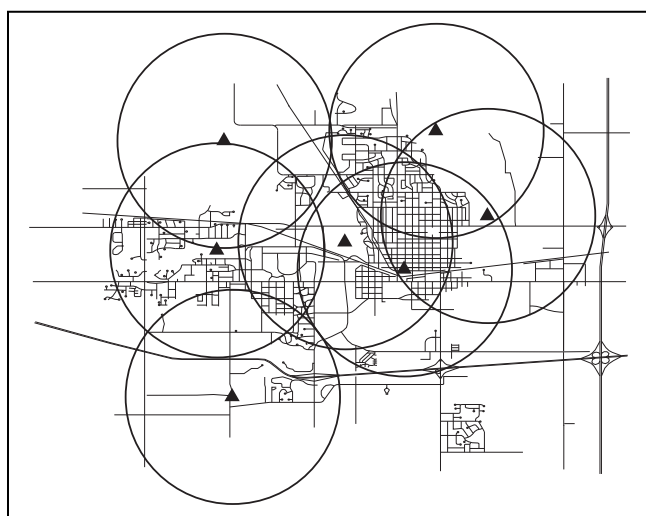


CHAPTER FIVE
PARKS, RECREATION,
AND OPEN SPACE

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

Operations. The City of Ames operates 32 facilities for the public provision of parks, recreation and open space. Both active and passive opportunities are provided through a decentralized system of essential facilities that are generally unstaffed. More specialized facilities are provided in centralized locations and supported by some staff. Joint usage of some athletic facilities at public schools is provided by the City and the school district.

City-owned facilities are available to the region's population, and ISU students. The University provides extensive recreational facilities and programs for its students. Eleven of its facilities are available to the general public on a limited basis. Public use typically involves specific times and availability.

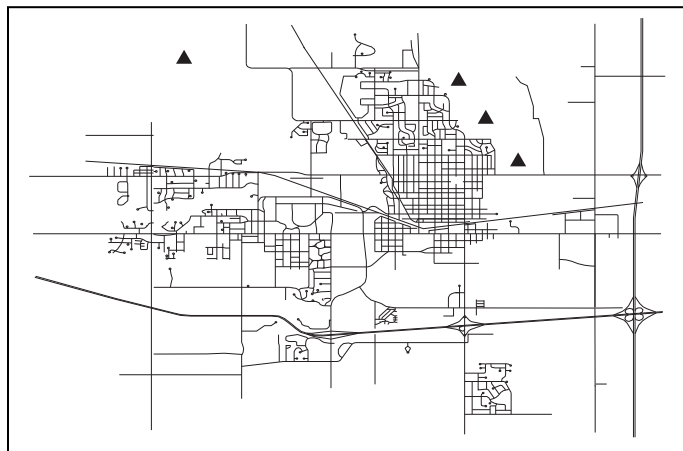


Community Park Service Nodes

City-owned facilities are classified into five groups based in type of provisions, size and service area. The largest and most extensive type - regional - is not available in Ames. The four types that are provided by the City include the following:

- Community - service area is 1 to 2 miles, size is 25 or more acres;
- Neighborhood - service area is 1/4 to 1/2 miles, size is 15 or more acres;
- Special Use - community centers, golf courses, swimming pools, ice rink, etc.; and
- Open Space and Woodlands - land set aside for conservation or passive use.

Level of Service. Standards for Level of Service (LOS) involving parks, recreation and open space vary with the socio-economic, physiological and alternative provider characteristics of a community. Ames is distinguished from other communities by the presence of ISU. The University contributes to the greater affluence and more varied interests of the community. It also attracts a disproportionately higher number of young adults among the population. The recreational and open space provisions of ISU support its students and employees. Many of these students and employees are also residents of Ames and are increasingly living off-campus, thus there is a shared need.



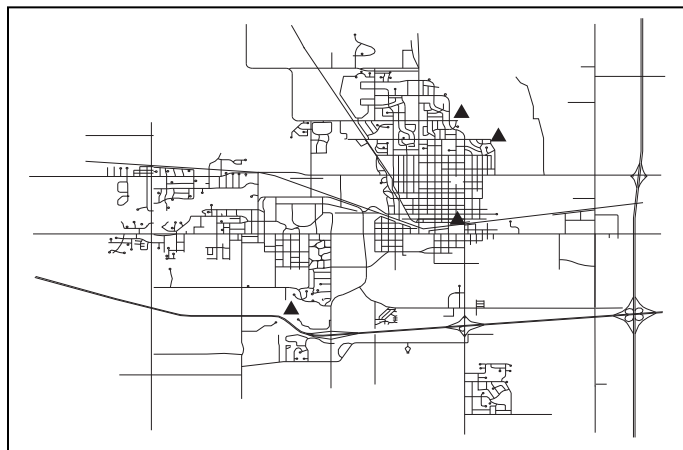
Neighborhood Park Service Areas

LOS-standards for parks, recreation and open space are based on three conditions:

- Type, number and appropriateness of facilities;
- Amount of land dedicated for active and passive recreation; and,
- Accessibility of facilities

LOS standards and compared needs for Ames are identified in the following.

LOS standards for the type, number, and appropriateness of the City's public facilities are established in the following table. The standards are similar to those recommended by the National Parks and Recreation Association and have been modified to give partial recognition to the facilities provided by ISU. Based on these standards there is a marginal deficit in several facilities currently. The most significant deficits occur in major specialized facilities including an 18-hole golf course, ice rink, aquatic center, community center and outdoor theater.

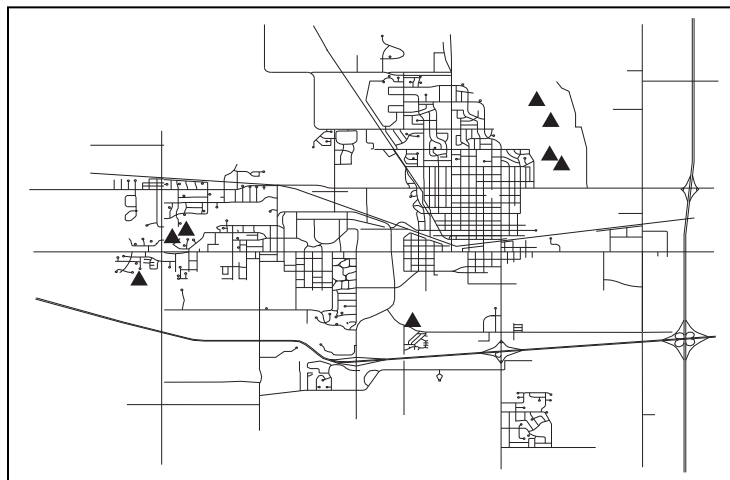


Specialized Parks

When the standards are applied to projected population all facilities, with the exception of tennis and volleyball, reach deficit status at 60,000 population. Deficits occur in all facilities at 70,000.

LOS standards for land area involving parks, recreation and open space are recommended as follows:

- Developed land = 5 acres per 1,000 population; and,
- Woodlands/Open space = 5 acres per 1,000 population.



Open Space and Woods

A developed park is designed for either passive or active usage with amenities incorporated at the site. Woodlands/Open space land is set aside to be left in a natural state. The land is suited for spontaneous low impact recreational pursuits. Trails may be established. Ames currently provides approximately 230 acres of developed park land, excluding Homewood Golf Course.

Based on a standard of 245 acres for developed park land, the City currently meets the standard. Based on a projected population of 65,000 - 67,000 by the year 2030, a total of 335 acres of developed park land would be required. Ames has set a higher objective involving an additional 200 - 250 acres of developed park land. Of the additional park land, 100 - 125 acres are recommended for a regional park and 100 - 125 acres for neighborhood parks.

The City currently provides approximately 235 acres that are exclusively open space. Another 164 acres associated with existing community and neighborhood parks may be classified as open space making a grand total of 399 acres of open space currently. Based on a standard of 245 acres for open space, there is a current surplus of 154 acres. Based on a projected population of 65,000 - 67,000 by the year 2030, a total of 300 acres of open space would be required. Ames has set a higher objective involving an additional 200 acres of open space.

LOS-standards for accessibility are based on the type of park - i.e. regional, community, neighborhood. In terms of distance the following standards are recommended:

- Regional = 5-10 miles;
- Community = 1-2 miles; and,
- Neighborhood = 1/4-1/2 miles.

Ames has no regional parks currently. It is recommended that a site of 100 - 125 acres for a regional park be pursued. A joint city-county facility should be explored.

All of Ames is served by an existing community park with the exception of the southeast area. Construction is underway for a youth park at the City's former wastewater treatment facility that will bring park services to the area.

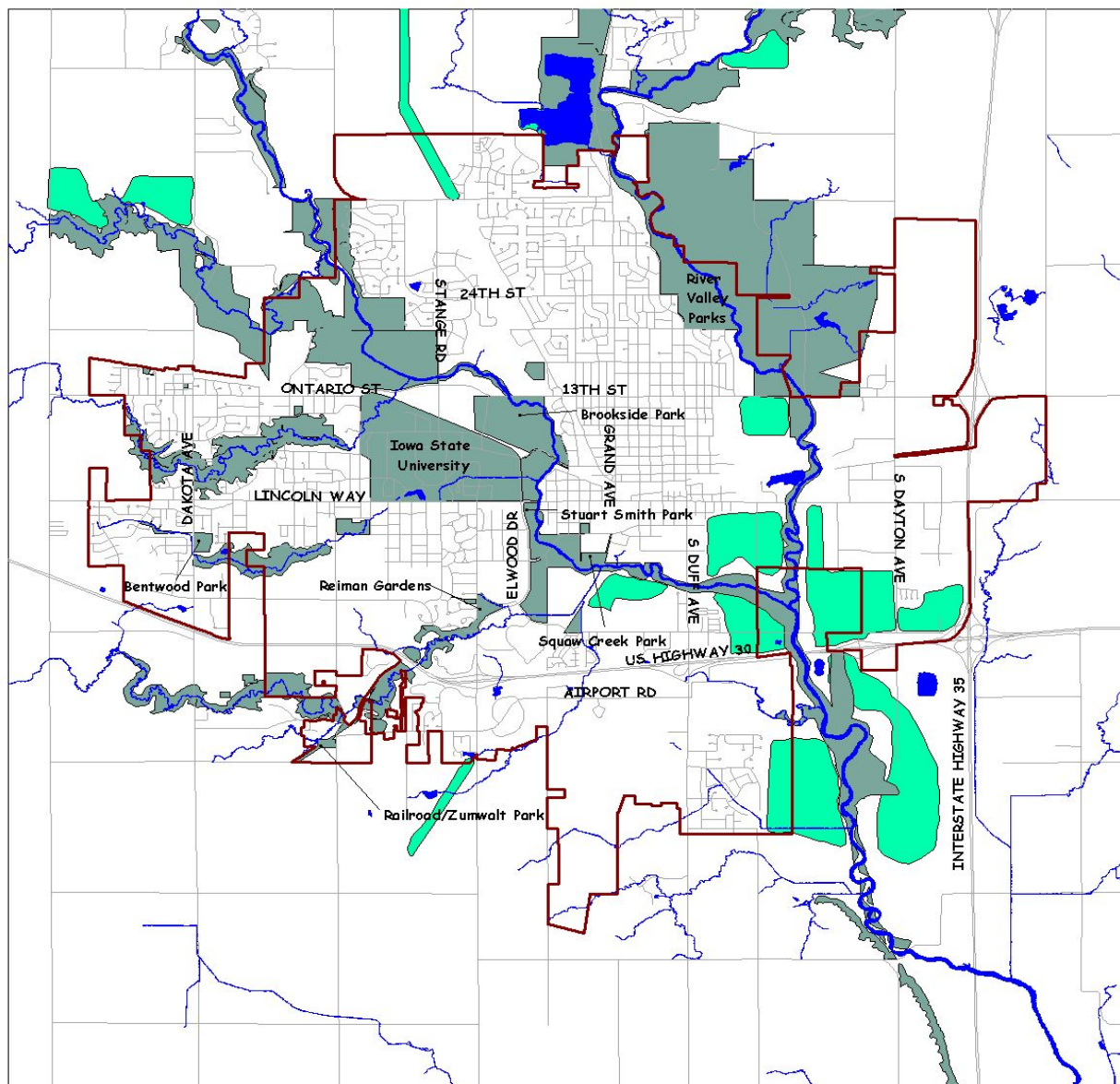
Areas to the north and northwest have limited availability to neighborhood parks currently. As population increases south of Hwy. 30, one or more neighborhood parks will be required.

Parks and Open Space Improvements. It is Ames objective to increase its parks and open space by a total of 400 - 450 acres by the year 2030. The following improvements are recommended.

Parks. The Future Land Use Map identifies four future park zones. These park zones involve general locations wherein a new park site would be developed. The type of park to be associated with each zone is to be decided by the City through a more extensive master plan. The following future park zones are included:

- Former Taylor Farm;
- Hallett's Quarry;
- Northwest; and,
- Southwest.

Open Space. The Future Land Use Map identifies a greenway system that encompasses portions of environmentally sensitive areas. These streamways and natural resources are recommended for protection and use as passive recreational areas. Linking them together with the City's exiting parks and open space creates a greenway system serving the entire community.



Greenway
*1994 RM Plan Group

- Greenway/Parks and Open Space
- Environmentally Sensitive Land

Table 12
EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
City of Ames, 1995

	Total Acres	Developed	Woodlands/ Open Space
Regional			
None	0	0	0
Community Parks/Woodlands			
Brookside	82	53	29
Emma McCarthy Lee Memorial	38	14	24
Inis Grove	42	21	21
Moore Memorial Park (East side of river)	50	22	28
River Valley Park (North/South)	77	52	25
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>127</i>
Neighborhood Parks/Woodlands			
Bentwood (Proposed development)	9.6	9.6	0
Country Gables	14.3	6.3	8
14 th and Duff	0.5	0.5	0
Franklin	4.5	4.5	0
Hutchison	1	1	0
Moore	2	2	0
O'Neil	2.5	2.5	0
Parkview	12	0	12
South Dakota (property for sale)	11	7	4
Stuart Smith	34	21	13
Teagarden	1	1	0
Old Town	0.5	0.5	0
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>92.9</i>	<i>55.9</i>	<i>37</i>
Specialized Recreation Facilities/Parks			
Bandshell	2.6	2.6	0
Carr Pool/Park	6	6	0
Community Center	2	0	2
Gateway Administrative Complex	4	4	0
Homewood Golf Course	43	0	43
Moore Memorial (Farmland)	40	0	40
Business Area Parks	0.5	0.5	0
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>98.1</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>85</i>
Woodlands and Open Space			
Carr Woods	21	0	21
Gateway Park	38	0	38
Gunder Woods	57	0	57
Homewood Woods	21.1	0	21.1
Railroad/Zumwalt	24.4	0	24.4
McDonald Woods	3	0	3
Munn Woods	40	0	40
Nutty Woods	24.4	0	24.4
College Creek	5.5	0	5.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>234.4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>234.4</i>
Additional Park Land			
Greenbriar	9	0	9
Clear Creek	5	0	5
Patio Homes West	2	0	2
Squaw Creek	17.5	0	17.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>33.5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>33.5</i>
TOTALS	747.9	231	398.4*
*Excludes the categories of "Specialized Recreation Facilities/Parks" and "Additional Park Land"			

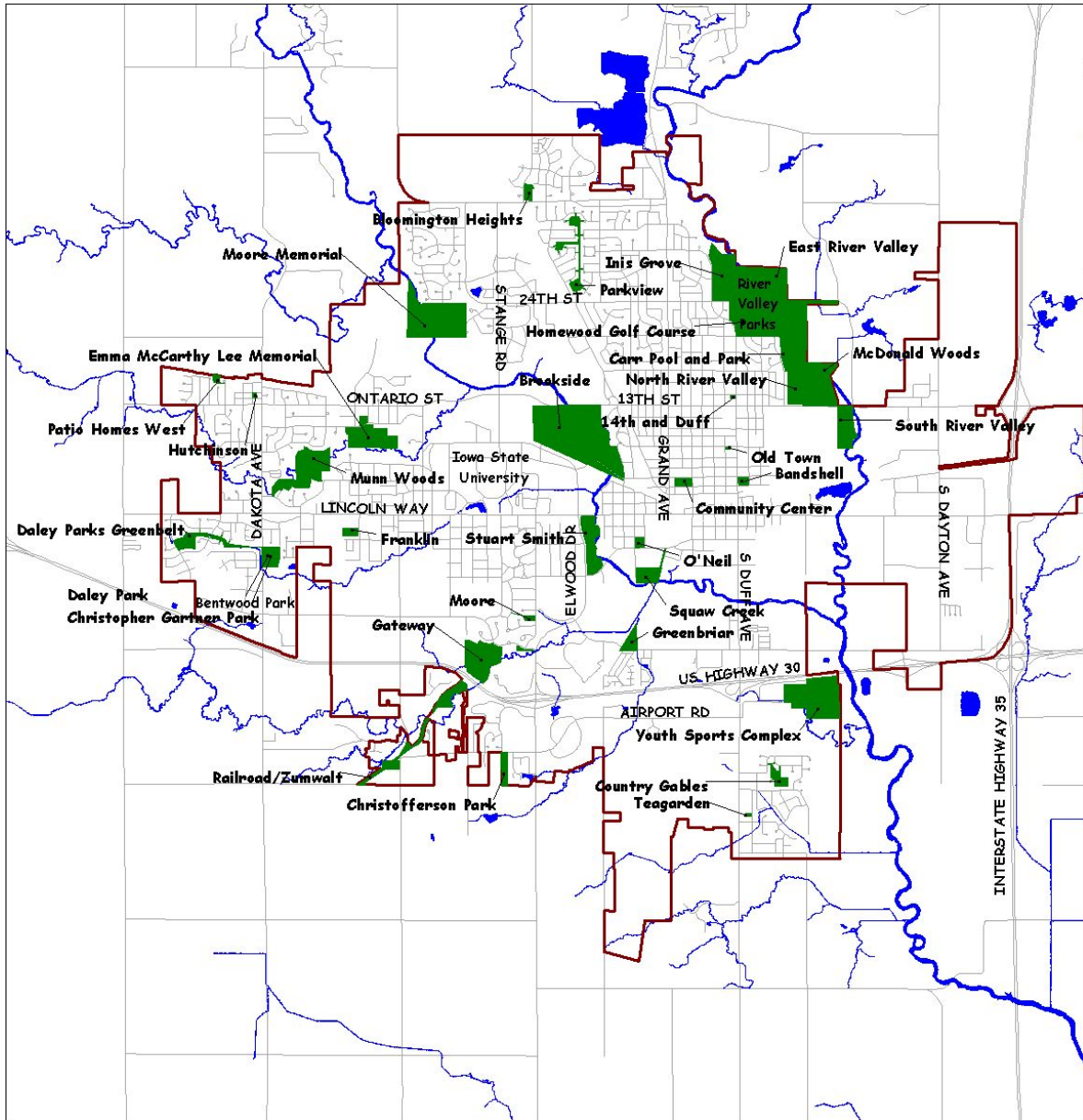
Table 13
EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
City of Ames, 1995

Facility	Playground	Baseball	Softball	Tennis	Basketball	Volleyball	Soccer	Restroom	Gym	Golf-9 Hole	Ice Rink	Swimming	Horseback	Horse Shoe	Picnic	Trail	Other
Ames/ISU Ice Arena											X						Indoor
Bandshell	X						X								X		bandshell
Brookside	X	3		4	1	1	X							X	X	X	
Community Center							X	X									Weight/Gymnastics
Country Gables	X				1										X		
14th & Duff	X				1										X		
E.M. Lee Memorial		1	1	4	1	1	X							X	X	X	
Franklin	X				1										X		
Greenbriar																	Open Space
Homewood Golf Course							X		X						X	X	Woodlands
Hutchison	X				1										X		
Inis Grove	X	2		4	1	1	X							X	X	X	
Moore	X				1												
Moore Memorial	X						X								X	X	Observe Tower
Municipal Indoor Pool												1					
Gateway	X					1	X					1					Community Room
O'Neil	X		1		1										X		
Parkview	X														X		
Railroad/Zumwalt																	Open Space
River Valley Complex*	X	1	6			1	X					1		X	X	X	Canoe Portage
Gunder Woods																X	Open Space
McDonald Woods																X	Open Space
Munn Woods																X	Open Space
Nutty Woods															X	X	Open Space
South Dakota	X														X		
Squaw Creek																	Open Space
Stuart Smith	X														X	X	Open Space
Teagarden	X														X		
Old Town	X														X		
College Creek																	Open Space
Clear Creek Access																	Open Space

*Includes Carr Pool and Park and Carr Woods

Table 14
STANDARDS AND NEEDS FOR PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES
City of Ames, 1994

FACILITY	Standard/ Population*	Existing Facilities	Total Required 50,000 Pop.	Total Required 60,000 Pop.	Total Required 70,000 Pop.
Playground	1 per 2,500	17	20	24	28
Baseball	1 per 5,000	7	10	12	14
Softball	1 per 7,500	8	7	8	10
Basketball	1 per 5,000	9	10	12	14
Tennis	1 per 5,000	12	10	12	14
Volleyball	1 per 10,000	5	5	6	7
Soccer/Football	1 per 5,000	0	10	12	14
Exercise Trail	1 per 2,500	11	20	24	28
Golf Course, 18-hole	1 per 50,000	one 9-hole	1	1	1
Ice Rink	1 per 35,000	1	1	1	2
Swim Pool, 50-meter	Outdoor 1 per 25,000	0**	1	1	2
Swim Pool, 50-meter	Indoor 1 per 25,000	0**	1 optional	1 optional	2 optional
Community Center	1 per 25,000	1	2	2	2
Outdoor Theater	1 per 35,000	1	1	1	2
<p>* Standards have been adjusted to reflect limited availability of ISU facilities for general public use. ** The City currently operates one large outdoor pool, one 25-yard x 14-yard outdoor pool and one 25-yard by 25-yard indoor pool.</p>					



Existing Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities

*1999 City of Ames

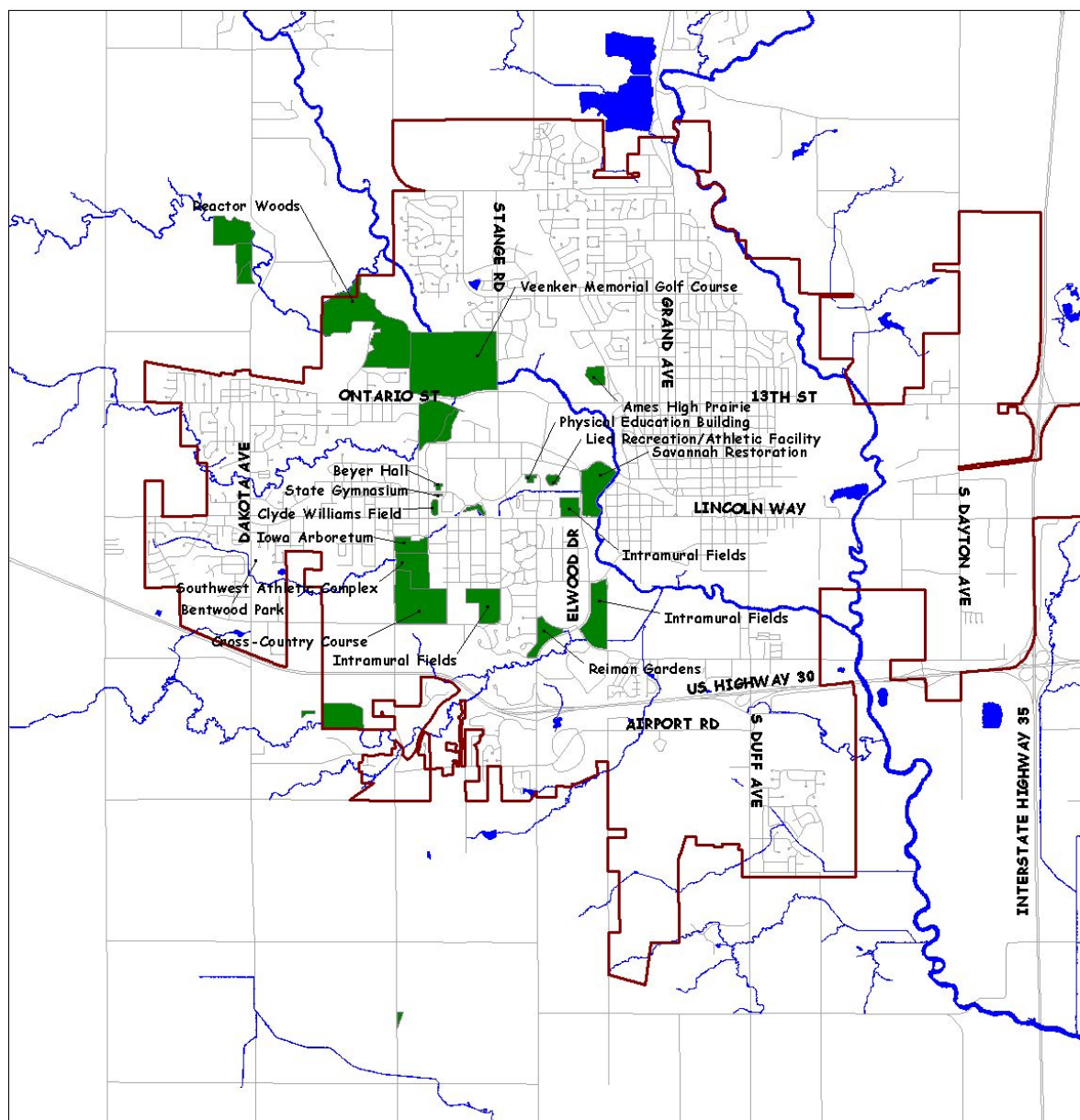
Table 15
EXISTING RECREATIONAL PROVISIONS
Iowa State University, 1994

Facility	Playground	Baseball	Softball	Tennis	Basketball	Volleyball	Soccer	Restroom	Gym	Golf 18-hole	Ice Rink	Swimming	Running Track	Multi-Purpose	Racketball	Trail	Other
Beyer Hall*				16	6	6		X	1			1			6		2 Squash Courts/Suana
State Gym*								X	1				1				
P.E.B.*				7				X	2								
Clyde Williams Field													1	X			Workout Cicut
Intramural Fields			13											X			
Veenker								X		X							
Practice Golf Area																	Driv./Chip. Range
Lake Laverne																	Open Space
Reiman Gardens																X	
Pamel Woods																X	

X Outdoor Facility

** Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are family days. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.*

Use by the public is limited to select times and availability.



ISU Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities