Parks, Trails & Greenway Framework

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Introduction

Hannibal has a park system that embraces its historic past and can help to shape the quality of its future. The City of Hannibal has a great wealth of land, including forests and floodplains, streams and scenic views, agricultural land and wetlands. As the City expands there is an opportunity to tie all the pieces together in a comprehensive parks, trails, and greenway system that compliments the existing historic parks system in the traditional urban core and suburban areas, but also protects and manages stormwater, vegetation, and soil resources.

The City's most recent Parks & Recreation Masterplan and inventory was updated in 1998. The parks system owns or operates 19 recreational facilities and includes 33 separate buildings generally comprised of shelters, restrooms, and such. A majority of existing parks are located in the urbanized core of Hannibal. Two parks and one golf course are located outside of the urbanized area. Both are located within corridors of environmental vulnerability area, a good location for passive recreation. The Parks Masterplan also laid the groundwork for a trail system that could connect resource areas. These trails are mostly planned for stream areas, wooded sites, riverfront access areas, and bluff trail areas.

The Parks Trails and Greenway Framework recommends a concept to continue to build a parks system that will incorporate the best of the past and preserve Hannibal's legacy for the future. The Framework has been developed through an understanding of the planning context, existing conditions, 1998 Master Plan, and community input.

Parks, Trails & Greenway Framework Structure

This chapter includes a Parks, Trails and Greenway Framework for a system that connects Hannibal's historic areas with future growth areas and the preservation of its natural structure and environment with the continuing fitness of its citizens. They are:

- **The National Recreation and Parks Association (NPRA) classification system as a recreational guideline for parkland relative to population.**
- **This Framework includes policy recommendations that define the future direction for the open space system and facilities throughout the community and beyond.**
- **Parks, Trails and Greenway Framework connecting 5 existing and potential regional park destinations, as well as many smaller parks and schools:**
- **The policies apply to future development within Hannibal today and should be used as a guide for determining "how," "when," and "where" future development should occur.**

National Standards

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NPRA) classification system of 1996 serves as a recreational guideline for parkland relative to population. The system describes several categories of parks, recreational areas and open spaces, which in combination make up a unified municipal park network. There are generally three park classifications in the national standards that pertain to Hannibal.

- District Facilities/Parks
- Community Facilities/Parks
- Neighborhood Parks

Park Area Guidelines

The NRPA establishes recommended acreage guidelines for these three basic types of parks. The following table shows the NRPA guidelines for the recommended acreages of the park types per 1,000 population of the community. The existing Hannibal Parks Master Plan includes more detailed inventory information and recommendations.

Park Area Guidelines			
Park Type	Acreage	Acreage/1000 people	Service Area
District Park	75 – 200 acres	5.0 to 10 acres	5-mile radius
Community Park	10 – 50 acres	5.0 to 8.0 acres	3 mile radius
Neighborhood Park	1 – 10 acres	1.0 to2.0 acres	1.2 mile radius (10 minute walk)

Source: NRPA Guidelines

- **District Facilities/Parks**

  District Facilities supplement neighborhood and community parks, serving broader based recreation needs. These parks are generally 75-200 acres in size and serve up to a 5-mile radius. The standard for district facilities is to provide between 5 and 10 acres per 1,000 people. The larger size permits development of both passive and active facilities. Where possible, district facilities include areas of undeveloped land with natural vegetation and/or water features.

- **Community Facilities/Parks**

  Community facilities serve groups of neighborhoods within a one to three-mile radius of the site. These facilities may be public or private and access may be by bicycle or on foot. The minimum desirable size is 20-25 acres; although smaller sites may be appropriate based on their location, constraints on property acquisition, or historic significance. The national standard for this category is 5-8 acres per 1,000 population.

  Development typically includes picnic shelters, playgrounds, tennis courts, soccer and/or baseball fields, bike or pedestrian trails, restrooms, and auto parking. Park services at the community level are provided in a variety of ways. Cooperative development and use of recreational facilities with other agencies may prove advantageous in the future.

- **Neighborhood Parks**

  Neighborhood Parks are intended to serve residential areas within walking distance of ½ to 1 mile radius. Access is mostly by pedestrians or bicyclists, and park sites are located so that residents do not have to cross a major street to get to the site. Children between the ages of five and twelve are the primary user group. The sites are generally 5-15 acres in size and the national standard is 1-2 acres per 1,000 population.

Current Supply of City Parks

Hannibal is expected to grow in population to 18,689 by 2030. The current park system has 593 acres of parkland or 30 acres/1000 population. Based on a comparison with national standards Hannibal's park system's primary need is in the category of neighborhood parks. Current neighborhood parks tend to be undersized and would need at least 186 acres to meet national standards. There are only 30 acres of standard sized neighborhood parks. Adding 30 acres in this category by the year 2030 would place Hannibal in an excellent position relative to national standards.

Parks, Trails and Greenway Policies

The policies below apply to future development within and surrounding Hannibal today and should be used as a guide for determining "how," "when," and "where" future development should occur. A *policy* is defined as a definite course or method of action selected to guide and to determine present and future decisions.

Thus, *Policies,* define ways to make Hannibal's desired future happen. Specifically, the Plan should be used by the City to implement stated community goals and help make decisions about land use, proposed ordinances, and programs.

Many of the policies use the words "should" and so forth. In general, these words should be read to describe the relative degree of emphasis to be given the policy, but not to establish a specific legal requirement. Because of the often general nature of the policies, some policies within this Plan may appear to conflict. Exercise of judgment is critical to a comprehensive policy plan, which seeks to provide general direction regarding the myriad of factors affecting growth and development in a community setting.

- **Implement and enforce the goals, policies, and recommendations of the existing Hannibal Parks & Recreation Master Plan.**
- **Create a comprehensive system of open lands, parks and trails that provide passive and active facilities and recreational linkages between the City's neighborhoods, centers, districts, parks and community facilities.**
- **Promote greenway preservation as a contributor to quality of life for citizens of Hannibal by connecting people and neighborhoods to businesses, schools, shopping, and parks.**
- **Protect, enhance, and utilize stream corridors by developing trails and bikeways through these corridors and other scenic areas. Preserve other natural corridors for both resource and recreational value and combine with greenway development and to identify those natural areas that have significant aesthetic value.**
- **Identify and designate specific boundaries of all natural resources areas through a natural resource inventory and acquire natural resources when it is in the public interest to ensure their protection from degradation and assure their availability to the public as environmental assets.**
- **Coordinate park development with regional stormwater efforts, including detention facilities to provide linear parks and water recreation opportunities.**
- **Coordinate Greenway Framework planning and development with the Counties to provide overlapping and connecting parks, connections and recreation opportunities in the region.**
- **Future greenway development should promote parks, trails and open space designed with the Open Space and Public Places Principles and Guidelines outlined in this plan.**
- **Provide on and off-street trails that link sidewalks with community parks, activity centers, and regional trail system.**

Greenway Recommendations

The Greenway Framework is a pivotal piece of this Land Use Study bringing together resource preservation, greenway development, and improved water quality with bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The results keep Hannibal safe, clean, and green while providing connections locally and regionally.

The Greenway Framework is a concept for future development of the Parks system. It should be the basis for future detailed park planning, through which Hannibal's park system would be continually improved. As with land use, the pattern is a balance of managing development and preservation of natural features and areas. The Greenway Framework is the result of a "layered analysis," beginning with the mapping of high priority conservation areas and stream buffers then adding future land use. Locations for regional stormwater detention facilities were identified and then earmarked as prospective park locations and connections. Analyzing all of these features together makes the best use of the community's resources.

The System

Within the context of the classification system and existing Master Plan, Hannibal's concept for a Greenway Framework was developed with a focus on regional parks, streamways, and railroad right-of-ways for park development, incorporating and linking natural resource areas, and existing and proposed parks.

The Greenway Framework is built around a Greenway Loop that is approximately 20-miles in length. This loop follows the major streams, riparian areas, and railway corridors and connects the City's and County's large major parks at the edge of the city and beyond. Within this loop, a system of Community Connectors along stream corridors, greenways, and roadways connect the loop to neighborhoods, schools, parks, and businesses.

The Greenway Framework brings the existing Parks Master Plan, land use plan, and public input together into a unified, connected system. The map clearly shows the integration of two key elements, the parks system and image streets. These elements, while capable of functioning separately, together provide an enhanced system that truly interconnects Hannibal and its resources throughout the area.

THE GREENWAY FRAMEWORK

The Greenway Framework is built around a *Greenway Loop* that is approximately 20-miles in length. This loop follows the major streams, riparian areas, and railway corridors and connects the City's and County's large major parks at the edge of the city and beyond. Within this loop, a system of *Community Connectors* along stream corridors, greenways, and roadways connect the loop to neighborhoods, schools, parks, and businesses.

Community Connectors

Stream Buffers

- Limit development except trails and certain infrastructure a defined distance from the centerline of the stream
- Improve water quality and reduce flooding by protecting streams and rainwater absorption areas
- Provides a location for trails and linear parks
- Preserve Hannibal's natural beauty and essential landscape

Greenways

- Located along streams and through major forested areas
- Improve water quality and reduce flooding by protecting streams and rainwater absorption areas
- Provides a primary location for trails
- Preserve Hannibal's natural beauty and essential landscape
- Connect regional parks

Trails

- A major part of the framework of bicycle and pedestrian routes throughout the city
- Designed to serve the whole city and growth areas in one connected system
- Connect most parks
- Potential consideration of abandoned rail rights-of-way depending on costs, benefits and feasibility

Connecting Corridors

- Make a major contribution to the image of the city
- Connect the city north/south and east/west
- Help unite historic areas with growth areas

The proposed Greenway Framework connects 5 existing and potential regional park destinations, as well as many smaller parks and schools. The Greenway Framework map follows.

- **Eco Park**
  At existing Wildlife Preserve. Would include outdoor classrooms.
- **Historic District Parks**
  Includes historic Riverview Park and other parks in the historic district
- **Gateway Park**
  Would be a new park where the floodway crosses US 61. It would be a major visual statement for residents and visitors as they enter town. Could include ball fields and passive recreation.
- **Health Park**
  Could be a joint venture of the Hospital, the Community College, and the City that could include programming by the Hospital and College. Facilities could include a large community center and pool.
- **Geology Park**
  This would be a growth area park that could help explain Hannibal's geology and topography. It could include active and/or passive recreation.

- **Are designed to be green, heavily planted**
- **Are designed to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists as well as transit, should it become available.**
- **First streets designated are County Road MM and US Hwy 61 Business Route from the Gateway Park to the Eco Park**

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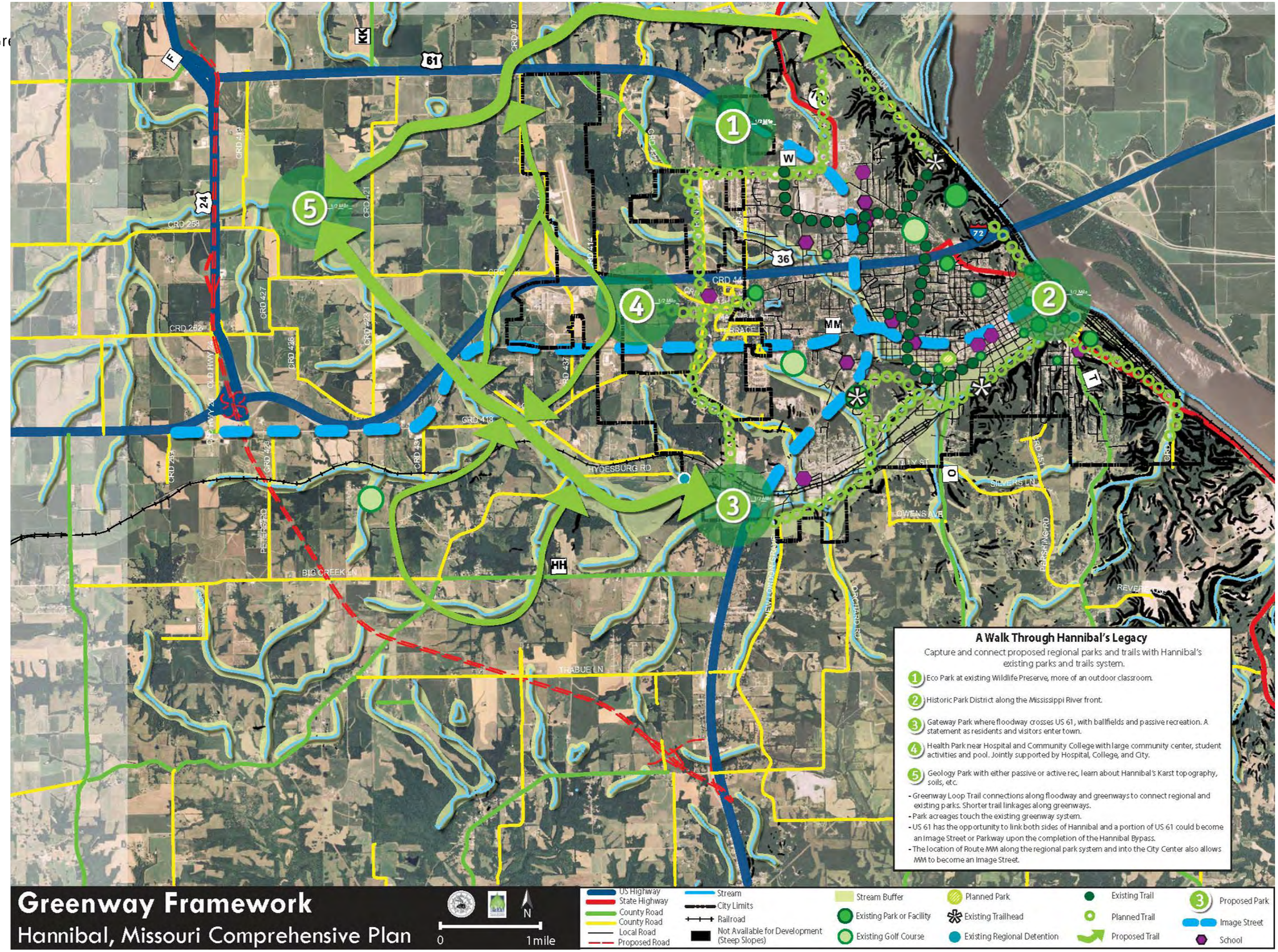
Greenway Framework
Hannibal, Missouri Comprehensive Plan
0
1 mile
N
US Highway
State Highway
County Road
County Road
Local Road
Proposed Road
Stream
City Limits
Railroad
Not Available for Development (Steep Slopes)
Stream Buffer
Existing Park or Facility
Existing Golf Course
Planned Park
Existing Trailhead
Existing Regional Detention
Existing Trail
Planned Trail
Proposed Trail
Proposed Park
Image Street
School
A Walk Through Hannibal's Legacy
Capture and connect proposed regional parks and trails with Hannibal's existing parks and trails system.
1 Eco Park at existing Wildlife Preserve, more of an outdoor classroom.
2 Historic Park District along the Mississippi River front.
3 Gateway Park where floodway crosses US 61, with ballfields and passive recreation. A statement as residents and visitors enter town.
4 Health Park near Hospital and Community College with large community center, student activities and pool. Jointly supported by Hospital, College, and City.
5 Geology Park with either passive or active rec, learn about Hannibal's Karst topography, soils, etc.
- Greenway Loop Trail connections along floodway and greenways to connect regional and existing parks. Shorter trail linkages along greenways.
- Park acreages touch the existing greenway system.
- US 61 has the opportunity to link both sides of Hannibal and a portion of US 61 could become an Image Street or Parkway upon the completion of the Hannibal Bypass.
- The location of Route MM along the regional park system and into the City Center also allows MM to become an Image Street.
61
24
36
72
HYDESBURG RD
BIG CREEK LN
TRABUE LN
OWENS AVE
SILVERSTEIN
PERSHING RD
PETERS RD
OLD HWY 24
CRD 418
CRD 252
CRD 253
CRD 427
CRD 426
CRD 421
CRD 414
CRD 431
CRD 451

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