



# Danville Parks & Recreation Master Plan



**Created as a supplement to the  
“Danville 2025” City of Danville Comprehensive Plan**



# City Officials

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# Danville Parks Master Plan

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# Introduction

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The City of Danville Community Development Department, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Division, undertook the process of updating the City of Danville Park Master Plan in June of 2018. There are numerous reasons to establish and create this Plan but overall it is for the development and enhancement of the City's Park System for the citizens of our community. The Plan also establishes a vision for that future, as this serves to describe and reinforce the worth, roles and future of individual parks, and the park system, to the community. By creating this Plan, we will be able to coordinate improvement opportunities through investments and services over a long term. This plan will also provide the ability to market to State and Federal entities to gather additional funding for future improvements. Planning efforts overall, such as the creation of this Plan, simply ensures that new investment supports what is already in place, and establishing flexible directions for the short term while also conveying broad policy directions for the future. Though Danville has 130% of the Open Space suggested by the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA), with population projections, this should be allowed to easily increase with growing population or land acquisition opportunities. This is based on the City of Danville Comprehensive Plan 2005-2006 Update where population was estimated at 34,000, the City of Danville including 477 acres of Open Park space, giving Citizens of Danville 14 acres per 1000 people while based against the NRPA's 10.5 acres per 1000 citizen suggestions.





# Why Plan for Parks?

Public parks and recreation is an essential aspect of any city and community. The benefits of having a quality parks system are a combination of economic and social. A quality parks system can make a city more desirable for both families and businesses, increase property values, and can provide revenue to a city both directly and indirectly. There are also public health, environmental, and community benefits that parks can provide. Parks can give individuals opportunities to be physically active, offer recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities and reduce stress. In regards to the environment, public parks and green space can improve air quality with a proper tree canopy and promote environmentally sustainable practices. The social benefits of parks cannot be understated. Parks provide the community with a location where individuals and social groups alike can congregate. They also contribute to the character and culture of a community which can give residents a sense of pride and ownership of their spaces. Many parks in Danville have historic aspects to them and are essential in preserving the history of the city. Preserving these sites is fundamental to planning for our parks in the long-term. As the National Recreation and Parks Association states, “Parks have a value to communities that transcend the amount of dollars invested or the revenues gained from fees. Parks provide a sense of public pride and cohesion to every community.” A quality and accessible park system should be a pillar of any successful city and community.



# Parks and Recreation Guiding Principles

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## Parks & Recreation



To properly plan for the Danville Parks System, we have identified five key themes which represent areas of focus - upon which recommendations for the parks are based.



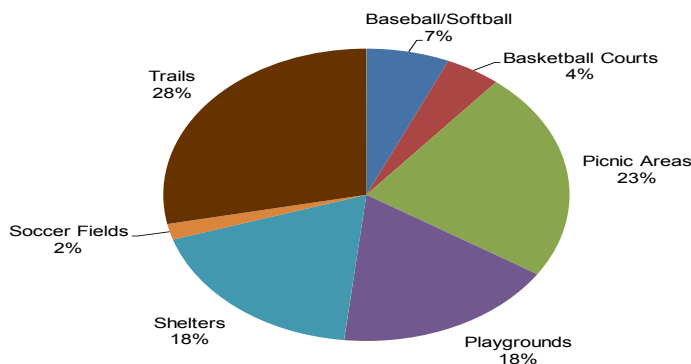
# Community

Understanding the wants and needs of our community is essential to creating a parks system that meets the needs of all residents.

Public parks are essential to cities and communities as they provide spaces for people to congregate with family and friends, engage in recreational activities, or simply relax. Open spaces such as parks provide an essential service to communities in this way. Danville is a diverse community with diverse interests. In working to plan for and improve our parks, we must understand what our community wants and needs from them. In the 2014 Danville Parks Master Plan Survey, respondents identified several aspects of Danville's public parks that could be improved. In regards to facilities, respondents indicated that our parks facilities are in need of more trails, shelters, picnic areas, playgrounds, and areas for sports including soccer, basketball, and baseball/softball. Respondents to the survey also gave several rankings to different aspects of our parks including location, landscaping, accessibility, signage, and safety. The overall grades given to Danville's parks by respondents are as follows:

- **Location: C**
- **Landscaping: C -**
- **Accessibility: D+**
- **Signage: D**
- **Safety: F**

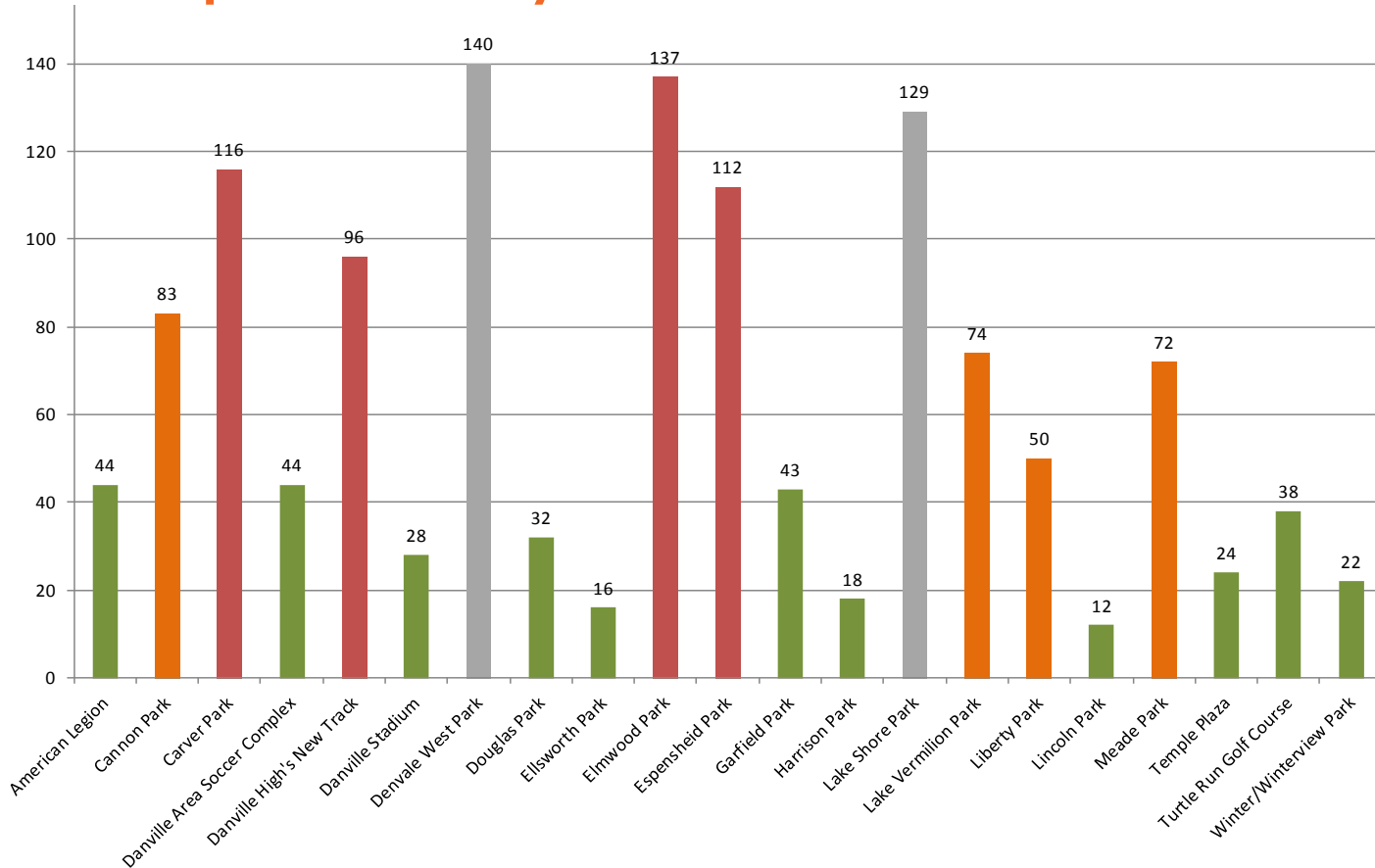
## What facilities do we need?



When planning for our parks system it is necessary to address public concerns and perceptions of our parks in order to create parks that serve the interests of the community. Park users identified safety as the most glaring issue our parks face. If the public perceives our parks to be unsafe, this creates a barrier for them to properly use and engage with our parks system. Making parks safer can be a challenging task that does not have a single clear solution. To address this will involve aspects of design, services and programs, and community involvement.

The graph below shows that many residents have not visited several of our parks. This could be due to various reasons such as the accessibility of the parks, knowledge of the parks, or residents choosing not to use the park due to safety or other concerns.

## Which parks have you NOT visited?



Improvements such as better lighting or emergency phones/call boxes will give park users a sense of safety as well as allow for better surveillance in parks and response to emergency situations.

# Recommendations

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The following recommendations would have a positive impact on public perceptions of Danville's Parks and Recreation:

- **Locate programmed activities near the park perimeter, beside an entrance or along a main pedestrian path.**
- **Improved lighting both in and around park facilities will improve the perception of safety while also allowing for better surveillance of the park**
- **Access to emergency phones throughout park facilities will give users a better sense of safety.**
- **Maximum physical access to parks via bicycle and pedestrian paths.**
- **Offer more programs and facilities that increase human activity in and around parks.**
- **Clear and understandable signage helps enhance the feeling of safety because it allows people to orient themselves**
- **Ensure that all park facilities are handicap accessible**
- **Ensure that surrounding pedestrian infrastructure such as sidewalks, cross walks, and bus shelters are handicap accessible**
- **Improve landscaping in and around parks**
- **Engage with the community to find solutions**

# Historic Preservation

Identifying and preserving the historic sites in Danville's parks is a fundamental aspect of planning for our parks.

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Danville parks contain a variety of historic landmarks and sites that are important to the history of the city. Preserving these landmarks is an integral aspect of planning for our parks system. Historic sites and landmarks serve as tourist attractions to attract people to the community and remind us of our rich history. Historic buildings, when properly maintained, also add character, culture, and beauty to a community. Historic designations have also been shown to have a positive impact on property values. The historic landmarks and sites in Danville parks include:

- **Baum Courtyard** – Original site of the Baum Building, built in 1908
- **Danville Stadium** – Built in 1946
- **Potawatomi “Trail of Death” Marker** – Located in Ellsworth Park, this marker signifies the location where the Potawatomi tribe camped during their forced removal from Indiana on their way to Kansas in 1838
- **Lamon House** – Located in Lincoln park, built in 1850
- **Lindley Sign Post Forest** – In 1942, Carl K. Lindley, a G.I. stationed at Watson Lake in Alaska erected a sign showing the direction and mileage to his hometown of Danville, IL. Over time, more people added signs creating a massive sign post forest. The Danville version was created in 2010
- **“The Temple” Archway** – Located in Temple Plaza, the archway is the original entrance to the masonic temple that once stood at the site of the plaza. Built in 1901
- **Victory Monument Plaza** – Contains the Victory Monument which was created by Lorado Taft, who also created the Alma Mater statue at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign among others. This monument is one of 225 World War I monuments in the state of Illinois. Created in 1922.
- **Harrison Park Clubhouse** – Located in Harrison Park Golf Course, built in 1911





Lamon House, Lincoln Park



"The Temple" Archway, Temple Plaza



Potawatomi "Trail of Death" Marker, Ellsworth Park



Baum Courtyard



Victory Monument, Victory Monument Plaza



Danville Stadium



# Recommendations

The following recommendations will help protect and preserve the historical sites in Danville's parks:

- Ensure all historic sites and landmarks in and around Danville's parks have been identified
- Create comprehensive guidelines for historic preservation
- Continue to preserve and maintain the historic landmarks in and around Danville's parks
- Create programs that educate residents and visitors about Danville's history and landmarks
- Create protections for historic sites and landmarks from new developments
- Restore and relocate the Lorado Taft Victory Monument
- Clear signage that designates and informs park users about historic landmarks
- Create storyboards at historic sites that educate park users on the history of a particular landmark

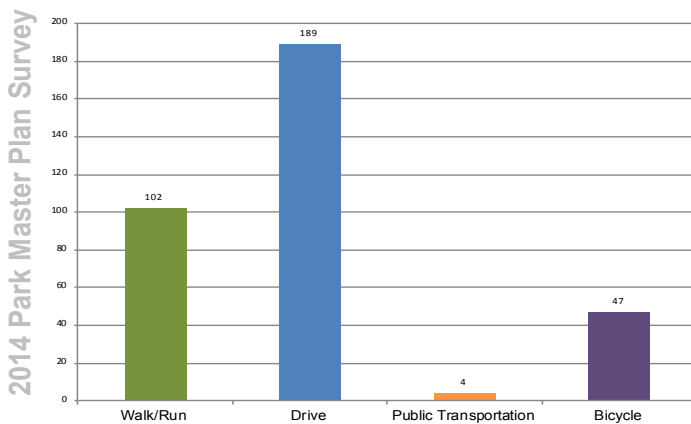


# Accessibility

“The very philosophy of public parks and recreation is that all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, age, income level, physical ability, sexual orientation, gender or religion—are able to take advantage of quality programs, facilities, places and spaces that make their lives and communities great.” - National Parks and Recreation Association, 2018



“Ride with the Mayor,” 2015

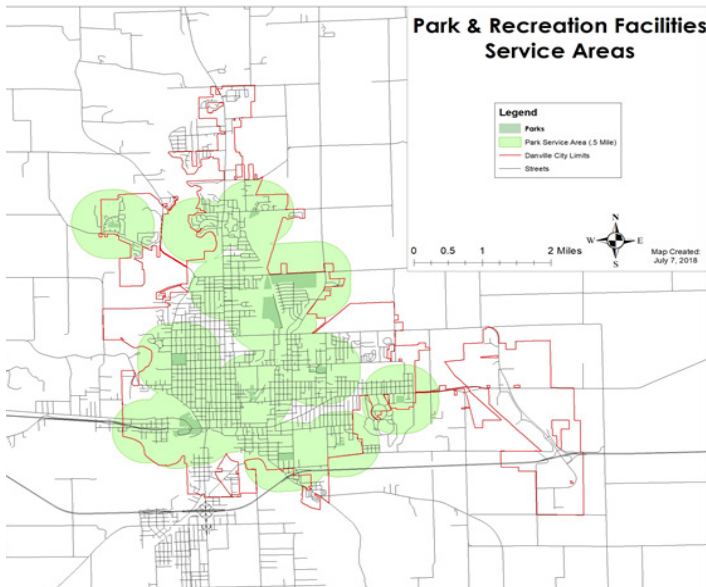


## How do you access Parks?

The chart above shows what modes of transportation people use to access our parks. Driving is overwhelmingly the most used method followed by walking/running. Public transportation and cycling make up a small portion of how people access our parks.

When planning for our parks system we must account for the accessibility of our parks. Are our residents able to sufficiently access our parks? Are our parks accessible to individuals with disabilities? Are there any barriers that would limit or prevent people from accessing our parks? **Only 72% of people in Vermilion County have access to exercise opportunities.** This is lower than the state of Illinois percentage of 91%. This statistic highlights the need to increase access to parks and recreation facilities and opportunities. To understand how to provide people with better access to our parks and recreation facilities, we must examine what modes of transportation individuals use to reach these places. **According to a 2014 survey, 55% of respondents reported using an automobile as their mode of transportation to parks. 14% reported cycling and around 1% reported using public transportation to access Danville parks.** Increasing access to Danville parks will require promoting multiple modes of transportation including walking, cycling, and public transit. This is important because about 6.2% of households in Danville do not own an automobile. Promoting active modes of transportation and





**Current Danville Parks & Recreation Facilities Service Areas**



**AMBUCS Playground located in Winter Park is a play area that is accessible to people of many different physical ability levels and a great model of an accessible park amenity**

public transportation will reduce the city’s reliance on automobiles and make our parks more accessible to those who do not own their own automobile. Reducing automobile use while promoting other modes of transportation will have benefits beyond increased accessibility to our parks such as improved public health and fewer emissions. When examining accessibility we must also examine how accessible our parks are for individuals with disabilities. In Vermilion County, **15.04% of the population has a disability**. Ensuring that our public parks can be accessed by all members of our community regardless of ability should be considered a right, not a privilege. According to the 2014 Danville Parks Master Plan survey, respondents gave Danville’s parks a “D+” in accessibility for individuals with disabilities. It is clear that the community feels that there is need for improvement for our parks in this respect. Many of Danville’s parks and recreational facilities were created before the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), this means there could be several facilities that do not meet the requirements set forth by the ADA. Improving the accessibility of new and existing facilities will be important for ensuring that users with disabilities can sufficiently access them. A fundamental goal of parks and recreation should be to ensure that they are truly accessible to all members of our community.



# Recommendations

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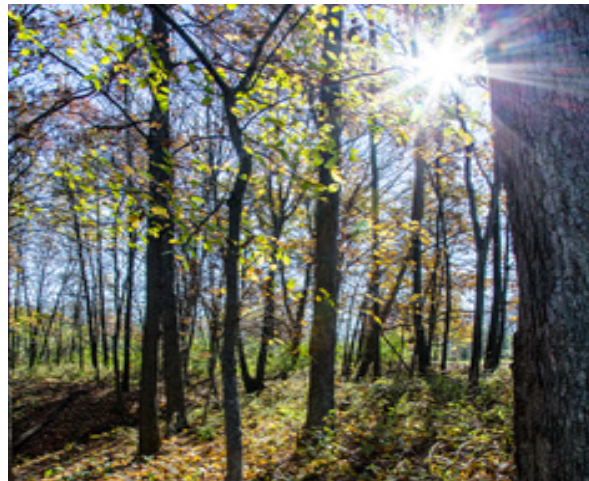
The following recommendations will improve the overall accessibility of Danville's Parks and Recreation:

- **Ensure that all City of Danville Parks and Recreation facilities meet Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) standards and requirements.**
- **Provide accessible information on Danville's Parks and Recreation activities and facilities, recognizing individuals with visual, hearing, or cognitive impairments and those who do not speak English as a first language.**
- **Stated Parks and Recreation policy or support for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in facilities and programming**
- **Establish ongoing, periodic training for agency personnel and volunteers regarding accessible and inclusive concepts and practices for people with disabilities.**
- **Install bicycle racks, shelters and other bicycle infrastructure at parks.**
- **Improve Danville Mass Transit stops located at or near parks by adding benches, shelters, and clear signage.**
- **Create new or add to existing park facilities to expand the current service area of Danville's parks.**
- **Integrated recreation activities and programming for individuals with and without disabilities when applicable and feasible.**
- **Public programming and marketing that reflects the diversity of communities and includes people with disabilities.**

# Sustainability

Preserving the Danville area's natural landscapes as well as promoting environmentally sustainable practices is crucial to the long term planning of our parks system

Parks can play an important role in promoting and preserving our natural resources and landscapes as well as promoting environmentally sustainable practices. The City of Danville has access to three County parks and one state park all within a 15 minute drive from the city. These parks are essential not only to providing recreational opportunities for the area, but also in preserving our natural landscapes and wildlife. **Over the past two centuries, 99% of native prairie's in the Midwest have been destroyed and Illinois ranks 49th in states with remaining native vegetation.** This statistic highlights the importance of protecting our nature and wildlife reserves for future generations. These types of parks are also important for the city's economy as they attract people to the community for tourism and recreation. Urban parks and green space can play a role in promoting environmentally sustainable practices as well. As mentioned earlier, urban trees can remove pollutants from the air which can not only improve our air quality but also lower our carbon footprint. Parks can also be used as a means of managing storm water to prevent flooding. Vegetation and soil can be used to mitigate the effects of impermeable surfaces from roadways or parking lots and allow for better drainage. Our parks system gives us the opportunity to work towards an environmentally sustainable future as well as provide a better quality of life for Danville residents.



Kennekuk Park



Arbor Day Celebration, 2010



Great American Cleanup, 2013

# Recommendations

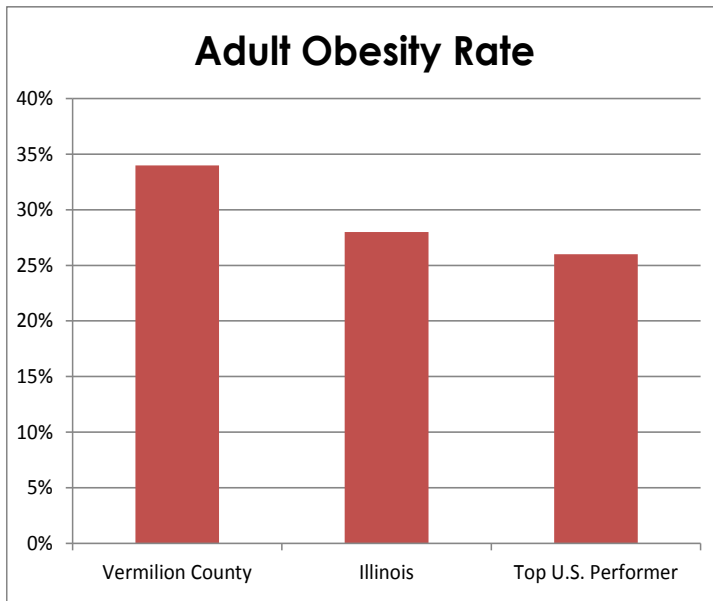
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The following recommendations would improve the environmental sustainability of Danville's Parks & Recreation facilities:

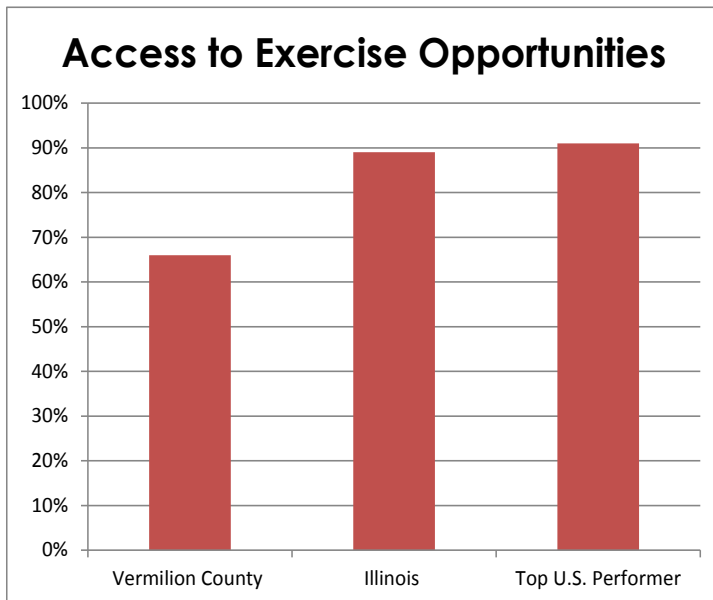
- Improve the energy efficiency of Danville's Parks and Recreation facilities by installing energy efficient lights, improving the energy efficiency of buildings and structures, and make use of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.
  - Increase Danville's urban tree canopy by planting more trees in parks and throughout the city.
  - Obtain the "Tree City USA" designation.
  - Create programs, classes and activities that educate the community about environmentally sustainable practices.
  - Ensure facilities are accessible by modes of transportation other than the automobiles (such as walking, biking, and public transit) to reduce the city's carbon footprint.
  - Establish and promote community gardens.
  - Create a community composting program and create programs that teach the community about composting.
  - Set up educational kiosks, displays, and bulletin boards in public areas that promote environmentally sustainable practices.
  - Create and promote "pollinator pockets" that attract and nurture pollinators such as bees, butterflies and moths
  - Promote the "Leaf-a-Legacy" program to encourage more planting of trees on public land
  - Complete a tree inventory to maintain and identify improvements to Danville's urban tree canopy
-

# Public Health

Addressing public health through our parks system requires understanding the relationship between public parks and recreation and our resident's physical and mental health



County Health Rankings, 2014



The graph above shows the percent of population with access to exercise opportunities. Adequate access to exercise opportunities is defined as individuals residing in a census block within half a mile of a park or:

- In urban census blocks: reside within one mile of a recreational facility or
- In rural census blocks: reside within three miles of a recreational facility

There is a direct relationship between a quality public parks and recreation system and public health. Parks provide a community with opportunities for physical activity and recreation which has a positive impact on public health. Addressing public health through parks and recreation requires understanding public health not just in the physical sense, but also mental, emotional and environmental. High levels of physical inactivity can contribute to higher rates of obesity as well as health issues such as type II diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and other diseases. **In Vermilion County, 28% of adults report being physically inactive**, this is higher than the state of Illinois percentage of 22%. Vermilion County also sees higher rates of obesity than the rest of the state. **In Vermilion County, the adult obesity rate is 34%** which is down some from recent years, but still much higher than the state of Illinois percentage of 28%. When looking at access to exercise opportunities, **only 72% of people in Vermilion County have access to exercise opportunities**. This is lower than the state of Illinois percentage of 91%. While these statistics are not solely related to parks systems, access to parks and recreation opportunities, or lack thereof, can be a contributing factor to overall





Summer Sounds Festival, Downtown Danville

public health outcomes. There is also a correlation between parks and improved mental health. While there are mental health benefits of being physically active, the mere presence of parks and green space in a community has been shown to have a positive impact on mental health by reducing stress and giving people a space to engage with nature. **Vermilion County residents report having an average of 4 poor mental health days in a 30 day period which is higher than the state average of 3.5.** Urban parks and trees have been shown to improve air quality by removing pollutants and greenhouse gases from the air. Having a robust and accessible parks system is an essential aspect of addressing and improving public health in any community. Data from Vermilion County suggests that there are many shortcomings in how we address public health. A combination of improved facilities, programs, and outreach could play a significant role in improving overall public health for the community.



Healthy Parks Healthy People, Bay Area

# Recommendations

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The following recommendations to Danville's parks would have a positive impact on the city's overall public health:

- Provide information to parks users and the community about the benefits of being physically active and other healthy practices
- Ban the use of tobacco products at parks and recreation facilities to protect the health of park users, staff, and the environment
- Establish a community gardening program and promote the consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Create programs and/or educational classes targeted at youth to teach them healthy practices and increase physical activity
- Create park programs for adults such as yoga or walking/running clubs
- Create park programs for seniors such as exercise, socials, or art classes
- Ensure walking and cycling trails are maintained and accessible



# Parks System-Wide Recommendations

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The following recommendations are general improvements that could be made to all park facilities throughout the city:

- Install public restroom facilities at parks
- Remove old and underused tennis courts
- Improve facilities for football and basketball
- Create a centralized location for youth football
- Install new facilities for alternative sports such as Frisbee Golf and Pickle Ball
- Improve crosswalks around parks
- Expand shared-use paths throughout parks
- Eliminate unnecessary pavement and parking lots
- Renovate playgrounds and play areas where applicable
- Stormwater drainage improvements
- Expand pedestrian and bicycle trails



# Parks Inventory

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## Classifications

### Pocket Parks:

### 0-1 acre

Baum Courtyard	.09 acres
Danville Library Lawn	.33 acres
Kresge Park	.75 acres
Lindley Sign Post Forest	.21 acres
Palace Park	.24 acres
Reed Park	.12 acres
Temple Plaza	.22 acres
Victory Monument Plaza	.69 acres

### Neighborhood Parks:

### 1-10 acre

Cannon Park	5.1 acres
Carver Park	9.5 acres
Denvale West Park	9.3 acres
Douglas Park	18.2 acres
Elmwood Park	4 acres
Garfield Park	12.3 acres
Lake Shore Park	.78 acres
Liberty Park	7.1 acres
Meade Park	9.6 acres

### Community Parks:

### 10-50 acres

Carver Park North	17.1 acres
Danville Stadium	15.1 acres
Ellsworth Park	61.9 acres
Espensheid Park	70.1 acres
Harrison Park Golf Course & Clubhouse	228.3 acres
Lake Vermilion County Park	6.4 acres
Lincoln Park	22 acres
Producer Park	5.2 acres
Wayland - Young Athletic Facility	12.8 acres
Winter Park & AMBUCS Playground	25.8 acres
Winterview Park & Soccer Complex	56.4 acres

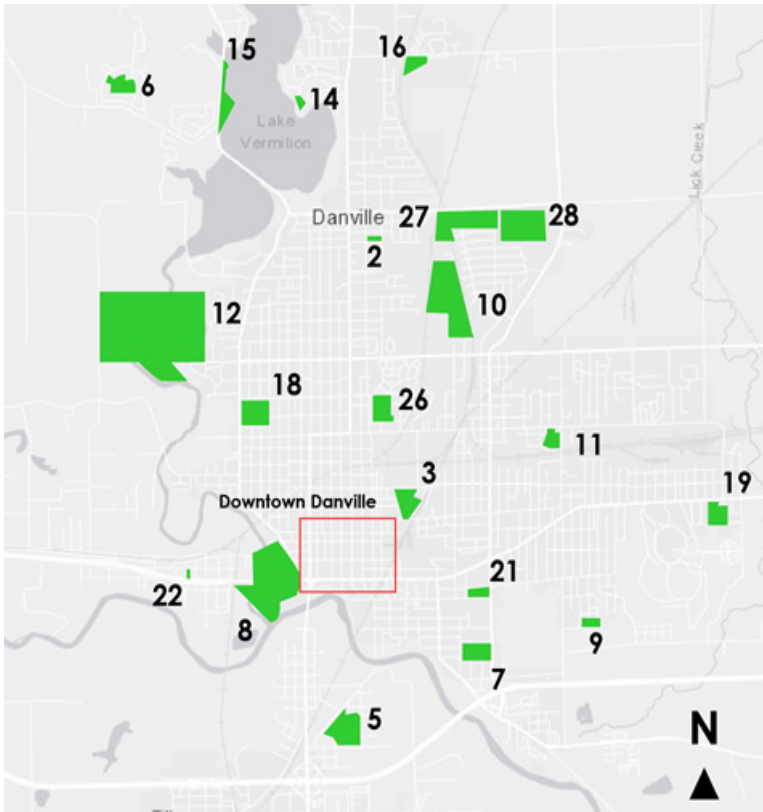
### Regional Parks:

### 50+ acres

Heron County Park Wetland & Boardwalk	52.6 acres
Kennekuk Cove County Park	3000 acres



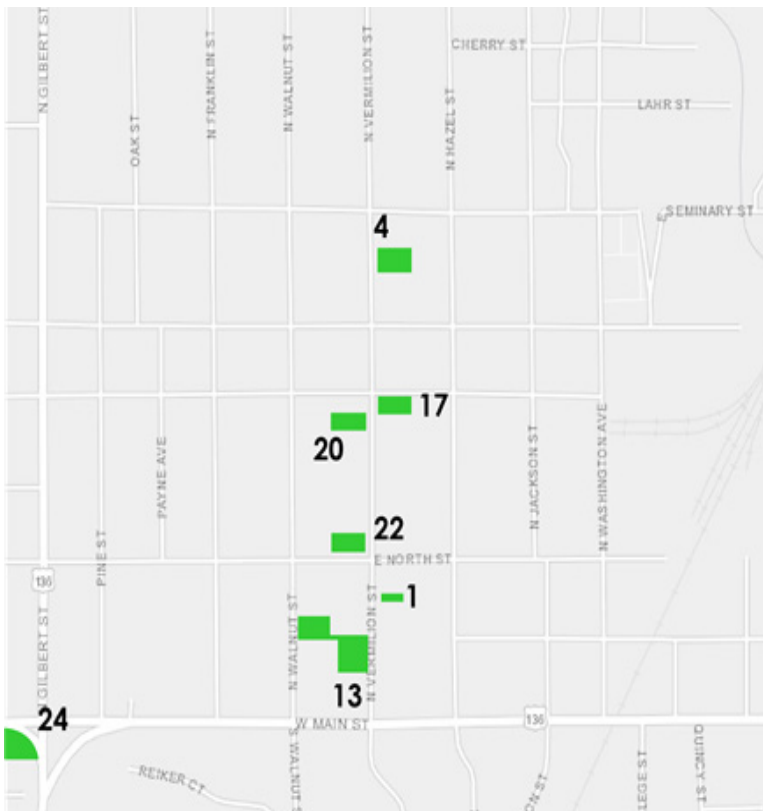
## Danville Parks Location Map



## Park Inventory:

- 1: Baum Courtyard
- 2: Cannon Park
- 3: Carver Park
- 4: Danville Library Lawn
- 5: Danville Stadium
- 6: Denvale West Park
- 7: Douglas Park
- 8: Ellsworth Park
- 9: Elmwood Park
- 10: Espensheid Park
- 11: Garfield Park
- 12: Harrison Park Golf Course
- 13: Kresge Park
- 14: Lake Shore Park
- 15: Lake Vermilion County Park
- 16: Liberty Park
- 17: Lindley Sign Post Forest
- 18: Lincoln Park
- 19: Meade Park
- 20: Palace Park
- 21: Producer Park
- 22: Reed Park
- 23: Temple Plaza
- 24: Victory Monument Plaza
- 25: Wayland-Young Athletic Facility
- 26: Winter Park & AMBUCS Playground
- 27: Winterview Park & Soccer Complex

## Downtown Parks Location Map



# Current Park Ammenities

Parks and Recreation Supply Inventory Matrix																						
Location / Park Type	size acre	picnic areas	pool	spray park	play ground	base ball	soft ball	foot ball	basket ball	tennis court	soccer field	shelter	stage	skate board	trail	sand v-ball	golf	fishing	boat ramp	natural area	horse shoes	art/ sculpture
Neighborhood Parks	85.3																					
Cannon Park	5.1																					
Carver Park	11								2													
Douglas Park	15.6											2										20
Elmwood Park	4																					
Garfield Park	12.4								2													
Liberty Park	7.1									3												
Lincoln Park	22								2	2												
Meade Park	9.6									2												
Community Parks	214																					
Ellsworth Park	61.9																					
Espensheid Park	70.1																					
Winter Park	25.8						2			3	4											
Winterview Park	56.4					3				5						2						
Special Use Areas	243																					
Danville Stadium	15.2																					
Harrison Park	228																					
Southgate Habitat	12																					
Mini - Parks	0.12																					
Verm. Hts. Tot Lot	0.12																					
Public Spaces	1																					
Baum Courtyard	0.09																					
Temple Plaza	0.22																					
Victory Monument	0.69																					
Lingley Signpost For																						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>

## Comparison of Existing Recreational Facilities with National Park & Recreation Standards

Facility Type	National Standard/Pop	# of Facilities in Danville	Need/Pop 33,027	Need vs Standard for Danville
Baseball/Softball Fields	1 per 2,500	20	14	Community Adequately Served
Soccer Fields	1 per 2,500	11	14	Community NOT Adequately Served
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1 per 2,500	13	14	Community NOT Adequately Served
Tennis Courts	1 per 4,000	11	9	Community Adequately Served
Football Fields	1 per 10,000	3	4	Community NOT Adequately Served
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	1 per 4,000	2	9	Community NOT Adequately Served
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	3	2	Community Adequately Served
Golf Courses (18 hole)	1 per 20,000	3	2	Community Adequately Served
Playground Facilities	1 per 2,000	20	17	Community Adequately Served
<b>Total Park Acres</b>	<b>10 acres per 1,000</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>330 acres</b>	<b>Community Adequately Served</b>

While in general the community is considered “adequately served” by current recreational facilities there are still shortcomings in the community’s access to certain types of facilities. There is currently a lack of football and soccer fields, outdoor basketball courts and outdoor volleyball fields while there is an excess of baseball/softball fields and tennis courts.

# Recreation Inventory

There are a variety of programs and activities available to youth, adults and the elderly in the Danville's parks system ranging from sports, arts and culture, and other recreational activities.

## Programs:

- Adult Kickball League
- Adult Coed Softball
- Adult Men's Softball
- AMBUCS Challenger Baseball
- American Legion Youth Baseball
- Annual "Cub's Excursion"
- Annual Golden Wedding Celebration
- Danville Area Soccer Association
- Danville Tennis Center
- Lifeguard Certification
- Winterview Youth Softball

## Festivals and Other Events:

- Fall Festival
- Balloons Over Vermilion
- Arts in the Park
- Springfest
- Summer Sounds Concert Series
- ArtBeat Music Week
- First Fridays





# Other Facilities & Special Use Areas

In addition to the city's park facilities and recreation programs there are also a number of other recreational facilities and programs in and around the city.

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- **David S. Palmer Arena** - The David S. Palmer Arena is a multi-purpose arena which has a seating capacity of 4,750 for concerts and 2,350 for sports.
- **YMCA** - Community-focused nonprofit established in 1844 with recreational programs & services for all ages.
- **Boys & Girl Club of Danville** - A non-profit organization dedicated to serving youth ages 6 -18 years by offering after school programs, recreational activities, community engagement, and more.
- **American Legion Ballfields** - The American Legion Ballfields offer a youth baseball program for children ages 6 to 15
- **Danville Tennis Center** - Offers memberships, tournaments, clinics and other activities.
- **Illini Skateland** - Offers roller skating, lazer tag, miniature golf, and batting cages.
- **Southgate Habitat Trail** - Offers a trail and 4.5 acre pond. The surrounding area features native trees, shrubs, and grasses. A variety of wildlife including ducks, herons, and other waterfowl are present. Paved parking and a small picnic shelter is available.
- **School Playgrounds** - Many of the local elementary schools offer playground and park space that are available to the public





# Cannon Park

1701 N Jackson Street



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

5.1 Acres

## Inventory

Pedestrian Bridges

Picnic Areas

Natural Stream

Tennis Court

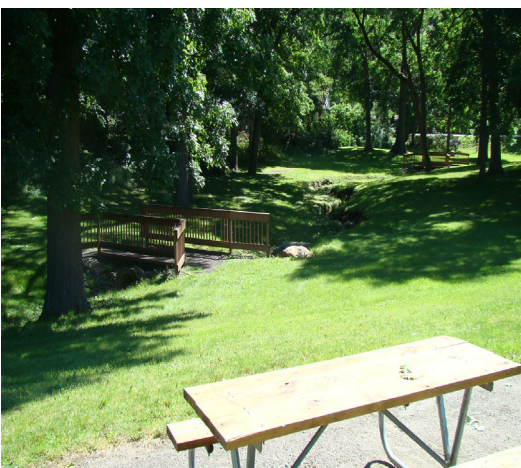


## About

Cannon Park is located directly North of North Ridge Middle School. Surrounded by thirteen homes it is nestled along a stream bed and low area in the neighborhood. Located also off the future Jackson Street Corridor , it will be one of three possible parks to influence the Corridor along with Carver Park and the Wayland - Young Athletic Facility.

## Recommendations

Tie in Jackson Street Corridor shared use path to showcase this small neighborhood park. Addition of a shelter for use by citizens and by students of North Ridge Middle School. Sidewalk connection along with parking lot improvements. Continue tennis court infrastructure improvements annually. Pedestrian Bridge improvements including erosion control and retention walls along creek bed, along with bridge aesthetics improvements.





# Cannon Park Current Site Plan



# Cannon Park Concept Design



# Carver Park

420 E Williams Street



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

9.5 Acres

## Inventory

Baseball/Softball Field

Two (2) Basketball Courts

Parking

Picnic Areas

Playground

Restroom

Shelter

Two (2) Tennis Courts



## About

Carver Park was recently updated after receiving grant money to facilitate improvements. The new playground equipment is ADA accessible along with improved sidewalks. The Shelter hosts a concession stand and restrooms, providing valuable amenities to those attending one of the local basketball tournaments.

A Prairie Restoration project is home to the Parks old playground equipment that was removed. This park is directly south of the proposed "Carver Park North", the site of the original Carver Park in the 1940's. Upkeep of the Park, and future connection to "Carver Park North" and the Jackson Street Corridor Shared Use Path should be taken into account to gain more access for this isolated Park.





# Carver Park Current Site Plan



# “Carver Park North” Concept Design





# Danville Library Lawn

317 N Vermilion Street



## Classification

Pocket Park

.33 Acres

## Inventory

Children's Garden

Lawn

Winding Sidewalk

## About

The Danville Library Lawn, once home to a local Elks building, is located directly west of Danville Public Library and directly north of the Carnegie Library, the current Vermilion County War Museum. In the Spring of 2013, a sidewalk and sod were added to the lawn. The Danville Library Lawn is also home to a Children's Garden.



# Baum Courtyard

41 N Vermilion Street



## Classification

Pocket Park

.09 Acres

## Inventory

Artwork

Boardwalk

Benches

Shaded Seating

## About

Baum Courtyard is located where the original Baum Building stood. Built in 1908 by Jenney Mundie & Jensen who also built the First National Bank Building (Breese Tower) stood as one of three “skyscraper” style buildings in Downtown Danville. The building was seven stories tall and contained both 41 and 43 N Vermilion Street addresses. The building was home to many occupations including optometrists, dentists, lawyers and barbers. The building, alongside the Temple Building, was placed on the 2001 Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois’s Ten Most Endangered Historic Places, but it was demolished. The Courtyard connects Vermilion Street to the alley behind the buildings on the first block of Vermilion Street. There is seating, landscape and a boardwalk walkway. Possible new amenities include the addition of public restroom facilities.





# Danville Stadium

401 Highland Boulevard



## Classification

Community Park

15.1 Acres

## Inventory

Baseball Field

Restroom

Shelter

Stadium

## About

Danville Stadium is a staple for summer in Danville. Years of history have made this Stadium an important asset to Danville Parks and Recreation Department. By highlighting the stadium through less surface parking and an improved sidewalk network we can guarantee years of enjoyment. To alleviate some of the general “wear and tear” a practice field northeast of the Stadium would benefit the multiple teams that use the historic field. Connecting the Stadium with current sidewalk systems, neighborhood and local school will make the facility more walkable and improve the flow.

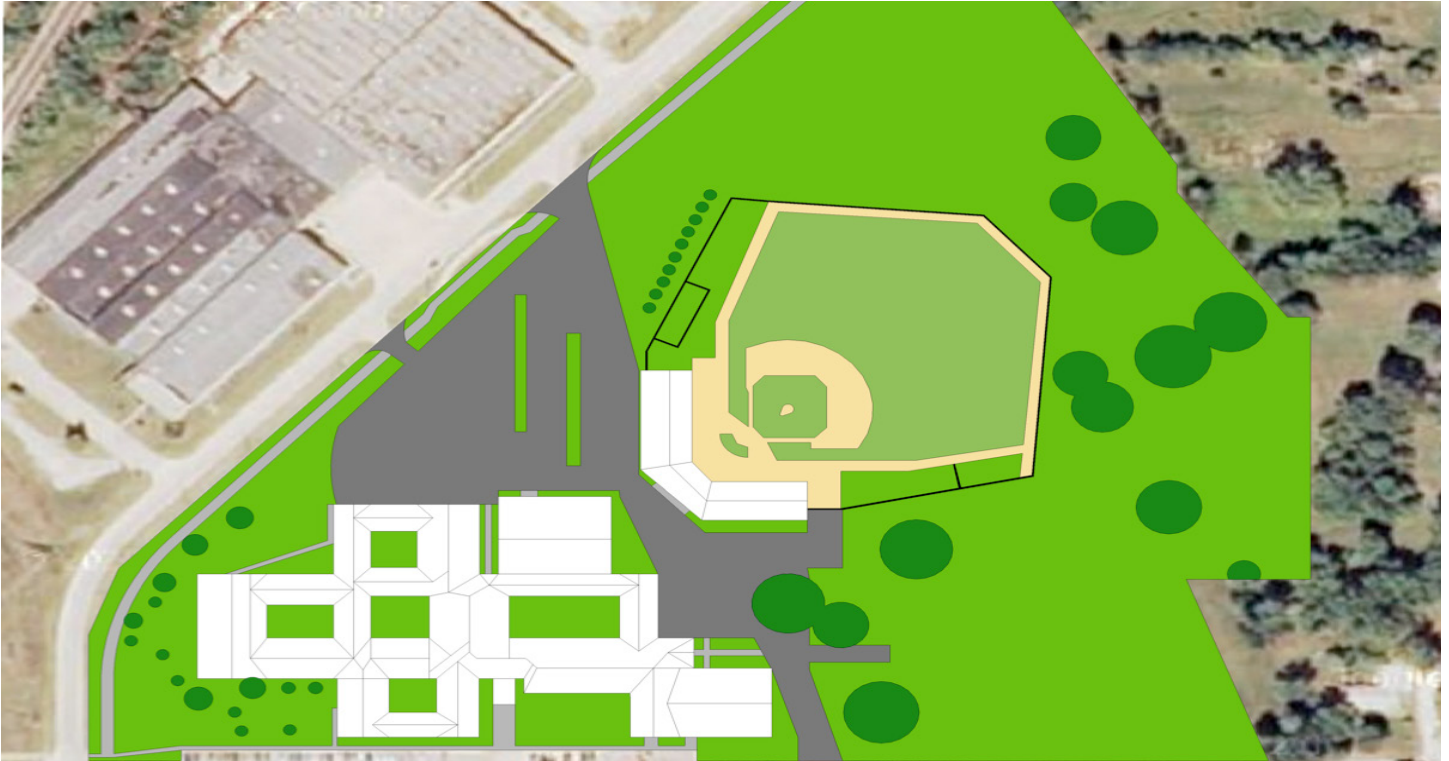
## Recommendations

Expand the facility to include a Practice Field to alleviate stress on the historic Danville Stadium. Include a small 50 vehicle green surface parking with bioswales to match current surface parking for practice field. Include a 3,600 square foot restroom, locker room and concession structure along with bleacher seating. Connect Practice Field, Danville Stadium, South View Middle School and 4th Street Bridge through a sidewalk system. Collaborate with District 118 Schools for remediation of years of unnecessary pavement. Improve overall surface parking and eliminate pavement between the Stadium and School.

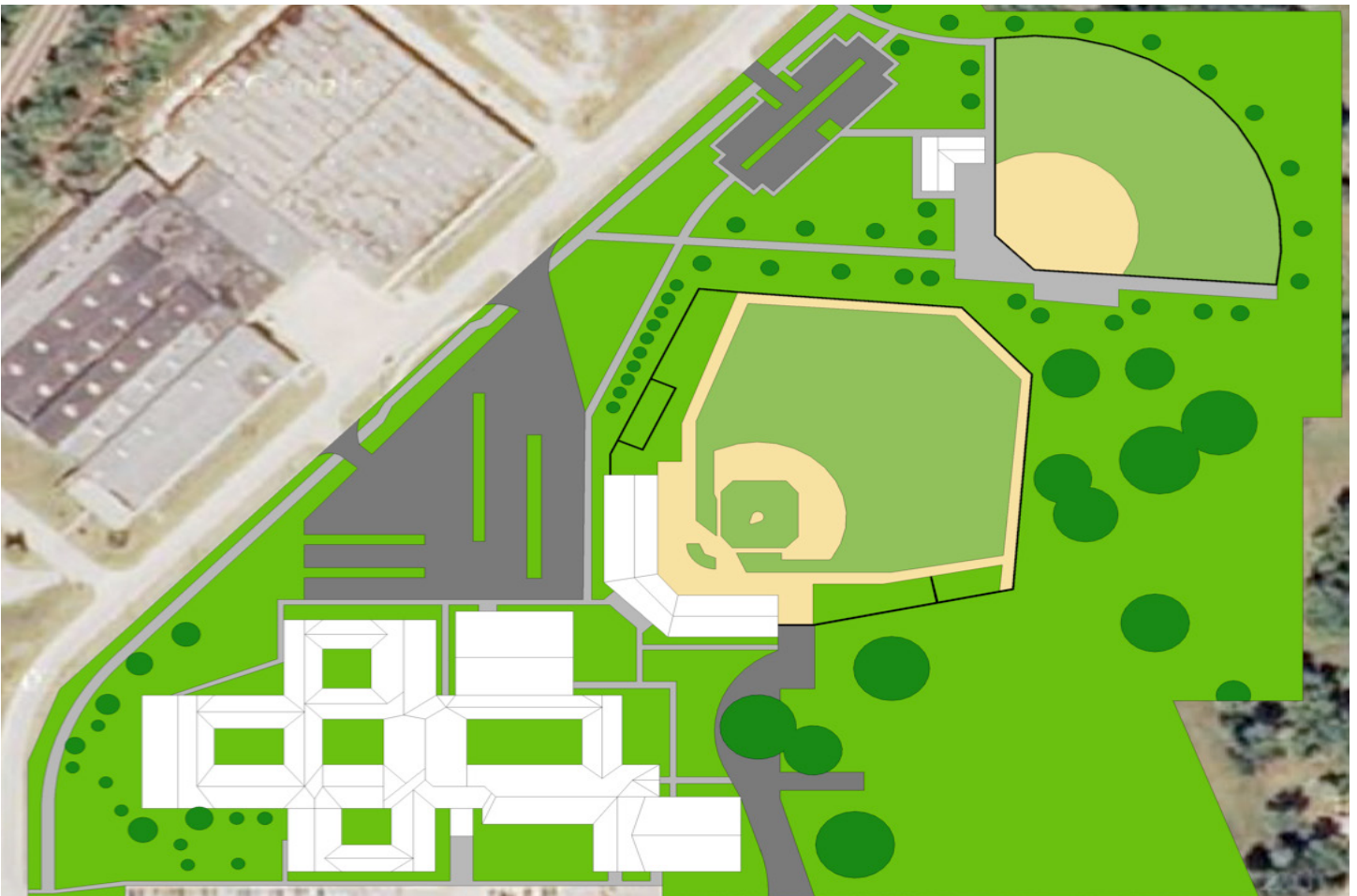




# Danville Stadium Current Site Plan



# Danville Stadium Concept Design



# Douglas Park

520 S Bowman Avenue



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

18.2 Acres

## Inventory

Stephen Douglas Historical Marker

Horseshoe Courts (20)

Playground

Shelter

Skate Park

## About

Douglas Park gained its namesake as the location of private speech from the United States Senator Stephen Douglas on September 21, 1858. This coincides with the locally famous Abraham Lincoln Speech off the Fithian Home balcony, as the two men were touring the state with their now famous Lincoln-Douglas Debates. The location now serves the community as the City's only Skate Park and Horseshoe Court destination. The Park was enlarged by 2.6 acres when Douglas School was leveled in 2006. The land was exchanged from District 118 to the City for property now part of the Wayland - Young Athletic Facility. In October 2006 the first meeting of the Douglas Discovery Garden Non-for-Profit Organization was held and they planted their first plants in May of 2009. The Garden continues to grow.

## Recommendations

Transition old baseball field area into a new baseball/softball field. Addition of a sidewalk network connecting the Park and the surrounding neighborhood encouraging walking and exercise. Completion of the Douglas Discovery Garden as an extension of the Douglas Park at the previous Douglas School Site.





# Douglas Park Current Site Plan



# Douglas Park Concept Plan





# Ellsworth Park

100 Ellsworth Avenue



## Classification

Community Park

61.9 Acres

## Inventory

Baseball Field

Two (2) Basketball Courts

Pedestrian Bridge

Picnic Areas

Playground

River Access

Two (2) Shelters

Two (2) Tennis Courts

Patowatomi "Trail of Death" Marker

## About

Ellsworth Park, being one of the City of Danville's oldest parks has seen many changes since it was slated as a Park. Once south of the main entrance into the City, it is now divided in half by State Route 150, or Main Street locally as well as the North Fork River running through the Park. The Park was once home to a swimming hole and horse racing track. Though the park is in the "10% Flood Plain" it has flooded numerous times in just the last two decades. With this, heavy investment is not recommended, but improvements are needed, as the park boasts many acres of underdeveloped land. Recommendations include dedicated practice Youth Football fields and playground improvements.

## Recommendations

Reserve the Field in Southern half of Ellsworth Park for festivals as this Park is prone to heavy flooding several times in a decade. Double the Playground size based on Parks large acreage size and current small playground facility. Over two miles of new nature trails and a second bridge to encouraging citizens to exercise in a beautiful park and natural area. Facilities for an increased demand of Youth Football Fields which would includes room for four (4) practice fields.





# Ellsworth Park Current Site Plan



# Ellsworth Park Concept Design





# Elmwood Park

498 Elmwood Avenue



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

4 Acres

## Inventory

Basketball Court

Field

Picnic Areas

Playground

Shelter

## About

Elmwood Park is located near the site of the old District 118 Elmwood Elementary School. In 1993 the park playground was improved through private donations. This park is smaller than other neighborhood parks but is located around numerous homes and a large wooded area.





# Espensheid Park

1680 N Kimball Street



## Classification

Community Park

70.1 Acres

## Inventory

Designated Walking Trails

Fetch Dog Park (private)

Seating

Picnic Area

Parking

## About

Espensheid Park is located off of N Kimball Street just off of E Voorhees Street in the geographic center of the city. The park itself includes seating, umbrellas, nature trails, ample parking, and the Fetch Dog Park. The Fetch Dog Park is a members-only dog park that has areas for large dogs, small dogs, and a section for members with physical disabilities. Retired doctor John C. Mason Jr., who the special needs area is dedicated to, was the one who originally had the idea to create a dog park that could accommodate any individual regardless of physical ability.



# Garfield Park

820 N Griffin Street



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

15.8 Acres

(3.5 Acres from the Municipal Pool)

## Inventory

Baseball Field

Basketball Court

Municipal Pool

Picnic Areas

Playground

Shelter

Spray Park

Two (2) Tennis Courts

## About

Garfield Park and the Municipal Pool & AMBUCS Sprayground are separated with Industrial Buildings. This creates two separate areas, posing a threat to children. By acquiring property dividing the two city-owned parks, the area will become the largest Neighborhood Park thus becoming an even greater asset to the community as well as east Danville. The acquired property can be used for future expansion of the Park directed at neighborhood needs. This park can easily be connected to both the Fairchild Overpass Shared Use Path as well to East Park Elementary School.

## Recommendations

Transition underutilized tennis courts to a basketball court with bleachers for tournaments. Addition of seven basketball courts bridging Garfield Park with the Municipal Pool, creating a full cohesive Park. Complete Pool Complex with addition amenities on land slated for future expansion. Expansion of the Fairchild Overpass Shared Use Path to extend east to Garfield Park and to connect East Park Elementary to the new Basketball Courts, Baseball Field, and the Boys & Girls Club. Line Boys & Girls Club northern lawn for Youth Soccer League Practice Fields.





# Garfield Park Current Site Plan



# Garfield Park Concept Design





# Kresge Park

8 N Vermilion Street



## Classification

Pocket Park

.75 Acres

## Inventory

Benches

Lawn

“Looking for Lincoln” Site

Natural Grassland

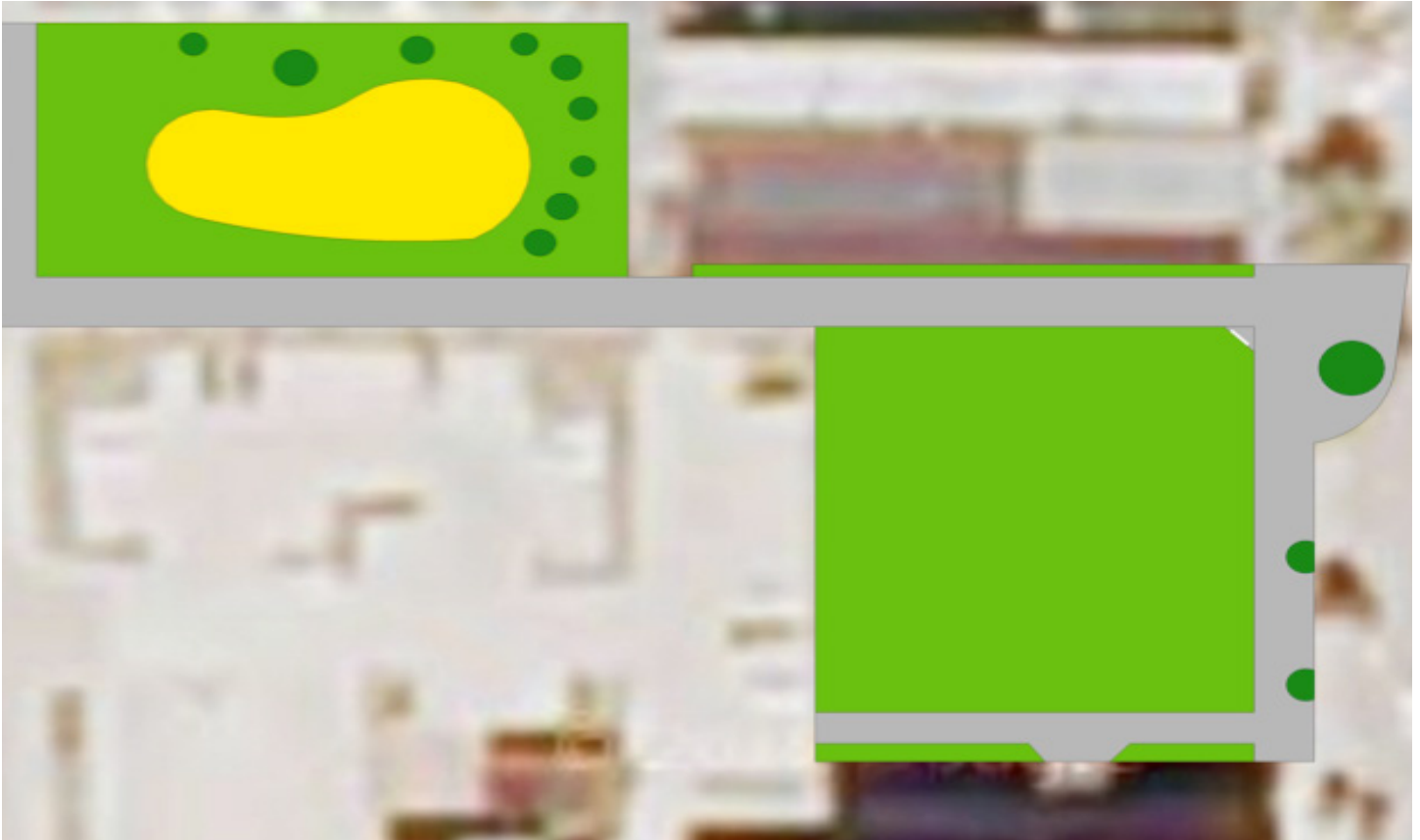
Shared Use Path

## About

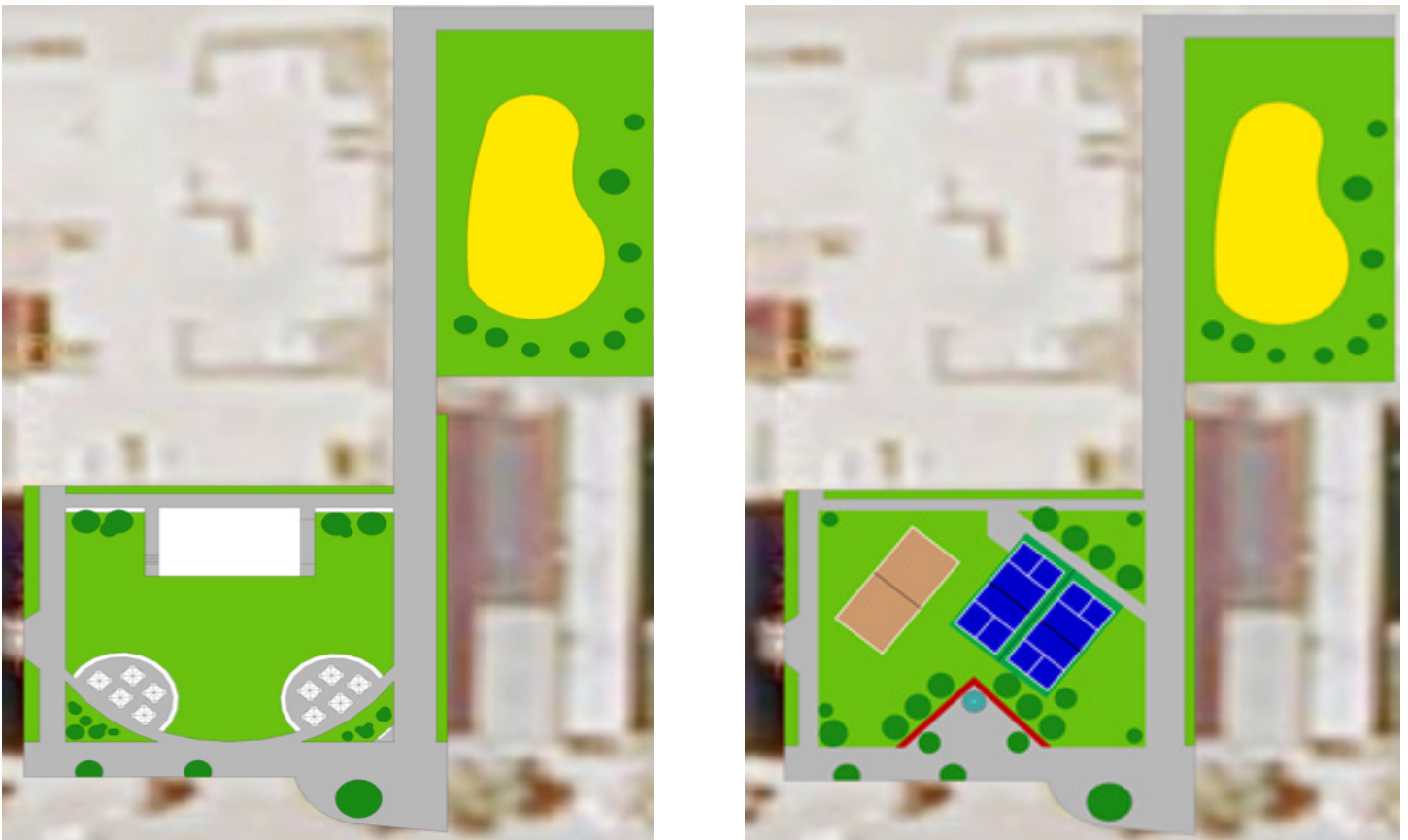
Kresge Park is without a name, known as the Kresge Lot or Park, because the building that once stood on this property was Kresge General Store. Through a lengthy process, the City of Danville which had been maintaining the property, purchased the property as it sits behind the current City Hall. Used in 1990's and early 2000's as the home of the Downtown Danville Farmers' Market, who moved to its new home at the Danville Library Lawn (page 17) This is a perfect location for an outdoor use such as the Farmers' Market or a bandstand, a more permanent construction would be desired, creating a sense of place.



# Kresge Park Current Site Plan



# Kresge Park Concept Designs





# Liberty Park

200 E Liberty Lane



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

7.1 Acres

## Inventory

Baseball Field

Picnic Areas

Playground

Soccer Field (Open Field)

Shelter

Three (3) Tennis Courts

Trail (Paved)

## About

Liberty Park is located near new housing complexes that could benefit from a more planned out park. While it does have a short paved walking path, it leaves much to the imagination. The Park is surrounded and has no room to expand. Located next to active railroad tracks as well as Turtle Run Golf Club. One reason that little activity has been done to this site is because of water drainage problems, as the large field does not drain well. By creating a proper drainage system for this park, it could be used to its full potential.



# Liberty Park Site Plan



# Liberty Park Concept Design



# Lincoln Park

900 W English Street



## Classification

Community Park  
22 Acres

## Inventory

Bandstand  
Baseball Field  
Basketball Courts  
Picnic Areas  
ADA Playground  
Shared Use Path  
Shelter  
Two (2) Tennis Courts  
“Friendly Town”



## About

Lincoln Park is located on the west side of Danville and hosts a variety of amenities and uses. The amphitheater is used for many different types of performances and concerts. There is also an accessible playground, picnic area, basketball courts, etc. “Friendly Town” is used as a way to teach children about traffic safety. The park also contains the historic Lamon House which was built in 1850. The original Lamon House residents were Melissa and Joseph Lamon. Melissa was the daughter of Danville’s namesake, Dan Beckwith. While it is not confirmed that Abraham Lincoln at any point visited the house, many local historians theorize that it is possible considering he was confirmed to have visited many other buildings in the area.





# Lindley Sign Post Forest

159 N Vermilion Street



## Classification

Pocket Park

.21 Acres

## Inventory

Lawn

Sidewalk

Landscaping

Water Features

Wayfinding Signage

## About

The idea for this sign post forest originated in 1942 when Carl K. Lindley, a G.I. stationed at Watson Lake in Alaska, was so homesick that he erected a sign showing the direction and mileage to his hometown of Danville. Over time, more people added to his signs creating a massive sign post forest. Today, there are over 77,000 signs at the Watson Lake sign post forest. The version in Danville is an extension of this project and people can pay the city of Danville to add a sign from their hometown. The Danville Lindley Sign Post Forest was created in 2010.



Original Sign Post Forest, Watson Lake, Yukon





# Meade Park

20 S Oregon Street



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

9.6 Acres

## Inventory

Baseball Field

Basketball Court

Playground

Shelter

Trail

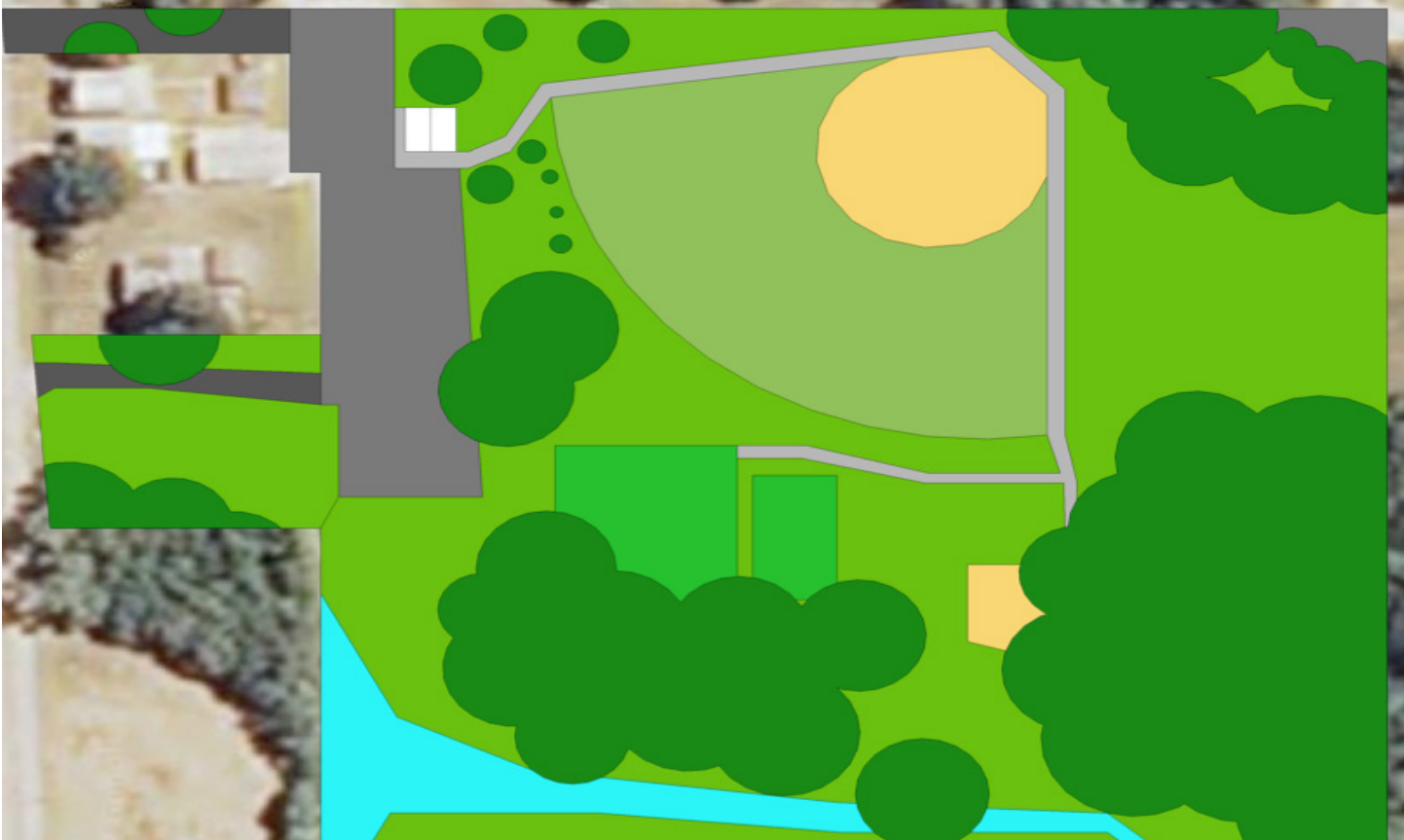
Two (2) Tennis Courts

## About

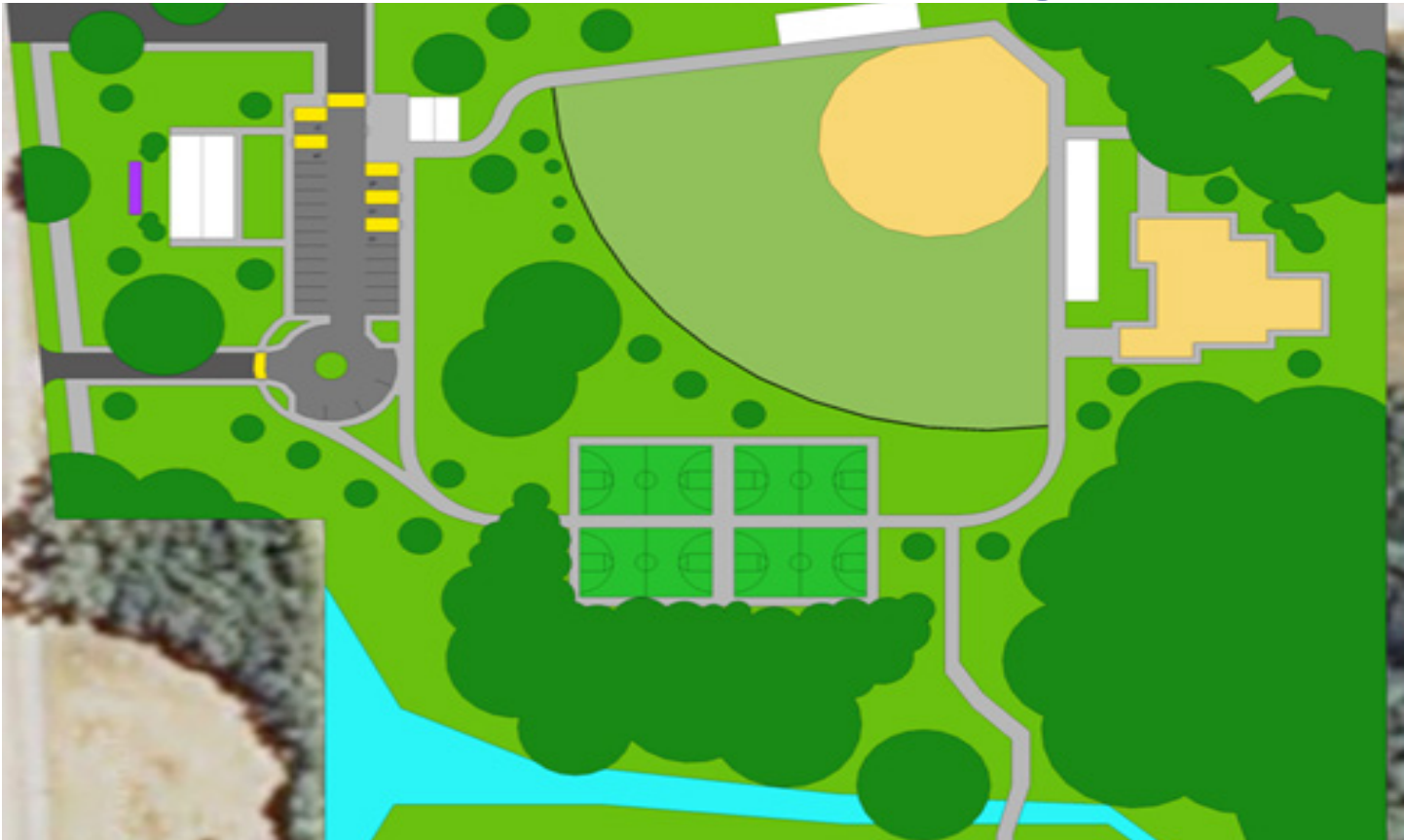
Meade Park, located near Meade Park School is located right off the newly reconstructed Main Street Corridor. Located just northwest of Meade Park Elementary School.



# Meade Park Current Site Plan



# Meade Park Concept Design





Not City-Owned

# Palace Park

154 N Vermilion Street



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

.24 Acres

## Inventory

Public Art

Garden

Stage

Landscaping

## About

Palace Park is located next to Danville's historic Fischer Theater. The park is a small "pocket park" that contains some pieces of public art such as "The Vermilion River" mural and two jazz-themed ceramic brick murals which were created by Danville artists in 2002.



Not City-Owned

# Producer Park

825 South Street



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

5.2 Acres

## Inventory

Concession Stand

Three (3) Baseball Fields

Shelter



## About

Producer Park is located on the Southeast side of Danville and is regularly used for little league baseball games. The park is owned and maintained by the Danville Township.





# Temple Plaza

102 N Vermilion Street



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

.22 Acres

## Inventory

Ample amounts of seating

Umbrellas

Landscaping

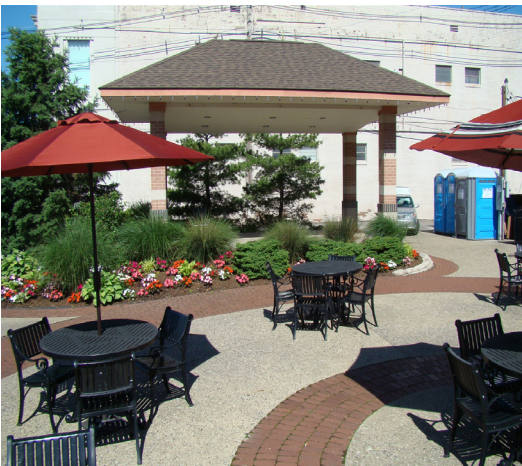
Band Stand

“The Temple” Archway

“Danville, USA” Landmark

## About

The site that is now Temple Plaza was at one time a masonic temple. In 1987 a fire destroyed much of the building and left it unsalvageable despite some attempts by private investors . In 2001 the building was demolished except for the grand archway which was the entrance. Today the plaza is a popular location for gathering and holding events . It also contains the “Danville, USA” monument which was created by Donna L. Dobberfuhl in 2003. The monument is meant to show the people who have built and are building Danville. From coal miners, school children, and businessmen to famous individuals such as humanitarian Laura Lee, former House Speaker Joseph “Uncle Joe” Cannon , and astronaut Joe Tanner.



# Harrison Park Golf Course

1300 W Voorhees Street



## Classification

Community Park

228.3 Acres

## Inventory

Clubhouse

18-Hole Golf Course

Golf Shop

## About

The Clubhouse was the original Danville Country Club clubhouse. Purchased by John Harrison in 1927 after the Country Club bought land across Lake Vermilion. The land was given to the city as a public park in memory of his mother.





# Victory Monument Plaza

410 W Main Street



## Classification

Pocket Park

.69 Acres

## Inventory

Victory Monument

Gazebo

Landscaping

Adjacent to the camouflage-colored A-7 Corsair II plane monument

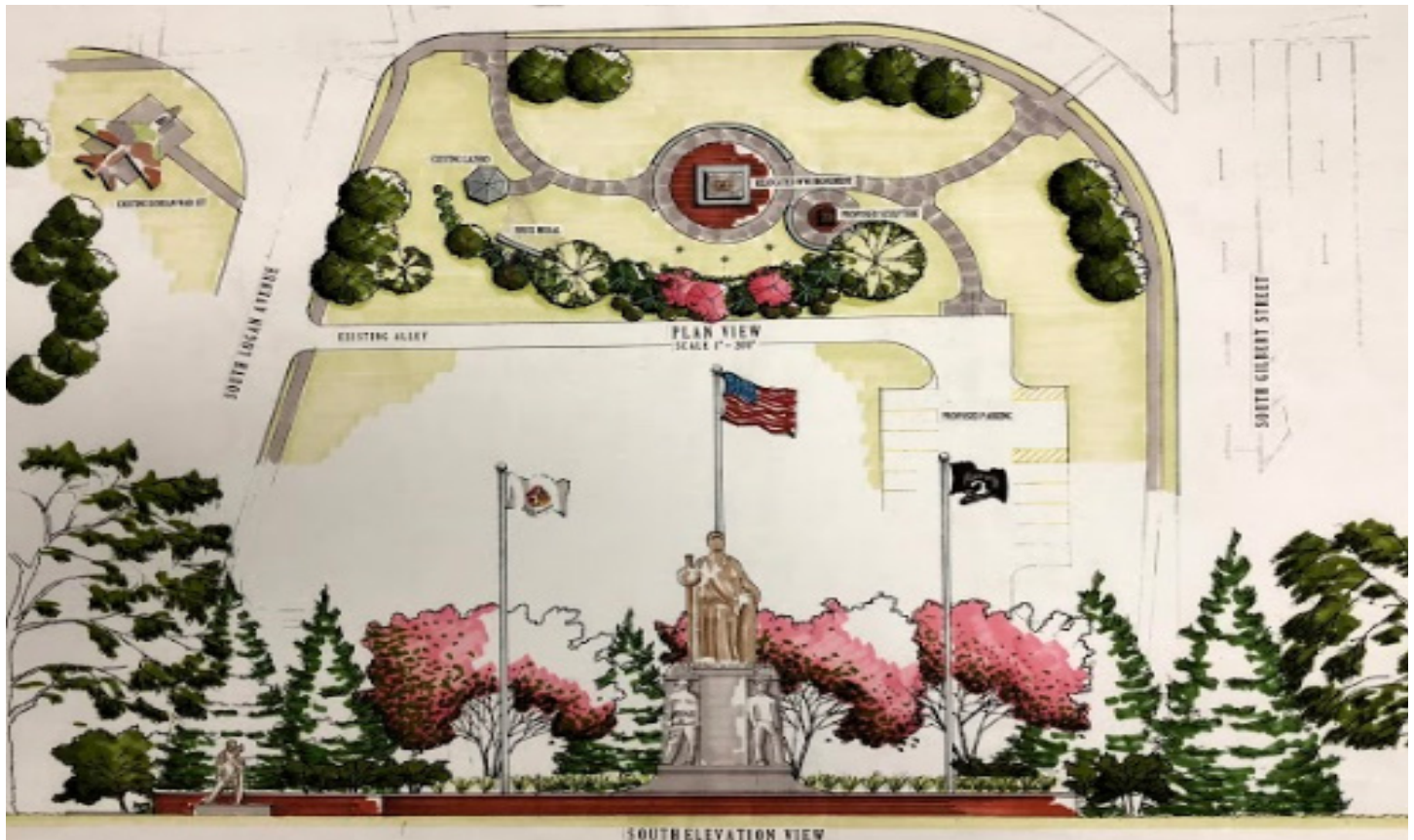


## About

Victory Monument Plaza is a site of great historical significance for the City of Danville. Most notably for the World War I monument known as the Victory Monument, which is one of 225 WWI monuments in the state of Illinois. It was also created by sculptor Lorado Taft, who created the Alma Mater statue at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. This monument is meant to honor the soldiers from Vermilion County who fought in WWI. The monument is meant to accompany the bridge that crosses the Vermilion River at Gilbert Street which was known as Victory Bridge, now known as Memorial Bridge. There are currently plans to clean, restore, and move the Victory Monument so it could be more properly displayed and enjoyed by the public.



# Victory Monument Plaza Concept Design

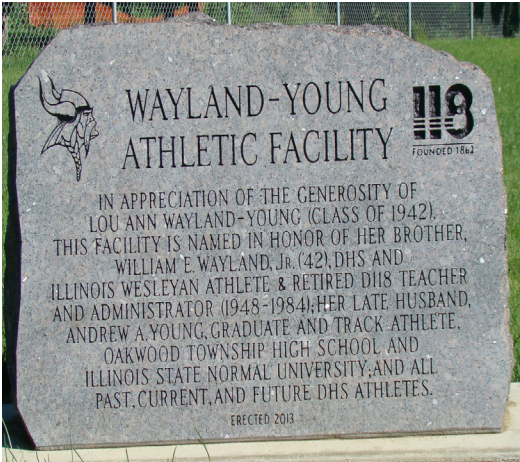


An artist's rendering of the improved Victory Monument Plaza site features improvements to the landscaping, pedestrian pathways and a restored and relocated Victory Monument



# Wayland-Young Athletic Facility

Danville High School Campus, 211 Sidell Street



## Classification

Community Park

12.8 Acres

## Inventory

All Weather Track

Bleachers

Football/Soccer Practice Field

Marching Band Practice Field

Maintenance Building

## About

Construction began in 2006 and the All Weather Track held its first meet in 2009. Rededicated in the Spring of 2013 as the Wayland-Young Athletic Facility was a project that started in 2001 and cost nearly \$2 million. The Danville School Board approved the original \$1.3 million in 2005. The District has purchased the properties that have come available that surround the facility. The facility allows for Danville High School to host outdoor track meets as their original track is insufficient and is landlocked from expansion. Though not run by the Parks & Recreation Department, it is open to the public, giving it a spot in the Park Master Plan.



# Vermilion Heights Tot Lot

421 Avenue E



## Classification

Pocket Park  
.12 Acres

## Inventory

Playground

Benches

“Tot Lot”

## About

Established over 50 years ago, Reed Park was one of Danville’s first mini-parks or “pocket parks.” The park is now known as the Vermilion Heights Tot Lot. The park makes use of the little space that it has by offering a small play area as well as a picnic area.





# Winter Park

900 E Winter Avenue



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

25.8 Acres

## Inventory

AMBUCS Playground for Everyone

Five (5) Soccer Fields

Shared Use Path

Spray Park

Three (3) Shelters

Two (2) Baseball Fields

Two (2) Volleyball Courts

## About

Winter Park & the AMBUCS Playground for everyone is located on Winter Avenue just north of the adjacent neighborhood of Holiday Hills and Winterview Park. Winter Park and Winterview Park are located on tiers of land that allow it to slope down from Winterview Park to Winter Park. The AMBUCS Playground was created in 2001, and was the first of three playgrounds the Service Group has gifted to the community.



# Winter Park Current Site Plan



# Winter Park + Winterview Park Current Site Plan





# Winterview Park

1200 E Winter Avenue



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

56.4 Acres

## Inventory

Eight (8) Soccer Fields

Four (4) Softball Fields

Picnic Areas

Playground

Three (3) Shelters

## About

Winterview Park & the Danville Area Soccer Complex is located directly east of Winter Park. Winterview Park is ran by the Winterview Girls Softball Organization. The Danville Area Soccer Association runs the Soccer Complex and the land is owned by the City and District 118 School District and is leased to the Association for a \$1 a year. Construction of the Complex began in 1997 and was completed in 2000. The lease for the property continues to 2037.

# Winterview Park Current Site Plan



# Winter Park + Winterview Park Current Site Plan





Not City-Owned

# Denvale West Park

3020 Park Haven Boulevard



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

9.3 Acres

## Inventory

Basketball Court

Paved Trail

Picnic Areas

Playground

Two (2) Tennis Courts



## About

Denvale West Park is a private park located inside the subdivision of Denvale West. The Park is 9% of the entire subdivision. The park is in the heart of Denvale West surrounded by 30 homes. The City of Danville Parks and Recreation Department does not maintain the Park, but found it necessary to include the Park in the Master Plan as the Park is within City Limits. The Park is limited in ability to expand. A trail system could be extended into property that is owned by Security Ventures, Inc., a company who owns the surrounded 37 acres of heavily tree covered land. The Park is under the care of the Denvale West Home Owners Association.



Not City-Owned

# Lake Shore Park

47 Lake Shore Drive



## Classification

Neighborhood Park

.78 Acres

## Inventory

Picnic Areas

Playground

Shelter

## About

Lake Shore Park is a small park located just off of Lake Vermilion on the North side of Danville. This park is a private park in the Lakeshore neighborhood and offers a great view of the lake as well as a few other amenities such as a playground, shelter, and picnic area.





Not City-Owned

# Heron County Park

W West Newell Road



## Classification

Regional Park

52.6 Acres

## Inventory

Boardwalk

Picnic Areas

Lookout Tower

Restroom

Shelter

## About

Heron County Park Wetland & Boardwalk is located west of Walmart on W West Newell Road. It is a 52 acre park in its natural state. The boardwalk which spans 1000 feet reaching into the Wetlands and allows you to get even closer to the animals and the wetlands than before. There is also a two story lookout tower, allowing you to see the wetlands and the county from a beautiful perspective. The Park is owned by Aqua Illinois and is ran by the Vermilion County Conservation District. Though it is not inside the City, it is a Regional Park and is important to the citizens of our community.



Not City-Owned

# Lake Vermilion County Park

2607 Denmark Road



## Classification

Community Park

6.4 Acres

## Inventory

Playground

Seating

Docks (2)

Boat Docks



## About

Lake Vermilion County Park, previously known as Jaycee Park is located on Lake Vermilion and is one of the only site where citizens can access the lake publicly. The Park is ran and operated by the Vermillion County Conservation District.





# Downtown Riverfront

The Downtown Riverfront Project seeks to drastically change the area south of Main Street and West of the Palmer Arena. The purpose of this project is to not only add a new recreational space to downtown but also to beautify the area, improve connectivity and spur economic growth and development. The riverfront itself will be a multi-use recreational area that takes advantage of the Vermilion River's natural landscape. The riverfront has largely remained undeveloped and remains an untapped resource for the City. Some proposed amenities include:

- Boardwalk
- Hiking, Walking and Cycling Trails
- Picnic Areas
- Welcome/Nature Center
- Observation Tower
- Outdoor Classroom
- Ampitheater/Stage

The pedestrian, cycling, and shared-use paths of the riverwalk would work to seamlessly connect users with the rest of downtown. This, combined with improvements to public transit, will ensure the riverfront is accessible to all potential users. Improved connectivity and accessibility will ensure the success of the riverfront as well as help lead to more economic growth and development for the downtown area. The Vermilion River is important to



Artist's rendering of the site

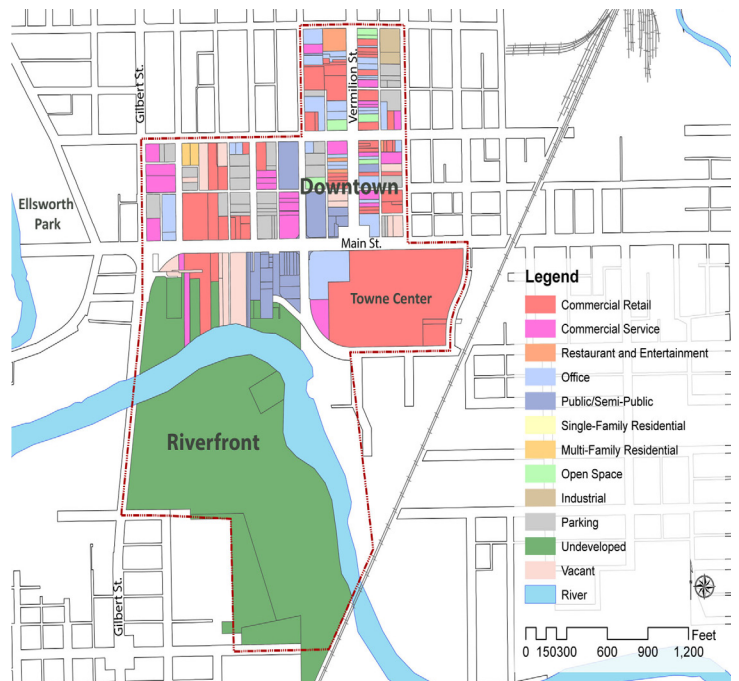


A key aspect of the Riverfront project is changes to surrounding land use to better compliment the development

the City for its natural beauty and rich history. Its natural resources contributed to the area being settled by the Miami and Kickapoo tribes. European settlers would later be drawn to the area for mining and lumber. During Danville's industrial era, the river played an important role in manufacturing. Preserving the river's natural beauty and history will be vital to creating a successful riverfront park that users will enjoy and learn from for generations.

Once completed, the riverfront will become a destination for residents and visitors to the city's downtown. This creates potential for increased economic activity to happen in the area, particularly in the "Town Center" and west downtown. To ensure increased economic activity improvements to connectivity and accessibility will be required. The benefits the riverfront will have to the city's health and wellness can not be understated as well.

Developing the plan for the riverfront was a collaborative effort between the city, the public, and students from the University of Illinois Urban and Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture and Architecture departments. This multi-disciplinary approach examined the current conditions of the area, socioeconomic data, environment and design to craft the Re-envisioning Danville Downtown Riverfront conceptual plan.



Current Land Use in the Downtown Area



Multi-use trails throughout the Riverfront will connect users with nature as well as Downtown



# Danville High School Campus Master Plan

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The Danville High School Campus Master Plan is a long-term vision for Danville High School's land use, identity, built environment, safety and amenities to the campus area. The ultimate goal of this project is to create a campus that benefits the students, the surrounding community, and the city as a whole. This will be accomplished by a variety of projects such as improvements to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, improved signage and branding, more programs for students and the community, additional parking spaces, and the addition of new facilities for sports and recreation.

There are various projects that make up the master plan. The first of which involves improving connectivity throughout the campus area with shared use paths, centralized parking, and physically connecting the Wayland-Young Athletic Facility to the school. Improving connectivity will also include the completion of the roundabout at English and Jackson Street. The next project involves the addition of quad style open space in front of the main entrance of the school. This space would offer both students and the community a centralized location to congregate and socialize. This would be paired with the addition of a visitor parking lot adjacent to the quad. The master plan also includes an expansion of the athletic facilities located on campus. The proposed facilities include tennis courts, a softball field, baseball stadium, and new practice fields in the Wayland-Young Athletic Facility. An additional proposed amenity is a Rail-to-Trail Trailhead and Greenhouse facility on the south side of the campus. This trail would be a part of a larger project to connect bike lanes and trails in the City and connect them with other trailheads throughout the City. The greenhouse concept would be a partnership with DACC to offer educational opportunities to both students and the community. The final aspect of the master plan is the restoration and preservation of Dick Van Dyke's childhood home which is located on the edge of the campus. Preserving the historic home would be cooperative effort with the Dick Van Dyke Foundation.

For these concepts to become reality it will require sustained commitment by District 118, the City of Danville and all other stakeholders. The plan will require strong partnerships with businesses, the community, institutions, and residents. Maintaining flexibility in the long term and short term planning will ensure the success of the Danville High School Campus Master Plan.



**Campus Connection Concept**

Estimated Project Budget: \$1.5M | 3.36 Acres



The Campus Connection Concept improves access to users of the campus by physically connecting the Wayland Young Athletic Facility to the high school and through the provision of a centralized location for surface parking (providing 100 paved spaces). This also includes stormwater mitigation and a shared used path.

**DHS Quad / Visitor Parking Concept**

Estimated Project Budget: \$1.8M | 4.09 Acres



The Danville High School Quad Concept will provide access to a unified outdoor space. The DHS AP Urban Geography Class noted their desire for areas where ideas can be generated, groups can congregate, and the community can visit. This includes additional visitor parking and proper student drop-off / pick-up.

**Athletic Fields Expansion I Concept**

Estimated Project Budget: \$1.55M | 4.74 Acres



The Athletic Fields Expansion I Concept will bring two currently off-campus sports to the DHS Campus. The desires of the athletic department and school administration include bringing off-campus sports on campus to be utilized by the respective athletic teams as well as the physical education classes during the school day.

**Rail-To-Trail Trailhead & Greenhouse Concept**

Estimated Project Budget: \$530K+ | 3.09 Acres



The Rail-to-trail Trailhead & Greenhouse Concept is located on the site directly south of the fieldhouse. As the southern gateway onto the campus, this property would be used for a trailhead facility, trailhead surface parking and two (2) acres dedicated to encourage agricultural and horticultural interest for post-secondary ed.

**Baseball Stadium Concept**

Estimated Project Budget: \$1.3M | 6.09 Acres



The Baseball Stadium Concept will create an on-campus baseball field and facility for the Danville High School Athletic Department. Located adjacent to the athletic facility, the baseball stadium will allow the Danville High School Athletic Department's to host IHSA games and IHSA tournaments.

**Athletic Fields Expansion II Concept**

Estimated Project Budget: \$550K | 2.31 Acres



The Athletic Fields Expansion II Concept will expand the athletic facility with an additional practice field. Multiple sport teams utilize the practice fields throughout the school year. This concept assists in defining the campus boundary and sense of place when traveling through the DHS Campus with a visually uninterrupted facility.

**Danville High School Shared Use Path**

Estimated Project Investment: \$2.5M



The DHS Shared Use Path is a project slated to begin construction in 2016. This project includes a 0.7 mile shared use path, a landscaped median on Fairchild Street north of Danville High School, a road diet on Jackson Street between Fairchild and English Street, and the English and Jackson Street Intersection Realignment.

**Dick Van Dyke Foundation**



The Dick Van Dyke Foundation and boyhood home is within minutes of Danville High School and is inside the Danville High School Campus Boundary. Incorporating the Dick Van Dyke Foundation is important to the success of the DHS Campus as a destination and would also benefit both parties with the Foundation's ties and dedication to local education and the music and arts.



The DHSCMP was drafted by City of Danville Urban Services Dept. January 8, 2015

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Danville, Illinois, January 29, 2016.

Adopted by the School Board of the Danville Community Consolidated School District No. 216, February 22, 2016.



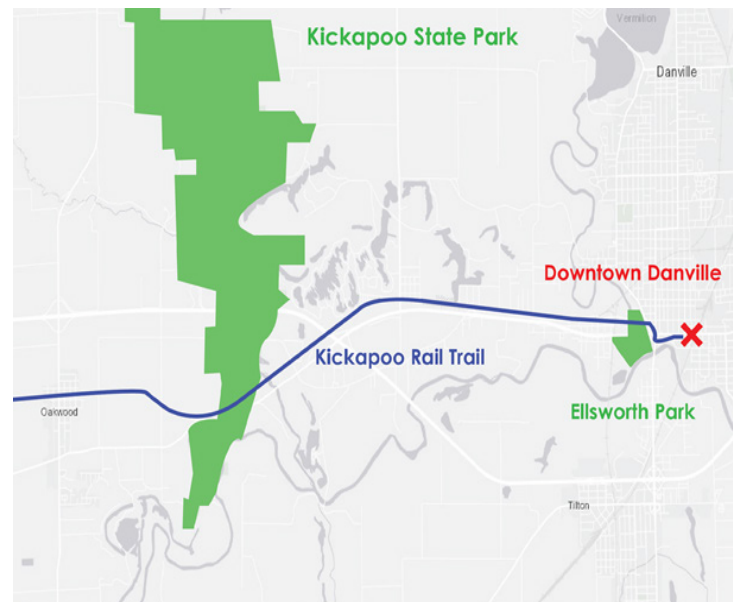
# Kickapoo Rail Trail

The Kickapoo Rail Trail is a 28+ mile multi-use trail that follows the former CSX railroad from east Urbana to Ellsworth Park in Danville. The trail is set to pass through the communities of Oakwood, Fithian, Ogden, Mayview and St. Joseph. Both pedestrians and cyclists will be able to use the trail which offers a unique perspective on Champaign and Vermilion County's natural landscape from woodland, prairie, to rivers wetlands

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines. There are many benefits to converting old, unused rail lines into trails. It provides the community with the opportunity to engage in more recreational activities such as biking and running/walking. Rail lines that have become old, unused, or unnecessary can once again provide a benefit to the community. These trails can also attract visitors to the area which can help contribute to economic growth in the area. Having a quality trails system is an integral to the overall parks & recreation system. The Kickapoo Rail Trail will not only improve the City of Danville's Parks system, but also the city as a whole.



Currently completed section of the Kickapoo Rail Trail



Once completed, the Kickapoo Rail Trail will connect with Downtown Danville and a continuous bike network in the city

The Kickapoo Rail Trail will not only offer new recreational activities for the area but will also be a new link between Danville and Champaign-Urbana. This brings the opportunity to bring new visitors to Danville, more specifically Danville's Downtown. Because of this, the rail trail project could also contribute to economic growth. Combined with other projects and initiatives such as the Downtown Riverfront, Danville's Downtown has the potential to become a destination for visitors from across the east-central Illinois area and beyond. Going forward, the Kickapoo rail trail can be integrated with the cities network of bike lanes and trails to create a single continuous network.

The project uses a combination of federal grants, state and private funding. The trail will be completed in phases and although it is not yet complete there are sections of the trail that have been completed and are being used. Once completed the trail will not only lead to an increase in economic activity in the area but will also provide new recreational opportunities for visitors and residents which will contribute to improved quality of life for Danville residents.



Kickapoo Rail Trail Logo



Concept rendering of a section of the Kickapoo Rail Trail off of Route 150



# Funding and Cost Estimates

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To maintain and upgrade Danville's Parks & Recreation system will require a variety of strategies, initiatives, and funding sources. Some of the strategies for funding system wide facilities and activities include but are not limited to:

**Grant Programs**

**Public-Private Partnerships**

**Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**

**Crowd-funding and Volunteer Groups**

**Fee-in-Lieu of Dedication**

## **Grant Programs**

Organizations such as the National Parks and Recreation Association, state and federal agencies, corporations, non-profit organizations, and other entities offer grants that can be applied for to improve certain aspects of parks and recreation programs and facilities. Many grants are designated to be used for specific uses such as stormwater management, environmental sustainability efforts, sports facilities, playgrounds, etc. Grant programs are an essential aspect of funding for many Parks and Recreation agencies across the country.

## **Public-Private Partnerships**

Public-Private Partnerships can benefit cities and agencies that are running on limited budgets. These partnerships can take many forms ranging from sponsorships from non-profits or corporations to leasing space or the management of services to a private entity. The privatization of public space and services should be considered with all pros and cons in mind and with input from the community. If done responsibly, these partnerships can not only lead to savings and revenue for park budgets but also provide a better experience for park users.

## **Crowd-funding**

Crowd-funding involves raising funds for a project or initiative by gathering small donations from a large number of people, usually online. There are many online platforms that could be utilized for this such as Kickstarter, GoFundMe, and Fund Your Park which is specifically meant for parks. Gathering donations from the community also can give the community a sense of ownership over their park spaces and the improvements that are made to them.

## **Volunteer Work**

Some programs and work needed for Danville's parks and recreation improvements could be done with the help of local volunteers from community groups, civic organizations and individual residents. Volunteers can do tasks such as organizing fundraisers or minimal physical labor such as playground installation, trail creation, or park cleanup. Volunteer work is another way to give a community a sense of ownership over a space as they will have invested time and labor into it.

## **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**

Tax Increment Financing or TIF is a public financing method used by cities in municipalities for funding developments, infrastructure improvements, blight removal, etc. When a TIF district is created, increased revenue from property taxes within the district are allocated to a TIF fund which is then used to fund projects. TIF money could be used for some improvements in parks as well as improvements to surrounding infrastructure such as sidewalks, bicycle paths, improved bus stops, etc.

## **Fee-in-Lieu of Dedication**

Implementing a Fee-in-Lieu of dedication program would require developments in a particular area to dedicate a portion of a development to public park space or pay a fee in place of dedicating land for a public park. This type of program would not only increase the amount of public park space in the area but would also generate revenue through fees.



Location	Improvements	Estimated Cost
Baum Courtyard	Public Restroom Facilities	\$100,000 <b>\$100,000</b>
Cannon Park	Pedestrian Paths Small Shelter	\$5 per sq ft \$25,000 <b>\$20,000-\$35,000</b>
Carver Park	Land Acquisition Pedestrian Paths Football/Soccer Field	\$1,000 \$5 per sq ft \$100,000 <b>\$110,000-\$120,000</b>
Danville Stadium	Practice Field New Parking Remove Excess Pavement Pedestrian Paths	\$400,000 \$1.50 per sq ft \$2 per sq ft \$5 per sq ft <b>\$500,000-\$550,000</b>
Douglas Park	Baseball/Softball Field "Discovery Gardens" Pedestrian Paths	\$300,000 Community/Volunteers \$5 per sq ft <b>\$315,000-\$330,000</b>
Ellsworth Park	Football Fields (4) Nature Trails Pedestrian Paths Increase Playground Size	\$400,000 \$3.50 per sq ft \$5 per sq ft \$50,000 <b>\$500,000-\$520,000</b>
Elmwood Park	Pedestrian Paths Upgrade Playground	\$5 per sq ft \$60,000 <b>\$60,000-\$100,000</b>
Espensheid Park	Natural Play Area Shelter Trails Nature Park Remove Exotic Plants Rail Trail Trailhead	Donation/Sponsor \$50,000 \$3.50 per sq ft \$500,000 Volunteers \$100,000-\$150,000 <b>\$725,000-\$750,000</b>
Garfield Park	Football Field Basketball Courts (6) Playground New Parking Soccer Fields (2)	\$100,000 \$180,000 \$60,000 \$1.50 per sq ft \$200,000 <b>\$550,000-\$600,000</b>
Kresge Park	Pickle Ball Courts (2) Volleyball Court Fountain/Water Feature Landscaping Pedestrian Paths	\$90,000 \$50,000 \$10,000 \$5,000 \$5 per sq ft <b>\$160,000-\$200,000</b>
Liberty Park	Shelter Soccer Fields (2) Detention Ponds Pedestrian Paths	\$50,000 \$200,000 \$2.50 per cubic foot \$5 per sq ft

Lincoln Park	Remove Tennis Courts	\$15,000
	Remove 1 Basketball Court	\$15,000
	Improve Basketball Court	\$10,000
		<b>\$40,000</b>
Lindley Sign Post Forest	Upgrade Main Sign	\$5,000
	Improve Landscaping	\$5,000
		<b>\$10,000</b>
Meade Park	Football Field	\$100,000
	Basketball Courts (4)	\$120,000
	Playground	\$60,000
	Improve Crosswalks	\$7 per sq ft
	New Parking	\$1.50 per sq ft
	Pedestrian Paths	\$5 per sq ft
	Remove Tennis Courts (2)	\$30,000
	Shelter	\$50,000
	<b>\$400,000-\$410,000</b>	
Temple Plaza	Public Restroom Facilities	\$100,000
	Benches	\$500 per Bench
		<b>\$205,000</b>
Victory Monument Plaza	Restore and Relocate Victory Monument	\$120,000
	Pedestrian Paths	\$5 per sq ft
	Landscaping	\$5,000
	Benches	\$500 per Bench
		<b>\$135,000 - \$150,000</b>
Vermilion Heights Tot Lot	Upgrade Playground	\$40,000
	Benches	\$500 per Bench
	Landscaping	\$5,000
		<b>\$45,000-\$47,000</b>
Winter Park	Rail Trail Trailhead	\$100,000-\$150,000
		<b>\$100,000-\$150,000</b>
Winterview Park	Improve Softball Fields	\$100,000
	Improve Parking	\$1.50 per sq ft
		<b>\$110,000-\$120,000</b>
Harrison Park Golf Course	Renovate Clubhouse	\$50,000
	Trails	\$3.50 per sq ft
		<b>\$60,000-\$70,000</b>
All	Improved Lighting	\$10,000 per unit/fixture
	Bicycle Racks	\$500 per Rack
	Bulletin Boards/Message Boards	\$500 per Board
	Park History Storyboards	\$5,000 per park
	Improved Signage	\$2,000 per sign
	Benches at Park DMT Stops	\$500 per Bench
	Emergency Phone Stations	\$1000 per Station
	Increase # of Trees	\$500 per Tree + Volunteers
	Expand Pedestrian &	\$5 per sq ft







# City of Danville 2014 Park and Recreation Survey

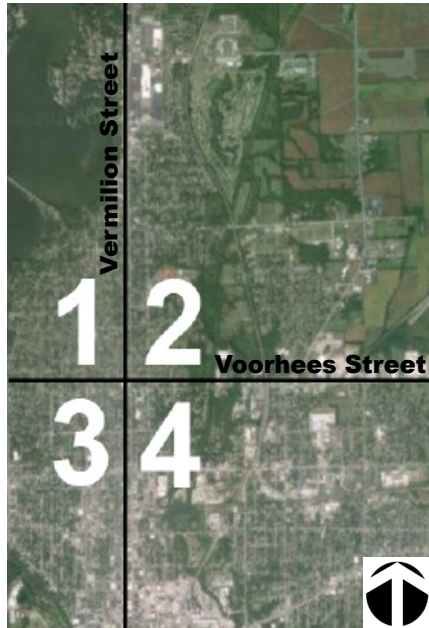
The City of Danville, with local stakeholders, are updating the City's Park Master Plan in 2014. The Park Master Plan will be used to guide future environmental conservation and smart growth of the Danville Park System. It is essential that the Master Plan reflects the desires of our current residents. Thank you taking the time to participate in your community's future!

**1. Are you a resident of the City of Danville? If No, Skip 2.**

- Yes  No  Unsure

**2. What quadrant on this map below do you live in?**

- 1 (W of Vermilion, N of Voorhees)  
 2 (E of Vermilion, N of Voorhees)  
 3 (W of Vermilion, S of Voorhees)  
 4 (E of Vermilion, S of Voorhees)



**3. How close is your home to your local Park?**

- 2 or less blocks  
 3-5 blocks  
 6-9 blocks  
 10 or more blocks

**4. Which of these facilities or parks have you NOT visited?**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Legion Ball Fields  | <input type="checkbox"/> Garfield Park          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cannon Park                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Park          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carver Park                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Shore Park        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danville Area Soccer Complex | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Vermilion Park    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danville High's New Track    | <input type="checkbox"/> Liberty Park           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danville Stadium             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln Park           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Denvale West Park            | <input type="checkbox"/> Meade Park             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Douglas Park                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Temple Plaza           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ellsworth Park               | <input type="checkbox"/> Turtle Run Golf Club   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elmwood Park                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter/Winterview Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Espensheid/FETCH Dog Park    | <input type="checkbox"/> YMCA                   |

**5. Which way or ways do you access your local Park?**

- Walk/Run  Public Transportation  
 Drive  Bicycle

**6. Which of the follow describes how you use your local Park?**

- Recreation  Sporting  
 Entertainment  \_\_\_\_\_

**7. What Park facilities would you like to see more of?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball / Softball Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelters      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Courts          | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Fields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Areas               | <input type="checkbox"/> Trails        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds                | <input type="checkbox"/> _____         |

**8. How satisfied are you with the following on a scale of 1 to 5?**

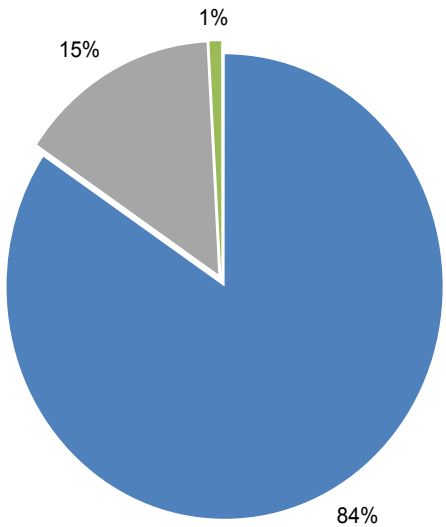
1 being **very unsatisfied**, 3 being **neutral**, and 5 being **very satisfied**.

	1	2	3	4	5
ADA Accessible Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location of the Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscaping of the Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signage to get to Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety at the Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walkability of the Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

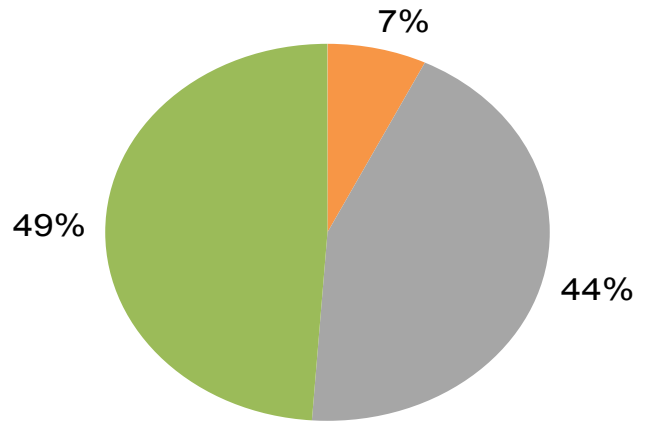
**9. What would you feel could be done to improve your Parks and Recreation experience?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

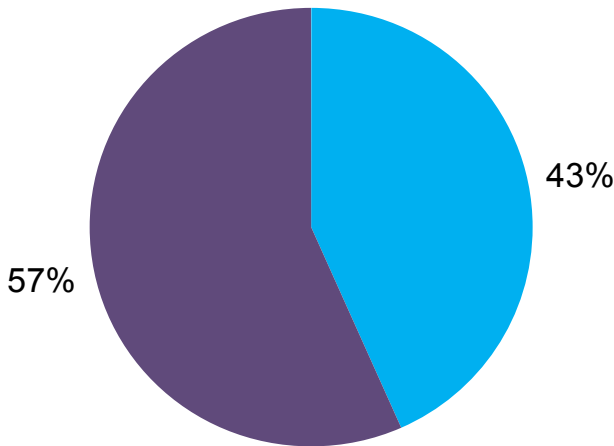




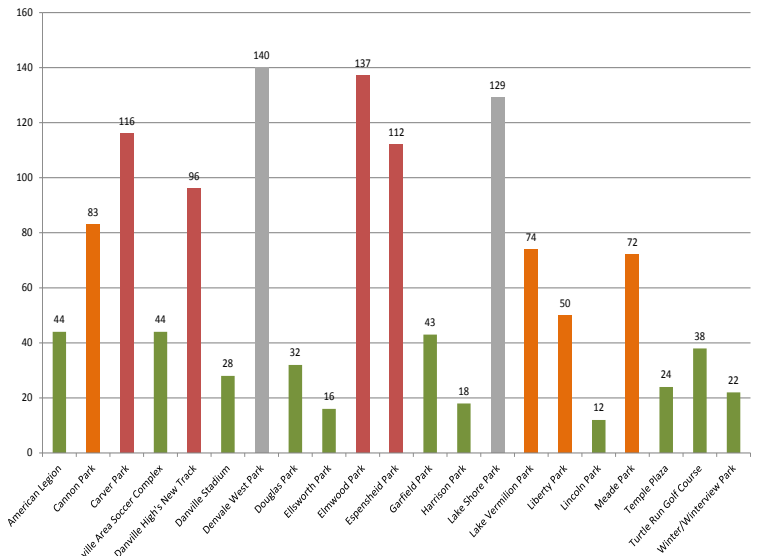
Are you a resident of the City of Danville?



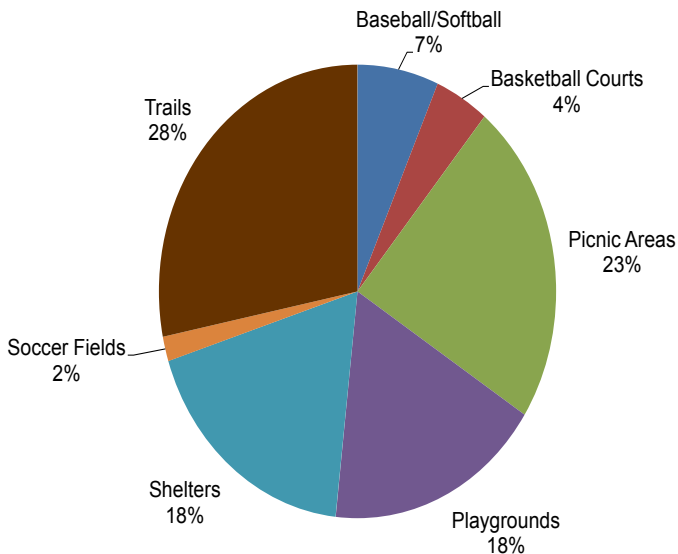
Age of respondents



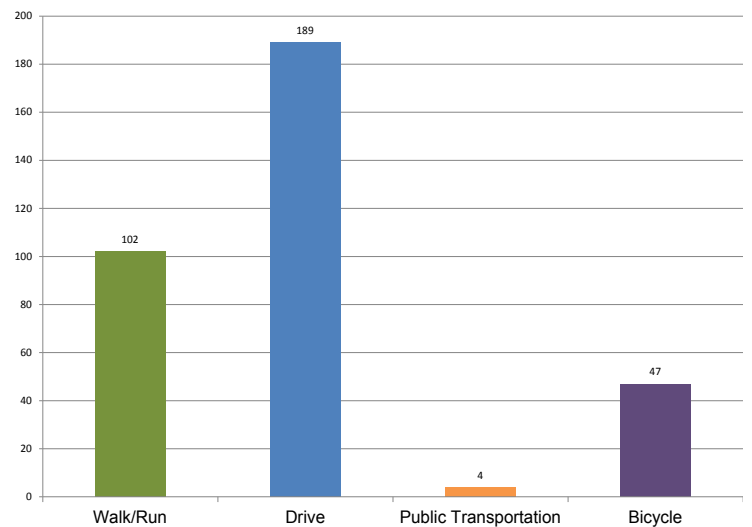
Gender of respondents



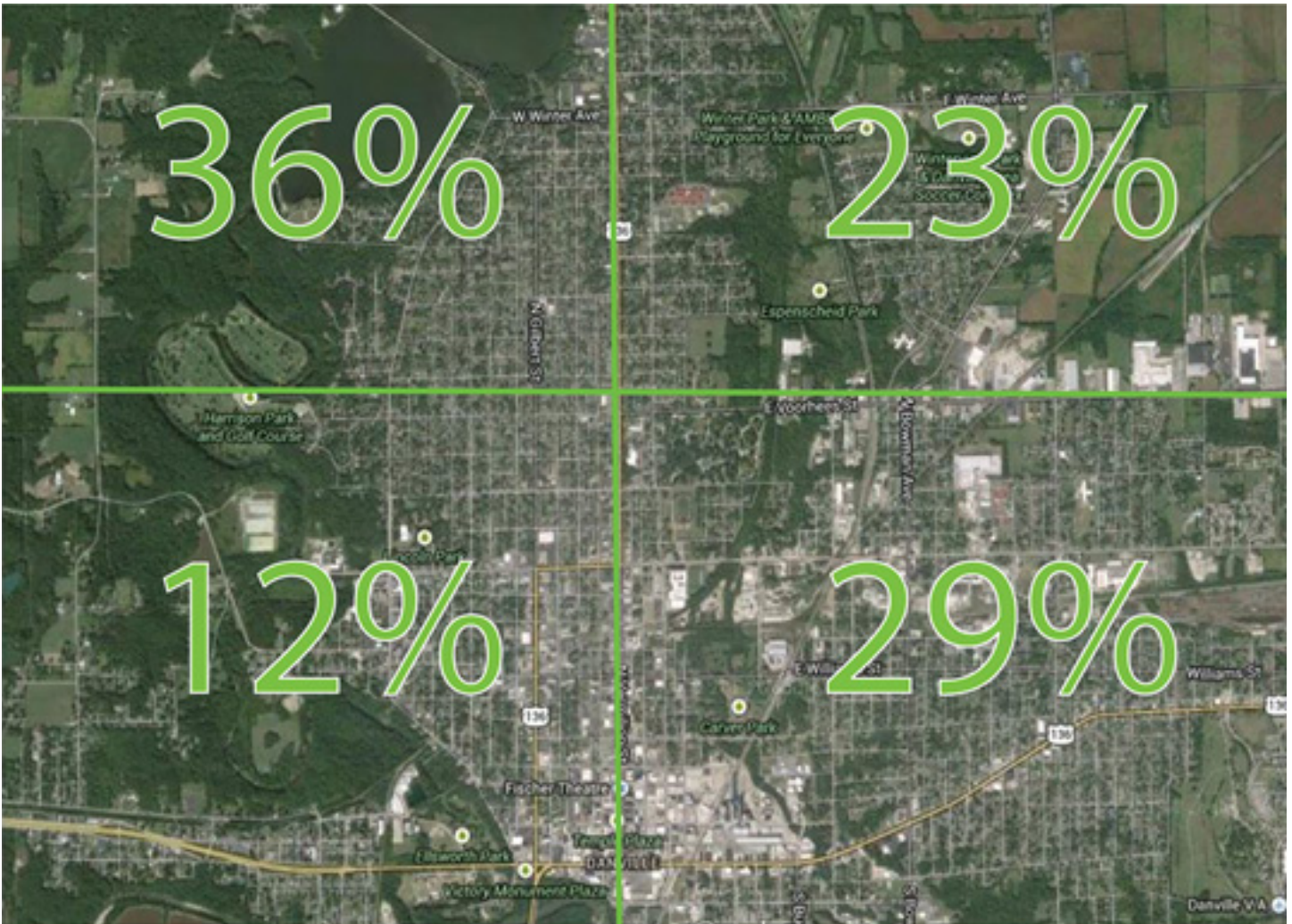
What parks have you NOT visited?



What facilities do we need?



Mode of transportation to parks



### Where do you live?

Of respondents who were residents of Danville, we asked what area of the city they live in. For this question, a map of the city was divided into four quadrants.

The 2014 Danville Parks survey was created in-house and distributed online via SurveyMonkey and in print. In total, the survey garnered 231 responses.



# County Health Rankings

The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The annual County Health Rankings measure vital health factors, including high school graduation rates, obesity, smoking, unemployment, access to healthy foods, the quality of air and water, income inequality, and teen births in nearly every county in America.

	Vermilion County	Error Margin	Top U.S. Performers	Illinois	Rank (of 102)
Health Outcomes					97
Length of Life					92
Premature death	9,100	8,400-9,900	5,200	6,300	
Quality of Life					98
Poor or fair health	17%	16-17%	12%	16%	
Poor physical health days (Average of reported days in a 30-day period)	3.9	3.7-4.1	3.0	3.6	
Poor mental health days	3.9	3.7-4.0	3.0	3.4	
Low birthweight	9%	9-10%	6%	8%	
Health Factors					100
Health Behaviors					100
Adult smoking	18%	17-18%	14%	15%	
Adult obesity	35%	30-41%	26%	27%	
Food environment index	6.9		8.4	8.0	
Physical inactivity	27%	22-32%	19%	21%	
Access to exercise opportunities	66%		91%	89%	
Excessive drinking	18%	17-19%	12%	21%	
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths (% of driving deaths with alcohol involved)	29%	21-38%	13%	34%	
Sexually transmitted infections (Newly diagnosed Chlamydia cases per 100,000)	560.2		145.5	516.5	
Teen births (# of births per 1,000 pop age 15-19)	54	51-57	17	30	
Clinical Care					76
Uninsured	9%	8-10%	8%	11%	
Primary care physicians	2,210:1		1,040:1	1,240:1	

Mental health providers	470:1		360:1	580:1
Preventable hospital stays	90	83-96	36	56
Diabetes monitoring	84%	78-90%	91%	86%
Mammography screening	58%	52-64%	71%	64%

Social & Economic Factors 99

High school graduation	79%		95%	86%
Some college	50%	47-53%	72%	68%
Unemployment	7.1%		3.3%	5.9%
Children in poverty	29%	24-35%	12%	19%
Income inequality	4.4	4.1-4.6	3.7	4.9
Children in single-parent households	47%	43-51%	21%	32%
Social associations (number of membership associations per 10,000)	14.4		22.1	9.8
Violent crime (# per 100,000 pop.)	605		62	388
Injury deaths	79	70-88	53	53

Physical Environment 85

Air pollution - particulate matter	10.8		6.7	10.5
Drinking water violations	Yes			
Severe housing problems	12%	11-13%	9%	19%
Driving alone to work	84%	83-86%	72%	73%
Long commute - driving alone	24%	22-26%	15%	40%

Note: Blank values reflect unreliable or missing data



# Definitions

## **Pocket Parks:**

Generally consisting of the size of one residential lot or building lot, up to one acre. Generally consisting of playground equipment, seating, shade and landscaping. Several of Danville's Pocket Parks are results of demolition of buildings and/or fire in the downtown area.

An example of a Danville Pocket Park would be Temple Plaza or Reed Park.

## **Neighborhood Parks:**

Generally considered from 1 to 10 acres in size and designed for informal recreation through pedestrian and bicycle access. The service radius for a Neighborhood Park is thought to a ½ mile, meaning citizens will travel up to a ½ mile to go to that park. Neighborhood Parks generally consist of active-play facilities, including: playground equipment, softball or baseball fields, hard surface courts for basketball and tennis, natural areas, trails, shelters and landscaping.

An example of a Danville Neighborhood Park would be Lincoln Park or Liberty Park.

## **Community Parks:**

Generally considered from 10 to 50 acres, but could be more, are designed to serve a broader purpose than Neighborhood Parks. A Community Park has features that citizens will travel farther for to utilize and participate. A Community Park services a range of 1 mile but this can be exceeded based on the amenities. Community Parks amenities overlap those of Neighborhood Parks, but also include: outdoor walking surfaces, hiking and biking trails, soccer fields, larger scale playground equipment, golf course, dog facilities and swimming opportunities.

An example of a Danville Community Park would be The Wayland-Young Athletic Facility or Winterview Park & Soccer Complex.

## **Regional Parks:**

Generally considered more than 50 acres, are designed to serve an even larger population than Community Parks and could also be considered County or State Parks as some of them are not run by the City of Danville, though the citizens of Danville utilize them. Regional Parks have a larger service radius due to the fact that they have some sort of "unique" feature that will draw citizens to the destination. These could include a beach, boat dock, boardwalk, natural features, and nature education facilities.

An example of a Danville Regional Park would be Heron County Park Wetland & Boardwalk or Kickapoo State Park.

