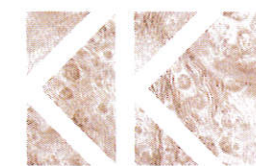


City of Milford

Parks & Recreation Master Plan



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June 21, 2001

Milford Parks and
Recreation Master Plan

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2. INTRODUCTION & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

The City of Milford, Ohio selected the planning/design firm of Kinzelman Kline Landscape Architects in September of 1998 to prepare a Park and Facilities Master Plan for the City of Milford study area. The Park and Recreations Master Plan coincides with and provides more detailed information and direction to the park and open space section of the City's 1994 Comprehensive Plan Update. It also incorporates many of the objectives stated within this plan and the 1999 Urban Renewal Plan.

Therefore, this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to be adopted and made part of the City's Comprehensive Plan, as well as becoming the strategic action plan to be used in Capital Improvement Planning and program development.

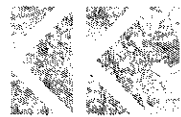
Based upon the Request for Proposal prepared by the City of Milford the Parks and Recreation Master Plan should includes the following planning study elements.

- Assessment of needs based upon existing parks, recreation facilities, public service facilities and open space areas serving the Milford Community.
- Identifying the mission of the Parks and Recreation Department and Community/Planning Development Department.
- Inventory and analysis of the previously mentioned criteria.
- Identification of potential deficiencies based upon accepted park and facilities planning standards.
- Completion of a demand analysis based upon demographic trends and projections as well as an analysis of present facilities and programs.
 - Utilize surveys and focus group interviews to solicit public input to determine community-wide facility and service demands.
 - Conduct meetings with essential public service providers (i.e. post office, school, township fire and trustees, library, etc.) to assess existing or proposed facility plans. Analysis shall consider program and facility needs to 2020.
- Analysis of the potential for renovation and improvement of existing park facilities.
- Recommendations of goals and policies that will guide the City in the orderly development of parks, recreation and public service facilities.
- Development of specific recommendations regarding the services and programs offered by the City.

- Development of a plan for the implementation of Phase One of which addresses present deficiencies within the City.
 - Estimates to be used for funding requests in Phase One.
 - Priorities for implementation of the Overall Plan.
 - Identification of alternative funding sources.

2. Introduction and Executive Summary

- Purpose
- Overview of the Planning Process
- Products



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Overview of the Planning Process

The following is a brief outline of the Planning Process:

- Steering Committee Meeting
- Data Collection
- Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory and Analysis
- Public Meeting
- Focus Group
- Conduct a Citizen Survey
- Recreation Standards/Needs Assessment
- Steering Committee Meeting
- Public Meeting
- Master Plan/Study-Draft
- Park Board/Steering Committee Review
- Finalize Master Plan Study
- Present to City Council to Review and Adopt

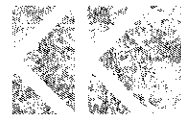
Products

The Park and Recreation Master Plan process will be presented and documented in various formats to accommodate the City's needs. The following is an outline of the presentation formats which the Planning/Design Team has prepared.

- The Master Plan Study
-11" x 17" format
- Presentation Boards
-Overall Study Area "Neighboring Parks and Recreation Facilities" (24" x 36" format)
-Milford Study Area "Milford Parks and Recreation Facilities" (24" x 36" format)
-Milford Study Area "Milford Parks and Recreation Facilities-Overall Master Plan and Summary" (24" x 36" format)
- Map Exhibits on CD-ROM
- Supporting Documentation and Resources in the Appendices

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3. PARKS & FACILITIES INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

Type of Parks

In 1982 the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed the following park classification system based upon terminology most commonly found within the park and recreation profession in the United States. Many other specialty parks can and should be considered which reflect the uniqueness of a community. Theme, cultural, historical or environmental significant park spaces add diversity to the standard or traditional park and recreation facilities.

Park and recreational facilities comprising this park classification system are provided by multiple governmental agencies i.e. township, village, city, county, state and federal jurisdictions all contribute to meeting the needs of a community or region. Other units of government (schools) and private facilities need to also be taken into consideration when assessing the recreational needs of a community.

The NRPA classification system is meant to be a guideline which needs to be adjusted to reflect the communities goal and objectives which in turn establishes criteria for future land acquisition, facility development and programs. The public survey and community focus group interview data provided in this section provided the basis by which these general park and recreation standards can be tailored to the City of Milford study area.

Likewise the geographic location and type of parks are very important factors in evaluating whether existing needs are being satisfied and where future park and recreational facilities should be developed. Sometime communities have met the standard relative to acreage but the type, variety, number and locations are not appropriate to adequately serve the community.

The following is a classification system for local and regional recreation space, excerpted from the National Recreation and Park Association's "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" 1990.

A. LOCAL/CLOSE-TO-HOME SPACE:

1. Mini-Park

Use:

Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.

Service Area:

Less than ¼-mile radius.

Desirable Size:

1 acre or less

Acreage/1,000 Population:

0.25 to 0.5A

Desirable Site Characteristics:

Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing for the elderly.

2. Neighborhood Park/Playground

Use:

Area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.

Service Area:

¼ to ½-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood).

Desirable Size:

15+ acres

Acreage/1,000 Population:

1.0 to 2.0A

Desirable Site Characteristics:

Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population-geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school-park facility.

3. Community Park

Use:

Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools, maybe an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.

Service Area:

Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius.

Desirable Size:

25+ acres.

Acreage/1,000 Population:

5.0 to 8.0A

Desirable Site Characteristics:

May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

B. REGIONAL SPACE

1. Regional/Metropolitan Park

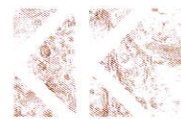
Use:

Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as

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picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.

Service Area:
Several communities. 1 hour driving time.

Desirable Size:
200+ acres

Acres/1,000 Population:
5.0 to 10.0A

Desirable Site Characteristics:
Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.

2. Regional Park Reserve

Use:
Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing, and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail uses. May include active play areas. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation development.

Service Area:
Several communities. 1 hour driving time.

Desirable Size:
1,000+ acres; sufficient area to encompass the resource to be pre-served and managed.

Acres/1,000 Population:
Variable

Desirable Site Characteristics:
Built of natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads, that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities, such as school, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.

3. Special Use

Use:
Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theatres, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.

Service Area:
No applicable standard.

Desirable Size:
Variable depending on desired size.

Acres/1,000 Population:
Variable.

Desirable Site Characteristics:
Within communities.

3. Conservancy

Use:
Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.

Service Area:
No applicable standard.

Desirable Size:
Sufficient to protect the resource.

Acres/1,000 Population:
Variable

Desirable Site Characteristics:
Variable, depending on the resource being protected.



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Demographics of Planning Area

The following section presents information relevant to the park user and existing recreation facilities which is the basis for projecting future parks and recreation needs in the City of Milford. In addition, community and user perceptions and opinions have been solicited to obtain yet another perspective on facilities and services provided.

Demographic Data Review

Existing available population projections for the Milford area are based on the 1990 Census.

	1.0 Mile Radius	3.0 Mile Radius	5.0 Mile Radius
2004 Projection	4,700	21,561	88,032
1999 Estimate	4,669	20,964	85,319
1990 Census	4,656	19,695	78,530
1980 Census	4,587	29,399	74,799
Growth 1980-1990	1.5%	-7.96	4.99%

- 2000 City of Milford population estimate is 7,007.*
- 1990 to 2000, Milford has grown by approximately 1000 individuals, and gains approximately 35 dwelling units per year.*

*Information obtained from the City of Milford.

Note: The population projections of the City of Milford can be found in the Appendices section of this study.

Future potential development of south Garfield Avenue and north-east of South Milford Road could lead to a sizable increase in population. Proposals calling for greenspace and park lands in this area are dependent upon this development, and act not only to acquire recreational land, but also to preserve natural corridors from development.

Comparison to National Surveys

The National Recreation and Park Association publication titled "Local Park and Recreation Facilities and Sites" was prepared by PFK Consulting in 1995. This included a survey of over 1500 parks and recreation departments throughout the country with 1092 of those being for municipalities. Ohio is in the north central region, which included 401 responses.

- 90% did not have an indoor swimming pool
- 75% had one or two swimming pools
- 60% had recreation centers
- 45% had an outdoor ice rink
- 35% provided indoor multiple recreation courts
- 80% had mini parks
- 80% provided neighborhood parks
- 90% provided at least one Community Park
- 30% included a metro/regional park
- Nationwide 61.2% of cities between 5000-9999 had at least one recreation center.

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Park and Recreation Area Needs by Park Type and Acres

The following charts are meant to be a guide whereby a community can evaluate their park and recreation status relative to national guidelines or standards. We have taken the NRPA Park Classification System Standards, current population estimates and future population projections to assess whether the parks and recreation needs of the community are being satisfied.

The NRPA Standards can be modified based upon community input or perceptions. Public meetings, focus group interviews and the citizen survey results will provide additional community-based information, which will allow these standards to be adjusted. This thereby more accurately represents the park and recreation facility needs and demands of the community.

Chart One: All parks and recreations opportunities ****

Park Type	Existing Developed Acres****	Recommended Acres/1000 Population *	1999 Recommended Acres**	1999 Surplus(+) Deficit(-)	2020 Recommended Acres***
Mini-Park	20.5	.5	3.5	+17	3.7
Neighborhood	18.5	2	14	+4.5	14.7
Community	104.2	8	56	+48.2	58.8
Total	143.2	10.5	73.5	+69.7	77.2

* Based on NRPA Standards
** Calculated using data obtained from the City of Milford, 1999 population of 7,000.
*** Represents an increase of 35 dwelling units per year, (per City of Milford population information) assuming 2 person occupancy: 2020 population projection = 8,470.
****Does not include special use areas: Little Miami Scenic River Bike Trail, Terrace Country Club, Expressway Ballpark, and Cincinnati Sand Volleyball.

Chart Two: Parks that have unrestricted public access:

Park Type	Existing Developed Acres****	Recommended Acres/1000 Population*	1999 Recommended Acres**	1999 Surplus(+) Deficit(-)	2020 Recommended Acres***
Mini-Park	1.3	.5	3.5	-2.2	4.25
Neighborhood	14.2	2	14	+2	17.0
Community	27.3	8	56	-28.7	67.75
Total	42.8	10.5	73.5	-30.7	89.0

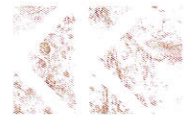
* Based on NRPA Standards
** Calculated using data obtained from the City of Milford, 1999 population of 7,000.
*** Represents an increase of 35 dwelling units per year, (per City of Milford population information) assuming 2 person occupancy: 2020 population projection = 8,470.
**** Parks used in calculating these numbers have unrestricted access and are as follows: Carriage Way Park, Riverside Park I, Memorial Park, Terrell Park, Semvilla Park, and Clertoma Park.

Chart One represents all parks and recreations facilities within the City of Milford including parks owned and operated by the city, and also those owned and operated by other public, quasi-public and private enterprises, with some exception as noted. A graphic and written inventory of these facilities can be seen in the analysis portion of this document. At first glance it appears, by comparison to NRPA standards, that Milford possesses a vast surplus of park land. However, a closer inspection of the parks system shows that this is not true. Chart Two represents parks and recreation facilities to which the public has unrestricted access. As the deficit column indicates, acreages of parks and recreations opportunities that are open to the public are well below NRPA standards. The current total acreage deficit is -30.7 acres, although the amount of greenspace currently owned by the city is at 44.85 acres****, not all of this greenspace is suitable for the recreational development that is needed. In addition to the current deficit, the population projection to 2020 calls for total acreages to be approximately 89.0 acres, increasing the future deficit to -119.7 acres. It is clear that, although current greenspaces within the City could be developed to ease the existing acreage deficit, in order to obtain the future acreages recommended by NRPA there must be an effort to obtain more park land and/or strategically change programming in certain parks.

**** Parks used in calculating greenspace are as follows: Locust Avenue Greenspace, Cash Avenue Greenspace, Garfield Avenue Future Park/Greenspace, Milford Parkway, Gatch Property.

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Neighboring Parks and Recreation Opportunities

In order to illustrate the recreational options that are open to the people of the City of Milford, a parks inventory of the surrounding Townships was undertaken. The foldout illustration on the next page shows approximate locations of recreational areas within Miami, Union, Anderson, Columbia, and Symmes Townships. This information is useful when determining parks and recreational needs of Milford as it will help to eliminate duplication of facilities.

Most surrounding parks and recreational opportunities are in excess of 3-4 miles outside of Milford. Most of these parks are of a community or neighborhood park nature and do not typically have radius of use greater than 1-2 miles. According to this formula most park users of Milford should tend to utilize City facilities as opposed to venturing out to the surrounding townships, but this is not the case. Camp Denison Park, Kroger Hills Park, and Miami Meadows Park are often used by the citizens of Milford due to the amenities that they offer. Their close proximity, 1-2 miles, and the regional type facilities, encourage their use due to a lack of these facilities in Milford. While the existing Milford Parks system offers primarily organized, league, field sports, Camp Denison Park and Kroger Hills Park offer unorganized field sports. Miami Meadows Park is approximately eight miles from the center of Milford and this park still gets extensive use.

The close proximity of the Little Miami State Scenic River Bikeway provides excellent linkage opportunities for recreation and alternative transportation. A connection to this bikeway is critical in allowing Milford citizens free and easy access to not only the Scenic Bikeway trail that proceeds north, but also the single-track trail that proceeds south towards the parks system along the river. See Chapter 4, Greenspace and Community Transportation Opportunities for more detailed information concerning the city-wide pedestrian corridor system and how it relates to the Little Miami Scenic River Bike Trail.

Analysis of Milford Parks and Recreation Facilities

Immediately following the Neighboring Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan is the Milford Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan. This illustration graphically shows the location and size of each park that was included within the master plan study. Following this foldout map is the analysis and recommendation sheets that include detailed information on all facilities studied within this Master Plan.

Existing City Parks

There are thirteen existing city parks within Milford and a detailed inventory and analysis of each city park has been completed. Each sheet offers specific information pertaining to location, existing condition, ownership, type of use, acreage, and NRPA classification. In addition to this information, recommendations for the parks are also included. Fulfillment of these recommendations will serve to reinforce the cohesiveness of each park within the existing parks system. Typical recommendations include establishing standard parks and recreations site furnishings, introducing park specific signage, introducing strategic pathway lighting, etc.

In certain cases, programmatic changes have been recommended and are done so to better serve the needs of the surrounding community due to support of new programmatic elements, lack of support for existing elements, or long term planning efforts.

Existing Parks by Others

There are eight parks within the Milford area that is not owned or operated by the city and are labeled as "Existing Parks by Others". Each sheet offers specific information pertaining to location, existing condition, ownership, type of use, acreage, and NRPA classification. In addition to this information, recommendations for the parks are also included. Fulfillment of these recommendations will serve to reinforce the cohesiveness of each park within the existing parks system.

Recommendations pertaining to these parks are not as encompassing and do not include programmatic changes owing to the fact that the City has limited ability to implement such recommendations. Instead, most commentary focuses on the cultivation of working relationships with said owners for the mutual benefit of all involved.

Existing Public Service Facilities

The three City service facilities that were analyzed were limited to those facilities that are located adjacent to other parks or greenspaces. The study of these facilities was undertaken because although they require a certain amount of privacy and limited access they often reside on parcels of land that can be utilized for connector paths or other types of passive recreation.

Each sheet contains recommendations for the utilization of "left over" land that is not currently being used by the service located there. Although the land acreage available within each facility is limited and does not comprise large areas, they do possess great opportunities for hiking trail linkages in order to promote the continuity of walkway systems.

3. Parks and Facilities Inventory and Analysis

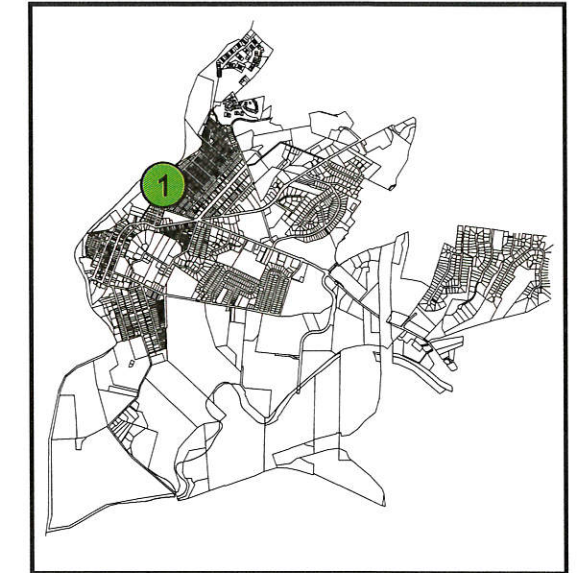
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Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations

- Mitigate trail erosion by maintenance or trail realignment, immediate attention to this task is critical in preventing further damage.
- Limited and strategic lighting along path and street will improve security and overall ambiance of the park.
- New play equipment and new design is recommended to bring play area up to current national safety standards.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of ownership and cemetery significance.
- Establish Parks and Recs. standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.
- Renovate and maintain cemetery, repair headstones, repair fence, and renovate landscaping.
- Develop trail, pathway connection or linkage with Riverside Park II, and the Riverfront Corridor.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Local - Neighborhood Park, Passive - 5.9 Acres
- Owned and maintained by City
- Open to the public
- Shredded bark walking trail provides access throughout the park.
- Some pathways located on steeper slopes have erosion problems.
- Existing lighting of the park is limited to street cobra lighting.
- Existing wood play structures are outdated and do not comply with current national design standards.
- There is no signage addressing the ownership or use of the play area.
- There is no signage addressing the history or significance of the existing cemetery.
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are visually unattractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding parks.



View down Carriage Way



Existing bench at overlook

Carriage Way Park

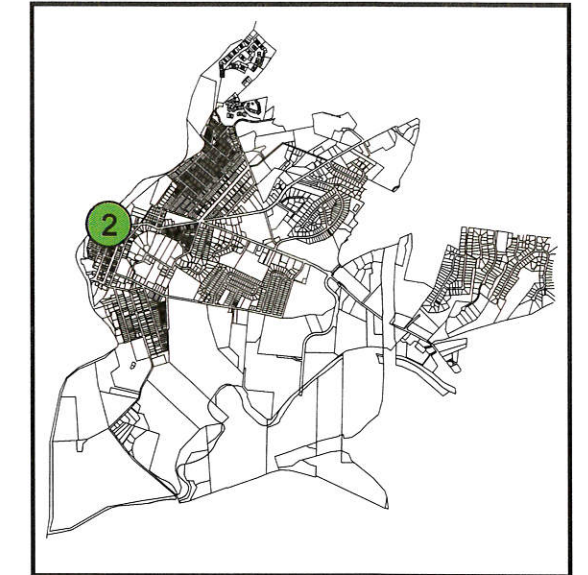
City Park 1



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Existing Conditions and Analysis



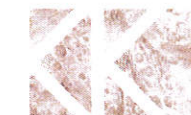
Location Map

Recommendations

- Remove existing ball diamond and create a passive recreation area with full access to the Miami River.
- Introduction of limited and strategic lighting along path and street will improve security and overall ambiance of the park.
- Renovate existing restroom area to facilitate new use and character of park.
- Provide adequate, independent parking.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of ownership and new use.
- Establish Parks and Recs. standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.
- Cleanup concrete spoils located on opposite side of the river and utilize alternate erosion mitigation techniques.
- Encourage and develop this park as the primary civic space of Milford.
- Excellent opportunity to incorporate activities such as horseshoes, sand-volleyball, shelters, etc., and accomodate Heritage Festival Days, with booths, tents, etc.
- Mitigate riverbank erosion and promote unobstructed access to waters edge.

Riverside Park I

City Park 2



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Inventory/Analysis

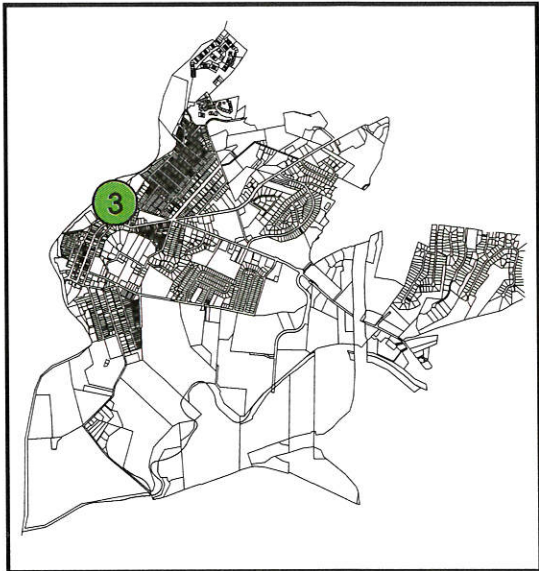
- Classification: Local, Neighborhood Park, Active - 3.6 Acres
- Owned, operated and maintained by City
- Open to the public
- Existing ball diamond is incurring riverbank erosion in the outfield area, cutting the right outfield length short.
- Park contains one public restroom facility, it is the only public restroom in the near vicinity.
- Existing lighting of the park is limited to street overhead cobra lighting.
- Parking is shared with the adjacent American Legion Post
- There is no signage addressing the ownership or use of the park.
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are visually unattractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding parks.
- Concrete spoils located across the river detract from the aesthetic quality of the park.
- Location and facilities within the park offer great potential for development as the primary civic space within Milford.



View of park from Water Street.

Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations

- Introduction of limited and strategic lighting along path and street will improve security and overall ambiance of the park.
- Expand and renovate existing concession stand to facilitate use of ball diamond.
- Provide adequate, independent parking.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of ownership and use.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.
- Develop trail/pathway linkage with Carriage Way Park and the Riverfront Corridor.



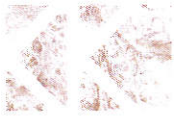
Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Local, Neighborhood Park, Active - 4.3 Acres
- Owned and maintained by City.
- Operated by Milford Athletic Association.
- Open to league teams and the public during non-use times.
- Contains concession stand.
- Existing lighting of the park is limited to street cobra lighting.
- Parking is shared with the adjacent land uses and is not adequate for the park.
- There is no signage addressing the ownership or use of the park.
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are visually unattractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding parks.



View of park from High Street

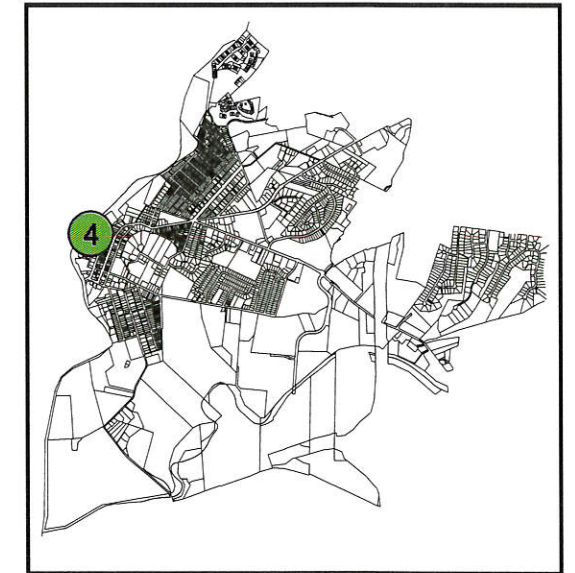
Riverside Park II City Park 3



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

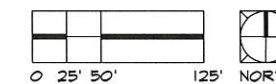
Recommendations

- Further investigation is required in order to determine the full potential of this greenspace.
- This area could serve as an access and/or buffer to the proposed passive recreation in Riverside Park I.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of use and ownership.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within these areas and surrounding City parks as well.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Greenspace, .25 Acres
- Owned and maintained by City
- Existing lighting of these areas are limited to street cobra lighting.
- There is no signage addressing the ownership or use of these areas.
- There are no site furnishings.
- This area is not currently being utilized.



Locust Avenue Greenspace

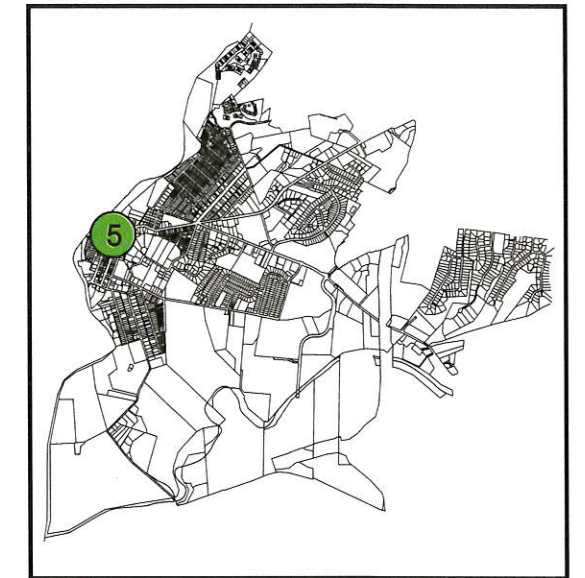
Locust Ave. Greenspace City Park 4



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations

- Redesign and reinstall landscaping in the park in order to reinforce the classic nature of the existing hardscape design.
 - Park is partially screened from Main St. remove evergreen shrubs and increase visibility into the park.
 - Remove and replace ailing trees located in the back of the park.
- Introduction of limited and strategic lighting along path and street will bolster security and overall ambiance of the park.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of the location and purpose of the park.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.
- Eliminate concrete pad located in the back and replace with benches overlooking passive Riverside I park.
- Facilitate pathway linkage to Riverside Park I and River Corridor.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Local - Mini-Park, Passive - .4 Acres
- Owned and maintained by City
- Open to the public
- Random and poorly defined landscaping is not consistent with the formal nature of the park.
- Existing lighting of the park is limited to street cobra lighting.
- Existing signage is poorly defined and does not adequately communicate the purpose of the space.
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are visually unattractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding park or streetscape.



View from park towards Little Miami River



View of Memorial Park from Main Street

Memorial Park

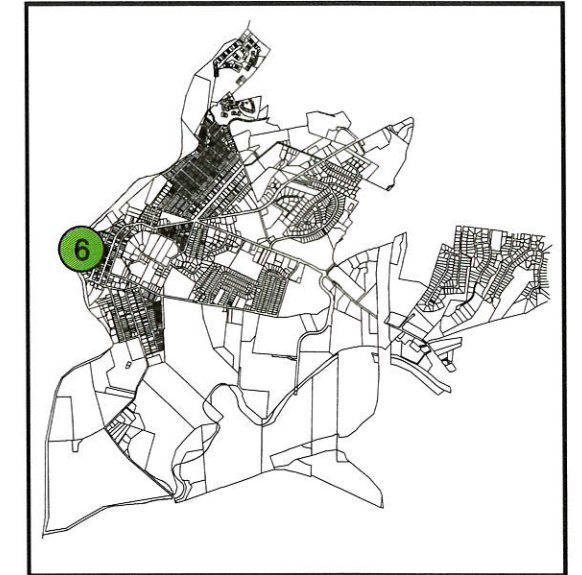
City Park **5**



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

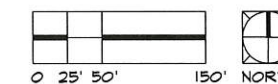
Recommendations

- Further investigation is required in order to determine the full potential of this greenspace.
- This area could serve as an access and/or buffer to the adjacent Little Miami River.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of use and ownership.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within these areas and surrounding City parks as well.
- Continue to purchase river front property in preparation for the Riverfront Corridor system.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Greenspace, .1 Acres
- Owned and maintained by City
- Existing lighting of these areas are limited to street cobra lighting.
- There is no signage addressing the ownership or use of these areas.
- There are no site furnishings.
- This area is not currently being utilized.



View from Cash Street

Cash Street Greenspace

City Park 6



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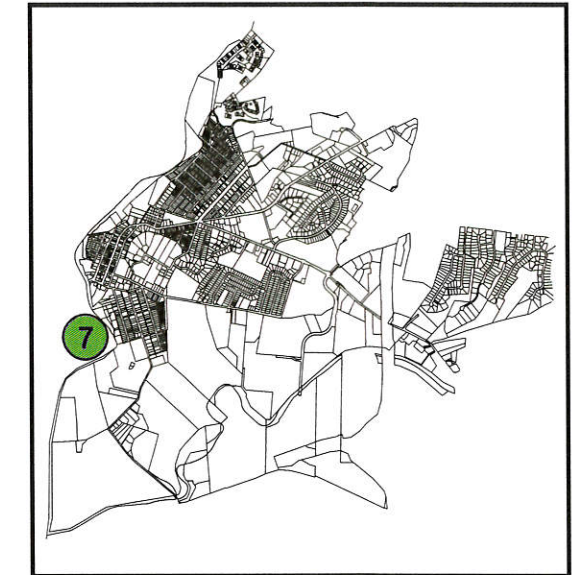


Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Local, Community Park, Passive - 27.3 Acres
- Owned and maintained by City
- Open to the public
- Existing canoe facility privately operated.
- Existing canoe facility and access ramp are in poor condition and in need of renovation.
- Site is currently heavily wooded with limited trail access throughout.
- Existing lighting of the park is limited to street cobra lighting.
- Current approach to the park is not aesthetically pleasing and in need of renovation.

Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations

- Renovate existing canoe facilities to nurture the use and popularity of the activity, thereby indirectly increasing the use and popularity of the riverfront, while maintaining limited, controlled access.
- Introduction of limited and strategic lighting along the proposed pathways and street will bolster security and ambiance of the park.
- Investigate options for public restrooms.
- Develop and program the proposal of the park functioning as a land laboratory.
- Introduce interpretive signage regarding park features.
- Establish Parks and Recs. standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.
- Facilitate pedestrian connection from the park to the community wide pedestrian system.
- Further investigate site and develop two river access primitive campsites.
- Explore feasibility of utilizing abandoned bridge abutment as a raised observation deck.



View of parking facilities



View of canoe livery looking towards Main Street Bridge

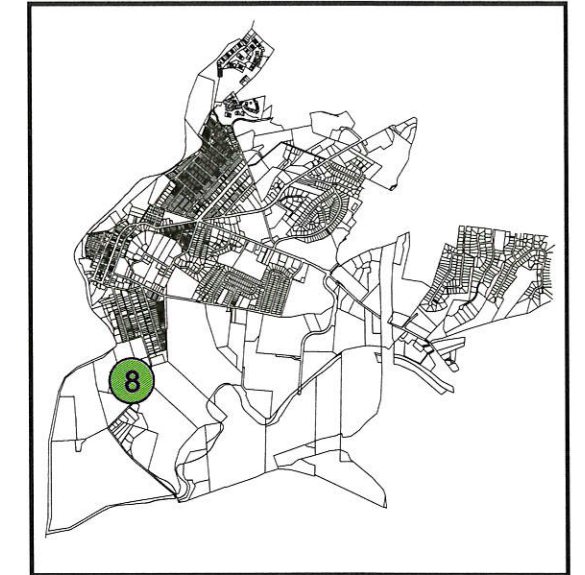
Terrell Park City Park 7



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

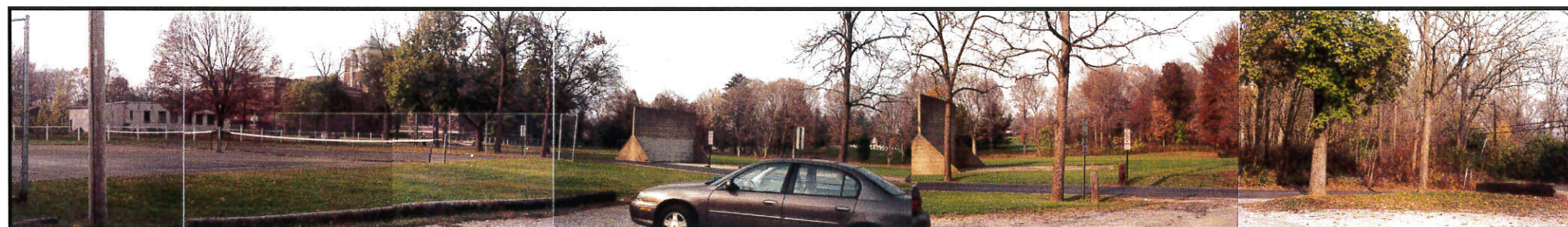
Recommendations

- Introduction of limited and strategic lighting along path and street will bolster security and overall ambiance of the park.
- Explore alternate bikeway and pedestrian connections to surrounding City parks.
- Renovate and/or redesign existing parking lot.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of ownership, use and boundaries.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.
- Renovate existing facilities: renovate concrete handball walls, and tennis court.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Local, Neighborhood Park, Active - 4.7 Acres
- Owned by Sem Villa Retirement Living
- Leased and maintained by City.
- Open to the public
- Existing facilities are in poor condition and are visually unattractive.
- Park boundaries are poorly defined.
- Existing lighting of the park is limited to street cobra lighting.
- Gravel parking lot is visually unattractive
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are visually unattractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding parks.



View of park from parking lot

Semvilla Park

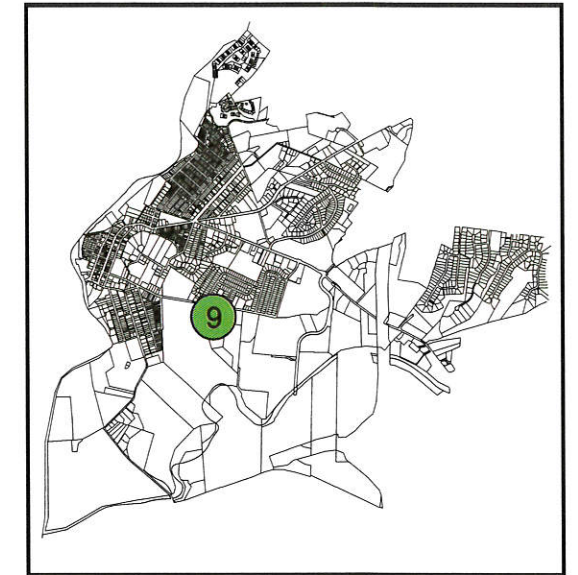
City Park 8



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

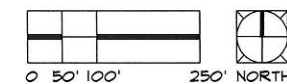
Recommendations

- Develop upper portion of site, adjacent to road, as a passive recreation area with pedestrian access to the Garfield Avenue Park area located to the east.
- Introduction of limited and strategic lighting along path and street will bolster security and overall ambiance of the park.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of ownership and use.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Greenspace, 9.5 Acres
- Owned and maintained by City
- Access is currently restricted.
- This area is not currently being used.



Existing conditions looking from Garfield Avenue

Garfield Avenue Future Greenspace/Park

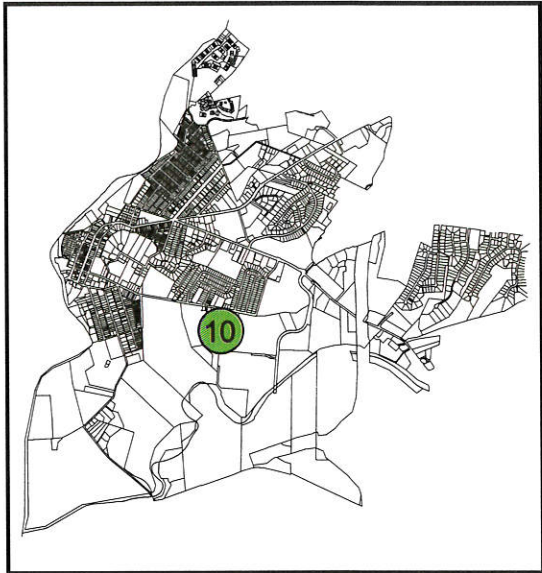
City Park 9



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

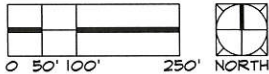
Recommendations

- Investigate the option of returning park area to City management to facilitate city goals of passive and active recreation in this area.



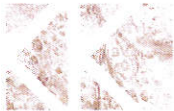
Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Local - Community Park, Active - 17.7 Acres
- Owned, operated and maintained by City
- Leased to Greater Milford Athletic Association
- Open to league only events/practices
- Park consists of ball diamonds and soccer fields.
- Park contains portable toilets, and one small shelter.
- Park has no existing lighting.
- Driveway is gravel with parking in gravel and grass.
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are visually unattractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding parks.



View of park

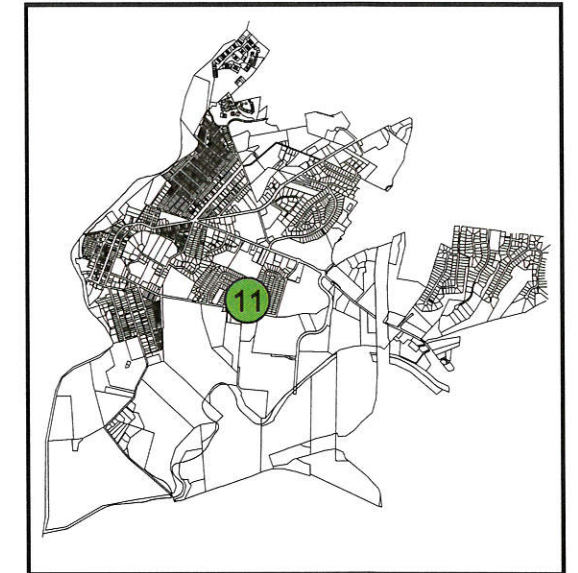
Garfield Avenue Park Area City Park 10



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

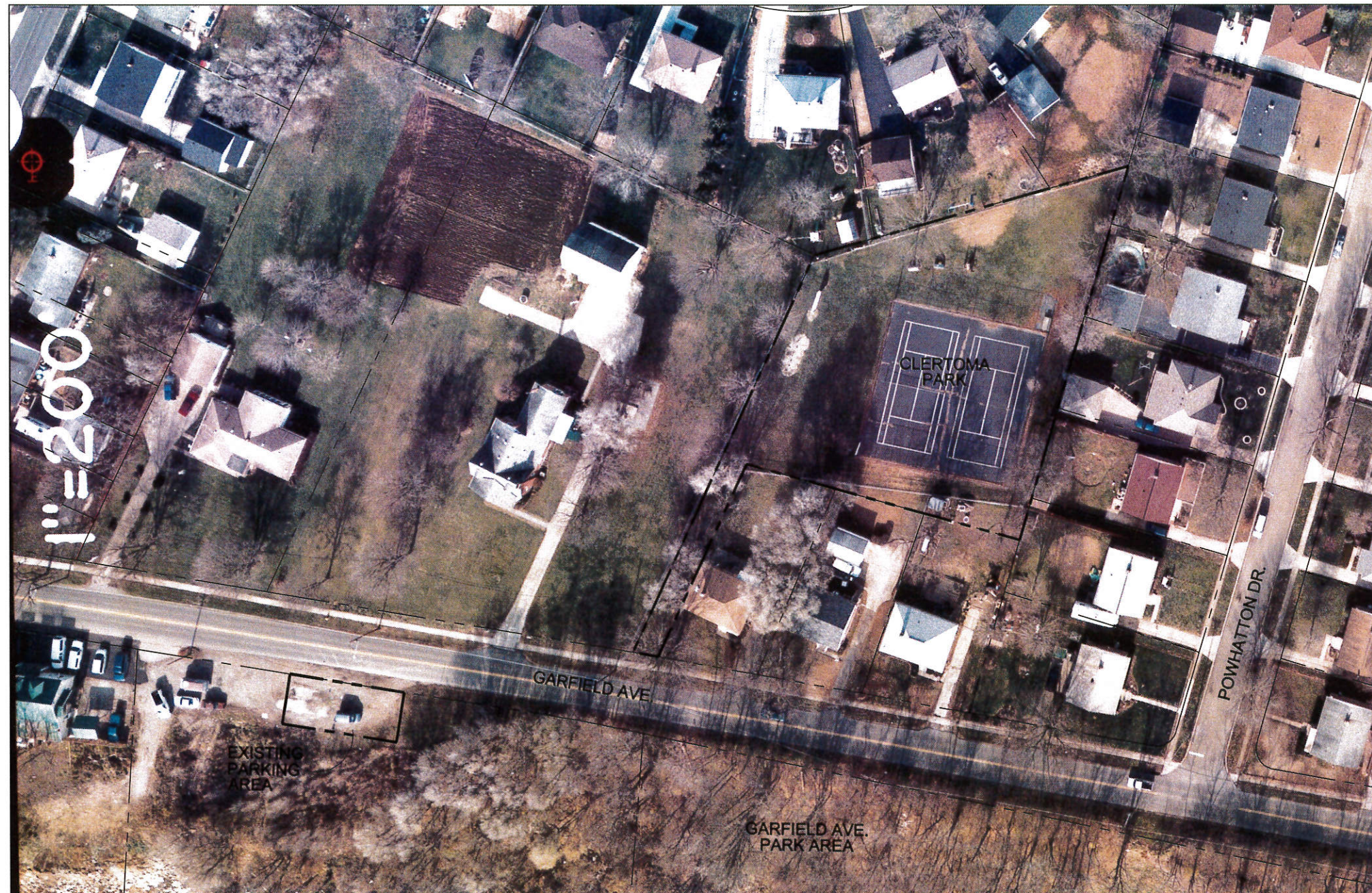
Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

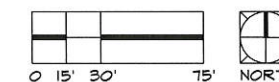
Recommendations

- Develop Park as a passive recreational opportunity with children's play area.
- Remove existing play equipment and replace with play structures that are in accordance with national safety standards.
- Provide adequate, independent parking, with clearly indicated crosswalk access to the park.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of ownership and use of the park.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Local, Mini-Park, Active - .9 Acres
- Owned and maintained by City
- Open to the public
- Existing facilities are in poor condition and visually unattractive.
- Play equipment is outdated and does not meet current national design safety standards.
- Existing lighting of the park is limited to street cobra lighting.
- Parking is inconveniently located across the street on a gravel lot, with no pedestrian crosswalk.
- There is no signage addressing the ownership or use of the park.
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are visually unattractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding parks.



View of park facilities



View of park from parking lot

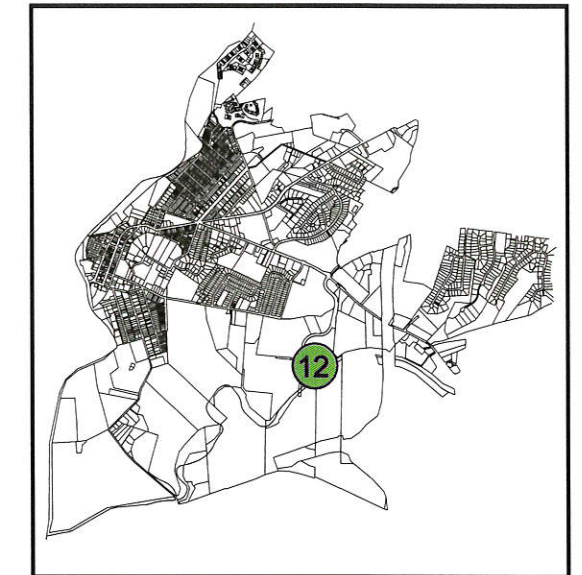
Clertoma Park City Park 11



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

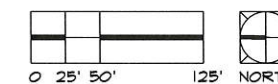
Recommendations

- Investigate the needs of the surrounding area, certain programatic elements could be located here as long as periodic flooding does not become problematic.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of ownership and use.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Greenspace - 12.3 Acres
- Owned and maintained by City
- Open to the public
- Site is completely open and prone to periodic flooding.
- This area is not currently being utilized.



View of park land from nearby bridge



View of park land from Milford Parkway

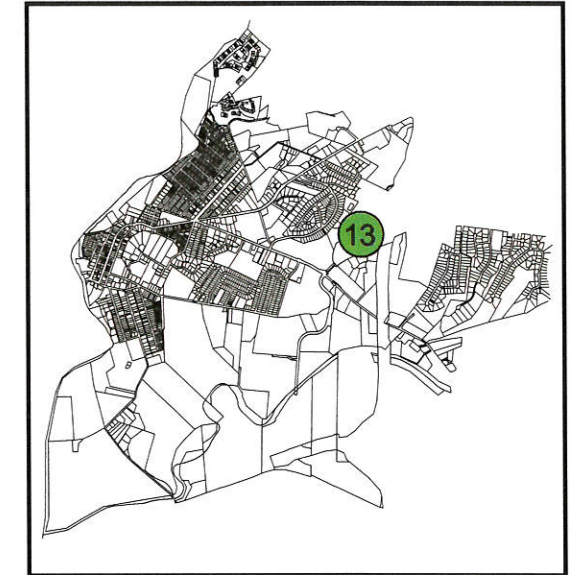
Milford Parkway City Park 12



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

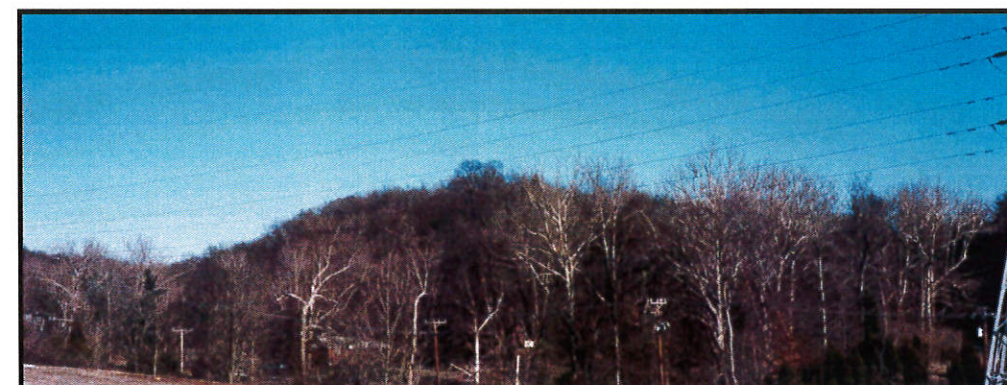
Recommendations

- Maintain site as a natural greenspace/wildlife area.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Greenspace - 22.7 Acres
- Owned and maintained by City
- Open to the public
- Site is best accessed from Happy Hollow Road
- Site is heavily wooded with steep slopes throughout.
- There is no existing parking area.
- There is no signage addressing the ownership or use of the park.
- There is no existing site furniture.
- This area is not currently being utilized.



View of Gatch Property hillside

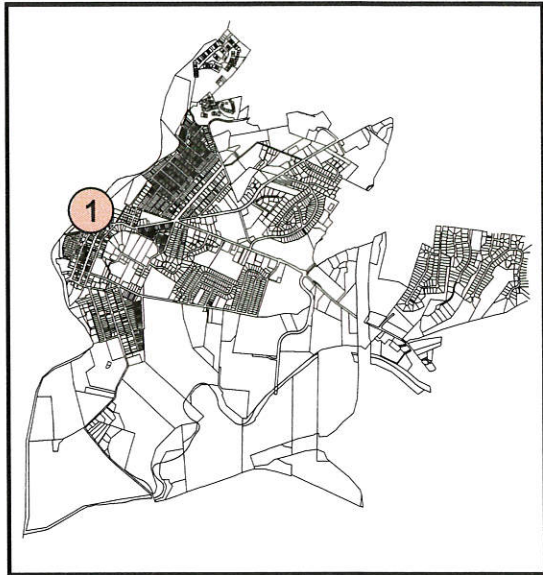
Gatch Property City Park 13



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

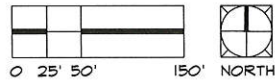
Recommendations

- Approach the American Legion to gain riverfront easement to facilitate pedestrian linkages along riverfront.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings along path to promote continuity within the surrounding City parks.
- Encourage the American Legion to make improvements to signage, benches, and shelter.
- Mitigate riverbank erosion and promote unobstructed access to waters edge.



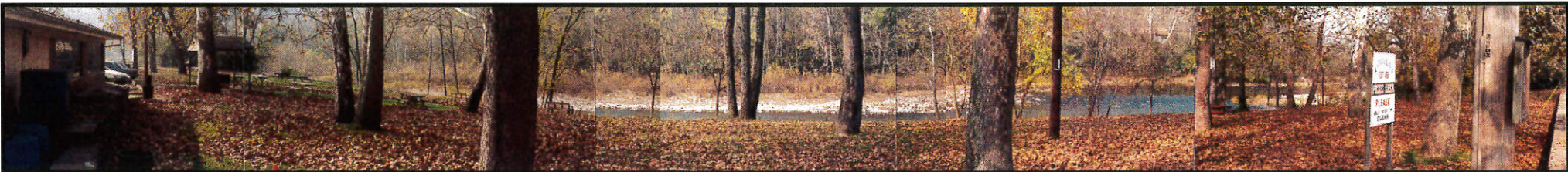
Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Local, Mini-Park, Passive - 1.5 Acres
- Owned, operated and maintained by American Legion
- Open to the American Legion members only.
- Picnic area has full access to river front.
- Existing lighting of the park is limited to parking lighting.
- Signage addressing the ownership and use of the park is visually unattractive.
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are not visually attractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding parks.
- Riverbank is showing signs of erosion.

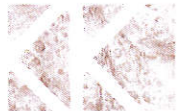


American Legion Picnic Area

Parks by Others 1



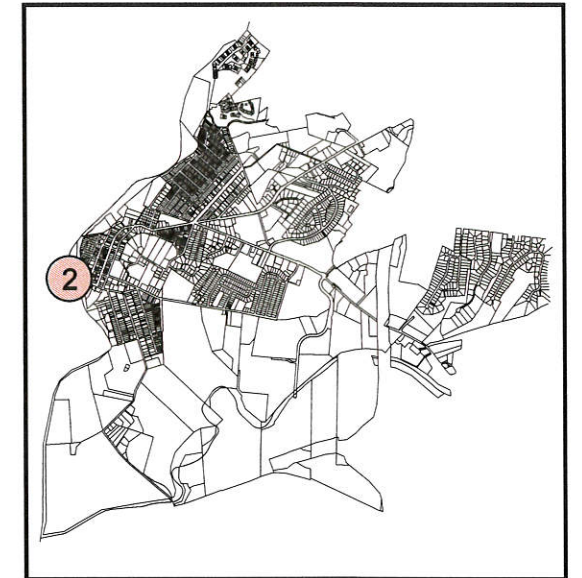
View of the picnic area and riverfront from the parking lot.



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations

- Investigate more efficient opportunities to facilitate parking and pedestrian circulation throughout the trail staging area.
- Introduction of limited and strategic lighting along staging area will bolster security and overall ambiance of the park.
- Introduce interpretive kiosks to inform users of the current and proposed opportunities for recreation.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.
- Explore pedestrian access opportunities across the Little Miami River. Investigate feasibility of pedestrian and vehicular separation via use of a pedestrian bridge.



Inventory/Analysis

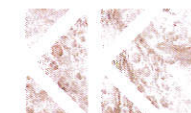
- Classification: Regional, Special Use, Active
- Owned by Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Leased, operated, and maintained by City.
- Spatial constraints of site cause parking space to be limited.
- Parking is shared with the adjacent businesses.
- Signage addressing the ownership and use of the facility is poorly defined.
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are not visually attractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding parks.



View of Milford from bikeway starting point

Little Miami Scenic River Bikeway

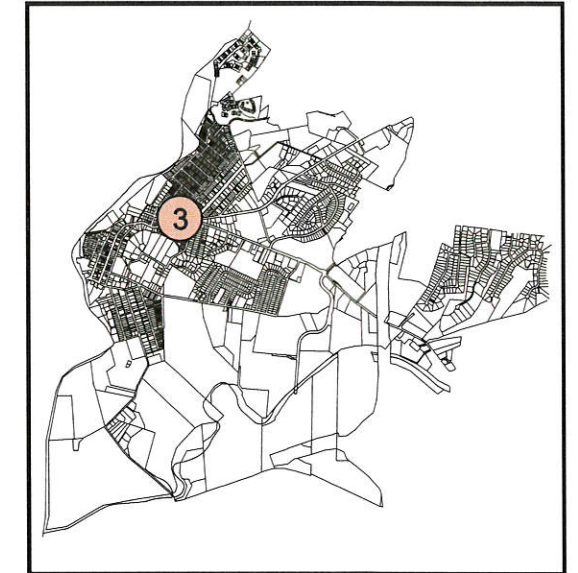
Parks by Others 2



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations

- Introduction of limited and strategic lighting along path and street will improve security and overall ambiance of the park.
- Introduce signage to inform park users of ownership and use restrictions in coordination with Village School District.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.
- Cooperate with Village School District to improve or replace play and fitness equipment.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Local, Mini-Park, Passive - 3.8 Acres
- Owned, operated and maintained by Milford School District.
- Open to the public during non-school times.
- There is no signage addressing the ownership or use of the park.
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are visually unattractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding parks.



View from Five Points intersection looking towards playground area.

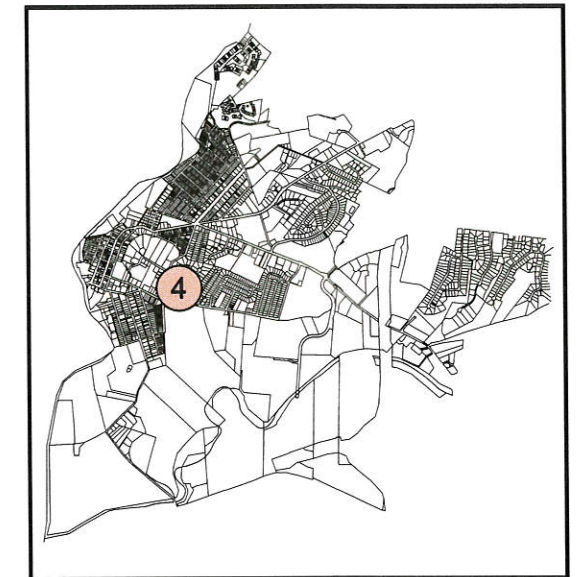
Milford Middle School Park by Others 3



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations

- Introduce signage to inform users of ownership, and use restrictions.
- Establish Parks and Recs standard site furnishings to promote continuity within the park and surrounding City parks as well.
- If site ceases to function as a school, it is an excellent location for a community related facility, i.e. community center, or library.
- This site could facilitate linkage from Garfield Avenue Greenspace north to Milford Middle school.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Local, Mini-Park, Passive - 13.9 Acres
- Owned, operated and maintained by Milford School District.
- Open to the public during non-school times.
- Existing site furnishing, i.e. benches, trash receptacles etc., are visually unattractive and do not relate to each other or to the nature of the surrounding parks.
- Remaining wooded property to the north contain hiking trails.
- The long term use of this site is currently in question.



View of playground from parking lot

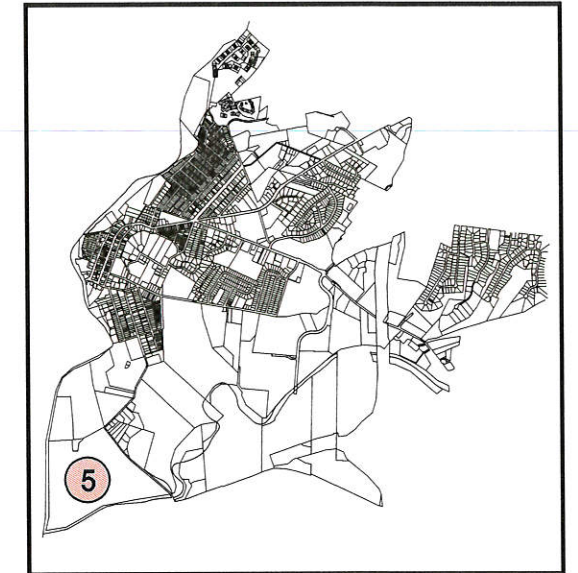
Milford South Elementary Parks by Others 4



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landscape architecture and planning

Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

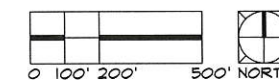
Recommendations

- Establish working relationship with Club to explore the possibility of riverside access along the East Fork River, to work in conjunction with East Fork River Trail to the east.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Regional - Special Use - 163.9 Acres
- Owned, operated and maintained by Terrace Park Country Club
- Open to Club members only.



View of golf course

Terrace Park Country Club

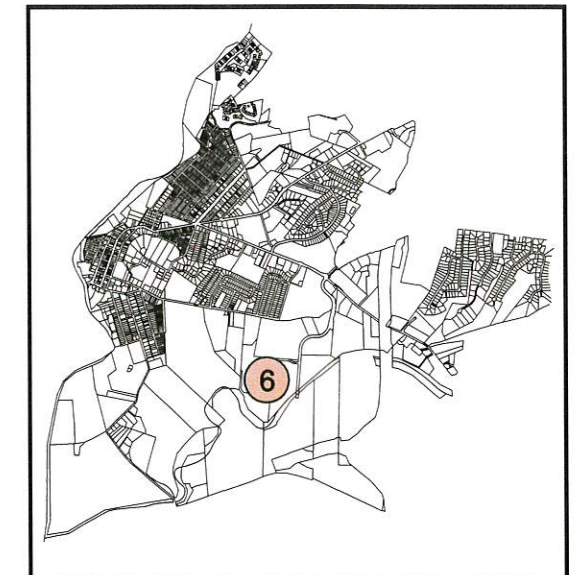
Parks by Others 5



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations

- Continue efforts to cultivate a working relationship with the GMAA and NWCCCA to facilitate pedestrian access to and from the parks as well as along the East Fork Little Miami River.



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Regional, Community Park, Active - 59.2 Acres
- Partially owned operated and maintained by the GMAA.
- Partially owned operated and maintained by the NWCCCA.
- Open to league only events/practices.



View of the fields



Signage located on access road

Finley Ray Park

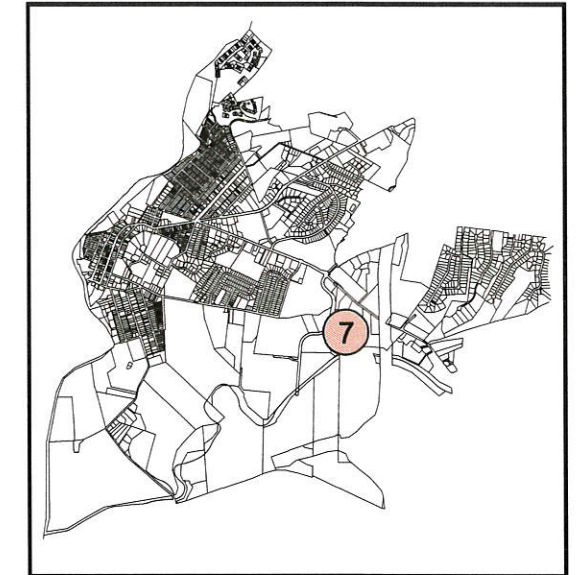
Parks by Others 6



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Regional - Special Use, Active - 20.8 Acres
- Privately owned, operated, and maintained.
- Fields are open to league only events/practices.



View of facility from Milford Parkway

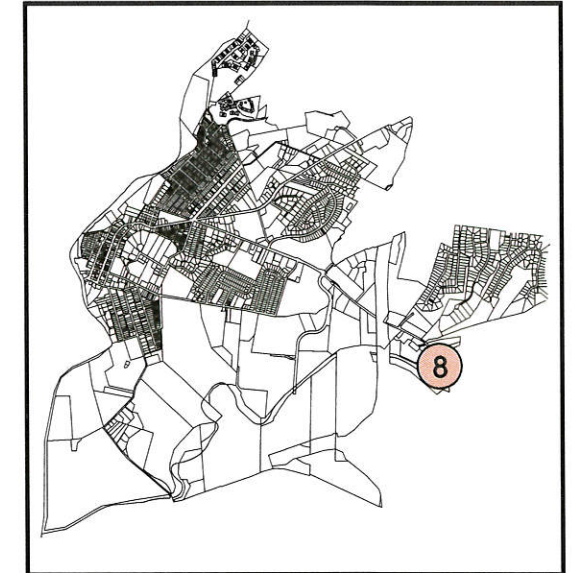
Expressway Ballpark Parks by Others 7



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



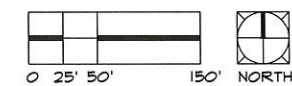
Location Map

Recommendations



Inventory/Analysis

- Classification: Regional, Special Use, Active - 5.8 Acres
- Privately owned, operated, and maintained.
- Open to public on a pay to play basis.

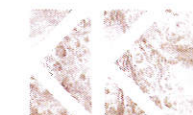


Cincinnati Sand Volleyball

Parks by Others 8



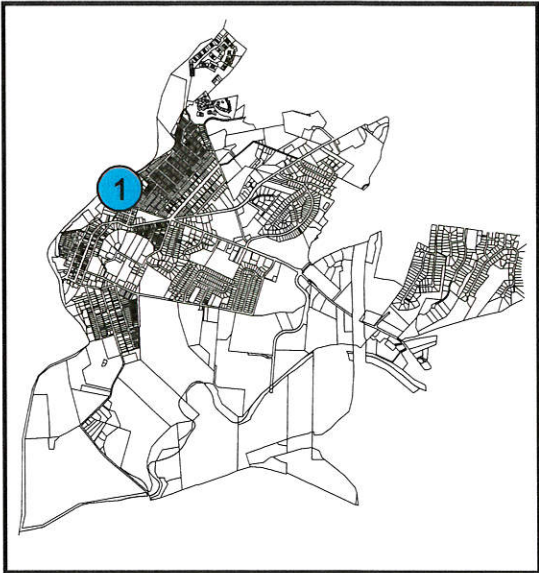
Panaramic view of facilities



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

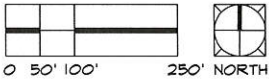
Recommendations

- Introduce vegetative screening.
- Provide limited access to the site.
- Take advantage of areas within the site that do not necessitate limited access and allow recreational use.
- Provide pedestrian linkage over this property from Riverside to Carriage Way.



Inventory/Analysis

- Current view of plant detracts from the aesthetic quality of the surrounding parks.



View of existing lagoon

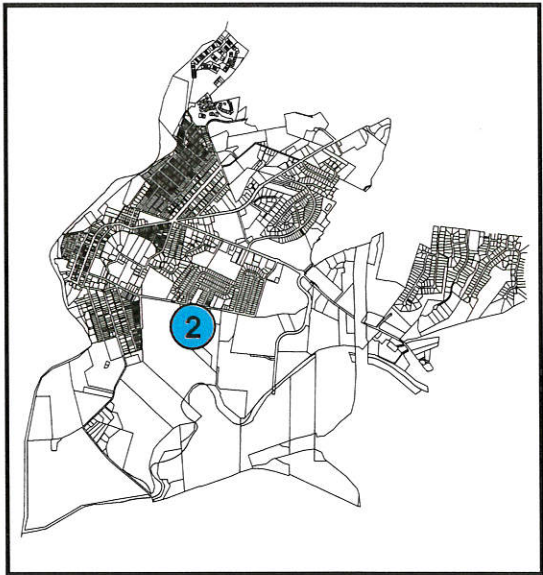
Lime Lagoons City Facility 1



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landscape architecture and planning

Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations

- Introduce vegetative screening.
- Limit access to the site.
- Take advantage of areas within the site that do not necessitate limited access and allow recreational use.



Inventory/Analysis

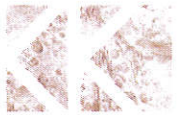
- View of proposed facility will detract from the aesthetic quality of the surrounding parks, and user experience.



Existing conditions looking from Garfield Avenue

Garfield Avenue Property Future Service Center

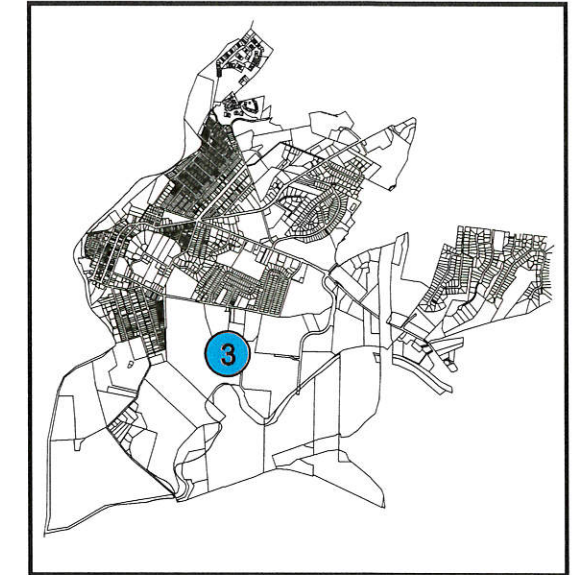
City Facility 2



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

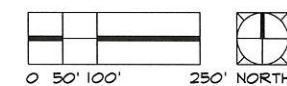
Recommendations

- Introduce vegetative screening.
- Limit access to the site.
- Take advantage of areas within the site that do not necessitate limited access and allow recreational use.



Inventory/Analysis

- View of proposed facility will detract from the aesthetic quality of the surrounding parks, and user experience.



Sewer Treatment Plant City Facility 3



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Doug McKinney, President MAA (Milford Adult Association of Athletics)

- The Adult Softball Program/Leagues utilize Riverside Park I & II.
- They have lost the field at the Riverside Park II site due to river shoreline erosion.
- Thirteenth season in operation.
- Heavy demand! Last year they programmed league play for five (5) nights a week, seven teams per field per night.
- Existing basketball court doesn't have rims.
- Baseball field lights were installed in 1999.
- The adult league play typically generates some family attendance in the parks.
- Concession building is a block structure and has a containment fence because alcohol is sold.
- Parking is only a problem during Frontier Days at which they usually cancel the ball games.
- Flooding is usually not a problem and will be playable within a day after a high water event.
- Fencing is relatively new.

Paul Beard, Part Time Park Director

- Riverside Park I has severe riverbank erosion which has compromised the size of the ballfield. This existing facility should be removed.
- Community needs an overall park plan that addresses active and passive recreation as well as bike trail linkages.
- Finley Ray Park is not open to the general public and it doesn't serve the youth of Milford. Adult sport programs is run by a person who doesn't live in the community.
- Expressway Ballpark is strictly an adult sports complex that is a pay to play business venture.
- Miami Township has developed active recreation park facilities which are used by Milford residents.

- Trailer park site will make a nice passive park.
- Clertoma Park is a nice park, however, the City should not spend any more money to upgrade the existing tennis courts.
- The Comprehensive Master Plan needs to address how a park department or system should operate or manage facilities.
- Important to evaluate the status (use/operation) of current parklands and the need to acquire future parklands.
- The Park & Recreation Master Plan should be reviewed and updated if need be annually.
- Service Center site has an ugly over-grown hillside and views from the park down to the river are unattractive. Recommend a visual, vegetative buffer of the service center.
- Frontier Days celebration attracting a lot of people and parking near the Downtown District is a problem. Currently they use the Riverside Park I area.
- Other community events consist of:
 - Easter Egg Hunt
 - Art Shows
 - Antique Festivals
- Riverside Park II is used on graduation day by St. Andrews School and Milford High School.
- Riverside Park II is used for Knot Hole Baseball League and pee wee football.
- Semvilla Park:
 - baseball fields are used by St. Andrews on Mondays and other Milford Church leagues on Wednesday.
 - GMAA will occasionally use the baseball fields for practice which sometimes conflicts with the Church leagues.
 - handball courts, uncertain how often they are used and therefore the need.
 - tennis courts are frequently used.
 - mountain bike usage in the park is not permitted but does occur.
- Additional recreational needs in the Community:
 - basketball, there are no public outdoor courts in the City.
 - skatepark for rollerblades and skateboards.
 - softball fields, for un-organized pick up games and for practices.
 - great demand for both men and women adult softball fields.

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Kris Mick
Recreation Director, Miami Township

- Existing Township park facilities which currently serve the Milford residents.
 - Community Park, full service
 - Sharon or Winton Woods has a small pond/lake
 - Meadows Park
- The Township currently does not have a basketball association.
- They serve four (4) school districts.
- Anderson Township has a YMCA facility
- A skatepark is proposed for Meadows Park
- An aquatic park facility may want to be considered.
- Re-use of an existing building for community programs (youth through senior) should be considered.

Christina Vuotta
Volunteer/Caretaker of Carriage Way Park

Carriage Way Park

The Historical cemetery has been neglected and vandalized over time. Preservation of the head stones is a high priority.

- investigate whether any federal or state funds are available to assist in restoring this historic site.
- might consider developing educational programs for children on the history of Milford and the Cemetery

The steep hillside has had severe erosion problems and was overgrown with honeysuckle.

- active erosion control program with volunteers to stabilize the hillside.
- cut back honeysuckle, yet left the root system in place.
- introduced new vegetation plantings.
- constructed a honeysuckle staircase or terraces on the steep slope at the north end of the site. "Tibetan Basketweave Method"
- The "Tree Spirits" volunteer organization has transplanted vegetation/flowers from the old trailer park site.
- City needs to investigate and address the existing stormwater/sheet drainage problem off of the Lilia Chateau property onto Carriage Way Park.

General Park Issues and Recommendations

- The entire riverfront corridor from Carriage Way Park to Terrell Park should have an asphalt pathway or promenade with seating areas and gas lights.
 - it might also accommodate a horse and buggy service to give public rides during Community special events.
 - existing security problems on riverfront property would be improved by selective vegetation removal and site lighting.
- Terrell Park – is the canoe access area leased, is it open to the general public?
- Recommends community wide input into future capital improvements projects.

Rachelle Rap-Dickerson
Educator at the Milford Junior High School

- She would like park spaces to promote environmental issues and awareness.
 - specifically the trailer park site and the river.
- Study and document evasive plant species vs. native vegetation vs. new plant material introduction.
- Has been monitoring the river shoreline behind the American Legion Park for two years. Erosion within the riverine ecosystem.
- She has been involved in establishing a land trust project in Green Bay, WI while in college. Currently she has a land lab project in the wooded area on the middle school site.

Eric Partee
Executive Director, Little Miami Inc. (LMI)

- Maintain the natural river environment by not disturbing the river's shoreline or edge.
- Terrell Park was originally acquired by LMI and then leased to the City and eventually given to the City.
- We discussed the potential for a riverfront community park adjacent to the urban/downtown district with natural green space buffer zones along the river and trail systems extending both north and south linking the community.
- Eric said he would like to attend future public meetings as plans become more defined.

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Ward Bilheimer President, Greater Milford Athletic Association

- GMAA is a 501 C3 non-profit organization
 - oriented/dedicated to youth sport programs
- Finley Ray Park is owned and operated by the Northwest Clermont County Civic Association (NWCCCA)
- Soccer Association for Youth (SAY) is a spring and fall league at Finley Ray Park
- Finley Ray Park:
 - 13 to 15 fields depending upon time of year and program demand.
- Baseball – Milford Youth Baseball Association (MYBA)
 - is a community baseball program comprised of residents from Milford and Miami Township.
 - participants “T” ball (5/6 years old) to 10 years old.
 - Knott Hole, throughout Clermont Co., 8 years old through 17 years.
 - #3 diamonds available.
- Softball – Milford Girls Youth Softball (MGYS)
 - participants “T” ball through 15/16 years old.
 - #5 diamonds available
- GMAA acts as the sport/league management umbrella for the previously mentioned sub-organizations.
- Pay to play fee schedule \$30.00/player and the sub-organization also charges per team.
- Freeway Park and Riverside Park II is more adult oriented sports leagues.
- GMAA provides full maintenance on all fields at Finley Ray Park.
- The City has an agreement with GMAA that during non-program use periods the general public is able to schedule with GMAA and use the facility.
- Port-O-Johns are used throughout the park and is a big operating cost issue with GMAA
 - 7 to 10 units from March 1 through November 10 at \$170.00/month/unit
 - handicap accessible units are \$120.00/month/unit

Note: The costs associated with extending sanitary sewer and water to accommodate a permanent flush restroom facility is beyond the financial means of the GMAA.
- GMAA is currently investigating the cost associated with tapping a water line

and purchasing water cannons as a means of irrigating the playing fields.

- Originally GMAA used the fields at Riverside II and were asked to relocate to the Finley Ray property where water and restrooms would be provided.

Note: Lack of flush restroom facilities is the largest complaint of users and their families.

- The Baseball/Softball organizations have a trailer concession structure and use a modified golf cart to sell refreshments to the more remote fields.
- The Soccer organization built two (2) portable sheds/barns for their concession operations.
- There are no lighted fields in the sports complex.
- MYBA leases out four (4) diamonds at the VFW property on Rt. 131 for \$1.00/year.
 - These fields are used primarily for practice.
 - GMAA will also use these fields and in exchange they have agreed to maintain the fields at an approximate cost of \$3,000.00/year.
- Practice fields for all sports leagues is in great demand.
- GMAA Operation and Maintenance Expenses (the following are estimates ± of annual costs).
 - \$60,000.00/year
 - porta-johns, trash collection, equipment/fuel
 - labor, manager (20 hours/week), two (2) part-time college students (\$20,000.00±)
 - GMAA pays taxes on the property which is part of the agreement with NWCCCA.
 - An umbrella insurance policy is paid for by GMAA at a cost of \$120.00/team and each sub-organization or league has their own additional coverage.
- Baseball Budget for 2000 was \$85,000.00 ±.
- Finley Ray Park Improvements – The following site and facility improvements would greatly help the GMAA and the other sports organizations/leagues currently using Finley Ray Park. These improvements directly effect the day to day management and operations of these sports leagues. An improved park facility would insure a more cost efficient means of delivering recreational opportunities to an area which has a demonstrated need and demand.
 - Water is probably the number one priority for drinking and irrigation
 - A permanent (flush) restroom facility which would require sanitary sewer and water.

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- The main north/south park road needs to be resurfaced.
- Asphalt pave the existing park gravel drive as an extension of Finley Park Drive.
- Barns or sheds need water and electric.
- Establish a pedestrian pathway system throughout the park.
- Consider lighting some of the baseball/softball fields.

Tim McManis Owner, Nature Outfitters

- Need to apply for some ODNr, Division of Watercraft funding for improving access to the Little Miami River.
- Very interested in enhancing and improving the Terrell Park property in a very low key, sensitive manner.
- Terrell Park should be improved and designated a "Nature Preserve". This land lab environment could set up nature programs with the school system. Interpretive and educational opportunities through self guided nature trails could elaborate on the historical, cultural and environmental significance of this riverine eco-system.
- Provide better connection to the Little Miami Scenic Bikeway.
- Recommend utilizing the existing bridge construction road as a river access point for fishing and canoe take out.
- Promote green space land acquisition or preservation along the river corridor.
- Acquire additional riverfront property and move the existing river (canoe) access.
- A Site Improvement and Use Program has been developed by Mr. McManis. The following is a brief outline of his proposal.
- The park will provide access to the river for quiet recreation. It will preserve land for nature, flooding, and heritage.
- Minimum Requirements:
 - Public access
 - Parking area for 24 cars
 - Easy path to the river – does not have to be paved
 - Trash container
- Desired features:
 - Telephone
 - Observation platform
 - Hiking trails
 - Picnic shelter/Tables/Grills
 - Plaque at park entrance/welcome sign
 - Toilet facilities

- Drinking water
- Primitive campsite (river accessible only)
- Concept
- Park will be kept in its natural state with minimal development
- Flood plain maintained
- Low maintenance
- Provide quiet recreation opportunities for: canoeing, fishing, nature study, picnicking, walking, meditation.
- Natural Features
 - The Little Miami River
 - Red Bird Creek
 - Flood Plain
 - Gravel Bar
 - Trees
 - Birds
 - Animals
 - Fish
- Historical Features
 - Traction line bridge abutments
 - Canal Street
 - Ferry Street
 - Factory Race and Mill Canal
 - Covalt's Island

Jan Wulker Chairperson, Beautification Task Force

- Referred to local park facilities that we should visit.
 - Teal Town Road Park (Union Township)
 - Miami Meadows Park (Miami Township)
- Garfield Park should be developed as a passive park with seating areas, a playground and a sand box. Landscape enhancement will be needed to create a park environment and buffer the proposed service area.
- The proposed community gateway locations were reviewed and agreed upon.
- Community identity, image communicated through a signage system is important.
- A comprehensive wayfinding signage plan should be developed and implemented throughout the Community.



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Citizen Survey Results:
The City of Milford received the following comments after surveys were circulated concerning the state of the parks in the Milford area.

- There needs to be more for young people to do in Milford, but parks are only good for the warmer months. what can be done for activities in the colder months?
- Milford has a park?
- We have needed a community pool for as long as I've lived in Milford (18 years)
- Additional facilities/activities? ponds, lakes, fishing, outdoor racquet ball court, bait access, campgrounds
- Sandbox unimportant due to cats
- Playground equipment in indian hill is high quality-would like to have long paved trail (approx 1 mile)
- Good locations by river and bike trail and the property on Hwy 131. that area already has soccer fields. There is a need for basketball . we need more parks. Thank you for listening!
- Very important—paved trails, sidewalk access, restrooms, drinking fountains, trees, landscaping
- Soccer fields and football fields could be the same
- I think if nothing else, we should repair/fix/maintain the parks we have now. it's a shame the way Clertoma Park looks. (bad tennis surface/net??, the fence , playground, etc.)
- We need more activities(swimming, family fun center)
- All these things should be in the larger parks. you would have more people and more money to support them(food stands, ice cream bar, outdoor movies)
- Park should have easy and safe access by car foot, and bike. park should be well connected to other public areas i.e. trails, sidewalks.
- Wildlife habitat? hiking trails, lake
- Restrooms, drinking fountains, bike path , very important
- We'd love to see the riverfront area (near the vfw) expanded. connection to the bike trail would be great, an area to put canoes, and

- kayaks in, a picnic shelter and playground would be ideal.
- Our concern is short and long term financing
- Lots of grandchildren who visit frequently(would like to see walking trails)
- More facilities would keep our youth from getting involved in drugs and criminal damage or property. a community pool open to public would help
- Would be nice if contested river front on south Milford (across from country club) could be utilized with car access from Finley Ray (is property viable for owners?) wooded trails, shade, parking, drinking water, and river access are very important)
- It would be nice to have somewhere to take your children without leaving the city. I think Milford would benefit greatly from a good park system
- I think our city needs more parks! It would be great to be able to walk to the parks as well, as opposed to locating them in high traffic areas. As a side note, I hope the city is planning to improve pedestrian access to the bike trail and ability to cross Rt 50 at the bridge?
- Age appropriate climbing equipment (like that at Miami Meadows) amphi-theater if used often, river access if safe and clean
- Some how we should take more advantage of the little Miami River-would like to see off leash dog park)
- Many residents think the parks in Miami Township are Milford Parks- your results may be slated on questions 4 and 5 (where are the parks in Milford?)
- I like Miami Twp parks but they are being built well outside the Milford community. We need to have a park that is within one mile of the Milford center.
- We really need a pedestrian/bicycle bridge to the Little Miami Trail. Also safe biking paths to park and athletic facilities for kids
- Clertoma park could be used for a nice playground area with tennis courts. The expense would be minimal to replace the playground equipment. then the site of the trailer park could be used to build a swimming pool/basket ball area. the Clertoma Park is already there, complete with fencing, so why waste money on things already in place? The ground work is in place, so why not start there?
- I think a family park in Milford is a great idea! It would be nice to see equipment for all ages of children. There does not seem to be any Milford parks that accommodate toddlers and preschoolers.

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-What milford parks? where?

-Currently, only parks that are “known” to the public would be Finley Ray, which is only for organized sports. Clertoma is virtually unknown except to the residents of that area.

-As a 41 year old life long Milford/Miami Twp resident, my vision for milford has been the development of a riverside park, developed green space of the entire river band area from the US 50 bridge to the American Legion. If incorporated properly, with the bike trail, this park would make Milford the showplace of eastern cinti suburbs restrooms, lighting, and walking trails very important

-Why can't Milford be in the forefront with cool parks? We need family friendly parks with clean restrooms(baby changing tables), drinking fountains, phone and info booths with city maps. Also i like Miami Meadows tables with umbrellas and benches for parents or grandparents to sit on. also, some shady area.

-Too many picnics tables, overwhelming would like to see wild flower exhibits, historical information

-My concept of parks include green space and passive recreation

-I am very much in favor of a community pool and would help support it. i realize it will take a levy /bond issue. i am also in favor of pocket parks. for example, the lot adjacent to big lots on walnut st would be perfect, yes i live on walnut street.

-Abolish the skateboard and rollerblade law, with exceptions. No blocking of traffic or walkways. The users of the same must get a permit from the city to use and must learn the rules of the road. Better enforcement of the same. As the law stands now, it puts every child in violation of said law. Property owners, parents, police would be responsible for enforcing this. children must have some place to play. Deal with the abusers, but do not punish every child in milford, because of the disobedient child.

-I think the Clertoma Park is an excellent candidate for an overhaul, there is a large number of children in this area and the possibility of a true neighborhood park is really exciting!

-At our old residence we visited the Miami Meadows park frequently, so it would be nice to have a park like that in Milford.

-Milford needs a pool and a park. something for kids to do instead of “hang out”. We have absolutely nothing for kids to do in this town. We need a community pool, I think it would really help for Milford to become involved with it's community.

-Short trails for children to see flowers or rocks

-Sandbox is unsanitary

-A summer program for kids would benefit everyone, it would employ teenagers, give the smaller children an outing, and hopefully be profitable for the park

-Please do not make this into a “sports facility” particularly with respect to football fields, baseball fields, and soccer. It seems that these control the lives of the young and their parents. a park should be for non-competitive sports.

-As far as I know , there are no parks in Milford where you can enjoy nature. We need a hiking park. So you can hike in the woods. The Cinti Nature Center is nice but very costly.

-Sand volleyball-high maintenance a swimming pool is something very much needed and in a central location, the little I have read about Montgomery and a pool makes it sound interesting-maybe a membership done on a sliding scale.

-Clertoma park needs to be upgraded-it should be geared for younger children

-I find the walking trail at Miami Meadows hard to use-you have to walk through the parking lot to do a complete loop-dangerous! Community events such as free concerts would be great. Are there staff to run youth programs in summer and informal play programs?

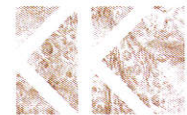
-We currently spend no time in Milford Parks. Currently we go to Indian Hill to use the playground. I would like to see playground equipment and a pool, but those needs will probably change as my children age.

-Walking/rollerblade paths

-We enjoy ault park for its beautiful plantings and pleasant walks. it holds many happy memories for us. That is one function of a park –to make happy memories. Gardens, walks, safe access to bike trail are very important

-I believe that Finley Ray Park provides enough play areas for sports such as soccer, pee wee ball, etc. adequate ball fields are also available. I feel that a nice size community swimming pool would enhance younger children to be active during their summer, taking them off the streets, and out of trouble a pool fee could be charged –however, it should be affordable to everyone.

-There needs to be baseball fields in Milford so people like me can get a neighborhood game up and go to a field. There are very limited areas to do so. A golf course would be nice, also drinking fountains, and restrooms.



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-I would like to see the Memorial Park on Main St returned to its original reason for being. it was dedicated to those serving in WWII with a plaque containing names. this has disappeared completely. many are now deceased that were listed, but I feel that their descendants would feel proud to see the name of their family member once again in the park. If I remember correctly the Milford Garden Club collected funds during WWII to establish the park and they cared for it along with the, at that time, village employees.

-I would love to see improvements to the park on riverside. much of the play equipment is in need of replacement, updated and some is also dangerous (slide is too high and metal is too hot) the park has much potential. I love the trails and flowers that were added to the area.

-Vending machines are important.

-Safety in getting to Milford end of bike trail in needed.

-To my knowledge, Milford doesn't have a public swimming pool or a place to skateboard. We need to offer much more to kids, especially teens to keep them busy, happy, safe and off the streets.

-A safe walking area around park in milford like the one on 131. For older adults. Closer also.

-Water fountain at carriage way does not work. carriage way park is continually trashy and unkept. why are mun. baseball fields off limits to the public? I miss the b-ball court at the mun. ball fields.

-I think that there should be frisbee golf course. its becoming a very big activity among young people! the park would definitely get a lot of visitors. there is not one around.

-I did not know milford even had a park advertise where parks are located

-We don't use the new park by the river because it is by the river which is too dangerous for toddlers. The only other park I know of is Clertoma-which is old and decaying, unattractive, and in other people's back yard. A safe place for toddlers is very important

-Milford has always needed a place for children- a community pool and a place for young adolescents to congregate.

-Milford needs a community park with lots of summer activities and most of all a pool!

-I really appreciate the pet care considerations at the park I frequent. i have noticed though that sometimes pet owners are better at cleaning up after their pets than the soccer coaches are their players-water fountains, waste

disposal, bags for pets, fishing, are important.—swimming pool and frisbee golf would be super cool!

-I love Milford and wish there were more recreation centers, pools, parks, etc. for people who cant afford to join private clubs /gyms.(martial arts courses, gymnastics, art)

-Concerts in parks are a great way to bring the community together.

-I am fairly new to Milford, perhaps a supplement to your newsletter indicating where parks are located would be an asset. Trails and nature areas are important. Interesting that there are not choices on this survey relating to birds, flowers, quiet space, green spaces, etc...

-A local pool would be great. many of the houses in old Milford do not have lots big enough for a pool.

-Frequently patrolled by police-important

-Need a bike/rollerblade area

-I don't think parks need to have everything. just enough to keep busy. I think scenery means a lot in a park. wooded walking trails. I enjoy the Legion because of the river and it's peaceful

-I have never been to a Milford park but i am sure these things would be important to a family outing(picnic tables, grills, shelters, river access, playground equipment, sandbox area, swimming pool)

-Replace signs and flags taken away from Carriage Way Park.

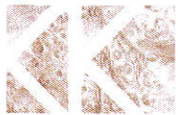
-We are all trying to make our town a beautiful and safe place to live-policing the area important.

-Milford doesn't need a swimming pool

-Milford needs a community center for its residents with a pool,etc. chances are residents would not be opposed to paying a yearly fee to join.

-I think it is a shame that children have no place to ride skateboards and rollerblades and then the city fines the parents because the child is on the streets. Build them a place.

-Use a little common sense, if you don't know what you are doing, ask around. Share information! Several village personnel knew what was planned. One fence. Net loss 150+ rooms at local motels, canceled state softball tournaments. Loss income to Riverside Park and American Legion (approx. 4-6 thousand)



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-Restroom open all year—fireworks, easter egg hunts, community picnics, maybe even a santa, manger display. Community event for milford residents.

-I think there should be some park that kids can skate or skateboard instead of the street.

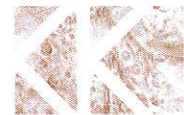
-Milford could use a nice park but hope the home owner doesn't have to pay for it. Get the money another way.

-I think it is very important to support our community theater group(s) in the area by providing them a place to perform. Amphitheater would be great

-I wish that Milford would take care or the parks they already have. You have a basketball court being used for a parking lot. and you have a water fountain in Carriage Way that needs to be replaced. I think between these two items you might be looking at \$1500 to \$2000 cost.

-Personal safety, teen harassment, park isolation, scheduling park activities, excessive park studies(expenses)-

-Wading pool at own risk



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Park Accessibility

The American Disability Act (ADA) of 1990 established rules, regulations, guidelines and technical standards for providing or developing facilities which insure handicap accessibility to all public as well a private facilities. An ADA document addressing park and recreation facilities public accessibility has been provided in the Appendix section of this study. It is important to note that the governmental agency which oversees the ADA guidelines periodically updates or revises their guidelines. Such that on an annual basis the community should obtain and assess these standards relative to existing facility modifications and new park and recreation facility design and development.

Note: It is advisable that one person or position in the City be assigned the responsibility to provide annual child safety assessments of existing play equipment, which should be documented and filed. These assessments would address play area and equipment maintenance needs as well as modification requirements as dictated by established industry guidelines.

The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) conducts, in conjunction with the play equipment manufacturers association, annual certification seminars which provide valuable guideline assessment criteria.

- Access to the basketball and tennis courts as well as the the amphitheatre facility and picnic shelter should have access off the asphalt path system.
- If Port-A-Johns are currently being used within the park, then at least one handicap accessible structure should be installed to meet current ADA guidelines.
- Nighttime use of the park facilities, i.e. basketball, tennis, amphitheatre , requires safe and lighted access to and from. Recommend a lighting assessment be made of existing facility uses and/or proposed extending of use periods relative to improving existing safety, security lighting for these facilities.

ADA (handicap) accessibility guidelines are the foundation for addressing the complete usability of recreation facilities by the general public. The following should be taken into consideration for existing and proposed and recreation facility developments:

- handicap restrooms
- wheelchair accessible picnic tables
- drinking fountains with dual basins
- telephones (public/emergency)
- trail systems (asphalt, compacted aggregate, boardwalks)
- playground surfaces, entire area and equipment
- seating areas

3. Parks and Facilities Inventory and Analysis

- Types of Parks
- Demographics of Planning Area
- Comparison to National Survey
- Parks and Recreation Area Needs by Park Type and Acres
- Adjacent Parks and Recreation Opportunities
- Analysis of Milford Parks & Facilities
 - Overall Milford Parks and Facilities
 - Existing City Parks
 - Existing Parks by Others
 - Existing Public Service Facilities
- Focus Group/Stakeholder Interviews
- Citizen Survey Results
- Accessibility Issues
- Adjusted Analysis of Parks & Facilities Needs



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Adjusted Analysis of Parks and Facilities Needs

A comparative analysis between Milford Parks and Recreation opportunities and the National Recreations and Parks Association standards begins to show the dilemma that faces the City of Milford. At first glance it appears, by comparison to NRPA standards, that Milford possesses a vast surplus of park land. However, a closer inspection of the parks system shows that this is not true. Most of this existing parkland has restricted access to the general public and is limited to league only, or members only recreation.

Existing parks within the city limits that are owned or operated by others comprise nearly one third of the Milford parks system; most of these parks are of a regional nature and draw people from adjacent townships and counties. Seven out of eight of these facilities are active recreational only. The only passive recreation area is that of the American Legion picnic area and this is open to members only as well. For the exception of the Little Miami Scenic River Bikeway, all of these parks limit their access to leagues or members only participation. Due to this fact, there is very little opportunity for Milford citizens to participate in passive recreation, and unorganized field sports, i.e. baseball, softball, soccer, etc.

All of the thirteen City Parks within Milford are Local, Mini, Community or Neighborhood Parks. Three of these parks are passive recreation (Carriage Way Park, Memorial Park, Terrell Park), five are active recreation (Riverside Park I, Riverside Park II, Garfield Park, Semvilla Park, and Clertoma Park), and the remaining five spaces are either small greenspaces or reserved for future parkland where use has yet to be determined.

As the comparison chart located within this section indicates, acreages of parks and recreations opportunities that are open to the public are well below NRPA standards. The current total acreage deficit is -30.7 acres, although the amount of greenspace currently owned by the city is at 44.85 acres, not all of this greenspace is suitable for the recreational development that is needed. In addition to the current deficit, the population projection to 2020 calls for total acreages to be approximately 89.0 acres, increasing the future deficit to -119.7 acres. It is clear that, although current greenspaces within the City could be developed to ease the existing acreage deficit, in order to obtain the future acreages recommended by NRPA there must be an effort to obtain more park land and/or strategically change programming in certain parks.

City service facilities that were analyzed were limited to those facilities that are located adjacent to other parks or greenspaces. The utilization of areas that are not being occupied by service infrastructure often become key linkage points in pathway systems. The three facilities analyzed here also have that potential. (Lime Lagoons, Garfield Avenue Future Service Center, and the Sewer Treatment Plant)

The location of potential gateways can also be seen on the overall plan. While not an integral part of the parks and recreations system these gateways would serve to inform the passerby that they are entering Milford City Limits. Different from that of

the typical City Limit signage, the gateways should serve as a positive reminder that the motorist is entering a healthy growing neighborhood and reinforce the unity of the City.

This can be accomplished a number of different ways and is discussed further in Chapter 4, Development of the Parks and Recreation System, Gateway Opportunities.

Summary:
In order for Milford to comply with NRPA standards currently and through 2020, an effort must be made to:

- Purchase, or acquire additional park land, and/or program existing greenspace areas to meet specific recreational needs.
 - These needs are:
 - Passive recreation areas.
 - Unorganized active recreation areas.
- Utilize existing city service land to facilitate key linkage points for a corridor pedestrian system.

Additional Goals:

- Nurture the riverfront area and historic downtown as the passive recreational heart of the corridor system.
- Program new parks or existing parks to meet passive recreational needs.
- Encourage unrestricted public access to all new park areas.
- Develop signage and gateway system to reinforce community identity and awareness.

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4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATIONS SYSTEM

Greenspace Opportunities

This chapter reviews the opportunities within Milford that will begin to physically unify the parks and recreation system.

The citizens of Milford have expressed an interest in cultivating a city wide corridor system that will allow pedestrian exploration of the city proper, as well as access to trails outside of Milford. For this reason, this chapter focuses potential routes for this system as well as the strategic acquisition of greenspace that will facilitate key linkages throughout the system. These areas are categorized into two general areas: Riverfront Greenspace, and Residential Greenspace.

Gateway features and city wide directional signage will further reinforce the cohesiveness of the parks system. The culmination of all elements can be seen on the section labeled “Overall Milford Opportunities” and is a summation of the individual greenspace acquisitions into the parks, recreations, and corridor system. This plan is a reflection of the goals and objectives set forth by the Milford Parks and Recreation steering committee and the citizens of Milford.

Community Transportation Linkages

A comprehensive pedestrian corridor system should be comprised of a variety of interconnected trail systems, which provide both recreational and transportation opportunities and linkages throughout the community. As with a roading system or network there is a hierarchy of pedestrian corridors that is dependent upon the size of the proposed land use development and the linkage requirements to service the area.

A review of the this master plan identifies a proposed parkway connector, which acts as a corridor pedestrian system for the City. A variety of proposed land use developments would be serviced by the proposed parkway connector and should be designed and developed with a separate asphalt bike path (10-foot wide minimum) within the roadway right-of-way where necessary. Efforts should continue to purchase riverfront land and establish easements along the river in order to facilitate pedestrian circulation. Intersections should be designed to accommodate the safest pedestrian crossing possible. Tunnels should be considered where vehicular traffic volumes are high and signalization is not feasible. Improved at grade intersections should include signalized crossings, appropriate signage and pavement markings per Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) bikeway standards.

The second level of pedestrian corridor linkages is that internal to a land use development area with connections to the parkway connector pedestrian system. The City needs to encourage and provide incentive for good site design, which incorporates a pedestrian system (sidewalks and bike paths) into the overall land use development plan. This internal pedestrian corridor system also serves to provide safer access to new parks developed within the subdivision or neighborhood. Each proposed park development plan should integrate a pathway

which is more internal and accessible to the residential neighborhood. This in turn will lessen the vehicular access and parking demand on these park spaces. The third level of the pedestrian corridor system would be more of a natural trail development within a more passive, open green space environment. Greenway corridors are ideal for securing preservation/trail easements which interconnect parks and recreation areas as well as new residential development areas with the City and the Little Miami Scenic River Valley.

The design of the natural trail system is very specialized in terms of its location, sometimes difficult terrain and environmentally sensitive measures for constructing a trail that is going to have minimum impact to the area and require minimal maintenance. Switchbacks, stairs, wood deck overlooks and boardwalks or bridges will probably be incorporated in the trail construction. Access to the flood plain zone of the Little Miami Scenic River including the East Fork stream environment would be desirable from an interpretive educational perspective but will require extensive coordination with the Scenic Rivers Department of ODNR, as well as Little Miami Incorporated.

The final and very important linkage would be to address a better and safer connection between the Little Miami Scenic State Park multipurpose trail corridor and the historic downtown district. The intersection at U.S. 50 and S.R. 126 at the Main Street bridge will need to be studied and coordinated through a multi-governmental effort to make this connector a reality. This linkage and the previously discussed comprehensive pedestrian corridor system connection to the Milford Historic Downtown are extremely important. New bridge construction and pedestrian improvements now enable unrestricted circulation to the intersection, however, a missing link still exists between the intersection and the Scenic Trail.

4. Development of the Parks and Recreations System

-Greenspace and Community Transportation Opportunities

-Riverfront Greenspace
-Residential Greenspace

-Gateway Opportunities
-City Wide Directional Signage
-Overall Milford Opportunities



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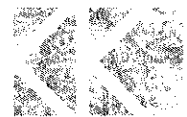
Riverfront Greenspace

The Milford Urban Renewal Plan targets specific areas of the riverfront for acquisition. The boundary of this area is indicated on the following page. While the acquisition of this entire area is not critical to fulfill the goals of this particular study, the preservation, or acquisition of adequate land adjacent to the river is. The following illustration shows a fifty foot corridor along the river. A combination greenspace and park space in this area will serve to the goal set forth in the Milford Comprehensive plan of the improvement or creation of access points to the River with this corridor secured. A trail system running parallel to the River could begin with Carriage Way, cross under utilized Water Treatment Plant land, skirt Riverside Park II, proceed through the American Legion Picnic Area, and delve within the new passive Riverside Park I. The trail would then exit to the south, along the river through newly acquired easements and proceed to the Main Street bridge. Access to the Little Miami Scenic River Bikeway should be facilitated at this point.

Also, an effort should be made to acquire easement lands south of the bridge to facilitate a trail system that serves to connect with Sem Villa Park. This connection alone is not critical, however, if residential development occurs to the southeast of the Sem Villa Park, this connection will then be a critical link with the entire south eastern portion of Milford. This potential residential development is discussed in the next section and serves to point out the importance of the Main Street/Sem Villa connection.

4. Development of the Parks and Recreations System

- Greenspace and Community Transportation Opportunities
 - Riverfront Greenspace
 - Residential Greenspace
- Gateway Opportunities
- City Wide Directional Signage
- Overall Milford Opportunities



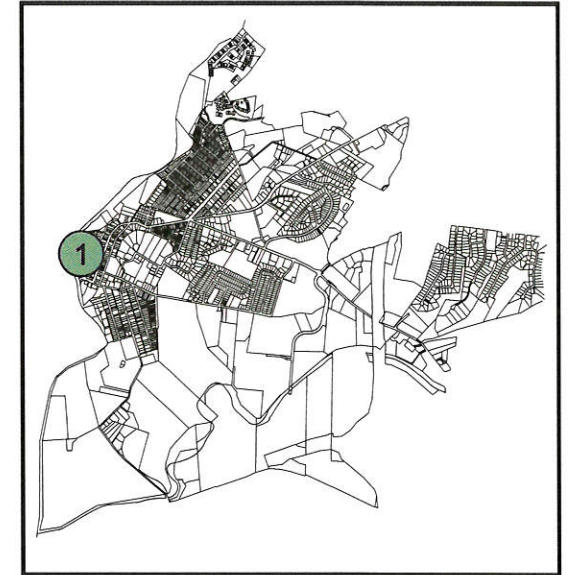
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Legend

- Greenspace/ Corridor Easements for the purpose of facilitating pedestrian corridors, and park space.
- City Service Facilities
- City Parks
- Parks owned or operated by others

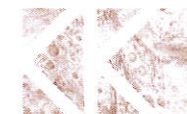
Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Location Map

Riverfront Greenway Corridors

Park and Greenspace Opportunities ①



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Residential Greenspace

The future potential development south of Garfield Avenue presents many opportunities for the City of Milford. Above and beyond gaining population and tax base growth, the development of this area could serve to facilitate the preservation of key corridor linkage and parkland in southern Milford. The following illustration shows a fifty foot corridor along the north side of the Little Miami East Fork River. This corridor could provide access along the length of the East Fork River, from the Terrace Park Country Club to the new Milford Parkway Park. Development is limited in this area as the entire corridor, as well as the proposed parks, lie within the floodway. This proposed park, labeled as East Fork Park, would facilitate recreation needs for the new residential development and would provide an excellent opportunity for wetland study and interpretation.

Staging and parking opportunities for the corridor and park exist off of South Milford Road adjacent to the river. This area is also an excellent location for a gateway feature for the City of Milford.

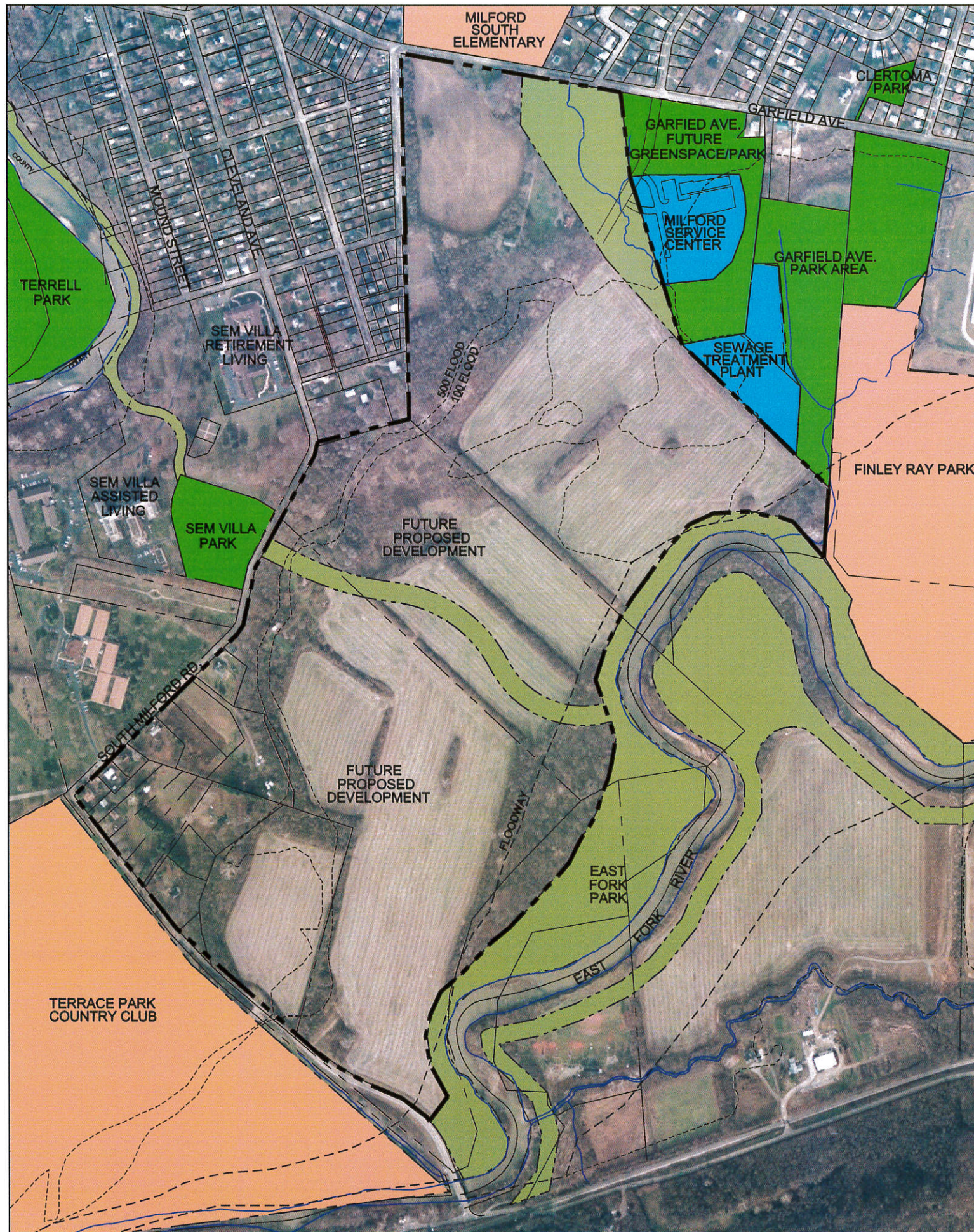
With development north of the East Fork River an imminent possibility, development south of the river is also a future possibility. It would be important at that time to preserve corridor and park space south of the river in preparation for this development, and as a continuation of the park and recreation system in south Milford.

The linkage corridor originating at Sem Villa Park is a critical piece of the southern corridor system. Sem Villa Park is the most logical and convenient point of access for the residential development, and offers the most potential for northern linkage to Historic Downtown Milford. As the corridor proceeds south its final route will be partially dependent upon the development that occurs there, but the origin of the trail should remain Sem Villa Park. The new park space on the East Fork River would make an excellent terminus and collector for users entering the East Fork Trail from the north.

The area located to the west of the future Milford service center presents an excellent opportunity to preserve the natural drainage corridor that exists there and to maintain a buffer between the proposed residential development and the future service center. This area also facilitates access to the greenspace located to the east.

4. Development of the Parks and Recreations System

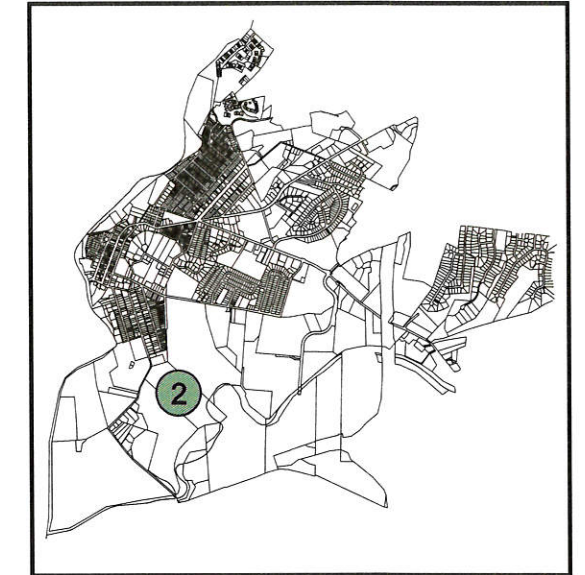
- Greenspace and Community Transportation Opportunities
 - Riverfront Greenspace
 - Residential Greenspace
- Gateway Opportunities
- City Wide Directional Signage
- Overall Milford Opportunities



Legend

- Greenspace/ Corridor Easements for the purpose of facilitating pedestrian corridors, and park space.
- City Service Facilities
- City Parks
- Parks owned or operated by others

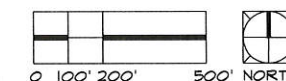
Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Location Map

Future Residential Development

Park and Greenspace Opportunities 2



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Gateway Opportunities

The following five gateway locations have been chosen based on their prominence within the City of Milford in exposure to motorist traffic, and their locations can be seen on the Overall Master Plan and Summary. These areas are the primary city entrances and yet they lack differentiation from all other roads in the community. This first impression of Milford is a crucial one: it introduces the rest of the street corridor and sets the expectations of the user as they explore the City.

Signage, plant material, topography, and all available area should be utilized to accent these gateway areas. These elements must be cohesive with their district in order to unify the two in a manner that allows the interchange to be a part of the whole corridor rather than a solitary focal point. It must express; "It all starts here."

Gateway 1: U.S. 50 and S.R.126 (Main Street Bridge)

The entrance to Milford from U.S. 50 over the Main Street bridge is a primary entrance to Milford historic downtown. This gateway is an important introduction to the downtown and should include elements such as signage, vegetation, and lighting. (Gateway 1 is a Phase One project and is illustrated in detail in this section) In addition to the gateway feature located at US 50 and SR 126, an effort should be made to continue the Main Street streetscape improvements to the bridge and Water Street. These improvements will unify the corridor from the bridge through the historic downtown district, and introduce future potential improvements on Water Street. With these improvements in place, Water Street and Main Street will play an integral role in the success of the Riverfront District, as they will attract and guide visitors into the entire area.

Gateway 2: I-275 and S.R.28

This entrance is the primary gateway from I-275 outerbelt. This area gets more traffic than the rest of the proposed gateways and yet it lacks differentiation from the other exits off of I-275. Highway commercial clutter that is commonly associated with these areas is present here and exhibits the "anytown U.S.A." image. While some gateways utilize an extremely focused technique of a single sign flanked with vegetation, this gateway requires more of an encompassing design solution.

A single sign reflecting the City of Milford would be lost in a sea of commercial signage vying for attention. What is required here is closer to corridor enhancement rather than a gateway feature. The enhancement would begin immediately at the highway exit, and would include but not limited to: signage, reorganization of signage, curbs and curb cuts, establishing street trees, parking lot screening, sidewalks, et cetera. These elements would serve to notify the motorist that they are entering a community that possesses its own identity, and this treatment will encourage further exploration of the City. As finances allow, these enhancements should be continued along S.R. 28 and lead the motorist through the commercial district to the Five Points intersection.

Gateway 3: Five Points Intersection

The Five Points intersection offers a unique opportunity to capture the attention of motorists from a multitude of angles. Establishing unity among the six corners is critical in facilitating a successful gateway design in this location. All corners should possess the coordinating vegetation, including texture, colors, and seasonal variation. Capital improvements such as mast arms, crosswalk signals, and paver treatments should also directly relate to each other.

An excellent focal point from Main Street and U.S. 50 exists on the Middle School property. This focal point on the corner could be expanded to include not only signage and vegetation, but also elements such as benches, trash receptacles and a focal point such as a fountain or a town clock.

Gateway 4: U.S. 50 and S.R.131

This gateway is a classic intersection situation involving two multilane high-speed roads. Gateway features here must be large scale due to the size of this intersection and focus not only on the strategic location of signage, but also on plant material that will make a strong impression to motorists stopping and passing through the light. Cooperation should be sought from corner land owners in the implementation of gateway features, and, although issues of commercial visibility will certainly be raised, proper use of vegetation and sensible land acquisition can promote a gateway that will be acceptable and mutually beneficial to all parties. This intersection is also a prime opportunity to start a corridor enhancement project that leads through the mall area and terminates at Five Points intersection. This corridor will parallel the corridor proposed for S.R. 28 and upon its completion will serve to help define, soften and enhance the strip commercial centers located in Milford.

Gateway 5: Roundbottom and South Milford Road

Although this intersection receives the least amount of traffic of all of gateways, future development could render this a major intersection. Opportunities for vegetation and signage exist on the north west corner of the intersection as the northeastern portion is depressed and would require fill in order to bring it to grade. Opportunity also exists on the opposite side of the bridge where the proposed greenspace corridor would begin. This intersection could serve as a pleasant transition from rural driving to the suburban Milford areas to the north.

4. Development of the Parks and Recreations System

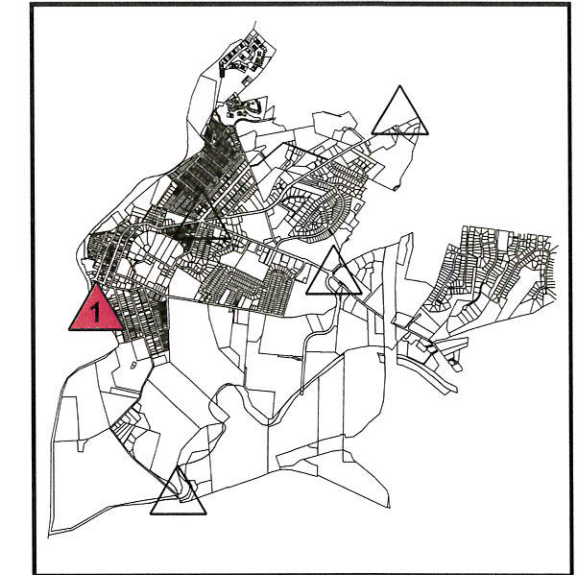
- Greenspace and Community Transportation Opportunities
 - Riverfront Greenspace
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- Gateway Opportunities
- City Wide Directional Signage
- Overall Milford Opportunities



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

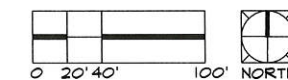
Recommendations

- Acquire necessary real estate to facilitate corner treatments, and gateway features.
- Introduce signage and vegetation at the intersection in order to inform motorists of its significance as a city gateway.
- Make streetscape improvements in indicated areas.
- See pg #50 for more specific information on the treatment of this gateway.



Inventory/Analysis

- New bridge construction has improved the aesthetic image at this intersection.
- There is currently no way finding or directional signage that indicates motorist location.
- There is currently no gateway feature here.



View of west side, facing away from downtown Milford



View of bridge treatments



View of proposed gateway area

U.S. 50 & S.R. 126

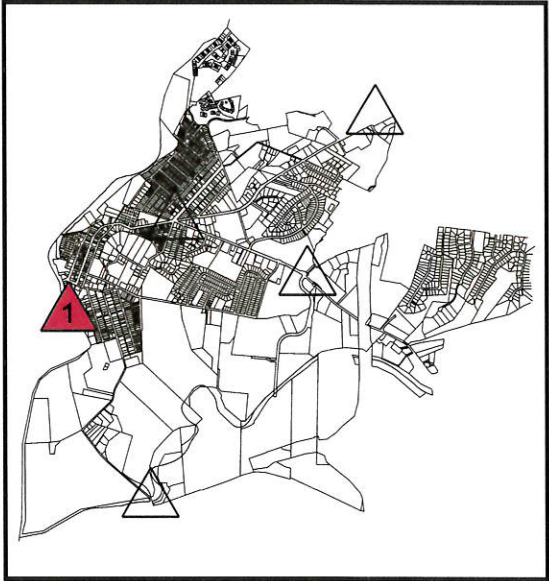
Gateway



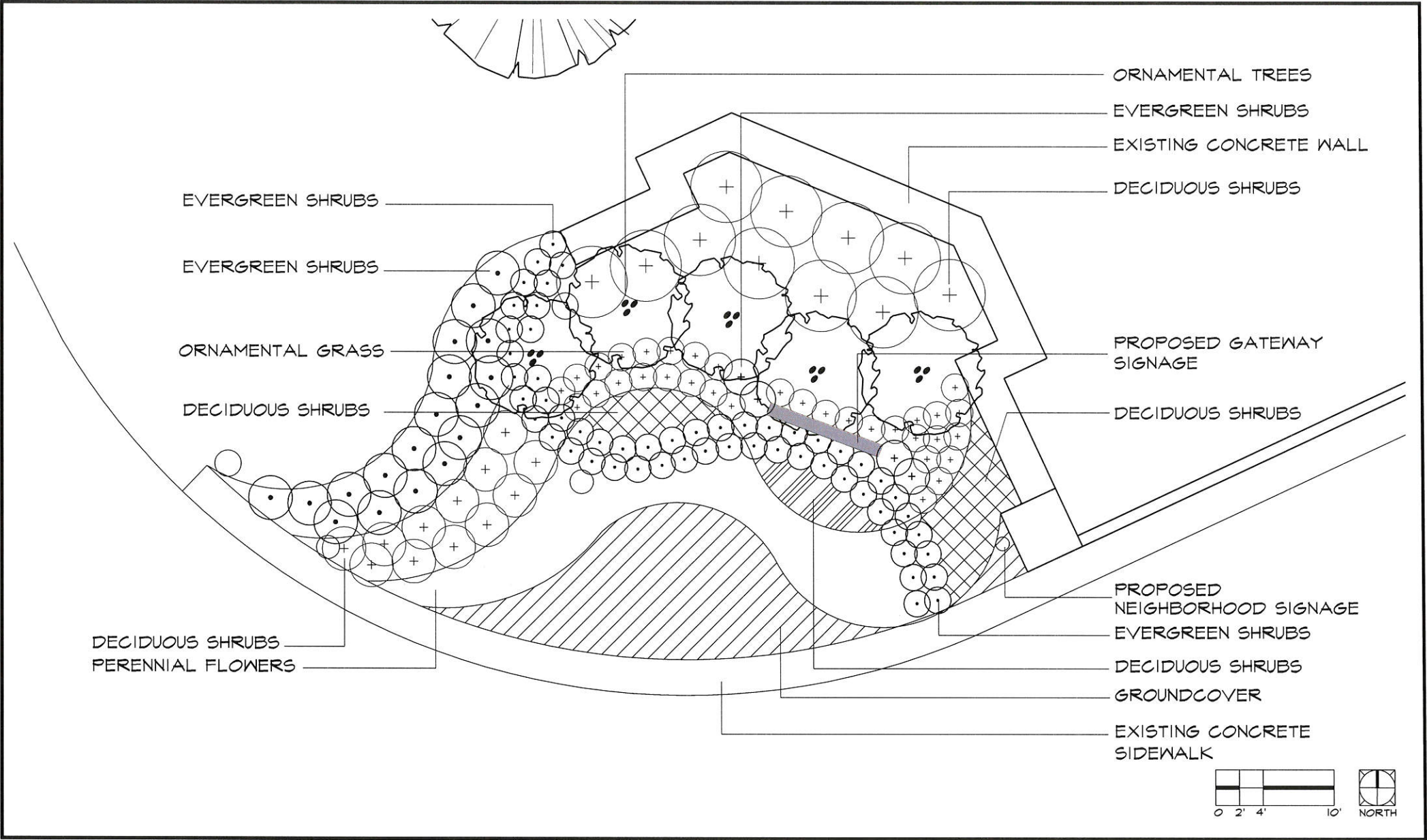
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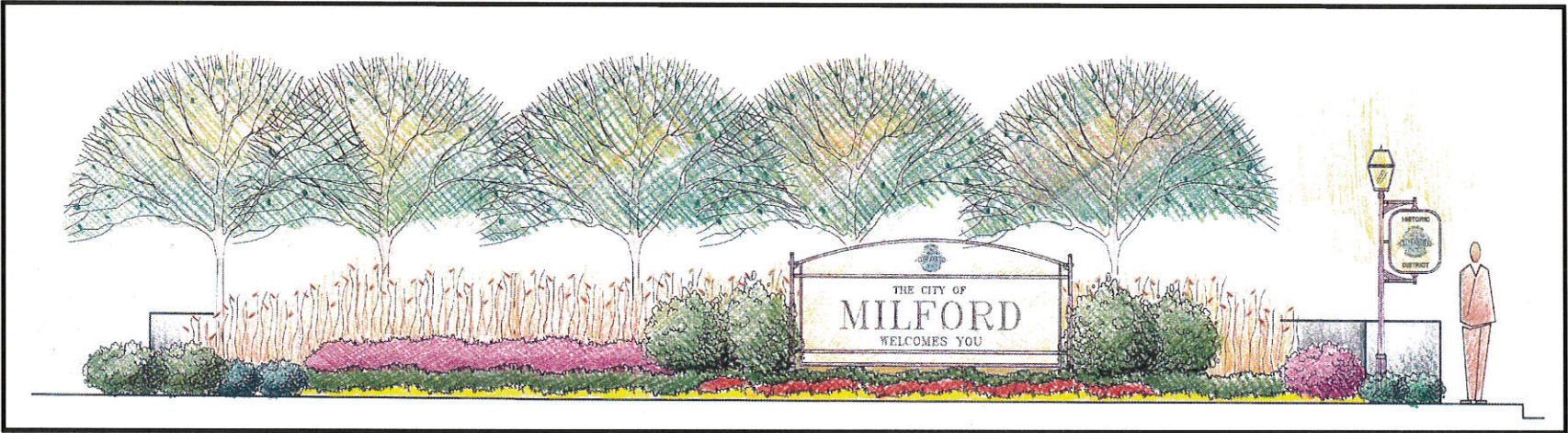
Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map



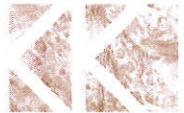
1 PLAN VIEW
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



2 SECTION VIEW
SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"

U.S. 50 & S.R. 126

Gateway 1



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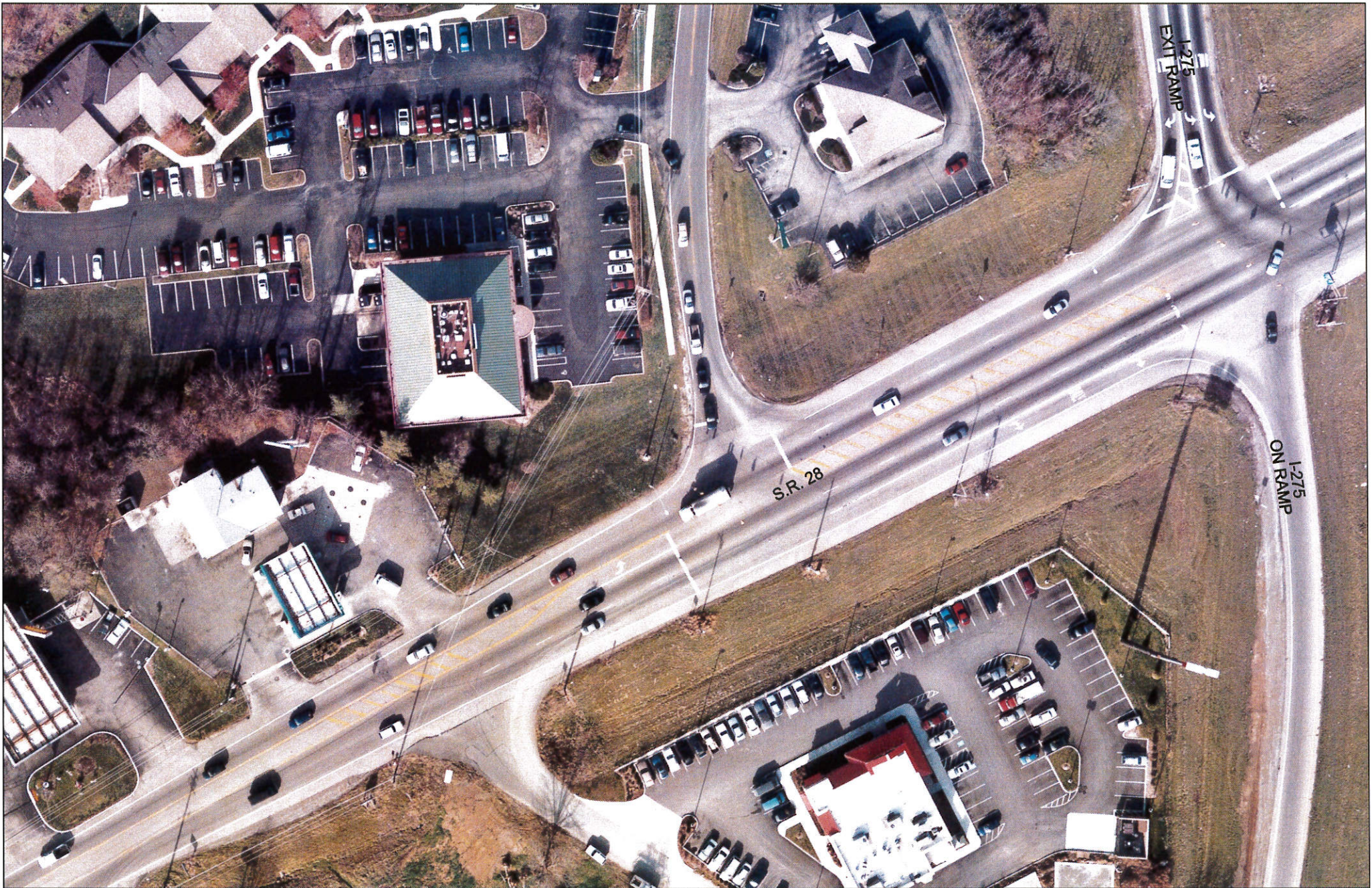
Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

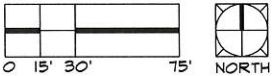
Recommendations

- The primary entrance to Milford should be utilized to inform motorists that there is something special about this intersection. The first impression of Milford is a crucial one and it sets the expectations of the user as they explore the rest of the city.
- Signage, plant material, and all available area should be utilized to accent the exit ramp areas.
- Proposed improvements must maintain commercial scale and vehicular circulation while addressing pedestrian circulation and experience.
- See pg #50 for more specific information on the treatment of this gateway.



Inventory/Analysis

- Primary gateway entrance from I-275.
- Lacks differentiation from all other I-275 interchanges.
- Existing signage does not express a deliberate and cohesive commercial area nor does it relate to the rest of City of Milford.
- This area lacks visual cues and clear circulation routes necessary for convenient pedestrian circulation.



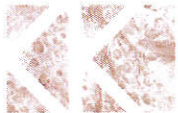
Looking toward commercial buildings on State Route 28



Looking west on State Route 28

I-275 and S.R. 28

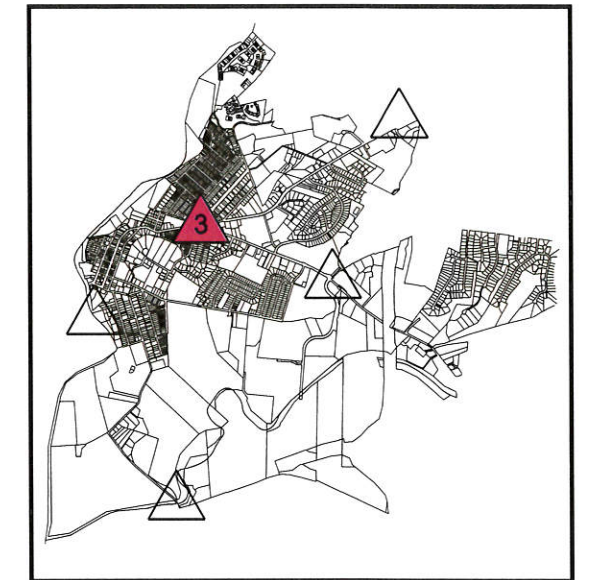
Gateway



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

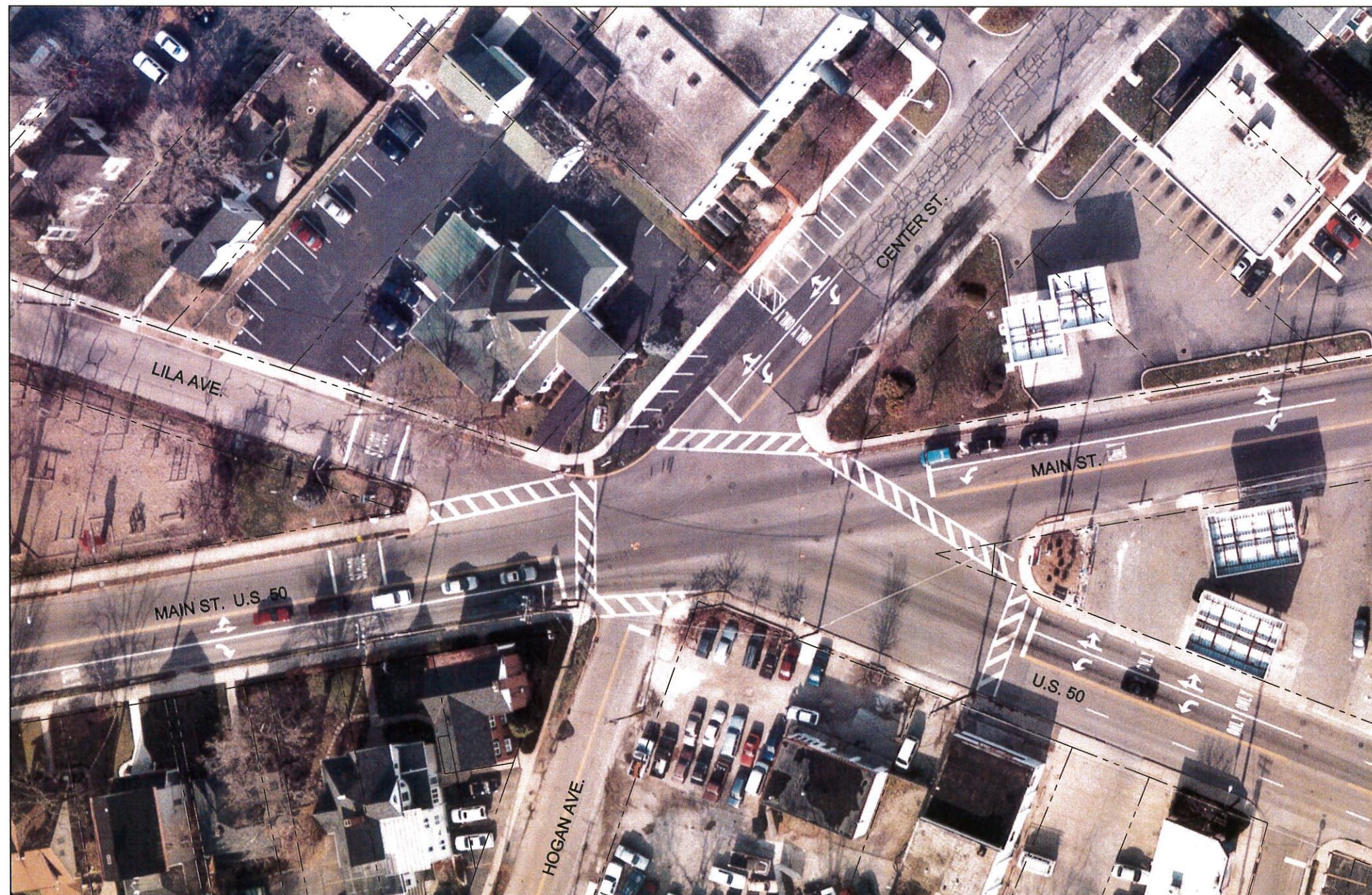
Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

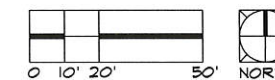
Recommendations

- Coordinate with corner land owners for implementation of gateway features.
- Introduce an organized system of way finding signage to assist motorists and pedestrians.
- Introduce signage and vegetation at the intersection in order to inform motorists of its significance as a city gateway.
- Add a focal feature on the corner of Lila Ave. and Main St. such as a decorative fountain or town clock.



Inventory/Analysis

- Intersection treatments lack unity and organization and need to reflect a cohesive introductory theme.
- There is currently no way finding or directional signage that indicates motorist location.



Looking towards Main Street State Route 50



Five Points Intersection from the middle school playground

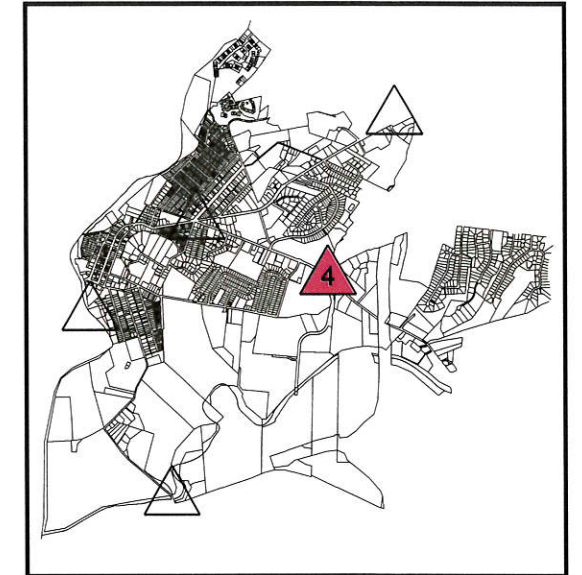
Five Points Intersection Gateway 3



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

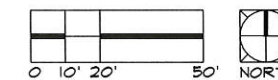
Recommendations

- Remove the now abandoned asphalt located in the north-western portion of the intersection.
- Acquire necessary real estate to facilitate corner treatments, and gateway features.
- Introduce signage and vegetation at the intersection in order to inform motorists of its significance as a city gateway.
- See pg #50 for more specific information on the treatment of this gateway.



Inventory/Analysis

- New construction has improved the aesthetic image at this intersection.
- There is currently no way finding or directional signage that indicates motorist location.
- Access in the north-western portion of intersection has been limited, (see illustration) but existing asphalt still remains.



Looking north-west on State Route 50



Looking south on State Route 131

U.S. 50 and S.R. 131

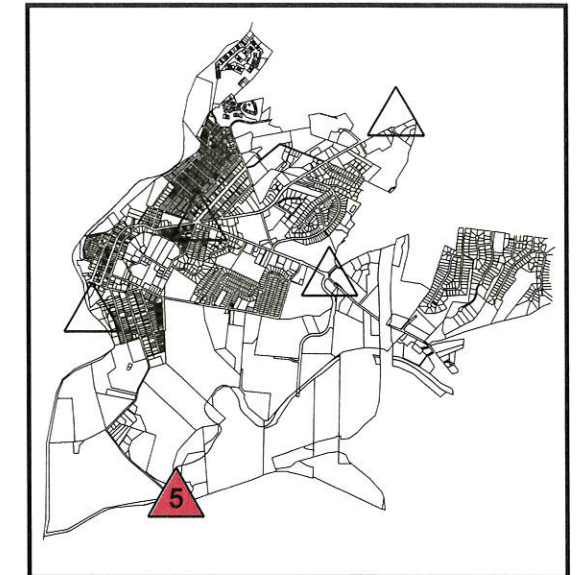
Gateway



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Existing Conditions and Analysis



Location Map

Recommendations

- Acquire necessary real estate to facilitate corner treatments, and gateway features.
- Introduce signage and vegetation at the intersection in order to inform motorists of its significance as a city gateway.
- See pg #50 for more specific information on the treatment of this gateway.



Inventory/Analysis

- New bridge construction has improved the aesthetic image at this intersection.
- There is currently no way finding or directional signage that indicates motorist location.
- There is currently no gateway feature here.



Looking north at South Milford Road from Roundbottom Road

Roundbottom and South Milford Road Gateway



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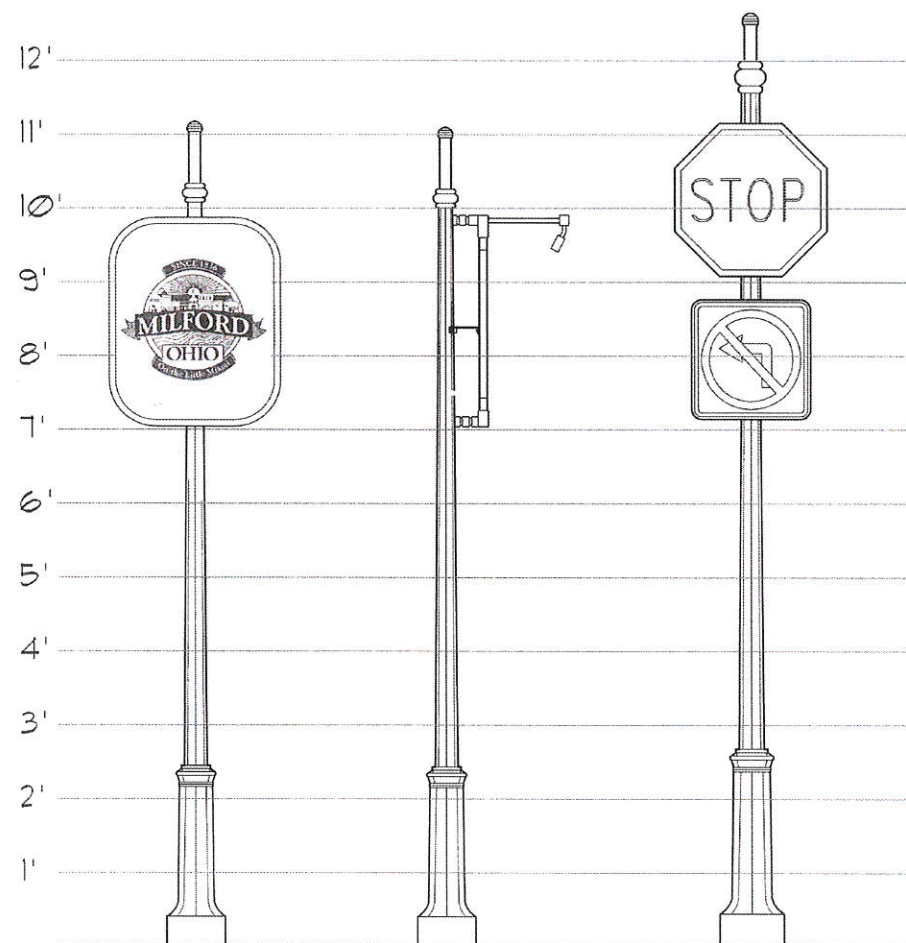
Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

4. Development of the Parks and Recreations System

- Greenspace and Community Transportation Opportunities
- Riverfront Greenspace
- Residential Greenspace
- Gateway Opportunities
- City Wide Directional Signage
- Overall Milford Opportunities

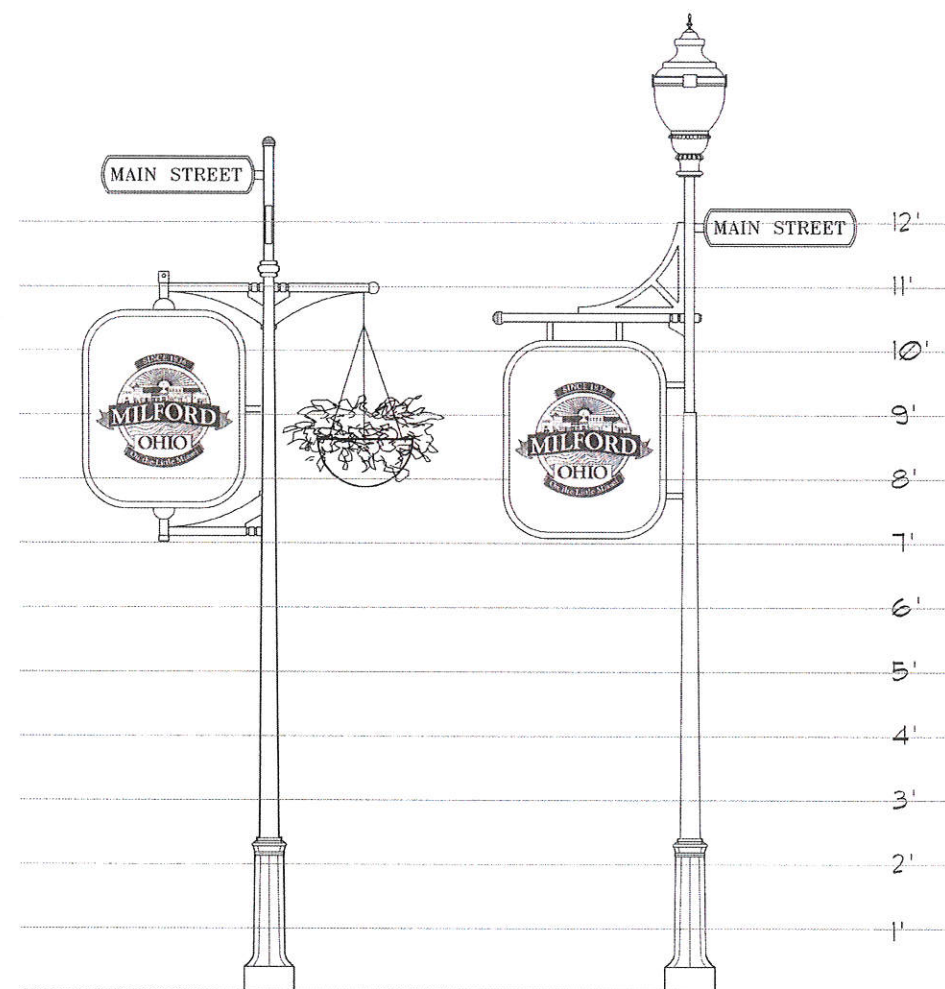
City Wide Directional Signage

One of the most effective methods of bringing forth a community identity and awareness is the incorporation of standardized street signage. Each sign at every street intersection has the benefit of a captured audience. Utilizing the similar design methods, and colors will serve to passively remind motorists and pedestrians that they are within city limits of Milford.



Street Signage

Commonality among posts, lights, street signage, community signage, and gateway signage will, at every turn, remind motorists that they are within the city limits.



Community Signage

Street signage and light poles coupled with community banners strategically located along main corridors can serve to encourage community participation and awareness.

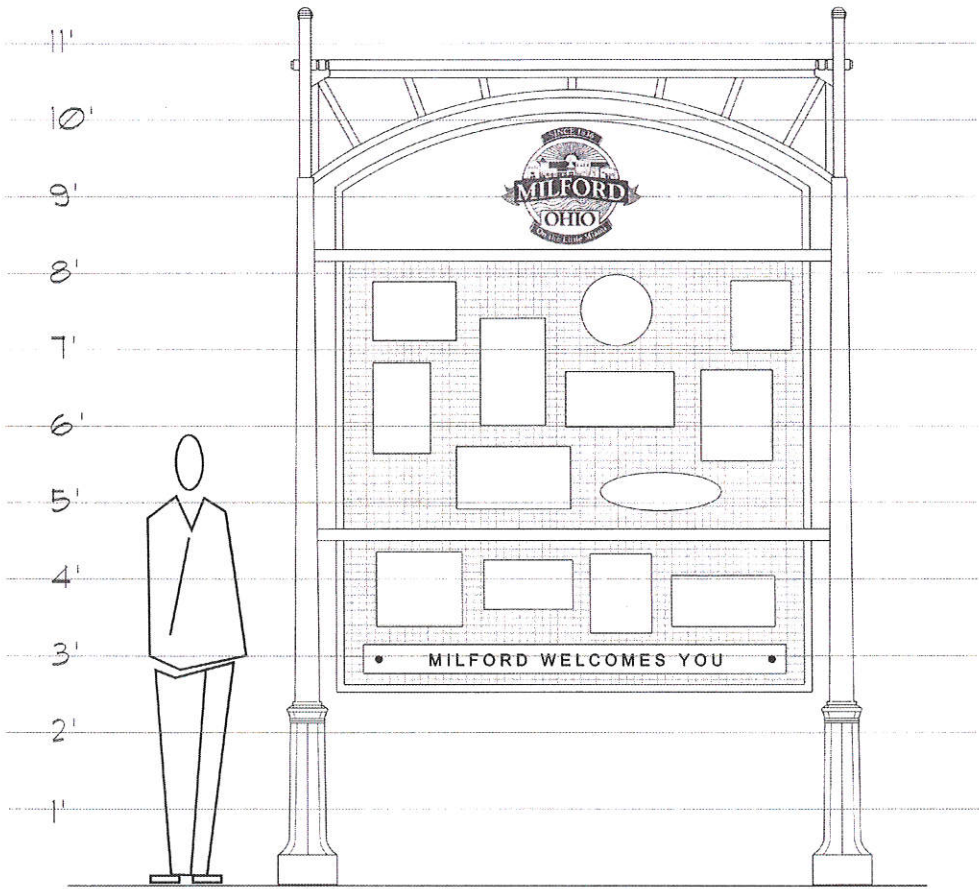


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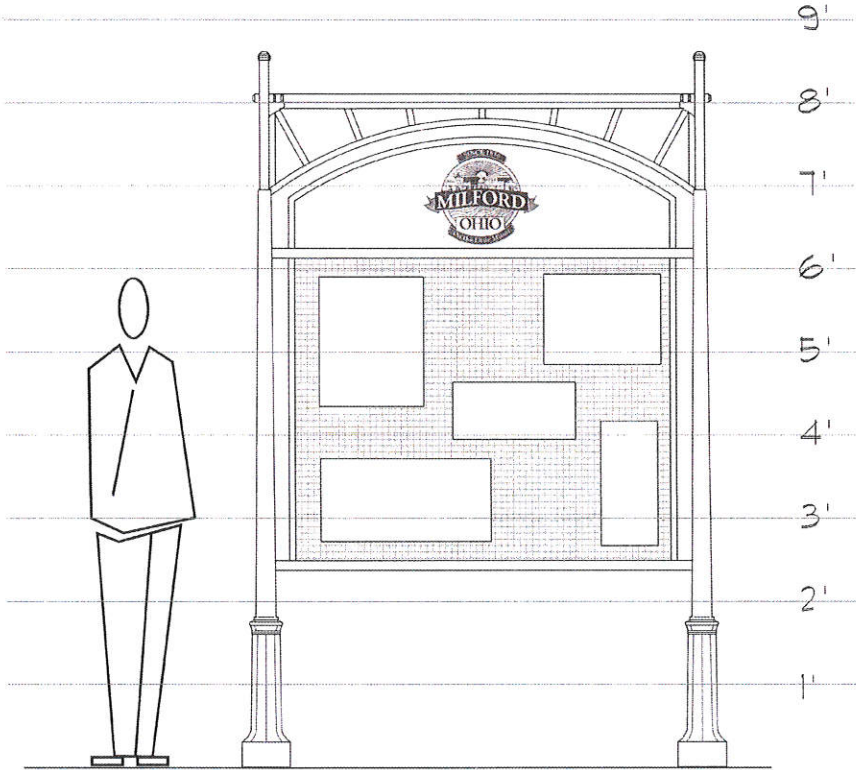
Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

4. Development of the Parks and Receptions System

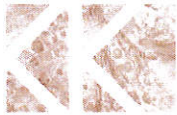
- Greenspace and Community Transportation Opportunities
 - Riverfront Greenspace
 - Residential Greenspace
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- City Wide Directional Signage
- Overall Milford Opportunities



Community Identifiers
Community identifiers will lend recognition to organizations that are active within the community and thereby increase exposure and encourage citizen participation.



Community Information
Information pertaining to specific organized events will encourage citizen awareness, participation and unity within the community.

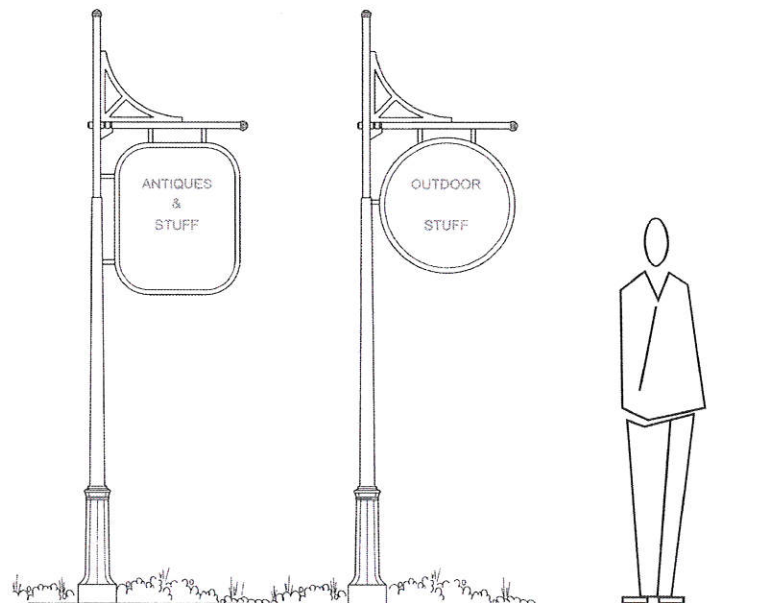
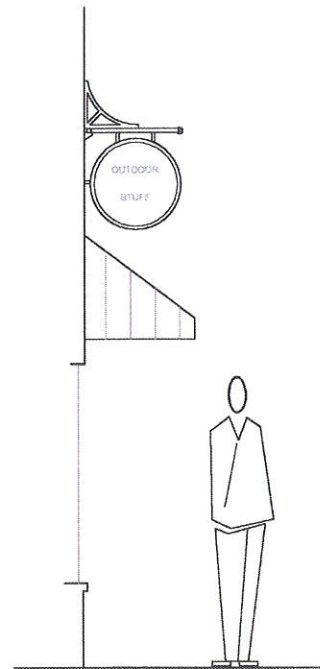


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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

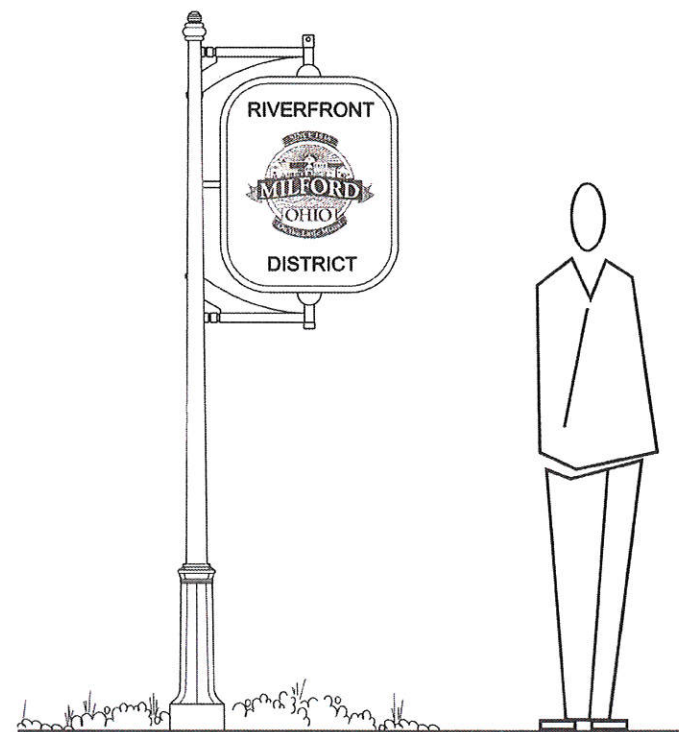
4. Development of the Parks and Recreations System

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Commercial Signage

Commercial signage, both large scale and small scale, should maintain a basic consistency while encouraging a variety of locations and graphics. This will reinforce the image of these areas as the financial, social and cultural core of the city.



Neighborhood Signage

Neighborhood and community identifiers serve to draw attention to the sub-communities within the city and promote a sense of ownership and pride within each area.

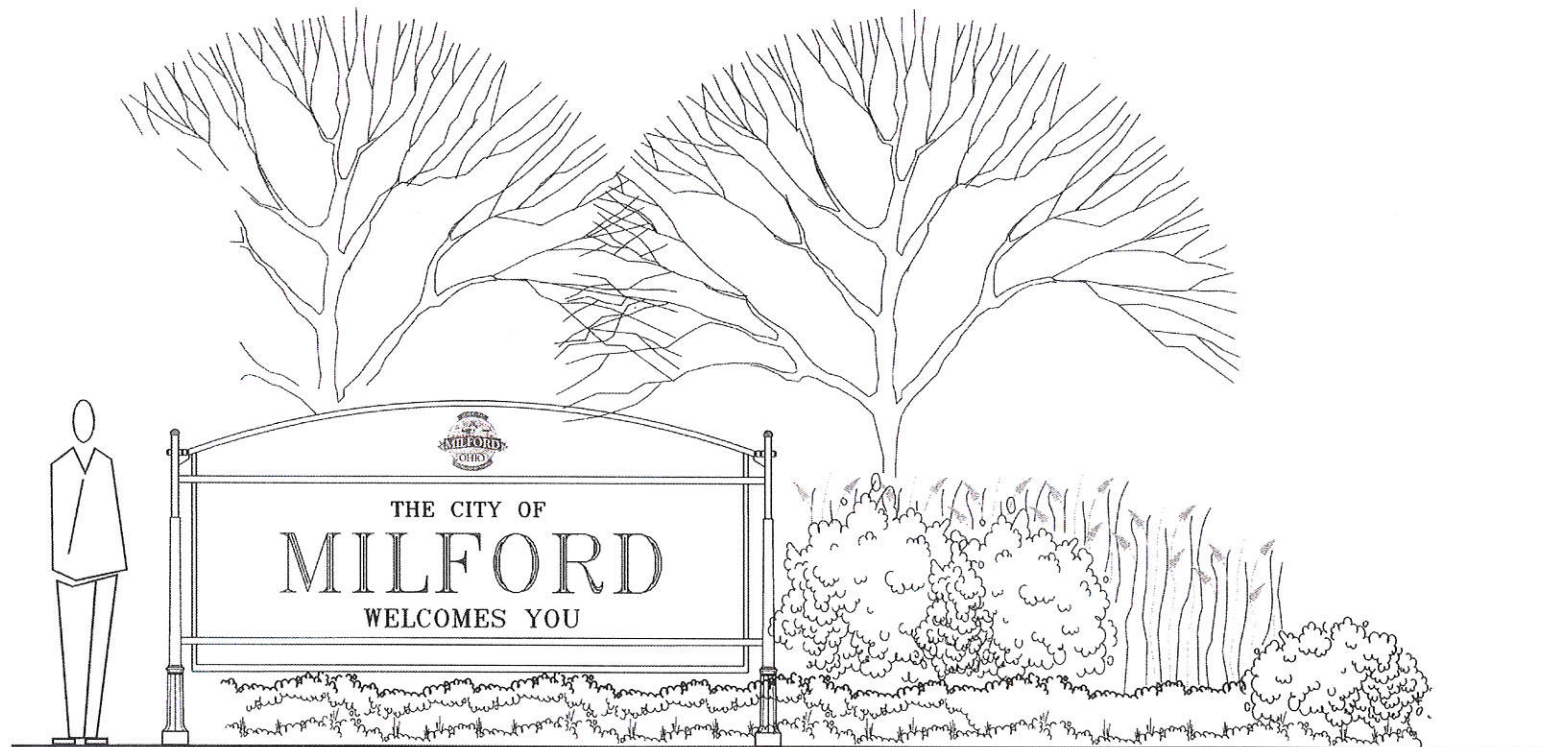


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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

4. Development of the Parks and Receptions System

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Gateway Features

Gateway features should be of appropriate scale in comparison to location and environment. The basic size of signage and text should be dependant upon the proximity of motorists and design speed of the road.



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Overall Milford Opportunities

The following chart illustrates data that was presented in Chapter Three regarding park and recreation status relative to national guidelines set forth by NRPA. This chart also shows data reflecting the proposed elements and full implementation of this Parks and Recreations Master Plan.

Future Parks and Recreations Needs:

Park Type	Existing Developed Acres****	Recommended Acres/1000 Population*	1999 Recommended Acres**	1999 Surplus(+) Deficit(-)	2020 Recommended Acres***	Proposed Acres Through 2020	2020 Surplus (+) Deficit(-)
Mini-Park	1.3 (Memorial Park) (Clertoma Park)	.5	3.5	-2.2	4.25	0	-6.4
Neighborhood	14.2 (Carriage Way) (Riverside I & II) (SemVilla Park)	2	14	+2	17.0	19.2 (Garfield Green) ("Drainage Park")	+2.4
Community	27.3 (Terrell Park)	8	56	-28.7	67.75	101.3 (Riverfront Park) (East Fork Park)	+4.8
Total	42.8	10.5	73.5	-30.7	89.0	120.5	+.8

The "Proposed Acres Through 2020" reflect the acreages that have been proposed as new park space, or converting greenspace to passive or active park space. There has been no proposals for new Mini-Parks within this Master Plan, and it is felt that this should be a community effort to identify suitable locations for these Mini-Parks. Garfield Green and "Drainage Park" adds 5.0 acres to the existing Neighborhood Parks making the total 19.2 acres. These parks will serve a much needed role as passive recreation and corridor trail connectors. With the creation and development of the Riverfront Park concept, and the development of the East Fork Park greenway and park system, the total acres of community parks rise to 101.3, these parks will also serve a much needed passive recreation role.

The implementation of this Master Plan will yield a surplus of +.8 acres by the year 2020 and with the implentation of the corridor trail system will give the people of the City of Milford a parks and recreation system that all can enjoy.

The following Overall Master Plan and Summary illustrates the goals of the City and the citizens of Milford: a self-sufficient, interconnected parks and recreation system that meets the needs of its users all located within city limits.

The Milford Comprehensive plan sets forth goals associated with the improvement or establishment of uninhibited access to the Little Miami River. In addition to the Comprehensive Plan, the Milford Urban Renewal Plan began to provide a strategy for accomplishing this by targeting specific areas of the riverfront for acquisition. The boundary of this area is indicated on the following page, and although the

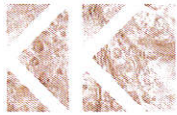
acquisition of this entire area is not critical to fulfill the goals of this particular study, the preservation, or acquisition of adequate land adjacent to the river is. With the proposed 50' corridor secured, a combination green space and park space will serve to achieve the goals set forth in the Milford Comprehensive Plan. However, other key linkages need to be procured in order to establish a riverfront trail system that has access to the entire length of this area. Beginning in Carriage Way Park the trail will move south along the river, through the Water Treatment property, and Riverside Park II. The easement will allow access across the American Legion Picnic Area, and into Riverside Park I. Acquisition of riverfront property or easements will allow the trail to continue to the Main Street bridge. Linkage to the Little Miami Scenic Bikeway needs to occur at this point.

An effort should also be made to acquire easement lands south of the bridge to facilitate a trail system that serves to connect with Sem Villa Park. Along this piece of trail a connection to Terrell Park via a pedestrian bridge will promote the integration and use of this park as a land laboratory study area. The link through the SemVilla parcel is a critical one in the effort to promote a City wide pedestrian/bike corridor. This connection will allow access to the future residential development occurring south east of SemVilla Park. This location is the most logical and convenient point of access for the residential development, and offers the most potential for northern linkage to Historic Downtown Milford.

The potential development south of Garfield Avenue presents many opportunities for the City of Milford. Above and beyond gaining population and tax base growth,

4. Development of the Parks and Recreations System

- Greenspace and Community Transportation Opportunities
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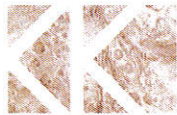
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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

the development of this area could serve to facilitate the preservation of key corridor linkage and parkland in southern Milford. As the corridor proceeds south its final route will be partially dependent upon the development that occurs there, but the origin of the trail should remain Sem Villa Park. This corridor will provide access along the length of the East Fork River, from the Terrace Park Country Club to the new Milford Parkway Park. Development is limited in the areas adjacent to the River, as the entire corridor, as well as the proposed parks, lie within the floodway. This proposed park, labeled as East Fork Park, would facilitate recreation needs for the new residential development and would provide an excellent opportunity for wetland study and interpretation. Acquisition of floodway land located adjacent to the East Fork River will allow a controlled expansion of parkland in south Milford and can be dependent upon the degree of development in this area. The new park space on the East Fork River would make an excellent terminus and collector for users entering the East Fork Trail from the north. Staging and parking opportunities for the corridor and park exist off of South Milford Road adjacent to the river. This area is also an excellent location for a gateway feature for the City of Milford, and will also allow pathway access to the adjacent existing parks such as Finley Ray, and Garfield Park. Taking advantage of the close proximity of these parks, the trail will proceed north, around the sewage treatment plant, and through the future Garfield Avenue Park. The area located to the west of the future Milford service center, "Drainage Park", presents an excellent opportunity to preserve the natural drainage corridor that exists there and to maintain a buffer between the proposed residential development and the future service center. Acquisition of this existing drainage area will allow linkage to the edge of the Milford South Elementary School property where the trail will continue through the neighborhood to the north. Regardless of the long term use of the existing Milford South Elementary School, a library or community recreation center would make an excellent staging point for the trail. From this point the trail would proceed to the Milford Middle School, follow Lila Avenue and the loop would complete itself at Carriage Way Park.

4. Development of the Parks and Recreations System

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Parkland/Open Space Acquisition Strategies

- **Pro-Active Acquisitions**
 - City should initiate land acquisitions which coincide with the Park and Recreation Master Plan.
 - Emphasis should be placed on high growth residential development areas.
 - Park Land acquisition opportunities in slow/low growth areas should be considered a high priority based upon natural resource quality (preservation), recreational development capacity and location.
- **Open Space/Scenic Easements**
 - Wooded Ravines/Drainage Corridors
 - Wetlands/Significant Floodplains
 - Historic/Cultural Sites
 - Parkways/Transportation Corridors
 - An Open Space/Scenic Easements Program can be utilized to provide more immediate action in preserving/protecting the natural resource and rural character of the community.
 - Reduced tax base benefits to the Landowner as a result of development overlay restrictions.
 - May lead to future fee simple acquisition as funding sources become available.
- **School and Park Partnership**
 - Continue the successful and mutually beneficial relationship between the School District recreational facilities and future park facilities.
 - Cooperative land acquisition, recreational facility development and pedestrian access corridors/linkages within the City development, growth areas should be encouraged.

Parkland/Recreational Facilities Development Funding Strategies

- **Nature's Works Programs** - ODNR distribution of state funds on a county by county basis.
- **Joint Venture Funding with Local Governments** - Miami Township and Clermont County.
- **Private Organizations or Corporations** - Private/Public partnership in implementing park and recreation facility improvements.
- **Local Funding-**
 - General obligation bonds
 - Revenue bonds
 - Developer based parks and recreation fee assessment for land acquisition and park facility development.
- **Private Donations** - Charitable Trust by private estates or entities. Life Estates can be set up to facilitate future land donations or acquisitions.
- **School and Park Partnership** - Maintain and encourage the current cooperative relationship of developing and programming park facilities to meet the needs of both recreation and education within the Community.

Note: Refer to the Community and Economic Development Grant Programs and Tax Incentive Programs Exhibit on the following pages. The chart identifies potential development funding sources, participation levels, contacts, and application deadlines.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

- Parkland/Open Space Acquisition Strategies
- Parkland/Open Space Development Funding Strategies
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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

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Community and Economic Development Grant Programs and Tax Incentive Programs
June 2000

Program	Terms / Incentives / Funds Available	Contact	Application Deadline	Potential Projects
INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING PROGRAMS				
Warren County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Provides grants to develop and revitalize infrastructure and other community facilities in commercial, industrial, and residential areas. Grant amount varies and project must mee one of three national objectives.	Dean E. Niemeyer Department of Comm. Planning and Development 513-732-7230	May of each year	
Ohio Public Works Commission Grant	Funds all types of capital improvement and infrastructure projects, including roadways & bridges (Grant amount varies).	Dean E. Niemeyer Department of Comm. Planning and Development 513-732-7230	June 30th of each year	
PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS				
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LCWF)	Up to 50% reimbursement program for the acquisition, rehabilitation or development of park and recreation facilities. (Amount varies).	Steve Kloss, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (614) 265-6408	July 1st of each year	
NatureWorks	Up to 75% reimbursement program for the acquisition, rehabilitation or development of park and recreation facilities. (Amount varies).	Steve Kloss, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (614) 265-6408	July 1st of each year	
BICYCLE AND WALKING TRAIL PROGRAMS				
National Recreational Trails Fund	Provides up to 80% federal reimbursement for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of recreational trails and related facilities.	William Daehler Jr., Ohio Department of Natural Resources (614) 265-6395	February 1st of each year	
ODOT Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Program	Up to 80% of the cost of construction or implementation of pedestrian or bicycle-related projects. To be most competitive, engineering, environmental studies and remediation should be completed prior to applying.	Jans Jindal, Ohio Department of Transportation, District 8 (513) 932-3030	Mid June 2002	Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, safety and education activities for pedestrians and bicycles, and preservation of abandoned railway corridors including conversion and use for pedestrian and bicycles trails.
OKI Urban Area Transportation Program (Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities)	Up to 80% of the cost of construction or implementation of pedestrian or bicycle-related projects. To be most competitive, engineering, environmental studies and remediation should be completed prior to applying.	John Heilman, OKI (513) 621-6300	February 2002 (Tentative)	Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, safety and education activities for pedestrians and bicycles, and preservation of abandoned railway corridors including conversion and use for pedestrian and bicycles trails.



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Program	Terms / Incentives / Funds Available	Contact	Application Deadline	Potential Projects
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS				
Certified Local Government (CLG) Grants	Grants up to 60% for local historic preservation projects, including planning, survey of historic buildings, national registration, acquisition, development, pre development projects, and public education.	Franco Ruffini, Ohio Historic Preservation Office (614) 297-2470	October of each year	
OKI Urban Area Transportation Program (Historic and Archaeological)	Up to 80% of the cost of construction or implementation of historic and archaeological related projects. To be most competitive; engineering, environmental studies and remediation should be completed prior to applying.	John Heilman, OKI (513) 621-6300	February 2002 (tentative)	Acquisition of historic sites, historic highway programs including tourist and welcome center facilities, historic preservation, rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, archaeological planning and research, and establishment of transportation museums.
BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMS				
OKI Urban Area Transportation Program (Scenic and Environmental)	Up to 80% of the cost of construction or implementation of scenic and environmental transportation enhancement projects. To be most competitive; engineering, environmental studies and remediation should be completed prior to applying.	John Heilman, OKI (513) 621-6300	February 2002 (tentative)	Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic sites, scenic highway programs including tourist and welcome center facilities, landscaping and other scenic beautification, control and removal of outdoor advertising, and mitigation of water pollution.
Ohio Bicentennial Legacy Tree Planting Initiative	Up to 50% of reimbursable costs including, purchase and installation of trees on public owned or controlled land. Minimum grant \$2,000, maximum \$20,000.	Drew Todd, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (614) 265-6707	June of each year	
TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAMS				
Community Reinvestment Area (CRA)	Up to 100% exemption of the value of real property improvements for up to 15 years.	Robert Stempfer, Ohio Department of Development (614) 466-1714	As needed, project specific	Tax incentives to property owners for development or redevelopment of commercial properties
Tax Increment Financing (TIF)	Taxes on new development are redirected to pay for public improvements in the TIF district.		As needed, project specific	Financing for public improvements associated with new commercial projects.



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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Update Comprehensive Plan to Reflect Parks and Facilities Needs

In 1994 the City of Milford commissioned its Comprehensive Plan in which many growth and development issues were addressed in the planning process. Open space, parks, natural resource preservation and recreation facilities were discussed in general terms and incorporated into the overall comprehensive plan document. Furthermore, in 1999 an Urban Renewal Plan was prepared with the intention of identifying portions of Milford that was in need of renovation and established Urban Renewal Areas. These areas targeted certain blighted portions of Milford adjacent to the historic downtown district for potential acquisition by the City. These documents served as a foundation for this park and recreations master plan.

Public attitudes concerning various open space, park and recreation issues have been documented in greater detail as part of this more focused land use specific planning study. We found that as a Community, public sentiment and support of the broader open space, park and recreation facility goals such as river front access, identified in the 1994 plan have not diminished. In fact, there was a consistent and overwhelming feeling or tone to our meetings and interviews that immediate action or implementation of the park and facilities master plan recommendations is critical to meeting the needs of the community. A desire for a city wide pedestrian corridor was mentioned many times, and it seems that the citizens are very interested in the implementation of such a corridor system.

Therefore, this planning study is a separate yet supplemental document to the 1994 Comprehensive Plan. Its graphically formatted land use plans coincide with the previous study and the analysis and recommendations for future open space and recreation facility development are in concert with these proposed land use areas. Likewise, accessibility through planned pedestrian corridors with improved linkages provide greater planning and development detail for future implementation.

Once this Parks and Recreations Master Plan has been adopted by the Milford City Council, we recommend that an insert into the existing Comprehensive Plan be made referencing this master plan study.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Establishing, Operating and Managing a Parks and Recreation Department

Purpose for Parks and Recreation Services

- Recognize the value of Parks and Recreation services as an integral component of government function orientated toward objectives that address social issues with positive outcomes that benefit individuals, community, the environment, and promote economic development
 - Enhance Quality of Life for all residents of Milford
 - Enhance Economic Development opportunities for the Milford area

Organizational Choices

- Document Mission, Goals, & Objectives that reflect the *Values & History of Milford*
 - Start-up Milford Parks & Recreation program
 - Create a Park/ Recreation District (ORC Sec. 755)
 - Develop Joint Operating Agreement (legally binding)
- Enact Legislation
- Select Citizens Advisory Board- very important regardless of organizational choice

Administrative Structure

- Determine relationship within City of Milford
- Independent office or within existing department-Office of City Manager, Service or Public Works
- Determine relationship within City of Milford-Defined service area, shared resources
- Determine relationship with schools-Community School model; use of publicly funded facilities for recreation activities after school hours
- Determine relationship with community organizations
 - Help facilitate existing programs & services rather than providing direct service

Staffing Start-up

- Recruitment & selection of professional leadership (Certified Leisure Professional designation preferred)
- Develop Staff training program for safety/liability knowledge and professional growth
- Delineation of responsibility
 - Authority to exercise independent judgement
 - Ability to develop annual budget and encumber approved funds
- Provided with necessary resources to perform job

Financial Management

- Development of a Fiscal Policy for programs & services
- Determine acceptable cost/recovery

- Basis for fees & charges for leisure programs & services
- Assume recovery of all direct program cost
- Explore cost sharing with other government agencies, local, state, & federal
- Criteria for monthly, quarterly, & annual financial analysis reports
- Active participation by Parks & Recreation Director
 - Operating Budget preparation & administration
 - Capital Budget preparation & administration

Program and Services Management (Benefits Based Management Approach)

- Offer recreation programs that are both active and passive, for all ages and abilities
- Sports; Arts-creative and performing; Self improvement; Special interest
- Recreation programs are designed with outcome orientated goals
- Reinforce Resiliency Skills and Attitudes for all ages, especially youth and senior adults
 - Coping ability; Goals orientated; Expectations for self; Optimism; Personal responsibility; Self-efficacy-sees oneself as successful because of personal choice to be and credits self-efforts

Facility and Land Use Management

- Develop ongoing and preventative maintenance plan for park properties and equipment
 - Adhere to mandated requirements like State of Ohio Health Code and "Industry Standards"
 - Document maintenance operation inspections
 - Follow OSHA rules for safety and training
- Develop policy for parks and recreation land acquisitions
 - Greenspace requirement as part of zoning code
 - Use Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2000 for future planning validation
 - Explore cooperative agreements with other political subdivisions including lease agreements
- Develop 5-year Capital Improvement Budget for parkland and recreation amenities development

Safety/Risk Management

- Develop and adopt a risk management plan that minimizes legal liabilities and personal injury
- Designate specific staff to be responsible for implementing and monitoring risk management plan
- Ensure plan effectiveness with regular evaluations and appropriate adjustments

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

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Marketing of Services

- Public Information
 - Use local newspapers
 - Speak at local Service Clubs
- Community Relations
 - Join local organizations
 - Develop programs around community events
- Marketing
 - Develop logo
 - Print & distribute seasonal information brochure
 - Standardize park signage- easy to identify
- Continually evaluate quality services and facilities

**5. Conclusions and
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Phase One:

Bridge Gateway - The entrance to Milford from U.S. 50 over the Main Street bridge is a primary entrance to Milford historic downtown. This gateway is an important introduction to the downtown and should include elements such as signage, vegetation, and lighting. See Gateway #1, Chapter Four - Gateway Opportunities.

Memorial Park

Due to the high profile location of Memorial Park, adjacent to Main Street and located within the historic downtown Milford, and because of its significance and meaning, it was selected as a Phase One project. See Memorial Park, Chapter Three - Existing City Parks. The renovation should consist of the following:

- Redesign and replace existing landscaping fronting Main Street
- Preserve trees flanking the sidewalk
- Remove and replace ailing existing trees in rear of park
- Renovate hardscape as necessary
- Preserve memorial stones
- Introduce limited strategic lighting
- Install City standard signage
- Introduce standard parks and recreation site furnishings
- Remove concrete picnic pad at rear of park

Clertoma Park

Clertoma Park is currently in a state of disrepair and is not meeting the needs of the surrounding community. The tennis court is not official size, the fencing and pavement is in poor condition, and the water fountain and play area is also in poor condition. Renovation should consist of the following:

- Remove existing tennis court.
- Remove existing water fountain.
- Install new play equipment.
- Install new water fountain.
- Install shelter - Gazebo, or small pavilion.
- Provide optional gated access to surrounding residences.
- Develop park as a small passive recreational opportunity.

Garfield Future Greenspace Area

This future greenspace has a tremendous opportunity to become a key part of the pedestrian walkway corridor. This area can be utilized to facilitate pedestrian movement, and still function to screen the service center to be located below. See Garfield Avenue Future Park/Greenspace Area, Chapter Three - Existing City Parks. The park design should consist of the following:

- Remove existing scrub growth.
- Install tree and shrub vegetation to create a park-like setting.
- Install winding and free flowing pathway system facilitating circulation in the east/west and southwest direction.

City Signage

Milford currently does not have an established way finding system. Standard City wide directional signage will bolster community unification throughout the City of Milford. The signage will be used in a way finding and identification role and will assist visitors to certain prominent facilities. This signage can be used to direct not only vehicular circulation, but also to curb vehicular/pedestrian conflict. See Chapter Four - City Wide Directional Signage.

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Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan

6. Appendices

-Milford Population Projections

ue Nov 23, 1999				Page 1
POP-FACTS: FULL DATA REPORT				
CENSUS ' 90, UPDATES & PROJECTIONS				
BY NATIONAL DECISION SYSTEMS 800-866-6510				
ain St & Mill St				
	COORD:	3917182	8429639	
DESCRIPTION	1.00 MILE RADIUS	3.00 MILE RADIUS	5.00 MILE RADIUS	
POPULATION				
2004 PROJECTION	4,700	21,561	88,032	
1999 ESTIMATE	4,669	20,964	85,319	
1990 CENSUS	4,656	19,695	78,530	
1980 CENSUS	4,587	21,399	74,799	
GROWTH 1980 - 1990	1.50%	-7.96%	4.99%	
HOUSEHOLDS				
2004 PROJECTION	2,241	8,589	33,836	
1999 ESTIMATE	2,181	8,220	32,366	
1990 CENSUS	2,084	7,477	29,027	
1980 CENSUS	1,746	7,392	25,537	
GROWTH 1980 - 1990	19.35%	1.14%	13.66%	
1999 ESTIMATED POPULATION BY RACE	4,669	20,964	85,319	
WHITE	97.66%	95.66%	93.38%	
BLACK	1.62%	3.07%	4.95%	
ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	0.41%	0.95%	1.34%	
OTHER RACES	0.31%	0.32%	0.33%	
1999 ESTIMATED POPULATION HISPANIC ORIGIN	4,669	20,964	85,319	
	1.04%	1.06%	0.84%	
OCCUPIED UNITS	2,084	7,477	29,027	
OWNER OCCUPIED	54.87%	70.33%	74.75%	
RENTER OCCUPIED	45.13%	29.67%	25.25%	
1990 AVERAGE PERSONS PER HH	2.18	2.60	2.68	
1999 EST. HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME	2,181	8,220	32,366	
\$150,000 OR MORE	7.06%	12.57%	10.55%	
\$100,000 TO \$149,999	4.71%	9.32%	9.95%	
\$ 75,000 TO \$ 99,999	5.46%	11.01%	12.73%	
\$ 50,000 TO \$ 74,999	15.17%	18.49%	21.75%	
\$ 35,000 TO \$ 49,999	10.79%	12.38%	14.26%	
\$ 25,000 TO \$ 34,999	11.08%	10.46%	10.72%	
\$ 15,000 TO \$ 24,999	20.15%	12.37%	10.03%	
\$ 5,000 TO \$ 15,000	20.56%	10.79%	7.82%	
UNDER \$ 5,000	5.02%	2.61%	2.19%	
1999 EST. AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME	\$64,224	\$98,645	\$85,427	
1999 EST. MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	\$28,868	\$51,890	\$55,713	
1999 EST. PER CAPITA INCOME	\$30,502	\$38,860	\$32,534	

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POP-FACTS: FULL DATA REPORT				
CENSUS ' 90, UPDATES & PROJECTIONS				
BY NATIONAL DECISION SYSTEMS 800-866-6510				
ain St & Mill St				
	COORD:	3917182	8429639	
DESCRIPTION	1.00 MILE RADIUS	3.00 MILE RADIUS	5.00 MILE RADIUS	
1999 ESTIMATED POPULATION BY SEX	4,669	20,964	85,319	
MALE	44.42%	47.35%	47.90%	
FEMALE	55.58%	52.65%	52.10%	
MARITAL STATUS	3,774	15,291	60,635	
SINGLE MALE	9.45%	10.44%	10.75%	
SINGLE FEMALE	9.77%	9.31%	9.44%	
MARRIED	52.93%	62.19%	63.28%	
PREVIOUSLY MARRIED MALE	6.93%	4.98%	4.56%	
PREVIOUSLY MARRIED FEMALE	20.91%	13.07%	11.97%	
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	579	2,842	11,417	
MARRIED COUPLE FAMILY	76.86%	80.92%	82.17%	
OTHER FAMILY-MALE HEAD	4.65%	3.69%	3.09%	
OTHER FAMILY-FEMALE HEAD	17.59%	14.51%	14.16%	
NON FAMILY	0.90%	0.89%	0.58%	
1999 ESTIMATED POPULATION BY AGE	4,669	20,964	85,319	
UNDER 5 YEARS	6.46%	6.84%	7.01%	
5 TO 9 YEARS	6.69%	7.25%	7.41%	
10 TO 14 YEARS	6.67%	7.10%	7.39%	
15 TO 17 YEARS	3.23%	4.31%	4.34%	
18 TO 20 YEARS	2.86%	3.60%	3.63%	
21 TO 24 YEARS	3.31%	4.33%	4.41%	
25 TO 29 YEARS	5.79%	6.19%	6.22%	
30 TO 34 YEARS	7.35%	6.70%	6.24%	
35 TO 39 YEARS	6.46%	6.55%	6.98%	
40 TO 49 YEARS	14.16%	15.16%	15.83%	
50 TO 59 YEARS	9.89%	12.35%	12.12%	
60 TO 64 YEARS	3.58%	4.39%	4.33%	
65 TO 69 YEARS	3.89%	3.90%	3.73%	
70 TO 74 YEARS	4.20%	3.45%	3.37%	
75 + YEARS	15.49%	7.69%	6.99%	
MEDIAN AGE	40.86	37.82	37.40	
AVERAGE AGE	42.34	38.25	37.52	



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ain St & Mill St				
	COORD:	3917182	8429639	
DESCRIPTION	1.00 MILE RADIUS	3.00 MILE RADIUS	5.00 MILE RADIUS	
999 ESTIMATED FEMALE POP. BY AGE	2,595	11,037	44,450	
UNDER 5 YEARS	5.95%	6.46%	6.60%	
5 TO 9 YEARS	5.94%	6.70%	7.02%	
10 TO 14 YEARS	5.90%	6.68%	7.01%	
15 TO 17 YEARS	2.98%	4.18%	4.14%	
18 TO 20 YEARS	2.35%	3.41%	3.41%	
21 TO 24 YEARS	3.56%	4.37%	4.18%	
25 TO 29 YEARS	5.55%	6.12%	6.05%	
30 TO 34 YEARS	6.79%	6.45%	6.19%	
35 TO 39 YEARS	6.19%	6.59%	6.95%	
40 TO 49 YEARS	12.89%	14.98%	15.76%	
50 TO 59 YEARS	9.17%	11.89%	11.93%	
60 TO 64 YEARS	3.71%	4.39%	4.40%	
65 TO 69 YEARS	4.10%	3.97%	3.87%	
70 TO 74 YEARS	4.39%	3.67%	3.58%	
75 + YEARS	20.54%	10.14%	8.93%	
FEMALE MEDIAN AGE	43.68	39.28	38.90	
FEMALE AVERAGE AGE	45.47	39.80	39.02	
POPULATION BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE	4,656	19,695	76,530	
FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	77.03%	87.06%	88.59%	
NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	20.43%	11.60%	10.33%	
GROUP QUARTERS	2.53%	1.34%	1.08%	
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE	2,084	7,477	29,027	
SINGLE MALE	12.03%	8.41%	7.58%	
SINGLE FEMALE	27.95%	14.97%	13.78%	
MARRIED COUPLE	46.39%	61.96%	64.36%	
OTHER FAMILY-MALE HEAD	2.52%	2.58%	2.38%	
OTHER FAMILY-FEMALE HEAD	8.60%	8.84%	8.91%	
NON FAMILY-MALE HEAD	1.21%	1.90%	1.70%	
NON FAMILY-FEMALE HEAD	1.30%	1.35%	1.30%	
POPULATION BY URBAN VS. RURAL	4,647	19,596	78,425	
URBAN	100.00%	89.81%	92.84%	
RURAL	0.00%	10.19%	7.16%	

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CENSUS ' 90, UPDATES & PROJECTIONS				
BY NATIONAL DECISION SYSTEMS 800-866-6510				
ain St & Mill St				
	COORD:	3917182	8429639	
DESCRIPTION	1.00 MILE RADIUS	3.00 MILE RADIUS	5.00 MILE RADIUS	
FEMALES 16+ WITH CHILDREN 0 - 17: BAS	2,143	8,098	31,600	
WORKING WITH CHILD 0 - 5	3.87%	5.02%	5.95%	
NOT WORKING WITH CHILD 0 - 5	0.02%	0.26%	0.20%	
NOT IN LABOR FORCE WITH CHILD 0 -	3.35%	3.54%	3.50%	
WORKING WITH CHILD 6 - 17	11.81%	14.10%	13.52%	
NOT WORKING WITH CHILD 6 - 17	0.47%	0.58%	0.38%	
NOT IN LAB. FORCE WITH CHILD 6 -	3.51%	4.11%	5.05%	
WORKING WITH CHILD 0 - 5 & 6 - 18	2.29%	3.09%	3.74%	
NOT WORKING WITH CHILD 0-5 & 6-18	0.00%	0.13%	0.25%	
NOT IN LAB. FORCE W/CHILD 0-5 & 6-	1.63%	2.81%	2.93%	
WORKING WITH NO CHILDREN	26.60%	30.77%	31.15%	
NOT WORKING WITH NO CHILDREN	0.03%	1.04%	1.31%	
NOT IN LAB. FORCE WITH NO CHILD.	46.42%	34.57%	32.02%	
HH BY AGE BY POVERTY STATUS	2,067	7,507	28,867	
ABOVE POVERTY UNDER AGE 65	59.26%	72.46%	74.02%	
ABOVE POVERTY AGE 65 +	27.91%	19.71%	19.51%	
BELOW POVERTY UNDER AGE 65	5.78%	4.76%	4.51%	
BELOW POVERTY AGE 65 +	7.05%	3.07%	1.96%	
POPULATION 16+ BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS	3,609	14,850	58,944	
EMPLOYED IN ARMED FORCES	0.00%	0.11%	0.11%	
EMPLOYED CIVILIANS	53.76%	62.56%	64.16%	
UNEMPLOYED CIVILIANS	1.87%	2.42%	2.54%	
NOT IN LABOR FORCE	44.38%	34.91%	33.19%	
POPULATION 16+ BY OCCUPATION	1,940	9,290	37,819	
EXECUTIVE AND MANAGERIAL	14.73%	17.96%	17.37%	
PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTY	13.84%	17.69%	17.65%	
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	4.69%	3.58%	3.34%	
SALES	18.19%	14.52%	14.65%	
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	14.74%	15.68%	15.49%	
SERVICE: PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD	0.97%	0.31%	0.34%	
SERVICE: PROTECTIVE	0.68%	0.68%	0.97%	
SERVICE: OTHER	12.45%	8.56%	8.43%	
FARMING FORESTRY & FISHING	0.53%	1.06%	1.13%	
PRECISION PRODUCTION & CRAFT	9.28%	10.39%	9.65%	
MACHINE OPERATOR	6.73%	5.28%	5.35%	
TRANS. AND MATERIAL MOVING	1.44%	2.48%	2.90%	
LABORERS	1.73%	1.80%	2.72%	



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POP-FACTS: FULL DATA REPORT CENSUS ' 90, UPDATES & PROJECTIONS BY NATIONAL DECISION SYSTEMS 800-866-6510			
ain St & Mill St		COORD:	3917182 8429639
		1.00 MILE RADIUS	3.00 MILE RADIUS 5.00 MILE RADIUS
DESCRIPTION			
AMILIES BY NUMBER OF WORKERS		1,225	5,541 22,044
NO WORKERS		12.43%	9.57% 10.03%
ONE WORKER		33.77%	31.16% 29.10%
TWO WORKERS		44.76%	46.14% 47.15%
THREE + WORKERS		9.04%	13.14% 13.71%
ISPANIC POPULATION BY TYPE		4,656	19,695 78,530
NOT HISPANIC		99.33%	99.41% 99.44%
MEXICAN		0.30%	0.27% 0.20%
PUERTO RICAN		0.03%	0.04% 0.08%
CUBAN		0.05%	0.04% 0.04%
OTHER HISPANIC		0.29%	0.24% 0.24%
999 HISPANICS BY RACE: BASE		48	223 713
WHITE		82.79%	82.44% 80.21%
BLACK		6.19%	6.32% 4.17%
ASIAN		0.00%	0.41% 0.73%
OTHER		11.02%	10.83% 14.89%
OPULATION BY TRANSPORTATION TO WORK		1,897	9,101 37,059
DRIVE ALONE		83.40%	85.66% 85.20%
CAR POOL		8.64%	8.42% 8.72%
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION		0.91%	1.49% 1.55%
DRIVE MOTORCYCLE		0.47%	0.10% 0.06%
WALKED ONLY		2.01%	1.11% 1.16%
OTHER MEANS		1.11%	0.36% 0.42%
WORKED AT HOME		3.45%	2.86% 2.88%
OPULATION BY TRAVEL TIME TO WORK		1,897	9,101 37,059
UNDER 10 MINUTES / WORK AT HOME		17.79%	13.35% 13.97%
10 TO 29 MINUTES		46.96%	50.57% 55.41%
30 TO 59 MINUTES		31.09%	32.99% 28.05%
60 TO 89 MINUTES		3.48%	2.29% 1.75%
90+ MINUTES		0.68%	0.80% 0.81%
AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME IN MINUTES		22.04	23.17 21.95
OUSEHOLDS BY NO. OF VEHICLES		2,038	7,577 29,079
NO VEHICLES		18.72%	6.85% 5.27%
1 VEHICLE		34.14%	28.41% 27.57%
2 VEHICLES		31.79%	42.02% 44.11%
3+ VEHICLES		15.35%	22.72% 23.05%
ESTIMATED TOTAL VEHICLES		2,992	14,029 55,123

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ain St & Mill St

COORD: 3917182 8429639

DESCRIPTION	1.00 MILE RADIUS	3.00 MILE RADIUS	5.00 MILE RADIUS
OPULATION 25+ BY EDUCATION LEVEL	3,298	12,854	50,628
ELEMENTARY (0-8)	10.90%	6.42%	5.61%
SOME HIGH SCHOOL (9-11)	14.69%	10.70%	11.52%
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (12)	27.77%	26.64%	26.61%
SOME COLLEGE (13-15)	18.28%	19.19%	19.20%
ASSOCIATES DEGREE ONLY	3.84%	4.97%	5.91%
BACHELORS DEGREE ONLY	13.53%	19.76%	20.29%
GRADUATE DEGREE	10.99%	12.32%	10.87%
OPULATION ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	1,001	4,973	20,463
PUBLIC PRE- PRIMARY	4.47%	4.28%	4.93%
PRIVATE PRE- PRIMARY	4.44%	4.33%	4.92%
PUBLIC ELEM/HIGH	66.70%	58.52%	57.40%
PRIVATE ELEM/HIGH	6.27%	12.23%	12.26%
ENROLLED IN COLLEGE	18.12%	20.64%	20.48%
USING UNITS BY OCCUPANCY STATUS	2,214	7,880	30,419
OCCUPIED	94.14%	94.88%	95.42%
VACANT	5.86%	5.12%	4.58%
VACANT UNITS	130	403	1,392
FOR RENT	74.25%	58.32%	47.56%
FOR SALE ONLY	12.44%	17.00%	21.04%
SEASONAL	2.94%	4.65%	7.71%
OTHER	10.37%	20.03%	23.69%
OWNER OCCUPIED PROPERTY VALUES	1,001	4,349	19,060
UNDER \$25,000	1.24%	0.99%	0.92%
\$25,000 TO \$49,999	11.49%	6.15%	9.56%
\$50,000 TO \$74,999	39.61%	21.62%	25.57%
\$75,000 TO \$99,999	15.03%	16.44%	18.59%
\$100,000 TO \$149,999	11.60%	24.50%	21.59%
\$150,000 TO \$199,999	8.17%	10.77%	10.52%
\$200,000 TO \$299,999	6.83%	7.71%	6.21%
\$300,000 TO \$399,999	2.03%	2.93%	2.45%
\$400,000 TO \$499,999	0.65%	1.62%	1.14%
\$500,000 +	3.33%	7.27%	3.46%
DIAN PROPERTY VALUE	\$73,489	\$109,817	\$93,764
DIAL RENTAL UNITS	899	2,087	6,926
DIAN RENT	\$352	\$353	\$433



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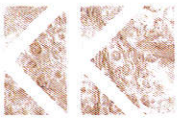
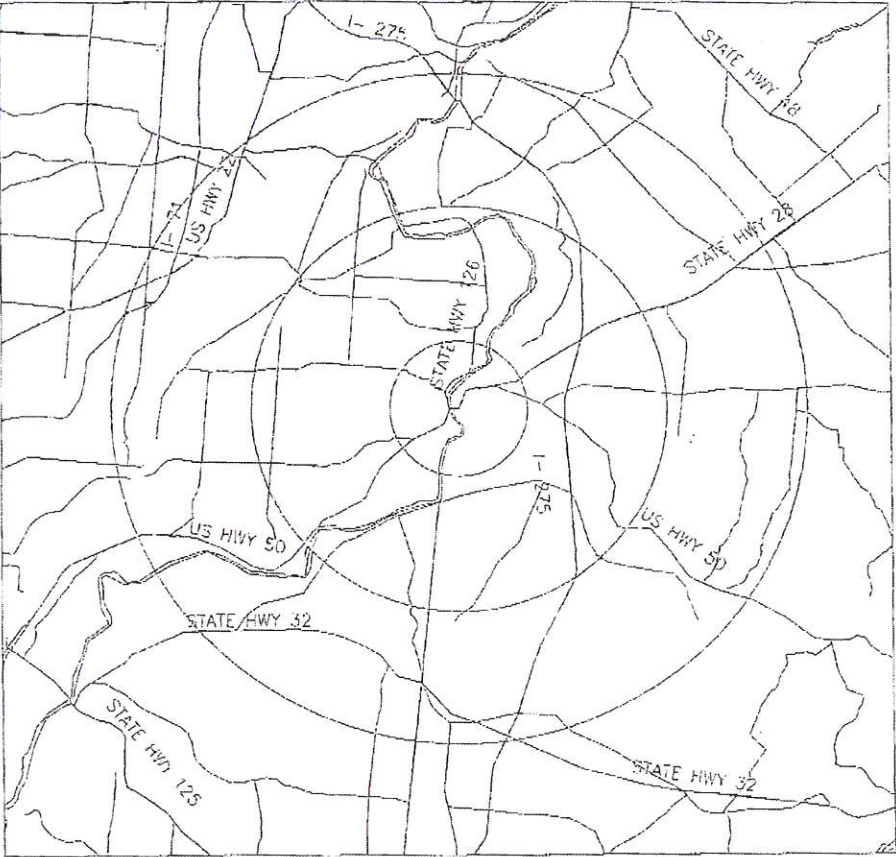
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ain St & Mill St

COORD: 3917182 8429639

DESCRIPTION	1.00 MILE RADIUS	3.00 MILE RADIUS	5.00 MILE RADIUS
PERSONS IN UNIT	2,084	7,477	29,027
1 PERSON UNITS	39.98%	23.37%	21.36%
2 PERSON UNITS	28.71%	32.69%	32.68%
3 PERSON UNITS	13.34%	17.97%	17.95%
4 PERSON UNITS	11.77%	16.29%	17.45%
5 PERSON UNITS	4.84%	7.19%	7.56%
6 PERSON UNITS	0.78%	1.76%	2.09%
7 + UNITS	0.58%	0.74%	0.91%
BAR ROUND UNITS IN STRUCTURE	2,214	7,880	30,419
SINGLE UNITS DETACHED	55.10%	65.17%	71.96%
SINGLE UNITS ATTACHED	0.47%	1.65%	3.32%
DOUBLE UNITS	4.19%	1.55%	1.65%
3 TO 9 UNITS	7.71%	5.22%	5.77%
10 TO 19 UNITS	11.15%	13.70%	7.85%
20 TO 49 UNITS	0.32%	0.39%	2.36%
50 + UNITS	14.30%	4.09%	3.00%
MOBILE HOME OR TRAILER	3.25%	7.03%	3.27%
ALL OTHER	3.51%	1.20%	0.81%
SINGLE/MULTIPLE UNIT RATIO	1.47	2.68	3.65
HOUSING UNITS BY YEAR BUILT	2,038	7,577	29,079
BUILT 1989 TO MARCH 1990	0.00%	1.86%	1.50%
BUILT 1985 TO 1988	1.51%	8.43%	9.49%
BUILT 1980 TO 1984	4.49%	6.73%	6.70%
BUILT 1970 TO 1979	20.55%	25.48%	21.44%
BUILT 1960 TO 1969	9.70%	14.39%	16.29%
BUILT 1950 TO 1959	25.47%	20.75%	22.49%
BUILT 1940 TO 1949	7.40%	6.03%	8.46%
BUILT 1939 OR EARLIER	30.88%	16.33%	13.63%



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