



HORACE
PARK DISTRICT

**Strategic Plan
2021**





// ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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// Introduction

Background

The Horace Park District was formed in 1972 to manage the park facilities and recreational programming within the City of Horace (City). Horace is a suburban community located to the immediate southwest of the City of Fargo. It is growing at a rapid pace. Horace has an estimated population of 2,944 with a projected 1,000 shovel-ready single-family residential lots coming online by the spring of 2021. This rapid growth is the result of a variety of reasons, the most notable of which is the voter approval of a 2018 School Bond. This vote gave the green light for the construction of a new middle and high school in the City.

Park districts have a unique status in North Dakota compared to those in other states. In North Dakota, Park Districts are created and dissolved by the municipalities but are independent agencies with a taxing authority separate from the city government. Park Districts operate under the regulations in North Dakota Century Code Chapter 40-49. The framework in which Park Districts operate in this state allows for the Horace Park District to serve the community in four main ways:

1. Build and maintain park infrastructure
2. Provide recreational and cultural opportunities
3. Provide partnership on projects which enhance park facility use
4. Reinforce the public vision during the community development process



HORACE 2045



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Framework: Horace 2045

As a partner government to the City of Horace, the Park District works in collaboration with the City to ensure future facilities are planned and programmed for smart growth and realize social benefits. City planning documents have often referenced both facilities and activities about the Park District. In 2019, the City wrote a new comprehensive plan, Horace 2045, which is a truly collaborative document and incorporates involvement and input directly from the Park District itself.

Specifically, Chapter 12: Parks and Recreation of Horace 2045 provide general guidance for the development of parks in Horace in relation to the City's projected growth and future land uses. This document expands on concepts for park development introduced in Horace 2045, including river access, trail connections, and the utilization of open spaces.

As comprehensive plans provide the foundational policies for a municipality's growth and development, Horace 2045 provides the framework for further master planning within the Park District. That master planning process begins with this document. The policies the Park District adapts through this process are founded upon the goal and policies of Horace 2045:

Goal PR-1:

Promote the development of a variety of public spaces, park, and recreational facilities

PR
1.1

PR-1.1

Expand the use, variety, and type of public spaces, parks, and recreational facilities within Horace by working with private developments to provide linkages, access, public parks, public space, and recreational amenities through the use of incentives and other development tools.

PR
1.2

PR-1.2

Encourage the use of park areas to link neighborhoods, commercial and mixed-use centers, and other open space and recreational facilities.

PR
1.3

PR-1.3

Continue to require the dedication of 10% of land for residential development and 5% of the land for commercial development for parks and open spaces. Also, require the dedication of drainage easements and retention ponds in each neighborhood or development area based on the drainage needs.

PR
1.4

PR- 1.4

(The City Government should) continue to coordinate with the Horace Park District regarding development proposals for the size and location of the facilities at the time of plat review and approval.

PR
1.5

PR- 1.5

Park and Facilities standards include:

- Standards for small neighborhood parks, with general playgrounds, may vary from one to three (1-3) acres.
- Community parks including play areas are required to be three to five (3-5) acres.
- Athletic facilities' standards are based on the type and variety of activities and may be five (5) or more acres in size.



How to Use this Plan

The Horace Parks Master Plan is a planning document that looks at a 7-year planning horizon for the Horace Park District. It is intended to be a living document that changes with the community and is written to be expanded upon and enhanced over time.

The plan reads in three major sections. First, it observes the existing conditions of the Park District properties, existing and planned connections to existing properties, and a framework for the future established by Horace 2045. Second, this document lays out foundational policies for Park District actions related to the planning, programming, and development of new and existing parks. These policies are not regulations but rather provide the basis for Park District actions. Finally, this document contains recommendations for future development in existing and incoming parks. These recommendations are intended to help guide the Park District towards the highest and best uses for their facilities.

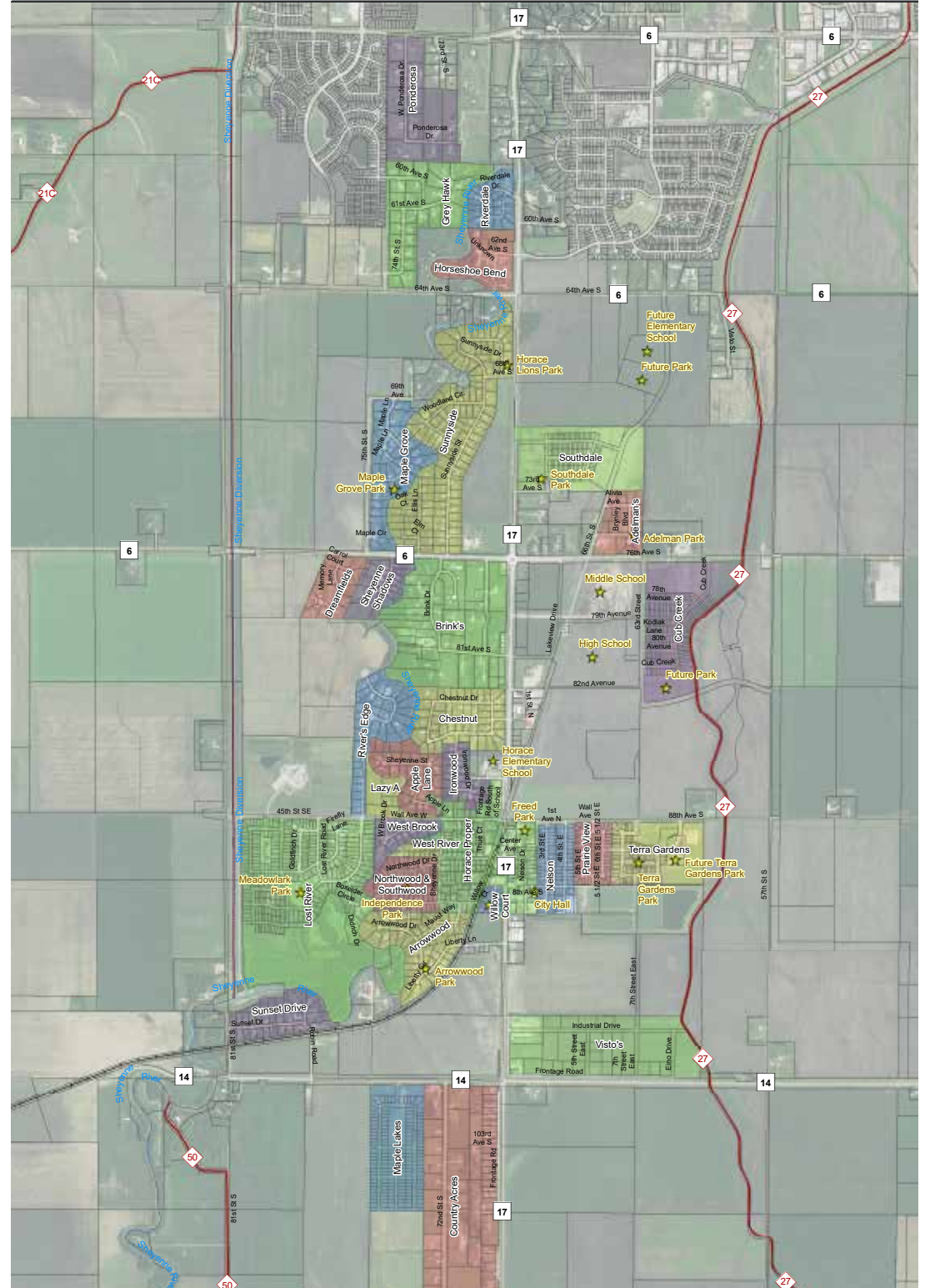
Existing Conditions

A City of Neighborhoods

Horace is historically an agricultural community. There are many active farms around the City and the most prominent feature in the original townsite remains two tall grain elevators. At present day, the City has largely retained an upper Midwest agrarian aesthetic while also featuring a variety of disjunct neighborhoods all with their unique character. The reason for Horace's unique collection of neighborhoods is an important part of the City's history and charm.

Leading up to the 2018 school bond vote, the City annexed many formerly unincorporated neighborhoods. These annexations were usually voluntary and consisted of larger lot rural subdivisions seeking to retain local control as members of a smaller city like Horace, rather than becoming part of the City of Fargo's sprawl. Because of this, many neighborhoods in Horace have their unique history and perspectives on development, community involvement, and city policy.

At present day, the neighborhoods of Horace can largely be placed into one of three classifications: 1) Low-density rural subdivisions that annexed themselves into city limits 2) a select few low to medium density subdivisions built inside the City Limits to a rural standard and 3) high-density suburban neighborhoods that have appeared in the past few years. There are also rural subdivisions within and boarding the City Limits have not been annexed into the City as well. The Park District serves them all and plays a vital role in their vitality as neighborhoods and their role as parts of a larger whole.



Existing Park Inventory





//FREED COMMUNITY PARK



//ARROWWOOD PARK



//MAPLE GROVE PARK



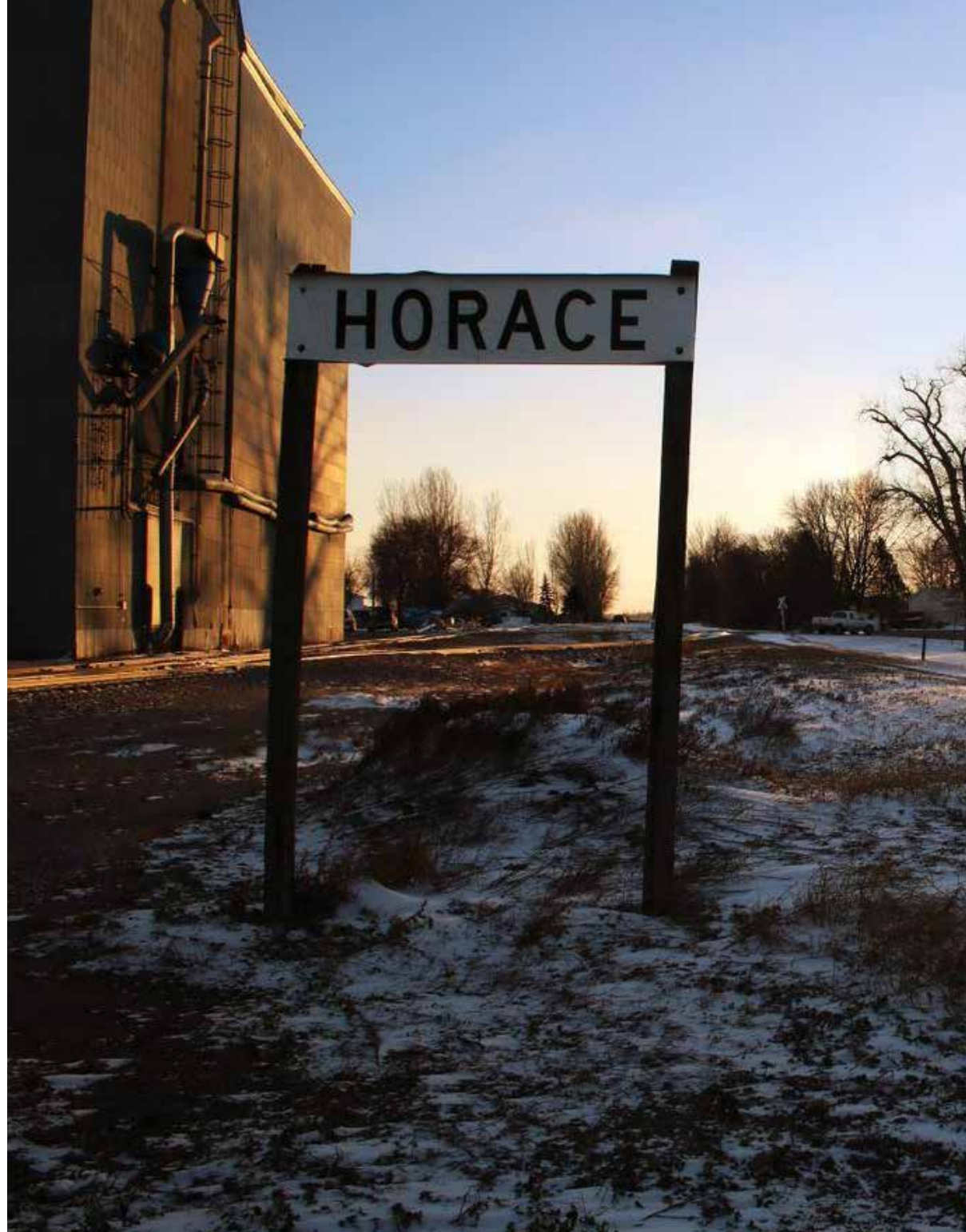
//INDEPENDENCE PARK

Future Parks

Horace 2045 has broadly identified the need for the following new parks:

- A Town Square
- Two neighborhood Parks
- Two community Parks
- More Athletic Facilities
- A Regional Park

The speed of development in Horace has made it such that most of these new parks are already platted as part of new developments, and the ones that are not platted have identified locations as part of preliminary plats or binding developments. The only facilities not expected to be completed within the 7-year timeline of this plan are the larger athletic facilities and a regional park, but this is largely a function of economies of scale. The Fargo-Moorhead Diversion is slated to provide space for these facilities around the City of Horace and their construction will likely align with demand. Those spaces, known as nodes, are in the preliminary stages and are discussed here for planning purposes.



A Town Square

Lakeview: The Lakeview development is a mixed-use “life-style center” constructed around a small, man-made lake. The southwest portion of this area is intended to function as a town square.

Two Neighborhood Parks

Southdale-2 (platted but unprogrammed, see page 32): A small park of 0.4 acres intended to serve a multi-family section of Southdale Farms, leveraging an adjacent retention pond and the Horace Cemetery to create a unique place within the neighborhood. It could feature green space and a dog park in the summer.

Terra Gardens Park (platted and programmed, see page 33): This park, which features a baseball backstop, a playground, and a short walking trail, is slightly larger than the target size for a neighborhood park at 5.2 acres. It will serve the Terra Gardens and Prairie View neighborhoods.

Two Community Parks

Cub Creek (platted but unprogrammed, see page 30): The largest of the new parks at 10.5 acres and located at the center of the most urban development in the City, Cub Creek Park will have a water feature and could contain a variety of amenities that appeal to the entire city, such as a pump track or a splash park.

Southdale-1 (platted but unprogrammed, see page 31): This 10.9-acre park at the center of the Southdale subdivision is intended to balance sports facilities and playgrounds with open spaces.

A Large Athletic Facilities

Diversion Nodes: The Fargo-Moorhead Diversion plans to feature a park and recreation network that contains 4 nodes of activity (numbers 6 through 9) within the influence of the Horace Park District. Node 9 is discussed as a major baseball/softball complex.

Regional Parks

Diversion Nodes: All four of the diversion nodes around Horace feature opportunities for regional park facilities.

Horace 2045 also talks broadly about the following facilities:

Open Space

Horace is historically a farming community. Despite several new high-density neighborhoods, the City will continue to retain an agricultural character for years to come as many legacy farmsteads remain intact and operational. These open spaces, including historical buildings, shelterbelts, and ornamental plantings, are vital for the Park District to preserve and create a dynamic network founded upon the regional character and legacy activities.

The Sheyenne River and the FM-Diversion

The Sheyenne River has played an important role in shaping the City of Horace, a role soon to be augmented by the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion. The space between the two water bodies will form a corridor in which recreation opportunities on various scales is the highest and best use. This could include trails, cultural resource interpretation, cross-country skiing, and winter activities, and spaces for off-highway vehicles.

County Drain 27

Drain 27 is a human-made stormwater facility regulated by both the City ordinance and County Water Board policies. The drain can be expanded in areas into stormwater holding ponds. The highest and best uses along its shoreline are pedestrian facilities, and Horace 2045 discusses the potential for a trail system along Drain 27.



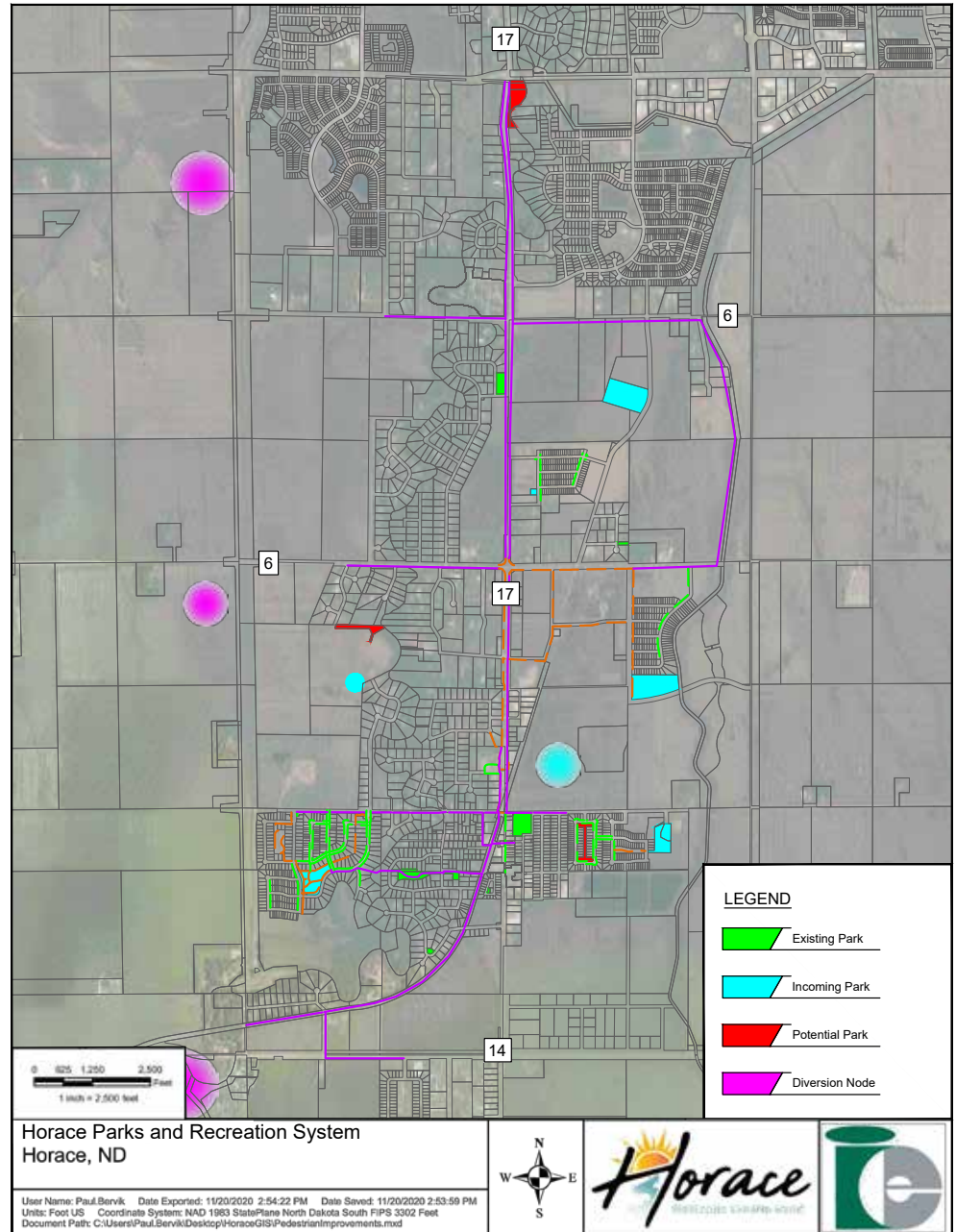
Photo Credit: <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/>

Park Connections Network

Just as neighborhood context is important when planning for new parks or upgrading existing facilities, understanding how parks connect and the City is vital to delivering a dynamic system of parks and recreation facilities. As a government involved in the land entitlement process, the Horace Park District has considerable influence on the placement of pedestrian facilities, up to and including ownership and maintenance of the right-of-way, as the ND Century Code enables Park Districts to:

Connect any park or parks owned or controlled by it with any other park or parks, and for that purpose, it may select and take charge of any connecting street or streets or parts thereof; and the board shall have the sole and exclusive charge and control of any street or streets taken for such purpose NDCC § 40-49-12(10).

While the Horace Park District has historically not maintained rights-of-way, it can continue to use its partnership with the City, local developers, and the public to ensure that the construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities occur in form and fashion that delivers the highest community benefit. The City of Horace maintains a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, which the Park District can adopt in partnership with City Hall. The Park District can utilize the plan to provide context for the placement of new facilities and pursue funding for connections and trails that enhance the shared community vision.



//Policy Roadmap

Implementing the shared community vision of Horace 2045 is best achieved by the Park District adopting policies of its own that are built upon the City's comprehensive plan and other previous planning efforts. The Horace Park District plays an integral role in shaping the built environment of the City of Horace, and thus decisions made by the Park District can have significant impacts on neighborhood design and the cost-of-living.

Policies:

1. Identify and pursue low cost, high impact projects
2. Utilize an incremental, neighborhood-focused approach towards updating existing parks
3. Adopt baseline planning requirements
4. Encourage Sheyenne River access while protecting riparian zones
5. Preserve Open Space
6. Utilize events year-round to generate revenue
7. Maintain a Capital Improvements Program
8. Foster public-private partnerships
9. Create transparency



Photo Credit: <https://www.lostriverdevelopment.com/>

Policy 1

Identify and pursue low cost, high impact projects

There are many parks projects around the community that have a minimal cost, yet high public benefit. The Park District should identify, inventory, and strategically implement these projects. These low cost, high impact projects can stand alone- such as the community garden in Prairie View, designed to enhance the parks network- like a community wayfinding/signage program, and/or also be part of larger, incrementally implemented projects (Policy 2). Local community events (Policy 6) are often low cost and high impact as well.

Some potential low cost, high impact projects could be:

1. Pocket Parks, including temporary programming
2. Community Gardens, such as one in the Prairie View parcel
3. Promotion of Public Art
4. Pilot projects, such as posting temporary wayfinding signage
5. Winter activities, such as preparing a park-owned property or leasing a farmer's field for cross-country skiing
6. Host a summer road biking race

Policy 2

Utilize an incremental, neighborhood-focused approach towards updating existing parks

The existing parks in Horace are well integrated into City's neighborhoods and the incoming parks in the new developments will over time as well. Maintain existing infrastructure. Updating park infrastructure should occur through an incremental process with involvement from the neighborhoods the parks are designed to serve. Andrew Price, an urbanist and contributor to the advocacy group Strong Towns, writes that "relying on small, incremental investments in improving a place—such that you get feedback and can pivot, adapt, and learn from experience—is a more resilient strategy for growth and prosperity than big, silver-bullet projects."¹

One method for an incremental, neighborhood-focused process is to consider holding annual meetings with neighborhood residents to review capital improvements and discuss concerns and potential changes regarding each park. The process gives the neighborhood residents ownership of the process and their parks and maximizes public investments over time. This process can also be applied to the existing park facilities like Freed or Independence Park that need larger, more immediate upgrades. Small investments to test the usability of new items over the next five years will ensure that when the opportunity arrives to make large investments in these parks, the residents and the Park District can build upon past successes.

Policy 3

Adopt baseline planning requirements

There are certain design and planning standards and baseline planning requirements which the Park District should adapt and require in all new developments and incrementally adapt in existing parks. Doing so not only creates predictability and consistency for both citizens and developers, but it also ensures that city parks are designed following best practices. Good design promotes park use through safety and ease of maintenance.

These baseline requirements should include:

1. The exterior boundaries of parks should abut public rights-of-way, not private yards.
2. Position new parks within new developments to create “15 min neighborhoods” so no resident is farther than a 15 min walk from a park.
3. Require new parks larger than 1 acre to have at least 25% green and open space.
4. Work to retain and increase natural occurring vegetation, trees, and access to existing shorelines.
5. Park aesthetics in general should reinforce important local natural and cultural themes. When appropriate, park aesthetics should also align with the neighborhood character within its 15-minute walkshed.
6. Design parks for year-round use, including our cold winters.
7. Parks should include adequate lighting and be maintained with the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)² in mind.
8. Park features and amenities, especially those financed through a special assessment, must be tied to local objectives, identified through this document, Park District policy, the development entitlement process, and/or the larger planning process.

Policy 4

Encourage Sheyenne River access while protecting riparian zones

Perhaps the most underutilized asset in the City of Horace is the Sheyenne River. Many residential properties abutting the river and the little shoreline preserved for public use. The Park District can be the lead agency in opening the River for public use and promoting the highest-and-best use of the shorelines in Horace. River access for canoeing, fishing, and perhaps even swimming will help promote the City's high quality of life. The Sheyenne River has a diversion to protect from the region's volatile flooding, so public investment along the Sheyenne (and perhaps the diversion channel) carries less risk than on similar rivers in the region.

Public river access should occur in strategic locations to protect the riparian zones around the river. Horace's natural growth forest around the Sheyenne River is a vital ecological feature as well as an important part of the community's character. The Park District should consider existing publicly-owned properties along the River for developing public access and take an incremental approach in conjunction with a local environment and/or recreation groups. Some properties to consider would be the County-owned parcel on the Corner of County Road 17 and 52nd Ave and the City-owned property at the south end of the Dreamfield's subdivision.

Policy 5

Preserve Open Space

The Park District should promote the preservation of open space across the community and ensure adequate green space in its larger neighborhood and community parks. Open, green, and natural spaces provide many economic, health, environmental, and social benefits for Cities³. Open spaces around a community protect wildlife, facilitate drainage, and provide important barriers and buffers between incompatible developments. The same types of space within parks promote a sense of calm and allows residents to use the area for picnics, flying kites, and imaginative play.

Open space and trails increase property values and stimulate commercial growth and promote revitalization in areas that may potentially be degrading. Open space can boost local economies by attracting tourists and supporting outdoor recreation, including running paths and cross-country skiing. They also tend to have lower maintenance costs than other parks. Importantly for Horace, the area around the City and along the Sheyenne River features some of the only natural growth forest lands in the area.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the use of parks substantially as social distancing and economic closures have forced people to seek respite in new areas. Public parks have created that respite by allowing residents to be outdoors while following any government-issued restrictions. Looking into the future, open spaces will become increasingly vital assets to the Park Districts because of their flexible set of uses as well as their social and environmental benefits.

3 https://conservationtools.org/library_items/725-An-Investment-that-Pays-The-Economic-Benefits-of-Parks-and-Open-Space

Policy 6

Utilize events year-round to generate revenue

The Park District can position itself as a primary organizer for public events in the City. The Park District already assists the City with existing events such as Horace Bean Days and can augment these existing activities with events that further enhance public life while generating additional revenue for operations. The Park District should consider and implement a variety of events in terms of scale and cost.

There are many ideas for events. Some common ones in other communities include:

- Organize an annual road bike race
- Host a springtime market for regional nurseries to sell plants and flowers
- Host a Holiday Market themed to the French and Norwegian Heritage of the City
- Host a block party
- Organize a public concert series in the summer months
- Organize a local history and cemetery tour
- Community clean-up day
- Organize a cross-country skiing competition in the winter
- Host a Fire Department vs. Sheriff's Department Softball game
- Ice skating

Policy 7

Maintain a Capital Improvements Program

While the Park District already effectively manages its assets, exploring options in which to streamline asset management makes for more effective programs and saves taxpayer dollars. As the Park District continues to grow, maintaining a capital improvements program (CIP) can help provide long-term insight on budgets and financial needs. Additionally, as the Park District is subject to public scrutiny, a CIP can give a sense of purpose and provide clarity to the budget.

A capital improvement plan identifies, and schedules, the budget for the replacement of equipment and the upgrade/maintenance of capital items. Maintaining a CIP can be as simple as creating an annual reserve fund that is discretionary for immediate needs, to setting up a system for the repair and replacement of amenities. Amenities include anything in the park, playground equipment, trees, shelters, restrooms, sprinkler systems, etc. Preparing financially will create more long-term predictability for the overall budget, especially in the current turbulent economic era.

Policy 8

Foster public-private partnerships

As the Horace Park District grows with the City, it is important to consider how public-private partnerships can play an important role in delivering quality-park programming and maintenance. The Urban Land Use Institute writes that “Cross-sector partnerships can bring the capabilities and competitive advantages of different actors to bear, creating and sustaining parks that advance equity as well as marrying the resources and skills of the public, private, nonprofit, and philanthropic.”⁴

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to negatively impact public budgets, now and potentially in the future, it is more important than ever to find a way to create sustainable funding for a necessary public amenity. The decline of city and county tax revenues will mean, that now, more than ever partners from the private sector will be vital to stabilizing Parks Department budgets.

Partnerships can be as basic or as complex, as needed, even including simple actions such as naming the park, equipment, shelters, restrooms, or another amenity that will need long-term perpetual capital maintenance that the City will not be able to afford. These relationships could be cultivated by the Planning Board to ensure that the organization’s approach matches the vision of the area and the values of the City. This would ensure firms will continue to invest in the human aspect of parks and project resources necessary to scale their businesses to match the city and their future ambition are aligned.

Policy 9

Create transparency

The Park District intends to update its web presence over the next couple of years. Building upon these efforts and creating transparency wherever possible makes for good governance, increases the effectiveness of community engagement efforts and participation in Park District activities. There are many ways to create and improve upon transparency, but all of them are grounding in the expectation that taxpayers should understand how and why their taxes are spent as they are.

In the digital age of 2020, community residents are more engaged in the civic process than ever before. Transparency can be as simple as making it easier for public access and interact with information and activities. One way to enhance new trends is by real-time streaming of meetings, posting meeting agendas and minutes on the City website, residents begin to feel involved.

Transparency could also about ensuring clarity and intent in policy and actions. Publishing this master plan is one example. Another method would be to create and publish a set of mission, vision, and values for the Parks Board. This could be updated after each election cycle, augmenting the longer timeline of this document. A statement of mission/vision/values gives the elected Park District members something to reflect upon and work towards serving.

4 Urban Land Institute, *Successful Partnerships for Parks: Collaborative Approaches to Advance Equitable Access to Open Space* (Washington, DC: ULI, 2020).

//Recommendations: Existing Parks

Freed Community Park

Community Park - (4.28 Acres)

Freed Park is centered around the Billy Freed Memorial Field, a fastpitch softball field. This park is bordered by two paved roads, an unpaved road, and a single residence. Freed Park is primarily accessed from Wall Ave, having an unpaved parking lot capacity of 42 vehicles. A newer maintenance building is located adjacent to the field. The softball field provides bleacher seating.

Amenities in the park include a jungle gym, skateboarding, tennis court, sand volleyball court, basketball hoops, horseshoe pits, and skating in winter. The condition of the tennis court, volleyball court, basketball hoops, and horseshoe pits need maintenance.

All the parks' amenities are separated by grass without walkway access. The skateboard park is located adjacent to Nelson Drive without any barrier, which presents a safety concern for users of the skateboard park.

Recommended Park Improvements:

Programmed Space + Support Facilities

- Replace the tennis courts with a new, larger playground which meets ADA and has a paved path to the parking lot.
- Create a walking path around the entire park, connecting all amenities; add access points to the neighborhood.
- Make improvements to the warming house to be used for skating during the winter. Improvements should include options for future concessions and events during all seasons
- Update outfield fence locations to align with recommended fastpitch distances.



Natural Resources + Open Space

- Add vegetative buffer, such as trees and planting beds, between park amenities and Nelson Drive.
- Remove amenities that don't meet maintenance budgets and replace them with open space. Provide benches along paths around the open space.

General

- Pave the parking lot to better manage stormwater runoff and mud

Meadowlark Community Park

Community Park – (5.89 Acres)

Meadowlark Park is a new park with several sports amenities, such as pickleball courts, full basketball court, baseball diamond, soccer field, and hockey rink. Other amenities included in the park is a playground, recreational skating rink, picnic tables with shelter, and a gazebo. All these amenities are connected via a multi-use path and sidewalks.

Parking is dedicated to the park through on-street diagonal parking spaces.

Recommended Park Improvements:

General

- Coordinate to add a trail connection to Independence park, across the Sheyenne River, and a multi-use trail heading West to link the future Diversion Greenway.



Lowry Engineering



Horace Lions (Westwood Community Park)

Community Park – (1.98 acres)

Horace Lions park is surrounded by paved roads on three sides and is highly visible from County Road 17. Vehicle access to parking for the park is made from Sunnyside Drive. The parking lot is unpaved and has space for 20 vehicles.

The Northside of the park, adjacent to residential property has a mature screen of trees. The tree line continues south along County Road 17 halfway through the park. The south and west sides of Lions park do not have any vegetation.

A Lions Park sign is in the middle of the park on the Eastside, along County Road 17, but the size of the sign difficult to see by vehicle traffic.

Amenities within the park include a baseball diamond, play structures, and an uncovered picnic table. The play structures are still serviceable, but replacement of the park would be appropriate within the next 5 years.

PLAN LEGEND

- ① Baseball Field
- ② Vault Restroom
- ③ Playground
- ④ Parking Lot
- ⑤ Park Signage

Recommended Park Improvements:

Programmed Space + Support Facilities

- Add a vaulted restroom for on-site, sustainable option for a restroom.

Natural Resources + Open Space

- Create a vegetative edge on the east side of Lions park ball field to better define the park edge and screen traffic and noise from County Road 17.

General

- Upgrade parking lot to a paved parking lot.

Independence Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Park – (3.19 Acres)

Independence Park is nestled in a mature tree grove, surrounded by residential properties. Of all the parks in Horace, this is one that has the most natural park-like feel. This is a great natural resource for the City of Horace while other parks are developed and trees mature to the level as found in Independence Park.

A drainage swale carries through the park on the Southside, limiting access to park amenities on the Northside. There is a pedestrian bridge that connects the park through an access path to Liberty Lane. There are no paths located through the park.

Park amenities include several playground structures, horseshoe pits, and a picnic shelter. Several play structures are outdated or need maintenance.

Vehicle access to the park is limited to an unpaved road connecting to Southwood Drive on the Westside. There is a short distance on the Eastside, where the park borders Sheyenne Drive, but there is no improved path access to reach park amenities and a swale creates a barrier with no crossing.

Recommended Park Improvements:

Natural Resources + Open Space

- Construct a treehouse to complement the natural playground within the park.

Natural Resources + Open Space

- Review maintenance practices along drainage swale to ensure vegetation may grow to encourage ecological diversity and improve the appearance of the creek.
- Survey trees and natural growth for maintenance, removing deadfall, and undesirable species

General

- Improve park signage on the west side/vehicular entrance and add signage on the east side of the park.
- Create a walking path that spans the park site, connecting the east and west sides of the park with amenities and the pedestrian bridge.
- Construct a small bridge that spans the drainage swale near Southwood Drive, connecting the east and south portions of the park with the north and west sides.
- Study expansion of walking path along drainage swale on Park property east of Southwood Drive.
- Install natural playground components that synchronize with the natural context of the park.



Adelman Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Park – (0.37 Acres)

Adelman Park is a small pocket park that is located between two residential properties. Access to the site is limited from Brynley Blvd. Vegetation on the private property helps provide screening from the south side, but there is limited vegetation to screen on the north.

A playground structure and picnic table are the only amenities located in the park. A basketball court is located on the East side of the park.

Recommended Park Improvements:

Programmed Space + Support Facilities

- Connect the east side of the park to a proposed city trail system.

Natural Resources + Open Space

- Add trees and plants to help screen park from adjacent properties and add visual interest.

General

- Add bench seating adjacent to playground and basketball court.

Arrowwood Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Park – (0.30 Acres)

Arrowwood Park is a small pocket park that serves the surrounding neighborhood. The park includes a centrally located play structure and picnic table. The park is adjacent to two residential properties but has easy access from Liberty Lane.

Pavement from Liberty Lane is located where Liberty Lane and Liberty Circle intersect which is not ideal. Even with light traffic, it would be safer to have access points on the East, West, or both sides of the park. Additionally, a grouping of utilities is located on the edge of the park.

Recommended Park Improvements:

Programmed Space + Support Facilities

- Add a basketball half-court
- Add picnic tables
- With a lack of overhead cover, install a simple covering or shade structure for the picnic table(s).

Natural Resources + Open Space

- Add trees and plants to help screen park from adjacent properties and add visual interest.
- Provide a vegetative buffer between picnic tables and Liberty Lane to increase comfort and safety
- Create a vegetative screen for utilities on the NW corner of the park.

General

- Adjust the concrete path to have access points at the East and/ or West side of the park.
- Add park signage to identify with the Park system

Maple Grove Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Park – (1.57 Acres)

Maple Grove Park is located on the corner lot in the Holmens sub development. Most of the park space is dedicated to a retention pond. Several park benches overlook the pond, shrubs have been planted to provide a private space for users sitting on the bench but the vegetation has now become overgrown.

There is not sufficient space to provide amenities other than an outdoor picnic table or small activity, such as a horseshoe pit. But given the size of the properties around Maple Grove Park, it is unlikely that these amenities would be used.

Recommended Park Improvements:

Natural Resources + Open Space

- Review maintenance practices around the retention pond to ensure vegetation may grow to encourage ecological diversity and improve the appearance of the pond.

General

- Consider removing this park from the City park system to relieve maintenance costs.

Willow Court Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Park – (0.13 Acres)

Willow court Park is a small pocket park adjacent to residential properties yet easily accessible from Willow Court. The has a small amount of green space and a single play structure.

Recommended Park Improvements:

Programmed Space + Support Facilities

- Consider placing a half-court for basketball or horseshoe pit within the green space.
- Add site furnishings, such as a picnic table or bench for seating and a trash receptacle.

Natural Resources + Open Space

- Survey trees and natural growth for maintenance, removing deadfall, and undesirable species.

General

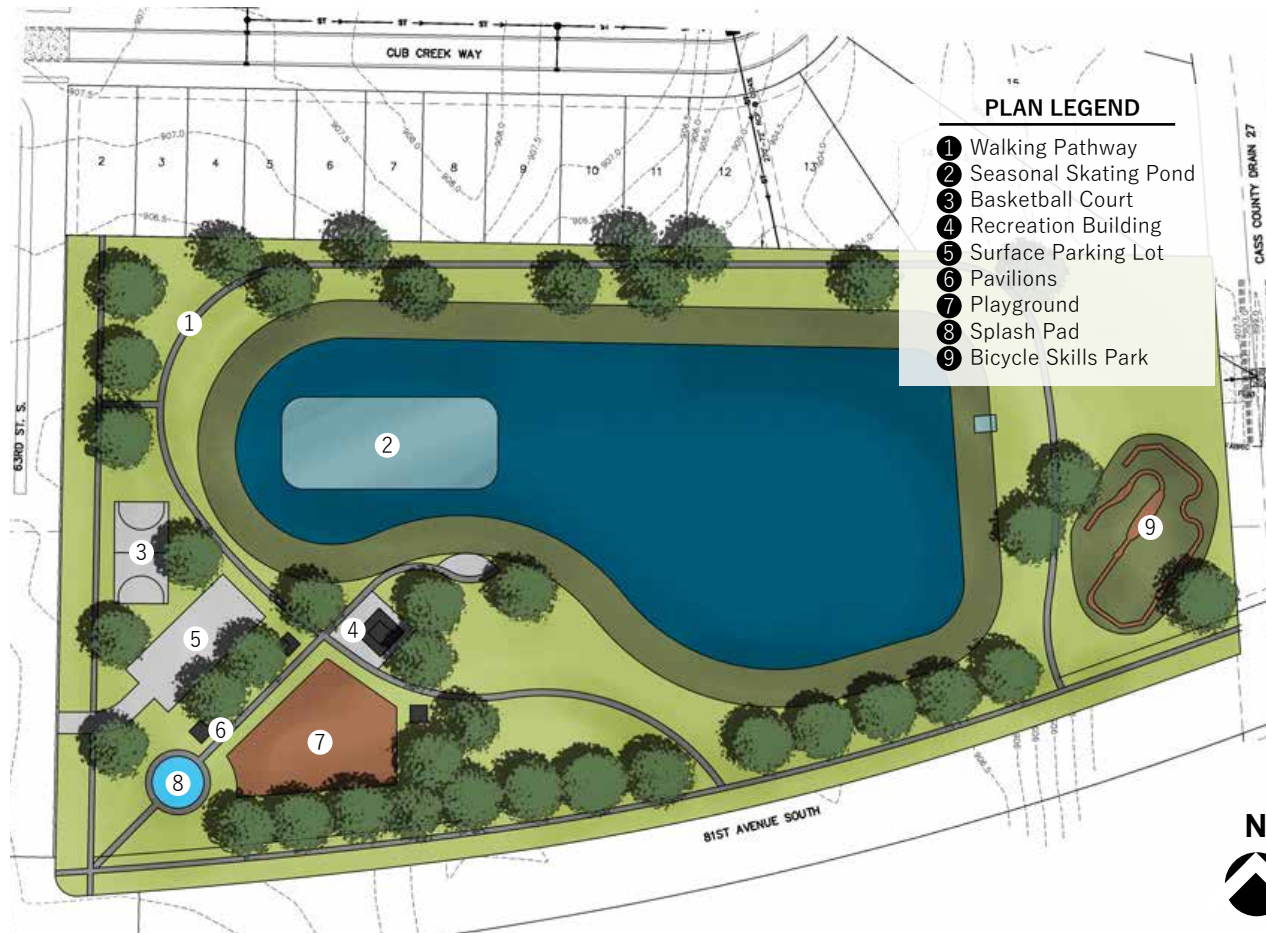
- Add park signage to identify with the Park system
- Create an ADA access path to the playground from the street.

//Recommendations: New Parks

Cub Creek

Community Park – (10.5 Acres)

Cub Creek Park is the largest proposed Park, currently at 10.5-acres. This park is centrally located next to the proposed “Town Square”, the Middle and High Schools and next to dense housing units. The Park will be well connected to adjacent properties and development with walking paths. Being in close proximity to older children making an amenity that appeals to them will decrease vandalism and keep them engaged in a sense of community.



Recommended Park Improvements:

Programmed Space + Support Facilities

- Develop a signature play structure that would be a regional attraction
- A splash park
- Pump track
- Skate park
- Basketball courts

Natural Resources + Open Space

- Add trees and plants to help screen the park from adjacent properties and add visual interest.
- Provide picnic tables
- Shade covering
- By allowing for at least 20% open space the area could have soccer fields
- Concert areas
- Golf disc court

General

- Ensure connections are well maintained and well lit
- Add park signage to identify locations within the park and adjacent
- Make sure there are plenty of garbage receptacles to keep park clean
- Parking on-street but clearly marked

Southdale-1

Community Park – (10.0 Acres)

Southdale-1 is proposed at 10.0-acres. This Park is adjacent to the elementary school and very dense housing surrounding it, making it a true neighborhood park and an ideal location for a campus-style center for indoor and outdoor programmed activities. This park should appeal to the age spans which will use the area.

Recommended Park Improvements:

Programmed Space + Support Facilities

- Indoor Recreation Center and Park District Offices
- Playgrounds
- Splash Pad
- Basketball Courts
- Combination soccer and baseball field
- Potential outdoor ice-skating rink on soccer field

Natural Resources + Open Space

- Add trees and plants to add visual interest, however low height shrubs may be best for small children to be seen
- Multi-use paths for connectivity to the neighboring school and housing.

General

- Provide off-street parking which accomodates a proposed recreation center and convenient parking for outdoor recreation facilities.
- Provide signage that matches other park signage in the City.



Southdale 2

Neighborhood Park – (.4 Acres)

This small park of .4 acres is adjacent to a large townhome development community and a large drainage facility.

Recommended Park Improvements:

Programmed Space + Support Facilities

- Passive/ Quiet space
- Dog Park

Natural Resources + Open Space

- If a community active area is not chosen from above, then creating a lush green space may be attractive.

General

- Provide on-street parking.
- Add signage that is consistent with other parks in town.
- Develop a bug spraying schedule to help keep mosquitoes and other stagnant water bugs at bay.
- Provide for neighborhood connectivity.



Terra Gardens Park

Neighborhood Park – (5.2 Acres)

Designed as the neighborhood park to serve the Terra Gardens and Prairie View developments, the Terra Gardens park features a baseball backstop (not shown in concept drawing), a play structure, and a shelter. All these amenities are connected via a multi-use path and sidewalks. The area is also slated to feature more tree plantings than is typical.

Recommended Park Improvements:

General

- Coordinate pedestrian connections to the north to Cub Creek Park and the “Town Square” envisioned in the Lakeview project, as well as to Freed Park to the east.



Prairie View Community Garden

Neighborhood Park – (2 Acres)

The Horace Park District owns an “I” shaped parcel in the middle of the Prairie View Development. This parcel provides opportunities to implement low-cost, high-impact improvements to enhance quality-of-life. The addition of a community garden and more trees and plants can provide an activity for neighborhood involvement while at the same time help beautify the Prairie View neighborhood, which has no boulevard trees.

Recommended Park Improvements:

Programmed Space + Support Facilities

- Plant Community Garden at the south end of the parcel.

Natural Resources + Open Space

- Add trees and plants to add visual interest at both the north and south sides of the parcel.

General

- Consider adding a gazebo or seating area at both the north and south sides of the parcel.

PLAN LEGEND

- ① Community Gardens
- ② Sitting Area



