

*Chapter 5*

*Parks and Recreation*

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**IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

This chapter examines Huxley’s existing park and recreation system which is managed by the Huxley Parks and Recreation Department under the advice of the Parks Board and Tree Board. Parks are a vital part of life in Huxley. Huxley currently has an ordinance in place upon which developers must donate a portion of land for parks and greenspaces inside or outside of the proposed development. Well maintained parks can help build community, increase property values, help manage storm water, encourage healthy living, family connections and a greater appreciation of the natural environment. Huxley’s residents enjoy access to a variety of local and regional park facilities which offer an assortment of indoor and outdoor educational and recreational activities and programs.

**PARKS BOARD**

The Park Board’s mission and purpose is to enhance the quality of life by providing and maintaining safe and clean park facilities and recreation activities with primary focus on the residents of Huxley and a secondary focus on the surrounding Ballard community. The board advises the Park and Recreation Director regarding improvements, the maintenance, development and designated uses of the city’s various parks, recreational facilities and programs. The Board adopts rules governing recreation program participation and the use of city parks and recreational facilities. The Board also makes recommendations to the City Council concerning the budget for operating expenses, capital improvements, and user fees.



Memorial Park Playground

**TREE BOARD**

The Tree Board is an advisory board for the Parks and Recreation Department. The Tree Board, working with the Public Works Director, has the duty to prepare, revise annually and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replacement, removal, and disposition of trees and shrubs located within the right-of-way boundaries of all City streets or located on any other property owned by the City. The Tree Board works in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board regarding trees located within City parks. The written plan is to be presented to the Council annually for approval. Upon request of the Council, the City Tree Board shall consider, investigate, make findings, report on and provide recommendations concerning any special matters or questions coming within the scope of work.



Centennial Park Disk Golf

**GOALS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

The City of Huxley has initiated a study of their existing parks and trail system to develop a comprehensive plan that will project park and recreation needs through the year 2030. One of the steps in the planning process is to set goals to serve as a basis for future park planning. Goals are general in nature, relating to

overall objectives and conditions that shall set the standard for the future improvements and growth. Based on these ideals, a set of goals for the park system have been established for the City as follows:

1. Establish a comprehensive plan to guide the acquisition and development of park and recreation facilities and amenities.
2. Determine a park classification system to evaluate park types and establish service area criteria.
3. Identify additional park land in areas that have been identified as deficient in the park system as future development occurs.
4. Provide a diversity of recreational facilities to allow for equal opportunities for all residents and visitors.
5. Establish safe facilities which are compliant with current regulations and guidelines.
6. Establish accessible facilities which are compliant with current ADA regulations and guidelines.
7. Establish a trail system that connects all of the park facilities together as well as establishes connections to destinations areas; such as, public facilities, regional parks and trail systems.
8. Protect existing natural areas and features and identify future natural areas to be preserved and protected for the enjoyment of all.
9. Establish multiple access points to all parks to enhance user circulation and access.
10. Establish a list of improvements ranked by priority.

**FACILITY ANALYSIS**

In order to project future needs for park and trail systems for Huxley the following components were analyzed:

- Park classifications
- An inventory of existing parks, trails and local amenities
- Projection of population growth and future land use
- Geographic distribution and potential gaps in service coverage
- Public open house and surveys



Railroad Park Amphitheater

**PARK CLASSIFICATIONS**

Park Classifications were created based on the widely recognized NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) guidelines. Facilities are classified according to the size of the facility, amenities provided and the area they serve. A park’s classification relates to the service area it provides and helps determine the geographic distribution necessary to eliminate service coverage gaps.

The NRPA has several park classifications that can help a community define its park system. The most applicable classifications for Huxley’s park system and recreational amenities are described below:

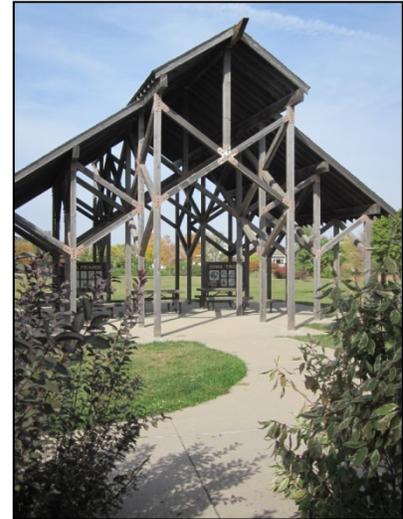
Community Parks

- Purpose: Serves the broader community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.
- General Use: They often include areas for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes for organized sports, large group picnicking, and community gatherings. They may also feature areas of natural quality for activities such as walking, biking, and viewing that are supported by trail systems.

- Service Area: ½ to 3 mile radius. (Depending on the service provided a community park can also meet the needs of a neighborhood park within the ¼ to ½ mile area.)
- Desired Size: As needed to accommodate use, typically 30- 50 Acres
- Characteristics: Ideally, they should be easily accessible to the neighborhoods they serve.

Neighborhood Park

- Purpose: A basic unit of the park system. Serves as the recreational and social focus for a residential area. Accommodates informal recreation activities both passive and active.
- General Use: Focuses on informal, active and passive recreation opportunities.
- Service Area: ¼ to ½ mile radius (easily walkable)
- Desired Size:
  - Small: 1 to 5 acres
  - Large: 5 to 10 acres
- Characteristics: Ideally, they should be geographically centered within safe walking and bike access to its service area.



Berhow Park Shelter

Special Use Park

- Purpose: These park system components focus on a single-purpose use, such as an aquatic center, golf course, historic preservation or cultural facility. The Ballard Country Club is a private golf course located on the north-west end of Huxley. So, although not publicly owned, the club provides residents access to another recreational resource. Huxley also offers indoor recreation opportunities at the Citizens Community Center (3C's). Located on the west side of Huxley this 15,000 square foot community center serves the City of Huxley as well as the Ballard community.

Greenway Parks

- Purpose: These park system components are typically made up of lands set aside for preserving drainage corridors, wetlands, or other significant community natural resource areas. Local examples of greenway parks in Huxley would be the greenway system along the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail and Story County Conservation’s Christiansen Forest Preserve located on the north-east end of Huxley. Both amenities provide resident’s trail opportunities while enjoying Huxley’s natural beauty. They also invite visitors from surrounding communities and state to Huxley.
- General Use: These features are generally open to the public, but usually do not contain many facilities beyond access points and trail systems.

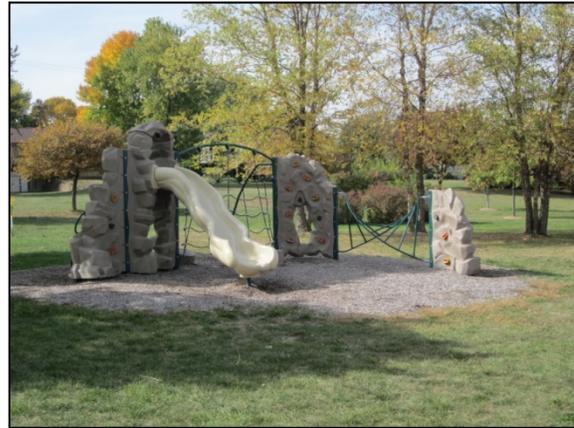
School Parks

- Purpose: Depending on the circumstance combining parks with school sites can fulfill some recreational needs of the community. Huxley currently utilizes some of the Ballard High School and Middle School facilities to fulfill some of its park and recreation programming. Having these amenities within the city limits provide a great recreational asset to the community.

## EXISTING DESIGNATED PARKS

The park system supports a diversity of recreational opportunities in both a variety of community and neighborhood parks. The parks and recreation department currently manages approximately 55 acres of park land divided into eight individual parks as well as the Citizens Community Center (3C's) indoor facility.

- ***Berhow Park (6 1/2 Acres)*** – Established in the 1980s this 6 1/2 -acre neighborhood park is located in central Huxley between Larson Drive and Parkridge Avenue and north of E. 5th Street. The park contains trails, a prairie area, a shelter with grill, a playground structure and swings; as well, as a large open area and a wide variety of trees.
- ***Centennial Park (30 Acres)*** – First developed in 1982 to commemorate Huxley's 100 year anniversary. This community park is located on the north side of Huxley between Timberlane Drive and Northpark Blvd and south of Centennial Drive. The park supports many recreation facilities such as baseball, softball, tennis, disk golf, basketball, and general recreation including children's playground equipment and a shelter house with grills. The park was expanded in 2007 which still leaves opportunity for the City to provide additional recreational amenities.
- ***Larson Family Sports Fields (6 1/2 Acre)*** – Established in 2011, this community park is located west of Timberland Drive and south of Centennial Drive. The park offers six U6, two U8, two U10 and two U12 soccer fields, as well as two flag football fields.
- ***Memorial Park (1/2 Acre)*** – A neighborhood park located near the center of downtown on the south end of Huxley's Main St. since 1936. The park is dedicated to Huxley's military veterans with a community monument and memorial garden. The park also contains a picnic area under a canopy of trees and a playground.
- ***Nord-Kalsem Park (5 Acres)*** – This community park is located in the heart of Huxley near downtown south of West Fifth Street and west of N. Main Avenue. The park contains a community center, basketball court, ball diamonds, a picnic area amongst large trees, a horseshoe court and a playground with swings.
- ***Prairie Ridge Park (3/4 Acre)*** – Huxley's newest neighborhood park, this park is located off E. 1st Street in the southeast side of Huxley. The park contains a playground with swings, tetherball, a ball toss-up and basketball hoops.
- ***Railroad Park (3 Acres)*** – A community park located just south of downtown Huxley since 1987 on Main Avenue South. The park was established as a reminder of the railroad system that once ran through town. It contains an amphitheater, picnic shelter, sand volleyball courts, exercise stations and has direct access to the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. Similar to many of the other parks in Huxley, this one contains a large number of beautiful trees.



Berhow Playground



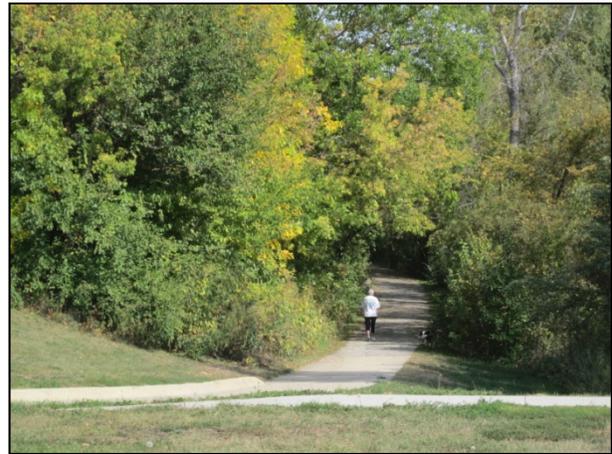
Railroad Shelter

- **Trailridge Park (1 Acres)** – One of Huxley’s newer parks, this neighborhood park is located immediately adjacent to and north of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail and west of 560<sup>th</sup> Street near the east edge of Trail Ridge subdivision. The park currently contains a playground, picnic tables and gazebo.

**ADDITIONAL RECREATION AMENITIES**

Huxley is located half way between Ankeny and Ames on US Highway 69 and has access to many different types of recreation within 15 miles, for instance:

1. Trail systems (i.e.: Heart of Iowa Nature Trail & The High Trestle Trail)
2. Natural areas (i.e.: Christiansen Forest Preserve, Big Creek and Ledges State Parks)
3. Sports facilities (i.e.: Ballard School District)
4. Indoor sports and recreation facilities (i.e.: 3C’s).
5. Lakes/ponds.
6. Greenbelts/floodplains.
7. Shelters and convention areas.
8. Golf courses.
9. Aquatic centers.



Heart of Iowa Nature Trail

**HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL**

Huxley has direct access to the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. The 33-mile trail is part of the American Discovery Trail that connects the West Coast of the United States to the East Coast. The trail also connects users to the High Trestle Trail which runs between Ankeny and Woodward.

Currently a 1/8th of a mile portion of trail requires a user to use Fifth Avenue to E63, than take bike lanes along E63 to 535<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The user must travel a short distance on gravel along 535<sup>th</sup> Avenue to connect back up to the remainder of the bike trail to Slater. The trail section to Cambridge is currently complete; however, only 1.14 miles of the trail have been paved. The remaining section of trail has a limestone surface.

Nestled on the abandoned railroad bed, the trail is surrounded by wildlife, many different species of trees and plant life, and touches two parks in Huxley, Railroad and Trail Ridge Park. The Heart of Iowa Nature Trail could be the backbone of Huxley’s park system if the remaining sections through Huxley were paved with a hard surface and the final trail connection made between Fifth Avenue and 535<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

Below is a comprehensive list of programs offered through the Parks and Recreation department:

### Adult Programs

- Men’s Basketball
- Co-Rec Softball
- Co-Rec Dodgeball
- Bags Tournament
- Racquetball
- Tae Kwon Do
- Co-Rec Volleyball
- Co-Rec Sand Volleyball
- Lunch & Learn
- Community-wide Garage Sale

### Adult Fitness Programs

- Kickboxing
- Zumba
- Strength Training for Older Adults
- Silversneakers MSROM
- Shake it Up
- Yoga

### Youth Programs

- Tae Kwon Do (4yrs & up)
- Super Star Dance (6-12yrs)
- NFL Flag Football (5-8yrs)
- NFL Punt, Pass and Kick (6-15yrs)
- Fall & Spring Soccer (3-8yrs)
- Youth Volleyball (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Bam Bam Baseball (3&4 yr. olds)
- Basketball 1st-6th Graders
- Flag Football (5-8yrs)
- Passport Around the World (7-10yrs)
- Track and Field Clinic
- Sports and Fitness Camps
- Tennis
- Summer Camps
- Tot Time



Larson Family Sports Fields



Centennial Park Sand Volleyball Court

## POPULATION AND SERVICE AREAS

Parks provide social, economic and health benefits. The availability of park facilities and the conditions of the facilities affect the frequency of use. The amount of and type of park space a community offers is determined by population, demographics and by geographic distribution. The national guideline on sufficient distribution of parkland ranges from 6 acres to 19 acres per 1,000 of the population according to the 2012 NRPA publication “Parks & Recreation in Underserved Areas: A Public Health Perspective”. Huxley, with its population of 3300 and 55 acres of park space, currently provides approximate 17 acres of park space per 1,000 of the population. This places Huxley well within the national guidelines for available park land in relation to current population. According to population trends discussed in Chapter 2 the approximate

population for Huxley is projected to reach 4300-4900 by the year 2030. If Huxley continues to grow as the projected and Huxley maintains a park to population ratio of 17 acres per 1000 in population, one could assume Huxley will need approximately 70-85 acres of total park land by the year 2030.

It is also important to consider the location and service areas of future parks. Recent trends and studies on the effects of parks on a community’s health show the large role small neighborhood parks can play. It is recommended that these types of parks be available and accessible to residents within a ¼ - ½ mile radius in order to help eliminate “Recreation Deserts” and encourage healthy lifestyles.

### QUESTIONNAIRES

In order to further determine the needs of the existing park system, public input from the users was collected. Three methods were utilized to collect feedback from the community and park users. The first method was a questionnaire given out by the Parks Department via handouts at 3Cs and through the mail in local resident’s water bill. The first questionnaire received 31 responses. A public open house was held on November 7, 2012 to engage the public in further discussion concerning existing and future park and trail improvements. At the open house another questionnaire was handed out to encourage additional feedback about existing and future park improvements. During open discussion at the open house, it was requested the questionnaire be sent out to residents for additional feedback. Through the direction of the City of Huxley Parks Board a second public questionnaire was prepared and sent out through the Park and Recreation Department using Survey Monkey to local residents. The purpose of this questionnaire was to gather further public input concerning the improvements and expansion of the City’s park and trail system. The following pages include summaries of the results from both Questionnaires.



Trailridge Park Playground



Prairie Ridge Basketball Court

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## Summary of Questionnaire No 1.

(31 - Survey's Received)

1. How would you rate the City’s overall parks and recreation facilities?

- Excellent (5%)
- Good (80%)**
- Fair (15%)
- Poor

2. What existing parks and recreation facilities do you use/are most important to you?  
(Select all that apply)

- 1. **Community Parks (80%)**
- 2. 3C’s Fitness Facilities (75%)
- 3. 3C’s Gym (65%)
- 4. Trails (55%)
- 5. Sports Fields (50%)
- 6. Nord-Kalsem Community Center (20%)

3. Rate your satisfaction with the current parks and recreation facilities.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not Satisfied-Needs Improvement	Do Not Use
Number of Parks	<b>50%</b>	<b>45%</b>	5%	-
Trails	<b>35%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>30%</b>	10%
Outdoor Athletic Fields	<b>30%</b>	<b>30%</b>	15%	<b>25%</b>
Play Equipment	<b>50%</b>	25%	15%	10%
Indoor Facilities	<b>55%</b>	25%	10%	10%

4. Rate your satisfaction with the following recreation programs offered through community education, parks and recreation and/or youth organizations.

	Satisfied	Needs Improvement	Not Satisfied	Do Not Participate
Family recreation activities	<b>55%</b>	15%	5%	20%
Children’s recreation activities	<b>65%</b>	10%	15%	20%
Youth Sports Programs	<b>55%</b>	15%	5%	25%
Teen Recreation Activities	10%	15%	-	<b>75%</b>
Adult Sports Programs	20%	10%	-	<b>70%</b>
Senior Adult Recreation Activities	5%	-	15%	<b>90%</b>
After School Recreation Programs	5%	15%	5%	<b>85%</b>
Special Events	<b>35%</b>	15%	10%	<b>40%</b>
Adult Fitness Programs	30%	10%	10%	<b>50%</b>

5. Mark the below facilities that you feel need improvement or additional facilities.

	Good Condition	Need Improvement	Sufficient Number	Need (Additional)
Baseball Fields	25%	25%	20%	25%
Softball Fields	30%	20%	25%	20%
Soccer Fields	<b>30%</b>	10%	<b>30%</b>	5%
Football Fields	20%	20%	20%	20%
Trails	<b>35%</b>	<b>40%</b>	15%	10%
Sand Volleyball Courts	5%	10%	<b>40%</b>	5%
Tennis Courts	5%	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>	10%
Outdoor Basketball Courts	10%	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>20%</b>
Skate Park	-	-	<b>25%</b>	5%
Indoor Basketball Courts	<b>35%</b>	10%	20%	25%
Dog Park	5%	10%	10%	<b>40%</b>
Splash Pad/Water Playground	-	-	15%	<b>25%</b>
Aquatic Center/Pool	-	5%	5%	<b>60%</b>
Playground Equipment	<b>30%</b>	5%	<b>35%</b>	5%

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## **Summary of Questionnaire No 2.**

(51 - Survey's Received; 4 – Survey's Collected at Open House)

### 1. Are there any additional facilities, amenities and/or recreation opportunities that you would like to see explored as a part of the City park planning?

- 16 comments received regarding Softball/Baseball Diamonds: (provide additional – currently difficult to find practice times and not able to host tournaments, more support of Little League Programs, maybe smaller fields for practice and younger children, Baseball Diamonds: currently softball fields are being used for baseball which is unacceptable, need lights, additional seating and grass for new and existing baseball fields at Centennial Park)
- 14 comments received regarding an Aquatic Center: (provide a outdoor/indoor swimming facility, initial capital is obtainable but City would need to budget losses)
- 12 comments received regarding ‘No New Improvements’: (7 comments for “No opinion” or “No additional facilities, amenities and/or recreation opportunities” and 5 comments for no new improvements/facilities, maintain and enhance what Huxley currently has available)
- 12 comments received regarding Trails: (3 comments for more bike and walking paths, trail connection to Christenson Preserve, better trail/pedestrian crossings for Hwy. 69, bridge or tunnel under Hwy. 69 at bike trail crossing, trail along Hwy 69, paved trails, interior park trails to walk while kids are at practice, a trail connection from the north side of town to the south side which connects to the Heart of Iowa Trail, better trail access (currently no access from Subway to Quicks there is nowhere to access a trail and connect to the Heart of Iowa Trail), straighten trail west of Huxley and pave)
- 6 comments received regarding a Splash Park
- 5 comments received regarding New/Improved Restroom Facilities
- 4 comments received regarding Play Areas: (2 comments for additional or improve existing playground equipment, playground for older children similar to Ankeny’s Georgetown park, natural play opportunities within current parks)
- 3 comments received regarding Pond-Wetland and/or Water Recreation-Fishing (preferably in Centennial or Nord Kalsem)
- 3 comments received regarding Parking Improvements: safer, paved or at least handicap accessible
- 2 comments received regarding Outdoor/Indoor Ice Skating Facility
- 2 comment received regarding adding a Dog Park amenity
- Centennial Park: more parking and finish sidewalks; finish Centennial; make it an amazing park we can be proud of in this community; improve restroom, concessions and parking; add building for indoor/off season baseball/softball practice, such as a heated pole building
- Centennial Park: improve infrastructure (Restrooms, Larger Concession, Covered Shelter)
- Concessions: add a keg fridge for adult recreation programs
- Event Facility: indoor shelter that could house a wedding reception for 300 people with alcohol and plenty of parking
- Family Events: Santa, daddy daughter dance, movie nights



- Soccer Fields: with proper drainage and grass
- Trail Ridge Park: swings, additional play equipment and picnic seating, basketball court
- Move bandshell out of mosquito pit at Railroad to Centennial for concerts/jam sessions
- Indoor facility for softball/baseball for off season
- Huxley lacks a sense of community which is only found through recreational opportunities (men’s basketball in the mornings at 3C’s, exercise classes, kids soccer or football) so the city needs to support the, Little League Programs and Parks and Recreation Department more. A pool could provide a place for community to develop and neighbors to interact
- Less emphasis on organized sports and more on other recreational activities
- Seems improvements are being made in newer areas and ‘old’ Huxley is being neglected
- No dog park
- I'd really like is a list of proposals from people, and then another survey about them. That would provide vastly better information for our community to make reasoned and informed decisions.

**2. Are there any existing park facilities, amenities or programs that need to be improved? What improvements do you recommend?**

*Specific Park Improvements:*

- Centennial Park: (18 comments regarding) improve/additional restrooms; (12 comments regarding) more ball fields; (10 comments regarding) additional/improved parking; (7 comments regarding) playground upgrades/improvements – more landscaped, closer to the ball fields; (6 comments regarding) new/upgrade concession stand; (3 comments regarding) improve parking; (2 comments regarding) lighting; (2 comments regarding) improve existing ball field conditions; improve grass; general improvements; more trees; additional benches; facilities we can be proud of and show off to visitors; resurface/renovate tennis courts; more sidewalks, location for a splash park, improve water pressure, add irrigation
- Larson Family Soccer Complex: (6 comments regarding) improve/reseed grass; (3 comments regarding) Improve drainage and levelness of fields; (2 comments regarding) restrooms; drinking fountain; parking lot in/out difficult to navigate at the narrow end of the lot
- Nord Kalsem Park: (6 comments regarding) Ball field improvements; additional parking; (2 comments regarding) updated playground equipment; upgrade basketball hoops – like Polk City
- Berhow Park: (2 comments regarding) provide equipment for younger children too; (2 comments regarding) better and more playground equipment lot of growing families in the neighborhood; drinking fountain; edging around the playground surfacing; slide access is currently unsafe
- Trail Ridge Park: swings, park is looking good, nice to have a shelter

*General Improvements:*

- 6 comments regarding Restrooms: (Additional restrooms in current parks, upgrade existing)
- 5 comments regarding Trails: (Pave bike paths, bike and walking trail extensions and improvements)

- 5 comments regarding Play Areas: (2 comments for additional playground equipment, make one large destination playground vs. many small playgrounds, better baby swings, appropriate equipment for various ages)
- 4 comments regarding “None” or “No Opinion”
- 3 comments regarding Additional Ball Diamonds
- 2 comments regarding Additional Benches: In parks and along trails
- Concessions
- Covered Shelters – can be poles with seasonal sun screens
- Drinking fountains
- Parking
- Amphitheater
- Dedicated softball fields, sport/recreation improvements primarily played by girls. Recent improvements have been for baseball and soccer fields
- Outdoor basketball courts
- More professional looking park signage
- Better communication during kids recreation program
- Repair fences at baseball/softball facilities
- Better conditions of all athletic fields
- Irrigate fields
- Generate an overall game plan so organization can move forward

### 3. Rank your top park improvements in order of priority :

#### 1. Ranked Number One:

- a. 13 comments regarding Restrooms Improvements at Centennial Park
- b. 12 comments regarding Ball Fields: (9 comments for additional ball fields at Centennial Park; 3 comments for improving existing fields/grass on baseball field at Centennial Park)
- c. 8 comments regarding a Splash Park: (5 comments for a splash park at Memorial Park; 2 comments for a splash park, 1 comment for a splash park at Nord Kalsem Park)
- d. 3 comments regarding Parking Improvements at Centennial Park
- e. 3 comments regarding a new Aquatic center / swimming pool
- f. 2 comments regarding Concession Updates at Centennial Park
- g. 2 comments regarding improvements to maintenance standard and fix existing parks prior to adding new things
- h. 2 comments regarding improvements to Tennis courts at Centennial Park
- i. Larson Family Soccer Complex field improvements
- j. Restroom updates at all parks
- k. Parking
- l. Play equipment Centennial
- m. Sidewalks Centennial
- n. Drinking fountain Berhow Park
- o. Swings, play equipment, picnic tables at Trail Ridge Park
- p. Trees at Centennial
- q. Don't give up Nord Kalsem to storm water pond
- r. No pool or splash park

2. Ranked Number Two:

- a. 11 comments regarding Ball Fields: (7 comments for additional ball fields at Centennial Park; 2 comments for additional ball fields in general; improve existing fields/grass on baseball field at Centennial Park; Lights at Centennial Ball Fields; Improve Nord-Kalsem Ball Fields)
- b. 9 comments regarding Restroom Facility Improvements at Centennial Park
- c. 7 comments regarding Parking Improvements at Centennial Park
- d. 3 comments regarding a new Splash park
- e. 3 comments regarding general Restroom Improvements
- f. 2 comments regarding Concessions Improvements at Centennial Park
- g. Add restroom and drinking fountain at Larson Family Soccer Complex
- h. Fix the fields at Larson Family Soccer Complex
- i. Finish Centennial, use all the available park space
- j. Additional play equipment Berhow Park
- k. Pond for fishing

3. Ranked Number Three

- a. 6 comments regarding Additional Ball Fields at Centennial Park
- b. 5 comments regarding Restroom Facility Improvements at Centennial Park
- c. 5 comments regarding Concession Improvements at Centennial Park
- d. 2 comments regarding Parking Improvements
- e. 2 comments regarding an Aquatic Center or Swimming pool
- f. 2 comments regarding Trail Improvements – (Pave and straighten bike trail, pave bike trail from Slater to Cambridge)
- g. 2 comments regarding a Splash park
- h. Stop removing trees in parks – way to windy on North side of town
- i. Update fields and restrooms at Nord-Kalsem
- j. Update basketball courts and playground at Nord-Kalsem
- k. Lighting
- l. Basketball courts for kids to play on
- m. Lighting of fields at Centennial
- n. Fences at Nord-Kalsem
- o. Fix the fields at Larson Family Soccer Complex
- p. Facility at Centennial for use during colder seasons

4. Ranked Number Four

- a. 3 comments regarding Ball Field Improvements at Centennial Park
- b. 2 comments regarding Trail Improvements: (Trails for biking and running around town, Pave bike trail from Slater to Cambridge)
- c. Fix the fields at Larson Family Soccer Complex
- d. Centennial Park – better care of grounds
- e. Aquatic Center/Swimming pool at Centennial Park

5. Ranked Number Five

- a. Playground at Centennial Park

- b. Irrigation of fields at Centennial Park
- c. Aquatic Center
- d. Overall Centennial Park improvements (shelter, green space, restrooms)

#### 4. Additional Comments about your parks, trails and/or sidewalk systems

##### a. SIDEWALKS/TRAILS:

- I wish there was a sidewalk that connected Sand Cherry Lane to the bike path. I would also like to see the sidewalk off Sand Cherry Lane in front of Lily Pad connected all the way to Highway 69 for the safety of kids wanting to ride bikes into town.
- It would be great if the Heart of Iowa trail could be completed to Slater and paved to increase access to the High Trestle Trail. The Heart of Iowa Trail running through Huxley needs repaved.
- It would be great to have a sidewalk on 310th street from the soccer complex to the gravel. Lots of people/families use this section of road and it is very unsafe.
- Need sidewalk/bike path along highway 69 to keep walkers/bikes off the shoulder or road.
- It would be nice if there was a sidewalk by the LilyPad that connected to the entrance of the bike trail and led over to the trailer park so kids didn't have to walk in the road.
- Sidewalk systems need to be finished. Walking / biking trail along 69 would help.
- Sidewalk from a few blocks away to all the parks and schools would be great.
- It would be fantastic if the bike trail could be paved from Huxley to Slater and that the trail could go straight through to Slater. I think other communities have seen the benefits of the improved bike trails and what it brings to the community.
- We need a good trail that hooks into the High Trestle trail at Slater. This gravel business just does not do it. Also would be nice for this to lead to Cambridge, but step by step.....Huxley to Slater first.
- Extend the bike trail and pave from Huxley to Slater.
- Huxley still seems disconnected. As a runner, I'm constantly having to go from sidewalk to road to sidewalk that needs maintenance, to trails. It would be great to have sidewalks that you don't have to worry about huge uneven sections that you don't see in the dark as you are running. Maybe there is also a street lighting issue?
- Need to get the sidewalks going into Centennial park finished so they connect to other sidewalks!
- Would be nice to connect all walkways. Several just dead end? Might incorporate a path around the park.
- It would be nice if the sidewalks went all the way through
- Increase trails better sidewalks.
- Also add a restroom along the bike trail like the ones in Slater.
- Trail straight through to Slater.
- Pave the Trail
- Pave trail from Slater to Cambridge to draw people to Huxley to access trail like what's happening in Slater

## BALL FIELDS/ LITTLE LEAGUE:

- I have heard rumors that Nord Kalsem Park will be torn up in favor of a drainage basin. To think in a city short on ball diamonds we would take a long standing park with decent diamonds and get rid of it is appalling to me.
- I would like to see city P&R collaborate more with Huxley LL.
- Our school enrollment and student involvement has increased drastically over the past 10 years, yet the same number of ball diamonds exist. We simply do not have the facilities in place to accommodate the growth that has occurred. If communities smaller than Huxley can figure out ways to build 4 or 8-plex diamond facilities, why can't we?
- Hire someone full time to manage the fields and facilities. It's the only way you have anything quality.
- Huxley has a number of parks for kids. They are well spread out and touch nearly every community. It is disappointing, however, that Centennial fields aren't more up to par with other surrounding communities. Huxley has an opportunity to have a great place for surrounding teams to come and play, bringing revenue into the city. We should focus resources on completing Centennial and the bike trail, then shift focus to growth.
- Would be nice to upgrade the concession stand at Centennial.
- pave parking lot to centennial park diamonds

## b. AQUATIC CENTER:

- An outdoor aquatic center would be nice for the Ballard Community.
- I am curious why dozens of small town have flourishing Aquatic Centers and Huxley does not even consider it. Slater is far from an "Aquatic Center" when people still drive to Ames and Ankeny to have fun. I bet that the traffic a REAL "Aquatic Center" would bring would pay for itself and profit.
- Add a pool to the city of Huxley.

## c. PLAYGROUNDS:

- quality playground equipment in each of the parks
- Better bigger Playgrounds.
- No other comments at time but I would be happy to be involved in the exploration of ways that more natural play could be embedded in our playgrounds if it is determined that is a priority by the community...ljschonhorst@gmail.com

## d. DOG PARK:

- As a resident of Sand Cherry, I would support a dog park. It would be preferable to having dogs being walked or let run and make "deposits" in neighbors' yards.

## e. TREES:

- The tree board is doing an excellent job
- We need more trees for the future to make our parks feel like parks instead of parking lots.

## f. SOCCER:

- The new soccer fields are wonderful.

- Soccer fields are awesome
- better care of lawn at the Larson Family Soccer Complex

g. PRAIRIEFEST:

- Why not move Prairiefest to Centennial park to have more room. Bandstand at railroad is in hot sun too much of day for elderly people and it is prone to mosquitoes when there is a rain event. Everything could be more easily, centrally located at Centennial. Showcase our park, instead of an old area of downtown where commercial businesses don't like the events around.

h. GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Thank you for all the parks in Huxley. Keep them clean.
- I think it is pretty decent the way it is. This is the smallest city I have ever lived in and yet I still think that there is plenty to offer in terms of facilities and amenities to complete with larger areas. Before this the smallest town I lived in was just over 20,000 people and I also lived in the suburbs of a city 3 times larger than the Des Moines metro.
- I am new to the community and feel I don't have a handle on community programs and facilities. My input at this time would be lacking a lot of information. Sorry!!
- Budget funds to properly maintain existing parks. Enough funds to buy needed maintenance equipment such as a gator to help with the care of the grounds.
- I'd like more input from community members after this idea generation stage. Please do another survey, and make sure that all Huxley residents get your survey link.
- I don't see parks used all that often when there isn't baseball/softball/soccer being played.
- Don't have to be the biggest; just make sure whatever we have is nice, clean, and fairly updated.
- need updated and modernized.
- I think Huxley has a lot of parks, however they need a lot of work given the amount of growing community it is.
- Need to take a holistic view and come up with overall plan instead of piece meal as people ask for things. Seems the squeaky wheels sometimes get the grease. People need to understand it's not just about what their kids like to do.
- Very good overall. I didn't move to Huxley to compete with Ames or Ankeny for parks and sports facilities, but what we have is very practical and are nice spaces. I'd prefer to not spend any more money than absolutely necessary on parks. I think we can do a good job of maintaining what we have, but could really spread ourselves pretty thin by adding much more. Sports (or organized babysitting for the under 10 crowd) aren't that important. I have 4 kids under 10 now, so I'm not trying to say these things wouldn't be nice, but I just don't see why we need to spend money adding new capital expenditures to our parks.
- Parks are such an important part of a town, let's make ours amazing... Get more kids and families outside and at the parks!
- Let's make a plan and stick with it
- Just make sure we are taking care of what we have and have everything in good shape before moving on to a new project.

- Reduce number of small parks 7 use that budget towards better facilities.  
Generate a long term plan so that the community & its organizations have a direction to follow.
- Straighten the gravel road to the east of Sand Cherry Development.
- What is the cities current plan for facilities?

**EXISTING PARK AND TRAIL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS**

Though it is important to budget and plan for the acquisition of additional land to keep up with population projections, the current abundance of park land gives the City of Huxley an opportunity to concentrate park capital expenditures on updating existing park amenities and adding recreational opportunities to their existing facilities.

The following pages show information and site observations regarding the existing park land currently available in the City of Huxley. Also included are recommendations on how each park can be further improved and the anticipated costs.



Heart of Iowa Trail  
West of Railroad Park



Ball Fields  
Nord-Kalsem



2012 Gazebo Installation at Trailridge Park



Tennis Courts at Centennial Park

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(Insert 11x17 park exhibit: Berhow)

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**BERHOW PARK**  
**HUXLEY, IOWA**

**BUDGETARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST**  
 January 18, 2013

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	General Earthwork and Demolition for Play Area Construction	1 LS	\$2,500	\$2,500
2	Playground Equipment w/ Engineered Wood Fiber Surface (2-5 Age)	1 LS	\$60,000	\$60,000
3	Relocate Existing Bench	1 LS	\$500	\$500
4	Drinking Fountain	1 LS	\$4,500	\$4,500
5	Dog Waste Bag Dispensers	2 EA	\$500	\$1,000
6	PCC Trail (5" depth, 8' width)	1 LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
				<b>\$78,500</b>
				15% Contingencies
				<b>\$11,700</b>
				<b>\$90,200</b>

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

This Opinion of Cost is based on 2013 pricing. Not included in this estimate:

- Regulatory, Permitting, Administration and Engineering Fees
- Architectural & Structural Design
- Construction Documents / Technical Specifications
- Bidding Assistance
- Site Observation / Construction Assistance / Review

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(Insert 11x17 park exhibit: Centennial)



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**CENTENNIAL PARK**  
**HUXLEY, IOWA**

**BUDGETARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST**  
 January 18, 2013

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Remove and Dispose Existing Restroom Building	1 LS	\$15,000	\$15,000
2	Remove and Dispose Existing Concession Building	1 LS	\$15,000	\$15,000
3	Remove and Dispose Existing Gravel Parking	1 LS	\$80,000	\$80,000
4	Earthwork	1 LS	\$250,000	\$250,000
5	Restroom (27'x27') w/ Concession (11'x27') Building	1 LS	\$300,000	\$300,000
6	Restroom (11'x26') w/ Storage (30'x50') Building	1 LS	\$250,000	\$250,000
7	Remove and Replace Existing Playground and Surfacing	1 LS	\$220,000	\$220,000
8	Small Playground with Engineered Wood Fiber Mulch (by Ball Fields)	1 LS	\$75,000	\$75,000
9	Entry Plaza - Decorative Pavement & Signage Allowance	1 LS	\$30,000	\$30,000
10	Ball Field w/ Irrigation (220' baseline)	2 EA	\$197,000	\$394,000
11	Ball Field without Irrigation (190' baseline)	2 EA	\$170,000	\$340,000
12	Existing Ball Field Backstop Repair (3 fields)	1 LS	\$50,000	\$50,000
13	Irrigation for Existing Ball Fields	3 EA	\$30,000	\$90,000
14	Remove and Replace Existing Tennis Courts (2 courts)	1 LS	\$150,000	\$150,000
15	Remove and Replace Existing Basketball Court	1 LS	\$35,000	\$35,000
16	Storm Sewer	3,500 LF	\$60	\$210,000
17	Water Service	2,000 LF	\$25	\$50,000
18	Sanitary Service	1,000 LF	\$55	\$55,000
19	Electric Service	1 LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
20	Field Lighting	5 EA	\$80,000	\$400,000
21	Parking Lot Lighting	1 LS	\$200,000	\$200,000
22	PCC Trail (5" depth, 8' width)	1 LS	\$265,000	\$265,000
23	PCC Parking & Drives Improvements (6" depth)	1 LS	\$850,000	\$850,000
24	Landscape Buffer Allowance	1 LS	\$15,000	\$15,000
25	Install Turf Seed / Erosion Control	12 AC	\$2,500	\$30,000
				<b>\$4,379,000</b>
			Sub Total	<b>\$4,379,000</b>
			15% Contingencies	\$657,000
			<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST</b>	<b>\$5,036,000</b>

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

This Opinion of Cost is based on 2013 pricing. Not included in this estimate:

- Regulatory, Permitting, Administration and Engineering Fees
- Arcitectural & Structural Design
- Construction Documents / Technical Specifications
- Bidding Assistance
- Site Observation / Construction Assistance / Review

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(Insert 11x17 park exhibit: Larson)



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**LARSON FAMILY SPORTS FIELDS**  
HUXLEY, IOWA

**BUDGETARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST**  
January 18, 2013

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Remove and Dispose Existing Vegetation	1 LS	\$5,000	\$5,000
2	Restroom (27'x27') w/ Storage (30'x60') Building	1 LS	\$350,000	\$350,000
3	Water Service	180 LF	\$25	\$4,500
4	Sanitary Service	180 LF	\$55	\$9,900
5	Electric Service	1 LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
6	PCC Trail (5" depth, 8' width)	1 LS	\$20,000	\$20,000
7	Entry Plaza: PCC Pavement (5" depth)	1 LS	\$12,000	\$12,000
8	Install Turf Seed	5.5 AC	\$2,500	\$13,750
				\$425,150
			Sub Total	<b>\$425,150</b>
			15% Contingencies	\$63,850
			<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST</b>	<b>\$489,000</b>

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

This Opinion of Cost is based on 2013 pricing. Not included in this estimate:

- Regulatory, Permitting, Administration and Engineering Fees
- Arcitectural & Structural Design
- Construction Documents / Technical Specifications
- Site Lighting
- Bidding Assistance
- Site Observation / Construction Assistance / Review

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(Insert 11x17 park exhibit: Memorial)

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**MEMORIAL PARK**  
HUXLEY, IOWA

**BUDGETARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST**  
January 18, 2013

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	PCC Trail (5" depth, 8' width)	1 LS	\$6,500	\$6,500
2	PCC Trail with Thickened Edge Around Play Area (5" depth, 8' width)	1 LS	\$5,300	\$5,300
3	Adjustable Basketball Hoop	1 EA	\$3,500	<u>\$3,500</u>
		Sub Total		<b>\$15,300</b>
		15% Contingencies		\$2,200
		<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST</b>		<b>\$17,500</b>

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

This Opinion of Cost is based on 2013 pricing. Not included in this estimate:

- Regulatory, Permitting, Administration and Engineering Fees
- Arcitectural & Structural Design
- Construction Documents / Technical Specifications
- Site Lighting
- Bidding Assistance
- Site Observation / Construction Assistance / Review



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(Insert 11x17 park exhibit: Nord-Kalsem)



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**NORD-KALSEM PARK**  
**HUXLEY, IOWA**

**BUDGETARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST**  
 January 18, 2013

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Remove and Replace Existing Playground/Swings and Surfacing	1 LS	\$180,000	\$180,000
2	Repairs to Existing Ball Fields: Re-grade and Seed Outfields (2 fields)	1 LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
3	Remove and Replace Existing Basketball Hoops	2 EA	\$3,500	\$7,000
4	PCC Trail (5" depth, 8' width)	1 LS	\$36,000	\$36,000
5	Splash Grounds (Flow-Through System)	1 LS	\$150,000	\$150,000
6	Replace Existing Drinking Fountain	1 LS	\$4,500	\$4,500
		Sub Total		<b>\$233,000</b>
		15% Contingencies		\$35,000
		<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST</b>		<b>\$268,000</b>

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

This Opinion of Cost is based on 2013 pricing. Not included in this estimate:

- Regulatory, Permitting, Administration and Engineering Fees
- Architectural & Structural Design
- Construction Documents / Technical Specifications
- Site Lighting
- Bidding Assistance
- Site Observation / Construction Assistance / Review

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(Insert 11x17 park exhibit: Prairie Ridge)

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**PRAIRIE RIDGE PARK**  
**HUXLEY, IOWA**

**BUDGETARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST**  
 January 18, 2013

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Restroom Facility (26' x 11')	1 LS	\$150,000	\$150,000
2	Water Service	200 LF	\$25	\$5,000
3	Sanitary Service	150 LF	\$55	\$8,250
6	Electric Service	1 LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
4	Drinking Fountain	1 LS	\$4,500	\$4,500
5	PCC Trail with Thickened Edge Around Play Area (5" depth, 8' width)	1 LS	\$15,000	\$15,000
6	PCC Trail (5" depth, 8' width)	1 LS	\$8,000	<u>\$8,000</u>
			Sub Total	<b>\$200,750</b>
			15% Contingencies	\$30,050
			<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST</b>	<b>\$230,800</b>

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

This Opinion of Cost is based on 2013 pricing. Not included in this estimate:

- Regulatory, Permitting, Administration and Engineering Fees
- Arcitectural & Structura Design
- Construction Documents / Technical Specifications
- Bidding Assistance
- Site Observation / Construction Assistance / Review

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(Insert 11x17 park exhibit: Railroad)



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**RAILROAD PARK**  
**HUXLEY, IOWA**

**BUDGETARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST**  
 January 18, 2013

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Minor Earthwork to Improve Drainage	1 LS	\$1,000	\$1,000
2	Rubber Tile Surfacing w/ Concrete Subbase	1 LS	\$16,000	\$16,000
3	Storm Sewer	100 LF	\$60	\$6,000
4	Site Restoration/ Seeding	1 LS	\$1,500	\$1,500
				<b>\$24,500</b>
				15% Contingencies
				<b>\$3,500</b>
				<b>\$28,000</b>

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

This Opinion of Cost is based on 2013 pricing. Not included in this estimate:

- Regulatory, Permitting, Administration and Engineering Fees
- Architectural & Structural Design
- Construction Documents / Technical Specifications
- Bidding Assistance
- Site Observation / Construction Assistance / Review

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(Insert 11x17 park exhibit: Trailridge)



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**TRAILRIDGE PARK**  
**HUXLEY, IOWA**

**BUDGETARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST**  
 January 18, 2013

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Restroom Facility (26' x 11')	1 LS	\$150,000	\$150,000
2	Water Service	580 LF	\$25	\$14,500
3	Sanitary Service	360 LF	\$55	\$19,800
6	Electric Service	1 LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
4	Drinking Fountain	1 LS	\$4,500	\$4,500
5	Bench	1 LS	\$1,200	\$1,200
6	PCC Trail (5" depth, 8' width)	1 LS	\$26,000	<u>\$26,000</u>
			Sub Total	<b>\$226,000</b>
			15% Contingencies	\$33,900
			<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST</b>	<b>\$259,900</b>

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

This Opinion of Cost is based on 2013 pricing. Not included in this estimate:

- Regulatory, Permitting, Administration and Engineering Fees
- Arcitectural & Structura Design
- Construction Documents / Technical Specifications
- Bidding Assistance
- Site Observation / Construction Assistance / Review

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## FUTURE PARK AND TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

### Future Parks:

Although it is important to keep existing parks up to date and in good condition, additional park land will eventually be needed to accommodate the growing population of the City of Huxley. By identifying potential land by its perceived availability and location, the City can begin to plan for the addition of new park land for the future.



Dog Park

### Polices for Park Improvements:

1. Distribute neighborhood parks throughout the community so most households are within ¼ mile of and all are within a ½ mile.
2. Distribute community parks throughout the community so most households are within ½ mile to 1 mile of a community park.
3. Encourage parks to be a central or defining feature of a neighborhood that help create community identity.
4. Provide adequate access to parks by locating them with at least one side fronting a public street.
5. Encourage multiple trail access points where feasible.
6. Encourage interior trail systems within the parks that help encourage a healthy lifestyle and provide more universal accessibility to the park amenities.
7. Provide restrooms and drinking fountains in all existing and future parks where feasible.
8. Encourage the protection of existing riparian areas along waterways such as Ballard Creek in order to help manage storm water and provide opportunities for interaction with Huxley's natural environment.



Skate Park

During the comprehensive planning process the following were recommended by the City of Huxley Parks Board as amenities to consider as additional park land is purchased:

1. Skate Park
  - a. In general, a small beginner skill level skate park costs \$250,000-425,000 for approximately 3000-5000 sf of skating surface. (This does not include cost for land purchase, common amenities and site specific items, such as bringing water and power to the site, parking, fencing, lighting, restrooms, demolition, engineering, design services or construction administration).

2. Ice Skating Rink
  - a. Option 1: Description: system entails a special plastic liner, plastic or plywood sideboards and brackets that are installed over turf grass or a concrete surface. Costs: A system like this can range in cost from \$4000 to \$6500 depending on size and specific materials used to build. (This does not include cost for land purchase, common amenities and site specific items, such as bringing water and power to the site, parking, fencing, lighting, restrooms, major earthwork or materials, demolition, engineering or design services, construction administration or equipment to maintain the ice rink).
  - b. Option 2: Description: A system that is built in conjunction with another paved surface, like a basketball court. The paved area is sunken with a rolled curb boundary. The area is drained through an intake and storm sewer that can be plugged so the area can be flooded during the ice skating season. Costs: For a typical 5' depth pcc basketball court (104'x 70') including the cost of pavement, painted lines and baskets convertible to an ice rink is approximately \$45,000-50,000. The storm sewer costs would depend on the particular site. (This does not include land purchase, common amenities and site specific items, such as bringing water and power to the site, parking, fencing, lighting, restrooms, cost for major earthwork or materials, demolition, engineering or design services, construction administration or equipment to maintain the ice rink).
3. Dog Park
  - a. A typical dog park with a 1 to 1 ½ acre small dog area and a 5 to 10 acre large dog area costs approximately \$160,000. This cost includes fencing, minor sidewalk, 20-25 stall parking lot, drinking fountain, underground sanitary tank and minor earthwork. (This does not include cost for land purchase, major earthwork or materials, demolition, engineering or design services, construction administration and assumes water main and electrical service available within an adjacent ROW).
4. Indoor Practice Facility for Baseball & Softball
  - a. For a 15,000 SF facility one could anticipate \$1,200,000 to \$1,300,000 in cost. The facility includes three indoor cages, restrooms and concession area. (This does not include cost for land purchase, major earthwork or materials, demolition, sidewalk or parking improvements, utility connections, engineering or design services or construction administration).
5. Future Trailheads along the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail
  - a. Costs for a trailhead with small restroom facility, drinking fountain, kiosk, 250 lf of trail, 10-15 stall parking area, bike rack, trash receptacle and a couple benches would range between \$290,000-\$310,000 depending on earthwork and utility connection availability. (This does not include cost for land purchase, major earthwork or materials, demolition, engineering, design services or construction administration).

An aquatic center was discussed but will require a need and feasibility study to further analyze the need for such a facility in the community. This study would need to be evaluated by the City, Parks Board and the City Council based on the cost to build and maintain such a facility. The current needs for a swimming pool or aquatic center are currently being met by adjacent communities such as Slater, Ames and Ankeny.

Trail Improvements:

A trail system helps tie the community together and helps ensure easier and safer non-motorized access to parks and other destination areas. Trails are one of the critical elements in helping engage the community in an active lifestyle and help provide access to the community's natural amenities. The following list and following plan indicate parts of the City where a trail system can improve connections and accessibility throughout the community.

## Policies for Trail Improvements:

1. Connect trails to destination areas (schools, parks, public facilities, regional trails).
2. Multiple trail entrances to a park are encouraged
3. New major collector and arterial roads are built with associated off street trails.
4. Ensure that new minor collector streets are built with on street bike lanes.
5. Connect new developments to the greater trail network as they are built.

During the comprehensive planning process the following are recommended by the City of Huxley Parks Board as future trail improvements:

1. Create an interconnected link of trails throughout the City between destination areas; such as, local parks, regional parks and public facilities. Examples include connections to existing and future parks, Christiansen Forest Preserve, 3Cs, the high school and middle school.
2. Utilize greenway systems for trails where feasible to encourage interaction with the natural environment.
3. Provide trail connections to the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail.
4. Complete the final link of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail from Railroad to 535 Avenue.
5. Pave the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail
6. Provide benches and resting spots along the City trail system, particularly the regional trails.
7. Provide restrooms along the trail corridor in future and existing trailhead locations.
8. Plan for and coordinate with Story County Conservation concerning the development of regional trail from the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail south to the City of Ankeny.



Heart of Iowa Nature Trail

Exhibits:

On the following pages are two plans one showing potential park land and trail routes in relation to future land use while the other demonstrates the future and existing park land service. By identifying potential trail routes and park locations now, the City can plan for the acquisition of future land purchases and trail easements for the future.

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# HUXLEY

— HEART OF THE PRAIRIE —

## FUTURE PARK LAND AND TRAIL ROUTES

### Legend

#### Public Facilities

- 1. Citizen's Community Center - (3C's)
- 2. High School
- 3. Middle School

#### Parks

- 4. Centennial Park
- 5. Memorial Park
- 6. Nord-Kalsem Park
- 7. Railroad Park
- 8. Berhow Park
- 9. Trailridge Park
- 10. Larson Family Sports Fields
- 11. Prairie Ridge Park

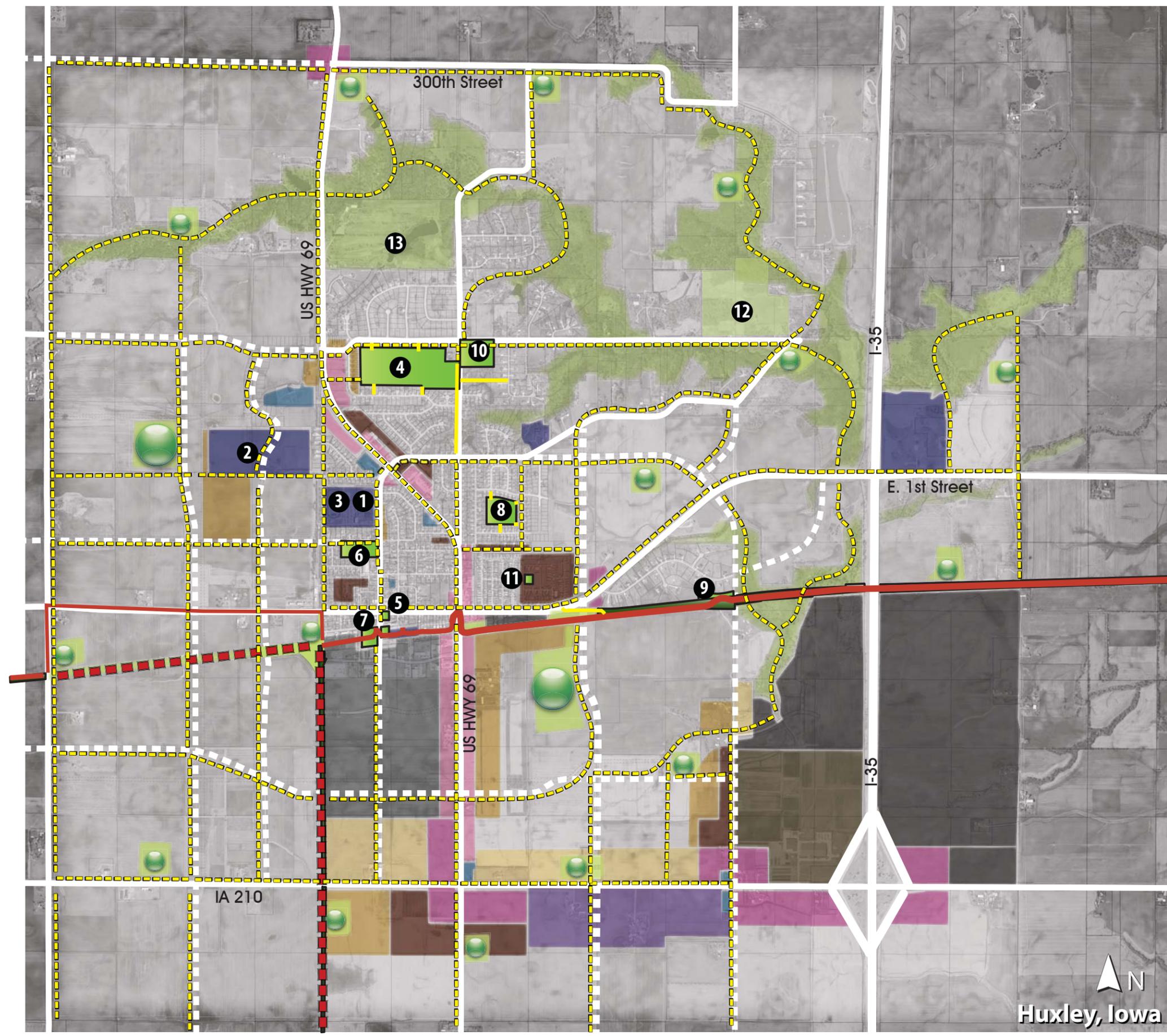
#### Other Recreational Resources

- 12. Christiansen Forest Preserve
- 13. Ballard Country Club

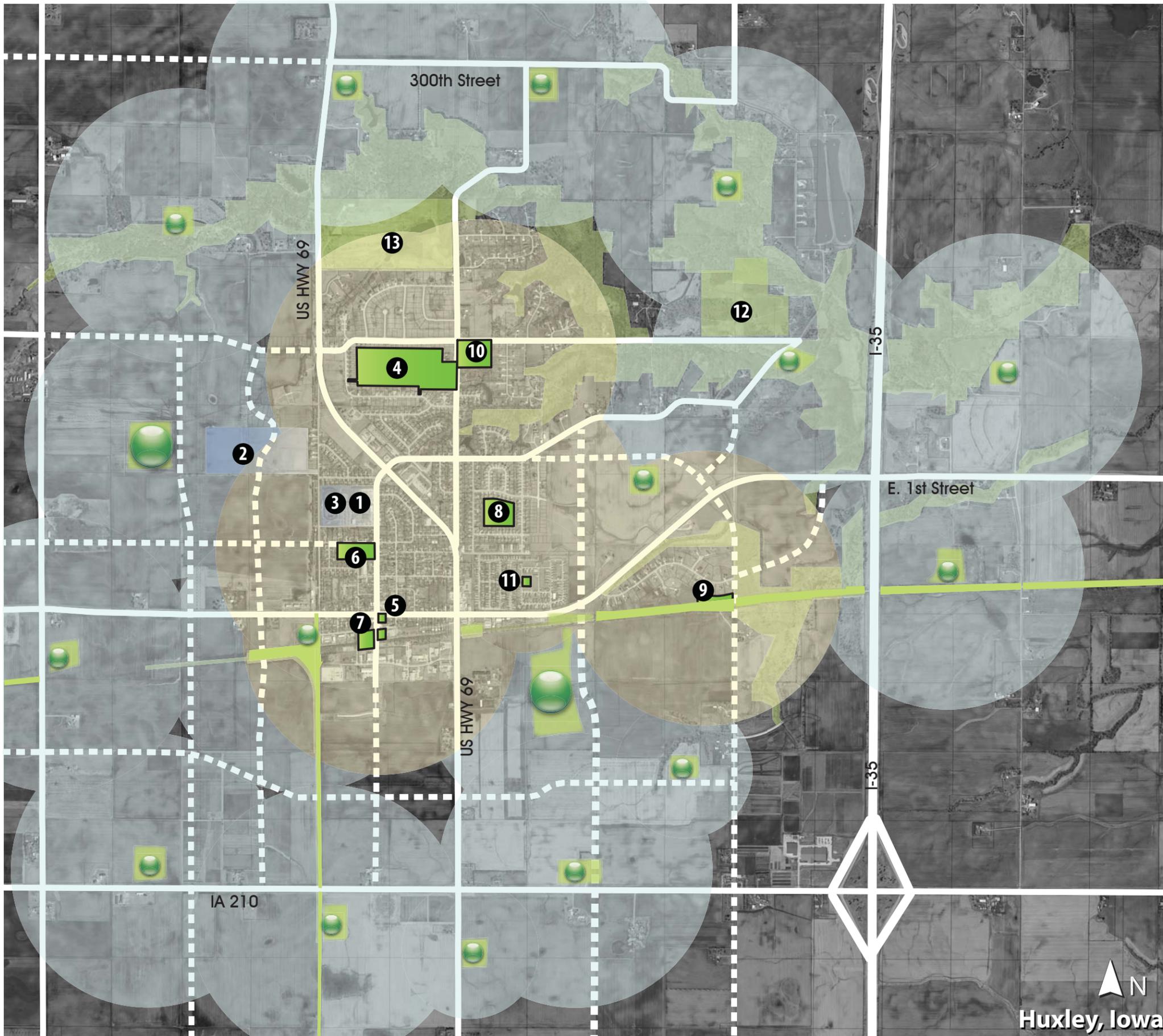
- Open Space
- Existing Park
- Future Neighborhood Park (1-10 Acres)
- Future Community Park (30-50 Acres)

- #### Future Land Use
- Civic: Religious
  - Civic: Government/ Schools
  - Low Density Residential
  - Medium Density Residential
  - High Density Residential / Mobile Home Park
  - Mixed Use
  - Neighborhood/Highway Commercial
  - Retail/Office
  - Office Park
  - Light Industrial
  - Light Industrial/Agribusiness
  - General/Heavy Industrial

- Regional Trail
- Future Regional Trail
- Existing City Trail
- Proposed City Trail



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# HUXLEY

— HEART OF THE PRAIRIE —

## PARK SERVICE AREAS

### Legend

#### Public Facilities

- 1. Citizen's Community Center - (3C's)
- 2. High School
- 3. Middle School

#### Parks

- 4. Centennial Park
- 5. Memorial Park
- 6. Nord / Kalsem Park
- 7. Railroad Park
- 8. Berhow Park
- 9. Trailridge Park
- 10. Larson Family Sports Fields
- 11. Prairie Ridge Park

#### Other Recreational Resources

- 12. Christiansen Forest Preserve
- 13. Ballard Country Club

- Open Space / Existing Park
- Future Park

- Service Area Existing (1/4-1/2 Mile)

- Service Area Proposed (1/4-1/2 Mile)



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## **PARK PRIORITY LIST**

During the planning process the City of Huxley’s Park Board identified the following top five priorities in order of importance in relation to park improvements:

1. Centennial Park improvements including additional ball fields to meet the growing needs of the local little league program. The restrooms, concession building and parking should also be updated in order to accommodate the additional users.
2. Nord-Kalsem improvements including the ballfields and other park amenities such as playground and splash park improvements.
3. Improve grass conditions for soccer fields at Larson Family Sports Fields.
4. Provide restrooms, drinking fountain and storage at Larson Family Sports Fields.
5. Trail connection to Sand Cherry from Trailridge Park.

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