red oak, iowa
a comprehensive parks and receation plan

who and what

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September, 1972

FOR THE PEOPLE OF RED OAK, IOWA

This report has been prepared to serve as a broad scale guide for the recreation development and general city enhancement for the city of Red Oak.

The study considers the natural and man-made resources of Red Oak, the existing opportunities and deficiencies of recreation, and the potential demand for recreation in Red Oak. Methods and proposals for meeting current deficiencies and future demands are then suggested along with a time sequence for accomplishing the plan. The proposed budget and priority schedule considers not only the public responsibilities of the Red Oak Park Board, but also the financial capabilities of the City.

We appreciate the assistance and cooperation given us by the members of the Red Oak Park Board, city officials, the Montgomery County National Bank, and the State Conservation Commission in preparing this study.

Very truly yours,

JON CROSE AND ASSOCIATES

Jon F. Crose

a comprehensive parks and receation plan

Prepared for: THE RED OAK PARK BOARD
CITY OF RED OAK

In cooperation with: MONTGOMERY COUNTY
NATIONAL BANK
RED OAK, IOWA

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table of contents

recreation planning background

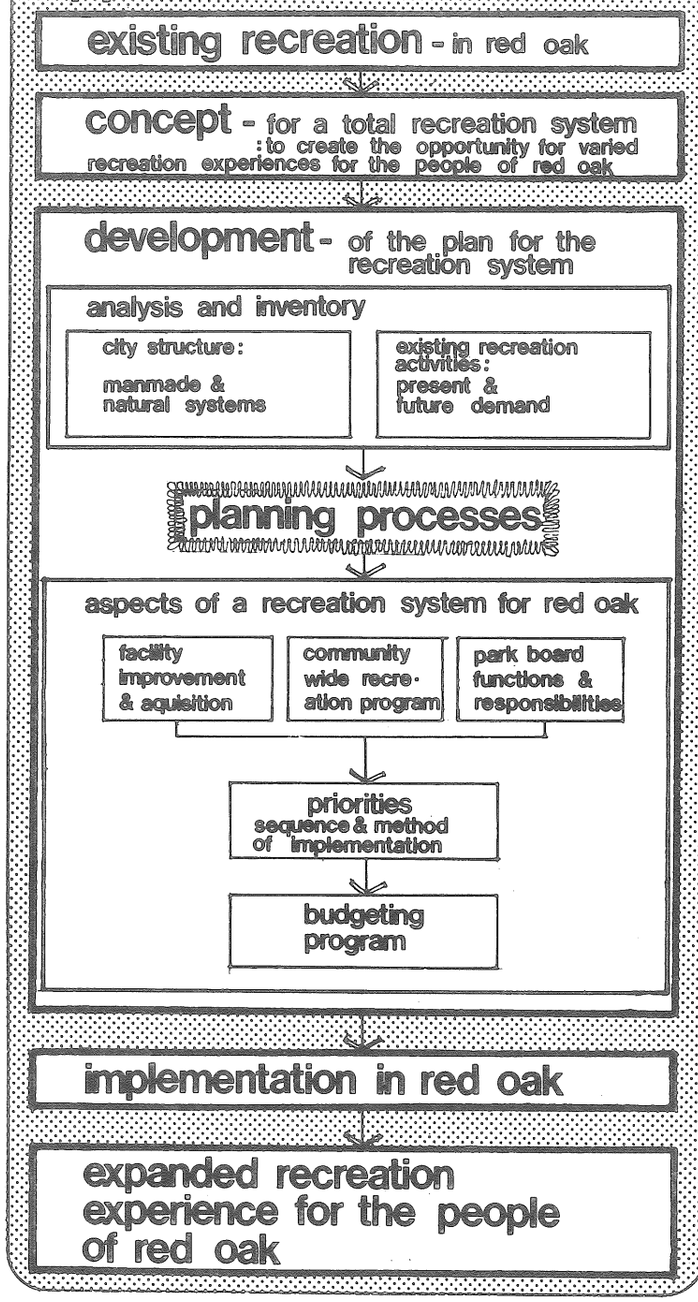
This report is a Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan for Red Oak, Iowa. It will aid the Park Board in realizing the scope of their responsibilities, identifying potential projects and develop an awareness of all the parts of a comprehensive recreation system.

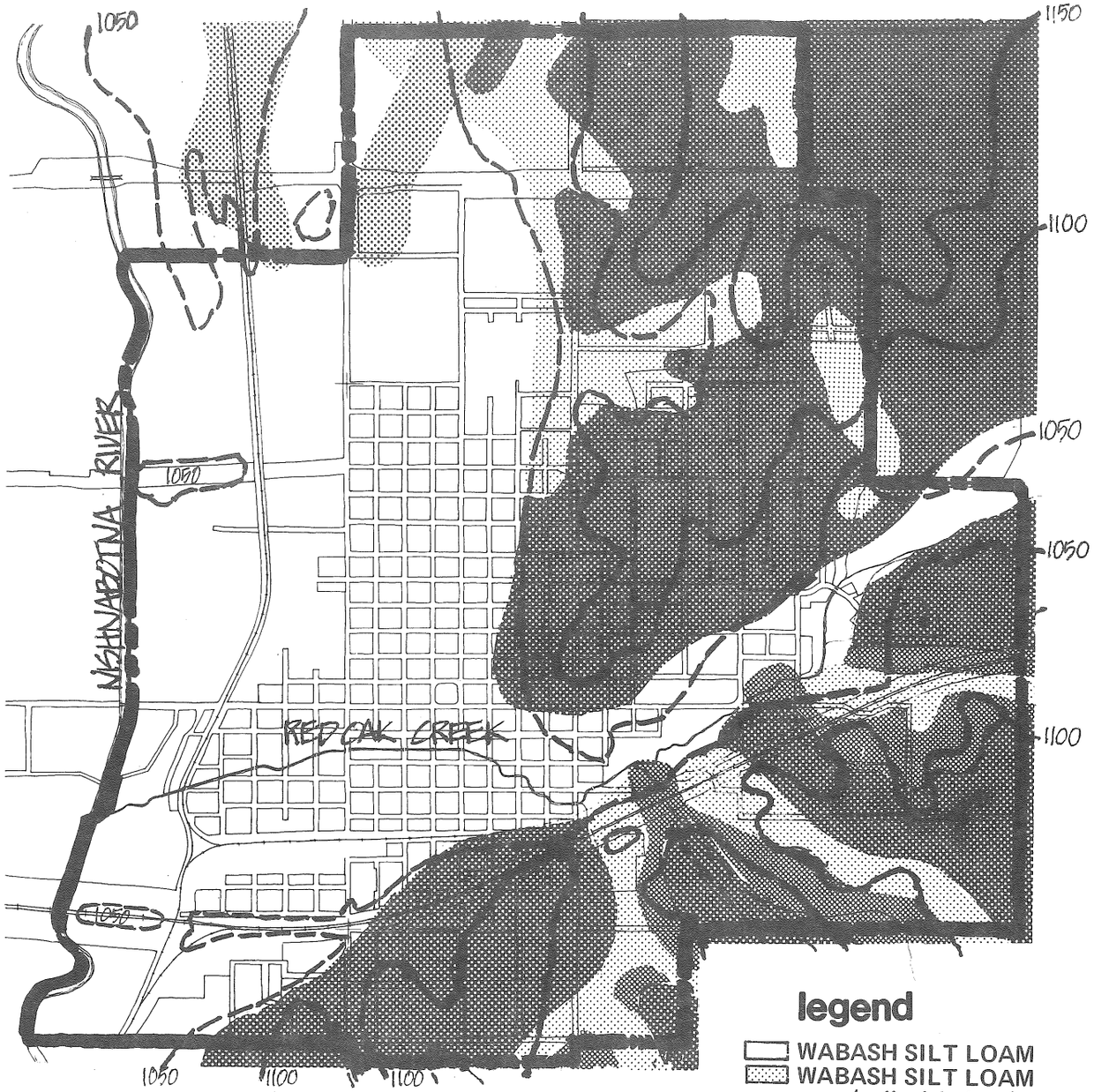
Recreation is generally thought of as a refreshment of the body and/or mind. Its scope is quite often limited to organized group sports or games or to individual activities, such as hiking.

The authors of this report consider recreation in a full sense. We feel that the walk or drive to work or school, the smell in the air, or the view from a window are all small parts of recreation. We define recreation as a diversion or change from the normal, which evokes a pleasant response in an individual. The most common expression of the need for recreation is a playground and park system. There are however, other possibilities for recreational experiences which exist in Red Oak. We hope this report will create an attitude toward recreation within the city which considers all possibilities for recreational experiences.

The report has been prepared with an immediate planning period to 1977 and a future planning base to the year 1982. The immediate plans are derived from present needs and demands of the inhabitants in relation to the supply of recreating opportunities currently offered. Future planning is based on projected social and economic conditions used to derive possible recreating requirements for that time.

approach





soils & topography

CONTOUR INTERVAL · 50'

legend

- WABASH SILT LOAM
- WABASH SILT LOAM (colluvial phase)
- WAUKESHA SILT LOAM
- SHELBY SILT LOAM
- MARSHAL SILT LOAM

2

natural systems-inventory

topography

Red Oak, Iowa is located in central Montgomery County with its development occurring over a variety of topographic features which are closely related to the Nishnabotna River. The flood plain, the relatively steep slopes, and the gently undulating uplands are the three characteristic topographic features of the region. The topography in the southern portion of the city has been affected by Red Oak Creek, a minor tributory of the Nishnabotna River.

The 1958 high water area of the Nishnabotna covered 600 acres of a total of 2430 acres within the now current city corporate limits. However, future high water flooding should be restricted to the ponding areas of the recently constructed U.S. Army Corps flood dike. Incidents of flash flooding have occurred on Red Oak Creek especially where stream flow is restricted by relatively intense development on the banks of the lower portion of the creek. The public storm sewer system has recently been improved throughout the majority of the residential areas of the flood plain. However, surface drainage in the less developed areas currently remains a problem during heavy runoff periods, particularly in the Legion Park area.

The slopes on the east side of the Nishnabotna are relatively steep and irregular throughout the county and this is particularly true in the Red Oak area where these slopes vary from 8% to 12%. The upland is, in general, a gently undulating plain cut by shallow stream valleys.

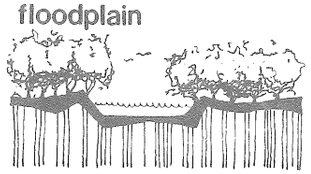
soils

The soils of the Red Oak area are also closely related to the drainage valley of the Nishnabotna River. The two soils most significant in this area are the Wabash Silt Loam and the Marshall Silt Loam: both displaying quite different characteristics. The Wabash Silt Loam is the flood plain soil which is characterized by flooding, a high water table, very slow permeability, and retention of water for long periods. Thus, precautions need be taken with nearly any type of development or land use in this type of area. Marshall Silt Loam, on the other hand, can be considered a much better soil due to its improved topography, drainage, and permability characteristics, as well as a lesser degree of limitation for general recreation use. The remaining soils indicated vary in characteristics between those of Wabash Silt Loam and Marshall Silt Loam.

vegetation

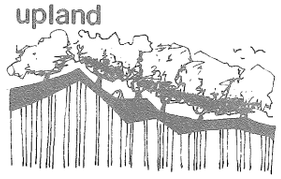
For purposes of reviewing the quality and quantity of vegetation in the Red Oak area the authors of this report have established five general catagories of vegetation based on the type of species and their relative locations on the Landscape. The first type, closely related to the Nishnabotna flood plain and the lesser stream valleys, includes the typical flood plain species. Another aspect of the native vegetation includes the upland Oak-Hickory associations. The three remaining types of vegetation are quite closely related to the actual physical development of Red Oak: street tree plantings, special public plantings, and private residential and commercial plantings. Recently Red Oak has experienced a tremendous loss of elms especially noticable along most streets and in all public parks. One of the unique areas of special public plantings is the municipal cemetery. The private residential and commercial plantings also affected by the elm loss include a variety of vegetation types and species.

floodplain



cottonwood
green ash
sycamore
elderberry
pasture gooseberry

upland



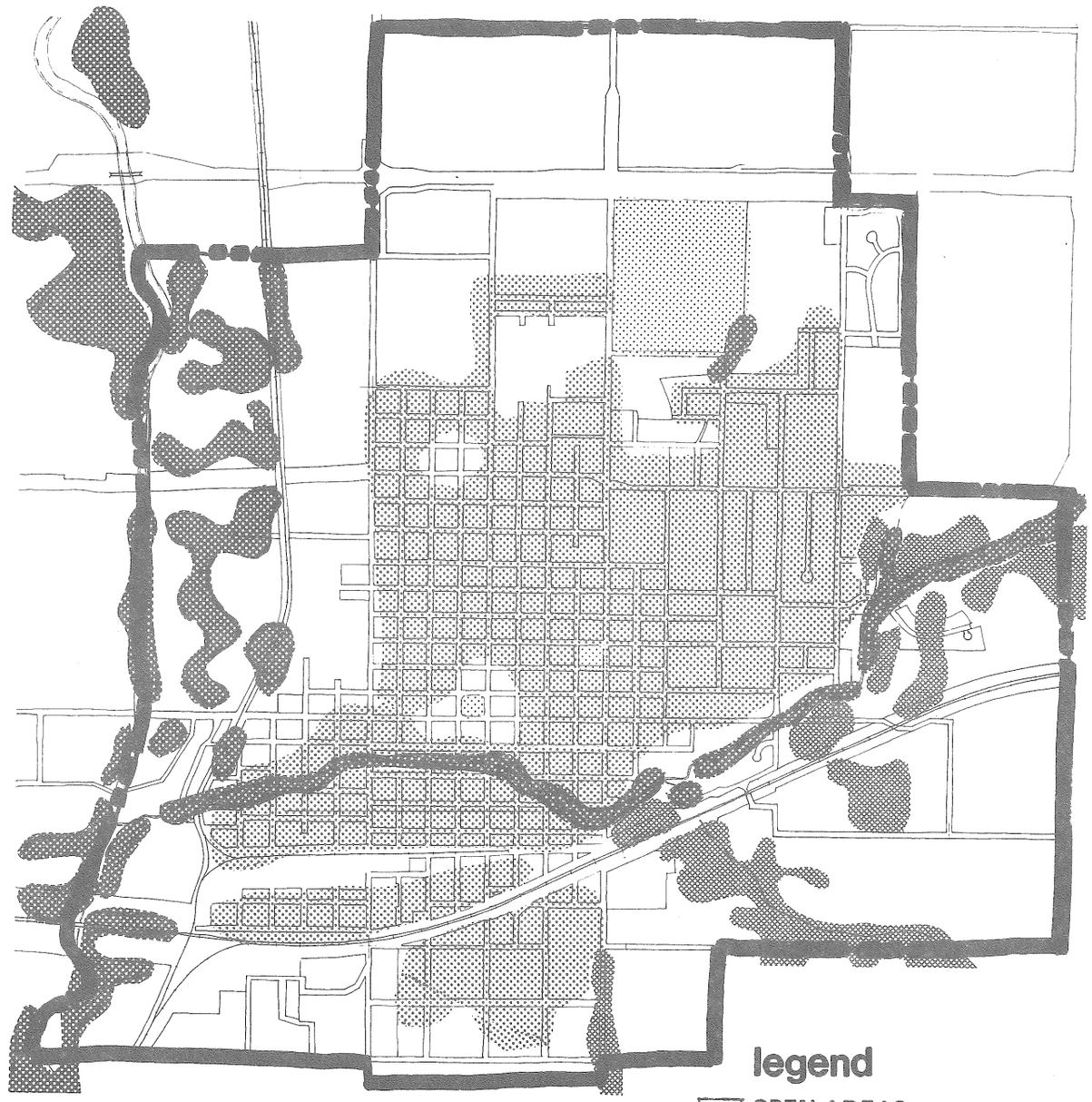
oak
hickory
ironwood
blackcherry
prickly ash

street & residential

ash
linden
maple
evergreen
ornamental

special (parks,cemeteries)

oak
maple
linden
evergreen
ornamental



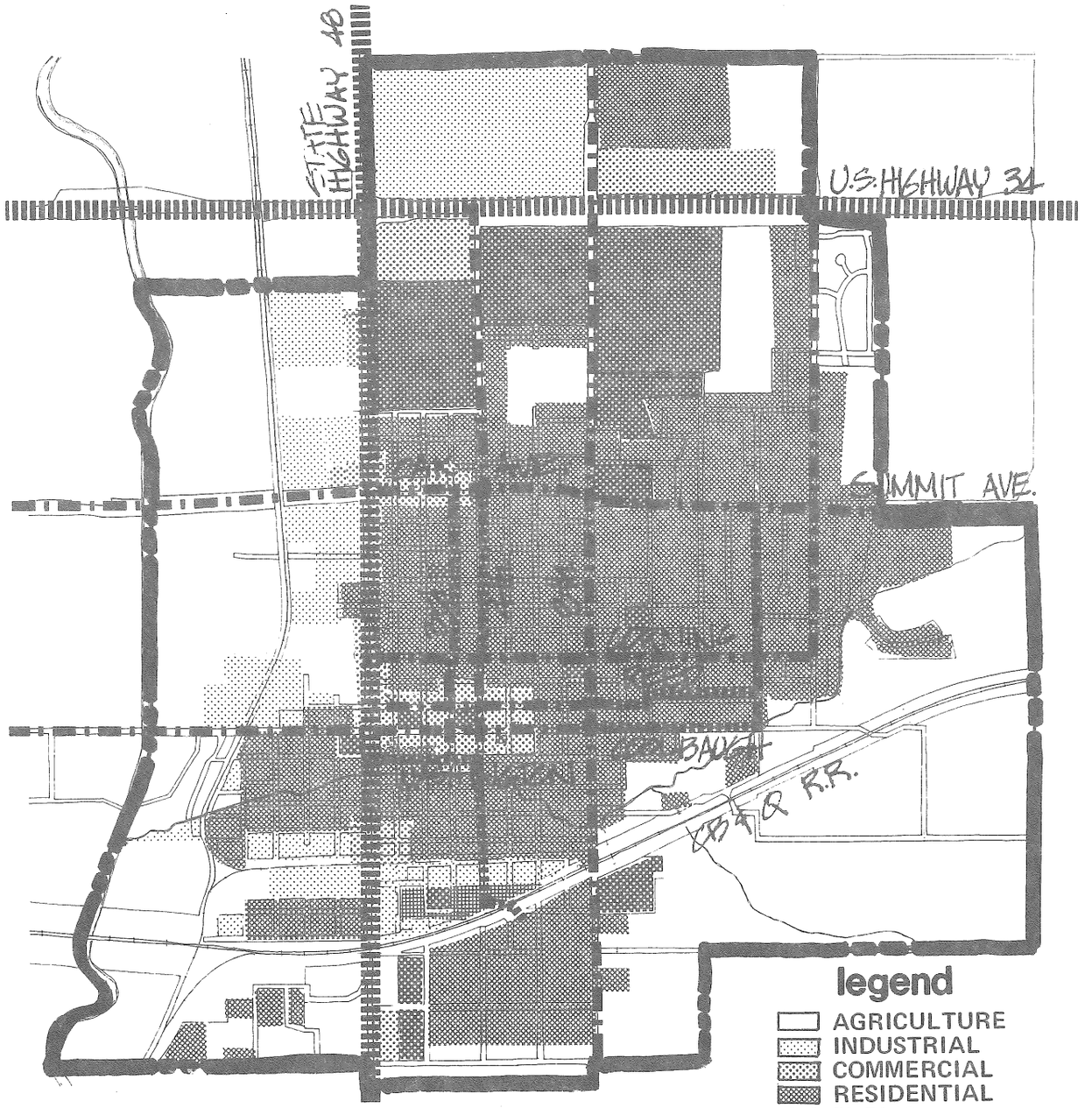
legend

- OPEN AREAS
- SPECIAL PLANTINGS
- STREET AND RESIDENTIAL PLANTINGS
- UPLAND VEGETATION
- FLOOD PLAIN VEGETATION

vegetation

natural systems

manmade systems



legend

- AGRICULTURE
- INDUSTRIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- RESIDENTIAL
- PUBLIC
- HIGHWAYS
- CITY ARTERIALS
- COLLECTOR STREETS

land use

4

manmade systems - inventory

The settlement of Red Oak began in 1851 and progressed slowly until the approach of the railroad in 1869 at which time Red Oak was organized into a town. Development of the community accelerated by providing the market place between the farm and the railroad. In conjunction with this activity numerous small industries developed to provide the local products for a growing community. In 1876 Red Oak became a city and continued its importance as the county seat and connection to the railroad. Today Red Oak continues to provide for the farming and commercial needs of the rural community within a 25 mile radius of the city. Equally important is the industrial character that has evolved from one of providing local goods and services to one that now primarily produces goods for national distribution. Public and quasi-public facilities now include 5 elementary schools, one junior high school, and one high school, 12 churches and the parks and recreation facilities to be reviewed in this report.

Until quite recently, residential development has consisted almost entirely of single-family dwellings with numerous older units being converted into two and three unit rental apartments. The most recent single-and multi-family developements, along with a major mobile home site, have occurred in the northeast quarter of the city. These multi-family and mobile home developments tend to meet the housing needs of a relatively new market and indications point to a continuation of all types of residential development in this area of Red Oak.

Commercial development in Red Oak is characterized by the central business area surrounding the Fountain Square Park and the "strip development" associated with Highway 48 and Oak Avenue. Through a community betterment program, all store fronts on the "City Square" have been repainted to enhance the historic architectural character. In conjunction with this, a redevelopment plan for Fountain Square Park has been prepared. Both efforts have been implemented to provide a better shopping environment and increase the commercial trade in the central business area. The associated traffic congestion and visual pollution typify the majority of the "strip development" establishments of Highway 48 and Oak Avenue.

population trends

Since 1930 Red Oak has had an erratic growth pattern, but over the period has shown a general trend of population gain. In a 1967 Comprehensive Plan for Montgomery County, prepared by Anderson Engineering Company, it was predicted that the 1970 population would be 7100, and 1980 would be 7380. Actual 1970 census figures indicated a population of 6210. Adjustment of previous population projections based on the actual population would predict a population of **6280 in 1972** and **7065 in 1982** for Red Oak.

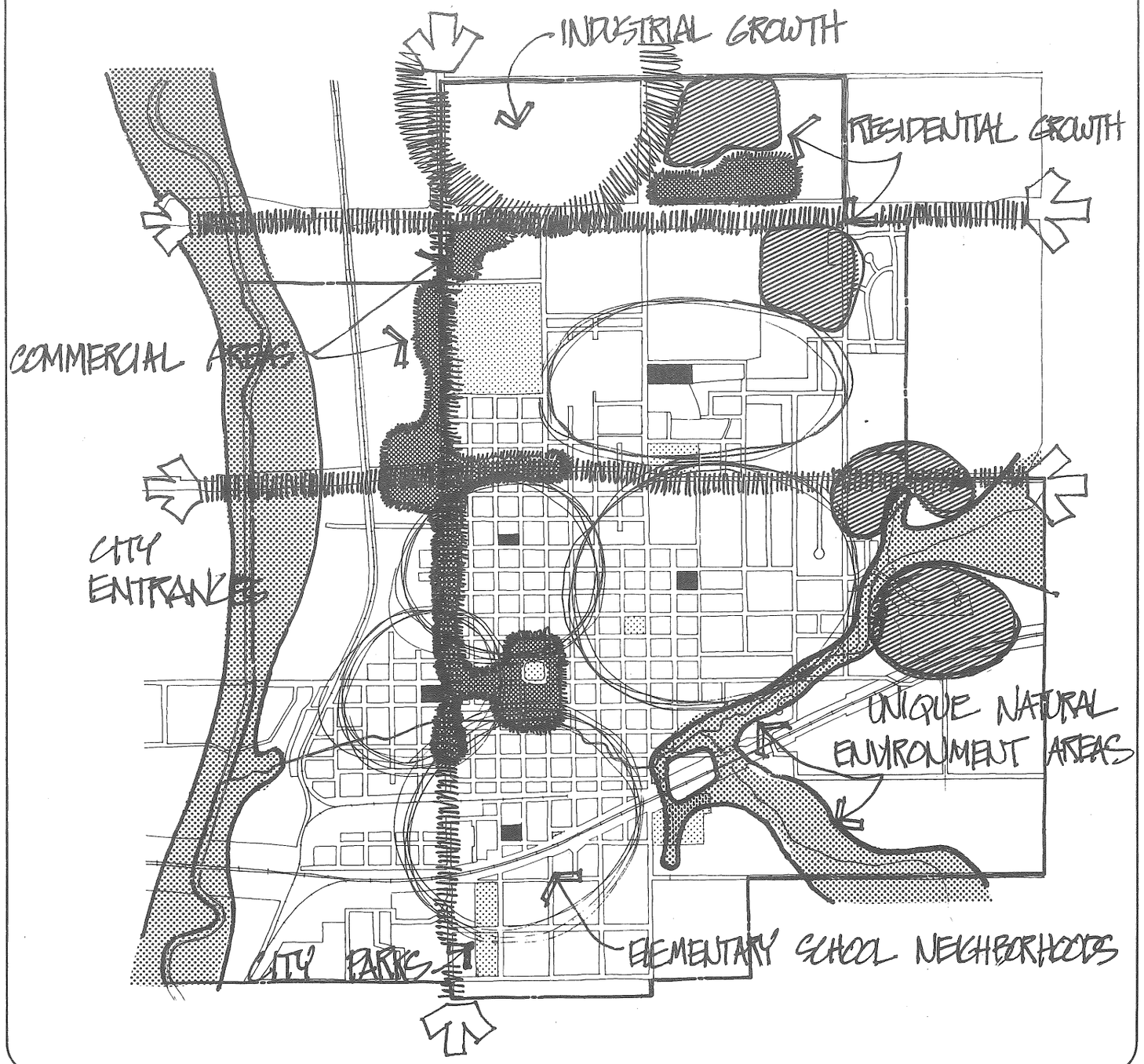
manmade and natural systems implications

From the rate and direction of the physical growth of the residential, commercial, and industrial areas of Red Oak we can draw a number of implications and conclusions which will serve as opportunities and constraints in the recreation planning process of this report. Primarily, the residential growth will continue to develop in the northeastern quarter of the city limits with various types of housing units being built (single-family, apartments, townhouses, etc.). The recent construction of various industrial concerns in the northwest area of Red Oak and the availability of land and utilities in that area, indicate that this trend should continue. Commercial development should be anticipated along the two major thoroughfares of the city as well as along U.S. Highway 34. These developments should not take away from the importance of the "City Square" shopping environment. Little development of any nature is anticipated in the flood plain areas of Red Oak.

The majority of the anticipated residential development will be occurring on what was once agricultural land and thus few opportunities exist for utilization of mature existing tree stands. The topography and soils associated with the northeast quarter of the city should not offer many constraints for residential development.

Unique natural environmental areas are indicated on the accompanying map of Red Oak. These areas are characterized by established vegetation stands, diverse topography, and water. These areas may offer opportunities for various types of recreation and should be examined for their potential as park sites.

Because of the importance of the location of the elementary school sites, the area served by each school generally can be considered a neighborhood. Established auto traffic patterns, residential area configuration, and home to school distances have much to do with the cohesiveness of each neighborhood. The residential backyard and the school ground usually offer the only points of recreation opportunity for the younger children.



classes of recreation

Prior to any phase of actual recreation planning, we should conduct a rather thorough review of the existing recreation opportunities: not only in Red Oak but also in the area which affects and is, in turn, affected by recreation opportunities in Red Oak. With the difficulty of defining recreation comes the difficulty of measuring it. There seems to be no standard qualitative method for measuring the psychological effects of recreation across the nation or even across the state. For what is recreation to some people in some parts of the country is something else to other people in other locations.

However, the most commonly used measurement of recreation opportunities is to classify areas by **measurement of size, facilities, and general use.** The system that will be used in this report is similar to the one used by the outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission (ORRRC). We have made slight modifications to make it more applicable to Montgomery County, the city of Red Oak, and the specific methodology used by the authors.

The nine classes are as follows:

CLASS I – PLAYGROUND
CLASS II – PLAYFIELD
CLASS III – PASSIVE AREA
CLASS IV – CITY-WIDE PARK
CLASS V – GENERAL OUTDOOR AREA
CLASS VI – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREA
CLASS VII – PRIMITIVE AREA
CLASS VIII – HISTORIC OR CULTURAL SITE
CLASS IX – SPECIAL AREAS

CLASS I – PLAYGROUND. An active recreation area for pre-school and lower elementary school children; usually equipped with a play apparatus area, paved multi-use area and a small open area for group games and informal play. Service area is 3–4 blocks or a 5-minute walking time.

CLASS II – PLAYFIELD. An active recreation area for older elementary school children and adults; usually has ballfields, open space for team games and sports and surfaced areas for court games. Service area is 6–8 blocks or a 10-minute walking time.

CLASS III – PASSIVE AREA. A passive recreation area for all ages; usually containing shelter and picnic area, quiet special features (sculpture, fountain, etc.), walking and sitting facilities. Service area is 6–8 blocks or a 10-minute walking time.

CLASS IV – CITY-WIDE PARK. An active recreation area for all age groups; usually containing a swimming pool, riding and walking trails natural areas, buildings for various recreational uses and any or all of Classes I, II and III.

CLASS V – GENERAL OUTDOOR AREA. Based on existing natural resources, e.g., lakes, streams, hills, timber or rock formation. These recreation areas are used or developed to parallel existing conditions. In some instances they may require facilities to make the area more conducive to human use. These areas are used primarily on week-ends; service area is dependent on size, uniqueness and facilities but may be up to 1½ hours driving time.

CLASS VI – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREA. These areas are for such activities as hunting and fishing; generally require few or no man-made facilities. Intensity of use and service area are dependent on the size and quality of the area.

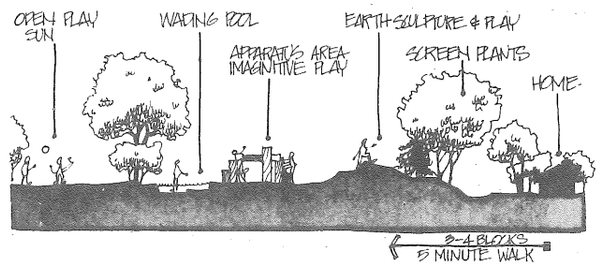
CLASS VII – PRIMITIVE AREA. These areas are open only to such developments and uses that will not interfere with their undisturbed and primitive character; primarily conservation. Intensity of use and service area are dependent on the size and quality of the area.

CLASS VIII – HISTORIC OR CULTURAL SITE. These areas are associated with the history, tradition or heritage of the locale. Generally moderate use with service area depending on whether site is of national, state or local importance.

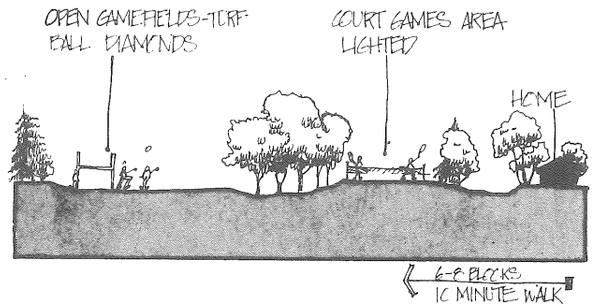
CLASS IX – SPECIAL AREA. These areas contain special features set up to serve a specific group or function.

These classifications result in a separation of areas which is general enough to derive a workable number of classes, yet specific enough to be meaningful.

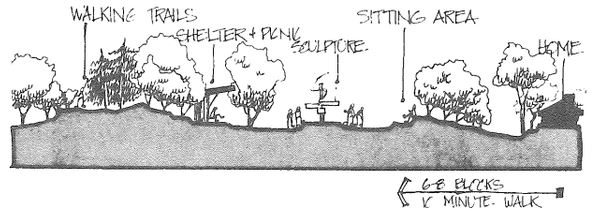
classes in red oak



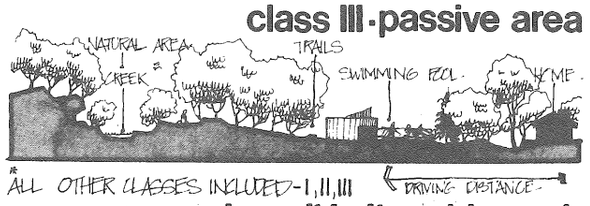
class I · playground



class II · playfield



class III · passive area



class IV · city-wide park

existing recreation opportunities

Since the existing recreation opportunities of the area of influence will indeed affect and are affected by Red Oak's recreational needs, they are inventoried and analyzed first. A 25 mile driving distance has been established as an "area of influence" for recreation facilities as they might relate to Red Oak. The accompaning map illustrates the "area of influence" for Red Oak.

By looking at the facilities available within the "area of influence", we not only see it is possible for the residents of Red Oak to use recreational facilities outside the city limits, but we also note that residents of Montgomery County and small portions of other counties are likely to utilize the Red Oak facilities. Notwithstanding the facilities offered by Red Oak, Viking Lake actually offers the only countywide general recreation facility of significant value to the residents of Red Oak and Montgomery County. Facilities provided at Viking Lake include the following: swimming beach, concessions, boat ramp and dock, boating (not over 6½ hp.), picnicking, camping with water and electrical facilities, fishing and nature study.

Willow Slough, the Highway 34 Park, Pioneer Park and Pilot Grove Park offer either specialized, undeveloped, or limited recreation opportunities and each is of great enough distance to be of questionable value for the residents of Red Oak, even though these facilities provide opportunities for a portion of the residents of the 25 mile "area of influence". The facilities offered by the municipalities other than Red Oak can be expected to provide for only the recreational needs of the residents of each town and the local surrounding area. The private sector of recreation in Montgomery County includes the facilities relating to Viking Lake and two golf courses.

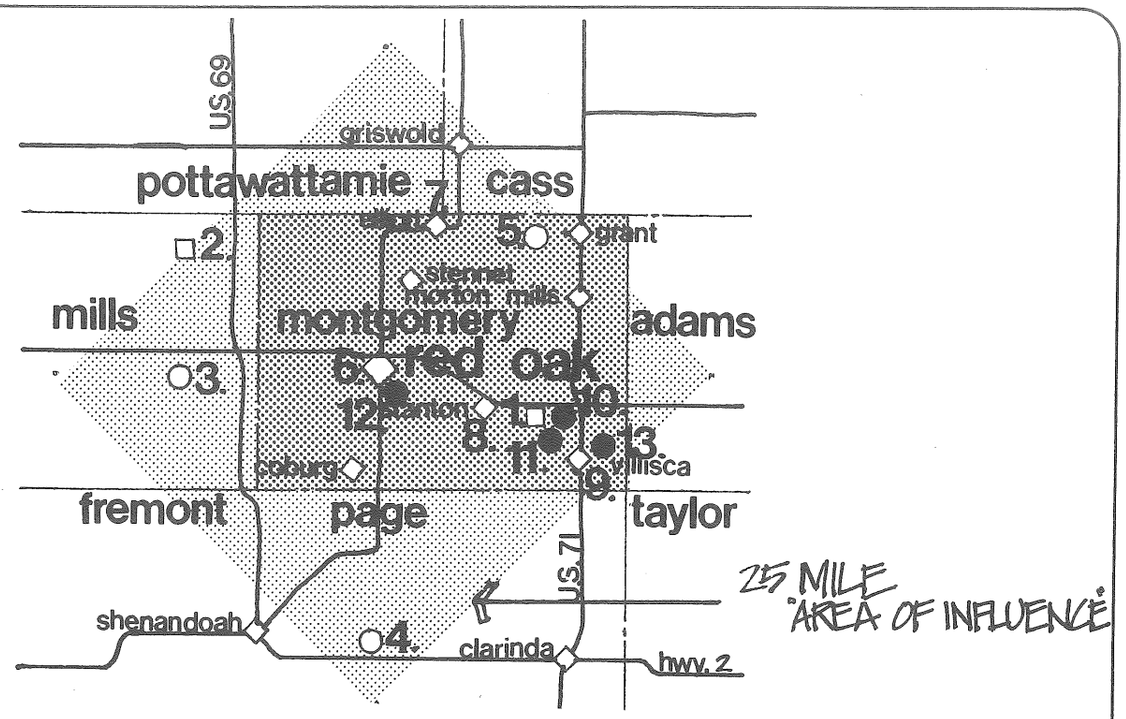
Based on the inventory of recreation facilities of the "area of influence", the following considerations shall be made in the planning of a recreation system for Red Oak:

1) Numerous recreational demands are being placed on existing facilities of Red Oak due to the city's importance as the population, commercial, government, transportation and geographic center of Montgomery County.

2) The general lack of major recreation facilities in the area of influence other than those of Viking Lake tend to concentrate further demands on the Red Oak system.

3) Without increased facilities supported by the county and/or the state, the importance of the Red Oak recreation system will increase.

4) If population trends continue, rural Montgomery County will be losing population, however, the majority of this "loss" will become residents of Red Oak.



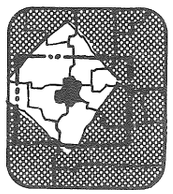
KEY	NAME OF AREA	CLASS	TYPE OF FACILITY	LAND NONE	WATER NONE	TOTAL NONE
FEDERAL CONTROLLED AREAS						
STATE CONTROLLED AREAS						
1	VIKING LAKE	V	General Rec.	806	148	954
2	WILLOW SLOUGH	VI	Hunting	449	150	599
				1255	298	1553
COUNTY CONTROLLED AREAS						
3	HIGHWAY 34 PARK	IX	Undeveloped	1	0	1
4	PIONEER PARK	V	General Rec.	15	4	19
5	PILOT GROVE PARK	V	General Rec.	40	0	40
				56	4	60
TOTAL STATE AND COUNTY CONTROLLED ACRES				1311	302	1613

CITY AND TOWN CONTROLLED AREAS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

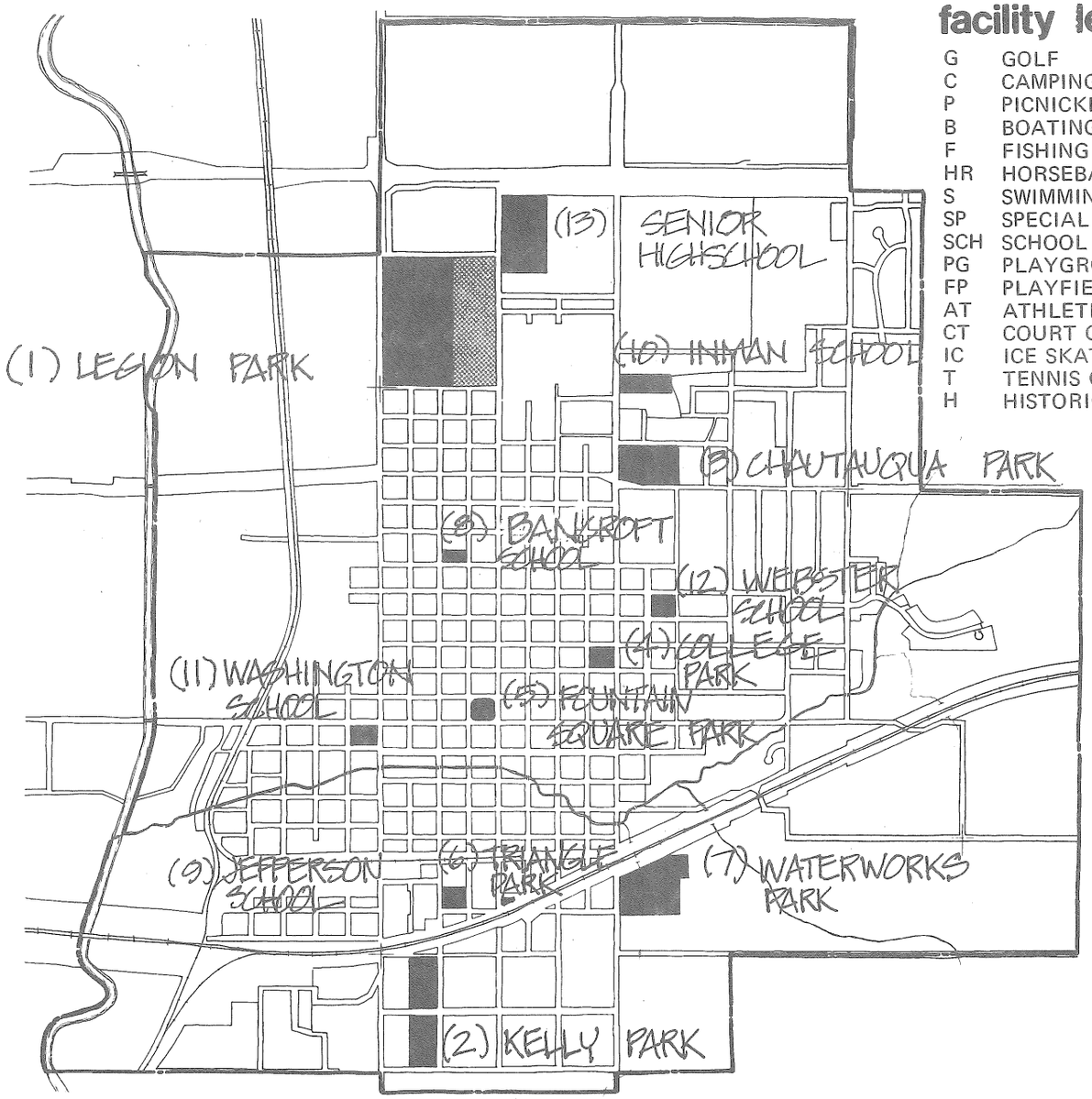
TOWN OR CITY		NUMBER OF AREAS	TOTAL ACREAGES
6	RED OAK	13	66
7	ELLIOTT	1	1
8	STANTON	1	11
9	VILLISCA	2	27
		17 Total	105 Acres

PRIVATELY OWNED AREAS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

10	BOAT AND BAIT	VIKING LAKE
11	METHODIST CHURCH CAMP	VIKING LAKE
12	GOLF COURSE	RED OAK
13	GOLF COURSE	VILLISCA



existing recreation opportunities



facility legend

G	GOLF
C	CAMPING
P	PICNICKING
B	BOATING
F	FISHING
HR	HORSEBACK RIDING
S	SWIMMING
SP	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
SCH	SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS
PG	PLAYGROUNDS
FP	PLAYFIELDS
AT	ATHLETIC FIELDS
CT	COURT GAMES
IC	ICE SKATING
T	TENNIS COURT
H	HISTORICAL SITE

Total acreages listed here and used throughout the report have been gathered by the authors for purposes of this study from figures and areas illustrated on City of Red Oak maps. School site acreages refer only to the useable recreation area and not the total site.

In our judgement, the Class 1, 2, & 3 areas occurring in Legion Park are not effective for neighborhood use because of the location of the park with respect to the lack of surrounding residential population.

public recreation facilites

1	Legion Park*	28.4
2	Kelly Park	7.7
3	Chautauqua Park	7.1
4	College Park	1.5
5	Fountain Square Park	1.5
6	Triangle Park	0.1
	Total acres of municipal parks	46.3 Acres
7	Water Works Park	9.1 Acres
8–13	Public School Sites	10.4 Acres
	Total acreage for public recreation	65.8 Acres

acreage breakdowns by classes

	NAME	FACILITY	ACRES
	CLASS ONE		
2	Kelly Park	PG	1.3
3	Chautauqua Park	PG	1.0
4	College Park	PG	0.4
8	Bancroft School	SCH	0.2
9	Jefferson School	SCH	0.3
10	Inman School	SCH	0.3
11	Washington School	SCH	0.3
12	Webster School	SCH	0.3
			4.1
	CLASS TWO		
2	Kelly Park	PF, AT	3.4
3	Chautauqua Park	PF, AT	3.0
8	Bancroft School	PF	0.2
9	Jefferson School	PF	0.3
10	Inman School	PF	0.5
11	Washington School	PF	0.4
12	Webster School	PF	0.4
13	Red Oak High School	AT, T	7.2
			15.4
	CLASS THREE		
2	Kelly Park	P	3.0
3	Chautauqua Park	P, SP, H	3.1
4	College Park	Undeveloped	1.1
5	Fountain Square Park	SP, H	1.5
6	Triangle Park	Undeveloped	0.1
7	Waterworks Park	Undeveloped	9.1
			17.9
	CLASS FOUR		
1	Legion Park*	C,P,S,SP,PG,AT,CT,IC,T,PF,H	28.4
			65.8 Acres

*Does not include acreage that is under Montgomery County Fair Board control located east of and adjacent to the park.

factors of recreation demand

Many factors join together to create a demand for recreation. Based on an extensive study completed for the United States by the Outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission the following are the major factors which affect the demand for, and the use of, parks and open space:

population
income
occupation
education
leisure time
mobility

Generally, as these factors increase, the demand for recreation will increase. The projected population for the city of Red Oak shows little increase for the next 10 years. However, the other factors will almost certainly increase, but the degree to which they will increase and the corresponding effects on demand is at best a calculated guess. For the purposes of this study we will assume that increases will occur, and develop a more tangible methodology for analyzing and determining recreation demand. This methodology is illustrated in the accompanying diagrams.

methods

various recreation demand determination methods

service area

Considers distribution of recreation classes in relationship to population.

Considers time/distance relationships.

Does not consider size or quality of facilities.

acres/1000 population

Quantifies area size in relationship to population.

Considers general site requirements for certain recreation activities for a given population.

Does not consider area distribution.

Does not consider land capabilities and economic and social trends.

efficient acres/facility

Considers maximum efficient facility use based on population of service area.

Considers facility size but not quality.

participation days

Attempts to classify type of recreation needed based on past user trends.

Does not consider facility distribution or size.

value judgements

Through the value judgements made by the authors of this report and the Red Oak Park Board, these "pure" or "ideal" demand determination methods can be applied to the unique and particular situation of Red Oak.

application

1. Review existing recreation opportunities to determine how they meet various quantity and quality guidelines.

2. Establish specific area and facility goals for the Red Oak Parks and Recreation System.

3. Determine excesses and deficiencies of quantity and quality in the existing system and make projections for 5 and 10 year periods.

4. Establish priorities and sequence of action to meet actual needs for the next 10 years based on the objectives of the Park Board, logical sequence of development and availability of funds.

introduction

The aspects of Service Area, Total and Proportional Acres/Population, and Efficient Acres/Facility are presented here in further detail.

service area

Service area can be defined as the area (blocks, miles, etc.) which can be effectively served by the criteria of time or distance established for the particular facility or class. For example, the service area for a playground is a 3–4 block distance or 5 minutes walking time. In the author's opinion this short distance will make playgrounds easily accessible to pre-school and elementary children with great amounts of leisure time, who would otherwise have to find other outlets for their energy.

According to most studies regarding recreation, it is found that the single most serious deficiency in recreation is easily accessible land adequately distributed in and adjacent to the metropolitan areas suitable for handling the high-density use activities. The major reason for this is the relative high cost of land and the inability of people at this time to place an economical value on recreation. As private enterprise moves into recreation as an economic pursuit this is becoming decreasingly the case. Also, land value is increased if it is in close proximity to good recreation areas.

Service area can be slightly misleading, since a playground located two blocks away may be across a busy thoroughfare or one that is 8 blocks away may be through open space or light residential areas with no through traffic. So even this method involves a careful analysis. General service area guidelines have been established in the discussion of the various classes of recreation on page six.

total and proportional acres/population

10 acres/1000 population (total acres/population) has been a generally accepted guideline for all class facilities and if we assume this guideline, we can then also assume the proportions (proportional acres/population) of the 10 acres/1000 population that is filled by each of the four classes. For purposes of review and analysis of the existing recreation system, we shall use the following guidelines which, once again, have been derived from various recreation resources.

1972 Acres/1000 Population (Total and Proportional)

CLASS ONE	0.7 ac./1000
CLASS TWO	2.3 ac./1000
CLASS THREE	2.0 ac./1000
CLASS FOUR	5.0 ac./1000
	10.0 ac./1000 all classes

efficient acres/facility

Efficient acres means that for a given service area there is an optimum size for the facility based on the population of the service area. Some areas may not be adequate and some may be more than adequate for the class to which they were assigned. For example, if the efficient acres for a playground was 1.5 acres; a playground which had 3 acres would still only effectively serve the same area. This coincides with the intention of the service area analysis which contends that the size of an area is less important than its accesibility. Thus, for a playground, the 3–4 block service area is a maximum distance that a child should have to walk for this type of facility. Then considering the number of inhabitants in the service area and its intended use based on population density and the facilities offered at this area, the optimum size can be determined for each service area.

The approach to service area, total and proportional acres/1000 population, and efficient acres, is ideally based on equal population distribution throughout the city and equal spread of incomes and ages over all of the population. When we review each class and each park of each class, we have to generally review the population characteristics of each service area with respect to its effects on demand determination and the type of facility most needed.

Pages 11 to 14 present the review of the existing facilities of the Red Oak park system. The review shall be primarily based on the breakdown of the entire existing system into the I, II, III and IV classes. Each class shall be analyzed with the following requirements: definition of the "ideal" physical characteristics of the class, service area, efficient acres, proportional acres/1000, participation rates, and existing quality. A city map illustrating the class locations, their service areas, and deficiency zones accompany the discussion of each class.

Through a review of Outdoor Recreation Space Standards, Department of Interior 1967 and other generally accepted recreation resource information, we shall use the following acres/class park as a guide for examining the efficiency of the various park and school locations in Red Oak.

Playground	=	1.0 acres
Playfield	=	4.0 acres
Passive Area	=	4.0 acres*
City-Wide Park	=	31.4 acres**

*varies in size according to location and opportunity offered

**based on 5 ac./1000 population

class one playground

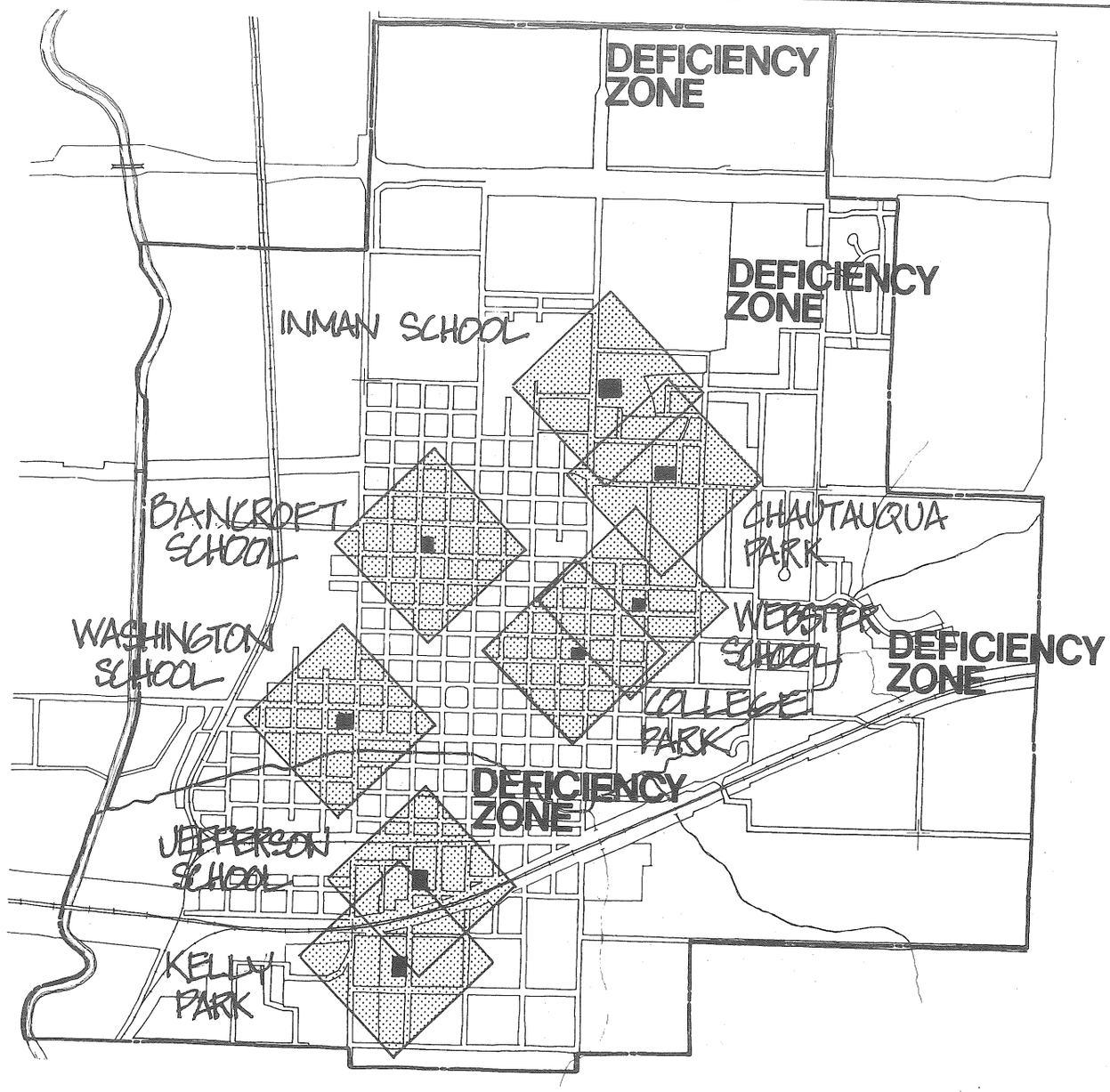
An active recreation area for pre-school and lower elementary school children; usually equipped with a play apparatus area, paved multi-use area and a small open area for group games and informal play. Service area is 3–4 blocks or a 5-minute walking time.

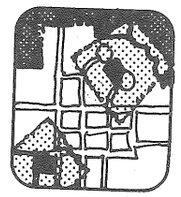
CLASS ONE activities primarily relate to the elementary school locations and should be considered for their importance not only during school hours, but on the weekends, and in the summertime. As we will note later, the CLASS ONE activities relate quite closely to CLASS TWO activities. In addition to providing the necessary play equipment and multi-use game areas, considerations should be equally given to providing protection from auto traffic and the weather elements as well as defining the playground and the most frequently travelled walk-ways to the playground.

The CLASS ONE locations, as illustrated on the accompanying plan, include the 5 elementary school sites and the areas in Chautauqua, Kelly, and College Parks where play equipment is provided. Considering the distribution of the service areas of the elementary school sites, the 3 park locations serve as a supplement to the school ground activities. For the most part, Legion park CLASS ONE activities are closely related to the CLASS FOUR activities of that city-wide park. In addition to the most recent apartment and mobile home developments in the northeast quarter of the city, service area deficiencies show up in the entire eastern one-third of the city where residential growth over the last 15 years has occurred.

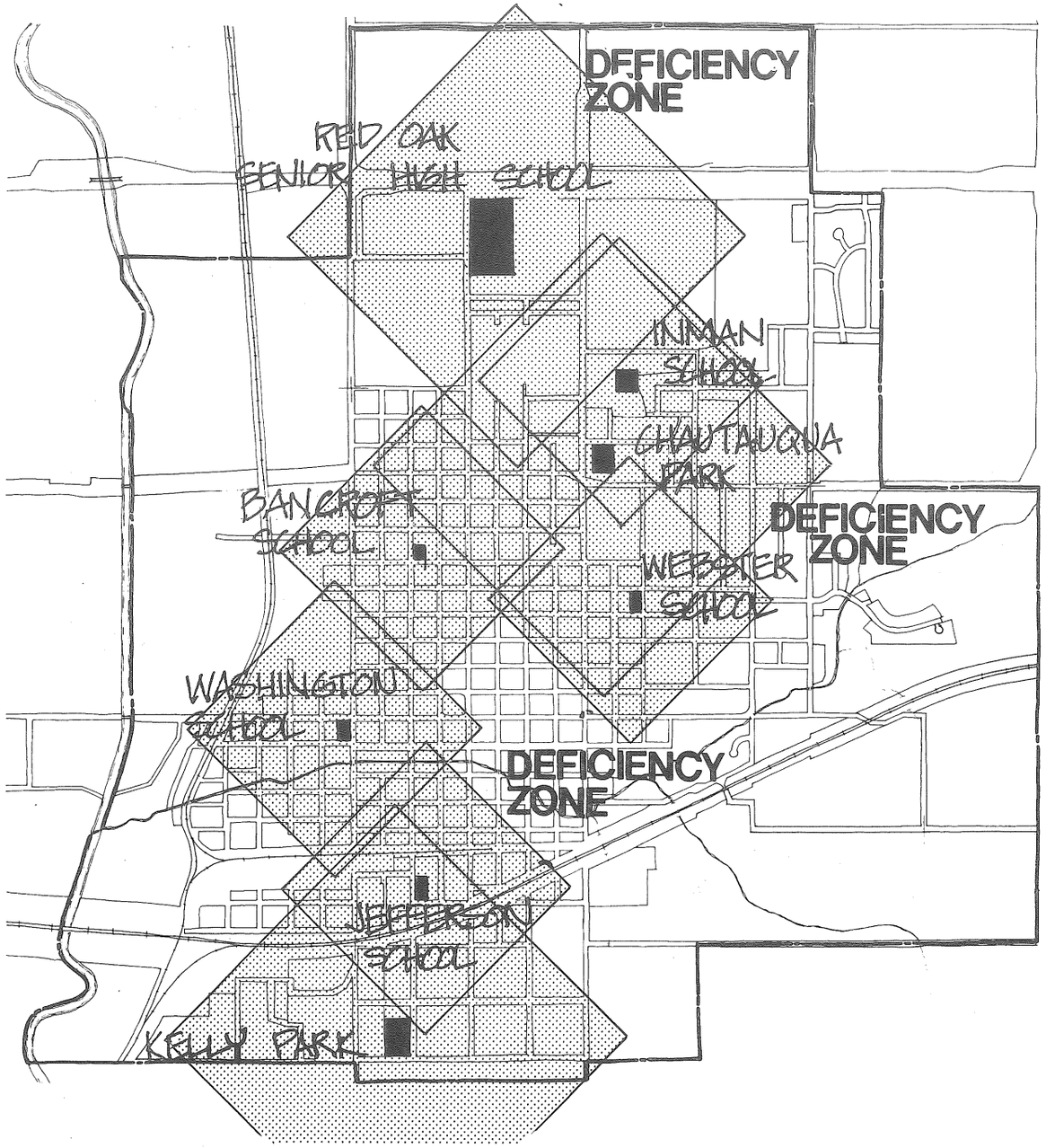
When we review the acres/population recommendation of 0.7 acres playground/1000 population and we look at the actual population in the service areas of the 8 mentioned sites, we see for the most part that the school sites are surrounded by approximately 800 residents. Once again, however, the 3 park locations support very minor groupings of population that are not already covered by a school site service area. Several areas of deficiency show up in the eastern portion of Red Oak where several groupings of 800 to 1000 people are not included in the service area of a CLASS ONE facility.

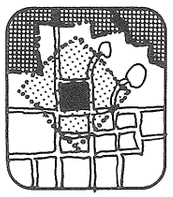
To look at the elementary school sites in more detail, we certainly find that the most intense use of these areas occurs during the school hours when children of the service area utilize the site as well as rural children who would not normally be present at other times. Secondary, more unorganized play occurs during after school hours, on weekends, and in the summertime. Although various pieces of playground equipment are provided at each school site and at the park locations, proper use of plant materials and creative play equipment as well as playground identification and access have for the most part been neglected.





class two facilities





12

class two playfield

An active recreation area for older elementary school children and adults; usually has ballfields, open space for team games and sports and surfaced areas for court games. Service area is 6–8 blocks or a 10-minute walking time.

The CLASS TWO facilities are intended to provide for the majority of the organized recreation activities relating to the school recreation programs and the summer baseball and softball leagues. The facilities of Kelly, Legion and Chautauqua Parks as well as of the Senior High School are intended to provide for this particular aspect of CLASS TWO activities. As mentioned previously, the 5 elementary school sites provide the limited facilities of unimproved neighborhood basketball courts and ball diamonds, both of which are utilized most intensively during the school hours for less organized CLASS TWO activities. An equally important function of all CLASS TWO facilities is the provision for the unprogramed and unorganized recreation opportunities related to the playfield.

Where the activity(s) necessitate, the essential support facilities of night lighting, parking, spectator seating, restrooms and water as well as proper surfacing and maintenance of the courts and fields should be provided. While providing for these support items, equal attention should be given to climate and traffic protection, use of plant materials for shade and space enclosure, and park and school site identification.

On the accompanying plan, we have made a distinction in service area size between neighborhood orientated facilities of the elementary schools and the wider range of activities and area size of the 3 parks and the high school. These service areas actually apply more closely to the unorganized use of the facilities. Most organized activities such as softball or little league relate to a city-wide service area. In Legion Park, the CLASS TWO activities relate to that park's CLASS FOUR functions. As with the CLASS ONE service area defiencies, in the eastern portion of the city we note several areas not closely served by the various CLASS TWO facilities.

When reviewing the efficient acreages of the CLASS TWO facilities, we need to distinguish the acreages of Kelly and Chautauqua Parks and the Senior High School from the acreages of the elementary school sites. Since the elementary school sites offer more limited CLASS TWO opportunities, the service area and the population they serve is also more limited. A characteristic also common to the elementary sites as well as to the high school site is that the use here generally occurs during the school months, whereas the two parks are utilized primarily during the summer months. Regarding the proportional acres/1000 population of CLASS TWO land, the existing acreages relate quite well to the CLASS TWO guideline. Despite the lack of distribution of a CLASS TWO site in the eastern portion of the City, development and enhancement of existing facilities seems to be the major concern for the existing CLASS TWO sites.

class three passive area

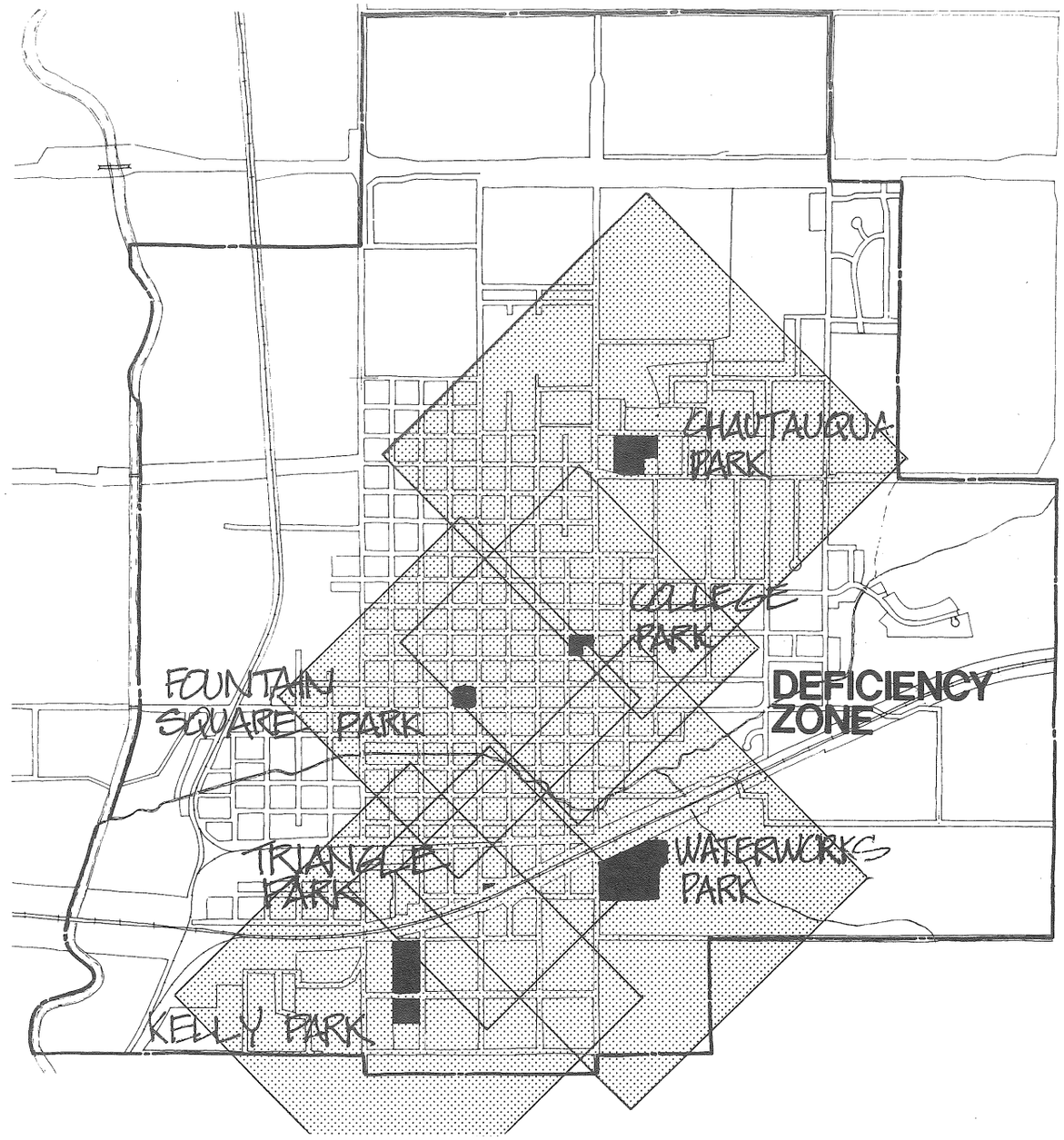
A passive recreation area for all ages; usually containing shelter and picnic area, quiet special features (sculpture, fountain, etc.), walking and sitting facilities. Service area is 6–8 blocks or a 10-minute walking time.

By their very nature, the CLASS THREE areas of recreation are somewhat less definable in terms of actual type of recreation since utilization of these areas is determined more by the opportunities of the site and by the user's own mental desires and creativity. Another variable aspect of CLASS THREE recreation is the physical framework in which this type of recreation occurs. Thus, each particular site has to be judged on its own capability for providing a unique and diverse recreation opportunity.

The actual physical size of the site is one of these variables and it is noted that the existing CLASS THREE areas vary in size from 0.1 acres to 9.1 acres. The facilities or opportunities offered can and should vary greatly as we note by comparing the proposed development plan for Fountain Square Park with the possibilities of developing College Park for example. The land use(s) surrounding any particular CLASS THREE facility also plays a strong role in the determination of the park character as we again note by comparing the above mentioned parks. In connection with all of these variables, the particular service areas vary in size depending upon the opportunities or facilities offered. For example, Chautauqua Park offers city-wide picnic facilities where as College or Triangle Park might offer only local neighborhood appeal.

On the accompanying map, the adjusted service areas are illustrated with the major areas having a walking distance of 6–8 blocks. Legion Park should offer some portion of its development for CLASS THREE activities. Once again we note some degree of deficiency in the eastern portions of the city. Comparing the CLASS THREE 1972 guideline for proportional acres/1000 population with the actual acres, we find an excess in this catagory. Since this represents an accumulation of numerous minor excesses, this should not be of concern.

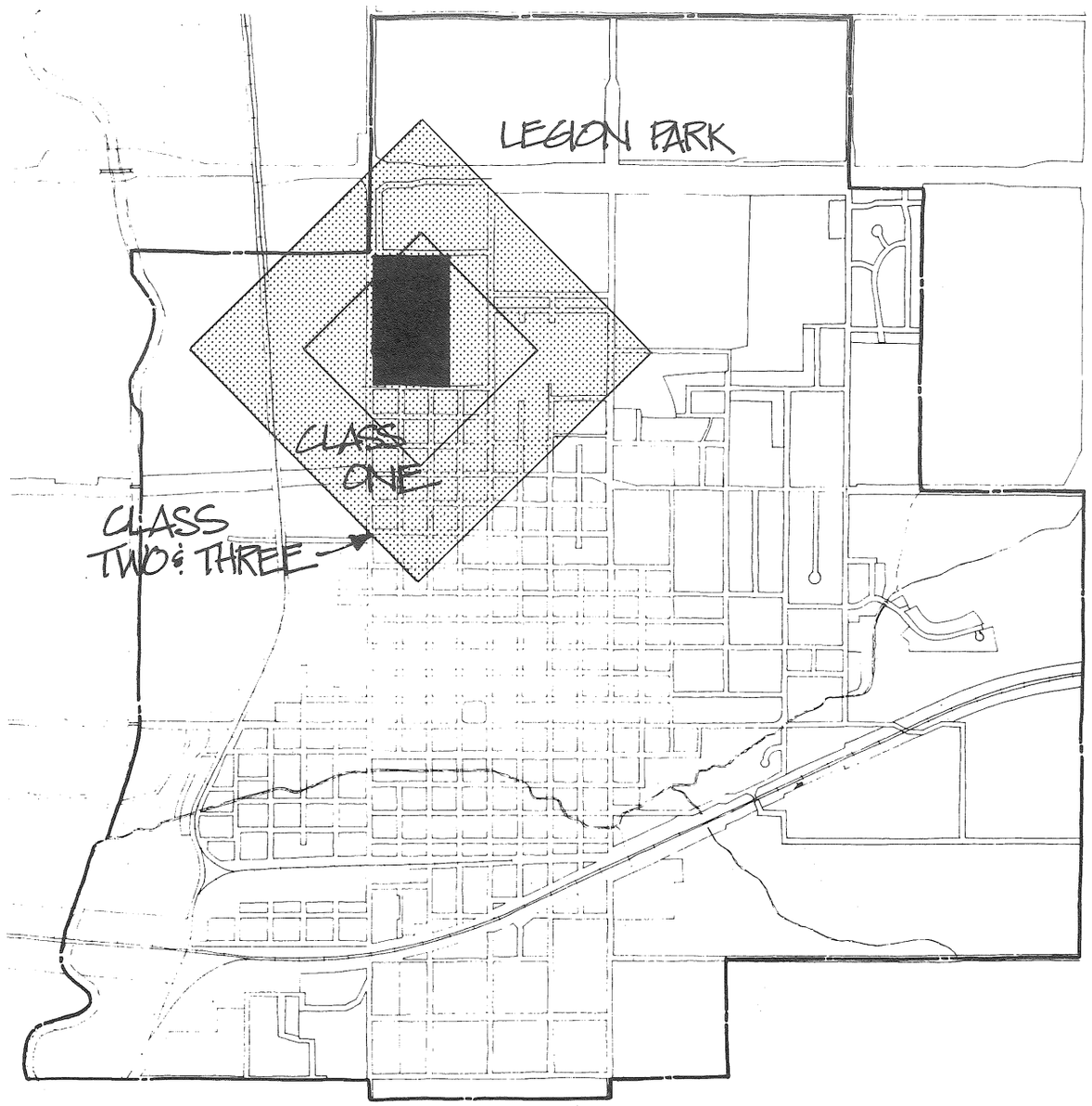
Due to its nature once again, the physical development of a CLASS THREE area is probably more important in this class than in any other for the four classes. Thorough, diverse and unique development of the CLASS THREE areas is essential in providing for the unique recreation opportunities characteristic of the CLASS THREE areas. Generally, CLASS THREE areas utilize unique natural environmental features in order to provide the desired diverse experiences and it might be through this CLASS by which various existing natural features could be preserved and made available for the enjoyment of the recreating public.

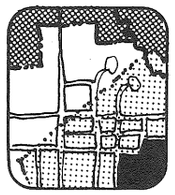


class three facilities

four facilities

class four





class four city-wide park

An active recreation area for all age groups; usually containing a swimming pool, riding and walking trails, natural areas, buildings for various recreational uses and any or all of CLASSES I, II and III.

Legion Park represents the only city-wide park in Red Oak and its land area and facilities can be divided between providing for specific intent functions such as athletic or county fair events and general recreation activities which relate quite closely to the swimming pool.

Existing facilities providing for specific intent use include the football and baseball fields, running track, the locker rooms, the spectator bleachers for both fields, and the graveled parking areas. In addition to this, the area containing several of the Montgomery County Fair buildings has been included with the acreage of 28.4 for Legion Park. These include the livestock buildings and the display pavilion. All of the above facilities represent very specialized uses of the park and actually do not lend themselves to any other general recreation opportunity. The use of the baseball diamond is extended to the summer baseball and softball programs. Although the use of the County Fair facilities is only for several days each year, the resultant impacts create tremendous parking and maintenance demands for the remaining portions of the park area. Attendance at athletic events presents significant circulation and parking problems within this park.

Facilities offering more diverse and unscheduled recreation opportunities include the swimming pool, the tennis and horseshoe courts, the multi-use and ice rink area, picnic tables and shelter, the play equipment, and the parking relating to all of the above. Although the majority of the general recreation park's use occurs during the summer months, a small ice skating rink has been used extensively during the winter months. Two problems of immediate concern for the physical development of Legion Park include the operation and maintenance of the swimming pools filter system and the tremendous loss of large shade trees throughout the entire park.

Currently, the proportional acres/1000 population relate quite well with the established guideline, however, the utilization of this land as mentioned previously, does not seem to adequately provide for the recreational opportunities characteristic of CLASS FOUR areas. The service area of a city-wide park ideally should relate to the entire city and when we consider movement to the park solely by auto almost any site in the existing city limits could be acceptable. However, when we consider the younger age of the majority of this parks users and the use of bicycle or foot to get to the park, the service area reduces in size and deficiency zones begin to occur on the eastern and southern portions of the city.

1972 acres/1000 pop.

Presented here are numerical breakdowns of the actual public recreation acreages of each class. Comparisons are made for the years 1972 and 1982 with the population figures presented earlier in this report. The first breakdown illustrates the excesses and deficits based on 1972 population and the guideline of 10 acres/1000 population, as well as the respective acres/1000 of each class.

CLASS	ACTUAL ACRES	POPULATION	ACTUAL ACRES PER 1000 POP.	GUIDELINE ACRES PER 1000 POP. (1972)	ACRES PER 1000 POP. DEFICIT (-) OR EXCESS (+)	TOTAL ACRES DEFICIT (-) OR EXCESS (+)
one	4.1	6280	0.6	.7	−.1	−.6
two	15.4		2.4	2.3	+.1	+.6
three	17.9		2.9	2.0	+.9	+5.7
four	28.4		4.5	5.0	−.5	−3.1
totals	65.8		10.4	10.0	+.4	+2.6

1982 acres/1000 pop

As stated previously, due to the anticipated increase in population, income, occupation, education, leisure time, and mobility, the demand for recreation will also generally increase. **This increased demand is reflected not only through increased use of existing park facilities, but also through the need of new facilities to meet new service areas of new residential areas.** As the anticipated demand on existing facilities as well as demand for new recreation facilities increases, the acres/1000 guidelines (total and proportional) should be increased to reflect the meeting of this demand. To illustrate possible class deficits and excesses, a generally agreed upon guideline of 13 acres/1000 population and the proportional class breakdowns shall be projected against the 1982 anticipated population. The deficits and excesses indicated are based on no further acquisition and subsequent development of land for public recreation.

CLASS	1972 ACRES	POPULATION	ACRES/1000 POP. (PROJECTED POP.)	GUIDELINE ACRES/ 1000 POP. (1982)	ACRES/1000 POP. DEFICIT (-) OR EXCESS (+)	TOTAL ACRES DEFICIT (-) OR EXCESS (+)
one	4.1	7065	0.6	1.0	−.4	−2.8
two	15.4		2.2	2.7	−.5	−3.5
three	17.9		2.6	2.3	+.3	+2.1
four	28.4		4.0	7.0	−3.0	−21.2
totals	65.8		9.4	13.0	−3.6	−25.4

The acres/1000 population figures can be misleading without a review of the actual development of each park, degree of utilization, and the service area(s) of each park within each class. For example, a city may have a more than adequate acres/1000 population figure(s) which on the surface would seem to provide for the expected recreation demand. However, a number of related aspects may negate the value of a more than adequate acres/1000 population. These aspects might include:

1) Undeveloped and/or poorly maintained facilities on existing parks.
2) Poor park locations with respect to population concentrations, ie...deficiency zones.
3) Over abundant acreages for recreation use that is inefficient park development.

In the existing situation of Red Oak, even though the total acres/population slightly exceeds the 10 acres/1000 population guideline, the various deficiency zones indicated in the analysis negate the apparent over abundance of park land. In order to meet the needs of the indicated deficiency zones without the sale or giving away of portions of the existing system, a figure of 12 to 13 acres/1000 population should be an anticipated goal of the Red Oak Park System.

FOR ACRES/POPULATION FIGURE TO BE A RELEVANT GOAL AND A GOOD INDICATION OF A CITY'S PARK SYSTEM, THE FOLLOWING MUST BE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE PARK SYSTEM:

1) PROPERLY DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED FACILITIES.
2) PROPERLY DISTRIBUTED PARK LOCATIONS AND ADEQUATE SERVICE AREA COVERAGE.
3) A PROPER RATIO OF RECREATION USE TO LAND AREA – EFFICIENT PARK DEVELOPMENT.

total city facilities * ac./1000

3/1000

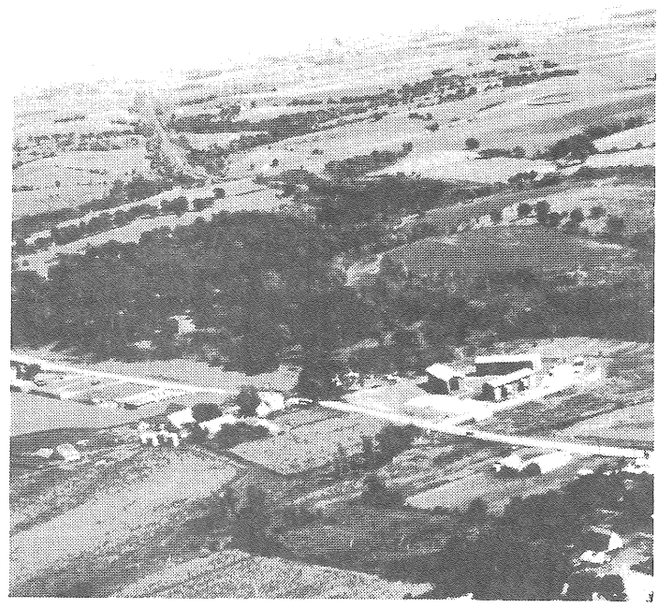
existing recreation programs

Recreation programs represent the more organized structured use of the park system. The user's basic intent is primarily directed to one specific purpose which is common to all participants, for example, viewing a sports event or participating in little league practice. The amount of organization, age of the people involved, and the intent of the activity varies greatly from one activity to the next. The importance of providing the facilities for the various recreation programs is equal to that of providing and administrating the proper programs to meet the needs and the desires of the entire community. On a community-wide basis, organized recreation opportunities should exist with year-round availability and have particular and diverse interest for all age groups.

The organized recreation programs for the City of Red Oak are, for the most part, the responsibility of the Park Board. These activities are initiated for the three summer months. The majority of the program activities occur at Legion Park and are currently provided for school age people. These activities provided by the Park Board include little league, softball, and baseball programs, swimming instruction (coordination with the Red Cross), and the arts and music appreciation programs. In addition to the use of Legion Park primarily for these activities, Chautauqua and Kelly Parks are utilized for some of the above mentioned summer programs.

Portions of several parks are utilized for community-wide recreation programs which are the responsibility of organizations other than the Park Board. Legion Park is utilized for the Montgomery County Fair activities, high school athletic functions and the Red Cross swimming lessons. Several of the facilities at Legion Park for providing for these extra programs are duplications of facilities offered for the general recreation use of the park. Parking areas and automobile access are examples of this type of this somewhat inefficient duplication.

The Fountain Square Park development plan offers the opportunity for various activities such as high school band concerts, public holiday events, and special activities which are the responsibilities of various groups with coordination of the City. Because of their generally restrictive income capabilities and their significant amount of "freetime", the retirement age people have a great demand for recreation opportunities and programs which would be suited to their special needs. Currently this particular age and interest group receives only limited financial support for their social activities from the business community. The proposed development plan for Fountain Square Park offers certain physical opportunities for their needs, but additional attention needs to be given to their program needs.



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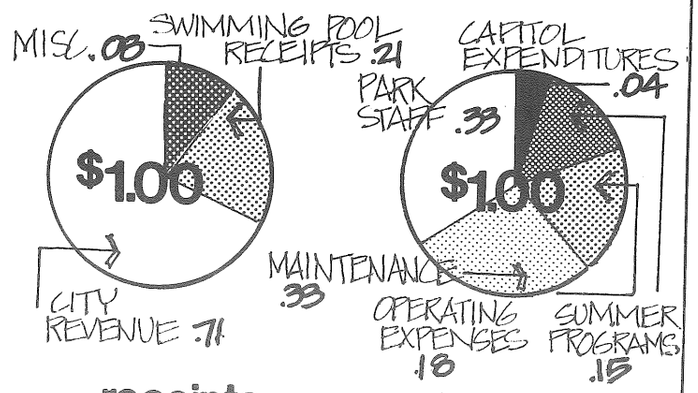
spending and administration

Providing for capital improvements, various maintenance operations, swimming pool operations, tree removal and replacement in street right-of ways and parks, and recreation program funding and administration have been the majority of the Red Oak Park Board's responsibilities in the recent years. The majority of the funding for these activities have come from tax revenue through the City budget. The total Park Board receipts of $60,000 in 1971 formed 5% of the total receipts of the City of Red Oak. Of that amount, 78% was City tax revenue. The Park Board has participated in no State or Federal cost sharing programs for capital improvement and/or acquisition of park land in recent years. The City of Red Oak is currently operating under a Section 701 Comprehensive Development Plan prepared in 1962.

The Red Oak Park Board consists of three members elected to 6 year terms. Staff appointments include two full-time and two part time-personnel whose primary responsibility is maintenance. Additional people are hired for summertime employment for utilization in the summer recreation programs and operation of the swimming pool. These include ten full time swimming pool personnel and two recreation program people. Significant maintenance or construction equipment includes one pickup truck, one dump truck and two tractors.

Park Board receipts and disbursement averages from 1966 to 1970 are illustrated below. Capital expenditures for facility improvement in the parks formed approximately one-fifth of one percent of total city disbursement over this period.

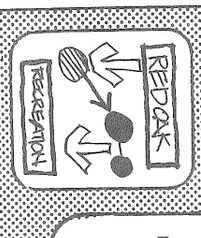
average dollar breakdown of park board receipts and disbursements



receipts **disbursements**

Based on the average population of the 5 years, total annual per capita spending by the Park Board averaged $7.89 per person. Of that $7.89 per person, $ .33 per capita average was spent annually on facility development and improvement in all existing parks.

18



implications

NATURAL SYSTEMS
MANMADE SYSTEMS
AREA OF INFLUENCE
EXISTING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES
DEMAND FOR RECREATION
RECREATION PROGRAMS
SPENDING AND ADMINISTRATION
PARK BOARD AND THE PEOPLE OF RED OAK
PLANNERS APPROACH

red oak park board goals

Acquire, develop, maintain and make available to the inhabitants of the City of Red Oak, public parks, playgrounds and recreation centers.

Develop, coordinate, administer and make available, community-wide recreation programs.

Promote and preserve the health and general welfare of the people and cultivate good citizenship by providing adequate facilities and programs of public recreation.

recreation system concept

To create the opportunity for varied recreation experiences for the people of Red Oak.

Existing facility improvement and land acquisitions.

Community-wide recreation programs.

Coordination with other facets of the local government and cooperation with private interests.

Park Board utilization of the planning approach, methods of establishing priorities and budgeting.

Budgeting, fund allocation, cost sharing, etc.

method of implementation

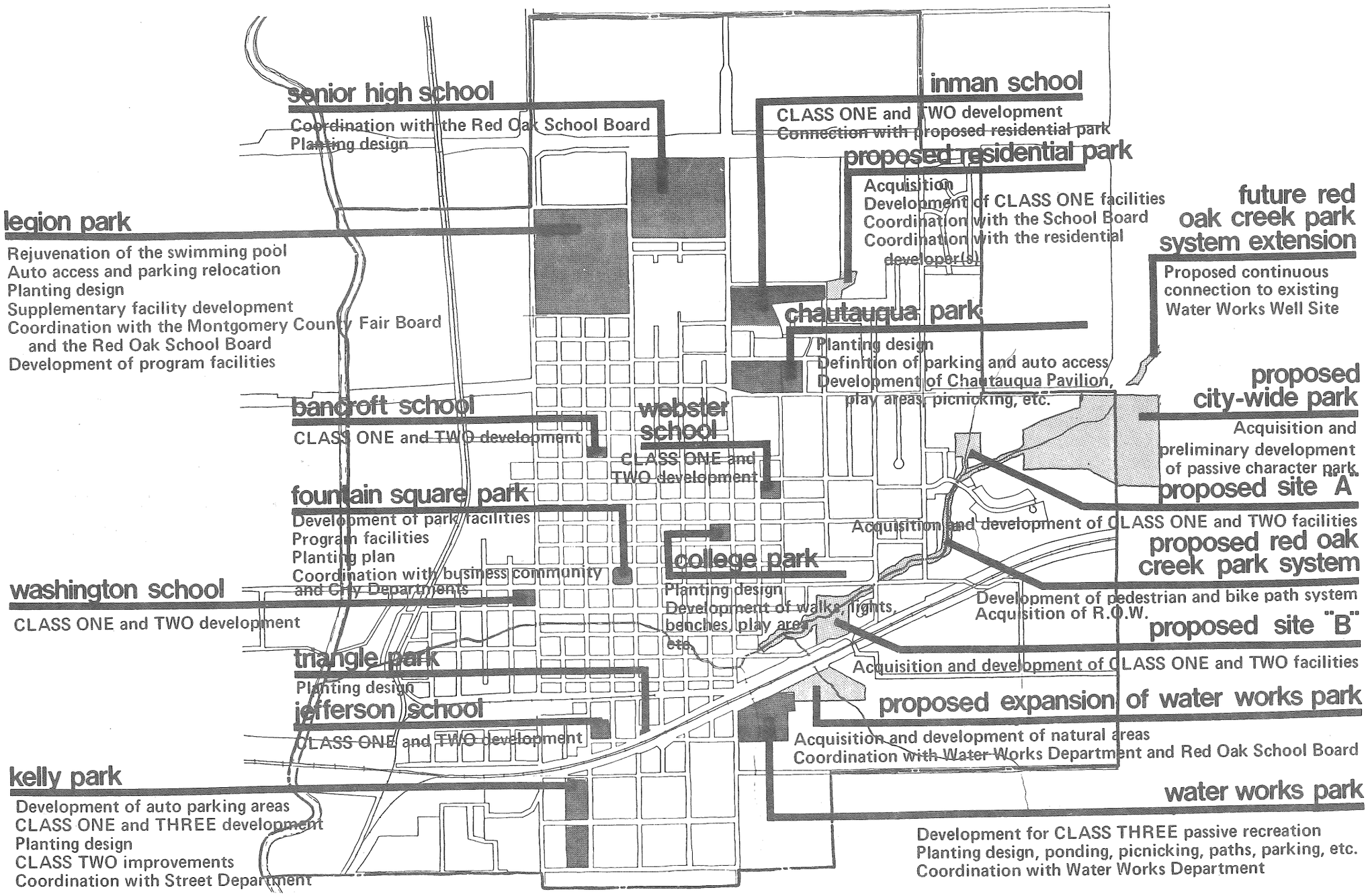
recreation in red oak

general goals

A general goal which is proposed for Park Board implementation is the TOTAL ACRES/1000 POPULATION figure as used in the demand study. Even though this concept only reflects a particular aspect of the quantity of recreation opportunities, the figures of 10 ACRES/1000 POPULATION IN 1972 and 13 ACRES/1000 POPULATION IN 1982 and the related CLASS breakdowns are indicative of the general increased demand for recreation in the future. The increase of 3 acres per 1000 population over the next ten years reflects the various land acquisitions which will be required to meet the needs of various deficiency zones indicated in the demand study.

facility improvement & aquisition

In conjunction with the discussion of the proposed facility improvements and acquisitions, it is proposed that the Red Oak Park Board accept and implement into its administrative actions the numerous concepts which have been discussed in the inventory and demand studies of this report. The first concept which should be implemented by the Park Board is that of the CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM. As mentioned previously, this CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM allows for the meaningful categorization of parks and portions of parks. In connection with the proposed CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, the ideas of SERVICE AREA, DEFICIENCY ZONES, TOTAL AND PROPORTIONAL ACRES/1000 POPULATION and EFFICIENT ACRES should be accepted to provide a basis of continual review of the entire park system as well as a basis for improvements and acquisition of specific parks.


senior high school
Coordination with the Red Oak School Board
Planning design
inman school
CLASS ONE and TWO development
Connection with proposed residential park
proposed residential park
Acquisition
Development of CLASS ONE facilities
Coordination with the School Board
Coordination with the residential developer(s)
future red oak creek park system extension
Proposed continuous connection to existing Water Works Well Site
legion park
Rejuvenation of the swimming pool
Auto access and parking relocation
Planting design
Supplementary facility development
Coordination with the Montgomery County Fair Board
and the Red Oak School Board
Development of program facilities
chautauqua park
Planting design
Definition of parking and auto access
Development of Chautauqua Pavilion, play areas, picnicking, etc.
proposed city-wide park
Acquisition and preliminary development of passive character park
bancroft school
CLASS ONE and TWO development
webster school
CLASS ONE and TWO development
proposed site "A"
Acquisition and development of CLASS ONE and TWO facilities
fountain square park
Development of park facilities
Program facilities
Planting plan
Coordination with business community and City Departments
college park
Planting design
Development of walks, lights, benches, play area, etc.
proposed red oak creek park system
Development of pedestrian and bike path system
Acquisition of R.O.W.
proposed site "B"
Acquisition and development of CLASS ONE and TWO facilities
washington school
CLASS ONE and TWO development
triangle park
Planting design
jefferson school
CLASS ONE and TWO development
proposed expansion of water works park
Acquisition and development of natural areas
Coordination with Water Works Department and Red Oak School Board
kelly park
Development of auto parking areas
CLASS ONE and THREE development
Planting design
CLASS TWO improvements
Coordination with Street Department
water works park
Development for CLASS THREE passive recreation
Planting design, ponding, picnicking, paths, parking, etc.
Coordination with Water Works Department

facility improvements * legion park

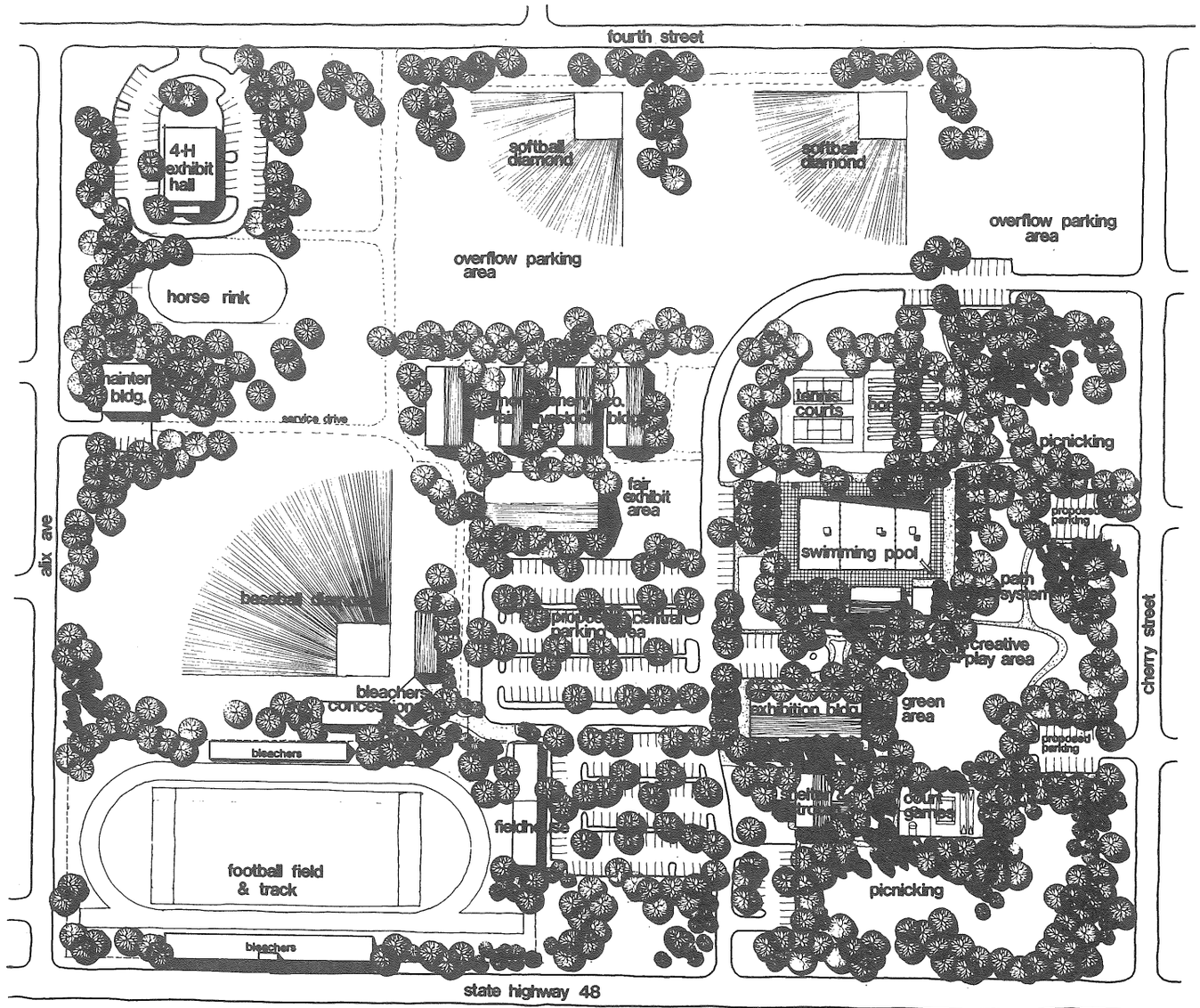
It is anticipated that Legion Park will for the next ten years provide for the functions of a CLASS FOUR CITY-WIDE PARK similar to those that it currently serves. The athletic events, the swimming pool, and the County Fair activities shall continue to be the main attractions of the Park with the court games, concession stand, and picnicking serving as supplementary to the primary features. As under the current conditions and as anticipated for the future, Legion Park provides limited opportunities for passive recreation activities. This is due primarily to the small portion of land which is not utilized for athletic fields, County Fair activities, parking, swimming pool, etc. Considering the limited quality and quantity of recreation facilities offering passive recreation for the people of Red Oak, there seems the need for additional acquisition of land which could be utilized and developed for a city-wide park with greater passive recreation opportunities than what might exist in Legion Park.

Among the problems facing the development of Legion Park, certainly the most immediate is that of the deteriorating condition of the swimming pool filter system, pool walls and floor, dressing rooms and administrative facilities. Several redevelopment proposals for the swimming pool facilities have been proposed by other consulting firms and these reports should be updated to reflect increased construction costs and possible alternatives and additions to the development approach.

To provide more of a "park-like" atmosphere, to create and enhance the environment for picnicking and its related activities, and to resolve the duplication of parking areas, it is proposed that the majority of the parking in the southern protion of the Park be relocated into the central area. In place of the existing surfacing, a "green" area could be developed where picnicking, the existing court games, play areas, and the swimming pool environment could be enhanced and new opportunities could be developed.

Since the most intense activities of the swimming pool, picnicking, the athletic fields and the County Fair and the associated parking requirements do not usually occur concurrently, the actual parking would be handled more efficiently in one area with the potential of overflow parking areas onto the County Fair Board land to the east. The relocated parking would be defined thus allowing for greater parking intensity than what currently exists. The new parking area would be handled in a manner to allow for the County Fair activities in the area between exhibit hall and the ball diamond.

An additional part of the development plan of Legion Park is that of implementing a planting design which would meet the numerous functional requirements of shade, screen, shelter and noise control, as well as providing for aesthetic visual pleasure. This particular aspect of the physical improvement of the park needs immediate attention due to the recent loss of the elm trees.

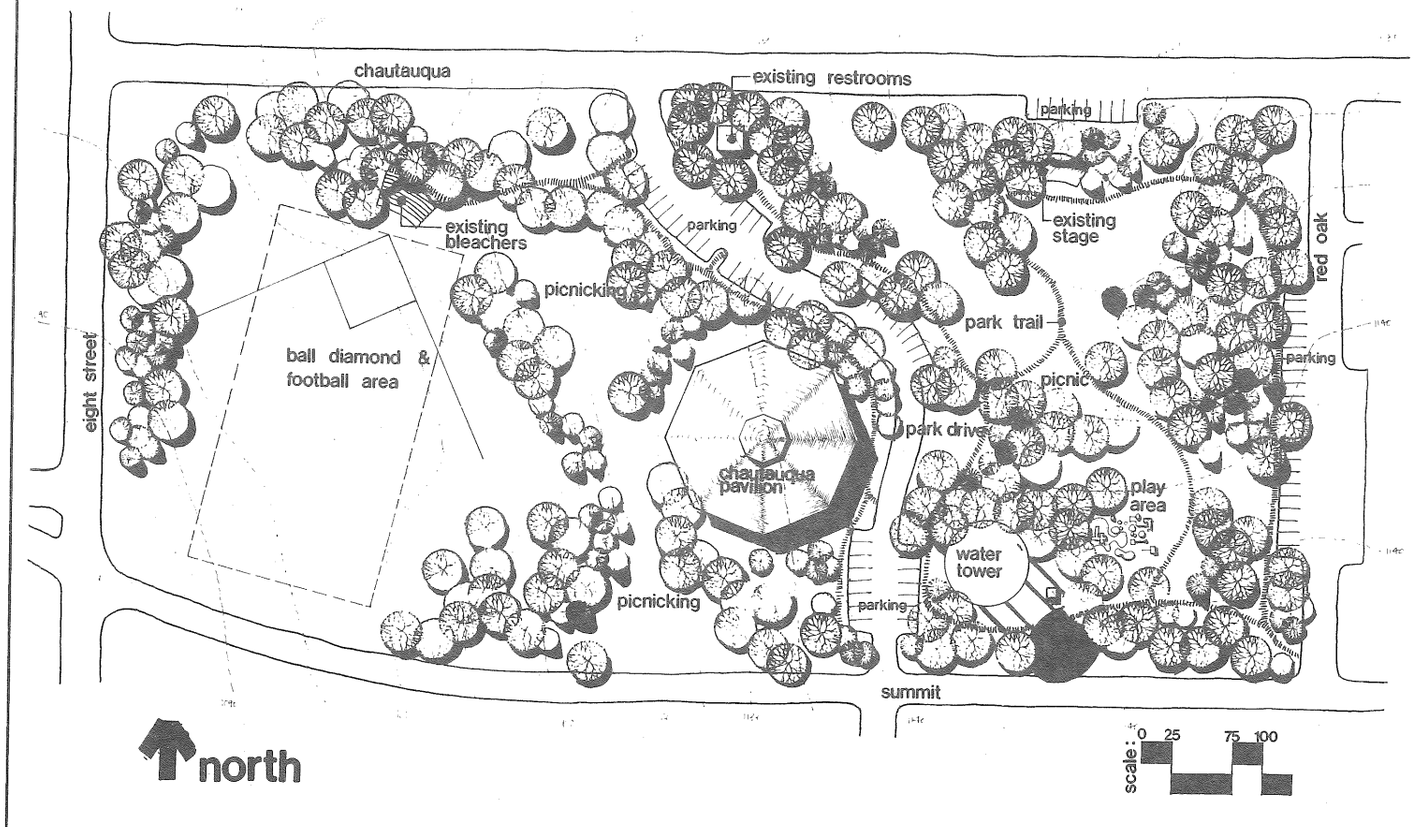


preliminary master plan
legion park

21

chautauqua park

facility improvements *



preliminary master plan
chautauqua park

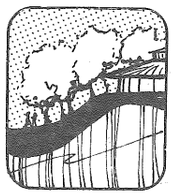
With the loss of elm trees, Chautauqua Park has lost its greatest attraction for providing passive recreation opportunities, primarily picnicking. With the continued deterioration of the Chautauqua Pavilion, its use is virtually meaningless and with loss of the shade in the playground area, its attractiveness has diminished. Thus, the only existing highly used portion of the park remains that of the ball diamond. The service area and the demand studies for CLASS THREE passive recreation indicate the need for providing passive recreation opportunities in the Chautauqua Park area. **Thus, the intent of the development of Chautauqua Park for the next ten years shall be to re-establish the meaningfulness of the passive recreation opportunities as well as providing for the functional requirements of the ball diamond and playground functions.**

To provide for more efficient land use in Chautauqua Park and to provide for sufficient defined parking, various auto circulation patterns should be adjusted. The east-west gravel drive between Red Oak Avenue and the north-south gravel drive in the park should be eliminated and parking areas provided in its place. With the removal of this drive a better link between the playground and the picnic areas could be established. The north-south drive should remain in approximately the same location with 90^{o} parking spaces being defined at proper locations.

The Park Board should respect the wishes of those in the community who desire to preserve and redevelop the Chautauqua Pavilion for its historical significance. The authors of this report suggest that the City fund only a partial cost of the preservation of the structure. This suggestion is in light of the other priorities of this park and those of the entire park system. It is hoped the preservation plans for the pavilion include not only its historical significance but also, provisions for community use and functions which could provide for present day opportunities. Maintenance of the rejuvenated structure should become the responsibility of the Park Board.

Along with the general maintenance of the playground facilities, the ball diamond and restrooms, attention should be given to the actual improvement and upgrading of these facilities. When the gravel drive is removed, as mentioned above, attention should be given to the design of new playground facilities. A combination court game-basketball court-ice rink should be included along with the installation of concrete or soft surface walks throughout the Park.

Paramount to all of the above mentioned facility improvements for Chautauqua Park is the implementation of a significant planting design to meet functional and asthetic situations. If picnicking, playground activities, and general park appearance are to regain their significance it is necessary for a large number of good sized plants to be located in the proper locations.



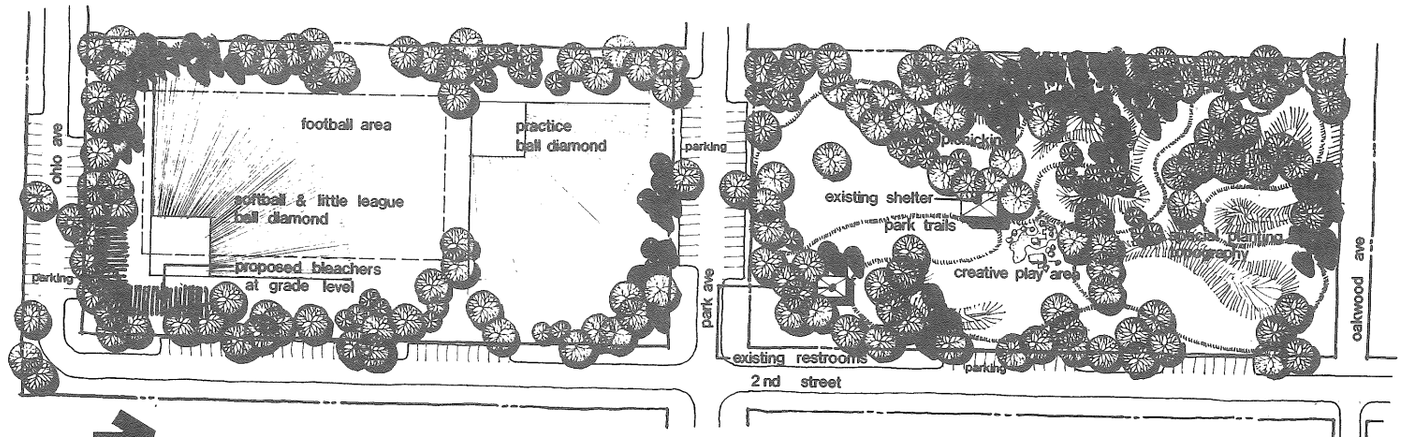
As with Legion Park, it is unfortunate that Kelly Park is located on the fringes of the residential population in southern Red Oak. The service areas for the various CLASSES of this Park actually might be considered to be greater than what is indicated in the inventory and this is especially true when we consider the utilization of the park for little league ball practice and play. Another important aspect we note from the service area studies is that any duplication of CLASS ONE and TWO facilities should be avoided between Kelly Park and the Jefferson School playground.

The development of Kelly Park then should involve the creation of unique CLASS ONE opportunities not found in adjacent service areas and which could relate quite closely with potential CLASS THREE – passive opportunities. Due to the necessity of Park Avenue remaining a through street, the park will essentially be divided in two, with the CLASS ONE and THREE development occurring in the northern one half. The southern portion of the park shall then be devoted entirely to CLASS TWO – playfield opportunities.

The interrelationships between the CLASS ONE and THREE activities would occur through the utilization and expanding of the existing earth features and topography of the park. Certainly additional earth work and grading needs to be implemented to carry the desired character throughout this half of the park. Various CLASS ONE""creative play" structures and systems could be established throughout the varied topography along with limited picnic facilities. The design needs also to include the extensive use of plant materials. The drive-through access should be eliminated to allow for greater utilization of the already limited land area.

Adequately defined parking spaces would then be provided along the perimeter of the park at various locations. Cooperation with the Streets Department should occur to alleviate grade problems at the entrances to the park as well as at the railroad underpass.

The CLASS TWO development involves the improvement of the existing ball diamond area with restroom facilities, lights, improved bleachers, backstop and dugout facilities, and a suitable planting plan. It would seem advisable to define parking areas along Ohio Avenue and then situate bleachers into the hillside. Other CLASS TWO facilities might include a basketball court, an additional ball practice field and a football field.



preliminary master plan kelly park

college park

Due to College Park's central location in the city's residential district, its limited land area, and the service area demand for CLASS THREE – passive recreation, it is proposed that the park be developed to express a variety of planting themes through the use of numerous plant species and their proper location. With College Park providing "a special place of green" within an established residential district, certain passive recreation opportunities can be offered here that happen no where else in the City's parks and recreation system. To provide for increased use of the park and enhanced user appreciation of the plant materials, additional hard surface walks should be installed as well as pedestrian scale lighting fixtures and benches. A limited amount of grading work should be performed to add variety to the Parks topography and to provide for several necessary "level" areas. The recently installed play equipment serves to supplement the CLASS ONE service area of Webster School. Additional play equipment in this area would only duplicate the facilities of Webster School.

water works park

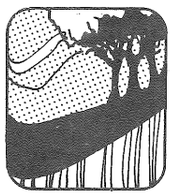
Considering the available CLASS THREE passive recreation opportunities offered by the existing park system and the anticipated future demands for this type of recreation, there seems to be a need for the development of a site which could specifically offer a "natural" recreation experience. This type of development would include a significant variety of topography relationships and vegetation types with respect to the walking paths and activity areas.

Water Works Park offers a number of potential opportunities for this type of recreation development. The varied topography and the small stream could offer the possibility of a small pond and the related activities of picnicking and ice skating. The creation of "natural" areas with the use of native trees, shrubs, and grasses would not only enhance the passive recreation opportunities, but also could be utilized for educational purposes. Auto parking should be provided along the western portion of the park. All development would be done in a manner that would not interfere with the operations of the Water Works Department. With only the west side of the site bordered with a street, the remaining boundaries surrounding the Park are characterized by features which would not be a deterrent for possible passive area developments. Even though the indicated 6–8 block service area for this site encompasses a limited number of residences, the development of this site into a unique passive area for the entire city would significantly expand the service area. Adjacent to the east boundary of the Park is a parcel of land which exhibits environmental characteristics ideal for the extension of the passive recreation as developed in Water Works Park. It is proposed that the Park Board acquire approximately 7 acres contiguous to the Park which exhibit the desired natural features and continue the development of Water Works Park into this area. Public acquisition and development of this land could insure the preservation and conservation of this unique natural setting.

The Park Board's cooperation and coordination with the Water Works Department is essential for the development of the Park in the areas of maintenance, development funds, operation procedures and liabilities.

triangle park

The Triangle Park development, because of its location with respect to a significant amount of auto traffic and its limited size, is intended to be primarily a visual statement for the auto passenger and the pedestrian. Through the use of a small number of sufficiently sized ornamental and evergreen plants, this visual statement could easily be achieved.

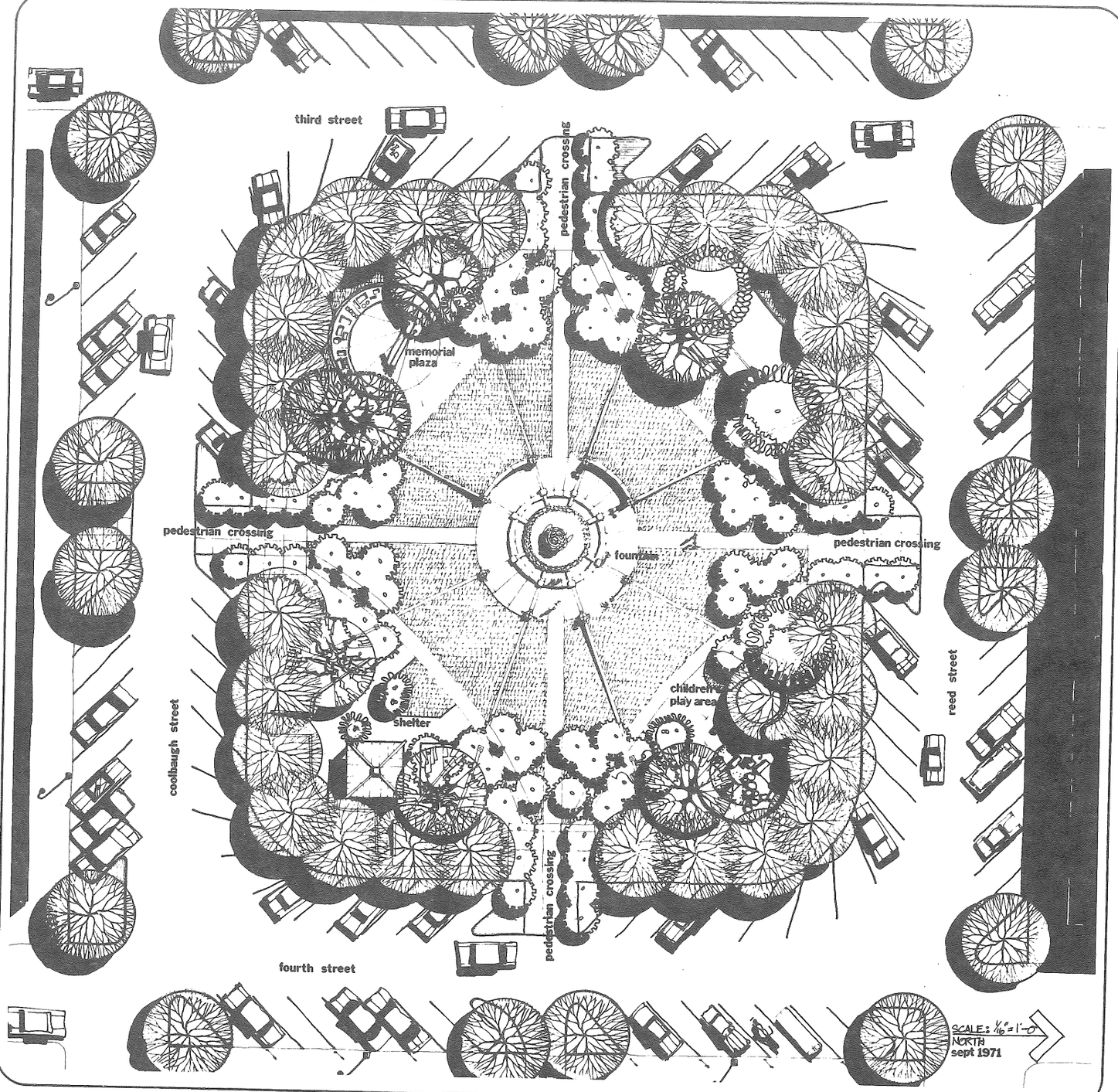


fountain square park

The development plan prepared by the authors of this report indicates a variety of specialized uses for Fountain Square Park, all of which can be categorized as CLASS III—passive recreation. The uses would include the following:

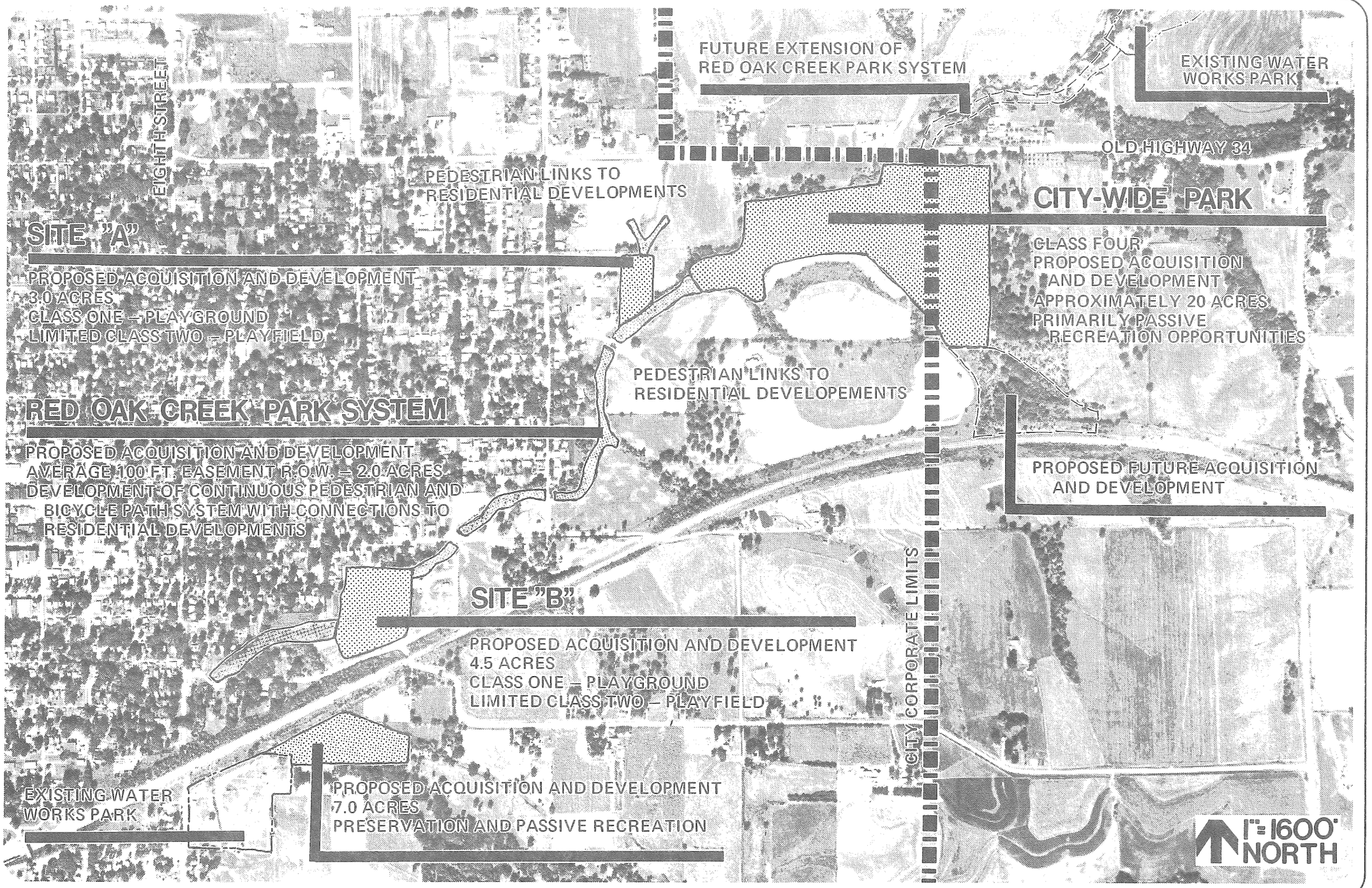
1) "playground-tot lot" Although designed primarily to serve as a play location for children while parents are shopping, use is also anticipated to come from the surrounding neighborhood.
2) "band platform" Enhancement of the existing area would provide for the high school summer band concerts, public displays, unique community events, and holiday ceremonies.
3) "memorial area" Through accumulating the majority of the existing was memorials of the park into a special area, added significance could be given to these and the history of Red Oak. Special holiday occurrances could happen in conjunction with this area.
4) "park shelter" In connection with the recreation programs proposed for elderly people, this shelter and special meeting place is intended to add to the facilities already available to this age and interest group.
5) "fountain" Through a redevelopment of the existing fountain or construction of an entirely new fountain, a strong focal point of identity is achieved for the entire park.

With the use of various plantings, existing sidewalk layout, pedestrian crossing at the streets, special grading, and wall details, all of the above mentioned uses are formed into a general commonality of visual appearance.



facility development * fountain square park

acquisition and development



The acquisition and subsequent development of various parcels of land for the Red Oak Park System is based on a number of reasons. One of the most important purposes of specifically acquiring land during the next ten years is to meet the various CLASS acreage goals as well as the general goal of 13 acres/1000 population established for 1982. For this acquisition to be valid for the particular situations in Red Oak, properly located sites and properly developed facilities need to occur in order to meet the service area deficiencies indicated earlier in this report.

Considering the lack of availability of natural passive recreation opportunities in the existing park system as they might relate to any CLASS of recreation, much of the acquisition and resultant development will be directed toward the preservation and conservation of unique natural features to insure the opportunity for future public enjoyment of these areas — the qualities of which might otherwise be lost through other types of development. Since the majority of the acquisition efforts shall be directed in the eastern portion of the city, the locations of the various types of development should be located to form a meaningful and continuous system of recreation opportunities.

The various demand studies of this report indicate the following needs for recreation facilities in the eastern portion of the city: two CLASS ONE facilities with proper service areas, two CLASS TWO areas with proper service areas, general CLASS THREE opportunities and the eventual need for an additional CLASS FOUR — CITY WIDE PARK offering diverse and differing characteristics from Legion Park. When the natural and the manmade systems are reviewed, we find that residential development east of Eighth Street along Red Oak Creek has left a good portion of the stream valley in a relatively undisturbed character. By fitting the indicated recreation needs with the existing manmade and natural opportunities of the Red Oak Creek vicinity, a continuous system of various parks, pedestrian and bike paths, and connections can be developed. **The key to the concept is the "movement system" which occurs along Red Oak Creek and connects the proposed park sites to the existing and future residential development with a minimal amount of intrusion by the grid pattern of streets.**

It is proposed that the Red Oak Creek Park System include the following components:

1. Two CLASS ONE and two CLASS TWO facilities which includes the proper development (play equipment, surfacing, plant materials, lighting, etc.) of these facilities. Public access to these areas would occur at several points as well as from the Red Oak Creek paths. Development (total of 7.5 acres) is anticipated to occur in two sites with a combination of CLASS ONE and CLASS TWO facilities at each location.

2. Red Oak Creek easements and path system as indicated on the plan would include a semi-hard surface, pedestrian-bicyble path from Eighth Street to and through the proposed CITY-WIDE PARK with numerous connections to the existing streets and residential development as well as to the proposed parks. The easement might occur as an average width of 100 feet with city purchase of only partial rights of access from the adjacent land owners.

3. The proposed city-wide park would include the opportunity for numerous recreation activities—all relating to the passive nature of the existing environment. Picnicking and the related play activities would be the primary function with emphasis also being placed on winter sports. Initial proposed development would include approximately 20 acres. Automobile access would occur from old U.S. Highway 34.

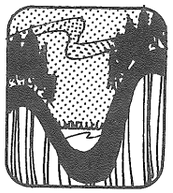
4. Future extension (beyond 1982) of the Red Oak Creek path system and additional acquisition for the city-wide park should be kept in mind.

5. Pedestrian connection to the existing Water Works Park and its proposed acquisition might be feasible via the culvert of the railroad right-of-way.

Methods of acquisition and priorities of acquisition and development shall be covered later in this report.

The acquisition proposed in conjunction with the Water Works Park has been covered with the prior discussion of this park.

As mentioned in the proposals for the development of the elementary school grounds, coordination with the School Board is essential and this is particularly true for Inman School where it is proposed that the Park Board acquire the parcel of land (approximately 1 acre) covered by woods which exists to the east of the Inman School site. Development and preservation of this parcel of land would be in conjunction with the development of the school site and should be recognized and utilized by the developer(s) of the residential land to the east of the proposed park site. The development of this residential area offers the opportunity of providing a "green space" corridor which would serve as a "pedestrian link" from the majority of the houses to the proposed park and to the school site with a minimal amount of interference from the automobile. The physical development of this park, which would cover approximately one acre, would be directed toward creative play experiences utilizing the uniqueness of the topography and the vegetation. Development funds and acquisition responsibilities should be shared by the Park Board, the School Board, and the developer(s) of the adjacent residential land.



recreation programs

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proposed recreation programs

It is proposed that the Park Board adopt the following general approach concerning the organized recreation programs offered on a public basis:

1. Increase the emphasis to a year-round scope with activities being offered to all age groups.
2. Expand the funding allocations for the administrating and the equiping of recreation programs.
3. Solicit private backing and involvement in the administrating and funding of various existing and proposed programs.

As a general intent, a year-round all age group approach to recreation program opportunities would bring together more people of common interests but varing backgrounds for social, recreational, and educational benefit. Currently, the majority of the Park Board's programs are orientated toward summer and youth activities. Because recreation programs should grow directly out of the various social needs and desires of the community, the authors of this report shall only suggest several examples possible for expanding the recreation program. **It should be the responsibility of the Park Board and various community individuals to determine the actual programs which the people of Red Oak desire.** What is proposed here is that the program be expanded in its scope — not the specifics of that expansion. Due to the relatively limited amount of capital expenditures required for almost any community recreation program, the entire approach for the years to come can be quite flexible. New programs can be added and old ones replaced with a minimal amount of capital expenditure. Once again, the Park Board and the interested citizens of the community should serve as the "barometer" for the desires of the people.

An expanded recreation program approach might reflect activities similar to those of the following:

1. Winter Sports Quite often the winters of southern Iowa offer enough cold weather whereby snow and ice conditions could allow for numerous winter sport activities. Instruction and competition in ice skating and hockey could utilize the existing facility and those proposed in other parks. Snow sculpture contests and awards could offer community competition and spirit similar to that of various summer "sports".
2. Adult Football Leagues Just as softball leagues have been organized for the adults in the summer, a similar organization could be set-up for touch football for the above 18 age group with local business sponsorship. Evening games could be played at Chautauqua and Kelly fields where football field marking and lighting would be provided.
3. Fine Arts Program Through a participation fee, a full or partial year sponsorship of a fine arts program for adults in music, literature, painting, sculpture, cinema, etc. could offer instruction as well as guest lectures, tours of nearby city art centers, and community projects. Utilization of the rejuvenated Chautauqua Pavilion, College and Fountain Square Parks as well as guasi-public areas would be anticipated.
4. The Teens and The Elderly Because of their unique and diverse interests and recreation demands, the high school age group and the elderly people should be strongly considered in the recreation program approach. Through meeting with each group and a subsequent understanding of their needs and desires, effective recreation program opportunities can evolve which are reflective of each of their specific desires.

The funding of recreation programs and the joint administrative responsibilities of the Park Board and the private sector go hand-in-hand. The Park Board does not have the human resourses at its immediate disposal to effectively organize and administer all possible programs. The same is true with its financial capabilities. In another light, to create the spirit of community participation and identity, much of the organizing and the funding of the programs should be shared by various interests in the private sector. Little league baseball is a good example where, ideally, the Park Board should provide the facilities and the maintenance and the community should provide the team organizations, scheduling and equipment. Methods of funding "total" recreation programs can come from the Park Board budget, user fees, and community donations.

In conclusion, it is proposed that the Park Board become the "catalyst" for providing an increased scope of recreation programs. When needs and desires are illustrated by the people it should be the Park Board's responsibility to seek the appropriate arrangements for providing for the particular needs or desires whether it be through public or private resources.

park board administration

As indicated throughout this report, the establishment of communications, coordinations, and eventually the sharing of responsibilities with various other public departments and with numerous private groups is vitally important toward the realization of a "total" Parks and Recreation System. A continual dialogue between the Park Board and individuals representing the following interests of the community should be established: the Chamber of Commerce. student and administrative school groups, the elderly, the Jaycees, church groups, the Boy and Girl Scouts, various community clubs, etc.

It is recommended that the members of the Park Board and certain members of the staff attend conferences and short courses sponsored by the universities and colleges of the area. Of particular interest and value would be meetings dealing with recreation planning and programing, administration, and maintenance. Annual budget allotments should be allocated for this type of trip and its associated expenses. In the same light, it would be helpful for the Park Board to develop a reference library containing books and periodicals on park development, recreation programs, maintenance, etc.

One particular aspect of Park Board administration which would effectively lead to an increased public involvement, would be an expanded public relations program. Articles placed regularly in the local newspaper which describe Park Board actions, programs, and opportunities available to the public could increase the people's awareness of the Parks and Recreation System. The same is true with well designed posters and public brochures. The Park Board should become familiar with the approach toward the implementation of a specific park project. Presented here is a typical sequence of events and positions of responsibility for a park development project.

facility improvement sequence

PARK BOARD	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
1. Determinization that development project is in order with the accepted sequence of priorities.	
	2. Review and design of schematic plan and resultant master plan, preliminary cost estimate, and possible construction phasings.
3. Funding approach (es)	
	4. Survey and engineering operations.
	5. Preparation of detailed site plan.
6. Final decision concerning funding approach and phasing.	
	7. Preparation of construction drawings.
8. Funding administration and cost sharing application.	8. Funding administration and cost sharing application.
9. Bid letting and/or selections of contractor.	
	10. Supervision and inspection of construction.

It is recommended that a landscape architect be retained not only to aid in the development plans of specific park projects, but also to offer advice on the realization of the other proposals offered in this report.

To aid in the Park Board's efforts in replanting the parks and streets of Red Oak, it is proposed that the purchase be made of a hydraulic trailer-mounted tree spade. Arrangements then could be made for the City to transplant trees of significant size from nearby woods at a price substantially lower than regular nursery stock. This program could also serve private citizens if deemed desirable. This would help offset the purchase and operation costs of this machine. In conjunction with this operation, small size ornamental nursery stock could be bought and planted in protected areas (near the maintenance building area of Legion Park) where this material could grow until able to be transplanted to the proper locations. Both operations could give the city more tree per dollar than buying larger stock directly from the nursery.

METHODS OF FUNDING

Methods and approaches of funding recreation land acquisition, facility development, and recreation programs vary greatly with some methods being more appropriate for particular projects than others. Presented here are various methods of funding, all of which can be applied to the development of the Parks and Recreation System for Red Oak.

1. Park Board Allocations from the City Budget
2. Budget Allocations from other City Departments
3. Federal-State Cost Sharing Grants
4. Private Loans
5. Private and Semi-Private Gifts
6. Bond Issues
7. User Fees
8. Concessions

METHODS OF LAND ACQUISITION

Land acquisition methods vary depending upon the user rights needed by the City to provide for the recreation facility. The Park Board may purchase full rights of a property either through a negotiated agreement with the owner(s) or through eminent domain proceedings. Lesser degrees of ownership may be exercised through purchase of easement rights and zoning. Once again, the particular method of land acquisition should be determined by the specific situation. Methods applicable to Red Oak include the following:

1. Eminent Domain
2. Fee Simple Purchase
3. Right-of-Way Easements
4. Zoning Requirements
5. Gifts

Introduction

As a general, overriding goal statement, it should be the responsibility of the Red Oak Park Board to ACQUIRE, DEVELOP, FUND AND MAINTAIN the FACILITIES and PROGRAMS for PUBLIC RECREATIONAL USE and ENJOYMENT. This section of the report proposes several Park Board administrative programs which deal with recreation from an expanded point of view. These policies would involve various degrees of coordination with other government bodies and private interests.

Expanded Programs

Accepting the viewpoint that recreation experiences can be expanded beyond the perimeters of the parks and schools, we see that the way in which the residents and visitors of Red Oak perceive the entire physical environment of the city becomes vitally important. When many of the day-to-day activities of shopping or driving to work for example, become opportunities for visual and mental refreshment, the entire community can both economically and socially benefit as well as participate in a sense of recreation. From another view, lasting impressions for visitors are usually formed by the experience of entering the city via the various highways.

The commonly used term of "visual pollution" is characteristic of a portion of nearly any urban or town development in this country. Portions of Red Oak are no exception. The numerous aspects of "visual pollution" in Red Oak include commercial "strip" development and signage, utility poles and lines, lack of street tree plantings in high use commercial and industrial areas, street maintenance and architectural character. The lack of control by any one City department, the involvement of several utility companies, and any number of private concerns compound the problems to immense proportions.

With the Park Board accepting the public responsibility of providing recreation opportunities, it is proposed that the Park Board also provide the vehicle through which the community might realize a generally enhanced physical environment – the physical environment of the major streets. This particular program should be an attempt to involve the associated City departments, the utility companies and the numerous commercial and industrial concerns in order to rejuvenate the existing visual environment and to eliminate future undesirable situations.

The business community of Red Oak should be commended for its efforts in rejuvenating the store facades of the "City Square". This is a fine example of community cooperation which, along with the assistance of the City and the utility companies, could be realized in the commercial, industrial, and residential areas surrounding old and new U.S. Highway 34, State Highway 48, and the major streets of the City. Through the following basic steps, various degrees of an enhanced environment could be realized throughout Red Oak:

1. A series of discussions involving businessmen, representatives of the utility companies, interested citizen groups, various City departments, and the Park Board to identify various economic, social and environmental intents of each group.
2. Development of common interests and goals to lead toward a community plan of action and protective signage and development ordinances and legislation.
3. Promotion of public awareness of the environment to bring about more personal and group comments in preservation and conservation.
4. Realization and physical enhancement of the entrances to Red Oak.
5. Increased tree planting program for public rights-of-way.
6. Street sign and graphics program for identification of public parks and other features.

This program could effectively involve a large number of people in Red Oak for the benefit of the physical, social, and economic environments at a minimal financial cost to the Park Board.

Since the solutions for recreation demand have such far-reaching characteristics, the Park Board is not actually capable in a legal sense and should not be responsible for providing for the total demand. In order to more adequately and efficiently provide for the diverse needs of the recreating public, it is proposed that the Park Board establish suitable working realtionships with the following public agencies and departments:

THE RED OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD

Elementary School Grounds: Park Board relations with the School Board encompasses a number of areas. The first involves that of the development of the elementary school sites into more meaningful CLASS ONE and TWO recreation resources. As was illustrated earlier in this report, the importance of these school sites is emphasized when we note that they are the only efficiently located publicly-owned facilities for this type of recreation. Development of these areas not only enhances the community identity and the usefulness of the playgrounds during non-school hours, but has a great deal to do with diversified classroom utilization. Development funding and liability for the elementary school grounds are two aspects of responsibility sharing for the Park Board and the Red Oak Community School Board.

Legion Park: Red Oak Community School utilization of Legion Park for athletic events offers another opportunity for mutual funding and responsibility which could lead to joint development of the Park entrances, parking areas, and tree plantings.

Water Works Park: As proposed, a portion of the future acquisition and development of Water Works Park is intended for educational purposes on all levels. Actual preservation and conservation practices could be implemented on the site as part of an educational experience.

VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF RED OAK: The departments of the city government responsible for Streets, Water, Sanitation, and Public Safety need to be involved with budgeting, funding, liability and performance of actual work in projects involving on-site improvements of parks as well as improved access to the parks and school grounds. More specific examples have been given with the proposals of this report and new aspects shall reveal themselves with detailed development plans for each park.

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD: This Board is responsible for the preservation and conservation of public lands in the County which offer recreation opportunities and/or unique natural significance. With the cooperation of the Montgomery County Conservation Board, it is urged that means be developed whereby the various natural stream valley corridors which adjoin the corporate limits of Red Oak and the flood plain of the Nishnabotna River in Montgomery County can be preserved for possible future utilization.

THE IOWA STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION: For purposes of funding, administrative procedures and methods, various communication links should be established in order to aid the Park Board in its actions.

An aspect of the involvement of the private sector in providing for recreation demand can come from the residential land developer. Through modifications and additions to the existing subdivision ordinances, a subdivision developer can be allowed to develop a parcel of land with the same number of dwelling units as always, however, with slightly smaller lot areas for each lot. The area remaining (approximately 10% to 20%) would then be developed into effective recreation areas for the residents of the subdivision. Ownership and maintenance of this recreation land could be handled privately through a homeowner's association or deeded to and controlled by the Park Board. This approach offers efficiently located facilities as well as added selling points for the subdivision. In certain cases, the developer might be required to connect a "green way" to an existing park or path system such as the Red Oak Creek Park System.

cost estimates

A summation of the costs of the proposed development and acquisition projects is presented here for the ten year planning period (1973–1982). This listing does not suggest the implementation sequence which will be illustrated in the budgeting section. These estimates do not include such possibilities as multiple use of public land, private donations, funding from other City departments, or matching funds programs. These figures also do not include the possibility of severance in acquiring land.

The cost estimates are preliminary cost figures and were developed for general long-range budget planning purposes for the proposed projects discussed earlier in this report. These estimates should be revised as necessary to reflect increased land values, increased construction costs, and policy or administration decisions. Detailed estimates should be prepared as planning proceeds for these projects. All costs are capital improvements; none of the figures include a maintenance or operation cost.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR EXISTING PUBLIC SITES

TREE SPADE (purchased with City's general funds – $7,000)

LEGION PARK

a.	Swimming pool rejuvenation: filters, surfaces, bathhouse, benches, sidewalks, etc.	*$175,000	
b.	Planting	$ 5,000	
c.	Removal and relocation of parking and auto access	$ 40,000	
d.	Playground development 1–2 sites	$ 5,000	
e.	Area improvements: picnicking, paths, etc.	$ 15,000	
f.	Shelter rejuvenation	$ 2,000	
g.	Park lighting	$ 3,000	
	Legion Park Total		$245,000

CHAUTAUQUA PARK

a.	Parking "lots", street resurfacing, and removal	$ 13,000	
b.	Planting	$ 4,000	
c.	Walk system	$ 3,500	
d.	Restroom facility rejuvenation	$ 500	
e.	Playground improvements, basketball and ice skating rink	$ 6,000	
f.	Coordination with Pavilion preservation interests	$ 2,000	
	Chautauqua Park Total		$ 29,000

* Preliminary estimate based on increased construction costs and additional work as these apply to previous studies prepared for swimming pool restoration.

KELLY PARK

a.	Bleachers, lights, diamonds, grading for football field	$ 4,000	
b.	Planting	$ 2,000	
c.	CLASS ONE and TWO development of ball diamonds and creative play area	$ 3,000	
d.	Provisions for parking	$ 1,000	
	Kelly Park Total		$ 10,000

FOUNTAIN SQUARE PARK

a.	Development of four corners	$ 49,000	
b.	Planting	$ 6,000	
c.	Fountain	$15–35,000	
d.	Pedestrain crossings	$ 20,000	
	Fountain Square Total		$90,000–110,000

COLLEGE PARK

a.	Planting	$ 3,000	
b.	Walks, benches, grading, lights, play equipment, etc.	$ 5,000	
	College Park Total		$ 8,000

TRIANGLE PARK

a.	Planting	$ 500	$ 500

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITES

$3,000/site, 5 sites = $15,000

Playground improvements, creative play equipment and planting

	50% provided by School Board		
	50% provided by Park Board	$ 7,500	$ 7,500

DEVELOPMENT SUB–TOTAL $400,000

ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

RED OAK CREEK PARK SYSTEM

a.	Acquisition	$ 1,000	
b.	Path system	$ 10,000	
c.	Planting	$ 1,000	
	Red Oak Creek Park System Total		$ 12,000

SITE "A"

a.	Acquisition	$ 3,000	
b.	Development	$ 10,000	
	Site "A" Total		$ 13,000

SITE "B"

a.	Acquisition	$ 2,000	
b.	Development	$ 10,000	
	Site "B" Total		$ 12,000

CITY-WIDE PARK

a.	Acquisition approximately	$ 30,000	
b.	Development (total $50,000, $45,000 beyond planning period)	$ 5,000	
	City-Wide Park Total		$ 35,000

RESIDENTIAL PARK

a.	Acquisition 1.0 acres	$ 1,000	
b.	Development	$ 1,000	
	Residential Park Total		$ 2,000

ACQUISITION–DEVELOPMENT SUB-TOTAL. . . . $ 74,000

TOTAL PARK SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT 1973–1982 . . . . . $474,000

Additional priority items necessary for the implementation of a total Parks and Recreation System for Red Oak are presented here. These aspects summarize the detailed proposals presented previously in this study. Even though the financial expenditures for the majority of these items will be negligible, each will require a certain amount of administrative time on the part of the Park Board in order to fully implement each point.

ADMINISTRATION

* Acceptance of the Comprehensive Plan and its proposals as a guide for Park Board operations for the next 10 years.
* Review maintenance funding and adjust when needed.
* Review operation funding and adjust when needed.
* Review salary funding and adjust when needed.
* Increase public relations.
* Increase resource information available for Park Board use.
* Purchase nursery stock for future use – $500/year.

COORDINATIONS

* Establish ordinances for:
  - Residential development with private and public recreation facilities.
  - Commercial development control.
  - Signage control.

* Street tree planting program in conjunction with tree spade purchase.
* Establish administrative coordination with:
  - Red Oak School Board
  - Montgomery County Conservation Board
  - Iowa State Conservation Commission

RECREATION PROGRAMS

* Review existing spending.
* Implement year-round, all age group approach.
* Commit necessary additional funding.
* Solicit community response and support for new programs.
* Increase public relations.

Because of the immediate and significant need for improvements at Legion Park in terms of swimming pool rejuvenation and auto circulation adjustments, and the anticipated increases in land costs, need for new park sites, and possible residential development of the proposed park sites, funding for these projects becomes immediately important. The funding of this work becomes so significant as to be beyond the scope of the Park Board's budget allocation potential as well as beyond any anticipated Bureau of Outdoor Recreation cost sharing programs. Thus, it is proposed that the mentioned projects be funded through a public bond issue early in the planning period.

Deducting the cost estimates anticipated for the above mentioned projects and omitting the proposed development of Water Works Park (which has been deemed to be of low priority for this ten year planning period) from the Total Park System development costs, a figure remains which appears to be a reasonable sum for Park Board funding and cost sharing programs. With the Park Board assuming approximately $8,000 per year for capital improvements, this represents approximately 9 percent of the proposed Park Board budget for 1971. This is a 3 percent increase over the actual capital improvement allocation of the proposed 1971 budget. Once again, these costs reflect only capital improvements and not maintenance, operation costs, or fund allocations from other city departments. As the proposed park developments occur, various maintenance costs are bound to increase just as several current maintenance operations might be eliminated.

With this funding schedule and the desire of the Park Board, this plan can be accomplished. The funding and precise needs for 1983 should be established and realized by later re-evaluation of this plan, in view of current conditions, should be carried on. Also, to extend eligibility for matching fund programs, such as Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the comprehensive plan must be formally reviewed every five years.

PARK SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT 1973 – 1982 . . . $474,000

INITIAL BOND ISSUE (approved 1973)

1.	Swimming pool rejuvenation. LEGION PARK	$175,000
2.	Parking and circulation improvements. LEGION PARK	$ 40,000
3.	Acquisition and development. SITE "A"	$ 13,000
4.	Acquisition and development. SITE "B"	$ 12,000
5.	Acquisition. CITY-WIDE PARK	$ 30,000
	(deduct)	$270,000

FOUNTAIN SQUARE PARK DEVELOPMENT APPROACH
Assume 75% ($75,000) of Fountain Square Park can be funded by private interests with balance of 25% ($25,000) from Park Board funds. (deduct) $ 75,000

PARK BOARD FUNDING 1972–1982 . . . . . $129,000
(Capital Improvements)

AVERAGE per YEAR . . . . . $ 12,900

Assume average annual capital fund sources

Park Board.	$ 7,900
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.	$ 5,000

Presented here is a sequence of development and acquisition implementation which reflects a logical order of importance and development scheduling. This priority sequence is a judgement based on the type and character of the project, the relative lack of developed facilities or scarcity of the resource, and the overall cost of the project. Consideration was also given to the Park Board's responsibilities, intentions and also to their financial capabilities. This is a general sequence which may be affected by change in population, land prices, construction costs and many other such factors.

DEVELOPMENT SEQUENCE OF BUDGET – CAPITAL EXPENDITURES NOT INCLUDING BOND ISSUE

YEAR 1973

TREE SPADE (purchase by City)		
LEGION PARK. e. Area improvements: picnicking, sod, paths, etc.	$ 9,000	
RESIDENTIAL PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT	$ 2,000	
CHAUTAUQUA PARK. f. Coordination with Pavilion preservation interests	$ 2,000	
		$ 13,000

YEAR 1974

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	$ 2,500	
LEGION PARK. e. Area improvements: picnicking, sod, paths, etc.	$ 6,000	
CHAUTAUQUA PARK. a. Parking "lots", street resurfacing, and removal	$ 4,500	
		$ 13,000

YEAR 1975

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	$ 2,500	
CHAUTAUQUA PARK. a. Parking "lots", street resurfacing, and removal	$ 8,500	
KELLY PARK. a. Bleachers, lights, ball diamonds, grading for football field	$ 2,000	
		$ 13,000

YEAR 1976

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	$ 2,500	
KELLY PARK. a. Bleachers, lights, ball diamonds, grading for football field	$ 2,000	
LEGION PARK. b. Planting plan	$ 2,500	
CHAUTAUQUA PARK. b. Planting plan	$ 2,000	
CHAUTAUQUA PARK. c. Walk system	$ 3,500	
		$ 12,500

YEAR 1977

FOUNTAIN SQUARE PARK DEVELOPMENT	$ 8,000	
LEGION PARK. b. Planting plan	$ 2,500	
CHAUTAUQUA PARK. b. Planting plan	$ 2,000	
		$ 12,500

UPDATE OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

YEAR 1978

FOUNTAIN SQUARE PARK DEVELOPMENT	$ 8,000	
LEGION PARK d. Playground development 2-3 sites	$ 2,500	
CITY-WIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT	$ 2,500	
		$ 13,000

YEAR 1979

RED OAK CREEK PARK SYSTEM ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT	$ 12,000	
CITY-WIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT	$ 1,000	
		$ 13,000

YEAR 1980

LEGION PARK. d. Playground development 2-3 sites	$ 2,500	
KELLY PARK. b. Planting plan	$ 2,000	
KELLY PARK. c. CLASS ONE and TWO development	$ 3,000	
KELLY PARK. d. Provisions for parking	$ 1,000	
COLLEGE PARK. a. Planting plan	$ 3,000	
CITY-WIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT	$ 1,500	
		$ 13,000

YEAR 1981

LEGION PARK. f. Shelter rejuvenation	$ 2,000	
LEGION PARK. g. Park lighting	$ 3,000	
COLLEGE PARK. b. Walks, benches, grading, light, play equipment, etc.	$ 5,000	
CHAUTAUQUA PARK. e. Playground improvements, basketball and ice skating rink	$ 2,000	
CHAUTAUQUA PARK. d. Restroom facility rejuvenation	$ 500	
TRIANGLE PARK. a. Planting plan	$ 500	
		$ 13,000

YEAR 1982

CHAUTAUQUA PARK. e. Playground improvements, basketball and ice skating rink	$ 4,000	
FOUNTAIN SQUARE PARK DEVELOPMENT	$ 9,000	
		$ 13,000

PARK BOARD FUNDING 1972 – 1982 . . . . . $129,000
(Capital Improvements)

"The greatest obstacle facing the park, recreation, and conservation movement today and in the years ahead is adequate financing. The competition for both tax dollars and contribution dollars is so intense that park and recreation agencies must develop more effective finance programs and requirements attuned to total community needs.

The need to find new and expanded sources of funds for the development and operation of recreation, park, and conservation services is paramount. There is no set pattern for developing an effective community finance program. Each agency and every community differs in needs, scope, environmental setting, funding required, and resources available.

It is vital that there be cooperative and coordinated effort to adequately provide the park recreation, and conservation programs, facilities, and services to meet today's and tomorrow's needs and demands. More than ever before there is the need for the full involvement and active participation of the constituents—the citizens themselves—in developing the community finance program. Then, and only then, can there be the understanding, appreciation, and necessary support of adequate finance programs for park, recreation, and conservation services. A responsive and committed citizenry is a vital key to success.

But in the final analysis, if the needs and demands of more and better park, recreation, and conservation programs, facilities, and services for the American people are to be met, it will demand new approaches, cooperative effort, forceful determination, dynamic leadership, and a real commitment."

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conclusion

the end?

33