

**Inventory and Analysis - Overview**

The following section includes information gathered during the initial phase of the master plan process. The following components are included:

- **Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities Map**

- **Park Facilities Analysis**

The design team conducted an independent review and analysis of all parks and recreation facilities. The notes are compiled in this document and were later reviewed as a basis, in part, for a comprehensive set of recommendations for park improvements, which are found in Sections 5-7 of this report.

- **Neighborhood Parks and School Playgrounds Service Areas**

This document analyzes the service areas within the community as related to neighborhood parks and school playgrounds, with the understanding that school playgrounds can at times serve the need for neighborhood play areas. A generally accepted park system design criteria is that neighborhood parks should be located within ½-mile of every residence. This diagram shows the coverage afforded by the existing neighborhood parks and elementary schools. Also, it is recommended that a basic level of service within a neighborhood park should include a playground area, walking path(s), and usable open space. Usable open space is defined for purposes of this analysis as an area large enough to accommodate a youth sports practice and/or neighborhood-scale “pick-up games” such as baseball, football, and “Frisbee”.

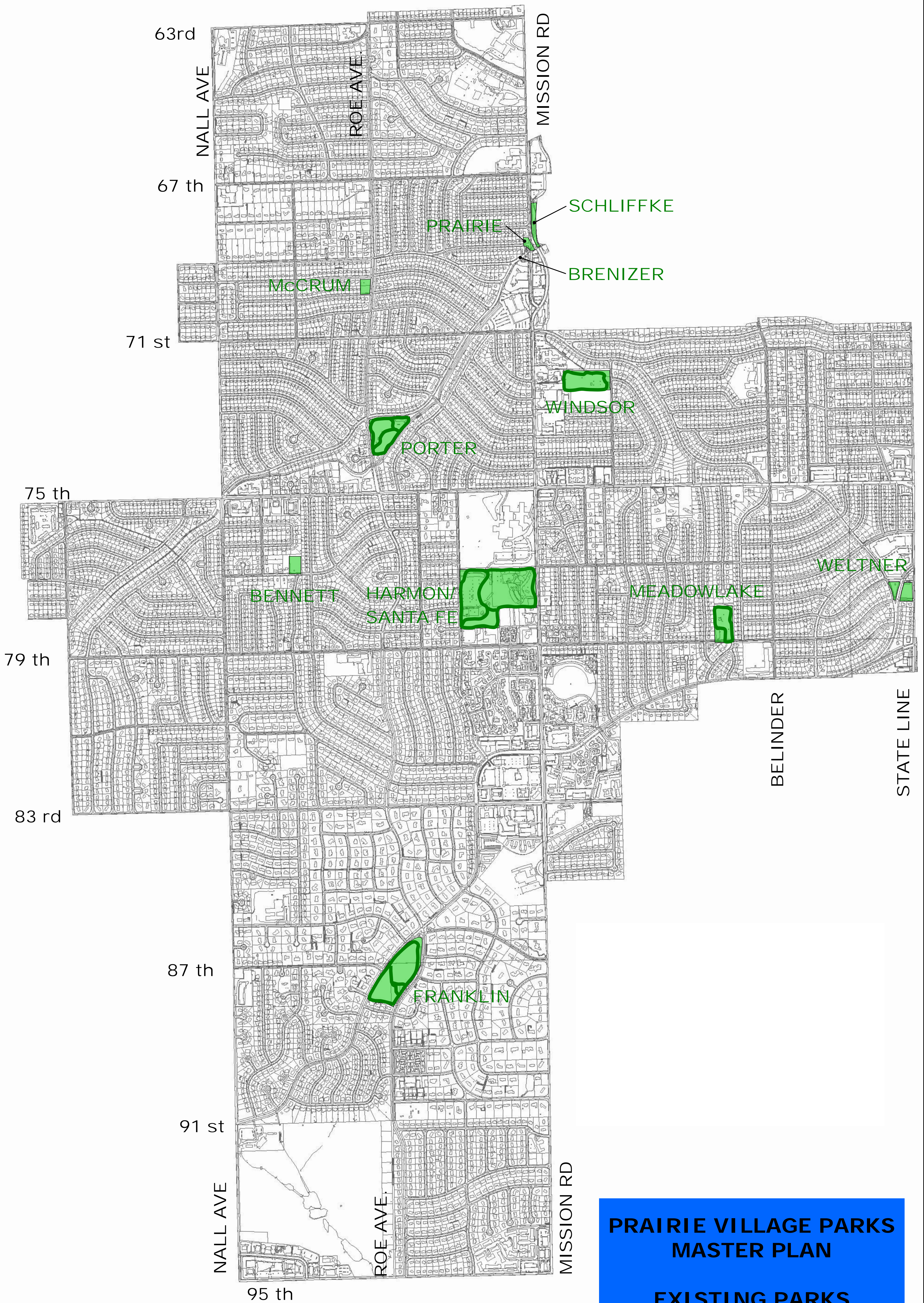
It should be noted that the diagram indicates a lack of neighborhood park service in various areas within Prairie Village. Response to these service gaps is included in Sections 5 of this report.

- **Recreation Programs Analysis**

The current recreation programs were analyzed to determine if additional sports fields and facilities or new recreation programs and facilities are needed. Due to the understanding that Prairie Village does not anticipate a significant change in population in the next 10-15 years it was deemed reasonable to base recreation programming and facility needs on current participation levels and demographics. The initial committee member comments and survey results indicated a desire to pursue information regarding community center facilities, potential recreation program partners, and ideas for city-sponsored programs to increase the availability of services in the city.

- **Demographic Summary**

Demographic information covering population trends, age cohorts and families, gender and race, educational attainment, household types, household income, and population projections are contained in this document.



**PRAIRIE VILLAGE PARKS  
MASTER PLAN**

**EXISTING PARKS**

OCTOBER 2008

**Inventory and Analysis - Parks**

**Park Facilities Analysis**

The following section reviews the analysis findings derived from on-site observation and a photo library developed within each of the existing park facilities in Prairie Village.

**All Parks**

1. Need trail maps to show route options and distances.
2. Develop walking loops in all parks – even small ones.
3. Need new park signs/standards.
4. Develop tree replacement plan and start new trees in anticipation of losses due to age.
5. Develop tricycle paths for all play areas.
6. More lighting in many parks is desired.
7. Make each park the starting point of an internal or external trail route, with maps and distances, even if it is just an enhanced sidewalk around the block (min. 6’ wide, 8’ preferred).
8. See playground analysis document at end of this section for summary of ADA-compliance of play areas and structures.

**Bennett Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Large play structure is in good condition and probably has 8-10 years of remaining life. It has a reasonable balance of age group activities.
2. New drinking fountain, plenty of benches and picnic tables.
3. Other play pieces, all in good condition:
  - Helicopter
  - (3) spring bouncers and two-seat see-saw.
  - Spring rocker, stand-on piece
  - Stand-up spinner
4. Rubber mulch surfacing throughout play area is in good shape.
5. Shelter is in fair condition.
6. Round pipe climber and merry-go-round on west side are in good condition with new rubber mulch surfacing.
7. Park entry sign – need to turn sign around so that park rules face the street.
8. Swings:
  - (2) bucket, (2) belt – all in fine condition.
  - New rubber tiles and rubber mulch below
9. Basketball court is new and in good condition. Needs new net on goal.
10. Sand box by swings needs ADA access (or move box to a place adjacent to a path).
11. Idea: Develop tricycle (tryke) path (perhaps between climber and swings).
12. There is a new picnic table and grill by the swings.
13. Sports field area (backstop) in o.k. condition. Only suitable for youngest ages.
14. Parallel parking stalls (2-3 stalls) may be possible along 77<sup>th</sup> St., with inset curb to get cars out of driving lanes.

**Brenizer Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Nice seating area and visual amenity for city.
2. Could use a small water feature providing “white noise” to diminish the sound impact of the vehicle traffic

**Inventory and Analysis - Parks**

**Franklin Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Creek area along east border:
  - Explore possibility of angled parking on street to increase capacity. Would need to build a short wall (in some places) to raise the grade on east side of the creek channel.
  - Channel should be converted to a “naturalized” channel with softer look and plant materials.
2. Low, wet spot at far SE corner of park, inside walking trail.
3. All walking trails should be widened to 8’, especially perimeter trails.
4. Widen sidewalk coming into southwest corner of park and curve walk, in lieu of square corner.
5. Private entry gates from backyards at south end of park do not appear to be a problem.
6. Stone walls/columns at rose garden need tuck-pointing, especially tops.
7. Additional parking area possible at Somerset and 87<sup>th</sup>. A small lot would not interfere with open play areas.
8. Need trail maps to show routes and distances (Note applies to all parks with trails).
9. Consider a 3<sup>rd</sup> sidewalk “roundabout” where rose garden path intersects the perimeter trail.
10. New benches on perimeter trail are nice. Would be good to add more of the same in south areas of the park.
11. Additional parking opportunity at NE corner of park – off-street lot over storm system. Perhaps extend pipes and fill level to allow for larger lot.
12. Convert on-street parallel to angle parking (see note #1). The parking count increase would be substantial.
13. Idea: Build play stream (nature play area) between ball field and along edge of “woods”. Make it push button activated to provide water. Start water source at south pedestrian “roundabout” (south of rose garden). Build connecting walk from play area to east perimeter trail, perhaps winding through the trees.
14. Should have crosswalks striped for access from side streets (87<sup>th</sup> St. and east side streets). Also need sidewalk connections from these intersections to perimeter trail.
15. Need to find a location for a large shelter and restrooms in vicinity of play area.
16. Consider moving toddler swings closer to toddler play area (farthest east play structure).
17. Swings are in very good condition (two buckets-north, one tire-middle, two belts-south). Consider adding two more belts where existing buckets are, then move buckets to east side of play area (see note above).
18. Plenty of benches and picnic tables (9) in play area, nicely distributed.
19. There is plenty of room for large shelter, restrooms, and toddler swings at east end of play area. Would lose only 1-2 pine trees.
20. Move sand pit to north side of toddler play area. Make it part of nature play area.

**Harmon/Santa Fe Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Large play structure:
  - Generally in good condition. Has about 5-10 years of life left.
  - Rubberized mulch is fairly new.
  - Unit is primarily designed for ages 5-12. Need more 2-5 age pieces, especially a good climber.

**Inventory and Analysis - Parks**

2. Swings:
  - (4) buckets, (4) belts
  - Have rubber tiles beneath, in good condition.
3. Stand-up merry-go-round has rubber tile surfacing.
4. (3) spring bouncers are in good condition.
5. Miscellaneous items for play area:
  - Need more “small” spaces for children to play in – social spaces.
  - Plenty of benches around play area.
  - Add more sand in sand play area (w/ turtle)
  - Could use small shelter w/ visibility of playground.
  - Play area is hard to see due to berms. This play area feels a little secluded or “cramped”. Perhaps because there is little open space to run.
  - Accessible routes are not 5’ wide – north or south.
  - No ADA picnic tables
  - Great shade from existing trees.
6. Need walking trail through the park, especially middle and south (perimeter, too)
7. Round concrete tables (4) near pool need chairs (or replaced with picnic tables).
8. Large Shelter:
  - Need to open view to pool. Large stone wall is an obstruction.
  - Replace grills and re-build fire boxes. They are in poor condition
  - Feels somewhat like you are under a highway bridge. Add some “décor” to soften look of underside of the structure (steel lattice, etc.).
  - Extend shade on south side (roof line is very high, so table shade would benefit from wider roof line).
  - Consider a seat wall on north side (make certain it is not “skate-able”)
  - Need larger restroom to accommodate size of shelter (may need to find new location, which would help look of shelter, too)
  - Ramp to skate park area (near stairs) is too steep to be ADA-compliant.
9. Skate Park:
  - Address cut-through problem from large shelter to skate park. Fence is unsightly.
  - Nice facility, gets regular use.
  - S.E. and N.E. corner needs turf repair. May have to build another retaining wall like in center (east side). Perhaps let kids help build the wall and any other projects (like steps for cut-through) so they may feel some sense of ownership.
  - Need policy on trash (Idea: if trash is found for more than three days, then park is closed for next day).
10. “Amphitheater” area: Looks like a good spot to create a more formal amphitheater facility. Skate park area is designed to serve as a stage, and hill is sloped well for this purpose. Casual seating in the form of stone ledges may be nice to add to the hillside, as well as additional tree plantings along the edges to define the space better.
11. Open area to south of skate park: Can this be used by the city for practice field area?
12. Area south of the south City Hall entrance would make a nice trail corridor for a perimeter trail.
13. Sidewalk along Mission Rd. could be widened to 8’ as part of perimeter trail. Also, could be re-aligned a little farther away from the street, winding through trees.

**Inventory and Analysis - Parks**

14. Community Center:
  - Too small for regular programming, but a nice setting in the trees.
  - Can it be expanded?
  - B-ball court would likely need to move if expanded.
  - If expanded, consider tying into corridor by Safety Center/City Hall with enclosed walkway over drive.
  - Or, re-align entry drive to between Community Center and Mission Rd.
15. Trail corridor along north side of City Hall is very achievable.
  - May be nice to relocate pool fence 10-15' to the south, at least on the east and west ends, to provide extra space for the trail.
16. Trail along north side of pool parking lot can be accomplished.
  - May be able to negotiate easement with SME and shift fence to north, but this is not a necessity.
  - Reduce width of out-bound drive lane at parking exit and develop trail cross-over above sculpture garden.
17. Sculpture garden needs sense of enclosure on west (Delmar). Small ornamental trees would work.
18. Santa Fe Park Area:
  - Great potential.
  - Need more eyes/uses/people in this area to increase sense of safety.
  - New trail would help greatly to get people in this area. Very nice corridor for trail development (around historic trail ruts area), and plenty of room.
  - Nature play area would also work well, especially northeast of the Santa Fe Shelter
19. Santa Fe Trail ruts:
  - Need to establish "prairie" along the trail ruts corridor to create authentic look for trail corridor. Would add a lot of interest.
  - Move maple trees to another setting (around amphitheater?) to expose area to more sun for benefit of prairie grasses (or similar-looking ornamental grasses).
  - What are limits on use of this area?
20. Idea: Pull parking back between large shelters and Santa Fe shelter and open this area for new play ground with Santa Fe Trail theme.
  - Create circle drive around water tower with perimeter parking.
  - Existing parking uses up a lot of space for relatively few stalls (15 regular and 3 ADA).
21. Idea: Possibly replace practice tennis courts with parking. Move practice courts to north end of tennis courts or where existing play area is now, assuming play area is relocated as noted above. Or, make old play area a stadium court with hillside seating on west side.
22. Santa Fe shelter:
  - Beautiful shelter and setting
  - Need to get more visibility and activities in the area for its use to be maximized.

**Inventory and Analysis - Parks**

**McCrum Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Could develop “off-street” parallel parking along 70<sup>th</sup> Street (and also 69<sup>th</sup> Terrace).
2. Need fence along Roe from tennis courts to 69<sup>th</sup> Terrace.
3. Black fence around tennis courts would be nice to minimize visual impact.
4. Can we use space beneath water tower? (*Follow-up note: During the course of the master plan project, the City was informed that the water tower was planned for removal in 2009, thus this space will be available for other uses.*)
5. Develop perimeter walking trail (around water tower, also).
6. Tennis court:
  - Observed some cracking on south half of court.
  - Drainage may be a problem at southeast corner of court
  - Fence bent up along bottom @ south end.
7. No shelter – would be nice to have a small one near the play area.
8. Drinking fountain near basketball court, would be nice to move closer to play area and lower for small children, but this one is o.k. since park is so small.
9. Should have at least one ADA picnic table.
10. Add ADA access to at least one bench in play area. Currently all benches are surrounded by grass.
11. Plant new trees to replace aging trees, especially along south side of park (70<sup>th</sup> St.)
12. Park entry sign – need to turn sign around so that park rules face the street.
13. ADA curb ramp @ 70<sup>th</sup>&Roe is not compliant - No warning strips and settling concrete. Plus, need to stripe crosswalks on streets.
14. Climbing structure:
  - No ADA transfer station.
15. Spring bouncers (4) are a good choice for this park.
16. Swings (6 total- 4 belts, 2 buckets) are a lot for this size park. Consider using some of this space for more 2-5 age play equipment, probably a see-saw. At a minimum, change out two belt swings for two bucket swings.
17. Helicopter piece is in good condition and works well for this park.
18. New rubber mulch in good condition.
19. Comments from patrons received while performing analysis:
  - Need cross-walk across Roe – at crest of hill because it is hard to see traffic coming at either intersection (69<sup>th</sup> Terrace or 70<sup>th</sup> St.) due to hill. (My note - could do at mid-block with flashing/activated light).
  - Need lights on tennis courts. (My note – difficult to implement now due to residences so close by)
20. North part of park seems under-used.
21. Basketball “half”-court: o.k. as is, but consider adding baseline area to at least the three-point arc (+/- 3’).
22. Park may benefit from more internal lighting.
23. Overall comment: Definitely a small children’s/neighborhood park. Keep this goal, but enhance and make even more suitable for toddlers. Perhaps add tricycle path. I have noted several people walking through the park, apparently as a touchpoint for larger walking routes. Consider using the park as a trail head for a larger trail loop around the block (see notes for “All Parks” above).

**Inventory and Analysis - Parks**

**Meadowlake Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Widen all walking paths to minimum of 8'. Extend around the tennis courts.
2. Large sand box should be removed to make room for improved practice field area.
3. Comment from patrons received while performing analysis:
  - Add see-saw
4. Small play structure:
  - Equipment is looking a bit old. Probably will want to replace in +/- 5 years.
5. Large play structure:
  - Equipment is looking a bit old. Probably will want to replace in +/- 5 years.
  - Pour-in-place surfacing is cracking.
6. Other play equipment:
  - Sand box is too close to walk. Need to relocate. Consider adding sand table for accessibility.
  - Two spring bouncers are o.k.
  - Climbing tunnel (free-standing) is very short. Some newer, longer options may be preferred.
  - Climb-in space station – dome top is very clouded. Replace.
  - Rolling log (free-standing) is o.k.
  - Swings: 5 total – 2 belts, 2 buckets, 1 tire swing are all o.k
  - Small balance beam is o.k.
  - Merry-go-round w/ rubber tiles surrounding is o.k.
7. Need new play surfacing throughout this play area.
8. Need ADA picnic tables near play area.
9. Bike rack needs concrete pad or move to edge of larger existing pads/walks.
10. Tennis court rules board mentions PV Tennis Club. Does this club still exist?

**Porter Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Perimeter sidewalks:
  - Only 4.5' wide between parking lot entries and east end of park.
  - North edge – 6' wide, will need replacement in a few years. Somewhat rough already.
  - West edge – 4' wide sections. Need to widen north 180' +/-
  - West edge – 5' wide sections from middle to south end.
  - General note for north and west – Would be good to widen all perimeter walks to 8'.
2. Parking Area :
  - Could use more shade trees – SW and west
  - Consider getting rid of east entry to reduce conflicts with perimeter trail. Develop turn-around at east end of lot.
3. Porta-potties:
  - Orient more towards play area. It is too screened and needs better surveillance.
4. NE Play area:
  - Need more toddler swings.
  - Consider 4' ht. decorative fence between parking and play area.
  - Expand shelter area to south to gain more covered picnic tables
  - Create a nature play area to south/southwest.



**Inventory and Analysis - Parks**

- Sand area needs concrete surround for sweeping sand back in.
  - Add more adult seating near sand box.
  - Expand toddler play side (between picnic tables and play area).
  - Move sidewalk to west side of picnic tables to open up play space.
  - Add seesaw in NW corner of play area, and expanded fall zone.
5. 6' wide asphalt trail through south portion of the park:
    - Generally fine, but will need replacement in 4-5 years.
    - Section along fence should be 8' wide with a new trail segment continuing along the fence to the SW corner of the park.
  6. Brush Creek:
    - Open up views of creek, along with planting of vegetation on south side bank to soften look of stone gabions.
    - Use 4' decorative fence or black chain link, in lieu of galvanized chain link.
  7. Small SW ball field – needs to be re-graded (probably raised) to drain better. May need more area inlets on north side of field.
  8. SW corner of park:
    - Remove excess fence beyond pump station gate, then...
    - Create an “entry” to park at this corner (with plantings and stone work).
  9. Brush Creek bridge (Roe Ave). Consider ways to widen sidewalk on east side.
  10. Should have ADA access to at least one of the picnic table placed on open areas near the west shelter. Extend route from shelter pad with short 5' sidewalk.
  11. SW Shelter/Play area:
    - Relocate tire swing up by two belt swings so support zones can overlap (will save some money on fall zone and allow fill to be placed in low area where tire swing is now)
    - Need ADA access to swings
    - Water fountain has a slow leak out of spigot.
    - Shelter – in good condition, but cupola screen needs repair.
  12. Drainage problems on south edge of soccer field (primarily two locations). Need to re-grade to push water to inlet at SE corner of field.
  13. Parking lot:
    - SW corner (west bank of parking) does not drain well.

**Prairie Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Very new park, in very good condition.
2. Add one evergreen tree on north edge to help screen a driveway and house.
3. Some “white noise” similar to that suggested for Brenizer Park could be considered, especially near the seating/picnic areas.
4. Adding a small (12'x12') shelter might be nice.
5. Play boulder is good, but is close to the street. May be wise to add a small 4' ht. decorative fence to better contain toddlers. Also, possibly move the nearby picnic table to allow space for some toddler/bucket swings or see-saw.
6. The quantity of picnic table and benches is very adequate for this size park. Could move one bench to north side of park, facing back into park (southeasterly orientation).
7. Add another small tree to soften view of Roe from picnic tables and benches.

**Inventory and Analysis - Parks**

**Schliffke Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Does the city have to provide this parking lot? Existing parking lot is used by a majority out-of-state and out-of-county commuters, based on physical count.
2. Need viewing point/visual access:
  - Possibly cantilever over bank at north end bend in creek near Presbyterian church (could see creek both ways – south and northeast)
3. Bottom line – this parking lot needs to be converted to a linear park with trail, removing all parking areas. Perhaps even include a small skate park. Several skateboarders were observed using the edges of Prairie Park across the street, and when asked, said that the big skate park at Harmon is too far for them and sometimes too busy.

**Weltner Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Consider combining two halves of park by re-aligning Cambridge Street, which bisects the park. This would add much space and usefulness to the park.
2. If the park can be connected as noted above, the shelter could be move to a location closer to the parking and other park features, which would help increase its use. Also, a small play area could be added near the shelter.
3. Plenty of room around the perimeter of the park for a trail loop, especially if park is combined.
4. If the street re-alignment/park land connections are not made, this park works well for the space available and serves as a nice entry point into Prairie Village.
5. Basketball courts (one full, one half) are in good condition, and reportedly well-used.
6. Sand volleyball court is in good condition and appears to be well-used, also.
7. Plenty of benches and picnic tables.
8. Screening to east (State Line Rd.) is quite good.

**Windsor Park (Oct. '08)**

1. Middle park entry path (from Windsor Street) should have a removable bollard in lieu of the chain, so that visitors do not have to walk around the end pipe, off of the trail, and wear the grass.
2. Both asphalt entry walks will need replacement soon (at south entry/parking).
3. Tot swings are not technically accessible due to high lip on edge of tiles. Need to match treatment at regular swings where concrete path matches the top of the tiles.
4. Need more ADA picnic tables.
5. Swings: 2 bucket swings and 2 belt swings, in separate locations.
6. Large play structure and area:
  - This structure has 5-10 years of life remaining.
  - 2 spring bouncers are o.k.
  - 2 steel climbers – Free-standing tower and “dome” are o.k.
7. Play area general comments:
  - Need more mid-day shade on play equipment.
8. Small play structure and area:
  - This structure has 5-10 years of life remaining.
  - Small bridge climber is o.k.
  - Sand box is o.k. but could use accessible sand table.

**Inventory and Analysis - Parks**

9. Large shelter
  - Past its prime, useful life is limited.
  - End wall blocks view of swings. New shelter should be open all sides.
  - Rotted area in roof allows birds to nest.
10. Sand volleyball does not appear to be used much. Perhaps this area would be better served as an extension of the play area with nature play options developed. This play area could also extend down to the edge of the drainage swale that cuts through the park.
11. Consider new paved entry at west end of park (connection to school site). Grass is heavily worn. Should move rules sign to edge of new path to assure visibility.
12. Ball field is fine for practice uses.
13. Walks in park should all be widened to 8' min.
14. Bridges across stream (3 total):
  - All are narrow (+/- 4'). Would be good to widen 1 or 2 of them to at least 6'.

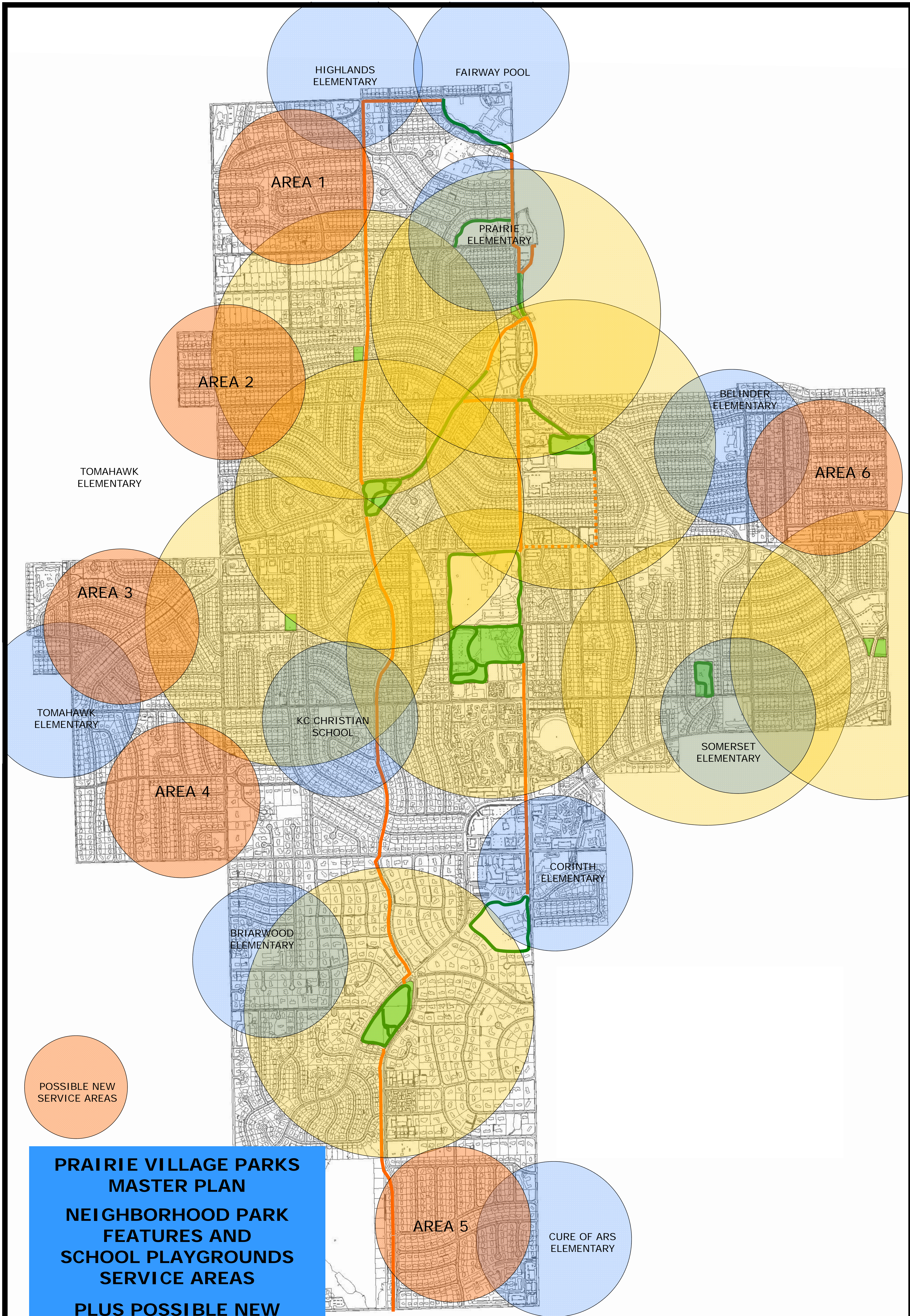
**Prairie Village Parks Master Plan**  
**Play Areas/Composite Play Equipment ADA Analysis**  
 Fall 2008

Key

  Does not meet ADA minimum requirements

Park	ADA Transfer Station	Total Play Components	Elevated Play Components			Ground-level Play Components on an Accessible Route	
			Total	Required	Provided	Required	Provided
				Elevated Accessible			
<b>Bennett Park</b>	Yes	22	19	10	12	6	3 on structure + 7 other =10 total
Other pieces: (1) see-saw, (3) spring bouncers, (1) stand-up spinner, (1) stand-up bouncer, (1) helicopter							
<b>Franklin: 5-12 play structure</b>	Yes	11	9	5	5 (steps to other decks are 12-15", thus too high)	3	2 on structure + 1 other =3 total
Other pieces: (1) space station							
<b>Franklin: 2-5 play structure</b>	No	15	13	7	3 (need to replace two bubble panels with bridge to increase to 13)	4	2 on structure + 2 other =4 total
Other pieces: (2) spring bouncers							
<b>Harmon: 5-12 play structure</b>	Yes	23	16	8	5 (Steps to most decks are too high to be accessible per guidelines)	5	7 on structure + 4 other =11 total
<b>Harmon: 2-5 play structure</b>	No	3	3	2	0	1	0
Other pieces: (1) Merry-go-round, (3) spring bouncers, (1) climbing turtle							

<b>McCrum</b>	No	8	8	4	0	3	0 on structure + 5 other =5 total	
Other pieces: (4) spring bouncers, (1) helicopter								
<b>Meadowlake: 5-12 play structure</b>	Yes	22	16	8	4 (remainder not accessible due to 15" steps)	5	6	
<b>Meadowlake: 2-5 play structure</b>	Yes (Ramp)	12	9	5	6 (via ramp)	3	3	
Other pieces: (2) spring bouncers, (1) climbing tunnel (free-standing), (1) space station, (1) rolling log, (1) balance beam, (1) merry-go-round								
<b>Porter: 5-12 play structure</b>	Yes	12	11	6	5 (others not accessible - step to south deck 12" high and east deck only via loop climber)	4	1 (may be room to add see-saw or ground-level panels)	
<b>Porter: 2-5 play structure</b>	Yes	11	10	5	10	3	1 on structure + 2 other =3 total	
Other pieces: (2) spring bouncers	Note: exit to low on north end double and single slide by transfer station							
<b>Prairie</b>	Not Applicable - all play features are ground-level							
<b>Windsor: 5-12 play structure</b>	No	10	8	4	0	3	2 on structure + 4 other =6 total	
Other pieces: (2) spring bouncers, ((2) steel climbers - tower and "dome",								
<b>Windsor: 2-5 play structure</b>	Yes	10	7	4	7	2	3 on structure + 1 other =4 total	
Other pieces: (1) small bridge climber								



HIGHLANDS  
ELEMENTARY

FAIRWAY POOL

AREA 1

PRAIRIE  
ELEMENTARY

AREA 2

BELINDER  
ELEMENTARY

AREA 6

TOMAHAWK  
ELEMENTARY

AREA 3

TOMAHAWK  
ELEMENTARY

KC CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

SOMERSET  
ELEMENTARY

AREA 4

CORINTH  
ELEMENTARY

BRIARWOOD  
ELEMENTARY

AREA 5

CURE OF ARS  
ELEMENTARY

POSSIBLE NEW  
SERVICE AREAS

**PRAIRIE VILLAGE PARKS  
MASTER PLAN  
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK  
FEATURES AND  
SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS  
SERVICE AREAS  
PLUS POSSIBLE NEW  
SERVICE AREAS**

NOVEMBER 2008

## **Recreation Programs Analysis**

The following section reviews the process and findings as related to the existing recreation programs in Prairie Village, other recreation providers, and prospects for future programming.

### **City of Prairie Village Recreation Programming**

#### **Swimming and Diving**

These programs are quite strong in Prairie Village and have a long history of being well supported. The outdoor 50 meter pool and separate dive tank are considered top venues for swimming.

The City offers pre-competitive and competitive swim teams and a dive team for youth between the ages of 6 and 18. Additionally, a synchronized swimming team is offered to the youth between the ages of 7 and 18. Swim and Dive team participants are also offered special instruction lessons with the intent of improving competitive swimming skills.

The Johnson County Park and Recreation District conducts beginner swimming classes at the aquatic facilities. They also conduct water aerobics as part of the 50+ program and operate the Blazers “Masters” program at the pool.

#### **Tennis**

These programs are also quite strong in Prairie Village. The tennis court complex is considered one of the top public facilities in the region. The City makes courts available to Shawnee Mission East, Bishop Miege and Kansas City Christian School for practice use as well as their home court for matches.

The City offers Youth and Adult tennis instruction with group tennis lessons offered throughout the summer. Prairie Village is a member of the Kansas City Junior Tennis League (KCJTL) which provides a competitive tennis program for youth between the ages of 8 and 18.

#### **Community Center at City Hall**

The existing community center building in front of City Hall has proved in recent years to be too small for many programmed recreation activities. It was expressed consistently throughout the Master Plan process that this facility was not suitable to handle the many activities that are desired by residents. In particular, programming for 50+ age groups could make use of an expanded space. Because the Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCPRD) is the primary provider of programming for 50+, they were contacted regarding their interest in increasing these offerings in Prairie Village. They indicated a strong interest and suggest the following additional space would allow them to increase programming for this very significant demographic group:

**Inventory and Analysis - Recreation**

- 50 Plus Office
  - 20' x 20'
  - Office staff and misc. storage.
- Multi-purpose Room.
  - 90' x 55' with capacity for 400.
  - Weekly Fitness Programs.
  - Sports (basketball, badminton, table tennis, pickle ball)
  - Special Events (Tea Dance, Grandparent/Child socials, etc.)
- Dance Room
  - 50' x 50' with capacity for 80.
  - Tap, Belly, Line, Ballroom, Salsa, etc.
- Warming Kitchen
  - 16' x 12'
  - Food Prep for multiple programs and events.
- Game/Class Room
  - 50' x 50'
  - Billiards, Wii programs, Card groups (Bridge, Pinochle)
- Art Room
  - 25' x 30' with capacity for 80.
  - Drawing, painting, pottery, choir, orchestra.
- Storage Room
  - 8' x 8'
  - Storage of supplies and sink for art class use.
- Computer Lab
  - 15' x 20'
  - 6 Computers, 1 printer, LCD projector & screen.

**Other Recreation Programs and Providers**

The following recreation program categories were reviewed to assess the offerings within Prairie Village and/or the extent to which residents participate in programming offered by outside agencies. Please reference the “Current Outdoor Recreation Opportunities” chart at the end of this section, which summarizes the program types, organizations, age/grade groupings, and practice and game field locations.

**Baseball**

**3&2 Baseball of Johnson County**

This organization provides programming services for residents throughout the county, and Prairie Village typically has 350 participants. All games are located at two multi-field complexes located in Lenexa and Shawnee. Practice fields are the responsibility of the individual coaches. The organization obtains permits from the Shawnee Mission School District to use local school fields. Additionally, individual coaches



**Inventory and Analysis - Recreation**

rent fields from different cities, or private schools/churches. This arrangement provides for local practices, where travel is minimized, and game facilities and operations run by professionals. The large amount of participants allows players to compete with players of similar skills. It also offers the opportunities for regional tournaments enabling participants to compete with a wider array of teams.

**Nall Hills Baseball Club**

This organization is neighborhood based and began in the Nall Hills Neighborhood of Overland Park. The organization is made up of volunteers and utilizes Shawnee Mission School fields and City Parks for both practices and games. This league would be considered recreational level and is focused on a positive baseball experience.

**YMCA**

This organization provides t-ball/coach pitch and kid pitch baseball opportunities for youth ages 5-14. City Parks, SMSD and private school fields are used for games and practices. The activity is primarily conducted during the week.

**Softball**

**Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCPRD)**

JCPRD provides softball for 7-18 year old girls. Games are played at the Mid America West Sports Complex (Johnson Drive west of I-435). The facilities are full service and offer competitive as well as recreation play.

Practice fields include the MAWSC, Heritage Park and any fields that the coaches may obtain.

**Girls Club of Johnson County**

This organization is a recreation level group that practices and plays games at Shawnee and Overland Park parks as well as SMSD school fields. The teams start at age 5 and run through 18 year olds.

**Soccer**

**Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCPRD)**

The JCPRD soccer program primarily provides beginner soccer for children ages 4-13. Games are played at Stoll Park in Overland Park.

**Northeast United Soccer Club**

This organization is a competitive club that focuses on skill development for the participants in K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Practices are arranged by the coaches and are held at private schools and parks.

After the participants reach the age of 9, the player may choose to play in either a recreational level or the “Premier” level. All teams compete against other clubs at

**Inventory and Analysis - Recreation**

Heritage Park in South Overland Park. This provides a more competitive environment for players. The scheduling of this competitive league is handled by Heartland Soccer. Additionally, the teams play in tournaments around the city and region. As the players increase their competitive position, the teams will travel regionally and nationally.

It is anticipated that the new 12 synthetic field complex opening in Overland Park will be a major draw for out of town teams, increasing the ability to play top competition.

**Overland Park Soccer Club**

This organization is a competitive club that focuses on skill development for the participants in K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Games are primarily played at Roe Park, Nall Park, and Foxhill Park in Overland Park. Practices are arranged by the coaches and are held at SMSD schools as well as the game fields.

The club teams after the age of 9 are similar to the NE United Soccer Club. Similar Club teams are organized in Shawnee, Blue Valley, Olathe, etc.

**Leawood Parks and Recreation**

The Leawood Parks Department operates a soccer program for youth from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The games are played primarily at Leawood Park at I-435 and Lee Blvd., as well as several parks in south Leawood and Barstow School.

Teams are typically organized by high school area and are coached by volunteers. The league has a good number of teams and tries to organize teams in divisions based on ability and skill level.

**YMCA**

The YMCA offers beginner soccer teams for 5-8 year old youths. City Parks, SMSD and private school fields are used for games and practices.

**Football**

**Football and Cheerleading Club of Johnson County**

This organization is based at Heritage Park in Overland Park. All games are played at this location. Teams are organized by high school area and are coached by volunteers. The teams range from Turner in Wyandotte County, to Spring Hill in south Johnson County. The teams and their coaches are responsible for organizing practices at schools and/or parks at their choosing.

The large amount of participants allows players to compete with other players of similar skills. It also offers the opportunities for regional tournaments enabling participants to compete with a wider array of teams.

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**Johnson County Parks and Recreation**

Johnson County offers a flag football program at Stoll Park in south Overland Park. Teams are coached by volunteers and practices and practice fields are the responsibility of the coaches.

**YMCA**

The YMCA offers flag football opportunities for 5-12 year olds. City Parks, SMSD and private school fields are used for games and practices.

**Basketball**

**Great American Basketball League (GABL)**

This organization is privately run and utilizes the public schools for practices and games. The teams serve the youth from K-12, are organized by high school district, and utilize volunteer coaching. The largest limitation for the organization is available quality gym space.

**School sites and sports field availability**

There are five elementary school sites, two junior high schools, and one high school within Prairie Village, all of which have some element of open space/sports field areas on their grounds (See “Shawnee Mission Schools Playing Field Inventory” at the end of this section.) An obvious question to ask is whether these sites could accommodate more sports programming within the city.

Based on discussions with personnel who handle field scheduling for the Shawnee Mission School District, all of the fields are heavily used by multiple organizations. The use is primarily for practices. This heavy use limits the ability to maintain high quality playing surfaces and/or the ability to stripe/chalk fields for games. Any request to have exclusive rights to particular fields would require the displacement of one or more organizations, which is not acceptable to the School District. The high school fields are of the highest quality, and are used for games by the schools. These fields are therefore not rented to any organizations outside the school district.

The sports organizations, while desiring more field space, are reluctant to commit to using one or two field complexes scattered around the area for games. Their reasons include:

**Facilities**

- Field quality/maintenance.
  - Because of the high daily use of the fields for gym class and after school sports organizations, the quality of the turf grass is typically poor. The baseball/softball infields are not well groomed and would not be considered adequate for games. The School District is not in the position financially to maintain these fields at a high level.

**Inventory and Analysis - Recreation**

- Parking
  - The parking requirement for games is much higher than the requirement for practices. Most of the facilities do not have enough parking to accommodate games. The number of parking spaces required for games is 60-80 per field. We would anticipate that the parking requirement would be highest for the youngest participants. The difficulty escalates when the school has additional functions such as art/science fairs, basketball/volleyball games or practices, etc. The school district is not willing to limit the use of their buildings to accommodate outside organizations sporting events.
- Spectator and Player accommodations
  - The school sites do not have team benches, bleachers, trash cans, sidewalks or restrooms.

**Logistics**

- Game day field preparation
  - Setting up the fields for games whether it is bases for baseball and softball or field painting for soccer or football, takes time and equipment. The game preparation would need to be mobile enough to be able to get to fields early on weekend mornings to prep the fields. The sports organizations would only be able to do this on a limited basis.
- Weather-related field condition status
  - During times of inclement weather, conditions must be monitored for the safety of the participants
- Game official logistics (umpires and officials).
  - This need is more easily met and managed at fewer, more concentrated complexes where multiple games can be taking place at one time.
- Overall control of the sporting experience.

**Summary**

**Youth Sports**

The survey results and interviews with multiple residents seem to point to the fact that youth sports programming is reasonably available through the many organizations noted above. There is not a large need to provide additional city-sponsored youth sports programming, although the city should continue to be a partner with these organizations whenever possible, to assure that the programs remain viable options for the residents of Prairie Village. It is evident that the most important athletic need in Prairie Village for youth sports is the availability of quality practice fields “close to home.” While the city parks provide good, close practice space, some physical improvements can be made to satisfy the following objectives:

- Make areas more efficient for sports use
- Enlarge areas to be able to host older participants
- Provide better grading and drainage to reduce “down time” due to weather events
- Increase supply of quality turf areas to enable users to adjust for high wear area.

**Inventory and Analysis - Recreation**

**Swimming, Diving**

Generally these recreation programs are doing very well, are paying their way in terms of financial commitments from the city, and should be continued into the foreseeable future. However, it may become necessary in the timeframe of 10 years to address the future of the physical facilities that they need as well as access to pool time. The outdoor 50-meter pool is expected to be in need of replacement in the next 5-10 years, so long-range plans regarding the replacement, and whether or not the pool can be made a year-round facility, should be pursued.

**Tennis**

As with the aquatics programs, the tennis programming for youth and adults is well-established and the facilities are generally above average for a public park system. While additional courts would certainly be used if built, the primary effort in regards to tennis should be geared toward maintenance of existing facilities and programs. One physical improvement which may be of interest is a centrally located pavilion in the Harmon Park tennis complex for the administration of tennis tournaments.

**50+ Programming**

There is tremendous potential for growth in the 50+ recreation offerings in Prairie Village due to the general demographic of the community (see analysis section following for more information) particularly if combined with the well-established capability of Johnson County Park and Recreation District or other providers who regularly serve this group. However, this potential may go untapped until adequate space can be provided, be it in an expanded community center building in front of City Hall, within a new community center, or at some other location. The desire for more senior programming was well-represented in the survey comments, which are summarized in Section 3 of this report.

**Adult Programming**

The only adult (defined as ages 18-50) programming available in Prairie Village is through outside agencies, except for the tennis and swimming programs previously noted. Yet, with current nation-wide economic conditions affecting employment and income, it will become increasingly important for people to find local, minimal-cost options for recreation and socialization. Providing new outdoor recreation programming that makes use of the existing parks and their relatively small sports fields may be a way to fill this need. Chicago Ball, which uses a limited flight softball, kickball, and other similar programs that have had reasonable success in other communities. These programs would require very little investment on the part of the city, but would require efforts to promote the leagues and a relatively small amount of staff time to assist with team and league formation.

**Teen Programming**

Programming for teens is typically minimal in most communities. While the Skate Park in Harmon Park is a well-designed and well-used facility, there are other opportunities that can and should be pursued to increase the participation of teenagers in social and recreational activities. The Johnson County Park and Recreation District currently offers

**Inventory and Analysis - Recreation**

a summer camp program designed for this demographic set. By increasing partnerships through advertising, participant fee assistance, and space and facilities offerings, it may be possible to enhance this existing program.

Additional planned activities associated with the Skate Park may also be worth pursuing. Structured opportunities for community service may be a way to increase participation as well as assist other recreation programs in the city.

**Children and Families Programming**

There is a strong national trend toward increasing opportunities for families with children to share experiences and increase social interactions, especially with toddler and mother groups. Although the park system in Prairie Village provides very good options and access for day-to-day play areas, particular potential exists to provide specific day-time programs, especially in the morning hours from 9 a.m.-noon, for mothers with young children. These programs could be structured around craft/art activities, nature play and learning, and cultural experiences such as trips to apple and pumpkin farms, etc.

Prairie Village Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
**Inventory and Analysis - Recreation**

Current Outdoor Recreation Opportunities:

SPORT	AGE/GRADE	GAME LOCATION	PRACTICE LOCATION
<b>BASEBALL</b>			
3&2 Baseball Club of Johnson County	K-12	Lenexa/Shawnee Complexes	SMSD Schools, Coach
Nall Hills Baseball	K-8	SMSD Schools City of OP Parks	SMSD Schools
YMCA	5-14		
<b>SOFTBALL</b>			
Johnson County Parks and Recreation	7-18	Mid America West Softball Complex	MAWSC/Heritage Park, Coach
Girls Club of Johnson County	5-18	SMSD, Shawnee Parks, OP Parks	SMSD, Shawnee Parks, OP Parks
<b>SOCCER</b>			
Johnson County Parks and Recreation	4-13	JCPRD Parks, Shawnee Parks	
Overland Park Soccer Club	K-3	OP Parks	SMSD Schools
Northeast United Soccer Club	K-18	St. Ann's, Bishop Miege, SMSD Schools	St. Ann's, Bishop Miege, SMSD Schools
Leawood Parks and Recreation	K-8	Leawood Park	Coach
<b>FOOTBALL</b>			
Football and Cheerleading Club of Johnson County	6-14	Heritage Park	Coach
YMCA	4-6 Flag Football	Missouri Schools	

Prairie Village Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
**Inventory and Analysis - Recreation**

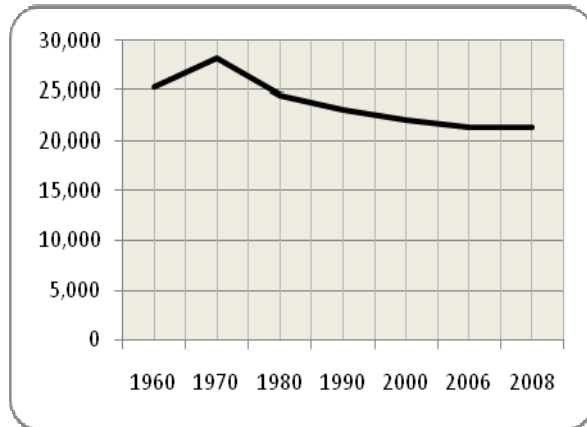
**Prairie Village Parks Master Plan**  
 Shawnee Mission Schools Playing Field Inventory

School Name	Fields	Parking
<b>High School</b>		
Shawnee Mission East	2 Large Soccer/Football 1 small/medium baseball	Unlimited
<b>Middle Schools</b>		
Indian Hills	2 small baseball 1 large soccer	69 North 35 Circle 32 South
Mission Valley	2 Big soccer 1 small soccer 1 med/large baseball	20 Circle 83 South
<b>Elementary Schools</b>		
Belinder	1 small/med Soccer	47 east street 45 south circle 6 north
Briarwood	1 small soccer 2 T-ball	95 east On-street ??
Corinth	Small Soccer	25 north 74 South
Prairie	1 small/med soccer 1 T-ball	41 north +/- 20 north 23 south 19 southwest
Somerset	2 small soccer	41 South 10 east 22 north On-street ??



**Prairie Village Population**

For the past 36 years, the population of Prairie Village has been experiencing a gradual downward trend. The population peaked in 1970 with 28,378 persons. The 2008 population estimate is 21,497, which suggests a leveling or very slight population gain since the year 2006. The trend line measured on a decennial basis still shows a slight population decline. One positive sign is that the rate of population decline is slowing. The loss of population is primarily due to the loss of families with young children, and the growth of elderly (both singles and couples).



**Table 1 Prairie Village Population, 1960-2008**

Year	Population	Number Change	Percent Change
1960	25,356		
1970	28,378	3,022	11.9%
1980	24,657	-3,721	-13.1%
1990	23,186	-1,471	-5.9%
2000	22,072	-1,114	-4.8%
2006 Estimate*	21,414	-658	-3.0%
2008 Estimate	21,497	-575	-2.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; \*KS Division of Budget, Claritas Report

**Age Cohorts and Family Information**

The distribution by age groups illustrated in Table 2 begins to explain the downward trend in the total population of Prairie Village. The number of youth is declining in numbers while the older population is increasing. For example, in 1980 the population age 65 and above was 11.4 percent of the total population, while in 2008 the estimate is 19.8 percent. In contrast, the population under age 24 in 1980 was 8,324 or 33.7 percent. The 2008 population under age 24 is estimated at 5,973 or 27.7 percent. The other revealing indicator is the median age, which was 34.2 in 1980, 37.7 in 1990, and 41.0 in 2000, and is estimated at 43.2 in 2008.

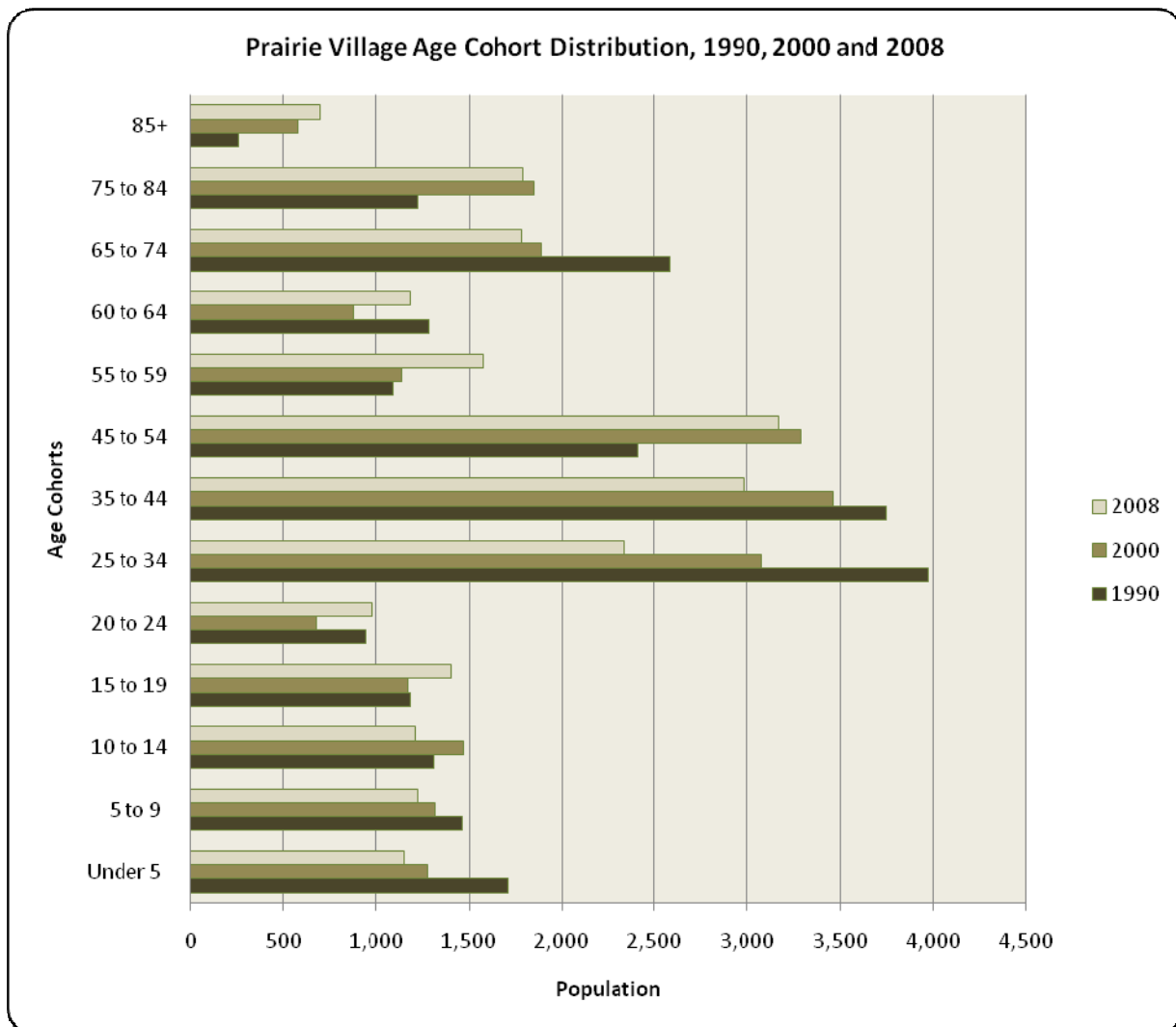
**Table 2 Prairie Village Age Cohorts, 1990, 2000, and 2008**

Age Cohorts	1990		2000		2008 Estimate	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,710	7.4%	1,279	5.8%	1,153	5.4%
5 to 9	1,463	6.3%	1,318	6.0%	1,226	5.7%
10 to 14	1,313	5.7%	1,466	6.6%	1,212	5.6%
15 to 19	1,184	5.1%	1,176	5.3%	1,402	6.5%
20 to 24	940	4.0%	681	3.1%	980	4.5%
25 to 34	3,972	17.1%	3,074	13.9%	2,336	10.9%
35 to 44	3,751	16.2%	3,457	15.7%	2,986	13.9%
45 to 54	2,412	10.4%	3,287	14.9%	3,172	14.7%

**Demographics**

<b>55 to 59</b>	1,096	4.7%	1,140	5.2%	1,572	7.3%
<b>60 to 64</b>	1,285	5.5%	876	4.0%	1,184	5.5%
<b>65 to 74</b>	2,582	11.1%	1,891	8.6%	1,787	8.3%
<b>75 to 84</b>	1,223	5.3%	1,850	8.4%	1,790	8.3%
<b>85+</b>	255	1.1%	577	2.6%	697	3.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	23,186	100%	22,072	100%	21,497	100%
<b>Median Age</b>	37.7		41.0		43.2	
<b>Male</b>	10,809	46.6%	10,142	45.9%	10,025	46.6%
<b>Female</b>	12,377	53.4%	11,930	54.1%	11,472	53.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Claritas Report, 2008



**Gender and Race**

Among the estimated 21,497 Prairie Village residents in 2008, approximately 19,628 (91 percent) were White non-Hispanic. 752 (3.5 percent) were Hispanic or Latino, and 271 (1.3 percent) were Black or African American. Asians or Pacific Islanders account for 272 or 1.3 percent of the city’s population. American Indian and Alaska Native and Native account for 27 or 0.22%. Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders represent 7 or 0.03 percent. A comparative benchmark is to look at Johnson County race/national origin for the year 2000. The data indicates White non-Hispanic (89 percent), Hispanic (4 percent), Black or African American (2.4 percent), and Asian (2.8 percent).

**Table 3 Prairie Village Population by Race/National Origin, 2008**

	Number	Percent
<b>White non Hispanic</b>	19,628	91.3%
<b>Hispanic</b>	752	3.5%
<b>Black or African American</b>	271	1.3%
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native</b>	47	0.22%
<b>Asian</b>	273	1.3%
<b>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</b>	7	0.03%
<b>Other Race</b>	195	0.9%
<b>Two or more Races</b>	324	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	21,497	100%

Source: Claritis,2008

**Educational Attainment**

The educational attainment for the Prairie Village population age 25 and above shows a well educated citizenry. According to the 2008 estimates, 59 percent of the population age 25+ received at least a bachelor’s degree. For comparison, in 2000 the State of Kansas had only 26 percent of the same population group with a bachelor’s degree or more.

**Table 4 Prairie Village Population Age 25+ Educational Attainment, 2008**

	Number	Percent
<b>Less than 9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	78	0.5%
<b>Some High School, no diploma</b>	235	1.5%
<b>High School Graduate (or GED)</b>	1,912	12.3%
<b>Some College, no degree</b>	3,422	22.1%
<b>Associate Degree</b>	717	4.6%
<b>Bachelor’s Degree</b>	5,719	36.8%
<b>Master’s Degree</b>	2,109	13.6%
<b>Professional School Degree</b>	1,031	6.6%
<b>Doctorate Degree</b>	301	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	15,524	100%

Source: Claritis,2008

**Household Types**

Table 5 illustrates further why the total population of Prairie Village is declining, along with changing demographic/household characteristics. The key significant demographic indicator is that households aged 65 and over are growing in number, while the number of families with children is declining. In 1980, family households comprised 78 percent and in 1990 family households was 71 percent of the household types and in 2008 family households

dropped to 60 percent. Non-family households comprised 29 percent of all household types, but by 2008 they ranked at 40 percent, with significant growth occurring in the householder living alone. A non-family household is defined as, “A nonfamily household may contain only one person -- the householder -- or additional persons who are not relatives of the householder.” (Source: U.S. Census Bureau).

Outlined below are additional key observations.

- The total number of households has been increasing since 1990 from 9,734 to an estimated 10,013 in 2008.
- Family households with children have been declining from 6,936 in 1990 to an estimated 6,038 in 2008. This is a loss of 898 family households or a 13 percent loss since 1990.
- The non-family household has been increasing from 2,798 in 1990 to an estimated 3,975 in 2008. This indicates a gain of 1,177 nonfamily households or a 42 percent gain since 1990.
- The non-family householder age 65 and over has grown from 1,010 in 1990 to 1,353 in 2000.

**Table 5 Prairie Village Household Types, 1990, 2000, and 2008**

	1990		2000		2008	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total Households</b>	9,734	100%	9,833	100%	10,013	100%
<b>Family Households (families)</b>	6,936	71.3%	6,162	62.7%	6,038	60.3%
<b>With own children</b>	2,930	30.1%	2,618	26.6%	2,562	25.6%
<b>Married-couple family</b>	5,948	61.1%	5,196	52.8%	5,084	50.8%
<b>With own children under age 18</b>	2,363	24.3%	2,088	21.2%	2,082	20.8%
<b>Female householder, no husband present</b>	803	8.2%	776	7.9%	769	7.7%
<b>With own children under age 18</b>	481	4.9%	430	4.4%	424	4.2%
<b>Male householder, no wife present</b>	185	1.9%	190	1.9%	185	1.8%
<b>With own children under age 18</b>	82	0.8%	100	1.02%	99	0.9%
<b>Non-Family Households</b>	2,798	28.7%	3,671	37.3%	3,975	39.7%
<b>Householder living alone</b>	2,457	25.2%	3,203	32.6%	--	--
<b>Householder 65 years and over</b>	1,010	10.4%	1,353	13.8%	--	--

Source: Claritis,2008

**Household Income**

According to the 2000 census, the Prairie Village median household income was \$58,685, while for Johnson County the figure was \$61,455. For the State of Kansas it was \$40,624.

- The Prairie Village estimated median household income for 2008 is \$64,398.
- The Prairie Village estimated average household income for 2008 is \$83,891.
- The Prairie Village estimated per capita income for 2008 is \$39,436.

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Less than \$15,000</b>	496	5.0%
<b>\$15,000 to \$24,999</b>	605	6.0%
<b>\$25,000 to \$34,999</b>	879	8.8%
<b>\$35,000 to \$49,999</b>	1,593	15.9%
<b>\$50,000 to \$74,999</b>	2,489	24.9%
<b>\$75,000 to \$99,999</b>	1,552	15.5%
<b>\$100,000 to \$149,999</b>	1,333	13.3%
<b>\$150,000 to \$249,999</b>	752	7.5%
<b>\$250,000 to \$499,999</b>	214	2.1%
<b>\$500,000 and above</b>	100	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	10,013	100%
<b>2008 Estimated Median Household Income</b>		\$64,398
<b>2008 Estimated Average Household Income</b>		\$83,891

Source: Claritis, 2008

**Population Projections**

The 2013 population projection for Prairie Village is 21,376, which is a loss of 121 persons from the 2008 population estimate. A comparison to the 2000 population (22,072) reveals a decline of 696 or 3.2 percent. A projected population loss is consistent with historical trends from 1970. Supporting the trend of population loss is the certified population by Kansas Division of Budget 2006 Prairie Village population 21,414, which is a 3.0 percent decline from the year 2000. This decline in population is indicative of a community with defined boundaries that limit annexation of new land, a city that has little vacant or underutilized land, and an inner-ring suburb with an older and aging population.

The population projection prepared by ESRI in the 75<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Study indicates a 2012 city population of 23,000 or a 4 percent growth rate. A review of the report doesn't state what factors will cause the increase in population growth.

The recent approval of the Meadowbrook rezoning to accommodate senior housing and residential condominiums will increase the number of living units in Prairie Village. Conceivably senior citizens or empty-nester boomers currently owning a home in Prairie Village may move to Meadowbrook. This would result in creating a boost in the community population. Another potential factor influencing overall population growth is *families with children* looking to relocate from the outward edges of suburban growth to inner-ring suburbs with shorter commuter distances. Of course, this scenario assumes that existing homes occupied by older single or married couples put their homes on the market for resale and there are other housing options available for them to relocate in Prairie Village.

To conclude, unless there is a shift in the market to attract new families with children to Prairie Village, along with a growth in new housing options for elderly citizens to remain in Prairie Village or attract new households, the population of Prairie Village is not expected to see an increase in total population.