

EDGERTON PARKS MASTER PLAN

APRIL 21 2017

 **EDGERTON**
global routes. local roots.
PARKS & RECREATION

Acknowledgments

City of Edgerton Governing Body

Donald Roberts - Mayor

Clay Longanecker - Council President

Cindy Crooks - City Council

Darius Crist - City Council

Ron Conus - City Council

Jody Brown - City Council

City of Edgerton Staff

Stakeholder Group

Katee Smith

Desi Goans

Cindy Crooks

Yvette Hinojosa

Linda Florence

Virgil Florence

Glyn Powers

Ken Newcome

Chad Courtois

Mike Phillips

Ronak Patel

Darshita Patel

Steve Friend

Jeff Stewart

Document Prepared By



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Introduction	6
A Closer Look at the Community	12
Demographics Information	14
Figuring Out the Needs of the Community	15
Community Comparisons	18
Understanding Similar Communities	20
Park System	30
Park Types	33
Level of Service	37
Connectivity	40
Parks	46
Signage	58
Existing + Proposed Signs	60
Moving Forward	66
Summary of Findings	68
Recommendations	72
Funding	76
References	82
Appendix	86

Edgerton Kansas |

Executive Summary

This document provides a summary of the Parks Master Plan and is presented here as a synopsis of the process and recommendations contained in the Master Plan.

Introduction

For many years, Edgerton has been committed to providing quality parks to its residents and continues to build a robust and vibrant park system. In 2013, Edgerton conducted a Citizen Survey and found that residents wanted to see more of an emphasis on the City's Park System (2013 Edgerton Citizen Survey). In 2014, the City Council responded to the residents and began focusing even more on these services by adding a Parks and Recreation Department. Since that time, Edgerton continues to focus on key resources to make advancements with the future in mind.

In 2017, City Council responded even further to the public's desire by completing its first parks master plan. To achieve this, Edgerton contracted with a consulting team and began developing the plan in May 2016. By studying the existing parks system and understanding the current levels of service the city is providing, gaps and areas of improvements were identified to shape this Master Plan. By adding this plan to its resources, Edgerton will have opportunities to look further ahead and make improvements that will last for generations to come.

Purpose of Plan

The City of Edgerton anticipates population growth as the City continues to attract diverse development. By 2040 Edgerton is expected to have a population of 2,740 residents (Felsburg Holt+ Ullevig, RDG Planning + Design, & CFS Engineers, 2013). The purpose of this parks master plan is to develop a comprehensive vision for the development and preservation of recreation and open spaces. A healthy parks and trail system provides opportunities for all citizens of the community to:

- + Rest, relax, and revitalize
- + Increase physical activity
- + Connect with nature
- + Connect and engage socially with other citizens
- + Reduce fuel and vehicular emissions through increased pedestrian and bikeway connections

Goals

The inaugural Parks and Recreation Masterplan for the City of Edgerton, Kansas has six primary goals:

- + Provide strategies for the future development of parks
- + Identify funding opportunities for parks and recreation development
- + Create an approach for park management
- + Establish a park and recreation system that allows all residents access to quality outdoor experiences
- + Ensure that the park system reflects the needs of the community
- + Establish levels of service for the department of Parks and Recreation

The Process

The planning process consisted of the 5 following phases:

1. Project Kick Off
2. Public and Stakeholder Involvement
3. Master Plan Recommendations
4. Implementation Strategy
5. Final Masterplan Document

Throughout these phases, a key component to creating the final master plan was through public input and participation. Residents were offered a variety of opportunities to participate including a citywide citizen survey, a citizen park worksheet, two stakeholder interviews, two public open houses, and a City Council presentation. The information received from these community input processes was applied to the overall planning process.

The preliminary plan was presented to the City Council in a Work Session on March 16, 2017. The final plan was completed and presented to the City Council on [April 27, 2017](#).

Summary of Findings

Through the collection of stakeholder and public feedback, evaluation and analysis of existing parks, study of comparison communities, and benchmarking with regional and national standards, the master plan outlines a summary of findings for the City of Edgerton.

Current Parks + Connectivity (page 30)

This portion of the master planning focused on evaluating Edgerton's current parks and trails, and providing recommendations on how they could be improved to align more closely with the community current and future needs.

The following is a list of park classifications.

- + Neighborhood Park
- + Community Park
- + Regional Park
- + Linear Parks/Linkages
- + Special Purpose Park

Community Interests (page 68)

Results of the public engagement process yielded four common themes:

- + Desire for a more connected trail system
- + Interest in a civic center or community building
- + Addition of an aquatic facility
- + Improved conditions and facilities in existing parks

Community Comparison Study (page 69)

Based upon eight comparative communities, and benchmarking Edgerton against national and regional standards, the design team identified the following significant conclusions:

- + Edgerton currently has approximately 26 acres of parkland for 1,000 residents, which far surpasses the National Recreation and Parks Association standard of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and the 2020 Guidelines from the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department of 12 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- + Edgerton has fewer dedicated park staff per resident than other communities.
- + Edgerton does not currently have sufficient resources to support a pool.
- + Edgerton currently exceeds NRPA guidelines for trails, but many of the trails in Edgerton are segmented and end abruptly. Connectivity is critical.

Level of Service (page 44)

The following charts summarize the existing levels of service in Edgerton. The charts also include the recommended levels of service which will be referred to in the next section.

Level of Service Comparison Park Acres / 1000 Residents			
Current Edgerton Park Acreage	Comparable Cities Average Park Acreage	JCPRD 2020 Standard for Community Parks, Facilities and Neighborhood Parks Acreage	NRPA Standard for Park Acreage
26 acres / 1,000 residents	21 acres / 1000 residents	12 acres/ 1,000 residents	10 acres/ 1,000 residents

Field & Facilities Needs Summary			
Facility Type	Existing facilities or Acreage	NRPA Standard / population	Today's needs by NRPA Standards
Baseball/Softball Fields	2	1/5,000 - unlighted, 1/30,000 Lighted	Meets current pop.
Football/Soccer Field	1	1/20,000 - 1/10,000	Meets current pop.
Basketball Court	1.5	1/5,000	Meets current pop.
Tennis Court	2	1/2,000	Meets current pop.
Sand Volleyball	1	No Standard	N/A
Swimming Pool	0	1/20,000	Meets current pop.
Childrens Playground (city owned)	3	.38/1,000	Meets current pop.
Picnic Shelter	5	No Standard	N/A
Community Center	0	No Standard	N/A
Skate Park	1	No Standard	N/A
Facility Type	Existing Miles	Trails KC Recommendations / population	Today's needs by Trails KC Recommendations
Trails	0.6 miles/1,000	0.6 miles/1,000	Meets current pop.

Summary of Recommendations

Based on all the information collected and discussing results with the governing body, the following recommendations are listed as priorities for the City of Edgerton:

Goal #1: Design and construct a Community Center to include a small aquatic feature such as a splash pad

Goal #2: Develop a linear parks and trail system

Goal #3: Improve and maintain existing parks

Level of Service (page 38)

The master plan is the starting point for the planning of quality park spaces. The plan recommends the following additional studies to continue the advancement of the parks master plan:

- + Civic Center Building Programming Study
- + Aquatic Facility Study
- + Economic Development Study
- + Trail Master Plan
- + Downtown Master Plan

Funding (page 76)

Funding resources are organized in the Parks Master Plan in two categories: current funding resources and alternative funding resources. Current funding resources reflect practices currently being used or developed by the City of Edgerton while alternative funding sources represent recommended funding outlets that are not currently being utilized. Suggestions for alternative funding resources include:

- + Add park user fees as park improvements are made
- + Establish Development Standards and Land Planning concepts
- + Establish Partnerships with Health and Wellness Institutions
- + Grants
- + Create a "Friends of Edgerton Parks" or similar group as a Non-Profit Organization

Park Type Design Guidelines (page 88)

The Parks Master Plan provides recommendations for design guidelines for neighborhood parks and linear parks. These recommendations can help the City as it crafts language for the Unified Development Code. Park type design standards are suggestions for what acreage, connectivity, and amenities are appropriate for neighborhood and linear parks.

Conclusions

The City of Edgerton has never been in a better position to advance park and recreational activities for the value and benefit of current and future residents. This plan provides the direction necessary to confidently move forward knowing the investment of resources is being utilized prudently and is supported by the community.

A photograph of a field of tall grasses, possibly a meadow or prairie, during sunset. The sky is a deep orange and yellow, with the sun visible on the right side. The grasses are in the foreground and middle ground, some in sharp focus and others blurred. The word "Introduction" is written in large, white, sans-serif font across the lower half of the image.

Introduction



Figure 1.1 Wheat Field (Wilkinson 2016)

Edgerton Kansas |

Introduction



Figure 1.2 Location of Edgerton (Landworks Studio 2016)

Location

Located in the southwest corner of Johnson County, Kansas, Edgerton (pop. 1,617) is forging connections that have a global reach with a local impact. Edgerton is located approximately 40 miles southwest of Kansas City, Missouri. The juxtaposition of a small town with tremendous opportunity and huge potential defines this close-knit community today — but tomorrow it will become part of the town's fiber. This neighborly community who takes care of its own will soon open its doors to welcome new neighbors.

All modes of transportation converge in Edgerton, Kansas. Home to Logistics Park Kansas City (LPKC) is a 2,275-acre master-planned distribution and warehouse development served by global intermodal transportation leader, BNSF Railway. LPKC is anchored by 440-acre BNSF Intermodal Facility and surrounded by a world-class inland port with capacity for 17 million square feet of industrial buildings. Logistics Park Kansas City will provides companies the ability to quickly and efficiently ship goods by rail and truck to their final destinations.

Johnson County Parks and Recreation District owns Big Bull Creek, nearly 1,980 acres of regional park in Edgerton. Phase One of Big Bull Creek incorporates Sunflower Entry at the corner of Sunflower Road and 207th Street. Johnson

County estimates that Phase One will incorporate a welcome pavilion, a destination nature playground, a shelter with a restroom, and several trail loops. For more information about the Big Bull Creek Park please see http://jcprd.com/pages/pdfs/big-bull-creek/2016-04-11_BBC-MP_Final-Report_web.pdf

Purpose

The purpose of a parks master plan is to establish a comprehensive vision for the development and preservation of recreation and open spaces. A healthy, parks and trail system provides opportunities for all citizens of the community to:

- + Rest, relax, and revitalize
- + Increase physical activity
- + Connect with nature
- + Connect and engage socially with other citizens
- + Reduce fuel and vehicular emissions through increased pedestrian and bike-way connections

Edgerton Parks Master Plan will be the guiding document illustrating the community's vision for investment in parks and recreation services in Edgerton for present and future generations. The parks master plan includes:

- + A Community Study
- + Comparable Communities Study
- + Overview of Existing Parks/Trail Network
- + Establishment of Goals for the Park System (LOS, Variety)
- + Inventory of existing parks facilities
- + Recommendations for improvements to existing parks and facilities
- + Approach and criteria for prioritization of projects based on available funding
- + Identification of funding opportunities
- + Recommendation of next steps and further studies for the advancement of Edgerton's park and recreation system

By planning parks for the future, it can be assured that land is preserved, available, and equitably distributed as development occurs. A successful park system will be one that allows all residents access to quality outdoor experiences and accurately reflects the needs of the community.

Edgerton Kansas |

Introduction

Goals

The inaugural Parks and Recreation Master plan for the City of Edgerton, Kansas has six primary goals:

- + Provide strategies for the future development of parks
- + Identify funding opportunities for parks and recreation development
- + Create an approach for park management
- + Establish a park and recreation system that allows all residents access to quality outdoor experiences
- + Ensure that the park system reflects the needs of the community
- + Establish levels of service for the department of Parks and Recreation

Page intentionally blank for formatting



A Closer Look at the Community

Demographics + Engagement



Figure 2.1 Community Picnic and Firework Show (City of Edgerton 2016)

Edgerton Kansas | A Closer Look at the Community

Demographic Information

Every ten years the U.S. Census gathers demographic information throughout the United States. This information provides data that helps cities make informed “planning decisions about community services.”¹ Census information helps cities budget dollars for infrastructure and amenities. By looking at this information we can understand the make-up of a community and how it may grow and change in the future.

Edgerton is a community of approximately 1,700 residents.¹ As industry develops, Edgerton is expected to grow. By 2040 Edgerton is expected to have a population of 2,740 residents.² The change in population is the result of slow and steady population growth, as well as a burst of residents from newly created industrial jobs.²

The current age spectrum of Edgerton’s residents is fairly evenly distributed, with the median age being 32.1 years old.¹ The distribution of age in Edgerton informs us of a need for a wide variety of park and trail amenities. Edgerton’s park system should balance opportunities for youth, teens, adults, and seniors. A healthy park system provides opportunities for all ages and encourages interaction and engagement for the entire community.



Figure 2.2
Connecting with
the Community
(Landworks Studio
2016)

1. US Census Bureau, 2016

2. Felsburg Holt + Ullevig, RDG Planning + Design, & CFS Engineers, 2013

Figuring Out the Needs of the Community

While demographics can provide a solid base of information about a community, the best way to understand a community is through direct contact. The Edgerton Parks Master Plan used a combination of techniques including surveys, stakeholder groups, and public open houses to listen and generate dialogue about the specific needs of residents.

Process

Candid Marketing led the communication strategy for Edgerton Parks Master Plan. Two micro-sites, www.edgertonparksplan.com and www.planedgertonparks.com, were developed to solicit the community's ideas on the City's parks for inclusion in the Park Master Plan. The micro-site included an interactive Park Visualization form, a link to a survey, community open house flyers, and an open discussion area. Hard copies of the survey were also made available at City Hall and various events. Community engagement was promoted using existing city communications assets; utility bill, newsletter, website, and posters and flyers around the community. Parks and Recreation staff communicated the request for resident input through a series of email blasts, the city website, promotions during events, and a booth at Frontier Days.



Edgerton Kansas | A Closer Look at the Community

Methods | Survey

The survey was conducted from May - June of 2016. Candid Marketing constructed the survey and helped distribute it to Edgerton residents. Survey materials were distributed digitally and in hard copy format at City Hall and during the Edgerton Frontier Days event. The survey consisted of 21 questions and 104 surveys were completed. A copy of the survey and results are provided in Appendix A.

Methods | Stakeholder Group

The Stakeholder Group was composed of 14 members from the community and city staff. Stakeholder members were selected based on city recommendations as well as participant availability and interest. Stakeholder meetings occurred before public open house presentations in order to gauge interest and generate discussion. Stakeholders were asked to provide feedback and encourage other residents to participate in the planning process.

Methods | Public Open House

City staff and consultants conducted two public open house meetings. The first, in May of 2016 was held at Edgerton Elementary School with 11 people in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to educate the public on parks issues and gain valuable feedback on the needs and interests for an improved park system. After the meeting, presentation material was submitted online in order to receive comments from citizens who were not able to attend the open house. The second public meeting was held at Edgerton City Hall in September of 2016. The purpose of this meeting was to present initial park concepts, continue to develop park recommendations, address concerns, revisit with the community, and communicate survey results. The presentation materials were posted online and available for comment until mid-October of 2016.

Page intentionally blank for formatting



Community Comparison

Understanding Similar Communities



Figure 3.1 Hwy 56 (Wilkinson 2016)

Edgerton Kansas | Community Comparison

When developing recommendations for a parks and recreation master plan, it is important to understand how Edgerton compares to similarly sized communities. Our team selected these 'comparable communities' based on population, proximity to metropolitan areas, and regionalism. The following is an analysis of key parks and recreation statistics of selected communities that are intended to inform master plan decisions.

To begin the analysis, the planning team gathered information from multiple sources, including telephone interviews, the U.S. Census, and online resources such as city websites. By assembling varying blocks of data within the city, the planning team is able to ascertain the needs of each area within the community and substantiate recommendations made throughout this master plan. In addition, Edgerton's trends will be compared to that of similar cities to provide a benchmark against which the city may be measured. Starting with Edgerton, the following are the targeted similar communities and their park-related statistics listed in order by population.



Figure 3.2
Connecting with
the Community
(Landworks Studio
2016)

Edgerton, Kansas

Edgerton is a city in Johnson County, Kansas, part of the Kansas City metropolitan area. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 1,671.

- + Population: 1671
- + Miles to the Nearest Major Metropolitan Area: 37 miles to Kansas City
- + City Budget: \$3,520,000
- + Parks and Recreation Budget: \$175,000
- + Full time Parks and Recreation Employees: 2
- + Part time Parks and Recreation Employees: 1
- + Acres of Park Land: 38
- + Acres of Athletics Land: 5
- + Community Facilities: 1
- + Aquatics Facilities: 0
- + Number of Parks: 5

Baldwin City, Kansas

Baldwin City is a city in Douglas County, Kansas, about 12 miles south of Lawrence and 15 miles west of Gardner. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 4,515. Baldwin City offers recreation services and some park/facility services through a Recreation Commission. Some park maintenance responsibilities are done by the City Public Works Department.

- + Population: 4,515
- + Miles to the Nearest Major Metropolitan Area: 46 miles to Kansas City
- + City Budget: \$3,010,000
- + Parks and Recreation Budget: \$127,738
- + Parks and Recreation Revenue: n/a
- + Full time Parks and Recreation Employees: 3
- + Part time Parks and Recreation Employees: 50
- + Acres of Park Land: 10
- + Acres of Athletics Land: 17
- + Community Facilities: Senior Center that doubles as events space and meeting space.
- + Aquatics Facilities: "L" shaped pool without zero depth or other amenities, no splash parks
- + Number of Parks: 5 including golf course (9 holes)

Eudora, Kansas

Eudora is a city in Douglas County, Kansas. The city is located along the Kansas and Wakarusa Rivers. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 6,136.

- + Population: 6,136
- + Miles to the Nearest Major Metropolitan Area: 37 miles to Kansas City
- + City Budget: \$16,689,000
- + Parks and Recreation Budget: \$650,000
- + Parks and Recreation Revenue: n/a
- + Full time Parks and Recreation Employees: 3
- + Part time Parks and Recreation Employees: 10
- + Acres of Park Land: 12
- + Acres of Athletics Land: 60
- + Community Facilities: After school program on school property, Eudora Community Center
- + Aquatics Facilities: "L" shaped pool with zero depth, without splash parks or other amenities
- + Number of Parks: 6

Grimes, Iowa

Grimes is a city in Dallas and Polk counties, Iowa. The population was 8,246 at the 2010 census. Grimes is part of the Des Moines–West Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area.

- + Population: 8246
- + Miles to the Nearest Major Metropolitan Area: 17 miles to Des Moines
- + City Budget: \$13,760,000
- + Parks and Recreation Budget: \$650,000
- + Parks and Recreation Revenue: \$150,000.00
- + Full time Parks and Recreation Employees: 4
- + Part time Parks and Recreation Employees: 20
- + Acres of Park Land: 25
- + Acres of Athletics Land: 60
- + Community Facilities: Renovated elementary school with gymnasium and meeting spaces.
- + Aquatics Facilities: No
- + Number of Parks: 6

Edgerton Kansas | Community Comparison

Girard, Kansas

Girard is a city in Kansas and the county seat of Crawford County, Kansas. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 2,789.

- + Population: 2789
- + Miles to the Nearest Major Metropolitan Area: 141 miles to Kansas City
- + City Budget: \$8,600,000
- + Parks and Recreation Budget: \$250,000
- + Parks and Recreation Revenue: n/a
- + Full time Parks and Recreation Employees: 1
- + Part time Parks and Recreation Employees: 13
- + Acres of Park Land: 12
- + Acres of Athletics Land: 110 acres; including 9 hole golf course
- + Community Facilities: Community building with kitchenette and meeting space.
- + Aquatics Facilities: "L" shaped pool without zero depth or other amenities, no splash parks
- + Number of Parks: 4 including golf course

Meade, Kansas

Meade is a city in Meade County, Kansas. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 1,721.

- + Population: 1,721
- + Miles to the Nearest Major Metropolitan Area: 173 miles to Wichita
- + City Budget: \$5,900,000
- + Parks and Recreation Budget: \$600,000
- + Parks and Recreation Revenue: n/a
- + Full time Parks and Recreation Employees: 3
- + Part time Parks and Recreation Employees: 46
- + Acres of Park Land: 12
- + Acres of Athletics Land: 70; including 9 Hole Golf Course + Baseball Field
- + Community Facilities: n/a
- + Aquatics Facilities: Yes, pool with diving board
- + Number of Parks: 1

Moundridge, Kansas

Moundridge is a city in McPherson County, Kansas. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 1,737. The city is named for the settlement that became the incorporated city in 1887 located in Mound Township. Moundridge City offers recreation services and some park/facility services through a Recreation Commission. Some park maintenance responsibilities might be done by the City Public Works Department.

- + Population: 1737
- + Miles to the Nearest Major Metropolitan Area: 46 miles to Wichita
- + City Budget: \$8,015,388
- + Parks and Recreation Budget: 61,000
- + Parks and Recreation Revenue: n/a
- + Full time Parks and Recreation Employees: 1
- + Part time Parks and Recreation Employees: 2
- + Acres of Park Land: 10
- + Acres of Athletics Land: 17
- + Community Facilities: Senior Center that doubles as events space and meeting space
- + Aquatics Facilities: "L" shaped pool without zero depth or other amenities, no splash parks
- + Number of Parks: 3

Winterset, Iowa

Winterset is a city in Madison County, Iowa. The population was 5,190 at the 2010 census. It is the county seat of Madison County. Winterset is part of the Des Moines – West Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area.

- + Population: 5190
- + Miles to the Nearest Major Metropolitan Area: 25 miles to Des Moines
- + City Budget: \$10,108,000
- + Parks and Recreation Budget: \$600,000
- + Parks and Recreation Revenue: \$240,000
- + Full time Parks and Recreation Employees: 3
- + Part time Parks and Recreation Employees: 46
- + Acres of Park Land: 104
- + Acres of Athletics Land: 47
- + Community Facilities: Shared facilities with schools
- + Aquatics Facilities: Full aquatics facility with slides and zero-depth, no Lazy River
- + Number of Parks: 6

Horton, Kansas

Horton is a city in Brown County, Kansas, . As of the 2010 census, the city population was 1,776.

- + Population: 1776
- + Miles to the Nearest Major Metropolitan Area: 58 miles to Topeka
- + City Budget: \$6,281,483
- + Parks and Recreation Budget: \$38,000
- + Parks and Recreation Revenue: n/a
- + Full time Parks and Recreation Employees: 0
- + Part time Parks and Recreation Employees: 3
- + Acres of Park Land: 2
- + Acres of Athletics Land: 2; 1 soccer 1 baseball
- + Community Facilities: Armory Building (basketball)
- + Aquatics Facilities: 0
- + Number of Parks: 4 small downtown with swings

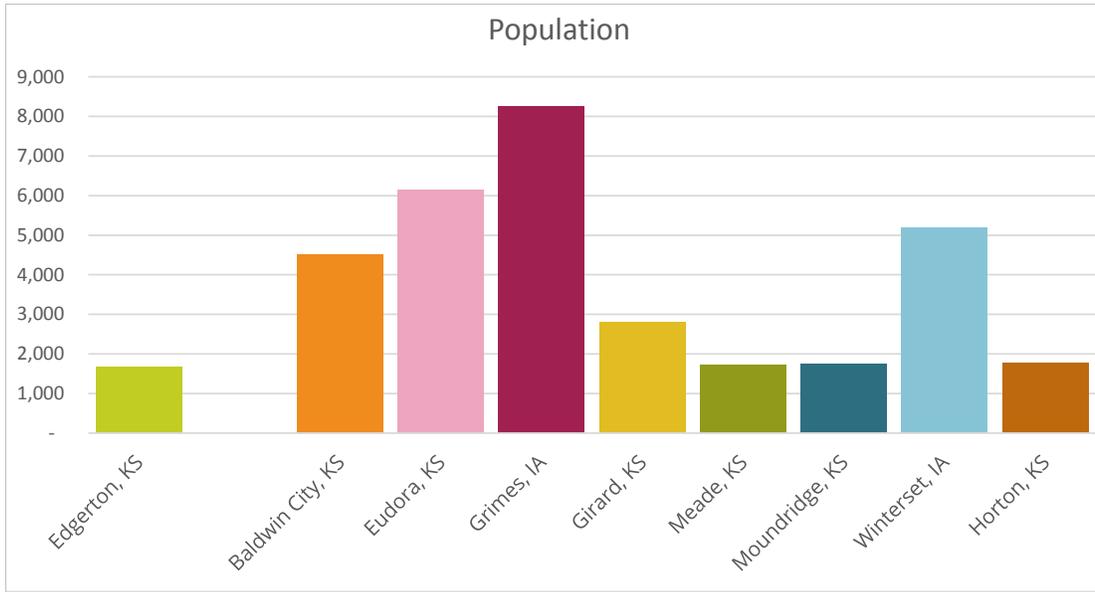
Edgerton Kansas | Community Comparison

Summary of Community Comparison

	Population	Miles to Nearest Metro Area	City Budget	Parks and Recreation Budget (2017)	Full Time Employees	Part Time Employees
Edgerton, KS	1671	37	\$ 3,520,000	\$ 175,000	2	1
Baldwin City, KS	4515	46	\$ 3,010,000	\$ 127,738	3	50
Eudora, KS	6136	37	\$ 16,689,000	\$ 650,000	3	10
Grimes, IA	8246	17	\$ 13,760,000	\$ 650,000	4	20
Girard, KS	2789	141	\$ 8,600,000	\$ 250,000	1	13
Meade, KS	1721	173	\$ 5,900,000	\$ 600,000	3	46
Moundridge, KS	1737	46	\$ 8,015,388	\$ 61,000	1	2
Winterset, IA	5190	25	\$ 10,108,000	\$ 600,000	3	46
Horton, KS	1776	58	\$ 6,281,483	\$ 38,000	0	3

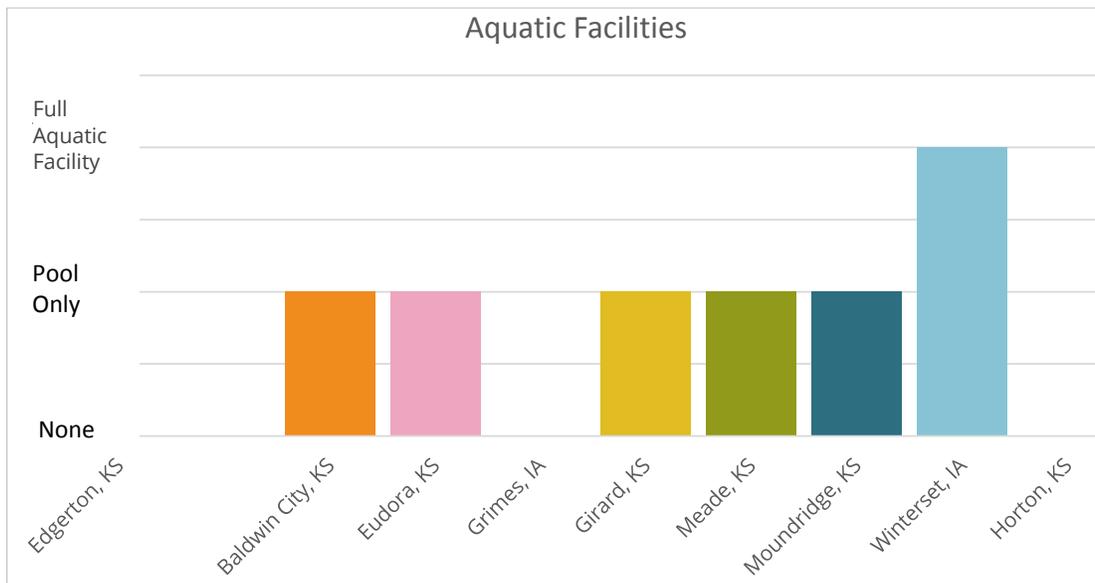
	Total Employees	Acres of Parkland	Acres of Athletic Fields	Total Acres of Parkland and Athletic Fields	Aquatic Facilities	Number of Parks
Edgerton, KS	3	38	5	43	0	5
Baldwin City, KS	53	10	17	27	1	5
Eudora, KS	13	12	60	72	1	6
Grimes, IA	24	25	60	85	0	6
Girard, KS	14	12	110	122	1	4
Meade, KS	49	12	70	82	1	8
Moundridge, KS	3	10	17	27	1	3
Winterset, IA	49	104	47	151	2	6
Horton, KS	3	2	2	4	0	4

Population



In comparison to other communities, the City of Edgerton has a fairly small population. By understanding other communities we may develop a better understanding of how population change effects the needs of the park system.

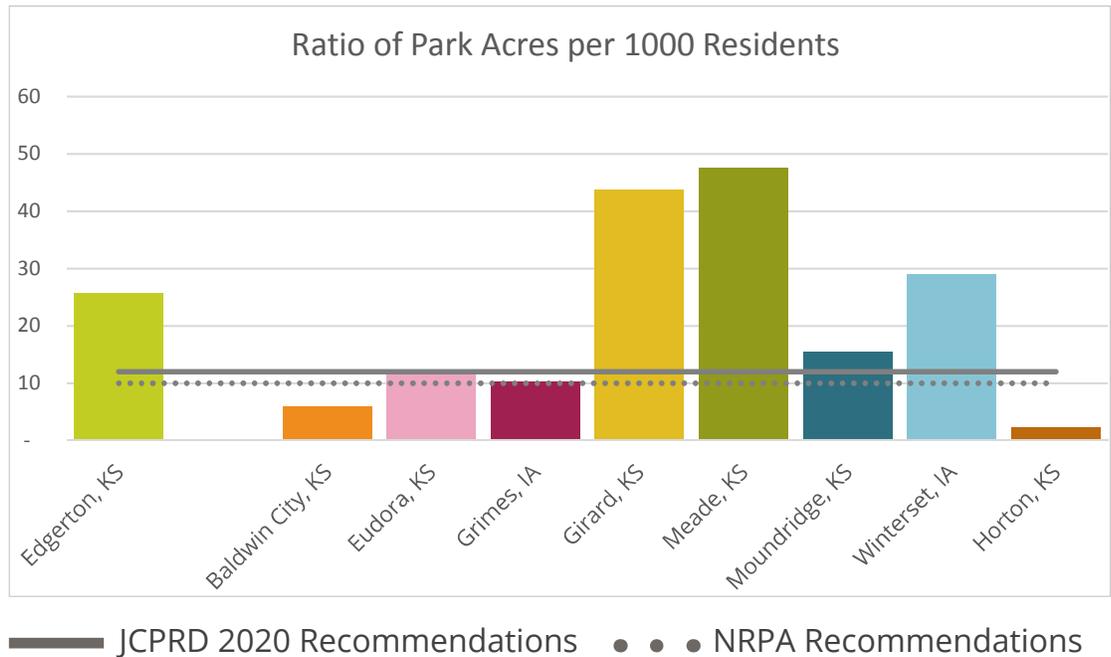
Aquatic Facilities



Some communities that have a similar population to Edgerton (Meade, Moundridge) have pools. However, both Meade and Moundridge are located significantly farther from metropolitan areas than Edgerton.

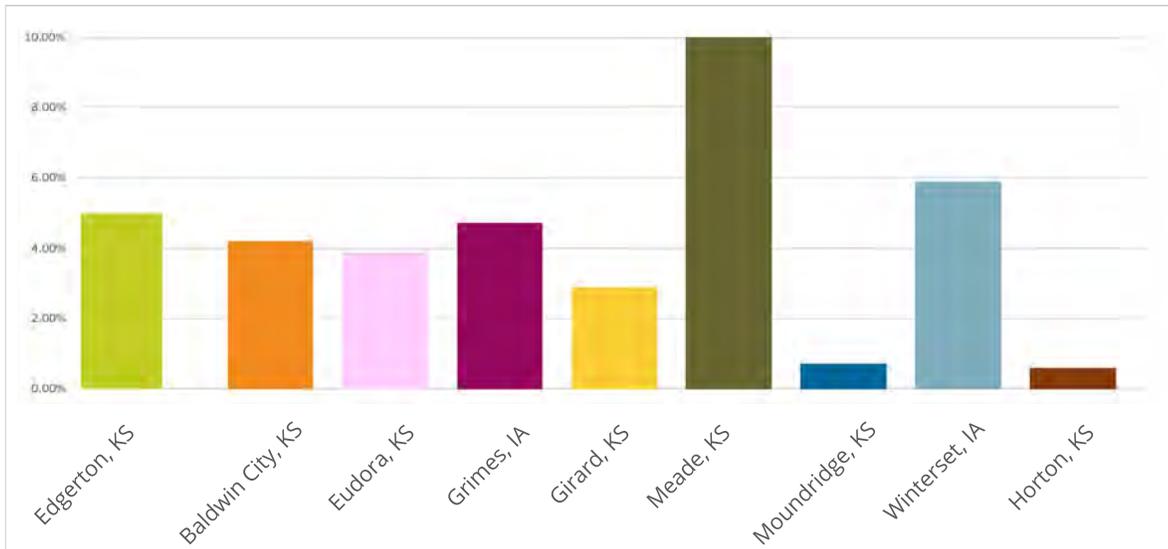
Edgerton Kansas | Community Comparison

Ratio of Park Acres per 1000 Residents



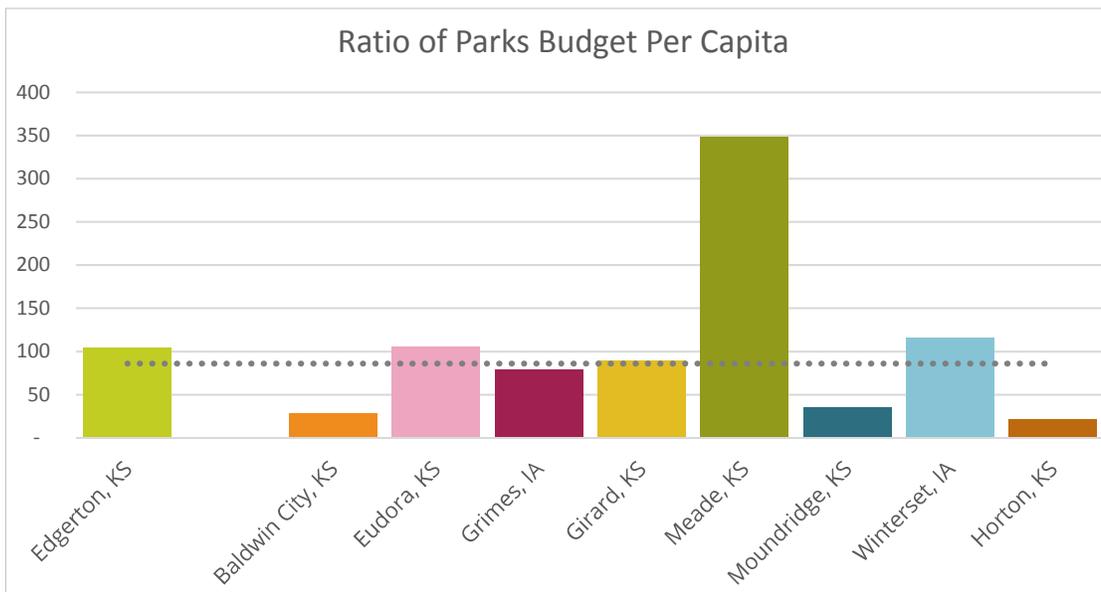
Several agencies have put together guidelines for the amount of parkland a community should have based on its number of residents. NRPA suggests a minimum of 10 acres per 1000 residents. Johnson County's 2020 Recommendations suggest 40 acres per 1000 residents; 22 acres provided by the county, 12 to be provided by the municipality, and six by the state or federal government. Edgerton currently has approximately 26 acres of parkland per 1000 residents.

Ratio of Parks Budget to City Budget



The City of Edgerton’s parks budget to city budget ratio is fairly consistent with other communities. Meade, KS, the outlier community, likely has a high parks budget to city ratio because of its golf course.

Ratio of Parks Budget per Capita

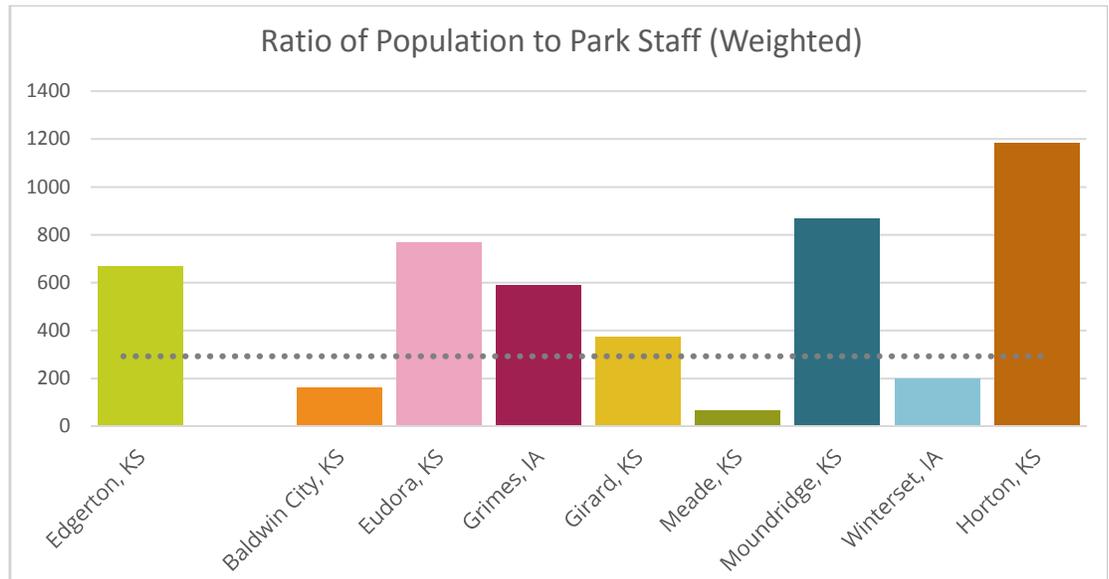


● ● ● NRPA Recommendations

The City of Edgerton invests roughly \$105 per resident in the park system. NRPA guidelines show a median investment of \$86 per resident for cities with less than 20,000 residents.

Edgerton Kansas | Community Comparison

Ratio of Population to Park Staff (Weighted)

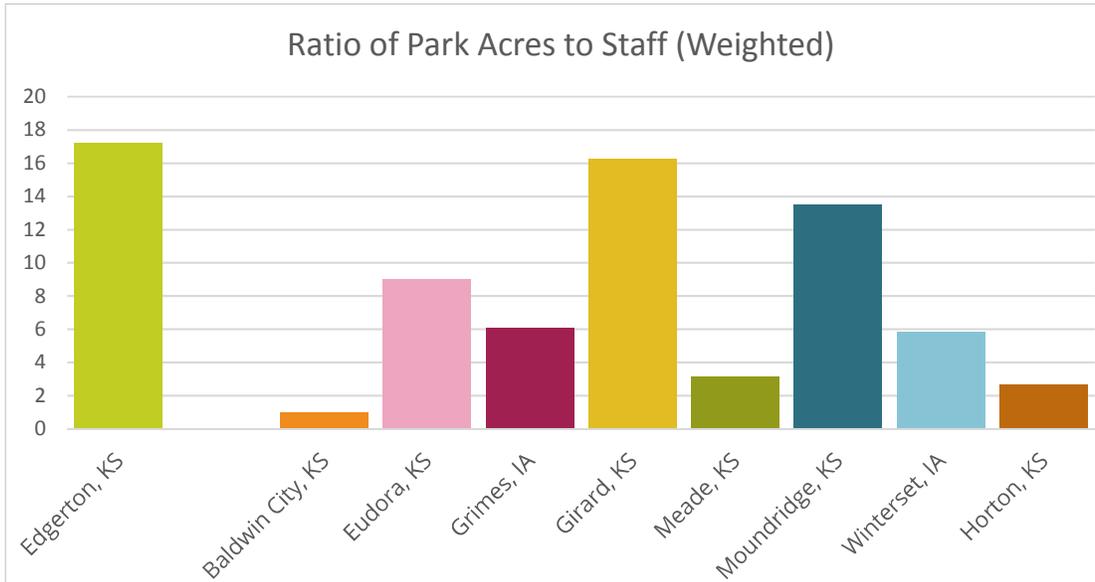


● ● ● NRPA Recommendations

Full time and part time employees are combined for a total park staff number. Each parks and recreation staff member in Edgerton serves 668 residents. This is significantly higher than the average of 330 residents per parks and recreation staff member.

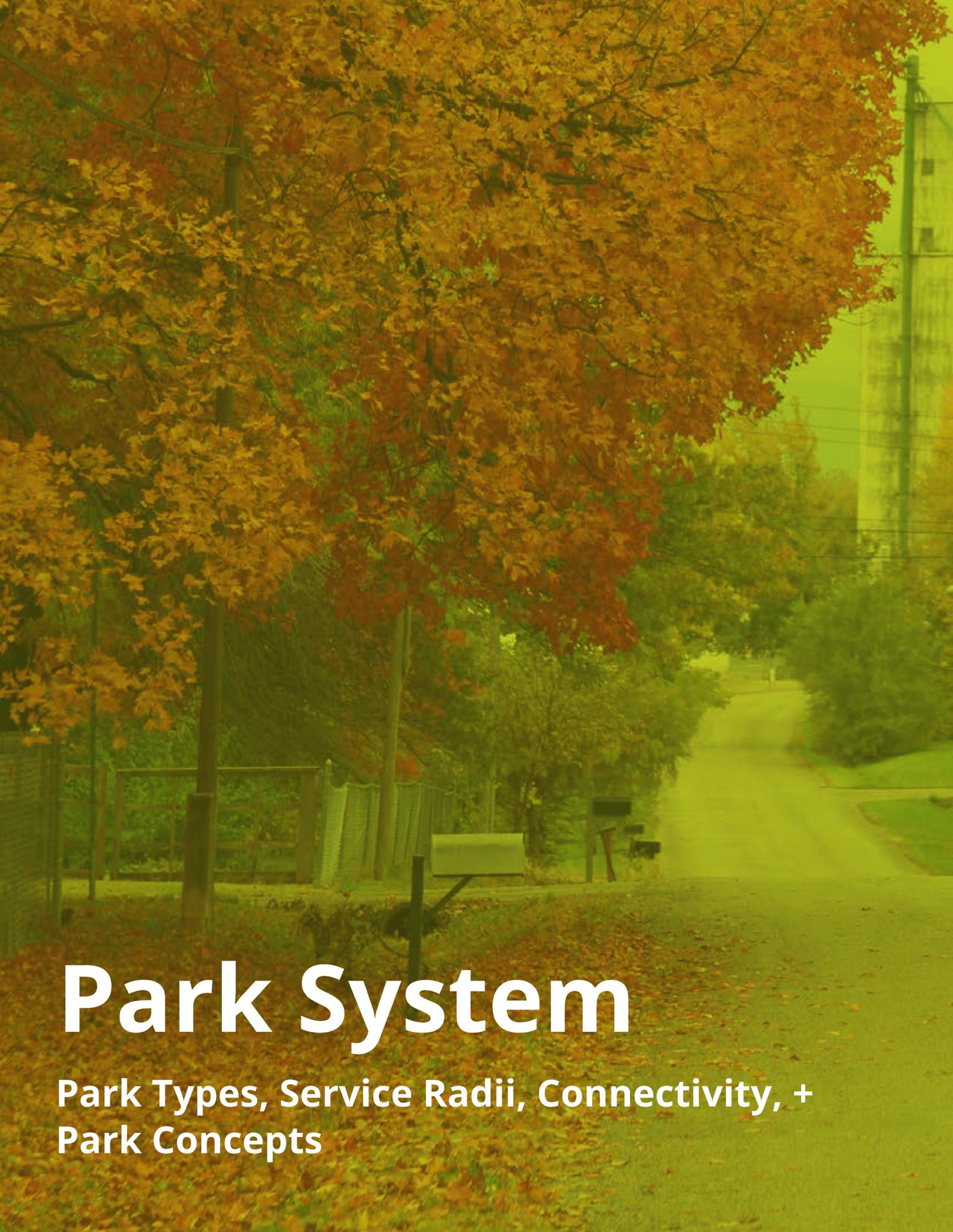
For all staffing calculations part time employees were weighted differently than full time employees. This helps account for variances in staffing levels at communities with a variety of amenities.

Ratio of Park Acres to Staff (Weighted)



The City of Edgerton’s park staff maintains more acres per staff member than any other community. Edgerton park staff manages slightly over 17 acres per staff member.

For all staffing calculations part time employees were weighted differently than full time employees. This helps account for variances in staffing levels at communities with a variety of amenities.

A photograph of a park path in autumn. The path is paved and covered with fallen orange and yellow leaves. On the left, there is a chain-link fence and several trees with vibrant autumn foliage. In the background, a utility pole and more trees are visible under a soft, hazy sky. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Park System

**Park Types, Service Radii, Connectivity, +
Park Concepts**



Figure 5.1 A Fall Day in Edgerton (City of Edgerton 2016)

Edgerton Kansas | Parks + Connectivity

Introduction

Parks and Connectivity focuses on evaluating Edgerton's current parks and trails and providing recommendations on how they could be improved to align more closely to the community's current and future needs. This chapter investigates the variety of parks, the levels of service the parks are providing, the connectivity of the new park system, and analysis and recommendations of individual parks.



Figure 5.2 Existing Park Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)

Park Types

Parks are classified into various categories based on size, use and the types of facilities that exist within the park. Classification is useful to ensure that a variety of experiences are provided for residents and visitors and that needs are met within reasonable proximity.

The City of Edgerton provides various park and recreational opportunities but does not currently offer parks in all classifications. The following is a list of park classifications and a description of each park's characteristics:

- + Neighborhood Park
- + Community Park
- + Regional Park
- + Linear Parks/Linkages
- + Special Purpose Park

Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park should provide the foundation for recreation by serving one large or several smaller neighborhoods. Ideally, neighborhood parks provide facilities and recreation space for the entire family and are within easy walking or bicycling distance of the people they serve. Parking is not necessarily provided for neighborhood parks due to their close proximity to residential properties.

According to NRPA guidelines neighborhood parks serve a 1/4 - 1/2 mile radius. Neighborhood parks are typically 1-2 acres per 1000 residents.

Community Parks

Community parks are larger parks that serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of a city. Community parks are usually reached by automobiles, although residents adjacent to the park, and trail users, may access the park by walking or riding a bicycle. A variety of recreational facilities are provided, including but not limited to: lighted playing fields for organized sports, hiking trails, bike trails (both paved and unpaved), and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other parks users.

According to NRPA guidelines community parks serve a 1 - 3 mile radius. Community parks are typically 5-8 acres per 1000 residents.

Edgerton Kansas | Parks + Connectivity



Regional Parks

Regional parks are large scale parks that serve an entire region and cater to people beyond the city limits. Regional parks are reached by automobiles, although residents adjacent to the park, and trail users, may access the park by walking or riding a bicycle. Regional parks tend to include amenities not found in every community as to draw residents from surrounding cities. Regional parks may or may not be owned by the City.

According to NRPA guidelines regional parks serve a three - five mile radius and are typically 5-10 acres per 1000 residents.



Linear Parks/Linkage

Linear parks are open areas that generally follow natural or man-made features that are linear in nature, such as creeks, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, power line corridors, or utility corridor easements. Linear parks are also appropriate to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel. These parks can serve to link or connect other parks in the local system, as well as schools, neighborhood shopping, libraries, and other major destinations. In addition, linear parks provide buffers along waterways to control erosion and pollution while providing corridors for wildlife to travel safely through developed areas.

There are no established radii for linear parks/linkage. The functionality of these spaces often depends on how they are connected to context.



Special Purpose Parks

Special purpose parks are designed to accommodate specialized recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special purpose park typically provides service for a limited number of activities. Special purpose parks could be pocket parks that are too small to be classified as a neighborhood park or have special uses. Examples of these types of parks are nature centers, memorial gardens, community vegetable gardens or historical places.

There are no established radii for linear special purpose parks.

A variety of park types will help create a more diverse/healthy park system. Currently Edgerton's parks can be organized into three categories: neighborhood, community, and regional.

EXISTING PARKS TYPES

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

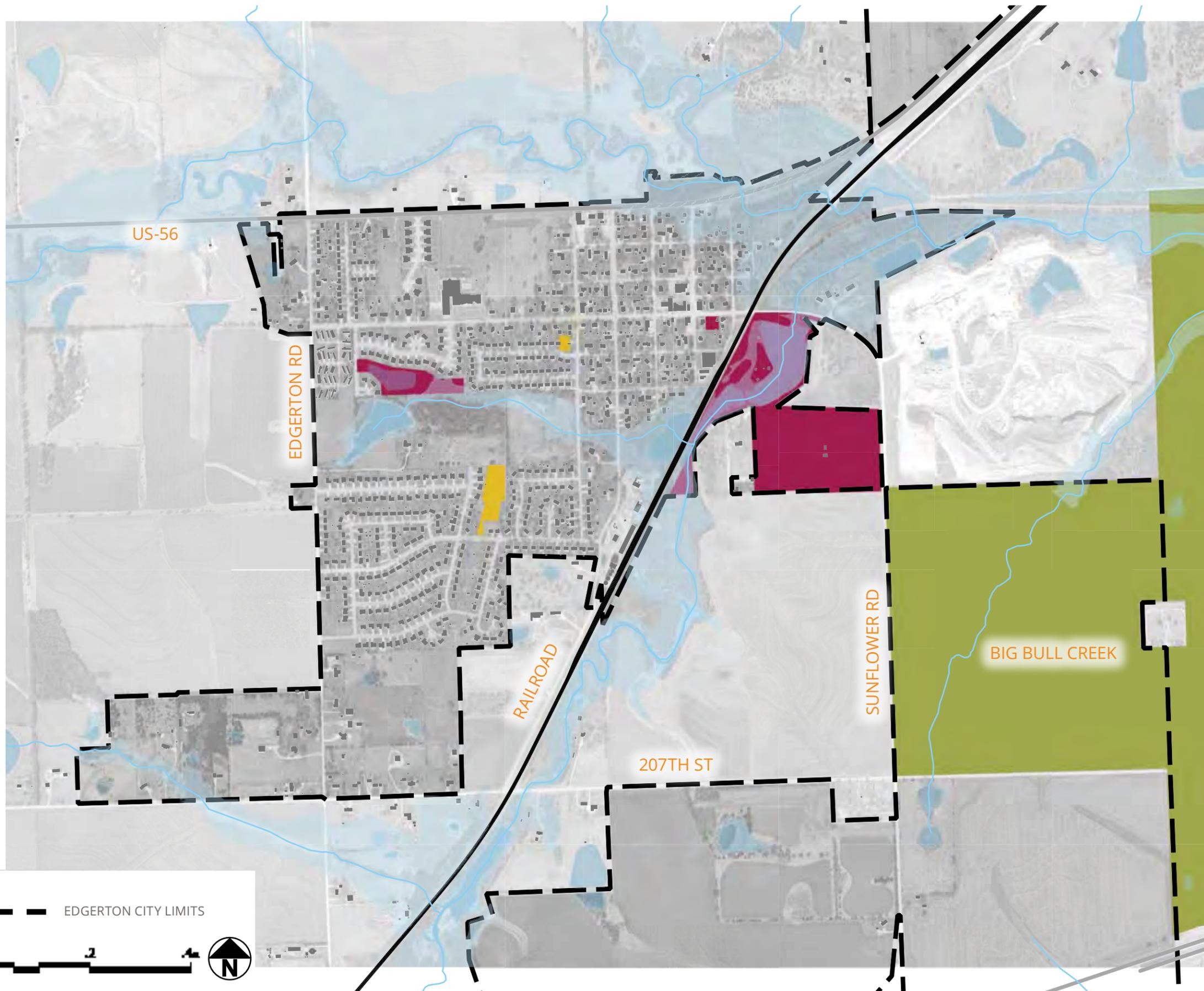
- + Manor Park
- + Glendell Acres

COMMUNITY PARKS

- + Edgerton Lake
- + Martin Creek Park
- + Bridgewater Lake
- + Downtown Greenspace

REGIONAL PARKS

- + Big Bull Creek



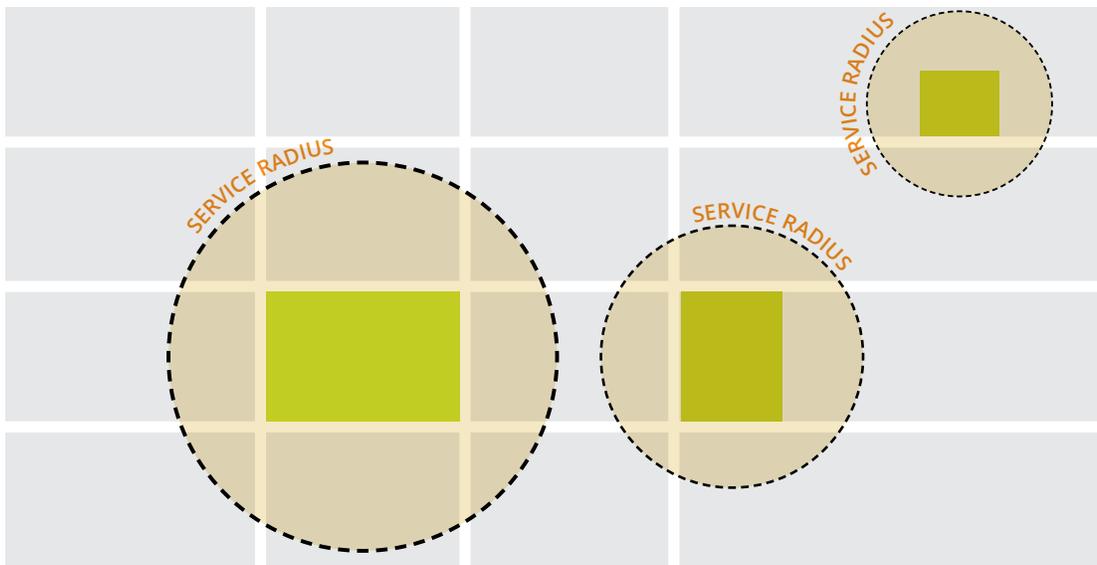
--- EDGERTON CITY LIMITS



This page intentionally left blank

Levels of Service

Level of service is a term that describes a process of delineating an area that is very accessible to a park. Park access, as defined by The Trust for Public Land, is the ability to reach a publicly owned park within a half-mile walk on the road network, unobstructed by freeways, rivers, fences, and other obstacles. Below is a graphic illustrating the concept of levels of service.



Determining level of service standards for Parks is more art than science. The most recent National Park and Recreation Administration (NRPA) set of guidelines, published in 1996 explains the need for communities to develop their own standards. "A standard for parks and recreation cannot be universal, nor can one city be compared with another even though they are similar in many respects" (Mertes and Hall 1996, 59). By developing standards that reflect the City of Edgerton, it can be assured that what is established truly can meet the expectations of the residents of Edgerton.

Edgerton Kansas | Parks + Connectivity

According to survey results and demographic studies, one of the most important aspect of the park systems is how accessible the parks are to residents. Currently, as shown on the map, a majority of residents in the city limits are within .25 miles of a park or green space.

As the city continues to develop it is important to continue to maintain park accessibility. We recommend adopting the following service radii based on park type.

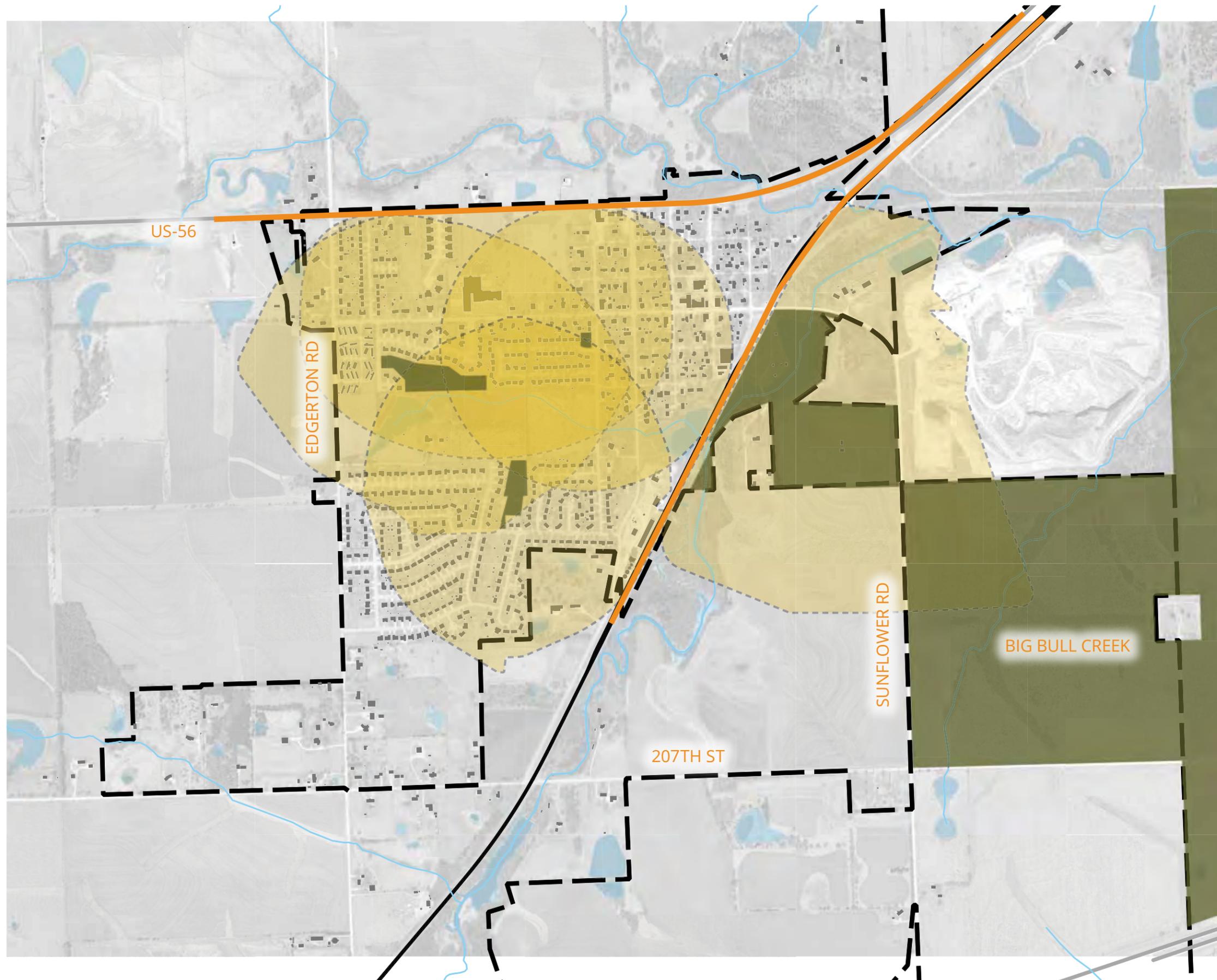
Service Radius by mile

Park Type	NRPA Standard Service Radius	Recommended City of Edgerton Service Radius
Regional Park/Facilities	3-5	N/A
Community Park/Facilities	1-3	3
Neighborhood Parks	1/4-1/2	1/2 mile
Linear Parks	N/A	connectivity as priority
Special Purpose Parks	N/A	as needed

Since it is a priority to maintain equitable distribution of parkland we recommend that the City of Edgerton adopt these standards into their Unified Development Code. and enforce these standards with potential developers.

EXISTING SERVICE RADII

To illustrate how Edgerton is currently exceeding NRPA's service radii standards, this map is showing all types of parks at a 1/4 mile Park Radius. The Parks Master Plan recommended service radius is 1/2 mile for Neighborhood Parks and 3 miles for Community Parks.



- 1/4 MILE PARK RADIUS
- PARKS
- BARRIERS



Edgerton Kansas | Parks + Connectivity

Connectivity

By evaluating the city's larger context in the county, the connectivity plan can ensure that Edgerton's park and trail system complements and connects to surrounding communities and park uses. A connectivity plan strives to connect neighborhoods to activity centers, parks, schools and public services with safe methods of travel that do not require a vehicle. Utility corridors offer connections as no other uses can be located in these easements. Additionally, stream corridors provide access. These corridors are often undeveloped due to the existence of the floodplain and are natural resources of wildlife and native vegetation. These corridors can not only be used to connect people to places, but are often very scenic and offer a pleasant recreational resource.

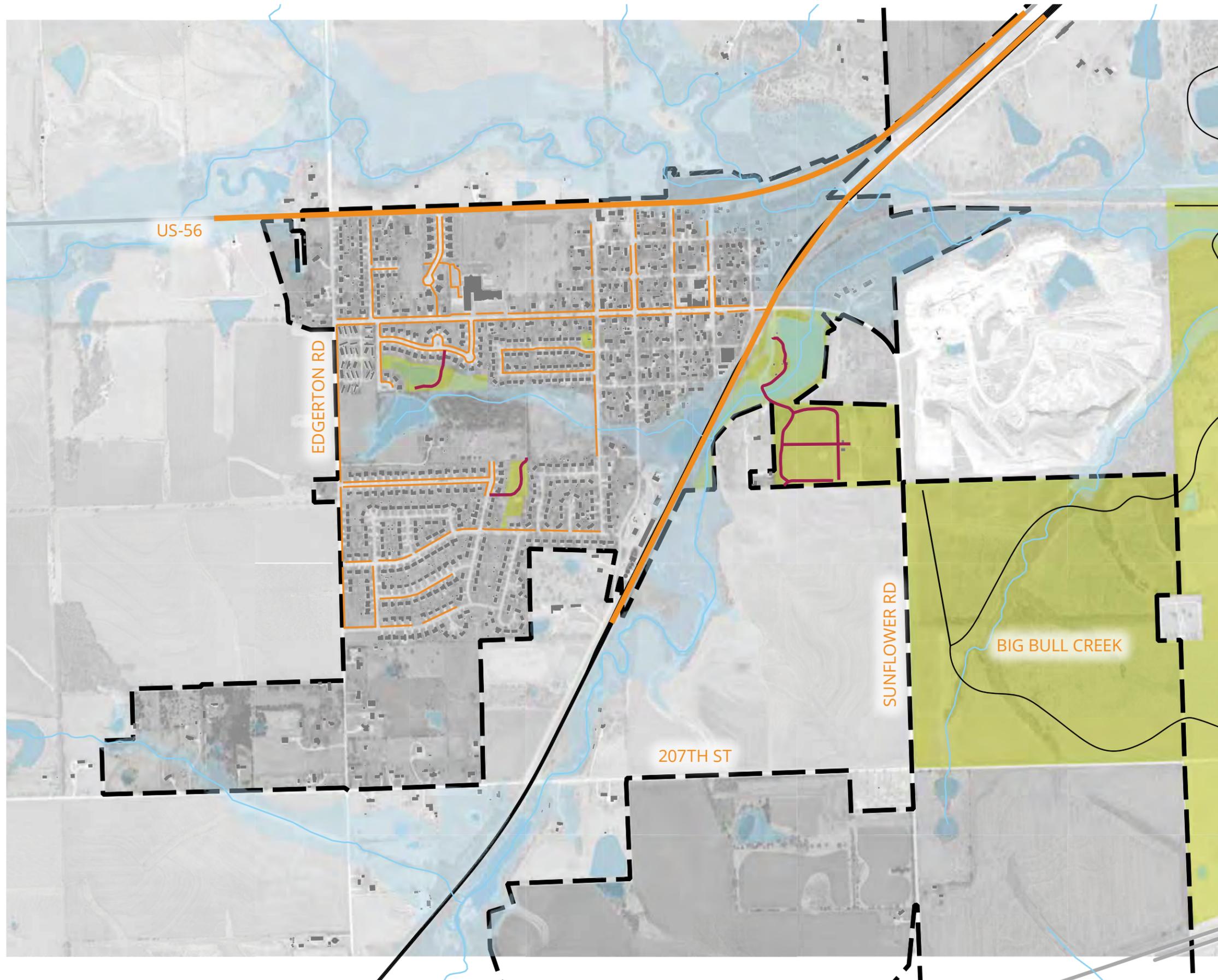
The City of Edgerton has two significant barriers. BNSF's Transcon railroad cuts the majority of the community off from Martin Creek Park and Edgerton Lake. This barrier creates wait times when trains are running and is a safety concern for pedestrians and bicycle traffic.

US-56 is another barrier but is located on the north boundary of the city. Expansion north is more difficult as floodplain issues are present, however, if development does occur north of US-56, safe crossing will need to be considered.

Big Bull Creek currently has plans to develop a portion of the trail system within the park. Connection to this regional amenity will only benefit the City of Edgerton's residents.

Currently Edgerton has 1.05 existing miles of trails. NRPA guidelines recommend 0.4 miles of trails per 1000 residents, Edgerton has 0.6 miles per 1000 residents. While Edgerton currently exceeds NRPA guidelines for trails, many of the trails in Edgerton are segmented and end abruptly. As the city continues to grow Edgerton should focus on improving the existing trails and connecting fragments. The Edgerton Park's Master Plan proposes 2.9 miles of trails within the city limits.

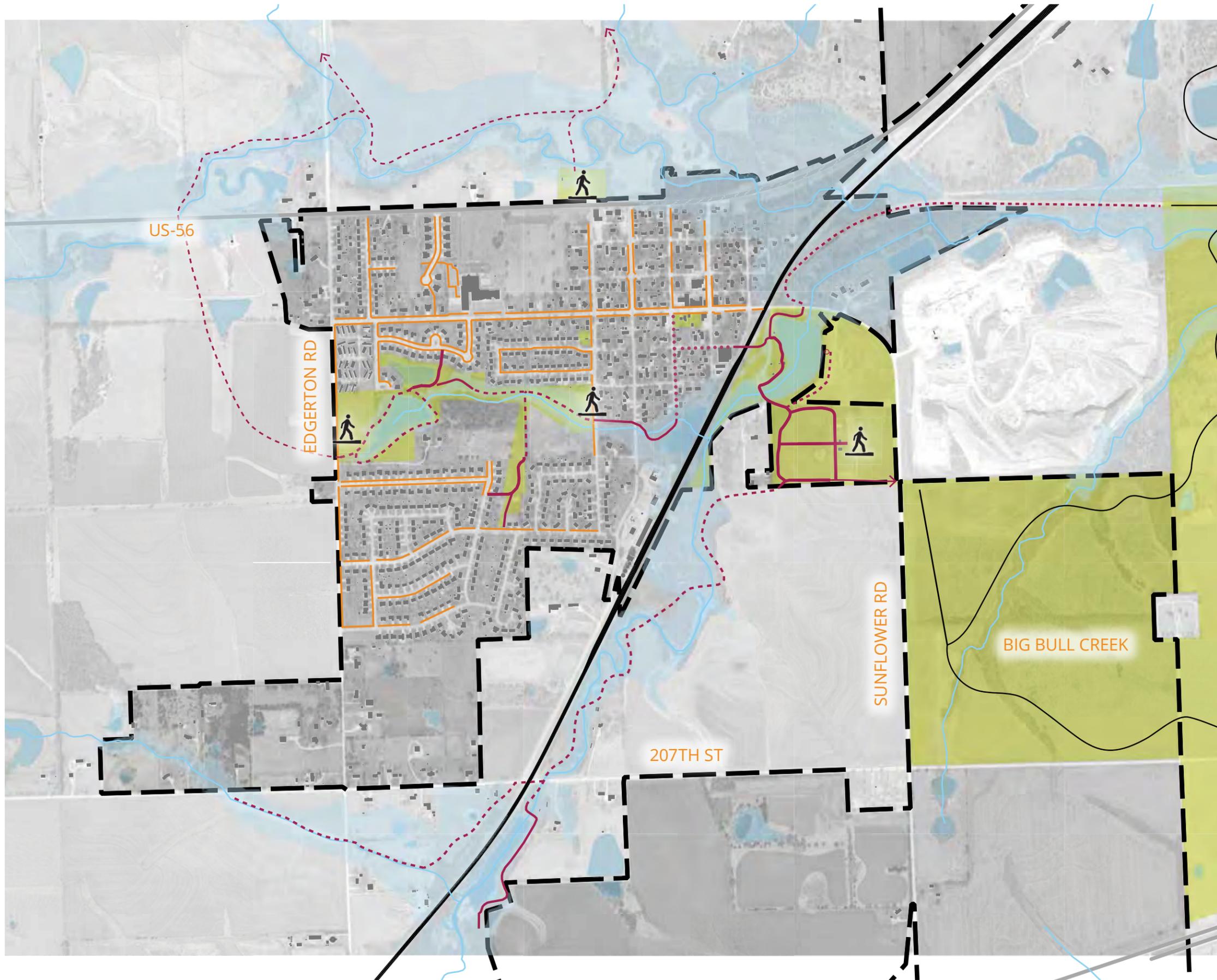
EXISTING CONNECTIVITY



-  PARKS
-  EDGERTON CITY LIMITS
-  SIDEWALKS
-  TRAILS IN CITY LIMITS
-  BIG BULL CREEK TRAILS



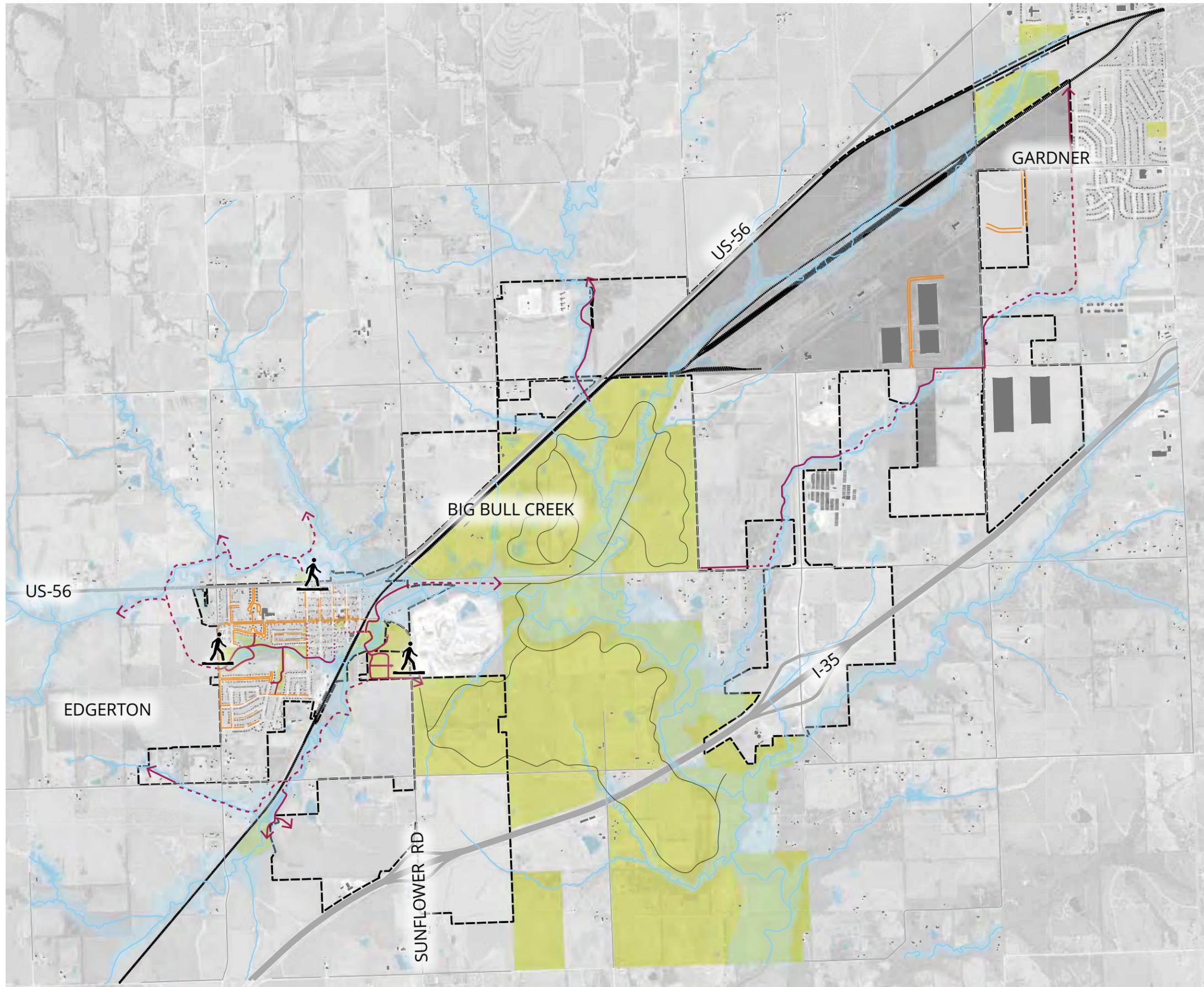
PROPOSED CONNECTIVITY



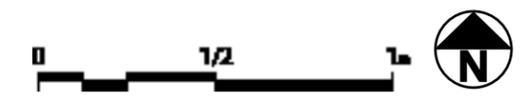
-  PARKS
-  EDGERTON CITY LIMITS
-  SIDEWALKS
-  TRAILS ON PROPERTY CURRENTLY OWNED BY CITY
-  TRAILS ON PROPERTY CURRENTLY OWNED PRIVATELY
-  BIG BULL CREEK TRAILS
-  TRAIL HEADS



PROPOSED CONNECTIVITY | REGIONAL



- PARKS
- EDGERTON CITY LIMITS
- SIDEWALKS
- TRAILS IN CITY LIMITS
- TRAILS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
- BIG BULL CREEK TRAILS
- 
 TRAIL HEADS



Edgerton Kansas | Level of Service Summary

Description

The following charts summarize the existing and proposed levels of service in the Edgerton Parks Master plan.

Level of Service Comparison Park Acres / 1000 Residents			
Current Edgerton Park Acreage	Comparable Cities Average Park Acreage	JCPRD 2020 Standard for Community Parks, Facilities and Neighborhood Parks Acreage	NRPA Standard for Park Acreage
26 acres / 1,000 residents	21 acres / 1000 residents	12 acres/ 1,000 residents	0 acres/ 1,000 residents

Field & Facilities Needs Summary			
Facility Type	Existing facilities or Acreage	NRPA Standard / population	Today's needs by NRPA Standards
Baseball/Softball Fields	2	1/5,000 - unlighted. 1/30,000 Lighted	Meets current pop.
Football/Soccer Field	1	1/20,000 - 1/10,000	Meets current pop.
Basketball Court	1.5	1/5,000	Meets current pop.
Tennis Court	2	1/2,000	Meets current pop.
Sand Volleyball	1	No Standard	N/A
Swimming Pool	0	1/20,000	Meets current pop.
Childrens Playground (city owned)	3	.38/1,000	Meets current pop.
Picnic Shelter	5	No Standard	N/A
Community Center	0	No Standard	N/A
Skate Park	1	No Standard	N/A
Facility Type	Existing Miles	Trails KC Recommendations / population	Today's needs by Trails KC Recommendations
Trails	0.6 miles/1,000	0.6 miles/1,000	Meets current pop.

Edgerton Park Land Summary						
Park Type	Edgerton Recommended Service Radius	NRPA Standard - Service radius	Existing Park Acres / Population	Edgerton Approved Park Acres/ Population	NRPA Standard Park Acres / Population	JCPRD Map 2020 - Recommended Park Acres / Population
Regional Park/Facilities	N/A	3-5 miles	N/A	N/A	5-10 acres/1,000	28 acres/1000
Community Park/Facilities	1/4 mile	1-3 miles	23.5	33	5-8 acres/1,000	12 acres / 1000
Neighborhood Parks	1/4 mile	1/4 - 1/2 mile	1.5	1.7	1-2 acres/1,000	
Linear Parks	1/4 mile	N/A	0	4.8	N/A	N/A
Special Purpose Parks	1/4 mile	N/A	0	2.2	N/A	N/A
Total			26 / 1000 residents	41.7 acres / 1000 residents	10 acres / 1,000 residents	40 acres / 1,000 residents

Page intentionally blank for formatting

Edgerton Kansas | Manor Park

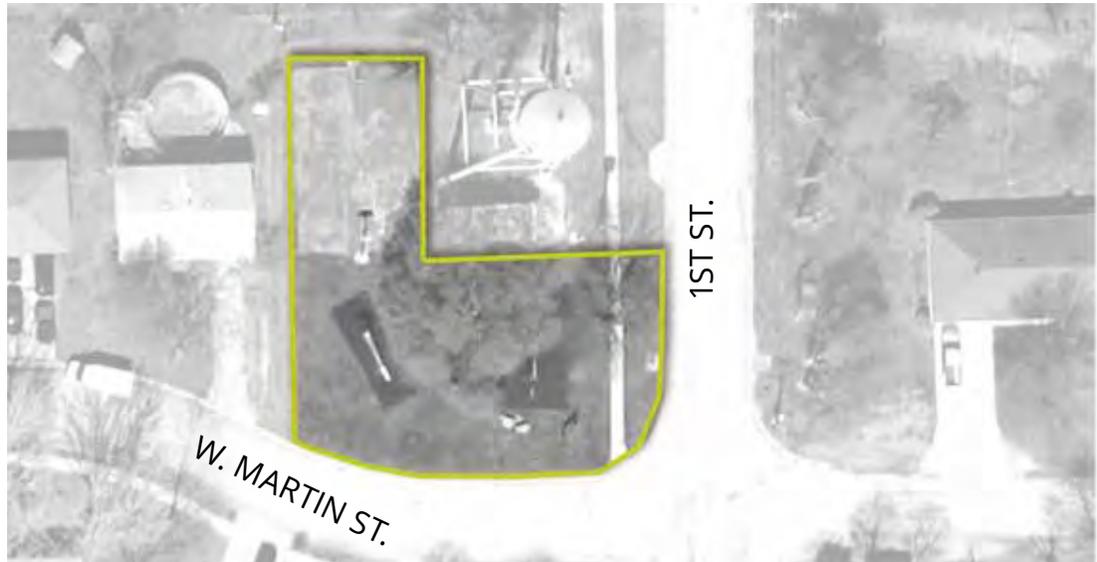


Figure 5.8 Manor Park - Location (Landworks Studio 2016)

Description

Manor Park is located near W. Martin St. and 1st St. The site is a .225 acre park owned by the city. A water tower and utility building with fencing breaks up the park. The park sits on a corner with residential surrounding all sides.



Figure 5.9 Manor Park - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)

Site Analysis

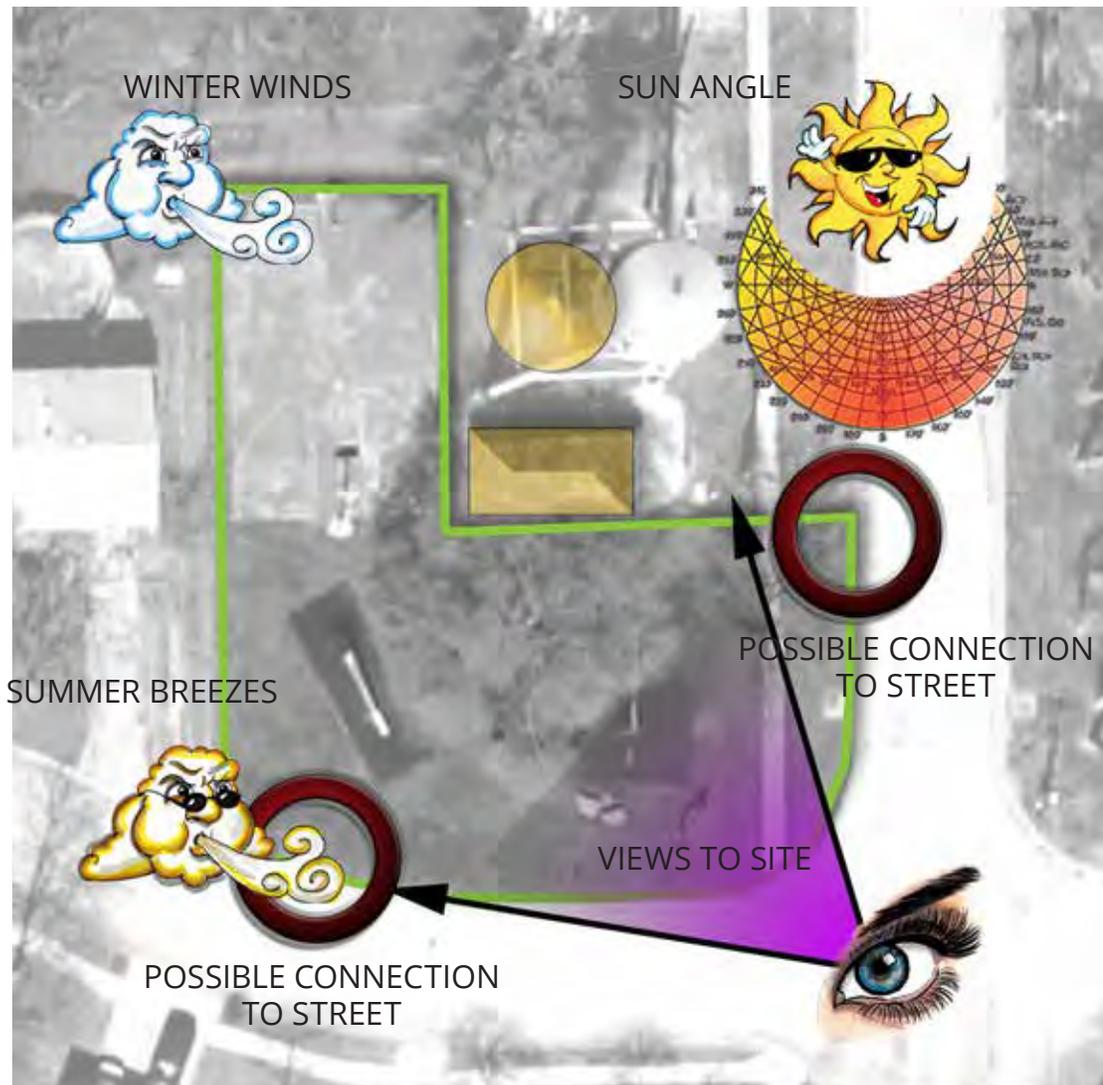


Figure 5.10 Manor Park - Site Analysis (Landworks Studio 2016)

Manor Park was updated in May of 2016. The park now includes a mounded hill slide, swings, climbing dome, stump jumpers, playground surfacing, a shelter, half court basketball, landscaping, and site furnishing.

Edgerton Kansas | Glendell Acres



Figure 5.13 Glendell Acres - Location (Landworks Studio 2016)

Description

Glendell Acres Park is located near Edgewood Drive and W. 3rd St. The site is a 2.15 acre park owned by the city. The park sits in the middle of a block with minimal street access. Residential housing surrounds the park except to the north which is currently undeveloped land.

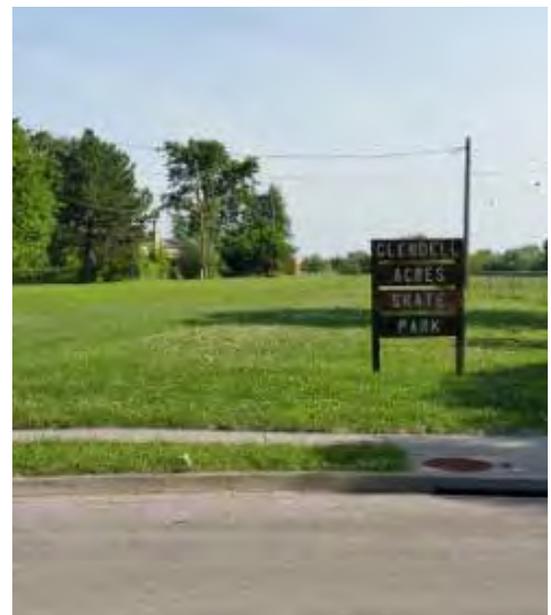


Figure 5.14 Glendell Acres - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)

Site Analysis

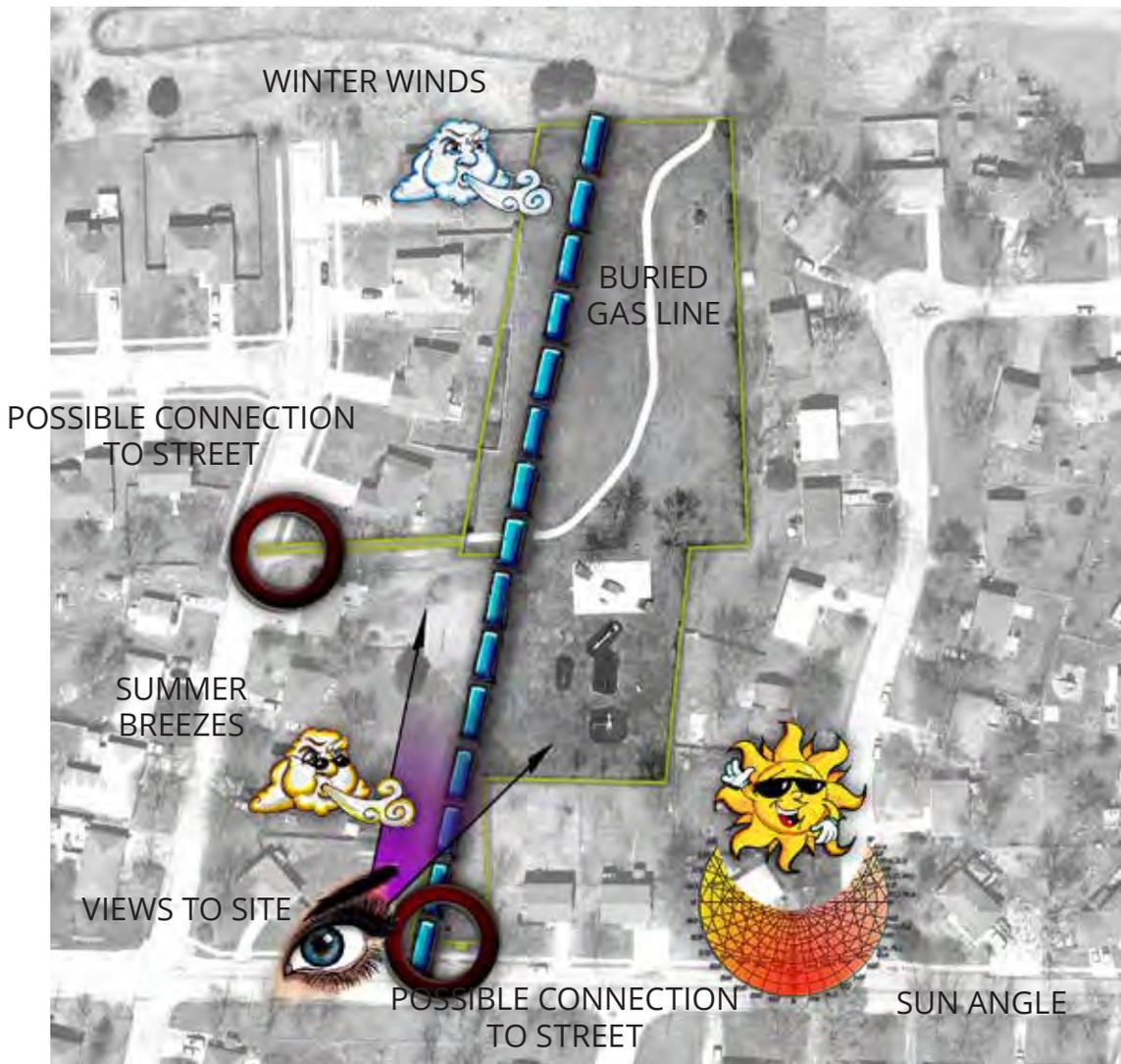


Figure 5.15 Glendell Acres - Site Analysis (Landworks Studio 2016)

Glendell Acres currently has skate park amenities, several pieces of playground equipment, and two mature trees. While the skate park is fairly well used, several residents and respondents to the survey commented on how the lack of visibility of the skate-park is an area of concern. The play equipment consists of a swing set and arched monkey bar. The playgrounds are not ADA accessible. There are four mature trees on site, however they create safety issues as they are directly under an overhead power line. The northern half of the site is frequently used for pick-up games or as an open lawn.

Edgerton Kansas | Bridgewater Lake



Figure 5.21 Bridgewater Lake

Description

Bridgewater Park is located near W. 8th St. and W. Meriwood Ln. Bridgewater is currently a 4.2 acre park with a small pond. South of Bridgewater is 20.6 acres of mostly undeveloped land zoned for single family surrounded by residential.



Figure 5.22 Bridgewater Lake - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)

Site Analysis



Figure 5.23 Bridgewater Lake - Site Analysis

The site is a mixture of existing parkland and undeveloped land held by private landowners. Currently access to Bridgewater Park is through an entry walk on private property on the north side. The walk is in good condition, however, it terminates abruptly without connecting to other paths or amenities. The lake is in fairly good condition however it may have some algae or sediment issues. The properties south of the existing park are largely undeveloped except for a single residence. A large lake sits near the eastern edge of the properties and a floodplain runs through the northern quarter of most of the properties.

Edgerton Kansas | Martin Creek



Figure 5.25 Martin Creek - Location (Landworks Studio 2016)

Description

Martin Creek Park is located near Sunflower Rd. and E. Nelson Street. Martin Creek Park would combine Edgerton Lake, a city owned park, with Martin Creek Park, a county owned park. The combined park would be 31.4 acres. The park is bounded by the railroad to the west. Nelson St. and Sunflower Road act as the north and east borders. The land south of the park property is currently farmland.



Figure 5.26 Martin Creek - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)

Site Analysis

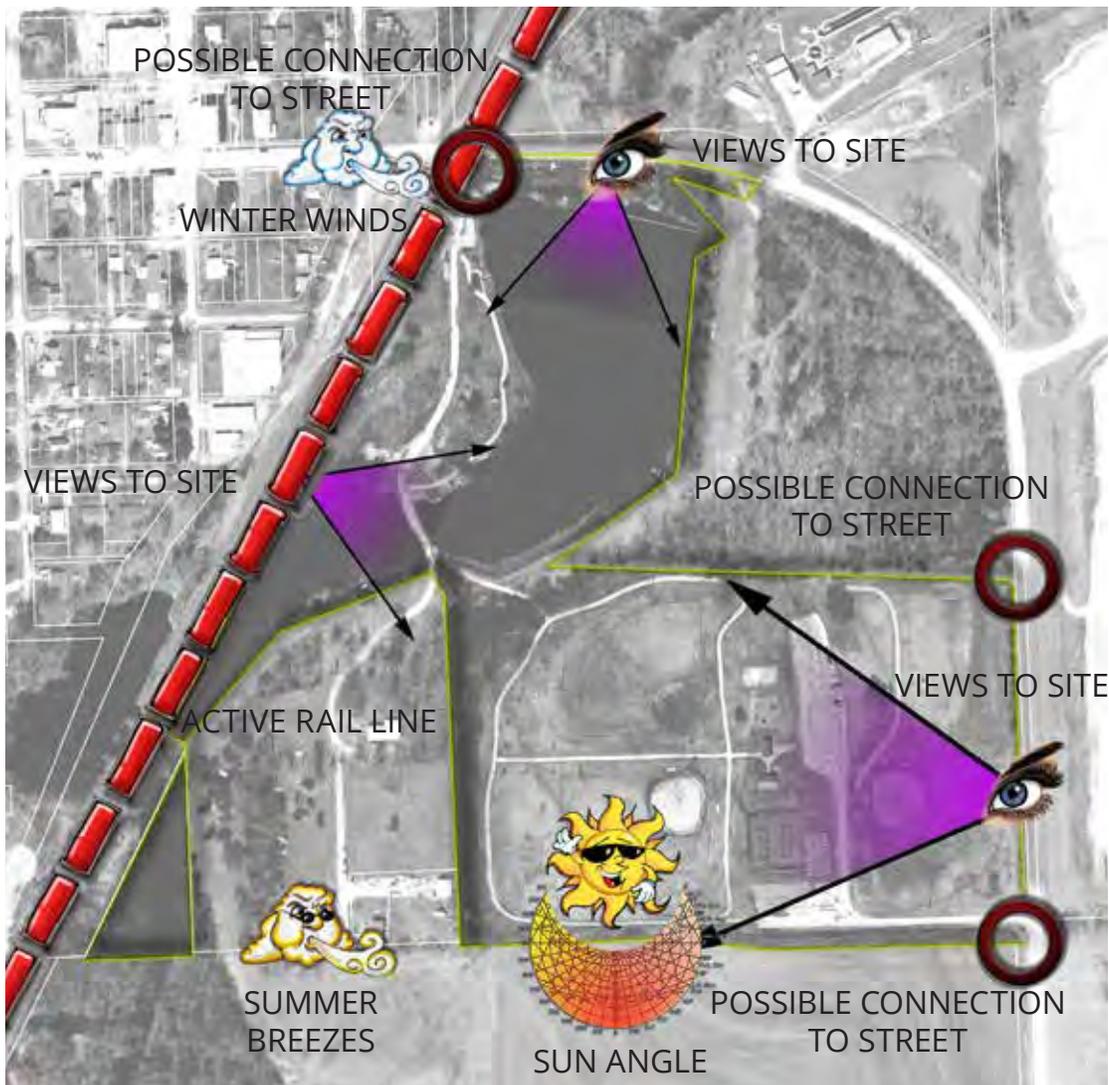


Figure 5.27 Martin Creek - Site Analysis (Landworks Studio 2016)

Martin Creek Park and Edgerton Lake are two of the largest parks in Edgerton city limits. Edgerton Lake focuses on passive activities like walking and fishing while Martin Creek focuses on more physical activities like sports fields and playgrounds. Edgerton Lake's largest amenity is the 5.5 acre lake. The park features a boat ramp and drainage way. The boat ramp is concrete but not ADA accessible. The drainage way has significant erosion at the edge and is contributing to the sedimentation of the lake. The dam needs vegetation control as well as a safety barrier. Martin Creek is home to two baseball fields, one soccer field, one sand volleyball court, one tennis court, and one playground. The softball fields are in decent condition but need fence rail protection, ADA seating, added infield material, and a replacement bat board. The soccer field is in fairly good condition.

Edgerton Kansas | Martin Creek

The sand volleyball court needs a new commercial net, a border, and additional sand. The tennis courts have adequate fencing but are in otherwise poor condition. The courts have water damage, loose net posts, and uneven surfacing. The play equipment at Martin Creek is outdated. Surfacing is not sufficient for ADA standards and equipment fall zones are inadequate.

Page intentionally blank for formatting

Edgerton Kansas | Downtown Greenspace



Figure 5.30 Civic Center - Location (Landworks Studio 2016)

Description

The Greenspace is located near E. Nelson Street and E. 3rd Street in Edgerton's historic downtown. The .73 acre site is currently owned by the city. Residential property borders the south and west. The Bank of Knowledge Library borders the east.



Figure 5.31 Civic Center - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)

Site Analysis

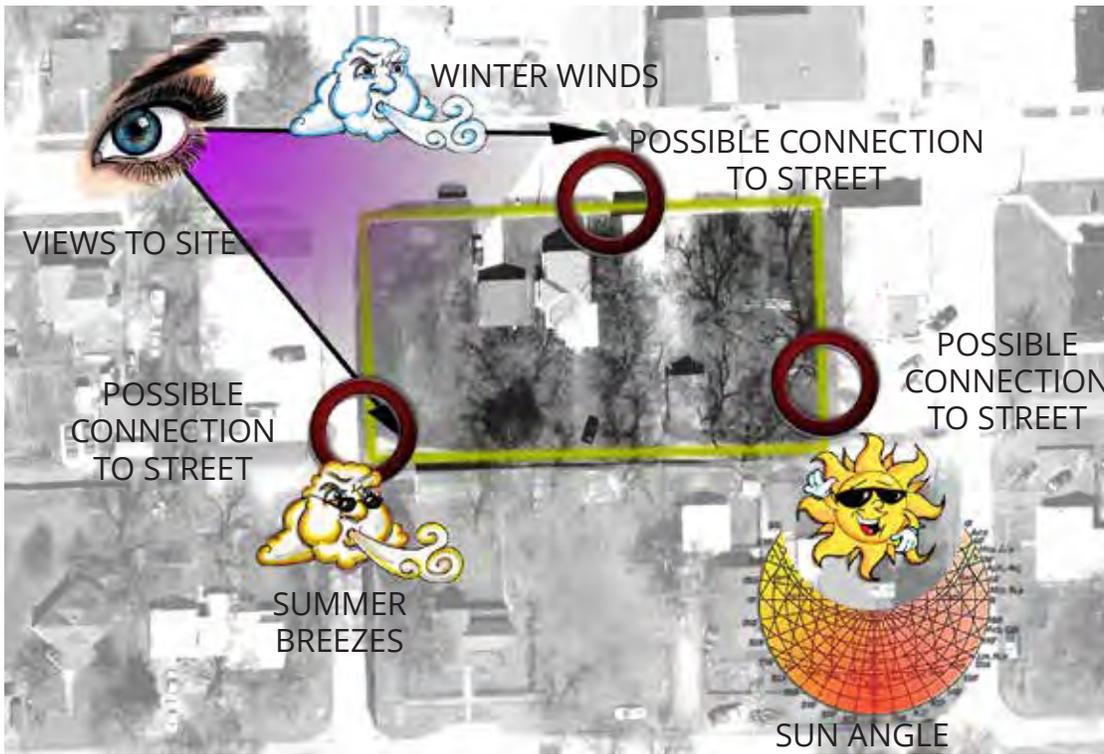


Figure 5.32 Civic Center - Site Analysis (Landworks Studio 2016)

The property is currently owned by the city. There are several structures on site as well. There are three to four large trees on site that provide established shade and character in Edgerton's downtown.

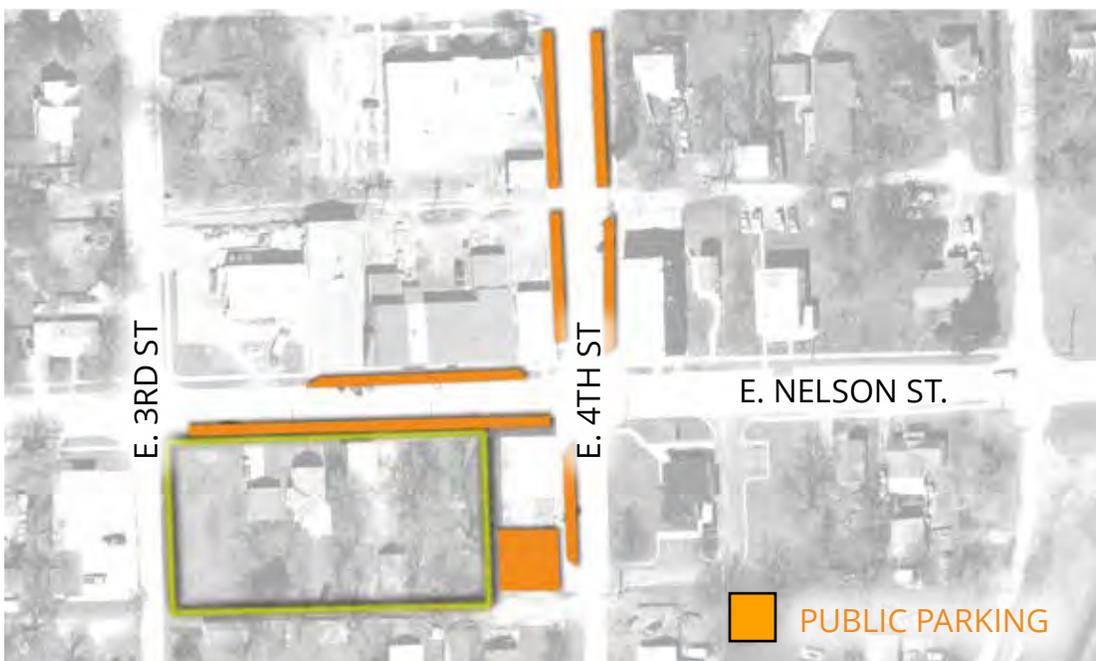


Figure 5.33 Civic Center - Existing Parking (Landworks Studio 2016)



Signage

Existing + Proposed Signs



Figure 6.1 Water Tower (City of Edgerton 2016)

Edgerton Kansas |

Signage

Park signage is an important component in a successful park system. By developing a consistent sign family, various signage types can identify each property as a city amenity, outline rules for use of the property, and direct users. Through the use of consistent colors and materials, parks can begin to develop an association with the city and generate an identity of their own. Signage is a relatively cost effective infrastructure improvement that yields immediate benefit by being very visible to the residents and visitors.

The importance of signage to a community is illustrated in the following points:

- + Sign of a healthy and vibrant community
- + Attractive for residents, visitors, businesses
- + Creates a connection to community and enhances quality of life
- + Demonstrates community stability and growth
- + Renews focus and energy of active citizens
- + Generates momentum for future projects

The benefits of community signage include:

- + Signage offers a health and safety component to the City of Edgerton by identifying facilities that need to be found in emergency instances or identify activities that park users need to be oriented in the outdoor environment.
- + By identifying parks and trail heads, residents are reminded of the outdoor recreational opportunities within their community, and visitors see these locations as a priority to the residents.
- + Signage illustrates Edgerton's identity in a key architectural component.
- + Signage generates community pride.
- + Signage can act as the community's "host" by sending the message, "we're glad you're here!"

Existing Signage

The current signage in Edgerton Parks is insufficient. Current signage lacks crucial safety information, is easily vulnerable to vandalism, and does not include the City's logo or branding.



Figure 6.2 Existing Signage (Landworks Studio 2016)

Proposed Sign Types

When developing any type of signage, it is imperative that considerations are made for building on the previously established brand for the City of Edgerton. Park signage must emphasize consistency in architectural style and character, colors, materials, and font/lettering. The following sign types have been developed to allow maximum flexibility depending on the park's size and the needs for each location. The following is a description outlining the intent and purpose for each sign type.

Identity Monuments

Identity monuments have been designed to indicate the entrance or location of park amenities. The master plan illustrates two designs for identity monuments. Primary identity monuments are larger in scale for larger parks or more prominent locations within a park. Secondary identity monuments are designed for more intimate spaces and locations where a primary monument would be overwhelming.

Encouraging the use of identity monuments for parks, trails, and city buildings will help create a unified look for the Edgerton community as well as provide an established design option for new private developments to compliment.

Edgerton Kansas |

Signage

Identity Monuments | Primary

The primary monument will be most useful for parks classified as a community park and larger. This sign's scale and proportion is best suited for properties like Edgerton Lake and Martin Creek and for community facilities like a civic center or aquatic facility. Primary identity monuments should be visible from multiple directions and should be built with an identical front and back. Landscaping and lighting should be placed around each primary identity monument.

Identity Monuments | Secondary

Secondary identity monuments have been designed for neighborhood parks and for locations within a larger park property where identification of a specific amenity may be desired within the park or for a secondary entrance to a larger park property. These signs are designed to be viewed from the front only. Some landscaping should accompany this sign but lighting may not necessary.

Kiosk/Informational Signage

Kiosks are intended to offer specific information about a particular park, allow for rules of engagement to be posted, advertise special park events and/or offer park contact information in the event a park needs attention. Kiosks can also include the addition of a map, either of the park system, the trail system or a specific park plan. Maps can be useful for park patrons to understand where they are within a park or within the city. It is recommended that if a map is to be used for the trail system or for a particular park, that a specific design is generated for legibility and for consistency with the City's brand. The development of icons can also be very helpful when communicating with the public via signage.

Trail Markers

Trail markers are used along trails that circulate internally in a park property and for trails that traverse the City's park system. Markers can be used to differentiate city property from private property. Markers can also be used to indicate distance when a specific starting point is identified or can have measurements on them, if multiple starting points exist.

Proposed Sign Families

The City of Edgerton has already developed a strong and recognizable brand. This plan offers two different sign family concepts for use in various locations throughout the city. A sign family is a collection of sign types utilizing the same materials, style, and color. The idea is that a variety of needs and purposes influence the size and shape of the sign, but that consistency allows the signs to be easily recognized as identifying an amenity or facility belonging to the City of Edgerton's parks system.

In both options, the "E" is graphically represented and was used as the basis of design.

Type A

This option utilizes stone and colors found in nature to blend into the park surroundings throughout the city. The combination of materials, colors, and textures create a feeling of the outdoors and natural settings. It is anticipated this option will be used for the park properties located throughout the city.

Type B

This more modern sign package features the use of the city's branding color. The clean lines, the use of the color grey and the metal mesh material have a more industrial feel. This sign family would be best showcased when used near industrial properties further from the city center.



Type A
Residential Use

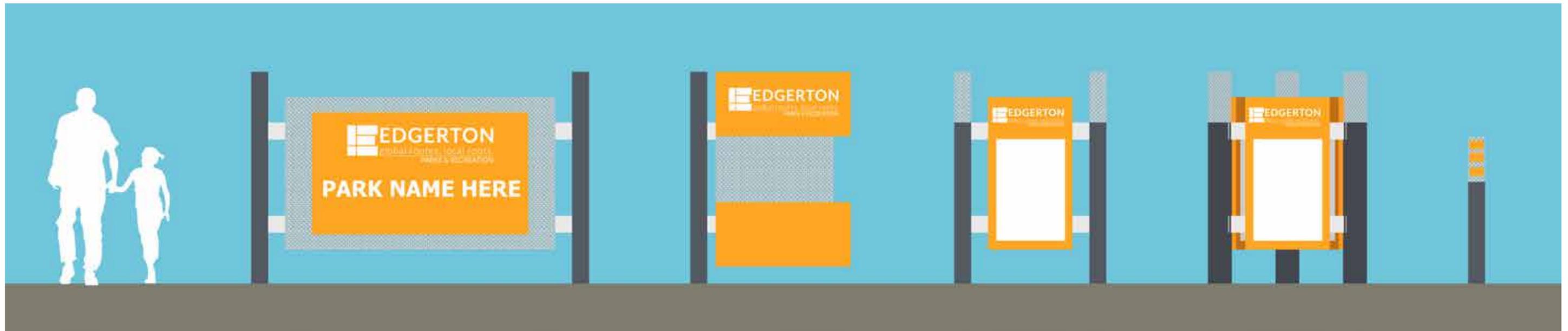
Identity Monuments | Primary

Identity Monuments | Secondary

Informational Sign

Kiosk Sign

Trail Marker



Type B
Commercial +
Industrial Use

Identity Monuments | Primary

Identity Monuments | Secondary

Informational Sign

Kiosk Sign

Trail Marker

Figure 6.3 Proposed Signage (Landworks Studio 2016)

Page intentionally blank for formatting



Moving Forward

Summary of Findings,
Recommendations, + Funding



Figure 7.1 Trees at Sunset (Wilkinson 2016)

Edgerton Kansas | Moving Forward

Summary of Findings

The Edgerton Parks Master Plan helps chart a strong course for the preservation and development of parks in Edgerton, Kansas. Below are brief summaries of the most significant information.

A Closer Look at the Community

We heard four common themes throughout the public engagement process. Edgerton expressed interest in a more developed trail system, a civic center, aquatic facilities, and improved maintenance standards.

Trails

Residents expressed significant interest in improving the trail system and walkability in Edgerton. The primary concerns were lack of connectivity and accessibility. Residents commented on trails or walks that abruptly stop requiring residents to walk in the road. Residents also expressed that few trails offer even surfacing which makes the routes challenging for individuals with limited mobility. The City should focus on improving the quantity, quality, and variety of trails and walks in Edgerton.

Civic Center

Residents were also interested in a facility to host small events and meetings for local groups. Currently, most events are held at the elementary school or city hall. The Parks Master Plan should include plans for a civic building for residents to gather affordably. The civic center should also serve as a storm shelter for the community. Inclement weather often sweeps through the area quickly and a civic building could offer refuge to nearby residents.

Aquatic Facilities

Currently most residents travel to Gardner or Wellsville if they want to use aquatic facilities. Gardner is six miles away and has a water play area, lazy river, multiple water slides, float-able walk, climbing nets, spray grounds, and a tot pool. Wellsville is eight miles away and has a pool, diving board, and baby pool. Aquatic facilities can be costly to construct and operate. A study should be done to determine the programming needs and economic feasibility of a new aquatic facility in Edgerton's city limits which could be a scalable amenity that could meet the City's size and budget.

Maintenance

Current park maintenance operations are managed by one full time employee with the direction and assistance of the Parks and Recreation Coordinator. However, residents of Edgerton indicated that they would like to see parks receive a higher level of maintenance. A higher level of maintenance could include better quality amenities, equipment, facilities, grounds, and reduced vandalism, and more preventative care regimens. The City should evaluate current maintenance practices and suggest strategies to improve the parks and recreation system.

Community Comparison

Based upon the community comparison data study as well as the community input sessions, the design team identified three conclusions about the community.

1. Edgerton has already exceeded both the NRPA standard of 10 acres of parkland per 1000 residents and Johnson County's recommendation of 12 acres of parkland per 1000 residents. While Edgerton may not have current needs for additional parkland in the forms of Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks, Edgerton should consider acquiring additional property in the form of linear parks. This will allow for better connectivity throughout the Parks system and the City.
2. Despite a desire for an aquatic facility Edgerton does not currently have sufficient resources to support a pool. With Edgerton's proximity to nearby communities' pools it is unlikely that a pool in Edgerton would be effective in generating significant memberships or able to maintain a consistent staff of qualified life guards. However, a scalable aquatic facility to meet Edgerton's size and budget is recommended as the community grows.
3. To achieve higher levels of park maintenance we suggest that the city should complete a staffing study. Edgerton has fewer park staff per resident than other communities, based on NRPA standards. Edgerton staff maintains far more acres per staff member than comparable communities.

Edgerton Kansas | Moving Forward

Park System

Park Type

Parks are classified into various categories based on size, use and the types of facilities that exist within the park. The City of Edgerton provides various park and recreational opportunities but does not currently offer parks in all classifications. Of the five park types (neighborhood, community, regional, linear parks/linkages, and special purpose parks), Edgerton’s parks can only be classified as neighborhood, community, and regional. A diverse system of park types helps ensure that a variety of experiences are provided for residents and visitors and that needs are met within reasonable proximity.

Level of Service

Currently, most of Edgerton’s residents are in a quarter mile radius of a park. As the city continues to develop it is important to continue to maintain park accessibility. We recommend adopting the following service radii based on park type.

Service Radius by mile

Park Type	NRPA Standard Service Radius	Master Plan - Recommend Service Radius
Regional Park/Facilities	3-5	N/A
Community Park/Facilities	1-3	3
Neighborhood Parks	N/A	1/2 mile
Linear Parks	N/A	connectivity as priority
Special Purpose Parks	N/A	as needed

Connectivity

Edgerton currently exceeds NRPA guidelines for trails, many of the trails in Edgerton are segmented and end abruptly. As the city continues to grow Edgerton should focus on improving the existing trails and connecting fragments.

Signage

The current signage in Edgerton parks is insufficient. Current signage lacks crucial safety information, is easily vulnerable to vandalism, and lacks the necessary aesthetic for community identity.

The proposed signage includes two sign family concepts. Type A is primarily for parks in a residential context. This option utilizes stone and colors found in nature to blend into the park surroundings throughout the city. The combination of materials, colors and textures evoke a feeling of the outdoors and natural settings. Type B is primarily for commercial or industrial contexts. This more modern sign package features the use of the city's branding color. The clean lines, the use of the color gray and the metal mesh material have a more industrial feel.



Edgerton Kansas | Moving Forward

Recommendations

After taking in all the information and discussing results with the governing body we recommend the following issues as priorities for the City of Edgerton

- + Design + construction of civic center
- + Increase network of linear parks and trails
- + Prioritize improvements to existing parks

Civic Center

Based on the community survey, feedback and observations, there is a need to have a community facility to offer a place for meetings, community events, a sports court, and space for a variety of recreational activities. A storm shelter is also a desired amenity for residents.

Based on the number of residents in the community, the master plan recommends a civic center to be located in downtown. A civic center near City Hall and the Bank of Knowledge begins to generate a synergy for downtown Edgerton. Currently, the Greenspace adjacent to City Hall offers enough space for both indoor and outdoor civic activities. The property is the venue for outdoor movies and community events during the warmer months. The master plan recommends improving the infrastructure to better support these activities. A combination of manicured turf, landscaping and hardscape, art placement and the addition of a spray park will be an asset for which the community can be proud. It is likely that this location would not require the city to allocate additional space for parking. On-street parking and the use of other city-owned parking lots would likely accommodate necessary parking.

Next Step

The parks master plan recommends an additional study to determine specific programming needs and space requirements.

Linear Parks + Trails

Overall, Edgerton should consider streambank setbacks/easements to provide for trail development throughout the community. Stream corridors, in combination with the road network, offers the ability to be connected throughout the community. The City might consider a standard roadway section that provides a 8'-10' trail or a minimum of 5' wide sidewalk on one or both sides of the road as the street network is improved or replaced.

Imperative to Edgerton's community connectivity is the need to safely cross the railroad tracks separating the majority of the residential neighborhoods from Edgerton Lake, Martin Creek Park and the future Big Bull Creek Park.

Linear Parks + Trails | Types

There are a variety of trail types possible throughout the community. The most preferred by users are off-road bike paths. These types of trails provide the safest and often the most scenic transportation route. These types of trails are typically utilized by the more recreational user, however, if the trail is a minimum of 10', both transportation users and recreational users can share the path. These types of trails are often found on utility or streambank easements or abandoned railroad corridors.

Bike lanes refer to designated lanes painted on the roadway. These are most often utilized by those bicyclists traveling from a specific point with a clear destination in mind. The minimum width of this type of facility is 5'-6'. The users of on-street bike lanes must understand and follow the rules of the road to be safe. This type of bike lane is best reserved for the experienced rider. These facilities are typically marked with pavement marking and signed along the roadway, as well.

Bike paths are facilities located within road rights-of-way but are not on the vehicular paving surface. This type of facility is more typically viewed as a wide sidewalk and can accommodate all types of users. The width for this type of bike path is typically 8' – 10' for multi-modes of transportation. These are some of the easier facilities to construct, where space is available. In many cases, existing sidewalk only needs widened to accommodate bike paths.

Edgerton Kansas | Moving Forward

Linear Parks + Trails | Materials

As trails are developed, it is important to consider ADA compliance. It is necessary to ensure that all individuals can utilize the network of trails for recreation and transportation. The most common ADA compliant materials for trails are concrete and asphalt. Crushed stone can be used for some trails, depending on the funding mechanism for the trail. If the trail is funded through KDOT, concrete or asphalt must be used.

When choosing a surface for your trail, consider the following:

- + User acceptance and satisfaction
- + Accessibility
- + Cost to purchase and install materials
- + Cost of maintaining the surface
- + Life expectancy
- + Availability of material

Concrete trails are typically the most durable. Maintenance on trails along stream corridors can be cleaned with small equipment, such as a front-end loader. In addition, as long as trucks can access trail segments, concrete trails can be poured in most areas. Depending on the price of oil, concrete can sometimes be less costly than asphalt. Not all users prefer concrete, however. The jointing pattern can be disruptive to bicycles, strollers and in-line skaters and some runners prefer a surface that is more forgiving. Concrete can remain in acceptable condition for 20 years before replacement needs considered.

Asphalt trails are often most preferred by runners. The asphalt paths blend into the environment in natural settings and curves can be easily laid with machines, as long as there is adequate space. Asphalt may be less costly than concrete depending on the price of oil. The downside to asphalt is that the edges tend to unravel over time, especially in areas where the surface comes into contact with water consistently. Asphalt trails require a more frequent inspection and replacement plan, although will last longer with heavier use. Typical life expectancy for asphalt is 7-15 years.

Crushed stone trails are acceptable for some trail connections and for more natural trails. Crushed stone trails are the least expensive to build but are also the least accessible for users and require continual inspection and maintenance to ensure accessibility. Snow removal is difficult on crushed stone trails.

Add alternate bidding for concrete and asphalt can be used when there is no preference for material surfacing. This allows the City to receive the best pricing.

Linear Parks + Trails | Maintenance

Regardless of construction material, trails should be inspected annually for any maintenance issues that may arise. If trails have consistent users, citizens can file reports of maintenance issues. A contact number for patrons to use in this event can be placed on trail signage.

Trail widths can vary depending on location, function and funding source. Kansas Department of Transportation recommends 12' wide trails to accommodate multi-use. This width requires bollards near roadways to ensure the trail is not used by motorized vehicles. For most parks and corridors, 8'-10' wide trails are adequate. In some cases where property is limited or for connections anticipated to have mostly pedestrian traffic, 6' wide is acceptable.

As trails are constructed, it is recommended to include appropriate signage and amenities. Lighting is best limited to trailheads for security only. Trails are an extension of the parks and the recommended use is from dawn to dusk. While there are no standards for placement of benches and trash receptacles, these amenities are best located at trailheads and designed into each project where these amenities can be easily accessed for maintenance and where they would be most utilized.

Improvements to Existing Parks

By comparing Edgerton to similar communities and then comparing it to national and county standards, Edgerton proves to have enough parkland to meet its current population's needs. However, improved park maintenance and amenities was consistently one of the highest citizen priorities. For this reason it is recommended that the City of Edgerton focus its efforts on improving the conditions of existing parks rather than acquiring large tracts of future park land.

Edgerton Kansas | Moving Forward

Additional Studies

Edgerton has a lot of great resources and momentum. The following additional studies are recommended to continue the advancement of the parks master plan:

- + Community Center/Aquatic Facility Study
- + Civic Center Building Programming Study
- + Economic Park Impact Study
- + Trail Master Plan
- + Downtown Master Plan
- + Staffing Study
- + Signage Master Plan

Funding

This vision will be a framework for the City of Edgerton to use and develop as funding sources become available. This plan also serves as a catalyst to financial resources through grants and potential revenue sources outside of the city's budget.

This section lists very specific actions that can be taken to achieve the goals set out in this plan. The list is not intended to be exhaustive nor is the intention that all items will be executed, but the options are outlined for consideration both now and as the community grows. Funding and maintenance are key to implementing any improvements and meeting public expectations. Often times it is recommended, if funding is not available to meet all goals, to purchase future needed park land ahead of development before spending available funds to develop existing park property. Land is often less expensive if development has not yet reached the desired park property. Proper planning can save future dollars; however, community input on this issue may be necessary to negate public criticism.

Funding resources are organized into two categories: current funding resources and alternative funding resources. Current funding resources reflect practices currently being used or developed by the City of Edgerton. Alternative funding sources represent recommended funding outlets that are not currently being utilized.

Current Funding Resources | Develop and Maintain Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

The City of Edgerton has a five year CIP program. Park projects are currently included in CIP initiatives. We recommend prioritizing projects based on compatibility with the biennial citizens' survey, compatibility with parks master plan, and funding availability.

Current Funding Resources | Park Impact Fees

New residential and commercial developments require not only park and open space, but also roads, water and sewer infrastructure, and schools. Traditionally, these costs are financed by property taxes, however, property taxes can prove inadequate to fund all the necessary infrastructure. Although impact fees are not universally accepted, they can be a reasonable and fair way to fund needed projects. Impact fees are paid by the new development or users requiring the needed infrastructure, not the existing residents.

According to a study by Arthur C. Nelson and Mitch Moody titled “Paying for Prosperity: Impact Fees and Job Growth”, impact fees will continue to cause discussion, however, research shows that impact fees are a practical and valuable tool for financing local infrastructure needs. Growing communities may not be able to sustain growth without them. Nelson and Moody state, “Impact fees can directly fund vital infrastructure improvements, while increasing the supply of build-able land, improving predictability in the development process, and indirectly promoting local employment at the same time. Faced with the growing demand for investment and the public resistance to tax increases, localities in growing regions that institute impact fees may become more prosperous in the long run than communities in such regions that do not have them.”

Edgerton currently has the following park impact fees:

- + Residential: \$300 per unit
- + Commercial: \$0.08 per square foot of building
- + Industrial: \$0.08 per square foot of building

Current Funding Resources | Transient Guest Tax

Edgerton currently has a transient guest tax. Transient taxes help support tourism and conventions. In Edgerton the transient guest tax is 6%. This tax is paid by guests for sleeping accommodations, or services provided through hotel, motel, or tourist courts. With approval from the Governing Body, the revenues may be used to fund economic development activities, promotion of tourism and conventions, marketing efforts for the city, and community events or celebrations held in Edgerton.

Edgerton Kansas | Moving Forward

Current Funding Resources | User Fees

Other opportunities for increased park revenue include user fees. Currently Edgerton waives fees for athletic fields and shelters. The City does charge \$20 per hour for lighting. As park improvements are completed and the value of the amenities rises, users or citizens may be charged a small fee. In addition, if services are offered to registrants who are not residents, fees could be higher for those individuals.

Rental fees and concessions are other revenue sources. If a park shelter is an appropriate location for a wedding reception or family reunion, a fee for using a clean and maintained facility is reasonable.

Alternative Funding Resources | Tax

- + Dedicate sales tax for park development
- + Traditional Funding - Increase Mill Levy or Property Tax
- + Dedicate specific portion of General Capital Improvements to parks
- + Sales of concession items at public events

Alternative Funding Resources | Ensure Development Standards / Land Planning Concepts are Established

- + Develop strategies for purchase or donation of appropriate park property. Development standards in zoning and subdivision regulations may require a certain percentage of land be donated for park purposes, or cash in lieu of land, may be accepted. Proper planning can require easements for recreational trails and/or property that should remain open for public use.
- + Where land is not suitable for residential or commercial development, the City may offer incentives and allow a donation of property for park purposes. This may occur in flood prone areas, areas with overhead or underground utilities or heavily wooded land where clearing would be cost prohibitive. A caution when establishing these relationships includes ensuring the property meets the goals and standards set forth in this plan. If land is not well-suited for park development, it is only additional land to maintain and will decrease funding available for more appropriate projects.

Alternative Funding Resources | Develop a Partnership with Health and Wellness Institutions

- + Create a community health and wellness committee that can work to create, develop, promote, and execute activities and events which provide opportunities to enhance physical, social, and spiritual well-being.
- + Develop a corporate / business and non-profit sponsorship program through the committee that can provide monetary resources to promote and sponsor activities and events.

Alternative Funding Resources | Create a “Friends of Edgerton Parks and Recreation” as a Non-Profit Organization

- + Utilize the Friends group to recruit, organize and train volunteers.
- + Develop an “adopt an area” or park facility program so that service organizations can supplement routine city maintenance and restoration efforts.
- + Investigate the use of crowd source funding of various projects and activities sponsored by the “Friends” group.
- + Consider partnering with a community service group

Alternative Funding Resources | Grants

As with all funding that requires governmental action, not all programs are funded by lawmakers every year. Checking with each agency prior to the completion of an application is essential.

A common element in many of these programs is the desire to assist smaller communities in accomplishing projects that otherwise would not be funded. These organizations do support larger communities with projects, but focus on spreading the available funding statewide.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a program administered through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The program encourages communities to improve outdoor recreational opportunities and amenities. The KDW&P, through this program, supports activities that bring people outside and also appreciates projects that educate the public on Kansas’ natural resources.

The Recreational Trails Program is also a program granted through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. As the name implies, this program partially funds trail and support facilities for trail projects, including signage, land purchase, paving for ADA accessible trails, restrooms and parking. This program is different from the Kansas Department of Transportation’s programs as connectivity to other facilities is not a requirement. This grant supports recreational trails for leisure enjoyment, not necessarily to get from one place to another.

Edgerton Kansas | Moving Forward

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, formerly the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), is a set-aside of funds under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) refers to these funds as the TA Set-Aside. "The TA Set-Aside authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways." – US Dept. of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration. This federal funding is administered through the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Community Development Block Grants are administered through the Kansas Department of Commerce. This is a program that is funded through an annual appropriation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. There are many options for this program depending on a community's particular need. Water and sewer projects, housing rehabilitation or neighborhood development and the most applicable, community facility applications are considered. The CDB funding may require a consultant or paid city staff person to oversee the application and improvement process. Applications for community facilities are accepted the first part of November each year.

The Sunflower Foundation Grant is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all Kansans through improved access to affordable and quality health care, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and prevention efforts. "We envision our roles as a catalyst and, therefore, look to support programs that are innovative and have the potential to affect change at a systems level. But our interest is in more than just funding projects; we want the programs of our grantees to succeed and to have a positive impact on the health of Kansans" (Sunflower Foundation, 2016). The Sunflower Foundation provides opportunities for funding through multiple strategies, including requests for proposals, foundation initiatives and special projects.

Conclusion

The City of Edgerton has never been in a better position to advance park and recreational activities for the value and benefit of current and future residents. This plan provides the direction necessary to confidently move forward knowing the investment of resources is being utilized prudently and is supported by the community.



References



Figure 8.1 Fireworks Show (City of Edgerton 2016)

List of Figures

- Figure 0.1 Shelter at Manor Park (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 1.1 Wheat Field (Wilkinson 2016)
- Figure 1.2 Location of Edgerton (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 2.1 Community Picnic and Firework Show (City of Edgerton 2016)
- Figure 2.2 Connecting with the Community (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 3.1 Hwy 56 (Wilkinson 2016)
- Figure 3.2 Connecting with the Community (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 4.1 Edgerton Lake (City of Edgerton 2016)
- Figure 4.2 Maintenance Shed (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.1 A Fall Day in Edgerton (City of Edgerton 2016)
- Figure 5.2 Existing Park Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.3 Existing Park Types (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.4 Proposed Park Types (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.5 Existing Levels of Service (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.6 Proposed Levels of Service (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.7 Proposed Connectivity (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.8 Manor Park - Location (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.9 Manor Park - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.10 Manor Park - Site Analysis (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.11 A Race Down the Hill Slide (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.12 Manor Park - Design Recommendation (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.13 Glendell Acres - Location (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.14 Glendell Acres - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.15 Glendell Acres - Site Analysis (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.16 Glendell Acres - Design Recommendation (Landworks Studio 2016)
- Figure 5.17 North Parcel - Location (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.18 North Parcel - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.19 North Parcel - Site Analysis (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.20 North Parcel - Design Recommendation (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.21 Bridgewater Lake - Location (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.22 Bridgewater Lake - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.23 Bridgewater Lake - Site Analysis (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.24 Bridgewater Lake - Design Recommendation (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.25 Martin Creek - Location (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.26 Martin Creek - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.27 Martin Creek - Site Analysis (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.28 Martin Creek - Design Recommendation A (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.29 Martin Creek - Design Recommendation B (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.30 Civic Center - Location (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.31 Civic Center - Existing Conditions (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.32 Civic Center - Site Analysis (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.33 Civic Center - Existing Parking (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.34 Civic Center - Design Recommendation (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 5.35 Civic Center - Perspective (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 6.1 Water Tower (City of Edgerton 2016)

Figure 6.2 Existing Signage (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 6.3 Proposed Signage (Landworks Studio 2016)

Figure 7.1 Trees at Sunset (Wilkinson 2016)

Figure 8.1 Fireworks Show (City of Edgerton 2016)

Figure 9.1 Dusk Path (Sheldon 2016)

The image features a green-tinted landscape. In the background, a city skyline is visible against a lighter green sky. The foreground is a dark green field with a network of cracks or paths. The word "Appendix" is written in large, white, bold letters across the middle of the image.

Appendix



Figure 9.1 Dusk Path (Sheldon 2016)

Appendix A |

Park Type Design Guidelines

Park type design guidelines are suggestions for what acreage, connectivity, and amenities are appropriate for neighborhood and linear parks. Design guidelines are outlined for these types of parks because it is most likely that neighborhood and linear parks will be needed as development expands. It is our intention that these design guidelines serve as recommendations for the governing body to consider as they craft language for the Unified Development Code.

Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park should provide the foundation for recreation by serving one large or several smaller neighborhoods. Ideally, neighborhood parks provide facilities and recreation space for the entire family and are within easy walking or bicycling distance of the people they serve.

Acreage

Neighborhood parks are typically between 1-2 acres. At least half of this land should be developable. Governing body will grant final approval of site selection per UDC.

Connectivity

All parks should connect to the trail or sidewalk system in Edgerton. Park entry should be visible and accessible from public streets.

Amenities

Below is a possible list of amenities that should be included in the neighborhood park. Governing body will grant final approval of amenities per UDC.

Landscaping

- + Shade Trees
- + Turf Grass
- + Vegetative Screening of Utilities
- + Native Vegetation Areas

Active Elements

- + Playground
- + Fitness Equipment
- + Play Features

Signage

- + Park Signage
- + Trailhead Signage

Site Furnishings

- + Benches, Picnic Tables, Trash Receptacles, Etc.

Linear Parks

Linear parks are open areas that generally follow natural or man-made features that are linear in nature, such as creeks, streets, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, power line corridors, or utility corridor easements. Linear parks are also appropriate to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel. These parks can serve to link or connect other parks in the local system, as well as schools, neighborhood shopping, libraries, and other major destinations. In addition, linear parks provide buffers along waterways to control erosion and pollution while providing corridors for wildlife to travel safely through developed areas.

Acreage

The functionality of these spaces depends on how they are connected to context. For this reason there should not be a minimum acreage.

Connectivity

The most important component of linear parks is how well they connect into the whole system. There should not be abrupt dead-ends that terminate without connecting to a park or sidewalk system. If it is not possible to connect into an existing trail system the proposed linear park should form a loop.

Amenities

Below is a possible list of amenities that should be included along linear parks. Governing body will grant final approval of amenities per UDC. For specific linear park and trail types, materials, and maintenance please see the recommendations section in the Moving Forward Chapter.

Landscaping

- + Shade Trees
- + Landscape Buffers
- + Native Vegetation Areas

Signage

- + Trailhead Signage
- + Trail Mileage Markers

Site Furnishings

- + Benches, Trash Receptacles

