

SHERWOOD PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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ETC ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS, INC.

Environmental Technical Consultants, Inc.
ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

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SHERWOOD PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN



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1 INTRODUCTION

Setting

Sherwood is located in Central Arkansas near the state capital of Little Rock. Found within the Little Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area, the bordering entities include the cities of North Little Rock and Jacksonville, and the military installations of Camp Robinson and Little Rock Air Force Base. Lying on the boundary of the Arkansas River Valley and the Mississippi Alluvial Plain, the diverse environment ranges from flat marshland to rolling wooded hills.

History

The area where Sherwood is located today began in the late 1800s as a small farming community known as Sylvan Hills. Since there was not any running water, electricity, or other utilities available, very few people lived in the area until the early 1900s. With the availability of running water in 1923 and electricity in 1925, the area population grew to 714 people by the year 1948 when Sherwood was officially incorporated as a town. The city has continually expanded in area and population through many annexations of land including the recent annexation of Gravel Ridge in April of 2008.

In the early 1990's, Sherwood was consistently recognized as the fastest growing town in Arkansas. As part of the Little Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area, Sherwood has given their residents the ability to live in a smaller community while having access to the opportunities that a larger city provides. Also, Sherwood is recognized as a progressive city that provides a very good quality of life through the availability of a variety of parks and



recreation facilities and programs. Although the city has grown extensively in population and area through the years, Sherwood has historically placed a high priority on improving the availability of parks and recreation opportunities.

Historical Commitment of Sherwood to Parks and Recreation

- In 1926, Miller Park was named in honor of Charles H. Miller, a historical figure from the State of Arkansas. Miller was an engineer that was instrumental in the development of much of Arkansas. His death occurred in 1925 with the sinking of a government steamer on the Mississippi River.
- In the 1930's, the first public pool in the State of Arkansas was built at Sylvan Hills Country Club (renamed North Hills Country Club).
- In 1948, a community building was given to Sherwood by the Y.M.C.A of Little Rock. In 1949, a Y.M.C.A. branch was organized to serve the community. A playground that was built south of the building was conceived in 1950 and dedicated in 1956.
- In 1973, construction started on the Sherwood Community Center (Sherwood Youth Center) which was built to provide a broad range of recreational activities.
- In 1974, J. P. "Jack" Evans became the first Parks and Recreation Director. Evans served in this capacity for approximately 9 years before becoming mayor.
- In 1976, Pickthorne Park was built.
- In 1979, construction began on Henson Park in honor of Bill E. Henson who served as mayor for 18 years. The land was donated by Metropolitan Trust Company. The initial park was built for \$170,000 through a federally funded park program.
- In 1983, Mike Dove became the Parks and Recreation Director.



- In 1985, Steve Leinhart became the Parks and Recreation Director.
- In 1989, Debbie Cummings became the Parks and Recreation Director.
- In 1990, 70 acres were purchased for the Sherwood Sports Complex.
- In 1992, Sonny Janssen became the Parks and Recreation Director after Don Hindman briefly served as Interim Director.
- In 1994, 86 additional acres were purchased for the Sherwood Sports Complex.
- In 1994, Sherwood Forest was purchased from Jess Woods. This is a 26,000-square-foot complex that is used for meetings, private parties, and events.
- In 1995, the pedestrian bridge over Kiehl Avenue was built
- Completed in 1996, the Jack Evans Senior Citizen Center is named in the honor of former Mayor and Parks and Recreation Director J. P. "Jack" Evans.
- Dedicated in 1997, MIA Park memorializes 22 servicemen from Arkansas who are listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War. Former Mayor Bill Harmon and former State Representative Doug Wood were instrumental in this effort.
- In 1998, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission donated the materials to build an ADA accessible fishing pier at Lake Cherrywood Park.
- Opened in 2002, the Bill Harmon Recreation Center is named in honor of former Mayor Billy Jack Harmon.



- In 2008, the North Hills Golf Club property was acquired as an addition to their parks and recreation facilities.

Current Context

Most agree that the ability to attract new business and residents is substantially attributed to the “quality of life” that a city presents. In recent years, many of the municipalities in the Little Rock area have made very strong commitments to providing an improved “quality of life” by increasing their available parks and recreation opportunities. Although Sherwood has a reputation as a city with an excellent “quality of life”, that perception may be dwindling when compared to the competition.

With the annexation of Gravel Ridge, Sherwood appears to be at the beginning of a new era of challenges to provide parks and recreation opportunities that are comparable to the accomplishments of the past. The Gravel Ridge area coupled with areas within the previous boundary of Sherwood creates a vast amount of area and population that does not have any parks and recreation opportunities located near their neighborhoods. If Sherwood experiences a growth rate again comparable to the early 1990s, the availability of these opportunities will quickly worsen. A commitment to a proactive approach will need to be implemented to ensure that parks and recreation opportunities will be created within existing neighborhoods as well as made available near future neighborhood developments.

Approach

City of Sherwood retained the services of ETC Engineers & Architects, Inc. (ETCEA) to develop a 30 year Parks and Recreation Master Plan with a community oriented benefits-based approach. Benefit based approach focuses on recommendations that will benefit City of Sherwood residents by way of enjoyment of community indoor and outdoor space, improved physical health, business growth, economic growth, social well being of all citizens, community at large including the entire region, economic stability, and outdoor environment. These benefits may include:



Livability and Quality of Life: A community oriented benefit based long term Parks and Recreation Plan will enhance "quality of life" for all citizens of Sherwood and enhance "livability" aspects of the city.

Improved Physical Health: A better quality of life for residents would result in increased physical health.

Community: Enrichment of the community and celebration of heritage through promotion of cultural arts events. It will help the creation of community identity, character, and sense of pride.

Social: A well planned Parks and Recreation system that grows with time and addresses the needs of the citizens on a dynamic basis also provides various opportunities for the community to gather, interact and recreate. Citizen's community involvement is the cornerstone of a cohesive and progressive community.

Economic Development: Better physical and social infrastructure will attract new homeowners, new business, industries, tourists and sports enthusiasts. All of these will cause economic growth for the city including generation of local jobs and decreased unemployment.

Outdoor Environment: Enhancement of outdoor environment generally includes, among other things, promotion of ecological education and interaction, preservation of environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, woodlands, open spaces, water courses, floras and faunas.

This benefits-based approach will address the recreational issues impacting individual, community, economic and environmental factors. This document will examine existing park and recreation facilities; assess current recreation trends and needs; develop an understanding of future needs; propose a vision for the park and recreation system through the adoption of goals, upgrade of current facilities, additions and acquisition of new facilities and land; and set forth an action plan to be implemented by the City of Sherwood over a short and long time period.



Process

Inventory of Existing Facilities: An inventory of all existing facilities within the Sherwood Parks & Recreation system was created as a base document. Such information was obtained by reviewing available documents on each of the park facilities from on site visits to each of the facilities and from discussion with the Parks staff. During the study our staff visited each of the parks and documented the facility in detail. We also reviewed some existing material documents relating to park events, team sports and tournament schedules, community organizations and picnic shelter reservations.

Assessment of Existing Facilities: An evaluation of the existing recreational opportunities was made for their availability, suitability, adequacy, and condition from the base document. Specifically, ADA accessibility, parking; sidewalks/paths/trails; play equipment, sports fields; site layout and landscaping; facilities and infrastructure were assessed. A limited safety, security and vandalism potential was assessed.

Community Input: Community inputs were obtained from three sources. Facility specific inputs were obtained from our on-going discussions with the Parks & Recreation staff. Inputs from elected officials were obtained in City Council meetings and Public Participation meetings. Public inputs were obtained from two community workshops and from response on community wide Park Survey questioners.

Demographics: Population data for the City of Sherwood and the newly annexed area was obtained from METROPLAN. The current population information and future projection was used to develop future needs and trends.

Assessment of Current Recreation Trends and Needs: The recreational trends and needs assessment was accomplished by analyzing national, state, and local trends in recreation activity popularity and perception. Trends included demographic, environmental, economic, social, and recreational.



Land- and activity-based needs: Land and activity based needs were assessed by comparing National Standards with the acreage and facilities the City of Sherwood currently holds. Land-based standards were used to look at the amount of land needed to provide adequate recreation opportunities for the current and future population of Sherwood. Comparing a standard number of acres per 1,000 residents to the number of acres the City of Sherwood has, allows us to determine if the City of Sherwood has adequate or deficient parkland. Activity based standards were used to determine what types and how many activities are needed to provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities. Here also the comparison is made by pairing the national standard of a certain activity per 1,000 residents to that of the City of Sherwood's existing facilities. Thus a conclusion on whether the City of Sherwood has adequate or deficient activity resources was developed.

Vision and Goals: The vision and goals for this master plan is to provide the City of Sherwood a document outlining a long term cohesive plan that reflects citizens desire for a park system that provides adequate opportunities for residents and visitors to recreate, gather and interact socially; enhance and preserve open space, natural resources and environmentally significant public land.

Recommendations

A general facility recommendations as well as park specific recommendations are made in this plan for the City of Sherwood to consider and implement over the plan period. Some of the park specific recommendations include access related improvements which should be implemented immediately to comply with the federal ADA requirements.



2 EXISTING CONDITION

Park Inventory, Assessment and Classification

Eighteen city parks in Sherwood were inventoried, assessed, and classified. The assessment and classification criteria were adopted from the Park, Recreation Open Space Greenway Guidelines (A project of the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration)

Inventory and Mapping:

Inventory: ETCEA staff made site visits to each park to take inventory of the existing facilities. The inventory included all apparatus, equipment, activities and physical improvements that existed at the time of visit. Dimensional measurements were taken as appropriate to delineate the physical information regarding the facility.

Mapping: Maps were prepared for each individual park from available aerial photos. All facilities were then drawn on to the maps as close to actual dimensions as possible. The facilities included the following:

- ↓ Parking - condition and availability
- ↓ Sidewalks - condition and accessibility
- ↓ Paths/Trails - condition and accessibility



-  Play Equipment/Play Feature - condition and accessibility
-  Gazebo/Shade Structures/Shelters - condition and accessibility
-  Picnic Bench/Seating/Picnic Table - condition and accessibility
-  Park Amenities/Grills - condition and accessibility
-  Water Fountain - condition and accessibility
-  Sports Fields - condition, safety, code compliance and adequacy
-  Site Landscaping & Irrigation systems
-  Plantings and trees
-  Drainage systems
-  Accessibility
-  Adequacy of space
-  Building/Storage Structures

An inventory map and an assessment map has been developed for each park within the City of Sherwood’s Park and Recreation system. Those maps are included following this write-up and explanation.

Park Classification System

A classification system helps decision makers at the local level determine if there is adequate space and facilities to meet the needs of the particular park users. This system is also helpful in guiding the planning process for new parks and facilities. Ideally, the City of Sherwood will develop a diverse network of parks to meet the recreational needs of the community today and in the future. Each existing park was classified according to the following National Park and Recreation Standards:

PARK CLASSIFICATION DEFINITION

- **Mini Park/Pocket Park/Tot Lot** – Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.
- **Neighborhood Park** – The backbone of the park system that serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Primary use is an informal walk and passive recreation.
- **Community Park** – Serves a broader purpose than Neighborhood Park. Primary focus is on serving the community based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscape and open spaces.
- **Sports Complex** – Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to a larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.
- **Special Use Park** – Covers a broad range of recreation facilities oriented towards a single purpose use.
- **City Wide/Large Urban Park** – Supplements the neighborhood and community parks by serving the broader needs of the entire community. Informal walk and passive recreation is usually provided, as well as preserving landscape and open spaces.
- **Regional Park** – Provides regionally based recreation activities in a location where there is access to water bodies, open space, views and scenic and unique natural features.

Park Classifications:

Park Type	Population Served	Service Area	Size in Acres
Mini Park/Tot Lot	Adjacent neighborhood	1/4 mile	2500 SF – 1 acre
Neighborhood Park	5,000	1/2 mile	5 - 10
Community Park	Several neighborhoods (5,000 - 15,000)	2 mile radius	30 - 50
Sports Complex	Varies	Strategically located	40 - 80
Special Use Park	Varies	Depends on use	Depends on use
City Wide/Large Urban Park	Entire Community	Entire Community	50 plus 75 plus is optimal
Regional Park	Several communities (50,000 - 100,000)	50 mile radius	1000
Natural Resource Area	Varies	Varies	Varies

Public Park Assessment Summary

Parking: The parking areas at most of the facilities are not defined by a curb or parking stripes. The asphalt in most of the parks is in poor condition and in need of repair. Some of the parks are lacking adequate parking to meet their demands during periods of maximum utilization. The majority of the parks lack designated handicap parking spots. Most of the parking areas lack adequate handicap accessible sidewalks/paths to and from the park facilities including play grounds and shade structures (See specific park map for detail).

Sidewalks/Paths/Trails: There is inadequate pedestrian access into the parks. The majority of the facilities lack accessible routing from parking areas to buildings, fields, or play equipment. Most concrete sidewalks are in poor condition. Uneven surfaces and paving in need of repair present safety hazards and are non-conforming with the Americans with Disabilities Act (See specific park map for detail).

Play Equipment and Play Ground Surface: Although many of the playground and playground surface have been upgraded to conforming structures and surfaces, some of the parks still have older equipment that does not comply with current U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines (USCPSC). Metal play equipment is not acceptable and poses impact and contact burn hazards. Many of the facilities lack adequate approved safe surfaces. Compacted and uneven earthen and/or sand surfaces increase the risk of injury and do not meet safety considerations (See specific park map for detail).

Sports Fields (Tennis Courts, Basketball Court and Ball Fields): Most of the fields appear to in fair condition. There are drainage problems that cause standing water or erosion problems (See specific park map for detail).

Site Layout and Landscaping: Most of the parks are lacking defined access and entrance features. Most parks have small signs in good condition, but not located at access points. There are no aesthetic entry or "gateway" treatments to welcome visitors. There is no attempt at general beautification, the parks are lacking canopy trees to provide shade, and there is no use of plant material to screen building foundations or unsightly and/or exposed problem areas. All of the parks are lacking unified signage and consistent design features. There are no established "way-finding" systems of signage to help visitors understand the park boundaries, attractions and navigate their way through the park. Inconsistent or absent design details and features make the parks appear disorganized.

Trash receptacles, benches, fencing, tables, lighting, and other amenities: These amenities also lack coherent and thematic connections to common design and visual character. With appropriate design standards this may be eliminated over time.

PARK AMENITIES STANDARDS

ACTIVITY/FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	NO OF UNITS PER POPULATION
BADMINTON	1,000 SF	1 PER 1,000
BASKETBALL		2 PER 5,000
JUNIOR	4,000 - 7,000 SF	
HIGH SCHOOL	5,000 - 7,000 SF	
COLLEGIATE	5,000 - 7,000 SF	
HANDBALL	800 SF	1 PER 20,000
ICE HOCKEY	22,000 SF	1 PER 100,000
TENNIS	7,000 SF	1 PER 3,000
VOLLEYBALL	4,000 SF	1 PER 5,000
BASEBALL	3.30 AC MIN	2 PER 5,000
FIELD HOCKEY	1.5 AC	1 PER 30,000
FOOTBALL	1.5 AC	1 PER 20,000
SOCCER	2.5 AC	1 PER 30,000
GOLF DRIVING RANGE	13.5 AC	1 PER 50,000
1/4 MILE RUNNING TRACK	4.5 AC	1 PER 20,000
SOFTBALL	2 AC	1 PER 5,000
MULTIPLE RECREATION COURT (BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS)	6,000 SF	1 PER 20,000
TRAILS		1 PER 100,000
ARCHERY RANGE	0.45 AC MIN	1 PER 50,000
COMBINATION SHEET & TRAP FIELD (B STATION)	40 AC MIN	1 PER 100,000
GOLF DRIVING RANGE		
9 HOLE	50 AC MIN	1 PER 20,000
18 HOLE	120 AC MIN	1 PER 90,000
SWIMMING POOL		1 PER 20,000

Facilities: Most of the picnic shelters, shade structures, gazebos and other buildings are in fair condition and functional. However some of the facilities are in need of updating and general visual improvements. Again this can be accomplished over a time period with a planned program.

Safety, Security and Vandalism: Vandalism appears to be infrequent and has not been a significant problem for the City. Any incidents of vandalism or crime have been isolated.



AUSTIN LAKE PARK

Located on Austin Lake Circle, Austin Lake Park is approximately 2 acres with the classification of neighborhood park. The park offers mainly passive recreation. The park site is mostly wooded with gentle topography. Most of the existing improvements are in very good condition. Although no dedicated parking is provided, street side parking is possible along Austin Lake Circle.



AUSTIN LAKE PARK



Current Conditions:

1. 20' x 20' covered pavilion with 4 picnic tables, very good condition.
2. 20' x 20' covered pavilion with 4 picnic tables, very good condition.
3. Swing feature with 6x6 wooden edging 36' l x 24' w x 12" d shredded tire surface material, very good condition.
4. Play feature with 6x6 wooden edging 9 sides, varying lengths, shredded tire surface material, very good condition.
5. Benches, 4 total in the park in good condition.
6. 12' l x 6' w wooden foot bridge. Not ADA accessible.
7. Asphalt walking trail, very good condition. *(some improvements necessary for safety)*
8. Park sign: good condition.

ADA access:

Both pavilions are accessible and trail appears to be within ADA standards. No ADA access to the play feature.

BEVERLY PARK



Located on North Beverly and North Devon Avenues and along Woodruff Creek, Beverly Park is approximately 13 acres with the classification of neighborhood park. The park offers mainly passive recreation. The majority of the park site is wooded with moderate topography. Dedicated parking along both North Beverly and North Devon Avenues is provided.



BEVERLY PARK



Current Conditions:

1. Parking area in good condition, ADA space provided.
2. Play feature, concrete edging, 29'L x 28'W. Sand surface material, good condition.
3. Bike rack, good condition.
4. Square pavilion, no tables, 20' x 20' very good condition.
5. Wooden bench, in good condition.
6. Wood and metal foot bridge in like new condition. Not ADA accessible 4" lip on each side junction with trail. To be accessed with city trail system.
7. Concrete sidewalks appear to be ADA compliant.
8. 6' asphalt walking path to play feature on Devon St.
9. Play feature, 6x4 wood border with "pea" gravel surface material, in good condition. No ADA access.
10. Park sign: no sign

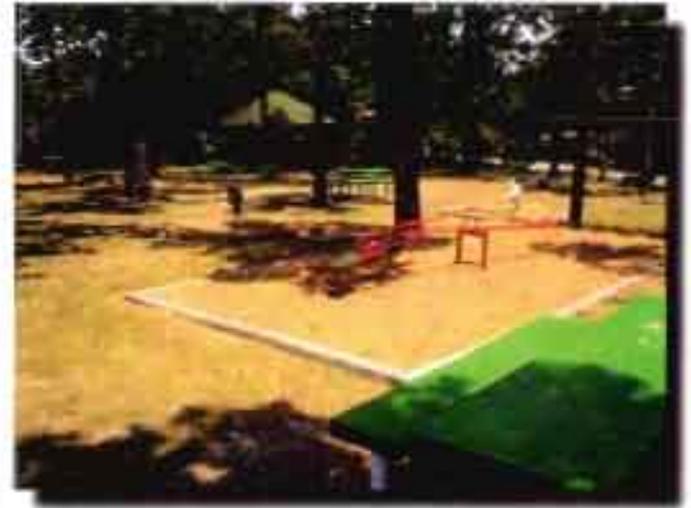
ADA Access:

Pavilion has sloped entry, and ADA sidewalk.
No ADA access to any park features.

DELMONT PARK



Located on the corner of Delmont and Sherwood Avenues, Delmont Park is approximately 0.44 acres with the classification of mini park. The park offers mainly passive recreation. The park site is a mostly wooded area with gentle topography. Dedicated parallel parking is provided along Sherwood Avenue.



DELMONT PARK



Current Conditions:

1. Picnic tables, 6 total in the park in good condition.
2. Charcoal grills, 2 in the park in fair condition.
3. Swing feature with 6x4 wooden edging, 18'Lx 25'Wx 6"D "pea" gravel surface material.
4. Octagon gazebo, 9' sides, very good condition.
5. Wooden benches, 3 total in the park in good condition.
6. Spring features, 6x4 wooden edging hexagon shape, 6' sides, "pea" gravel surface material.
7. Teeter-totter feature with 6x4 wooden edging, 13'Lx 24'Wx 6"D, "pea" gravel surface material, poor condition.
8. Play feature, 6x4 wooden edging, 25'l x 32'w x 6"d "pea" gravel surface material, good condition.
9. Parking area in good condition, 10 - 20' x 10' spots.
10. Park sign: good condition

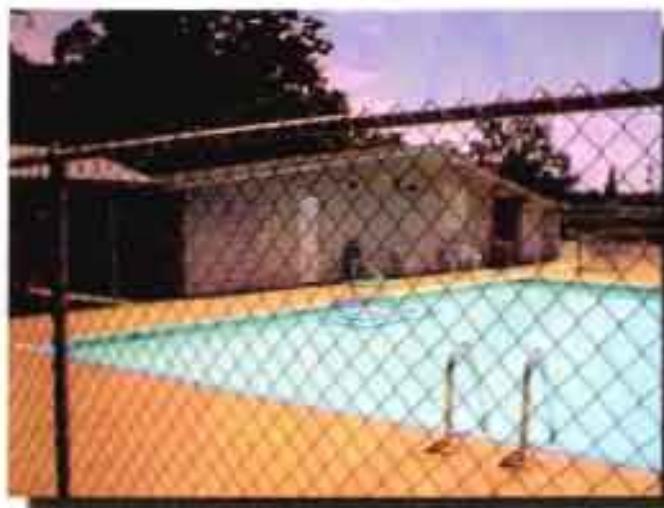
ADA Access:

Gazebo has sloped entry, but no ADA sidewalk from any area in the park.
No ADA access to any park features.
No ADA access to the any picnic tables.

FAIRWAY PARK



Located at 800 Fairway Avenue, Fairway Park is approximately 2.4 acres with the classification of neighborhood park. The park offers mainly passive recreation. The park site is mostly wooded with gentle topography. Most of the existing improvements are in fair to good condition. Dedicated parking is provided.



FAIRWAY PARK



Current Conditions:

1. Some cracking concrete at park entry.
2. Sidewalk along fairway road in good condition.
3. Picnic tables, 3 total in the park in good condition.
4. Charcoal grills, 1 in the park in good to fair condition.
5. Octagon gazebo, 8'-6" sides, very good condition. has ADA access from parking lot.
6. Play feature, 1x6 wooden edging, 40'x40'wx12" "shredded tire" surface material, good condition.
7. Bike rack on 5'x7' concrete pad, good condition.
8. Parking area in good condition, 9+1 H.C. space.
9. Wooden benches, 2 total in the park in good condition.
10. Park sign: good condition.

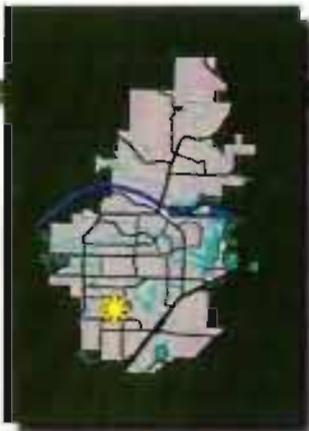
ADA Access:

Gazebo has ADA sidewalk.
No ADA access to any park features.
No ADA access to the any picnic tables

Pool Condition:

- a. Some fencing repair needed.
- b. Concrete deck in good condition.
- c. Bathhouse building in good to poor condition *(plumbing issues may exist - lots of water discharge visible on north side of building)*

HENSON PARK



Located at 407 Beverly Avenue North and along Woodruff Creek, Henson Park is approximately 2.8 acres with the classification of neighborhood park. The park offers both active and passive recreation. The park site is mainly open with scattered trees and gentle topography. Most of the existing improvements are in good to very good condition. Dedicated parking is provided along Beverly Avenue.



HENSON PARK



Current Conditions:

1. Picnic tables, 2 total in the park in good condition.
2. Some asphalt repair needed on walking path.
3. Swing feature with 6x4 wooden edging, 16' l x 25' w x 6-10" d "pea" gravel surface material.
4. Junction box with solid top. 36" ads pipe outlet into creek.
5. Wooden benches, 6 total in the park in good condition.
6. Play feature, 6x4 wooden edging, varies x 6-10" d "pea" gravel surface material, good condition.
7. Wooden foot bridge, good condition, no railing.
8. North tennis courts, very good condition, fencing in need of minor repair.
9. West tennis court, very good condition, fencing in need of minor repair.
10. Double tennis court, very good condition, fencing in need of minor repair.
11. Exterior of tennis building in good condition.
12. No safety railing at creek crossing. 3-36" ads pipes.
13. Asphalt trail up to foot bridge is in good condition. Foot bridge and beyond will be part of City trail study.
14. Concrete sidewalk in good condition.
15. Parking area with ADA space in good condition.
16. Park sign: good condition.

ADA Access:

- No ADA access to any park features.
- No ADA access to the picnic tables.

INDIANHEAD PARK



Located at 33 Deerfield Drive, Indianhead Park is approximately 4.3 acres with the classification of neighborhood park. The park offers both active and passive recreation. The park has gentle topography that is mostly wooded on the north end and open on the south end. Dedicated parking is provided on the north end and street parking is available on the south end.

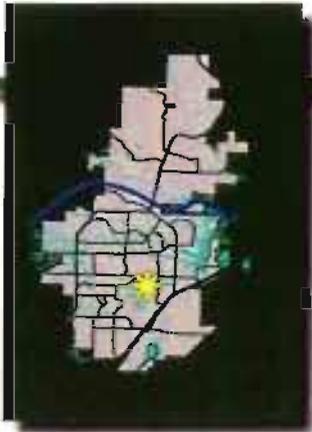




Current Conditions:

1. 33' x 27' covered pavilion, very good condition.
2. Play feature with 6x4 wooden edging 34' lx 44'w x 10"d "pea" gravel surface material.
3. Swing feature with 6x4 wooden edging 30' lx 24'w x 6"d "pea" gravel surface material.
4. Tennis Court:
 - Surface in good condition
 - Netting in good condition
 - Fencing in fair to poor condition
5. Picnic tables, 6 total in the park in good condition
6. Parking lot in good condition with one 35' x 20' spot in need of repair.
7. ADA Access:
 - Concrete slope from parking lot to pavilion needs to be checked for compliance.
 - No ADA access to the play or swing feature
 - No ADA access to the picnic tables
8. Park Sign: good condition
9. Grassy area moderately smooth slope, some bumps. 3 sided chain-link backstop fair condition.
10. Area between trees and pool un-used.

LAKE CHERRYWOOD PARK



Located at 300 Summit Street, Lake Cherrywood Park is approximately 1.84 acres with the classification of neighborhood park. The park offers mainly passive recreation. The park site is mostly wooded with gentle topography. Most of the existing improvements are in good condition. There is approximately 480 linear feet of lake shoreline. The lake is stocked by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Dedicated parking is provided.



LAKE CHERRYWOOD PARK



Current Conditions:

1. Park sign in good condition. Donation plaque needs repair or better mount.
2. Basketball court in poor condition, many cracks and surface uneven.
3. Picnic tables, in good condition.
4. Wooden fishing pier:
Walkway in good condition.
Benches in good condition.
Railing in good condition, one broken board found.
5. Boat "landing" needs improvement.
6. Wooden gazebo in good condition, needs some paint.
7. Swing feature with 6x6 wooden edging 30'1 x 25.5'w x 12"d pea gravel surface material, very good condition, has ADA access.
8. Merry-go-around feature in good condition, needs paint, no boarder with pea gravel, no ADA access.
9. Play feature with 6x6 wooden edging 35'1 x 35.5'w x 12"d, pea gravel surface material, very good condition. No ADA access.
10. Benches, 2 total in the park in good condition.
11. Parking area in good condition, some cracks to seal.

PICKTHORNE PARK



Located at the end of Marlar Drive, Pickthorne Park is approximately 4.9 acres with the classification of neighborhood park. The park offers mainly passive recreation along Woodruff Creek. The park site is mostly wooded with gentle topography. A limited amount of dedicated parking is provided.



PICKTHORNE PARK



Current Conditions:

1. 42'6" x 21'8" covered pavilion with picnic tables, good structural condition, poor roof condition
2. Metal climbing feature, no boarder or surface material in good condition and no ADA access.
3. Swing feature with partial wooden edging, 23'6" x 23'6" pea gravel surface material, good condition, no ADA access.
4. Play feature with plastic edging sides, varying lengths, shredded tire surface material, very good condition, ADA ramp but no access from parking area.
5. Benches, 2 total in the park in good condition.
6. 40' x 40' concrete slab with basketball goal.
7. Gravel walking trail, good condition. Connected to another park through a subdivision.
8. Park sign in good condition.
9. Parking lot in good condition.

SHERWOOD FOREST PARK



Sherwood Forest Park is approximately 180 acres with the classification of City-Wide / Large Urban Park. Though located on the western edge of Sherwood, the park is located within 5 miles of all locations in the City except the most northeast portion of former Gravel Ridge. The park offers both active and passive recreation opportunities along with banquet and conference facilities. Generally, the areas of the site that are undeveloped are wooded and the topography is more severe than the developed areas. Most of the existing improvements are in very good condition and well maintained. Plenty of dedicated parking is available.



SHERWOOD FOREST PARK



Current Conditions:

1. Soccer Field
2. Softball Fields
3. Baseball Fields
4. Banquet / Conference Center
5. Playground
6. Open Space w/ Backstop
7. Basketball
8. Volleyball
9. Pavilion
10. Miniature Golf
11. Veteran's Memorial
12. Forrest Marlar Indoor Baseball Facility
13. Maintenance Facility

SILVERCREEK PARK



Located on Cheptow Circle and a tributary of Five Mile Creek, Silvercreek Park is approximately 0.6 acres with the classification of mini park. The park offers passive recreation. The park site is mainly open with a few shade trees and gentle topography. Most of the existing improvements are in good condition. No dedicated parking is available.



Current Conditions:

1. Picnic table, 1 total in the park in good condition on a 8' x 8' concrete pad.
2. Swing feature and play feature with 4x4 wooden edging, 30'l x 25'w x 8"d, "pea" gravel surface material. (play feature is non-commercial)
3. Concrete pad with 8.5' pole. 16' x 19'
4. Wooden bench, 1 total in the park in good condition.
5. Park sign: good condition.
6. Moderate to severe drop-off at creek edge.
7. No dedicated parking area.

ADA Access:

No ADA sidewalk to any area in the park.

STORER PARK



Located at the end of Helen Drive and Johnny Lane, Storer Park is approximately 2.81 acres with the classification of neighborhood park. The park offers mainly passive recreation. The park site is mostly wooded with gentle topography. Most of the existing improvements are in good condition. Although no dedicated parking is provided, street side parking is possible along local streets.



STORER PARK



Current Conditions:

1. Picnic table, on concrete pad. Pad needs repair.
2. 20' x 20'6" concrete pad, good condition.
3. Swing feature with 6x6 wooden edging 30' lx 24'w x 10"d "pea" gravel surface material, very good condition.
4. Benches, 2 total in the park in good condition.
5. Asphalt walking trail in good condition. Some spots need repair and drainage improvements.
6. Park sign in fair condition.
7. No parking at this park. Streets dead-end with no turn-a-rounds.

ADA Access:

Trail appears to be within ADA standards, no ADA access to the picnic table or swing feature. No ADA access from street entrance.

THORNHILL PARK



Located at 2201 Thornhill Drive, Thornhill Park is approximately 7 acres with the classification of neighborhood park. The park is located on the north and south side of Kiehl Avenue with a pedestrian bridge linking the two sides. The park offers mainly passive recreation. The park site has a good mix of wooded and open areas and a gentle topography. Most of the existing improvements are in good condition. Plenty of dedicated parking is provided.



THORNHILL PARK



Current Conditions:

1. Octagon shaped covered pavilion with picnic table, very good condition, ADA accessible. Adjacent uncovered picnic table and grill, ADA accessible.
2. Picnic tables on 10'x10' concrete slabs, very good condition.
3. Tractor tire play feature, no boarder or surface material.
4. Play feature with 6'x4' wooden edging, pea gravel surface material, good condition.
5. Covered picnic table, good condition.
6. 32' x 5' w wooden/steel foot bridge. Not completely ADA accessible.
7. Asphalt walking trail, good condition.
8. Park sign: good condition, rail car in good condition.
9. Gravel parking by the pedestrian bridge in good condition.
10. Benches in the park in good condition.
11. Marker monument.

ADA Access:

Pavilion is accessible and trail appears to be within ADA standards.
No ADA access to the play feature or picnic tables.
Foot bridge has 1" lip on one side.

VERONA PARK



Located on Verona Avenue, Verona Park is approximately 1.5 acres with the classification of neighborhood park. The park offers mainly passive recreation. The park site is mostly wooded with gentle topography. Most of the existing improvements are in good condition. Dedicated parking is provided.



VERONA PARK



Current Conditions:

1. Picnic tables, 2 total in the park in good condition.
2. Charcoal grill, 1 in the park in poor condition.
3. Swing feature with 6x4 wooden edging, 27'1 x 27'w x 6"-12"d "pea" gravel surface material
4. Octagon gazebo, 9' sides, very good condition.
5. Wooden benches, 2 total in the park in good condition.
6. Spring features, no edging, no surface material
7. Benches, 4 total in the park, good condition.
8. Play feature, 1x10 wooden edging, various sides x 6"-12"d "pea" gravel surface material, good condition.
9. Parking area in good condition, minor patching needed.
10. Park sign: good condition.
11. Basketball court, 50' x 50' concrete slab and 2 goals, good condition.
12. Concrete walk path, good condition.
13. Wooded foot bridge, fair condition, no access from the road side of the bridge.

ADA Access:

Gazebo has sloped entry, ADA access.
No ADA access to any park features.
No ADA access to any picnic tables.

3 VISION AND GOALS

Vision

The City of Sherwood intends to provide its citizens a cohesive parks and recreation system that reflects the City's unusual history and character. The City intends to develop a park system that provides adequate opportunities for all of its residents and visitors to enjoy and recreate; to congregate and interact; to improve physical fitness and enhance quality of life; preserve open space, natural resources, and environmentally significant public lands and take civic pride in having the best parks system in the region.

Goals

The goals for Sherwood Parks and Recreation Master Plan are to enable the City of Sherwood to achieve its Vision and be consistent with those of the National Parks & Recreation Standards. The goals of this Parks and Recreation Master plan are:

-  To provide residents and visitors with a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities and programs consistent with national, state, and local trends in demographics, environment, economics, social relations, and recreation.
-  To provide all segments of the population; individuals of all mental and physical abilities, ethnic backgrounds, and economic status; recreational experiences to improve their quality of life.

VISION

- ✓ Provide a cohesive park & recreation system to the citizens.
- ✓ Develop a park system that provides adequate opportunities for all residents.
- ✓ Enhance quality of life of all Sherwood inhabitants.
- ✓ Improve Sherwood citizens physical fitness.
- ✓ Preserve open space for current & future generations.
- ✓ Increase civic pride.

- ✦ To encourage cooperation and consensus between city officials, residents, private property owners, volunteers and resource managers.
- ✦ To be sensitive to the location and type of development for recreational facilities in order to sustain local economic, social and natural resources.
- ✦ To beautify and improve visual appeal of the parks to reflect community identity and civic pride.
- ✦ To offer "close-to-home" recreational opportunities to encourage a pedestrian friendly parks and recreation network, and to reduce the need for motorized transportation.
- ✦ To improve the "way-finding" systems at park and recreation facilities to help park visitors understand park boundaries, attractions, and navigate their way through the park.

GOAL

- ✓ Provide a variety of active & passive recreational opportunities to the citizens.
- ✓ Develop a park system that provides adequate recreational experience to all segment of population.
- ✓ Help sustain & improve local economic activities by improving quality of life.
- ✓ Improve visual appeal of all Sherwood parks.
- ✓ Develop programs that encourages citizens of all age to participate in recreational activities including physical fitness activities.
- ✓ Encourage social activities to enhance social interaction and citizen cooperation.
- ✓ Develop residential pedestrian friendly linked parks network that are close to home.

4 TRENDS

Any planning process must take into consideration changes in established trends and expectations. It goes without saying that national and local trends within the Parks and Recreation arena has been changing and will continue to change for some very important reasons; aging of the population, life expectancy of the population, general changes in lifestyle and economic and social changes within the urban environments. Listed here are some of the trends that will influence the Parks and Recreation planning process of the future, and help serve as the basis for the development and application of community-specific guidelines. The magnitude of these changes underscores the need to shift planning practices from a formula-driven to a systems approach that responds to changing conditions that will shape communities in the future.

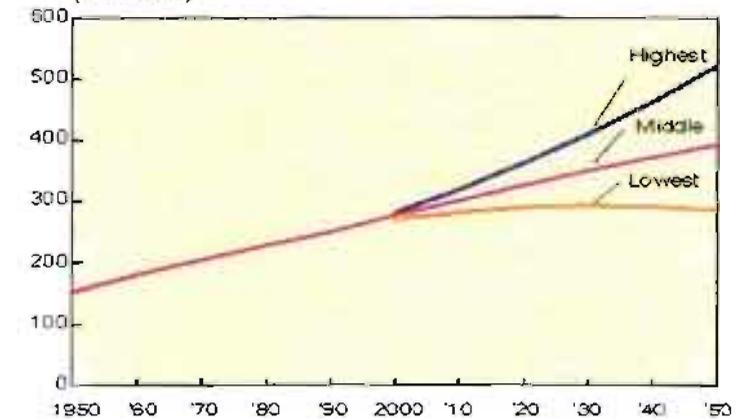
Demographic Trends

National and State:

Based on 2000 census information the US population is growing larger. It is expected to increase to 392 million by the year 2050. However, the average annual percentage change is projected to decrease during the next six decades by about 50%, from 1.1% between 1990 and 1995 to 0.54% between 2040 and 2050. The population age structure will be older than it is now. The population is projected to become more diverse. Hispanic origin population would be the largest growing group.

We are living in an aging society. By 2030, one third of the population will be senior citizens. Nationwide, we are also seeing growth in urban minority and under class populations, an increase in cultural diversity, and changing housing

Estimates and Projections of Resident Population: 1950 to 2050
(in millions)



CURRENT POPULATION

	Arkansas	Pulaski County
2000	2,903,399	376,737
2007	2,939,557	379,813
2006	2,904,339	377,157
2005	2,768,918	369,321
2004	2,741,281	367,677
2003	2,717,969	366,151
2002	2,702,699	364,767
2001	2,689,601	363,323
2000	2,676,217	361,861

patterns such as a greater number of small households, fewer "traditional" family households, declining home ownership, and more high density residential units, shared living spaces, and congregate retirement centers. Central Arkansas and the State of Arkansas has experienced steady growth over the last decade along with the entire southwest region, placing it as one of the more desirable places to live. In addition, the Central Arkansas economy has seen steady growth as well and lacks the boom and bust cycle like most of the country. Therefore it is likely that the population growth trend will continue through the planning period. Consistent with the national trends, minority populations are increasing in the central Arkansas region. Populations are becoming increasingly urbanized and there are fewer "traditional" family households.

CURRENT POPULATION	
	Sherwood
2008	24,542
2007	24,132
2006	23,779
2005	23,385
2004	22,734
2003	22,376
2002	22,075
2001	21,826
2000	21,642

City of Sherwood:

The City of Sherwood has been growing at a rate 1.6% per year over the last eight years while the state and the county has been growing at a rate of 0.83% and 0.52% per year. The largest percentage growth has been in the 25 to 44 year age group. Metroplan is projecting the population of the City of Sherwood and the territory within the Sherwood Planning Area to grow by 12.15% in the next 20 years to 43,277. The age group that will see the largest increase in population will be the 65 and older group. There will be a 140% growth in this population group in the next 20 years. The growth of the senior citizen population within Sherwood will exceed the national trend. The City of Sherwood lags the national and state trend in the growth of minority populations. The white populations saw most increases. The minority population experienced a modest increase. Again, an increase in a culturally diverse population of Sherwood is consistent with state and national trends.

2000 CENSUS DATA - SHERWOOD		
TOTAL POPULATION	21,511	
GENDER - MALE	10,449	48.60%
GENDER - FEMALE	11,062	51.40%
AGE -15 OR YOUNGER	4,406	20.50%
AGE - 16 TO 24	2,673	12.44%
AGE - 25 TO 44	6,882	32.00%
AGE - 45 TO 64	5,257	24.40%
AGE - 65 AND OLDER	2,293	10.70%
WHITE	18,374	86.30%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	2,182	10.10%
AMERICAN INDIAN	93	0.40%
ASIAN AMERICAN	205	1.00%
PACIFIC ISLANDER	13	0.10%
OTHERS	178	0.80%
TWO RACES	266	1.20%
HISPANIC/LATINO	442	2.10%

Implications:

Local demographic trends seem to be similar nationally and statewide. An aging population, increase in cultural diversity, and increase in urban and non-traditional housing have the following implications for recreation:

- An increased need for programs and facilities with special considerations to accommodate limitations faced by older adult population.
- More attention to cultural sensitivity and increased demand for cultural heritage-based recreation and tourism. More recreational facilities addressing the needs of the Hispanic population.

- An increased need for neighborhood parks where non-traditional housing units may not offer 'backyard' recreation.
- Need to preserve open space in increasingly urban neighborhoods.

Environmental Trends:

National and State:

Across the country, the United States is experiencing disappearing resources. Experts have witnessed the decline of significant open spaces and natural habitats, original landscapes, wetlands and natural drainages, ancient forests, water and energy resources, remnant landscapes. A growing awareness regarding the rapid deterioration of our environmental resources has led to the development of environmental cleanup practices and programs. Decision makers are promoting more environmentally sound practices and habits, leading to the beginning of a culture change towards attitudes of "no growth" and increased cultural value placed on maintaining and reclaiming natural resources and open space. The State of Arkansas enjoys a diverse geography and wealth of natural resources, including an abundant natural water supply. We are very fortunate in the state to have such an abundance of natural resources that are under the national, state or local park system and as such protected. Even with fairly good population increase the environmental degradation is manageable with appropriate construction practices and control. Therefore, now more than ever we need legislation and control to ensure that public open space is protected and conserved.

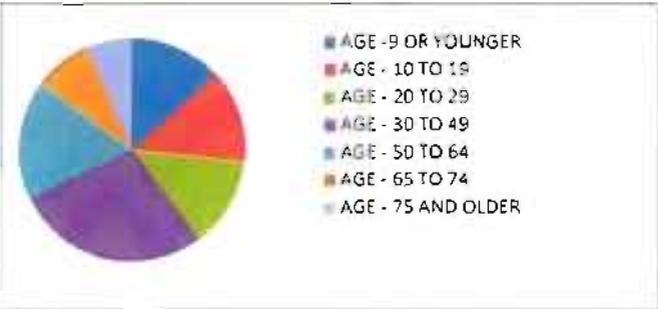
City of Sherwood:

Sherwood is located in the Central part of the State and is surrounded by other cities. Sherwood has seen enormous growth in the past and is poised to continue the growth. This growth has taken place through construction of large residential and commercial subdivisions. Such development, by nature, degrades the environment. In order to maintain its environmental resources, the City of Sherwood must implement policies aimed at preservation, encouraging more environmentally sound construction practices and habits, and planning for "smart growth."

POPULATION PROJECTION - BY METROPLAN				
	2000	2010	2020	2030
TOTAL POPULATION	34,449	38,588	48,877	43,777
AGE - 9 OR YOUNGER	4,406	5,414	5,517	5,743
AGE - 10 TO 19	4,967	3,173	3,329	3,852
AGE - 20 TO 29	5,136	5,214	5,253	5,601
AGE - 30 TO 49	11,346	11,388	11,823	12,124
AGE - 50 TO 64	5,248	7,432	7,494	7,558
AGE - 65 TO 74	1,825	2,847	3,383	3,332
AGE - 75 AND OLDER	1,353	1,715	2,829	2,877

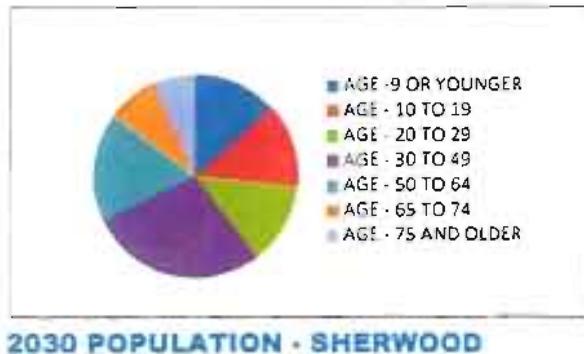
2000 POPULATION - SHERWOOD

Note: The projection is for the City of Sherwood and all territories within the Sherwood planning area



Implications

- Increased appreciation for the natural environment and the aesthetics of place.
- Increased interest and demand for interpretive nature trails and environmental education opportunities.
- Emphasis on identifying and preserving environmentally significant ecosystems and lands such as wetlands, woodlands, unique ecological communities, open spaces, water courses and view sheds.
- The Parks and Recreation industry will start experiencing challenges in acquiring acreage to meet the growing demands for water access, backcountry, and trail networks.
- The need to preserve open space for recreation will require new rules of the game for the land developers so that development to meet the needs of a growing population will not be in conflict with Cities needs for protecting the environment.



Social Trends:

National and State

We as a nation have been coping with poverty, homelessness, destitution, malnutrition, unemployment, and the social ills of an aging society. Poverty has become a lifestyle for many citizens. Related outbreaks of crime, violence, and at-risk children are on the rise. Citizens have become concerned for their personal safety and welfare. Although most of these social trends have negative effects, they have motivated individuals and communities to get involved in public planning, social service networking, community bonding, and promotion of equal rights, and preservation and maintenance of cultural heritage.



City of Sherwood

Sherwood residents have become increasingly involved in creating opportunities for shaping strong community bonds and building civic pride. Sherwood has taken an active role in outreach programs to special emphasis neighborhoods. Improvements and additions to the existing park system and other civic endeavors reflect the community's growing interest in the future identity of Sherwood.



Implications:

- ✚ Recreation facilities and programs need to expand their focus to include programs that support wellness activities and health education.
- ✚ There is greater demand for facilities that are safe, secure, and have adequate staff and are maintained appropriately.
- ✚ Parks and outdoor recreation facilities will place a new emphasis on beautification and visual appeal to reflect the level of civic pride and community entity.
- ✚ Recreation programs are bridging the gaps in age, ethnicity and economic status.
- ✚ As recreation facilities and programs continue to grow so will the need for more police, firefighters and staff, as well as infrastructure such as trash and recycle pick up.



Economic Trends:

National and State

National poverty rates, an increased cost of living, and declining regional economies have in turn reduced discretionary or leisure spending among US citizens. Additionally, revenue traditionally used to support public recreation programs has decreased. The State of Arkansas is primarily an agricultural economy. However, many of



the urban areas have successfully transformed into a diversified economy based on service, manufacturing, trade, and tourism industries. Central Arkansas is also the State Capital and as such has a very diverse economy. The greater Little Rock area has seen the most significant growth over the last decade in the tourism industry. Sherwood provides a bedroom community for the greater Little Rock area and as such enjoys a robust economy. Although Arkansas enjoys generally good economic conditions, a significant percentage of its population lives below poverty. It is a challenge for all cities to provide recreational benefits to this segment of population.

City of Sherwood:

The City of Sherwood has grown both in population and in economy over the last decade. The city's population has the highest level of education within the central Arkansas area. The citizens therefore have a higher expectation of quality of life related issues. Housing within the City of Sherwood is affordable, shopping and dining is more than adequate, and health care and education are accessible. Primary businesses within the city are retail in nature. The transportation system within the city is adequate and provides easy mobility to all points within and outside of the city. In order to attract new residents and maintain its growth, the City of Sherwood must provide better recreational facilities, programs and services than its neighbors.

Implications:

- Economic downturn, job loss, poverty etc. has reduced available funds for most families to spend on recreation and leisure oriented activities.
- Less federal and state revenue is spent on publicly funded recreation opportunities.
- Thus, there is an increased need for local, state and federally supported recreation opportunities that are at no cost to the residents.
- Higher cost of fuel has reduced the mobility of citizens. Therefore, demand for close-to-home recreation and leisure has greatly increased.



Recreation Trends

National and State:

With increased fuel costs, urbanization, and safety concerns related to travel, residents are looking for recreation and leisure activities close to home." The youth of America are increasingly attracted to indoor activities such as video games and the "internet." Demand for nearby outdoor recreation located within the neighborhood has been expanding at an increasingly rapid pace. The popularity of jogging, walking and bicycling is at an all time high.

City of Sherwood:

Organized outdoor and indoor sports activities have been attracting a greater number of participants and generating increasingly higher revenues for Parks and Recreation Departments. There will be more demand for multi-activity recreation facilities easily accessed and close to home. There is increasing interest in emerging and growing activities such as mountain biking, off-road vehicles, backcountry technology (GPS), skateboarding, sporting clays, hunting preserves, jet skiing, fishing, kayaking, field sports, dog parks and water parks. The City of Sherwood continues to enjoy a reputation as a leader in programs and facilities having the capacity to host state, regional, and district tournaments in baseball, softball, football and soccer. With the recent annexation of the Gravel Ridge area, the City will need to add additional parks and outdoor activities area in a rather short time.

Implications:

- Add new neighborhood park, sports and recreational fields in the newly annexed area
- Provide sports and recreational activities to the growing diverse community specifically the Hispanic population.
- Provide specific activity related facilities such as therapy pool, physical fitness center for the growing older population.
- Develop Citywide/Large Urban Park that may provide multiple activities for the entire population of Sherwood.



5 ASSESSMENT

Land Based

Current Condition:

From the parks facilities inventory of existing parks (Section 2 – Current Conditions). We find that the City of Sherwood has 1 City-wide/Large Urban Park containing a Sports Complex consisting of 1 soccer field, 5 softball fields, and 7 baseball fields, 1 Special Use Park (golf course), 0 Community Parks, 11 Neighborhood Parks, and 3 Mini Parks. These provide approximately 336 acres of land dedicated to public parks

Under these current conditions, the projections for the year 2010 are that the Sherwood Planning Area will provide 8.70 acres per 1,000 people and 7.76 acres per 1000 people in the year 2030. When you exclude the golf course property the ratio is 5.85 acres per 1,000 people in the year 2010 and 5.22 acres in 2030. These ratios are based on the standard of 10 acres of park land per 1,000 people which is an older standard that was used by parks and recreation planners prior to 1980.

A more thorough assessment of the park acreage needs of the community is determined by applying a standard of proper allocation of the land among park classifications. The National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) developed a standard number of acres per 1,000 people to fulfill recreational needs based on park classifications. By applying these standards, the most pressing need for the Sherwood Planning Area is the amount of land allocated toward Community Parks. By the year 2010 based on current park inventory, Sherwood will need approximately 193 to 309 acres of land allocated for Community Parks. This is due to the circumstance that currently Sherwood does not have any land allocated for Community Parks. The current park land is heavily allocated toward Neighborhood and City-wide/Large Urban Parks.

In the years 2010 and 2030 based on current park inventory, the projections show that the Sherwood Planning Area will need substantial additional acreage for a Regional Park. However, Sherwood falls within the 1 hour drive service radius of a Regional Park in North Little



Rock named Burns Park. Since this park provides a Regional Park that is in close proximity, Sherwood may find that investments for other parks and recreation needs would be better spent.

In the years 2010 and 2030 bases on current park inventory, the projections show that the Sherwood Planning Area will need additional acreage for Mini Parks. However, Sherwood may find that investments for other parks and recreation needs would be better spent.

The Standards:

The National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) developed a standard number of acres per 1,000 people to fulfill recreational needs based on park classifications. By applying these standards, Sherwood currently does well in all park classifications with the exception of Community Parks. Sherwood has a deficit of 150 to 240 acres of land that is allocated for Community Parks. This is due to the circumstance that all existing parks in Sherwood are classified as neighborhood (based on size standards) and mini/pocket parks with the exception of Sherwood Forest Park which is a district park.

The Future:

If Sherwood continues to grow at the same rate that has occurred between the year 1990 and today, a population of approximately 47,000 would be reached in the next 30 years. By applying current NRPA standards to a population of 47,000, Sherwood would need an additional 235 to 376 acres for Community Parks and an additional 3 to 50 acres for Neighborhood Parks.

Following the annexation of Gravel Ridge, all of the existing park land is found within the Sherwood city limits prior to annexation. This annexation has caused a disproportioned distribution of park land. A step toward correcting this circumstance would be the acquisition of a parcel of land that is a minimum of 50 acres for a new community park that would also contain sports fields. Depending on the number of recreation opportunities that are sought to be provided in addition to sports fields, the land required may be substantially more and thus the actual park classification may become a district park.

Low lying land adjacent to a water course is frequently selected for park land and sports fields due to the relative inexpensiveness, gentle topography, favorable depth of soil over bedrock, favorable topsoil depth, ability to preserve of riparian/wetland habitats, ease of providing ADA accessibility, and ease of linkage with the city by a trail system along the water course. Land acquisition in close proximity to the Kellogg Creek water course appears to be the most favorable option, although land in close proximity to Bayou Meto is also a strong option. The land adjacent to Kellogg Creek is located slightly north of the geographical middle of Sherwood. A new park located in this area would facilitate convenient vehicular transportation to the park from Hwy 107 and the planned future freeway, while also furnishing the



potential to link the park with the community through the use of a trail system along the creek.

The main objectives for this new community park planning should be to provide recreation opportunities for the sports of soccer, football, and fast pitch softball, while also addressing recreation opportunities for an aging population. These demographic segments will quickly become an underserved group without the commitment of resources.

As mobility impairment due to aging becomes more prevalent, there will be an increasing demand for park area that meets ADA accessibility requirements. Subtle topography is a site selection criterion that is advantageous for sports fields and activities enjoyed by segments of the aging population that may have mobility impairment. Activities that are associated with an aging population include walking, hiking, bicycling, picnicking, observance of children playing, and observance of nature and wildlife. Fortunately, these activities are also popular among other demographic segments.

If Sherwood continues to grow at the same rate that has occurred between the year 1990 and today, a population of 47,000 would be reached in the 30 years. Space for 6 soccer/football fields should be planned in the new park to satisfy this projected population. When combined with the existing field at Sherwood Forest Park the space is adequate for soccer and football leagues to use simultaneously and provides space to host good sized soccer tournaments. In addition to the soccer fields, space for five fast pitch softball fields should also be planned to meet future demand for this activity. These softball fields would open scheduling times for the softball fields at Sherwood Forest Park which will become necessary as the city grows in population.

Closure of the swimming pool facilities within Fairway Park and Indianhead Park are recommended. Due to the age of these facilities, a substantial investment would be required to correct the overall disrepair and to correct the nonconformance with ADA regulation concerning the bathhouse. The popularity and usage is much higher for Water Park facilities like the one planned for Sherwood Forest in this master plan.

Activity Based:

Activity based assessment compares National Standards against the current available facilities within the City. With this assessment, future activity based needs is projected. From this comparison a determination is made in regards to the facilities that are in excess,



facilities that are adequate, and those where additional units are needed. The following table shows the National Standards and standards developed for the City of Sherwood, compared to the City of Sherwood's existing facility inventory. The National Standards were provided by the National Parks and Recreation Association while the proposed City of Sherwood Standards was developed for this master plan based on a combination of staff and community input.

ACTIVITY BASED ASSESSMENT

ACTIVITY/RACQUET	RECOMMENDED SPACES SIZES - HOURS	RECOMMENDED COST - SIZE & DIMENSIONS	NO OF UNITS PER POPULATION (PER 1,000)	RECOMMENDED NO OF UNITS/100K POPULATION	NO. AVAILABLE	ADDITIONAL UNITS NEEDED (Total)	ADDITIONAL NEEDED IN FUTURE (Year)
BASKETBALL	2,000 SF		1 PER 1,000	1 PER 1,000	0	1	0
BASKETBALL COURTS	3,200 - 3,200 SF		2 PER 1,000	1 PER 1,000	0	2	0
HOCKEY COURTS	90'x70'		1 PER 10,000	1 PER 10,000	0	0	0
SOCCER	30,000 SF		1 PER 100,000	0 PER 100,000	0	0	0
TENNIS COURTS	2,000 SF		1 PER 1,000	1 PER 1,000	7	23	20
STATIONARY	4,000 SF		1 PER 1,000	1 PER 1,000	1	7	0
BASKETBALL - TROPHY	3,000 AC SQ						
- OFFICIAL			1 PER 50,000	1 PER 50,000	0	0	1
- YOUTH/GAMER				1 PER 1,000	0	0	0
BASKETBALL FLOOR POLING FENCE & FANT FLOOR	2 AC		1 PER 1,000	1 PER 1,000	24	0	0
FIELD HOCKEY	1.5 AC		1 PER 20,000	0 PER 20,000	0	0	0
FOOTBALL FIELD	1.3 AC		1 PER 20,000	1 PER 20,000	0	0	0
GOLF	1.1 AC		1 PER 10,000	1 PER 1,000	1	0	0
HANDBALL			N/A	1 PER 20,000	0	0	0
BEACH VOLLEY			1 PER 10,000	1 PER 10,000	0	1	1
BEACH VOLLEY BEACH	20.3 AC		1 PER 10,000	1 PER 10,000	0	1	1
BIKE BUMP			1 PER 10,000	1 PER 10,000	0	0	0
CLIMBING WALL	1.1 AC		1 PER 10,000	1 PER 10,000	1	1	1
MULTI-USE RECREATION	2,000 SF		1 PER 10,000	1 PER 10,000	1	0	0
TABLE							
- HANGING/STAIRS			1 PER 100,000	1 PER 100,000	0	0	0
- FURNITURE/SEATING			1 PER 100,000	1 PER 100,000	0	0	0
PERGOLA			1 PER 1,000	1 PER 1,000	14	0	0
PERGOLA TABLE			1 PER 100	1 PER 100		200	200
RECREATIONAL UNITS							
- SEE PLAN			N/A	1 PER 1,000	0	1	0
BEACH VOLLEY BEACH	7.00 AC SQ		1 PER 10,000	0 PER 10,000	0	0	0
COMMUNITY LIGHT & SHIPYARD	31 AC SQ		1 PER 10,000	1 PER 10,000	0	0	0
ARTINAL COURT			N/A	1 PER 1,000	0	23	20
BASKETBALL FLOOR	7.0 AC SQ		1 PER 10,000	1 PER 10,000	0	0	0
SOCCER FIELD	30.0 AC SQ		N/A	0 PER 10,000	0	0	0
RECREATION FIELD			1 PER 10,000	1 PER 10,000	0	0	0
SOCCER FIELD			1 PER 10,000	1 PER 10,000	0	0	0

6 COMMUNITY INPUT

Elected Officials and Staff

As part of the data gathering process ETCEA conducted interviews with elected officials of the City of Sherwood and staff members of the parks and recreation staff. Interviews were conducted in an organized manner in the City offices and City Council meetings. Staff was given an opportunity in face to face interviews to express any concerns or make any suggestions. Draft planning documents were given to staff members for review and comment.

All Park staff members expressed their difficulty maintaining small neighborhood parks and pocket parks. These parks do not have mass big enough to attract visitors from other areas of the city yet requires similar maintenance as their larger siblings. They also expressed their difficulty in maintaining the small neighborhood pools. These pools are old and all have aging issues. None of them have been upgraded. All have major water leaking issues. Staff does not believe that these pools have much recreational value and suggested that these pools be abandoned. Parking is a concern for most staff members. Improvements to parking layout and access as well as an increased number of parking spots are needed at nearly all of the parks. Detailed comments have been recorded in the park specific assessment and recommendations sections of this report.

Most staff expressed concerns about the newly annexed Gravel Ridge area to the north of the city. They are underserved and currently have no access to any parks facility within the annexed area. It would be necessary to develop a new park in the vicinity of the area within a short time.

55% OF THE RESPONDENTS SAID IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE CITY PROVIDE GOOD PARK SERVICES.

33% SAID THAT THEY USE THE PARK SYSTEM WEEKLY.



Public Meetings

Two separate public meetings were held at city hall on the dates of April 27, 2009 and May 11, 2009. Both public meetings were very well attended and were "standing room only". During the first part of each meeting, the public was given substantial time to review plans that graphically portrayed the proposed improvements for each park. These plans were displayed on the walls around the perimeter of the room. Once the public had sufficient time to digest these plans, a power point presentation was performed and moderated by ETCEA. During the presentation, each park was presented individually and thoroughly discussed among the attendees before another park was presented and discussed. The discussions that ensued during the meetings revolved around the following comments from the public.

Austin Lake Park

Meeting on April 27

- The park is hard to find. Needs better signage.
- The park is dark. Needs lighting.

Meeting on May 11

- No comments were received.

Beverly Park

Meeting on April 27

- A new path located along the creek would connect the park with North Hills Golf Course.
- Due to the seclusion of the park, some perceive the park to be unsafe.
- For safety, children should be kept out of creek.
- Attach manhole covers to manholes.
- Place signs stating that the park is patrolled by the bicycle patrol.

CITIZENS CONCERNS

- ✓ Park signage not adequate
- ✓ Park lighting not adequate
- ✓ Lack of Access path to all amenities within a park
- ✓ Safety of parks due to secluded nature of park location
- ✓ Playgrounds need upgrading
- ✓ Need new pavilions/shade structures
- ✓ Restrooms need remodeling
- ✓ Additional picnic tables
- ✓ Facility in general disrepair
- ✓ New skate park
- ✓ RV hookup needed
- ✓ Provide walk path through the golf course

Meeting on May 11

- Park has minimal usage.

Lake Cherrywood Park

Meeting on April 27

- Basketball and fishing is popular in vacant lot.
- Boat ramp needs to be reconstructed.

Meeting on May 11

- Most used park.
- Mostly used for fishing and basketball.
- Link Pickthorne Park with trail through marsh.
- Trail around lake.

Delmont Park

Meeting on April 27

- A general positive response to the proposed plan.

Meeting on May 11

- No comments were received.

Fairway Park

Meeting on April 27

- Do not close pool (3 responses).

Meeting on May 11

- No comments were received.

CITIZENS CONCERNS (Cont.)

- ✓ Provide walkway linkage between all Parks
- ✓ Build Water Park

Henson Park

Meeting on April 27

- The building needs to be torn down and rebuilt.
- Benches needed.
- Upgrade playground
- Additional picnic tables and grills needed
- New pavilion needed.

Meeting on May 11

- No comments were received.

Indianhead Park

Meeting on April 27

- Restrooms and bathhouse needs remodeling.
- Additional picnic tables needed.
- A new playground is needed.
- Compacted gravel path for dog walk area.

Meeting on May 11

- Looks run down.
- Fence is rusty around pool and in disrepair.

Pickthorne Park

Meeting on April 27

- No comments were received.

Meeting on May 11

- No comments were received.

5 MOST USED PARKS

SHERWOOD FOREST

BILL HARMON REC. CENTER

LAKE CHERRYWOOD

NORTH HILLS GOLF COURSE

INDIAN HEAD HILL PARK

Sherwood Forest Park

Meeting on April 27

- What is the cost of improvements?
- A skate park is needed.
- RV hookups are needed.
- Keep the "Trail of Lights" path.

Meeting on May 11

- Provide a botanical garden with education programs.

Storer Park

Meeting on April 27

- No comments were received.

Meeting on May 11

- No comments were received.

Thornhill Park

Meeting on April 27

- No comments were received.

Meeting on May 11

- No comments were received.

Verona Park

Meeting on April 27

- No comments were received.

MOST FAVORITE ACTIVITY IN A PARK

- WALKING
- GOLFING
- DRIVING RANGE
- NATURAL TRAIL
- DOG WALKING

MOST FAVORITE FAMILY ACTIVITY IN A PARK

- WALKING
- SWIMMING
- PICNICKING
- FISHING
- NATURAL TRAILS

Meeting on May 11

- No comments were received.

Trail System

Meeting on April 27

- ☑ Connect Brockington with the Oakbrooke – Maryland intersection.
- ☑ North Little Rock has a planned Remount Road Trail to the airport.
- ☑ Coordinate Sherwood trail system with North Little Rock and Jacksonville

Meeting on May 11

- No comments were received.

General Comments

Meeting on April 27

- ☑ 4 skateboard parks are needed throughout city.
- ☑ Some residents living around these parks may not want lighting in the parks.
- ☑ Stock ponds for fishing.
- ☑ Plan parks for future transit system.
- ☑ Prioritize park improvements.
- ☑ Park access should be provided to 100% of the citizens.

Meeting on May 11

No general comments were received.

North Hills Golf Course

Meeting on April 27

- ☑ There are a number of ground water wells on site.
- ☑ A former superintendent for the golf course is in attendance.
- ☑ What is the cost to build the lake for irrigation water storage to eliminate city water usage?
- ☑ Basketball coach supports.

MOST DESIRED NEW FACILITY

- ✓ FISHING POND
- ✓ AQUATIC PARK
- ✓ FAMILY REUNION & MEETING PLACE
- ✓ GOLF COURSE
- ✓ SKATE PARK

IF NORTH HILLS GOLF COURSE IS REOPENED 25% OF THE RESPONDENTS WILL PLAY MORE THAN 100 ROUNDS OF GOLF PER YEAR

- Golf course needs to be public.
- Provide pedestrian path through golf course property.
- What are the greens fee cost per round and per year?
- Golf team members support

Meeting on May 11

- Big mistake buying. Not much of a golf course.
- Should make into a 9 hole or par 3 course
- Great golf course by Robert Trent Jones, Sr.
- Golf course in terrible shape. Only 8% of population plays golf. Likes to walk the course.
- Golf course will generate revenue
- Golf courses lose money.
- No parks and recreation facilities make money.
- The rough is all rock.
- Golf course will need subsidizing.
- 100 people are willing to contribute \$1,000 toward improving the golf course.
- Golf is good for young people.
- Parks and recreation is a city service.
- Sylvan Hills athletic director states that area golf teams will benefit.
- Take care of other needs first.
- North Hills is a golf course and should remain as such.
- There are no revenue producers in the parks system.
- Good rental potential for functions at the clubhouse.
- The golf course is a large investment.
- Needs to go to public vote before investing in course.
- North Hills is beautiful.
- Golf course adds prestige to city.
- Don't have to be a golfer to benefit from the golf course.
- Golf course will be more affordable to play as a public course as opposed to when it was private.
- Increases quality of life which influences where businesses locate.
- Golf course is an eye sore.
- Need volunteers to clean up the golf course
- Will draw businesses and tournaments that will increase economic base.
- Bicycle trail around golf course.

MOST DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS IN A PARK

- ❖ MORE RESTROOMS
- ❖ BETTER LIGHTING
- ❖ MORE PARKING
- ❖ MORE WALKING & BIKING TRAILS
- ❖ MORE PLAYGROUNDS

- Elected officials will reach a conclusion for the best use of the property.
- Provide parks facilities for youth.
- Physical education teacher will introduce students to golf.
- Many other places to spend money besides golf course. Storm drainage, streets, sewer system, and fire department.
- The city is struggling to generate revenue.
- Good place for a water park like Jacksonville.
- Would like a bicycle trail on the property.

Community Survey

A park survey questionnaire was developed and distributed among citizens of Sherwood to obtain specific inputs regarding current status of the park system as well as future improvements desired. Only 24 responses were received. Summary of the response is shown below.

Respondent #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Fairway Park/Pool																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> North Hills Golf Course	✓					✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			46%
<input type="checkbox"/> Henson Park						✓					✓														8%
<input type="checkbox"/> City Hall Park/Pond													✓								✓				8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Deroo Park													✓												4%
<input type="checkbox"/> North Hills Club House	✓							✓						✓	✓	✓				✓		✓			29%
<input type="checkbox"/> Verona Park																									0%

What activities do you use the facilities for most often?

<input type="checkbox"/> Ball Games			✓																			✓			8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Courts																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling												✓					✓								8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Bike Skills Park												✓	✓												8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat Launch															✓	✓									8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Walking												✓	✓							✓			✓		17%
<input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes													✓												4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Meetings									✓													✓			8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Trail											✓		✓				✓								13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Fields																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Areas												✓	✓												8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds																						✓			4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Running																	✓								4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis			✓			✓																			8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Skate Park																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Walking		✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓							✓			✓		38%
<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming															✓	✓							1		13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Golfing	✓					✓		✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving Range	✓					✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		42%
<input type="checkbox"/> Relaxation		✓																							4%

When recreating in an Sherwood Parks, what five activities does your family participate in most?

Respondents	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball																									0%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Biking												✓			✓											8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating													✓		✓		✓									13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Concerts													✓				✓	✓								13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian																										0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing						✓									✓	✓		✓								17%
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting									✓								✓							✓		13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes																										0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Gatherings										✓	✓		✓													13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnics										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓									25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds														✓										✓		8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Trail		✓				✓						✓	✓				✓			✓						25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Running																										0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Skate Park												✓														4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Softball																	✓									4%
<input type="checkbox"/> T-Ball																										0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis			✓			✓		✓																		13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Walking		✓				✓	✓					✓	✓	✓				✓						✓		33%
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming												✓			✓	✓								✓		17%
<input type="checkbox"/> Other																										0%

If available, what other outdoor activities would you use in parks?

<input type="checkbox"/> Baseball/Softball Field																										4%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping Areas		✓				✓							✓														13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving Range	✓	✓				✓						✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			46%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park						✓						✓	✓							✓				✓			21%
<input type="checkbox"/> Duck Pond											✓													✓			8%

Respondent #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian Trailheads																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Pond						✓							✓	✓			✓		✓						21%
<input type="checkbox"/> Free-ride Mt. Bike Course																						✓			4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Frisbee Golf Course												✓													4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive Trails													✓												4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock-Climbing Wall												✓													4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Sand Volleyball															✓										4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Skate Park (upgraded)													✓	✓											8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Field																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis (New Courts)						✓	✓																		8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball										✓			✓												8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Competitive Swimming																							✓		4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting/Family Reunion						✓			✓			✓													13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Park		✓									✓		✓										✓		17%
<input type="checkbox"/> Golfing														✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Trails													✓												4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Biking Trails														✓											4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Movies in the Park														✓											4%

Which local park is closest to your residence?

<input type="checkbox"/> Delmont Park																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Sherwood Forest													✓												4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Pick Thorne Park														✓											4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Thorn Hill Pool		✓																							4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Harmon Rec. Center	✓									✓	✓														13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Creek Park																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian Bridge Park																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Baseball Fields																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Softball Fields																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Stoner Park																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Head Hill Park		✓	✓						✓				✓	✓	✓										25%

Respondent #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Cherrywood													✓												4%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fairway Park/Pool																										0%
<input type="checkbox"/> North Hills Golf Course					✓	✓	✓					✓				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			38%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Henson Park					✓						✓											✓			13%	
<input type="checkbox"/> City Hall Park/Pond												✓	✓												8%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Devon Park																									0%	
<input type="checkbox"/> North Hills Club House																									0%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Verona Park				✓																					4%	

How often do you visit this park?

<input type="checkbox"/> Once a day							✓				✓	✓				✓					✓	✓			25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Week			✓	✓	✓								✓	✓		✓	✓			✓					33%
<input type="checkbox"/> Month	✓											✓													8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Year								✓																	4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Never																									0%

If North Hill Reopens, how many rounds of Golf would you play per year?

<input type="checkbox"/> 0			0	0	0					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											21%
<input type="checkbox"/> 1-33	✓						✓														✓				13%
<input type="checkbox"/> 33-66																✓	✓	✓							13%
<input type="checkbox"/> 66-100					✓																	✓			8%
<input type="checkbox"/> 100 or more	✓							✓					✓	✓							✓	✓			25%

What improvements would make you want to visit the park more often?

<input type="checkbox"/> Better lighting	✓	✓		✓						✓	✓	✓	✓												29%
<input type="checkbox"/> More amenities	✓		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓				✓				✓		✓	✓		42%
<input type="checkbox"/> More parking area	✓																					✓	✓		13%
<input type="checkbox"/> More police patrols																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> More shade trees	✓											✓													8%

Respondent#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Elec. & Water to Restrooms			✓																						4%
<input type="checkbox"/> More Signage				✓																					4%
<input type="checkbox"/> More Swing Sets					✓																				4%
<input type="checkbox"/> More Walking & Biking Trail												✓	✓												8%
<input type="checkbox"/> More Dog Park													✓												4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Course															✓										4%

If you feel more amenities are needed in the park, what would you add that is not available?

<input type="checkbox"/> Biking Amenities					✓							✓	✓												13%
<input type="checkbox"/> Restrooms				✓						✓	✓	✓							✓						21%
<input type="checkbox"/> Play Equipment		✓										✓													8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Area (t)												✓													4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Trails		✓			✓							✓						✓							17%
<input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded facilities			✓					✓							✓				✓						17%
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing Wall																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Play Fields																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Summer																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball													✓												4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded Skate Park												✓													4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Fields																									0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Park																							✓		4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park													✓												4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Course - Youth Program																							✓		4%

What is your age group ?

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18														✓											4%
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 29		✓																							4%
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 - 44												✓										✓			8%
<input type="checkbox"/> 45 - 65			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					50%
<input type="checkbox"/> 65 and Older						✓	✓	✓							✓							✓			21%

What is your gender?

Response #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						63%
<input type="checkbox"/> Female							✓				✓		✓				✓		✓			✓			25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Other																									0%
How many children live with you in Sherwood?				2				2														1			21%

Comments:

(2) - I would like to see a mini golf course or something for children added to the parks plan

(4) - Put up a billboard to say Sherwood's \$5 Million mistake

(5) - Consider trimming trees

(7) - I go to Burn's Park

(12) - North Hills failed as golf course. We need more family green space in this area with walking & biking areas.

(13) - I would like to see a real dog park built similar to the ones in Jacksonville and NLR. I would also like to see Skate Park for youth to enjoy

(16) - Parks are the lifeblood of a progressive City

(18) - Would love to have golf course reopen

(20) - OPEN Golf Course

(21) - We need a youth Golf Program like "First Tee" and an aquatic park like "Splash Zone"

7 Recommendations

This section addresses overall recommendations to the City of Sherwood's Parks and Recreation Program and a set of standards for design and management of the park system. Recommendations are suggested for each of the parks within the City Park System previously assessed and evaluated. These recommendations are based on the field assessment, needs assessment and inputs from park staff, elected officials and citizen input. Recommendations fall in the following categories:

- ↓ Generalized Facility Standards and Recommendations
- ↓ Park Specific Improvements
- ↓ Park Improvements, Upgrades and Expansion
- ↓ Proposed Land and Facility-Based Recommendation
- ↓ Recommendations related to Trail Network/Connectivity
- ↓ Land Acquisition for Future Parks
- ↓ Capital improvements

General Facility Standards & Recommendations

The following generalized recommendations are meant to form a basis for the City of Sherwood's standard protocol for future design, construction and management of the park system. Many of the recommendations are already in practice, some more so than others.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ PROVIDE ADEQUATE PARKING INCLUDING HANDICAP PARKING
- ✓ PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO ALL PARKS
- ✓ ALL PLAYGROUND SURFACES MUST MEET ADA STANDARDS
- ✓ PROVIDE MORE SHADE STRUCTURES
- ✓ PROVIDE ADEQUATE RESTROOMS
- ✓ PROVIDE SECURITY LIGHTING
- ✓ PROVIDE LINKAGE BETWEEN PARKS

Parking Standards and Recommendations

- ✓ Adequate Parking should be available to meet park demands during periods of maximum usage.
- ✓ Adequate handicap parking should be available
- ✓ Parking spaces should be demarcated with paint or other striping.
- ✓ Edges and boundaries of parking areas should be defined by standard means such as curb and gutter, vegetative buffer, wheel stop, or a similar means.
- ✓ All parking areas should be softened by adding adequate landscape islands.
- ✓ Efficient vehicular circulation should be provided.
- ✓ Landscape islands should be used to define parking, improve circulation, and provide shade.
- ✓ All pavement surfaces should be free of cracks, smooth, and kept in good repair.



Sidewalks, Walk Paths and Trails

- ✓ Provide pedestrian access into all parks.
- ✓ Pedestrian paths should be safe and easily identifiable.
- ✓ Provide pedestrian links between all parks.
- ✓ Provide accessible path linking all areas including handicap parking to buildings, fields, and play areas.

Play Areas and Fields

- ✓ Fields should be graded to drain adequately.
- ✓ Fields should be free of standing water under normal conditions.
- ✓ All turf areas should be maintained and kept in good condition.
- ✓ All spectator areas should be protected.
- ✓ Where appropriate provide bleachers or seating.
- ✓ All play ground surfaces must meet handicap requirements



Site Layout and Landscaping

- ✓ Park access and entrance features should be well defined.
- ✓ Park entries should be aesthetically pleasing to welcome visitors.
- ✓ Each park should have a standard Sherwood Park sign.
- ✓ A "way-finding" system should be established to help visitors understand the park boundaries, attractions, and navigate through the park. A park map should be prepared for each park.
- ✓ All parks should have an adequate number of trash receptacles, benches, tables, picnic tables and other amenities. Sherwood should develop standards for all amenities that are used all through the park system.
- ✓ All parks should appear organized.
- ✓ Existing vegetation should be regularly pruned and maintained to remain in good condition.
- ✓ Use a vegetative buffer or other form of barriers between incompatible land uses and adjacent properties.
- ✓ Adequate separation should be provided between recreational activities.
- ✓ Similar activities should be grouped together.
- ✓ Play areas should be designed in an age specific manner.



Facilities:

- ✓ Adequate shade structures should be provided at all parks.
- ✓ Adequate restroom facilities should be provide at all park
- ✓ A common theme should be used in designing all park facilities for easy identification

Safety and Security

- ✓ Provide adequate security lighting at all park facilities.
- ✓ Provide adequate lighting along walking paths and jogging trails.
- ✓ Arrange frequent security/police patrol
- ✓ Locate amenities in well lighted clearly visible areas
- ✓ Prune trees to provide adequate visibility



- ✓ Avoid locating facilities and amenities in remote areas.
- ✓ Provide security fencing around sensitive areas.

Park Specific Improvements, Upgrades and Expansion

List of recommendations related to specific park upgrades and improvements are noted in the individual park plan shown in the drawings included later in this chapter. Each park where these improvements are necessary is within the park drawing. These recommendations are broken into immediate needs and future needs. In general, all immediate needs relate to the park system meeting the handicap (ADA) accessibility requirements.

Land and Facility-Based Improvements

The following recommendations are based on the Land and Facilities-Based needs outlined in sections 4 and 5.

The City of Sherwood has the following Land-Based needs (Year 2030):

- ◆ 4 TO 12 Community parks
- ◆ 0 to 4 Neighborhood parks
- ◆ 18 to 80 Mini-parks

The City of Sherwood has the following Facilities-Based Needs (Year 2030):

- ◆ 8 Baseball & Softball Fields
- ◆ 15 Tennis Courts
- ◆ 4 miles of Hiking/Nature Trails, 7 miles of Multi Use Trails
- ◆ 8 Picnic Shelters
- ◆ 11 Playground Units
- ◆ 3 Basketball Court

BASED ON NATIONAL PARKS STANDARDS CITY OF SHERWOOD NEEDS TO ACQUIRE 225 TO 400 ACRES OF ADDITIONAL PARK

SUMMARY OF LAND & FACILITY BASED NEEDS (2030)

- ✓ 4 - 12 Community Parks
- ✓ 0 - 4 Neighborhood Parks
- ✓ 18 - 80 Mini-Parks
- ✓ 8 Baseball & Softball Fields
- ✓ 15 Tennis Courts
- ✓ 4 miles of Hiking/Nature Trails, 7 miles of Multi Use Trails
- ✓ 8 Picnic Shelters
- ✓ 11 Playground Units
- ✓ 3 Basketball Courts
- ✓ 2 Skateboarding Facilities
- ✓ 4 Dog Parks
- ✓ 2 Water Parks

- ◆ 2 Skateboarding Facilities
- ◆ 4 Dog Parks
- ◆ 2 Water Parks

When programming these facilities, the following was also taken into consideration

- ◆ City of Sherwood staff input
- ◆ City of Sherwood resident input (2 community meetings and survey)
- ◆ Trends and needs analysis

In order to accommodate these new land and facilities-based needs, the City of Sherwood will need to develop existing property and acquire new property.



Land Acquisition Recommendation

Although this master plan does not identify actual parcels of property for the City of Sherwood to acquire for the additional land and facilities-based needs, it does identify service areas in which the parks would need to be located. Attached Map in this section shows the service areas for the existing parks. Any new parks should be located outside of the existing service areas. When planning for a proposed park facility, neighborhood and community input should be the primary determinant.

Facility Recommendations

Existing Park Accessibility:

Sherwood should highly prioritize the resolution of ADA accessibility compliance deficiencies that are addressed in the Proposed Improvements shown for each park.

Community Park Deficiency

Additional land acquisition for the Community Park classification is the most urgent land based assessment need. In 2010 with the current amount of land allocated for the Community Park classification, Sherwood will be deficient by a minimum of 193 acres. Sherwood should highly prioritize their future park land acquisition in this classification.

New Park: Following the annexation of Gravel Ridge, the entire existing park inventory for Sherwood is found within the pre-annexation city boundary. This annexation has caused a disproportioned distribution of park land. A step toward correcting this circumstance would be the acquisition of a parcel of land that is a minimum of 50 acres for a new community park that would also contain sports fields. Depending on existing topography and the number of recreation opportunities that are sought to be provided in addition to sports fields, the land required may be substantially more and thus the actual park classification may become a City-Wide/Large Urban Park.

Low lying land adjacent to a water course is frequently selected for park land and sports fields due to the relative inexpensiveness, gentle topography, favorable depth of soil over bedrock, favorable topsoil depth, ability to preserve riparian/wetland habitats, ease of providing ADA accessibility, and ease of linkage with the City by a trail system along the water course

Land acquisition in close proximity to the Kellogg Creek water course appears to be the most favorable option, although land in close proximity to Bayou Meto is also a strong option. The land adjacent to Kellogg Creek is located slightly north of the geographic middle of Sherwood. A new park located in this area would facilitate convenient vehicular transportation to the park from Hwy. 107 and the planned future freeway, while also furnishing the potential to link the park with the community through the use of a trail system along the creek.

The main objectives for this new community park planning should be to provide recreation opportunities for the sports of soccer, football, and fast pitch softball, while also addressing recreation opportunities for an aging population. These demographic segments will quickly become an underserved group without the commitment of resources.

PARK CLASSIFICATION ACREAGE PER 1000 POPULATION (PER NRPA)	Recommended Acreage/1000 population	Sherwood 2009 Acreage - Year 2010 population	Sherwood 2009 Acreage - Year 2030 population
	Mini Park	0.25 – 0.50	0.041
Neighborhood Park	1.0 – 2.0	1.15	1.02
Community Park	5.0 – 8.0	0	0
City-Wide/Large Urban Park	5.0	4.66	4.16
Regional Park	5.0 – 10.0	0	7.76
Total Park System (Nos.)	10.0	8.7	7.76

[Standard prior to 1980]

As mobility impairment due to aging becomes more prevalent, there will be an increasing demand for park area that meets ADA accessibility requirements. Subtle topography is a site selection criterion that is advantageous for sports fields and activities enjoyed by segments of the aging population that may have mobility impairment. Activities that are associated with an aging population include walking, hiking, bicycling, picnicking, observance of children playing, and observance of nature and wildlife. Fortunately, these activities are also popular among other demographic segments.

Space for a minimum of 7 soccer/football fields should be planned in the new park to satisfy the projected population in the year of 2030. Demand for soccer facilities may substantially increase with the probable increase in the Hispanic population. When combined with the existing soccer field at Sherwood Forest Park the space is adequate for soccer and football leagues to play simultaneously and provides space to host large soccer tournaments. In addition to the soccer fields, space for a minimum of 4 fast pitch softball fields should also be planned to meet future demand for this activity. These fast pitch softball fields would open scheduling times for the ball fields at Sherwood Forest Park. Opening the scheduling times for the ball fields at Sherwood Forest Park will become useful as the city grows in population.

Park Parcel Size

Generally, Sherwood should consider not accepting or acquiring any future park land less than 5 acres unless recreation opportunities are needed in heavily developed areas where larger parcels of land cannot be obtained. Fewer and larger parcels of land are more cost effective and serve the needs of the public more efficiently.

Water Park/Swimming Facilities

Closure of the swimming pool facilities within Fairway Park and Indianhead Park are recommended. Due to the age of these facilities, a substantial investment would be required to correct the overall disrepair and to correct the noncompliance with the ADA regulation concerning the bathhouse. The popularity and usage is much higher for Water Park facilities like the one planned for Sherwood Forest in this master plan.

**PROJECTED
ADDITIONAL
PARK LAND
REQUIREMENTS**
(In addition to 2009)

	City of Sherwood - Current Acreage	Sherwood Planning Area - Year 2010 - per NRPA	Sherwood Planning Area - Year 2030 - per NRPA
Mini Park	1.6	8 - 18	9 - 20
Neighborhood Park	44.2	0 - 33	0 - 42
Community Park	0	193 - 309	216 - 346
City-wide/Large Urban Park	180	13	36
Regional Park	0	193 - 386	216 - 433
Total Park System	336	50	97

(Standard prior to 1980)

Trail System

A high priority for the improvement of the trail system should be to upgrade the existing trails that link Pickthorne, Henson, and Beverly Parks to a Multi-Use Trail. Additional Multi-Use Trails should be extended from these trails to provide linkage to Thornhill, Lake Cherrywood, and Sherwood Forest Parks.

Golf Course

A majority of the responses from city leaders and stakeholders favor the use of the North Hills Golf Course property as an 18-hole golf course. Since the former land use for the property was a very well respected private golf club, this represents very sensible reasoning. While under ownership by the City of Sherwood, we conclude that currently the highest and best use for this property is an 18-hole municipal golf facility.

Initially, the golf course may be reopened with a limited improvement budget. However, there may be a justifiable desire to allocate funds toward improving the playability of the course and reestablishing the facility to its former splendor. If additional funds for improvements become justifiable, information to assess and prioritize a myriad of potential improvements will become valuable. Developing a master plan for the renovation and/or remodeling of the course will provide quantified long term improvement goals and objectives with estimated costs. This will provide the means to evaluate and prioritize improvements based on fiscal budgets and to provide logistics for construction sequencing.

Because the Analysis/Projections Report for the former North Hills Country Club prepared by W.P.D. Management and Consulting may not have targeted the best market for a golf course operated by the City of Sherwood, additional analysis may be desired to target that market. A golf course market segment and financial analysis would identify the most effective market segment for a golf course operated by the City of Sherwood. An identified target market will help to insure that any investments in improvements for the golf course will be directed toward serving that market.

TRAIL SYSTEM

Upgrade the existing trails that link Pickthorne, Henson, and Beverly Parks to a Multi-Use Trail.

NORTH HILLS GOLF COURSE

Initially, the golf course may be reopened with a limited improvement budget. However, there may be a justifiable desire to allocate funds toward improving the playability of the course and reestablishing the facility to its former splendor.

Sherwood Forest

Currently, Sherwood does not possess much available park land that can be allocated toward recreation activities that are underserved for the community. Sherwood Forest Park is a mostly underutilized city-wide/large urban park that possesses large areas of undeveloped land that can be allocated toward the correction of deficiencies in recreation activities. We have prepared a master plan for this Large Urban Park based on community input and discussion. The master plan is shown following this write up. The improvements shown for the park were identified by accessing the natural features of the site then applying that assessment toward determining which underserved recreation activities and needs are appropriate for the site. The following improvements planned for this park will address many of the needs that are the most critical and are the most desired by the public.

- ❁ **Aquatics Facility:** Includes a zero-depth water park, therapy pool, diving and slide pool, concessions, and locker rooms.
- ❁ **Tennis Complex:** Includes 8 tennis courts and a clubhouse.
- ❁ **Trails:** Approximately 2 miles of trails.
- ❁ **Recreation Lake/Fishing Pond:** This 13 acre pond with a pier and boardwalk will provide opportunities for fishing and will enhance the scenery of the park.
- ❁ **Irrigation Pond:** This 1.8 acre pond will serve as a reservoir for irrigation water.
- ❁ **Baseball Fields:** Three new baseball fields with concessions are shown in the plan to alleviate the future scheduling demand for the four existing 250' baseball fields. These new fields should be dimensioned appropriately for the age of the users. With the exception of tournaments, this will eliminate the need to use temporary fencing on the 250 ft. fields. Depending on which age group has the highest demand for play, the 150 ft field could possibly be constructed larger if desired, but this would make the construction of all three fields more difficult and costly due to the existing topography in that area. If fast pitch softball fields are provided at

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SHERWOOD FOREST

- ✓ Aquatics Facility
- ✓ Tennis Complex
- ✓ Trails: Approximately 2 miles of trails
- ✓ Recreation Lake/Fishing Pond
- ✓ Irrigation Pond:
- ✓ Baseball Fields
- ✓ Football Field
- ✓ Maintenance Facility
- ✓ Maintenance Facility
- ✓ Primitive Campsites
- ✓ RV Campsites

another park location, the softball fields at Sherwood Forest Park would see a reduction in scheduling demand. Thus, one of the five softball fields could be expanded for high school level baseball.

- ❖ **Football Field:** When soccer fields are provided at another park location, the existing soccer field can be converted into a football field.
- ❖ **Maintenance Facility:** The existing maintenance facility located on site is inadequate to meet the future maintenance demands for the Parks and Recreation Department. A new facility is shown on site with the space required for this purpose.
- ❖ **Maintenance Facility:** The existing maintenance facility is proposed to be converted into an animal quarantine facility.
- ❖ **Primitive Campsites:** These will provide a secluded camping experience for youth organizations and the general public. Amenities such as tent pads, picnic tables, lantern hangers, grills, fire rings, and hose bibs for potable water would add to that experience.
- ❖ **RV Campsites:** These will mainly serve as an amenity for baseball and softball tournaments. Outdoor living areas adjacent to each campsite spur as well as sewer, water, and electrical hookups would provide a level of comfort and convenience. If utility hookups are not provided, a dump station is recommended. Amenities for the living area could include picnic tables, lantern hangers, grill and fire rings.
- ❖ **Shower House:** This will mainly serve as a restroom and shower facility for the users of the walk-in campsites and RV campsites.
- ❖ **BMX Facility:** The existing topography of this site will be conducive to an interesting track.
- ❖ **Dog Park:** Possible amenities could include perimeter fencing, dispensing stations, play apparatuses, drinking fountains, lighting, benches, and picnic tables.

AUSTIN PARK



- Improvements:**
- 1. 20' x 20' covered pavilion: No changes needed.
 - 2. 20' x 20' covered pavilion: No changes needed.
 - 3. Swing feature: Replace wooden edging and surface material current industry approved materials. Add handicapped access.
 - 4. Play feature: Replace wooden edging and surface material current industry approved materials. Add handicapped access.
 - 5. Benches: No changes needed.
 - 6. Asphalt walking trail: Construct headwall and handrail at drainage crossing. Remove old metal pipe, replace with ads pipe.
 - 7. Asphalt walking trail: Construct headwall and handrail at drainage crossing.
 - 8. Park sign: No changes needed.
 - 9. Leveled clearing for picnic activities.

BEVERLY PARK



Improvements:

1. Parking Area: Seal cracks as necessary.
2. Play Feature: Remove and build parking spaces. Relocate feature to another park. Will gain 8 spaces.
3. Bike rack: Relocate to Verona Park. New paint.
4. Square Pavilion: No work needed.
5. Wooden Bench: No work needed.
6. Wood and Metal Foot Bridge: No work needed.
7. Concrete Sidewalks: Remove where needed.
8. 6' Asphalt Walking Path: Repair sections as needed. Construct ADA ramp at Devon St.
9. Play Feature: Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
10. Park Sign: Park is close to Henson Park, should be considered as part of Henson Park.

DELMONT PARK



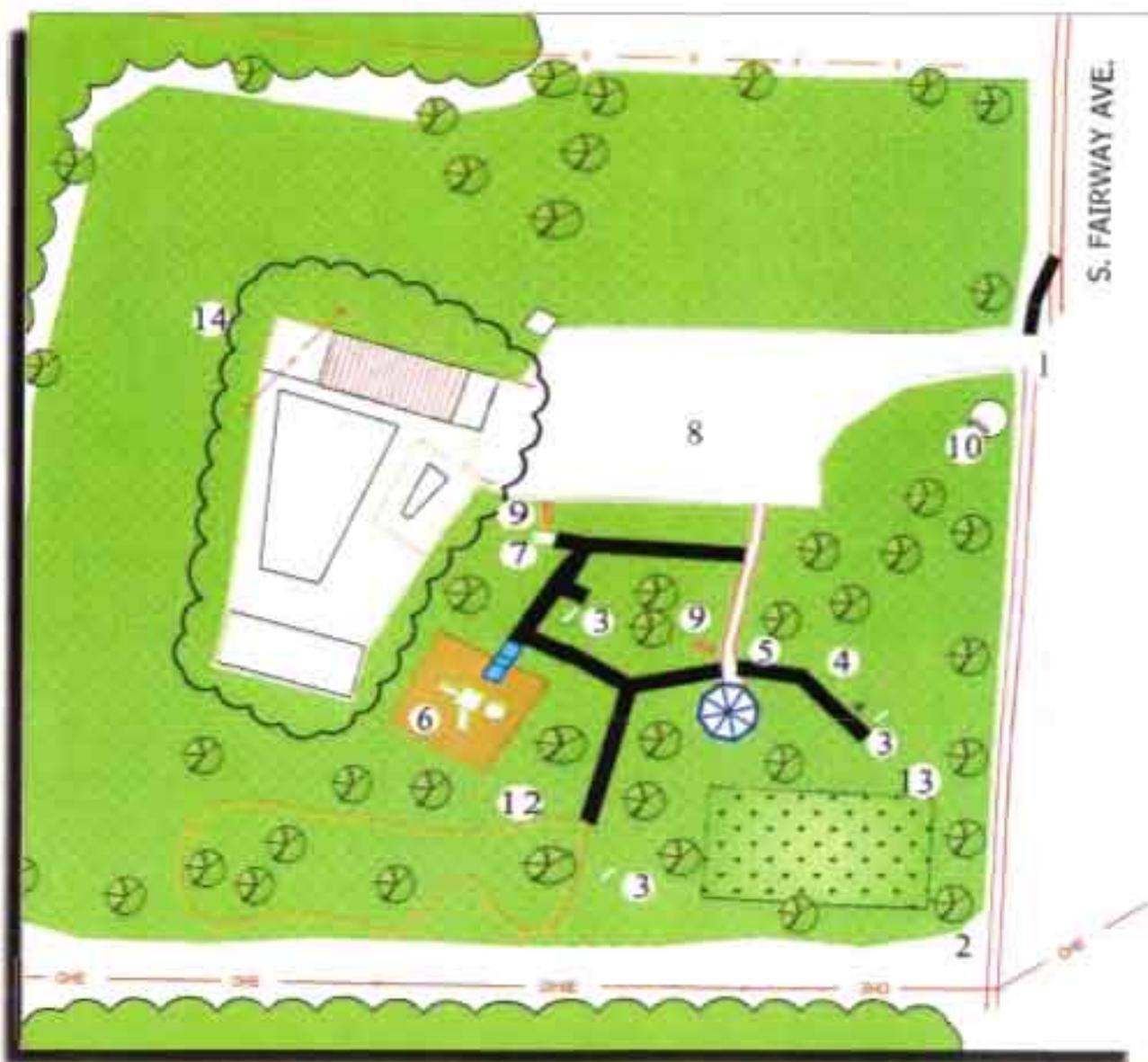
Improvements:

1. Picnic tables: No changes.
2. Charcoal grills: Replace both with newer grills and locate closer to picnic tables.
3. Swing feature: Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
4. Octagon gazebo: Fix entry to tie in with ADA path.
5. Wooden benches: No changes.
6. Spring features: Remove all 3 from the park.
7. Tecton-totter feature: Repair or replace current feature. Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
8. Play feature: Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
9. Parking area: No changes to spaces, construct ADA sidewalk near play features 7 and 8.
10. Park sign: No changes.
11. New park monument recognizing Delmont Park as the City's first park.
12. New geometric climbing dome with current industry approved surface materials and edging with handicapped access.
13. Seed park for uniform grass coverage.

ADA Access:

Construct a walkway made of asphalt pavement connecting the gazebo, swing set, monument or dog run area, 2 picnic tables, and play features to the parking area.

FAIRWAY PARK



Improvements:

1. Redo concrete sidewalk at entry to correct alignment.
2. Sidewalk along fairway road: No work needed.
3. Picnic tables: No work needed.
4. Charcoal grills: Replace with newer grill and locate closer to picnic table or gazebo.
5. Octagon gazebo: No work needed.
6. Play feature: Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
7. Bike rack: Repaint.
8. Parking area: Seal any cracks.
9. Wooden benches: No work needed.
10. Park sign: No work needed.
11. Construct a 6' asphalt walkway through the park to provide access to play feature, picnic tables, and dog walk area.
12. Compacted dirt dog walk trail.
13. Levelled clearing for picnic activities.
14. Pool and bath house in poor condition, recommend city remove concrete deck and fill in swimming pool then remodel bath house to improve restroom facilities.



Improvements:

1. Picnic Tables: ADA access needed.
2. Repair sections as needed on walking path and re-direct around new features.
3. Swing Feature: Remove.
4. Junction Box: Remove solid top and replace with open top.
5. Wooden Benches: No work needed.
6. Play Feature: Relocate to new location shown. Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
7. Wooden Foot Bridge: Install railings.
8. North Tennis Courts: No work needed.
9. West tennis court is not part of the park systems property. Remove any walkway access to west tennis court.
10. Double Tennis Court: No work needed.
11. Tennis building to be replaced in 5 to 10 years.
12. Install safety railing at creek crossing. 3'- 36" ADS pipes.
13. Asphalt trail up to foot bridge: Note 2 above.
14. Concrete sidewalk: No work needed.
15. Parking Area: Seal any cracks necessary.
16. Park Sign: No work needed.
17. Install fitness stations along walking trail.
18. New tennis courts.



Improvements:

1. 33' x 27' covered pavilion: no work needed.
2. Play feature: replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
3. Swing Feature: Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
- 3-1. Construct one large play area with play feature, swing set, and a climbing feature with current industry approved edging and surface materials and handicapped access.
- 3-2. Construct one large play area with larger play feature and swing set with current industry approved edging and surface materials and handicapped access.
4. Tennis Court: Replace portions of fencing.
5. Picnic Tables: No work needed.
6. Parking Lot: Replace damaged section and seal cracks as necessary.
7. Construct 6' asphalt walking path connecting play area, at least 3 picnic tables, tennis court and pavilion.
8. Park Sign: No work needed.
9. Construct 6' asphalt walking path to open field area.
10. Construct footbridge over drainage ditch.
11. Construct 6' wide measured path for distance walking, 1/4 mile length.
12. Construct compacted dirt dog walk trail.
13. New restroom facilities.
14. New parking spaces.
15. Pool and Bath House: Fix leaks in main pool and construct spray pad with water feature, remodel bath house as needed.

LAKE CHERRYWOOD PARK



Improvements:

1. Park sign in good condition. Repair donation plaque.
2. Basketball court redone recently, no work needed on playing surface. Install lights.
3. Picnic tables, in good condition.
4. Wooden fishing pier. No work needed. Walkway in good condition. Benches in good condition. Railing in good condition, one broken board found.
5. Boat "landing" needs improvement. Remove current ramp and replace with new ramp. Check with Corps Of Engineers to see if there could be a joint effort.
6. Wooden gazebo in good condition, apply fresh paint.
7. Swing feature: Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add hand-capped access.
8. Merry-go-around feature: Add edging and surface material to current industry approved materials, apply fresh paint and add handicapped access.
9. Play feature: replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add hand-capped access.
10. Benches: no work needed.
11. Seal cracks in asphalt parking area.

PICKTHORNE PARK



Improvements:

1. Covered Pavilion: Replace roof.
2. Metal Climbing Feature: Install edging and surface material in compliance to current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
3. Swing Feature: Relocate and replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
4. Play Feature: To Remain.
Add handicapped access from parking area.
5. Benches: Relocate bench between play feature and climbing feature.
6. Basketball: Install new backboards and nets.
7. Gravel Walking Trail: Use current materials as base material and construct a 6' asphalt walk path and construct ADA ramp at street.
8. Park Sign: No work needed.
9. Parking Lot: Seal any cracks necessary.
10. Possible fitness stations to be evaluated with City trail study.

STORER PARK



Improvements:

1. Picnic Table: Construct a gazebo or metal pavilion with ADA access from walking path.
2. 20' x 20'6" Concrete Pad: Demolition and removal, construct a 50' x 50' concrete slab and basketball goal.
3. Swing Feature: Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
4. Benches: no work needed.
5. Asphalt walking trail: repair sections as needed, seal any cracks as necessary.
6. Park sign: Needs maintenance.
- 6a. Park sign: Relocate if property to the north can be obtained and new parking is constructed.
7. Parking: City to check possibility of land acquisition. if land acquired construct new parking area for the park.
8. Seal off street dead-ends with guard rails and signage.
9. Install New Play Feature - Merry-go-round, climbing dome or play feature from Indianhead Lake park.
10. Compacted dirt dog walk trail.
11. New restroom facility.
12. New asphalt walking paths to access park areas.
13. New shade structure, 20' x 20'.
14. New pavilion structure, 36' x 24'.

THORNHILL PARK



Improvements:

1. Covered Pavilion: No work needed.
2. Picnic Tables: No work needed. (Note 13)
3. Tractor Tire: Remove from park.
4. Play Feature: Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add hand-icapped access.
5. Covered Picnic Table: No work needed.
6. 32'1 x 5'w Wooden/Steel Foot Bridge: Re-work bridge ends to be ADA compliant.
7. Asphalt Walking Trail: Replace sections as needed and seal cracks as necessary.
8. Park Sign: No work needed.
9. Gravel Parking: General maintenance needed.
10. Benches: No work needed.
11. Monument Marker: No work needed. (Note 13).
12. Construct bridges to the island to create a direct path to the monument marker. Remove tree and plant small shade trees. Install benches.
13. Construct walkway on north end of parking lot to provide access to picnic tables and play feature.
14. Construct new skate park.
15. Pool house to be renovated and upgraded to become a new water park unless another location is chosen for water park construction. In such case the existing pool and bath house will need general repairs and the future of the pool will be determined by the City.

VERONA PARK



Improvements:

1. Picnic Tables: No work needed.
2. Charcoal Grill: Replace with a newer one.
3. Swing Feature: Replace edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
4. Octagon Gazebo: No structural work needed. Supply electrical power to gazebo.
5. Wooden Benches: No work needed.
6. Spring Feature: Remove.
7. Benches: No work needed.
8. Play Feature: Relocate feature further away from trees and install edging and surface material with current industry approved materials and add handicapped access.
9. Parking Area: Patch areas needed and seal cracks as necessary.
10. Park Sign: No work needed.
- 11a. Basketball Court: Construct small retaining wall around exposed edges of concrete slab.
- 11b. Basketball Court: Build up natural ground around exposed edges of concrete slab at 4:1 slope.
12. Concrete Walk Path: No work needed.
13. Wooden Foot Bridge: Construct 4' concrete sidewalk to connect to street, construct ADA ramp at street.
14. Construct 5' concrete sidewalks to provide access to various features in the park.
15. Construct compacted dirt dog walk trail.
16. Install a bike rack.
17. New restroom facility.
18. Install area lighting throughout the park.

8 IMPLEMENTATION

Action Plan

The action plan set forth in this document is intended to give the City of Sherwood a realistic approach for implementing this master plan. The action plan is comprised of a capital improvements plan, land acquisition strategies and funding and revenue sources.

Capital Improvement Plan

The capital improvement plan prioritizes the recommended park renovations, improvements and upgrades, and proposed facilities, into immediate actions, a 5 year funding plan, and a 10 year funding plan. The plan includes costs for the recommended renovations and upgrades.

Immediate Actions: Immediate actions should be taken to renovate existing parks specifically related to handicap accessibility issues as outlined in Section 7 – Recommendations. General facility improvements that are related to standards and safety should also be implemented immediately, so that each of the facilities can be used to their maximum capacity. Most of these recommended actions relate to general beautification of the existing facilities, compliance with the Americans for Disabilities Act, actions to meet all facility specific safety standards, and providing adequate infrastructure such as adequate parking, adequate restrooms and other community desired amenities. . These renovations are outlined for each park in Chapter 7 of this master plan.

The cost of all such renovation will vary widely based on City's course of action. If the City decides to undertake these tasks in-house the cost may be quite low and the improvements may be accomplished over several years. If it is to be accomplished

Restroom Building	2	\$ 250,000
Shade Structure/Perimeter Fence	1	\$ 75,000
Picnic Tables	8	\$ 5,000
Courts (Basketball, Tennis, etc.)	1	\$ 200,000
Play Fields (Baseball, Soccer, Multi-purpose, etc.)	1	\$ 500,000
Handicap/Work Area	0.5	\$ 75,000
Playground sets	1	\$ 50,000
Miscellaneous Amenities	1	\$ 50,000
Parking lot	20	\$ 125,000
Dog Park	1	\$ 20,000
Site Development	1	\$ 125,000
Landscaping and Signage	1	\$ 25,000
Utility & Lighting	1	\$ 20,000
Total Cost		\$3,900,000

by outsourcing, the cost may be as high as \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

5 Year Plan: The 5 year plan is intended to complete the remaining renovations not addressed in the immediate actions, to implement the improvement program, and to begin the land acquisition process for future facilities. The land acquisition program accounts for the number of acres of land needed to meet national standards per 1000 population. This is shown in the Table included at the end of Section 5 – Assessment. By 2010 City of Sherwood will need to acquire approximately 200 to 360 acres of land dedicated to parks. The cost for the land acquisition will largely depend on the general location of the new parks as discussed in Section 7 – Recommendations. The estimated cost for the improvements program is based on the park-specific upgrades outlined in Chapter 7.

The City of Sherwood should undertake the development of the Sherwood Park as a Community Park. A concept plan for the park is shown in Section 7 – Recommendations. A preliminary cost estimate for this park as fully developed is shown below.

- Remaining Park Improvements: \$3,000,000.00 to \$5,000,000.00
- Sherwood Forest: \$14,185,000.00
- Land Acquisition Program: 4,000,000 (approximately 200 acres@\$20,000/acre). This price is based on average 2008 dollar values and does not allow for inflation). The land acquisition program accounts for the number of acres of land needed to meet national standards per 1000 population. This was outlined in the Table included at the end of Section 5.

20 Year Plan: The 20 year plan is intended to account for the additional facilities recommended in this master plan as a result of the land and activity-based needs assessment. To review, it was determined the City of Sherwood will need to acquire between 225 and 400 acres of land dedicated to parks by the year 2030. Once the land is acquired, the following developments should take place:

- Develop a minimum of 4 Community parks
- Develop a minimum of 0 Neighborhood parks
- Develop a minimum of 18 Mini-parks

Community recreation center	1	\$ 250,000
Restroom building	2	\$ 250,000
Shade Structure/Picnic shelter	2	\$ 30,000
Picnic tables	8	\$ 5,000
Courts (Basketball, tennis, etc.)	4	\$ 400,000
Play Fields (Baseball, soccer, multi-purpose, etc.)	4	\$ 2,000,000
Hike/Bike/Walk trail	1	\$ 150,000
Playground unit	3	\$ 50,000
Miscellaneous Amenities		\$ 50,000
Parking lot	40	\$ 250,000
Site development		\$ 250,000
Landscaping and Signage		\$ 50,000
Safety & Lighting		\$ 50,000
Total Cost		\$ 4,285,000

Shade Structure/Picnic shelter	1	\$ 30,000
Picnic tables	4	\$ 2,500
Benches, soccer, etc.	1	\$ 90,000
Playground unit	1	\$ 50,000
Miscellaneous Amenities		\$ 10,000
Parking lot	8	\$ 25,000
Site development		\$ 50,000
Landscaping and Signage		\$ 10,000
Safety & Lighting		\$ 10,000
Total Cost		\$ 237,500

Cost estimates for typical construction of Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks and Mini/Pocket Parks are shown in this section. The cost is based on conceptual plans developed by National Parks and Recreation Association. The costs are based on 2009 cost data and do not include future inflation, cost escalation, or other economic factors. The actual cost will also vary depending on actual park design, specific programs for the park and site construction issues.

Sherwood Forest Park has been recommended to be fully developed as a City Wide/Large Urban Park. A conceptual plan for the development is included in Section 7 – Recommendations. A preliminary cost estimate has been developed for budgetary purposes. The cost estimate is shown on the side column this page. The estimated cost is 14.1 million dollars without any escalation cost for the outer years.

Land Acquisition Strategies

Before any land can be acquired the City must first decide where these new parks should be located. The master plan includes in Section 7 – Recommendation a parks map showing coverage of all existing parks. This map should help in determining the locations for future parks. In addition in Section 7 we have made some recommendations in regard to land acquisition.

This master plan outlines some land acquisition strategies. With limited resources and available land, public agencies will need to work closely with private land owners to ensure there is adequate open space while letting private landowners continue to use their land.

Land resources are limited and continue to escalate in price. Future prices will most certainly be higher than today. It is therefore important that the City has an acquisition strategy that coincides with available funds to procure land. The City could also form a Land Trust to acquire desired land. A land trust is a non-profit corporation created to act as a liaison between public and private landowners to acquire parkland for preservation, protection, or recreation. The acquisition of land can happen in a variety of ways including outright purchase and purchase of development easements or conservation easements. The land trust retains ownership or donates it to the City for perpetual management. City also could enact appropriate zoning ordinances requiring potential land developers to dedicate a percentage of the developable land for community recreation and preservation. Zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations and mandatory dedications are publicly adopted documents governing the type of use on a site, how land is parceled into individual, developable lots, and the required dedication by a developer of land suitable for recreation. This method has been used by many

Cost - Sherwood Forest Community Park	
Water Park Facility	
Bathroom/Concession Bldg.	\$ 1,500,000
Water Park	\$ 2,000,000
Indoor Pool	\$ 1,500,000
Parking	\$ 725,000
Lighting	\$ 60,000
Tennis Facility	
Clubhouse	\$ 475,000
8 Courts	\$ 450,000
Lighting	\$ 170,000
Parking	\$ 115,000
3 Field Baseball Complex	
Concession Building	\$ 180,000
Ball Fields	\$ 300,000
Lighting	\$ 200,000
Parking	\$ 190,000
Dog Park Area	
Dog Park	\$ 55,000
Lighting	\$ 20,000
Parking	\$ 60,000
Recreation Lake Area	
Lake	\$ 625,000
Fishing Pier	\$ 350,000
Boardwalk	\$ 450,000
Restroom	\$ 150,000
Parking	\$ 335,000
Maintenance Facility	
35,000 sq. ft. Bldg.	\$ 1,200,000
Parking	\$ 65,000
BMX Track Facility	
Track	\$ 235,000
Building	\$ 105,000
Parking	\$ 35,000
Other Improvements	
Trails	\$ 400,000
Irrigation Reservoir	\$ 85,000
Road Improvements	\$ 500,000
Admin/Fees	\$ 1,500,000
Total Cost	\$ 14,185,000

commu
nities

organization to procure public space. If the parcels are too small an “in-lieu” fee can be charged which is kept in a trust fund to procure park land. Although this method is a proven method to secure land at no cost to the community, it generally takes a long time to accumulate adequate funds to procure large parcels. Often this method yields very small pocket parks which are difficult to manage and does not provide any significant recreational opportunity for the citizens at large

Funding/Revenue Sources

There are a limited number of revenue sources that are available to the City of Sherwood to help finance the park improvements and proposed facilities recommended in this master plan. They include:

- ❖ User Fees – generally not adequate to fund large capital projects. However it is a good way to provide operation and maintenance budgets for a project.
- ❖ Sales Tax Based Revenue Bonds – This is the most commonly used method for financing large capital projects. The capital portion of the bond will have a sunset date while the maintenance portion of the bond will continue perpetually. For financing large parks and recreation projects in Arkansas, this is the preferred method.
- ❖ City Advertisement & Tourism Tax based Revenue Bond
- ❖ Pay as you go
- ❖ Park Foundations
- ❖ Federal and State Grants - Federal grant programs have a long history of helping fund park and recreation programs and facilities. However in the recent years there has not been much funding available for cities and counties. When available, usually they have 50/50 matching fund requirements. State of Arkansas Parks & Recreation Department provides several grant opportunities for Arkansas Cities. Some have matching requirements. These grant programs include the Recreation Trails Program; the Outdoor Recreation Grants Program and others
- ❖ Impact fees on new development.

9 TRAIL SYSTEMS

Trails are an increasingly important local solution for national issues such as energy conservation through alternative transportation, preservation of natural water courses, and wellness benefits due to exercise. Sherwood has an opportunity to address these issues and become a community that represents real solutions. By implementing this plan, Sherwood will portray a green, healthy and sustainable community.

Vision

The City of Sherwood trails system's mission is to improve the health of the citizens and visitors of Sherwood and to increase access to the trails system itself. Additionally, promotion of both their use and importance for increased physical activity is at the core of the City's vision. The City of Sherwood will develop and implement strategies that will increase opportunities for and remove barriers to routine physical activity. The emphasis will be on long-term change through community design, trail planning, heightened awareness of active community environments, physical activity promotion, and increased trail use. The City will engage the citizens of the community, identify and promote existing trails, advocate for more accessible trailheads and trail connectivity, share information and build synergy.

Current Trail Links

Beverly, Henson, and Pickthorne Parks are currently linked by a trail system that provides differing degrees of accessibility. Most of the trail system runs along Woodruff Creek. Depending on location, the surfacing of the trail system consists of asphalt, crushed stone, and native ground. In locations of good repair, the trails consisting of asphalt surfacing appear to meet the criteria for ADA accessibility. The trails where the crushed stone is well compacted and in good repair provides rudimentary ADA accessibility as long as the longitudinal slope is less than 5%



and the cross slope is less than 2%. The trail surfaces consisting of native ground limits accessibility to mainly the able bodied and mountain bikers

Multi Use Trail Links

This functional network of paved multi-use trails will provide a means for recreation, alternative transportation, and preservation of natural watercourses while also providing universal usage opportunities for pedestrians, people with disabilities, and non motorized wheeled vehicles. The implementation of the proposed trail system through the watercourses of area creeks and within street right-of-ways will provide linkage to the existing parks and recreation facilities, a framework for assessing and locating future land acquisition for additional parks and recreation facilities, an organized route for exercise, alternative transportation along the trails, and linkage to the North Little Rock Remount Trail.

For a trail to be considered multi-use the surfacing should be a minimum of 10 feet wide, hard enough for no rutting to occur from wheeled vehicles and meet ADA requirements for longitudinal and cross slopes. Although a very well compacted 3/8" minus crushed stone material as surfacing has the ability to meet ADA requirements, asphalt or concrete is a more consistent choice. A crushed stone surfacing requires a high degree of maintenance to keep compacted and in good repair due to washouts. Loose stone can also create a safety hazard for cyclist with narrow tires. A fringe benefit of these trails would be to provide maintenance access along watercourses for removal of debris that blocks water flow

The current linkage provided for the majority of parks and recreation facilities in Sherwood exclusively serves the automobilist. Sherwood currently has one location where trails provide a degree of functioning park linkage. Beverly, Henson, and Pickthorne Parks are linked by a trail system along Woodruff Creek that provides differing degrees of accessibility. Portions of this trail are not considered multi-use due to the softness paving surfaces, thus, some portions of these trails restrict universal usage.

An integrated system of multi-use trails that support recreation and mobility simultaneously will provide greater access for the citizenry that currently use or desire to use the parks and recreation facilities. Most of the watercourses



along the area creeks display interesting natural scenery for enjoyment.

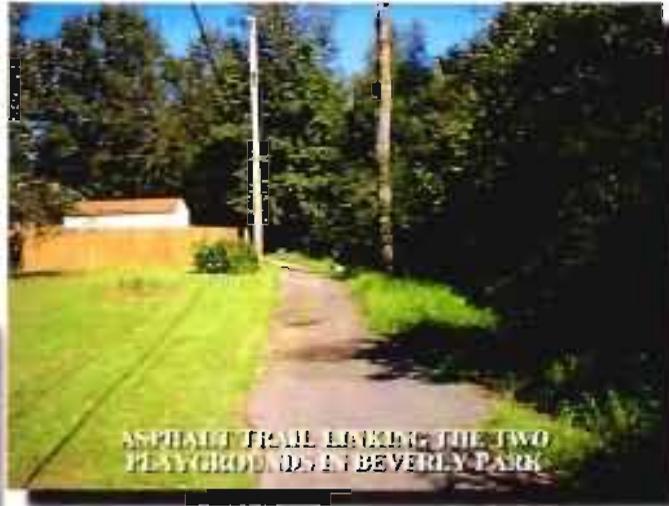
The trail system plan shows a 1/2 mile service area for each existing neighborhood park. This graphically displays the areas that are underserved by the existing park system. When assessing land for a possible new park, this plan will aid the decision making process in terms of potential linkage with other parks through a trail system and areas of Sherwood that are underserved by the parks system.



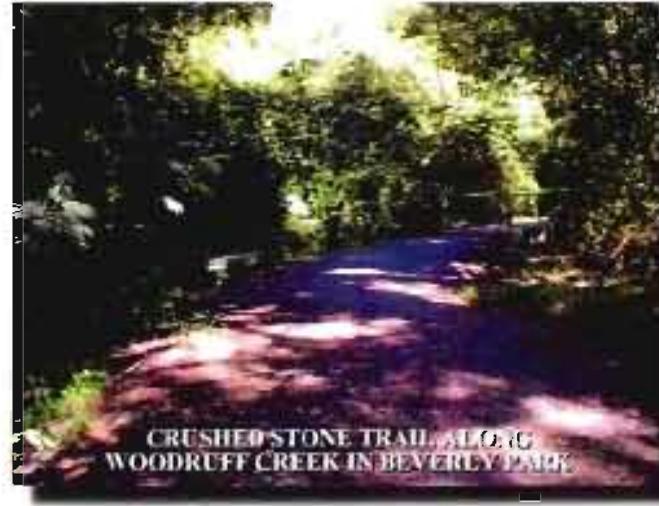
CURRENT LINKAGE BY EXISTING TRAILS



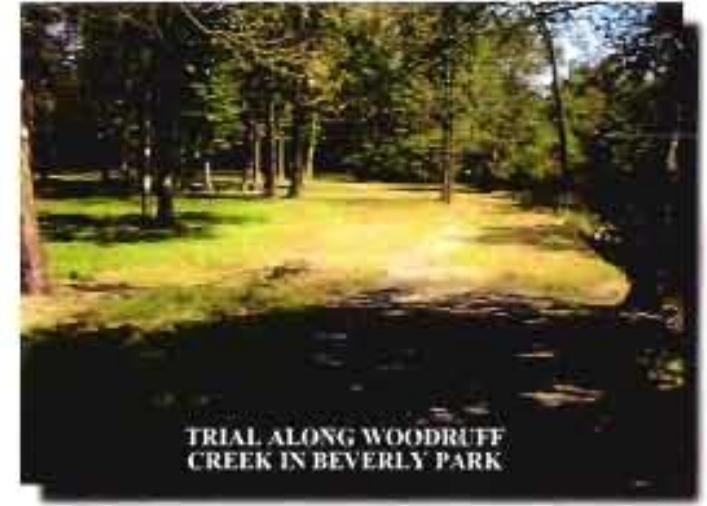
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ASPHALT TRAIL LINKING THE TWO PLAYGROUNDS IN BEVERLY PARK



CRUSHED STONE TRAIL ALONG WOODRUFF CREEK IN BEVERLY PARK



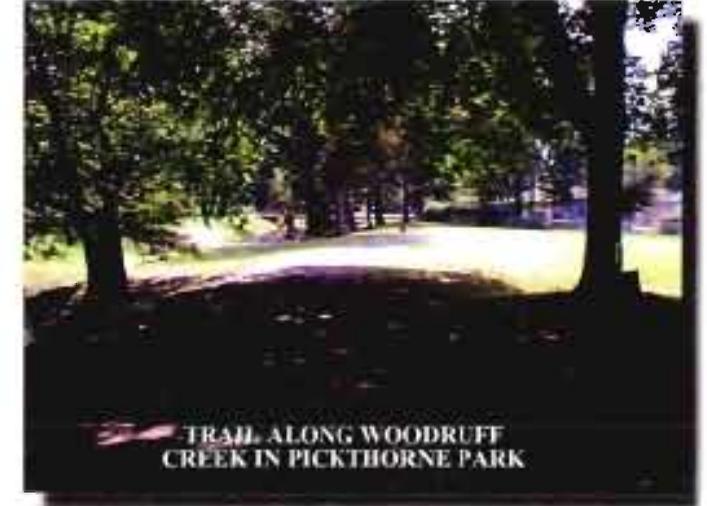
TRAIL ALONG WOODRUFF CREEK IN BEVERLY PARK



CRUSHED STONE TRAIL LINKING HENSON AND PICKTHORNE PARKS ALONG WOODRUFF CREEK

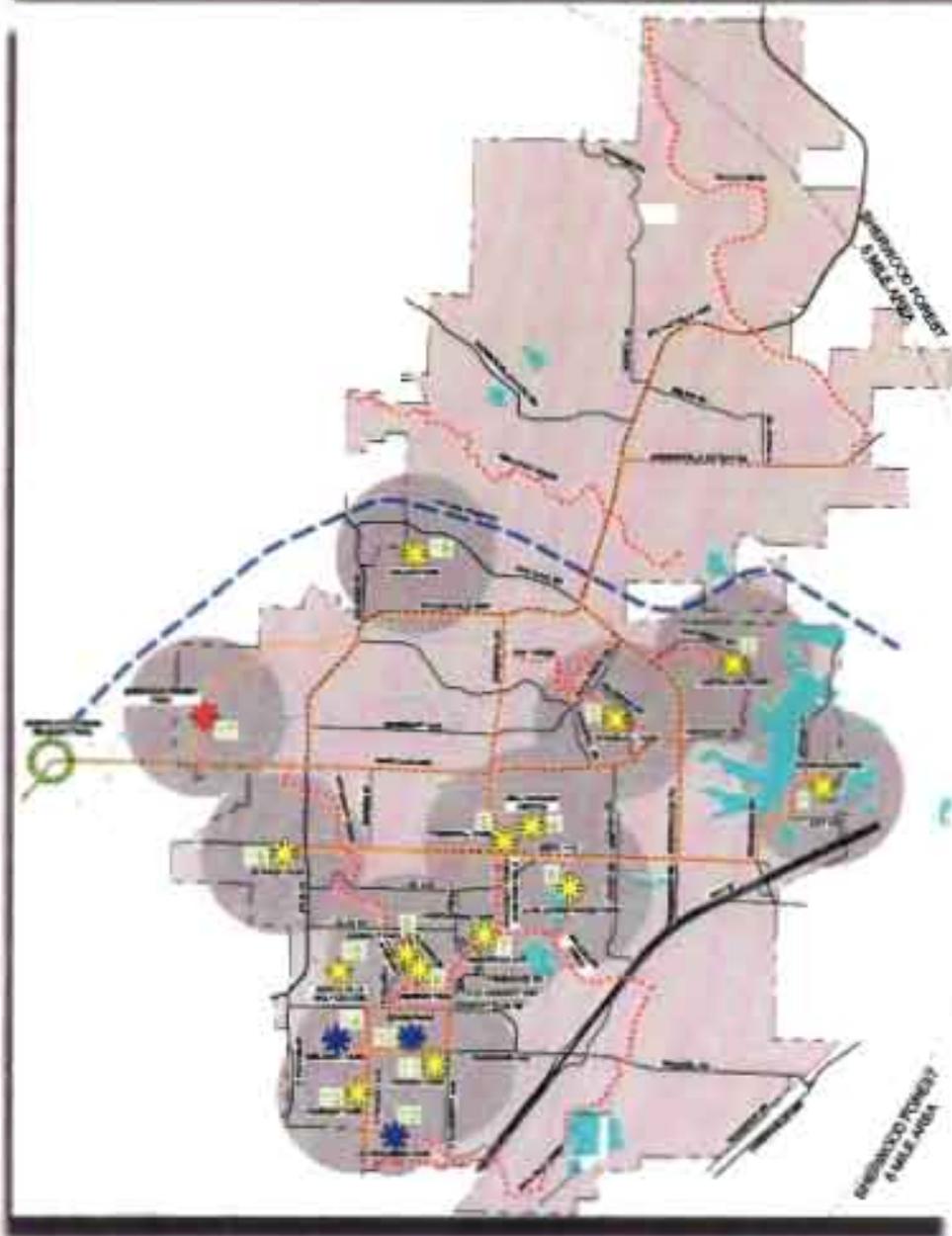


ASPHALT TRAIL LINKING HENSON AND PICKTHORNE PARKS ALONG WOODRUFF CREEK



TRAIL ALONG WOODRUFF CREEK IN PICKTHORNE PARK

MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM CREATES LINKAGE



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|-------------------------|
|  | CITY-WIDE / LARGE URBAN PARK LOCATION | 1 | INDIANHEAD PARK |
|  | NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LOCATION | 2 | AUSTIN LAKE PARK |
|  | MINI PARK LOCATION | 3 | STONEHILL PARK |
|  | NORTH LITTLE ROCK REMOUNT TRAIL LINKAGE | 4 | BILL HARMON CENTER |
|  | TRAIL ALONG STREET RIGHT OF WAY | 5 | THORNHILL PARK |
|  | TRAIL ALONG WATERCOURSE | 6 | LAKE CHERRYWOOD PARK |
|  | 1/4 MILE SERVICE AREA FOR MINI PARKS | 7 | PICKTHORNE PARK |
|  | 1/2 MILE SERVICE AREA FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS | 8 | BEVERLY PARK |
|  | 5 MILE SERVICE AREA FOR SHERWOOD FOREST PARK | 9 | HENSON PARK |
| | | 10 | DEVON PARK |
| | | 11 | VERONA PARK |
| | | 12 | SILVER CREEK PARK |
| | | 13 | FAIRWAY PARK |
| | | 14 | DELMONT PARK |
| | | 15 | NORTH HILLS GOLF COURSE |
| | | 16 | STORER PARK |
| | | 17 | SHERWOOD FOREST PARK |
| | | 18 | MILLER PARK |

SERVICE AREAS OF EXISTING PARKS

Typically, the service area for a mini park is 1/4 mile and a neighborhood park is 1/2 mile. By analyzing the accompanying map that shows the combined service area for these park classifications, the areas of the city that are underserved is evident. In these areas, the more dense the development is currently, the more critical the need to acquire new park land.

10 NORTH HILLS GOLF COURSE

Historical Perspective

In 2008, the City of Sherwood acquired the North Hills Golf Club property as an addition to their parks and recreation facilities. This property is reported to have served as a golf course since the year 1926. In 1979, Robert Trent Jones, Sr., a world renowned golf course architect, reportedly implemented a \$1 million remodeling of the course

Review of Recent Reports

At the request of the City ETCEA reviewed the Analysis / Projections Report for the former North Hills Country Club prepared by W.P.D. Management and Consulting (WPD) and all accompanying supplemental reports from International Golf Maintenance (IGM), Paladin Golf Marketing (PGM) and Spear Consultants (SC).

Although ETCEA staff includes engineers, architects and a golf course architect, we are not solely qualified to accurately assess whether North Hills can be financially feasible as a public golf course. Without being intimately involved in the evaluation/feasibility study process, ETCEA is unable to definitely determine whether WPD accurately determined the target market or accurately analyzed and projected the financials. However, it is well known that Rebsamen Golf Course, a City of Little Rock operated public golf course, which is an example course in the target market, has been profitable in the past.

Apparently, one objective of this report by WPD was to serve as a proposal to manage the golf course. Since the proposed management fee is based on a percentage of revenue instead of a percentage of profit, the target market and the recommended investment into the golf course may not be the city's most profitable option. The target market in



the report is for a high end public golf course that would compete in the same market as Rebsamen Golf Course. This market is logical as a recommendation to generate high revenues, but may not necessarily generate the highest profit. Potentially, this market may have been recommended as a means to generate the highest revenue and thus the highest total management fee. The report by WPD does not offer a term for their management commitment and gives financial projections for 5 years; therefore, the relevance of the report may be an investment solution for a term of 5 years and may not necessarily be the best long term investment solution.

If the City of Sherwood decides to pursue the target market for North Hills forecasted in the report by WPD, ETC believes the International Golf Maintenance (IGM) evaluators were reasonable in their assessment of initial improvement costs. To compete with high end public courses such as the Rebsamen Golf Course, the minimum initial improvement costs for the golf course and clubhouse improvements are estimated to be \$1,258,000. The minimum improvements to the golf course alone are projected by IGM to cost \$780,000. This estimate does include a cost for irrigation, but after an onsite investigation, ETCEA determined that there are too many unknowns associated with the existing irrigation system to accurately estimate any initial improvement costs. ETCEA believes that the minimum initial improvements suggested by IGM that relate to the greens, irrigation, tees, and cart path will most likely prove themselves to be a short term solution with the purpose of reopening the golf course and initially competing in the target market for the least cost.

The City of Sherwood has a very resourceful parks and recreation department that most assuredly can reduce the initial improvement costs with the help of an experienced golf course superintendent. The parks and recreation department has expressed their intent to perform some of the improvements in-house. For planning purposes, the report by IGM gives the department a resource for estimating any improvement costs that need to be outsourced.

Current Conditions and Observations

The golf course and the associated facilities has a unique character and appeal that offers the potential to provide a public golf experience second to none in the competing market. ETCEA staffs a golf course architect that has worked on renovation and remodeling projects of golf courses designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr. and has played in many of his golf courses. Although the golf course is in extremely poor condition due to lack of maintenance and investment,



the features of the golf course that represent Jones' design intent are very evident.

Sand Bunkers: Although the existing bunkers are in extreme disrepair, their contouring is the most prevalent feature on the golf course that exemplifies the Robert Trent Jones, Sr. design intentions for this particular golf course. The flashing of the sand on the pronounced and steep faces of the bunkers provides interest and strategy to the golf course. The golfer is allowed to see and visually access the risk and reward associated with the shot. The bunkers provide visual intimidation that will influence the direction of the shot in an attempt to avoid a difficult shot to escape the bunker. The bunkers also provide aesthetics to the course with the use of a striking contrast between the sand and the turf.

The existing bunkers will represent a costly maintenance item if they are renovated as currently designed. The steep faces of the bunkers require hand raking as part of the maintenance. Evidently, the maintenance budget at the time of the last remodeling was sufficient enough for this labor intensive procedure. As a means of reducing the costs associated with maintaining bunkers, some golf courses have implemented flat bunkers with very little flashing of sand to allow the raking of the bunkers to be performed by machines designed for this purpose.

Due to the technological improvements in equipment since 1979, the fairway bunkers are positioned in locations that are no longer fair or effective. On tee shots, the better golfers are able to easily fly the bunkers, while the poorer golfers are unnecessarily penalized by their shots being captured. This reduces the interest of the golf course for the better golfers and frustrates the poorer golfers. Hazards that are located in a position to capture the shots of the poorer golfer will negatively affect the speed of play for the entire course.

Greens: The last major renovation of North Hills was apparently in 1979. At that time, relative to today's standards, the turf on the greens was cut higher which caused them to play slower. In order to create interest and provide a challenge, most greens were designed with heavy contouring. Since that time, improvements in maintenance equipment, maintenance practices, and turf varieties have given golf course operators the ability to increase the speed of their greens by cutting the turf shorter. Through the years, this has also changed the expectations of the golfer for the minimum green speed.

Due to today's increase in greens speeds, flatter areas are required for pin placements. Thus, the older, smaller, and heavily contoured greens tend to have a very limited area for pin placement. Healthy turf is dependent upon the



ability to move the pin from day to day to multiple locations on the green. With a limited area for pin placement on the greens, the turf in the areas that are available will usually get a high degree of wear, become unhealthy, and become susceptible to disease.

One of the main contributors to slow play, which increases the length of time to play a course, is time spent on the putting greens. Since some of the existing greens are heavily contoured, some players will find these greens difficult to putt. Some players will require too many putts to hole the ball in a reasonable amount of time. This will increase the length of time to play the course, since the course can only play as fast as the slowest golfer. As a public golf course, the speed of play dictates how many rounds the course can produce. On weekends during peak times for play, a public golf course should maximize the earnings by providing playing conditions that will produce fast play.

By analyzing aerial photographs, the smallest existing green on the course is 3,040 sq. ft., the largest is 5,035 sq. ft. and the average green size is 4,310 sq. ft. Typically the greens today range from 6,000 to 8,000 sq. ft. depending on a multitude of factors and practice putting greens range from 10,000 to 15,000 sq. ft. Depending on the greens fee pricing structure and overhead costs, public golf courses may require 30,000 rounds per year or more, just to financially break even. This many rounds per year would apply more wear to the turf on the greens than has ever been endured in the past. Increasing the sizes of the greens to the today's standards will greatly increase the likelihood that they will hold up to the stresses of an increased frequency of play.

The American Society of Golf Course Architects publishes that the expected life cycle for a green is 15 to 30 years. If the last time the greens have been rebuilt was in 1979, when North Hills was last renovated, the greens are 30 years old this year. The life cycle for a green is mainly dependent upon proper drainage. Proper green drainage relies on surface drainage and the percolation of water through the green profile into a subsurface drainage system that consists of perforated drain pipe encased with washed crushed stone. As a green ages, it loses the ability to allow for a proper water percolation rate through the profile. This is due to a build up organic material in the profile and sedimentation in the wash stone and perforated pipe. After 30 years, it is highly unlikely that a green will have adequate percolation rates to remain healthy with an increasing frequency of play.

Tees: Although an analysis of the existing tee space for the golf course has not been conducted, we are certain that the majority (if not all) of the golf holes have insufficient tee space. With an increase in play, we suggest a goal should be to increase the tee space to 6,000 sq. ft. for all par 4 and par 5 holes and 8,500 sq. ft. for all par 3 holes. The tee



space should be divided between 4 sets of tees for each hole with each tee sized according to the anticipated frequency of play from that tee.

Since the course was last renovated in 1979, the technological advances in golf equipment have changed the game dramatically. There is very little comparison to the shot distances achieved today when compared with 1979. Due to fact that the maximum playing length of the course is around 6,400 yards, the course plays fairly short for some golfers. For this reason, we suggest back loading the tee space for the course. The back tee space is suggested to be increased dramatically to allow the course setup to vary between the maximum length and 6,000 yards. Two sets of tee markers should be used for this tee space which will allow one tee marker to play from 6,400 to 6,300 yards and also allow another tee marker to play from 6,300 to 6,000 yards. Two additional sets of tees with tee markers should be placed for each hole to allow the course to be played to an average of 5,700 yards and 5,400 yards from each respective set of tees.

Irrigation: The American Society of Golf Course Architects publishes that the expected life cycle for an irrigation system is 10 to 30 years, an irrigation control system is 10 to 15 years, PVC pipe (under pressure) is 10 to 30 years, and a pump station is 15 to 20 years. Though it is suspected that some components of the irrigation system are as old as 30 years and some components are not currently operable, it is anticipated that the existing irrigation system can be repaired to adequately function. The current single row fairway irrigation scheme is antiquated and synonymous with uneven water distribution to the full width of the fairway. Due to potential high maintenance costs, undependability, and uneven water distribution, the need to invest in a new system or a major overhaul of the system may become apparent.

A 3.5 acre pond along the lowest drainage corridor on the site could be constructed for storing irrigation water pumped from the existing ground water wells located on site. If this pond were constructed 6 feet in depth, 4 feet of that depth would be available for irrigation use. In this scenario, just over 4 million gallons of water would be available. 4 million gallons would provide 2 inches of water to 75 acres of the total 105 acres of the property.



Recommendations:

To generate discussion in meetings with city leaders and stakeholders, an alternative to an 18-hole golf course was developed. This plan consists of a 9-hole golf course routing that will create available land for the consideration of other parks and recreation uses.

In evaluating the received input, a majority of the responses from city leaders and stakeholders favor the use of the North Hills golf course property as an 18-hole golf course. Since the former land use for the property was a very well respected private golf club, this represents very sensible reasoning. While under ownership by the City of Sherwood, we conclude that currently the highest and best use for this property is an 18-hole municipal golf facility.

Additional Options

Initially, the golf course may be reopened with a limited improvement budget. However, there may be a justifiable desire to allocate funds toward improving the playability of the course and reestablishing the facility to its former splendor. If additional funds for improvements become justifiable, information to assess and prioritize a myriad of potential improvements will become valuable. Developing a master plan for the renovation and/or remodeling of the course will provide quantified long term improvement goals and objectives with estimated costs. This will provide the means to evaluate and prioritize improvements based on fiscal budgets and logical construction sequencing.

The City of Sherwood may desire additional analysis to justify the funds necessary to upgrade the facility above the level that can be initially afforded. A golf course market segment and financial analysis would identify the most profitable market segment for North Hills. An identified target market will help to insure that any investments in improvements for the golf course will be directed toward serving that market. This analysis may produce the basis to justify the necessary funding for upgrading the facility.



NORTH HILLS GOLF COURSE



18 HOLE GOLF COURSE FEATURES:

- Golf course routing remains unchanged.
- 3.5 acre irrigation reservoir fed by existing on-site wells.



NORTH HILLS GOLF COURSE



9 HOLE GOLF COURSE FEATURES:

1. Hole No. 1: Totally new hole with the exception of former No. 10 tee box.
2. Hole No. 2: Former hole No. 12 with new tees. Converted to a par 4.
3. Hole No. 3: Former hole No. 13.
4. Hole No. 4: Former hole No. 14.
5. Hole No. 5: former hole No. 15.
6. Hole No. 6: Former hole No. 16.
7. Hole No. 7: Former hole No. 2 with new tees.
8. Hole No. 8: Totally new hole.
9. Hole No. 9: Totally new hole.
10. Practice putting green.
11. Practice chipping green: former hole no. 9 green.
12. Practice range.
13. Maintenance facility.
14. Club house
15. Cart storage
16. Amphitheater: 500 seating capacity.
17. Lake: Fishing and irrigation water storage. 8 acres.
18. Fishing pier.
19. Pavilion.
20. Water play facility.
21. Tennis Facility: Two existing courts, two new courts and club house.
22. Existing on-site residence.
23. Trail system: 1.8 miles.