

Parks and Recreation (2005)

Purpose

Since its incorporation in 1960, Overland Park has placed a high priority on the establishment of a quality park and open space program. The emphasis of this program has been to provide current and long-range opportunities for healthy life-long leisure activities for all the citizens of the community.

The priorities of the City's parks and recreation goals are:

- Acquisition of land and/or facilities for recreational use and open space preservation.
- Development of the land and appropriate recreation facilities that are compatible with each parkland acreage.
- Development of recreation programs for the public.

History and Policies

Community goals for acquisition and development of public lands have remained relatively unchanged since Overland Park's first Master Park and Open Space Plan was done in the late 1960s. Subsequent land use plans and park development plans have supported and refined those goals. The policies to achieve those goals have been adopted by resolution and are part of the land use goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Parks and Open Space System

There are seven components to the parks and open space system:

- Neighborhood Parks
- Subcommunity Parks

- Community/City Wide Parks
- Recreation-Special Community Use Facilities
- Year-Round/Indoor Facilities
- Greenways and "Greenway Linkages"
- Infrastructure Maintenance and Operations Facilities (Non-Public)

Neighborhood Parks

General Characteristics:

- four to fifteen acres in size

Guidelines for Location:

- within each square-mile section of the City
- within residential areas
- adjacent to public schools
- linked to greenways where possible

Typical Facilities:

- playground lot areas
- athletic fields
- picnic facilities

Other Considerations:

- designed for passive to moderate recreation use
- use generally restricted to daylight hours
- parking not always provided

Examples:

- Antioch Acres
- Brookridge
- Maple Hill Park

Subcommunity Parks

General Characteristics:

- ten to thirty-five acres
- serve several neighborhood areas of up to 25,000 persons

Guidelines for Location:

- centrally located within its service area
- adjacent to public school when possible

Typical Facilities:

- structures
- court games
- fishing lakes
- athletic fields
- swimming pools
- natural area with picnic facilities
- parking

Other Considerations:

- designed for passive to more active recreation use
- vehicular access from thoroughfare or collector streets
- incorporated within the greenway system

Examples:

- Youngs Park
- Indian Creek Recreation Center
- Bluejacket Park/Pool

Community/City Wide Parks

General Characteristics:

- from thirty-five to one hundred acres
- serves a greater number of or all areas of the community

Guidelines for Location:

- adjacent to major streets
- adjacent to, or contiguous with greenway properties

Typical Facilities:

- both active-use and passive-use areas

Other considerations:

- may have evening activities with lighted facilities
- automobile access and parking are important
- may be intensively developed and generate significant traffic, noise and other urban activity
- requires proper buffering and the prevention of traffic intrusion into the adjacent residential areas

Examples:

- Overland Park Community Park
- Roe Park
- Corporate Woods Park

Recreation-Special Community Use Facilities

General Characteristics:

- where the total acreage is dedicated to one predominate activity such as golf courses, aquatic center, or pool sites

- may also be exclusive areas set aside within the context of a much larger park development such as the Deanna Rose Farmstead

Other Considerations:

- automobile access and parking are critical
- access from major streets
- screening and buffering of adjacent residential land use
- link to the greenway system
- receive very intensive use and may draw participants from throughout the metropolitan region as well as the local community

Year-round/Indoor Facilities

General Characteristics:

- important to the total park and recreation structure of the community
- non-seasonal/possible year round use

Typical Facilities/Activities:

- community service programs
- sports
- community educational and cultural events

Examples:

- Overland Park Community Center
- Tomahawk Ridge Community Center

Greenways and Greenway Linkages

General Characteristics:

- proposed 85-mile greenway linkage system for southern Overland Park of which 64 miles have been built within our corporate limits

- greenway - public parkland usually of a lineal configuration that may contain
 - elements of any of the open space categories
 - areas of conservation or preservation zones with little or no public usage

- greenway linkage - a strip of land varying in configuration, ranging between 20-100' in width
 - provides a connection between two or more geographic points
 - usually contains little development other than landscaping, basic people amenities
 - can also serve as landscape buffer areas between adjacent land uses and/or conservation corridors that accommodate wildlife

Other Considerations:

- relates the open space network to neighborhood, schools, retail centers, the workplace, and other public and semipublic destinations
- has been a catalyst for regional coordination and cooperation within the park and open space field

Special Note:

- See the Greenway Linkage Plan and Guidelines

**Infrastructure Maintenance and Operations Facility
(Non-Public)**

General Comment:

Overland Park now has one operation and maintenance facility to serve the 1700+ acres of parkland within our jurisdiction. In anticipation of future growth; an additional maintenance facility, or expansion of the current maintenance operation on 119th Street may be needed within the near future.

Existing Park and Facility Inventory

Included at the end of the Parks and Recreation Element is a complete inventory of the City's parks and recreation facilities.

Trends in Public Open Space -- Recreation

- future park goals must be regional in scope and extend beyond the local service level
- changing work and leisure ethics and shifts in the age structure of the population will emphasize facilities and programs for an aging population as well as a continued youth orientation
- economic affluence, and family patterns combined with the influx of technology and travel capabilities will place greater demands on the City to provide for close-in, year-round and life-long recreation opportunities
- public interest in health, fitness, and a daily routine of exercise will influence the type of facilities developed, the programs required, and the land base needed for acquisition in the future

Open Space Planning and Urban Design

Factors in Planning and Design:

- basic recreation demand
- environmental concerns that define the need for preservation of special landscapes
- open space linkages can also serve to better define, buffer, and form desirable transitions between the various built land use areas

Parks/Recreation and Open Space Plan

History:

- first acquisition of parkland in 1968, eight years after the City's incorporation
- accelerated, acquisition of land and facilities throughout the 1970s to make up for the population/ acreage imbalance during the early years
- imbalance somewhat stabilized in the late 1970s and early 1980s
- new need for new parkland acquisition in all categories due to record new construction activity and population growth since the late 1980s

Challenges:

- land is needed in older residential sections of the City that are not currently served by neighborhood parks
- demand for this rate of expansion is still being felt and will continue for the foreseeable future
- the Overland Park Community Center no longer can meet the demand for year-round indoor space
- golf course usage still exceeds capacity
- swimming is always in high demand during the peak season but there is a shift in usage from older locations to the newer facilities
- usage of the greenways and linkages, especially where trails are built, exceeds expectations
- rate of neighborhood park development hardly keeps pace with the rate of residential development
- Overland Park Community Park and Farmstead use exceeds parking capacity during peak periods
- although additional acreage has been acquired in recent years, no new park areas have been set aside for community size park development
- increasing citizen awareness for environmental concerns is reflected in a greater emphasis toward the passive preservation areas and restoration of natural amenities

Future:

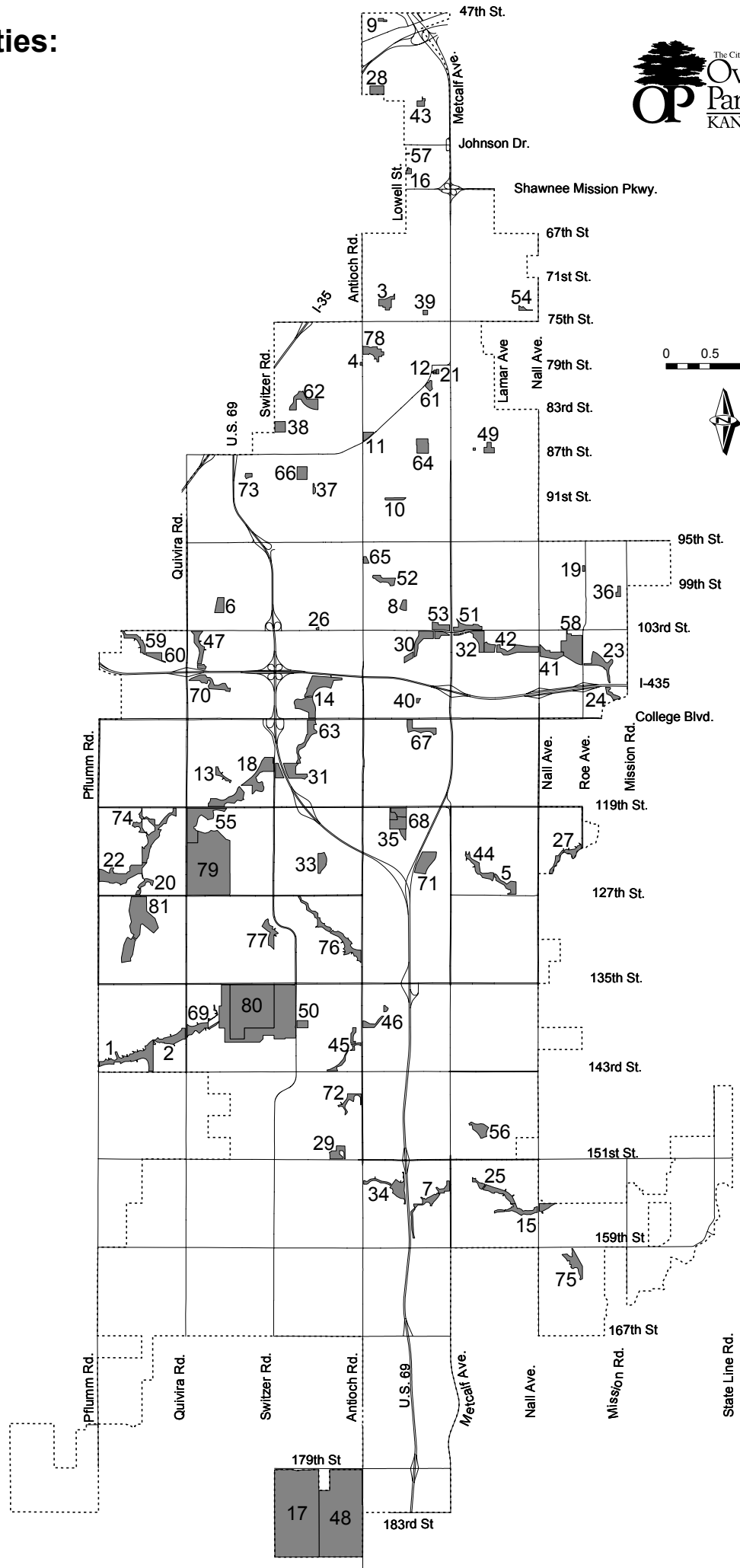
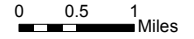
- composite, long-range Future Parks Plan consists of approximately 2,900 acres of publicly owned property (see the Future Parks Plan)
- additional lands would consist of approximately 975 acres of floodplain and non-floodplain for greenway development, and as much as 200-250 additional upland acres for neighborhood, subcommunity parks, and integrated greenway linkages
- additional parkland identified includes approximately 600 acres of predominately floodplain acres within the Coffee Creek and Blue River Basin
- proposed for north of I-435:
 - expansion of several existing park areas
 - preservation of the Turkey Creek Bluff adjacent to I-35
 - acquisition of several flood-prone areas adjacent to the Indian Creek Greenway that cannot otherwise be developed
- the Future Parks Plan identifies two new park sites within Overland Park :
 - a neighborhood park in the vicinity of 154th Street and Nieman
 - a subcommunity pool development within the 151st Street corridor to offer the opportunity for indoor and outdoor recreation
- at this time, it is anticipated that approximately an additional 800 acres of land as shown on the Future Parks Plan within our corporate limits will fulfill the City's public open space needs for the immediate future.

Summary

The future parks and open space plan for Overland Park projects an acceleration of the highly successful program that has been underway since 1968. Acquisition of land is projected to proceed at a slightly faster rate than in the past and acquisition of land for public parks, linkage corridors, and recreation facilities will remain the primary priority within the future park and open space program.

City Recreation Facilities:

1. AMESBURY LAKE PARK
2. AMESBURY PARK
3. ANTIOCH ACRES PARK
4. ANTIOCH SQUARE PARK
5. BETH TORAH PARK
6. BLUEJACKET PARK (POOL)
7. BRITTANY PARK
8. BROOKRIDGE PARK
9. BROWN PARK
10. CHEROKEE PARK
11. CITY HALL
12. CLOCKTOWER PLAZA
13. COBBLESTONE PARK
14. CORPORATE WOODS FOUNDERS' PARK
15. CREEKSIDE PARK
16. CRESTVIEW PARK
17. CROSBY KEMPER FARM
18. CROSS CREEK PARK
19. EMPIRE ESTATES PARK
20. FAIRWAY WOODS PARK
21. FARMERS' MARKET PLAZA
22. FOREST CREEK PARK
23. FOXHILL NORTH PARK
24. FOXHILL SOUTH PARK
25. GREEN MEADOWS PARK
26. HANOVER PARK
27. HAWTHORNE VALLEY PARK
28. HICKORY HILLS PARK
29. HIGHLAND VIEW PARK/CENTER
30. INDIAN CREEK RECREATION CENTER
31. INDIAN VALLEY PARK
32. JAMES PLACE PARK
33. KENSINGTON PARK
34. KINGSTON LAKE PARK
35. LEXINGTON PARK
36. LINWOOD PARK
37. LOUISBURG SQUARE PARK
38. MAPLE HILL PARK
39. MARTY PARK (POOL)
40. MOLAMPHY PARK
41. NALL PARK
42. NALL HILLS PARK
43. NORTH PARK
44. NOTTINGHAM DOWNS PARK
45. NOTTINGHAM FOREST PARK
46. NOTTINGHAM SOUTH PARK
47. OAK PARK GREENWAY
48. O.P. ARBORETUM
49. O.P. COMMUNITY CENTER
50. O.P. COMMUNITY PARK
51. PINEHURST EAST PARK
52. PINEHURST ESTATES PARK
53. PINEHURST WEST PARK
54. PRAIRIE VIEW PARK
55. QUIVIRA PARK
56. REGENCY LAKE PARK
57. ROBINSON PARK
58. ROE PARK (POOL)
59. ROSEHILL PARK
60. ROSEHILL EAST PARK
61. SANTA FE COMMONS
62. SAPLING GROVE PARK
63. SHANNON VALLEY PARK
64. SOUTHLAKE PARK
65. STONEGATE PARK (POOL)
66. STRANG PARK
67. SUMMERCREST PARK
68. TOMAHAWK RIDGE PARK (POOL)
69. TOMAHAWK VALLEY PARK
70. VALLEYBROOKE PARK
71. W. JACK SANDERS JUSTICE CENTER
72. WELLINGTON PARK
73. WESTBROOKE PARK
74. WESTGATE PARK
75. WILDERNESS LAKE PARK
76. WINDHAM CREEK GREENWAY
77. WINDHAM HILL PARK
78. YOUNGS PARK (POOL)



City Golf Courses:

79. O.P. GOLF COURSE
80. ST. ANDREWS GOLF COURSE
81. WESTLINKS GOLF COURSE

