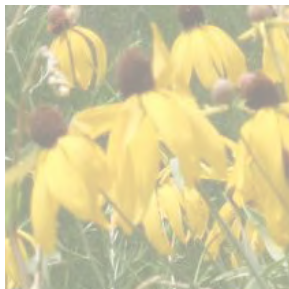
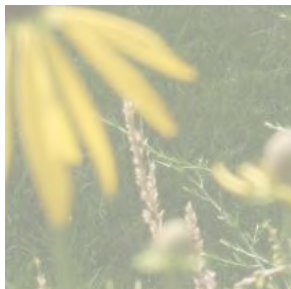
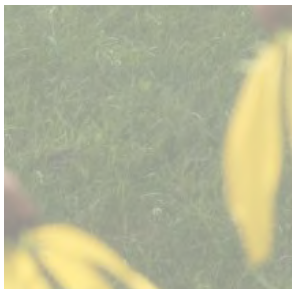


# ANKENY PARKS & FACILITIES

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



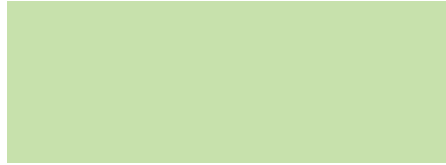
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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



## MAYOR + CITY COUNCIL

Gary Lorenz, Mayor  
Mark Holm, Mayor Pro-tem  
Kerry Walter-Ashby  
Bobbi Bentz  
Kelly Whiting  
Jim McKenna



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Gary Lorenz, Mayor  
Amber Angaran, Parks Board Member  
Mark Holm, Mayor Pro-tem  
Ryan Harkema, Recreation Superintendent



## ANKENY COMMUNITY

The Ankeny Parks & Facilities Comprehensive Plan relied on the public input we received from all residents that served as key stakeholders, completed the community survey, and those that made comments on the public website.



## PARKS BOARD

Nichoel Church, Chair  
Chad Hade  
Fred Scherle  
Jim Hallihan  
Amber Angaran  
Josh Craighead  
Lisa McDaniel

## CONSULTANT

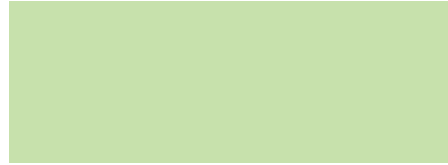
CONFLUENCE



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## SECTION CONTENTS:

- Executive Summary

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Ankeny hired a consultant team to assist in completing an update to the Ankeny Parks & Facilities Comprehensive Plan in late 2017. The consultant team was composed of landscape architects, planners, recreation program specialists, and aquatic designers, all working towards the shared goal of creating a cohesive vision for the future of parks and recreation in Ankeny. As one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, Ankeny has had to adjust to increasing pressure on their parks and recreation-based programs and facilities. Parks and recreation offerings are consistently listed as strong contributors to the current quality of life in Ankeny as well as important factors in the future measurement of quality of life for residents. All in all, residents like what they have today and want to see that same level of service in the future. An overarching goal of this plan is to determine how the City can best accomplish this goal amidst the list of competing priorities.

Resident satisfaction and desired amenities and programs were identified through a multi-faceted engagement strategy. The consultant team worked with the City to design an engagement process that gained feedback from a variety of community stakeholders, not just the most vocal groups. The consultant team met with representatives from the key stakeholder groups involved with Ankeny Parks & Recreation. These stakeholders included youth recreation programs, a senior citizen focus group, economic development professionals, and volunteer and

civic organizations, among others. A statistically valid community survey was completed over the summer of 2018 to reach a relevant cross-section of the community. A project website was created in which residents could provide comments on any park or greenway in the system. This input helped to establish the plan's goals and priorities.

The Ankeny Parks & Facilities Comprehensive Plan evaluates and addresses the anticipated opportunities and challenges Ankeny faces through the year 2040. To best assess the areas of interest and need, the report has been separated into the following chapters:

- Executive Summary
- Public Engagement Summary
- Assessment & Analyses
- Greenways & Trails Plan
- Parks & Public Spaces Plan
- Additional Analyses
- Policies & Priorities
- Funding, Fiscal Sustainability, & Partnership Plan

The comprehensive plan consists of key elements that complement and support each other to provide simple, concise direction. This plan is not meant to dictate exactly what will happen in Ankeny, but rather to be a guide for the City to improve upon their objectives and advance their existing operations. City Council, Parks Board and City Administration will rely on the proposed implementation plan contained within the Policies & Priorities Chapter. This implementation plan can be updated yearly as

part of the City's Strategic Planning Process and Capital Improvement Program, as a blueprint for achieving its strategies and goals. This implementation plan will reflect specific tactics, measures of success, timetables and resources required for continued success. The following recommendations are considered high priority due to their estimated impact on the immediate future of the department. It is recommended that they be addressed within the first five years of the plan's adoption. For a complete list of priority recommendations and proposed timelines please refer to page 218.

## HIGH FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Construct a senior center

Early in the planning process, the need for a new senior center emerged as a top facility priority. Public support for a senior center was most clearly heard from the advisory committee and stakeholder interviews.

### 2. Construct an indoor community center that includes indoor recreation gym space

The need for an indoor community center became apparent during the stakeholder interviews and from the project website input and statistically-valid survey. This decision was based on the lack of any City-owned indoor space, the closing of the YMCA and the expected decrease in gym space available for rent from the school district as their own needs increase. If the City does not address this issue soon, they could find themselves in a situation where they have limited or no facility space for their programming, making

the construction of an indoor community center an imminent concern.

### **3. Expand outdoor organized practice spaces**

During stakeholder interviews, in the community survey and on the project website, the need to expand outdoor organized practice space was identified as another top facility priority. Already, there is fierce competition for space and as the City continues to grow, so will demand for practice space. This is further compounded by the need to maintain green space for passive recreation as the current demand for practice space makes it difficult to find an open space not utilized for active recreation.

## **HIGH PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Implement consistent program management principles for all programs to ensure equitable service delivery, quality delivery, and long-term financial sustainability**

It is important that the Ankeny Parks & Recreation department remain consistent in the application and delivery of park programming especially as it relates to pricing and costs. To accomplish this, the City should develop a Recreation Program Cost Recovery Policy that assesses which programs should be subsidized by tax dollars versus user fees and a Recreation Program Pricing Policy that identifies pricing strategies that will help the department achieve cost recovery goals appropriate with each program type.

### **2. Implement a comprehensive program monitoring process**

To remain up-to-date in their program offerings, the department should implement a program monitoring process that identifies missing programs and those programs that need to be phased out. Public feedback indicated that demand for certain recreation programs and facilities such as pickleball outpaced the current supply. The department should comprehensively monitor their programs by tracking key performance indicators relating to program cancellation rates, customer satisfaction and customer retention.

### **3. Enhance facility use partnership policies**

Stakeholder interviews and advisory group discussions revealed the need to formalize all existing partnership agreements to include performance measures and partnership responsibilities. This includes the need to prioritize schedules for indoor recreation space providers to solidify times available. As the community continues to grow, so will the need to rely on partnerships in providing services to the community. An enhanced partnership policy can help facilitate this process.

## **HIGH FINANCIAL & STAFFING RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Develop a consistent funding strategy**

To continue to meet the recommended level of service standards for different park types within the community, the City will need to ensure there is a funding strategy in place that adequately

plans for the financial requirements of additional park space. The public engagement process indicated strong agreement that parks and trails are an important community feature. Maintaining an adequate level of park space for residents is a top priority and proper financing is paramount to maintaining the supply of parkland.

### **2. Prepare the organizational structure to meet existing and future demand**

After reviewing the Parks & Recreation staffing levels in 2010 and 2018, it was discovered that staffing levels have remained more or less the same across the time period despite significant gains in population served, services offered and acres managed. With more growth projected in the planning period, it is important the City monitor the organizational and staffing structure within the Parks & Recreation department as its responsibility expands.

### **3. Clarify partnerships, leasing, and agreements in terms of roles and responsibilities**

As Ankeny continues to grow in population, the need to partner and lease facility space will only continue to expand. To protect the financial and structural stability of the Parks & Recreation department, it is recommended that the department clarify their policy on partnerships, leasing and agreements to ensure the policies meet the best interests of the department and City.

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# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

## SECTION CONTENTS:

- Incorporating The Ankeny Plan 2040
- Statistically Valid Survey
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Project Website + Comments
- Stakeholder Follow-Up
- Final Public Meeting

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

**A** Strong community engagement effort was key to the City of Ankeny as they went through the Parks & Facilities Comprehensive Plan Update.

The community engagement strategy completed as part of the Ankeny Parks & Facilities Comprehensive Plan Update included:

- Incorporating *The Ankeny Plan 2040*
- Statistically Valid Survey
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Project Website + Commenting
- Follow-Up Stakeholder Interviews
- Public Meeting of Final Draft

## Incorporating *The Ankeny Plan 2040*

At the beginning of this planning process, the City of Ankeny had recently approved a new comprehensive plan entitled, *The Ankeny Plan 2040*. The completion of a new parks and recreation master plan was a key recommendation of the Parks & Recreation chapter. This plan complements the work and analysis performed during the prior comprehensive plan and builds upon the vision outlined in *The Ankeny Plan 2040*.

## Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder Interviews are one-on-one conversations held between the consultant team and key representatives from interest groups impacted by Ankeny Parks & Recreation programs and facilities. These candid conversations help to identify and understand the various needs and wishes of key users of the Ankeny Parks & Recreation system. A wide swath of stakeholders were contacted and met with to represent as much of the diverse interest in Ankeny as possible.

## Statistically Valid Survey

The City of Ankeny required a statistically valid survey be completed and meet the following requirements:

- Minimum 350 Surveys Completed
- 95% Level of Confidence
- Confidence Interval of +/- 5.2%

The purpose of this survey was to obtain a clear understanding of the community's desires related to parks and recreation services.

## Project Website

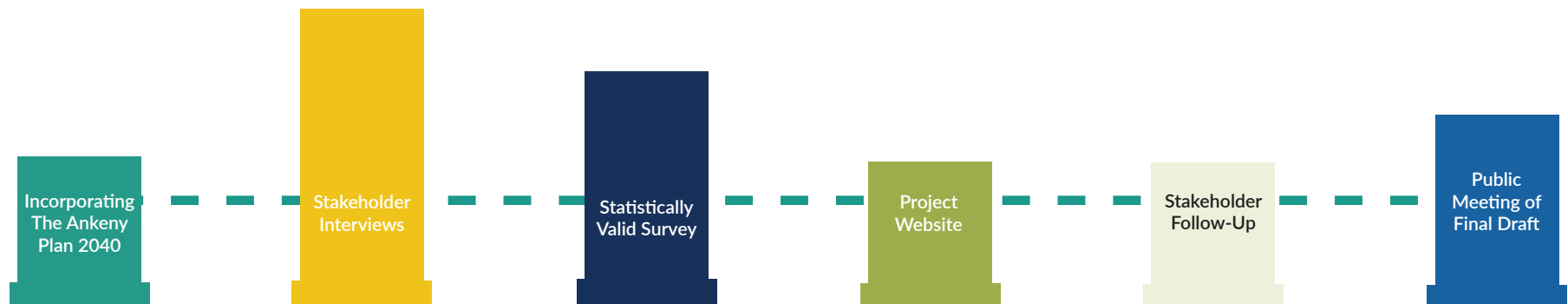
A project website was created to house information on the planning process and to communicate major milestones with the public. Additionally, an engagement exercise of online commenting on our park inventory was successfully completed on the website.

## Stakeholder Follow-Up

After a draft of the Ankeny Parks & Facilities Comprehensive Plan Update was ready for public consumption, the consultant team met again with stakeholders interviewed in the beginning of the project. Follow-up interviews were held by the consultant team at the Ankeny Public Services Building between October 10-11, 2018.

## Public Meeting of Final Draft

Before adoption of the new plan, a public meeting was held on January 23, 2019, to overview the plan to the public.



# STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Nearly an entire month of the planning process was dedicated to completing over twenty different stakeholder interviews.

Between 1-3 members of the consultant team were present at the stakeholder interviews.

While the stakeholder conversations all took off in different directions based on the subject matter most important to the stakeholder interviewees, the consultant team based the discussion on the following prompt questions:

*What are the three best things about the parks and recreation system today?*

*Where is the greatest opportunity for improvement?*

*What areas of recreation are currently underutilized in Ankeny?*

*How can the City be a better partner with your organization?*

*Do you have an example of when the City provided excellent customer service? Poor customer service?*

*Do you feel the balance of youth / adult / senior programming is right in Ankeny?*

*What additional activities are needed within Ankeny's Parks & Recreation system?*

## Stakeholder Groups Interviewed:

- Ankeny Volleyball Association (2)
- Ankeny Girls Softball Association
- Ankeny Little League
- Ankeny Lacrosse Club
- Ankeny Junior Football
- Iowa Rush Soccer Club
- DMACC - TrailPoint Aquatic & Wellness
- Mayor's Youth Council
- Leslie Reab, Parks & Recreation Department
- Parks & Recreation Coaches (2)
- Senior Citizen Focus Group
- Ankeny Community School District (2)
- Ankeny Chamber of Commerce
- Lake Country Cycling Club
- Service Clubs
- Ankeny Dog Park
- Master Gardeners / Garden Club
- Ankeny Uptown
- Ankeny Centennial Basketball Club (ACBC)

Ultimately, 22 different stakeholder interviews took place over the course of nearly a month. Most of the interviews took place between February 26-27, 2018, in the Ankeny Public Services Building. Several others took place either in an alternative location or over the phone.

Follow-up stakeholder interviews were offered to each stakeholder with many meeting for a second time with the consultant team in October of 2018 to review analysis and draft recommendations. Their input helped guide the draft review process.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Feedback received from these stakeholder interviews were important for having a comprehensive view of the Ankeny Parks & Recreation system. Some of the key takeaways from the stakeholder interviews were:

- Gym space demand is an issue now, and is only going to get worse over time
- Already a community desire to have another athletic complex – practice spaces are at a premium
- Access to Ankeny community school's properties (gyms and field spaces) – will likely continue be decreased
- Building trend toward club sports – double the feeder programs and coaches involved in them
- Communications with senior citizens in Ankeny could be improved
- Field / Gym Scheduling system could be smoother and more efficient (appreciate those doing it, but not the process)
- Maintenance of fields and park spaces is top notch. Nobody complained about conditions
- Current aquatic facilities are at capacity during key weekends – regional draw
- Trail system in and around Ankeny is top notch – continue making connections and capitalize on them more
- Dog Park was brought up by many as being a welcomed addition to the community

# STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

## STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

ETC Institute was responsible for administering a needs assessment survey for the City of Ankeny. The survey took place in the summer of 2018. The purpose of the survey was to help guide the City of Ankeny in making improvements to the City's existing and future parks, trails, and recreational programs to best serve the needs of residents. The survey was also used to help establish priorities for the future improvement of Park & Recreation facilities and services within the community.

The City required that the community survey be statistically valid and meet the following requirements.

### Minimum Survey Requirements:

Minimum 350 completed surveys  
95% level of confidence  
Confidence interval of +/- 5.2%

### Actual Survey Results:

520 completed surveys  
95% level of confidence  
Confidence interval of +/- 4.3%

Overall, the survey results exceeded the minimum requirements and provided a detailed assessment and summary of community needs, desires, and willingness to support a variety of different projects and programs. The results were used to inform decision-making, goals, and priorities included throughout the report.

## SURVEY FORMAT

The survey questions were drafted based on project goals and requirements outlined in the Request for Proposal on the project, feedback from City staff, and input from the consultant team members. The survey went through several draft formats, but the final survey included 23 questions over 6 pages.

## METHODOLOGY

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in the City. 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 [www.AnkenyParkSurvey.org](http://www.AnkenyParkSurvey.org).

Ten days after the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute sent emails and placed phone calls to the households that received the survey to encourage participation. The emails contained a link to the online version of the survey. To prevent people who were not residents from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with those originally selected for the random sample. If the address did not match one of the addresses for the sample, the online survey was not counted.

## RESULTS

The goal was to obtain completed surveys from at least 350 residents. The goal was exceeded with a total of 520 residents completing the survey. The overall results for the sample of 520 households have a precision of at least +/- 4.3% at the 95% confidence level.

The full report of survey results included the following sections:

- Charts showing the overall results
- Priority Investment Rating (PIR) that identifies priorities for facilities and programs
- Benchmarking analysis comparing the City's results to national results
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey

The next several pages provide a summary of the major survey results. This includes big picture takeaways and an overview of the major facility and recreation program priorities and recommendations.

## ORGANIZATIONS + FACILITIES USED FOR PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS

Eighty-four (84%) percent of respondents indicated they are either "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the overall value they receive from Ankeny Parks & Recreation services. The top five parks and/or facilities that residents have used often are: City of Ankeny Parks & Recreation (81%), Ankeny Community School District (41%), Churches (37%), Iowa State Parks (36%), and private fitness clubs (32%).

# STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

## BARRIERS TO PARK, FACILITY, AND PROGRAM USAGE

Respondents were asked from a list of 19 potential reasons to identify what prevents them from using outdoor parks, indoor recreation centers and programs offered by the City of Ankeny Parks & Recreation Department more often. The top four reasons selected were: no time to participate (40%), lack of awareness of what is being offered (31%), program times are inconvenient (26%), and fees are too high (23%).

## OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH PARKS & RECREATION SERVICES

Respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with different services provided by Parks & Recreation. The statements regarding the overall satisfaction with Parks & Recreation services, based upon the combined percentage of “very satisfied” and “satisfied” responses among residents who had an opinion were: maintenance of parks (85%), number of parks (82%), number of walking/biking trails (72%), and community special events (67%). The top four services that respondents indicated should receive most attention, are: maintenance of parks, number of walking/biking trails, youth programs, and number of parks.

## IMPORTANT PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

Respondents were asked from a list of 11 varied services to rate their level of agreement with whether they think that service should be important to Ankeny Parks & Recreation or not. The statements regarding the importance of specific Parks & Recreation services, based upon the combined percentage of “strongly agree” and “agree” responses among residents who had an opinion were: ensure existing park facilities are well maintained for both short and long-term future (97%), connect park system to residential communities (91%), and provide a diverse park system that includes both small and large park spaces (91%).



# STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

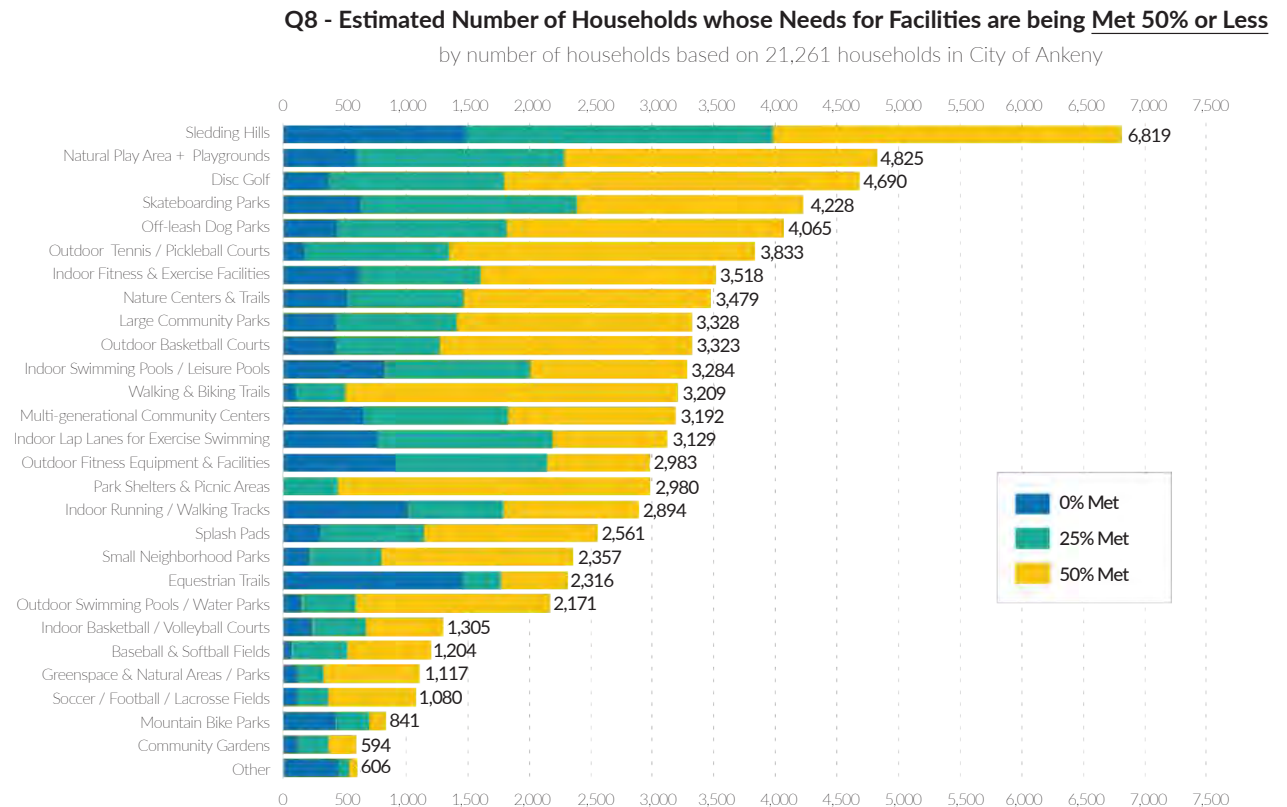
## FACILITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

### Facility Needs

Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 28 recreation facilities and amenities and 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 that had the greatest “unmet” need for various facilities.

The four recreation facilities with the highest percentage of households that indicated a need for the facility were: walking & biking trails (89%), small neighborhood parks (73%), greenspace & natural areas/parks (66%), and outdoor swimming pools/water parks (65%). When ETC Institute analyzed the needs in the community, only one facility, paved walking and biking trails within parks, had a need that affected more than 18,000 households. ETC Institute estimates a total of 6,819 of the 21,261 households in the City of Ankeny have unmet needs for sledding hills. The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 28 facilities that were assessed is shown in Figure 2.1.

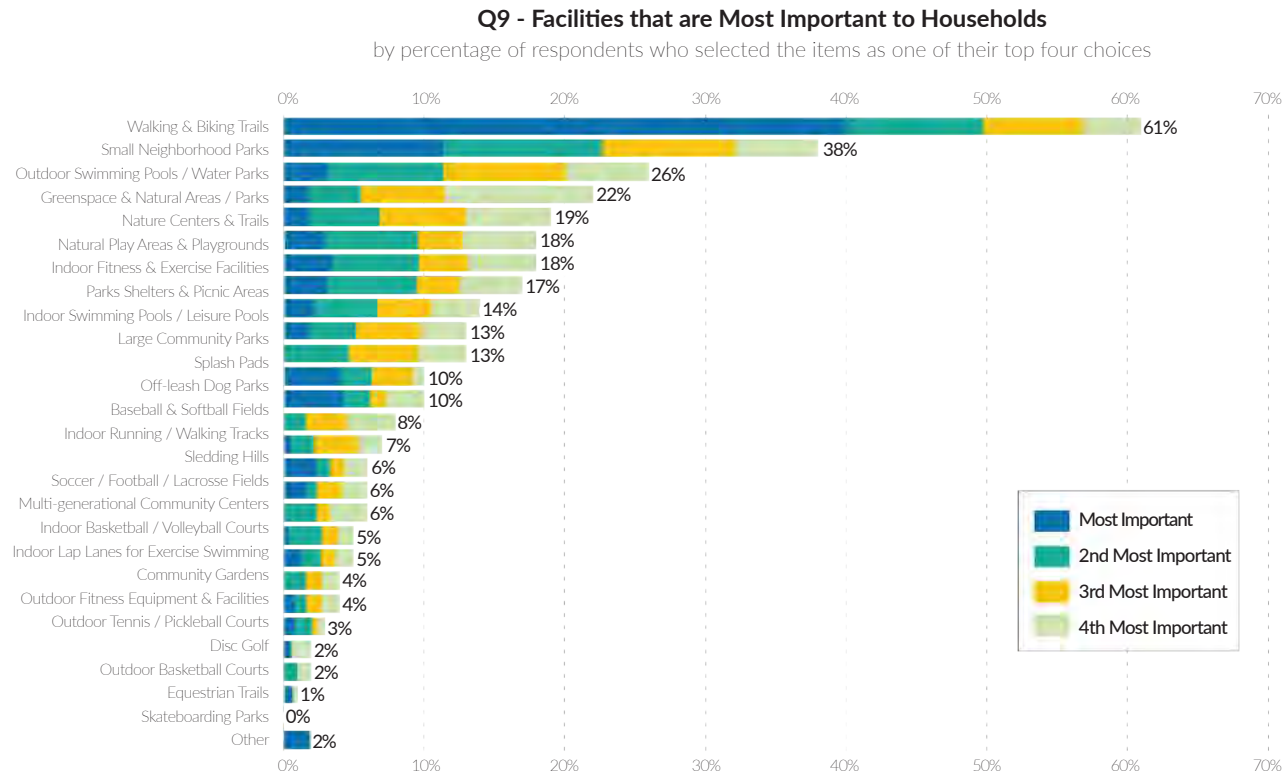
Figure 2.1 - Estimated Households with Unmet Needs for Facilities by Type



Source: ETC Institute (2018)



Figure 2.2 - Top Four Facilities by Households



Source: ETC Institute (2018)

## Facility Importance

In addition to assessing the needs for each facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each facility. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the four most important facilities to residents were: walking & biking trails (61%), small neighborhood parks (38%), outdoor swimming pools/water parks (26%), and greenspace & natural areas/parks (22%). The percentage of residents who selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in Figure 2.2.

# STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

## PRIORITIES FOR FACILITY INVESTMENTS

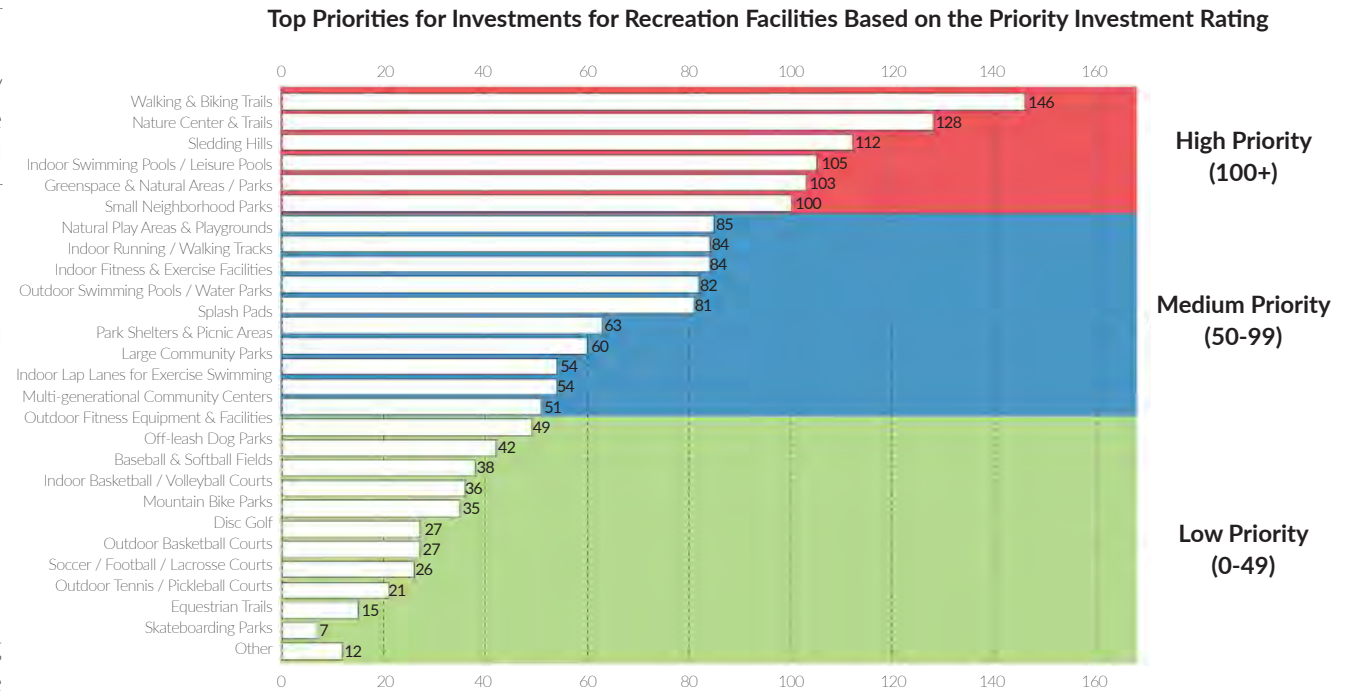
The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on Parks & Recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weights (1) the importance that residents place on facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facility.

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

- Walking & Biking Trails (PIR - 146)
- Nature Centers & Trails (PIR - 128)
- Sledding Hills (PIR - 112)
- Indoor Swimming/Leisure Pools (PIR-105)
- Greenspace & Natural Areas/Parks (PIR - 103)
- Small Neighborhood Parks (PIR - 100)

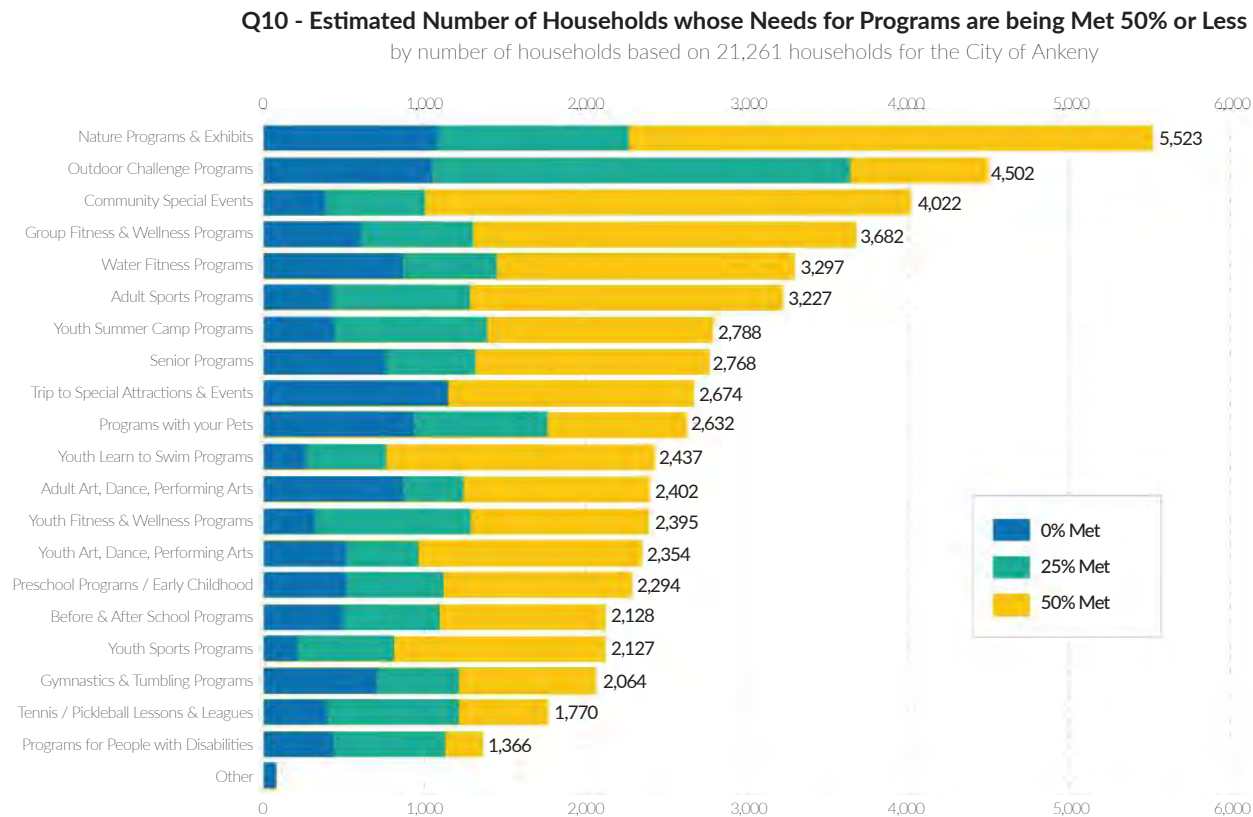
Figure 2.3 shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 28 facilities/amenities that were assessed on the survey.

Figure 2.3 - Priority Investment Rating (PIR) by Facility Type



Source: ETC Institute (2018)

Figure 2.4 - Estimated Households with Unmet Needs for Programs by Type



Source: ETC Institute (2018)

## PROGRAMMING NEEDS + PRIORITIES

### Programming Needs

Respondents were also asked to identify if their household had a need for 21 recreational programs and rate how well their needs for each program were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had “unmet” needs for each program.

The four programs with the highest percentage of households that had needs were: community special events (55%), nature programs & exhibits (39%), group fitness & wellness programs (39%), and youth learn to swim programs (36%). ETC Institute estimates a total of 5,523 households have unmet needs for nature programs & exhibits and 4,502 households have unmet needs for outdoor challenge programs. The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 21 programs that were assessed is shown in Figure 2.4.

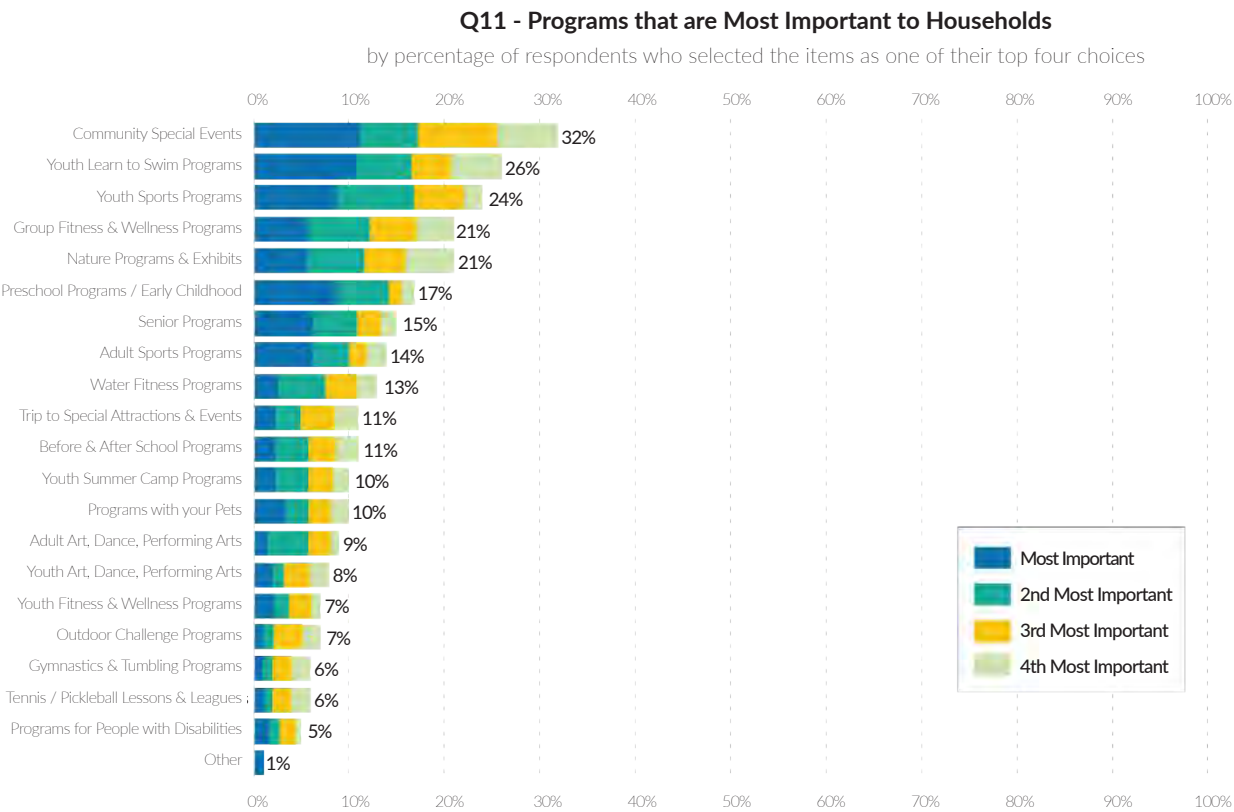
# STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

## Program Importance

In addition to assessing the needs for each program, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents place on each program. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the five most important programs to residents were: community special events (32%), youth learn to swim programs (26%), youth sports programs (24%), group fitness & wellness programs (21%), and nature programs & exhibits (21%).

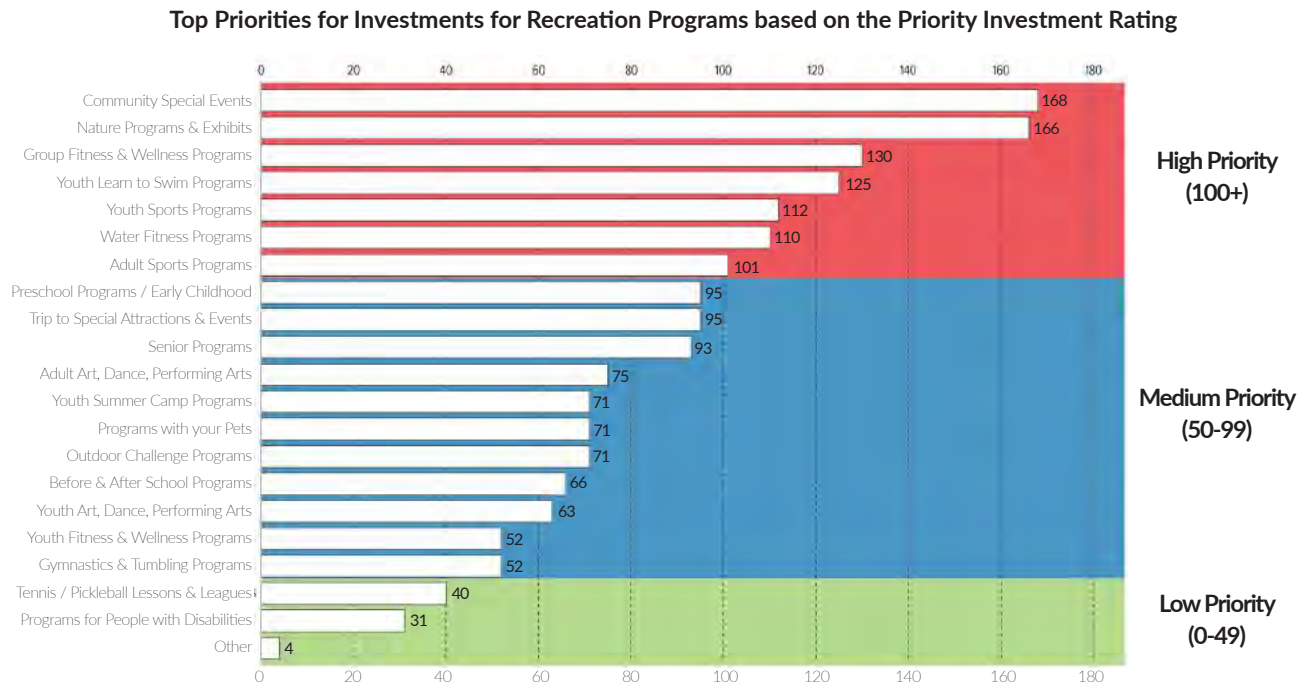
The percentage of residents who selected each program as one of their top four choices is shown in Figure 2.5.

Figure 2.5 - Top Four Programs by Households



Source: ETC Institute (2018)

Figure 2.6 - Priority Investment Rating (PIR) by Program Type



Source: ETC Institute (2018)

## Priorities for Programming Investments

Based on the priority investment rating (PIR), the following seven programs were rated as “high priorities” for investment:

- Community Special Events (PIR=168)
- Nature Program & Exhibits (PIR=166)
- Group Fitness & Wellness Programs (PIR=130)
- Youth Learn to Swim Programs (PIR=125)
- Youth Sports Programs (PIR=112)
- Water Fitness Programs (PIR=110)
- Adult Sports Programs (PIR=101)

Figure 2.6 shows the Priority Investment Rating (PIR) for each of the 22 programs that were rated.

# STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

## ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

The City of Ankeny asked its residents to rate their level of support on constructing an indoor sports facility that is most important to the community; 20% of respondents indicated they would be “supportive” and 41% of respondents indicated they would be “somewhat supportive”. Respondents were questioned about potential indoor spaces they would use and the top three indoor facilities that households would use, are: an indoor pool (64%), workout facilities (55%), and an indoor running track (45%).

Residents were asked if they and/or their family would support a large 50-70-acre Ankeny “Central Park” and 70% indicated they would be in support of this project. Out of the 70% of

respondents who specified they would use the “Central Park” in Ankeny, 88% said they would use it for walking/exercising/training, relaxing and/socializing (84%), and for attractions, programs, and special events (67%).

When respondents were asked if they or other members of their household had participated in any recreation programs offered by the Ankeny Family YMCA and/or Trail Point Aquatic & Wellness during the last year, 30% indicated they had, and of the recreation programs they used were: fitness/wellness (68%) and aquatics (66%). Residents were inquired to provide reasons why they use the trails located in Ankeny; 75% indicated they use the trails for health/exercise, 74% use the trails for running/walking, 62% use

the trails for recreation, and 59% use the trails to walk a pet.

The top four ways residents learn about parks and recreation programs and activities, are: Parks & Recreation Guide (76%), word of mouth (55%), Facebook (43%), and the City website (39%).





## RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, 84% of respondents indicated they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the overall value their household receives from the City of Ankeny Parks & Recreation Department. To ensure that the City of Ankeny continues to meet the needs and expectations of the community, ETC Institute recommends that the Parks & Recreation Department sustain and/or improve the performance in areas that were identified as “high priorities” by the Priority Investment Rating (PIR). The facilities and programs with the highest PIR ratings are listed in Figures 2.3 and 2.6.

### Facility Priorities

- Walking & Biking Trails (PIR - 146)
- Nature Centers & Trails (PIR - 128)
- Sledding Hills (PIR - 112)
- Indoor Swimming/Leisure Pools (PIR - 105)
- Greenspace & Natural Areas/Parks (PIR - 103)
- Small Neighborhood Parks (PIR - 100)

### Programming Priorities

- Community Special Events (PIR - 168)
- Nature Program & Exhibits (PIR - 166)
- Group Fitness & Wellness Programs (PIR - 130)
- Youth Learn to Swim Programs (PIR - 125)
- Youth Sports Programs (PIR - 112)
- Water Fitness Programs (PIR - 110)
- Adult Sports Programs (PIR - 101)



# PROJECT WEBSITE + COMMENTS

## PROJECT WEBSITE

A project website was created for the Ankeny Parks & Facilities Comprehensive Plan Update. The project website was created to serve as a main source of information on the planning process, a place to download and view the results of key project deliverables, and to facilitate additional community engagement with Ankeny residents.

## Park Inventory + Comment Pages

A key feature of the project website was the park inventory and comment section. There were multiple links directing website visitors to comment on Ankeny parks.

As part of the planning process, a thorough inventory of every park and greenway in the City of Ankeny was completed by the consultant team. During the inventory, the following pieces of information were gathered:

- Address
- Date / Time of Visit
- General Park Information (Size/Class/Quadrant)
- Context + Details
- Park Usage (High / Moderate / Light / Rare)
- Park Access (Public Road/Sidewalk/Transit)
- Parking (On/Off Street)
- Seasonal Amenities (Spring/Summer/Fall/Spring)
- Practice Space Potential
- Photos
- Park Amenities (Good / Fine / Poor)

Information gathered as part of the inventory were digitized and uploaded to the website.

Website visitors and residents were encouraged to view each park and greenway and comment. The goal was to obtain feedback on what residents like, do not like, things that could be improved, or things that the City is doing right with each park or greenway. An overall general comment page was also available for residents to comment on the City's Parks & Recreation system.

## Park Comments

The City of Ankeny publicized the project website on the City's website and social media pages in June 2018. Almost immediately, residents began commenting on their local parks and greenways. The response by the community was impressive. Overall, there were 230 individual comments made to the project website. There were only a handful of parks and greenways that did not receive any comments.

Figure 2.7 - Example Park Amenity Inventory List

### PARK AMENITIES

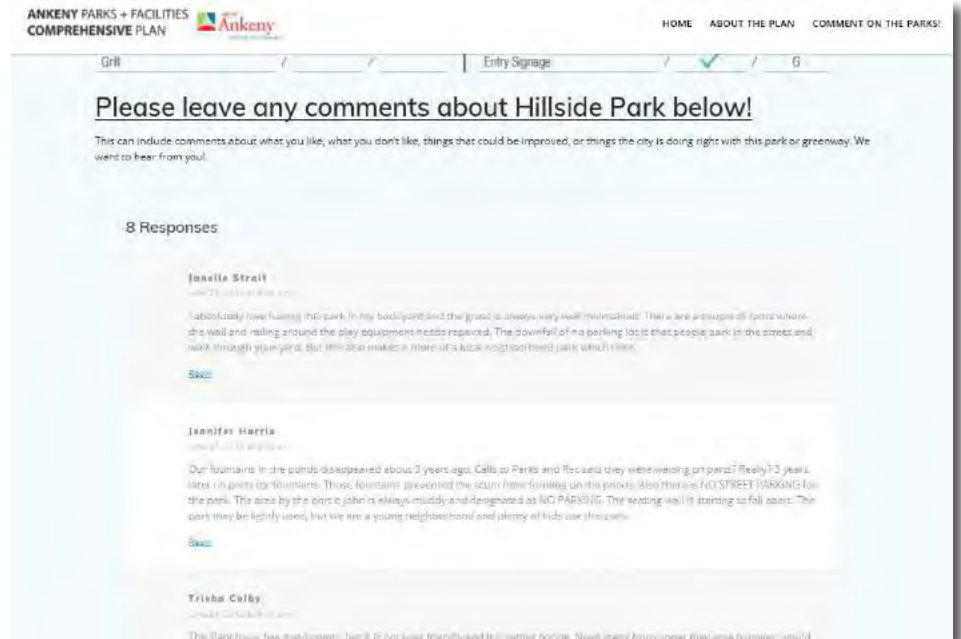
\*PARK CONDITIONS: G = GOOD F = FAIR P = POOR

Amenity	/	Quantity	/	G/F/P*
Bus Shelter	/		/	
Bench	/	✓	/	G
Trash Can	/	✓	/	G
Recycling Bin	/		/	
Open / Green Space	/	✓	/	G
Walking / Biking Trail	/	✓	/	G
Drinking Fountain	/	✓	/	G
Restroom	/	✓	/	Kybo
Parking Lot	/	✓	/	G
Pond	/	✓	/	G
Picnic Shelter	/	✓	/	G
Picnic Table	/		/	
Playground	/		/	
Fishing	/		/	
Swimming	/		/	
Lights	/		/	
Grill	/		/	

Amenity	/	Quantity	/	G/F/P*
Basketball Court	/		/	
Baby Swing	/		/	
Backstop	/		/	
Shuffleboard	/		/	
Tennis Court	/		/	
Pickle Ball Court	/		/	
Softball Field	/		/	
Volleyball Court	/		/	
Disc Golf Course	/		/	
Skating Ramp	/		/	
Horseshoe Pit	/		/	
Bandshell	/		/	
Baseball Field	/		/	
Kitchen	/		/	
Sledding	/		/	
Soccer Field	/		/	
Entry Signage	/	✓	/	G



Figure 2.8 - Ankeny Parks Plan Website Commenting Imagery



# PROJECT WEBSITE + COMMENTS

The most commented on park was the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex with 59 comments. Other parks that received considerable comments included:

- Heritage Park
- General Comments Page
- Sawgrass Park
- Hillside Park
- Cascade Falls Aquatic Center
- Woodland Reserve Greenway
- Georgetown Park
- Miracle League Park

## General Comments

- Play areas need more shading (trees or artificial)
- More benches
- More mountain bike trails (Heritage Park)
- Splash pad in northwest Ankeny
- Better bike trail connectivity between and in parks
- Need more practice spots / fields
- Connectivity needed over Interstate 35 via trails
- Additional aquatic center on east side
- More parks with water features like splash pads
- Crosswalks in busy intersections
- Parking issues at Prairie Ridge Sports Complex
- Indoor practice facility space
- Mowing concerns

## Prairie Ridge Comments

- More parking with more than one exit
- Water stations / drinking fountains
- Love the net over the stands
- Put stop signs and painted crosswalks at exits
- Second restroom needed
- Drainage system for the fields need to be revamped

- Traffic light needed at 18th Street
- Add practice fields and/or indoor facility
- During weather events, this place is very dangerous
- More shade to watch events would be beneficial
- Well maintained facility, but the parking situation is a mess
- Add attractions to the Prairie Ridge Aquatic Center
- Recycling bins next to the garbage cans

## Heritage Park

- Large website showing from the disc golf community
- Back of park could be used for nature walks and hiking
- Need more visibility of the park
- Mountain bike / hiking trails throughout the woods
- City should purchase the land for sale nearby
- Several people volunteered to help maintain a mountain bike / natural trail in the area
- New bridge needed
- Amazing course, but could be leveled out so it doesn't flood
- Build another bridge over the spillway to holes 6-11
- New baskets would be nice
- Beautifying the park would bring more people to it
- Redesign (possibly with fewer holes) would be beneficial



*Prairie Ridge Sports Complex*



*Heritage Park*



*Sawgrass Park*



# PROJECT WEBSITE + COMMENTS

## Sawgrass Park

- Excellent potential for basketball court
- Baseball fields could be added
- Tons of unused greenspace
- Deck on bridge needs updating
- Benches need to be installed
- Wet spots need to be properly drained
- Needs to be mowed more regularly
- Hidden gem of a park
- Soccer nets or tennis court would be nice
- Bridge needs repair
- Shade structures over playground

## Hillside Park

- Love the park, well maintained
- Some spots where wall and railing could be repaired
- No parking lot = people park on street and walk through yards of nearby residents
- Fountains in ponds not working still
- Seating wall falling apart
- Benches, new equipment, steps from upper to lower play area needed
- More play equipment for this growing area
- Shade needed

## Cascade Falls Aquatic Center

- Crowded
- Open during morning hours would help
- More tubes / chairs
- Open at 11:00 a.m.
- More cashiers for easier entry
- Stay open until 8:00 p.m.
- Needs more parking
- Open concessions to non-park users to increase revenue

## Woodland Reserve Greenway

- Would like to see trail extended north with a bridge and trees, if possible
- Would like to see park developed further
- Connect existing dead-end sidewalk trails, with possible High Trestle Trail connection
- One commenter did not want a shelter or parking lot as it would decrease greenspace

## Georgetown Park

- Too many geese in some areas of the park and wanted a shelter that was further away from the pond
- Needs more benches throughout the park
- General maintenance should be considered at this park as far as cleanup goes.
- Need to replace the pond fountain - has been greatly missed by the residents of the area
- Add dog waste stations to the park
- Add a drinking fountain

## Miracle League Park

- The Miracle League Park is an asset to Ankeny
- This park is the best with its variety of activities and playground
- Great playground and a great park
- Park area needs more benches
- Spacious elements of the playground equipment make it favorable for tween and teens loitering and blocking access and behaving poorly



Hillside Park



Woodland Reserve Greenway



Miracle League Park

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# ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

## SECTION CONTENTS:

- Recreation Program Assessment
- Level of Service Standards
- Service Area Analysis
- Equity Mapping

# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

## EVALUATING THE CURRENT SYSTEM: PROGRAMS

As part of the master planning process, the consulting team performed a Recreation Program Assessment of the programs and services offered by the Department. The assessment offers an in-depth perspective of program and service offerings and helps identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities regarding programming. The assessment also assists in identifying core programs, program gaps within the community, key system-wide issues, areas of improvement, and future programs and services for residents.

The consulting team based these program findings and comments from a review of information provided by the municipality including program descriptions, financial data, website content, web survey feedback, demographic information, and discussions with staff. This narrative addresses the program offerings from a systems perspective for the entire portfolio of programs, as well as individual program information.

## Framework

The City of Ankeny's mission is, "To provide high quality municipal services, excellent customer service, and sound fiscal management. We engage our community by producing a greater quality of life and are advocates for Ankeny by protecting the community's interests."

The Department provides a broad range of recreation and leisure programming, including activities for seniors, special interests, arts and culture, sports, and health and wellness. Programs provide an opportunity for participants to have fun, learn new skills, and develop friendships and life-long leisure interests. There is also a major focus on public gym reservations. The Department is responsible for coordinating/scheduling activities and practices via a reservation system. Indoor space is highly sought after within the community and this responsibility resides with the Department.

## CORE PROGRAM AREAS

To help achieve the mission, it is important to identify core program areas to create a sense of focus around specific program areas of greatest importance to the community. Public recreation is challenged by the premise of being all things to all people. The philosophy of the core program area assists staff, policy makers, and the public to focus on what is most important. Program areas are considered core if they meet a majority of the following categories:

- The program area has been provided for a long period of time (over 4-5 years) and/or is expected by the community
- The program area consumes a relatively large portion (5% or more) of the organization's overall budget
- The program area is offered 3-4 seasons per year
- The program area has wide demographic appeal
- There is a tiered level of skill development available within the program area's offerings
- There is full-time staff responsible for the program area
- There are facilities designed specifically to support the program area
- The organization controls a significant percentage (20% or more) of the local market

# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

## EXISTING CORE PROGRAM AREAS

In consultation with Department staff, the consulting team identified the following core program areas currently being offered:

### Sports (Adult + Youth)

The sports core program area includes youth and adult sport camps, lessons, teams, and leagues including competition levels from beginner to competitive. This core program area has the following two internal goals/desired outcomes:

- 1) The enhancement of physical and mental development for children
- 2) Provide participants with an opportunity to learn new skills, engage in physical activity, stay active, and have fun



### Special Interest

The special interest core program area includes education, games, hobbies, and camps of special interest to the community that include learning components. This core program area has the following three internal goals/desired outcomes:

- 1) Offer a diverse range of quality classes for all ages to meet the needs and interests of the community
- 2) Provide opportunities for relaxation, learning and socialization to promote personal growth and well-being
- 3) Provide service value



### Aquatics

The aquatics core program area includes youth and adult lessons and programs for swimming, fitness, and water sports to promote water safety and swimming as a lifelong recreational pursuit. This core program area has the following three internal goals/desired outcomes:

- 1) Meet summer demand for outdoor water recreation
- 2) High quality facilities that support intensive use and serve the whole community
- 3) Provide instruction for an essential life skill



# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

## Health + Fitness

The health and fitness core program area includes adult group exercise, wellness, and classes to help achieve fitness and lifestyle goals. This core program area has the following two internal goals/desired outcomes:

- 1) Provide the opportunities, tools, support, and strategies to adopt and maintain healthy behaviors and active lifestyles
- 2) Encourage physical activity to build a healthier community



## Arts + Culture

The arts and culture core program area includes creative programming and offers a wide variety of opportunities to experience the arts through Dance, Theater, Music, and Visual Arts. This core program area has the following two internal goals/desired outcomes:

- 1) Introduce the arts and increase cultural awareness while having fun together
- 2) Promote growth in identified abilities and interests



## Special Events

The special events core program area includes community events that coincide with local/national holidays or community interests. This core program area has the following three internal goals/desired outcomes:

- 1) Facilitate and encourage a sense of community pride and cohesiveness
- 2) Have fun and relax
- 3) Preserve Ankeny's "hometown" feel





# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

## Senior Activities (Active Adults)

The senior activities core program area includes a wide variety of recreation and leisure activities for seniors, ages 55 years and older. This core program area has the following three internal goals/desired outcomes:

- 1) Serve an aging population with social, recreational, active and healthy opportunities
- 2) Increase the ability of older adults to remain active and healthy
- 3) Increase access to information regarding available supports



## Public Gym Reservation Program

The public gym reservation program allows community use of school gymnasium facilities for various sports related activities and practices through a reservation system from September through April implemented by the Parks & Recreation Department, with cooperation from the District's Community Education Department. This core program area has the following three internal goals/desired outcomes:

- 1) Provide public access to community facilities for programming, practices and recreation leagues
- 2) Ensure quality recreation programs are responsive to community needs
- 3) Ensure the equitable provision of program opportunities



# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

## CORE PROGRAM AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

### Evaluate Core Program Area Relevance Regularly

These existing core program areas provide a generally well-rounded and diverse array of programs that serve the community at present. Based upon the observations of the consulting team and demographic and recreation trends information, City of Ankeny staff should evaluate core program areas and individual programs, ideally on an annual basis, to ensure offerings are relevant to evolving demographics and trends in the local community. Implementing additional surveys to program participants and the larger community is a good way to help differentiate between national vs. local trends and ensure the municipality's programs are relevant to the local user.

## PROGRAM STRATEGY ANALYSIS

### Age Segment Analysis

The table below depicts each core program area and the most prominent age segments they serve. Primary (noted with a 'P') and Secondary (noted with an 'S') markets are identified for each core program area. Looking at blank boxes help the City of Ankeny examine potentially "underserved" age segments.

Based on the age demographics noted previously in this plan, current programs seem to be fairly well-aligned with the community's age profile. However, with the projected population

increase, there will be an increased emphasis on youth programming and programming for all ages/family. As more and more families are projected to move into the City and surrounding area, family programming will be a focus area for the community.

Program coordinators/managers should include this information when creating or updating program plans for individual programs. An age segment analysis can also be incorporated into mini-business plans for comprehensive program planning.

*Figure 3.1 - Core Program Area Age Segment Analysis*

Core Program Area	Preschool (<5)	Elem. School (6-12)	Teens (13-19)	Adult (18+)	Senior Adults (55+)	All Ages
Sports (Adult and Youth)	P	P	S	P	S	P
Special Interest	P	P	S	S	P	
Aquatics	P	P	P	P	P	P
Health + Fitness	S	S	P	P	P	
Arts and Culture	P	P	S	S	S	
Special Events	P	P	P	P	P	P
Senior Activities (Active Adults)					P	
Public Gym Reservation Program	P	P	S	P	S	

# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

## Program Lifecycle

A program lifecycle analysis involves reviewing each program offered by the municipality to determine the stage of growth or decline for each. This provides a way of informing strategic decisions about the overall mix of programs managed by the Department to ensure that an appropriate number of programs are “fresh” and that relatively few programs, if any, need to be discontinued. This analysis is not based on strict quantitative data but, rather, is based on staff members’ knowledge of their program areas. The following table shows the percentage distribution of the various life cycle categories of the Department’s programs. These percentages

were obtained by comparing the number of programs in each individual stage with the total number of programs listed by staff.

The total number of programs falling into the Introduction, Take-off, and Growth lifecycle stages is 64%, exceeding the recommended distribution of 50-60%. This is not necessarily an issue, however, but these programs will need attention to ensure they are transitioned into the maturation stage. It is useful to have a strong percentage in the early stages to make sure there is innovation in programming and that the organization is responding to changes in community need.

Eventually, programs move into the Mature stage, so having an ample amount of programs in the first three stages helps to ensure there is a pipeline for fresh programs. Currently, 26% of programs are in the Mature stage. This is below the recommended level but with a large percentage of programs that will eventually move toward that stage, that number will rise.

About 10% of all programs are in the Decline and Saturation stage, which aligns well with best practices. It should be noted, however, that the number is at the high end of the range meaning the Department will need to pay attention to opportunities to sunset or re-program activities.

**Figure 3.2 - Program Lifecycle Distribution**

Lifecycle Stage	Description	Actual Program Distribution		Recommended Distribution
Introduction	New program; modest participation	13%	64%	50-60%
Take-Off	Rapid participation growth	3%		
Growth	Moderate, but consistent participation growth	48%		
Mature	Slow participation growth	26%	26%	40%
Saturation	Minimal to no participation growth; extreme competition	3%	10%	0-10%
Decline	Declining participation	7%		



# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

If a program is in Saturation stage, it may not necessarily need to be retired – it could be that it is a legacy program that is beloved by the community. However, it is useful to look at attendance trends – do you have fewer participants over the last few offerings? If so, the community may be looking for a different type of program. While there are exceptions, most programs in the Saturation and Decline stages are ready to retire.

Staff should complete a Program Lifecycle Analysis on an annual basis and ensure that the percentage distribution closely aligns with desired performance. Furthermore, the municipality could include annual performance measures for each core program area to track participation growth, customer retention, and percentage of new programs as an incentive for innovation and alignment with community trends. Figure 3.3 is useful for assisting staff with completing a Program Lifecycle Analysis.

Figure 3.3 - Program Lifecycle Decision Matrix

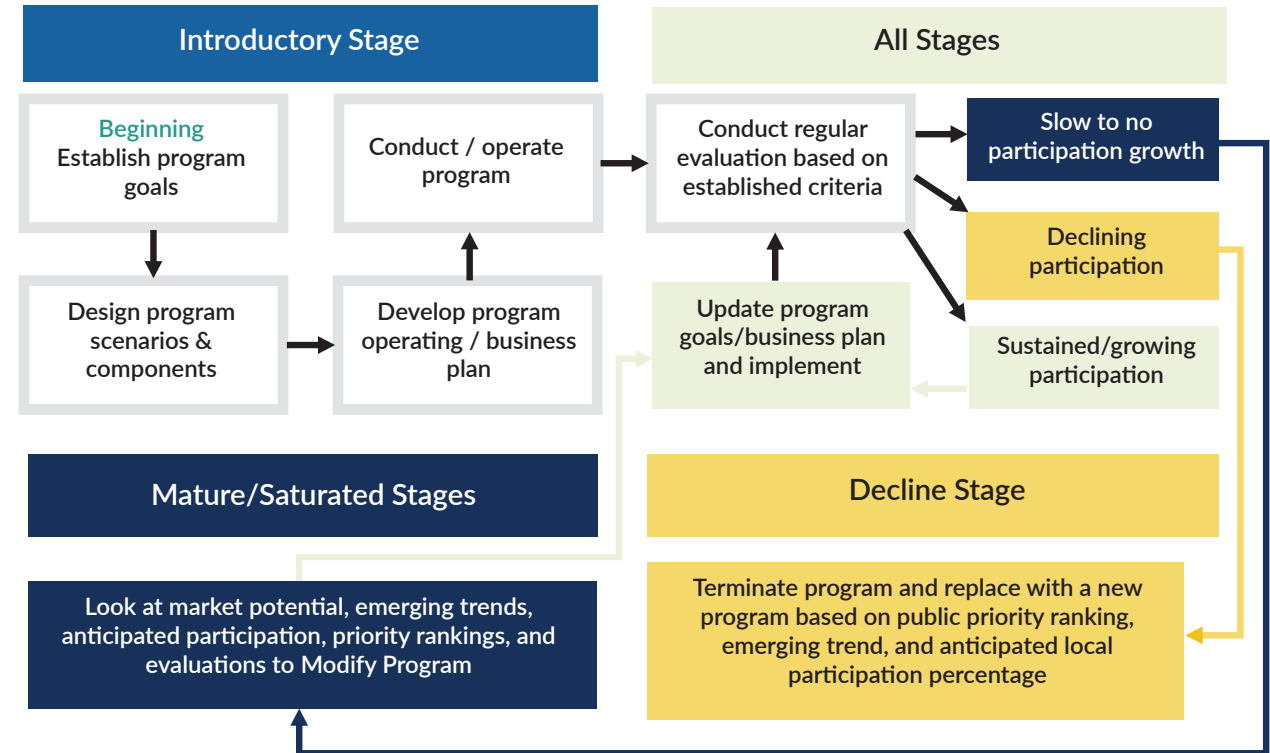


Figure 3.4 - Program Participation 2013-2017

	Area	Participants / Number Of				
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Programming	Youth Activities	14,111	15,651	12,608	13,988	13,549
	Adult Activities	4,519	4,967	6,024	6,172	9,951
	Senior Activities	1,878	1,865	1,984	1,812	1,800
	Special Events	2,815	2,663	6,691	5,186	7,198
	All-City Play Day	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,500
	Father/Daughter Dance	1,034	1,070	1,252	1,218	1,248
	Youth Basketball League	1,804	1,799	1,795	1,922	1,913
	Youth Soccer League	1,003	1,187	1,118	1,074	1,101
	Youth Volleyball League	204	201	247	225	227
	Youth Triathlon	253	239	214	161	165
	<b>Subtotal Programming</b>	<b>25,823</b>	<b>27,807</b>	<b>29,807</b>	<b>34,158</b>	<b>39,652</b>
Prairie Ridge Sports Complex	Girls Softball	538	554	577	580	600
	Iowa Rush	2,224	2,298	2,748	2,800	2,700
	Junior Football	967	996	960	900	860
	Little League	1,217	1,296	1,415	1,867	1,867
	Total Tournament	37	40	46	47	45
	<b>Subtotal Prairie Ridge</b>	<b>4,983</b>	<b>5,184</b>	<b>5,746</b>	<b>6,194</b>	<b>6,072</b>
Otter Creek Golf Course	18-Hole Rounds	21,574	21,801	22,026	23,377	22,485
	9-Hole Rounds	7,324	6,225	6,798	6,411	6,670
	Junior Golf Program	227	224	144	246	246
	<b>Subtotal Otter Creek</b>	<b>34,145</b>	<b>33,474</b>	<b>34,760</b>	<b>36,275</b>	<b>35,518</b>
Aquatics	Daily Admissions	140,284	131,990	144,629	71,564	74,259
	Membership Cards Scanned	-	-	-	68,436	73,291
	Swim Lessons	2,277	2,753	2,642	2,948	2,949
	Rental Participants	2,475	2,235	4,075	4,500	4,300
	<b>Subtotal Aquatics</b>	<b>145,036</b>	<b>136,978</b>	<b>151,346</b>	<b>147,448</b>	<b>154,799</b>
Other	New Programs	10	15	14	17	14
	Brochure Ads	20	22	22	22	22
	Seasonal Staff	60	76	95	77	90
	Miracle League Volunteers	-	600	900	1,854	1,860
	Coaching Volunteers	597	624	766	810	888
	<b>Subtotal Other</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>2,780</b>	<b>2,874</b>

### Program Participation

Corresponding to the Lifecycle Analysis, tracking program participation is vital to understand the numeric impact of programs and services. Figure 3.4 shows the participation trends of general programming, Prairie Ridge Sports Complex, Otter Creek Golf Course, Aquatics, and other areas. As indicated by the chart, program areas experiencing growth since 2013 include adult activities, special events, all Prairie Ridge activities (with the exception of Junior Football), 18-hole rounds, and aquatic daily admissions, swim lessons, and rentals. Areas experiencing a decline since 2013 include senior activities, Junior Football, and 9-hole rounds.

Tracking participation numbers allows the Department to understand macro trends which will trigger a response to dive into greater detail (micro trends) by examining specific activity participation levels. This information should be then coordinated with program classifications to help the Department better understand and plan its recreation portfolio and corresponding financial strategies.

# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.5 - Classification of Services Criteria Definitions

	Essential Programs	Important Programs	Value-Added Programs
Public interest; Legal Mandate; Mission Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High public expectation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High public expectation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High individual and interest group expectation</li> </ul>
Financial Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free, or nominal fee tailored to public needs</li> <li>• Requires public funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fees cover some direct costs</li> <li>• Requires a balance of public funding and a cost recovery target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fees cover most direct and indirect costs</li> <li>• Some public funding as appropriate</li> </ul>
Benefits (i.e., health, safety, protection of assets).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substantial public benefit (negative consequence if not provided)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public and individual benefit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primarily individual benefit</li> </ul>
Competition in the Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited or no alternative providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative providers unable to meet demand or need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative providers readily available</li> </ul>
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open access by all</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open access</li> <li>• Limited access to specific users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited access to specific users</li> </ul>

## PROGRAM CLASSIFICATION

Conducting a classification of services for all programs informs how each program serves the overall organization mission, the goals and objectives of each core program area, and how the program should be funded with regard to tax dollars and/or user fees and charges. How a program is classified can help to determine the most appropriate management, funding, and marketing strategies.

Program classifications are based on the degree to which the program provides a public benefit versus a private benefit. Public benefit can be described as everyone receiving the same level of benefit with equal access, whereas private benefit can be described as the user receiving exclusive benefit above what a general taxpayer receives.

The consulting team uses a classification method based on three indicators: Essential, Important, and Value-Added. Where a program or service is classified depends upon alignment with the organizational mission, how the public perceives a program, legal mandates, financial sustainability, personal benefit, competition in the marketplace, and access by participants. Figure 3.5 describes each of the three program classifications.

# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Another way to describe these three classifications is to analyze the degree to which the program provides a community versus an individual benefit. These categories can then be correlated to the Essential, Important, and Value-added classifications.

Figures 3.6 and 3.7 show how the two classification systems correlate, and includes example programs that fall into each category. To increase granularity, the classification system is expanded into five categories for the City of Ankeny to consider moving forward.

With assistance from City of Ankeny staff, a classification of programs and services was conducted for all of the recreation programs offered by the municipality. The programs were classified using a three-tiered system. All sport-related programs were classified as Important or Value-Added. This classification indicates there is more of an individual connotation to each one. Only four of the core program areas indicate having an activity that falls into the Essential category: special interest, aquatics, special events, and public facility access. In all, approximately 70% of all Department programs fall into the Value-Added category with 26% being Important and 4% being core. This is an important distinction to understand because these classifications help the Department align programs with community values while paying attention to cost recovery levels.

**Figure 3.6 - Program Cost Recovery by Classification Definitions**

	CLASSIFICATION	TYPICAL CR	NOTES
I	<b>PURE COMMUNITY</b>	0-25%	Basic services intended to be accessible and of benefit to all; supported wholly or significantly by tax subsidies.
III	<b>MIX</b>	25-75%	Benefit accrued to both individual and general public interests, but to a significant individual advantages.
V	<b>PURE INDIVIDUAL</b>	75-100% +	Exclusive benefit received by individual(s) and not the general public; individual pays at least the full cost of service provision.

**Figure 3.7 - Program Cost Recovery by Classifications**

I	II	III	IV	V
ESSENTIAL		IMPORTANT	VALUE-ADDED	
PURE COMMUNITY	MOSTLY COMMUNITY	MIX	MOSTLY INDIVIDUAL	PURE INDIVIDUAL
Basic services intended to be accessible and of benefit to all; supported wholly or significantly by tax subsidies.	Benefit accrued to both the general public and individual interests, but to a significant community advantage.	Benefit accrued to both individual and general public interests, but to a significant individual advantage.	Nearly all benefit received by individual(s), with benefit provided to the community only in a narrow sense.	Exclusive benefit received by individual(s) and not the general public; individual pays at least the full cost of service provision.
All-City Play Day	Public Swim	Tiny Tot Soccer	Youth Triathlon	3v3 Basketball Tourney
Cost Recovery				
0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
				100%+

Figure 3.8 - Program Classification Distribution (Sports)

PROGRAM CLASSIFICATION				
Core Program Area	Program	Essential	Important	Value-Added
Sports (Adult and Youth)	3-4 Youth Volleyball Clinic			X
	3v3 Basketball Tourney			X
	4-7 Youth Volleyball		X	
	5-7 Youth Volleyball Scramble			X
	Adult 3v3 Basketball			X
	Adult Bags League			X
	Adult Basketball		X	
	Adult Dodgeball			X
	Adult Indoor Volleyball		X	
	Adult Kickball			X
	Adult Miracle League		X	
	Adult Sand Volleyball		X	
	Adult Softball		X	
	Adult Tennis Clinics			X
	Blast Ball		X	
	Girls Softball		X	
	Hoop-Stars Basketball Camp			X
	Hot Shots Soccer Camp			X
	Lacrosse Camp			X
	Mini Tennis			X
	Operation State Champ (Juniors)			X
	Pee Wee Junior Golf			X
	Pickleball Drop-In			X
	Pickleball League		X	
	Pickleball Tournament			X
	Rugby Camp			X
	Soccer - Itty Bitty Soccer		X	
	Soccer - Tiny Tot		X	
	Spikeball			X
	Spikefest Volleyball Camp			X
	Start Smart			X
	Start Smart Lacrosse			X
	Summerfest Adult Tournaments			X
	Table Tennis Tournament			X
	T-Ball		X	
	Teams of Tomorrow			X
	Tiny Tot Basketball		X	
	Tot Flag Football		X	
	Volleyball Basics 4yr.-2nd			X

Figure 3.9 - Program Classification Distribution (Remaining Core Program Areas)

Program Area	Program	Essential	Important	Value-Added	Program Area	Program	Essential	Important	Value-Added
Sports (Adult and Youth)	Volleyball Mad Hatters			X	Health & Fitness	Yoga in the Park			X
	Winter Classic Basketball Camp			X		Live Healthy Track Meet			X
	Youth Basketball 2 - 4 Grade		X		Aquatics	FlowRider Surfing			X
	Youth Basketball 5 - 7 Grade		X			Junior Lifeguarding		X	
	Youth Miracle League		X			Learn to Swim	X		
	Youth Sand Volleyball		X			Learn to Swim Private Lessons			X
	Youth Soccer		X			Lifeguard Instructor			X
	Youth Tennis Clinics		X			Lifeguard Review			X
	Youth Tennis Tournament			X		Lifeguard Training		X	
	Youth Triathlon			X		Pooch Paddle			X
	Youth Triathlon Pre Program			X		Special Needs Swim Lessons	X		
	Youth Volleyball		X			Splash w/ Princess			X
	Adult and Ped FA/CPR/AED	X				Springboard Diving Lessons			X
Special Interest	All-Around Athlete			X		SummerFest Splash Dance			X
	All-Day Athlete Lock-In			X	Special Events	Water Safety Instructor		X	
	Babysitting Basics		X			All-City Play Day	X		
	Baton			X		Fishing Derby		X	
	Cheerleading			X		Howl-O-Ween Pawty			X
	Computer Courses			X		Mayor's Bike Ride			X
	Creepy Capers Halloween Party			X		Mayor's Tree Lighting		X	
	Day Trips			X		Movies Under the Stars		X	
	Early Out - Ski Trip			X	Arts & Culture	Spring Pooch Pawty			X
	Father/Daughter Dance			X		Summer Sounds Concert Series		X	
	Friday Fun Night			X		Boppin Tots			X
	Holiday Crafts & Cocoa			X		Cartooning			X
	Holiday Sign Painting			X		Creative Geniuses Art Camp			X
	Kaleidoscope			X		Let's Make Music			X
	Lego Camp			X		Little Artist			X
	Letter to Santa			X		Little Chefs			X
	Lil' Warriors			X		Made to Move			X
	Mad Science Camp			X	Senior Activities	Tumble Tots			X
	Magic Camp			X		Twinkle Toes - 3 Year Olds			X
	March Madness			X		Twinkle Toes - 4 & 5 Year Olds			X
	Mather/Son Sports Challenge			X		Senior Charter Trips			X
	Parkour			X	Gym Res.	Senior Day Trips			X
	Skateboarding 101			X		Senior Luncheon		X	
	Super Circuit			X		Bocce Ball			X
	Tae Kwon Do			X		Public Facility Access	X		
	Winter Princess Gala			X	Total Program Percentage By Classification		4%	26%	70%
	Youth In Parks			X	Classification Cost Recovery Target		CR Target: 0-25%	CR Target: 25-75%	CR Target: 75-100%

# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

## COST OF SERVICE + COST RECOVERY

The Department has a mandate regarding overall programmatic cost recovery. According to the City's Budget Policy Statement, "The City will attempt to cover at least 45% of the total cost of recreation programming by charging fees for recreation activities and use of City facilities and equipment." It should be noted, however, that the Department does not typically include indirect costs in its cost recovery calculations. Therefore, it is recommended that the Department begins calculating indirect costs to identify its full cost of service.

Additionally, cost recovery targets should be identified and tracked for each core program area, at minimum, and for specific programs or events where possible. The previously identified core program areas would serve as an effective breakdown for tracking cost recovery metrics, which would theoretically group programs with similar cost recovery and subsidy goals. Determining cost recovery performance and using it to inform pricing decisions involves a three-step process:

1. Classify all programs and services based on the public or private benefit they provide (as completed in the previous section)
2. Conduct a cost of service analysis to calculate the full cost of each program
3. Establish a cost recovery percentage, through municipal policy, for each program or program type based on the outcomes of the previous two steps, and adjust program prices accordingly

The following provides more detail on steps 2 & 3.

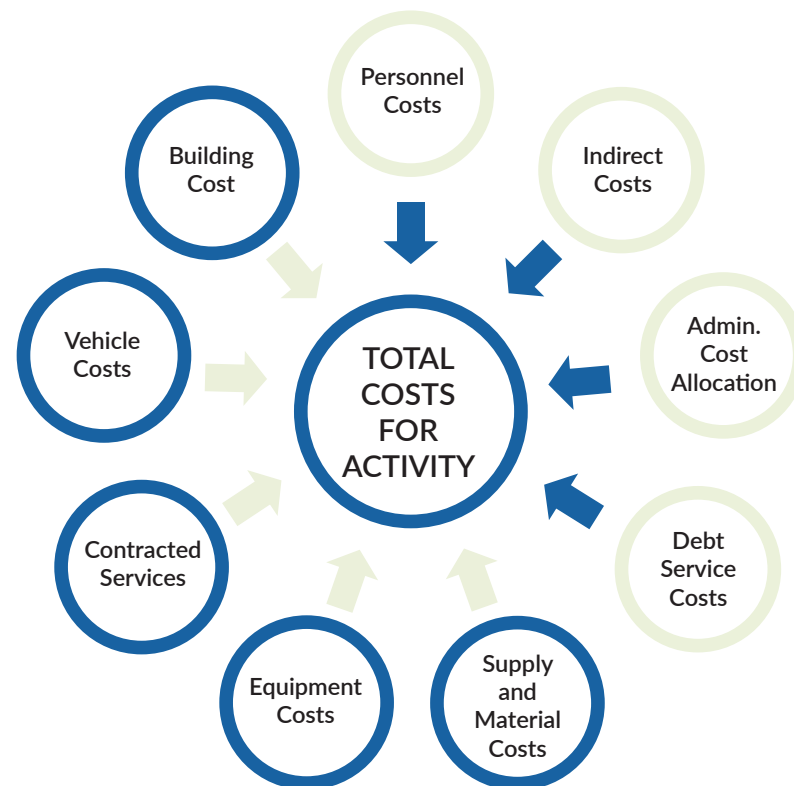
## Understanding the Full Cost of Service

To develop specific cost recovery targets, full cost of accounting needs to be created on each class or program that accurately calculates direct and indirect costs. Cost recovery goals are established once these numbers are in place, and program staff should be trained on this process.

A cost of service analysis should be conducted on each program, or program type, that accurately

calculates direct (i.e., program-specific) and indirect (i.e., comprehensive, including administrative overhead) costs. Completing a cost of service analysis not only helps determine the true and full cost of offering a program, but provides information that can be used to price programs based upon accurate delivery costs. Figure 3.10 below illustrates the common types of costs that must be accounted for in a cost of service analysis.

Figure 3.10 - Program Cost Recovery Model





# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

The methodology for determining the total cost of service involves calculating the total cost for the activity, program, or service, then calculating the total revenue earned for that activity. Costs (and revenue) can also be derived on a per unit basis. Program or activity units may include:

- Number of participants
- Number of tasks performed
- Number of consumable units
- Number of service calls
- Number of events
- Required time for offering program/service

Agencies use cost of service analyses to determine what financial resources are required to provide specific programs at specific levels of service. Results are used to determine and track cost recovery as well as to benchmark different programs provided by the municipality between one another. Cost recovery goals are established once cost of service totals have been calculated.

## CURRENT COST RECOVERY

With regard to City of Ankeny programs, services, and events, the method and mechanism used to document cost recovery is direct costs. Figure 3.11 shows current cost recovery goals for the Department's core program areas. Figure 3.11 also presents recommended cost recovery goals, based on best-practice, that are in line with parks and recreation systems of a similar size. Additionally, the recommended cost

recovery goal ranges are including indirect cost calculations. So, in reality, the Department's cost recovery goals may be well-aligned with best practice ranges once indirect costs are determined. Setting, tracking, and reaching cost recovery goals for every core program area will also help the municipality justify program expense and make a case for additional offerings in the future.

*Figure 3.11 - Program Cost Recovery Goal*

CORE PROGRAM AREA	CURRENT COST RECOVERY GOAL	RECOMMENDED COST RECOVERY %
Sports (Adult & Youth)	100%	50-100%
Special Interest	100%	75-100%
Aquatics	100%	50-100%
Health and Fitness	30%	100%
Arts and Culture	100%	50-75%
Special Events	30-100%	25-100%
Senior Activities (Active Adults)	30%	75-100%
Public Gym Reservation Program	50%	25-50%

# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

## PRICING

The pricing of programs should be established based on the cost of service analysis, overlaid onto programs areas or specific events, and strategically adjusted according to market factors and/or policy goals.

Overall, the degree to which pricing strategies are used currently is consistent. Current pricing tactics include age, resident/nonresident rates, competitor benchmarks or market rates, cost recovery goals, and ability to pay.

The few pricing strategies not currently in use are weekday/weekend rates, prime/non-prime time rates, and different pricing for different locations. These strategies are useful to help stabilize usage patterns and help with cost recovery for higher quality amenities and services.

Additionally, some of pricing strategies used for one core program area may be useful in another area as well. For example, family/household pricing may be useful for Special Events or Aquatics. Other example pricing strategies from peer agencies include military, emergency responder personnel and police, or teacher discounts. Finally, the consulting team recommends that all core program areas use cost recovery goals as a factor in determining pricing.

Staff should continue to monitor the effectiveness of the various pricing strategies they employ and make adjustments as necessary within the policy frameworks that guide the overall pricing philosophies. It is also important to continue monitoring for yearly competitor and other service providers benchmarking.

Figure 3.12 - Program Pricing Tactics Used

PRICING TACTIC	Sports (Adults and Youth)	Special Interest	Aquatics	Health and Fitness	Arts and Culture	Special Events	Senior Activities	Public Gym Reservation Program
Age Segment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Family/Household Status			✓					
Residency	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Weekday/Weekend								
Prime/Non-Prime Time								
Group Discounts								
By Location								✓
By Competition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
By Cost Recovery Goals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
By Customer's Ability to Pay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

## PROGRAM STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

In general, the City of Ankeny's program staff should begin a cycle of evaluating programs on both individual merit as well as the program mix as a whole. This can be completed at one time on an annual basis, or in batches at key seasonal points of the year, as long as each program is checked once per year. The following tools and strategies can help facilitate this evaluation process:

### 1.5.1 Mini Business Plans

The planning team recommends that Mini Business Plans (2-3 pages) for each core program area be updated on a yearly basis. These plans should evaluate the core program area based on meeting the outcomes desired for participants, cost recovery, percentage of the market and business controls, cost of service, pricing strategy for the next year, and marketing strategies that are to be implemented. If developed regularly and consistently, they can be effective tools for budget construction and justification processes in addition to marketing and communication tools.

### 1.5.2 Program Evaluation Cycle

Using the age segment and lifecycle analyses, and other established criteria, program staff should evaluate programs on an annual basis to determine program mix. This can be incorporated into the Mini Business Plan process.

### 1.5.3 Program Decision-making Matrix

When developing program plans and strategies, it is useful to consider all of the core program areas and individual program analyses. Lifecycle, age segmentation, classification, and cost recovery goals should all be tracked, and this information along with the latest demographic trends and community input should be factors that lead to program decision-making. A simple, easy-to-use tool similar to the table below will help compare programs and prioritize resources using multiple data points, rather than relying solely on cost recovery. In addition, this analysis will help staff make an informed, objective case to the public when a program in decline, but beloved by a few, is retired.

## PROGRAM STANDARDS + PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The relationship between meeting the needs of the community, achieving the organization mission, and executing service delivery is of critical importance. With an understanding of this important dynamic, the following section provides an analysis of the service system

and includes building on the foundation that already exists within the municipality's recreation programs and events. Based on the consulting team's observations, and staff input, the municipality's program offerings are solid for a system of its size, but enhancements to performance management practices would yield overall improvements to the services provided to the community. This section is intended to provide resources and insight to move the municipality to a higher level of sophistication in quality management.

The practice of using program standards is essential for agencies desiring to perform at high levels and that aspire to be community and industry leaders. One of the most significant issues in managing a recreation program system includes the challenges faced with the complexity associated with thousands of service transactions, in-person and online, from multiple staff members, within the organization and with outside partners, and dealing with a diverse audience at a variety of locations within the system.

*Figure 3.13 - Program Decision-Making Matrix*

Program	Core Program Area	Age Segment	Lifecycle	Classification	Cost Recovery	Other Factors

# RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Currently, the City of Ankeny measures participation numbers, participant to staff ratios, program cancellation rates, customer satisfaction levels, and customer retention rates. This indicates the Department's strong commitment to developing and tracking performance measures.

Surveys can be very useful indicators of success if used in the right way – keeping the number of questions to a minimum and avoiding survey fatigue. The City of Ankeny currently conducts post-program surveys, user/non-user surveys, statistically-valid surveys, and in-park surveys. Additional ways to collect customer feedback include a pre-program survey (used with a post-program survey to measure change), recurring user surveys, lost customer surveys, and focus groups. Digital technology also provides for using crowdsourcing intelligence tools such as Peak Democracy, Chaordix, and Mind Mixer to collect customer feedback.

## Quality Management Methods

In addition to measuring satisfaction, it is useful to have procedures in place to ensure that core program standards are being met across the spectrum of program offerings. This is particularly important when managing part-time, contractor, seasonal, and, where applicable, partnership staff. While all staff should be trained to perform to a core set of standards, it is useful to have extra training and checks in

place for staff who are not as regularly exposed to the standards as full-time staff are. For staff who are delivering programs that require an extra layer of health and safety knowledge or training, such as vehicle drivers, training and quality checks should be extra rigorous.

Currently, the City of Ankeny has systems in place to:

- Regularly and consistently updating policies and procedures
- Check on the quality of instructors
- Develop lesson plans (or, for some programs, curriculum plans)
- Evaluate programs
- Encourage and support continuing education
- Complete performance reviews for all full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff

The City of Ankeny has the following systems, but needs to do a better job of:

- Training on calculating total cost of facility operations and cost of service

The City of Ankeny needs or should consider implementing the following performance/quality standards:

- Train staff on basic and enhanced life safety
- Train staff on customer service skills
- Train staff on marketing
- Train staff on diversity

## PROGRAM STANDARDS RECOMMENDATIONS

The planning team recommends the following regarding program standards:

### Implement Additional Customer Feedback Methods

Identify performance metrics and goals. Use additional survey methods to track performance against goals; incorporate this information into the Mini Business Plan process.

### Provide Greater Consistency and Breadth of Quality Management

Train staff on how to calculate a full cost of service. Additionally seek enhanced staff training in the areas of basic and enhanced life safety, customer service, marketing, and diversity. The Department should also regularly assess different staff competencies or knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) areas to determine if other training is warranted.

# LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

## LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

### Overview

Level of Service (LOS) standards are guidelines that define service areas based on population and support investment decisions related to parks, facilities, and amenities. LOS standards can and will change over time as industry trends change and demographics of a community shift. The consulting team evaluated park facility standards using a combination of resources. These resources included market trends, demographic data, recreation activity participation rates, community and stakeholder input, NRPA Park Metrics data, the statistically-valid community survey, and general observations. This information allowed standards to be customized to the City of Ankeny.

### Per Capita “Gaps”

According to the LOS, there are multiple needs to be met in Ankeny through 2040 to properly serve the community. The existing level of service meets and exceeds best practices and recommended service levels for many items; however, there are a few areas that do not meet recommended standards. It is also important to take into consideration existing amenity condition and lifecycle stage and projected population growth. The City of Ankeny is projected to experience an incredible population increase as identified in the most recent Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, there is already an increased pressure on the existing level of service standards because the sheer

population growth rate will make the existing inventory insufficient quickly.

For outdoor amenities, the City of Ankeny shows a shortage of volleyball courts, softball fields, snow sledding hills, dog parks, skate parks, and splash pads (or interactive water play features). Additionally, with current population projections, there will be a LOS need in 2023 for all outdoor amenities (with the exception of outdoor pools) if the inventory remains the same. In terms of indoor space, the City of Ankeny has a shortage of both indoor pools and indoor recreation square footage and that figure will increase over time. It should be noted that there is currently a heavy reliance on other organizations to provide indoor recreation space within Ankeny and any reduced partnership will greatly affect Ankeny's level of service.

Overall parkland will be critical for the City of Ankeny as it continues to become denser. As identified in the Comprehensive Plan, two parkland classifications, Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks, should be focus areas for the City. Neighborhood Parks will be critical to develop as new neighborhoods are created and Community Parks will need to be created to support more diverse recreation experiences that Neighborhood Parks are not designed for.

Additionally, there are other park and recreation providers in and around the greater Ankeny area. The LOS charts indicate the other providers

that contribute to the greater Ankeny parks system. It is important for the City of Ankeny to understand its current contributions to the existing system as it can use the percentage it adds to overall park acreage, amenities, indoor square footage, etc. to help make future parks system enhancements/improvements.

The City of Ankeny standards are based upon population figures for 2018, 2023, 2030, 2035, and 2040. The population projections include the average population as identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

Figure 3.14 - Ankeny Level of Service Standards

2018 Inventory - Developed Facilities											
Item	Ankeny	Polk County Parks	Schools	Trail Point + YMCA	Total Inventory	Current Level of Service Based Upon Population			Recommended Service Levels; Revised for Local Service Area		
PARKLAND											
Mini Parks	22.10	-	-	-	22.10	.35	acres per	1,000	.35	acres per	1,000
Neighborhood Parks	165.23	-	-	-	165.23	2.62	acres per	1,000	4.00	acres per	1,000
Community Parks	126.20	40.00	-	-	166.20	2.64	acres per	1,000	2.75	acres per	1,000
Greenways	239.70	-	-	-	239.70	3.80	acres per	1,000	3.80	acres per	1,000
Special Use	199.73	-	-	-	199.73	3.17	acres per	1,000	3.17	acres per	1,000
Public Golf Course	196.70	-	-	-	196.70	3.12	acres per	1,000	3.12	acres per	1,000
Undeveloped	-	-	-	-	-	-	acres per	1,000	0.00	acres per	1,000
Total Park Acres	949.66	40.00	-	-	989.66	15.71	acres per	1,000	17.19	acres per	1,000
TRAILS											
Paved Trails (Mi.)	31.50	14.85	-	-	46.35	0.74	miles per	1,000	0.74	miles per	1,000
Unpaved Trails (Mi.)	1.48	1.00	-	-	2.48	0.04	miles per	1,000	0.10	miles per	1,000
Community / Regional Trails (Mi.)	68.60		-	-	68.60	1.09	miles per	1,000	1.09	miles per	1,000
Total Trail Miles	101.58	15.85	-	-	117.43	1.86	miles per	1,000	1.93	miles per	1,000
OUTDOOR FACILITIES											
Picnic Shelters	39.00	-	-	-	39.00	1.00	site per	1,615	1.00	site per	1,800
Playground	31.00	-	3.00	-	34.00	1.00	site per	1,853	1.00	site per	2,000
Rectangular Fields	15.00	-	3.75	-	18.75	1.00	field per	3,360	1.00	field per	3,800
Basketball Courts	13.00	-	2.50	-	15.50	1.00	court per	4,065	1.00	court per	4,400
Volleyball Courts	4.00	-	-	-	4.00	1.00	court per	15,750	1.00	court per	15,000
Backstops	4.00	-	0.75	-	4.75	1.00	field per	13,263	1.00	field per	15,000
Tennis Courts	16.00	-	1.00	-	17.00	1.00	court per	3,706	1.00	court per	4,000
Softball Fields	9.00	-	0.75	-	9.75	1.00	field per	6,462	1.00	field per	6,000
Baseball Fields	17.00	-	1.25	-	18.25	1.00	field per	3,452	1.00	field per	3,500
Snow Sledding Hills	2.00	-	-	-	2.00	1.00	site per	31,500	1.00	site per	30,000
Dog Parks	1.00	-	-	-	1.00	1.00	site per	63,000	1.00	site per	50,000
Skate Park	1.00	-	-	-	1.00	1.00	site per	63,000	1.00	site per	50,000
Splash Pads	4.00	-	-	-	4.00	1.00	site per	15,750	1.00	site per	15,000
Outdoor Pools	2.00	-	-	-	2.00	1.00	site per	31,500	1.00	site per	40,000
INDOOR FACILITIES											
Indoor Pools	-	-	-	1.50	1.50	1.00	site per	42,000	1.00	site per	42,000
Indoor Recreation (Sq. Ft.)	-	-	36,000.00	12,500.00	48,500.00	0.77	SF per	person	2.00	SF per	person
2018 Estimated Population	63,000										
2025 Estimated Population	79,395										
2030 Estimated Population	93,903										
2035 Estimated Population	110,333										
2040 Estimated Population	129,507										
			<b>Notes:</b> School and Trail Point Facilities reduced to 25% to reflect public access; Trail Point and YMCA Pools reduced to 50% LOS does not include the following Ankeny Family YMCA Facilities: 1 gymnasium and approximately 30,000 sq. ft. of indoor recreation space. Indoor recreation square footage for school gymnasiums represent an approximation of 15,000 sq. ft. for high schools, 8,000 for middle schools; there are a couple of exceptions to this rule.								

2018 Facility Standards			2023 Facility Standards			2030 Facility Standards			2035 Facility Standards			2040 Facility Standards		
Meet Standard / Needs Exist	Additional Facilities / Amenities Needed		Meet Standard / Needs Exist	Additional Facilities / Amenities Needed		Meet Standard / Needs Exist	Additional Facilities / Amenities Needed		Meet Standard / Needs Exist	Additional Facilities / Amenities Needed		Meet Standard / Needs Exist	Additional Facilities / Amenities Needed	
PARKLAND														
Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Need Exists	6.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	11.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	17.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	23.00	Acre(s)
Need Exists	87.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	152.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	210.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	277.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	353.00	Acre(s)
Need Exists	7.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	52.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	92.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	138.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	190.00	Acre(s)
Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Need Exists	62.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	117.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	180.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	252.00	Acre(s)
Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Need Exists	52.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	98.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	150.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	211.00	Acre(s)
Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Need Exists	51.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	96.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	148.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	207.00	Acre(s)
Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Need Exists	93.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	375.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	625.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	909.00	Acre(s)	Need Exists	1,237.00	Acre(s)
TRAILS														
Need Exists	0.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	12.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	23.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	35.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	49.00	Mile(s)
Need Exists	4.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	5.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	7.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	9.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	10.00	Mile(s)
Need Exists	0.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	18.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	34.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	52.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	73.00	Mile(s)
Need Exists	4.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	36.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	64.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	96.00	Mile(s)	Need Exists	133.00	Mile(s)
OUTDOOR FACILITIES														
Meets Standard	-	Site(s)	Need Exists	5.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	13.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	22.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	33.00	Site(s)
Meets Standard	-	Site(s)	Need Exists	6.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	13.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	21.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	31.00	Site(s)
Meets Standard	-	Field(s)	Need Exists	2.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	6.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	10.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	15.00	Field(s)
Meets Standard	-	Court(s)	Need Exists	3.00	Court(s)	Need Exists	6.00	Court(s)	Need Exists	10.00	Court(s)	Need Exists	14.00	Court(s)
Need Exists	0.20	Court(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Court(s)	Need Exists	2.00	Court(s)	Need Exists	3.00	Court(s)	Need Exists	5.00	Court(s)
Meets Standard	-	Field(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	2.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	3.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	4.00	Field(s)
Meets Standard	-	Court(s)	Need Exists	3.00	Court(s)	Need Exists	6.00	Court(s)	Need Exists	11.00	Court(s)	Need Exists	15.00	Court(s)
Need Exists	1.0	Field(s)	Need Exists	3.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	6.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	9.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	12.00	Field(s)
Meets Standard	-	Field(s)	Need Exists	4.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	9.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	13.00	Field(s)	Need Exists	19.00	Field(s)
Need Exists	0.10	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	2.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	2.00	Site(s)
Need Exists	0.26	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	2.00	Site(s)
Need Exists	0.26	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	2.00	Site(s)
Need Exists	0.20	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	2.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	3.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	5.00	Site(s)
Meets Standard	-	Site(s)	Meets Standard	-	Site(s)	Need Exists	0.35	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)
INDOOR FACILITIES														
Need Exists	0.30	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.0	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	1.00	Site(s)	Need Exists	2.00	Site(s)
Need Exists	77,500	Sq. Ft.	Need Exists	110,290	Sq. Ft.	Need Exists	139,306	Sq. Ft.	Need Exists	172,388	Sq. Ft.	Need Exists	210,514	Sq. Ft.



Figure 3.15 - Ankeny Park, Greenway, + Trail Inventory

2018 Inventory																						
Park Name	Address	Classification	Acres	Picnic Shelters	Playground	Paved Trails (Mi)	Unpaved Trails (Mi)	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Backstops	Tennis Courts	Shuffleboard Courts	Softball Fields	Baseball Fields	Snow Sledding Hills	Dog Parks	Skate Park	Splash Pads	Outdoor Pools	Indoor Pools	Indoor Recreation (Sq. Ft.)
Dean Park	SW 18th St & SW College Ave	Mini	1.30	1	1	0.25	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Estates Park	SW Cascade Falls Dr & SW Prairie Trail Pkwy	Mini	1.20	-	1	0.11	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glenbrooke Park	2803 SW Glenbrooke Drive	Mini	4.20	1	1	0.22	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haubert Park	914 SW 3rd Street	Mini	0.90	1	1	0.09	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Michael Park	609 NE Wanda Drive	Mini	2.10	1	1	0.10	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Precedence Park	SW Vintage Pkwy & SW Prairie Trail Pkwy	Mini	2.60	1	-	0.24	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Renaissance Park	NE 36th St & NE Delaware Ave	Mini	4.40	-	-	0.30	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Village Park	1239 NW 4th Street	Mini	2.40	1	1	0.35	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White Birch Park	SW 35th St & SW White Birch Cir	Mini	3.00	-	1	0.12	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL MINI PARKS			22.10	6	7	1.80	0.00	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ashland Meadows Park	2232 NW Park Meadows Drive	Neighborhood	12.20	-	-	1.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boulder Brook Park	NW Boulder Point Place	Neighborhood	1.17	1	1	0.12	0.00	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Briarwood Park	NE Oak St & NE 28th St	Neighborhood	10.00	1	1	0.60	0.00	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Centennial Pointe Park	NW Beechwood St & NW Reinhart Dr	Neighborhood	5.40	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deer Creek Park	NE Chambers Pkwy & NE 16th St	Neighborhood	6.40	1	1	0.00	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgetown Park	NW Georgetown Blvd & NW Ash St	Neighborhood	11.20	1	1	0.86	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greentree Park	1914 NW Hickory Lane	Neighborhood	5.20	1	1	0.24	0.00	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hillside Park	SE Four Mile Dr & SE 20th St	Neighborhood	7.60	1	1	0.61	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horizon Park	NW State St & NW Prairie Ridge Dr	Neighborhood	8.20	1	1	0.77	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Otter Creek Park	NE 36th St & NE Delaware Ave	Neighborhood	7.70	1	1	0.48	0.00	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Promenade Park	1500 SW Prairie Trail Parkway	Neighborhood	15.30	-	-	0.65	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somersby Park	816 SW Springfield Drive	Neighborhood	9.88	2	2	0.68	0.00	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Springwood Park	SW Peachtree Dr & SW 30th St	Neighborhood	10.10	-	-	0.56	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Summerbrook Park	SE 8th St & SE Delaware Ave	Neighborhood	7.20	2	2	0.74	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Sunrise Park	506 SE Peterson Drive	Neighborhood	10.30	1	1	0.72	0.00	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sunset Park	1320 SW 3rd Street	Neighborhood	4.80	1	1	0.25	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trestle Point Park	NW Boulder Ridge Ln & NW 22nd Cir	Neighborhood	6.20	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watercrest Park	NW 5th St & NW Jackson Dr	Neighborhood	14.90	1	1	0.48	0.00	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westside Park	599 SW State Street	Neighborhood	8.18	1	1	0.40	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westwinds Park	SW Irvinedale Dr & SW Woodland Dr	Neighborhood	3.30	1	1	0.30	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS			165.23	17	16	9.50	0.00	5	9	0	4	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Chautauqua Park	HOA; SW State Street	Community	47.40	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crestbruck Park	NE 9th St & NE Crestmoor Pl	Community	17.00	3	2	0.74	0.00	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hawkeye Park	400 NW Lakeshore Drive	Community	21.20	1	2	0.88	0.00	-	-	4	-	6	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northcreek Park	NW 13th St & NW Irvinedale Dr	Community	17.50	1	1	1.06	0.00	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sawgrass Park	SW Sawgrass Parkway	Community	23.10	1	1	0.72	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL COMMUNITY PARKS			126.20	6	6	3.40	0.00	2	1	4	0	6	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

Figure 3.15 - Ankeny Park, Greenway, + Trail Inventory

2018 Inventory																						
Park Name	Address	Classification	Acres	Picnic Shelters	Playground	Paved Trails (Mi)	Unpaved Trails (Mi)	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Backstops	Tennis Courts	Shuffleboard Courts	Softball Fields	Baseball Fields	Snow Sledding Hills	Dog Parks	Skate Park	Splash Pads	Outdoor Pools	Indoor Pools	Indoor Recreation (Sq. Ft.)
Camden West Greenway	SW Camden Dr & SW Weigel Dr	Greenway	2.60	-	-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherry Glen Greenway	NW Cherry Glen Drive	Greenway	16.90	-	-	1.28	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clover Ridge Greenway	SE Clover Ridge Drive	Greenway	11.40	-	-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deer Creek Greenway	NE 102nd St & Deer Creek Dr	Greenway	1.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diamond Hills Greenway	SW Applewood St & SW 35th St	Greenway	8.40	-	-	0.32	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northgate East Greenway	NE 54th St & NE Delaware Ave	Greenway	6.30	-	-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prairie Lakes Greenway	NW Prairie Lakes Dr & NW State St	Greenway	13.20	-	-	0.45	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Creek Greenbelt	3333 NW Boulder Point Place	Greenway	27.50	-	-	0.11	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saylor Creek Greenway	SW State St & SW Oralabor Rd	Greenway	10.20	-	-	0.43	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Signature Greenway	NW 18th St & NW State St	Greenway	3.80	-	-	0.19	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twin Gates Greenway	SW State St & SW Tradition Dr	Greenway	21.20	-	-	0.48	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vintage Greenway	SW Vintage Pkwy & SW State St	Greenway	16.70	-	-	0.13	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wildflower Park	SW 48th St & SW 50th St	Greenway	3.20	-	-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woodland Reserve Greenway	610 NE 36th Street	Greenway	97.30	-	-	0.82	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL GREENWAYS</b>			<b>239.70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Ankeny Dog Park	1155 SW Ankeny Road	Special Use	12.40	1	-	0.08	0.48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ankeny Market + Pavilion	715 W 1st Street	Special Use	4.60	2	-	0.40	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ankeny Arts Center Park	1520 SW Ordinance Road	Special Use	1.33	1	-	0.08	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cascade Falls Aquatic Ctr	2350 SW Prairie Trail Parkway	Special Use	8.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Heritage Park	300 NE Frisk Drive	Special Use	36.10	1	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miracle Park	300 NW School Street	Special Use	2.00	1	1	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Otter Creek Golf Course	4100 NE Otter Creek Drive	Special Use	196.70	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outdoor Education Center	610 NE 36th Street	Special Use	-	1	-	0.00	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prairie Ridge Aquatic Ctr	1220 NW Prairie Ridge Drive	Special Use	-	1	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Prairie Ridge Skate Park	1400 NW Prairie Ridge Drive	Special Use	-	1	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Prairie Ridge Sports Cplx	1510 NW Ash Drive	Special Use	132.90	1	1	5.60	0.00	8	-	-	-	8	-	6	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wagner Park	410 W 1st Drive	Special Use	2.40	-	-	0.31	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL USE PARKS</b>			<b>160.65</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

# LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Figure 3.16 - Polk County Park, Greenway, + Trail Inventory

2018 Inventory																						
Park Name	Address	Classification	Acres	Picnic Shelters	Playground	Paved Trails (Mi)	Unpaved Trails (Mi)	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Backstops	Tennis Courts	Shuffleboard Courts	Softball Fields	Baseball Fields	Snow Sledding Hills	Dog Parks	Skate Park	Splash Pads	Outdoor Pools	Indoor Pools	Indoor Recreation (Sq. Ft.)
Carney Marsh Nature Preserve	698 SE 54th Street	Community	40.00	-	-	1.00	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
High Trestle Trail	804 W 1st Street	Trail	0.00	-	-	9.60	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oralabor Gateway Trail	2803 SW Glenbrooke Boulevard	Trail	0.00	-	-	4.25	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL POLK COUNTY INVENTORY			40.00	0	0	14.90	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashland Ridge Elementary	2600 NW Ash Drive	School	0.00	-	1	0.00	0.00	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Crocker Elementary	2910 SW Applewood Street	School	0.00	-	1	0.00	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
East Elementary	710 SE 3rd Street	School	0.00	-	2	0.00	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Northeast Elementary	1705 NE Trilein Drive	School	0.00	-	2	0.00	0.00	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Prairie Trail Elementary	1850 SW College Avenue	School	0.00	-	2	0.00	0.00	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Rock Creek Elementary	3800 NW Abilene Road	School	0.00	-	1	0.00	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Southeast Elementary	1005 SE Trilein Drive	School	0.00	-	1	0.00	0.00	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Terrace Elementary	310 NW School Street	School	0.00	-	1	0.00	0.00	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Westwood Elementary	2920 NW 9th Street	School	0.00	-	1	0.00	0.00	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Southview Middle	1020 SW Cherry Street	School	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,000
Northview Middle	1302 N Ankeny Boulevard	School	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000
Parkview Middle	105 NW Pleasant Street	School	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,000
Prairie Ridge Middle	1010 NW Prairie Ridge Drive	School	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,000
Ankeny High	1155 SW Cherry Street	School	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000
Ankeny Centennial High	2220 State Street	School	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000
TOTAL SCHOOLS			0.00	0	12	0.00	0.00	15	10	0	3	4	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	144,000
Trail Point Aquatics & Wellness	2006 S Ankeny Boulevard	Community	40.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	50,000
Ankeny Family YMCA	1102 N Ankeny Boulevard	Trail	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.00
TOTAL OTHER INVENTORY			0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	50,000

# SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS / EQUITY MAPPING

## SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS / EQUITY MAPPING

Service area maps and standards assist management staff and key leadership in assessing where services are offered, how equitable the service distribution is across the community, and how effective the service is as it compares to the demographic densities. In addition, looking at guidelines with reference to population enables the municipality to assess gaps in services, where facilities are needed, or where an area is over saturated. This allows the municipality to make appropriate capital improvement decisions based upon need for the system as a whole and the ramifications that may have on a specific area.

The maps contain several circles. The circles represent the recommended per capita LOS standards. The circles' size varies dependent upon the quantity of a given amenity (or acre type) located at one site and the surrounding population density. The bigger the circle, the more people a given amenity or park acre serves and vice versa. Additionally, some circles are shaded a different color which represents the "owner" of that particular amenity or acre type. The areas of overlapping circles represents adequate service, or duplicated service, and the areas with no shading represents the areas not served by a given amenity or park acre type. It should be noted that similar providers included Polk County Parks, the school system, TrailPoint, and the YMCA.

In all, equity maps were developed for the following major categories:

### Park Acres

- Mini parks
- Neighborhood parks
- Community parks
- Greenways
- Public golf courses
- Special use parks
- Paved trails
- Unpaved trails

### Facilities / Amenities

- Picnic shelters
- Playgrounds
- Rectangular fields
- Basketball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Backstops
- Tennis courts
- Softball fields
- Baseball fields
- Snow sledding hills
- Dog parks
- Skate parks
- Splash pads
- Outdoor pools
- Indoor pools
- Indoor recreation space/gymnasiums

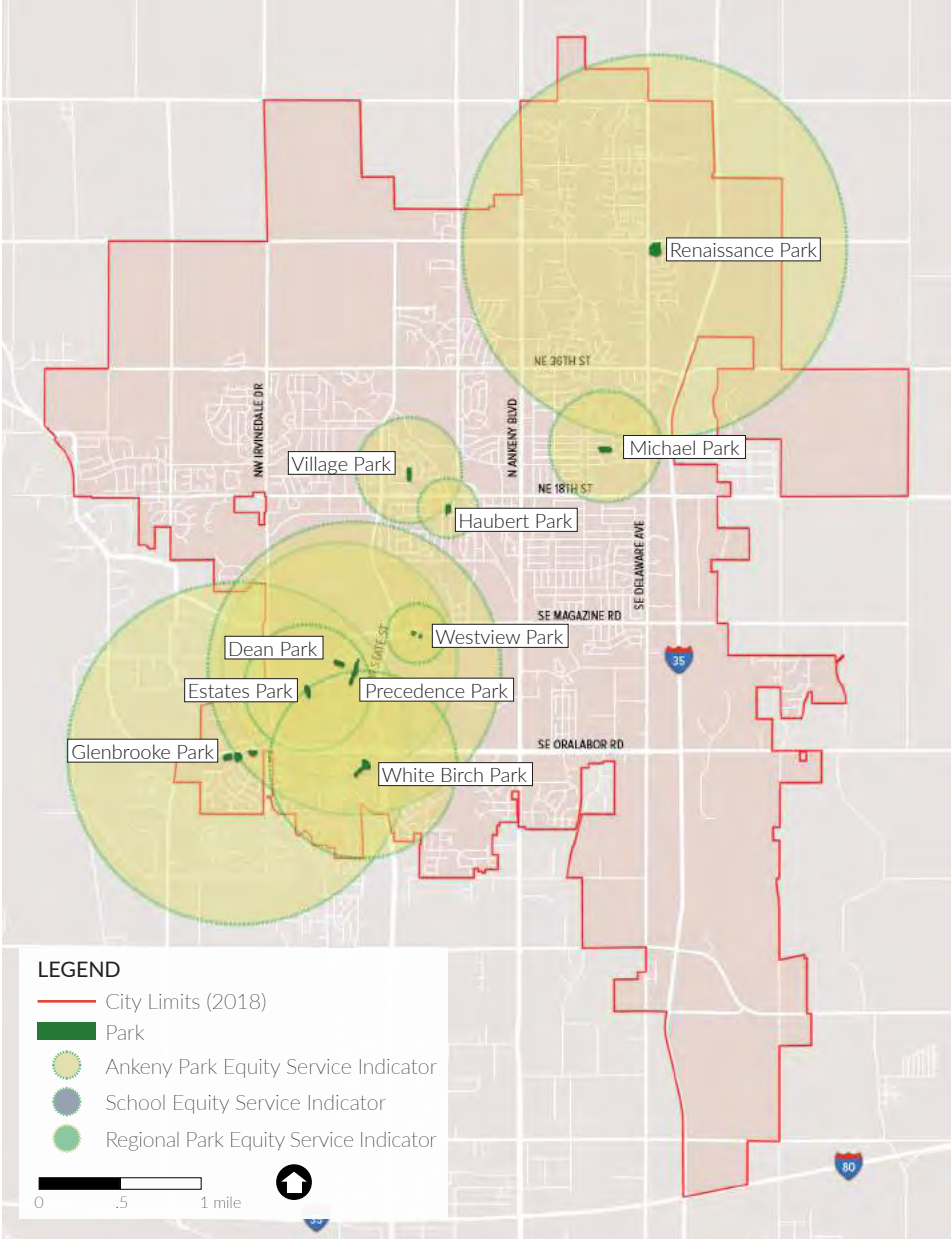
## EQUITY MAPPING "GAPS" + CONCLUSIONS

The City of Ankeny parks system is not equally distributed within the city limits. Many amenities are centrally located with noticeable amenity gaps to the southeast and northern parts of the city. In many instances, the school system provides service to an area not currently being served by the City. This concept is critical due to the criticality of maintaining partnerships to ensure access is provided to the community. When examining sport fields, the maps indicate a need to provide the services outside of the central areas of the community. As the population increases, it will be important to distribute sports fields around the community to relieve pressure on Hawkeye Park and Prairie Ridge Sports Complex.

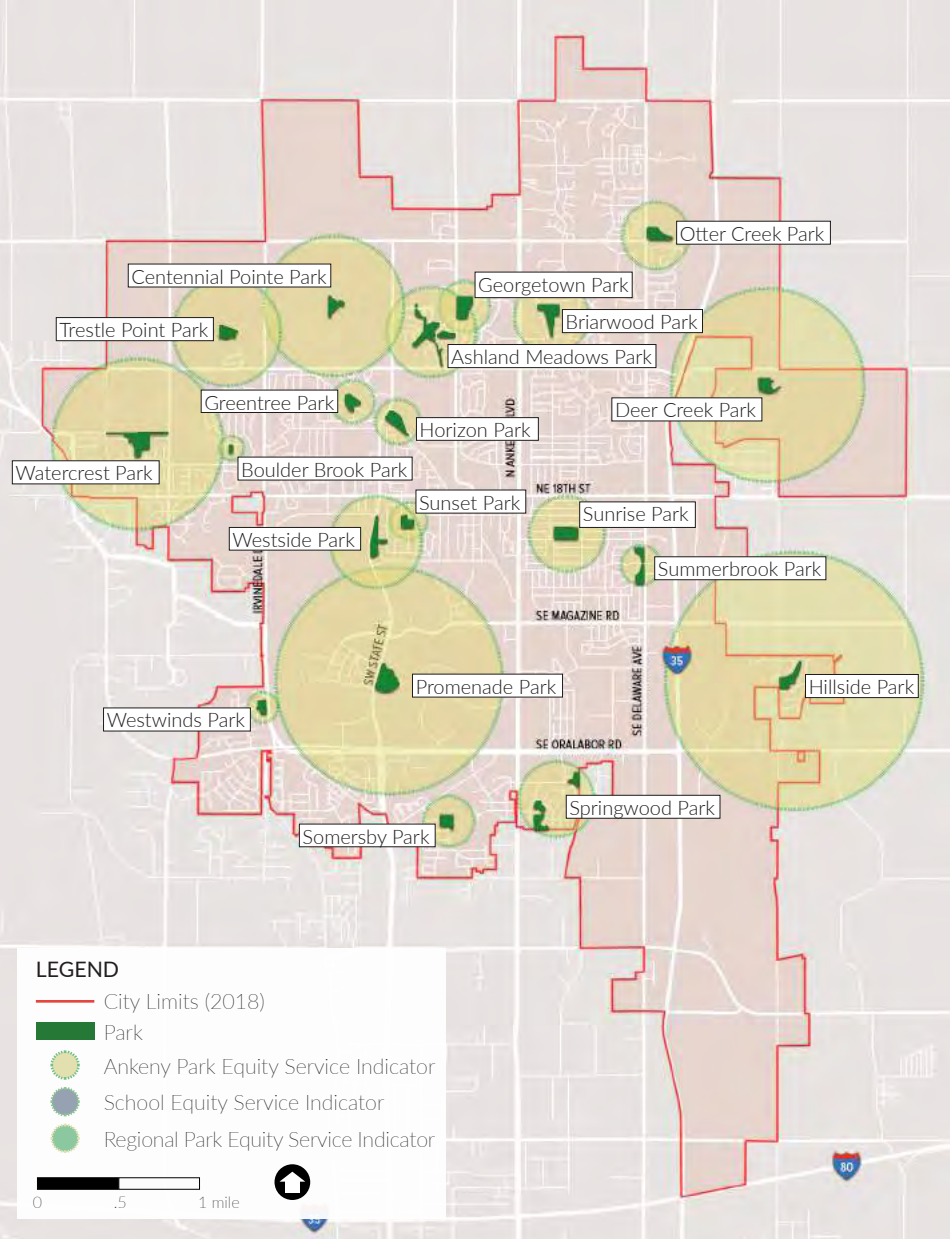
In terms of park land, neighborhood parks are distributed well but there is a gap to the north. Community parks exhibit the largest gap areas with Polk County Parks serving the southeast. And as exhibited by the paved trails map, there are many trails within the system; however, connectivity throughout the system that connects parks should be a focus area. Additionally, there are not a lot of unpaved trails throughout the system and the community has indicated a desire to see more.

# EQUITY MAPPING

## MINI PARKS

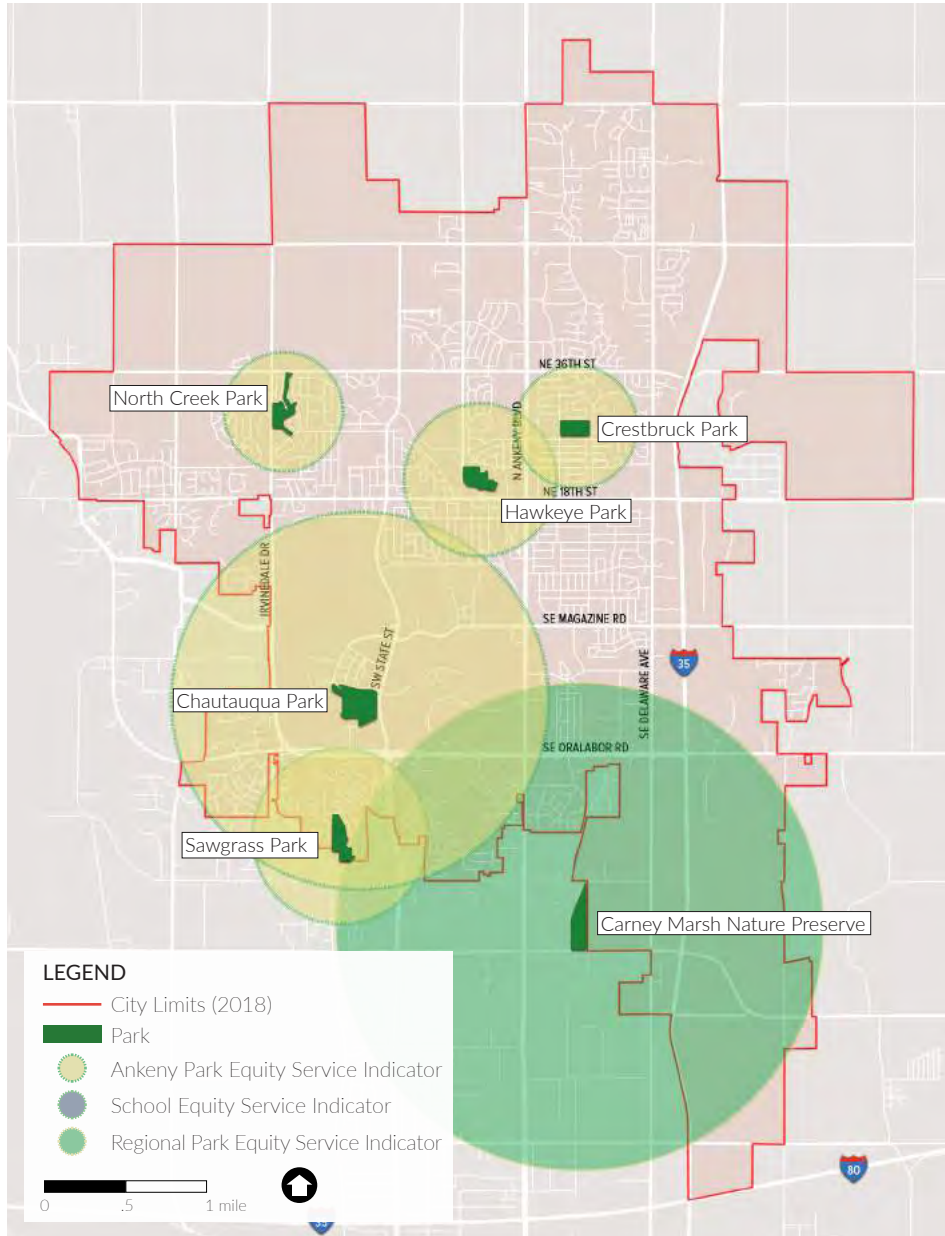


## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

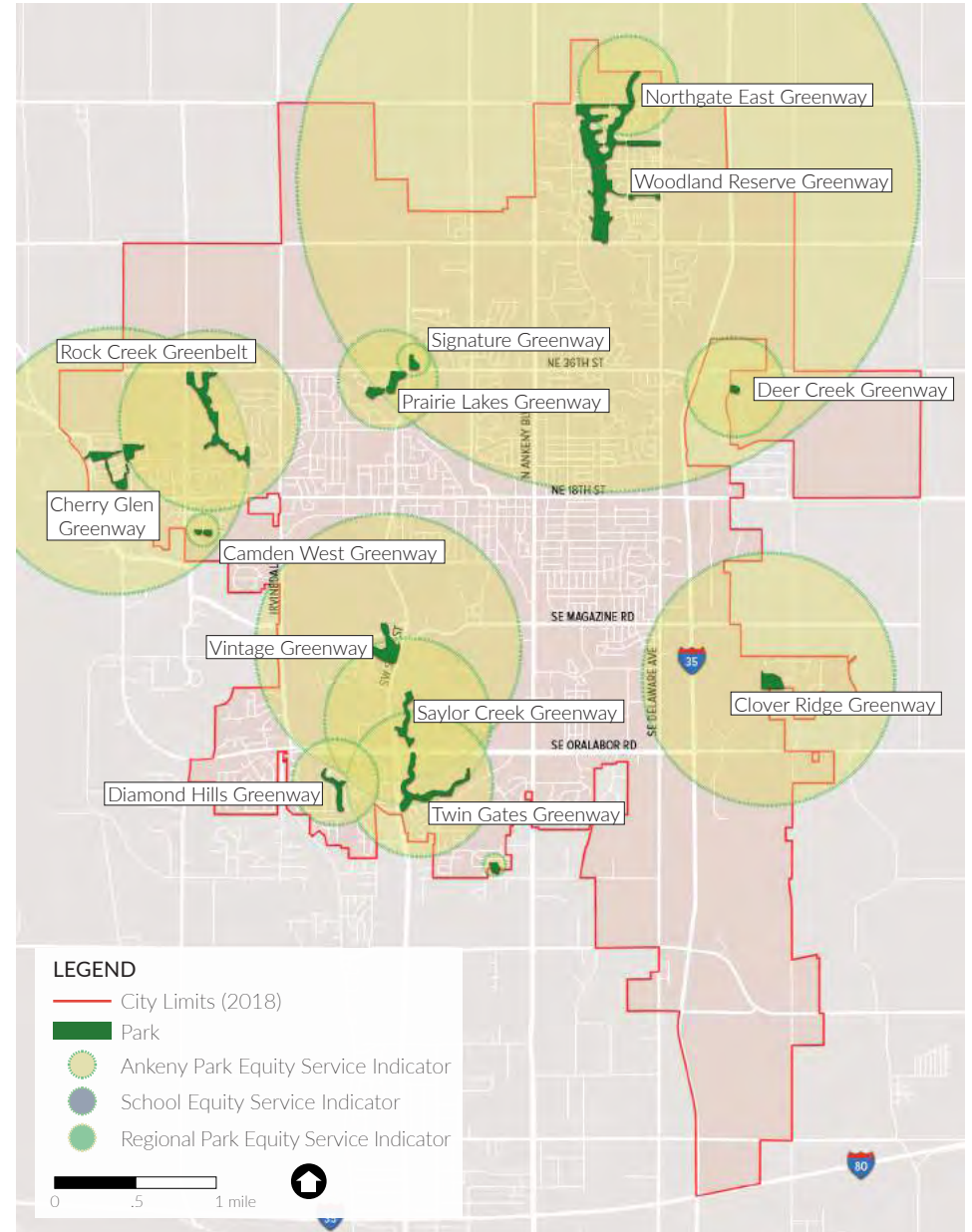




## COMMUNITY PARKS

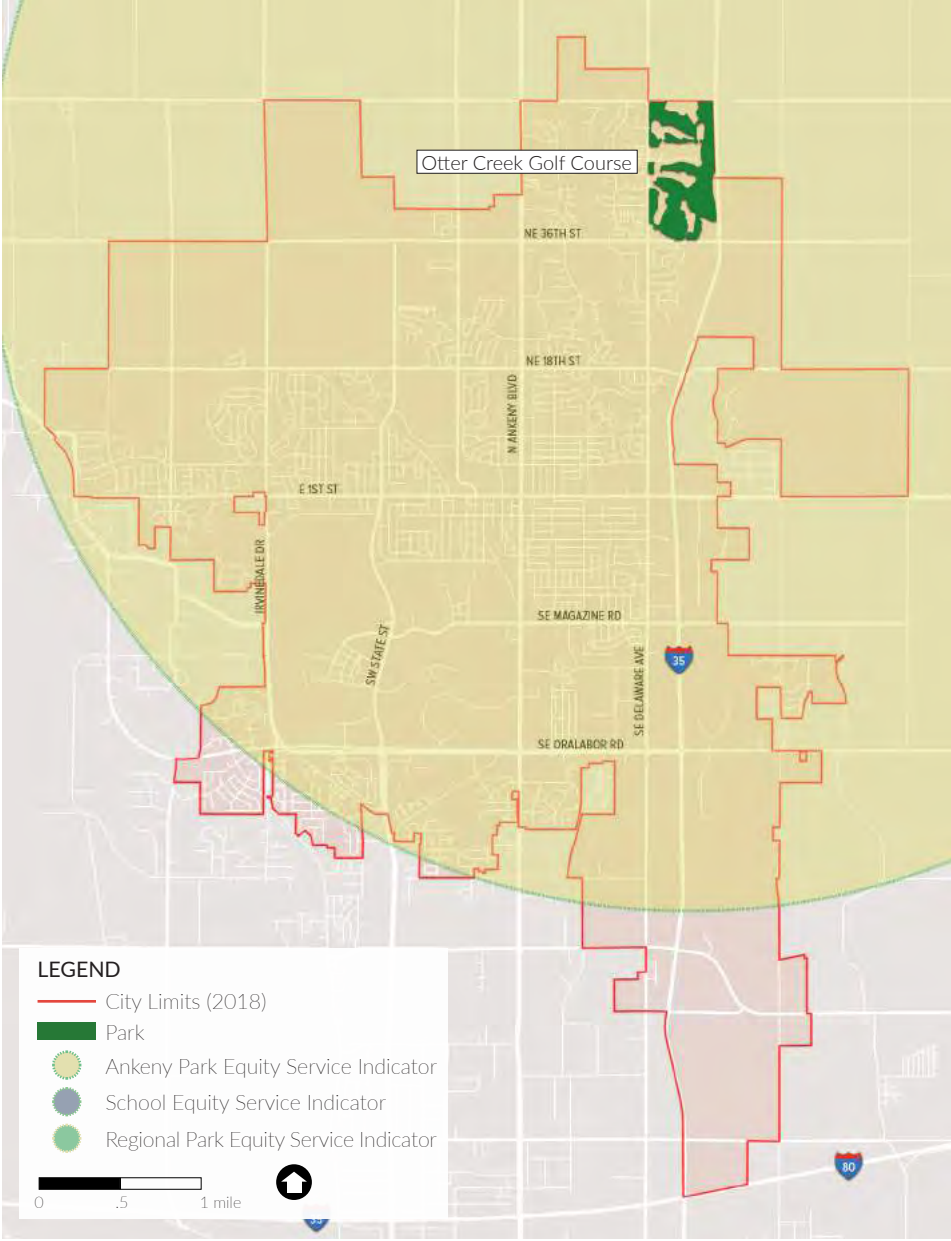


## GREENWAYS

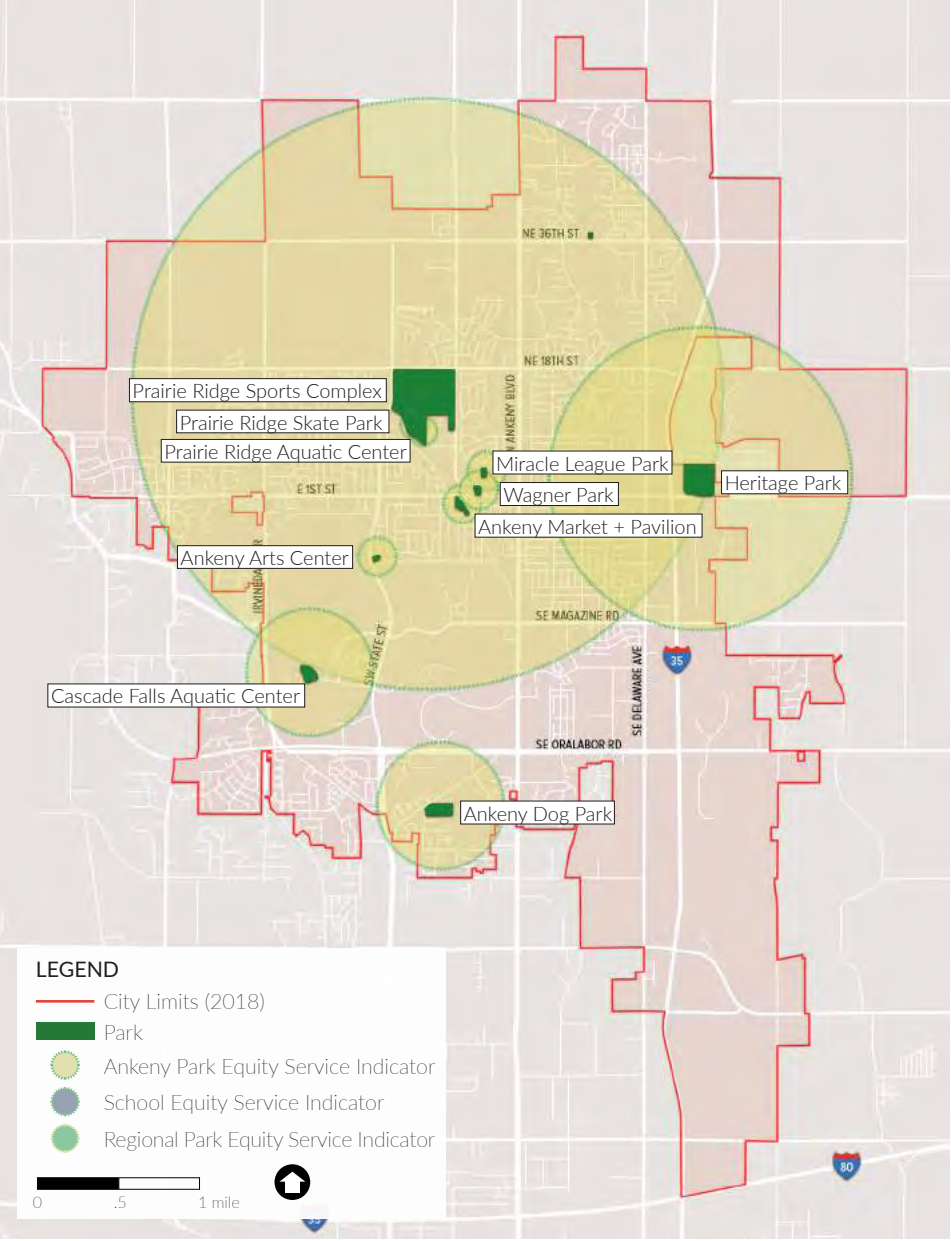


# EQUITY MAPPING

## PUBLIC GOLF COURSES

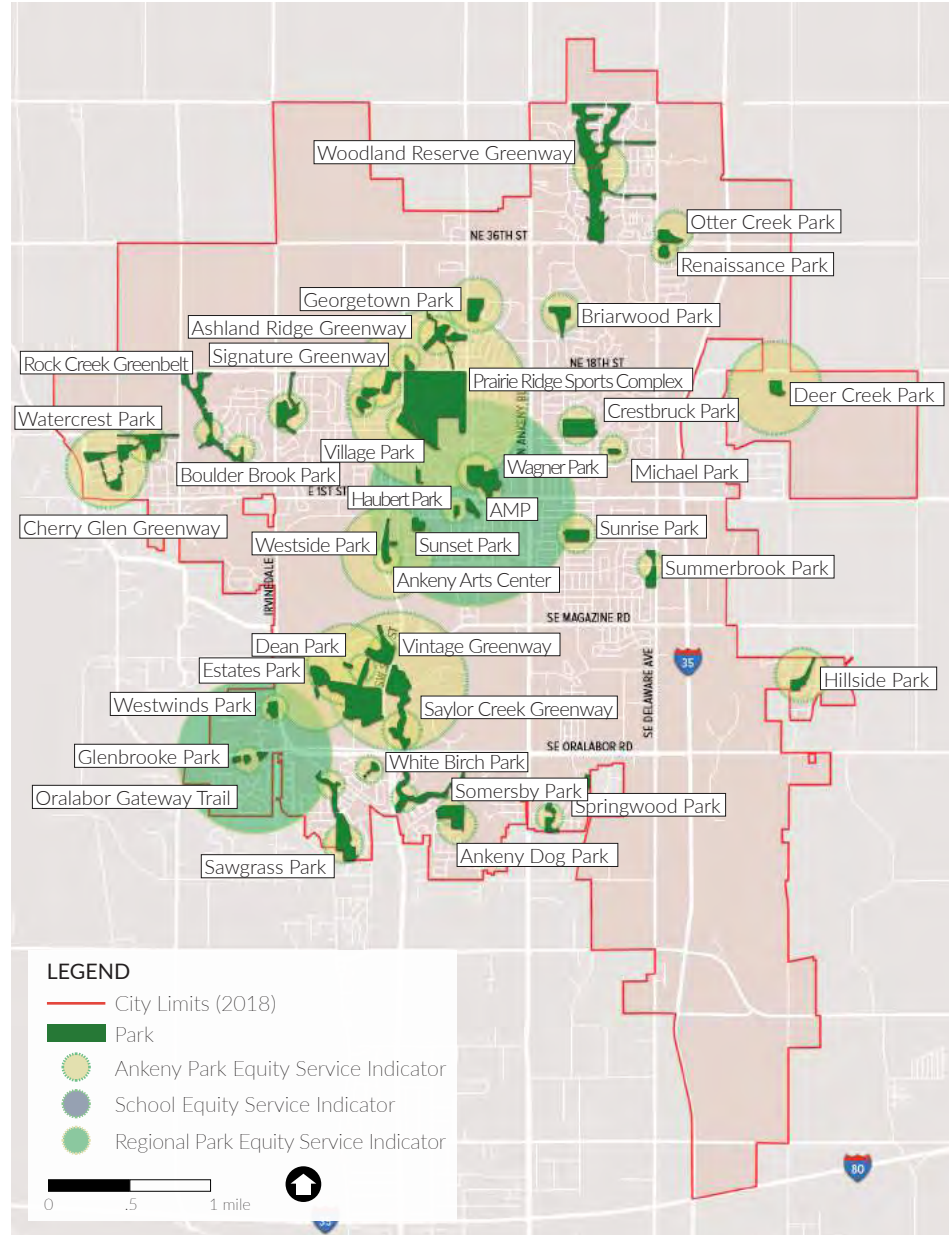


## SPECIAL USE PARKS

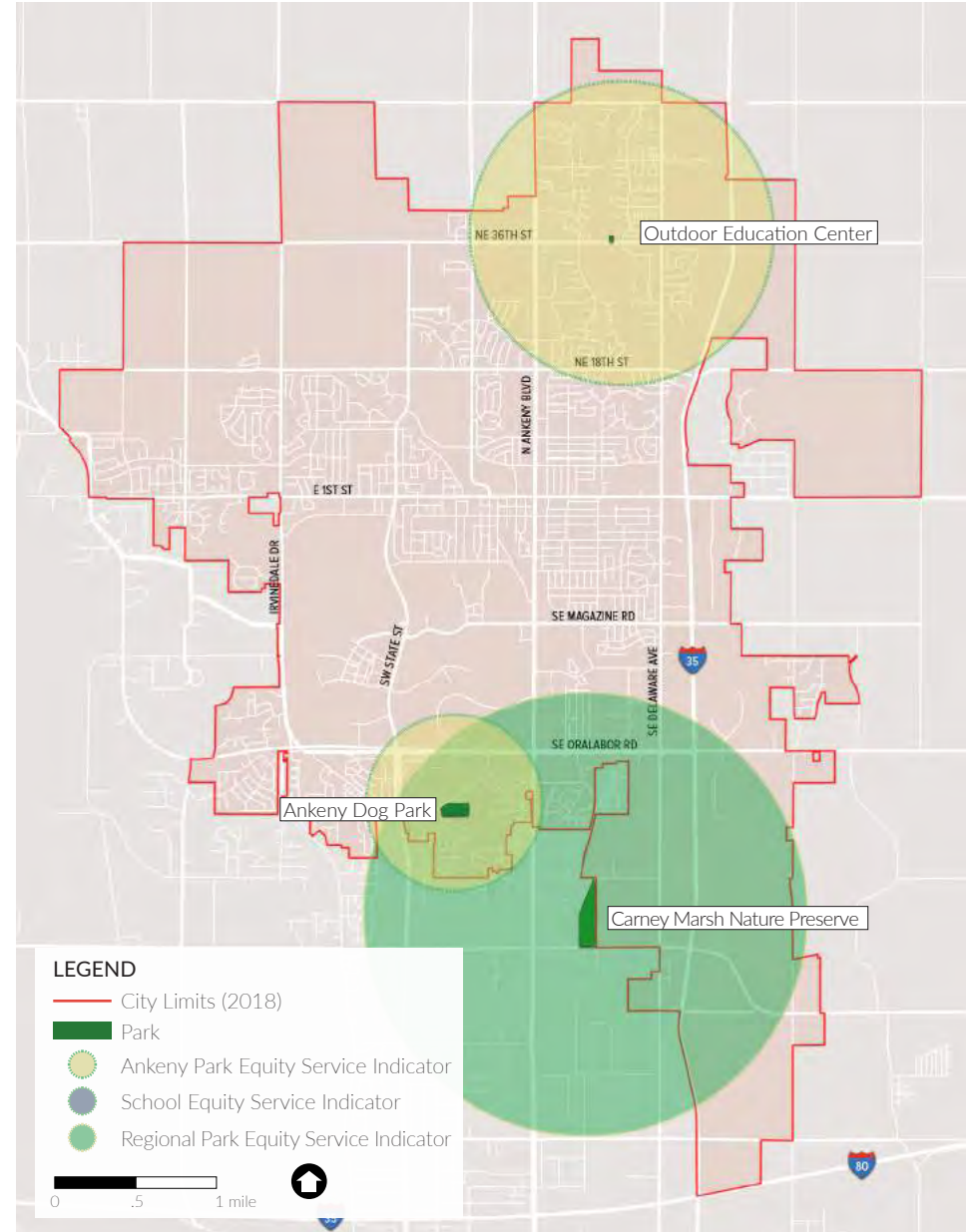




## PAVED TRAILS

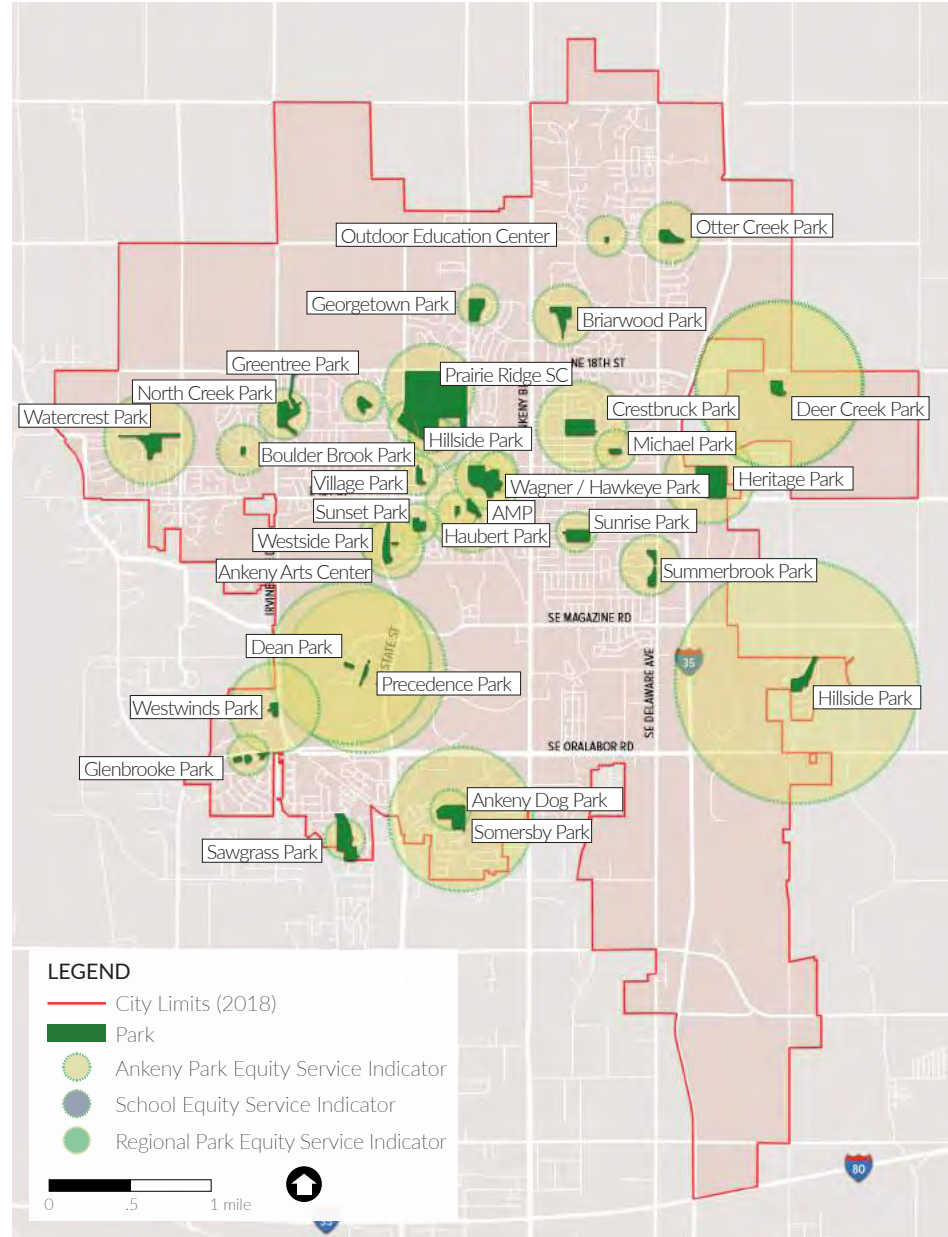


## UNPAVED TRAILS

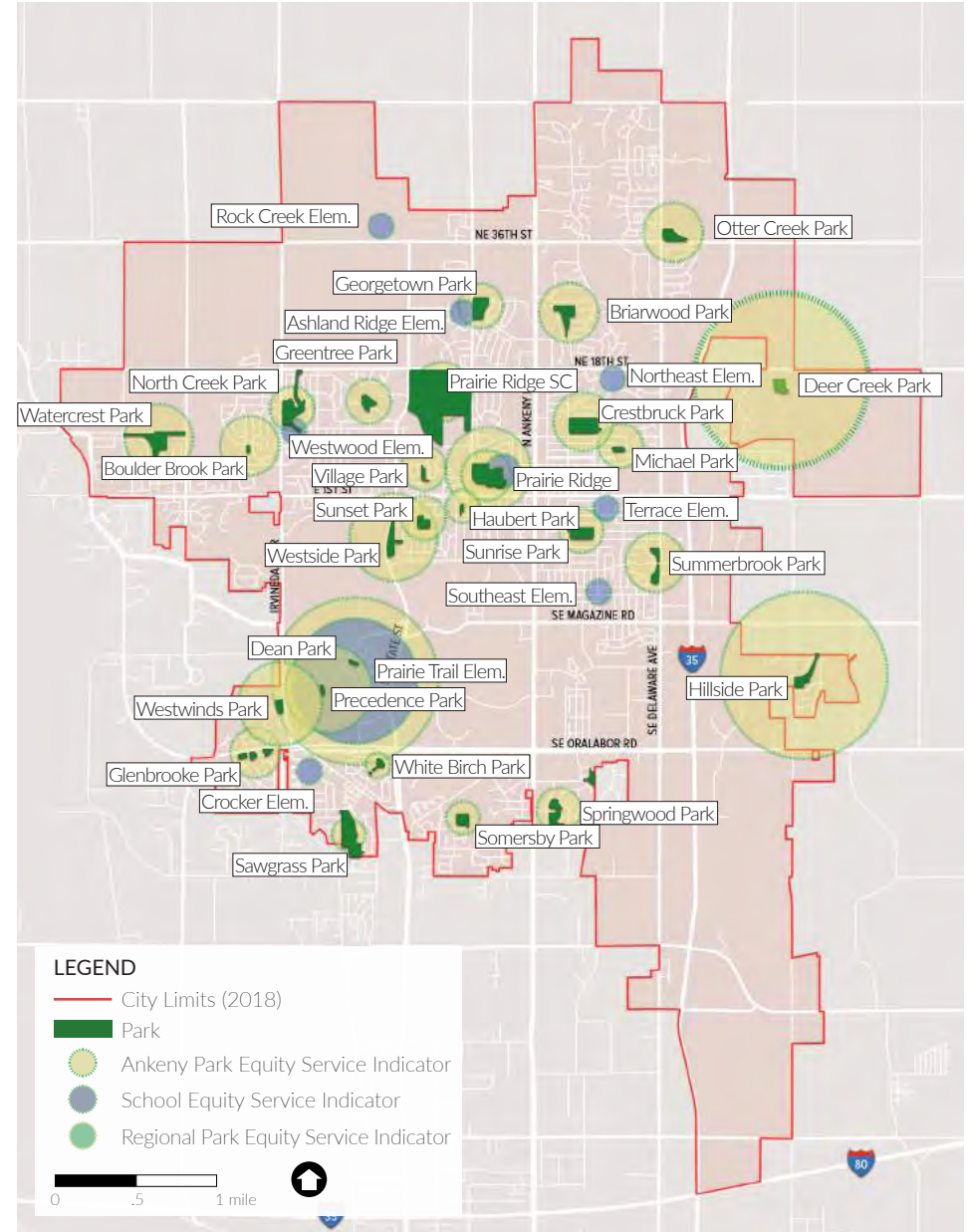


# EQUITY MAPPING

## PICNIC SHELTERS

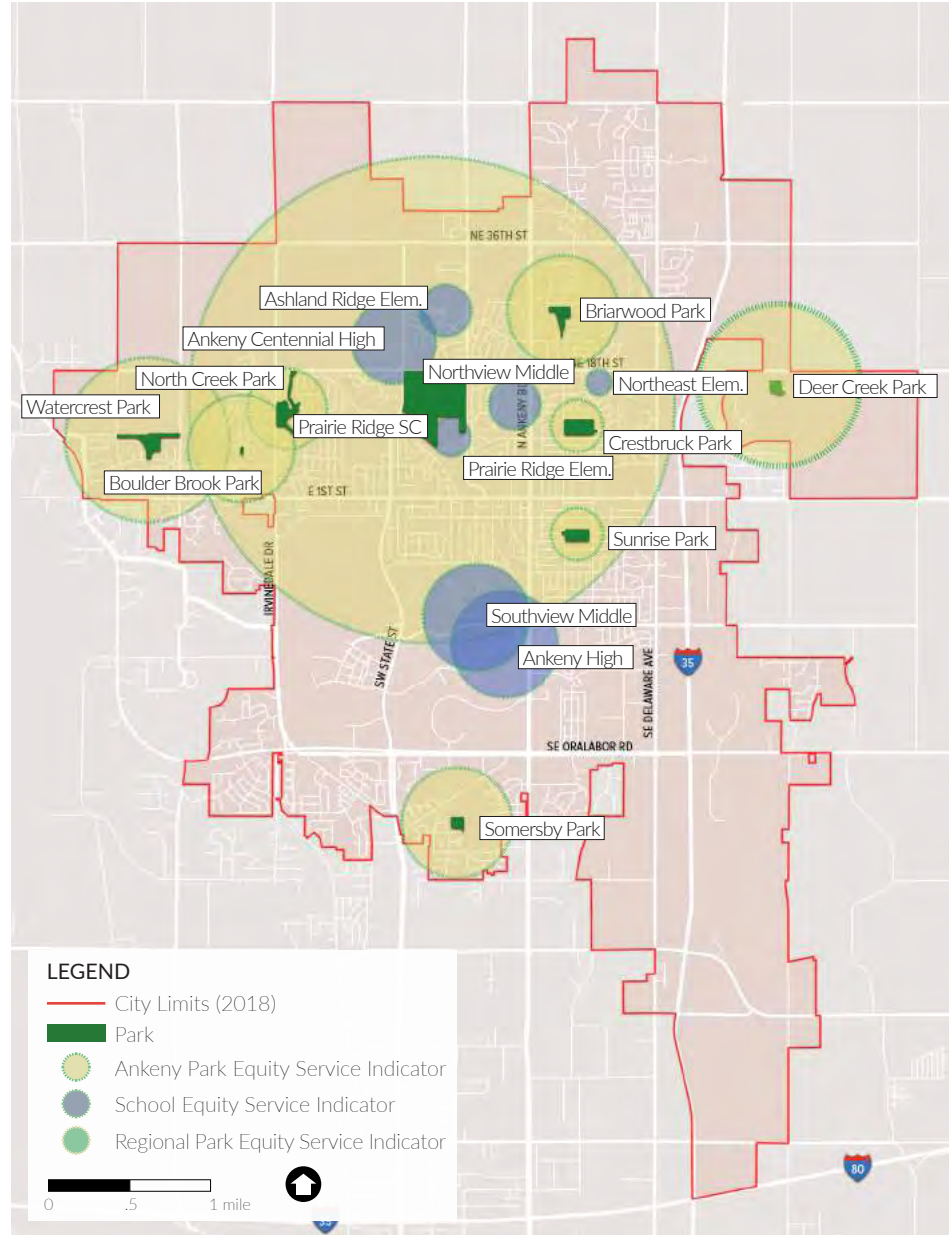


## PLAYGROUNDS

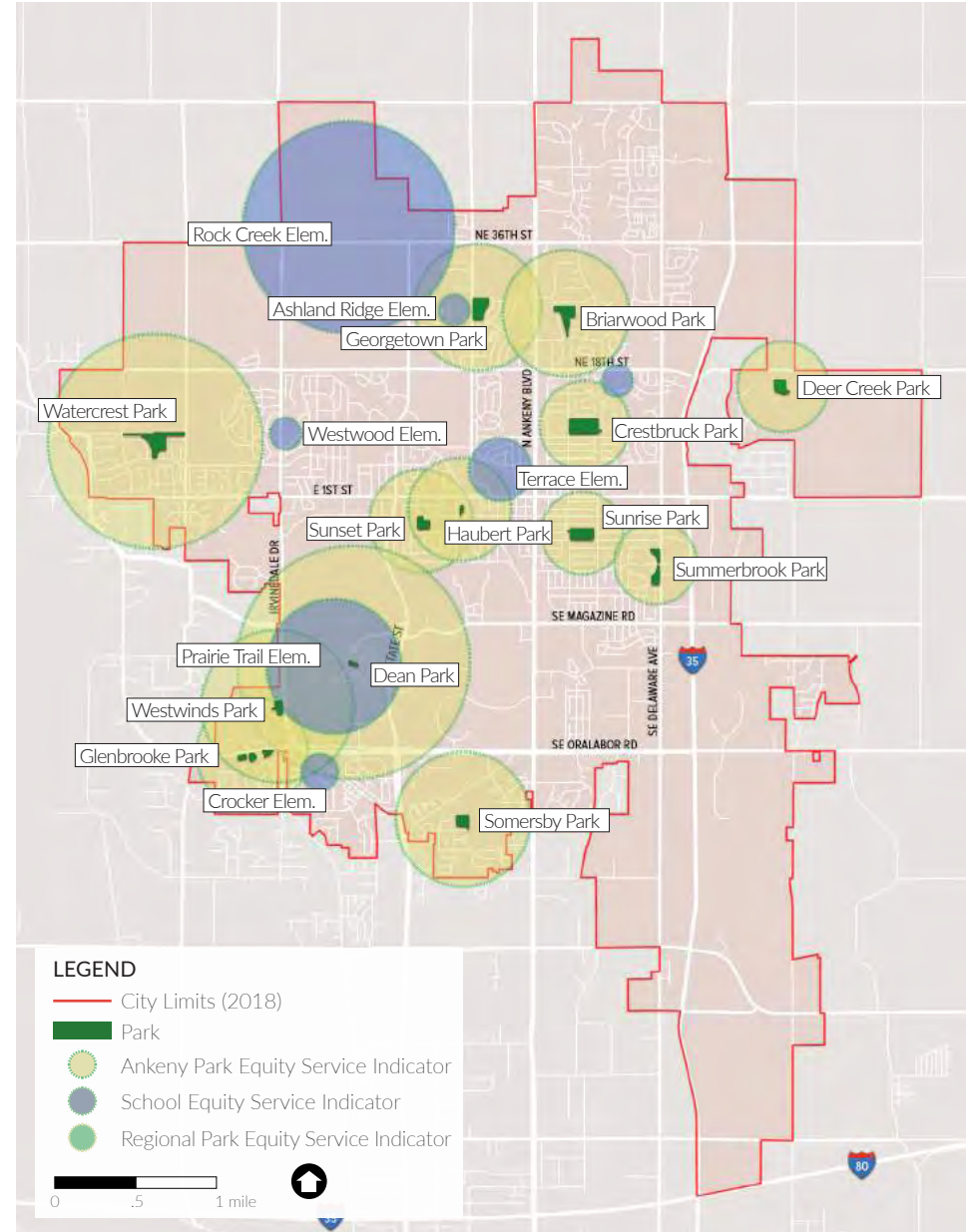




## RECTANGULAR FIELDS

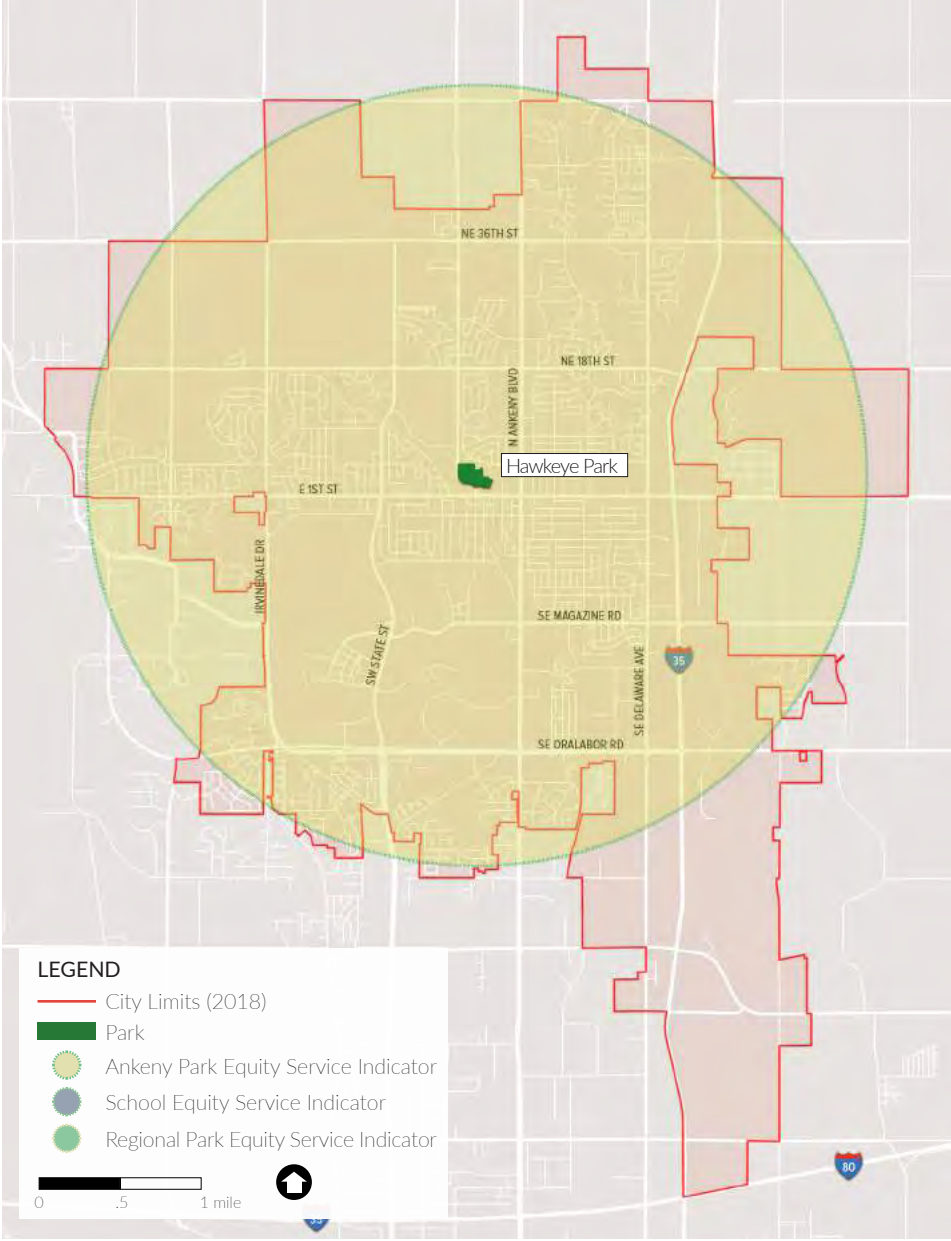


## BASKETBALL COURTS

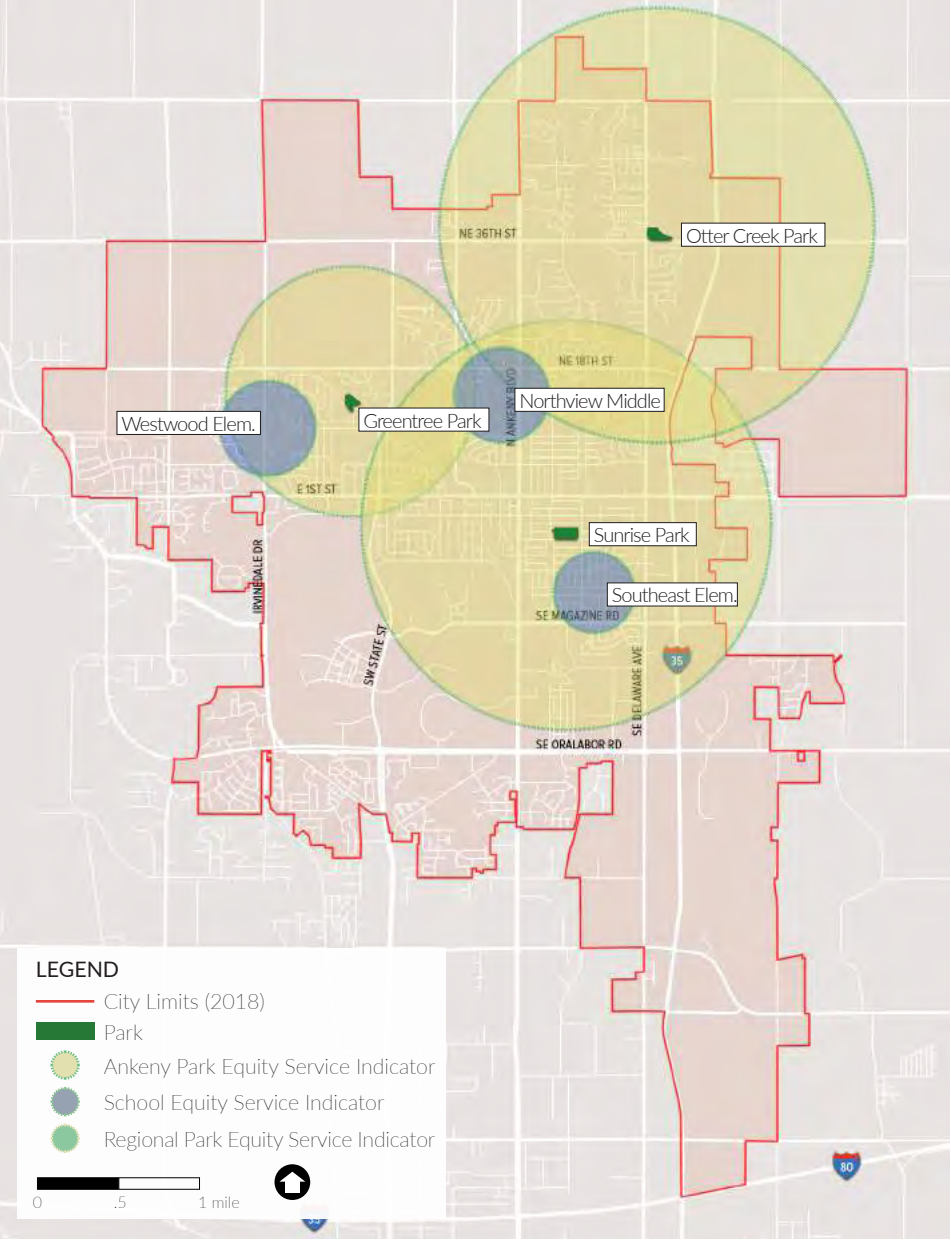


# EQUITY MAPPING

## SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS

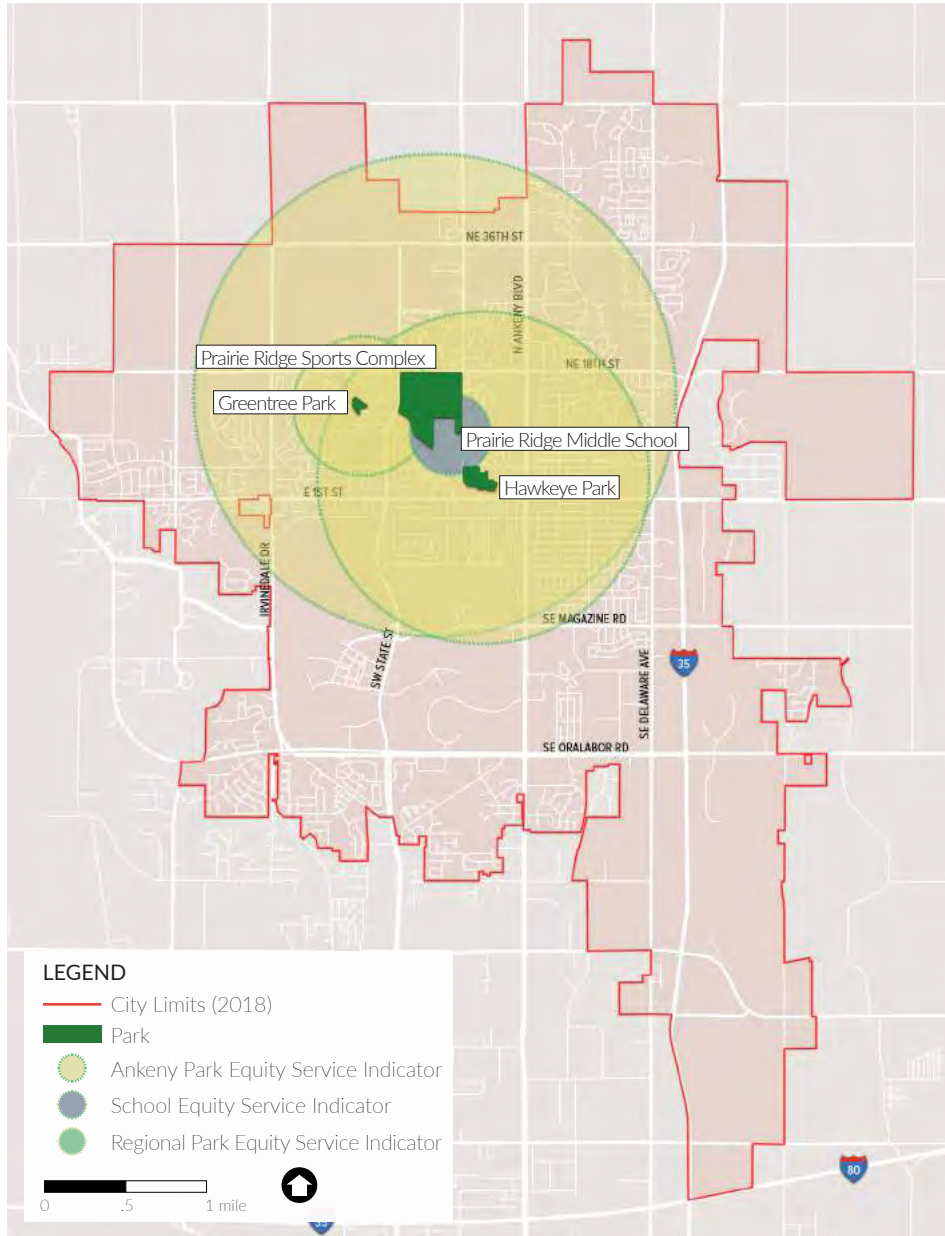


## BACKSTOPS

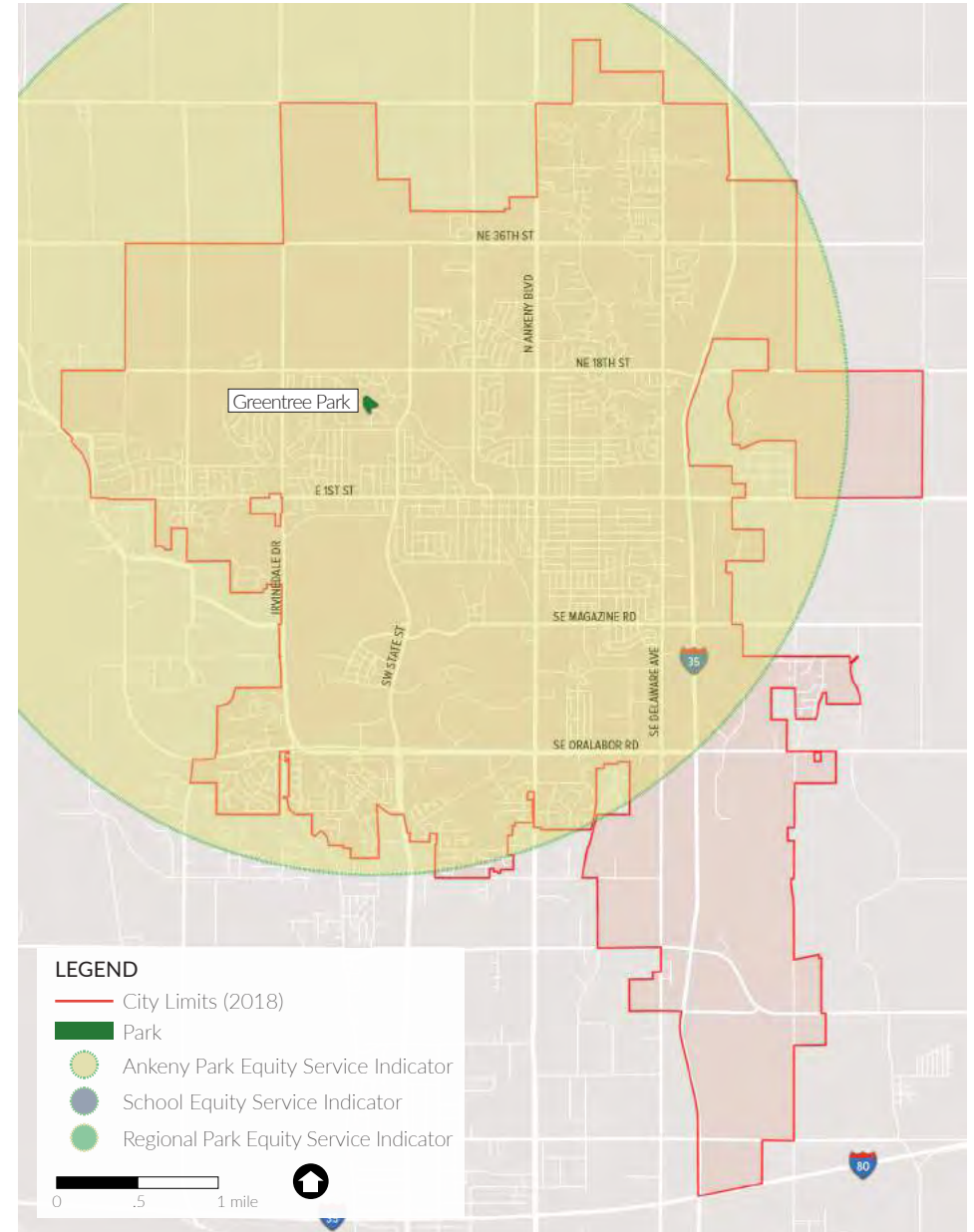




## TENNIS COURTS

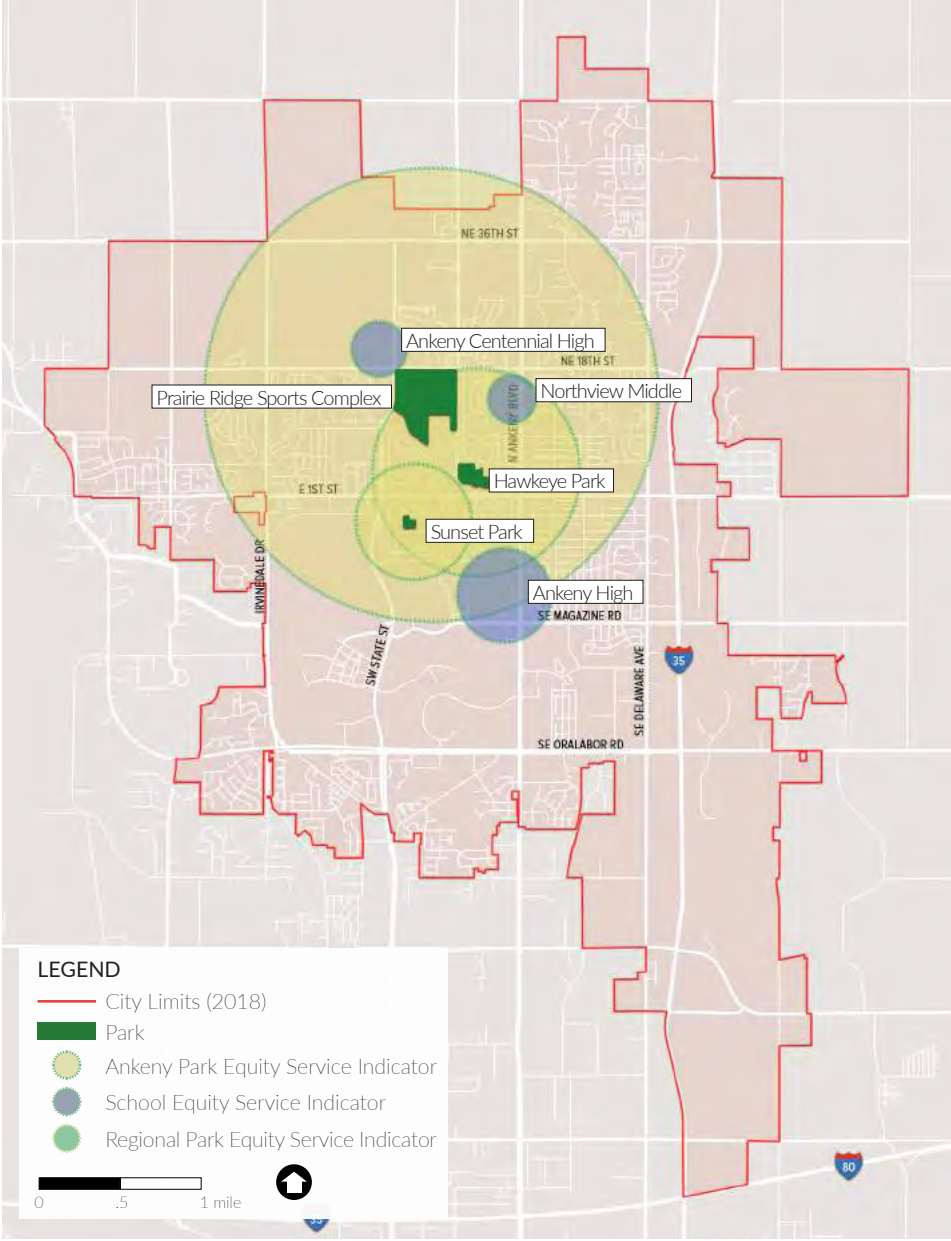


## SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS

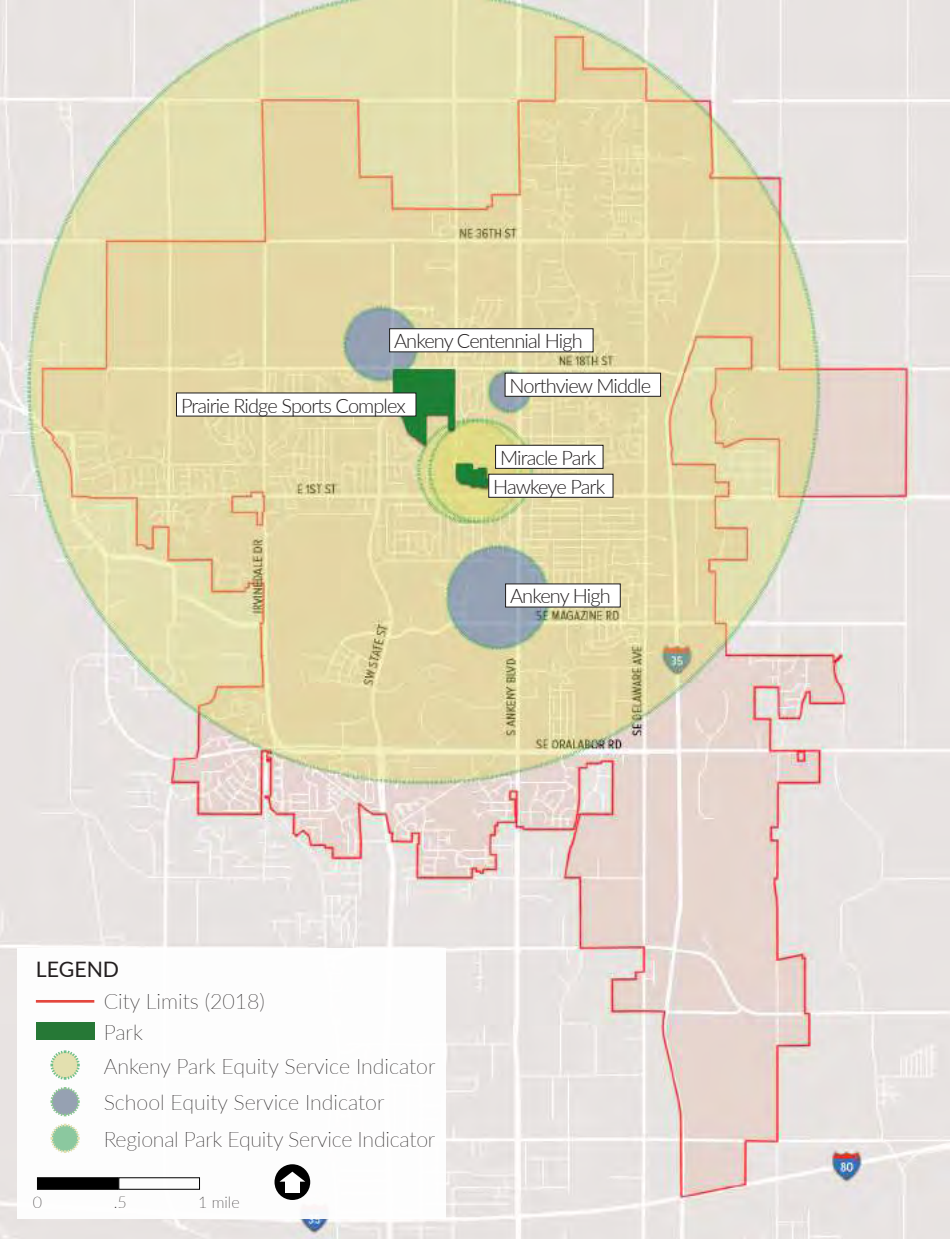


# EQUITY MAPPING

## SOFTBALL FIELDS

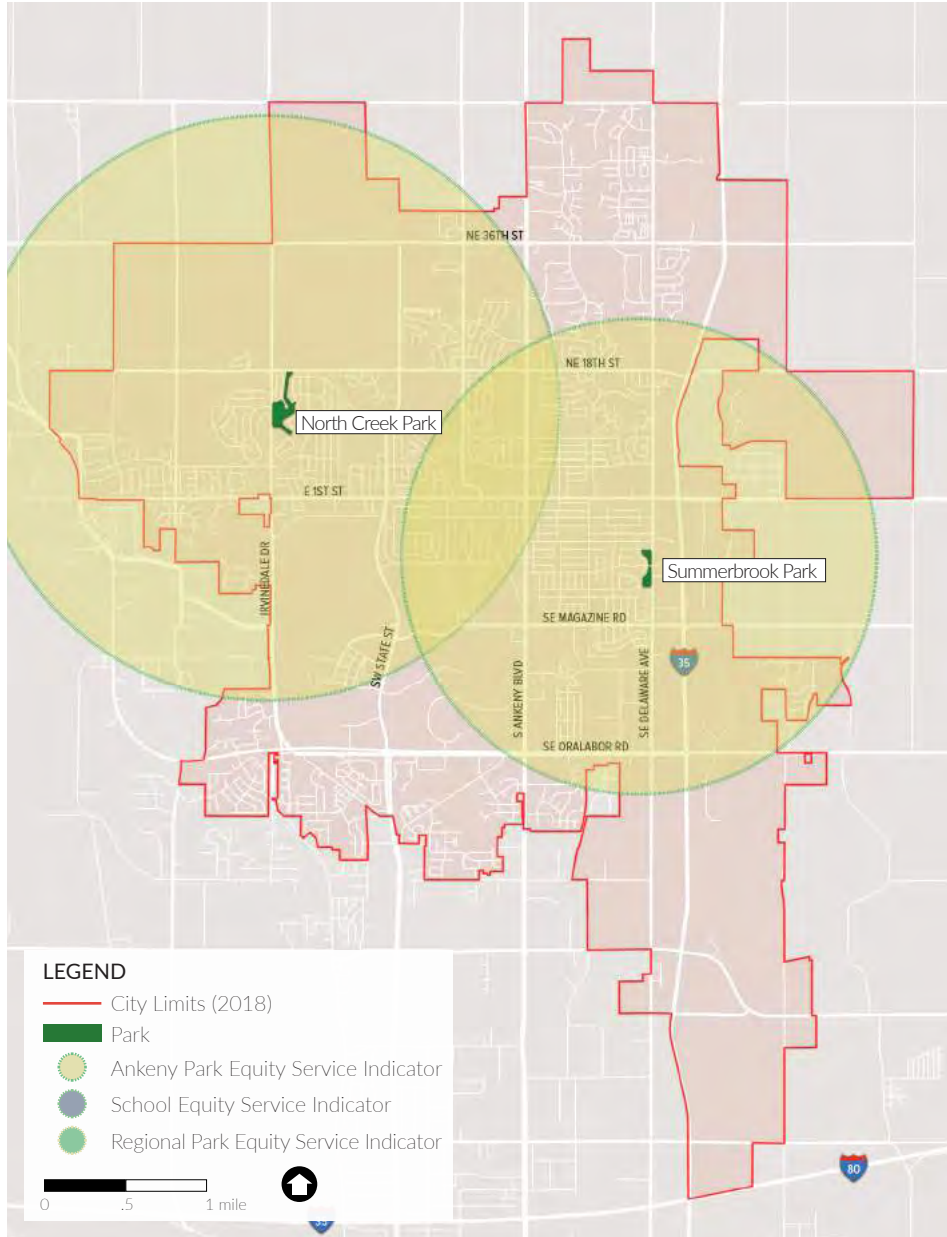


## BASEBALL FIELDS

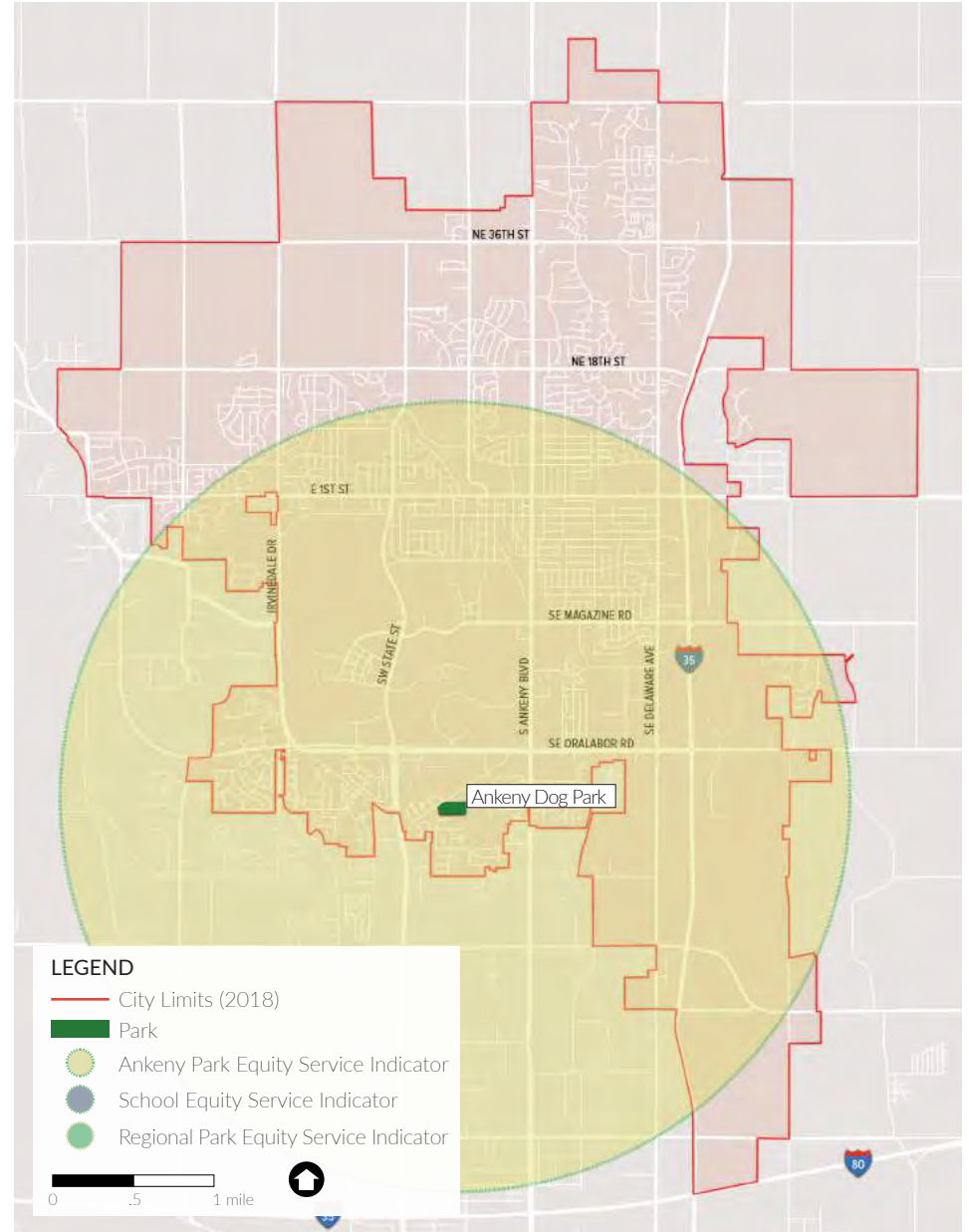




## SNOW SLEDDING HILLS

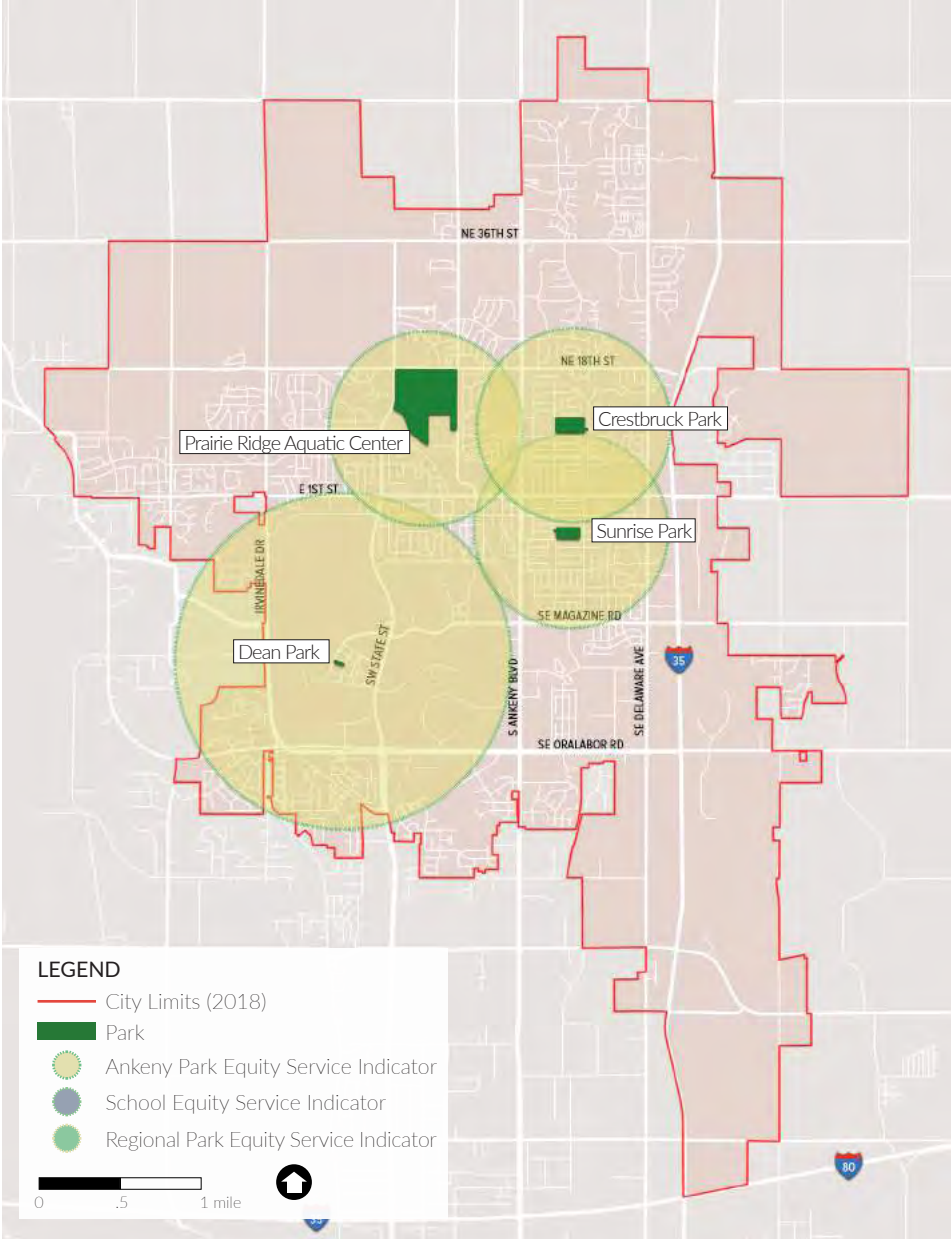


## DOG PARK

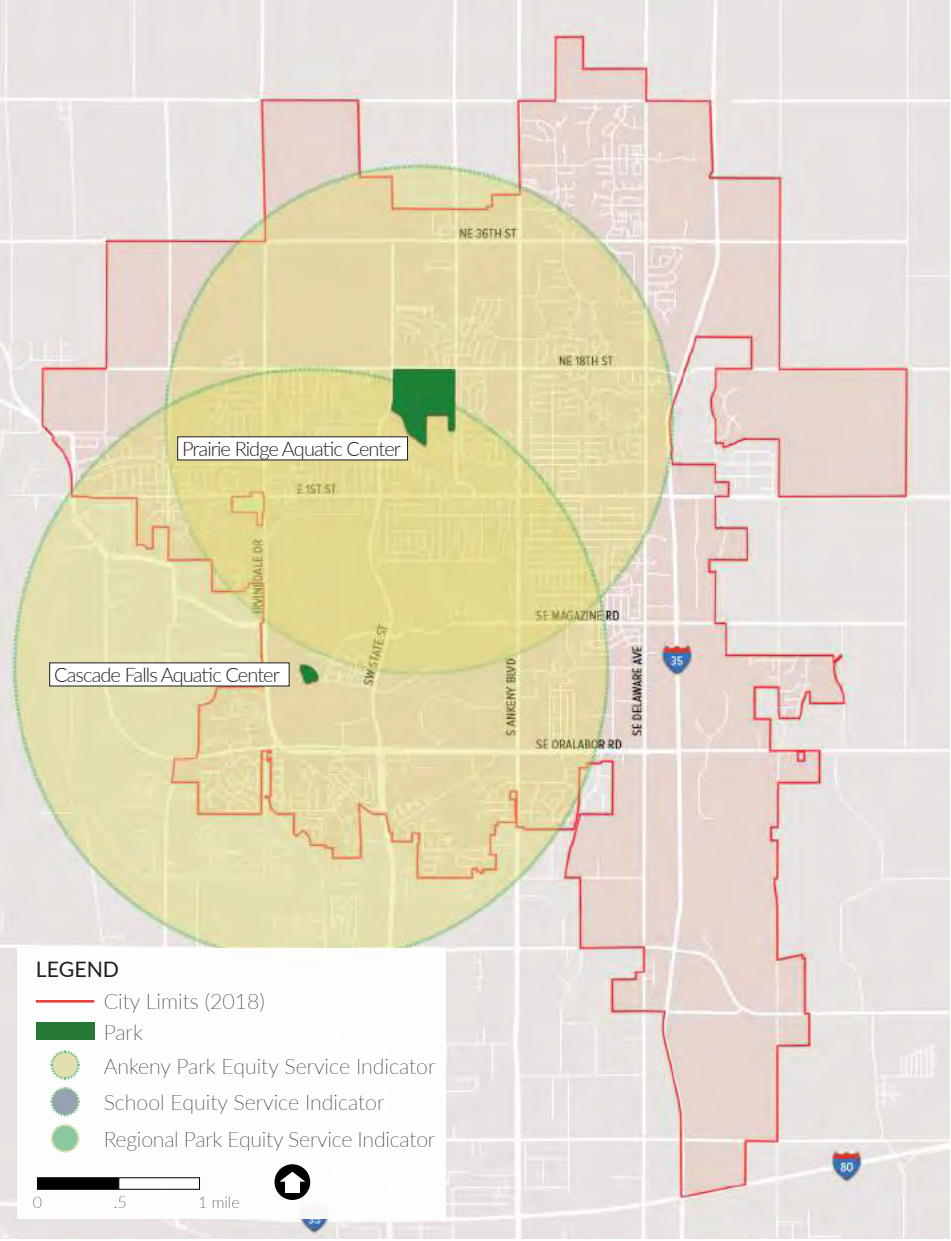


# EQUITY MAPPING

## SPLASH PADS

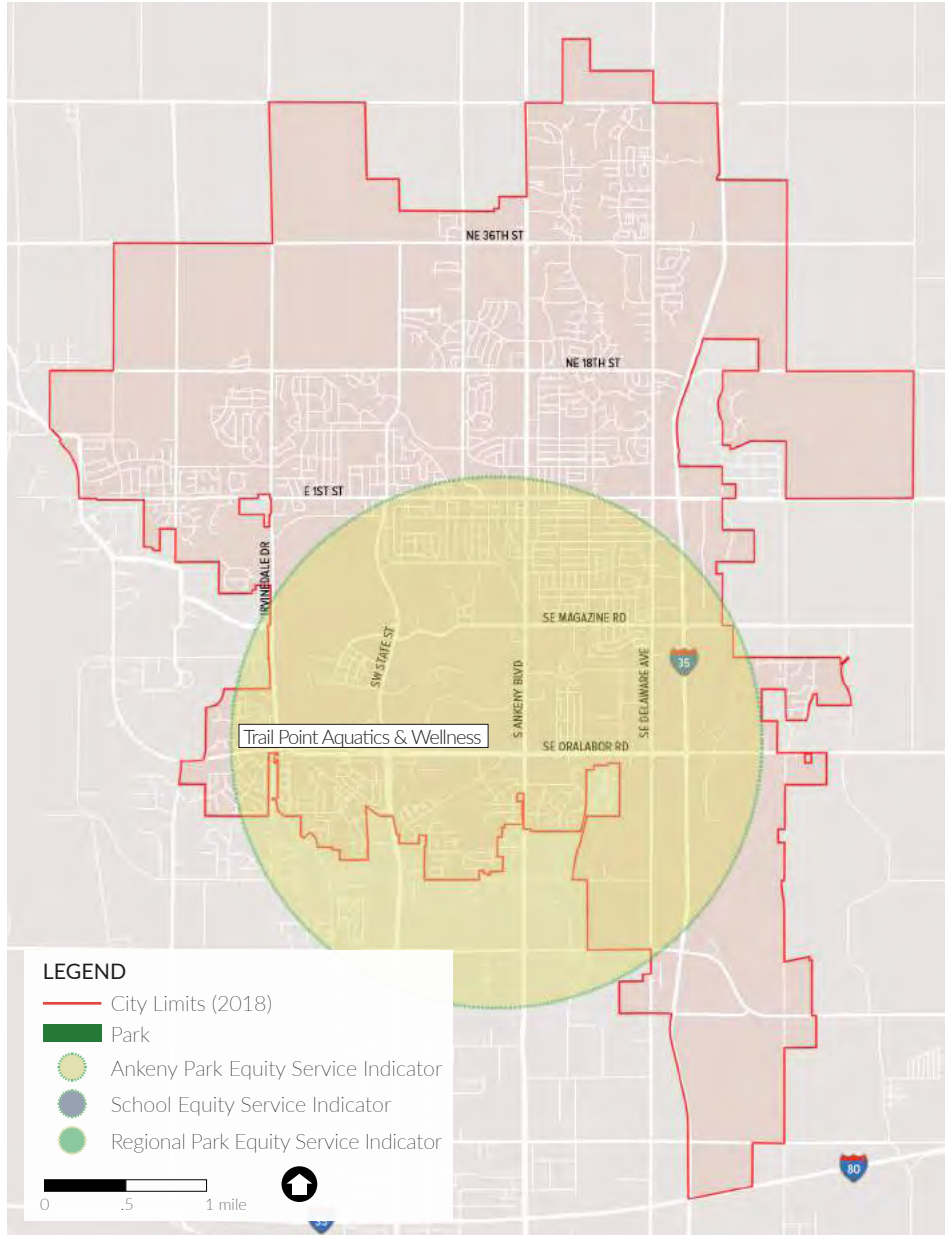


## OUTDOOR POOLS

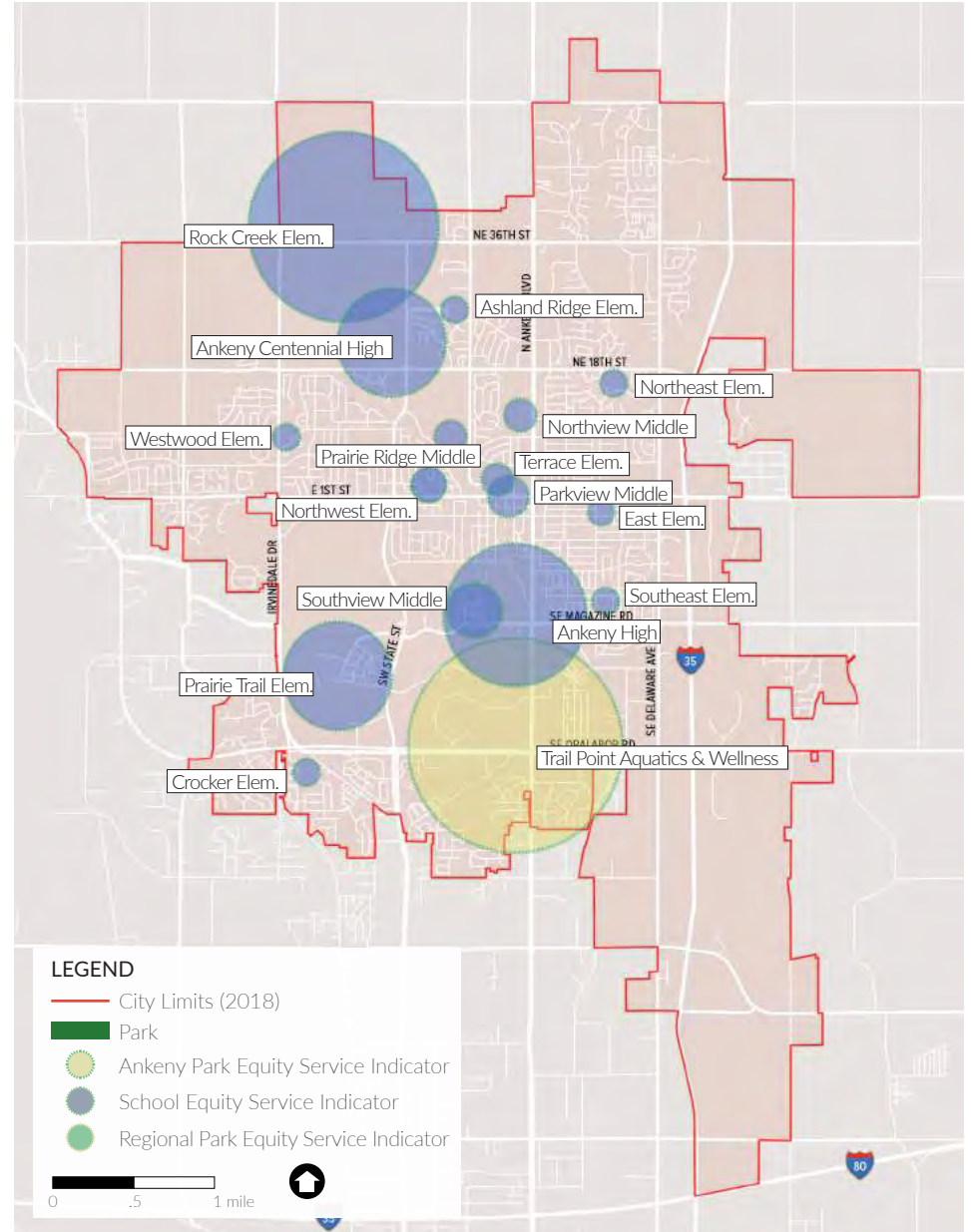




## INDOOR POOLS



## INDOOR RECREATION



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# GREENWAYS & TRAILS PLAN

## SECTION CONTENTS:

- Greenway Planning Framework
- Trail Planning Framework
- Conservation Design Elements

# GREENWAY PLANNING FRAMEWORK

**G**reenways are undeveloped land, generally near an urban area, set aside for recreational use or environmental protection. Often, trails and parkland are in and around greenways creating a large, connected string of natural areas throughout a community.

Generally, when identifying areas suitable for a greenway or greenbelt, areas of great environmental significance or beauty are preferred. There are several factors that impact the environmental significance of an area of land including floodplain, tree cover, steep slopes, and wetlands. The factors that make an area attractive are more subjective but tend to be associated with those same environmentally significant factors.

Much of Ankeny and the area within the 2040 planning boundary is land that is prairie turned agricultural land. The areas of the planning boundary that have significant tree cover and significant slope are the areas near the streams that run throughout the community and planning area. Likewise, much of the floodplain follows a similar path.

Not all streams are equally suitable for greenway consideration. Streams vary significantly in their size and permanence. One common categorization of streams used by the USGS is by stream type, determined by the permanency of the stream during times of drought or other circumstances.

In *The Ankeny Plan 2040*, streams in Ankeny were identified by USGS stream type. The two main stream types present in Ankeny are:

- Type 1 - Perennial Streams
- Type 2 - Intermittent Streams

Type 1 - Perennial Streams are stream beds that contain water throughout the year, except for infrequent periods of severe drought.

Type 2 - Intermittent Streams are stream beds that contain water but only for part of the year, but more than just after rainstorms and snowmelt.

Major Type 1 Perennial Streams present in the Ankeny planning boundary were used to identify the proposed greenways due to the presence of a variety of significant environmental features worthy of preservation and conservation.



Three main greenways have been identified as priority greenway areas for the City of Ankeny:

- Four Mile Creek Greenway (North + South)
- Rock Creek Greenway
- Muchikinock Creek Greenway

Different levels of development and previous park investment exist along each of the proposed major greenways. The following pages describe the specific factors impacting each proposed greenway and address these variables.

## THREE MAJOR GREENWAYS

Figure 4.1 highlights the three major greenways identified in the Ankeny Parks & Facilities Comprehensive Plan Update. The proposed greenways cover a wide stretch of the 2040 planning boundary. Each greenway connects to an existing major regional trail. The greenways each have a different level of previous development, growth pressures, and key features.



# GREENWAY PLANNING FRAMEWORK - FUNCTION + DESIGN

Figure 4.1 - Ankeny Proposed Greenways



## GREENWAY FUNCTION + DESIGN

Greenway functionality is impacted by the quality of the greenway design. A connected system enhances the environmental functions provided by greenways. Fragmented greenways and parks provide fewer environmental benefits and makes full utilization of the system by users more challenging.

### Greenway Environmental Functions

Greenways have multiple ecological benefits ranging from protection of biodiversity, water quality remediation, and the prevention of further soil erosion, among many others.

### Ideal Greenway Design Features

- Preserving a 50-100' buffer
- Adding Greenway Trails-Pavement
- Lighting (where necessary)
- Trash Receptacles and Benches
- Natural Areas
- Wayfinding Signage
- Bike Racks
- Bird and Bat Shelters
- Storm Drainage

### Preserving the 50-100' clearance from the creek

Greenways provide an area for people to escape and enjoy the outdoors. Keeping as much wildlife, vegetation, and splendor of the existing environment would be ideal.

### Adding Greenway Trails-Pavement

Incorporating less obtrusive trails into the greenways to make them interactive and useful to residents can change the way people view greenways. Adding pavement where necessary and for accessibility purposes.



# GREENWAY PLANNING FRAMEWORK - ROCK CREEK

## ROCK CREEK GREENWAY

Rock Creek is a type 1 perennial stream that runs through the northwestern portion of the Ankeny planning boundary. The southern extent of the creek meanders along the boundary of the Ankeny Golf and Country Club and under E 1st Street. The stream continues to head north through a series of residential neighborhoods. Much of this area is city-owned through the Rock Creek Greenbelt with a trail running through a portion of the greenbelt already. Based on comments from the project website, there is considerable interest in expanding trails within the Rock Creek Greenbelt to add further connectivity for this neighborhood.

This plan proposes expanding the existing Rock Creek Greenbelt to extend south to E 1st Street and north to the High Trestle Trail / Trestle Point Park and beyond. There are several trail segments that could be completed along the greenway to expand access including along NW Weigel Drive, NW Irvinedale Drive, and NW 5th Street.

This greenway already is near to or has direct access to several parks including:

- Rock Creek Greenbelt
- Watercrest Park
- Boulder Brook Park
- North Creek Park
- Trestle Point Park

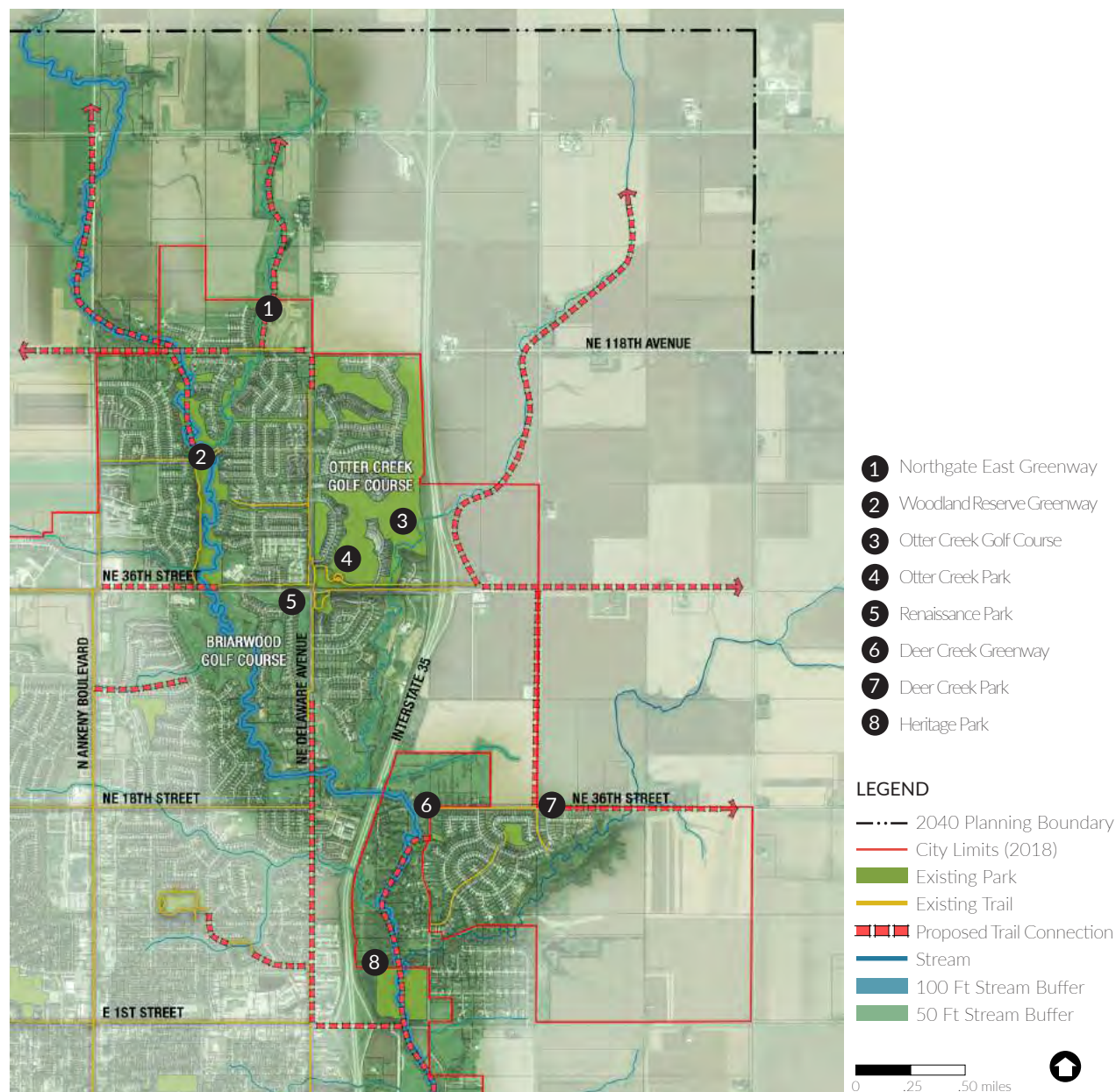
This greenway could benefit from a branded wayfinding and informational signage program.

Figure 4.2 - Proposed Rock Creek Greenway



# GREENWAY PLANNING FRAMEWORK - FOUR MILE CREEK NORTH

Figure 4.3 - Proposed Four Mile Creek Greenway - North



## FOUR MILE CREEK - NORTH

Four Mile Creek is the largest stream to transect the planning boundary. This type 1 perennial stream is well studied and has documented issues and improvement plans underway. Ankeny is a member of the Four Mile Creek Watershed Management Authority, the multi-jurisdictional entity created to address flooding and water quality concerns in the watershed.

The northern segment of the Four Mile Creek greenway stretches from Heritage Park near 1st Street north until the edge of the 2040 planning boundary. It travels through several existing parks and greenways. It also extends through some private golf course land and meanders underneath Interstate 35 near NE 18th Street. The stream in this area has a lot of natural environmental features that can help identify suitable future parkland within the greenway.

This greenway system has potential for a unique wayfinding and informative signage plan based on the history and significance of the creek. The future land use plan in *The Ankeny Plan 2040* has identified the area east of Otter Creek Golf Course to be a large mixed-use area and a prominent greenway through this developed area would be a beneficial addition.

If a trail is added along the length of the stream, this trail could become regionally important and help complete a trail loop around the entire city limits.



# GREENWAY PLANNING FRAMEWORK - FOUR MILE CREEK SOUTH

## FOUR MILE CREEK - SOUTH

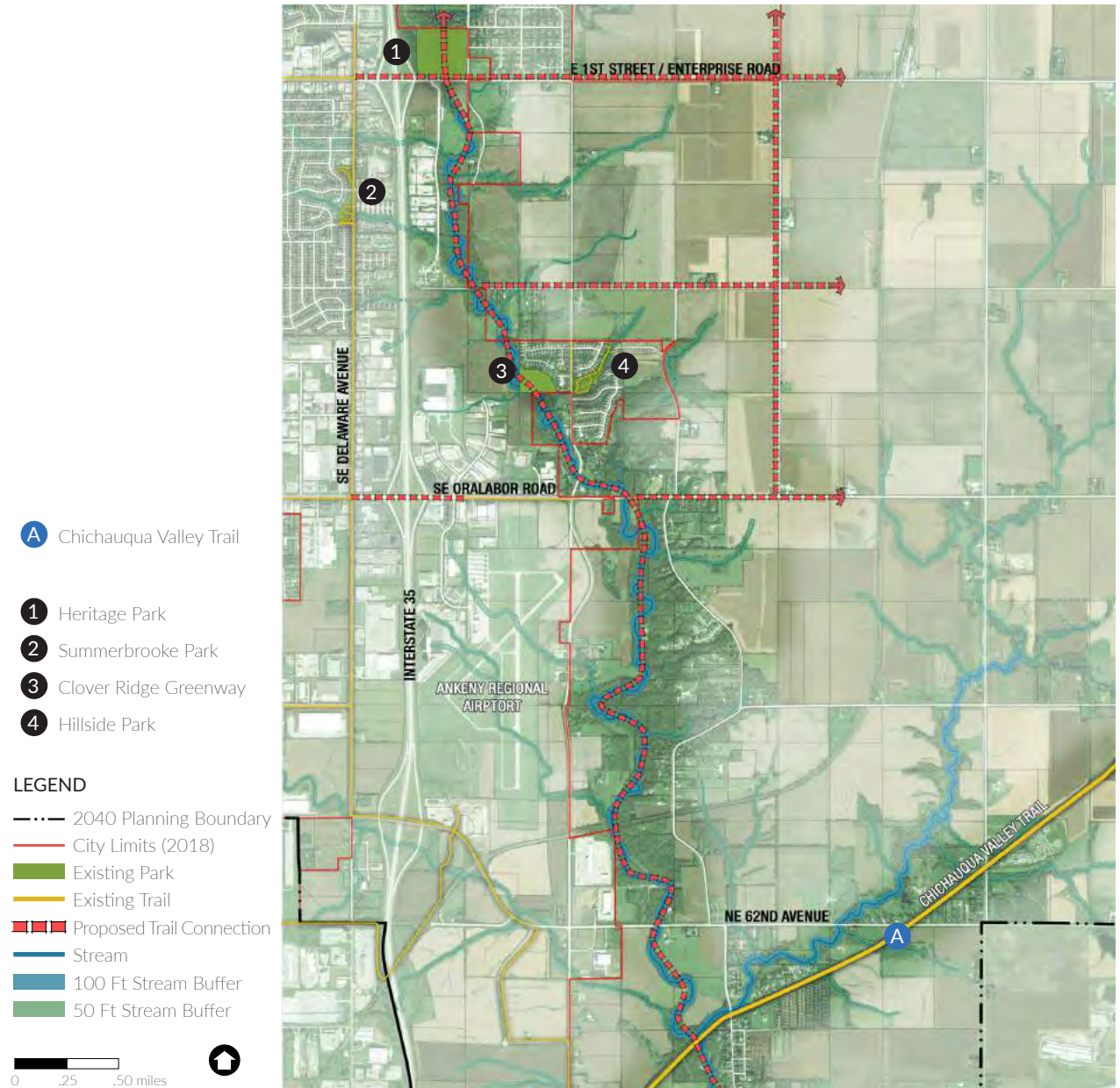
The southern segment of the Four Mile Creek greenway extends from Heritage Park near E 1st Street, runs roughly parallel of the Ankeny Regional Airport and intersects the Chichaqua Valley Trail, a regional rails-to-trails project that is approximately 25 miles long.

The main residential development near this proposed greenway is the subdivision around Hillside Park. Residents in this area mentioned on the project website feeling disconnected from the greater Ankeny trail and park system and this greenway could help connect this neighborhood to the rest of the community.

Currently, the southern section of the area is quite industrial, however, this greenway has a lot of natural beauty to highlight as it is the area in Ankeny with the most significant tree cover and has wetland areas scattered throughout the stream buffer. A dedicated greenway along Four Mile Creek in this area of the community would create an attractive buffer between the industrial area that lines Interstate 35 and possible future residential growth areas to the east.

If completed in tandem with the Four Mile Creek North Greenway, the Four Mile Creek Greenways would connect directly with the Chichaqua Valley Trail, completing a significant trail connection for Ankeny residents to enjoy.

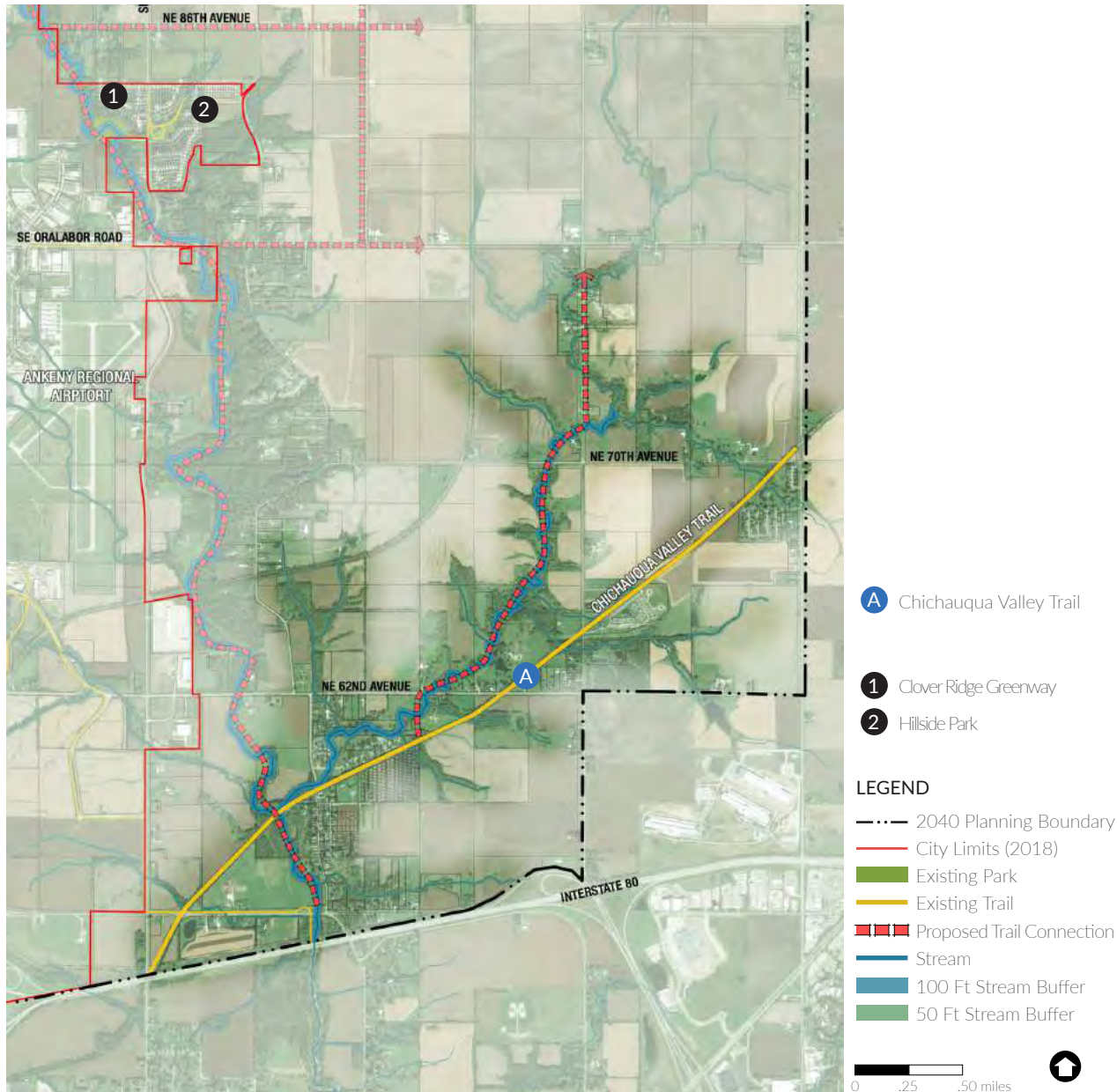
Figure 4.4 - Proposed Four Mile Creek Greenway - South





# GREENWAY PLANNING FRAMEWORK - MUCHIKINOCK CREEK

Figure 4.5 - Southeast Ankeny Central Park Option B



## MUCHIKINOCK CREEK

The Muchikinock Creek does not currently fall within the Ankeny city limits. However, it is a significant stream bed that covers the eastern planning boundary of Ankeny through 2040. Currently, there is limited development potential in the area, as most development is focused on the more northern area of Ankeny. However, with the possible northeast beltway being considered in this area of the planning boundary, the long-term need to preserve this greenway is significant.

Because of the consideration of this area and that it is not developed along the greenway, this creek would have an easier time implementing stream buffers along the creek. Fifty to one hundred foot stream buffers would help improve the quality of the watershed and better the environment.

This area is already home to the Chichauqua Valley Trail, and the City could take advantage of this trail system.

Developing with the idea of bike transportation in mind could create an entirely new kind of mind set and sense of place that the City of Ankeny has yet to take part in.

# GREENWAY PLANNING FRAMEWORK - ACQUISITION + FUNDING

## GREENWAY ACQUISITION

Greenway acquisition is commonly accomplished via landowner subsidies, tradable development rights, fee-simple land purchase, command control regulation, and conservation easements.

## GREENWAY FUNDING

Funding for greenways can be difficult to attain due to the number of competing priorities and interests involved in budget allotment. Chapter 6 Policies + Priorities outlines a plan for diverting parkland dedication requirements associated with residential development to directly fund the acquisition of greenbelt land. Other recommended strategies for funding are listed below.

### Funding Strategies

Given the existing financial practices of the City, the following funding sources are recommended for future greenways:

- Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Land dedication
- Impact fees
- Redevelopment funds
- Private donations
- Volunteerism
- Greenway utility
- Easements

Figure 4.6 assesses the Implementation Feasibility and Risk of each funding strategy and lists whether each strategy is currently undertaken by the City of Ankeny.

Figure 4.6 - Funding Strategy Feasibility + Implementation Assessment

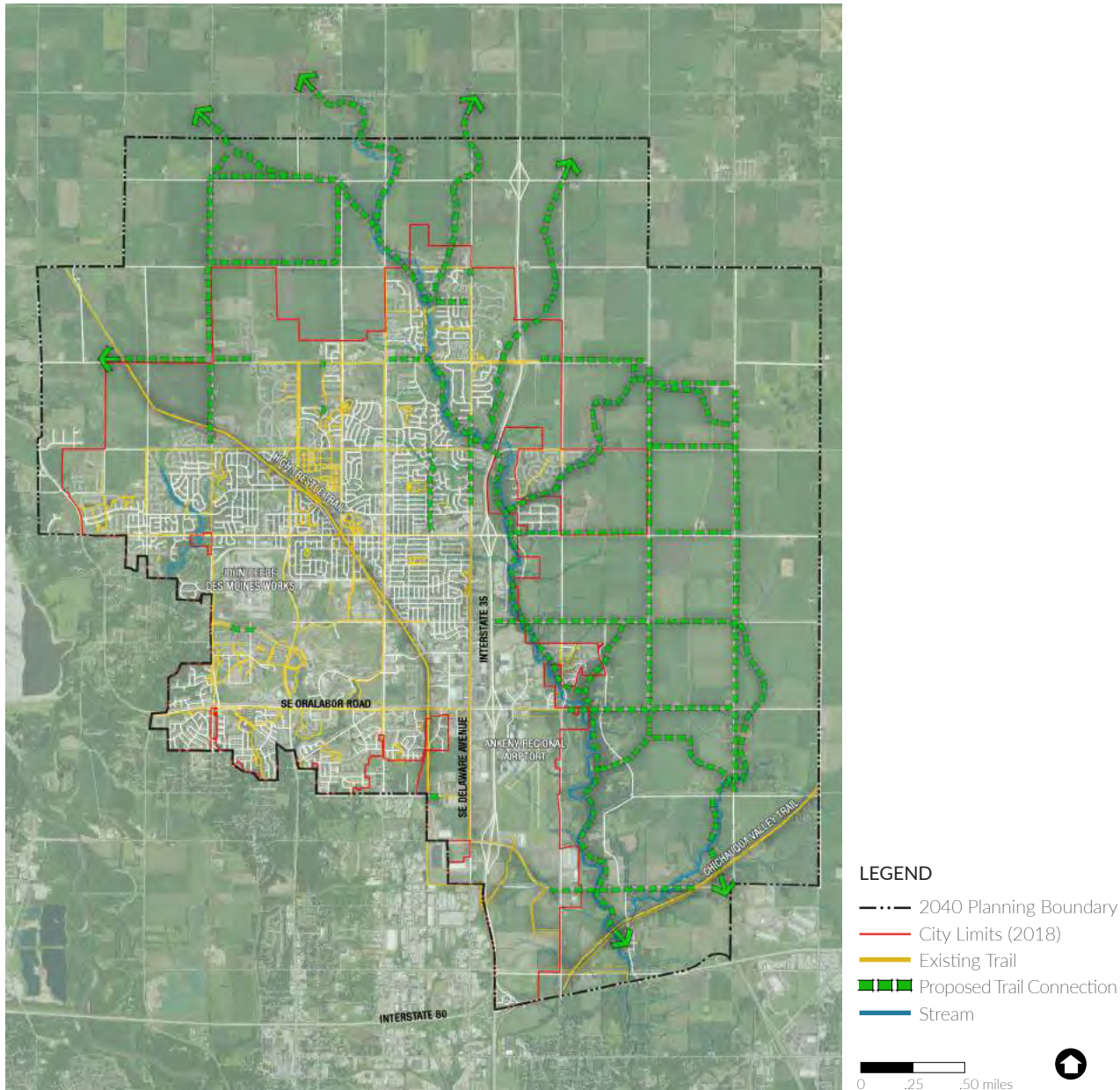
Funding Strategy	Implementation Feasibility	Implementation Risk	Currently Practicing
<b>Tax Increment Financing</b>	High	Low	Yes
<b>Dedication / Development Fees</b>	High	Low	Yes
<b>Impact Fees</b>	High	Low	No
<b>Redevelopment Funds</b>	Medium	Medium	No
<b>Private Donations</b>	Medium	Medium	Yes
<b>Volunteerism</b>	Medium	Medium	Yes
<b>Greenway Utility</b>	Low	Medium	No
<b>Easements</b>	Low	Medium	No





# TRAIL EXTENSION PLANNING

Figure 4.7- Proposed Trail Extensions



## TRAILS

Proposed trail extensions have been identified within the proposed greenways. Mainly, trails have been placed along major streams (in future stream buffer areas) and along predicted major thoroughfares throughout the planning boundary.

Multi-Use Trails should be placed along major thoroughfares throughout the community to aid in connectivity within Ankeny.

In areas with more tree cover and natural features, trails made with alternative surface types such as packed earth or wood mulch should be explored to add diversity to the trail system. The community survey and website comments called for more mountain biking / hiking-like trails in the area.

As recommended in *The Ankeny Plan 2040*, a stream buffer ordinance should be adopted that calls for an easement on all type 1 perennial and type 2 intermittent streams throughout Ankeny and the planning boundary. Type 1 streams would ideally require a 100-foot buffer and type 2 streams a 50-foot buffer.

Proposed trail expansions can also be found on the proposed greenway maps in the previous pages of this chapter. Trails will be a key feature of any proposed greenway system.

# TRAIL EXTENSION PLANNING

## WAYFINDING SIGNAGE + INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Wayfinding and interpretive signage are the key to an elated resident. People want to know where they're going and why, and what to look at once they are there.

Interpretive signs provide opportunities at the pace of the visitor's interest. The greenway system in Ankeny provides a good opportunity to introduce additional interpretive and wayfinding signage into the community. In addition to general knowledge, these amenities help create a sense of place and helps orientate people to their surroundings.

The overall look of the graphics should be clean, legible, and contemporary. The signs should use high quality photos to illustrate seasonal interest of plantings or wildlife. Any text on the signage should be simple and meaningful so that it appeals to visitors of all ages and education levels. Text should be limited to no more than two fonts per sign for visual clarity.

The signage should use a similar color palette across all signage—both wayfinding and interpretive—in city colors or colors that are agreed upon by a committee. The signs should be mounted at an appropriate reading height that is not obscured by their surroundings.

Possible themes include:

- Cultural Heritage
- Wellness
- Environmental Conservancy

## ANKENY SIGNAGE EXAMPLES:



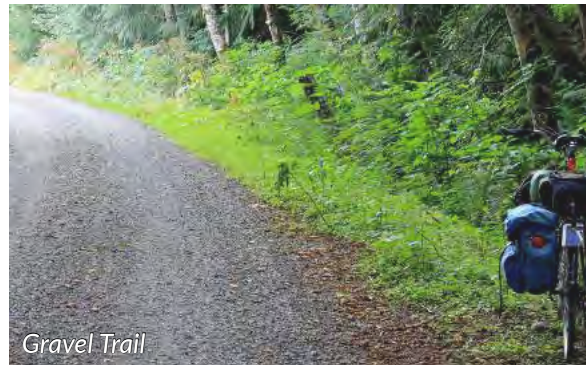
## REPRESENTATIVE IMAGERY EXAMPLES:





# TRAIL EXTENSION PLANNING

## TRAIL SURFACE TYPES:



## TRAILS-ACCESSIBILITY

There are many factors that go into the accessibility of a trail. Two important factors are the surface used in the trail and ADA considerations.

Depending on the choice of surfacing material, there may be ADA accessibility issues due to the estimated slope. Surfacing Options include:

- Decomposed granite
- Asphalt
- Concrete
- Gravel
- Packed earth
- Wood mulch

All recreational trail design should be approached with the intention of providing an accessible facility for all users, including those users with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established accessibility standards for buildings and their sites, but not for outdoor developed areas. Currently there are no federal ADA regulations that provide standards for recreational trails. However, the process to adopt such standards has begun.

Until such standards are developed by the ADA, recreational trails should be designed according to the recommendations of the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. The designer should do as much as possible to make a trail accessible. However, for situations where a trail is not considered accessible, signing should be placed at the trail access points to warn the user of the situations that are present.

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# PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES PLAN

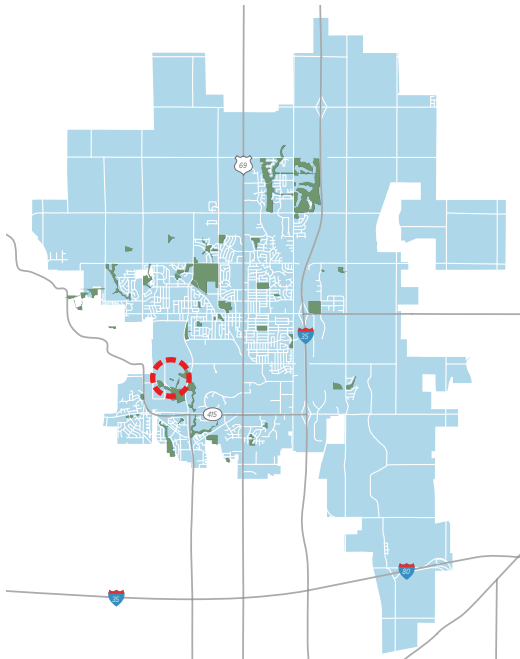
## SECTION CONTENTS:

- Mini Park Plans
- Neighborhood Park Plans
- Community Park Plans
- Special Use Park Plans
- Greenway Plans

# DEAN PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Dean Park is located in southwestern Ankeny as part of the Prairie Trail development. The 1.3 acre park is located near the corner of SW College Avenue and SW 18th Street. The park is mainly surrounded by single-family homes and shares a corner with the Prairie Trail Elementary School. A key feature of Dean Park is the splash pad, a popular warmer months amenity. There is a .25-mile paved walkway throughout the park.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Dean Park is a relatively new park within Ankeny's system and so the condition of the grounds and equipment is very good.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Dean Park is located within a short walking distance to the following parks:

- Cascade Falls Aquatic Center
- Precedence Park
- Promenade Park
- Estates Park
- Chautauqua Park
- Vintage Greenway

### Character + Use

Given the size of Dean Park and its proximity to other larger parks, it appears to mainly serve children from the immediate neighborhood. However, the nearness to the Cascade Falls Aquatic Center and the Prairie Trail Elementary School may attract additional patrons seeking a less intense water feature or alternative playground equipment.

### Known Land Issues

Given the closeness to Prairie Trail Elementary and the Cascade Falls Aquatic Center, traffic on SW College Avenue may pose a slight risk to children playing in the park or crossing the road to access the park from the school.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

There were several comments about the need for either a permanent bathroom or kybo (portable toilet) in Dean Park

Overall, people really like the splash pad feature





Aerial Image - Dean Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add permanent restroom facility
- Add parallel parking stalls along 18th and 19th Street (3-4 each side)
- Paint crosswalks in SW corner (SW 18th + SW College)

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Mutli-Purpose Shelter
-  Playground
-  Lawn Games
-  Trail
-  Splash Pad
-  Basketball Court
-  Entry Signage

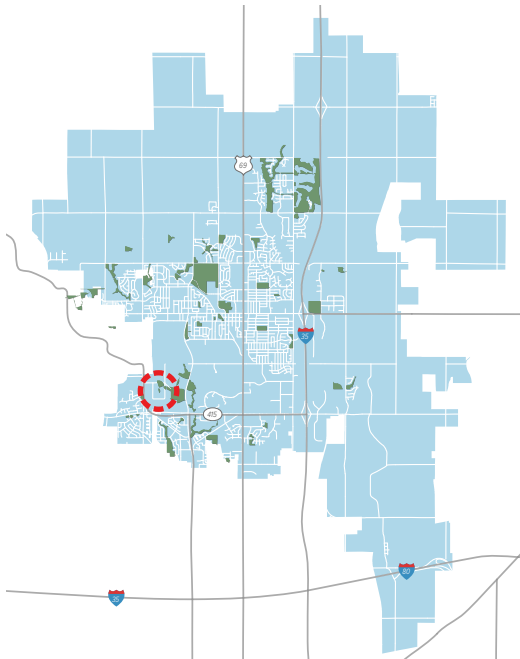
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

-  Restroom (Permanent)
-  Crosswalks
-  Off-Street Parking

# ESTATES PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Estates Park is located in southwestern Ankeny as part of the Prairie Trail development. The 1.2 acre park is located near the corner of SW Prairie Trail Parkway and SW Cascade Falls Drive. The park is currently mainly surrounded by single-family homes and shares a corner with the Prairie Trail Elementary School. There is still undeveloped / in-development parcels nearby Estates Park. The main amenity at Estates Park is a double playground. Raised planter berms are scattered throughout the remaining green space. There is .11 acres of paved paths through the park mainly connecting the sidewalk to the playground.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The overall condition of the playground, concrete pavement, bench, and trash can were all good. However, some of the grass in the open space is patchy and moderate condition.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Estates Park is located within a short walking distance to the following parks:

- Cascade Falls Aquatic Center
- Dean Park
- Precedence Park
- Promenade Park
- Chautauqua Park
- Vintage Greenway

### Character + Use

Given the size of Estates Park and its proximity to other larger parks, it appears to mainly serve children from the immediate neighborhood. The number of park users will likely increase as the surrounding area fully develops, mainly with single-family and multi-family developments.

### Known Land Issues

Given the closeness to the Cascade Falls Aquatic Center and the Prairie Trail Elementary School, traffic on SW Prairie Trail Parkway on the north side of the park may be a potential issue. Construction of the residential areas near the park may also be an attractive nuisance for children as the surrounding area continues to develop.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

There were no comments made on the Ankeny Parks Plan website regarding Estates Park.

Overall, Ankeny residents are happy with the quality and quantity of smaller mini and neighborhood parks which would likely include Estates Park.





Aerial Image - Estates Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve the turf / grass in this park
- Work to keep the berms healthy and full
- Add signage for the park (north or south side)
- Consider adding a soccer net or a picnic shelter for older kids and adults (also, shade)

## EXISTING AMENITIES



Playground



Trail



Lawn Games

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES



Tree Plantings



Shade Structure



Playground Expansion

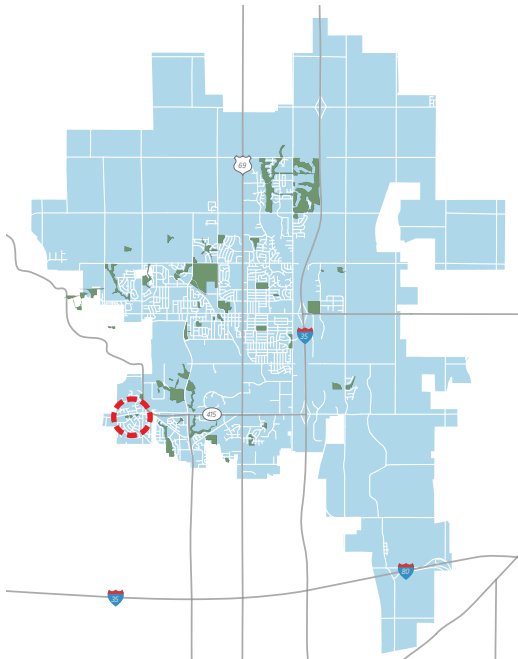


Entry Signage

# GLENBROOKE PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Glenbrooke Park is located in southwestern Ankeny near the corner of SW Oralabor Road and SW Glenbrooke Boulevard. The Oralabor Gateway Trail runs through this 4.2-acre park connecting the three separate areas of the park. Roughly .22-miles of paved walkway, mainly from a section of the Oralabor Gateway Trail, runs through the park. Glenbrooke Park is close to the existing Ankeny city limits in the southern portion of the boundary. There are mainly single-family homes south of the park as the northern boundary of the park is a busy roadway.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The overall condition of the playground, concrete pavement, bench, and trash can were all good. However, some of the grass in the open space is patchy and moderate condition.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Glenbrooke Park is relatively close to Westwinds Park, however, Westwinds Park is located across the busy Oralabor Road which makes travel between the two parks more challenging, especially for younger users. Glenbrooke Park is also somewhat close to the Diamond Hills Greenway and Sawgrass Park.

### Character + Use

While the size of Glenbrooke Park is relatively small, there are a number of different amenities located within the park for use by nearby residents. The park features a playground, shelter, and basketball court. Permanent bathrooms are also located on site.

### Known Land Issues

The most immediate issue with Glenbrooke Park would be the traffic directly north of the park on Oralabor Road. While much of the programmed activities are located further into the parkland, the possibility of using the space for sports practice might be limited by the road. While the trail connectivity of the park has numerous benefits, faster bike traffic might also be an issue on the Oralabor Gateway Trail.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

People love the park and use it daily

Many nearby residents walk to the park

Great for younger and older kids

Mix of shade and sun

Bushes and weeds around the picnic shelter tend to get overgrown

Some of the kids equipment is worn / has graffiti so it needs to be refreshed or replaced

Trash can and grill need improvements





Aerial Image - Glenbrooke Park





## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add a natural buffer to the west segment of park facing SW Oralabor Road to help activate this space for play or practice space
- Add colored brick pavers on street crossing over SW Glenbrooke Boulevard to alert pedestrians and drivers of the park / trail crossing
- Consider adding second skating rink / warming house to the western segment of the park
- Add a bike repair station for park / trail users
- Expand pathway and add shelter to the western segment

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Playground
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Off-Street Parking
-  Trail
-  Restroom - Indoor
-  Basketball Court
-  Entry Signage
-  Trail Access - Regional

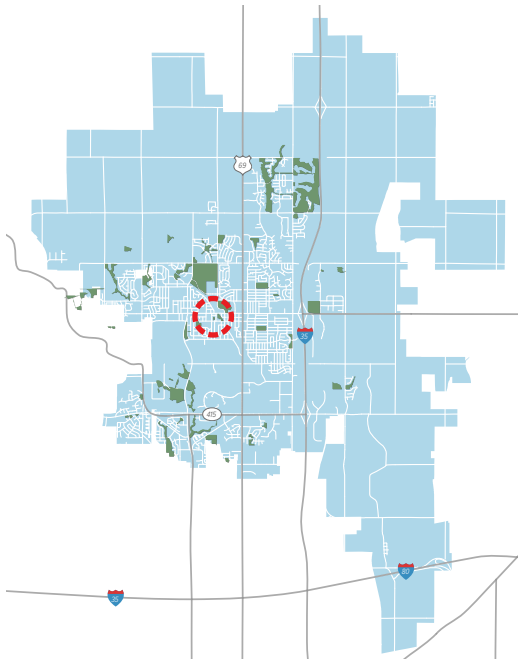
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

-  Crosswalks
-  Warming House
-  Ice Skating
-  Bike Repair Station
-  Picnic Shelter

# HAUBERT PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Haubert Park is located in central Ankeny near the corner of SW Des Moines Street and SW 3rd Street. This 0.9-acre park is close to the Uptown District of Ankeny and is situated amongst some of the older stock of single-family homes in Ankeny. The park is just a few blocks from the trailhead for the High Trestle Trail at the Ankeny Market & Pavilion. This small mini-park is easy to miss unless you know to look for it, with only a small sign marking the entrance and the entire park surrounded on all sides by single-family homes. While small, the park features a concrete pathway, basketball court, playground, open space, and picnic shelter.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Haubert Park is showing signs of its age compared to other new parks in Ankeny. Updated entry signage, basketball court, grills would be welcome improvements.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Haubert Park is located near the historic core of Ankeny and benefits from close access to several other parks including:

- Ankeny Market & Pavilion
- Sunset Park
- Wagner Park
- Hawkeye Park

### Character + Use

Haubert Park is a small park that can almost feel like an extension of one of the nearby homeowner's backyards. This is both a benefit and a potential issue. The park is established and cozy, but there may be some concern from people that they are intruding into a private-like park. Unless you know to look for it, you will not see this park.

### Known Land Issues

Haubert Park is completely land locked by existing single-family homes. The only known land use issue might be concerns from the surrounding homeowners over congestion, noise, or a sense of false ownership of the park. Wayfinding and signage would bring more attention to the park, which may not be entirely welcome.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

There were no formal comments made about Haubert Park on the Ankeny Parks Plan website





Aerial Image - Haubert Park




## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Small park signs need to be replaced
- Resurface / repaint basketball court
- Overall update of park (refresh)
- Added / updated lighting
- Paint sub-structure of shelter - shows signs of rust

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Playground
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Trail
-  Basketball Court
-  Entry Signage

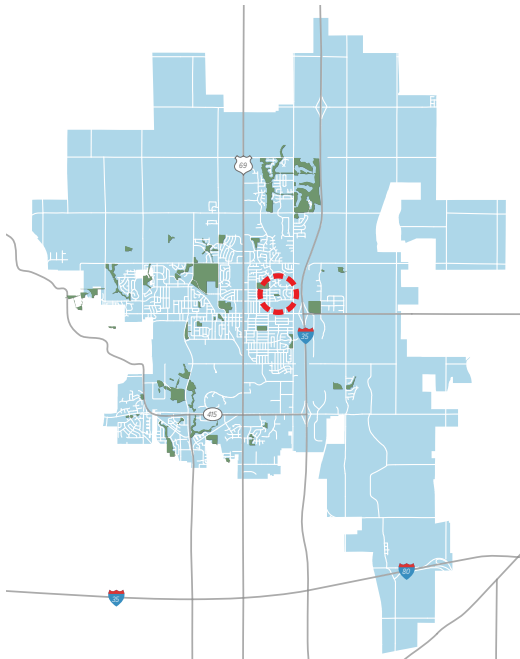
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

-  Entry Signage Update
-  Basketball Resurfacing
-  Lighting

# MICHAEL PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Michael Park is located in northeast Ankeny near the corner of NE Wanda Drive and NE 7th Street. This 2.1-acre park is located in an older residential neighborhood north of a commercial area and multi-family development off East 1st Street near the I-35 interchange. The park is just a few blocks southwest of the much larger Crestbruck Park. This small park has a 0.1-mile paved walkway running through the extent of the park. There are three entrances to this park that ensures adequate access from residential streets on all sides. Michael Park features a playground and picnic shelter, and is nearly fully enclosed by single-family homes.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Michael Park is showing some signs of its age. There are some large cracks in the pavement of the walkway, a sign was knocked down, and some amenities like the bench and the parking situation were deemed adequate but not great.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Michael Park is close to Crestbruck Park, but no other parks are located within a reasonable walking distance that do not cross major roadways.

### Character + Use

Michael Park is a small park with no real room for expansion or practice space. People appear to be using the dead end road areas as parking. Given the size and location of the park, it would appear that mainly local residents are using this park.

### Known Land Issues

There is a man made concrete drainage ravine running through the park suggesting that flooding may be a possible issue in the park. While Michael Park is relatively close to a large community park, Crestbruck Park, the area south of Michael Park has a large number of apartments, townhomes, and duplexes. With the level of density in the area, it seems likely that the park is overused or inadequate for the immediate area. There are several parks south and west of the higher density area, but many would require a car due to road traffic issues.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

There were no comments made about Michael Park on the Ankeny Parks Plan website.





Aerial Image - Michael Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Fix cracks in the trail
- Refresh the mulch / playground equipment in this park
- Improve connection between Crestbruck Park and Michael Park

## EXISTING AMENITIES



Playground



Picnic Shelter



Trail



Off-Street Parking



Entry Signage

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

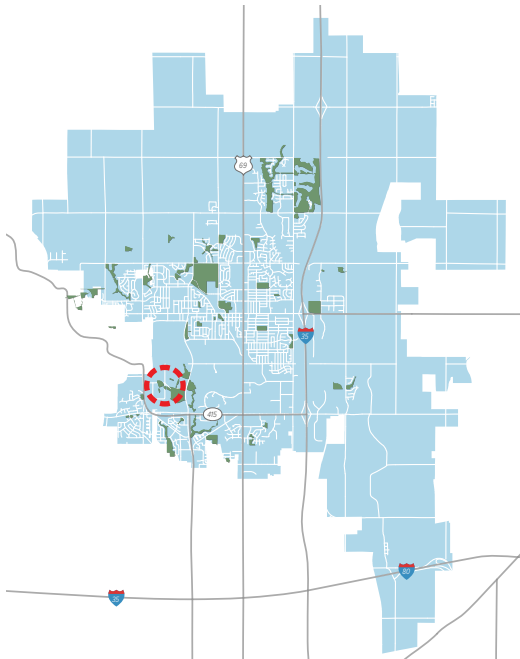


Trail Repaving

# PRECEDENCE PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Precedence Park is located in southwestern Ankeny as part of the Prairie Trail development. The 2.6-acre park is located near the corner of SW Precedence Road and SW 18th Street. The park is composed of three separate parcels connected by a .25-mile paved pathway. Each parcel is intersected by a local street. The main amenity at Precedence Park is a large picnic shelter surrounded by a flower garden. The remainder of the park is relatively narrow open space. Precedence Park is mainly surrounded by single-family homes on its boundaries. The park acts as a connection between Chautauqua Park and the Vintage Greenway.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Precedence Park is a new park within Ankeny's system and so the condition of the grounds and equipment is generally very good. However, there has been some damage to the new trees.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Precedence Park is located within a short walking distance to the following parks:

- Dean Park
- Chautauqua Park
- Vintage Greenway
- Cascade Falls Aquatic Center
- Promenade Park
- Estates Park

### Character + Use

Given the somewhat unusual shape and the type of amenities present in Precedence Park, it seems likely that the park is mainly used by nearby residents and for special events such as weddings or family gathers as the shelter can accommodate up to 100 people. The higher quality landscaping and lack of playground equipment separate the park from others nearby and within the park system.

### Known Land Issues

Given that the picnic shelter can be used for large gatherings of up to 100 people, there is a distinct lack of parking or restroom on site. The park may also change character slightly as the Chautauqua Park and Vintage Greenway develop and become more programmed.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

There were no comments about Precedence Park on the Ankeny Parks Plan website.











Aerial Image - Precedence Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider adding brick pavers to the crosswalk areas between the three park segments

## EXISTING AMENITIES

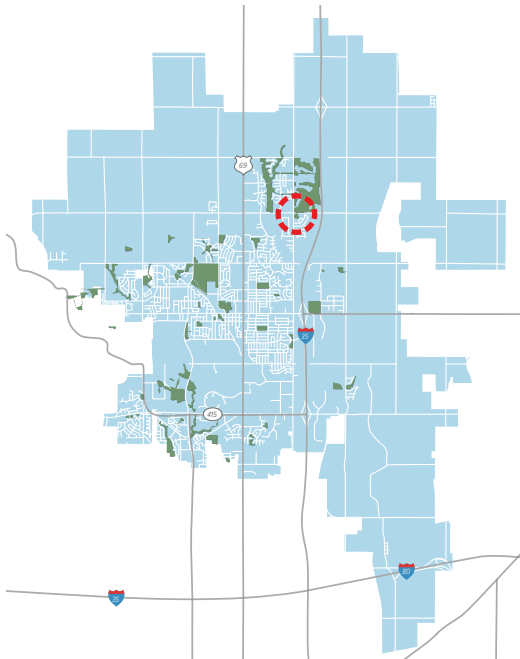
-  Playground
-  Multi-Purpose Shelter
-  Trail
-  Garden
-  Entry Signage
-  Wedding Venue

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

# RENAISSANCE PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Renaissance Park is located in northeast Ankeny at the corner of NE 36th Street and NE Delaware Avenue. This 2.6-acre park is mainly composed of a large detention basin which occupies the majority of the site. The park is located on a busy intersection across the street from Otter Creek Park and the Otter Creek Golf Course near the NE 36th Street and Interstate 35 interchange. There is a paved trail around the detention basin that is connected to a larger trail system that extends north of the park nearly to the edge of Ankeny and south until nearly NE 18th Street.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Overall, the park appears to be in good condition. The detention basin was undergoing a fish study at the time of this planning process. The detention basin, trail, and benches appear in good order.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Renaissance Park is located within a short walking distance to the following parks:

- Otter Creek Park
- Otter Creek Golf Course
- Woodland Reserve Greenway

### Character + Use

While there is some potential open space in the park southeast of the detention basin, this park mainly serves as a water feature and trail connection. There is no signage present indicating that it is a city park. There are five parking spots in the park, but can only be accessed from a secondary road east of the detention basin.

### Known Land Issues

There were several geese present in the area at the time of this study which indicates some potential water quality issues. The park is bordered by two busy roads, Delaware Avenue and NE 36th Street. This is currently a fast growing area in Ankeny and traffic is likely an issue. The traffic makes the potential nearby open space less attractive for possible practice space for youth sports.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

The only comment from the Ankeny Parks Plan website was that the individual did not know this was a park and that it was nice to know.



Aerial Image - Renaissance Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add park signage
- Add some youth-sized soccer goals to open space south of parking lot
- Add shelter near parking area
- Continue to supplement tree plantings

## EXISTING AMENITIES



Detention Basin



Trail



Off-Street Parking



Fishing

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES



Multi-Purpose Shelter



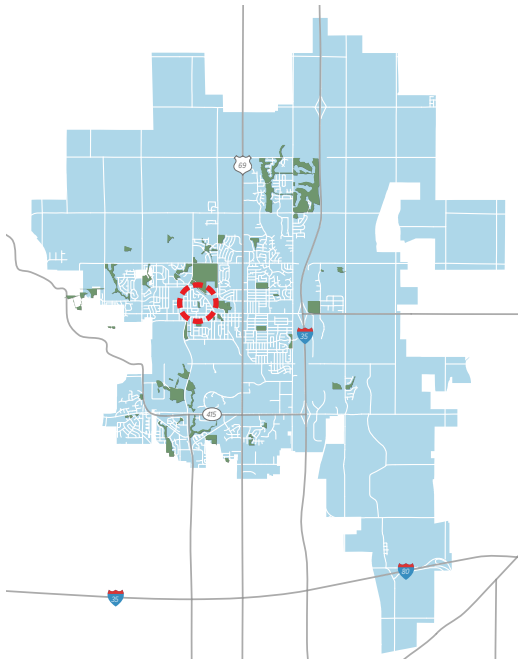
Soccer Goals



# VILLAGE PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Village Park is located in central Ankeny at the corner of NW 4th Street and NW Stratford Lane north of W 1st Street and west of the High Trestle Trail. This 2.4-acre park is nestled between single-family homes with a connection to nearby Northwest Elementary School. There is approximately .35 miles of paved trail throughout the perimeter of the park with connection spurs to the elementary school. There is a large amount of open space in the northern portion of the park. The southern portions of the park have a playground and picnic shelter.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Overall, the park appears to be in good condition. The on-site grills would benefit from maintenance and/or replacement. The placement of trash cans and grills was somewhat odd. The playground equipment will need updating.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Village Park is located within a short walking distance to the following parks:

- Wagner Park
- Hawkeye Park
- Haubert Park
- Sunset Park
- Ankeny Market & Pavilion
- Prairie Ridge Sports Complex
- Prairie Ridge Aquatic Center
- Prairie Ridge Skate Park

### Character + Use

Village Park is a nice established park with some mature trees and convenient access to nearby residential areas and elementary school. The playground appears to be geared more towards younger children. There is plenty of greenspace and a shelter to allow for picnic or practice space.

### Known Land Issues

There does not appear to be any noticeable land use issues present within Village Park.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

There were no comments about Village Park on the Ankeny Parks Plan website.





Aerial Image - Village Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Update playground equipment
- Move trash cans and grills to areas of the park where they will be more useful
- Replace or refurbish grills on site
- Add mulch to playground
- Widen the trail on the east side of the park
- Survey and address stormwater drainage concerns

## EXISTING AMENITIES



Playground



Trail



Picnic Shelter



Entry Signage

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES



Update Playground



Trail Widening

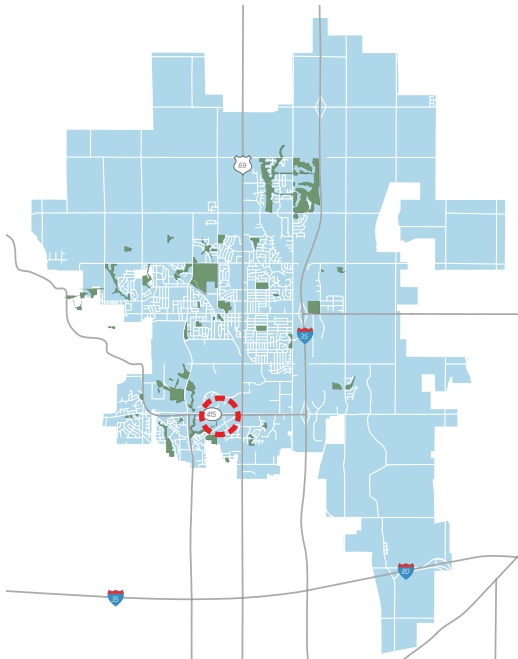


Replace Grills

# WHITE BIRCH PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

White Birch Park is located in southwest Ankeny on SW White Birch Circle near the corner of SW Oralabor Road and SW State Street. The park is composed of two parcels, one larger connected y-shaped area and a circular piece that serves as a round-about for SW White Birch Circle. This 3.0-acre park is surrounded by multi-family condominiums and townhomes on the west and eastern sides. South of the park are single-family units. There is approximately .12 miles of paved trail running through the park. White Birch Park is located near a commercial and mixed-use development south of SW Oralabor Road.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Overall, the park is in decent condition. The few trouble spots are the need for trees / shaded areas, grass is spotty in some places, and the playground needs some upkeep (wood chips etc.).

### Connectivity to Other Parks

White Birch Park is located within a short walking distance to the following parks:

- Diamond Hills Greenway
- Sawgrass Park
- Somersby Park
- Ankeny Dog Park
- Springwood Park

### Character + Use

White Birch Park appears to serve mainly the surrounding residents and the commercial area located directly north of the park. The park does not appear to have the variety of amenities needed to attract residents from other parts of town.

### Known Land Issues

There may be some potential traffic and/or pedestrian issues crossing SW White Birch Drive once the trail ends near the round-about. The area needs some shading both for children and parents. Some remarked on some drainage issues in the area that impact the trail / pavement.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

Nice neighborhood park but needs to be added on to

Needs a gazebo or shared spot to sit

Only option for shade is under the playground and that is not a viable option for parents

There is a lot of greenspace but the grass is so unkempt and spotty it can't be used for fear of potholes etc.

They would love to see an addition to the playground (too small)

Park desperately needs some trees or shade near the equipment

Playground needs another layer of woodchips on west side or to remove and replace mud flower / dirt on west side by sidewalk.

Remove the environmental woodchips rolls if they are still there

Recreation trail portion was replaced a few years ago, but drainage issue wasn't fixed--water still pools/freezes in winter and cracks trail.





Aerial Image - White Birch Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Shade structure needed near the playground for both parents and children (shade sails and/or picnic shelter)
- Continue to supplement tree plantings in the area
- Add additional playground equipment and refresh the mulch
- Fix cracks in the pavement in the trail
- Maintain turf by identifying and fixing potholes

## EXISTING AMENITIES



Playground



Trail



Lawn Games



Entry Signage

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

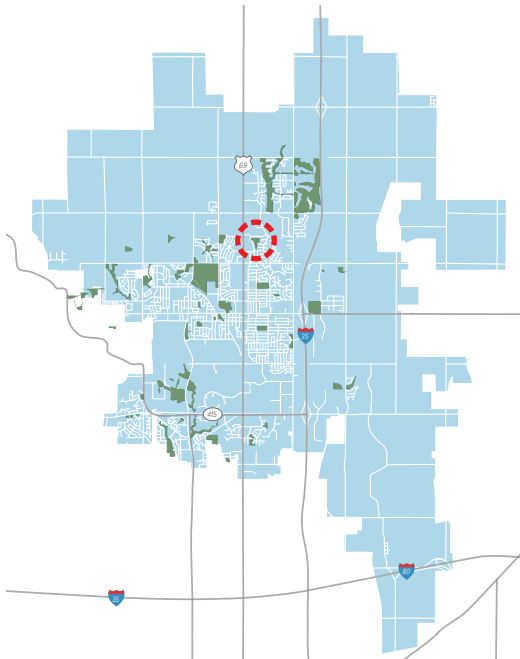


Multi-Purpose Shelter

# ASHLAND MEADOWS PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Ashland Meadows Park is located in northern Ankeny by the Ashland Ridge Elementary near the corner of NW Ash Drive and NW 18th Street. The park is composed of green space and a series of winding trails connecting the nearby residential areas to each other and the elementary school. This 12.2-acre park is surrounded by single and multi-family home. There is approximately 1 mile of paved trail running through the park. Ashland Meadows Park is connected to Georgetown Park.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The overall condition of the trails and grass in Ashland Meadows Park is very good.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Ashland Meadows Park is located within walking distance to the following parks:

- Georgetown Park
- Prairie Ridge Sports Complex
- Prairie Ridge Aquatic Center
- Prairie Ridge Skate Park
- Watercrest Park

### Character + Use

Ashland Meadows Park is mainly a large open space with trails running throughout. There is potential to add additional amenities to this park. Mainly, it appears to serve the immediate residential areas and provide trail access to the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex.

### Known Land Issues

There does not appear to be any land use issues on the site.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

People really enjoy the park

One complaint is that there are some blind spots that make it hard to keep track of your kids

Wonderful park

There are some issues with teenagers / tweens loitering, blocking access, and behavior language issues

Need more benches





Aerial Image - Ashland Meadows Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add benches along the trail
- Add signage and dog waste stations
- The open space in the center of the park could have soccer nets added for an additional practice space

## EXISTING AMENITIES



Trail



Multi-Use Field

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

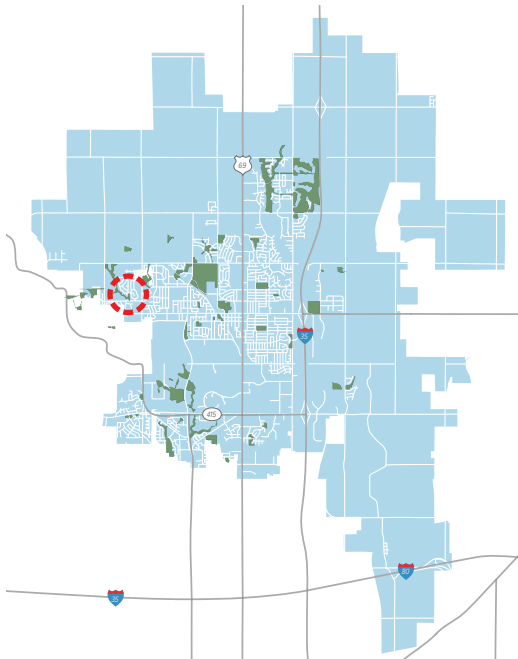


Soccer Nets

# Boulder Brook Park

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Boulder Brook Park is located in northwestern Ankeny on NW Boulder Point Place just north of NW 5th Street. This 1.0-acre park is surrounded by single-family homes and acts as an entry point to the Rock Creek Greenbelt that is connected to the park by a bridge. There is approximately .12 miles of paved trail running through the park that connects to another .11 miles of trail in Rock Creek Greenbelt with potential for additional trail. Mainly serving the immediate neighborhood, the park has a playground and picnic shelter.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The overall condition of Boulder Brook Park is mainly good to fine. The paved trail is in good condition and there were no noticeable issues with the quality of the turf. The playground equipment was in fair condition, but may need some maintenance in the near future. There is currently no signage identifying the area as a city park.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Boulder Brook Park is connected to the Rock Creek Greenbelt. The next closest park is North Creek Park which is around 0.6 miles away.

### Character + Use

Boulder Brook Park is a neighborhood serving park that offers a place to play and gather for the immediate neighborhood. While it likely does not have enough amenities or space to attract a wider geographic range of users, it is a pleasant small park for the local residents, most of which appear to live in single-family homes.

### Known Land Issues

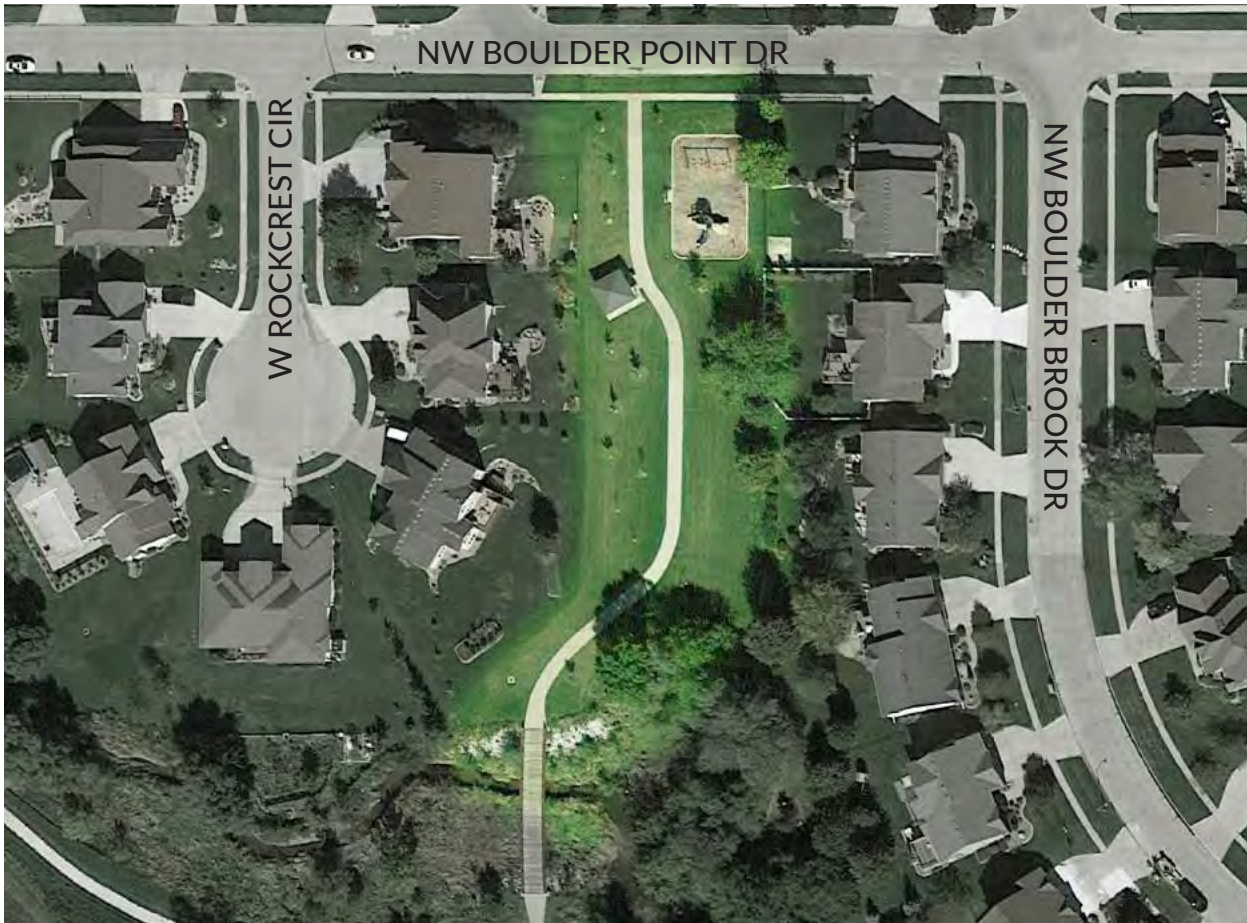
There does not appear to be any land use issues on the site. Flooding may be an issue with its proximity to Rock Creek. Given that the park shares boundaries with local resident's backyards, there is some potential of feeling like the park is not fully accessible. A lack of signage indicating that this is a city park may also contribute to this issue.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

Some people thought there was a plan to have a park on the northeast end of Boulder Brook

The playground area is nice. One request would be a restroom.





Aerial Image - Boulder Brook Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add entry signage so visitors know it is a park
- Add trail wayfinding signage near connection to Rock Creek Greenbelt
- Consider refreshing the playground equipment in the near future

## EXISTING AMENITIES



Playground



Trail



Lawn Games



Picnic Shelter

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

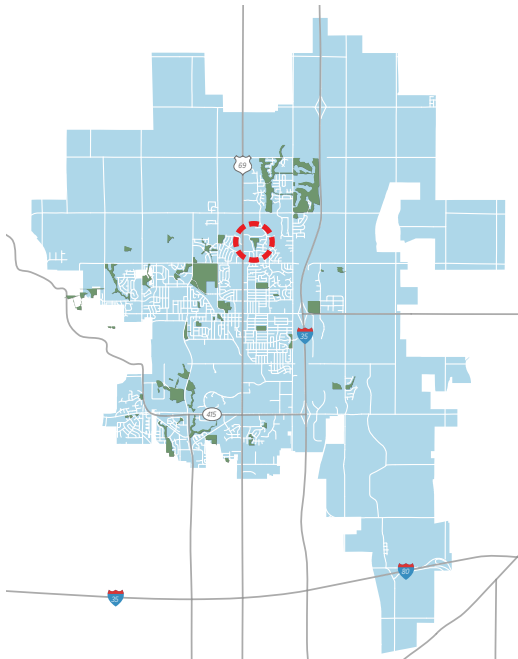


Entry Signage

# BRIARWOOD SOUTH PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Briarwood South Park is located in northeast Ankeny on NE Oak Drive between NW Reinhart Drive and NE Georgetown Boulevard. This 10.0-acre park is surrounded by single-family homes on the north and east sides and multi-family units on the western edge of the park. There is approximately .6 miles of paved path running throughout that connect the various entrances to the park to each other and the playground. There is a significant amount of green / open space in this park some of which it currently utilized for soccer practice and play.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The overall condition of Briarwood South Park is very good. The playground equipment looks to be brand new and the grass and paved path appear to be well maintained.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

There are no other parks in the immediate area around Briarwood South Park. The nearest park is Georgetown Park which is approximately 1.0 miles to the west and requires crossing a busy intersection. There is a private golf course near to the park.

### Character + Use

Briarwood South Park appears to serve mainly the surrounding residents, but the large amount of greenspace may attract sport practices from other parts of Ankeny. The surrounding single-family homes have backyards that open up to the park, furthering the neighborhood feel to the park. Given how new the park is there are very few mature trees so the whole park feels quite open.

### Known Land Issues

There does not appear to be any land use issues in Briarwood South Park. There are some busy roads relatively close to the park, but residential areas mainly buffer the park from these potential hazards.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

They enjoy the park, but a lack of parking makes it difficult to access for those not in the immediate neighborhood.

The playground equipment and basketball courts are great.

The area near the playground could use more shade.





Aerial Image - Briarwood South Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adding a few parking spots would help this park open up to more of the community and neighborhood
- Add more trees around the playground and soccer space for shade

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Playground
-  Trail
-  Restroom - Outdoor
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Basketball Court
-  Multi-Purpose Field
-  Entry Signage

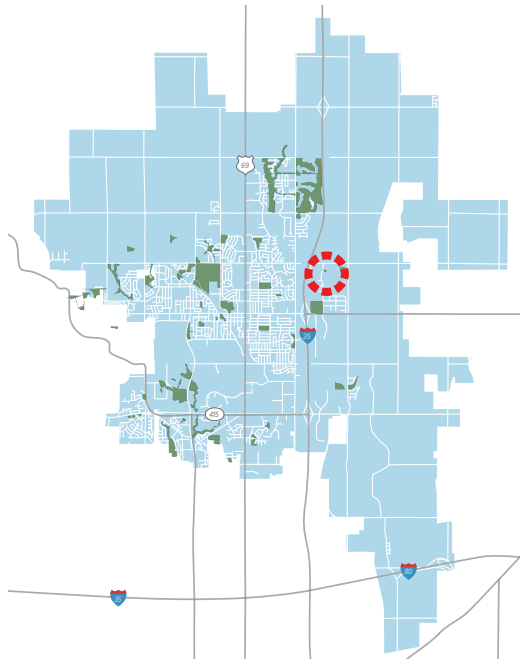
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

-  Parking Lot

# DEER CREEK PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Deer Creek Park is located east of Interstate 35 in northeast Ankeny. The park is surrounded by single-family homes south of NE 102nd Avenue between NE Four Mile Drive and Deer Creek Drive. This 6.4-acre park is still in the development process and was incomplete at the time of this study. There were some paved paths constructed in the area, but no formal play structures or programming in the park.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The undeveloped nature of the park makes a true assessment of condition impossible. At the time of this study, there did appear to be some patchy grass and areas with no turf whatsoever. The pavement was new and appeared in good condition. Signage will be needed as the park develops, as currently there is none.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

There are no other parks within immediate walking distance of the Deer Creek neighborhood. Deer Creek Greenway is nearby, but mainly serves as a detention basin. Heritage Park is approximately 1.4 miles south of Deer Creek Park and the route does not appear to have a sidewalk.

### Character + Use

The exact character and use of Deer Creek Park is difficult to determine before the park is fully developed. It is likely that the local neighborhood is using the greenspace for light play or dog walking, but the use and character will develop as the park is finished.

### Known Land Issues

There does not appear to be any known land use issues on the park. Access to the park for those outside the immediate area will likely be limited because of how surrounded the park is by single-family homes and a lack of off-street parking. Signage might make this park more accessible.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

Please add a baseball field with backstop and dirt infield similar to what is at NE Elementary. With the amount of baseball and softball teams in Ankeny, finding an open field on any given night to practice on in the spring and early summer is difficult. There are nice fields at the sports complex, but those fields are locked up.

Deer Creek is isolated from the trails, requiring residents to bike on the road at 1st Street or take Four Mile, a country road with no sidewalk, north to 36th Street to Interstate 35 to connect with sidewalks and trails. It would be wonderful to have trail access over I-35 at 18th or from the subdivision up to 36th Street. The interchange at 1st Street will be so busy.

Would love more walking trails. Somehow connect us to the rest of the city's trail system.

Many of us here have dogs. Many of us walk our dogs after work. Sometime it's hot out. I would like to see a dog fountain at the park or maybe some kind of cooling detention basin that is only a couple of inches deep. I understand that there are dog parks in other places in Ankeny, but it would be nice to have something close to home.



Aerial Image - Deer Creek Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Trail
-  Multi-Purpose Field
-  Entry Signage
-  Playground
-  Picnic Shelter

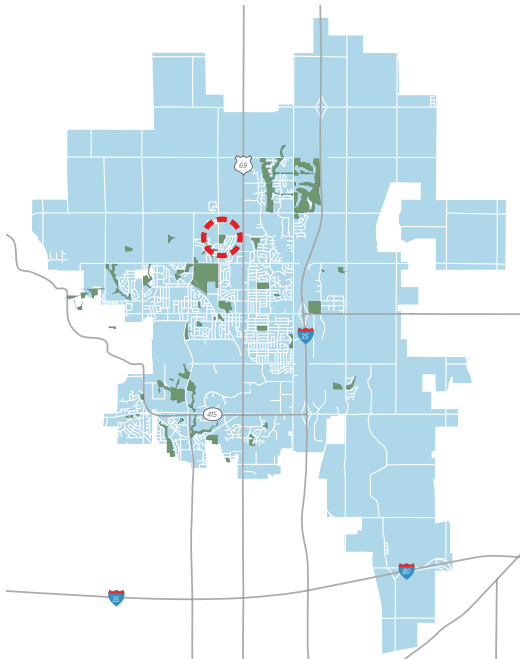
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES



# GEORGETOWN PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Georgetown Park is located in northwest Ankeny at the corner of NW Ash Drive and NW Georgetown Boulevard across the street from the Ashland Ridge Elementary School. This 11.2-acre park has a playground, basketball court, and two detention basins. Georgetown Park has mainly single-family residential on the south and eastern boundaries, an elementary school directly west of the park, and an area under development north of the park. There is approximately .86 miles of paved path running throughout the park that loop around the two detention basins.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Georgetown Park is generally in good condition. The detention basin, turf, and playground are all high quality. The one potential issue is some missing pavers in the park shelter area.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Georgetown Park is across the streets from an elementary school that offers connections to Ashland Meadows Park. Ashland Meadows Park offers a direct trail connection to the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex and the various park amenities offered in this area including the skate park and pool.

### Character + Use

Georgetown Park is an attractive park that is likely considered an asset for the surrounding neighborhood. While it appears to mainly serve the surrounding area, the detention basins and trails may attract some from other areas of town. The park could potentially be used as a practice field, but some nets would need to be placed there for soccer.

### Known Land Issues

One potential land use issue for Georgetown Park would be traffic along NW Ash Drive on the western boundary of the park. Water quality issues may be an on-going issue due to the large number of geese in the area.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

Please replace the detention basin fountain. It has not worked for years and is greatly missed by resident and park users.

Also, park is highly used by dog walkers-it would be nice to have an additional doggie bag station

The park is a daily part of my life.

The geese have taken over the shelter near the detention basin. Geese feces in the path also makes the park less enjoyable at times.

The geese / small shelter by the detention basin are an issue.

Needs more benches.





Aerial Image - Georgetown Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replace the missing pavers in the shelters
- Add a shrub buffer / don't mow turf along the detention basin edge to prevent geese populations from taking over the area
- Add curb cut and painted crosswalk to Ashland Ridge Elementary School on NW Ash Drive
- Add more benches and dog waste stations along the pathway
- Add soccer nets to the open space to use for practice space
- Relocate current shelter and/or add a new shelter

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Playground
-  Trail
-  Restroom - Outdoor
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Basketball Court
-  Multi-Purpose Field
-  Entry Signage
-  Fishing
-  Detention Basin
-  Off-Street Parking

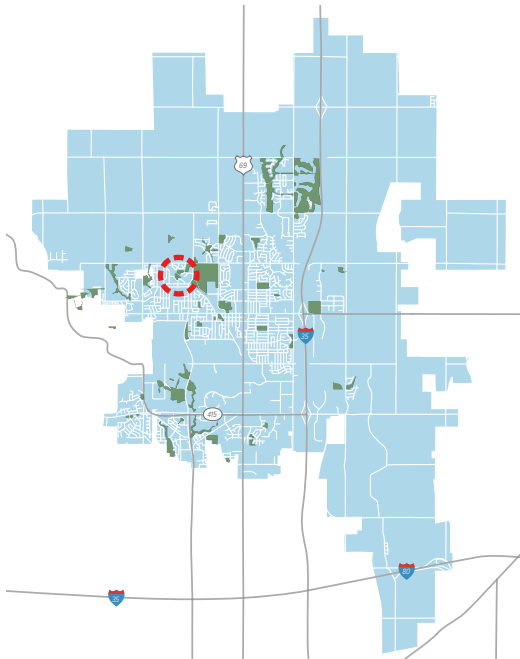
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

-  Multi-Purpose Shelter

# GREENTREE PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Greentree Park is located in northwest Ankeny on NW Hickory Lane between NW Linden Street and NW Pine Road. This 5.2-acre park has the High Trestle Trail as its northeastern boundary with trail access and crossing which connects it to an additional park system. There is approximately .24 miles of paved path running throughout the park that connect the park to the regional trail at its border. The park has one of the few combination tennis / pickle ball courts in Ankeny. The park is nestled between a mixture of single and multi-family housing and has plenty of mature trees that give the park a nice established look and feel.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Overall, the condition of Greentree Park is generally good. There is some wear and tear with the softball field, and some amenities such as the drinking fountain and grills. The playground needs updating.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Greentree Park is connected to the High Trestle Trail which offers access to a wide variety of parks and is a regional trail. Other parks within walking distance of Greentree Park include:

- Prairie Lakes Park
- Horizon Park
- Prairie Ridge Sports Complex
- Prairie Ridge Aquatic Center
- Prairie Ridge Skate Park
- North Creek Park

### Character + Use

Greentree Park is a mature and established neighborhood park. The direct access to the High Trestle Trail and proximity to larger parks such as the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex make this an attractive location for a park. While the park likely mainly serves the nearby residents, the pickleball court probably attracts user from a larger geographic area. Public input suggests some improvements to the park could increase use.

### Known Land Issues

There does not appear to be any known land use issues in the area around Greentree Park.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

This park is used by several in-home day cares because it is within walking distance.

Love the pickleball area and it is well used.

The play area is a disaster. The big concrete rock the kids can climb on would cause great injury if a child fell from there to the ground. The mulch around the rock is sparse.

The swings and bouncy area are okay. Nicely shaded at times.

The slide is way to steep for young children.

This is a beautiful area and could have so much more to use.

This park has a lot of potential with the street access and parking and trail access. However, this park falls short when compared to others in town.

The playground does not have many options beyond climbing rocks and the rope tower, swinging, and going down the slide. It is often muddy and the mulch gets shifted around.

The grassy open space goes largely un-used. It would be nice to see a wandering trail through here with some landscaping.

This park would get used so much more if it had more to offer.





Aerial Image - Greentree Park


## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Redo the playground with newer equipment and more mulch
- Replace shuffleboard courts with bocce ball

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Playground
-  Trail
-  Restroom - Outdoor
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Multi-Sport Court
-  Multi-Use Diamond
-  Off-Street Parking
-  Trail Access
-  Entry Signage

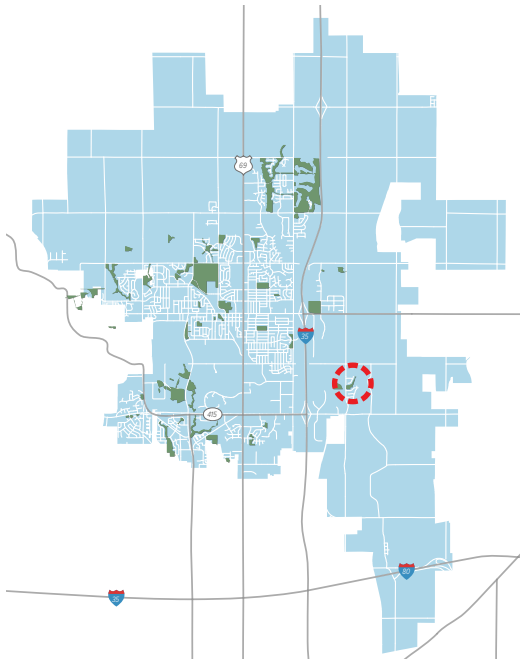
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

-  Playground (Update)

# HILLSIDE PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Hillside Park is located in southeast Ankeny at the corner of SE Four Mile Drive and SE 20th Street. This 7.6-acre park is one of the few parks in this area of Ankeny and serves an important function for these residents. There is approximately .61 miles of paved path that runs through the park and loops around one of the two detention basins located within the park. There are two playgrounds located within Hillside Park and one picnic shelter. The park is mainly surrounded by single-family homes and there are several trail spurs connecting the nearby streets to the park.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The overall condition of Hillside Park is good. All of the playground equipment appears brand new. The condition of the shelter and pavement are both good. There are some comments about the seating wall needing maintenance.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Hillside Park is one of the few parks in this area of Ankeny. The Clover Ridge Greenway is located across the street and is mostly natural open space.

### Character + Use

While Hillside Park is not a very large park, it is the only park with playground equipment within this southeastern Ankeny neighborhood. For this reason, the park serves as an important amenity for these residents that are relatively isolated from other parks in Ankeny. The playground equipment is nice, but some feel the neighborhood needs more variety and equipment.

### Known Land Issues

The main land use issue at Hillside Park is the hazard created due to SE Four Mile Drive. Cars travel at high speeds and this can be hazardous for children. Another land use issue revolves around parking. Many families live 6-8 blocks away with limited sidewalk access.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

I absolutely love having this park in my back yard and the grass is always very well maintained.

A few spots where the wall and railing around the play equipment needs repaired.

Fountains in the detention basins disappeared about 3 years ago, after repeated calls to Parks & Rec there is still no fountain. The detention basin look dirty.

Big need for parking, some live 6-8 blocks away

The seating wall is starting to fall apart. The park may be lightly used, but we are a young neighborhood and plenty of kids use this park.

This park is not user friendly and it is rather boring. Need steps from upper play area to lower, would love to see benches for parents. New play equipment that is fun to play on. Our neighborhood just continues to grow, need more than two swings.

This is a road and safety hazard. Additionally, the moody geese are a problem and inhibit enjoyment of the walking paths.

More slides and other style equipment (such as a bridge) in the "older" child section of the park would be greatly enjoyed.

Would love to see a few benches for parents, along with a shade tent so the park can be used a bit more during the hot summer days.





Aerial Image - Hillside Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add dedicated parking spots along SE Fourmile Drive
- Add additional playground equipment including possibly an adventure playground for older children
- Repair the damaged areas of the wall near the playground and add benches near the playground
- Add some shade structures or trees

## EXISTING AMENITIES

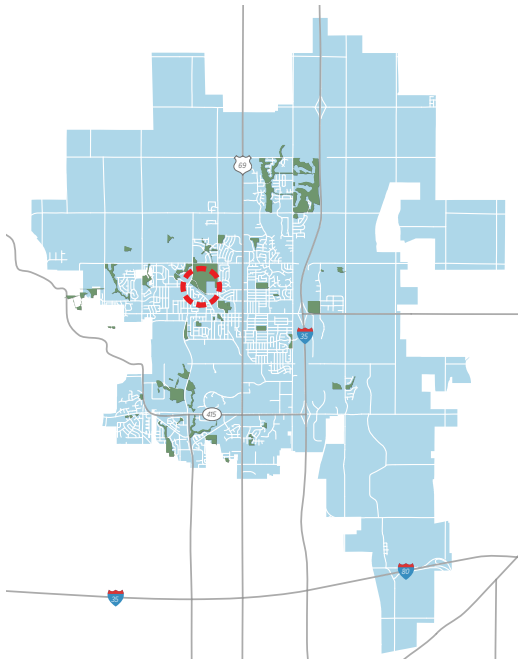
-  Playground
-  Trail
-  Restroom - Outdoor
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Detention Basin
-  Entry Signage

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

# HORIZON PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Horizon Park is located in northwest Ankeny at the corner of NW State Street and NW Prairie Ridge Drive. Horizon Park is bordered to the north by the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex and the High Trestle Trail creates the northern boundary of the park. This 8.2-acre park is mainly composed of a prairie reserve and detention basin and offers convenient trail access for nearby residents. There is approximately .77 miles of paved path that runs through the park and loops around one of the detention basin and prairie reserve. There is also access to the High Trestle Trail from Horizon Park as well at two locations.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Overall, Horizon Park is in generally good condition. The benches need updating and the park shelter could use some upkeep, but the quality of the turf and trail is very good.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Horizon Park is situated right along the popular High Trestle Trail and has convenient access to the following parks:

- Prairie Ridge Sports Complex
- Prairie Ridge Aquatic Center
- Prairie Ridge Skate Park
- Prairie Lakes Park
- Greentree Park

### Character + Use

Horizon Park is nicely located park with access to everything from a regional trail, an aquatic center, a skate park, and a high quality sports complex. A large portion of the park is dedicated to prairie reserve. The park likely serves the immediate area, but proximity to the sports complex likely brings in people from all over the city and region.

### Known Land Issues

The main land use issue in Horizon Park is likely the traffic that exists on both SW State Street and NW Prairie Ridge Drive. This is especially true during sport competitions.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

Need to know what kind of fish.

Need handicapped parking close to fish detention basins.

Cute little park.

I wish the park name was easily viewable from the road. I didn't realize this was public land for a long time.

Could use permanent parking west of skate park in green space.

Would be helpful with fireworks / SummerFest and traffic flower / congestion for Prairie Ridge Sports Complex.





Aerial Image - Horizon Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add interpretive signage identifying the fish species present in the detention basin
- Update signage so public knows it's a park

## EXISTING AMENITIES

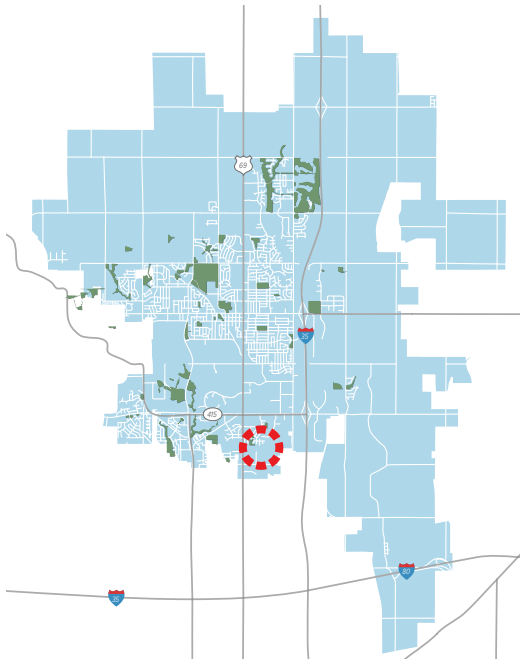
-  Trail
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Detention Basin
-  Fishing
-  Trail Access
-  Native Plantings

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

# OTTER CREEK PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Otter Creek Park is located in northeast Ankeny at the northeast corner of NE Delaware Avenue and NE 36th Street. Otter Creek Park is bordered to the north by the Otter Creek Golf Course. This 7.7-acre park has a nice playground and small picnic shelter. There is approximately .48 miles of paved path that runs through the park and loops around the playground area. Otter Creek Park is across the street from Renaissance Park and down the street from the Woodland Reserve Greenway and the Outdoor Education Center. Two busy streets border the park on the south and western edge.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The overall condition of Otter Creek Park is generally good. The playground equipment is fine, but there is some patchy areas in the mulch. There are some areas of mudholes in the turf, but it is generally in good condition. The grill could use some maintenance.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Otter Creek Park is situated right next to the Otter Creek Golf Course and has convenient access to the following parks:

- Renaissance Park
- Woodland Reserve Greenway

Both nearby parks require the crossing of busy street intersections.

### Character + Use

Otter Creek Park is a pleasant neighborhood park with a nice playground and pathway. Given the size and amenities on site, it is unlikely that the park is used by people beyond the immediate neighborhood. There may be some visitors to the park that are playing at the Otter Creek Golf Course.

### Known Land Issues

The main land use issue at Otter Creek Park is the hazards associated with the two busy streets that border the park on the west and southern boundaries. The open space could be utilized for practice fields, but the streets pose some potential risk.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

I would love to see baby/toddler swings added to this park. There are only two swings which are so high they are hard to get in to for older children. Additional equipment for all ages would be a great addition! Benches for parents closer to the equipment would also be helpful. Restrooms and drinking fountains were available before the addition of the new fire station, the drinking fountains had not been turned back on in early June.

I would like to second the request for a bench or two as there is no place to sit down near the playground area. There's a lot of green space, would love to see a few more amenities such as basketball or pickleball courts. A splash pad would be an excellent addition to this park. The new parking lot is nice but impossible to access coming from the north, and no great place to turn around to come back to access it.

I would like to see a restroom/ portable toilet, basketball court, and water fountain.





Aerial Image - Otter Creek Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add more mulch in the playground
- Add baby swings to this park
- Add benches around the playground
- Open space could be used for court space (basketball, pickleball, bocce ball)

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Playground
-  Trail
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Off-Street Parking
-  Multi-Purpose Field
-  Multi-Use Diamond
-  Restrooms (Indoor)

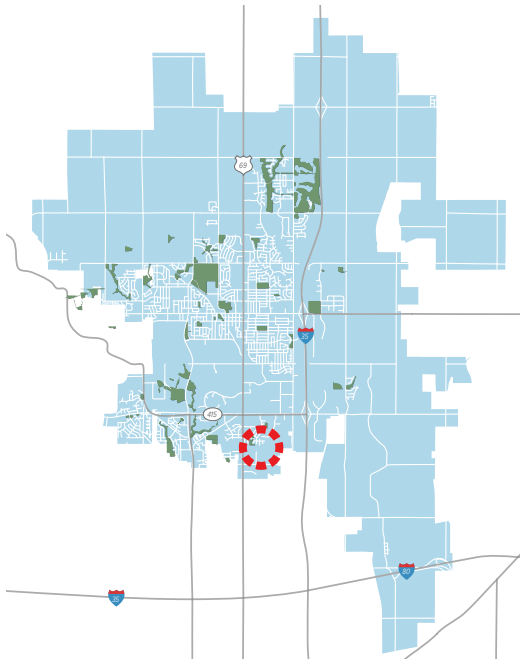
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

-  Additional Playground Equipment

# PROMENADE PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Promenade Park is located in southwestern Ankeny as part of the Prairie Trail development. The 15.3 acre park is located near the northeast corner of SW State Street and SW Prairie Trail Parkway. Promenade Park features a large park with multiple fountains featured throughout. The park is connected by .65 miles of paved pathway that goes around the perimeter of the park and connects the park to “The District”, the commercial / mixed-use entertainment area of the Prairie Trail development. Promenade Park is nearby to several other parks and is also adjacent to single-family residential developments and student apartments for nearby DMACC.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The overall condition of Promenade Park is very good. There have been lots of new trees planted and the limestone and boulder walls are in good shape. At the time of the inventory, one of the fountains was not working. There were lots of geese and goslings in the detention basin.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Promenade Park is within walking distance to many other parks and greenways including:

- Chautauqua Park
- Vintage Greenway
- Precedence park
- Dean Park
- Saylor Creek Greenway
- Estates Park

### Character + Use

Promenade Park is a pleasant and attractive park that can be used by local residents and visitors alike. Promenade Park is one of the many parks part of the Prairie Trail development and provides an attractive place for people visiting The District commercial area.

### Known Land Issues

There are a few potential land use issues associated with Promenade Park. The park is surrounded by two somewhat busy roads. There is some potential water quality issues if there is continued geese presence in the detention basin.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

There were no public comments made about Promenade Park on the Ankeny Parks Plan website.



Aerial Image - Promenade Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add a loop that goes around and through the park to help utilize the open space
- Add pedestrian signage along the pathway
- Add information signage about history of site / negative impacts of feeding geese population
- Provide alternative geese habitat (floating island, pole structure, shrub buffer along detention basin) away from path to free path from geese

## EXISTING AMENITIES



Trail



Detention Basin



Off-Street Parking

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES



Trail



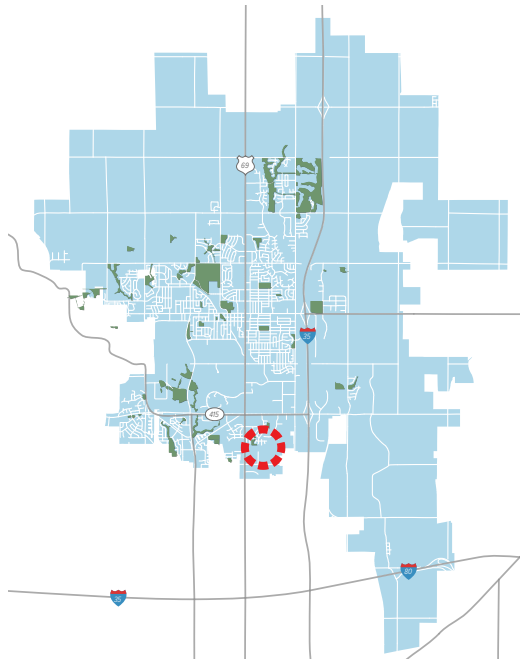
Signage (Informative)



# SOMERSBY PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Somersby Park is located in southwestern Ankeny near the southeast corner of SW Ankeny Boulevard and SW Goodwin Street. This roughly 9.8-acre park is located adjacent to the Ankeny Dog Park. The park includes a winding paved path that is approximately .68 miles long. The park is home to a Fallen Soldier Memorial in addition to a large playground, basketball court, and amenities like picnic shelters. Somersby Park is mainly surrounded with single-family residential units. There is a large amount of undeveloped land surrounding the park that has the potential to be converted into additional parkland.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The overall condition of Somersby Park is good. Generally, the amenities such as the benches, trash can, shelter, and tables are well maintained. There are some areas of the grass/turf that are patchy.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Somersby Park is connected to the Ankeny Dog Park. It is within a reasonable walking distance to a few other parks including:

- Springwood Park
- White Birch Park
- Sawgrass Park

### Character + Use

Somersby Park is a large neighborhood park that seems to be well loved and used by the local residents. The presence of the Fallen Soldier Memorial as well as its proximity to the dog park suggest the geographic range of the park may be wider than just the immediate neighborhood at certain times.

### Known Land Issues

There are no known land use issues associated with Somersby Park. There is the potential for expansion opportunities to the east / northeast of the existing park boundary.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

Would be neat to have bocce ball court.

Better path connection between dog park and playground area.

We love our park, but maybe extra climbing equipment?

It'd be great to plant some trees around the playground. Needs more shade, and the field is in rough shape.

Lots of open space available here but would like to see it put to good use. Would like to see the city add specific areas (baseball/soccer/tennis courts?) or clean up the grass so it's more welcoming to others. Most of the grass in the park (especially east side) is just mowed down field and not actual grass. Would also like to see walking path continued around east side of park.

Very infrequently see more than 10 cars in parking lot.

We like this park because of the unique playground equipment.

We'd love to see another splash pad on the south side of Ankeny and this would be a nice park for it. There is so much open space here. The kids really enjoy the unusual playground equipment found here and I often see tweens gathering in this park.





Aerial Image - Somersby Park








## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add more parking spaces
- Plant more trees around the playground area and pathways
- Add multi-purpose fields, premier field possibility
- Regrade the open space for better field use
- Add a splash pad to the playground area
- More trail connections
- Address poor turf conditions

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Playground
-  Trail
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Off-Street Parking
-  Multi-Purpose Field
-  Multi-Use Diamond
-  Basketball Court
-  Entry Signage

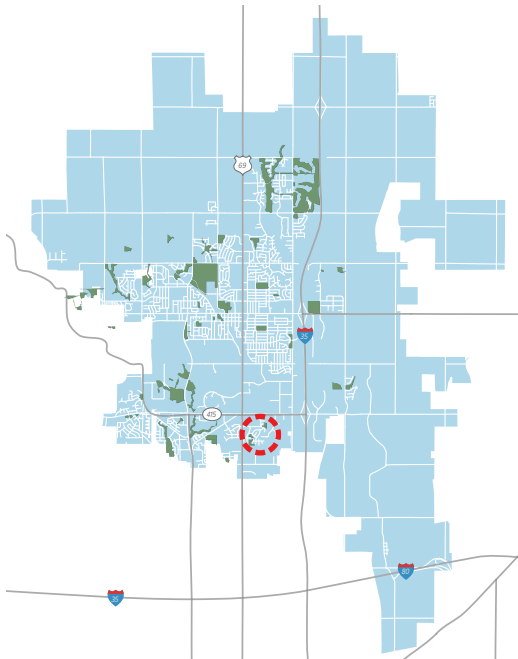
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

-  Restrooms - Outdoor
-  Basketball Court
-  Splash Pad
-  Premier Field
-  Multi-Use Diamond
-  Trail
-  Off-Street Parking

# SPRINGWOOD PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Springwood Park is located in southeastern Ankeny in the area southeast of the intersection of SE Oralabor Road and S Ankeny Boulevard. This roughly 10.1-acre park is composed of three separate parcels loosely connected through pathways and streets. The northern most section starts at a detention basin near SE Aster Court and SE Peachtree Drive and the southern most segment ends with a detention basin south of SE 33rd Street. The middle segment contains a playground. While Springwood Park is the only city park offered in this neighborhood in Ankeny, the regional owned Carney Marsh Nature Preserve is nearby to the south.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

The overall condition of Springwood Park is good. However, there are portions of the piping that is damaged and needs repair. The signage for the park is also somewhat dated and does not match the aesthetics of other signage in Ankeny parks.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Springwood Park is the only city park serving the immediate neighborhood around the park. There is the regional Carney Marsh Nature Preserve south of the park. The park is within a reasonable walking distance to:

- White Birch Park
- Sawgrass Park
- Somersby Park

### Character + Use

The character and use of Springwood Park varies by segment. The north detention basin consists mainly of the detention basin. The middle segment serves as the more traditional park space with a playground. The southern detention basin has fishing opportunities.

### Known Land Issues

There are no known land use issues associated with Springwood Park.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

Adding a restroom would be great

We would love a covered space / shelter near the playground










Aerial Image - Springwood Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add a portable restroom to the playground area
- Add a shelter house to the playground area
- Some of the pipes need replacing

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Playground
-  Trail
-  Lawn Games
-  Detention Basin
-  Entry Signage

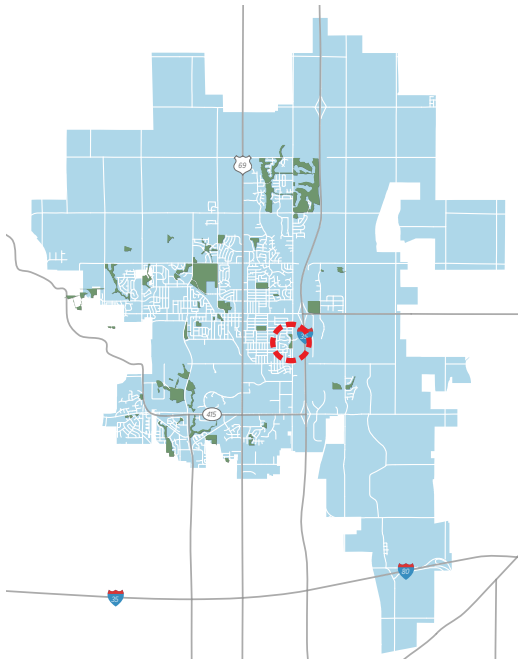
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

-  Multi-Purpose Shelter

# SUMMERBROOK PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Summerbrook Park is located in eastern Ankeny along SE Delaware Avenue between SE Peterson Drive and SE 9th Street. This roughly 7.2-acre park is composed of two separate parcels that are divided by SE 8th Street. Both segments have their own paved pathways, playgrounds, and picnic shelters. There are many established and mature trees scattered throughout this park. Summerbrook Park has .74 miles of paved trail running throughout the two segments. The area around the park is mostly composed of single-family homes to the west and multi-family units lining SE Delaware to the east.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Generally, the overall condition of Summerbrook Park is good. There are plenty of mature trees, the grass is well kept, and the playground equipment is in good condition. It was noted that the walls near playground and picnic shelters are leaning.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Summerbrook Park is within reasonable walking distance to Sunrise Park. There are also two elementary schools near to the park.

### Character + Use

Summerbrook Park is an established and well maintained neighborhood park for eastern Ankeny. By including two separate playgrounds, it is almost as if there are two different parks available to visit. There are only two parks in this heavily residential area of Ankeny so it is likely this park serves mainly those in the immediate neighborhood.

### Known Land Issues

The most obvious land use issues associated with Summerbrook Park include hazards created by roads and road crossings. Not only do visitors have to cross a road to visit both segments of the park, but there is likely significant traffic to the park from across SE Delaware Avenue, which can be very busy and congested. There are several multi-family units that may have trouble accessing the parkland.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

We use this park for sledding in the winter and there is always metal sticking out of the ground and very sharp! A solution for this would be great!

Lack of parking, but we enjoy the elevation changes and stream at the park.

Pedestrian crossing from the other side of Delaware. Right now you have to go to Magazine or all the way to first. This is a problem in multiple areas of Ankeny.

I love the nature feel of this park. Some more active activities would be nice if the land works for it.





Aerial Image - Summerbrook Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add more informational / interpretive signage throughout the park
- Add a green parking lot with sloped vegetation strips on the south side of the park

## EXISTING AMENITIES

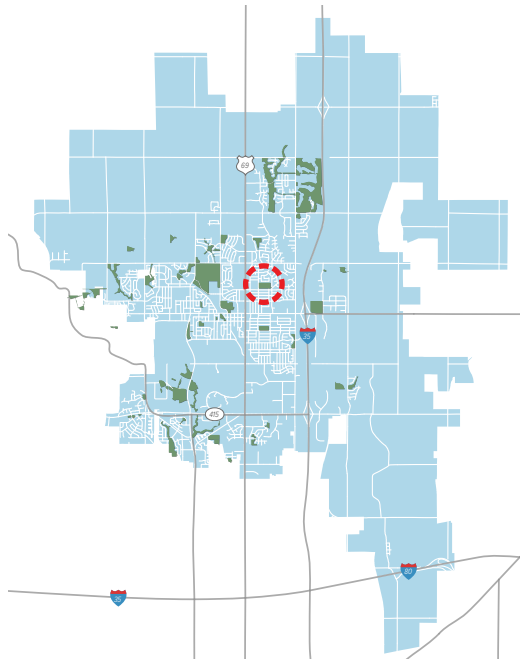
-  Playground
-  Trail
-  Restrooms - Outdoor
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Basketball Court
-  Off-Street Parking
-  Sledding Hill
-  Multi-Use Field
-  Entry Signage

## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

# SUNRISE PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Sunrise Park is located in eastern Ankeny near the intersection of SE Peterson Drive and SE Trilein Drive. This rectangular, roughly 10.3-acre park contains approximately .72 miles of trail that meander throughout the property. A key feature of Sunrise Park is the splash pad that has proven to be very popular among residents and visitors of the park. Sunrise Park has plenty of mature trees in addition to a large amount of open space. There are several other amenities on site including basketball court, backstop, softball field, and space for soccer practice/play. There are 31 parking stalls available in the park.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Generally, the overall condition of Sunrise Park is good. The entry signage could use some attention and the horse shoe pit is in poor condition and could do with a repurposing or re-doing. The grass near the backstop contains a large mud hole and the grass on the soccer field could use improvements.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Sunrise Park is within reasonable walking distance to Summerbrook Park. The parks located near Uptown Ankeny and Ankeny City Hall are also relatively close, but would require crossing S Ankeny Boulevard.

### Character + Use

Sunrise Park is a well liked and well maintained neighborhood park for central-eastern Ankeny. There are a wide variety of amenities available for visitors including the splash pad which may attract visitors from beyond the immediate neighborhood. Given the location, it is still likely that the main users are the many single-family residential units that surround the park.

### Known Land Issues

There does not appear to be any known land use issues near Sunrise Park.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

Keeping it mowed would be great! That's my only complaint.

One of my favorite parks in Ankeny due to the mature trees and variety of activities! The addition of the splash pad is great, playground equipment is good overall, nice to have the basketball courts, and I like the walking paths around the park. I was surprised the picnic shelter didn't have bathrooms, though.

There are two ball field back stops at this park. Only one has the sand/dirt infield. Please add a sand/dirt infield to the other back stop that does not currently have the infield. One without the sand/dirt infield has mud holes and is unusable for any baseball or softball practice.

Accessible bathrooms other than portajohns would be fantastic!

Wonderful park! Love the walking trails and playground equipment. I've never seen anyone use the horseshoe pit – I think that space could be better utilized. Often all the basketball hoops are all taken. The baseball & soccer fields could use improvements.















Aerial Image - Sunrise Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Repurpose all or part of the horseshoe pit to include a mixture of bocce ball and shuffle board courts
- Better maintain the grass near the soccer nets and add additional soccer nets

## EXISTING AMENITIES

-  Playground
-  Trail
-  Multi-Use Field
-  Multi-Use Diamond
-  Basketball Court
-  Splash Pad
-  Lawn Games (Horseshoe)
-  Off-Street Parking
-  Restroom - Outdoor
-  Entry Signage

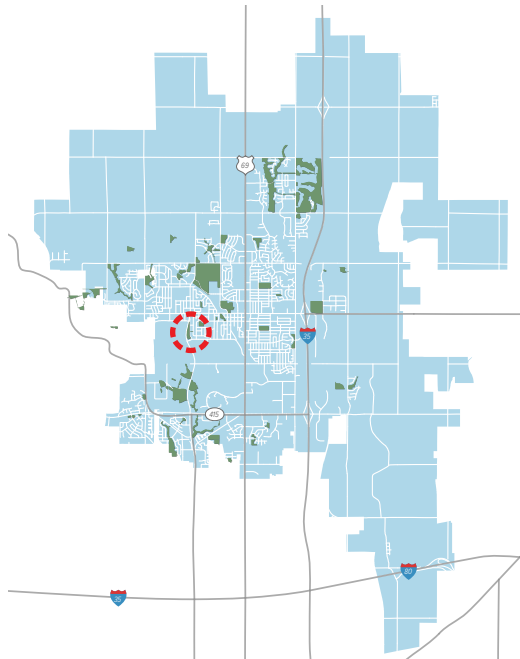
## NEW / ADDED AMENITIES

-  Lawn Games (Bocce)
-  Multi-Use Diamond
-  Multi-Use Field

# SUNSET PARK

## LOCATION & CONTEXT

Sunset Park is located in central Ankeny near the intersection of SW 3rd Street and SW Des Moines Street. Sunset Park is approximately 4.8 acres in size and contains a wide variety of amenities including permanent and kybo restrooms, a playground, basketball court, and softball field. The park contains .25 miles of paved pathways through the park and has plenty of flat open space. The park is completely surrounded by single-family homes and contains a number of established mature trees. The park is very close to the Uptown District in Ankeny with a number of other parks close by.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS & CHARACTER

### Overall Condition

Generally, the overall condition of Sunset Park is good. There is some wear and tear on the basketball court which could use some maintenance or repaving. The drinking fountain could also use some maintenance. The playground is fine other than it could use some additional mulch.

### Connectivity to Other Parks

Sunset Park is located very close to Haubert Park. There is also nearby access to the popular regional High Trestle Trail. Other parks within a reasonable walking distance include:

- Ankeny Market + Pavilion
- Wagner Park
- Hawkeye Park
- Village Park
- Westside Park
- Ankeny Arts Center

### Character + Use

Sunset Park is a small neighborhood park that offers a variety of amenities to the local neighborhood residents. Given its size and placement, it is likely that this park mainly serves the Uptown Ankeny area residents. The mature trees are a nice feature of this park.

### Known Land Issues

There does not appear to be any known land use issues near Sunset Park.

## PUBLIC INPUT / COMMENTS

There were no public comments made about Sunset Park on the Ankeny Parks Plan website.