



"Where Community Counts"

Master Park Plan City of Maize, Kansas

Written and Submitted by the 2017 City of Maize Park and Tree Board Members:

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Introduction

Parks matter. They improve our quality of life and enhance community livability. They offer healthy recreational opportunities for people of all ages, and all economic backgrounds. Parks protect open space that preserves wildlife habitat, improves air and water quality and help mitigate flooding. They are outdoor classrooms that help people learn about and appreciate nature. Parks are an important factor in attracting new business to a community contributing to economic growth.

The City of Maize is growing rapidly, and its recreational and open-space needs are changing as the population expands. To help the community develop a park system that meets contemporary expectations and has the potential to fulfill increasing recreational demand in the future, a Park System Master Plan is an indispensable tool.

A Master Plan consolidates information on resources, constraints, and opportunities. It provides an outline of where the park system is, where it is going, and how it will get there. It will help the community meet goals established in the 2006 and 2019 Maize Comprehensive Plan and in the Maize Design Standards. Having a Park System Master Plan on hand also enhances funding opportunities, since many grant providers demand a master plan as a prerequisite in any proposal.

This Master Plan assesses existing park and recreational resources in Maize and suggests potential future improvements for each park. It analyzes the community's park and recreational needs and determines specific goals to be achieved in order to meet those needs. It defines implementation strategies for the City to develop a balanced park system that cost-effectively attains those goals. It establishes priorities for developing the components of the park system and identifies funding options.

But producing a Master Plan document is just the beginning of the process -not its end. It takes dedicated people to turn concept plans into detailed site designs, and designs into reality. With this Master Plan, and determination, and perseverance Maize can make its park system into an asset that will benefit the community for generations to come.



Maize Park and Tree Board (L-R): Romney Ruder, Patrick Atchison (Chair), Marina Fulton (Vice-Chair), Dan Doerflinger, Nancy Scarpelli, Steve Schmidt. Not pictured- Maren Breit (Secretary)

Existing Parks, Open Spaces & Facilities

Maize currently has about 50 1/2 acres of City-owned property designated as parkland or open space, but only 7.26 acres are developed and accessible to the public. Fifteen percent of the total city-owned acreage is water.

- Maize City Park is the community's original traditional park and is the most developed. This park features a very popular Splash Pad, Clair Donnelly Amphitheater, Community Building and playground equipment for children of all ages. It is accessible to the public and has parking available.
- Development of the City Hall Arboretum & Park was started in 2015 with the planting of several varieties of trees. The pond at City Hall Park is designed to deal with runoff from nearby development, but it has the potential to be enhanced as a recreational asset without compromising the primary storm water management function. This park is also accessible to the public and has parking available.
- The Detention Pond located on the Southeast of 53rd and K-96 on ramp is designed to deal with runoff from nearby development, and it would have the potential to be a recreational asset without compromising the primary storm water management function, if access and parking were available.
- The McClure property is adjacent to City land that is used for the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the City Maintenance Shop. The long narrow pond on the McClure property was initially built as a fish production pond; it has a partial dam dividing it into northern and southern portions. Access is currently very limited to this site, but could be considered in the future as development continues to the East. If this park is not publicly accessible, it could be considered as a city tree nursery.
- The Cathey Property was acquired in early 2020. At the time of purchase, two homes and several storage buildings were present. These buildings were demolished and removed, providing 2.91 acres of open space. With close proximity to the Maize City Park and Clair Donnelly Amphitheater, any development of this area should compliment existing park areas.
- The Coves Parkland located just East of 45th and Tyler was acquired by the City in 2021 through the development of The Coves housing addition. This land will be leased from the City during development and allow excavation of a pond to generate dirt for housing areas. This land is expected to be available for the City's development in 3-10 years. As this land falls in a flood plain, any development of this land needs to accommodate periods of heavy rainfall. Such development could include multipurpose paths, fishing, wildlife viewing and many other unique opportunities.

Current Publicly Accessible Parks & Open Space in Maize

Park	Total Acres	Land Acres	Land %	Water Acres	Water %
Maize City Park	5.15	5.15	97%	0.15	3%
City Hall Arboretum	2.11	1.81	86%	0.30	14%
Subtotal, Developed	7.26	6.96	96%	0.45	4%
Cathey Property	2.91	2.91	100%		
Detention Pond	6.28	2.29	37%	3.98	63%
The Coves Parkland	16.91	16.91	100%		
Subtotal, Undeveloped	26.1	22.11	85%	3.98	15%
Total Parkland	33.36	29.07	87%	4.28	13%
Open Space (McClure Property)	17.32	14.16	82%	3.16	18%
Total	50.59	43.23	85%	7.44	15%

Facilities:

Existing City-owned recreational facilities are all located at Maize City Park. Playground equipment, picnic tables, shade structures, benches and grills are installed. The skate board area has been relocated to the southwest corner of Maize City Park in order to make way for a water park. The splash pad was completed in 2016, and a new restroom facility was completed in late 2017. The condition of existing park system assets will be examined in more detail in the sections which follow, covering each park individually.

MAIZE CITY PARK

Location: southwest of Central & Khedive intersection

Size: 5.15 acres (assuming south boundary of park is actually as shown)

Facilities:

Community Building (401 Khedive) - interior remodeled 2008

Playground for 2- to 5-year-olds - installed 2007

Playground for 5- to 12-year-olds - installed 2008

Splash pad water park – installed 2016

Skate board area

Restroom building – completed in 2017

Chilton baseball field – removed in 2018

Clair Donnelly Amphitheater- Expected completion in 2022

Picnic tables & grills

Paved parking lots



CITY HALL ARBORETUM & PARK

Location: East of Maize Road, North of 37th Street (10100 Grady Avenue)

Size: 2.11 acres (1.81 acres land and 0.30 acres of detention pond)

Facilities: None- However, consideration should be given to the close proximity of City Hall and Maize Recreation Commission.



DETENTION POND

Location: Southwest of 53rd Street North & K-96 intersection

Size: 6.28 acres (2.29 acres land and 3.98 acres detention pond)

Facilities: None

Note: By definition, a detention pond is designed to delay runoff, and may not have water in it during dry periods. However, this particular pond is deep enough to meet the water table, and so can be expected to have water in it at all times.



CATHEY PROPERTY

Location: Cathey Street and Academy Avenue- Northwest of Maize City Park

Size: 2.91 acres

Facilities: None



THE COVES PARKLAND

Location: Northeast of 45th and Tyler Road

Size: 16.91 acres- Pond excavation will occur

Facilities: None

Note: This parkland is expected to be available for development in 3-10 years. This area lies in a floodplain and will require development that allows for periods of heavy rainfall and water infiltration.

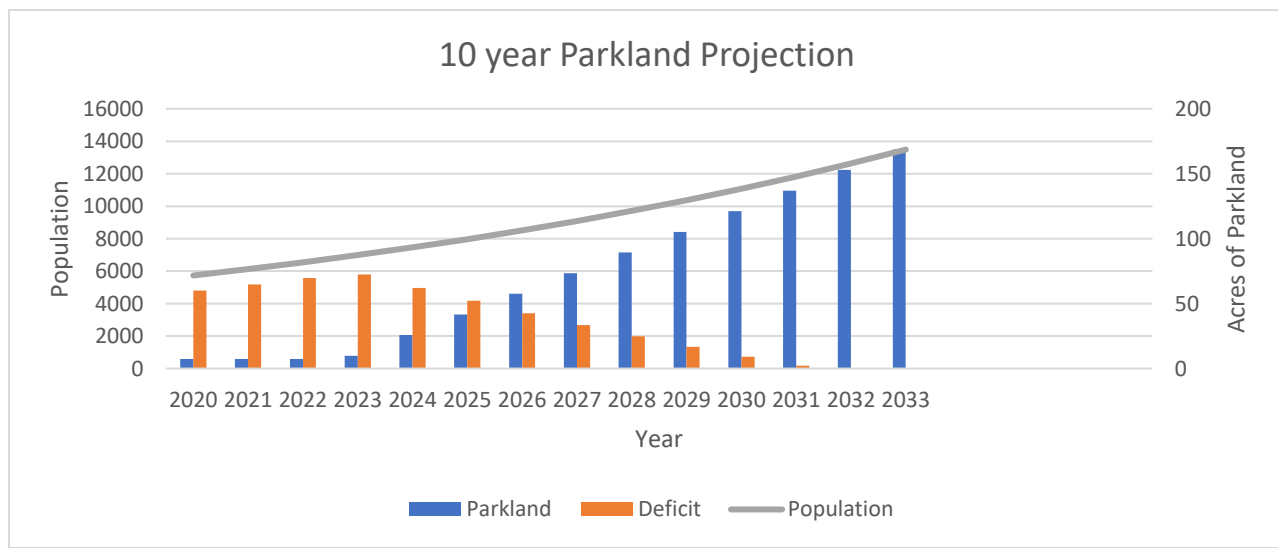


Park & Recreation Needs

A park system should *fit* its community. It should have enough parkland to meet current open space requirements, as well as the resources to make property acquisitions to answer future needs. Existing facilities must be well maintained, and new facilities should be developed to fulfill patrons' highest priority interests. The cost of the park system must remain within a budget that respects not only capital costs and program expenditures, but also ongoing maintenance and staffing requirements.

In the 2009 Master Park Plan a comparison to Wichita which had 13.6 acres of parkland per 1000 residents indicates a deficit of parkland in Maize. The U.S. Census estimate for the 2020 population in Maize is 5,735 people. Maize currently has a total of 7.26 acres of developed parkland or 0.001 developed park acres per 1000 residents. If the undeveloped parkland is included, excluding the McClure property, there is still only 0.005 acres of potential parkland per 1000 residents. The amount of parkland per 1000 residents has decreased significantly since the 2009 Park Master Plan was completed because of the increase in the City's population and due to the exclusion of the McClure property acres. The deficit in parkland is worse than indicated when school is in session because the City's population more than doubles when students are added to the population count.

Another way of looking at the amount of parkland is to use the Park Ratio as described in the Kansas Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (KSCORP) for 2015. The KSCORP average of Class II cities (2k-15k) is 1 acre of parkland per 85 residents. Using this ratio, Maize needs a total of 67.47 acres of parkland. However, with 7.26 acres of current parkland this leaves a deficit of just over 60 acres as of 2021. With the rapid growth that is foreseen to continue, it is imperative to provide a plan to rectify this deficit as well as address future growth.



The above graph reflects the City's expected population growth, parkland deficit and a way to not only rectify this deficit, but meet the need for parkland as the city continues to grow. By purchasing approximately 13.5 acres per year, and assuming that the available 26.1 acres of City owned land is developed, the City's available parkland would exceed the average for Class II cities in the year 2032.

For budgeting purposes, the average cost per acre of undeveloped land is 10k-15k. Needing 13.5 acres per year, this would cost \$135,000 to \$202,500.

The other measures used in the KSCORP report were:

- Physical Activity Service Area, i.e., the percentage of a city's population living with .5 miles of a physical activity site. The average for Class II cities was 67%.
- Walkable Access Service Area, i.e., the percentage of a city's population living within a .5 mile walk of trail access points. The average for Class II cities was 18%.
- Urban natural experience Sites Service area, i.e., the percentage of a city's population living within a .5 mile walk of a natural experience. The average for Class II cities was 34%.

In order to calculate these values for the city of Maize geo-physical data is required which is not currently available, but assuming the data could be acquired this could be a valuable tool for future planning purposes.

Maize parks should focus on providing small neighborhood parks, a large natural park, at least one fishing pond and some particular special use facilities.

Neighborhood Parks

These small parks generally have a little green space, some playground equipment, and a picnic table or two. They should be within walking distance for neighborhood children - ideally no more than 1/4 mile away, and within a 1/2 mile away at most. In Maize the function of neighborhood parks is sometimes fulfilled by public space within subdivision developments. The new playgrounds at Maize City Park serve as a neighborhood park for the City's original neighborhoods; some of those older neighborhoods, however, are more than 1/2 mile away.

When an opportunity occurs, the City should pursue acquisition of property for such small local parks, in order to maintain equity of access among all the City's neighborhoods. The City also needs to continue working with developers to assure the inclusion of green space and pathway connections in new subdivisions. The map *Service Areas of Parks, Open Space, and Athletic Facilities* which follows this section shows proposed general locations for future neighborhood parks.

It was anticipated that within the seven-year span of the 2009 Master Plan as many as five additional neighborhood parks, either public or private, could be needed in Maize; however none have been added at this point. During the next five years establishing neighborhood parks in Fieldstone/Hunter's Glen, Eagles Nest, Emerald Springs or other underserved areas will be a priority.

Nature Park

When a suburban community is developing as quickly as Maize, it is essential to preserve some natural open space. Open space is not only habitat for wild life, it improves air and water quality, and can help mitigate flooding. Natural open space fulfills a fundamental emotional need for people, and access to a wild place is crucial for raising healthy children. For more information on why children need the outdoors, see: No Child Left Inside - www.cbf.org/ncli/landing

Monarch/Pollinator Waystation – the first of potentially several habitats supporting Monarch butterflies and pollinators such as bees was constructed in 2016, in the Maize Cemetery. The goal of this project is to demonstrate the use of native plants that support butterflies and pollinators in landscaping and encourage the use of native in yards and gardens including those at schools, churches and throughout the community.

Special Use Facility / Performance Stage

A small performance stage in Maize City Park would support entertainment at community celebrations. Since the 2017 Master Park Plan was adopted, this category has been fulfilled with the construction of the Clair Donnelly Amphitheater. Featuring a large stage to accommodate a variety of performances, it also serves as a central gathering space for community events.

Special Use Facility / Dog Park

Dog Parks are one of the fastest growing amenities being developed in parks across the country. They are extremely popular, not just because dogs love them, but because they give people a place to meet new friends and enjoy each other's company. As a recreational experience, letting the dog out in the backyard just doesn't compare.

Fishing Ponds

The demand for a place to go fishing crosses all social and generational lines, and providing a place to fish is one of the least expensive and most satisfying programs that a park system can offer. Fishing ponds also serve as wildlife habitat for many other animals besides fish, and provide views that are enjoyed by all.

In Kansas, fishing ponds must be deep enough and/or shaded enough to provide cool retreats for the fish in our hot summers. In urban areas, a stocking program is usually necessary to sustain the population of appropriately-sized fish. Fishing facilities can be very simple, or might include fishing piers and fish-cleaning stations, with ongoing water testing and fish stocking programs. The Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks has a program to help with stocking urban ponds.

KDWP Urban Fishing Program- www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Fishing

The Detention Pond could be utilized for fishing if the access and the parking issues for that park are resolved. Instituting a stocking program even before the park is open to the public is not currently under consideration.

Trails, Bicycle Paths & Fitness & Health Enhancing Outdoor Recreation Areas

While Health and Fitness enhancing activities such as trail running and bicycle racing dominated the list of activities attracting new participants in Kansas according to the 2015 SCORP report, development of bicycle paths and pedestrian walkways are not included in the scope of this Master Plan. This is because funding for walkways and bicycle paths is done through the Street & Sidewalk budget. Walkways and paths are essential for accessing parks in the City, and their importance is in no way diminished by their exclusion from this plan.

Disc Golf Course

Disc golf has quickly become one of the most popular games to play within a park atmosphere and was listed in the 2015 SCORP report as a popular addition in many cities in Kansas. A piece of land that has trees and other natural obstacles is a perfect spot for a disc golf course. Just like golf, you have between 9 and 18 holes but instead of a hole in the ground and a flag you install disc golf baskets that are above the ground and set in concrete. Disc golf can be played by all ages and is an excellent way to draw sustainable crowds to city and park spaces.

Pickleball

Pickleball has grown to become a very popular recreational activity recently. Typical pickleball courts consist of a hard surface, such as concrete, approximately 25 feet wide by 50 feet long and a 36” net that spans the center of the court much like tennis. With a relatively small footprint and minimal investment, a pickleball court would be a great way to serve people of all ages.

SERVICE AREAS MAP

From: "Park System Master Plan 2009-2015 for the City of Maize"
By Rice Foster and Associates

Tree Board

The Maize Park Board also serves as the Tree Board for the City, and there is a single budget for both functions. Like well cared for parks, well cared for trees add to the quality of life in a community. They add beauty to neighborhoods and color in spring and fall. They provide shade to our homes and slow the wind. Trees also provide several benefits to the environment: producing oxygen, filtering the air, absorbing carbon dioxide, reducing air temperature, purifying water and reducing storm water runoff.

The Maize Park and Tree Board is dedicated to increasing the awareness of what residents can do to keep trees alive and healthy longer. Many trees are killed or stunted because of improper planting. Experts estimate that if a tree is planted correctly it will grow twice as fast and live twice as long. One of the best investments the Tree Board can make is by providing information on proper tree planting techniques and demonstrations on how to plant trees to increase the lives of trees and to prevent the loss of money spent for planting stock.

The Park and Tree Board offers a reimbursement program for residents planting trees from a recommended list of trees appropriate to the area. Residents of the City can receive up to \$100 per year for trees planted on their property (sample reimbursement form attached in Appendix “A”). The reimbursement program can help mitigate the loss of trees occurring locally and on a national level. A nationwide survey done by Michigan State University found that trees are being lost at a greater rate than they are being planted. ICTrees reports that Wichita has lost 38,000 trees since 2000. Although smaller communities were doing better than the national average in the Michigan State study (1.2 trees planted for each one lost), this small gain can easily be wiped out in a single windstorm or damaged from drought like that experienced in the Maize area during the past few years.

The Park and Tree Board is working to re-acquire and maintain its designation as a Tree City USA which is coordinated by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The Kansas Forest Service considers this designation to be the measure of success and sustainability of community forestry programs. What is a community forest? It is defined by the Kansas Forest Service as “all the trees and other vegetation in and around a community”. Traditionally it has referred to tree-lined streets, but a community forest also includes trees in home landscapes, school yards, parks, cemeteries, utility rights-of way and anywhere else trees and associated vegetation can grow in and around a community. Shrubs, flowers, vines, ground covers, grass and a variety of wild plants also are part of the community forest.”

There are four standards established by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters to qualify as a Tree City USA:

- A Tree Board or Department
- A Tree Care Ordinance
- A Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita
- An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

The City has a Tree and Shrub Ordinance (see Appendix G Article 3 of Chapter XIII of the City Ordinances). A review of this ordinance and comparison to the Arbor Day Foundations recommendations will be conducted by the Park and Tree Board during 2017. A review of the Park & Tree Board’s operating budget and the portion of which is allocated to community forestry will also need to be conducted.

In 2015, the Park and Tree Board hosted a very successful Arbor Day Celebration at the Maize City Hall Arboretum & Park which was very well attended. Free Redbud tree seedlings were given away along with planting guides. An Adopt-A-Tree program for the trees planted in the Arboretum at City Hall that year was initiated. Trees were marked with a metal tag with a QR codes which could be read by a smart phone. When scanned, users were connected to a website where group pictures and information could be posted.

Each successive year since 2015, the Park and Tree Board has hosted an Arbor Day event. Each of these events has provided a great opportunity to not only demonstrate and educate on proper tree planting and care, but allow for hands-on planting demonstrations. Local scout troops, students and teachers from USD 266, community members and city elected officials have all taken part in these celebrations.

Maize is fortunate to be located so near the Sedgwick County Extension Office and Arboretum at 21st and Ridge Rd. There are close to 300 labeled trees on display in this arboretum, and the trees are adapted to Zone 6b (hardy to -5 degrees F), tolerant of alkaline soils, wind tolerant and adapted to limited supplemental irrigation or natural rainfall. The trees are maintained by the Extension Master Gardeners. The Sedgwick County Extension Office and the Extension Master Gardeners offer a number of events and classes such as their Tree Festival which is held each year in late March or early April and features seminars, demonstrations and tours.

It could be advantageous to pursue training for City staff such as the Kansas Arborist Association Training Program provided by the Kansas Arborists Association in coordination with the Kansas Forest Service. This week-long school was developed primarily to educate and train tree maintenance workers, but it has been extended to tree board members, ground maintenance personnel, park managers and administrators. The training is typically held in Manhattan, Kansas the second or third week of October. Successful completion of this course will fulfill the education requirements to become a certified arborist. For additional information on this training see Appendix “P”.

If the City added a trained horticulturist to its staff, some of the McClure Property could be considered as a future tree farm. Since this property does not currently and may never have either the access or parking needed for a nature park, it could be used for growing trees from saplings. Other plants needed for monarch waystations could also be started on this property for transplanting or to give to members of the community. The property could also be used for a waste wood collection and a shredding site if a suitable chipper/shredder were purchased. This would provide not only a better alternative to burning waste wood but could also fulfill an on-going need for mulching material.

There can be little doubt that having a single board and for Parks and Trees is beneficial to the City of Maize and its citizens. The opportunities presented by this collaboration are limited only by the desire and efforts of the volunteers who serve on the board.

Burn It Where You Buy It

One of the educational programs of the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Plant Protection and Weed Control program is “Burn It Where You Buy It.” This is an ideal program for the Park and Tree Board to promote in Maize. Educational materials including ID cards and brochures are available to hand out to citizens, and this program has only two simple tenets:

- Buy only locally grown and harvested firewood

- When camping, make sure to buy and burn all firewood before leaving a campsite.

By following these two tenets the spread of the emerald ash borer could be slowed. Since the emerald ash borer's introduction into the United States, it has spread primarily by campers and homeowners who unknowingly moved infested firewood. The borer can't move far on its own, but when people move firewood, they can move hundreds of miles. The emerald ash borer is a devastating pest of ash trees native to Asia. It was first discovered in North America in 2002 in Detroit, Michigan. Since then, it has killed millions of ash trees and caused thousands more trees to be removed to slow its spread. The threat of the emerald ash borer is immense with an estimated seven billion trees across the U.S. at risk. During the next few decades, the beetle could kill most of them. Since the initial discovery, the core area affected by the beetle has expanded. In 2012, it was confirmed in Kansas at the Wyandotte County Lake area and has now spread to five additional counties in the eastern part of the state.

All ash trees native to Kansas are susceptible to infestation by the emerald ash borer. None of the major North American ash species can combat the borer larva. The borer appears to prefer trees under stress, but it is capable of killing perfectly healthy trees. It's estimated that at least 10% of the trees making up the Maize "community forest" is comprised ash trees.

See Appendix R for a list of Preferred Trees for South Central Kansas.

Principles for Goal Development

1. Economic Sustainability

Selecting parks facilities that require less staff time, in management or in maintenance, contributes to the economic viability of the park system. Investing in good design and high-quality materials results in long-term maintenance savings. Natural landscaping can reduce watering, mowing, and disposal costs, in addition to its environmental advantages.

2. Environmental Sustainability

Principles of environmental sustainability should be incorporated into the parks as each property is developed. Strive for low-water-use landscapes, and preferential use of recycled and regionally produced materials. Raingardens and rain swales may aid in on-site handling of storm water runoff.

3. Equity

The Maize park system should serve the entire community equitably, by supplying appropriate park services within a reasonably convenient distance for all the City's park users.

4. ADA Accessibility

Park system facilities should comply with the *Accessibility Guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act*, and should strive to meet the standards recommended in the final report of the *Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas*. See www.access-board.gov for detailed information.

5. Community Engagement

Maize parks should reflect and enhance the character of the community and contribute to the City's quality of life. The Park & Tree Board is hoping to reach out and partner with local businesses for potential upcoming events. There is interest in bringing some new “In the Park” events to the City to help raise awareness and support for city parks. The board is also interested in expanding involvement with community groups including church groups, boy scouts and girl scouts. The Board is excited to expand this portion of our city plan. It will truly impact the Board to engage with the residents of the community to gain clearer understanding of what is important for the residents of the City.

Park and Tree Board Goals

1. Land Acquisition-

Maize is growing rapidly and needs to acquire more parkland. Opportunities for obtaining appropriate property for additional neighborhood parks should be pursued as they arise, and the City should also continue to work with developers to encourage the provision of private open space and recreational facilities within new subdivisions particularly in the northeast and southwest portions of Maize. Maize currently has a few properties that are planned for future projects. Although, the size or locations may not be ideal, we must find ways to fully utilize these spaces for the greater good of our community. We must also continue to find ways to acquire more land that will allow for future projects once our current properties are fully utilized.

By selling off existing property that is deemed unusable for a green space, when the opportunity presents itself, funding for more usable park space could be provided. As the city continues to expand with residential and commercial properties, values of existing properties owned by the city have a likely potential to increase in value.

2. Develop and Enhance Existing Parks

a. Maize City Park

City Park is the traditional green heart of Maize. Many large improvements have been made to this property since 2015. The addition of a splash pad and restrooms have only added to the already popular park. In 2018 the Chilton ball field was removed and the planning process for an amphitheater began. With the expected completion in early 2022, the Clair Donnelly Amphitheater will fulfill the community's need for a performance stage and provide a central gathering place for many activities. With these additions, the need for additional shade structures, seating, trash receptacles and other amenities will arise. This provides an opportunity for enhancements in several areas of the Maize City Park.

b. City Hall Arboretum & Park

A small detention pond lies east of Maize City Hall. Several trees were planted west of the pond during 2015, and additional plantings, seating and paths are planned. Reconstruction of the pond has been completed to assure that it is sealed and will retain stormwater runoff. This park can provide a pleasant first impression for visitors to the City's administrative center; it also provides an opportunity to integrate a public art feature, such as a sculpture or a small fountain, into the City Hall campus. Other potential ideas include: bird feeders/waterers, trash receptacles.

3. Temporary Pop-up Parks

Create pop-up parks by utilizing unused pieces of property for an extended amount of time. A pop-up park can be set up on an empty lot zoned for housing or even a car-designated area for pedestrian use. This type of park requires less money, fewer permits and is a great way to help bring the community closer together. Since pop-up parks are temporary, amenities that can be easily moved need to be chosen to enable the pop-up park to be moved as necessary.

A pop-up park could include:

- Tables, Chairs and Umbrellas for eating areas and benches for bird watching
- Large pots to plant greenery, such as miniature trees, flowers and accent plants
- A large chalk board for children to color on
- An area for food trucks
- Bird houses and feeders to attract wildlife
- Yard games such as horseshoes, bocce ball, and soccer
- Free Wi-Fi

4. Nature Parks

Promote through education and stewardship the conservation and use of plants native and adaptable to Kansas. Create, conserve, and protect milkweed/monarch habitats and encourage awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our landscapes by promoting education stewardship and knowledge. The Board has started our first butterfly waystation at the cemetery and is hoping to develop more of the waystations in upcoming years.

5. Education

Promote education and awareness of citizens on tree selection, planting, and tree care and maintenance.

a. Cemetery Reforestation

Identify trees, recommendations for landscaping south addition, clean-up old trees, parking lot space.

b. Trees

The Board is requesting the existing tree reimbursement program continue. This will benefit the City and help us better establish Maize with the Tree City USA designation.

Ideas from workshops: continue or up tree reimbursement program, seek donations for new tree plantings in city and offer name signs for donors, ICT trees

c. Arbor Day

Ideas from workshops: sponsor a class through Rec Commission on planting trees, plan early to get youth group involvement.

6. Community Partnerships and Citizen Engagement

Engage the School District, the Recreation Commission, the corporate community, developers and nonprofit organizations to gain their insight on park priorities and to solicit their support for funding and development. We have an ally in the Planning and Zoning departments within the city. We need to work together to increase the minimum requirements for green/park space and trees in new developments. Land is our most precious asset when trying to plan new projects. With a little bit of creative planning, the City, P&T Board and future developers can really make Maize a destination city to live and raise a family.

Ideas from workshops: booth at fall festival, partner with local businesses for events, Block Party at City Park, car show at the park.

7. Fundraising

We must find ways to come up with more funding to allow for future projects. Seasonal events held in the current green spaces could generate revenue; these events could include "Bark in the Park," a Garden Tour, "Art after Dark" and so on. By engaging members of the community in events like these we could also seek their input on park priorities and make them aware of volunteer opportunities to sustain the existing parks. There are also annual events that the Board usually takes part in including the Maize Fall Festival and the Arbor Day event. Many additional opportunities exist for fundraising and grant writing assistance through local, state and federal foundations or organizations. Hiring of a consultant or firm that specializes in these areas should be considered.

Ideas from workshops: Naming initiatives including future parks, facilities, landscapes, trees, benches etc. Creation of 501c3 or separate park fund allowing for donations and contributions to Maize Parks.

8. Social Media- Logo & Hashtag

Create a hashtag for the Maize park system that people can use when sharing pictures of their experience at the parks, for example, #maizepopup.

Community outreach is an important part of the Maize Park & Tree Board's mission. The Board would like to continue reaching out to get the community involved in park events and programs. The use of the City of Maize Park & Tree Board logo along with business cards will allow the board to maintain our identity. The use of Facebook and other forms of media to let the community know of upcoming events has also had a great impact on attendance. The board will continue to expand our use of these tools to benefit our events.

Ideas from workshops: create logo for Park and Tree Board, business cards for Park and Tree Board members.

Implementation Strategies

To transform goals into reality, the Park & Tree Board must carefully balance park needs against available resources and strive to develop those facilities which will produce the most value for the investment. The tools to achieve that balance are priorities, budgets and yearly objectives:

Priorities help determine which projects to undertake first, and in which order to develop the City's various park properties. Priorities will undoubtedly be revised and adapted as changes in opportunities and constraints occur. Such revisions are normal and expected and should cause no problems so long as they are based on a solid understanding of how the various parks and park facilities balance each other within the system as a whole.

Budgets help define what is affordable and when. They may also reveal how much alternative funding needs to be found to achieve a specific objective. Funding the development and operation of a park system is a challenge for every community for parks must compete for City dollars with other public needs, but parks are worthy of support and will return value on investment for the community. Parks also have an advantage over some other public services. They can and do compete successfully for a wide array of alternative funding sources, both public and private.

With the City dedicating a predictable annual budget to the Park and Tree Board as well as devoting capital improvement funds this provides a starting point for setting yearly objectives. Keeping a budget reserve on hand for rapid response to land acquisition opportunities is essential and could potentially save money in the long run. A reserve fund would also accommodate the ability to fund land acquisitions should the opportunity present itself.

Alternative public funding may include bond referendums or state and federal grant programs. Governmental grants are often matching grant programs and require partial local funding of each project. Public grant programs range in scale from federal Transportation Enhancement grants (administered by KDOT, and very good for funding pathways), to KDHE playground substrate grants (which encourage adaptive re-use of recycled tires).

Private funding sources may include grants from foundations, land acquisition with the help of land trusts, or corporate sponsorships of projects or special events. Many people are not inclined to donate to a government, but will happily support parks through a nonprofit organization. Having a strong and active partnership between the City and a local parks support nonprofit (501c3) organization offers access to the greatest range of funding opportunities.

The City may be able to work with the Maize Recreation Commission to cooperatively fund some mutually beneficial facilities, such as an Outdoor Classroom or a Stage at one of the Maize parks.

Park systems may also be able to generate income through facilities rental, naming programs, or other entrepreneurial activities. Having City staff time dedicated to providing support and to writing grant proposals can result in positive financial benefits for parks projects and programs, as well as increased community involvement and public support for the park system.

Yearly Objectives help to spread out the costs of developing a number of projects over time, allowing for a sustainable rate of investment in the park system. Setting yearly objectives also provides a means of keeping the master plan in sync with development in the city, opportunities that arise and available funding. Yearly objectives can also serve as a “report card” to the City Council and the community for what has been accomplished, what is in progress and what had to be delayed or canceled.

Cooperation, optimism, and enthusiasm will drive the parks development process, and result in an outstanding park system for the people of Maize.

2021 Objectives

1. Goal: Develop & Enhance Existing Parks
 - a. *March* – Propose a development timeline of City Park improvements and cost estimates to Council for the 2022 Budget process
 - b. *March* – Develop ideas and opportunities for projects to enhance space around amphitheater with emphasis on the Cathey property.
2. Goal: Land Acquisition
 - a. *April* - Continue to identify possible properties for park land
 - b. *February* – Prepare 2022 CIP request for Council Consideration
3. Goal: Temporary Pop-up Parks
 - a. *Fall* - Conceive of a place-making strategy for pop-up parks in Maize for 2022 and corresponding equipment purchases
4. Goal: Nature Parks
 - a. *April & September* – plan and schedule a planting/cleanup day at Monarch Waystation
 - b. *Yearlong* – Evaluate streetscape and parklet concepts from the Maize in Motion, Academy Arts District Plans and Gateway signage project and determine installation options.
5. Goal: Education
 - a. *January* – apply for Tree City USA designation
 - b. *February* – begin Arbor Day planning.
 - c. *March* – request Arbor Day proclamation be approved by City Council
 - d. *April* – Arbor Day observance
 - e. *Spring & Fall* - Offer stipend for a Master Gardener class through the Recreation Commission’s programming
 - f. *Year-round* - Look to connect with USD 266, Boy and Girl scout troops and other community groups to participate in joint projects.
6. Goal: Community Partnerships
 - a. *Spring* - Request joint meeting with the Recreation Commission, USD 266 or other community groups to seek joint projects and programming ideas for amphitheater.
 - b. *Spring and Fall* – Discuss partnerships and projects to further engage with USD 266 students and staff.
7. Goal: Fundraising and Citizen Engagement
 - a. *August* - Consider involvement in the Fall Festival and other community events
 - b. *September* - Ballet in the Park
 - c. *Yearlong* - Consider fundraising opportunities and ways to further engage with citizens
8. Goal: Social Media
 - a. *January* – Begin Social Media promotion of the Clair Donnelly Amphitheater and other Park and Tree Board Activity

2022 Objectives

1. Goal: Land Acquisition
 - a. Consider hiring consultants for land acquisition, fundraising and grant writing assistance.
 - b. *April*-2023 CIP request: \$150,000 to Council to set aside funds for new park land
 - c. Connect with county, state, local utilities and railroad to identify joint opportunities to increase useable park land.

2. Goal: Develop & Enhance Existing Parks and Parkland
 - a. *Spring*- Identify opportunities for additional amenities in Maize City Park, e.g., benches, shade structures, landscaping.
 - b. Consider options to make city-owned property publicly accessible such as the retention pond behind Kwik-Shop.

3. Goal: Temporary Pop-up Parks
 - a. Look for opportunities for temporary pop-up parks, e.g., Cathey property

4. Goal: Nature Parks
 - a. *Spring and Fall* – plan and schedule spring planting day at Monarch Waystation.
 - b. Conduct workshop including City staff on Wetland Park Development for future development ideas, specifically The Coves Parkland.
 - c. Evaluate streetscape and parklet concepts from the Maize in Motion, Academy Arts District Plans and Gateway Signage project to determine installation opportunities.

5. Goal: Education
 - a. *February* – begin Arbor Day planning- Poster contest “Arbor Day represents hope for the future”
 - b. *March* – request Arbor Day proclamation be approved by City Council
 - c. *April* – Arbor Day observance- Celebration of Poster contest winners.
 - d. *December* – apply for Tree City USA designation

6. Goal: Community Partnerships and Citizen engagement
 - a. Consider Board participation in Maize Fall Festival
 - b. Community Garden Allotments- Conduct survey to determine community interest
 - c. Dyck Arboretum Tour- Partner with the Maize Recreation Commission to offer a bus trip and tour of Dyck Arboretum.
 - d. Discover Maize Parks & Trees Scavenger Hunt
 - e. Invite area Scout Troops to participate in Monarch Way Station clean-up and planting.

7. Goal: Fundraising
 - a. Naming initiative- benches, shade structures, trees, gardens etc.
 - b. Explore options in establishing a Maize Parks fund for donation purposes.

8. Goal: Social Media- Logo and Hashtag
 - a. Continue promotion of the Clair Donnelly Amphitheater, splash pad and all Park and Tree Board activities.
 - b. Arbor Day Poster Contest promotion through social media.

2023 Objectives

1. Goal: Land Acquisition
 - a. *April*- CIP request: Request for Council to set aside funds for new park land
 - b.

2. Goal: Develop & Enhance Existing Parks and Parkland
 - c.
 - d.

3. Goal: Temporary Pop-up Parks
 - a.

4. Goal: Nature Parks
 - a. Monarch Waystation Planting/Clean-up
 - c.

5. Goal: Education
 - a. *February* – begin Arbor Day planning
 - b. *March* – request Arbor Day proclamation be approved by City Council
 - c. *December* – apply for Tree City USA designation

6. Goal: Community Partnerships and Citizen engagement
 - a. Consider Board participation in Maize Fall Festival

7. Goal: Fundraising
 - a. Naming initiative- benches, shade structures, trees, gardens etc.
 - b.

8. Goal: Social Media- Logo and Hashtag
 - a. Continue promotion of Park and Tree Board activities and events.
 - b.

2024 Objectives

9. Goal: Land Acquisition
 - a. *April*- CIP request: Request for Council to set aside funds for new park land
 - b.

10. Goal: Develop & Enhance Existing Parks and Parkland
 - e.
 - f.

11. Goal: Temporary Pop-up Parks
 - a.

12. Goal: Nature Parks
 - a. Monarch Waystation Planting/Clean-up
 - c.

13. Goal: Education
 - a. *February* – begin Arbor Day planning
 - b. *March* – request Arbor Day proclamation be approved by City Council
 - c. *December* – apply for Tree City USA designation

14. Goal: Community Partnerships and Citizen engagement
 - a. Consider Board participation in Maize Fall Festival

15. Goal: Fundraising
 - a. Naming initiative- benches, shade structures, trees, gardens etc.
 - b.

16. Goal: Social Media- Logo and Hashtag
 - a. Continue promotion of Park and Tree Board activities and events.
 - b.

2025 Objectives17. Goal: Land Acquisition

- a. *April*- CIP request: Request for Council to set aside funds for new park land
- b.

18. Goal: Develop & Enhance Existing Parks and Parkland

- g.
- h.

19. Goal: Temporary Pop-up Parks

- a.

20. Goal: Nature Parks

- a. Monarch Waystation Planting/Clean-up
- c.

21. Goal: Education

- a. *February* – begin Arbor Day planning
- b. *March* – request Arbor Day proclamation be approved by City Council
- c. *December* – apply for Tree City USA designation

22. Goal: Community Partnerships and Citizen engagement

- a. Consider Board participation in Maize Fall Festival

23. Goal: Fundraising

- a. Naming initiative- benches, shade structures, trees, gardens etc.
- b.

24. Goal: Social Media- Logo and Hashtag

- a. Continue promotion of Park and Tree Board activities and events.
- b.

2026 Objectives

25. Goal: Land Acquisition

- a. *April*- CIP request: Request for Council to set aside funds for new park land
- b.

26. Goal: Develop & Enhance Existing Parks and Parkland

- i.
- j.

27. Goal: Temporary Pop-up Parks

- a.

28. Goal: Nature Parks

- a. Monarch Waystation Planting/Clean-up
- c.

29. Goal: Education

- a. *February* – begin Arbor Day planning
- b. *March* – request Arbor Day proclamation be approved by City Council
- c. *December* – apply for Tree City USA designation

30. Goal: Community Partnerships and Citizen engagement

- a. Consider Board participation in Maize Fall Festival

31. Goal: Fundraising

- a. Naming initiative- benches, shade structures, trees, gardens etc.
- b.

32. Goal: Social Media- Logo and Hashtag

- a. Continue promotion of Park and Tree Board activities and events.
- b.