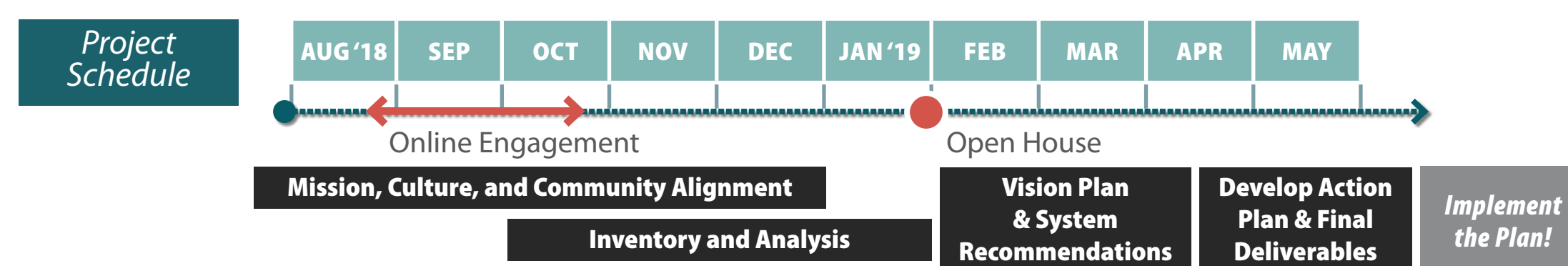


Hutchinson

Parks, Recreation, & Community Education Master Plan

What are we doing?

- ▶ Creating a Strategic Master Plan that will guide the PRCE system for the next 10-20 years
- ▶ Components include: Trends analysis, System inventory, Peer Community Comparison, Identify gaps, Plan for sustainable growth, Action Plan and Implementation Strategies
- ▶ Develop a Facility Maintenance and Replacement Schedule
- ▶ Engage the community – online surveys, Social Pinpoint, Open Houses, and Stakeholder interviews
- ▶ Deliverables: Master Plan Document + Maintenance & Replacement Schedule



System at a Glance

- 41** City Parks
- 4** Shared School-Park Sites
- Aquatic Center (new in 2017)
- Recreation Center
- Ice Arena with 2 Sheets of Ice
- Farmers Market
- Overnight Campground
- 75-Acre** County Fair Grounds
- 237.5 Acres** of Parkland
- 138 Acres** of Natural Areas / Open Space
- 26 Miles** of Paved Trails
- 3 Miles** of Un-paved Trails
- 16.5 Miles** of Bike Friendly Streets
- 33.5 Miles** of Sidewalks
- 6 Miles** of Mountain Bike Trails
- Terrain Park and Skate Park
- 3 miles** of bike lanes

Who are we?

DRAFT Identity Statement

Hutchinson is a small, vibrant Minnesota community that maintains a strong collaborative relationship with its citizens and surrounding community members to provide a high quality of life that creates healthy, active community members.

What We Do:

- ▶ Staff members operate, maintain, and develop parks, recreation and educational programs.
- ▶ Provide recreational programming opportunities to include traditional athletics, aquatics, and unique leisure activities, for people of all ages and abilities.
- ▶ Manage almost 400 acres of outdoor facilities including playgrounds, campsites, schools, trails, event spaces, athletic fields, and river corridor. Maintain 40 outdoor parks and open spaces for public use.
- ▶ Operate indoor facilities, including Burich Ice Arena, Recreation Center, and Hutchinson Event Center. These facilities provide space for indoor athletics, senior programs, classes, and special events.
- ▶ Our partnership with the Hutchinson School District efficiently provides a one-stop shop for facilities available to the city of Hutchinson and surrounding communities.

DRAFT Mission Statement

The Hutchinson Parks, Recreation, and Community Education Department is dedicated to serving the residents of Hutchinson and surrounding communities by providing valuable recreational facilities and programs that contribute to a healthy and active quality of life.

OUR VALUES:

Collaboration with:

- ▶ Local residents
- ▶ Surrounding communities
- ▶ Arts organizations, athletic groups, and local businesses
- ▶ Service organizations

Healthy Living for Our:

- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Parks
- ▶ Residents
- ▶ Visitors

Hard Work and Efficiency through Our:

- ▶ Valuable service
- ▶ Operation of parks and programming
- ▶ Sustainable maintenance practices
- ▶ Design of parks and facilities

Connections between:

- ▶ Residents and City staff
- ▶ Destinations within the community
- ▶ Hutchinson and surrounding areas
- ▶ People

Leadership by:

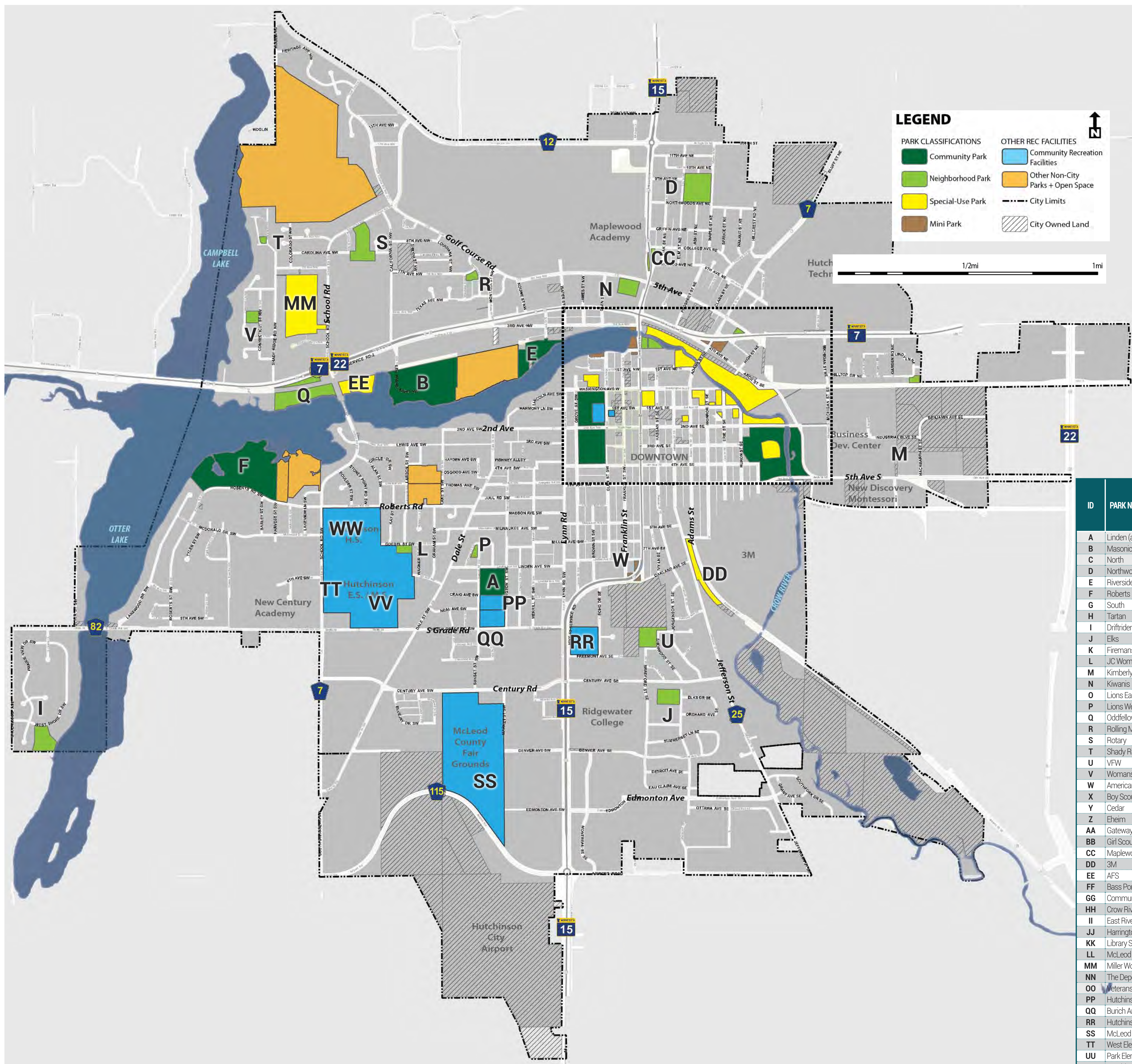
- ▶ Cooperating with multiple organizations and agencies
- ▶ Serving as a regional recreation hub
- ▶ Providing fair and inclusive programming
- ▶ Innovating our practices

Commitment and Dedication to:

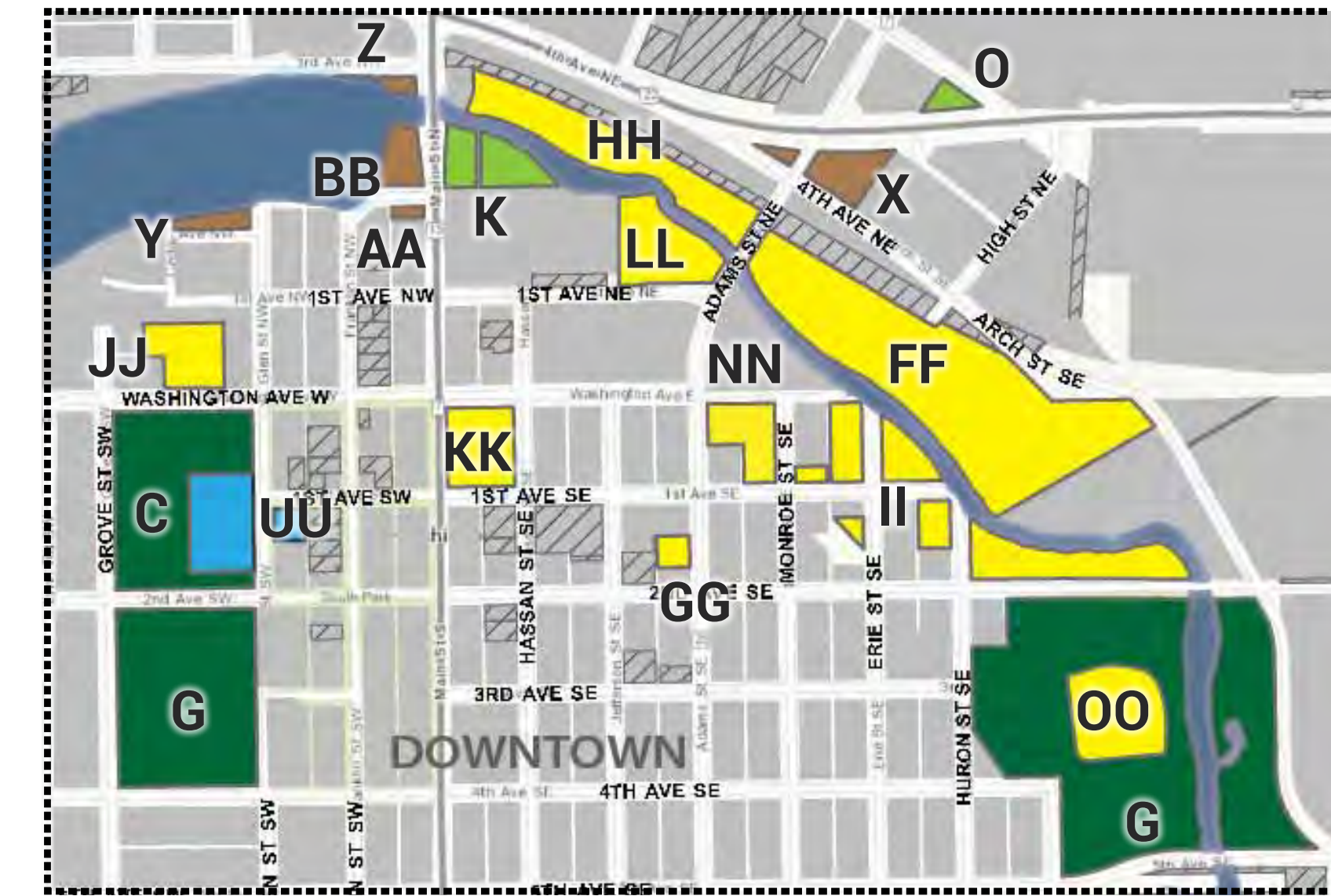
- ▶ Serving our residents
- ▶ Maintaining our facilities
- ▶ Providing valuable service
- ▶ Exploring new ideas



What does the park system look like today?



DOWNTOWN PARKS



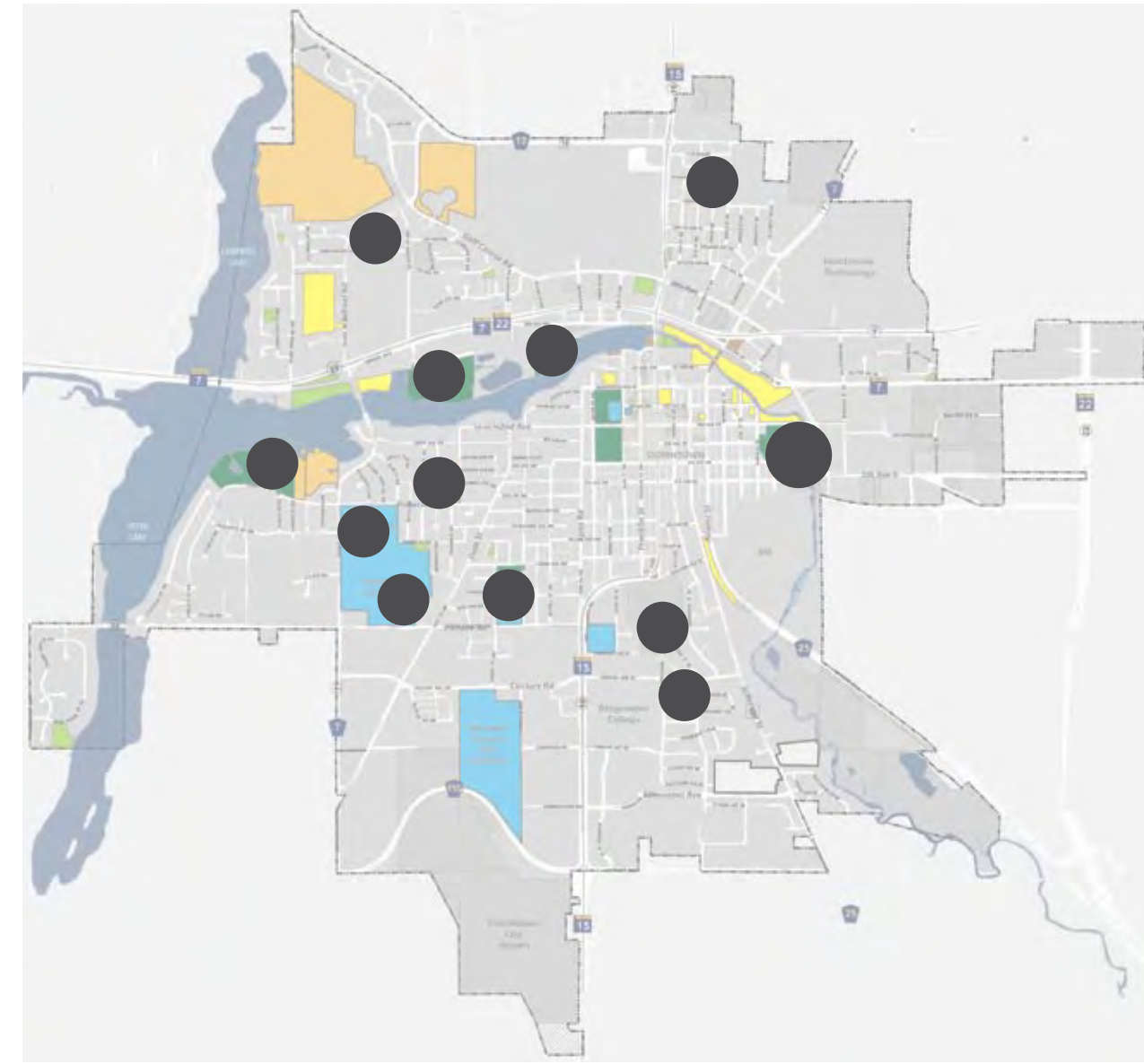
Facilities Inventory Table

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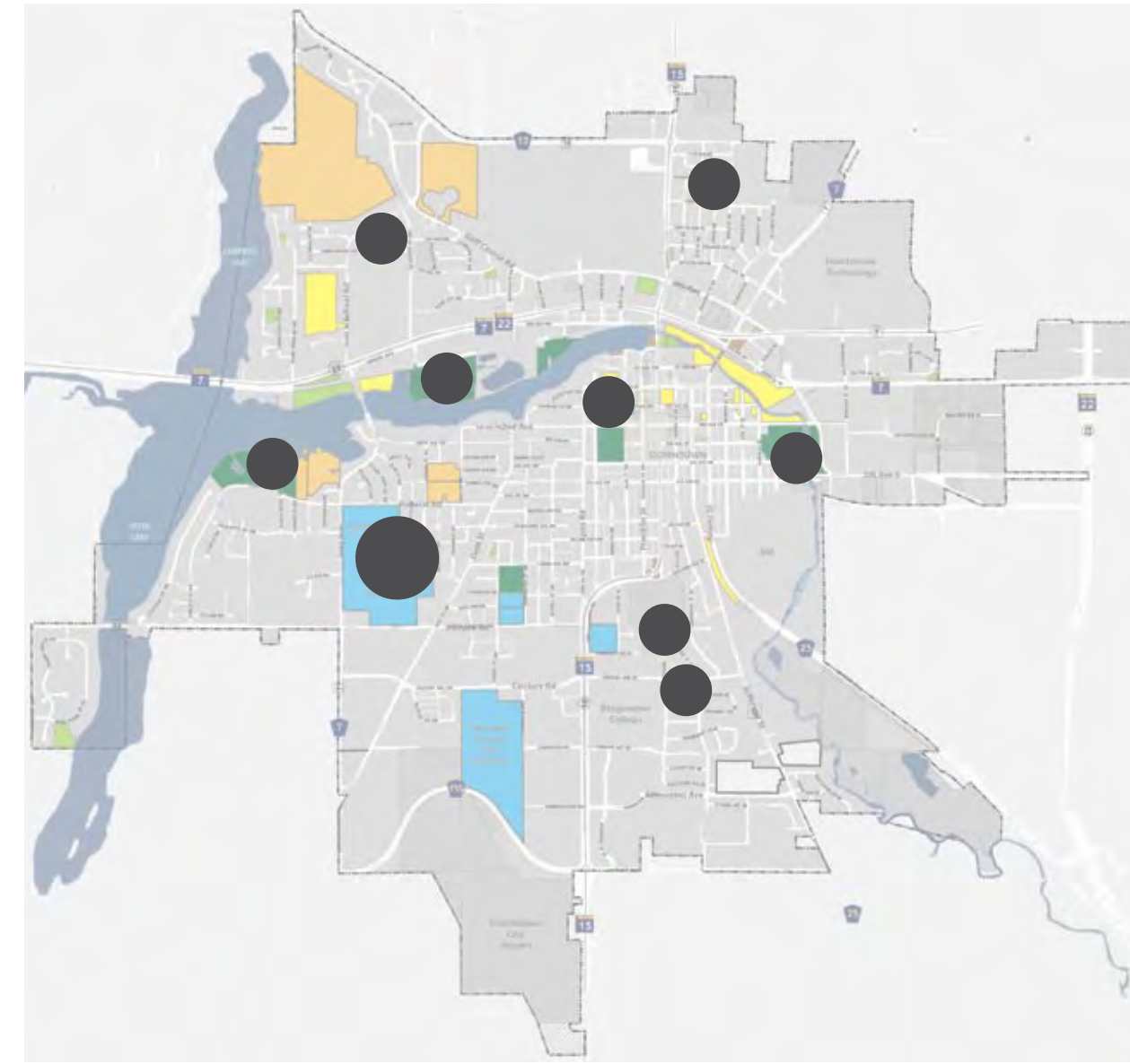
* Park Class has changed from 2013 Comprehensive Plan Designation

Where are facilities located?

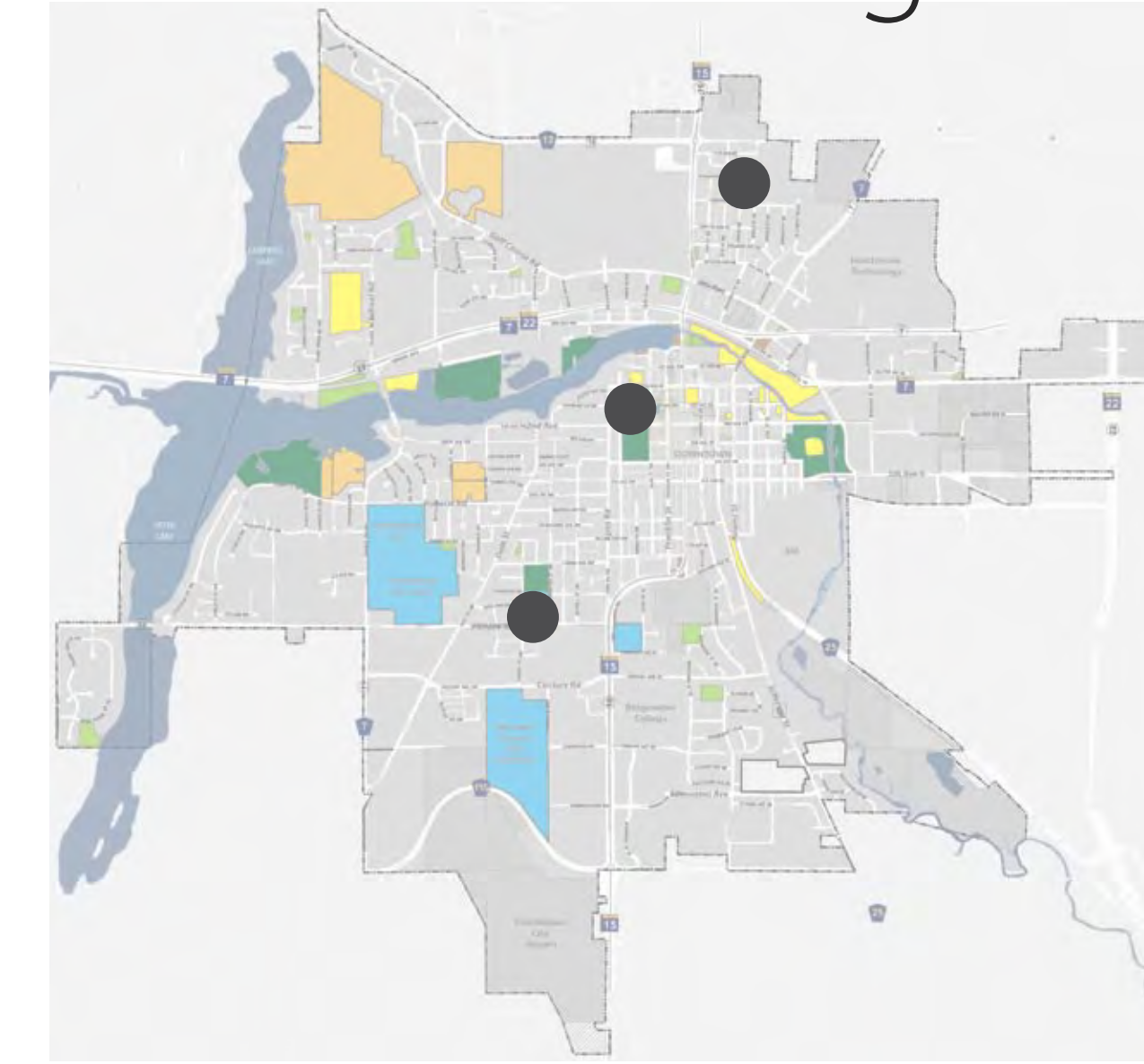
Athletic Fields



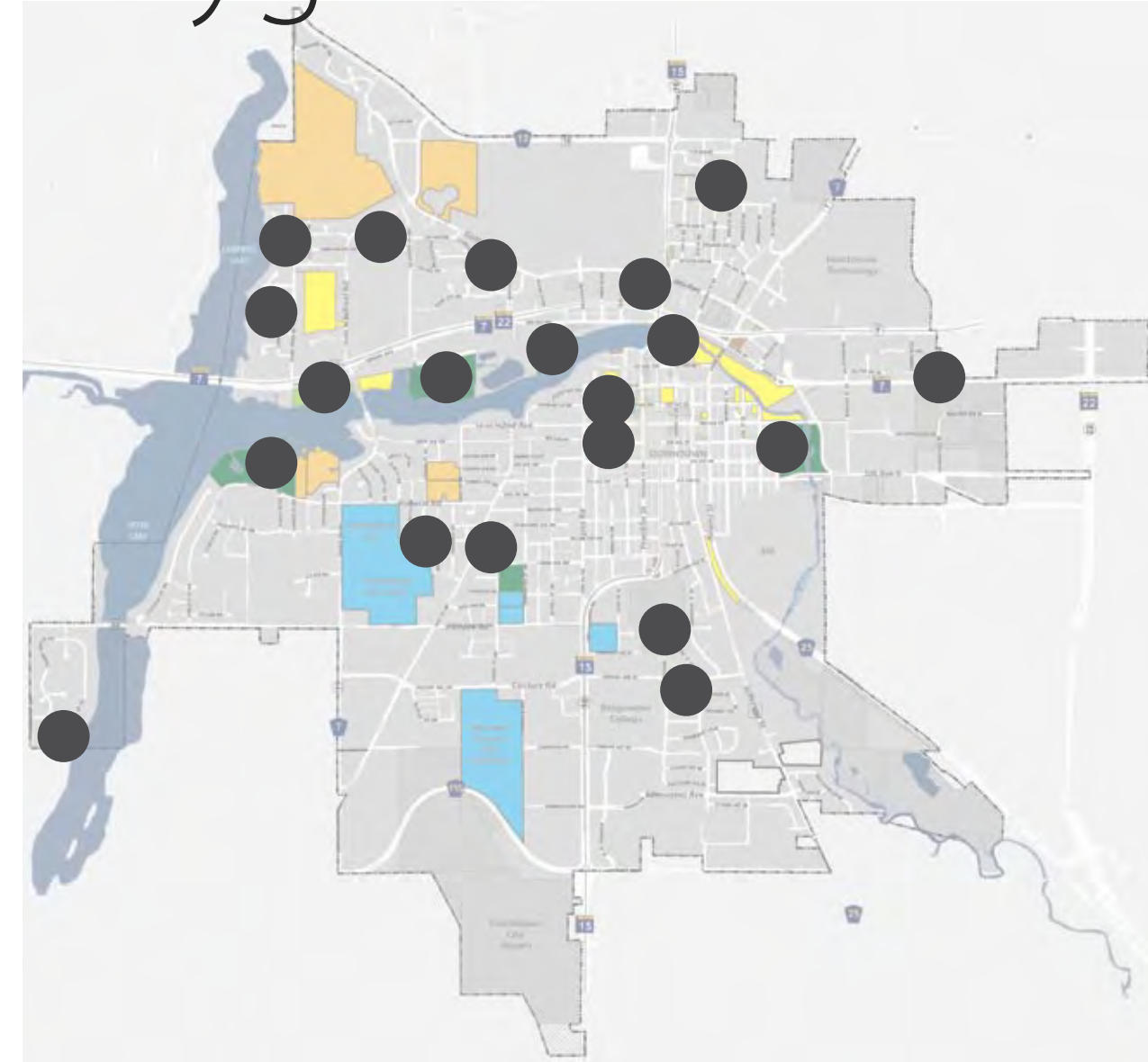
Outdoor Courts



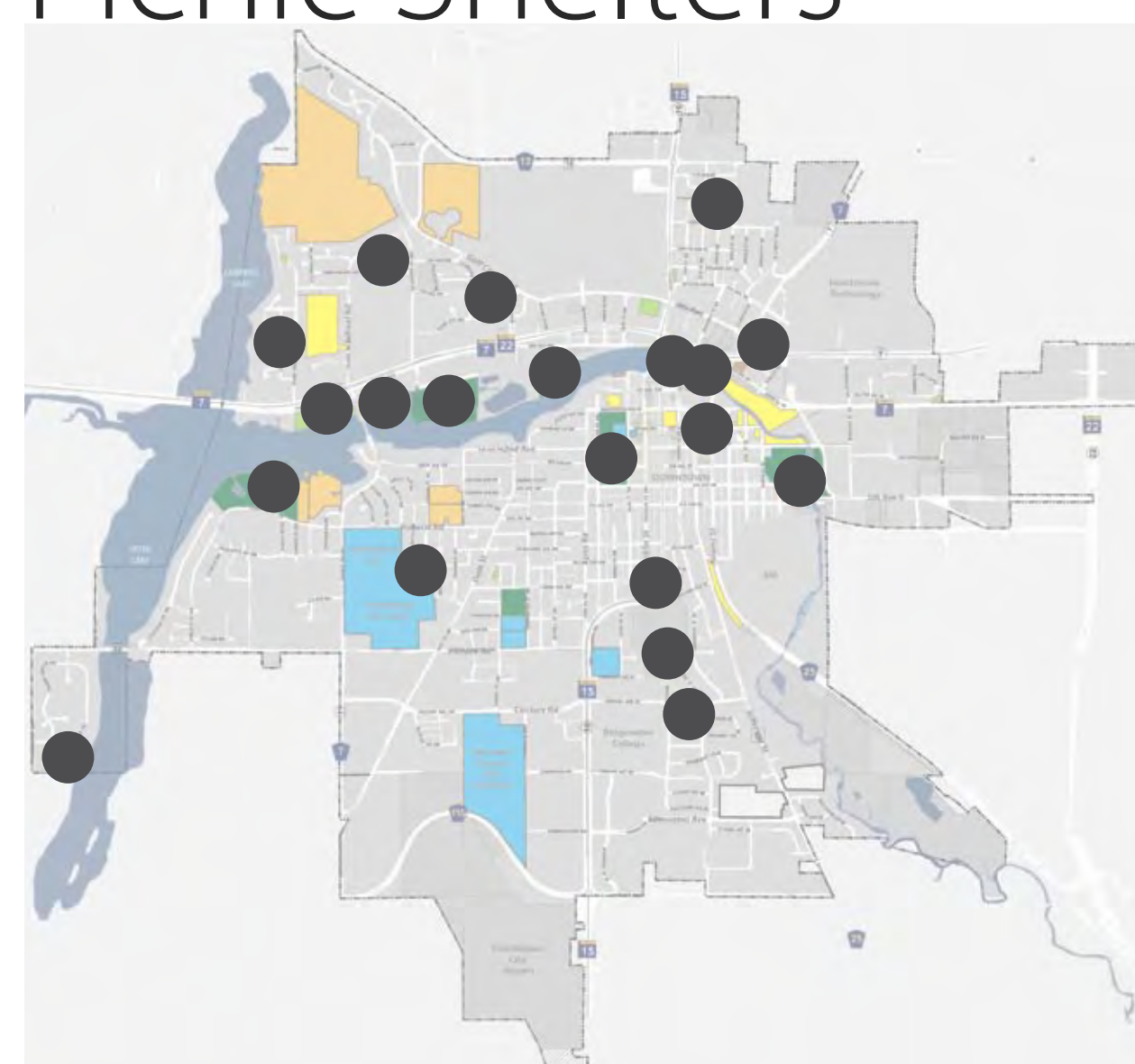
Ice rink/Skating



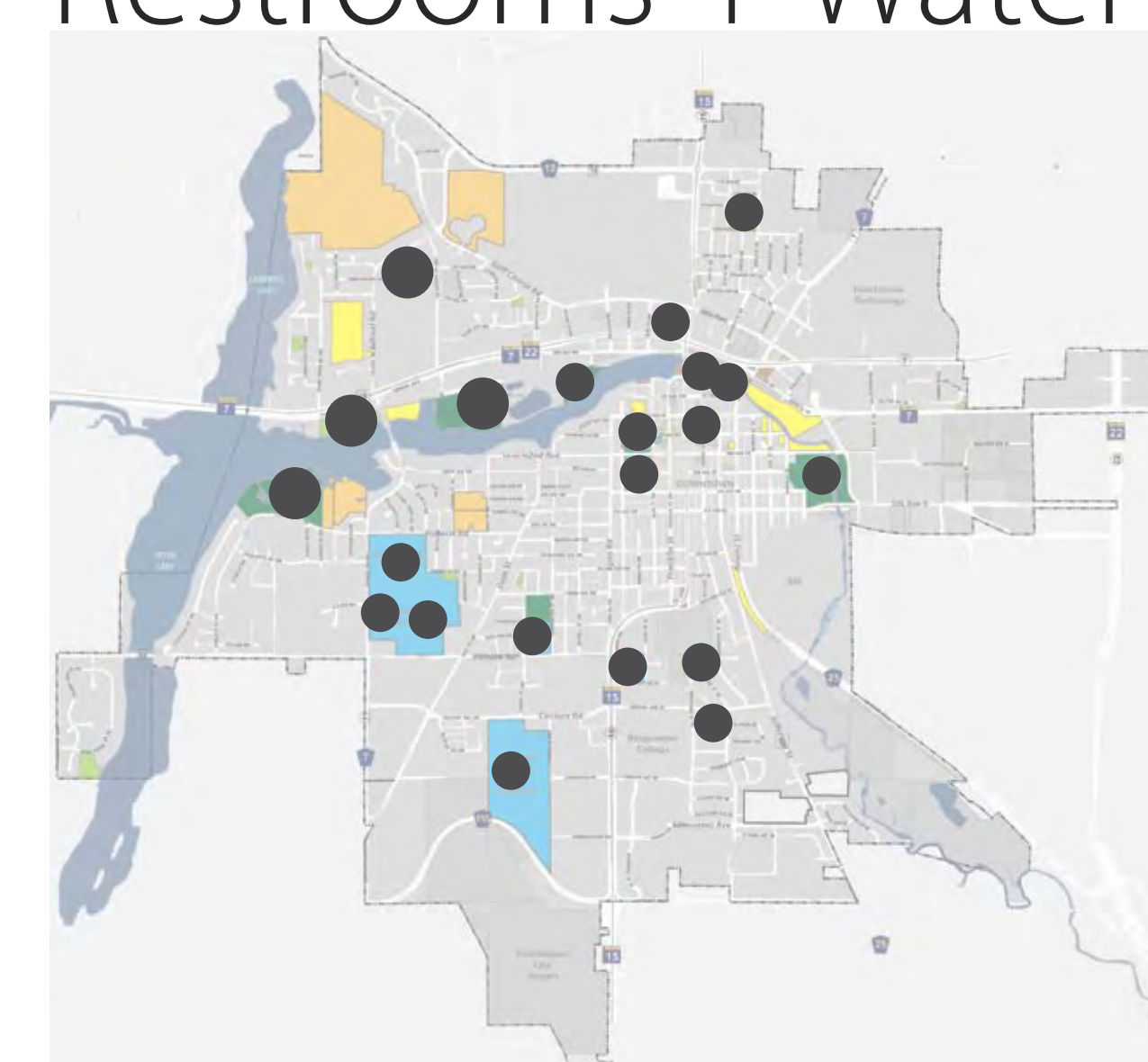
Playgrounds



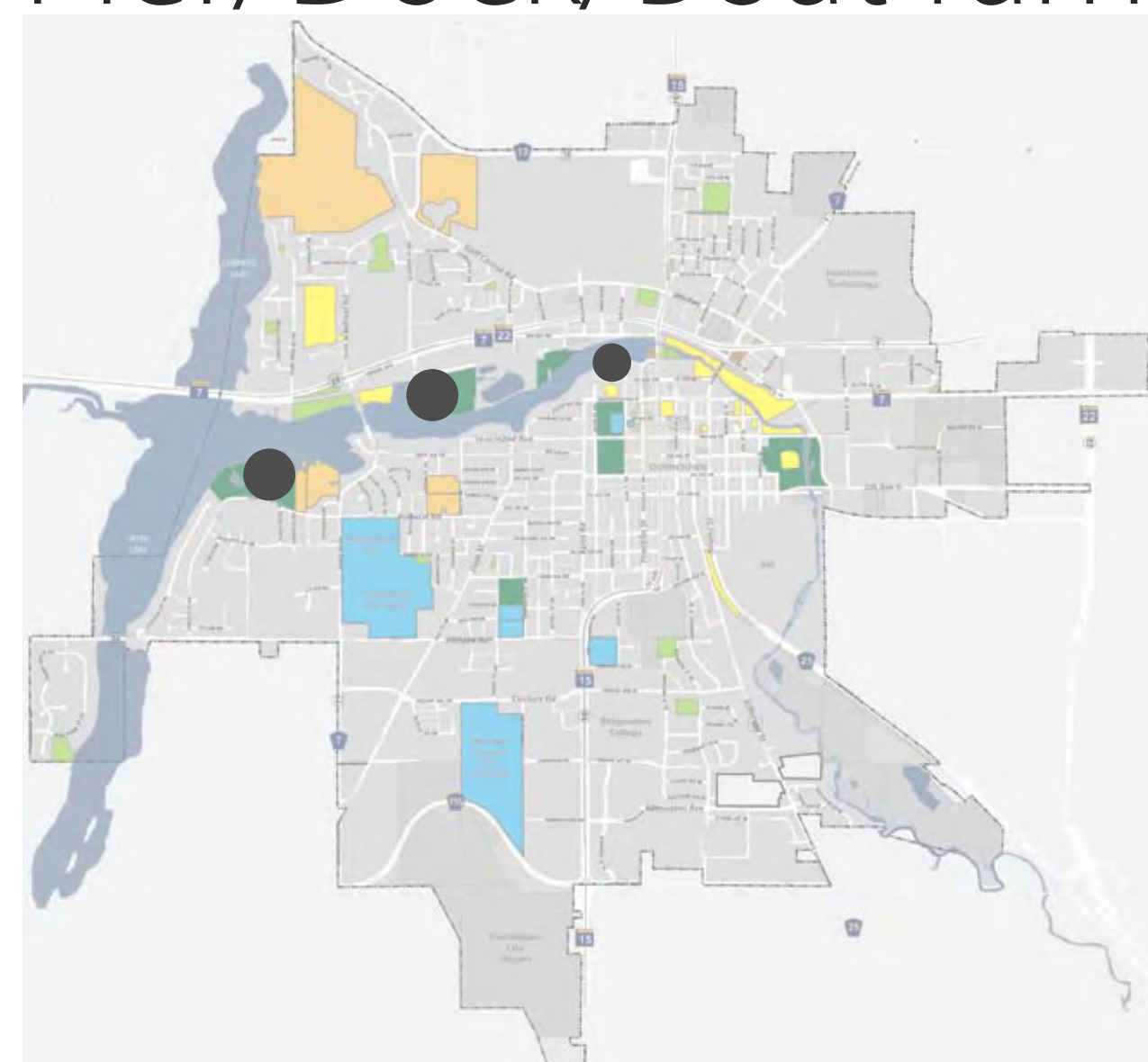
Picnic Shelters



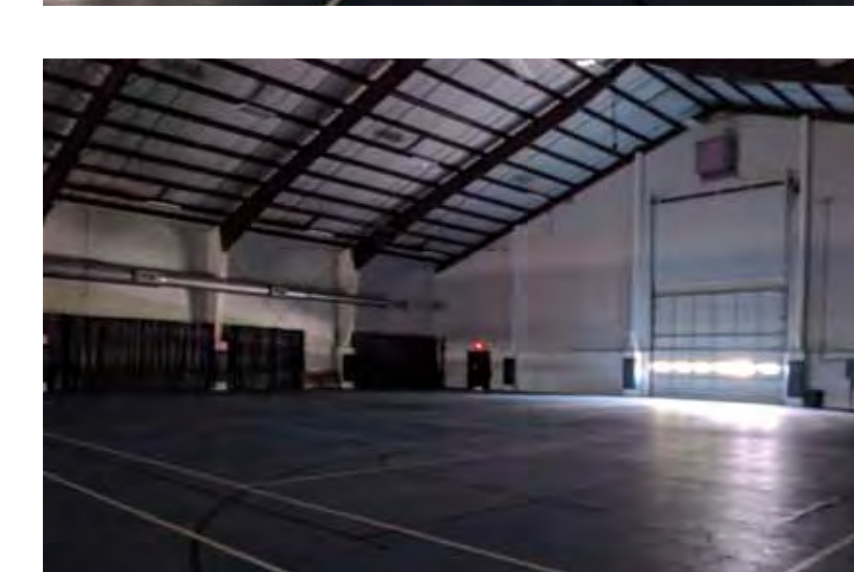
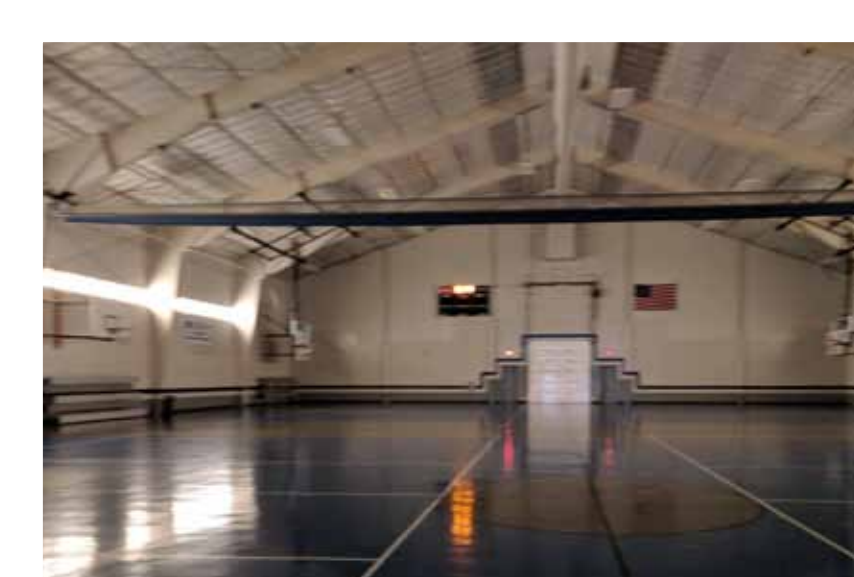
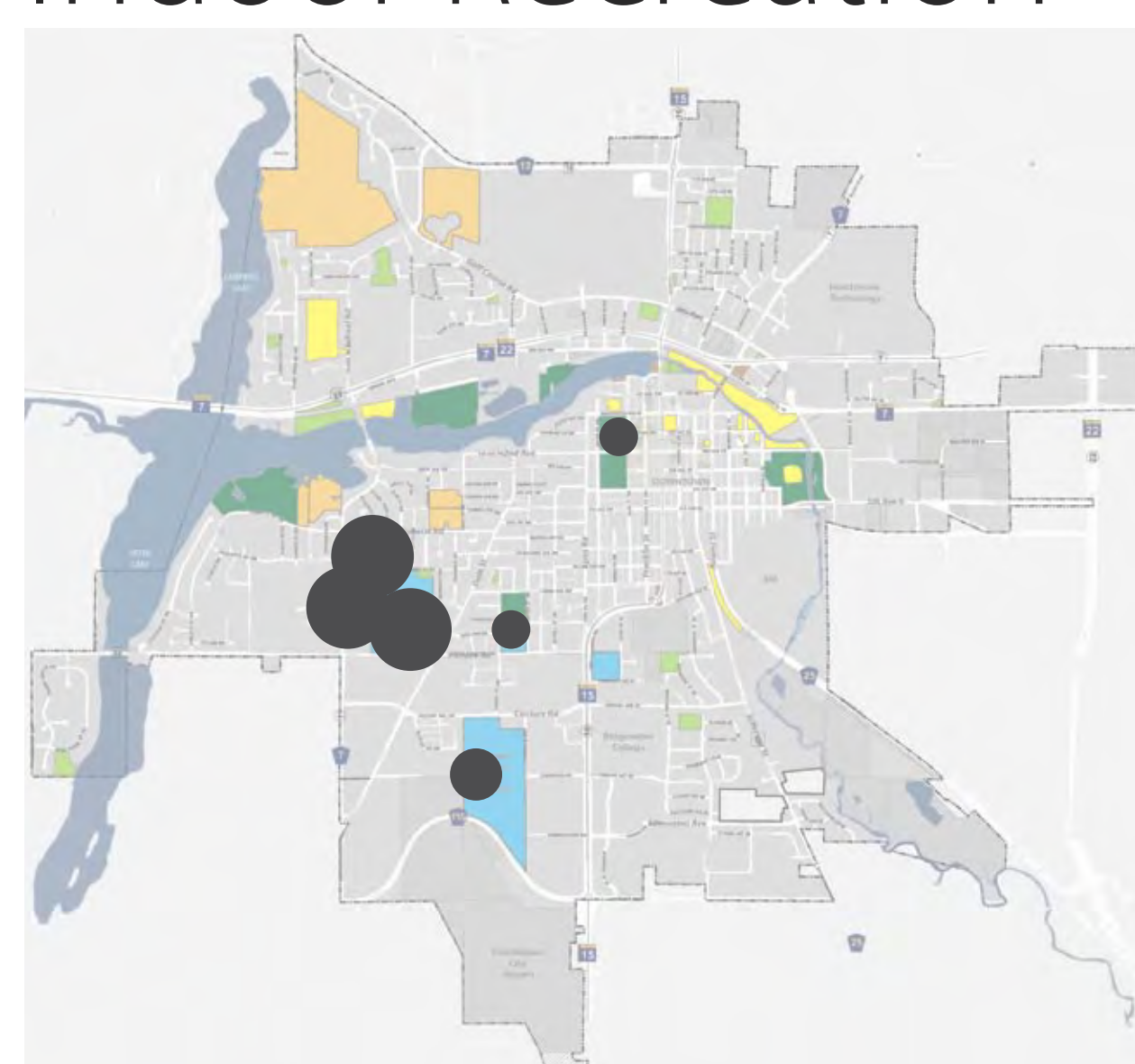
Restrooms + Water



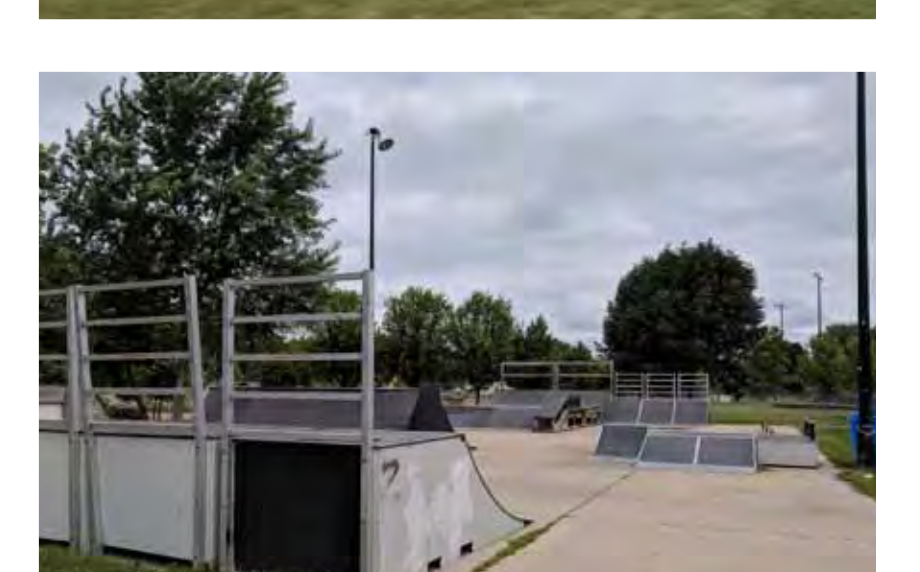
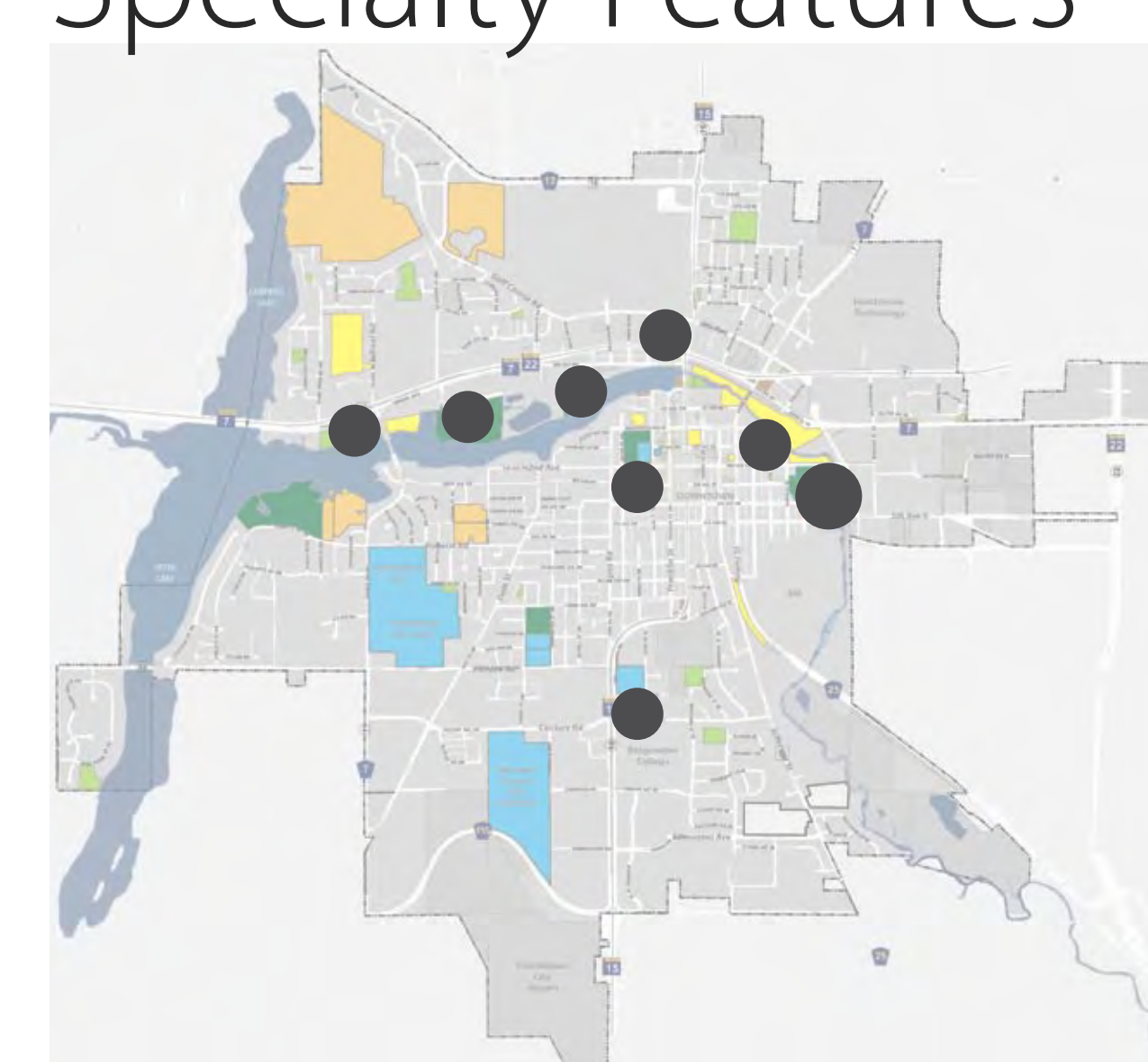
Pier/Dock/Boat ramps



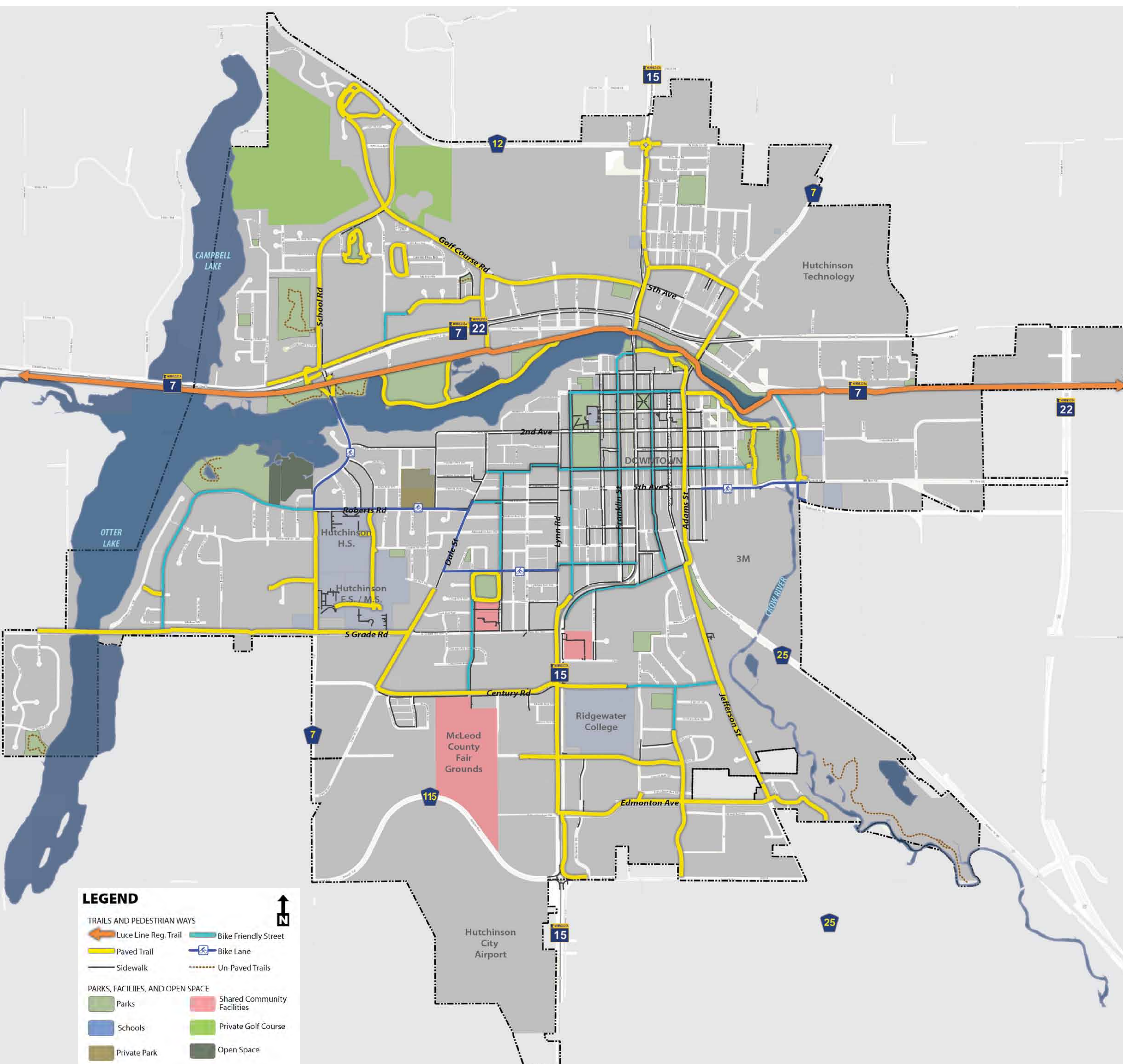
Indoor Recreation



Specialty Features



Bicycle and Pedestrian Network



Bike and Pedestrian Network

Hutchinson has made it a priority to create a connected system of bike trails, sidewalks, and on-street bike lanes. Paved trails are typically along major collector roads and through parkland. Sidewalks and bike lanes are mainly within the core downtown neighborhoods. The existing system includes:

- ▶ 33.5 miles of sidewalks
- ▶ 26 miles of paved trails + 3 miles of unpaved trails
- ▶ 16.5 miles of bike friendly streets
- ▶ 6 miles of mountain bike trails + a terrain park
- ▶ 3 miles of bike lanes

Luce Line State Trail

The City is served regionally by the Luce Line State Trail, a 63 mile long former railroad grade which is developed for biking, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and skiing. The trail connects the western Twin Cities with Independence, Watertown, Winsted, Silver Lake, Hutchinson, Cedar Mills, and Cosmos. The trail surface varies along its course, including: limestone, with a parallel treadway for horseback riding, paved bituminous, crushed granite, and natural (mowed grass). Snowmobiles are allowed on the trail west of Stubb's Bay Road.

(Source: www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_trails/luce_line)



Wayfinding System

A recently implemented wayfinding system includes several directional signs and kiosks along the Luce Line Trail. These signs serve as branding tools for Hutchinson and serve residents and visitors by directing trail users to downtown businesses, retail areas, and local destinations.

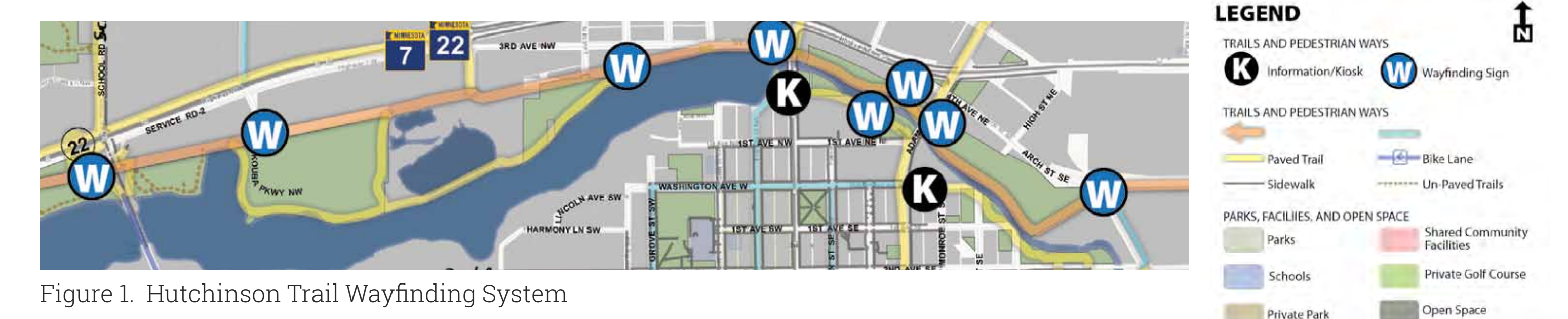


Figure 1. Hutchinson Trail Wayfinding System

Trends in Recreation

SOCIAL TRENDS:

- ▶ Greater demands on time
- ▶ Anxiety about safety and security
- ▶ Increasingly disconnected from nature
- ▶ Desire for strong sense of 'Place'

HEALTH TRENDS

- ▶ Screen time vs. outdoors time
- ▶ Aging actively

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

- ▶ Increased transience, adults are relocating more frequently

FINANCIAL TRENDS

- ▶ Fiscally constrained governmental budgets

ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS

- ▶ A move towards environmentally trendy 'green' alternatives

PARK AND RECREATION TRENDS

- ▶ Stratified youth athletics
- ▶ Informal adult recreation -vs- League participation
- ▶ Increasing trail use
- ▶ Rising popularity of non-traditional sports
- ▶ Increasing demand for specialized facilities
- ▶ Desire to create memorable experiences
- ▶ Rising interest in mobile-technology based activities



Recreation Programming

Hutchinson has long served as a local hub for athletic tournaments within the region. The City's long time collaboration with ISD 423 has served the area well by providing an efficient use of facilities and organized management of scheduling fields, gyms, and rinks. Including the scheduling of facilities for Hutchinson's teams and organizations, City staff has also taken on the scheduling a fields for several local communities.

Active youth athletic organizations in the community include: softball, volleyball, hockey, figure skating, and basketball. Some of these organizations facilitate traveling teams that compete around the state.

Other organized groups in the community that use Hutchinson's recreation facilities include: a local running group, fraternal groups (Lions, Elks, Rotary, Kiwanis), Heart of Hutch/Hutch Health (advocacy, wellness group), Seniors Advisory Board, the local arts community, ISD 423 students (Student Council), and a pickleball group.

Current Programs include:

Senior Center Programming	Youth Athletics	Arts and Crafts
Adaptive Recreation	Summer Camps	Yoga
Community Education	Concerts	Zumba
Course Offerings	Movies in the Park	Cooking
Aquatics	Dance	Financial Planning



Park Gaps + Opportunity Sites

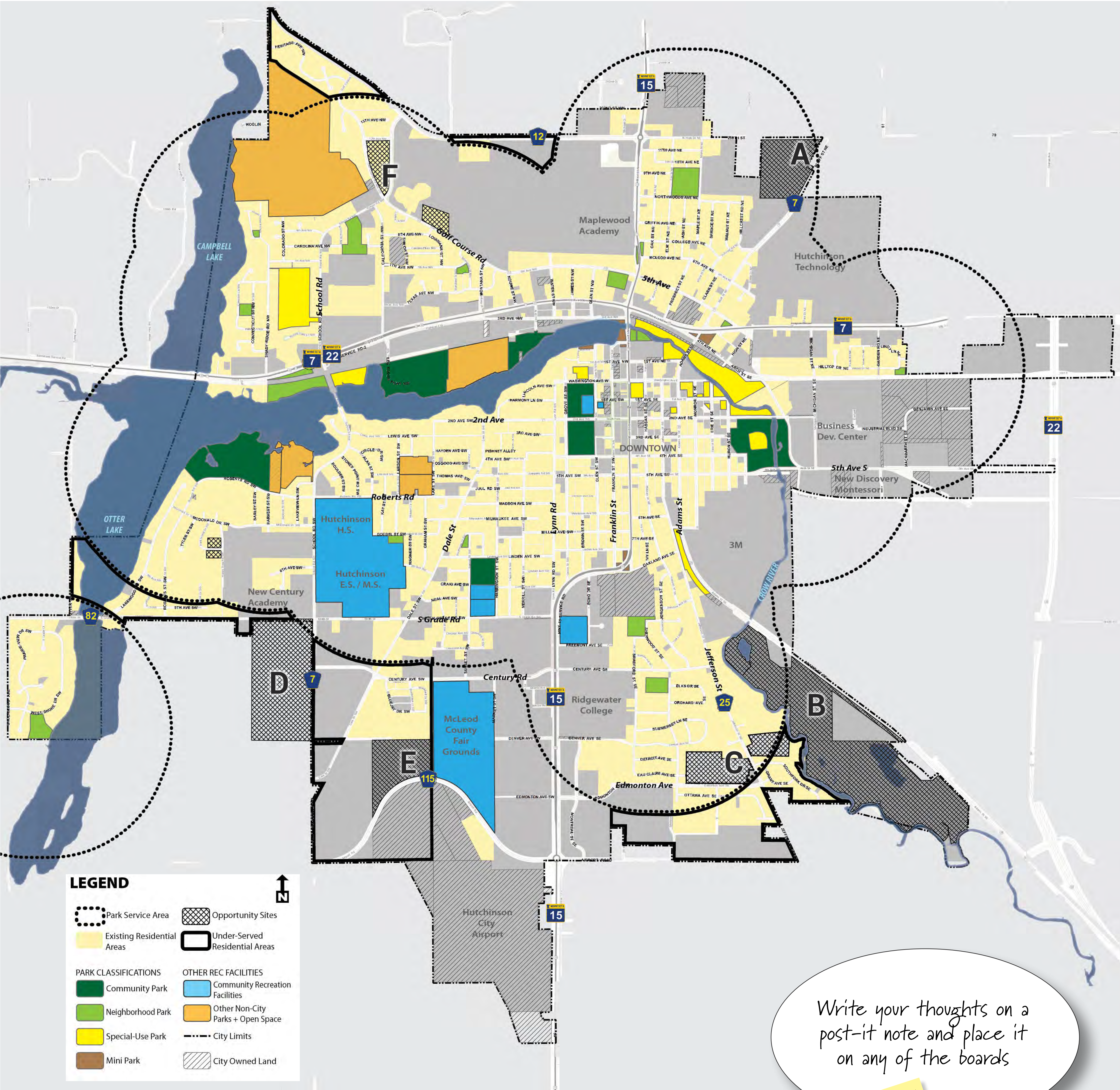
Park Service Areas

Hutchinson's residents are well served by parks located throughout the community. The map on the right identifies 1/2 mile park service areas, which are areas of the City that are within 1/2 mile (about a 10 minute walk) from a neighborhood park or similar facility. This standard is used as a typical baseline for provision of park services by City systems.

Opportunity Sites

The map on the right identifies Opportunity Sites, which include areas that are owned by the City, another public entity, or are privately owned sites (large, contiguous with one property owner) that may redevelop in the near future. These sites may be opportunities to develop new parks and facilities. These sites are mainly located on the edges of the City where future development or redevelopment is likely to occur.

SITE ID	NOTES/CONSIDERATIONS
A	35 acre site; could be considered for sale or land transfer in order to gain parkland in the developing southern part of the City
B	City owned property, mostly natural area, includes some passive recreation area; Police shooting range, City compost site, solar array
C	Private agricultural land
D	Potential future elementary school with outdoor play area that could serve surrounding residents
E	Agricultural land use
F	Large undeveloped parcels in the north part of the City

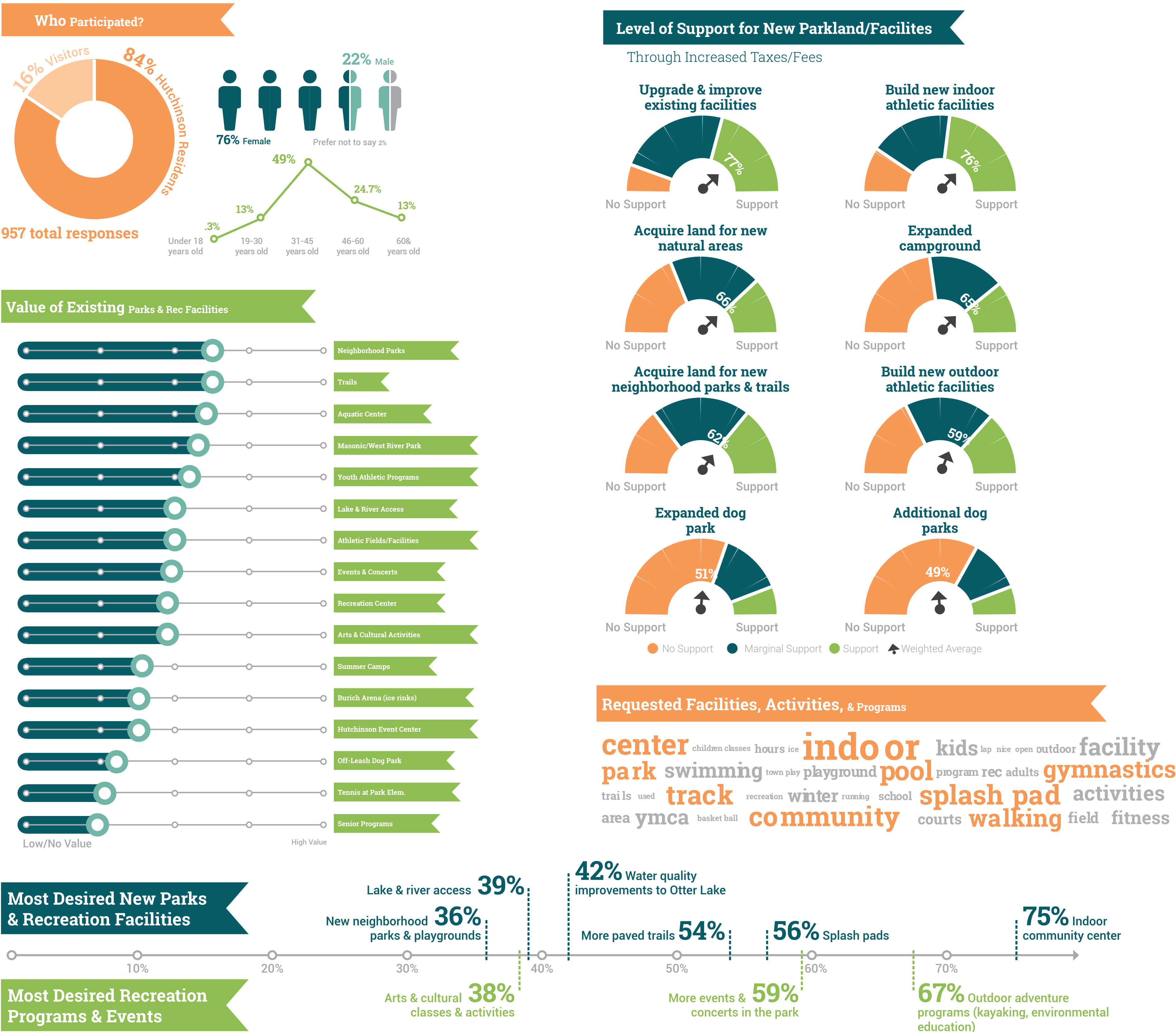


What We Heard (Summary of Community Input)

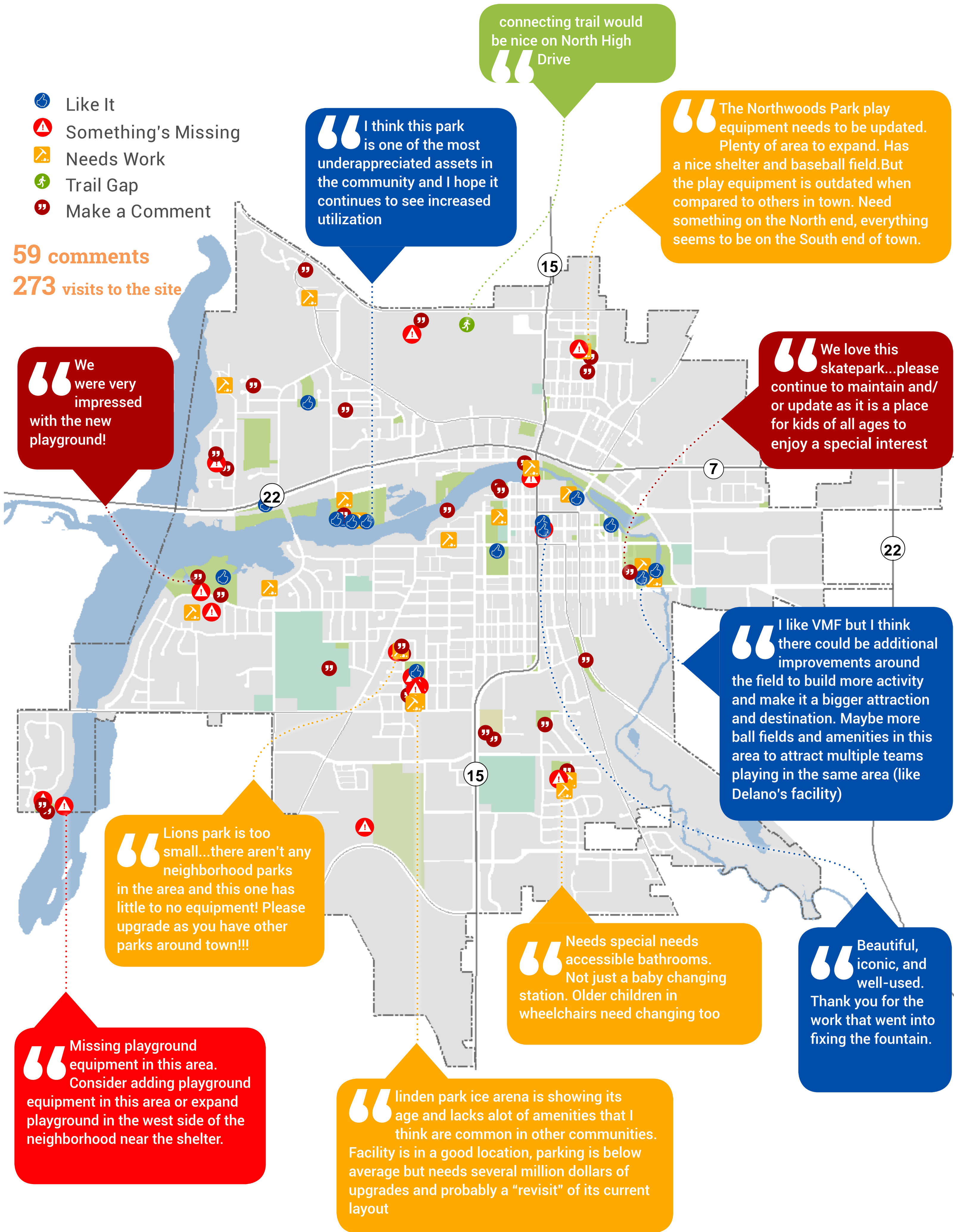
Two different online engagement strategies were implemented from August to October, 2018, to better understand how residents and visitors feel about Hutchinson's Parks & Recreation System, as well as what they would like to see in the future. The first method was an online questionnaire (Survey Monkey) that captured feedback about the parks and recreation system, while the second was an online map (Social Pinpoint) that allowed users to leave spatially-based feedback about existing conditions and potential improvements.

This board includes a summary of the significant data and comments gathered between these two engagement methods.

Survey Monkey Responses

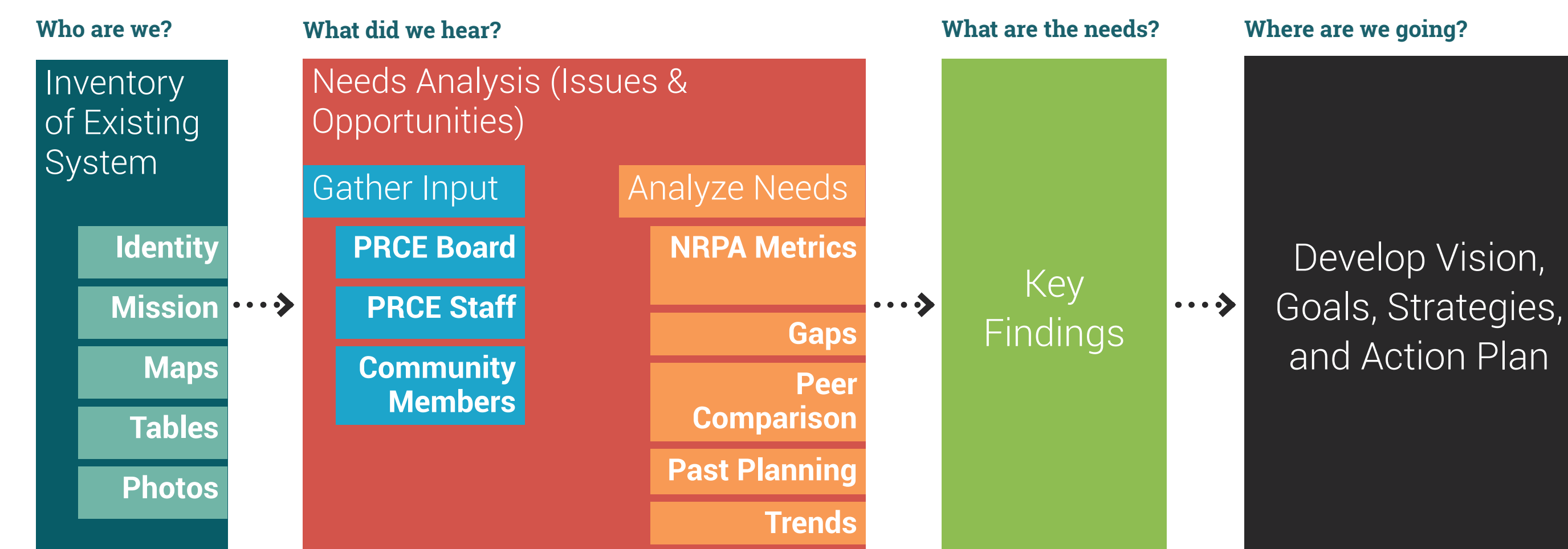


Popular Social Pinpoint Comments



What did the input tell us? (Key Findings)

The **Key Findings** represent the major issues and opportunities that emerged from the Needs Assessment process. The Key Findings were developed by considering past planning, community input, staff input, and PRCE Board input. The Findings are organized into categories that will help translate them into recommendations for the system plan. The findings include ideas that were suggested by staff, community members, visitors, PRCE Board members, past planning documents, or consultants; these ideas will be the basis for the system plan actions and strategies.



Fill out the Key Findings Worksheet to let us know what you think!



Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds

1. Neighborhood Parks are the most valued facility overall in Hutchinson's park system for survey respondents.
2. Many residents (36% of survey respondents) desire new neighborhood parks and playgrounds, especially in the southeast area of the City where there is new residential growth occurring.
3. There is interest in updating existing parks, such as Driftriders, and Lions Park West, with better equipment and amenities.
4. A splash pad is a highly desired facility.

Athletic Fields and Facilities

1. An improved tournament complex is desired, with better ballfield surfaces, lighting, upgraded concessions and restrooms, and expanded parking.
2. There is a strong desire for a gymnastics facility in order to support team gymnastics for youth and a high school team.
3. There is a desire for the tennis courts to be upgraded.
4. There is a desire for dedicated pickleball courts, outdoor and indoor.
5. The City's partnership with the School District/Community Education is beneficial for providing athletic fields and facilities.

Community Facilities

1. A community rec center is strongly desired, similar to a YMCA, with facilities such as an indoor track, fitness center, and lap pool. Over 46% of survey respondents indicated "Great Support" for increased taxes or fees in order to "build new indoor recreation facilities, such as a community center."
2. Many residents appreciate the variety and number of recreation facilities throughout the community, and they want them to stay even if they don't use all of them.
3. There is a strong desire to improve Burich Arena by giving it a face lift, deep cleaning, and nicer amenities. There is also desire for an outdoor ice rink next to Burich Arena.
4. Residents expressed concern about the long winters and a desire for more indoor winter recreation options, such as a community center with lots of programming options and an indoor children's play area.
5. There was appreciation expressed for the campground and desire to expand it and add full service hook ups.
6. The Aquatic Center is a highly valued facility -- survey respondents desire more hours and an expanded season.

Trails & Connectivity

1. Paved loop trails are desired throughout the community, especially near and around the water bodies.
2. Trail support facilities, such as water fountains and restrooms, are desired.
3. Safety improvements to trails are desired, such as safer pedestrian crossings of busy roadways and ADA accessibility overall.
4. More winter trail options, such as plowed trails and groomed cross country ski trails, are desired.

Recreational Programming

1. Many residents desire more community and family programming, similar to the offerings of nearby communities.
2. Shifting demographics make provision of programming challenging--Hutchinson's population growth is more seniors than youth.
3. A gymnastics program is desired.
4. In general, programs for youth are desired, especially toddlers and teenagers. More informal programming is desired - non-competitive, outdoor, teen-focused, etc.
5. Non-athletic, non-competitive programs are desired (i.e. cooking, art, environment, yoga).
6. There is competition between the private fitness/recreation businesses in town and PRCE. It is a challenge for the City to provide valuable services at low cost.

Natural Areas and Open Space

1. There is a desire for parks to focus more on the river as a recreational asset, with river trails, piers, and more water recreation equipment rentals.
2. Tree inventory and long term replacement plans for urban forest

Operations and Maintenance

1. There is a desire for improved maintenance all around, primarily at community facilities, such as Burich Arena.
2. Some residents expressed concern that playgrounds are not being upgraded as often as they should be.
3. There is a concern that if new facilities are added, they won't be maintained.
4. The City is efficient with a limited staff--additional staff could improve operations and maintenance system-wide.
5. Exploration of trends in recreation system operational practices is needed (i.e. volunteer management, youth coaches, athletic league decline).

Write your thoughts on a post-it note and place it on any of the boards

More trails!

Where are we going?

DRAFT Vision Statement

Hutchinson is a community where active, healthy, and engaged residents live and play. Hutchinson's network of well-maintained parks, high-quality facilities, connected trails, beautiful open spaces, and public art offers residents and visitors a set of endless opportunities for recreation.

Our Vision:

- **Athletic Facilities:**
 - ☒ Build a high-quality athletic tournament complex (partner with school district)
- **Programming:**
 - ☒ Expand offerings that include options for all ages and abilities
- **Events:**
 - ☒ Consider a marquee facility within the city
 - ☒ Host exciting and attractive events throughout the year
 - ☒ Meet the needs of a diverse population
- **Indoor and Special Facilities:**
 - ☒ Build a comprehensive, functional indoor recreation center
 - ☒ Maintain and enhance Burich Ice Arena and the Aquatic Center
- **Trails:**
 - ☒ Fill in the gaps to create a connected, contiguous, well-maintained network
 - ☒ Create trails with accessibility to regional and local destinations
- **Parks:**
 - ☒ To have every resident within ½ mile of a neighborhood park facility.
 - ☒ Parks provide traditional amenities, such as play equipment and basketball courts, but also include unique amenities, such as the campground, dog park, disc golf, public art and pickleball courts.
- **Natural Areas and Open Space:**
 - ☒ River access and recreation are central to the character and identity of Hutchinson.
 - ☒ Natural areas provide space for hiking, boating, fishing, and biking.

DRAFT Goals + Policies

The **Goals** (numbers) and **Policies** (letters) listed below are taken from the *City's 2013 Comprehensive Plan*. These are a starting point for developing goals for the Hutchinson Parks, Recreation, and Community Education Master plan.

Goal 1.	Build parks that will help shape the community:
(Policies)	a. Access the river
	b. Integrate gardens and art
	c. Access to parks (close to home)
	d. Acquire land add specific value to park/trail system
Goal 2.	Provide residents and visitors with opportunities to enjoy the natural environment:
	a. Develop a nature area management plan
	b. Maximize reforestation opportunities
	c. Encourage volunteer restoration, and collaborate with outside agencies
Goal 3.	Provide trails and sidewalks that support recreation, transportation, and wellness:
	a. Multi-modal corridors that link parks, schools, and businesses
	b. Continuous and attractive trail system
	c. Promote walking and biking
	d. Support safe routes to school
	e. Pave regional trails
Goal 4.	Develop and redevelop parks that focus on accessibility, flexibility and naturalization:
	a. Build sustainable, adaptable, and resilient facilities
	b. Implement a long term renewal plan
	c. Build or renew facilities to meet or exceed standards for accessibility.
Goal 5.	Partner with residents to support the park system's natural resources
	a. Engage community to identify programs, services, and facility needs
	b. Work with all levels of government to support park development and operations
	c. Develop a 5yr CIP
	d. Maintain and operate existing system
	e. Engage with local businesses and groups
	f. Utilize technology to communicate information
	g. Partner with schools in shared facilities
Goal 6.	Connect people through recreation:
	a. Be the recreation information source
	b. Develop program partnerships
	c. Create and support community events
	d. Initiate, sponsor, and support volunteer programs
Goal 7.	Encourage people to play so they may increase their capacity to enjoy life:
	a. Provide youth programming (arts, social, environmental, physical)
	b. Make programming more accessible/convenient
	c. Partner with organizations
	d. Reduce financial and physical (ADA) barriers to participation
	e. No net loss of parkland or open space
Goal 8.	Provide enjoyable opportunities for people, visitors, and workers to improve health and fitness:
	a. Provide team sports for all ages
	b. Opportunities for self-directed recreation
	c. Integrate non-traditional rec opportunities
	d. Provide rec. opportunities that support active lifestyle throughout the day
Goal 9.	Assure private development provides park, trail and open space standards:
	a. Park dedication land to align with city's park and development plans, should fulfill comp plan goals and policies, and should be high quality and usable land
	b. Maintain zoning and sub-division regulations that provide parks, trails, and open space
Goal 10.	Develop and adopt a park, trail, and open space plan
	a. Needs assessment
	b. Consider all public facilities and coordinate with other agencies/stakeholders
	c. Evaluate facility development and maintenance practices

Fill out the Goals Worksheet to let us know what you think!



Write your thoughts on a post-it note and place it on any of the boards

More trails