED, Overall Decent
Lighting Walkway	86	3	Wooden poles showing wear, decent condition overall
Water Feature	1	1	Potential safety issue at top of water reservoir
Other	5	3	Metal optical binoculars, metal pitting and rusting. Still usable and in decent condition
Other	1	3	Log cabin
Other	1	N/A	Water Tower
Parking	105,270 SF	3	Large cracks in some areas, potholing
Pavilion Closed	1	4	
Pavilion Open	5	3	
Picnic Table	4	3	
Playground	4	2	Moderate wear, no ADA access
Playground Surface (Wood Mulch)	16,475 SF	2	Mulch needs refreshed, not to depth
Playground Equipment	3	2	
Restroom	4	3	One newly renovated restroom building, remainder in need of updates
Roadway (Asphalt)	134,130 SF	3	
Sign (Traffic Style)	18	3	Parking, speed limit signage and other park signs
Sign (Specialty Memorial)	2	4	
Splash Pad	1	1	Poor condition
Swing Set	5	2	Rusting, no ADA access, chain replacement needed
Tennis	1	1	Surfacing has degraded, broken nets, damaged striping, no ADA access, difficult to enter courts
Trash	10	3	







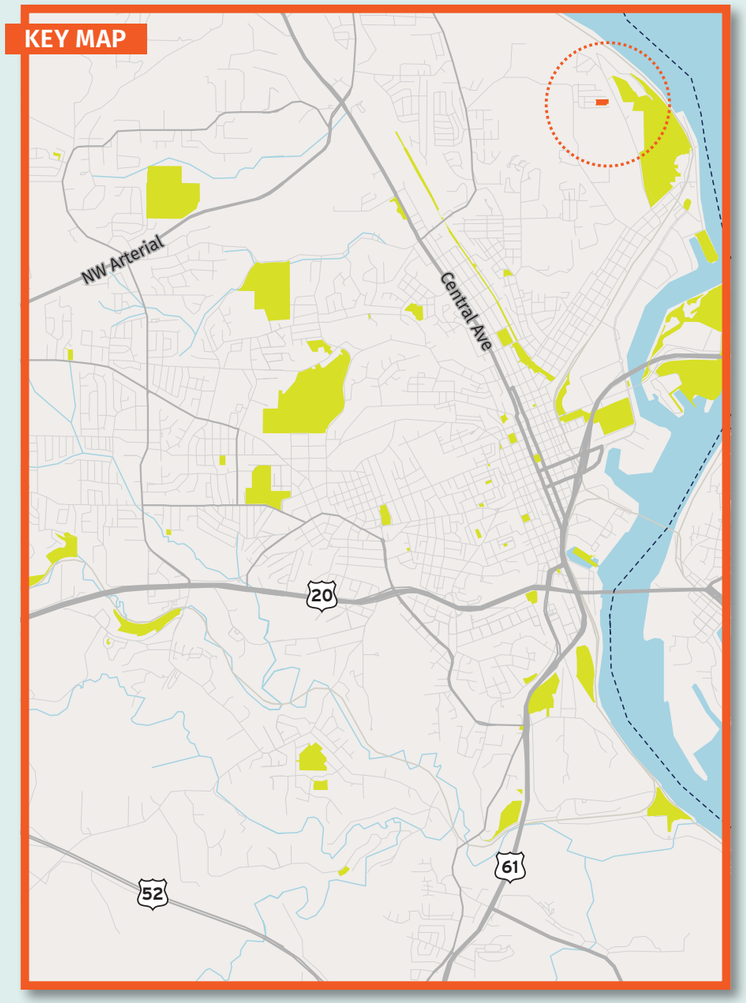
EAGLE VALLEY PARK

2095 HARPY EAGLE CT

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

2.3
ACRES

Eagle Valley Park is a Mini-Park located adjacent to Eagle Point Park. This 2.3 Acre park located in a residential district has great brand new amenities such as playgrounds, pavilions, benches and picnic tables. These all appear to be new and in great condition. This park can continue to serve the needs of the surrounding residential properties for a long time if properly maintained.





EAGLE VALLEY PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	2	5	Great condition
Bike Rack	1	4	Would be better located at entrance to park, great condition
Pavilion Open	1	5	Great condition
Picnic Table (Metal)	2	5	New and very vibrant color, great condition
Playground	2	5	Missing signage for age ranges, new and in great shape
Playground Surfacing	1,900 SF	5	Brand new rubberized surface
Railing (Wooden)	185 LF	5	
Sign (Monumentation)	1	5	Great condition just missing park information
Sidewalk (Concrete)	2,470 SF	5	
Swing Bench	1	5	Brand new
Trash	1	5	Great condition











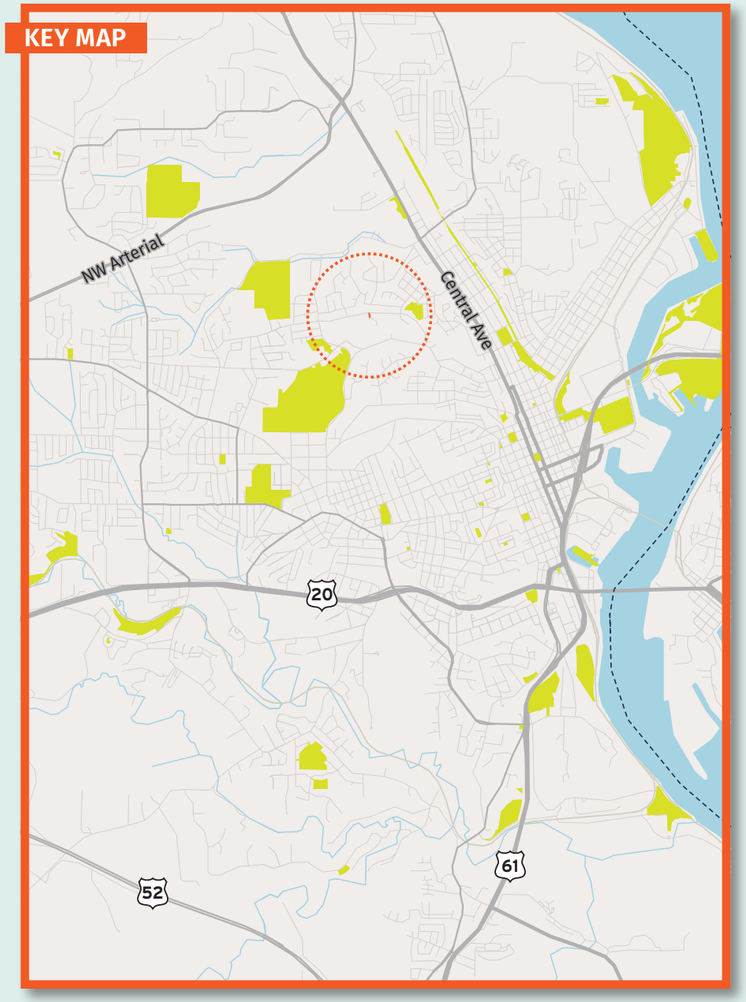
ELMWOOD GREEN PARK

0.2
ACRES

830 KANE ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

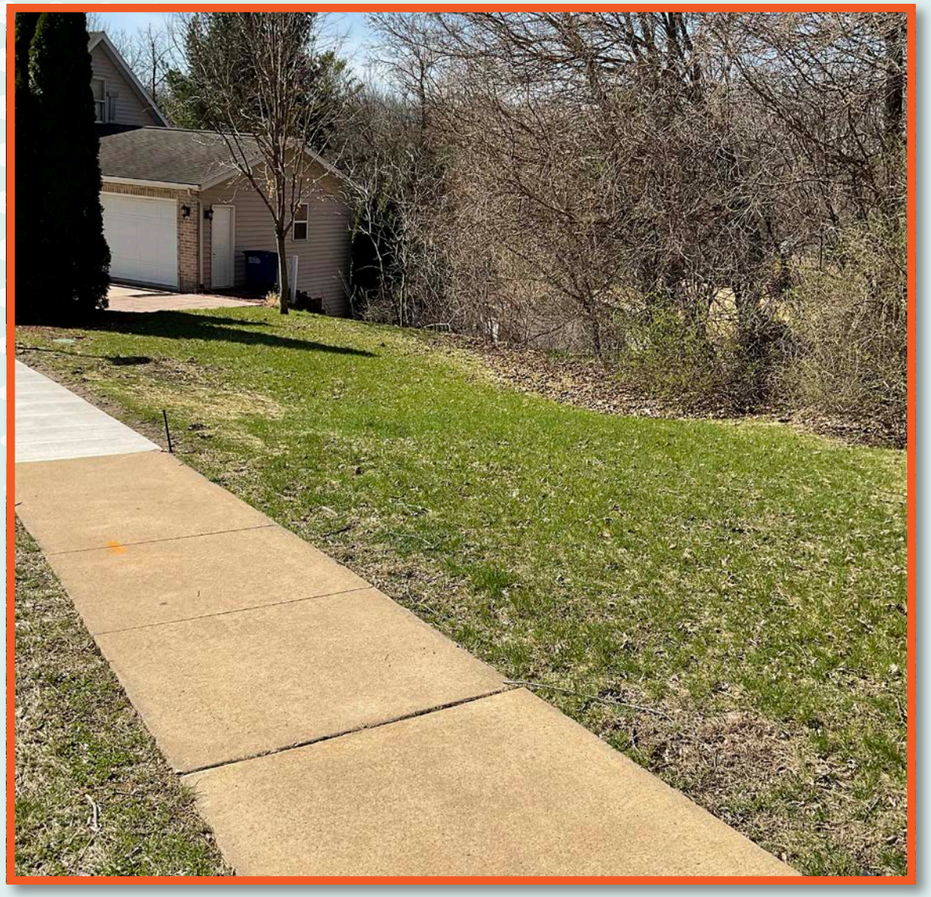
A small wooded lot inside a residential neighborhood. Although it has no infrastructure at this time, it may be possible to turn this into a quaint mini-park to better serve the needs of the community.

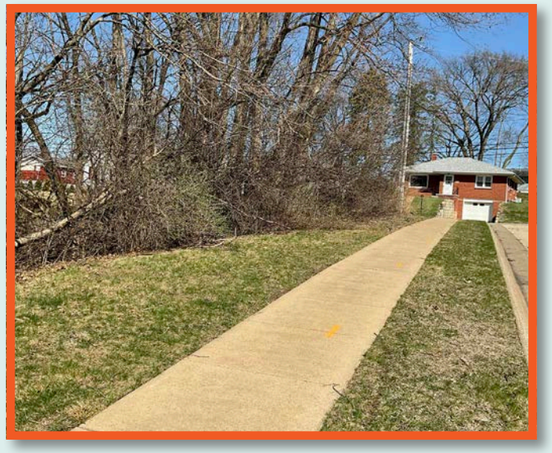




ELMWOOD GREEN PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Other	1	N/A	No amenities present





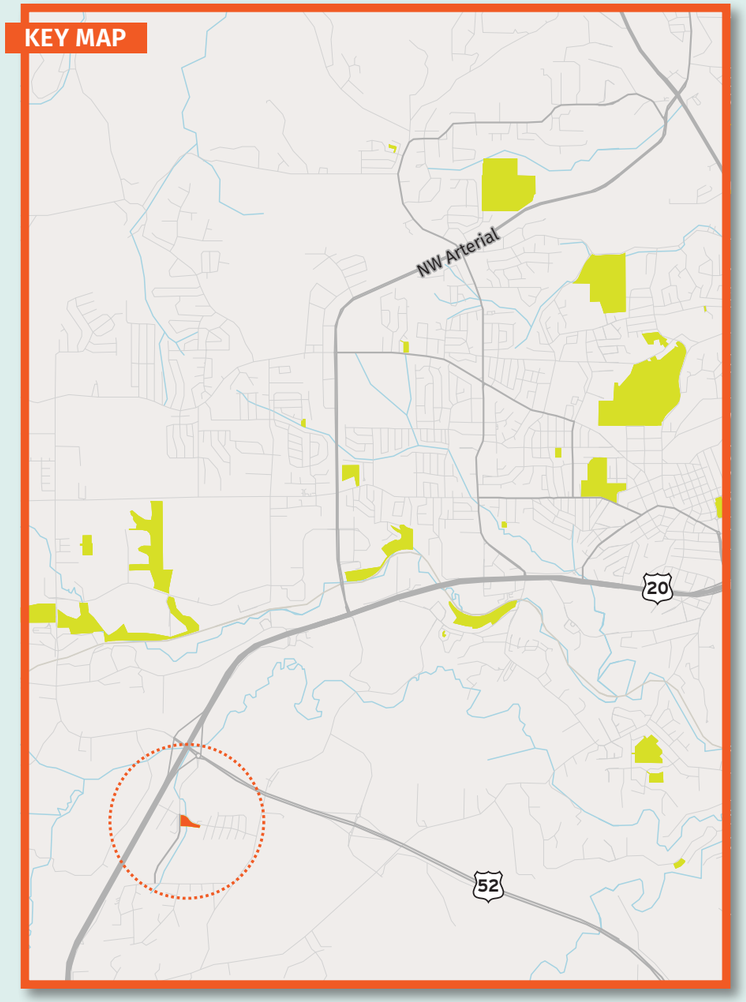
ENGLISH RIDGE PARK

3.9
ACRES

Stone Valley Dr

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Neighborhood**

English Ridge Park features playground equipment, an open Pavilion, a trash receptacle, Bike Racks, and a swinging bench. It sits at the entrance of a very rural neighborhood providing an opportunity for play for the surrounding residents. All of the equipment is new and in great shape. The drinking fountain only works for a moment when activated so this needs addressing, the dog bowl worked as intended. With its semi-secluded location the park could greatly benefit from lighting.





ENGLISH RIDGE PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	1	5	New swinging bench
Bike Rack	2	5	Very decorative bike rack, not installed at time of inventory
Drinking Fountain	1	4	New drinking fountain but bubbler/drinking fountain piece only went for a second and you couldn't drink from it/needs to be fixed, the water refill and dog bowl worked correctly, dirty
Pavilion Open	1	5	New and very nice
Picnic Table	2	5	New and nice, ADA accessible
Playground	1	4	Very nice and new, missing regulation signage/ age descriptions.
Playground Surfacing	1,140 SF	5	Brand new rubberized surface
Sign Monumentation	1	5	Nice new sign
Trash (Metal)	1	5	New











FALK PARK

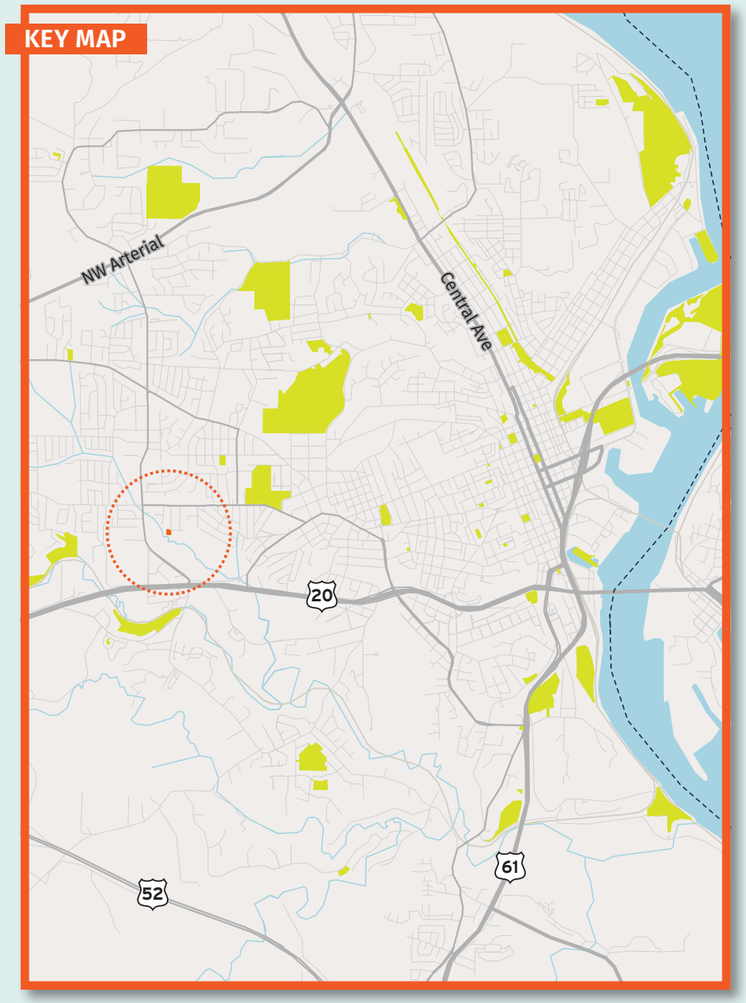
0.8 ACRES

1701 EARL DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Falk Park features playground equipment, lighting, a trash receptacle, a basketball court, and signage. The playground area shows wear and rust, with faded paint and rusting chains on swings. The lighting for the playground is extremely dated with weathered wooden poles. The trash receptacle exhibits normal wear and rusting bolts. The basketball court has an uneven asphalt surface and faded backboard with rusting metal poles. Park signage shows wear and has begun to lean. Addressing the aging infrastructure and upgrading amenities will greatly enhance the functionality and visual appeal of Falk Park for its users.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



FALK PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)	1	2	Rust was prevalent on hoop and pole, backboard faded
Basketball Court Surfacing (Asphalt)	670 SF	3	Cracking, uneven surface, no border with turf
Carsonite Property Posts	1	5	Three posts missing to determine park boundaries
Playground	1	3	No ADA access, some wear and tear, walking surfaces are rusting
Playground Equipment (Small)	3	2	Two sand diggers, one rocker
Swing (Two Bay)	1	3	Rust prevalent, decent condition
Sign	2	2	Wooden park sign, severely faded and rotted
Trash	1	2	Normal wear and tear, rust prevalent











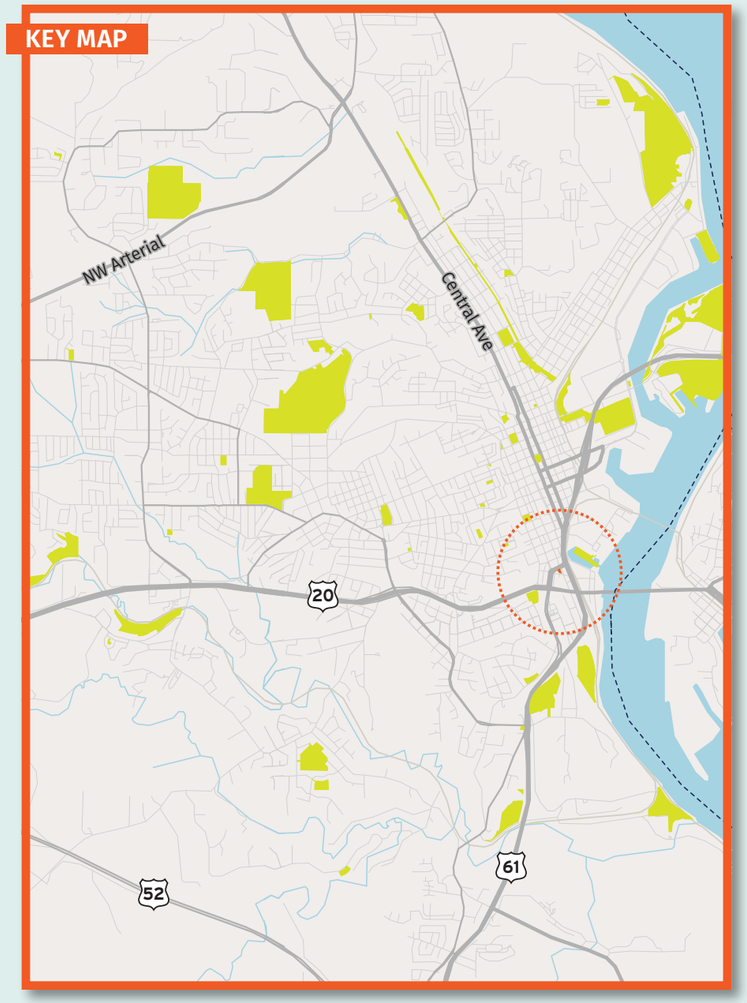
FLAT IRON PARK

0.4
ACRES

43 MAIN ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Flat Iron Park offers amenities including a picnic table, playground equipment, a bike rack, a drinking fountain, and a trash receptacle. The playground equipment shows chipping, wear, and rust, requiring additional wood fiber coverage for safety. The picnic table and bike rack are in good condition but show signs of rust and fading. The drinking fountain needs paint and rust repairs, although current water flow is off for the season. Addressing the rust and wear issues and ensuring adequate playground safety measures will improve the overall usability of Flat Iron Park.





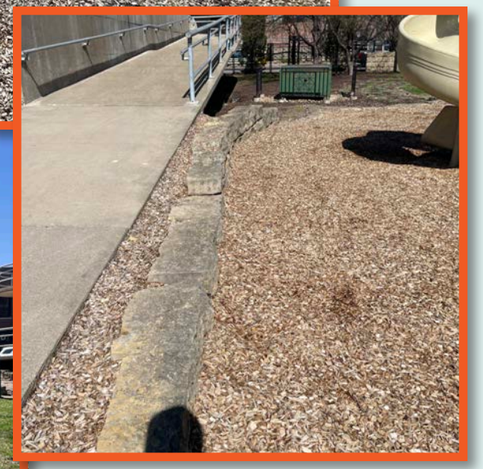
FLAT IRON PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bike Rack	1	4	Slight wear, overall great condition
Drinking Fountain - One Bubbler	1	3	Paint fading and rusting
Lighting Sidewalk	5	3	Worn but still good shape
Pet Waste Station	1	3	Decent condition
Picnic Table	1	4	Great condition
Playground	1	2	Aesthetic damage on all pieces, walking surface is cracking and beginning to break apart
Playground Surfacing (Wood Mulch)	2,340 SF	1	Needs replaced, not to depth
Sidewalk (Concrete)	1,745 SF	4	
Sidewalk (Pavers)	525 SF	3	Decent condition but uneven
Sign (Specialty)	1	5	Great condition, integrated lighting
Trash	2	4	Great condition









FLORA PARK

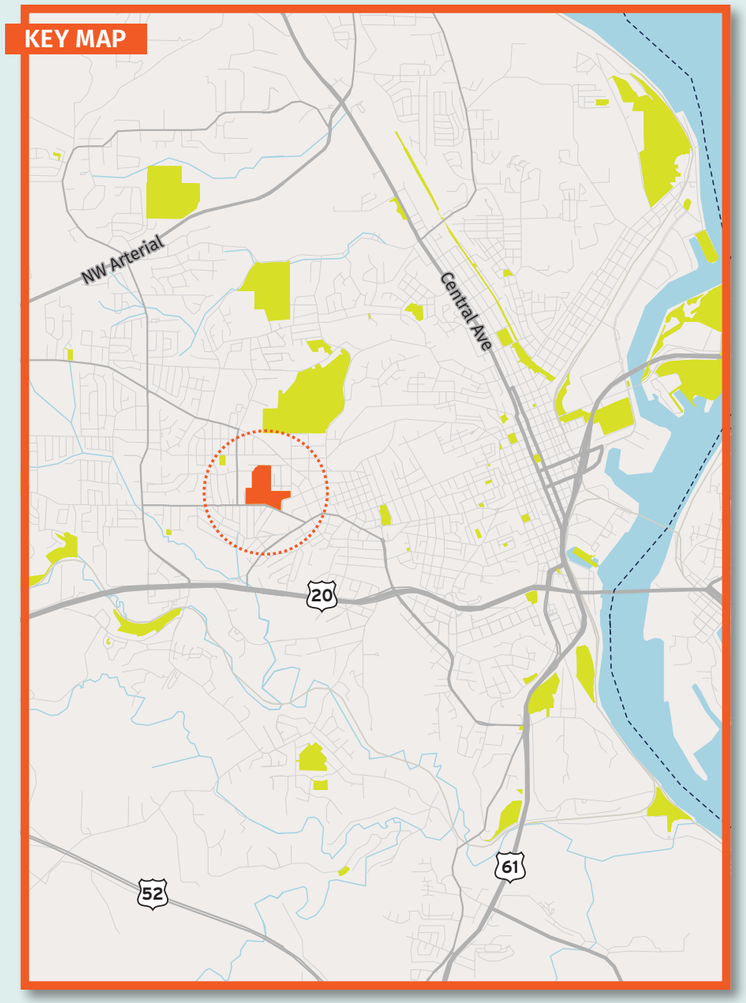
2605 PENNSYLVANIA AVE

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

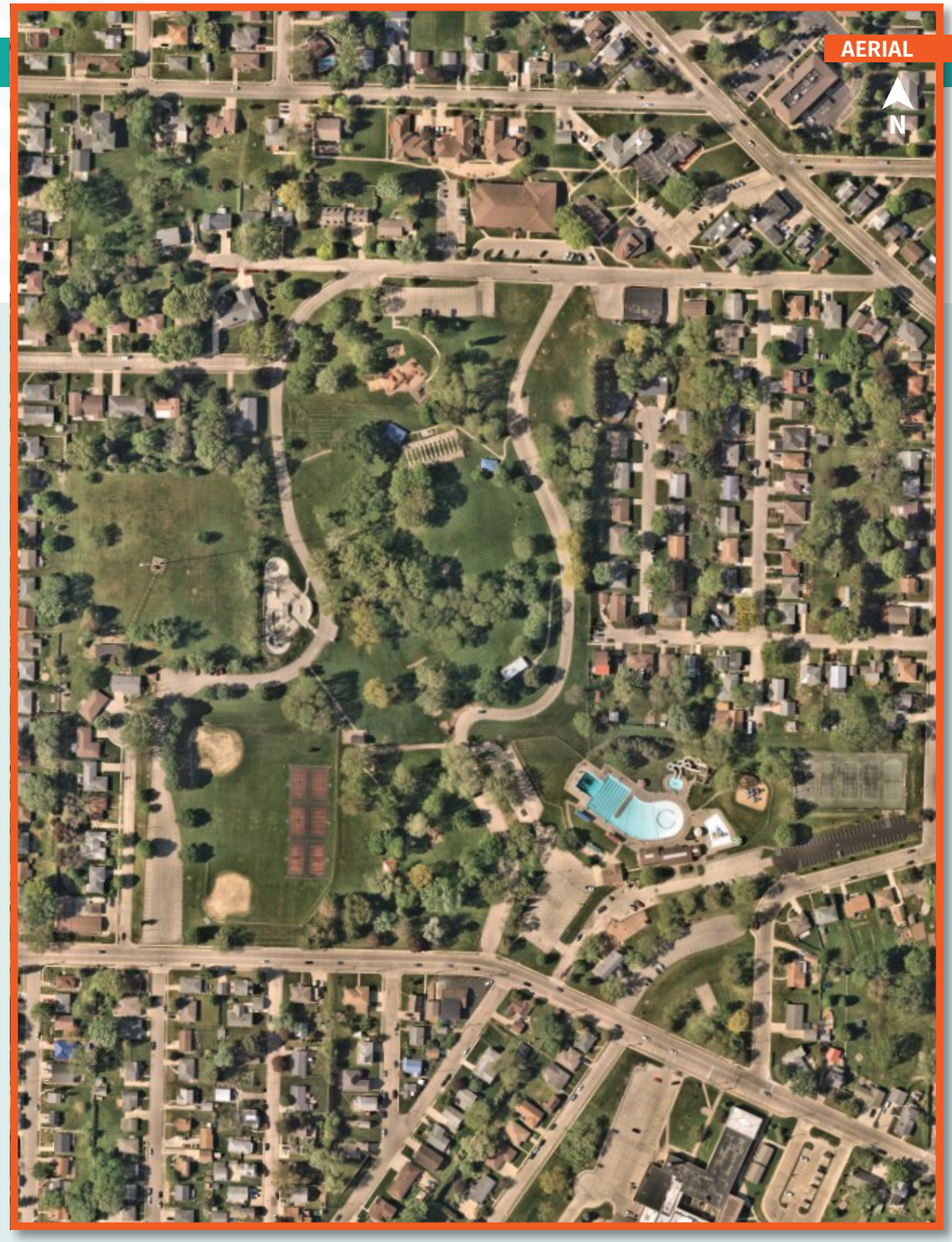
34.2
ACRES

Flora Park is equipped with a concession stand, restrooms, playgrounds, a splash pad, lighting, tennis courts, a multi-court, parking, and a skate park. The playground equipment is sun-faded and lacks ADA access, while the splash pad and multi-court are recently upgraded and in great condition. Tennis courts show large cracks and improper drainage. Restrooms and drinking fountains are often closed for the winter season. Pavilion areas are new with needed minor maintenance on concrete and signage. Immediate improvements needed include ensuring ADA compliance, addressing wear and tear on play structures, and enhancing overall accessibility.

KEY MAP



AERIAL

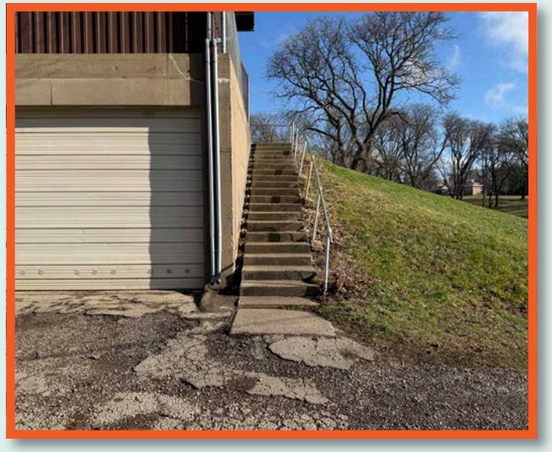


FLORA PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Aquatic Center (Pool)	45,900 SF	2	
Aquatic Slide Tower	1	3	Some wear and rust, seems to be in decent condition
Baseball	2	2	Backstop not regulation standard, no lighting
Concession	1,520 SF	3	New roof, exterior in good condition
Drinking Fountain	4	3	
Flag Pole	1	3	
Horseshoe	1	3	
Lighting Parking	1	2	
Lighting Walkway	4	3	
Multi Court	1	5	New condition, pickleball/volleyball
Parking	72,150 SF	3	ADA spaces, striping, and access needed
Pavilion Open	2	4	Good condition, some cracking in concrete surface
Picnic Table (Wood)	20	3	
Playground	3	2	(1) 2-5 year play areas is newer with new play surface, other playgrounds in need of replacement, ADA access, and additional wood chip surfacing
Playground Equipment	5	3	Diggers, spinners, climbing equipment
Pool Building	1	3	
Restroom	2	2	Restrooms near multi-courts in very poor condition, other buildings are in moderate condition with some rusting
Roadway (Asphalt)	46,620 SF	3	Decent condition
Sidewalk (Concrete)	8,890 SF	3	
Sign (Traffic Style)	26	5	ADA parking signs, speed limit signs, park hours and rules sign
Skate	1	3	Some superficial cracking
Splash Pad	1	5	
Swing	2	3	(1) one bay and (1) two bay
Tennis	1	1	Large surface cracks in field of play, pooling water in field of play, no ADA access
Trail Paved	1	4	
Trash	15	3	







FOUR MOUNDS PARK

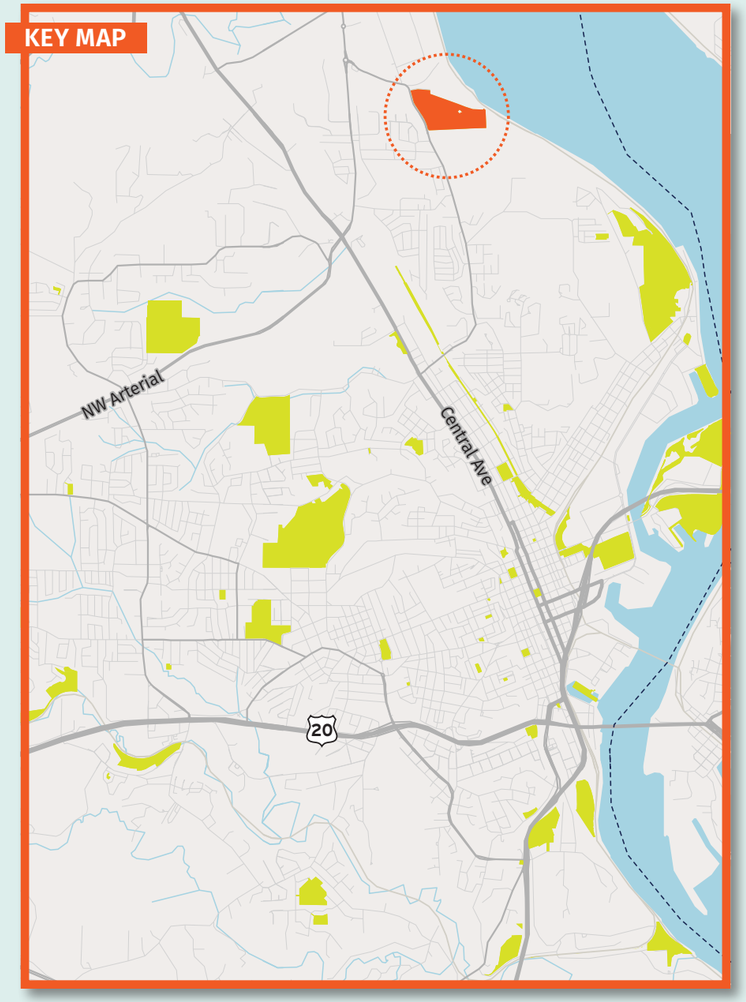
59.8
ACRES

4900 PERU RD

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Other**

Four Mounds Park features signage, parking areas, benches, and picnic tables. The park is in general good condition with recently striped parking areas, though ADA signage is missing. Benches range from concrete, in good shape, to wooden swing benches starting to rust and show wear. The picnic table is ADA friendly but located on a pad without a direct accessible path. Continued attention to ADA compliance and light maintenance on wear and tear will uphold the high standards of Four Mounds Park for community access and enjoyment.

KEY MAP



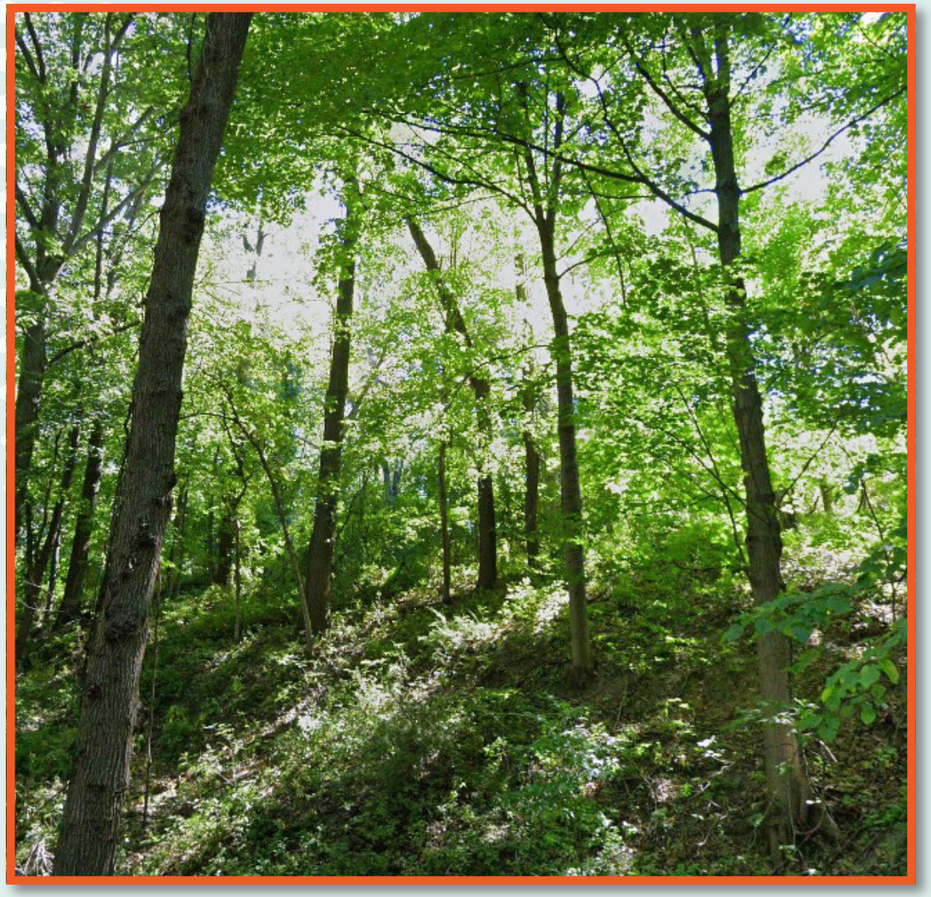
AERIAL



FOUR MOUNDS PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	2	3	No ADA access, some rust prevalent
Parking	4,520 SF	4	Paving and striping are in great shape, ADA spaces need signage
Signage	1	5	Brand new information panels





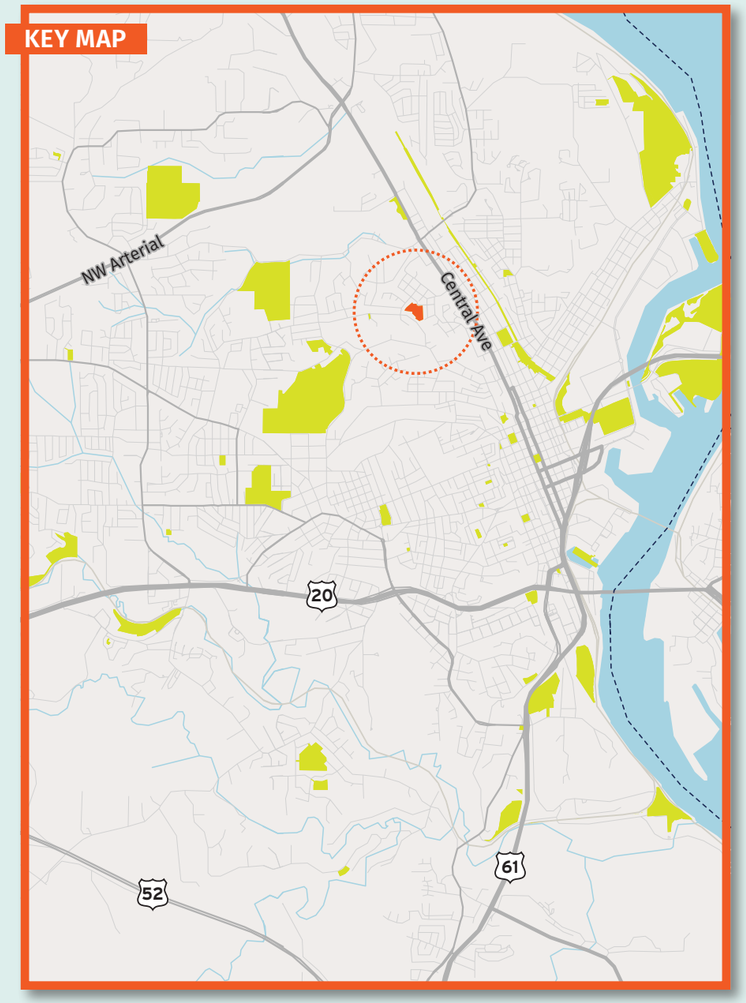
GAY PARK

2833 BURLINGTON ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Neighborhood**

5.9
ACRES

Gay Park amenities include a baseball field, picnic tables, a playground, a basketball court, and trash receptacles. The baseball field features adequate base and backstop fencing but lacks walkways and seating, leading to ADA issues. Picnic tables show rusting and graffiti, while the playground equipment is significantly worn and rusted, with insufficient mulch and no ADA access. The basketball court lacks striping, has rusting backboards, and has no dedicated lighting or seating. Ensuring proper ADA access, enhancing maintenance, and upgrading facilities will vastly improve the park's usability and presentation.





GAY PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Baseball	1	3	Field in decent condition, no walkways or seating
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)	1	5	Great condition
Basketball Surfacing (Asphalt)	570 SF	3	Not true half court size, no ADA, chipping cracking present
Other	1	5	Little wooden free library
Picnic Table	2	2	(1) metal, rusting and graffiti present/(1) wood
Playground	1	2	No ADA access, paint faded and cracking, rust prevalent
Playground Surfacing (Wood Mulch)	2,750 SF	2	Needs refreshed
Trash	2	4	Permanent post and removable plastic trash bin











GRANDVIEW GREEN SPACE

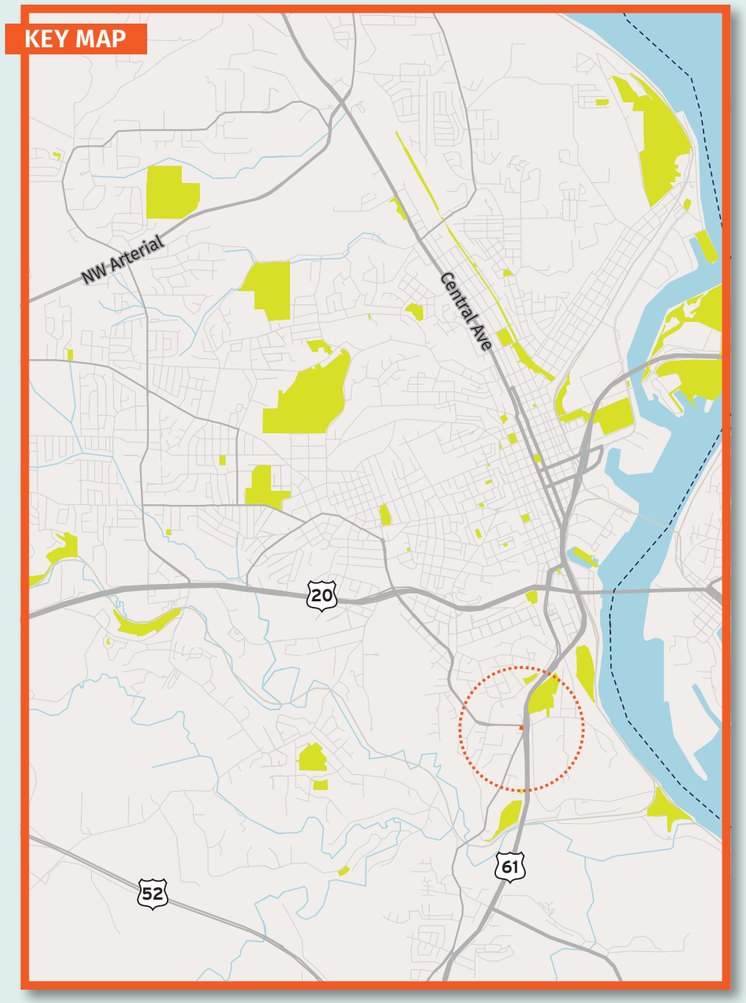
0.5
ACRES

1545 S GRANDVIEW AVE

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Other**

Grandview Green Space offers amenities such as a drinking fountain, paved trail, flag poles, benches, and lighting. The paved trails show some base failure and may require leveling. Benches are rusting and paint is flaking off, with memorial benches needing replacement or maintenance. The drinking fountain includes a wheelchair and dog bowl but is a little dirty. Flag poles and acorn light poles are sun-faded but functional. Minor maintenance on benches and trail surfaces will enhance the usability and visual appeal of the Grandview Green Space for visitors.

KEY MAP



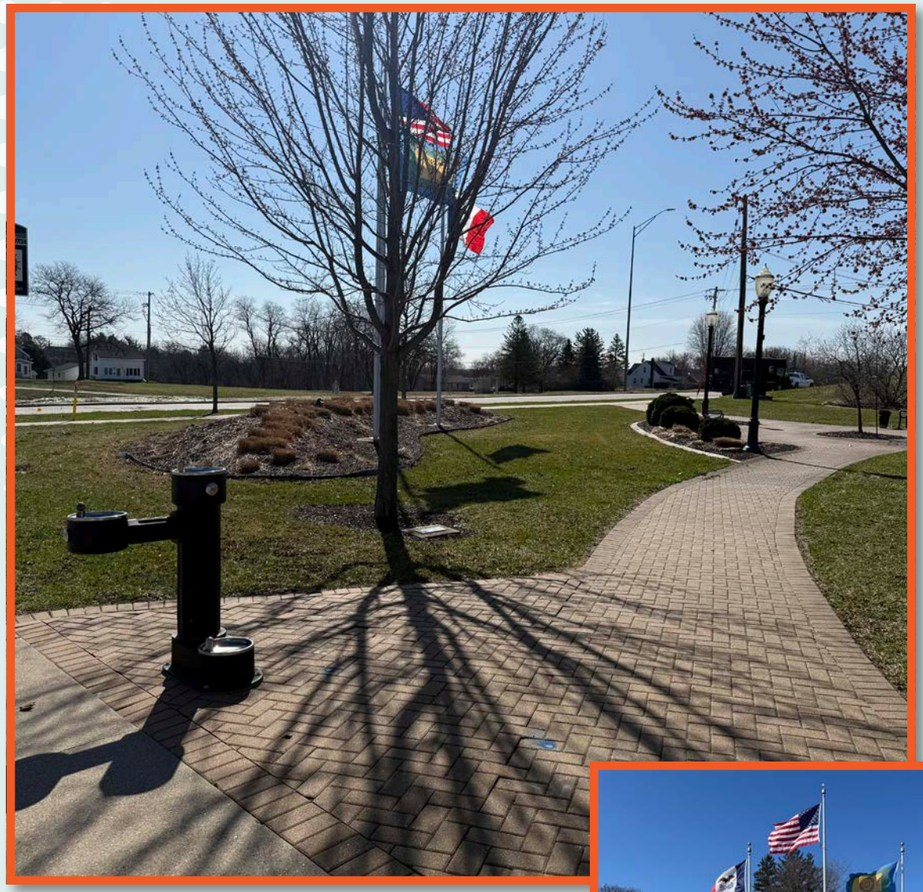
AERIAL



GRANDVIEW GREEN SPACE CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	4	3	Paint/enamel covering cracked and peeling
Drinking Fountain (Two Bubblers, One Pet Bowl)	1	4	Great condition, slightly dirty
Electric Pedestal	1	5	
Flag Pole	3	5	Great condition
Lighting Sidewalk	2	4	Paint slightly faded, great condition overall
Pet Waste Station	1	5	
Sidewalk (Brick)	1,630 SF	4	Good condition, some unevenness
Sign (Plaque)	5	5	
Trash	1	5	Great condition overall









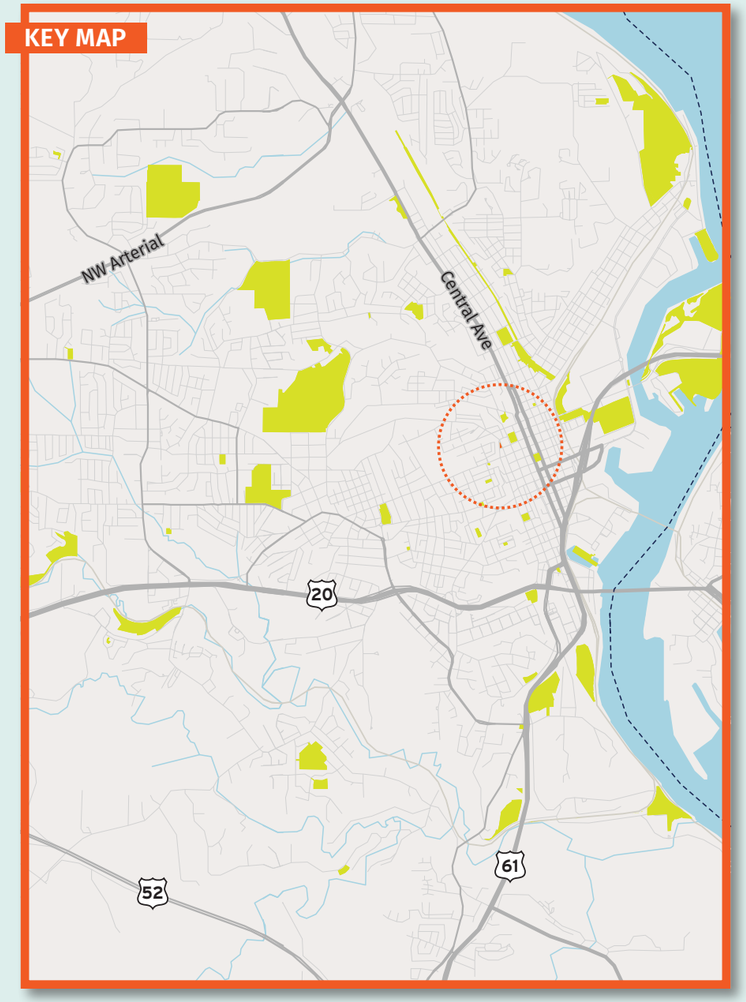
GRANT PARK

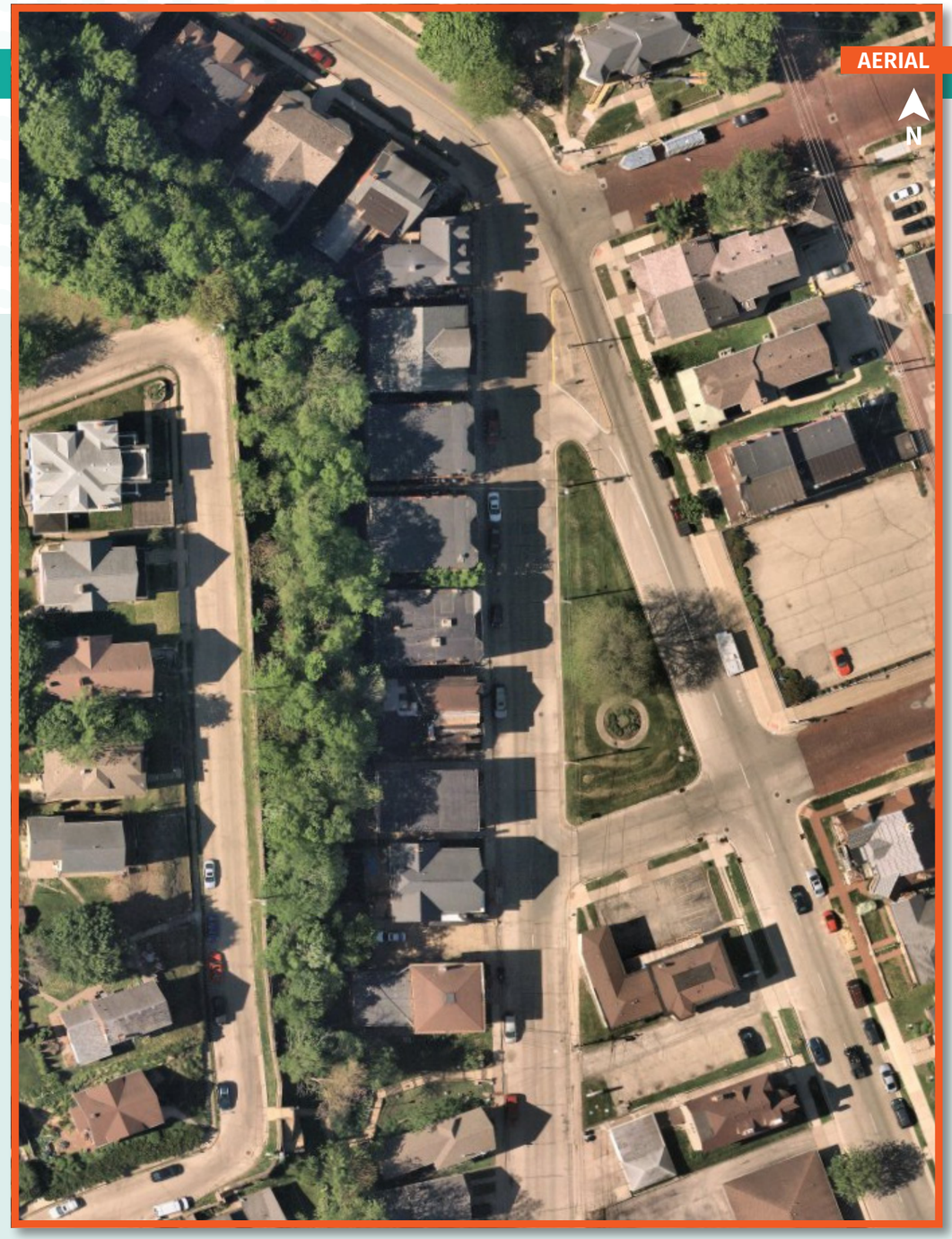
0.2
ACRES

1500 BLUFF ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Grant Park is a small Landscape island located in-between Locust Street and Bluff Street. There are no amenities present except for a trash can.





GRANT PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Pet Waste Station	1	4	
Sign (Traffic Sign with Post)	4	3	
Trash	1	4	Decent condition







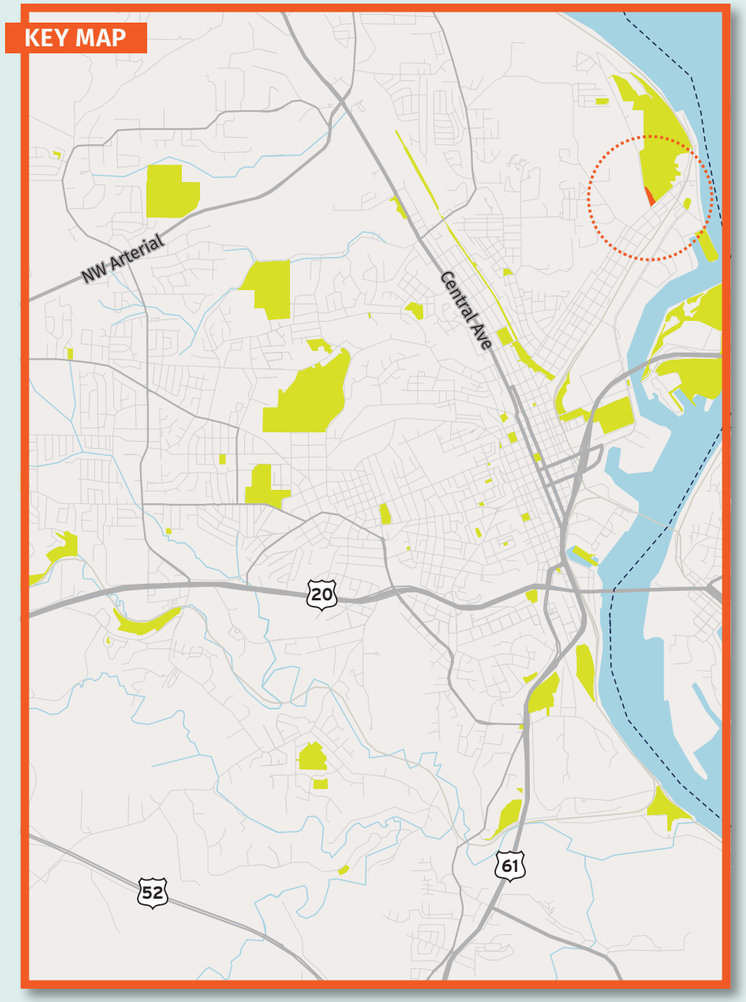
HAM HOUSE HISTORIC SITE

2.7
ACRES

2241 LINCOLN AVE

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Other**

Ham House Historic Site includes parking, signage, and a little free library. The parking lot is in good condition with crisp striping and ADA spots near one entrance, while another entrance lacks accessibility. Signage shows wear and scratches. The little free library exhibits rotting wood and faded paint. The property is currently under construction and closed for the season. Addressing the wear and wood deterioration on amenities will maintain safety and improve the site's presentation once it reopens to the public.



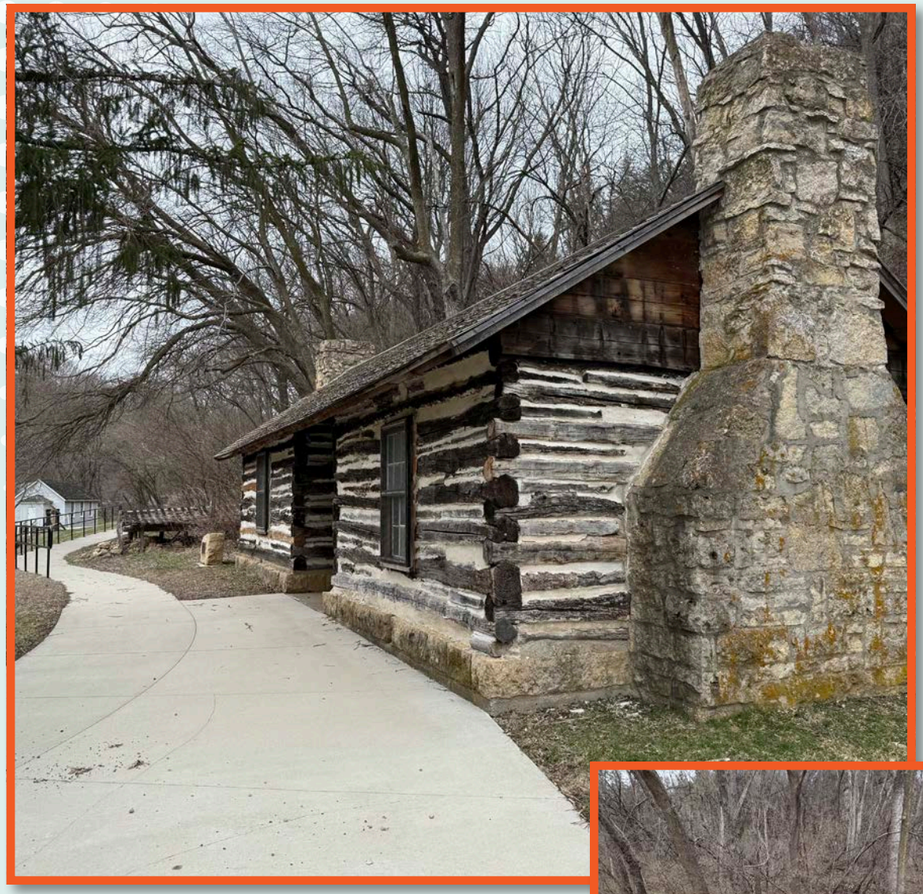


HAM HOUSE HISTORIC SITE CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Lighting Parking	1	3	LED light on wooden pole, wood is worn but decent
Lighting Walkway	2	3	Flood style light on metal pole, some rusting present
Other	1	N/A	Historical site
Parking	6,600 SF	4	Great condition of surface and striping
Sign (Interpretive Display with Post)	6	4	Ham house signage and info boards











HARVEST VIEW PARK

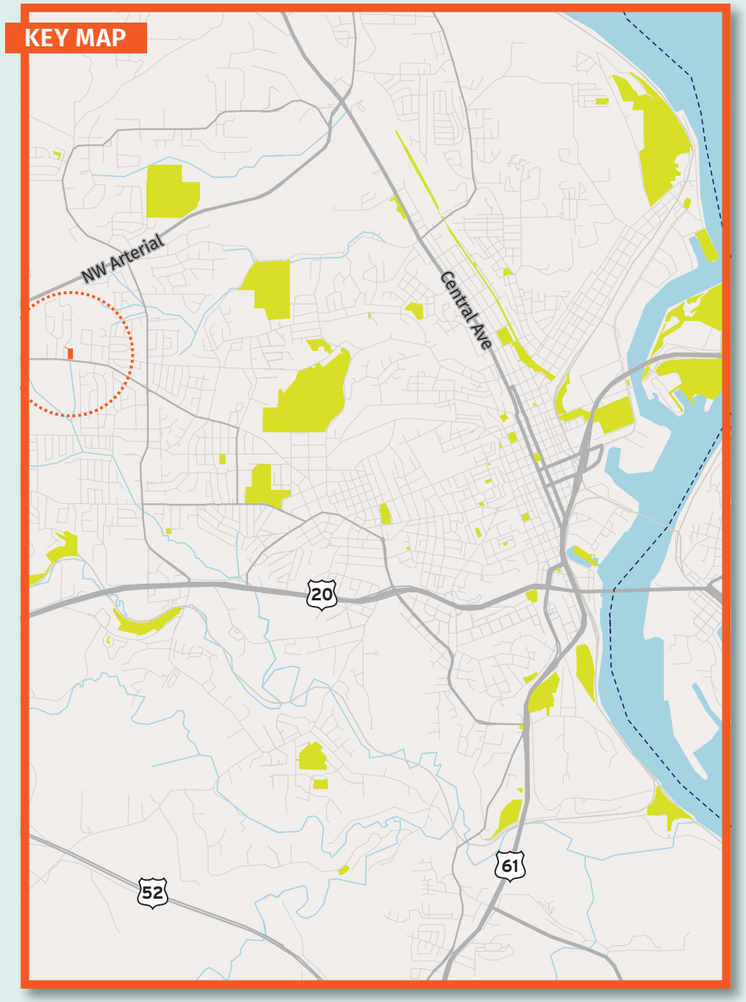
1.8
ACRES

2350 MATTHEW JOHN DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Harvest View Park features a pavilion, playground, and benches. The pavilion is in excellent condition with a wooden pergola and stamped concrete surface. Playground equipment is in decent condition but exhibits surface rust and sun fading. A single loose bench is present. Minor rust treatment on the playground equipment and ensuring all park amenities are securely fixed will keep Harvest View Park a safe and enjoyable space for visitors.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



HARVEST VIEW PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	1	3	Decent metal bench
Pavilion Open	1	4	Wooden pergola, overall great condition.
Picnic Table	2	3	Decent condition, wooden tables
Playground	1	3	Surface rust on metal elements present, shade on structure is not adequate, decent condition overall
Playground Surfacing (Wood Mulch)	1,650 SF	2	Doesn't appear to be at depth, needs refreshed
Sidewalk (Asphalt)	1,750 SF	3	Cracks and spalling present
Sidewalk (Integral Color Concrete)	1,800 SF	4	Great condition integral color and stamped concrete











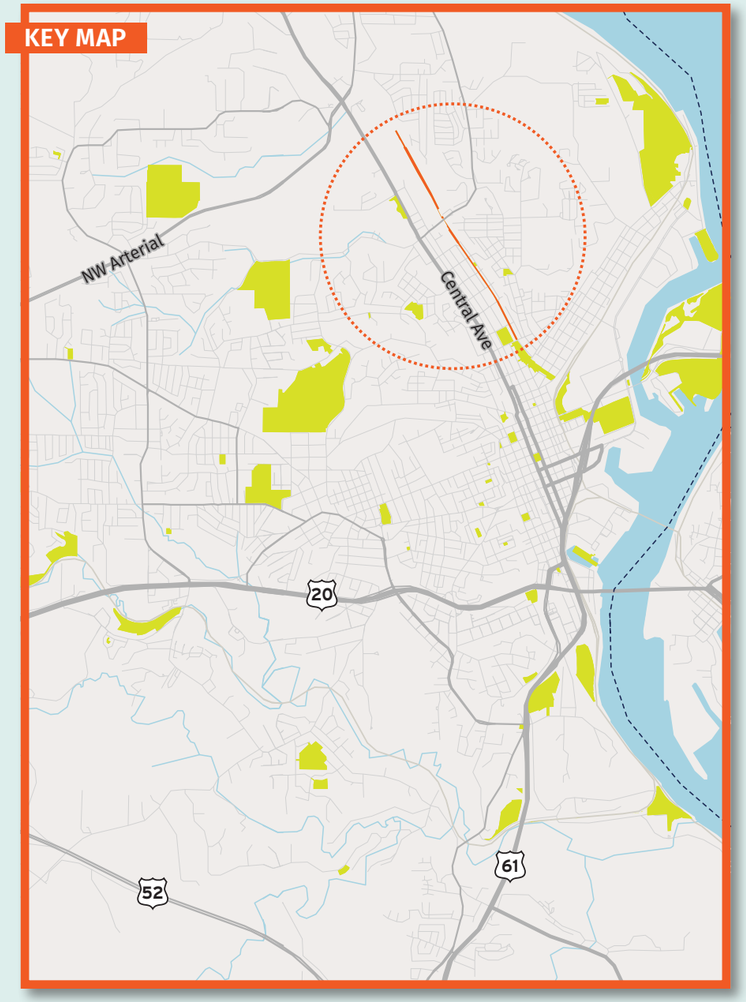
HERITAGE TRAIL

1.8
ACRES

2825 HILLCREST RD

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Heritage Trail is a 26-mile long multi-use trail connecting the Dubuque area with Dyersville, Iowa. It features benches, bike racks, picnic tables, signage, trash cans, and access to nearby parks. The trail surface is mostly compacted crushed limestone, with only the urban access portion in Dubuque is paved. Maintenance should include smoothing or paving the limestone-surface segments and ensuring all amenities remain clean, level, stable and accessible to improve safety and functionality.



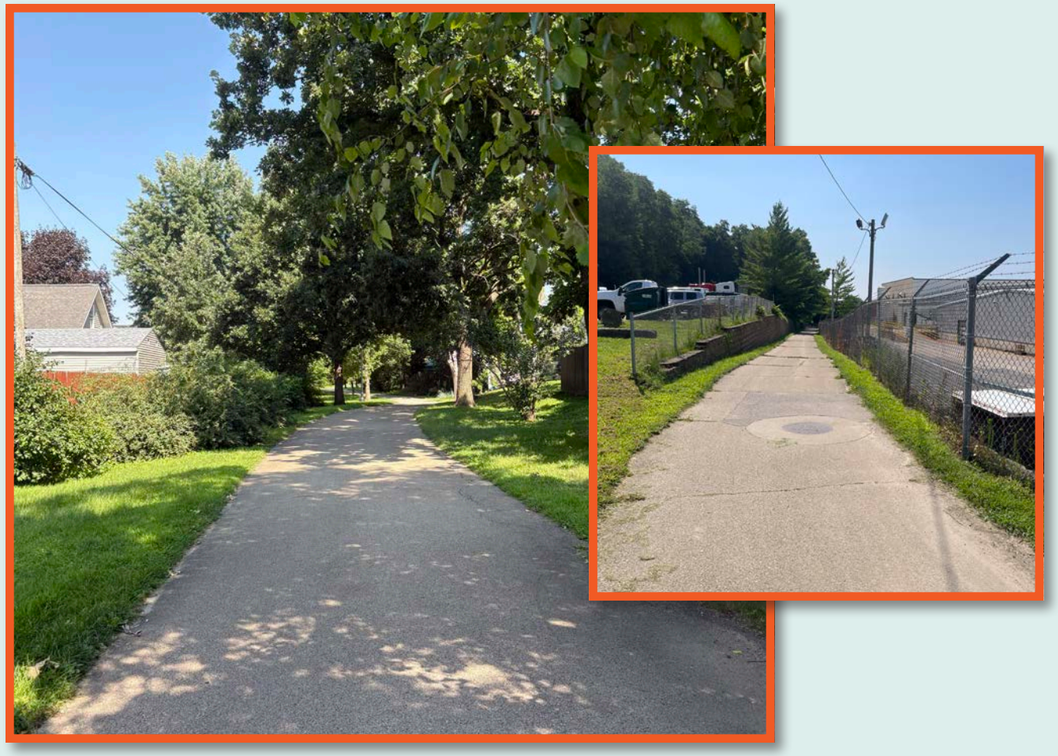


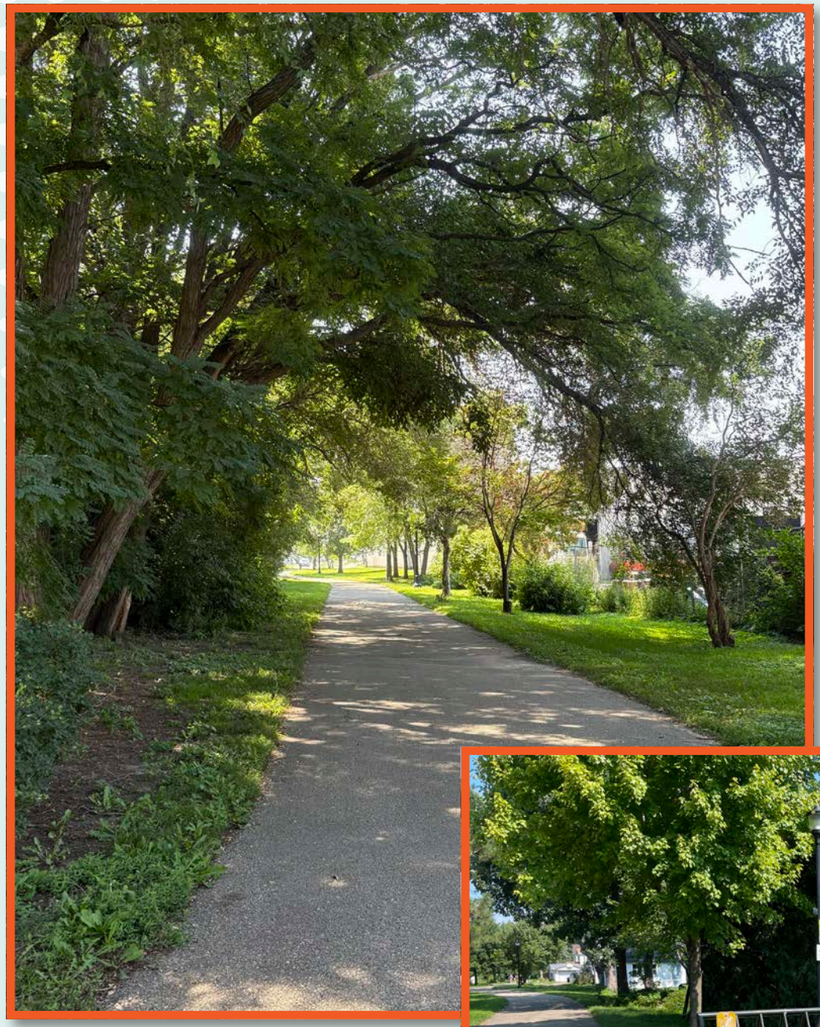
Y(OUR) STORY

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

HERITAGE TRAIL CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	2	5	Some scratches, but looks new.
Bike Rack	1	3	Good shape
Parking (Asphalt)	6,430 SF	3	ADA compliant spots, decent condition, apart of trailhead
Pet Waste Station	1	4	Located at trailhead
Picnic Table	1	4	With roof, on concrete pad, ADA accessible
Sign (Traffic Style)	3	3	ADA parking space sign, pet waste station sign, park sign
Signage	1	4	Good overall condition
Trash	2	2	Rusted, some on concrete pads some not
Trailhead	1	3	Parking lot and Kiosk







HILLCREST PARK

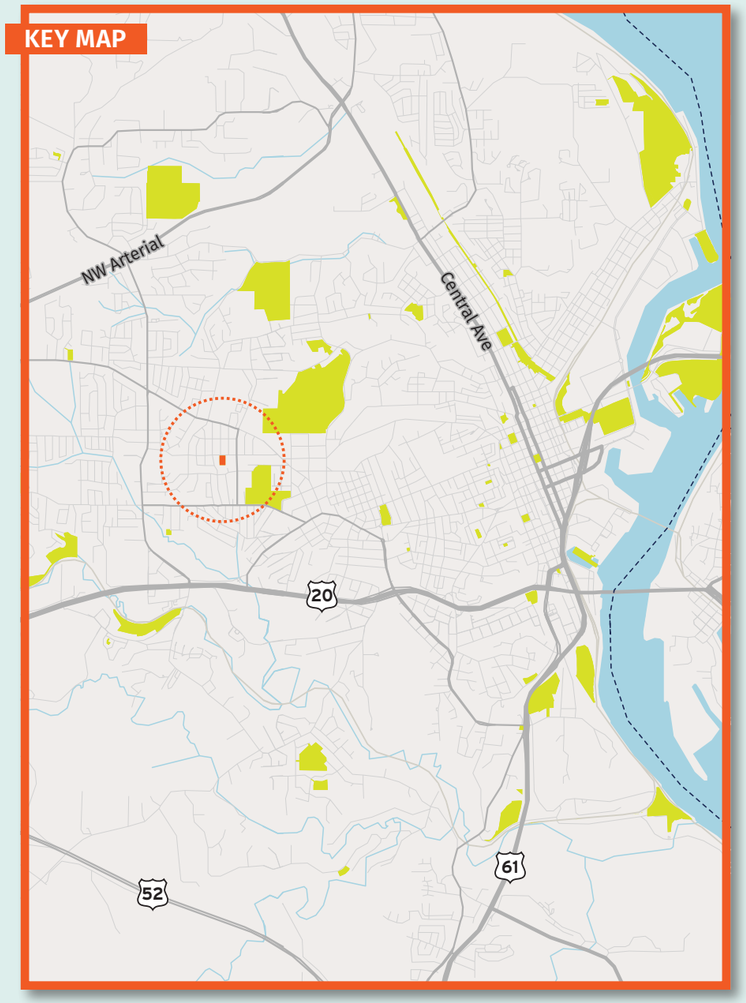
1.8 ACRES

2825 HILLCREST RD

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Hillcrest Park offers a parking area, BBQ grill, playground, and benches. The parking area and playground show significant wear, with the playground equipment heavily rusted and lacking ADA access or shade. The BBQ grill is rusted and dirty, without ADA accessibility. Benches are also rusting and weathered. Regular maintenance to address rust, aging, and ensuring ADA compliance for all facilities will improve Hillcrest Park's safety and functionality for visitors.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



HILLCREST PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
BBQ Grill	1	2	Extremely rusted, no ADA access
Parking	2,040 SF	2	Asphalt and striping are very faded
Playground	1	1	Major rusting prevalent, no shade or seating, no ADA access, wood chips in decent condition but no edging present
Playground Surface	4,810 SF	1	Mulch needs refreshed
Playground Equipment	3	2	Two sand diggers, one spring rocker
Trash	1	3	No ADA access











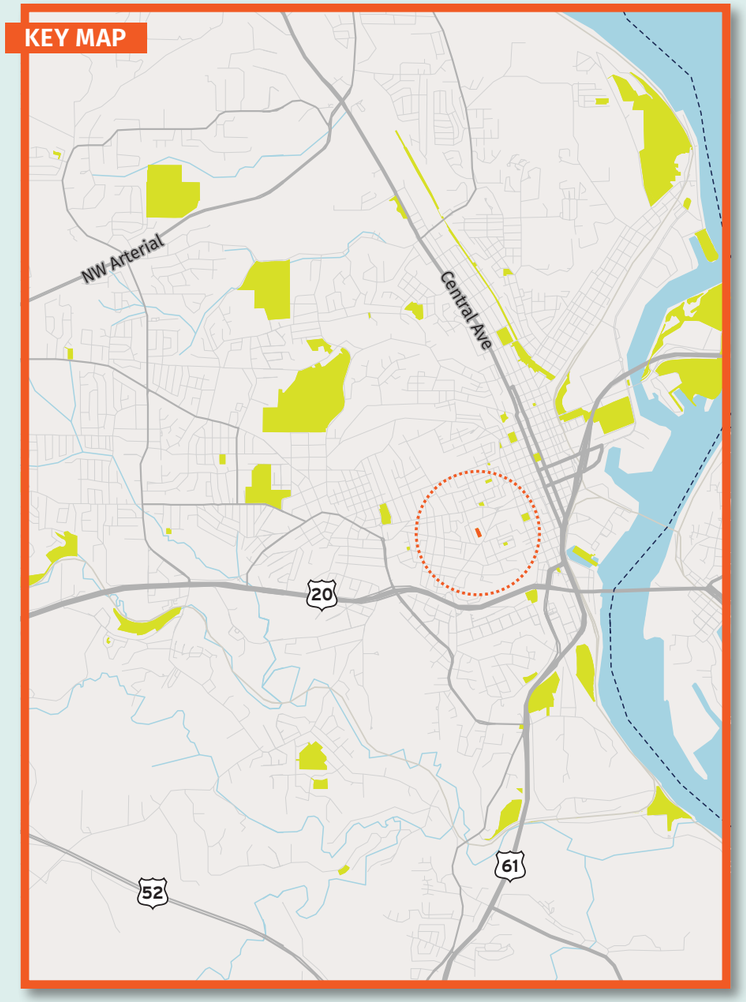
HILLTOP PARK

1.1
ACRES

600 WILSON AVE ALLEY EAST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Hilltop Park includes a basketball court, swing set, playground equipment, and flag poles. The basketball court shows major cracking, lacks defined borders, and has no striping. The swing set and playground equipment exhibit rust and wear, needing additional wood fiber and lacking ADA access. Flag poles require minor maintenance. Enhancing the basketball court's surface and improving the condition and accessibility of play equipment will significantly benefit Hilltop Park's usability and visitor experience.





HILLTOP PARK CONTINUED

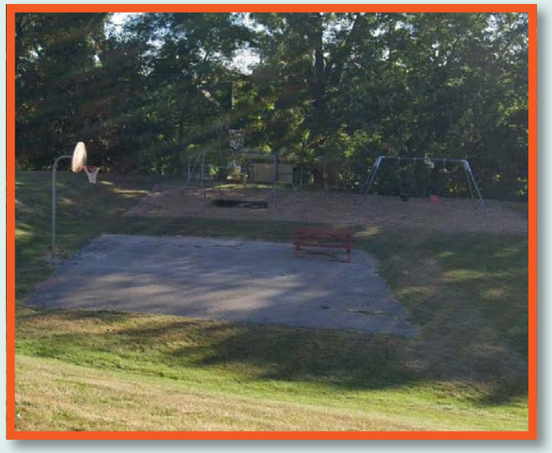
AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Basketball	1	2	Equipment is dated, rest prevalent
Basketball Surface (Asphalt)	905 SF	2	Cracking, spalling present
Flag Pole	3	4	Decent condition
Parking	1	1	Only one space available, not ADA or paved
Picnic Table	2	2	Marked ADA but not accessible, wear and on slope
Playground	1	1	Very aged equipment, no shade, rusted and no ADA access
Playground Equipment	2	2	Old jungle gym, spring rocker
Playground Surface	4,090 SF	2	Mulch needs refreshed
Retaining Wall (Railroad Tie)	55 LF	2	
Sign (Traffic with Post)	1	3	
Swing (One - Bay)	1	2	Poor condition
Trash	1	3	











JACKSON PARK

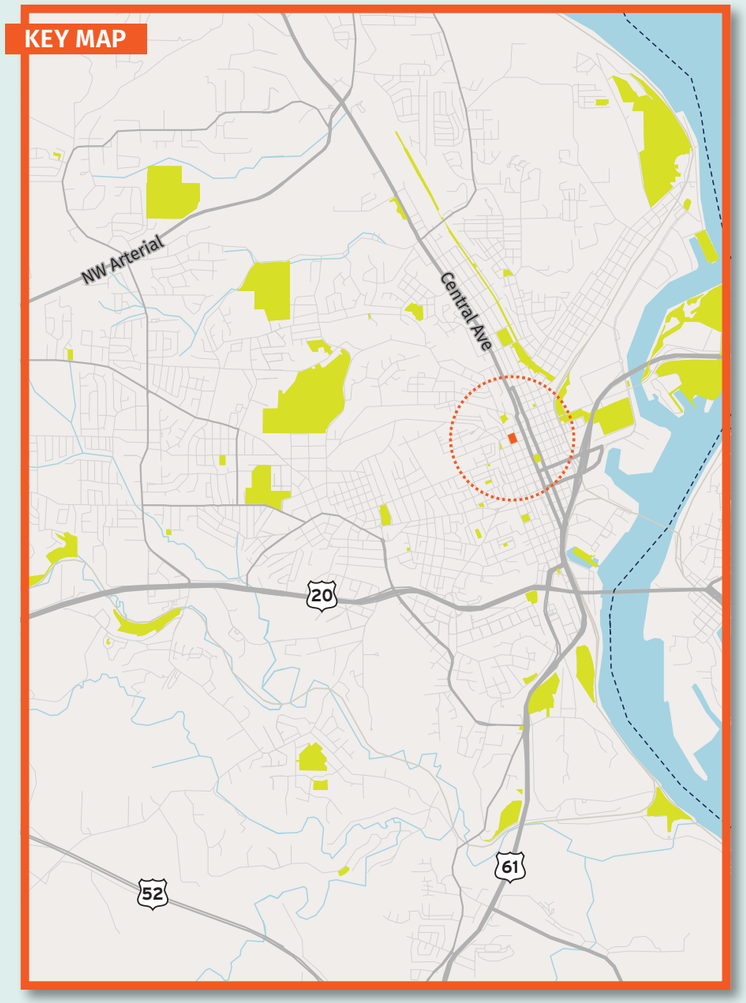
2.1 ACRES

1500 MAIN ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Jackson Park features a bike rack, picnic tables, playground equipment, a basketball court, drinking fountain, benches, BBQ grill, trash cans, and signage. The bike rack and picnic tables are in decent shape but not ADA compliant. Playground equipment and benches show fading, chipping, rust, and lack of ADA access. Drinking fountains and BBQ grills exhibit wear and superficial damage. Signage is worn and vandalized. Ensuring ADA compliance, repairing wear and tear, and enhancing overall maintenance will improve park usability and visitor experience.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



JACKSON PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
BBQ Grill	1	3	Rust present, decent condition
Bench	7	3	Decent condition overall, some rust and fading present, ADA access on some but not all
Bike Rack	1	3	Decent condition
Drinking Fountain	1	2	Rust prevalent and graffiti
Lighting Sidewalk	14	4	Great condition, security cameras present
Security cameras	14	2	Pole mounted security cameras, dirty, unsure of functionality
Other	1	N/A	Electric pedestal, not graded
Other	1	1	Memorial monument, appears to have been a fountain at one time, dirty and full of weeds
Picnic Table (Metal)	4	3	Good condition metal picnic tables
Picnic Table (Wood)	3	3	
Playground (2-12 Years)	1	2	Severely faded and paint failing, very dated, shaded by surrounding trees
Playground (5-12 Years)	1	2	Severely faded and paint failing, very dated, shaded by surrounding trees
Sign (Interpretive)	4	3	Signs are fading and do not appear to be maintained
Sign (Monumentation)	1	3	Park name monumentation sign, metal sign on metal poles
Swing (1 Bay)	1	3	Toddler swings, some rust prevalent, decent condition









JEFFERSON PARK

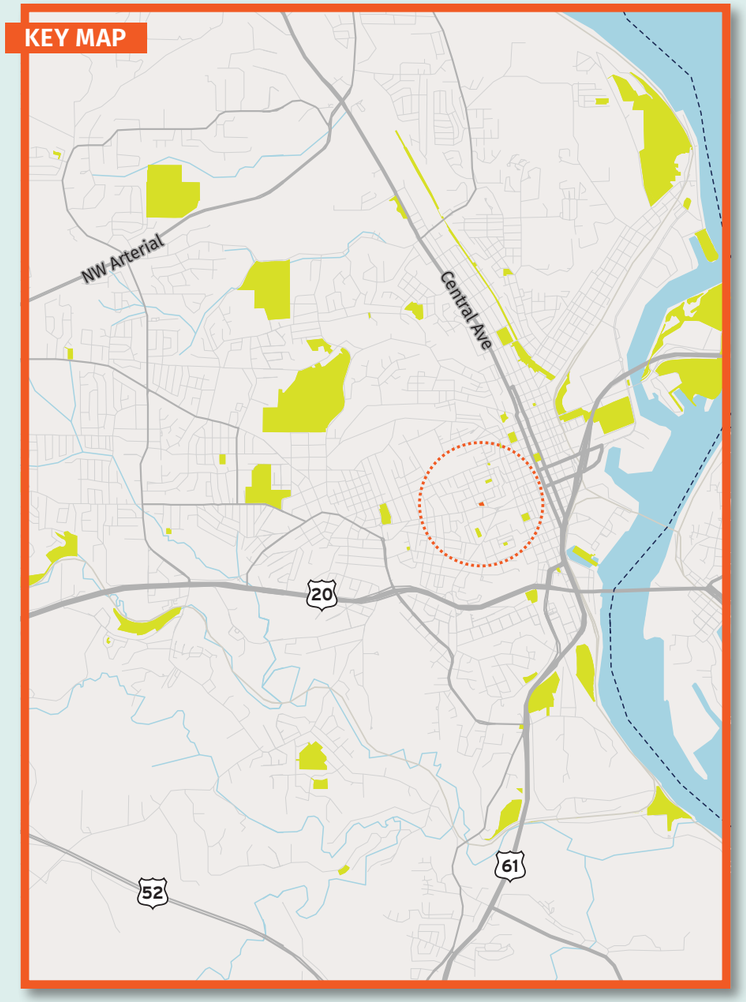
0.5
ACRES

665 UNIVERSITY AVE

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Jefferson Park offers a basketball court, playground, picnic tables, BBQ grill, sign, and trash receptacles. The area shows significant wear, especially on the playground equipment which has major signs of scuffs, faded paint, sun exposure, and inadequate wood fiber. The basketball court has no striping and access via stairs only deters playability. Signs show aging, and there's considerable trash buildup. Implementing additional maintenance to ensure ADA compliance and addressing wear and trash issues will enhance the park's overall appeal.

KEY MAP

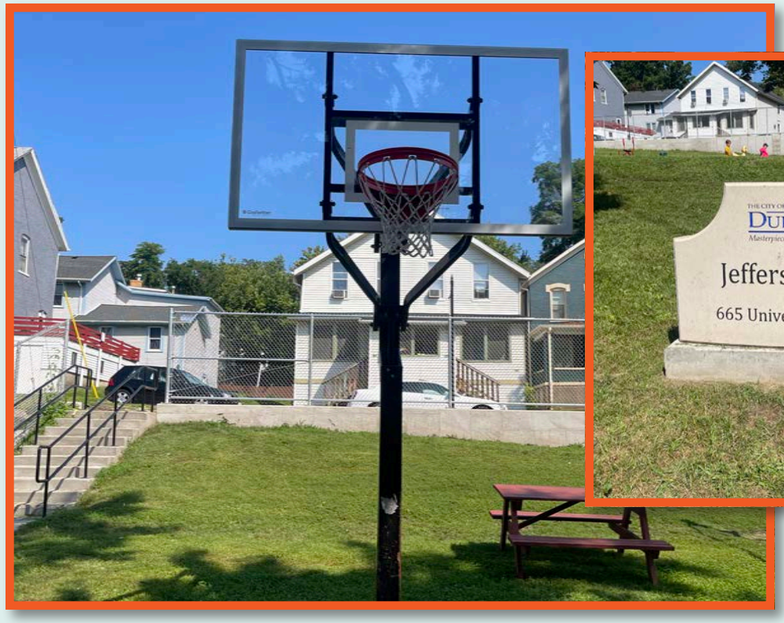


AERIAL



JEFFERSON PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)	1	4	Great condition
Basketball Court Surface (Asphalt)	2,160 SF	2	Full of tree litter, cracks, spalling
BBQ Grill	1	3	Decent condition
Picnic Table	4	3	One metal, three wooden
Playground	1	2	Major signs of wear, lots of trash present
Playground Surface (Mulch)	1,915 SF	2	Needs refreshed, does not appear to be to depth
Playground Equipment	5	1	Three spring rockers, two sand diggers, sand does not appear to be sufficient depth and is littered with garbage, major wear and sun fading
Railing	35 LF	5	Great condition
Sidewalk	210 SF	4	Great condition
Sign Monumentation	1	5	Park memorial sign
Trash	1	4	Good condition











JOHN G BERGFELD RECREATION AREA

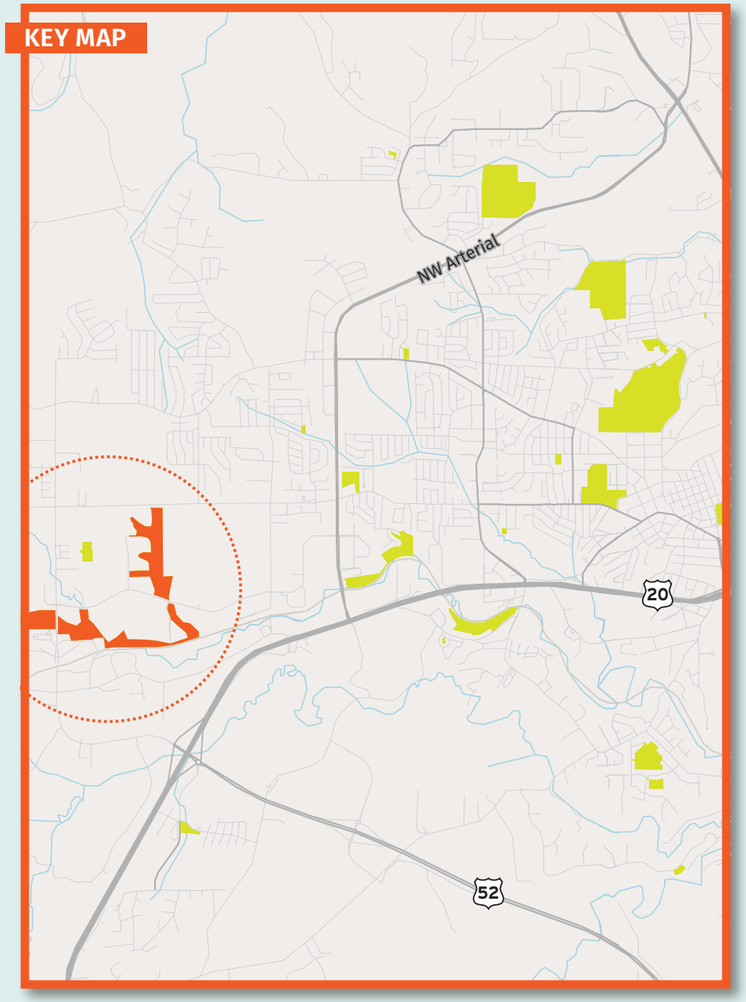
125.6
ACRES

7600 CHAVENELLE RD

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

John G Bergfeld Recreation Area features amenities such as restrooms, drinking fountains, parking, playground, pavilion, flag poles, benches, pedestrian bridges, and a lake. Playground equipment shows light rusting. Parking area and restrooms exhibit surface cracking and spalling. Flag poles and most benches are in good condition. Vegetation growth and wood cracking on pedestrian bridges need addressing. Continued maintenance, particularly of metal elements and structural surfaces, will ensure this recreation area remains a welcoming environment for all visitors.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



Y(OUR) STORY

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE Masterpiece on the Mississippi

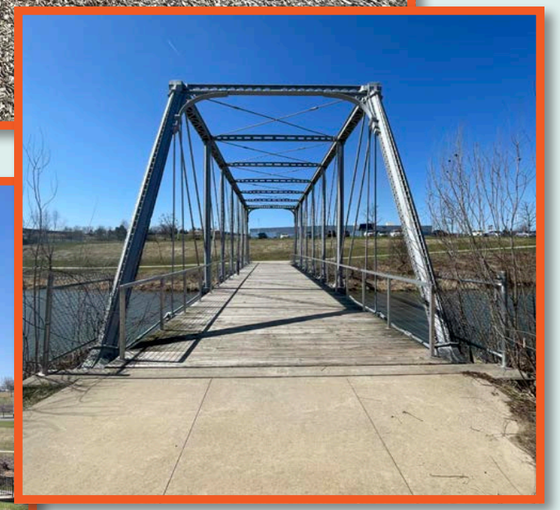
JOHN G BERGFELD RECREATION AREA CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	9	3	Most in good condition, three benches are rusting and severely faded
Drinking Fountain	2	4	Slight wear, includes a dog drinking fountain
Flag Pole	3	4	Good condition
Lake	9 AC	4	
Lighting (Parking)	2	3	
Pedestrian Bridge	2	3	Wood fading and some cracking, structural evaluation not performed
Parking (Asphalt)	16,875 SF	3	Some cracking and spalling, decent striping
Pavilion Closed	1	3	Wood is weathered, decent condition
Picnic Table	2	2	Severely faded, warping
Playground	1	2	Rusting at welds, surfacing starting to break
Playground Surfacing (Mulch)	2,040 SF	3	Needs refreshed
Restroom	1	4	Light wear on roof, exterior evaluation only
Sidewalk (Concrete)	126,150 SF	3	Decent condition, cracks present
Sign (Park Naming)	1	1	Wooden monument sign, at end of its life, needs replaced with Dubuque standard
Sign (Interpretive Display with Post)	3	2	
Sign (Dubuque Bike Map)	1	4	
Trash	1	3	









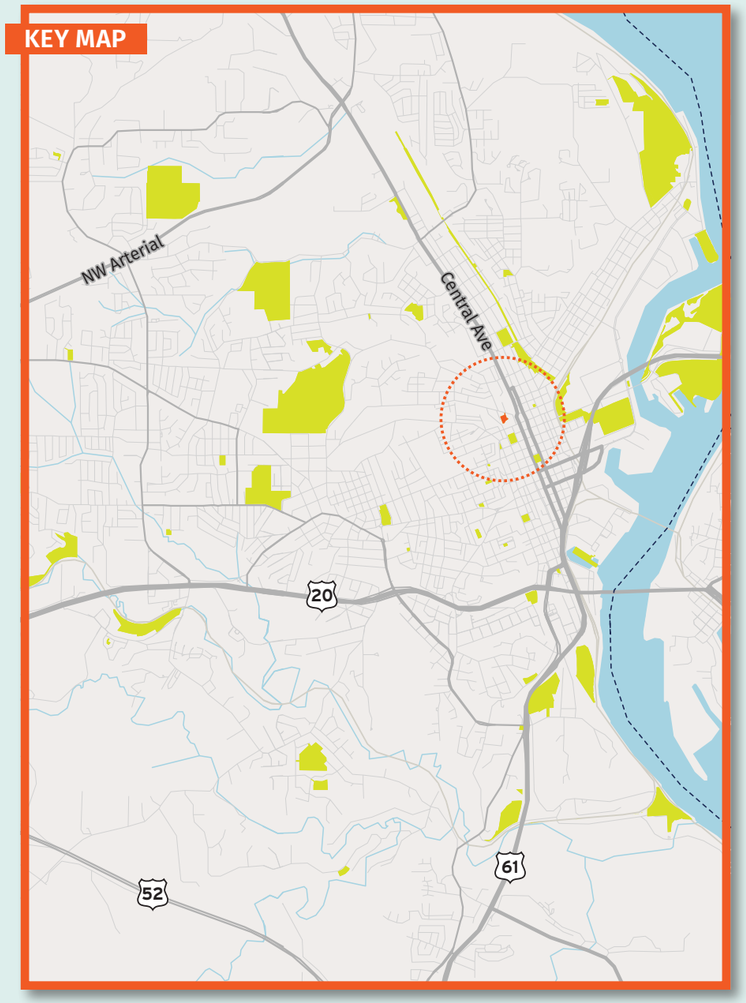
MADISON PARK

1.3
ACRES

1824 N MAIN ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Madison Park includes lighting, trash receptacles, a pavilion, flag pole, picnic tables, and playground equipment. Lighting and pavilion show significant wear and rust. Playground equipment is rusted and aging, and overall maintenance is needed for wood fiber coverage. The sign is significantly weathered. Benches and tables face wear and vandalism. Flag poles show fading and rust. Implementing more regular maintenance and addressing rust and wear will greatly benefit the park's safety and aesthetics, enhancing community enjoyment.





MADISON PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Flag Pole	1	3	Some rust visible, paint fading, decent condition
Lighting Walkway	5	3	Old metal lamp posts, recommend switching to LED
Pavilion Open	1	2	Stairs have become tilted, rusted and cracking, damage to wooden ceiling
Picnic Table (Wood)	5	3	Normal wear and tear present on all
Playground	1	2	Dated, paint fading accompanied by severe rusting in areas, retaining wall beginning to fail, not ADA
Playground Surface (Wood Mulch)	1,260 SF	2	Needs refreshed
Retaining Wall (Block)	55	4	
Retaining Wall (Railroad Ties)	140	2	Around playground, failing
Sign	1	1	Wooden sign, at end of life, needs replaced with Dubuque standard monument sign
Trash (City Bin with Metal Pole)	1	3	Permanent pole with removable trash bin, decent condition











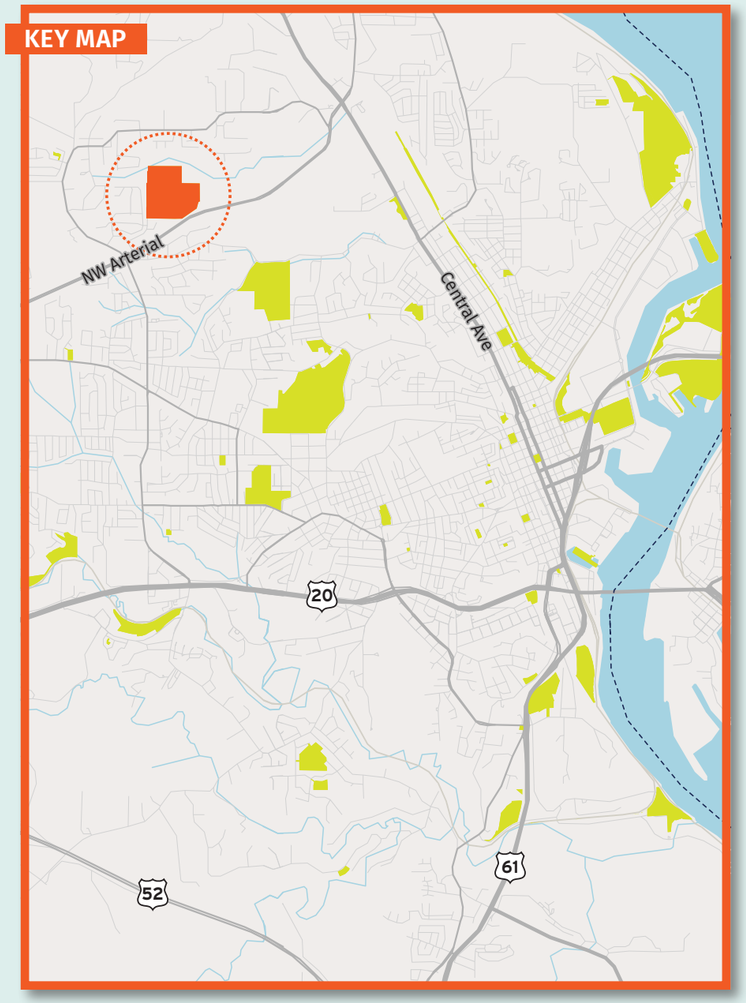
MARSHALL PARK/DUBUQUE ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDEN

56.6
ACRES

3800 ARBORETUM DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Marshall Park features extensive amenities including benches, trash receptacles, pavilions, picnic tables, playgrounds, signage, and flag poles. Benches show significant wear, degradation, and bird droppings, with several needing replacement or resetting for ADA compliance. Pavilions and picnic tables are generally in good condition, with some requiring minor maintenance due to weathering. Playground equipment displays signs of wear, sun fading, and inadequate mulch coverage. Signage and flag poles are in good shape, with some rust evident. Regular upkeep and ADA accessibility improvements will ensure Marshall Park remains a cherished community space.





MARSHALL PARK/DUBUQUE ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDEN CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Drinking Fountain	1	4	
Flag Pole	9	4	Missing uplights, trees encroaching
Lighting Parking	3	4	Good condition
Other	1	5	Battle bows sculpture
Other	1	5	Desert storm bell memorial
Other	1	4	Water feature, wasn't operational at time of assessment, Veterans memorial
Playground	1	3	Mulch not to depth, very faded
Swings	2	3	Decent condition
Restroom	2	4	Exterior good, locked for season
Sign	3	4	All in good condition
Trash	4	3	Good condition







MAUS PARK

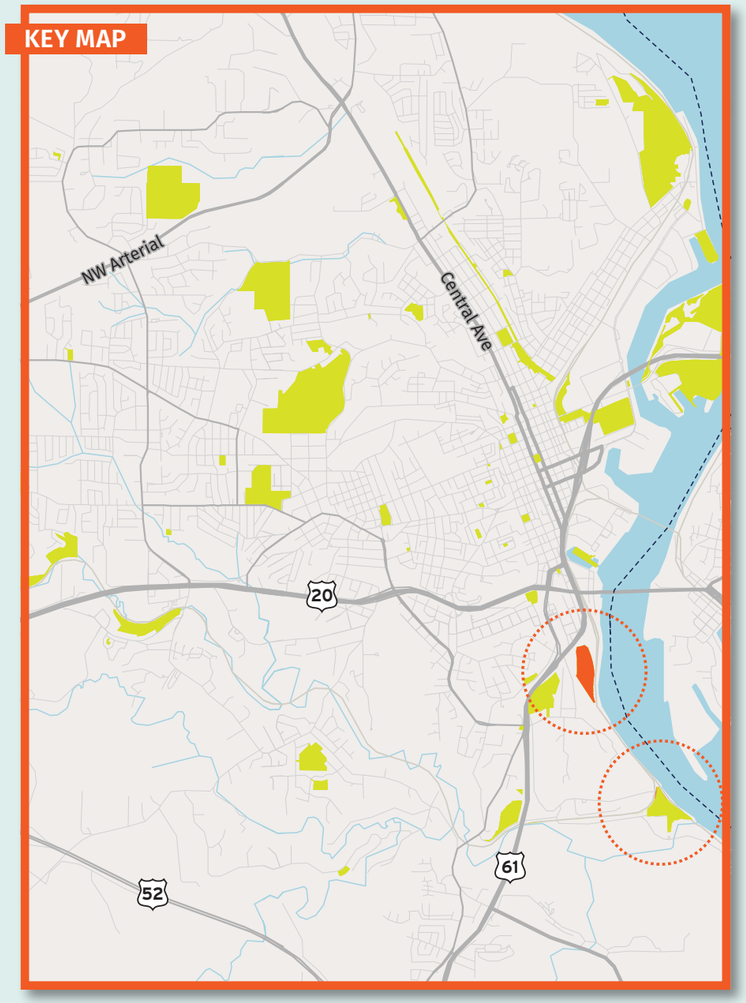
21.7
ACRES

599 HUFF ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Maus Park includes signage, parking, trails, and a lake. Signage is hand-painted and fading, with wooden structures deteriorating. The parking and trail areas are dirt/gravel with no ADA access, presenting uneven surfaces. The lake area is littered with trash and lacks seating or proper access. Enhancing the signage, upgrading to paved pathways and parking, and addressing trash issues around the lake will greatly improve the park's usability and attractiveness.

KEY MAP



AERIAL

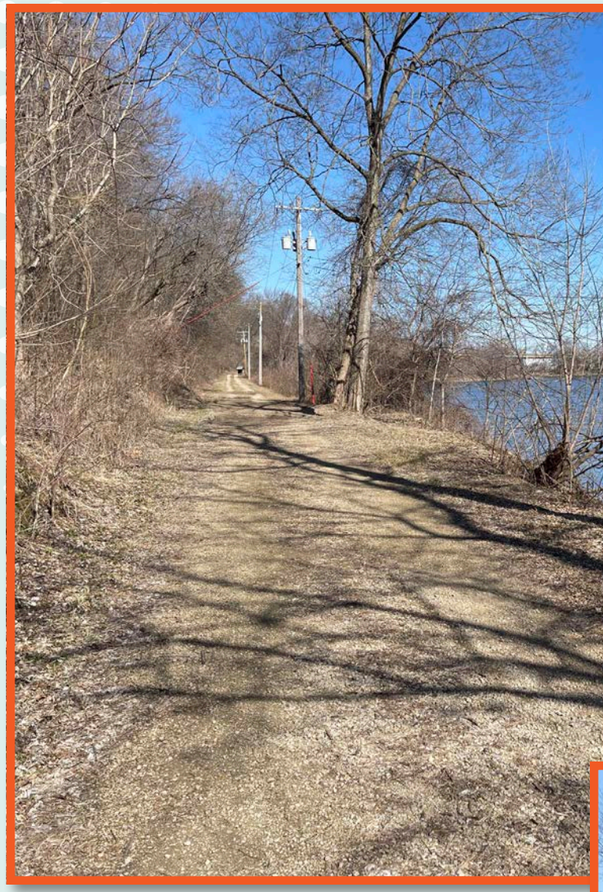


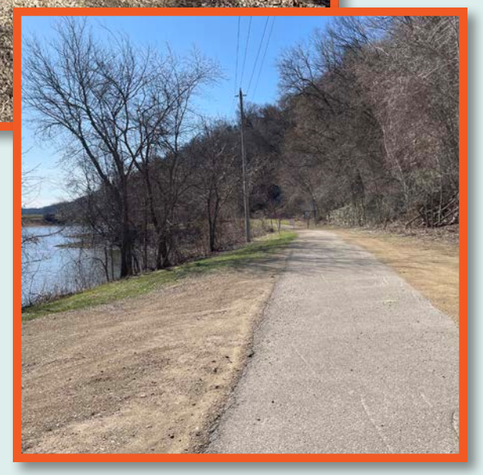
MAUS PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Lake	17 AC	2	Lots of trash present, no ADA access anywhere
Parking	1	2	Dirt/gravel lot, no lighting or striping
Sidewalk (Asphalt)	2,700 SF	2	Cracked and uneven
Sign	1	1	Wooden with shingle roof, very faded, needs updated with city of Dubuque standard
Trail (Unpaved)	1,400 LF	2	Uneven dirt and gravel path











MCALEECE PARK AND RECREATION COMPLEX

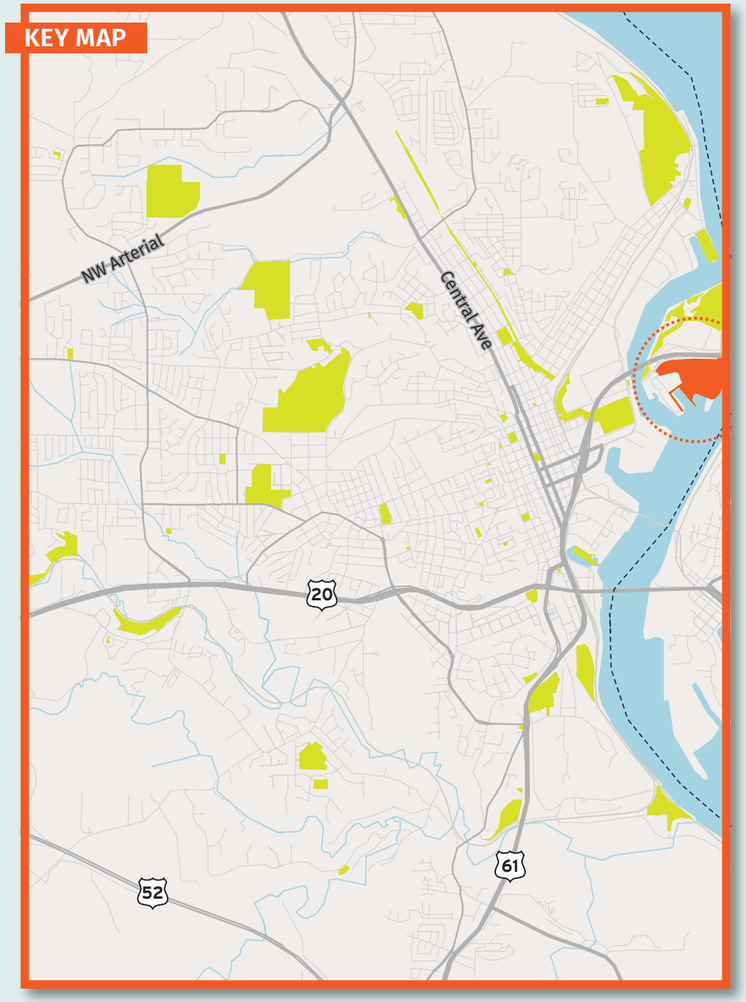
64.1
ACRES

1801 ADMIRAL SHEEHY DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

McAleece Park and Recreation Complex provides various amenities including parking, trash receptacles, a pavilion, skate park, lighting, benches, playgrounds, and baseball fields. The parking lot shows faded striping and cracks, while the pavilion needs rust treatment and wood restoration. The skate park exhibits some rusting panels, and the playground has mulch needing replenishment. Memorial benches are generally well-maintained. Veteran memorial areas and signage are in excellent condition. Continued attention to rust issues, updating infrastructure, and regular maintenance will greatly benefit both usability and aesthetics.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



MCALEECE PARK AND RECREATION COMPLEX CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Baseball	4	2	Overall decent field, dugouts have no overhead shade, metal fences a little weathered and dated, netting for fly balls ripped in multiple places, new field is in great shape
BBQ Grill	1	3	Some rusting on base, good overall
Bench	4	2	Rusted, sitting at angle, inside locked playground
Bench (Memorial)	42	5	Marble memorial benches in Veterans memorial
Concession	1	3	Exterior only, everything in decent shape. No ADA access anywhere to concessions or bathroom
Concrete (Integral Color)	16,500 SF	5	Concrete in memorial plaza, great condition
Drinking Fountain	1	5	
Flag Pole	4	4	
Lighting Parking	8	5	
Lighting	12	3	Stadium lighting for fields, dated but decent condition
Maintenance	1	4	
Other	1	4	Bike track, needs signage
Other	1	5	Veteran memorial plaza, beautiful and in great shape
Other	1	4	Softball hall of fame memorial
Parking (Asphalt)	188,795 SF	3	Decent condition, striping okay, spalling and cracking present
Pavilion Open	1	2	Very dated, wood faded, rust covers most metal
Playground	1	3	Decent condition
Sidewalk (Concrete)	23,712 SF	4	Great condition
Sign (Traffic Style)	15	4	Park hours, rules ADA signs
Signage	4	5	Veterans memorial signage, all pristine
Skate	1	2	Rusting present, good condition
Trash	2	4	Decent







MILLER RIVERVIEW PARK

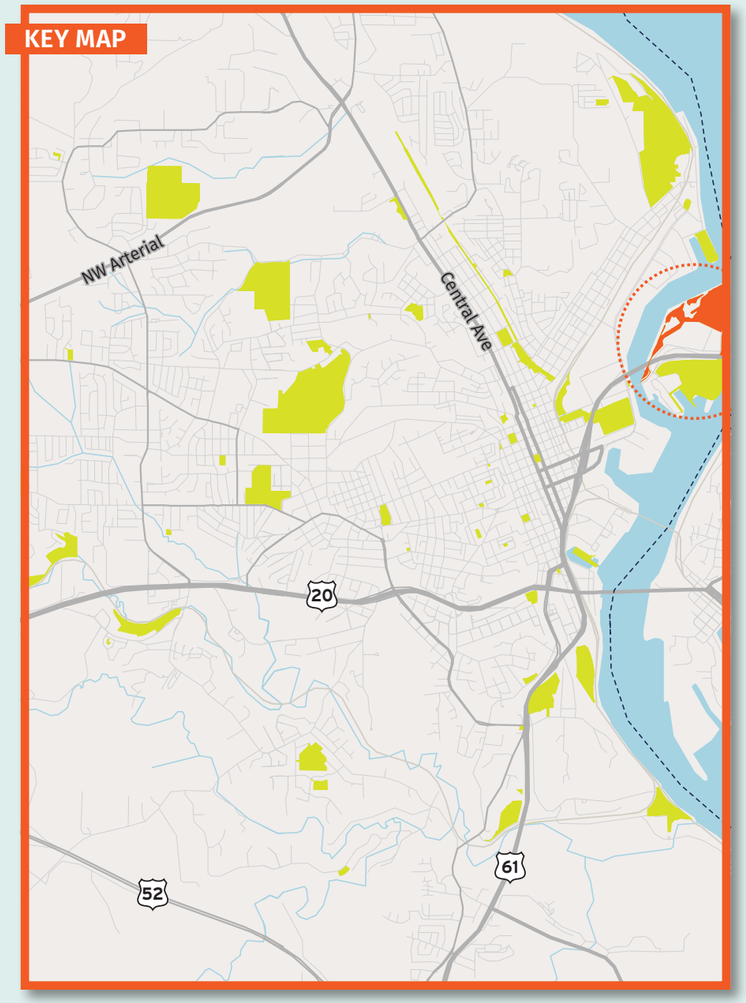
62.3
ACRES

1851 ADMIRAL SHEEHY DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Miller Riverview Park offers benches, pavilions, playgrounds, and trash receptacles. The benches are in various states with some worn and older, while newer ones lack ADA accessibility. Pavilions are weathered and in decent condition but lack ADA compliance. The playground equipment shows signs of rust and lacks proper surfacing for safety. Trash receptacles are somewhat weathered. Upgrading infrastructure for ADA compliance and addressing rust issues will enhance the park's safety and accessibility for visitors.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



Y(OUR) STORY

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE Masterpiece on the Mississippi

MILLER RIVERVIEW PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	9	3	Worn and dated, no ADA access
Bollard (Stone)	59	4	
Fire Pit (Metal with Grill)	110	2	Rusty
Pavilion Open	3	3	Weathered and no ADA access, decent condition overall
Raised Planter	1	4	
Pet Waste Station	2	4	
Picnic Table (Wood)	116	3	Decent condition
Planter	1	4	Raised stone planter, good condition
Playground	1	3	No ADA and mulch not to depth, surface rust present, decent condition
Playground Surface	3,217 SF	2	Wood mulch, needs refreshed
Restroom	945 SF	3	Decent condition
Roadway (Asphalt)	64,420 SF	3	Decent condition
Sign (Traffic with Sign Post)	17	4	Good condition
Swing (Two Bay)	1	3	Swing, decent condition, surface rust present
Trash	19	4	Corral for multiple trash cans, on concrete pad, decent condition







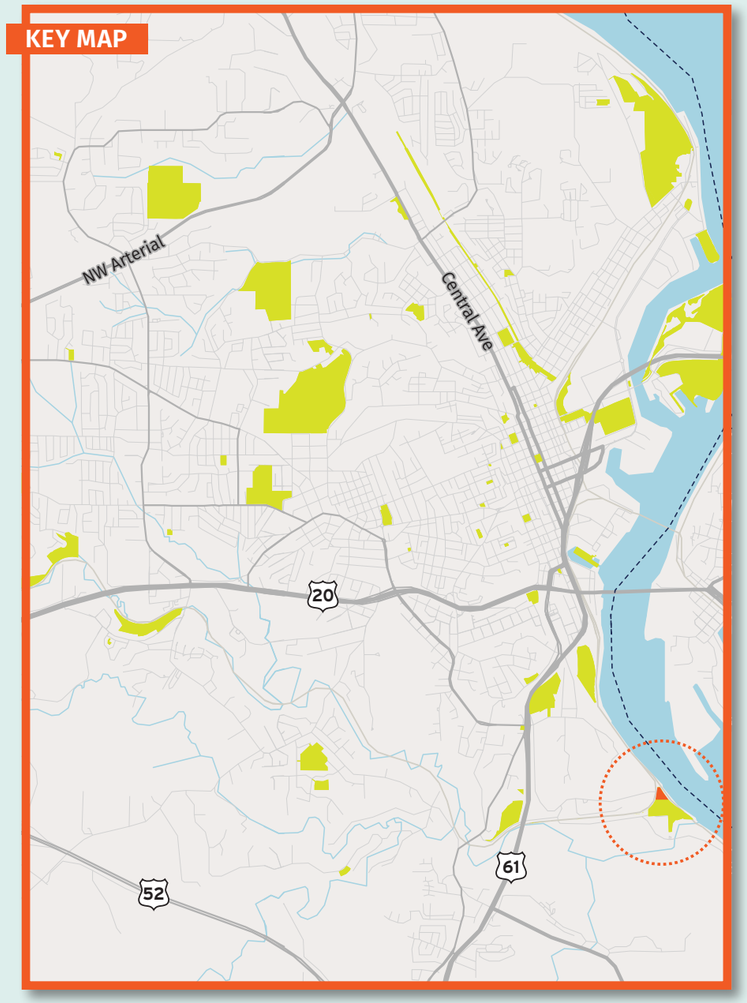
MINES OF SPAIN

939 Julien Dubuque Dr

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

62.3
ACRES

Mines of Spain State Recreation Area features walking trails, picnic overlooks, interpretive signs, and trash receptacles. Many of the trails become muddy or slick after rain and only a few sections—such as the paved "John & Alice Butler" trail—are truly ADA accessible, while the rest offer limited access for visitors with mobility needs. Enhancing trail surfacing, expanding paved ADA-compliant paths, and improving access to amenities will better ensure safety and inclusivity for all visitors.



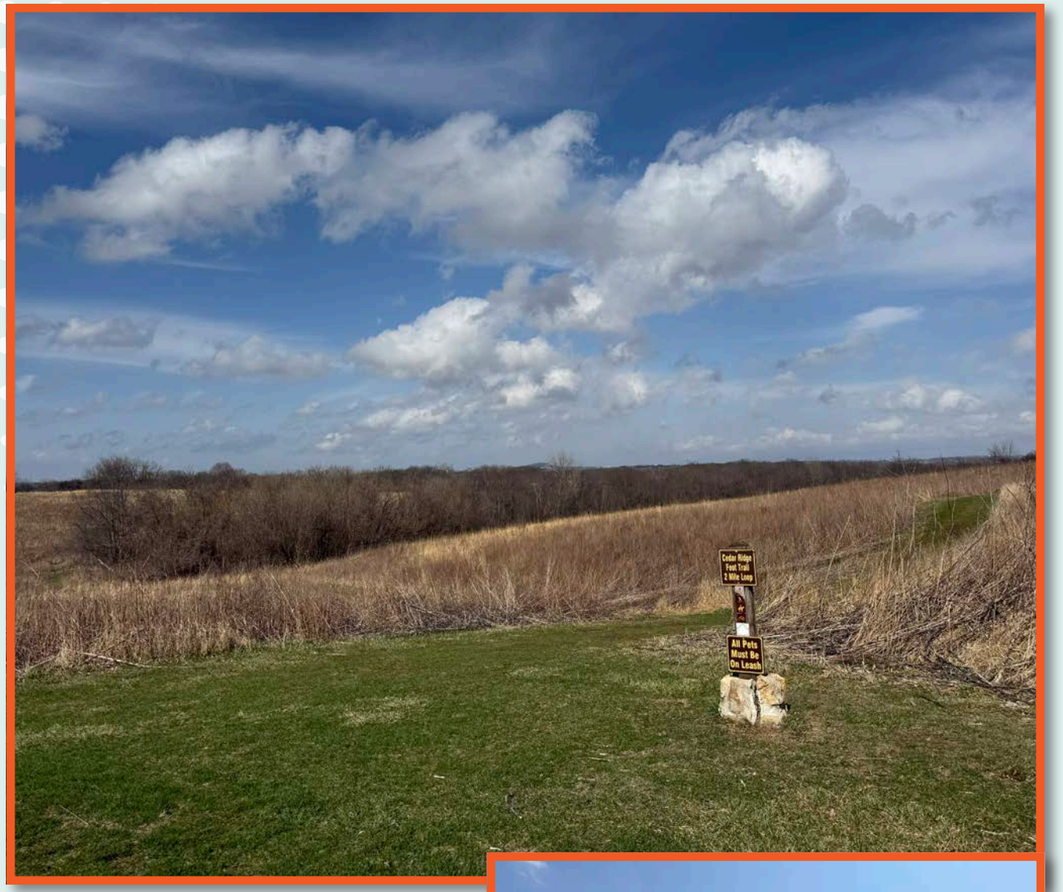


MINES OF SPAIN CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	4	2	Wood cracking, paint faded and chipping, no ADA access
Bike Rack	1	2	Very worn, rusted
Bollard (Stone)	76	3	
Parking	13,360 SF	3	14 spaces, 1 ADA, striping worn
Picnic Table (Metal)	2	2	Metal is rusty, very dated
Sign (Monumentation)	1	1	The existing park wooden monument sign is at the end of its lifecycle and needs to be replaced with the City's current park monumentation standard
Sign (Dubuque Bike Map)	1	4	
Sign (Interpretive Display)	3	3	
Sign (Traffic Style)	3	3	Traffic signs at entrance
Trailhead	1	2	Mowed path to Julien Dubuque monument, no ADA











Y(OUR) STORY

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE Masterpiece on the Mississippi

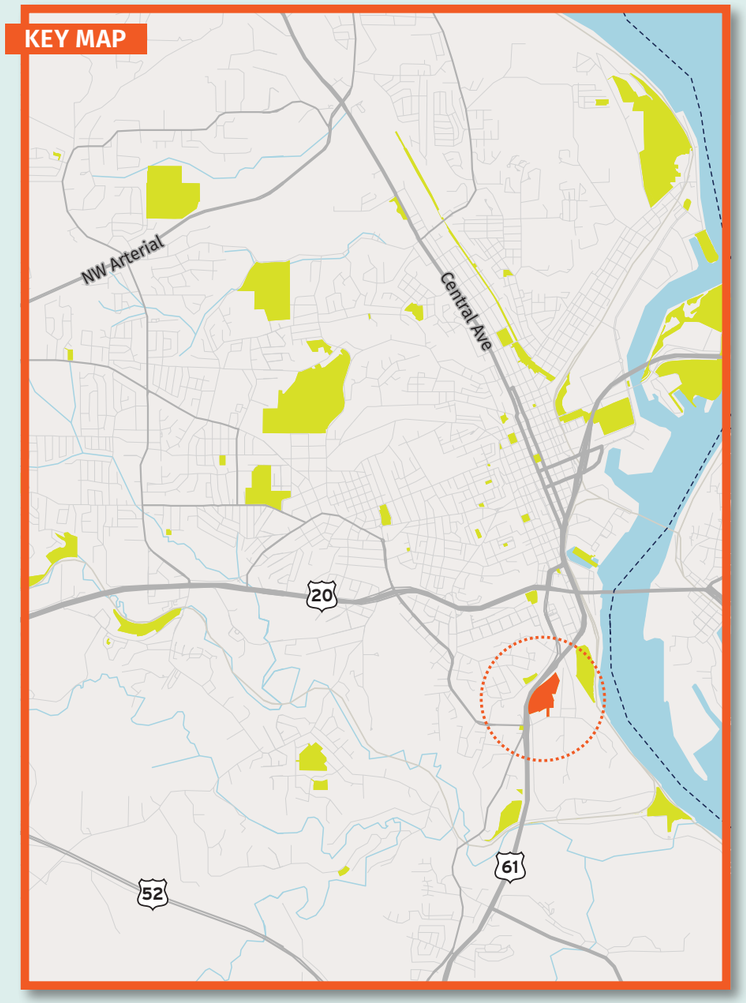
MURPHY PARK

23
ACRES

1700 S GRANDVIEW AVE

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Murphy Park is a large Park in Southern Dubuque. This park boasts a wide variety of Amenities. These include BBQ Grills, benches, pavilions both open and closed, playgrounds, restrooms and a Tennis Court. There is a large amount of BBQ grills within the park, many not appearing to be used to poor location and extensive Rust. The pavilions are all in decent condition with only minor issues. All of the playgrounds are showing major signs of degradation and aging. Most have no accessible path to them. The Tennis court is also in poor to fair condition, the surface is faded and lots of cracks are prevalent. A net is missing from one of the areas.





MURPHY PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
BBQ Grill	25	2	Many don't get used due to rust and location
Bench (Wrought Iron with Back)	8	2	Decent condition, rust prevalent
Drinking Fountain	3	4	Good condition
Flag Pole	1	3	Good condition, missing landscape at base
Other	1	3	Council ring, needs masonry tuck pointing/cap repair, not accessible and pathway is dangerous that leads down to asphalt driveway
Other	1	3	Maintenance building
Parking	12,310 SF	3	Good condition
Pavilion Closed	1	4	Couldn't access interior., decent exterior
Pavilion Open	2	3	Good condition
Picnic Table	36	2	Decent condition, many have no ADA access
Playground	3	2	Most seem to be at end of service life, dirty, rusted
Playground Equipment	3	2	Lots of wear and tear, very aged
Playground Surface (Wood Mulch)	8,565 SF	2	Wood mulch may not be to depth, needs refreshed
Restroom	3	2	Overall decent condition
Roadway (Asphalt)	32,580 SF	3	Overall decent condition, some cracking and spalling present
Sign (Monumentation)	1	1	Wooden park sign, needs updated to current city standard
Swing (Two Bay)	1	3	Decent condition
Tennis	1	2	Missing a set of nets, surface peeling, cracked, lots of debris
Trash	30	2	Overall fair condition, some locations are a little remote and don't see much use









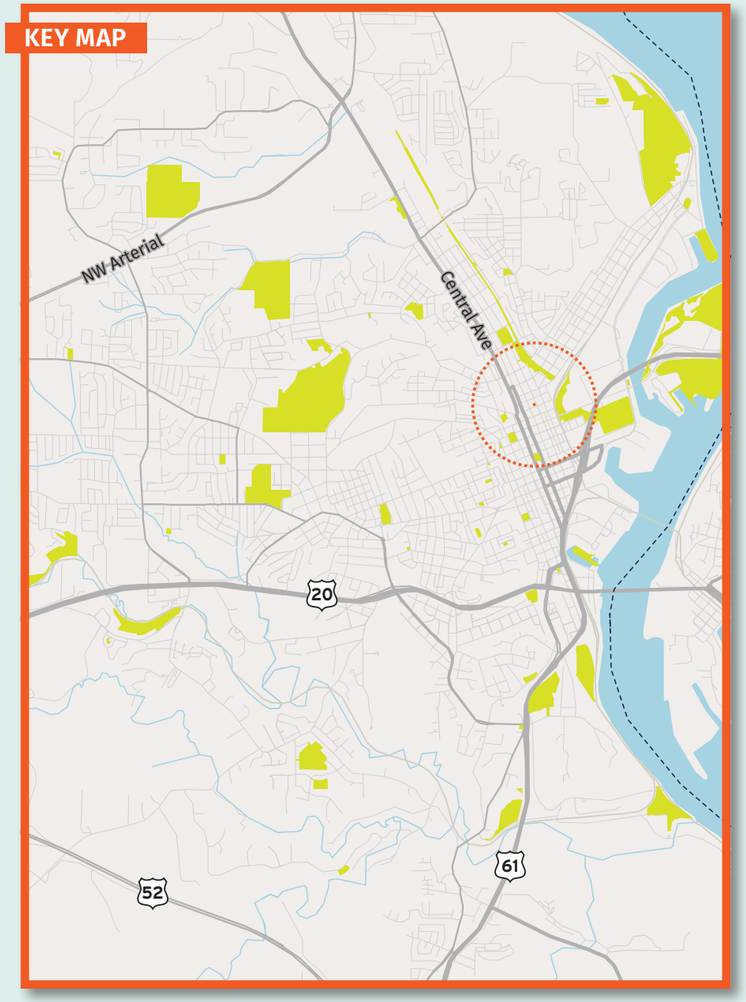
ORANGE PARK

0.2
ACRES

1800 WASHINGTON ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Orange Park includes signage, trash receptacles, benches, drinking fountains, a kiosk, and a playground. The park exhibits significant wear, with rust on benches and drinking fountains, faded and broken signage, and inadequate safety surfacing in the playground. The kiosk is missing its top, and overall bench conditions are poor. Addressing these issues through routine maintenance and replacements will improve the park's appeal and usage.





ORANGE PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	4	2	Major wear and rusting present, one bench is potentially a hazard
Drinking Fountain	1	2	Rust and superficial damage prevalent
Kiosk	1	1	Missing top
Playground	1	1	Multiple spots with heavy rust, plastic coverings on climbing chains are dry rotting and falling apart, equipment height too tall for current mulch surfacem, no ADA access
Playground surfacing	2,035 SF	2	Wood mulch needs refreshed
Sidewalk (Concrete)	320 SF	3	Decent condition
Sign	2	3	Park hours sign and park rules sign
Sign (Monumentation)	1	1	Wooden park sign at the end of its life, needs replaced with Dubuque city monumentation standard
Trash	1	3	Not on concrete pad, decent condition
Wrought Iron Fence	410 LF	3	Decent condition









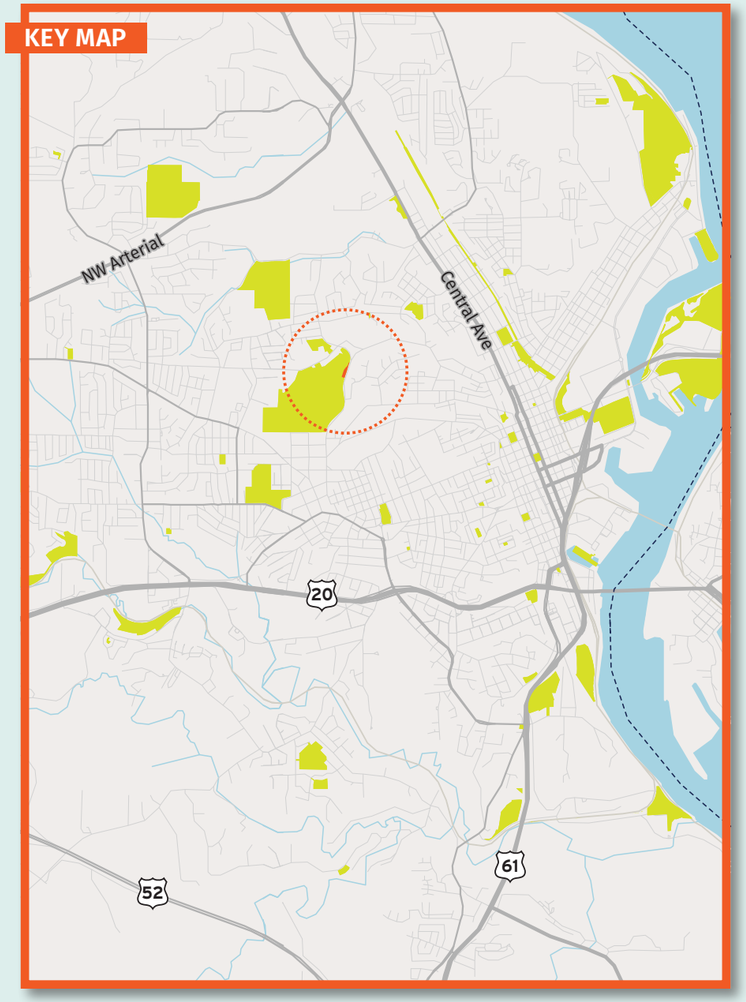
PET PARK

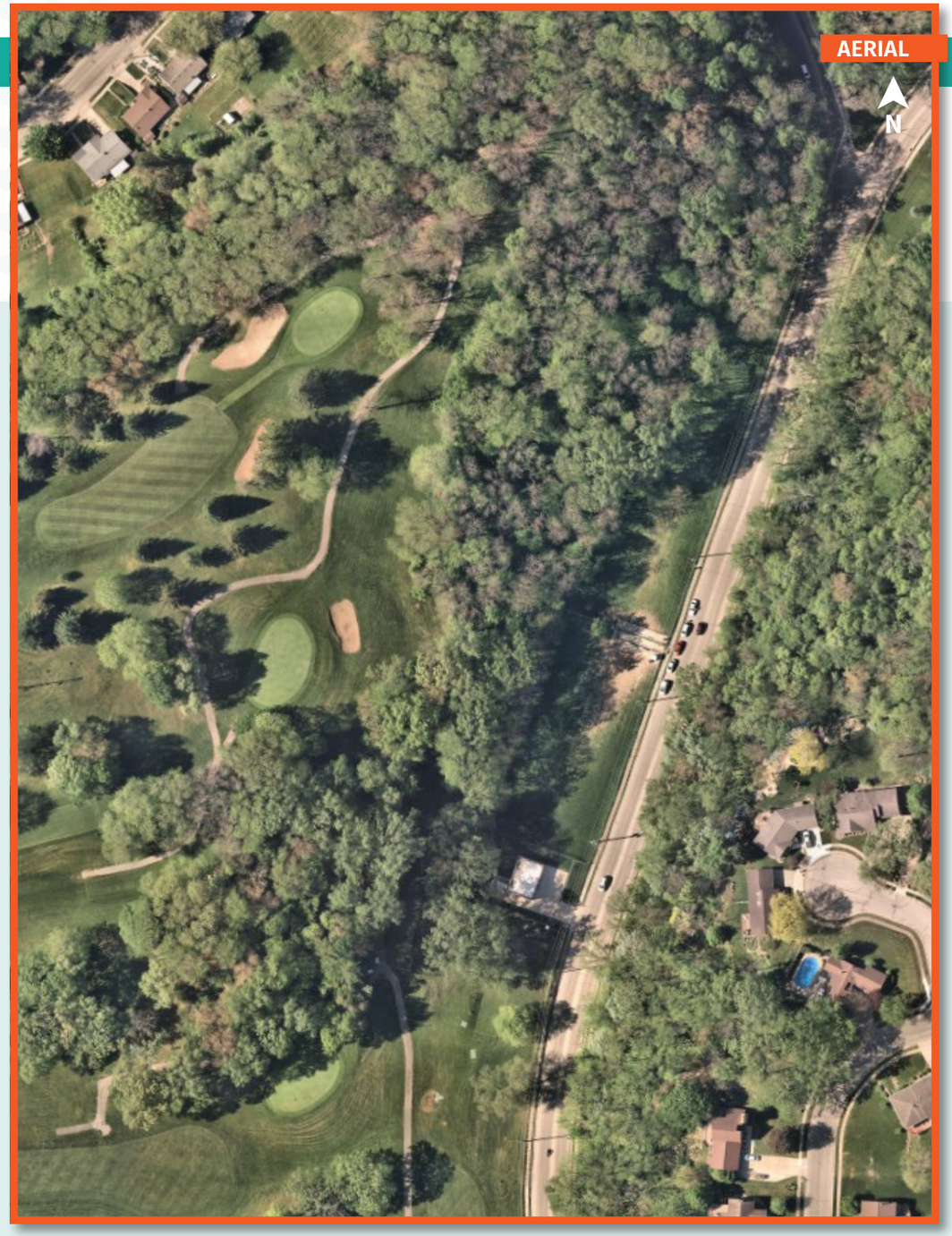
2501 N GRANDVIEW AVE

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Dog**

1.2
ACRES

Pet Park features amenities such as drinking fountains, picnic tables, trash receptacles, and benches. Drinking fountains and trash bins are in decent condition with minor wear. Picnic tables show rust and wear, needing ADA compliance. Benches exhibit some wear but are generally in good shape. Routine upkeep and ADA improvements will enhance the overall functionality and visitor experience in Pet Park.





PET PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	4	4	Some wear and tear, decent condition
Chain Link Fence	1,220 LF	3	Surrounds park, decent condition
Drinking Fountain	2	3	Slightly worn, dog dish included
Pet Waste Station	2	4	
Picnic Table	5	3	Normal wear and tear, decent condition, two metal, three wood
Sidewalk (Concrete)	1,790 SF	3	Minor wear, good condition
Sign (Metal Traffic Style Signs)	6	4	Park hours, rules sign. warning sign
Trash	2	3	Trash bin and pet waste station





PINARD PARK

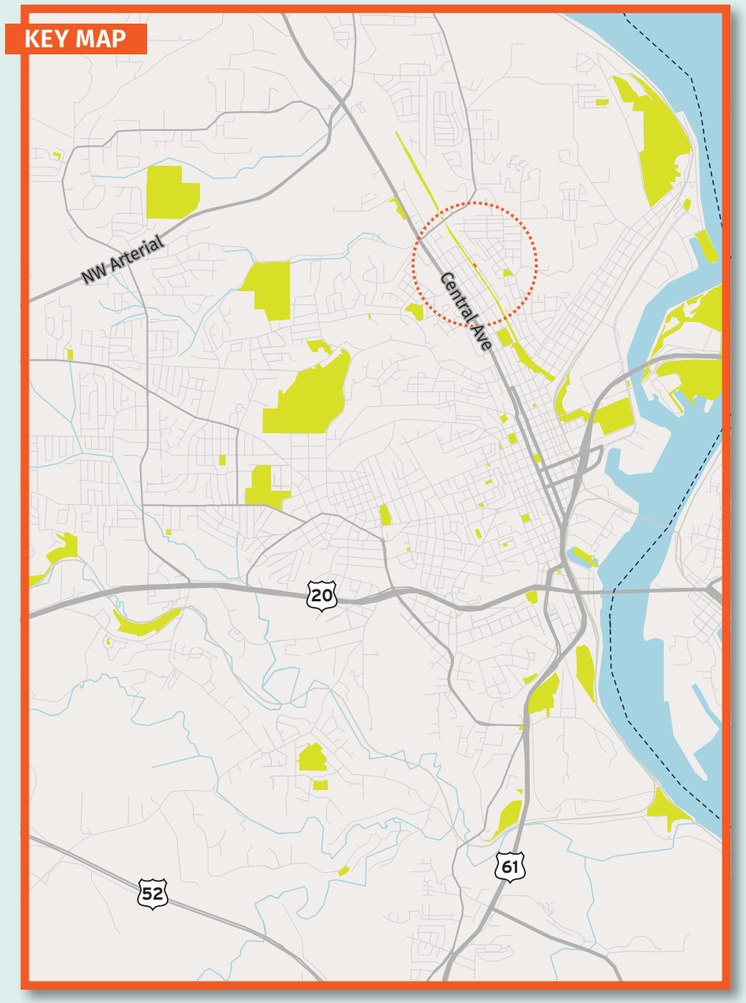
2819 PINARD ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

0.3
ACRES

Pinard Park boasts benches, a playground, a trash receptacle, bike rack, and signage. Benches are in good condition with ADA pathways and concrete pads, though minor discoloration and scratching are present. The playground equipment shows wear and low wood chip coverage. Trash receptacles and bike racks are in good shape with minor wear. The park signage exhibits vandalism and wear. Regular maintenance and addressing minor wear will keep Pinard Park inviting and functional for visitors.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



Y(OUR) STORY

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE Masterpiece on the Mississippi

PINARD PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	2	3	Minor wear and tear, ADA compliant
Bike Rack	1	3	Minor superficial damage
Lighting Walkway	3	4	Great condition
Pet Waste Station	1	4	
Playground	1	3	Wear and tear present, decent condition
Playground Surface (Wood Mulch)	2,917 SF	2	Wood mulch needs refreshed, doesn't appear to be to depth
Sidewalk (Concrete)	160 SF	3	
Sign (Monumentation	1	2	The existing park wooden monument sign is at the end of its lifecycle and needs to be replaced with the city's current park monumentation standard
Signage (Traffic Style)	1	4	Park signage, missing playground rules
Trash	1	4	City trash bin on new post, dog waste station attached











PORT OF DUBUQUE MARINA

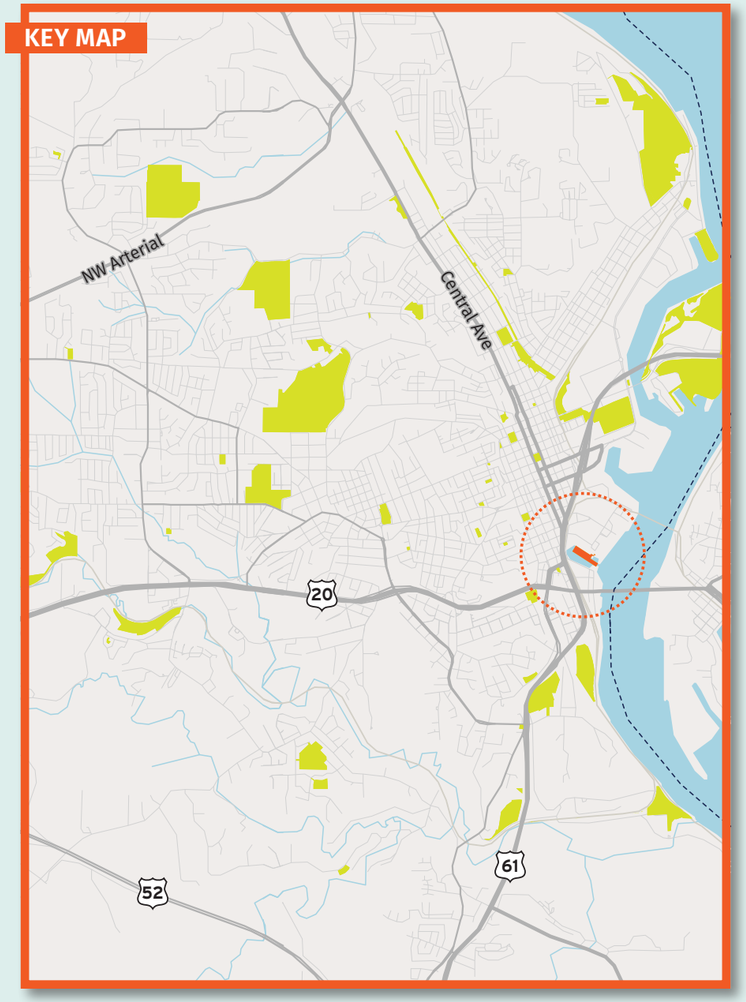
5.4
ACRES

450 E 3RD ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Port of Dubuque Marina offers a variety of amenities, including pier docks, parking, benches, lighting, and a marina shop. The marina is well-maintained with new fixtures, amenities, and well-kept docks. LED lighting fixtures are in good condition, ensuring visibility and safety. Benches and concrete sidewalks are in great shape, contributing to the overall cleanliness and usability of the marina. Maintaining this high standard of care will ensure continued enjoyment of the marina's facilities.

KEY MAP



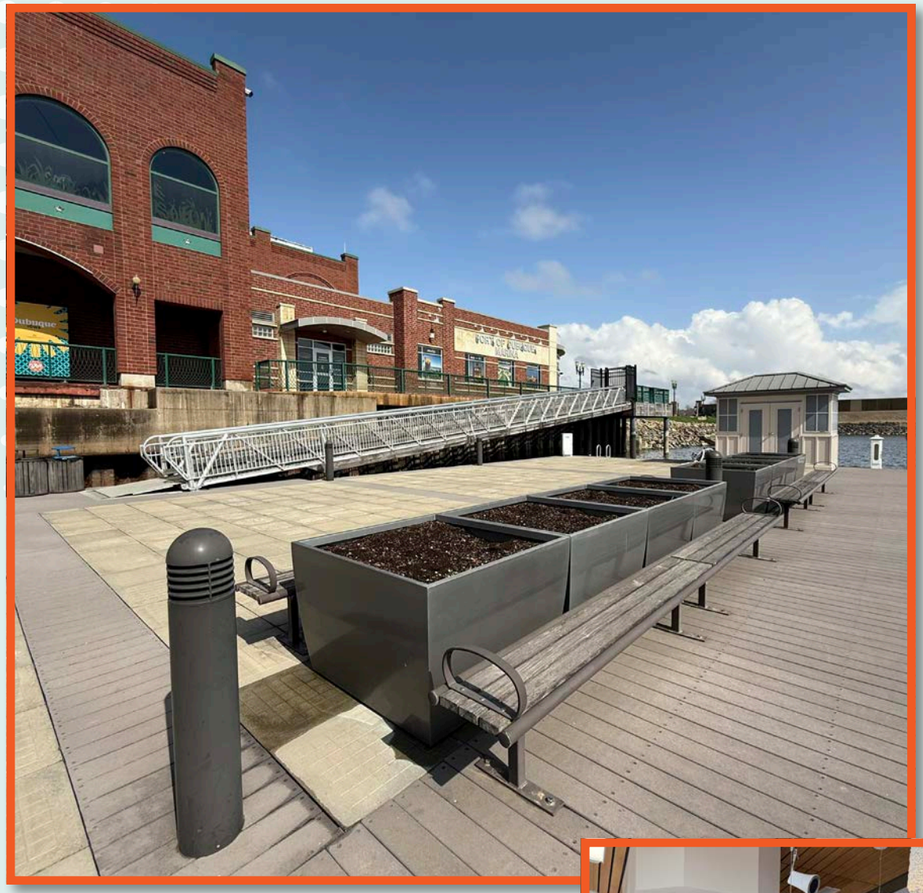
AERIAL



PORT OF DUBUQUE MARINA CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	6	5	Great condition
Flag Pole	3	5	
Lighting Parking	10	5	LED lighting, great condition
Marina Shop	34,950 SF	5	Marina shop
Other	1	5	Concrete sidewalk, great condition
Other	1	5	Marina shop, very cool, great condition
Parking	1	4	Minor cracking, good drainage
Pier Dock	6	5	New, great condition
Railing	640 LF	5	Metal railing, great condition
Restrooms	1	5	Attached to Port of Dubuque building
Sidewalk (Integral Color Concrete)	10,525 SF	5	
Sign (Interpretive)	1	3	
Sign (Monumentation with Planter)	1	5	Great condition
Trash (Metal)	2	5	









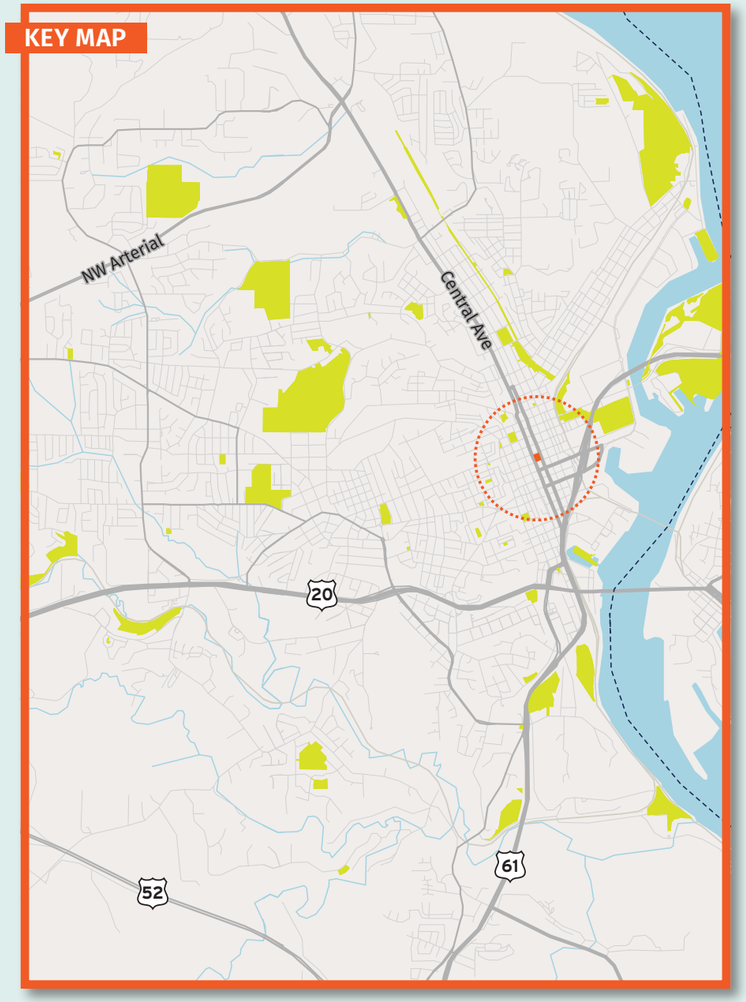
PRESCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1.4
ACRES

1151 WHITE ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Other**

Prescott Elementary School features several playground equipment amenities and a basketball court. The playground equipment exhibits various conditions, with significant rust on the play surface and chipping paint. The basketball court has decent backboards and hoops but an asphalt surface that is severely cracked and faded. Addressing the rust and wear issues and resurfacing the basketball court will enhance the safety and usability of the school's recreational areas.





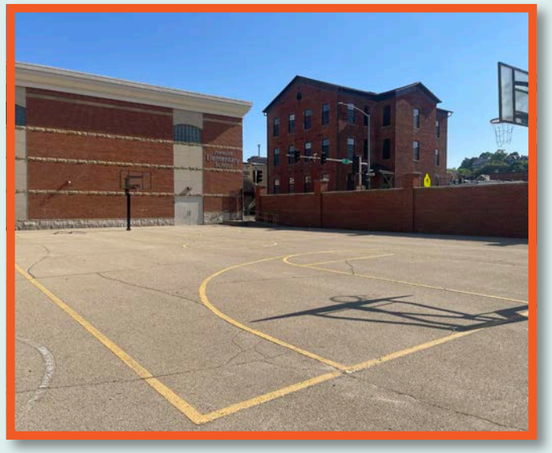
PRESCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)	2	4	Backboards, nets and posts in decent condition
Basketball Court Surface (Asphalt)	9,185 SF	2	Cracks, spalling present
Chain Link Fence	360 LF	4	Good condition
Bench	2	3	Decent condition
Playground (5-12 Years)	1	3	Severe rusting, surfacing extremely brittle and breaking apart
Playground (2-5 Years)			
Playground Surface	4,430 SF	2	Mulch needs refreshed
Playground Equipment	8	3	Two balance beams, sensory wall, three rockers, one funnel ball game, one wooden octagon, all in decent condition, slight wear and sun fading
Trash	1	3	
Wall (Brick)	420 LF	4	Good condition











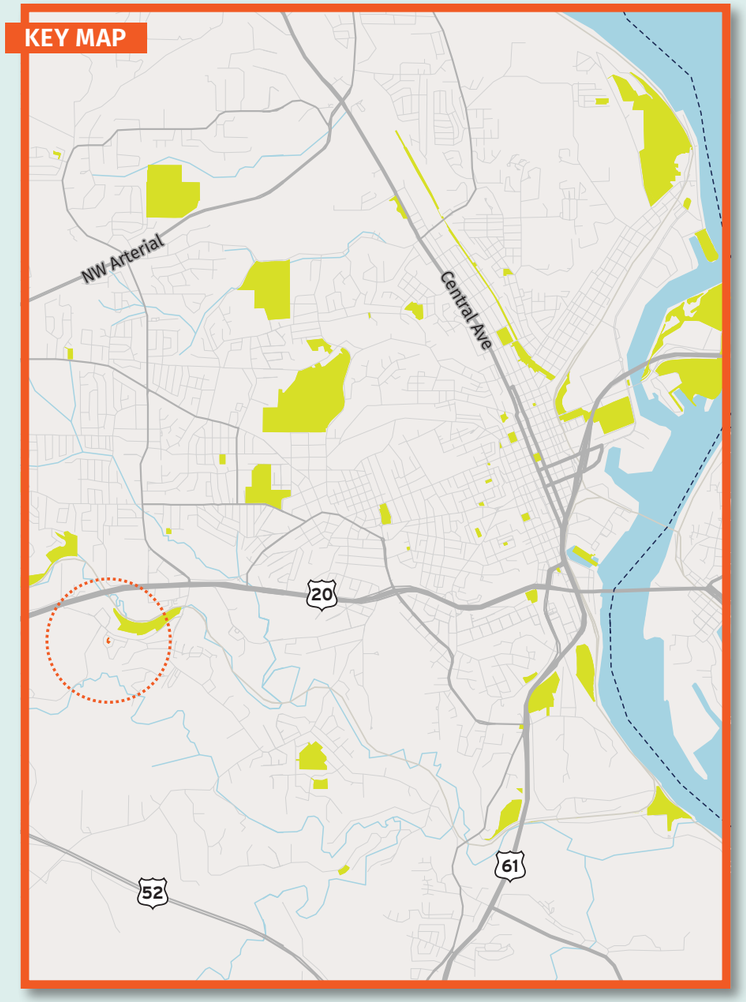
RILEY PARK

0.4 ACRES

3356 LUNAR DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Riley Park includes benches, trash receptacles, a playground, a basketball court, and signage. Benches show fading, scratches, and rusting anchor bolts. Trash bins have normal wear. The playground has chipped paint on support posts and needs mulch replenished. The basketball court lacks striping, and the hoop and backboard are sun-faded. The park sign is very worn with the name sign broken off. Addressing these maintenance needs will improve the park's safe usability.



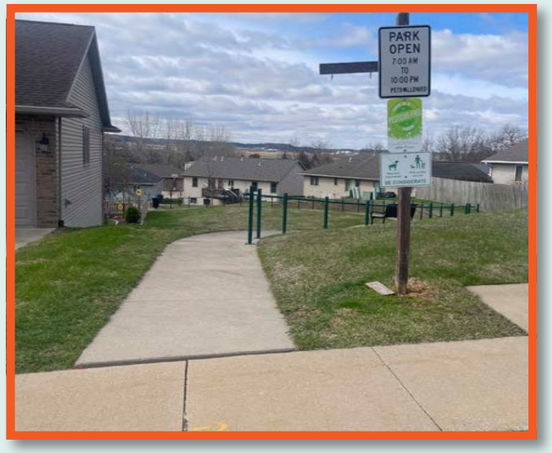


RILEY PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)	1	2	Hoop and backboard very sun faded, no striping on asphalt
Basketball Surface (Asphalt)	905 SF	3	Some cracking present, decent condition
Bench	2	4	Anchor bolts are rusting, color is faded, good condition
Picnic Table (Wood)	2	3	Decent condition
Playground	1	3	Overall decent, no ADA access, paint chipping in some areas
Playground Surface (Wood Mulch)	1,760 SF	3	Decent condition
Railing	165 LF	3	Some rust prevalent, decent condition
Retaining Wall	245 LF	3	Decent condition
Sidewalk (Concrete)	1,015 SF	4	Good condition
Sign (Monumentation)	1	1	Current park sign is at the end of its life, needs to be replaced with the city's current park monumentation standard
Sign (Metal Traffic Style)	3	4	Park hours sign and others
Trash	1	3	Normal wear and tear









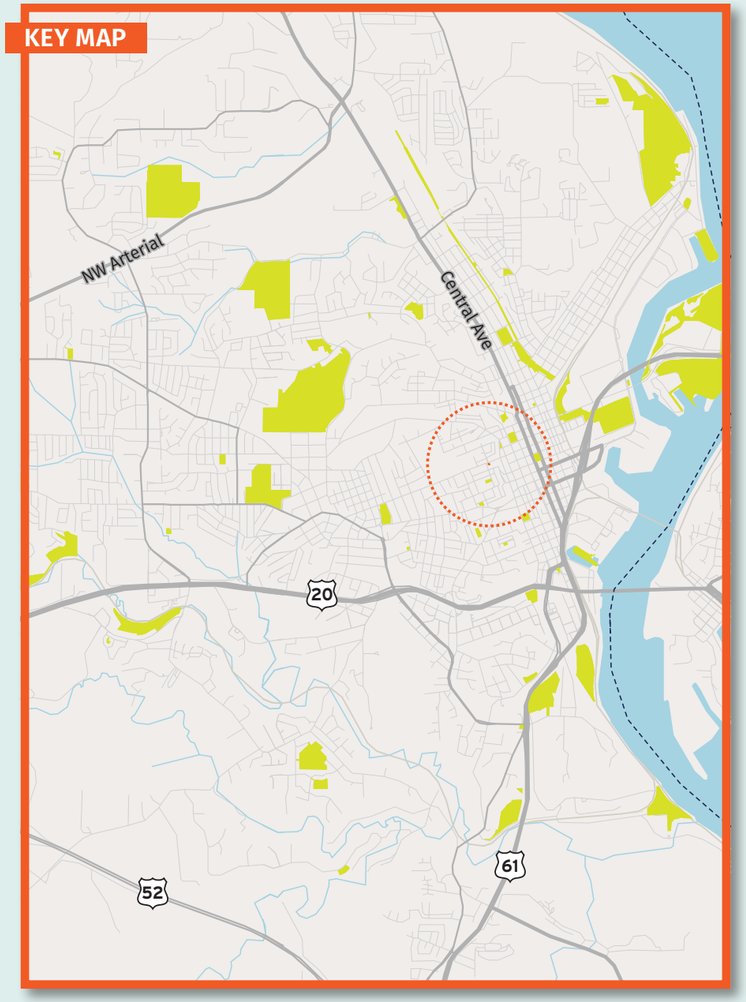
ROCCO BUDA JR. PARK

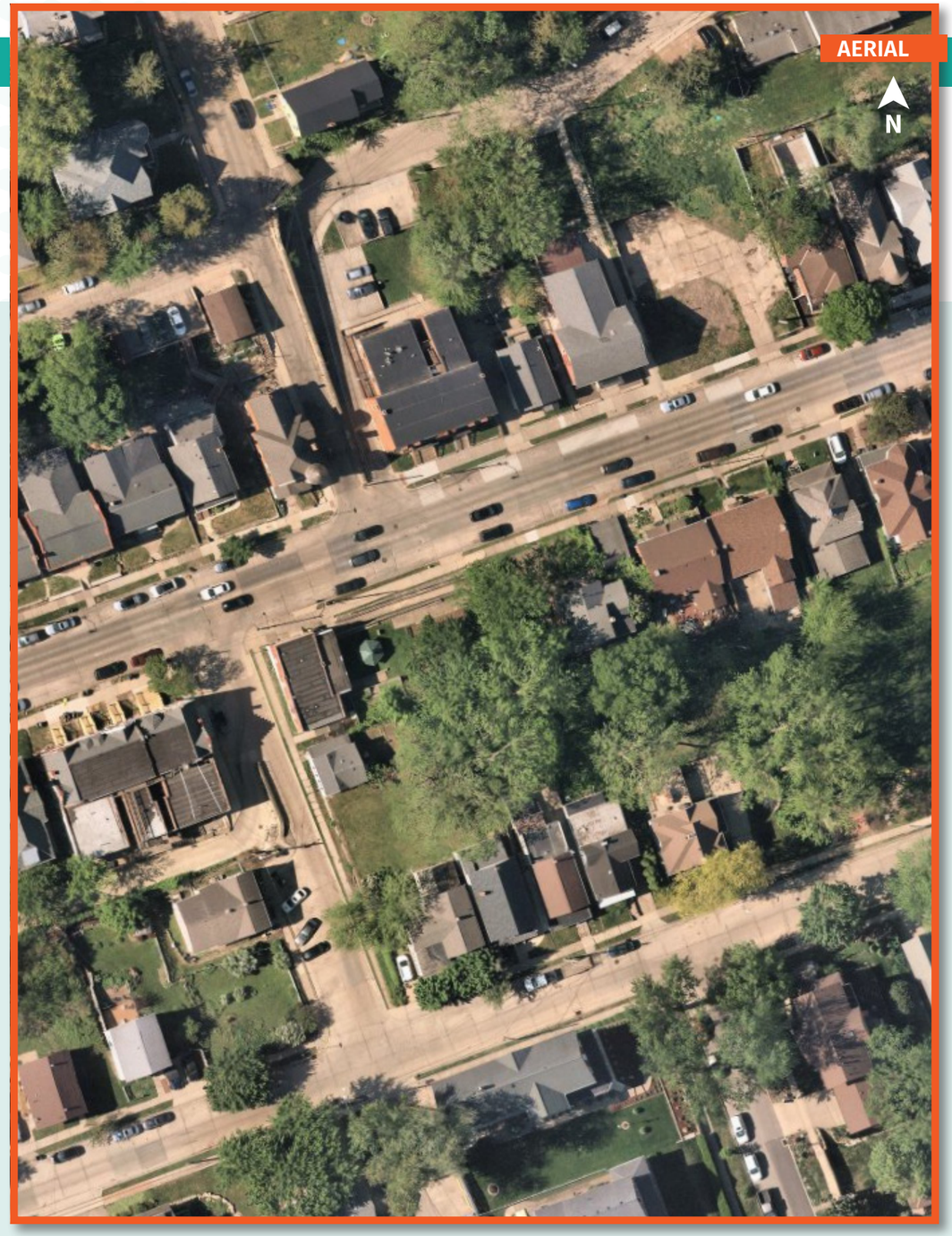
0.2
ACRES

508 LORAS BLVD

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Rocco Buda Jr. Park includes playground equipment, a pavilion, picnic tables, benches, and signage. The playground equipment is faded and rusting, requiring extra wood fiber coverage for safety. The pavilion shows signs of age with chipping paint. Picnic tables are in moderate condition while benches are generally well-kept. The park sign is placed but not easily visible. Increased maintenance, particularly rust treatment and re-painting, will enhance this park's safety and attractiveness.





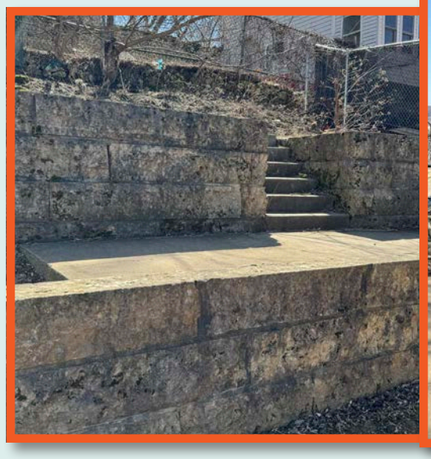
ROCCO BUDA JR. PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	1	4	Decent condition
Pavilion Open	1	2	Aged, paint fading and chipping, no ADA access
Picnic Table	1	3	Standalone wooden table, decent condition
Playground	1	2	Exposed drainage elements,aged paint is fading, rust prevalent
Playground Surfacing	1,320 SF	3	Decent condition, needs refreshed
Railing	175 LF	3	
Retaining Wall (Block)	160 LF	3	Decent condition
Retaining Wall (Keystone Block)	265 LF	3	Good condition
Retaining Wall (Railroad Tie)	145 LF	3	Decent condition
Sign (Plaque)	1	3	Metal park sign attached to block wall
Sign (specialty/Memorial)	1	3	Monument stone with plaque
Trash	1	3	Metal post with plastic city bin
Wrought Iron Fence	85 LF	3	











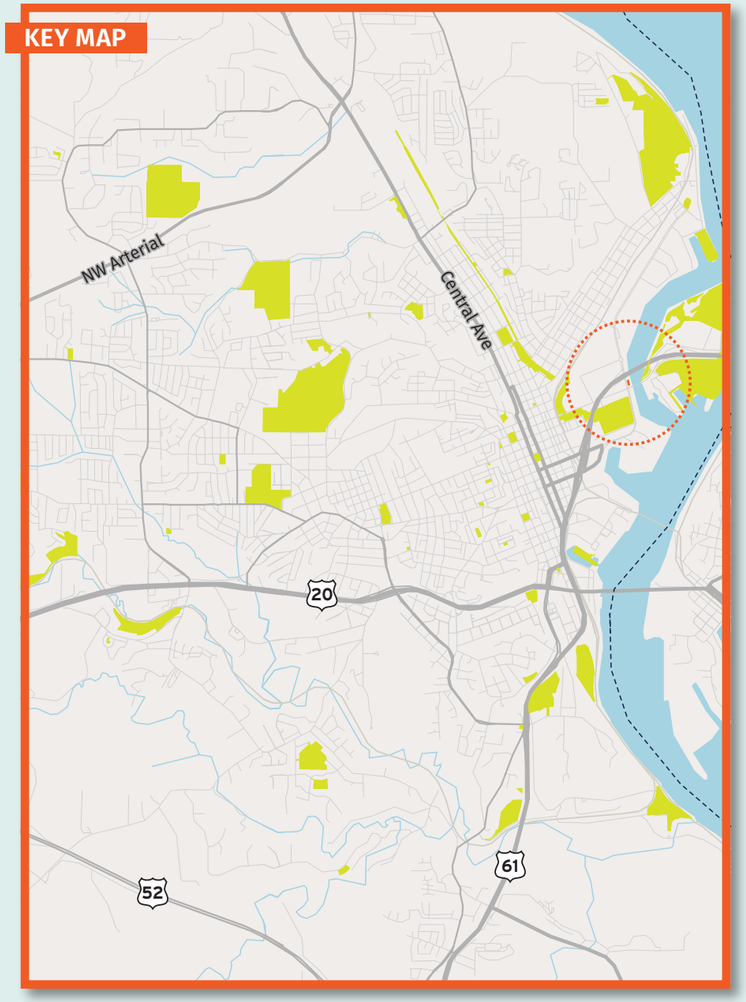
SISTER CITY INTERNATIONAL PARK

0.4
ACRES

1726 KERPER BLVD

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Sister City International Park includes benches, trash receptacles, flag poles, and lighting. Benches are in different states ranging from terrible condition to mostly good but need addressing for rust and fading. Trash receptacles are rusting and ill-sized. Signage shows wear and some rust. Flag poles appear well-kept. Regular attention to rust issues and upkeep of signage and trash receptacles will improve park visitor experience.





Y(OUR) STORY

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

SISTER CITY INTERNATIONAL PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	9	2	Most are in bad shape, paint faded and chipping
Flag Pole	3	5	Great condition
Lighting Walkway	1	3	Decent condition, lighting for flags
Parking (Asphalt)	9,665 SF	3	
Planter	35 LF	4	Nice raised planter
Retaining Wall (Block)	315 LF	4	Great condition
Sidewalk (Integral Color)	6,025	4	Great condition
Sign interpretive	1	4	Sister city sign
Sign Dubuque Bike Map	1	3	Sun faded, normal wear and tear
Trash	2	2	Rusted, wrong size Bin so lots of trash overflow











SOUTHERN PARK

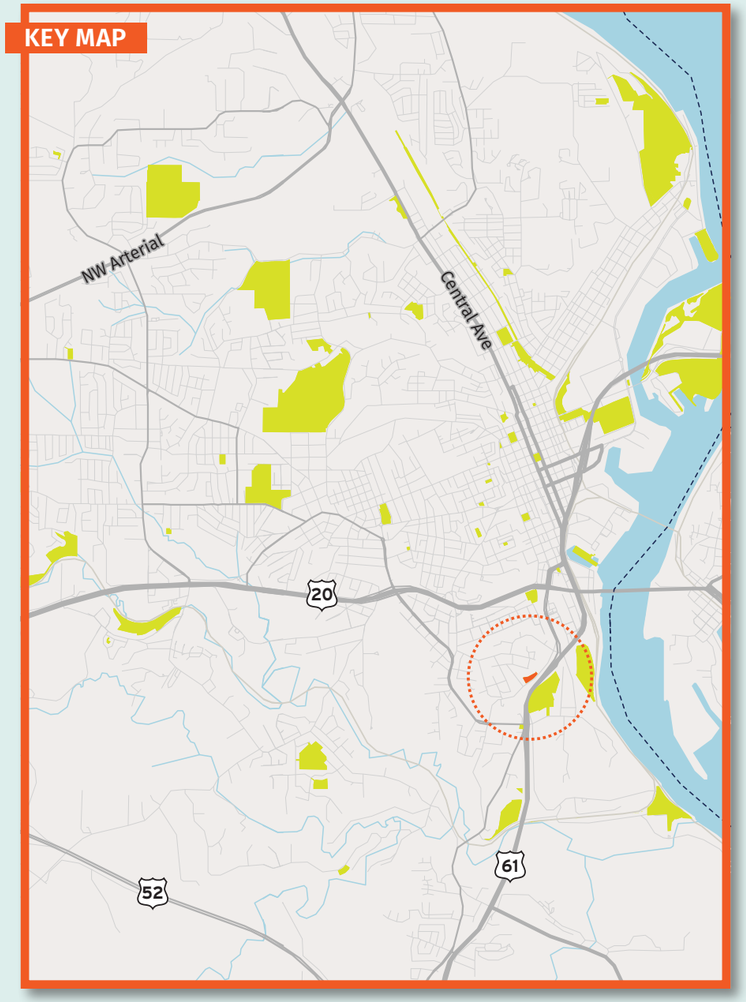
2.1 ACRES

200 SOUTHERN AVE

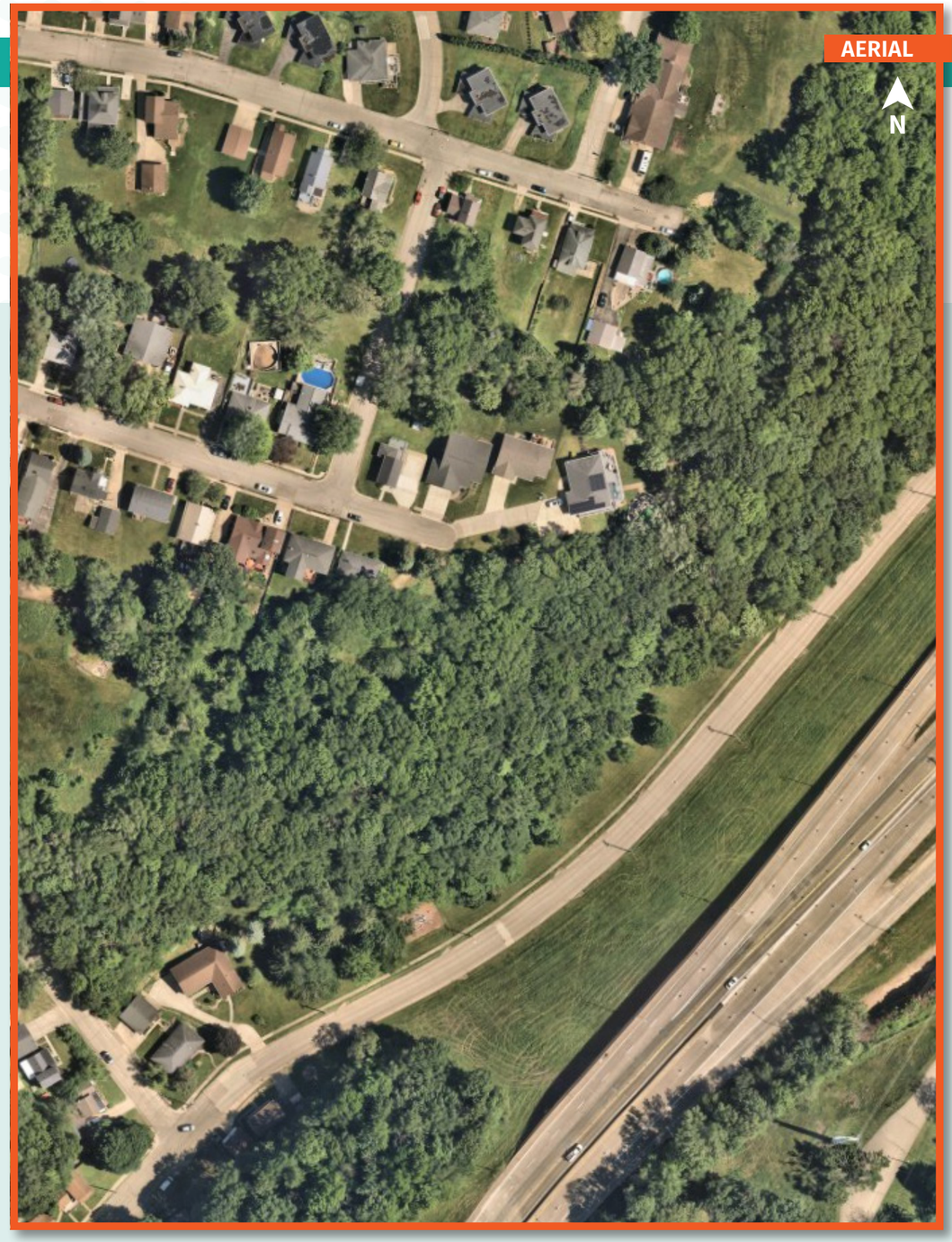
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Southern Park amenities include regulatory signage, a trash receptacle, and a playground. The trash receptacle is permanently installed and attached to a new post. The playground appears well-maintained but needs more chips added. Adding necessary wood chips and ensuring continuous maintenance will keep Southern Park's equipment safe and functional.

KEY MAP



AERIAL

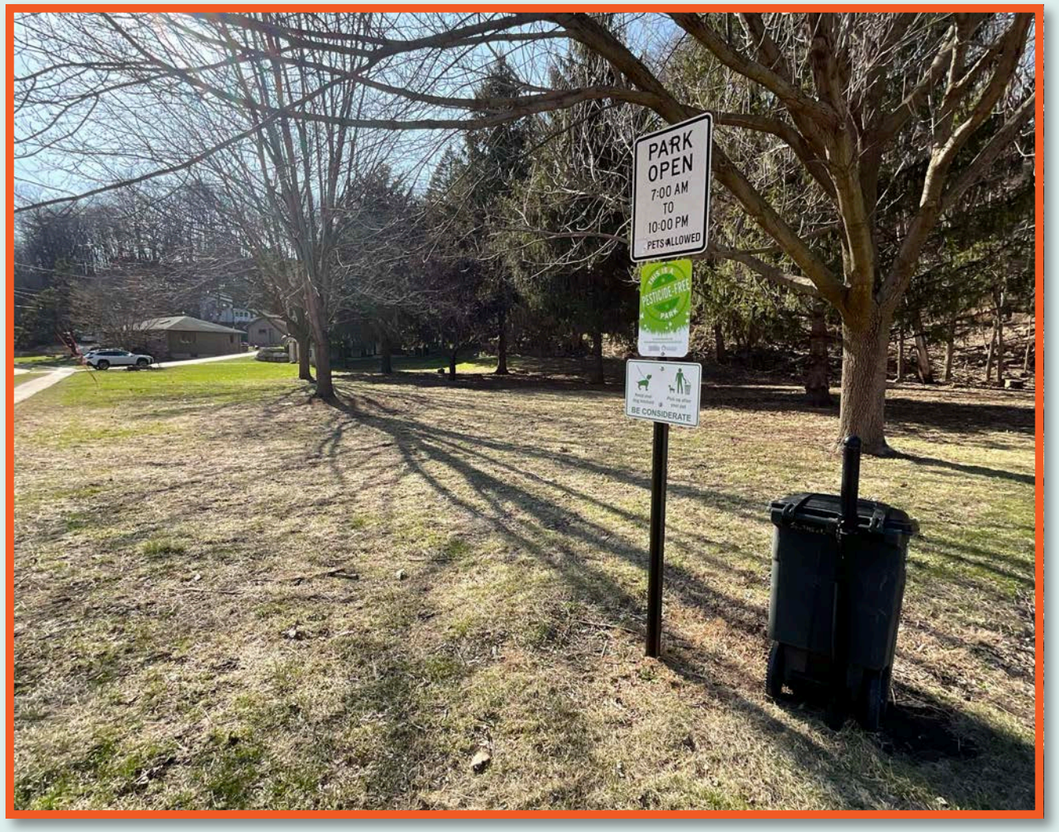


Y(OUR) STORY

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE Masterpiece on the Mississippi

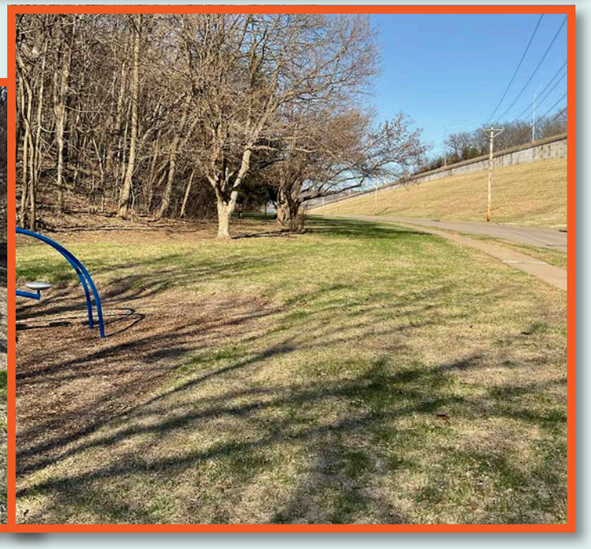
SOUTHERN PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Picnic Table (Wood)	1	3	
Playground	1	5	Great condition
Playground Equipment	3	5	One rocker, two balance beams
Playground Surfacing	2,365 SF	2	Good condition overall, not ADA and wood chips need refreshed
Sign (Traffic Style)	3	4	Park information signs
Trash	1	4	Permanent post with city bin attached









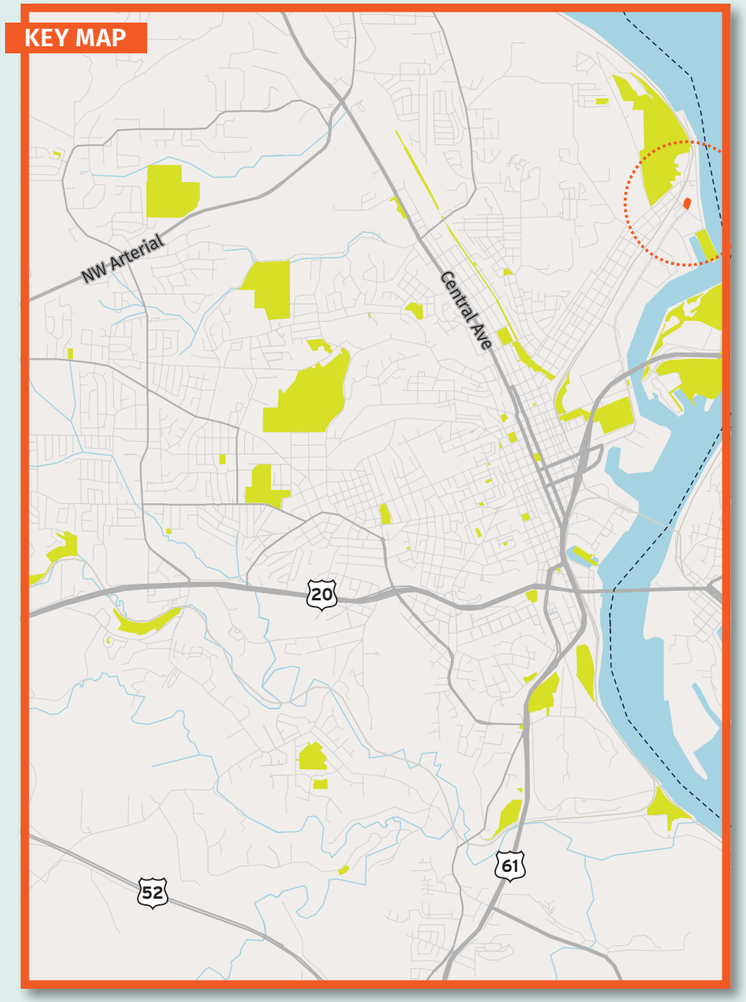
SUTTON POOL

1.6
ACRES

1900 Hawthorne St.

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

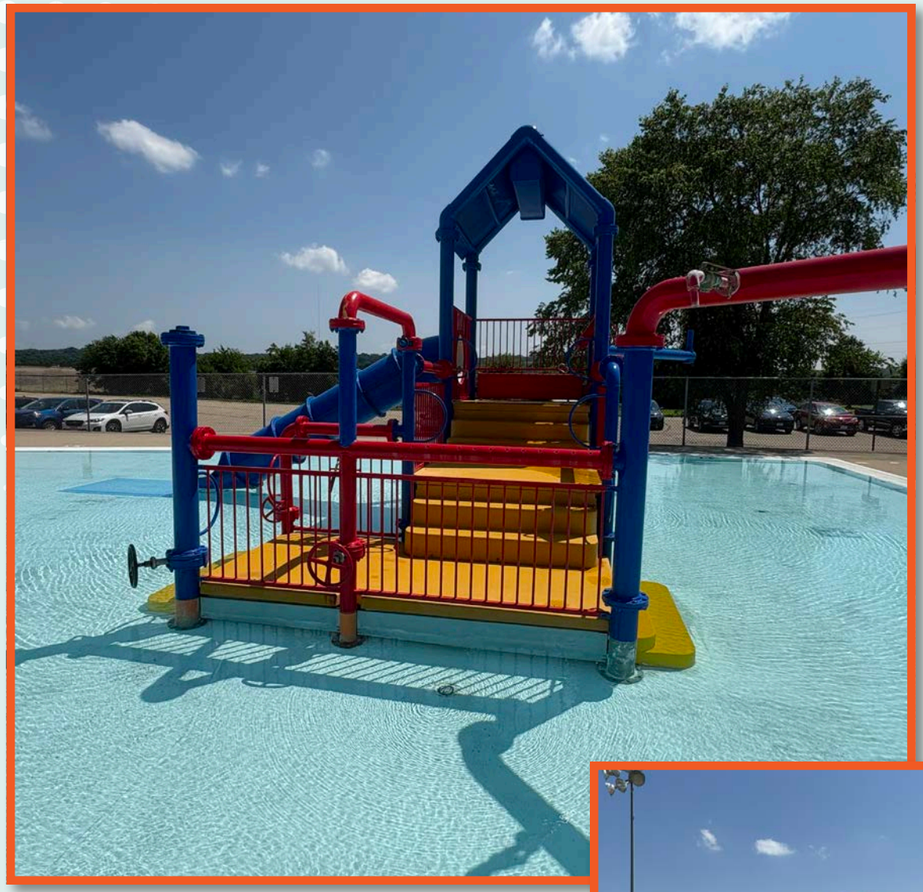
Sutton Pool offers adequate seating, tables, shaded deck areas, and diving boards. While the main pool remains usable, the water slides were closed to the public during inventory and present a safety concern. A targeted investment to repair or replace the slides, resurface deck areas to improve slip resistance, and ensure accessible pathways from seating and shade zones to the pool would significantly enhance safety and visitor experience





SUTTON POOL CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Aquatic Center (Pool)	38,750 SF	2	Some rusting and wear on pool surface, splash pad equipment looks solid, pool slides inoperable
Aquatic Slide Tower	1	1	Rusty stairs, railing, slide was not operational at time of inventory, potential safety concern
Bench (Stone)	2	3	Decent condition, ADA accessible
Bench (Metal)	1	3	
Drinking Fountain	1	3	Decent condition, works
Maintenance	1	3	Houses pool equipment, looks decent
Other	5	3	Umbrella style shade structure, slightly rusted, good condition
Picnic Table (Metal)	6	4	Looks new, great condition
Picnic Table (Wood)	1	3	Lifeguard station, decent condition
Pool Building (Locker Rooms, Concessions, Etc)	1,810 SF	2	
Restroom	2	3	Dated, but all looks decent, new paint as well
Sign (Traffic Style)	2	3	Pool signs, decent condition
Trash	3	3	Average wear present, decent condition







TEDDY BEAR PARK

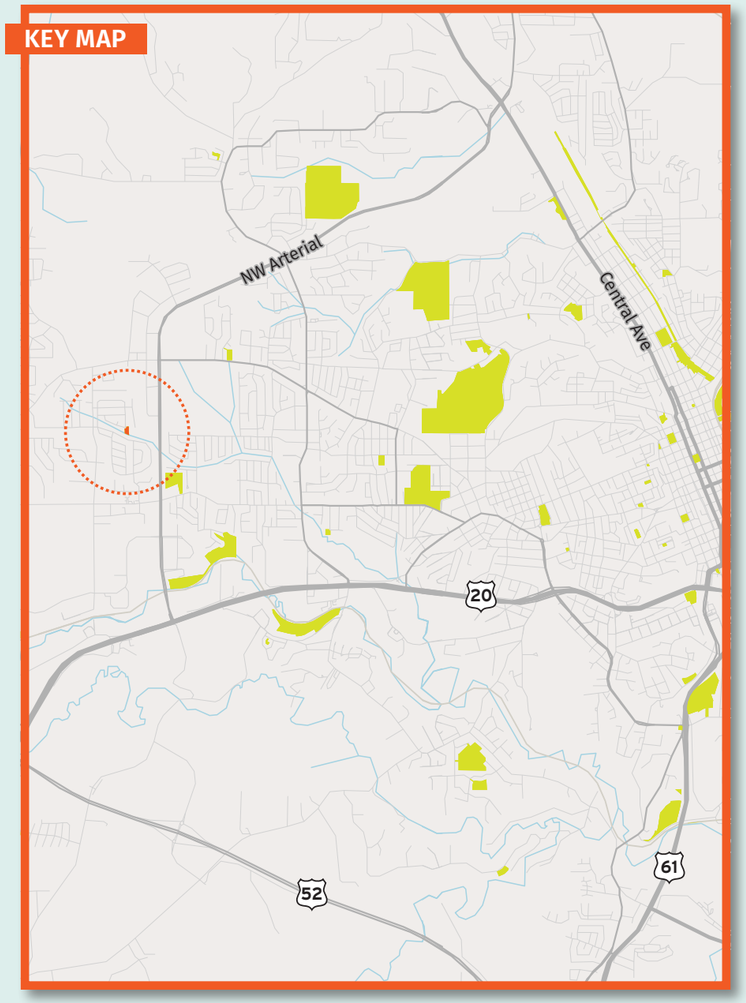
0.9 ACRES

4900 GABRIEL DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Teddy Bear Park features playground equipment, including swings and sand scoopers. The playground equipment exhibits fading paint and rust. Mulch is overgrown with grass and weeds in some areas, and the playground lacks ADA access. Sand scoopers show wear and rust. Addressing these maintenance issues, ensuring proper mulch depth, and improving ADA access will greatly benefit the park's usability and appearance.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



TEDDY BEAR PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench (Memorial)	1	3	Stone bench
Picnic Table (Wood)	2	3	
Playground	1	2	Paint is faded and starting to chip away, rust prevalent, no ADA access
Playground Surface (Mulch)	3,475 SF	2	Mulch doesn't appear to be to depth, needs refreshed
Playground Equipment	2	3	Two spring rockers, two diggers, all elements show signs of rust and weathering, mulch and sand need refreshed in thee areas
Sign (Monumentation)	1	1	Existing wooden sign is at the end of its lifecycle, needs updated with cities current monumentation standard
Sign (Traffic Style)	3	3	Park hours and info sign, good condition
Swings (Two Bay)	1	3	
Trash	1	3	











USHA PARK

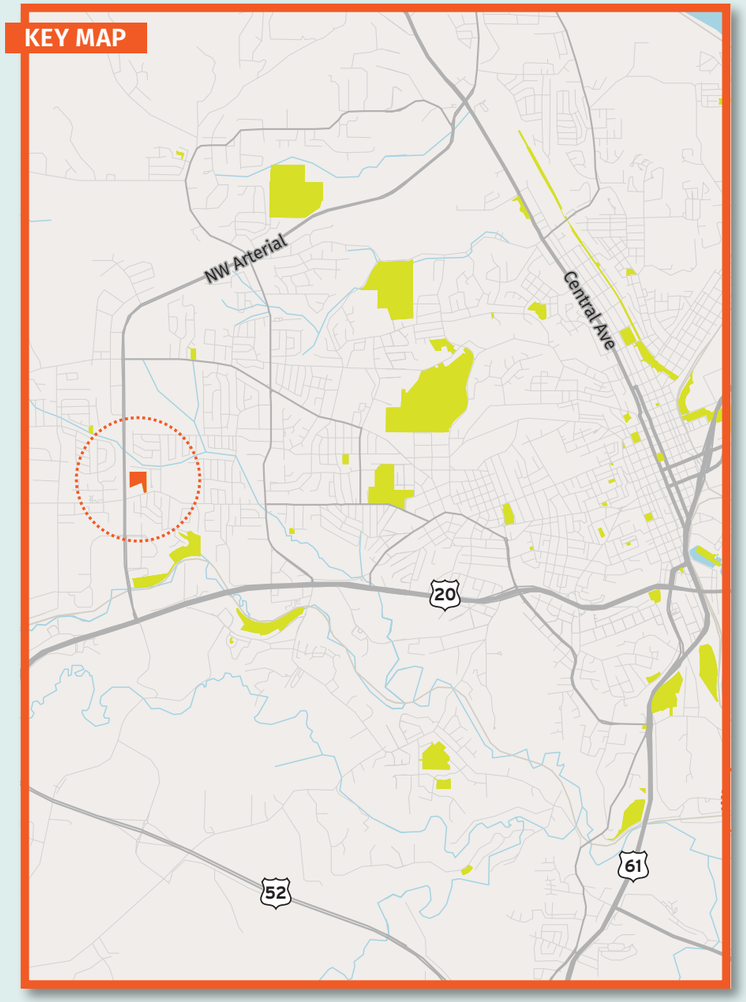
8 ACRES

3937 PENNSYLVANIA AVE

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Neighborhood**

Usha Park includes parking, playground equipment, and an artificial turf rectangle. Parking striping is faded though ADA spaces are present. The playground equipment exhibits advanced rust and faded surfaces, lacking ADA accessibility. Artificial turf is in decent condition though its purpose is unclear. Enhancement of ADA compliance and addressing rust issues will improve the park's functionality and safety.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



USHA PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Other (Artificial Turf Rectangle)	1	1	Artificial turf rectangle approximately 12'x72', cricket pitch
Parking	16,020 SF	3	ADA spaces and signage good, striping is fade
Picnic Table (Wood)	1	3	
Playground	1	2	Play equipment is in decent shape, surfaces are becoming extremely rusted, play structure is in middle of a field with no pathways or ADA access anywhere
Playground	2,815 SF	2	Mulch needs refreshed and doesn't appear to be at to be to proper depth
Playground Surface (Wood Mulch)	2,815 SF	2	Decent condition, needs refreshed
Sign (Monumentation)	1	1	Wooden park sign at end of lifecycle, needs updated to city standard
Sign (Monumentation)	1	1	The existing park wooden monument sign is at the end of its lifecycle and needs to be replaced with the City's current park monumentation standard
Sign (Traffic)	8	3	ADA signs, park hours sign







VALENTINE PARK

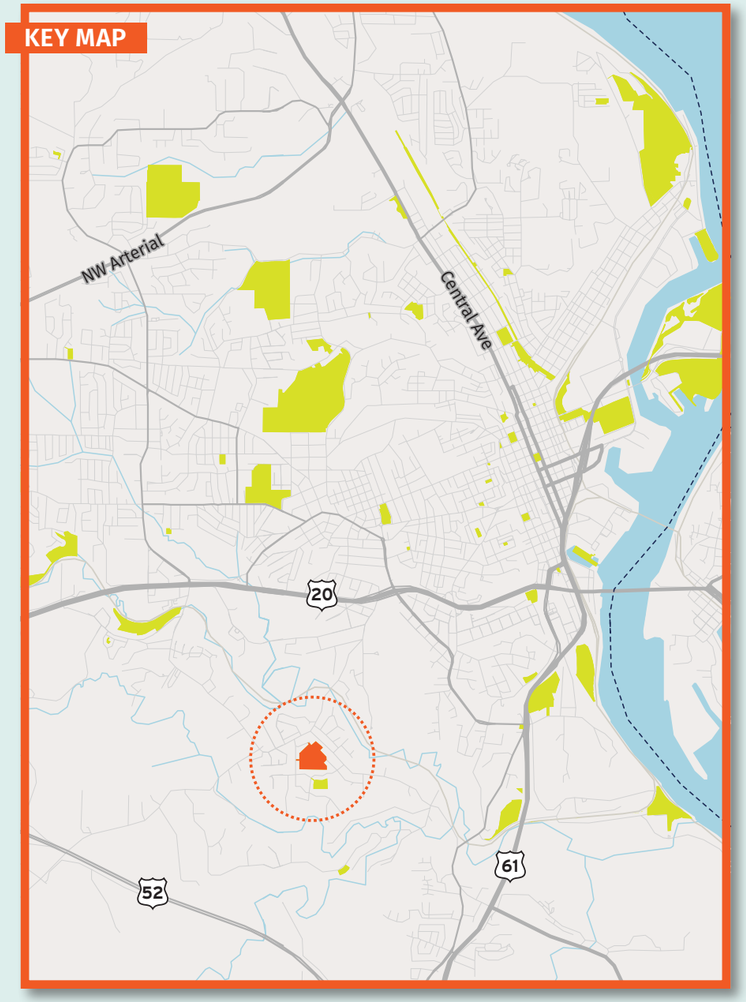
19.2
ACRES

860 VALENTINE DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Neighborhood**

Valentine Park contains amenities like lighting, picnic tables, restrooms, playgrounds, and a basketball court. While restrooms and some picnic tables appear in good condition, playground structures show rusting, chipped paint, and insufficient wood fiber. The basketball court has cracked asphalt and fading striping. Improvement efforts should focus on playground safety, court surface improvements, and ensuring ADA accessibility to enhance the visitor experience.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



VALENTINE PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Baseball	1	3	Chain link fence surrounding infield is in very poor condition, weeds are present in the infield, no signage or foul ball poles
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)		4	Great condition
Basketball Court Surface (Asphalt)	10,000 SF	2	Major cracks, striping faded
Bench	1	3	Extremely sun faded and memorial plaque tarnished
Drinking Fountain	2	4	Slightly dirty but otherwise great condition
Garden	1	3	No accessible path to garden
Lighting Parking	2	3	Some rust and fading present
Lighting Sidewalk	1	3	Some rust and fading present
Parking	32,800 SF	3	No designated ADA spaces, cracking present and seal coat fading
Pet Waste Station	2	4	
Picnic Table (Wood)	2	3	
Playground	1	3	Decent condition, fading and some rust present
Playground Equipment	2	4	Two sand diggers
Playground Surface (Wood Mulch)	4,120 SF	2	Wood mulch needs refreshed
Restroom	420 SF	4	Great condition
Roadway (Asphalt)	13,800 SF	3	
Sidewalk (Asphalt)	25,600 SF	4	
Sign (Monumentation)	1	1	Wooden monument park sign, needs replaced with new city standard
Sign (Traffic)	9	3	Great condition
Swing (Two Bay)	1	3	Decent condition, some paint fading and wear present
Trash	2	2	Decent condition







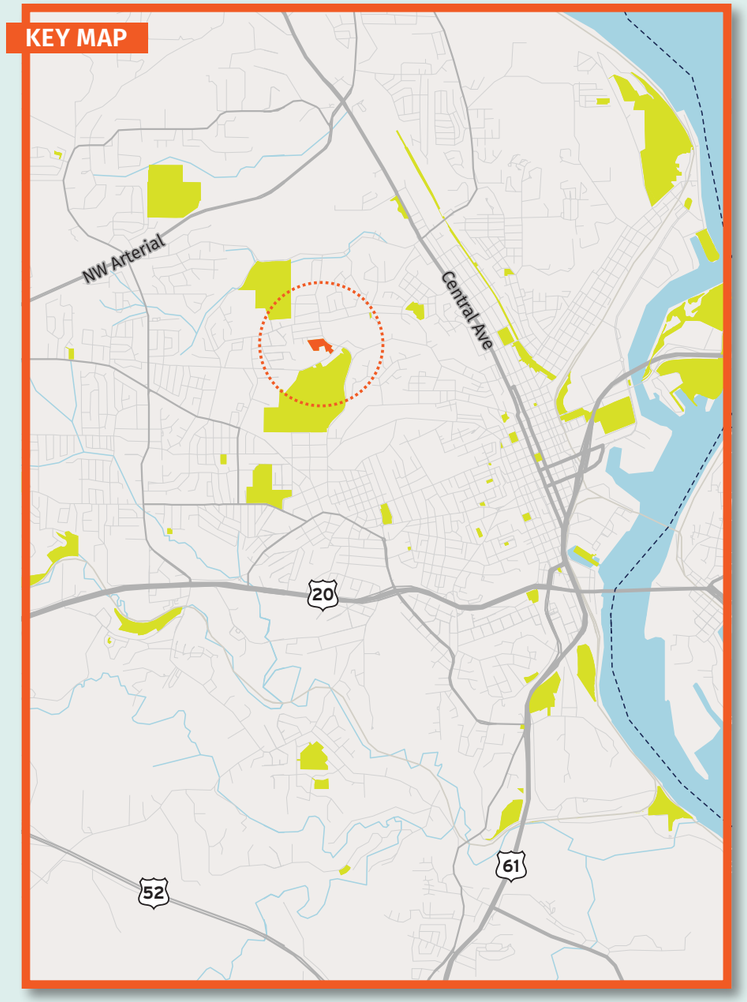
VALLEY HIGH PARK

6.4 ACRES

1290 CERRO DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Neighborhood**

Valley High Park offers a variety of amenities including swing sets, playground equipment, picnic tables, trash receptacles, basketball court, and parking. Playground equipment exhibits fading and wear while the restrooms and swing sets show rusting. Some trash receptacles are in poor condition and the basketball court is small with no striping. Enhancing safety measures in playgrounds and benches, refreshing worn surfaces, and ensuring better accessibility will improve Valley High Park's overall usability.





VALLEY HIGH PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)	1	2	Dated, wear present
Basketball Surface (Asphalt)	860 SF	2	No striping, too small for true half court, cracks and spalling present
Bench (Wrought Iron with Back)	2	5	Great condition, looks new
Parking	750 SF	2	No striping or ADA spaces, cracking and potholes present
Picnic Table (Wooden)	2	3	
Playground	1	2	No ADA access, sun faded and wear and tear on equipment
Playground Surface (Wood Mulch)	3,858 SF	1	No edging around mulch, needs refreshed
Playground Equipment	4	3	Two sand diggers, two spring rockers
Sign (Monumental)	1	1	Wooden park sign at end of its life, needs updated with city standard monument sign
Sign (Traffic)	2	4	Park hours sign and rules
Swing Set (Two Bay)	2	2	Connection points and chains rusted, no edger along mulch
Trash	1	2	Dented and discolored, no bag or lid present











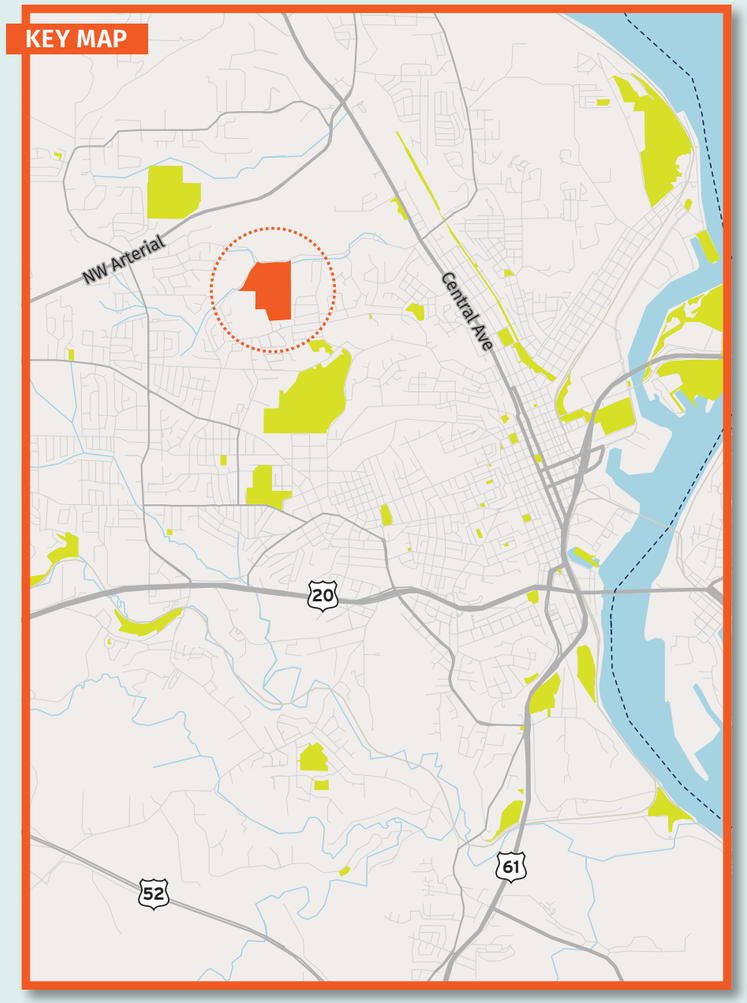
VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK

68 ACRES

2790 MIRACLE LEAGUE DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Veterans' Memorial Park contains numerous amenities like parking, flag poles, benches, pavilions, picnic tables, a playground, and a baseball field. While most picnic tables and benches are well-maintained, some minor rust and vandalism are noted. The baseball field is top-notch but has drainage issues under bleachers. Trash bins need occasional cleaning. Continued attention to minor maintenance issues and improving drainage problems will ensure the park remains a well-loved community space.





VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Baseball	3	4	Good condition, some rusting on net support poles
Bench	39	4	Good condition overall
Bike Rack	2	5	Great condition overall
Concession	1	5	Very nice building with restrooms, classrooms and concessions
Disc Golf	1	5	Solid nets, great course
Drinking Fountain	3	5	Great condition
Flag Pole	3	5	Great condition
Kiosk	2	3	Overall good condition, some broken elements
Lighting Parking	1	5	Great condition
Lighting Walkway	2	5	LED and court lighting, great condition
Other	1	5	Batting practice area, great condition
Parking	75,000 SF	5	Great condition, great ADA spots
Pavilion Open	4	5	Wear and tear on posts, no shade currently
Pickleball	10	5	New courts, great condition
Picnic Table	21	4	Good overall, some minor vandalism and wear
Playground (5-12 Years)	2	4	New playground is incredible, older playground is decent overall, no ADA access, lighting or seating, rust prevalent, seems hidden and detached from rest of park
Playground (2-5 Years)	1	3	
Playground Equipment	19	3	Rockers, climbing net, spinners balance beams
Playground Surface	25, 580 SF	4	20,840 SF of new PIP rubberized surface, 4,740 SF of wood mulch
Sign (Monument)	2	5	Park sign at entrance, disc golf entrance sign
Sign	1	5	Donors recognition sign
Sign (Traffic Style)	17	4	Disk golf signage, park hours and rules, speed limit signs, ADA parking signs
Swing Set (Two Bay)	1	4	Needs more wood fiber, no access, feels unsafe
Trash	4	3	Decent condition, rusty



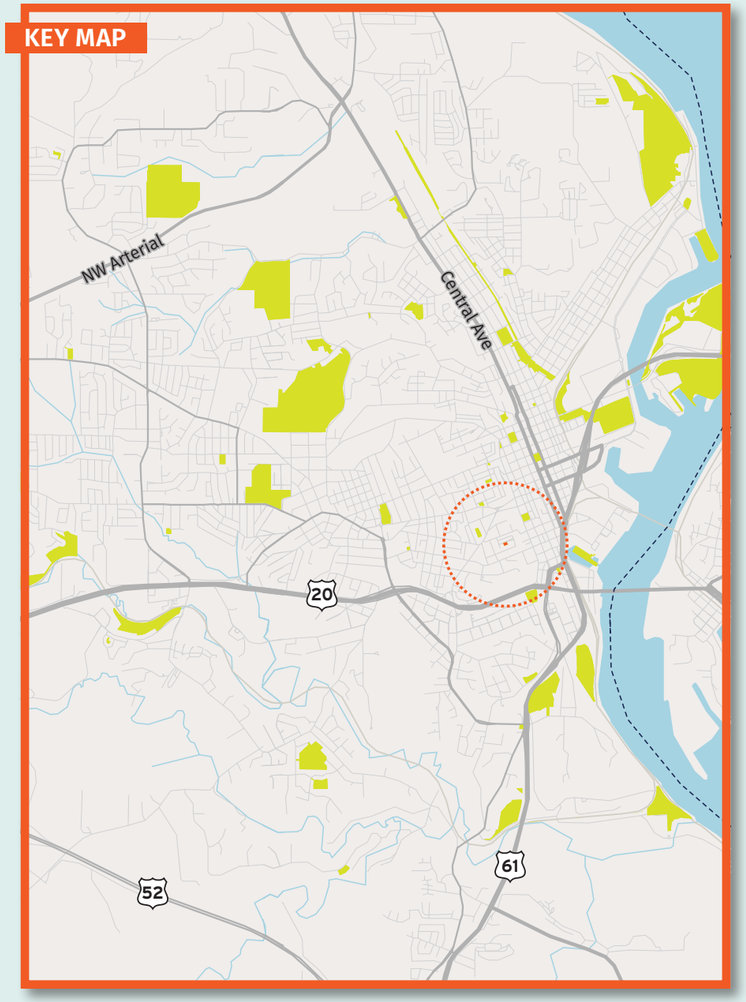
WALLER-COOPER PARK

0.4
ACRES

600 COOPER PL

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Waller-Cooper Park offers amenities such as a little free library, picnic tables, a basketball court, BBQ grill, benches, playground equipment, and signage. The picnic tables and BBQ grill show signs of rust and wear, with some vandalism present. The basketball court lacks ADA access, hoop and post are in good condition, but has no striping, and dimensions appear off. Benches are tilting, faded, and rusting. The playground equipment needs more fiber, and playground elements are worn. Improving ADA accessibility and routine maintenance will enhance the park's appeal and safety.





WALLER-COOPER PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Basketball (Goal, Net, Rim, Backboard, Pole)	1	4	Great condition
Basketball Court Surface (Asphalt)	1,185 SF	2	No ADA access, no striping, doesn't seem to be correct size for half court
BBQ Grill	1	3	Rust very prevalent
Bench	1	2	Fading, chipping and rusting prevalent
Chain Link Fence	30 LF	4	Good condition
Picnic Table	1	4	Some rusting and vandalism present but good condition overall
Playground	1	3	Wear and tear present, decent condition overall
Playground Surface (Wood Mulch)	2,260 SF	2	Wood fiber needs refreshed, no ADA access
Sign (Monumentation)	1	3	The existing park wooden monument sign is at the end of its lifecycle and needs to be replaced with the city's current park monumentation standard
Sign (Traffic Style)	2	3	Park signage and rules









WASHINGTON PARK

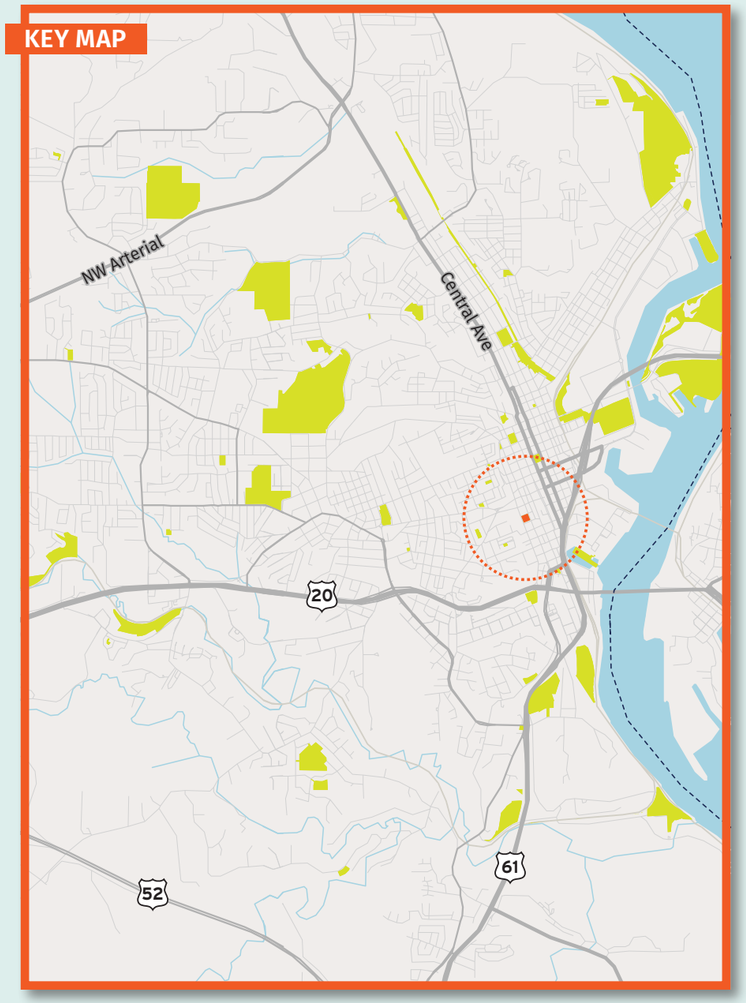
1.5
ACRES

625 LOCUST ST

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Community**

Washington Park features benches, trash receptacles, lighting, pavilions, and flag poles. Benches exhibit rust, coating erosion, and overall wear. Trash receptacles are generally well-maintained. Lighting and pavilion structures show some rust, while the park's flag poles are in good condition. Addressing rust on benches, lighting, and pavilion structures, and maintaining the good condition of flag poles, will ensure Washington Park remains a welcoming environment for community use.

KEY MAP



AERIAL



Y(OUR) STORY

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE Masterpiece on the Mississippi

WASHINGTON PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bench	5	2	Rusted, coating is eroding, signs of wear
Drinking Fountain	1	3	Decent condition, one bubbler
Electric Pedestal (50 Amp)	8	5	
Flag Pole	3	4	Good condition
Lighting Walkway	8	3	Decent condition, metal pole with ornate glass house
Art	1	3	Statue of liberty art piece
Pavilion Open	1	3	Some rusting at base
Picnic Table (Wood)	5	3	
Sidewalk (Concrete)	810 SF	4	
Sign (Interpretive Display)	2	4	
Sign (Plaque)	4	5	
Trash	4	3	Roller bin on stand, decent condition









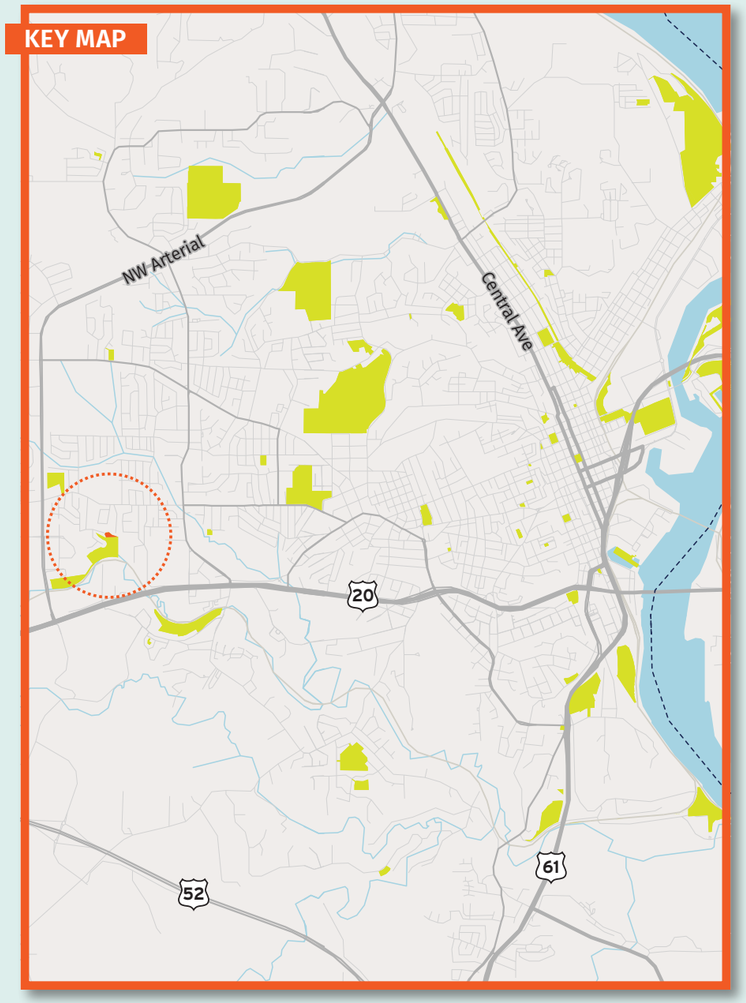
WELU PARK

1.1 ACRES

3655 WELU DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Mini-Park**

Welu Park does not currently exist as it appears to have been recently removed. Developing new park amenities would transform this space into a valuable recreational area for the community.





WELU PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Other	1	N/A	No park was present







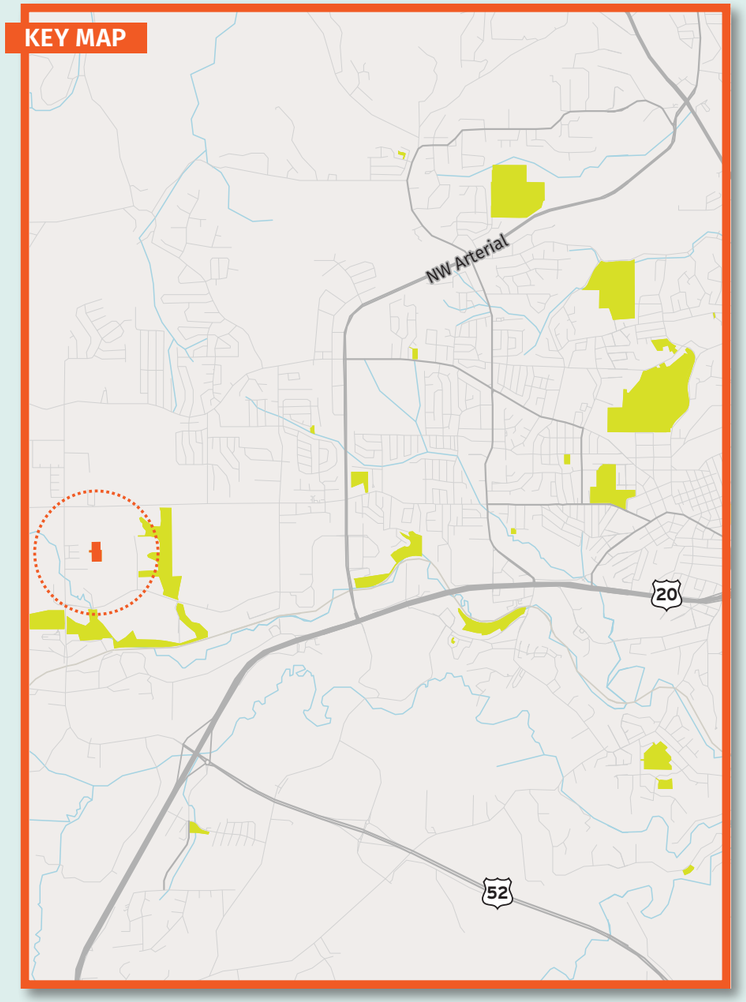
WESTBROOK PARK

0.2
ACRES

N WESTBROOK DR

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **Neighborhood**

Westbrook Park features a playground, bench swings, picnic tables, bike racks, and trash receptacles. The playground and bench swings are brand new, with some installations still in progress. Picnic tables and bike racks are also new and in excellent condition. Maintaining this high standard and regularly monitoring installations can help ensure Westbrook Park remains a premier spot for community recreation.





WESTBROOK PARK CONTINUED

AMENITY TYPE	QTY	GRADE	NOTES
Bike Rack	1	5	
Picnic Table (Metal)	2	5	
Playground	1	5	
Playground Equipment	1	5	Sensory wall
Playground Surfacing (Pour in Place Rubber)	1,100 SF	5	
Playground Equipment	2	5	
Sidewalk (Concrete)	2,135 SF	5	
Sign (Monumentation)	1	5	
Swing Benches	2	5	
Trash	1	5	











Eagle Point Park

Eagle Point Park is a city jewel overlooking the Mississippi River with views of three different states from its 164 acres. The land was originally purchased in 1908, with 17 additional parcels donated or purchased since. The park today contains ponds, an amphitheater, a water tower, multiple playground elements, tennis courts, walking paths and overlooks, a log cabin, memorials, pavilions, restrooms, BBQ and gathering areas, and other recreational opportunities.

Existing pavilions within the park were built as far back as 1910. Many of the structures were constructed during the 1930s with grants from the Works Progress Administration. These buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are part of the Eagle Point Park Historic District.

During the Plan's public outreach process, many comments praised the park while expressing a desire to restore it to its former, more pristine condition. A great deal of city pride and connection revolves around Eagle Point Park. Beyond ongoing maintenance and restoration, as well as historic preservation projects, a few overall improvement projects should be considered:

Signage, Mapping, and Visitor Experience: Eagle Point Park has potential to be even more of a regional destination and major landmark. Implementing more maps, educational and wayfinding signage including historical and habitat information, improving site fencing from chain-link to typical view fencing height and design, and overall theming could make the space easier to navigate for visitors and tourists.

Erosion, Invasive species, and Reforesting: Areas where water/runoff has eroded hardscape and landscape features, where invasive species like oriental bittersweet have overgrown and could be replaced with diverse native plants, and locations suitable for reforestation and native prairie restoration should continue to be explored.

Circulation and Accessibility: While many walking paths exist through the park, circulation routes (especially ADA-compliant ones) to amenities themselves are limited. Many amenities are built on steep grassy slopes without sidewalks or flat zones with seating; ramps at key areas would improve accessibility for all. Opportunities also exist to expand circulation routes through undeveloped portions of the park.

Community Parks

Dubuque's larger community parks meet diverse needs of the city, and include a range of amenities like sport courts, playgrounds and splash pads, disc golf, passive recreation and fishing areas, pavilions, hockey rink, and skate parks. Community parks serve broader populations and act as hubs for community events, sports leagues, festivals, and civic engagement. These parks provide broad, versatile spaces and uses, and anchor whole portions of the city.

Dubuque's destination community parks include A.Y. McDonald Park, Bee Branch Creek Greenway, Bergfeld Recreation Area, Comiskey Park, Eagle Point Park, Marshall Park & Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Veterans Memorial Plaza & McAleece Park and Recreation Complex, Veterans Memorial Park and Miracle League, and Washington Park. Other community parks include Allison-Henderson Park, Louis Murphy Park, and Flora Krey Wahlert Park.

Community parks within Dubuque vary in condition, mostly due to age. Some older parks contain aging amenities that need repair or replacement, while other newer parks with excellent assets have different challenges such as security and vandalism.

Neighborhood Parks

Dubuque's neighborhood parks are more compact spaces than community parks and serve smaller, more immediate populations within the city, typically containing amenities like playgrounds, sport courts, and passive recreation spaces. These parks can anchor neighborhoods and provide spaces for residents to gather and enjoy day-to-day recreational activities.

Neighborhood parks within Dubuque vary from urban green spaces like Sister City International Park which focus more on seating and walking loops, to parks tucked within residential neighborhoods like Valentine Park that contain play spaces and sports fields. Some of these more residential parks could easily be mistaken for HOA parks; many do not have dedicated parking nearby and/or are so deep within communities they cause confusion (such as Avon Park, Eagle Valley Park, Harvest View Park, or Falk Park). Others are pockets of vegetated space and have no amenities at all, such as Grant Park. Some parks, originally constructed by residential developers and later transferred to the City, occupy challenging parcels, lack parking, and may present long-term maintenance burdens for Dubuque.

Most of the major safety issues tied to aging assets were noted within neighborhood parks, whose large number and wide distribution across the city complicates maintenance scheduling. A possibility of consolidating amenity installation and replacement within highly-trafficked neighborhood parks and community parks could help alleviate budget, staffing, and maintenance issues—this idea is explored further within other chapters.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

A well-rounded parks system offers diverse park and facility types to provide varied parks and recreation experiences to Dubuque residents and visitors. Each park and facility within the system has a set of objectives. A successful classification system categorizes these park types to achieve and maintain the desired objectives for the system overall. The park classification system defines multiple park types with the recognition that individual parks and their offerings may vary. Future park improvements will be guided by these classification descriptions, but ultimately be derived from the needs of the community through a public participation process. The following park classification descriptions are not meant to provide strict rules on what amenities are to be provided but should be used as a guide to ensure the City's parks are activated, accessible, inclusive, and meet the needs of the intended service areas .

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK: Neighborhood parks provide primary recreation services and facilities that are easily accessible and available to local residents; serve a single neighborhood or several neighborhoods, depending on location; are preferably located with or next to elementary schools, neighborhood centers, or other gathering places; and are accessed primarily via pedestrians and bicycles.

Other features include:

- **Amenities:** One signature amenity; may include one non-programmed sports field; playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with shaded elements; no reservable shelters; loop trails; one type of sport court; benches, small picnic shelters next to play areas.
- **Land usage:** 85 percent active/15 percent passive
- **Programming:** Typically none, but a signature amenity may be included which is programmed

COMMUNITY PARK: Community parks centralize a full range of recreational activities for major parts of the city; have the capacity to accommodate large groups; generally feature a community center building designed to meet multi-generational recreation needs, as well as lighted recreation amenities and sport fields/courts; serve several neighborhoods; are preferably located central to a group of neighborhoods and often next to elementary, middle, or high schools; and are accessed primarily by pedestrians, bicycles, and automobiles.

Other features include:

- **Amenities:** Four signature amenities at a minimum; public restrooms with drinking fountains, ample parking, and security lighting. Amenities are ADA compliant. Sport Fields and Sport Complexes are typical at this park.
- **Land usage:** 65 percent active and 35 percent passive
- **Programming:** Minimum of four essential program services

REGIONAL PARK: Regional Parks are typically larger than 100 acres in size and serve a very broad range of people throughout the entire city or region. These parks offer large-scale recreational opportunities and frequently offer some passive recreation such as fishing, nature education, or exploration. These large park areas can offer unique recreational opportunities suited to larger areas such as disc golf and bicycle routes while still offering more traditional recreational opportunities like playgrounds, play lawns, athletic complexes, or sport courts. Regional parks may also feature large multi-generational or aquatics facilities to meet year-round indoor recreation needs.

Other features include:

- **Amenities:** 8 to 12 amenities to create a signature facility; public restrooms with drinking fountains, ample parking, special event site. Sport Fields and Sport Complexes can be part of this park.
- **Revenue facilities:** More than two; park designed to produce some revenue and attract tourism
- **Land usage:** Up to 50 percent active/50 percent passive
- **Programming:** More than four recreation experiences per age segment with at least four core programs provided

SPECIALTY PARK: **Specialty parks provide specialized facilities and preserve significant unique features of the community; generally serve the entire city; are located where necessary to capitalize on an existing feature, facility, or specialized market area; and may need a high-degree of access or limited access.**

Other features include:

- **Amenities:** Varies by facility
- **Revenue facilities:** Due to nature of certain facilities, revenue may be required for construction and/or annual maintenance. This should be determined at a policy level before the facility is planned and constructed
- **Land usage:** Varies by facility
- **Programming:** Varies by facility

CONSERVATION PARKS: **Conservation parks are sites that preserve natural, cultural, and historic resources. These areas provide a tranquil setting for experiences in the outdoors.**

Other features include:

- **Amenities:** Zero to one signature amenity; no reservable shelters; loop trails; benches, small picnic shelters
- **Land usage:** 100 percent passive
- **Programming:** Typically none, may include nature education programs

LINEAR PARKS/GREENWAYS: **Linear parks and greenways are built connections or natural corridors that link together parts of the city. Typically, the linear park is developed for one or more modes of recreational travel such as walking, jogging, biking, in-line skating, hiking, and water sports. Linear parks may include active play areas. Multi-use trails also offer a safe, alternative form of transportation, provide substantial health benefits, provide habitat enhancements for plants and wildlife, and offer unique opportunities for outdoor education and cultural interpretation.**

Other features include:

- **Amenities:** Zero to five signature amenities based on length of park and location; no reservable shelters; loop trails; benches, small picnic shelters
- **Land usage:** 10-20 percent active/80-90 percent passive
- **Programming:** Typically none, may include nature education programs or walking/hiking/biking group programs

PARK	EXISTING CLASSIFICATION	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION
Allison-Henderson Park	Community	Community
Avon Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
AY McDonald Park	Community	Community
Bee Branch Greenway	Community	Linear Park/Greenway
Bee Branch Greenway	Community	Linear Park/Greenway
Bunker Hill Golf Course	Golf	Specialty
Burden Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Cancer Survivor Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Center Grove Open Space	Other	Conservation Area
Cleveland Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Comiskey Park	Neighborhood	Community
Creek Wood Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood
Eagle Point Park	Community	Regional
Eagle Valley Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Elmwood Green Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
English Ridge Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood
Falk Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Flat Iron Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Flora Park	Community	Community
Four Mounds Park	Other	Conservation Area
Gay Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood
Grandview Green Space	Other	Specialty
Granger Creek Nature Trail	Community	Linear Park/Greenway
Grant Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Ham House Historic Site	Other	Specialty
Harvest View Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Heritage Trail	Community	Linear Park/Greenway
Hillcrest Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Hilltop Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Jackson Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Jefferson Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood

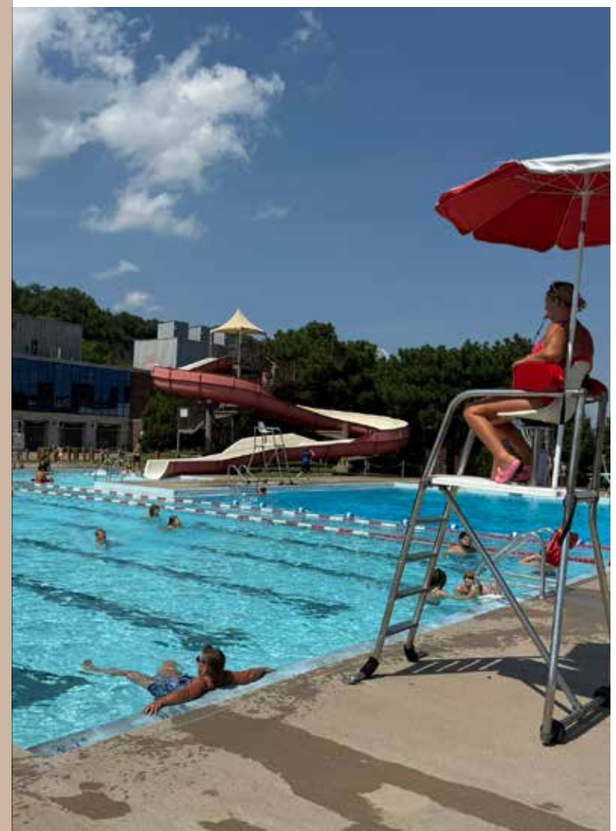
PARK	EXISTING CLASSIFICATION	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION
John G Bergfeld Recreation Area	Community	Conservation Area
Madison Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Marna Ridge Children's Forest	Mini-Park	Specialty
Marshall Park/Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Garden	Community	Specialty
Maus Park	Community	Conservation Area
McAleece Park and Recreation Complex	Community	Community
Medical Associates Greenbelt	Community	Linear Park/Greenway
Miller Riverview Park	Community	Specialty
Mines of Spain	Community	Conservation Area
Murphy Park	Community	Community
Oakwood Park	Other	Linear Park/Greenway
Orange Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Pet Park	Other	Specialty
Pinard Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Port of Dubuque Marina	Community	Specialty
Riley Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Rocco Buda Jr. Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Rustic Point Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood
Sister City International Park	Community	Specialty
Southern Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Sutton Pool	Community	Specialty
Teddy Bear Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Usha Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood
Valentine Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood
Valley High Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood
Veterans' Memorial Park	Community	Community
Waller-Cooper Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Washington Park	Community	Specialty
Welu Park	Mini-Park	Neighborhood
Westbrook Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood



Chapter 4

Recreation

The Call of Adventure





Y(OUR) STORY

Dubuque
Parks and Recreation
Comprehensive Plan

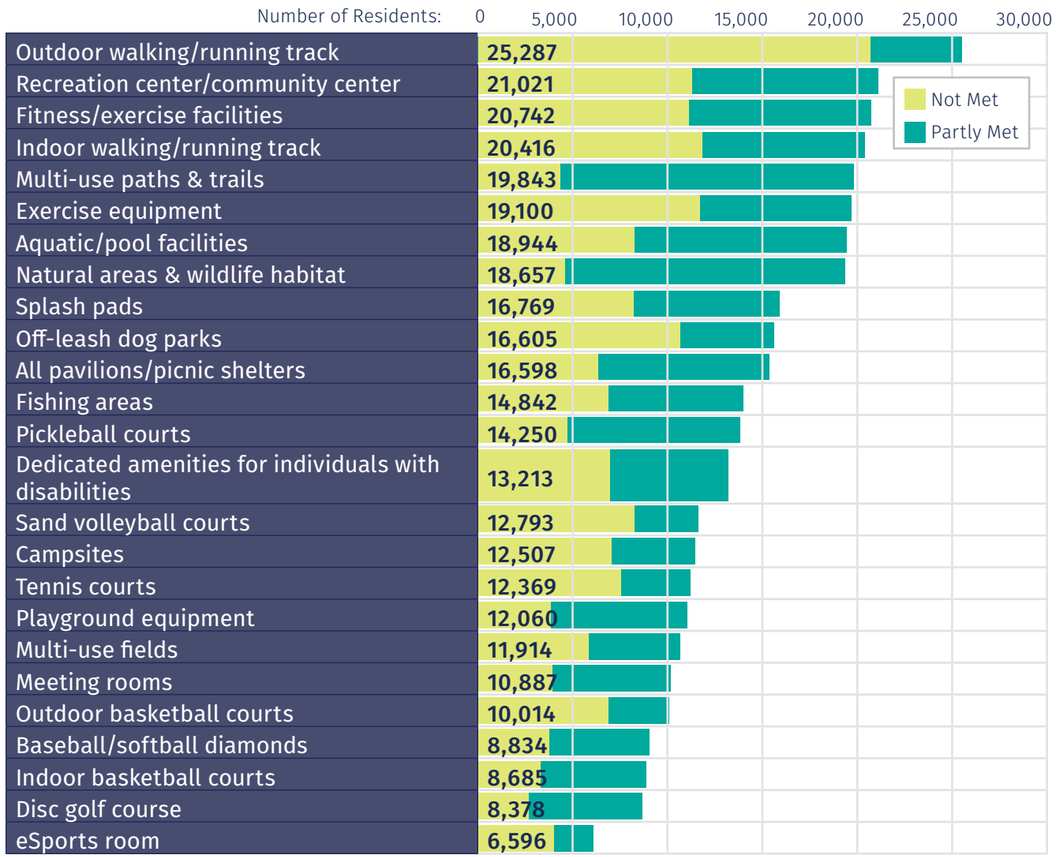
WHAT WE HEARD OVERVIEW

As part of the master planning process, it is important to understand what the community desires in terms of facilities and programs. ETC Institute completed a statistically valid survey to measure the needs and priorities of the residents. B*K is taking that information and correlating it back to participation trends, and the ability of the City and Department to offer those programs with their existing inventory of amenities.

Within the ETC survey, respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 25 facilities/amenities and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community with the greatest "unmet" need for various facilities/amenities.

Estimated number of residents whose facility and amenity needs are only "partly met" or "not met"

BY NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS WITH NEED BASED ON AN ESTIMATED 59,667 RESIDENTS



Top Amenities with an Unmet Need

Based on that data, the top three amenities/facilities with the highest percentage of households that have an unmet need along with project team narrative.

Walking/Running Track

The school district has an outdoor track that is available for public use. However, the challenge for both the outdoor track and the indoor spaces offered by the school district is that availability is limited. In addition to the outdoor track the school district offers, the YMCA also has an indoor walk/jog track for their members.

As has already been mentioned, exercise walking is the #1 most participated in activity according to the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and running/jogging is #6.

Recreation Center/Community Center

There is a YMCA in the community that serves as a recreation center option. Additionally, in many communities the local library serves in a community center-like capacity. However, those types of facilities operated by the City are not currently available in Dubuque.

Fitness/Exercise Facilities

There is a plethora of smaller, in some cases singularly focused, privately owned and operated fitness and wellness providers in the city. There is also a non-profit provider in the YMCA. Based on the work the project team has done across the country, there is evidence that publicly operated recreation centers, with fitness components, facilitate increased participation with private providers. At the same time, some cities choose not to get into the business of offering fitness.

Multi-Use Paths and Trails

The City offers approximately 45 miles of on-/off- street trails for the community. However as previously referenced, exercise walking, running/jogging, and hiking are multi-generational activities with high rates of participation.

Exercise Equipment

This equipment is typically within a recreation center or fitness facility. The use of exercise equipment is a multi-generational activity with a high rate of participation along with the ability to generate revenue via daily use or membership fees.

Aquatic/Pool Facilities

The City operates two seasonal outdoor pools, and the YMCA operates an indoor pool. Swimming as an activity is in the top 5 of activities reported on by the NSGA and it also may be the most multi-generational of all activities.

Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat

The City offers this in a way with access to the river and the areas along the river.

Splash Pads

The City currently has one splash pad, but should consider offering additional. Operation of a splash pad can be intensive depending on the type of system (flow through v. recirculation). The benefit of this amenity is that they can extend the summer (water) season in both May and September. They are also typically free and an easy way for residents to cool off.

Off-Leash Dog Parks

The City offers a pet park, but these are growing in popularity. They can be labor intensive, and some communities are assigning a usage or membership fee to help offset costs.

Pavilions/Picnic Shelters

The City offers more than 30 shelter opportunities throughout the system.

Fishing Areas

The City has four accessible fishing piers, and they operate the marina. In terms of popularity, freshwater fishing ranks #10 amongst the 56 activities the NSGA collected data on.

Pickleball Courts

This is the fastest growing sport in the country, and the City has nine dedicated pickleball courts and six combination volleyball/pickleball courts. The activity is becoming more multi-generational and ranks #19 amongst the NSGA activities.

Dedicated Amenities for Individuals with Disabilities

The City operates one all-inclusive baseball field, and while a significant asset, it serves a small population. They also have accessible piers for fishing and are working to make more of their playgrounds and play equipment accessible to all abilities. Currently, there are approximately 4,000 households in the city with an individual that has some level of disability.

Sand Volleyball Courts

This is something that is gaining popularity and, while the NSGA does not distinguish between volleyball and sand volleyball, it ranks #26 amongst the NSGA activities. This is not an amenity the City currently supports.

Campsites

Camping (vacation/overnight) ranks #7 amongst the NSGA activities. The city currently offers camping at Miller Riverview Park. The city should consider offering additional camping areas.

Tennis Courts

The City currently operates and maintains 15 tennis courts in their system. As an activity, tennis ranks #20 amongst the NSGA activities, and has increased with popularity, possibly as an offshoot to pickleball or vice versa.

Playground Equipment

The City has over 285 units of play equipment in their inventory, and as a comparison from the NRPA, 94% of agencies offer playgrounds to their residents.

Multi-Use Fields

The City does not have an inventory of multi-use fields or, as what the consulting team would refer to as, rectangles. These amenities typically accommodate football, soccer, lacrosse, and other activities. They are heavily used by youth sports, which continue to grow in popularity and increase demand and use of public facilities.

Meeting Rooms

The City does offer meeting rooms at a variety of locations.

Basketball Courts

The City has seven full-size and eight half basketball courts. As an activity, basketball ranks #13 amongst the NSGA activities but has not shown major increases or decreases.

Baseball/Softball Diamonds

The City offers 10 softball fields, one baseball field, and one all-inclusive baseball field. Baseball ranks #27 and softball ranks #31 amongst the NSGA activities. Both activities have experienced a decrease in participation over the past 10 years.

Disc Golf Course

The City offers one disc golf course and, according to the NRPA, 35% of member agencies offer this amenity.

eSports Room

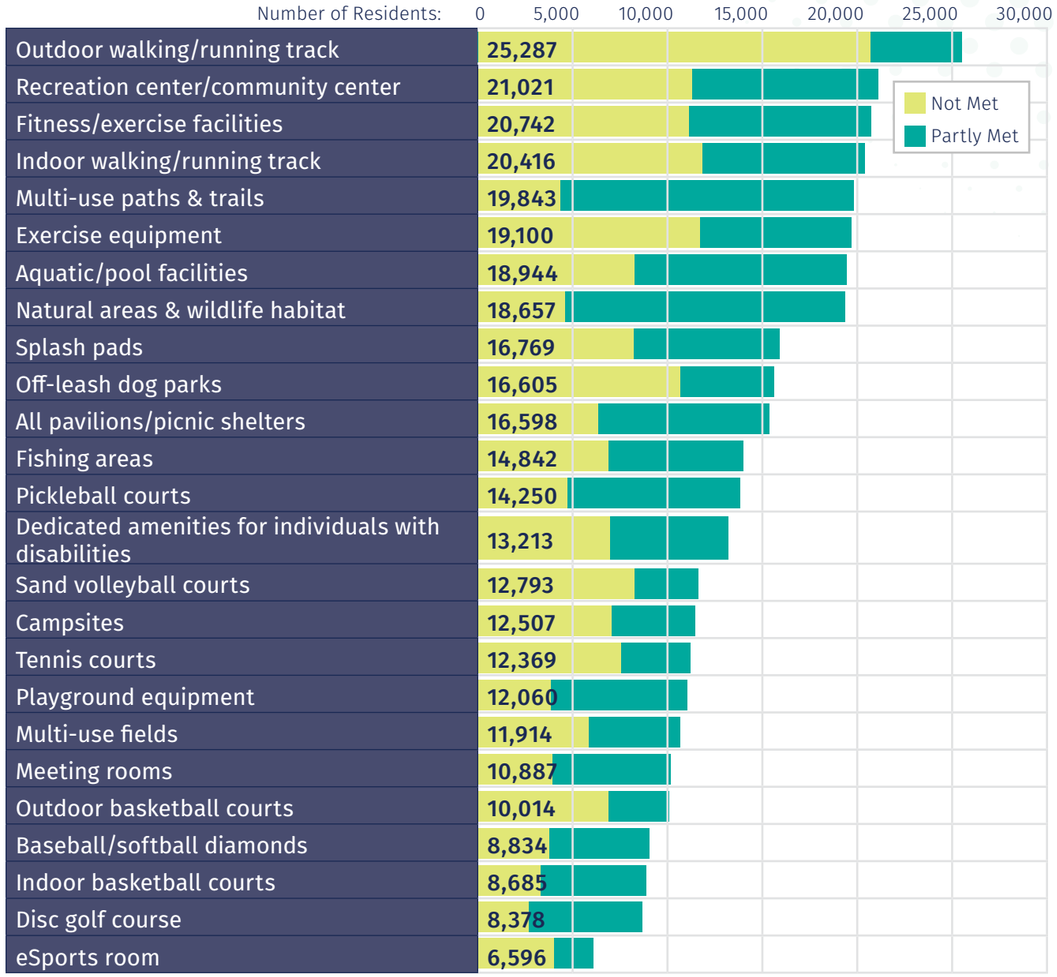
This is something that the City offers through the Dubuque Esports League. According to the NRPA, approximately 27% of member agencies offer this type of programming, which does not always necessitate a dedicated facility.

Top Activities

Respondents to the survey were asked to take the amenities and identify which four (4) are the most important to their household.

Estimated number of residents whose facility and amenity needs are only "partly met" or "not met"

BY NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS WITH NEED BASED ON AN ESTIMATED 59,667 RESIDENTS



The project team will touch on the top five activities:

1 Aquatic/Pool Facilities

It is not uncommon for pools and/or aquatic facilities to be in the top five amenities, or of things people want to see. With the City already operating two outdoor pools, it may mean it is time to re-invest in the facility with new amenities, or an entirely new facility.

Some municipalities supplement their outdoor pool offerings by strategically placing splash pads in the community, which are cheaper to build and maintain. With the City already having one splashpad at Comiskey Park that may be a continued future direction.

This could also mean that residents are looking for the City to develop an indoor aquatic center. The project team would not recommend constructing a stand-alone aquatic facility. The operational costs are just too high, and the best the City could hope for would be a 50-75% cost recovery rate. Most aquatic facilities being built today are either in conjunction with a school district, or as part of a larger community recreation center.

2 Multi-Use Paths and Trails

Like pools, it is not uncommon to see trails or walking/jogging paths in the top five amenities or things people want to see in their community. The important thing to consider, if the City is to invest in more trails and pathways, is connectivity and safety. Determining how to make the community walkable and bikeable is an important step, quickly followed by how to do that exact same thing safely.

The benefit of multi-use paths and trails, is that they are relatively low maintenance, depending on the surface the City chooses. They also present opportunities for partnerships with connections and maintenance.

3 Walking/Running Track

Again, this amenity is available to the community as an outdoor option. However, given its prominence in the survey, the reality is residents are likely looking for an indoor option. These amenities are typically in association with a recreation or community center and are elevated around indoor court space. As an amenity they are low maintenance, while receiving high use. As a standalone amenity, it would not drive a membership, but combined with other amenities it would enhance the membership experience.

4 Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat

This is an interesting topic because the City can approach it from several different ways.

One option, and maybe the most financially practical, is to make existing nature areas and habitats more accessible to residents. It is not uncommon for a city to have these opportunities; residents simply do not know about them.

Another option is for the City to invest in a nature center with specific programs and rental opportunities focused on nature. This requires a significant financial investment, and an ongoing investment in staff and operations, with some revenue potential.

5

The City currently owns a center that is in a state park. The City owns the building, the State maintains the building, and Dubuque County Conservation provides programming at the location.

Fitness/Exercise Facilities

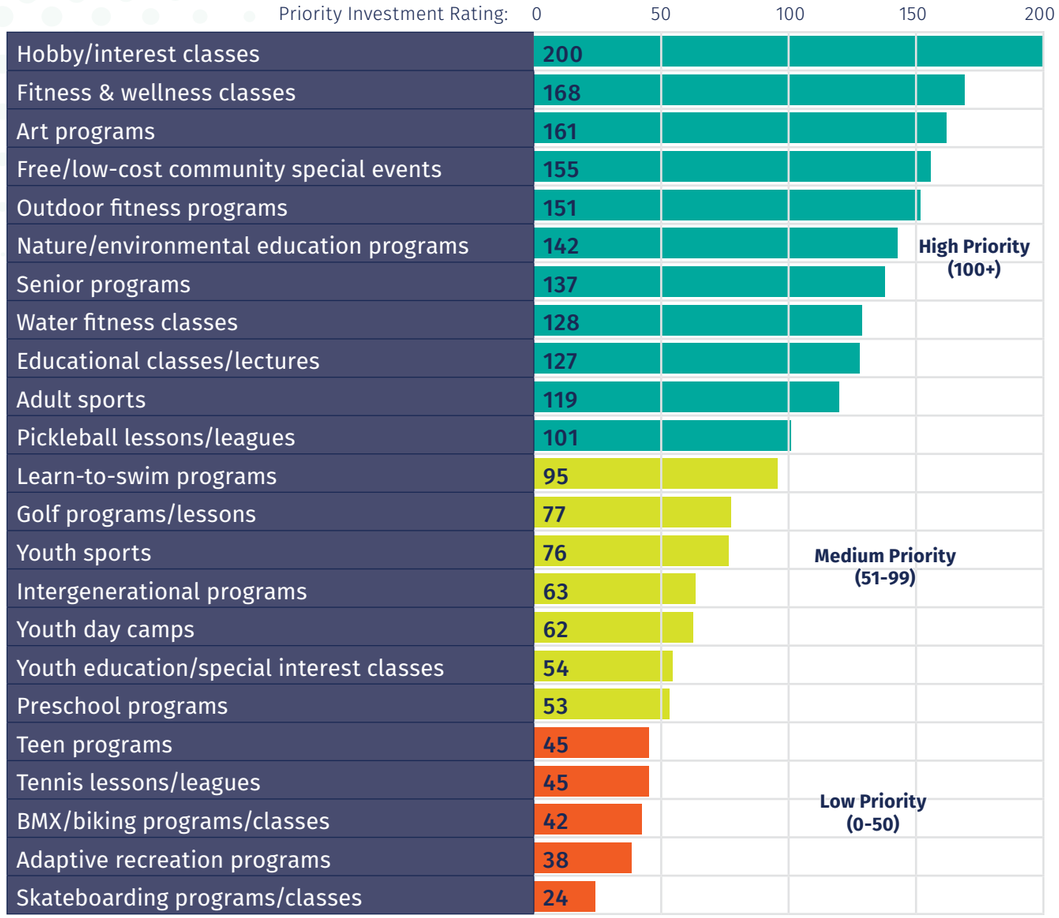
The demand for these facilities fluctuates from location to location. It is not as common to see this amenity in the top five that survey respondents want, but it is consistent in that the City does not have a recreation center.

As with pools, most municipalities are not building standalone fitness/exercise facilities. They are typically part of, usually less than 10% of total square footage, of community center or recreation center. The amenities that are paired with fitness often include gymnasium, walk/jog track, indoor aquatics, meetings rooms, classrooms, etc.

Top Priorities

The following chart highlights the top priorities for investment to deliver parks and recreation programming.

Top Priorities for Investment for Parks and Recreation Programs Based on Priority Investment Rating



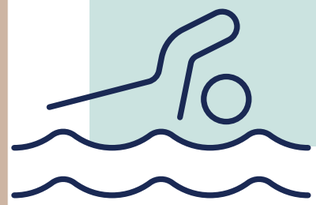
There is a total of 11 activities that fall into the high priority category. Of those 11 activities, the following eight would typically require, or facilitate the need for, an indoor space:

- **Hobby/Interest Classes**
- **Fitness and Wellness Classes**
- **Art Programs**
- **Nature/Environmental Education Programs**
- **Senior Programs**
- **Water Fitness Classes**
- **Educational Classes/Lectures**
- **Adult Sports**

Again, as previously mentioned in the report, the Department has very limited indoor space opportunities. Those that they do have are programmed to the point where they are at capacity.

If the City were to invest in a community center, there is a strong possibility that many of the programs on that list could be addressed. A community center that is non-membership-based could include:

- **Entry Way**
- **Administrative Offices**
- **Classrooms**
  Three to four of varying size and finish
- **Gymnasiums**
  Two full courts, preference of three
- **Elevated Walk/Jog Track**
- **Group Exercise/Dance Studio**
- **Fitness Area**
  Weights/cardio with the potential of contract management



The biggest level of investment would be an indoor pool, and if that investment was made it would move the facility from the community center category to that of a recreation center.

Many of the programs that are listed in the medium to low priorities are programs that the Department already touches on some level.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department currently offers a wide range of programs to the community. Their program seasons are broken into Fall, Winter, and Summer. While there is no perfect allocation of seasons, the one the Department is using is the preference of the consulting team.

The Department also tracks participation on an annual basis. The following summarizes participation from 2021-2024.

YEAR	PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS	AVERAGE PARTICIPANTS
2021	448	2,563	5.72
2022	467	5,383	11.52
2023	610	5,048	8.28
2024	604	5,256	8.70

Participants equate to registered individuals for programs in our registration system.

The participation data does not reflect drop-in programs like playgrounds, special events, campers, park visitors, swimming pool attendance, etc. nor do they include team activity program participants (adult sports).

Based on discussions with staff, the rate of running programs is in the 80-90% range. Of the programs that are offered to the community, 80-90% run and only 10-20% are canceled. This is a high rate of running programs, but a contributing factor is the Department's required minimum and maximum participation. Because the Department does not have cost recovery policy in place for programs, they do not put minimums in place and are able to run some programs with minimal participation, that otherwise might be canceled.

The Department uses RecTrac as their registration software platform and they do allow online registration. That practice should continue and maximize participation through ease of registration.

The Department does have a family scholarship program in place and that also should continue.

The primary locations for programs offered by the department are the Allison Henderson, Dubuque School District, and Comiskey Park. They also offer programs using city parks and in the city pools. Some of the programs are offered through program partners and in some instances that means programs are offered at that partners facility (i.e. Dubuque Karate Club and others).

The following is a list of program partners for the Department:

- Adaptive Sports
- ARK Advocates
- Black Mens Coalition
- Boys & Girls Club
- Clarke
- Community Foundation
- COPS
- DNR
- Downtown Neighborhood
- Dream Center
- Dubuque County Conservation
- Dubuque County Extension
- Dubuque Karate Club
- Dubuque Montessori
- Dubuque Pony
- Dubuque Soccer club
- Four Mounts
- ISU Extension
- Loras
- Matter Creative
- MBK
- MFC
- Mines of Spain
- Mystique Ice Center
- School District
- St. Mark
- Steeple Square
- UD

The Department should continue to offer programs through the three primary methods:

1. Staff Run
2. Contract
3. Rental Basis

The information in the following table is static, meaning it is not tailored to the population of the City of Dubuque. This data is reflective of the number of agencies submitting information to the NRPA that offer these types of programs.

PROGRAM CATEGORIES (NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE)	PERCENT OF AGENCIES
Themed Special Events	91.0%
Social Recreation Events	88.0%
Team Sports	86.0%
Health and Wellness Education	82.0%
Fitness Enhancement Classes	82.0%
Individual Sports	76.0%
Racquet Sports	76.0%
Safety Training	71.0%
Natural and Cultural History Activities	70.0%
Aquatics	68.0%
Cultural Crafts	67.0%
Visual Arts	65.0%
Performing Arts	64.0%
Trips and Tours	63.0%
Martial Arts	57.0%
Running/Cycling Races	55.0%
Golf	50.0%
E-Sports/E-Gaming	27.0%

The median number of programs offered by similar sized agencies submitting information to the NRPA is 409 programs annually. The City exceeded that number in 2024, offering 605 programs.

The percentage of programs that are fee based according to similar sized agencies submitting information to the NRPA is 84.0%.

The information in the following table highlights the type of program offered to either children, older adults, or those with disabilities followed by the % of agencies that offer those nationally, followed by the percentage of agencies in the 50,000-99,999-population category.

PROGRAMS	PERCENT OF AGENCIES	50,000 TO 99,999
Summer Camp	83.0%	72.0%
Specific Senior Programs	77.0%	67.0%
Specific Teen Programs	68.0%	54.0%
Programs for People with Disabilities	67.0%	47.0%
STEM Programs	60.0%	43.0%
After-School Programs	54.0%	46.0%
Preschool	33.0%	30.0%
Before-School Programs	18.0%	16.0%
Full Daycare	8.0%	6.0%
Summer Camp	83.0%	72.0%

Future Direction

From a programming perspective there are two big things that the City needs to consider modernizing within their existing operation.

Cost Recovery Philosophy. The Department needs to adopt a cost recovery philosophy and apply that to programs and rentals that are offered to the community. The project team is not making a recommendation as to the cost recovery level—that should be a separate study or done internally. However, the Department needs to put this in place.

Development of an Indoor Facility. For the Recreation Department to expand their programming and become less reliant on the school district for indoor space, strong consideration needs to be given to an indoor facility.

Need for Flexible Program Space

The city has an acute lack of flexible indoor program space available to them for programming purposes.

The only other four-seasons indoor facility that the department has access to where they can offer programs is the building at Comiskey Park.

The relationship between the City and School District is positive. The City is first in line to use the school district facilities. For existing programs finding space is not a challenge. However, for new programs using school district facilities there can be challenges, i.e. lack of space availability. The other "challenge" is that City programs can be displaced, some time with minimal notice, for school programs.

As has been referenced earlier, a community the size of Dubuque can support a recreation center or a community center, strictly from a population perspective and using NRPA metrics.

If the project team were asked to make a recommendation for a facility program, that would allow recreation to:

- Provide drop-in participation opportunities for activities like basketball, volleyball, pickleball, and indoor walking/jogging.
- Provide program opportunities for youth and adult sports.
- Provide opportunities for groups to rent gymnasium space or rooms that they currently are challenged to access with the school district.
- Expand their enrichment programming to the community (i.e., arts, crafts, pottery, painting, etc.).
- Expand their ability to offer educational programming for adults.
- Expand their ability to offer senior-age focused programs.

When looking at the following square footage recommendations it is important to note that the project team has experience construction costs of $400-$600 per square foot for "dry" spaces, and $600-$800 per square foot for "wet" spaces. It is also important to note that if one were to apply these costs to total square footage recommendations it would give the construction cost, not the full project cost.

If one assumes that the City does not want to get into the business of offering indoor aquatics, nor do they want to offer weight/cardio training space, then a "right-sized" building would potentially look like the following:

SPACE	APPROXIMATE SQUARE FOOTAGE
Lobby (small)	1,500
Control Desk	250
Admin	1,446
Instructional Kitchen	750
Adjacent Storage	100
Community/Classroom (50 people – 1)	750
Community Room-Dividable (120 people – 1)	2,000
Storage	300
Dance/Aerobic Studio-Small	1,200
Dance/Aerobic Studio-Medium	1,750
Storage	500
Gymnasium (7,280 each for two)	14,560
Storage	500
Elevated Walk/Jog Track	3,000
Public Restrooms (250 each for two)	500
Public Universal (80 each for one)	80
Support (Mechanical, IT, Electrical, etc.)	3,790
Sub-Total	**32,976**
Gross-Up (15%)	**4,946**
Total	**37,922**

For a facility of this type, the project team would not recommend a membership structure. There would be some daily fees associated with drop-in participation in gym activities. Rooms would be programmed by recreation and when they were not being programmed, they would be available for rental.

Hours of Operation:

8:00am-9:00pm Monday-Friday

8:00am-6:00pm Saturday

12:00pm-6:00pm Sunday

Advantages of this facility program are:

- **Staff requirements are less than those of a full-service recreation center.**
- **Hours of operation are flexible by season.**
- **Would likely require a subsidy, but less than other models.**
- **Would allow for a wide variety of programs that would build on existing core services, and allow introduction of new core services.**

If the City did want to get into the business of offering indoor aquatics and weight/cardio training space, then a "right-sized" building would potentially look like the following:

SPACE	APPROXIMATE SQUARE FOOTAGE
Lobby (small)	2,500
Control Desk	350
Admin	1,446
Instructional Kitchen	750
Adjacent Storage	100
Community/Classroom (50 people – 1)	750
Community Room-Dividable (120 people – 1)	2,000
Storage	300
Dance/Aerobic Studio-Small	1,200
Dance/Aerobic Studio-Medium	1,750
Storage	500
Gymnasium (7,280 each for two)	14,560
Storage	500
Elevated Walk/Jog Track	3,000
Public Restrooms (250 each for two)	500
Public Universal (80 each for 1)	80
Support (Mechanical, IT, Electrical, etc.)	3,790
Men's Locker Room	1,000
Women's Locker Room	1,200
Wet Change (4 at 100 each)	400
Dry Change (4 at 50 each)	200
Fitness (weight and cardio)	5,000
Natatorium (leisure with 3 lap lanes)	15,000
Pool Mechanical	750
Pool Manager/Lifeguard Suite	750
Sub-Total	**58,376**
Gross-Up (15%)	**8,756**
Total	**67,132**

For a facility of this type, the project team would recommend a membership structure but also have a variety of options to pay to enter. There would be spaces, meeting rooms in particular that would be before the control desk. And people would not have to be members to participate in programs.

Hours of Operation:

5:30am-9:00pm Monday-Friday

7:00am-7:00pm Saturday

11:00am-7:00pm Sunday

Advantages of this facility program are:

Allows for a wide variety of programs that would build on existing core services and allow introduction of new core services.

Allows the City to touch on all the areas highlighted as needs/ wants through the survey.

AQUATICS

The City offers two outdoor pool options:

Flora Pool – located in Flora Park

- Large zero depth entry that transitions to a lap area.
- Eight 25-yard lap lanes that transitions to a deep end.
- Deep end with one 1-meter and one 3-meter diving board.
- Two water slides with independent catch pool.
- Shallow water play pool with in-water play structure.
- The area around the pools is a large, fenced grass area that includes a playground.
- The pool house includes admissions, filtration systems, and concessions.

Sutton Pool

- Large zero depth entry that transitions to a lap area.
- Six 25-yard lap lanes that transitions to a deep end.
- Deep End with one 1-meter and one 3-meter Diving Board
- One water slide that runs out near the lap lanes.
- Shallow water play pool with in-water play structure.
- The site is very compact and does not have the green space that Flora Pool has.
- The pool house includes admissions, filtration systems, and concessions.

2025 Fee Structure

DAILY ADMISSION	FEE
Children Under 3	Free
Youth (4-17)	$3.00
Adults (18 and over)	$5.00
Seniors (55 and over)	$3.00

MEMBERSHIP	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Youth (4-17)	$42	$50
Adults (18 and over)	$74	$89
Seniors (55 and over)	$53	$63

Membership will allow the membership holder to access both aquatic facilities.

Programs Offered

Group Swim Lessons

Adapted Swim Lessons

Private Swim Lessons

Water Walking

Parent/ Tot

Both Flora and Sutton Pools are available for private rentals from 5:00-7:00pm only on the weekends.

$495 – Flora Pool (up to 300 people)

$367 – Sutton Pool (up to 300 people)

Future Realities:

Both pools are aging and getting closer to the end of their useful lifecycle, although the Parks staff have done a very good job of maintaining the facilities. Because of geographic location, there is a strong possibility that the pools serve a regional population that extends beyond the city.

From a statistics-only perspective and using information from the NSGA, the data would suggest that the community would support 1.2 outdoor municipal pools. As such, the City may want to consider consolidating from two to one outdoor pool.

If consolidation is considered, it will be important to make an investment at the location where the pool is removed. Often those neighborhoods that have an amenity removed feel they are forgotten.

If consolidation is considered, the remaining location should be completely redeveloped and have more of a regional, waterpark-like set of amenities and appeal. This facility should be in a park setting with green space inside the fence/boundaries of the pool facility.

If consolidation is not considered and the City chooses to continue to maintain the two locations, consideration should be given to enhancing the amenities that are there. A focus should be placed on amenities that keep individuals and families there for an extended portion of the day, which should translate to increased concession sales.

Programming

- The City should continue with the programming that they offer.
- They may consider expanding dedicated morning water walking times.
- They may consider offering some in-water group exercise classes.
- They may want to consider offering some aquatic specific special events (i.e., dive-in movies, theme days, etc.)

Hours of Operation

Currently it appears that both facilities close in the early evening, approximately 5:00pm. For households with adults that work, that may be before they arrive home for the evening. The current hours could be negatively impacting daily admissions and/or passes. The project team would recommend adjusting the hours a few days a week to be open longer into the evening. Another option would be to close the pools at 4:00pm on a Friday and open back up from 6:00-9:00pm (if the facility has lights) for family night. The biggest obstacle the City faces making the facility available later is that they need to have in water lights, which they currently do not have. The underlying point is that there should be some consideration for adjustment of hours. The City has experimented with this in offering early evening lessons to accommodate working families, which has been well received.

Indoor Aquatics

- The project team would not recommend the development of a standalone aquatic center.
- From a statistics-only perspective and using information from the NSGA, the data suggests that the community would support 0.9 competitive swimming pools, 0.9 leisure pools, and 0.9 therapy pools.
- Aquatic facilities, when paired with other amenities, can perform better than standalone aquatic facilities.

McAleece Park & Recreation Complex

Park Features

- Three lighted softball diamonds with 280’ outfield fences.
- John Petrakis field is a lighted regulation baseball field.
- Scoreboards on all fields.
- Bleacher seating for more than 1,700 spectators.
- Concession stand.
- Playground equipment.
- Picnic tables.
- Skate park.
  - Half pipe area – 20’ x 40’.
  - Ramp area – 85’ x 105’.
- BMX biking.

Facility Suggestions

- Updated lighting.
- Include shade around spectator areas.
- Expanded batting cages.
- Expanded or enhanced playground.
- Consideration of artificial turf infields and outfields, with infield being the priority.
- Consideration of temporary fencing with baseball field, to mirror outfield of softball fields (tournament purposes only).
- Consideration of portable pitching mounds for the three softball fields so that they can accommodate youth baseball as well as softball.
- Consideration of multiple base path lengths in all fields.

Program Suggestions

- Adult softball league participation continues to decrease on a national level, while in Dubuque it is showing slow growth over the past three years; however, weekend travel tournament play is still on the increase and brings with it a positive economic impact. Consider working with a tournament director to bring tournaments to the location which should be advantageous given location in the city and geographically.
- Work with the youth baseball and softball groups to ensure time is maximized on the fields.
- Discuss with youth soccer groups the possibility of using outfields as small soccer fields for introductory programs, specifically in the fall.
- The City currently works with the local high school and/or college to provide premier baseball fields for games.
- The City already allows beer sales at this location, which is not uncommon.

Bunker Hill Golf Course

Bunker Hill Golf Course (BHGC) is an 18-hole golf course with a club house.

GREEN FEE TYPES	FEE
18 Holes – Weekend	$27
9 Holes – Weekend	$18
18 Holes – Weekday	$23
9 Holes – Weekday	$16
9 Holes – League	$16
Senior, Restricted Hours	$18
Junior, Restricted Hours	$12

GOLF CART RENTAL	FEE
18 Holes	$18 per player
9 Holes	$12 per player
Season Cart Pass	$650 per player
Season Cart Pass	$1,050 per couple
20 Punch – 18 Hole	$260
20 Punch – 9 Hole	$160

TYPES OF PASSES	SEASON RATE
Junior	$275
College	$350
Individual, Weekday Only	$650
Individual	$750
Couple, Weekday Only	$840
Couple	$940
Family, Weekday Only	$940
Family	$1,030

In addition to this fee structure and playability BHGC also offers:

- Leagues (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Evenings, Sunday Mornings)
- Sunday Night Couples Golf
- Bunker Hill Women's Golf Association
- They also offer events at the course and clubhouse rentals.

The financial goal for BHGC was 100% cost recovery. Because of the facility consistently achieving this goal, it has become an expectation. To continue to achieve that financial goal, the following should be considered:

- Continue to evaluate green fees, golf cart rental, and passes on an annual basis. Consideration should be given to adjusting fees on a bi-annual basis, unless there are incredible changes in the market that would necessitate annual changes.
- The golf course is without a driving range. While this amenity would require some reconfiguration of the course, and it would require additional staff hours and maintenance, it would be a revenue-generating amenity from a drop-in, personal instruction, and small group instruction perspective.
- The clubhouse is inadequate for the number of rounds played annually and is reaching the end of its useful lifecycle. The City will need to make a choice between significant reinvestment in the existing structure, including expansion, and contrast that will new construction.
- At the time of evaluation of the clubhouse, the maintenance garage and cart storage facilities should be evaluated to see if they should be incorporated into a new and expanded facility.
- The other consideration that seems intuitive, but needs to be mentioned, is that the marketing and advertising of BHGC should be evaluated and tweaked on an annual basis to ensure maximum exposure.
- BHGC might be an area where the city wants to consider the use of a service like PlacerAI (cell phone data tracking) to determine where golfers are coming from prior to playing a round and where they are going to afterwards. That data could then be integrated into an overall marketing and advertising strategy.
- There needs to be a high priority placed on completing irrigation of the full course. Currently only 9-holes are irrigated.

Port of Dubuque Marina

The operation currently receives a subsidy and was completed in 2013. At the time of completion, there was a Request for Proposal (RFP) issued for management services. There were no responses to that RFP, subsequently the Parks and Recreation Department took over the management of the space and absorbed that with existing staffing levels. There is also a convenience store at the marina that Parks and Recreation operates.

Pre-Post Season Hours:

Closed Monday-Tuesday

11:00am-5:00pm Wednesday-Sunday

Slip Rental Fees (overnight dockage):

$45 per night – 30' slips for boats 32' and under

$55 per night – 40' slips for boats 32' and over

$65 per night – 50' slips for boats 42' and over

$70 per night – 70' slips for boats 70' and over

$80 per night – 100' slips for boats 100' and over

Includes water, electricity, access to private restrooms, showers, laundry facilities, and secure docking behind the gate. Ability to reserve online.

Hourly Dockage:

$10 for 3 hours (ability to reserve online)

Seasonal Boat Slip Rentals – 32' slips only

$1,960 – Full Season

Dockage is prorated as the season progresses: 20% off per month.

Other Fees:

$10 – Pump Out ($5 with fuel purchase)

$1 – Laundry Self Service (wash and dry)

There are a variety of tour boats that leave from the Port.

At one time, pre-pandemic there were lighted boat parades.

Future Direction

- The fee structure should continue to be evaluated on an annual basis to ensure that the fees being charged are competitive with similar marinas on the Mississippi River. In determining price point, the project team would recommend being at the midpoint to the upper third.
- The City may want to consider issuing another RFP for management services to determine if there is a potential operator interested. At a minimum, when fees are being evaluated and compared against other marinas, find out how many are managed "in-house" as opposed to contracted.

Miracle League of Dubuque at Veterans Memorial Park

Park Features

- An all-inclusive playground and baseball field.
  - Cushioned, rubberized surface to prevent injuries.
  - Wheelchair accessible play equipment for baseball field for users of all abilities and age groups.
  - Accessible bleacher seating.
- Restrooms.
- Changing Rooms.
- Benches.
- Swings.
- Covered Pavilions.
- Picnic Tables.
- Two Softball Fields (1, 200' outfield and 1, 290' outfield).
  - One batting cage.
  - Both fields have lights.
- Nine pickleball courts.
- One inclusive playground.

Facility Suggestions

- Updated lighting for the diamonds and the pickleball courts.
- Include shade around spectator areas for the two softball fields.
- Expanded batting cages (add one).
- Remove playground behind pickleball courts.
- Consideration of portable pitching mounds for the two softball fields so that they can accommodate youth baseball as well as softball.
- Consideration of multiple base path lengths in all fields.
- Better signage and wayfinding. When the project team was on site, school was in session and the park entrance was lost in the school parking lot.

Program Suggestions

- Work with the youth baseball and softball groups to ensure time is maximized on the fields.
- Discuss with youth soccer groups the possibility of using outfields as small soccer fields for introductory programs, specifically in the fall.

Schoolhouse – Flora Park (Dubuque Montessori School)

It should be noted that the consulting team (Darin Barr, Ballard*King) did not have an opportunity to tour the inside of the schoolhouse but did tour the outside while on site at Flora Park.

The building has some barn-like architectural characteristics, and using Google and other tools, appears to be approximately 50' x 30' and is a 2 two-story structure , leading the project team to believe the facility is 3,000-4,000 total square feet. It is also likely comprises a series of rooms of various sizes, and there is likely a warming kitchen in the facility. Adjacent to the building is a fenced playground that was paid for by the Montessori School and that they have exclusive use of.

The Montessori School is nearing the end of their lease, and the City could take over the facility which would allow them to have a dedicated indoor space for programs.

The project team would offer the following opinions and recommendations concerning this indoor space.

- While it is true that the City taking over the space would provide a dedicated indoor facility in a park where they could offer programs, the size of the space is woefully inadequate.
- The indoor space will require some remodeling to ensure that it meets the needs of the programs the City wants to run.
- The HVAC system will need evaluated to ensure that it meets the needs of the City.
- The sprinkler system will need to continue to be inspected and potentially updated.

The types of programs that this facility would support (referring to the list from the ETC survey instrument):

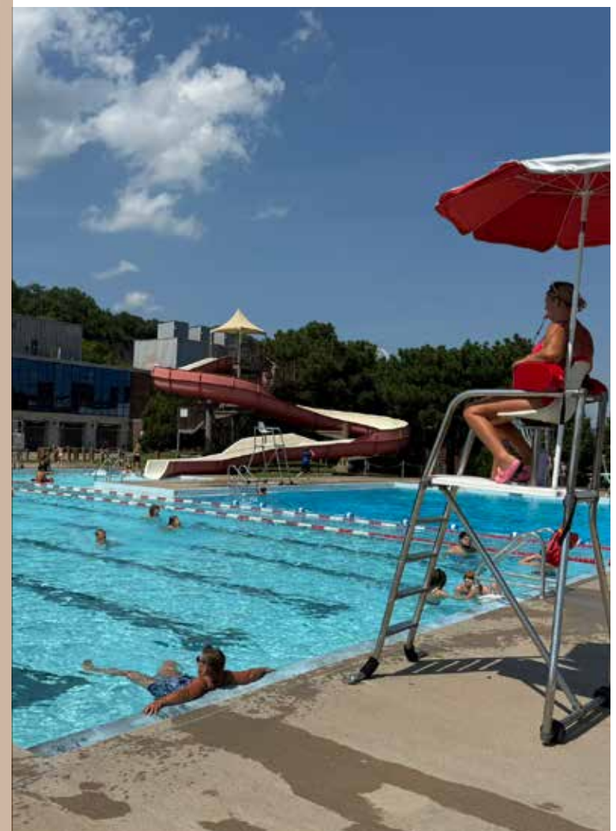
- **Hobby/Interest Classes**
- **Arts Programs**
- **Senior Programs**
- **Educational Classes/Lectures**
- **Nature/Environmental Education Programs (limited)**



Chapter 5

Trails and Connectivity

Every Journey Is A Story





Y(OUR) STORY

Dubuque
Parks and Recreation
Comprehensive Plan

INTRODUCTION

The City of Dubuque's Parks and Recreation Department oversees a comprehensive network of trails, enhancing recreational opportunities and natural exploration for the community. Key trails include the Dubuque Jaycees Trail, Heritage Trail, Mississippi Riverwalk, Northwest Arterial Trail, Southern Levee Trail, and those within Bergfeld Recreation Area. Additionally, the City manages the Granger Creek Nature Trail and the Trolley Line Trail in Eagle Point Park. The Department also maintains the Bee Branch Creek Greenway and various paths in parks like Miller Riverview Park. These City-maintained trails and pathways provide a diverse range of environments and experiences, ensuring residents and visitors have access to well-kept and scenic outdoor spaces.

In addition to its conventional land trail network, the city boasts a unique recreational amenity with the Dubuque Water Trail. This 11-mile, state-designated water trail along the picturesque Mississippi River and Catfish Creek offers a vibrant blend of natural beauty, rich history, and active river commerce. Developed in partnership with the Friends of the Mines of Spain, the Dubuque County Conservation Board, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the trail caters to both novice and experienced paddlers. It features routes along the main channel's shoreline, tranquil backwaters, and Dubuque's redeveloped riverfront. Situated within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the trail provides abundant wildlife viewing opportunities. With five access points available, paddlers can easily enter and exit the river, exploring various on-land recreational activities and historic landmarks throughout the city.

WHAT WE HEARD

The project utilized a robust community and stakeholder engagement process which included an online website as well as statistically valid survey to ensure the community, user groups, and stakeholders were all heard. Below are some highlights from what we heard about trails, pathways, and connectivity.

Multi-use paths and trails were identified as the second highest priorities for investment behind aquatics.

Multi-use paths and trails were identified as the highest need for facilities and amenities at 74% and by 44,392 out of 59,667 residents.

We heard from focus groups on the need for a connected park system, utilizing the existing trail network to create loop trails and provide community connections.

TRAIL SYSTEM FEATURES, STANDARD SECTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Trail System Features

Paved Trails

The trail system includes several miles of asphalt and concrete paved trails, ideal for walking, running, and biking. These trails offer an all-weather surface that is accessible for users of all ages and abilities.






Unpaved Trails

For those seeking a more rustic hiking experience, Dubuque's trail system features unpaved trails suited for hiking and mountain biking. These trails vary from gravel surfaces to compacted dirt paths.

Key unpaved trails include segments in the Mines of Spain Recreation Area and EB Lyons Prairie and Woodland Preserve, which feature rugged terrain and breathtaking views of the local bluffs and forests.






Water Trail

The city also provides a unique experience for recreational enthusiasts with the Dubuque Water Trail. A water trail is a marked route along a waterway—such as a river, canal, or reservoir—featuring signs, maps, and access points. Designed for canoeists and kayakers, it offers a safe and enjoyable way to explore the water, providing scenic and educational experiences that highlight natural beauty, historical significance, and cultural landmarks. Water trails typically include multiple launch and landing sites, rest areas, and points of interest, making them accessible for users of all skill levels for both short and extended trips.





Scenic Overlooks and Rest Areas

Throughout the trail system, strategically placed benches, rest areas, and scenic overlooks provide opportunities for users to rest and enjoy the picturesque views.

Well-designed kiosks and wayfinding signage help navigate the trail network and provide information about local flora and fauna.

Trailheads and Parking

Numerous trailheads with access to parking, restrooms, and informational signage are spread across the system, offering convenient starting points for trail enthusiasts.

Popular trailheads include within the Dubuque park system include:

Bee Branch Greenway Trailhead



Bergfeld Recreation Area Trailhead at Pennsylvania Avenue



Heritage Trailhead at John Deere Road and Gardners Lane



Trail Classifications

Off-Street Trails

The off-street trail classification includes detached multi-use pathways that deviate from the roadway network. Designed for a variety of activities including walking and biking, these trails typically feature wider paths (8 to 12 feet) to accommodate multiple users and minimize conflicts. The majority of the multi-use pathway trails are 10 feet wide utilizing asphalt surfacing.

On-Street Trails

These trails utilize detached and attached sidewalks within the roadway corridor. They are focused on providing accessibility for all users, including those with disabilities. These trails meet ADA guidelines with specific gradients, surfacing, and amenities that ensure ease of access and use.

Recreation Trails

Primarily utilized for hiking and mountain biking, these trails maintain a natural surface consisting of dirt, grass, or crushed stone. They often feature varying terrain and elevation changes.

Standard Trail Sections

Paved Multi-Use Trail Section

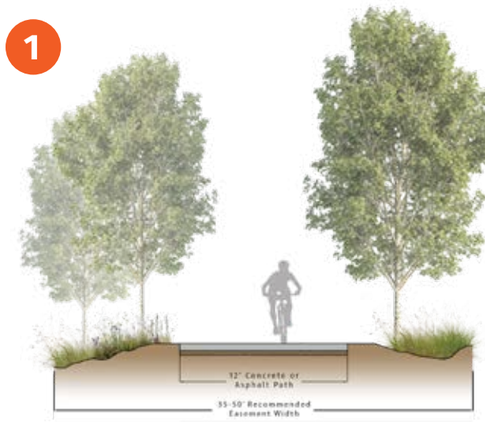
- **Width:** Ranges between 8 to 12 feet.
- **Surface:** Asphalt or concrete.
- **Shoulder:** 2- to 3-foot clear zone on each side of pathway at 2 percent cross slope with 6:1 minimum side slope transition from shoulder to existing grade.
- **Signing and Markings:** Trail traffic signage and striping as per the AASHTO Manual of Uniform Traffic Design for shared-use pathways.

Unpaved Trail Section

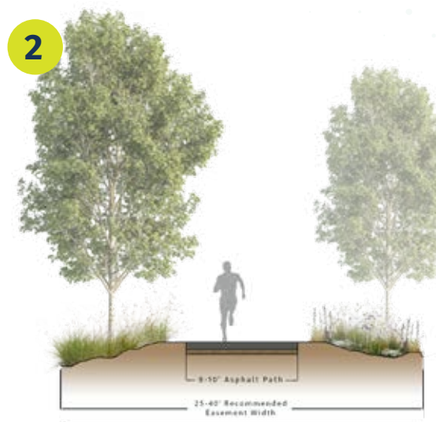
- **Width:** Range from 3 to 6 feet.
- **Surface:** Compacted dirt, grass, or crushed stone.

Path/Trail Name	Path/Trail Width	Surface	Recommended Easement Width
1 **Primary Path**	12 Feet	Concrete or Asphalt	35 Feet - 50 Feet
2 **Secondary Path**	8 to 10 Feet	Asphalt	25 Feet - 40 Feet
3 **Primary Trail**	4 to 6 Feet	Natural Surface	35 Feet - 50 Feet
4 **Secondary Trail**	3 Feet	Natural Surface	25 Feet - 40 Feet

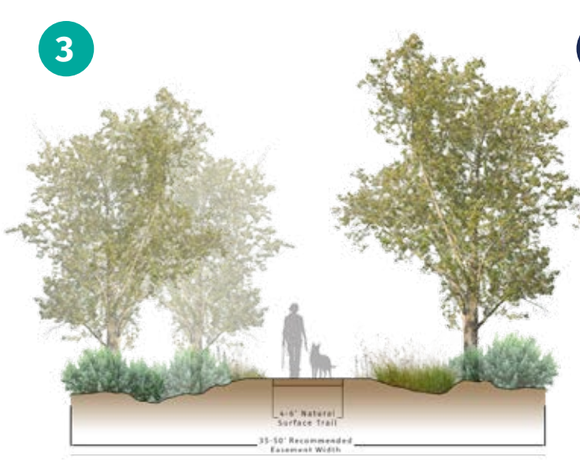
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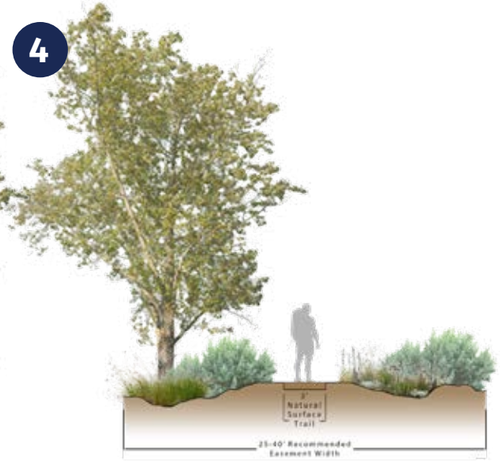
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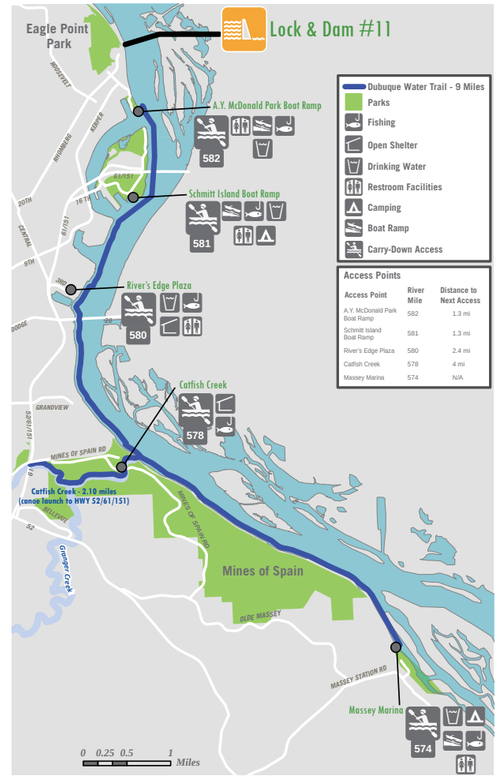
Dubuque Water Trail

Dubuque Water Trail Overview

The Dubuque Water Trail is an 11-mile, state-designated water trail along the Mississippi River and Catfish Creek, developed through a partnership between the City of Dubuque, the Friends of the Mines of Spain, the Dubuque County Conservation Board, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This trail offers an exceptional experience for canoeists and kayakers, blending natural beauty, rich history, and active river commerce.

The Dubuque Water Trail provides an exceptional blend of natural beauty and recreational opportunities. As you paddle along the main channel's shoreline or meander through tranquil backwaters, you'll encounter a diverse array of wildlife, lush vegetation, and breathtaking scenery.

This trail is more than just a paddling route; it's a place where history, nature, commerce, and recreation converge, providing a unique and enriching experience. You'll paddle through areas steeped in historical significance while enjoying the serene and untouched beauty of the refuge.



Paddling Experience

Catering to paddlers of all skill levels, the trail begins just south of Lock and Dam #11 and travels downstream, offering varied paddling experiences:

- Main Channel Shoreline: Paddlers can hug the shoreline, observing river traffic while enjoying views of the city and limestone bluffs.
- Backwater Excursions: The trail provides access to serene backwater areas, particularly around the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area. A popular five-mile loop on Catfish Creek offers a more secluded, natural experience.
- Urban Interface: The trail passes through Dubuque's redeveloped riverfront, offering unique perspectives of the city's downtown, historic Shot Tower, and the Port of Dubuque area.

Nature and Wildlife

Located within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and the Catfish Creek Watershed, the trail is a hotspot for wildlife viewing:

- Ecosystems: Paddle through a mix of wetlands, forests, and river environments, home to diverse flora and fauna.
- Wildlife: As a designated "Watchable Wildlife Area," visitors may spot bald eagles, songbirds, white-tailed deer, and various small mammals.

Historical Significance

The trail is steeped in the region's early settlement and industrial history:

- Julien Dubuque Monument: Pass by the bluff where Julien Dubuque, the area's first European settler and a figure with strong ties to the Meskwaki tribe, is buried under a 25-foot tall limestone monument.
- Shot Tower: This historic industrial landmark, used since the 1860s to make lead shot, is visible from the water near downtown Dubuque.
- Mines of Spain: The southern trail borders the historic Mines of Spain area, an early lead mining site that significantly shaped the region's economy.

Access Points

The Dubuque Water Trail is flexible, suitable for full-day exploration or shorter trips. It features five access points:

1. **Lock and Dam #11** (Starting Point)
2. **A.Y. McDonald Park:** 8 acre park located off the north end of Kerper Boulevard at Hawthorne Street and Volunteer Drive. Amenities include boat ramp, drinking water, restrooms, playground, picnic tables, fishing piers, walking/biking path.
3. **Schmitt Island:** Chaplain Schmitt Island is located off Highway 151/61 on Dubuque's North End. Also located on the Island are Miller Riverview Park & Campground and McAleece Park & Recreation Complex. Amenities include boat ramp, drinking water, restrooms, playground, skate park, picnic tables, camping.
4. **American Trust River's Edge Plaza:** The River's Edge Plaza is located on the south end of the Mississippi Riverwalk. The Plaza also serves as a docking site for large excursion vessels. Restaurants, lodging, and entertainment venues are within a short walking distance. Amenities include ramp, drinking water, restrooms.
5. **Catfish Creek Access:** Located in the back waters of the Mississippi River, as part of the Mines of Spain. The 1,380 acres which make up the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area were designated as one of Iowa's "Watchable Wildlife Areas." Rare species, including the bobcat, red-shouldered hawk, ying squirrel, and bald eagle have all been in the area. In addition, the area is home to a large variety of songbirds, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and numerous small mammals. With wetlands, creeks, forests, prairies, cropland, meadows, and the Mississippi River, the Mines of Spain offers a wide variety of Iowa's natural world for those who take the time to look and listen. The park is open year-round, with park hours of 4 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Amenities include access to 12 miles of maintained hiking trails, picnicking, and interpretive opportunities.
6. **Massey Marina Park:** The concession building offers food and drinks as well as accessible restroom/shower facilities, and bait. Picnic grounds and campsites include accessible playground units. A two-lane boat ramp and daytime parking for vehicles and boat trailers are located on the north side of the park. Excellent backwater paddling opportunities are near the park. Amenities include boat ramp, restrooms, drinking water, camping, playground, picnic tables, concessions, and bait.

These access points provide convenient entry and exit spots, allowing paddlers to tailor their journey based on personal preferences and time constraints. They also offer opportunities for on-land recreational activities like hiking, picnicking, and birdwatching.

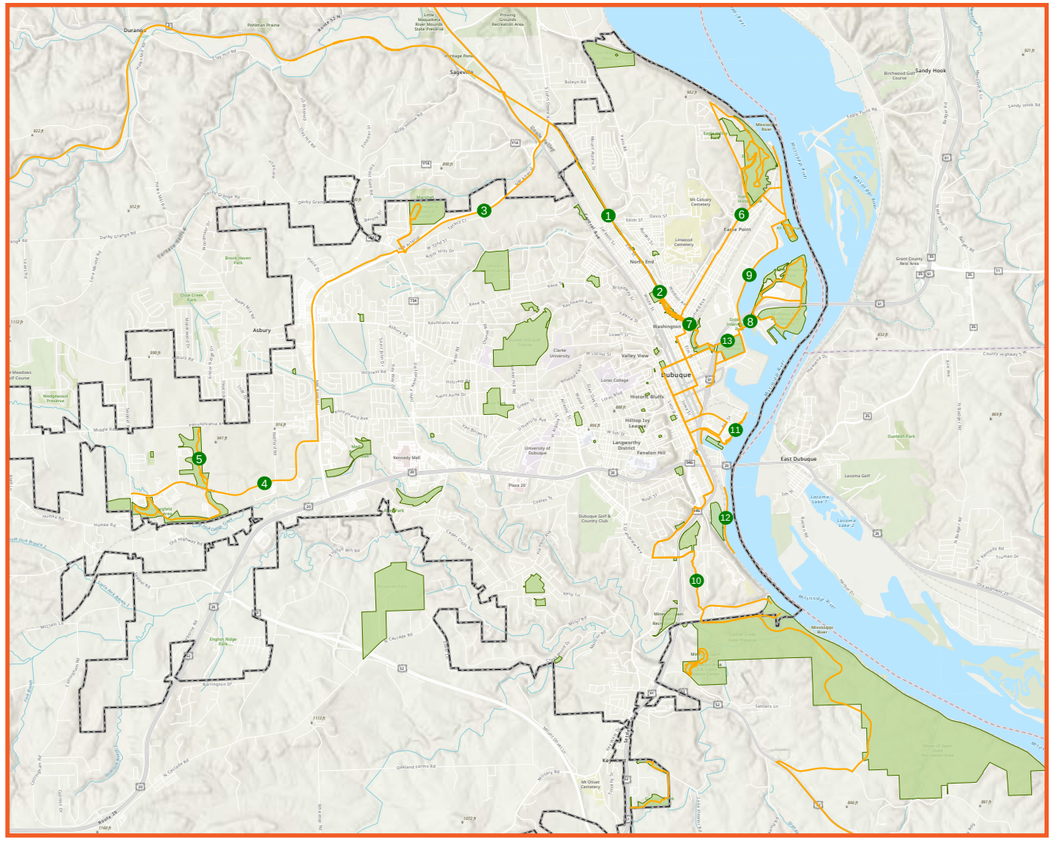
A Unique Experience

The Dubuque Water Trail offers a gateway to experiencing the Mississippi River's rich tapestry of natural and cultural wonders. Whether seeking solitude in nature, an adventurous paddle, or learning about the area's historical importance, this trail provides a memorable experience for every paddler.

EXISTING PATH AND TRAIL SYSTEM

The City of Dubuque's Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining an extensive network of trails. These include:

- **Dubuque Jaycees Trail**
  A recreational trail offering a great outdoor experience.
- **Mississippi Riverwalk**
  A picturesque pathway along the Mississippi River, ideal for a leisurely stroll.
- **Heritage Trail**
  A scenic route built on a former railroad, perfect for history and nature enthusiasts.
- **Bee Branch Creek Greenway**
  A managed greenway that promotes environmental sustainability.
- **Northwest Arterial Trail**
  Located near the NW Arterial, providing convenient access for residents.
- **Southern Levee Trail**
  Follows the southern levee, offering unique views and experiences.
- **Bergfeld Recreation Area Trails**
  Beautiful trails within this dedicated recreation area.
- **Granger Creek Nature Trail**
  A serene nature trail as part of the City's park system.
- **Trolley Line Trail in Eagle Point Park**
  Enjoyable for both walking and exploring within Eagle Point Park.
- **Miller Riverview Park Trails**
  Well-maintained paths for residents and visitors to enjoy.



Key Note Legend

1. Heritage Trail
2. Northend Neighborhood Trail
3. Northwest Arterial
4. Chavenelle Trail
5. Bergfeld Recreation Trail
6. Trolley Line Trail
7. Bee Branch Trail
8. Peosta Channel Trail
9. Dubuque Jaycees Trail
10. Alliant Powerline Trail
11. Mississippi Riverwalk Trail
12. Southern Levee Trail
13. Bee Branch Trail South

Existing Recreation Trails
City Limits
City Park

0 2,500 5,000 10,000 Feet
0 500 1,000 2,000 Meters

Scale: 1" = 2,250 feet
Map Projection: NAD 1983 IA State Plane North (US Feet)

N
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The following tables provide a current inventory of the existing trail system divided into the Off-Street Trail, On-Street Trail, and Recreation Trail classifications.

Existing Off-Street Trail Network

No.	Name	Classification	Pathway Material	Pathway Width	Pathway Length (Miles)	Pathway Start		Pathway Finish	Comments
1	Heritage Trail - Dubuque City Limits	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt/ Limestone	10' wide	8.6	32nd Street		Thielen Road	This segment includes a grade separated underpass at S. John Deere Road. This segment includes a pedestrian bridge crossing of Highway 3, This segment includes six pedestrian bridge crossing points of the Little Maquoketa River. A 50 car trailhead parking area at Heritage Pond with vault toilet. Heritage Pond includes a 10 space parking area with a paddle boat launch/dock area. A Kiosk information station with vault toilet is also located west of Asbury Road.
2	Northend Neighborhood Trail	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	Varies 8' to 10' wide	1	22nd Street		32nd Street	Same alignment as Heritage Trail. Starts at Comiskey Park and ends at 32nd tying in with Heritage Trail north of 32nd Street
3	Northwest Arterial (Iowa 32 Trail)	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	10' wide	4.7	Heritage Trail (Tanzanite Drive & S. John Deere Road)		NW Arterial & Chavenelle Road	This trail provides a key north/south connector from Heritage Trail to the Chavenelle Trail which continues to the Bergfeld Recreation Area
4	Chavenelle Trail	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	10' wide	2.4	NW Arterial & Chavenelle Road		Chavenelle Road & Seippel Road	Detached Multi-use Pathway throughout the Industrial Tech Center
5	Bergfeld Recreation Trail	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	8' wide	1.7	Pennsylvania Avenue		Bergfeld Recreation Area	
6	Trolley Line Trail	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	8' wide	0.5	Historic Ham House		Eagle Point Park Turnaround	Historic Trolley Route to Eagle Point
7	Bee Branch Trail	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	Varies 10' to 12' wide	2.6	22nd Street		16th Street & Kerper Blvd	Greenbelt for stormwater conveyance developed into a linear park providing pathways and connections from Schmidt Island to Heritage Trail
8	Peosta Channel Trail	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	10' wide	0.8	Jaycees Trail		16th Street & Kerper Blvd	Connects Bee Branch Trail to Schmitt Island
9	Dubuque Jaycees Trail	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	10' wide	1.28	16th Street & Kerper Blvd		Shiras Avenue Extension	Provides connection from Bee Branch to A.Y. McDonald Park and Eagle Point
10	Alliant Powerline Trail	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	8' wide	0.67	Grandview Avenue		Julien Dubuque Drive	Provides trail connector from Julien Dubuque to Murphy Park
11	Mississippi Riverwalk Trail	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt/ Concrete	10' wide	0.95	Ice Harbor		Star Brewery	The Dubuque section of the Mississippi River Trail runs along the city's eastern edge, offering stunning river views. This paved, multi-use trail welcomes walkers, joggers, cyclists, and nature lovers, making it popular among locals and visitors.
12	Southern Levy Trail	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	8' wide	0.71	Terminal Street		End of Levy	Opportunity to expand and connect this existing pathway from Port of Dubuque Marina to Mines of Spain Recreation Area
13	Bee Branch Trail South	Off-Street Trail	Asphalt	10' wide	0.51	16th Street & Sycamore Street		International Park	This provides connection of Heritage Trail through Bee Branch Greenway east to International Park and to A.Y. McDonald Park.
Existing Off-Street Trail Total					**26.42 Miles**				

Existing On-Street Trails Network

No.	Name	Classification	Pathway Material	Pathway Width	Pathway Length (Miles)	Pathway Start		Pathway Finish	Comments
1	Mississippi River Trail South Route	On-Street Trail	Asphalt/ Concrete	12' wide	21	Mississippi River South Route		Julien Dubuque Route	Scenic Roadway Corridor Route
2	Julien Dubuque Route	On-Street Trail	Asphalt/ Concrete	8' wide	0.75	Mississippi River South Route		Southern Avenue Route	Roadway/Sidewalk - Part of the Heritage Trail Extension connecting Powerline Trail to Bee Branch
3	Southern Avenue Route	On-Street Trail	Asphalt/ Concrete	8' wide	0.73	Julien Dubuque Route		Railroad Route	Roadway/Sidewalk - Part of the Heritage Trail Extension connecting Powerline Trail to Bee Branch
4	Railroad Route	On-Street Trail	Asphalt/ Concrete	8' wide	0.48	Southern Avenue Route		Main Street	Roadway/Sidewalk - Part of the Heritage Trail Extension connecting Powerline Trail to Bee Branch
5	Main Street Route	On-Street Trail	Asphalt/ Concrete	8' wide	1.54	15th Street/Main Street		Salina Street/ Main Street	Roadway/Sidewalk - Part of the Heritage Trail Extension connecting Powerline Trail to Bee Branch
6	Millwork District	On-Street Trail	Asphalt/ Concrete	8' wide	0.57	Main Street/10th Street		15th Street/ Washington Street	Roadway/Sidewalk
7	Millwork District South End Trail	On-Street Trail	Concrete	8' wide	0.32	10th & Jackson Street		5th Street & White Street	Roadway/Sidewalk Connection to Port of Dubuque Route
8	Eagle Point Park Route	On-Street Trail	Asphalt/ Concrete	Varies 8' to 10' wide	5	Kneist Street/ Lincoln Avenue		Eagle Point Park/ Lock & Dam	Roadway/Sidewalk
9	Port of Dubuque Route	On-Street Trail	Asphalt/ Concrete	Varies 8' to 10' wide	0.97	5th Street Main - Bell		5th Street Main - Bell	Roadway/Sidewalk
10	Schmitt Island Route	On-Street Trail	Concrete	8' wide	1.49	16th Street/ Admiral Sheehy Dr.		16th Street/ Greyhound Park Road	Roadway/Sidewalk
Existing On-Street Trail Total					**32.85 Miles**				

Existing Recreational Trails Network

No.	Name	Classification	Pathway Material	Pathway Width	Pathway Length (Miles)	Pathway Start		Pathway Finish	Comments
1	A.Y. McDonald Park Trail	Recreation Trail	Asphalt	12' wide	0.5	Harbor Street		Harbor Street	Looped Trail at A.Y. McDonald Park
2	Heron Pond Trail	Recreation Trail	Asphalt	10' wide	0.9	Riverview Park Road		Riverview Park Road	Looped Trail around Heron Pond at Riverview Park
3	Bergfeld Pond Trail	Recreation Trail	Asphalt	8' wide	1	Bergfeld Recreation Area		Bergfeld Recreation Area	Looped trail around the Bergfeld Pond within the Bergfeld Recreation Area. Includes pedestrian bridge with benches and ramadas
4	Julien Dubuque Trail	Recreation Trail	Gravel	4' wide	0.7	Mines of Spain Road Parking Area West of Catfish Creek		Julien Dubuque Monument	Gravel trail to the Julien Dubuque Monument within the Mines of Spain Recreation Area
5	EB Lyons Paved Trail	Recreation Trail	Concrete	10' wide	0.38	EB Lyons Visitor Center		Mines of Spain	Concrete Trail to Overlook within the Mines of Spain Recreation Area
6	Granger Creek Nature Trail	Recreation Trail	Grass	Varies	1	Lake Eleanor Road		Digital Drive	The Granger Creek Nature Trail offers an easy and short loop ideal for walking and hiking. Known for its well-maintained grassy paths, the trail provides excellent birdwatching opportunities. Nestled within the city's technology park, this trail offers a serene natural escape in the heart of an urban area.
7	Catfish Creek Trail	Recreation Trail	Gravel/ Paved	Varies 6'-8' wide	1.6	Mines of Spain Road Parking Area south of Julien Dubuque Trail		Looped pathway	The trail offers wildlife viewing, fishing, picnic spots, and connects to the Mines of Spain Recreation Area. It's a cherished spot for nature enthusiasts and outdoor adventurers.
Existing Recreational Trail Total					**6.08 Miles**				

Heritage Trail

The Heritage Trail section within city limits spans approximately 8.6 miles and offers a delightful mix of urban and natural landscapes. Starting near the Mississippi River, this portion of the trail takes you through historic neighborhoods, lush parks, and scenic wooded areas. Along the way, you'll encounter interpretive signs that provide insights into the local history and natural surroundings. The Heritage Trail offers an immersive experience rich with amenities and natural beauty. The city section connects with the Dubuque County Conservation section of the Heritage Trail. The Dubuque County Heritage Trail stretch includes a grade-separated underpass at S. John Deere Road and a pedestrian bridge crossing of Highway 3, ensuring safe and convenient access for trail users. Additionally, the trail features six pedestrian bridge crossing points over the Little Maquoketa River, adding scenic waterway views to the corridor. Heritage Trail continue westward through Dubuque County ending in Dyersville.

For trailhead amenities, the city maintains a trailhead at John Deere Road and Gardners Lane which provides 14 parking spaces and covered kiosk.

Dubuque County Conservation has a 50-car parking area at Heritage Pond, complete with a vault toilet. Heritage Pond also offers a smaller 10-space parking area with a paddle boat launch and dock, ideal for those looking to enjoy some time on the water. Further along the trail, a kiosk information station with a vault toilet is conveniently located west of Asbury Road, providing useful information and facilities for travelers.

The trail is well-maintained and accessible, making it a popular destination for walkers, joggers, cyclists, and nature enthusiasts.



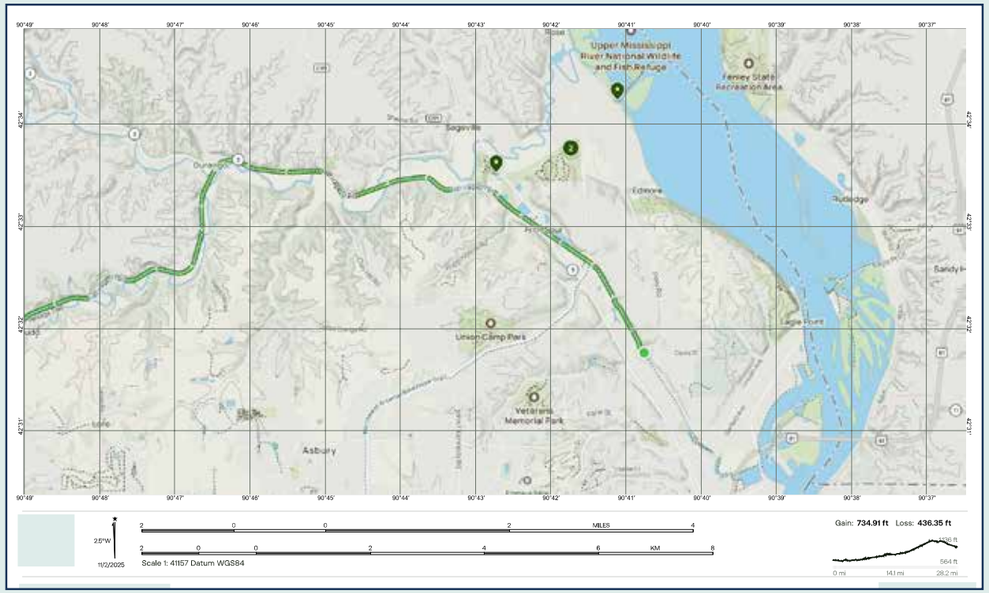














North End Neighborhood Trail

The North End Neighborhood Trail is nestled in the heart of one of the city's historically rich neighborhoods, this trail offers residents and visitors alike a scenic route to explore the charm and history of Dubuque's north end. Beginning at Comiskey Park and ending at 32nd Street, the trail's strategic placement ensures easy access from major neighborhood hubs.

Bee Branch Trail System

The Bee Branch Trail system is a vital link connecting the nearly thirty-mile Heritage Trail with the Mississippi River and Schmitt Island. This provides easy access to the river, parks, and various recreational amenities for both trail users and local residents. Pedestrian tunnels beneath the railroad tracks enhance safety, connecting the Bee Branch Creek Greenway with the Lower Bee Branch Trail.

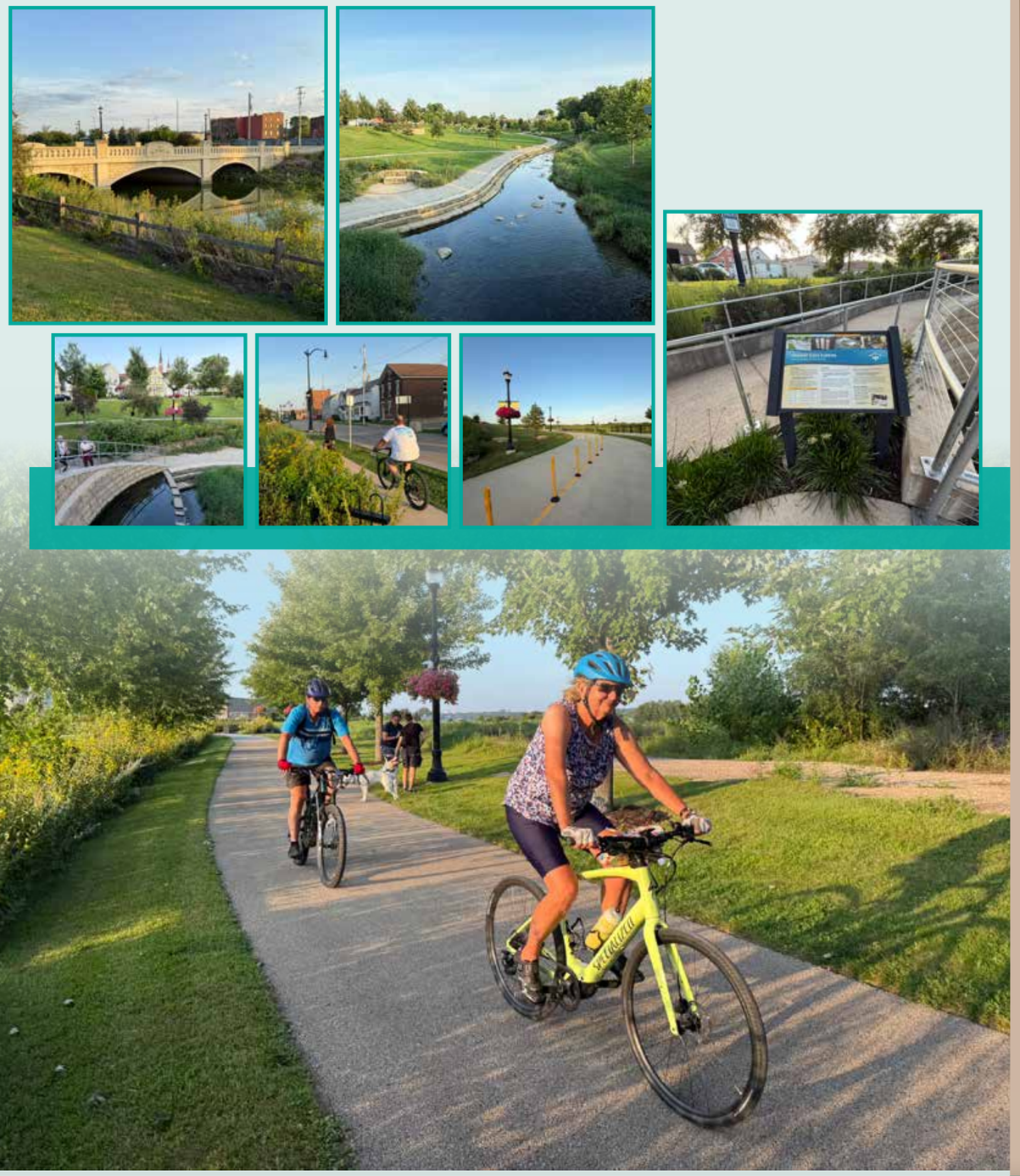
Bee Branch Creek Greenway

Daylighted in 2017, Bee Branch Creek has been restored to aid flood control while creating a scenic park at the end of the Heritage Trail. This linear park features an amphitheater, kids' play area, urban orchard, boardwalk, seating, and two concrete trail loops. It's open 24/7, with lighting, emergency phones, and cameras along the route. Green infrastructure, including rain gardens and permeable pavement, promotes water infiltration. The trails wind around the creek between E. 24th and Garfield Streets, running parallel to the Heritage Trail.

Bee Branch Trail

Accessible from Washington and 15th Street in Dubuque's North End, the western end of Bee Branch Trail starts with a small plaza by the creek. A well-lit asphalt path follows the creek to International Park, connecting to the Dubuque Jaycees Trail, which runs alongside Lake Peosta Channel to the Mississippi River. Users can take a narrow bridge path to the Peosta Channel Trail on Schmitt Island which offers a variety of trails, green spaces, and recreational activities.





Northwest Arterial Trail

Spanning over 4.5 miles of smooth asphalt, the Northwest Arterial Trail offers an ideal route for both commuting and recreation in Dubuque's western suburbs. It also connects seamlessly with the well-known Heritage Trail to the north. Also known as the Iowa 32 Trail, this path traces the former state highway of the same name along its entire length. While shade is sparse along the trail, strategically placed benches provide opportunities to rest, and the trail offers scenic views of eastern Iowa's rolling hills.

The trail begins in the north, just past the intersection of NW Arterial/Iowa 32 and Central Avenue, where it connects with the nearly 30-mile-long Heritage Trail. As the trail heads south through open fields, it gradually enters more developed areas, with homes and businesses appearing alongside the road.

At John F Kennedy Road, the trail crosses to the opposite side of the road. Just north of this section, the Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens offers a beautiful spot to explore if you need a break. Farther south, the trail intersects Pennsylvania Avenue, conveniently located a short block from a local high school, making it a valuable route for students walking or biking to school. The trail connects to the Chavenelle Trail which connects with the nearby Bergfeld Recreation Trail.

Chavenelle Trail

Chavenelle Trail serves as a vital link, providing a seamless connection from the Northwest Arterial Trail to the Bergfeld Recreation Area Trail, thereby creating an extensive network for outdoor enthusiasts. Stretching for several miles, the trail offers a scenic route through diverse landscapes, including open fields and shaded wooded areas, making it perfect for both exercise and leisurely strolls. Notably, it features a detached multi-use pathway throughout the Dubuque Industrial Center West, enhancing connectivity and accessibility within the community. Accessible to people of all ages and abilities, the trail also features amenities like benches, water fountains, and informational signage, enhancing the user experience.

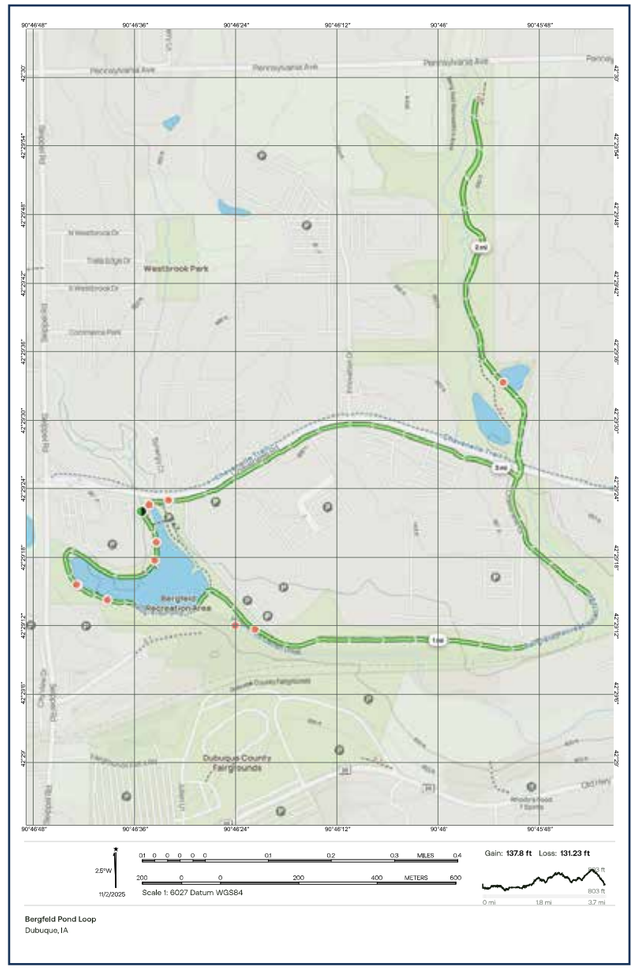




Bergfeld Recreation Trail

The Bergfeld Recreation Trail is a popular outdoor attraction offering a scenic and accessible route for walkers, joggers, and cyclists. The trail runs along and connects to the Bergfeld Recreation Area which spans 30 acres, offering a variety of recreational opportunities. This charming park features playgrounds, serene fishing spots at Bergfeld Pond, and almost 2 miles of the Bergfeld Recreation Trail—a paved asphalt path perfect for both walking and short bike rides. Additionally, a shorter walking trail loops around the pond, inviting visitors to enjoy leisurely strolls, exercise, or spot local wildlife and waterfowl.

The trail begins at the parking lot and play area off Chavenelle Road, extending east and north up to Pennsylvania Avenue, where another convenient parking lot awaits. Along its route, the trail meanders past a branch of Catfish Creek, offering scenic views and a smooth, mostly flat path through open fields, creating an escape from the nearby suburban industrial surroundings. Moreover, the Bergfeld Recreation Area Trail connects seamlessly with the Northwest Arterial Trail, which links to the expansive Heritage Trail that leads into central Dubuque.











Eagle Point Trolley Line Trail

Once the path of a streetcar ferrying passengers to the stunning overlooks of Eagle Point Park, the half-mile Trolley Line Trail now offers a convenient and scenic route to this beloved park. Winding through a densely wooded area, the trail climbs towards limestone bluffs, providing breathtaking views of the Mississippi River above a historic lock and dam.

Starting at the southern end, the trail begins at the Mathias Ham Historic Site, a grand Victorian-era mansion offering guided tours that delve into the rich history of Dubuque and the steamboat era. At its northern terminus, the trail leads into Eagle Point Park, a sprawling 164-acre expanse featuring numerous outdoor recreational activities, including picnicking and tennis, as well as spectacular river views from various lookout towers and observation points.

The Trolley Line Trail seamlessly connects these two family-friendly attractions, making it a popular choice for both locals and visitors seeking a blend of natural beauty and historical charm.

Dubuque Jaycees Trail

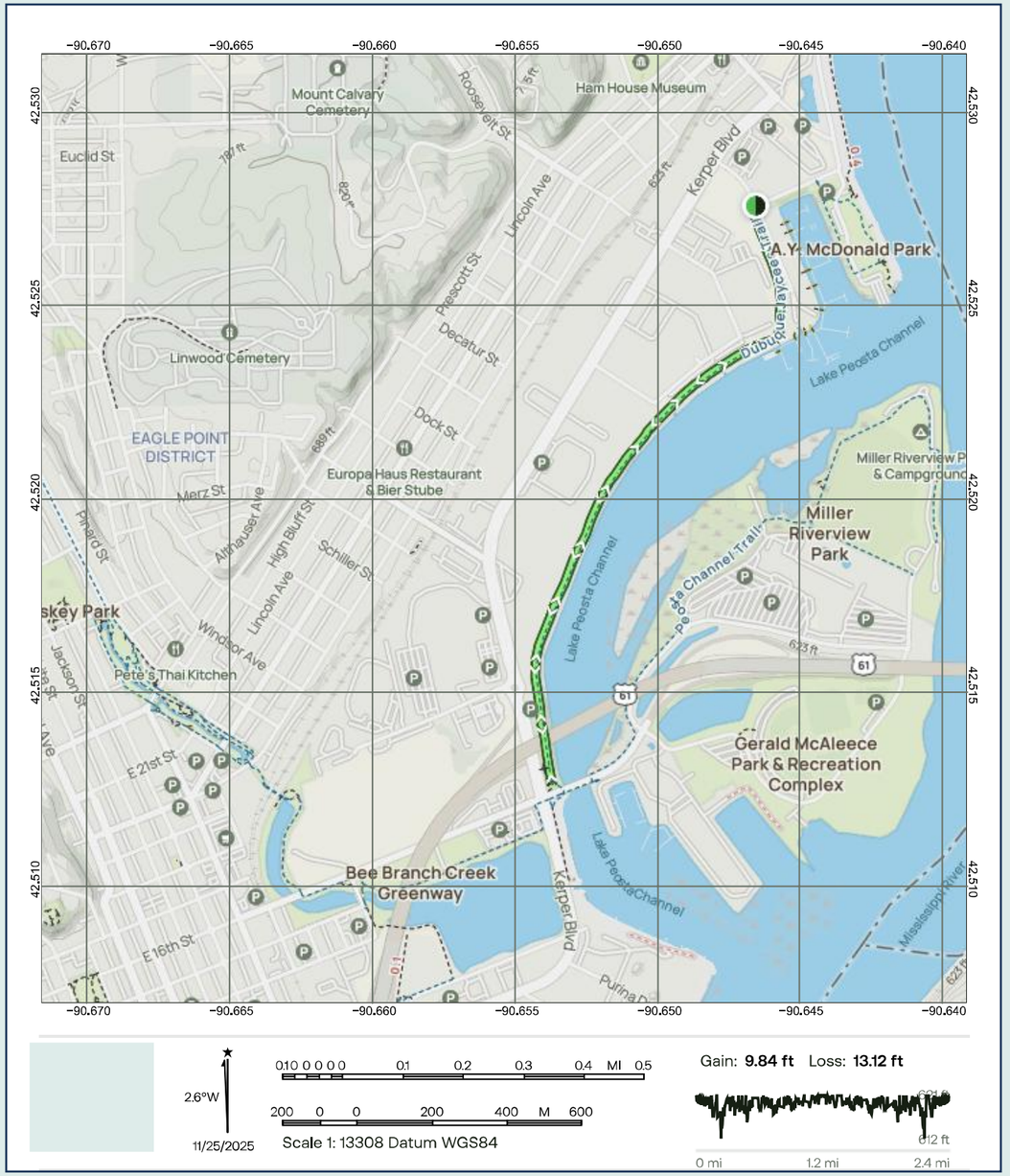
The trail stretches just over a mile from Sister City Park to the 8-acre A.Y. McDonald Park, a favored spot for fishing and boat launches where the Lake Peosta Channel rejoins the Mississippi River. While the trail winds through a more industrial part of northern Dubuque, tucked behind shops, businesses, a rail yard, and harbors, it remains pleasantly secluded from the bustling surroundings by following the channel's path. At its southern end, the trail connects to the Bee Branch Trail, leading towards the northern end of Dubuque's downtown. It also links to the Peosta Channel Trail, allowing access across the channel to Schmitt Island and its various attractions and parks.











Alliant Powerline Trail

The trail serves as a crucial north-south connector, running from South Grandview Avenue to the area near the Julien Dubuque Trail. The trail generally follows an electric transmission line corridor. This scenic trail is popular for recreation, offering a route for walkers, runners, and cyclists through the natural beauty of the area. It connects to the longer Mines of Spain trail system, which features wooded trails and impressive vistas of the Mississippi River from the bluffs.

Regional Connectivity

Heritage Trail

The Heritage Trail is a notable rail-trail in eastern Iowa, extending from the bustling city of Dubuque to the quaint town of Dyersville. Covering an approximate distance of 26 miles, this trail artfully combines Iowa's rich history and natural beauty, making it a prime destination for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers.

The Heritage Trail in Dubuque, Iowa, offers a scenic and historical glimpse into the region's natural beauty and rich history. Spanning a portion of the larger trail network, the segment within the City limits provides a convenient and enjoyable experience for residents and visitors alike.

The trail traces the historic route of the Chicago Great Western Railroad, constructed in the 1880s to connect Chicago, Minneapolis, Omaha, and Kansas City. After merging with the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1968, the line was eventually deemed unsafe for railroad traffic due to the deteriorating condition of its 32 bridges and trestles, leading to its abandonment in 1981. The Dubuque County Conservation Board subsequently acquired the railbed and transformed it into a picturesque crushed-limestone trail in the mid-1980s. Over the years, several of the original bridges have been replaced following severe floods, preserving the trail's accessibility and historic charm.

Starting from the eastern end of the trail in Dubuque, you will begin your journey a few miles north of the historic riverfront, home to an excursion riverboat and the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium. The trail heads north, traversing a mix of older residential and commercial areas before reaching a greenway that leads you to the Heritage Pond trailhead and interpretive site in Sageville.

At this point, the trail transitions to crushed limestone and continues about 2 miles south of the Little Maquoketa River Mounds State Preserve, on its way to Durango. Here, canoeists often launch for trips down the river to the Mississippi. The area's history of lead mining is evident in landmarks named "furnace," referring to former lead smelters.

The trail meanders for nearly 8 miles through river drainage areas until reaching the town of Graf. Fossil enthusiasts are drawn here to explore the limestone cliffs and old railroad cuts for fossil remains.

As the trail gently ascends from the river bottoms toward Epworth and Farley, both towns located less than 2 miles south of the trail provide cafés and other traveler amenities. The Centennial Ballpark north of Epworth is equipped with restrooms and drinking water.

The final 6 miles to Dyersville take you through serene farmland, where it is easy to imagine old-time baseball players emerging from the cornfields. This area is famous for being the filming location of the movie "Field of Dreams," with the iconic farm situated 3.5 miles northeast of the Dyersville trailhead, now a popular tourist attraction.









Mississippi Riverwalk

The Mississippi Riverwalk is a key component of the extensive trail system that tracks the Mississippi River from Minnesota to Louisiana. In Dubuque, the trail highlights the natural beauty and historical significance of this river city, offering residents and visitors alike an exceptional recreational experience. The Mississippi Riverwalk passes through notable areas such as the Port of Dubuque, home to attractions like the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and the historic Star Brewery. It also connects to the Mines of Spain Recreation Area, just south of downtown. Additionally, the Mississippi Riverwalk intersects with the Heritage Trail, a 26-mile path that extends from Dubuque to Dyersville, enhancing regional connectivity. Dubuque's proactive approach to bicycle-friendly infrastructure ensures that the Mississippi Riverwalk integrates seamlessly with local routes, fostering both interstate tourism and community health. The trail supports local tourism, promotes physical wellness, and boosts community engagement by linking green spaces, historical sites, and neighboring regions.

PROPOSED PATH AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS

The plan also included reviews of the Dubuque County Conservation Comprehensive Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan, the East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Network plan, and the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study for connectivity opportunities and plan alignment. Based on our community outreach, focus group meetings, stakeholder engagement and site analysis, the following proposed trail connections aim to create an extensive and interconnected network that enhances recreational opportunities and accessibility within the city.

Proposed Trail Connections

No.	Trail Connection	Length (Miles)	Description
1	Eagle Point Park to Four Mounds Park	1.3	This river corridor alignment provides connection to Eagle Point Park and the Four Mounds Park.
2	Bee Branch/ Dubuque Jaycees Trail to Mississippi Riverwalk Trail	1.3	This connection would allow users a closed route from the Mississippi Riverwalk Trail to the Bee Branch. Providing access and connection to the Heritage Trail and Schmitt Island.
3	Port of Dubuque to South Levee Trail	0.75	Provide Port of Dubuque trail connection/access to the existing South Levee Trail.
4	South Levee Trail to Mines of Spain along River / Railroad Corridor	0.85	Extend the South Levee Trail south along the River/Railroad Corridor to provide connection to the Mines of Spain Recreation Area. This would create a mini 8 mile loop with connections to Port of Dubuque, Murphy Park, and Mines of Spain Recreation Area.
5	Connect Port Trail /South Levee Trail to Maus Park	1	Re-route Port Trail to provide connection to Maus Park. Look at adding a connection from Mass Park to South Levee Bank.
6	Middle Fort Catfish Creek Trail	5.5	This Proposed alignment would provide an east/west connection to provide a closed circular perimeter looped trail connecting Heritage Trail, Bee Branch, Mines of Spain Recreation Area, Port of Dubuque and Bergfeld Recreation Area. The proposed alignment would utilize the existing Middle Fork Catfish Creek Alignment/ Railroad corridor to connect with the Medical Associates Greenbelt up to NW Arterial and Chavenelle Trail.
7	Southwest Arterial Trail	6	This alignment would provide a south connection from Bergfeld Recreation Area to Military Road
8	Military Road Connection to Southwest Arterial	2.5	Provide trail alignment along the existing Military/Key West Drive/ Rockdale Road roadway alignment.
9	Dodge Street/Hwy 20 Trail	4	Provide an east/west trail connector to create a perimeter loop trail closing the existing trail loop including Heritage Trail, Bee Branch and NW Arterial Trails. The proposed trail would utilize the Dodge Street/Hwy 20 alignment to connect Port of Dubuque to NW/Arterial.
Proposed Trail Improvements: 23.2 Miles			

Staffing Recommendation

As the system expands, the need for additional staff becomes increasingly critical to ensure proper maintenance and upkeep. Comparative trail network systems utilize a staffing formula of one dedicated full-time equivalent (FTE) for every 5 miles of trails. With the ongoing development and extension of the trail network, it is essential that the city increases the workforce proportionately. Adding skilled personnel will help manage and preserve the quality of the trails, ensuring safety and enhancing the experience for all users. Effective staffing is paramount to maintaining the integrity and sustainability of our growing trails system. The city does not currently have dedicated trail maintenance staff. The City should develop a citywide trails plan to further evaluate dedicated staffing and maintenance needs, identify trail grant funding as well as a dedicated funding source for trail grant matching.



Recommendations

In addition to the identified trail connector project identified the following is a list of recommendations to be considered for the development of a connected trail and park system.

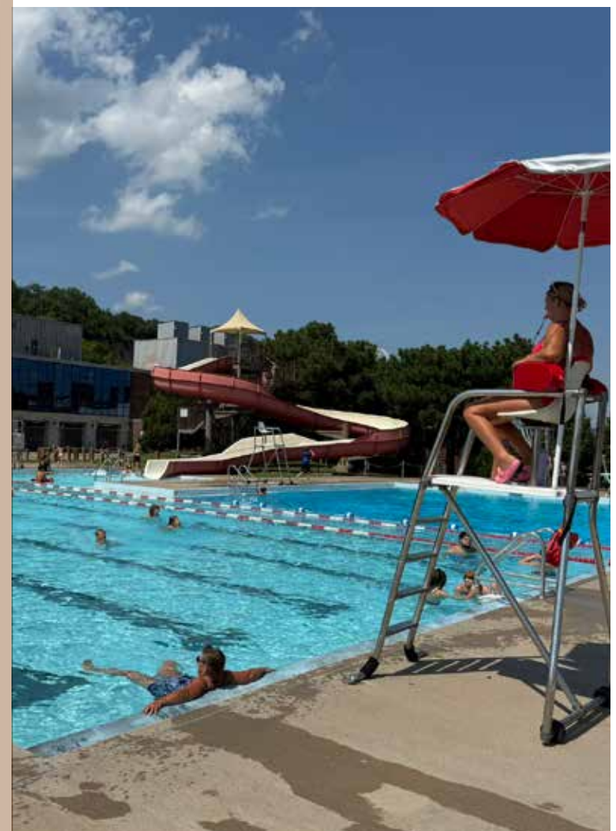
- Develop a comprehensive citywide trails master plan to further evaluate trail connections and gaps, maintenance standard, identification of grant opportunities with a dedicated matching funding source in order to develop a connected trail network.
- Develop a connected park system through multi-use trail network. A connected park system includes developing a looped pathway system that provide multi-model/walkable access to the city's park system.
- Link new trails to existing trails to fill in gaps within the existing trail system and develop a comprehensive trail and pathway network.
- Develop a looped trail that closes the southeast and west gaps between the Heritage Trail, Bee Branch, Northwest Arterial and Bergfeld Trail.
- Link the multi-use trail network to key access points utilizing the existing bicycle lanes, road diets and proposed multi-model network improvements as developed in the Dubuque Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan.
- Connect residents and tourists to points of interests throughout the city.
- Design for universal access (pedestrians, hikers, and biker users).
- Replace existing bike route signs with MUTCD standard bike route signs.
- Continue to maintain the City's robust park and trail GIS database and mapping.
- Develop an asset management platform utilizing the City's robust GIS database.
- Conduct a citywide ADA assessment to ensure trail access points and points of connection are ADA compliant.
- Continue to evaluate trail crossings with surface streets to develop safe at grade crossings as per the ECIA's Dubuque Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan.
- Develop rest areas/trailheads with seating, shade and water fountains.
- Include interactive features such as educational interpretive signage, fitness stations and art installations along the trail network.
- Add trees and landscape beautification along the NW Arterial Trail.
- Develop/update a trail map that can be used by residents and visitors alike and has paper and digital versions.
- Update the existing trailhead map kiosks at all locations around the community (15 signs).



Chapter 6

Open Space and Natural Resources

Worlds to Explore





Y(OUR) STORY

Dubuque
Parks and Recreation
Comprehensive Plan

INTRODUCTION

The City of Dubuque, located along the Mississippi River, has an abundance of natural resources and the extents of the park system of over 50 parks reflects the City's commitment to environmental stewardship. Dubuque's parks provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors but also plays a vital role in preserving local ecosystems, protecting wildlife habitat, and is an integral piece of making the City more resilient and sustainable.

There are a finite number of open spaces containing natural resources in Dubuque. These features are unique, clean water of pollutants, and provide ecological habitats for insects, birds, and mammals. The importance of the natural resources is paramount to improving Dubuque's ecological habitats and to provide ecosystems free of invasives to act as insect pollinator and migratory bird habitat. It is very important to manage Dubuque's natural resources to pay homage to indigenous Native Americans that called Dubuque home but also for the current and future generations of Dubuque residents.

The need to manage Dubuque's natural resources will ensure the City's long-term environmental, economic, and social well-being to improve the quality of life both for its residents but also all of the life these environments support. This need is driven by challenges to improve the water quality, soil quality, erosion, biodiversity of both native plants and animals, and to make Dubuque's natural resources more resilient.

Dubuque's geographical diversity of rolling hills, woodlands, wetlands, prairies, and waterways support a wide variety of plants and animal species, making Dubuque an emerald gem in the Midwest. Natural resource management directly supports Dubuque's economy and is integral to the Ecotourism draw of the Driftless zone. Outdoor enthusiasts, tourists, birders, conservationists, hikers, hunters, fishers, and alike seek healthy natural areas and is a major component that supports a large recreation industry in both Dubuque but also Iowa. Management of these natural areas creates supplemental recreation opportunities and protects Dubuque's scenic landscapes. Dubuque's natural resources need management to ensure their long-term availability to improve human and ecological health, prevent further environmental degradation, and become more sustainable from changes in the environment. More importantly, the natural resources contained within Dubuque's parks and open space require a strategic, focused approach to management that works to eradicate invasives and to restore natural habitats to create a balanced ecosystem.

US EPA ECOREGIONS

Dubuque lies in a very unique and much broader ecoregion called the "Driftless Area" that stretches from Southwest Wisconsin, Southeast Minnesota, the Northwest corner of Illinois, and Northeastern Iowa. This area is generally described as hilly uplands with very limited to minor glacial drift impact compared to surrounding regions with much flatter landscape. Much of this area consists of deeply dissected, loess-capped, bedrock dominated plateaus and is strikingly different from the rest of Iowa. With steep slopes, bluffs, sedimentary rock outcrops, dense deciduous forests, the Mississippi River Basin, and varying microhabitats, this mixed landscape is what defines Dubuque's physiography.

MISSISSIPPI WATERSHED

The Mississippi River passes through the Driftless Area and is the main natural artery for Dubuque. All of the water east of the Continental Divide flows to the Mississippi River, and Dubuque is connected to a much larger network of natural resources than found just within the City limits. Bluffs along the Mississippi river overlook down on this ecosystem and varying birds including eagles can be viewed riding thermal updrafts in this area. This flyway is a primary corridor for bird migration and is a critical aerial highway that is guided by the Mississippi river providing essential food, water, and forested habitat for over 300 bird species during their spring and fall biannual journeys. Per the Dubuque Audubon Society, the natural resources and habitat within Dubuque are critical for providing a stopover habitat for millions of birds and other wildlife.

NATURAL FLORA

The natural flora of Dubuque includes a variety of plant species with varying species in different places throughout Dubuque. Specifically, in places with rough limestone exposures on hills that were grassy, Big Bluestem (Andorpogon provincialis), Small Bluestem (Andropogon scoparius), and Switch Gass (Panicum virgatum) were natively found. The limestone hills of Dubuque included native tree such as Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa), White Oak (Quercus alba), Red Oak (Quercus rubra), Chestnut Oak (Quercus acuminata), Black Oak (Quercus velutina), and Pin Oak (Quercus ellipsoidalis). On rolling hillsides, trees such as White Ash (Fraxinus americana), Black Cherry (Prunus serotina), Chokeberry (Prunus virginiana), and the American Plum (Prunus Americana) occurred. Along the Mississippi bottoms, trees such as the Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis), Honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos), Kentucky Coffee Tree (Gymnocladus dioica), Sugar Maple (Acer saccharinum), Cottonwood (Populos deltoideas), Hackberry (Celtis occidentalis), Pawpaw (Asimina triloba), and Willows (Salix ssp.) were found. These species of trees were keystone native plants found historically in Dubuque's natural resources. Today, many of these land areas have been converted over from woodland to pastureland and cropland or have been developed with fragmented woodlands dispersed throughout.

PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

Dubuque's roots run deep and are steeped proud in its history. The reflection of the Dubuque's Parks and Recreation Department's resiliency can be found in its Mission, Vision, & Guiding Principles. These support Dubuque's efforts to educate, maintain, and be stewards of the community's natural resources. By intertwining these relationships, it helps to reinforce and support all of their natural areas with the community's best interests in mind to improve the social equity, ecology, nature, health, safety, and wellness.

General Principles

The basic principles provided in this section are applicable to all of the aspects of Natural Resources Management Plan.

Public Responsibility and Interest

Dubuque's Parks and Recreation Department shall act responsibly with the public's best interest in mind in managing the community's land and natural resources. There shall be active stewardship and concern for the inherent value of the natural resources in all of Dubuque's Parks and Recreation Department's plans, actions, and programs.

Diversity of Users

Dubuque is a city with a wide range of diverse heritages, neighborhoods, cultures, nationalities, religions, languages, traditions, abilities, activities, and accessibilities. These diverse qualities need to be considered in all of the natural resource planning and implementation, wherever feasible.

Biodiversity with Existing Plants, Habitats, Insects, Animal Species/ Fish Species, and Park Users.

Ecological health is critical to consider in the management of Dubuque's natural resources. This web of natural resources should promote and support the biodiversity of plants, habitats, insects, birds, and animals. It, however, should balance ecology with both passive recreation, active recreation, safety, and other factors to improve the quality of the natural resources and quality of life in the community.

Public Involvement and Accessibility

As stewards of Dubuque's natural resources, the Parks and Recreation Department will often have to make educated decisions that may change how certain natural resources have been managed over time as long-standing practices. Wherever applicable, the Parks and Recreation Department will seek community input and involvement with other partners and stakeholders in the review process. Dubuque's Parks and Recreation Department will strive to make information accessible and to the public and to help educate the community on how to improve the management of their natural resources.

Sustainability

Sustainable Dubuque is a holistic approach to making the community more sustainable. As noted in Dubuque's 2040 Goals & Priorities, making the city become more resilient to future change requires a management plan to improve the natural resource areas of Dubuque's parks and public lands for future generations to be able to enjoy. The fruits of the sustainable actions from this plan will be seen short term but will be laying the building blocks for sustainable management of the community's natural resources.

Ecological Principles

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Hardiness Zone

The USDA's plant hardiness zones are generally becoming warmer with portions of Iowa, and the other parts of United States reclassified approximately one quarter-zone warmer in the hardiness zone map updated of 2023. However, Dubuque's USDA plant hardiness zone of "5a" remained unchanged between the 2012 and 2023 map update with an average Annual Extreme Minimum Temperature between -20 and -15 degrees Fahrenheit. However, with Dubuque's classification remaining the same, this reinforces the importance of native regionally specific species of plants that should be promoted, prioritized, and used in Dubuque's natural areas in lieu of non-natives and species with warmer hardiness zones. This intent is to make Dubuque's landscape more resilient to changes in environmental conditions.

Weather, Climate, Precipitation

The City of Dubuque has published the Climate Action Plan 2020 with strategies to make Dubuque more climate resilient. Such strategies go hand in hand with the Parks and Recreation's Departments scope with increasing the urban tree canopy, greenspaces, impervious ground covers, parks, and ecosystems that rely on the natural resources. All of these strategies align with the Parks and Recreation's Natural Resource Management Plan and reinforce the common goals of enhancing Dubuque's green infrastructure including parks, wetlands, riparian areas, wildlife corridors, natural drainage-ways, and other sustainable developments.

Changes in weather patterns and developments have created more flood events that occur more often along the Mississippi river as well as stormwater flooding affecting local watersheds like Bee Branch and Catfish Creek. These have resulted in more frequent closures on the entire Miller View Campground on the north side of Chaplain Schmitt Island. These changes in weather events have a direct impact on Dubuque's Parks & Recreation both for its residents but also for Dubuque's ecotourism.

Future Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the biologic diversity and measurement of the number and relative abundance of a species in a given area. This biodiversity is critical for successful habitats, human health and well-being, and ecological equity, and it is essential for human societies to thrive in nature and in their own communities. Climate change may negatively impact biodiversity but planning for and developing highly biodiverse natural areas throughout Dubuque will make the city more resilient to pests, diseases, and damage to natural ecosystems. Whenever possible, Dubuque's Parks & Recreation Department's management of public natural resources should strive to maintain and increase biologic diversity.

Invasive Species

Per the USDA, invasive species is defined as "Non-Native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." The invasive species that damage Dubuque's natural resource ecosystems outcompete and displace native species. These invasives cause economic damage and financial loss to agricultural production, loss of the public's natural recreation spaces reducing the quality of experience in these areas, and incurs costs for removal and eradication including ongoing maintenance to make sure the invasives do not come back. Invasive species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle have historically been throughout Dubuque's natural resource open spaces and can significantly alter Dubuque's native landscape, damaging its natural history.

Some notable invasive species that have been introduced to Dubuque or could cause significant negative impacts on the landscape include:

- Insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer, Spotted Lanternfly, or Spongy Moth
- Fungus that causes Dutch Elm Disease, Oak Wilt, and Root Rot

By damaging or killing trees, forest pests can reduce biodiversity, degrade ecological ecosystems, and can burden staff by having to treat host trees of invasive insects. Currently, the Emeral Ash Borer is prevalent throughout Dubuque and the existing Ash trees in public spaces are maintained to try to protect the urban forest from decline. Proactive recommendations should be considered particularly for Miller Riverview Prak & Campground to furnish their own locally sourced firewood for sale. To protect Dubuque's urban forests and ecological corridors, firewood movement to campgrounds or other facilities should be restricted and follow the Iowa DNR recommendations to protect Dubuque's forests.

Many of the invasives plant species impacting Dubuque's natural areas have escaped from ornamental landscapes via the landscape nursery industry. Much of the landscape movements historically have been influenced purely by aesthetics over ecological value. This irresponsibility has resulted in extensive damage throughout and the State of Iowa's Department of Natural Resources has developed and maintains a list of species that are considered invasive to Iowa. The Dubuque Parks and Recreation Department should strive to prevent further introduction of these invasive species and prioritize the eradication of invasives plant species in Dubuque's parks and public lands.

The city's naturalized areas already plagued with invasive species are overwhelming and the scope required to get these areas under control is more extensive where it requires a substantial amount of additional staffing, hours, equipment, and specialized training. It is recommended for the City to consider contracting with an external environmental contractor to perform annual eradication of invasives in a rotational pattern throughout Dubuque's woodlands and natural areas too intensive for current staff's capabilities. The heavy lifting of invasive removals is done by others and provides the groundwork for Parks and Recreation natural area maintenance staff to keep any invasives out from respreading in these areas.

Native Plants

Plants, trees, and other vegetation that existed in Dubuque prior to European settlement are what should be considered native plants. Native plants have adapted specifically to flourish in Dubuque's growing conditions and the native host plants are the links for the terrestrial food web.

Conservation Corridors

Conservation corridors are concepts that strategically connect fragmented portions of habitat. Within Dubuque tree canopy coverage provided by the United States Forest Service provides data to assist in defining ecological corridors. Tree canopy coverage corridors appear along the Middle Catfish Creek, Bee Branch, Eagle Point Park, Dubuque Arboretum, and Kaufman Avenue, among other places. Most notably, there is a strong tree canopy and ecological corridor along the riparian areas adjacent to the Mississippi River and along the southeast corner of Dubuque with ecological connections between Chipman Island, the River Walk, Maus Park, and greater area of the Mines of Spain. Additionally, there are strong ecological connections with Dubuque County Conservation Areas. These corridors provide opportunities for wildlife interconnections and Dubuque's Parks and Recreation Department should strive to support and protect these vital areas by utilizing these strategies, partnering with the community, and working with other agencies to create and maintain these critical habitat connections.



US Forest Service Forested Area Map with Ecological Corridors and Connections

Microhabitats

Microhabitats are areas of land that are relatively small and support varying life forms. Often, these microhabitats are vital resources and means to support wildlife development and new growth that otherwise would not thrive. These microhabitats provide food sources for insects, fungi, nesting sites for birds and mammals including bats, and roosting spots for woodpeckers and other birds. Such microhabitat examples include dead and downed trees, rocky bluffs, no-mow areas, low-mow areas, wetlands, floating islands, and riparian environments.

Dead and Downed Trees

Dead and downed trees are integral to forest ecosystems. They serve as habitat for wildlife, promote nutrient cycling, increase soil stability, contribute to a healthy soil system, and make space in the forest canopy to allow new regenerative successional tree growth. The City of Dubuque's Urban Forestry team should strive to leave standing and fallen trunks in place wherever possible, particularly in ecologically sensitive sites such as wooded areas within Eagle Point Park.

No-Mow and Low Mow-Areas

Strategies for creating additional microhabitats can include creating additional no- and low-mow areas. Dubuque's Parks and Recreation staff do an excellent job of maintaining the Upper & Lower Bee Branch as an example of these types of microhabitats. These areas provide many ecological benefits, increase wildlife habitat, and provide food, shelter, nectar, and pollen for beneficial insects and pollinators. Moreover, these microhabitats buffer erosion, are natural filters, improve water quality, deconcentrate stormwater runoff, reduce maintenance inputs, and are a carbon sink storing carbon deep in the plant roots. Passive areas not actively used by the public, lowland/wet areas, unutilized areas, and other non-pedestrian areas can provide a perfect opportunity to increase this microhabitat while reducing emissions and aligning with Dubuque's 2040 sustainability initiatives.

No mow areas are left to natural succession but require maintenance periods to eradicate invasives and to be setup for success. Low-mow areas are areas that also require maintenance to establish but are also mowed occasionally, up to twice a year to maintain the microhabitat by eliminating invasives, trees, and other undesirable plantings. The timing of the mowing should be optimized to not let invasives mature enough to reseed or produce offspring and at times that will minimize the impact on flowering plants and beneficial insects. An example site for an opportunity for additional no-mow/naturalization could be in Flora Park in between the gabions to help with erosion and intent to slow down stormwater.

General Procedures

Urban Forestry

The Urban Forestry team oversees all of Dubuque's trees located within Dubuque's parks but also along every right-of-way and roadway within the city. Statistically, the scope of work performed by this team is one of the most dangerous in the workforce. Many trees receiving care from this team requires tentative attention to remove hazards safely and to react to downed trees from storms and other natural events.

Trees: Standards and Care

It is critical for staff to maintain monthly or quarterly safety trainings on every piece of equipment used, have all staff members become cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certified, automated external defibrillator (AED) certified, go through fire extinguishing training, practice aerial rescues, and train with first aid kits specific to trauma/tree work. Additionally, the Urban Forestry staff should consider getting involved with the Iowa Arborist Association to provide staff with opportunities to gain experience and improve their knowledge about safety including attending Iowa State tree climbing competitions and trainings to continuously refine their skills with the latest safety equipment.

Forest Management

The Urban Forestry team should consider surveying all of the city's trees within the rights-of-way and park properties utilizing ESRI GIS on staff's mobile laptops, computers, and other forms of technology with cellular data access. The collection of this information provides the data to comprehensively be able to understand the existing assets being maintained, their condition, and provide the information required to plan out work and reforestation strategies in the future. Moreover, this data can be used to monitor the Urban Forest changes over time and is a strategic tool to prioritize dead or hazardous trees within strike distances of targets. Additionally, the information collected from this effort would identify gaps in canopy coverage, ensure resiliency in the diversity of the tree species within the community's forests, be able to understand the history of each tree being worked on, and can be used to pursue grant funding opportunities.

Life-cycle strategy of successional tree growth should be strongly considered and supported by Dubuque's Parks and Recreation staff. This includes the eradication of invasives throughout woodlands to be able to remove competition for native tree growth to occur. Additionally, tree growth life-cycle strategies should be considered throughout forested areas with mowed turf. Within these areas, the mature trees are left to continue to grow but the natural cycle of successional new tree growth to replace the mature trees over time is not occurring due to the turf grass maintenance. The Parks and Recreation Department should consider a strategy of planting successional saplings with opaque tree protection tubes to protect them from mowers, herbivores, and to provide supplemental watering from dew collection. In areas where new forests are desired in underused turf grass areas, the strategy of creating new "microforests" by intentional seeding native acorns in these area or by planting a high density of young tree saplings to recreate a new growth forest that could be implemented to reestablish natural areas.

Arbor Day

Dubuque's Urban Forest is a fabric of publicly and privately owned trees. The resiliency of this fabric is both a responsibility of trees on publicly owned lands but also trees on privately owned lands. The Iowa State Forest Nursery through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources provides native Iowa Hardwoods saplings that are very cost effective. As part of Arbor Day, it is recommended for the City of Dubuque Parks and Recreation Department to emphasize planting native trees and to consider providing trees from the Iowa State Forest Nursery to the community in an effort to wholistically reforest all of Dubuque to become more resilient and sustainable.

Best Management Practices

All plantings and maintenance of public trees shall conform to the American National Standards (ANSI) A-300 "Standards for Tree Care Operations," latest edition published by the International Society of Arboriculture.

Any person, contractor, or City department performing construction near any public tree(s) shall consult with the City's Urban Forester to employ appropriate measures to protect the public's tree(s) in accordance with the Best Management Practices from the ANSI A-300 "Managing Trees During Construction," latest edition published by the International Society of Arboriculture.

To limit the risk of oak wilt transmission, generally it is recommended and best practice to prune oaks in the dormant season. See **Table A** below for risk level of oak wilt spore transmission from carrying beetles.

Table A - Risk Level of Oak Wilt Spore Transmission

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Time Frame	**November 1 – March 14**				March 15 – August 1					August 2 – October 31		
Risk Level	**Recommended**				**High Risk**					**Low Risk**		

If Oak Wilt is suspected, the City should collaborate with Iowa State University for testing and to follow recommendations for the United States Forest Service and Iowa Department of Natural Resources to prevent and control the spread of Oak Wilt in Dubuque's Urban Forests.

Master Tree Planting List

The intent of the master tree planting lists in are to guide the community and staff on "recommended trees" to plant within Dubuque, for home owners or contractors to quickly reference for installation projects, and for designers on publicly funded projects to align with the sustainability initiatives of the City. The Dubuque Street Tree list as noted in "Appendix A" encourages the use of select cultivars with traits and mature sizes that are appropriate for the planting conditions. This list encourages the use of non-native and native species to diversify the trees within the public rights-of-way along streets. The Dubuque Park Tree list as noted in "Appendix B" focuses on native hardwood trees that natively are found in northeast Iowa including Dubuque. The intent is to use species of native origin to reforest Dubuque's public parks and to avoid wherever possible, the use of non-native tree species.

This master tree planting list is intended to be ever-evolving and maintained annually by City's Urban Forester so that this list remains up to to date with any future changes in the environment, diseases, pests, and development of more resilient varieties or cultivars resistant to diseases that should be used with best interest of the future generations of the community's urban forest(s) in mind.

Ornamental Landscapes

Ornamental Planting Recommended Plant List.

The intent of the City of Dubuque's Master Recommended Ornamental Plant list as noted in "Appendix C" is to give a guide for the community to include additional native plants that align with the City's sustainability initiatives. Often times, the community at large is influenced by plants for sale from national retailers with plants that are not native, from warmer hardiness zones, or are sold throughout the nation without much care for the native natural environment. This also includes maintenance intensities of plants and working with nature, not against it. The recommendations for the plant list are to enrich the use of native material to use on public projects to reduce the labor and maintenance intensity of those landscapes over time. Dubuque has finite staff and by spacing plants out appropriately, using native plant material, and decreasing maintenance needs in future public landscape designs should be paramount.

This master ornamental planting recommended plant list is intended to be updated annually by the City's Horticulturalist and be ever-evolving with changes in the environment, pests, diseases, maintenance intensities, or drought tolerance to advocate for more resilient and sustainable landscapes throughout Dubuque. Additionally, the plant material selected for this list should be considered with select attributes as insect host plants, pollinators, and provide options for year-round winter and summer interests.

Streetscapes

Kerper Boulevard Roundabouts

Kerper Boulevard Roundabouts were planted and maintained by Horticulture staff within the Parks and Recreation Department. These roundabouts appeared full of flowering, drought tolerant, and pollinator plant material. These roundabouts are a prime example of relatively low maintenance and intensive landscape areas that should be emulated elsewhere throughout the city.

Grand View Boulevard

The maintained open space extends approximately for 1.5 miles along Grand View Boulevard and is maintained by Parks and Recreation staff. The landscape along this boulevard includes thousands of existing peonies, mowed turf areas, annuals, ornamental grasses, ornamental trees, and shade trees. This boulevard is unique, historic, and is a remnant of a part of Dubuque's Peony Trail history with deep community involvement. The landscape along Grand View Boulevard can be perceived as very maintenance intensive and consists of many annuals with peony's that bloom for a brief period in the spring. Overtime staff could consider a strategy to relocate the peonies or more intensive maintenance plants closer to intersections where views would be optimized and to the consolidate remaining beds in between with less maintenance intensive flowering native plants or ornamental grasses. Additionally, another strategy staff could consider is if done strategically designed, native flowering perennials could be used in lieu of annuals to decrease landscape maintenance intensities in these area over time to free staff up for other tasks.

A consideration could also be made to propagate and transplant some of the existing peony's within Grand View Boulevard to other parks to recreate Dubuque's historic Peony Trail. This would require partnering with volunteer gardeners in the community and provide better space for the public to be able safely interact close up with the beautiful flowers. Grand View Boulevard has a lot of traffic and safety for landscape maintenance within the median is a concern. The City should consider to include maintenance strips along the backs of curb that do not have to be mowed or to omit the mowed turf grass area between the landscape beds and the backs of curb increase to improve maintenance operations.

US Route 20 & US Route 20/61 Connector

Highway 20 is the primary east-west route in the City and runs up the main hill connecting the growing areas near the west end of the city with Dubuque's vibrant downtown and the Mississippi Basin. Travelling along this corridor is experienced at 45 miles per hour and perception of the landscape is relatively quick with not enough time to provide detailed attention to minor landscape elements. The landscape along this thoroughfare is highly visible and viewed by thousands of vehicles, both residents and visitors every day and is a very important landscape for the community to enjoy.

Parks and Recreation staff have improved the original landscape design along Route 20 which had included non-natives maintenance intensive plants that have since been removed. The barren landscape planters after removal of the non-native plant material had created a surplus of mulched space but staff has been able to strategically decrease this mulched maintenance scope by introducing additional turf area since the first assessment of the corridor as part of this project. Staff has done a great job reducing unnecessary landscape space but it is encouraged for the Parks and Recreation department to consider providing low-maintenance, native, large masses of shrub and/or native grasses, additional rockscapes/boulders and additional trees with the intent to decrease maintenance, to match the scale of the landscape perception when driving through the space, and be impactful for viewers driving along the roadway.

The US route 20 and US Route 61 Connector is a main corridor connector and can be perceived as gateway into Dubuque's downtown. US Route 61 is the primary north-south corridor that runs parallel to the Mississippi through Dubuque. This main artery and connectors to US Route 20 are highly visible from vehicles passing through and vehicles stopped at the stop lights/signs. The landscape at this connector is maintenance intensive and can be a challenge to safely access. It is recommended for Parks and Recreation staff to consider amending the current landscape at this corridor to become less maintenance intensive and to consider including low maintenance ornamental grasses, native drought tolerant plantings, additional rockscapes & boulders, and to decrease maintenance area scope wherever feasible.

Greenhouse

The City of Dubuque's Greenhouse was built in 1929, is 250' long by 50' wide, and is located below Eagle Point Park. This Greenhouse provides all of the wonderful plant color and seasonal blossoming plants found throughout the city. The Parks and Recreation Department utilizes the greenhouse to beautify public spaces and provide additional greenery for the community to enjoy. The greenhouse's value is tremendous in the amount of flowering plant material provided to the community. However, the greenhouse is well seasoned and it is recommended in the future to replace any glass panels at risk of breaking or falling with poly carbonate. Also, to maintain the Greenhouse for the future, the concrete legs of the greenhouse growing benches are deteriorating and should be replaced or repaired. Additionally, to improve the greenhouse, it should be considered to prune back or remove the bank of trees along the side of the greenhouse that casts shade over the greenhouse. Lastly, it should be considered to make improvements to automate the louvres to maintain optimal temperatures within the greenhouse.

The greenhouse is a breath of fresh air, especially during the colder dormant months. The City should consider making the greenhouse have an ADA accessible path to be able to provide opportunity to educate students on field trips and to accommodate universal access to this wonderful building.

Naturalized Areas

Dubuque's Parks and Recreation naturalist staff maintain the natural areas and stormwater features that are the sustainable sponges of the city. These areas include very high-profile and visible landscapes including, but not limited to, the Upper & Lower Bee Branch, Comiskey, Eagle Point Park, and many other locations with natural areas. This maintenance is essential to prevent invasive species and non-native trees from getting hold in the public's parks especially in areas where there has been significant capital investments from the community for past improvement projects. By maintaining these areas, staff are being stewards of the land and are making the city more resilient to changes in environmental patterns aligning with Dubuque 2040 goals.

This team manages a diverse variety of plant material that ranges from plant material specific to prairie areas, mesic (wet) to dry side slopes of basins, emergent wet plantings including on floating islands, and oak savannahs within forest areas. This diversity is key in being able to maintain and provide native plants and habitats for birds, insects, animals, and aquatic species. Additionally, prairies and other natural areas established may have a greater up-front cost to maintain them until they are self sufficient but this cost is much less over time from reduction in labor hours and inputs required such as mowing, fertilizer, irrigation, and other maintenance intensive items etc.

Education is very important to be able to communicate and demonstrate successful natural areas with the community so that they can learn about the sustainable initiatives, benefits, and ways to improve Dubuque's natural resources. Striving to provide appropriate educational signs informing the public of no mow areas, prairies, oak savannahs, and other natural resource features will be informing to park goers on why they may see features that could appear natural but be potentially perceived as unmaintained. As the saying goes "Can't see the forest for the trees," someone could perceive small details of the natural areas appearing untidy or unkept but may need to be educated of the bigger picture of ecology and the benefits of the natural areas and microhabitats being maintained.

The most successful establishment of prairies, stormwater basins, naturalized areas, and wetlands requires intensive landscape stewardship and maintenance of these areas. Often times, the on-going maintenance required to establish these areas is overlooked on engineering projects, by developers, by contractors and these areas can become prolific with non-native weeds, if left unmanaged. To better set the City of Dubuque and public's open spaces up for success, it is recommended to have the seed/plug installer maintain these naturalized area(s) for a minimum of three growing seasons post installation. The 3-year naturalized areas stewardship of the land will decrease maintenance requirements on the Parks and Recreation staff already spread thin maintaining the existing established naturalized areas. The time scale of establishing prairies and natural areas can be described as; Year 1 is "Sleep", Year 2 is "Creep, and Year 3 is "Leap". These stages correlate with the cold stratification, seed germination, and root establishment that occurs in in Year 1; further root establishment, seed reproduction, and additional vegetative growth in Year 2; and prolific growth after the roots are well established including an abundance of flowers in Year 3. This minimum time requirement is to get a naturalized area self-established and self-sufficient to out compete with weeds as well as to decrease maintenance requirements. This intent is to setup Parks and Recreation maintenance staff for success and only for staff to take over maintenance responsibly of these naturalized areas after these natural areas have been successfully established.

Additionally, controlled burns are an effective management strategy to maintain naturalized areas to both remove invasives but to also clear the understory of fuel to reduce substantial wildfires. It is recommended for the Parks and Recreation naturalized area maintenance staff to become certified through fire school, to collaborate extensively with Dubuque County Conservation, and with any interested volunteers from the Fire Department.

Mowed Turf Areas

Turf grass is a non-native plant and is a hold over from English 18th century landscapes of extensive rolling lawns used for recreation, leisure, and socializing. Turf grass has a time and place in the landscape and should be reserved for active recreational uses, large gathering areas, and open spaces. Mowing of the turf grass requires weekly or biweekly maintenance efforts, carbon inputs, attributes to fertilizer/pesticide runoff, and adds to Dubuque's carbon footprint. Excessive mowing contributes to a decreased area of wildlife habitat, removal of successional native tree growth, and can cause lawn mower damage to plants/trees when mowed too closely to plant trunks. Dubuque's Parks and Recreation Department should strive to balance recreational needs of the community while striving to reduce mowed areas in underutilized public spaces and to increase additional natural habitats. Additionally, there is momentum with the "Mowing to Monarchs" program and from a community perspective as the interest grows, it is important to engage with those citizens to become advocates for the natural spaces within their parks and communities. The impacts of residents being stewards of their land can help to improve natural spaces in public areas they use, care for, and enjoy.

Eagle Point Park

Eagle Point Park's natural resources and views are what makes the park beautiful. The uniqueness of this park must be embraced and protected per the Eagle Point Park Environmental Restoration Management Plan report provided to the City of Dubuque, dated January 20th, 2017. This plan extensively outlines the recommendations for natural resource improvements and the City should strategically partner with the Dubuque County Conservation to assist with any future maintenance of the woodlands including with prescribed burns. Invasive woody plant removal scope includes the eradication of oriental bittersweet, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and tree of heaven that are prevalent in the woodlands of the park.

Additionally, it recommended to strategically clear scenic vistas or view sight lines from key locations along the natural bluff to recreate the original intent of providing views of the Mississippi River. Education is essential with keeping the public informed of natural area restoration work and it should provide additional education signs with content about efforts to control erosion, use of native plant material, any culturally significant history, and the intent of recreating an "oak savannah" through the use of no-mow vegetation implemented. Also, there are erosion concerns at Eagle Point Park and as a general observation, erosion appeared worst where curbs and gutters concentrated flows to problematic washouts. It appeared there was success with providing a 2' to 4' crushed locally sources aggregate bench along the pavement to intercept sheet flow, slow down the stormwater velocity, and acted as a spreader to deconcentrate sheet flow where curb and gutter did not exist. Consider continue making stormwater improvements where feasible to spread out and deconcentrate sheet flows of water with the intent to make for a more sustainable site and the park would naturally drain.

Maus Park

Maus Park is a gem in the rough, tucked away, and is satured in history. From the pond being a holding area for lumber production to fisheries, this area has seen an influx of varying uses. The natural areas at this park include a riparian wooded area along the perimeter of the pond, a nature walking path around a portion of the pond, and the actual body of water itself with fish, turtles, and migratory birds, among others. This park has the potential to improve the public's natural resources by cleaning up debris/garbage, removing invasive vegetation along the shoreline, improving framed views of the pond and the Mississippi River, improving fishing access, and ensuring ADA accessibility. Additionally, providing trash cans, signage about no littering, and enhancing the natural areas of this park would all improve the perception and ecological habitats of this park. Furthermore, there is additional opportunity to improve habitat by implementing strategies to create supplemental shallow areas/ecological islands within the pond if future dredging activities were to ever occur. Also, the park is near the mighty Mississippi and the existing Riverwalk Trail but its connections are fragmented with Huff Street being the only way to access this park. A looped path or future connection to the Riverwalk trail would improve access to and connect this park to already established pedestrian paths. Lastly, educational and historical signs could also be provided to inform park goers of this parks history, conservation efforts, and efforts visitors can make to clean up refuse/debris.

Roosevelt Park

Roosevelt Park is Dubuque's largest park in acreage at 207 acres, is a remnant of lost national forests, and is a hidden gem. This largely undeveloped community-sized park includes a large forested conservation area, natural geologic rock outcroppings, mountain bike single track, hiking trails, an open field for model airplanes, hunting, creeks, agriculture, bird viewing, and an abundance of natural resources. All of the trails were well maintained and looped back to the main road leading to the model airplane flying field. This park's conservation of the natural areas provides both the outdoor recreation features that attract park goers but this park also provides extensive habitats for wildlife. The change in elevation grade along the ravines with rolling hills throughout the park makes for a unique recreational experience.

Roosevelt Park is both a draw for Dubuque residents but attracts parkgoers from the greater region. This park has great opportunity promote natural resource education, has space for additional recreation, and to connect people with nature. This park is very unique to the City of Dubuque and the most important quality of its natural resource features should be embraced. The Parks and Recreation Department should collaborate with Dubuque County Conservation on strategies/ resources to effectively eradicate invasives and to better manage the parks' natural resources.

Invasive Plant Management Plan

Management of Woody Understory Invasive Species

Invasive plants located throughout Dubuque's woodlands, if left unchecked, have been choking out and have replaced hundreds of thousands of native plants that natively have evolved to thrive in Dubuque. These invasives prevent successional growth of new native plants and eliminate diverse habitats that provide shelter and support of birds along with other wildlife. Additionally, many of these invasives are not host plants to native insects and can weaken ecosystems or provide undesirable habitat for pollination and insect reproduction. Removing invasive plants that have been established and preventing their spread into areas already eradicated is essential to Dubuque's natural resources.

Prevalent invasive species are noted in Appendix F and include but are not limited to: Oriental bittersweet, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, buckthorn, multiflora rosa, callery pears, and russian olive, among others. A trait of many of the invasives is their aggressive growth habitats but they are often some of the first plants to leaf out and last plants to lose their leaves. This results in prohibiting native seeds or other plants from being able to filter stormwater or get established. This can cause perpetual ecological damage if the aggressive invasives are not managed to avoid competition with less aggressive native vegetation. Additionally, many of these invasive species produce berries that are attractants to many birds that migrate through Dubuque. As part of the removal process, reestablishment of native plant material that is suitable as a food source for the varying birds is encouraged.

For the removal of Invasive species, it is recommended for the Dubuque Parks and Recreation Department and its contractors to follow Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Invasive Species Guide for recommended plant removal strategies:

https://www.iowadnr.gov/programs-services/forestry-resources/forest-tree-health/invasive-plants

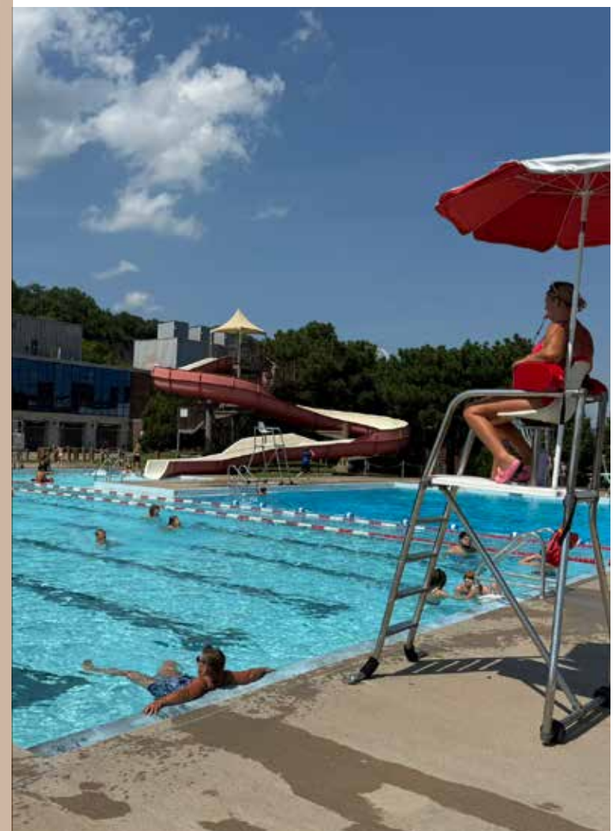
Additionally, the Dubuque Parks and Recreation Department should collaborate with Dubuque County Conservation to educate Park staff on invasives, work together to improve natural areas including through prescribed burns, leverage each other's skills and strengths, and to provide additional community engagement education opportunities. The Dubuque Parks and Recreation Department should also continue to collaborate further with Dubuque Trees Forever to partner with their volunteers to help with improving Dubuque's natural resources and woodlands. Lastly, if there is civic pride in a neighborhood to improve a park space, park by park stewardship volunteer groups could be considered as a strategy to receive community support in improving the condition and connections they have to the parks they love to enjoy.



Chapter 7

Implementation Plan

Putting Y(O)ur Story Into Action





Y(OUR) STORY

Dubuque
Parks and Recreation
Comprehensive Plan

The following pages highlight information about the Department (budget, staffing, facilities, etc.). In addition to those data points, when available, comparative data from the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) is included.

Within the City of Dubuque and their budget documents, the Department is referred to as Leisure Services. Also, depending on what portion of the budget document one is reviewing, the Department is also referred to as Culture and Recreation.

The following is the organizational chart for the Department per budget documents:

Leisure Services

Recreation | **Civic Center** | **Parks** | **Grand River Center**

In addition to the organizational chart, from conversations with staff and referencing budget documents, the following is the breakdown of full-time equivalents for the Department.

42.86 Parks | **39.98** Recreation

82.84 Full-Time Equivalents

For comparative purposes, NRPA agencies with similar population to the City have the following staffing within parks and recreation:

City of Dubuque Comparison **82.84**

45.1	74.4	128.1
Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile

Full-Time Equivalents with a 50,000-99,999 Population

Interpretation: This data would suggest that the City is above the median but below the upper quartile for FTE positions.

This would indicate to the consulting team that for the City to continue to maintain the current system they will need to consider a combination of the following:

- **Increase in full-time staffing**
- **Increase in department funding**
- **Adjustment in services provided through contract**
- **Adjustment in maintenance standards**

It is important to note that the suggested adjustments are for the existing system, and do not account for any potential future expansion.

The total operating budget for the department (FY2025) can be broken down in the following way.

Category	Total	Percentage
Parks	$4,726,519	$814,381
Recreation	$4,034,637	$1,946,559
Total	**$8,761,156**	$2,760,940

To compare with the NRPA, the project team removed the Library and Economic Development – Arts and Cultural Affairs from the budget. The budget number used for comparison is $13,695,302.

That figure can be compared in the following ways to the most recent NRPA data set.

$8.8M City of Dubuque Comparison

$5.83M	$8.38M	$14.7M
Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile

Annual Operating Budget with a 50,000-99,999 Population

$146.46 City of Dubuque Comparison

$80.67	$126.23	$205.08
Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile

Per Capita Operating Budget with a 50,000-99,999 Population

Interpretation: This data would suggest that the City is well above the median in terms of annual operating budget, but short of the upper quartile.

The consulting team would suggest that this speaks to the inventory of indoor and outdoor amenities that they offer to residents. It also begins to emphasize the idea that the City is more of a regional provider of parks and recreation. While their operating budget is significant, it is likely insufficient for the inventory they currently manage.

If one uses the 82.84 FTE for parks and recreation and the operating expenditure of $8,761,156 the following comparison is possible.

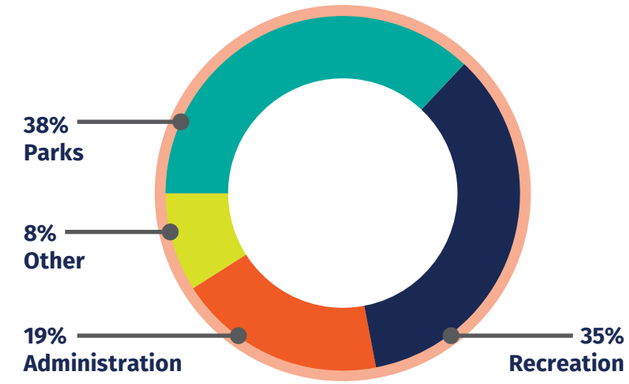
City of Dubuque Comparison **$285.3K**

$100.4K	$118.2K	$144.9K
Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile

Annual Operating Budget Comparison with a 48 FTE and $13,685,302 Operating Expenditure

Interpretation: While this would appear to be a positive figure, it again points to the need for more full-time staffing.

The following pie chart outlines the average distribution of operating expenditures of NRPA member agencies.



Currently, within the department parks accounts for 25.3% of the total budget and recreation accounts for 28.6% of the total budget.

Sources of Operating Expenditures (average distribution)	NRPA Average
General Fund/Appropriations	63%
Earned Revenue	20%
Special Taxes/Levies (voter approved)	8%
Special Taxes/Levies (non-voter approved)	4%
Other	3%
Operating Grants from Public Agency	2%
Sponsors, In-Kind Donations, Private Operations Grants/Donate	1%

The City reports the following levels of self supporting by revenue-generating area (2025 Actuals):

Category	Expense	Revenue	Cost Recovery
Parks	$4,726,519	$814,381	17.3%
Recreation	$4,034,637	$1,946,559	48.3%
Total	**$8,761,156**	**$2,760,940**	**31.5%**

As a point of comparison, the NPRA offers the following department-wide revenue as a percentage of operating expenditure.

31.5% City of Dubuque Comparison

19.8%	32.8%	50.7 %
Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile

Department-Wide Revenue Percentage of Operating Expenditure with a 50,000-99,999 Population

Interpretation: This indicates that the cost recovery for the City is slightly above the lower quartile. Given the median income level in the City, it is not surprising that there is a lower cost recovery level.

The Department currently does not have a cost recovery goal or policy. The project team would strongly recommend that the Department formalize their cost recovery goals by program category, and further develop some processes for developing new programs, and eliminate underperforming programs.

The City has a robust Capital Improvement Plan but the majority of those dollars are not going to parks or recreation amenities, but rather $25 million of the total is going to the Five Flags Location downtown

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	TOTAL
$660,000	$5,240,375	$3,244,678	$9,048,822	$12,511,125	$30,705,000

As a point of comparison, the NPRA offers the following 5-year capital budget spending for similar sized agencies.

City of Dubuque Comparison $30.7M

$4.75M	$13.8M	$28.9M
Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile

5-Year Capital Budget Spending for a 50,000-99,999 Population

Interpretation: If the City were to adhere to their Capital Improvement Plan, it would place them in the upper quartile of spending which would be consistent for the size of their system.

The Department currently manages the following inventory:

Park-Like Statistics:

53	PARKS (1,246 ACRES)
31	PARK SHELTERS
22	RESTROOM BUILDINGS
4	ACCESSIBLE FISHING PIERS
4,500	STREET TREES
45	MILES OF ON-/ OFF-STREET TRAILS
1,000	PICNIC TABLES

Recreation-Like Statistics:

15	TENNIS COURTS
9	PICKLEBALL COURTS
6	VOLLEYBALL/ PICKLEBALL OVERLAY COURTS
3	SKATEPARKS
1	PET PARK
288	UNITS OF PLAY EQUIPMENT
1	DISC GOLF COURSE
1	IN-LINE HOCKEY RINK
10	SOFTBALL FIELDS
1	ALL-INCLUSIVE BASEBALL FIELD
1	BASEBALL FIELD
7	BASKETBALL COURTS
8	HALF BASKETBALL COURTS
1	SPLASHPAD
2	AMPHITHEATERS
17	HORSESHOE PITS

The following page uses data from the NRPA and provides an estimate of the number of amenities needed based on the city's population.

Outdoor Parks and Recreation Facilities	% of Agencies	50,000 to 99,999	City of Dubuque
Playgrounds	94.0%	3,643	16.4
Basketball Courts - Standalone	85.0%	8,447	7.1
Diamond Fields	80.0%	4,560	13.1
Rectangular Fields	77.0%	4,659	12.8
Tennis Courts - Standalone	74.0%	5,818	10.3
Dog Park	70.0%	55,250	1.1
Community Garden Plots	54.0%	56,367	1.1
Swimming Pools	49.0%	48,064	1.2
Skate Parks	47.0%	61,384	1.0
Pickleball Courts - Standalone	45.0%	8,592	7.0
Volleyball Courts - Standalone	51.0%	29,214	2.0
Fitness Zones	39.0%	32,500	1.8
Multi-Use Courts	38.0%	25,512	2.3
Splash Pads	38.0%	51,000	1.2
Multi-Use Racquet Courts	38.0%	13,339	4.5
Walking/Running Tracks	36.0%	19,700	3.0
Disc Golf Courses	35.0%	56,150	1.1
Driving Range Stations	31.0%	7,774	7.7
18-Hole Golf Courses	31.0%	62,756	1.0
Synthetic Fields	17.0%	33,799	1.8
Ice Rinks	17.0%	28,500	2.1
9-Hole Golf Courses	16.0%	64,937	0.9
Overlay Fields	15.0%	25,500	2.3
Water Parks	12.0%	64,304	0.9
Racquetball/Handball/Squash Courts	9.0%	70,796	0.8

Sample Interpretation: 38.0% of agencies submitting data to the NRPA offer splash pads to their communities and it is estimated that in communities with a population of 50,000 to 99,999, one splash pad serves the needs of 51,000 individuals. Subsequently, Dubuque, with its 2025 estimated population of 59,818 would support 1.2 splash pads.

The Department does not currently operate any of the standalone indoor facilities outlined in the following chart.

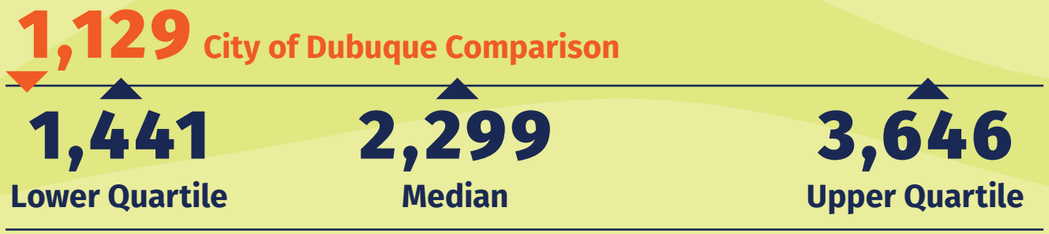
Indoor Parks and Recreation Facilities	% of Agencies	50,000 to 99,999	City of Dubuque
Multi-Use Courts	29.0%	24,000	2.5
Competitive Swimming Pools	23.0%	64,000	0.9
Basketball Courts - Single Sport	21.0%	25,598	2.3
Leisure Pools	20.0%	63,418	0.9
Walking/Running Tracks	18.0%	63,671	0.9
Pickleball Courts - Single Sport	17.0%	14,818	4.0
Multi-Use Racquet Courts	15.0%	15,015	4.0
Therapeutic Pools	13.0%	63,610	0.9
Racquetball/Handball/Squash Courts	10.0%	40,708	1.5
Tennis Courts - Single Sport	5.0%	10,428	5.7

The City does have permanent restrooms, amphitheaters, and an ice rink (managed via contract).

Indoor Parks and Recreation Facilities and Amenities	% of Agencies	50,000 to 99,999	City of Dubuque
Recreation Centers (including gyms)	63.0%	31,805	1.9
Community Centers	60.0%	50,284	1.2
Permanent & Semipermanent Restrooms	52.0%	5,521	10.8
Performance Amphitheaters	43.0%	60,594	1.0
Senior Centers	41.0%	64,937	0.9
Nature Centers	35.0%	64,672	0.9
Aquatic Centers	30.0%	60,770	1.0
Facilities with Restrooms Available Free to Use to Public Not Included Above	27.0%	14,282	4.2
Stadiums	19.0%	62,575	1.0
Indoor Ice Rinks	12.0%	51,896	1.2
Teen Centers	11.0%	59,694	1.0
Arenas	9.0%	59,630	1.0

While there is a YMCA in the community, the data would suggest that the City could support an indoor facility that could fall into the categories of recreation center, community center, or fieldhouse. The reality is that without an indoor facility of that nature, it will be very difficult for the Department to expand their program offerings.

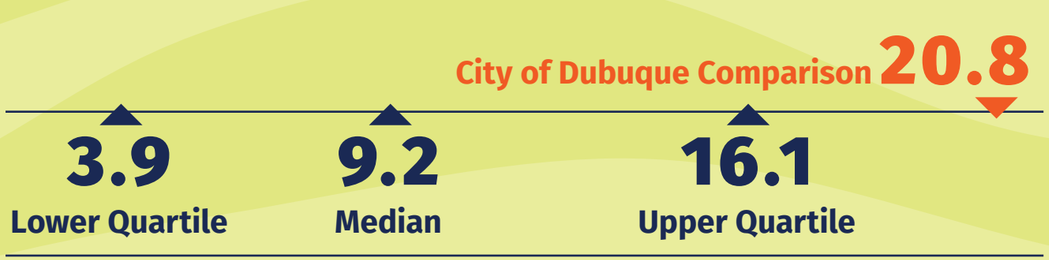
Using the total of 53 parks, and a projected 2025 population of 59,818, the following comparison can be made.



Resident per Park Comparison with a 50,000-99,999 Population

Interpretation: The number of City parks and subsequent population per park places the City below the median and the lower quartile. However, this interpretation can be deceiving as a lower number is a positive attribute in this case, meaning that there is an abundance of park land in comparison to the population.

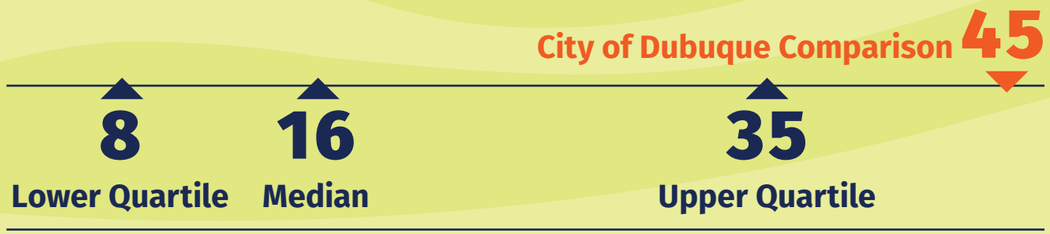
Using a total of 1,246 acres and a projected 2025 population of 59,818, the following comparison can be made.



Acres of Parkland Comparison with a 50,000-99,999 Population

Interpretation: This would indicate that City is well above the median and the upper quartile.

Using a total of 45 miles of trails and a projected 2025 population of 59,818, the following comparison can be made.



Miles of Trails Comparison with a 50,000-99,999 Population

Interpretation: This data would suggest that the City is well above the median and the upper quartile in terms of miles of trails in their inventory.

This would indicate to the consulting team that funding associated with maintenance of this amenity should also be higher than most.

The following table reports responsibilities of park and recreation agencies based on data from the NRPA. This information can be compared to what the City currently does.

Amenity	Percent of Agencies
Park Sites	98.0%
Recreation Programming and Services	93.0%
Indoor Facilities	93.0%
Trails, Greenways, and/or Blueways	88.0%
Jurisdiction-Wide Special Events	82.0%
Racquet Sport Activities/Courts/Facilities	80.0%
Special Purpose Parks and Open Spaces	76.0%
Non-Park Sites	70.0%
Outdoor Swim Facilities/Water Parks	67.0%
Tournament/Event-Quality Outdoor Sports Complexes	56.0%
Community Gardens	50.0%

Amenity	Percent of Agencies
Tourism Attractions	40.0%
Golf Course	38.0%
Large Performance Outdoor Amphitheaters	35.0%
Indoor Swim Facilities/Water Parks	32.0%
Beaches (all waterbody types)	27.0%
Farmers Markets	22.0%
Campgrounds	22.0%
Tournament/Event-Quality Indoor Sports Complexes	21.0%
Indoor Performing Arts Centers	19.0%
Marinas	13.0%
Professional or College-Type Stadium/Arena/Racetrack	10.0%
Fairgrounds	6.0%

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Allison-Henderson Park			**Allison-Henderson Park**					
Repair cracked sidewalks	Short							
Add edging around sand playground pit and ensure ADA access to playground	Short							
Paint over graffiti and scratched playground elements and worn hockey rink segments	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playgrounds	Short							
Replace worn/rusted playground equipment that is becoming safety hazard	Short							
Re-stripe rink surface	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to playground elements and hockey rink (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Add concrete pads at benches, picnic tables, BBQs, and other areas that would benefit from being accessible	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Avon Park			**Avon Park**					
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Replace rusted bike racks, trash receptacles, and picnic tables where necessary	Mid							
Repair basketball court asphalt surface and re-stripe	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
A.Y. McDonald Park			**A.Y. McDonald Park**					
Replace rusted bike racks, trash receptacles, and picnic tables where necessary	Short							
Connect walkways to amenities and assets, including benches and picnic tables (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground equipment	Long							
Bee Branch Greenway			**Bee Branch Greenway**					
Replace rusted bike racks, trash receptacles, and picnic tables where necessary	Short							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Bunker Hill Golf Course			**Bunker Hill Golf Course**					
Replace rusted bike racks, trash receptacles, and picnic tables where necessary	Short							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Short							
Refinish/repair parking lot (cracking, potholes)	Mid							
Refinish/repair asphalt cart path (cracking, erosion)	Mid							
Burden Park			**Burden Park**					
Replace rusted bike racks, trash receptacles, and picnic tables where necessary	Short							
Update basketball court to true half-court dimensions with smooth surface and striping	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Cancer Survivor Park			**Cancer Survivor Park**					
Fix damaged and rusting lighting	Short							
Add edger around playground and ensure proper wood fiber play surfacing depth for safety	Short							
Create accessible route to pavilion and make necessary updates to aging structure	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities (ADA compliant wherever possible) and ensure ADA access at playground	Mid							
Add level pads under picnic tables to make them accessible	Mid							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Center Grove Open Space			**Center Grove Open Space**					
Consider adding parking and an entrance with signage and information. Many people would not assume that this was accessible land by the public	Short							
Add amenities such as seating, pathways, and trash cans	Short							
Add trails that would connect to Medical Associates Greenbelt and Welu Park for a more complete trails network/walking loop	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Cleveland Park			**Clevland Park**					
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playgrounds	Short							
Repair and replace rusted/damaged assets	Short							
Repair or replace rusted playground elements that could become a safety hazard	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Ensure ADA access at playground	Mid							
Add concrete pad around BBQ and picnic table for accessibility	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Comiskey Park			**Comiskey Park**					
Create ongoing maintenance and ranger/visitation schedule to improve safety and cut down on vandalism	Short							
Fix parking lot cracking	Short							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Creek Wood Park			**Creek Wood Park**					
Add signage with parking instructions	Short							
Replace missing shade over playground structure	Mid							
Eagle Point Park			**Eagle Point Park**					
Replace rusted bike racks, trash receptacles, BBQs, drinking fountains, and picnic tables where necessary	Short							
Repair/replace rusted play equipment and swings that could become a hazard	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playgrounds	Short							
Add edging around sand playground area	Short							
Repair sidewalk cracking and trip hazards where needed	Short							
Continue prairie restoration and reforestation efforts throughout park, as well as eradication of invasive species	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Add concrete pad around key BBQs and picnic table for accessibility	Mid							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Ensure ADA access at playgrounds	Mid							
Repair/resurface parking areas where needed (cracking, potholes)	Mid							
Add educational signage about history, ecological restoration, and habitat	Mid							
Add mapping and wayfinding signage throughout park	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Refinish tennis courts	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Update chain link fencing to more aesthetic, lower-height safety view fencing at overlook areas	Long							
Continue high-level preservation efforts, including funding and maintenance planning	Long							
Examine and implement green infrastructure techniques where feasible to positively impact effects of flow and infiltration of water	Long							
Create more dynamic splash pad	Long							
Modernize lighting throughout	Long							
Eagle Valley Park			**Eagle Valley Park**					
Add signage with parking instructions	Short							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Elmwood Green Park			**Elmwood Green Park**					
No signage, amenities, or parking exist here; examine whether to re-classify this space or add seating and other assets	Short							
English Ridge Park			**English Ridge Park**					
Add signage with parking information	Short							
Falk Park			**Falk Park**					
Repair/replace rusted play equipment and swings that could become a hazard	Short							
Add signage with parking information	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Update basketball court to true half-court dimensions with smooth surface and striping	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Modernize lighting	Long							
Flat Iron Park			**Flat Iron Park**					
Repair/replace rusted play equipment that could become a hazard	Short							
Add signage with parking information	Short							
Ensure ADA access to playground area	Mid							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Flora Park			**Flora Park**					
Replace rusted bike racks, trash receptacles, BBQs, drinking fountains, and picnic tables where necessary	Short							
Repair skate park cracking	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playgrounds	Short							
Repair/replace rusted play equipment that could become a hazard	Short							
Add handrails where needed at stairs/steps	Short							
Repair rusted pool equipment and lighting	Short							
Repair pool surfacing and deeper cracks	Short							
Repair water slide hazards	Short							
Address asphalt potholes, cracking, etc. within parking lot and interior drives	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible) and create walking loops	Mid							
Re-grade and resurface tennis courts	Mid							
Resurface baseball/softball fields	Mid							
Ensure ADA access to playground and improve sand/fiber separation	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Add new maintenance yard, building, and restroom	Long							
Modernize lighting throughout	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Modernize concessions building and changing/shower rooms at pool	Long							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Consider adding dog park	Long							
Four Mounds Park			**Four Mounds Park**					
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Gay Park			**Gay Park**					
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Repair/replace rusted play equipment that could become a hazard	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Ensure ADA access to playground	Mid							
Resurface ball field	Mid							
Repair/replace playground equipment with vandalism/wear	Mid							
Update basketball court to true half-court dimensions with smooth surface and striping	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Grandview Green Space			**Grandview Green Space**					
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Grant Park			**Grant Park**					
No signage, amenities, or parking exist here; examine whether to re-classify this space or add seating and other assets	Short							
Granger Creek Nature Trail	Short							
Consider adding parking and an entrance with signage and information. Many people would not assume that this was accessible land by the public	Mid							
Add amenities such as seating, pathways, and trash cans	Mid							
Long Term	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Mid							
Ham House Historic Site			**Ham House Historic Site**					
Structure by lead mine signage looks to be collapsing and could become a safety issue	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Continue historic preservation efforts including funding and maintenance	Long							
Harvest View Park			**Harvest View Park**					
Add playground edging/curbing and ensure ADA access into playground	Short							
Add sign with parking information	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Repair/replace playground platforms that are beginning to peel/rust	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Hillcrest Park			**Hillcrest Park**					
Repair/replace rusted play equipment and swings that are becoming a hazard	Short							
Add edging around playground areas	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Resurface/restripe parking lot	Mid							
Add concrete pad with BBQ and picnic table for accessibility	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Hilltop Park			**Hilltop Park**					
Add signage with parking information	Short							
Add edging around playground areas	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Repair/replace rusted playground equipment and swings that are becoming a hazard	Short							
Update basketball court to true half-court dimensions with smooth surface and striping	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Add level concrete pads at BBQ, benches, and picnic tables for accessibility	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Jackson Park			**Jackson Park**					
Repair/replace rusted playground equipment and swings that are becoming a hazard	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Replace rusted bike racks, trash receptacles, BBQs, drinking fountains, and picnic tables where necessary	Short							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Mid							
Replace faded/scratched playground equipment	Mid							
Connect all assets and amenities to sidewalks (bench, picnic table, and BBQ pads, etc.)	Mid							
Community garden beds mostly empty; consider an alternate plan for these or make more of a feature (and accessible)	Mid							
Repair fountain or make it a planter/other feature	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Jefferson Park			**Jefferson Park**					
Repair/replace rusted playground equipment and swings that are becoming a hazard	Short							
Add signage with parking information	Short							
Create border between play fiber and sand play areas and around whole playground, and ensure ADA access into playground	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Ensure ADA access to park	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Long Term	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Mid							
Add shade over playground elements	Mid							
John G Bergfeld Recreation Area			**John G Bergfeld Recreation Area**					
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Repair sidewalk cracking	Short							
Paint/repair wood that is chipping/flaking on pavilion	Short							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Repair asphalt cracking and spalling in parking lot	Mid							
Replace/repair play elements that are starting to rust	Mid							
Replace rusting/warping amenities/assets over time	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Investigate flow of water that is moving through area with benches	Long							
Madison Park			**Madison Park**					
Repair/replace rusted playground equipment that are becoming a hazard	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Repair/paint aesthetically damaged play equipment	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Restore and repair pavilion, including stairs, posts, and roof	Long							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Marna Ridge Children's Forest			**Marna Ridge Children's Forest**					
Consider adding a clear entrance with signage and parking information. Many people would not assume that this was accessible land by the public	Short							
Add amenities such as seating, pathways, and trash cans	Short							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Marshall Park/Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Garden			**Marshall Park/Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Garden**					
Add playground rules/safety signage	Short							
Improve wayfinding signage, especially on the Story Walk trail	Short							
Replace rusted BBQ grills and weathered/rusted benches and picnic tables that are becoming safety hazards	Short							
Add railing where needed at pedestrian bridge area at Japanese garden	Short							
Fix/repair leaning benches, statues, etc. that are no longer level	Short							
Install header curb around playgrounds and keep sand and fiber separate. Ensure ADA access into playgrounds	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playgrounds	Short							
Investigate/ensure safety of bridges, railings, and trellises that are settling/leaning	Short							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Integrate more ADA accessible seating and fix existing concrete/brick pads	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible) including to buildings and add stairs/ramps where needed	Mid							
Renew koi pond (new pumps, filters, etc.)	Mid							
Think through relationship with volunteers to handle larger issues such as roof leaks, etc. and trash pickup system	Long							
Add shade over playground areas	Long							
Maus Park			**Maus Park**					
Master plan how to make this park more friendly to the public. For example, it needs parking, clear signage, lighting, seating, and other amenities to make it into a usable park that feels safe.	Short							
McAleece Park and Recreation Complex			**McAleece Park and Recreation Complex**					
Replace rusted bike racks, trash receptacles, BBQs, fencing, drinking fountains, and other assets where necessary	Short							
Fix or replace netting to protect spectators from foul balls	Short							
Paint over graffiti in skate park	Short							
Replace rusted playground equipment that could become a hazard	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible), including all benches and bleachers	Mid							
Fix cracking, spalling, erosion, and potholes in asphalt driveways and walkways	Mid							
Resurface areas around baseball complex to fix water ponding, uneven surfaces, cracking, and accessibility issues	Mid							
Add edging around playground area and ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playgrounds	Mid							
Replace worn amenities and assets	Mid							
Make sure the concessions building is ADA accessible	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Medical Associates Greenbelt			**Medical Associates Greenbelt**					
Consider adding parking and an entrance with signage and information. Many people would not assume that this was accessible land by the public	Short							
Add amenities such as seating, pathways, and trash cans	Short							
Add trails that would connect to Welu Park and Center Grove Open Space for a more complete trails network/walking loop	Mid							
Long Term	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Mid							
Miller Riverview Park			**Miller Riverview Park**					
Repair/replace rusted playground equipment and swings that are becoming a hazard	Short							
Add edging around playground areas and ensure ADA access into playground	Short							
When listing pavilions as accessible, make sure picnic tables are ADA friendly	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Create/modify sites to include more ADA-compliant camping spots	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Modernize lighting	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Mines of Spain			**Mines of Spain**					
Replace rusted bike rack and weathered picnic table	Short							
Repair cracking on interior drive	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Consider adding low swing barrier gate to prevent accidental access to the dangerous railroad area	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Murphy Park			**Murphy Park**					
Replace edging around playground area	Short							
Replace rusted BBQ grills, benches, trash cans, and picnic tables that are becoming safety hazards	Short							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Replace rusted play equipment that is becoming a hazard	Short							
Repair tennis court lighting and missing nets	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playgrounds	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Add accessible routes to buildings and pavilions	Mid							
Ensure ADA access into playgrounds	Mid							
Repair/refinish tennis courts	Mid							
Add accessible concrete pads under picnic tables, benches, and BBQs	Mid							
Repair cracking/spalling on interior drives	Mid							
Replace aging/faded playground equipment	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Modernize lighting	Long							
Update restroom building	Long							
Oakwood Park			**Oakwood Park**					
No signage, amenities, or parking exist here; examine whether to re-classify this space or add seating and other assets	Short							
Orange Park			**Orange Park**					
Replace rusting benches that are a hazard	Short							
Ensure wood fiber surfacing in playgrounds meets safe depth requirements; current levels are inadequate, and edging may need to be raised.	Short							
Replace rusting play equipment that is becoming a hazard	Short							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Short							
Connect pathways to bench pads, drinking fountain pads, etc. so that they are accessible	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Replace worn play equipment	Mid							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Pet Park			**Pet Park**					
Add concrete pads beneath picnic tables and benches so that they are accessible	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Pinard Park			**Pinard Park**					
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Short							
Repair/replace rusting play surfaces that could become a hazard	Short							
Add signage with parking information	Short							
Replace worn playground equipment	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Port of Dubuque Marina			**Port of Dubuque Marina**					
Repair parking lot cracking	Mid							
Prescott Elementary School			**Prescott Elementary School**					
Repair/replace rusted playground equipment that are becoming a hazard	Short							
Add edging around play areas and ensure ADA access into playground	Short							
Replace worn playground equipment	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Resurface/restripe basketball court	Long							
Riley Park			**Riley Park**					
Add signage with parking information	Short							
Replace rusted caps on fencing	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Replace rusted playground equipment that could become a hazard	Short							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Replace worn playground equipment	Mid							
Update basketball court to true half-court dimensions with smooth surface and striping	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Rocco Buda Jr. Park			**Rocco Buda Jr. Park**					
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Replace rusted playground equipment that could become a hazard	Short							
Add signage with parking information	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Mid							
Add concrete pads under benches to make them accessible	Mid							
Replace worn playground equipment	Mid							
Revitalize pavilion	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Rustic Point Park			**Rustic Point Park**					
This park was still in development/construction during the time of site visits and evaluation	Short							
Sister City International Park			**Sister City International Park**					
Connect bench pads to walkway for accessibility	Mid							
Replace benches that are rusting and will become a hazard	Mid							
Replace rusting trash cans and signage posts	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Southern Park			**Southern Park**					
Add playground edging	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Mid							
Add a bench/seating	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Sutton Pool			**Sutton Pool**					
Repair water slide issues	Short							
Repair leaks/rusting equipment/surface cracking	Short							
Modernize restroom/shower facilities	Long							
Resurface parking lot	Long							
Teddy Bear Park			**Teddy Bear Park**					

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground and remove turf growing within it	Short							
Replace rusting playground equipment that is becoming a hazard	Short							
Add edging around sand play area and remove grass growing within it	Short							
Ensure ADA access into playgrounds	Short							
Add signage with parking information	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Mid							
Replace worn/faded playground equipment	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Usha Park			**Usha Park**					
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Replace playground equipment that is rusted or damaged, impacting safety and usability	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Mid							
Replace worn/faded playground equipment	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Add bleachers to make cricket field more of a destination	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Valentine Park			**Valentine Park**					
Resurface asphalt walking trail	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playground	Short							
Replace rusted playground elements that could become a hazard	Short							
Fix tipping/damaged fencing at baseball field that is a hazard	Short							
Remove turf growing into baseball dugouts and diamond	Short							
Fix dugout benches sinking into earth; consider a concrete pad	Short							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Fix upheaving/tipping basketball hoops	Short							
Resurface parking lot	Mid							
Resurface basketball courts	Mid							
Connect playground to sidewalk for accessibility, and ensure ADA ramp access into it	Mid							
Add seating around basketball courts and playground areas	Mid							
Replace worn/damaged playground elements	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Consider baseball field improvements: refreshed diamond surfacing, new pitcher's mound, paved dugouts, foul poles, distance markers, yellow capping on fencing, new benches and bat holders, etc.	Long							
Further develop community garden	Long							
Valley High Park			**Valley High Park**					
Add edging around playground areas	Short							
Replace rusted play equipment that is becoming a hazard	Short							
Implement better trash cans	Short							
Update basketball court to true half-court dimensions with smooth surface and striping	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Mid							
Replace worn/faded playground equipment	Mid							
Add concrete pads at benches for accessibility	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Veterans' Memorial Park			**Veterans' Memorial Park**					
Replace ripped safety netting at Miracle League Field	Short							
Replace missing edging around playground areas	Short							
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playgrounds	Short							

Park/ Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Replace rusted playground equipment that is becoming a hazard and broken pieces	Short							
Repair parking lot potholes	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Replace faded/worn playground equipment	Mid							
Add pads under picnic tables and benches to make them accessible	Mid							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Waller-Cooper Park			**Waller-Cooper Park**					
Ensure proper depth of wood fiber safety surfacing in playgrounds	Short							
Fix tipping bench	Short							
Replaced damaged playground equipment	Short							
Add sidewalk routes to all amenities and assets (ADA compliant wherever possible)	Mid							
Replace faded/worn playground equipment	Mid							
Add pads under picnic tables, BBQs, and benches to make them accessible	Mid							
Ensure ADA access into playground	Mid							
Examine opportunities to remove turf and restore/re-vegetate with native plants	Mid							
Update basketball court to true half-court dimensions with smooth surface and striping	Mid							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Washington Park			**Washington Park**					
Replace rusting benches and trash cans that could become a hazard	Short							
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Welu Park			**Welu Park**					
Implement standard signage at all parks	Long							
Add shade over playground elements	Long							
Westbrook Park			**Westbrook Park**					
Add shade over playground elements	Long							

Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Parks								
System Wide			**System Wide**					
Provide more fishing opportunities and accessible fishing areas	Mid							
Improve accessibility of the greenhouse to open it to the public for educational purposes	Long							
Introduce prairie in strategic areas throughout the parks system where native	Short							
Partner with City Police to implement proactive measures and safety infrastructure to increase park safety	Short							
Provide interpretive signage with all prairie establishment within parks to educate users on the natural environment	Short							
Conduct a systemwide parks and recreation lighting assessment to strategically prioritize LED lighting replacement	Short							
Conduct a systemwide parks and recreation signage master plan and begin implementing updated signage as part of asset management replacement plan	Short							
Generally focus investment on planning and further amenitizing regional and community parks. Based on site conditions like topography, some neighborhood parks may evolve to offer only passive recreation opportunities.	Long							
Explore opportunities to co-steward public lands with tribes who at one time called Dubuque home	Short							
Eagle Point Park			**Eagle Point Park**					
Create a site-specific master plan for Eagle Point Park	Short							
Reclassify Eagle Point Park to a regional Park	Short							
Create a dedicated funding source for Eagle Point Regional Park improvements	Mid							
Create a dedicated "Friends of Eagle Point Park" group to assist in park advocacy, volunteer coordination, and fundraising	Short							
Explore partnerships for concessionaire at Eagle Point Park	Mid							
Study Feasibility of Winter Holiday Experience Event at Eagle Point Park	Mid							
Create trail loops within Eagle Point Park	Mid							
Create a bike and surrey rental program at Eagle Point Park	Mid							
Introduce camping event opportunities at Eagle Point Park	Mid							

Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Recreation								
Aquatics			**Aquatics**					
Master Plan for new recreation facility and aquatics facility	Short							
Create a new recreation facility	Long							
Revitalize or create a new outdoor aquatic facility	Long							
Provide further screening at Flora and Sutton Pools via screen wall and/or landscape buffer	Short							
Golf Course			**Golf Course**					
Develop a driving range at Bunker Hill Golf Course								
Partner with user groups to create a classroom building and hitting bay at driving range								
Conduct a business plan to further develop F&B program								
Expand program offerings at Bunker Hill Golf Course								
Marina			**Marina**					
Work with Public Safety to evaluate feasibility of boat ramp near marina	Mid							
Further activate the marina by adding a boat ramp	Mid							
Reconfigure existing parking to support boat ramp parking	Mid							
Create program for marina boating in-and-out service	Long							
Create website with ordering mechanism for marina convenience store	Short							
Paint floodwall to advertise marina/gas/store	Short							
Host one annual event at the marina	Short							
Partner with Travel Dubuque to create welcome center hub at store for cruiseline visitors	Mid							
Marketing campaign for marina and available seasonal slip spaces	Short							
Amenitize seasonal slips with options like covers and boat lifts	Mid							
Patrol restrooms/lock restroom after hours to ensure safety and positive user experience	Short							
Create dedicated branding and a website for the marina with a dedicated reservations system	Short							
Partner with restaurant to put on a regular summer event series	Short							
Enhance connection between marina store and Riverfront Path	Mid							
As agreement allows, make maximum slips available for seasonal rental	Mid							
Create dedicated areas for accessible fishing	Mid							

Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Programming			**Programming**					
Explore partnerships with County and US Fish and Wildlife options for increased environmental education opportunities	Short							
Expand program offerings to include more special interest classes	Mid							
Expand program offerings to include more youth sports league offerings	Short							
Create dedicated indoor space to support increased programming	Long							
Provide additional recreation programming at the existing Flora Schoolhouse site	Mid							
Expand adaptive recreation programs for all ages	Mid							
Conduct a fee study to determine competitive and accessible program fees	Short							
Partner with senior services providers to expand senior program offerings	Mid							
Expand upon current senior programming partnership with Hills & Dales Lifetime Center	Mid							
Start a formal special events program	Mid							

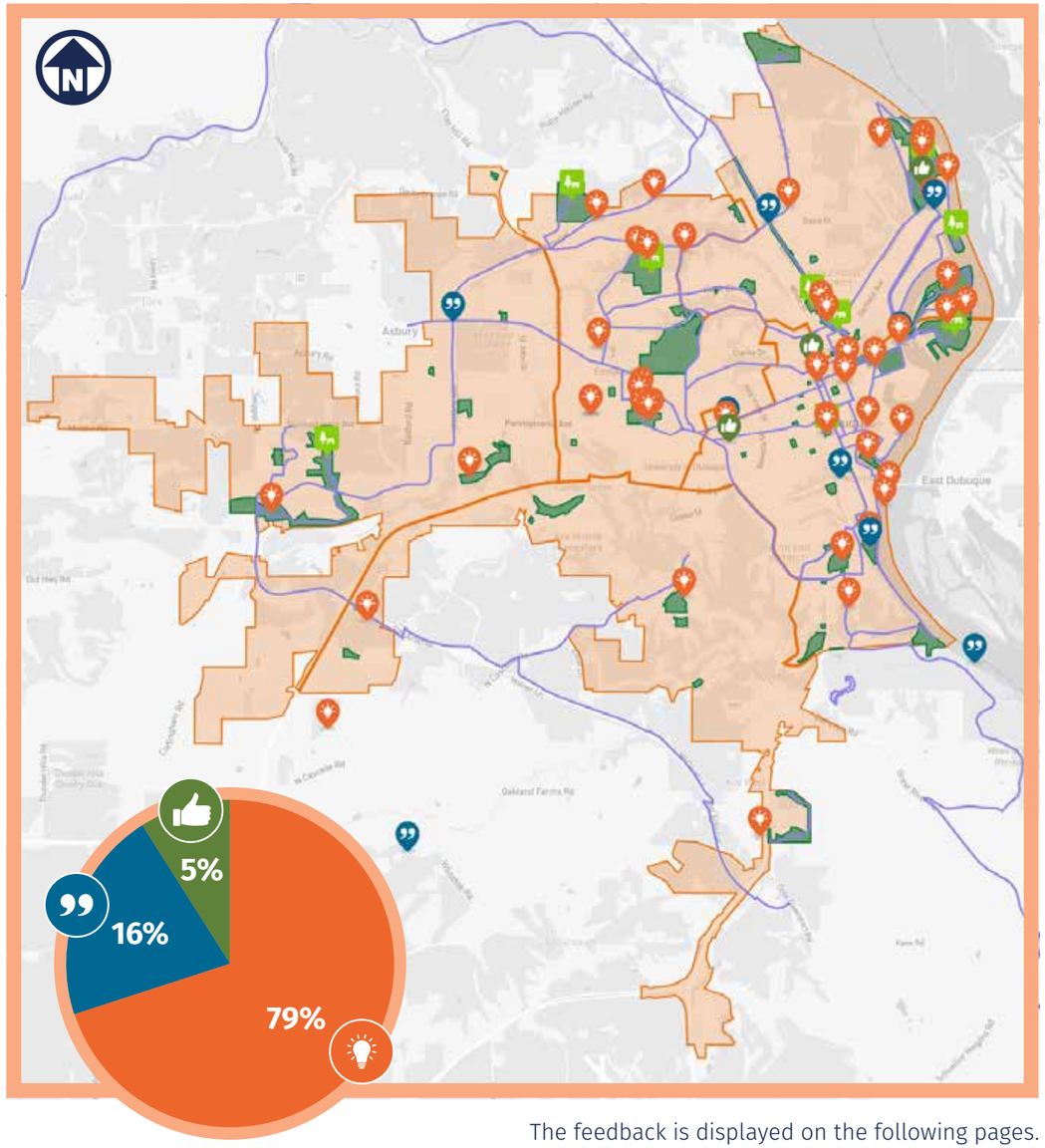
Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Trails and Connectivity								
Create a trail connection from city to landmarks like Mines of Spain	Mid							
Conduct an alignment study update for a Catfish Creek multi-use path	Long							
Build a multi-use path along Catfish Creek	Long							
Establish a trail connection between Eagle Point Park and Four Mounds	Mid							
Further riverwalk connections	Mid							
Extend Heritage Trail connectivity	Short							
Add exercise stations along urban trails	Short							
Develop a comprehensive citywide trails master plan to further evaluate trail connections and gaps. maintenance standard, identification of grant opportunities with a dedicated matching funding source in order to develop a connected trail network.	Short							
Develop a connected park system through multi-use trail network. A connected park system includes developing a looped pathway system that provide multi-model / walkable access to the city's park system.	Long							
Link new trails to existing trails to fill in gaps within the existing trail system and develop a comprehensive trail and pathway network.	Mid							
Develop a looped trail that closes the southeast and west gaps between the Heritage Trail, Bee Branch, Northwest Arterial and Bergfeld Trail.	Long							
Link the multi-use trail network to key access points utilizing the existing bicycle lanes, road diets and proposed multi-model network improvements as developed in the Dubuque Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan.	Mid							
Connect residents and tourists to points of interests throughout the city.	Mid							
Design for universal access (pedestrians, hikers, and biker users).	On-Going							
Replace existing bike route signs with MUTCD standard bike route signs.	Mid							
Continue to maintain the City's robust park and trail GIS database and mapping.	On-Going							
Develop an asset management platform utilizing the City's robust GIS database.	Short							
Conduct a citywide ADA assessment to ensure trail access points and points of connection are ADA compliant.	Mid							
Continue to evaluate trail crossings with surface streets to develop safe at grade crossings as per the ECIA's Dubuque Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan.	Long							
Develop rest areas/trailheads with seating, shade and water fountains.	Long							
Include interactive features such as educational interpretive signage, fitness stations and art installations along the trail network.	Mid							

Recommendation	Term		City of Dubuque Task Lead(s)	City of Dubuque Departments Involved	External Partners/ Stakeholders	Start Date	End Date	Project Status/ Notes
Add trees and landscape beautification along the NW Arterial Trail.	Short							
Develop/update a trail map that can be used by residents and visitors alike and has paper and digital versions.	Short							
Update the existing trailhead map kiosks at all locations around the community (15 signs).	Mid							
Open Space and Natural Resources								
Adopt and regularly update a comprehensive tree program that invests heavile in new tree plantings and existing tree maintenance and addresses invasive plant species	Short							
Improve Maus Park and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park for wildlife habitat and low-impact uses	Mid							
Educate and assist citizens in order to establish more Moring to Monarchs pocket prairies within the City	Mid							
Implementation								
Create and maintain a parks infrastructure asset replacement plan	Short							
Implement a formal volunteer program	Short							
Implement a formal park ranger program	Mid							
Identify partnerships to begin a "Friends of" parks group to assist in park advocacy, volunteer coordination, and fundraising	Mid							
Dedicate resources to coordinate volunteer programs	Short							
Dedicate resources to coordinate special events	Mid							
Dedicate resources to a parks and recreation-dedicated communications professional that will assist in marketing parks events, programs, and venues	Short							
Communicate the importance of strong partnerships that exist within the city and provide funding for diverse recreation opportunities	Short							
Further partnership with Travel Dubuque and tourism agencies to educate visitors on parks and recreation offerings	Short							
Identify dedicated staffing to support partnerships and third-party operated civic centers	Short							
Track ectsystem asset mapping as part of GIS mapping maintenance in key parks and open spaces	Long							

Interactive Map

This tool allowed participants to comment and contribute on three categories including:

Ideas and Suggestions **Make a Comment** **Something I like**



The feedback is displayed on the following pages.

Make a Comment

- Yes, create a loop path around the lake and then on to the Mines of Spain. Explore connecting with pedestrian bridge over the rail yard to southern levy trail.
- I don't understand why one tree was planted down in the flat space. Sports teams do use that flat area for practice. Trees should have been kept up on the slope closet to the street.
- Lots of concrete here but no sidewalk unless you're going to the pool. Walking on Hawthorne from Lincoln to Volunteer sucks a lot.
- Will this become a crosswalk anytime soon? If not, transitioning this trail into the road is dangerous because it is currently impossible to cross here.
- The transition/ramp could be improved. We also need traffic calming at this intersection.
- Build a walking/ bicycling overpass across the NW Arterial / Asbury Road intersection. Mark Asbury Road with a biking lane.

  Renovate Maus Park bike path, connect it to Ice Harbor, then build a bike trail connecting to Mines of Spain.
- Renovate Maus Park
- Many of us (Young and Old alike) LOVE Tennis. We grew up with the Flora Tennis Courts. We would still like to play there. But the courts are in shambles. The City absolutely should (not repair)-but completely replace these courts brand new. The health and socialization of Dubuque and especially our youth DESERVE this.
- Our current YM/ YWCA has served the community well for many years and we are grateful. I believe it is past time to expand these services to include an expanded and updated indoor aquatics center that serves our multi-generational community. One example: If you have ever tried to attend swim meets here, you know how overcrowded and congested it is for day-long events. Additionally, more seniors and persons with disabilities would likely benefit from the health and wellness benefits of water exercise programs. A site with improved parking availability would be ideal and a safety improvement. An aquatics center could be combined with other sports activities that provide year-round benefits. Yes, this is a major fund commitment, but the health, wellness, and enjoyment for all ages would be a life continuum benefit for our community.

Something I Like

- Love Madison park! Such a cool oasis
- We love the sandbox
- I am absolutely in love with the relatively new management strategy for the open spaces of this park. Taking underutilized turf areas and transitioning them to nature savannah and prairie ecosystems is on of the most innovative beatification, storm water management, cost saving (less mowing, less ware on equipment, more time for existing staff to work on other projects), safety (there are some very steep hillsides that are dangerous to mow), and commitment to wildlife diversity in a Dubuque City Park. The only improvement to this process that I would like to see are walking trails through some of the new transition areas so that walkers, children and families can engage directing with the new plant communities directly and including small gathering spaces and pockets of nature play throughout these areas. Please replicate this across other public parks wherever reasonable.

Ideas and Suggestions

- Figure out how to close down 7th in front of the art museum when they build the new campus. That will completely transform the space and connect that amazing new amenity to the park. This really shouldn't be hard to do for such a huge impact.
- We could use another sheet of ice!
- The city should work with private landowners in the south port to develop it. Start with a few buildings and create something really cool that will draw people. This should include riverfront park areas and kayak and paddleboard rentals in the ice harbor. As a community we need to provide more river access to people.
- Add multi-use trails to the unused wooded areas of Vets. Dirt single-track trails on steep areas below baseball fields and above 32nd Ave / Carter for hiking & MTB use; abandoned access road off Carter or existing access road off 32nd could serve as connection from Bee Branch 32nd Trail to Vets & return trail for single track trails. This could be done without impeding existing disc golf activities; planning, funding and maintenance could be done in conjunction with TMBR.
- I wish Dubuque had a minor league baseball team
- Could we get the walking trail at Valentine park repaved and add markings like a start and end point and maybe markings for distances so when you are walking you know how far you've gone
- Would love to see more canoe/kayaking rental opportunities in and around Dubuque
- Mow and maintain the edge of Bergfeld Pond to create easier access to fishing around the pond and the paved fishing piers. At a minimum, mow around the piers and mow a 10' wide path to the water every 100' around the pond.
- Add a trail/ bike lane on West 32nd that connects to the NW Arterial trail with the Bee Branch trail
- Add a dog park area to the open field area.
- Add lights to sections of NW Arterial so runners/ bikers can use the trail in early morning/ later at night
- Rebuild the bathhouse at Flora Pool. Right now, families must pass through the locker rooms to enter the pool area. Yet, the locker rooms provide very little privacy. There is no private changing space and no family space. It would also be helpful to have a family bathroom. Rebuilding the bathhouse could also provide the lifeguards with more space. The speaker system also needs to be updated. It is often very difficult to understand announcements, which could be dangerous in an emergency situation.
- Allow for the park to be more open year round to allow residents additional use. Add disc golf baskets to allow for more park usage.
- Revamp the playground and add stairs/ramp down to it. This is an amazing community park with a great view! It really could use some investment and love.
- Collaborate with the public schools to improve facilities and make them inclusive. The public school playgrounds are open to the public and used by many families outside of school hours. Relying on PTCs to fund these is difficult.
- Can the playground in the pool area be gated differently so it is accessible during the other 9 months of the year?
- Would love to see a dedicated multi use trail along flood wall in this area, separated from traffic.
- Add a grass or turf field for sports at any park with space. Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, Lacrosse, Rugby, Football etc. The only options for pick up field sports are the schools or privately owned facilities, which all have rental fees.
- I would love a walking path along W 32nd that connects to the Bee Branch path.
- Develop trails around Maus Lake with viewing platforms to watch bird life in a wetland environment.
- Police need to be in the parks. Not to fill speed trap quotas but as public relations handing out stickers and not seen only as punitive.
- Flora park needs speed bumps on the skateboard road
- We need sidewalk on Peru. People need to be able to step out of their house on foot and get on the trail without having to use the road. I do not want to see a mom pushing a stroller on the road ever again.
- Finish the brownfield cleanup project and turn this area into an urban green space with benches.
- No smoking
- Let's take some of the huge parcel of land at Roosevelt Park and fence it for an off-leash dog area. There is already some parking and trails. No need to have grass to mow or benches. Just a place to walk with your dog in nature.
- Would it be possible to make a trail or off-leash dog area with some of this undeveloped land near Medical Associates?
- Public bathroom would be great here near the trail and parks where lots of kids play
- Hi- I would like to suggest a new park idea. The lagoons behind Timothy St. were just drained this winter. There is still a little water in them. I would like to suggest a park / lake to be built on the property just like Bergfeld Pond. Fill the lagoons with water and fish (for fishing), put a walking path (grass or gravel) around the ponds and add a small play area and shelter with some tables. Bergfeld pond is a wonderful place for families to enjoy. We do not have an area on this side of town for the children to play. The south side of town is a developing area of houses and businesses. The lagoons (holes) are already there and they do retain some water already. Everyday I watch ducks and birds/ wildlife enjoying the water that is left. It would be a beautiful addition to the south side of town for families to enjoy.
- Improve this crosswalk by reorienting the ramps, moving the ramps & curbs further into the street to shorten the distance of the crosswalk, and extend the median to become part of the crosswalk.
- Make the Bee Branch Greenway a pesticide/herbicide-free park.
- Bring back the Concrete Octopus to Flora Park! This is a staple of Dubuque history and its return in the form of a new sculpture closely resembling the old one would be a great homage!
- Neighborhood clean up program to get all the current trash picked up along this whole area and then encourage people to keep it clean. More trash cans and signs like they used to have about how bad littering is. There's just so much litter that it feels overwhelming to get ahead of it as it currently is.
- Improve Allison Henderson Play Structures
- There is a lot of lawn here that is underutilized. (Is it privately owned?) There should be large shade trees planted here so people can sit, picnic, stretch, and lounge around in the shade. Compare it to LaCrosse, WI — a similarly-sized riverside city with a very populated riverfront lawn area.
- Performances/events at the amphitheater
- Connect these sections of trail
- Plant trees along arterial trail to provide shade and improve experience
- A single track dirt biking/hiking trail added with the powerline trail.
- Partnership between City and property owner across street (Fifteenth Street Apts) to prevent chronic accumulation of fecal waste and damage of turf from dogs of residents in the southwest corner of Jackson Park.
- Replace existing water fountain feature with splash pad to help encourage more use of this park.

- Install Public Fishing Docks within the Ice Harbor on both north and south sides.
- Tennis courts are in disrepair!!! Cracked courts, old benches, lack of functional lights
- Expand the relationship with the Dubuque Community School District and work collaboratively to ensure the public are aware of these green spaces as public spaces with school is not in session and design them to not only aid in student instruction and recreation but also as community gathering spaces and are welcoming, comfortable and shaded during the summer months.
- Outdoor recreation economy! I would love to see infrastructure on this island that would serve as a birding base as part of a broader birding trail throughout the community and region and the main trail head for what could make Dubuque a national cycling destination. I would also love to see greater public access to the River/refuge for activities such as fishing and wildlife viewing.
- I work in the quad cities in Moline, IL. Along the walking and biking paths there are tire changing stations for bicyclists. A simple lighted pole with common tools and an air pump to perform a flat repair. The tools are nothing special and are wire cabled to the station. When I seen these I thought what a great idea! Making a simple convenience for a stranded bicyclist. As well as giving people and families a feeling of safety and security to ride further down the path.
- With all of the current and proposed investments being made on the island, I'd love for the existing skate park to be included in those plans. It could certainly use a major facelift or even complete rebuild/ expansion. The new skate park at Flora is constantly full with riders from multiple action sports disciplines as well as riders of all ages and backgrounds. Action sports is an often forgotten aspect of recreation within city parks, but is one that a massive group of users gravitate towards and use frequently.
- Remove the playground equipment that is very seldom used by the pickleball courts at Vet's and add more pickleball courts. The current courts are heavily used and there is usually a wait to get a court.
- Resurface the tennis courts and turn much of the tennis court area into pickleball courts.

Tell Your Story

No great story was ever written without a big idea. Is there something you would love to see in Dubuque parks? Is there a new activity you'd love to participate in? Do you have a great Dubuque parks story to share? Information collected is displayed below.

I have been waterwalking for over 25 years at Flora pool and have wished for an aquatic center to go to after summer. The health benefits are immense for all ages especially seniors. The social aspect is also wonderful.

Veteran's Memorial Park has many acres of undeveloped woodlands. Add multi-use trails to the unused wooded areas of Vets. Dirt single-track trails on steep areas below baseball fields and above 32nd Ave / Carter for hiking and MTB use; abandoned access road off Carter or existing access road off 32nd could serve as connection from Bee Branch 32nd Trail to Vets and return trail for single track trails. This could be done without impeding existing disc golf activities; planning, funding and maintenance could be done in conjunction with TMBR.

Dubuque needs more pickleball courts. During prime time mornings and evenings the courts at Vets and Flora are completely full. More courts could be added at both locations. The courts at Eagle Point Park really need to be resurfaced and could be changed to multi use like the ones at Flora.

Create a new "Farmers Market Park" near a food desert as a permanent, all-weather, year-round home for Dubuque Farmers Market and its vendors, a la the good example of Olimpia, Washington. https://www.olympiafarmersmarket.com/

I would like to see more interest and effort put into Sister City International Park at 16th and Kerper Blvd. Several of Dubuque's founding families emigrated from our sister city of Dornbirn, Austria. Interpretive signage telling the story of Sister Cities and the impact of immigrants on Dubuque would make this space more attractive and culturally significant as intended. Since SCI Park is strategically placed to connect to several trails and the burgeoning Chaplain Schmitt Island, it deserves to be visually elevated to equal the status of the surrounding current and planned amenities. The Sister City Committee of Travel Dubuque is very willing to assist the parks and recreation department in any way it can.

More toddler friendly programs and parks. Many city parks are pretty rusty and run down. Murphy park and eagle point park need new equipment

Better maintenance and improvement of existing pavilions/buildings and grounds in Eagle Point Park ! We hosted a family reunion there in June 2019 at the large riverfront pavilion with almost 100 people from around the country ! I noticed a decline in the general appearance of such a beautiful historic asset to our city and now in 2025 it is apparent when going to the park,that it is not a priority ! Let us not let this happen !!!

Enhancements, Updates and Corrections for Veterans Memorial Plaza In 2021, my wife and I attended the re-dedication ceremony of the Veterans Memorial Plaza and visit annually. The renovation is great. The ceremony was excellent. The speakers were poignant. The plaza is a moving tribute. We offer kudos to all those involved in the renovation and re-dedication. That being said, I offer the following suggestions: 1) Enhance the memorial by adding the Space Force seal and related imagery to the large wall that dominates the center of the plaza, or, perhaps recognize the Space Force's operational domain - space, by leveraging the granite globe. The wall has the service seals and imagery for the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. But, our newest armed service, the Space Force, is not included. Currently the Space Force is only acknowledged by a flag. The Space Force was established December 20, 2019 (https://www.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/About-Space-Force/). I only noted the absence of the Space Force because I'd served in units that have been absorbed into this new armed service. Also, I'd recently read about how a Space Force unit is deployed to Qatar supporting combat operations in Middle East (https://www.spaceforce.mil/News/Article/2336178/auab-airmen-make-history-as-first-deployed-space-force-members/). 2) Update the termination years and statistics for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom on the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) pillar as well as including additional and ongoing GWOT operations (e.g. Freedom's Sentinel, New Dawn, and Inherent Resolve). The GWOT pillar reflects the starting years for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Even though there are many troops still deployed, the listed operations have ended. Enduring Freedom ended in 2014.Iraqi Freedom ended in 2010.Freedom's Sentinel followed Enduring Freedom. Iraqi Freedom was succeeded by New Dawn and Inherent Resolve. Given the broad scope of the GWOT, there will undoubtedly be more named operations. For easy reference, a report from the Congressional Research Service titled, "US Periods of War and Dates of Recent Conflicts", is an authoritative source. It can be accessed at https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/RS21405. 3) Correct the either KIA wording or the statistics for the pillars for the Civil War, Indian Wars, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Gulf War. For each war, the memorial has pillars listing the number who served, were killed in action (KIA) and were prisoners of war (POW). On these pillars, the number listed for KIA is not actually those killed in action. The number is for "total deaths in the theater" (from both hostile and non-hostile causes) vice just those categorized as "killed in action". In general, "total deaths" are the sum of "battle deaths" (hostile) and those from "other" (non-hostile) causes. The principal components for "battle deaths" include persons killed in action (KIA) and those who died of wounds received in action (DOW). The category "other" covers deaths due to accidents, disease and those self-inflicted. Note that KIA is but one component of battle deaths, and that battle deaths are but one component of the total number of in-theater deaths during the war. Battle deaths and other deaths are also commonly called combat and non-combat deaths respectively. This is a significant distinction. For example, in World War II the US suffered 291,557 battle deaths (hostile). And there were 113,842 deaths in-theater due to other causes (non-hostile).The World War II pillar incorrectly lists the total in-theater deaths of 405,399 as solely KIA. The VA publishes an interactive fact sheet that summarizes the data from "America's Wars" accessible at https://department.va.gov/americas-wars/. Casualty data from recent military operations can be accessed from the Defense Casualty Analysis System, https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/main.xhtml. The following section contrasts the KIA statistics on the memorial's pillars to those in the VA fact sheet. Civil War Pillar: Union KIA - 364,511;VA Fact Sheet: Union Battle Deaths - 140,414 Civil War Pillar: Confederate KIA - 133,821;VA Fact Sheet: Confederate Battle Deaths - 74,524 Indian Wars Pillar: KIA - 11,000;VA Fact Sheet: Battle Deaths - 1,000 Spanish American

War Pillar: KIA - 2,446;VA Fact Sheet: Battle Deaths - 385 World War I Pillar: KIA - 116,516;VA Fact Sheet: Battle Deaths - 53,402 World War II Pillar: KIA - 405,399;VA Fact Sheet: Battle Deaths - 291,557 Korean War Pillar: KIA - 36,574;VA Fact Sheet: Battle Deaths - 33,739 Vietnam War Pillar: KIA - 58,203;VA Fact Sheet: Battle Deaths - 47,434 Gulf War Pillar: KIA - 383;VA Fact Sheet: Battle Deaths - 148 It wasn't until WWII that battle deaths (291,557) generally exceed deaths due to non-hostile causes (113,842). But, this trend has started to reverse. For example, note that in the Gulf War there less battle deaths (148) than deaths due to causes other than battle (235). 4) I suggest our community should consider if/how to commemorate and memorialize service members that die outside of wartime combat operations. According to the Congressional Research Service Report, "Trends in Active-Duty Military Deaths Since 2006", https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF10899, from 2006 to 2021 there have been 18,571 deaths of active-duty service members. About 25% of these occurred in designated military operations "in which members of the armed forces are or may become involved in military actions, operations, or hostilities against an enemy of the United States or against an opposing military force." This surprising statistic has been reported in stories like this CNN one – "More US troops die during training than in combat operations", https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/06/politics/us-military-deadly-accidents/index.html. A non-combat or non-theater death is no less tragic for the surviving families. Thanks in advance for considering this input. Major USAF (retired) Veterans of Foreign Wars – Life Member Air Force Association – Life Member Space Force Association - Member

Global War on Terrorism pillar

Korean War, Vietnam War and Gulf War pillars

Spanish American War, WW I an WW II pillars

Wall and Gulf War pillar

A playground and unrelated dog run in the port of Dubuque and/or millwork district. I don't have children, but do have a dog. Of the two, a playground feels more important, especially in the port.

I would love to see a small park on W. 2nd St. if you close off the street to traffic on both side and extend the small park area people in the area and tourist could use it to eat, relax and play their. You could add sand box, play set, jungle gym, lights and a safety wall. We have a fair amount of tours for the Cathedral and 4 th. Street businesses but not much shade or places to sit and relax. The neighborhood also has more children who need a safe place to play. Closing off that street would increase the play area.

The police need a positive public position in the parks. Not there for quotas or speed traps. Provide non-punitive interactions with law enforcement.

The people of Dubuque have said over and over that we need the current parks cared for above all else. It appears the city doesn't care. They want to just keep building neighborhood parks so that is what they do. It is so irresponsible because we know the city has no money for upkeep. When the bare minimum is done is not only looks bad but it will cost you to replace eventually. We've seen it occur on the highway. Huge areas of mulch with no landscaping because everything died. If this were their own dollar they wouldn't spend it this way only to neglect the area. We were told the reason Eagle Point looks so awful is because it's filled with wild, native plants and people need to get used to seeing this as beautiful. People don't like it because it looks bad. Most people can't decipher a weed from a native plant so unless you hire individuals that can take care of the area it just becomes wild and unkept. There are several areas of the city that these native plants have developed into an overgrown mass of weeds because no one attends to them. Everything needs care, especially in the first few years. If everything else in the city was well kept people might actually believe that the well being of the planet is the reason for the native plantings but it's not and we all know these plantings are done so you can no longer maintain them. The people you hire to mow don't edge which creates overgrown sidewalks. They don't clean up so there is grass growing along sidewalk seems and in the street cracks. This lack of detail is also why your native plants look like weeds. What confuses me the most is that they spend money on something like this acting as if they care what our wishes are but they never change anything. I've lost faith that they really care what anyone thinks. People stop participating when they know their suggestions will be ignored. My guess is that the city will do nothing about upkeep and build 10 new parks in the next 5 years.

It would be nice if there was more public skating available at the I'm on arena. If the city would subsidize the cost that would be great. Before the pandemic, I used to pay about $5 (for an adult) to skate for 2 hours; with the zamboni machine restoring the ice after one hour. Now its $9 and the ice is not restored. Also, before the pandemic if you skated 10 times you would get the 11th time free. That is no longer available. I understand the arena changed hands, but it would be nice to have public skating offered more often in the weekly schedule, and at a reduced price; also making sure there is a limit to the amount of people on the ice. Also maybe separate by age group. There are too many people with different skill levels on the ice. I've counted close to 200 (estimate) once and that just does not work well...

Two nights ago my friends and I were unable to play tennis at the high schools because of meets. So we had to go to a Flora to play in the awful conditions there. There are crevices throughout that are one to one and a half inches wide with weeds starting to come up again. The surfaces have deteriorated significantly. Bounces are erratic. Lights are only good on one court. The courts are in unbelievable disrepair. I would never take my out of town friends there to play because I would be too ashamed of my City. A city of this size should have good, newer, playable courts that we can all be proud of. Then I would fully expect more dads and moms and kids to go out there to play together in the summer evenings, as I did with my kids when they were growing up.

Great example of we want people to be active but only if someone else pays for it. How is this not a TOP priority?

Dubuque needs a Senior Enrichment Center with gymnasium space for exercise, senior appropriate programming (speakers, clinics, meals and activities. Of paramount importance in a growing, river city the size of Dubuque is a full-size Swimming Pool for lap swimming, deep water exercise, and a Therapy Pool (warm water) for aerobics and rehabilitation. Thank you for listening. Sincerely, Sue Lemon13454 N Cascade Rd. Dubuque, IA. 52003Sent from my iPhone

Hi- I would like to suggest a new park idea. The lagoons behind Timothy St. were just drained this winter. There is still a little water in them. I would like to suggest a park /lake to be built on the property just like Bergfeld Pond. Fill the lagoons with water and fish (for fishing), put a walking path (grass or gravel) around the ponds and add a small play area and shelter with some tables. Bergfeld pond is a wonderful place for families to enjoy. We do not have an area on this side of town for the children to play. The south side of town is a developing area of houses and businesses. The lagoons (holes) are already there and they do retain some water already. Everyday I watch ducks and birds/ wildlife enjoying the water that is left. It would be a beautiful addition to the south side of town for families to enjoy.

My family would like more water access in town - for example, Maus Lake Park in the South End (behind Locust St HyVee). Unfortunately this lake and park is secluded and neglected. It attracts overnight campers. There are garbage piles left in the transient encampments. But there are also beautiful migratory birds, fish, and a fresh water spring. There is a large grassy field with nice shade trees and a flat, wide walking path. But it has become unsafe and poorly maintained. I think a good use of taxpayer money is to care for the parks we have, and Maus Lake is an opportunity for redevelopment in the riverfront area.

As an example; one of the communities' largest employers (John Deere) provides a service opportunity for their employees to volunteer their time to improving the community. The City of Dubuque employees approximately 700 people. Suggest developing a volunteer program to engage city employees to clean up and repair city parks (primarily Eagle Point) Flowers can be planted, forestry debris removed, picnic tables built or repainted, pavilions cleaned. The areas and ideas are endless. Volunteer hours do not need to be completed on work hours. Employees can create teams for specific skills and areas of interest. "Openly Volunteering" should be an aspect to determine some level of merit increases. More hands make less work!!!!

> *Basic maintenance should not require volunteers when we are building new parks every year.*

I am a life time Dubuquer and a river rat for 49 years. We have a amazing river and natural resource we need to optimize this prize and show it off and let it attract fishing tournaments, boating events and other special activities. Updating our boat ramps and parking facilities to accommodate the larger boats. Restrooms by the ramps so people can use. Years ago Dubuque host many national tournaments and large boating events that drew many people in town. Our boat ramps need work lots of work. The docks are so hot in the summer the burn dogs and kids feet. AY McDonald parking is terrible at best. And the ramp there is terrible. Schmitt harbor ramp is to short when the water is low.

My parents built a house in 1955 at 1740 Bunker Hill, across from Flora Park. I was four at the time and watched the tennis courts be built. I played on them through my youth, high school, college, and adulthood. My neighborhood friend and I gathered a petition in the 60's to get the lights installed on the courts. Those same light polls remain today. I taught summer tennis for three years on those courts. My parents died in 93 and 94 and the house was sold to Interstate Power and later torn down, The courts were a major event site for the entire community. Now those tennis courts are an eye sore for the neighborhood and the thousands visiting Flora Park. The courts are a liability for the city as someone will hurt themselves tripping on a crack. Please return these courts to their glory and they will attract many visitors. Please do not turn them into single or dual use as pickleball courts, as that would produce too much noise for the neighborhood and interfere with tennis play. Pickleball is already available at Flora Park. I know that Murphy and Eagle Point courts also need work but based upon past and future use of Flora, they should be a priority for Dubuque. Thank you for asking for input.

As a new resident to Dubuque, I have been struggling to find opportunities to meet other adults who play sports. I noticed that there are several tennis courts around the city but have been disappointed in their condition. Also, I noticed in the winter, there were a couple of locations where outdoor skating was available but I noticed in this past winter, there was only 1 location. It would be nice to be able to take advantage of existing facilities that just need upkeep or maintenance.

> *Exactly. Dubuque wants people to be fit. Where?*

I would love to have paved hike/bike paths throughout the community. This would attract many residents, as well as encourage tourism, if one could loop around the entire area - from the downtown, out to the west end, industrial park, along the SW arterial, and back into town. I know it's not the City's purview, but I'm a huge proponent of paving Heritage Trail all the way to Dyersville. Again, that serves residents and tourists alike who are not comfortable biking on the streets.

> *Agree. Like to see more bike, walking trails connecting areas around city. Especially like to see Seippel Rd widen and trail run from Asbury Road down to old Fairground Rd or at least from Pennsylvania to Chavennelle connecting Westbrook subdivision to a road that leads to Heritage trail*

Dubuque is such a beautiful place. I enjoy the parks with my family and friends. When I moved here, there was an indoor roller skating rink which was not only a place for children, but many adults also enjoyed it. Not everyone enjoys being cold at an ice arena or even feel confident on ice skates. This city could use a Recreation Center where we can have year round aquatics, space for recreational and indoor sports activities, and a roller rink floor. I'm sure we can find a location like 3400 Jackson that is close to Northwest Arterial / JD Rd, Central Ave, and neighboring towns.

I would like to see public community garden plots that residents can lease annually to grow their own vegetables, fruits, and annuals.

Investing in innovative public spaces has the power to enhance the beauty, vitality, and vibrancy of our city. Two key projects can help transform Dubuque into an even more compelling destination for residents and visitors alike. First, consider the creation of a playground that functions as both a play area and a work of art. Imagine a unique structure designed in collaboration with a company like Earthscape Play or a local artist, offering a safe and engaging space for children while also serving as a stunning artistic landmark. This would not only provide children with a place to play and foster creativity, but it would also attract visitors from across the region. A project like this would boost local tourism, support nearby businesses, and reinforce Dubuque's identity as a creative and community-focused city. A playground like this wouldn't just be an amenity—it would be a source of pride and a reason for people to visit and stay in Dubuque. Second, an outdoor lawn space dedicated to community movie nights would bring families and neighbors together under the stars for memorable experiences. Equipped with a projector and screen, such a space would provide family-friendly entertainment and low-cost activities for residents. This area could also serve as a venue for concerts, fitness classes, or community spaces, ensuring it remains a versatile and year-round asset. By encouraging people to enjoy the beauty of Dubuque's outdoors, it would foster stronger community bonds while making the city an even more attractive place to live and visit.

Trying to vote on Park Priorities but because you have to allocate the entire $100 I'm finding myself voting for things I don't find essential. For example, my top priority would be to invest in existing parks. The fact that we have so many unkept parks that we have already invested in yet we continue to build new parks makes no sense to me. I want to allocate the entire $100 but instead I have to pick other projects that I don't find important just to get to $100. At the end of this survey you could easily have votes for projects no one really cares about only to get to the budget amount. This is an extremely flawed way of getting public opinion. Hopefully this makes it to the city council for review.

> *I also agree. It was difficult to fund the things I wanted the most with the set designation of money already decided. I wanted to put the largest majority of my money into my favorite ideas but was unable to with the way this activity was designed.*

> *Spot on. The city has over extended themselves in land and parks to maintain. They do not have the resources or infrastructure to support new parks. Fix/update what we have. One of the city's cornerstone visions is for "Sustainability." Currently they are missing the mark at the main park areas, especially Eagle Point Park!*

> *You are exactly right. They have failed at their vision of sustainability.*

> *This!!!*

> *I agree - I would have dedicated funds to a smaller number of efforts in greater dollar amounts if the form had let me. I think the sports complex is crucial to attracting and retaining a younger population, young families. I would have put more money there than what the form allowed me.*

I would love to see a bigger venue for the summer music program in the park. I believe you made a mistake by putting it down at Stone Cliff Winery. For one, the facility isn't very friendly to the elderly/disabled. There are stairs to get in and out of the bathrooms. The place is rather small to host outdoor events. Limited seating with limited extra seating. I believe the better place for this gathering would have been Eagle Point Park. They are set up perfectly for this type of program. They have the bandshell, handicap bathrooms, additional bathrooms, ample parking, seating and additional seating. Families could spread out blankets on the grass behind the seating of the bandshell. There is plenty of good parking. If you had an ambulance call, it could be taken care of with minimal effort. The best part is when the music is over, the cars can exit out the back entrance. When the majority of the traffic is out, the park patrol can lock it back up. Now for one other suggestion. The Lights in the Park event should also be held at Eagle Point Park. I'm sure with adequate sponsors and the legions of volunteers you have you would be able to move it. First of all, traffic blocking driveways would no longer be an issue like it is at Murphy Park because of the lengthy entrance going into Eagle Point Park. All the way from the pay station back down Shiras to the Ham House, there are no houses. Thus, there would be no driveways to block. All cars coming up Shiras could easily navigate around the line of cars going into the park because Shiras is plenty wide for that. I believe there is plenty of area to place the lights, maybe even add a few new ones. The only thing I'm unsure of is the electrical boxes setup, wiring, etc. in the park. Once the car has gone all the way through the park, they could exit out the back entrance. Plus, with the pay station they would have a warm place to stand and collect the money all evening. It is my belief they would raise more money because the whole process would be smoother and getting more cars through. It is hope you give these suggestions serious consideration. Thanks so much for the opportunity to add input.

100% of Dubuque residents to have access to high quality green space within a 10 minute walk from their homes. 2. Low cost play structures that are nature based with replacement/ maintenance costs that are also lower. 3. Explore how the Parks and Recreation Department can better connect residents with the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge and how Parks and Recreation can better elevate Dubuque's outdoor recreation economy and our place in the Driftless as one of the largest metros with the most amenities.



THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi