

City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

CHAPTER 1985-57

No. 287 **AN ORDINANCE** APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE PARK
AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Approved May 7, 1985

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

WHEREAS, the City Plan Commission (hereinafter called the "Commission") pursuant to Article X, Section 1013 (A) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980 has formulated and submitted to the City Council on April 5, 1984 for its consideration, as one of the elements of the complete Comprehensive Plan for the City of Providence, a plan entitled, "Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan," comprising of a booklet consisting of a table of contents, approx., 115 pages of text, figures, charts, appendix and maps; and

WHEREAS, a copy of said Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan was transmitted to the Commission on March 14, 1984 for its review and evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, which is the duly designated and acting official planning body for the City of Providence, pursuant to Article X, Sections 1013(a)(1) and 1014(A) and (B), has reviewed, evaluated and approved the said Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan on April 4, 1984 and authorized the Director of the Department of Planning and Urban Development to submit said plan to the City Council for its review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan is recognized by the Commission as an element of the complete Comprehensive Plan for the City of Providence which sets goals for the City policies for achieving those goals and used as a guide for the general development of the City of Providence as a whole; and

WHEREAS, at a public hearing held following notice of the date, time, place and purposes of such hearing, the City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning duly considered the "Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan", and all evidence and testimony for and against the adoption of such plan, in accordance with Article X, Section 1014(B) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE:

1. It be and hereby is found and determined that the "Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan" is a part and one of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Providence.

No.

CHAPTER

AN ORDINANCE

Chapter 1
Section 1
Section 2
Section 3

2. In enacting this Ordinance, the City Council intends to comply with the provisions of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, which relates to the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, so that the neighborhood areas of the City of Providence can be developed in conformance with said plan and thereby protect, promote and be in the interest of the people and the City of Providence.

3. The "Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan" consisting of a booklet containing a table of contents, 115 pages of text, figures, charts, appendix and maps, is hereby approved, adopted and designated as the Official Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan is herein incorporated by reference, and made a part hereof.

4. The Commission is hereby fully authorized to carry out said plan in accordance with Article X, Section 1014(C) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980.

5. In order to implement and facilitate the effectuation of said plan hereby approved, it is found and determined that certain official action must be taken by this Body as follows:

- a) Pledges its cooperation in helping to carry out said plan.
- b) Requests the Board of Park Commissioners, Department of Public Parks, Department of Recreation and the various officials, departments, boards and agencies of the City of Providence having administrative responsibilities in the premises likewise to cooperate to such end and to exercise their functions and powers in a manner consistent with said plan.

6. This Ordinance shall take effect on its passage and shall be filed with the City Clerk who is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Ordinance to the City Plan Commission.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 21 1985

First Reading Read and Passed

Referred to Committee on

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT

RENEWAL & PLANNING

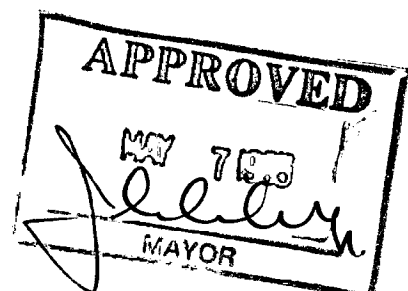
Rose M. Mendonça CLERK

IN CITY
COUNCIL

MAY 2 1985

FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED

Michael W. Epton
PRESIDENT
Rose M. Mendonça
CLERK



THE COMMITTEE ON
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT
RENEWAL & PLANNING

Approves Passage of

The Within Ordinance, the Second Line

Rose M. Mendonca

Clerk Chairman

April 11, 1985

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 5 1984

FIRST READING

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT
RENEWAL & PLANNING

Rose M. Mendonca CLERK

THE COMMITTEE ON
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT
RENEWAL & PLANNING

Recommends

Be Continued

Michael R. Clement

Clerk

Dec. 13, 1984
Jan. 29, 1985

THE COMMITTEE ON
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT
RENEWAL & PLANNING

Approves Passage of
The Within Ordinance

Rose M. Mendonca

Clerk Chairman

March 6, 1985

Councilman Turner (By Request)



The City Plan Commission

40 FOUNTAIN STREET

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

April 4, 1984

Rose Mendonca, City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mrs. Mendonca:

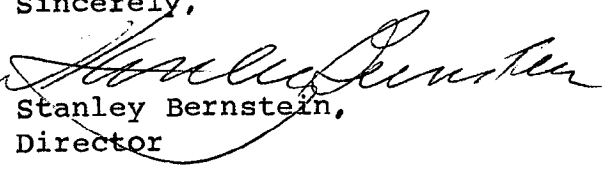
Enclosed is an original and twenty (20) copies of an Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Twenty (20) copies of the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan will be provided under separate cover.

The Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan was prepared with funding assistance from the Department of Interior, National Park Service under the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program. The Plan was prepared jointly by the City Plan Commission and the Board of Park Commissioners and their respective staffs. Public participation and input was carried out through surveys of neighborhood groups and at four (4) separate public workshops which were held on March 19, 21, 22 and 29, 1984 at Hope High School, Mount Pleasant High School, Classical High School and The Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.

The City Plan Commission requests that the Ordinance be referred to the City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning and that a public hearing be held on the matter.

It is respectfully requested that the enclosed Ordinance be placed on the Docket for the April 5, 1984 meeting of the City Council.

Sincerely,


Stanley Bernstein,
Director

SB/b

Enclosures

cc: Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., Mayor
and Chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners
Council President Joseph Paolino, Jr., Member,
City Plan Commission
Councilman Nicholas Easton, Council Designee,
City Plan Commission
Russel Gower, Chairman, City Plan Commission



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Joseph R. Paolino, Jr., Mayor

MRS. DWIGHT H. OWEN

Vice Chairwoman

MS. BEATRICE CARTER-BLACKWELL

Secretary

CARMINE A. BUCCI

Chairman Emeritus

MRS. HERBERT F. DeSIMONE

Commissioner

MAX E. MELLER

Commissioner

Nicholas W. Easton

MERRICK A. COOK, JR.

Superintendent of Parks

May 24, 1984

Councilman Thomas F. O'Connor, Jr.
CHAIRMAN, CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT, RENEWAL & PLANNING
c/o City Clerk's Office
City Hall
Providence, RI 02903

RE: RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Dear Councilman O'Connor:

The Board of Park Commissioners at their regular meeting of May 21, 1984 discussed the proposed Master Plan for recreation as submitted to the Providence City Council by the City Planning Commission and the Department of Public Parks.

The City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal & Planning has not to date reported the proposed plan back to the full Council for action.

The Board of Park Commissioners therefore requests a proposed timetable for action by your Committee on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MERRICK A. COOK, JR.
Superintendent of Parks

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PARK AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

1984

- * The following report is developed within the framework of the Recovery Action Program submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service in April, 1983. Throughout this Comprehensive Plan reference will be made to the RAP, or the Action Plan contained therein. This reference is one and the same with the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

Acknowledgement:

The preparation of the Recovery Action Program (Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan) was financed in part through a grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978 (Title X, Public Law 95-625)

"People in all urban areas want a well-balanced system of urban recreation opportunities which includes close-to-home neighborhood facilities and programs for all segments of the population."

-The National Urban Recreation Study, Prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior, 1978.

INTRODUCTION

City officials and neighborhood advisory groups make decisions every year on developing, maintaining, and programming park and recreation facilities. Limited budgets, changing demographics new attitudes toward recreation, and differing patterns of use and abuse of recreational facilities make a long-range assesement of trends, resources, and priorities imperative. "Long Range", for the purposes of this plan, means five to ten years. Without a substantial increase in intergovernmental grants to central cities, probably not all parks, playgrounds and recreation centers can be rehabilitated, regularly maintained, and fully programmed. A city like Providence that has lost over 100,000 residents in the last 30 years may not need the kinds or locations of facilities that were built decades ago for a very different population. Decisions on the park and recreation system, need an historic context, an awareness of current realities, and a long-range perspective. The Recreation Plan element of the Comprehensive Plan (summarized here) addresses those needs and, under the City Charter, provides a rational process for budgeting park and recreation operating expenses and capital improvements.

In 1976, the U.S. Department of the Interior conducted the National Urban Recreation Study, which revealed a need for federal aid to address the serious problems of deteriorated park and recreation facilities prevalent throughout the country. To provide for their revitalization and to encourage new recreation programs in the cities and urban counties, the Congress enacted the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) Program in 1978. Rehabilitation grants under this program have already provided 70% of the cost of renovating playgrounds, tennis courts, swimming pools and recreation centers throughout the city.

Under the Reagan Administration, the UPARR Program is administered by the National Parks Service. It encourages and stimulates local governments to revitalize park and recreation systems and to make long-term committments to continued maintenance through assurances tied to grant assistance.

Guidelines for Title X of the UPARR Program were published in 1979, establishing requirements which called for linking facility and program needs with community involvement and on-going evaluation. Grants, for both rehabilitaion and innovative programming, are contingent on preparation of a Recovery Action Program to serve as a blueprint for system recovery.

In January, 1981, the City of Providence submitted a proposal for a Recovery Action Program Grant, a matching grant (50% federal/50%local) for planning assistance to develop this Recovery Action Program. The Recovery Action Program effort, in turn, has been channelled toward producing a comprehensive pain for parks and recreation facilities and services, a plan that will not only guide federal grant requests but will also be an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, guiding city-funded development and management decisions.

6 The combined Recovery Action Program/Park and Recreation Plan
Element:

**analyzes existing park and recreation facilities and services within Providence;

** determines the recreational needs of its residents and ways in which needs are being met;

** addresses the system's strengths and weaknesses; and,

** develops a comprehensive system for park, recreation and open space, including project selection, service improvements, management changes and funding, as well as actions to be taken in response to community needs.

GOALS

1. To insure that a balanced network of open space and recreational opportunities are provided within easy access for all Providence residents, particularly for those who cannot easily afford or travel to regional or private facilities and for those with special needs.
2. To develop services that promote self-development and life time value activities.
3. To develop a program for the planning, coordination, and efficient management of public facilities and leisure-time activities thereby increasing productivity and improving services.
4. To contribute to on-going efforts to conserve and restore historic sites to the survey and protect sites of archaeological significance.
5. To create, improve, and expand areas of natural beauty and environmental importance to enhance the quality of the urban environment.
6. To combine aesthetic considerations with significant economic development of the city and its neighborhoods.
7. To integrate park, open space and recreation planning within the City's Comprehensive Planning Program, Capital Improvements Program and with community development and redevelopment projects.
8. To insure that proper funding can be made available where possible from private, local, state, and federal resources.
9. To develop effective mechanisms for citizen and government interaction.
10. To develop a means of measuring on-going user behavior thereby insuring that park and recreation services reflect the needs and interest of the citizenry and that planning addresses future impact of options and programs responsive to those changes in needs and interests.
11. To reduce waste by improving management and cost effectiveness of the system.

Collectively, the goals of this plan will bring to all neighborhoods of the City of Providence, all age groups, and special populations, the expanded opportunities that will help to enrich the quality of life throughout the City.

This Recovery Action Program demonstrates this City's commitment to on-going planning, rehabilitation, provision of services, operation and maintenance programs. It is submitted as an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

POLICIES

Active public recreation facilities are not designed or maintained for adult use, and adults are not served by organized active recreation programs. Address this issue within a life-time fitness framework.

Active public recreation facilities and programs do not generally serve girls and women, and many facilities in neighborhoods throughout the City are exclusively used by aggressive teenage boys. Eliminate sexist facility development and programming policies and redress imbalances.

Facilities and programs do not adequately serve senior citizens or the handicapped. Address this issue and develop a plan to eliminate this gap through mainstreaming where appropriate.

Recreation and park maintenance, management and planning responsibilities are fragmented among seven city departments and agencies and several neighborhood organizations. Reorganize the system or at least develop a strong planning process for interagency coordination tied to the capital funding process annually, i.e., Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Provide a means to strengthen the public/private sector coordinating process.

Establish stronger links between public and quasi-public recreation programs and expand the existing program for shared facility use.

Develop an accepted priority ranking system for park and recreation improvements which will serve as basis for CIP submissions annually.

Improve the image of the public recreation system among neighborhood residents; develop a centralized formal structure for dissemination of information on city recreation facilities and programs to increase public awareness.

Develop additional mechanisms for citizen participation.

Supplement the limited year-round recreation and cultural program opportunities.

Investigate funding resources at all levels to protect substantial investments already made in addition to those which will allow the City to attain system recovery. Evaluate all programs and facilities for third party operational contracts which might prove more cost-effective or for imposition of user fees.

Restore National Register properties within the system. Those reflecting Olmstead influence must be restored as well as natural wilderness areas preserved.

Encourage the utilization of Roger Williams Park and other neighborhood parks as a laboratory for environmental education, cultural expression.

Integrate school department curricula with park system leisure time and cultural/educational programs.

Integrate volunteer work stations into the delivery of parks and recreation services.

Promote Roger Williams Park as a tool for economic expansion through tourism.

Identify park/recreation holdings of little user value in areas of population shift and move to sell as surplus property; monies to be deposited into a Park Improvement Fund.

Improve/expand areas of natural beauty and environmental importance including lakes, ponds and rivers, to enhance the quality of the urban environment.

Develop a means of measuring on-going user behavior thereby ensuring that services reflect the needs and interests of the citizenry and that planning addresses future impact of programs and options responsive to those changes.

Plan for underserved neighborhoods by improving access to nearby recreation sites; particular attention is given to Public Housing complexes in which there are no or inadequate recreational facilities.

Several large green space facilities serve as major assets in facility provision; each of these areas service more than one neighborhood and shall be developed as multi-service facilities with priority given for their expansion/rehabilitation.

Because of the on going nature of the planning process, constant review, assessment and evaluation shall be implemented.

Population

According to the 1980 census, the total population of Providence is 156,804, a decline of 12.6% from the total of 179,213 in 1970. Much of this decline is attributable to smaller households (characteristic of the entire country) and out migration from the state and region. In most Providence neighborhoods, low vacancy rates and rising prices for housing are normal.

Analysis of population by age groups show the following data:

<u>Age</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>Change</u>
0-4	13,493	9,887	-26.7%
5-17	35,253	26,532	-24.7%
18-24	26,322	28,528	+8.4%
25-34	19,034	24,073	+26.5%
35-54	37,936	27,170	-28.4%
55-64	20,875	16,557	-20.7%
65+	26,300	24,057	-8.5%
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>179,213</u>	<u>156,804</u>	<u>-12.6%</u>

City-wide trends reveal a decline in preference for city living in the last ten years. Of the total population: 23.2% is under 18 and 15.3% over 65. The total male population is 72,591 and female 84,213. Average family size: 3.22. Based upon 1980 U.S. Census projections of the city's future population distribution, patterns will show a continued gradual erosion of central-city population levels. Statewide Planning projects a total city population of 139,400 by 1990.

Population distribution allows city neighborhoods to be grouped by movements of age groups:

Washington Park, Elmwood, Reservoir, Hartford, and a portion of the West End had a much younger population in 1980 than in the previous ten years. Children and parents of pre- and in-school children have increased in number while older adults and the elderly have decreased sharply.

Silver Lake, Manton, Mt. Pleasant, Olneyville, and the North End have an older population than the City's average age. Younger age groups changed close to city norms, while older adults and elderly sharply increased. Baby Boom age group is increased, however, they are not having many children.

The East Side is strong in all age groups except infants, older adults, and elderly.

South Providence, parts of the West End, Federal Hill, Smith Hill and Eagle Park have all had an overall decline in most age groups.

The balance of the City follows no specific pattern.

This plan shall address the population shifts and utilize this information when determining recreational priorities.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Minorities

Further of note, there have been some major racial and ethnic changes in various city neighborhoods within the past ten years. South Elmwood, Elmwood, Washington Park, South Providence, and the West End, in particular, have had substantial in-migration of Hispanic and Asian residents. The Black population of Elmwood and Washington Park has increased dramatically.

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Asian</u>	<u>Black</u>
Washington Park	.4 to 7.8%	8.3%	2.4 to 13.4%
South Elmwood	.1 to 20.3%	21.1%	4.7 to 27.0%
Elmwood	.7 to 16.2%	20.0%	6.6 to 28.0%
South Providence	1.8 to 15.0%	18.3%	42 to 50.3%
West End	1.2 to 12.3%	12%	20.1 to 29.6%
Manton	0 to 11.0%	4.8%	1.3 to 8.7%
Mt. Hope	1.1 to 3.0%	9.4%	37.3 to 34%

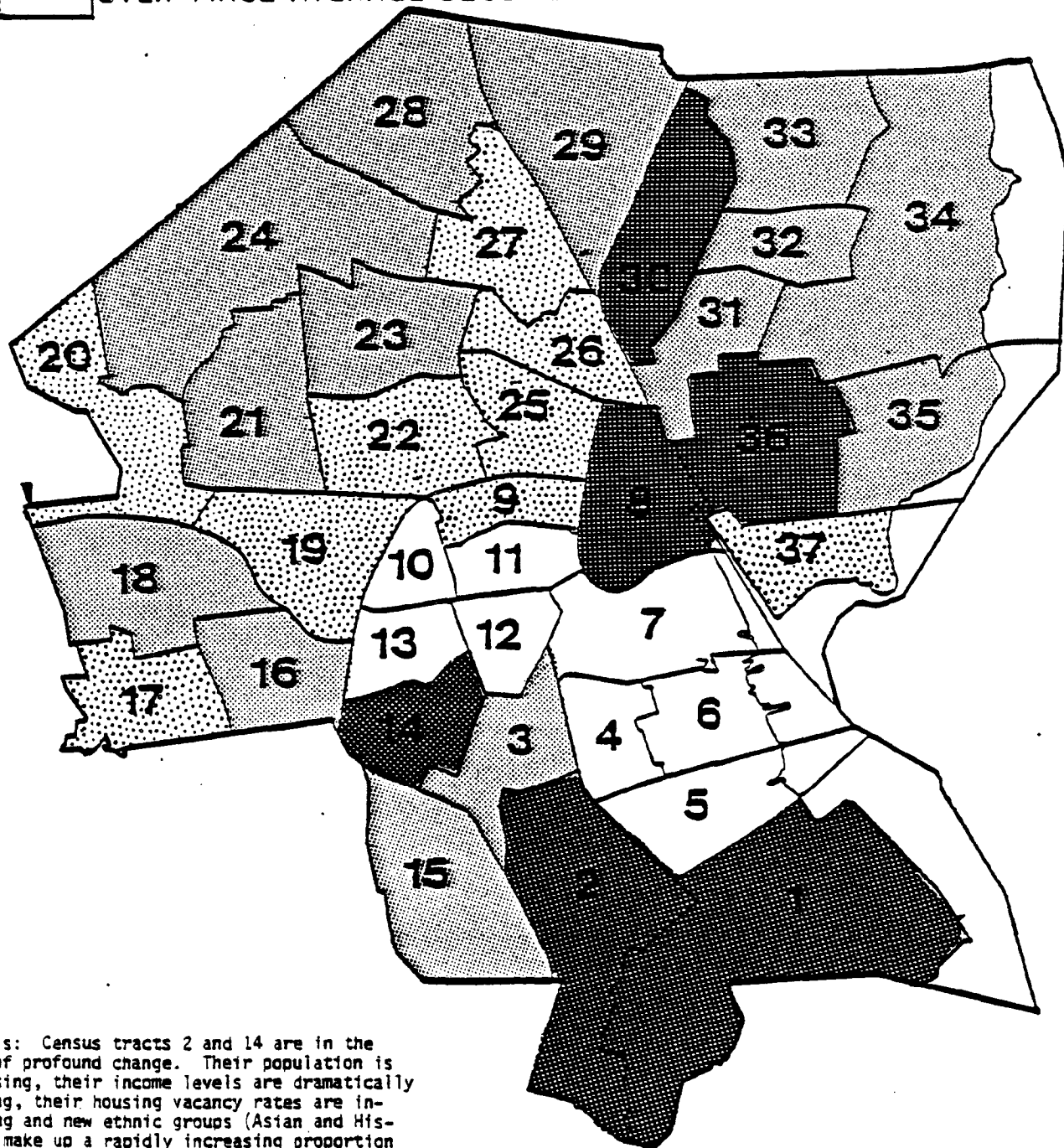
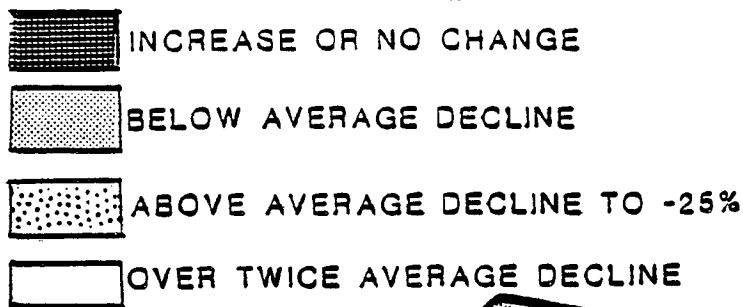
City totals for these groups are: Hispanic: 9071 or 5.8%, Asian: 1694 or 1.1%, and Black: 18,546 or 11.9%.

Disabled

Data from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation indicates that an estimated 18,070 of the City's working-age population are considered to have a disability or handicap severe enough to interfere with gainful employment; half of these are in the labor force. A more comprehensive assessment encompassing a non-work related definition of "disability" and considering children and the aged as well as the working age population is estimated at 26,970.

10 YEAR POPULATION CHANGE

1970-1980



Analysis: Census tracts 2 and 14 are in the midst of profound change. Their population is increasing, their income levels are dramatically dropping, their housing vacancy rates are increasing and new ethnic groups (Asian and Hispanic) make up a rapidly increasing proportion of their population.

The de-population of South Providence continues unabated, along with tenement dominated areas in the West End and Federal Hill.

CENSUS TRACTS

FAMILY POVERTY

PERCENT OF FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL



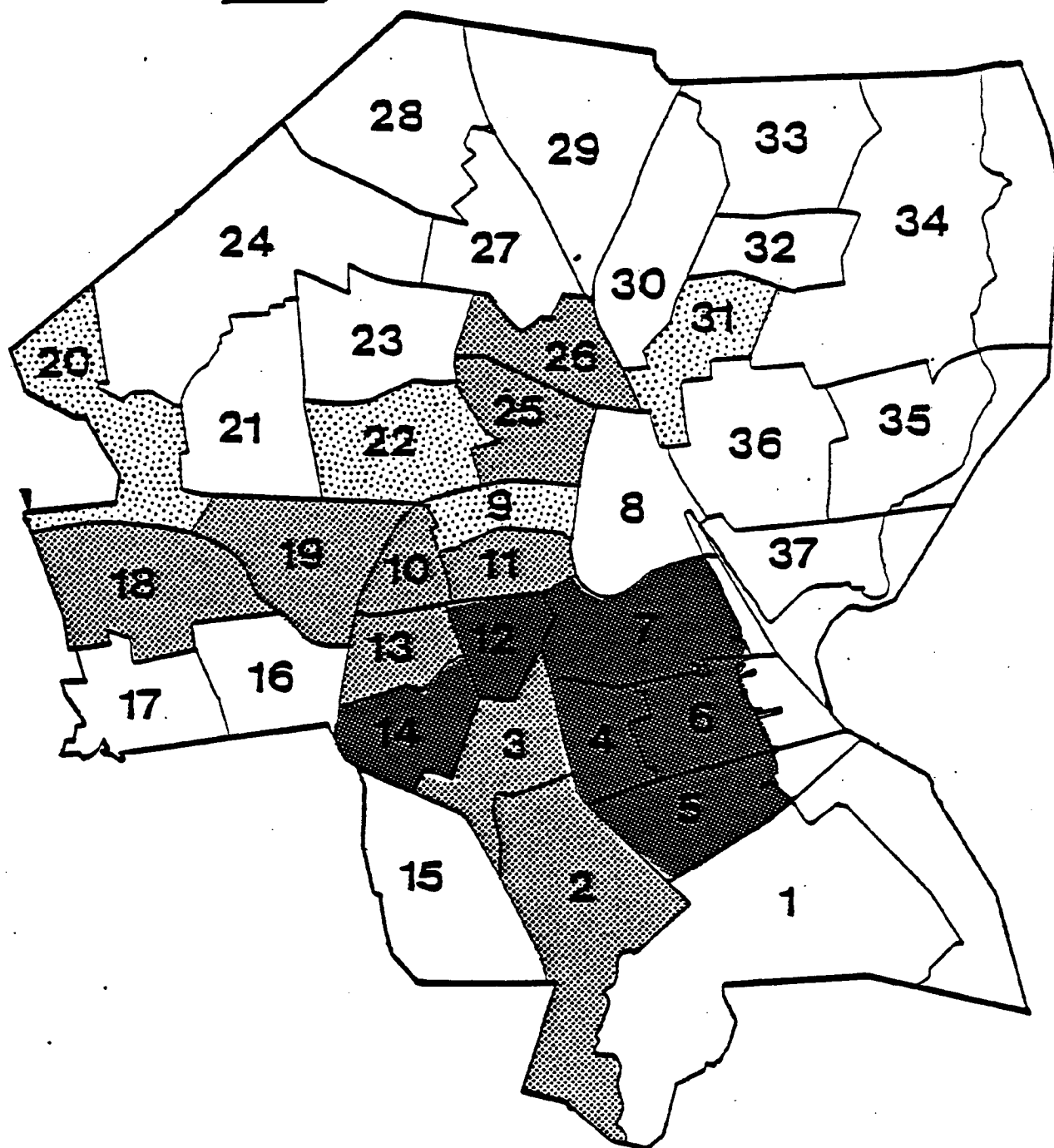
ABOVE 15% CITY AVERAGE TO 19%



20%-29%



ABOVE 30%

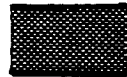


CENSUS TRACTS

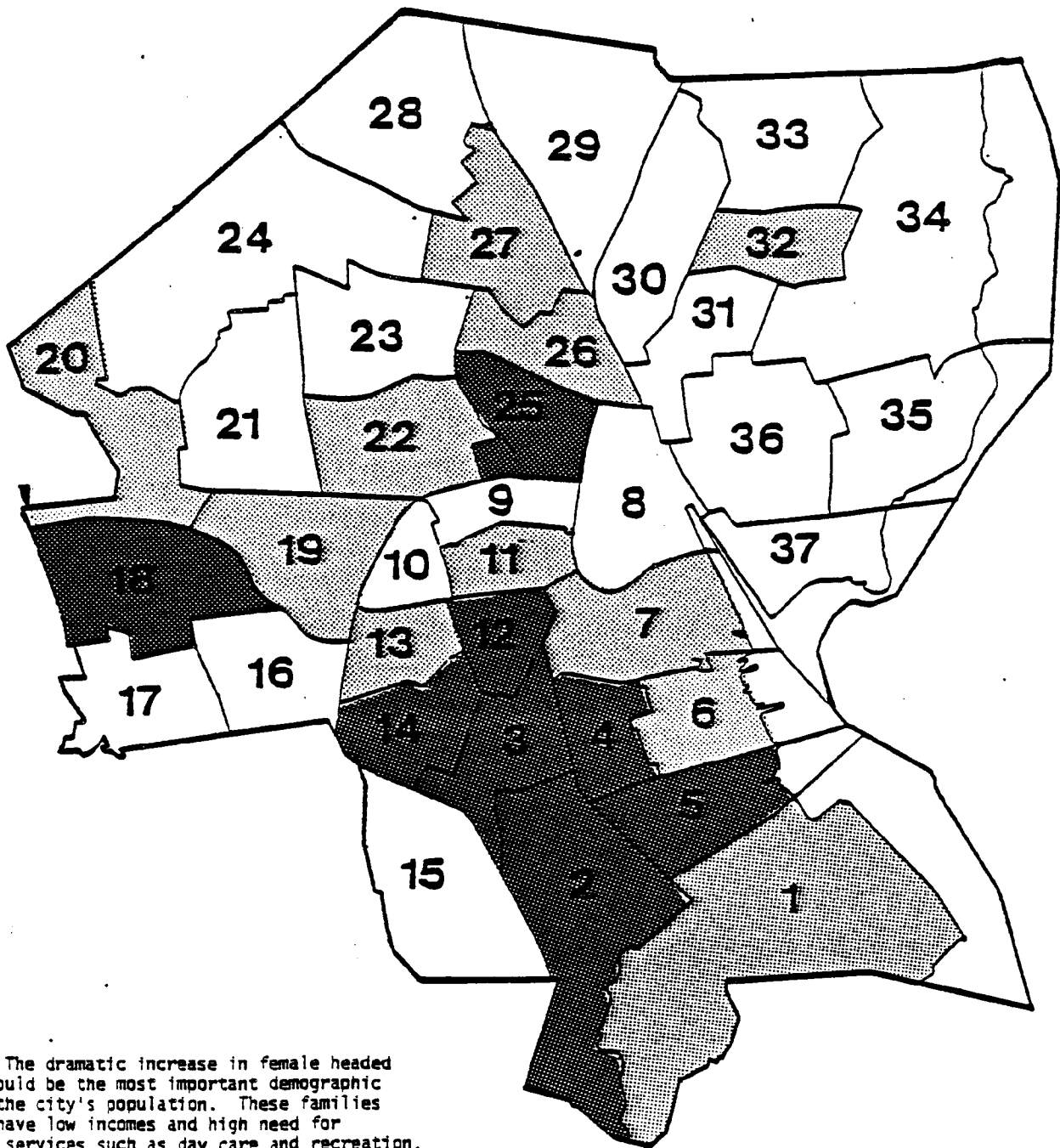
FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES WITH OWN CHILDREN



ABOVE CITY AVERAGE OF 9.7% TO 14.9% OF HOUSEHOLDS



15% AND ABOVE



Analysis: The dramatic increase in female headed families could be the most important demographic change in the city's population. These families typically have low incomes and high need for supportive services such as day care and recreation. Their economic vulnerability is compounded by a relative lack of political organization. Female family heads, as a group, therefore, do not secure public services and resources proportionate to their numbers. They are, however, a very important silent minority, perhaps the most important for the city's demographic future.

CENSUS TRACTS

City Government and Park Planning

With future trends limiting resources for effective maintenance and provision of facilities and services, park development must be addressed with consideration of new techniques and approaches to park planning. The UPARR Program has provided this city with the financial means to address and resolve some very important recreation issues. Further funding through this program can provide assistance needed in further development of an effective park and recreation system and is contingent upon preparation of the Recovery Action Program.

Today, Providence is under a legislative charter with a strong mayor-city council form of government. In January, 1983, a new Home Rule Charter became effective mandating a fifteen member City Council representing 15 wards. Under the Charter the Mayor appoints department heads with council approval, but has the power to dismiss without council action. As in the past, the Department of Public Parks is an exception having been created as a separate department by the State Legislature in 1976.

The Superintendent of Public Parks reports to a Board of Park Commissioners, members of which are appointed by the Mayor with City Council consent. The School Department is overseen by the School Committee which is appointed by the Mayor with Council consent.

At present, the City's park and recreation system responsibilities are apportioned among several agencies, including: The Departments of Planning and Urban Development (DPUD), Public Parks (DPP), Public Works (DPW), Public Properties (DPPr), Recreation (RD), Public Schools (PSD), and the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD). Both the DPP and DPUD are legislatively mandated to plan for parks and recreation areas; the former is charged with Comprehensive Planning responsibilities, and the latter, for the administration planning, design, execution, and maintenance of its facilities. While the DPUD had been designated by the City as the lead agency in the preparation and submission of the Recovery Action Program under UPARR, it has worked closely with other city departments identified above. As lead agency in the on-going planning processes, the DPUD is fully committed to a parks and leisure-service recovery, the plan for which will serve as an important element of this City's Comprehensive Plan required of the City Council by Ordinance.

All Park and Recreation plans must be in conformance with the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Statewide Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation Plan (SCORP). Prior to their submission to City Council, they must be approved by the Providence City Plan Commission and the Board of Park Commissioners. Any plans affecting an historic area or adjacent areas or buildings which are federally assisted are referred to the R.I. Historic Preservation Commission.

Facility Distribution

Over the years, recreation facilities have been created to serve the needs of the Providence resident population. There is a wide variety of recreation facilities presently located in Providence. A good many are city-owned and available to the general public; others are state or federal sites. In addition, there are several privately-owned and in some cases limited to use only by members, and, at local colleges and private schools, by students or faculty.

Presently, there are 1343.74 acres of public land in use for active and passive recreation in Providence; 1190.21 acres of that land is city-owned. A total of 160 separate public facilities serve the various needs of this city's residents; of these, 154 are city-owned. A map illustrating this information appears at the end of this report.

The Pro

The Providence park and recreation system is characterized by fairly well-distributed facilities for use by neighborhood residents, a 430 acre park that serves the region as well as the City and adjacent neighborhoods, and playfields that serve many from throughout the state.

Active recreation facilities are primarily designed for youth, but playfields throughout the City host adult soccer, softball, baseball, and rugby leagues, for men and women. Many playfields are used to capacity and lack lighting for extended use and flexible scheduling. The City's public swimming pools primarily serve youth between 6 and 16 during summer months. Lakes and rivers offer substantial recreational promise, but clean up and management of industrial and organic pollutants is necessary to achieve Class®B waters. Many parks, playgrounds, and totlots have been substantially improved over the last few years, but in some low-moderate income neighborhoods, vandalism, littering, and other misuse make careful design and programming a necessity if public improvements are to have an extended useful life.

In passive recreation opportunity, Providence needs only to rehabilitate a number of sites to fully serve residents with existing facilities. Certain neighborhoods, especially Elmwood, South Providence, Federal Hill and Hope require development of additional passive park areas in the future. Further restoration and development at Roger Williams Park will increase opportunity for the community as well as the entire region.

In active recreation services, the challenge for planners and program staff is to rehabilitate facilities and design programs to adjust to the recreation needs of adults, females, special populations and families. The original orientation of the system to serve boys and young men has survived as a durable anachronism. Expansion of groups served will build constituencies for recreation staff to provide structured programs and for preventive maintenance policies.

Responsibility for the System

For years, recreation improvements had been proposed without regard for central planning considerations. There had been no coordination among agencies in expending monies when planning for park development. However, since 1975 substantial efforts have been made to reestablish central planning functions. In that year, a Comprehensive Planning Process was established and is still underway. And, since then, the 1979-1985 Capital Improvement Program has attempted to re-introduce long-range planning into the city budget.

In 1981, efforts to improve the park and recreation system resulted in the consolidation of most recreation facilities under the Department of Public Parks. The existing structure for planning and implementing park and recreation improvements and programming opportunity remains fragmented. However, through the UPARR planning process, a Task Force was formed comprised of public officials from the seven city departments involved in planning and implementation of leisure-time services and activities, along with a member of the Recreation Advisory Board. Through the efforts of this group, major steps have been taken in developing a coordinated approach to planning for the system. In the future, the Task Force will bring responsible agencies together for continued interaction.

A brief summary of each department with responsibility within the park and recreation system follows.

Department of Public Parks (DPP)

As part of an economy program, the City Council in 1981 assigned over 100 additional parks to the DPP which had heretofore been under jurisdiction of the Department of Public Properties. Thus, this Department assumed maintenance and site planning responsibilities for all public parklands.

The Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980 which took effect in January of 1983, mandates that a seven member Board of Park Commissioners be given jurisdiction over

"all green spaces of the City, all parks, including Roger Williams Park, Zoo, and Museums, the North Burial Ground and other city-owned or controlled cemeteries, public recreational areas of all types including on or adjacent-to school property and all forestry functions including the setting out, care and removal of trees, shrubs and other plants on the streets of the City as well as on the properties for which it is responsible."

Further, the Board shall "acquire, plan, develop, and maintain the areas and facilities under its charge. No other City department may undertake any operation involving any public park of the City except by permission of the Board. The Board shall also appoint a Superintendent of Parks who shall have the status as the head of the Department of Public Parks with all powers and duties appertaining thereto."

The DPP reports to the Board of Park Commissioners and plays a major role in all phases of the entire park and recreation system in the City of Providence.

Department of Public Works (DPW)

"The functions and responsibilities of the Department of Public Works shall consist of the following, and such other functions and responsibilities as may be assigned to the Department from time to time: construction, reconstruction and maintenance of highways and bridges; operation of drawbridges and other moveable bridges; snow removal; sidewalks and curbing; street cleaning; garbage and refuse collection and disposal, including operation and maintenance of incinerators and dumps; and street lighting."*

Department of Public Property (DPPr)

"The Department of Public Property shall have jurisdiction over all land owned by the City which does not come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Parks as set forth in Section 1003 and over all buildings and other structures owned by or under the control of the City, and shall be responsible for the maintenance, planning, design, construction, alterations, and repairs to all such City property under its jurisdiction.*

In the event of disagreement over whether a particular piece of City land, or a particular building or other structure falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Property, or of another Department or agency of City government, such disagreement shall be resolved by the Mayor."*

Department of Public Schools (DPS)

The community school program in Providence is controlled by the School Board whose responsibilities are:

"to determine and control all policies affecting the administration, maintenance and operation of the public schools;

"to provide rules and regulations for the use, operation and maintenance of public school properties;"*

Funds for management and operations are provided through the yearly departmental budget.

In planning for new or rehabilitated school grounds, this Department works closely with DPP. A plan was recently initiated by this Department to systematically improve the aesthetic appearance of school properties. As part of this plan, the two departments will work in designing of the landscaped areas at school sites and coordinating for their upkeep. An on-going program will continue among all departments in planning for provision of improved recreational facilities on adjoining school properties.

In addition, an after-school, youth recreation program was developed in cooperation with the Department of Recreation and was initiated in September, 1982. Until that time this Department had been unable to provide after school recreation except to those students participating in school team sports.

Recreation Department (RD)

The founders of the Recreation Department in the "Report of Providence Recreation Advisory Committee", 1946, established goals for that department that are relevant today.

"The Committee feels that an adequate recreational program should strive toward the health, safety, character building, education, good citizenship, and happiness of all members of the community--small children, boys and girls, young men and women, and older adults. To do this, it would provide for a broad program of activities including physical and social recreation music and drama, arts and crafts, educational and cultural recreation, citizenship activities, individual and family recreation."

The Recreation Department provides organized programs and recreation facility supervision. Recreation has no maintenance responsibility but is responsible for the planning and administration of recreation programs for all ages; services are provided to principal groups such as youth, senior citizens, and the handicapped.

The new Home Rule Charter creates a five(5) member Recreation Advisory Board to oversee recreational programs and administration of this Department.

Department of Planning and Urban Development (DPUD)

One of the many responsibilities of this Department is to have jurisdiction over all matters relative to all those changes which singly or collectively lead to improvements in the organization and effectiveness of city service systems. In creating this set of guidelines, the Department aims at fulfilling its obligation to the City Council by initiating and programming changes that will lead to improvements in the recreation-park system. The new charter rests all city-wide planning responsibilities in the DPUD. Site planning responsibilities are retained in certain departments notably Public Parks and Schools.

The Director of this Department also serves as the Director of the City Plan Commission, an independent City agency whose primary responsibility is to develop the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Providence, including

responsibility for the City's physical and economic planning process.
The Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD)

Created as a result of the Community Development Act of 1974, the office works to "develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income." This office has partially funded and implemented many of the rehabilitation proposals throughout the City. Aided by neighborhood associations, priorities are established for distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and implementation of the program through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The two divisions directly involved in park and recreation planning include: Division of Urban Parks and Open Spaces and the Division of Social Programs and Community Facilities. The former deals with design, development and construction of neighborhood parks and the latter provides funds to neighborhood facilities for renovations and various programs including recreational services. In 1979, the MOCD began a six year program to help Neighborhood Facilities become independent of CDBG support.

Prospects for Future Coordination

Limited consolidation which took place during 1981 solved some problems for planning and operation of the system; provisions mandated through the 1983 Home Rule Charter have solved others, however, coordination of planning among those agencies which shall remain part of park and recreation will continue to be a necessary element in creating an effective system. Perhaps, the planning process, in itself, can accomplish successful coordination; proper planning from the onset can provide the instrument without need for excessive reorganization.

As part of the R.A.P. process, links have been developed among departments as well as private community services. These links shall evolve into on-going processes to insure continuity. The UPARR Task Force has worked together in establishing priorities and strategies for system recovery for the next five years and will be the means through which community linkages will be further expanded.

Financing

City financing of services and capital improvements has come about from local and federally-funded sources such as the CDBG Program, the UPARR Program, and Land and Water Conservation. Virtually no capital improvements for parks and recreation have been budgeted out of the local sources in recent years. Services supported by the City have been maintained at austerity levels for the past several years. Accounting for state and federal grants is conducted on a departmental basis; the city's annual financial report maintains cumulative totals of federal funds received by program or project. The City's Capital Improvement Program has attempted to provide some order on the multitude of funding sources and financing plans for capital improvements.

The revived Comprehensive Planning Process and Capital Improvement Program offer the most logical means for coordinating park and recreation system funding with overall financing of community facilities and services. The new Charter has given appropriate emphasis to capital budgeting and programming.

NEIGHBORHOOD ANALYSES

Methodology

Factors considered in determining the recreational needs of the citizens of Providence were: population distribution, socio-economic characteristics, including income and ethnic characteristics, existing public recreation facilities, residential acreage, land use, school information, and maintenance of facilities.

Population, for example, aided in determining whether existing recreational facilities were adequate to serve the residential acreage. (Land use eliminated those industrial and commercial areas from this study which would not be served by neighborhood recreational facilities). Examination of population density, coupled with a study of age group breakdowns revealed which areas were most densely populated and which recreational facilities would get the greatest use from each segment of the population. Age breakdown and ethnic characteristics also served to establish the type of facilities needed in each neighborhood.

Income levels helped to determine the mobility of the population in each neighborhood and the ability of the people to take advantage of recreation provided by other sources. Using planning standards established to serve as guidelines for recreational needs, the adequacy of public recreational acreage per neighborhood was determined. For those neighborhoods found to be deficient, park development was recommended (the preferred choice on vacant land).

Public recreational facilities are not the only recreational areas which the citizens of Providence have available to them. Semi-public (private non-profit) and private organizations such as Community Centers, Boys Clubs, YMCA's, CYO's, JCC's, private schools and colleges, etc., supply a great deal of recreation to people. In some instances, these recreational facilities and programs supplement the existing public facilities, while in others these semi-public and private facilities provide the primary source of recreational opportunity in the area. Although some neighborhoods of the city are lacking public recreational facilities, some of them do not display an acute need for additional public facilities. This may be because they are adequately served by these semi-public and private recreational facilities, and/or the financial status of the area's population is such that non-public facilities are utilized. In areas in which the existing public facilities are inadequate and in which there is not any vacant land available for acquisition, these semi-public and private organizations are indispensable. Through shared facility use and cooperative programming, the City, together with these community organizations, have expanded recreational opportunity which otherwise would not have been available.

During the initial research and analysis in preparation of this Plan, a concerted effort was made to develop a mechanism to assist planners in the assessment of recreational opportunity, and in the development of strategies for facilities and programs. Extensive questionnaires were developed through the RAP planning process and distributed to neighborhood organizations, social service agencies, senior citizens' groups, organizations for handicapped, Community Centers, special interest groups, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, etc., and

relied on responses received to assist in developing strategies. In the future, local neighborhood groups shall act as sponsors for local forums on park and recreation needs.

Relationships among these previously mentioned variables were determined and subsequently, proposals, policies, and priorities were established.

In order to ensure that every resident has reasonable access available in his/her area of the City, a comprehensive inventory of all existing city-owned maintained recreation facilities was developed. Every park, recreation facility, and open space in Providence was evaluated. Each was categorized by type, and inspected for condition, and user level.* Based upon the results of the inspection combined with known maintenance requirements and service potential, goals for each recreational site were established by the UPARR Task Force. Preparation of this preliminary analysis included options as follows:

1. Redesign and/or rehabilitate heavily used areas.
2. New development or expansion of existing sites.
3. Sale of surplus land.
4. Leasing sites not feasible to maintain.
5. Cooperative maintenance arrangement/joint facility use.
6. Study and master planning.
7. Routine maintenance and replacement.

* Initial efforts to develop a comprehensive system for inventorying and analyzing the City's recreational needs and opportunities was begun through the Winsor Planning and Information Retrieval Study of 1981. Funded by MOCD, the study addressed service and demand variables.

Subsequently, through the UPARR Planning Grant, Saluti, Associates, Inc. completed a maintenance and operations study of the DPP. As a result, the first systematic photographic inventory of park sites was presented. City planners then were able to evaluate recreational facilities and develop a systematic and mutually agreeable approach to priority ranking.

Acreage:

Acreage was determined through DPP records and maps, statistics from Information Retrieval results, and the tax assessors plat book. Acreage of school property included only those areas providing outdoor open space.

Type:

Various sources recommended standards as guidelines for recreation development assuming the basic recreational needs of people are similar, the standards offered are based upon provision of a specific amount of land for people within a certain area. In determining recreational needs of a city, guidelines can provide assistance, however, various factors comprising the character of a city and its people are also important. A number of standards were examined for this plan. In 1973, the State of Rhode Island issued a planning manual to assist municipalities in preparation of recreation plans. Also, the Urban Land Institute offers a similar standard. The standards set forth by both have been adopted with modifications to reflect the assessment and development of parks and open space for Providence. This information appears in chart form in Table I.

Condition:

Poor: Equipment in disrepair and unusable; site needs major rehabilitation for full use.

Fair: Equipment in disrepair but usable; site needs substantial capital improvement or improved maintenance.

Good: Equipment in good condition; site needs minimal investment for full use.

Excellent: Equipment in good condition; site needs routine maintenance for full use.

These evaluations reflect overall condition of sites, not necessarily the condition of individual components.

User Level: High - Medium - Low

User level was determined as a result of site inspections on six occasions and also knowledge of use offered through programming.

Priority Rating: Low (1) to High (10)

Determined for Capital Improvement Program.

For those sites needing study, CIP rating will be assessed pending study results.

No rating has been affixed to those sites proposed for sale.

A. Need for Rehabilitation

Considers site condition. New or recently-rehabilitated sites will have little or no priority for funds other than for routine maintenance. Those sites for which substantial investment has been made but need minimal investment for completion, will have a highest rating.

B. Neighborhood Deficiencies

Weighs the relative importance of a given site within the context of other recreation opportunities available to neighborhood residents.

C. Multi-use Sites

Favors rehabilitation of sites that provide varied, year-round recreation for different user groups throughout the day. Supervision and maintenance of these key facilities are more cost effective.

6 FACILITY STANDARDS

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>SERVICE AREA</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION & FUNCTION</u>	<u>FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED ACREAGE</u>
Local Play Area (LPA)	To about 1 acre	1/4 mile (several blocks)	Includes totlots, generally small areas intended for young children under immediate supervision; usually for high population density areas. School yards/ grounds providing open spaces were included.	Play equipment, for young children including slides, swings, climbing devices, benches, drinking fountains.	Varies with population
Passive Park (PP)	.5 to 25 acres	1/2 mile (neighborhood)	Landscaped area primarily for sitting and quiet relaxation. Conservation areas and Downtown open spaces were included in this category.	May include benches, plants, treed sitting area, fountain, statue, water areas.	.5 to 1.0 per 1,000 population
Neighborhood Park (NP)	4-7 acres	1/2 mile (neighborhood)	Area for both active and passive recreation	May include apparatus for older children, fields for informal play, court games, landscaped, passive sitting area, totlot. Often developed in conjunction with schools.	1.5 per 1,000 population
Inter-Neighborhood Park (INP)	8-20 acres	1 mile (several neighborhoods, or city wide for team)	Developed primarily as athletic fields; usually contain active and passive sub areas for neighborhood use. Some N.P.'s that are known to be used by several neighborhoods. These were included in INP category.	May include: baseball and softball diamonds, football, soccer, hockey field, running track, parking lot, spectator seating, drinking fountain, bike racks.	.5 per 1,000 population
City-Wide Park (CWP)	Approximately 100 acres or more	Community Region	Major park offering unique or regionally-important facilities.	May include: quiet sitting areas, bicycle paths, water areas, zoo, picnic areas, conservation areas.	5 per 1,000 population
Parkway (PW)			PW provides an increased margin of traffic safety but may also permit green space to enhance beauty. Of late, PW's are providing pleasant surroundings for jogging and walking.	Landscaping, benches	Non-applicable
Special Use Facility (SUF)	Based upon activity served	Based upon activity served	Areas developed for special use.	Uses such as pools, golf courses, gymnasiums, bike trails, ice rinks, etc.	Varies with population

Deficiencies in Facility Provision

Aside from rehabilitation and redesign issues, certain neighborhoods have prominent deficiencies in existing facilities. More specifically, Elmwood, a key revitalization neighborhood, has had a long-standing deficit in facility provision. The neighborhood also lacks readily accessible passive or active green space, formerly provided by Roger Williams Park before construction of the interstate highway. Smith Hill and Olneyville lack public indoor facilities designed for adult recreation. The school buildings that serve as neighborhood recreation centers are inappropriate at this time for many recreational and social activities offered in other areas. Considering the present population and in light of anticipated growth in Hope, South Providence and Mount Hope, passive areas and neighborhood facilities are lacking.

Residents of public housing projects for low income families are ill-served by the park and recreation system. Merino Park (Hartford/Olneyville), Hopkins Park, (Wanskuck), and Central-Classical playfields (West End) are prominent examples of large facilities that are not maintained at adequate standards for intensive use by residents of adjoining housing projects. Recent rehabilitation work at Dudley Street Recreation Center, Dexter Training Grounds, Cypress Street, Danforth Street, and Bucklin Street Parks in the past few years have substantially raised the quality of recreation available to low-income families in nearby subsidized housing projects.

In many areas, the deficiencies do not lie in the lack of public land/facilities designated for active or passive recreational use, but rather in inadequate design, poor condition, improper maintenance, vandalism, and changing demographic trends. Thus the issues here involve re-evaluation of those existing facilities and rehabilitation, redesign, and closure, or lease arrangements. For the most part, rehabilitation is the primary issue in dealing with system distribution of facilities and their optimal use to City residents. One scenario may be the abandonment of those sites no longer serving the purpose for which they were intended; rehabilitation and expansion of large areas; or the development of new parks seem a more cost-effective alternative to continued operation of small, nonfunctional sites.

However, access to these inter-neighborhood facilities, recreation centers and citywide facilities should be a priority. The question will be whether the existing public transportation service is adequate to meet these needs or whether supplemental transportation will be required.

The continual increase in the number of "latch-key children", caused by both parents holding full-time jobs, is a concern for the park and recreation system from the standpoint of providing recreational opportunities during after-school hours. Availability of facilities, staffing and quality supplies will continue to be a constraint for delivering quality programs for the projected continual increase caused by the increase of two full-time working parents.

Facility Development and Expansion

Major assets in facility provision include several large major green spaces. Bucklin Park, Dexter Training Grounds, Davis Park, O'Neil Field, (at Roger Williams Park), Neutaconkanut Park, Joslin and Danforth Recreation Centers, Gano Fields, and Veasie all potentially or currently offer ease of recreation activity, supervision, and multi-age group and/or family services. Selection of these sites for expansion is further supported by preliminary conclusions from the recreation supply/demand study. The area ringed by all but two of these sites has the least in the way of recreational opportunity, the least square footage for recreation, the greatest school age population, the least diverse facilities (80% are of tot lot scale), the most poorly maintained facilities and the greatest expressed demand for all age groups. These facts point toward development of multi-service facilities. The majority of these sites, although in unstable population areas, are within easy reach of more stable population areas.

During the past few years, Roger Williams Park has been extensively restored but still requires sizable outlays to develop the zoo's potential as a regional attraction, to save the historically significant structures, and to further develop and expand this citywide park.

Development of natural lakes and ponds is encouraged to meet the supply deficiencies and also to substitute for salt water swimming. Roger Williams Park offers an ideal site for development of a deep spring pond swimming facility.

In development of new park and recreation facilities, planners should locate sites for a high degree of visibility and usage. Also, emphasis should be placed upon lighting for night use and programming of specific activities.

The large young adult population of the Baby Boom era are among the most enthusiastic participants in bicycling, jogging, hiking, and lifetime-value recreational pursuits. Throughout the city are several sites at which jogging enthusiasts can enjoy their sport; however, few were designed specifically for this type of activity. Harborview Trail was developed as a bikeway and has never served that purpose; its future use should be re-examined. Low-cost jogging trails, bikeways and commuter bike trails in conservation areas would not only enhance these natural resource areas but also provide a relaxing environment in an urban setting. Physical fitness trails should be developed where appropriate.

With New England cities having short seasons for many outdoor activities, providing outdoor facilities for two or three months of the year is not efficient. Support for indoor facilities (or facilities enclosed to accommodate year-round activity) would result in more productive use of public investment. Where possible, expansion of city indoor recreation centers and schools could provide year-round activity.

A major study begun in July, 1983 including State, City, and Private sectors is addressing the revitalization of the Providence waterfront. For years this has been a goal for planners at all levels. In studying the feasibility of restoring the waterfront as a focal point for the City, the 3.5 mile expanse shall be considered for recreation, commercial and residential land use. Development of the waterfront will establish a link between the State Bay Islands Park System, and the proposed Blackstone Valley and East Bay bicycle paths.

The issues evolving from the assessment of facilities will play a major role in meeting the overall goals of the Recovery Action Program thereby achieving an important segment of the Comprehensive Plan for the City. That is, addressing these issues and implementing strategies will allow the system to meet the active and passive recreational needs of all city residents including special populations and underserved segments.

Special Facilities for the Handicapped and Elderly

Handicapped: Facilities at the Pleasant View School serve the handicapped and provide a swimming pool and gymnasium specifically designed for this population. The Special Olympics Team uses this facility for practice. Unfortunately, City programming at this facility has been discontinued because of budget cuts. This gap in program provision for the handicapped should be addressed; reinstatement of this program deserves high priority.

Camp Cronin, a 2.5 acre city-owned seaside conservation area located in southern Rhode Island is used for outings with programs specifically designed for the handicapped. (Balance of the former 32-acre site is now state-owned to be developed as a conservation area.)

Those community centers developed in cooperation with MOCD were designed for access by wheelchair, have at least one handicapped equipped restroom and internal ramping if there is a grade change. As part of the RAP planning process accessibility of public parklands throughout the City was examined. Members of the study team inspected each facility and rated accessibility to handicapped as part of the inventory process; results of this inspection are included in the full RAP.

Elderly: Center 21, a city owned Senior Citizens Center operated year-round through the Recreation Department provides cultural, social, physical and intellectual activities for the elderly who live in the immediate area and for those who are bused in daily. Present location for this facility is inadequate, the City should seek a new location and relocate once the existing lease expires.

Senior citizens have broadly defined recreation programs at Camp Cronin, overlooking the ocean, during summer months; the Recreation Department sponsors day trips offering relief from summer in the City. Any senior citizens group is welcomed to use this facility for outings. Roger Williams Park, one of the finest regional parks in the country, is widely used by the elderly; the Mayor's Day in the Park is one event specifically scheduled for this segment of the population. Optimal use of the park for the elderly is still to be realized; provisions for transportation should be planned and additional planned activities added. Neighborhood Community Centers, operated by local non-profit organizations offer a full spectrum of recreational and social activities for seniors.

Development of swim program at the Pleasant View School for senior citizens, transportation included, should be a priority.

One very important issue being addressed at present by City government is the proposal submitted by the Department of Elderly Affairs for a centrally located Senior Center to be operated through the City, State and a Private-non-profit group.

Special Needs: Except for Pleasant View School, there are no facilities that exist solely for the handicapped and special populations. The Recreation Department proposed a playground designed for use by handicapped youth in Roger Williams Park several year ago, however, this idea remained a concept due to lack of development funding. Plans for swimming pool and recreation center improvements particularly at Dudley Street and Zuccolo Center have included design provisions for handicapped and elderly use. Programming is essential for future use of these facilities by these special populations. Transportation is at the core of any activity planned for seniors or the handicapped.

Historically Significant Sites

Those facilities of historical and architectural significance which appear on the National Register of Historic Places, provide recreation and open space opportunities, and are managed by the park system include:

1. All city-owned parklands within
 - The College Hill Historic District
 - Broadway-Armory Historic District
 - Pine Street Historic District
 - Hope Street Historic District
 - Roger Williams Park Historic District
 - Downtown Providence Historic District
2. Trinity Mews located at Trinity Square Reperatory Theatre
3. Admiral Esek Hopkins Homestead
4. Plaza at Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul
5. Westminster Center Abutting Lowe's State Theatre
6. North Burial Ground
7. Historic Structures within Roger Williams Park
 - Betsy Williams Cottage
 - Roger Williams Park Museum
 - Casino
 - Various outstanding examples of architecture.

6

In Providence, there has been an open dialogue between public agencies, especially DFP and DPUD and the R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (RIHPC) and private organizations such as the Preservation Commission and the Providence Foundation. The diverse perspective offered by these groups has provided fine coordination efforts in imaginative review and design processes in the City. City agencies refer any proposals within an historic area or adjacent areas or buildings and which are federally assisted to the RIHPC.

The RIHPC is a state agency providing published surveys of historic neighborhoods used as planning tools for citizens agencies, catalysts for neighborhood initiated improvement projects, and approved maintenance for historic sites. A second major function is to maintain and nominate sites to the National Register of Historic Places. The Providence Historic District Commission established by City Council Ordinance provides for appropriate preservation of historic buildings in College Hills.

Rehabilitation Issues:

For Providence, one of the overall objectives in preparing a comprehensive plan for a park and recreation system is to obtain additional funds necessary to make the City's facilities major assets in neighborhood revitalization and in a new appreciation of the urban quality of life. Providence has accomplished enough in park and recreation facility rehabilitation over the last few years to make that objective attainable within the five-year implementation plan. In the process, Providence intends to substantially improve various approaches to park and recreation management and planning in order to fulfill the need to best utilize our existing recreation facilities.

Since the initial involvement in the UPARR Program in 1979, federal funds have provided substantial assistance for Roger Williams Park, including the Casino and lakes, City recreation centers such as Dudley and Zuccolo, City swimming pools and some of the City tennis courts and playgrounds. Most recently, Providence was awarded UPARR rehabilitation funding in the amount of \$784,000 for the rehabilitation of eleven active-sports sites scheduled for completion by July, 1984.

But, the list of sites in need of refurbishment remains lengthy. Many of those facilities included are as follows:

1. Totlots, playgrounds and playfields throughout the City.
2. City Basketball courts.
3. City swimming pools; some recreation center gymnasiums.
4. Roger Williams Park historic structures, landscaping, etc.
5. Locust Grove Cemetery and North Burial Ground
6. Jogging, hiking, bike trails
7. Conservation areas
8. Handicapped access improvements
9. Rest rooms/showers/lockers
10. Fencing
11. Pathways

Rehabilitation of parks and other recreational facilities are especially important in neighborhoods that have lost between one quarter and

one half of their population over the last ten years, neighborhoods such as Upper and Lower South Providence, and Federal Hill. Housing and social service programs have been targeted to these neighborhoods, but visible improvements are necessary for psychological as well as programmatic reasons. Some of these transitional neighborhoods, to which Smith Hill shall be added having lost 19.5% of its population, and the West End, at -14.7%, have highly active and growing community centers. Indirect support of these centers through adjacent public improvements will help sustain revitalization momentum. These above-mentioned neighborhoods typically have little usable green space, public or private, and public recreation is often the only alternative to no recreation.

Rehabilitation of active recreation facilities is critical for the West End, Upper and Lower South Providence, Olneyville, and Smith Hill. Rehabilitation is urgently needed for facilities in Washington Park, Reservoir, Silver Lake, Hartford, Valley, and Mount Hope.

Facilities adjoining housing authority family projects in three neighborhoods require substantial rehabilitation coupled with cooperative maintenance and anti-vandalism programs.

Existing passive recreation facilities in the West End, Valley, Smith Hill, and Mount Hope require substantial rehabilitation to attract sufficient use to justify maintenance costs. New passive recreation facilities are needed to correct deficiencies in Upper and Lower South Providence, Elmwood, Hope and Reservoir.

Extensive restoration in Roger Williams Park over the last five years has turned around the decay of this regional facility to become a model for faithful restoration and creative programming. But sizeable outlays are required to develop its full potential as a regional attraction and to save and re-use architecturally significant structures.

Major green spaces currently or potentially offering ease of recreation activity, supervision, multi-age groups and/or family services should be addressed for rehabilitation and expansion to serve as multi-service facilities for inter-neighborhood/citywide use. Neutaconkanut Park and Uplands for example have the potential to be one of the finest and most beautiful year-round recreational facilities the City has to offer.

Rehabilitation vs. Replacement

Rehabilitation is the preferred cost effective alternative in most neighborhoods. Elmwood and Upper and Lower South Providence are low-moderate income areas where new facility development will be necessary in the years ahead (the latter two neighborhoods will require passive green space to compliment housing revitalization plans). Smith Hill and Olneyville will need either new facilities or adaptive re-use of existing structures, depending on feasibility studies planned or underway.

The Mount Pleasant and Elmhurst areas are in need of water-related recreation, and a new swimming pool would correct a long-standing deficiency in these moderate to upper-income neighborhoods. Some residents of Mount Hope have repeatedly expressed a desire for a major indoor pool and gymnasium complex to serve neighborhood youth. Very few opportunities exist for public ice-skating in the City, but the high operating cost of indoor facilities is not presently feasible for city funding.

Management Issues

In an effort to improve the management of parks and recreation properties, the new Home Rule Charter consolidated the maintenance and ownership of all outdoor recreation areas under the Department of Public Parks. Mayoral discretion was exercised under the charter to keep swimming pool and recreation center maintenance under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Properties.. In addition, all site planning for parklands became the responsibility of the DPP, site planning for recreation centers remaining for the DPPr with comprehensive master plan for parks and recreation as one element of the Providence Comprehensive Plan under the jurisdiction of the Department of Planning and Urban Development. Another unifying element to the system of parks and recreation management is the consolidation of Community Development planning and agencies submitting capital improvement requests to the City Plan Commission for analysis.

There are several problem areas still existing that prevent efficient and effective parks and recreation management.

1. The Department of Recreation and its advisory board shall remain a separate program entity with informed connections to the Department of Public Parks. Perennial issues such as overprogramming of sites result in vandalism, stress on facilities and litter. Lack of joint programming between the two departments has not been addressed. The Department of Public Parks, Division of Public Programming which provides cultural, artistic and environmental opportunity for the parks system is not coordinated with the Recreation Department's efforts to provide athletic, environmental, artistic programs. Developing links between the two departments is required to reduce the negative effects of no communication. An appointed individual should be responsible to oversee the coordination of public programming from all sources.

2. The Department of Public Properties has not developed an effective evaluation and management system for recreation centers and pools. That Department has a building maintenance component for which an effective maintenance inspection system should be devised. In addition, all capital expenditures funded from the municipal budget for building repair are placed in a fund managed by the Department of Public Properties. Parks' Department building improvements have not as yet received priority rating and therefore must await federal funding availability. This system eliminates any systematic approach to preventative maintenance and allows small problems such as roof leaks and boiler repair to mount so that total replacement problems requiring substantial investment are needed to rectify the condition.

3. Parks planning necessitated by redevelopment projects is still fragmented. The Department of Planning and Urban Development or commissions such as that guiding the Capital Center Project all impact on parks and open spaces in Providence, but rarely is the DPP advised in the preliminary planning stages.

4. Interaction with the School Department on joint educational issues, especially in the area of physical fitness, science programs and environmental education has begun but systems of communication need to be put in place for curriculum planning on a regular basis.

5. The development of an integrated computer assisted data management system has begun in the Department of Public Parks and should be encouraged and established for other providers to the system such as Public Properties and Recreation.

6. The Department of Public Works which maintains certain paved open spaces, and electrical fixtures has not assessed and established a priority for the upkeep and maintenance of park roads, paths, lighting fixtures, drains and other utilities.

7. A system shall be established for periodic evaluation and modification of organizational structure.

8. Training cost projections should be applied to training programs proposed for the DPP; the system should be piloted for one year and an employee training guide developed. Using this process as a guide, the same should be prepared for the Recreation Department.

Service Issues

The outstanding service issues for the City involve reorganization of the Recreation Department services in cooperation with the Departments of Public Parks, Public Schools, and Public Property to

provide a spectrum of services to include a dimension of self-development and life-time value activities.

expand and/or develop programming to address an increased young adult population and a growing need for programs oriented to females and families.

develop a user analysis process to help the City in serving changing needs and interests.

enhance special programs for seniors and the handicapped and provide transportation to special programs; of particular need is the reinstatement of the swim program at Pleasant View School.

continue to expand cultural and environmental education programs provide for school-age children and their families; reinstatement of the Marine Learning Program at Camp Cronin should be addressed.

develop a communication mechanism to make the public aware of park facilities and programs.

expand Saturday and after-school programs to respond to the substantial increase in one-parent households and "latch-key children".

coordinate maintenance of parks and recreation facilities with programming schedules and avoid over programming of sites.

At the Department of Public Parks, the outstanding service issue is maintaining the momentum of public educational and entertainment programs built over the last few years. For the Recreation Department where severe cutbacks and lack of systematic planning has diminished effective overall programming, attention must be directed at developing a comprehensive program plan in order that residents may be supported when funding resources make monies available. For both departments, sustaining existing programs and expanding and/or developing others will require innovative fund raising and budgeting as well as dedicated staff support.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The attitudes of residents toward their city and toward their neighborhoods are critical to success in the planning and implementation process. If facilities do not meet their needs and preferences, those facilities will be unused and eventually abused.

In Providence, there has been an open dialogue between the public and private sectors. Individuals and groups outside of City government who have played significant roles in providing Providence with parks, recreational areas and programs deserve special recognition. Their concern and actions have provided inspiration and encouragement to the City's efforts. Many government programs owe their existence to citizen initiation and support. The future success of our parks and recreation system lies with the public-private bonding of energies.

The following describes those mechanisms used in Providence for citizen involvement and suggests additional means through which concerned citizens can become involved.

On-Going Mechanisms

There are many levels at which the people of Providence are able to approach public officials including the Mayor, the City Council and Department Directors. Primary among these is the organized neighborhood committee. Active neighborhood committees throughout the city have represented area residents to help guide planning, needs assessment, and delivery of services. The City Plan Commission also serves as a public "sounding board" for comprehensive plan elements. The Commission meets on a monthly basis and reviews specific and reviews plan elements

Recovery Action Program Mechanisms:

In addition to on-going citizen involvement processes, work on this Recovery Action Program and Plan initiated contact with several organizations for comments on parks and recreation, suggestions for provision of facilities and services and information regarding their specific roles in providing or helping to provide services to the community. Among those surveyed include:

- Other public agencies;
 - Non-profit philanthropic, and social-service organizations;
 - Athletic recreation organizations, clubs, leagues, neighborhood community centers;
 - Public interest organizations;
 - Organizations representing special needs groups such as the elderly, disabled and economically disadvantaged;
 - Organizations concerned with ecology and environmental issues.
- Samples of questionnaires developed appear in the full Recovery

Action Program.

As the UPARR Task Force developed recommendations on priorities and strategies aided by input from all sources mentioned, the City Plan Commission and the Board of Park Commissioners were consulted. Public Workshops were then held and adjustments in the plan were made prior to the Public Hearing.

In each year the City of Providence receives UPARR assistance, the Task force will maintain contact with the above organizations and hold public hearings on program accomplishments, revisions and on-going planning and implementation efforts.

Recommendations for the Future

Neighborhood Associations

It is advisable that the City encourage and foster neighborhood initiative, because ultimately, their success will strengthen the city. In many instances, facilities and/or programs planned through the neighborhood residents are more widely used and suffer less abuse. Improvement of existing facilities is a major concern of neighborhood groups for they are dealing with the quality of life in their individual neighborhoods and are concerned not only with recreation but the vital living experience. In developing park and recreation plans, they could serve as a forum for debate for neighborhood issues, act as a strong advocate for the neighborhood at City Hall, help to determine needs and goals, and ultimately carry out the process to achieve these goals.

Neighborhood Foundations/Support Foundations

Concerned citizens forming foundations for public benefit within the community have become a powerful force in preserving public resources. In some localities among the numerous reasons foundations such as these are formed, examples include: preservation of vacant land close to home for parks, open space, or community gardens.

Provision of financial resources is critical and austerity of public monies makes foundations a prime vehicle in resolving some of the financial problems in the pursuit for preservation of recreation, open space, and historical objectives. Foundations can assist in leveraging the public dollar by obtaining private sector monies and services. They have become a valuable tool for soliciting monies from individuals, businesses, and various types of agencies within a community. Any foundation large or small which will not grant to a public agency may, however, grant to a non-profit foundation seeking funds for the good of the community.

Briefly, for those purposes pertinent to the intent of this plan, foundations shall be defined as organized, non-governmental, public non-profit corporations, operating to benefit the public good. They are supported by donations, grants, land grants, loans, fund-raising efforts and membership fees. Depending upon the particular objectives as outlined in its by-laws, purposes of a foundation may be broadly or narrowly defined. They are endowed with powers as granted through recognition by the State and granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service.

Volunteers

Volunteerism, in recent years, has provided great benefits in provision of services to the community allowing citizens to contribute a part of themselves for humanistic goals. Developing a systematic volunteer program can provide effective utilization of people willing to assist the City of expansion of the park and recreation system. Some major sources for volunteer recruitment include:

Senior citizens, who can provide advice on recreation and provision of services as well as guidance for children, and an opportunity to feel a true sense of worth.

Business people who can bring expertise to a volunteer program and assist in its operations.

Organized groups which have goals compatible with those of the park and recreation system and can join in the effort.

Youth org

Youth organizations which are great sources of energy from which young people can be recruited.

College students who will sometimes offer assistance, particularly if projects are compatible with their areas of study.

Recreation Task Force

The purposes of the UPARR Task Force were threefold: (1) to coordinate park and recreation planning, (2) to establish priorities and strategies for system recovery and (3) to become the means through which community relationships will be further established.

Now that the RAP has been prepared, functions of the Task Force will continue in an on-going process of evaluation and updating. It is suggested here, that for the future, a formal structure be organized through the expansion of this present board to encompass non-profit organizations and other providers of recreation as well as representatives of the City Plan Commission. This comprehensive approach shall ensure continuous planning and updating processes within an improved system providing the City of Providence with facilities and services resulting from coordination of various concerned agencies.

Additional Mechanisms

Approaching the general public through groups and committees as mentioned above can be supplemented by effective use of the media, broadcast, and press, to put forward public service announcements and new stories. Also, brochures, posters, public forums or speeches to social, school, or church groups, special events for publicity - all are valuable mechanisms to get people involved. Many of these mechanisms have been utilized with great success yet a more intense public relations program could provide improved communication.

FUNDING

The City of Providence is experiencing the same general effects as other metropolitan areas in the Northeast - a growing concentration of low income people in the central city, an increase in housing abandonment and disinvestment, a loss of industry and retail trade and a resulting loss in its tax base. Provision of an increasing amount of social services is putting an increasing financial strain on the city's limited resources. Inflation has further cut into the ability to maintain facilities and adequately provide services to the entire population. These economic problems have increased deterioration of all types of public facilities. Therefore, it is essential for this City to reverse that pattern before inadequate provision of services causes irreversible damage to our park and recreation facilities and deterioration of the numerous parks that have been rehabilitated within the past few years. This City's commitment to comprehensive planning shall incorporate a far-reaching program with guidelines to uncover alternative sources of funding to meet the needs of the park and recreation system.

Within the past several years, the City of Providence has used federal grants for most of its park development and rehabilitation programs to offset great expense for the city in the area of park and recreation systems revitalization. Those federal sources have included: Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program; Title I, Housing and Urban Development; Bureau of Outdoor Recreation; Community Development Block Grants; Land and Water Conservation, Historic Preservation, National Endowment for the Arts, C.E.T.A.; Economic Development Administration, and National Park Service. Substantial amounts have been funneled to this City for park development and rehabilitation of Roger Williams Park, a major recipient, neighborhood parks and recreation/community centers.

Funding for park and recreation physical improvements will continue to be heavily dependent on federal sources, especially:

- Competitive grants under the UPARR program
- Allotments from Community Development Block Grant Funds
- Grants awarded under the Land and Water Program

Funding of management and service improvements will be principally through the regular operating budget of the city, a source that is tied to the local tax rate. Improvement of management and expansion of services through this source will require informed and vocal advocacy by neighborhood residents and recreation organizations.

Some park and playground development will occur through redevelopment bond issues, with sites planned by the Providence Redevelopment Agency in cooperation with the Department of Public Parks.

Implementation of improved capital budgeting as envisioned in the city charter and recommended by the Management Taskforce will bring predictability and coordination to the process of allocating limited physical improvement funds. Implementation of program budgeting procedures called for in the city charter will replace line item budgeting with budget breakdowns corresponding with management and service objectives.

Foundations are of four types: Independent Trusts/Endowments, Corporate (private, company sponsored), Operating (private sources operating facilities such as museums), Community (public entities distributing private monies). The Community Foundations differ from private foundations in that they have community member boards that can solicit for funds, whereas the latter cannot.

Direct Corporate Giving

Some corporations can be approached to help sponsor community activities like fund raisers for tournaments, events, etc., and may be approached at local branches. Donations are good public relations, good image builders. Direct solicitation of many of the fast food chains have resulted in donation of time, products and monies to community groups.

Fundraising Events:

Fundraising events take imagination and provide a good way to involve the community in the recreation experience. Possibilities include: athletic tournaments, raffles, concerts, lectures, flower sales, etc.

Gifts Catalogue:

This method of soliciting gifts for the park and recreation system, the gifts catalogue is a brochure that attractively markets specific open space recreation needs of the community that can be donated or "bought" by the private sector of the community. It may include items from equipment to services and provide the most time-efficient means of soliciting private contributions. It can relate the needs of the system to adequately provide the services needed within the community. Categories might include gifts needed for: parks, land, trees, services, materials. Still other directions might encourage donations towards a purchase of an item, donation of time or lessons within one's area of expertise.

Planning a gifts catalogue must be tied closely with overall planning. The DPP could handle it with added staff or perhaps a volunteer program could be set up specifically for this project. This concept also might include an audio-visual approach such as a slide program through which the importance of parks can be brought to the public, bring awareness of the system to the people.

Fees and Charges

The City should examine its policy of user fees. Use of these will not only provide revenue but will also create a sense of respect for facilities and programs by its users. Childrens' programs should remain without fee, however, fees for adult recreation, rental of spaces such as pools and courts to groups, tennis courts fees, increased permit fees, bicycle rentals should be considered.

Presently, except for revenue generated through Roger Williams Park events and programming and athletic field permit charges, the park system produces no revenue for the City. However, great potential for bringing in revenue exists which could cut down on the large maintenance costs borne by the City in providing improved conditions at the parks. In addition to fees mentioned, concessions could be increased for increased revenue; fund raising concerts could be held. The responsibility of bringing in revenue, however, should be a consolidated effort by one entity with sole authority.

Turnkey Operations

This new trend in provision of recreational facilities and services allows public/private ventures which mutually beneficial. It allows provision of services infeasible for public agencies through profit oriented providers.

These may include agreements in which the City would:

1. Hire private industry to operate and maintain certain facilities which have become prohibitive to maintain such as the present agreement for Triggs Memorial Golf Course.

2. Make public land available at little or no cost and allow private sector to develop a facility on the land to generate revenue while providing a service to the community.

3. Construct or rehabilitate a facility with public monies for private sector management. This is a possibility for operations of City owned swimming pools.

Joint Planning Operations

In order to save on development and/or maintenance of new facilities found to be needed. The City could:

1. Subsidize commercial providers of services senior citizens, handicapped and special youth programs not provided by the City.

2. Develop agreements with private agencies to use their facilities and vice versa.

3. Turn over park lands to community centers at no cost in exchange for their maintenance. These parks partnerships can also be arranged with private industry.

Tax Incentives

Can serve to motivate private recreation sources to develop facilities and programs within the City and to encourage donations.

Revolving Fund:

A source being established for historic preservation and tax benefits.

Volunteerism

A source described in the previous section, volunteers can provide manpower with minimal cost and even savings to the City.

Recreation Bond Issues

Other Federal Sources

Youth conservation Corps.
Young Adult Conservation Corps.
Community School Program
Special Program for the Aged
National Youth Sports Program
Summer Youth Program
Economic Development Programs
Army Corps of Engineers

Five Year Implementation Plan
The Action Plan

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

PROJECT EVALUATION SYSTEM

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION

Saves Money

- is cost effective
- precludes future capital expenses
- provides greater energy efficiency
- utilizes obsolete or underutilized facilities
- saves long-term operating budget
- helps prevent vandalism
- prevents employee theft
- increases staff productivity
- reduces maintenance requirement
- reduces labor cost

Makes Money

- attracts multiple sources of funding and reduces Department's dependence on City revenue

- increases existing or attracts new endowment funds
- revenue producing
- increases potential contribution to this or other project
- contributes to Department's image, promotion activities
- attracts fee paying users
- self-supporting aspects

Economic Development Impact

- compliments specific economic development project(s) in area
- increases attendance
- creates jobs spinoff in community

tential contribution to this or other project

- contributes to Department's image, promotion activities
- attracts fee paying users
- self-supporting aspects

- increase customers in local establishments

Neighborhood Benefit

- highly visible
- serves wide range of ages, socio-economic and ethnic uses
- complements specific housing rehabilitation in area
- significantly improves quality of recreational facilities
- proximity to large number of neighborhood users
- upgrades previously neglected site
- provides new or upgrades existing recreational or leisure time opportunity
- provides "buffer strip" for adjacent residents
- central neighborhood location

II. PRESERVATION

- contributes/maintains historic site
- improves National Register property/site
- contributes toward endangered animal, plant or artifact preservation (halts deterioration, etc. which will result in

III. FITNESS AND ENTERTAINMENT

responds to suddenly increased needs for water-related open

space or recreational facilities in urban areas, brought on by
energy conservation goals

- encourages life (total health) fitness
- encourages physical fitness
- provides monumental or extraordinary setting of natural beauty
- provides for amusement
- provides family entertainment

IV. EDUCATION

- educational value
- provides for greater appreciation for natural environment
- provides special facility needs for program opportunities
- provides for programs geared to unserved populations
- provides for programs attracting a variety of ethnic and
income levels
- increases personal enrichment

V. PROJECT READINESS
WEIGHTED CRITERIA

WEIGHT

1. Public, plant, animal or artifact safety	10
2. Continuation of project	8
3. Local matching funds approved and available	6
4. Preliminary or final planning completed or substantially underway (project readiness)	4
5. Matching funds application submitted	2
6. Neighborhood priority or consent established through citizen participation	2
7. Maintenance and/or programming responsibilities established	2
8. Doubtful eligibility or ineligibility for land and water or other grant sources	
9. Detailed scope of rehabilitation with cost breakdowns completed	2
10. Linked to adjacent revitalization planning and programs	2

FIVE YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

(1) How will park and recreation plans contribute to and be interrelated with community development and urban revitalization efforts?

Strategy 1: Adopt RAP as official element of Providence Comprehensive Plan by City Plan Commission, the Board of Park Commissioners and the City Council.

Strategy 2: Require annual update of RAP to be coordinated by the Department of Planning and Urban Development and adopted by the above.

Strategy 3: Update the RAP through regular meetings of the city department Task Force on Parks and Recreation Planning.

Strategy 4: Include capital development requests affecting parks and recreation in the annual Capital Improvement Program only after individual departmental requests have been reviewed by the Task Force and have been added to update the RAP.

(2) How will park and recreation plans serve citizens who reside in economically-distressed areas of the community improve access to park and recreation facilities and programs for minority groups, low and moderate income populations, and the handicapped?

Strategy 1: Advertise all development plans and present to neighborhood groups/associations for park/recreation facilities.

Strategy 2: Seek special review of development or new program plans by agencies serving special population, i.e., non-English speaking, handicapped, low income, minority groups.

Strategy 3: Provide new programs through contracting for services with other agencies or by lending facilities to agencies serving special groups such as pre-schoolers and "latch-key" children.

Strategy 4: Develop a policy on signage and written public information to reflect the needs of the non-English speaking, sight impaired and handicapped.

Strategy 5: Evaluate all recreation programs for "mainstreaming" of handicapped possibilities.

Strategy 6: Provide increased vegetable gardening information and garden plots for the economically disadvantaged.

Strategy 7: Bike paths should be designated to allow poorer neighborhood residents access to Roger Williams Park.

(3) How will the Recovery Action Program and its plan component relate employment opportunities for minorities, youth and low and moderate income residents.

Strategy 1: Increase summer jobs with low income eligibility requirement will be instituted for youth.

Strategy 2: Expanded use of CETA and YCC summer youths employment projects through better departmental budget planning.

Strategy 3: Development of Office of Volunteerism for Department of Public Parks and the Recreation Department.

Strategy 4: Encourage private business funding job opportunities for small business firms to provide services which can no longer be delivered by the municipality.

Strategy 5: Provide work opportunities for work fare or other social

(4) How will the plan seek to obtain the widest range of beneficial uses of the natural environment and enhance and protect the natural environment.

Strategy 1. To conduct an inventory and assessment of Roger Williams Park as a prototype for other natural areas in the park system i.e. Wanskuck and Blackstone Parks in order to categorize areas for their ability to accept various levels of compatible development.

Strategy 2. To coordinate shoreline development with the Waterfront Project.

Strategy 3. To study the feasibility of developing the following areas in cooperation with the R.I. Department of Environmental Management and neighborhood groups:

- a) Canada Pond as a wilderness area.
- b) Mashapaug Pond to its fullest potential as a conservation area with water-related activities.
- c) Dyerville Park, an undeveloped open space, as an Inter-neighborhood Park, including a bike path along the Woonasquatucket River.

(5) How will park and recreation resources be targeted in neighborhoods where other neighborhood revitalization efforts are occurring.

Strategy 1: Identify local neighborhood group/committee to act as a sponsor for a local forum on parks/recreation needs.

(6) How the plan seeks to restore outstanding or unique structures, landscapes, or similar features in parks of historical or architectural significance.

Strategy 2: Seek funding from the Antoinette Downing Fund and other foundations for structural restoration.

Strategy 3: Request the Arts in the City Life Commission to restore statuary in Roger Williams Park and provide other art forms, where appropriate.

(7) What are the local government's commitments to innovative and cost effective programs and projects on the neighborhood level which augment recovery of park and recreation systems.

Strategy 1: The leasing of public parks to adjacent private property owners for maintenance purposes.

Strategy 2: Instituting work fare programs for the unemployed.

Strategy 3: Contracting with private program providers such as the YMCA to accommodate the needs of special segments of the population.

Strategy 4: Development of a mechanism to recruit, train and assign volunteers to work stations within the parks and recreation system.

Strategy 5: Provide mechanisms for joint facility use, low maintenance and cost effective design.

• Strategy 6: Greater use of automatic data processing for maintenance reporting system.

Strategy 7: Implement a systematic rehabilitation of facilities; coordinate maintenance scheduling with programming to avoid overuse; coordinate public service providers to avoid duplication of effort and programs.

Strategy 8: Employee in-service training programs.

Strategy 9: A system-wide management and operative system using the Saluti study model.

Strategy 10: Conversion of derelict vacant property in the City owned by various municipal agencies into a tree farm cooperative operated by a non-profit. Street trees raised on these mini farms could be purchased by the Parks Department or sold to private vendors.

(8) How will plan be integrated with other Federally assisted projects to maximize recreation opportunities.

Strategy 1: All federally funded projects affecting parks and recreation that require City Council approval be submitted to the Department of Planning and Urban Development to determine consistency with the RAP.

(9) How will the plan convert, for recreation use, derelict and other public lands not designated for recreation.

Strategy 1: Develop a list of properties to be disposed of which meet no existing recreation need.

Strategy 2: Contract with agencies capable of rehabilitation and maintenance of marginal recreation properties.

(10) What inducements exist to encourage the private sector to provide neighborhood park and recreation facilities and programs.

Strategy 1: Develop a non-profit foundation to accept gifts.

Strategy 2: Plan an annual funds drive.

Strategy 3: Improve user fees.

Strategy 4: Sell appropriate commemorative items and lease out rights for sale of refreshments and other consumer needs by concessionaires.

Strategy 5: Develop contracts with private vendors to provide services or facilities such as operate the golf course or planetarium program when more cost effective.

Strategy 6: Lease select public parks to adjacent private enterprises for purposes of maintenance and upkeep.

Strategy 7: Plan special fund-raising events.

Strategy 8: Establish tax incentives that serve to motivate private recreation sources to 1) develop facilities and programs within the City and 2) encourage donations.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Issue I - Locate new funding and budget sources to protect substantial investments already made in addition to those which will allow the City to attain its objectives in system recovery.

1983/85 Investigate mechanisms for joint facility use with other agencies which might share maintenance and operating costs.

Lease properties to other agencies which can provide proper maintenance where possible to reduce operational budget needs.

Establish a non-profit foundation which can raise funds to capital development for the parks and recreation system.

Investigate the use of tax incentives to motivate private sector development of programs and facilities and to encourage donations.

Evaluate properties/facilities to determine which provide minimal service delivery or recreational value and have them appraised to establish real market value.

1984/85 Launch an annual fund-raising drive for park improvement for a specific capital project, i.e., the Planetarium in Roger Williams Park or a neighborhood park multi/age play structure.

Begin to train/recruit volunteers through an office of volunteers established for both park and recreation needs.

1985/86 Study the possible economic benefits of park and recreation use fees for programs and facilities including the Zoo, ballfields, the Museum of Natural History, etc.

Begin regular visitor and user surveys to establish numbers of users in order to determine per capita cost for services and facility upkeep.

Begin to study contracting out for services which can be performed at less cost, i.e., grass mowing at the Burial Grounds; pool maintenance.

1986/87 Review the current status of all concession rights granted in the parks and ballfields and review competitive nature of income derived.

Begin to reduce labor force by attrition and union negotiations.

1988/89 Institute appropriate fees and charges.

Sell land/facilities which have been identified as excess.

Issue 2 - Develop a priority ranking system for all park and recreation facilities for systematic improvement planning and implementation.

1983/85 Update the RAP physical projects implementation schedule annually through a process which includes regular meetings of the Task Force on Parks and Recreation Planning.

1984/85 Develop a system to evaluate energy-saving improvements for cost effectiveness by survey properties.

1985/86 Evaluate handicapped improvement needs and reflect the costs for physical alterations in facilities in the annual Capital improvements Plan and the RAP update.

Include energy-saving improvements in annual CIP request and update RAP.

1985/86 Recommend possible administrative consolidation to improve capital development operations.

1986/88 Implement administrative consolidations if consolidation is deemed feasible of Public Properties activities regarding facility repair into Department of Public Parks.

Issue 3 - Institute a management system to upgrade facilities using maintenance conscious, cost effective design sensitive to the people and their needs.

1983/85 Evaluate user needs at typical park facilities throughout the park system.

1984/85 Evaluate handicapped access needs and signage for all Recreation Centers and facilities where events and programming occur and at all active sports sites.

1985/86 Review areas of high vandalism identified by the Winsor Study against recommendations made by SCAPE, Inc. (as Part of the Saluti Study) at typical sites.

1986/87 Survey users on their views of facility design, i.e., types of street furniture; play equipment used.

1987/88 Implement needs identified in areas of handicapped access, better designed equipment and facilities when financially capable.

Issue 4 - Refocus recreation programs toward the family unit, emphasize life fitness values and provide continuing cultural and educational experiences through the performing arts and the natural environment.

1983/85 Integrate learning resources available throughout the system.

Develop a summer education format which can be offered in modules at various sites operated by the Department of Recreation and packaged cooperatively with by the Division of Public Programming

- 1984/85 Offer more recreational opportunities for women and girls of all ages and more non-sexist sport or physical activities.
- Open the Planetarium for school and group programs.
- Develop a life fitness program in conjunction with the School Department to start in grade school.
- Continue to upgrade swimming instruction and offerings to the handicapped.
- Evaluate need for expanded tennis instruction.
- 1985/86 Explore contracting with private non-profit recreation institutions to serve special populations recreational needs and new program initiatives.
- 1986/87 Implement contracts for services identified during study phase in areas of handicapped recreation services and others where economically feasible.
- Explore development of city sponsored summer day camp in conjunction with private vendors.
- 1987/88 Expand grade school life fitness program into junior high curriculum and work with School Department on expansion of environmental education program through use of Roger Williams Park as a laboratory site.
- Issue 5 - Develop in-house employee training manuals for the Department of Public Parks and Department of Recreation and Department of Public Properties and training programs with employee evaluation standards/job descriptions where necessary.
- 1983/88 This process will be on-going through the five-year period within the three departments and will hopefully be partially funded with a future UPARR planning grant.
- Issue 6 - Introduce micro-computers to implement maintenance scheduling and monitoring in the Department of Public Parks and Public Properties and implement required management reforms.
- 1983/85 Purchase of micro-computer equipment for Grounds Maintenance Services(GMS) of Department of Public Parks and initial loading of data and inventory.
- Evaluate Saluti study inventory and parks classification system and assign level of maintenance expected for each site by activity and manhour/equipment required.
- Set up regular meeting schedule for parks and recreation task force.

- 1984/85 Evaluate the need for a management reorganization of the new Department of Public Properties using micro-computers with regard to recreation center and pool maintenance systems.
- 1985/86 Quantify cost of work activity groups and assign dollar values to maintenance costs for each park/playground site and all other property holdings.
- 1986/87 Introduce micro-computers as a pool for management reform to Department of Public Properties if warranted by previous year long study or consolidate activities into Department of Public Parks.
- 1987/88 Develop a computerized approach to equipment performance evaluation in order to develop an equipment replacement schedule.

Issue 7 - Institute a preventive maintenance management system.

- 1983/85 The Division of Development and Environmental Services of DES will review all existing maintenance servicing requirements for heating/ventilation systems/fire detection and security systems in the Department of Public Parks and provide a maintenance/servicing schedule needed.

- 1984/85 The Department of Public Properties will review all maintenance and rehabilitation needs for the pools and recreation centers and required service contracts.

The Division of GMS of Department of Public Parks will set up a building maintenance schedule which includes all system servicing needs not covered by contracts with private vendors and all preventive maintenance practices required to preserve newly restored buildings as well as those constructed within the last 50 years, i.e., painting.

- 1985/86 The Department of Public Properties will develop facilities inspection system for improved maintenance and safety, and institute a building maintenance schedule for pools and recreation centers.
- 1986/87 A system for regular repair maintenance of street furniture and signage items will be developed by the Department of Public Parks Division of Grounds Maintenance Services.
- 1987/88 The preventive maintenance system for remaining aspects of park system holdings will be instituted, i.e., Burial Grounds and road and sidewalk systems.

Issue 8 - Address the use of temporary summer help in Department of Recreation and evaluate need for such in Department of Public Parks and Public Properties.

1984/1985 Investigate the methods of choosing summer help employed by other cities in New England of comparable size and holdings and try to evaluate which seems most productive.

Implement suggested changes in recruitment, hiring and training of summer employees in Recreation Department and study need for temporary help vs./permanent help in Department of Public Parks and Public Properties.

1985/86 Institute changes suggested in study of temporary help.

1986/87 Evaluate the desirability of introducing summer interns and/or volunteers into regular job needs performance during the summer in Parks and Recreation system.

1987/88 Implement findings of above study.

Issue 9 - Address the use of additional mechanisms to increase community participation in park and recreation planning to ensure suitability to public needs and interests.

1983/88 Expand UPARR Task Force.

Encourage neighborhood associations to serve as forum for debate to promote activities that will develop resident awareness to strengthen the neighborhood sense of community.

Site: 1
Biltmore Park
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Excellent
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Leased to Biltmore Hotel;
continue policy. Final stages
of refurbishment will be
completed with the Kennedy Plaza
Project.
Priority Rating: -

Site: 2
Kennedy Plaza
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Good
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Management plan being prepared.
Refurbishment will be completed
with the Kennedy Plaza Project.
Priority Rating: -

Site: 3
Burnside Park
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Management plan being prepared.
Refurbishment will be completed
with the Kennedy Plaza Project.
Priority Rating: -

Site: 4
Trinity Mews
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Good
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and
replacement; lease arrangement
to be sought.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 5
Cathedral Square
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Good
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Refurbishment completed;
(continue maintenance arrangement) +
with Gilbane Properties.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 6
Westminster Mall
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Studies in progress to determine
feasibility to remain as
pedestrian mall.
Priority Rating: 1

James Jackson

Site: 7

Verrazano Park

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Good

User Level: Medium

Proposal/Comment:

Preliminary design completed as part of Waterfront project.

Priority Rating: 1

Site:

Proposed Park

Type:

Condition:

User Level:

Proposal/Comment:

Through the Capital Center Project, a preliminary design for a water-related park has been completed at the site formerly known as Pershing Square.

Priority Rating: -

Site: 8

Abbott Park

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Excellent

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Leased to Johnson and Wales; continue policy. Routine maintenance and replacement.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 9

Market Square

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Good

User Level: Medium

Proposal/Comment:

Leased to R.I.S.D.; continue policy. Site included in planning for Waterfront and Memorial Square Projects. Routine maintenance and replacement.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 10
India Point Park
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Redesign for better use of space; coordinate with Waterfront Study; improve access and parking. Short term: repair seawall and dock
Priority Rating: Short term: 8
Long term: 3

Site: 11
Harborview Trail
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Bike trail; virtually nonexistent. Consider changing use to passive space; coordinate future use and design with Waterfront Study.
Priority Rating: 3

Site: 12
Roger Williams Landing Spot
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Good
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Landscaping improvements: pathways, lighting, benches, perimeter plantings. Include in considerations for Waterfront Project.
Priority Rating: 2

Site: 13
Gano St.
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Minimal investment needed for full use. Coordinate with Waterfront Study.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 14
Engineers Field
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Refurbish bleachers and entire bleacher area; entrance ties in with Waterfront Study.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 15
Brook/Arnold
Type: Local Play Area
Condition: Excellent
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 16
East St. Park (Cohan)
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Surplus property; sell.
Approach abutting property
owners, i.e. housing for elderly
Priority Rating: -

Site: 17
Preston/Ives
Type: Local Play Area
Condition: Excellent
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Refurbishment incomplete.
Minimal investment needed for
full use.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 18
Fox Point Fields
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Rehabilitate/redesign site.
Priority Rating: 9

Site: 19
Fox Point Pool/Rec. Center
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Short term: ground and fence
pool, fill collapsed corner.
Develop inspection system to
improve maintenance and ensure
safety of users. Entire site:
Expand shared-facility use
arrangement with Community
Center. Develop master plan for
pool, fields, and school yard.
Priority Rating:
Short term for Pool: 10
Long term: 9

Site: 20
Fox Point School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Fair
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Landscape improvements needed
Priority Rating: 9

Site: 21

Prospect Terrace

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Excellent

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Expand. Privately funded through Heffenreffer family. Annex contiguous vacant lots; develop lower portion on Benefit St. for linkage; include plat 10 Lots 201 & 203. Develop plan for park and vacant land immediately adjacent. Seek party for maintenance contract.

Priority Rating: Upper portion: 4
Lower: 8.

Site: 23

Hope High Fields/Courts

Type: Inter-neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Entire site with School:

Develop as multi-use facility.

Proceed with UPARR plans to

repair gates, restore track,

resod football field, add play

equipment. Seek funds to

increase totlot area, add

equipment, refurbish baseball

field, add passive sitting area,

improve landscaping, soccer and

softball fields irrigation.

Transfer maintenance of tennis

courts to Public Parks.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 22

Fenner Square

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Fair

User Level: Low

Proposal/Comment:

Routine maintenance and replacement

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 24

Hope High School/Grounds

Type: School

Condition: Good

User Level:

Proposal/Comment:

Landscaping improvements.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 26

Constance Witherby Park

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Good

User Level: Low

Proposal/Comment:

Retain as public park suitable
for lease with private party.

Anticipate increased use with
development of Richmond Square.

Install better site furniture;
improve access/plantings.

Priority Rating: 3

Site: 25

Blackstone Park

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Good

User Level: Medium

Proposal/Comment:

Conduct study of 40 acre site;
include waterfront. Develop
Master Plan.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 27

Gladys Potter Park

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Improve aesthetics; retain
Victorian flavor; redesign
totlot.

Priority Rating: 5

Site: 28

Patterson Park

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: Medium

Proposal/Comment:

Redesign to include passive
sitting area, tennis courts,
link to Blackstone Park, new
totlot.

Priority Rating: 7

Site: 25

Blackstone Park

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Good

User Level: Medium

Proposal/Comment:

Study/development of master plan is high priority. High priority for study and development of master plan-site design.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 29

Lippitt Memorial Park

Type: Inter-neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Routine maintenance and replacement.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 30

Blackstone Boulevard

Type: Parkway

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Proceed with UPARR plans to refurbish jogging path. Seek funds to improve irrigation, refurbish plantings/lawn.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 31

Sessions St.

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Improve ball fields and bleachers; add landscaping. Approach JCC for cooperative lease for maintenance and coop. programming.

Priority Rating: 2

Site: 32

Morris Ave. Totlot

Type: Local Play Area

Condition: Excellent

User Level: Medium

Proposal/Comment:

Install new security lighting

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 33

Nathan Bishop Courts

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Poor

User Level: Low

Proposal/Comment:

Proceed with UPARR plans to refurbish basketball and tennis courts; tree planting. Transfer maintenance of tennis courts to Public Parks. Seek funds to improve landscaping, for asphalt overlay and walks.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 34

Nathan Bishop School

Type: School

Condition: Good

User Level:

Proposal/Comment: Routine
maintenance and replacement.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 45

Collyer Park

Type: Inter-neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Good location for team
sports/lighted fields.

Refurbish basketball courts and
totlot. Address vandalism
problem.

Priority Rating: 3

Site: 47

Ascham St. Park

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Redesign for better use of land
with emphasis on women's softball
at main field; landscape with
trees.

Priority Rating: 8

Site: 46

Hopkins Square

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Excellent

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Site needs minimal investment
for completion.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 48

Prata Field

Type: Inter-neighborhood Park

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Redesign/rehabilitate. Resolve
flooding problems, design new
entrance/exit. Develop program
for cooperative rehabilitation/
funding with community group.
Little League.

Priority Rating: 7

Site: 49

Mercalf Field

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Routine maintenance and
replacement. Add meter pits.

Priority Rating: 6

Site: 35
North Burial Ground
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Fair
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:

Study and Master Plan completed. Seek monies for refurbishment and for development of park at North Main St. side. Coordinate with tree planting/sidewalk improvements to North Main St. median.

Priority Rating: 2

Site: 38
Cypress St. Playground
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Proceed with UPARR plans for redesign and refurbishment/redesign; i.e. rehabilitate playground and lower basketball court, add new play equipment, lawn area and multi-purpose field. Seek further funding to complete refurbishment.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 36
North Main St. Park
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Excellent
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Developed in conjunction with NBC. Improve plantings (trees/shrubs).

Priority Rating: 2

Site: 39
Mt. Hope Community Gardens
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Rehabilitation to be completed with CD monies; lease with Providence Corp. for gardens.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 37
Hope Walkway
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Developed as pathway to Cypress and several toclots along its length. High priority for feasibility study.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 40
Alpin/Carver (Doyle Ave.)
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Along Hope Walkway; include in study for #37.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 41
Peach St. Totlot
Type: Local Play Area
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Along Hope Walkway; include in
study for #37.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 42
Woodbine St.
Type: Local Play Area
Condition: Fair
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Linked to Hope Walkway; include
in study for #37.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 43
Martin Luther King Fields/Grounds
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Excellent
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Majority of refurbishment
completed fall '83. Add play
equipment/site furniture. Site
needs minimal investment for
full use.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 44
Martin Luther King School
Type: School
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Continue after school
recreational programming.
Routine maintenance and
replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 52
Wanskuck Park
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Excellent
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Develop master plan using 1976
conceptual specs; consider
reforestation, multi-use arts
facility.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 53
Hopkins Park
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Redesign: relocate totlot,
rehabilitate two ball fields,
landscape, add trees for
aesthetics and to block highway;
good location for lighted fields.
Improve access for Chad Brown
residents.
Priority Rating: 6

Site: 55
Esek Hopkins Homestead
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Refurbish: maintain 18th
century farm atmosphere.
Contract with Providence
Preservation Society for
long-term lease for maintenance
and programming.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 54
Corliss Park
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Add landscaping; improve
maintenance; consider lighted
fields.
Priority Rating: 4

Site: 56
Veasie St. Playground
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Proceed with UPARR plan for
Phase II rehabilitation
including new playground and
irrigation system. Seek monies
for plantings. Develop as
multi-service facility.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 50

Esek Hopkins School

Type: School

Condition: Good

User Level:

Proposal/Comment:

Used for administrative offices;

Routine maintenance and
replacement.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 51

Windmill St. School

Type: School/Local Play Area

Condition: Good

User Level:

Proposal/Comment:

Develop gardens as outdoor
classroom; seek maintenance
contract.

Priority Rating: 2

Site:

Branch Avenue School

Type: School

Condition:

User Level:

Proposal/Comment:

Closed; will reopen in 1984.

Priority Rating: -

Site: 58

Candace St. Playground

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Rehabilitate courts, improve landscaping, add new totlot.

Priority Rating: 9

Site: 59

Bath St.

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Poor

User Level: Low

Proposal/Comment:

Does not function as a park; low visibility; sell as surplus.

Priority Rating: -

Site: 60

Chalkstone/Oakland

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Good

User Level: Low

Proposal/Comment:

Retain; develop site plan in conjunction with Davis Park (#65).

Priority Rating: 9

Site: 61

Danforth Pool/Recreation Center at Camden Ave. School

Type: Special Use Facility

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Develop entire site with parklands as multi service facility/master plan. Short term: ground and fence pool. Long term: Rehabilitate Recreation Center. Repair/refinish gym floor, repair showers, game room, roof. Develop inspection system to improve maintenance and ensure safety of users. Seek assistance from neighborhood for maintenance.

Priority Rating: Short Term: 10

Long Term: 9.

Site: 62

Danforth St. Playground.

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Proceed with UPARR plans: install baseball and soccer field, rehabilitate playground/new equipment, stabilize embankment. Seek funds to develop parking, relocate basketball court.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 63

Camden Ave. School

Type: School

Condition: Good

User Level:

Proposal/Comment:

Landscaping improvements.

Priority Rating: 9

Site: 64

Regent Ave. Playground

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Rehabilitate: add new play equipment, resurface basketball courts, add passive sitting area, improve landscaping.

Priority Rating: 8

Site: 65

Davis Park

Type: Inter-neighborhood Park

Condition: Poor

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Plan for rehabilitation/redesign with more efficient use of space in progress. Seek funding. (add new entrance/parking from Valley St.) Develop as major multi-service facility. Include land at Oakland/Chalkstone #60, and at N. Green School #68 in overall design.

Priority Rating: 9

Site: 66
Pleasant Valley Parkway
Type: Parkway
Condition: Good
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Lower: cosmetic improvements,
trees, realignment of curb.
Upper: routine maintenance and
replacement
Priority Rating: 9

Site: 69
Robert F. Kennedy School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Good
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Continue after school
programming. Routine
maintenance and replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 67
Fagnoli Park
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Condition: Excellent
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and
replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 68
Nathaniel Green School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Good
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Landscaped area in good
condition. Develop land in
conjunction with #65, Davis Park,
and #60, Oakland/Chalkstone.
Priority Rating: 9

Site: 70
Trinity Parkway
Type: Parkway
Condition: Excellent
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and
replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 73
Conley Stadium
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Excellent
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Newly redesigned. Proceed with
plans.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 71
West Park
Type: Neighborhood
Condition: Excellent
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Recently refurbished totlot.
Rehabilitate field; correct
erosion on West End.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 74
Mt. Pleasant High School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Good
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Improve landscaping; transfer
tennis court to DPP; consider
after school programming.
Priority Rating: 5

Site: 72
Mt. Pleasant Fields
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Redesign existing fields on
Galileo. Use space on south
side for Women's softball/soccer.
Replace structures in disrepair.
Priority Rating: 5

Site: 75
Obediah Brown Fields
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Redesign to include: 2 lighted
softball fields and 1 soccer
field.
Priority Rating: 9

Site: 76
Pleasant View Special Education School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Good
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Improve landscaping and maintenance. Reintroduce programs for handicapped at gym/pool.
Priority Rating: 5

Site: 78
Triggs Memorial Golf Course
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Excellent
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Site is leased; continue policy and use as golf course. Study for expansion to include swimming pool.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 77
George West
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Good
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 79
Viscolosi Park
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Good
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Resurface basketball courts; improve landscaping; replace totlot equipment correct erosic problem. Refurbishment is expected to increase use.
Priority Rating: 6

Site: 80
John Donnigan Memorial Park
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Rehabilitate: upgrade existing
facilities, improve landscaping.
Priority Rating: 2

Site: 83
D'Abate School
Type: School
Condition: Fair
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Landscaping improvements.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 81
Joslin Pool/Recreation Center
at D'Abate
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Develop entire site with
parklands as a multi-service
facility/develop master plan.
Short term for Pool: Install
fencing/ ground/resurface/paint
Long Term for Recreation
Center: Rehabilitate to include
repair of roof, rest rooms,
lockers, showers, gym floor.
Develop an inspection system to
improve maintenance as well as
safety of users.
Priority Rating: Short Term: 10
Long Term: 9

Site: 82
Joslin Fields
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Excellent
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Seek assistance from neighborhood
groups/residents for maintenance.
Routine maintenance/replacement.
Refurbished in summer of
1982. Address vandalism prior to
completion
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 86
Laurel Hill Ave. School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Fair
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and
replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 84
Marino Park
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Redesign as multi-use complex
with lighted soccer field;
improve security through
policing/lighting and new access;
build up acreage to avoid
flooding. Improve access for
Public Housing residents.
Priority Rating: 8

Site: 87
Oliver Hazard Perry Fields
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Rehabilitate; install new
fencing.
Priority Rating: 5

Site: 85
Laurel Hill Ave. Playground
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Rehabilitate with basic design
remaining; add landscaping
improvements. Seek lease with
Hartford Community Center.
Priority Rating: 2

Site: 88
O. H. Perry School
Type: School
Condition:
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and
replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 89
Daniel Ave.
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Redesign: replace totlot
equipment, resurface basketball
courts, add landscaping trees,
benches, meter pits.
Priority Rating: 8

Site: 90
Clarence St.
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Excellent
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Add landscaping for passive
sitting; trees.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 91
Wallace St.
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Reconfigure with emphasis on
ballfields; replace totlot
equipment; remove tennis courts;
landscape with trees and benches.
Priority Rating: 9

Site: 92
Scalabrini Piazza
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Good
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Add treeed sitting area; study
need for bocci courts; encoura:
local groups to maintain.
Priority Rating: 2

Site: 93
Carbo Square
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Excellent
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Add lighting fixture
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 94

Neutaconkanut Park/Uplands

Type: Inter-neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Entire site with Pool: Develop Master Plan; High Priority.

Uplands: develop for winter sports, walking trails, physical fitness trails, natural spring, nature education center.

Lowlands: refurbish basketball court, relocate hardball field, install new lighting and meter pits, replace totlot equipment, consider tennis courts, outdoor ice rink, provide open space for unorganized leisure activity.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 96

Webster Ave. School

Type: School

Condition: Good

User Level:

Proposal/Comment:

Add Gymnasium.

Priority Rating: -

Site: 95

Almagne Pool

Type: Special Use Facility

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Short term: fence, ground

Long term: develop inspection system to improve maintenance and ensure user safety; consider pool enlargement.

Priority Rating:

Short term: 10

Long term: 1

Site: 97
Arwells/Ridge Sitting Area
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Good
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Reduce maintenance needs; seek
party for maintenance contract.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 98
DePasquale Plaza
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Finalize agreement with
DePasquale Association for
maintenance responsibility.
Routine maintenance and
replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 99
Garibaldi Square
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Good
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Improve maintenance; redesign
entrance.
Priority Rating: 2

Site: 100
Bond St.
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
To be sold. Retain southeastern
corner for sitting area.
Priority Rating: -

Site: 101
Ridge St. Playground
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Rehabilitate entire site; some
redesign needed.
Priority Rating: 9

Site: 102
Zuccolo Pool/Recreation Center
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:

Entire site: develop inspection system to improve maintenance and ensure safety of users.

Pool: ground; install fence and ramp for handicapped.

Recreation Center: adapt to include showers/rest rooms for handicapped. Repair roof; leakage impairs use of gym.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 103
Knight St. Playground at Zuccolo
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:

Refurbish to secure investment at Zuccolo.

Priority Rating: 8

Site: 104
Bridgham Fields/Courts
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:

Routine maintenance and replacement. Address ballfield needs. Transfer maintenance of tennis courts to Public Parks.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 105
Bridgham Middle School
Type: School
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 106
Lauro (Kanyon St.) School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Good
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 109
Dexter Training Grounds
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Proceed with UPARR plan to rehabilitate relocate ballfield, remove fence, refurbish bocce court area to include play equipment. Seek monies for restructuring of pathways, landscaping, lighting, new irrigation system. Multi-use facility.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 110
Warren St. Playground
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Redesign with emphasis on play equipment and increase in green space; include trees; use Preston/Ives as prototype.
Priority Rating: 2

Site: 111
Waldo St. Totlot
Type: Local Play Area
Condition: Good
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Population warrants retaining site; redesign.
Priority Rating: 2

Site: 107
Center 21
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Senior Citizen Center is leased from private party. Seek better headquarters relocate once lease expires.
Priority Rating: -

Site: 108
Mansion Park
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Good
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Plant additional trees
Priority Rating: 5

Site: 112

Ellery St. Park

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Priority for redesign. Remove old equipment, introduce trees for strong entrance; landscaped tree sitting area; refurbish basketball courts; address vandalism problem.

Priority Rating: 8

Site: 113

Bucklin Park

Type: Inter-neighborhood Park

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Entire site with Pool: Develop master plan as multi-service facility. Proceed with UPARR Phase II: rehabilitation, fencing, lighting, install women's softball field, parking lot, fix existing totlot. Seek monies for storage facility, lighting of football, baseball fields, street trees. Seek assistance from neighborhood groups/residents for maintenance.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 114

McCrane Pool

Type: Special Use Facility

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Short term: ground and fence; repair showers. Long term: install ramps for handicapped. Develop inspection system to improve maintenance and ensure safety of users.

Priority Rating: Short term: 10

Long Term: 9

Site: 115

Chaffee Playground

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Site owned/maintained by John Hope Settlement; City assists in maintenance when needed. New basketball courts constructed by JHS on Cranston St. side.

Priority Rating: -

Site: 116

Cranston St. Totlot

Type: Local Play Area

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Site abuts Central/Classical fields and should be included as part of in depth study of that site for redesign.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 117
Diamond St. Totlot
Type: Local Play Area
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Abandon and offer as surplus
property
Priority Rating: -

Site: 120
Central-Classical School
Type: School
Condition:
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Include landscaping improvement
for grounds in Master Plan.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 118
Burnett St. Park
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Is now a parking lot; abandon
and offer as surplus property.
Priority Rating: -

Site: 121
Asa Messer School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Excellent
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Add Gymnasium
Priority Rating: -

Site: 119
Central-Classical Fields
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Conduct study of site; develop
master plan; redesign; consider
soccer/football complex.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 122
Gilbert Stuart Elementary School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Good
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and
replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 123

Arizona

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Fair

User Level: Medium

Proposal/Comment:

Proceed with UPARR plans to repair/replace playground equipment, rased baseball infield, install new backstop, new fencing, add cosmetic/landscape improvements, add roller skating area. Seek funds for rehabilitation of basketball courts, improvements to entrance, and tree planting.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 124

Reservoir Ave. School

Type: School/Local Play Area

Condition: Good

User Level:

Proposal/Comment:

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 125
Locust Grove Cemetery
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Poor
User Level:
Proposal/Comment: Proceed with
existing plans to refurbish
Priority Rating: 2

Site: 128
Sackett St. Park
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Proceed with UPARR plans to
fence, fix softball field,
stabilize embankments. Seek
funds for further refurbishment.
To be developed as multi-use
facility with school.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 126
Columbus Square Park
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Good
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Routine maintenance and
replacement.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 129
Sackett St. School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Fair
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Develop with Site #128.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 127
Niagara St. Park
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Redesign; include tree
landscaping.
Priority Rating: 8

Site: 130

Joseph Williams Field

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Rehabilitate; relocate totlot
for safety.

Priority Rating: 5

Site: 131

Roger Williams Park

Type: Citywide Park

Condition: Good

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

A master plan is being developed
and will be appended to this
Plan upon completion.

Site: 132

Drummond

Type: Inter-neighborhood Park

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

High priority for feasibility study of selling and replacing, swapping or rehabilitation. If retained, site should be expanded. If sold, replace with larger area.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 135

Broad Street School

Type: School/Local Play Area

Condition: Fair

User Level:

Proposal/Comment:

Landscaping improvements.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 133

Washington Park Square

Type: Passive Park

Condition: Good

User Level: Low

Proposal/Comment:

Routine maintenance and replacement.

Priority Rating: 1

Site: 134

Columbia Park

Type: Neighborhood Park

Condition: Excellent

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment:

Site needs minimum investment to complete refurbishment begun in 1982.

Priority Rating: 10

Site: 136
Richardson Park
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Retain portion of site for Roger Williams Middle School; to be developed with portion of land of the former Roger Williams Housing as softball field and landscaped area; replace balance to location of proposed new multi-use facility.
Priority Rating: 9

Site: 137
Harriet & Sayles
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Redesign passive open space using Mansion Park as prototype.
Priority Rating: 5

Site: 138
Salisbury St. Park
Type: Local Play Area
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Approach St. Michael's to develop; arrange long-term lease.
Priority Rating: 8

Site: 139
Baxter St.
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: Medium
Proposal/Comment:
Rehabilitate basketball and volleyball courts; add landscaping with benches.
Priority Rating: 8

Site: 140
Mary Fogarty School
Type: School
Condition:
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Improve landscaping in conjunction with contiguous land of #137.
Priority Rating: 5

Site: 141
Roger Williams Middle School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Good
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Cosmetic improvements to
landscape.
Priority Rating: 9

Site:
Proposed Park
Type: INP
Condition:
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Develop new Inter-neighborhood
Park. Acquire Plat #47 Lots 74,
75, 83, 84, 86 to 89, 114 to 120,
125 to 132, 145, 198 to 205, 209
to 216, 286 to 293 and 298 to
301.
Priority Rating: 9

Site: 119
Central-Classical Fields
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Condition: Fair
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Conduct study of site; develop
master plan; redesign; consider
soccer/football complex.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 143
Rhodes St.
Type: Local Play Area
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Retain; rehabilitate.
Population in immediate area
warrants.
Priority Rating: 5

Site: 120
Central-Classical School
Type: School
Condition:
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Include landscaping improvements
for grounds in Master Plan.
Priority Rating: 1

Site: 144
Blackstone St. Park
Type: Passive Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Property owned by O.I.C.
Encourage O.I.C. to develop this
along with remaining adjacent
open space.
Priority Rating: -

Site: 142
Taylor St. Playground
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Sell for private development or
asphalt. (Area far too
dilapidated).
Priority Rating: -

Site: 145
Dudley St. Totlot
Type: Local Play Area
Condition: Poor
User Level: Low
Proposal/Comment:
Sell. Newly refurbished Dudley
Street multi-use facility is on
block away.
Priority Rating: -

Site: 146
Dudley Pool/Recreational Center
Type: Special Use Facility
Condition: Excellent
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Newly refurbished; routine
maintenance and replacement;
acquire adjacent land to
strengthen investment. i.e.
A.P. 23, Lots 595, 720, 721, 722.
Priority Rating: 9

Site: 147
Dudley St. Playground
Type: Neighborhood Park
Condition: Excellent
User Level: High
Proposal/Comment:
Newly refurbished; routine
maintenance.
Priority Rating: 10

Site: 148
Flynn School
Type: School/Local Play Area
Condition: Fair
User Level:
Proposal/Comment:
Continue after school
programming. Jointly develop
land area and #144 with O.I.C.
Priority Rating: 3

Park/Recreation Resources

Narragansett, Rhode Island

City Owned

Camp Cronin

Site:

Camp Cronin-Narragansett, R.I.

Type: Special Use Facility

Condition: Fair

User Level: High

Proposal/Comment: Study for
best use; develop master
plan. Balance of site was
sold to the state for use
as a conservation area.

Priority Rating: 1