Professional Planning

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Lake Helen L Lafayette Park Recreational Master Plan

Gothenburg, Nebraska

2016

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recreational master plan provides a clear analysis and record of public opinion concerning the land covered by Lake Helen Recreational Area and Lafayette Park and Campground. The planning process was a collaborative effort between Miller & Associates, Consulting Engineers P.C.; local residents and park users; and the City of Gothenburg City Council, Park Board, and Staff. Beginning in March 2016, the Lake Helen and Lafayette Park Recreational Master Plan was developed through public workshops, surveys, working sessions, and ongoing meetings.

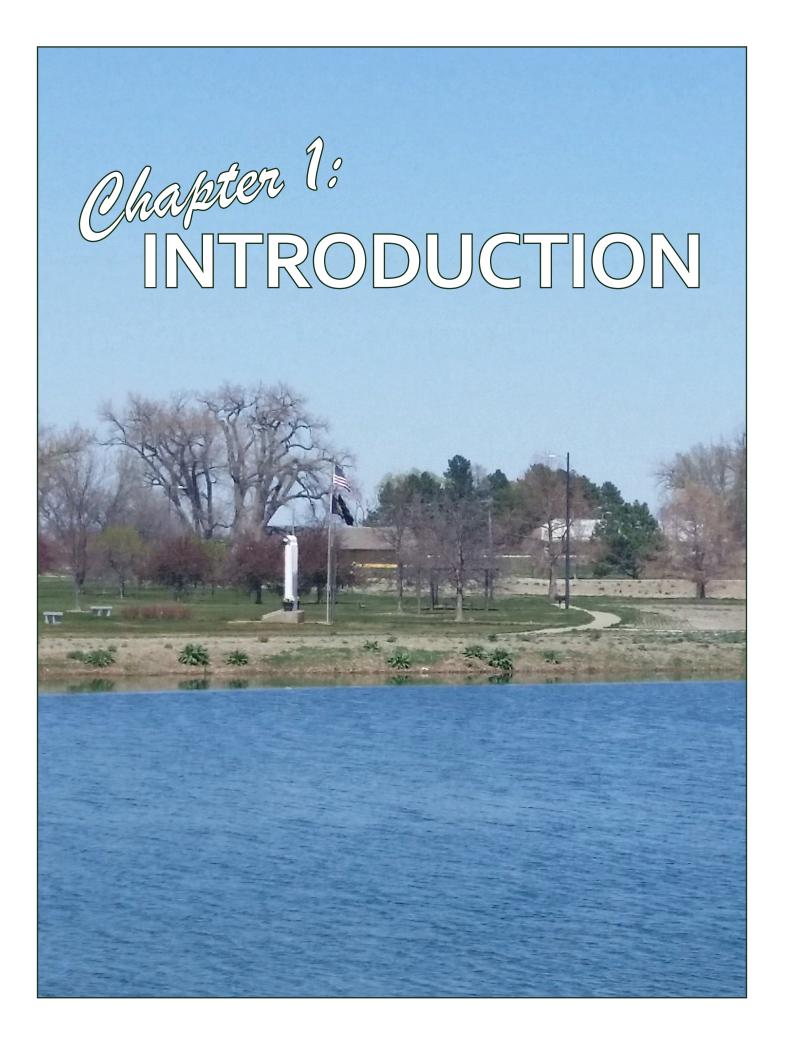
A major driving factor for the development of the Master Plan was the public input provided by community stakeholders. The goals and concepts presented in this Plan were a result of examination and analysis of the park needs identified through the public input process.

The Recreational Master Plan provides a guide for future development of the two Parks by supplying a means for determining the best uses and optimizing management of the park's man-made and natural resources. This Plan serves as a general guide for future appropriate park uses and their approximate location within the Parks.

The Plan is conceptual in nature and is not intended to address detailed issues related to site planning, facility designs, or ongoing park operations.

The Consulting Team is truly grateful for community members' participation throughout this process and encouraged by the community's vested interest in the creation of the Recreational Master Plan for the betterment of Gothenburg.







OVERVIEW

The City of Gothenburg hired Miller & Associates to complete a Recreational Master Plan for Lake Helen Recreational Area (Lake Helen) and Lafayette Park and Campground (Lafayette Park). Gothenburg is located along Highway 30 and on the north side of Interstate 80 in south-central Nebraska. Gothenburg is the third largest community in Dawson County and sits approximately 64 miles northwest of Kearney and 41 miles southeast of North Platte.

Lake Helen and Lafayette Park are both located on the north side of the City along Highway 47 or Lake Avenue, as shown in the location map on the following page. These two parks are adjacent to one another, with Lafayette Park situated directly north of Lake Helen separated only by a canal. A covered, wooden pedestrian bridge spans the canal connecting Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. The bridge is historically registered and provides easy access to Lake Helen for the campers at Lafayette Park.

Lake Helen was originally built in the 1890's to supply irrigation water and power to area factories, but now serves solely as a recreation area. The park is home to a nearly 20-acre lake which provides fishing, non-motorized boating opportunities, a hike/bike trail around the Lake, picnicking locations, a nine-hole Frisbee golf course, playground equipment, and open greenspace for activities such as flag football, kite flying, and more.

Lafayette Park is largely comprised of a campground also providing areas for playground equipment, grilling, relaxing, and picnicking. The campsite offers electric and water hookups, restrooms and showers, and a dump station. There are many trees shading the camper and tent campground areas and there are also multiple buildings within Lafayette Park used for small and large gatherings including Cub Scout meetings.



There are two other parks within Gothenburg including E.G. West Park and Ehmen Park. E. G. West Park is located on the corner of 20th Street and Lake Avenue. Based on information from the City's website, this park is named after the Sweden native, who came to Gothenburg in 1882 and became a prominent businessman dealing in lumber, coal, and hardware. Today the park features a large green space, tennis courts, and playground equipment. Ehmen Park is named after Reverend William Ehmen who came to the area in 1879 as an agent for the Union Pacific Railroad. His family set aside an entire block in 1890 to be the City Park. The Park is located between 15th and 16th Streets on Lake Avenue and offers covered picnic shelters, playground equipment, greenspace, and the Pony Express Station which is free and open to the public. The Pony Express Station has brochures available for visitors providing a self-guided walking tour to learn about the historic homes that surround the Park.

The following report is an existing conditions analysis, synopsis of public input, and master plan for Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. Goals have been determined to ensure both of these parks enhance the quality of life and attraction to Gothenburg.



Figure 1.1: Location Map



GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

From the 2010 Census, Gothenburg had a total population of 3,574, which is a slight decrease from the 2000 Census population of 3,619. Based on American Community Survey (ACS) 2010-2014 data estimates, Gothenburg's population is 3,555 (±17). Gothenburg's demographic make-up consists of 30 percent of residents under the age of 19, 26 percent of residents between 19 and 45, 25 percent of residents between 40 and 65, and 19 percent of residents over the age of 65. Male residents make up a majority, 52.3 percent, of the population and female residents comprise 47.7 percent of the population.

Demographic make-up directly impacts desired recreational amenities because different recreational activities attract different age groups and genders. Understanding the composition of the population can help determine which recreational improvements take precedence over others. For example, playground equipment, splash pads, and pools seem to attract younger children and their parents. Young adults are drawn towards more active sports like basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts as well as hike/bike trails or camping sites and dog parks. Senior citizens are typically attracted to lower impact recreational opportunities like hike/bike trails. It is important for decision-makers to understand those differences when trying to plan for future recreational development.

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) created a Tapestry Segmentation system which divides U.S. residential areas into 65 distinctive segments based on socioeconomic and demographic characteristics to provide an accurate, detailed description of U.S. neighborhoods. Gothenburg falls into three different Tapestry Segmentations: Heartland Communities, Midlife Constants, and Prairie Living with the majority of Dawson County consisting of Prairie Living segmentation. Tapestry Segmentation can help people identify the best markets, find the most profitable consumer types, tailor marketing messages to fit the audience, and to define product and service preferences. The descriptions on the following page, from ESRI's Tapestry Segmentation, summarize the Heartland Communities, Midlife Constants, and Prairie Living segmentations. These descriptions depict the generalities of the different citizen groups as classified by ESRI.

Heartland Communities (39%):

LifeMode Group: Cozy Country Living Household Type: Married Couples

Housing: Single Family

Well settled and close-knit, Heartland Communities are semirural and semiretired. These older householders are primarily homeowners, and many have paid off their mortgages. Their children have moved away, but they have no plans to leave their homes. Their hearts are with the country; they embrace the slower pace of life here but actively participate in outdoor activities and community events. Daily life is busy, but it follows a routine. Traditional and patriotic, these residents support their local businesses, always buy American, and favor domestic driving vacations over foreign plane trips. In our leisure time, we hunt, fish, and ride motorcycles.

Midlife Constants (33%):

LifeMode Group: GenXurban

Household Type: Married Couples, No Kids

Housing: Single Family

Our slow-changing neighborhoods are settled in small communities outside metro areas. Many of us have lived in the same house for years. Retired or looking forward to retirement, most of us are married couples with a growing number of singles. We're homebodies, happy to work on our houses and gardens, do scrapbooking, read, go fishing, play golf, and watch movies at home. Price doesn't trump quality; we shop for American and natural products. Information comes from TV, radio, and newspapers. We're sociable, outgoing seniors who belong to fraternal orders, veterans' clubs, and charitable organizations; attend church; volunteer; contribute to political, educational, arts/cultural, and social services organizations.

Prairie Living (28%):

LifeMode Group: Cozy Country Living Household Type: Married Couples

Housing: Single Family

Most of us are married, family farmers who work hard on our land, located primarily in the Midwest. We shop only when we need something, and stick to food brands we know. Faith and religion are strong influences in our lives; we donate to religious groups and join religious clubs. We own pets, watch TV, shop at Walmart, and eat out at Subway. When there's time, we hunt, fish, go to country music concerts, and camp out.

Lake Helen & Lafayette Park Recreational Master Plan

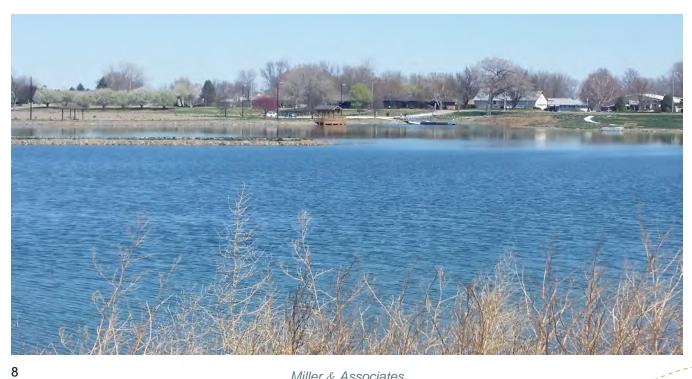


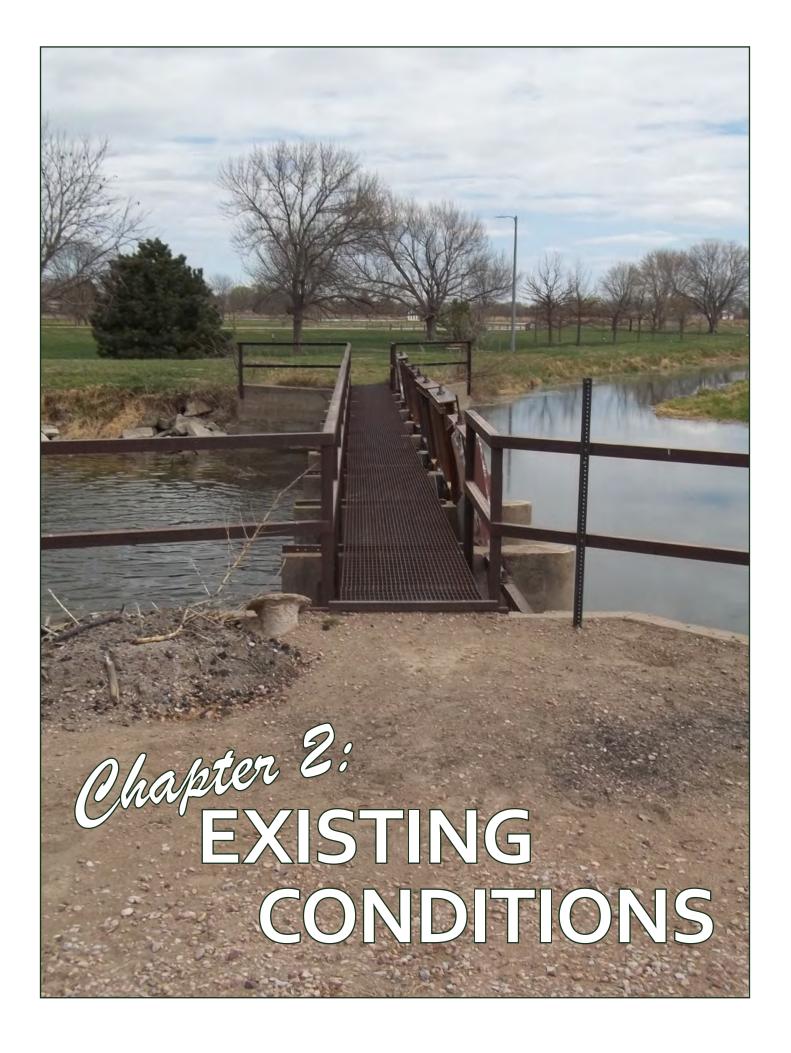














RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

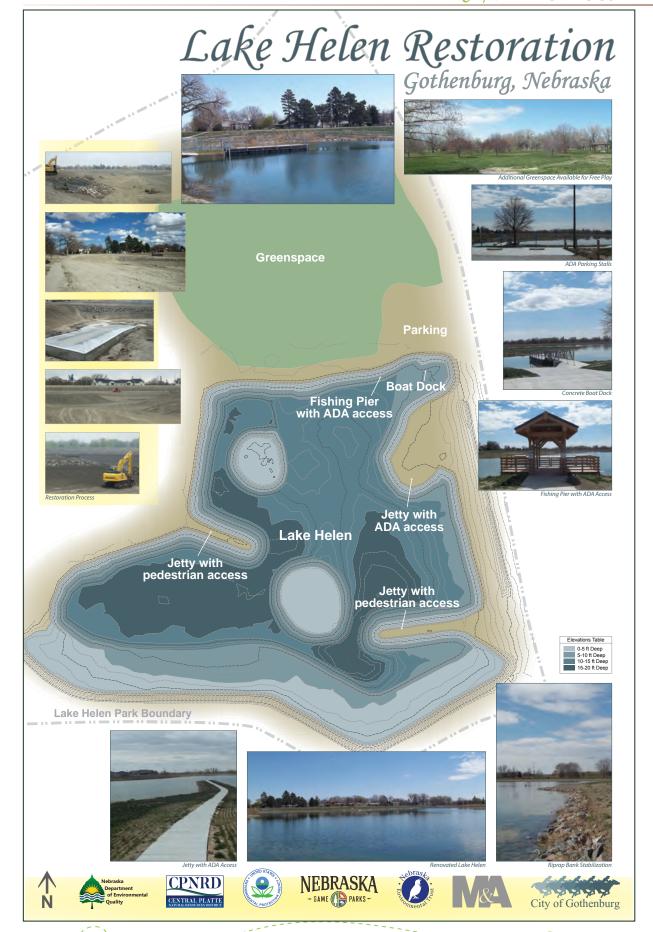
Lake Helen underwent a complete restoration project due to the poor quality of water that was causing frequent fish kills; the restoration project was completed in late 2015. The Lake Helen Recreational Area was originally comprised of two lakes, a large lake totaling 20 acres and a smaller, 7-acre, lake. In 2012, a large amount of phosphorus was found to be the reason for the blue-green algae growth in the Lake. An aluminum phosphate treatment was used to lower the phosphorus levels and additional recommendations were made to maintain better water quality. Due to water quality management concerns, it was decided to excavate the large lake deeper and use the dirt to fill the smaller lake. Grass was then added to the infilled area to create a recreational space available for free play activities such as catch, flag football, kite flying, etc.







The overall habitat was improved by deepening the nearly 20-acre Lake and adding underwater rock shoals, creating diversity. A fish screen structure was also added to keep unwanted species, causing many of the water quality problems, from entering the lake from the canal. A new boat ramp with a floating dock, an ADA accessible fishing pier, an ADA parking area, and a new stock of game were all additional amenities included in the restoration project. Around Lake Helen there are restrooms, a hike/bike trail, picnic tables and shelters, benches, a Veterans Memorial, playground equipment, and a nine-hole Frisbee golf course.

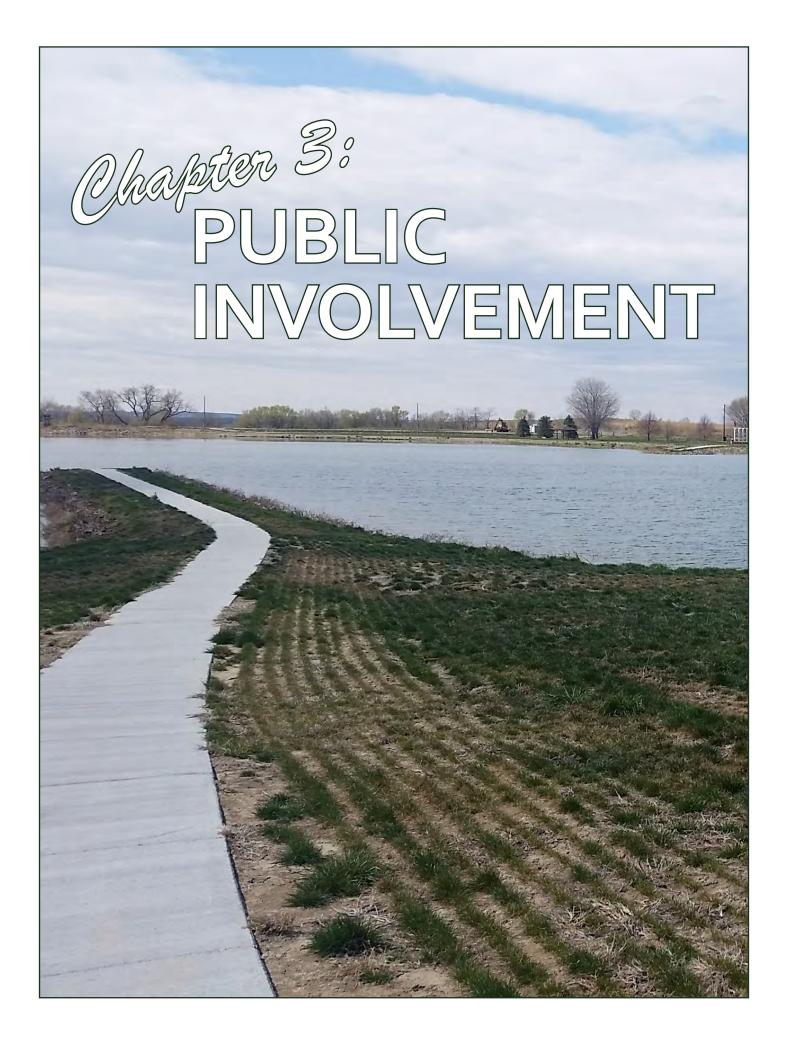


Lafayette Park is home to a campground as well as a horseshoe pit, playground equipment, restroom and shower facility, dump station, and several buildings available for various uses. The camp site has approximately 20 gravel camper pads that provide electric and water hook-ups along with their own picnic table and 20 sites for tent camping. There are grills and picnic tables placed throughout the Park for convenient access. Lafayette Park is also home to four buildings including: a Girl Scout Cabin, a Boy Scout Cabin, an enclosed Pavilion that can be rented during the warm months for parties, reunions, socials, etc., and a 'historic' Depot building that is not currently being utilized.



Lafayette Park has received many positive online reviews for one of the best places to camp in Nebraska. The campground facility has an average review rating of 8.1 out of 10, from people who have stayed at the campsite. Lafayette Park Campground attracts campers all year-round, but its busiest time is the 4th of July weekend during the community's celebration and the Gothenburg Rodeo. The facilities are clean and well-maintained; however, maintenance and up-keep will play a crucial role in the Park's ability to continually attract new visitors. Campers come from all over the United States and they spend money on tourist attractions, gas, food, and other needs within the community.

The City of Gothenburg completed an ADA assessment, in the fall/winter of 2013, on all public buildings and facilities. An analysis was completed on the Lake Helen restrooms and picnic shelters and on the Lafayette Park Pavilion, restrooms, registration center, and Scouts' Cabins. The findings of the Lake Helen and Lafayette Park structures from the 2014 ADA assessment report can be found in **Appendix 1**. As a part of the restoration project, a few new structures were completed including a parking pad, fishing pier, boat ramp, and sitting areas along the jetties. All of these additional projects were designed and constructed to be ADA accessible. The 2014 ADA analysis report does not include the improvements and projects completed since the ADA analysis was finalized.



Many opportunities for public involvement were used to garner an understanding of residents' opinions on park conditions and desires for recreational improvements. Surveys, public input sessions, and assessment of State recreational public input efforts were completed to help Gothenburg's leaders better understand the vision for Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. The following pages outline the process and outcomes from the assessment of State input efforts, community-wide survey results, and public input sessions held throughout the spring and summer of 2016.

STATE ASSESSMENT

In 2011, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was developed to provide a comprehensive approach to recreation and protection of fish, wildlife, and historical resources. This plan utilized state demographic trends and recreational standards and trends. The culmination of this planning effort identified ten action plan items.

The primary goals are as follows:

Promote Livability through Health and Physical Activity
Boost Economic Vitality
Properly Use and Conserve Natural Resources
Improve and Develop Outdoor Recreational Facilities
Provide Outdoor Recreation Education and
Programming
Provide and Enhance Public Access
Secure Sustainable Funding
Understanding the Opportunities and Threats in
Developing Urban Areas
Wetland Priorities

• Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Priorities

LWCF Priorities:
Camping Facilities
Wildlife Habitat Viewing
Picnicking Facilities
Education Facilities
Fishing Access
Hike/Bike Trails
Playgrounds
Swimming

Although Lake Helen and Lafayette Park are not part of the State Park System, they provide access and unique outdoor recreational opportunities in the region, much like State Parks. From the State's planning efforts, the Lake Helen and Lafayette Park Master Plan process has been better attuned with state-wide trends and considerations. Within Gothenburg's general vicinity, there are no existing State Parks; Lake Helen and Lafayette Park help fill this void for the region.

Most state parks provide access to both natural resources and recreational facilities. County parks provide a similar offering. Most municipal parks are individually focused on recreational facilities. Lake Helen and Lafayette Park have the unique ability to provide natural resource and recreational opportunities while maintaining a local, community park feel. It is important to maintain a diversity of park facilities to meet current and future needs of the population. As previously discussed, age, gender, and income affect the types of outdoor recreation activities participated by the population. Gothenburg's four existing parks provide a variety of recreational opportunities for residents; this Plan allows for an assessment and better understanding of desired amenities that will improve Lake Helen and Lafayette Park to ensure both Parks continue to add to the quality of life for residents.

The following table is a list of recreational activities that Nebraskans identified as top interests in a recent SCORP survey:

Table 3.1: Activities Participated in by Nebraskans, 2009

Activity	Percentage of Respondents
Picnicking	77.4
Driving for Pleasure	67.8
Sightseeing	66.7
Walking Without Pet	65.3
Observing or Photographing Nat	ture 59.2
Gardening	58.8
Visiting Historical Sites	57.4
Going to Playground	56.1
Fishing from Bank	53.7
Swimming at Beach	50.2

Source: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey, Conducted by UNL-BOSR; 2009

It should be noted that Lake Helen and Lafayette Parks can currently meet seven of the State's ten priorities based on its current configuration





In addition to participation in recreational activities in the State, SCORP also created a list of the top ten recreation facilities with the highest demand in Nebraska, shown in **Table 3.2** below. This list provides insight for future design considerations and visions for parks in Nebraska. While there is some overlap with the recreational activities participated in most by Nebraskans, there are also some activities with a high demand that may not be offered enough in the State. These tables can help decision makers find areas of potential growth as well as areas of improvements.

Table 3.2: Top 10 Recreational Facilities Wanted in Nebraska, 2009

Service/Amenity	Percentage of Respondents
Picnic Areas	39.6
Fishing Access	38.2
Campsites	32.2
Trails	26.5
Outdoor Swimming & Beach Are	eas 24.1
Hunting Areas	22.8
Playgrounds	22.2
Boat Access	19.7
Wildlife Observation/Photo Area	as 16.2
Golf	12.2

Source: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey, Conducted by UNL-BOSR; 2009

Although local input has been sought and analyzed and remains the priority for determining goals for Lake Helen and Lafayette Parks, it should be noted that due to the parks location near Interstate-80 and the region's void of State Recreational Areas, its inclusion and consideration of the Nebraska State Park system's priorities helps fill a need within the region. It's important to recognize State priorities and how they may assist in attracting new and more frequent visitors to Lake Helen, Lafayette Park, and the community.

COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY

In April 2016, a community-wide electronic survey was released to the public to gather residents' opinions about Gothenburg's parks including wants and goals for improving recreational amenities in Gothenburg. The 27-question survey focused on residents' opinion regarding overall park and recreational goals for Gothenburg including facility improvement needs, additional park or recreational wants, and visions for the future of Gothenburg with focus on Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. Results from the survey were used to help the City understand residents' needs and expectations. There were 131 residents who responded to the recreational survey. A few of the survey results can be found below and on the following pages.



Your input is needed!

To take the recreational survey, please go to the City of Gothenburg's website or visit their Facebook page OR type in

http://www.ci.gothenburg.ne.us/ Lake%2oHelen%2oMaster%2oPlan.aspx

How often do you use the parks or recreasin Gothenburg?	eational
2-3 times per week	43%
2-3 times per month	34%
2-3 times per year	20%
Never	3%

Why do you visit the parks in Gothenburg? (Please check all that apply)	
Exercise	74%
Spend time with family/friends	72%
Relaxation/fresh air	65%
Community events	35%
Organized sports/athletics	14%
Other (fishing, walking the dog, etc.)	10%



Do you feel safe at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park at all hours?	
Yes, at both parks	57%
No opinion	23%
Yes, only at Lake Helen	10%
No, at both parks	5%
Other	3%
Yes, only at Lafayette Park	2%

What amenities would you like to have more of, specifically at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park? (Please check all that apply) Public restrooms 66% 53% Landscaping **Drinking fountains** 50% 47% Lighting Picnic shelter 43% 43% Open greenspace Trash/recycling containers 41%

In your opinion, what are the five most important recreational amenities that Gothenburg should add or expand for residents in the community? (Please check 5) Splash pad/spray park 60% Playground equipment 55% Walking and biking trails 54%

Do you think Gothenburg should build a year-round Community Center?

Yes	59%
No	25%
No opinion	16%

If you said 'yes' to a new Community Center, do you think Lake Helen or Lafayette Park would be a good location for this facility?

Yes	49%
No	19%
No opinion	21%
No, there is a better location	11%

What do you see as the best scenario for the future of the Depot for the community?

The City should remodel the structure for community use	35%
The City should try to sell the Depot to be moved from the site	18%
No opinion about the Depot	17%
The Depot should be demolished	11%
The City should paint the exterior and leave the interior alone	10%
Other	8%
The City should leave the Depot alone	1%

If you want to see the Depot building renovated, how would you like the City to fund the potential project?

I do not support renovations for the Depot	33%
Private Donations	33%
Volunteer man-power	30%
Other	4%





In your opinion, does Lake Helen or Lafayette Park need additional playground equipment?

Yes	78%
No	15%
No opinion	7%



If you answered 'Yes' for additional playground equipment, what age range should it serve? (Please check all that apply)

	(
2-5 year-olds		78%
5-12 year-olds		76%
2-23 month-olds		46%
13+ year-olds		31%



How much do you think should be spent on new playground equipment for Lake Helen or Lafayette Park?

 \$150,000-\$200,000	45%
 \$100,000-\$150,000	37%
 \$40,000-\$50,000	18%



Examples of Playground Equipment

Would you support a half-percent sales tax increase for recreational amenity growth at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park?

Yes	65%
No	22%
No opinion	12%

Realistically, how would you suggest funding park improvements at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park? (Please check all that apply)

Evaluate potential grants 68%

Organized fundraising 62%

Private donations 62%

Half-percent sales tax increase 59%

Other 3%

The full survey results can be found in **Appendix 2**. These results of the survey were shared with residents during a townhall meeting, held on May 26, 2016.

HIGH SCHOOL MEETING

In April 2016, Planners from Miller & Associates facilitated an input meeting with a class of juniors and seniors from Gothenburg Public Schools. Questions were asked regarding what students liked to do for fun in Gothenburg and ideas they had for the future of the community. Students shared their thoughts including: soccer fields with lights (so they don't have to travel to Cozad), availability of intramural sports, lighted tennis court in good condition, sand volleyball, movie rentals, new playground equipment for younger kids, an additional ball field, splash pad, and ways to utilize Lake Helen more frequently.

Several students shared their thoughts about having ice skating and kayak/canoe and fishing gear rentals at Lake Helen. They desired a location for students to 'hang-out' in the evenings and weekends especially since the Sweet Treats shop had closed, because the shop used to serve as their go-to spot to get together. The students thoughts and ideas were shared with the Lake Helen Master Plan Coordinating Committee during a townhall meeting

ROTARY MEETING

During a noon Rotary meeting, attendees shared their vision for the future of Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. The meeting was held in April 2016, and many residents and Rotary members participated in the input session, listening to the reasons of the planning process and sharing their vision for the two Parks. The majority of the meeting attendees believed Lake Helen was best suited as a passive park, where residents and visitors can easily enjoy walking, fishing, relaxing, picnicking, etc. During the meeting, several attendees also expressed their desire for a splash pad in Gothenburg; however, a specific location within the community was not determined during this meeting.

CAMPGROUND INTERVIEW

During a site visit to both of the Parks, Planners from Miller & Associates were able to talk with the managers of the Lafayette Park Campground. The managers provided a tour of the facilities and discussed their strengths, challenges, and goals for the future of the campground. Items discussed included: desire for additional camper pads, concrete pads under picnic tables, cable and wi-fi capability; the adoration for the Pavilion building and its unique history with scratched names on the walls; discussion about the maintenance and up-keep requirements; and the goal to update the 35 amp electrical hook-ups to 50 amps.



TOWNHALL MEETINGS

For the final portion of public involvement, Miller & Associates hosted four townhall meetings that were open to all members of the community. A Lake Helen Master Plan Coordinating Committee was formed to ensure public diversity and involvement at the townhall meetings. The initial kick-off meeting was held in March 2016. During this meeting, Committee members discussed the existing conditions of the Parks, shared input about overall project goals, and discussed ideas for the survey.



The second townhall meeting was held on April 11, 2016. During this meeting, attendees further discussed their recreational goals and how those goals would best align with the vision of Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. This discussion involved attendees outlining which recreational improvements they would like to see at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park and which projects should be planned for other locations within the community.

During the third townhall meeting, held in May 2016, results from the community-wide electronic survey were shared. Meeting attendees were able to discuss the results and how those results associated with their own thoughts and ideas. Following the discussion, meeting attendees were split into three small groups, each with their own aerial map of Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. This allowed the citizens to visualize and brainstorm how the goals and amenities, determined at previous meetings, could fit at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. In order to spatially plan for the wants and needs, attendees were given markers and the goals that had been determined to date.

The results of the spatial planning workshop included three different ideas about an overall master plan. Ideas and thought processes from this meeting were then used to create the overall master plan and vision for Lake Helen and Lafayette Park which can be found in Chapter 4 of this document.

The fourth meeting, held on August 8, 2016, was the final townhall meeting. At this meeting, attendees voted on their top five priorities for improvements at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. The list of priorities can be found on the following page. There were two items "Market/Advertise" and "Year-Round Use" that were not voted on because these two categories are two things the community wants to continually improve. After determining the priority projects, attendees were asked to review the master plan that was created for Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. Citizens were able to discuss other scenarios and make modifications to adjust the final concept to best fit for Gothenburg.



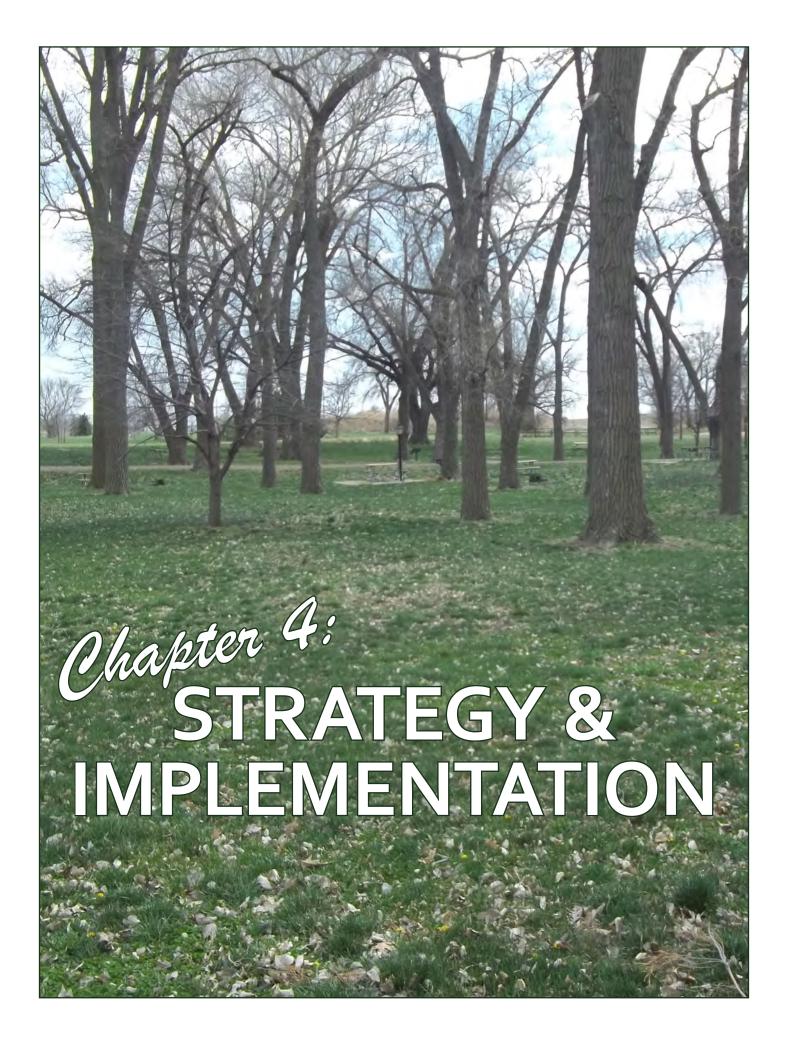
PRIORITIES

From the public involvement opportunities, a list of recreational goals was outlined for Gothenburg. From that list, residents narrowed down the goals for projects that specifically fit at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park. From that list of goals, priorities were further identified through a voting process. All attendees were given five stickers to vote for their top five priorities. Listed below, in **Table 3.3**, are the top 14 goals for Lake Helen and Lafayette Park as well as the number of priority votes that were cast for each goal during the final townhall meeting.

Table 3.3: Priorities from Public Input Process, Lake Helen & Lafayette Park, Gothenburg, Nebraska, 2016

Area of Improvement	Votes
Community Center	8
Splash Pad	8
Basic Amenities	6
Playground	6
Natural Landscaping	5
Hike/Bike Trail	5
Educational Signage	2
Dog Park	2
Exercise Equipment	1
Lighting	1
ADA Compliance	1
Depot Renovation	0
Market/Advertise	on-going
Year-Round Use	on-going

Source: Miller & Associates, 2016



PARK & RECREATIONAL GOALS

Throughout the public input process, the park and recreational goals were shaped and formed. A majority of the goals center around recreational development while maintaining the passive park atmosphere and landscape of Lake Helen. Some of the ideas that were brought forward include: building a Community Center that will be available all year-round, upgrading and relocating playground equipment, improving landscaping, building a dog park, improving connections for Lake Helen and Lafayette Park, adding a splash pad, creating a labyrinth for easy meditation and relaxation, and maintaining a large open greenspace for free play. The following outlines a short description for each desired goal at Lake Helen.

LAKE HELEN

Community Center:

The community desires having a small Community Center that would be available to rent for anniversaries, birthdays, weddings etc. and also serve as a central gathering space for community events. The idea includes having one building with two sets of restrooms, one that could be accessed from the exterior to provide year-round restrooms at Lake Helen. Another idea for the Community Center includes a covered deck/pavilion available for use and events during warm weather. The Community Center at Lake Helen would be an ideal place for concerts and other outdoor events that could utilize both indoor and outdoor spaces. Parking would be a required accessory use for the Community Center dictating larger spatial demands for the parking lot, the enclosed Community Center building, and the covered deck.

Splash Pad:

Many residents have requested the addition of a splash pad in Gothenburg and believe the ideal location is Lake Helen. Other residents believe a better location is adjacent to the municipal swimming pool. A splash pad at Lake Helen allows a water-play feature to be located on the west side of the community, away from the swimming pool. Splash pads can be designed to attract children at a variety of ages and should be designed to have special areas that best suit each age group. These specified bay areas provide a safe play environment for everyone. Splash pads provide community enhancement as well as a healthy way for families to play safely. Splash pads do not require lifeguards and they are designed with the ability to regulate when features are available for use. An appropriately sized splash pad for Gothenburg could cost anywhere between \$140,000 and \$250,000 depending the type of spray features chosen.

Basic Amenities:

The idea behind improving basic amenities includes the addition of small features throughout Lake Helen that will help increase the convenience of the park. Drinking fountains, restrooms, dog waste bag dispensers, trash/recycling containers, picnic tables and benches, etc. are all items included within the basic recreational amenities goal. Adding or increasing the number of each basic amenity will increase Lake Helen's functional usability.

Playground Equipment:

Through the public involvement process, updating playground equipment was mentioned on multiple occasions. Residents believe the existing playground equipment should be replaced and additional equipment should be added. Based on public input, the target ages include 2 – 12 year olds. Residents would also like to relocate the playground equipment so it is situated farther away from Lake Avenue/Highway 47. The type of playground equipment would need to be determined; however, residents would like to see \$100,000 - \$200,000 spent on the new equipment. Working with a playground equipment manufacturer will help provide the City with ideas about the types of equipment and the variety of options for the base of the playground as well.

Natural Landscaping:

Improving the landscaping focuses on several areas of adding natural landscaping with one area being the Lake Avenue/Highway 47 corridor which will provide a bufferyard for park users. Planting additional trees in tree groupings as opposed to single trees scattered throughout the Park is the most ideal method for increasing shade and aesthetics while maximizing the available free play space. Other landscaping improvements include removing several trees that are targeted as haphazard or diseased. Landscaping should be natural, low maintenance, and viewable from the hike/bike trail in order to maximize the appeal. Art sculptures could also be included in the landscaping plan to add another layer of beauty to Lake Helen.

Hike/Bike Trail:

Residents enjoy using the existing hike/bike trail around Lake Helen and Lafayette Park; however, many would like to see this amenity expanded. For several years, the City has analyzed the possibility of expanding the Lake Helen hike/bike trail to the northwest near the Wild Horse Golf Course. The scenery and views are breathtaking and understandably, residents want to be able to enjoy the view while exercising. The City will continue exploring the option of expanding the trail along the canal towards Wild Horse Golf Course which would magnify the draw to Lake Helen and would increase the overall trail usage.



Educational Signage:

Along the hike/bike trail, the community would like to see trail marker and historic indicator signs to identify the location and distance of the trail as well as any important sites, information, or location of historic significance. The addition of signs would also add to the appeal of the hike/bike trail and would be beneficial for residents and visitors alike. Other ideal areas for signage should also be explored, including near benches, fishing piers, parking, structures and shelters, and park entrances.

Dog Park:

The addition of a dog park was one of the more polarizing goals for Gothenburg. However, many residents have the desire to include this amenity within the community because of the benefits it will have for both dogs and dog owners. Fitting within the desired passive park nature, residents believe a dog park would be ideally located on the western edge of Lake Helen. The amenity itself would require minimal development costs, with needs for a fence, a few benches, dog waste bag dispenser, trash receptacle, and possibly a water source to fill water bowls for dogs. Dog parks are desired amenity for citizens all over the United States. Dog parks are ideal locations for socializing, providing benefits for two and four-legged residents.

Exercise Equipment:

Creating a space for outdoor exercise in connection with the hike/bike trail appealed to many adults in Gothenburg. Outdoor exercise equipment can be developed in a fitness park set-up where several different pieces of equipment are arranged in one area allowing users to enjoy a continual workout routine within one general area, much like a fitness gym. Fitness parks make access to fitness equipment more affordable for residents and more enjoyable to use.

Lighting:

Updating lighting around Lake Helen, especially along the hike/bike trail and near shelters and parking spaces will increase safety, accessibility, and aesthetics for the park.



Examples of Outdoor Exercise Equipment



LAFAYETTE PARK

Goals for Lafayette Park were determined primarily from the needs identified by the managers of the campground and input gathered during the public involvement phase. Many goals are centered on maintenance and upkeep at the campground. Other goals for Lafayette Park include exploring the feasibility of renovating the Depot and constructing a new bridge on the western boundary to connect Lafayette Park and Lake Helen. The following outlines a brief description for the goals at Lafayette Park.

Campground:

The goals for improvement at Lafayette Park include upgrading electrical hook-ups to 50 amps, provide wi-fi and cable access for campers, add camper pads, construct concrete pads for picnic tables at each camping site, and upgrade public restroom facilities to be ADA accessible. Creating concrete pads for campers and picnic tables will help protect the existing grass by designating specific spaces for campers and picnic tables and minimize issues of travelers dragging picnic tables around their site and tearing up the grass. These basic updates are necessary to help bring new travelers to the area and to keep existing campers coming back year after year.

Depot Building:

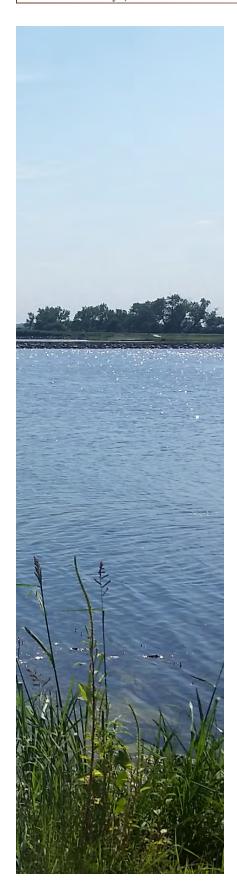
The old train Depot which sits at the entrance of Lafayette Park has historical integrity; however, the structure is in poor condition, is in dire need of updates, and it sits vacant a majority of the year. As seen in the survey results, 11 percent of the people would like to see the Depot demolished, 18 percent believed the City should try to sell the Depot to be moved from the site, 10 percent believed only the exterior should be re-painted, 35 percent think the City should remodel the structure for community use, and 17 percent said they had no opinion. Ideas for utilizing the Depot include moving the structure to a new location, creating a gift and coffee shop within the Depot, creating a fishing, ice skating, and kayak rental building at Lake Helen, etc.

The exterior siding needs to be stripped, primed, and painted and the interior needs design and installation of an HVAC system, ADA improvements, and general updates in order to have a usable space. Although many residents would like to see the Depot renovated, costs could range from \$350,000 to \$450,000 to create a space that is desired and accessible. The Depot could qualify for historic designation from the National Register of Historic Places which would open the possibility of grants, loans, or tax waivers to help pay for desired and needed improvements. The City will continue exploring the feasibility of renovating the Depot and determine possible uses for the building.



Pedestrian Bridge/Access:

Several residents want to see a new bridge on South Lakeview Drive connecting Lafayette Park and Lake Helen along the western boundary of the Parks. Residents also expressed interest in constructing a road and trail on the southwest side of Lake Helen to connect the interior access of Lake Helen to South Lakeview Drive. These two connection points would create more accessible parks for pedestrians and vehicles by providing multiple access points.



ON-GOING EFFORTS

Other goals that are items the City will continually explore options for improving including making both Parks ADA accessible. After Lake Helen's restoration project, many new ADA-accessible amenities were added to the Park. However, there are still a few structures within Lake Helen and Lafayette Park that do not meet 2010 ADA design guidelines. The City will work to make these improvements as funding allows.

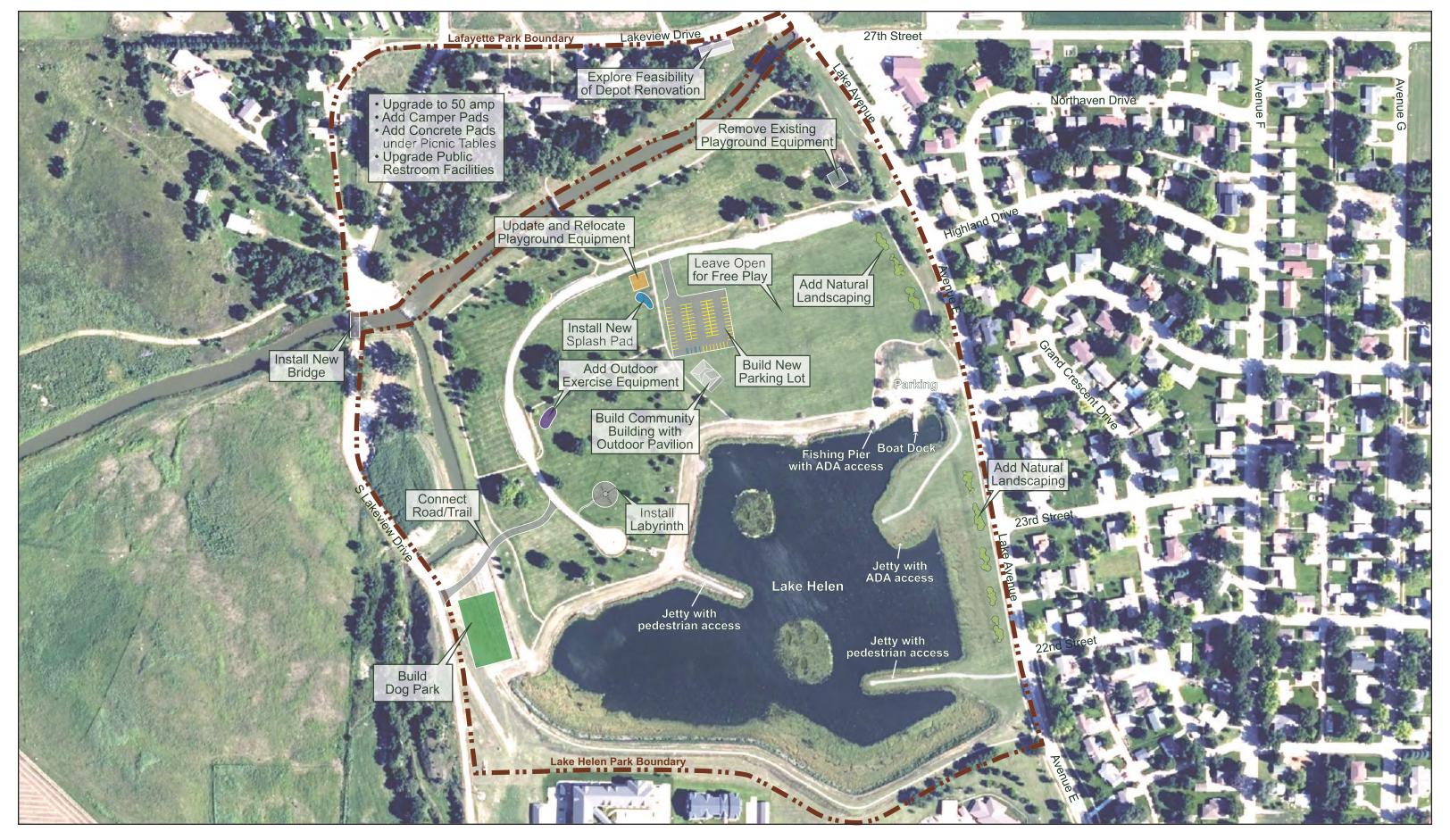
Marketing and advertising and encouraging year-round uses of the Parks are two ways to increase the patronage by residents and visitors. Online marketing through City websites and social media will market the Parks and associated events to visitors and residents. Marketing within the Parks, by having spaces for flyers and brochures highlighting key businesses and cultural/entertainment attractions in Gothenburg, is also beneficial for the community. Marketing and advertising for the Parks will foster year-round use; however, winter months will be challenging to urge people to utilize outdoor spaces. Ice skating, hot cocoa, and the development of a Community Center could all encourage more uses within the winter months.

The goals, determined from public involvement, were not only prioritized they were also evaluated for master spatial planning. The following section shows the overall master plan including the goals outlined on the previous pages.

Other goals that were desired in Gothenburg included the addition of a sand volleyball court and soccer fields. Both were discussed during the recreational survey as well as public input meetings. Although these are two desired goals for Gothenburg, it was determined that Lake Helen and Lafayette Park are not the best locations for either volleyball courts or soccer fields. The City will continue gathering input and determine the best location for the addition of these two goals within the community.

MASTER PLAN

The spatial master plan can be found on the following page; the map was created from input gathered during the townhall meetings and data analysis and research completed during the planning process. Determining the best locations for the identified goals was important to the City because community leaders need to understand the full vision of the Parks to ensure fiscal conservation. Without spatial planning, projects may be constructed in a haphazard method, not taking into consideration additional projects and how the entire space should collectively work. This map should serve as a guideline; new developments and improvements may not look exactly like these images because they are shown as examples. Design and layout needs may change once site surveys and engineering design is completed.



Lake Helen and Lafayette Park - Recreational Master Plan Gothenburg, Nebraska





FUNDING STRATEGY OPTIONS

The City's efforts to achieve the outlined goals should focus on planning and implementation. Fundraising, securing grant funds, determining project feasibility, and completing site surveys and engineering design, etc. are all necessary steps for projects to move forward. One strategy to help City leaders effectively work towards the successful completion of all of the goals is to prioritize project needs. During the final public input session, residents were asked to discuss their priority projects. Although all projects are desired, the City cannot feasibly work towards all goals simultaneously. Without priorities and a spatial master plan, the City's efforts can become scattered and inefficient.

The proposed improvements within this plan must be integrated into the overall budget/program needs of the City of Gothenburg. The needs associated with maintaining the existing facilities within the park system will be considered along with the proposed improvements. Some recommendations may be completed through the annual program of work as part of the continuing operations and maintenance of City of Gothenburg park facilities.

Potential funding sources include annual appropriations, grants, partnerships, and long-term public financing. **Table 4.1** also shows how different grant funding options may apply to the list of priority projects. The following page provides a brief description of each grant funding option listed in the Table.

Table 4.1: Funding Strategies for Improvements, Lake Helen & Lafayette Park, Gothenburg, Nebraska 2016

Area of Improvement	Funding Options
Community Center	CCCFF
Splash Pad	LWCF
Basic Amenities	Private Grants
Playground	LWCF, Private Grants
Natural Landscaping	-
Hike/Bike Trail	TAP, RTP, LWCF
Educational Signage	Private Grants
Dog Park	Private Grants
Exercise Equipment	Private Grants
Lighting	-
ADA Compliance	CCCFF
Depot Renovation	CCCFF, NHTC, VIP
Market/Advertise	-
Year-Round Use	-

Source: Miller & Associates, 2016

Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF)

The CCCFF program is administered by Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Grant applications are accepted annually to support the development of civic, community, and recreation centers. The grant funds require a minimum matching community funds and the funding program is aimed at helping projects that foster maintenance or growth for communities.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The LWCF Program is administered by the National Park Service with the intention of creating and maintaining high quality recreation areas and facilities nationwide. Funding is offered as matching grant funds for the acquisition and development of land for outdoor public recreation areas and facilities. The LWCF also supports conservation strategies by providing funds for the protection and maintenance of recreational resources.

Recreational Trail Program (RTP)

The RTP is a grant funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and is administered through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Funding is specified for land acquisition for motorized and non-motorized trails, trail development, trail related facilities, and trail maintenance.

Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

The TAP is a grant fund offered through Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR). The Program provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives; this includes, but is not limited to, recreational trail projects, on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and improved access to public transportation.



Nebraska Historic Tax Credit (NHTC)

The NHTC, as authorized by the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Redevelopment Act, offers a total of \$15 million in state historic preservation tax credits for each calendar year from 2015 to 2018. The Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Department of Revenue administer the program. They want to encourage preservation of state historic buildings to help with the following outcomes:

- Incentives for redevelopment of historic properties and districts across the state;
- Private investment in historic buildings, downtowns, and neighborhoods;
- New uses for underutilized and substandard buildings;
- Jobs and economic development in Nebraska communities, both rural and urban;
- Creation of housing units;
- Revitalized communities through preservation of historically significant buildings and districts; and
- More heritage tourism in communities.

More information can be found at http://www.nebraskahistory.org/histpres/nhtc.htm

Valuation Incentive Program (VIP)

VIP assists in the preservation of Nebraska's historic places that are already on the National Register of Historic Places list. The program allows a property tax "preference" for a historic property that has been rehabilitated. The preference can be described as a temporary "hold" on increases in property tax assessment that result from improvements made to preserve a historic property. More information can be found at http://www.nebraskahistory.org/histpres/vip/index.htm

Other Potential Recreational/Playground Grants

- Play and Park Structures Grant Opportunities list https:// www.playandpark.com/funding/grant-opportunities
- Grants.gov http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html
- National Park Service Grants Challenge Cost Share Program https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/index.htm
- KaBoom! Grants https://kaboom.org/grants
- Snider Recreation Opportunities list http://cvsnider.com/ playground-grants/
- Let's Play http://www.letsplay.com/get-involved/about-lets-play-grants
- Peter Kiewit http://www.peterkiewitfoundation.org/
- Mars Petcare US Donation Guidelines (help fund dog parks) http://www.mars.com/global/brands/petcare/donation-guidelines.aspx



Other funding options may include fundraising, private donations, and the possibility of a half percent sales tax increase made specifically for park and recreational improvements, the construction of a Community Center, and/or the renovation of the Depot.

During the park and recreation survey, respondents were asked how they think the City should fund renovations to the Community Center and 33 percent of respondents said private donations, 30 percent said volunteer manpower, 33 percent said they do no support renovations for the Depot, and no one wanted to see tax increases in order to facilitate renovations.

However, when asked "would you support a half percent sales tax increase for recreational amenity growth at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park?" residents responded with 65 percent in favor of a half percent sales tax and only 22 percent against the proposal, 13 percent of respondents had no opinion. The idea would be to utilize the sales tax increase to make recreational improvements, but not include renovations to the Depot at this time because no one was in favor of tax increases to pay for the renovation. The City will explore the option of adding a half percent sales tax increase for park and recreational improvements on a future ballot.

Another question regarding desired options to pay for Lake Helen and Lafayette Park improvements was asked: "Realistically, how would you suggest funding park improvements at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park?" Respondents checked all that applied and results showed 59 percent of survey respondents marked a half percent sales tax increase, 62 percent said private donations, 62 percent said organized fundraising events, and 68 percent said to evaluate potential grants.



There are not many grant programs available specifically for park or recreational improvement projects, as evidenced on the previous pages. Pairing different funding sources may be necessary to meet the City's goals. Highway Allocation Funds can be used for sidewalk and hike/bike trail costs. This money could be paired with grant funds. Fundraising or private grants may be paired with other Federal, State, or local grants. Creativity, by a pairing funding sources, will help the community achieve their goals.



A potential funding source for playground equipment is private grants like Peter Kiewit or playground equipment manufacturers. Some equipment manufacturers will offer grants or discounts when purchasing equipment from them. Working with equipment manufacturers will help the City stay attuned to the availability of funding and assistance they provide through their specific companies.

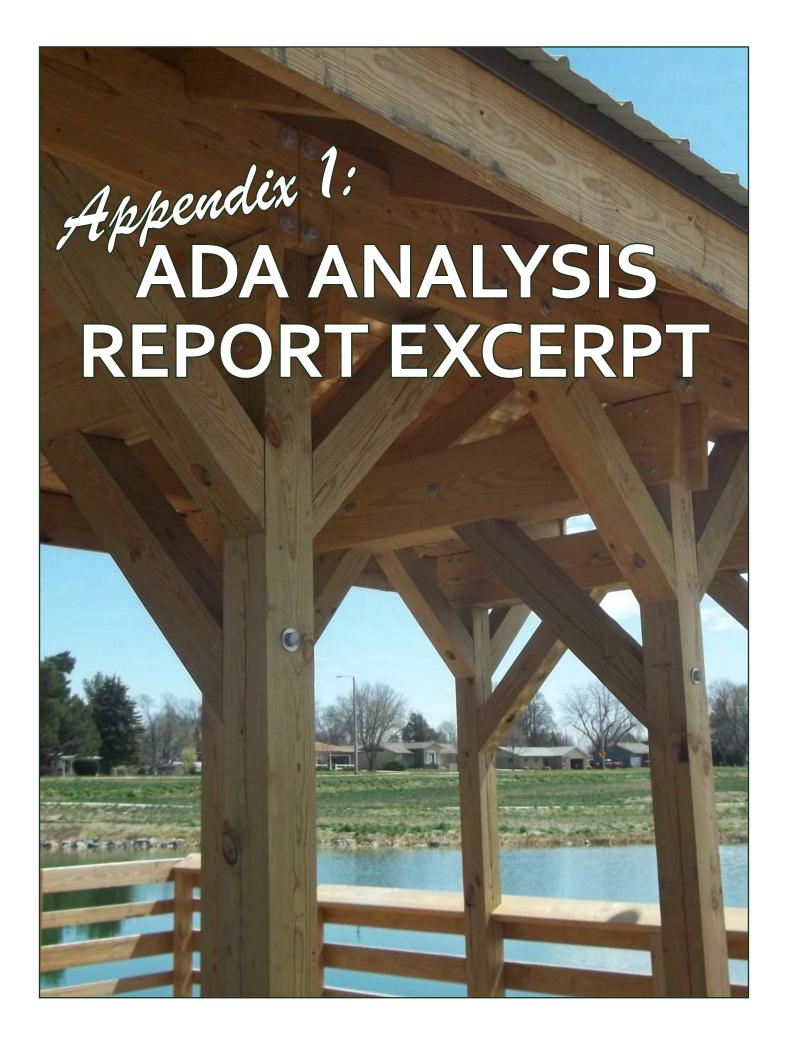
A program could also be implemented by the City of Gothenburg for receiving private donations for the Parks. With the use of an online "Gift Catalog", interested parties could easily contribute to the quality of Gothenburg's parks by choosing to donate various recreational equipment like park benches or picnic tables. The City should continue to look for alternate funding options through Federal, State, and local resources to implement all goals within this Plan.



In summary, Gothenburg has many recreational amenities to offer to residents and visitors. However, there are areas in need of improvement in order to better serve those residents. Where there is room to grow and improve lies great opportunities. The availability of amenities is what can make a potential resident choose to live, work, and play in Gothenburg over other communities. It is important to continually update, improve, and add new amenities to attract new residents and retain existing residents.

It is not only important to provide amenities for residents and visitors, but these amenities need to be accessible for everyone. ADA compliance in public spaces has become a very important topic. Recreational facilities should not be left out of the equation and the existing facilities are included in the ADA assessment and plan to create an accessible environment for all of Gothenburg's residents and visitors.

Of course, completing all of these additions and improvements will take time. Many of these projects are considered "big ticket" items and will require planning and funding to be completed. It is easier to accomplish one thing at a time, especially if the sights are still set on the end vision. Having a development plan is a way to strategize for the future while realistically taking the community's needs and wants into account. This Plan should be used as a tool for many different City entities to have common goals to work towards; it encompasses existing conditions, community input, and many ideas for growth and improvement. The Plan is meant to be flexible and should be reviewed and updated, as needed. Current goals should be re-evaluated and new ideas should be added. This Plan is meant to help decision-makers in the community understand what is important to current and potential residents.



Gothenburg City ADA Study

Gothenburg, Nebraska

ADA Accessibility Assessment

Findings and Recommendations

February 2014



M&A No. 126-G1-028

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<u>APPENDIX</u>

Appendix A: General Requirements to Meet Accessibility Needs Appendix B: Sites Studied Addresses

Appendix C: Pictures of Sites Studied

3.5 DEPOT

3.5.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

This historic wood frame building contains approximately 2,520 square feet in a park setting adjacent to Lafayette Park campground. A continuous concrete sidewalk separates the gravel parking area immediately north of the building. Previously, logs buried vertically adjacent to the sidewalk acted as vehicular curbs. Since the last survey, a new concrete pad was constructed to provide handicap parking. Currently, a handicap sign is posted on the northwest corner of the Depot. However, there is not any striping or any accessible aisle designation. At the time of the current survey, the Depot was not in use and had not been used as a public space for quite some time. The last use was that of a daycare nearly 3 years ago. It was agreed at this time not to spend a lot of time surveying the historic structure due to its inactive use as a public space. It is recommended that if the situation changes, a code review be conducted to bring the structure up to ADA compliance.



3.12.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

This wood frame and masonry structure comprises about 864 square feet providing an open shelter with 2 picnic tables on a concrete slab and enclosed men's and women's bathrooms located at Lake Helen Park. A 36" wide concrete walking path connects directly to the south side of the facility. A 48" wide concrete walk connects the north side of the shelter and approaches but never meets the adjacent gravel parking lot. At the time of the survey, it was noted that these facilities are typically closed seasonally and that the time of our survey they had been "winterized" and closed for the season.



3.12.2 EXTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - DEFICIENCIES See image above

- a. A handicap parking sign and directional arrow exists, but an accessible parking stall and access aisle does not exist. (Reg. 502, 503)
- b. The 48" wide concrete walkway does not connect to an accessible parking space. The space beyond this connection consists of grass and gravel. The concrete walk is also cracked and uneven. (Reg. 206.2.1, 402.2, 302.1)
- c. The bottom of the existing handicap sign is greater than 60". It measures 66" to the bottom of the sign. **(Reg. 502.6)**
- d. Sidewalk in route to the restrooms is uneven and has cracks greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ ". (Reg. 302.1, 402.2)

3.12.3 EXTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - CORRECTIVE OPTIONS.

- a. An accessible parking stall should be added on a firm, non-slip surface as close as possible to the restrooms and connected by a 36" minimum wide walkway.
- b. Sidewalk that is cracked and uneven to the point of being a trip hazard should be replaced and connected to the accessible parking stall.
- c. Lower the handicap sign to be 60" minimum to the bottom of the sign.
- d. Repave the sidewalk to eliminate the cracks and uneven concrete.

ESTIMATED COST: \$750.00 plus cost of concrete

3.12.4 INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - DEFICIENCIES

- a. Mens/Womens RR There is a vertical lip at junction of sidewalk and bathroom floor slabs greater than 3/4". They measure 1 1/2". (Reg. 404.2.5) [P1100286]
- b. Mens/Womens RR There are not any ADA signs posted at the correct locations by the RR doors. (Reg. 703) [P1100285]
- c. Mens/Womens RR The front approach to the pull side of the door has at least 18" of maneuvering clearance beyond the latch side but does not have 60" clear depth. It has only 59" clear. (Reg. 404.2.4.1)
- d. Mens RR the door closer does not take at least 5 seconds to close from an open position of 90 degrees to a position of 12 degrees from the latch. It takes only 4 seconds. (Reg. 404.2.8.1)
- e. Mens/Womens RR the mirror is over a lavatory, and the bottom edge of the reflecting surface is higher than 40" above the floor. Both measure 41 ½" above the floor. (Reg. 603.3) [P1100287]
- f. Mens/Womens RR There is not at least 27" clearance from the floor to the bottom of the lavatory that extends at least 8 inches under the lavatory for knee clearance. There is 26 ½" clearance. (Reg. 306.3) [P1100287]
- g. Mens/Womens RR the pipes below the lavatory are not insulated or otherwise configured to protect against contact. (Reg. 606.5) [P1100287]
- h. Mens/Womens RR the faucet cannot be operated without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. (Reg. 309.4) [P1100287]
- i. Mens/Womens RR the clearance provided around the water closet is not at least 60" from the side wall and is not at least 56" from the rear wall. (Reg. 604.8.1.1)
 [P1100289]
- Mens/Womens RR the grab bars of the handicap stall are not configured for a typical handicap stall, but rather an Ambulatory stall. (Reg. 604.5.1, 604.5.2)
 [P1100289]
- k. Mens/Womens RR the flush valve is located on the rear wall of the stall and not necessarily off to any open side of the stall. (Reg. 604.6. Advisory) [P1100289]
- Mens/Womens RR the door opening width is not at least 32" clear, between the face of the door and the stop, when the door is open 90 degrees. It measures 31" clear. (Reg. 404.2.3) [P1100288]
- m. Mens/Womens RR the door is not self-closing. (Reg. 604.8.1.2) [P1100288]
- n. Mens/Womens RR there are no door pulls on both sides of the door that are operable with one hand and do not require tight grasping pinching or twisting of the wrist. (Reg. 309.4, 604.8.1.2) [P1100288]
- o. Mens/Womens RR there are not locks that are operable with one hand and without tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist. (Reg. 309.4) [P1100288]
- p. Mens/Womens RR The floor mounted water closet compartment is not at least 60" wide and is not at least 59" deep. (Reg. 604.3.1) [P1100289]

EXTERIOR DRINKING FOUNTAIN - DEFICIENCIES

- q. Less than 17" of the clear floor space extends under the drinking fountain. It measures 11 ½". (Reg. 306.2)
- r. The control cannot be operated with one hand and without tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist. (Reg. 309.4)
- s. The spout is not at least 15 inches from the rear of the drinking fountain. It measures 8 ½". (Reg. 602.5)

3.12.4 INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - CORRECTIVE OPTIONS

- a. Mens/Womens RR It was noted that during the winter months, when the facility is closed, the concrete moves with the weather and that during the summer months, when the facility is operational, the change in levels is not as prevalent. Recommend monitoring the concrete in the summer months and replace concrete if necessary to be level with the facility floor.
- b. Mens/Womens RR Recommend placing current signage with tactile signage in the locations required by 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
- c. Mens/Womens RR The restrooms are parallel approach from the latch side to the pull side of the door. The door has at least 24" of maneuvering clearance beyond the latch side so only requires 54" clear depth due to the closer.
- d. Mens RR Adjust the door closer so that it takes at least 5 seconds to close from an open position of 90 degrees to a position of 12 degrees from the latch.
- e. Mens/Womens RR Adjust the mirror over the lavatory so that the bottom edge of the reflecting surface is 40" above the floor.
- f. Mens/Womens RR Adjust the lavatory so that there is at least 27" clearance from the floor to the bottom of the lavatory that extends at least 8 inches under the lavatory for knee clearance.
- g. Mens/Womens RR Provide insulation for the pipes below the lavatory or otherwise reconfigured to protect against contact.
- h. Mens/Womens RR Replace the faucet so that it can be operated without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist.
- Mens/Womens RR Possibly reconfigure the restroom so that at least one stall is handicap compliant. Provide a clear floor area of 60"x59" for a floor mounted water closet.
- j. Mens/Womens RR See comment "i". If the restroom is reconfigured to provide one handicap stall, grab bars could be provided per 2010 ADA Standards.
- k. Mens/Womens RR See comment "i". A reconfigured room could provide opportunity to relocate the flush valve so that it would be on the open side of the stall.
- I. Mens/Womens RR See comment "i". A reconfigured room could provide opportunity to provide a 32" minimum door to the stall.
- m. Mens/Womens RR See comment "i". Provide closers on new handicap stall door.
- n. Mens/Womens RR See comment "i". Provide door pulls on both sides of the door that are operable with one hand and do not require tight grasping pinching or twisting of the wrist.
- o. Mens/Womens RR See comment "I". Provide locks that are operable with one hand and without tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist.
- p. Mens/Womens RR See comment "i".

ESTIMATED COST: \$650.00 plus cost of materials

EXTERIOR DRINKING FOUNTAIN - CORRECTIVE OPTIONS

- q. Replace the drinking fountain so that no less than 17" of the clear floor space extends under the drinking fountain.
- r. Replace the drinking fountain so that the control can be operated with one hand and without tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist.
- s. Replace the drinking fountain so that the spout is at least 15 inches from the rear of the drinking fountain.

ESTIMATED COST: \$300.00 plus the cost of an ADA compliant drinking fountain.

3.13.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

There are six picnic shelters scattered throughout the park surrounding Lake Helen.

The partially enclosed wood frame shelters are covered by a hip roof supported by four wood columns with a concrete slab. One picnic table is provided per shelter.

Five of the shelters are fairly adjacent to the concrete walking path which meanders through the park. One of these shelters is on the east side of the park approximately one hundred feet from the gravel parking lot. None of the shelters are physically connected to the concrete walk path.



3.13.2 EXTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - DEFICIENCIES

- a. There are times where the slope of the concrete walk looks to be greater than what is required for ADA, but no measurements were taken. (Reg. 402.2) [P1100303]
- b. No shelters are physically connected to the concrete walk path. (No Regulations) [See image above]

3.13.3 EXTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - CORRECTIVE OPTIONS

- a. If the slope exceeds the required, re-grading may be necessary.
- b. There is no ADA regulation regarding accessibility to park picnic shelters. However it would be relatively easy to add an asphalt or concrete connection from the existing 36" wide concrete walk path to the concrete slab of the picnic shelters.

ESTIMATED COST: \$150.00 plus the cost of concrete per shelter

3.13.4 INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - DEFICIENCIES

a. Not applicable.

3.13.5 INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - CORRECTIVE OPTIONS

a. Not applicable.

3.14 LAFAYETTE PARK PAVILION

3.14.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The pavilion is a multi-purpose recreational wood frame building comprising about 2,533 square feet located in Lafayette Park adjacent to the Boy and Girl Scout cabins and campground. The pavilion has a kitchen with pass-through counter connected to a large high ceiling room which houses a long table with bench seating. A continuous perimeter bench seat is connected to the exterior wall. The main north double door entrance is adjacent to a vehicular way which meanders through the campground. There is also a south secondary single entrance door. A concrete walkway connects this door to the gravel campground road.

A gravel parking area exists east of the pavilion, adjacent to the maintenance shop at the end of the pavilion.





3.14.2 EXTERIOR ACCESIBLE ROUTE - DEFICIENCIES

General – An "Accessible Route" can be achieved using the north or south door. Using the north door and route to the east parking lot causes additional problems because it would adjoin a vehicular way. This would require a continuous curb or railing from the parking lot to the entrance door and thus cause maintenance accessibility problems to the shop.

A concrete walk now extends from the south entrance pavilion to existing 4'-9" wide concrete walk. Accessible parking could be provided on the south side that would connect to this concrete walk.

- a. There is no accessible parking space. (Reg. 502)
- b. There is no directional, parking or permanent building handicap signage. (Reg. 502.6, 703.4.1, 216.4.3)

3.14.3 EXTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - CORRECTIVE OPTIONS

- a. Provide an accessible parking or van unloading space.
- b. Provide directional, parking and permanent handicap building signage as per ADA guidelines.

ESTIMATED COST: \$750.00 plus concrete and materials

3.14.4 INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - DEFICIENCIES

- a. The south entrance door measures 30", less than the required 32" clear distance. (Reg. 404.2.3) [P1100368]
- b. The south entrance screen door opens in opposition to the entrance door decreasing maneuverability. (Reg. 207.1, 305.3) [P1100368]
- c. The door knob hardware at the south entrance door is inaccessible. (Reg. 309.4)
- d. There is an inaccessible wood threshold (1 ¾") at the south door. (Reg. 404.2.5) [P1100368]
- e. There is a three foot long wall mounted table on the east wall which protrudes 1'-4" into the accessible route. (Reg. 404.2.4.1) [P1100368]
- f. The screen door has a spring closer which closes too fast. (Reg. 404.2.8.1)

3.14.5 INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - CORRECTIVE OPTIONS

- a. If possible, replace the hinges with 180 degrees swing hinges to provide 32" clear or widen the door opening.
- b. Reverse the screen door swing to provide increased maneuverability through the door.
- c. Replace the door knobs with accessible hardware as per Regulation.
- d. Replace the door threshold with an accessible threshold with $\frac{1}{2}$ " maximum height.
- e. Relocate the table off of the accessible route.
- f. Provide a new door and closer per section 404.2.8.1.

ESTIMATED COST: \$500.00 plus door, hardware and materials

3.15.1+3.16.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

These bunkhouses are privately owned wood frame structures on City owned property within Lafayette Park. They are within thirty feet of the gravel campground road and adjacent to the campground bathrooms.

Since they are privately owned, the interior routes were not investigated for deficiencies. The ADA provides no regulations for accessible routes to privately or publicly owned bunkhouses. However, the City <u>may</u> want to consider providing a smooth, non-slop surface connecting each of the bunkhouse to the adjacent public restrooms for any Scouts with disabilities.





3.17.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

This masonry building comprises of approximately 1,540 square feet and houses the men's and women's restrooms/showers for the Lafayette Park campground, pavilion, and bunkhouses. It is located adjacent to the gravel campground roadway. A 6' x 23' concrete slab is provided in front of the restroom entrance doors.



3.17.2 EXTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - DEFICIENCIES

- a. There is no accessible parking space. (Reg. 502, 503)
- b. Handicap parking or permanent building signage is not provided. (Reg. 502.6, 216.4.3)

3.17.3 EXTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - CORRECTIVE OPTIONS

- a. Provide one handicap accessible parking space or van unloading zone.
- b. Provide parking and building signage.

ESTIMATED COST: \$750.00 plus concrete and materials

3.17.4 INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - DEFICIENCIES

- a. The clear width of 32" is not provided (29 1/4" existing). (Reg. 404.2.3) [See above image]
- b. The door hardware is not operable with one hand and does not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. (Reg. 309.4) [P1100391]
- c. The water closet is not mounted 18" off of the sidewall. (Reg. 604.2) [P1100397]
- d. The water closet seat height is 16" above the floor. The minimum requirement is 17"-19" from the floor to the seat. (Reg. 604.4) [P1100397]
- e. The toilet paper dispenser is mounted to far away at 36" from the front of the water closet. The required range is 7-9" away from the front of the water closet. (Reg. 604.7) [P1100397]
- f. Grab bars are not provided. (Reg. 604.5.1, 604.5.2) [P1100397]

- g. The lavatories cannot be operated without tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist. (Reg. 309.4) [P1100397]
- h. The mirror is mounted to high at 55". The maximum is 40" above the floor. (Reg. 603.3) [P1100419]

SHOWERS

- j. Fixed shower heads at 53" above the floor are provided. (Reg. 608.5) [P1100400]
- k. Some grab bars are provided. (Reg. 608.3, 609) [P1100400]

3.17.5 INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - CORRECTIVE OPTIONS

- a. The doors are 2 ½" shy of meeting the requirement. The City needs to decide if it would be an "undue burden" to demolish masonry and doors to install new for this small facility to meet the requirement.
- b. Replace the knobs with accessible hardware.
- c. It may be prohibitively expensive to move the water closet unless an offset drain connector can be used.
- d. Replace the seat or modify the seat hardware.
- e. Remount the dispenser on the door under the new grab bars.
- f. Provide grab bars.
- g. Replace the lavatory hardware with accessible hardware as per regulation.
- h. The mirrors should be replaced since the mirrors are only a foot in height.

 Remounting the existing mirrors to a maximum of 40" above the floor would make them inaccessible to people without disabilities.

SHOWERS

- i. Provide one fixed shower head at 48" above the floor.
- j. Provide missing grab bars as per regulations.

ESTIMATED COST: \$2500.00 plus materials

3.18.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The mobile home has been replaced with a one story house which is situated at the entrance to Lafayette Park and campground. The home has an addition which is used as the office for registration of campers and use of the pavilion. The gravel campground road runs adjacent to the office with parking spaces provided for visitor registration by the office.

The wood stairs and brick walkway have since been updated to concrete. A concrete slab has been provided near the office which could serve as a handicap space with proper signage, painting lines and adding a concrete path from the slab to the now existing concrete walkway. With these improvements, providing a concrete ramp from the southwest to the now existing concrete landing at the entrance of the office is possible.



3.18.2 EXTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - DEFICIENCIES

- a. There is no route from site arrival points that does not require the use of stairs. (Reg. 206.1, 402.2) [P1100426]
- b. The main entrance is not accessible as it requires the use of stairs. (Reg. 402.2) [P1100426]
- c. There is no alternative accessible entrance. (Reg. 206.2.1)
- d. Door threshold edge is 1 inch high, more than the maximum of ¼ inch high. (Reg. 404.2.5)
- e. Door is not equipped with hardware that is operable with one hand and does not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. (Reg. 309.4)

3.18.3 EXTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - CORRECTIVE OPTIONS

- a. Add a ramp that connects to the concrete landing of the office. Also provide proper signage to indicate it is now an accessible route.
- b. Add a ramp to make the main entrance accessible.
- c. Add a ramp to make the main entrance accessible.
- d. Remove or replace threshold.
- e. Replace inaccessible knob with lever, loop or push hardware.

ESTIMATED COST: \$1500.00 plus concrete, handrail and materials

3.18.4 INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - DEFICIENCIES

- a. There is not enough clear floor space for light switch near entrance. (Reg. 305.3, 309.2) [P1100429]
- b. Counter is higher than the required maximum 36 inches above the floor. It also does not provide at least a 36 inches long portion of counter space. (Reg. 904.4.1, 904.4.2) [P1100429]
- c. Counter is in the clear floor space of the main entrance. (Reg. 404.2.4) [P1100429]

3.18.5 INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE - CORRECTIVE MEASURES

- a. Relocate counter to be out of the clear space of the light switch.
- b. Lower and lengthen section of counter to meet requirements.
- c. Relocate counter to be out of the clear space of the main entrance.

ESTIMATED COST: \$150.00 plus materials

3.19.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

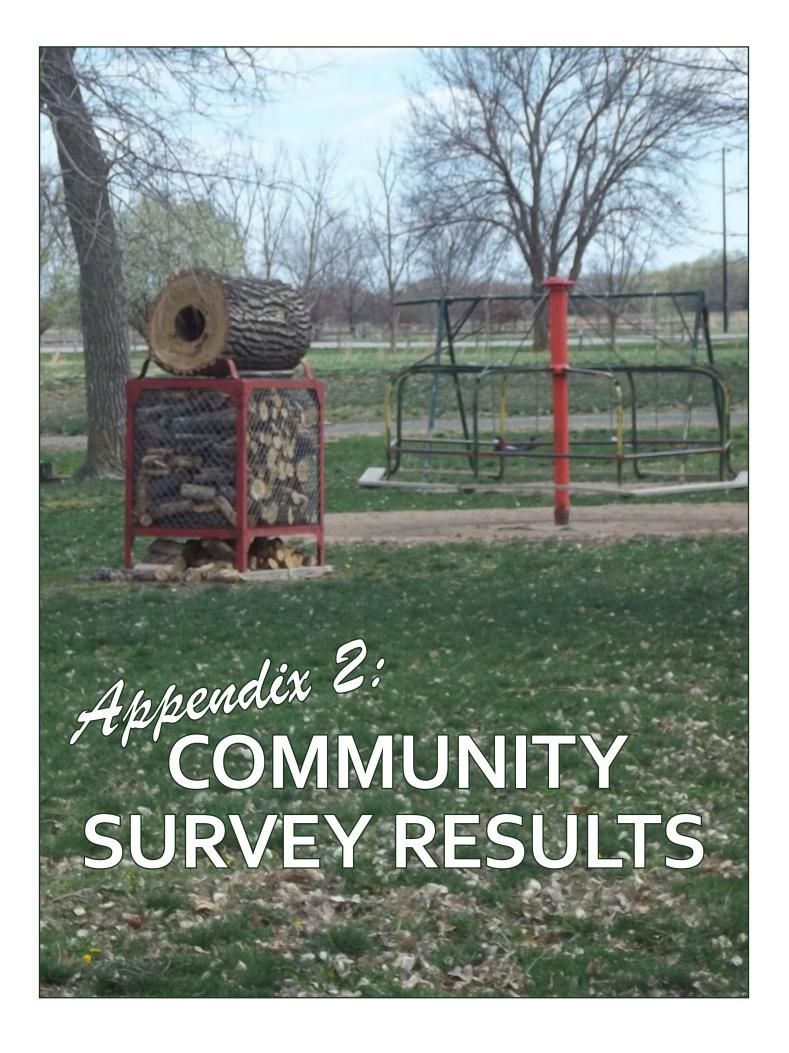
These shelters were built in 2000 as Eagle Scout projects. They are on concrete slabs with no direct accessible path to them.

There is no ADA regulation regarding accessibility to park picnic shelters. However it would be relatively easy to add an asphalt or concrete connection from the existing 36" wide concrete walk path to the concrete slab of the picnic shelter at Lake Helen. The shelter at Lafayette Park would not be as easy to add an asphalt or concrete connection and is not required.





43





- 1* Please select your gender.
 - 37 Male
 - 94 Female
- $2^{\star}\,$ Please select your age from the ranges listed below.
 - 0 10 or younger
 - 0 11-18
 - 27 19-30
 - **52** 31-45
 - 29 46-59
 - 25 .000
 - 20 60-75
 - 3 76 and over

3*	How often do you use any of the	parks or recreational areas i	n Gothenburg?	
	45 2-3 times per week	•		
	35 2-3 times per month			
	21 2-3 times per month			
	= ' '			
	3 Never			
m.t.				
4 *	Why do you visit the parks in Go	thenburg?		
	(Please check all that apply)			
	68 Relaxation/Fresh Air			
	77 Excercise			
	15 Organized Sports/Athletics			
	75 Spend time with family/friends			
	36 Community Events			
	Other (Please Specify)			
5	information sources would you to (Please check all that apply) 66 City of Gothenburg's Website 19 Posters Other (Please Specify)		ational programs and services, which 77 Local Newspaper	
	7			
6*	Please identify the three (3) most Gothenburg. (Please check 3)	frequent outdoor activities y	ou enjoyed in the last twelve (12) months in	
	19 Baseball/Softball	7 Football	4 Tennis	
	7 Disc Golf	33 Picnicking	78 Walking	
	4 Basketball	0 Horseshoes	10 Camping	
	17 Jogging/Running	2 Sand Volleyball	41 Playground Equipment	
	27 Swimming	3 Soccer	13 Fishing	
	11 Gardening	3 I do not use recreational ame		
	III Gardening	Gothenburg		
	Other (Please Specify)			

7 Please indicate if you have a need for each of the recreational amenities listed below and whether your need is currently being met within Gothenburg.

	No Need	Yes, 100% Needs Being Met	Yes, 75% Needs Being Met	Yes, 50% Needs Being Met	Yes, 25% Needs Being Met	Yes, 0% Needs Being Met
Community Parks	1	28	33	28	7	1
Playground Equipment and Play Areas	16	16	19	29	18	1
Picnic Areas	7	28	30	21	10	1
Public Restrooms	6	14	31	17	25	5
Off-leash Dog Park	42	4	4	6	5	30
Walking and Biking Trails	1	24	24	22	23	4
Camping Area	49	15	15	8	4	2
Fishing	31	21	19	8	7	5
Soccer Fields	50	5	1	1	7	30
Disc Golf Course	43	25	11	8	5	2
Baseball and Softball Fields	24	50	7	4	3	2
Swimming Pool	11	40	14	17	8	2
Splash Pad/Spray Park	25	1	2	4	1	63
Ice Skating	35	4	1	4	4	41
Tennis Courts	44	20	6	8	9	3
Basketball Courts	33	5	12	15	10	12
Sand Volleyball Courts	41	2	2	5	5	38
Outdoor Amphitheater/Theater	30	1	2	3	4	50
Indoor Shelters/Meeting Space	19	6	9	16	17	24
Community Garden/Outdoor Classroom	44	2	3	6	9	29

0	I haliava l	aka	Halan	and	afavatta	Dark a	re suitable	for all	Same?

24	Strongly	Agree

46 Agree

20 Disagree

11 Strongly Disagree

3 No Opinion

9 I believe Lake Helen and Lafayette Park are accessible according to the American Disability Act (ADA) requirements?

9 Strongly Agre	96
-----------------	----

31 Agree

12 Disagree

9 Strongly Disagree

41 I do not know the ADA requirements

In your opinion, what benefits do Lake Helen and (Please check all that apply)	Lafayette Park provide for the community?
28 Support Economic Development	23 Foster Human Development
79 Promote Health and Wellness	6 Strengthen Safety and Security
14 Increase Cultural Unity	10 Facilitate Community Problem Solving
59 Strengthens Community Image and Sense of Place	77 Provide Opportunities for Recreational Experiences
29 Protect Environmental Resources	
Other (Please Specify)	

11	Do you feel safe at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park at a 59 Yes at Both Parks 10 Yes at Lake Helen Only 2 Yes at Lafayette Park Only 5 No at Both Parks 24 No Opinion Other (Please Specify)	all hours?
	If you answered 'No' for either of the parks in the above feel safe? (Please write response in box below)	ove question please explain when and why you do not
13	What amenities would you like to have more of, spec (Check all that apply) 51 Drinking Fountains 40 Picnic Tables 48 Lighting 54 Landscaping (flowers, trees, art, stone designs, etc.) 17 ADA Accessbility 24 Parking Other (Please Specify)	iffically at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park? 42 Trash/Recycling Containers 44 Picnic Shelters 16 Litter Removal 67 Public Restrooms 44 Open Greenspace (for flag football, flying kites, etc.) 3 No Opinion
14	Are the current facilities, equipment, and green space Park? 11 All of the Time 67 Most of the Time 16 Some of the Time 5 Seldom 3 Never	es clean and well maintained at Lake Helen and Lafayette
	If you answered 'Some of the Time', 'Seldom' or 'Never areas need to be improved. (Please write response in box below)	er' to the above question, please explain where and what

16 In your opinio	6 In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important recreational amenities that Gothenburg should add or						
expand for res	expand for residents in the community. (Please check 5)						
38 Off-Leash Do	g Park/Run	Disc Golf	56	Walking and Biking Trails			
19 Running/Wal	king Track 57	Playground Equipment	3	Pickle Ball Courts			
23 Ice Skating/F	Hockey 62	Splash Pad/Spray Park	14	Wildlife Viewing Opportunities			
4 Instructional	Sports Clinics 3	Tennis courts	23	Volleyball Courts			
25 Enclosed Co	mmunity Center 46	Public Restrooms	9	Parking			
8 Outdoor Clas	sroom with Pollination Garden 5	Basketball Court	10	Community Garden			
36 Outdoor Amp	hitheater/Theater 9	Camping Areas	19	Fishing			
Other (Please Spe	cify)						

New In	nprov	ements
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6.	you think Gothenburg should build a year-round Community Center? Yes No No Opinion
37 14	
par On cos	I think the City should paint the exterior and leave the interior alone I think the City should remodel the structure for a community use I think the City should try to sell the Depot to be moved from the site I think the Depot should be demolished
20 If y 20 20 20 20 20 20	Tax Increase Volunteer Manpower I do not support renovations for the Depot
15	

22 If you answered 'Yes' for additional playground equipment, what age range should it serve? (Please check all that apply)

37 2 - 23 Month-Olds

62 2 - 5 Year-Olds

61 5 - 12 Year-Olds

25 13+ Year-Olds

23 How much do you think should be spent on new play ground equipment for Lake Helen or Lafayette Park? (Pictures are shown by each price range to give a general idea about the type/amount of equipment that can be purchased at each price range)







Funding Options

24* There are communities that have voted to implement an additional example of a community that implemented this sales tax for community reviewed on their City website by clicking on this link. Would you support a 1/2% sales tax increase for recreational 64 Yes 22 No 12 No Opinion	munity improvements. LaVista's information may be
25* Would you consider making a private donation for updates 23 Yes, Definitely 34 Maybe 20 Not at this Time 20 I Would Need More Information 1 Never	or improvements at Lake Helen or Lafayette Park?
26* Realistically, how would you suggest funding park improve (Please check all that apply) 58 ½% Sales Tax Increase 61 Private Donations 61 Organized Fundraising Events 67 Evaluate Potential Grants Other (Please Specify)	ments at Lake Helen and Lafayette Park?
27 Do you have any other comments or ideas regarding Lake H amenities in Gothenburg? (Please write your response below)	elen, Lafayette Park, or other recreational