



CITY OF

WINTERSET

PARKS MASTER PLAN



Approved December 2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Parks and Recreation Board

Brittany Salton
Loren Gerleman
Nicole Darling
Sam Anker
Jason Kleemeier

City Council & Mayor

Philip Macumber, Mayor
JoAnna Madison-Gustafson
Chris Fairholm
Trevor Bindel
Mary Ann Orr
Michael Cook

Planning & Zoning Commission

Shane Pashek
JD McDonald
Tammy Ellwanger
Rebekah Gillespie
Dan Bush
Sarah Cowman
Dave LaGrange

City Staff

Drew Barden, City Administrator
Sky Smothers, Parks + Recreation Director
Ben Rossman, Recreation Manager
Chris Frank, Park Operations Manager
Calvin Barber, Park Technician

Consultant Team

CONFLUENCE

WINTERSET PARKS + RECREATION MISSION AND VALUES

MISSION

Enriching the lives of our residents by providing safe & memorable experiences through people, places, programs and partnerships

CORE VALUES

We are committed to this set of core values. These are our highest priorities, deeply held beliefs and core fundamental driving forces. Adopting these values guides us in sustaining a thriving parks and recreation system for our community.



Integrity: We accomplish our goals by developing an ethical, resilient & committed workforce that can adapt and thrive.



Communication: We believe in open, honest, authentic, and respectful communication both internal and external to maximize the quality of the parks and recreation system.



Continuous Improvement: We believe in innovation to continuously improve our programs, facilities, parks, and services.



Stewardship: We believe in the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through education, conservation, and sustainable practices.



Teamwork: We value collaboration, inclusiveness, creativity, positivity, risk taking, sharing of resources, and cooperation toward common goals while having fun!

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Chapter 1: Introduction

Executive Summary
Plan Process



Chapter 5: Trails Plan

Existing Shared-Use Paths + Trails in Winterset
Proposed Shared-Use Paths in Winterset
Proposed Trails in Winterset



Chapter 2: Parks Today

Winterset Neighborhood Parks
Winterset Community Parks
Winterset Special Use Parks



Chapter 6: Demand + Forecasting

Population Projections
Key Considerations
Winterset's Inclusive Playground
Future Park Demand Estimate
Future Park Service Areas
Future Facility Demand Estimates
Neighborhood Parkland Dedication
Final Summary Conclusions
Existing Facilities and Staffing



Chapter 3: Public Input Summary

City of Winterset Community Interest +
Opinion Survey Summary
Winterset Comprehensive Plan Public Input
Summary



Chapter 7: Parks Recommendations

Summary of Existing Facilities
Considerations for Future Facilities
Recommendations for Improvements at
Existing and Proposed Facilities
Park Specific Recommendations
Regional Recommendations for Greater
Winterset



Chapter 4: Parks Assessment

Parks Inventory
Level of Service Analysis
Existing Park Service Area Analysis
Walk-Time Analysis
Recreation Program Assessment

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Winterset hired Confluence to create both a Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan to establish a robust vision for the community's future. Winterset has experienced steady growth over the last few decades and is a family-centric community. This implies a need for parks, trails, and recreation services for a wide range of age groups.

For both plans, public input conveyed a high importance on maintaining the high-quality parks and recreation spaces as they contribute to the overall quality of life in Winterset. Many residents indicated a desire for an expanded trail network, updated park amenities, and additional park space on the northwest portion of town. An overarching intention for this plan is to guide the City on how to address and accomplish these desires.

Prior to the Comprehensive and Parks Master Plans, the City hired a consultant team to conduct a Community Interest and Opinion Survey (CIOS). In this survey, resident satisfaction, desired amenities, and priorities for implementation were identified through a series of survey questions. This survey is summarized in Chapter 3. Public Input Summary of this Plan, and guides many of the recommendations in Chapter 7. Implementation.

There was also a series of public engagement events that were conducted for the Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan. These events included key stakeholder interviews, public workshops, and a box city event. The feedback received from these interviews and events built upon the quantitative data of the CIOS, to gain additional insight from a qualitative perspective. These results are further summarized in Chapter 3. Public Input Summary.

This plan is split into seven chapters, including:

- ▶ Chapter 1. Introduction
- ▶ Chapter 2. Parks Today
- ▶ Chapter 3. Public Input Summary
- ▶ Chapter 4. Parks Inventory
- ▶ Chapter 5. Demand + Forecasting
- ▶ Chapter 6. Trails Plan
- ▶ Chapter 7. Park Recommendations

PLANNING PROCESS

The Winterset Parks Master Plan was completed over four phases

1

Phase 1 - Project Kick-Off, Research & Analysis

Phase 1 included a kick-off meeting with the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC), where discussions over project goals and visioning were completed. Additional meetings with City and Parks and Recreation Staff were held to gain better understanding of parks operations today and future demand.

2

Phase 2 - Vision, Input & Direction

Phase 2 was about public engagement and visioning. A robust set of engagement exercises were completed to identify common themes and desires from members of the Winterset community. These exercises included one-on-one stakeholder interviews, a Box City event, a public workshop, and interactive engagement website.

3

Phase 3 - Draft Plan + Evaluation

Phase 3 included a majority of the plan drafting and review process. Multiple meetings with the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee took place during this phase as draft chapters were completed. The final step of this phase was a public open house where the plan was revealed to the public for review and comment.

4

Phase 4 - Final Draft Plan + Adoption

Phase 4 took place over approximately two months and included final review and revisions as well as the public hearing process for the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council. After the Planning & Zoning Commission voted to recommend approval of the plan, the City Council then completed their public hearing process followed by review, discussion, and formal adoption.

CHAPTER TWO

PARKS TODAY



PARKS TODAY

For the purpose of this Plan, the parks in Winterset have been categorized on their function and size. These classifications include neighborhood parks, community parks, and special use parks. Due to Winterset serving as the county seat for Madison County, both city- and county-owned parks systems are closely intertwined. This plan is solely dedicated to discussing Winterset-owned and operated parks.

Winterset Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks generally range in size from 2 acres up to 15 acres though some will be larger or smaller depending on the community and neighborhood in which they reside. The neighborhood-serving parks act as social and recreational areas for nearby residents and are one of the basic units of a park system. Many include a playground.

Winterset Community Parks

Community Parks are designed to serve the entire community. The service to the community can come from their size, their function, or a combination of both features. They range in size from 16 to 100 acres with a service area of around 1 mile depending on the park amenities. Community parks will often have on-site parking options.

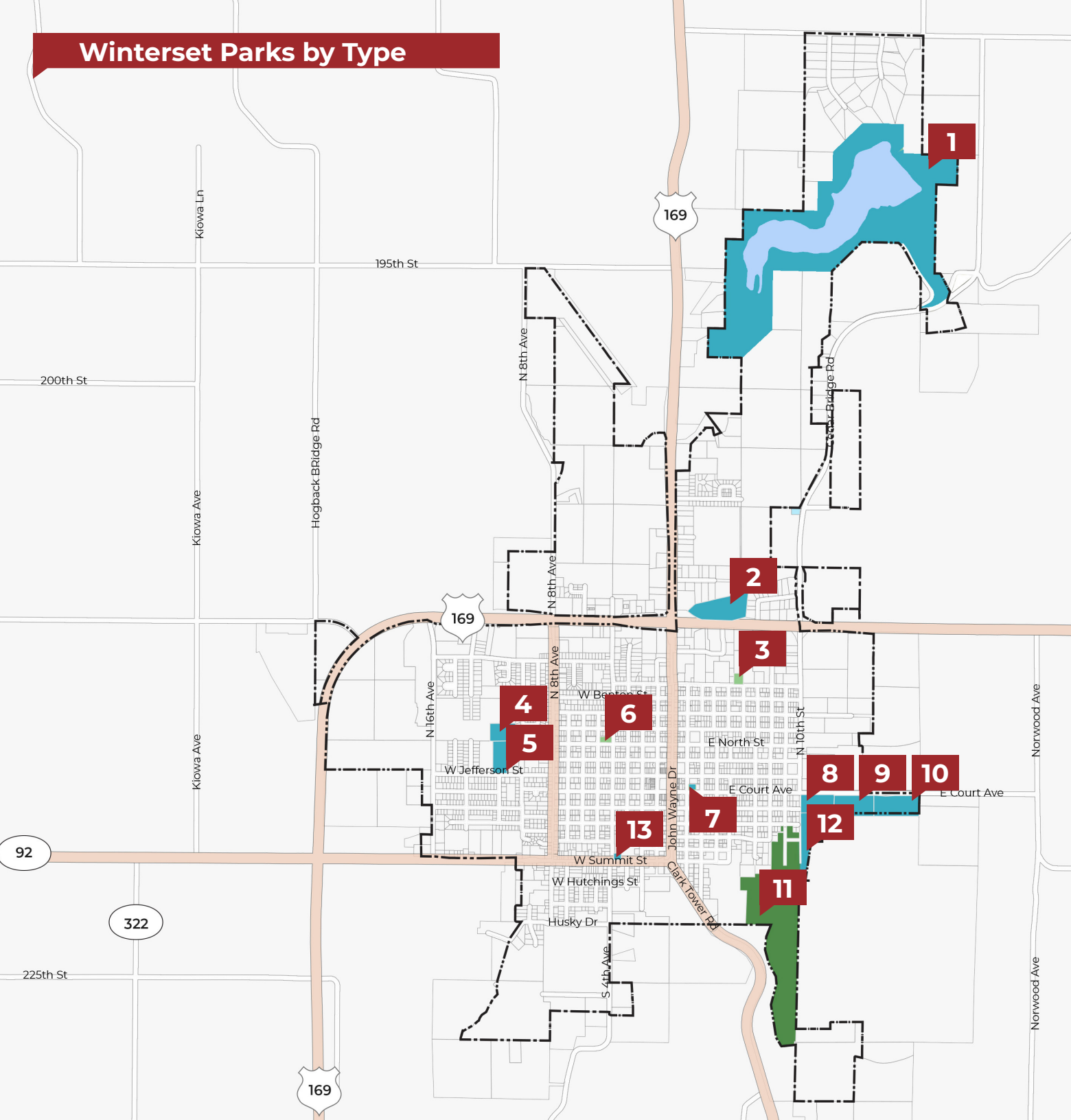
Winterset Special Use Parks

Special Use Parks are areas in which a specialized or single-purpose activity takes place. The areas may be golf courses, amphitheaters, sports fields, or historical areas. Since the designation is based on use and not size, there is no set acreage minimum or maximums as these numbers will vary considerably.

Figure 1.1 on the following page identifies these varying park classifications and their locations in Winterset.



Winterset Parks by Type



- 1** Cedar Lake
- 2** Giffin Fields
- 3** Memory Lane Park
- 4** Aquatic Center
- 5** Tennis/Pickleball Courts
- 6** Whistle Stop Park
- 7** George Washington Carver Memorial Park
- 8** Martin Marietta Softball Complex
- 9** Soccer Complex
- 10** Dog Park
- 11** Winterset City Park Historic District (City Park)
- 12** Winterset City Campground
- 13** Skate Park

Legend

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Parks

WINTERSET NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks generally range in size from 2 acres up to 15 acres though some will be larger or smaller depending on the community and neighborhood in which they reside. The neighborhood-serving parks act as social and recreational areas for nearby residents and are one of the basic units of a park system. Many include a playground.

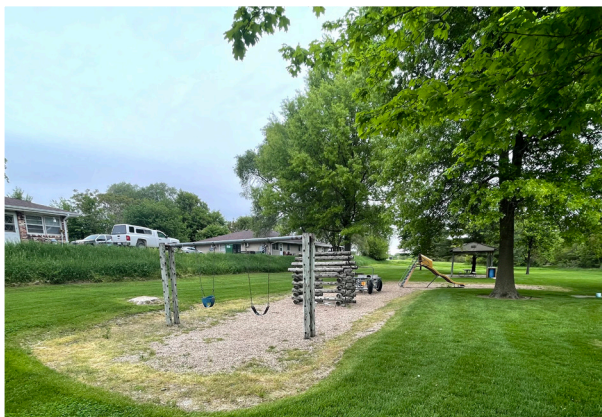
Winterset Neighborhood Parks

Specific to Winterset, neighborhood parks include:

- ▶ Memory Lane Park
- ▶ Whistle Stop Park

Both of these parks are on the smaller side of the classification but provide valuable space for the neighborhood's youth to enjoy park and play space. Whistle Stop Park was mentioned as the most frequented park destination for the youth, spanning from toddlers using the swing set to high school students playing pick-up games.

Memory Lane provides additional quality park space to residents in Winterset. The park supplies a basketball court, playground, picnic table and shelter, and open space. There are opportunities to update and expand this park as discussed in Chapter 4. Park Inventory.



Memory Lane Park



Whistle Stop Park



WINTERSET COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks are designed to serve the entire community. The service to the community can come from their size, their function, or a combination of both features. They range in size from 16 to 100 acres with a service area of around 1 mile depending on the park amenities. Community parks will often have on-site parking options.

Winterset Community Parks

Specific to Winterset, community parks include:

- City Park
- Aquatic Center + Tennis/Pickleball Courts

City Park is the largest of all city- and county-owned parks in Winterset. This park features a variety of amenities including shelter spaces, sand volleyball, conventional and universal playground equipment, hedge maze, RV campgrounds, one of the few remaining covered bridges, and access to Clark Tower.

The Aquatic Center, Tennis + Pickleball Courts are an additional community park servicing the residents and visitors of Winterset. This park provides spaces to swim, play tennis or pickleball, and host practice and games for flag football in the south lawn. Today, the aquatic center and tennis/pickleball courts function as special use parks with their seasonal amenities. As improvements are made and residential development continues to occur in this area, these parks will transition into more of a community park status.



City Park



Aquatic Center



Tennis + Pickleball Courts

WINTERSET SPECIAL USE PARKS

Special Use Parks are areas in which a specialized or single-purpose activity takes place. The areas may be golf courses, amphitheaters, sports fields, or historical areas. Since the designation is based on use and not size, there is no set acreage minimum or maximums as these numbers will vary considerably.

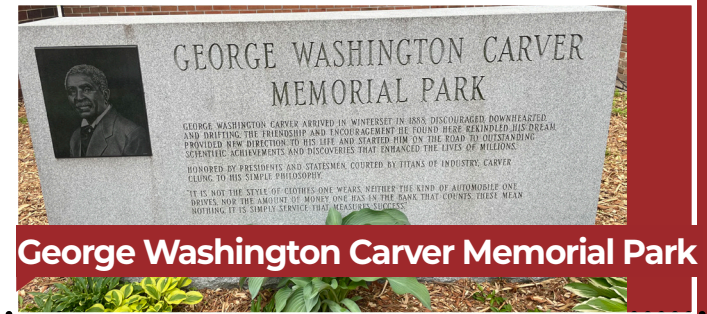
Winterset Special Use Parks

Specific to Winterset, special use parks include:

- ▶ Cedar Lake
- ▶ George Washington Carver Memorial Park
- ▶ Dog Park
- ▶ Giffin Fields
- ▶ Martin Marietta Soccer Complex
- ▶ Softball Complex
- ▶ Skate Park

Cedar Lake, located north of city limits, is the source of the City's water supply. It also functions as a recreational amenity, offering non-motor boats to traverse its waters, a 3-mile trail along its perimeter, pedestrian bridge, and pully bridge. These services are provided and operated through the City of Winterset and are a major attraction for residents and visitors to the area.

The special use parks for Winterset serve as the go-to spaces for recreational activities in the community. Throughout the Parks + Recreation Department, there are a variety of leagues for both children and adults to take advantage of throughout the year.



George Washington Carver Memorial Park



Cedar Lake



Dog Park



Giffin Fields



Martin Marietta Soccer Complex



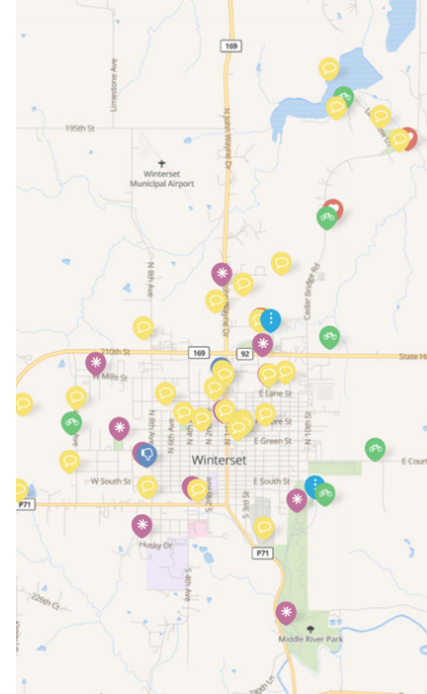
Softball Complex



Skate Park

CHAPTER THREE

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY



PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

Public Input Summary

The public input summary for this Plan is split into two sections—a summary of the Community Interest and Opinion Survey (CIOS) and a summary of public engagement feedback from the Comprehensive and Parks Master Plans. One provides a heavier quantitative understanding of the priorities of residents as it relates to parks and recreation. The other details anecdotes and identifies major themes.

What is quantitative data?

Quantitative data is countable or measurable, typically utilizing numbers. Can answer questions of “How many?”, “How much?”, and “How often?” to conduct statistical analyses.

Example from the CIOS:

There were 350 survey responses collected from the Community Interest and Opinion Survey. When asked what the top four programs are most important to households, residents identified “adult fitness & wellness programs” and “senior fitness & wellness programs” to be the top two choices at 36.6% and 25.5% respectively.

What is qualitative data?

Qualitative data results in descriptive or anecdotal feedback. Can help us better understand the “why” or “how” behind certain feelings or behaviors. Gathered through observations or interviews and when analyzed, results in themes.

Example from the Parks Stakeholder Interviews:

Throughout the parks stakeholder interviews, many interviewees discussed Giffin Field improvements. Common topics identified included a need for better parking facilities, a trail connection to Memory Lane Park, lighting on the fields to allow for more use after dark, and more batting cages for tournaments.



COMMUNITY INTEREST + OPINION SURVEY

Community Interest + Opinion Survey

In 2021, before the Comprehensive or Parks Master Planning process began, the City of Winterset hired ETC Institute to administer a community-wide survey to get a pulse on residents' desired amenities, programs, and priorities for parks and recreation. This survey was intended to analyze resident opinions on facilities, events, programs, and improvements.

Methodology

The survey packet was mailed to each household in Winterset. The packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. The goal at the onset of the survey process was to gather 300 completed surveys. In the end, a total of 350 completed surveys were collected. Residents who received the packet were given the options to either return the survey by mail or complete it online at WintersetParksSurvey.org.

Ten days after the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute sent emails and text messages to recipients to encourage participation. The email/text included a link to the online version of the survey. To ensure that survey responses could be filtered to only include Winterset residents, the survey required participants to share their home address prior to submitting. These addresses were then matched to the mailing list provided by the City. If an address did not match any on the list, it was not counted.

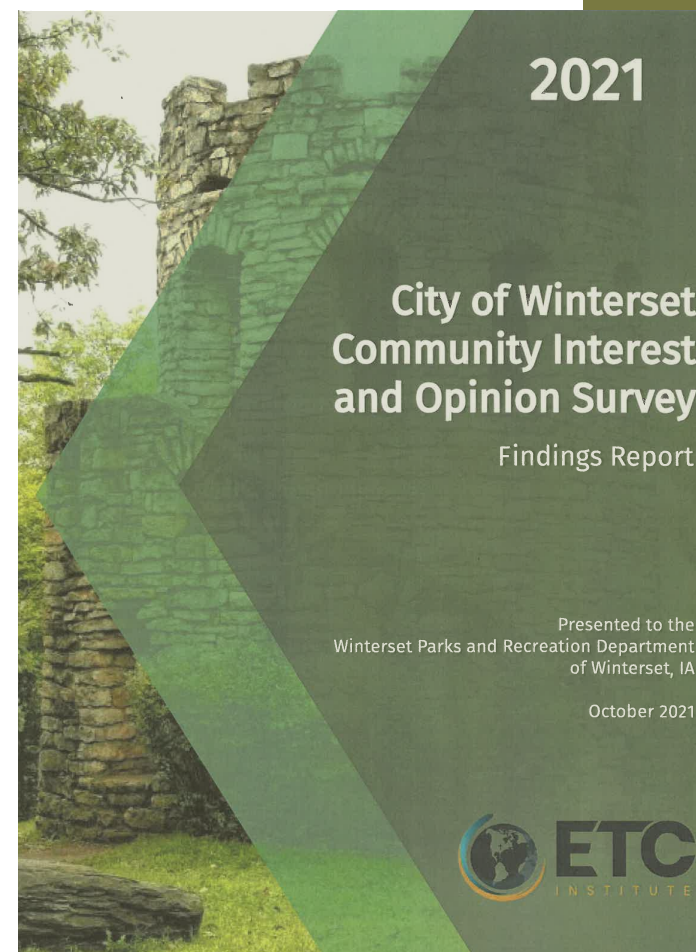
Results

The survey results have a precision of +/- 5% at the 95% level of confidence. This means that if the same survey was administered 100 times, 95 out of those 100 times we would get the same results within our margin of error.

The full report is broken down into 7 sections:

- ▶ Executive Summary
- ▶ Charts and Graphs: Overall Results
- ▶ Importance-Satisfaction Analysis
- ▶ Priority Investment Rating Analysis
- ▶ Benchmark Analysis
- ▶ Tabular Data
- ▶ Survey Instrument

The following pages summarize the major survey results for facilities, programs, and improvements for parks and recreation in Winterset.



COMMUNITY INTEREST + OPINION SURVEY / FACILITIES

Facilities

The survey asked a variety of questions regarding facilities in Winterset. Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 36 recreation facilities and amenities and rate how well their needs for each were being met. From these responses, ETC Institute was able to tabulate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various facilities.

The six highest recreation facilities with the highest percentage of households that indicated a need for the facility were:

- ▶ Indoor swimming pools/leisure pool (55.2%)
- ▶ Indoor running/walking track (51.5%)
- ▶ Paved bike trails (50.8%)
- ▶ Biking trails (50.2%)
- ▶ Walking/hiking trails (50.2%)
- ▶ Indoor fitness and exercise facilities (48.2%)

The estimated number of households with unmet needs for all 36 recreation facilities are presented in Figure 3.1. The top six responses to the follow-up question, asking participants to rank amenities that are most important to them, are presented in Figure 3.2.

FIGURE 3.1 Estimated Number of Households Whose Needs for Amenities Are Being Met 50% or Less
based on number of households in Winterset, Iowa = 2,258

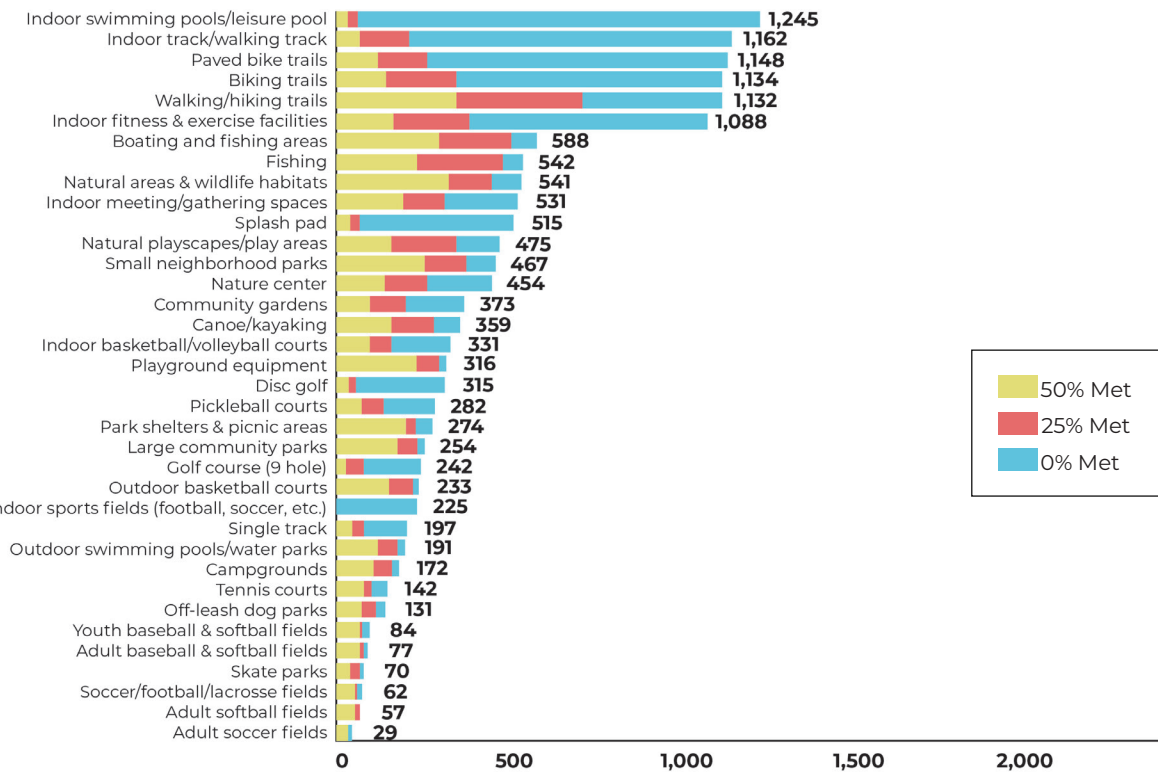


FIGURE 3.2 Amenities That Are Most Important to Households



COMMUNITY INTEREST + OPINION SURVEY / PROGRAMS

Programs

Participants were also asked to identify if their household had a need for 19 recreational programs and rate how well their needs for each program were currently being met. Based on the responses, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had “unmet” needs for each program.

Figure 3.3 illustrates these results and identifies the top three unmet programs to be:

- ▶ Adult fitness and wellness programs (44.9%)
- ▶ Nature programs (30.1%)
- ▶ Senior fitness and wellness programs (28.5%)

FIGURE 3.3 Estimated Number of Households Whose Needs for Programs Are Being Met 50% or Less based on number of households in Winterset, Iowa = 2,258

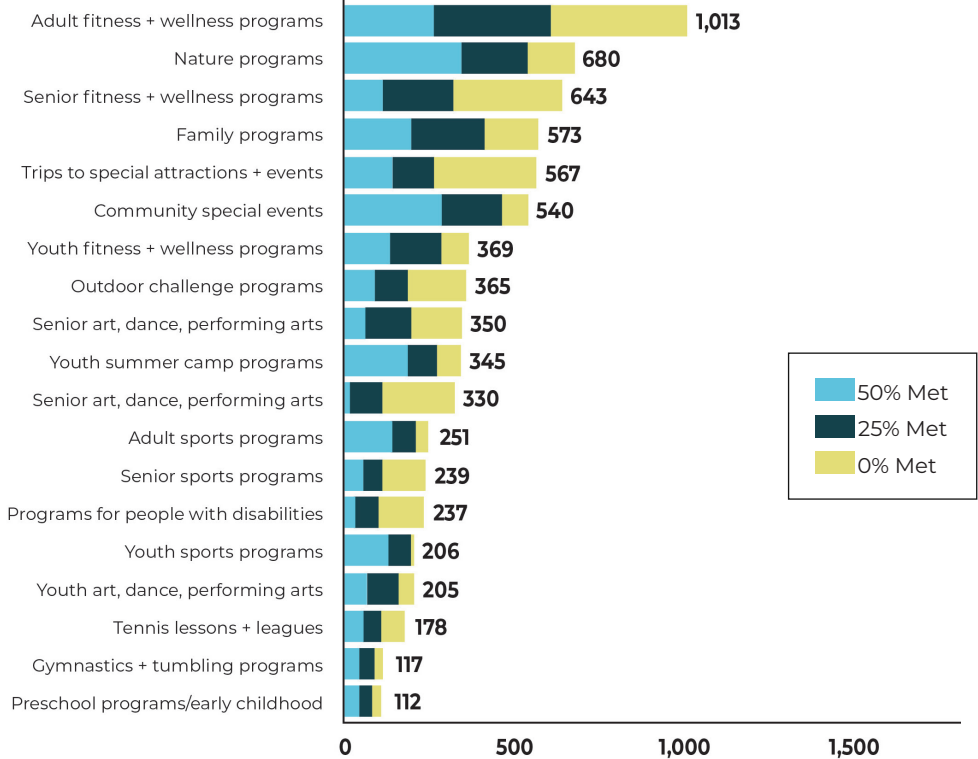
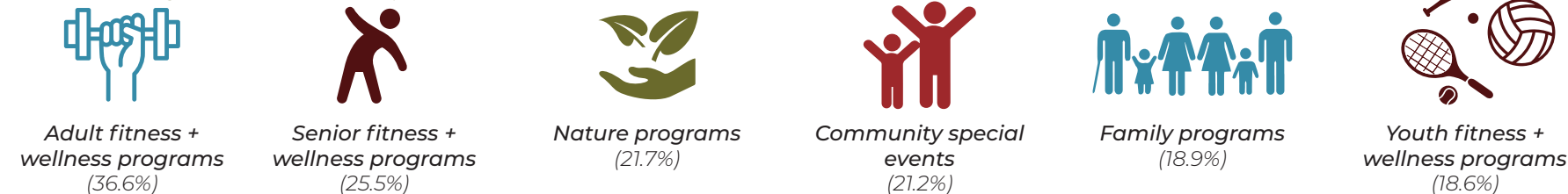


FIGURE 3.4 Programs That Are Most Important to Households



Most Important

COMMUNITY INTEREST + OPINION SURVEY / ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

Additional Findings

The survey deployed by the ETC Institute identifies three main desires for the future of parks and recreation in Winterset. These include:

- ▶ An indoor facility with walking/running track, multi-sport courts/fields, and pool
- ▶ Paved and natural biking/walking trails
- ▶ Adult and senior fitness and wellness programs

There are many other opportunities to build upon from the survey findings, the three points above are simply the most frequently mentioned items throughout the entire survey.

Park Usage

91.7% of residents utilize parks and facilities in Winterset today. Generally, residents are overwhelmingly pleased with the condition and quality of existing parks in Winterset, with 93.1% of residents giving an “excellent” or “good” rating.

The survey identified a disparity in available park space for residents in the southwest and northwest portions of town. Residents in these areas have a significantly higher percentage of residents who do not live within walking distance of a park. This is further supported by data identifying park usage is much lower for residents in this area-with residents tending to pay visits on a monthly, rather than weekly or daily, basis.

The most frequently visited parks by residents include City Park, Cedar Lake, the Aquatic Center, and Whistle Stop Park. This is likely due to the active and passive activities available for visitors to explore at the leisure.

Resident Preferences for Future Facilities

The desired improvements identified in the survey will require long-term investment and prioritization. ETC conducted a Priority Investment Rating (PIR) Analysis to guide the City on areas that should be high priority for improvements. The results by amenity and program investments are below.

▶ High Priority Amenity Investments:

- ▶ Indoor swimming pool/leisure pool
- ▶ Walking/hiking trails
- ▶ Paved bike trails
- ▶ Indoor Running/walking track
- ▶ Biking trails
- ▶ Indoor fitness and exercise facilities

▶ High Priority Program Investments:

- ▶ Adult fitness and wellness programs
- ▶ Senior fitness and wellness programs
- ▶ Nature programs
- ▶ Community special events
- ▶ Family programs

Outreach

The survey also asked how residents currently learn about programs and activities offered today. Majority of residents, approximately 55%, said they learn about programs and activities through their friends and neighbors. The other top four ways people learned about programs and activities include Facebook, newspaper articles or advertisements, and activity guide program catalog.

When asked how they would like to learn about programs and activities being offered in the future, residents most preferred Facebook, an activity guide catalog, newspaper articles or advertisements, and via the Winterset website.



The Winterset Parks & Recreation Department manages 176 acres of parkland that consists of an aquatic center, tennis/pickleball courts, Martin Marietta soccer complex, full-service campground, five baseball/softball fields, dog park, historic structures, and several playgrounds and shelters while offering over 50 activities for all ages.

[f Parks & Rec](#) [t Parks & Rec](#) [i Parks & Rec](#)



Book a Shelter

[Learn More Here](#)



Reserve Your Camping Space

[Learn More Here](#)

[Register for Activities](#)

[Register for Swim Lessons](#)

**Winterset Parks and Recreation**
August 5 at 4:35 PM · 🌐

You have a couple more days to register for Youth Flag Football with the deadline coming up on Sunday! Youth Volleyball's registration deadline is also quickly approaching, so hurry up and get signed up!

Follow the links to get registered!

Flag Football 1st/2nd Grade: <https://tinyurl.com/3tb839pj>
Flag Football 3rd/4th Grade: <https://tinyurl.com/4bc56rk9>
F... See more



\$30 PER PARTICIPANT
DEADLINE: SUNDAY AUGUST 7TH

YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

DIVISIONS
1ST & 2ND GRADE
3RD & 4TH GRADE
5TH & 6TH GRADE

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED



\$30 PER PARTICIPANT
DEADLINE TO REGISTER: AUG 21ST

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

DIVISIONS
3RD & 4TH GRADE
5TH & 6TH GRADE

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

Winterset Parks Master Plan

19

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / STAKEHOLDERS INTERVIEWS

Talking to the Community

Stakeholder interviews are critical to the public engagement process and the overall development of the master plan. Members of the consultant team met virtually and in-person with Winterset community members with a diverse mix of interactions with the Winterset parks system. A list of stakeholders and focus groups met with are presented to the right. Each interview included a 50-minute, one-on-one discussion where the stakeholder or focus group could freely discuss strengths, challenges, opportunities, and dreams for the Winterset parks and trails system. The feedback received during these interviews helped build a broader understanding of the parks system as it functions today and areas where greater focus are needed.

Major themes that came from these interviews are presented to the far right.

Stakeholders Interviewed

- Justin Gross, *Winterset Schools*
- Natalie Montross, *Winterset Schools*
- John Pletchette, *Retired Parks + Rec Director*
- Nicole Darling, *Winterset Parks Board*
- Brittany Salton, *Winterset Parks Board*
- Steve Pearson, *Madison County Conservation*
- Philip Macumber, *Mayor*
- Joanna Gustafson, *Winterset City Council*
- Chris Fairholm, *Winterset Council*
- Trevor Bindel, *Winterset Council*
- Brian Leaders, *National Parks Service*
- Brian Fairholm, *Former Little League Board Member*
- Jared McDonald, *Soccer Club*
- Sydney Cook-Conrad, *Soccer Club*
- Jason Salton, *Soccer Club*
- Dillon Roberts, *Coach*
- Casey Sheffield, *Coach*
- Neil Grant, *Martin Marietta*
- Peter Corkrean, *Developer*
- Middle School Student Group
- Junior High Student Group
- High School Student Group



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / STAKEHOLDERS INTERVIEWS

PARKS TODAY



STRENGTHS

- Whistle Stop Park serves the majority of the youth in Winterset
- City Park is a huge asset to the community, serving both residents and visitors
- Many residents mentioned being very happy with the general maintenance of parks
- The dog park gets a lot of use and is an amenity many are happy Winterset has



OPPORTUNITIES

- Whistle Stop Park needs restrooms and basketball court improvements
- At City Park, there is potential and desire for a dedicated trail, and sidewalk maintenance
- Many mentioned a desire to update Memory Lane Park and connect it via trail to Giffin Fields
- There is opportunity to provide more park space for residents on the northwest side of town

SPORTS FIELDS IN WINTERSET



STRENGTHS

- Many interviewees commended the City on the regulation of teams and spaces for practice and playing times
- Giffin Fields have the most amenities and many residents are proud of these fields
- Strong recreation system and participation for youth sports



OPPORTUNITIES

- Consideration for the growth and consolidation of fields for play vs. practice fields
- Giffin Fields are in need of lights, more batting cages, and an improved parking system
- Martin Marietta Soccer Fields and Softball Complex are in need of lights and have interest in providing concession amenities
- Many ideas on the future of the City-owned parcels north of the soccer fields and what their best use would be
- Opportunities to explore how to bring more people to Winterset for tournaments

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / STAKEHOLDERS INTERVIEWS

TRAILS + CONNECTIONS



STRENGTHS

- Many interviewees discussed the trail at Cedar Lake being an asset to Winterset that the City and community should continue to build upon
- There are few trails today, allowing for a broad and robust trail network to be established



OPPORTUNITIES

- There are many connection opportunities to tie to from major park hubs
 - Connect Pammel Park to Winterset via multi-use path
 - Connect Cedar Lake to Winterset and the rest of the parks system
 - Connect Memory Lane Park to Giffin Fields with an undercrossing of Highway 92
- Natural topography lends itself to natural trail paths
- City-County partnership opportunities

FUTURE FACILITY NEEDS



STRENGTHS

- The Community Interest and Opinion Survey and Comprehensive Planning process highlight the input that points to an overwhelming desire to have an indoor facility



OPPORTUNITIES

- Many interviewees discussed the desire to construct an indoor facility
 - Based on feedback, the facility should have a public walking track, event and meeting spaces, and could provide additional parks and recreation space for practices and tournaments
- Generally speaking, as it relates to sports fields, lights are top priority for Giffin Fields and the Martin Marietta Soccer Fields

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / PUBLIC WORKSHOP

As discussed in Chapter 3 Public Input Summary of the Comprehensive Plan, a Public Workshop was held on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at the Jackson Building from 6:00-7:30 PM. The Public Workshop involved a short presentation and a series of visioning questions. After the presentation, attendees could participate in several engagement activities. The following pages will highlight the Parks, Recreation, and Trails related feedback.

Visioning Questions

During the initial presentation, the audience was asked to respond to a set of visioning questions using an online, instant polling platform called Mentimeter. Figure 3.5 illustrates the results when respondents were asked *What are the reasons you live in or near Winterset?* Parks and Recreation Amenities was given five votes from participants.

In Figure 3.6, attendees were asked to rate a series of topics from not important to very important. New trails and more parks and recreation fields ranked on the lower end of importance in this exercise when compared to other topics, but this should not discourage the focus and assistance provided to these facilities based on the rest of these results.

FIGURE 3.5 What are the reasons you live in or near Winterset Mentimeter results

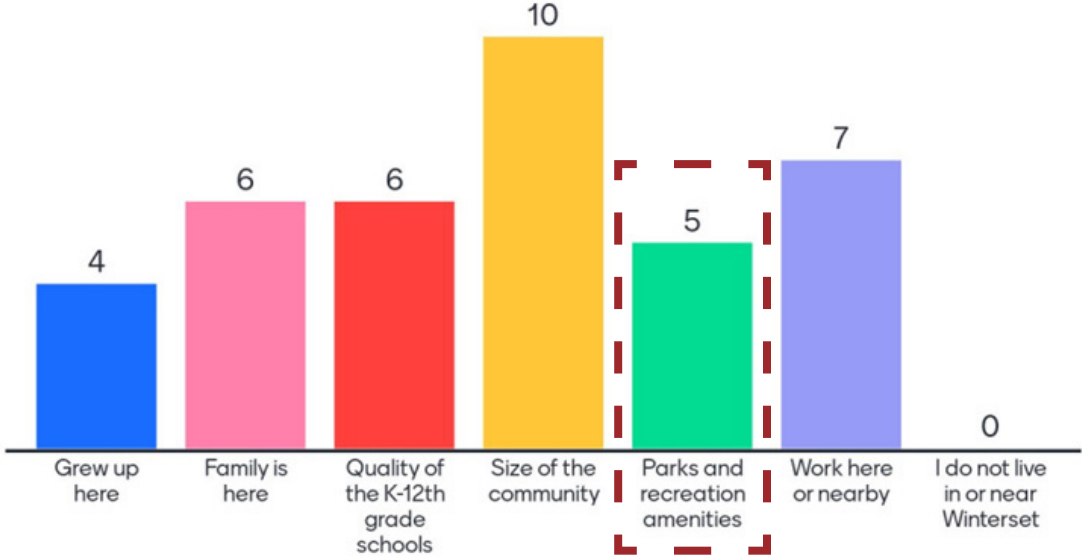
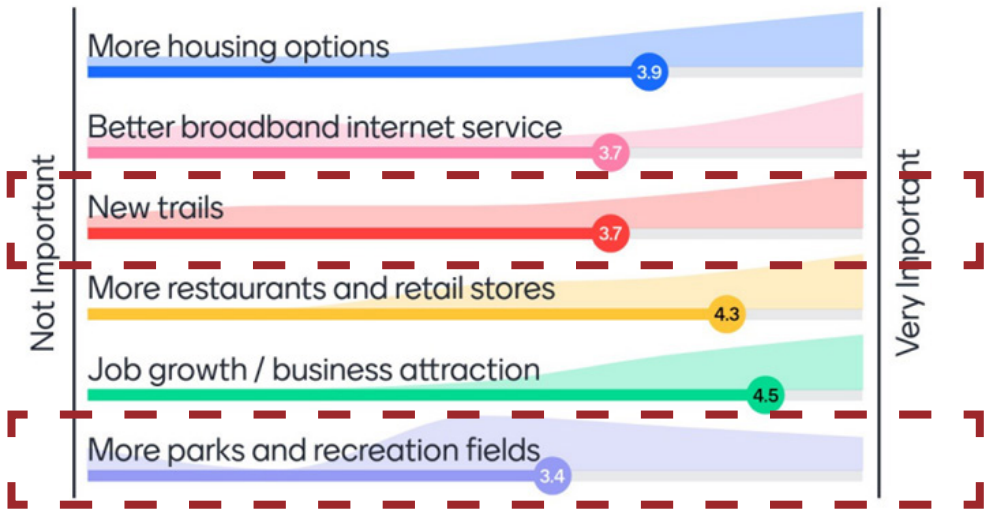


FIGURE 3.6 Please rank the following as to their level of importance for Winterset results



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Visioning Questions

These results are pulled from page 38 of Chapter 3 Public Input Summary for the Winterset Comprehensive Plan. The highlighted bullet-points identify parks, recreation and trail related feedback.

Biggest opportunities for Winterset?

- ▶ Remote work
- ▶ Continue to grow tourism
- ▶ Big picture: become a little Galena. Airbnb's. Indoor Pool / Swim
- ▶ Great restaurants and downtown square
- ▶ **Youth sporting events (tourism)**
- ▶ Growth without losing uniqueness
- ▶ Modern growth
- ▶ Great schools and hospitals
- ▶ Easy commute
- ▶ **Trails and outdoor recreation**
- ▶ Elderly care
- ▶ Local employment
- ▶ **Year-round recreational activities**
- ▶ Storm-shelter for low-income single-family housing
- ▶ Sustainable growth that recognizes and enhances what we already have
- ▶ Thriving Academic progress
- ▶ Continue to grow and improve while still being a special community

Biggest challenges for Winterset?

- ▶ Lack of affordable single-family homes to purchase
- ▶ Lack of good paying jobs
- ▶ Gap between “Winterset has always done it that way” and progress forward
- ▶ **Childcare**
- ▶ **Need indoor options for elderly**
- ▶ Cost of utilities - much higher for water/ power than others
- ▶ **Lack of recreational opportunities for families, young people**
- ▶ Need good elderly care options
- ▶ **Winter activities / indoor activities**
- ▶ Commercial and industrial development to drive tax base
- ▶ Infrastructure seems tired
- ▶ Engagement of younger population, older generation relinquishing some control
- ▶ Housing, jobs, family friendly opportunities
- ▶ **Recreation for youth and adults**
- ▶ **YMCA**
- ▶ **Group rental options**
- ▶ More industry to increase tax base



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Visioning Questions Cont'd

One Big Dream for the Future?

- ▶ **Slow and steady growth while maintaining the small-town charm**
- ▶ A community that attracts new businesses, best on state academics, and a tourism location for Des Moines
- ▶ **Continuously attracts families to live here**
- ▶ **A place where young people want to stay**
- ▶ Growing steadily, without declining enrollment in schools
- ▶ Be the town kids are proud to call home
- ▶ Supporting small businesses
- ▶ Young families get involved in town & volunteer to give back

One Big Fear for the Future?

- ▶ **Declining enrollment in education**
- ▶ New families choose options with better housing and tax abatement
- ▶ Being so big that we melt into Des Moines
- ▶ Overrun by West Des Moines sprawl
- ▶ Be run by people that don't live here in the community
- ▶ Stuck in the past with no future vision
- ▶ **Seeing Winterset becoming a part of the metro and lose our small town**
- ▶ High population growth with limited tax base growth
- ▶ Can't support small businesses, stores closing



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Image Voting

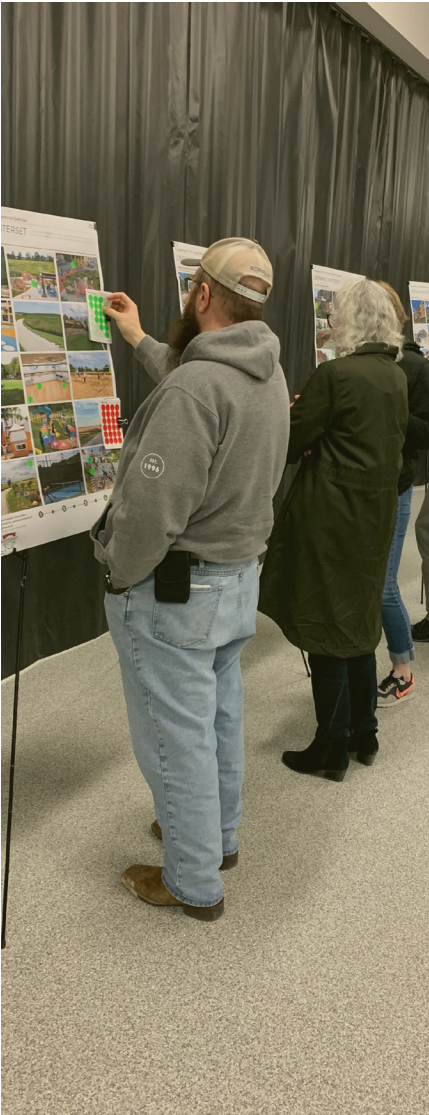
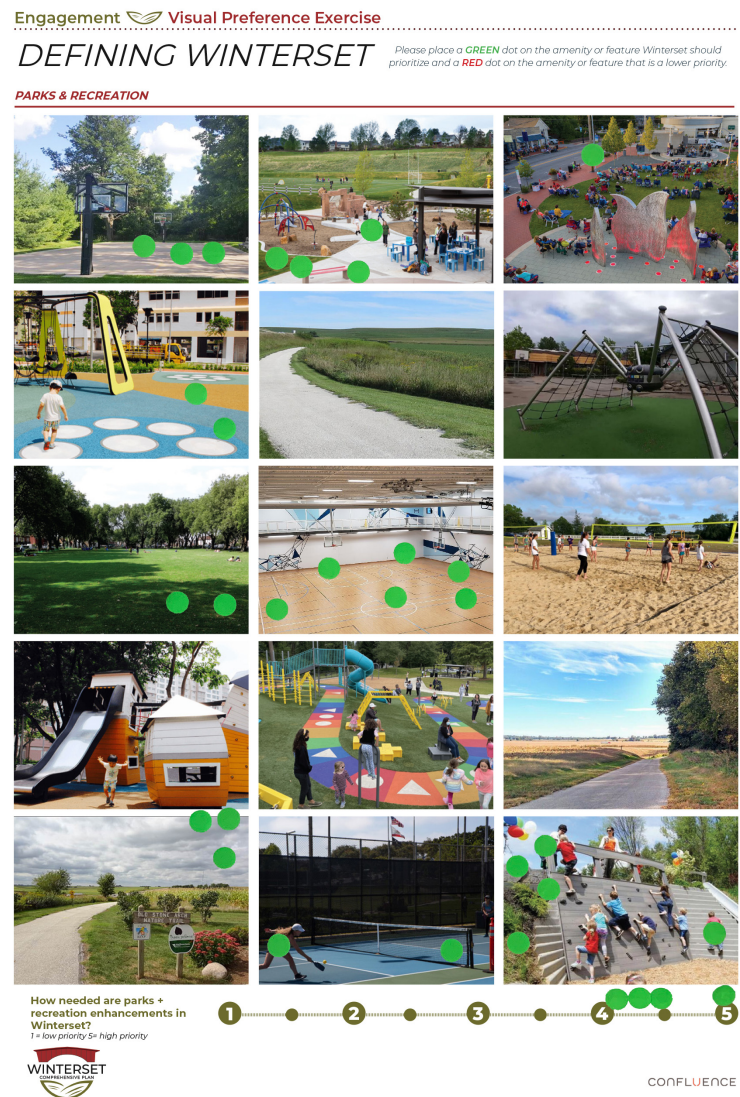
This engagement exercise type included a series of image voting boards in which attendees were given green and red sticker dots to place on the images they most and least preferred for Winterset, respectively.

The image in Figure 3.7 presents the responses for the Parks + Recreation image Voting board. Results from these responses can be summarized to convey:

- A strong preference toward an indoor facility with court and walking track amenities
- An interactive park space for youth
- An expansive community park, capable of servicing a variety of needs
- Neighborhood-scale basketball courts
- Trail network, multi-use path where people can walk or ride bicycles

When asked *How needed are parks and recreation enhancements in Winterset?*, attendees rated it a 4 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important).

FIGURE 3.7 Image Voting- Parks + Recreation Results



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Priority Ranking Amenities + Services

The third engagement board had a series of priority ranking exercises, which asked respondents to indicate with a sticker dot the highest priority for different topic areas. Respondents were asked to only pick one option or to write-in their own ideas in one of the open spaces. Figure 3.8 highlights the parks, recreation, and trails-related responses. Outliers, such as “Streetscapes” and “Community Services”, are presented for the amenities most preferred in these categories that could apply to parks and recreation.

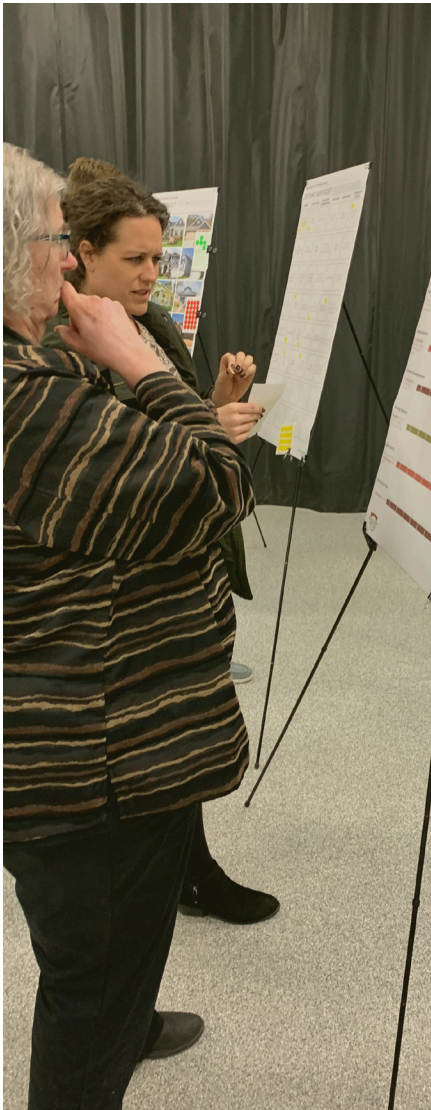
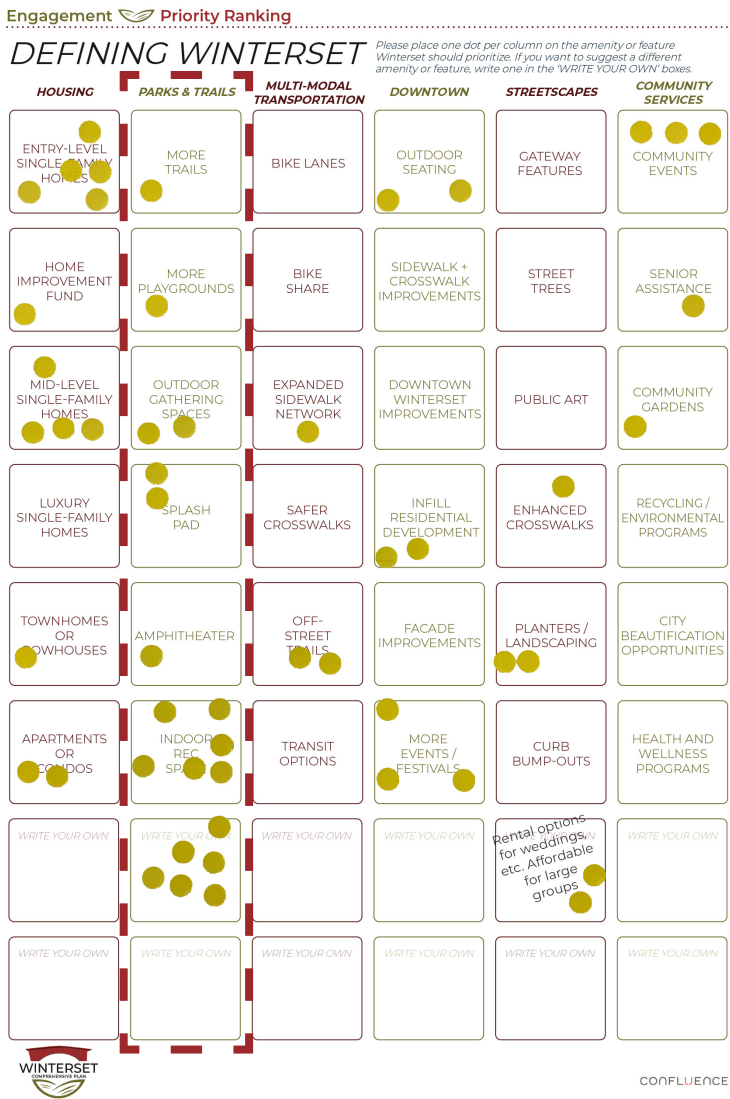
Parks & Trails - highest priority for indoor recreation space, splash pad, and outdoor gathering spaces. Indoor pools were added to the list and received support.

Multi-Modal Transportation - little support but a few votes for off-street trails and an expanded sidewalk network.

Streetscapes - write-in response of rental options for weddings received support along with planters / landscaping and enhance crosswalks.

Community Services - community events received the most votes with some support for senior assistance and community gardens.

FIGURE 3.8 Priority Ranking Results



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

To receive feedback and input on a variety of topics related to both the Comprehensive and Parks Master Plan, an interactive engagement website was created. There were a series of engagement opportunities, including a short survey, image voting, priority ranking, and a mapping activity. The website launched at the end of March 2022 and was open for input through the end of April 2022. The following pages and figures illustrate responses received as they relate to parks, recreation, and trails in Winterset.

For a full summary of interactive engagement website responses, please refer to Chapter 3 Public Input Summary of the Winterset Comprehensive Plan.

Step 1 - Take a Short Survey

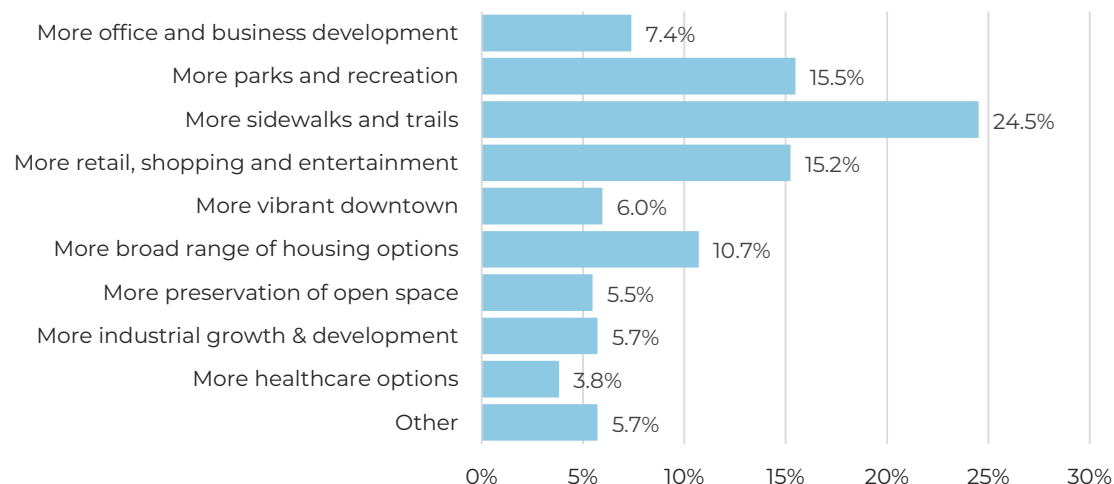
3. Winterset needs more of the following. Select all that apply.

There were a wide variety of responses with the most common response being more sidewalks and trails. This was followed by both more parks and recreation and more retail, shopping, and entertainment. A more broad range of housing options received quite a few votes also. Many of the “other” comments were related to the desire for an indoor recreation facility with a variety of programs.

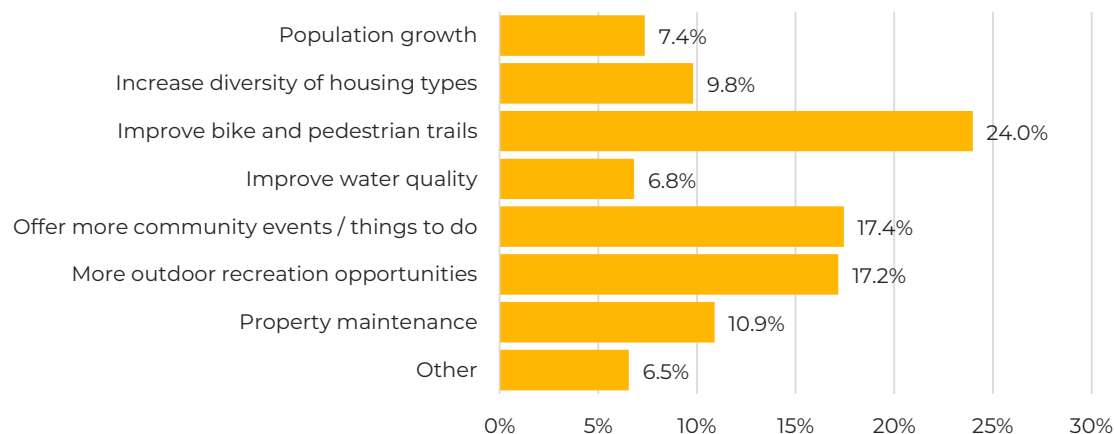
6. Please indicate the changes you think would improve the quality of life in Winterset. Select up to three.

The top responses about what would positively improve quality of life in Winterset include improved bike and pedestrian trails, offer more community events / things to do, and more outdoor recreation opportunities.

3. Winterset needs more of the following. Select all that apply.



6. Please indicate the changes you think would improve the quality of life in Winterset. Select up to three.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

Step 1 - Take a Short Survey

8. Winterset needs more of the following recreational amenities. Select all that apply.

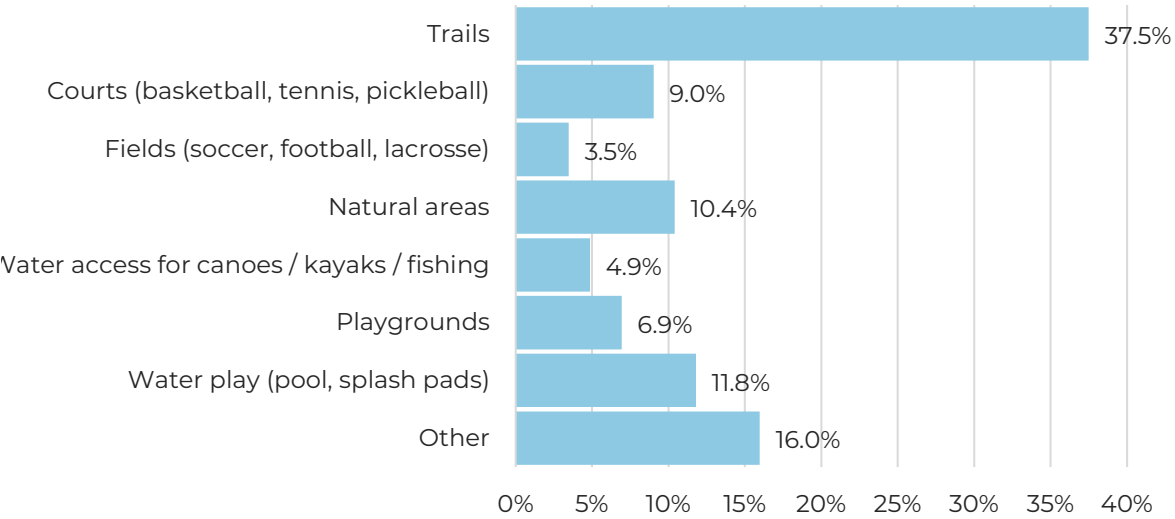
The top recreational amenity desired by survey takers was more trails. Water play, natural areas, and courts (including basketball, tennis, and pickleball) were also fairly common selections. This answer had quite a few write-in “other” responses, most of which indicated a desire for an indoor facility, which is consistent with recreation feedback heard throughout this planning process.

Step 2- Image Voting

Parks & Recreation

The most and least preferred parks and recreation images are shown on the right. The most preferred images were for indoor recreation, rural trails and the highly programmed community park image. The least preferred images were of the basketball courts and the modern climbing structure.

8. Winterset needs more of the following recreational amenities.



Most Preferred Parks & Recreation Images



Least Preferred Parks & Recreation Images



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

Step 3 - Priority Ranking

The third engagement activity on the interactive website was a priority ranking widget, which had respondents “fund” priorities based on an imaginary budget of \$1,000,000. The most commonly budgeted priority was Downtown Events followed closely by Park Improvements and Trail Expansion. Middle of the road priorities were Street Improvements, Housing Rehabilitation, and Broadband Expansion. The lowest priority was Infrastructure Improvements; however, this was also the costliest item, which may have impacted people’s decision-making.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

Step 4 - Mapping Activity

Step 4 was an interactive mapping activity that allowed participants to drop comments directly on a map of Winterset. There were six comment types available and a total of 55 comments were made. The figure below shows the breakdown by comment type. An overview of comments by type is included in the following pages.

FIGURE 3.9 Percentage by Comment Type

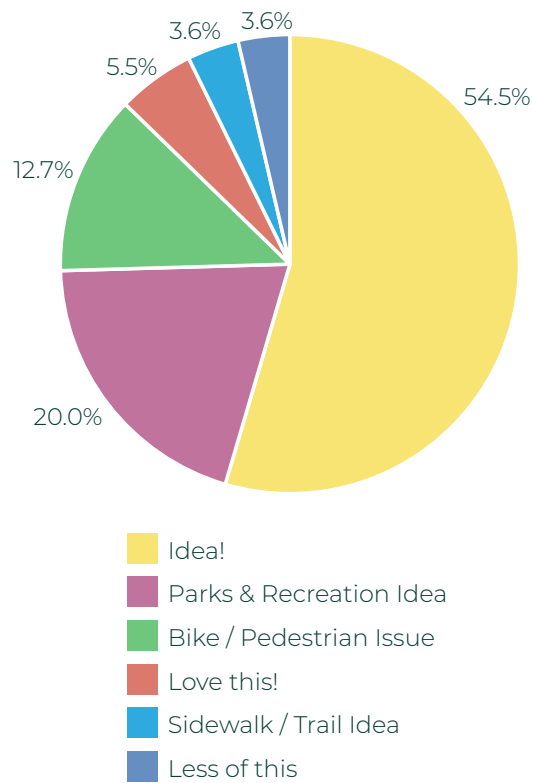
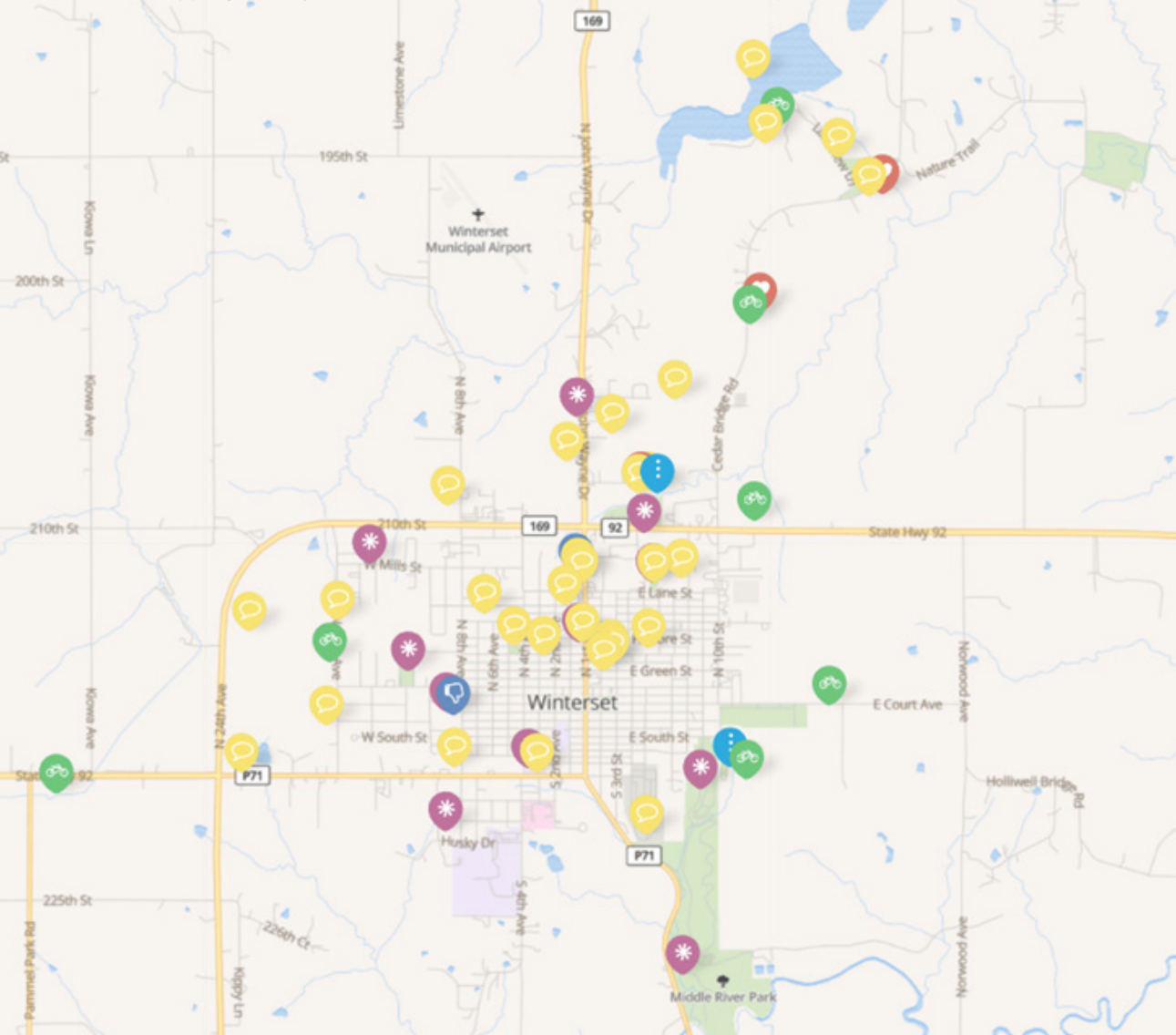


FIGURE 3.10 Mapping Activity- All Comments



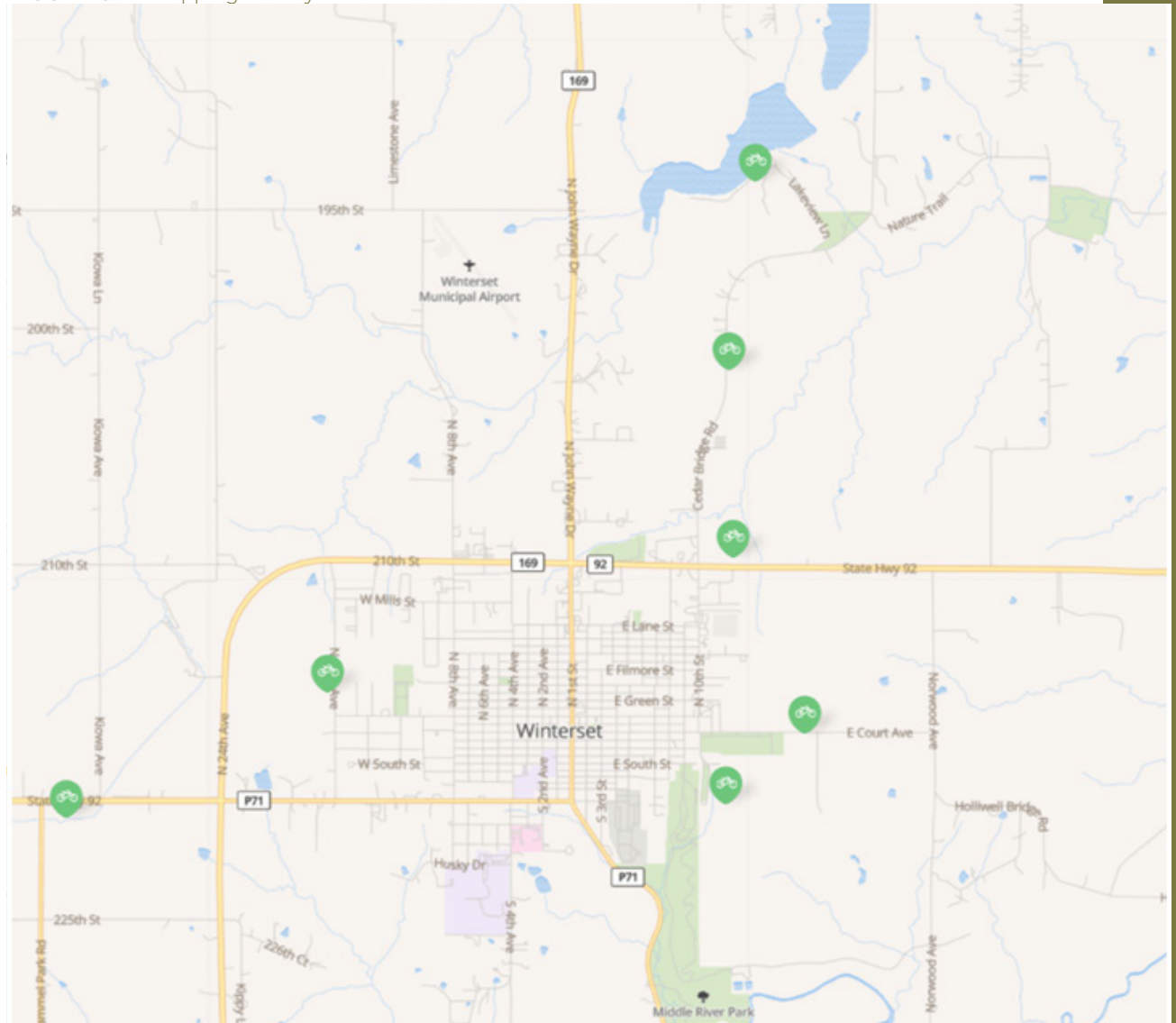
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

Step 4 - Mapping Activity

Bike + Pedestrian Comment Summary

- ▶ Make Cedar Lake Trail bicycle-accessible
- ▶ Provide a separated bike lane to protect bicyclists from car traffic
- ▶ Regional trail connections for surrounding rural towns
- ▶ Connect to Great Western Trails System by buying the rail right-of-way
- ▶ Connect a trail to Pammel Park

FIGURE 3.12 Mapping Activity- Bike + Pedestrian Comments



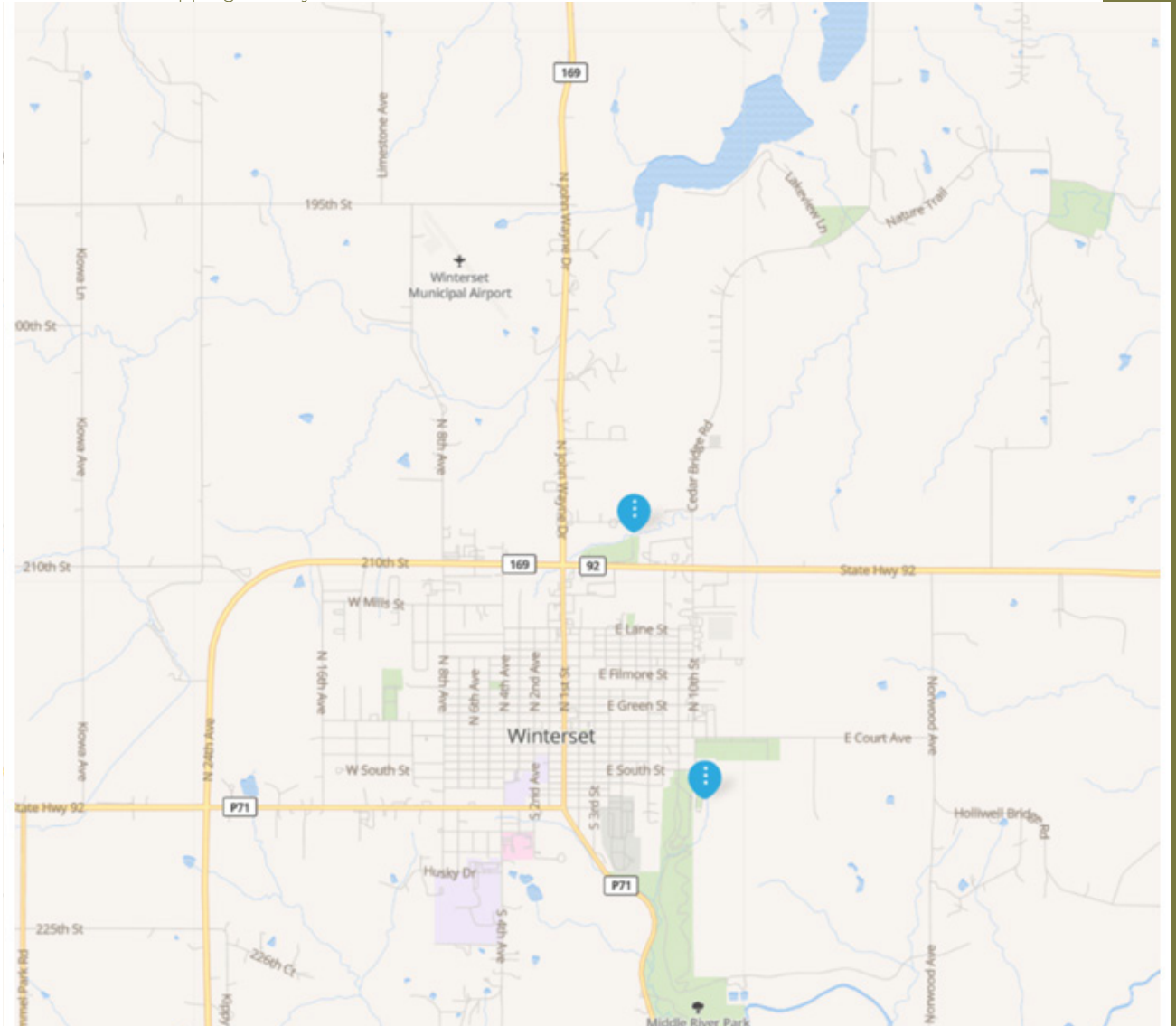
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

Step 4 - Mapping Activity

Sidewalk + Trail Idea Comment Summary

- ▶ Add a walking trail around Giffin Fields and some picnic areas
- ▶ Connect City Park to the athletic fields with a trail

FIGURE 3.13 Mapping Activity- Sidewalk + Trail Idea Comments



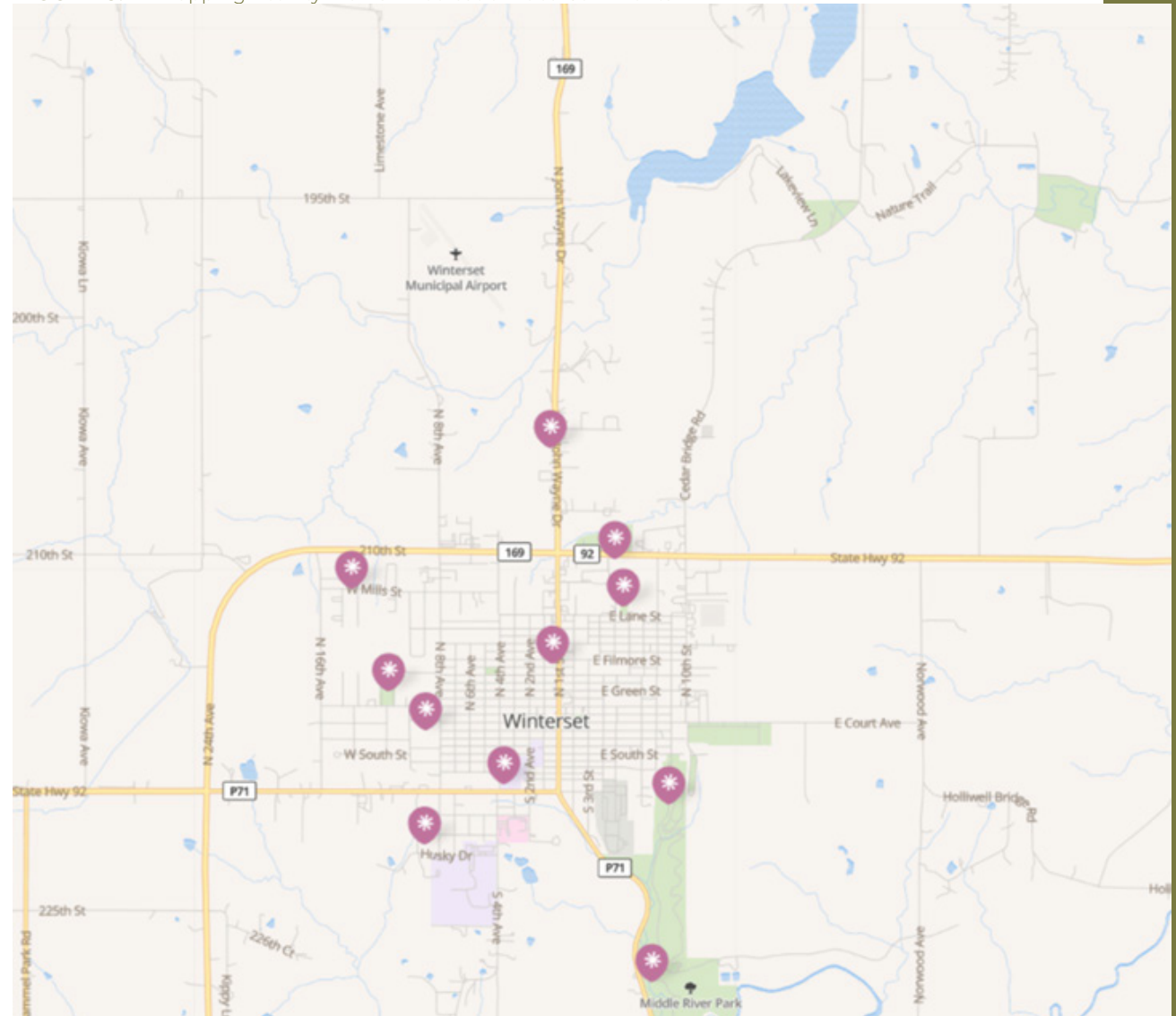
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

Step 4 - Mapping Activity

Parks + Recreation Idea Comment Summary

- ▶ Indoor Recreation Facility
- ▶ Large bike park and expand skate park
- ▶ Update Memory Lane Park
- ▶ Add a playground at the Aquatic Center
- ▶ Need park space for families that live on northwest side of town
- ▶ Add a pedestrian trail at City Park instead of using the road

FIGURE 3.14 Mapping Activity- Parks + Recreation Idea Comments



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK / INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

Step 4 - Mapping Activity

Idea! Comment Summary

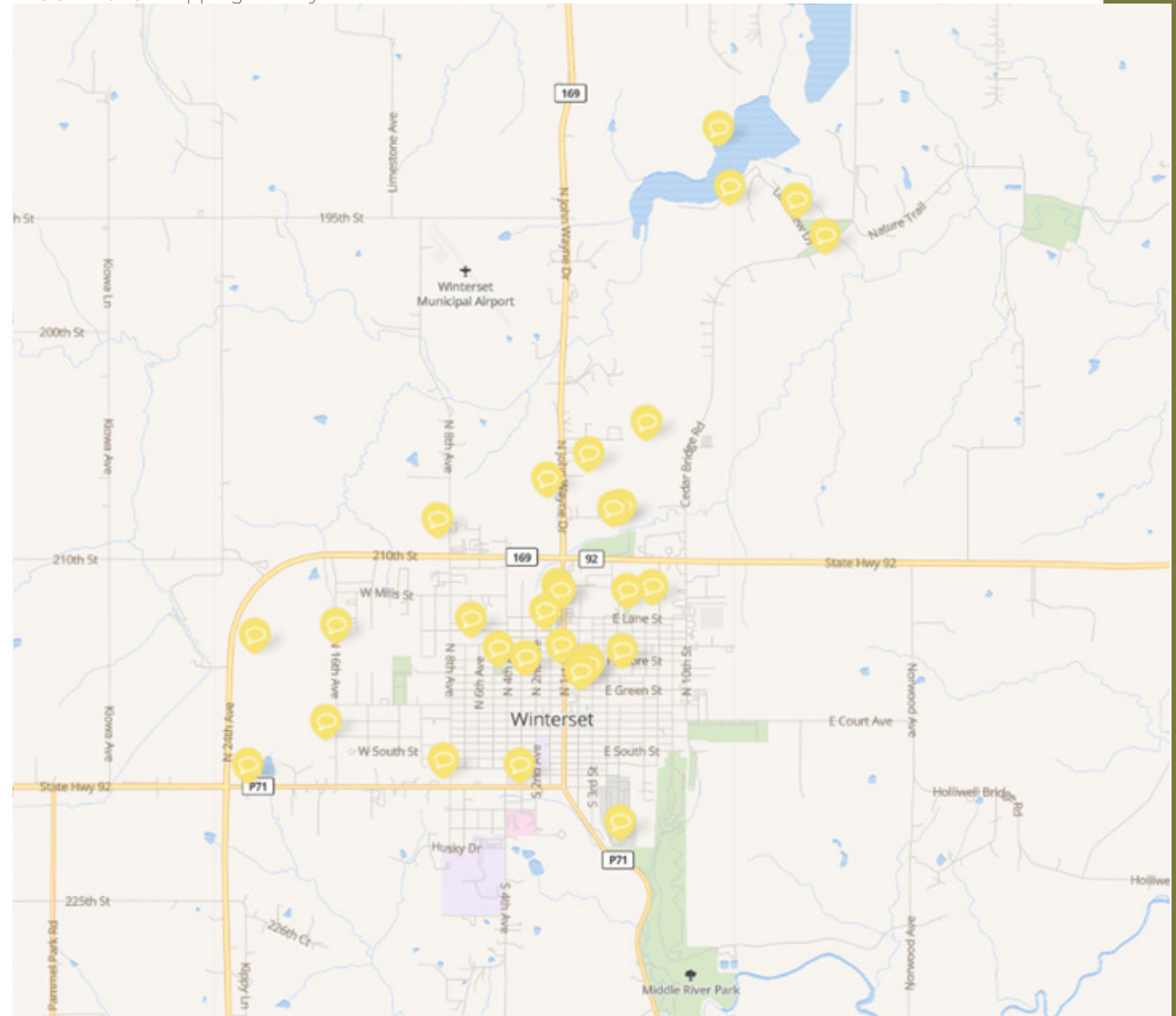
Cedar Lake

- ▶ Pave Lakeview Lane up to Cumming Road to draw more people to the sites here (golf, lake, trail)
- ▶ Add campsites on southside of Lakeside Lane and around lake
- ▶ Connect a trail from town to the lake

Giffin Fields

- ▶ Add pedestrian bridge and a parking lot to alleviate parking off Hwy 92
- ▶ Indoor recreation facility is needed
- ▶ Remove vacant building and parking lot across from Hy-Vee
- ▶ Renovate Memory Lane Park to have a splash pad
- ▶ Plant fruit trees and ask master gardeners to maintain
- ▶ Pave N 16th Avenue and all other gravel roads in town
- ▶ Need better broadband connection in town
- ▶ Public restroom at Whistle Stop Park

FIGURE 3.15 Mapping Activity- Idea! Comments



CHAPTER FOUR

PARKS ASSESSMENT



PARKS ASSESSMENT / NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Memory Lane Park

Memory Lane Park is a neighborhood park generally located on the east side of Winterset. The park is roughly 1.2 acres in size, providing access for active and passive recreation. The park's features a variety of amenities detailed below:

- ▶ Bench
- ▶ Trash Can
- ▶ Open + Green Space
- ▶ Picnic Shelter
- ▶ Picnic Table
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Basketball Court
- ▶ Baby Swing
- ▶ Entry Signage
- ▶ Grill



STRENGTHS

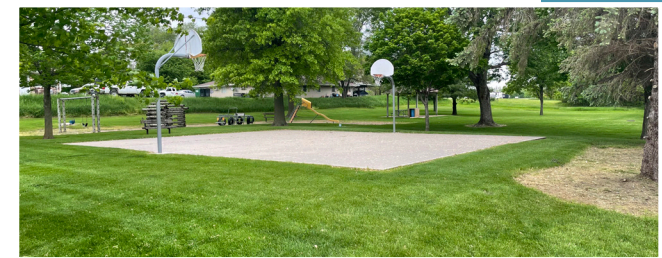
- Services local neighborhood area with a variety of amenities
- Valuable location for connecting to the greater parks system in Winterset



OPPORTUNITIES

- Playground equipment needs updated
- Picnic tables and benches are in fair condition but could be updated
- Potential to expand basketball court to make it regulation size
- No lights on-site
- Trail connection via under-crossing of Highway 92 to north Giffin Fields and to a broader trail network

FIGURE 4.2 Parks Inventory Site Photos



PARKS ASSESSMENT / NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Whistle Stop Park

Whistle Stop Park is also a neighborhood park located in central Winterset. The park is roughly 1.0 acre in size. The park's features a variety of amenities detailed below:

- ▶ Bench
- ▶ Trash Can
- ▶ Open + Green Space
- ▶ Drinking Fountain
- ▶ Picnic Shelter
- ▶ Picnic Table
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Basketball Court
- ▶ Baby Swing
- ▶ Grill



Winterset Parks Master Plan



STRENGTHS

- Location to serve a wider swath of youth in Winterset, due to proximity to residential areas and schools
- Highly-used park



OPPORTUNITIES

- No restrooms on-site, public input also expressed need for these
- Improvements to stormwater drainage on northern park boundary
- Basketball court resurfacing, new nets and backboards, and repainted lines
- No lights, except for street lights, along perimeter

FIGURE 4.3 Parks Inventory Site Photos



PARKS ASSESSMENT / COMMUNITY PARKS

Winterset City Park Historic District (City Park)

City Park is a large community park located in southeast Winterset. A unique feature of City Park is that it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2021. The park is roughly 87.1 acres in size, acting as the City's largest park. The park provides the greatest number and variety of amenities to residents and visitors.

- ▶ Entry Signage
- ▶ Bench
- ▶ Trash Can
- ▶ Walking/Biking Trail
- ▶ Restroom
- ▶ Parking Lot
- ▶ Open + Green Space
- ▶ Picnic Shelter
- ▶ Picnic Table
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Lights
- ▶ Volleyball Court
- ▶ Baby Swing
- ▶ Grill



Winterset Parks Master Plan



STRENGTHS

- Size allows the park to serve more residents and visitors
- Improvements are on-going with the universal park construction
- Source of community-pride
- Opportunity to host gatherings here
- RV/Camping sites are unique to City Park



OPPORTUNITIES

- Fill in sidewalk gaps
- Potential to reconfigure the welcome sign to make it easier to read
- Historic structure preservation

FIGURE 4.4 Parks Inventory Site Photos



PARKS ASSESSMENT / SPECIAL USE PARKS

Aquatic Center and Tennis + Pickleball Courts

The Aquatic Center and Tennis + Pickleball Courts are a community parks located in northwest Winterset. The park is roughly 10.2 acres in size. The park provides the multiple amenities including a pool space, tennis and pickleball courts, and an open lawn with flexible use. Additional exterior-accessible amenities include:

- ▶ Entry Signage
- ▶ Bench
- ▶ Trash Can
- ▶ Open + Green Space
- ▶ Drinking Fountain
- ▶ Parking Lot
- ▶ Lights
- ▶ Tennis/Pickleball Courts
- ▶ Entry Signage
- ▶ Bike Rack



Winterset Parks Master Plan



STRENGTHS

- Asset to the community to have such a well-maintained pool
- Flexible uses for the court and open space
- Existing light structure on the tennis/pickleball courts



OPPORTUNITIES

- Small open space directly adjacent to the courts that has potential for additional programming
- Opportunity to provide an additional roadway connection
- Tennis + pickleball courts need repainted. Opportunity to have dual lines to identify tennis and pickleball boundaries
- Limited lighting on parking lot, could provide greater visibility on parking lot
- Tree plantings along western boundary to provide additional wind break
- Give the park a name

FIGURE 4.5 Parks Inventory Site Photos



PARKS ASSESSMENT / SPECIAL USE PARKS

Cedar Lake

Cedar Lake is a special use park that is roughly 183 acres, excluding the waterbody. While not a conventional park, the Cedar Lake area provides a variety of amenities to visitors including:

- ▶ Open + Green Space
- ▶ Parking Lot
- ▶ Picnic Tables
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Nature Trail
- ▶ Pedestrian Bridge



STRENGTHS

- Unique amenity for the community providing the largest trail system and a pedestrian bridge
- Pully bridge system is one-of-a-kind and draws many to Cedar Lake



OPPORTUNITIES

- Connect the Cedar Lake Nature Trail into the proposed trail network as it is developed
- Improve welcome and on-site signage throughout the park space

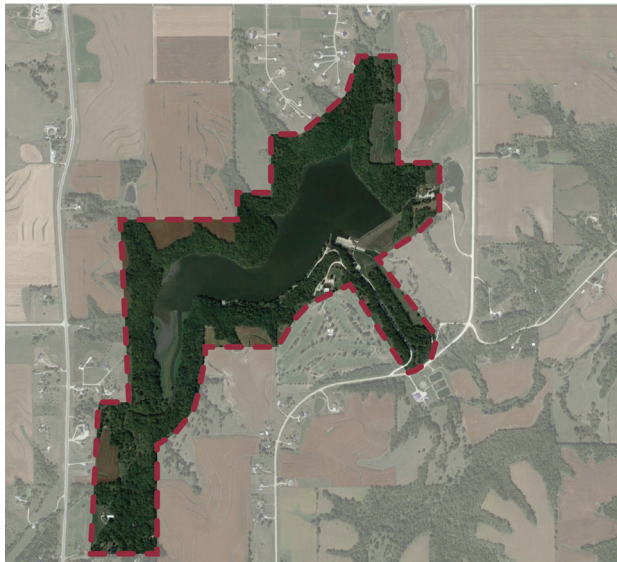


FIGURE 4.6 Parks Inventory Site Photos



PARKS ASSESSMENT / SPECIAL USE PARKS

Dog Park

The Dog Park is a special use park located in eastern Winterset. The park is roughly 10.6 acres in size. The park provides fenced-off space for dogs in the community. Additional amenities include:

- ▶ Bench
- ▶ Open + Green Space
- ▶ Parking Lot
- ▶ Picnic Shelter



Winterset Parks Master Plan

STRENGTHS

- Asset to the community serving a specific group of residents
- Utilizes soccer field parking lot
- Good shade structures and transition space linking the small dog and large dog spaced

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity to have matching fencing throughout the park. Currently, half is black powder-coated, half is galvanized
- More shade trees would benefit the park space



PARKS ASSESSMENT / SPECIAL USE PARKS

George Washington Carver Memorial Park

George Washington Carver Memorial Park is a pocket park located in Downtown Winterset along E Court Avenue. The park is approximately 0.03 acres in size. The park amenities include:

- ▶ Bench
- ▶ Lights
- ▶ Entry Signage



STRENGTHS

- The location provides Downtown visitors access to park space
- The greenscaping and mural is well-maintained



OPPORTUNITIES

- Update and replace the bench
- Improve the lighting within the park
- Opportunity to increase greenscaping and plant a tree at back bay monument

FIGURE 4.8 Parks Inventory Site Photos



PARKS ASSESSMENT / SPECIAL USE PARKS

Giffin Fields

Giffin Fields are a special use park located in northern Winterset. The fields combine to be 13.1 acres in size. The fields are used for baseball games and practices for a variety of ages in Winterset. Additional amenities include:

- ▶ Trash Can
- ▶ Restroom
- ▶ Parking Lot
- ▶ Picnic Shelter
- ▶ Picnic Table
- ▶ Baseball Field
- ▶ Entry Signage
- ▶ Bleachers
- ▶ Grill



Winterset Parks Master Plan



STRENGTHS

- Giffin Fields have the most amenities for hosting games and practices
- Well-maintained fields and facilities, with ongoing updates occurring
- Good metal bleachers throughout the entire complex



OPPORTUNITIES

- ADA accessible pathways are needed throughout the entire complex
- Limited on-site parking, resulting in visitors parking along Highway 92 or in the Bomgaars parking lot
- No lights on any of the fields

FIGURE 4.9 Parks Inventory Site Photos



PARKS ASSESSMENT / SPECIAL USE PARKS

Skate Park

The Skate Park is a special use park located in southwest Winterset. The park is approximately 0.6 acres in size. This is a fairly new park space in Winterset and the condition of the amenities reflect this. Additional amenities include:

- ▶ Bench
- ▶ Open + Green Space
- ▶ Drinking Fountain
- ▶ Picnic Shelter
- ▶ Picnic Table
- ▶ Entry Signage



STRENGTHS

- Unique park type to have in a community of Winterset's size
- New park space and condition of amenities reflects this
- Very nice entry signage, standing out from the other



OPPORTUNITIES

- There are no lights on-site
- There is little tree canopy along the perimeter of the park and could be expanded
- Room to expand skating space into the green space on the southern half of the park



Winterset Parks Master Plan

FIGURE 4.10 Parks Inventory Site Photos



PARKS ASSESSMENT / SPECIAL USE PARKS

Martin Marietta Soccer Complex

The Martin Marietta Soccer Complex is a special use park located in eastern Winterset. The Complex is approximately 9.4 acres in size. The Parks and Recreation Department and Soccer Club provide opportunities to play soccer at a variety of ages. Additional Complex amenities include:

- ▶ Trash Cans
- ▶ Open + Green Space
- ▶ Restroom (Portable On-Site, Softball adjacent)
- ▶ Parking Lot
- ▶ Picnic Shelter
- ▶ Picnic Table
- ▶ Soccer Fields
- ▶ Entry Signage



STRENGTHS

- Well-maintained fields with flexibility in layout for age groups
- Opportunities for a wide range of age groups to participate in soccer
- Flexible periphery space for parents and game attendees



OPPORTUNITIES

- Fields could benefit from at least one light on the far west side of the complex
- Need to do some dead tree removal along perimeter buffering quarry to the fields
- Could bring in mobile seating and orient around active games



Winterset Parks Master Plan

FIGURE 4.11 Parks Inventory Site Photos

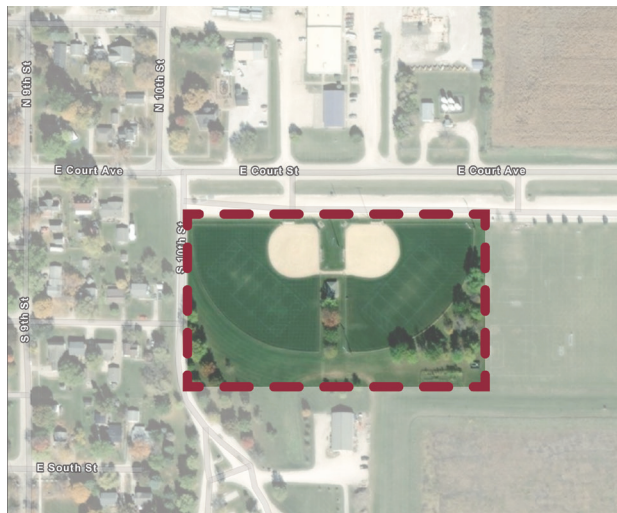


PARKS ASSESSMENT / SPECIAL USE PARKS

Softball Complex

The Softball Complex is a special use park located in eastern Winterset, directly adjacent to the Martin Marietta Soccer Fields and the City Dog Park. The Complex is approximately 6.9 acres in size. The softball fields permit some flexibility to their overall use, allowing flag football to be played in the outfields. Additional Complex amenities include:

- ▶ Trash Cans
- ▶ Drinking Fountain
- ▶ Restroom
- ▶ Parking Lot
- ▶ Lights (one field)
- ▶ Softball Fields (2)
- ▶ Bleachers



Winterset Parks Master Plan



STRENGTHS

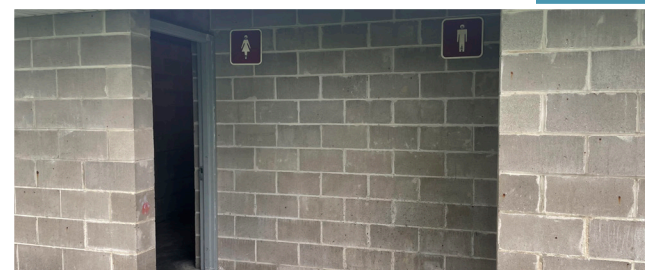
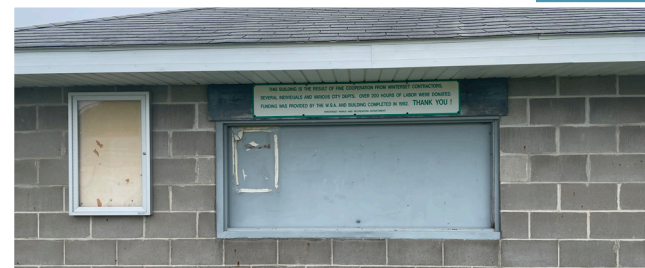
- Well-utilized fields for a variety of ages and sports
- The western field is the only field in town with lights
- Flexible use with flag football being played in the outfield



OPPORTUNITIES

- Replace existing table and benches
- Expand lighting to both fields
- Tie into the Soccer Complex's pathways for greater mobility of the site
- Updates needed to the existing restrooms

FIGURE 4.12 Parks Inventory Site Photos



PARKS ASSESSMENT / SPECIAL USE PARKS

Winterset City Campground

The Winterset City Campground is a special use park located in adjacent to City Park and south of the Softball Complex. The campground offers seasonal amenities to visitors to camp in a variety of modes. Additional campground amenities include:

- ▶ Trash Cans
- ▶ 40 RV sites
- ▶ 5 tent sites
- ▶ Picnic Tables
- ▶ Firepits/Grills



Winterset Parks Master Plan



STRENGTHS

- Community asset to provide additional places to stay for holidays and festivals
- Well-maintained site catering to a variety of camping styles



OPPORTUNITIES

- Expand RV and tent sites as demand increases for more spaces
- Pave pathways throughout the site into City Park and the Martin Marietta/Dog Park destinations
- Expand on-site services as demand grows at the campground

FIGURE 4.13 Parks Inventory Site Photos



PARKS ASSESSMENT

Level of Service Analysis

There are several ways to analyze how well a parks system serves the needs of a community. Park level of service analysis should rely on a combination of public input and technical analysis. Public input revealed that people are generally happy with the parks system today but recognize there are opportunities for improvement in the type of amenities featured within the park system.

Three common ways to provide technical analysis of park level of service include:

- ▶ Park Acres / 1,000 Residents
- ▶ Service Area / Buffer Map
- ▶ Walk-Time Analysis

Technical Level of Service Analysis

The Parks Master Plan uses the following technical analyses to evaluate the Winterset parks + recreation system:



Total Park Acres Per 1,000 Residents



Service Area / Buffer Map by Park Type



Walk-Time Analysis



PARKS ASSESSMENT

Parkland Level of Service

In total, Winterset has approximately 317 acres of parkland throughout the community. A common way to analyze park level of service is by calculating how many acres of parkland exist per 1,000 residents. This is commonly called the level of service (LOS). Table 4.1 shows total park acres and LOS by park type.

The 2020 population estimate for Winterset is 5,353 residents. This places Winterset's overall current LOS for parks at 59.3 acres / 1,000 residents. National standards, determined based on reporting from across the country, recommend at least 10.5 acres of park per 1,000 residents. Based on these numbers, Winterset's LOS far exceeds national standards; however, it should be noted that park improvements, per the park inventory assessment, are in need.

This high level of service for parks also provides structure and benchmarks to uphold for parks and recreation services in Winterset, lending spaces to be active, exercise, and explore the natural landscape of Winterset and Madison County.

TABLE 4.1 Parks Level of Service Analysis

Park Name (Existing)	Acres	Category
Memory Lane Park	1.2	Neighborhood
Whistle Stop Park	0.8	Neighborhood
City Park	77.4	Community
Aquatic Center + Tennis/Pickleball Courts	10.2	Community
George Washington Carver Memorial Park	0.03	Special Use
Cedar Lake (excluding waterbody)	183.0	Special Use
Dog Park	4.5	Special Use
Giffin Fields	13.1	Special Use
Skate Park	0.6	Special Use
Martin Marietta Soccer Complex	9.4	Special Use
Softball Complex	6.9	Special Use
Winterset City Campground	10.3	Special Use
TOTAL	317.4	-

Existing Population (2020)	5,353	-
Existing Level of Service (LOS)	59.3	-
Level of Service by Type	Acres	Level of Service
Neighborhood Park	2.0	0.37
Community Park	87.6	16.4
Special Use Park	227.8	42.5
Total (Existing)	317.4	59.3

Level of Service (LOS) Recommendations	Recommended LOS*	Existing LOS*
Neighborhood Park	1.25 to 2.0	0.37
Community Park	5.5 to 8.0	16.4
Special Use Park	-	42.5
TOTAL	10.5	59.3

* LOS - Level of Services is an attempt at standardizing how well a community is served by parks on a total acre per a certain amount of population. National standards are identified by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) as well as Planner's Estimating Guides

*Special Use Parks do not have a standard LOS because the function and size will vary widely based on specific special uses present.

PARKS ASSESSMENT

Existing Park Service Area Analysis

Another way to assess how well-served a community is by parks is to look at service areas, which roughly depict how far of geographic range a park will serve.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks will serve an area of between 1/4 and 1/2 mile, providing the immediately surrounding residents with park amenities. These are illustrated in Figure 4.11 is dark blue. These parks include Memory Lane and Whistle Stop Parks.

Special Use Parks

Special use parks are more varied because of the wider range of unique services they provide. For this analysis, they are set at a range of 1/2 mile and include all sports fields in Winterset. In Figure 4.11, these special use parks can be identified by the lighter blue circles.

Community Parks

Community parks will serve a larger area of typically 1 mile. City Park and the Aquatic Center + Tennis/ Pickleball Courts are the two community-level parks in Winterset and illustrated in Figure 4.11 with the red dashed circle.







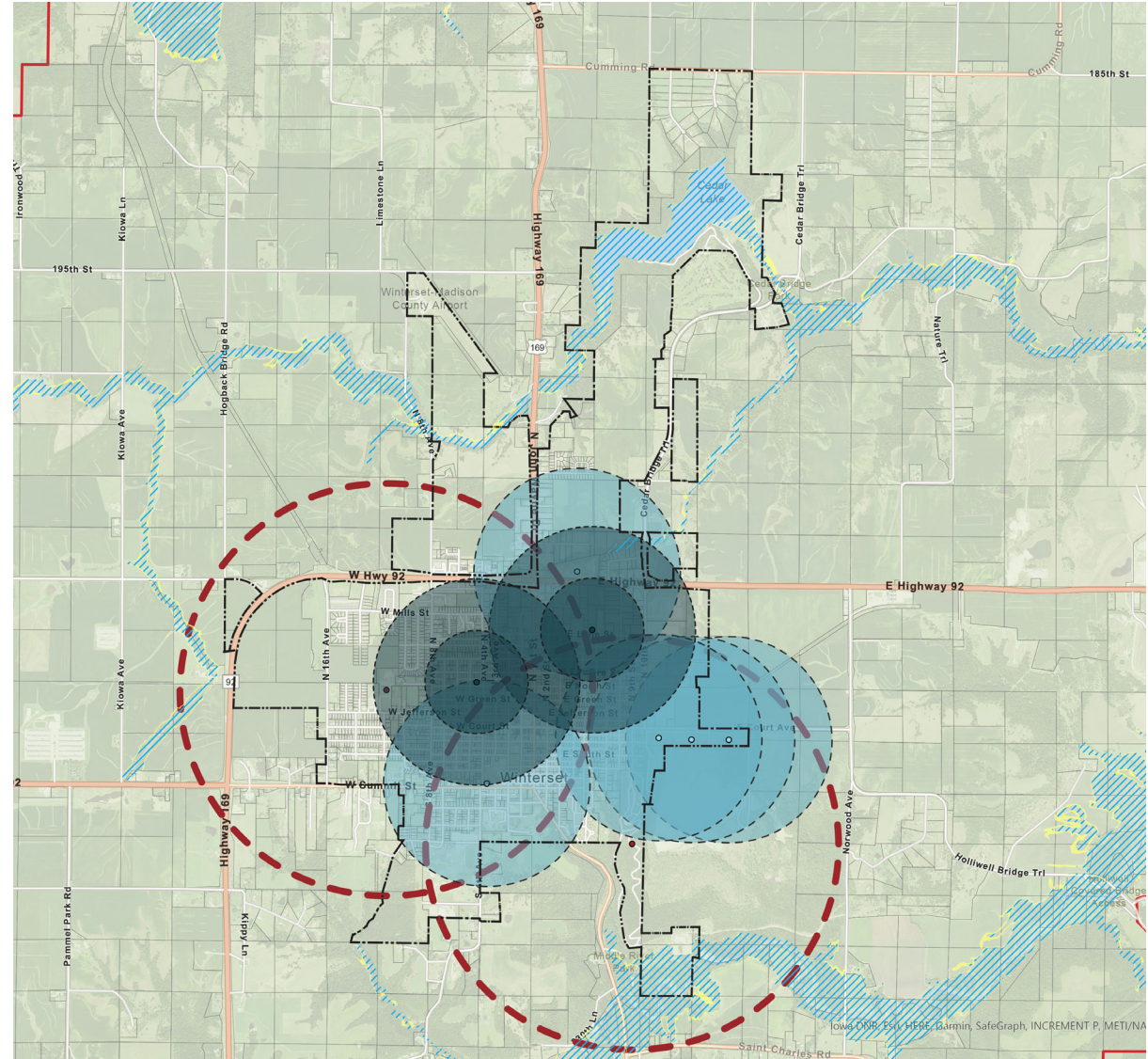




-  City Limits
-  100-Year Floodplain
-  500-Year Floodplain
-  Neighborhood Park 1/4-mile and 1/2-mile Buffer
-  Special Use Park 1/2-mile Buffer
-  Community Park 1-mile Buffer

FIGURE 4.14 Existing Park Service Area Analysis



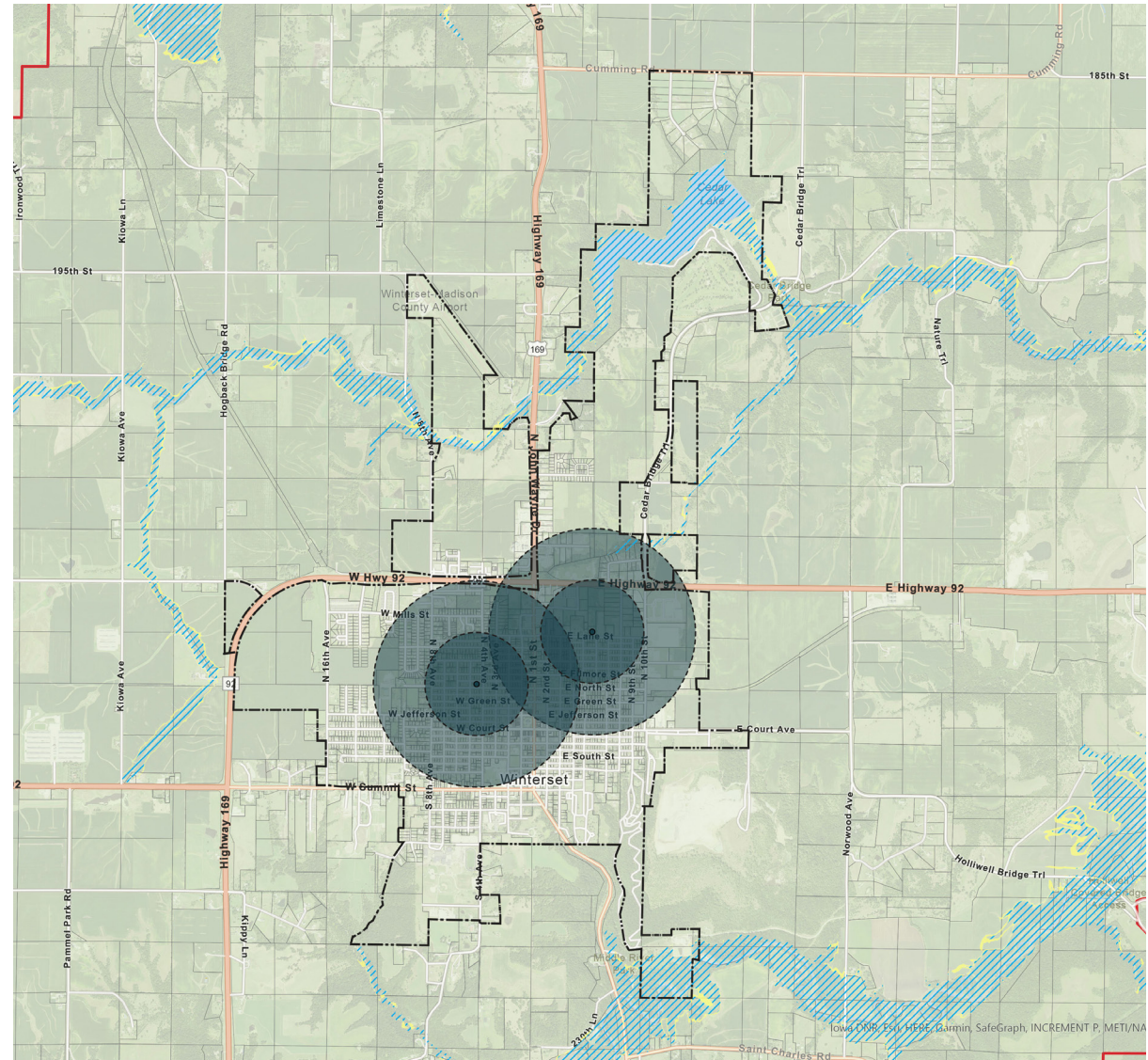
-  City Limits
-  100-Year Floodplain
-  500-Year Floodplain
-  Neighborhood Park 1/4-mile and 1/2-mile Buffer





PARKS ASSESSMENT

Existing Neighborhood Park Service Area Analysis

Neighborhood parks in Winterset include Memory Lane and Whistle Stop Parks. Figure 4.12 highlights the service areas for these parks at a 1/4 and 1/2 mile extent. These two parks provide a variety of amenities to residents, primarily geared toward the youth of Winterset, with their playgrounds and basketball courts. The service areas for these parks extend into the core of Winterset's residential areas; however, there is a gap in service for the southern portion of the community.

FIGURE 4.15 Existing Neighborhood Park Service Area Analysis



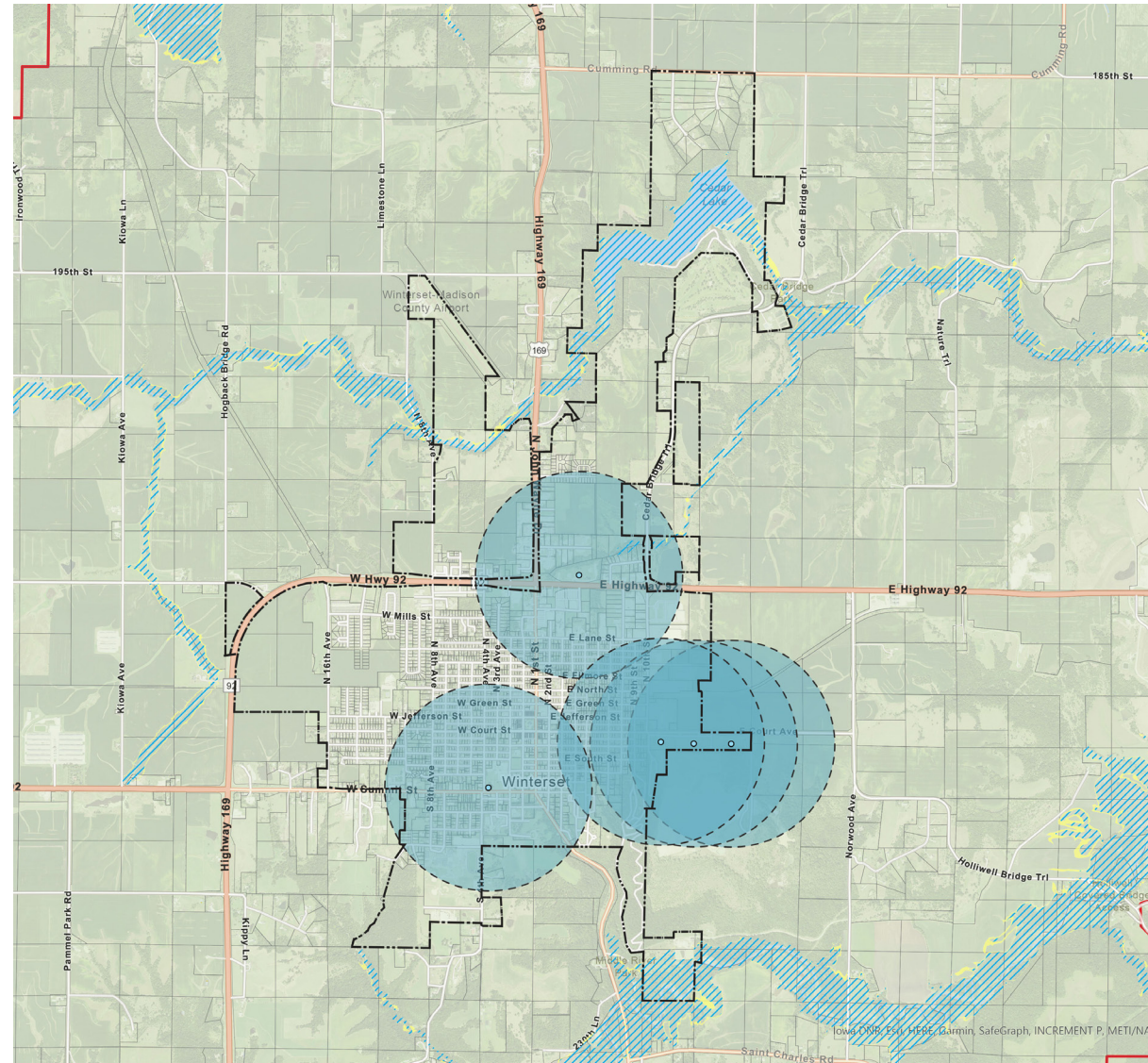
-  City Limits
-  100-Year Floodplain
-  500-Year Floodplain
-  Special Use Park 1/2-mile Buffer





PARKS ASSESSMENT

Existing Special Use Park Service Area Analysis

Special use parks in Winterset provide a number of services to the community. Ranging from baseball and softball to soccer, these parks provided dedicated services that contribute to the active recreation programs in Winterset. The buffer for special use parks is set at 1/2 mile to capture a broader extent of serviced residents. Because these parks function more as destinations for their offered programs, they are not likely to be located in the heart of neighborhoods, but rather in high-trafficked areas to serve a larger audience. This is reflected in Figure 4.13 through its depiction of park locations along major roadways. Furthermore, these parks and their service areas are heavily concentrated in the eastern quadrant of the city.

FIGURE 4.16 Existing Special Use Park Service Area Analysis



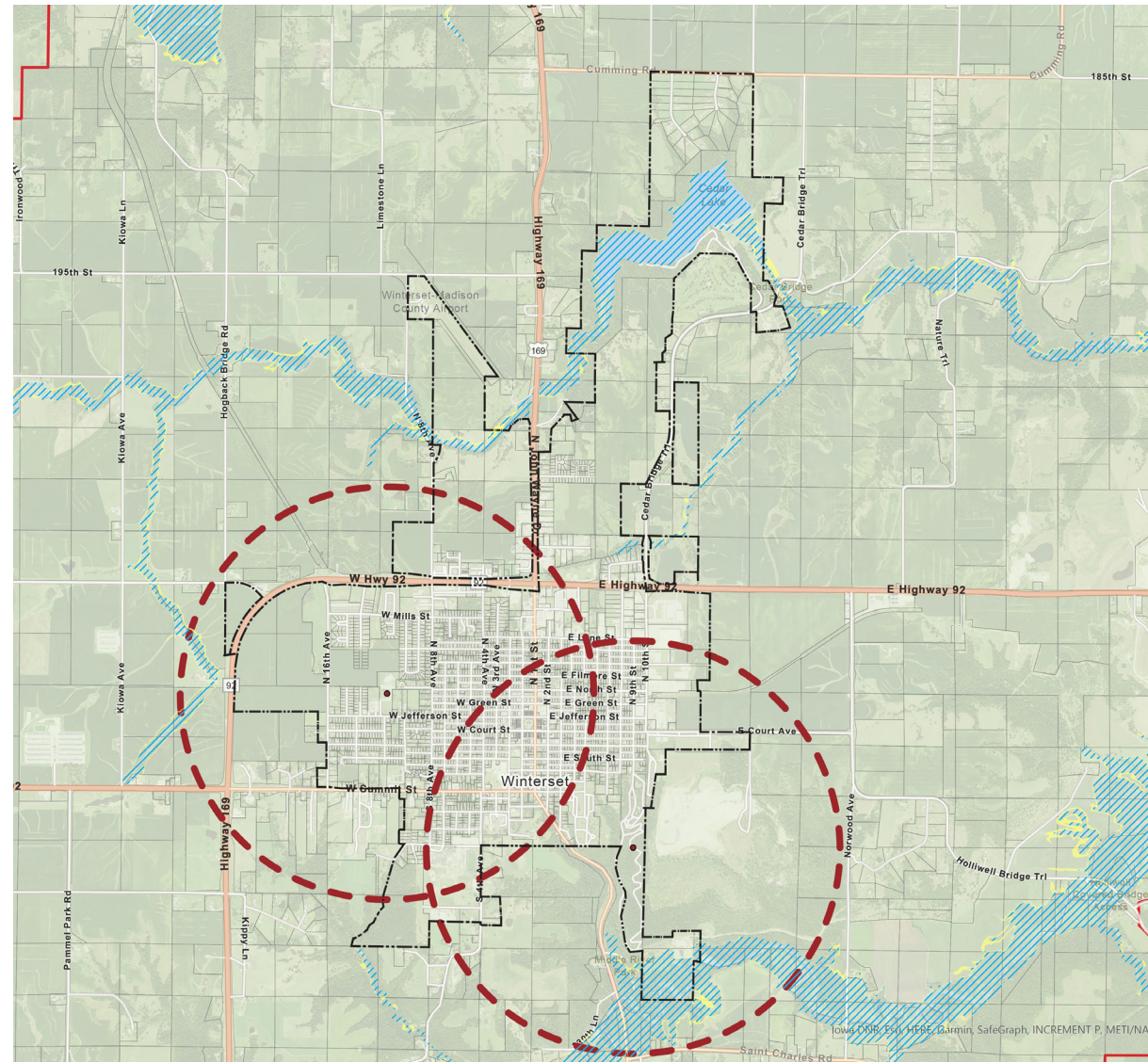
-  City Limits
-  100-Year Floodplain
-  500-Year Floodplain
-  Community Park 1-mile Buffer






PARKS ASSESSMENT

Existing Community Park Service Area Analysis

Community parks in Winterset include City Park and the Aquatic Center + Tennis/Pickleball Courts. These two parks are the largest of all in the City, and provide numerous amenities for their visitors. Because of their larger size and the sheer number of amenities provided, these parks have a larger service area of 1 mile. Similar to special use parks, community parks operate as destinations, offering visitors a variety of activities and longer periods of play. [Figure 4.14](#) illustrates the service areas for these two parks, conveying a well-served community at the 1-mile extent. As development occurs to the north, it would benefit the greater community to consider an additional park to service those additional residents.

FIGURE 4.17 Existing Community Park Service Area Analysis



-  City Limits
-  Sidewalks
-  Sidewalk Gap
-  10-Minute Walk-Time
-  Winterset Playlots

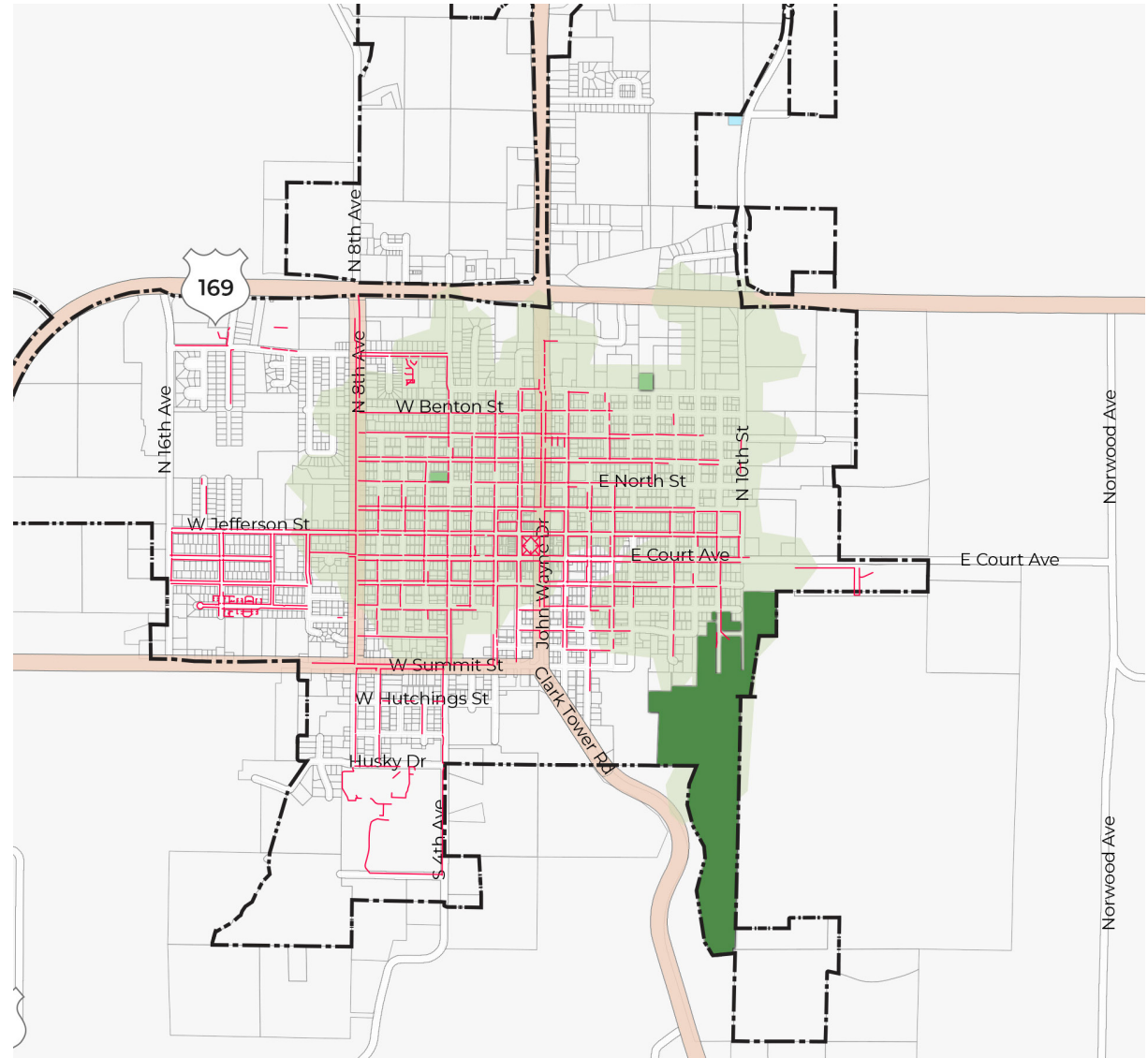
PARKS ASSESSMENT

Walk-Time Analysis

Ideally, all residents would live within a reasonable walk time of a park, which is typically defined as between 5 and 15 minutes. The ability to walk or bike to a park can greatly impact quality of life for residents and is a significant consideration in assessing the quality of a park system.

Figure 4.15 shows the walk-time analysis for parks with playlots in Winterset. This analysis only accounts for playlots after discussion with residents and staff on what a park needs to have to be counted as such. In this case, it was necessary that parks had playgrounds or playlots as key amenities, resulting in Memory Lane, Whistle Stop, and City Park to be eligible for the walk-time analysis. The light green shows the 10-minute walk time in Winterset. While the core of Winterset is well-served by parks, there are several other key residential areas throughout the community that are under-served. One way to address this would be to expand the availability of neighborhood-serving parks with playgrounds in Winterset as the community grows.

FIGURE 4.18 Walk-Time Analysis



PARKS ASSESSMENT

Recreation Program Assessment

Winterset has a wide variety of programs and activities available to residents. The programs, especially in recent years, continue to grow and evolve to better serve the overall community and their desires. For a community of Winterset's size, the recreation programs are very well-utilized. Table 4.2 details each program, 2018 number of participants, 2022 number of participants, and the participant change of increase or decrease per program.

The higher attended programs for youth groups include:

- Youth Basketball League
- Swim Lessons
- T-Ball

The higher attended programs for adults include:

- Adult Bags League
- Women's Volleyball League
- Pickleball

TABLE 4.2 Recreation Programs in Winterset

Recreation Program	2018 # of Participants	2022 # of Participants	Participant Change
<i>Youth Sports Programs</i>			
Basketball Clinic	35	41	+6
Girl's Volleyball	38	73	+35
Youth Basketball Clinic (Lil Husky)	32	53	+21
Youth Basketball League	104	207	+103
Blastball	48	0	-48
T-Ball	94	160	+66
Flag Football	58	114	+56
Youth Tennis Lessons	15	9	-6
Youth Sports Camp	5	N/A	-5
Youth Fishing	N/A	60	+60
Session 1 Swim Lessons	140	185	+45
Session 2 Swim Lessons	28	205	+177
Session 3 Swim Lessons	167	164	-3
Aqua Fit Session 1	N/A	7	+7
Aqua Fit Session 2	N/A	18	+18
Father/Daughter Dance	184	252	+68
<i>Adult Sports Programs</i>			
Women's Volleyball	14	9	-5
Adult CO-ED Volleyball	7	10	+3
CO-ED Softball	8	5	-3
Adult Bags League	N/A	30	+30
Men's Pickleball	N/A	4	+4
Women's Pickleball	N/A	6	+6
CO-ED Pickleball	N/A	6	+6

PARKS ASSESSMENT

Events and Activities

There are a variety of events and activities available to youth and adults in Winterset throughout the year. Similar to the sports programs, the activities continue to gain momentum and participation.

The higher attended events include:

- Notes from the North Pole
- Father-Daughter Dance
- Private Swim Lessons

TABLE 4.3 Events and Activities in Winterset

Activity/ Event	2018 # of Participants	2022 # of Participants	Participant Increase
<i>Youth Activities</i>			
Junior Fire + Police	3	11	+8
Father-Daughter Dance	92	110	+18
Playground in the Park	31	N/A	-31
Notes from North Pole	12	122	+110
Mother-Son Nerf War	N/A	34	+34
Private Swim Lessons	N/A	73	+73
Cardboard Boat Race	N/A	14	+14
<i>Community Activities</i>			
Winterset .150K	N/A	130	+130
Easter Egg Hunt	N/A	225	+225



PARKS ASSESSMENT

Gymnasium Sharing in Winterset

Gymnasiums in Winterset are solely owned and operated by the Winterset Community School District (WCSD). Due to this, Winterset Parks and Recreation (WPR) and WCSD actively coordinate gym space for both school-affiliated practice and game times, as well as recreational program practice and game times. Throughout the stakeholder interviews for this process, it was mentioned on many occasions how well these two entities work together in ensuring an efficient and fair use of space. It is a goal within this plan to encourage this partnership to continue to grow and serve one another.

Existing Gym Requests

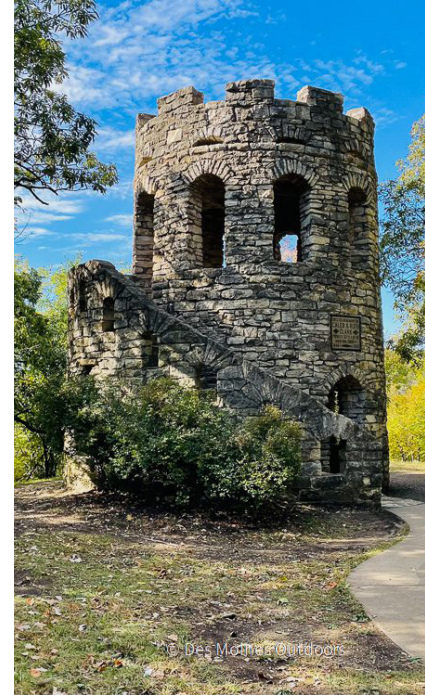
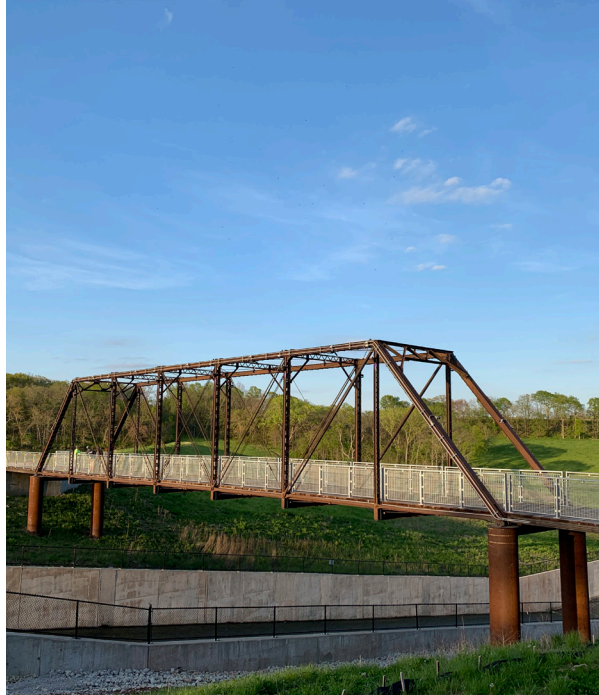
Table 4.4 shows the Parks and Recreation Department's gym requests for the 2022-23 season. As it relates to facility reservation priority, all school sports and activities take top priority, followed by WPR activities and programs, then club teams. Each year, as programs grow and facility demand increases, there is added pressure in ensuring each team and age group gets adequate practice and playing time, while also working to fit within the available times provided by WCSD. This should be considered as both the City and WCSD look to expand their available facilities throughout the community.






TABLE 4.4 Parks and Recreation Gymnasium Requests for 2022-2023

Date	Day	Time	Gym	Activity
Aug. 27	Sat.	9 AM- 2 PM	Jr. High	Youth Volleyball
Sept. 5-23	M-F	5:30 PM- 9PM	Jr. High + Elementary	Volleyball practice (twice/week)
Sept. 7-Nov. 2	Wed.	5:30 PM- 10 PM	Jr. High	Adult Volleyball League
Sept. 27- Nov. 1	Tues.	5:30 PM- 9 PM	Jr. High	3rd/4th Volleyball
Sept. 29- Nov. 3	Thurs.	5:30 PM- 9 PM	Jr. High	5th/6th Volleyball
Sept. 26- Nov. 2	M/W/F	5:30 PM- 9 PM	Jr. High + Elementary	Volleyball Practice (once a week per team)
Nov. 12	Sat.	12 PM - 6 PM	Competition Gym	Youth Basketball
Nov. 21-Feb. 24	M-F	6 PM - 9 PM	Elementary	1st/2nd Basketball Practice
Nov. 21-Feb. 24	M-F	6 PM - 9 PM	Middle School	3rd/4th Basketball Practice
Nov. 21-Feb. 24	Sat./Sun.	1 PM - 9 PM	Middle School	3rd/4th Basketball Practice
Nov. 21-Feb. 24	M-F	6 PM - 9 PM	Penrod	5th/6th Basketball Practice
Nov. 21-Feb. 24	Sat./Sun.	1 PM - 9 PM	Penrod	5th/6th Basketball Practice
Nov. 5-Dec. 17	Sat.	9 AM - 1 PM	Elementary	Little Husky Dribble Clinics
Dec. 4- Feb. 5	Sun.	11 AM - 7 PM	Jr. High	Adult Pickleball League
Jan. 7- Feb. 25	Sat.	7 AM - 8PM	Elementary	Youth Basketball Games (1st-2nd)
Jan. 7- Feb. 25	Sat.	7 AM - 8PM	Middle School	Youth Basketball Games (3rd-6th)
Jan. 25- March 29	Wed.	6 PM - 10 PM	Jr. High	Adult COED Volleyball
Feb. 4	Sat.	8 AM - 4 PM	Elementary	Mother/Son Nerf War

CHAPTER FIVE

TRAILS PLAN



-  City Limits
-  100-Year Floodplain
-  500-Year Floodplain
-  Shared-Use Paths
-  Cedar Lake Nature Trail

EXISTING SHARED-USE PATHS AND TRAILS IN WINTERSET

Existing Shared-Use Paths

Shared-Use Paths

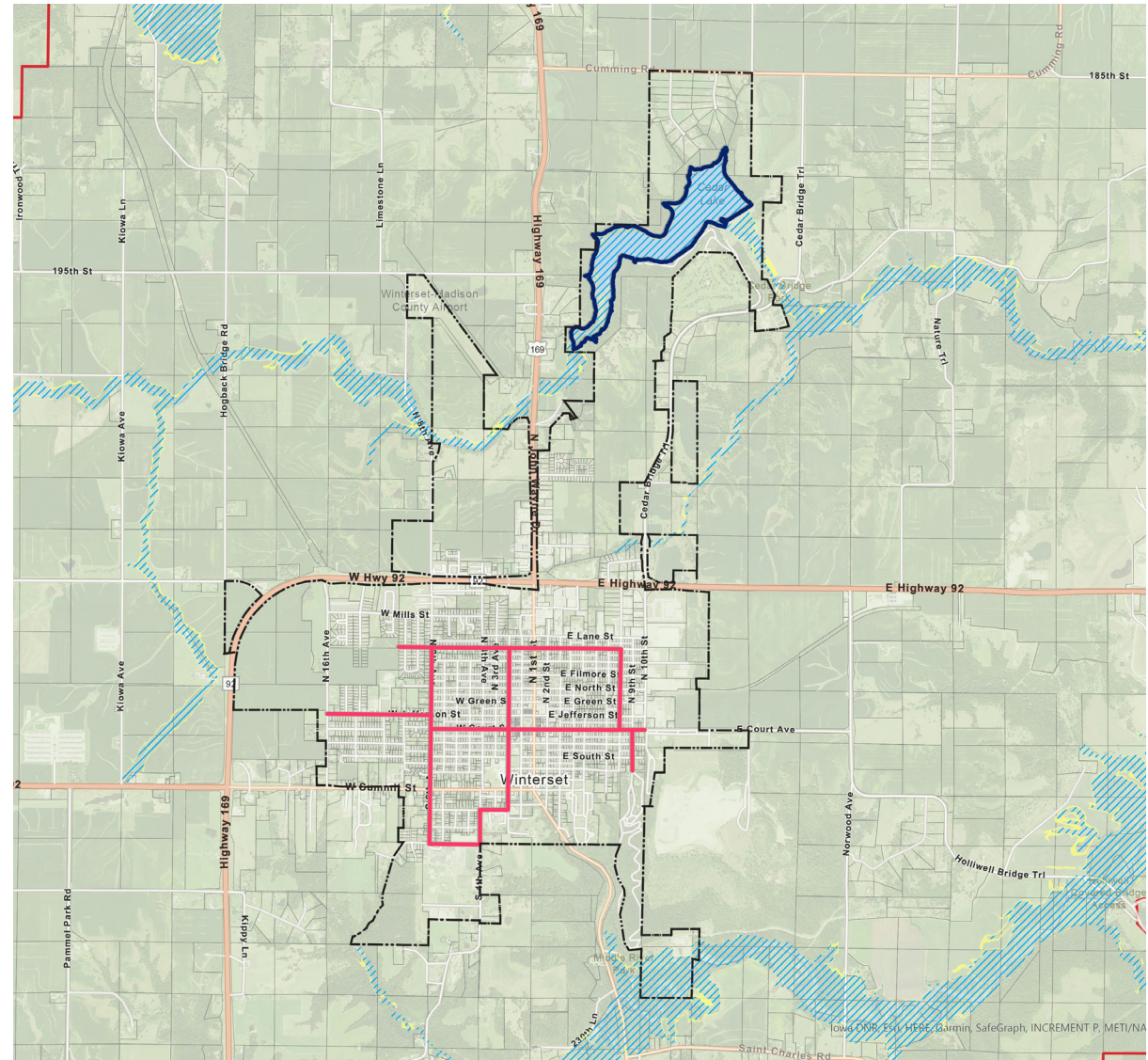
Winterset also has a small, shared-use path network in the core of the community. The pathways connect cyclists and pedestrians to major roadways. The overall shared-use path network is fairly limited, but sets a strong foundation to build a more expansive network.






Existing Trails

Cedar Lake Nature Trail

Winterset has made great strides in expanding its trail network. Within the last two years, the City has coordinated with local departments and the Iowa Conservation Corporation to establish a trail around Cedar Lake. Cedar Lake Nature Trail is a 3.2-mile hiking trail that runs the perimeter of the lake. The project began with the relocation of the historic 1911 Jurgenson Bridge across the spillway. From there, the trail was established and is open to the public as weather permits.

FIGURE 5.1 Existing Shared-Use Paths and Trails in Winterset



-  City Limits
-  100-Year Floodplain
-  500-Year Floodplain
-  Shared-Use Paths
-  Proposed Shared-Use Paths

PROPOSED SHARED-USE PATHS IN WINTERSET

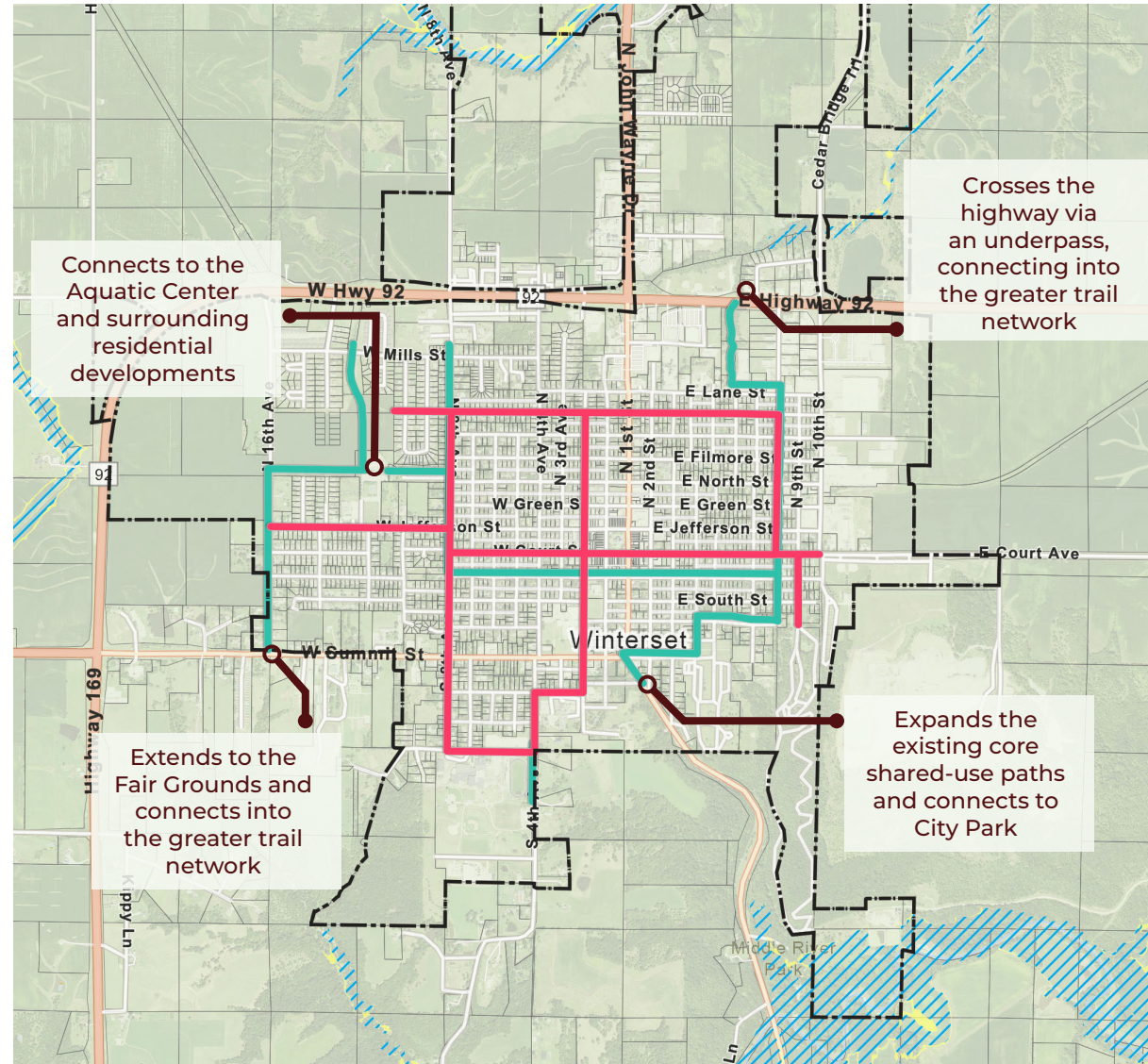
Proposed Shared-Use Paths

Shared-Use Paths

Shared-use paths are facilities that are located on exclusive right-of-way and have minimal interaction with vehicles. These pathways are intended to serve pedestrians and bicyclists with dedicated spaces to move throughout the community. Typically, these pathways are located along natural features, such as rivers, abandoned rail lines, and utility rights-of-way. Shared-use paths are generally larger than traditional sidewalk widths to account for both pedestrians and bicyclists sharing the roads at the same time. Their sizes range anywhere from 5-foot-wide to 12-foot-wide, with flexibility to manipulate the pathway to fit the site it is located on.

The proposed shared-use paths build upon the existing system discussed on the previous page. These extents, shown in light blue in Figure 5.2, illustrate the proposed shared-use paths. The goal of expanding the shared-use path network is to connect pedestrians and bicyclists from the core of Winterset out to the greater trail network. Additionally, shared-use paths help connect pedestrians and bicyclists to immediate services and amenities.

FIGURE 5.2 Existing and Proposed Shared-Use Paths in Winterset



- City Limits
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain
- Shared-Use Paths
- Proposed Shared-Use Paths
- Cedar Lake Nature Trail
- Proposed Trails
- Proposed Regional Trail Connection

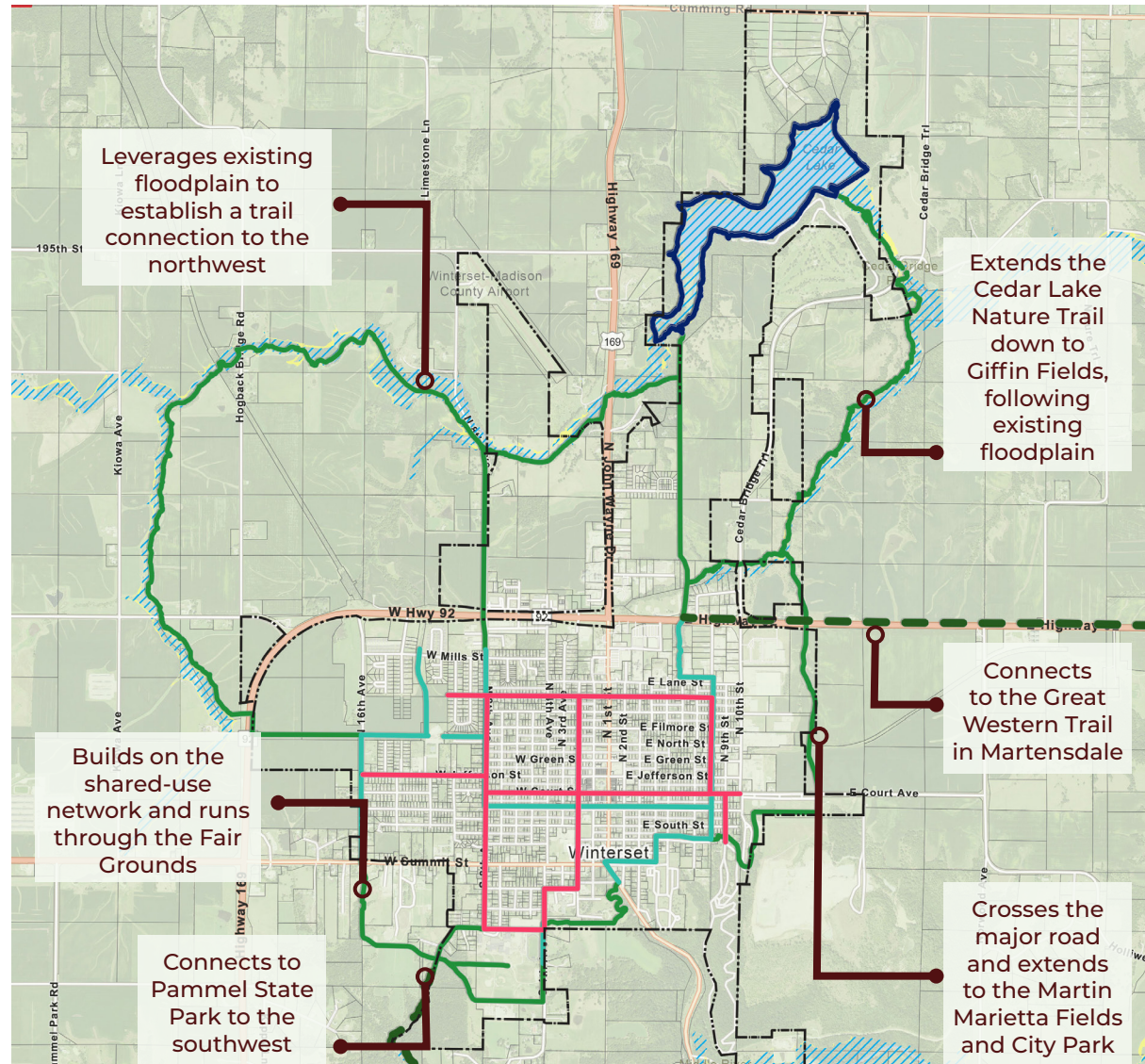
PROPOSED TRAILS IN WINTERSSET

Proposed Trails

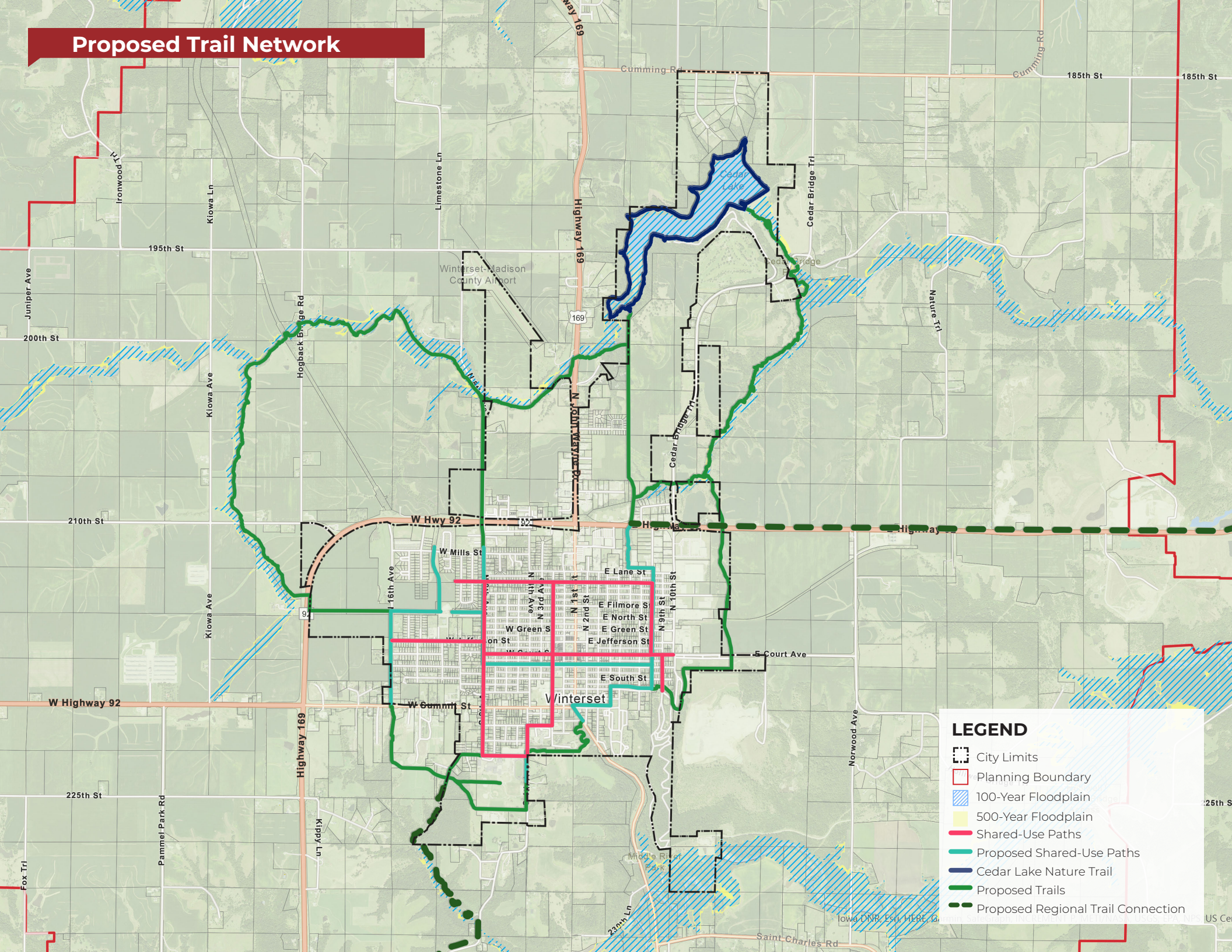
As mentioned in previous pages, the existing trail network in Winterset is limited to the Cedar Lake Trail. The proposed trails, shown in dark green in Figure 5.3, work to connect Cedar Lake Trail to the core of Winterset and establish a robust network for each quadrant of the city. Highways 169 and 92 act as dividing lines, splitting the city into four separate quadrants. Within these quadrants, there is a proposed loop to service the residents of the immediate area that then also connects into the overall trail network. These appear as dedicated trails in the northwest and northeast quadrants due to the lack of development that has taken place here, whereas the southwest and southeast quadrants leverage the existing shared-use paths to establish the resident-focused loops.

In consideration for the broader connections this trail network can make long-term, there are proposed extensions, shown in dark, dashed green, that extend to Pammel State Park to the south, and the Great Western Trail trailhead in Martensdale to the east.

FIGURE 5.3 Existing and Proposed Shared-Use Paths and Trails in Winterset



Proposed Trail Network



CHAPTER SIX

DEMAND + FORECASTING



POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population Growth

Table 6.1 summarizes the average population projection and added population for Winterset for 2020-2050 in ten-year increments. Based on the 2020 average household size, this added population was translated into demand for number of households in 2020 through 2050 in 10-year increments.

By 2050, Winterset population growth may lead to demand for 1,320 households to serve the estimated 8,267 residents.

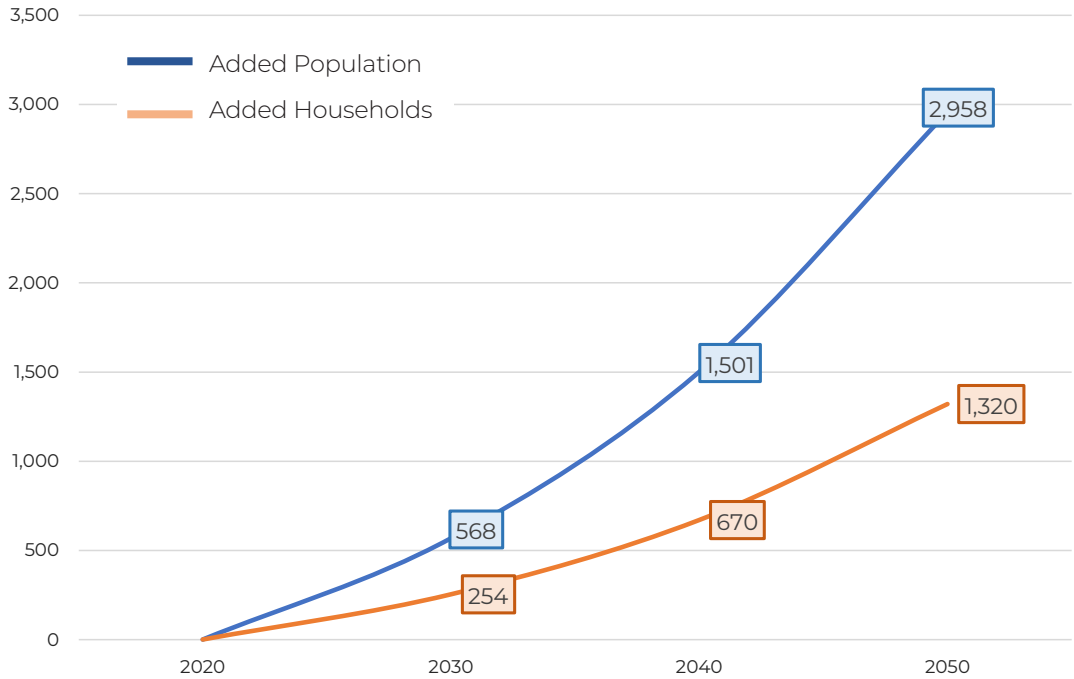
These projections impact parks and recreation for the demand placed on facilities and programs. In order to maintain the high level of service in existence today, Winterset must be intentional with its investments and prioritization of improvements to ensure the needs of the community are being met. Additional impacts from the anticipated population growth will be the additional demand this places on employees and workloads. As the parks and recreation system grows, there should be additional considerations made as to how the staffing needs to grow within the department as well. The following pages will identify key considerations, additional needed park space based on level of service and potential locations for parks to assist in guiding the City as population growth occurs.

TABLE 6.1 Population Projection Average / Added Population

Year	Average Growth	Average Added Population	Average Added Households
2020	5,309	-	-
2030	5,877	+ 568	+ 254
2040	6,810	+ 1,501	+ 670
2050	8,267	+ 2,958	+ 1,320

Source: Confluence, with inputs from U.S. Census Bureau

FIGURE 6.1 Added Population + Households by Decade 2020-2050



Source: Confluence, with inputs from U.S. Census Bureau

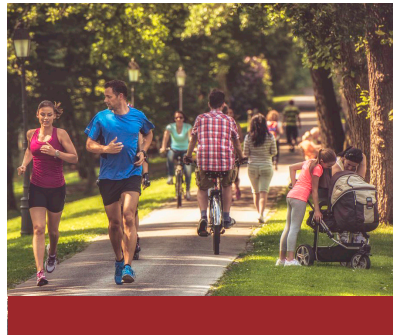
KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Future Park Key Considerations

There are several nationally recognized parks and recreation trends that Winterset should consider when comprehensive planning for a parks + recreation system. The following big picture themes are discussed:

- Impact of COVID-19
- Historic Preservation Costs
- Health + Human Services
- Technology Integration
- Changing Weather Patterns
- Inclusivity

Some of these trends are more likely than others to impact Winterset, however, all should be kept in mind during park planning for the future.



Impact of COVID-19

A positive outcome from the COVID-19 pandemic was a resurgence of interest in parks and outdoor space in general. There are many experts that expect this trend to continue in the coming decades, which makes the need for a well rounded and high-quality park system critical to the success of a community.



Historic Preservation Costs

Winterset's historic character remains strong and vibrant throughout the community's built environment. While historic structures typically have high initial costs, these upgrades and investments can have decade-long benefits and should be prioritized wherever possible.



Health and Social Services

The COVID-19 pandemic also brought on a change in the role park and recreation departments are playing across the country. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Parks Snapshots surveys show that around 60% of park departments helped with food distribution, COVID-19 testing, and other services. As the role and expectations of park and recreation systems evolve, Winterset should consider how its programming may face pressure to change or adapt their roles in the community.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS



Technology Integration

For decades, technology has become more intertwined with everyday life including parks and recreation departments. Online scheduling has made facility rentals and youth sport programs more efficient. Other technology integrations in parks that are emerging include the integration of technology into playground equipment. Companies such as Yalp Interactive specialize in playground that have a strong technology component. This may become requested in Winterset parks as these amenities become more widespread.



Changing Weather Patterns

Climate change as altered many of our weather patterns across the globe making events such as flooding or droughts more frequent and unpredictable. Both extremes can have negative impacts on our parks and recreation facilities. By integrating functional landscapes such as green infrastructure to help manage stormwater and irrigation on-site with natural ecological functions, Winterset can have a more resilient and sustainable park system.



Inclusivity

More and more, park systems are experiencing demand for park facilities that are inclusive to users of all ages and ability levels. ADA accessible playgrounds and amenities such as Miracle Fields are popping up across the country, state and metro area. Winterset has been proactive in these efforts by already fundraising and constructing a universal playground that is located at City Park. This unique amenity will only increase the number of people City Park can safely serve to play and explore.



WINTERSET'S INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

Play for All Inclusive Playground Project

An inclusive playground is set to be constructed in Winterset in 2023 following successful fundraising. This project is a partnership between the City of Winterset Parks and Recreation Department, the Rotary Club, and the Inclusive Playground Committee. The inclusive playground is setting Winterset apart from many U.S. communities, providing a play space accessible to all in the community. The initial goal of \$1,000,000 in funds was surpassed, with a total of \$1,072,271 worth of contributions, pledges, and gifts obtained in eight months.

The images to the right present the initial design scheme for the Winterset Inclusive Playground. An inclusive playground differs from conventional playgrounds due to its unique play areas that meet a variety of needs and interests. Inclusive playgrounds are also a welcome resource to parents who have children with disabilities or an aging caregiver who wants to interact with the children in their care. Offering numerous ways to interact with the space through color, sound, texture, and movement, users will be able to find a space within the playground that lets them explore and be active.



FUTURE PARK DEMAND ESTIMATES

Future Park Demand Estimates

Table 6.3 shows the projected park acre demand estimates for Winterset based on 2030, 2040, and 2050 population growth scenarios. Park demand estimates were created using the existing Winterset level of service of 59.3 acres/ 1,000 residents.

Neighborhood Parks

By 2050, Winterset is projected to have an estimated demand for an additional 10 to 27 acres for neighborhood parks.

Community Parks

By 2050, Winterset will likely need between 0 to 28 acres in additional community parks. This number is lower than expected due to the size of City Park. However, this should not diminish the need for community parks, especially as residential development north of Highway 92 continues.

Total Parks

By 2050, Winterset is expected to need between 0 and 62 acres in total park acres to meet park demand.

TABLE 6.2 Population Growth Scenarios

Population Scenario	2030	2040	2050
Low Growth Scenario	5,495	5,717	5,939
Average Growth Scenario	5,877	6,810	8,267
High Growth Scenario	6,801	9,620	14,450

TABLE 6.3 Park Demand Estimates 2030-2050

	Total			
Existing Total Park Level of Service	59.3 acres / 1,000			
Neighborhood Park Level of Service	2 acres / 1,000			
Community Park Level of Service	8 acres / 1,000			
Neighborhood Park	Existing Acres	Acre Demand 2030	Acre Demand 2040	Acre Demand 2050
Low Growth Scenario 2050	2.0 acres	11 acres	11 acres	12 acres
Average Growth Scenario 2050	2.0 acres	12 acres	14 acres	17 acres
High Growth Scenario 2050	2.0 acres	14 acres	19 acres	29 acres
Neighborhood Park Needed Acres by 2050	Between 10 and 27 acres			
Community Park	Existing Acres	Acre Demand 2030	Acre Demand 2040	Acre Demand 2050
Low Growth Scenario 2050	87.6 acres	44 acres	46 acres	48 acres
Average Growth Scenario 2050	87.6 acres	47 acres	54 acres	66 acres
High Growth Scenario 2050	87.6 acres	54 acres	77 acres	116 acres
Community Park Needed Acres by 2050	Between 0 to 28 acres			
Total Park Acres	Existing Acres	Acre Demand 2030	Acre Demand 2040	Acre Demand 2050
Low Growth Scenario 2050	317.4 acres	144 acres	150 acres	156 acres
Average Growth Scenario 2050	317.4 acres	154 acres	178 acres	217 acres
High Growth Scenario 2050	317.4 acres	178 acres	252 acres	379 acres
Total Park Needed Acres by 2050	Between 0 and 62 acres			

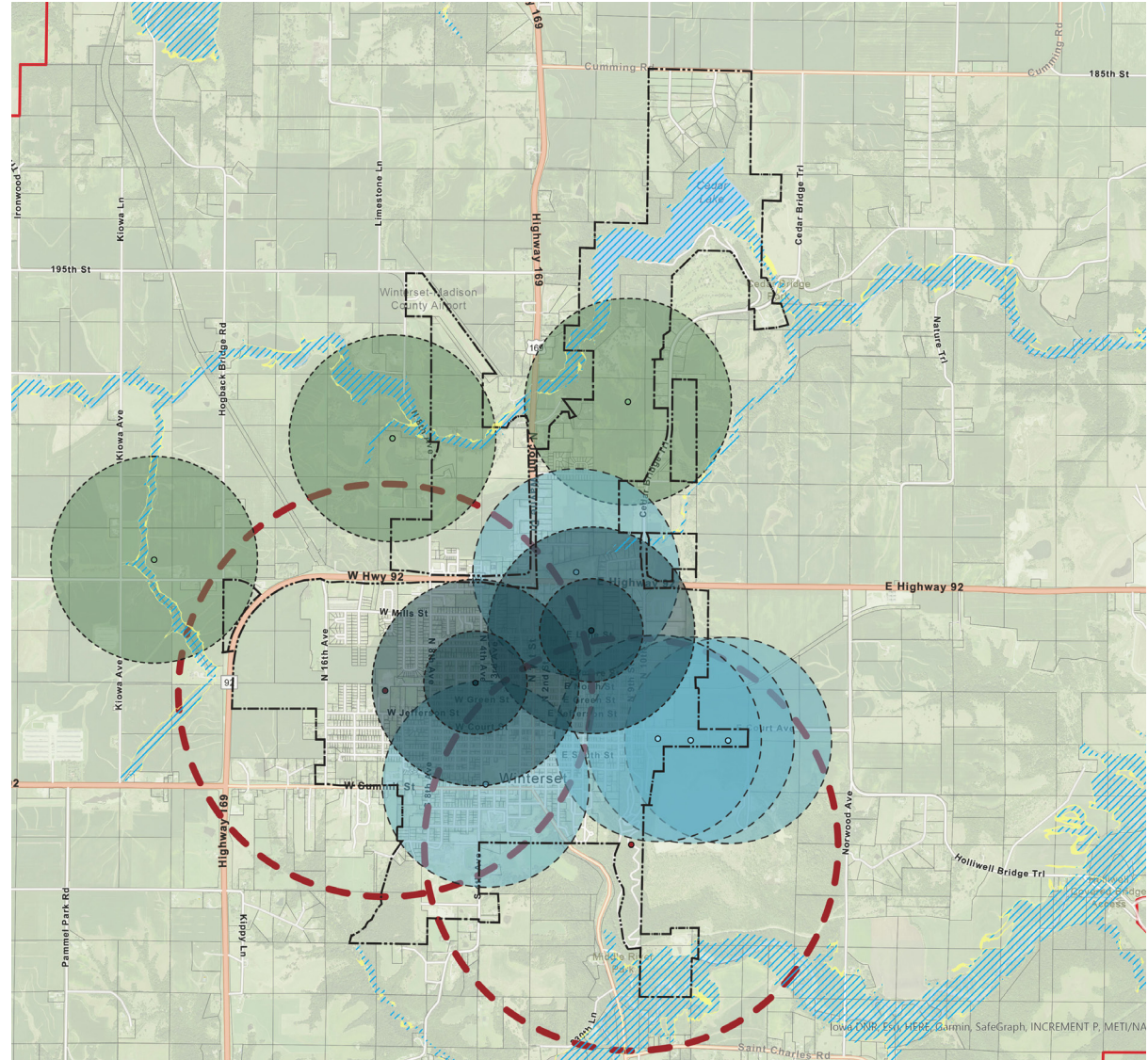
-  City Limits
-  100-Year Floodplain
-  500-Year Floodplain
-  Neighborhood Park 1/4-mile and 1/2-mile Buffer
-  Special Use Park 1/2-mile Buffer
-  Community Park 1-mile Buffer
-  Proposed Park Service Areas

FUTURE PARK SERVICES AREAS

Future Park Service Areas

While the exact location of future parks are not generally identified in either a comprehensive or parks master plan, possible future service areas can be shown. Based on the future land use plan outlined in the comprehensive plan, Figure 6.2 assists in identifying potential sites where additional park space would be greatly beneficial. The future land use plan identifies a bulk of future residential development to occur on either side of Highway 169, indicating that there will be additional need for neighborhood park space. Due to this projected demand and identified need discussed on the previous page, these parks are envisioned to be neighborhood-level parks. The buffer for these parks extend for 1/2 mile in their potential service area.

FIGURE 6.2 Future Park Service Area Map



Year	Average Population Projection
2020	5,309
2030	5,877
2040	6,810
2050	8,267

FUTURE FACILITY DEMAND ESTIMATES

Facility Demand Estimates

Existing and future facility demand estimates are shown in Table 6.4. The table summarizes the general recommendations per facility for number of sites, fields, courts, square footage, or miles per a set number of residents. Current demand and inventory are shown along with future demand for 2030-2050 at 10-year increments based on average population projections.

Exact demand for different facility types may exceed or fall below national standards based on community preference. This table should be used as a guide and not a prescription. Community surveying should be used to supplement decision-making on future facility planning for parks.

The public input received on desired park facilities showed a strong preference for the following:

- Indoor Recreational Facility (walking track, gym, pool)
- Trails for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs

Winterset is ahead on establishing some of its park facilities based on current demand numbers, such as its dog and skate parks. These are incredibly unique assets for the community to have and should be maintained to remain so.

An indoor facility was provided as top priority on numerous occasions in the public feedback. The 2050 square footage provided in Table 6.4 should be the focus of consideration. It would be most efficient with City dollars to build to this capacity so as not to have to incrementally expand as population growth occurs.

TABLE 6.4 Facility Demand Estimates

Outdoor Facility	Recommended Level of Service			Existing Inventory	Existing Demand	2030 Demand	2040 Demand	2050 Demand
Picnic Shelters	1	site per	1,800	9	3	3	4	5
Playground	1	site per	2,000	4	3	3	3	4
Dog Parks	1	site per	50,000	1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1
Skate Parks	1	site per	50,000	1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1
Splash Pads	1	site per	15,000	0	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1
Outdoor Pools	1	site per	40,000	1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1
Indoor Facility	Recommended Level of Service			Existing Inventory	Existing Demand	2030 Demand	2040 Demand	2050 Demand
Indoor Pools	1	site per	35,000	0	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1
Indoor Recreation	2	SF per person		0	10,618 SF	11,754 SF	13,620 SF	16,534 SF
Recreational Facility	Recommended Level of Service			Existing Inventory	Existing Demand	2030 Demand	2040 Demand	2050 Demand
Baseball Field	1	field per	5,000	3	1	1	1	1
Softball Field	1	field per	5,000	2	1	1	1	2
Tennis Courts	1	court per	2,000	2	3	5	6	9
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1	court per	5,000	1.5	1	1	1	2
Sand Volleyball Courts	1	court per	5,000	0	1	1	1	2
Public Golf Courses	1	per	50,000	0	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1
Walking / Jogging Trails	1	mile per	2,000	3.2 miles	2.7 miles	2.9 miles	3.4 miles	4.1 miles

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKLAND DEDICATION ORDINANCE

Neighborhood Parkland Dedication Ordinance

In order to ensure new residents and development within the City of Winterset has access to parks and open space, the City should consider adopting a neighborhood parkland dedication requirement as generally outlined in this chapter.

Purpose and Intent

When a subdivision plat for new single-family development is proposed or a site plan or building permit is submitted for a new multi-family residential development, including manufacture housing community, requirements for parkland dedication in a manner consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan should be required. The purpose of this dedication of land is to ensure that new developments support the health, safety, and welfare of future residents by providing land for public parks within the City and within areas being newly developed or redeveloped for residential purposes.

Standard for Public Parkland Per Resident

The desired standard for the amount of parkland is 7.5-acres per 1,000 residents or 0.005 acres of parkland per resident. Based on the estimated number of 2.24 residents per dwelling unit the following calculations can be applied for new residential developments.

$$\text{Number of lots or dwelling units} \times (2.24 \text{ residents}) \times (0.0075 \text{ acres/resident}) = \text{required parkland dedication}$$

For example, a 100-lot single family subdivision would be required to dedicate 1.68 acres of parkland. $(100 \text{ lots}) \times (2.24 \text{ residents}) \times (0.0075 \text{ acres/resident}) = 1.68 \text{ acres}$

Parkland Dedication Minimum Design Standards

Land dedicated for parkland shall be located within the same neighborhood park service area, as identified in the City's adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan, in which the subject development is located. The specific location of the land to be dedicated shall be acceptable to the City and shall be located and planned with future parkland dedications to create a neighborhood park site that will be no less than 3 acres in size.

All land to be dedicated to meet this with the parkland dedication requirement shall be useable park space and shall not be located within any floodplain, shall not contain any areas for storm water detention, and shall have cross slopes no greater than 5%. The dedicator of parkland shall be responsible for rough grading, stabilization, and seeding of the parkland and providing paved public street access, sanitary sewer services, and water service to the property.

Alternatives to Dedication of Parkland

When all or a portion of the required parkland cannot be dedicated, the developer shall construct or otherwise complete park improvements within the neighborhood park service area equal to the value of the required parkland dedication. The value of the required parkland dedication shall be based on the fair market value of the land that would otherwise be dedicated. The fair market value of the land shall be determined by a method approved by the City, such as an appraisal from certified land appraiser or the price of a recent land sale. The value of the proposed park improvements shall also be determined by a method approved by the City, such as a licensed engineer's cost opinion or written quote from an independent contractor. Subject to approval by the City, park improvements

may include construction and installation of trails, parking lots, playground equipment, park shelters, tennis courts, basketball courts, ball fields and appurtenances, and landscaping and the dedication of land or easements necessary for planned trails. The developer shall provide written proof of the land's value and written estimates of the costs of the park improvements.

The City may further allow a portion of the parkland dedication requirement be satisfied by the dedication of greenways and stream buffers as may be desired by the City. Because this land has a reduced value as neighborhood park space, the following dedication conversion rate should be applied: 1-acre of greenway or stream buffer dedicated to the City shall be equivalent and worth 0.10-acre of required parkland.

Parkland Dedication Credit


Should a new development desire to dedicate more parkland than is required, the dedicator may sell or transferred the parkland credit to another developer or apply as credit for a current or future parkland dedication requirement. Written notice and copies of a transfer agreement shall be provided to the City as record of all credits transferred or sold to another party.

FINAL SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS

The planning process for both the Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan has allowed the consultant team to interact with many Winterset residents. The Community Opinions and Interest Survey provided quantitative preferencing on parks and recreation improvements, public input from the Comprehensive Plan allowed the consultant team to have group and one-on-one discussions on their dreams and desires, and the parks inventory provided up-to-date data on the existing conditions and needs for each park in Winterset.

From the feedback and forecasting, priority improvements can begin to be identified. The following pages break these down into the following groups:

- ▶ Outdoor Facilities
- ▶ Indoor Facilities
- ▶ Trail Network
- ▶ Programs



OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Existing Outdoor Facilities

As discussed in Chapter 4. Parks Assessment, there are many strengths and opportunities identified for each City-operated park in Winterset. As funds and grants come about, the City should prioritize improving the existing parks with the provided improvement recommendations in Chapter 7. Parks Recommendations.

Future Outdoor Facilities

The existing park level of service is far above the national recommendation. Winterset should strive to maintain this level of service as residential development occurs throughout the community. The Park Service Area map series identifies areas that are more supportive of additional park space based on the future land use plan. These locations, paired with the proposed parkland dedication ordinance, should assist the City in establishing new parks and maintaining the high level of service that exists today.

Engagement
Visual Preference Exercise

DEFINING WINTERSET

Please place a GREEN dot on the amenity or feature Winterset should prioritize and a RED dot on the amenity or feature that is a lower priority.

PARKS & RECREATION




How needed are parks + recreation enhancements in Winterset?
1 = low priority 5 = high priority

Public workshop image voting results for parks and recreation.



Engagement website most voted photo for outdoor park facilities, receiving 21 votes.

FINAL SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS CONT'D



INDOOR FACILITIES

Indoor Recreation Facility

The City should explore constructing an indoor facility based on the results and feedback from the CIOS, public workshops, and engagement website. The most often-mentioned desire for parks and recreation in Winterset is an indoor facility. At a minimum, the facility should include:

- ▶ An indoor walking/running track
- ▶ Fitness and wellness programs and facilities
- ▶ Event space

Additionally, the indoor facility must serve the community year-round to provide sheltered recreation space for residents during the winter months.



The engagement website image voting results identified the above photo as the most preferred image for Parks and Recreation, receiving 37 votes.

FIGURE 6.3 Amenities That Are Most Important to Households



Most Important

FINAL SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS CONT'D

 **TRAIL NETWORK**

Existing Trail Network

The trail network in Winterset is still in its adolescence of development. The Cedar Lake Nature Trail is a positive added amenity to the community, providing a 3.2-mile trail for residents and visitors to utilize. There is a limited shared-use path network throughout the inner-core of Winterset that provides some inner mobility for residents. Because of the smaller trail network that exists today, there is added flexibility in identifying where future trails should go.

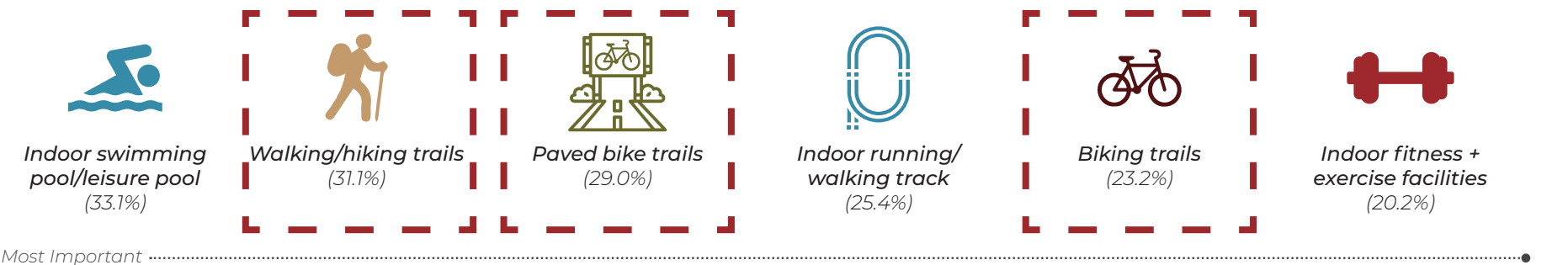
Future Trail Network

Trails, both paved and un-paved, were mentioned many times throughout the public input process as a top desire for the future of parks and recreation.

The proposed trail network in this section outlines possible routes for a more robust trail network in Winterset. The outlined network takes advantage of existing floodplain; preserving these corridors from development, and provides residents with quadrant-level and community-levels of trail access.



FIGURE 6.3 Amenities That Are Most Important to Households



Source: Community Interest and Opinion Survey, 2021

FINAL SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS CONT'D

PROGRAMS

Existing Programs

Today, the Parks and Recreation Department provides a wide variety of recreation programs for all ages of residents. The participation in each of these programs is equally high, demonstrating high community involvement in Winterset.

Future Programs

From the CIOS, residents indicated a desire to have more adult-focused programming. This would include adult fitness and wellness programs, senior fitness and wellness programs, nature programs, community special events, family programs, and continued servicing of youth sports.

Recreation Programs and Events in Winterset with the Most Participation		
Youth Sports	Adult Sports	Events
<p><i>The higher attended programs for youth groups include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Co-Ed T-Ball ▶ Youth Basketball ▶ Youth Flag Football 	<p><i>The higher attended programs for adults include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Co-Ed Softball ▶ Co-Ed Volleyball ▶ Adults Bags League 	<p><i>The higher attended events include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Movies in the Park ▶ Father/Daughter Dance ▶ Mother/Son Nerf War
		

FIGURE 6.4 Programs That Are Most Important to Households



Source: Community Interest and Opinion Survey, 2021

CHAPTER SEVEN

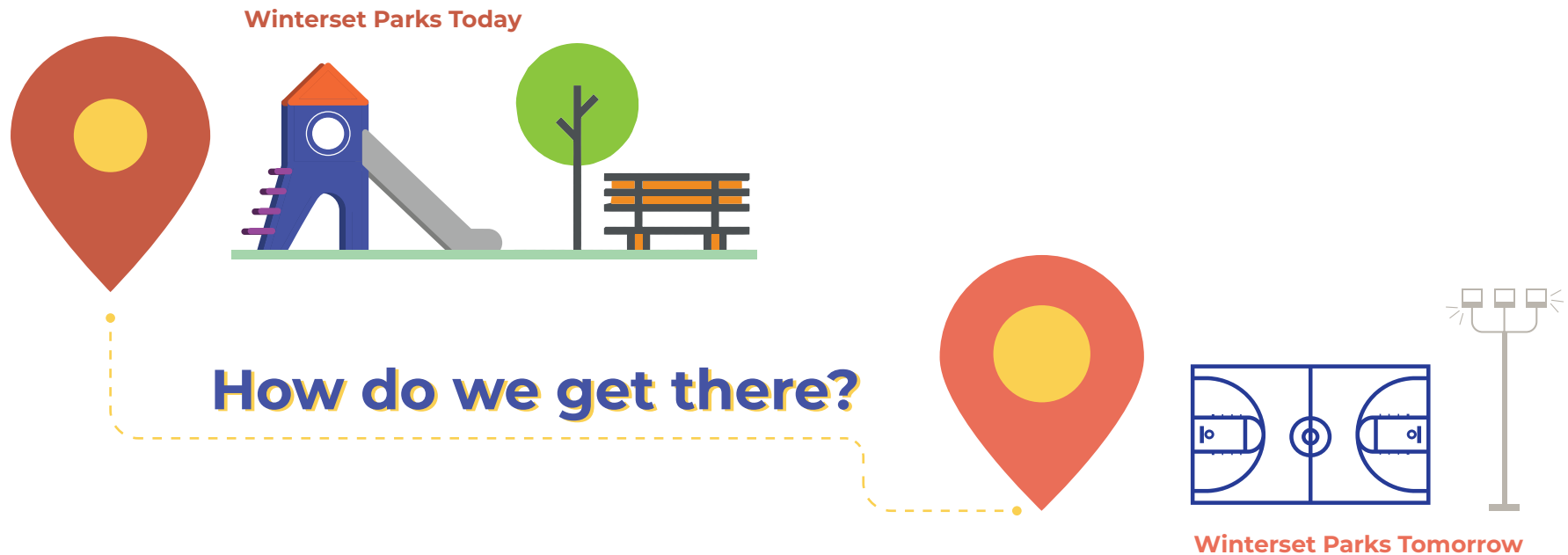
PARKS RECOMMENDATIONS



SUMMARY

Throughout this plan, there has been an inventory of public input, current parks and facilities, and estimations for demand thirty years from today. The conclusion of this plan is intended to summarize the major themes and desires and formulated steps and recommendations the City should follow in order to address demand and future desires. This section is split into 5 subsections:

- ▶ Summary of existing facilities
- ▶ Considerations for future facilities
- ▶ Recommendations for improvements at existing and proposed facilities
- ▶ Park specific recommendations
- ▶ Regional recommendations for greater Winterset



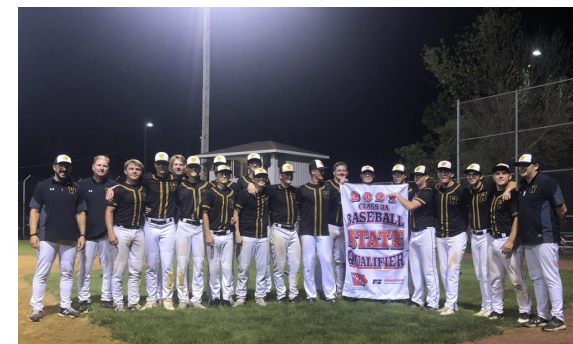
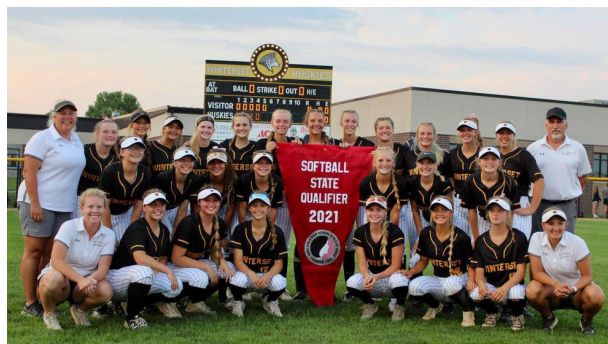
SUMMARY OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Sports Fields

Community sports fields and facilities are often a challenge when master planning. These spaces are in high demand and a great source of pride for many residents. Specific to Winterset, Giffin Fields are the main location serving a wide age range of baseball and softball operations. While the existing conditions are fair and some reinvestment efforts have been made in maintain the facilities, Winterset is at a turning point in needing to decide soon just how much investment Giffin Fields will continue to receive as demand for additional facilities, both indoor and outdoor, increase.

Giffin Fields

The location of Giffin Fields both works with and against the overall site. Located on the north side of Highway 92, many visitors can easily locate and access the fields; however, the parking on-site is quite limited and results in visitors parking along the Highway, which is a major safety concern. During the public input and stakeholder interview process, there were many stories shared of just how dangerous this can truly be. Recognizing these site limitations, it is also understood that as communities grow, sports fields are needed, and Giffin Fields are already operating and serving the community. Among all of the needed improvements – ranging from additional storage to new backstops- lighting is certainly the highest priority improvement to be made at Giffin Fields. This was the most frequent comment and request for this site when discussing the future of Giffin Fields. The site historically has had lighting, so the infrastructure should still be in place to support this improvement.



SUMMARY OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Martin Marietta Soccer Complex

The Martin Marietta Soccer Complex is located along E Court Avenue, between the Softball Complex and Dog Park. This facility is well-maintained and is of adequate size in comparison to other communities with similar population sizes. There are some improvements that would continue to make this complex a great one and these include:

- ▶ A permanent restroom facility with options for additional space to be added on to service general complex storage and/or concessions.
- ▶ In lieu of adding additional fields to the complex, it is proposed to add field lighting instead. This will allow for practices to be extended, therefore extending the serviceability time of the total number of fields. It would be recommended to continue to follow the conventional scheduling patterns where the young children practice/play first, followed by the older children to better utilize the time under the lights.
- ▶ Overall, improvements to the lighting should be completed in a joint effort with the adjacent Softball Complex to make efficient use of construction. Lights on the soccer fields should be completed at the same time as rehabilitation to the softball fields. Lighting can be phased in as budget allows.



CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE FACILITIES

Indoor Community Center

The City of Winterset should invest in projects that will positively impact the entire community. The primary and most-mentioned investment should be the Community Center. Today, Winterset is reliant on the WCSD to provide facilities for programming and events. This is not uncommon for communities of Winterset's size, but it is imperative that the City prepares for the additional demand that is sure to come. As the population continues to grow, greater demand will be placed on the existing facilities. Since the school sports take top priority, the WPR programs will lose practice and playing times. Therefore, it is recommended that the City of Winterset pursues the development of an indoor community center that meets a minimum 16,500 square feet as projected in Table 6.4 Facility Demand Estimates. This facility would also aid in serving as a regional draw for Winterset. Many children have to travel into the Des Moines Metro to attend practices and tournaments. The expanded services of this indoor community center would provide greater opportunities for youth athletes today and in the future to practice and play in Winterset.

Amenities needed in the indoor facility must include:

- ▶ Two full-size basketball courts that could be adapted to host volleyball tournaments, indoor soccer, pickleball, yoga, kids events, etc.
- ▶ Exclusive spaces for seniors to exercise or socialize
- ▶ Wellness and Fitness programs and facilities, such as free-weight and power lifting racks, yoga, HIIT classes, and others
- ▶ Creative STEAM spaces or event spaces that organizations or residents can rent out



CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE FACILITIES

Indoor Community Center Cont'd

The indoor community center is proposed to be located on the 17-acre site the City owns. Located along E Court Avenue, this location will establish a grand sports complex hub for the community. The future of this site is discussed further in this chapter.

A Note on Indoor Pool Facilities

The CIOS indicated a high need and desire for an indoor pool. Investigating needed investments, staffing, and operations and maintenance concludes that this would be a large and costly undertaking for the community that would be limited to the number of residents it serves. In some surrounding communities, they are now demolishing their indoor facilities due to increasing maintenance as the facility ages and losing money.

Winterset Aquatic Center serves as a regional asset to the community and state, and is certainly one of the best outdoor pools in a community of its size. Maintaining the one pool facility requires great effort and seasonal help, adding another pool facility will only hurt the City in the long run. In comparison to the other desired amenities and programs, the City's and tax payer dollars would be better spent on items that have higher need and greater return on investment for the community.

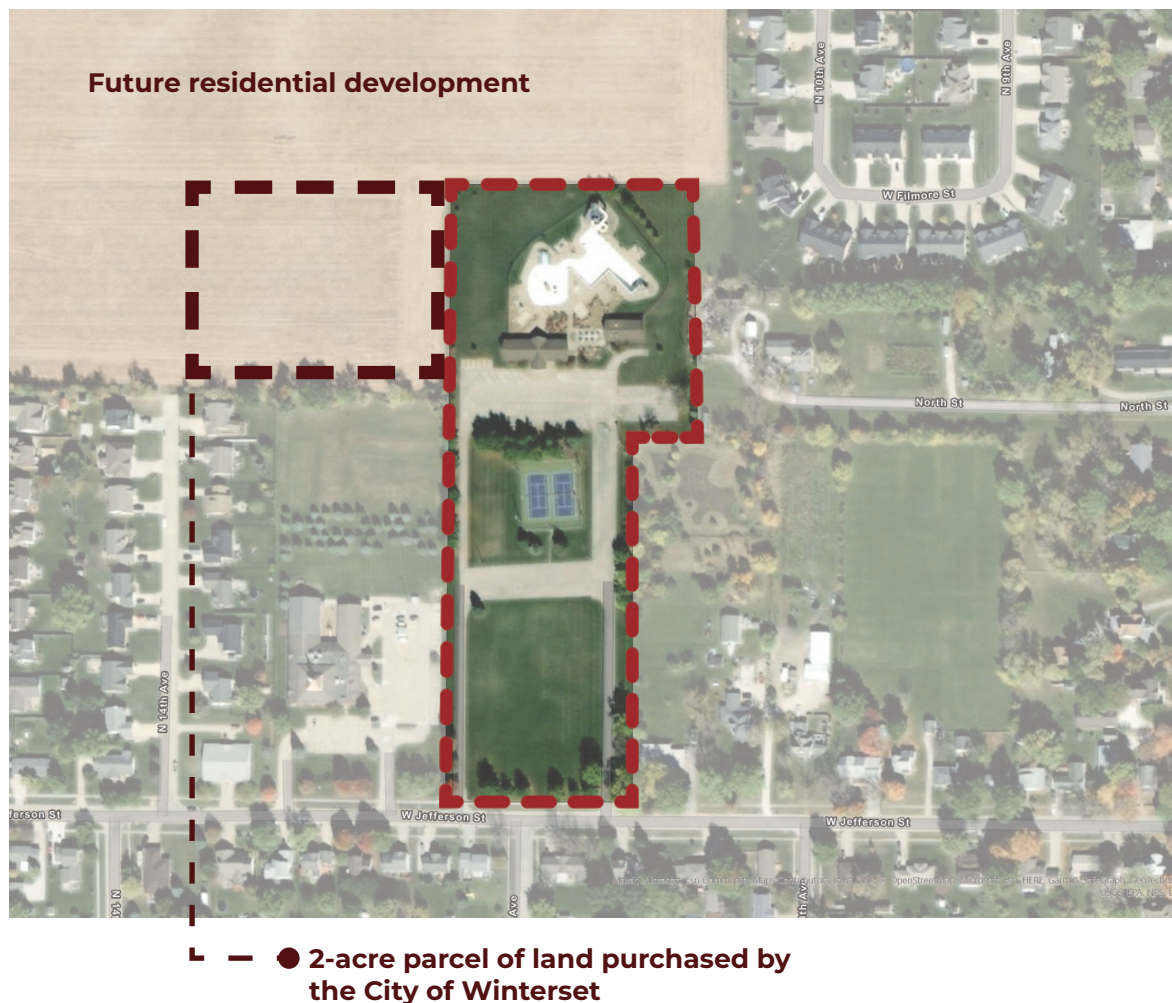


CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE FACILITIES

Future Park Space

The City recently purchased approximately 2 acres of land directly adjacent to the Winterset Aquatic Center. This site was pivotal to the overall parks system due to the lack of park space in the northwestern portion of the city and comes as a direct response to meeting the community's needs and desires by the City. This land should be utilized for additional park space, serving the existing and future residents of this area. The creation of this additional park space would ultimately transition the Winterset Aquatic Center and Tennis/Pickleball Courts from a special use park to a community park. This new park space should include a universally accessible playground with an associated shelter and restroom facility. Additionally, the adjacent residential development to the north calls for a trail extension into the Aquatic Center area and would provide increased access to the overall park space. By developing out this park space, the City would be immediately addressing the park service gap in the northwest quadrant of the city.

FIGURE 7.1 Future Park Space



CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE FACILITIES

Trails

Trails are an asset to a community, both from a mobility perspective and a recreational amenity lens. By investing in trails, residents of all ages are able to access a pathway and safely traverse the outdoors and their community. Ensuring residents, both adults and children, without access to vehicles have a way to safely move throughout the community establishes robust, equitable access. It is a priority to limit on-street trails when possible, but also understand that there are some preexisting on-street trails located throughout the city today that must be threaded into the greater network.

On-Street Trails

These trails must be clearly marked and painted. On-street trails are intended to be the most direct routes connecting to park spaces or other significant areas within the community. The proposed on-street facilities are located on low-traffic road; however, bicyclists will need to abide by the same traffic laws as vehicles while traversing on-street trails.

Off-Street Trails

Off-street trails are the most desirable trail type for their additional buffering and ability to go places streets cannot. Whenever possible, it is best practice to ensure bicyclists and pedestrians are separated from traffic. In some instances, this requires the trail must be wider to accommodate both groups comfortably, with options to connect into a greater public greenway system.

On-Street Trails



Off-Street Trails

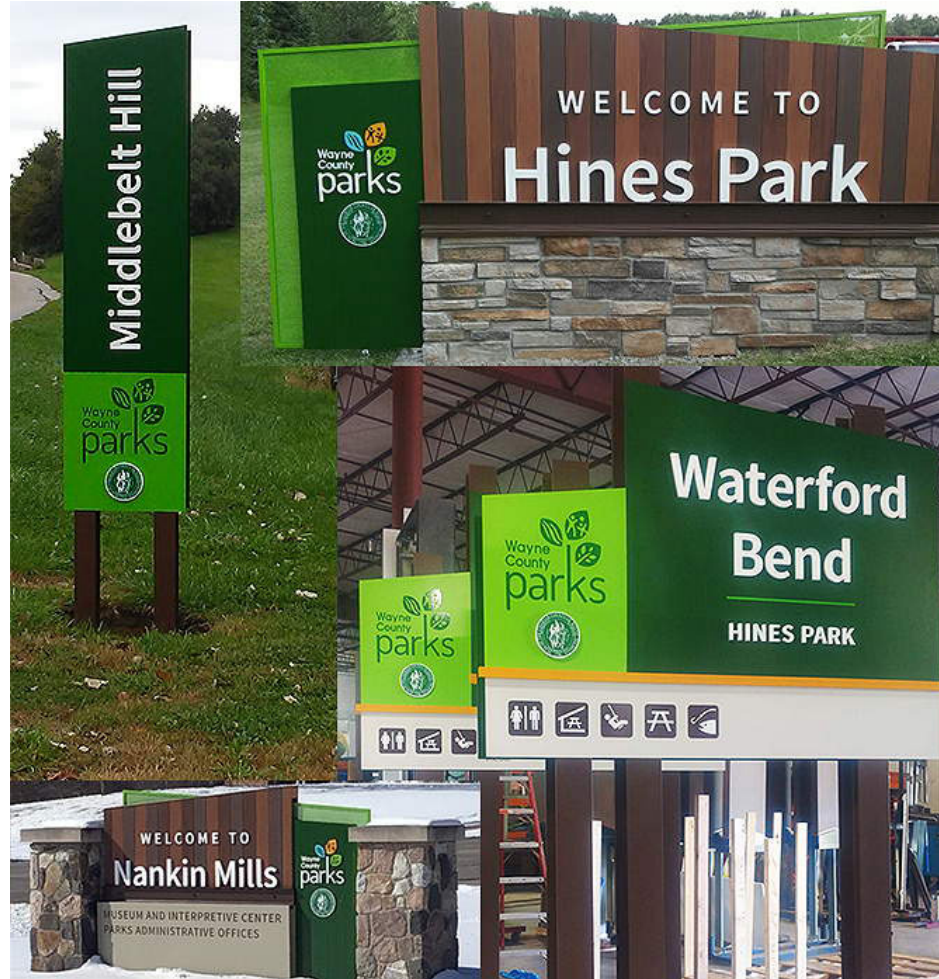


CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE FACILITIES

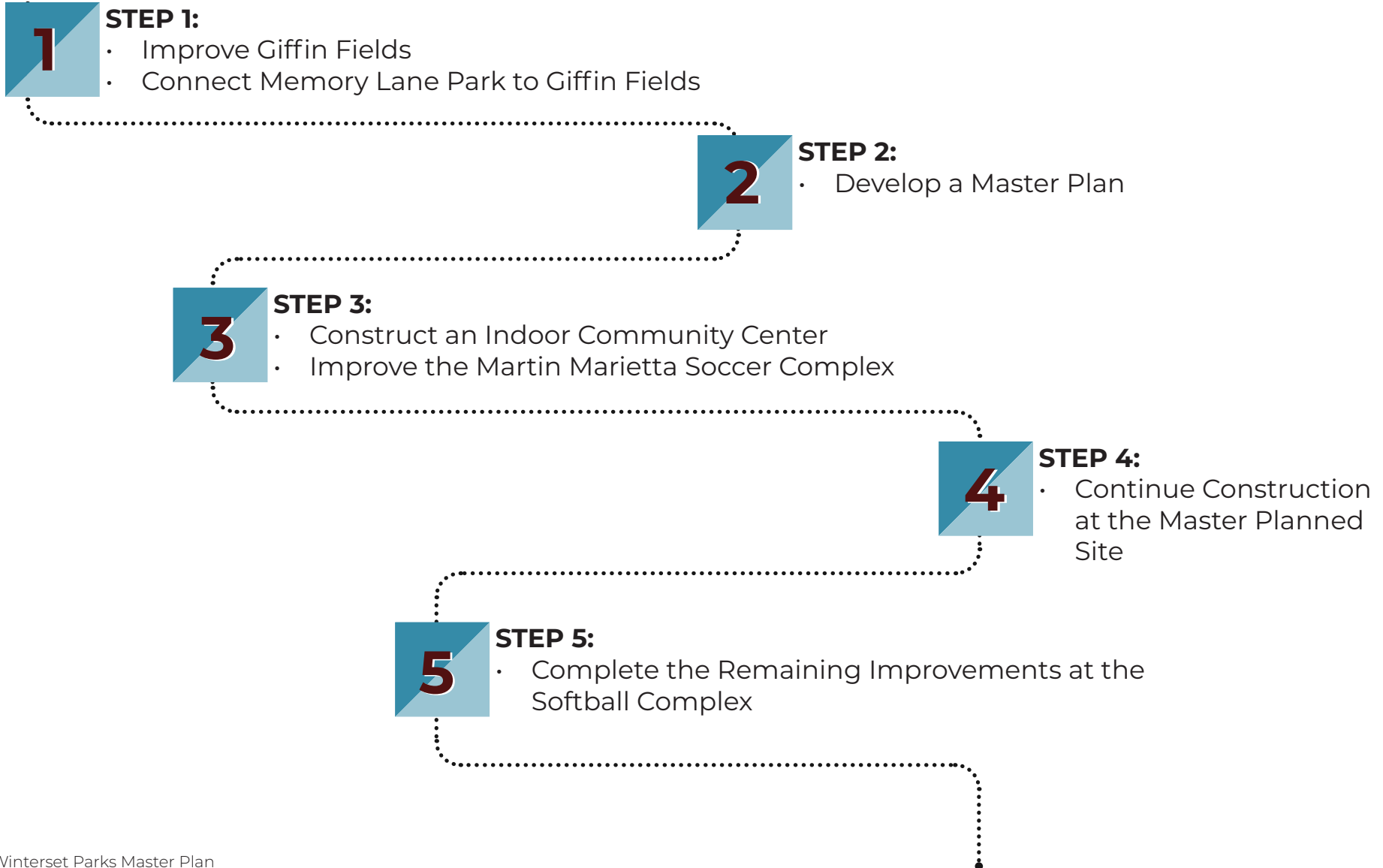
Signage

The existing parks system in Winterset is excellent; the number of parks and the variety of quality amenities sets Winterset apart from similar sized communities. One item that could be consistently improved throughout the parks system is the entry signage. The existing signage is outdated and needs full overhaul. It is recommended that the City develops and deploys a Parks Signage Master Plan. A standard signage package will help identify each park facility and continue to enhance the park experience. The deployment of these signs can be done in one phase, or accomplished throughout five years, installing two signs per year at the ten major parks.

FIGURE 7.2 Park Signage Precedent Imagery



RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXISTING + FUTURE FACILITIES



RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXISTING + FUTURE FACILITIES



STEP 1:

Improve Giffin Fields

Giffin Fields are a source of community pride and should receive the first installment of improvements to expand playability of the fields. Needed improvements include:

- ▶ Budget for and install LED lighting on all fields
- ▶ New black vinyl fencing
- ▶ New backstops
- ▶ Improved site draining and storm sewer systems

Connect Memory Lane Park to Giffin Fields

Additionally, the City should begin coordination efforts with Iowa DOT to construct an underpass connection from Memory Lane Park under Highway 92. This improvement will provide a safe north/south connection, increase the overall trail network, and relieve some of the parking constraints on Giffin Fields by allowing visitors to park and walk to the fields.



RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXISTING + FUTURE FACILITIES

2

STEP 2:

Develop a Master Plan

The City of Winterset should develop a master plan and business plan for the 17 acres of land north of the Martin Marietta Soccer Complex. This site has a lot of potential to expand the services provided to residents and visitors in Winterset.

The key addition to this master planned site is the indoor community center. The expansion of the baseball/softball fields should only occur when demand exceeds available space. In the interim, the open space could act as a flex space used for additional soccer fields and/or flag football space.

The plan should include and consider:

- ▶ A master plan for up to six additional baseball/softball fields
- ▶ Include space for an indoor community center
- ▶ Parking to accommodate +/- 300 cars (200 for fields/100 for indoor facility)
- ▶ Future trail connections into the broader proposed trail network
- ▶ On-site stormwater detention
- ▶ Phased approach to implementation



RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXISTING + FUTURE FACILITIES

2

STEP 2:

FIGURE 7.3 Potential Development Scheme of the Master Planned Site



RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXISTING + FUTURE FACILITIES

3

STEP 3:

Construct an Indoor Community Center

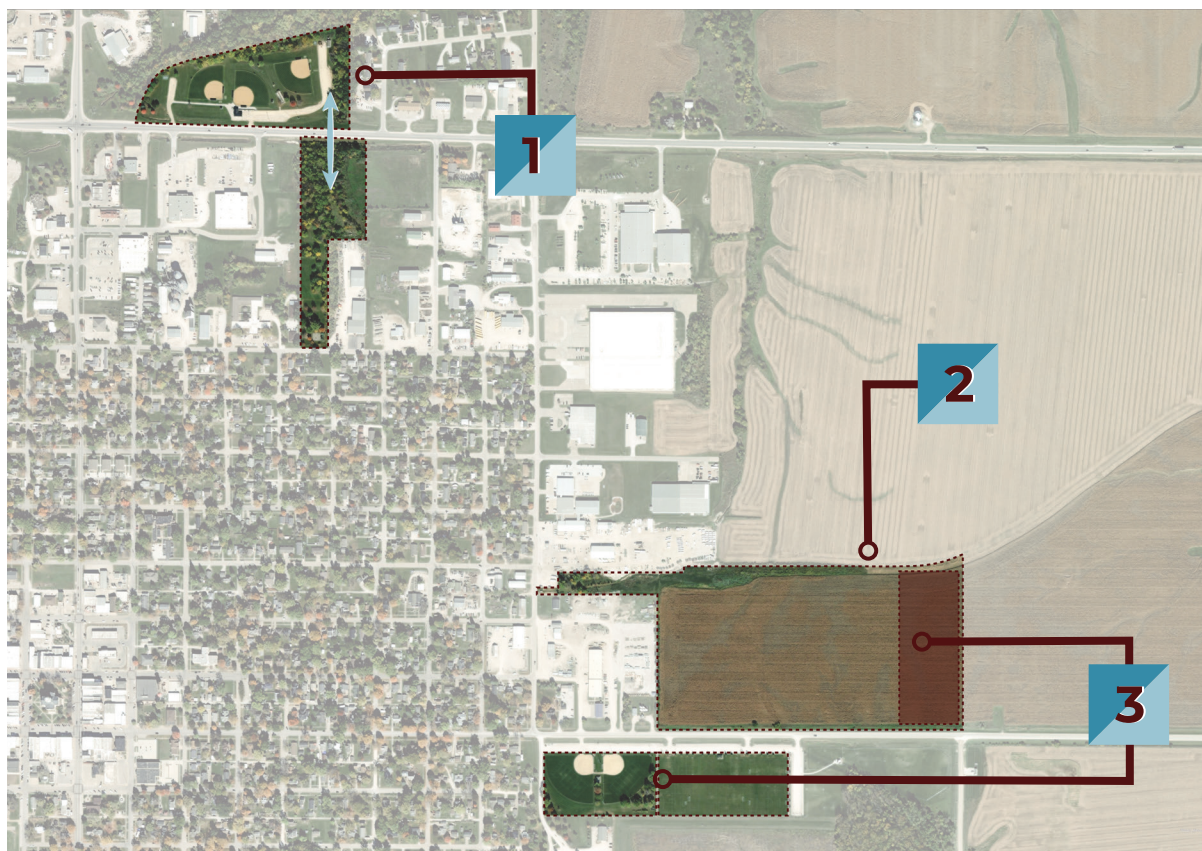
The public input, stakeholder interviews, and Community Opinion and Interest Survey all highlighted the overwhelming desire and need to plan and construct an indoor community center. This facility should include, at a minimum, a walking/running track, basketball/sport courts, fitness/wellness programs and classes, STEAM rooms, turf field house.

Improve the Martin Marietta Soccer Complex

Begin improvements at the soccer fields, starting with installing LED lights on the westernmost boundary of the fields, leaving room to expand lighting into the eastern field at the Softball Complex. Parking and mobility within the parking lot should be improved during this phase of construction as well, for both the Softball and Soccer Complexes. Once lighting is completed, construct a restroom, concession, and storage building at the Soccer Complex.

Softball Complex Upgrades

The Softball Complex should be upgraded to include LED lights on both fields, with updates to the fencing, dugouts, and exterior seating.



RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXISTING + FUTURE FACILITIES

4

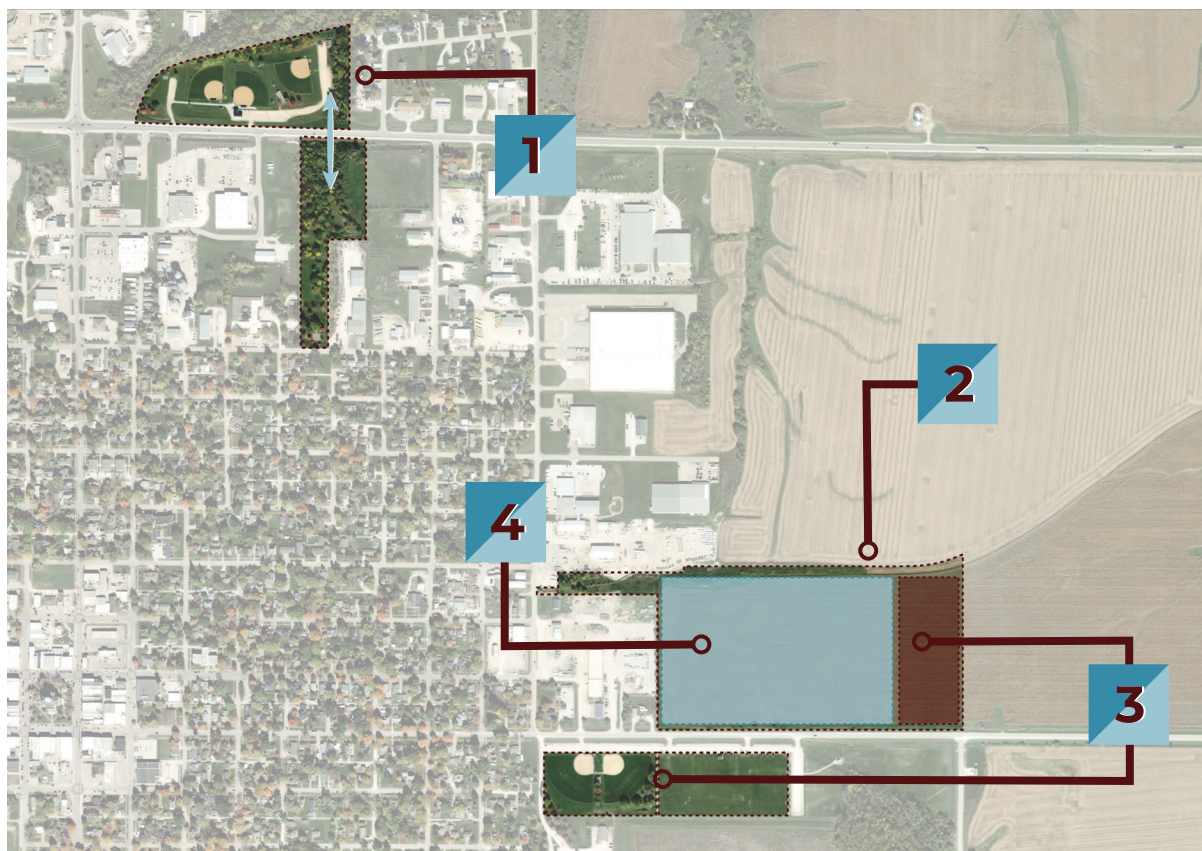
STEP 4:

Continue Construction at the Master Planned Site

The long-term vision of the master planned site is intended to account for any potential field space demand in Winterset

The long-term vision of the 17-acre site owned by the City is to provide space to grow into for recreation facilities. Once demand exceeds available space, the City should consider building up to six (6) additional baseball/softball fields. The quality of these fields should match that of Giffin Fields, as there is opportunity to split the dedication of sports, with one being located solely at Giffin Fields, and the other at the new development. There should be no perceivable difference between the complexes.

There should be consideration given whether or not baseball/softball fields are of the highest demand, or if soccer/general open space would service more residents.



RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXISTING + FUTURE FACILITIES

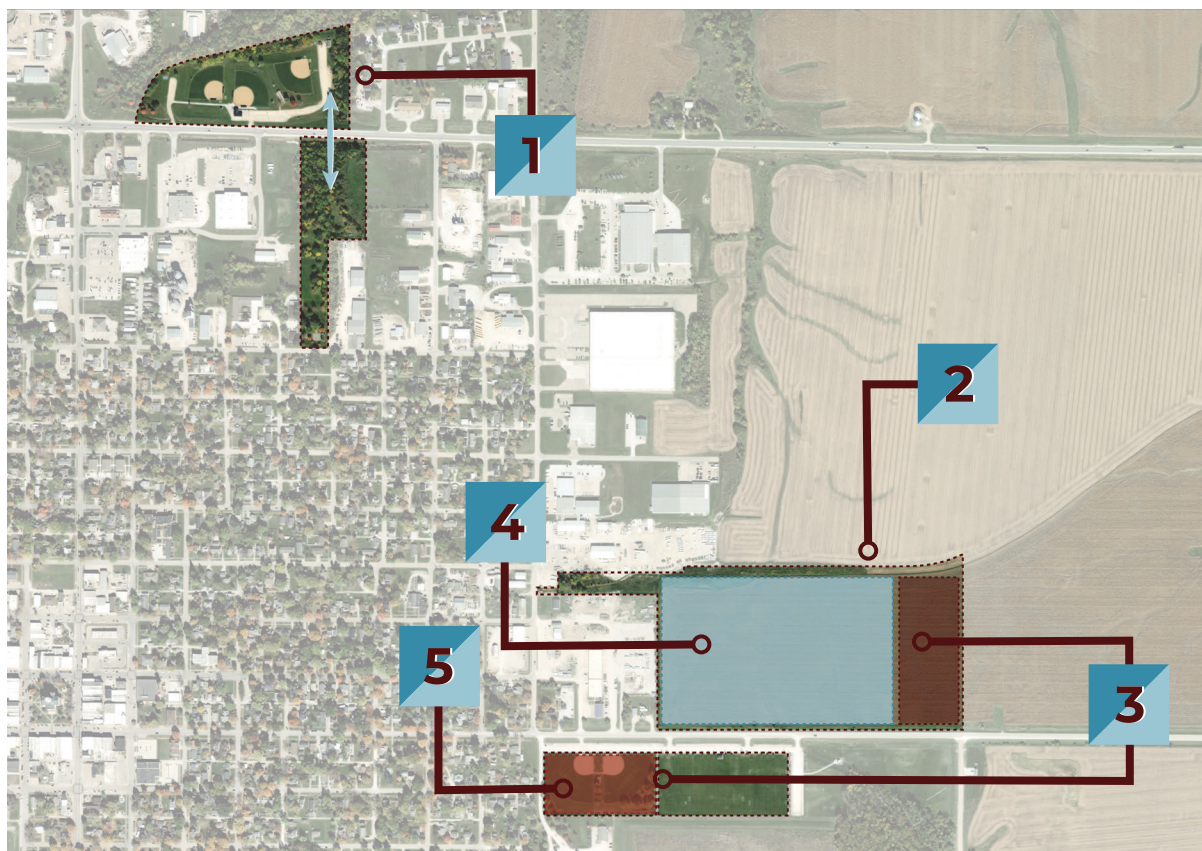
5

STEP 5:

Complete the Remaining Improvements at the Softball Complex

Following the completion of Giffin Field updates and the potential construction of the first four baseball fields, it is anticipated that the two fields at the Softball Complex would serve as overflow for both sports, with their main purpose being the primary location for the Adult Softball League and Youth Flag Football. Overall improvements at these fields should match that of Giffin Fields, as this will be an additional location for future tournament play to take place.

As construction occurs at the Softball Complex and the Martin Marietta Soccer Complex, there should be consideration in how to efficiently use construction efforts. For example, if the softball fields are under construction and groundwork is being done, it would also be beneficial to incorporate any needed electrical improvements for both the softball field lighting and soccer field lighting long-term. From an extremely visionary perspective, the softball fields may eventually be better suited to transition to additional soccer fields as the master planned site is developed.



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

MEMORY LANE PARK

Neighborhood Park

Location + Context

Memory Lane Park is located in a residential neighborhood, just south of Highway 92, fronting E Lane Street. This park primarily features a playground and basketball court.

Input Related to Memory Lane Park

Many wish to see the park connected via underpass to Giffin Fields to assist with pedestrian flow and alleviate some of the safety concerns related to parking and crossing Highway 92 at Giffin Fields.

Additionally, feedback stated residents wished to have updated park amenities.

Existing Conditions + Summary

The overall condition of the park indicated it is well maintained, but has outdated amenities. The playground, shelter, and basketball court could benefit from general updates and replacements to better enhance the park user experience.

There is a natural connection already present on site that could be used for the underpass connection to Giffin Fields.

Recommendations

- ▶ Install new park signage per the recommended signage master plan
- ▶ Expand Basketball Court North/South 10-15 feet to become a full size court
- ▶ Refinish Basketball Court (new paint, nets, etc.)
- ▶ Provide paved parking (extension off of N. 6th Street)
- ▶ Add trail connection to Giffin Fields and under Highway 92
- ▶ Replace benches
- ▶ Construct a new shelter with potential to be rented out
- ▶ Expand park footprint to grab additional space east of Bomgaars



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

WHISTLE STOP PARK

Neighborhood Park

Location + Context

Whistle Stop Park is nestled into a residential neighborhood, serving much of the Winterset youth. The park's boundaries include N 5th Avenue to the west, W North Street to the south, and N 4th Avenue to the east.

Input Related to Whistle Stop Park

Whistle Stop was mentioned at every focus group with the school students as the place to be as a kid in Winterset. This park features the more popular basketball court, where kids at every age gather to play. Upgrades to this park are extremely desirable from the kids, as well as parents who bring their children here.

Existing Conditions + Summary

The park is well maintained and features a fairly new playground; however, there are some amenities, such as the grill, shelter, picnic tables, and basketball court that need updates.

Recommendations

- ▶ Install new park signage per the recommended signage master plan
- ▶ Add a restroom facility on-site
- ▶ Construct a new shelter with potential to be rented out
- ▶ Rehabilitate the basketball court with new paving and painted lines



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

CITY PARK

Community Park

Location + Context

City Park is located in the southeast quadrant of the city, adjacent to the Martin Marietta Rock Quarry. This park is the second largest park in Winterset at 77.4 acres.

Input Related to City Park

City Park was the most frequently mentioned park by adults in the community. This park is viewed as a major source of pride for the community and this is supported by the level of investment and upkeep given to this park. It is important to maintain this level of effort and keep progressing forward at City Park.

One hazard of mobility throughout City Park hinges on the one-way road circulating the park. Due to its narrow size, it is inhibiting of vehicular movement, but also is confused as a shared-use path by pedestrians and bicyclists. There should be an internal, ADA-accessible, paved pedestrian loop that traverses the sculpture park and gets people off the roads, where cars are meant to be. There is opportunity to enhance the trail network by implementing a nature trail in the tree cover leading up to Clark Tower. Due to topography, this would not likely be an ADA trail. This would require a survey of City Park to identify the path of least resistance.

Existing Conditions + Summary

City Park features the greatest variety of park amenities among all parks in Winterset. As it is one of the largest, this is not surprising. The site features topographical changes where appropriate amenities are nestled into the park experience.

The latest upgrades and additions to the park include tree carvings as art features located throughout the driving loop and the site clearing and construction of the universal playground.



Recommendations

- ▶ Enhance the current welcome sign with new letters for easier reading
- ▶ Continue maintenance and investment of the park
- ▶ Identify and pursue improvement needs for historic structures throughout the park to maintain its overall historic integrity
- ▶ Explore options for mobility and separating cars from vehicles to reduce the number of pedestrians walking in the middle of the street
- ▶ Provide expanded trail connections per the Proposed Trail Plan
- ▶ Provide additional trail connections with a nature trail
- ▶ Maintain City Park and its adjacent tree cover as a natural preserve



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

AQUATIC CENTER + TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS Community Park

Location + Context

The Aquatic Center + Tennis/Pickleball Court is located in the northwest quadrant of the city. Located on the periphery of old and new residential development, this park has great potential to expand its amenities.

Input Related to Aquatic Center + Tennis/Pickleball Courts

It was frequently mentioned that there is a gap in park service in the northwest quadrant of town from the public. They do not consider the Aquatic Center area to be a park due to the lack of play space or playground.

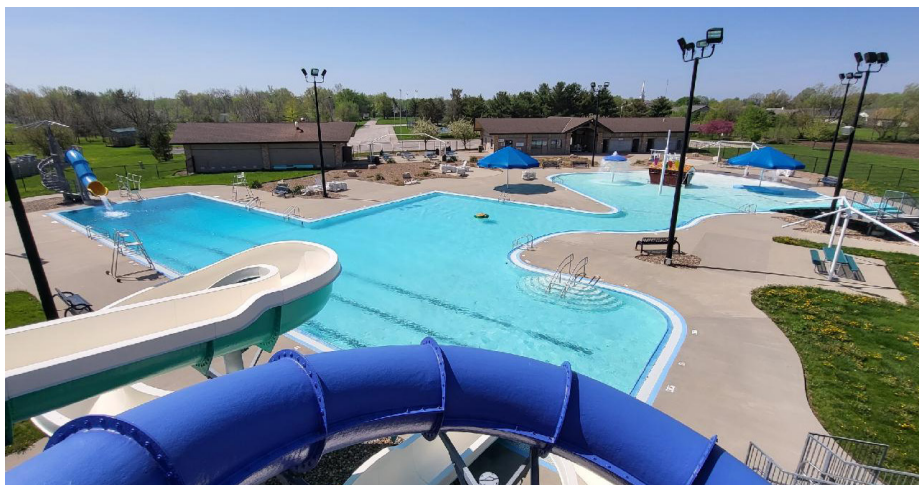
Existing Conditions + Summary

This is a seasonal and versatile space used by many in Winterset. The open space on the southern edge of the park is adapted to serve as space for flag football. The tennis/pickleball courts are in need of updates, but offer space to play either activity. The seasonal availability of the pool impacts visitation of this park space, but draws many during the warm months.

It will be important to leverage and expand amenities of the 2-acre parcel the City acquired adjacent to the pool to fully transform this space into a community park.

Recommendations

- ▶ Install new park signage per the recommended signage master plan
- ▶ Improve trail connections into and out of the park
- ▶ Construct a park on the 2-acre parcel adjacent to the pool to fill the gap in park service in the northwest quadrant portion of Winterset
- ▶ Expand the tennis/pickleball courts to the west to include one more court
- ▶ Update lighting on the tennis/pickleball courts
- ▶ Preserve the open space on the southern edge for flag football
- ▶ Provide a name to the newly established community park space



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

CEDAR LAKE

Special Use Park

Location + Context

Cedar Lake is located in the northernmost bounds of the existing city limits.

Input Related to Cedar Lake

The addition of the Cedar Lake Nature Trail was one of the most frequently and positively-mentioned pieces of feedback received throughout the planning process. Many people voiced their desire to have the existing trail tie into the rest of the community to broaden the trail network in Winterset.

Existing Conditions + Summary

Cedar Lake, accessible from Cedar Bridge Road and adjacent residential areas, is a major attraction for the community. The lake features a nature trail, pedestrian bridge, pull bridge, and a variety of other amenities for visitors.

Recommendations

- ▶ Install new park signage per the recommended signage master plan
- ▶ Maintain the nature trail and pull bridge
- ▶ Consider opportunities for parking reconfiguration and on-site public restrooms
- ▶ Tie the nature trail into the proposed trail network to provide greater connectivity via trails in Winterset



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

DOG PARK Special Use Park

Location + Context

The Dog Park is located adjacent to the Martin Marietta Soccer Complex along E Court Avenue.

Input Related to Dog Park

Many residents mentioned how fortunate they were to have such a 'big city' amenity in Winterset and utilize it often.

Existing Conditions + Summary

The Dog Park offers spaces for small and large dogs to play around. The site has a transition space to allow dogs to get comfortable around other dogs, a shade canopy, and sidewalk leading up to the space. There are few shade trees or benches for owners to use while visiting.

Recommendations

- ▶ Install new park signage per the recommended signage master plan
- ▶ Continue to plant trees within the park
- ▶ Provide an additional shade structure in the middle of the park
- ▶ Add an internal, hard-surface pathway to the large dog side of the park



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER MEMORIAL PARK

Special Use Park

Location + Context

George Washington Carver Memorial Park is a special use, pocket park located along E Court Avenue, tucked in between the Winterset Fire Department and Spotlight School of Dance.

Existing Conditions + Summary

The George Washington Carver Memorial Park features greenscaping, a small bench, an art mural, and a memorial to George Washington Carver.

Recommendations

- ▶ Install new park signage or wayfinding at the entrance of the pocket park
- ▶ Improve the lighting within the pocket park
- ▶ Maintain plantings and greenscaping within the space
- ▶ Consider adding a small shade tree in the behind the memorial



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

SKATE PARK

Special Use Park

Location + Context

The Skate Park is located on W Summit Street, south of Winterset Elementary School.

Input Related to Skate Park

Similar to the Dogset Park, many residents were surprised Winterset was able to obtain such a unique park amenity but enjoy the park and seeing people skating or biking.

Existing Conditions + Summary

This is a fairly new park and this is evident in the condition of shelters, tables, and site features. There is some room to potentially expand the skating plaza south into the open, green space, but safety and proximity to moving traffic should be heavily considered when examining this.

Recommendations

- ▶ Consider expansion of the skating plaza to the south, into the open, green space
- ▶ Maintain general operations and maintenance
- ▶ Consider tree removal and management on site
- ▶ Review and plan for lighting in the long-term



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

GIFFIN FIELDS

Special Use Park

Location + Context

Located along Highway 92, these three fields service many of the softball and baseball games for the youth of Winterset.

Input Related to Giffin Fields

This complex is a point of pride and favorite place to play for many athletes in Winterset.

Existing Conditions + Summary

The major obstacle this complex faces is that of parking. Parking is limited on site and results in some visitors parking on the highway. There are some drainage issues on-site that will require mitigation.

Recommendations

- ▶ Install new park signage per the recommended signage master plan
- ▶ Re-establish lighting services on all three fields
- ▶ Begin coordination with Iowa DOT to establish a pedestrian underpass connecting Memory Lane Park to Giffin Fields
- ▶ Address drainage issues present on-site
- ▶ Consider parking alternatives to address safety issues of parking along Highway 92
- ▶ Conduct general upgrades on backstops, fencing, and storage as discussed earlier in this chapter



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

MARTIN MARIETTA SOCCER COMPLEX

Special Use Park

Location + Context

The Martin Marietta Soccer Complex is located along E Court Avenue, adjacent to the Dog Park and Softball Complex

Input Related to Martin Marietta Soccer Complex

The City is continuing to discuss long-term plans for the quarry and potential for future partnerships with Martin Marietta as the quarry is retired.

Existing Conditions + Summary

The soccer fields at the Martin Marietta Soccer Complex provide well-maintained fields at a variety of skills and age ranges. The fields are well taken care of and have room to provide additional amenities, such as permanent restrooms, additional storage, and lighting.

Recommendations

- ▶ Install new park signage per the recommended signage master plan
- ▶ Consider opportunities to construct permanent restroom facilities and storage space
- ▶ Establish lighting on the soccer fields to extend serviceability of fields
- ▶ Investigate parking expansion opportunities



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Special Use Park

Location + Context

The Softball Complex is located along E Court Avenue, adjacent to the Martin Marietta Soccer Complex and City Park

Input Related to Softball Complex

The fields at the Softball Complex are versatile in serving a wide range of age groups and activities.

Existing Conditions + Summary

The fields provide spaces for youth and adult softball and flag football. The infield material is rough and needs replaced. As do the bleachers and tables outside of the fields. Maintaining and preserving the lights on the fields will be imperative to the future of these fields.

Recommendations

- ▶ Install new park signage per the recommended signage master plan
- ▶ Update on-site lights and expand eastward
- ▶ Replace benches and tables
- ▶ Consider additional field improvements in tandem with Martin Marietta Soccer Complex improvements to make efficient use of land disturbance and construction time
- ▶ Link the Softball Complex sidewalk system into the existing pathways provided at the Martin Marietta Soccer Complex
- ▶ Investigate parking alternatives and expansion opportunities



PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

WINTERSET CITY CAMPGROUND

Special Use Park

Location + Context

The Winterset City Campground is located directly adjacent to City Park and south of the Softball Complex. This facility is approximately 10 acres and provides service from April through November.

Input Related to Winterset City Campground

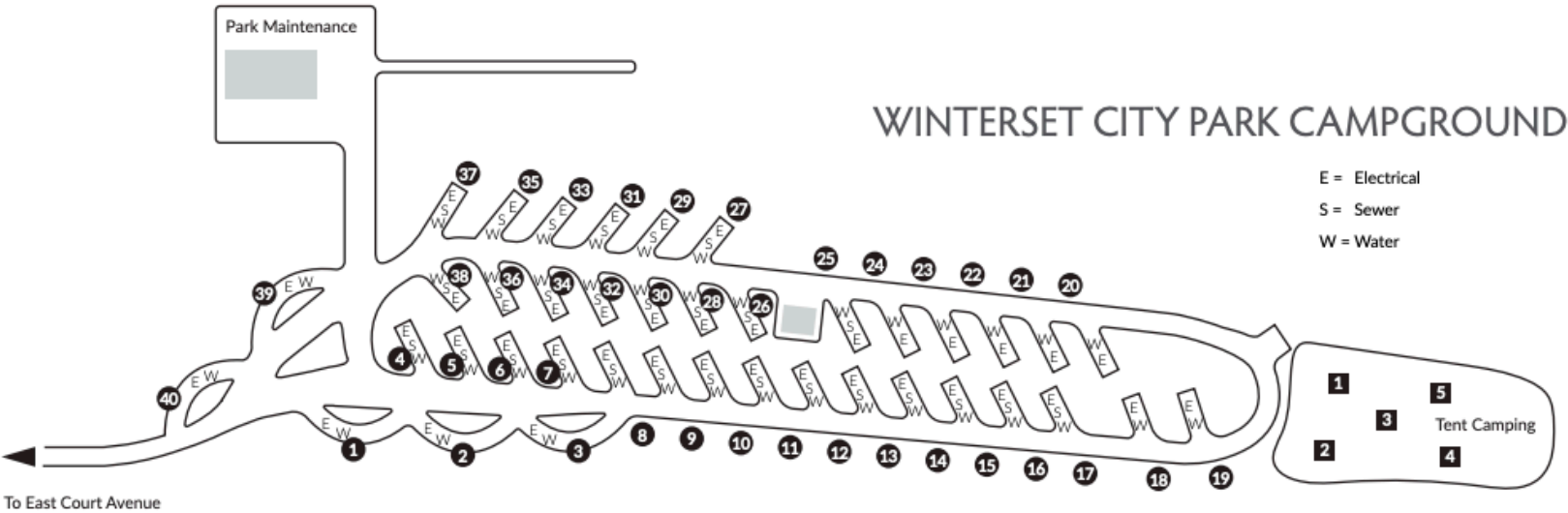
The campground has increased in attendance and demand in recent years and is projected to continue increasing. It was mentioned often that this site is very well maintained.

Existing Conditions + Summary

The campground offers 40 sites with 50/30/15 amp electric services, water, sewer hook-ups, fire pits, picnic tables, shower/restroom facilities, and 5 tent sites. The services are open from April through November, depending upon weather.

Recommendations

- ▶ Maintain a high level of service for campground visitors
- ▶ Identify opportunities to expand campground services
- ▶ Maintain a fair rate of site rentals



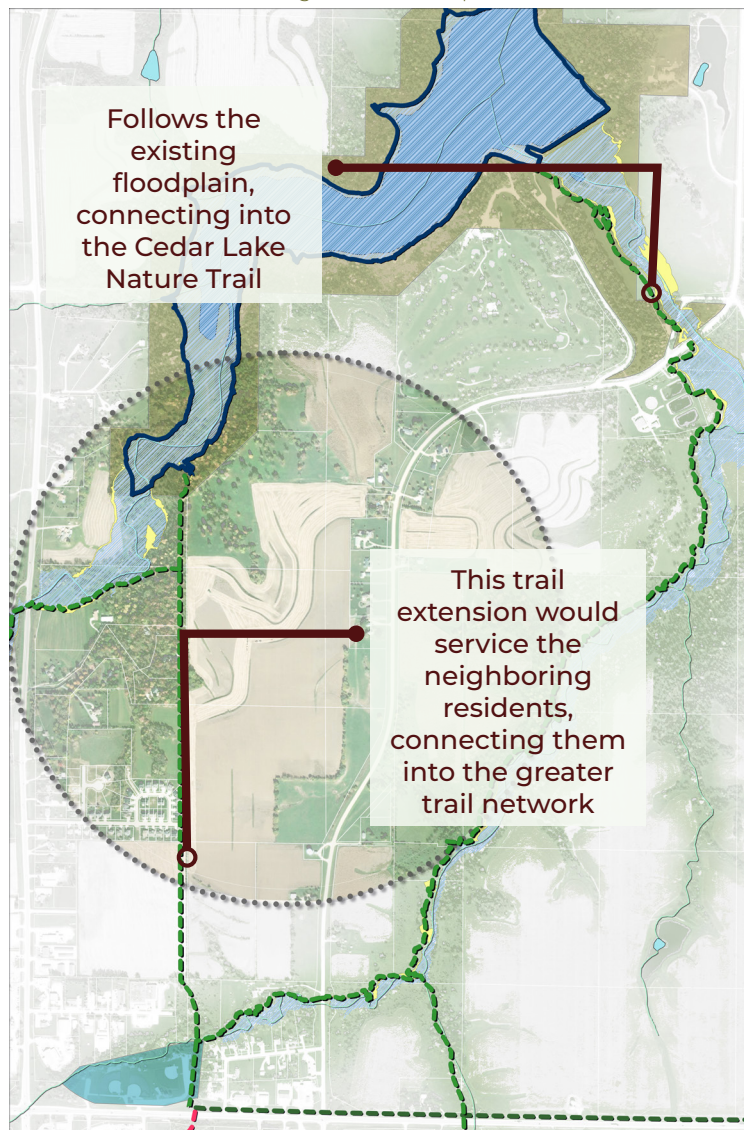
Source: City of Winterset

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Northeast Regional Park

Figure 7.4 highlights the proposed trail location and park space area for the northeast area. The proposed park within the northeast quadrant follows the proposed residential development identified in the Future Land Use Plan in the Winterset Comprehensive Plan. This park should only be constructed as development occurs in this area and should tie into the regional trail system to provide immediate access to residents. The park size should range between 20-30 acres and contain a variety of amenities, with potential for playgrounds, splash pads, restrooms, trailheads, shelters, rentable spaces, large green space, basketball courts, tennis/pickleball courts, and large pond.

FIGURE 7.4 Northeast Regional Park Proposed Park and Trail Connections

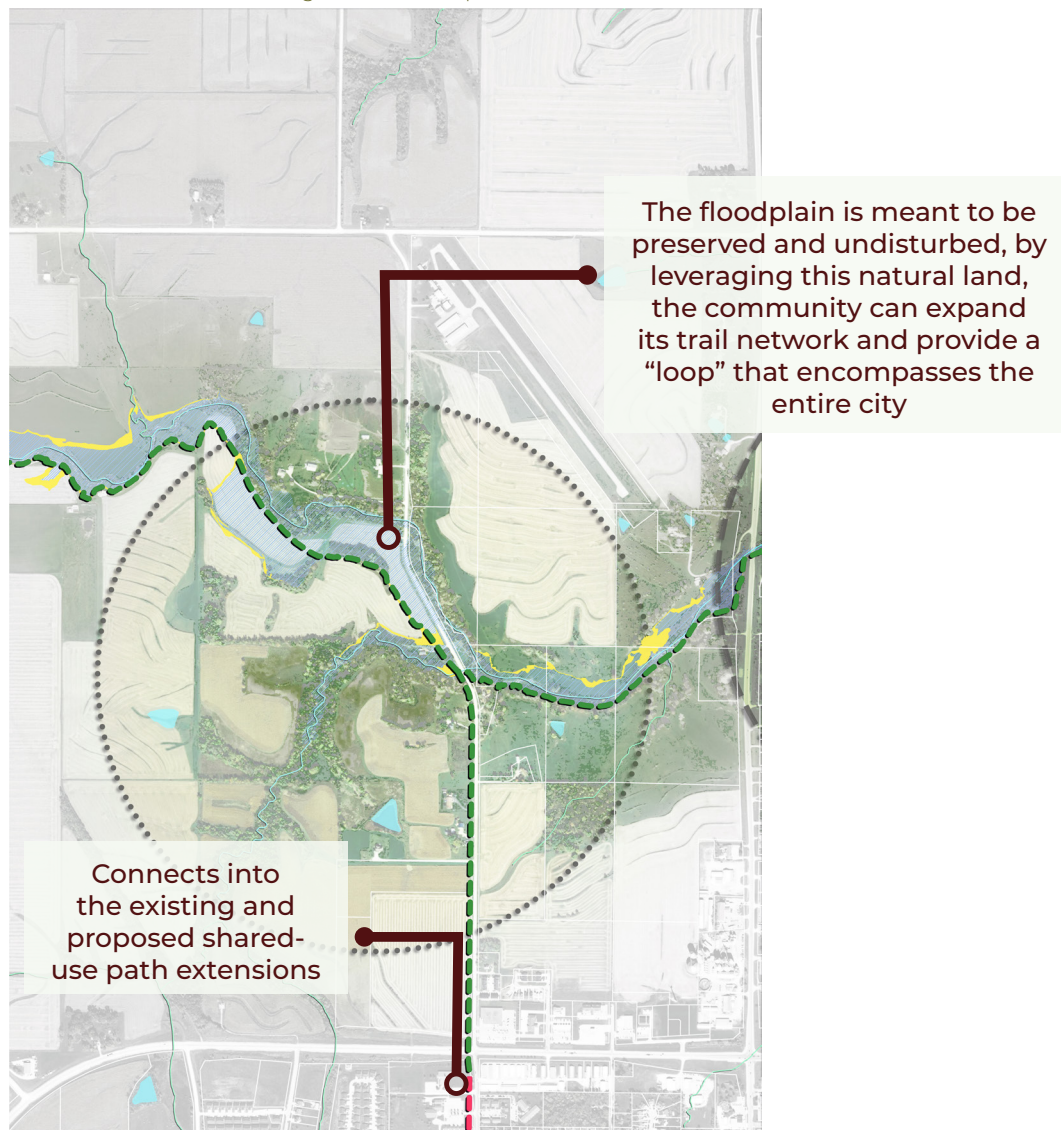


REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Northwest Regional Park

Figure 7.5 highlights the proposed trail location and park space area for the northwest area. The proposed park within the northwest quadrant follows the proposed residential development identified in the Future Land Use Plan in the Winterset Comprehensive Plan. This park should only be constructed as development occurs in this area and should tie into the regional trail system to provide immediate access to residents. The park size should range between 20-30 acres and contain a variety of amenities, with potential for playgrounds, splash pads, restrooms, trailheads, shelters, rentable spaces, large green space, basketball courts, tennis/pickleball courts, and large pond.

FIGURE 7.5 Northwest Regional Park Proposed Park and Trail Connections



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Southwest Regional Park

Figure 7.6 presents the proposed park and trailhead spaces for the southwest area. This area has many preexisting shared-use paths that service the core of residential neighborhoods in Winterset. This area is envisioned to function more as a trailhead than park, specifically south of the Madison County Fairgrounds. Building trail connections all the way south to Pammel Park would make this a regional destination and should be supplemented with a small restroom facility, parking lot, and bike facilities.

FIGURE 7.6 Southwest Regional Park Proposed Park and Trail Connections

