



Scheve Park Master Plan Update



December 2018 | Mascoutah, IL



MASCOOTA

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Introduction

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

The City of Mascoutah is fortunate to have a city-maintained park system, including Scheve Park, Prairie Lake Park, and Maple Park. Scheve Park provides residents with opportunities for passive and active recreation and is a venue for hosting community gatherings and learning about local history. The 66-acre park is currently equipped with:

- Two swimming pools
- Sports fields and courts (baseball, softball, soccer, football, basketball, sand volleyball)
- Historic homestead and trains
- Picnic areas and playgrounds
- A skate park and a dog park
- Storage facilities
- An event arena with grandstand

From its conception, the park has been built by the generosity of individuals and the community of Mascoutah. Park stakeholders, the Park Board, and the city have come together to update the Master Plan and create a unified, long-term vision for the community's gathering place. The proposed objective was to develop a plan that is accepted and endorsed by the Park Board, city residents, park stakeholders, and the City of Mascoutah. The Master Plan outlines the long-term vision for Scheve Park's revitalization and growth and includes an implementation action plan that suggest priority projects to implement of the short and medium-term.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

In order to develop the Master Plan, the park's current facilities and needs were identified. Then, a series of goals and principles were established to guide park design. This process resulted in a set of specific recommendations for modifications and improvements to the park. At each stage of the planning process, public input was solicited through surveys and workshops, totaling two workshops and 520 surveys collected throughout the process. This Master Plan addresses all aspects of the park and, when fully implemented, will ensure a park experience that is diverse, unique, and inviting for all residents.

CITY CONTEXT

Located 30 miles east of St. Louis, just off I-64, Mascoutah, Illinois, is home to about 7,500 residents. Established in 1837, Mascoutah is a town with a rich history. Over time the town has experienced steady growth, and at the time of the 1970 census was noted as the center of population of the United States. Today the town sprawls over

9.5 square miles and includes three parks. Having the largest amount of developed space of Mascoutah's parks, Scheve Park is unique in that it sits near the center of the community adjacent to both the elementary and middle school as well as many neighborhoods. The park hosts several community events throughout the year, including Mascoutah Homecoming.

PARK CONTEXT

It is important to view the park not as a stand-alone entity, but as part of an integrated, community-wide system with a wide range of purposes and needs. It is a place where nature and humans interact. Within walking distance of 20 minutes or less are three Mascoutah School District public schools. Over 1,700 students attend Mascoutah Elementary and Middle Schools, which are within a five-minute walk of Scheve Park, and another 1,060 attend the High School, which is less than a 20-minute walk. Several neighborhoods and a few businesses along W. Main Street are also within a 20-minute walking distance. The north edge of the park borders residential properties.

SCHEVE PARK HISTORY

Built in 1870, the train depot was originally owned by the Southern Railway Company and was located on the south edge of town. In 1975 the City of Mascoutah purchased from the railroad for the price of one dollar. It took three days to move the depot 28 blocks northwest to the park where it was restored. Since then the depot, along with its cabooses and train car, has been a key feature of the park and a fixture for 4th of July, Homecoming, and other celebrations.

In 1995, the city purchased the parcel north of Hog River to expand Scheve Park. In May of the same year, the historic Berger-Kiel House was moved from its original location on Illinois State Route 4, now the entrance to Mid-America Airport.

Excerpt from the Mascoutah Historic Society: "The Berger-Kiel House is a hall and parlor log and frame structure, one-and-a-half story with a gable roof. The original house was built c.1863-1864 for a low-income rural family during the mid-nineteenth century, with two rooms - one up and one down. A frame addition was constructed



Pictures of the train depot move in 1975, from Mascoutah by Thomas S. Snyder

on the rear c.1868-1872 using timber frame technology, giving the house a saltbox form. The house was occupied continuously for almost 130 years, first by the Berger-Kiel family and later by members of the Post-Roever family (after c.1940).

The house was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. It has been included in the Historic American Buildings Survey (National Park Service, 1994). It also received a Landmark Award from the St. Clair County Historical Society (October, 2000). In addition, the restoration efforts earned the Mascoutah Historical Society a Second Place in the Governor's Hometown Awards from the State of Illinois."

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & USE OF THE PARK

All of the parks in Mascoutah are overseen by the Park Commission, an appointed council that meets monthly. In addition to Public Works staff that maintain facilities and grounds, there are many organizations that are active in Scheve Park. Community, civic, and volunteer groups have supported park growth through building or funding necessary amenities. The Mascoutah Improvement Association (MIA), Lions Club, Rotary Club, Khoury League, Historical Society, and many others have not only been strong supporters in past years, but also recently with annual projects and initiatives.

Over the years, the park has been the site of many community festivals and celebrations; most notably the Mascoutah Homecoming. Homecoming is a three-day festival held at the beginning of August each year. The event includes two parades, tractor pulls, livestock shows, a car show, a carnival, plus many more activities, food, drinks, and music. Homecoming is lead by MIA, and money raised goes back into the parks and other community projects. While Homecoming is the largest event held in the park, community events are held year-round, including sports tournaments, pioneer days, and a 4th of July festival. These events draw large crowds to Scheve Park and are assets to the community.

Scheve Park Stakeholders

- » Central location
- » All residents of all ages and abilities
- » American Legion/VFW
- » Autism Center
- » Beta Club
- » Bicycle Club
- » Booster Club
- » Chamber of Commerce
- » Evening Lions
- » Garden Club
- » Historical Society
- » Horseshoe Association
- » Khoury League
- » Knights of Columbus
- » Leu Civic Center
- » Little Indians Football
- » Little Indians Soccer Club
- » Main Street/Welcome Center
- » Mascoutah Improvement Association
- » Mascoutah School District
- » Mascoutah Trails Committee
- » Masonic Lodge
- » Ministerial Alliance
- » Moose Club
- » Noonday Lions
- » Park Commission
- » Senior Center
- » St. Clair County 4-H
- » Surface Water District
- » Tuesday Women's Club



Public Engagement

COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

The Community Survey for the Scheve Park Master Plan was distributed to all Mascoutah residents via water bills starting in January 2018. By the end of March, 552 people had completed the survey (308 online responses, 244 paper responses). Most respondents rated the condition of Scheve Park as 'Good' to 'Very Good.' The most commonly reported reasons for visiting Scheve Park include attending special events (e.g., Homecoming), using the playground, walking or running for exercise, attending scheduled sporting events, and using the pool. People were complimentary of groundskeeping, as well as the many organizations that work at Scheve Park.

The survey also asked respondents to rank their satisfaction with the park's features. Respondents were least satisfied with the picnic areas, lighting, cleanliness (particularly related to restrooms), security, and the diversity of activity choices. As far as the future of Scheve Park, survey respondents want to see new or remodeled restrooms, pool and bathhouse, a splash pad, water features, picnic shelters, concession stand(s), additional parking, playground/inclusive playground, and nature-focused and outdoor fitness programming.

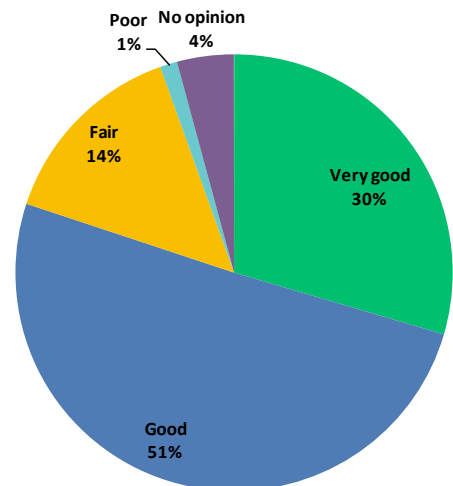
Current Park Facilities

About half of respondents gave Scheve Park and overall rating of Good, with another 30 percent rating it as Very Good. Fourteen percent rated the park Fair and one percent gave it a Poor rating.

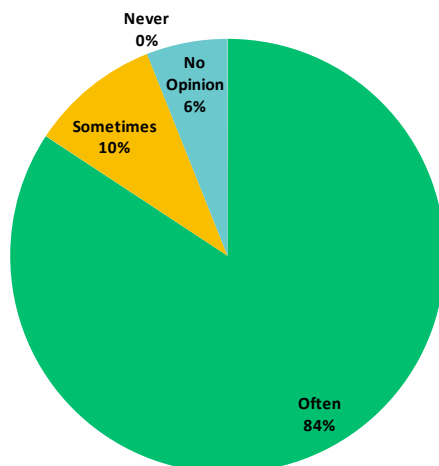
The majority of respondents (84 percent) said they often felt safe in Scheve Park. No one reported never feeling safe, and 10 percent said they sometimes feel unsafe. Reasons given for feeling unsafe included teenagers hanging around the parking lot in the evening and a desire for better lighting.

The majority of respondents (83 percent) felt there was enough space in the park for activities. Sixteen percent felt it is too crowded.

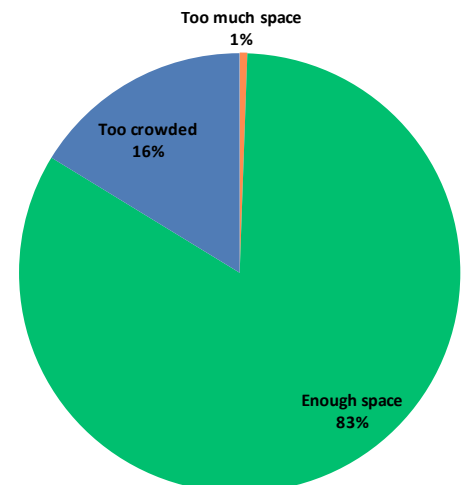
What is your overall opinion of the activities at Scheve Park?



Do you feel safe in this park?

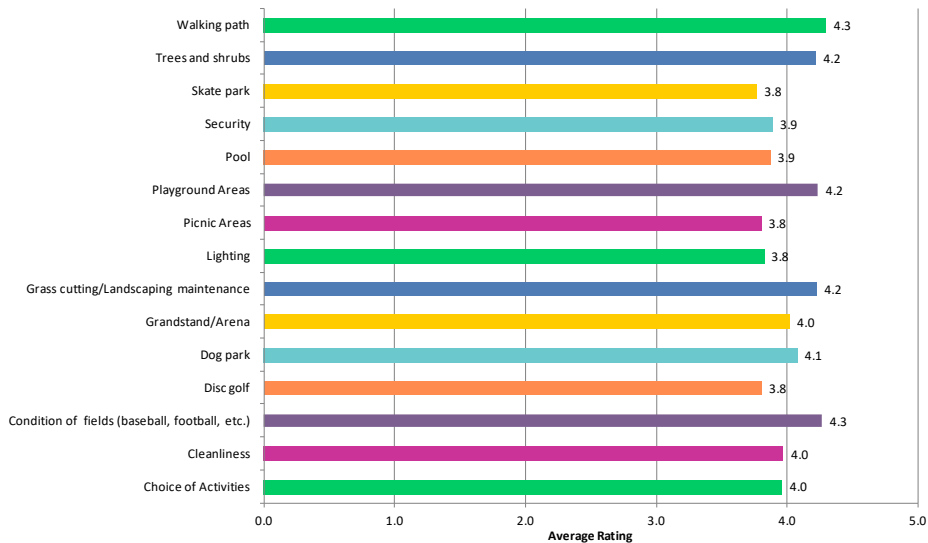


Is there enough space in the park for activities?



Respondents rated current park facilities on a scale from 1-5: 1 being totally unsatisfied and 5 being totally satisfied. Average ratings were high, with people most satisfied with the sports fields, walking paths, and playgrounds. Facilities receiving the lowest satisfaction rating (not including the skate park and disc golf, which are used by a smaller proportion of respondents) included picnic areas, lighting, security, and the pool.

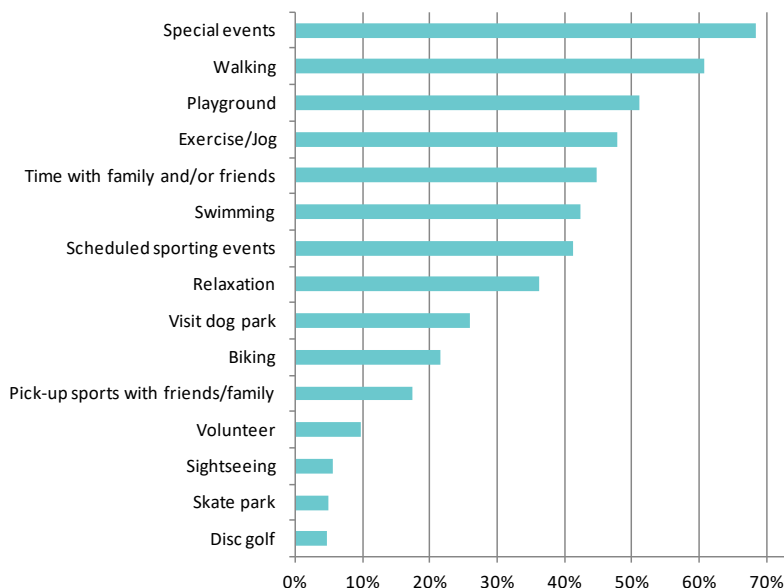
Level of satisfaction with existing facilities of Scheve Park



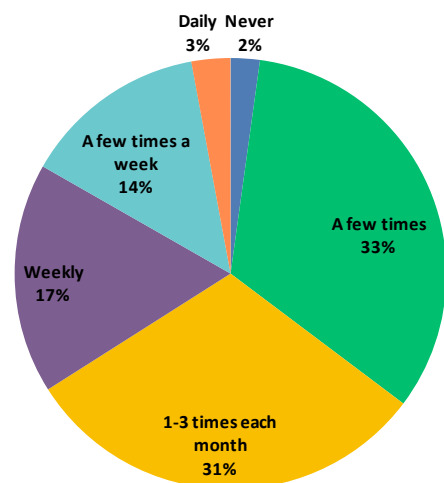
User Trends

One-third of respondents visit Scheve Park at least once per week. Another 30 percent visit at least once per month and 33 percent only visit a few times per year. The most common reasons for visiting Scheve Park include special events, walking, using the playground, jogging, to spend time with family and friends, swimming, and for scheduled sporting events.

Why do you visit the park?



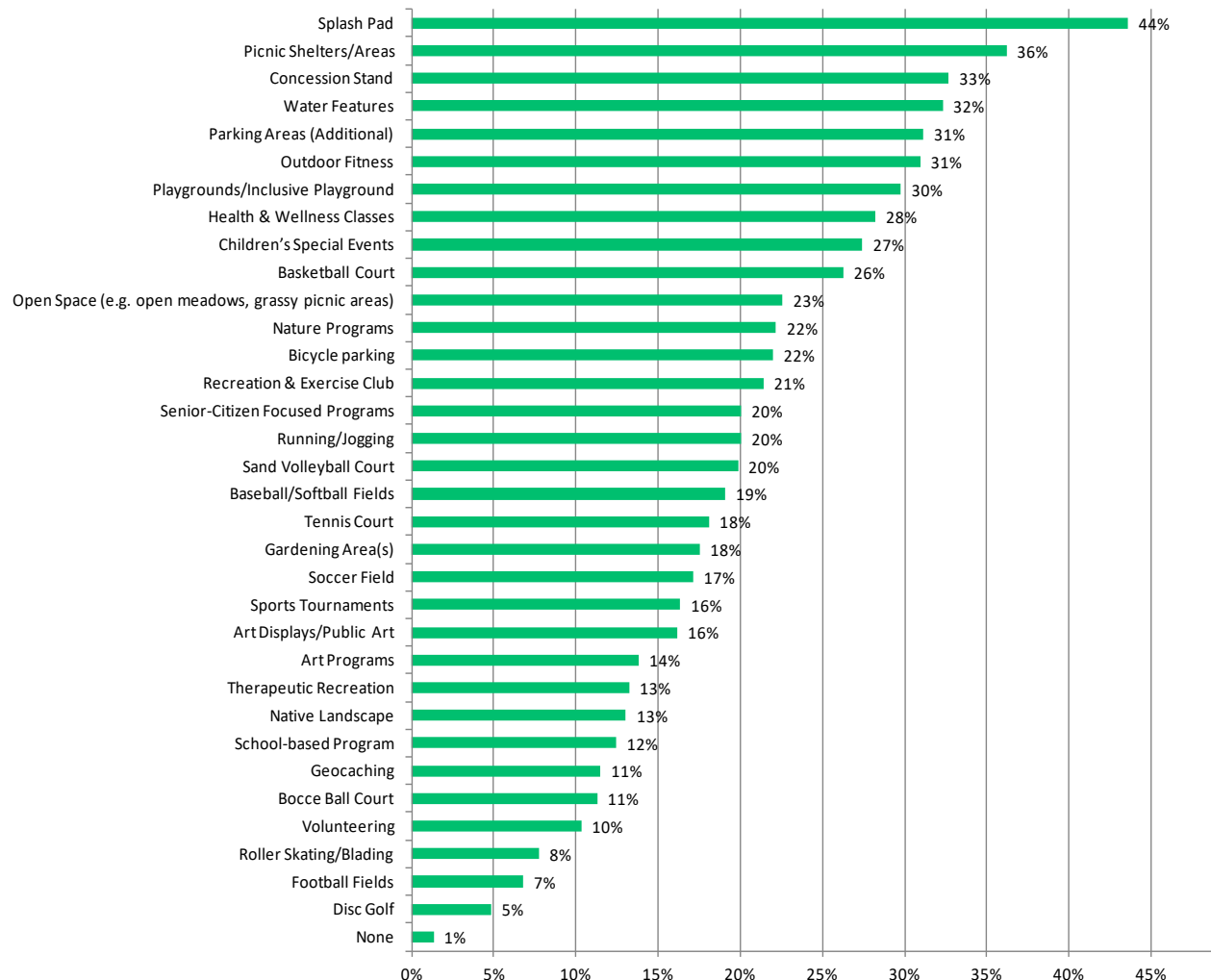
How often have you visited Scheve Park in the last year?



Future Improvements

In the survey, respondents were asked what other types of facilities and programs they would like to see at Scheve Park. A list of potential facilities and programs was provided and respondents were allowed to write in additional suggestions. The highest ranking choices were a splash pad, picnic areas, concession stand, and water features.

If Scheve Park were to develop or improve facilities and programs within the park, what facilities would satisfy the recreational needs for you/your family?

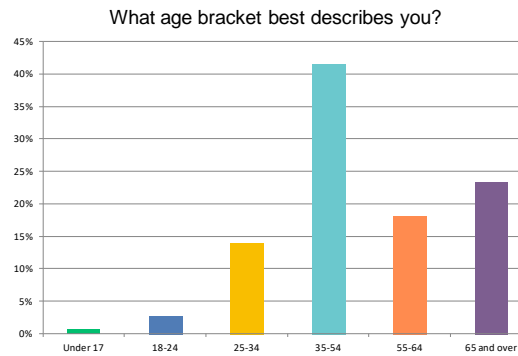


Additional suggestions included:

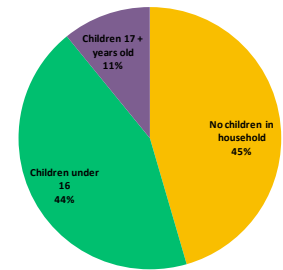
- More restrooms/Clean restrooms (8)
- General Pool Improvement (8)
- Larger Pool (for competitive/exercise swimming) (4)
- Pool Shower House and Restroom Improvement (7)
- Shade around pool (2)
- Amphitheater/concerts (4)
- More lights (3)
- Water fountains/fall (3)
- Roller Hockey (3)
- Pickleball court (2)
- Sand Volleyball (2)
- Handicap playground (2)
- Repair road and define parking lots (2)
- Beekeeping
- Batting cages
- Benches
- Bike path(s)
- Open field (area big enough to fly a kite)
- Gardening areas
- Indoor year-round pool
- Miniature golf
- Ninja warrior type obstacle course
- Padded walking path like at Scott Air Force Base
- Concrete ping pong tables
- More Soccer Fields
- Recycling bins
- Outdoor yoga (spring and fall)
- Handicap parking
- Better grills
- Maintain the exercise stations
- Tether-ball pole
- Agility course at dog park

Demographics

Survey responses were representative of Mascoutah's population. Responses were received from all age groups and were nearly evenly split between households with children and households without children.



What best describes the age of children in your household?



Additional Comments

The last question of the survey was open ended, asking respondents if they had anything else to add about Scheve Park. There were 229 additional comments, most of which covered more than one topic. Comments have been categorized and grouped together for analysis. The most common submissions were regarding the poor condition of the restrooms. Many comments expressing a general appreciation of the park and the groups who work to improve it. Remarks on the pool and bathhouse were also common. A full list of comments included in the appendix.

Category	Number of Comments	Category (cont.)	Number of Comments
Restrooms	60	Sand volleyball	5
Appreciation	39	Concessions	4
Pool	16	Lighting	4
Sidewalks/trails	14	Stormwater	4
Playground	13	Inclusive playground	3
Parking	11	Lights	3
Dog Park	10	Stage area	3
Maintenance	10	Water fountains	3
Pavilions	10	Arena	2
Security	10	Benches	2
Tennis/Pickleball courts	10	Disc golf	2
Baseball	9	Do nothing	2
Landscaping	9	Open space	2
Programs	9	Train	2
Soccer/football	8	Ag building	1
Splash Pad	8	Historical features	1
ADA	7	Other features	1
Basketball	6	Ping pong	1
Bathhouse	6	Recycling	1
Grounds-keeping	6	Signage	1
Community park focus	5	Workout stations	1
Park Drive	5	Grand Total	330

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Community Advisory Committee, comprised of the Park Board and representatives of community organizations, met regularly throughout the planning process to discuss goals and strategies, give feedback on plan elements, and plan public outreach. At one of the initial meetings, the committee completed an exercise to discuss and identify the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of Scheve Park. Results of that discussion are listed here:

Strengths

- » Central location
- » Volunteers and organizations
- » Open landscape
- » Flat terrain
- » Host of community festivals
- » Safe community
- » Utilities
- » Shade/mature trees
- » Variety of activities
- » Parking
- » Bathrooms
- » Trails
- » Dog Park

Weaknesses

- » Poor drainage and grass
- » Lack of lighting
- » Aging infrastructure
 - Waterlines
 - Picnic areas
 - Playgrounds
- » Parking for events
- » Park Road
 - Traffic speeds
 - Closing for events
- » Maintenance
- » Funding
- » Competing stakeholders
- » ADA access
- » No water at skate park/volleyball courts

Opportunities

- » Practice fields
 - Soccer
 - Football
- » All inclusive playground
- » Other uses for arena
- » Pool
 - New bathhouse
 - Splash pad/water features
- » Expanding skate park
- » Facilities in north section of park
 - Restrooms
 - Concessions
 - Lights
 - Picnic shelters
- » New access road on 10th Street
- » Tree Planting Plan
- » Native plant/tree buffer on north edge between houses
- » Capital Campaign

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

A public workshop was held in the evening on March 14, 2018 at Mascoutah City Hall. The workshop was attended by 15 people. Attendees were presented with survey results, existing conditions, and goals set by the committee. Participants then worked in groups to address problems and concerns raised in the survey and to discuss the future of Scheve Park.



COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

An Open House was held on the evening of September 19, 2018 at Scheve Park. During the event, the draft plan was presented to participants for feedback. Eighteen people provided positive comments and suggestions for the plan.



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Existing Conditions

LANDSCAPE: LANDFORM, SLOPE, AND DRAINAGE

Scheve Park is mostly flat. Hog River—known around the community as the ‘Big Ditch’— runs east to west through the park, separating the north and south sections. One pedestrian bridge crosses the ditch near the historic homestead. The Big Ditch is owned and maintained by the Surface Water District and is not included as part of the park.

Smaller open swales run along park roads and between the playgrounds and pavilions. The southern section of the park, between the baseball fields and train depot, is poorly drained, with standing water after rain events. Work has recently been completed in this area to improve drainage, including adding drain tiles and replacing an open ditch with pipe. However, standing water continues to be an issue in some parts of the park.

LANDSCAPE: GROUND COVER

The park landscape is not diverse. The predominate groundcover is turf grass with no diversity of low-level plantings, or no understory. Grass on the lighted baseball field is in poor condition where football practice is held. Approximately 12 acres in the northern section of the park are dedicated to row crop agriculture. Most of the parking areas are gravel or oil and chip. There are three flower beds along Sixth Street installed and previously maintained by the Garden Club. These beds have been neglected in recent years.

LANDSCAPE: TREE TYPE

A significant part of the southern section of the park is covered by tree canopy. The tree committee, a sub-committee of the Park Board, oversees the tree inventory and maintenance.

Memorial trees have been donated and are planted throughout the park, and are cared for by the tree committee. New trees planted in the park must be a species from the city’s approved list.

The most common tree species in the park include oak, ash, and maple. A diverse stand of trees (i.e., in species and age) will be more resilient to disease and climate, ultimately benefiting the park.

PASSIVE USE

Passive open space is defined as the non-programmed use areas throughout the park where people can picnic, view nature, enjoy a stroll, or fly a kite. In the case of Scheve Park, the southeast section around the train depot is primarily used for passive recreation. The city’s passive system has the potential to include a variety of landscapes including wetlands, rain gardens, shaded walkways, pollinator gardens, and meadows. The existing picnic pavilions, playgrounds, and walking trails are used heavily. Most of

the pavilions are in good condition; however, three of the pavilions are very small, low in height, and cover only one or two picnic tables. Handmade grills are in declining condition and need to be replaced. Electrical boxes, while needed for Homecoming and other gatherings, are placed awkwardly and are sometimes unsightly. The outdated playground equipment is scattered between the pavilions.

The historic homestead is another area of passive recreation. Visitors may wander between the buildings. There are no interpretive signs for people to learn about the site history or life of early settlers in this region.

Walking paths circle the outside edge of the park, with benches and trash cans nearby. There are few paths crossing the park and connecting the different sections.

ACTIVE USE

Much of the park is dedicated to active recreation. The sports fields are heavily used with active baseball, softball, football, and soccer programs. Other sports facilities in the park include basketball, sand volleyball, a skate park, disc golf, and the municipal pool. Tennis courts were replaced with a skate park in the 2010s. The pool, including a zero entry pool and a deep lap pool, have been recently renovated. The basketball court, formerly a skating rink, is in poor condition because of poor drainage and uneven surfaces. Fitness stations, originally installed as a Boy Scout project, are in fair condition; signs are faded and some equipment is in need of repair.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVE USE:

Baseball/Softball Fields (6)
Horseshoe pits
Bocce ball
Skate park
Sand volleyball
Pool
Soccer/Football large field (1)
Basketball court
Fitness stations
Disc golf
Dog Park

BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Municipal Pool, updated 2018

Bath house, originally built in 1958

Bridges (over swales)

Bridge over Hogg River

Restrooms in fair to poor condition

Ag building

Maintenance shed

Train depot, car, and cabooses

Pavilions

Homestead

Concession stand

Dog Park

PATHS AND AMENITIES

Memorial benches

Sidewalks/trails

Bike parking

Trash receptacles/dumpster

Water fountains

SECURITY AND LIGHTING

The park is lighted by overhead streetlights. There is no pedestrian scale lighting in the park such as foot lighting. High-definition security cameras were installed throughout the park in 2018.

Large pavilions have interior lighting.

Two of the ball diamonds have lights. The soccer/football fields are not lighted.

ACCESS, CIRCULATION, AND PARKING

It is essential that the park maintain a defined, ordered, and comprehensive vehicle and pedestrian access system, such that wayfinding and general orientation within the park is clear and understandable for all users of and visitors to the park. Reduction of the quantity and speed of traffic through the park is also a priority. Park Drive, the most central and only paved road, runs through the center of the baseball complex, creating a hazard for children and viewers on game and tournament days. The rest of the roadway system and parking areas are not clearly defined. The roads are of various widths, and are mostly gravel, unmarked, and loop around the buildings in the park. The north and south sections of the park are not connected by road, only a pedestrian bridge that is not labeled for pedestrian use only.

Two entrances exist for the north side of the park along 6th street: one by the historic homestead the other by the soccer field. There is no road connecting these entrances within the park. Pedestrian crossings lack markings. Parking is adequate for daily activities, but is at a shortage during large events and tournaments. Parking exists along the streets and several marked and unmarked parking lots throughout the park. Since parking is undelineated, visitors tend to park wherever they can fit, regardless of surface. This causes undesirable activities to occur, such as doing 'donuts.' Parking capacity adjacent to the park, at the schools, is used during large events like Homecoming.

EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS SUMMARY

Scheve Park is truly a community park, cherished and used regularly by residents of Mascoutah. Volunteer groups have been vital in growth and maintenance of the park over the decades. The community and city is thankful for the work of these groups; however, efforts have not always been coordinated between entities, and they are not always working towards a common vision established in previous plans.

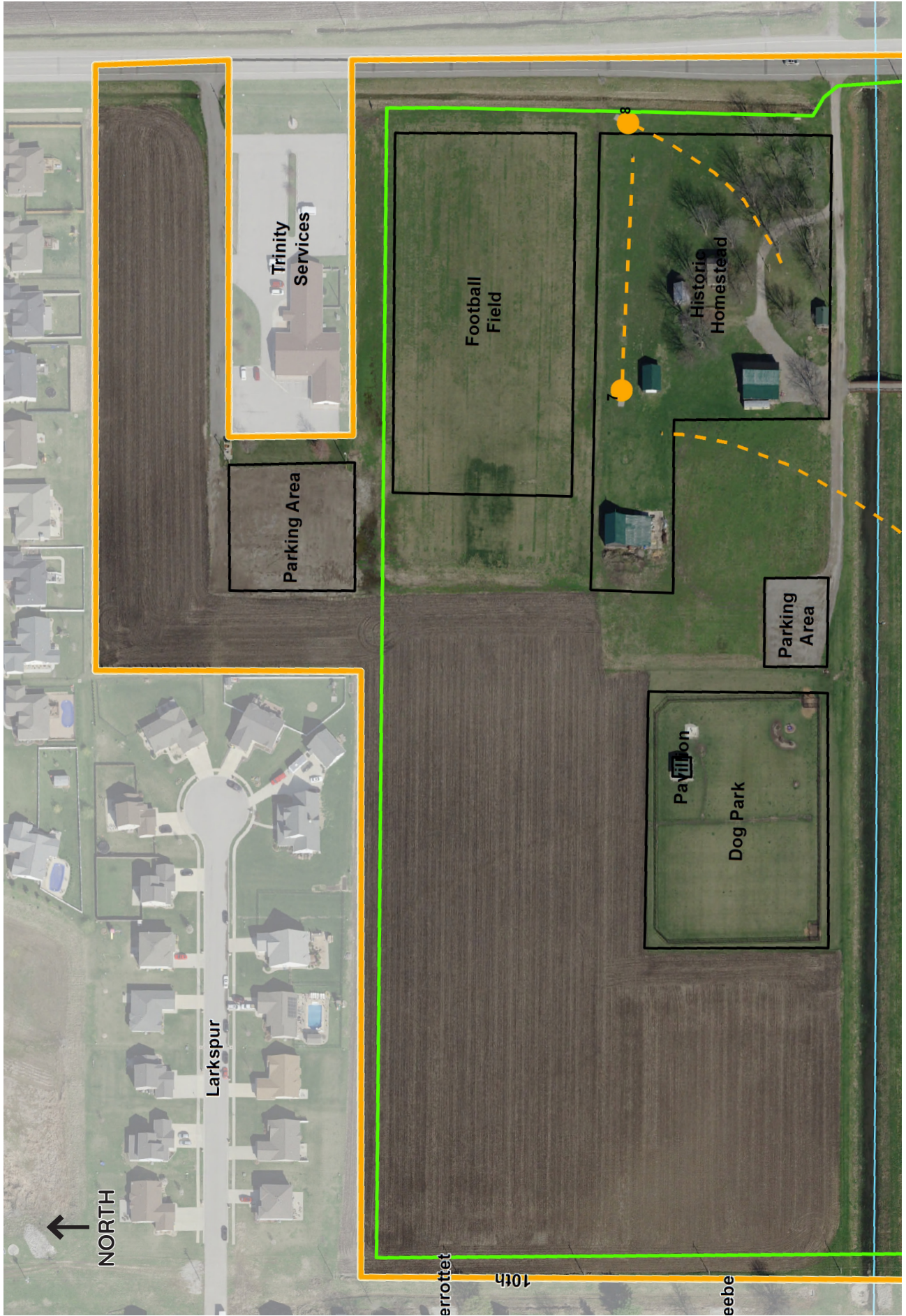
Scheve Park sports fields are some of the only fields in the community, and, therefore, are heavily used. In some areas the fields are overused by various sport organizations (e.g., football being played on the ball diamonds). Heavy use in these areas does not allow the landscape to rest and restore itself.

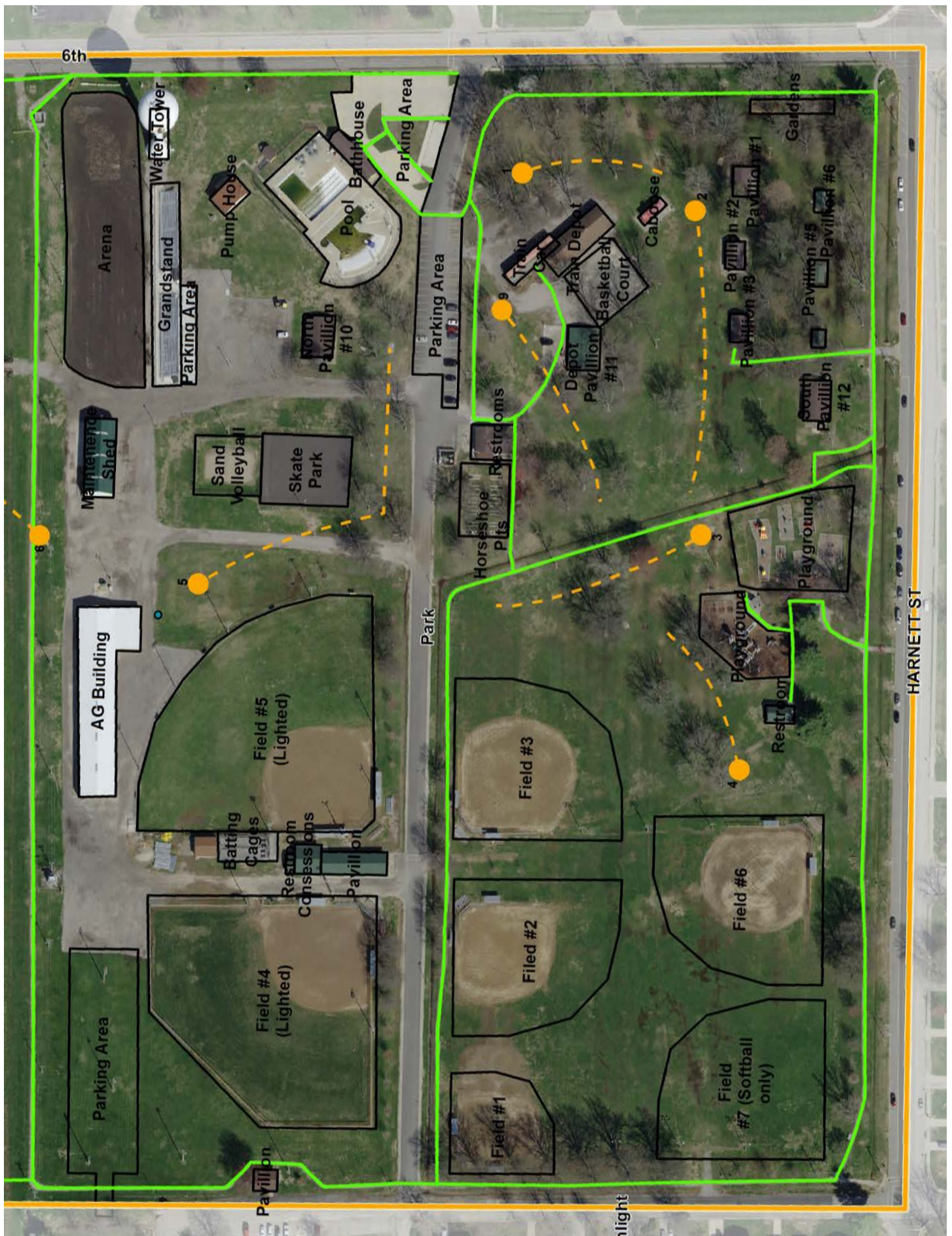
Stormwater flooding has been a big issue for the park. In addition to recent drainage improvements, planting of native grasses and landscapes, as opposed to turf grass in problems areas, could aid in stormwater management.

The park serves as the city's largest gathering place by hosting many large community events. These events are vital to the community; however, safety and everyday park experience should not be compromised by event activity. Traffic flow through most of the park is fast and unregulated, causing safety concerns for pedestrians and children.

Facilities continually age. Restrooms, pavilions, playgrounds, trails and bridges, the pool, and the bathhouse need regular maintenance to increase safety, appeal, comfort, and use.

Map of Existing Conditions





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Vision & Goals

Vision

Scheve Park is rich in history and is the heart of our neighborhoods. It is a community destination and central gathering place for all.



The background image shows a park scene. On the left, there is a yellow building with a white awning that has the word "TAH" visible. A traffic light stands in front of the building. To the right, there are several bare trees against a clear blue sky. The foreground is a grassy area.

Goals

The following goals, when accomplished, should ensure a diverse, multi-purpose, environmentally-sound future for the park.

Goal 1

Provide a variety of active and passive recreation.

Goal 2

Provide recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Goal 3

Continue collaboration of city and civic organizations for improvements to Scheve Park.

Goal 4

Maintain and enhance the landscape of Scheve Park. Use native plants for beautification, shade, neighborhood buffers, and stormwater management.

Goal 5

Create safe pedestrian and bicycle connections to and within the park.

Goal 6

Support existing events (e.g., Homecoming) and encourage a variety of other programming and events.

Goal 7

Renovate aging facilities (e.g., restrooms) and establish a regular maintenance schedule. Add new facilities as new areas of the park develop. For example, establish new vehicular access points, parking, and restrooms for new portions of the park.

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Recommendations





Design Principles and Ideas

Based on the analysis of existing conditions and feedback from the community (via the survey and workshops), the designers have developed the following design ideas.

- Provide safe and direct access, circulation, and parking.
- Create additional multi-use active recreation facilities.
- Expand and improve existing facilities, especially the municipal pool.
- Increase the variety and choice of passive recreational activities.
- Build upon the existing path to create a system for walking, jogging, and biking.
- Develop a comprehensive landscape plan that provides diversity of spaces, character, and plants to help manage stormwater and buffer neighboring residents.
- Highlight the historic character of park.
- Over the long-term, continue to improve, maintain, and expand the park as needed.

ACCESS:

- Provide safe and direct access, circulation, and parking
- Modify the road system
- Provide parking lots
- In the long-term, connect park with bridge over Hog River
- Improve wayfinding

Recommendations

Vacate Park Drive between ball fields, rerouting the road to the north side of the complex between the fields and the Ag Building and meeting the new parking lot on 10th Street. This accomplishes two goals: It creates a safer place for families around the ball fields, and meandering the road will slow speeds and reduce through traffic.

Relocate the skate park and sand volleyball court to create a centralized, paved, and delineated parking lot. The lot will be able to accommodate approximately 170 vehicles for events and tournaments. This parking lot could also be used as the site of an event or as part of the festival activities.

Create a central corridor connecting the north and south sections of the park with a bridge over Hog River. This tree-lined spine will improve access and connectivity and will include on-street parking, sidewalk, and trail for pedestrians and bicycles.

Reduce the gravel area around the maintenance shed and Ag Building, leaving only precise areas needing vehicle access as gravel. Mark these areas for authorized vehicles only. This will help reduce unwanted vehicle traffic and general mischievousness.

Formalize the parking lot by the dog park north parking lot and connect them via the central corridor.

Add an additional parking lot north of the ditch along 10th Street.

Wayfinding

At entrances to the park, update or install information boards with official park rules, a park map, and additional information such as upcoming events, contact information for pavilion/field reservations, and volunteer opportunities. Include a box for disc golf score cards or other brochures.

Name and clearly mark park roads. Place wayfinding signs around the park to direct visitors to fields, parking, the dog park, etc.

ACTIVE RECREATION:

- Provide multi-use (e.g., soccer, softball, baseball, football) recreational fields and focus active recreation in the southwest and north fields.



Recommendations:

South Active Recreation Zone

Relocate sand volleyball to the area between the baseball fields and parking lot on 10th street.

Upgrade the bathrooms and concession stand at the baseball fields

Relocate basketball court to the north side of the park next to the dog park.

North Active Recreation Zone

Add two additional regulation fields along the north edge of the park that can be used for soccer (various ages) and football. Light the east field closest to 6th Street.

Add surrounding amenities: benches, water fountain, signage.

Provide a field house with restrooms, concessions, and equipment storage.

Relocate the skate park to the north end of park near the soccer/football fields.

Add two tennis courts next to skate park that are also marked for pickleball.

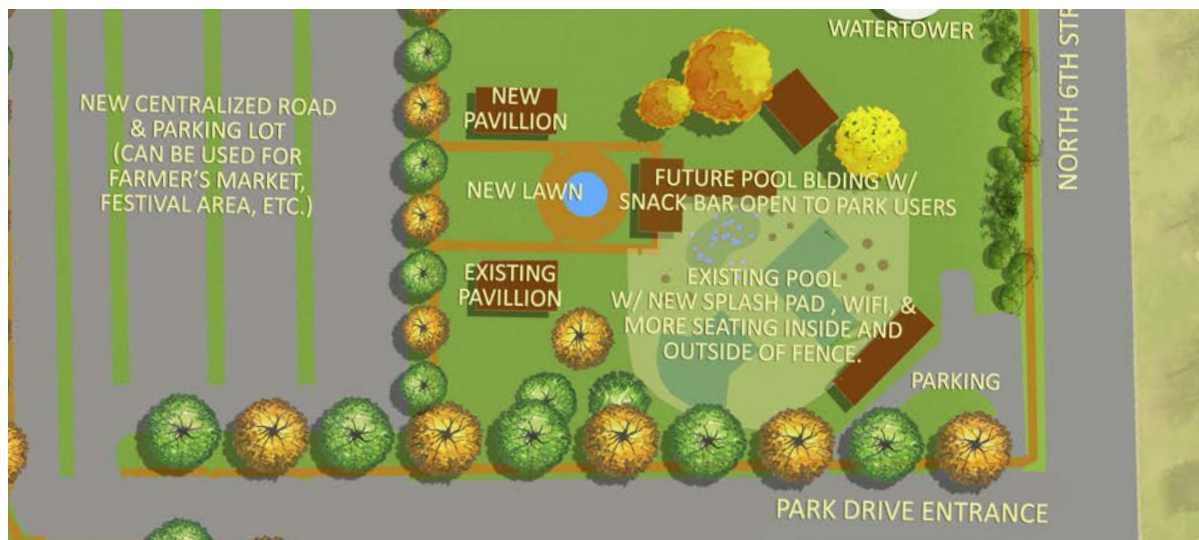


Example of shared tennis and pickleball court.



EXISTING FACILITIES:

- Expand and improve existing municipal pool.
- Create new entrance and bathhouse
- Add splash pad
- Expand pool grounds to include grass lawns, shade trees, and soft surfaces around the pool deck
- Continue to allow for special events and parties
- Improve or replace restrooms
- Add new restrooms where needed



Recommendations:

Remove the existing bath house and build a new bath house on west side of pool, with the entrance facing the new central parking.

Provide a new concession stand as part of bath house with service windows on the park side and pool side.

Build a new pavilion, mirroring and north of the existing pavilion.

Establish new lawn between the pavilions that leads from the parking lot to the pool entrance.

Move the fenceline to expand pool grounds. Include grass lawns, shade trees, and soft surfaces around the pool deck to provide sunning and picnic areas.

Provide various age-appropriate splash pad/sprayground and zero-collection spray fountain features. Can be added within the expanded pool grounds on lawn area leading to entrance.

Install and maintain wifi around the pool area.

Develop a maintenance, operations, and programming plan.

Renovate aging restrooms and replace if needed.

Add restrooms near new park facilities, such as the dog park and soccer fields.

PASSIVE RECREATION:

- Increase the variety and choice of passive recreational activities.

Recommendations:

Add amenities such as benches, swinging benches, and drinking fountains throughout the park. The exact locations are to be determined on-site and in community discussions, but generally should support the path system, picnic facilities, key landscapes, playgrounds, historic, and water features.

Upgrade site conditions (e.g., BBQ pits, utility boxes) around pavilions.

Replace the three smallest pavilions with larger models.

Upgrade and maintain all existing picnic areas to a high standard.

Remove or upgrade any playground equipment in poor condition or not compliant with current federal, state, or local code.

Install and maintain wifi in pool and picnic area.

Provide additional trees for shaded viewing areas around fields, pools, and playgrounds.

Children's Playground

Add a new playground on the north end of park near the soccer fields and new restrooms.

Just north of existing playgrounds, add a new inclusive playground. Inclusive playgrounds are designed to provide a safe place where children of all abilities can play together, and are developmentally appropriate for children with and without disabilities. An inclusive playground takes away the barriers to exclusion, both physical and social, and provides a "sensory rich" experience for all. Ensure the new playground is well connected to surrounding parking areas, streets, pavilions, and restrooms with paved paths.

Intersperse some accessible play features in existing play spaces. Ensure they are well connected with smooth paved surfaces.

Create shade structure with seating over the lion drinking fountain.

Consider installation of zero-collection water fountain feature for kids to play in.

Consider transforming the small building near the playground into a children's playhouse for imagination play.



PATHS:

- Build upon the existing path to create a system for walking, jogging, and biking.
- Link park to neighborhoods and other city destinations.
- Provide smaller internal loops for park users.

Recommendations:

Promote active transportation through the park via a complete path system.

Create trail loops within the park to connect all park amenities.

Design multi-use paths to accommodate all uses: walking, biking, jogging, rollerblading, stroller and wheelchairs, as well as maintenance and security vehicles.

Provide connections to the park from surrounding neighborhoods and city destinations (e.g., downtown, schools, civic center, library).

The main loop connecting all amenities should be of a solid surface to accommodate all users. Alternate, curvilinear paths throughout the park and meandering through natural areas can be made of soft or porous surfaces.

Remove excess or obsolete paving/gravel.

Repair bridges over stormwater ditches or remove if no longer needed.

Where main loops meets roadways, use removable post bollards to prohibit vehicle access while maintaining access for park maintenance, event set up, and security vehicles.

Provide additional path amenities, such as benches and drinking fountains.

LANDSCAPE:

- Develop a comprehensive landscape plan that provides diversity for spaces, character, and plant material.
- Create neighborhood buffers.
- Install rain gardens to help reduce flooding and standing water.
- Re-establish diverse tree types.
- Recreate natural landscape for pollinators.

Recommendations:

Neighborhood buffers

Install biodiverse landscape buffers around the edges of the park and between active and passive recreation areas. Mixed native plant buffers are created by combining a variety of evergreens and deciduous trees and shrubs. The result is a visually appealing



Year 1: Mixed-Native Plant Buffer



Long Term: Mixed-Native Plant Buffer

Mixed-Native Plant Buffer:

Over time the buffer can be left unmowed to decrease maintenance and provide better habitat benefits. Other benefits include greater stormwater infiltration.

native screen in all seasons. Over time the buffer can be left unmowed to decrease maintenance and provide habitat benefits, including better stormwater infiltration. These areas will become bird watching sites.

Native plant buffer species

Trees: redbud, service berry, red oak, hackberry, overcup oak, black gum, red pine, blue spruce, white oak, etc.

Shrubs: silky dogwood, roughleaf dogwood, wild plum, arrowwood viburnum, aromatic sumac, elderberry, witch hazel, american beauty berry, etc .

Re-establish diversity of trees

Work with a certified arborist to conduct tree inventory. Capture each tree species and condition. Create a tree management plan for treating or removing trees in fair or poor condition, as well as for identifying locations to plant new trees.

Evaluate the approved tree species list. Remove non-native or invasive species and encourage use of a variety of native tree species.

Create a streamlined system for replacing and installing new memorial trees.



Rain gardens

The small open swale running from Park Drive to Harnett Street between the playground and picnic pavilions drains a large part of the park. After rain events, standing water and soggy ground is not uncommon. Recently, drain tiles and pipe were installed to replace the open swale and alleviate the problems caused by stormwater flooding. These modifications seem to have helped, but problems still

persist. To aid in stormwater infiltration, a series of rain gardens should be installed along the former open swale. Small, shallow pools can capture rain water and native plants and trees with long roots can help absorb the water into the ground. This should help decrease water ponding and reduce runoff.

Native Landscapes

In landscaping areas, use a variety of native plant species. Native species are hardier and, once established, take less maintenance than non-native ornamentals. Their deep root systems allow them to survive heat and drought with little water and intake more water during rain events. Additionally, many non-native species tend to become invasive, which can lead to problems in the future.

HISTORY:

- Highlight historic character of Scheve Park.

Recommendations:

Depot Plaza

Remove gravel parking and roads around the train depot and replace with turf or landscaping as noted in plan. Improve landscaping.

Upgrade the stage and create a plaza beyond the basketball court with seating areas, historic elements, and public art pieces.

Include cohesive interpretive signage about the history of the depot, train, caboose, and the importance of trains in Mascoutah history.

Burger-Keil Home

Build a gazebo of historic character and create lawn behind home to be used for weddings, special events, music, and festivals.

To transition from soccer fields to historic homestead, construct a fence of historic character and plant a native prairie meadow along the north side of the homesite, reminiscent of what the landscape would have looked like to early settlers. Create mowed paths through the meadow for exploration. Use the expertise of area Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners to help establish and maintain the meadow. Use signs to educate the public on the benefits of meadows for pollinators and increased biodiversity, as well as saving resources and reducing emissions by not mowing as often. 'Prairie restoration in progress' signs can explain that meadows take three years to establish.

Consider adding a historically relevant fence as a visual boundary for the site. Create frequent gaps in the fence for trails and access.

Consider cultivating a fruit and nut bearing trees that would have been common sources of nutrition for settlers.

Expand special events, heritage days, interpretive events, weddings, family reunions as revenue sources.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:

- Over the long-term, continue to improve, maintain, and expand the park as needed.

Recommendations:

Programming

Continue festivals and events.

Expand programming and increase revenue by promoting rental opportunities within the park.

Create a staff position to oversee park events and activities, programming, rentals and reservations, maintenance, and development.

Maintenance and Operations

Continue regular maintenance to keep park at the highest standards.

Invest in major infrastructure improvements such as restrooms, utilities, picnic pavilions, and paths.

Expansion

Consider acquiring additional park space adjacent to Scheve Park or in another part of the community.

Create a Master Plan for the city-wide Mascoutah Park System.

Coordinate facilities uses with school district.



Implementation

Implementation

This plan outlines a long-range vision for the expansion and transformation of Scheve Park. It focuses on retaining a balance between active and passive recreation and recognizes the importance of the park hosting major community events. Overall the plan is achievable and cost effective by keeping existing structures in place. It strives to conserve and enhance the beauty and quality of the park while satisfying the needs of all park users.

Implementation of the plan begins with adoption of the plan by the city through the Park Board and City Council. The Park Board will be responsible for overseeing plan implementation. All projects should be reviewed, approved, and monitored by the board using the plan as a guide. The city will guide and lead all civic and community groups like MIA, Lions, and sports leagues. In order for the plan to be successfully implemented, all groups must work cohesively towards the established goals.

FUNDING STRATEGIES

Park improvements can be funded through a variety of state, local, and private mechanisms. Projects can be prioritized via timeline or as opportunities of funding present themselves for specific endeavors.

GRANTS

Funding Source	Grant Program	Details
Illinois Department of Transportation	Surface Transportation Program (STP)	The Surface Transportation Program (STP) provides funding for all types of transportation projects, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Projects are selected through the State Highway Improvement Program.
	Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)	The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) provides funding for community based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure.
	Illinois Safe Routes to School (SRTS)	Eligible infrastructure projects include sidewalk improvements, traffic calming/speed reduction improvements, traffic control devices, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle facilities, and secure bicycle parking facilities. Eligible non-infrastructure projects include events, equipment, and supplies that help to address areas of Education, Enforcement, Encouragement, and Evaluation.
	Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program	Funds cost-effective projects that improve bicycle and pedestrian safety through education and enforcement. May fund projects such as a bicycle and pedestrian master plan, development and distribution of maps with safety information, Educational materials, safety equipment, and vehicle feedback signs.
	Township Bridge Program	Provides funds for the use of road districts for the construction of bridges 20 feet or more in length. Funding at a 80/20 match ratio.

Funding Source	Grant Program	Details
Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Federal Recreational Trails Program	The IDNR administers RTP funds and stipulates that funds can be utilized for trail construction and rehabilitation; restoration of areas adjacent to trails damaged by unauthorized trail uses; construction of trail-related support facilities and amenities; and acquisition from willing sellers of trail corridors through easements or fee simple title. The RTP program can provide up to 80 percent federal funding on approved projects and requires a minimum 20 percent non-federal funding match. Eligible applicants include municipalities and counties, schools, and private, non-profit and for-profit businesses.
	Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD)	OSLAD is funded with Real Estate Property Transfer Tax in Illinois. Both land acquisition and park developments are accepted in this program. It is a 50/50 cost share program on a reimbursable basis. Projects vary from small neighborhood parks or tot lots to large community and county parks and nature areas.
	Park and Recreational Facility Construction Grant	Local governments can apply for park and recreation unit construction projects including acquisition, development, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvements, architectural planning and installation of capital facilities consisting, but not limited to, buildings, structures and land for park and recreation purposes and open spaces and natural areas.
	Bike Path Grant Program	This program assists local units of government to acquire, construct, and rehabilitate public, non-motorized bicycle paths and directly related support facilities.
	The Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant Program	Local governments can apply for financial assistance for the development of local urban and community forestry programs; activities must help to establish, manage, conserve, and preserve the urban and community forests from inner city to associated public lands.
U.S. Department of the Interior	Land and Water Conservation Fund	Land and Water Conservation Fund grants are available to cities, counties, and school districts to be used for outdoor recreation projects. Projects require a 55 percent match. All funded projects are taken under perpetuity by the National Park Service and must only be used for outdoor recreational purposes. Development and renovation projects must be maintained for a period of 25 years or the life of the manufactured goods.
Metro East Park and Recreation District	Park and Trail Grant	Provides up to \$300,000 for construction, implementation, and acquisition. MEPRD funds must not exceed 40 percent of the total project cost.
	Event Sponsorship Grant	Fund a variety of events include walking, running, and/or biking events hosted by a public agency/department or a nonprofit organization. At least 10 percent of the event proceeds must go towards funding developments, improvements, or recreational programs to a public park or trail.
St. Clair County	St. Clair County Parks Grant Commission	Provides grant funding to communities to improvements to parks. Funding amounts vary and require matching funds.

Private Foundations

Foundations are all excellent sources of funding for acquisition of land for conservation purposes. Foundations sponsor grants for a variety of park features, including but not limited to shade structures, tennis courts, tree planting, pollinator gardens, playgrounds, ADA improvements, and educational programs.

Some examples of foundations that support parks include;

- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- National Association of Realtors
- KaBOOM!
- Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation
- Home Depot Foundation
- Scotts Miracle-Grow Foundation
- U.S. Soccer Foundation
- American Academy of Dermatology (Shade Structure Program)

Community Partnerships

Continue to work with the many community organizations supporting the park in a streamlined coordinated effort.

Programs and Events

Diversify programming, events, and rentals to increase revenue from the park in fun and creative ways for the benefit of the community.

