

City of Muscatine Comprehensive Plan

DRAFT Chapter 6: Parks & Recreation





Chapter 6: Parks & Recreation Facilities

This chapter gives a detailed overview of the parks and recreational amenities currently maintained and operated by the City of Muscatine, details existing plans for upgrading existing or construction of new parks or recreational facility, and maps proximity of residents to existing parks and recreational facilities. This chapter details goals, policies, and objectives regarding the future of parks and recreational facilities in Muscatine.

The City of Muscatine has well developed and highly regarded parks and recreation infrastructure. For this reason the community has identified maintaining existing City of Muscatine parks and recreational facilities and amenities as the highest parks and recreational related goal for the City of Muscatine (Goal PR.1).

The Muscatine Soccer Complex, a 41-acre facility that features eight full-sized, state-of-the-art soccer fields and Kent-Stein Park (66 acres), which contains nine lighted softball diamonds, eight lighted baseball diamonds, and nine lighted horseshoe courts are two large adjacent recreational facilities that provide the residents of Muscatine with world class recreational opportunities and enhance the area's economy through tourism generated by the numerous large tournaments at these facilities. Goal PR.2 seeks to build on the success of the Muscatine Soccer Complex by calling for the completion of the Muscatine Soccer Complex Phase III Development Project which will add four tiered multi-use lighted synthetic playing surfaces, a 228 car parking lot, restrooms, picnic shelters, a fenced perimeter, and a playground to this world class complex of recreational facilities.

The City of Muscatine operates an outdoor aquatic center and a golf course. The Muscatine Aquatic Center located in Weed Park features five slides (two drop slides, one family slide and two long slides), a zero depth entry area, interactive play structure with kid's slide and spray features, a lap pool, and a diving well. Muscatine Municipal Golf Course located approximately a mile north of Muscatine is a 18-hole facility with a complete pro shop, concession area, cart rental, driving range, and an indoor golf simulator that is open year round.

Four large parks, Weed Park, Riverfront Park, Fuller Park, and Musser Park contain a myriad of recreational amenities including; playgrounds, picnic shelters, trails, cooking grills, a skate park, baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, a roller hockey rink, an outdoor skating rink, community gathering facilities, a splash pad, a boat harbor, a marina, boat ramps, restrooms, concession stands, a disc golf course, sand volleyball pits, tennis courts, gardens, etc. Three of the goals of Comprehensive Plan relate to desired enhancements to Weed Park. Goal PR.8 calls for a bandshell to added to Riverfront Park.



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In addition to the larger parks profiled in detail in this chapter, there are an additional twelve smaller neighborhood parks scattered across Muscatine, ranging in size from a half acre to six acres. Two of these parks, McKee Park and John Duncan Park are undeveloped wooded areas. The other ten neighborhood parks contain a variety of amenities to enhance the public's enjoyment of these sites. These amenities vary from park-to-park but can include such things as: playgrounds, picnic shelters, basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, benches, picnic tables, tennis courts, cooking grills, and enhanced lighting.

The City of Muscatine maintains 8.1 miles of paved multi-use trails, known as the Running River Trail System, composed of paved right-of-way that is separated from all roadways. The trail system as envisioned in Goal PR.7 is not yet complete. The ultimate vision is for a fully connected trail network providing access to all areas within Muscatine and with connections to larger regional and national trail networks.

During the public participation and input process that forms the basis for this Comprehensive Plan, the need for a dog park was the most frequently received comment from members of the public. Goal PR.3 calls for the construction of a dog park, a fenced space within a park, or other location that is identified and designed for off-leash dog activity, through a partnership with community stakeholders. The goal provides specific guidance on how a dog park should be designed, funded, and operated.

Goal PR.9 establishes the goal of meeting the needs of community members by expanding cold and all-weather recreational amenities and activities. The Recreational Advisory Commission or a committee operating under the auspices and reporting to the Recreational Advisory Commission will conduct with, public input, a detailed needs assessment regarding cold and all-weather recreational amenities and activities, with the needs of Muscatine's youth specifically addressed, followed up by a plan to address these identified needs.



Figure 1: Musser Park



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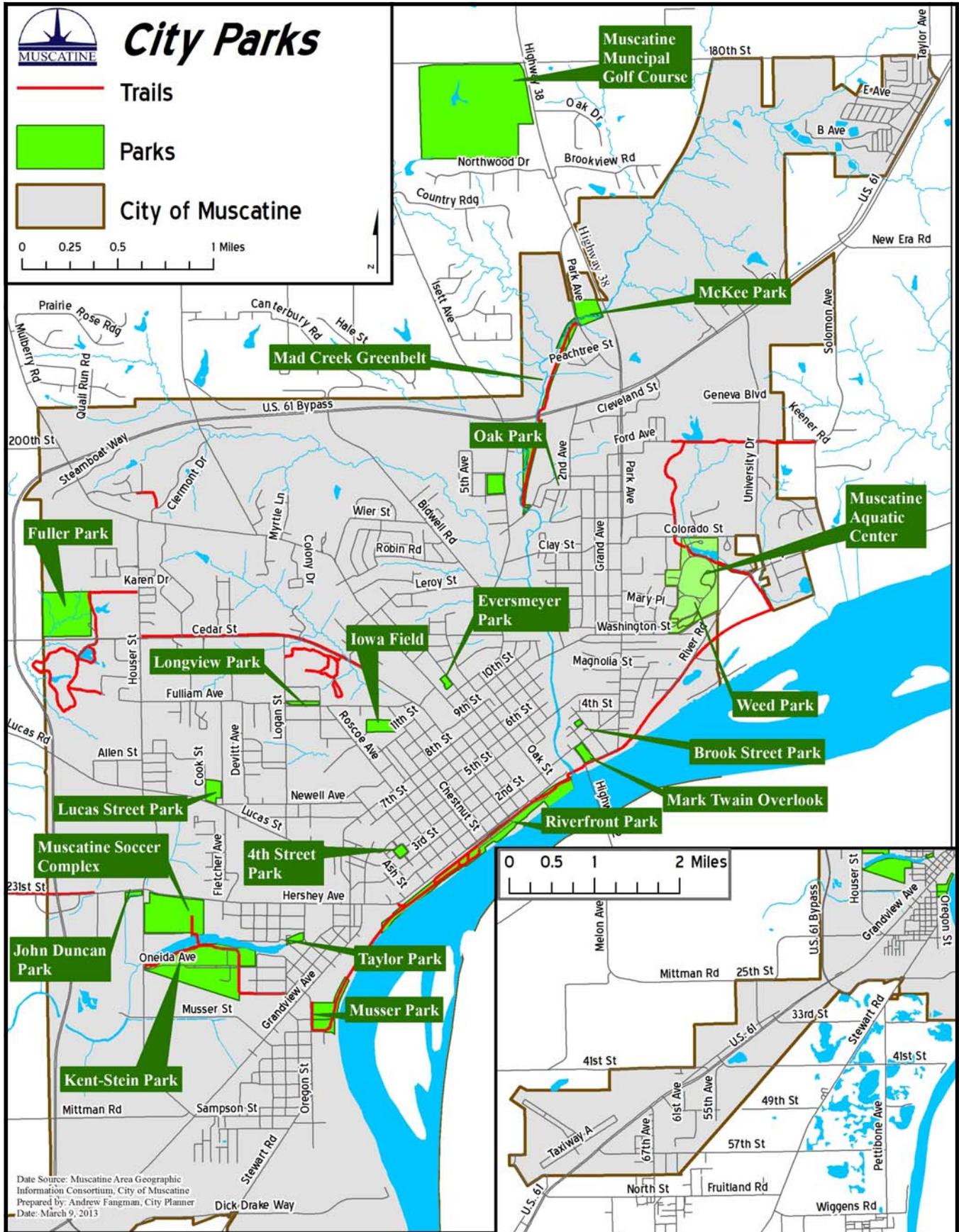


Figure 2: City of Muscatine Parks

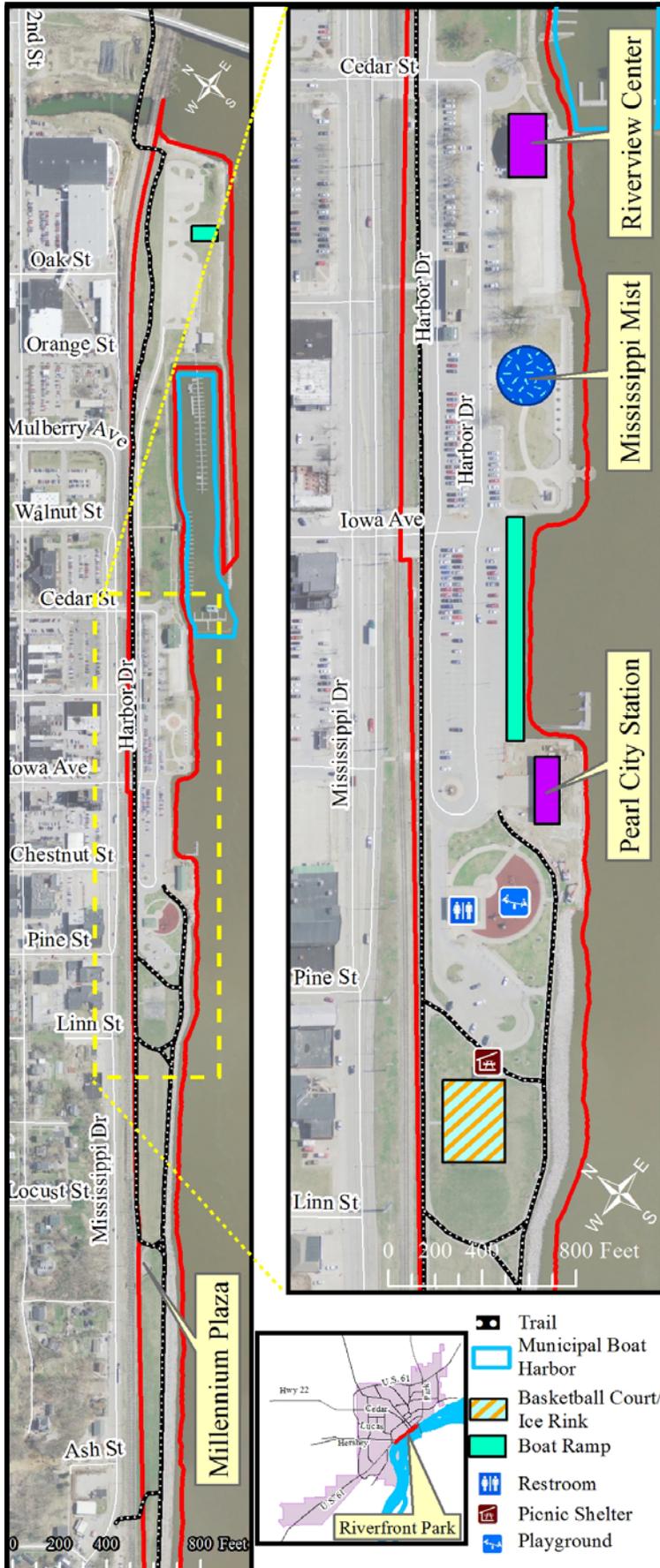


Figure 3: Riverfront Park

Riverfront Park

Riverfront Park is located along Mississippi River from the mouth of Mad Creek, along downtown, and further down river. It includes the following amenities constructed to enhance public enjoyment of the riverfront :

- A lighted multi-use rail
- Pearl City Station
- Boat Ramps
- Boat Docks
- Playground
- Mississippi Mist— an interactive water feature
- Millennium Plaza
- A Riverfront Promenade
- Riverview Center,
 - Bridge Tribute plaza and trail kiosk
 - Riverfront Clock
 - Public art
- Large maintained green spaces
- Restrooms and Water Fountains



Figure 4: Riverfront Park



Figure 5: Riverfront Park



Figure 6: Riverview Center

Riverview Center

The Riverview Center is located on the riverfront and is available to the public to rent for wedding receptions, family reunions, class reunions, meetings, and other nonprofit events. Some of the new features of the Riverview Center include: heating/air conditioning; handicapped-accessible elevator and restrooms; kitchen for catering (refrigerator, freezer, microwave, sink, prep area, but no stove on-site); and a 15-foot deck on two sides overlooking the river.

Mississippi Mist

The Mississippi Mist is a beautiful water feature located on the Muscatine Riverfront. It is an interactive splash pad with a riverboat smokestack-themed center jet that shoots water up to 30 feet into the air. The programmed water display features around the base sprout up at different intervals and include four mist jets and four outer cannons that shoot water into the center. The water feature is lit and creates a spectacular night view. The hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The splash pad is not attended by a lifeguard and children must be accompanied by adults



Figure 7: Mississippi Mist



Figure 8: Pearl City Station

Pearl City Station

Pearl City Station is located on the riverfront and is available to the public for meetings, reunions, wedding receptions, and other nonprofit events from mid-March through November. The building must be reserved in advance and a fee will be charged depending on the usage day/time, or the use of alcohol. The building is equipped with restrooms, tables, and chairs.

Bandshell

The construction of a bandshell at Riverfront Park has been identified as a goal of the Comprehensive Plan (Goal PR.8). The intent of such a project is provide an attractive and accessible venue for local artists in the fields of musical art, performing theatrical arts, dance arts, visual arts and celebrations such as the Muscatine Symphony Orchestra, Pearl City Players Great River Days, Fourth of July celebration, Friday night movies, art festivals/fairs, student science fairs and many more community events.

The location proposed for a bandshell is in Riverfront Park, adjacent on the downriver side of the existing outdoor basketball courts. The slightly elevated nature of this location reduces flooding risks. The structure itself would face ever so slightly to the river side of the green space area thus projecting sound away from nearby residences. The green space area also provides a backdrop for activities such as art/science fairs and/non-scheduled citizen activities. Funding the construction of bandshell will come from donations and other non-municipal sources.

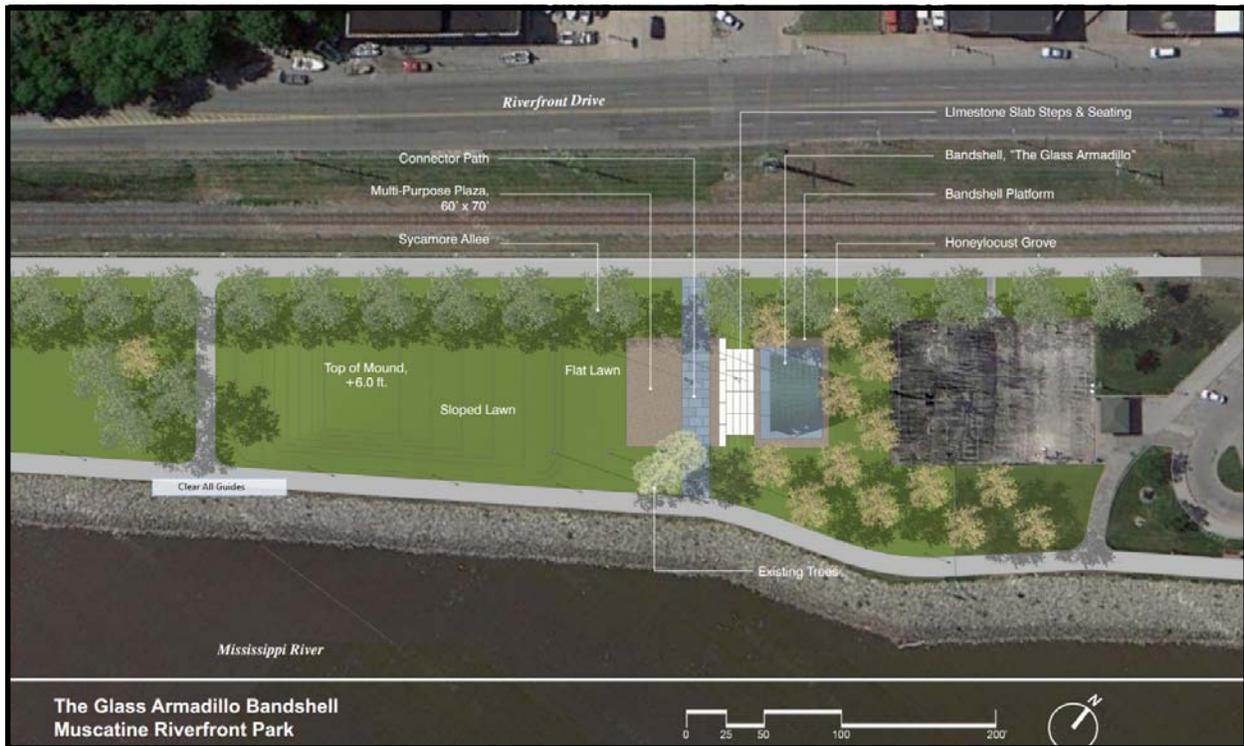


Figure 9: Proposed Location of Bandshell



Figure 10: Artist Conception of Bandshell



Figure 11: Artist Conception of Bandshell

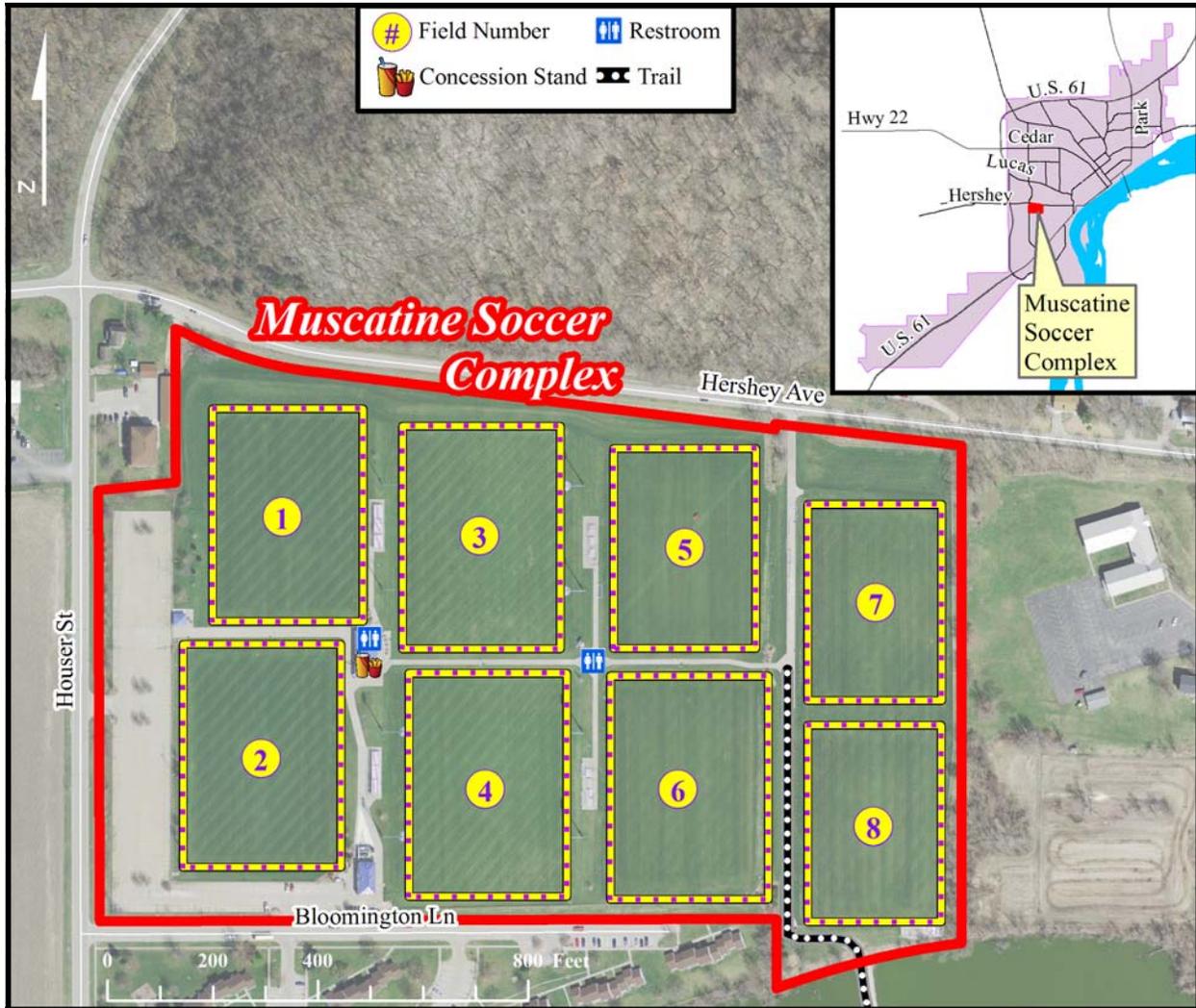


Figure 12: Muscatine Soccer Complex

Muscatine Soccer Complex

The Muscatine Soccer Complex, constructed in 1993, is a 41-acre, \$3.8 million soccer facility that features eight full-sized, state-of-the-art soccer fields. Two of the eight fields are internationally sized, lighted and contain amended soils. The complex is fully equipped with concessions, media center, restroom facility, and parking area. The National Sports Turf Managers Association recognized this outstanding facility as the Soccer Fields of the Year in the U.S. in 1995 and 2001. The Muscatine Soccer Complex plays host to events sponsored by national, state, and local associations involving participants of all ages.



Figure 13: Muscatine Soccer Complex



Muscatine Soccer Complex Phase III Development Project

The Phase III Development project is part of the original Muscatine Soccer Complex Master Plan which identified the 17 acres directly west across Houser Street from the existing soccer complex as an area for future expansion. The Muscatine Recreational Advisory Commission's Phase III Development Project Subcommittee, made up of representation from the City of Muscatine, the Muscatine Recreational Advisory Commission, large business, small business, usage groups, and property owners, was established to assess the community's needs for an expansion of the Muscatine Soccer Complex.

This group determined that an expansion would be beneficial to the community and developed a concept plan. This concept plan was developed by a donation of professional services from Stanley Consultants and with input from the citizens committee and City Staff. This plan shown in Figure 14 includes: four tiered, multi-use, lighted synthetic playing surfaces, a 228 car parking lot, restrooms, picnic shelters, a fenced perimeter, a playground, informational kiosks, and a frontage trail/sidewalk connecting Kent-Stein Park to the America Legion area.

In February of 2012, the Muscatine City Council endorsed this plan, subject to 100% of the estimated \$5 million construction/development cost's coming from private sources. This is the same agreement under which the existing Muscatine Soccer Complex was constructed. The property owner of the identified site has indicated that they are interested in donating the land contingent on the parking lot be constructed first, a fenced perimeter, and a designated funding source. Fund raising for this project is currently underway. The cost estimate of \$5 million includes all design and engineering services and a contingency fund necessary to develop the complete project.



Figure 14: Muscatine Soccer Complex Phase III Development Project

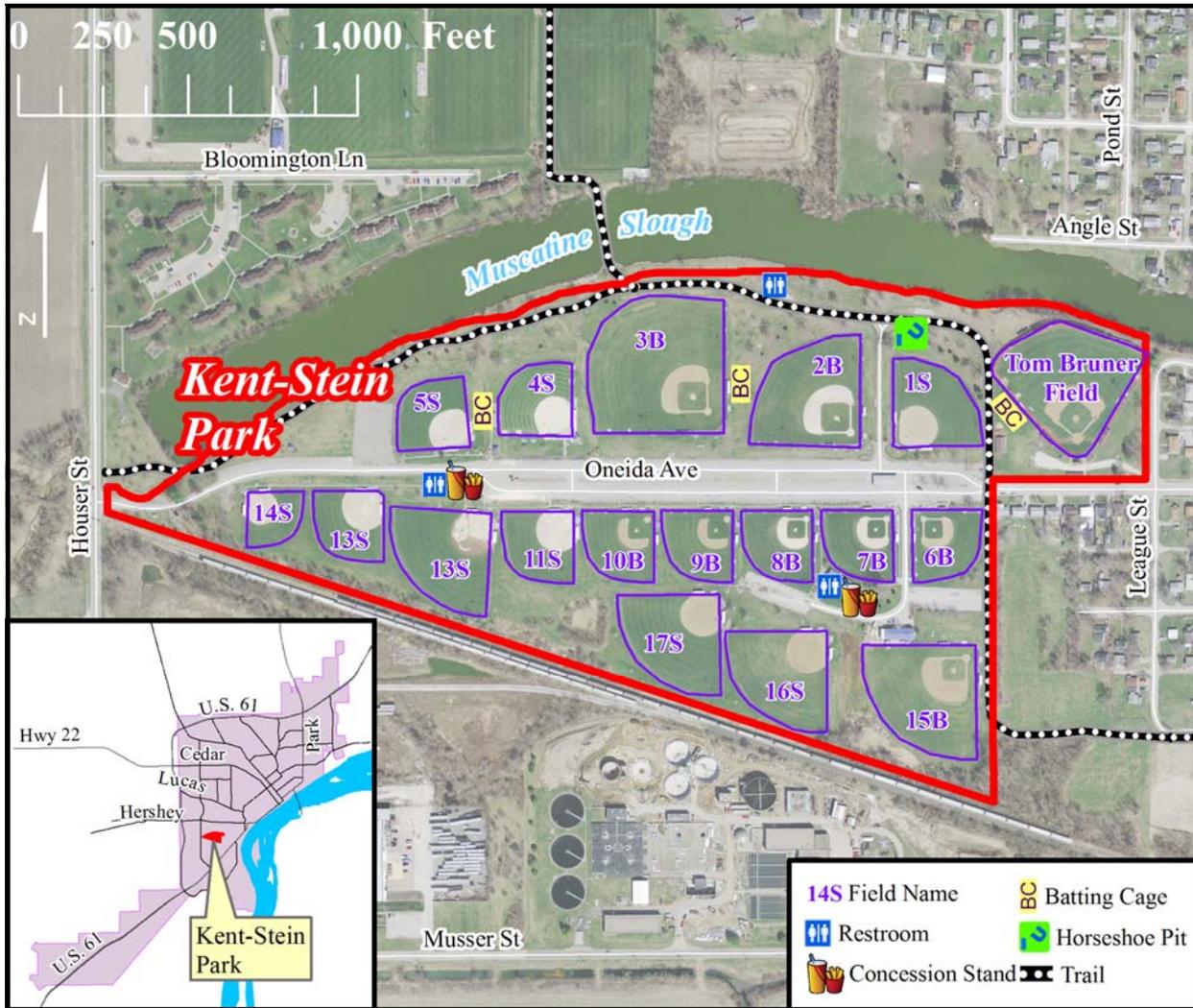


Figure 15: Kent-Stein Park

Kent-Stein Park

Kent Stein Park contains a total of 66 acres and adjoins an 11-acre slough. The park facilities include nine lighted softball diamonds, eight lighted baseball diamonds, and nine lighted horseshoe courts. Available in the park are restroom facilities, two concession stands, picnic areas, and fishing in the slough. The City of Muscatine is responsible for the maintenance and scheduling of Kent-Stein Park. Private groups organize girls softball and youth baseball activities which take place at Kent-Stein Park. Tom Bruner Field, originally constructed in 1910 and located next to Kent-Stein Park and is home to Muscatine Community College and Muscatine High School baseball teams. Intergovernmental agreements between Muscatine Community College and Muscatine Community School District have been responsible for the maintenance of Tom Bruner Field. Kent-Stein Park is located across the Muscatine Slough from the Muscatine Soccer Complex and the two facilities are linked by a walkway crossing the slough.



Figure 16: Kent-Stein Park

Weed Park

Weed Park covers a total of 72 acres, including a three-acre lagoon. The facilities include fishing for children in the lagoon, an aquatic center, rose garden, Weed Park Zoo Garden. (a three-acre flower, art, pathway, and kiosk project at the site of the old Weed Park Zoo, which was closed in 1980), playground equipment, bandstand, restroom facilities, concession stand, parking areas, picnic areas, seven picnic shelters, 10 tennis courts (four lighted), and two sand pit volleyball pits. Three of the goals of Comprehensive Plan relate to desired enhancements to Weed Park.



Figure 17: Weed Park Lagoon

Goal PR.4 calls a number of improvements to the central part of Weed Park, collectively there projects are know as the Weed Park Central Corridor Project. The project consists of removing the Tennis Shelter removing the tennis court fencing and converting paved area into a picnic table storage area, removing the old concession stand building and replacing it with a modular restroom building, and constructing a 50' by 110' large outing shelter. Currently there are no outdoor shelter type venues suitable for holding larger events or gatherings.

Goal PR.5. recommends the renovation or replacement of the existing outdated public restroom located near the Rose Garden. The public restrooms in Weed Park should be compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act and of equal or better quality to the public restrooms located in Musser Park and Riverside Park. The first step towards implementing this goal will be making the determination if it is more cost effective renovate or replace the existing restrooms. Next a specific plan to renovate or replace the existing restrooms in Weed Park located near the Rose Garden, will then be prepared and executed.

Goal PR.6 calls for the construction of a second set of public restrooms in Weed Park to serve the heavily used portion the park near the Lagoon and which are nearly a half mile away from the existing public restrooms,. A new set of restrooms would end the need for the seasonal placement of a port-a-potty near the sand volley ball pits at and enhance the experience of park users



Figure 18: Weed Park Playground



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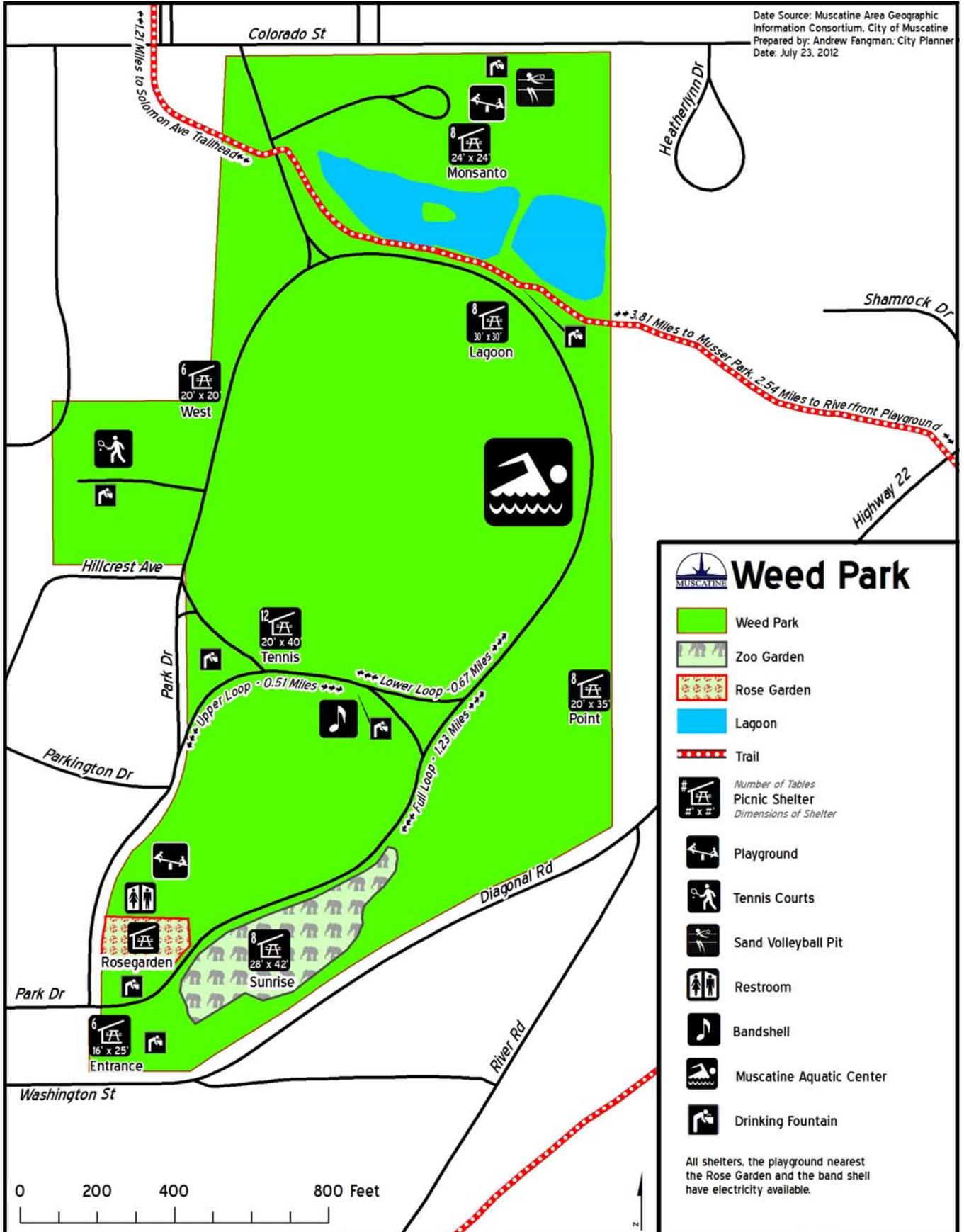


Figure 19: Weed Park Playground



Muscatine Aquatic Center

The Muscatine Aquatic Center, located in Weed Park, was opened in June 2004. This facility, which was constructed at a cost \$3.8 million, replaced an old outdoor pool that was also located at Weed Park. The Muscatine Aquatic Center is open from late May through early September, and has an average annual attendance of approximately 44,000.

The facility features five slides (two drop slides, one family slide and two long slides), a zero depth entry area, interactive play structure with kid slide and spray features, a lap pool, and a diving well. It also features family restrooms, self-service lockers, a multi-purpose room and full concessions.

The Muscatine Aquatic Center is available to rent outside of scheduled hours for birthday parties or other events. The City of Muscatine Parks and Recreation offers swim lessons for all ages and abilities during the summer months.



Figure 22: Location



Figure 20: Muscatine Aquatic Center



Figure 23: Muscatine Aquatic Center



Figure 21: Muscatine Aquatic Center

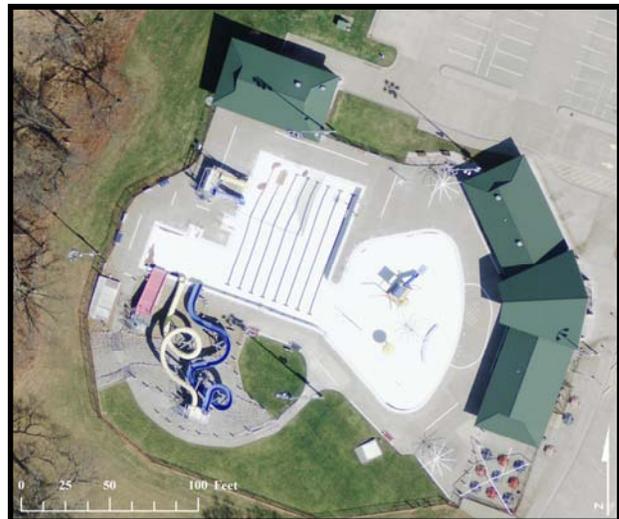


Figure 24: Muscatine Aquatic Center



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Muscatine Municipal Golf Course

The Muscatine Municipal Golf Course is located approximately one mile north of the City. The 18-hole facility offers a complete pro shop, concession area, cart rental, driving range, and an indoor golf simulator that is open year round. The Muscatine Municipal Golf Course employs a Professional Golf Associ certified Golf Professional.

The Muscatine Municipal Golf Course Clubhouse is available for rent by the general public.



Figure 28: Location



Figure 25: Muscatine Municipal Golf Course



Figure 29: Muscatine Municipal Golf Course



Figure 26: Muscatine Municipal Golf Course

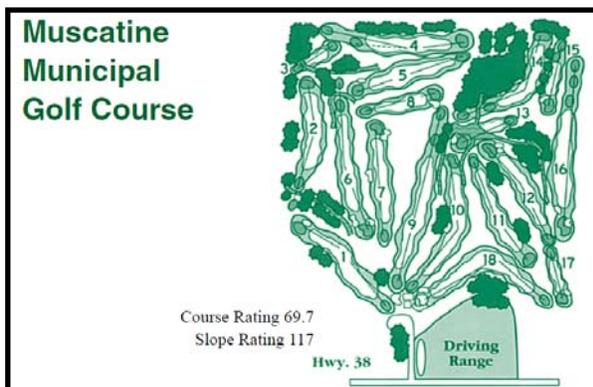


Figure 27 Muscatine Municipal Golf Course



Figure 30: Muscatine Municipal Golf Course



Figure 31: Skate Park

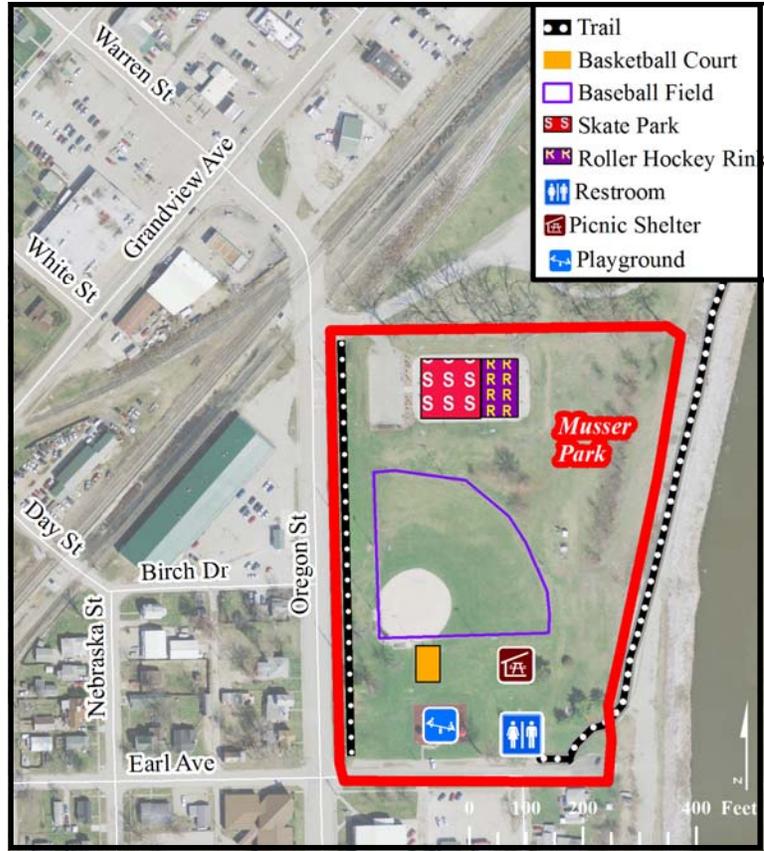


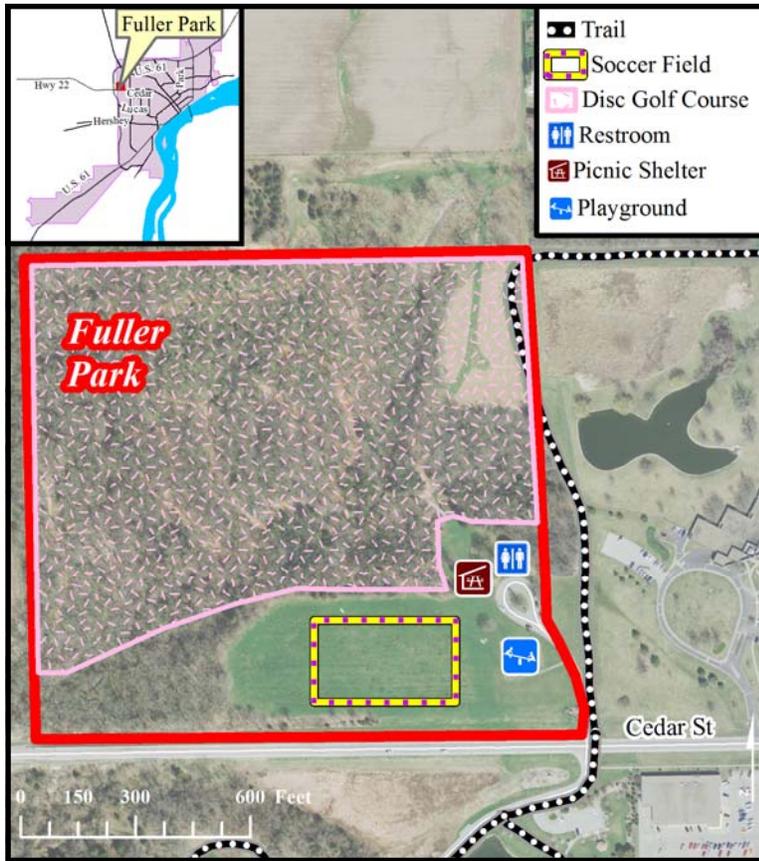
Figure 32: Musser Park

Musser Park

Musser Park covers a total of 11 acres along the Mississippi River include playground equipment, a picnic shelter, restrooms, a drinking fountain, cooking grills, a baseball/softball field, a trailhead, and the Muscatine Skate Park. The skate park offers the Muscatine Community an opportunity to cuse their skateboards, roller blades and BMX bikes in an environment where they can improve their skills in a place designed for that purpose. The skate park includes parking for up to 27 vehicles, a flat track and a fenced area with a 100x100 foot stunt area and a 90x50 foot in-line hockey rink. The obstacle/stunt area has a concrete surface with a variety of steel ramps.



Figure 33: Musser Park



Fuller Park

Fuller Park, covers a total of 53 acres and is located off Cedar Street near the U.S. 61 Bypass. It includes playground equipment, a picnic shelter, restroom facilities, a drinking fountain, cooking grills, a soccer field, a trail, and the Muscatine Disc Golf Course. This 18-hole disc golf course accommodates citizens of all skill levels with wide-open shots for the first time recreational player as well as more difficult holes for those who are seeking more of a challenge. There is no fee to play this course. The course is equipped with ample parking, restrooms, signage, and benches throughout the course.

Figure 34: Fuller Park



Figure 35: Fuller Park



Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds

In addition to the larger park already profiled in this chapter there are an additional twelve smaller neighborhood parks scattered across Muscatine, ranging in size from a half acre to six acres. Two of these parks, McKee Park and John Duncan Park are wooded areas with no developed amenities. Iowa Field also lack any developed amenities, but does have large regularly mowed grass field. The other ten neighborhood parks contain a variety of amenities to enhance the public's enjoyment of these sites. These amenities vary from park-to-park but can include such things as: playgrounds, picnic shelters, basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, benches, picnic tables, tennis courts, cooking grills, and enhanced lighting. Figures 38 through 60 on pages 6-18 through 6-21, detail the location of these parks and the amenities that they contain.

The City of Muscatine maintains eleven of colorful, modular, state of the art playgrounds that together total more than 45,000 square feet. These 12 playgrounds are located within in ten select City parks. Playgrounds are located at the following park sites: Brook Street Park, Eversmeyer Park, Oak Park, 4th Street Park, Lucas Park, Taylor Park, Fuller Park, Longview Park, Riverfront Park, Weed Park (2 playgrounds) and Musser Park. Each playground is uniquely designed utilizing play equipment appropriate for a wide age range. The poured-in-place rubberized safety surfacing under each playground allows for expanded seasonal playground usage while maintaining one of the playground industries safest known play environments.

Goal PR.10 is for all Muscatine residents to have a park with amenities and a playground within relatively easy walking distance. The vast majority of Muscatine residents have a park with some sort of developed amenities and/or a playground located within a very short distance from their home. Figure 61 on page 6-22 depicts the distance to the park with developed amenities. A total of 18,176 people live within a half mile of a park with amenities and 22,632 people live within a mile of a park with amenities. Figure 62 on page 6-23 depicts the distance to the nearest playground. A total of 16,590 people live within a half mile of a playground and 22,282 people live within a mile of a playground. To fully achieve Goal PR.10 playgrounds and parks with amenities will have to be developed to serve the following areas with no nearby parks or playgrounds: the area south of Dick Drake Way, the area located along and off of the upper stretch of Mulberry Avenue, and the far northeast portion of the



Figure 361: Playground at Oak Park



Figure 37: 4th Street Park



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Figure 38: 4th Street Park



Figure 41: 4th Street Park



Figure 39: Lucas Street Park



Figure 42: Lucas Street Park



Figure 40: Brook Street Park



Figure 43: Brook Street Park



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Figure 44: Eversmeyer Park



Figure 47: Eversmeyer Park

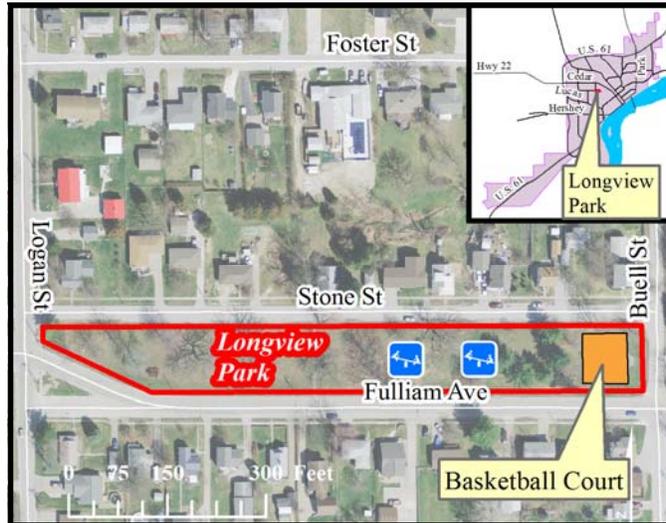


Figure 45: Longview Park



Figure 48: Longview Park

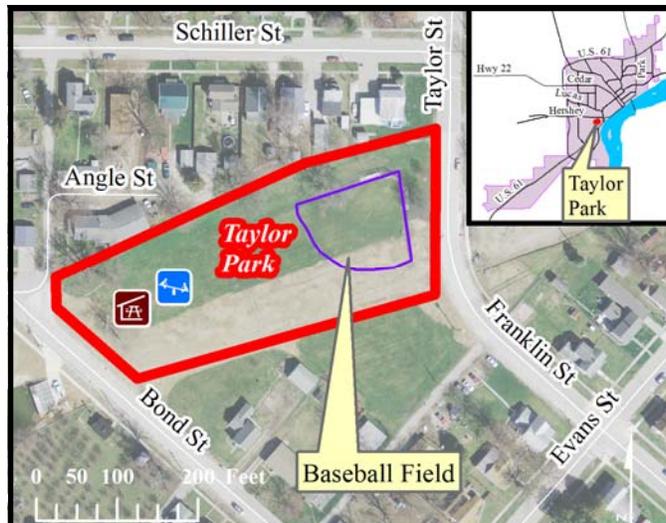


Figure 46: Taylor Park



Figure 49: Taylor Park



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Figure 50: John Duncan Park



Figure 53: John Duncan Park



Figure 51: Iowa Field



Figure 54: Iowa Field



Figure 52: Mark Twain Overlook

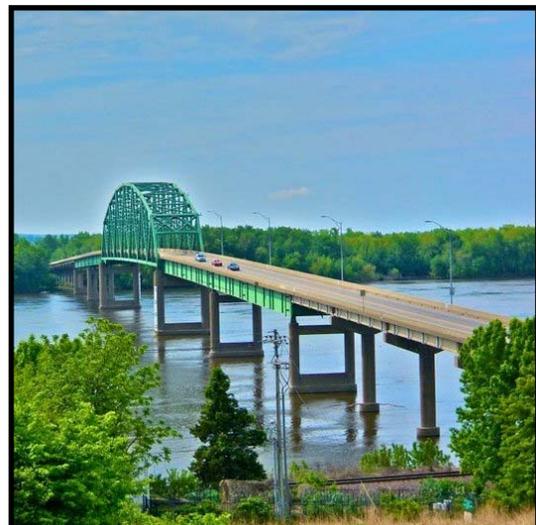


Figure 55: Mark Twain Overlook



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Figure 55: Oak Park



Figure 58: Oak Park

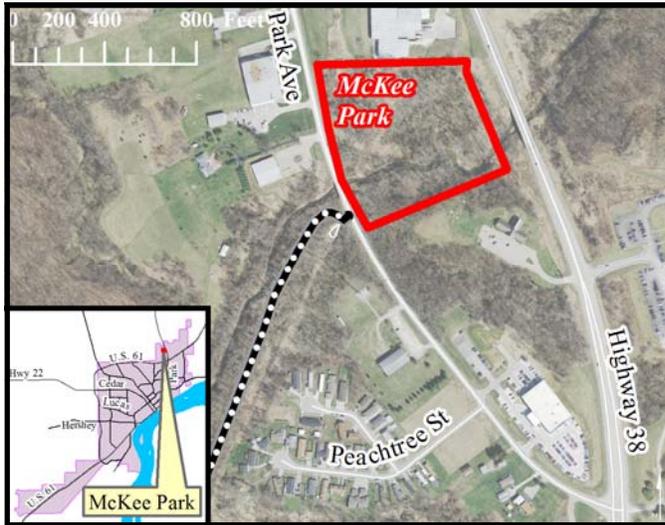


Figure 56: McKee Park



Figure 59: McKee Park



Figure 57: Mad Creek Greenbelt

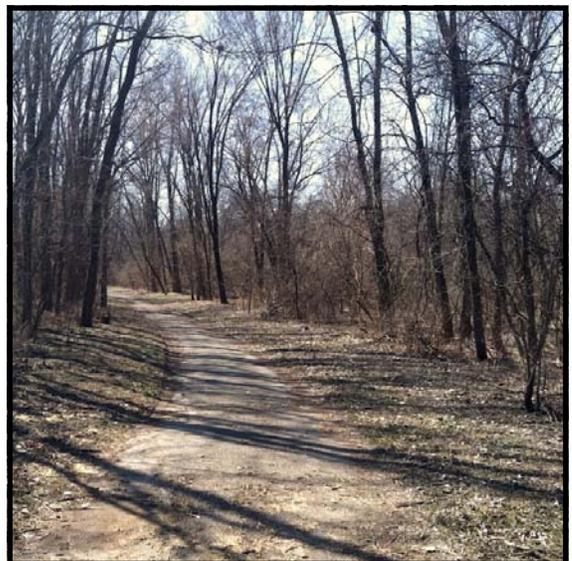


Figure 60: Mad Creek Greenbelt



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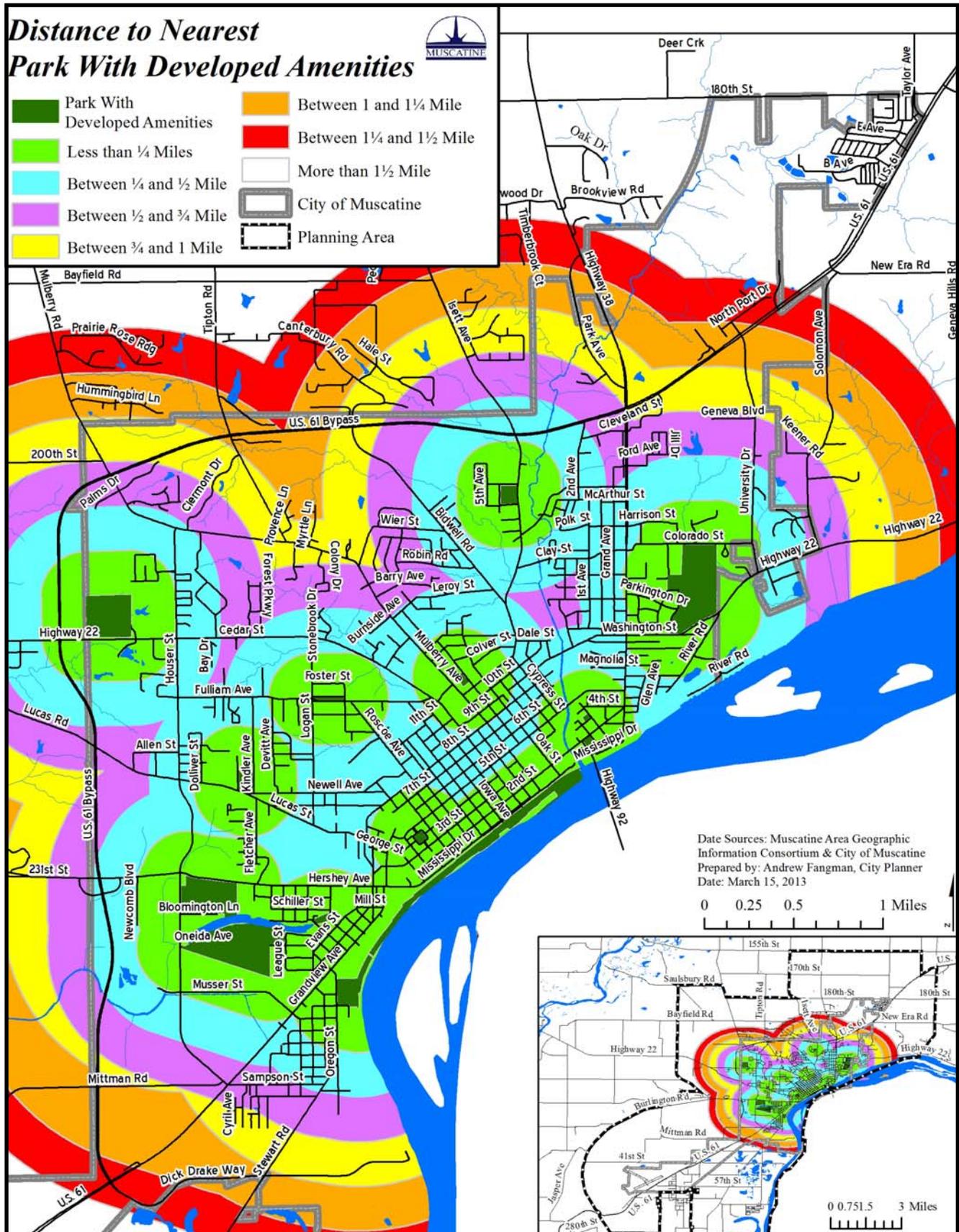


Figure 61: Distance to Nearest Park With Amenities



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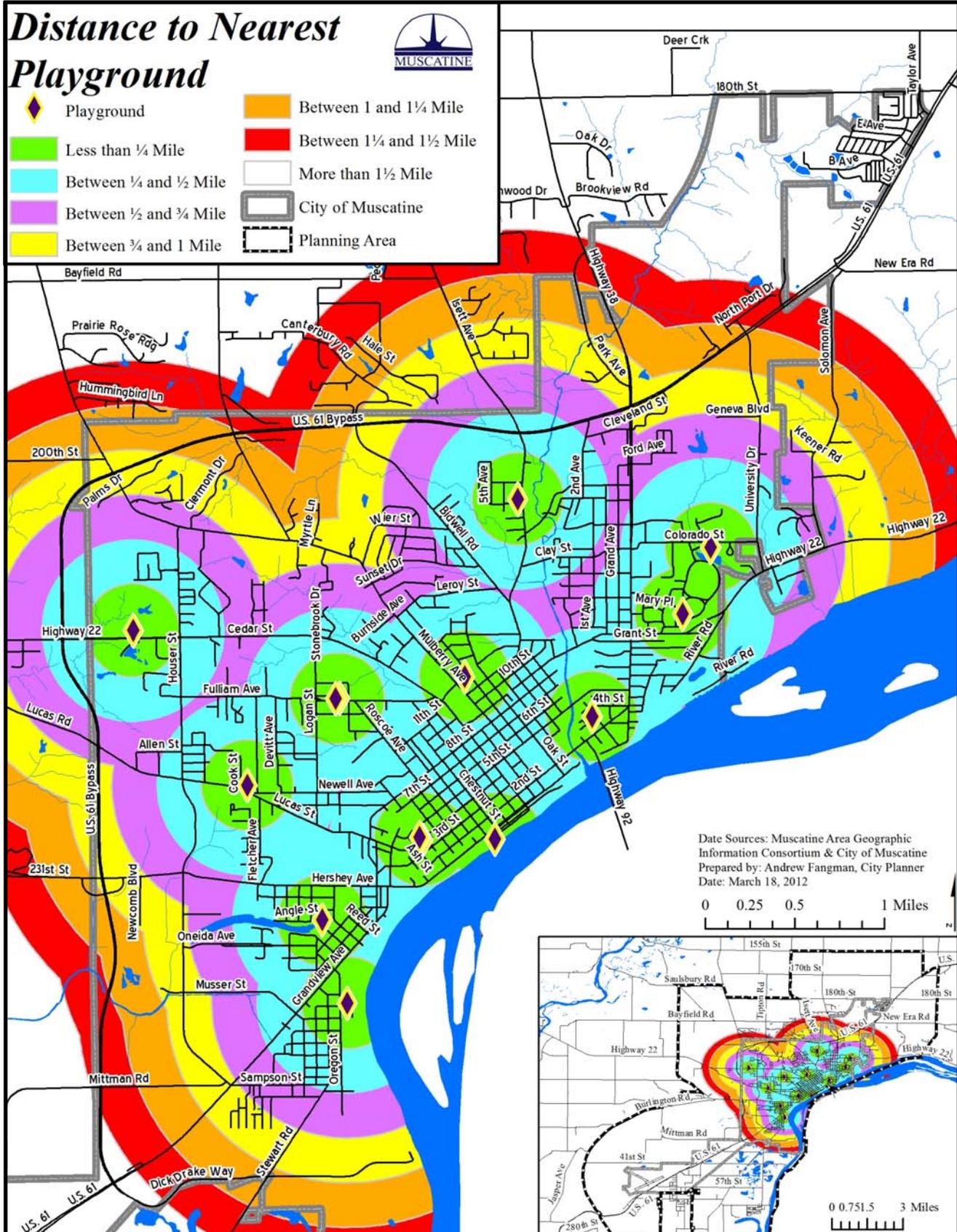


Figure 62: Distance to Nearest Playground



Figure 63: Trail



Figure 64: Trail



Figure 65: Trail



Figure 66: Trail

Running River Trail System

The City of Muscatine maintains 8.1 miles of paved multi-use trails, known as the Running River Trail System, serving non-motorized users, walkers, bikers, runners and in-line skaters using right-of-way that is separated from all roadways and has a minimal crossing of roadways. Currently the trail system exists as several disconnected portions; however the ultimate vision of the trail system is for an expanded trail network in which all segments are tied together and connected to larger regional and national trail networks.

The backbone of the trail system is an uninterrupted segment of a little more than 5.25 miles that runs from Musser Park along the riverfront, then turns north passing through Weed Park and ending at the intersection of Solomon Avenue and Keener Road. The 1.9 mile portion of the trail located between Musser Park and Mad Creek is lighted, allowing for all-hours use. Restrooms, drinking fountains, and parking are located in Musser, Riverfront, and Weed parks through which passes this segment of trail.

A major segment of trail crosses through Kent-Stein Park. It runs for approximately 0.8 miles along the Muscatine Slough and winds through the park to the western end of Roby Street. A designated and marked bike lane exists on Roby Street, running from Kent-Stein Park to the Roby Street/Liberty Street intersection. From here it is 0.3 miles to the Musser Park trailhead.

Improvements to make this 0.3 mile segment safe for bicyclists and pedestrians are planned. When completed two linked up segments of trail, will create an uninterrupted route stretching approximately 6.5 miles from Kent-Stein Park to Solomon Avenue.

The Mad Creek Greenbelt is a 1.05 mile segment of trail that runs along Mad Creek from Park Avenue West to Lake Park Boulevard. This trail passes underneath the U.S. 61 Bypass, providing pedestrian and bicyclists a safe way to cross the most heavily traveled road in the Muscatine area. It is envisioned at future date that this trail will be extended approximately 1.5 miles south along Mad Creek where it would link up with the rest of the trail network at the mouth of Mad Creek.



An approximately half mile long segment of trail runs from along the eastern edge of Fuller Park then turns west along the northern edge of the Muscatine Power and Water headquarters site, ending at Houser Street. A crosswalk on Cedar Street links this segment of trail with 1.5 miles of trail maintained by the Muscatine County Conservation Board at Discovery Park.

The newest segment of trail system will be constructed as part of the Cedar Street reconstruction project. In 2013, a 10-foot-wide, multi-use path which will run along, but be separated from the north side of Cedar Street will be constructed. This 1.2 mile addition to the trail network will create a safe way for pedestrians and bike riders to access destinations along this stretch of Cedar Street, and advance Muscatine towards a comprehensive trail network.

The Muscatine Community Y maintains about a one mile network of trails on their property at the intersection of Cedar and Logan Street. In 2013, this trail segment will be accessible from the new segment of trail along the north side of Cedar Street .

Muscatine sits at the junction of two federally recognized trail systems: The American Discovery Trail, which crosses the nation from San Francisco to Delaware and the Mississippi River Trail, which runs along the Mississippi River from Minnesota to Louisiana. The Muscatine Riverfront Trail is a recognized component of both these trail systems. From the northern terminus of the Muscatine trail network both national trails follow/share Solomon Avenue to New Era Road to Wildcat Den State Park and then to the Quad Cities area.

The trail system, in Muscatine is not yet complete. The riverfront portion of the trail has been completed and the focus has shifted to connecting it to other existing trail segments and providing connections to the national trails that run through the area. Figure 73 on page 6-36 depicts planned future trail extensions. These extension are in various stages of planning ranging from conceptual ideas to fully funded and designed projects that will soon break ground. As these extensions are completed, trails in Muscatine will be transformed into a more complete network for non-motorized travel. Currently trails are located in rights-of-way that are totally separate from roadways. This will have to change in order to make all of the planned trail connections. Some new segments will have to share right-of-way with roadways. In many locations, such as the planned from the Cedar Street and Parham Street intersection because there are no viable locations for a separate right-of-way, options such as bike lanes will have to be used. The timing and order in which these connections are made are dependent on how funding and the necessary rights-of-way become available.

Goal PR.7 of the Comprehensive Plan, pages 6-44 and 6-45, detail seven desired extensions to the existing trail system and prioritizes these extensions. Once built, this expanded trail network will form the backbone of the identified critical non-motorized transportation routes, serve as the local segment of the national Mississippi River and American Discovery Trails, as well as being recreational amenities that enhance the quality of life in Muscatine.



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The highest priority trail extension, Project PR.7.A, is the one that connects Musser Park and Wiggins Road through the construction of a new trail running from Kent-Stein Park/Muscatine Soccer Complex to 41st Street. A nearly four mile in length extension of the trail system from the intersection of Hershey Avenue and Houser Street to 41st Street is planned. From the end of this trail extension at 41st Street trail users will be continue o using shared roads and trail segments through Fruitland and on to Louisa County. Significantly this trail extension will be the first recreational amenity constructed in the portion of the City of Muscatine south of Dick Drake Way. It will also be major improvement to the transportation infrastructure of this area, currently there are no sidewalks or trails south of Dick Drake Way. With this extension, the route of The American Discovery Trail and the Mississippi River Trail through the Muscatine area will be complete. A \$510,000 federal earmark and a \$300,000 grant from the State of Iowa have already been secured for the for the estimated \$922,244 project. The City of Muscatine is contributing \$50,000 in in-kind engineering services. A trails committee is working to obtain the remaining funds needed from local businesses, civic groups and foundations.

Project PR.7.B, the next highest priority, would create a connection between the existing trail networks at Kent-Stein Park/Muscatine Soccer Complex and at Discovery Park/Muscatine Power and Water headquarters. Completion of this trail extension would mean that all major park and recreational amenities would be linked to together by a continuous trail network.

Projects PR.7.C and PR.7.F would connect the existing Mad Creek Greenbelt trail to the riverfront trail at the mouth of Mad Creek. The extension of trail along Mad Creek from the mouth of Mad Creek to Washington Street has been deemed a higher priority because of difficult terrain along Mad Creek between Washington Street and Lake Park Boulevard. The trail segment would be able to take advantage of the 5th Street bridge being constructed in a manner that allows for a trail to be built passing under 5th Street.

Project PR.7.D is a trail connecting the Mulberry Avenue/U.S. 61 Bypass intersection to the existing Mad Creek Greenbelt Trail at the U.S. 61 Bypass underpass along an existing utility easement. Goal P.7 also calls for a connection to be made between the southern end of the Cedar Street Trail at Parham Street to the Riverfront Trail. Because of the built up nature of this area, the routing and the actual form, trail, bike lane, enhanced sidewalk, or a combination of these three, of this connection will need to be the subject of further study and discussion.

Project PR.7.F calls additional for trail amenities, enhancements such as-mile markers, benches, trail heads, water fountains, trash cans, lighting, etc. Currently the segment of trail between Musser Park and the mouth of Mad Creek, and the segment within Weed Park, is rich in such amenities, aside from mile markers. All other portions of the trail system almost completely lacks such amenities. Working with community partners and civic groups amenities that enhance the user experience should be developed along the entire trail system. Construction of restrooms in the lower portion of Weed Park as called for in Goal PR.6 would be a major enhancement to the trail network. The eastern side of the existing network is poorly served by public restroom easily accessible from the trail. Existing restrooms at Weed Park are located 1,750' to 2,000' away from the trail. The nearest public restroom easily accessible from the trail is at Riverfront Park near the playground, over 2.5 miles down the trail from Weed Park. The addition of public restrooms easily accessible from this part of the trail network would be an important and desired enhancement.



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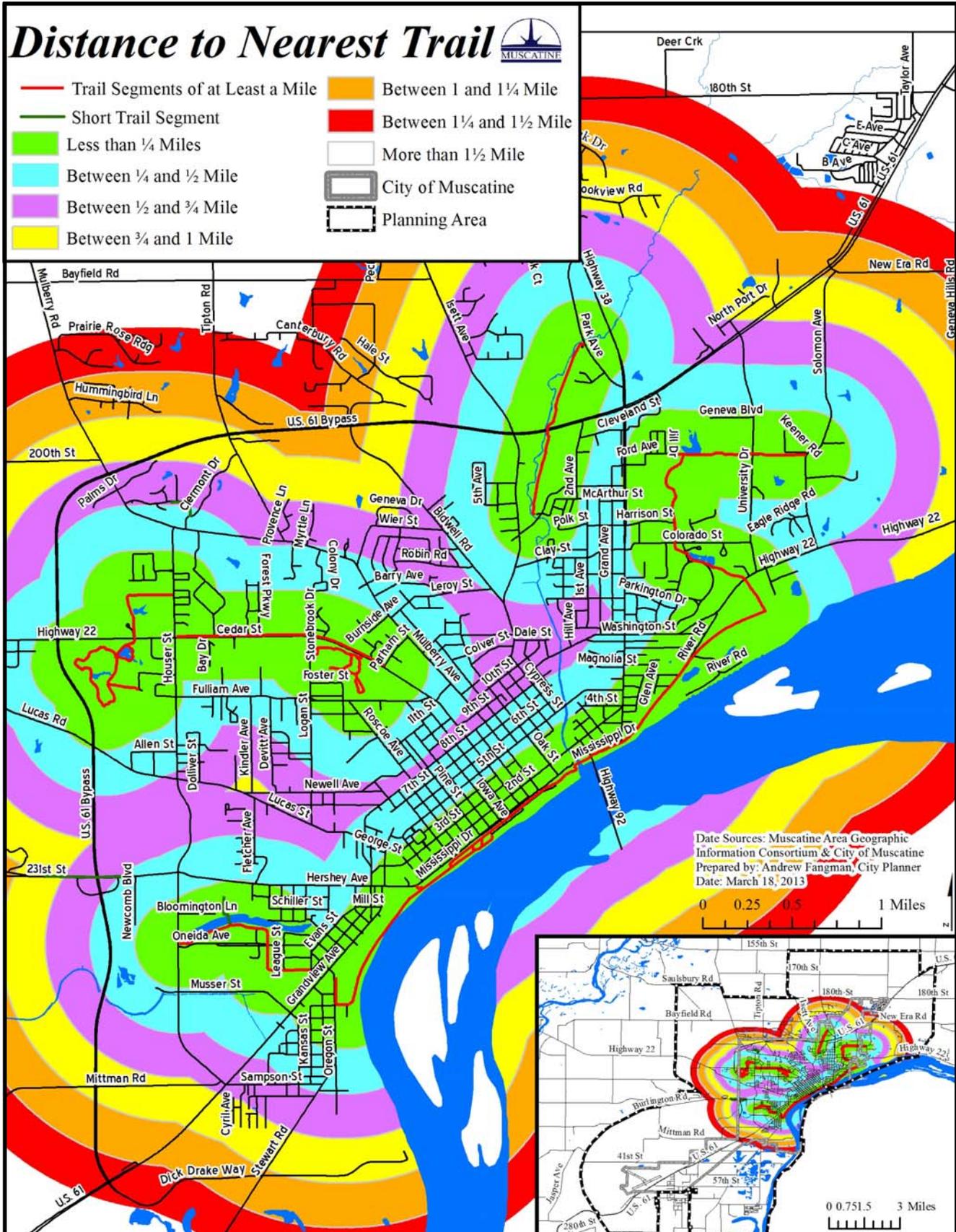


Figure 68: Distance to Nearest Trail



Parks & Recreation Goals and Implementation Strategies

In order for goals to be achieved there must be strategies to implement the vision of a better Muscatine which is contained in the Comprehensive Plan. Each goal contained in the plan is accompanied by specific implementation strategies necessary to make that goal a reality.

There are three types of implementation strategies: policies, actions, and projects. Policies contain the standard which, if followed in all city actions and activities subject to review by the City, will advance the goal that they support. Policies contained within the Comprehensive Plan are advisory and compliance is not mandatory. However, when taking an action contrary to what is contained in the plan this fact should be noted and an explanation given.

Actions detail the specific initiatives that the City can take to achieve a listed goal. Actions include such things as creating the necessary regulations to implement a goal, perform a study to understand how a goal might be achieved or identify funding to achieve a goal.

Projects are specific capital improvement projects that if constructed would advance a listed goal. When the City develops future capital improvement plans, strong consideration should be given to these specific projects listed in the Comprehensive Plan.

Goal PR.1: Maintenance

Existing City of Muscatine parks and recreational facilities and amenities will be preserved and maintained in good working order.

Policy PR.1.A: Maintaining existing City of Muscatine parks and recreational facilities and amenities is the highest parks and recreational related goal of the City of Muscatine.

Policy PR.1.B: Municipal resources will only be devoted to other park and recreational related goals if they are not needed to achieve this goal.

Policy PR.1.C: The City of Muscatine will maintain ownership of all existing parks.

Goal PR.2: Muscatine Soccer Complex Phase III Development Project

Expand the Muscatine Soccer Complex in accordance with the Phase III Development Project Concept Plan that was adopted by City Council in February 2012 by constructing on a donated site across Houser Street from the existing Soccer Complex: a parking lot for 228 vehicles, 4 tiered multi-use lighted fields with synthetic playing surfaces, restrooms, picnic shelter, a fenced perimeter, a playground, and frontage trail/sidewalk that connects to Kent-Stein Park and the American Legion Area.

Policy PR.2.A: All capital costs associated with the Muscatine Soccer Complex Phase III Development Project should come from non-municipal sources.

Policy PR.2.B: The City of Muscatine will operate and maintain all improvements made as part of the Muscatine Soccer Complex Phase III Development Project in the same manner as the City operates and maintains the existing Muscatine Soccer Complex.



Policy PR.2.C: The parking lot shall be the first improvement constructed.

Action PR.2.A: The City of Muscatine will continue to work with community partners to make the vision contained in the Phase III Development Project Concept Plan a reality at the soonest possible date.

Project PR.2.A: Expand the Muscatine Soccer Complex in accordance with the Phase III Development Project Concept Plan.

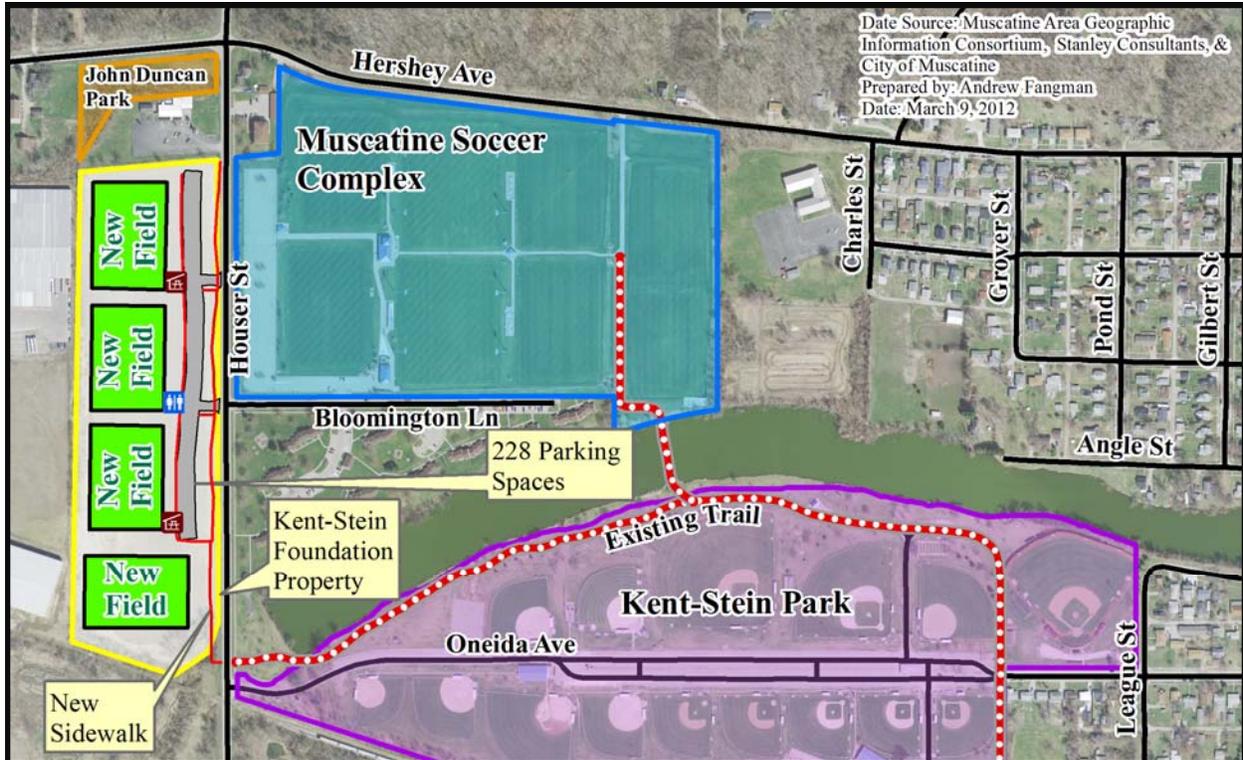


Figure 68: Muscatine Soccer Complex Phase III Development Project



Figure 69: Overflow Parking at the Existing Soccer Complex



Goal PR.3: Dog Park

Construction of an off-leash dog park through a partnership with community stakeholders, a fenced space within a park or other location.

Policy PR.3.A: Costs associated with the construction of any dog park should come primarily from non-municipal sources.

Policy PR.3.C: The City of Muscatine will make available any appropriate portion of municipal land for the construction of a dog park.

Policy PR.3.D: The City of Muscatine will operate and maintain any dog park built on municipal property.

Policy PR.3.E: The operational costs of a dog park shall be primarily funded by users of the dog park.

Policy PR.3.F: Users will be required to pick up all dog waste and keep the dog park in good order

Policy PR.3.G: If the dog park is poor condition due to non-compliance with Policy PR.3.F. the dog park will be closed until such a time that it is brought back to acceptable condition.

Policy PR.3.H: There shall be signage at the entrance of any dog park to indicate compliance with Policy PR.3.F.

Policy PR.3.I: Prior to any closure under Policy PR.3.,F written notice of deteriorating conditions will be posted at the entrance of the dog park.

Policy PR.3.J: The location of dog park shall meet the following site selection criteria:

- If located in a park, a dog park shall not be placed in any area where it will negatively impact primary uses of the park, unless the impact can be mitigated.
- At least 100 feet from a playground or children's facility.
- At least 200 feet from the nearest home or business.
- Near adequate off street parking (existing or constructed in conjunction with the dog park).
- Reasonable proximity to a water line
- A minimum size of one acre.



Policy PR.3.K: The design of any dog park shall meet the following criteria and contain the following elements:

- Be entirely fenced to height of five feet
- Fence panels shall be buried to a depth of at least six inches at all locations except at access points.
- A public entrance consisting of a double gate. The space of at least 16 square feet between the two gates will serve as a buffer between the dog park area and the rest of the park.
- A single gate that is wide enough to accommodate park maintenance vehicles
- Permanent signs stating the hours of operation, rules, and regulations for the dog park.
- An adequate number of covered trash receptacles.
- Adequate seating.

Policy PR.3.L: The following characteristics and amenities are highly desired and no dog park shall be developed without them unless there is no other practical alternative:

- Located on a site with other amenities, such as a park.
- Site is centrally located and easily accessible.
- Site is an inviting location.
- Total fenced area is two to three acres in size.
- A smaller separately fenced areas intended for the use of small dogs only.

Action PR.3.A: A committee operating under the auspices and reporting to the Recreational Advisory Commission will prepare, with extensive public input a detailed plan for a dog park addressing each of the following issues in specific detail and that reflect the dog park policies established in the Comprehensive Plan. This committee will also make the determination if there is the necessary community support and desire to exceed the design guidelines established in Policy PR.3.K and Policy PR.3.L. and construct a world class dog park.

- Site selection
- Design
- Funding of capital costs
- Funding of ongoing operations and maintenance
- Rules and regulations regarding use and operation of the dog park
- Pond

Project PR.3.A: Construct the dog park in accordance with the plan prepared under Action PR.3.A

Goal PR.4: Weed Park Central Corridor Project

Complete the Weed Park Central Corridor Project which consists of:

- Removing the Tennis Shelter
- Removing the tennis court fencing and converting paved area into a picnic table storage area
- Removing the old concession stand building and replacing it with a modular restroom building,
- Constructing a 50' by 110' large outing shelter

Policy PR.4.A: All capital costs associated with the Weed Park Central Corridor Project should come from non-municipal sources.

Action PR.4.A: The City of Muscatine will continue to work with community partners to make the vision contained with the Weed Park Central Corridor Project a reality at the soonest possible date.

Project PR.4.A: Construct the improvements which comprise the with the Weed Park

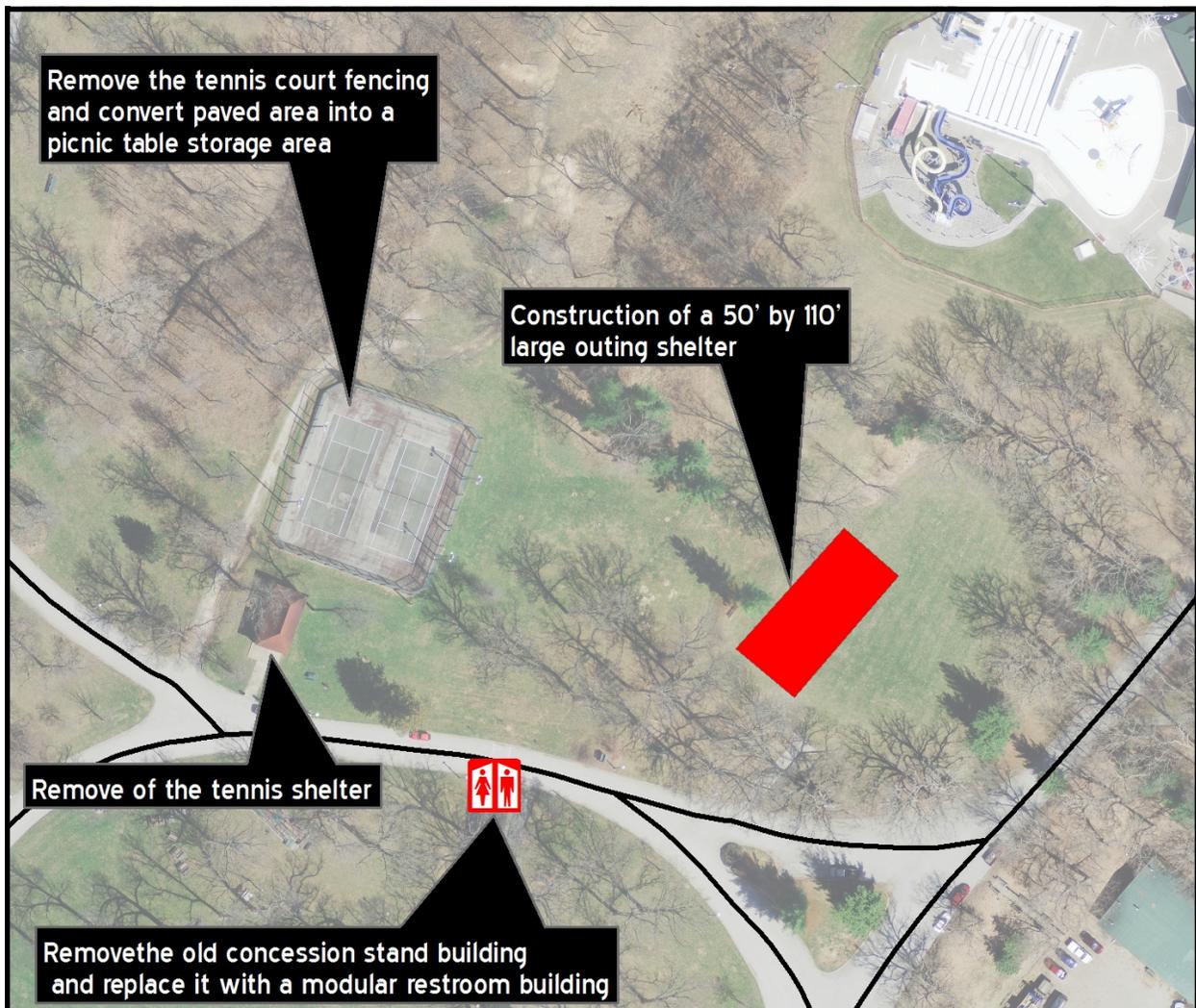


Figure 71: Weed Park Central Corridor Project



Goal PR.5: Renovate or Replace Existing Weed Park Restrooms

The existing outdated restrooms in Weed Park, which are located near the Rose Garden, should either be renovated or replaced.

Policy PR.5.A: The public restrooms in Weed Park should be compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act and of equal or better quality to the public restrooms located in Musser Park and Riverside Park.

Action PR.5.A: Determine if renovation or replacement is the most cost effective way cost effective to bring the restrooms in Weed Park into compliance with Policy PR.5.A.

Action PR.5.B: Based on the determination made in Action PR.5.A develop as specific plan to design, finance, and renovate or replace the existing bathrooms in Weed Park located near the Rose Garden.

Project PR.5.A: Construct a replacement for or renovate the existing bathrooms in Weed Park in accordance with the plan prepared under Action PR.5.B.

Goal PR.6: An Additional Set of Public Restrooms in Weed Park

Construct a second set of public restrooms in Weed Park to serve the heavily used portion of Weed Park located in the vicinity of the Lagoon and which are nearly a half mile away from the existing public restrooms, ending the need for the seasonal placement of a port-a-potty near the sand volley ball pits at Weed Park.

Policy PR.6.A: An additional set of public restrooms at Weed Park should be located in a manner that makes them accessible to users of the Lagoon area, the multi-use trail running through Weed Park, the Lagoon and Monsanto Picnic Shelter (the shelter located north of the Lagoon), the sand volleyball pits, and the playground located near the Monsanto Picnic Shelter.

Action PR.6.A: The Recreational Advisory Commission or a committee operating under the auspices and reporting to the Recreational Advisory Commission will prepare, with public input, a detailed plan for the financing, location, and design of an additional set of public restrooms.

Project PR.6.A: Construct a second set of public restrooms in Weed Park in accordance with the plan prepared under Action PR.6.A.

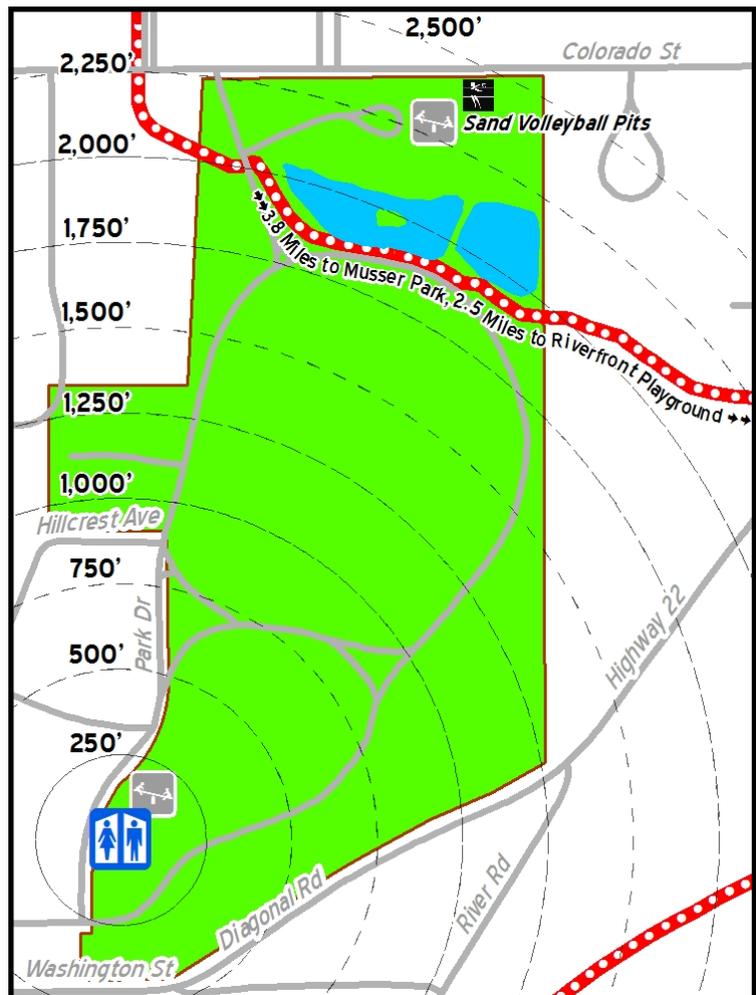


Figure 72: Distance from Existing Restrooms at Weed Park



Goal PR.7: Trails

Trails are an important asset to the community; they form the backbone of the identified critical non-motorized transportation routes, serve as the local segment of the national Mississippi River Trail and American Discovery trails, and are a recreational amenity that enhances the quality of life of Muscatine residents. The existing network of trails should be extended and expanded to better serve these important functions.

Policy PR.7.A: The highest priority trail extension and enhancement projects are those for which there is an opportunity to construct through a partnership between a school, business, institution, property owner, community group, or other governmental agencies and the City of Muscatine.

Policy PR.7.B: Trail extension projects are listed below in order of priority.

Action PR.7.A: Identify a feasible route for connecting the southern end of the Cedar Street Trail and the Riverfront Trail

Project PR.7.A: Musser Park to Wiggins Road Trail.

Project PR.7.B: A trail connecting Kent Stein Park/Muscatine Soccer Complex to the existing trail network at Discovery Park.

Project PR.7.C: A trail running along Mad Creek from Washington Street connecting to the existing trail network at the riverfront.

Project PR.7.D: A trail running along Mad Creek from Washington Street connecting to the existing Mad Creek Greenbelt Trail at Lake Park Avenue.

Project PR.7.E: A trail connecting the Cedar Street Trail and the Riverfront Trail as identified in Action T.14.A.

Project PR.7.F: Trail connecting the Mulberry Avenue/U.S. 61 Bypass to the existing to the existing Mad Creek Greenbelt Trail at the U.S. 61 Bypass underpass.

Project PR.7.G: Trail amenities - mile markers, benches, trail heads etc.

Goal PR.8: Riverfront Bandshell

Construct a bandshell at Riverfront Park that is aesthetical pleasing and consistent with the design of other developed amenities in Riverfront Park.

Policy PR.8.A: Costs associated with the construction of any bandshell should come primarily from non-municipal sources.

Action PR.8.A: The Recreational Advisory Commission or a committee operating under the auspices and reporting to the Recreational Advisory Commission will prepare with public input, a detailed plan for the financing, location, and design of a bandshell at Riverfront Park.

Project PR.8.A: Construct a bandshell at Riverfront Park in accordance with the plan prepared under Action PR.8.A.



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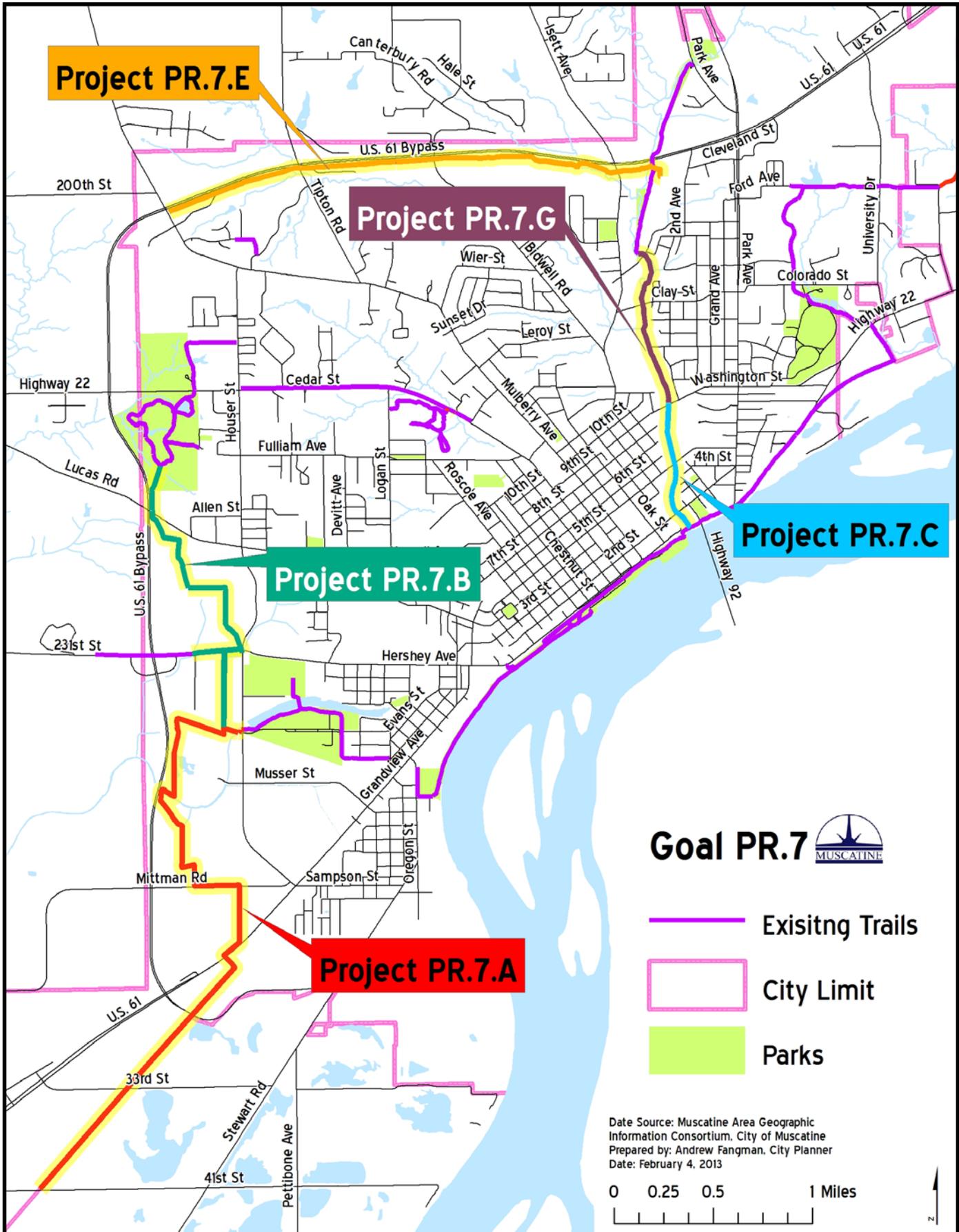


Figure 73: Muscatine Trail System (Existing and Envisioned)



Goal PR.9: Expansion of Cold and All-Weather Recreational Amenities and Activities

To expand cold and all-weather recreational amenities and activities.

Policy PR.9.A: The recreational amenity and activity needs of community members will be met year round.

Action PR.9.A: The Recreational Advisory Commission or a committee operating under the auspices and reporting to the Recreational Advisory Commission will conduct, with public input a detailed needs assessment regarding cold and all-weather recreational amenities and activities, with the needs of Muscatine’s youth specifically addressed.

Action PR.9.B: The Recreational Advisory Commission or a committee operating under the auspices and reporting to the Recreational Advisory Commission will prepare with public input a detailed plan for addressing gaps in cold and all-weather recreational amenities and activities identified in the needs assessment directed under Action PR.9.A.

Project PR.9.A: Construct any projects identified in the plan prepared in accordance with the plan prepared under Action PR.9.A.

Goal PR.10: Expansion of Cold and All-Weather Recreational Amenities and Activities

A park with amenities and a playground within relatively easy walking distance of City of Muscatine Residents.

Policy PR.10.A: There should be a park with amenities and a playground with in a minimum of a mile of all City of Muscatine residents, ideally this distance should be even less.

Action PR.10.A: Identify the number of and location of park with amenities and playgrounds that would be necessary to fully implement Policy PR.10.A

Action PR.10.B: Work with community partners including schools, businesses, institutions, property owners, community groups, and other governmental agencies to identify ways in which this goal can be achieved through collaborative action.

Project PR.10.A: Construct any projects identified as necessary to achieve this goal.