



LOUISBURG MASTER PARKS PLAN

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL FEB. 3, 2020

The Louisburg Master Parks Plan was developed by members of the Louisburg Park & Tree Board as well as City of Louisburg staff.

This plan is a wish list of improvements and changes that can be made to each of the four City parks: the traditional City Park, located between S. 4th & S. 5th streets just one block west of Metcalf; Ron Weers Park, located at The Lake on S. Metcalf; Louisburg Aquatic Center, located at 402 Aquatic Drive; and Lewis-Young Park, located at 26600 Jingo Road just northwest of the city limits.

Members of the Park & Tree Board:

Bob Bazin, chairman

Dave Maddax - Louisburg Aquatic Center liaison

Wayne Knop - Ron Weers Park liaison

Mike McClellan - Lewis-Young Park liaison

Ernie Reinhart - City Park liaison

Jack Kline - Forestry liaison

Thorvald McKiernan - City Council liaison

City of Louisburg Staff:

Nathan Law, city administrator

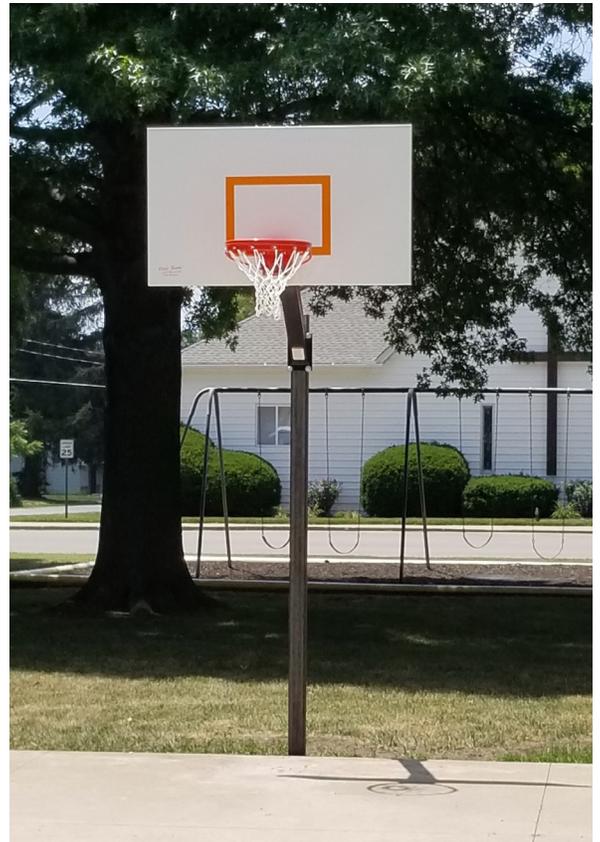
Rusty Whitham, park & tree board coordinator

Craig Hufferd, public works supervisor

Jean Carder, communications coordinator

The population of the City of Louisburg in 2018 is 4,487 per the U.S. Census Bureau. Funding for the city's parks comes from the General Fund. In 2018, the Parks budget in the General Fund was \$213,969; the 2019 budget was \$229,566 while the 2020 budget is \$236,070.

Parks funding is supplemented by grants, donations, in-kind labor and other methods of support. Recent grants received to improve parks include a playground grant that will see the installation of playground equipment at Louisburg Aquatic Center in Spring 2020 and a grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism to install a pavilion, walking trails and pave gravel parking lots at Lewis-Young Park during the 2020-2023 budget years.



Louisburg 5x5 Vision Plan

The Master Parks Plan is a direct result of the 5x5 Vision Plan 2013-2018 as accepted by the City Council in April 2013 and updated by City Council in March 2015.

The 5x5 Plan established several initiatives for the City including the first initiative: an updated Parks & Recreation System. The Plan said: One of the key elements of the City's makeup is its parks. Mirroring the fractured way that some of Louisburg's assets have developed, the City cannot be said to have a cohesive parks system, but rather a system of loosely related parks, each of which is considered separate and distinct from the others. As such, a central parks vision has alluded city leaders over the years, causing significant discussion in the community concerning the condition of its park facilities and the state of area recreational opportunities for both young and old. The City needs to work toward a single, unified Parks and Recreation System.

The Plan outlined three goals:

1) Create a comprehensive parks plan that encompasses all park facilities, possible enhancements and future uses. An official master park plan is necessary for the long-term future of our facilities, as well as to move the system toward a series of complementary parks that create a unified system.

2) Continue to support the integral place of the Park & Tree Board regarding issues. It is vital to the success of this initiative that the Park & Tree Board's recommendations and advice are sought on all park matters. Too often in the past this board has been neglected in favor of unilateral decisions made without its advice, which eventually led to the lackluster perception in the community of the City's role in Park issues. Now that the momentum has turned, it is up to the Governing Body to maintain this process going forward.

3) Work with USD 416 to place a proposal before voters for a joint Recreation Commission. Fortunately, USD 416 has been receptive to this proposal in the past, and has expressed recent support for the idea of such a proposal. For this ballot measure and subsequent structure to succeed, however, the City and USD 416 must recognize that a successful recreation structure must address youth, adult and senior recreational needs.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MASTER PARKS PLAN DRAFT

PAGE 4	CITY PARK
PAGE 11	RON WEERS PARK /CITY LAKE
PAGE 14	LEWIS-YOUNG PARK
PAGE 18	LOUISBURG AQUATIC CENTER
PAGE 20	PUBLIC INPUT RESULTS
PAGE 21	PARKS PRIORITY LIST

APPENDIX A

A-1	SUMMARY
A-2	PUBLIC INPUT RESULTS
A-3	SURVEY RESULTS
A-4	SPEND THE MONEY
A-5	ALL THE NUMBERS
A-6	COMMENTS
A-10	STUDENT RESPONSE

City Park

—2019—

The City Park, located between S. 4th & S. 5th streets and 1 block west of Metcalf Road, was established with the original town site and appears on a Miami County atlas in 1878 as the "Old Public Square." In the late 1920s the ground was developed as a park. The original ground was donated by David Perry and Charles Sims, of Paola, Kansas, who were later joined by Dr. Richard Steger and developed the town. Benches in the park were built by donation. Trees were provided by Cadwallader Nursery for the park. A bandstand was built in 1930. Mell Powell, Rev. Asling and D.P. Carlin were leaders in later park development.

City Park — Spring 2018



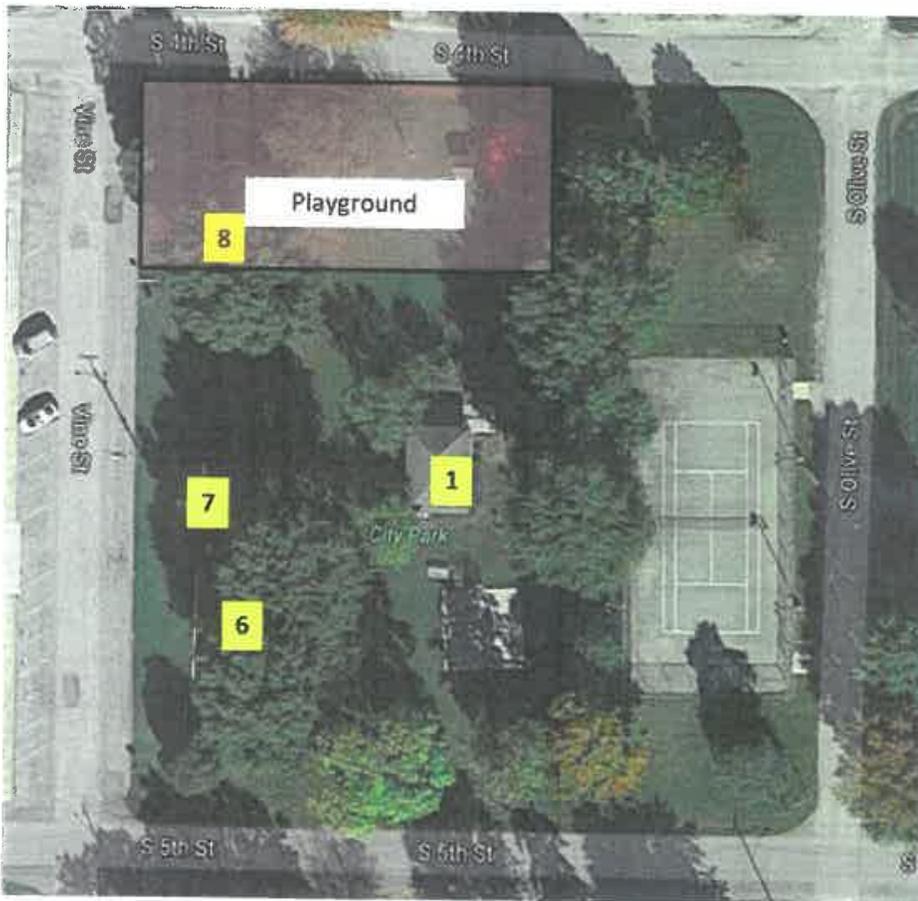
- 1) Gazebo
- 2) Grill
- 3) Tennis Court
- 4) Basketball goal
- 5) Porta potty
- 6) Swing set
- 7) Jungle Gym #1
- 8) Jungle Gym #2

In Summer 2018, a new jungle gym was installed at the north end of the park along S. 4th Street to replace an aging structure. The basketball goal was replaced and is located on the west end of the concrete pad. The old swing set was removed and replaced with a new swing located near the new play equipment.

City Park

—2019—

City Park — Proposed Phase 1



Gazebo Usability:

- The location of playground equipment (6 & 7) reduces the viewing space for the gazebo
- The proximity of the playground equipment to the gazebo can make it difficult to hear performances utilizing the gazebo when children are playing on the play equipment

Proposal:

- Relocate some of the equipment to the north side of the park adjacent to S. 4th Street.
(completed in 2021)

City Park proposals were developed by City Park liaison Ernie Reinhart and presented to the Park & Tree Board in July 2017.

City Park

—2019—

City Park — Proposed Phase 2



Picnic Area:

- There is currently no defined picnic area
 - The grill (2) is located in the center of the park
 - Picnic tables are in the gazebo (1) and on the basketball court (4)

Proposal:

- Construct a picnic shelter north of the existing tennis courts and relocate or install a new grill and trash receptacles.



Proposed Picnic Shelter

City Park

—2019—

City Park — Proposed Phase 3



Accessibility:

- There are currently no accessible paths that invite residents to explore the park or make it easy to traverse the park.

Proposal:

- Create walkways that move a visitor throughout the park

Alternate 2:

- Construct a traffic garden that provides for walkways and also serves as a play space for young children to learn the "rules of the road."



Proposed Walkways

City Park

—2019—

City Park — Proposed Phase 4



Park Signs/Landscaping:

- There is currently no sign that identifies City Park.

Proposal:

- Install signs at opposite corners of the park
- Add landscaping around signs and throughout the park.



Proposed Park Entrance Sign

City Park

—2019—

City Park — Proposed Phase 5



Restroom:

- The current restroom is a single porta potty (5) located at the southwest corner of the park.

Proposal:

- Locate an ADA compliant porta potty in an area that makes it more accessible and screen it using lattice or some other material.



Proposed Porta potty screening

City Park

—2019—

City Park Project Cost Estimates

Priority #	Item	Notes	Cost
1	Picnic shelter (24'x24')		\$30,000-\$40,000
2	Walkways (1,400 liner ft x 6 ft)	8,400 sq ft	\$40,000-\$55,000
3	Porta potty surround/park signs/landscaping		\$26,500
		Total Estimate	\$96,500-\$121,500
2B	Traffic Garden		\$100,000



Ron Weers Park / City Lake

—2019—

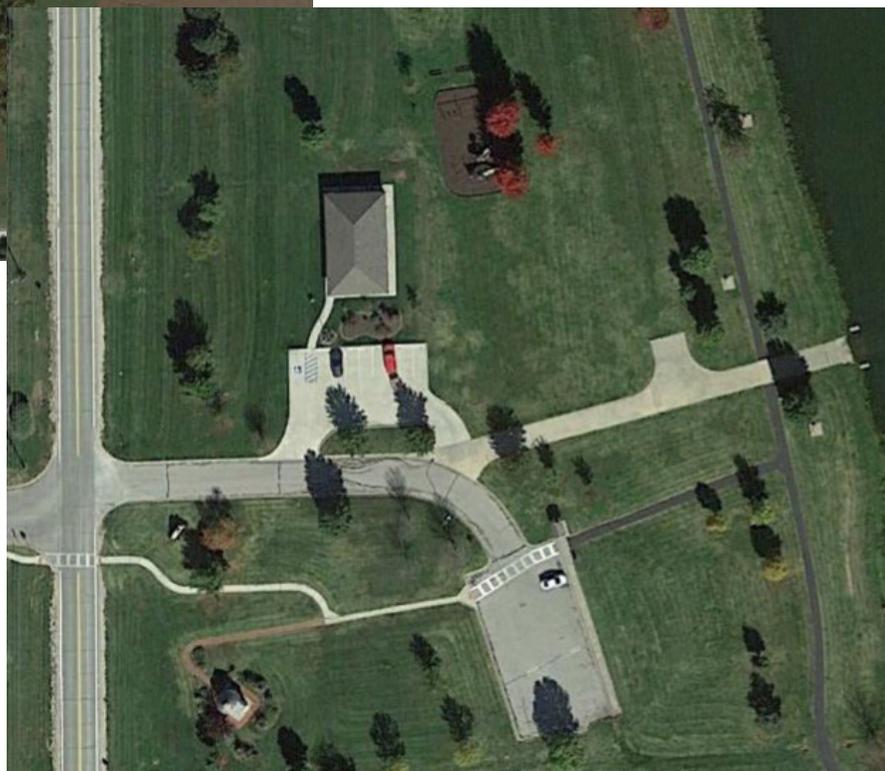
In 2009, the Louisburg Governing Body dedicated the original City Lake park to the late Ron Weers. Ron Weers was a life-long supporter of Louisburg and selflessly dedicated himself to the community and its people.



The park hosts many different amenities including a large fishing lake, walking trails, playground equipment, ADA-accessible park shelter complete with BBQ grill and restrooms (deposit required). When you visit the park, be sure to make time to experience the unique architecture of the historic "Little Round House" located on the south-west corner of the park property.

Park Amenities:

- ADA Accessible
- Grill
- Historic Building/Monument
- Parking
- Pavilion (may be rented for exclusive use)
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms (Deposit required)
- Walking Trail
- Fishing Lake



Ron Weers Park / City Lake

—2019—



Item 1:

- Add 1-3 electric vehicle charging stations. *(Removed 2024)*

Item 2:

- Expand parking areas to allow for enough parking for large events at the park.

Item 3:

- Enlarge playground area. Add additional play equipment and replace aging equipment. Include handicap accessible equipment.

Item 4:

- Install a municipal fishing dock.

Item 5:

- Install park exercise equipment in conjunction with walking trail. Alternate: install a fitness court

Item 6:

- Install trail markers that will measure distance walked/ran/ biked.

Item 7:

- Construct a snow sledding area.

Item 8:

- Establish a tree and plant identification system.

Item 9 & 10:

- Install an aeration or fountain system to prevent algae growth. *(Completed 2019)*

Item 11 & 12:

- Install two emergency call beacons in remote sections of lake trail.

Item 13:

- Install lighting along the lake trail.

Ron Weers Park / City Lake

—2019—

Ron Weers Park / City Lake Park Project Cost Estimates

Priority #	Item	Cost
1	Trail lighting	\$80,000-\$180,000
2	Expand parking area	\$30,000-\$45,000
3	Add/replace play equipment; add fitness equipment	\$80,000-\$145,000
4	Add sledding area	\$10,000-\$18,000
5	Fishing dock	\$20,000-\$30,000
6	Lake aeration system	\$24,000
	Total estimate	\$244,000-\$442,000
3B	Fitness Court	\$150,000-\$225,000

Lewis-Young Park

—2019—

The 220-acre Lewis-Young Park was gifted to the City of Louisburg in 1976 or 1977, historical city records have conflicting dates. Esther E. Young, a life-long Louisburg resident, gave the land to the city as part of her estate. Mayor J.T. McGuirk and Council members Leonard Shea, Dean Larsen, Jimmie S. Cain, Sam Cook and R.G. Criss accepted the gift on behalf of the City. The bequest was subject to the City operating the land as a park for the enjoyment of area residents, and Ms. Young indicated the name of the park should be “Lewis-Young Park.”

Lewis-Young Park offers numerous soccer, baseball and flag football fields along with wooded trails, shelters, BBQ grills, a fishing lake, playground, restrooms and open field areas that can accommodate the smallest or largest of events. Field reservations may be obtained by calling city hall at (913) 837-5371. Hot air ballooners are welcome to launch in the native grass reserve area located south of the main entrance.

The park is also home to the spectacular Powell Observatory that is operated with national acclaim by the Astronomical Society of Kansas City. The main entrance of the park is located on Jingo Road, one mile north of 271st Street.



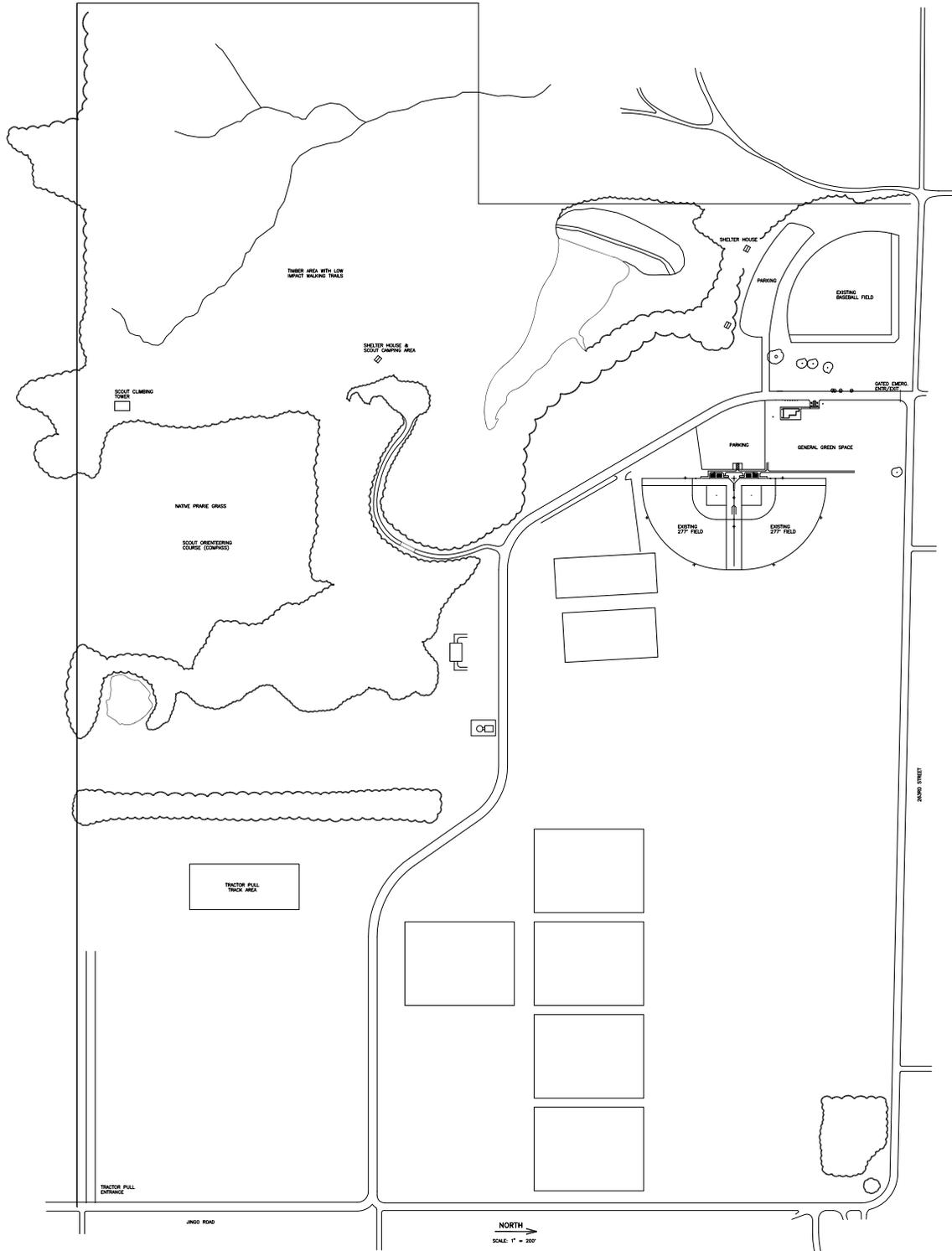
Park Amenities:

- Baseball / Softball Fields
- Soccer Fields
- Flag Football Fields
- Fishing
- Grill
- Parking
- Picnic Areas
- Picnic Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Soccer Field
- Trails

Lewis-Young Park

—2019—

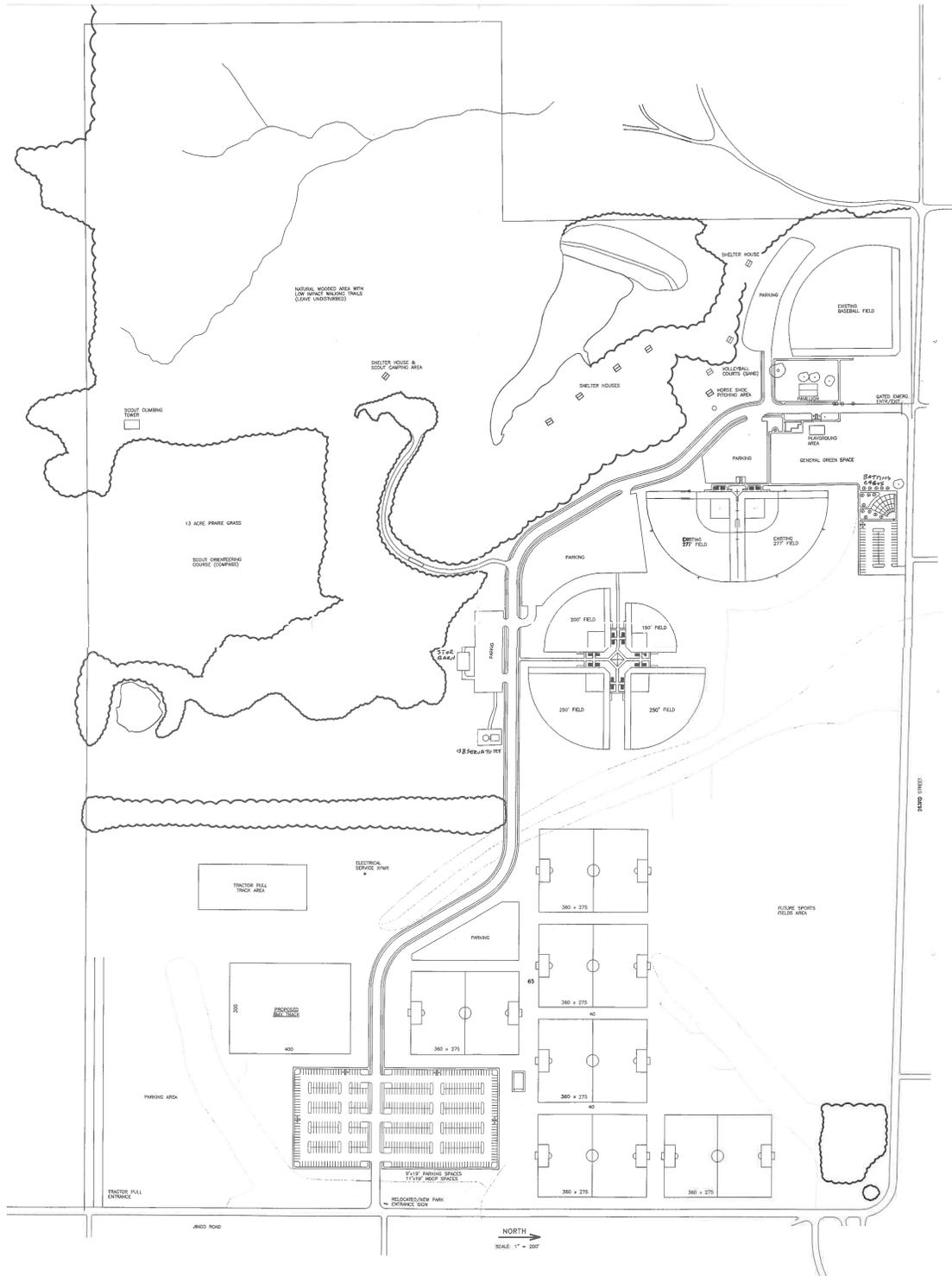
Lewis-Young Park Current (2001)



Lewis-Young Park

—2019—

Lewis-Young Park Proposed 2001



Lewis-Young Park

—2019—

Lewis-Young Park as proposed by Staff



Lewis-Young Park Project Cost Estimates

Priority #	Item	Cost
*	Updates to baseball/softball fields, build trails, build soccer shelter, add disc golf (<i>Completed 2020 & 2021</i>)	\$520,500
1	4-plex ball field complex	\$200,000-\$300,000
2	Pave gravel parking (<i>Completed 2021</i>)	\$200,000-\$300,000
3	Jogging/walking trails connecting ball & soccer fields (<i>Completed 2021</i>)	\$45,000-\$65,000
4	Add/replace play equipment (<i>Upgraded swings in 2020</i>)	\$110,000-\$170,000
5	Outdoor stage	\$110,000-\$180,000
6	Rec office (convert Powell Observatory after its move)	\$30,000-\$45,000
		\$705,000-\$3,760,000

*Previously approved projects excluded from total shown

Louisburg Aquatic Center

—2019—

The Louisburg Aquatic Center was dedicated Aug. 1, 1998. The pool features a zero-depth entry with two fountains, a 4 to 5 foot section and a deep end. There are two slides that empty into a slide pool. There is also a drop slide and diving board in the deep end. In late 2019, the City was awarded a matching grant to add a play structure to a city park. The Park & Tree Board, at the recommendation of staff and the playground representative, decided a location just north of the pool entrance near the parking lot would be an ideal location for the play structure.

Improvements to deck and other amenities budgeted for 2024



Louisburg Aquatic Center Amenities:

- ADA Accessible
- Concession Stand
- Drinking Water
- Lockers
- Parking
- Picnic Tables
- Restrooms with Showers/Changing Area
- Family Restroom
- Swimming Pool
- Lounge chairs
- Sand Volleyball Court (located just outside the pool area)
- Playground

City staff conducted a non-scientific survey on aquatic center needs and wants in the summer of 2018. The survey results were presented to City Council and Park & Tree Board in the fall. Council has indicated a desire to make improvements/expansion to the facility. This survey will be used as a guideline moving forward into early planning stages.



Parks Priority List

March 2019

The Louisburg Park & Tree Board developed this Master Parks Plan over the course of several months in late 2018 and 2019. At the March 2019 meeting, members determined a list of priority items for each of the three parks plus an overall priority item. Members voted to send the priority list to the City Council for consideration of funding.

The overall park project that was selected as the No. 1 priority is construction of a 4-plex ballfield at Lewis-Young Park. Board members then chose three projects for each park and named those the top individual parks projects.

City Park

1. Picnic shelter
2. Concrete Walkways/Path
3. 2 Park signs, porta-potty screening & landscaping

Lewis-Young Park

1. Secure funding and complete currently approved projects - maintain baseball/softball fields, build trails, build soccer shelter, disc golf (*Completed in 2020 & 2021; updates to disc golf in 2024*)
 2. Pave gravel parking (*Completed in 2021*)
 3. Add jogging/walking trails - make a connection to park amenities (*Completed in 2021*)
 4. Additional play equipment/replace aging play equipment (*Swings added in 2020*)
 5. Outdoor stage
 6. Rec office
- Others: tennis courts, batting cages (*cages constructed as part of Eagle Scout project in 2023*)

Ron Weers Park

1. Trail lighting
 2. Expand parking areas
 3. Additional play equipment/fitness equipment/replace aging play equipment
 4. Sledding area
 5. Fishing dock
 6. Lake aeration system (*Completed in 2019*)
- Others: trail markers, tree & plant identification system; emergency call stations

Aquatic Center*

Expand pool
Playground surfacing completed in 2023 from funds from sale of City-owned property at Amity/Metcalf)

Farmers Market*

Enhancements

* These items were added for consideration by City Staff

Public Input Results

Area residents were invited to provide input into the park plan through two public input sessions as well as a survey included with the August utility bill. There were 132 persons that participated in the survey. An unknown number of people participated in the public input sessions.

Summary Results

The summary results includes the combined responses from the two public input sessions and the results from the utility mailing and are listed in high, med and low priority.

CITY PARK								
Picnic Shelter			Walkways			Entrance Sign		
HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW
67	72	48	64	59	54	47	46	92

RON WEERS PARK														
Trail Lighting			Expand Parking			Add't Play/Fitness			Sledding Area			Fishing Dock		
HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW
80	37	36	17	36	32	38	48	39	31	49	57	58	56	35

LEWIS-YOUNG PARK														
4-Plex			Pave Parking			Walking Trail			Add't/Replace Play			Outdoor Stage		
HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW
53	30	32	19	39	48	83	51	31	40	44	44	13	40	53

LOUISBURG AQUATIC CENTER														
Lazy River			Expanded Swim			New Slides			Splash Area			Toddler Pool		
HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW
147	48	23	27	61	34	8	37	58	25	38	31	31	30	40

Parks Priority List

November 2019

At the November 2019 Park & Tree Board meeting, the Board discussed the public input findings and made some adjustments to the priority list.

City Park

1. Picnic shelter
2. 2 Park signs, porta-potty screening & landscaping
3. Concrete Walkways/Path

Lewis-Young Park

1. 4-plex baseball complex
2. Additional/replace play/fitness equipment
3. Walking/jogging trails
4. Expand/pave parking areas
5. Outdoor stage
6. Establish a Recreation Commission Office (convert the current Powell Observatory building after they move to their new location)

Ron Weers Park

1. Trail lighting
2. Fishing dock
3. Sledding area
4. Expand parking areas
5. Additional play equipment/fitness equipment/replace aging play equipment

Aquatic Center

1. Lazy river
2. Expanded swim area
3. New slides
4. Toddler pool
5. Splash area

Parks Priority List

February 2024

At the January 2024 Park & Tree Board meeting, the Board discussed the public input findings and made some adjustments to the priority list. The Board approved the list at the February 2024 meeting. Approved by City Council at the March 4, 2024, meeting.

City Park

1. Picnic shelter
2. 2 Park signs, porta-potty screening & landscaping
3. Concrete Walkways/Path or Traffic Garden

Lewis-Young Park

1. 4-plex baseball complex
2. Additional/replace play/fitness equipment
3. Add to paved trail
4. Expand/pave parking areas
5. Screen porta potties
6. Reconstruct and enlarge shelters north of lake
7. Continue maintenance of improved 36-hole disc golf
8. Continue maintenance of new mountain bike trails
9. Outdoor stage
10. Establish a Recreation Commission Office (convert the current Powell Observatory building after they move to their new location)

Ron Weers Park

1. Trail lighting
2. Fishing dock
3. Sledding area
5. Expand parking areas
Additional play equipment/fitness equipment/replace aging play equipment
6. Screen porta poties

Aquatic Center

2024 budget includes deck replacement and amenity upgrade

1. Lazy river
2. Expanded swim area
3. New slides
4. Toddler pool
5. Splash area

Farmers Market

Trees budgeted for 2024