

PROPOSED INITIAL PHASE

MASTER PLAN FOR

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AT NATURE AT THE CONFLUENCE

SOUTH BELOIT, ILLINOIS

- PICNIC SHELTER**
New open sided shelter will provide protected event space for small to medium sized gatherings. Sitting on a concrete pad, the facility will be fully ADA compliant.
- NATURE THEMED PLAY AREA**
Neighborhood playground with a nature theme to be located near the proposed shelter along with benches for supervision. Equipment and facilities are to be ADA accessible.
- PORTABLE RESTROOM FACILITIES**
ADA accessible Portable Restroom facilities, (Porta-Potties) to be located near the new Picnic Shelter and Playground.
- FLEXIBLE LAWN**
Area of open manicured lawn located adjacent to the shelter and playground for active recreational activities.
- SOUTH LOT PARKING**
A new 37 stall parking area adjacent to the new Charles Street. entrance will provide parking opportunities for participants of events at the adjacent shelter and playground and users of the south portion of the park. Lot will also serve as bus parking for activities at Nature at the confluence (NATC).
- THE MAIN PATH**
Mirroring the new park drive, this ADA compliant pedestrian path serves as the primary connection to the NATC campus for park users who are enjoying the park on foot. Access to secondary paths and park facilities such as the picnic shelter, playground, and natural areas all branch off of this main path.
- PATH/DRIVE LIGHTS**
Mid height post path and drive lights along the park drive/main path will provide moderate light levels for user safety and security after dark, while maintaining a pleasant laid-back ambience. The lamp posts offer the opportunity to display themed event/seasonal banners or flowering hanging baskets to accent the park.
- PATH SYSTEM**
A tiered path system will feature several types of paths to accommodate a variety of uses. The 10' wide paved main path is intended as the central circulation choice. Secondary paved paths are 6'-8' wide and will provide access to individual activities. The paved paths provide ADA compliant access to the park facilities. Additional unpaved paths (mulch or crushed gravel) lead to remote areas for the more adventurous users.
- PATH SIDE BENCHES, PICNIC PODS AND "CLASSROOMS"**
Several path side benches, areas for sitting and group activities, will be scattered along the path system. The areas vary in size from single benches, small/medium sized clearings for picnics, outdoor classroom activities, or simply taking a break. A picnic pod located on the primary path will also be paved. A pod located along secondary paths will be natural surfaces. Seating for the areas will range from manufactured benches and picnic tables, to logs and stumps, in the more nature themed areas.
- KELLY CREEK OVERLOOK**
Deck structure that overlooks Kelly Creek as it daylights on the path to the Rock River. The overlook offers rustic views down the creek corridor and an educational opportunity to discuss the creek's history and function in the park's ecology. Outfitted with benches and adjacent to the shade structure, this feature provides a pleasant rest spot for park goers.
- SHADE SHELTER**
Small structure outfitted with benches located next to the observation deck provides shade and a place to rest for park users.
- DRINKING FOUNTAIN**
The shade structure will also feature a public drinking fountain for park user's enjoyment.
- PLANTINGS AND GREEN ITEMS**
Most of site's existing wooded areas and native grass/prairie areas will be retained and enhanced where needed. Gradual removal of undesirable species is recommended for the wooded areas along with enhancing the areas with a variety of new native trees. Native species will be emphasized for new trees and plantings throughout the site. Areas of savannah and prairies, similar to the existing areas near the NATC campus, will be introduced to the southern portions of the site.
- SCREENING, DEFINING AND APPEAL**
The new landscape elements will primarily focus on providing overall appeal for the facility. This includes screening of non-park elements as is found in the SW corner of the site, and providing a visual buffer of the traffic along Blackhawk Blvd. Additional trees to provide shade and scale to the shelter/playground area will be added. A line of trees along the new park drive will lead the user through the park.



- NEW PARK ENTRANCE**
New entrance off of Charles Street. Provides access to the park and its facilities limiting conflicts with traffic and railway crossings. Entrance to be enhanced with identification signage announcing events, park hours, etc. Materials and style of entrance feature shall be copied through the park and its perimeter to establish an easily recognizable identity.
- NEW PARK DRIVE**
Connecting the new Charles Street Entrance to the NATC campus, the drive traverses the Park in a series of sweeping curves that offers access to several of the Park's amenities. In addition to the paved Keith Creek activities parking, the grassed greenway between the drive and the main path provides additional event parking when needed. The parking spaces in the grassed parking area are defined by bollards which serve as a safety barrier between the path and drive on a daily basis.
- BICYCLE ROUTE**
The park will provide a crucial connection for bicycle riders. The new park drive will be designated as a bicycle shared lane in both directions providing a critical link in a secure bicycle route that connects with proposed shared lanes down Hayes Avenue, to the south to the planned recreation path that will run along the Rock River to the north.
- BICYCLE ROUTE - SOUTH**
Planned bicycle shared lanes on Hayes Avenue, will lead up to the new park drive entrance on Charles Street, with access to the shared lanes within the park on the new park drive.
- RECREATION PATH CONNECTION**
A recreation path is planned to extend from the NATC campus west across the railway then north across Turtle Creek to connect to the planned recreation path extending north along the Rock River. This path extension will take place when the northern property is improved. This extension will be part of the envisioned bicycle route connection to Beloit.
- SPECIAL EVENT PARKING - TYP.**
The grassed strip between the path and drive provides space for 32 special events parking stalls. The stalls are defined by the traffic bollards which also serve as a safety device to separate pedestrian and vehicular uses.
- NATC PARKING**
Current parking area at NATC to be paved. Improvements shall be ADA compliant and will yield 27 parking spaces.
- PARK DRIVE PARKING**
Two 4-stall parking areas located along the new park drive provide easy access to central park activity areas.
- CURRENT ACCESS DRIVE**
Use of the current NATC access drive from the east to be restricted or removed once the new park drive is in place and operational.
- EMERGENCY ACCESS**
Emergency access drive provides first responders access to the park from Blackhawk Blvd. Grass pavers will allow the drive to be designed to accommodate emergency vehicles while maintaining a lawn appearance. Knock down bollards will discourage use by non-emergency vehicles.
- IDENTITY ICON ELEMENTS**
Repeating the style and materials of the new park entrance identification feature, icon elements are located along the Blackhawk Blvd. frontage to extend the facility's identity to this busy thoroughfare as a welcoming feature.
- CONNECTIONS ACROSS CREEK**
One or two bridges across Kelly Creek will be added at a later date to provide additional circulation options through the park.

* LOOP DRIVE, BUS SHELTER AND WALKWAYS TO BLACKHAWK BLVD. ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT WHICH IS TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO INITIAL PHASE OF PARK PROJECT.

PLANNED SHARED LANE BICYCLE ROUTE - CONNECTS TO NEIGHBORHOODS SOUTH AND EAST

NOTE: ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED INITIAL PHASE ARE INDICATED WITH BOXED LABELS.

PREPARED BY:

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