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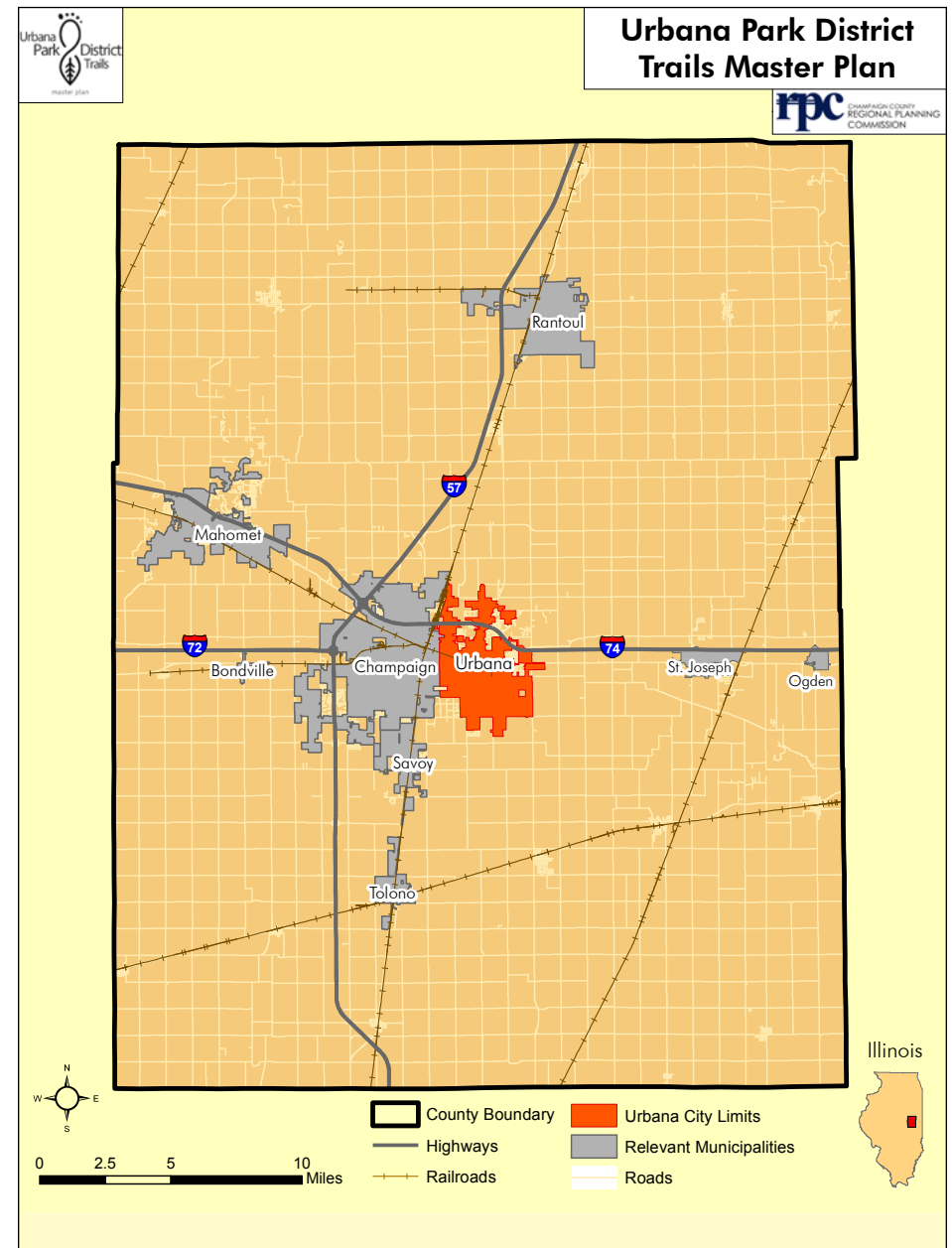
EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

3.1 POPULATION AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

3.1.1 REGIONAL CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW

The City of Urbana, located in east-central Illinois, is the second most populous and second largest municipality in Champaign County. As of 2010, Urbana had a population of 41,250 and currently covers nearly 12 square miles. The city is located approximately 135 miles south of Chicago, Illinois, 120 miles west of Indianapolis, Indiana, and 180 miles northeast of Saint Louis, Missouri (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 City of Urbana and the surrounding region
Relevant municipalities include those located within the Champaign-Urbana Metropolitan Planning Area (Urbana, Champaign, Savoy, Bondville, Tolono, and Mahomet) and Rantoul (population 12,941 - 2010 U.S. Census), St. Joseph (population 3,967 - 2010 U.S. Census), and Ogden (population 810 - 2010 U.S. Census)



3.2 GENERAL POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

According to the U.S. Decennial Census, Champaign County, Illinois had a population of 201,081 people in 2010. 41,250 of these residents reside within Urbana, consisting of 16,961 households and an average household size of just over 2 persons.

3.2.1 AGE

The 2010 Census shows that the largest group of Urbana residents is between 20 and 29 years of age (see Figure 2). This category includes students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who are a transient population centered around campus in West Urbana. There are more males in the age groups from 0 to 9 and 20 to 39 years of age and more females in the age groups from 10 to 19 and over 40 years of age.

This demographic emphasizes the importance of planning for Urbana's large student population when considering future development of park facilities.

3.2.2 RACE AND ETHNICITY

The City of Urbana maintains a diverse population. While the majority (63 percent) of the city's population is white, Asians and African Americans account for the second and third largest racial groups, each representing 17 percent of the overall population respectively (see Figure 3). Residents identifying as Native American, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, "other," or two or more races collectively accounted for 3 percent of Urbana's inhabitants. Both Champaign County and Urbana show similar trends in Hispanic versus Non-Hispanic populations, which are 6 and 94 percent, respectively.

Urbana's cultural and ethnic diversity represents an opportunity to develop an appreciation for the variety of recreational preferences and styles associated with different racial and ethnic groups, build new alliances within varied communities, and incorporate themes that reflect the diversity of the cultures represented in the population.

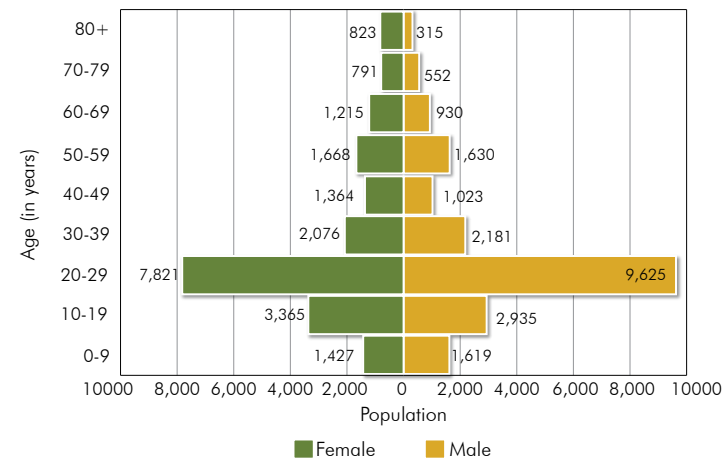


Figure 2 Urbana population by age, 2010 Decennial Census

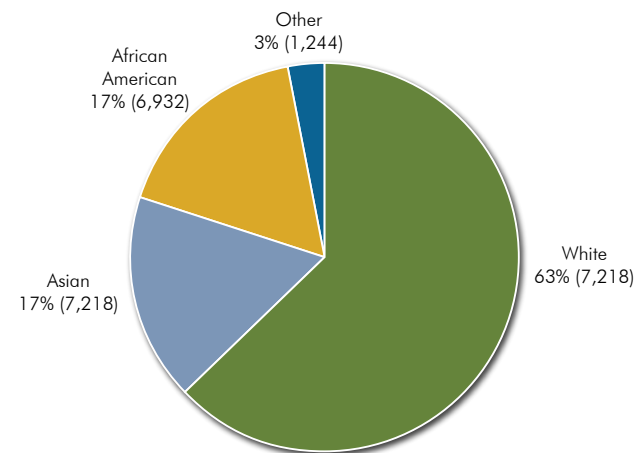


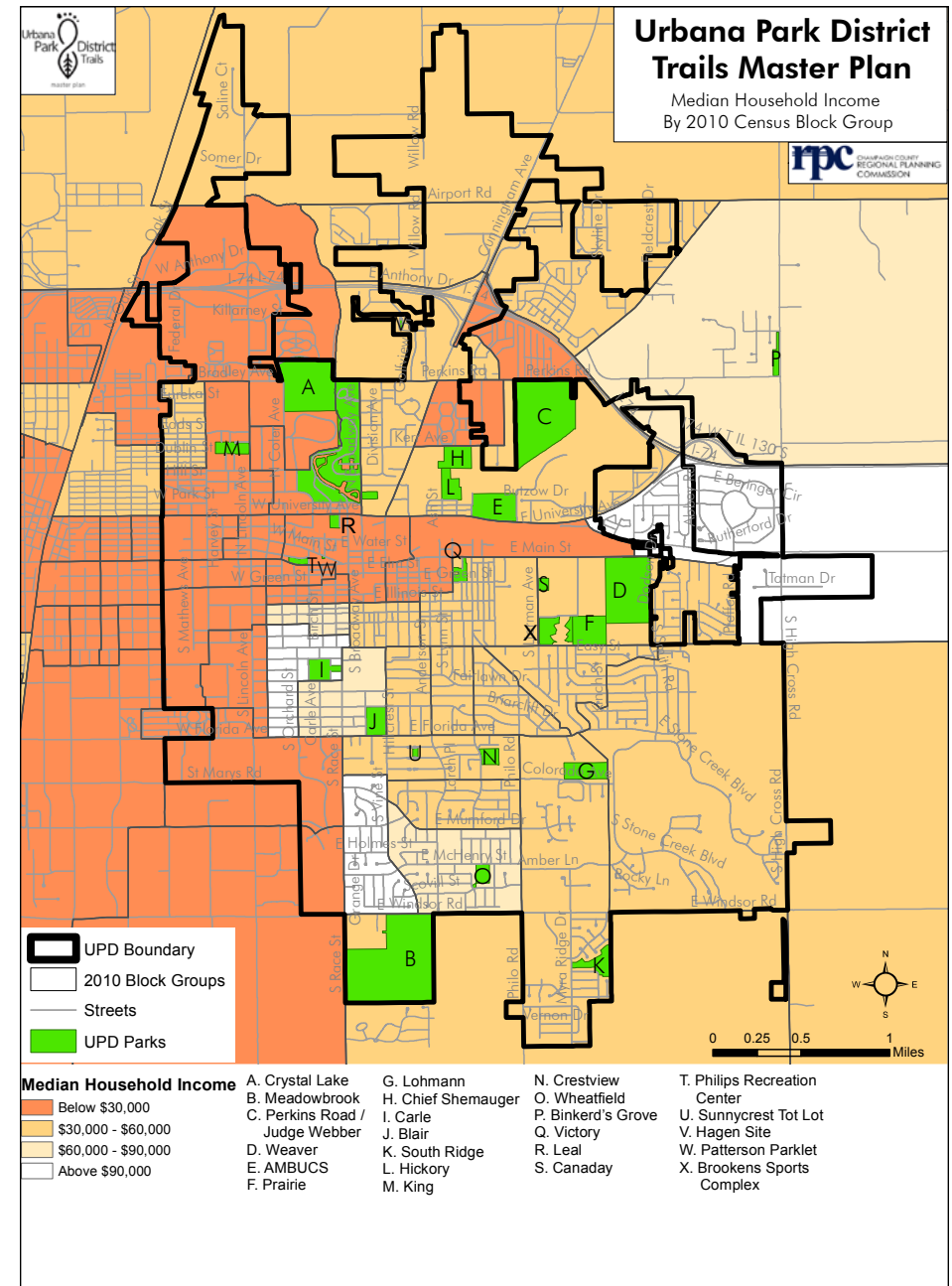
Figure 3 Urbana population by race, 2010 Decennial Census

3.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

2010 decennial census data was used to identify median household income by block groups within the Urbana municipal area. Household income is one factor used to identify trail development and services to residents based upon traditional representation and propensity to utilize facilities. For instance, neighborhoods with lower income levels are traditionally underrepresented by access to trail systems but also hold abundant potential for usage due to high demands for a variety of transportation options and increased connectivity to surrounding areas.¹

As shown in **Figure 4**, the majority of low income block groups are found within the western portion of the Urbana Park District and are served primarily by King Park, Crystal Lake Park, Leal Park, and Phillips Recreation Center. Other low income pockets are located to the north and center of the Park District and are situated contiguously to Judge Webber Park, Chief Shemauger Park, Victory Park, and Weaver Park.

Figure 4 Median Household Income - Urbana, Illinois
(2010 U.S. Decennial Census).
Low income block groups are found within the western portion of the Urbana Park District with additional pockets to the north and center.



¹ Lindsey, Greg, et al. 2004. Access, Equity, and Urban Greenways: An Exploratory Investigation. Professional Geographer. Volume 53, Issue 3, pages 332-346.

3.4 EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

3.4.1 URBANA PARKS CLASSIFICATION

The Urbana Park District maintains an array of 24 unique parks and open spaces, along with facilities within these parks, that have been classified according to their respective uses within surrounding neighborhoods and communities. These classifications, initially developed within the Urbana Park District Strategic Plan, serve to provide guidelines for design, development, maintenance and operations of parks. Relevant to promoting a unified trail system, park classifications determine how individual parks are generally intended to serve and interact with the surrounding area. The following relevant categories are described below: Signature, Community, and Neighborhood, Special Use Facility, and Natural Area.

SIGNATURE PARKS

Signature parks are large park facilities that serve Urbana's entire population and beyond. Suitable sizes range from 50 acres and larger, and they are designed for four or more hours length of stay. Signature parks will include a defined natural area (see "Natural Areas" below) and a variety of park features with which trails interact such as sports fields and complexes, playgrounds, water activities, swimming, picnicking, and indoor recreation and special use facilities (see "Special Use Facilities" below).

Table 1 Signature Parks

Signature Parks	Area (acres)
Crystal Lake	144
Meadowbrook	130
Perkins Road / Judge Webber	84
Weaver	60

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are larger than neighborhood parks and serve several neighborhoods. Suitable sizes range from 20 to 50 acres and have a service area up to 2 miles in radius. Length of stay is two to three hours. The community park may include areas for intense recreation activity such as competitive sports, swimming, tennis, playgrounds, volleyball, etc. There may also be passive recreation opportunities such as walking, viewing, sitting and picnicking with small to medium sized shelters, drinking fountains, benches, etc. Locations for indoor recreation facilities and special use facilities are also included in community parks. Lighting, parking and restrooms are provided. Community parks can also serve a secondary function as a neighborhood park for the surrounding area.

Table 2 Community Parks

Community Parks	Area (acres)
AMBUCS	22
Prairie	20
Brookens Sports Complex	11.5
Canaday	3

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks serve a variety of age groups within a limited area or "neighborhood." Suitable sizes for future park development range from 10 to 20 acres, depending on available land, with a service area of a half-mile radius, a 15 minute walk, and approximately 5,000 persons. Length of stay is one hour or less. The neighborhood park is an area for active recreation such as practice field games, court games, playgrounds and passive recreation such as walking, picnicking, viewing, etc. Facilities are unlighted (except for security lighting), and there is limited or no parking or restrooms.

Table 3 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks	Area (acres)
Lohmann	15
Chief Shemauger	13
Blair	11
Carle	11
South Ridge	11
King	8
Crestview	6
Larson (formerly Wheatfield)	5
Victory	5



Neighborhood parks, such as Carle Park (shown above), are the most common park type in the Urbana Park District.

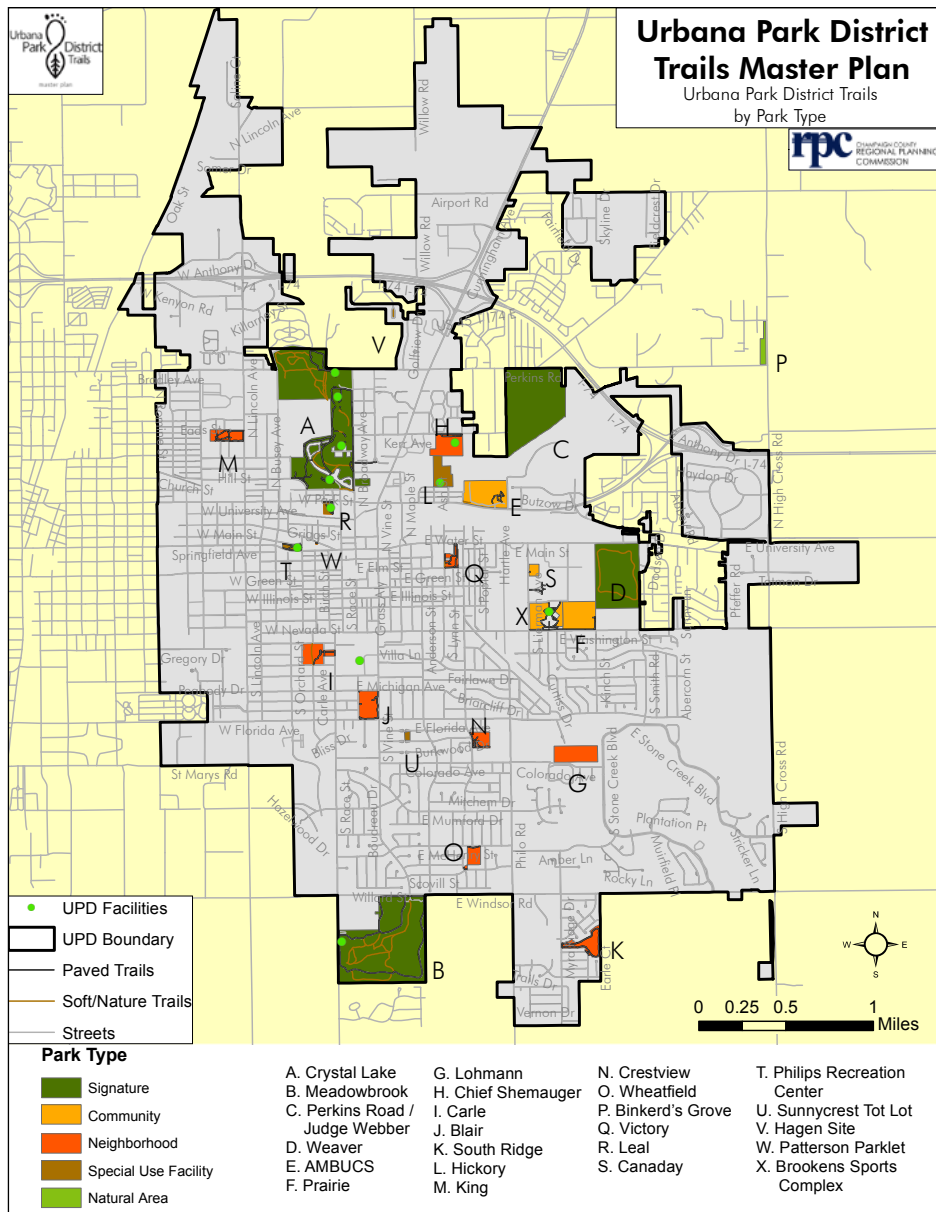


Figure 5 Urbana Park Type Map

Neighborhood parks are Urbana's most ubiquitous park type, while most Community parks are located to the east and Signature parks to the north and south. Additionally, Crystal Lake Park contains the most UPD facilities of any single park with four, with all others containing either one or zero.

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Special use facilities are for concentrated recreation activities. These may include areas such as recreation and community centers, senior centers, and other open spaces. There are no specific standards for size or acreage, although all of Urbana Park District's current special use facility open spaces are 10 acres or less.

Table 4 Special Use Facility Open Spaces

Special Use Facilities	Area (acres)
Hickory Street Site	10
Leal	3
Phillips Recreation Center	2.4
Hagan Site	1
Sunnycrest Tot Lot	1
Patterson Parklet	Less than 0.5

Table 5 lists the special use facilities within Urbana parks.

Table 5 Special Use Facilities within Parks

Special Use Facilities	Park
Planning and Operations facility	Chief Shemauger
901 N. Broadway Ave.	Crystal Lake
Anita Purves Nature Center	Crystal Lake
Family Aquatic Center	Crystal Lake
Lake House	Crystal Lake
Phebus Administration Building	Leal
2808 S. Race St., private residence	Meadowbrook
Meadowbrook Interpretive Facility	Meadowbrook
Dog Park	Perkins Road Site

Table 6 lists the special use facility outside of an Urbana park.

Table 6 Special Use Facility outside of a park

Special Use Facility	Address
Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center	102 E. Michigan Ave.

NATURAL AREAS

Natural areas can be stand-alone open spaces or within another park type and offer significant ecological function or structure. Generally these are high quality, undisturbed areas which include remnant natural areas and/or have overall restoration potential. Recreation use is limited to passive recreation such as wildlife and habitat viewing. Suitable size and acreage must be sufficient to protect the resource and provide for appropriate usage and buffering to minimize potential off-site impacts.

Table 7 Natural Area, stand-alone

Natural Area	Area (acres)
Binkerd's Grove	4

Table 8 Natural Areas within Parks

Natural Area
Busey Woods, Crystal Lake Park
Meadowbrook Park
Perkins Road Park Site
Weaver Park

See [Figure 5](#) for parks' spatial distribution within the Urbana Park District's jurisdiction.

3.4.2 URBANA PARK OWNERSHIP

The Urbana Park District leases four open spaces from the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District (UCSD): AMBUCS Park, the Hickory Street Site, Patterson Parklet, and the Perkins Road Park Site.

3.5 EXISTING TRAILS INVENTORY

The Urbana Park District manages a total of approximately 16 miles of trails split between roughly 11 miles of paved trails distributed in 18 parks, and about five miles of soft trails found within five parks: Crystal Lake Park, Meadowbrook Park, Weaver Park, Carle Park, and AMBUCS Park. Dogs and bicyclists are restricted from using soft trails and the Busey Woods Boardwalk. Furthermore, Crystal Lake Park and Meadowbrook Park collectively contain more than half of all trails (see Table 9).

For the purposes of this plan, a **trail** is defined as any paved or natural surface pathway on land owned or leased by the Urbana Park District. However, not all paved trails in Table 9 meet the minimum recommended width of 8 feet. This recommendation comes from the Champaign County Greenways & Trails Design Guidelines (2014) and AASHTO *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* (2012). The same documents recommend an ideal width for all paved, shared-use trails to be at least 10 feet, in order to facilitate bi-directional and multi-modal traffic. This plan will recommend new paved trails to be at least 8 feet wide, and existing trails to be widened to at least 8 feet wide when possible, unless it is intended to be predominately a pedestrian trail.

3.6 BICYCLE COUNTS

24-hour bike counts were recorded at 18 UPD park locations and 26 shared use and bicycle trail facilities located outside of UPD parks but within the Urbana Park District (see Figures 6 & 7). Counts occurred through the summer and fall seasons of 2013 to obtain data regarding bicycle traffic volumes along specific locations and corridors throughout Urbana.

Meadowbrook Park recorded the highest counts of any UPD park with 96 cyclists counted at a western location and 75 in the northern portion of the park over a 24-hour period. Crystal Lake Park, King Park, and Crestview Park comprised the second most-frequented parks group with a peak of 20 to 30 bicyclists at any given count location. Non-park trail corridors that recorded high volumes of bicycle travel included Race Street, University Avenue, Goodwin Avenue, Florida Avenue, and Philo Road with peak counts of 50 to 80 cyclists per day.

Park Name	Trail Type (miles)		
	Paved	Soft / Nature	Total
Crystal Lake	3.1	2.1	5.2
Meadowbrook	2.2	1.7	3.9
Brookens Sports Complex	1.2	0.0	1.2
Weaver	0.2	1.0	1.2
South Ridge	0.7	0.0	0.7
King	0.6	0.0	0.6
Carle	0.3	0.1	0.4
Blair	0.4	0.0	0.4
Crestview	0.4	0.0	0.4
Phillips Recreation Center	0.4	0.0	0.4
Victory	0.4	0.0	0.4
AMBUCS	0.3	0.04	0.34
Larson (formerly Wheatfield)	0.3	0.0	0.3
Leal	0.3	0.0	0.3
Prairie	0.3	0.0	0.3
Chief Shemauger	0.3	0.0	0.3
Patterson Parklet	0.02	0.0	0.02
Canaday	0.01	0.0	0.01
Perkins Road / Judge Webber	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lohmann	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hickory Street Site	0.0	0.0	0.0
Binkerd's Grove	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hagan Site	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sunnycrest Tot Lot	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	11.41	4.98	16.35

Table 9 Total Urbana Park District trail miles per park - sorted highest to lowest

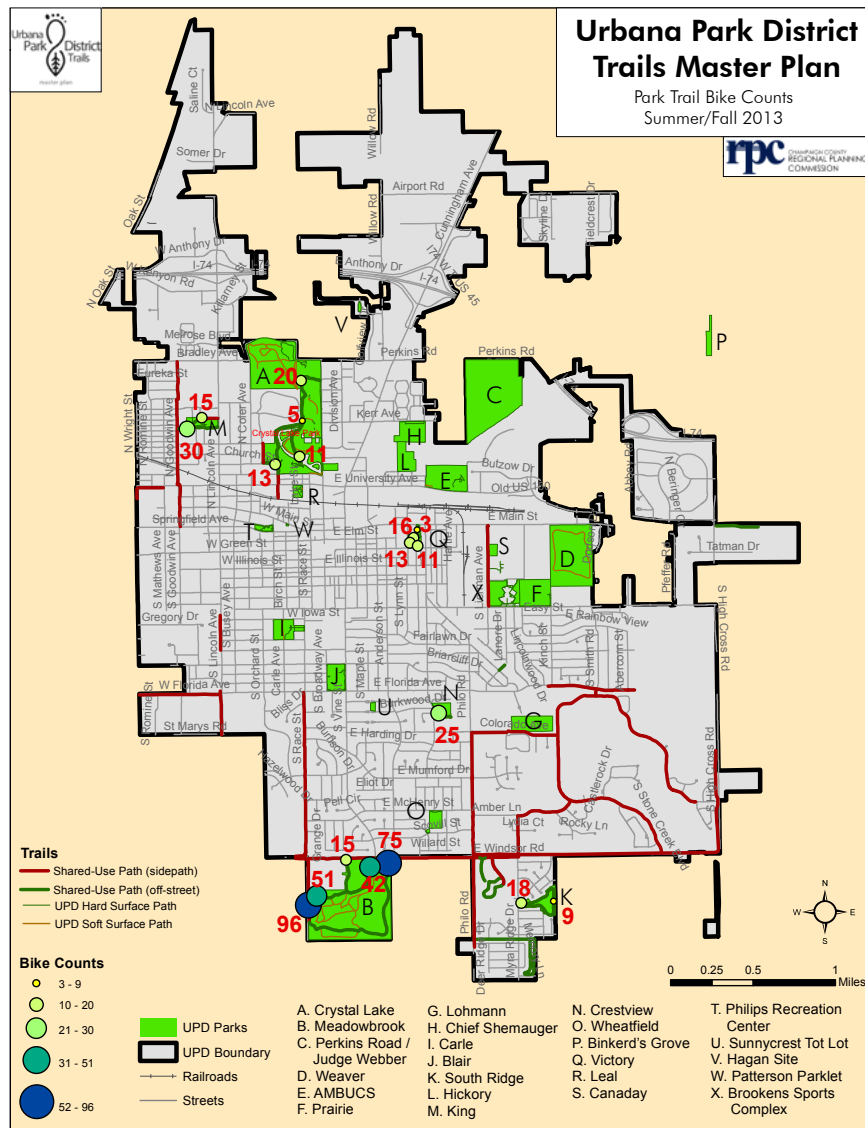


Figure 6 24-hour bicycle counts conducted along paved trails within Urbana Park District Parks

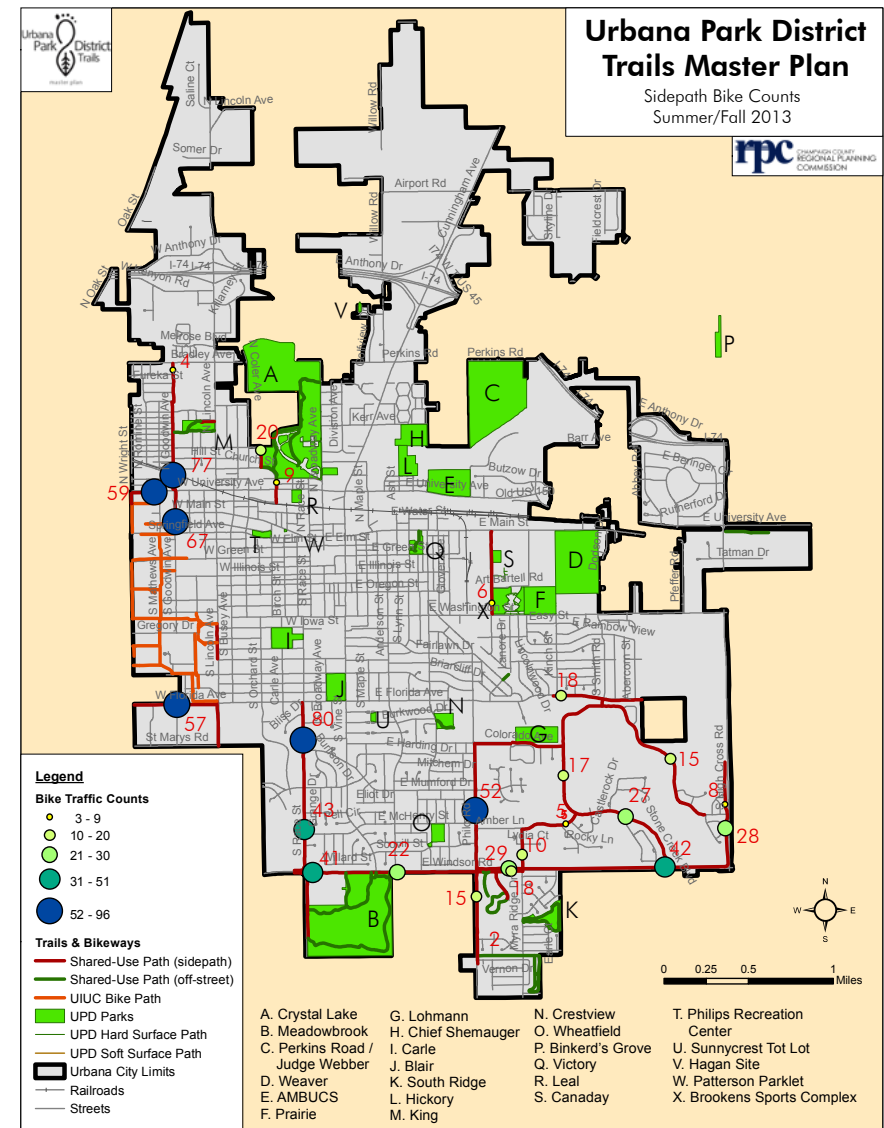


Figure 7 24-hour bicycle counts along shared use paths in Urbana

3.7 CRYSTAL LAKE PARK VISITOR COUNTS

In Summer 2015, the Urbana Park District contracted with CCRPC to conduct visitor counts at Crystal Lake Park. This same study was done in 2007, but with the opening of the reconstructed Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center in 2013, UPD wanted updated information on how many people are visiting Crystal Lake Park, where they are entering the park, and what mode they are using.

Table 10 shows the number of people walking, biking, and driving to Crystal Lake Park on a typical weekday and weekend day. **Figure 8** shows the count locations listed in **Table 10**. More information can be found in Appendix A.

The majority of Crystal Lake Park visitors entered near the Aquatic Center off of Broadway Avenue. The second highest number of park visitors entered the south side of the park at Central Avenue and Park Street. This was the case for all modes and all count days. Most visitors arrived at Crystal Lake Park by car, followed by walking, then bicycling.

Count Location	Mode of Transportation			Total
	Walking	Bicycling	Motor Vehicle*	
Weekday (Thursday)				
Location 1	129	32	1,253	1,414
Location 2	26	15	325	366
Location 3	35	16	110	161
Location 4	85	12	455	552
Location V1	102	20	-	120
Location V2	64	20	-	84
Total	339	95	2,143	2,577
Weekend (Saturday)				
Location 1	50	13	1,153	1,216
Location 2	31	5	173	209
Location 3	54	10	170	234
Location 4	53	25	511	589
Location V1	75	16	-	91
Location V2	56	7	-	63
Total	244	60	2,007	2,311

Table 10 Crystal Lake Park Visitor Counts 2015



Figure 8 Crystal Lake Park Visitor Count Locations 2015

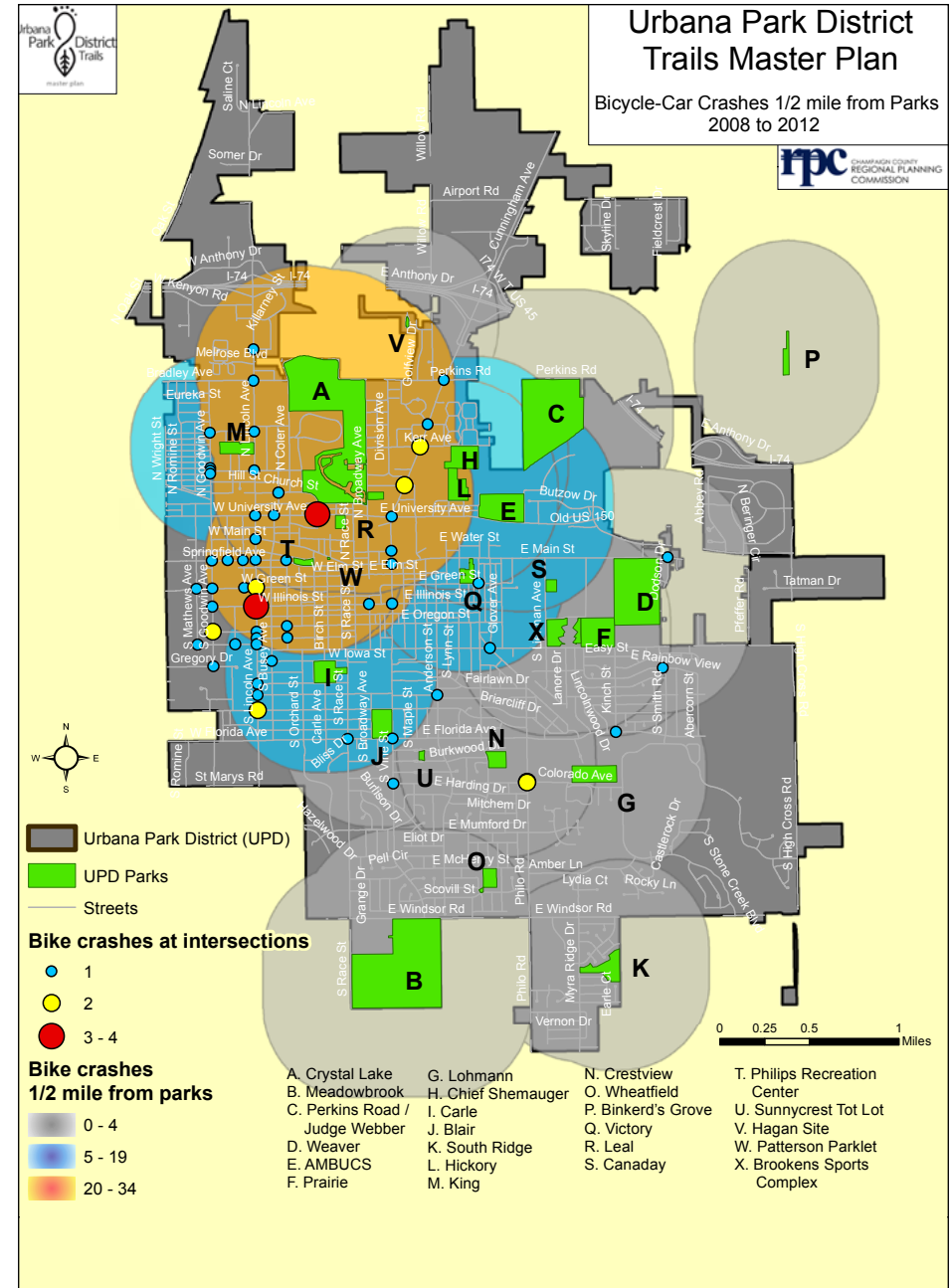
3.8 SAFETY: PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE CRASHES NEAR PARK FACILITIES

Bicycle and pedestrian crashes were assessed over a five year period from 2008 to 2012, with a total of 85 bicycle crashes and 101 pedestrian crashes occurring in Urbana. Bicycle and pedestrian crashes were calculated within a buffered biking and walking distance from each park (assumed to be a half and quarter of a mile respectively).² High crash bicyclists and pedestrians locations nearby parks were considered to be 21 to 34 and 10 to 14, respectively. **Figures 9 and 10** display bicycle and pedestrian crash zones by frequency over the observed five year time frame.

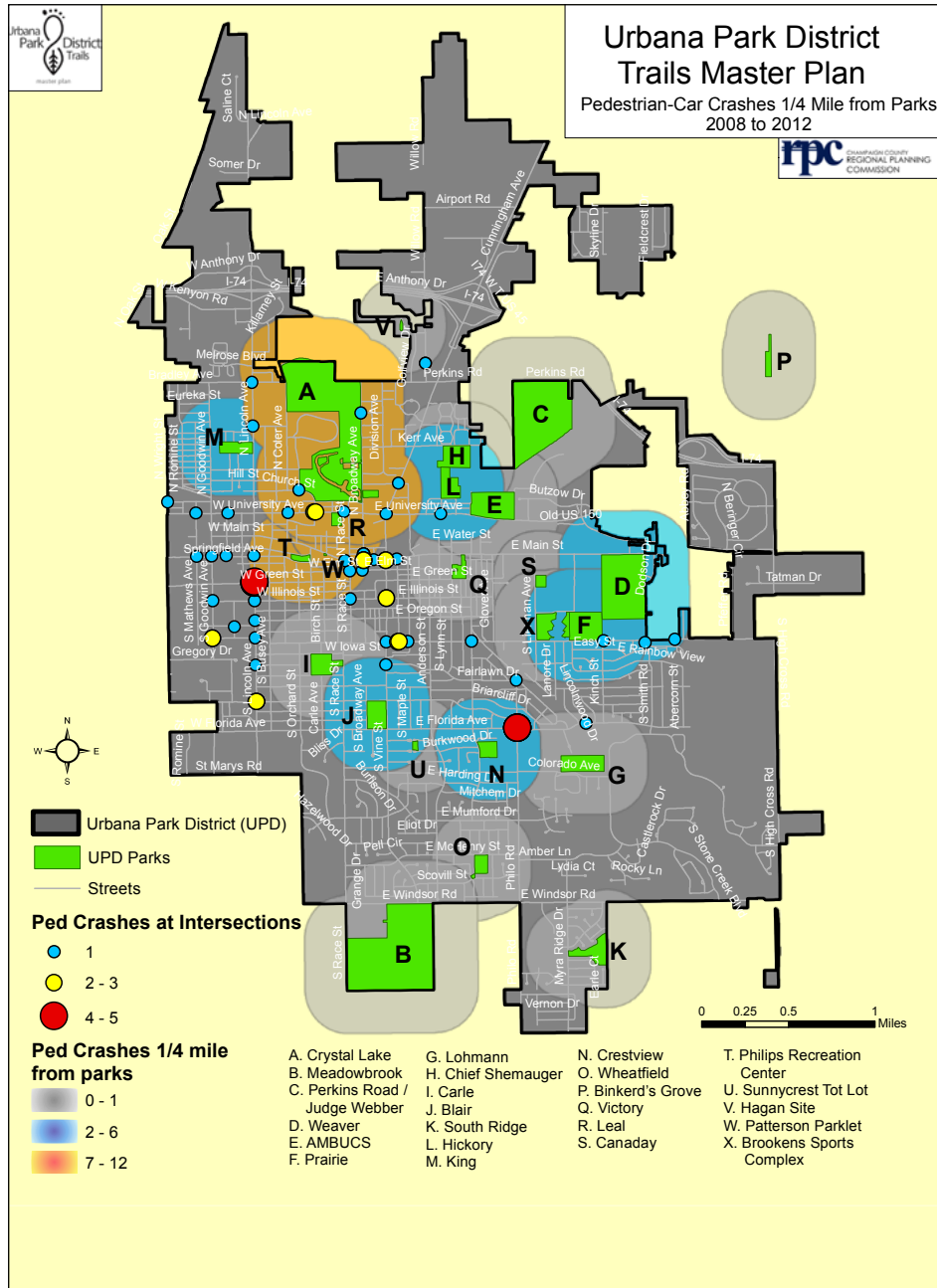
In general, crash points tended to cluster around the University of Illinois and downtown Urbana between 2008 and 2012. More specifically, the corridors of Lincoln Avenue, Cunningham Avenue, and University Avenue experienced a higher amount of crashes. While these locations may generally represent areas containing more difficult crossings, they also reveal areas of relatively high bicyclist and pedestrian usage.

Figure 9 Urbana bicycle crash locations (85 total) within a 5 year period from 2008 to 2012.

Buffers indicate a half-mile cycling distance from each park and are tiled from highest crash category (21 to 34) to lowest (0 to 10) over the 5 year time frame.



² Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Transportation Study (CUUATS). 2012. Active Choices: Champaign County Greenways & Trails Plan Needs Assessment. Page 14.



Relatively more pedestrian crashes occur at key intersections, such as Lincoln Avenue & Green Street (see top) and Philo Road & Florida Avenue (see above).

Figure 10 Urbana pedestrian crash locations (101 total) within a 5 year period from 2008 to 2012.

Buffers indicate a quarter-mile walking distance from each park and are tiled from highest crash category (10 to 14) to lowest (0 to 4) over the 5 year time frame.

3.9 ACCESS TO TRANSIT

Existing bus routes as of Fall 2013 for the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD) were inventoried, and designated bus stops within a quarter-mile walking distance from each park were counted (see Tables 11 & 12). Table 11 shows park ranking by number of designated stops. Figure 11 displays each park relative to its overall connectivity to the transit network.

The Crystal Lake Park area contained the most designated bus stops with 72. In comparison, Crestview Park had the second most stops with 52 (20 less) followed by Victory Park, Blair Park, Prairie Park, and King Park, containing between 40 and 50 stops.

With regard to bus routes, the Patterson Parklet and Leal Park areas were in closest proximity to the most bus routes within a quarter-mile walking distance with 8 and 7 respectively. Crystal Lake Park, Blair Park, and Phillips Recreation Center followed with 4 to 5 routes.

Park Name	Number of Stops within 1/4 Mile
Crystal Lake	72
Crestview	52
Victory	49
Blair	47
King	40
Prairie	40
AMBUCS	37
Sunnycrest Tot Lot	34
Brookens Sports Complex	33
Leal	33
Carle	30
Hickory Street	30
Patterson Parklet	30
Larson (formerly Wheatfield)	27
Weaver	26
Lohmann	19
Phillips Recreation Center	19
Meadowbrook	18
Canaday	16
Chief Shemauger	14
South Ridge	14
Perkins Road / Judge Webber	6
Binkerd's Grove	0
Hagan Site	0

Table 11 CUMTD bus stops within a quarter-mile walking distance from UPD parks

Park Name	Number of Routes within 1/4 Mile
Patterson Parklet	8
Leal	7
Crystal Lake	5
Blair	4
Phillips Recreation Center	4
AMBUCS	3
Carle	3
Hickory Street	3
King	3
Sunnycrest Tot Lot	3
Victory	3
Weaver	3
Canaday	2
Chief Shemauger	2
Crestview	2
Lohmann	2
Meadowbrook	2
Perkins Road / Judge Webber	2
Binkerd's Grove	1
Brookens Sports Complex	1
Hagan Site	1
Larson (formerly Wheatfield)	1
Prairie	1
South Ridge	1

Table 12 CUMTD bus routes within a quarter-mile walking distance from UPD parks

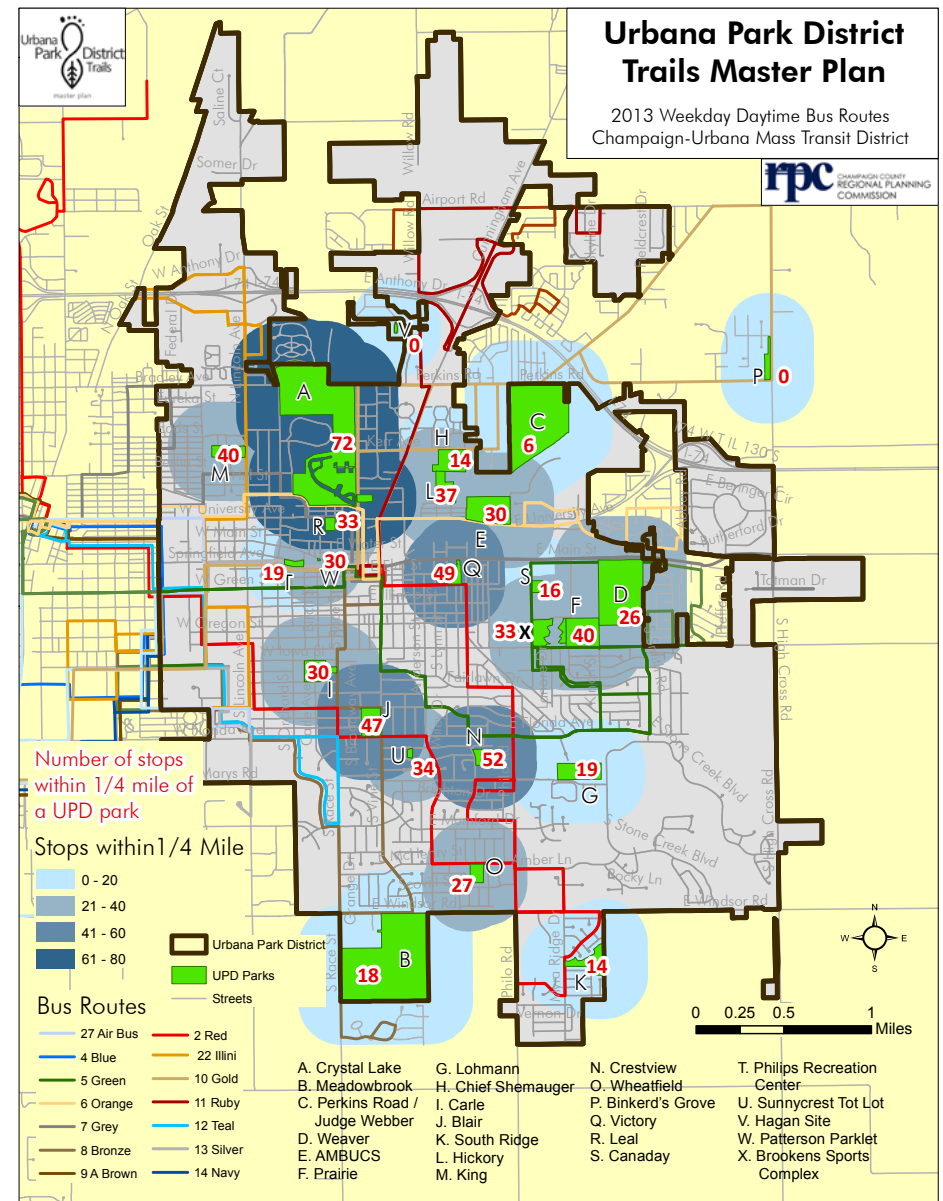


Figure 11 Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD) routes. Total number of stops per park in red.