City of Carroll

112 E. 5th Street Carroll, Iowa 51401-2799 (712) 792-1000 FAX: (712) 792-0139

MEMO TO: Mike Pogge-Weaver, City Manager MSP-W

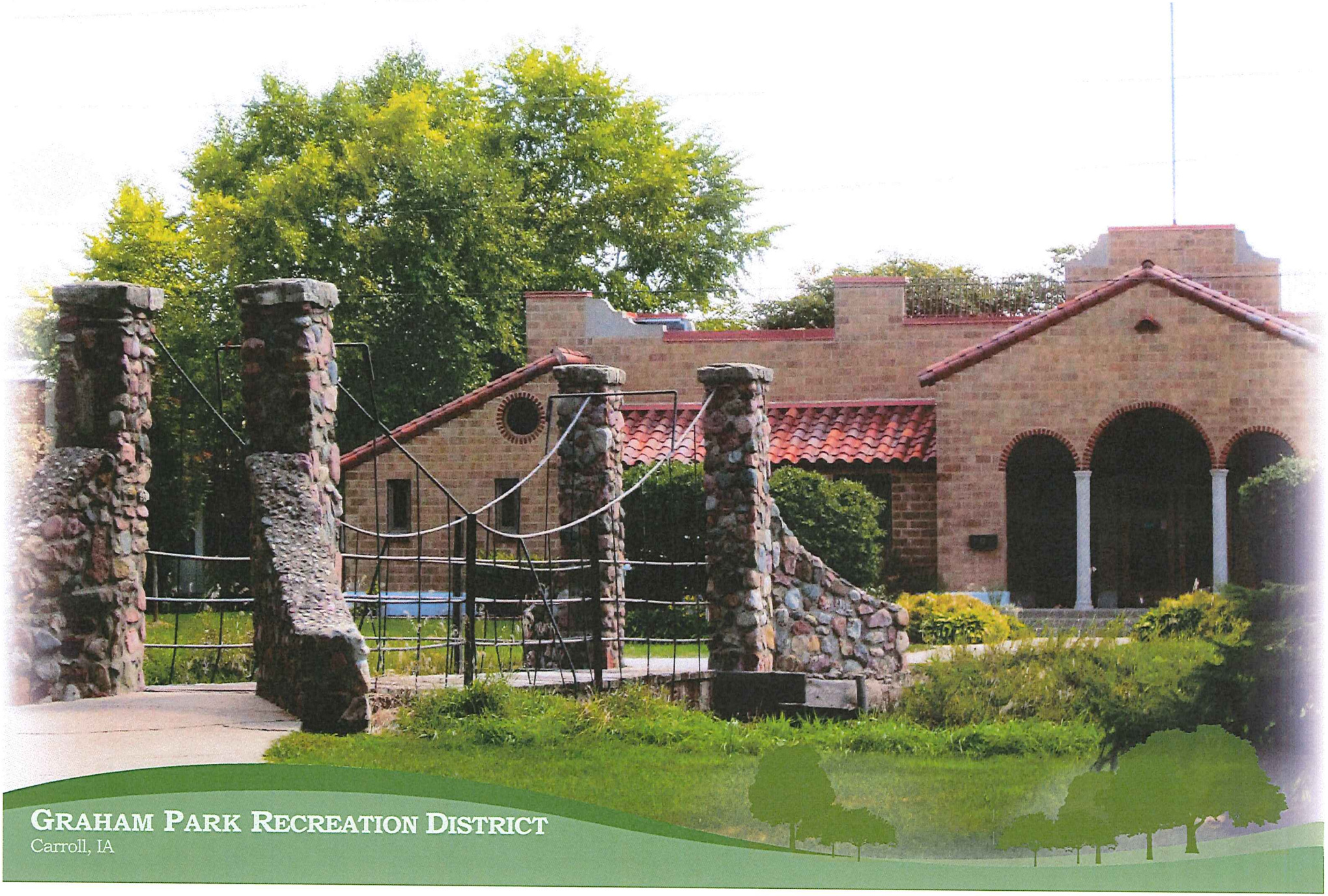
FROM: Jack Wardell, Director of Parks and Recreation JW

DATE: December 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Graham Park District Master Plan Update

Attached to this memorandum is the current, preliminary master plan for the Graham Park Master Plan – 2016. Carl Rodgers with the Department of Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University will go over in much more detail of the latest version at the City Council meeting, Tuesday December 27, 2016.

RECOMMENDATION: No action needed.



Graham Park Recreation District

Carroll, IA

Iowa State University Community Design Lab
2321 North Loop Dr., Suite 121, Ames, IA 50010
515.294.2213
isucdl@iastate.edu
website: research.design.iastate.edu/communitydesignlab/

Director: Carl Rogers, Assoc. Professor
Design Fellow: Chad Hunter
Research Assistants: Wenjuan Feng & Alex Robinson

CONTENTS & OVERVIEW

PROJECT OVERVIEW

INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS: COMMUNITY SCALE
EXISTING CONDITIONS: DISTRICT SCALE

DESIGN STRATEGIES

SITE PLAN
PROPOSED CIRCULATION
PARKING STRATEGIES & OPTIONS

DESIGN CONCEPTS

VISUALIZATIONS
LIGHTING
SIGNAGE
MATERIALS
SITE ELEMENTS

SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

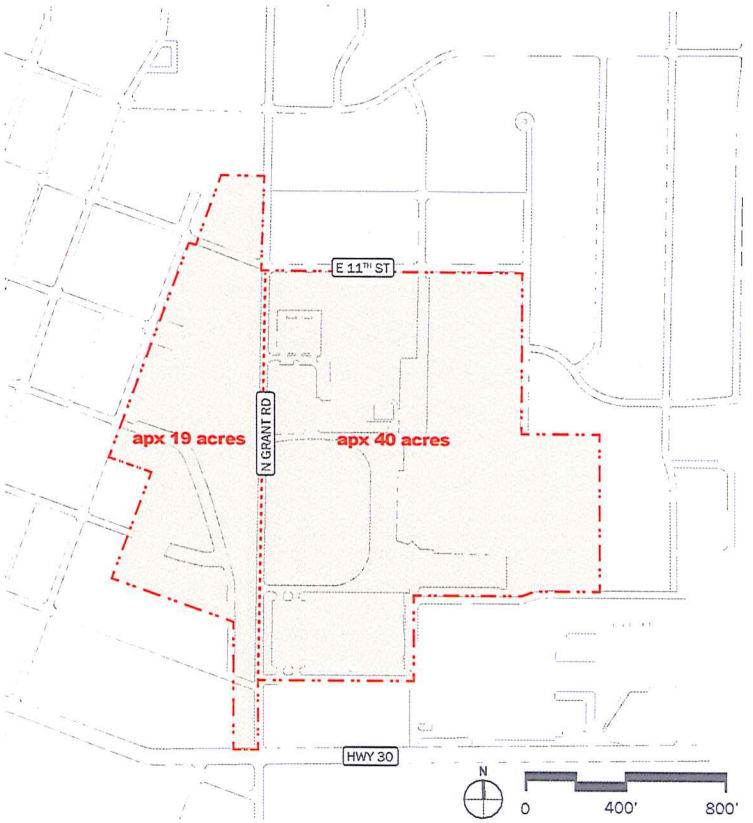
The City of Carroll is a town of nearly 10,00 people located in west central Iowa. However, it is one of the larger towns in the region surrounded by many other small town population who rely on visit Carroll for goods and services, schools and jobs, but also sports and recreation activities. The Graham Park Recreation District located on Carroll's east side, is one the city's biggest draws. The biggest of which is the shared public and private high school football stadium, which welcomes thousands of visitors every year. The recreation district host countless amenities:

West Side

- 19 acre park
- playground
- basketball courts
- skate park
- tennis courts
- bandshell
- picnic shelters
- historic one-room schoolhouse
- historic log cabin
- historic stone gateways and bridges
- creek

East Side

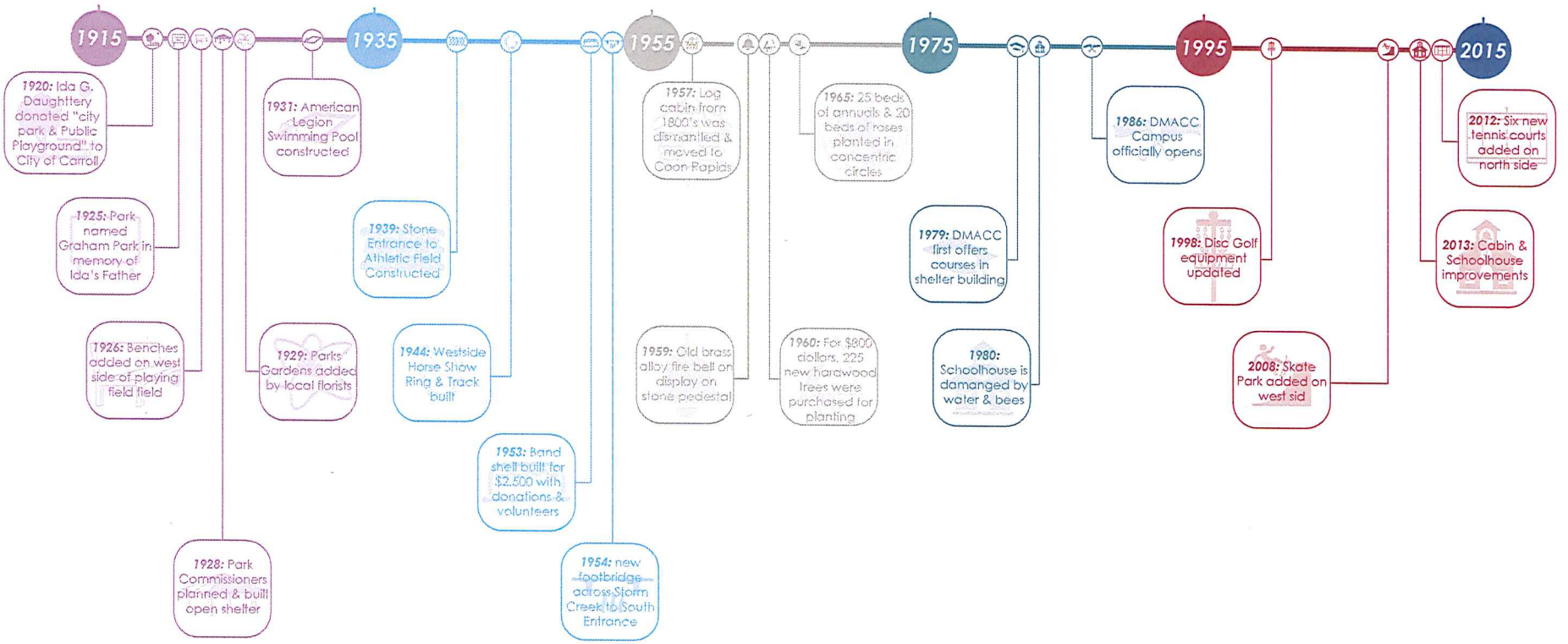
- recreation center
- football stadium
- aquatic center
- historic Merchant's Baseball Stadium
- softball fields
- historic bathhouse structure, now home to DMACC campus



The recreation district began taking shape nearly 100 years ago. In 1920 Ida G. Daugherty donated the land that five years later would be renamed Graham Park in memory of her father. Over the last 96 years the park has added many features and grown to 19 acres. Additional recreation and school sports amenities developed on the east side of the road as well adding 40 acres to the recreation district.

As new amenities and features have been introduced, they have developed with their own visual identity and have been inserted into the mix of feature without a clear goal to make them work as a whole. Another factor that disrupts the continuity of the recreation district is parking. As each feature is added or grows, additional parking is required. Over time this has led to an amalgam of parking that winds its way through the east side of the district, filling the voids between the individual features.

The deign of the recreation district has become automobile dominated, with little accommodations being made for pedestrian safety and access or vegetation beyond the turf of the various fields. Plans for renovations and expansion



for features in the recreation district are in the works and the community is seeking to create a more cohesive identity moving forward.

One of city's concerns is that young people are moving out of the community to more urban areas and less are moving to town. 15-34 year olds make up only about 20% of Carroll's population. By establishing a bold, forward thinking vision for the Graham Park Recreation District, the district can help play a role in attracting and retaining young people in Carroll.

Graham Park Recreation District Design Goals:

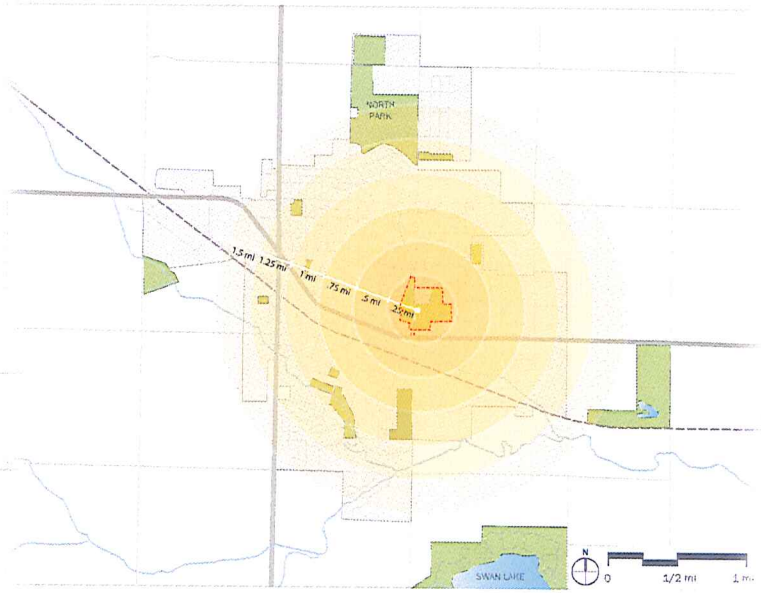
- Create a vision for the district that connects it to other community assets
- Establish design guidelines that create a more cohesive identity for the district
- Maintain and increase usability of historic structures
- Improve pedestrian circulation and safety
- Improve parking to make it safe and easy to use
- Strengthen connections between the east and west sides of the district
- Connect Grant Road to the district through streetscape improvements
- Connect the district to the city's trail master plan

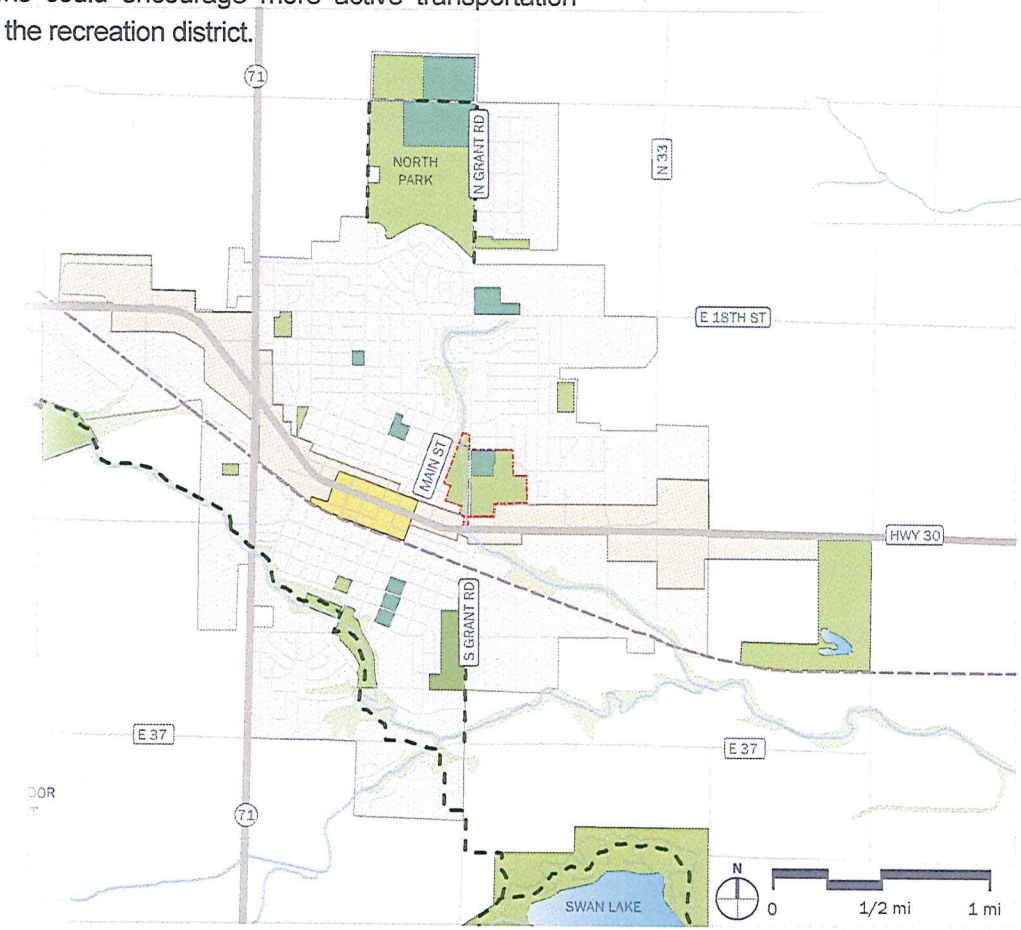
INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS: COMMUNITY SCALE

Graham Park Recreation District is centrally located within Carroll offering potential for the district to be a prominent hub for the community. Only a handful of residents live beyond 1.5 miles from the district. This offers the potential for majority of the population to conveniently access the district via walking or biking.

The core of the downtown district is located just over a half mile away and many of the schools are within a mile of the district. Many of the city's largest employers are also very close by immediately to the south and east. Currently people from businesses in the area drive to the park for breaks and lunch. Establishing more walkable and bikeable conditions could encourage more active transportation choices for people to connect to the recreation district.





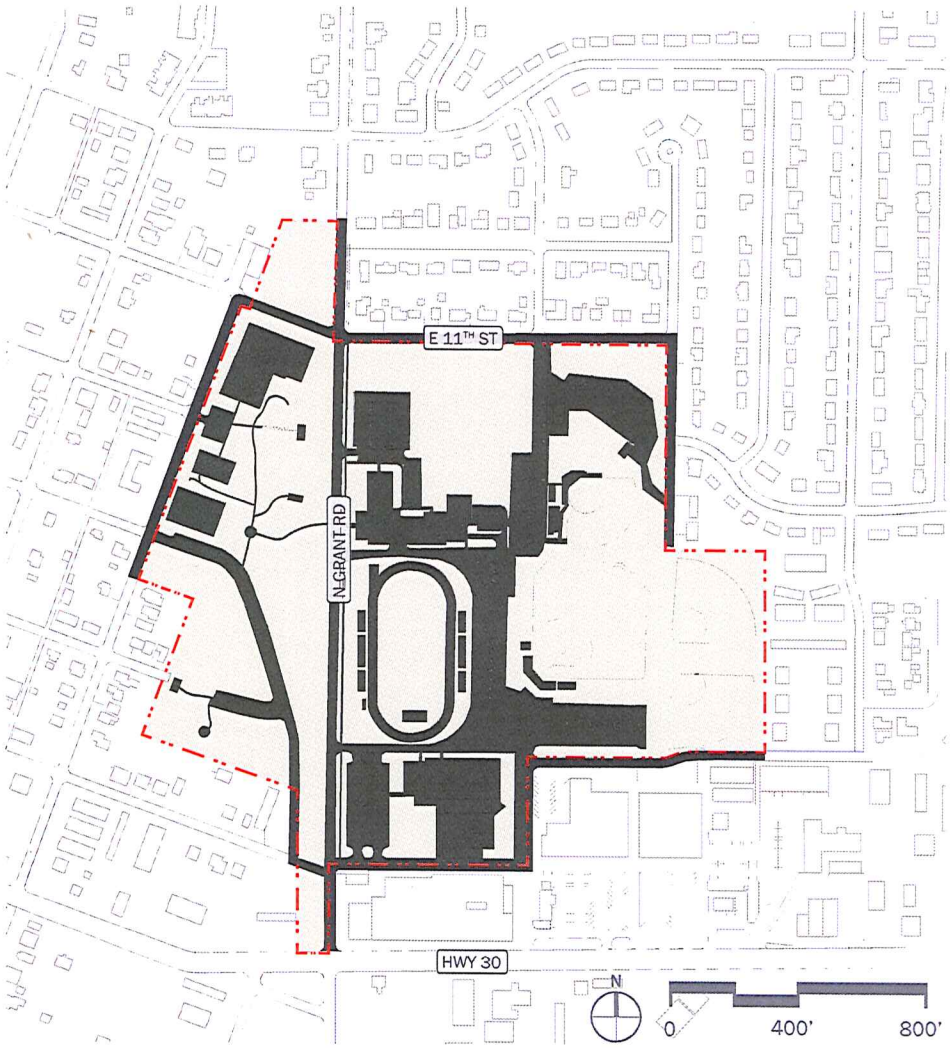
EXISTING CONDITIONS: DISTRICT SCALE

Currently the Graham Park Recreation District is geared toward accomodating vehicular movement and parking. There are wide open paved corridors with little vegetation along them. There are five vehicular points of entry on the districts east side and three into Graham Park on the west. For pedestrians there are two pedestrian bridges that lead from Grant Road over the creek and into the park; however there is no access along Grant Road or crosswalk to make the bridges viable access points.Within the park there are some sidewalks that connect a couple of the features, but for the most part the park is open for wandering through open areas or utilizing the road. On the district's east side, the only pedestrian access was implemented with the introduction of the north access point and parking developed with the introduction of the aquatic center.

The majority of the east side is paved, while Graham Park features a wonderful canopy of mature trees. Having so much impervious surface can lead to high amounts of runoff during a rain storm and be taxing on the stormsewer system.

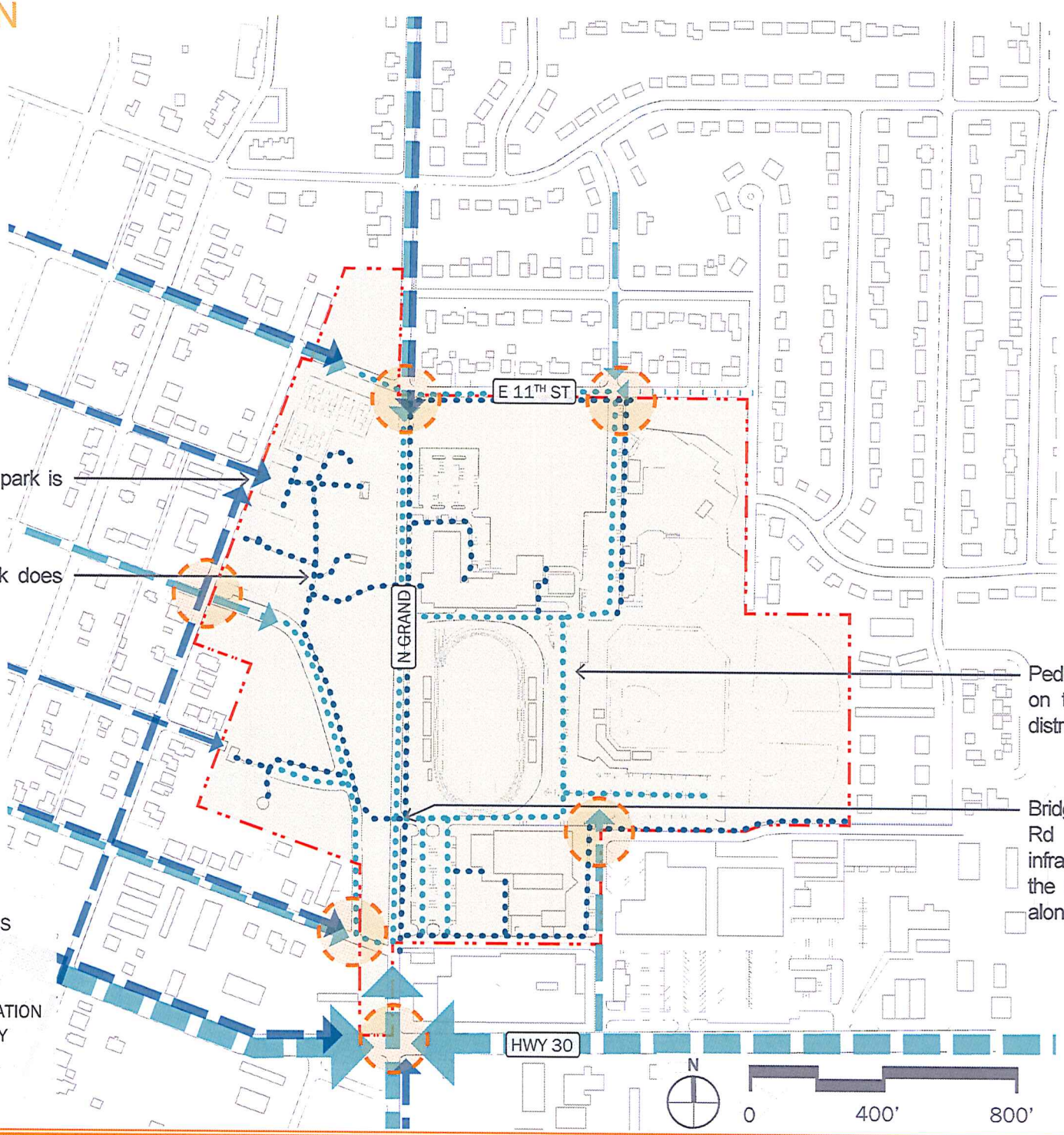
DMACC property

Carroll Public School property



IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

CIRCULATION



Pedestrian entry into the park is limited

Circulation within the park does not have a clear strategy

Pedestrian accessibility on the east side of the district is limited

Bridges meet Grant Rd with no supporting infrastructure for crossing the street or accessibility along the west side

LEGEND

- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- DESIGNATED PED. CIRCULATION
- VEHICLE ACCESS
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
- PROJECT BOUNDARY

CDL

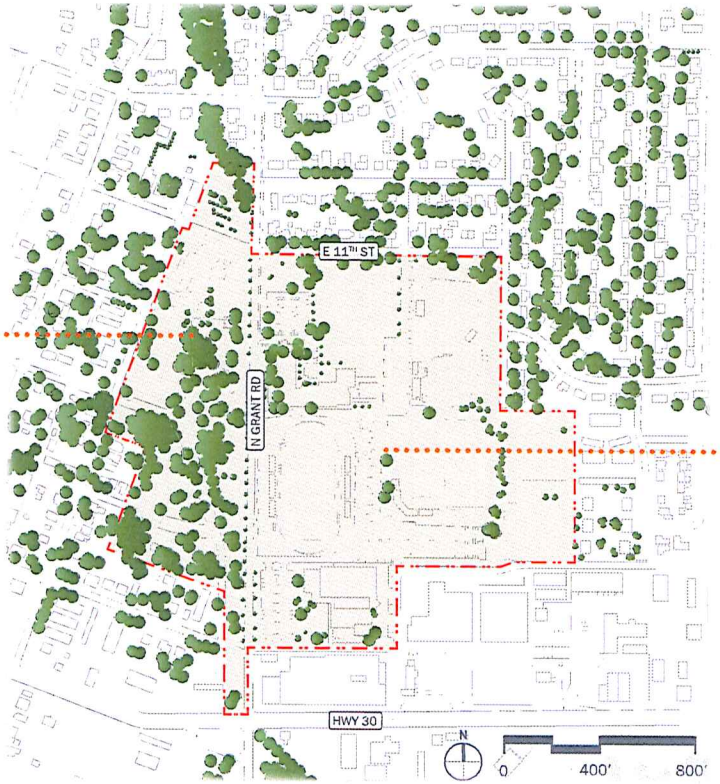
TREE COVER

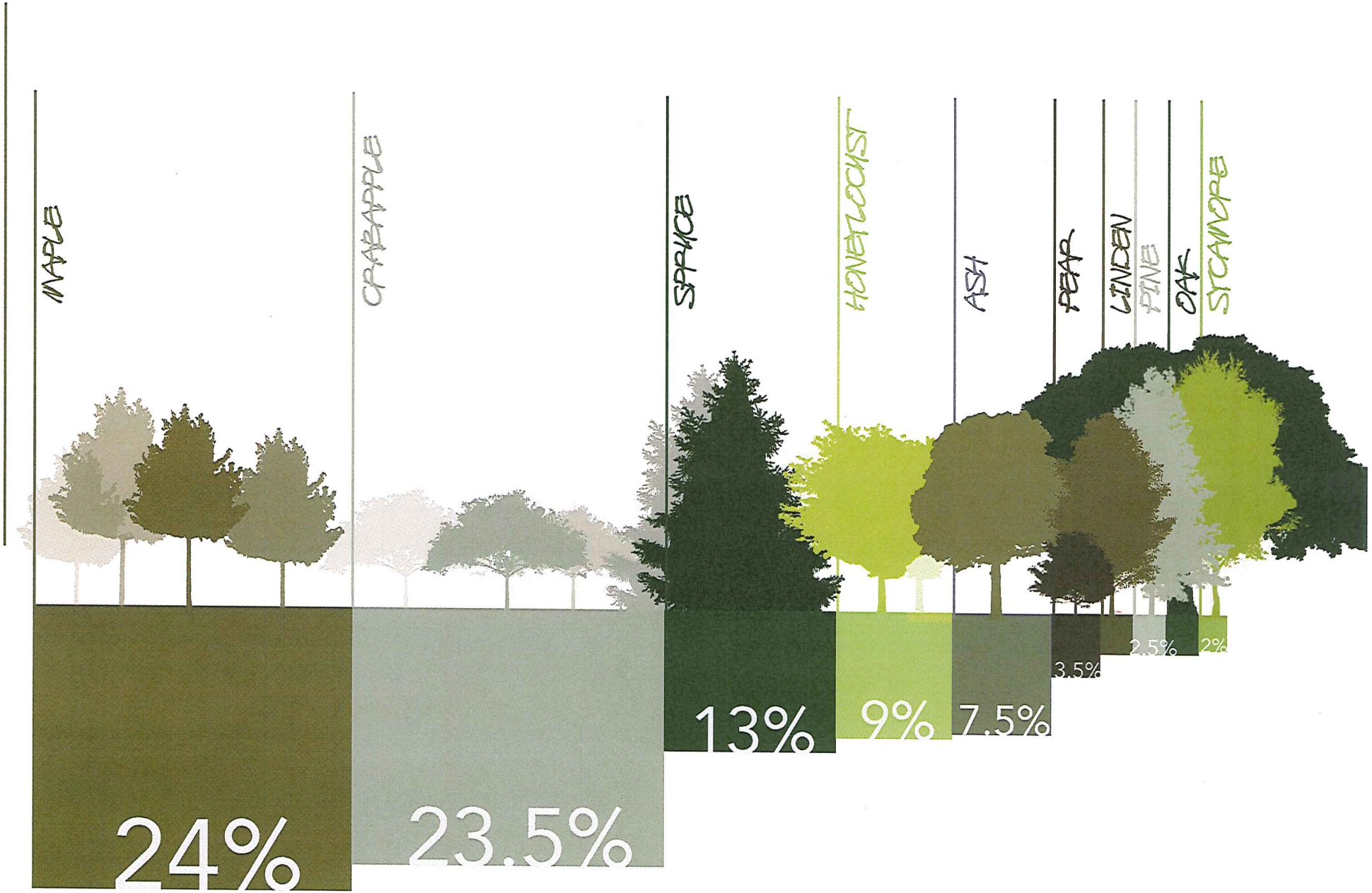
Graham Park has a wide variety of mature tree cover with many ornamental trees as well. On the recreation side there is minimal vegetation beyond the turf areas that define the sports fields.

As a whole the district feature approximately 300 trees from over 15 different genus. Some of the more populous genus in the district, like maples, have multiple unique species featured, including: Silver Maple, Norway Maple, Sugar Maple, Freeman Maple and Red Maple. Another major tree family is the crabapples which line the west side of Grant Road and enhance many more developed landscape areas in the park.

There are concerns about Ash trees, and the emerald Ash borer. There are approximately 20 Ash trees scattered throughout the park. This is a small number in regards to the large quantity and variety of trees present. Most are integrated into other clustering of trees, so if some were lost or removed preemptively that would not have a major effect on the character of the park landscape.

Proactively planting replacement trees for the Ash trees or others that may be reaching the end of their life spans such as a handful of the Spruce trees may help to maintain the character of more prominent locations in the park.

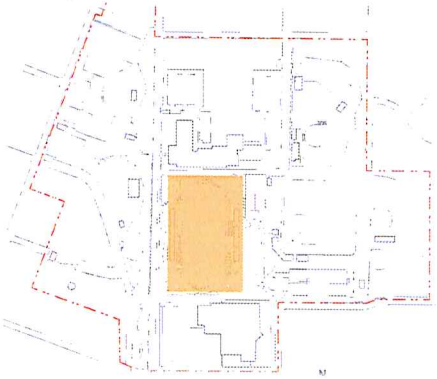



MAPLE
24%
CRABAPPLE
23.5%
SPRUCE
13%
HONEYLOCUST
9%
ASH
7.5%
PEAR
3.5%
LINDEN
2.5%
PINE
OAK
2%
SYCAMORE

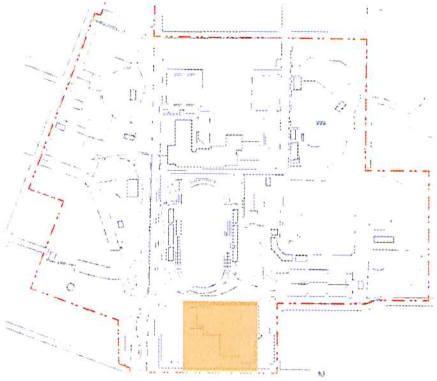
CDL

RECREATION

Graham Park Recreation District offers an extensive variety of recreation opportunities which allow it to reach a wide population of the community as well as people from surrounding communities. Some of the opportunities are for personal recreation while others offer organized sports which draw large quantities of spectators and visitors to the community. Some of these features are currently in progress with restoration or redevelopment projects.

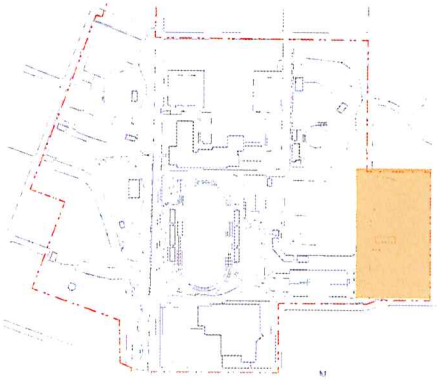


FOOTBALL STADIUM

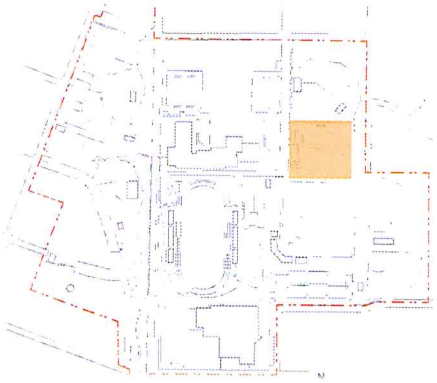


CARROLL RECREATION CENTER

MERCHANTS STADIUM

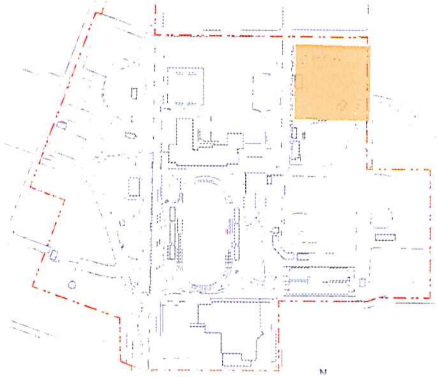


SOFTBALL COMPLEX

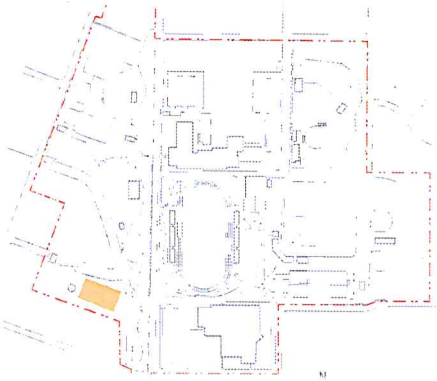


SOFTBALL FIELD

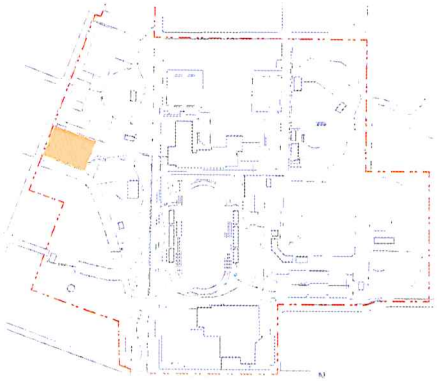
GRANT ROAD STREETSCAPE



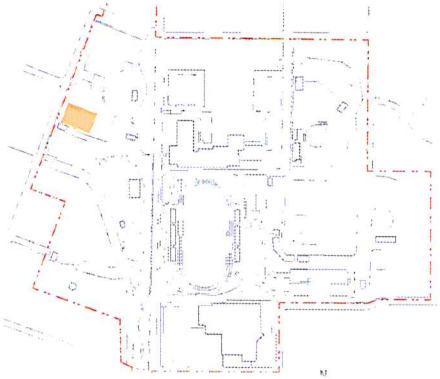
AQUATIC CENTER



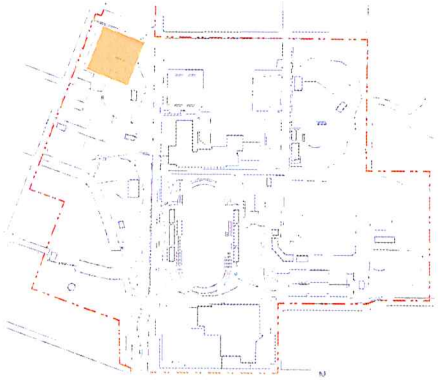
SAND VOLLEYBALL



BASKETBALL COURTS



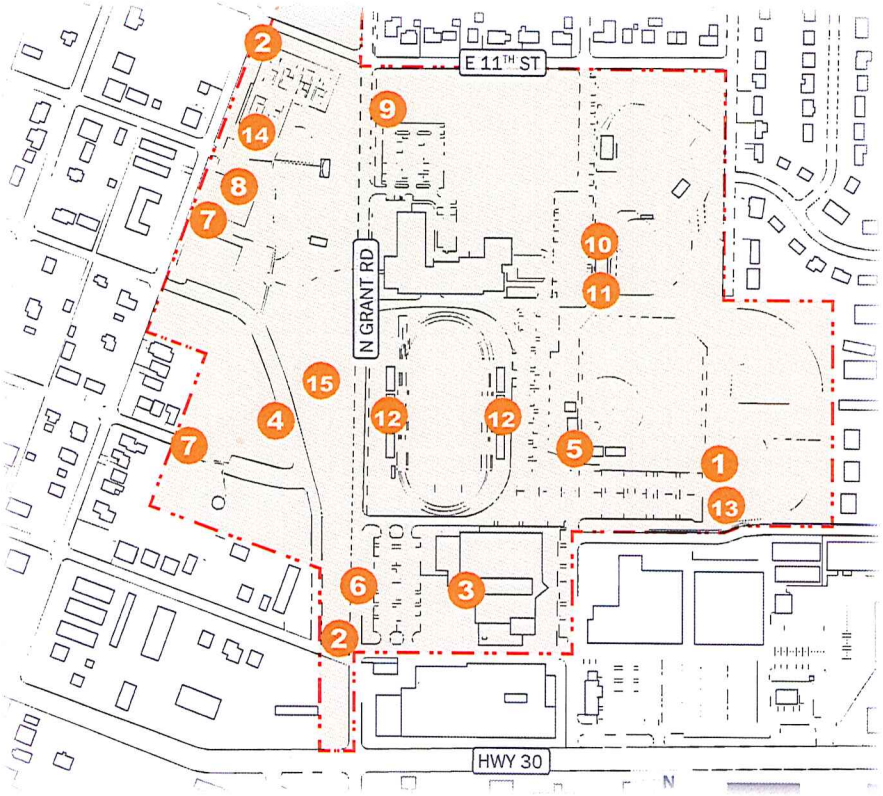
SKATEPARK



TENNIS COURTS

SIGNAGE

Currently the park and recreation facilities support a wide variety of signage Currently the park and recreation facilities support a wide variety of signage throughout the district as a whole. The sign types range from entrance signs, rules and regulations, team banners and identity and standard DOT signage. A couple of sign types such as the Graham Park entry sign and historic plaques have multiple signs with the same style but nearly every sign is unique from the next.



1

2

3

6

7

8

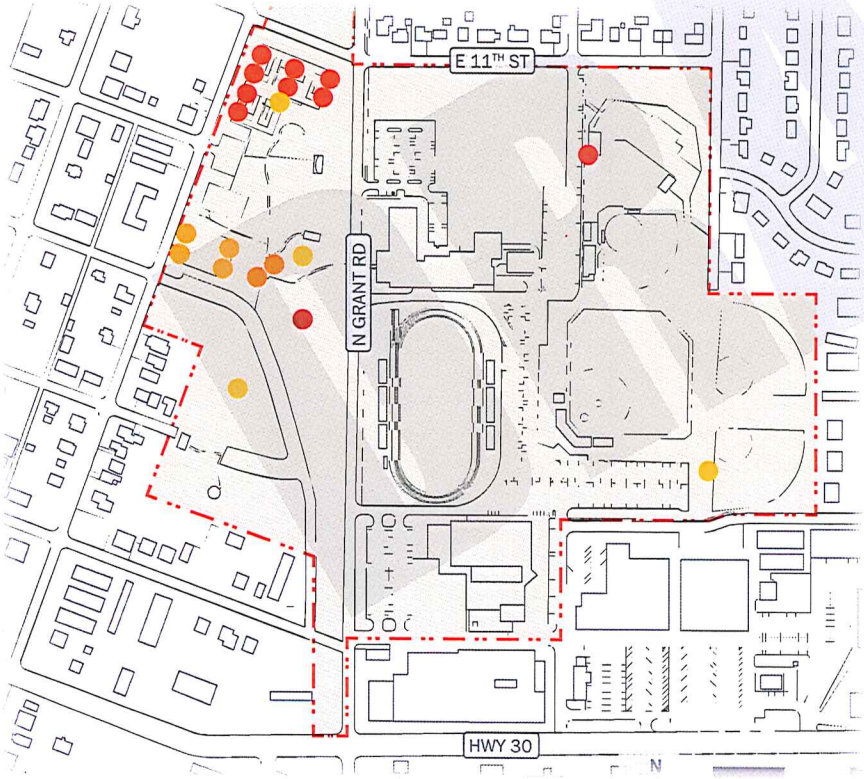
9

12

13

14

15



1

Recycled plastic
* aquatic center

1

Green wood bench
* shelter house

DRAFT

8 Aluminum bench with back
* tennis courts

2 Wood bench with steel pipe base
* central planter in Graham Park

4 Aluminum bench with no back
* basketball courts

BENCHES

Throughout the recreation district there are a variety of bench styles utilized. Establishing a consistent set bench styles placed at locations based on a hierarchy of use and program would help to build a stronger identity as a district. There are 21 benches in all. Most of the benches serve a specific activity and may accommodate spectators.

5 Concrete bench (multiple variations of this bench are present)

DRAFT

ADDITIONAL PARK ELEMENTS

CONCRETE PARKING STOPS 123

Most are in excellent shape with only a few cracked or eroded areas. These features could continue to be utilized in new parking configurations.

LOG PARKING BARRIER 36

Parking barriers are sturdy and in fine shape.

PARKING BARRIERS

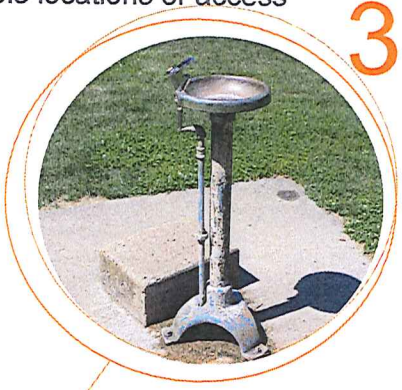
Graham Park's main drive and parking areas are lined by a series of barriers. These parking stops inform drivers of the terminus of parking spaces and increase safety for pedestrians and the park vegetation by limiting the ability of drivers to enter the lawn areas. Generally speaking the barriers are in good working condition with little erosion or damage to them.

PICNIC ACCESSORIES

Throughout Graham Park there is equipment that would be useful for a gathering. Adding consistency with this equipment would unify the site and make the placement of these elements less scattered. Placing these elements together in some instances would help the flow of the space and its sucess. For example, It would be beneficial to place trash cans by pinic tables to lessen litter.

5 GRILLS

Grills appear randomly located and are in varying states of condition. Not related to picnic table locations or access



3 WATER FOUNTAINS

Two of the fountains are in this older style while the softball restroom has an updated fountain on the outside of the building. These older fountains have a unique quality, but are tarnished and corroded. Additional fountains closer to activity areas would be appropriate.

10 TRASH RECEPTACLES

Fairly consistent green steel barrel style throughout the district with the Recreation Center having its own concrete receptacle at the entry. Color matches the picnic tables and blends in with natural elements in the environment.

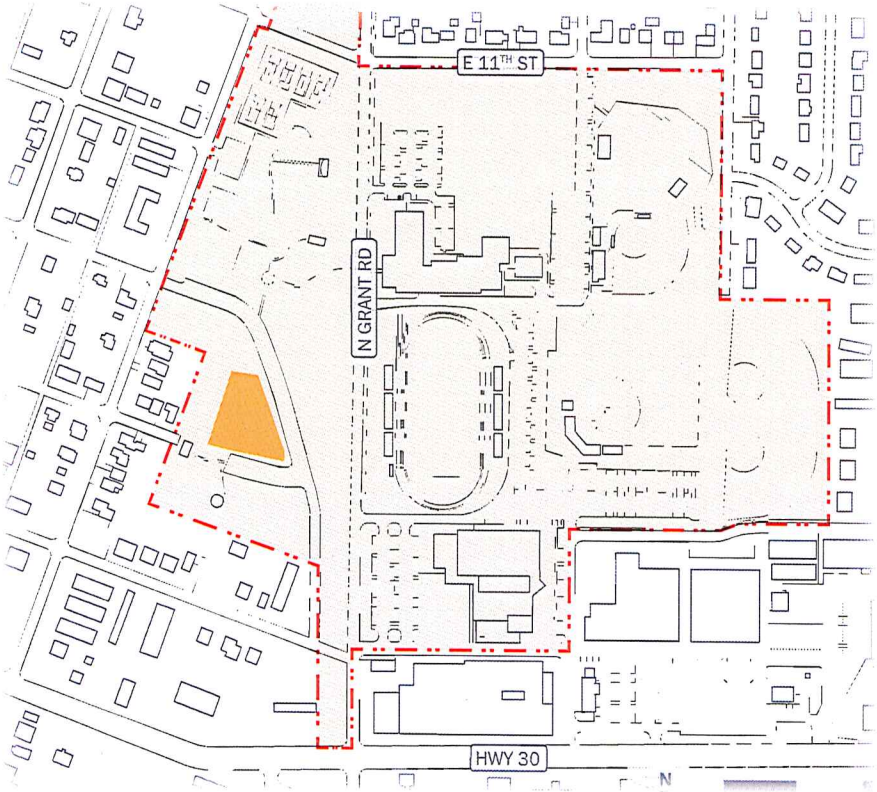
34 PICNIC TABLES

Same picnic table utilized throughout. Most within proximity of shelters and concession areas with a few scattered for individual use. Paint is fresh and tables seem solid. 26 tables present in Graham Park and 8 tables in the softball concessions area.

CDL

PLAYGROUND

The playground equipment is centralized in the southern part of Graham Park. All features have been well kept and the surface material of sand and mulch is freshly updated. Some of the older steel structure are showing some wear to the paint. The biggest concern is that the old steel structures are often too hot for kids to use on warm sunny days. The consistency of primary colors ties the old and new play equipment together.



PLAY

Updated steel and plastic play structure with multiple slides, climbing features and monkey bars geared at younger children

SLIDE

Updated steel and plastic play set with climbing wall and spiral slide

CLIMB/HANG

Steel dome climbing structure in good shape

SWING

Swing set with three swings (standard, infant and chair) painted steel structure with noticeable wear swings look dated

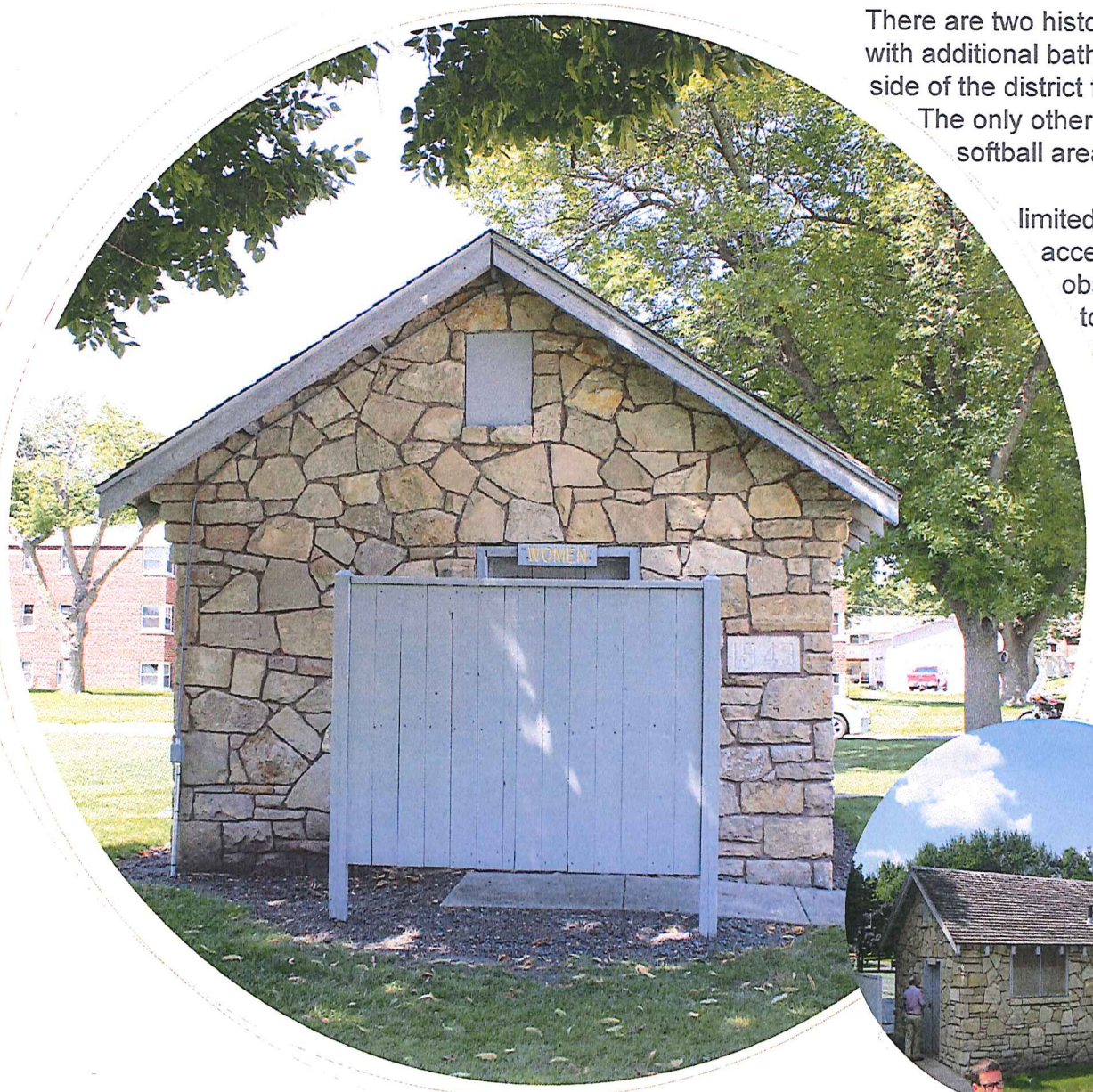
Metal slide in good shape, but hot to the touch

Track ride more current feature

Swing set with four swings painted steel with some wear swings are updated

Open spiral slide metal slide hot to the touch

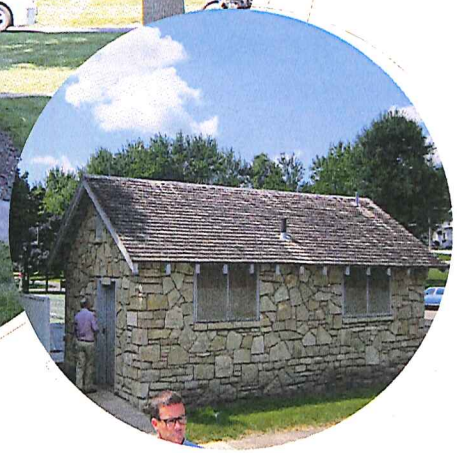
BATHROOM FACILITIES



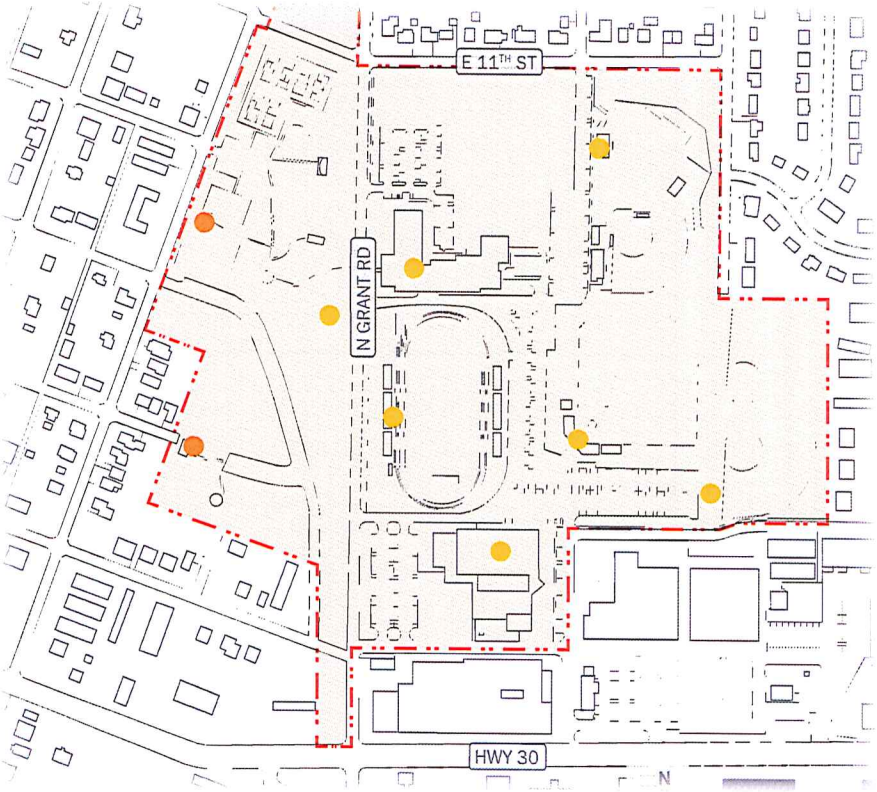
There are two historic bathrooms structures located with the park with additional bathrooms to the north of the park shelter. The east side of the district features bathrooms for individual activity areas. The only other independent structure is located in the public softball area.

limited interior light; concerns over handi-cap accessibility due to heavy doors and interior obstructions. Unique, quality stone-work that adds to the historic identity of the park and offers a materiality to build from.

Minimal light is getting in
Colors are drab
Slight bumb going in
other bathrooms are available in the district.
As the distrcit become more of a cohesive whole, people may be more inclined to recognize all of the other potential bathrooms as part of the same facility and see that thwere



are alternatives for handicap accessible restrooms



STONE FEATURES

Graham Park's main drive and parking areas are lined by a series of barriers. These parking stops inform drivers of the terminus of parking spaces and increase safety for pedestrians and the park vegetation by limiting the ability of drivers to enter the lawn areas. Currently there are 123, apx. 6" tall concrete parking barriers and 36 Log fence parking barriers in use in Graham Park. Generally speaking the barriers are in good working condition with little erosion or damage to them.

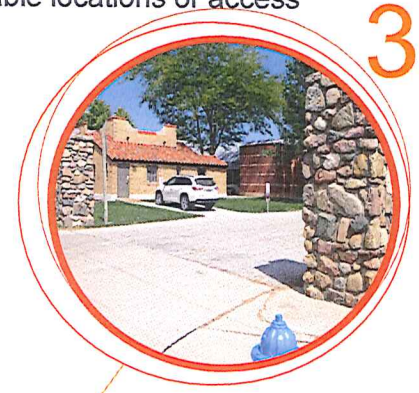
Throughout Graham Park there is equipment that would be useful for a gathering. Adding consistency with this equipment would unify the site and make the placement of these elements less scattered. Placing these elements together in some instances would help the flow of the space and its sucess. For example, It would be beneficial to place trash cans by pinic tables to lessen litter.

4 GATE PILLAR

Grills appear randomly located and are in varying states of condition. Not related to picnic table locations or access

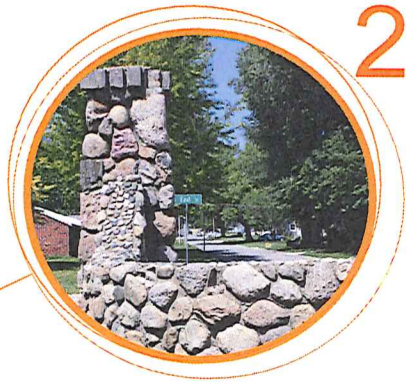
3 LARGE GATE PILLARS

Two of the fountains are in this older style while the softball restroom has an updated fountain on the outside of the building. These older fountains have a unique quality, but are tarnished and corroded. Additional fountains closer to activity areas would be appropriate.



2 GATEWAY PILLAR & WALL

Fairly consistent green steel barrel style throughout the district with the Recreation Center having its own concrete receptacle at the entry. Color matches the picnic tables and blends in with natural elements in the environment.



2 BRIDGES

Same picnic table utilized throughout. Most within proximity of shelters and concession areas with a few scattered for individual use. Paint is fresh and tables seem solid. 26 tables present in Graham Park and 8 tables in the softball concessions area.

GRAHAM PARK STRUCTURES

There are two historic bathrooms structures located with the park with additional bathrooms to the north of the park shelter. The east side of the district features bathrooms for individual activity areas. The only other independent structure is located in the public softball area.

Historic Cabin

Historic School House

Bandshell

Shelter House

Stone Picnic Shelter

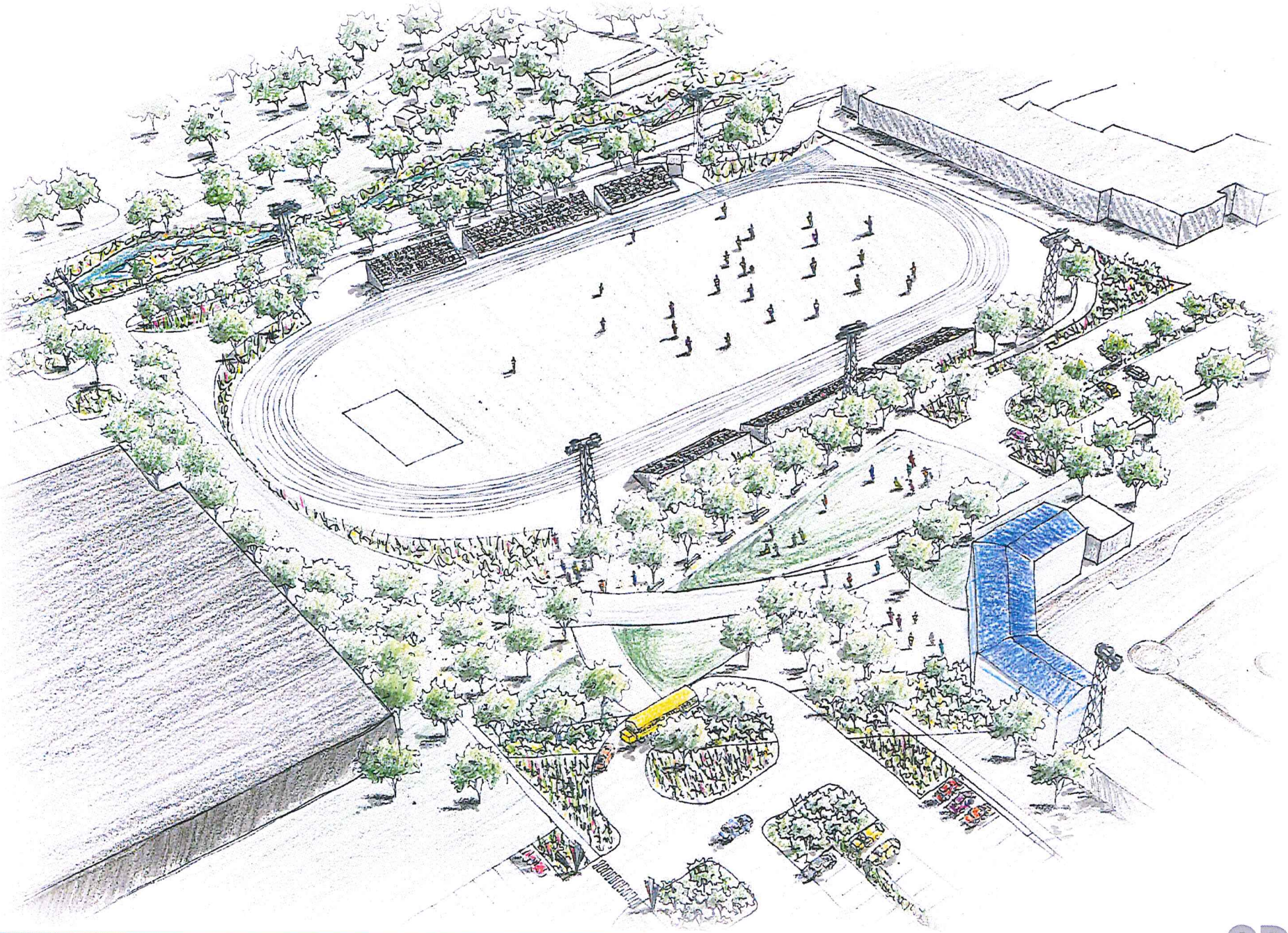
Tennis Shed

DMACC CAMPUS

HISTORIC PARK BATHHOUSE

There are two historic bathrooms structures located with the park with additional bathrooms to the north of the park shelter. The east side of the district features bathrooms for individual activity areas. The only other independent structure is located in the public softball area.

DESIGN STRATEGIES



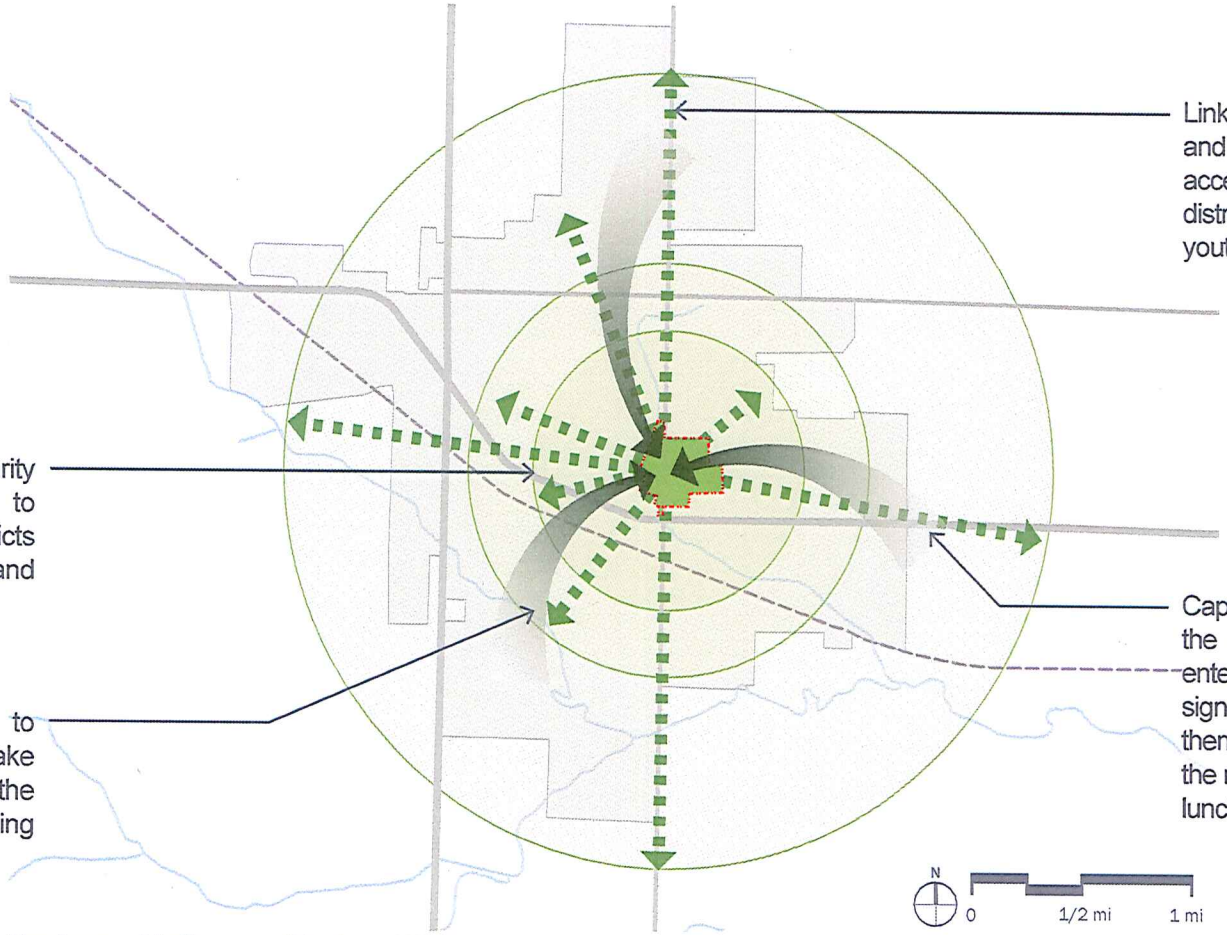
CDL

COMMUNITY STRATEGY
CONNECTION | CIRCULATION | IDENTITY

Creating strong connections between the district through physical infrastructure, design elements and branding will better link the district to the community, influencing a more active use of the community as a whole.

To create a popular and memorable destination for the community it is important that the district build upon the amenities of the community and gear itself to the needs and desires of prominent user groups.

Together, these levels of influence present the potential for a stronger relationship between the community with all of its amenities and the Graham Park Recreational District that benefits from and support each other.



Link the schools through branding and infrastructure to provide safe accessible routes to the recreation district and increase its use by local youth

Build on the identity and popularity of the downtown district to enhance the use of both districts as destinations for residents and visitors

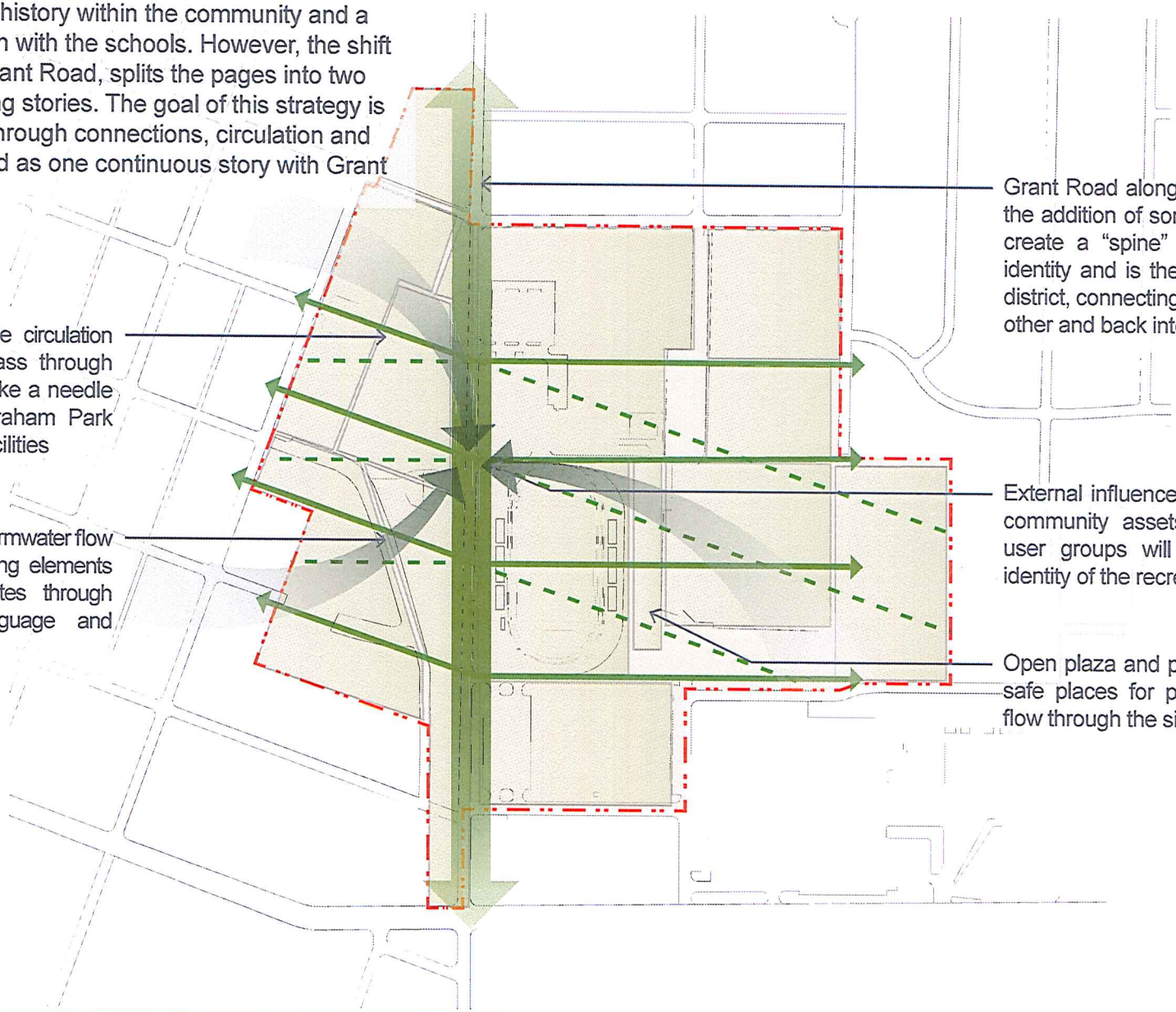
Capture the attention of workers on the east side of town and visitors entering the community through signage and trails that can welcome them into town and lead them to the recreation district for an event or lunch break

Expand the trail network to increase its use and make stronger links between the recreation district and surrounding parks

Reciprocal Influence Strategy Diagram

DISTRICT STRATEGY
BINDING THE BOOK

The Graham Park Recreation District is like a book waiting to be bound, with its pages open to a story that involves a rich history within the community and a constant connection with the schools. However, the shift in the grid along Grant Road, splits the pages into two very different looking stories. The goal of this strategy is to bind the pages through connections, circulation and identity so they read as one continuous story with Grant Road as the spine.



Grant Road along with the stream and the addition of some adjacent trails will create a "spine" that establishes the identity and is the primary axis for the district, connecting the two sites to each other and back into the community

Pedestrian and bicycle circulation will flow into and pass through the site and "spine" like a needle stitching together Graham Park and the recreation facilities

External influence from the strength of community assets and its prominent user groups will help to define the identity of the recreation district

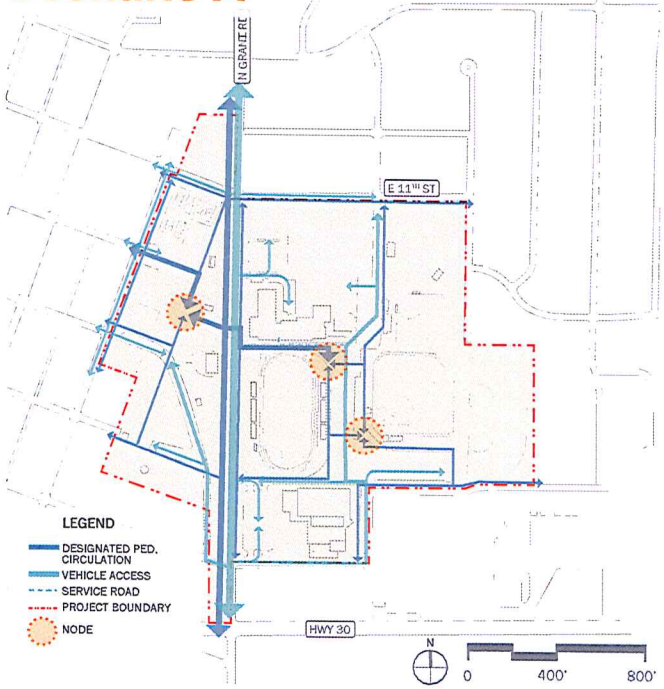
Lines of vegetation, stormwater flow and other place making elements will bind together sites through common visual language and identity

Open plaza and park space will create safe places for people to gather and flow through the site

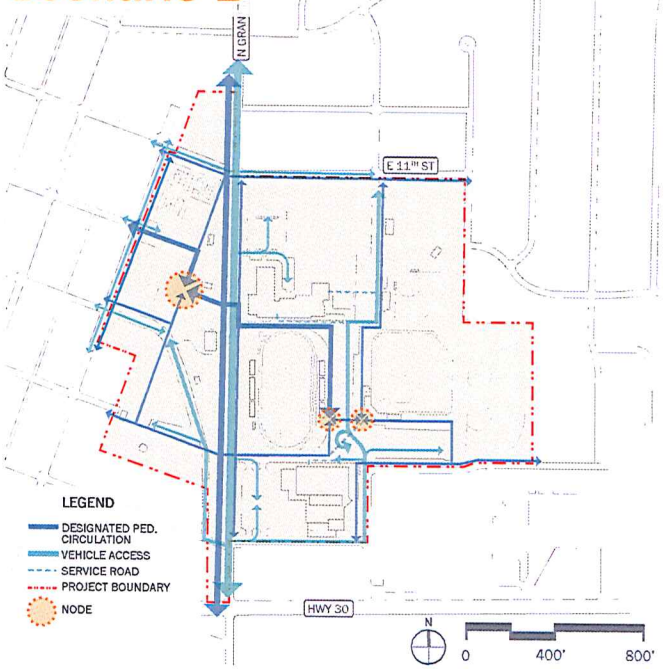
CIRCULATION STRATEGIES

Three organizational scenarios were presented to the committee. These scenarios focused on pedestrian and vehicular circulation as well as major nodes within the district. The goal of each scenario was to raise the prominence of pedestrian accessibility, increase continuity between the two sides of the district and simplify the circulation patterns. The highlighted nodes represent major entry points or gathering places. The committee chose Scenario C which reduced the number of vehicle access points into the east side parking areas, provided two drop off areas for the football stadium and Merchant's Stadium and proposed a central gathering point between them. The scenarios impact on parking is also shown to the far right. These numbers have been updated and increased through additional parking opportunities featured on the following pages.

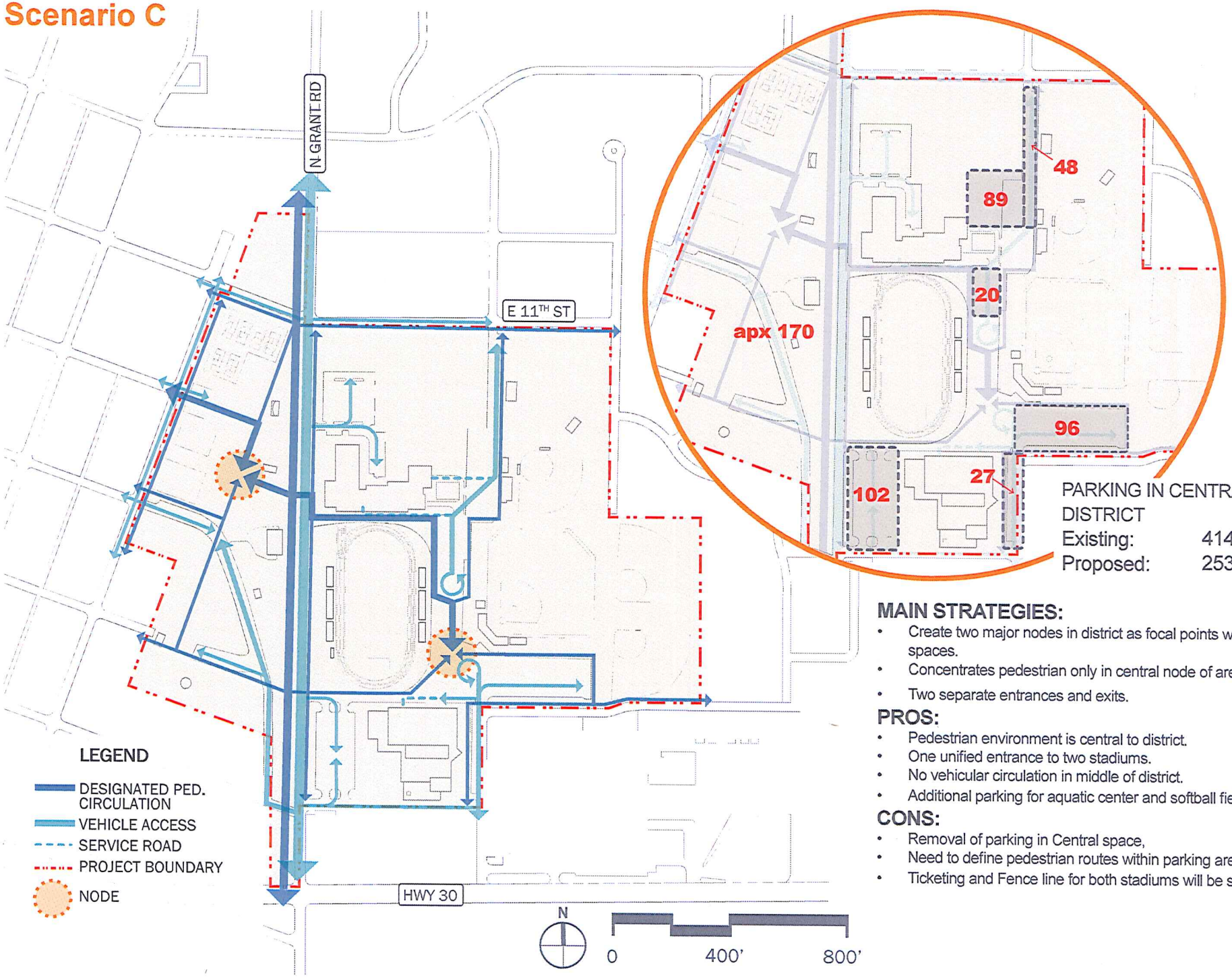
Scenario A



Scenario B



Scenario C



PARKING IN CENTRAL DISTRICT

Existing:	414
Proposed:	253

MAIN STRATEGIES:

- Create two major nodes in district as focal points within distinct spaces.
- Concentrates pedestrian only in central node of area.
- Two separate entrances and exits.

PROS:

- Pedestrian environment is central to district.
- One unified entrance to two stadiums.
- No vehicular circulation in middle of district.
- Additional parking for aquatic center and softball field

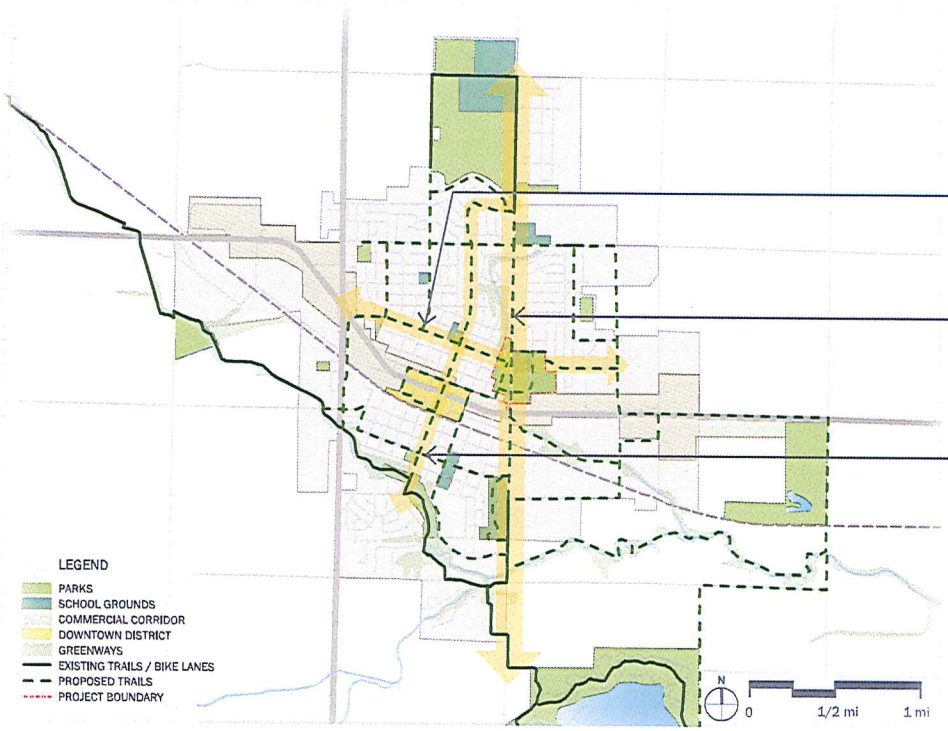
CONS:

- Removal of parking in Central space,
- Need to define pedestrian routes within parking area.
- Ticketing and Fence line for both stadiums will be separate.

CDL

SITE PLAN

The site plan envisions a vibrant, engaging landscape for the Graham Park Recreation District that highlights its historic beginnings and roots to the community's schools, while establishing dynamic spaces and forms that will continue to make it a prominent community asset for future generations. The design utilizes bold landscape forms and spaces and flowing pedestrian pathways create a cohesive landscape typology between the two sides of Graham Park Recreation District. Grant Road is treated as a binding agent rather than a dividing feature as it is now. Through streetscape updates the road helps to bridge landscape typologies and scale between the park to the west and facility complex to the east. At a community scale this establishes Grant Road as a major north-south connector especially for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.



Secondary axis along tilted grid, making links between the district and Minchen Park and making connections to north-south routes

Grant Road as primary axis with bike lanes and trails, connecting to existing trails on the north and south end of town

Secondary axis making connections through downtown and to Kuemper schools and hospital

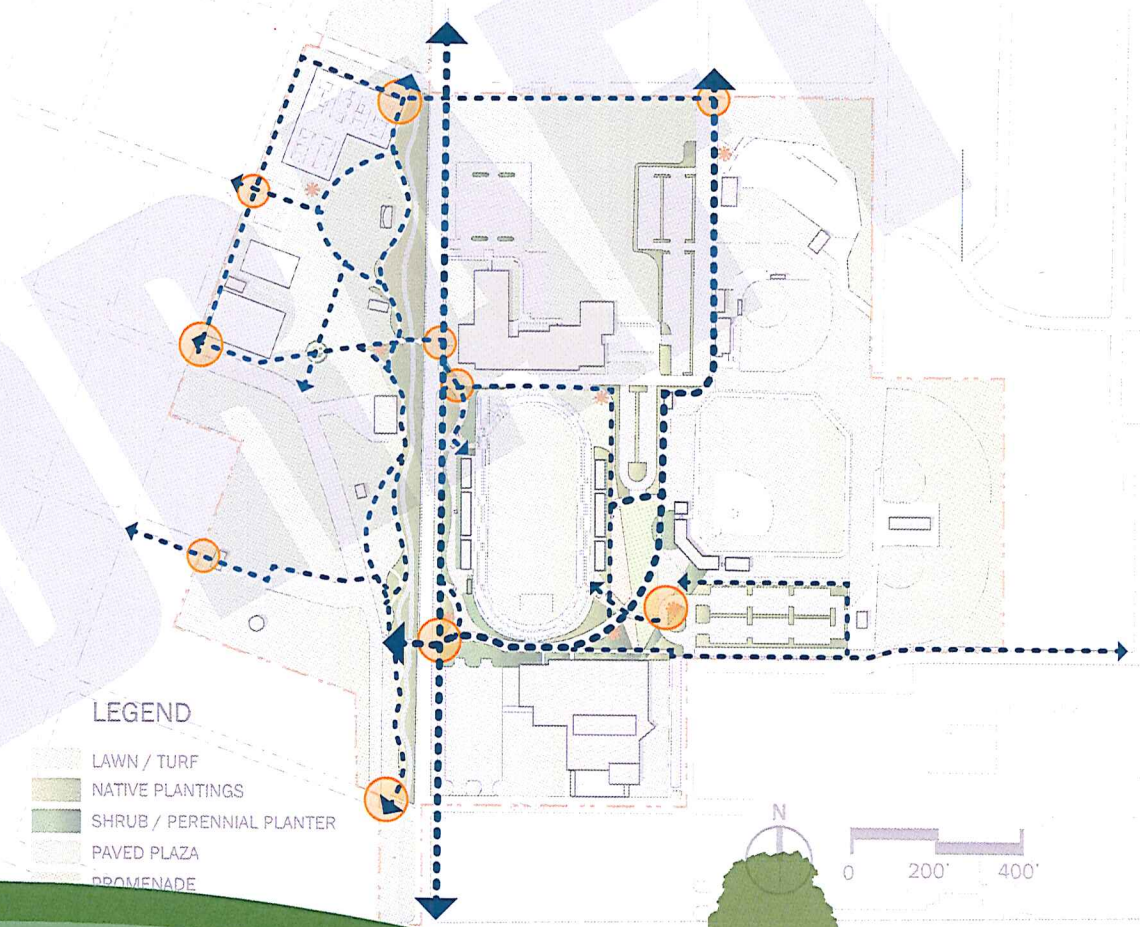
This trail plan expands on the existing Carroll trail master plan by utilizing the Graham Park Recreation District as an organizing hub for trail loops, raising the prominence of Grant Road, and adding additional trails along greenways on the south side of town.

Enhanced creek environment and experiential trail
Proposed park trails
Northwest football stadium entry plaza
Southwest football stadium plaza
Bioswale / Rain Garden
North roundabout and drop-off
The Knoll
The Promenade
Merchant's Stadium Plaza
The Current (pedestrian route)
Bioswale / Rain Garden
South roundabout and drop-off
Southeast football stadium entry plaza
E 11th ST
GRANT RD
E 7th ST
HWY 30
LEGEND
LAWN / TURF
NATIVE PLANTINGS
SHRUB / PERENNIAL PLANTER
PAVED PLAZA
PROMENADE
PROPOSED PARKING ZONE
LANDMARK SCULPTURE
N
0
200'
400'
CDL

CIRCULATION

Based on Scenario C, the site plan prioritizes pedestrian movement and provides safe and continuous access through the district. Aesthetics and experiential qualities were also considered in the layout and design of the circulation. Curving forms, varied hardscape materials, street trees and other plantings will increase the positive experience of sidewalk and trail system.

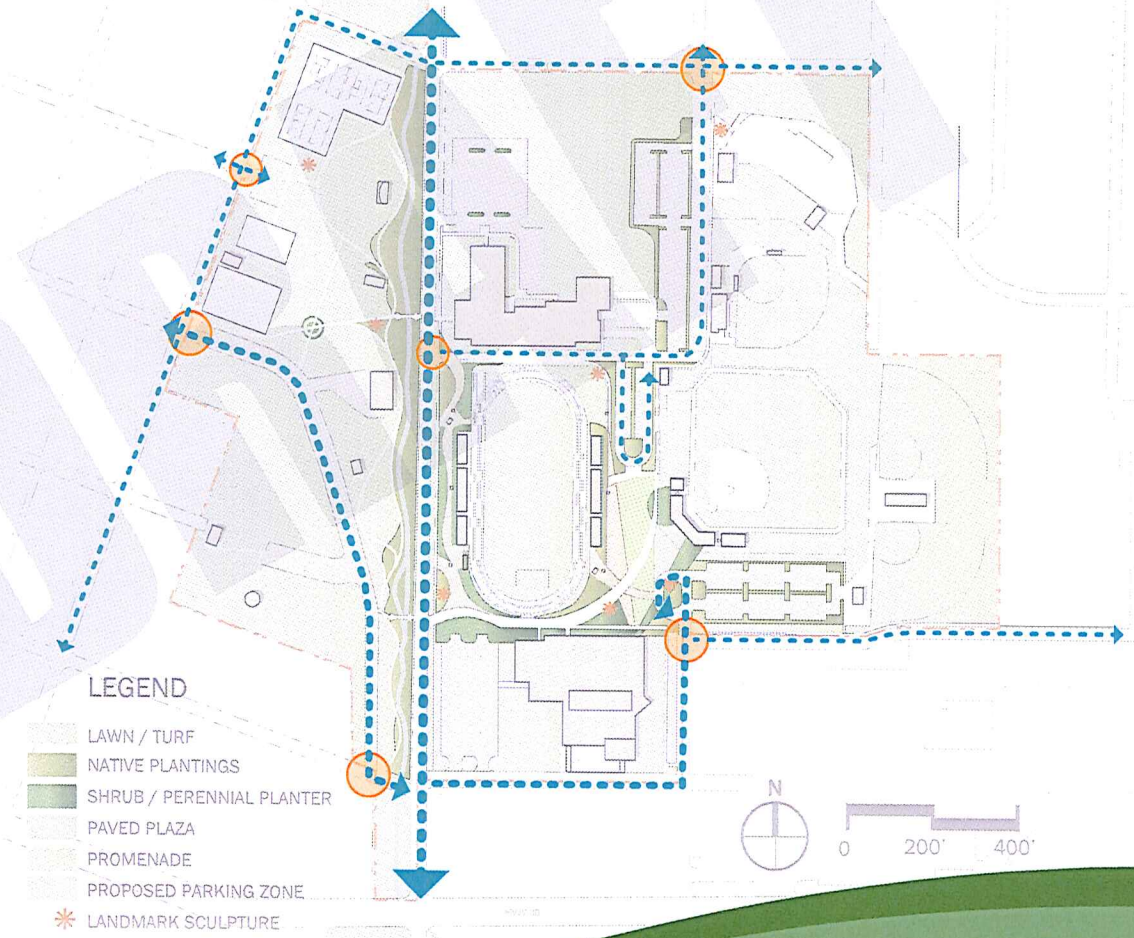
Vehicular access has been cut-off at 8th Street to create a pedestrian only through-way, "The Current" for the east side. Additional north-south access is provided through redevelopment of the creek into a more prominent feature for the park, with a curving trail running the length of the park that engages the creek.



DRAFT

Entry points are shown in orange with larger circle representing the prominence of the entry point. This varies between modes. Prioritization of pedestrian access is also proposed through safety features such as crosswalk delineation and buffer areas. These features help to reduce points of conflict between modes and create safer mobility for people and vehicles.

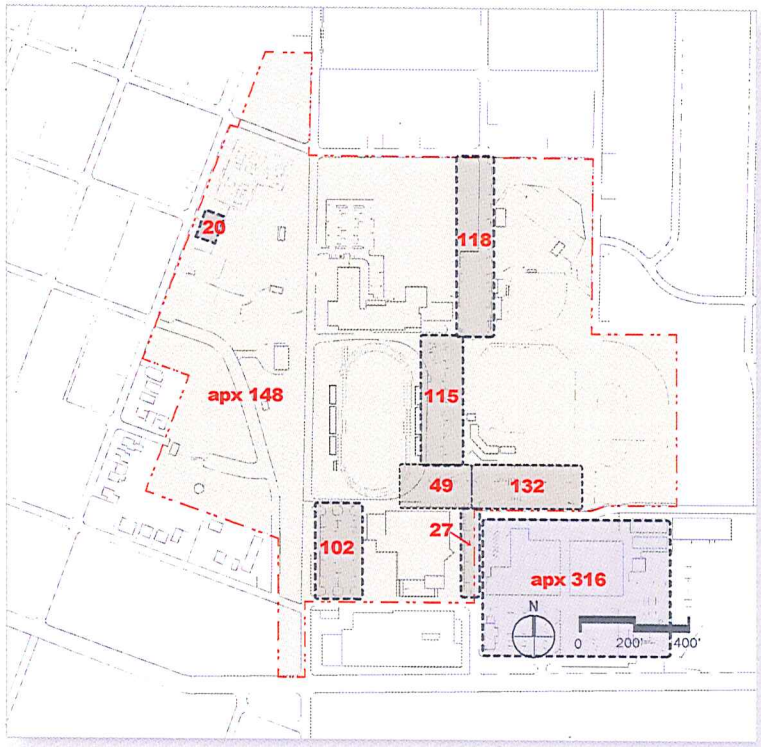
The master proposes two vehicle drop-off areas establishing major entry points south of Merchant's and at the aquatic center. This organizational strategy brings a prominence to the central zone between the football stadium, rec center and Merchant's Stadium creating a key location for a new, vibrant park area.

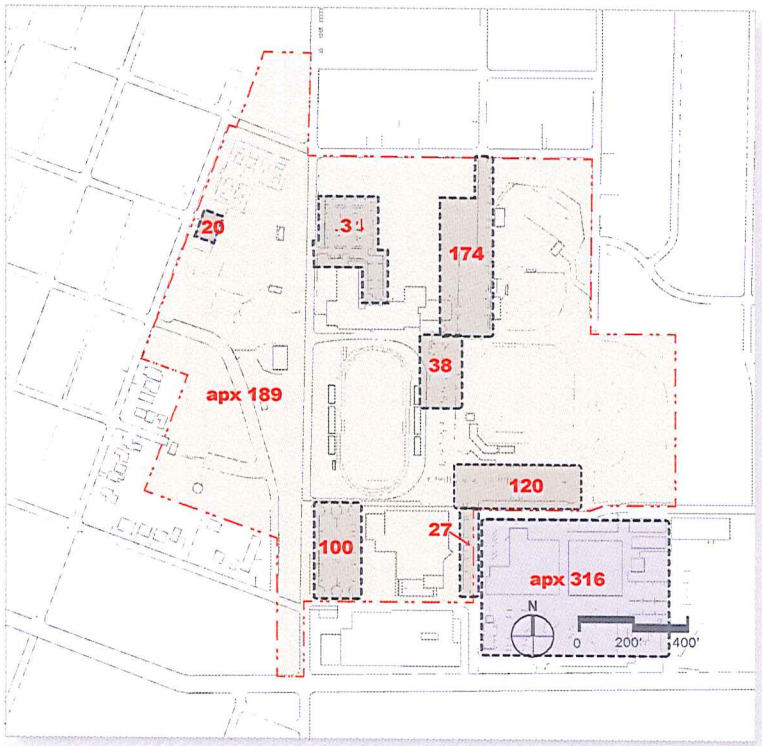


DRAFT

CDL

PARKING LOCATIONS AND QUANTITIES





Existing Parking

East Side Recreation District 677

On City Property
South of Merchant's Stadium : **132**
East of the Football Stadium : (115+49) **164**
Along the Aquatic Center : **118**
East side of recreation center : **27**
West Side of recreation center : **102**
DMACC west lot : **134**

West Side - Graham Park 168

North parking lot : **20**
Along roadways : **150**

Parking Beyond the District 316

EXISTING PARKING TOTALS 1161

Proposed Parking

East Side Recreation District 594

On City Property
South of Merchant's Stadium : **120**
North of the Knoll : **38**
Along the Aquatic Center and additional DMACC parking : **174**
East side of recreation center : **27**
West Side of recreation center : **101**
DMACC west lot : **134**

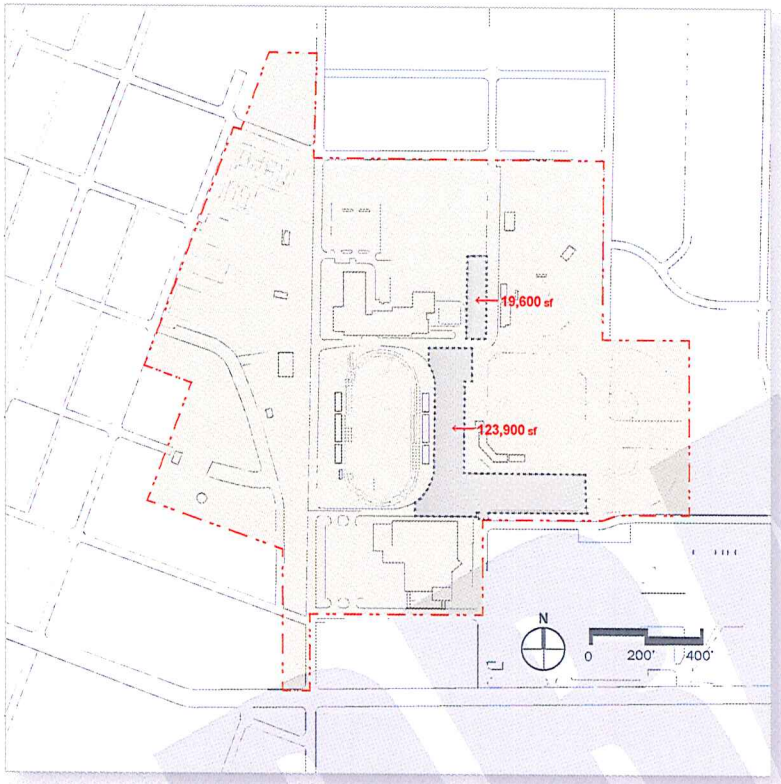
West Side - Graham Park 209

North parking lot : **20**
Along roadways : **189**

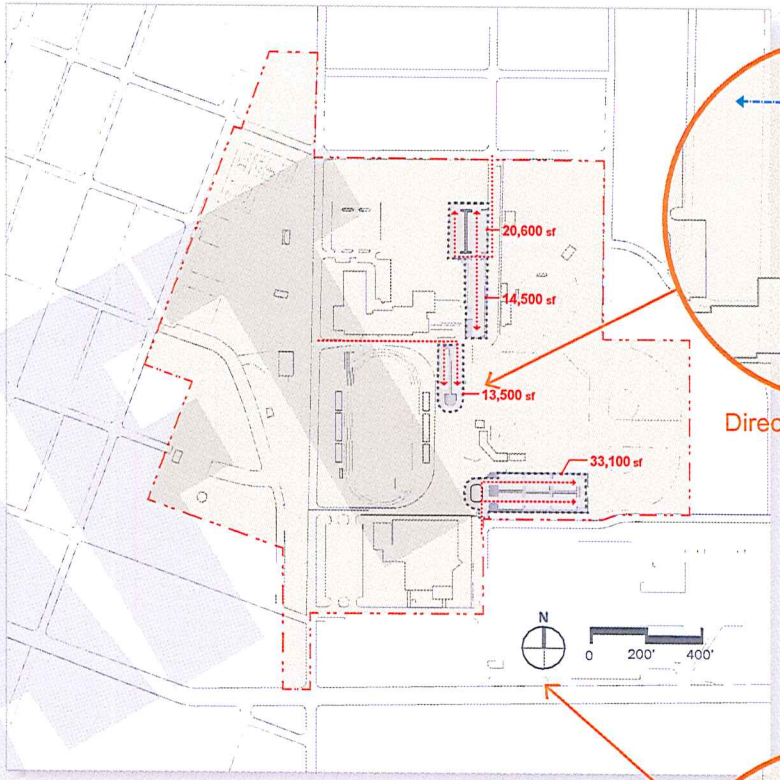
Parking Beyond the District 316

PROPOSED PARKING TOTALS 1119

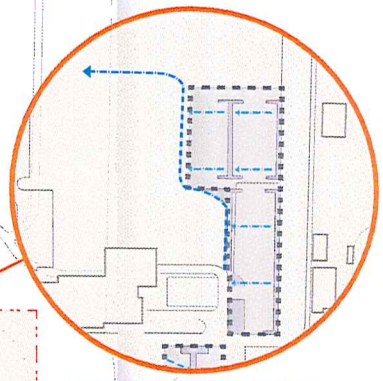
SURFACE AREA FOR SNOW STORAGE



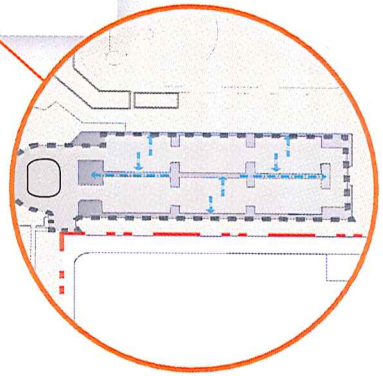
Existing Parking Area: 144,000sf



Proposed Parking Area: 81,700sf



Directed Surface Flow



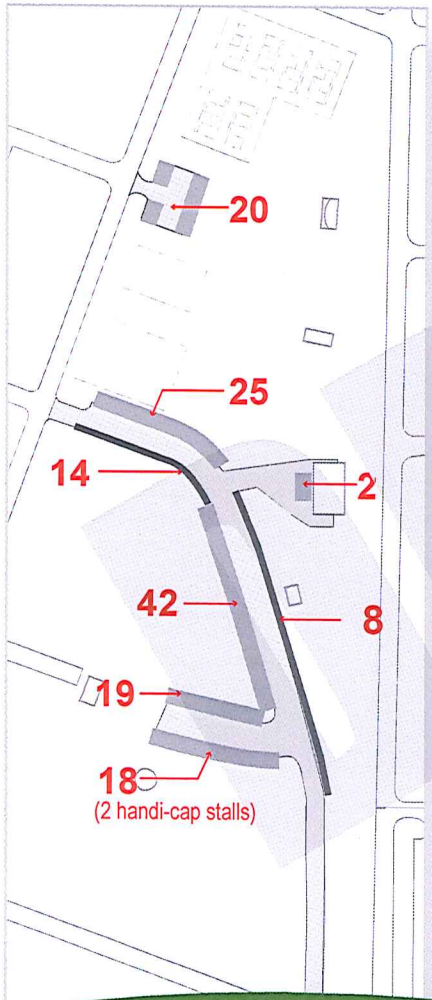
Directed Surface Flow

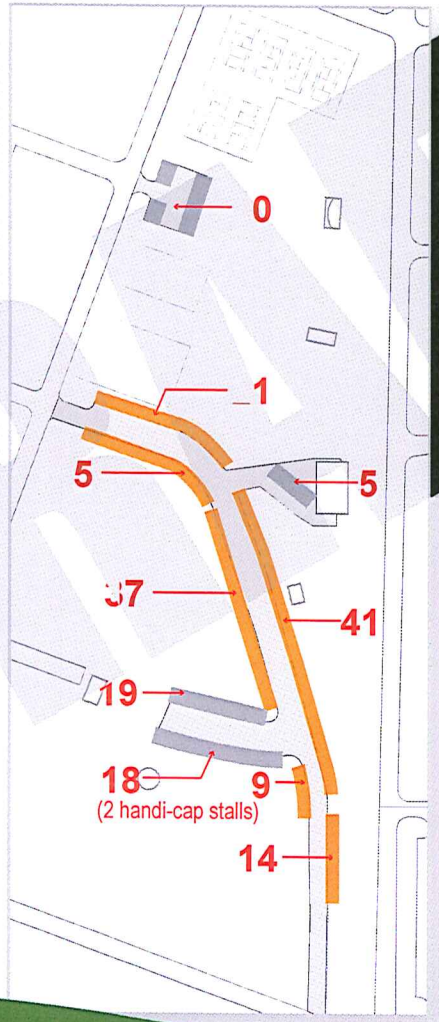
The master Plan retains over 80,000sf of paved surface area in the central parking lots of the District. The introduction of vegetated buffers and bioswales within the parking areas will help to slow down and clean surface runoff from snow melt and stormwater. These features also allow for more water to permeate into the groundwater supply.

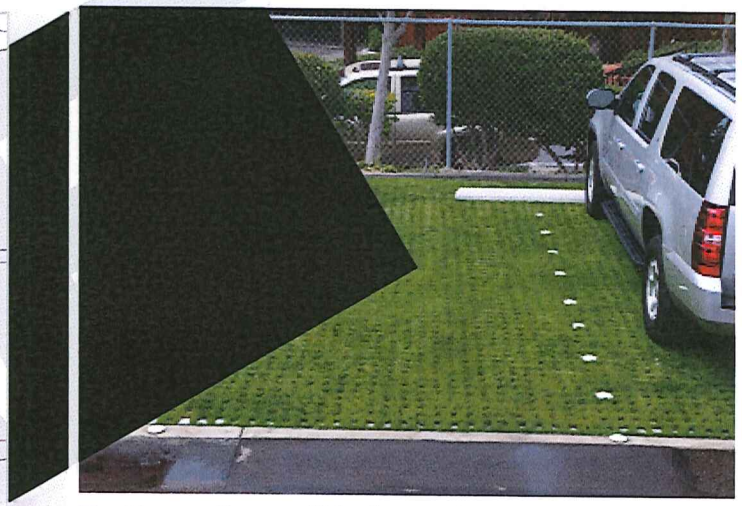
CDL

GRAHAM PARK PARKING

The main road through Graham Park has varying width shoulders running along it. These shoulders currently provide for a mix of parallel and 90 degree parking. 60 degree parking could be utilized if the shoulder was to be expanded in a couple of locations which would accommodate more parking. There are several under utilized locations where further parking could be added as well. These locations may also just be designated lawn spaces that can be used for parking during large events.







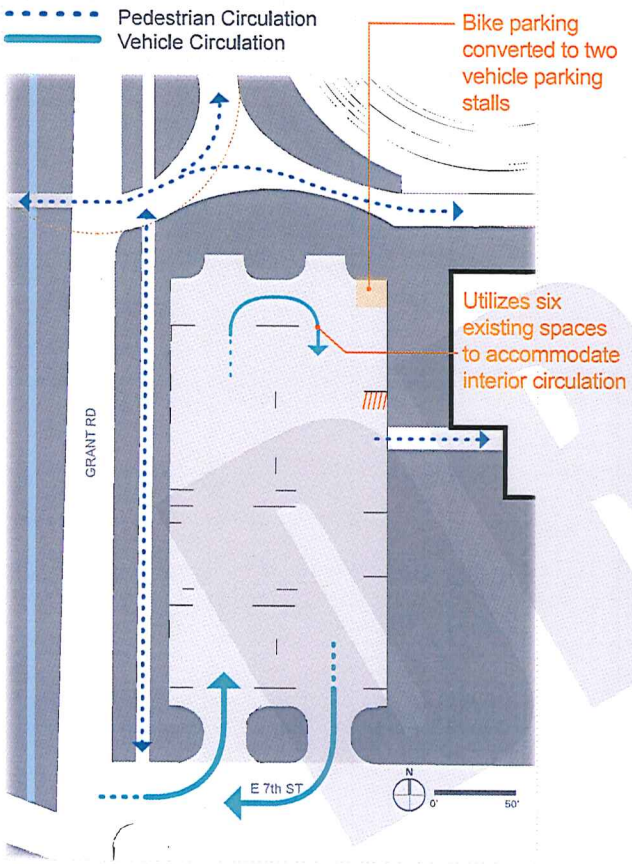
Parking options within the park could be implemented on a grass surface to reduce the impervious surface footprint. The image above utilizes a structural grid that can be planted or have sod laid over top.

LEGEND

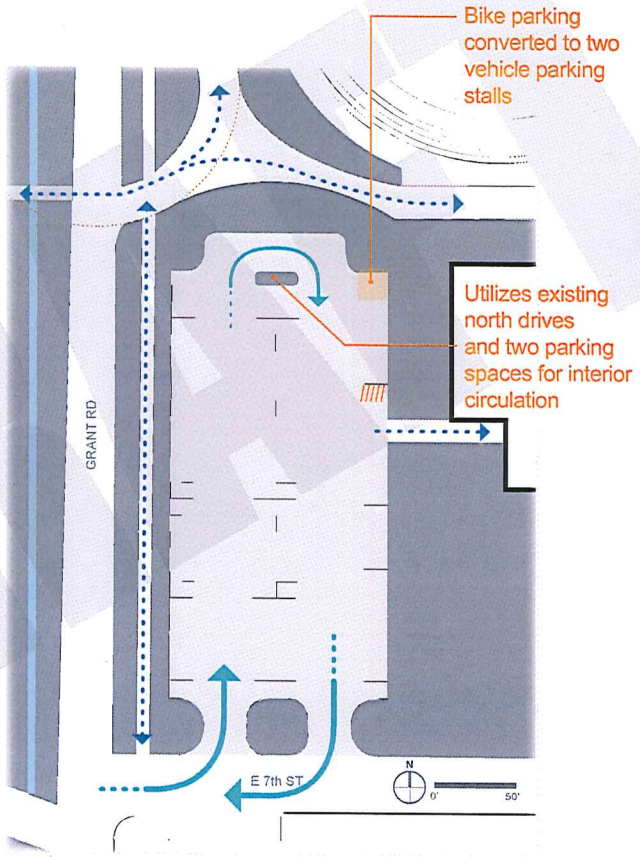
- PARALLEL PARKING
- 90° PARKING
- 60° PARKING

REC CENTER PARKING SCENARIOS

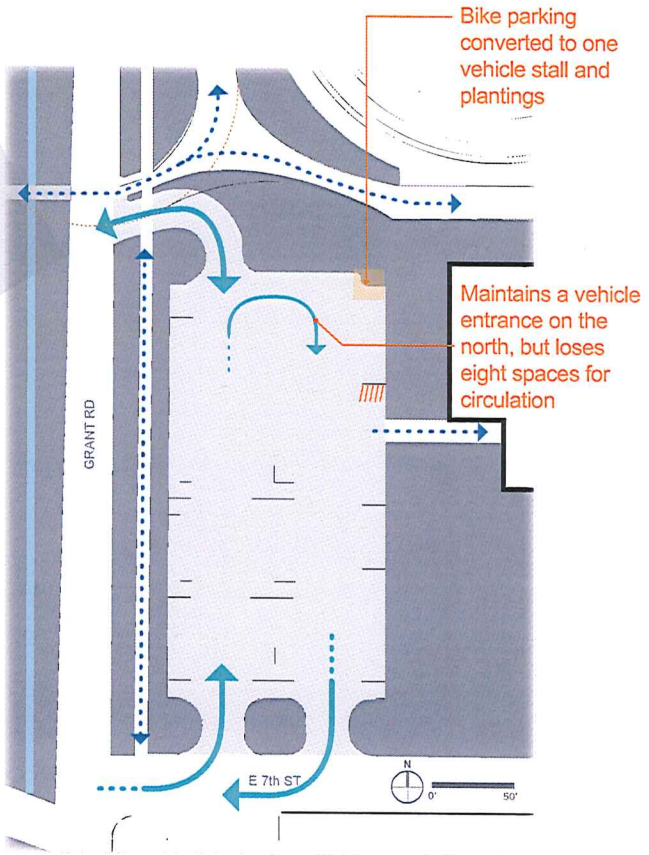
Currently there are two entry drives from the north off of 8th Street into the Rec Center parking lot, which accommodates 100 vehicles. The design proposal recommends closing 8th Street to through traffic and making it a pedestrian corridor through the recreation district.. The following scenarios look at parking availability based on circulation routes into and through the Rec Center parking lot.



Scenario 1: 97 Parking Stalls



Scenario 2: 101 Parking Stalls

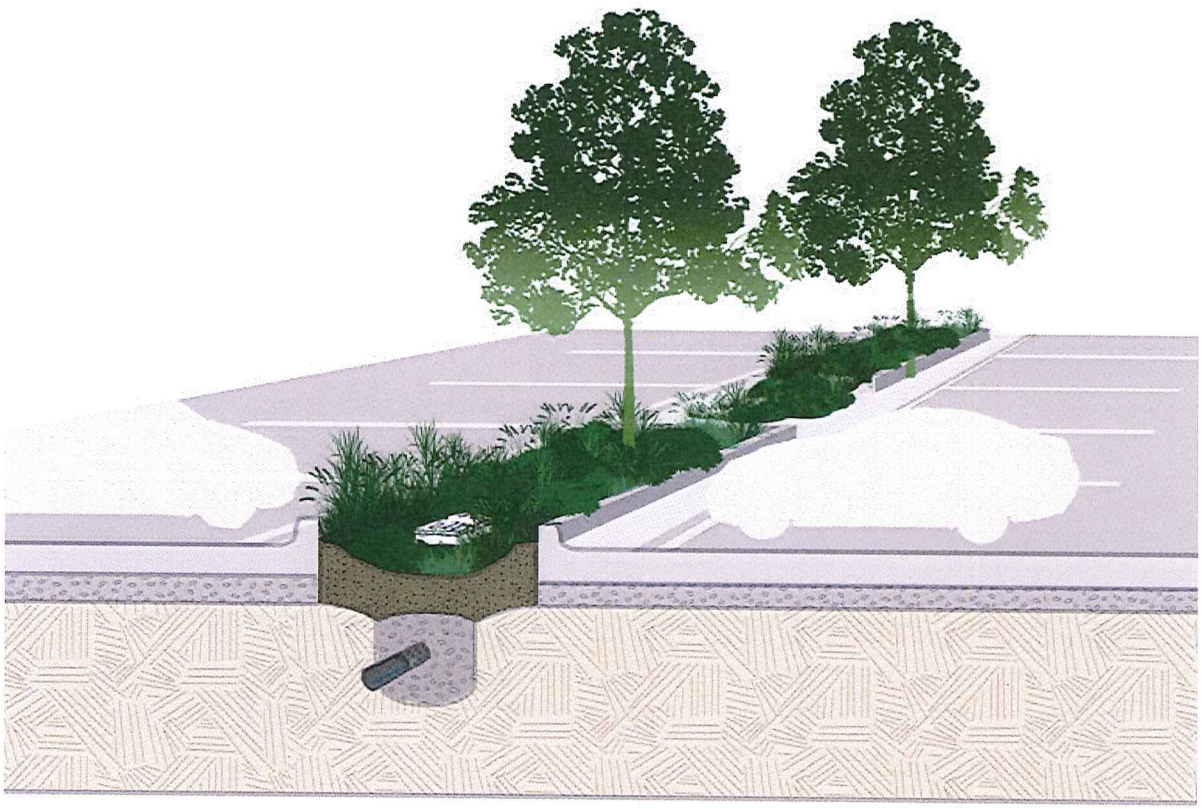


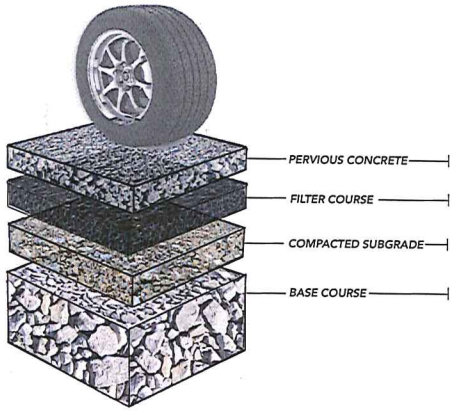
Scenario 3: 95 Parking Stalls

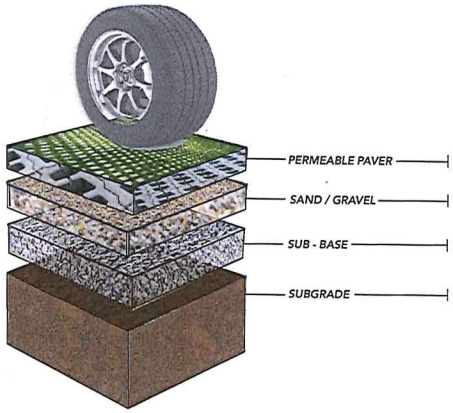
DRAFT

GREEN PARKING

Green parking options present opportunities to enhance the aesthetic and environmental conditions of the parking areas. The master plan proposes rain gardens and bioswales to line the edges and central median of the parking areas throughout the districts east side. These feature are sized to create ample green space to allow for more successful tree and plant growth. These features manage stormwater runoff coming from the impervious surfaces areas. Often the stormwater from these surfaces brings with it pollutants from vehicles. The plants and filtration layers of these green infrastructure features help to reduce runoff quantities, filter pollutants and increase groundwater infiltration.





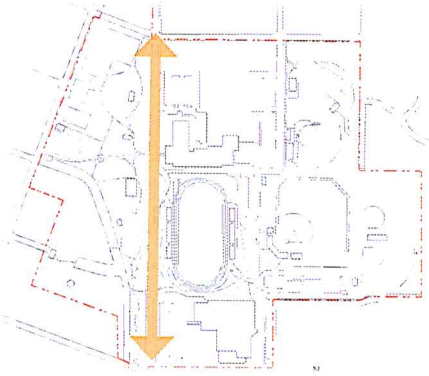


There is also potential to utilize permeable paving surfaces to reduce runoff, especially in Graham Park's parking areas.

CDL

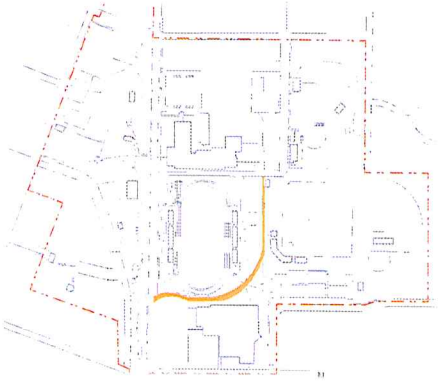
DESIGN CONCEPTS

The following visualizations illustrate key design moves, materiality and site features that will help to bring a vibrant and unified identity to the Graham Park Recreation District. Though the following images do not illustrate every component of the park, they represent dome of the major changes intended to help the community reach its goals for the recreation district. Landscape elements, such as surface materials, benches and lighting, are meant to provide a guideline for selecting these features as future plans take shape.



GRANT ROAD STREETSCAPE

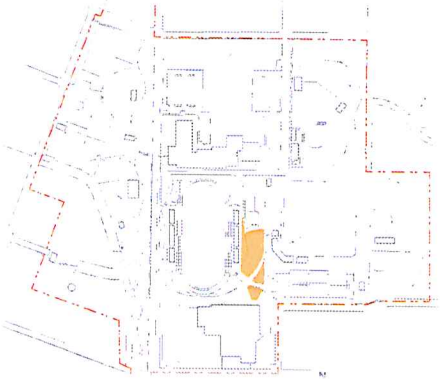
Grant Road is the spine of the district that bind the two halves of the district together. The streetscape for Grant Road helps to make a fluid transition in scale and materiality, from the lush park setting of Graham Park on the west to the more programmatic and utilitarian east side. Grant Road acts the gateway that welcomes visitors, whether on foot, on bike or in their cars to the Graham Park Recreation District. Wide paths, street trees and plantings create an enjoyable roadway sequence for those traveling along it. The streetscape will help to frame key features in the landscape and highlight and build upon some of the landmark stonework structures located along the road.



THE CURRENT

The Current is a non-vehicular pathway that winds its way through the east side of Graham Park Recreation District. The Current connects to Graham Park at the southern pedestrian bridge and utilizes 8th Street to create a safe and experiential linking to all of the major features on the east side. Trees and other plantings along The Current frame views of Merchant's Baseball Stadium and the football stadium. The trail will be punctuated by street lamps, creating a safe and accessible environment. The major swoop of the trail on the south is wide enough to easily accommodate large groups of people during event or service vehicles that may need access to the facilities in the hub of the district.

Trees enclose the walkway, giving it its own unique experience

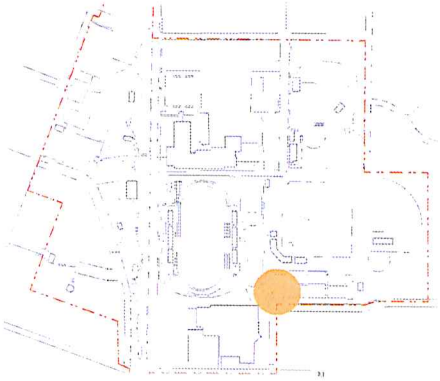


THE KNOLL & PROMENADE

Centrally located between Merchant's Stadium, the football stadium and the recreation center, The Knoll and Promenade are the primary gathering space for the district's east side. The Knoll is a large open lawn with a slight rise to the north. This large open sloping lawn offers potential for other events to take place outside of the primary facilities or be a general gathering place before and after games.

The Promenade offers a more intimate scale experience featuring a crushed gravel hardscape with in-ground lighting, multiple seating options and a canopy of Honeylocust arching overhead. The Promenades tree line opens up to The Knoll and is bordered by beds of native platings along its west side.

The open campus provides space for a variety of activitiese

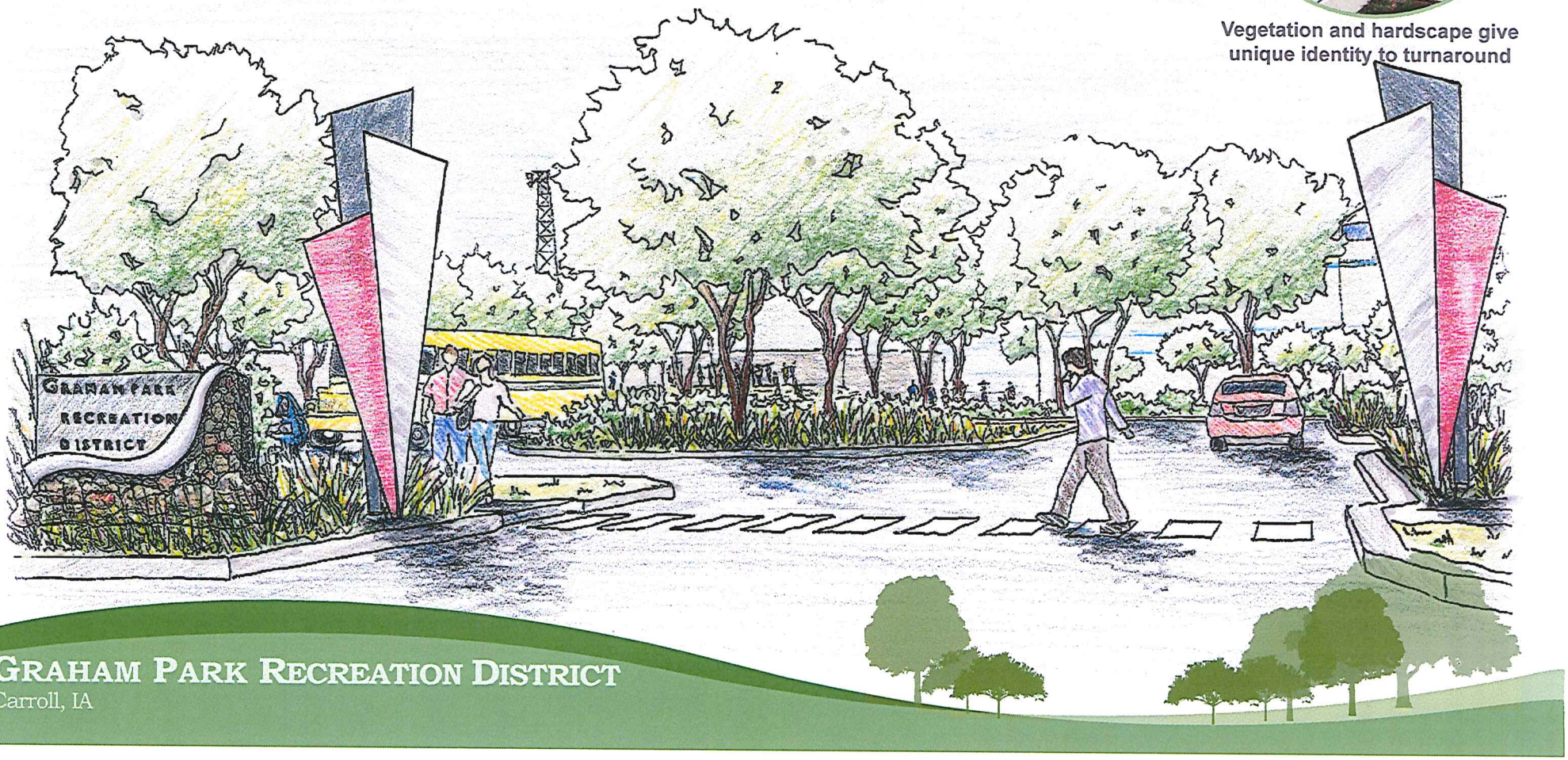


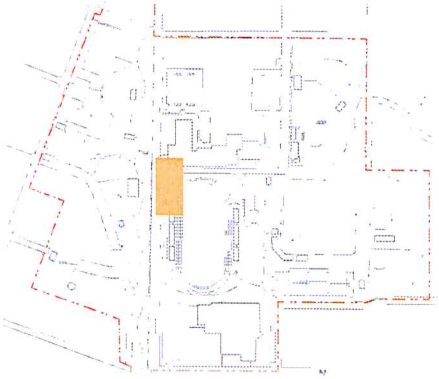
SOUTH ENTRY GATEWAY

Based on the new circulation configuration, a major point of entry is established on the south end of the Graham Park Recreation District at Vine Street. Primary access to this entrance would come from 7th Street or HWY 30. The entrance features prominent signage that builds on the identity of the park established by the historic stonework. Gateway features and plantings will help make a welcoming entry experience scaling down from the vast open space and large structures to a more human scale.

The entry and parking areas utilize street trees, native plantings and rain gardens to manage stormwater runoff from these areas and enhance the overall aesthetic of the site, and

Vegetation and hardscape give unique identity to turnaround

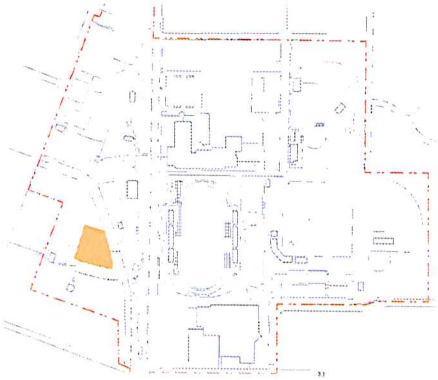




FOOTBALL STADIUM NW ENTRY

The football stadium on its northwest corner will welcome visitors with a prominent pedestrian plaza that extends across the entry drive into the district. The plaza will utilize a variety of surface materials that pull from materials vcharacteristic of Graham Park, helping to bridge the identity of the districts two sides. The Plaza has a meandering form similar to the creek on the opposite side of Grant Road. The plaza is wide enough to accommodate large groups accessing the ticket booth and entry point without impeding sidewalk access or vehicle traffic.The surrounding landscape of the entry plaza incorporates the historic stone pillars along with new features such as the modern style lighting.

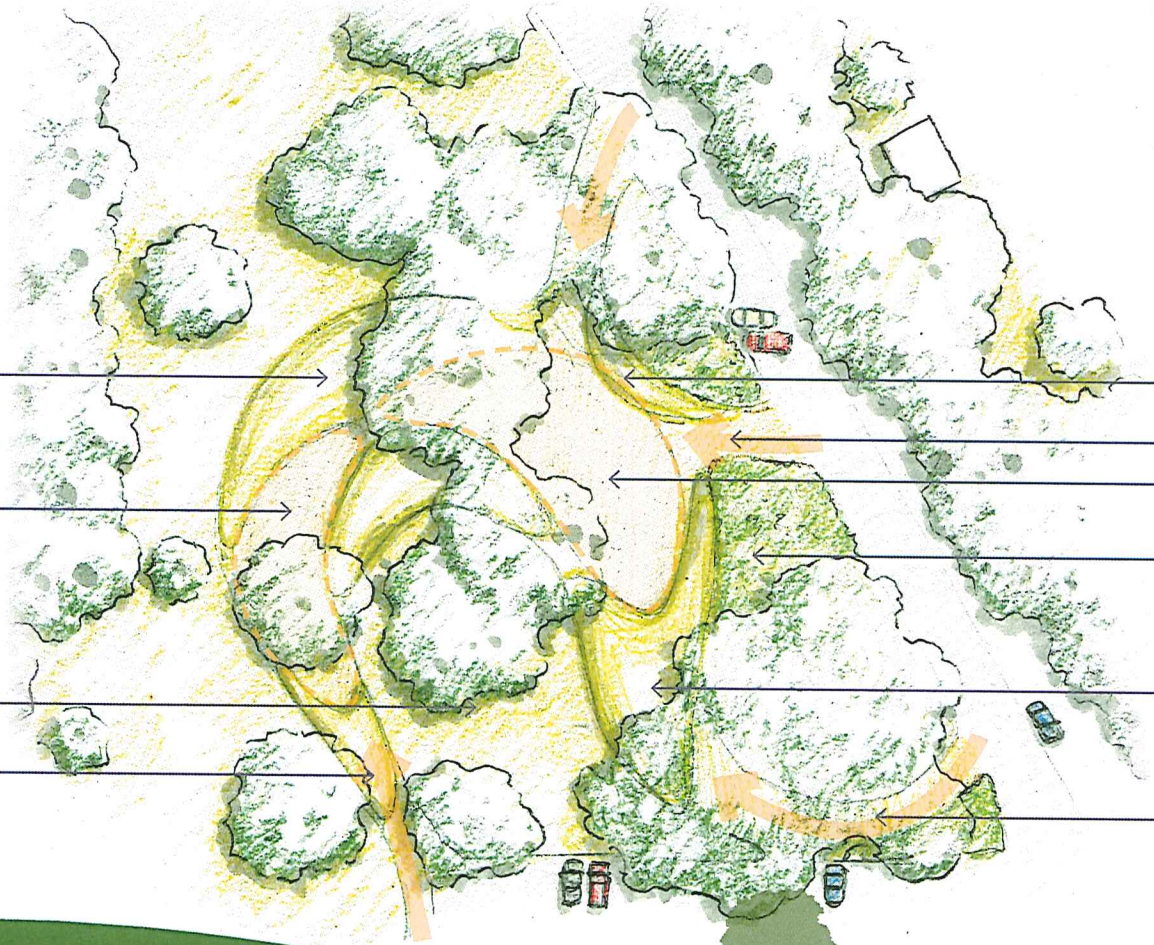
Crossing prioritizes pedestrians



PLAYGROUND

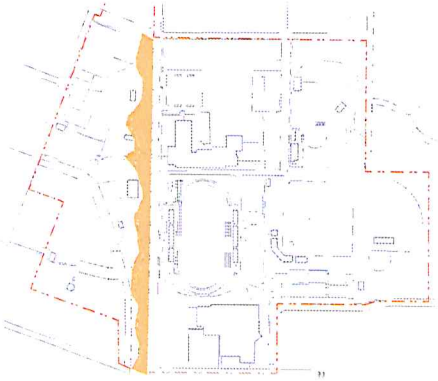
The form for the playground continues to build on the flowing forms established by "The Current" and meandering creek environment. The goal is to structure and define the organization of the play equipment and introduce a more experiential playscape to link the existing play spaces. The playground proposal introduces concepts in nature and adventure play to the current Graham Park playground experience. Nature play utilizes natural materials both as forms and surfaces as well as inter active materials for children to engage and create with.

Current organization of playground structures



Earthworks encourage active play, provide elevated places for viewing and give variation to the landscape. Unique and varied trail surfaces engage children and adults and make for more experiential pathways. The use of natural materials and movable materials allows children to be interactive and creative with their space.

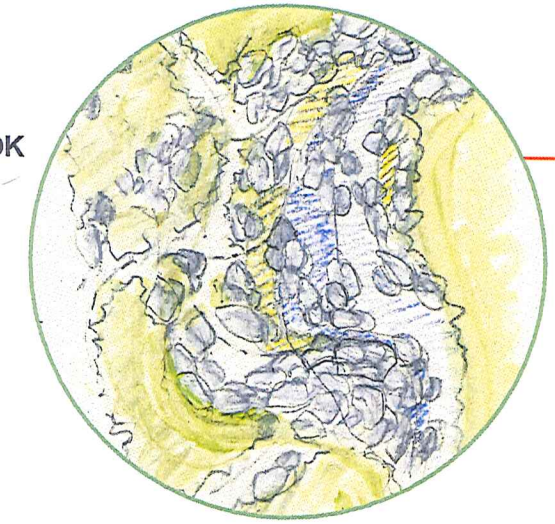
GRAHAM PARK CREEK: PRECEDENTS



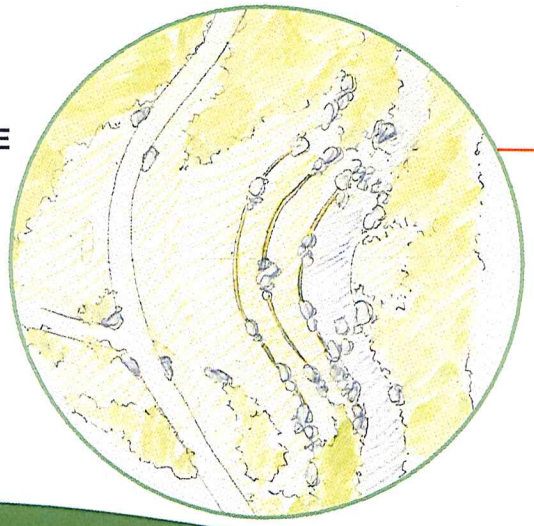
As the creek meanders along the eastern edge of Graham Park it will pass through a variety of landscape environments. The evolving landscape is meant to encourage exploration. At multiple points along the trail there will be points to engage and access the creek.

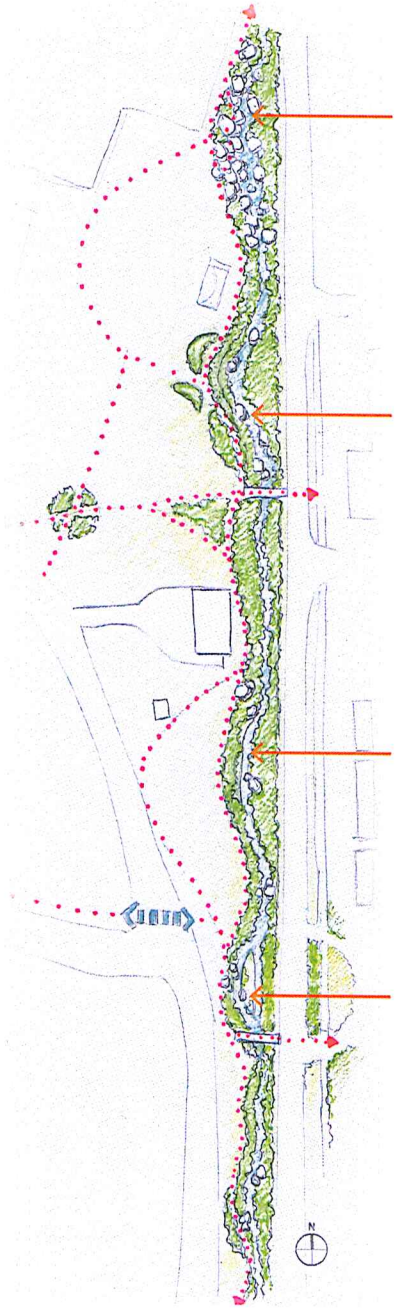
The following images offer some visualization of the experiential qualities proposed for the creek environment as well as precedents of similar creek landscapes.

BOULDER BROOK



THE COVE





BOULDER BROOK
- Rocky shores to climb on and explore
- Potential small rapids

Cincinnati Nature Center water play area designed by DeVore's
devoreslandandwater.com

THE COVE
- Planted, terraced steps down to the waters edge
- Morraine-like mounds for climbing and viewing the creek and park

Steamboat Springs Ski Area in Colorado designed by Wenk
wenkla.com

EMERGENT MEADOW
- Massing of native grasses and flowers to explore
- The plantings will help to clean the water and enhance the aesthetic of the creek and streetscape

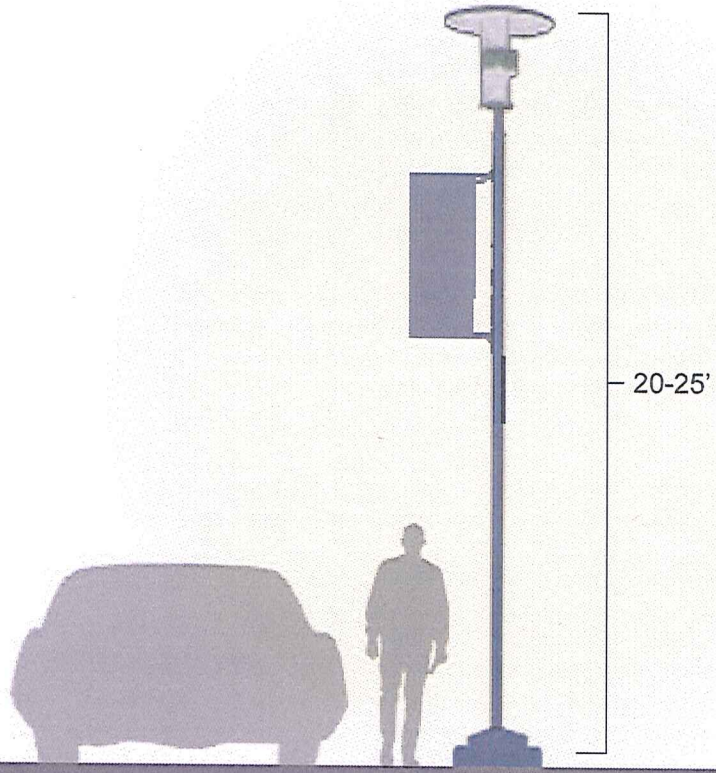
The *prairie river* at Humboldt Park in Chicago; designed by Jens Jensen

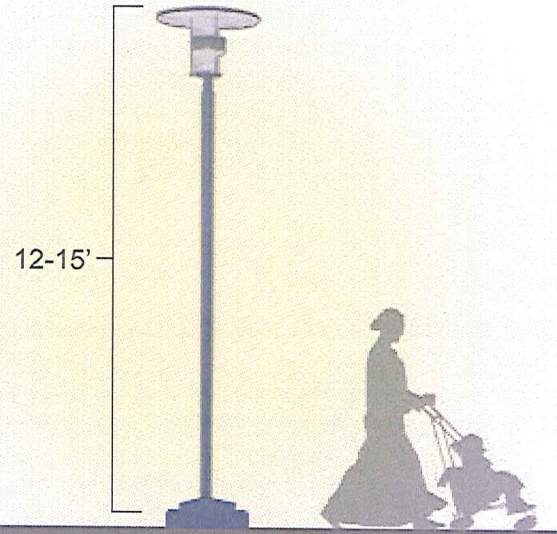
SANDBAR
- Landmark feature of the creek
- Bold forms and plantings to attract people to the creek
- Accessible surfaces within the water

Dinosaur Creek at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
commanderben.com

LIGHTING OPTIONS

There are four levels of lighting being proposed for the Graham Park Recreation District. Each level contributes to increasing safety and accessibility, building a cohesive identity for the district and creating unique experiences throughout. The options shown below have qualities reminiscent of the lighting utilized in Carroll's downtown district, while still maintaining a unique character that will allow the recreation district to be seen as a unique entity, but a major component of the community.





Pole lights illuminate sidewalks and roads creating comfortable routes for pedestrians and vehicles. Design character contributes to overall district identity

GRAHAM PARK RECREATION DISTRICT
Carroll, IA

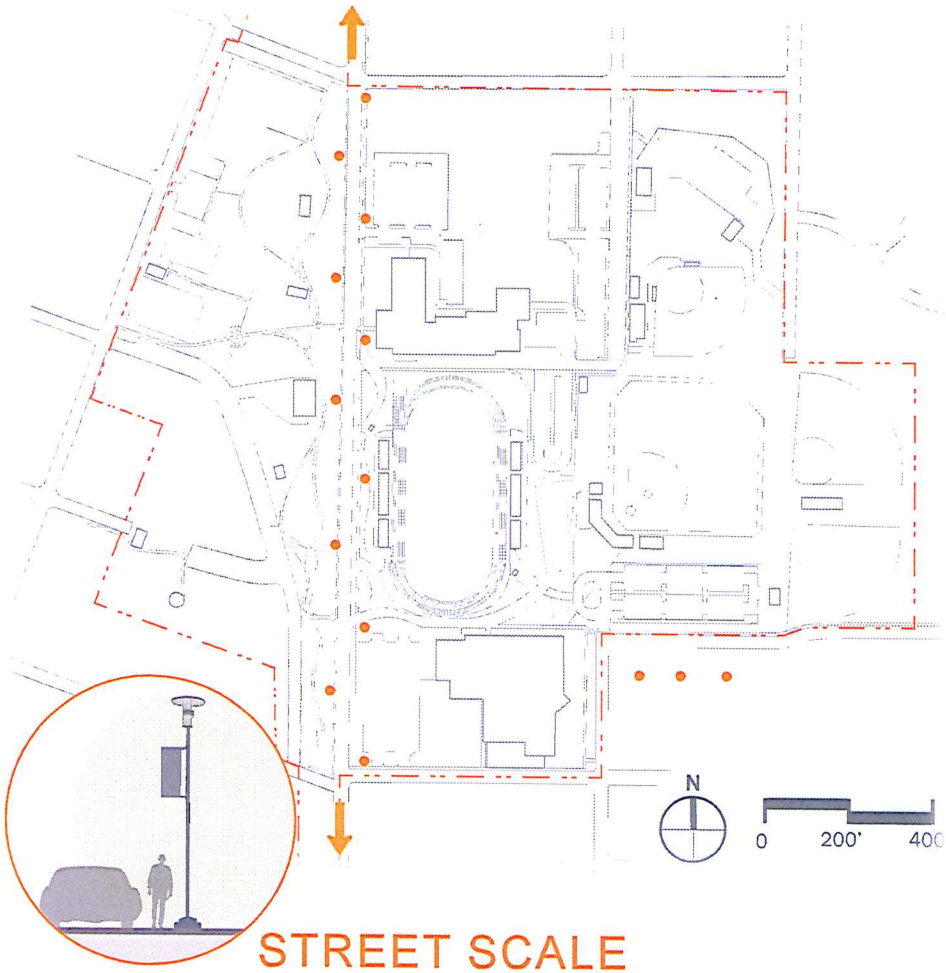
Bollards will help to define the drop-off areas and provide a buffer between pedestrians and vehicles at those locations

In-ground uplighting creates a more subdued atmosphere and illuminates the vegetation in unique ways

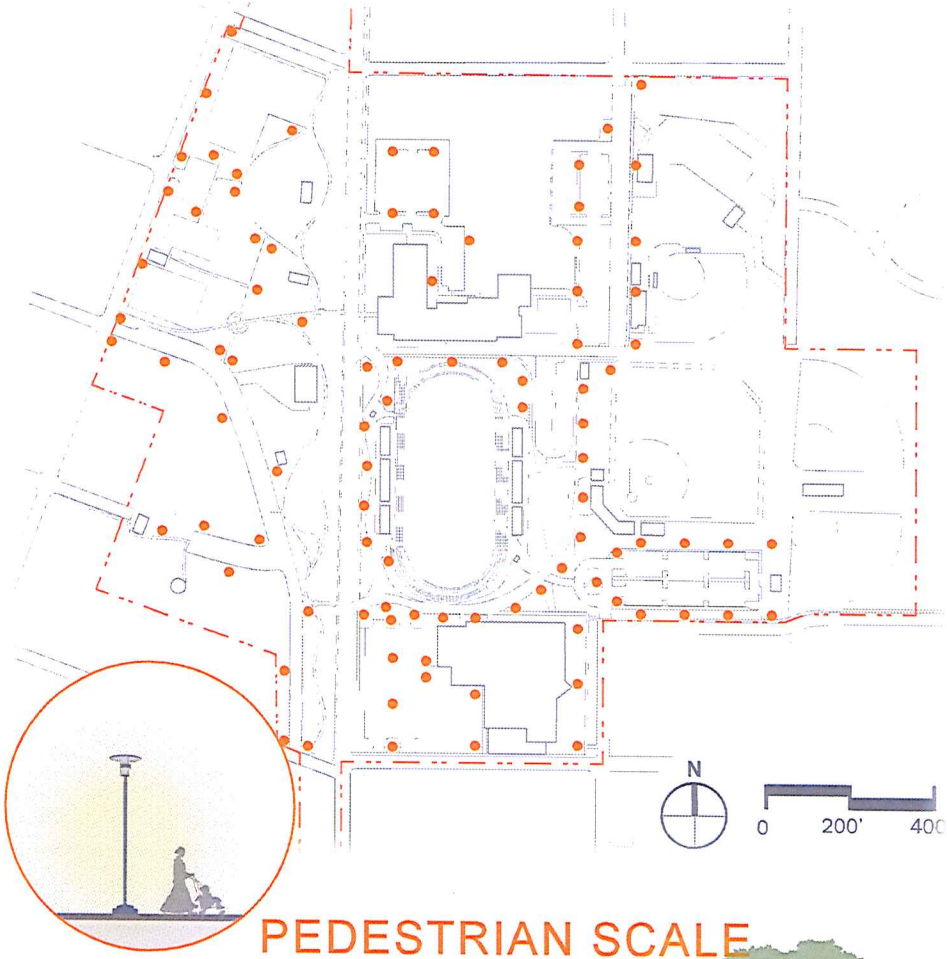
CDL

LIGHTING LOCATIONS

The four levels of lighting help to define key areas of the district. The Street scale lighting is reserved for Grant Road. Within the district a pedestrian scale light will create a more intimate atmosphere and allow for one level of lighting to serve both pedestrian and vehicular movement. Bollards are utilized to define edges or subtly light less prominent areas like portions of the creek trail. The uplighting is meant to highlight key features and spaces in the district to give them a unique feel.

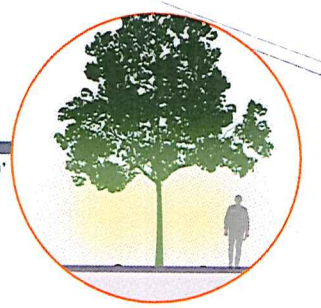


STREET SCALE



PEDESTRIAN SCALE

BOLLARDS



IN-GROUND UPLIGHTING

CDL

SIGNAGE

Currently the recreation district features an abundant selection of sign types and styles. Establishing branding guidelines and sign typologies for the district will allow for a more cohesive identity to be maintained as old signs are replaced or new ones are introduced. The examples below demonstrate that at all scales there is a potential to communicate unique information while maintaining a common identity of the Graham Park Recreation district.

MATERIALS

The hardscape materials being proposed for the district pull from existing surface and structure materials common in the district. One of the most prominent materials is the river and field stone featured in the historic stone bridges and pillars. This material can be utilized at a variety of scales, from large boulders that accent landscapes or the creek edge, to a minute scale of crushed gravel on paths or the promenade surface.

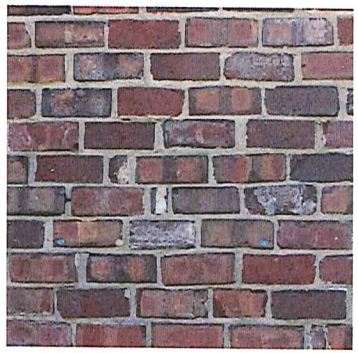
Other key materials pull from the brick of the shelter houses and pavers with colors reminiscent of the limestone of the historic bathroom structures in Graham Park. The use of varying combinations of these materials in the plaza and promenade areas is encouraged.

Large River / Field Stone

- Creek
- Landscape areas
- Gateway signage

Pea Gravel

- Promenade
- Creek paths

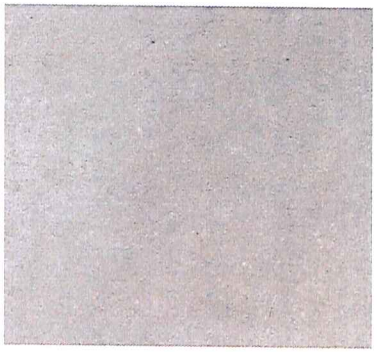


Recycled Red Brick

- Football stadium plazas
- Football stadium entrances
- Merchant's Plaza
- Crosswalks

Linear Pavers with limestone coloration

- Football stadium plazas
- Football stadium entrances
- Merchant's Plaza
- Promenade
- Drop-off areas



Concrete

- The Current
- Creek paths
- Parking and drop-offs

ADDITIONAL SITE ELEMENTS

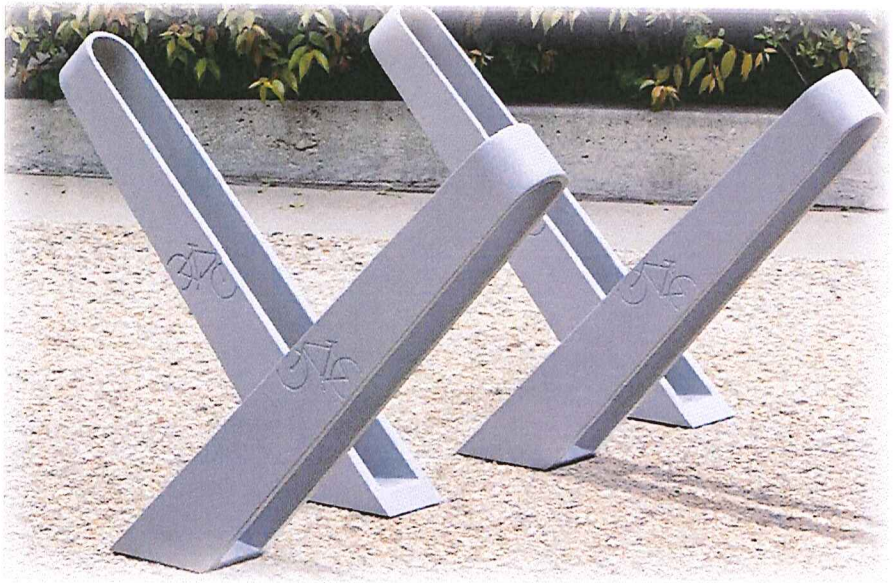
Other site elements such as benches, trash cans and bike racks, will pull from existing material conditions and build on design styles and motifs established by the site plan and other major features. Many of the elements highlighted below pick up on the arcing and angular forms established in the site plan and through some of the graphic characteristics of the signage. It is not only important to have a consistent element throughout the district but a family of elements that work together.

Landscape Forms - 35 Stay Bench
landscapeforms.com

Limestone Block Bench

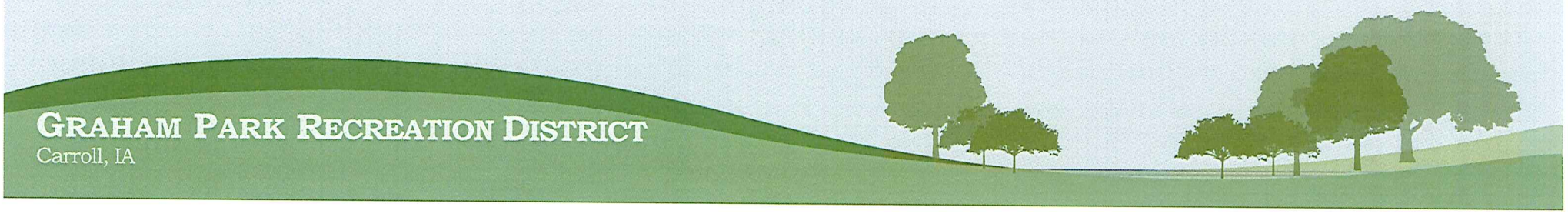
Landscape Forms - 35 Pitch Litter Receptacle
landscapeforms.com

Landscape Forms - Bike Garden Bike Rack
landscapeforms.com



Landscape Forms - Bay City Bike Rack
landscapeforms.com

SUMMARY



GRAHAM PARK RECREATION DISTRICT
Carroll, IA

CDL