

APPENDIX A

ADOPTED POLICIES

MetroGreen¹

Prior to the process of updating the ***Wyandotte County Parks and Recreation Plan***, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), developed the ***MetroGreen Action Plan***. **MetroGreen** is the vision for connecting private and public open spaces plus greenways and on- and off-road trials in the Kansas City region's urban and rural communities. It was updated in 2002 and over half (57%) of the system consists of stream and river corridors. Such will assist with stream-related habitat conservation, streambank stabilization, historic landscape preservation, water quality protection, and trail development.

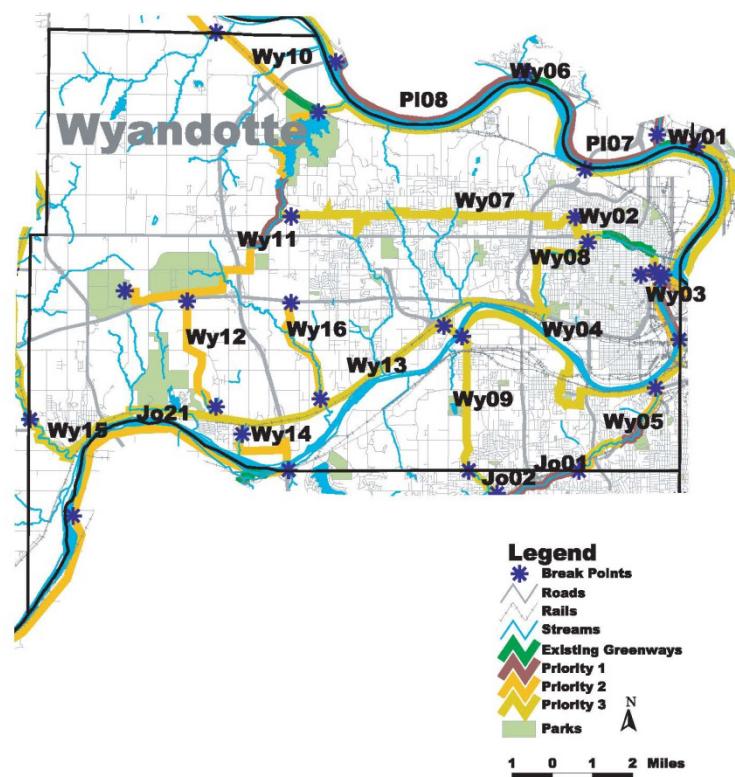
The plan supports:

- Extension of trails west from the Kansas and Kansas River confluence to reach Wyandotte County Lake, Kansas Speedway, and Cricket Wireless (formerly Sandstone) Amphitheater.
- Trail construction along the Kansas and Missouri Rivers.
- MetroGreen corridors along Turkey Creek, Little Turkey Creek, and Marshall Creek for stream preservation and restoration, stormwater management, and riparian and habitat protection.
- 16 specific Metro Green corridors (see Figure 1) that would connect:
 - Wyandotte County Lake
 - Wyandotte County Park
 - Pierson Park
 - Rosedale Park
 - Ruby Park
 - Silver Springs Park
 - Kaw Point Park
 - Jersey Creek Park
 - Heathwood Park
 - Macs Parks
 - Klamm Park

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ADOPTED POLICIES

Figure 1 – Wyandotte County Metro Green Corridors



¹ <http://www.marc.org/Environment/MetroGreen-Parks/The-Plan/Action-Plan>

A Report upon Parks²

The **Report upon Parks** was developed as part of the **Revised Kansas City, Kansas Comprehensive Plan**.

The plan was approved in 1954 and responds to the City's 371 acres of parks property (0.29 acres of parks for every 100 people). It provides the following recommendations for a proposed parks system that includes Kansas City and the immediate urban area:

- 0.51 acres of parks per 100 people to serve the estimated population in 1980
- 5 large parks, including proposed Rosedale Park and Quindaro Ruins Park
- 14 neighborhood parks (all proposed for acquisition)
- Playgrounds
- 1 ornamental park (Huron Park)
- Park improvements and maintenance that are in harmony with the City's financial ability
- Acquisition methods, including gifts from the public, condemnation, sub-division powers, and coordination with developers

Comprehensive Parks Master Plan of Kansas City, Kansas³

The City's Parks and Recreation Division of the Public Works Department developed the plan before the UG was created. It provides recommendations for the following five parks:

Copper Field

- Remove wading pool
- Construct playground
- Landscape improvements

Coronado Park

- Remove park amenities (trash, benches, backstops) and maintain the park in a

somewhat natural state, only mowing when needed

- Allow the road to the park to remain open and provide residents with access

Delaware Park

- Maintain it as open space, in its natural state, with no major improvements

Edgerton Park

- Remove the wading pool
- Add landscaping
- Consider park for divesture

Eight Street Park

- Divesture of at least half the south side of the site because it is unused and has inadequate space for improvements

Comprehensive Parks Master Plan of Wyandotte County, Kansas⁴

The plan provides design guidance and recommends physical improvements for the three Wyandotte County Parks, along with funding recommendations as follows:

Pierson Park (approximately 113 acres)

Goal: Enhancing the park while improving safety and security via several recommended projects:

A Projects

- Reconstruction of a sedimentation pond upstream of the lake, in the area immediately north of the community center.
- 2-mile, winding walking trail (minimum six feet wide).
- Park Road improvements via the installation of approximately 100 street

² A Report Upon Parks

³ Comprehensive Parks Master Plan of Kansas City

⁴ Comprehensive Parks Master Plan of Wyandotte County

- trees of a mix of Ash, Pin Oak, Sweetgum, Linden, and Maple).
- Circulation improvements for safety and to simplify traffic patterns.
- Additional picnic complex (proposed Shelter No. 4).
- Relocation of playground equipment (adjacent to the 55th Street entry) to an area at the crest of the hill adjacent to Shelter No. 1; expand the playground to meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards.
- Boat dock, building, and shelter house rentals
- Various operations profiles for the marina, including:
 - Contracting out all operations to a private entity
 - Wyandotte County self-operating all aspects
 - Combination of self-operation and private concessionaire operation
- Programming
- Driving range
- Lease income from the Porterfield House, Boathouse, Renaissance Festival, Cricket Amphitheater (formerly Sandstone),
- Revenues resulting from master plan projects
- Foundation revenue via a Wyandotte County Parks Foundation
- Special events
- Non-profit usage
- Corporate donations
- Regional foundations, e.g. Hall Family Foundation, Hallmark Corporation, and Ewing Marion Kaufman Foundation.
- State and federal programs for environment, education, transportation, land and water, and recreational trails

B Projects

- An observation tower (with educational/historic displays) should be developed near the 55th Street entrance.
- Additional landscaping, parking, and security devices.

Wyandotte County Lake Park (1,400 acres with a 300-acre lake)

Goal: Preserving the park environment, specifically its rustic, wooded grounds that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and plant populations and improving the parks aesthetic appearance and increasing potential park uses via several major park projects.

Wyandotte County Park at Bonner Springs

Goal: Providing both active and passive recreational opportunities while improving the aesthetic features of the site via a series of projects.

- Chief funding mechanisms to pursue include:
 - User fees
 - Permits for fishing and boating

[Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas Parks and Recreation 2012 Vision Plan \(January 2002\)](#)⁵

⁵ Parks and Recreation 2012 Vision Plan (January 2002)

The plan provides the framework for meeting the parks and recreation needs and challenges of the combined Kansas City and Wyandotte County systems. It addresses the following four challenges:

- A diversifying population;
- Expansion north and west;
- Critical demand for youth programs and facilities;
- Balancing limited financing with needed infrastructure improvements and parks, and recreation facilities maintenance.

Its vision statement is:

"The Unified Parks and Recreation Department will provide a variety of parks, recreation facilities, and program experiences equitably throughout the community. Parks, programs, and facilities will be developed and maintained to the highest quality, ensuring a safe environment with exceptional services. Service provided will demonstrate a positive economic investment through partnerships and other service providers, both public and private, ensuring a high quality of life for Wyandotte County."

In support of the vision, the plan recommends the following goals and strategies, along with program-specific recommendations, training, facilities guidance, performance measures, financial planning, and implementation:

Goal: Establish signature parks that appeal to all age segments and are equally distributed.

- **Strategy:** Create seven signature parks and facilities.

Goal: Establish a Rec-Plex facility to serve all ages through core recreation programs for aquatics, outdoor sports, core sports, wellness and fitness, and life skills programs.

- **Strategy:** Develop a Rec-Plex Facility and Park. (\$10 million for design and construction based on 2001 costs of \$150 per square foot to construct)

Goal: Maximize resources, including all available funding options.

- **Strategy:** Focus on efficient use of UG resources and allow the Parks and Recreation Department to have the financial resources necessary to achieve the community's vision for services.

Goal: Develop effective partnership with other providers, businesses, non-profits, and volunteers to leverage resources.

- **Strategy:** Establish equitable partnerships with others to leverage resources while building advocacy and support for the services provided.

Goal: Implement greater marketing efforts to demonstrate the personal and economic benefit of investing in quality parks, recreation programs, and services.

- **Strategy:** Develop a marketing and pricing strategy.

Program-specific recommendations involve:

- Revising and implementing a revenue policy using consistent procedures to price programs and utilize tax subsidies in areas agreed upon in the policy.
- Operating core program at regional sites based on size of staff, implement equitable pricing and tax subsidy to increase revenue and resources, and outsource the operation of existing facilities on a neighborhood basis.
- Creating partnerships to maximize resources and reduce duplication of services in the UG service area.
- Developing niche markets in each program areas that will not compete with other service providers and all more participants in the program that may not participate currently. Examples include:
 - Over 40 leagues
 - Under 6-foot basketball

- Half-ton basketball (all participants over 200 pounds)
 - Recreational co-ed leagues
 - Under 60 senior programs
 - Intergenerational programs (grandparents, grandchildren, single parents and kids, families)
 - Ethnic festivals unique to the area
 - Creating trendy, new programs in each area to keep programs fresh and well attended.
 - Establishing program areas that are not efficiently programmed by all services providers in the UG area, utilizing consumer feedback during the process.
 - Noting that focus groups have commented that the most needed programs include:
 - Teen programs
 - Soccer
 - Youth sports
 - Aquatic programs
 - Family special events
 - Fine Arts programs
 - Swim lessons
 - Skateboarding
 - Youth development programs
 - Health and wellness programs
 - After-school programs
 - Dance
 - Baseball
 - Softball
 - Playground programs
 - Job skills programs
 - Senior programs
 - Enabling all participants to critique the program, make suggestions for changes, and introduce new ideas.
 - Establishing a Teen Program Council to assist in determining the types, locations, prices, and details of potential programs for teenagers.
 - Establishing and implementing a consistent resident/non-resident policy for programs,
- leagues, rentals, and admissions within the revenue policy.
- Establishing an organized volunteer program for the entire agency and coordinate it so all program areas can capitalize on the resource and give volunteers more choices in selected programs.
 - Establishing a contract and standard instructor contractual arrangement that is consistent.
 - Exploring the service areas for additional space to rent, expanding programs in other facilities in the community. Implement the programs only if the minimum number of participants signs up. Consider churches, libraries, private and public schools, restaurants, golf course, arcades, amusement parks, bowling allies, and country clubs as potential program rental sites.
 - Developing an attractive season brochure for marketing purposes. The public has suggested the following effective marketing tactics:
 - Schools (brochure/flier drop)
 - Libraries (brochure/flier drop)
 - Collaborate with partners' networks
 - Service clubs
 - Utility bill inserts
 - Cable television
 - Grocery stores (brochure/flier drop)
 - Churches (brochure/flier drop)
 - Newspaper insert (Shopper, Kansan)
 - Direct mail brochures (sponsored)
 - Media Public Service Announcement (radio, television)
 - Newsletters
 - Neighborhood Resource Center
 - Open house at recreation centers
 - Billboards for awareness
 - Website and connections
 - Word of month
 - Multilingual

- Events to recognize groups, individuals
- Reversing the negative overall negative impact and perception of the UG Parks and Recreation Department. Many Wyandotte County residents and work force are traveling to Johnson County to participate and pay more for the services also offered by Wyandotte County because of the quality of Johnson County's facilities, equipment, programs, and instructors.

Staff training modules presented in half or full-day formats include:

- Customer service/hospitality
- Shopper program
- Creative thinking
- Activity-based costing/pricing
- Performance measures
- Set standards

Facilities guidance in the plan assumed 1,570 acres of land would be necessary for the 150,000 people in Wyandotte County (assuming 10 acres per 1,000 people). Today there are 163,369 people in the County (an estimated 4% increase), so approximately 1,634 acres would be necessary. The UG Parks and Recreation Department currently maintains 2,515 acres (53 parks). Additional guidance for the types of recreation facilities based on the population served includes:

- 1 soccer field per 7,000 people served or 22 soccer fields
- 1 baseball/softball field per 5,000 people served or 31 ball fields
- 1 playground per 4,000 people served or 39 playgrounds
- +1 basketball court per 4,000 people served or 39 basketball courts
- Recreation center square feet available should be based upon one square foot per population served or 157,000 square feet

of indoor space to meet the community needs based upon the population of 157,000 people

Performance measures are recommended as part of a performance strategy with year-to-year tracking and includes measures related to:

- Customer satisfaction
- Maintenance standards met
- Tax subsidy level
- Revenue to expense rate
- Most effective forms of marketing per program
- Consumer retention rate
- Non-prime time capacity
- Capacity of each facility
- Capacity of each program
- Cost per experience

Financial planning recommendations include the following key strategies:

- Seek more earned-income dollars through grants, fees and charges, sponsorships, and partnership development.
- Create a revenue division for the Department to seek outside earned income opportunities that support special events, recreation programs, and facilities.
- Leverage the amount of resources that can actually be maintained at quality standards of care, ideally:
 - Outsourcing the recreation centers (Bethany, Armourdale, and Kensington) to other service providers, such as neighborhood associations, the hospital, YMCA, and other community organizations present in those areas.
 - Aggressively eliminating underutilized or non-use public space.

- Outsourcing all maintenance tasks.
- Leasing park space to other service providers.
- Create subsidy strategies for each program and facility the Department operates and price them per the market rate.
- Create non-profit funding organizations, such as parks foundations and friends groups to help the Department meet its financial goals.
- Recognize the drop in full-time positions and limited available funding by focusing only on core facilities and programs.
- Access a consistent funding source, such as a sales tax percentage or percentage of earnings tax.
- Create a bond issue to upgrade existing parks and facilities.
- Manage available dollars from a combination of revenue sources.

Implementation of the vision would involve a series of facility improvements (\$41,750,000 over 10 years) and a master staffing plan. The plan recommends that capital dollars come from a local sales tax bond issue and from eliminating high-cost and low-benefit programs and facilities. In addition, the new Parks and Recreation facilities would be designed to create revenue and offset operational expenses.

UG City-wide Master Plan⁶

The Parks, Open Space, and Trails Chapter of UG's ***City-wide Master Plan*** (2008) describes the community's parks and open spaces as the

backbone of the Green Community. The plan offers the following guiding principles and key recommendations:

Guiding Principles:

- Protect the Missouri and Kansas Rivers, streams and creeks from encroaching development.
- Promote passive recreational uses and educational opportunities in environmentally sensitive open space areas.
- Develop a comprehensive greenway and trail system to connect all parks, schools, and other community cultural amenities. Use greenways along naturally sensitive areas, such as streams, as part of the overall trail network.
- Revitalize existing neighborhood parks east of I-635.
- Upgrade existing neighborhood and regional parks between I-635 and I-435.
- Identify future parks and open space opportunities west of I-435.
- Provide quality services and programs at all parks.
- Improve communication to residents of services and programs offered.

Key recommendations:

- Implement the ***MetroGreen*** vision within Wyandotte County by planning an interconnected system of public and private open spaces, greenways and trails.
- Continue to plan for the City's future park and recreation needs while maintaining and/or upgrading existing facilities.

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[https://www.wycokck.org/InternetDept.aspx?id=7822&m
enu_id=1032&banner=15284](https://www.wycokck.org/InternetDept.aspx?id=7822&menu_id=1032&banner=15284)

UG Area Plans⁷

The following Kansas City, Kansas areas have planning documents that combine to provide specific visions for downtown Kansas City and nearby neighborhoods:

Armourdale: Armourdale, which is generally located on the north side of the Kansas River from I-635 on the west to I-70/3rd Street on the east, is one of the first Latino communities in Kansas City. Immigration began in the 1830s and continued as railroads were establishing in Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri. The railroads recruited Latino workers (often from Mexico) who then settled near the rail yards in Armourdale, Argentine, the West Bottoms, and Westside neighborhoods. The Flood of 1951 forced many Armourdale residents to move to higher ground in Argentine and the Westside. Later generations settled in more suburban communities. However, in the mid-1990s new immigrants began moving into the KC Metro's core areas and established homes and businesses along specific corridors, including Independence Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri and Central Avenue and Minnesota Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas⁸. The pattern continues today. The **Armourdale Land Use Master Plan** (May 1979) recommends two neighborhood parks for the area: Bill Clem Park and Shawnee Park. It also includes three component plans that provide additional parks and recreation recommendations, including:

- Three stages of levee trail totaling 5.5 miles along the Kansas River. The trail is described in the **Levee Trail Plan⁹** shown in Figure 2 – Armourdale Levee Trail.

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https://www.wycokck.org/InternetDept.aspx?id=18908&menu_id=1032&banner=15284

⁸ <http://kcur.org/post/state-line-hispanic-communities-have-deep-roots-kansas-city-history#stream/0>

⁹ <http://kcur.org/post/levee-trail-kansas-city-kansas-begins-take-shape#stream/0>

Figure 2 – Armourdale Levee Trail



Civic and open space guidance from the **Downtown Master plan** (Draft April 2007), including:

- Open space designs and programs that are appropriate for the Downtown context, including neighborhood, community, and regional.
 - Open spaces connected via public sidewalks and trails for maximized access and convenience.
 - Use of design principles that create safe places.
 - Integration of parks and open spaces as public spaces and amenities into the Downtown in a manner such that they add to the aesthetic character of the Downtown and residents and visitors can use them.
 - Expanding Big Eleven Lake Park and improving connections between parklands via the Riverfront Heritage Trail as part of the creation of the West End District.
- Note:** The district is generally located from Washington Boulevard on the north to Armstrong Avenue on the south and from 18th Street on the west to 10th Street on the east.

- Opening and enhancing access to Kaw Point and the Kansas Riverfront, as well as enhancing existing open space and adding dramatic gateway features and elements along the interstate and thereby helping create the East Bluff District (generally from Washington Boulevard on the north to Sandusky Avenue on the south and from 5th Street on the west to 3rd Street on the east).
- Encourage expansion of the Riverfront Heritage Trail system to provide a pedestrian connection to the East Bluff Place catalyst block (within the East Bluff District but generally from Washington Boulevard on the north to Minnesota Avenue on the south and from 5th Street on the west to 3rd Street on the east) and throughout Downtown by:
 - Providing a pedestrian bridge connection to riverfront from East Bluff Place and/or Gateway Park (Note: The bridge should represent the journey immigrants into Kansas City, Kansas, specifically Native Americans, pioneers, Eastern Europeans, African Americans, Hispanics, and others)
 - Where on-street connections are necessary, implement the appropriate trail design standards
 - Providing trail connections from Kaw Point to Gateway Park to East Bluff Place
- Creating a “Healthy Campus” within a downtown parkway district and recognizing that implementation involves several steps, including but not limited to:
 - Identifying the 10th Street and Minnesota Avenue / State Avenue area for redevelopment (due to the potential for relocating the 8th and Armstrong YMCA to this intersection), in conjunction with the existing amenities of Big Eleven Lake Park, Waterway Park, nearby Douglass Elementary and Sumner Academy and the convergence of a traditional African-American community and an emerging Hispanic community.
 - Development of the community center and grocery store.
 - Expanding parks into the community center block (10th to 11th Street, State to Minnesota Avenues).
 - Redesigning and repurposing Big Eleven Lake as part of water quality improvements.
 - Coordinating parkway, lake, and stormwater improvements as part of a district detention plan.
 - Waterway Park trail expansion to Big Eleven Lake.
 - Creating recreational fields at the northeast corner of 10th Street and Everett Avenue.
 - Developing additional commercial, mixed use infill, and multifamily land uses.

Healthy community guidance via the **Downtown Parkway District Plan also known as the Healthy Campus Plan** (December 2014) for the area generally located from Washington Boulevard on the north to Armstrong Avenue on the south and from 12th Street on the west to 9th Street on the east. Recommendations include:

Re-investing and redeveloping State Avenue generally from 78th Street on the west to 4th Street on the east via the **State Avenue Corridor Redevelopment Plan** (July 2013):

- Connecting development with other existing uses and/or neighborhood assets, such as neighborhood parks.
- Noting the community need for active recreational amenities, such as baseball fields.
- Proposed bikeways along nearly all north-south streets that cross State Avenue and Parallel Parkway.

Prairie-Delaware-Piper: The Prairie-Delaware-Piper area is located in west Wyandotte County generally between the Missouri River on the north and Bonner Springs on the south. It includes the Kansas Speedway, Village West, former Woodlands Race Track, and Wyandotte County Lake.

Opportunities for future open spaces are outlined in the ***Prairie-Delaware-Piper Master Plan*** (February 2004) and involve:

- Including a small neighborhood park near neighborhoods with 300 to 500 residential units.
- Connecting regional parks, regional attractions, and neighborhood spaces with a greenway system that follows stream corridors; some greenways may be used as hiking or biking trails depending on the width and natural resources within them.
- Responding to the recommendations of the citizen-developed ***91st Street Corridor Plan*** (November 2004). The plan provides recommendations for 91st Street between Leavenworth on the north and Parallel Parkway on the south, as it connects to Wyandotte County Lake, specifically:
 - Enhancing the gateway to Wyandotte County Lake;
 - Facilitating street and stormwater improvements;

- Housing development and rehabilitation; and
- Development of a community center.

Rosedale: Prior to the UG annexation of 1922, Rosedale was a small city in Wyandotte County that was developing along Southwest Boulevard and separated from Kansas City, Kansas by the Kaw River and surrounding bluffs. Today, the Rosedale Development Association works in partnership with UG, local residents, businesses, and institutions to improve community strength and quality of life. A master plan for the community was adopted during 2005. The ***Rosedale Master Plan and Traffic Study*** (July 2016 draft) currently provides the framework for decision-making in the Rosedale community. Recommendations related to parks, recreation, and trails include:

- Viewing Rosedale's dramatic topography and generous parks as a community strength in which investment should continue.
- Recognizing that enhancing parks is an opportunity, specifically for 1) promoting and improving access to Turkey Creek, as well as the design, landscaping, and amenities within existing parks; and 2) continuing to invest in trails, as Rosedale has the potential to create a world class trails and park system.
- Enhancing and protecting Rosedale's parks, trails, and natural amenities.
- Increasing awareness of the community's unique natural assets.
- Designing parks and trails in a way that everyone can use; activating parks.
- Promoting safety with development that overlooks the parks.

- Easy integration of parks, trails, and public spaces into the community to the extent that site circulation and park standards encourage undeveloped side yard areas between two commercial buildings to become landscaped pedestrian walkways, landscaped mini-parks, or outdoor seating areas for public or employee use.
- Creating an overall circulation plan for Rosedale Park, as there are no sidewalks along the roads within the park or walking trails. Park access is also a challenge. Further, recent sidewalk improvements on Mission Road and 42nd Avenue improved access, but no sidewalks exist on the park side of Mission Road, the crossing dead ends in the park.
- Improving Fisher Park as an urban park with a trailhead for the Rozark's trail system, better circulation plan, landscaping, and additional amenities beyond the playground with drinking fountain, two partial basketball courts, and picnic present today.
- Mt. Marty Park continuing to serve as a trailhead for the Rozark's Trail System and location of the Rosedale Arch.
- UG continued support of the development and maintenance of the Rozarks Trails, which are dirt nature trails running along the ridge that connects the Rosedale Arch, Fisher Park, and the Mission Cliffs area; the trails are a volunteer-driven effort organized via the Rosedale Development Association and Kansas City Urban Trails Co.
- UG should work with the Army Corps of Engineers to open access to the Turkey Creek Flood Control Area once the flood control project is complete.

Adhering to the recommendations of the ***University Town Redevelopment Plan***, which recommends that:

- Rozarks Trails are protected by increasing the amount of public parks land and ensuring the trail is on public property and enhanced by creating a stronger user base with additional residents, office workers, and community center users.
- A visual terminus is created for 39th Street that draws people to Fisher Park. A community center or library with residential would create the terminus and be visible from the intersection of 39th Street and Rainbow, creating an anchor for the end of the entire 39th Street corridor.
- Space for a community center or library is provided adjacent to Fisher Park that creates a neighborhood amenity and connects to the Rozarks Trails system.

- Trails access links the envisioned Rosedale Crossing redevelopment area around the intersection of Southwest Boulevard and Rainbow Boulevard/7th Street Trafficway to strengthen the area as a destination and connect it to the Rosedale Nature Trail and the broader MetroGreen Regional Trail Network.
- Supplementing the existing trail network with new trails, including:
 - From Fisher Park north to Cherokee Street
 - Floyd Street and 40th Avenue to Fisher Street and 40th Avenue
- Supporting the Major Move – Rosedale Regional Natural Trail. The project would connect Rozarks nature trail, Rosedale Park, Fisher Park, and Turkey Creek Flood Control Area. It would also advance the goals of the Rosedale study. Specific action steps appear in Figure 3 as excerpted from page 56 of the study.
- As shown in Figure 3, recommendations for the Rosedale Regional Natural Trail cover 18 areas along the route including:
 - Area No. 1 - Enhancing the existing Rozarks Trail and incorporating it into the regional trail.
 - Area No. 2 - Better connecting Hilltop Neighborhood to the trail system.
 - Area No. 3 - Incorporating the new Mission Road sidewalks and Mission Road crossing into the trail.
 - Area No. 4 - Potentially developing a pedestrian bridge that would create a direct connection between the Rozarks trail and Rosedale Park and provide a significant gateway for people traveling into Rosedale on Mission Road.
 - Area No. 5 - Enhancing Rosedale Park with a hiking/biking trail in addition to the disc golf

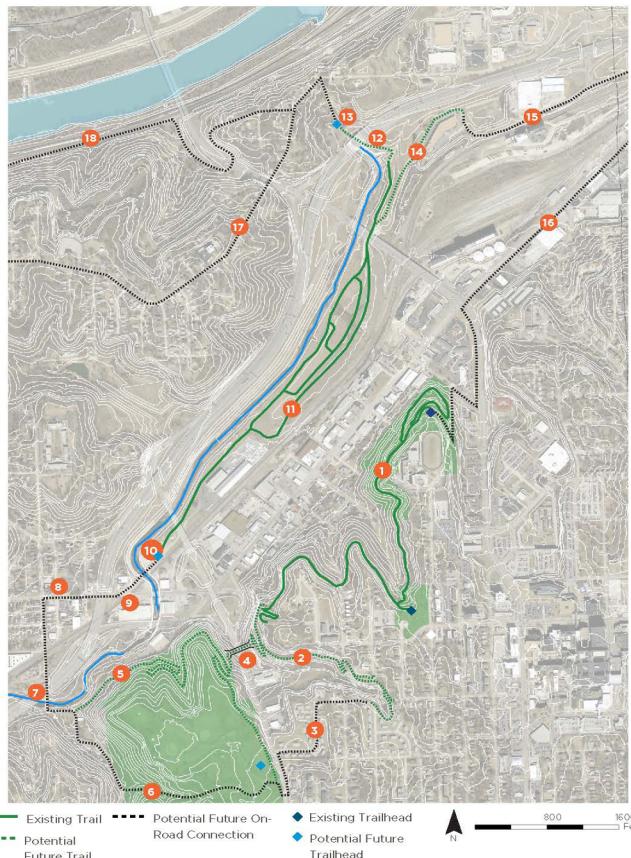


Figure 3 – Major Moves – Rosedale Regional Nature Trail

course, providing an opportunity to develop housing or other users on the south edge of the park that overlook Turkey Creek and Southwest Boulevard, and building trail-oriented development (civic-focused spaces, such as a community center, conference facilities, and supportive hospitality uses) that could benefit from trail infrastructure.

Area No. 6 - Rosedale Park Road could be an on-road connection for the regional trail with the additional of a sidewalk.

Area No. 7 - Mill Street Bridge crosses Turkey Creek and goes underneath I-35.

Area No. 8 - An on-street trail to make the connection between Rosedale Park and the south end of Turkey Creek flood enhancement area.

Area No. 9 - The UG-owned lot could be used a trailhead parking.

Area No. 10 - The Turkey Creek Levee trails would become open to the public, pending approval of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Area No. 12 - A trail connection underneath I-35 could be possible.

Area No. 13 - Potential for another parking lot and trailhead.

Area No. 14 – There is potential for a trail connection to Cambridge Circle.

Area No. 15 – An Adams Street on-road trail segment would connect back to Southwest Boulevard.

Area No. 16 – An on-road connection on Southwest Boulevard would bring the trail back to Rozarks Trail.

Area No. 17 – Shawnee Road is currently being recommended for bicycle improvements.

Area No. 18 – Metropolitan Road is currently being recommended for bicycle improvements. The Metropolitan Road connection would connect to the 10th/12th Street bike route that leads to downtown Kansas City, KS through Armourdale.

- Including better connections between Rosedale Middle School, Mt. Marty Park, and the Rozarks Trails to provide students with increased outdoor recreational space and increased options for walking to school on the trails.

The **Rosedale Business Park Design Guidelines and City-wide Design Standards** (January 2013), includes the following recommendation for multifamily residential development that affects parks and recreation planning, design, and construction:

- All pedestrian walkways shall be designed to provide direct access and connection and between any adjacent public park, greenway, or other public/semi-public use including, but not limited to school, libraries, churches, parks, etc.

Sidewalk Trails Master Plan for Unified Government/Kansas City, Kansas (July 2012) supports the need for a true multimodal transportation network in Wyandotte County, recognizing that trails are limited to a few small locations, mostly within parks where there are often no pedestrian accommodations to such parks from surrounding areas. Goals, key recommendations, and priorities involve:

Goals:

- Improving the health and well-being of residents;
- Providing a safe, convenient and attractive transportation alternative to the automobile;
- Providing a sidewalk and trail network that meets the needs of all skill levels and physical abilities;
- Connecting major activity centers and destinations throughout the County; and
- Connecting to surrounding local and regional pedestrian and bicycle networks.

Key recommendations:

- **Johnson and Wyandotte County Bicycle Transportation** (1993): Streamway parks should accommodate a linear, off-road trail system.
- **Kansas City Parks and Boulevard Plan** also known as the “Kessler Plan” (1893): Interconnected system of parks and boulevards.

- Neighborhood Conservation Policy Area: Connecting neighborhoods to institutional uses and parks via sidewalks.

Future Trail Network Considerations and Priorities

Considerations:

- Few trails are located within existing parks, including but not limited to, Wyandotte County Lake Park, Wyandotte County Park, Jersey Creek Park and Kaw Point Park. Unfortunately, there are few safe and convenient pedestrian connections to these parks.
 - Connections to these established trail networks (Johnson County, Kansas trail system, the Riverfront Heritage Trail in Kansas City, Missouri, and Northland trails in Riverside and Parkville, Missouri) could leverage a few miles of improvements into a true regional network and that would further expand the ***MetroGreen*** system.

Priorities

- Trail segments that provide a direction to Kaw Point Connector, Wyandotte County Lake Park Connector, and trails that connect to schools and parks in rural or environmentally constrained areas that do not have access to sidewalks
- Trail segments that provide a cross-county connection at the Kansas and Missouri Levees and the following corridors: State Avenue, Parallel Parkway, North-

South Greenway, and K-32/Kansas River.

- Trail segments that provide a direct connection to the regional trail network, specifically trails in Johnson County, Riverfront Heritage Trail, and Riverside and Parkville, Missouri

Southwest Boulevard and Merriam Lane: The corridor generally spans Southwest Boulevard and Merriam Lane from I-635 on the west and the Kansas/Missouri state line on the east within the Rosedale Neighborhood. The ***Southwest Boulevard Merriam Lane Corridor Master Plan*** (2011) provides the following recommendations for creating a healthier, greener corridor, including parks and open spaces:

- Take advantage of existing community assets, including local assets, as focal points of neighborhood development and make them accessible to everyone
- Create connected, walkable neighborhoods that provide safe, convenient, and comfortable sidewalks to parks, schools, stores, and civic institutions
- Become a healthier community by promoting active lifestyles that make it easy and safe to walk and bike and encouraging trails and bike lanes
- Identify and help prioritize future capital improvements inclusive of several items including access to public recreation

Other Planning Efforts

Working in the eastern portion of Wyandotte County, partners (Community Housing of Wyandotte County, Environmental Protection Agency – Region 7, Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture, Healthy Communities Wyandotte, Dotte Agency and other health advocacy groups,

neighborhoods, families, and others) initiated the following projects:

Epic Park (January – May 2015): Partners designed and built a community stage for public events. The stage was installed during the spring of 2015.

Splitlog Greenhouse (January – May 2015): Partners designed a new greenhouse for the Bethany Neighborhood that ME Pearson Elementary School children began planting during 2015 in coordination with their use of the Splitlog Farm garden.

Bethany Park: Partners propose to re-design the park, so it includes a dog park, amphitheater, walking/running path, sculpture pedestals, pavilion, natural playground, futsal court, cookout area, bus stop, and community mural. Other suggested improvements involve improving Central Avenue with the sidewalks, bike routes and visible bike racks, street lighting, and installing landscaped mid-block and intersection crossings. Additional improvements involve property renovations, low-maintenance streetscaping, and La Placita. Mixed-use development near the edge of the park is also proposed.

Levee Trail: Partners collaborated to locate the trail along a segment of the Kansa River with permission from the Kaw Valley Drainage District. After two years of operation, the following amenities were anticipated to be added during 2016: Entry and informational signage, bike racks, and concrete benches.

Connecting Amenities: Using 10th, 11th, and 12th Streets to connect Waterway Park, Pearson Elementary (many international families), Splitlog Farm, community gardens at Northrup Park, and planned 10th Street bike route. The effort involves:

- Developing a Pearson Elementary Safe Routes to School Program.
- Improving land south of Pearson Elementary.

- Providing continuous pedestrian routes.

Vacant Lots: The Gould Evans Design Research Studio is collaborating with stakeholders to explore options for the city's vacant lots in order to convert them into assets rather than liabilities.

Jersey Creek Park (January 2015 – Present): Partners developed prototypical fitness stations for the park. Installation is anticipated for 2016.

Planning for the Future: Reuse Assessment for the John Garland Park Site (February 2010): Outlines goals for site reuse, site remedy considerations, development suitability, and preliminary concept plan as included below for the landfill/park. The assessment was developed in partnership with the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association. The UG Public Works Department manages the site.

- Goals for site reuse:
 - Transform the site into a positive community asset.
 - Provide low-impact community uses that are compatible with long-term operation and maintenance of the landfill, such as hiking trails, greenhouses, native prairie, bird habitat restoration, and educational opportunities.
 - Consider a renewable technology demonstration park, if viable.
 - Continued community engagement for further defining reuse goals.
- Site remedy considerations:
 - Per the 2008 Consent Order and Final Agreement (CAO), the UG will conduct post-care activities through 2025, including:
Maintaining the integrity of the final cover.

Monitoring ground water.

Monitoring landfill gasses (methane) and improving the landfill gas venting system.

Note: All of the above must remain in place over the long-term and considered as site constraints.

- Development suitability
 - Approximately 25 acres of the site are constrained by steep grades that limit recreational use to light amenities, e.g. trails.
 - Approximately 13 acres in the southwestern portion of the site could be suitable for sports fields or light structures (with additional fill to create level surfaces).
 - Additional testing is recommended to ensure safe recreation activities.
- Preliminary concept plans
 - A multiuse park is envisioned for the southeastern portion of the site that includes the following amenities:
 - Walking/jogging trails
 - Lookout points
 - An amphitheater and performance lawn
 - Shelter structures (3)
 - Baseball fields (2)
 - Soccer/football field
 - Art installations, e.g. site and neighborhood history wall
 - Parking areas (2)
 - Basketball court
 - Skatepark
 - Renewable Technology Demonstration Park

- Evaluating the sites potential to be used as a renewable energy facility.

Reuse Concept Plan: John Garland Park, Kansas City, Kansas (August 2011): Describes the outcomes of a community workshop centered on park use ideas including those from Oak Grove Neighborhood Association, neighborhood residents, community leaders, local experts, and representative from the UG Board of Commissioners, Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments. Goals and specific uses for site reuse include those listed below. Implementation would happen in phases.

Goals

- **Jobs and Income Generation:** Develop opportunities for income generation and jobs for local residents, building on urban agriculture efforts and interest in capitalizing on renewable energy potential.
- **Education and Knowledge Transfer:** Create venues for sharing information and knowledge about the environment, site history, green energy and local food. The site should be a destination for learning.
- **Passive Recreation Opportunities:** Connect the proposed Oak Grove Walk and Bike Trail to recreation opportunities at the site, such as a trail with exercise stations, volleyball court, picnic shelter, and open space for informal recreation.

Uses

- Recreational amenities
- Urban agriculture
- Renewable energy initiatives

Coronado Park Incubating Urban Farm: UG's parks and recreation department were in the

process of developing a partnership that would result in the use of portions of Coronado Park as an incubator farm and community garden. Development of an green design education center on the site with workshop and meeting space, small business development, food and nutrition, and gardening classes was considered a long-term improvement idea.

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