

Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

1985-1990

IN CITY COUNCIL

DEC. 5, 1985

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Wise Man Love CLERK

City of Providence

Joseph R. Paolino, Jr., Mayor

June 1985

Acknowledgement:

The preparation of the Recovery Action Program (Park, Recreation and Open Space Element of the 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 Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978 (Title X, Public Law 95-625)

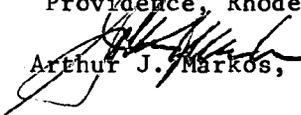
PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

1985 - 1990

CITY OF PROVIDENCE
JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR., MAYOR
JUNE, 1985

This document was prepared by the:

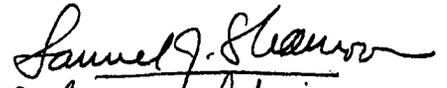
Department of Planning and Development
55 Eddy Street
Providence, Rhode Island

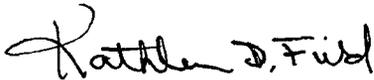

Arthur J. Markos, Director

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Davies, a former member of the staff also assisted.



City Plan Commission Members



Jane B. Sherman, Chairperson
George D. Caldwell, Vice Chairperson
Russell C. Gower, Secretary
Dr. William Lopes
Peter S. Mancini
Vincent Pallozzi
Sammy C. Vaughan

Special thanks to the staff of the following City Departments for their
assistance: Public Parks, Recreation, Public Property, and Public
Schools; also to the R.I. Department of Environmental Management.

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.

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.

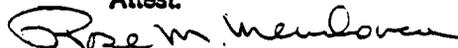
5. In order to implement and facilitate the effectuation of said plan hereby approved, it is found and determined that certain official action must be taken by this Body as follows:

- 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.

A true copy,

Attest:



Rose M. Mendonca,
City Clerk

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 assessment of trends, resources, and priorities imperative. "Long range", for the purpose 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, therefore, need not only an historic context, but an awareness of current realities and a long-range perspective. In developing this plan and in defining the needs of the population from a philosophical as well as from a practical point of view, "people" became its essence and the challenge was to relate to their needs within a framework imposed by economic reality and availability of resources. The Recreation Plan element of the Comprehensive Plan (presented 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 Department of the Interior conducted the National Urban Recreation Study, which revealed the 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 Park Service. It encourages and stimulates local governments to revitalize park and recreation systems and to make long term commitments to continued maintenance through grant assistance.

Guidelines for Title X of the UPARR Program were published in 1979, establishing requirements which called for establishment of linkage between facility and program needs, community involvement and evaluation of the program. Funding is contingent upon 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 plan 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.

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

** analyzes the existing park and recreation facilities and services within the City of 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.

A VISION FOR THE PROVIDENCE RECREATION SYSTEM

In the history of park and recreation planning in Providence and in other cities, a common approach to long range proposals has emphasized visionary additions to the city's park and recreation facility system. These additions might include ambitious or elaborate proposals and unrealistic goals.

This plan, however, has another vision for the city's park and recreation system. Instead of emphasizing quantity of facilities and programs, this plan is more concerned with delivering quality. The surest means to achieve that quality is through a carefully managed and adequately-budgeted maintenance system as well as a coordinated plan for recreation programs. The visions here are ballfields with near-professional playing surfaces, totlots without glass and debris, fully operational play equipment, facilities reserved for target user groups, regular replacement of damaged equipment, a full spectrum of programs including interests beyond athletics, and other very achievable objectives.

Too often, plans are concerned only with long range dreams or immediate construction. The immediate future of the Providence recreation system, however, depends on dedicated management and maintenance, not on "bricks and mortar" solutions. Extensive and expensive renovations are too often a short-sighted response to deferred maintenance. Without an enforceable maintenance plan, these facilities quickly revert through neglect and misuse to deteriorated conditions.

With the continuing decline in the Providence population, city services must be tailored to this smaller population and the tax base it supports. This plan intends to design and support an overall system that the city can afford to maintain at high standards. These standards of maintenance must be high regardless of facility location. The plan will be implemented chiefly through the regular operating budget of city departments, not through voter-approved bond issues or federal grants. This plan is the vehicle through which the Mayor, city departments, City Council, neighborhood organizations, and others agree and commit to the difficult budgeting decisions necessary to achieve high quality maintenance and dedicated, competent management. Implementation of this plan therefore, rests not only with city administration but also with the people in the neighborhoods working together and dedicated to enhancing the quality of life. If the city can achieve such a park and recreation system, planning can then responsibly turn to expansion and large-scale development.

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.

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 six 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 semi-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 maintenance agreements with second parties which might prove more cost-effective or for imposition of user fees.

Restore National Register properties within the system. Those reflecting architect Olmstead's 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.

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 Development (DPD), Public Parks (DPP), Public Works (DPW), Public Properties (DPPr), Recreation (RD), Public Schools (PSD). Both the DPP and DPD 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 DPD 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 DPD 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 1332.47 acres of public land in use for active and passive recreation in Providence; 1155.22 acres of that land is city-owned. A total of 154 separate public facilities serve the various needs of this city's residents; of these, 147 are city-owned. With the proposed new sites and expansion of others, public open space will increase by more than 15 acres. A map illustrating this information appears at the end of this report.

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. Except for the pool at Dudley Recreation Center, 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 Capital Improvement Program begun in 1979, 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 all 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.

*Providence Home Rule Charter, 1980. Effective January, 1983.

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.

*Providence Home Rule Charter, 1980. Effective January, 1983.

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 Development (DPD)

In January, 1985, the Department of Planning and Urban Development was merged with the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD) and the Office of Economic Development to form what is presently known as the Department of Planning and Development.

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. Through 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 DPD. Site planning responsibilities are retained in certain departments notably Public Parks and Schools.

The Director of Planning for 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.

Also, those responsibilities formerly of the MOCD are now under the jurisdiction of the DPD. The MOCD had partially funded and implemented many of the park and recreation rehabilitation proposals throughout the City. Aided by neighborhood associations, priorities were established for distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds allocated through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In the future, those functions will be carried out by the Division of Neighborhood Development within this newly-created department.

Prospects for Future Coordination

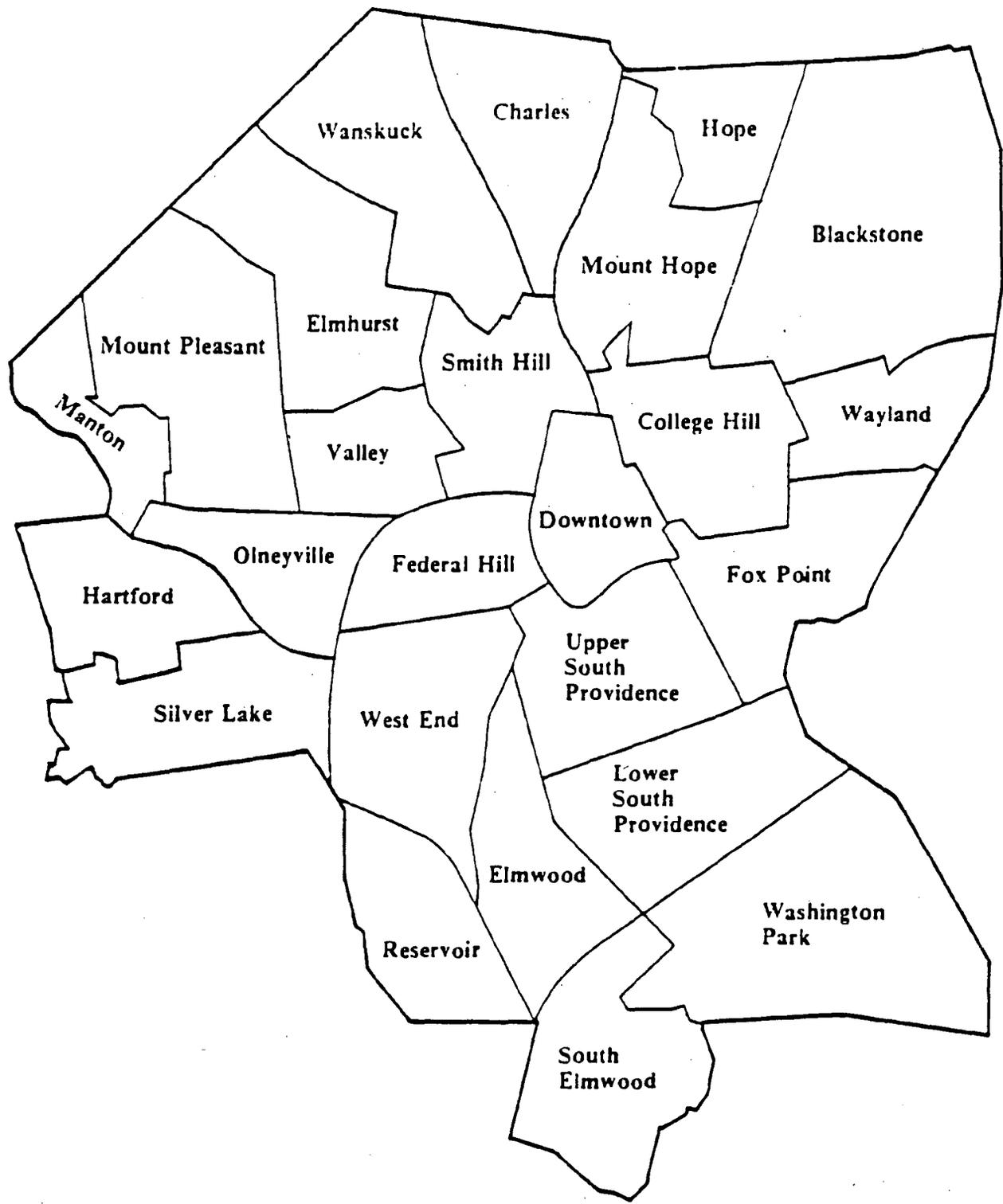
Limited consolidation which took place during 1981 solved some problems for planning and operation of the system; provisions mandated through the 1983 Home Rule Charter and further consolidation of MOCD and DPUD into one department have solved others. However, coordination of planning among those agencies 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 RAP process, links have been developed among departments as well as with 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 Capital Improvement Program has attempted to provide some order on the multitude of funding sources and financing plans for capital improvements.

The 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 Map
City of Providence**

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 (preferably 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.

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-school 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.

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.

Median Family Income Levels Per Neighborhood*

Blackstone	\$33,089	Olneyville	\$12,730
Charles	16,528	Reservoir	15,842
College Hill	30,937	Silver Lake	14,151
Downtown	12,361	Smith Hill	11,623
Elmhurst	20,950	South Elmwood	20,000
Elmwood	10,734	Upper South Providence	9,928
Federal Hill	11,205	Valley	12,910
Fox Point	16,593	Wanskuck	14,170
Hartford	18,906	Washington Park	14,872
Lower South Providence	8,758	Wayland	25,946
Mount Hope	15,750	West End	9,887
Mount Pleasant	18,214		

*Median citywide family income level is \$14,948.

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 facility distribution and need.

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 prepared. 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.

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)

The priority rating system was devised to serve as a guide for capital expenditures - local or federal. Those sites designated with highest priority will be considered first in allocating monies for rehabilitation and/or through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

For those sites determined to be high priority for study and master planning, a CIP rating of "1" was affixed and will change pending study results

A priority rating of 1 was also affixed to those sites in excellent condition needing routine maintenance and replacement.

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 the highest rating.

B. Neighborhood Deficiencies

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

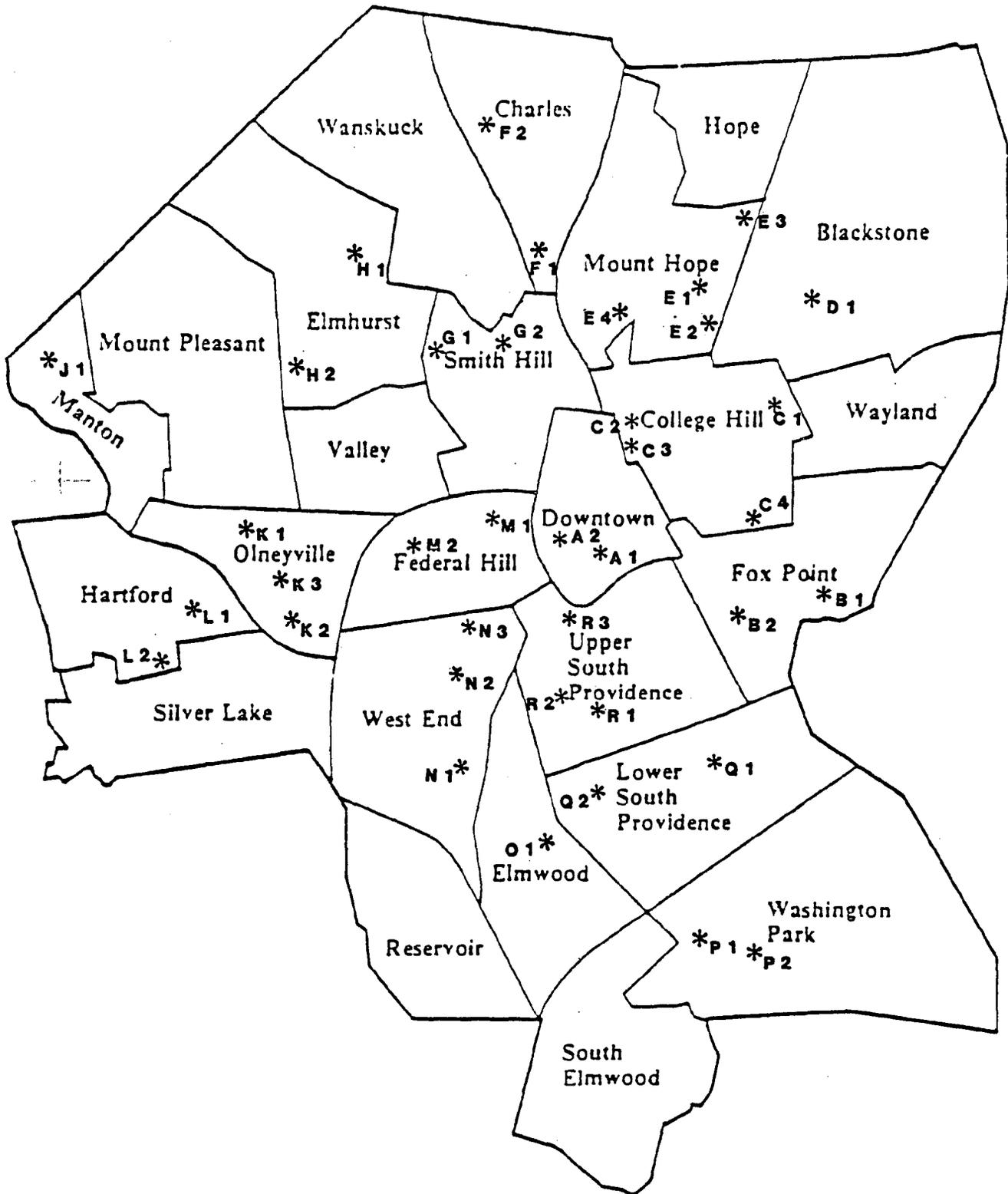
C. Multi-use Sites

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.

FACILITY STANDARDS

TYPE	SIZE	SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION & FUNCTION	FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT	RECOMMENDED ACREAGE
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. water areas.	.5 to 1.0 per 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

SEMI-PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES



SEMI-PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES

A1	Senior Citizens Center	K1	Joslin Community Center
A2	Providence Public Library (Main Branch)	K2	Nickerson House/Senior Center
B1	Fox Point Boys/Girls Club	K3	Olneyville Boys/Girls Club
B1	Providence Public Library (Fox Point Branch)	L1	Hartford Park Community Center
B2	Holy Rosary Church Sitting Area	L2	Hope Neighborhood Center Silver Lake Senior Center
C1	Brown University Gymnasium/ Pool/Fields	M1	Federal Hill House
C2	R.I.S.D.-Open Space	M2	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Park
C3	Museum of Art	N1	West End Community Center
C4	R.I. Historic Library	N2	St. Martin De Porres Center
D1	Jewish Community Center	N3	John Hope Settlement House
E1	Mt. Hope Community Center	O1	Elmwood Community Center
E2	East Side Y.M.C.A.	P1	Washington Park Community Center
E3	Providence Public Library (East Side Branch)	P2	Providence Public Library (Washington Park Branch)
E4	Senior Citizens Center at Charlesgate	Q1	South Side Boys/Girls Club
F1	DaVinci Center	Q2	Providence Public Library (South Providence Branch)
F2	Wanskuck Boys/Girls Club	Q3	Senior Citizens Center
G1	Smith Hill Center	R1	O.I.C. Building/Senior Center
G2	Providence Public Library (Smith Hill Branch)	R2	South Providence Neigh- borhood Center
H1	Providence College Ice Rink/ Tennis Courts/Fields	R3	Central Y.M.C.A.
H2	Providence Public Library (Mt. Pleasant Branch)		
J1	St. Thomas Church Open Field		

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.

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 and considered as part of the Waterfront Project. 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. The voice of the people from various neighborhoods throughout the City has informed planners of the growing enthusiasm for soccer and the need for soccer fields.

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.

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 addressed the revitalization of the Providence waterfront. For years this had been a goal for planners at all levels. In developing a plan for restoration of the waterfront as a focal point for the City, the 3.5 mile expanse is being considered for recreation, commercial and residential land use. The proposed development for the waterfront creates not only increased open space but also establishes 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 this plan thereby achieving an important segment of the Comprehensive Plan for the City. 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, including practice time for the Special Olympics teams. Unfortunately, City programming at this facility has been discontinued because of budget cuts. This gap in program provision for the handicapped must 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. Rehabilitation needs, however, inhibit full use of this facility. (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 and 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: The 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.

Also, the Recreation Department provides broadly defined recreation programs at Camp Cronin, overlooking the ocean, during summer months; daily trips offer 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 a 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. Swimming pool and recreation center improvements at Dudley Recreation 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 Repertory Theatre
3. Admiral Esek Hopkins Homestead
4. Plaza at Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul
5. Westminster Center abutting Providence Performing Arts Center
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.

In Providence, there has been an open dialogue between public agencies, especially DPP and DPD 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 Hill.

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. In addition, Providence was awarded UPARR rehabilitation funding in the amount of \$784,000 for major rehabilitation work at eleven active sports sites; that project was completed in January, 1985.

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
12. Forestation throughout the city
13. Camp Cronin

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 programatic 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 refurbish 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 refurbish 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 (DPPr). In addition, all site planning for parklands became the responsibility of the DPP with site planning for recreation centers remaining with the DPPr. The comprehensive master plan for parks and recreation, an element of the Providence Comprehensive Plan, remains under the jurisdiction of the Department of Planning and 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 remains 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 is presently being addressed. The Department of Public Parks, Division of Public Programming which provides cultural, artistic and environmental opportunity for the parks system has begun coordinating with the Recreation Department's efforts to provide athletic, environmental, and artistic programs. Developing stronger 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. Because building improvements for Parks' Department structures have not as yet received priority rating federal funding availability is used as the only resource. 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 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 should 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 framework, the same should be prepared for the Recreation Department.

SERVICE ISSUES

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

1. provide a spectrum of services to include a dimension of self-development and life-time value activities.
2. expand and/or develop programming to address an increased young adult population and a growing need for programs oriented to females and families.
3. develop a user analysis process to help the City in serving changing needs and interests.
4. enhance special programs for seniors and the handicapped and provide transportation to special programs; of particular need is the reinstatement of the senior program at Pleasant View School.
5. continue to expand cultural and environmental education programs; provide for school-age children and their families; address the reinstatement of the Marine Learning Program at Camp Cronin.
6. develop a communication mechanism to make the public aware of park facilities and programs.
7. expand Saturday and after-school programs to respond to the substantial increase in one-parent households and "latch-key" children.
8. 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 deminished 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 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 in the 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 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 Conservation Fund 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.

However, fiscal restraints have necessitated a search in other directions to provide funding sources to assist in meeting the steadily rising costs of providing high quality and relevant recreational opportunities. The magnitude of federal cuts does not permit the private sector to replace the federal dollars; however, an attempt must be made to tap private sources. Difficult though this period of federal cutbacks is, there is considerable room for creative response to absorb cuts and rethink provision of services. The following provides alternative approaches and sources involving the private sector and includes ways in which to involve the community in that search for the extra dollars.

Foundations

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:

A 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.

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 are 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

This type of financial benefit can serve to motivate the private sector to develop facilities and programs within the City and to encourage donations.

Revolving Fund

This source is being established for historic preservation and tax benefits.

Volunteerism

As 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

"THE ACTION PLAN"
A FIVE YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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

Strategy 1: Adopt this plan 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 this plan to be coordinated by the Department of Planning and Development and adopted by the above.

Strategy 3: Update the this plan through regular meetings of the City's 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 this plan.

(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: An increase in summer jobs with low income eligibility requirement will be instituted for youth.
- Strategy 2: Expanded use of federal Job Training Program and summer youth 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 service programs in the park/recreation system.

(4) How will this 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 various levels of 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.
- Strategy 4: Develop Camp Cronin to its fullest potential as an oceanside recreational/educational center.

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 this plan seeks to restore outstanding or unique structures, landscapes, or similar features in parks of historical or architectural significance.

Strategy 1: Seek funding from the Antoinette Downing Fund and other foundations for structural restoration.

Strategy 2: 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 this 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 Development to determine consistency with the this plan.

(9) How will this 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: Arrange for maintenance and upkeep of select public parks with adjacent-to private enterprises.

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.
- 1985/86 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 for capital development in 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.
- 1986/87 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.
- 1987/88 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.
- 1988/89 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.
- 1989/90 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.

1985/87 Update this plan's physical projects implementation schedule annually through a process which includes regular meetings of the Task Force on Parks and Recreation Planning.

1986/87 Develop a system to evaluate energy-saving improvements for cost effectiveness.

1987/88 Evaluate handicapped improvement needs and reflect the costs for physical alterations in facilities in the annual Capital Improvement Plan and this plan's update.

Include energy-saving improvements in annual CIP requests and update this plan.

Recommend possible administrative consolidation to improve capital development operations.

1988/90 Implement administrative consolidations if consolidation is deemed feasible for Public Properties activities related to facility repair of Public Parks' structures.

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

1985/87 Evaluate user needs at typical park facilities throughout the park system.

1986/87 Evaluate handicapped access needs and signage for all Recreation Centers and facilities where events and programming occur and at all active sports sites.

1987/88 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.

1988/89 Conduct surveys of park and recreation facility users regarding their views of facility design, i.e., types of street furniture or play equipment used.

1989/90 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.

1985/87 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 the Programming Division of the Department of Public Parks.

- 1985/86 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.
- 1986/87 Explore contracting with private non-profit recreation institutions to serve special population's recreational needs and new program initiatives.
- Reinstate the Marine Learning Program at Camp Cronin. Develop a Comprehensive Plan for programming at this site.
- 1987/88 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.
- 1988/90 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 Departments of Public Parks, Recreation and Public Properties. Also include training programs with employee evaluation standards/~~job~~ descriptions where necessary.
- 1985/90 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.
- 1984/86 Purchase of micro-computer equipment for Grounds Maintenance Services(GMS) of the 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.
- 1985 Set up regular meeting schedule for parks and recreation task force.

1985/86 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.

1986/87 Quantify cost of work activity groups and assign dollar values to maintenance costs for each park/playground site and all other property holdings.

Introduce micro-computers as a tool for management reform to the Department of Public Properties if warranted by previous year long study or consolidate activities into the 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.

1985/87 The Division of Development and Environmental Services of DPP 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.

1986/87 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.

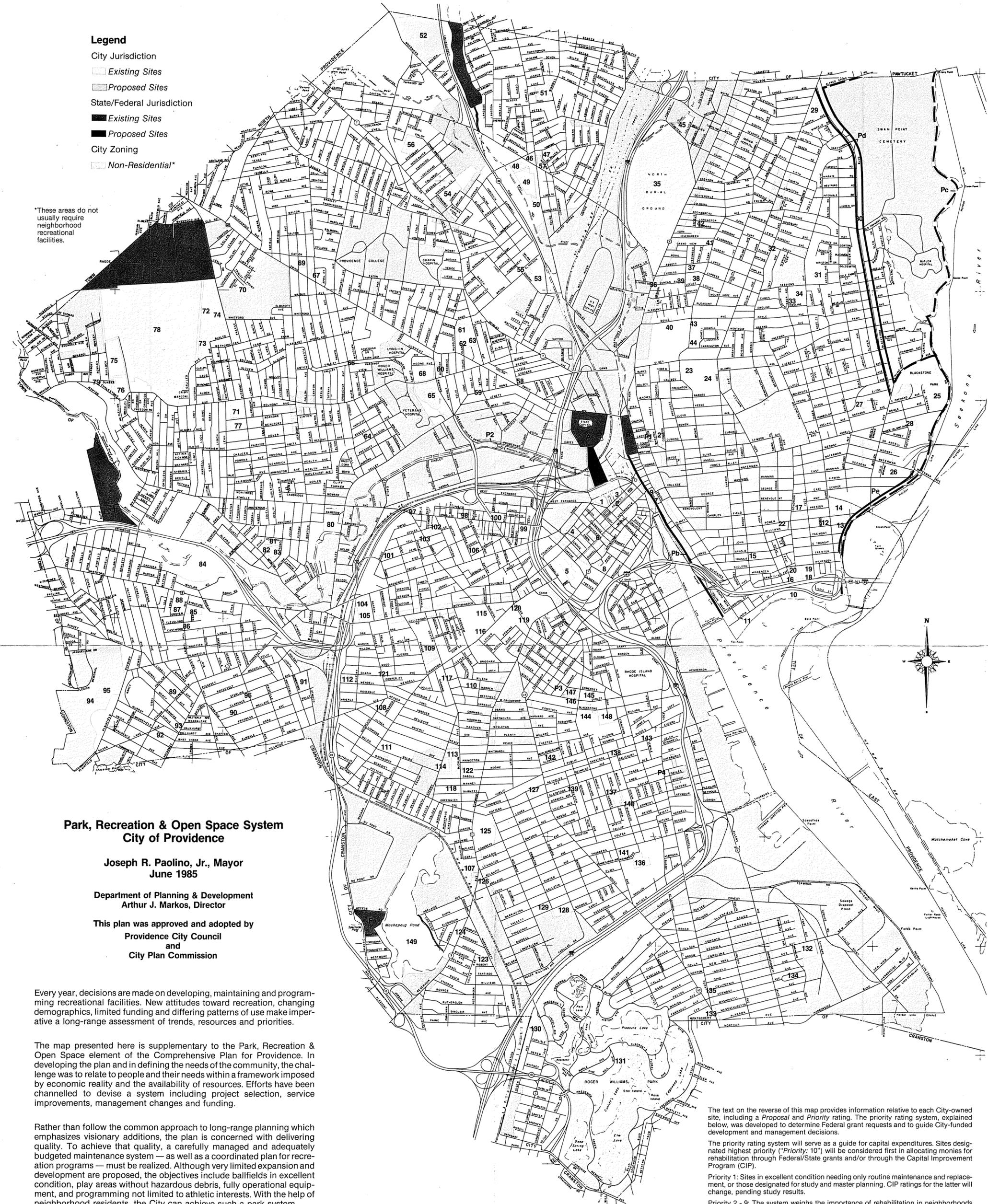
1986/87 A system for regular repair maintenance of street furniture and signage items will be developed by the Department of Public Parks Division of Grounds Maintenance Services.

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.

Legend

- City Jurisdiction
 - Existing Sites
 - Proposed Sites
- State/Federal Jurisdiction
 - Existing Sites
 - Proposed Sites
- City Zoning
 - Non-Residential*

*These areas do not usually require neighborhood recreational facilities.



**Park, Recreation & Open Space System
City of Providence**

**Joseph R. Paolino, Jr., Mayor
June 1985**

**Department of Planning & Development
Arthur J. Markos, Director**

**This plan was approved and adopted by
Providence City Council
and
City Plan Commission**

Every year, decisions are made on developing, maintaining and programming recreational facilities. New attitudes toward recreation, changing demographics, limited funding and differing patterns of use make imperative a long-range assessment of trends, resources and priorities.

The map presented here is supplementary to the Park, Recreation & Open Space element of the Comprehensive Plan for Providence. In developing the plan and in defining the needs of the community, the challenge was to relate to people and their needs within a framework imposed by economic reality and the availability of resources. Efforts have been channelled to devise a system including project selection, service improvements, management changes and funding.

Rather than follow the common approach to long-range planning which emphasizes visionary additions, the plan is concerned with delivering quality. To achieve that quality, a carefully managed and adequately budgeted maintenance system — as well as a coordinated plan for recreation programs — must be realized. Although very limited expansion and development are proposed, the objectives include ballfields in excellent condition, play areas without hazardous debris, fully operational equipment, and programming not limited to athletic interests. With the help of neighborhood residents, the City can achieve such a park system.

The text on the reverse of this map provides information relative to each City-owned site, including a *Proposal* and *Priority* rating. The priority rating system, explained below, was developed to determine Federal grant requests and to guide City-funded development and management decisions.

The priority rating system will serve as a guide for capital expenditures. Sites designated highest priority ("Priority: 10") will be considered first in allocating monies for rehabilitation through Federal/State grants and/or through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Priority 1: Sites in excellent condition needing only routine maintenance and replacement, or those designated for study and master planning. CIP ratings for the latter will change, pending study results.

Priority 2 - 9: The system weighs the importance of rehabilitation in neighborhoods with limited recreational opportunity; those which have not received monies; those multi-use sites providing varied, year-round recreation for many user groups; and the cost-effectiveness of maintaining key facilities.

Priority 10: Sites needing minimal investment for completion of refurbishment already begun, or those presenting a hazard to public safety.

Existing Sites (City)

- 1. Billmore Park**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .93
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Continue maintenance policy with Billmore Hotel. Priority: 1
- 2. Kennedy Plaza**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: 1.75
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Management plan being prepared. Refurbishment in progress as part of the Kennedy Plaza Project. Priority: 1
- 3. Burnside Park**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: 1.64
Condition: Fair User Level: Medium
Proposal: Management plan being prepared. Refurbishment in progress as part of the Kennedy Plaza Project. Priority: 1
- 4. Trinity Mews**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .15
Condition: Good User Level: Medium
Proposal: Routine upkeep; maintenance agreement to be sought. Priority: 1
- 5. Cathedral Square**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: 1.03
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Refurbishment completed; continue maintenance arrangement with Gilbane Properties. Priority: 1
- 6. Westminster Mall**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: 1.46
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Studies in progress to determine feasibility to remain as pedestrian mall. Priority: 1
- 7. Verrazano Park (Jackson-Gardner)**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .77
Condition: Good User Level: Medium
Proposal: Preliminary design completed as part of Waterfront Project. Priority: 1
- 8. Abbott Park**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .18
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Continue maintenance arrangement with Johnson & Wales College. Priority: 1
- 9. Market Square**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .28
Condition: Good User Level: Medium
Proposal: Continue maintenance arrangement with R.I.S.D. Included in planning for Waterfront and Memorial Square Projects. Priority: 1
- 10. India Point Park**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 18.00
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Redesign for better use of space; coordinate with Waterfront Study; improve access and parking. Short term: repair seawall and dock. Priority: Short Term: 8; Long term: 3
- 11. Harborview Trail**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: .10
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Bike trail; virtually nonexistent. Consider changing use to passive space; coordinate future use and design with Waterfront Study. Priority: 1
- 12. Roger Williams Landing**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .92
Condition: Good User Level: Medium
Proposal: Landscaping improvements: pathways, lighting, benches, perimeter plantings. Include in considerations for Waterfront Project. Priority: 2
- 13. Gano St.**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 8.3
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Minimal investment needed for full use. Coordinate with Waterfront Study. Priority: 10
- 14. Engineers Field**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 3.0
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Refurbish bleachers and entire bleacher area; entrance ties in with Waterfront Study. Priority: 10
- 15. Brook/Arnold**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .40
Condition: Excellent User Level: Medium
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 16. East St. Park (Cohan)**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .05
Condition: Fair User Level: Low
Proposal: Surplus property; sell. Approach abutting property owners, i.e. housing for elderly. Priority: -
- 17. Preston/Ives**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .31
Condition: Excellent User Level: Medium
Proposal: Refurbishment incomplete. Minimal investment needed for full use. Priority: 10
- 18. Fox Point Fields**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .54
Condition: Fair
Proposal: Rehabilitate/redesign. Priority: 9
- 19. Fox Point Pool/Recreation Center**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 1.57
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: 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: Short term for Pool: 10; Long term: 9
- 20. Fox Point School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: .86
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Landscape improvements. Priority: 9
- 21. Prospect Terrace**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .90
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Expand. Privately funded through Haffenreffer 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: Upper portion: 4; Lower: 8.
- 22. Fenner Square**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .15
Condition: Fair User Level: Low
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 23. Hope High Fields/Courts**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 12.53
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Entire site with School; develop as multi-use facility. Recent refurbishment through UPARR included: gate repair, restoration of track, resodding of football field, added play equipment. Seek funds to: increase totlot area, add equipment, refurbish baseball field, and passive sitting area, improve landscaping, install irrigation system for soccer and softball fields. Transfer maintenance of tennis courts to Public Parks. Priority: 10
- 24. Hope High School/Grounds**
Type: School Acreage: .50
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Landscaping improvements. Priority: 10
- 25. Blackstone Park**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: 40.3
Condition: Good User Level: Medium
Proposal: Conduct study of site and develop Master Plan for full use; include waterfront. Priority: 1
- 26. Constance Witherby Park**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: 1.55
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Retain as public park suitable for maintenance with private party. Increased use anticipated with development of Richmond Square. Install better site furniture; improve access/plantings. Priority: 3
- 27. Gladys Potter Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.24
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Improve aesthetics; retain Victorian flavor; redesign totlot. Priority: 5
- 28. Patterson Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.23
Condition: Good User Level: Medium
Proposal: Redesign to include: passive sitting area, tennis courts, link to Blackstone Park, new totlot. Priority: 7
- 29. Lippitt Memorial Park**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 6.0
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 30. Blackstone Boulevard**
Type: Parkway Acreage: 19.3
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Refurbishment of jogging path completed late 1984. Seek funds to improve irrigation, refurbish plantings/lawn. Priority: 10
- 31. Sessions St.**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 2.85
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Improve ball fields and bleachers; add landscaping. Approach JCC for cooperative arrangement for maintenance and programming. Priority: 2
- 32. Morris Ave. Totlot**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .09
Condition: Excellent User Level: Medium
Proposal: Install new security lighting. Priority: 2
- 33. Nathan Bishop Courts**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.4
Condition: Excellent User Level: Medium
Proposal: Refurbishment of basketball and tennis courts/tree planting completed late 1984. Transfer maintenance of tennis courts to Public Parks. Minimal investment needed to improve landscaping, install asphalt overlay and walks. Priority: 10
- 34. Nathan Bishop School/Grounds**
Type: School Acreage: .50
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 35. North Burial Ground**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 109.2
Condition: Fair
Proposal: Study and Master Plan completed. Seek monies for refurbishment/development of park at North Main St. side. Coordinate with tree planting/sidewalk improvements to North Main St. median. Priority: 2
- 36. North Main St. Park**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .12
Condition: Excellent User Level: Low
Proposal: Developed in conjunction with #35. Improve plantings. Priority: 2
- 37. Mt. Hope Walkway**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: 1.8
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Developed as pathway to Cypress and several totlots along its length. High priority for feasibility study. Priority: 1
- 38. Cypress St. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.85
Condition: Poor User Level: High
Proposal: Refurbishment in 1984 included redesign and rehabilitation of playground and lower basketball court, new play equipment, improved lawn area and multi-purpose field. Minimal investment needed for completion. Priority: 10
- 39. Mt. Hope Community Gardens**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: .20
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Rehabilitation completed with CDBG monies; arrangement made with Providence Corp. for gardens. Priority: 1
- 40. Alpin/Carver Park (Doyle Ave.)**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .43
Condition: Fair User Level: Low
Proposal: Include in study for #37. Priority: 1
- 41. Peach St. Park**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .09
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Along Mt. Hope Walkway; include in study for #37. Priority: 1
- 42. Woodbine St.**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .18
Condition: Fair User Level: Medium
Proposal: Linked to Mt. Hope Walkway; include in study for #37. Priority: 1
- 43. Martin Luther King Fields/Grounds**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 2.15
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Majority of refurbishment completed fall '83. Add play equipment/site furniture; needs minimal investment for full use. Priority: 10
- 44. Martin Luther King School**
Type: School Acreage: .10
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Continue after-school recreational programming. Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 45. Collyer Park**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 4.1
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Good location for team sports/lighted fields. Refurbish basketball courts and totlot. Address vandalism problem. Priority: 3
- 46. Hopkins Square**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: 1.0
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Site needs minimal investment for full use. Priority: 10
- 47. Ascham St. Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.72
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Redesign for better use of land with emphasis on women's softball at main field; landscape with trees. Priority: 8
- 48. Prete Field**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 3.36
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Redesign/rehabilitate. Resolve flooding problems, design new entrance/exit. Develop program for cooperative rehabilitation/funding with Little League. Priority: 7
- 49. Metcalf Field**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 8.0
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Add irrigation system. Priority: 6
- 50. Esek Hopkins School**
Type: School Acreage: .10
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Used for administrative offices; routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 51. Windmill St. School/Grounds**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: 1.0
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Develop as outdoor garden for classroom use. Seek maintenance arrangement. Priority: 2
- 52. Wanskuck Park**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: 24.5
Condition: Excellent User Level: Medium
Proposal: Develop master plan using 1976

conceptual specs. Consider reforestation and multi-use arts facility. Priority: 1

- 53. Hopkins Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 7.8
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: 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: 6
- 54. Corliss Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 5.9
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Add landscaping; improve maintenance; consider lighted fields. Priority: 4
- 55. Esek Hopkins Homestead**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 1.1
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Refurbish; maintain 18th century farm atmosphere. Approach Providence Preservation Society for long-term maintenance and programming arrangement. Priority: 2
- 56. Vesie St. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 4.49
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Multi-use site. Phase II rehabilitation including new playground and irrigation system completed. Minimal investment for plantings needed. Priority: 10
- 57. Branch Ave. School/Grounds**
Type: School Acreage: 1.27
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Reopened in 1984. Routine maintenance. Priority: 1
- 58. Candace St. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.75
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Rehabilitate courts, improve landscaping, add new totlot. Priority: 9
- 59. Bath St.**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .40
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Does not function as a park; low visibility; sell as surplus. Priority: -
- 60. Chalkstone/Oakland**
Type: Undeveloped Acreage: .80
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Retain. Develop site plan in conjunction with Davis Park (#65). Priority: 9
- 61. Danforth Pool/Recreation Center at Camden Ave. School**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 3.15
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Develop master plan with #62 as multi-service facility. 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: Short Term: 10; Long Term: 9
- 62. Danforth St. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.57
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Major portion of refurbishment completed in 1984. Included installation of baseball and soccer field, rehabilitation of playground with new play equipment added, stabilization of embankment. Seek funds to develop parking, relocate basketball court. Priority: 10
- 63. Camden Ave. School**
Type: School Acreage: .10
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Landscaping improvements. Priority: 9
- 64. Regent Ave. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .89
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Rehabilitate; add new play equipment, resurface basketball courts, add passive sitting area, improve landscaping. Priority: 8
- 65. Davis Park**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 10.05
Condition: Poor User Level: High
Proposal: A major multi-use facility. Develop master plan for rehabilitation/redesign with more efficient use of space; seek funding. Add new entrance/parking from Valley St. Include land at #60, and #68 in overall design. Priority: 9
- 66. Pleasant Valley Parkway**
Type: Parkway Acreage: 3.46
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Lower: cosmetic improvements, trees, realignment of curb. Upper: improve irrigation system. Priority: 9
- 67. Fargnoli Park**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 3.05
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 68. Nathaniel Green School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: 2.12
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Landscaped area in good condition. Tennis courts unusable. Develop land in conjunction with #65 and #60. Priority: 9
- 69. Robert F. Kennedy School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: 1.06
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Continue after-school programming. Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 70. Trinity Parkway**
Type: Parkway Acreage: .44
Condition: Excellent User Level: Low
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 71. West Park (Chalkstone)**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 4.28
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Totlot recently refurbished. Rehabilitate field; correct erosion on West End. Priority: 10
- 72. Mt. Pleasant Fields**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 17.8
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Redesign existing fields on Galileo St. Use space on south side for Women's softball/soccer. Replace structures in disrepair. Transfer tennis courts to Public Parks. Priority: 9
- 73. Conley Stadium**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 4.0
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Recently redesigned/refurbished. Routine maintenance. Priority: 1
- 74. Mt. Pleasant High School/Grounds**
Type: School Acreage: .10
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Improve landscaping. School building suitable for after-school programming. Priority: 9
- 75. Obediiah Brown Fields**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 9.4
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Redesign to include: 2 lighted softball fields and 1 soccer field. Priority: 5
- 76. Pleasant View Special Education School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: .10
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Improve landscaping and maintenance. Reintroduce programs for handicapped at gym/pool. Priority: 5
- 77. George J. West Middle School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: 1.5
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1

- 78. Triggs Memorial Golf Course**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 161.4
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Continue maintenance policy and use as golf course. Study for possible expansion to include swimming pool. Priority: 1
- 79. Viscosoli Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .88
Condition: Good User Level: Medium
Proposal: Resurface basketball courts; improve landscaping; replace totlot equipment, correct erosion problem. Refurbishment expected to increase use. Priority: 6
- 80. John Donnigan Memorial Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 4.49
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Rehabilitate; upgrade existing facilities, improve landscaping. Priority: 2
- 81. Joslin Pool/Recreation Center at D'Abate School**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 1.57
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Develop entire site with parklands as a multi-service facility. 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: Short Term: 10; Long Term: 9
- 82. Joslin Fields**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .83
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Seek assistance from neighborhood groups/residents for maintenance. Major portion of refurbishment completed 1984; needs minimal investment for full use. Address vandalism prior to investment of any funding. Priority: 10
- 83. D'Abate School/Grounds**
Type: School Acreage: .10
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Landscaping improvements. Priority: 10
- 84. Merino Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 13.27
Condition: Fair User Level: Medium
Proposal: Redesign as multi-use complex with lighted soccer field; improve security through policing, lighting and new access; address flooding problem. Improve access for Public Housing residents. Priority: 8
- 85. Laurel Hill Ave. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 2.5
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Rehabilitate with basic design remaining; add landscaping improvements. Seek maintenance arrangement with Hartford Community Center. Priority: 2
- 86. Laurel Hill Ave. School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: .43
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 87. Oliver Hazard Perry School Fields**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 3.28
Condition: Fair User Level: Medium
Proposal: Rehabilitate; install new fencing. Priority: 5
- 88. O. H. Perry School/Grounds**
Type: School Acreage: .10
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 89. Daniel Ave. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.18
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Redesign; replace totlot equipment, resurface basketball courts, add landscaping, trees, benches, meter pits. Priority: 8
- 90. Clarence St. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.0
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Add landscaped treed area for sitting. Priority: 10
- 91. Wallace St. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 3.4
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Reconfigure with emphasis on ballfields; replace totlot equipment; remove tennis courts; landscape with trees and benches. Priority: 9
- 92. Scalabrini Piazza**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .29
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Add treed sitting area; study need for bocci courts; encourage local groups to maintain. Priority: 2
- 93. Carbo Square**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .10
Condition: Excellent User Level: Low
Proposal: Add lighting fixture. Priority: 2
- 94. Neutaconkanut Park/Uplands**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 73.17
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Entire site with Pool: high priority for study/master plan. Uplands: develop walking trails, physical fitness trails, natural spring, nature education center, facilities for winter sports. 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: 1
- 95. Almagro Pool**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 1.57
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Short term: fence, ground. Long term: develop inspection system to improve maintenance and ensure user safety; consider pool enlargement. Priority: Short term: 10; Long term: 1
- 96. Webster Ave. School**
Type: School Acreage: .67
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Add Gymnasium. Priority: 1
- 97. Atwells/Ridge Sitting Area**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .04
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Reduce maintenance needs; seek party for maintenance arrangement. Priority: 1
- 98. DePasquale Plaza**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .27
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Finalize agreement with DePasquale Association for maintenance responsibility. Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 99. Garibaldi Square**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .53
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Improve maintenance; redesign entrance. Priority: 2
- 100. Bond St.**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .10
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: To be sold. Retain southeastern corner for sitting area. Priority: -
- 101. Ridge St. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .63
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Rehabilitate entire site; some redesign needed. Priority: 9
- 102. Zuccolo Pool/Recreation Center**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: .93
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Entire site: develop inspection system to improve maintenance and ensure safety of users. Short term for Pool: ground; install fence and ramp for handicapped. Long term for Recreation Center:

- adapt to include showers/rest rooms for handicapped. Priority: Short term: 10; Long term: 9
- 103. Knight St. Playground at Zuccolo**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .58
Condition: Poor User Level: High
Proposal: Refurbish to secure investment at Zuccolo. Priority: 8
- 104. Samuel Bridgman Middle School Fields/Courts**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 2.31
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Address ballfield needs. Transfer maintenance of tennis courts to Public Parks. Priority: 1
- 105. Samuel Bridgman Middle School/Grounds**
Type: School Acreage: .10
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 106. Laura School (Kanyon St.)**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: .44
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 107. Senior Citizens Center**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: .10
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Building is leased from private party. Programming site for seniors. Priority: -
- 108. Mansion Park**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: 1.72
Condition: Good User Level: Medium
Proposal: Plant additional trees. Priority: 5
- 109. Dexter Training Grounds**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 9.1
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Recent refurbishment of this multi-service facility included rehabilitation of ballfield, removal of fence and refurbishment of bocci court area to include play equipment. Seek monies for restructuring of pathways, landscaping, lighting, new irrigation system. Priority: 10
- 110. Warren Ave. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .35
Condition: Poor User Level: Medium
Proposal: Redesign with emphasis on play equipment and increase in green space/trees. Priority: 2
- 111. Waldo St. Totlot**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .40
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Population warrants retaining site; redesign. Priority: 2
- 112. Elery St. Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .92
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Priority for redesign. Remove old equipment; introduce trees for strong entrance and treed sitting area; refurbish basketball courts; address vandalism problem. Priority: 8
- 113. Bucklin Park**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 5.52
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Phase II rehabilitation completed late 1984. Seek monies for storage facility, lighting of football and baseball fields, street trees. Seek assistance from neighborhood groups/residents for maintenance. Entire site: develop master plan as multi-service facility. Priority: 10
- 114. McCrane Pool**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 1.57
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: 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: Short term: 10; Long term: 9
- 115. Chaffee Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.75
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Site owned/maintained by John Hope Settlement; City assists in maintenance when needed. New basketball courts constructed by JHS on Cranston St. side. Priority: -
- 116. Cranston St. Totlot**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .49
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Site abuts Central/Classical fields and should be included as part of in-depth study of that site for redesign. Priority: 1
- 117. Diamond St. Totlot**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .03
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Abandon and offer as surplus property. Priority: -
- 118. Burnett St. Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .04
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Is now a parking lot; abandon and offer as surplus property. Priority: -
- 119. Central-Classical Fields**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 7.92
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Conduct study of site, develop Master Plan. Consider soccer/football complex. Priority: 1
- 120. Central-Classical High School/Grounds**
Type: School Acreage: .10
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Include landscaping improvements for grounds in Master Plan. Priority: 1
- 121. Asa Messer School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: .22
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Add gymnasium. Priority: -
- 122. Gilbert Stuart Elementary School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: 1.38
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 123. Ardene Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 4.5
Condition: Good User Level: Medium
Proposal: Recent refurbishment in late 1984 included: repair/replacement of playground equipment, resodding of baseball infield, new backstop, new fencing, cosmetic/landscaping improvements, roller skating area. Seek funds for rehabilitation of basketball courts, improvements to entrance, and tree planting. Priority: 10
- 124. Reservoir Ave. School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: .71
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 125. Locust Grove Cemetery**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 8.0
Condition: Poor
Proposal: Proceed with existing plans to refurbish. Priority: 2
- 126. Columbus Square Park**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .21
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Routine maintenance and replacement. Priority: 1
- 127. Niagara St. Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .18
Condition: Poor User Level: Medium
Proposal: Redesign; include treed landscaping. Priority: 8
- 128. Sackett St. Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 2.21
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Recent refurbishment in late 1984 included: rehabilitation of softball

- field, stabilization of embankments. Minimal investment needed for full use. To be developed as multi-use facility with school. Priority: 10
- 129. Sackett St. School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: 1.34
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Develop with Site #128. Priority: 10
- 130. Joseph Williams Field**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 5.3
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Rehabilitate; relocate totlot for safety. Priority: 5
- 131. Roger Williams Park**
Type: Citywide Park Acreage: 432.1
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: A master plan is being developed and will be appended to the Park and Recreation Plan.
- 132. Drummond Field**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park Acreage: 2.75
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: 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: 1
- 133. Washington Park Square**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .15
Condition: Good User Level: Low
Proposal: Routine maintenance. Priority: 1
- 134. Columbia Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .66
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Site needs minimal investment to complete refurbishment begun in 1982. Priority: 10
- 135. Broad Street School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: .26
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Landscaping improvements. Priority: 1
- 136. Richardson Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 3.2
Condition: Poor User Level: High
Proposal: Retain portion of site for Roger Williams Middle School. Develop with portion of land of former Roger Williams Housing as ball field and landscaped area; replace balance to location of proposed new multi-use facility. P5. Priority: 9
- 137. Harriet & Sayles**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: 2.05
Condition: Fair User Level: Low
Proposal: Redesign passive open space using Mansion Park as prototype. Priority: 5
- 138. Salisbury St. Park**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .08
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Approach St. Michael's to develop; seek long-term maintenance arrangement. Priority: 8
- 139. Baxter St. Park**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .07
Condition: Poor User Level: Medium
Proposal: Rehabilitate courts; add landscaping with benches. Priority: 8
- 140. Mary Fogarty School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: 1.71
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Improve landscaping. Priority: 5
- 141. Roger Williams Middle School**
Type: School/Local Play Area Acreage: 1.0
Condition: Good User Level: High
Proposal: Cosmetic improvements to landscape. Priority: 9
- 142. Taylor St. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .06
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Sell for private development (area far too dilapidated). Priority: -
- 143. Rhodes St.**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .10
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Rehabilitate. Population in immediate area warrants retention. Priority: 5
- 144. Blackstone St. Park**
Type: Passive Park Acreage: .08
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Property owned by O.I.C. Encourage O.I.C. to develop this along with remaining adjacent open space. Priority: -
- 145. Dudley St. Totlot**
Type: Local Play Area Acreage: .10
Condition: Poor User Level: Low
Proposal: Sell. Multi-use facility (#146) is one block away. Priority: -
- 146. Dudley Recreation Center/Pool**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 1.57
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Newly refurbished. Acquire adjacent land to strengthen investment: A.P. #23, Lots 595, 720, 721, 722. Priority: 1
- 147. Dudley St. Playground**
Type: Neighborhood Park Acreage: .59
Condition: Excellent User Level: High
Proposal: Complete refurbishment. Priority: 10
- 148. Flynn School**
Type: Local Play Area/School Acreage: 1.29
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Continue after-school programming. Jointly develop land area and #144 with O.I.C. Priority: 3
- 149. Mashapaug Pond**
Undeveloped. Priority for joint planning effort with State and local area group. Priority: 1.
- Camp Cronin — Narragansett, R.I.**
Type: Special Use Facility Acreage: 2.5
Condition: Fair User Level: High
Proposal: Priority for study. A unique site with great potential as recreational/educational center; develop master plan. Short term: improve structures to permit summer programming. Priority: Short term: 10; Long term: 1

Proposed Sites (City)

- P1. Prospect Terrace** (expansion)
 - P2. Promenade River Walk**
 - P3. Dudley St.** (expansion)
 - P4. Proposed Park**
Type: Inter-neighborhood Park
Proposal: Acquire Plat #47 Lots 74, 75, 83, 84, 86, to 89, 114 to 120, 125 to 132, 145, 198 to 205, 205 to 216, 286 to 293 and 298 to 301 for park development. Priority: 9
- ## Existing Sites (State/Federal)
- A. State House Grounds** (State) Acreage: 11.25
 - B. Roger Williams Memorial Park** (Federal) Acreage: 5.0
 - C. Canada Pond** (State) Acreage: 3.7
 - D. Rhode Island College** (State) Acreage: 140
 - E. Dyerville Park** (State) Acreage: 9.1
 - F. J.T. Owens Field/Mashapaug Pond** Acreage: 8.2
- ## Proposed Sites (State/Federal)
- Pa. Waterplace**
Type: Passive Park
Proposal: Through the Capital Center Project, this water-related park is being developed at the site formerly known as Pershing Square.
 - Pb. Providence River Walk**
 - Pc. East Bay Bicycle Path**
 - Pd. Blackstone Bicycle Path**
 - Pe. Seekonk River Walk**

ARTHUR J. MARKOS
DIRECTOR



JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.
MAYOR

Department of Planning and Development

"Building Pride In Providence"

November 25, 1985

Rose M. Mendonca, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Ms. Mendonca:

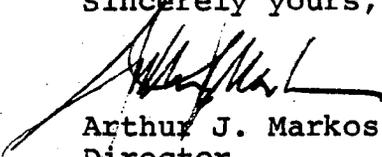
Enclosed herewith is a copy of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan and its accompanying map. Developed through the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) Program funded in part by the National Park Service, this plan is this City's official statement of commitment to the recovery of our park and recreation system.

It was approved and adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners, the City Plan Commission and, on May 7, 1985, by the Providence City Council. As one of several Comprehensive Plan elements, this document is the vehicle through which the City shall guide city-funded development and management decisions.

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

We ask your continued support and participation in this effort to rejuvenate our park and recreation system.

Sincerely yours,



Arthur J. Markos
Director

AJM/jp

FILED

Nov 25 3 48 PM '85

DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION