

# CITY OF GALESBURG **PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Adopted February 4, 2019





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## PROCESS

The planning process to develop the Galesburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan included extensive public engagement, field reconnaissance, research, and analysis of the existing parks and recreation system, to ensure the Master Plan is responsive to the needs and wants of the community.

## ANALYSIS

### Community Engagement

Community engagement is critical to the planning process as it provides residents, recreation program managers, staff, and other stakeholders the opportunity to inform the plan through several different types of discussions. For the Galesburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan five in-person outreach events were held: City Council interviews, Town Hall Workshop, Parks and Recreation Department Workshop, Student Workshop, and key stakeholder interviews. For each of these activities, participants identified key issues, actions, and assets of the City's parks and recreation system.

The top five key issues, actions, and assets from the community engagement events are identified below:

### *Issues*

1. Lack of long-term funding
2. Insufficient facilities and programs for youth, particularly lower-income populations
3. Maintenance of existing facilities
4. Lack of centralized recreation/community center
5. Insufficient staffing

### *Actions*

1. Build a community/recreation center
2. Build a large-scale, multisport complex
3. Build a mini-golf course
4. Complete the trail alignment at Lake Storey
5. Expand the trails system to all parks

### *Assets*

1. Lake Storey
2. Location of parks
3. Number of parks
4. Lake Storey Pavilion
5. Lincoln Park

## **Needs Assessment**

A needs assessment survey was also mailed to residents to enrich community engagement and identify specific parks and recreation activities within Galesburg. Survey questions were designed to address a full range of issues related to the City's system. Some of the key findings were:

- ♦ While 91 percent of respondents had utilized park amenities in the last 12 months, only 27 percent had participated in recreational programming.
- ♦ 84 percent of respondents stated that parks were important in Galesburg.
- ♦ The three largest barriers to a resident utilizing parks or participating in recreational programs are being unaware of what is offered, the times programs are offered, and program fees. Overall, the most cost-effective means to increasing participation is greater marketing of programs and facilities.
- ♦ Respondents selected an indoor track, arts and crafts classroom, and active space for adults as the top three desired indoor facilities for investment.
- ♦ When asked to rate their willingness to fund certain improvements using tax dollars, top choices were Lake Storey, walking and biking trails throughout the City, neighborhood parks, and a swimming pool.

## Demographics

Demographic trends help inform who utilizes the parks and recreation system and how it could impact the utilization and demand for future parks and recreation programming. The City's population has been declining since the turn of the century and is projected to continue declining through 2021 if no new jobs, added services, or changes to the infrastructure of the City occur. Fewer people in Galesburg means fewer people to use the parks and participate in programs.

Income is also factor that impacts park usage, particularly for programs that require a fee to participate. While the City's median household income is projected to increase by \$1,200 over the next five years, the majority of the population (60 percent) is projected to earn less than \$50,000 annually. When compared to estimated inactivity levels for the United States, this group may be less likely to participate in active recreation compared to households with higher annual income.

## PARKS, OPEN SPACE, OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the community outreach and analysis conducted as part of the Master Plan specific recommendations for parks and open spaces in Galesburg were provided. Some of the most critical recommendations are as follows:

- ◆ Develop new neighborhood and community parks in areas underserved by parkland, particularly the north-central and southern portions of the City.
- ◆ Develop a comprehensive master plan for Lake Storey Park to include an improved aquatic park, trail connectivity, water access, ecological preservation, and improvements to existing facilities.
- ◆ Plan for a new Ferris Wheel Park as recommended by the Galesburg Heart & Soul action plan. Organize a task force to help draw plans and pursue fundraising for the development of the park.
- ◆ Create a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to provide input on the existing and future parks and recreation system.
- ◆ Actively engage and partner with community groups and volunteer organizations to serve recreation needs for residents.
- ◆ Centralize and consolidate maintenance facilities to optimize equipment and space requirements and save on utility costs.
- ◆ Implement the Park Plaza Master Plan to complement other revitalization efforts in downtown Galesburg.

## RECREATION & FACILITIES PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the community outreach and analysis conducted as part of the Master Plan, specific recommendations for recreation and facilities in Galesburg were provided. Some of the most critical recommendations are as follows:

- ◆ Build a new comprehensive recreation center to house amenities that best reflect the needs of Galesburg residents.
- ◆ Make the minimum safety improvements to the Hawthorne Center until the new recreation center is built. Once the new facility is online, close, demolish, or repurpose the building for other uses such as a warehouse.
- ◆ Analyze construction, operation, and maintenance costs to determine if the City could develop a mini-golf course or if private investment will be necessary.
- ◆ Sell part or all of the Bunker Links Golf Course to lower operating and maintenance costs and earn additional revenue.
- ◆ Analyze the opportunity/need for a centralized complex to expand baseball program at Voyles Field as a regional draw for the City to host tournaments and competitions. Revenue from tournaments can help with maintenance, upkeep, and expansion.
- ◆ Support the efforts of local fitness enthusiasts by planning for a mobile playground in Galesburg.
- ◆ Construct an anaerobic digester as a pilot project at Connie Nott Canine Area to convert dog waste to electricity to provide lighting in the park.

## TRAILS MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The outreach and analysis conducted as part of the Galesburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan resulted in specific recommendations for trails. The most important was to develop a comprehensive trail network throughout the City connecting key areas, including prominent parks, within the system.

Four trail types within the system are: Primary Trail, Secondary Trail, Tertiary Trail, and Main Street Walk. Main Street Walk is composed of two special-use trails: Main Street Walk, which is designed to improve the urban design of Downtown Main Street, and Heritage Trail, which will connect historic and cultural sites throughout Galesburg. This entire trail system is intended to improve pedestrian and cyclist access not only to parks in Galesburg but throughout the City.



## PURPOSE

The City of Galesburg, located in West-Central Illinois, was founded in 1837. In February 2015, the Parks & Recreation Department (P&RD) was formed after more than 30 years of organizational restructuring. The City of Galesburg offers a robust parks and recreation system, centering on a variety of local and regional destinations for sports and recreational activities. The last master plan was completed in 1999 which falls short on providing a comprehensive assessment of community needs based on the changing demographics and other socioeconomic conditions of Galesburg. In 2017, the City of Galesburg began the planning process for the Galesburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This Plan is tailored to the needs of the community and will serve as a guide for the Galesburg Parks and Recreation Department (P&RD) to direct investments toward targeted areas providing equitable access to the entire Galesburg population.

## PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process to develop the Galesburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan included extensive public engagement, field reconnaissance, research, and analysis of the existing recreation and parks system, to ensure the Master Plan is responsive to the needs and wants of the community it will serve. The planning process included the following four steps:

- ♦ **Step 1: Project Initiation & Community Outreach**

Included project kick-off with department staff and community outreach through in-person workshops and interviews as well as online engagement tools.

- ♦ **Step 2: Inventory of Existing Parks and Recreation**

Included review of past plans, analysis of demographics, inventory of existing facilities and programs, and a needs assessment, culminating in a presentation to the City Council.

- ♦ **Step 3: Goals, Objectives, Service Areas, & Standards**

Included benchmarking; review of service areas and population standards; and development of goals, objectives, and recommendations; and specific analysis of trails and recreation programming.

- ♦ **Step 4: Draft Plans & Recommendations**

Included development of the draft Master Plan followed by staff review, a public open house, and presentation to the City Council.

## PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Master Plan includes the following plan components:

- ♦ **Introduction** – presents the purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, how it should be used, the process to complete the Plan, and its organization.

- ♦ **Community Outreach** – reviews of outreach and public engagement, including workshops, interviews, need assessment survey, community heart and soul, conducted to help guide the planning process.

- ♦ **Demographic Analysis and Trends** – reviews demographic profile and trends in respect to the Galesburg parks and recreation system to guide the specific recommendations and policies of the Master Plan.

- ♦ **Parks & Open Space Plan** – presents recommendations for parks and open space categorized by park classification and for operations and maintenance of the Galesburg parks and recreation system.

- ♦ **Recreation & Facilities Plan** – presents recommendations for activity programming and the various facilities operated and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department.

- ♦ **Trails Master Plan** – presents recommendations for trails, pathways, bike routes, and other non-motorized connections that benefit accessibility and offer recreational opportunities.

- ♦ **Implementation** – presents specific actions, as well as potential funding sources, that the City should pursue as it seeks to implement the recommendations of the Master Plan.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

# 2

Comprehensive community outreach was a critical component of the Master Plan to ensure community needs and wants were present throughout the planning process and visible within the Plan document. The two-tiered outreach approach of in-person and online outreach was designed to reach as many people as possible and gather input from a wide range of Galesburg stakeholders and the community at large. Outreach events and methods included:

- ◆ City Council Interviews
- ◆ Town Hall Workshop
- ◆ Parks and Recreation Department Staff Workshop
- ◆ Student Workshop
- ◆ Key Stakeholder Interviews
- ◆ Project Website
- ◆ Open House
- ◆ Needs Assessment Survey Mailer
- ◆ sMap: Online Issues Mapping Application
- ◆ Community Heart & Soul Summary

## WORKSHOP & INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The following is a summary of key findings identified throughout community outreach. These issues, actions, and strengths were strongly emphasized by outreach participants and were consistently discussed by stakeholders. However, these lists are not exhaustive and numerous additional comments were received through public engagement, all of which have helped guide plan recommendations and policy.

Note: It should be noted that the following summary does not represent City policy or plan recommendations and were collected as feedback from individuals with knowledge of the community.

### Issues

- ♦ Lack of long-term funding
- ♦ Insufficient facilities and programs for youth, particularly lower-income populations
- ♦ Maintenance of existing facilities
- ♦ Lack of a centralized recreation center/community center
- ♦ Insufficient staffing
- ♦ Lack of marketing and promotion of parks and facilities
- ♦ Aging and dilapidated facilities
- ♦ Need for safer and cleaner playground equipment
- ♦ Homeless people and resources for the homeless
- ♦ Lack of community events
- ♦ Perception of safety at Kiwanis Park
- ♦ Access to transportation to parks and recreation facilities
- ♦ Lack of parks in the southwest corner of the City

### Priority Actions

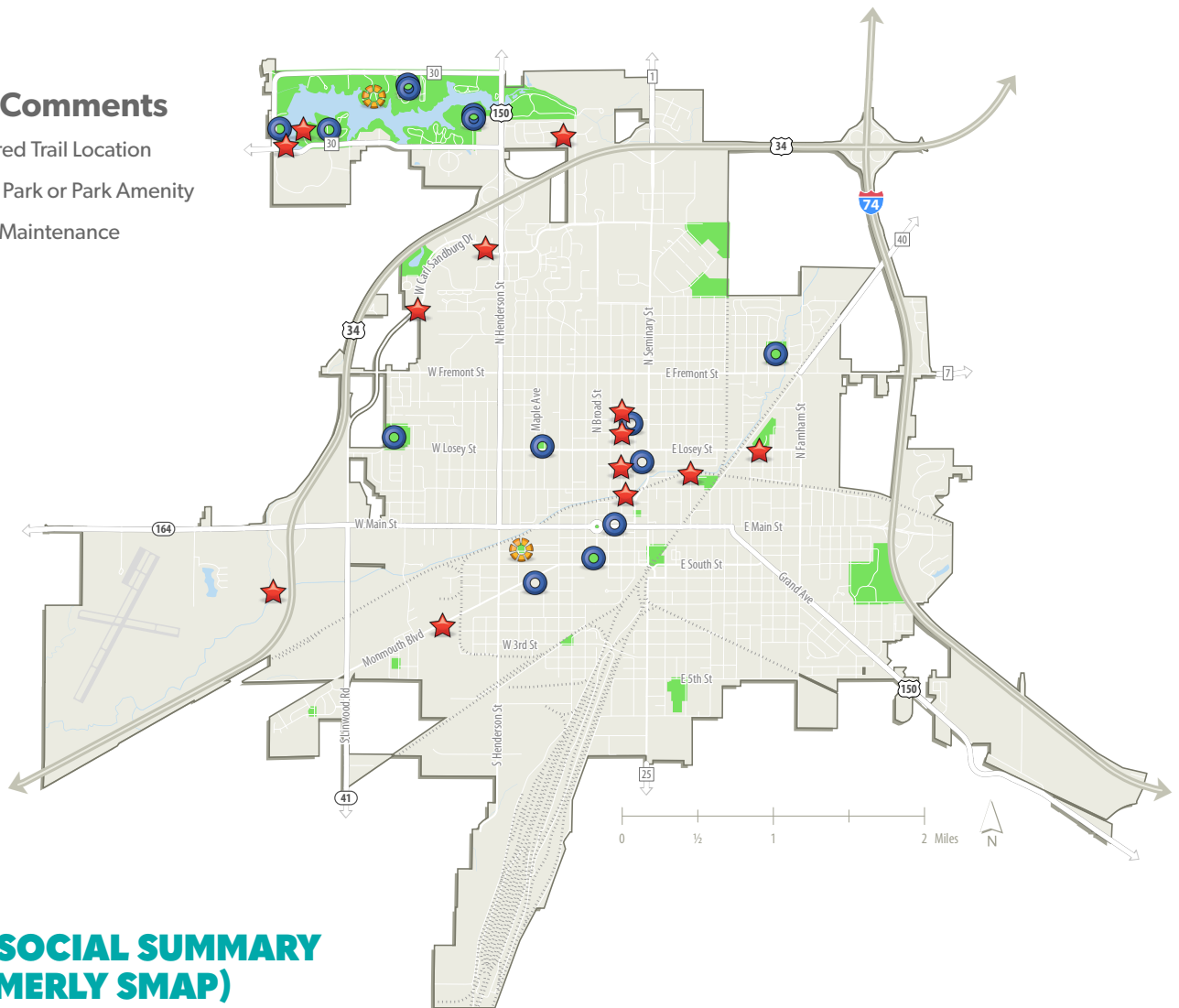
- ♦ Build a community center
- ♦ Build a large-scale, multi-sport complex
- ♦ Build a mini-golf course
- ♦ Complete the trail alignment loop at Lake Storey
- ♦ Expand the trails system to all parks
- ♦ Include working bathrooms in all parks
- ♦ Market and promote existing parks and programs
- ♦ Update Hawthorne Pool or build a new aquatic facility
- ♦ Improve park maintenance
- ♦ Expand programming in parks

### Assets

- ♦ Lake Storey
- ♦ Location of parks
- ♦ Number of parks
- ♦ Lake Storey Pavilion
- ♦ Lincoln Park
- ♦ Nature Center
- ♦ Lake Storey walking trail
- ♦ Wading pools
- ♦ Golf course
- ♦ Volunteers and Programming

## sMap Comments

- ★ Desired Trail Location
- New Park or Park Amenity
- ⚙ Park Maintenance



## MAP.SOCIAL SUMMARY (FORMERLY SMAP)

The online, mapping engagement tool, sMap, was utilized during the outreach portion of the Galesburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. Three feature categories specific to parks and recreation were utilized by sMap users to denote issues and opportunities within the Galesburg parks and recreation system: Desired Trail Location, New Park or Amenity, and Park Maintenance. Thirty points total for the three categories were marked for Galesburg. Some of the comments were similar and thus have been grouped together for clarity below:

### Desired Trail Location

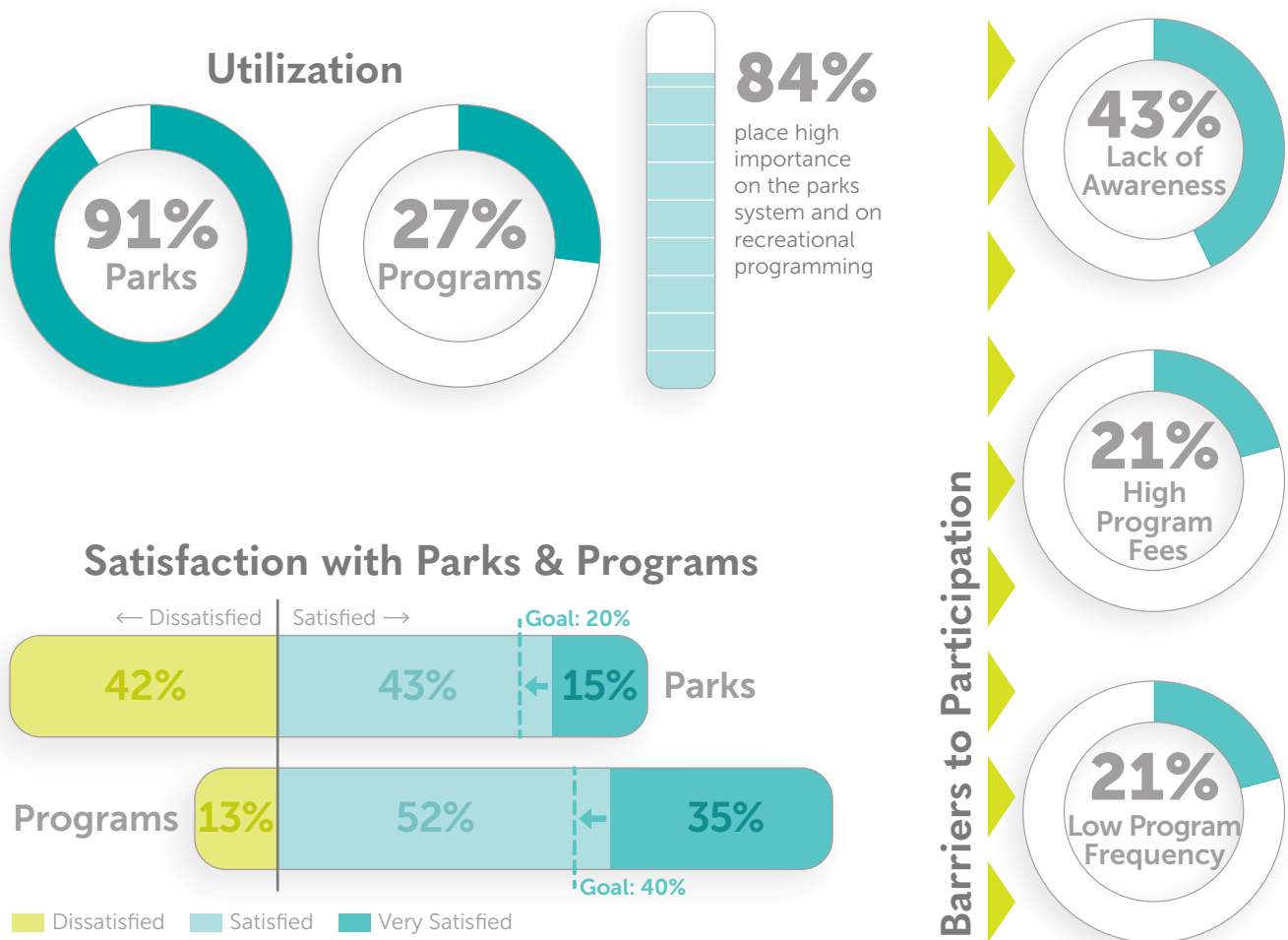
- ◆ Complete and expand the trail at Lake Storey
- ◆ Provide a safe bike alternative to Log City Trail
- ◆ Throughout the City, sidewalks are missing, uneven, and inaccessible
- ◆ Add a walking trail to Cedar Fork

### New Park or Amenity

- ◆ Remodel/extend the indoor facility at Lake Storey
- ◆ Add outdoor tennis courts at Lake Storey
- ◆ Build additional baseball/softball fields at Lake Storey
- ◆ Add bicycle art along Lake Storey trail
- ◆ Add amenities to Bateman, Klapp, Rotary, and Standish parks
- ◆ Create a new park in part of the Cottage Hospital parking lot, the old VA building, and on Monmouth Boulevard
- ◆ Create summer programming at H.T. Custer Park

### Park Maintenance

- ◆ Add restrooms to the north side of Lake Storey
- ◆ Update Dale Kelly Park

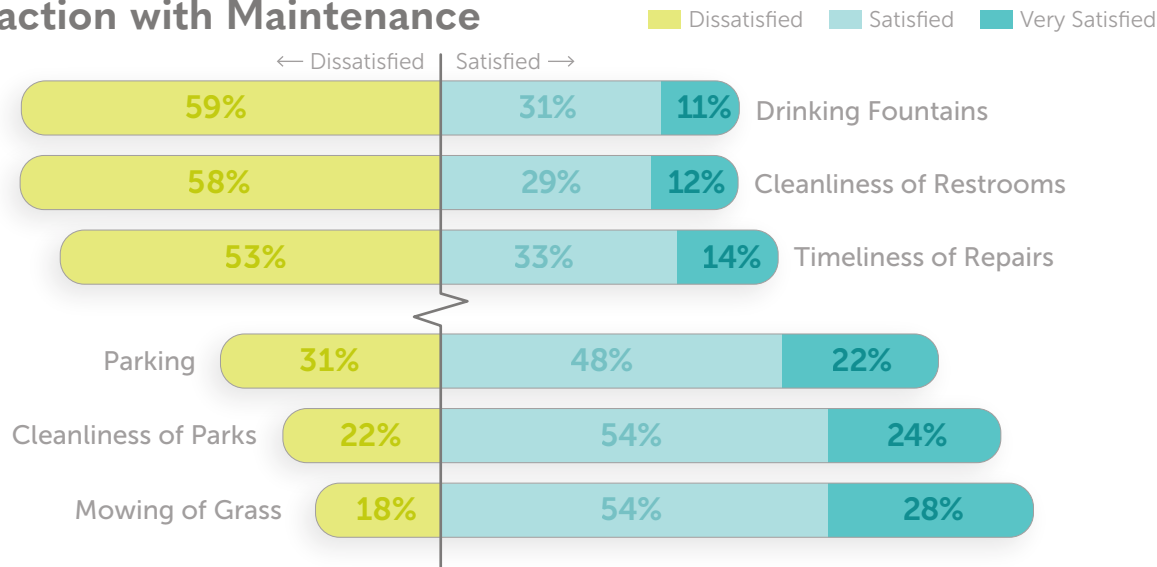


## NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

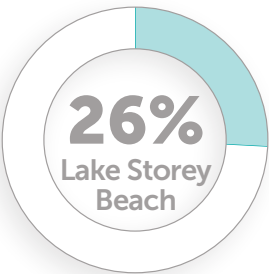
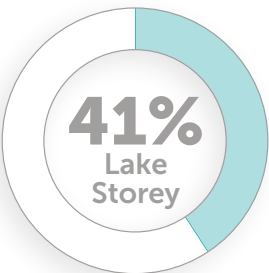
As a component of community outreach process, a needs assessment survey was completed to provide statistical information regarding community needs for parks and recreation services. During the Fall of 2017, surveys were mailed to 3,500 households, allowing residents to complete either print or online versions. Survey questions were designed to address a full range of issues impacting parks and recreation in Galesburg. A total of 374 residents responded, yielding the following key findings:

- While 91 percent of respondents had utilized park amenities in the last 12 months, only 27 percent had participated in recreational programming.
- 84 percent of respondents stated that parks are important in Galesburg.
- More than half of respondents were at least satisfied with parks and 87 percent were at least satisfied with programs.
- Maintenance of drinking fountains and restroom cleanliness received the most dissatisfaction from respondents.
- The three largest barriers to a resident utilizing parks or participating in recreational programs are:
  1. Being unaware of what is offered.
  2. The times programs are offered.
  3. Program fees.
- Overall, the most cost-effective means to increasing participation is greater marketing of programs and facilities.
- Participants identified Lake Storey, hiking trails, and Lake Storey Beach as facilities that need the most attention in the next three years.
- Respondents selected an indoor track, arts and crafts classroom, and active space for adults as the top three indoor facilities for desired investment.
- When asked to rate their willingness to fund certain improvements using tax dollars, the top choices were Lake Storey, walking and biking trails throughout the City, neighborhood parks, and a swimming pool.

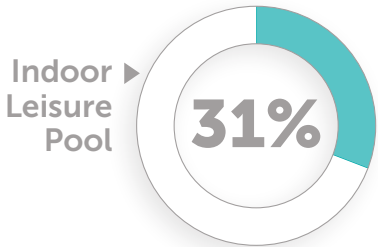
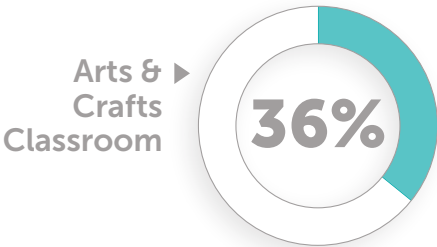
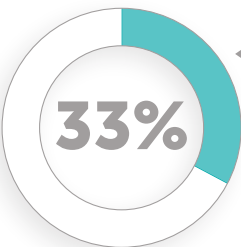
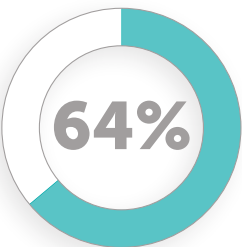
Satisfaction with Maintenance



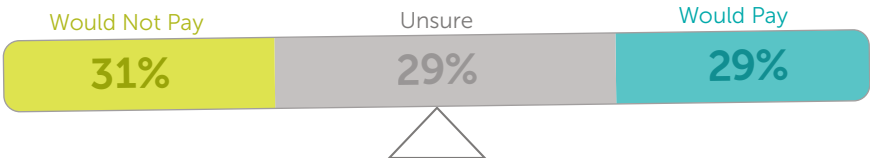
Desired Investment in Overall Quality



Desired Investment for Indoor Programming



Willing to Pay Increased Tax Dollars



## COMMUNITY HEART & SOUL SUMMARY

Community Heart & Soul is a community development program based on strong resident participation. The goal of Heart & Soul is to give residents the power to create change based on the community's values that they have identified. This goal of change, forged by community input, pushed the Galesburg Community Foundation to begin a Heart & Soul project in the community in 2015. Since then, the Community Heart & Soul team has spearheaded several engagement events to determine what the Galesburg community thinks its City needs and how to fix it. From this outreach their team crafted eight value statements that express the community's assets. In regard to parks and recreation, their team noted, "Our parks, lakes, and open spaces are used for recreational opportunities including, but not limited to, organized sports, playgrounds, fishing, boating, walking, bike trails, and camping." Their outreach resonated similar to the outreach conducted by Houseal Lavigne consultant's team, emphasizing the important role parks and recreation play in the Galesburg community.

The recommendations specific to parks and recreation from the action plan developed by the Galesburg Community Heart & Soul team are included in this plan at appropriate plan sections.





The Galesburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan is supported by a comprehensive analysis of existing conditions within the City of Galesburg. This includes demographic trends and analysis, a complete inventory of the recreation and parks system, analysis of service areas, comparisons to peer communities, and national trends in the recreation industry. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and 2018 trends in parks and recreation programming were also analyzed. These analyses act as a foundation upon which goals and objectives were constructed, ensuring that the recommendations and policies of the Plan are feasible, obtainable, and based in reality.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

A complete analysis of demographics was completed, taking into account population, age, race and ethnicity, and income. This data provided a foundation for recommendations and policy within the Plan and ensured that the established vision is reflective of demographic trends and shifts that may impact Galesburg, now and in the future.

### Population

Galesburg's population is expected to decrease by 547 people through 2021. This decrease directly correlates to the 262 decrease in households over the same period. Each has an annual rate of decline of less than one percent. Population and household decline indicates destabilization and the potential of fewer parks users.

POPULATION					
	2010	2016	2021	2016-21 Change	Annual Rate
Population	32,186	31,454	30,907	-547	-0.35 percent
Households	13,005	12,641	12,379	-262	-0.42 percent
Families	7,233	6,993	6,795	-198	-0.57 percent
Avg. Household Size	2.18	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.00 percent
Median Age	39.60	40.5	40.6	0.1	0.05 percent
Density	503	491	483	-8.5	-0.35 percent

### Age

The Baby Boomer generation (age 55-74) is the largest age group in Galesburg at 23.5 percent of the total population. Seniors (age 75+) is the smallest group at nearly 10 percent. These two cohorts are the only groups projected to increase through 2021, by less than one percent. All other groups are projected to decrease by less than one percent or remain unchanged. The declines may impact the amount and types of park programming in Galesburg, such as how the demand for recreation programming for boomers and seniors may be more than for the Generation Z cohort.

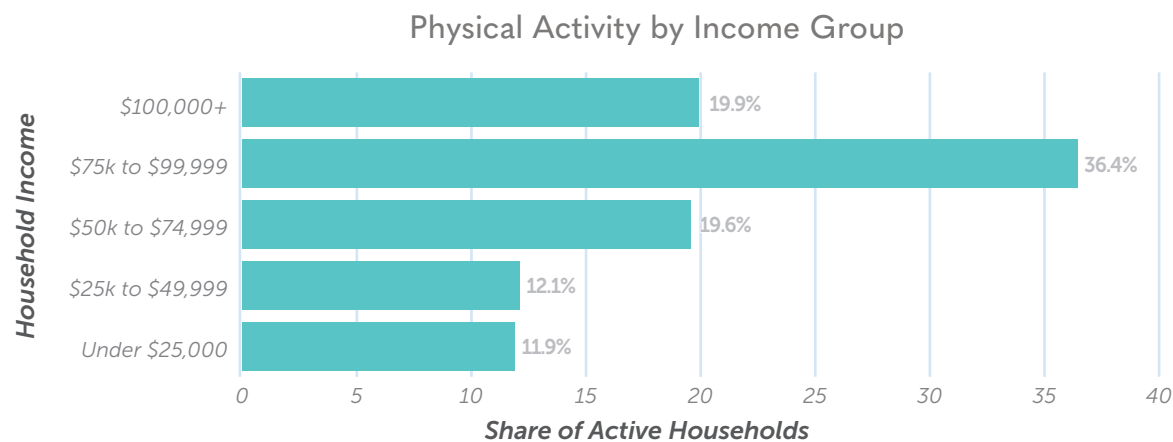


## Income

Household income indicates ability to participate in fee-based activities like recreational sports programs or visiting an aquatic center. Galesburg's median household income in 2016 was \$37,453 and is projected to increase to \$38,667 in 2021. The \$100,000+ income group is projected to increase the most, with over 200 households added through 2021. The next group, \$25,000-\$49,999, is projected to experience the greatest decrease, losing over 500 households. Each group is expected to change from 10.8 to 12.8 percent and 26.8 to 23.3 percent respectively.

Income levels were also compared against estimated inactivity levels for the United States to analyze its effects on active recreation. Rates of inactivity are highest in lower-income households, those earning less than \$50,000 a year. Currently those households makeup a little more than 60 percent of Galesburg's total and is projected to be slightly below 60 percent through 2021.

Parks and Recreation department should provide more choices in active and passive recreation such as hiking trails and lake front activities to keep this segment of the household involved in active life-style.



## STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is the foundation for open space lands acquisition and development in Illinois. It identifies the State's major outdoor recreation priorities and describes how it utilizes funding from the federal, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). SCORP outlines five priorities for Illinois through 2019:

- ♦ **Healthy People & Communities**

Provide, encourage, and promote opportunities for people to be physically active in parks, advancing healthy lifestyles, and physical fitness.

- ♦ **Access to Outdoor Recreation**

Expand opportunities on new lands and develop/revitalize facilities, including increasing access for people of all abilities and income levels.

- ♦ **Natural Resource Stewardship**

Respond to recreational needs and preferences while ensuring resource conservation and protection.

- ♦ **Conservation Education**

Promote environmental ethics and provide resource education opportunities, engaging youth and adults in the outdoors.

- ♦ **Cooperative Partnerships**

Coordinate to share costs and leverage additional funds to most effectively use grant money.

## 2018 TRENDS IN PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) predicts new trends for parks and recreation programming every year. While there are several trends predicted, only those relevant to Galesburg are analyzed below.

### Parks Everywhere

Innovative locations for public parks are being proposed everywhere—on the tops of tall buildings, in the middle of stormwater management areas, even in abandoned underground spaces. Galesburg has a tremendous resource in the form of railroads. A park design with recycled railroad materials on abandoned railroad real-estate could be a great opportunity for the City to showcase innovation. A similar concept could be applicable in one of the City's many vacant industrial buildings.

### Drones, Drones & More Drones

Drones will continue to increase in popularity with people who are looking for places to fly them and agency staff who are looking to utilize their unique capabilities to monitor natural resources, map the spread of invasive species, count visitors, and provide security monitoring for remote areas and events. The Galesburg Parks and Recreation Department should actively look for ways to utilize the power of drones for its operational and maintenance needs, while also providing space for residents to actively engage in drone-related recreational activities. Galesburg Municipal Airport could potentially limit the use of drones in certain areas due to safety zones, therefore the use of drones should be coordinated with the airport operations.

## Partners in Evidence-Based Health Delivery

Many park and recreation sites are rapidly becoming locations to participate in evidence-based programs that measurably improve health. The City should consider partnering with healthcare providers to create a community-integrated-health model program. A program fee could be charged to cover the health services provided to the participants, similar to typical recreation programs offered by the Department.

## Dog Waste to Electricity

Parks and recreation agencies are beginning to move beyond solar as the primary source for renewable energy. Biomass from parks such as wood chips, stable waste, plant matter, and surprisingly, dog waste, represent new potential sources of energy. The City manages a dog park at Inbinder Park, which could potentially implement this technology with a small-scale anaerobic digester where park patrons can deposit dog waste. The waste is composted to produce methane gas, which is used to power systems such as park lighting.

## Economic Development Depends on Quality Parks

An NRPA study shows that local parks and recreation are responsible for generating \$140 billion in economic impact and one million jobs annually. The study noted that corporations and businesses chose to build their headquarters in cities that provide abundant trails, expansive greenways and blueways, and a populace that loves its parks and recreation facilities. Galesburg, with its rich historical and cultural amenities, complemented with an excellent parks and recreation system, could use these assets to attract significant investment in the community.

## Non-Relevant Trends

- ◆ Parks as Supervised Opioid Injection Sites
- ◆ Hepatitis A Coming to a Park Near You
- ◆ Billionaires Love Parks
- ◆ Dedicate Your Park—Or You Could Lose It
- ◆ Coyotes in Parks

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

The following are key takeaways identified through community outreach and existing conditions analysis. They represent the key issues which were explored and addressed through the planning process, and have helped to guide goals, objectives, and specific recommendations of the Plan.

- ◆ The Galesburg population is declining, meaning there will be slightly fewer people to use the parks and participate in programming. This could impact utilization rate for certain recreation programming or park amenities.
- ◆ The Galesburg population is aging, which will result in a greater need for amenities and services which appeal to older age cohorts. This was echoed during public engagement, where residents discussed the need for a senior center or facility offering programs for older residents.
- ◆ The biggest issue noted during outreach was the lack of a centralized community center for public use by all residents for active recreation and other programming.
- ◆ Residents highlighted the need for more trails in Galesburg, particularly to connect parks to one another, and completing and expanding the trail at Lake Storey Park.
- ◆ Only 27 percent of residents surveyed participate in recreational programs, citing a lack of awareness and access to park services and programs as barriers to use.
- ◆ Over 60 percent of residents in Galesburg live in households that earn less than \$50,000 annually, a cohort which, according to national trends, has the lowest percentage of participation in parks and recreation services.



# PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN

# 4

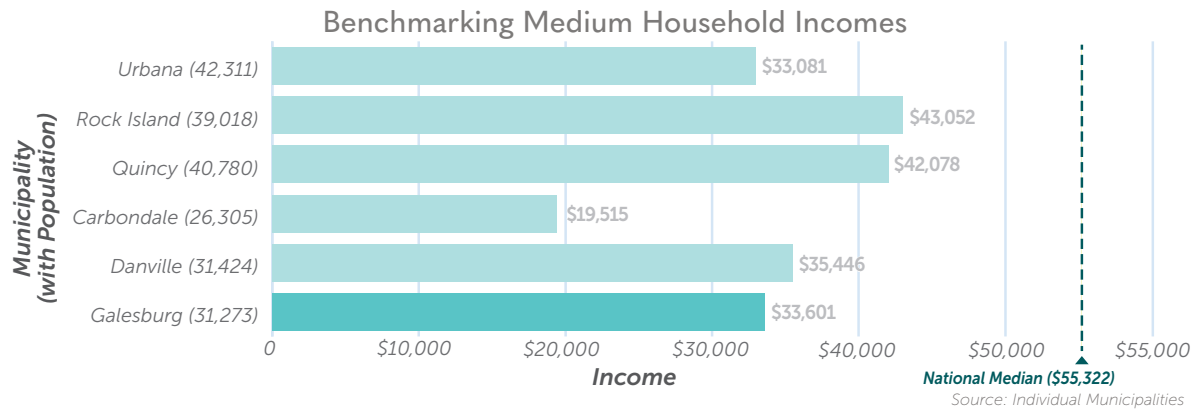
The Parks & Open Space Plan provides an in-depth analysis of parks and open space and defines goals and specific recommendations for Galesburg's parks system. Together, these components provide the Parks and Recreation Department with the necessary direction to improve parkland facilities and overall quality of life through access to well-maintained parks. The Plan includes both overarching goals for parks and open space as well as more direct recommendations for each classification within the parks system.

Recommendations specific to recreation amenities are found in the next chapter, Recreation and Facilities Plan.

## PARKS SYSTEM INVENTORY

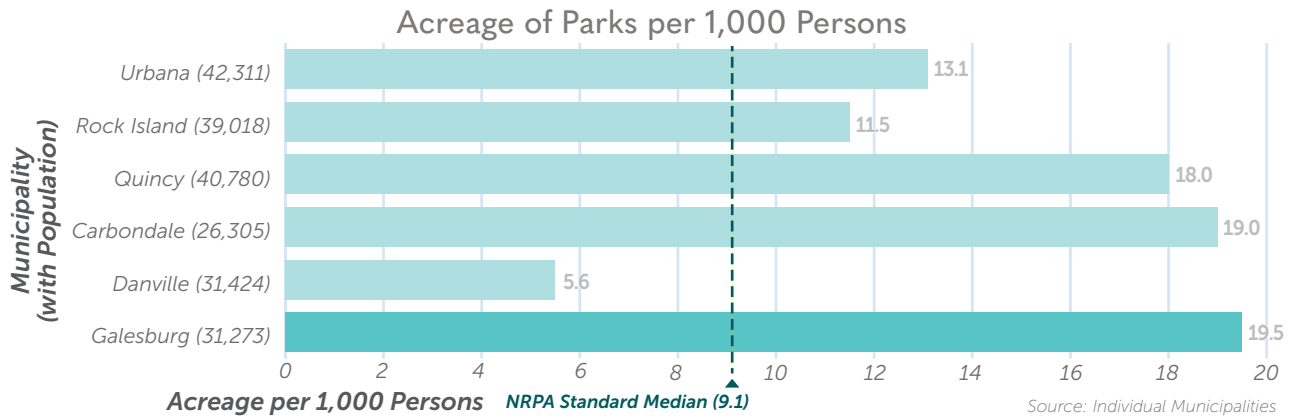
An inventory of the entire Galesburg parks and recreation system was completed to analyze existing parks and facilities and identify the number of available amenities throughout the community. The system includes 22 parks and facilities comprising 623 acres of parkland. An inventory of parks' amenities is summarized in the Parks Amenities Matrix Table.

PARK AMENITIES MATRIX		Area (acres)	Backstop	Ballfield	Basketball	Beach	Camping	Disc Golf	Dog Park	Drinking Fountain	Fire Pit	Fishing	Ice Rink	Horseshoe Pit	Museum	Playground	Walking / Biking Trail	Water Play or Pool	Shelter	Restroom	Sledding	Skate Park	Tennis Court
Park ID	Park Name																						
1	Bateman Park	1.49		1											1							2	
2	Central Park	1.33																					
3	Colton Park	4.77												●									
4	Dale Kelley Park	0.27													1		1						
5	Debbie Klapp Park	7.06	1	1											1								
6	Full Viewpoint Park	0.15																					
7	H.T. Custer Park	7.81	1						●						1	●		1	2				
8	Ice House Park	0.73																					
9	Inbinder Park	15.62		1				3	1						1	●							
10	Jason Wessels Park	13.93	2																				
11	Kiwanis Park	53.27		1	1		●		2						1	●	●	1	2	●	1		
12	Lake Storey Park	431.0	2	2		●	●		●	●	●				3	●		9	7			4	
13	Lancaster Park	0.67													1								
14	Lincoln Park	43.52							2		●		24		1	●	●	4	●	●			
15	Optimist Park	18.41	2	2	1				●						●	●		1	●				
16	O.N. Custer Park	4.88	●	●	●				●						1	●			1				
17	Park Plaza	0.26																					
18	Peck Park	2.20													1			1					
19	Rogers Park	0.58		1											1								
20	Rotary Park	12.11	●	1					●	●		●			1	●		1	1	1			
21	Standish Park Arboretum	3.31							●									1					
22	Swing Park	0.44		1											1								



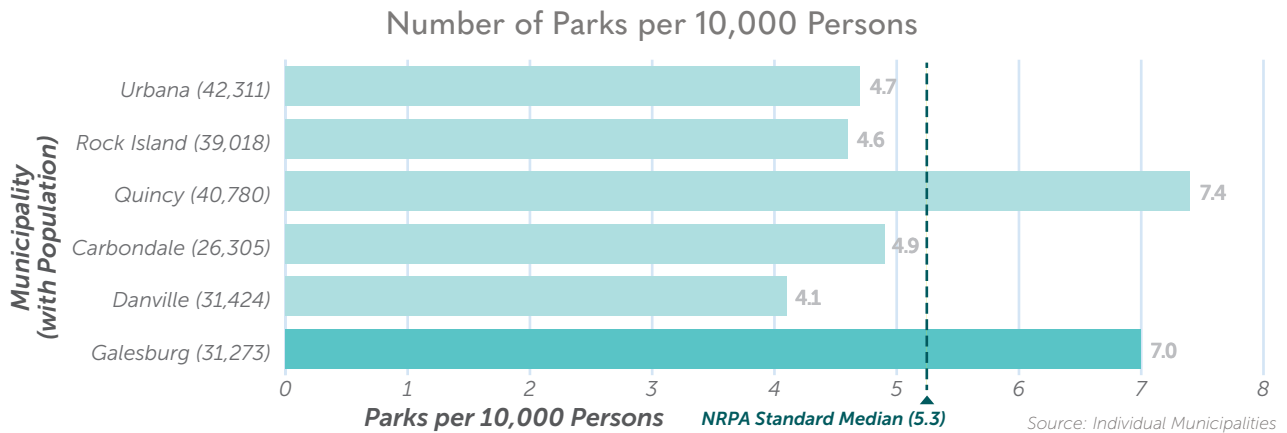
## Comparable Cities Methodology

To help determine the quality of service of Galesburg's parks and recreation system it was analyzed against several other communities. All five communities are throughout the State of Illinois and they include: Carbondale, Danville, Quincy, Rock Island, and Urbana. These communities were chosen based on total population, median household income, and community character.



## Population-based Analysis

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conducts a study every year to analyze the amount of parkland dedicated per a population of 1,000 for communities across the country. The study found that the median national standard for parkland is 9.1 acres per 1,000 residents. Currently, the Galesburg Parks and Recreation Department manages 19.5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 people. A population-based analysis suggests that Galesburg residents are well served by the City's total acreage of parkland. The City's parkland is also compared with other comparable communities. Of the list of six communities above, Galesburg ranks first.



## Number of Parks Analysis

As per the NRPA study, for specific municipalities with a population of 20,000-50,000, about 50 percent of the communities have over 5.3 parks per 10,000 residents. Galesburg currently provides seven parks per 10,000 people. This indicates that Galesburg is among the top 50 percent of similar-sized communities in the country. When compared to six other like-communities, Galesburg ranks second.

The “number of parks” analysis is important as it tells the community that even if they have adequate acreage of parkland, they may be lacking in providing equitable access to the parkland for the entire community.

## PARK GOALS

The following goals provide high-level direction for Parks and Open Space in Galesburg, based upon a comprehensive analysis of the parks system through extensive public engagement, field reconnaissance, research, and benchmarking. Specific recommendations to accomplish these goals are outlined under each park classification:

- ♦ **Goal 1:** Provide convenient and equitable park access to all residents, regardless of location, in Galesburg.
- ♦ **Goal 2:** Provide high-quality amenities and equipment within all parks and open spaces in Galesburg to foster active and passive recreation among all ages and interest groups.
- ♦ **Goal 3:** Promote Galesburg parks and open spaces to increase usership.
- ♦ **Goal 4:** Improve safety and sense of security for all users.
- ♦ **Goal 5:** Maintain, improve, and enhance Galesburg's natural resources.
- ♦ **Goal 6:** Provide innovative recreation amenities to celebrate Galesburg's history and culture.

## PARKS CLASSIFICATION

Parks are characterized by several different factors and appropriately classified based on those factors. These factors include function, size, accessibility, and service areas. Galesburg has four classifications:

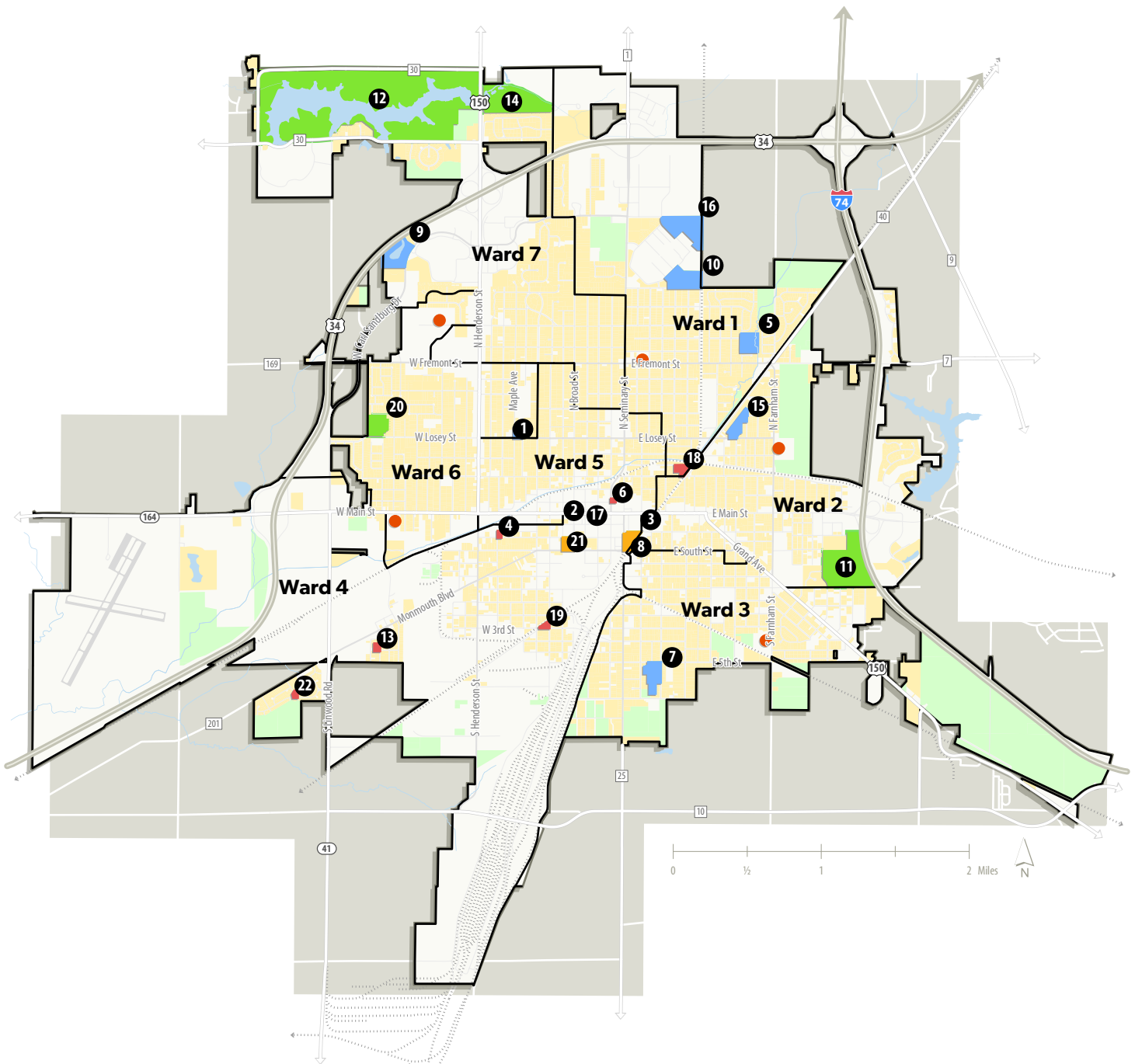
- ♦ Mini Park
- ♦ Neighborhood Park
- ♦ Community Park
- ♦ Special Use Park

The use, service area, location, facilities, and size of each park classification are outlined in the adjoining table.

### System-wide Service Area Analysis

A service-area analysis was used to determine accessibility to the City's parks system by quarter-mile and half-mile intervals. Based on this analysis, a majority of residents are within a half-mile of either a mini, neighborhood, or community park. However, some residents in the northwest and southeast are outside of a half-mile walk from a park. These residents are located primarily in Wards Two, Three, and Seven.

PARKS CLASSIFICATION					
Classification	Use	Service Area	Location	Facilities	Size
Mini Park	Isolated or unique recreational needs such as tot lots.	1/4 mile	Easily accessible to the neighborhood residents within safe walking distance.	Playground, benches, walking path, etc.	2 Acres or less
Neighborhood Park	Serves as a recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.	1/2 mile radius, free of major barriers such as highways or waterways.	Easily accessible to the neighborhood residents by foot, bike, and cars.	Playground, benches, walking path, small fields, restroom, parking, courts.	2-10 Acres
Community Park	Serves community with programmed activities. Generally has major improvements.	1/2 to 3 miles or some uses community-wide.	Accessible to community and take advantage of natural amenities and convenient location. Accessible by automobile or regional trail system.	Neighborhood park facilities, basketball, aquatics, multi-purpose facilities, skate park, disc golf, trails, natural areas, large picnic shelter, etc.	10-50 Acres
Special Use Park	A broad range of facilities intended for single use.	Community-wide	Accessible by automobile or regional trail system.	Miscellaneous.	-



## Galesburg Parks

### Mini Park

- ④ Dale Kelley Tot Lot
- ⑥ Full Viewpoint Park
- ⑬ Lancaster Park
- ⑱ Peck Park
- ⑲ Rogers Park
- ⑳ Swing Park

### Neighborhood Park

- ① Bateman Park
- ⑤ Debbie Klapp Park
- ⑦ H. T. Custer Park
- ⑨ Inbinder Park
- ⑩ Jason Wessels Park
- ⑮ O. N. Custer Park
- ⑯ Optimist Park

### Community Park

- ⑪ Kiwanis Park
- ⑫ Lake Storey Park
- ⑭ Lincoln Park
- ⑳ Rotary Park

### Special Use

- ② Central Park
- ③ Colton Park & RR
- ⑧ Icehouse Park
- ⑰ Park Plaza
- ㉑ Standish Park

- School with Recreational Facility
- Open Space
- Galesburg Wards

## Mini Parks

There are six mini parks in Galesburg: Dale Kelly Park, Full Viewpoint Park, Lancaster Park, Peck Park, Rogers Park, and Swing Park. These mini parks are located in the central and southwestern parts of the City.

### *Population-Based Analysis*

The NRPA-recommended guidelines for mini park is 0.25-0.50 acres per 1,000 people. Galesburg has 0.13 acres of mini park per 1,000 residents. Based on NRPA guidelines, Galesburg needs additional mini-park acreage.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Identify opportunities for mini parks for the residential location which are segregated from other residential areas. Focus should be on the neighborhood parks.
- ◆ Implement the Park Plaza Master Plan along Main Street to establish an updated urban recreation place for Downtown Galesburg.
- ◆ Update and/or fix amenities in mini parks including the playground equipment at Dale Kelley Park and the benches at Lancaster Park.
- ◆ Enhance maintenance and upkeep in all mini parks to ensure safe use year-round.
- ◆ Work collaboratively with community volunteer groups to clean up a minimum of one park per year.

## Neighborhood Parks

The seven neighborhood parks in Galesburg are Bateman Park, Debbie Klapp Park, H.T. Custer Park, Inbinder Park, Jason Wessels Park, Optimist Park, and O. N. Custer Park. They are primarily located in northern and eastern Galesburg. In addition, School District 205 provides playgrounds and parks amenities at Silas Willard Elementary School, Gale School, Steele School, Nielson Elementary School, and King School.

### *Population-Based Analysis*

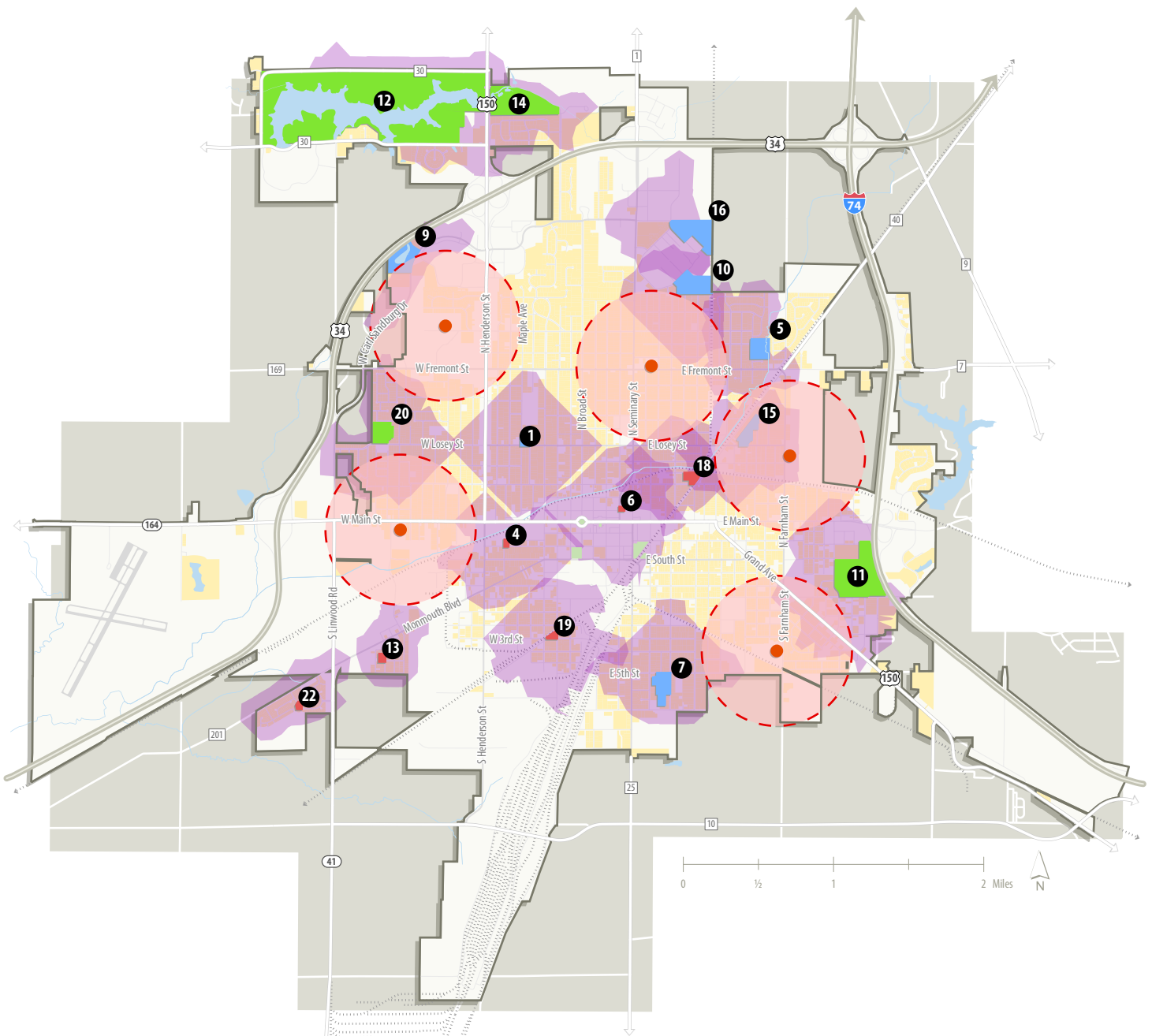
The NRPA guidelines for neighborhood parks is to have one-to-two acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. Galesburg currently has 2.19 acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 persons. Based on this analysis the City is well served by its existing amount of neighborhood parks.

### *Service Area Analysis*

The NRPA suggests the service area for mini and neighborhood parks to be based on an easy walking distance from each home, therefore, both parks classifications are analyzed as one park system for a service-area analysis. Additionally, community parks also serve adjacent neighborhoods that are outside of the service area for neighborhood parks. The standard for a mini park is a quarter-mile walking distance whereas a neighborhood park's service area is a half-mile walking distance. Based on the service-area analysis, north-central Galesburg and some areas of southwest Galesburg are underserved. These areas are not within a half-mile of a mini, neighborhood, or community park. These areas are also outside of a half-mile distance from any of the City's schools with playground facilities.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Identify opportunities for new neighborhood parks in the underserved residential areas of Galesburg.
- ◆ Ensure that all neighborhood parks have a playground, park shelter, drinking water fountain, restroom, and parking (dedicated or on-street).
- ◆ Improve maintenance and upkeep in all neighborhood parks to ensure safe use year-round.
- ◆ Continue to work with School District 205 to provide public access to its playground facilities during evenings and off-school days.



## Mini & Neighbor Park Service Area

- |                       |                          |                       |   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Mini Park</b>      | <b>Neighborhood Park</b> | <b>Community Park</b> | <b>School with Playground</b>                 |
| ④ Dale Kelley Tot Lot | ① Bateman Park           | ⑪ Kiwanis Park        | 1/2 Mile Distance from Parks With Playground  |
| ⑥ Full Viewpoint Park | ⑤ Debbie Klapp Park      | ⑫ Lake Storey Park    | 1/2 Mile Distance from School With Playground |
| ⑬ Lancaster Park      | ⑦ H. T. Custer Park      | ⑭ Lincoln Park        | Underserved Residential Area                  |
| ⑱ Peck Park           | ⑨ Inbinder Park          | ⑯ Rotary Park         |   |
| ⑲ Rogers Park         | ⑩ Jason Wessels Park     |                       |   |
| ⑳ Swing Park          | ⑮ O. N. Custer Park      |                       |   |
|                       | ⑰ Optimist Park          |                       |   |

## Community Parks

The four community parks in Galesburg include Kiwanis Park, Lake Storey Park, Lincoln Park, and Rotary Park. These parks are located at the northern, western, and southeast corners of Galesburg. These parks are the largest in the City and regularly serve residents outside of Galesburg.

As the largest park in Galesburg, Lake Storey is the most-visited park by both residents and visitors, which creates additional challenges that require more attention and maintenance such as cleaning the beach and improving the water quality of the lake. During outreach, improvements to Lake Storey Park was one of the top-identified priority projects.

### *Population-based Analysis*

The NRPA guidelines for community parks is to have between five and eight acres per a population of 1,000. Galesburg has 17.17 acres of community park for every 1,000 residents. Based on this analysis, the City is well served by community parks.

### *Service Area Analysis*

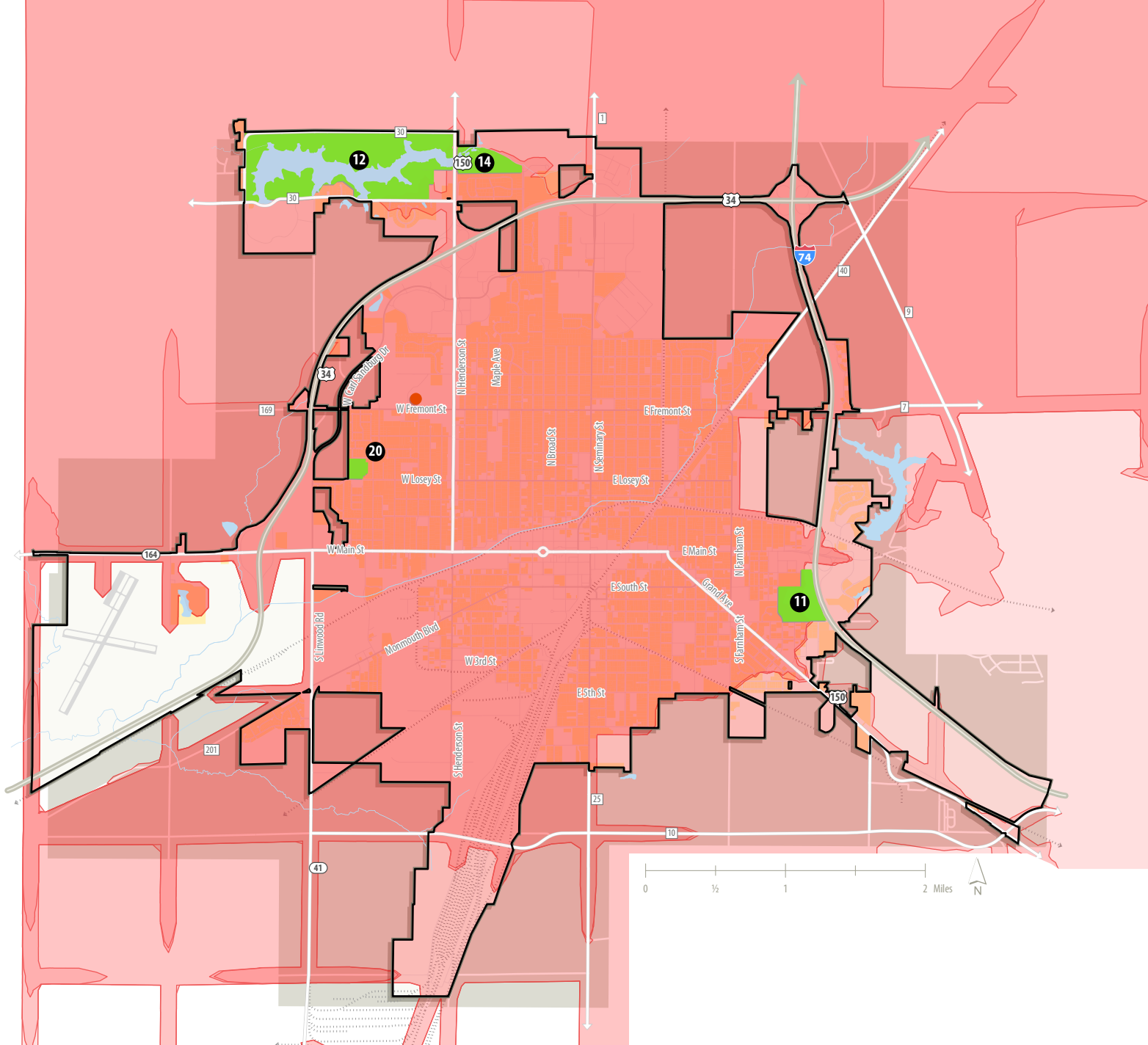
The NRPA-suggested service area for community park is two miles. Based on the service area analysis, all homes in Galesburg are within two miles of a community park. Each community park is easily accessible by car or public transit. However, there are many households who do not have regular access to a car so they are dependent on public transit schedules. Galesburg Transit does not operate after 6 p.m. or on Sundays, which hinders access to those residents that depend on public transit to access community parks. The City's community parks also regularly serve residents outside of Galesburg.

### *Recommendations*

- ♦ Develop a comprehensive master plan for Lake Storey Park to include an improved aquatic park, trail connectivity, water access, ecological preservation, fishing area, marina for non-motorized watercraft, and improvements to existing facilities.
- ♦ Charge a user fee for certain amenities to nonresidents to help offset maintenance costs within the parks system.
- ♦ Add new and renovate existing shelters in community parks.
- ♦ Update the skate park at Kiwanis Park.
- ♦ Improve the park safety and security of community parks by adding new lighting fixtures and well-defined walking paths, especially at Kiwanis Park.
- ♦ Maintain and regularly update community parks to ensure year-round access by all residents.
- ♦ Keep pursuing the expansion of Lake Storey Park to acquire additional parkland to accommodate more regional, water-based recreation.
- ♦ Work with Galesburg Transit to align transit schedule to Department's major recreational programming schedule or align recreational programming schedule to Galesburg transit schedule. This will help in providing equitable access of parks and recreation facilities to all residents who do not have regular access to cars.

### *Other Consideration*

As part of its extensive community outreach program and subsequent visioning exercise, Galesburg Heart & Soul identified the creation of a Ferris Wheel Park to celebrate the community's legacy and history. As such, the City should plan for a new Ferris Wheel Park. To do so, a task force should be formed to help plan the park and pursue fundraising for its development.



## Community Park Service Area

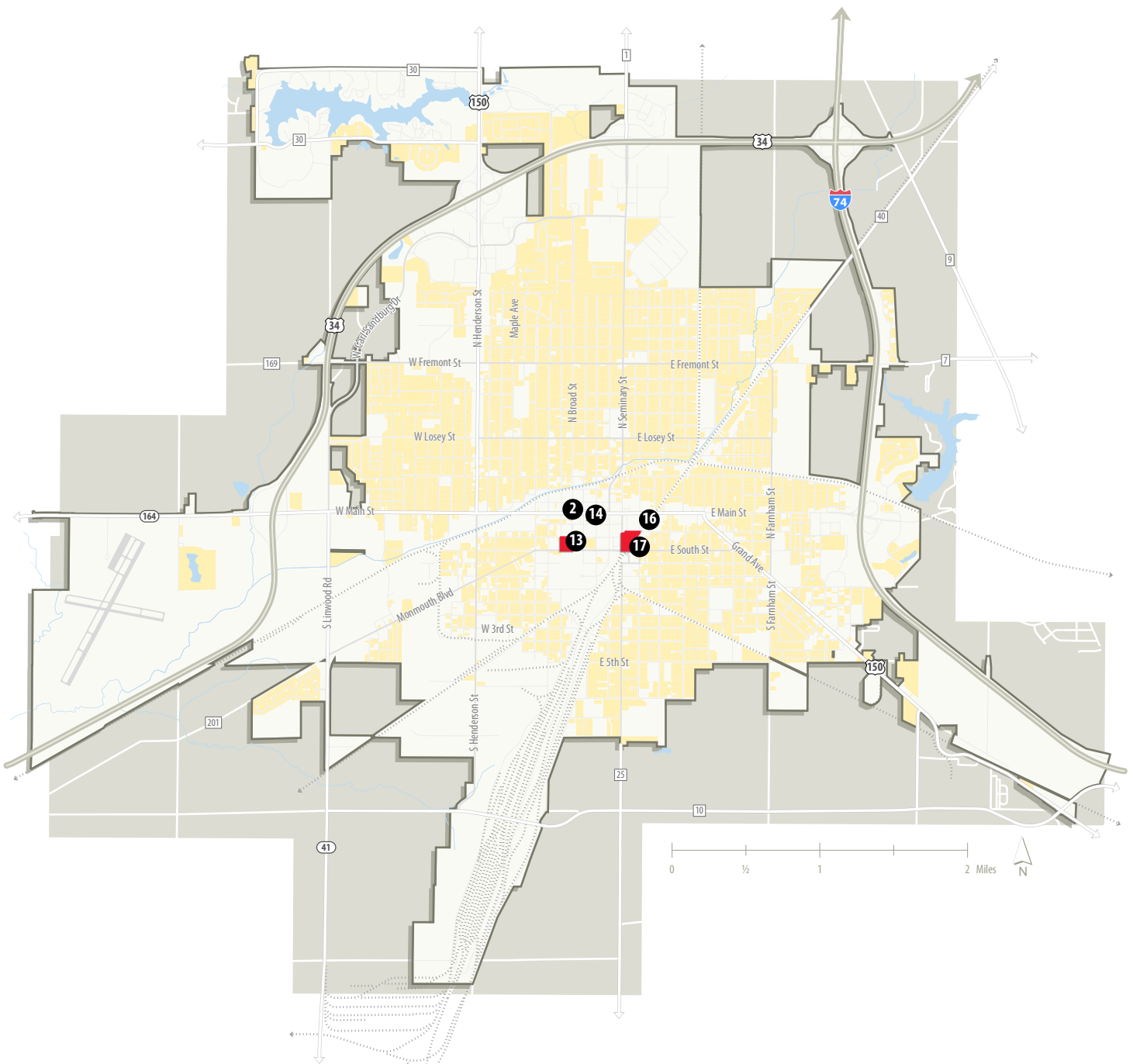
- Community Park**
- 2 Miles Distance from Park
- 11** Kiwanis Park
- 12** Lake Storey Park
- 14** Lincoln Park
- 20** Rotary Park
- Galesburg High School

## Special Use Parks

There are five special use parks in Galesburg: Central Park, Colton Park, Ice House Park, Park Plaza, and Standish Park Arboretum. These parks account for 10 acres of Galesburg's total parkland. These include both buildings and parkland operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. Given the unique nature of programming within these parks, national standards have not been set for their acreage. These facilities address a specific need or provide a unique and exciting recreational opportunity to residents. For example, while no standards are set for arboretums, these assets are highly valued and could greatly improve quality of life if provided at other locations in the community.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Enhance maintenance and upkeep in all special use parks to ensure safe use year-round.
- ◆ Expand programming and amenities in special use parks such as Standish Park and Icehouse Park to incentivize residents to visit them.
- ◆ Coordinate with local arts and culture organizations to conduct events at these parks to increase participation.



## Special Use Parks & Facilities

■ Special Use ■ Residential Area

- 2 Central Park
- 3 Colton Park & RR Museum
- 8 Icehouse Park
- 17 Park Plaza
- 21 Standish Park Arboretum

## OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE GOALS

- ♦ **Goal 1:** Formulate a park advisory board.
- ♦ **Goal 2:** Efficiently maintain assets at a high level.
- ♦ **Goal 3:** Facilitate community involvement, volunteerism, and stewardship.
- ♦ **Goal 4:** Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

### Park Advisory Board

While the City currently has an independent tree and golf commission it does not have an advisory body for the parks and recreation system. These commissions have many related interests and goals. The tree and golf commission works in isolation from the parks and recreation department. They are often unaware of each other's issues. There is a strong need to have a common advisory body that has representation from each commission and other recreational and governmental entities to advise on the existing and future parks and recreation plans and programs.

#### Recommendations

- ♦ Form a park advisory board to assist in the implementation of the Master Plan's recommendations and maintain existing parks and recreation operations. Possible representative bodies could include independent tree and golf commissions, School District 205, Knox College, Carl Sandburg College, members from each ward, etc. Members are typically appointed to a park advisory board.

## Operation and Maintenance of Facilities

The Galesburg Parks and Recreation Department maintains an extensive inventory of parks amenities. It is very important to maintain the quality facilities to increase participation and user satisfaction. The maintenance facilities in Galesburg are currently located in multiple locations, which increases costs and causes duplication of facilities and equipment. Creating an inventory of every asset in the Department is a good way to begin identifying duplication and overlap. In addition, a life-cycle cost analysis of every new amenity or item added to the parks and recreation system is necessary to achieve maximum return on investment.

As per the 2018 NRPA Performance Report, the personnel services for a typical park and recreation agency account for 55 percent of its operations budget. The appropriate number of maintenance staff and their training in the Galesburg parks and recreation system are crucial to the success of the overall maintenance of parks facilities.

#### Recommendations

- ♦ Centralize maintenance facilities to optimize maintenance equipment and resources.
- ♦ Centralize recreational amenities to help the City save funds related to maintenance and staffing.
- ♦ Design parks and facilities with future maintenance requirements in mind and implement a life-cycle cost analysis before implementation of any capital project.
- ♦ Ensure adequate access for maintenance vehicles in all existing and future parks and facilities.
- ♦ Provide an adequate number of staff and maintain their training and certifications to ensure the quality and timely maintenance of parks and recreation facilities and equipment.
- ♦ Annually inspect all facilities and amenities.
- ♦ Develop an asset management system that tracks inventory, asset condition, critical systems

maintenance, and repair and rehabilitation requirements to inform investment decisions.

- ◆ Replace outdated park equipment and materials with high-efficiency models that are made with high-quality, low-maintenance materials.
- ◆ Annually update a five-year Capital Improvement Plan.
- ◆ Plan and coordinate with other City departments to efficiently and effectively manage maintenance, repair, and construction projects.
- ◆ Explore options to maximize the use of volunteers to support park operations and programming.
- ◆ Collaborate with local groups that can oversee volunteers for specific activities such as construction, improvements, and maintenance of park amenities.

## Stewardship

Galesburg is a very close-knit community. The Parks and Recreation Department could benefit from the support and partnerships from various community groups and volunteer organizations.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Work collaboratively with community volunteer groups to clean up a minimum of one park per year.
- ◆ Work with community volunteers to develop and implement a summer park program with basic games and activities for children and teens.
- ◆ Organize events, such as Trails Day, to involve volunteers in the cleanup of trails in community parks. Spring is usually the best time to engage the community in this type of activity.





The Recreation & Facilities Plan provides a deeper analysis of recreation opportunities and facilities and defines goals and specific recommendations for the Galesburg parks system. This includes programs and facilities that provide recreational opportunities for residents to get active by becoming involved in sports and social activities, and supplement traditional parks with unique and entertaining amenities. The Plan provides goals related to recreation and facilities as well as more direct recommendations for sports programming and special use facilities in Galesburg.

## RECREATION & FACILITIES GOALS

The following goals provide high-level direction for the Recreation & Facilities Plan. They are based upon a comprehensive analysis of the recreation programming and special use facilities through extensive public engagement, field reconnaissance, research, and benchmarking. Specific recommendations to accomplish these goals are outlined under each program and facility.

- ♦ **Goal 1:** Improve and maintain existing facilities while seeking opportunities for future development to ensure access to quality recreational amenities throughout Galesburg.
- ♦ **Goal 2:** Increase participation and continue to provide high-quality sports programming to all age groups.
- ♦ **Goal 3:** Expand recreational programs to include other active recreation opportunities outside of structured sports as well as passive opportunities to accommodate the expressed desires of the community.
- ♦ **Goal 4:** Strive to develop new facilities that better address the recreational and cultural needs of Galesburg's diverse community.
- ♦ **Goal 5:** Enhance the health and wellness of residents through innovative and diversified parks, arts, recreation, leisure, and cultural opportunities.
- ♦ **Goal 6:** Effectively promote and publicize area recreational programs and events.
- ♦ **Goal 7:** Encourage community volunteers to develop and implement a summer parks program with basic games and activities for children and teens.

## PROGRAMMED SPORTS

The Galesburg Parks and Recreation Department provides sports programs and amenities for people of all ages in the community. This section analyzes specific sports programs within Galesburg that includes recommendations to expand and improve them.



## Baseball & Softball

There are currently 15 baseball and/or softball fields within the Galesburg parks and recreation system, located within Optimist Park (four fields), Lake Storey Park (three fields), Jason Wessels Park (two fields), Rotary Park (two fields), Debbie Klapp Park (one field), H. T. Custer Park (one field), Kiwanis Park (one field), O. N. Custer Park (one field). In addition to these fields, the City has an intergovernmental agreement with School District 205 to use three fields at Galesburg High School. Parks and recreation staff, and the City's affiliate partners have stated that participation in both baseball and softball has increased in recent years.

To assist the Parks and Recreation Department with recreation programming, the City partners with the Cal Ripken Baseball organization which programs and operates youth baseball leagues within the City. The organization handles registrations and scheduling and utilizes the four fields in three City parks: Optimist Park (two fields), O.N. Custer Park (one field), and H.T. Custer Parks (one field). Each year, approximately 500 youth, in various age groups, participate in the program. Registration fees collected by the organization contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the fields used by the organization.

### *Population-Based Analysis*

The NRPA-recommended guideline for baseball and softball is one field for every 2,500 residents. Based on this guideline it is suggested the City provide 13 fields to its residents. With 18 fields (15 within City parks and three provided through intergovernmental agreement), the City is well served with the number of fields.

### *Benchmarking Analysis*

The City's current service level for baseball/softball fields was compared with other like-communities and agencies. Of the list of six communities, Galesburg is currently ranked fifth. The NRPA maintains a database of park metrics for agencies across the country. Communities of similar size to Galesburg (between 20,000 and 50,000 people) provide one field for every 10,912 residents.

### *Service Area Analysis*

The suggested service area for baseball/softball fields is a half-mile. A service-area analysis of the City's existing ball fields reveals that much of the community is outside of the NRPA's recommended service area.

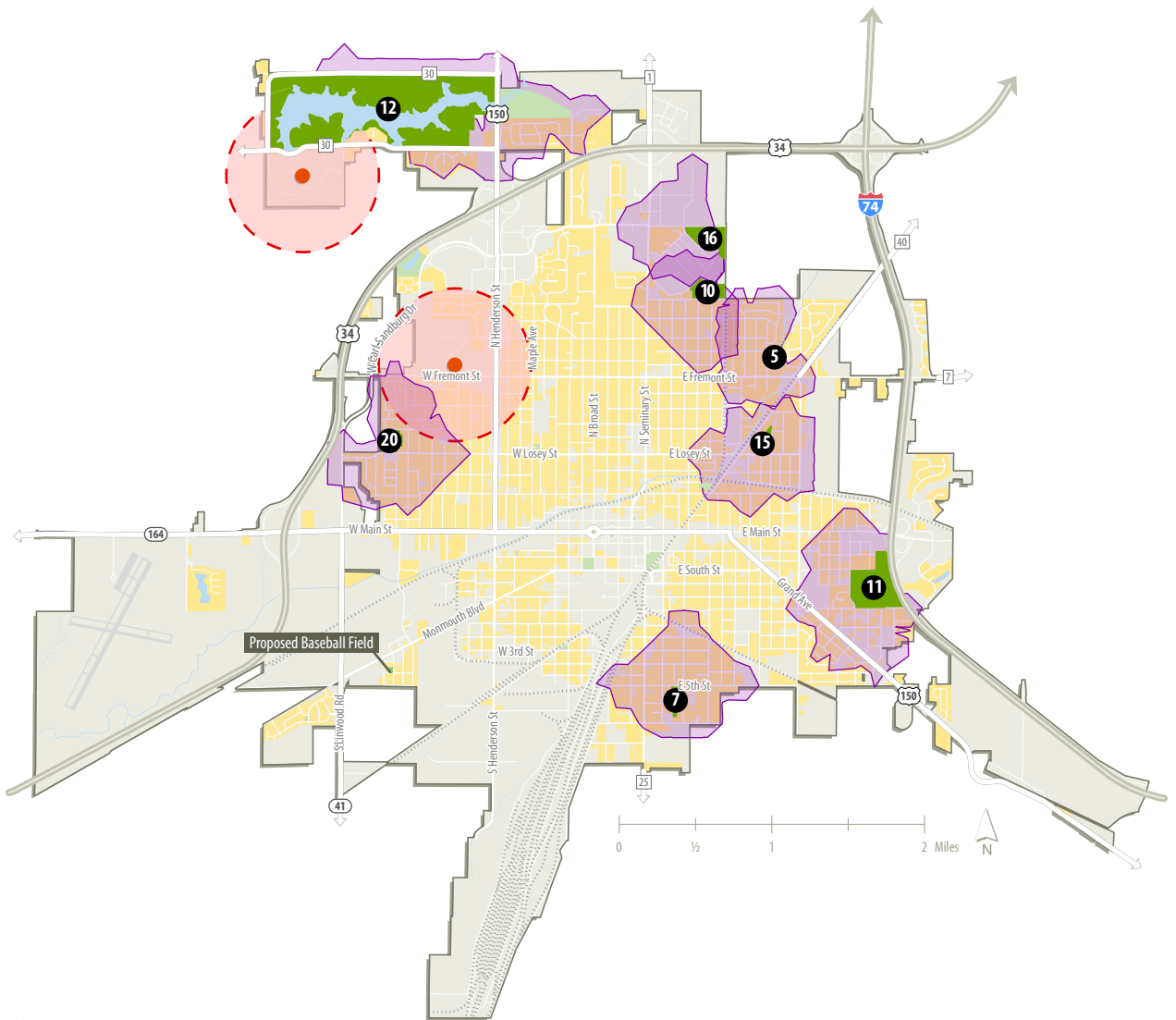
## Recommendations

- ♦ Due to lack of ballfields in southwestern Galesburg, build a new field at Lancaster Park. Additional land purchase will be required for the new field.
- ♦ Continue to maintain existing intergovernmental agreements and work with School District 205 to provide public access to baseball/softball facilities at Galesburg High School.
- ♦ Continue to foster the partnership with the Cal Ripken organization to support tournaments that the league brings to the City and continue to work with the agency to explore the possibility of a centralized/unified complex at Optimist Park.
- ♦ Continue to ensure ball fields (infields and turf areas) are well maintained throughout the baseball/softball seasons.
- ♦ Ensure parking at parks with ball fields is adequate to accommodate players and spectators, and address parking shortages with new parking lots or on-street parking where necessary.
- ♦ Provide additional lighting to improve the safety at Kiwanis Park.
- ♦ Explore the feasibility of improvements to Lake Storey baseball and supporting facilities to better support leagues and tournaments.

## Additional Considerations

**Tournaments.** Tournaments provide a potential opportunity for local tourism and revenue generation for the City. The City should consider hosting more tournaments as an additional source of revenue to maintain and upkeep existing facilities. This may require improvements to Lake Storey and other fields to accommodate tournament play.

**Backstops.** In addition to formalized baseball and softball fields, standalone backstops provide opportunities for unorganized and informal recreation. Opportunities for backstops and informal ball field areas should be considered throughout all City parks.

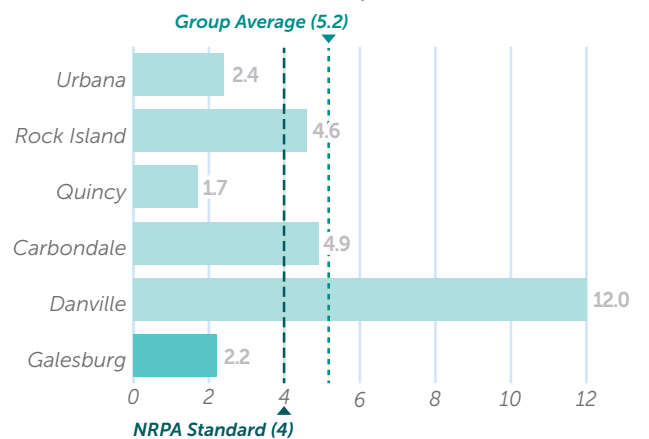


## Baseball/Softball Service Area

- Park with Baseball/Softball Facility
- Other Parks
- School with Baseball/Softball Facility
- 1/2 Mile Distance from Park
- 1/2 Mile Distance from School
- Underserved Residential Area

- 5** Debbie Klapp Park
- 7** H. T. Custer Park
- 10** Jason Wessels Park
- 11** Kiwanis Park
- 12** Lake Storey Park
- 15** O. N. Custer Park
- 16** Optimist Park
- 20** Rotary Park

## Baseball/Softball Facilities per 10,000 Persons





## Basketball

There are currently nine full courts and one half-court for basketball in the Galesburg parks and recreation system, located within Optimist Park (two courts), Debbie Klapp Park (one court), Bateman Park (one court), O. N. Custer Park (one court), Kiwanis Park (one court), Swing Park (one court), Rotary Park (one court), Inbinder Park (one court), and Rogers Park (half court). In addition, the City has access to School District 205's Field House which has additional indoor basketball courts. Input from community outreach suggested updating and maintaining existing basketball facilities. Outreach identified demand for recreational basketball programs for youth boys and adults.

### *Population-based Analysis*

The NRPA's guideline for basketball is one basketball court for every 5,000 residents. Based on this guideline the City should have six basketball courts. With nine full courts and one half-court, and access to School District 205's Field House, the City is well served by the existing number of basketball courts.

### *Benchmark Analysis*

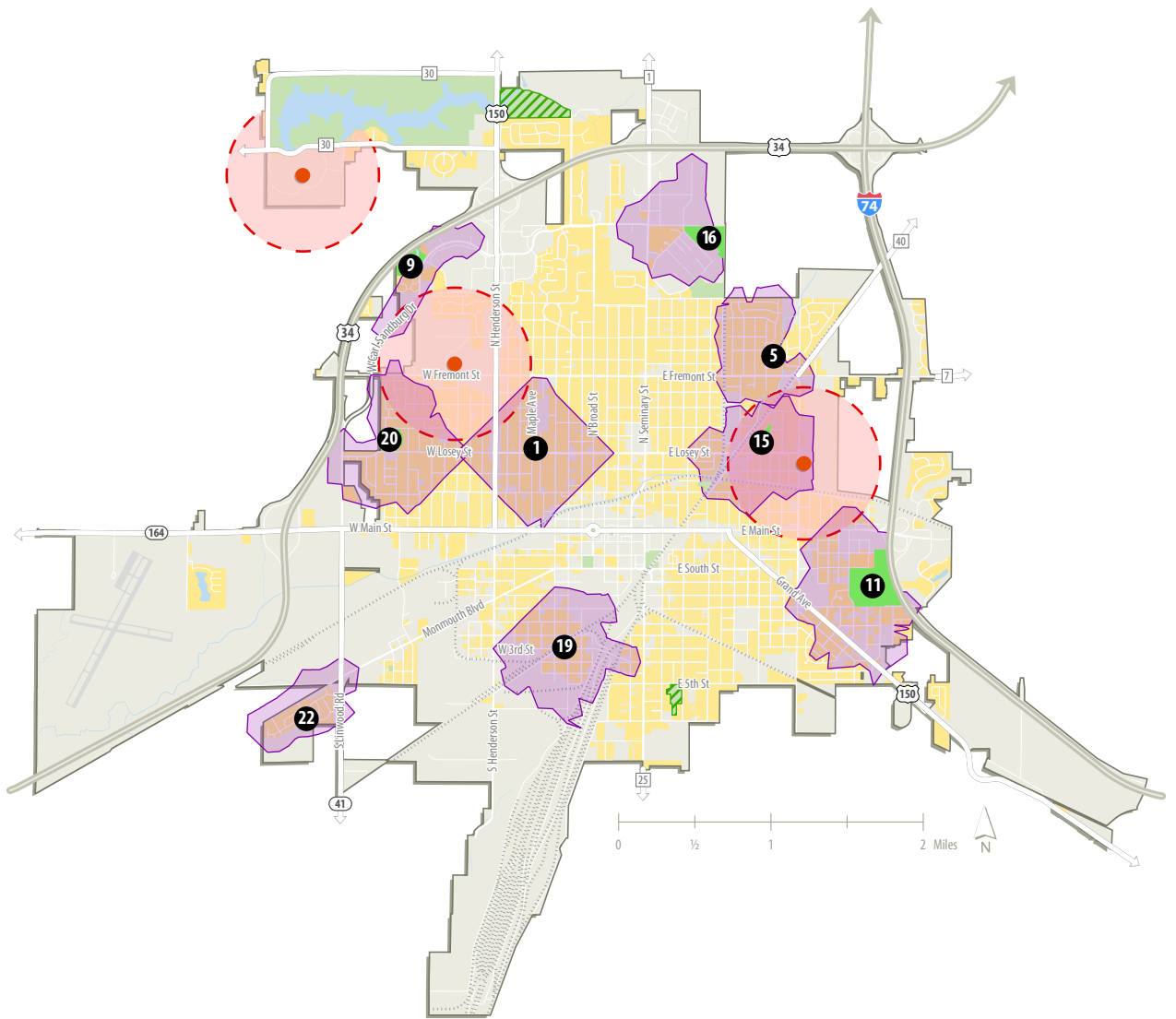
The City's current service level for basketball courts was compared with other comparable communities and NRPA guidelines. Of the list of six communities, Galesburg ranks third. The NRPA maintains a database of parks metrics for agencies across the country. Communities of a similar population size to Galesburg (20,000–50,000) provide one court per 7,000 people. Currently, Galesburg provides one court per 3,290 people.

### *Service Area Analysis*

The suggested service area for basketball is a half-mile. A service-area analysis of the City's existing basketball courts reveals that north-central and southern Galesburg are outside of the NRPA's recommended service area.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Update existing basketball courts that are aging and deteriorating, to ensure safe use by all residents.
- ◆ Develop additional full and half basketball courts, determined by appropriate site design, to expand the number of facilities available for basketball practice by various organizations.
- ◆ School District 205 has three full and nine half outdoor basketball courts. Work with the school district to provide public access to basketball courts in schools in the areas that are not within walking distance of the City's basketball facilities but are within walking distance of the school facilities.

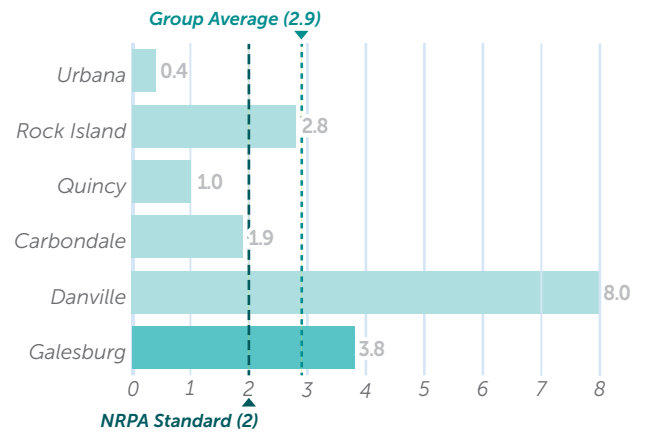


## Basketball Service Area

- Proposed Basketball Court
- Park with Basketball Facility
- School with Basketball Facility
- 1/2 Mile Distance From Park
- 1/2 Mile Distance from School
- Underserved Residential Area

- 1** Bateman Park
- 5** Debbie Klapp Park
- 9** Inbinder Park
- 11** Kiwanis Park
- 15** O. N. Custer Park
- 16** Optimist Park
- 19** Rogers Park
- 20** Rotary Park
- 22** Swing Park

## Basketball Facilities per 10,000 Persons





## Soccer & Football

There are currently two soccer fields in the Galesburg parks and recreation system, both of which are in Lake Storey Park. In addition to these fields, the YMCA of Knox County operates five soccer fields of varying sizes in Galesburg. The City does not intend to offer soccer programs as it is currently offered by the YMCA.

School District 205 houses soccer fields in four schools but the schedule conflict prevents the City from using their facilities. Moreover, the School District's high school fields are shared with football which makes it even more difficult for the City to use these facilities.

### *Population-Based Analysis*

NRPA guidelines for soccer fields is one field for every 10,000 residents. Based on this guideline, the City should provide three soccer fields. With only two fields, the City needs an additional soccer field.

### *Benchmark Analysis*

The City's current service level for soccer fields was compared with other like-communities and NRPA guidelines. Galesburg ranks sixth out of the six communities. Per the NRPA's parks metrics, communities of a similar population size to Galesburg (20,000 – 50,000) provide one field per 9,182 residents.

### *Service Area Analysis*

The suggested service area for soccer is a two-mile drive. A service-area analysis of the City's existing soccer fields reveals that the southern half of the community is outside of the NRPA's recommended service area.

### *Recommendations*

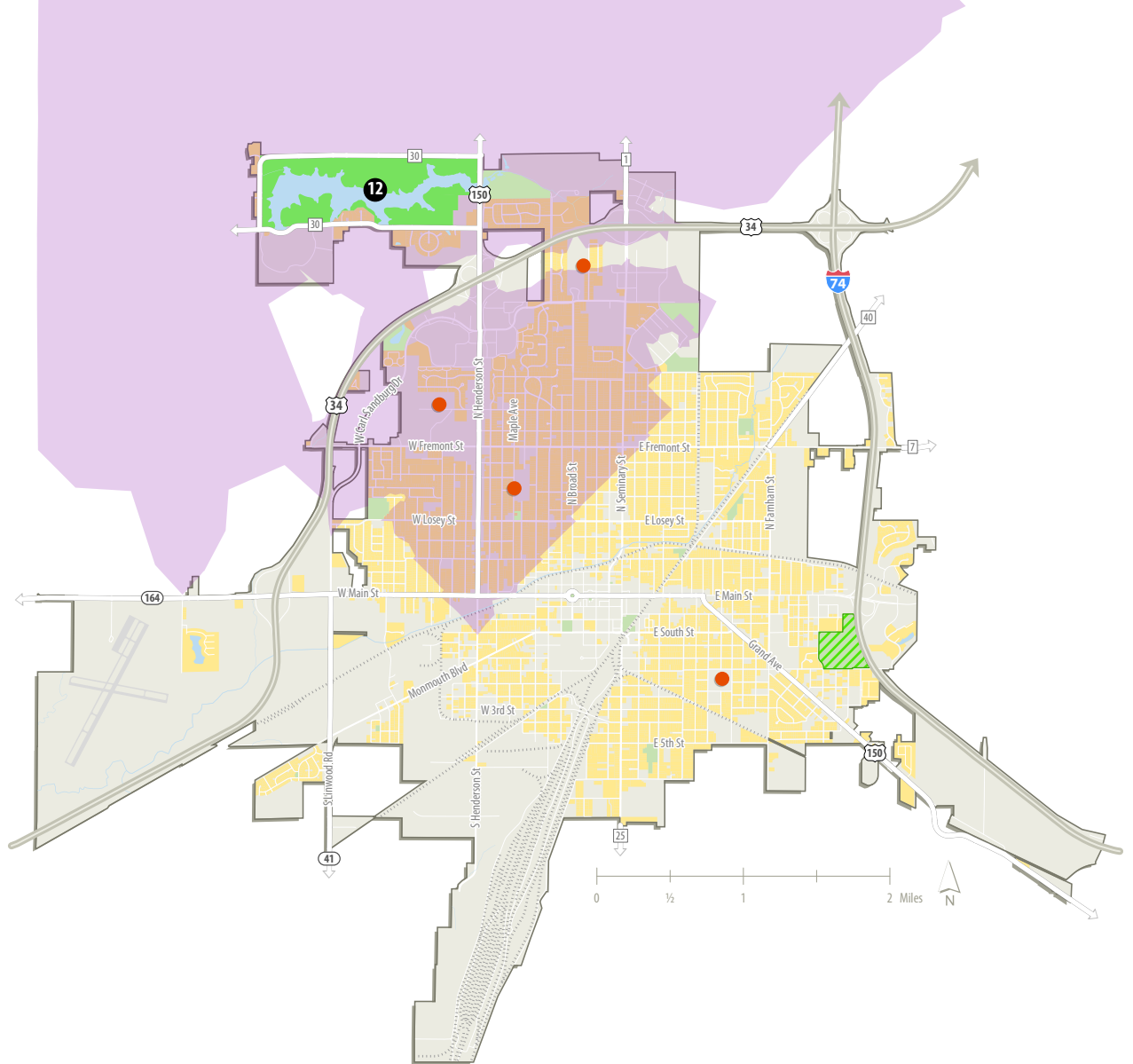
- ◆ Continue to partner with YMCA in supporting soccer leagues in Galesburg.
- ◆ Develop additional soccer fields in the southern part of Galesburg, such as Kiwanis Park to provide better access to the sport for these residents, particularly those that do not have easy access to a car.
- ◆ In developing new soccer fields ensure that adequate parking is available for players and spectators.
- ◆ Take advantage of the regional access to Lake Storey's soccer fields and host tournaments when possible to increase funding to help maintain existing fields as well as build new ones.
- ◆ Continue to work with School District 205 to provide additional public access to soccer.

## Football

The Galesburg Parks and Recreation Department does not own, operate, or maintain any football fields. A youth football league for first through sixth graders exists in the City and practices on the open field in Jason Wessels Park. The field does not have formal boundaries or amenities and the Park itself does not have a parking lot.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Develop a formal football field for youth leagues and provide supporting infrastructure such as restrooms and parking at the park.
- ◆ Continue to provide access to Jason Wessels Park for league use.

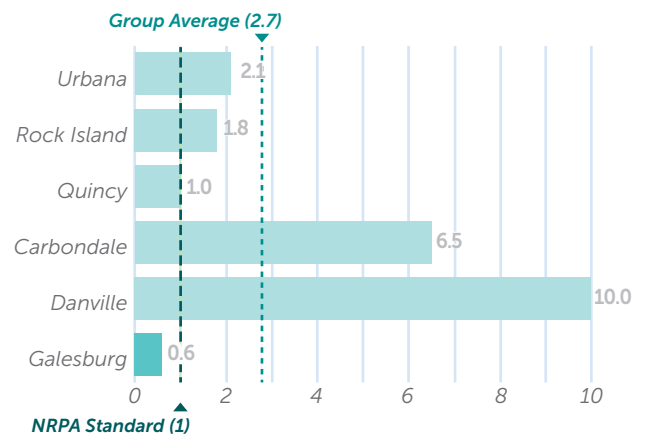


## Soccer Service Area

- ▨ Proposed Soccer Field
- Park with Soccer Facility
- Other Parks
- School with Soccer Facility
- 2 Miles Distance From Park
- Underserved Residential Area

**12** Lake Storey Park

## Soccer Facilities per 10,000 Persons





## Tennis

The Galesburg parks and recreation system currently has six tennis courts: four courts at Lake Storey park and two courts at Bateman park. In addition, the City has an agreement with School District 205 to use the ten tennis courts at Galesburg High School.

A similar sport to tennis is pickleball, which is played on the same surface in a smaller area. The sport is played mostly by the boomers and seniors demographic group. Over the past few years, pickleball has experienced tremendous growth and popularity nationwide. Approximately 34 percent of Galesburg's population falls within this age group, which has shown significant interest in having a pickleball facility in the City.

### Population-Based Analysis

The NRPA-recommended guideline for tennis courts is one court for every 2,000 residents. Currently, Galesburg has one tennis court per 1,954 people. Based on this guideline, the City is well served by tennis courts.

### Benchmark Analysis

The City's current service level for tennis courts was compared with similar communities and NRPA guidelines. Of the list of six communities, Galesburg ranks third.

### Service Area Analysis

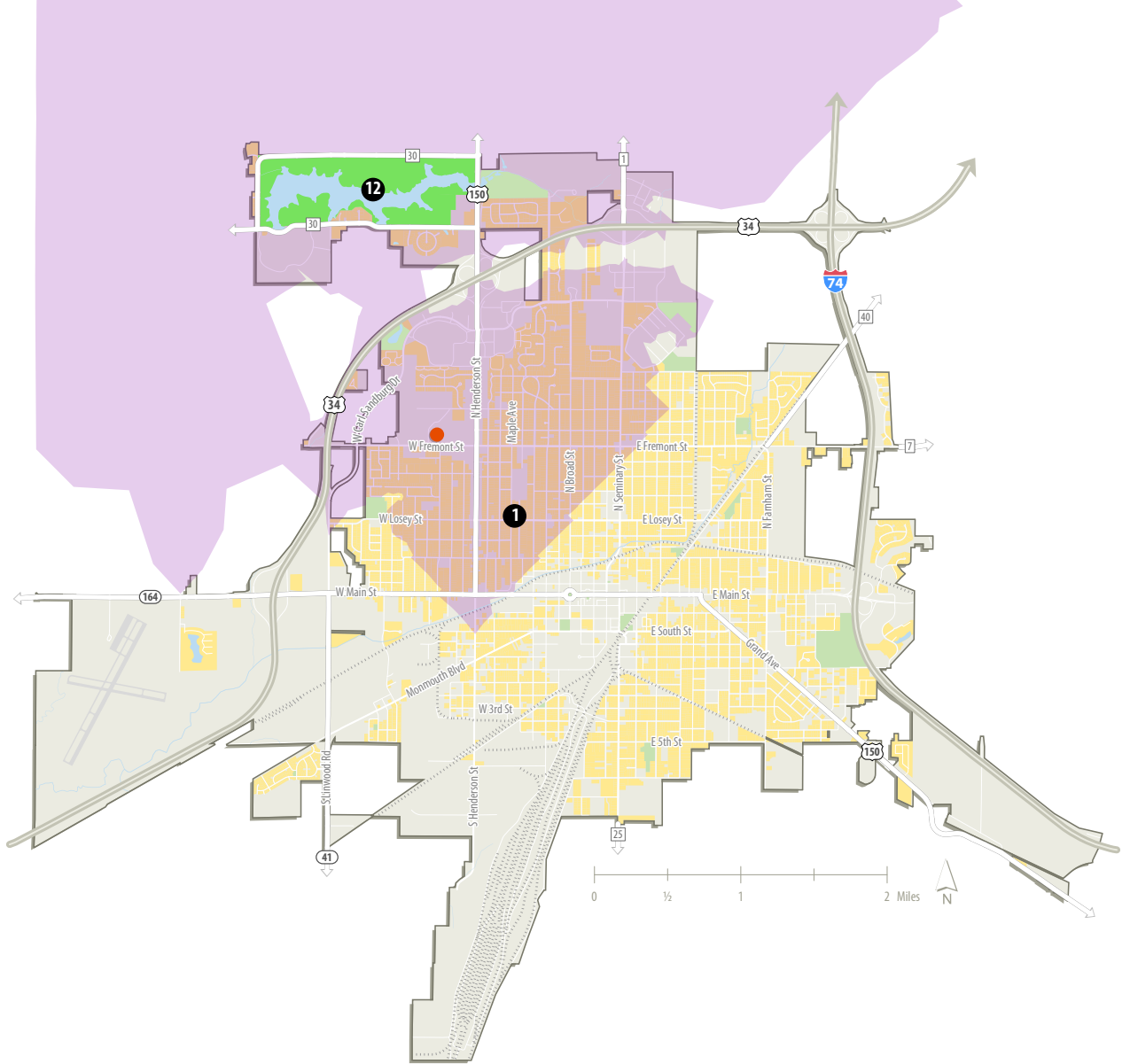
The suggested service area for tennis is a two-mile drive. While Lake Storey has parking for users, Bateman Park does not. Due to the lack of parking, the service-area analysis was only conducted for Lake Storey Park. This analysis revealed that the southern half of the community is outside of the NRPA's recommended service area for tennis courts.

### Recommendations

- ◆ Renovate and restripe outdoor courts at Bateman Park to allow pickleball to be played on the same courts.
- ◆ Provide surface parking or dedicated on-street parking at Bateman Park.
- ◆ Continue to maintain partnerships with School District 205 to increase access to tennis facilities.

### Other Considerations

**Tournaments.** Take advantage of the visibility of Lake Storey Park from communities outside of Galesburg by hosting tennis tournaments. The tournaments would assist with funding to help maintain existing courts.

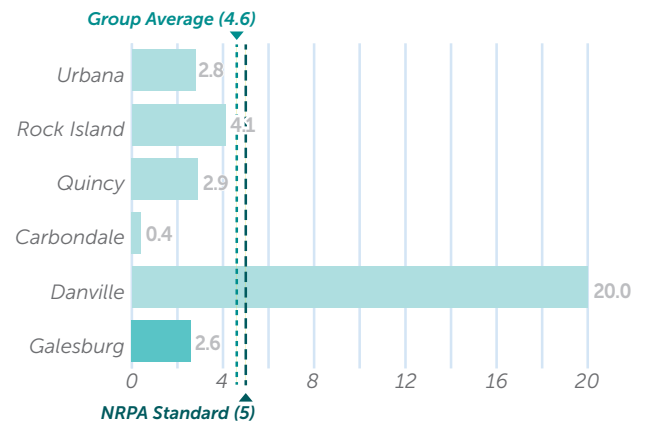


## Tennis Service Area

- Park with Tennis Facility
- Other Parks
- School with Tennis Facility
- 2 Miles Distance From Park
- Underserved Residential Area

- 1** Bateman Park
- 12** Lake Storey Park

## Tennis Facilities per 10,000 Persons



## Playgrounds

There are currently 17 playgrounds in the Galesburg parks and recreation system: Lake Storey Park (three playgrounds), Optimist Park, Bateman Park (one playground), Dale Kelly Lot (one playground), Debbie Klapp Park (one playground), H.T. Custer Park (one playground), Inbinder Park (one playground), Kiwanis Park (one playground), Lancaster Park (one playground), Lincoln Park (one playground), Peck Park (one playground), Rogers Park (one playground), Rotary Park (one playground), Swing Park (one playground), and O. N. Custer Park (one playground). In addition, School District 205 provides playgrounds in five of its schools including Silas Wilard Elementary School, Gale School, Steele School, Nielson Elementary School, and King School.

During the development of this Plan, the Parks and Recreation Department updated the playground equipment in most, but not all, of its parks. During the public engagement process, the community expressed the desire to have “innovative” playgrounds that represent current trends in the parks and recreation industry. The community also highlighted the absence of drinking fountains and walkways to the playgrounds from the public right-of-way in many parks.

### *Population-Based Analysis*

As per the 2018 NRPA’s parks metrics, communities with a similar population to Galesburg (20,000–50,000) provide one playground per 3,000 people. Galesburg currently provides one playground per 1,654 residents. Based on the NRPA’s metrics, Galesburg provides an appropriate number of playgrounds to the community.

### *Service Area Analysis*

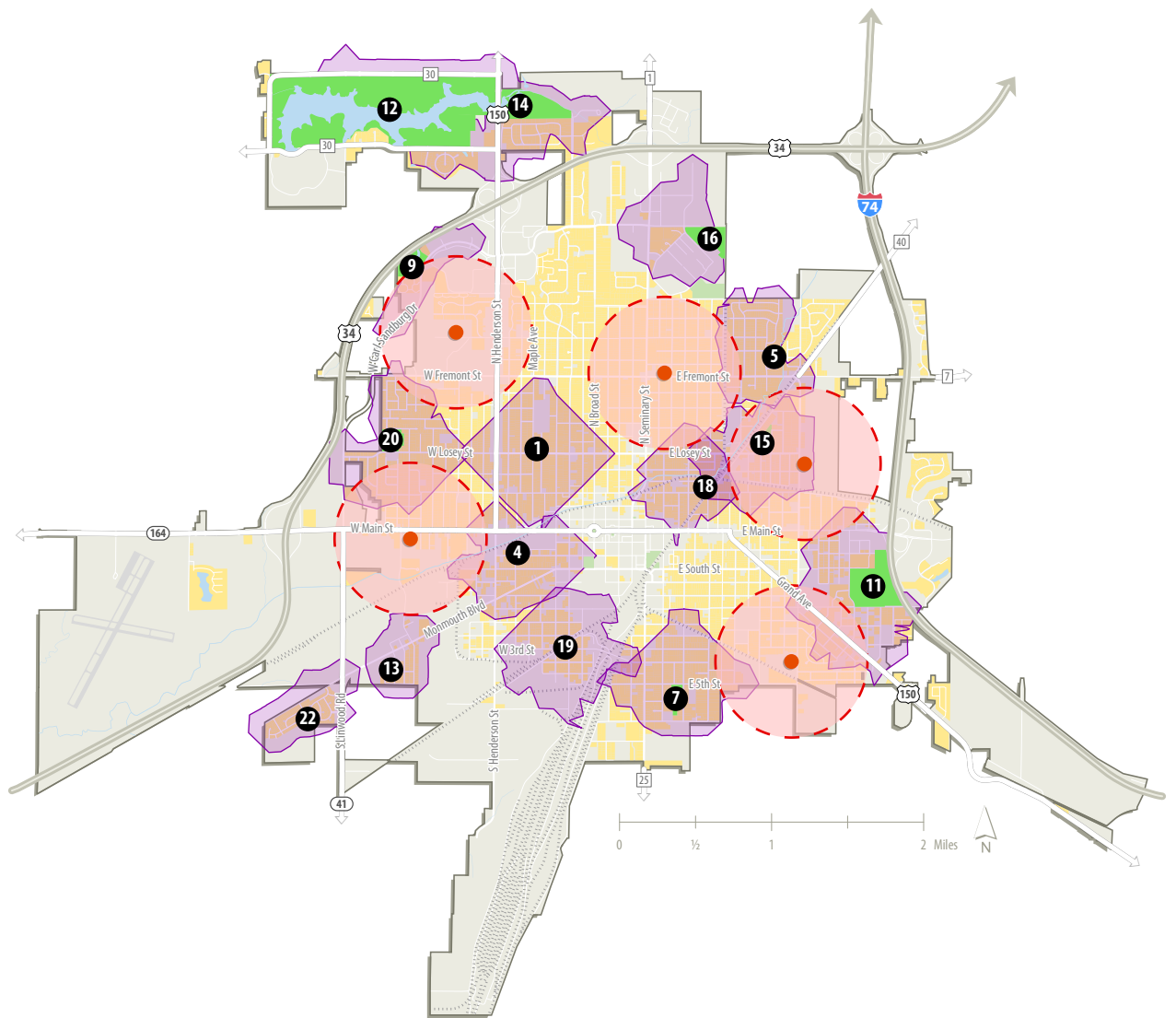
The suggested service area for playgrounds is a half-mile. An analysis of the City’s existing playgrounds reveals that a portion of the north-central, southeast, and other pockets of residential areas, are outside of the NRPA’s recommended service area. However, the School District’s playgrounds provide access to some of the underserved areas of the City.

### *Recommendations*

- ♦ Renovate the remaining playgrounds that need improvements in the Galesburg parks system to ensure residents have high-quality, safe play equipment.
- ♦ Work with School District 205 to provide continued public access to the playgrounds and equipment during evenings, weekends, and off-school-days.
- ♦ Provide new playgrounds in the underserved areas of north-central and southeast Galesburg by acquiring new parkland.
- ♦ Add new, theme-based, and engaging playground equipment at Lake Storey that meets current industry trends.
- ♦ Provide water fountains in all parks with playgrounds.
- ♦ Construct direct paths from the public right-of-way to all playgrounds to provide appropriate access to residents of all abilities.

### *Other Considerations*

Support the effort of local fitness enthusiasts to plan for a mobile playground in Galesburg. The intent will be for the mobile playground to travel to local parks and engage children in physical and board games, particularly during the summer months.



## Playground Service Area

- Park with Playground Facility
- Other Parks
- School with Playground
- 1/2 Mile Distance From Park
- 1/2 Mile Distance From School
- Underserved Residential Area

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Bateman Park        | <b>14</b> Lincoln Park      |
| <b>4</b> Dale Kelley Tot Lot | <b>15</b> O. N. Custer Park |
| <b>5</b> Debbie Klapp Park   | <b>16</b> Optimist Park     |
| <b>7</b> H. T. Custer Park   | <b>18</b> Peck Park         |
| <b>9</b> Inbinder Park       | <b>19</b> Rogers Park       |
| <b>11</b> Kiwanis Park       | <b>20</b> Rotary Park       |
| <b>12</b> Lake Storey Park   | <b>22</b> Swing Park        |
| <b>13</b> Lancaster Park     |                             |

## DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Activity/ Facility	Sub Group	Recom- mended Space Requirements	Recommended Size And Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units Per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
Badminton	Singles	1620 sq. ft.	Singles – 17'x44'	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ -1/2 mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
Badminton	Dou- bles	1620 sq. ft.	Doubles – 20'x44'	Long axis north-south			
Basketball	Youth	2400-3036 sq. ft.	46-50'x84'	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings. with 5' unobstructed space on all sides
Handball	4-wall	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall	20'x40' – Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance	Long axis north-south.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility.
Ice Hockey	Indoor	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85'x200' (minimum 85'x185') Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north-south if outdoor	1 per 100,000	½ - 1 hr travel time	
Ice Hockey	Out- door				Outdoor – depends on climate		Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
Tennis		Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36'x78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north – south	1 court per 2000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school
Volleyball		Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30'x60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton)
Baseball	1. Offi- cial	3.0-3.85 Acre minimum	Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – min. 320' Center field – 400'+	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5000		Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
Baseball	2. Little League	1.2 Acre minimum	Baselines – 60'; Pitching distance – 46' Foul lines – 200' Center field – 200' – 250'	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east.	1/3000; Light- ed 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	
Softball		1.5 to 2.0 Acre	"Baselines – 60' Pitching distance- 46' min. 40' for women;.  Fast pitch field: Radius from Plate – 225'; Between foul Lines.  Slow Pitch – 275' (men); 250' (women)"	Same as baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Soccer		1.7 – 2.1 Acre	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	North-South	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.

Activity/ Facility	Sub Group	Recom- mended Space Requirements	Recommended Size And Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units Per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
Golf-driv- ing Range		13.5 A for minimum of 25 tees	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each addition- al tee.	Long axis south- west-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time.	Part of a golf course com- plex. As separate unit may be privately owned.
¼ Mile Running Track		4.3 Acre	Overall width – 276' Length – 600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to north-west- south-east with finish line at norther- ly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)		9, 840 sq. ft.	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with primary use is north-south	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles.	
Trails		N/A	Well defined head max- imum 12' width, maxi- mum average grade is 5 percent not to exceed 15 percent. Capacity rural trails – 40 hikers/ day/mile. Urban trails – 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
Golf	1. Mini Golf	Outdoor 18- Hole: ¼ - ½ Acre Indoor 9-Hole: 2,500 – 4,000 sq. ft.					18-Hole course is better for revenue; 9-Hole course is better for indoor and supple- mented with other activities.
Golf	2. 9-hole stan- dard	Minimum 50 Acre	Average length –2250 yards		1/25,000		9 hole course can accommo- date 350 people/day.
Golf	3. 18- hole stan- dard	Minimum 110 Acre	Average length 6500 yards		1/50,000		18 hole course can accom- modate 500-550 people/day. Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
Swimming Pools	Teach- ing	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 Acre site.	minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 ft.	None-although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to ac- commodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
Swimming Pools	Com- petitive		minimum of 25 m x 16 m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.		(Pools should accommodate 3 to 5 percent of total popula- tion at a time.)		
Beach Areas		N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 Acre sup- porting land per Acre of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5 percent (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.

## OTHER FACILITIES

The Galesburg Parks and Recreation Department also operates and maintains several facilities that serve special, unique functions in the community. An analysis of existing facilities as well as those most desired by Galesburg residents are included in this section.

### Community Center / Recreation Center

Similar to the mini golf course, the need for a community center/recreation center was reiterated at every community outreach event. The community noted that Galesburg is lacking an indoor facility for public use that includes adult activity space, youth arts and music space, and recreation spaces. Community has used “community center” and “recreation center” interchangeably, therefore it is important to understand the difference between the two and which facility best serves resident needs.

As per Meriam-Webster dictionary, community center is defined as “a building or group of buildings where there are classes and activities for the people who live in a community.” The community centers can be religious in nature, such as Christian, Islamic, or Jewish community centers, or can be secular, such as youth clubs. A community center could include recreation space but the main purpose is to provide community gathering space for conducting meetings, events, celebrations, etc. Some of the spaces inside the community center include but are not limited to meeting rooms, preschool rooms, auditorium, flexible space, kitchen, computer rooms, fitness rooms, gyms, and classrooms.

As per Cambridge dictionary, recreation center is defined as “a building that is open to the public where meetings are held, sports are played, and there are activities available for young and old people.” Recreation Center offers opportunities to exercise and lead a healthy life in a safe, fun, and constructive environment for all age groups. Recreation center spaces include gymnasium, indoor running track, natatorium, classroom spaces, child care, classrooms, exercise room, shower, lockers, and multipurpose rooms for music, arts, and fitness.

Based on outreach and analysis, community would benefit from having a recreation center and not a community center. Many places around the community were suggested as potential locations, particularly the old armory on Broad Street, Central Congregational Church, Carl Sandburg Mall, and various places on Main Street and Grand Street.

### Recommendations

- ◆ Review available properties, both public and private, that would be most appropriate for a recreation center that would include both recreational and meeting spaces.
- ◆ Ensure the facility is equitably accessible for all Galesburg residents by biking, walking, and public transit.
- ◆ Partner with a private or nonprofit organization for the construction of the recreation center.



## Mini Golf

Throughout the community outreach process, mini golf was noted as a high-priority desire for Galesburg residents. The City had a course in the past, but it has been closed for several years. According to Cost of Wisconsin Inc., a theme construction company with over 60 years of industry experience, an 18-hole course is better for revenue production than a nine-hole course. Such a course would require about a half-acre site area and would cost around \$200,000 for materials and installation. A nine-hole course is more appropriate for indoor play and can be supplemented with other activities such as bowling, laser tag, an arcade, etc. This type of course requires 2,500-4,000 square feet and would cost around \$40,000.

### Recommendations

- ◆ Determine which type of golf course is most appropriate for the City of Galesburg: indoor or outdoor and nine-hole or 18-hole.
- ◆ Review available properties, both public and private, that would be appropriate for a mini golf course.
- ◆ Analyze construction, operation, and maintenance costs to determine if the City could develop a mini-golf course or if private investment will be necessary.



## Lakeside Recreation Facility

The City purchased the Lakeside Recreation Facility in 1990 and turned it into a public facility. The facility has the only public Water Park in Galesburg and also provides multipurpose indoor recreational space. The facility hosts basketball, tennis, volleyball, and also includes batting cages for baseball and softball. All cages, courts, and facilities can be rented for a fee. Current plans are in the process of updating the ceiling, roof, and walls of the building.

### Recommendations

- ◆ Update and expand the Water Park to accommodate more people as well as to appeal to teens and adults.
- ◆ Maintain the existing recreational services and facilities to the highest usable standard.

## Hawthorne Center Recreation Complex

Hawthorne Center Recreation Complex is attached to the larger Hawthorne Municipal Pool building. The building is approximately over 70 years old and was transferred from the federal military to the City. Since the transferal it has supported recreation in Galesburg for several decades. The building is now severely deteriorated, causing it to become unusable. In 2016, a study was conducted by Klinger and Associates to evaluate the existing conditions and the remaining useful life of the exterior masonry walls. The study revealed significant deficiencies from cosmetics to structural issues, and estimated the cost at approximately \$1 million. The study also noted the potential existence of other, non-visible deficiencies. For example, the humidity from the pool is causing the structural steel to rust, weakening the structure. During outreach, residents expressed a desire to have a consolidated recreation center for public space, aquatics, and recreational amenities. The location and configuration of Hawthorne Center limits the possibility of expansion and accommodation of additional amenities. Additionally, the existing pool and layout configuration does not support programming needs for residents.

### Recommendations

- ♦ Build a new comprehensive recreation center to house amenities that best reflect the needs of Galesburg residents.
- ♦ In the interim, make the minimum safety improvements to Hawthorne Center. Once the new facility is online, close, demolish, or repurpose Hawthorne Center to other uses such as warehouse or storage.
- ♦ Conduct a study of the gymnasium building to assess any potential structural and functional deficiencies.

## Bunker Links Golf Course

The City's municipal golf course is operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. It is an 18-hole course at the north edge of Galesburg, across Route 150 from Lake Storey. The course, while considered an asset by some community members, is costing the City between \$100,000 to \$150,000 annually that it is not making up in revenue. Several aspects of the course, such as the Proshop, need significant upgrades. In this instance it has become a burden for the Department instead of an asset.

### Recommendations

- ♦ Conduct a financial suitability analysis to determine if there are economic opportunities to revitalize the golf course such as changing the fee structure to play and/or optimize the overhead operating cost.
- ♦ Sell part or all of the course to lower operating and maintenance costs and earn additional revenue. The additional revenue could be used to service parks and recreational amenities in the underserved areas of Galesburg.



## Museums

Galesburg has two prominent museums: Discovery Depot and the Galesburg Railroad Museum. The former was established in 1999 for children to participate in education and learning in an exciting and engaging way. It offers a variety of programs and exhibits for Galesburg area youth to have hands on experiences in engineering, fine arts, math, literacy, science, and technology. The Depot provides different weekly programs and hosts special monthly events open to the public. It also has rooms that are rentable for public and private events.

### Recommendations

- ◆ Engage stakeholders to expand the Discovery Depot to offer additional and more frequent programs and exhibits.
- ◆ Continue to work with the National Railroad Hall of Fame to complete the Railroad Hall of Fame Museum.



## Connie Nott Canine Area

The Galesburg Parks and Recreation Department took over operations of the Connie Nott Canine Area in January 2018 from the nonprofit, Project Dog Park, that created it in 2014. The Area, located inside Inbinder Park in north Galesburg provides an off-leash space for dogs to run and play. The dog park includes a water feature for the animals and benches for their owners. The park and all of its amenities were developed using donations from the public as well as matching funds from private corporations like Purina.

### Recommendations

- ◆ Continue to maintain the grounds and features at the Connie Nott Canine Area to a safe usable standard for both dogs and people.
- ◆ Partner with Rosewood Care Center to provide additional parking spaces for park users.
- ◆ Ensure safe pedestrian access for users crossing Carl Sandburg Drive to use the facility through crosswalks, stop signs, etc.
- ◆ Determine the necessity and feasibility of adding new dog parks in other areas of Galesburg.
- ◆ Construct an anaerobic digester as a pilot project at Connie Nott Canine Area to convert dog waste to electricity to provide lighting in the park.



## Allison Campground

Allison Campground is a seasonal facility located on the south-central side of Lake Storey. It allows residents and visitors to stay overnight at the Lake. Various fees apply depending on the type of camping amenities the user desires. There are 149 total sites: 21 with full hookup, 88 with only electricity, and the remainder with no hookup accessibility. The campground provides easy, adjacent access to the Lake and all of its subsequent amenities, including boating, swimming, picnicking, and the beach.

### Recommendations

- ◆ Maintain the sites at a safe, usable standard for all future campers.
- ◆ Update the campgrounds to include more sites with full hookup capabilities as funding becomes available.
- ◆ Improve the campground sites to include cabins and multipurpose indoor spaces.
- ◆ Replace/renovate shower house.



## YMCA

The YMCA operates two facilities in Galesburg, one located in the Northwest and the other in Downtown. Collectively they offer 70,000 square feet of recreation space. The Knox County YMCA, the larger of the two, operates five soccer fields of varying sizes. The organization as a whole also maintains a senior center, youth development program, wellness center, and childcare facility in the City.

### Recommendations

- ◆ Work with the YMCA to compliment facilities and expand programming throughout the City.

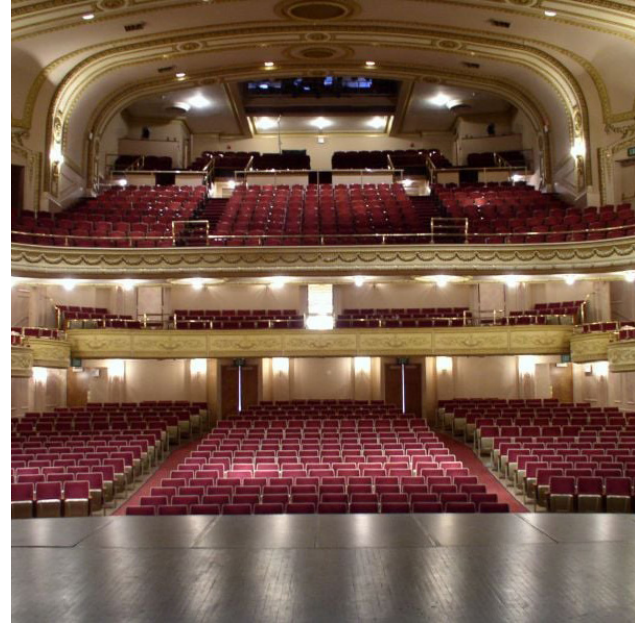


## Civic Art Center

The Galesburg Civic Art Center promotes the visual arts in Galesburg, through exhibitions, a gift gallery, Art in the Park, Black Earth Film Festival, Studios Midwest Residency Program as well as other special events held throughout the year. These events are held in Park Plaza and Standish Park.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Work collaboratively with local art, education, and economic development groups to add outdoor art exhibits in key city parks and support the Art in the Park event.
- ◆ If feasible, provide WiFi in Park Plaza and Standish Park to help support the various events hosted by the Civic Art Center.
- ◆ Improve lighting in Park Plaza and Standish Park to allow the various events hosted by the Civic Art Center to be held in the evening.
- ◆ Utilize public art as an incentive to drive community members into the City's parks.



## Orpheum Theater

The Orpheum Theater is located on Kellogg Street in Downtown Galesburg. It operates three theater series: Red Carpet, TBT Movies, and Youth Entertainment. The Red Carpet series focuses on live performances and music and the Youth Entertainment series provides free theater education classes for Galesburg youth. The Orpheum participates in several of the City's public events including Taste of Galesburg and Café at the Park.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Build an outdoor amphitheater or stage in one of the parks to allow for outdoor performances, such as in the vacant lot across from Park Plaza.



## Prairie Players Theater

The Prairie Players Theater is a block away from The Orpheum on Seminary Street. The organization operates summer camps for children and adults. Outside of the summer season, most of the offerings are geared towards adults.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Build an outdoor amphitheater or stage in one of the parks to allow for outdoor performances, such as in the vacant lot across from Park Plaza.

## Performing Arts Academy

The Performing Arts Academy is in Downtown Galesburg on East Main Street. Similar to the Prairie Players Theater, the Academy offers performing arts education opportunities primarily targeted to Galesburg youths.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Partner with the Performing Arts Academy to further promote arts education programs in Galesburg.



# TRAILS MASTER PLAN

# 6

The Trails Master Plan defines goals and recommendations for the Parks and Recreation Department's role and opportunities in the development of a complete trail network throughout the City of Galesburg. The goals and recommendations focus on getting residents active as well as providing better access to parks and facilities through non-motorized transportation alternatives.

## TRAILS GOALS

The following goals provide high-level direction for the Trails Master Plan. They are based upon a comprehensive analysis of the existing trails system through extensive public engagement, field reconnaissance, research, and benchmarking. Specific recommendations to accomplish these goals are outlined in addition.

- ♦ **Goal 1:** Provide an interconnected system of high-quality, accessible multiuse trails, paths, and greenway corridors.
- ♦ **Goal 2:** Provide active recreation choices to promote healthy outdoor experience.
- ♦ **Goal 3:** Provide opportunities for outdoor and local history education by connecting the City's historic and architecturally significant landmarks through trails and walkways.

## EXISTING TRAILS

Galesburg currently has four trails, all of which are solely located within community or neighborhood parks. In addition, the sidewalks are lacking throughout the City. This makes non-motorized access to the City's parks minimal and difficult. The City is presently pursuing a trails project to expand the system around Lake Storey. The new section of trail will essentially connect the Villas at Carl Sandburg to Carl Sandburg College along South Lake Storey Road.

Lake Storey is the "crown jewel" of the Galesburg parks and recreation system with the most comprehensive amenities; however, it has few trails that connect them. This limits the City's ability to service all its residents with key recreational amenities without them having to be dependent on motorized transportation to access them.

## Proposed Trails System

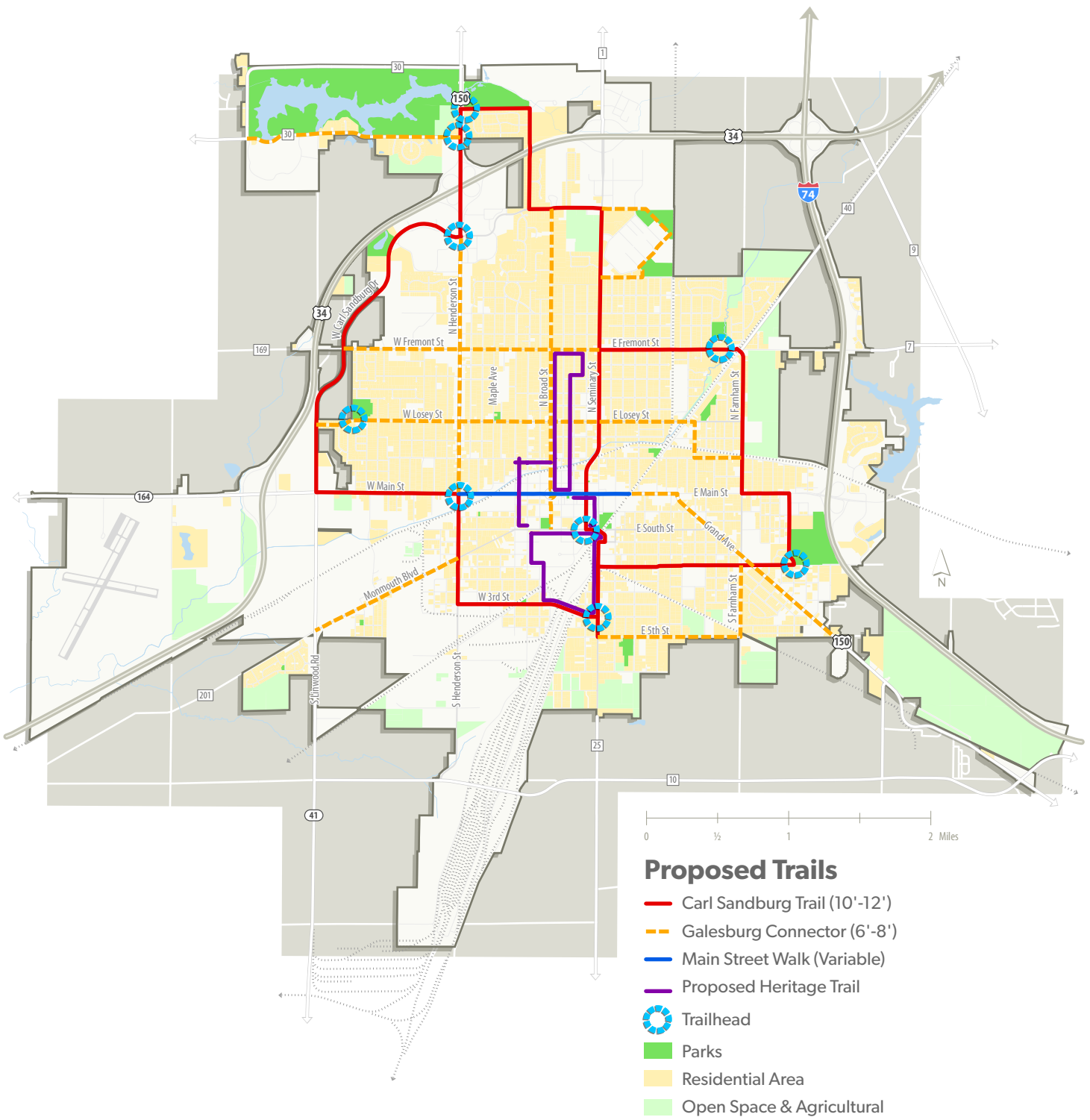
The master plan and Heart and Soul community outreach efforts identified the need to complete the trail system around Lake Storey. In addition, outreach also identified the strong need for a comprehensive trail network to provide non-motorized access throughout the City. A proposed trail network system has been developed to achieve this goal, including four trail types:

- ♦ Primary Trail
- ♦ Secondary Trail
- ♦ Tertiary Trail
- ♦ Main Street Walk

To bring historical and cultural identity to the trails system, the primary trails are to be named the "Carl Sandburg Trail," which should be 10 to 12 feet wide with numerous amenities like bikeways, benches and water fountains. The purpose of the Carl Sandburg Trail is to provide a citywide trail network connecting every quadrant and major park in the City.

## SIDE PATHS

Where the existing street right-of-way limits the ability of the minimum 10-foot-wide trail, a shared pavement for bikeways could be used with existing roadways. However, the pavement for pedestrians should always be separated from vehicular traffic. This shared pavement must be properly identified and marked and should meet local, state, and federal transportation safety standards.



The secondary trails are to be named Galesburg Connector trails. They should be six to eight feet wide and connect additional areas of the City to the Carl Sandburg Trail. Together, these trails should provide a comprehensive non-motorized trail system for the City.

The tertiary trails system should be consist of existing and future trails within existing parks and sidewalks in the City. These trails should support primary and secondary trails network, wherever possible. The width of the trails within existing parks vary from six to 10 feet depending on the intended use. Sidewalks should typically be six feet wide.

The fourth trail type is special-use trails. In Galesburg, two special use trails are proposed.

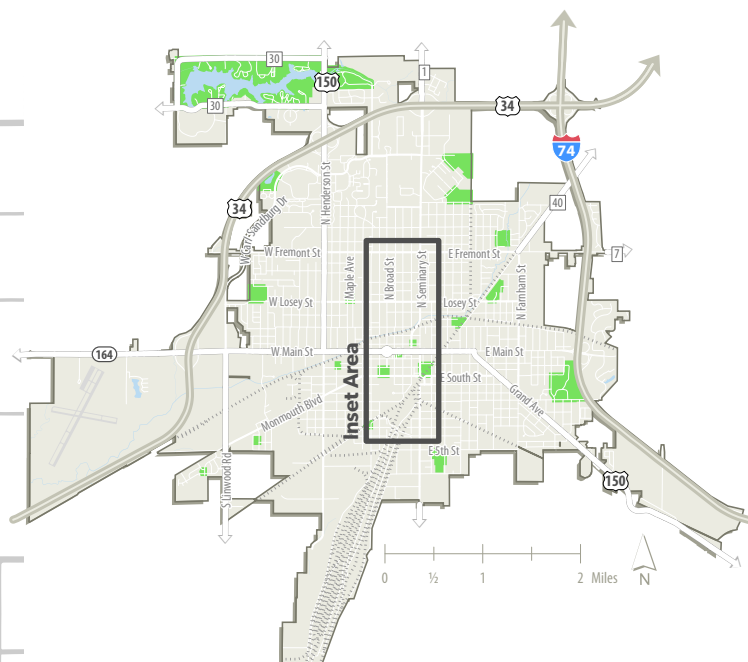
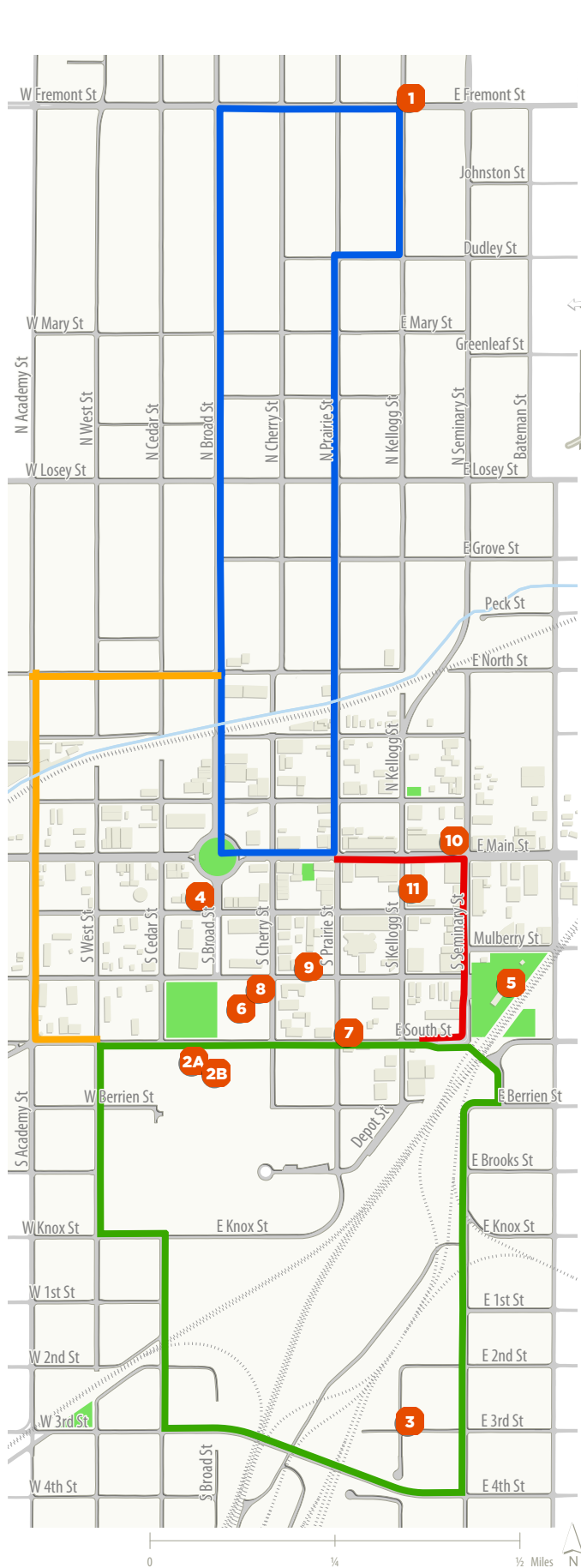
- ♦ Main Street Walk
- ♦ Heritage Trail

Main Street Walk is proposed to run the length of Main Street in Downtown Galesburg. Main Street Walk will be created from an aesthetics and urban design perspective. It will be landscaped and will have appropriate signage and site furnishings. Main Street Walk will play a crucial role in the economic development of Downtown Galesburg by providing aesthetically pleasing and safe pedestrian access to Downtown businesses and amenities. The design detail of Main Street Walk will require a separate urban design study.

Heritage Trails are proposed to connect Galesburg's historic and culturally significant landmarks. Four conceptual heritage trail loops are proposed as part of the Master Plan. A more detailed Heritage Trail network should be developed as part of a separate planning effort which will require a focused community outreach effort.

## *Recommendations*

- ♦ Continue to develop the trail project that is underway on South Lake Storey Road to expand the trail network.
- ♦ Identify funding sources to help with the proposed expansion of the Lake Storey trail to improve the park itself and ensure the additional trail is developed to complete the trail loop around the lake.
- ♦ Connect parks, and other public spaces with the proposed trail network to provide better and safer access to these parks, particularly for individuals without easy access to a car.
- ♦ Conduct a more comprehensive study to plan and design for each section of the proposed trail network to allow for adjustments in the trail width based on available right-of-way.
- ♦ Establish design standards to coincide with standards adopted by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Organization (AASHTO).
- ♦ Ensure all trails comply with all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design criteria.
- ♦ Utilize private and/or nonprofit organizations to establish a bike path connecting the north and south sides of Galesburg.



## Proposed Galesburg Heritage Trail

- Historic District/Reagan
- Downtown Loop
- Knox College/Sandburg Loop
- Public Square/Cemetery Loop
- 1 Ronald Reagan Trail
- 2A Alumni Hall - Knox College
- 2B Old Main - Knox College
- 3 Carl Sandburg State Historic Site
- 4 Central Congregational Church
- 5 Galesburg Railroad Museum
- 6 Knox County Courthouse
- 7 Corpus Christi Catholic Church
- 8 Mother Bickerdyke Statue
- 9 Allen Chapel AME Church
- 10 Galesburg Historical Society
- 11 Orpheum Theater

## TRAIL CONSIDERATIONS

The development of trails is critical to safe and simple non-motorized transportation throughout the City of Galesburg. Mindful trail design encourages residents to use them and markets them to the greater region. Since Galesburg only has four established trails, and they all solely exist in parks, this is an excellent opportunity to analyze trail options and ensure future investment in the City's trail system.

### Road Crossings

Although intersections between trails and roadways should be minimized, road crossings are often necessary, especially in developed communities such as Galesburg. In general, crossings should be clearly marked to indicate right-of-way and ensure safety for all users.

#### *Recommendations*

- ♦ Insert crossings within existing traffic-controlled intersections wherever possible to ensure drivers are forced to stop for pedestrians.
- ♦ Implement pedestrian-activated signals and refuge medians on high-traffic streets to enhance safety.
- ♦ Consider visibility and stopping distances when placing crossings to help driver and pedestrian interactions.

## Railroad Crossings

The safety of pedestrians crossing railroads is the most difficult to control because of the relative ease with which pedestrians can go under or around lowered gates. Pedestrians typically seek the shortest path and, therefore, may not always cross the tracks at designated pedestrian crossings. Due to the variety of factors that may contribute to pedestrian hazards, detailed studies are necessary to determine the most effective measures to provide for pedestrian safety at specific locations. Railroad crossing safety should be considered at all crossings, particularly at or near commuter stations, parks and open spaces, and residential areas.

#### *Recommendations*

- ♦ Where necessary, use six-to-eight-foot-high chain-link fence to avoid crossing railroads at undesignated locations.
- ♦ Install grade-separated crossings throughout Galesburg where possible. If grade-separated crossings are not possible, implement active and passive safety devices to supplement at-grade rail crossings.
- ♦ Remove or cut back vegetation periodically to provide appropriate sight distances. Keep sight distances free of parked vehicles and standing railroad cars. Also avoid the accumulation of snow in these areas.
- ♦ Utilize a 90-degree intersection as the optimal geometry crossing between railroad tracks and trails.
- ♦ Implement a surveillance and enforcement policy to prevent railroad trespassing.
- ♦ Educate residents on the risks of railroad crossing. Implement a railroad safety program through local schools and community organizations.

## Trailheads

Trailheads are points that support ease of access to trail amenities, and can be located where a trail begins or along a route to create a starting point for users. These facilities maximize access and awareness of trail systems and can offer amenities to improve the user experience, such as gateway and wayfinding signage, seating, rest areas, restrooms, and water fountains.

Trailheads are best positioned in areas where access is most practical, such as near existing parks, residential areas, and commercial centers. Though not necessary, basic parking amenities are recommended to allow a higher degree of access and incorporation within the transportation system.

As trails and pedestrian amenities are developed within Galesburg, trailheads should be incorporated as appropriate to ensure improved access, with a focus on connections to residential neighborhoods. The Master Plan identifies potential locations of trailheads within the Galesburg trails system.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Add proposed trailheads to the proposed Carl Sandburg Trail to improve the City's network.
- ◆ Incorporate additional amenities at trailheads along the most utilized trails as utilization becomes identifiable and measurable.

## Wayfinding Signage

Wayfinding signage is critical to both create awareness of nearby trails and amenities as well as to provide direction for those traveling along the trail itself. Further, signage can help educate users about the trail, provide direction on usage and trail safety, and create a distinct brand or character for the trail.

Wayfinding signs should be located to direct individuals to trailheads and mark the trail when intersecting with roadways, sidewalks, or other elements of the transportation system. In addition, wayfinding signage should be located periodically along individual trails to reassure users of their location, provide safety warnings where necessary, and indicate distances and routes to various destinations. Signage at trailheads should act as a gateway to the trail itself, creating a brand for the trail and providing additional interpretive information as necessary.

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ Place wayfinding signage in areas that are highly trafficked throughout the City, such as in parks and public spaces, to direct people to trails.
- ◆ Provide highly distinctive wayfinding signage to Carl Sandburg House and other key historic and culturally significant landmarks.
- ◆ Locate wayfinding signage along trails at key points of interest to alert users to interesting facts, safety concerns, and branching directions.





The Parks and Recreation Master Plan sets forth an agreed-upon “road map” for future recreation facility development and open space acquisition for the City of Galesburg. The recommendations contained within the Master Plan address parks, facilities, and trails for both existing and future residents. The Master Plan should serve as a resourceful inventory of all parks and facilities and become Galesburg’s official guide for parks and trails improvements. It is essential that the Plan be adopted by the City, used by Parks and Recreation staff, and the recommendations be incorporated into the City’s annual budgets.

The strongest tool for implementing the Master Plan is a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). It establishes schedules and priorities for all park improvements and land acquisition within a five to 10-year period. The list of all capital improvements that will be required in the next five to 10 years, priorities, cost estimates, and potential funding sources are identified in this section. The financial considerations necessary to implement and develop the facilities and parkland recommended in the Plan vary greatly. While many of the projects and improvements called for in the Master Plan can be implemented through the City's annual budgeting process, several recommendations will require additional funding sources, such as bonds, grants, or special technical/financial assistance. The City should periodically consider funding large capital projects or land acquisition through referendum. In general, the City should continue to explore and consider the wide range of local, state, and federal resources and programs that may be available to assist in the implementation of the Master Plan's recommendations.

The CIP typically schedules the implementation of a range of specific projects related to parks and recreation. Soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, land acquisition, picnic shelters, shade shelters, playgrounds, and other facilities would all be included in the Capital Improvement Plan.

## **PRIORITIES**

Priorities are added to the recommendations identified in previous chapters. The ability of the City to achieve these priorities depends on the availability of funding and staffing resources. While some initiatives may require a significant investment of either time or funding for a one-time improvement, others may involve time and funding periodically. It is also possible that some of the lower-priority projects on the CIP list may be completed sooner than higher priorities due to funding or partnership opportunities.

Implementation phasing should be flexible to adapt to needs, funding availability, and partnership opportunities. Depending on funding availability, the City may need to explore the phasing of larger capital improvements, such as a community/recreation center or city-wide trail network.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Several projects within the CIP will require on-going investment by the City to ensure infrastructure is properly maintained. There are a number of necessary projects that are not included in the current CIP. Parks require not only maintenance such as mowing, but also regular implementation of capital projects to ensure they are safe and usable. Capital projects also address regulatory issues such as access for persons with disabilities. Several items in this chapter have a cost that will extend beyond the completion of the project. Calculating total cost for each of these projects is difficult due to factors such as inflation and the cost of labor and materials that will fluctuate over the life of the project.

## POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

The recommendations are actions that will improve the City's parks and recreation system for current and future users. Some are easily implementable and require minimal effort and funds to achieve. However, many require significant funding from multiple sources to begin, let alone complete. This section highlights a list of those potential sources available to the Galesburg Parks and Recreation Department.

### Illinois Department of Natural Resources

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administers several grants-in-aid programs to help municipalities and other local agencies provide a number of public outdoor recreational areas and facilities. The programs operate on a cost reimbursement basis to a government or non-for-profit organization. Local governments can receive one grant per program per year, with no restrictions on the number of local governments that can be funded for a given location. IDNR grants are organized into three major categories: Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD); Boat Access Area Development (BAAD); and the Illinois Trails Grants Program.

### Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD)

The OSLAD program awards up to 50 percent of project costs up to a maximum of \$750,000 for acquisition and \$400,000 for development/renovation of recreational facilities such as playgrounds, outdoor nature interpretive areas, campgrounds and fishing piers, park roads and paths, and beaches. IDNR administers five grant programs to provide financial assistance for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of trails that are used for public recreation uses.

### Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The federal Land & Water Conservation Fund program (LWCF) is a program with similar objectives to the OSLAD program and is also managed by IDNR. LWCF grants are available to municipalities, counties, and school districts to be used for outdoor recreation projects. Projects require a 50 percent match. All funded projects are taken under perpetuity by the National Park Service and must only be used for outdoor recreational purposes.

### Park & Recreational Facility Construction Grant Program (PARC)

Local governments can be awarded up to \$2.5 million per project for acquisition, development, construction, rehabilitation, architectural planning, and installation of capital parks, recreation, and open space facilities.

## **Outdoor Recreation Grant Program**

The Outdoor Recreation Grant Program increases and enhances facilities in local and community parks throughout the state using Land and Water Conservation Funds and a portion of the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Projects must have a total cost of at least \$10,000 and go towards supporting a primary recreation facility. Grants are reimbursed up to 50 percent of the total eligible costs, where a maximum award is \$100,000. Cities, counties, townships and tribes are eligible to apply.

## **Boat Access Area Development Program**

Local governments can apply July 1-September 1 to acquire, construct, expand, or rehabilitate public boat and canoe access areas on Illinois lakes and rivers. The program covers up to 100 percent of approved construction costs and 90 percent of land acquisition costs up to \$200,000 per year per project.

## **Public Museum Capital Grant Program**

Public museums can apply for up to \$750,000 to develop new and updated exhibits, expand facilities, renovate buildings, and improve infrastructure. The matching funds requirement is determined by the museum's attendance rates.

## **Recreational Trails Program**

The federal "Recreational Trails Program" (RTP), was created through the National Recreational Trail Fund Act (NRTFA) as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and reauthorized by the MAP-21. This program provides funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails. By law, 30 percent of each States' RTP funding must be earmarked for motorized trail projects, 30 percent for non-motorized trail projects, and the remaining 40 percent for multiuse (diversified) motorized and non-motorized trails, or a combination of either. The RTP program can provide up to 80 percent federal funding on approved projects and requires a minimum 20 percent non-federal funding match.

## **Illinois Bicycle Path Program**

The Illinois Bicycle Path Program is a grants program administered by IDNR that provides funding assistance up to 50 percent to acquire and develop land for public bicycle path purposes. Funded by a percentage of vehicle title fees, maximum grant awards are limited to \$200,000.

## Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)

The SRTS program provides funding for the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure related projects that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bike to school, including:

- ◆ Sidewalk improvements
- ◆ Traffic calming and speed reduction improvements
- ◆ Pedestrian and bicycle-crossing improvements
- ◆ On-street bicycle facilities
- ◆ Off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- ◆ Secure bicycle parking systems
- ◆ Traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools

## Surface Transportation Block Grant Program

This federally administered program provides flexible highway funding to states to improve state and local transportation systems currently or previously on a federal-aid highway system. Grants can be used to fund new recreational trail projects, and pedestrian and bicycle programs, including modifications for compliance with ADA accessibility requirements.

## Public Private Partnership

Public-Private Partnerships are already a key component of the Parks and Recreation System. The Parks and Recreation Department partners with local nonprofits and other community organizations to hold non-profit events in the park; maintain existing parks; or work to develop new parks as is necessary. The non-government entity can provide funding to the Department, to upkeep and improve specifically designated parks. The Department should strive to maintain existing and establish new partnerships to help improve the City's parks and programs. As public-private partnerships are developed, the following should be considered:

- ◆ Ensure both entities share the same vision and definition of success at the beginning of the project.
- ◆ Provide a consistent, fair, and open review process for the development of partnerships.
- ◆ Assess and align the strengths of each entity (for example, a private vendor may be more efficient and effective in providing concessions or renting equipment).
- ◆ Make sure partnerships are not concentrated to only the highest quality sites, but instead serve a broad spectrum of the community.
- ◆ Identify potential use of volunteers and assess any potential liability from their involvement.
- ◆ Promote cultural sensitivity and sustainability in partners.
- ◆ Recognize public staff time will be needed to manage the partnerships.

## Establish Park District

Currently there are more than 360 park districts in the State of Illinois. Establishing a park district would create a taxing body that would generate additional funding to maintain and improve the parks and recreation system in Galesburg. From the Needs Assessment Survey, 29 percent of people said they would be willing to pay a tax increase to help fund parks and recreation. The Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) provides a guide to organizations for establishing a district in their community that includes templates for required petitions and other forms necessary throughout the process.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The City has a great opportunity to reinvent its parks and recreation system through calculated improvements and upgrades, while focusing on alternative and innovative methods of principal improvements within other lower priority spaces to address maintenance concerns. A current Park Master Plan is a requirement for eligibility of numerous grant programs, therefore the City is urged to keep this plan updated. Given the City's current budget environment, continued grant acquisition will be needed to make any significant improvements. Recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan should be reviewed annually to ensure that the distribution of park funding is equitable, serving populations in need, and strategic investments in new parks and future recreation facilities.

AMENITY COST TABLE	
Neighborhood Park Amenities	Cost*
20-25 shade trees;	\$400/Tree
2- benches with concrete pad,	\$2000/Bench
2- bike racks with concrete pad,	\$2000/Bike Rack
2- waste receptacles	\$1000/Receptacle
1 playground	\$150,000 - \$250,000
1 open multi-use field (1Acre) - Sod	\$2500 / Field
Park Shelter	\$100,000 - \$300,000
Trails: 6' Concrete	\$70/LF
1 open multi-use field (1Acre) - Sod	\$2500 / Field

AMENITY COST TABLE	
Mini Park Amenities	Cost*
10-15 shade trees;	\$400/Tree
2- benches with concrete pad,	\$2000/Bench
2- bike racks with concrete pad,	\$2000/Bike Rack
1- waste receptacles	\$1000/Receptacle
1 playground	\$150,000 - \$250,000
Walkway to Playground	\$70/LF

Cost\*: The cost represents the planning level cost for budgeting and project feasibility. The actual cost may vary significantly based on the quality and type of materials, and other factors.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Project	Priority: 1: High; 2: Medium; 3: Low	Capital Cost
Develop new neighborhood parks at northwest portions of the City.	1	\$250,000 - \$400,000
Develop new neighborhood parks at southeast portions of the City.	1	\$250,000 - \$400,000
Develop new neighborhood parks at southwest portions of the City.	1	\$250,000 - \$400,000
Implement Park Plaza Master Plan along Main Street to establish an updated place for recreation Downtown.	1	\$250,000 - \$400,000
Update and/or fix amenities in parks including the playground equipment at Dale Kelley Park and the benches at Lancaster Park.	1	\$150,000 - \$250,000
Replace outdated park equipment and materials with high-efficiency models and high-quality, low-maintenance materials.	1	\$150,000 - \$250,000
Acquire new parkland or on existing parkland build a comprehensive recreation center to include running track, 2 indoor multipurpose courts, gym, meeting room, concession, activity rooms, indoor aquatics, and 25-meter lap pool. Building is assumed to be approximately 150,000 square feet.	1	\$30 Mil
Upgrade existing basketball courts with new hoop, back board, and pole. Improve surface as required.	1	\$15,000
Develop additional full and half basketball courts.	1	\$35,000
Renovate the outdoor courts at Bateman Park with updated surface and new nets.	1	\$125,000 - \$200,000
Add water fountains at all neighborhood and community parks.	1	\$5,000.00
Develop a comprehensive master plan for Lake Storey Park to include innovative playground, aquatic park, trail connectivity around the lake, water access, marina for non-motorized watercrafts, ecological preservation, and improvements to existing facilities.	2	Planning & Feasibility: \$150,000 - \$250,000; Design & Construction: \$10 Mil - \$20 Mil
Develop citywide trails and paths network.	1	Varies
Add new and renovate existing shelters in community parks.	2	\$50,000 - \$100,000/ Shelter
Build additional baseball/softball fields in the southwest area of the City.	2	\$50,000 / Field
Add parking to existing baseball/softball facilities.	2	\$3000 / Stall
Construct direct paths from the public right-of-way to all playgrounds.	2	Varies (\$80/LF)
Create mobile playground to travel to local parks and engage children in physical and board games, particularly during the summer months.	2	Varies
Update and expand the existing Water Park.	2	Varies
Add trailheads in City's parks to connect to the proposed citywide trail network.	2	Varies
Build new mini golf facility on existing parkland.	2-3	\$50,000 - \$600,000
Build an outdoor amphitheater or stage on existing parkland.	2-3	\$50,000 - \$100,000
Plan and build walkways and trails inside existing neighborhood and community parks.	2-3	\$80/LF
Plan for a new Ferris Wheel Park as a Community Park. Acquire appropriate site or on existing City property.	3	\$1Mil - \$2Mil
Construct an anaerobic digester as a pilot project at Connie Nott Canine Area to convert dog waste to electricity to provide lighting in the park.	3	\$30,000
Improve campground sites to include cabins and multipurpose indoor spaces.	3	Varies

## ACTION MATRIX

The action matrix is a quick and easy table to see every recommendation throughout the Galesburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It divides the recommendations by section and is intended to be used as checklist moving forward. Each recommendation is accompanied by a priority ranging from one to three with one being the of highest priority and three being the least.

GALESBURG PARKS & RECREATION ACTION MATRIX		
#	Description of Priority Action	Priority
Parks and Open Space Plan		
1	Develop new neighborhood parks in areas underserved by parkland, particularly the north-central and southeast portions of the City.	1
2	Implement the Park Plaza Master Plan along Main Street to establish an updated place for recreation Downtown.	1
3	Update and/or fix amenities in mini parks including the playground equipment at Dale Kelley Park and the benches at Lancaster Park.	1
4	Enhance maintenance and upkeep in all mini parks to ensure safe use year-round.	1
5	Develop a comprehensive master plan for Lake Storey Park to include an improved aquatic park, trail connectivity, water access, ecological preservation, and improvements to existing facilities.	1
6	Improve the perception of safety and security of community parks through new lighting fixtures, designated walking areas, and more, especially at Kiwanis Park.	1
7	As the largest park in Galesburg, Lake Storey is the most-visited park by both residents and visitors, which creates additional issues that require more attention and maintenance such as cleaning the beach and improving the water quality of the lake.	1
8	Form a unified Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the Master Plan and existing parks and recreation operations.	1
9	Explore potential parkland on abandoned railroad spurs or other railroad facilities.	1
10	Annually prepare a five-year Capital Improvement Plan.	1
11	Even though all Galesburg residents are currently within a 10-minute drive of a community park, the southwest portion of the City is still fairly devoid of parkland and new community park should be added in this area.	1-2
12	Pursue the expansion of Lake Storey to accommodate more regional, water-based recreation.	1-2
13	Ensure all community parks are accessible via public transit so all community members can enjoy their amenities.	1-2
14	Work collaboratively with community volunteer groups to clean up a minimum of one park per year.	1 - 2
15	Work with community volunteers to develop and implement a summer park program with basic games and activities for children and teens.	1 - 2
16	Decentralize recreational amenities to provide equitable access of recreation programming to the entire Galesburg resident population.	1 - 2
17	Work collaboratively with community volunteer groups to clean up a minimum of one park per year.	2
18	Review use of onsite parking at all neighborhood parks to determine the potential of parking expansion or shrinkage and the need for new parking lots.	2
19	Enhance maintenance and upkeep in all neighborhood parks to ensure safe use year-round.	2
20	Add new and renovate existing shelters in community parks.	2
21	Maintain and regularly update community parks to ensure year-round, equitable access by all residents.	2
22	Enhance maintenance and upkeep in all special use parks to ensure safe use year-round.	2
23	Expand programming and amenities in special use parks to incentivize residents to visit them.	2
24	Develop tiered, maintenance-level standards for routine maintenance to guide the most intensive to the least intensive.	2

## GALESBURG PARKS & RECREATION ACTION MATRIX

#	Description of Priority Action	Priority
25	Annually inspect all facilities and amenities. Develop an asset management system that tracks asset condition, critical systems maintenance, and repair and rehabilitation requirements to inform investment decisions.	2
26	Replace outdated park equipment and materials with high-efficiency models and high-quality, low-maintenance materials.	2
27	Organize events, such as Trails Day, to involve volunteers in the cleanup of trails in community parks. Spring is usually the best time to engage the community in this type of activity.	2
28	Centralize maintenance facilities to optimize maintenance equipment and resources.	2 - 3
29	Expand partnerships with local neighborhood groups to support improvements and activities in their neighborhood parks.	2 - 3
30	Utilize drones for parks maintenance and operations on a hard-to-reach areas and promote drone related recreational amenities on existing parkland.	3
31	Explore options to maximize the use of volunteers to support park operations and programming.	3
32	Collaborate with local groups that can oversee volunteers for specific activities.	3
33	Expand programming in neighborhood parks such as sports competitions between different neighborhoods in Galesburg.	3
34	Plan for a new Ferris Wheel Park as recommended by the Galesburg Heart & Soul action plan. Organize task force to help drawing plans and pursue fundraising for the development of the park.	3
35	The four community parks serve significant populations outside of Galesburg. Charge a user fee for certain amenities to nonresidents to help offset maintenance costs within the parks system.	3
36	Update the skate park at Kiwanis Park.	3
37	Water-based recreation is a significant amenity at Lake Storey. To enhance those opportunities, the build a marina to house nonmotorized watercrafts, expanding the fishing area, and replacing the boat ramps.	3
Recreation and Facilities Plan		
1	Continue to provide access to Jason Wessels Park for league use.	1
2	Build additional baseball/softball fields, particularly in the southwest areas of the City, to expand the program to all residents.	1
3	Update existing basketball courts that are aging and deteriorating, to ensure safe use by all residents.	1
4	Continue to maintain partnerships with School District 205 to share tennis and other facilities.	1
5	Renovate the playgrounds that need improvements in the Galesburg parks.	1
6	Ensure that all playgrounds have water fountains nearby for users.	1
7	Maintain the existing recreational services and facilities to the highest usable standard.	1
8	Ensure safe pedestrian access to users crossing Carl Sandburg Drive to use the facility through crosswalks, stop signs, etc.	1
9	Conduct a financial suitability analysis to determine if there are economic opportunities to revitalize the golf course such as changing the fee structure to play and/or optimize the overhead operating cost.	1
10	Review available properties, both public and private, that would be most appropriate for a community center that would include both recreational and meeting spaces.	1
11	Build a new comprehensive recreation center to house amenities that best reflect the needs of Galesburg residents.	1
12	In the interim, make the minimum safety improvements to Hawthorne Center. Once the new facility is online, close, demolish, or repurpose Hawthorne Center to other uses such as warehouse or storage.	1
13	Develop additional soccer fields in the southern part of Galesburg to provide better access to the sport for these residents, particularly those that do not have easy access to a car.	1 - 2
14	Improve existing park system and build trails to attract investment in the community.	2
15	Add parking spaces to existing baseball/softball facilities to improve access for players and spectators.	2
16	Add baseball/softball fields at Lake Storey and host tournaments when possible to increase funding to help maintain existing and build new fields.	2
17	Consolidate fields and concessions to a single facility at Optimist Park following the feasibility study that has been submitted to the City.	2

## GALESBURG PARKS & RECREATION ACTION MATRIX

#	Description of Priority Action	Priority
18	Improve park safety at Kiwanis Park to increase the utilization of the baseball/softball fields located there.	2
19	Develop additional full and half basketball courts, determined by appropriate site design, to expand the number of facilities available for basketball practice by various organizations.	2
20	Work with the school district to provide public access to basketball courts in schools in the areas that are not within walking distance of the City's basketball facilities but are within walking distance of school facilities.	2
21	In developing new soccer fields ensure that adequate parking is available for players and spectators.	2
22	Renovate and modify Bateman Park into pickleball courts.	2
23	Add new innovative and engaging playground equipment at Lake Storey.	2
24	Support the efforts of local fitness enthusiasts in planning for a mobile playground during the summer months in Galesburg.	2
25	Continue to maintain the grounds and features at the Connie Nott Canine Area to a safe usable standard for both dogs and people.	2
26	Partner with Rosewood Care Center to provide additional parking spaces for park users.	2
27	Review available properties, both public and private, that would be appropriate for a mini golf course.	2
28	Analyze construction, operation, and maintenance costs to determine if the City could develop a mini-golf course or if private investment will be necessary.	2
29	Sell part or all of the course to lower operating and maintenance costs and earn additional revenue. The additional revenue could be used to service parks and recreational amenities in the underserved areas of Galesburg.	2
30	Ensure the facility is equitably accessible for all Galesburg residents by biking, walking, and public transit.	2
31	Partner with a private or nonprofit organization for the construction of the community center.	2
32	Work with the YMCA to compliment facilities and expand programming throughout the City.	2
33	Work collaboratively with local art, education, and economic development groups to add outdoor art exhibits in key city parks and support the Art in the Park event.	2
34	Improve lighting in Park Plaza and Standish Park to allow the various events hosted by the Civic Art Center to be held in the evening.	2
35	Develop a formal football field for youth leagues and provide supporting infrastructure such as restroom and parking at the park.	3
36	Continue to foster the partnership with the Cal Ripken organization and support tournaments that the league brings to the City.	3
37	Continue to work with the School District to expand the intergovernmental agreement to include all baseball/softball facilities located on School property.	3
38	Create a public soccer league for both youths and adults.	3
39	Take advantage of the regional access to Lake Storey's soccer fields and host tournaments when possible to increase funding to help maintain existing and build new fields.	3
40	Update and expand the Water Park to accommodate more people as well as to appeal to teens and adults.	3
41	Continue to work with the National Railroad Hall of Fame to complete the Railroad Hall of Fame Museum.	3
42	Determine the necessity and feasibility of adding new dog parks in other areas of Galesburg.	3
43	Construct an anaerobic digester as a pilot project at Connie Nott Canine Area to convert dog waste to electricity to provide lighting in the park.	3
44	Maintain the camp sites at a safe, usable standard for all future campers.	3
45	Update the campgrounds to include more sites with full hookup capabilities as funding becomes available.	3
46	Improve the campground sites to include cabins and multipurpose indoor spaces.	3
47	If feasible, provide WiFi in Park Plaza and Standish Park to help support the various events hosted by the Civic Art Center.	3
48	Utilize public art as an incentive to drive community members into the City's parks.	3
49	Build an outdoor amphitheater or stage in one of the parks to allow for outdoor performances, such as in the vacant lot across from Park Plaza.	3

## GALESBURG PARKS & RECREATION ACTION MATRIX

#	Description of Priority Action	Priority
50	Partner with the Performing Arts Academy to further promote arts education programs in Galesburg.	3
Trails Master Plan		
1	Continue to develop the trail project that is underway on South Lake Storey Road to expand the trail network.	1
2	Identify funding sources to help with the proposed expansion of the Lake Storey trail to improve the park itself and ensure the additional trail is developed to complete the trail loop around the lake.	1
3	Connect parks, and other public spaces with the proposed trail network to provide better and safer access to these parks, particularly for individuals without easy access to a car.	2
4	Establish design standards to coincide with standards adopted by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Organization (AASHTO).	2
5	Ensure all trails comply with all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design criteria.	2
6	Utilize private and/or nonprofit organizations to establish a bike path connecting the north and south sides of Galesburg.	2
7	Where necessary, use six-to-eight-foot-high chain-link fence to avoid crossing railroads at undesigned locations.	2
8	Install grade-separated crossings throughout Galesburg where possible. If grade-separated crossings are not possible, implement active and passive safety devices to supplement at-grade rail crossings.	2
9	Remove or cut back vegetation periodically to provide appropriate sight distances. Keep sight distances free of parked vehicles and standing railroad cars. Also avoid the accumulation of snow in these areas.	2
10	Educate residents on the risks of railroad crossing. Implement a railroad safety program through local schools and community organizations.	2
11	Add proposed trailheads to the proposed Carl Sandburg Trail to improve the City's network.	2
12	Incorporate additional amenities at trailheads along the most utilized trails as usership becomes identifiable and measurable.	2
13	Place wayfinding signage in areas that are highly trafficked throughout the City, such as in parks and public spaces, to direct people to trails.	2
14	Provide highly distinctive wayfinding signage to Carl Sandburg House and other key historic and culturally significant landmarks.	2
15	Locate wayfinding signage along trails at key points of interest to alert users to interesting facts, safety concerns, and branching directions.	2
16	Conduct a more comprehensive study to plan and design for each section of the proposed trail network to allow for adjustments in the trail width based on available right-of-way.	2-3