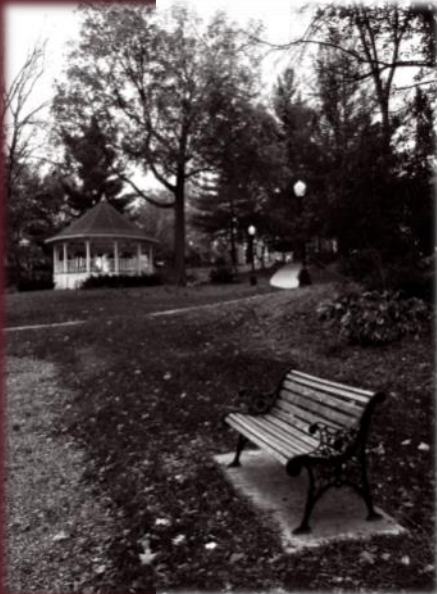




Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Fall
2022



Mount
Vernon
IOWA

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Chalk the Walk 2015, AGI - Aerial Gallery Iowa

Mission Statement

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Board is dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of parkland, natural resources, and recreational programming to enrich the lives of the community and its visitors.

We will:

Provide balanced opportunities for all people to enhance their physical and mental well-being.

Work to be environmentally and fiscally responsible within our parks and recreation system.

Develop effective collaborations and partnerships to enhance our community for current and future generations.



Davis Park Playground with Diamond in Background

INTRODUCTION

The City of Mount Vernon's Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a tool for the assessment of the community's needs and available resources in order to develop a clear set of goals, strategies, and standards for the City's parks, trails, open space system, current and future recreation facilities, plus program development for the next ten years. Planning processes utilized a comprehensive approach, including: a physical inventory, statistically valid public survey, benchmarking, national standards analysis, demographics, mapping, and trends.

The community-driven master plan is intended to guide Mount Vernon's Parks and Recreation in establishing sustainable, prioritized recommendations to: facility improvements and development, recreation programming, operations and maintenance, as well as the resources and funding associated with each action.

As the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Mount Vernon. It is built with the expectation of annual review and revision as needs and wants evolve within the Mount Vernon community.

“There are things about living in a small town that you can't necessarily quantify.”

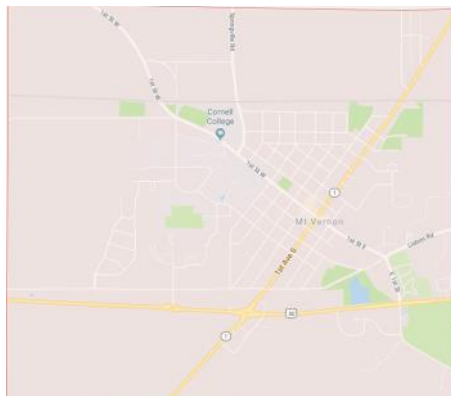
- Brandon Routh

Overview

Study Area

The study area for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan encompasses the entire town of Mount Vernon, which is located in eastern Linn County in East Central Iowa. The town of Mount Vernon has an official 2010 Census population of 4,506. The physical character of Mount Vernon's neighborhoods is mostly urban, with a small number of rural areas within city limits taken into consideration. It includes institutional land uses such as Cornell College, a Division III liberal arts college, and the Mount Vernon Community School District.

Mount Vernon's neighbor directly to the east is Lisbon. Lisbon's city limits share its west boundary with the city of Mount Vernon. Its official population in 2010 was 2,152. Lisbon funds its own Parks and Recreation department and programs, including a full time director.



Mount Vernon, IA Road Map 2018, Google



Mount Vernon, IA 2018 Satellite Image, Google

The Process

I. Community Consultation/Survey

The Parks and Recreation Board initiated a community survey in November 2010 with results compiled in 2011. Sent out to every household (1,353), the survey contained 11 questions and room for additional comments. A total of 297 surveys were returned (21.9%) and compiled with results provided in *Table 1* (attached). It is recommended with future master plan updates the Parks and Recreation Board host discussions with local community recreation groups, the Mount Vernon Community School District, Cornell College, and city staff. The Parks and Recreation Board will welcome public input before recommending a finalized document to the Mount Vernon City Council.



Quarry Ridge
Disc Golf Course

II. Population and Projections

Per the 2010 census, there were 4,506 people residing in Mount Vernon; 1,353 households, and 894 families. The population density was 1,291.1 inhabitants per square mile. 1,397 housing units completed an average density of 400.3 people per square mile.

The racial makeup of the city was 95.0% White, 0.9% African American, 0.2% Native American, 1.7% Asian, 0.5% from other races and 1.6% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 1.9% of the population. There were 1,353 households out of which 37.3% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 54.2% were married couples living together, 9.2% had a sole female householder, 2.7% had a sole male householder, and 33.9% were non-families. 26.5% of all households were made up of individuals and 8.9% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.54 and the average family size was 3.14.

The median age in the city was 24.4 years. 22.9% of residents were under the age of 18; 27.7% were between the ages of 18 and 24; 19.7% were from 25 to 44; 20.1% were from 45 to 64; and 9.5% were 65 years of age or older. The gender makeup of the city was 48.5% male and 51.5% female.

The *2006 Fiscal Impact of Residential Development in Mount Vernon* study, located on the City's website conservatively predicted 5,000 residents in 2015. A 2012 Census estimate placed the city's population at 4,583 – a two-year growth rate from 2010 of nearly 2% in two years. According to the *Mount Vernon Comprehensive Plan*, a 2013 estimate was established based on the City's building permit data. Using 2.4 people per household and 18 new homes constructed since 2010, the 2013 estimated population was 4,626. The projected populations for 2020 and 2030 are discussed later in the same *Plan*. The population is expected to be over 5,180 residents by 2020 and nearly 6,000 by 2030.



Bike Rack, 1st Street

**“Study nature,
love nature,
stay close
to nature.**

**It will never
fail you.”**

- Frank Lloyd Wright



The Nancy Doreen Huffman Dog Park



Under Hill Skate Park



Bryant Park Playground

III. Trends

The master plan process included a thorough examination of local, state, and national trends affecting parks and recreation. *Table 2* (attached) provides a summary of key trends expected to have significant implications in the future of parks and recreation in Mount Vernon.

IV. Parks and Recreation Delivery and Programming

The plan addresses the methods of parks and recreation service delivery in the City, covering such topics as: relationships among the key providers, the role of the Park and Recreation Board and Recreation Department, and ways to improve coordination and communication with stakeholder groups. Existing programs and future programming needs were assessed. See *Table 3* (attached).

V. Recreation Facilities Inventory

Surveys and interviews with participants during a *2004 Needs and Space Analysis* and 2010 mail survey provided the necessary information which to base the projection of current and future needs for a variety of sports and community recreation facilities. Existing standards of supply and recommended provision levels were also considered in the context of future demand. The standards were then revised accordingly, taking into consideration not only current participation levels and public requests, but also recreation trends. Improvements to existing facilities are also recommended. This can be viewed in *Table 4* (attached).

VI. National Parks and Open Space Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a total of 6.25 to 10.50 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. Currently the City of Mount Vernon has 69.2 acres of park/open space dedicated to park land. Approximately 10 of those acres are undeveloped leaving the City with about 59.2 acres of developed open space.

Using the 2010 Census population (4,506), the City meets the national standards for developed open space having 13.13 acres per 1,000 population. As development occurs, per *Subdivision Ordinance Chapter 166.16 Letter b Section 2*, 5% of the entire land area being developed will be reserved for City recreational areas and open space. This assists the City in consistently meeting National Standards. An annual review should be conducted by the Parks and Recreation Board to ensure the City is continuing to satisfy current national standards.

An inventory of publicly accessible parks and open space areas (including outdoor recreation facilities and amenities) was compiled and recommendations for park improvements were catalogued. Reviewed in *Table 4* (attached), the City's parks and linked open space network were also evaluated in terms of supply and demand through the application of a modified parkland hierarchy and provision standards.

The Issues / SWOT Analysis

The following are considered to be key issues and concerns from the Parks and Recreation Board and the Parks and Recreation Community Survey. These issues *are not* listed in any order of priority.

Marketing

There is no marketing plan in place. Plan creation would guide efficient consistent promotion, overall accuracy, and program awareness. Some marketing channels considered are: media outreach, placed advertisements, seasonal program guide/brochure, social media campaigns, and community outreach.

Park Maintenance

Parks and Recreation relies on Public Works staff to maintain and improve the City's parks. Tasks and projects are shared and discussed by the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Public Works Director and/or lead operator. Priorities and skill sets determine if the task can be performed in-house or contracted out. Without direct staff reporting to the Parks and Recreation Director, it can be difficult to prioritize this list against other tasks throughout the City. Parks and Recreation and Public Works must continue to work together for the mutual benefit of maintaining the park system.

Organizational Structure of the Park and Recreation Department

Currently there are three full time employees for the department. The Director, Assistant Director, and Recreation Specialist. Additional part-time staff are usually hired to perform simple and small maintenance items or to act as referees for sports programs. At times, part-time staff are hired to teach a skilled class. The City should also consider hiring additional maintenance staff for Public Works as the City acquires more park land. This could be part-time or full-time staff depending on the amount of land that is acquired.

“Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction”

- E.O. Wilson



Mount Vernon Municipal Pool, Davis Park

The Issues / SWOT Analysis

<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths</p> <p>Sports Programs: Number, Variety Pool Trails Parks: Location, Number P&R Director P&R Board (full and active) Communication Online Registration Number of Ball and Soccer fields Wellness Center</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses</p> <p>Adult Programming Lack of park maintenance budget Getting info to new residents Age of outdoor pool Park Maintenance does not report to P&R Director Community input/participation in P&R Board</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities</p> <p>Volunteerism Increasing population Supportive Council Cornell Schools Lisbon Future Development Grants</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p> <p>Budget Travel/Competitive Programs Surrounding towns adding park amenities P&R Board Turnover Park Maintenance expectations Indoor facilities not City owned Lack of facility availability</p>

Age of Outdoor Pool

The City pool is nearly 65 years old. A 2014 pool analysis provided insight on the pool's infrastructure; it identified various outdated mechanical features and a high possibility of failure. Recommendations were made to replace these features and provide upgrades so the pool may provide long term use.

Community Input/Participation with Parks and Recreation Board

Currently there is very little community participation with the Parks and Recreation Board. Board members should make an effort to share with the community what is happening within Parks and Recreation. Members could use various methods to share with the community what is happening, including: social media, networking, community forums, or editorials. Council level participation could be increased by having a Council liaison present at Parks and Recreation Board meetings to update the City Council as needed.

Facility Availability

Mount Vernon is an active community, which sometimes makes a good thing a problem. With the increase of competitive teams as well as overall patron activity, there is the difficulty of accommodating all users. While not all people can be pleased all the time and scheduling will be watched, we see this as a threat to participation in the Parks and Recreation programs and facilities. Our goal is to be an opportunity to the community, not just a few.

Young Adult, Adult Programming

Parks and Recreation offers adult coed softball, and a few School of Recreation enrichment classes. With the addition of the LBC a variety of diverse programs will be ongoing.

**“Look deep
 into nature,
 and then
 you will
 understand
 everything
 better.”**

- Albert Einstein

Action Plan, Timing and Priorities

Action plans (recommendations) were divided into the following sections:



Memorial Park

Section 2: Leisure Delivery System and Programming

Section 3: Existing Parks and Open Space

Section 4: New Recreation Facilities and Parks

Section 5: Implementation

Each action has been assigned a recommended timing and priority. The ranking of action plan is based on high, medium, and low priorities. Rankings are largely weighted on the degree of need and safety concerns. Despite this ranking system, all action plans are deemed extremely important, and when implemented would greatly benefit the parks and recreation services of Mount Vernon.

The proposed timing of the action plans were referenced on short, intermediate, and long term time frames. Some recommendations do not include specific time frames due to shifting priorities, budgeting issues, and other unforeseen circumstances. The time frames are defined as follows:

Immediate/Short Term, or 1-2 year (2023-2024)

Intermediate Term, or 3-5 years (2025-2027)

Long Term, or 5+ years (2028-2032)

“In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.”

- Aristotle

Please note that the priorities and timing indicated for the action plans are based on ideal circumstances. Budget pressures, changes in participation, availability of volunteer resources, land acquisition and retraction, and other factors may impact the implementation of the proposed action plans. These action plans are based on needs and not necessarily on what is financially achievable by the City of Mount Vernon and the Mount Vernon community.

The City should compare the action plans with its financial capacity and focus on the highest priority items. It is recommended Mount Vernon regularly monitors and updates the Master Parks and Recreation Plan and its action plans.



Elliott Park Playground

PARKS AND RECREATION DELIVERY AND PROGRAMMING

Overview

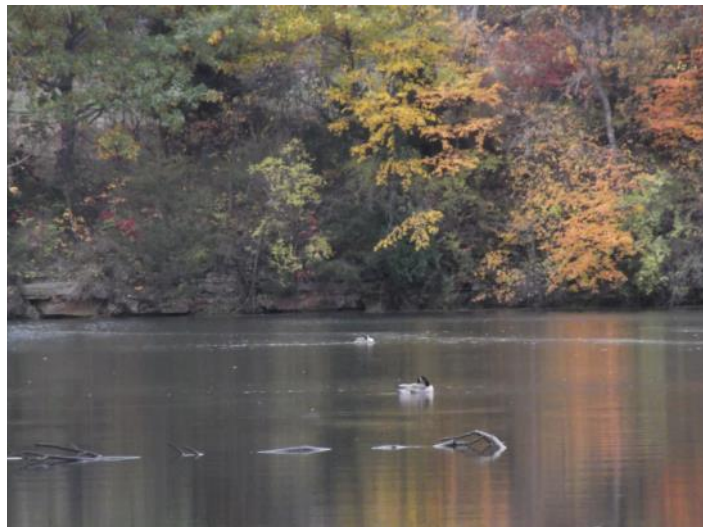
The delivery system is how recreation services are provided to the public. The City of Mount Vernon is the primary provider of public recreation facilities and parks. The City also administers a large number of community programs and services for all age groups.

In addition to the City of Mount Vernon, there are other public and private sector organizations that have played a prominent role, or continue to participate in the recreational delivery system: Mount Vernon Community Schools, Mount Vernon Public Library, Cornell College, First Street Community Center, Kernoustie Golf Club, plus others.

There are numerous community organizations and volunteers within the City of Mount Vernon. These organizations, which include competitive sports teams, special interest groups, and individual volunteers, have traditionally played a large role in the delivery of recreation programs and have a strong record of active participation in the provision of leisure activities, fundraising, and sponsorship.

There are a few formal relationships or procedures among community organizations and the City of Mount Vernon.

Recreation programming deficiencies and needs were examined, resulting in recommendations to improve the scope of program opportunities. For the most part, the public indicated that the recreational opportunities in Mount Vernon are quite good. The results of a 2010 Parks and Recreation survey indicated that participation is quite high with 202 out of 297 of the responses having participated in one or more of the programs offered by Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation.



Nature Park Pond/Former Quarry Site

Action Plans



Sauter Park and Trail

One specific area needing improvement is integrated marketing of the Parks and Recreation department, including clear and concise communication. Without a current marketing plan, getting consistent Parks and Recreation program information to all residents has been a challenge. The Parks and Recreation department and board members should work together to develop a simple marketing plan. Within this marketing plan should be components involving standards for social media, advertising, and other communications to the public. These standards can guide all members of Parks and Recreation in having a cohesive voice.

A general lack of community input and participation in the Parks and Recreation Board was also identified. During each Parks and Recreation Board meeting (on the third Tuesday of each month) there are few to none open forum participants, and rarely a community member. Adding the cohesive plan mentioned above will strengthen the opportunity of all Parks and Recreation members effectively informing and involving the community.

The structure of the Parks and Recreation Department is growing. The Parks and Recreation Director currently has one full-time direct report as well as a permanent part-time report. There are also seasonal employees for the pool and summer work.

As programs grow there will be a need for additional staffing. The Parks and Recreation Board is mainly an advisory board; it could develop further and have its members take on some of the small tasks that come up in the short term.

“Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop.”

- Dorothy Height

EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Overview

This section provides an analysis of existing parks and open space in Mount Vernon. Public open space and parks contribute to the quality of life of Mount Vernon residents by not only providing the land base for recreation activities and facilities, but also by contributing to the ecological health of the municipality and enhancing the aesthetic quality of the community.

There are 13 public and quasi-public parks within Mount Vernon totaling 69.2 acres (*Table 4, attached*). Each park was evaluated during the Master Plan process for its ability to meet the current and future needs of Mount Vernon residents. Each park was compared to the National Park Standards per the *National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA)*. Action plans are proposed on a park-specific basis, detailing necessary improvements.

Mount Vernon has an extensive network of paved bicycle and pedestrian paths with plans to upgrade existing trails and develop new paths over the coming years. Trails are an asset to the community; they assist not only in alleviating traffic congestion, but also provide space for a variety of unstructured, low-impact recreational activities. The continued development of both natural and paved trails received a great deal of public support in the household Parks and Recreation survey. A Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) is currently in effect and is accruing revenue to be put towards future trails. In conjunction with oversight of our communities' parks and open space, the Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Board strategically plan trails and sidewalk connectivity. An adopted trails master plan serves as a guide for the goal of pedestrian connectivity within our community. The prioritization of trail projects is based upon a cost/benefit approach and are outlined within the Trails Capital Improvements Project list. A copy of the Comprehensive Trails plan is included within Table 5 of this document.

The next pages are the most utilized parks and open spaces in Mount Vernon's Parks and Recreation program. They are currently developed with specific features, reviews, and recommendations for the City.

**“Nature will bear
the closest
inspection. She
invites us to lay
our eye level with
her smallest leaf,
and take an
insect view
of its plain.**

- Henry David Thoreau



Memorial Park Gazebo

Memorial Park

Summary:

This nearly two-acre park in the middle of historic Mount Vernon is the most visible park, located along the Old Lincoln Highway/1st Street West, the main road traveled through Mount Vernon. The park is landlocked with no easy options for expansion. Amenities include a gazebo, two separate playground areas, walking paths, picnic benches, seating benches, and terraced amphitheater. Memorial is also home to the City's water tower and the Mount Vernon Visitor's Center.

Recommendations:

Restroom Facilities: There is a restroom located inside the Visitors Center, however it is not open for public use after hours.

Gazebo Maintenance: Consideration should be given to allocating funds for long-term maintenance of the gazebo while also making the viewing area more accessible.

Address: 401 1st St. W

Acreage: 1.9 Acres

Acquisition and Construction History: 1933

Playground: Two playground areas: one on the north end, one in the middle. Safety surface of pea gravel.

Athletic Field/s: None

Trail: Yes, wide concrete trail/sidewalk winds through the middle of the park.

Park Roads and Parking Lots:

No designated lots. Parking available on side streets, the adjacent Visitor's Center lot, and nearby churches.

Ponds, River & Fountains: None

Trees, Landscaping and Beautification:

Mature and younger trees. Terraced landscaping around south side of gazebo.



Memorial Park Lower Playground

Memorial Park, cont.

Topography:

Land steeply slopes from high (southern side/1st St. West) to low (northern side/2nd Street North)

Site Amenities:

Many benches and seating walls throughout. One antique-style drinking fountain.

Signs: An identification sign is located at the west end of the park

Current Uses: Mostly passive: playground, local preschool use, some community gatherings and trail users.

Picnic Shelter: Gazebo with no tables or chairs; often it is used for municipal band performances.

Restroom: There is a restroom located inside the Visitors Center, but it is not accessible to the public outside of business hours.

Lighting: Good general lighting with antique poles and globe housings.

Opportunities/ Constraints:

The park is landlocked (roads to the south and the north, residential to the east and the Visitor's Center on the west end). The current landscaping around the gazebo doesn't add to the enjoyment of the park and needs to be rethought.

Immediate Needs:

- North playground's retaining walls needs to be replaced or reset to prevent collapse
- South retaining wall needs attention
- Remove tree stump and install new trees at NE entrances

Intermediate Needs (1-3 years):

- Consideration of restroom facility
- Replacement of wood with composite decking at Gazebo

Long Term Needs (3+ years):

- Provide accessible viewing nodes at a few locations at amphitheater
- Plant mix of shrubs, evergreens, and understory trees along NE park perimeter to screen adjacent residences
- Screen transformer with medium sized trees



Mary Playground at Memorial Park

Bryant Park

Summary:

This 4.7 acre park is home to a large parcel of open space being utilized as three soccer fields in the spring and fall, then for T-ball and coach pitch baseball/softball in the summer. Within the park there is a large playground, park shelter, and restrooms. The garage at the restroom building provides adequate equipment storage. The park does house one of the City's many water wells near the west border of the park.

Recommendations:

Parking: The limited number of spaces makes parking for the many events and the narrow roadway makes travel to and from the park extremely difficult. Some undeveloped land does exist to the south of Bryant Road and the park is landlocked. There is an opportunity to expand parking to the north and west of the current parking lot, as this small section of land is not used for the Parks and Recreation programs.

Address: Bryant Road **Acreage:** 4.7 Acres

Acquisition and Construction History: 1999, Soccer fields named in memory of the Rittmer Family in 2000.

Playground: East side of park, across from Bryant Court intersection/ Safety surface of pea gravel.

Athletic Field/s: Open space used for soccer, T-Ball, and coach pitch

Trail: Currently no trails to or from this park

Park Roads and Parking Lots: One asphalt parking lot, diagonal parking allowed on north side of Bryant Road

Ponds, River & Fountains: None

Trees, Landscaping and Beautification: Nice mature shade trees surrounding park. Lots of new young trees spread throughout. Very nice newer trees line fence next to railroad. Need to landscape and beautify new park sign.

Topography: Gently rolling, ground slopes slightly north to south.

Site Amenities: The storage/restroom building has a water fountain on the outside of the facility. The pavilion has many picnic tables.



Bryant Park

Bryant Park, cont.

Signs: Identification sign located at the east entrance of the park

Picnic Shelter: One with several picnic tables

Restroom: Two located at storage building

Lighting: Very low lighting.

Current Uses: Very active park: playground, t-ball, soccer fields, etc.

Opportunities/Constraints:

Landlocked with the railroad to the north, residential to the west and east. Land across Bryant Road to the south could be purchased for more parking or expansion of the park. Small area to east of garage could be developed into additional parking.

Immediate Needs:

- Safety-based lighting. Need for additional street lighting for parking areas.
- Retaining wall at shelter repair or replace

Intermediate Needs (1-3 years):

- Portable bleachers should be considered for various fields
- Additional parking
- Improve pedestrian access

Long Term Needs (3+ years):

- Park expansion
- Field lighting
- Evaluate playground equipment



Bryant Park Playground

Davis Park

Summary:

This 6.0 acre park is home to one comprehensive ball field, a concession stand with two restrooms, a large assortment of playground equipment, a park shelter, a batting cage, two outdoor basketball courts, park benches, and Mount Vernon's community pool. In the winter, the basketball courts can be utilized as an outdoor ice rink. Cornell College utilized the ball field years ago and the upgrades made are still in-use, making this lighted ball field greatly desired by teams and citizens.

In 2022, City Council approved a major improvement to Davis Park ball field with new concessions, restrooms, fencing, lights, and bleachers.

To the north and west side in this park there is open/unutilized space. Although it is in close proximity to the railroad, the grassy area can be utilized for sports practices, an outdoor volleyball court, or other recreational amenities. There is also room in this area for the expansion of the pool.

Recommendations:

Concession/Restroom Renovation: The concession and restroom building will be replaced with a new structure in 2023. The current storage building near the batting cage also needs to be replaced. Future recommendations in the same section of the park include a replacement of outdated field lights.

Accessibility: It would be beneficial to the City of Mount Vernon to review and improve connections to Davis Park when reviewing the Comprehensive Trails Plan to make accessibility easier and safer for pedestrians.

Major pool renovation or replacement: In 2022, a pool feasibility study was conducted and results identified a new pool should be constructed over renovations.

Address: 899 2nd Ave SW **Acreage:** 6 Acres

Acquisition and Construction History: 1964

Playground: Southeast side of park. Surface of pea gravel.

Athletic Field/s: Softball/baseball field, two basketball courts

Trail: There currently is not a trail in this park.

Park Roads and Parking Lots: Two asphalt parking lots. One at baseball/softball field and one at the swimming pool. There is also some parking along the edge of the playground area (2nd Avenue North).

Ponds, River & Fountains: None



Davis Park Playground

Davis Park, cont.

Trees, Landscaping and Beautification: Many nice trees were damaged in 2020. New tree plantings are being planned.

Topography: Fairly flat except the section between basketball court and playground has a low grade. Flooding does occur here.

Site Amenities: Many benches and picnic tables throughout the park. Portable and permanent bleachers are located at the ball field. The concession building has a water fountain on the outside of the facility.

Signs: New identification sign located at the northeast entrance of the park

Picnic Shelter: One pavilion with lots of picnic tables

Restroom: Located at the concession/storage building at the ball field and the outside of the pool building.

Lighting: Good lighting entire distance. Could use more LED lighting for nighttime security. Ballfield lighting needs to be replaced.

Current Uses: Very active: the amenities such as pool, playground, ballfield, ice skating, keep it in use year-round.

Opportunities/Constraints: Landlocked: railroad to the north, residential to the south, west and east. Current pool is nearly 60 years old. Renovations were performed in 1976, 1999, 2016.

Immediate Needs:

- Replace park bench near basketball court
- Repair roof on storage building near batting cage

Intermediate Needs (1-3 years):

- Replacement trees from 2020 Derecho
- Replace aging playground equipment

Long Term Needs (3+ years):

- Pool feasibility study directs City to build a new pool -Date TBD
- Parking lot lights



Davis Park Playground

Elliott Park

Summary:

This 24.5 acre park is home to five separate ball fields all sharing a common concession stand and restrooms. To the west of the concession stand is a playground with limited playground equipment. Next to one of the fields is a batting cage. There is also a park shelter in this park. In 2019 5.2 acres was added to the northeast side for active field use to make this park 24.5 acres.

The park land is used for sports in addition to baseball/softball. The City's soccer programs utilize the space in the spring and in the fall the parks and recreation flag football program along with other sports teams utilize this space. This park is the most utilized park within the City's park system.

Recommendations:

Playground Area Redesign: The City should consider purchasing more playground equipment and expand the playground area. With the amount of use this park experiences, the enlarged playground area and equipment will make this spot even more popular.

Address: 201 7th Street NE **Acreage:** 24.5 acres

Highlights of Park: Ball fields, batting cage, playground, pavilion with tables, storage garage with restrooms and concession stand.

Acquisition and Construction History: 1999-2001 (formerly Mount Vernon Athletic Complex), in 2019 an additional 5.1 acres was added.

Playground: Located near the concession stand and bathrooms, west side of park. Surface of pea gravel.

Athletic Field/s: 5 ball fields, greenspace of fields is used for youth football and youth soccer

Trail: A trail runs north and south in this park along the parking lot, linking with the Sauter Park trail. Future trail connectivity is planned in the new development east of the park.



One of the Elliott Park Ball Fields

Elliott Park, cont.

Park Roads and Parking Lots: Three asphalt parking lots, all fairly new and in good condition.

Ponds, River & Fountains: None

Trees, Landscaping and Beautification: Nice large trees with shade surrounding park. Lots of young trees are spread throughout this park.

Topography: Fairly flat, the land is in a flood plain. Land slopes downward from railroad track on north towards the south.

Site Amenities: There are many benches and picnic tables throughout the park. There are portable bleachers located at the ball field. The concession building has a water fountain on the outside of the facility. The pavilion has many picnic tables and a grill.

Signs: New identification sign located at Cass St. entrance

Picnic Shelter: One pavilion with several picnic tables and grill

Restroom: One set is located at the concession/storage building

Lighting: Very sparse lighting. Could use some street lights for adequate parking lot safety. Field lighting would be a good investment, expanding the usability of the fields.

Current Uses: Very active: playground, ballfields, soccer fields, flag football, trail users

Opportunities/Constraints:
Landlocked, with recent expansion due to urban development.

Immediate Needs:

- Expand playground amenities
- Establish turf at new park addition
- Additional signage at the 7th Street entrance and north entrance near M&K

Intermediate Needs (1-3 years):

- Purchase more portable bleachers
- Informational kiosk
- Trail expansion to the south and west

Long Term Needs (3+ years):

- Ball field lighting for at least one field
- Add permanent fencing to the ball fields
- Tie the restroom facilities into the sanitary sewer and water system



Elliott Park Playground and Multi-use Building

Nature Park

Summary:

This 22.3 acre park is the City's largest open space and most unique park. With an abundance of trees and wildlife an old quarry provides a natural water source within the City limits. Surrounding the quarry is a natural trail. Included within this park is the *Nancy Doreen Huffman Dog Park*. This one-acre dog park is fenced-in and allows for an off-leash area. Another portion of the park is the *Quarry Ridge Disc Golf Course*. This nine hole course is short (by national standards) allowing for beginners to achieve success and winds through a forest area creating a challenging course for more advanced players.

Recommendations:

Trail and Bridge Work: There is the need to improve areas along the natural trail, and connect park land with land across creek (ambulance site) with a walking bridge.

Quarry Pond Maintenance: Regular maintenance of the pond is ongoing.

Address: 699 3rd St. SE **Acreage:** 22.3 acres

Acquisition and Construction History: 1972

Playground: none

Athletic Field/s: none

Trail: There are two types of trail at this park: an asphalt trail that runs along west end connecting to the driveway then leads to Sauter Park trail. There is also a natural trail running around the quarry lake.

Park Roads and Parking Lots: Two parking lots, one on east side and one on west side of park.

Ponds, River & Fountains: Quarry pond

Trees, Landscaping and Beautification: Many mature shade trees throughout the park. Younger trees were planted a few years ago throughout park, especially near disc golf course.

Topography: Gently rolling to flat



The Nancy Doreen Huffman Dog Park

Nature Park, cont.

Site Amenities: One recently installed drinking fountain, picnic tables located at two pavilions, and picnic tables and park benches located at the dog park. Dog Park also has a pergola, double gate, waste facilities and water for pets.

Signs: Identification sign located at the east entrance of the park

Picnic Shelter: Two pavilion with picnic tables, pergola in dog park area

Restroom: One restroom facility

Lighting: Street lights are all lighting that is provided in this park. Could use more lighting.

Current Uses: Passive use with additional elements of the dog park and disc golf course. Very relaxing and the largest open space park in Mount Vernon.

Opportunities/Constraints:

Landlocked road to the south with DOT land and State Highway 30, St. John's Church owns the farmland to the west, city-owned road to the north, and residential/commercial to the east.

The natural and asphalt trails both need repairs. There is a City-owned parcel to the southeast where the Lisbon-Mount Vernon Ambulance Service is housed. The City should consider increasing utilization by connecting these two parcels with a foot/walking bridge or other form of connection. Also, a glow-in-the-dark trail along the southwest park entrance has been discussed.

The quarry pond creates a couple of necessary concerns and areas of improvement. An item of constant concern is the maintenance of the water surface of the quarry pond. For years, the pond has been infested with water meal, a very difficult water plant. Chemical products are used to treat the plant (water meal).

The Park and Rec Board have been approached by citizen groups calling for a pump track or archery park within Nature Park.

The City should consider hiring a consultant do conduct a feasibility study at Nature Park to take advantage of all the opportunities the quarry and park have to offer.

Immediate Needs:

- Trail/sidewalk through north side of park
- Fix the surface at southwest entrance to the park
- Adjust disc golf course holes that overlap the lit trail

Intermediate Needs (1-3 years):

- Improve stability at the waters edge of boat ramp
- Increase signage, including wayfinding and to dog park

Long Term Needs (3+ years):

- Creation of a foot/walking bridge to connect Nature Park with land to the southeast
- Review dog path and blacktop areas for resurfacing
- Creation of a Sculpture Park /Trail



Hole 2, Quarry Ridge Disc Golf Course

Underhill Skate Park

Summary:

This 1.1 acre park is home to the City's skate park housed with metal structures created by a local merchant. This park also contains a small playground. A trail conveniently runs along the east of the skate park making access extremely easy.

Recommendations:

Parking Improvements: Parking could be improved across the street next to the public works facility with consideration to concrete or asphalt, while a sidewalk on the south side of the park (3rd St. NE) would increase park and trail accessibility.

Usability: Since this is the only Martin/Wolfe development area park, a pavilion and restrooms could be considered if the popularity of this park increases. More shade trees would also increase comfort and usability.

Address: 3rd St. NE

Acreage: 1.1 acres

Acquisition and Construction History: 2003

Playground: One playground on north edge of park. Constructed in 2003, surface of pea gravel.

Athletic Field/s: None

Trail: There currently is a trail that runs on the west edge of this park along parking lot. This trail links with the Sauter Park trail.



Underhill Skate Park, initial opening

Underhill Park, cont.

Park Roads and Parking Lots: Gravel lot across 3rd St. at the old ambulance building, now a City public works building, along the street.

Ponds, River & Fountains: None

Trees, Landscaping and Beautification: Few trees, mostly arborvitae providing little shade.

Topography: Fairly flat, steep hill on northeast corner from trail to playground area.

Site Amenities: Picnic table, park benches, drinking fountain

Signs: New identification sign located at 3rd St NE side (south) of park

Picnic Shelter: None

Restroom: None

Lighting: Street light at corner of 3rd and B

Current Uses: Very Active: skate park, playground, trail users

Opportunities/Constraints: Landlocked with roads to the south and east, residential to the north and west.

Immediate Needs:

- New tree plantings (shade trees)
- Install a shade structure near table / seating area

Intermediate Needs (1-3 years):

- Repainting skate park elements
- Consideration of a pavilion
- Connecting to other sidewalk along south side of park

Long Term Needs (3+ years):

- Consideration of a restroom facility and water fountain



Underhill Skate Park

Sauter Park

Summary:

This 1.01 acre park is home to the City's best greenway. It contains a substantial cement trail that links three of Mount Vernon's parks. It has a pavilion and borders Hahn Creek.

Recommendations:

Trail Building: Continue with comprehensive trail plan connecting Sauter Trail to the network of trails and paths within the City of Mount Vernon

Parking Improvements: Parking is limited to the gravel lot next to the City works building, or along the street.

Address: 3rd Street NE

Acreage: 1.1 acres

Acquisition and Construction History: 2010

Playground: None

Athletic Field/s: None

Trail: There is a trail that runs from Nature Park through Underhill Park to Elliott Park.

Park Roads and Parking Lots: Gravel lot near 3rd St. at the City public works building.

Ponds, River & Fountains: Hahn Creek

Trees, Landscaping and Beautification: Many trees line the trail, including shade trees and young plantings.

Topography: Gently rolling except near 1st St. intersection.

Site Amenities: Gazebo with picnic table.

Signs: None

Restroom: None

Lighting: Trail lighting

Current Uses: Trail users include bikes, runners, walkers

Opportunities/Constraints: Landlocked with roads to the north and south, residential to the east and west. Beautification and open the view from the street side of the First Street overpass.

Immediate Needs:

New tree plantings

Intermediate Needs (1-3 years):

Possible stream bank stabilization

Long Term Needs (3+ years):

Consideration of a rain garden in northeast area of park.



Sauter Park Gazebo

NEW RECREATION FACILITIES AND PARKS

Overview

A combination of market-driven and population standards, as well as public opinion was used to assess and estimate future community demand and need for recreation facilities in Mount Vernon. The use of standards is felt to be the most accurate, rational, and scientific approach to determining facility needs. Other contributing factors, such as demographic trends, public opinions, and survey comments have also been incorporated in order to provide an overall estimation of need.



Memorial Park

Recommended Future Facilities

Recommendations for new recreation facilities to be developed are below. It is important to understand that not all of these projects may be financially feasible for Mount Vernon to undertake during the proposed time frame.

Short Term (2022-2024): New Aquatics

The City of Mount Vernon and Mount Vernon Park and Rec Board has recognized the need for a new pool or pool renovation for the municipal pool at Davis Park. The City hired a consultant in 2022 to start the process with a feasibility study.



Davis Park Courts

Intermediate (2025-2028): Park Growth

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Director and Board has recognized the need for additional space for outdoor activities. With increased development occurring in and around Mount Vernon, we are looking forward to more athletic fields, green space, and the chance to become a destination for quality outdoor activities.

Long Term (2029-2033): LBC Expansion

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Director and Board easily admits that the immediate focus on water entertainment is the City's pool and the immediate need to remodel and improve what already exists. In a long-term perspective we have seen an increase in area cities who provide additional aquatic features including splash pads, including Center Point, Lisbon, Wilton, and Marion/Cedar Rapids.

**Coming together
is a beginning;
keeping together
is progress;
working together
is success.**

- Henry Ford

IMPLEMENTATION

Overview

The Master Parks and Recreation Plan is a long-range, strategic planning document intended to guide decision-making for the City for the next ten years. With any document that utilizes a long term planning outlook it becomes difficult to ensure accuracy. As a result, this action plan should be periodically updated and reviewed to ensure it remains reflective of the current realities and responsive to the changing needs of the community. It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Board review the Plan on an annual basis and make changes as desired. It is also imperative that the Master Plan be linked to the comprehensive trail program, the City's budget process, and Capital Improvement Plans. The action plans also need to be reconciled with the City's fiscal capacity.



City of Mount Vernon, looking towards Cornell College, © *Jamie Kelly*

MAPS/TABLES/ETC....

TABLE I—Community Survey 2010

City of Mount Vernon, Iowa, Parks and Recreation Department
Community Survey Results, Issued November 2010

Total Surveys Returned: 297; 11 questions, plus comments.

Question 1: Anyone in your household use parks in Mount Vernon?

YES	NO	Did Not Answer
245	30	22

Question 2: If yes, which facilities (and frequency)?

	Used/Visited	1-5 Times	6-10 Times	10+
Davis Park	104	78	36	88
Memorial Park	83	86	43	50
Bryant Park	67	61	35	37
Elliott Athletic Complex	63	46	32	67
Nature Park	76	66	26	44
Swimming Pool	87	50	31	87
Skate Park	25	29	7	15
Walking Path from Elliott to 1st St.	73	42	38	90
First Street Community Center Gym	42	32	23	24
Elementary School Playground	61	44	24	74
Cornell Disc Golf Course	24	21	6	11

Question 3: What additional facilities would you like us to provide (choices given)?

Additional Facility	Check Mark
Soccer Fields	32
Baseball / Softball Diamonds	42
Football / Soccer Fields	35
Sculpture Garden	50
Open / Green Space	69
Walking / Jogging Paths	197
Pavilions	38
Picnic Shelters	60
Playground Equipment	54
Splash Pad	104

Question 4: Anyone in your household participate in or attend City sponsored activities?

YES	NO	DNA
200	71	26

Question 5: If yes, which activities (choices)?

Soccer	Tball	Baseball	Softball	Coach-Pitch	Swimming Lessons
93	76	60	36	43	81

Flag Football	Swim Team	Chalk the	Basketball	Water Exer-	Cookie Decorating
49	23	176	48	16	68

MAPS/TABLES/ETC....

TABLE I—Continued

Question 6: Any additional programs you would like provided (choices)?

Adult Soccer	Adult Basketball	Adult Volleyball	Adult Softball	Adult Arts & Enrichment
16	23	84	49	94

Family Game Night	Adult Flag Football	Adult Swimming Lessons	Movies in the Park	Youth Arts & Enrichment
45	22	25	119	93

Question 7: How did you learn about programs (marketing)?

City Mailer / Newsletter	City Website	The Sun	Friday Folders
135	32	221	101

Question 8: Rate maintenance of parks (scale 1-5 with 1 being poor).

1 (poor)	2	3	4	5
4	7	63	128	81

Question 9: If answered 1, 2, 3 on scale for Question #8 which parks are in need of maintenance. (no particular order)

Nature Park/the South Park

In general (5)
 Paths are overgrown, needs trimming, please kill of poison ivy on trail. (3)
 Path around Nature Park Quarry is dangerous – in need of railing or cables.
 Widen the path on north side where two benches overlook the quarry
 Park is often dirty and littered. (2)
 Dock needs improvement.
 Perhaps Nature/quarry park could be beautified better.
 Bathroom at Nature Park is often locked.
 What is the purpose of new land, it's a mess.

Sauter Park

Concrete on trail from skate park to 1st St. needs immediate repair. (8)

Memorial Park

In general (3)
 Very limited access from 2nd St.
 Steps not regularly cleared of snow.
 Sidewalk leading down around play area.
 Is the most visible to local and out-of-towners.
 New trees.
 Maintenance of Gardens & Memorial Park/Visitors Center (2)
 Need access to full-time bathroom facilities – many young children need quick use.
 What few flower gardens there are they are full of weeds and desperately need mulch. (3)

Davis Park

In general (3)
 Swimming Pool: lockers at swim pool -rusty mirrors, doors, lockers (2)
 Clean playground equipment more often.
 Basketball courts: hoops need new nets and court needs to be swept (2)
 Ball field, weeds/grass (5)
 Maintain ice and announce when it is frozen.
 Need drinking fountains, especially at Davis Park.

Bryant Park

Had broken toys the last time I was there.

Elliott Park

In general (1)
 Diamonds are rough, weeds/grass, poorly groomed with many dips, etc. (7)
 Diamonds appear only groomed if Parks and Recreation plans games.
 Turf for all the fields, dugouts needed for ball fields, brutally hot during softball season for players.
 Bathrooms only open/working part time.
 Concession stand – make usable

MAPS/TABLES/ETC....

TABLE I—Continued

Question 9 Continued:

Skate Park

Has a lot of litter

Lincoln Way Park

Needs to have grass kept out of the brick all of the time.

All/General

I would like to see better general maintenance of grounds, planting areas, weeding, mulch, etc. (5)

Poorly designed landscaping.

Maintenance seems to be mostly just mowing grass.

Litter pick up.

Mostly shelters and picnic tables.

Cracked paths/sidewalks. (4)

Drinking fountains do not work well.

Bathrooms, (2)

All of them – there are not enough workers, no schedule of need, no leader.

We cancelled or changed locations of games this year more than once.

We actually played on these fields. Very frustrating.

Neutral – no good or bad experiences

Small garden coming in from Mount Vernon Rd.

Elementary School Playground

Too much time (City) spent on these, only a small percentage use these.

I think they do a good job for the amount of parks we have.

New flower beds look great!

I don't frequent them enough to really know, but generally when I drive by they look as if they are maintained well.

From the little I've seen, Mount Vernon can be proud.

Question 10: Prioritize following groups (choices) scale 1-6 (1 highest priority).

Tally on left is total score of all entries added together, right is # answered /responded. Average = 3

FACILITIES

Pre-School	Elementary	Middle School	High School	Adults 18-65	Adults 66 and up
420 / 121 = 3.47	385 / 130=2.96	382 / 122=3.13	451 / 114=3.96	339 / 115=2.94	440 / 124=3.54

PROGRAMS

Pre-School	Elementary	Middle School	High School	Adults 18-65	Adults 66 and up
402 / 118=3.41	377 / 122=3.09	399 / 117=3.41	466 / 117=3.98	336 / 122=2.75	430 / 121=3.55

Question 11: ALL Additional comments for survey. Includes comments after various questions.

A comprehensive trail system linking the parks and looping the City should be a top priority. (A trail or bike section of road that exposes the old railroad bridge overpass, then continues to Mount Vernon Road or a path along Springville Road or to Cedar Rapids, Bertram or Palisades. Better overall sidewalks.) (26)

More green space and a park on the west side of town. (2)

Splash pad at Bryant

Trail around Nature Park could be better maintained. (2)

Like to see Mount Vernon have community gardens. This would be through Parks and Recreations, like Cedar Rapids'.

It would be nice to have a bathroom at Memorial Park – Visitor Center is often closed and City Hall is a long way to walk.

More elaborate playground than the elementary school which is hard to use for preschool-age while school is in session.

Parks with gardens are nice to view. This adds to the aesthetics of the community.

Nature park is heavily used and a gem. Please keep it natural.

More handicap-accessible playgrounds.

Maintain outdoor ice rink.

Parking is a major issue at Bryant and Elliott; actually all areas.

Davis needs more young shade trees and benches near all playground equipment for parents and grandparents.

Overall the parks are great – be sure bathrooms are accessible and clean, trash picked up, etc.

Pets are left out. A dog park would be great. (7)

We need a Youth/Community Center for all: MVMS and MVHS students need out of school activities, place to safely hang out. (6)

MAPS/TABLES/ETC....

TABLE I—Continued

Question 11: ALL Additional comments for survey continued.

Keep the library open, just because Cornell is on break doesn't mean there aren't people who need to use it!

Swimming during all seasons/year round swimming pool/lap pool. (9)

Need early morning adult lap swim at least twice a weekday for 35-40 minutes.

Need expanded swim lessons/programs/hours: more lessons after 4:30 pm, a 60 afternoon swim or exercise class. (3)

Better swim lesson instructor/student ratios.

Host family nights with reduced admission or theme nights at pool.

Swim team option is great for kids.

Partner with YMCA (2)

Partner with YMCA (2)

Combine programs and facilities with Lisbon.

Partnerships with the schools and Cornell to provide more programs and increase utilization of under used spaces throughout the community.

Growth is important and expected - good luck!

Can't open Microsoft and Publisher files from your site – use PDFs.

Indoor skating, storm shelter, year-round volleyball, horseshoe are, badminton areas, rent go karts or mini golf, bowling leagues for 6th grade and up, tetherball at parks

Need open gyms in winter months.

This town is full of artist talent. Parks and Recreation need to tap into this more than once a year art festival.

All ages need facilities and all types of programs, including summer enrichment/arts programs (preschool, elementary, MS, HS, young adult, parents, elderly). (13)

Maybe one time a week take a bus and charge like \$2/kid and take to skate rink for four hours and back home – things like that.

Movies in the Park is a great idea!

Love Toddler Time – think Lisbon organizes this.

Suggest offering free for one child or reduced fee for coaching (head coach) for Pre-K through 6th sports. Might get more interest of coaches if they get something for their time.

Consider financial constraints for participation in programs.

Instead of getting a shirt for every sport and season, have each child purchase a reversible maroon & white jersey similar to the basketball jerseys many boys & girls have used in the past. Then the same shirt can be used and the team is either maroon or white.

Over the years things have changed - created a climate of us and them in the community; those who play Parks and Recreation and who play leagues.

Recreation activities are a bit disorganized and not much advance notice regarding game and practice schedules.

Football and soccer need their own seasons. Many kids want to do both at a young age and it is difficult to do both. (3)

We seem to start Parks and Recreation seasons later in the fall than needed.

We used Parks and Recreation programs when we had children.

Usually hear about Parks and Recreation Events through Word of Mouth. (12)

Cannot evaluate – not involved in all age groups/lack knowledge/just moved to area/don't use. (5)

In the past the Parks and Recreation department has not been flexible sharing time with other organizations.

Only lived here a short time – maybe some way to access events or programs regularly through email or website perhaps?

Various general accolades/compliments/satisfaction for Parks and Recreation (8)

Too much money spent on maintenance. Nature Park was mowed four times in one week in August.

We do not need more parks/is fine/maintain what we have. (9)

People, especially children, are organized & programmed too much in every way. We all need more places & spaces to do what individuals want to do without the group mentality, without the stress of group dynamics.

I didn't know the first street community center gym existed - what is the cost?

Could it (gym) be low cost for seniors and out of work? Low income?

MAPS/TABLES/ETC....

TABLE 2 - Trends

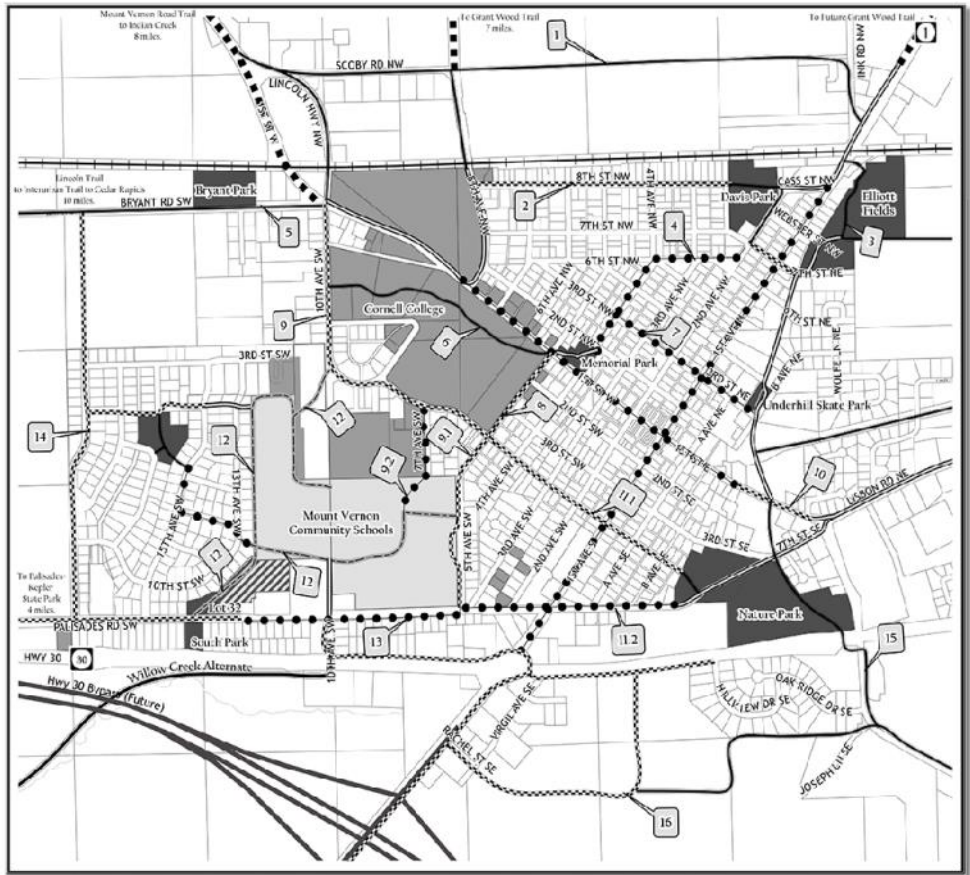
	Description
Trails and Bike Paths	More money being spent and more communities are creating long-range plans
Inclusiveness and Special Needs	Programming, Parks, and Program Delivery
Multigenerational	Making Parks and Facilities inclusive and multigenerational friendly
Technology	Online, Interactive, Upgrades to existing
Key Benefits of Parks and Recreation are being recognized	Physical, Mental, Social, Youth Development, Environmental, Economic Impact
Smaller Budgets	As money gets tighter, departments being asked to do more with less

TABLE 3 - City of Mount Vernon Park Program Delivery Matrix

PROGRAM	AGE GROUPS						SCOPE OF OPPORTUNITY				
	Preschool - 0-5 yrs	Elementary Grades K-4	Middle School Grades 5-8	High School Grades 9-12	Adults 18-55	Seniors 55+	Skill Development	Physical Development	Relaxation	Arts and Culture	Tournament/Competition
Fall Soccer	x	x	x				x	x			
Fall Flag Football	x	x					x	x			
NFL Punt Pass Kick		x	x								x
Fall Basketball - Girls		x	x				x	x			
Winter Basketball - Boys		x	x				x	x			
Adult Coed Volleyball					x			x			
Wrestling	x	x					x	x			
NBA Skills		x	x								x
Spring Soccer	x	x	x				x	x			
Blastball	x						x	x			
T-ball	x	x					x	x			
Coach Pitch		x					x	x			
Baseball		X	X				x	x			
Softball		x	x				x	x			
Adult Coed Softball					x			x			
Family Fun Fitness	x							x			
Beginning Spanish		x									x
Lego/Robotics			X								x
Pumpkin Floral Arrangements					x	x			x	x	
Geocaching		x									x
Winter Outdoor Arrangements					x	x			x	x	
Little Princess Tea Time	x	x									x
Plaster Mask Making		x	x								x
Blueberry Basket Weaving					x	x			x	x	
Beginning Bridge					x	x			x		
Bicycle Maintenance			x	x	x	x			x		
Beginning Drama		x	x								x
Aquafina Pitch Hit and Run		x	x								x

TABLE 4 - City of Mount Vernon Park Inventory

PARK	Acreage	Park/Picnic Shelters	Gazebos	Concession Stands	Lighted Ballfields	Unit Ballfields	Batting Cages	Bleachers	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Playgrounds/Play Sets	Swing Sets	Park Benches	Picnic Tables	Barbeque Grills	Restrooms	Drinking Fountains	Trash Receptacles	Skate Parks	Swimming Pools	Parking Lot Spaces
Davis Park	6.0	1		1	1		1	2		1	2	3	8	10	1	2	2	5		1	46/0H ball and 72/2H pool
Elliott Park	19.3	1		1		5	1	4			1	1	2	3	1	1		7			52/2H lower and 36/0H upper
Bryant Park	4.7	1							3		1	1	2	8	0	1	1	2			60/1H
Memorial Park	1.9		1								2	2	4	1	1		1	2			4/1H
Nature Park	22.3	2											2	2	3	1		1			14/OH
Underhill Skate Park	1.2										1		2	1			1	2	1		unmarked parking
Stoner Park	4.3				U N D E V E L O P E D																
Lincoln Way Park	0.5																				none
Prairie Park	1.4																				8/0H
South Park	1.1				U N D E V E L O P E D																
Sauter Park	1.9		1											1							none
Lot 32	1.9				U N D E V E L O P E D																
Spring Meadow	2.7				U N D E V E L O P E D																
Totals:	69.2	5	2	2	2	5	2	6	3	1	7	7	20	26	6	5	5	19	1	1	



LEGEND

- LOS 1: Grade Separated, Concrete Trail
- - - LOS 3: Widened Sidewalk, Shared-Use Road
- LOS 4: Standard Sidewalks, Shared-Use Road
- LOS 5: Widened Shoulder, Shared-Use Road
- Existing/In Progress Routes
- Discretion of School District
- ▨ Joint City and School Property
- Mount Vernon City Parks
- Mount Vernon Community School District
- Cornell College

1 Future North Connector	9.2 Cornell/MVCSD 18th St Branch
2 Parisi Corral Connector	10 Underhill Nature Park Connector
3 Davis/Elliott Connector	11.1 MVCSD Nature Park, North Branch
4 Paris/Memorial Connector	11.2 MVCSD Nature Park, South Branch
5 Bryan, Cornell Connector	12 MVCSD Connector Trail
6 Cornell/Memorial Connector	13 MVCSD/South/Lot UJ Connector
7 Memorial/Underhill Connector	14 Future/West Connector
8 Memorial/MVCSD Connector	15 Nature Park/South End Connector
9 Cornell/MVCSD 18th Branch	16 Future South Connector
9.1 Cornell/MVCSD Elm Sch Branch	

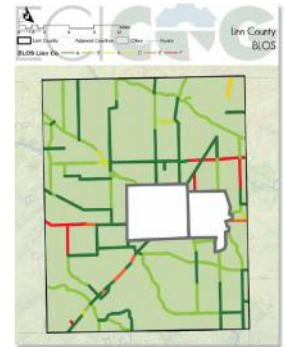
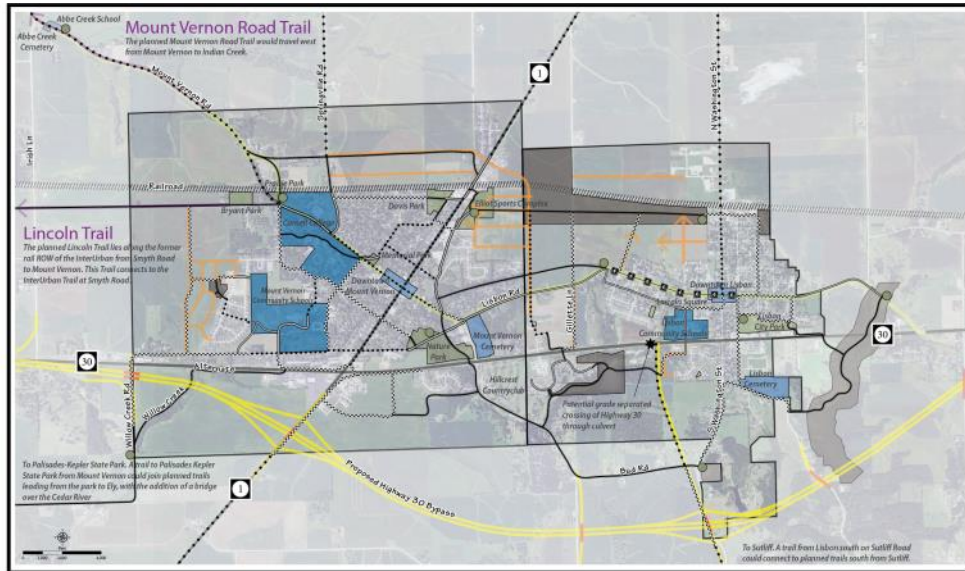
Mount Vernon Long Range Level of Service Recommendations
 Prepared by Katie J. Homan
 Masters Candidate in Urban and Regional Planning
 Created March 27, 2017
 Data Sources: Iowa County GIS, City of Mount Vernon, and the University of Iowa
 Map prepared or amended August 2018 through Community Visioning Process

Mount Vernon

Comprehensive Trails Plan

MAPS/TABLES/ETC....

TABLE 6: Regional Comprehensive Trails Plan



Adapted from East Central Iowa Council of Governments 2011 Trails Plan. Notice majority of primary county roads exiting the community are given a Bicycle Level of Service grade of A or B, which is excellent to good bicycle environment. A full version of the trails plan can be viewed at: <http://www.rocking.org/>

- LEGEND**
- Trailheads
 - Old Lincoln Highway
 - Planned Future Road
 - Existing Trails
 - LOS 1: Grade Separated Concrete Trail
 - LOS 2: Bike Lanes, Standard Sidewalks
 - LOS 3: Widened Sidewalks, Shared-Use Road
 - LOS 4: Standard Sidewalks, Shared-Use Road
 - LOS 5: Widened Shoulders, Shared-Use Road
 - Schools
 - Civic/Community Destinations
 - Existing Parks and Green Spaces
 - Proposed Future Parks and Green Spaces

Mount Vernon

Regional Comprehensive Trails Plan

Landscape Architect: Loren Hoffman, ASLA, Hall and Hall Engineers, Inc.

LA Intern: Nicholas Gulick and Robin Hamadani, ISU Landscape Architecture Extension

Iowa Department of Transportation Trees Forever ISU Landscape Architecture Extension ISU Extension Community and Economic Development

