

LA VISTA PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Recommendations for the park and recreation system respond to the identified needs and desires of La Vista. Community input has shown that while La Vista residents who attended the workshops and completed the surveys are satisfied with the amount and quality of the existing facilities, programs, and activities available, there is room for improvement and expansion. Recommendations are provided for existing and proposed parks, greenways and trails, street trees and trees within parks, and recreation opportunities.

The *La Vista Park and Recreation Master Plan* incorporates sufficient park classifications to satisfy different park and recreation needs of the community. These park classifications include mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, special use facilities, sport complexes, school-parks, large urban parks, natural resource areas, and greenways/trails. Recommendations are made for each of these park classifications in terms of required and optional facilities and services. Each park classification is also discussed in terms of facility attributes and recommendations for existing and proposed park and recreation facilities.

Park and recreation facility recommendations consist of four main topics: 1) Parks and Facilities, 2) Greenways, Trails, and Linkages, 3) Tree Plan, and 4) Recreation Activity Plan.

These recommendations are the means by which *La Vista Park and Recreation Master Plan* can become reality. Implementing the recommendations will improve and expand park and recreation facilities and activities for all members of the La Vista community. *Figure 6-1: Recommended Plan* shows the location of existing and proposed parks, greenways, trails, and green streets. Locations of the proposed parks and trails as shown on the plan are approximate. Park nodes and trails show the general area where the facilities may be located. These locations may shift when the planning and development stage becomes more detailed.

REQUIRED AND OPTIONAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES

During the policy development stage, basic requirements and optional additions for each of the park classifications were determined. These required and optional facilities and services are divided into three categories, including:

- Park and Recreation Facilities, such as play equipment and tennis courts
- Park and Recreation Support Facilities, such as security lighting and restrooms
- Park and Recreation Support Services, such as special events and maintenance

The basic requirements and optional additions for each park classification are shown in *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*.

Figure 6-1: Recommended Park and Recreation Master Plan

Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services

Facilities and Services	Mini-Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	Large Urban Park	School-Park	Special Use Facility	Natural Resource Area	Sports Complex	Greenway/Trail
Park and Recreation Facilities									
Play Equipment	R	R	R	R	R	O	O	O	O
Open Play Area	R	R	R	R	R	O	O	O	O
Soccer Fields	NA	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Softball Fields	NA	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Baseball Fields	NA	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Paved Multi-Use Areas	O	R	R	R	R	O	NA	O	NA
Tennis Courts	O	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Basketball Courts	O	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Volleyball Courts	O	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Multi-Purpose Trails	O	R	R	R	R	O	O	O	O
Picnic Facilities (shelters)	R	R	R	R	O	O	O	O	O
Special/Unique Features	O	R	R	R	O	O	R	R	O
Natural Areas	O	O	O	O	O	O	R	O	O
Trees/Shaded Areas	R	R	R	R	R	O	R	R	R
Special Use Facilities	NA	O	O	O	O	R	O	O	O
Swimming Pool	NA	NA	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Aquatic Center	NA	NA	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Wading Pool	O	O	O	O	O	O	NA	NA	NA
Ice Skating Rink	NA	O	O	O	O	O	NA	NA	NA
Amphitheater/Outdoor Gathering Area	NA	O	O	O	O	O	NA	NA	O
Arboretum/Botanical Gardens	NA	NA	O	O	NA	O	O	O	O
Fine Arts Facility/Public Art Displays	NA	NA	O	O	NA	O	O	NA	O
Community Center	NA	NA	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Camping Facilities (RV facility)	NA	NA	NA	O	NA	O	O	NA	NA
Dog Park	NA	NA	O	O	NA	O	NA	NA	O
Horseshoes	O	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Shuffleboard	O	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Lawn Bowling	O	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Disc/Frisbee Golf	NA	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Roller Hockey	O	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Lacrosse/Football/Rugby Field	NA	NA	O	O	O	O	NA	O	NA
Outdoor Exercise Circuit	NA	O	O	O	O	O	NA	O	O
Skating Facility (in-line/skateboard)	NA	O	O	NA	O	NA	O	O	O
High-Risk Area	NA	NA	O	O	NA	O	NA	O	NA
Winter Park Facility	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Golf Course	NA	NA	O	O	NA	O	NA	O	O
Youth Sports Complex	NA	NA	O	O	NA	O	NA	O	NA
Competitive Sports Facility	NA	NA	O	O	NA	O	NA	O	NA
Indoor Recreation Center	NA	NA	O	O	NA	O	NA	O	NA

Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services (Continued)

Facilities and Services (continued)	Mini-Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Community Parks	Large Urban Parks	School-Parks	Special Use Facilities	Natural Resource Areas	Sports Complexes	Greenways/ Trails
Park and Recreation Support Facilities									
Security Lighting	R	R	R	R	R	R	O	R	O/R*
Activity Lighting	O	O	R	R	O	O	O	R	NA
Public Telephones	O	O	R	R	R	R	O	R	O
Parking (off-street)	O	R	R	R	R	R	O	R	O/R*
Bike Racks	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	O/R*
Restrooms	O	R	R	R	R	O	O	R	O/R*
Drinking Fountains	R	R	R	R	R	R	O	R	O/R*
Benches	R	R	R	R	R	R	O	R	R
Picnic Tables	O	R	R	R	O	O	O	R	O
Signage (throughout system, continuity, at entrances)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Kiosks/Information Booths	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	O	O	O	O
Rental Facilities	NA	NA	O	O	NA	O	NA	O	O
ADA Accessibility	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Park and Recreation Support Services									
Security **	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Emergency Telephone Service	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Reservations for Facility Use (shelters, group picnics, sports leagues, for-profit use)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NA
Activities/Facilities for Groups, Companies, Teams	NA	NA	R	R	O	O	NA	R	O
Special Events (programs, concerts, fairs)	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Facilities and Grounds Maintenance	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
R - Required Facility/Service									
O - Optional Facility/Service									
NA - Not Appropriate									
* Optional for Greenway, Required for Trail.									
** May include, but not limited to, police patrols, private security, neighborhood watches, park design to eliminate hidden places, and/or location markers on trail. The principles of CPTED, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, could also be explored. CPTED is defined by the National Crime Prevention Institute as "the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of a crime and an improved quality of life."									
Note: This does not preclude the addition of other unlisted facilities and services as optional.									

Required and optional facilities and services are to serve as a guide for the City. It is the responsibility of the City to determine which facilities and services are or are not feasible in existing and proposed parks. The required facilities are recommended for existing parks, but due to physical limitations and space constraints they may not be added in some cases. In proposed parks, future demand for certain facilities and services and recreational preferences of residents may change over time. Hence, these guidelines may change or be revised to respond to the future demand of La Vista residents. Each park will be looked at individually to determine the physical capacity of providing basic requirements and to determine needs

and wants of residents served by that park. Each park is different and this difference will be considered when determining which facilities will be included in each park. The City shall strive to provide the basic requirements in all parks.

While the list of facilities and services is extensive, it is likely other items not on the list will be requested to be included in the park and recreation system. Each new facility and service requested will be analyzed according to public demand, site/location criteria, capital and operating implications, and other criteria pertinent at the time.

PARKS AND FACILITIES

Mini-Parks

The guidelines for mini-parks are established in *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*. Existing mini-parks may not have all the required facilities and services due to physical limitations and space constraints. It is the goal of the City to provide the required facilities and services where possible in existing and proposed parks. Only two mini-parks are proposed. One is actually an existing subdivision park that should be incorporated into the public system. The other proposed mini-park will be located in a future subdivision in the developed part of La Vista. Beyond these, new mini-parks are not recommended because there are many single-family homes and apartment complexes that offer their own play equipment and facilities that act in a similar manner as mini-parks.

As general guidelines, mini-parks should strive to have the following attributes:

- a site between 2,500 square feet to 1 acre
- a service area of a maximum $\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius
- a site with a less than 4% slope
- a site that takes advantage of vegetation and other natural resources of the area
- a site located in primarily residential areas

Existing Mini-Parks

Apollo Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Develop sledding hill facility
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Ardmore Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Camenzind Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities

- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide access to the neighborhood to the west at Elm Drive
- Provide small open play area by relocating play equipment from the center to the perimeter
- Preserve/enhance metal picnic shelter
- Consider off-street parking opportunities
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Central Park – Mini-Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Clean-up and improve Thompson Creek drainageway
- Potential location for skate park facility and ice skating facility at west end of park
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Champion Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Clean-up and improve Thompson Creek drainageway
- Enhance ADA facilities
- Potential site for public flower gardens
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

City Park – North Mini-Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Potential site for public flower gardens
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)
- Alternative is to sell parkland to adjoining residential property owners and use proceeds to purchase land at Camenzind Park to provide access path or for general improvements to nearby parks (existing parkland is a utility corridor and the land is unbuildable)

City Park – East Mini-Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide paved walk to softball fields
- Replace play equipment and associated amenities to meet accessibility requirements and current safety standards or relocate play equipment to City Park (Sports Complex)

- If play equipment is relocated, leave as open space or sell parkland for residential lots and use proceeds for improvement to nearby parks, making sure to retain access to Joseph Street
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Eberle/Walden Park

- Reclassify as special use facility (see Special Use Facilities)

Hollis Park

- Reclassify as special use facility (see Special Use Facilities)
- If this is not feasible or desirable, sell parkland and use proceeds for improvements to nearby parks

Mayor's Park

- Reclassify as neighborhood school-park (see Neighborhood Parks and School-Parks)

Memorial Children's Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Proposed Mini-Parks

Stoneybrook South Park (Existing/developed subdivision park at Chandler Road and 139th Street.)

- Incorporate into the public park system
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Giles Corner Park (Located in the future Giles Corner Subdivision at the northwest corner of Giles Road and 72nd Street. Development of this mini-park is consistent with the existing development patterns of surrounding neighborhoods.)

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Neighborhood Parks

The guidelines for neighborhood parks are established in *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*. Existing neighborhood parks may not have all the required facilities and services due to physical limitations and space constraints. It is the goal of the City to provide the required facilities and services where possible in existing and proposed parks.

As general guidelines, neighborhood parks should strive to have the following attributes:

- a site of approximately five to ten acres
- a service area with a maximum $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius
- not more than 50% of the site should have a slope greater than 4%
- a site that takes advantage of vegetation and other natural resources of the area
- a site located in primarily residential areas



Jaycee Park

Existing Neighborhood Parks

Jaycee Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide wading/splash pool
- Replace play equipment and associated amenities at south end to meet accessibility requirements and current safety standards
- Provide additional trees and vegetation
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Mayor's Park/G. Stanley Hall Elementary School-Park (See also School-Parks)

- Develop joint use agreements between school and City
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Take advantage of publicly owned property along Thompson Creek to develop as a greenway
- Clean-up and improve Thompson Creek drainageway
- Provide trail linkage to La Vista Sports Complex
- Provide access to the neighborhoods to the south
- Enhance 72nd Street entrance into the park
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Proposed Neighborhood Parks

La Vista West Elementary School-Park (See also School-Parks)

- Develop joint use agreements between school and City
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

La Vista Jr. High School-Park (See also School-Parks)

- Develop joint use agreements between school and City
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input

- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Portal Elementary School-Park (See also School-Parks)

- Develop joint use agreements between school and City
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Southwind Park (Existing/developed subdivision park located on 92nd Avenue, adjacent to La Vista Public Library/Metro Community College.)

- Incorporate into the public park system
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

100th Street Park (This site is south of Harrison Street, just north of the BNSF railroad near the railroad underpass. It adjoins a proposed greenway and trail. Area designated for residential use in La Vista Comprehensive Plan.)

- Ensure park land dedication
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Centennial Park (Located south of Centennial Road between 97th Street and 98th Circle. Located east of La Vista Public Works. Designated for residential use in La Vista Comprehensive Plan.)

- Ensure park land dedication
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Harrison Hills Park (Located south of Harrison Street and adjoins a proposed greenway and trail. Develop as a small neighborhood park that serves an isolated pocket of residential land, surrounded by commercial and industrial property. Develop in conjunction with the land developer, possibly include in required site plan.)

- Explore feasibility of land acquisition/preservation process
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible

- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

East Park (This is an existing subdivision park.)

- Incorporate into the public park system
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

West Park/Southridge Meadows Park (This is an existing subdivision park.)

- Incorporate into the public park system
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide wading/splash pool
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Meadows Park and Swimming Pool (This is an existing subdivision park.)

- Incorporate into the public park system
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Willow Creek Park (Located in Willow Creek Subdivision, fronting Harrison Street and east of 151st Street. Undeveloped tract of land surrounded by recent residential development. Adjoins a proposed trail that could be developed on an existing, long, narrow outlot that extends southward to a proposed greenway and trail in the Chalco area.)

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

152nd Street Park (Located south of the BNSF Railroad in an existing, recently developed subdivision on a large tract intended for park use.)

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide wading/splash pool
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Millard Neighborhood Park (Located between 156th Street and 168th Street and between the BNSF Railroad and Harrison Street. Large, existing park along creek and subsidiary drainageways, through a recently developed residential subdivision.)

- Incorporate into public park system.

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Develop in conjunction with Millard Community Park (see Community Parks)
- Provide wading/splash pool
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Springhill Park (Located in large outlot of a future subdivision, north of Giles Road, south of the BNSF railroad, and west of 156th Street.)

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Community Parks

The guidelines for community parks are established in *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*. Existing community parks may not have all the required facilities and services due to physical limitations and space constraints. It is the goal of the City to provide the required facilities and services where possible in existing and proposed parks.

As general guidelines, community parks should strive to have the following attributes:

- a site of approximately 30 to 50 acres
- a service area with a maximum 3 mile radius, typically a 1 to 2 mile radius
- surrounding land uses are primarily residential
- located adjacent to arterial or collector street



Central Park

Existing Community Park

Central Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Clean-up and improve Thompson Creek drainageway
- Preserve/enhance metal picnic shelter
- Provide wading/splash pool
- Make access bridge and path from Park View Boulevard to park ADA accessible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Proposed Community Park

Millard Community Park (Located at western edge of La Vista between 156th Street and 168th Street and between the BNSF Railroad and Harrison Street. Large, existing park located along a creek and subsidiary drainageways, through a recently developed residential subdivision. There is an existing soccer complex at the east end, between the creek and railroad.)

- Incorporate into public park system
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Develop in conjunction with Millard Neighborhood Park (see Neighborhood Parks)
- Provide two volleyball courts (based on recreation standard needs)
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Special Use Facilities

The guidelines for special use facilities are established in *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*. Existing special use facilities may not have all the required facilities and services due to physical limitations and space constraints. It is the goal of the City to provide the required facilities and services where possible in existing facilities. Additional special use facilities are not currently being proposed.

As general guidelines, special use facilities should strive to have the following attributes:

- size of the site is variable
- a service area that is community-wide
- surrounding land uses are variable

Existing Special Use Facilities

La Vista Falls Golf Course

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input to include facility enhancements and maintenance improvements
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Potential exists to develop a trail along the south property line of the golf course and along the north property line of the adjoining retail shopping complex, providing a link between 84th Street and the existing Central Park trail network
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Municipal Pool

- Develop master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input, including pool study/needs assessment for current and future requirements regarding the existing pool and for other aquatic needs in the future (professional services will be need to conduct this study/assessment)
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Clean-up and improve Thompson Creek drainageway and provide trail

- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

La Vista Community Center

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Explore opportunities through city facility feasibility study for the recently acquired land adjacent to property
- Potential uses for the expansion area could be an extension of current Community Center uses, possibly including, but not limited to, parking, children's garden, and/or additional building space/classrooms. This area should be designed as an integral part of and keeping with the public nature of the Community Center.
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Eberle/Walden Park/Access

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input, in conjunction with master plan for La Vista Sports Complex and both expansions
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide neighborhood access to La Vista Sports Complex
- Provide trailhead
- Provide sledding access
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Hollis Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Develop extensive floral displays as it once was
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)
- If this is not feasible or desirable, sell parkland and use proceeds for improvements to nearby parks



Hollis Park

Sports Complexes

The guidelines for sports complexes are established in *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*. Existing sports complexes may not have all the required facilities and services due to physical limitations and space constraints. It is the goal of the City to provide the required facilities and services where possible in existing and proposed sports complexes.

As general guidelines, sports complexes should strive to have the following attributes:

- size of the site is greater than 25 acres
- a service area that is community-wide
- surrounding land uses are variable
- adjacent to arterial or collector street

Existing Sports Complexes

City Park

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Improve level, open play field at east end
- Complete parking lot paving and landscaping (retaining wall)
- Provide paved walk to east mini-park
- Study possibility of moving play equipment from City Park – East Mini-Park to sports complex, thus improving visibility for parents of children using equipment
- If the intention is to light the fields, the neighbors need to be contacted and directional cut-off lights should be used to eliminate light pollution
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)



City Park

Kelly McMahon Field

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Clean-up and improve Thompson Creek drainageway and provide trail
- Improve play equipment area
- Pave west parking lot
- Offer winter opportunities for sledding
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)



Kelly McMahon Field

La Vista Soccer Complex

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Enhance airfield for remote-controlled model aircraft
- Consider lighting some of the fields
- Pave parking lots
- Add trees around parking lots and fields
- Acquire additional land at southwest corner
- Surrounding floodplain areas offer additional opportunities for public and private recreation uses and open space
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

La Vista Sports Complex

- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input, in conjunction with proposed north and south expansions and Eberle/Walden Park/Access
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide trail access to La Vista Soccer Complex, Mayor's Park/G. Stanley Hall School-Park, and Eberle/Walden Park/Access
- Provide additional trees at parking lots and around fields
- Address lighting issues for football and soccer fields
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Proposed Sports Complexes

La Vista Sports Complex North Expansion (Located north of existing Sports Complex.)

- Acquire property for future athletic field development
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input, in conjunction with Sports Complex, south expansion, and Eberle/Walden Park/Access
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide trail access to adjoining neighborhoods through Eberle/Walden Park/Access
- Provide one formal baseball field
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

La Vista Sports Complex South Expansion (Located south of existing Sports Complex.)

- Acquire property for future athletic field development
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input, in conjunction with Sports Complex, north expansion, and Eberle/Walden Park/Access
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide trail access to adjoining neighborhoods through Mayor's Park/G. Stanley Hall School-Park
- Provide three formal baseball fields

- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

School-Parks

The guidelines for school-parks are established in *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*. Currently, there are no existing school-parks in the system. For the proposed school-parks, it is the goal of the City to provide the required facilities and services where possible.

As general guidelines, school-parks should strive to have the following attributes:

- size of the site is variable (typically between 5 to 20 acres)
- service area is variable (typically between $\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 mile radius)
- a site that takes advantage of the vegetation and other natural resources of the area
- located primarily in residential areas

School-parks can be developed in conjunction with schools and neighborhood parks. Sites that include schools should be large enough to accommodate school needs without compromising neighborhood park uses. Committees of City personnel and representatives of the school districts should be established to discuss joint use facilities, joint maintenance possibilities, and joint improvement possibilities to maximize community use of facilities. The committees should determine joint missions, identify issues associated with the school-park concept, and develop joint planning criteria. The committees should also establish a process whereby new schools that may fall under formal joint use agreements are planned and designed jointly by the school district and the City.

Proposed School-Parks

Mayor's Park/G. Stanley Hall Elementary School-Park, La Vista West Elementary School-Park, and La Vista Jr. High School-Park are all east of 84th Street in fully developed, existing neighborhoods lacking adequate neighborhood parks. Dual use of these school grounds as neighborhood parks would be an efficient use of scarce public land.

Mayor's Park/G. Stanley Hall Elementary School-Park (See Neighborhood Parks)

Portal Elementary School-Park (See Neighborhood Parks)

La Vista West Elementary School-Park (See Neighborhood Parks)

La Vista Jr. High School-Park (See Neighborhood Parks)

Large Urban Parks

The guidelines for large urban parks are established in *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*. At this time, there are no existing large urban parks in La Vista. For the proposed large urban park, it is the goal of the City to provide the required facilities and services.

As general guidelines, a large urban park should strive to have the following attributes:

- size of the site is greater than 50 acres
- a service area that is community-wide
- not more than 25% of the site has a slope greater than 4%

- surrounding land uses are variable
- adjacent to an arterial or collector street

Proposed Large Urban Park

La Vista Commons (Located in the center of La Vista, on a large triangular tract. The proposed parkland is a large, open, level expanse of floodplain land that is bounded by Giles Road on the south, West Papillion Creek/abandoned Union Pacific Railroad on the east, and 120th Street on the west. Several proposed greenways divide the area into smaller tracts. Adjoins a proposed major regional recreational trail that runs through the northeastern edge of the park. Occupies approximately 168 acres. Although classified as a large urban park, La Vista Commons also functions as a community park.)

- Begin land acquisition/preservation process
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Potential site for three volleyball courts (based on recreation standard needs)
- Potential site for a future recreation/community center and a future water/aquatic facility (based on pool study/needs assessment, study/assessment should be conducted through professional services, include current and future requirements regarding the existing pool and other aquatic needs in the future)
- Offers numerous opportunities for prairies, wetlands, open spaces, and possibly a lake that would provide additional recreation potential
- Potential site for community festivals, celebrations, and art fairs
- Surrounding floodplain areas offer additional opportunities for public and private recreation uses and open space
- Offer alternative airfield location for remote-controlled model aircraft (existing airfield is located at La Vista Soccer Complex)
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Natural Resource Areas

The guidelines for natural resource areas are established in *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*. There are no natural resource areas in the existing La Vista park and recreation system.

Chalco Hills Recreation Area is a large natural resource area at 156th Street and Giles Road, in the western part of La Vista. The area is owned and operated by Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District. Chalco Hills serves La Vista as an existing natural resource area, therefore eliminating the need for additional natural resource areas at this time.

This park classification is provided in the case an unexpected opportunity arises in the future to develop such a park. If this opportunity arises, it is the goal of the City to provide the required facilities and services.

As general guidelines, natural resource areas should strive to have the following attributes:

- size of the site is variable

- service area that is community-wide
- surrounding land uses are variable

GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND LINKAGES

Greenways and trails link parks together as a unified system. The layout of La Vista makes it feasible to use natural drainage systems and transportation systems to establish greenway and trail system networks. A greenway may act as a passive or active recreation corridor. A greenway serves as a natural connection along a creek, drainageway, and/or vegetated corridor. The City may not necessarily own a passive greenway, but the area will be protected as a natural area. The more active greenways may include dirt paths or paved trails and would typically be owned by the City. A typical trail cross-section along a greenway is shown in *Figure 6-2* and a typical trail cross-section along a roadway is shown in *Figure 6-3*.

Figure 6-2: Typical Trail Cross-Section Along a Greenway

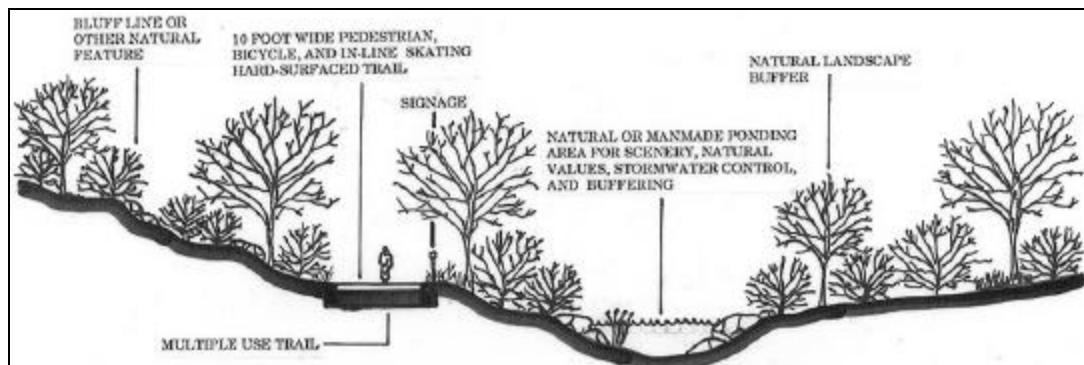
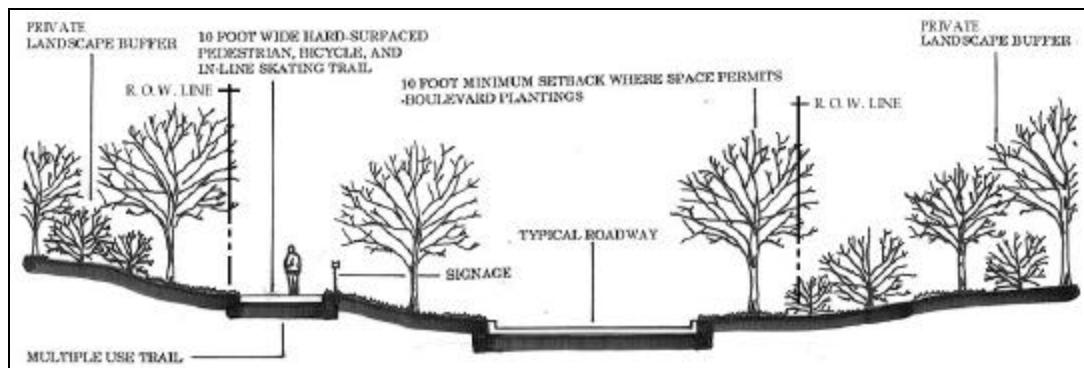


Figure 6-3: Typical Trail Cross-Section Along a Roadway



The proposed greenway and trail system in La Vista provides important connections to park and recreation facilities, schools, commercial/business areas, and residential neighborhoods. The system will also provide important connections to surrounding communities and to existing and proposed trails in these communities. The City of La Vista shall work with

surrounding communities to establish relationships and develop important metropolitan and regional trail connections.

The guidelines for greenways and trails are established in *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*. It is the goal of the City to provide the required facilities and services where possible for greenways and trails.

As general guidelines, greenways and trails should strive to have the following attributes:

- a service area that is community-wide
- surrounding land uses are variable

Proposed Greenways. The following tasks should be completed for each greenway.

- Continue/begin land acquisition/preservation/easement process, if to be publicly owned and if necessary
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible
- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

Big Papillion Creek Greenway

Big Papillion Creek Greenway is located between Harrison Street and Giles Road at the eastern edge of La Vista. A regional trail is proposed along the creek in the future. The stream has been straightened and lined with levees over the years, but remains open.

Thompson Creek Greenway

Thompson Creek Greenway is located between Kelly McMahon Field and Big Papillion Creek. This greenway follows Thompson Creek, a small stream that has been significantly altered over the years by channelization, straightening, and extensive use of rip-rap and gabions. Nevertheless it remains open and is lined with dense vegetation in places, especially from Central Park eastward. The proposed greenway passes through the following La Vista park and recreation facilities: Kelly McMahon Field, La Vista Municipal Pool, La Vista Falls Municipal Golf Course, Central Park, Champion Park, Mayor's Park, and La Vista Soccer Complex, and near Apollo Park and La Vista Sports Complex. Recreation trails are proposed along portions of the Thompson Creek Greenway.

Portal Greenway

Portal Greenway follows an open stream that flows from Harrison Street near the proposed 100th Street Park south under the BNSF Railroad right-of-way, crossing Giles Road west of 101st Street and emptying into West Papillion Creek near the La Vista Public Works. This proposed greenway passes through or near the following existing and proposed park facilities: 100th Street Park, Portal School-Park, an existing linear park west of 101st Street north of Giles Road, and Centennial Park. A recreation trail is proposed the entire length of the greenway.

West Papillion Creek Greenway

West Papillion Creek Greenway follows the creek and abandoned Union Pacific Railroad right-of way diagonally northwest to southeast between Harrison Street and Giles Road. It flows through a broad, open floodplain area. The creek is open all the way through La Vista, but has been straightened and flanked by levees and does not have the appearance of a “natural” stream. Adjacent to the greenway north of Giles Road is the site for the proposed La Vista Commons Community Park. A regional recreational trail is proposed through the entire length of the greenway.

Hell Creek Greenway

This colorfully-named small, open tributary stream of West Papillion Creek flows southward into La Vista at 115th Street, emptying into West Papillion Creek about ¼ mile north of Giles Road. The creek still has some stands of vegetation lining its banks, although much has been removed or reduced in area by adjacent commercial and residential development. A recreation trail is proposed for the entire length of the stream south of Harrison Street, linking two proposed parks: Harrison Hills Park and La Vista Commons.

South Papillion Creek Greenway

This is the primary greenway proposed for La Vista. It follows South Papillion Creek from 168th Street eastward to where it empties into West Papillion Creek about ¼ mile north of Giles Road at 144th Street. The greenway is augmented by three smaller greenways along tributary streams: at the village of Chalco, from Chalco Hills Recreation Area, and between 120th and 128th Streets south of Giles Road. The BNSF right-of-way parallels the creek. Narrowed and channelized in places and free-flowing and lined with vegetation in others, the creek has been altered less than the other major streams in La Vista and presents a more “natural” appearance for at least part of its length. Park and recreation facilities adjacent or near the greenway are: Millard Park, 152nd Street Park, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, and La Vista Commons. Recreation trails already exist through most of Millard Park, and are proposed to extend eastward along the greenway to the intersection of Giles Road and 132nd Street.

Chalco Greenway

Chalco Greenway follows a small stream flowing eastward into Chalco Hills Recreation Area and Wehrspann Lake south of Giles Road at 162nd Street. A recreation trail is proposed through the greenway westward from existing Chalco Hills trails to serve residential areas in incorporated Sarpy County west of Chalco Hills.

Springhill Greenway

This greenway runs from the railroad south along an existing drainage swale. A trail is proposed within this greenway. The greenway connects Millard Park to Springhill Park.

Proposed Trails. The following tasks should be completed for each trail segment.

- Continue/begin land acquisition/easement process, if necessary
- Develop park master plan by Park and Recreation Advisory Board through public input
- Provide aesthetic and identification amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility and ADA facilities where feasible

- Provide basic requirements that are feasible and optional additions that are desired (See *Table 6-1: Required and Optional Facilities and Services*)

East of 72nd Street	<u>Length</u>
• La Vista Soccer Complex to Big Papillion Creek	6,700'
• Eberle/Walden Park/Access to La Vista Sports Complex	1,460'
• Mayor's Park to La Vista Sports Complex	2,650'
72nd - 96th Streets	<u>Length</u>
• 84 th Street to Central Park	1,770'
• Kelly McMahon Field/Municipal Pool to 84 th Street	1,430'
96th - 108th Streets	<u>Length</u>
• 100 th Street Park at Harrison to RR Underpass to Giles Road	5,800'
• Giles Road south to West Papillion Creek regional trail (west of Public Works)	2,280'
• Centennial Road extension west to greenway	800'
108th - 126th Streets	<u>Length</u>
• Harrison Hills Park at Harrison to West Papillion Creek regional trail at La Vista Commons Park	3,900'
• West Papillion Creek regional trail from Giles to Harrison	1,500'
126th - 144th Streets	<u>Length</u>
• South Papillion Creek Greenway 132 nd - 144 th	5,540'
144th - 168th Streets	<u>Length</u>
• South Papillion Creek Greenway 144 th - 156 th	5,600'
• Willow Creek Park to South Papillion Creek Greenway trail	3,530'
• South Papillion Creek Greenway to Giles Road (east of 151 st Street)	1,880'
• 152 nd Street Park to South Papillion Creek Greenway trail	720'
• Springhill Park to Millard Park	1,900'
• SW greenway trail to Chalco Hills trail connection	1,500'
• 156 th at South Papillion Creek to Millard Park trail connection	450'

TREE PLAN

Trees are very valuable to a community. The City of La Vista would benefit from adopting a Tree Plan; taking advantage of the many benefits trees provide. The following statements depict just how valuable trees would be for La Vista:

- "The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day." U.S. Department of Agriculture
- "Trees can boost the market value of your home by an average of 6 or 7 percent." Dr. Lowell Ponte
- "Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent." Management Information Services/ICMA

- "One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people." U.S. Department of Agriculture
- "There are about 60 to 200 million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO₂ every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs." National Wildlife Federation
- "Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20-50 percent in energy used for heating." USDA Forest Service
- "Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent." The National Arbor Day Foundation
- "Shade from trees could save up to \$175 per year (per structure) in air conditioning costs." Dr. Lowell Ponte
- "Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a property's value." USDA Forest Service
- "The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams." USDA Forest Service
- "In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension." Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University
- "Nationally, the 60 million street trees have an average value of \$525 per tree." Management Information Services

The City of La Vista achieved Tree City USA status for the following years: 1987 to 1994 and 1998 to 2002. La Vista met the four standards for Tree City USA status. These standards include having a Tree Board, which consists of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board; having a Community Tree Ordinance; spending at least \$2.00 per capita on tree planting, maintenance, removal, and management; and having an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The proposed Tree Plan includes recommendations for Green Streets, trees within parks, recommended species, species that should not be used, planting guidelines, and right-of-way information/ordinance. (Source: The National Arbor Day Foundation, <http://www.arborday.org>)

Typical Green Streets

Green Streets are through streets designed to extend a park-like appearance through the City and serve to create an interconnected network of parks, recreation areas, schools, and other civic facilities. The typical Green Streets should be designed or redesigned over time to have one or more of the following elements:

- one or more rows of trees along both sides of the roadway (along City right-of-way or on private property)
- space for wide sidewalks or off-street trails on one or both sides of the roadway
- no overhead utility wires that interfere with the growth of overstory trees

Green Streets may include signage, maps, rest areas, benches, nodes, and landscaping. Existing street right-of-way widths would dictate specific design on a street-by-street basis. Figures 6-4, 6-5, and 6-6 show typical cross-sections of the three types of Green Streets. The hierarchy of Green Streets is Neighborhood, Secondary, and Primary Green Streets. Neighborhood Green Streets are through streets within a neighborhood. Secondary Green Streets are traffic collector routes. Primary Green Streets are major traffic arteries. Figure 6-1 illustrates the proposed Green Street network in La Vista.

Figure 6-4: Neighborhood Green Street Section

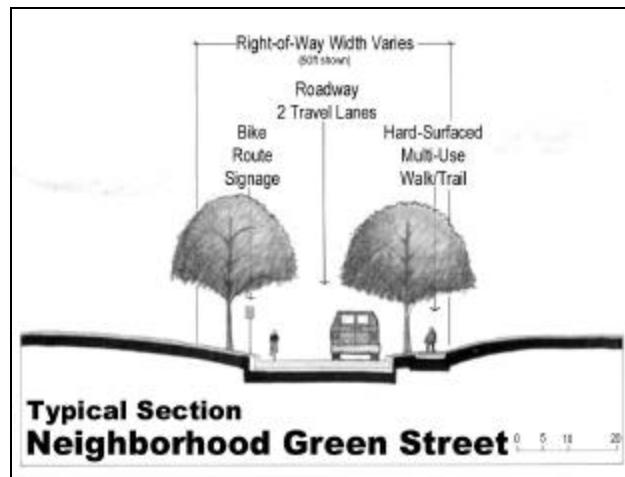


Figure 6-5: Secondary Green Street Section

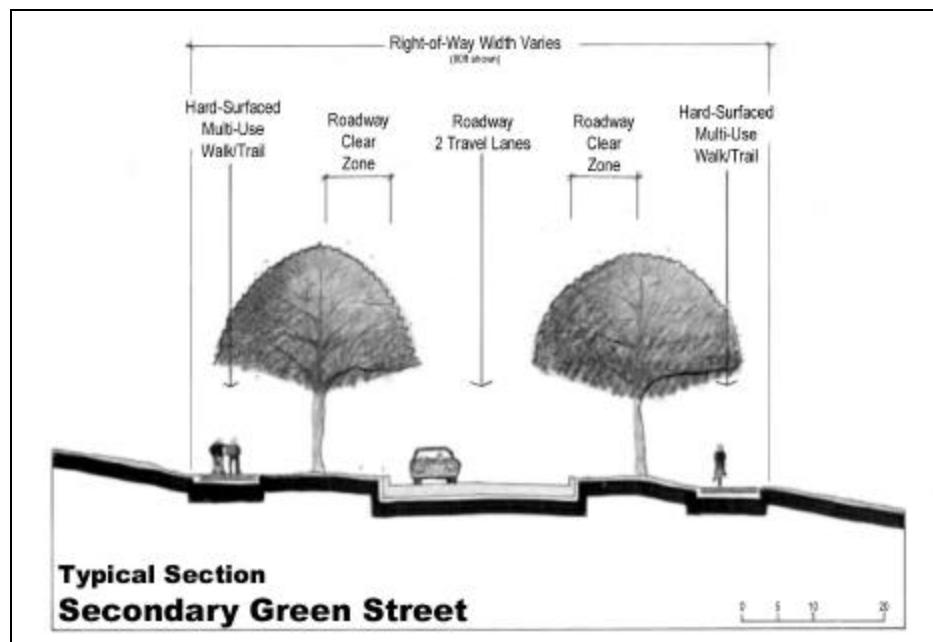
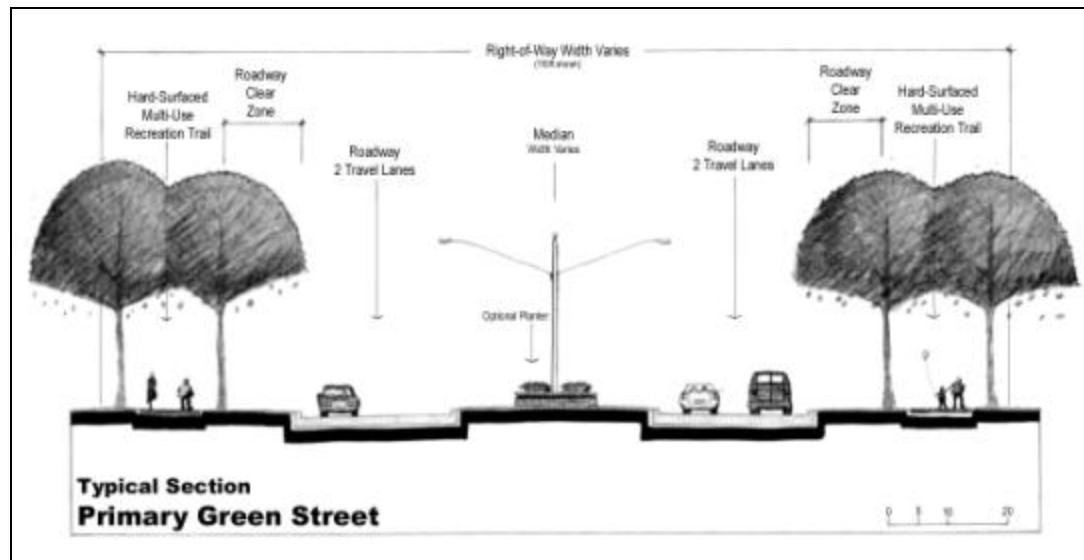


Figure 6-6: Primary Green Street Section

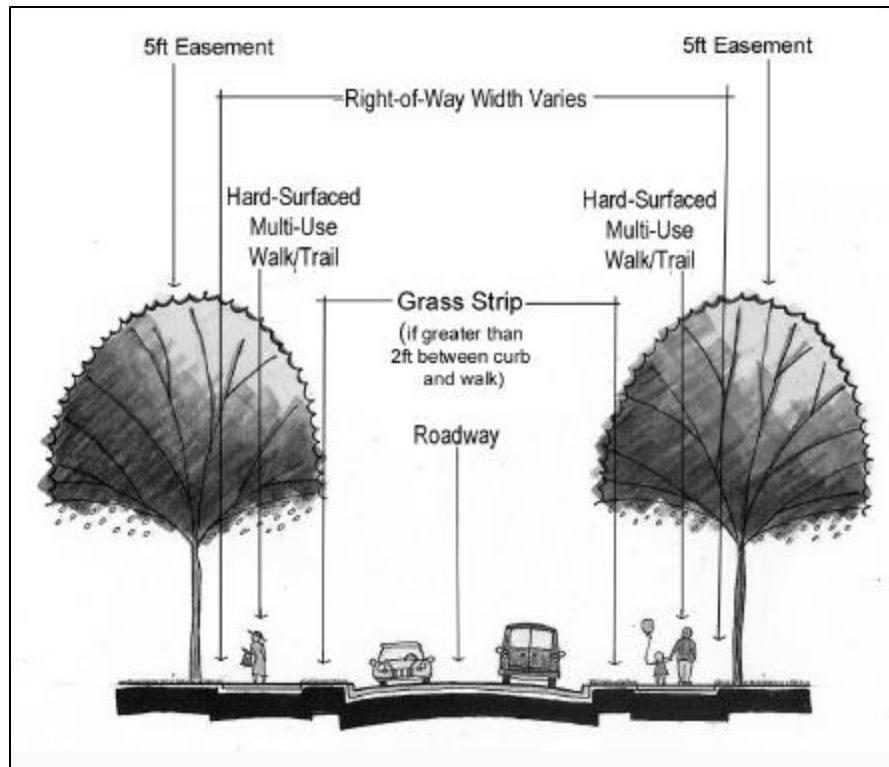


La Vista Green Streets

Due to the unique layout and circumstances of La Vista, the typical Green Street sections may not always be feasible or appropriate. Where the typical sections are not feasible, for example along Park View Boulevard, the following solution is recommended (see *Figure 6-7: Alternative Green Street Section for La Vista*). The existing walk on both sides of the street should be widened to eight feet, extending it toward the street. If there is less than two feet remaining between the widened walk and the curb, it is recommended this strip also be paved, since an area less than two feet wide could likely not be maintained efficiently and attractively in grass. An additional five-foot easement should be acquired from adjoining private property, in which street trees should be planted. Trees should be located three feet from the edge of the walk, spaced at approximately fifty-foot intervals. Allowances should be made for existing items in the R.O.W., such as driveways or fire hydrants. In summary, Green Streets that cannot follow the typical sections should include the following, starting from the street curb:

- grass strip, if more than two feet between curb and walk (if less than two feet from street to walk, strip should be paved)
- eight-foot wide walk
- five-foot easement, in which street trees are planted three feet from the walk

Figure 6-7: Alternative Green Street Section for La Vista



The typical section for primary Green Streets may be appropriate for wide right-of-ways in La Vista. One example would be 84th Street. The wide right-of-way would allow room for utilities, trees, and walks.

La Vista would benefit from adopting a Green Street policy and implementing it over time. Doing so would ensure that the tree-lined streets become part of the landscape throughout the City. It would also help create a pedestrian and bike movement network through the City that would link parks and public open spaces together as a continuous, interconnected system. La Vista currently has many streets that function in similar ways as Green Streets. One example of a Green Street that is currently in place is along Brentwood Drive in the Southwind subdivision. The existing and proposed Green Streets would augment existing and proposed off-street trails, helping form a unified system of parks and public open spaces. The *La Vista Park and Recreation Master Plan* recommends only Neighborhood Green Streets and Primary Green Streets.



Green Street along Brentwood Drive

The proposed Green Streets in La Vista are as follows:

Neighborhood Green Streets (east of 84th Street)

<u>Along</u>	<u>Between</u>	<u>Length</u>
• 66 th Street & Giles Road	72 nd - Harrison	8,080'
• Josephine Street	69 th - 72 nd	1,200'
• Josephine Street	72 nd - 78 th	3,150'
• 78 th Street	Harrison - Park View	2,550'
• Park View Boulevard	72 nd - 84 th	6,500'
• Edgewood Boulevard	Park View - Giles	2,300'

Neighborhood Green Streets (84th - 96th Streets)

<u>Along</u>	<u>Between</u>	<u>Length</u>
• Park View Boulevard	84 th - 88 th	2,340'
• Granville Parkway & 92 nd Street	Brentwood (east)- Brentwood Circle (west)	3,730'
• Brentwood Drive	84 th - 92 nd	3,590'
• Brentwood Drive	92 nd - 96 th	2,080'
• Wood Lane Drive	Glenview - Park View	1,180'
• Valley View Drive	Granville - 93 rd	3,500'

Neighborhood Green Streets (96th - 108th Streets)

<u>Along</u>	<u>Between</u>	<u>Length</u>
• Brentwood Drive	84 th - Giles	5,650'
• Centennial Road	84 th - 100 th (extend west in future subdivision)	2,180'

Neighborhood Green Streets (126th - 132nd Streets)

<u>Along</u>	<u>Between</u>	<u>Length</u>
• Highland Boulevard	Harrison - S. of Chandler	2,920'
• Lillian Street	132 nd east to cul-de-sac	2,530'

Neighborhood Green Streets (132nd - 144th Streets)

<u>Along</u>	<u>Between</u>	<u>Length</u>
• Gertrude Street & 137 th Street	132 nd - Frederick	1,900'
• 135 th Street	Harrison - Gertrude	750'
• Joseph & Josephine Streets	137 th - 144 th	2,820'
• Meadows Parkway	Cornhusker - Giles	3,520'

Neighborhood Green Streets (144th - 168th Streets)

<u>Along</u>	<u>Between</u>	<u>Length</u>
• Echo Hills Drive/146 th Street/Willow Creek Drive	144 th - 156 th	5,400'

Primary Green Streets

<u>Along</u>	<u>Between</u>	<u>Length</u>
• Harrison Street	Big Papio Creek - 168 th	47,100'
• Giles Road	72 nd - 108 th	15,800'
• Giles Road	108 th - 126 th	6,000'
• Giles Road	126 th - 168 th	20,800'
• 72 nd Street	Harrison - Giles	5,280'

• 84 th Street	Harrison - Giles	5,280'
• 96 th Street	Harrison - Giles	5,280'
• 96 th Street	South of Giles	3,980'
• 108 th Street	Harrison - Giles	5,280'
• 126 th Street	Harrison - Giles	5,200'
• 132 nd Street	Harrison - Cornhusker	7,940'
• 144 th Street	Harrison - Cornhusker	7,940' existing
• 156 th Street	Harrison - Giles	5,280'

It is recommended that Green Streets be included in the Comprehensive Plan and that a detailed study of Green Streets be conducted. The study should examine several issues, including:

- how to develop and implement Green Street policies
- concerns of property owners (commercial, business, private)
- specific location criteria of Green Streets and elements
- detailed implementation and maintenance responsibilities

By adopting a Green Street plan, the greenway and trail network would in effect be extended throughout the City, ensuring that tree-lined streets and/or trails become part of the City's overall landscape.

Park Trees

Just as Green Streets can help provide a unified and cohesive system throughout the City, so can the trees located within the parks. Park trees can provide numerous benefits to the park, including:

- Add value to the property (and nearby property)
- Help cool the area
- Break the cold winds
- Provide food and protection for wildlife
- Separate different uses
- Provide a screen between the park and nearby residents
- Provide a buffer between the park and heavily used streets or undesirable uses
- Aesthetically pleasing

Trees within parks should be enhanced with shrubs, flowers, and ground covers. (Source: The National Arbor Day Foundation, <http://www.arborday.org>)

Recommended Trees for Green Streets and Park Trees

Choosing the right tree for the right location is important. Although the same few species of trees are planted again and again, there are actually many types of trees that will grow well in eastern Nebraska. Diversity is the cornerstone of a healthy community forest.

The following list of trees identifies those species that would thrive in the La Vista area.

Evergreen Trees

- Fir
 - Douglas
 - White or Concolor
- Pine
 - Jack
 - Korean
 - Limber
 - Ponderosa
 - Scotch
 - White
- Spruce
 - Black Hills
 - Colorado
 - Norway
 - Serbian
 - White

Large Deciduous Trees

- Ash
 - Green 'Marshall Seedless'
 - Green 'Patmore'
 - White 'Autumn Purple'
- Baldcypress
- Birch, River
- Cherry, Black
- Cottonwood
 - 'Ohio Red'
 - 'Platte'
- Elm
 - 'Dynasty'
 - 'Homestead'
 - 'Pioneer'
- Hackberry
- Honeylocust
 - Thornless
 - 'Shademaster'
 - 'Skyline'
- Kentucky Coffeetree
- Larch
- Linden
 - American
 - Greenspire
 - Redmond
 - Silver
- Maple
 - Norway 'Deborah'
 - 'Emerald Lustre'
 - 'Emerald Queen'
 - Red
 - 'Autumn Blaze'
 - 'Northwood'
 - 'Red Sunset'
 - Sugar
 - 'Bonfire'
 - 'Green Mountain'
 - 'Legacy'
- Oak
 - Bur
 - Red
 - Shingle
 - Swamp White
- Sycamore
 - American
 - European

Medium and Small Deciduous Trees

- Buckeye, Ohio
- Birdcherry, European
'Summer Glow'
- Callery Pear
 - 'Aristocrat'
 - 'Capital'
 - 'Chanticleer'
 - 'Redspire'
- Cherry, Canada Red
- Corktree, Amur
- Crabapple
 - 'Adams'
 - 'Donald Wyman'
 - 'Harvest Gold'
 - 'Indian Magic'
 - 'Indian Summer'
 - 'Liset'
 - 'Mary Potter'
 - 'Prairiefire'
 - 'Professor Sprenger'
 - 'Red Snow'
 - 'Robinson'
 - 'Sargent'
 - 'Spring Snow'
 - 'Snowdrift'
 - 'Sugartyme'
 - 'Zumi'
- Dogwood
 - Gray
 - Kousa
- Ginkgo
- Hawthorn
 - Cockspur
 - Cockspur, thornless
 - Green 'Winter King'
 - Lavalle
 - Washington
- Honeylocust
 - 'Imperial'
- Hophornbeam
- Lilac, Japanese Tree
- Magnolia, Saucer
- Maple
 - Amur
 - 'Flame'
 - 'Columnar' Norway
- Redbud, Eastern
- Serviceberry
 - 'Autumn Brilliance'
 - 'Cole Select'
- Sumac
- Turkish Filbert
- Zelkova, Japanese

The following list of trees should *not* be permitted along Green Streets:

- All Cottonwoods
- All Evergreens
- All Poplars
- All Willows
- Birch
- Box Elder
- Bradford Pear
- Buckeye
- Catalpa
- Cypress
- Horsechestnut
- Mulberry
- Non-Approved Elms
- Pecan
- Pin Oak
- Russian Olive
- Silver Maple
- Tree of Heaven
(*Alianthus*)
- Walnut

(Sources: University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Cooperative Extension, <http://hortparadise.unl.edu/newsrelease/recommendedtreesfornebraska.htm>, Recommended Trees for Nebraska. University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Cooperative Extension, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Douglas/Sarpy Counties, Trees Recommended for the Omaha Area. City of Lincoln, Park and recreation Department, Forestry Section, Approved Trees for Streets, Revised August 1999)

Guidelines for Planting Trees

Properly planted and cared for trees add beauty, protection, and diversity to almost any location, whether it be along a street or in a park. To maintain a well-kept and desirable landscape, proper planting and maintenance practices are essential. To ensure success, appropriate species should be selected, correct planting techniques followed, and knowledge of growth characteristics, site requirements, and intended landscape function is required.

To ensure the right plant is planted in the right location, a landscape/planting plan should be prepared. Trees should be arranged in natural and complementary groupings. Trees should also be arranged to prevent potential negative impacts, such as damage from mowing equipment, over-watering, under-watering, lack of sun exposure, and over-fertilizing. Aesthetic needs, site limitation, intended function, and maintenance capabilities should also be considered.

Selecting the most appropriate location for planting is one of the most critical decisions made during the planting process. When selecting a species and site, consider overhead and underground utilities, future construction sites, exposure to sunlight, soil drainage needs, and the mature size of the plant.

Selecting the appropriate species of tree is also important for the survival of the plant. The basic criteria for selecting trees are hardiness and function. Hardiness is the ability to withstand cold, heat, drought, and other adverse soil and environmental conditions. Function means the intended use of the tree in the landscape, including mature size, growth rates, longevity, form, texture, strength, color, flowering habit, insect and disease resistance, and other physiological characteristics. Planting objectives, site conditions, and the tree's growth characteristics must be compatible.

Once the location and desired species have been determined, a reliable nursery can assist with selecting the tree. Nursery plants usually are properly cultivated and trained, have well-developed root and crown systems, and are more likely to survive than wild trees. Nurseries typically offer a large selection of sizes and species. Plants from a hardy seed source and grown in a similar climatic zone should be selected to help insure survival. Smaller nursery stock recovers from transplant shock more quickly. Standards, including plant size designations, height, caliper, ball or pot size, have been set by the American Association of Nurserymen in the publication entitled *American Standard for Nursery Stock*. These standards help to guarantee quality and to facilitate commerce in nursery stock. Good, high quality nursery stock is the best assurance of success.

There are four basic forms from which trees can typically be purchased: bare-root, container-grown, balled-and-burlapped (B&B), and spade-dug. The best time to plant bare-root trees is in the spring when no frost is in the soil (typically between March 1 and May 15). The air temperature should be above freezing and the soil must be in a workable condition. Planting should not take place during exceptionally wet, dry, or windy periods. Balled-and-burlapped trees typically do best when planted in the spring between March 1 and June 15, as long as weather and soil conditions are optimal. Planting is also appropriate in the fall before the soil freezes, usually between August 15 and October 30. For spring and fall planting, daytime temperatures should remain below 80 degrees F. Container-grown stock may be planted during most of the year, so long as the soil is not frozen and it is not during the extreme heat of summer. The most optimal time for planting these trees is the same as for balled-and-burlapped trees. Although trees can be planted at any time and survive with

proper care, the most appropriate time to plant is during the dormant season. Generally, the optimal time periods are in the fall, after the tree drops its leaves, or before buds break in the spring.

As soon as possible after trees are received, they should be planted. Prior to when plants can actually be planted, they should be protected from drying and overheating, placed in a cool, shaded location, protected from damaging winds and mechanical damage, and the roots should be covered with a moist mulch material. The roots should not be submerged in water. Plants should be handled only by the container or soil ball. Before planting, all labels, wires, etc. except from around the root ball should be removed.

Before the actual planting takes place, major soil deficiencies should be identified and corrected, if possible; underground utilities should be located and avoided; subsurface drainage should be evaluated; and placement should be evaluated to allow proper growth and development of the tree.

The planting hole should be two to three times wider than the root system of the tree to be planted. The finished hole should be wider at the top than at the bottom and at least two feet wider than the root mass. The tree should be placed slightly higher (two to three inches maximum) than the nursery level. The root ball should be placed on solid soil and the soil should be mounded up to the top of the root ball when filling. The backfill soil should be neither too wet nor too dry and large clods and stones should be removed. Soil amendments should not be used.

Balled-and-burlapped or container-grown stock should be lifted and carried only by the ball or container. The twine and burlap from balled-and-burlapped trees should be cut and removed from around the root collar. The containers of container-grown trees should be completely removed before placing in the hole. Roots should be spread out as much as possible. Backfill soil should be added in alternating layers with water used to help settle the soil. To prevent soil structure damage, care should be taken not to tamp or otherwise work or compact the soil after the tree has been watered. Bare-root trees do require special care when planting and backfilling. To allow the roots to spread over the mound and form close contact with the soil, the roots should be placed in their natural position directly above the mound of soil built in the bottom of the hole. The soil used for backfill should be worked gently and gradually around the roots and settled by watering.

When properly planted and cared for, trees will thrive and provide beauty, protection, and diversity in the landscape. (Source: Woody Landscape Plants: Selection and Planting, G98-1349-A, Apr-14-00, <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/forestry/g1349.htm>, David P. Mootter, Mark O. Harrell, Justin Evertson.)

Right-of-Way Information/Ordinance

The street right-of-way (R.O.W.) is the publicly owned strip of land within which there is public control, common right of passage, and within which all pavement and most utilities are located. The R.O.W. is comprised of the street, parking, and sidewalk. In most La Vista residential areas, the R.O.W. is the area generally measured 12 feet from the top of the curb to the property line.

In November 2001, the La Vista City Council passed an ordinance to update and clarify the City's Municipal Code related to obstructions in the R.O.W. The old code represented a

patchwork of provisions adopted over a 20-year period regulating the R.O.W. that often created confusion and uncertainty.

Beginning in January 2002, property owners in La Vista were required to register all existing structures, retaining walls, fences, mailbox structures, and trees, bushes and shrubs located within the street R.O.W. Property owners have until January 2003 to obtain a “free” permit that will “grandfather” nonconforming items or materials within the R.O.W. considered not to be obstructions. After this one-year period, permits will be issued at a charge of \$100. Once the application is received, the Building Inspector/Official will make the final determination as to which items are allowed to remain and which are considered obstructions and must be removed. The property owner will be notified as to the status of their application. If a permit is not obtained by the end of 2003, all items not allowed in the R.O.W. will be required to be removed at the property owner’s expense.

According to the updated ordinance, the following items are allowed in the R.O.W.:

- Utilities
- Mailboxes (pole type)
- Sprinkler systems
- Turf grass or other acceptable materials incorporated at grade level (i.e. landscaping gravel, bricks, decorative pavers, etc.)

Any “grandfathered” item in the R.O.W. that either deteriorates, dies, is not maintained, or is destroyed may not be replaced and is subject to removal at the expense of the homeowner. The following items may be “grandfathered”:

- Existing trees and shrubs
- Existing retaining walls
- Existing fences
- Existing mailbox structures

To meet the requirements of Green Streets, it is recommended this ordinance again be updated to allow the planting of trees within the Green Street easement. Only those trees previously listed should be allowed to be planted in the easement. Existing trees within the R.O.W. and easement should be taken into consideration when developing and implementing the Green Streets plan. (Source: City of La Vista, Right-of-Way Information.)

Purpose of the Tree Plan

The benefits Green Streets and trees within parks would provide are numerous. Trees help to attract businesses, are aesthetically pleasing, provide shade and buffers, increase property values, and provide habitat for wildlife.

The proposed Tree Plan for La Vista recommends adopting a Green Streets Plan and providing additional trees within the parks. Green Streets help to create a unified park and recreation system by connecting parks, schools, commercial areas, and other civic oriented areas. These places would be linked by tree lined streets and off-street trails. By providing additional trees within the parks, buffers could be provided to screen nearby residents or undesirable uses, additional shade is provided, and different uses within the park could be separated.

It is important to plant trees that have been known to survive and thrive in this area. By choosing the correct species of trees and implementing appropriate planting techniques, the trees will provide a beautiful landscape for the City of La Vista.

RECREATION ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Rapid residential development within La Vista's current corporate limits, and the potential annexation of the equally rapidly developing area west to 168th Street are projected to more than triple the city's current population by 2015. This growth will have significant impact on the need to supply recreational facilities, programs, and activities for its current and future residents. Current program facility, equipment, and staffing requirements will likely triple, for example, even if no additional programming is added. And it is likely that the city's residents will begin to expect that more programming be locally available, resulting in even greater requirements for facilities, programs, equipment, and staff.

Periodic Survey

The Park and Recreation Department should budget for and conduct periodic comprehensive surveys to assess how well current recreation needs are being met and help plan future recreation programming. Surveys should be statistically valid.

Improved Communication

One way to improve community perceptions about park and recreation facilities, programs, and activities is through improved and expanded communication efforts. Local media consultants could help plan campaigns directed toward markets that may not respond to traditional communication means such as announcements in newspapers, articles in City newsletters, or fliers sent home from school. A web site and frequent public service announcements or paid advertising on local radio stations aimed at young audiences would be ways to reach La Vista youth, for example.

Indoor Facilities: Community Center, Craft Area/Meeting Rooms, Gyms

Current short-term indoor recreation space and facilities shortages could be alleviated by negotiating joint-use agreements with the school district for use of elementary and junior high school gyms, art rooms, classrooms, and other school facilities. In the long term, however, La Vista's population is expected to more than triple by 2015, and it is likely the city will need a second, larger, centrally located community center if it is to adequately fulfill the recreational needs of its residents. A potential site for a new community center is the southwest portion of the proposed La Vista Commons park. That location offers the advantages of a highly visible central location on undeveloped, future park land that is easily accessible to the entire community via major roads.

Outdoor Athletic Facilities

Recreation facility analysis presented earlier in this report shows current and predicted shortages in several types of outdoor athletic facilities. The following discussion suggests ways to alleviate the shortages.

Badminton Courts. These are easily established on any area of open, level turf. If community interest in badminton increases, the Park and Recreation Department should have rental equipment available, and suggest several level, open sites in the park system to use for badminton.

Baseball Diamonds – Formal. As demand increases, additional baseball diamonds should be constructed at the expanded Sports Complex and Millard Community Park or La Vista Commons.

Basketball Courts. Current and projected needs are filled by outdoor basketball courts on local public school grounds. The City should secure public access through joint use agreements with the school district and ensure that basketball courts are included at future school/parks, and in mini- and neighborhood parks when requested by the immediate neighborhood.

Field Hockey. Current and projected needs are filled by football fields on local public school grounds. The City should secure public access through joint use agreements with the school district.

Golf – 9-hole Par 3 Course. There are numerous public golf courses in the Omaha metro area convenient and available to La Vista residents. If demand warrants, the City could support/encourage development of a private, open-to-the-public course or could utilize a portion of the proposed La Vista Commons park for the purpose.

Golf – 18-hole Standard Course. See discussion in “Golf -- 9-hole Par 3” section above.

Golf – Driving Range. See discussion in “Golf -- 9-hole Par 3” section above.

Golf – Putting Greens. See discussion in “Golf -- 9-hole Par 3” section above.

Handball/Racquetball Courts. Indoor courts are preferable. Two indoor courts are currently available at the existing Community Center. Additional indoor courts should be included in a future Community Center, if one becomes a reality.

Horseshoe Courts. Community input indicates an interest in having additional horseshoe courts. The Park and Recreation Department should provide horseshoe courts in selected community, neighborhood, and mini-parks evenly distributed throughout the city, as requested by local neighborhoods.

Ice Hockey Rinks. Community input indicates a dissatisfaction with the lack of facilities. Outdoor ice hockey rinks and ice skating facilities are difficult to install and sustain for long periods of the winter in La Vista’s climate. The demand could be met with indoor facilities constructed and operated by private sector entrepreneurs.

Shuffleboard. Community input indicated an interest in shuffleboard. The Park and Recreation Department should provide shuffleboard courts in selected community, neighborhood, and mini-parks evenly distributed throughout the city, as requested by local neighborhoods.

Swimming Pool/Aquatic Center. Facilities analysis shows La Vista is very short of outdoor swimming facilities. The Municipal Pool serves the eastern portion of La Vista and, although small and dated, is in excellent condition. The potential acquisition of Meadows Park and Swimming Pool should alleviate some of the shortage and would provide a small public pool for the western portion of La Vista. This report suggests La Vista Commons as a potential site for a large, centrally located family aquatic center. A site and facility study could assist in determining alternate locations.

Trails. La Vista has current and projected shortages of all types of recreational trails. This report proposes extensive trails construction.

Volleyball Courts. La Vista has an adequate number of outdoor volleyball courts currently, but will have a projected shortage of eight by 2015. Community input indicates an interest in additional volleyball courts. The Park and Recreation Department should provide volleyball courts in selected community, neighborhood, and mini-parks evenly distributed throughout the city, as requested by local neighborhoods.

Wading/Splash Pools. La Vista will have a shortage of seven wading/splash pools by 2015. If community interest warrants, the City should construct wading/splash pools in selected community, neighborhood, and mini-parks evenly distributed throughout the city, as requested by local neighborhoods.

Recreation Programming/Activities

Community input indicated an interest in additional recreation programming for numerous activities (see Recreation Facilities Analysis and Programs Analysis in Section 3 of this report). The additional needs can be sorted into the following general categories: Cultural Activities, Special Interest Activities, Senior/Older Adult Activities, Youth Activities, Outdoor Winter Activities, Individual Athletic Activities, and Team Athletic Activities.

Cultural Activities. Community input showed an interest in having more cultural events and activities in La Vista. Possible local outdoor venues for events such as movies, concerts, or other performances, and for activities such as art fairs, include Central Park, Millard Park, and the proposed La Vista Commons park.

Special Interest Activities. The recommended periodic survey could be used to determine the level of interest in the following activities. If interest is sufficient, programs should be developed to meet the need.

Crafts/hobbies	Photography club
Dance lessons	Preschool programs
Drawing/sketching classes	Summer day camp
Gardening club	Trips – full day, adult and youth
Nature/outdoor awareness	Trips – overnight
Painting classes	

Youth Activities. Formal and informal teen activities were deficiencies noted in the workshops and surveys. The Park and Recreation Department may want to conduct sessions with city youth to determine what types of programs and activities they would support and participate in, and should then seek to meet those needs. This could be undertaken as a cooperative effort by the City and the school district.

Senior/Older Adult Activities. Although demographic projections earlier in this report indicate a slight relative decline in the proportion of seniors in the total population, the absolute number of residents 55 years and older may exceed 6,000 by 2015 if the Comprehensive Development Plan projections prove accurate. It will be important to monitor and respond to the recreational needs and interests of these older adults.

Outdoor Winter Activities. La Vista's climate makes planning and programming difficult for outdoor winter activities dependent on snowfall and/or adequate periods of cold weather. Ice skating and ice hockey both require dependable ice rinks, which may not be feasible outdoors. Cross-country skiing can take place on trails, as long as the trails are not cleared of snow. Sledding and tobogganing can take place wherever long, open, east- or north-facing hills free of obstacles are available (which are scarce in La Vista's public parks). Where practical, sledding and tobogganing hills should be designated. Otherwise, outdoor winter activity programming should be a low priority.

Individual Athletic Activities. As La Vista expands its recreational facilities it is likely that several of the individual athletic activities deemed inadequate by community input (see below) will be addressed.

Bicycling	Shuffleboard
Disc (Frisbee) golf – organized	Skateboarding
Gymnastics	Swimming – open outdoor
Handball – organized play	Swimming – open indoor
Hiking/walking/jogging	Table tennis
Horseshoes	Tennis – programmed and casual
Karate/self defense	Water exercise
Racquetball – casual and organized	

Bicycling, hiking, walking, and jogging, for example, will require trails, which are recommended and several of which are a high priority. Swimming and water exercise will require additional pool facilities. Disc (Frisbee) golf could be accommodated by installing a course at the proposed La Vista Commons park or along any of the proposed greenways. Horseshoes and shuffleboard could be expanded by adding horseshoe courts in several parks and perhaps scheduling occasional tournaments. Skateboarding is currently a popular youth activity that would require a substantial investment in facilities (and likely a change in Nebraska public liability law), and thus should be a lower priority unless community interest demands otherwise. A periodic recreation survey could help determine whether progress is being made satisfying community interests.

Team Athletic Activities. Community input suggested an interest in having more opportunities to play informal team sports (see below). This can be addressed by improving ball diamonds and open play fields in the parks and by providing basketball and volleyball courts in parks throughout the city, both of which are recommended. Organized team sports were generally given high ratings in the community surveys.

Baseball – casual play	Soccer – casual play
Basketball – casual play	Softball – casual play
Football – casual play	Volleyball – indoor and outdoor

Youth Athletic Booster Clubs

The Booster Clubs, along with other community groups and organizations, should take an active role by providing assistance in various recreational programs and activities.