

City of Providence  
AN ORDINANCE  
CHAPLIER

# City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

## CHAPTER 1991-30

No. 565

**AN ORDINANCE** Adopting the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, 1991-1995 as Plan Number 1 of the Comprehensive Plan Series of Providence 2000: A Comprehensive Plan, As Amended.

Approved October 24, 1991

### 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 has formulated and has submitted to the City Council for its consideration a Plan entitled the "Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan-1991-1995"; 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, Recreation and Open Space Plan, 1991-1995 on the 17th day of April, 1991 and authorized the Director of the Department of Planning and Development to submit said Plan to the City Council for its review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, 1991-1995 is recognized by the Commission as Plan Number 1 of the Comprehensive Plan Series of Providence 2000: A Comprehensive Plan, adopted policy guide concerning the general development of this community as a whole.

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

1. The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, 1991-1995 is Plan Number 1 of the Comprehensive Plan Series of Providence 2000: A Comprehensive Plan.
2. In enacting this Ordinance, the City Council intends to establish general city-wide policies for development and renewal of City Parks and Open Space in conformance with said Plan.
3. Implementation of said Plan and such policies shall promote and protect the neighborhoods of the City of Providence and its citizenry.
4. The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, 1991-1995 is hereby adopted and designated as the Official Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, 1991-1995 for the City. The Commission and other appropriate Boards, Commissions and City Departments are hereby authorized to carry out this Plan.
5. In order to implement said approved Plan, the City Council pledges its cooperation in helping to carry out said Plan and requests the Board of Park Commissioners, the Department of Public Parks, the Department of Recreation, the Department of Planning and Development, 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 upon adoption by the City Council and approval of the Mayor. The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this Ordinance to the City Plan Commission upon its approval.

No.

CHAPTER  
AN ORDINANCE

IN CITY  
COUNCIL

OCT 17 1991

FINAL READING  
READ AND PASSED

*Evelyn V. Zargnoli*  
ACTING PRES.  
*Michael R. Clement*  
CLERK

APPROVED  
OCT 24 1991  
*Jesse A. Cassin*  
MAYOR

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 2 1991

FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

*Rebecca Mendon*  
CLERK

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

Approves Passage of  
The Within Resolution

*Michael R. Clement*  
Chairman  
Clerk

THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

Approves Passage of  
The Within Ordinance, As Amended

*Michael R. Clement*  
Chairman  
Clerk

IN CITY COUNCIL

SEP 19 1991

First Reading Read and Passed, And  
Referred to Committee on

*Michael R. Clement*  
CLERK

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

Councilwoman Zargnoli (By Request)

Michael S. Van Leesten  
Director



Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.  
Mayor

## Department of Planning and Development

"Building Pride In Providence"

April 26, 1991

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

RE: Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan 1991 - 1995

Dear Mrs. <sup>Rose</sup>Mendonca:

Attached is a cover letter and ordinance for the adoption of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan 1991 1995. The plan will be delivered under separate cover by the Parks Department. Also, the City Plan Commission recommendation will be delivered next week.

Councilwoman Evelyn V. Fagnoli will sponsor this ordinance.

If we can be of further assistance please contact us.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Deller", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas E. Deller, AICP  
Associate Director for  
Planning

attachments

cc: Michael S. Van Leesten

Michael S. Van Leesten  
Director



Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.  
Mayor

## Department of Planning and Development

"Building Pride In Providence"

April 25, 1991

Councilman James A. Petrosinelli, President  
Providence City Council  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan 1991-1995

Dear Councilman Petrosinelli:

We are pleased to submit to the City Council for adoption as part of Providence 2000: The Comprehensive Plan, the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan 1991 - 1995. This plan will direct the improvement and development of park facilities and recreation areas in the city over the next five years. This plan is required if the city is to stay eligible for federal and state aid for park development and acquisition.

In accordance with the City Charter, the City Plan Commission has held a public hearing on this plan and has adopted the plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan Series. The Commission will submit a statement on their actions and approval under separate cover.

We request that the Council adopt this plan as part of the city's comprehensive plan. The Department will work with the Council to see that this is accomplished.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Van Leesten", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael S. Van Leesten  
Director

cc: Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.  
Thomas E. Deller, AICP

MVL/TED

**DRAFT**

-----  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
-----

**PROVIDENCE PARK, RECREATION  
AND OPEN SPACE PLAN  
1991 - 1995**

June, 1991

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., Mayor

Raymond Brown  
Director  
Recreation Department

Nancy L. Derrig  
Superintendent  
Parks Department

Michael A. Van Leesten  
Director, Department of  
Planning & Development

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### PROVIDENCE PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN, 1991-1995

#### INTRODUCTION:

In 1985, the Taylor Street Playground in South Providence sat quiet. Overgrown with weeds, enclosed with rusted fencing, its worn out play equipment was no longer used by any children except on rare occasions.

The abandonment of the Taylor Street Playground by both the neighborhood and the city had been a gradual process. Starting in the late 1960's residents began to leave the neighborhood, many houses were abandoned, and some houses became vacant lots. There were no tots left to play in the Taylor Street Playground. Older kids gradually vandalized the playground. Parks Department workers made repairs to the playground over the years, but the continuing vandalism and competing needs from other park sites wore down the will of park maintenance workers. By the early 1980's the Parks Department closed the playground. The 1985 Providence Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan recommended the sale of the site.

Needless to say, Parks Department Administrators were surprised in the summer of 1988 when neighbors mounted an aggressive campaign to re-open and renovate the playground. After considerable effort by neighbors and the Parks Department, the facility was renovated in the Fall of 1989 and re-dedicated in the Spring of 1990.

This Taylor Street Playground story situation reflects more than just the determination of a group of neighbors to get their park back. The Taylor Street Playground, now re-named the Mattie Smith Totlot, illustrates dramatically the fluidity of

Providence's neighborhood demographics, particularly in the South Side of the city. Even as the 1985 Plan was being written, scores of new houses were being built in the neighborhood and new residents with children were filling up the neighborhood around the Taylor Street Playground. In short, recreational needs in the area had changed significantly without Parks Department Administrators realizing it.

This 1991-1995 Plan is an attempt by city officials to "catch up" in terms of reassessing park, recreation and open space needs in Providence. Since 1985, a lot has changed in the city. Providence's population has been halted and the city has actually gained population since 1980. New and renovated housing in South Side neighborhoods has intensified the need for new and renovated park and recreation facilities. New Hispanic and Southeast Asian immigrants into the city have altered the demand for soccer and volleyball facilities. Most importantly, several million dollars in state and city funds were spent in the 1988-1990 period to renovate 45 neighborhood facilities and partially address the restoration needs of Roger Williams Park. The large backlog of neighborhood facility renovation needs has been reduced significantly.

There is still a backlog of needs to be addressed, as well as new needs that are occurring from Providence's changing demographics. This Plan proposes a five (5) year plan to address facility renovation needs and to develop a few new facilities. In addition, it proposes strategies for improving maintenance, recreation programming and the management of the park and recreation system.

**BACKGROUND:**

Existing Facilities:

The Providence park and recreation system is large and diverse. The 1,178 acre system encompasses 149 sites and includes such diverse features as the Victorian-era park, Roger Williams Park; 7 miles of boulevards; 2 waterfront parks; 12 public plazas; 28 historic statues; and 43 sites with play equipment.

The city has a particularly extensive system of athletic facilities as seen below:

---

<u>OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES</u>		<u>INDOOR RECREATION CENTERS</u>
- Little League Fields	17	- Danforth
- Baseball Fields	10	- Joslin
- Softball Fields	22	- Dudley
- Football Fields	6	- Zuccolo
- Soccer Fields	9	- M.L. King School*
- Swimming Pools	6	- R.F. Kennedy School*
- Basketball Courts	33	- Bridgham School*
- Tennis Courts	32	- Fox Point School*
- Jogging Tracks	4	
- Volleyball Courts	3	
- Golf Course	1	* Part-Time/Seasonal

---

The city is not the only provider of park and recreation facilities in Providence. There are over 40 semi-public recreation facilities ranging from community centers, to Boys & Girls Clubs, to neighborhood libraries, to community gardens. These facilities supplement the public system and are very important to Providence residents.

The state also has a park and recreation presence in the city with J.P. Owens Field and Rhode Island College providing valuable neighborhood recreation opportunities. Waterplace Park,

a new park to be developed by the state, is slated for the Capital Center area in 1992.

Management Responsibilities:

Day-to-day responsibilities for the city's park and recreation system is apportioned among four agencies: the Parks Department, Public Property, the Recreation Department, and the School Department. The Parks Department has responsibility for the majority of park lands in the city. School grounds are maintained by the School Department, except for 12 larger schools and all athletic grounds which are maintained by the Parks Department. The Department of Public Property has the major maintenance role for the indoor recreation centers and all of the city's pools.

The Parks Department and Recreation Department share programming responsibilities. The Parks Department focuses on cultural, musical, zoo, and natural history programs at Roger Williams Park. The Recreation Department manages all recreation activities in the neighborhood facilities as well as operating the summer lunch program. The Department of Planning and Development also works with the Parks Department on park planning issues.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY REHABILITATIONS

COMPLETED 1988 - 1990

WEST SIDE AREA:

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Smith Hill	Candace Street Park	\$100,600
Valley	Davis Park	\$895,000
Valley	Regent Avenue Park	\$66,400
Olneyville	Donnigian Park	\$175,800
Silver Lake	Daniel Avenue Park	\$66,800
Silver Lake	Neutaconkanut Park	\$466,800
Silver Lake	Wallace Street Park	\$305,400
Federal Hill	DePasquale Plaza Fountain	\$47,200
Federal Hill	Garibaldi Park	\$175,000
Federal Hill	Knight Street Park	\$77,100
Federal Hill	Ridge Street Park	\$84,600
Hartford	Laurel Hill Park	\$55,900
	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2,516,600</b>

NORTH SIDE AREA:

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Charles	Ascham Street Park	\$277,000
Charles	Prete-Metcalf Fields	\$378,000
Charles	Windmill Street Arboretum	\$20,000
Wanskuck	Veazie Street Park	\$111,000
Elmhurst	Fargnoli Park	\$191,300
Mount Pleasant	Enfield Avenue Traffic Island	\$3,000
Mount Pleasant	Mount Pleasant Fields	\$579,800
Mount Pleasant	George West Park	\$99,800
Manton	Viscolosi Park	\$116,800
	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,776,700</b>

DOWNTOWN AREA:

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Downtown	Abbott Park	\$60,000
Downtown	Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument	\$97,000
	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$157,000</b>

PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY REHABILITATIONS

COMPLETED 1988-1990

**EAST SIDE AREA:**

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Blackstone	Blackstone Boulevard	\$164,800
Blackstone	Sessions Street Park	\$43,500
College Hill	Hope High Fields/Brown St Park	\$235,400
College Hill	Prospect Terrace	\$156,800
Fox Point	Fenner Square	\$4,000
Fox Point	Gano Street Park	\$203,500
Fox Point	India Point Park - Phase I	\$500,000
Fox Point	Roger Williams Landing	\$58,800
Fox Point	Brook and Arnold Park	\$5,000
Wayland	Gladys Potter Park	\$69,300
Wayland	Patterson Street Park	\$92,400
	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,533,500</b>

**SOUTH SIDE AREA:**

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Elmwood	Sackett Street Park	\$52,300
Lower So. Prov.	Harriet & Sayles Park	\$90,400
Reservoir	Ardoene Park	\$197,300
South Elmwood	Joe Williams Field	\$231,400
Upper So. Prov.	Dudley Street Playground	\$90,100
Upper So. Prov.	Taylor & Glenham Park	\$24,100
Washington Park	Drummond Field	\$35,700
West End	Cranston Street Park	\$40,500
West End	Bucklin Park	\$173,400
West End	Warren Street Park	\$50,000
West End	Dexter Training Grounds	\$167,600
	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,152,800</b>

**TOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES:** \$7,136,600  
**ROGER WILLILAMS PARK:** \$4,100,000

**TOTAL:** \$11,236,600

Recent Facility Investments:

In the 1988-1990 time period, 45 neighborhood parks and a portion of Roger Williams Park were renovated (see accompanying list) at a cost of approximately \$11.2 million. In addition, almost 30 acres of land and water were acquired for \$650,000.

These investments helped to significantly address the backlog of needs outlined in the 1985 Plan. About 90 percent of the parks had not had any renovation work done in 25-30 years. Hazardous play equipment was replaced; new ballfields were built; worn out infrastructure was replaced; lighting, irrigation, parking, concession stands were added at many major facilities; thousands of trees were planted; and historic landscapes, buildings, and statues were restored.

This Plan proposes to address needs not addressed in the 1988-1990 period, as well as near term needs expected because of changes in Providence's population in the last ten years.

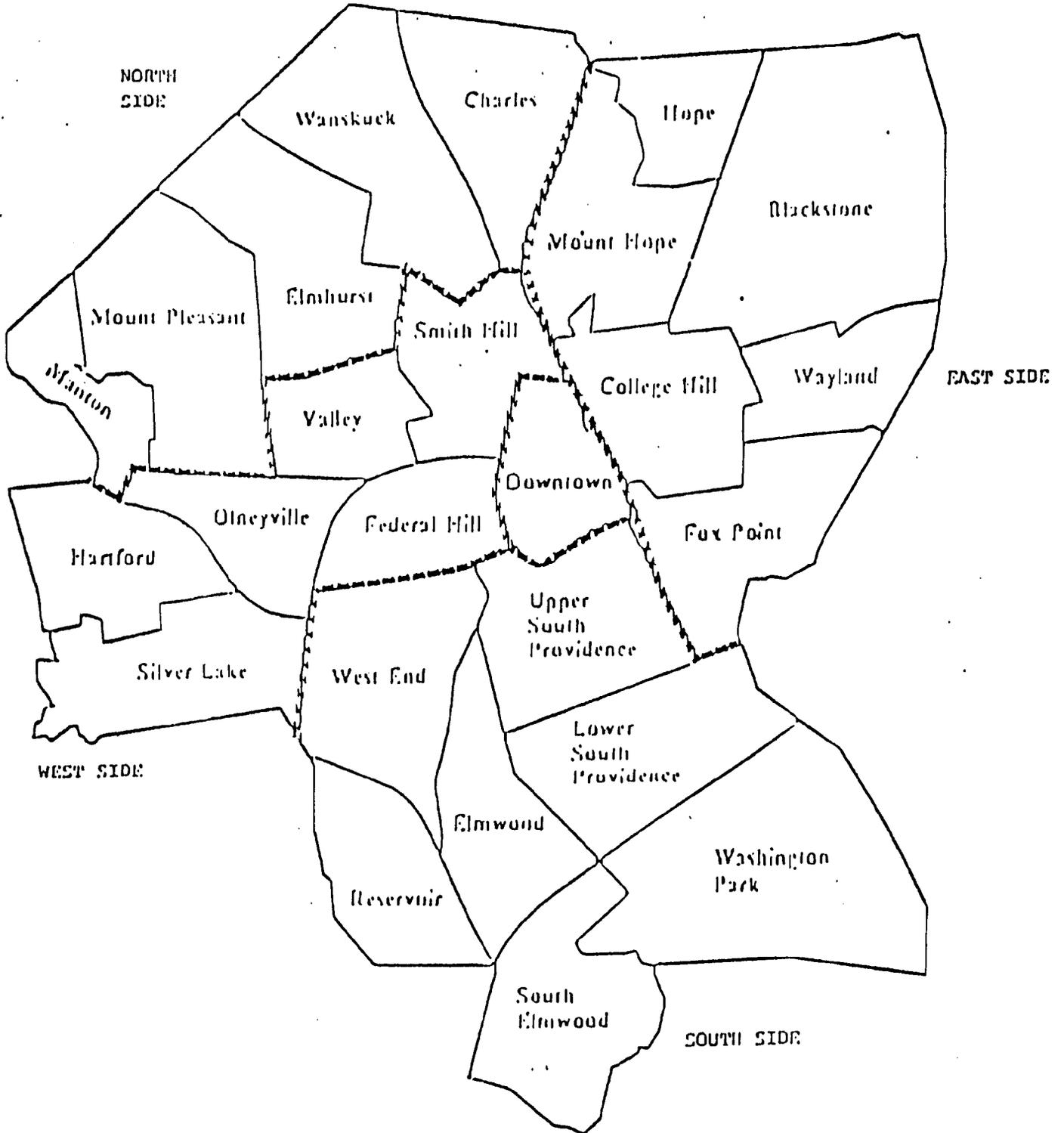
Population: The Changing Providence Mix:

Using preliminary information from the 1990 U.S. Census, as well as from the city's Department of Planning and Development, the Plan outlines the following major population trends in Providence:

- o Providence's population decline has stopped. For the first time since the 1930's, the city gained population. The 1980 population of 156,804 increased to 160,728 in 1990.
- o Providence's 1995 population is projected to be 163,500.
- o South Side neighborhoods (see accompanying map) have the most residents:

- South Side	46,969
- North Side	37,764
- West Side	37,406
- East Side	34,465
- Downtown	2,124

- o City's median family income has increased from \$14,951 to \$25,392 in the last ten years, but there is *great* variation among neighborhoods with South Side and West Side neighborhoods being the poorest.
- o Minority residents are increasing: the Asian population has increased by 463 percent; Blacks by 28.5 percent; and Hispanics by 175.4 percent.
- o The South Side area has the greatest number of children in the city: 41 percent of all Providence children in age group 0-11 live in the South Side.



NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING DISTRICTS.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Facility Rehabilitation:

NEED

The rehabilitation of the backlog of park and recreation facilities to address safety hazards, worn out equipment, handicap accessibility, design problems, and historic preservation needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Parks Department should rehabilitate 28 neighborhood sites shown in the accompanying exhibit.
2. Continue renovations at Roger Williams Park using funds from the 1989 State Environmental Management Bond.

Facility Expansion:

NEED

Additional facilities and equipment are needed in selected neighborhoods, particularly in Elmwood, South Providence, Hope.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Parks Department should oversee the implementation of the project list in the accompanying exhibit.
2. New facilities are needed in Elmwood, South Providence, Hope, and Reservoir neighborhoods.
3. Where possible, other facility expansion should take place at existing sites.

PROPOSED PARK REHABILITATION PROGRAM, 1991 - 1995

WEST SIDE AREA:

Facility	Year	Proposed Funding
Promenade Center Walkway	1991	\$275,000
Joslin Fields	1992	\$50,000
Almagno Pool	1992	\$20,000
Danforth Pool	1992	\$20,000
Zuccolo Pool	1992	\$20,000
Merino Park	1993	\$250,000
Danforth Street Park	1993, 1994	\$140,000
Perry School Fields	1993	\$90,000

NORTH SIDE AREA:

Facility	Year	Proposed Funding
Pleasant Valley Parkway	1991	\$328,000
Wanskuck Park	1991	\$10,000
Prete-Metcalf Fields	1992	\$40,000
Pleasant View School	1992	\$60,000
Canada Pond	1992-1995	\$80,000
Triggs Golf Course	1992-1995	Private Funds
Hopkins Park	1993	\$50,000
Corliss Park	1993	\$100,000

**DOWNTOWN AREA:**

Facility	Year	Proposed Funding
Cathedral Square	1992	\$5,000
Kennedy Plaza	1993	\$5,000
Verrazano Park	1994	\$75,000
Burnside Park	1994	\$60,000

**EAST SIDE AREA:**

Facility	Year	Proposed Funding
India Point	1991	\$860,000
Lower Prospect Terrace	1991	\$51,000
Corliss Landing	1991	\$300,000
North Burial Ground	1992-1995	\$140,000
Constance Witherby	1992	\$10,000
Nathan Bishop Courts	1992	\$20,000
Collyer Park	1993	\$35,000
Blackstone Park	1993	\$25,000
Lippitt Park	1993	\$20,000

**SOUTH SIDE AREA:**

Facility	Year	Proposed Funding
Ellery Street	1991	\$53,000
Niagara Street	1991	\$48,000
Salisbury Street	1991	\$22,000
Diamond Street	1991	\$9,000
Richardson	1992	\$150,000

(SOUTH SIDE AREA - CONTINUED)

Facility	Year	Proposed Funding
Columbus Square	1992	\$10,000
McCrane Pool	1992	\$20,000
Dudley Pool	1992	\$20,000
Waldo Street	1993	\$30,000
Locust Grove	1995	\$75,000
Roger Williams Park	1991-1995	\$7,570,000
ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES	1991-1995	\$656,000

PROPOSED FACILITY EXPANSION, 1991 - 1995

---

o EXPAND FACILITIES AT 5 NEIGHBORHOOD SITES:

(By adding additional play equipment,  
basketball hoops, etc.)

- Pleasant View School (handicap usable playground)
  - Hope High Fields (handicap usable playground and additional basketball)
  - Mt. Pleasant Fields (additional basketball and playground equipment)
  - D'Abate School (playground equipment)
  - Billy Taylor Park (additional basketball)
- 

o DEVELOP 7 NEW NEIGHBORHOOD SITES:

- To meet neighborhood park and recreation deficiencies (Summit, Elmwood, South Providence neighborhoods)
  - To supplement community development (DePasquale Sitting Area in Federal Hill)
  - To preserve open space (Mashapaug Pond)
- 

o CONVERT 2 ABANDONED SITES TO COMMUNITY GARDENS:

- Baxter Street
  - Burnett Street
-

Facility Maintenance:

NEED

Continuous and consistent maintenance of the Providence park and recreation system in light of dwindling city operating resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. At a minimum, Parks Department maintenance budget should keep pace with inflation for basic supplies, parts, equipment and services.
2. More seasonal employees are needed as full-time employees retire.
3. Establish a Neighborhood Park and Recreation Trust Fund (see accompanying exhibit).
4. Expand the Adopt-A-Park program.

Recreation Programming:

NEED

Expanded and more diverse recreation programming at the neighborhood level, particularly for adults and young females.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Parks Department should ensure that Zoo and Museum of Natural History programming efforts are accessible to low-income population of the city.
2. The Parks Department should focus more of its public programming resources into neighborhood parks, particularly in terms of music events and the Zoomobile.
3. The Recreation Department should expand traditional athletic programming into areas such as volleyball, "family fun runs," golf, tennis, "bicycle jamborees" at Roger Williams Park to provide the public with broader fitness opportunities.

PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AND RECREATION TRUST FUND

---

PURPOSE To supplement existing city operating funds to improve neighborhood facility maintenance and to expand neighborhood recreation programming.

---

EQUITY GOAL \$2,000,000 by 1995.

---

SOURCE OF EQUITY

1. Sale of City Land (\$500,000)
2. Foundation Grants (\$250,000)
3. Partial Proceeds (\$1,000,000)  
From Proposed Sale  
of other city assets
4. Private and (\$150,000)  
Corporate Donations
5. CDBG Funds (\$100,000)

---

ANNUAL YIELD AT FULL ENDOWMENT \$175,000 - \$200,000

---

PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF ANNUAL YIELD 50% - Park Maintenance  
50% - Recreation Programming

---

FUND GOVERNANCE Standing Committee comprised of Mayor, City Council representatives, Board of Park Commission representatives, and Recreation Advisory Committee representatives.

---

4. The Recreation Department should develop programs that would provide more public adult swimming opportunities at the city pools.
5. The Recreation Department should publicize learn-to-swim programs more aggressively at the schools and at the community centers.
6. The Parks Department and the Recreation Department should work more closely with the Little League to recruit minority youth into the city's Little League.
7. The Parks Department should continue to expand its Museum and Zoo programs with the Providence School Department.
8. The Recreation Department and the Mayor's Office should seek expanded shared use arrangements at the local colleges, particularly for adult swimming and public ice skating.
9. The Parks Department should assist the Southside Community Land Trust and other organizations in the support of community gardening in the city.

Community Development:

NEED

Park and open space considerations in the city's community development efforts are not always carefully considered.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Parks Department should work closely with the Planning Department to shape the planning for parks in all large-scale residential and commercial development in the city.

Water-Based Recreational Opportunities:

NEED

Providence Park users have limited water-based recreational opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Seek private businesses to operate cruises for India Point.
2. Expand boating opportunities at Roger Williams Park.
3. Work with the State DEM on developing boat tours on the Providence River from the new Water Place Park at Capital Center.
4. If possible, have DEM and the Narragansett Bay Commission accelerate the work for resolving combined sewer overflows (CSO's) in Providence waterways.

Natural Resources Protection:

NEED

Providence's remaining natural resources are scarce and need to be protected.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Implement the Canada Pond Conservation Management Plan; develop one for Blackstone Park.
2. Lobby the Sate DEM to have a goal of "fishable waters" for the Seekonk River.
3. Develop public educational materials about unique natural resources in Providence's public lands.
4. Ensure that no above ground CSO treatment plants are built on any city park land.

Historic Resources Protection:

NEED

The park and recreation system contains many historic resources that need to be protected and preserved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Limit park permits in historic parks threatened by overuse, i.e. Blackstone Boulevard, Dexter Training Ground, Prospect Terrace.
2. Develop public educational materials for the park and recreation system's historic resources.

Scenic View Enhancement:

NEED

The preservation of the limited number of scenic views available from or in Providence Parks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Evaluations should be done to rate and preserve the scenic views in the park system, particularly in Neutaconkanut Park uplands, Blackstone Park, Prospect Terrace, and Roger Williams Park.

Minority and Women Business Opportunities:

NEED

To provide economic development opportunities for minority and women businesses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Parks Department should update, on a quarterly basis, its list of MBE (Minority Business Enterprises) and WBE (Women Business Enterprises) firms.

2. The Parks Department should provide semi-annual workshops to promote MBE and WBE contractor opportunities in Parks Department projects.
3. The Parks Department and the city Purchasing Department should review city performance bond requirements for contracts below \$50,000.

Additional Planning:

NEED

This Plan will need continual updating, particularly in terms of resolving issues listed in the accompanying exhibit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Parks Department and Department of Planning and Development should oversee the facilities planning issues shown in the accompanying exhibit.
2. The Parks Department and the Recreation Department should develop a joint permit tracking system for better coordination of facility use.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT AND FACILITIES PLANNING: 1991-1995

ISSUES	RESPONSIBILITY*	TIME FRAME
1. Merino Park: type of site renovations	DPD, Parks, CC, REC	1991
2. Fox Point Pool: renovation feasibility	REC, CC, Parks, PP	1991
3. Proposed Silver Lake Recreation Center	DPD, REC, PP, CC, Parks	1991
4. Proposed Elmwood Playground Site Selection	DPD, Parks, CC	1991
5. Dyerville State Park: potential development	DEM, Parks, Town of Johnston	1992
6. Lower South Providence Recreation Center feasibility study	DPD, REC, PP, CC, SCH	1992
7. Esek Hopkins Home- stead: potential use	Parks, CC	1992
8. Pleasant View School Pool: expanded use	SCH, REC, PP, CC	1992
9. Proposed Black- stone Bikeway: location	DEM, Parks, CC	1992
10. Mashapaug Pond: Shoreline ease- ment analysis	Parks, DPD, Law Dept.	1992

\* DPD = Department of Planning & Development; Parks = Parks Department; REC = Recreation Department; SCH = School Department; PP = Public Property; CC = City Council; DEM = RI Department of Environmental Management

(PROPOSED MANAGEMENT AND FACILITIES PLANNING - CONTINUED)

ISSUES	RESPONSIBILITY*	TIME FRAME
11. Water Place Park: potential boat cruise operation	DEM, Parks, DPD	1992
12. East Transit St. & other potential Seekonk River access points	DPD, Parks, Public Works	1993
13. Collier Point: proposed park	N.Electric, DPD, Parks	1992-1994
14. Existing Rt.95/ Rt.195 Interchange area: proposed relocation and land re-use study	DPD, Parks, RIDOT	1992-1994
15. Washington Park Community Center: Feasibility of city funding assistance for existing playground.	Parks, CC, Law Dept.	1992
16. Blackstone Park Conservation Management Plan	Parks	1992

\* DPD = Department of Planning & Development; Parks = Parks Department; REC = Recreation Department; SCH = School Department; PP = Public Property; CC = City Council; DEM = RI Department of Environmental Management  
RIDOT = RI Department of Transportation

**FINANCING:**

Several sources of financing are proposed to fund the capital development projects listed in Exhibits 10-1 and 10-2. The sources are discussed as they are listed on the exhibits.

A=City Park Bond . These are the remaining funds from the 1987 Providence Recreational Area and Open Space Bond.

B=School Bond . The City is renovating the school system during the 1990's with periodic bond sales. This Plan proposes that some of these funds be used to fund landscape and outdoor recreation facilities in selected schools.

C=State DEM Grant . The state has funds from the 1987 Rhode Island Recreational Area and Open Space Bond and the 1989 Environmental Management Bond. Funds from both of these have been committed to several projects listed in Exhibits 10-1 and 10-2: India Point Park, Summit Avenue Park, Mashapaug Pond, and the Phase II Roger Williams Park work. Future funds are likely to be scarce, particularly in 1992. The funding scheme in this Plan assumes funds will be available on a limited basis in 1993 and 1994.

D=UPARR Grant . The National Park Service provides limited funds through the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery program. Funds have been obtained for 3 parks in 1991, and funds will be sought in 1992 for Richardson Park.

E=LWCF Grant . The National Park Service also provides limited funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund each year. Funds are very limited.

F=Park Capital Account . The Parks Department has a Park Capital Account set up to receive lease payments from the operator of

Triggs Golf Course and from other sources. This fund is expected to grow substantially in 1993 and thereafter.

G=Operating Budget . Limited funds are available in both the Parks Department budget and that of the North Burial Ground to implement small scale development projects.

H=Foundation Grants . The Parks Department will seek funds from local foundations to fund statuary and fountain restoration projects in the park system.

I=PBA . The Providence Building Authority is able to finance projects for which there is revenue stream to pay back the loan. This is a potential source of funds for some of the park system projects.

J=TIF . Tax Incremental Financing is a method of dedicating the increased tax benefit from a development project to fund public improvements. This method is being used to fund public improvements in the Corliss Landing area and a portion is allocated for the Corliss Landing park space.

K=PRA .The Providence Redevelopment Authority has the ability to float bonds and pay for public improvements.

L=CDBG . The City receives a yearly entitlement Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Housing and Development. There is keen competition for these funds and so only a limited amount are proposed for park development. Funds are also limited to low income neighborhoods.

M=Lease Holder . The Parks Department leases out Triggs Golf Course to a private operator who is responsible for undertaking facility development projects.

The proposed capital development program projects spending of approximately \$13.0 million dollars during the 1991-1995 period. About \$9 million dollars of this would be from the state with the majority of the state money going to Roger Williams Park to meet a commitment from the 1989 State Environmental Management Bond. City funds would be concentrated on neighborhood parks. See the summary below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Other</u>
1991	\$2,811,000	\$984,000	\$1,680,000	\$147,000
1992	3,351,000	774,000	2,337,000	240,000
1993	2,490,000	635,000	1,430,000	425,000
1994	2,765,000	440,000	2,115,000	210,000
1995	1,651,000	175,000	1,476,000	-----
-----				
Total	\$13,068,000	\$3,008,000	\$9,038,000	\$1,022,000

The breakdown for City funds for the 1991-1995 period by source is as follows:

o 1987 Recreational Area & Open Space Bond:	\$1,047,000
o School Bond:	320,000
o Park Capital Account:	865,000
o Park and N.Burial Ground Operating Funds:	146,000
o Tax Incremental Financing:	300,000
o PRA	50,000
o CDBG:	280,000
	-----
TOTAL	\$3,008,000

In addition, the Plan proposes that the City expend \$150,000 for land acquisition with the funds coming from the 1987 Bond.



Department of Public Parks  
*"Building Pride In Providence"*

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members of the Committee on Urban  
Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning

FROM: Robert McMahon,  
Deputy Superintendent of Parks

DATE: May 28, 1991

RE: Proposed 1991 - 1995 Park, Recreation  
and Open Space Plan

---

Based on the comments received at the Committee meeting held on May 22, 1991, and from Council member suggestions, the following amendments to the Draft Plan are proposed for the full Council's review:

1. ISSUE: SUMMIT NEIGHBORHOOD PARK FACILITIES

p:4-32, New Facilities, 3rd Paragraph.

Delete sentences three and four and change to the following: "After several years attempting to acquire park and recreation sites in the Summit neighborhood, the city should acquire in 1991-1992 approximately 50,000 sq.ft. of land in the Summit neighborhood for the development of one or more neighborhood park(s). Located in the vicinity of the former Summit Avenue school, the proposed new park(s) should include playground equipment, basketball courts, tennis courts, and a volleyball court. These new facilities will address the significant park and recreation needs for families in the neighborhood."

p:6-11, Exhibit 6-3.

Justification for "Summit Avenue," should read "Replacement Recreational Facility."

p:10-8, Exhibit 10-1.

Change "cost" to \$170,000 and "Suggested Funding Source" to \$170,000/C for "Summit Avenue."

1 .  
Memo: Members of the Committee on  
Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning  
May 28, 1991  
Page 2.

p:10-15, Exhibit 10-2.

For "New Summit Avenue Park(s)" change "20,000 sq.ft." to "50,000 sq.ft."; change year from 1991 to "1991-1992"; change "Suggested Funding" from \$20,000/A to \$120,000/A,F.

p:10-18, Last Sentence.

Change \$150,000 to \$250,000.

p:11-16, Exhibit 11-4.

Add item "17." Mount Hope Recreation Center at East Side YMCA. Parks, CC, DPD, 1991.

2. ISSUE: NEUTACONKANUT PARK PARKING

p:8-10, Exhibit 8-3.

Under "Facility Expansion" add Neutaconkanut Park parking.

p:10-9, Exhibit 9-1.

Add project listing as follows: Neutaconkanut Park, 90, West Side, Additional Parking, 9, \$30,000, \$30,000/A,F.

3. ISSUE: JOHN CHAFFEE PLAYGROUND

p:9-13, Exhibit 9-3.

Under "Rehabilitation" add "John Chaffee Playground."

p:10-11, Exhibit 10-1.

Add project listing as follows: Chaffee Playground/John Hope Settlement Center, N-3, S-Side, Site Renovations, 8, \$30,000, \$30,000/L.

4. ISSUE: DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PLAYGROUND NEAR THE INDIAN VILLAGE HOUSING PROJECT

p:11-16, Exhibit 11-4.

Add item # "18: Upper South Providence: Additional Recreation Sites;" Parks, Department of Planning; 1992.

Memo: Members of the Committee on  
Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning  
May 28, 1991  
Page 3.

5. ISSUE: COMMUNITY GARDENS

p:10-10, Exhibit 10-1.

Add new project listing as follows: "Community Gardens, R-1, S-Side, Site Renovations, 8, 15, \$5,000/G, \$10,000/C.

6. ISSUE: FOX POINT FIELDS AND PLAYGROUNDS

p:6-11, Exhibit 6-3.

Under "Rehabilitation" add "Fox Point Fields."

p:10-11, Exhibit 10-1.

Add project listing as follows: "Fox Point Fields, 14, E-Side, Site renovations, 9, \$70,000, \$20,000/F and \$50,000/C.

7. ISSUE: CADILLAC DRIVE

p:10-11, Exhibit 10-1.

Under "Suggested Funding Source," change "\$100,000/K" to "\$100,000/C."

8. ISSUE: JOSEPH WILLIAMS FIELD

p:9-13, Exhibit 9-3.

Under "Rehabilitation," add "Joe Williams Field/additional safety fencing near houses."

p:10-9, Exhibit 10-1.

Add project listing as follows: "Joe Williams, 130, S-Side, Safety Fencing, 8, \$10,000, \$10,000/F."

9. ISSUE: WASHINGTON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

p:9-13, Exhibit 9-3.

Under "Rehabilitation" add "Washington Park Community Center Playground."

Memo: Members of the Committee on  
Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning  
May 28, 1991  
Page 4.

p:10-11, Exhibit 10-1.

Add project listing as follows: "Washington Park  
Community Center, P-1, S-Side, Site Renovations, 8, \$15,000,  
\$15,000/L."

10. ISSUE: FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Change p.10-18 as shown on the attached.

Williams Park to meet a commitment from the 1989 State Environmental Management Bond. City funds would be concentrated on neighborhood parks. See the summary below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Other</u>
1991	\$2,896,000	\$984,000	\$1,765,000	\$147,000
1992	3,406,000	919,000	2,347,000	240,000
1993	2,605,000	700,000	1,480,000	425,000
1994	2,765,000	440,000	2,115,000	210,000
1995	1,651,000	175,000	1,476,000	-----
-----				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,323,000</b>	<b>\$3,218,000</b>	<b>\$9,183,000</b>	<b>\$1,022,000</b>

The breakdown for City funds for the 1991-1995 period by source is as follows:

o 1987 Recreational Area & Open Space Bond:	\$1,067,000
o School Bond:	320,000
o Park Capital Account:	1,005,000
o Park and N.Burial Ground Operating Funds:	151,000
o Tax Incremental Financing:	300,000
o PRA	50,000
o CDBG:	325,000
	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,218,000</b>

In addition, the Plan proposes that the City expend \$250,000 for land acquisition with the funds coming from the 1987 Bond.



Department of Law

*"Building Pride In Providence"*

October 17, 1991

Michael R. Clement,  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Clement:

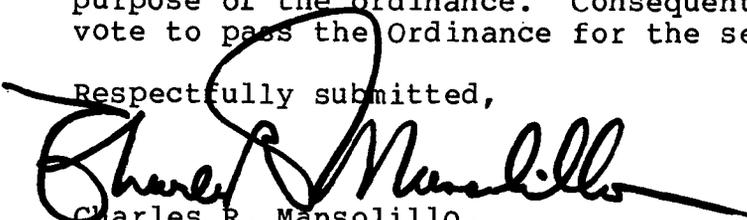
In response to your request for a legal opinion relative to the correct procedure for passage of an Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Providence Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, to wit; whether the Ordinance as passed for the first time by the City Council, and referred back to Committee for further study; and then is reported back to the full Council as further amended requires passage for the first time again or may be passed for the second time even though amended subsequent to its first passage.

Section 409 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980 provides:

"Every ordinance and resolution shall be introduced in written or printed form, and passed or adopted at each reading by a majority of the members of the city council then present. Every legislative act shall be by ordinance. When introduced, any ordinance requiring an appropriation of money for implementation shall bear a fiscal note prepared by the budget analyst stating the estimated annual cost of such ordinance. No ordinance shall be so amended in its second passage as to change its original purpose. (Underscoring provided). Ordinances making annual or supplemental appropriations shall be confined to the subject of appropriations."

In the instant case, although the details regarding acquisition of a recreational site in the Summit Avenue area are changed after the first passage of said Ordinance, there exists no change in the original purpose of the ordinance. Consequently, the council is permitted to vote to pass the Ordinance for the second time.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Charles R. Mansolillo,  
Deputy City Solicitor

PROVIDENCE PARK, RECREATION

AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

1991 - 1995

September, 1991

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., Mayor

Raymond Brown  
Director  
Recreation Department

Nancy L. Derrig  
Superintendent  
Parks Department

Michael A. Van Leesten  
Director, Department of  
Planning & Development

PROVIDENCE PARK, RECREATION  
AND OPEN SPACE PLAN  
1991 - 1995

September, 1991

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., Mayor

Raymond Brown  
Director  
Recreation Department

Nancy L. Derrig  
Superintendent  
Parks Department

Michael A. Van Leesten  
Director, Department of  
Planning & Development

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This document was prepared jointly by the Parks Department and the Department of Planning and Development with assistance from the Recreation Department, Department of Public Property, and the School Department. Staff who contributed to the Plan preparation were: Robert McMahon, Alan Goodwin, John Izzo, Joseph Mercadante, Elizabeth Petrone, and William Murray, from the Parks Department; and Linda DeCiccio, Thomas Dellar, Edward Grant, and Bruno Mollo, from the Department of Planning and Development. Special thanks to Robert Urbani of the Recreation Department for his invaluable assistance.

City Plan Commission Members

Jane Sherman, Chairperson

George Calcagni

William Collins

Louis DeSimone, Jr.

Susan Esposito

James Leach

James Petrosinelli

Board of Park Commissioners

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., Chairperson

Sally DeSimone, Vice Chairperson

Katherine Cullinan

Sally Dillon

Evelyn Fagnoli

Steven Triedman

Susan Weingeroff

**ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE PLAN**

To be provided by the City Clerk's Office.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments  
Ordinance  
Table of Contents

	<u>PAGE</u>
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Plan Objectives	1-1
1.2 Report Orientation	1-3
1.3 Planning Process	1-4
CHAPTER 2: BACKGROUND INFORMATION	
2.1 Municipal Characteristics	2-1
2.2 The Providence Economy	2-18
2.3 A Brief History of Providence Park System Development	2-20
2.4 Responsibility for the Park and Recreation System	2-24
2.5 Role of outdoor Recreation in Providence	2-27
2.6 Role of Open Space in Providence	2-29
CHAPTER 3: EXISTING RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES AND POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES	
3.1 Existing Facilities Inventory	3-1
3.2 City System Characteristics	3-1
3.3 Other Park and Recreation Facilities	3-16
3.4 Park and Recreation Programming	3-23
3.5 Additional Areas with Potential Recreation and Conservation Interest	3-36
CHAPTER 4: NEEDS ANALYSIS	
4.1 Introduction	4-1
4.2 Outdoor Recreation Pursuits of Providence Residents	4-1
4.3 Community Facility Standards	4-17
4.4 Factors Affecting Future Needs	4-26
4.5 Types of Needs Facing Providence	4-31
CHAPTER 5: DOWNTOWN DISTRICT	
5.1 Development and Demographic Trends	5-1
5.2 Existing Facilities	5-2
5.3 Needs and Opportunities	5-5
CHAPTER 6: EAST SIDE DISTRICT	
6.1 Development and Demographic Trends	6-1
6.2 Existing Facilities	6-3
6.3 Needs and Opportunities	6-8

(Table of Contents - Continued)

	<u>PAGE</u>
CHAPTER 7: NORTH SIDE DISTRICT	
7.1 Development and Demographic Trends	7-1
7.2 Existing Facilities	7-2
7.3 Needs and Opportunities	7-9
CHAPTER 8: WEST SIDE DISTRICT	
8.1 Development and Demographic Trends	8-1
8.2 Existing Facilities	8-3
8.3 Needs and Opportunities	8-8
CHAPTER 9: SOUTH SIDE DISTRICT	
9.1 Development and Demographic Trends	9-1
9.2 Existing Facilities	9-2
9.3 Needs and Opportunities	9-8
CHAPTER 10: PROPOSED POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS: CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	
10.1 Introduction	10-1
10.2 Policies and Recommendations	10-1
10.3 Priority Rankings	10-7
10.4 Financing	10-7
10.5 Summary	10-16
CHAPTER 11: PROPOSED POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATION: MANAGEMENT	
11.1 Introduction	11-1
11.2 Policies and Recommendations	11-1
<u>LIST OF EXHIBITS:</u>	
Exhibit 2-1 Existing Land Use Distribution in Providence	2-4
Exhibit 2-2 Providence's Changing Population Mix, 1980-1990	2-9
Exhibit 2-3 The 1990 Census Assessing Changes in the Nation's Population	2-10
Exhibit 2-4 Rhode Island's Newest Residents	2-11
Exhibit 2-5 Providence Public School Enrollment, 1985-1990	2-13
Exhibit 2-6 Estimated 1990 Providence Population: Age Cohorts by Planning District	2-15
Exhibit 2-7 Management of Providence Parks and Recreation System	2-26

(Table of Contents - Continued)

<u>LIST OF EXHIBITS</u> (Continued)			<u>PAGE</u>
Exhibit	3-1	Existing City Facilities: By Planning District	3-2
Exhibit	3-2	Existing State, Federal and Privately Owned Public Facilities	3-12
Exhibit	3-3	Providence Parks in National Register of Historic Places	3-17
Exhibit	3-4	Semi-Public Recreation Facilities	3-19
Exhibit	3-5	Services Offered by the Providence Community Centers	3-20
Exhibit	3-6	Community Gardens and Educational Areas in Providence	3-21
Exhibit	3-7	Annual Programming Activities in Roger Williams Park	3-25
Exhibit	4-1	Participation by Providence Residents in Selected Outdoor Recreational Activities, 1990	4-2
Exhibit	4-2	Providence Public Swimming Pool Program	4-8
Exhibit	4-3	Baseball Leagues and Fields in Providence	4-13
Exhibit	4-4	City of Providence Suggested Types of Parks: General Standards	4-18
Exhibit	4-5	Suggested Acreage Requirements Versus Actual Acreage for Providence Parks Based on Minimum Standards	4-21
Exhibit	4-6	City of Providence Suggested Outdoor Recreation Facility Development Standards	4-23
Exhibit	4-7	Ongoing and Near Term Downtown Community Development	4-29
Exhibit	4-8	Proposed New Park and Recreation Sites, 1991-1995	4-33
Exhibit	5-1	Downtown Planning District: Existing City Facilities	5-4
Exhibit	5-2	Downtown District Capital Development Needs and Opportunities, 1991-1995	5-7

(Table of Contents - Continued)

LIST OF EXHIBITS (Continued)			<u>PAGE</u>
Exhibit 6-1	Major Outdoor Recreational Opportunities in East Side Neighborhood Public Facilities		6-4
Exhibit 6-2	East Side District: Existing City Facilities		6-5
Exhibit 6-3	East Side District Capital Development Needs and Opportunities, 1991-1995		6-11
Exhibit 7-1	Major Outdoor Recreational Opportunities in North Side Neighborhood Public Facilities		7-3
Exhibit 7-2	North Side District: Existing City Facilities		7-4
Exhibit 7-3	North Side District Capital Development Needs and Opportunities, 1991-1995		7-11
Exhibit 8-1	Major Outdoor Recreational Opportunities in West Side Neighborhood Public Facilities		8-4
Exhibit 8-2	West Side District: Existing City Facilities		8-5
Exhibit 8-3	West Side District Capital Development Needs and Opportunities, 1991-1995		8-10
Exhibit 9-1	Major Outdoor Recreational Opportunities in South Side Neighborhood Public Facilities		9-3
Exhibit 9-2	South Side District: Existing City Facilities		9-4
Exhibit 9-3	South Side District Capital Development Needs and Opportunities, 1991-1995		9-13
Exhibit 9-4	Roger Williams Park Capital Development Needs and Opportunities, 1991-1995		9-14
Exhibit 10-1	Facility Development Projects, 1991-1995		10-8

(Table of Contents - Continued)

LIST OF EXHIBITS (Continued)		PAGE
Exhibit 10-2	Land Acquisition Projects	10-15
Exhibit 11-1	Proposed Neighborhood Park and Recreation Trust Fund	11-3
Exhibit 11-2	Potential Park Facilities to Consider Leasing to Private Entitles for Full or Partial Maintenance During 1991-1995 Period	11-4
Exhibit 11-3	Canada Pond Conservation Area Management Recommendations	11-11
Exhibit 11-4	Recommended Facilities Planning: 1991-1995	11-15

LIST OF MAPS: (Maps Follow Page Numbers Listed)

Map 1-1	Neighborhood Planning Districts	1-4
Map 2-1	Providence Topography and Water Resources	2-1
Map 2-2	Canada Pond Management Plan	2-2
Map 2-3	Roger Williams Park Pond System	2-3
Map 2-4	Silver Lake (1908 City Atlas)	2-3
Map 3-1	Providence Park and Recreation System	3-1
Map 3-2	Map of Roger Williams Park	3-14
Map 3-3	Semi-Public Recreation Facilities	3-19
Map 3-4	Areas With Additional Potential for Recreation or Open Space	3-25
Map 5-1	Downtown Planning District	5-1
Map 6-1	East Side Planning District	6-1
Map 7-1	North Side Planning District	7-1
Map 8-1	West Side Planning District	8-1
Map 9-1	South Side Planning District	9-1

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Plan Objectives:

The Providence park and recreation system exists in a dynamic environment. Every year the in-migration and out-migration of residents provide a changing set of users for the park and recreation system. City officials and state officials also change bringing a new set of values and priorities to city parks. Fiscal conditions, as witnessed in the first quarter of 1991 in the state and the city, can change almost overnight making one set of priorities obsolete.

Within this fluid environment, decisions have to be made about the Providence park and recreation system. To ensure that major decisions are made within a practical policy framework, the city, every five years, steps back from the day-to-day operation to develop a plan for developing and managing the system. The 1985 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan set forth a vision, strategies, and recommendations for the park and recreation system. It is now time to reassess the system, examine recreation patterns, and develop an up-to-date framework for the park and recreation system for the first half of the 1990's.

Many of the objectives of the 1985 Plan have been achieved. In the past three years, 45 neighborhood parks and a portion of Roger Williams Park were renovated (See Appendix C for list). Hazardous play equipment was replaced; new ballfields were built; worn out infrastructure was replaced; lighting, irrigation, parking, concession stands were added at many major facilities; thousands of trees and shrubs were planted to beautify public

spaces; historic landscapes, buildings, and statues were restored; and open space was acquired.

Significant strides were made in park maintenance, though there is still room for improvement on this front. Old maintenance equipment was replaced, maintenance manuals were developed for all renovated parks, and more seasonal employees were utilized to meet peak season demands.

On the programming front, the Recreation Department has expanded its offerings since 1985 and thousands of residents benefit yearly from recreation programs. As the city's population and interests change, programming efforts, however, need to be re-assessed.

This 1991 Plan evaluates existing park and recreation facilities in terms of the needs of the city's existing and projected population. In light of the renovation work done in the last three years and the city's changing population, it is useful to re-examine park and recreation needs and priorities. The Plan proposes policies and recommendations to address these needs and to guide the development and management of the park and recreation system for the next five years.

The development of this Plan also serves other important administrative objectives:

- It is the Park & Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan Series of Providence 2000: The Comprehensive Plan
- It provides Providence with continuing eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State park, recreation and open space grants.

- It coordinates with and encompasses state plans for the provision of outdoor recreation in Providence.

## 1.2 Report Orientation:

This report was prepared in conformance with the "Standards for Local Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Plans" issued in 1989 by the Recreation Resources Review Committee and the Rhode Island State Planning Council. The structure of this report attempts to follow the structure suggested by the "Standards."

Chapter Two provides the reader with background information that is useful to digest in understanding the context of the Providence park and recreation system. In Chapter Three the existing system is summarized and discussed. Also, additional open space and recreational opportunities are highlighted.

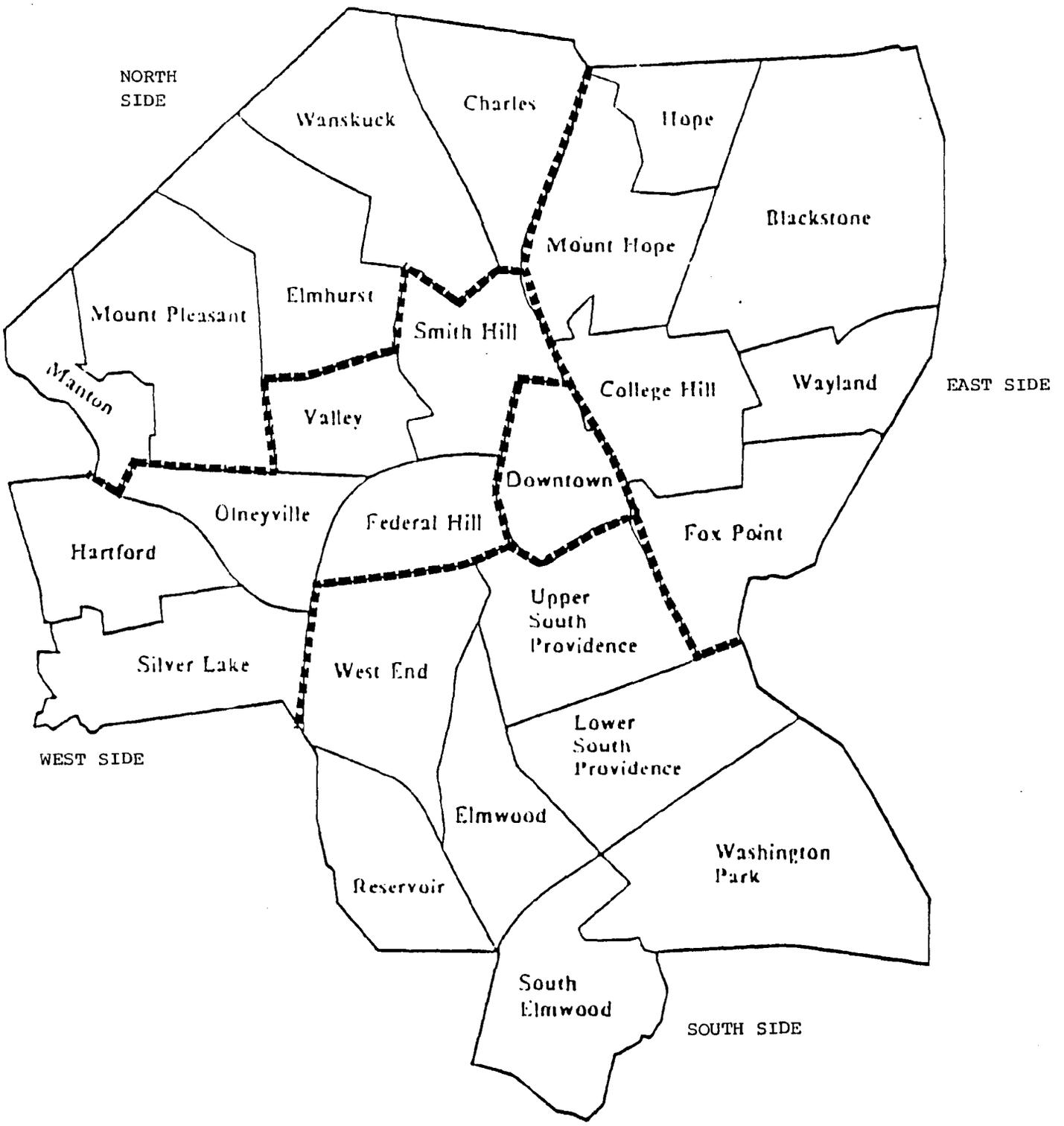
Chapter Four presents a summary of recreational patterns in Providence; proposed park and recreation standards; and discusses the general needs of the system. In Chapter Five through Nine, the report examines needs and recreation issues in five planning areas of the city: Downtown, East Side, North Side, West Side, and South Side. See Map 1-1 which shows which neighborhoods are encompassed in these planning areas.

Chapters Ten and Eleven present policies and recommendations to address the citywide and neighborhood needs. Chapter Ten focuses on capital development needs, while Chapter Eleven outlines management policies and recommendations.

In Appendix A, the inventory sheets for each site are presented. Appendix B, C, and D present additional information.

1.3 Plan Preparation Process:

To be completed after public review process.



**CHAPTER TWO**  
**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 Municipal Characteristics:

In this section, the major social, economic and physical features of the city affecting park and recreation planning are briefly discussed. See also, Chapters 5 through 9 for more detailed demographic information for each of the planning districts.

2.1.1 Location:

Providence, a medium sized city of 12,100 acres, is a central city in southeastern New England and the capital of Rhode Island. It is located at the head of Narragansett Bay, forty-three miles south of Boston and one hundred seventy-five miles north east of New York. To the west, Hartford is only one and one-half hours away by automobile; to the east, Cape Cod is equally nearby. New York, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. are just over an hour away by air.

Its strategic location at the head of Narragansett Bay, where a deep water port connects with main rail links and highway links between Boston and New York, provided the historic basis for Providence to play a dominant role in the region.

2.1.2 Physical Features:

Located at the head of Narragansett Bay, the city's topographical features include hills, plains, ponds and rivers. The city's low elevation is at the confluence of the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers. From there, the topography rises in easterly, northern and western directions. Separating the

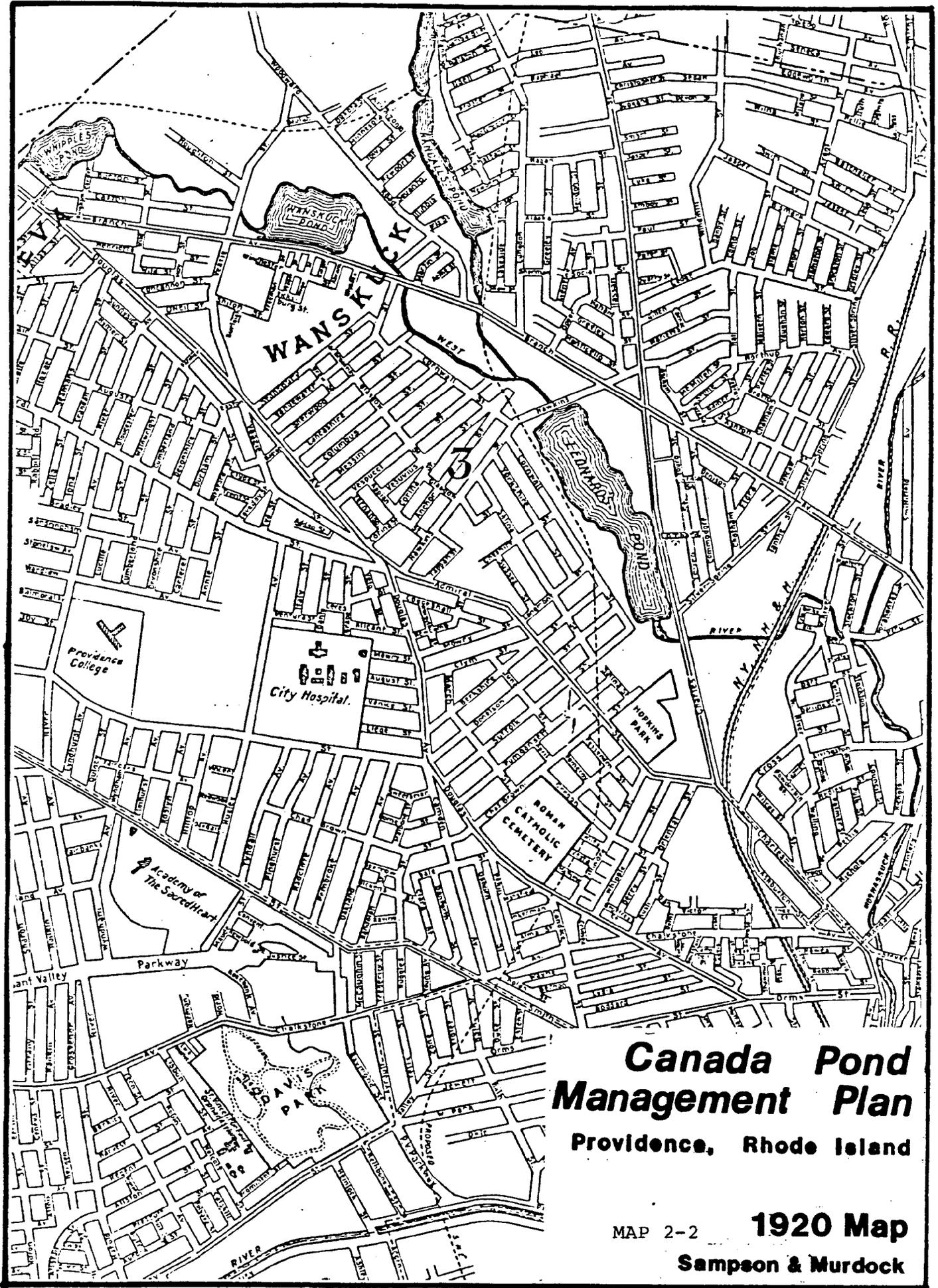
Moshassuck River Valley from the Seekonk River is the ridge formed by College Hill and the Mount Hope neighborhood.

Rising to the north and west is Smith Hill and Federal Hill. Further west lies the highest hill in Providence, Neutaconkanut Hill, which is more than 200 feet above sea level.

While the city's residents have largely turned their backs on Providence's water bodies today, the city's waterways once had industrial and commercial importance. The Woonasquatucket River Valley, flowing from Manton through Olneyville, Federal Hill and Smith Hill, was once Providence's "industrial heartland." Tens of thousands of workers were employed in sprawling plants along its riverbanks. The Moshassuck River was once the southern terminus for the Blackstone Canal, the early 19th Century attempt to link Providence to Worcester by water. And, of course, the waterfront along the Providence River and at India Point, once teemed with shipping, ship building, and other waterfront commerce. Map 2-1 illustrates Providence's existing water resources.

At one time there were scores of small freshwater ponds scattered throughout the city. Only a few remain. Canada Pond, 20 acres in size, is in the North End, and Mashapaug Pond, 69 acres in size, is in the city's South Side. Both of these ponds were once important economic resources. Both were used as a source of ice, and Canada Pond also supplied water for textile mills near its shores.

Canada Pond, like the ponds in Roger Williams Park, is man-made. There were once several man-made ponds serving the textile mills in the city. As seen in Map 2-2, there was an entire



**Canada Pond  
Management Plan**  
Providence, Rhode Island

MAP 2-2      **1920 Map**  
**Sampson & Murdock**

complex of man-made ponds in the North End (note Canada Pond was called Randall's Pond at the time) providing water for the Wanskuck Mills and other nearby textile plants.

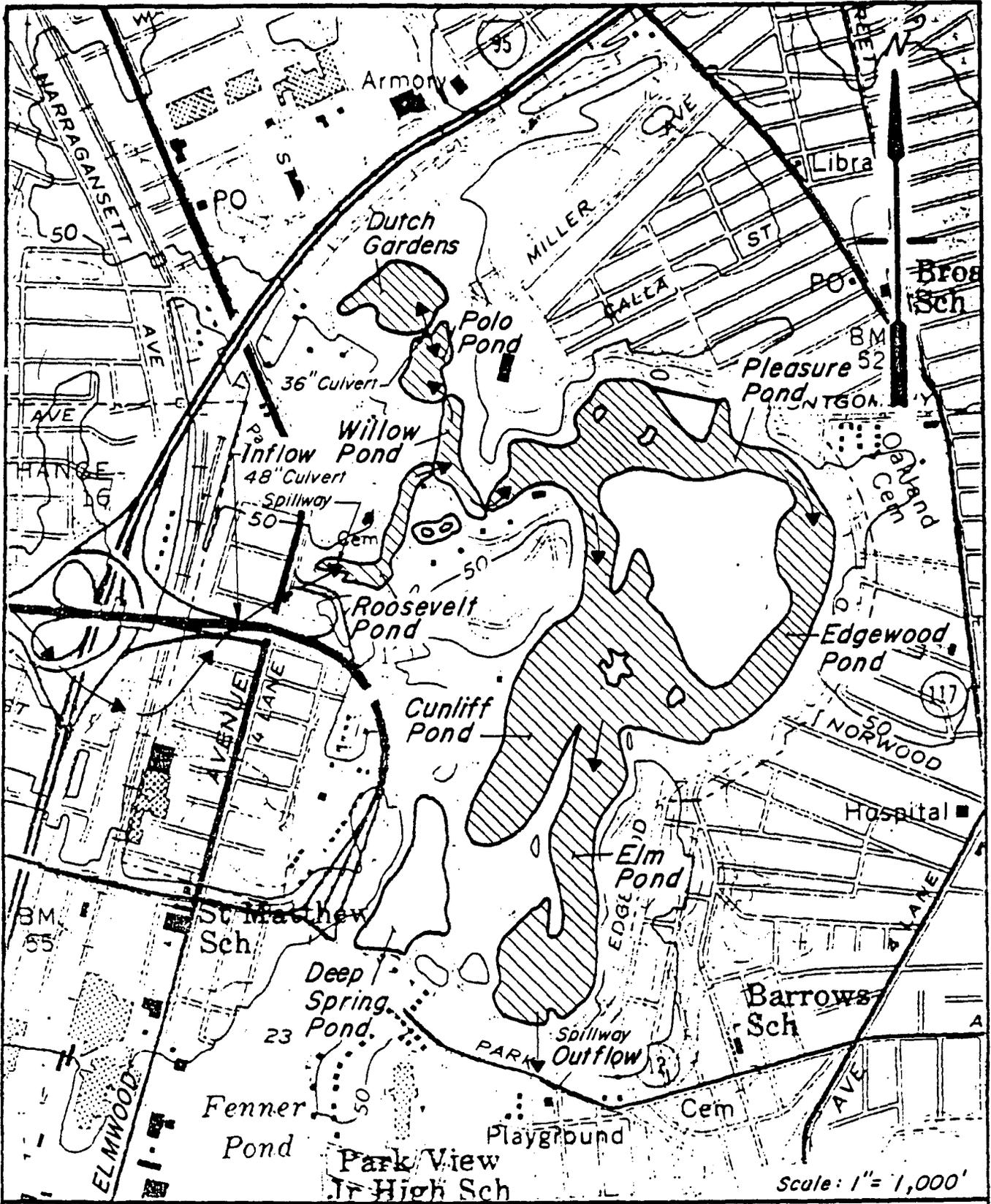
The man-made ponds in Roger Williams Park (See Map 2-3) total 105 acres and were developed in the 1880's when the Park was being developed. They were expressly made for aesthetic and park design purposes, which was unusual in Providence at the time. Only Deep Spring Pond in the Park is a natural water body and it is fed by underground springs.

The southern and western neighborhoods of the city in the 19th Century had several natural small ponds that were fed by groundwater. As urbanization took place and the city was paved, the shallow aquifers that fed these ponds lost their recharge areas and began to dry up. Gradually the city filled in these ponds to provide more land for development,. Map 2-4 illustrates where "Silver Lake" one was (now an Almacs store) and for which the neighborhood was named.

### 2.1.3 Land Use:

Exhibit 2-1 illustrates the breakdown of how Providence's 12,100 acres of land are used. Some observations:

- Providence was largely developed by the 1950's. Only 10 percent of the city is vacant, and much of that is unbuildable. New development is taking place largely as re-development.
- The percent of the city devoted to streets and highways is staggering. The construction of Route 10, Route 95 and Route 195 in the 1960's was responsible for the loss of thousands of housing units. On the plus side, Providence could not be a regional center without this highway system.



Scale: 1" = 1,000'

**PARE ENGINEERING CORPORATION**  
 Engineers — Planners — Landscape Architects  
 8 Blackstone Valley Place, Lincoln, RI 02865  
 401/334/4100

**ROGER WILLIAMS PARK  
 POND SYSTEM**  
 MAP 2-3

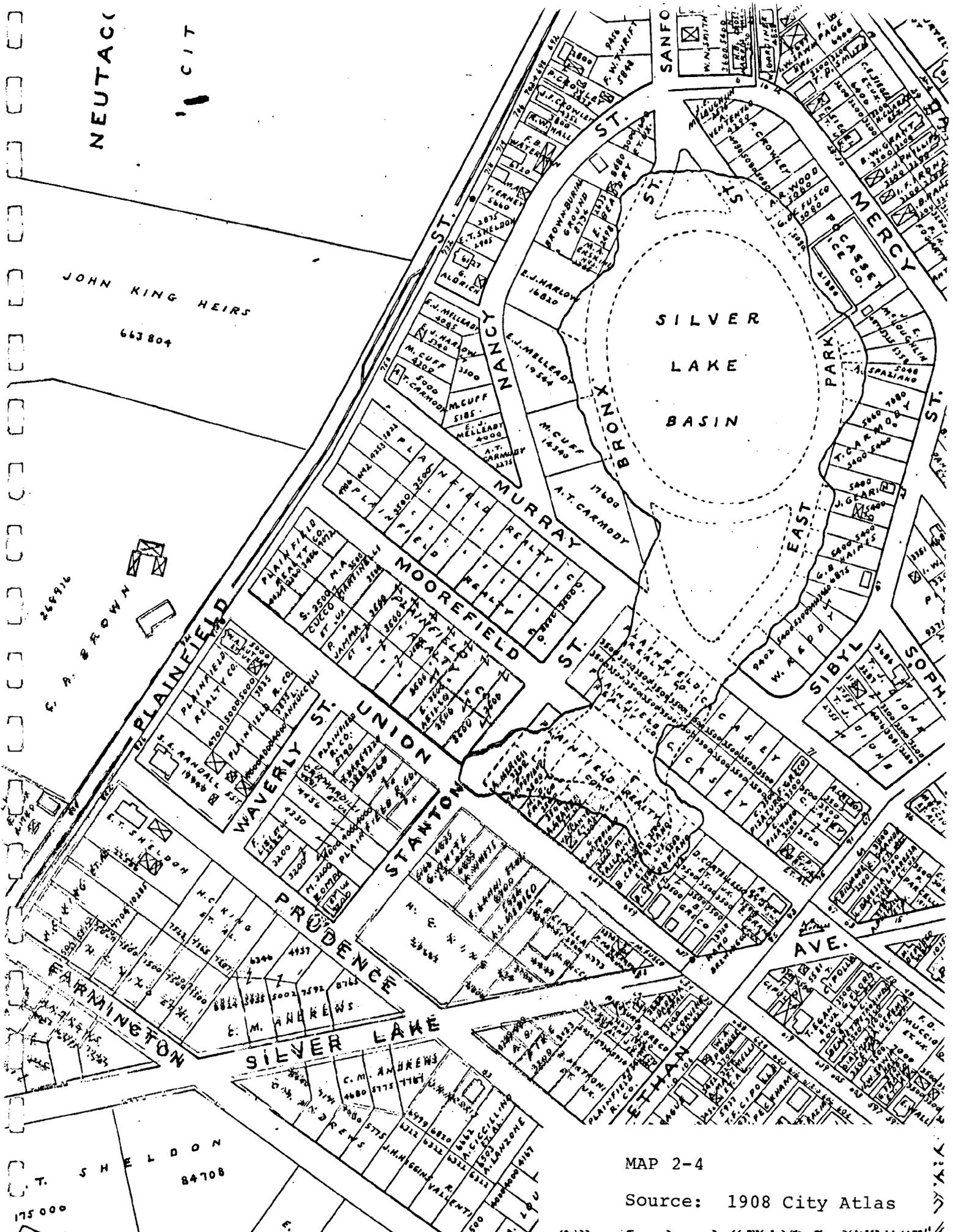
NEUTAC

CIT

JOHN KING HEIRS  
663804

248916  
C. A. BROWN

SILVER  
LAKE  
BASIN



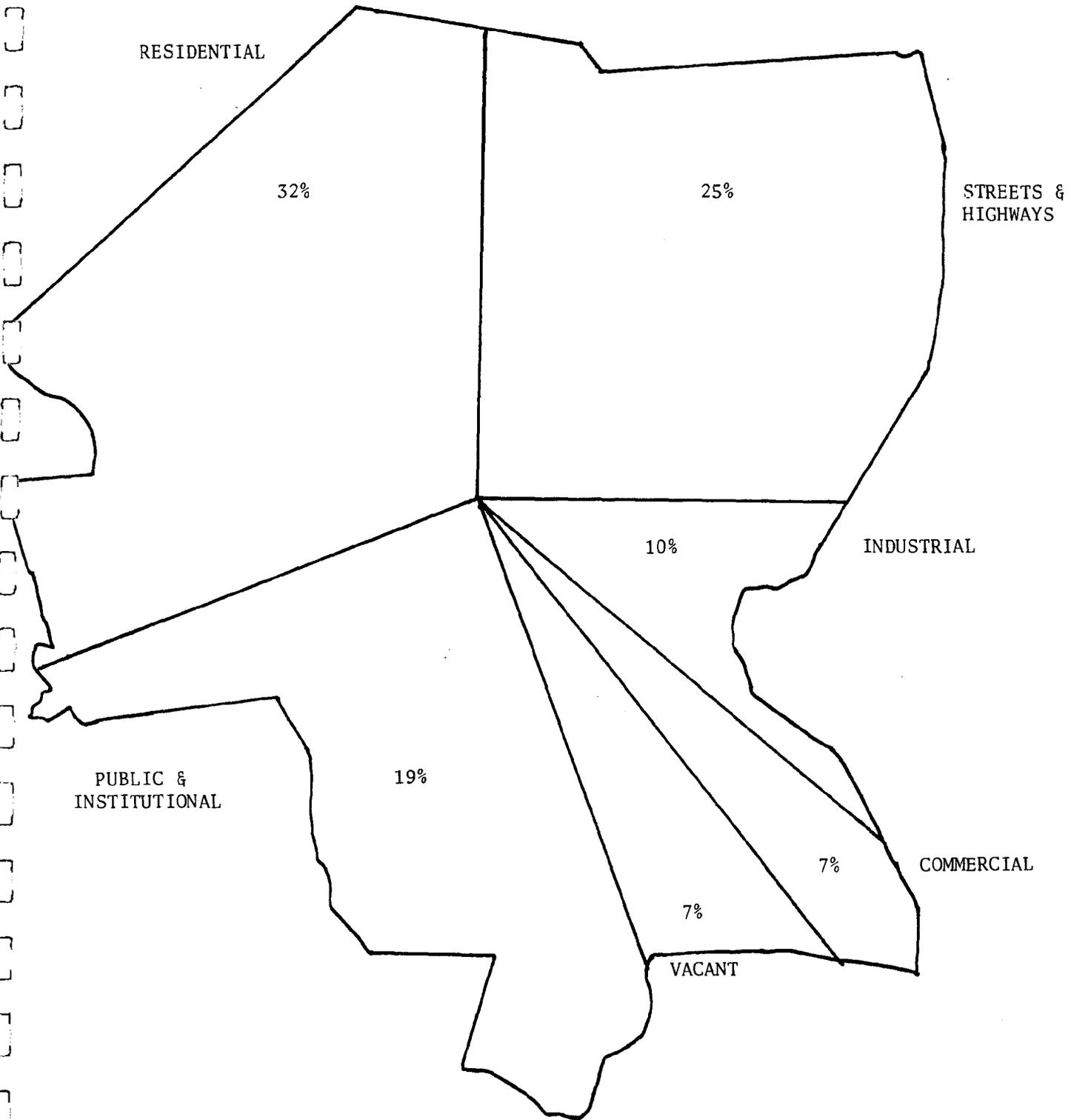
MAP 2-4

Source: 1908 City Atlas

T. SHELTON  
84708

175 000

EXHIBIT 2-1



EXISTING LAND USE  
DISTRIBUTION  
IN PROVIDENCE

- The amount of land tied up in public and institutional uses has both positive and negative impacts. On the plus side, many jobs are created by the hospitals, colleges and state offices on this land. On the downside, this land is tax-exempt. It should be noted that half of the city's public and institutional land is park and recreation.
- Between streets, highways, public and institutional land, 44 percent of the city's land is tax-exempt.
- In the residential category, it should be noted that about 70 percent of Providence's housing units are rental units. Home ownership in the city is relatively low. This helps to make Providence a city with a large transitory population. In general, a transitory population is not conducive to building, neighborhood stability and long-term concern for public spaces, such as parks.

#### 2.1.4 Fiscal:

The combination of significant amounts of tax-exempt land with growing social problems (see discussion below) is creating a dangerous fiscal situation in Providence. The city has significant per capita police and school costs because of social problems. To pay these costs, the city has raised taxes to the point where Providence has the second highest equalized tax rate in the state.

As the fiscal squeeze gets tighter each year, the city has raised taxes and also trimmed expenditures in many non-Public Safety departments. Thus, expenditures for park maintenance and recreation programming, for example, when adjusted for inflation, have declined over the past five years.

These are foreboding fiscal options. Increasing property

taxes will continue to drive out the middle-class from the city, exacerbating instability in the city's schools and neighborhoods. Paying for police costs at the expense of quality of life programs, such as parks and recreation, will hamper the city's ability to maintain its investment in the city park and recreation system.

#### 2.1.5 Population: The Changing Providence Mix:

At the time this report was being prepared, the 1990 Census information was just being released. The only information available for Providence in early 1991 was total population and ethnic composition. When this plan is updated, all available 1990 Census information will be incorporated.

Assistional population data for Providence was developed in 1989 by the Providence Department of Planning and Development through a consultant, CACI, Inc. Their estimate for Providence's population in 1990 -- 162,870 -- was fairly close to the U.S. Census estimate of 160,728. Thus, this report uses the CACI information, with some adjustments, for neighborhood population estimates and socio-economic characteristics. CACI also developed projections for 1994 which are adjusted to 1995 in this report.

#### Total Population

After decades of population loss, Providence turned the corner in the 1980's and registered a population increase.

Population figures since 1940 are as follows:

1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
253,504	248,674	207,498	179,116	156,804	160,728

While the gain from 1980 to 1990 is only 2.5 percent, it is encouraging that the city's population decline has bottomed-out, at least for now. The 1995 population forecast is for an additional modest increase to 163,500.

The reasons for Providence's population increase in the 1980's include:

- Significant development of new housing units;
- Renovation of existing housing stock rather than abandonment;
- Immigration of new families from Central and South America; immigration from Southeast Asia;
- Increased birth rate.

All of these trends offset migration out of the city.

#### Neighborhood Trends

Referring back to Map 1-1, it is useful to look at Providence's population in terms of the planning districts used in this report.

Population trends and projections for the five planning districts are as follows:

YEAR	CITY	EAST SIDE	NORTH SIDE	WEST SIDE	SOUTH SIDE	DOWN-TOWN
1980	156,804	34,762	38,763	36,013	45,221	2,045
1990	160,728	34,465	39,764	37,406	46,969	2,124
1995	163,000	34,000	40,100	38,400	48,200	2,300

As seen in these figures, four of the planning areas are estimated to experience modest growth, while the East Side is declining slightly.

In terms of park and recreation planning, the population totals for the South Side stand out. This area of the city,

which presently has modest park and recreation deficiencies, has a legitimate case for additional and renovated facilities. These needs are discussed further in Chapter Nine.

#### Racial Composition

The city's modest population growth since 1980 masks significant changes in the city's racial and ethnic composition. Overall, the city has experienced a major increase in minority population and a continued decrease in white population.

Exhibit 2-2 illustrates the changing mix of Providence's population. There have been dramatic increases in the Hispanic and Asian categories. These families were attracted to Providence for a number of reasons. The availability of unskilled jobs, relatively low-cost rental housing, and an existing supportive social network were all factors in this immigration as they have been in previous ethnic migrations to the city.

Providence's dramatic increases in Hispanic and Asian growth have helped to give Rhode Island the distinction of leading the nation in Hispanic and Asian population growth in the 1980's. Exhibit 2-3 illustrates this distinction. Providence currently has 52 percent of the state's Asian population and 55 percent of the state's Hispanic population.

The migration of the new immigrants to Providence has been felt most heavily in the South Side and West Side neighborhoods. This is illustrated in Exhibit 2-4 from the Providence Journal. As seen in this exhibit, Hispanic immigrants have come from a number of Central and South American countries. The dominant

## EXHIBIT 2-2

## PROVIDENCE'S CHANGING POPULATION MIX, 1980-1990

GROUP	1980	1990	CHANGE	% CHANGE
WHITE	127,320	112,404	-14,916	-11.7%
BLACK	18,546	23,828	+5,282	+28.5%
AMERICAN INDIAN	1,048	1,495	+447	+42.7%
ASIAN	1,694	9,547	+7,853	+463.6%
OTHER*	8,196	13,454	+5,258	+64.2%
HISPANIC ORIGIN**	9,071	24,982	+15,911	+175.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156,804</b>	<b>160,728</b>	<b>+3,924</b>	<b>+2.5%</b>

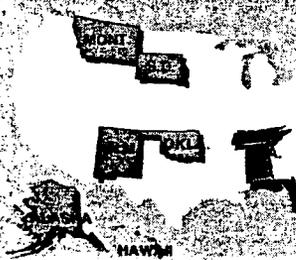
\* "OTHER" are people who do not specify a race.

\*\* Persons of HISPANIC ORIGIN are distributed in the White, Black, and Other categories.

# The 1990 Census: Assessing Changes in the Nation's Population

The Census Bureau's figures for states and the District of Columbia, broken down by race and Hispanic origin. People of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

## AMERICAN INDIAN, ESKIMO AND ALEUT



Largest Increase			
	1990 Pop.	Change from '80	% of Pop.
Alabama	16,506	117.7%	0.4%
Tennessee	10,039	96.7%	0.2%
Florida	36,335	88.7%	0.3%
Hawaii	5,009	84.2%	0.5%
New Jersey	14,970	76.3%	0.2%

Highest Concentration			
	1990 Pop.	Change from '80	% of Pop.
Alaska	85,698	23.7%	15.6%
New Mexico	134,355	26.6%	8.9%
Oklahoma	252,420	49.0%	8.0%
S. Dakota	50,575	12.5%	7.3%
Montana	47,879	127.9%	6.0%

## ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER



Largest Increase			
	1990 Pop.	Change from '80	% of Pop.
Rhode Island	18,325	245.6%	1.8%
N.H.	9,343	219.0%	0.8%
Georgia	75,781	208.6%	1.2%
Wisconsin	53,583	195.0%	1.1%
Minnesota	77,886	193.5%	1.8%

Highest Concentration			
	1990 Pop.	Change from '80	% of Pop.
Hawaii	685,236	17.5%	61.8%
California	2,845,659	127.0%	9.6%
Washington	210,958	105.7%	4.3%
New York	693,760	123.4%	3.9%
Alaska	19,728	144.9%	3.6%

## BLACK



Largest Increase			
	1990 Pop.	Change from '80	% of Pop.
N.H.	7,198	80.4%	0.6%
Minnesota	94,944	78.0%	2.2%
Vermont	1,951	71.9%	0.3%
Alaska	22,451	64.6%	4.1%
Maine	5,198	64.3%	0.4%

Highest Concentration			
	1990 Pop.	Change from '80	% of Pop.
D.C.	399,604	11.0%	65.8%
Mississippi	915,057	3.1%	35.6%
Louisiana	1,299,281	4.9%	30.8%
S. Carolina	1,039,884	9.6%	29.8%
Georgia	1,746,565	19.2%	27.0%

## HISPANIC



Largest Increase			
	1990 Pop.	Change from '80	% of Pop.
Rhode Island	45,752	132.2%	4.6%
Nevada	124,419	130.9%	10.4%
Mass.	287,549	103.9%	4.8%
N.H.	11,333	102.8%	1.0%
Virginia	160,288	100.7%	2.6%

Highest Concentration			
	1990 Pop.	Change from '80	% of Pop.
New Mexico	579,224	21.4%	38.2%
California	7,687,938	69.2%	25.8%
Texas	4,339,905	45.4%	25.5%
Arizona	688,338	56.2%	18.8%
Colorado	424,302	24.9%	12.9%

## WHITE

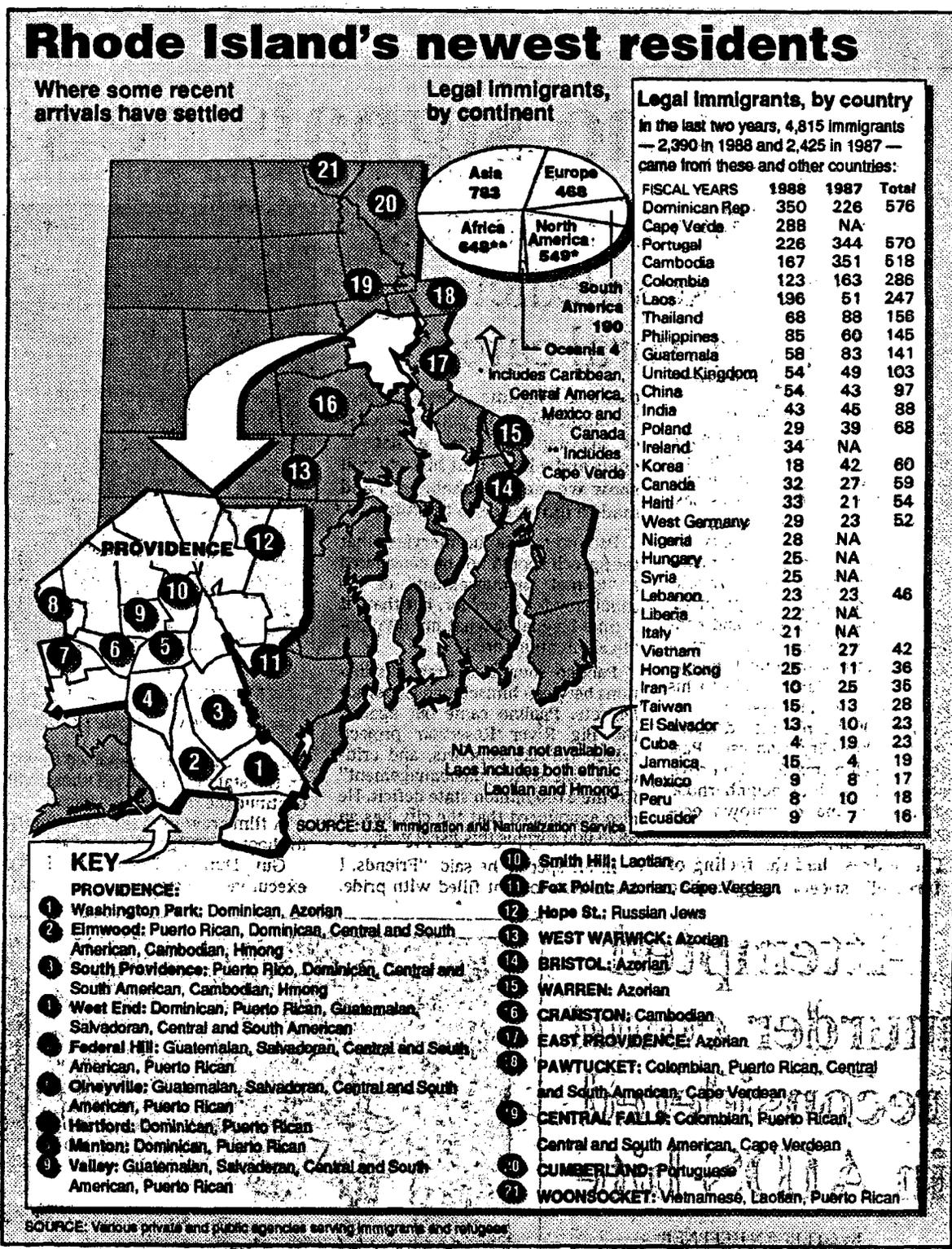


Largest Increase			
	1990 Pop.	Change from '80	% of Pop.
Nevada	1,012,695	44.6%	84.3%
Alaska	415,492	34.1%	75.5%
Arizona	2,963,186	32.2%	80.8%
Florida	10,749,285	31.3%	83.1%
N.H.	1,087,433	19.5%	98.0%

Highest Concentration			
	1990 Pop.	Change from '80	% of Pop.
Vermont	555,088	9.5%	98.6%
Maine	1,208,960	8.9%	98.4%
N.H.	1,087,433	19.5%	98.0%
Iowa	2,683,090	-5.5%	96.6%
W. Virginia	1,725,523	-8.0%	96.2%

EXHIBIT 2-4

# THE NEW RHODE ISLANDERS



countries of origin, however, have been the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Cambodians have been the dominant Southeast Asian group that has immigrated to Providence.

According to local agencies serving new immigrants, the Southeast Asian migration to Providence has largely ended with some families now moving to other communities. Hispanic groups, however, appear to be continuing to take up residence in Providence. The recent economic down turn in Providence and the state may, however, begin to limit this flow.

Unlike the new immigrants, Providence's black families live in virtually all neighborhoods of the city, but are heavily concentrated in the neighborhoods listed below:

Census Tract	Neighborhood	Percentage Black
C.T. 6	Upper South Providence	60.2%
C.T. 5	Lower South Providence	54.1%
C.T. 7	Upper South Providence	46.9%
C.T. 4	Upper South Providence	42.1%
C.T. 31	Mount Hope	37.7%
C.T. 32	Mount Hope	30.2%
C.T. 3	Elmwood/West End	29.5%
C.T. 14	West End	25.7%

There is no more dramatic evidence of Providence's changing population composition than recent trends in Providence public school enrollment. As seen in Exhibit 2-5, Providence public schools have a larger percentage of minority enrollment than the city's population as a whole. The ethnic diversity in the schools presents a formidable language challenge. Among Providence's almost 21,000 public school students, there are 76 different languages spoken.

#### Age Composition

Providence's population estimates by CACI, Inc. indicate the

**EXHIBIT 2-5****PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, 1985-1990**

YEAR	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	ASIAN	INDIAN	TOTAL
1985	8,979	4,923	3,309	1,842	85	19,038
1990	7,559	5,183	5,566	2,517	116	20,941
	<b>PERCENTAGE CHANGE, 1985-1990</b>					
	-16%	+7%	+68%	+37%	+36%	+10%
	<b>PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION</b>					
1985	47.6%	25.0%	17.0%	10.0%	.4%	100%
1990	36.1%	24.7%	26.6%	12.0%	.6%	100%

SOURCE: Providence School Department

following in terms of age group trends:

AGE	1980	1990	1995	% CHANGE 1980-1990	% CHANGE 1990-1995
0-11	23,311	24,912	24,114	+7%	-3%
12-21	31,513	26,199	26,357	-17%	+1%
22-54	61,366	69,738	73,804	+14%	+6%
55+	40,614	39,881	39,225	-2%	-2%
	156,804	160,728	163,500		

Several trends are apparent from this table:

- The increase in the 1980's in the 0-11 age group reflects the mini baby boom that occurred in Providence and that is reflected in the increase in the city's elementary school population. CACI indicates that this mini boom is expected to level off, but continued immigration into the city could result in an increase in this age group.
- The low birth rate in the 1970's is reflected in the significant drop in the 12-21 age group from 1980-1990. At long last, this age group is beginning to increase in the 1990's (much to the delight of the city's athletic team coaches).
- The growth in the 22-54 age group reflects the large number of people in the 30-44 age sub group.
- At odds with conventional wisdom, Providence's elderly population is not increasing. It is not expected to increase until after the year 2000.

Providence's age structure varies widely from one planning district to another and has important implications for park and recreation planning. Exhibit 2-6 presents information on age groups by planning area.

As seen in Exhibit 2-6, the number of people in the 0-11

**EXHIBIT 2-6****ESTIMATED 1990 PROVIDENCE POPULATION:****AGE COHORTS BY PLANNING AREA****(NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

AGE	CITY	EAST SIDE	NORTH SIDE	WEST SIDE	SOUTH SIDE	DOWN- TOWN
0-11	24,913	3,067	5,169	6,322	10,333	21
12-21	26,197	6,824	6,364	4,713	7,844	452
22-54	69,738	16,750	16,461	16,010	20,056	461
55+	39,881	7,824	11,770	10,361	8,736	1,190
TOTALS	160,728	34,465	39,764	37,406	46,969	2,124

SOURCE: Department of Planning and Development

CACI Study

age group is significantly greater in the South Side neighborhoods. Indeed, the South Side youth total is higher than the East Side, North Side and Downtown combined total. The relatively small East Side 0-11 age group makes it clear why the East Side-Fox Point Little League has to hustle to fill out all of its teams.

#### Income and Social Costs

Relative to other communities in Rhode Island, Providence is poor. In the past decade, Providence has seemingly made modest gains in median family income (see below). When state figures are available, however, the city's median family income is expected to be well below the state average.

	1979	1989
Providence Median Family Income	\$14,951	\$25,392

There are dramatic differences among Providence neighborhoods, as seen below:

<u>MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME BY NEIGHBORHOOD</u>			
<u>LOWEST:</u>		<u>1979</u>	<u>1989</u>
Census Tract	7 (Upper South Prov.)	\$8,254	\$12,372
Census Tract	12 (West End)	\$6,887	\$13,480
Census Tract	4 (Upper South Prov.)	\$8,385	\$14,299
<u>HIGHEST:</u>		<u>1979</u>	<u>1989</u>
Census Tract	34 (Blackstone)	\$39,500	\$69,155
Census Tract	36 (College Hill)	\$31,290	\$53,875
Census Tract	35 (Wayland)	\$23,921	\$40,034

These neighborhood rankings are the same as in 1979. Other low income neighborhoods include: Olneyville; Smith Hill; Mount Hope; Valley; and Hartford. In total, 24 of the city's 37 Census Tracts fall below the city's median family income. The city

estimates that 16 percent of the city's population (or about 26,000 people) live at or below the poverty level.

The city's low-income status is just one measure of the social problems that challenge Providence in the 1990's. According to the Mayor's Office of Policy, Providence's severe social costs are apparent by the following statistics (Providence has about 16 percent of the state's population):

- 56% of all drug arrests in 1990 in the state occurred in Providence;
- 46% of all the state's murders and rapes in 1990 occurred in Providence;
- 43% of all the ACI inmates are from Providence;
- 56% of all the Training School youth are from Providence;
- 42% of all the state's AFDC cases are from Providence;
- 55% of the births in Providence are to unmarried women.

#### Implications for Park Planning

The 1980's saw a building boom in Providence with condominium construction, the initial re-development of the city's waterfront, and the construction of new Downtown office buildings. This "boom economy," however, masked Providence's continued socio-economic free fall that started in the early 1960's. Providence is a poor city, and planning for future park and recreation facilities has to take this into account.

In broad terms, the Providence population trends have the following implications for park and recreation planning:

1. The increase since 1980 in the 0-11 and the 22-54 age groups requires continued focus on totlot equipment

and life-fitness activities for the city's middle age population.

2. The overall population concentration, and particularly the youth population, in the South Side make it a priority to address park and recreation needs in this area in 1991-1995.
3. The dramatic increase in new residents in Providence will require that the city and its semi-public institutions place a premium on integrating Providence's new residents into the political and decision-making mainstream to ensure that they have a stake in the city's park and recreation system.
4. Park and recreation programming should endeavor, in a modest way, to help address the prevention of the continuing social problems arising from the city's low-income status.
5. The tremendous number of social problems in Providence helps to fuel the city's high police and school costs. Quality of life services, like parks, will continue to be squeezed in Providence for operating support when stacked against police and school needs.

## 2.2 The Providence Economy:

The location of Providence, at the head of Narragansett Bay, had enabled the city to become both a water powered manufacturing center and a water borne trade center in the 18th and 19th centuries. The economy of Providence has been supplemented by service and government activities in the 20th century.

Today, Providence is the dominant industrial, commercial and cultural center and the seat of government in Rhode Island. The city is a major center of jewelry manufacturing in the western

hemisphere and home to some of New England's major financial institutions.

One of the most ambitious projects in the history of the city is currently underway. The Capital Center Project with the relocation of the Woonasquatucket and Moshassuck Rivers in the Downtown have provided substantial acreage for new development which will further stimulate economic activity in the city. The waterfront is a major asset in Providence; a framework for waterfront development has been established and several private projects are in the planning stages to complement public investment.

The Jewelry District, once a gritty factory zone, is swiftly becoming a major center of office employment. Promenade Center is experiencing an uplift with funds having been targeted to improve this historic industrial area.

It is not possible or appropriate to provide a detailed economic analysis in this report on the city's economy, but an overview will provide useful insight for park and recreation planning purposes.

- The city's overall private sector employment grew from 102,000 jobs in 1981 to 130,000 in 1990. This was during the boom economy; job growth has probably leveled off in 1991, and perhaps slipped to 125,000-126,000.
- The city's unskilled manufacturing jobs -- in jewelry and textiles -- continue to decline; though the decline appears to have temporarily stabilized.
- The economic growth in the 1980's occurred in the retail, financial services, insurance and real estate sectors.

- All of the growth areas of the 1980's have been hit by job losses in the last quarter of 1990 and first quarter of 1991.
- The Downtown has the largest concentration of jobs in the city, supplying about 30,000 jobs. The optimistic projections to fill Capital Center with 5,000-8,000 jobs is probably going to occur in a much longer time table than expected only two years ago. The 1991-95 time period is likely to see only modest increases in Downtown employment.
- If the 1991 recession in the state continues well into 1992, it may be difficult for Providence to achieve its projected 1995 population.

### 2.3 A Brief History of Providence Park System Development:

Evidence of concern for parklands in Providence first appeared in the City Charter of 1856. At that time, the city enacted the formation of a Board of Park Commissioners which was empowered with the responsibility to administer parks and recreation in the city. However, it was not until 1871 that land was acquired for parklands. It was then that Betsy Williams gave 100 acres of land to the city to be used exclusively as a park. That original gift was expanded and subsequently became the 430 acres of magnificent regional park known as Roger Williams Park.

Little attention was given to the provision of public recreation facilities by the city fathers. Numerous wooded areas and vacant land were the only sources of recreational space for neighborhood residents. The Providence and Seekonk Rivers and Narragansett Bay served citizens well in summer months.

Population statistics show that Providence grew at an astounding pace. The demands for planned recreation development

became evident. A plan was commissioned in 1935, and the city's first comprehensive plan for park development was presented. By 1940, population reached its peak of 253,540 people.

A Recreation Advisory Committee was formed in 1946 which came forward with standards for the development of recreation areas. This Committee also advised creation of a Recreation Department which later developed a modern well-rounded program of indoor and outdoor activities. Indoor recreation facilities and a swimming pool were constructed and the Department provided year round programming.

The pattern of growth for facility provision resulted in an uneven distribution of neighborhood parks and playgrounds. This inequity brought the focus of the next major plan to facility development. That plan was the 1953 Masterplan for Playgrounds and Playfields. The plan directed itself solely to the acquisition and development of playgrounds and playfields in areas of the greatest need. Realization of the proposals of that plan led to a \$2 million development program.

By the 1960's, great financial difficulty was facing cities in their ability to fund outdoor recreation acquisition, particularly for conservation areas. Realizing the urgency of this issue, the state enacted the Green Acres Act of 1964, establishing a \$5 million fund for the acquisition and development of land for recreation and conservation. The following year, the state established the Department of Natural Resources to supervise and control the protection, development, planning and utilization of the natural resources of the state. Also that year, federal government legislated the Land and Water

Conservation Act, aiding cities and towns on a 50-50 match basis for the acquisition and development of recreational, conservation and open space areas.

On the city level, Providence adopted its third ten-year master plan, The Master Plan for Public Recreation and Conservation, 1966. An ambitious plan, it proposed the development of sixty-seven new parklands ranging in size from totlot to playfield, and expansion of eleven existing sites. At the same time, the federal government had begun to develop the Roger Williams Memorial Park on North Main Street. The 1966 Plan, however, lacked a comprehensive capital improvements program and was only 50 percent effective.

In 1975, prompted by the concern for inadequacies in the park and recreation system, the city embarked on a directed effort to create a better environment for its citizens. It addressed the need for rehabilitation and proposed expanded recreational opportunity to include development of swimming pools, ice rinks, city wide parks and bike trails. Due to a lack of funds, many of the proposals were never realized.

In 1978, the federal government established the Urban Recreation Recovery Action Program (UPARR). The program was established for communities to compete for funds to revive and rebuild parks and recreation facilities and improve recreation programming and operations. One of the aims of the program was to encourage systematic planning at the local level. The city was granted funding to prepare a Recovery Action Program (RAP), which was approved in June, 1985 and was published for distribution as the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan,

1985-1990. The UPARR Program has provided this city with the financial means to address and resolve some very important recreation issues. Almost one million dollars was spent on park rehabilitation with UPARR matching funds.

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 were taken in developing a coordinated approach to planning for the system.

The City Council, in 1981, assigned over 100 additional parks to the Parks Department 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."

State voters have strongly endorsed efforts to expand open space and to upgrade existing park and recreation facilities at the state and local levels. Over \$100 million in funds were authorized by the voters in November 1987 and 1989 respectively for these efforts. These funds are allocated, not only to state initiatives, but to local communities as well. Funds for the local programs must be committed by fiscal year 1992.

Spurred by the State Open Space and Recreation Area Bonds and by the complementary \$15 million Providence Open Space and Recreation Area Bond of 1987, the Providence Parks Department launched a comprehensive program to renovate park and recreation sites in the city. To date, the 1988-1990 effort has resulted in the renovation of 45 neighborhood parks and the Phase I renovation of Roger Williams Park.

#### 2.4 Responsibility for the Park and Recreation System:

##### 2.4.1 Planning Responsibilities:

Providence is under a Home Rule Charter with a strong mayor-city council form of government. The Home Rule Charter of 1983 mandates a fifteen member City Council representing fifteen wards. Under the Charter, the Mayor appoints department heads with council approval. 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.

The City Charter rests all city-wide planning responsibilities with the City Plan Commission. The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) serves as staff to the Commission. The City Plan Commission, an independent city agency, is responsible for the development of the City's Comprehensive Plan and all other planning for the city.

All Parks, Open Space and Recreation Plans must be in conformance with the State Comprehensive Plan and the Statewide Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation Plan (SCORP), 1986-1991. Prior to their submission to the City Council, plans must be approved by the Providence City Plan Commission and the Board of Park Commissioners. Any plans affecting an historic area or buildings which are federally assisted are referred to the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission and to the Providence Historic District Commission if in a local Historic District.

#### 2.4.2. Management Responsibilities:

Presently, management for the city's park and recreation system responsibilities are apportioned among four agencies, including: Public Parks, Public Property, Recreation, and Public Schools (See Exhibit 2-7). And, although as mentioned earlier, the Department of Planning and Development is responsible for administration, planning responsibilities, the Parks Department is responsible for administration, planning,

**EXHIBIT 2-7****MANAGEMENT OF PROVIDENCE PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM**

TYPE OF FACILITY	RESPONSIBILITY			
	PARKS DEPT.	RECREATION DEPT.	SCHOOL DEPT.	PUBLIC PROPERTY DEPT.
<b>OUTDOOR</b>				
Pools		Recreation Programming		Capital Improvements, Maintenance
Conley Stadium			Capital Improvements, Maintenance, Athletic Programming	
All Other Parks, Recreation Sites, School Athletic Sites (109 Sites)	Capital Improvements, Maintenance, Special Event Programming	Athletic & Recreation programming; summer lunch programming		
<b>INDOOR</b>				
Recreation Centers		Athletic & Recreation programming		Capital Improvements, Maintenance
School Gyms			Capital Improvements, Maintenance, Athletic Programming	

design, and maintenance of its facilities.

In general, the Parks Department has responsibility for the majority of parklands in the city. School grounds are maintained by the School Department, except for the larger school sites and all of the athletic grounds which are maintained by the Parks Department. The Department of Public Property has a major maintenance role with responsibility for the indoor recreation centers and all of the city's pools.

The Parks Department and the Recreation Department share programming responsibilities for parks and recreation sites. The Recreation Department is responsible for coordinating all formal athletic permits, athletic clinics, providing youth recreation activities at the indoor recreation centers and selected outdoor parks, operating a summer lunch program at scores of indoor and outdoor sites, and providing youth and elderly transportation to certain events. The Recreation Department also provides a day of activities for various groups of elderly citizens at Camp Cronin in Narragansett, a 2.5 acre city-owned facility for outings by the ocean.

The Parks Department focuses on cultural, artistic and musical programs, primarily geared to adults, and primarily at Roger Williams Park. In addition, the Parks Department provides logistical support, such as sound systems and staging, to all of the Downtown and neighborhood festivals each year.

#### 2.5 Role of Outdoor Recreation in Providence:

Chapter 4 of this report discusses in detail the recreational patterns in Providence with respect to different

types of recreational activity. Chapters 5 through 9, which examine the five major planning areas used in this report, also discusses how recreational patterns vary across the city's neighborhoods.

As a prelude and an overview to the more detailed discussion that follows, the following observations are provided:

- Parks and recreation facilities have a long tradition in Providence for providing a relief from the city's urbanized environment. The motivation for the development of Roger Williams Park was "to provide the masses with an escape from urban ills."
- Neighborhood parochialism is significant in the public's perception of the park and recreation system. A concern for city wide park and recreation issues does not prevail. While loved by Providence residents, Roger Williams Park is sometimes perceived as a resource drain that affects neighborhood park and recreation services. River relocation and its resulting Providence River Walk is perceived as of little value to the neighborhoods.
- In low-income neighborhoods, accessible neighborhood park and recreation facilities are considered a "right" not an "amenity." User fees for recreation programming are an impossibility. Many Providence residents still resent the institution of the admission fee to the Roger Williams Park Zoo in 1987.
- In the "good old days," the Recreation Department provided supervised summer activities at virtually every neighborhood playground. In today's fiscal reality, this is not possible. In low-income neighborhoods, however, this type of service is still expected.
- Participation by the city's low-income youth in organized athletic activities is hampered by social

conditions. Children of single-parent families are less likely to participate in Little Leagues in Providence. The city's public high schools have significant problems in attracting and keeping participants on its athletic teams because of the need for low-income youth to work part-time.

#### 2.6 Role of Open Space in Providence:

The amount of non-developed open space in the Providence park and recreation system is relatively minor. Before the acquisition of Canada Pond in 1990, the only undeveloped open space in the system was the uplands area of Neutaconkanut Park and Blackstone Park on the East Side. And Roger Williams Park, while largely a developed landscape, also provides some undeveloped areas.

In general, there has not been a strong voice in Providence for open space -- at least when compared to the demand for developed recreation facilities. There is a more vocal and larger term tradition for the preservation of historic park spaces. Providence voters have supported DEM bond issues for purchase of open space throughout the state. But, the voters have not demanded the protection of Providence's natural resources.

There are exceptions, of course. The Blackstone Park Improvement Association has been a leader in the East Side for protecting existing park and open space resources. And North End residents approved the purchase of Canada Pond, only if it remained undeveloped. And, finally, Reservoir Triangle neighborhood residents have been staunch allies in the effort to prevent further development around Mashapaug Pond.

## CHAPTER THREE

### EXISTING RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES AND POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### 3.1 Existing Facilities Inventory:

As part of the effort to update the city's Plan, all of the public facilities in the Providence park system were re-inventoried. An inventory sheet for each site is enclosed in Appendix A. See Map 3-1 for the location of the facilities. See Exhibits 3-1 and 3-2 for a listing.

#### 3.2 City System Characteristics:

Providence is fortunate to have one of the most diversified public park and recreation systems in New England. In addition to traditional athletic facilities and local playgrounds, the 1,100 acre city park and recreation system contains a 435 acre Victorian-era park, Roger Williams Park; 7 miles of boulevards; 2 waterfront parks; 12 public plazas; a municipal golf course; and 28 historic statues. The total number of city-controlled park, recreation and open space sites is 149. One site, Camp Cronin, is located in Narragansett. All of the other sites are located in Providence. A portion of one site, the Canada Pond Conservation Area, is located in North Providence. Additional characteristics of the city-controlled sites are discussed below.

##### Athletic Facilities:

Providence not only supplies outdoor athletic facilities for its own residents and school athletic teams, but also for residents from throughout the metropolitan area. Thus, for example, one of the quirks in the recreation system is the number

EXHIBIT 3-1DOWNTOWN PLANNING DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIESDOWNTOWN:

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
1	Biltmore Park	.93	SU	Historic Statuary, Passive Park
2	Kennedy Plaza	1.75	SU	Historic Statuary, RIPTA Bus Area
3	Burnside Park	1.64	SU	Historic Fountain, Passive Park
4	Abbott Park	.18	SU	Historic Fountain
5	Cathedral Square	1.03	SU	Fountain, Passive Park
6	Trinity Mews	.15	SU	1,6

OTHER: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
149	Camp Cronin	2.5	CP	Near the Ocean

---

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 3-1 - CONTINUED)

**EAST SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****FOX POINT:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
9	Harborview Trail	N.A.	SU	10
10	Corliss Landing	.25	LP	Water View
11	India Point Park	18.0	CP	Water View,3,9,10
12	Veterans Mem. Park	.10	LP	Memorial Marker
13	East Street Park	.05	LP	Water View
14	Fox Point Fields	.54	NP	1,6,9
15	Fox Point Pool	.57	SU	Closed
16	Fox Pt. Sch./Grounds	.10	SG	
17	Brook/Arnold Plygrnd.	.40	LP	9
18	Fenner Square	.15	LP	Passive Park
19	Preston&Ives Plygrnd.	.40	LP	9
20	Roger Wlms. Landing	.92	LP	Passive Park,Historic Marker
21	Gano Street Park	8.3	CP	1,2,3,6

**COLLEGE HILL:**

7	Verrazano Park	.77	LP	Memorial Marker, Passive Park
8	Market Square	.28	LP	Passive Park
22	M.E.Sharpe Mem.Park	.23	LP	Passive Park
23	Prospect Terrace	.90	LP	Passive Park, Historic Marker
24	Hope High Fields	12.53	CP	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9
25	Hope High Sch/Grnds.	.50	SG	

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 3-1 - CONTINUED)

**EAST SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****WAYLAND:**

SITE #	FACILITY	AREA	SITE TYPE*	MAJOR FEATURES**
26	Constance Witherby Park	1.55	LP	Passive Park, Memorial Marker
27	Gladys Potter Park	1.24	LP	Passive Park,9
28	Patterson Park	1.23	LP	6,9
29	Blackstone Park	40.30	CA	Passive Park,10,Water Views

**BLACKSTONE:**

30	Blackstone Blvd.	19.30	NP	Historic Landscape,10
31	Lippitt Mem. Park	6.00	NP	1,6,9
32	Sessions St. Park	2.85	NP	1,2,9
33	Morris Ave. Totlot	.09	LP	9
34	Nathan Bishop Cts.	1.40	NP	6,7
35	Nathan Bishop Sch.	1.50	SG	

**MOUNT HOPE:**

36	M.L.King Sch/Grounds	.75	SG	
37	M.L.King Fields	2.15	LP	Passive Park,9
38	Billy Taylor Park	1.85	NP	6,9
39	Mt.HopeComm.Gardens	.20	SU	Community Gardens
40	Peach Street Plygrnd.	.09	LP	9
42	Collyer Park	2.66	NP	5
43	North Burial Ground	109.3	SU	5

**HOPE:**

41	Rochambeau Park	.04	LP	Passive Park
----	-----------------	-----	----	--------------

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility; CA=Conservation Area

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Plygrnd Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 3-1 - CONTINUED)

**NORTH SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****CHARLES:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
44	Hopkins Park	7.8	NP	2
45	Esek Hopkins Hmstead	1.1	SU	Historic House
46	Chad Brown Plygrnd.	.3	LP	9
47	Corliss Park	5.9	NP	2,6,7,9
48	Esek Hopkins Sch.	.1	SG	
49	Prete-Metcalf Flds.	11.36	NP	1,6
50	Hopkins Square	1.0	LP	Passive Park, Historic Statuary
51	Windmill Sch. Annex I	.5	SG	
52	Ascham Street Park	1.72	LP	2,9
53	Windmill St. Sch/Grnds	1.0	SG	Arboretum
54	Canada Pond	22.8	CA	10

**WANSKUCK:**

55	Wanskuck Park	24.5	NP	Passive Park
56	Windmill Sch. Annex II	.4	SG	
57	Veazie Street Park	4.49	NP	5,9

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility; CA=Conservation Area

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 3-1 - CONTINUED)

**NORTH SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****ELMHURST:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
58	R.F.Kennedy School	.30	SG	
59	Fargnoli Park	3.05	NP	1,6,7,9
70	Pleasant Valley Pkwy	3.46	SU	10
71	N.Greene Sch/Grnds.	2.12	SG/LP	9

**MOUNT PLEASANT:**

60	Trinity Parkway	.44	SU	10
61	Mt. Pleasant Fields	17.8	CP	1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10
62	Mt.Pleasant Sch/Grnds	1.5	SG	
63	Conley Stadium	4.0	CP	5,8
64	TriggsMem.GolfCourse	161	SU	18 Hole,6900 Yd. Course
65	Obediah Brown Fields	9.4	CP	2
66	Pleasant View School Grounds	3.5	SG/SU	Indoor Pool
68	George West Park	4.28	NP	1,6,9
69	George West Sch/Grnds	.25	SG	

**MANTON:**

67	Viscolosi Park	.88	LP	9
----	----------------	-----	----	---

---

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 3-1 CONTINUED)

**WEST SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****SMITH HILL:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
72	Chalkstone/Oakland	.80	SU	Vacant Site
73	Camden Ave. School	.10	SG	
74	Danforth St. Plygrnd.	1.57	NP	3,6,9
75	DanforthPool/Rec.Ctr	3.15	SU	Pool & Recreation Center
76	Candace St. Plygrnd.	1.75	NP	6,9
77	Boyle Park	.01	LP	Passive Park
78	Promenade RiverWalk	.25	SU	Under Development

**VALLEY:**

79	Davis Park	10.05	CP	1,2,6,9,10,Volleyball
80	Regent Ave. Plygrnd.	.89	LP	9

**OLNEYVILLE:**

81	Donnigian Mem.Park	4.49	NP	2,6,9
82	Joslin Pool/Rec.Ctr.	1.57	SU	Pool & Recreation Center
83	Joslin Fields	.83	LP	2,9
84	D'Abate Sch/Grnds.	.50	SG	

**HARTFORD:**

85	Laurel Hill Ave. Playground	2.5	LP	9
86	Laurel Hill Ave. School Grounds	.25	SG	
87	Perry School Fields	3.28	LP	5
88	Perry Sch/Grounds	.30	SG	
148	Merino Park	13.27	NP	Closed

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Plygrnd Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 3-1 - CONTINUED)

**WEST SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****SILVER LAKE:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
89	Almagno Pool	1.57	SU	Pool
90	Neutaconkanut Park	73.17	NP/CP/CA	1,2,3,5,6,9,10
91	Daniel Ave. Plygrnd.	1.18	LP	6,9
92	Scalabrini Piazza	.29	LP	Passive Park
93	Cerbo Square	.10	LP	Passive Park
94	Clarence St. Park	1.0	LP	9
95	Webster Ave. Sch.	.25	SG	
96	Wallace St. Park	3.4	NP	1,6,9,10

**FEDERAL HILL:**

97	Bridgham Sch/Grnds.	.20	SG	
98	Bridgham Fields	2.31	NP	1,6,7
99	Ridge St. Plygrnd.	.63	LP	6,9
100	Atwells Ave. Sitting Area	.04	LP	Passive Park
101	Knight St. Plygrnd.	.58	LP	6,9, Street Hockey
102	Zuccolo Pool/Rec. Ctr	.93	SU	Pool & Recreation Center
103	DePasquale Plaza	.27	LP	Passive Park, Fountain
104	Lauro School	.44	SG	
105	Garibaldi Square	.53	LP	Passive Park

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility; CA=Conservation Area

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 3-1 - CONTINUED)

**SOUTH SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****WEST END:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
106	Central-Classical School Grounds	.60	SG	
107	Central-Classical Fields	7.92	NP	2,4,8
108	Cranston St. Park	.49	LP	9,Volleyball
109	Codding Ct.Plygrnd	.5	LP	9
110	Dexter Trng. Grnds.	9.10	NP	2,9,10
111	Ellery St. Park	.92	LP	6,9
112	Asa Messer School Grounds	.22	SG	
113	Mansion Park	1.72	LP	Passive Park
114	Waldo St. Totlot	.40	LP	9
115	Diamond St. Totlot	.03	LP	9
116	Warren Ave.Plygrnd	.35	LP	9
117	McCrane Pool	1.57	SU	Pool
118	Bucklin Park	5.52	NP	1,2,4,5,6,9
119	Gilbert Stuart School Grounds	1.40	SG	
120	Burnett St.Park	.04	LP	Vacant

**RESERVOIR:**

123	Senior Citizens Ctr.	.10	SU	Indoor Senior's Center
124	Columbus Square	.21	LP	Passive Park,Historic Statuary
125	Reservoir Ave. School Grounds	.20	SG	
126	Ardoene Park	4.5	NP	1,6,9

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park;  
MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use  
Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer  
Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields;  
6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track;  
9=Plygrnd Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 3-1 - CONTINUED)

**SOUTH SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****ELMWOOD:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
121	NiagaraSt.Park	.18	LP	6,9
122	Locust GroveCemetary	8.0	SU	Historic House
127	Sackett St. School Grounds	.7	SG	
128	Sackett St. Park	2.21	LP	2,6,9
129	Cadillac Drive	3.5	SU	Vacant

**SOUTH ELMWOOD:**

130	Joseph Williams Park	5.3	NP	1,9
131	Roger Williams Park	435	MP/CP	1,7,9,10 (also, see Exhibit ___)

**WASHINGTON PARK:**

132	Washington Park Sq.	.15	LP	Passive Park
133	Broad St. Sch/Grnds.	.3	SG	
134	Columbia Park	.66	LP	6,9
135	Drummond Field	2.75	NP	3

**LOWER SOUTH PROVIDENCE:**

136	Richardson Park	3.2	LP	2,6
137	Roger Williams School Grounds	1.0	SG	
138	Fogarty Sch/Grnds.	.7	SG	
139	Harriet&Sayles Park	2.05	NP	2,6,9
140	Baxter St. Park	.07	LP	Vacant
141	Salisbury St.Totlot	.08	LP	6,9

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park;  
MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use  
Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer  
Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields;  
6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track;  
9=Plygrnd Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 3-1 - CONTINUED)

**SOUTH SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****UPPER SOUTH PROVIDENCE:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
142	Mattie L. Smith Totlot	.06	LP	9
143	Alphonso St. Totlot	.05	LP	Undeveloped
144	Flynn School/Grounds	1.0	SG	
145	Dudley Pool/Rec.Ctr	1.57	SU	Pool & Recreation Center
146	Dudley St. Plygrnd.	.59	LP	9
147	Pearl St. Park	.30	LP	Undeveloped

---

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park;  
MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use  
Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer  
Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields;  
6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track;  
9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging  
trail

**EXHIBIT 3-2****EXISTING STATE, FEDERAL, PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC FACILITIES**

<b>SITE #</b>	<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>SITE TYPE*</b>	<b>MAJOR FEATURES**</b>
<b>STATE:</b>				
A	State House Grounds	11.25	RP	Passive Area
B	Station Park	3.2	CP	Passive Area
L	J.T. Owens Field	8.2	NP	1,7
M	Dyerville Park	9.1	RP	Undeveloped
N	R.I. College	140.0	RP	5,8
O	R.I. School for the Deaf	4.1		
<b>FEDERAL:</b>				
C	Roger Wlms. Memorial National Park	5.0	RP	Passive Park, Visitors Center
<b>PRIVATE:</b>				
D	Amica Plaza	.1	LP	Passive Park
E	Hospital Trust Plaza	.1	LP	Passive Park, Fountain
F	Columbus Bank Plaza	.1	LP	Passive Park
G	Old Colony Bank Plaza	.05	LP	Passive Park
H	Empire Plaza	.1	LP	Passive Park
I	AT&T Plaza	.05	LP	Passive Park
J	Old Stone Square	.3	LP	Passive Park
K	Citizens Plaza	.05	LP	Passive Park

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Plygrnd Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

of dedicated softball fields in the city, which number 22 as of 1990. The demand for softball is strong because of the number of softball leagues comprised of people who work in the city but do not live here. The breakdown of city-owned athletic facilities is shown below:

<u>OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES</u>		<u>INDOOR RECREATION CENTERS</u>
- Little League Fields	17	- Danforth
- Baseball Fields	10	- Joslin
- Softball Fields	22	- Dudley
- Football Fields	6	- Zuccolo
- Soccer Fields	9	- M.L. King School*
- Swimming Pools	6	- R.F. Kennedy School*
- Basketball Courts	33	- Bridgham School*
- Tennis Courts	32	- Fox Point School*
- Jogging Tracks	4	
- Volleyball Courts	3	
- Golf Course	1	* Part-Time/Seasonal

The Pool and Recreation Centers are not controlled by the Parks Department, but by the Department of Public Property, with programming and staffing done by the Recreation Department. Given Providence's lack of fresh water or salt water swimming sites, the pools are the only means for inner-city families to enjoy swimming in the hot weather months. During the winter months, the indoor recreation centers serve a critical need for the community.

Several sites offer multiple opportunities for athletic pursuits. The largest and most diversified sites in the city that serve several neighborhoods are the following:

---

<u>SITE</u>	<u>SERVICE AREA</u>
Gano Street	East Side
Hope High Fields	East Side
Prete-Metcalf Fields	North Side
Davis Park	North Side/West Side
Mount Pleasant Fields	North Side
Neutaconkanut	West Side
Bucklin Park	South Side
Roger Williams Park	South Side

---

Playgrounds with Play Equipment:

The neighborhood playground is the core facility for families with young children. There are currently 43 city sites with play equipment.

Play equipment varies from slides and swings at some sites to elaborate "play structures" at 25 sites. While the new play structures offer a variety of play opportunities, the basic playground swing still remains one of the most popular pieces of play equipment.

Roger Williams Park:

The jewel of the city's park and recreation system is Roger Williams Park (See Map 3-2. The park is one of the few late nineteenth century urban parks that remains largely unchanged from its Victorian heyday. The Park serves many functions. It is a neighborhood park for the Washington Park, Elmwood and South Elmwood neighborhoods. It is a city-wide park with visitors from

every neighborhood using the different facilities, and the Park is a statewide and regional resource. The Zoo, the Museum, the Greenhouses, the Carousel, and events at the Temple to Music attract visitors from a 75 mile radius.

Listed below are the significant features and facilities:

---

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK FEATURES:

- 435 total acres;
  - 115 acres of lakes;
  - 230 species of trees;
  - 3 formal flower gardens;
  - 5 historic bridges;
  - 10 miles of roads;
  - 9 historic statues;
  - Entire Park on National Register of Historic Places.
- 

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK FACILITIES:

- Largest Zoo in New England, with 450,00 annual attendance;
  - Only Museum of Natural History in the region;
  - Casino -- 150 events per year;
  - Temple to Music;
  - Bandstand;
  - Boathouse;
  - Betsey Williams Cottage;
  - C.H. Smith Greenhouse;
  - New Carousel Building.
- 

Since the Park first opened in 1878, succeeding generations of Rhode Islanders have embraced the Park. Taking a picture on

the Hoppin dog statue at the Zoo, strolling through the Rose Garden, listening to a concert at the Temple to Music or at the Bandstand --these are just some of the Roger Williams Park traditions that have been passed down by generations of Rhode Islanders.

#### Historic Areas:

Providence is blessed with an abundance of historic buildings, sites, and facilities. Many city parks are located in districts entered on the National Register of Historic Places. In fact, some city parks are themselves entered as individual listings on the National Register. The complete listing of Parks on the National Register is shown in Exhibit 3-3.

#### 3.3 Other Park and Recreation Facilities:

The city is not the only provider of park and recreation facilities in Providence. Providence is fortunate to have a large number of other publicly and privately owned facilities that have access to the public for park and recreation purposes. Exhibit 3-1 lists these facilities and they are located on Map 3-1.

The Downtown workforce has benefited greatly by the provision of public space by local businesses. As seen in the list, there are currently seven (7) sites owned and maintained by Downtown businesses. From a cost-benefit standpoint, this is appropriate since it is the workforce of Downtown firms that are the primary beneficiaries of these public spaces.

The state also has a park and recreation presence in the city, particularly in the Capital Center area which will also see

EXHIBIT 3-3

## PROVIDENCE PARKS ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PARK	DISTRICT
Roger Williams Park	Individual Listing
North Burial Ground	Individual Listing
Esek Hopkins Homestead	Individual Listing
Wanskuck Park	Wanskuck Historic District
Hope High School/Fields	College Hill
Brown Street Totlot	College Hill
Prospect Terrace	College Hill
Verrazano Park	College Hill
Market Square	College Hill
India Point Park (partial)	College Hill
Brook & Arnold	College Hill
Harborview Trail	College Hill
Kennedy Plaza	Downtown
Biltmore Park	Downtown
Trinity Mews	Downtown
Abbott Park	Downtown
Lauro School Grounds	Broadway-Armory
Dexter Training Ground	Broadway-Armory
Asa Messer School Grounds	Broadway-Armory
Columbus Square Park	Elmwood (Southern Section)

the development soon of Waterplace Park. Rhode Island College and J.T. Owens Fields both provide valuable neighborhood recreation opportunities.

Ironically, Rhode Island's only present National Park, the Roger Williams Memorial, on North Main Street, is probably the least visited and appreciated by Providence and Rhode Island residents. While some downtown workers use the Park at noontime, most of the visitors to the visitors center are from out of state.

A very valuable element in the park and recreation system in Providence is the semi-public facilities owned by non-profit institutions. As seen in Exhibit 3-4 and Map 3-3, the number of semi-public facilities in the city is extensive. The term "semi-public" is applied to these facilities because there are either some restrictions in terms of who can use the facility, or there is a modest fee for use.

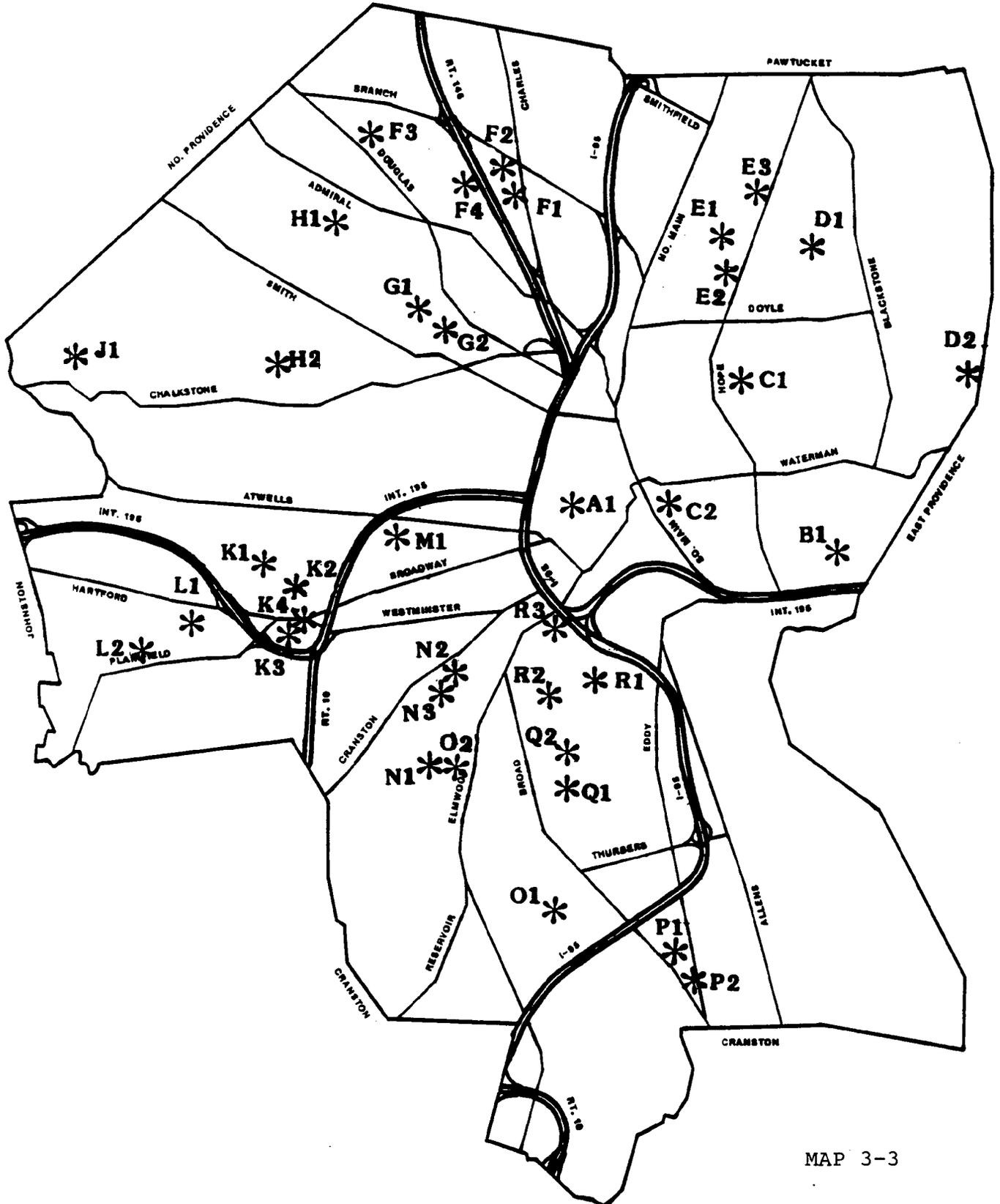
The Providence community centers are important semi-public facilities in the city. The recreation services vary widely from one center to another, but all provide recreational opportunities for seniors and for youth. Exhibit 3-5 summarizes all of the community center services.

One of the newer non-profit providers of recreational space in the city is the Southside Community Land Trust. This group has converted scores of vacant lots in South Providence and Smith Hill into productive community gardens used by over 200 families in the area. Exhibit 3-6 lists the neighborhood community gardens.

**SEMI-PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES**EXHIBIT 3-4

A1	Providence Public Library (Main Branch)	K1	Joslin Community Center
B1	Fox Point Boys/Girls Club Providence Public Library (Fox Point Branch)	K2	Nickerson House/Senior Center
C1	Brown University Gymnasium/ Pool/Fields	K3	Olneyville Boys/Girls Club
C2	RISD Museum of Art	K4	Providence Public Library (Olneyville Branch)
D1	Jewish Community Center of R.I.	L1	Hartford Park Community Center
D2	Narragansett Boat Club	L2	Hope Neighborhood Center/ Silver Lake Senior Center
E1	Mt. Hope Community Center	M1	Federal Hill House
E2	East Side Y.M.C.A.	N1	West End Community Center
E3	Providence Public Library (East Side Branch)	N2	St. Martin De Porres Center
F1	DaVinci Center	N3	John Hope Settlement House
F2	Wanskuck Boys/Girls Club	O1	Elmwood Community Center
F3	Providence Public Library (Wanskuck Branch)	O2	Providence Public Library (Knight Memorial)
F4	Rhode Island School for the Deaf	P1	Washington Park Community Center
G1	Smith Hill Center	P2	Providence Public Library (Washington Park Branch)
G2	Providence Public Library (Smith Hill Branch)	Q1	South Side Boys/Girls Club
H1	Providence College Ice Rink/ Tennis Courts/Fields	Q2	Providence Public Library (South Providence Branch)
H2	Providence Public Library (Mt. Pleasant Branch)	R1	South Side Community Land Trust (Community Gardens)
J1	St. Thomas Church field	R2	South Providence Neighbor- hood Center
		R3	Central Y.M.C.A.

# SEMI-PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES



# Services offered by the Providence Community Centers

	DAVINCI CENTER FOR COMM. PROGRESS	ELMWOOD COMM. CENTER	FEDERAL HILL HOUSE	HARTFORD PK. PERRY NEIGH. CORP.	JOSLIN COMM. DEV. CORP.	MOUNT HOPE NEIGH. ASSOC.	NICKERSON COMM. CNTR.	SILVER LAKE ANNEX MULTI- PURPOSE COMM. CENTER	SMITH HILL CENTER	WASHINGTON PARK COMM. CENTER	WEST END COMM. CENTER
<b>Seniors/ Handicapped</b>											
Noon Meals	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
Social/Recreation/Fitness	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
Counseling/Casework	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X
Transportation			X	X					X		X
Visits/Advocacy	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Crisis Information	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Health Services	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X
Education/Guest Speakers	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
Arts/Crafts	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	
<b>Family Services</b>											
Counseling	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Emergency Food	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Visits/Advocacy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Housing Assistance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Emergency Trans.				X		X			X		
Budget Planning	X			X	X		X				X
Translation	X	X	X	X		X		X			
Health Services	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Furniture/Clothing		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Fuel		X	X					X			
Legal Referral	X		X		X	X	X				
Library							X				
<b>Adult</b>											
Arts/Crafts		X	X				X		X		
Education	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Events	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X
Recreation			X				X	X			X
<b>Youth</b>											
Day Care			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Recreation		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Education/Tutoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Counseling	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X
Summer Lunch		X			X	X				X	X
Social Clubs			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Employment	X					X		X			
Summer Camp		X								X	X
Substance Abuse	X							X			

EXHIBIT 3-5

EXHIBIT 3-6**COMMUNITY GARDENS AND EDUCATIONAL AREAS IN PROVIDENCE**

NAME	OWNER	PLAT/LOT	PRIMARY USE BY CITIZENS
<u>ARBORETUM</u> 110 Paul St.	City	97/344	Education
<u>CITY FARM</u> 172 W. Clifford 168 W. Clifford 168-2 W. Clifford 158 W. Clifford 154 W. Clifford 93 Linden 97-9 Linden	SSCLT* SSCLT SSCLT SSCLT buying buying buying	22/404 23/209 23/210 23/211 23/212 23/60 23/457	Education Education Education Education Education Education Education
<u>DUDLEY STREET</u> 324 Dudley 332 Dudley 326 Dudley 375 Blackstone	Yip Lacey City SSCLT	23/397 23/400 23/398 23/555	Garden Garden Garden Playground
<u>FLYNN</u> 202, 208, & 204 Blackstone	CCRI	45/814	Garden
<u>MINER STREET</u> 191 Miner	SSCLT	48/523	Garden
<u>PEACE &amp; PLENTY</u> 61-5 Peace	St. Joseph's	44/523	Garden
<u>POTTERS</u> 161 Potters 155-R Potters 153 Potters R-151 Potters	Young Young Young City	48/715 48/721 48/741 48/803	Garden Garden Garden Garden
<u>PRAIRIE</u> 468 Prairie	City	48/641	Garden

(EXHIBIT 3-6 CONTINUED)

## COMMUNITY GARDENS AND EDUCATIONAL AREAS IN PROVIDENCE

NAME	OWNER	PLAT/LOT	PRIMARY USE BY CITIZENS
<u>SALISBURY</u> 22 Ocean	Corrente	48/321	Garden
<u>SOMERSET</u> 117 Providence 94 Linden 87 Somerset 146 W. Clifford 115-113 Providence 109-107 Providence 105 Providence 93 Somerset 89 & 95 Somerset	Waterman Read Wilson SSCLT SSCLT SSCLT SSCLT SSCLT SSCLT SSCLT	23/462 23/213 23/303 23/728 23/533 23/211 23/534 23/433 23/320	Garden Garden Garden Garden Garden Garden Garden Garden Garden
<u>SMITH HILL</u> 78 Pekin	Monfils	69/591	Garden
<u>WILLARD</u> Willard	SSCLT	45/330	Garden
<u>WILSON I</u> 87 Wilson	SSCLT	30/243	Garden
<u>WILSON II</u> 95 Wilson	SSCLT	03/341	Garden

\* SSCLT = South Side Community Land Trust

### 3.4 Park and Recreation Programming:

The Recreation Department and the Parks Department share programming responsibilities for the park and recreation sites. Providing programs in the Park and Recreation sites has always been a major activity in the Providence Park and Recreation System. There are not structured activities in every neighborhood park as there once was 40 years ago when there were fewer sites and cheaper labor. There is still a significant investment, however, and there is a more diverse offering of programs. No longer are programs mostly athletic and geared largely to male youths. There is still much to be done, however, to provide different age groups more diversified recreational opportunities.

#### Recreation Department:

The Recreation Department is responsible for coordinating all group athletic permits in the entire park and recreation system; running athletic clinics; providing adult and youth recreation activities at the indoor recreation centers, the pools, and selected outdoor parks; operating a summer lunch program for low-income youth, from late June to the end of August, at 100 indoor and outdoor locations in most of the Providence neighborhoods; and providing youth and elderly transportation to selected park and recreation facilities, both in the city and throughout the state.

While the Summer Lunch Program is the largest program run by the Recreation Department, serving 600,000 lunches at 100 park and recreation sites over the course of the summer, the Recreation Centers and the pools are the core areas in which

recreational activities are provided. The full-time centers are open from October to April, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays. In general, activities and leagues are geared to the 8-12 year olds on the weekday afternoons, and to teenagers and adults in the evenings. The full-time centers also provide arts and crafts, aerobics, games, jazzercise and other activities. The part time centers are primarily gymnasiums where athletic opportunities are provided teenagers and adults.

In the summer, a variety of athletic leagues for all ages, and for both male and female residents are offered by the Department. These include volleyball, soccer, basketball. "Learn to Swim" programs are offered at the pools in the morning. The summer efforts also include sports clinics, track and running events, puppet programs, fitness programs, and structured activities at six neighborhood playgrounds (locations vary year to year).

Parks Department:

The Parks Department public programming focuses on natural history, zoological, artistic and musical programs for all age groups, primarily in Roger Williams Park (See Exhibit 3-6). In addition, the Parks Department provides logistical support, such as sound systems, to Downtown and neighborhood festivals.

The principal programming activity in the neighborhoods is the Zoomobile, which travels to schools, senior centers, and community centers. The Zoo and the Museum are presently working with the School Department to provide more programs directly to Providence schools.

## EXHIBIT 3-7

## ANNUAL PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES IN ROGER WILLIAMS PARK

PARK AREA	ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
ZOO	School & Group Tours	May-June/Sept.-Oct.
	Lectures	Year-Round
	Special Events	Monthly
	Overnight Camp	Summer
	Sackett St. School Partnership	School Year
MUSEUM	School & Group Tours	Winter
	Lectures	Winter
	Special Events	3 Per Year
	Planetarium Shows	Year-Round
GREENHOUSE	School Tours	Winter
	Flower Shows	Spring, Fall, Christmas
	Volunteer Workshops for School Groups	School Year
TEMPLE TO MUSIC	Concerts	Summer
	Ethnic Festivals	Summer
	Art Festival	September
BAND STAND	Concerts	Summer
CASINO	Special Events	Year-Round

### 3.5 Additional Areas With Potential Recreation and Conservation Interest:

There are several public and private land and water areas of the city that presently have the potential for providing additional important recreation and conservation opportunities in the near future. This section briefly identifies them so that further planning may be pursued by city, state and federal officials.

#### 3.5.1 Areas With Potential for Providing Additional Public Access to Coastal and Inland Water:

The Providence resident, despite being at the headwaters of one of the greatest saltwater estuaries in the country -- Narragansett Bay -- the average Providence resident has very little access or appreciation of the water bodies that do exist within the city boundaries. Access to the water for fishing, boating, or simply viewing is relatively insignificant in the city at the present time.

The lack of access to the city's rivers, harbor and ponds is due, in part, to years of the city turning its back to the water. The city's rivers and harbors, in particular, have been perceived as a place to receive wastewater, not as a community asset.

The 1985 Providence Waterfront Plan has helped to change the community mindset about the potential of the Downtown waterfront area. And progress is now well underway in redeveloping the Moshassuck, Woonasquatucket and Providence Rivers, from the Capital Center to the Old Stone Square area.

The following areas offer potential for additional public access. See also, Map 3-4.

Seekonk River:

Site PA-1 is a privately owned site being considered for a large residential development. Depending on economic conditions, some type of high density development is likely to be built before 1995. Developers are amenable to some type of linear public park along the Seekonk River. City planners should ensure that as this development is considered and reviewed that the developers provide public access to the Seekonk River.

Site P-2 is an existing city paper street, East Transit Street, that goes to the water's edge at the Seekonk. This access is periodically littered with junk cars and illegal dumping. A plan should be developed to abandon the street and develop the area as a public park and public boat ramp.

Woonasquatucket River:

Site P-3, in the Promenade Industrial area, is presently being developed to include a Promenade Center Riverwalk along the Woonasquatucket River. These improvements are being done under a Rhode Island Department of Transportation contract to improve roadways and sidewalks in this area.

Site P-4 is under design by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management as a new Water Place Park. This work is part of the public improvements to the Capital Center area. The new park is being funded by state and federal funds. This park will provide office workers and local residents with water's edge access to a new man-made pond in the river. The success of this park, which is not scheduled for completion until 1993, will ultimately depend on improved water quality in the Woonasquatucket River. State DEM officials and Narragansett Bay

Commission officials need to ensure that combined sewer overflow (CSO) improvements upstream of Water Place Park are undertaken in a timely manner.

Providence River:

South of where the Woonasquatucket and Moshassuck Rivers come together, the Providence River, Site P-5, is being uncovered. No longer will Providence be able to boast of having the "widest bridge in the world," but residents will be able to see the River along proposed river walks currently being designed under the federal and state funded River Relocation Project. In addition, if proposed dredging is successful, this stretch of the River will allow shallow draft boats to be able to ply the River from Water Place through the Hurricane Barrier out to India Point Park. Getting the public on tour boats on the water will be a major achievement, but many design, dredging and institutional areas still need to be addressed by state and city officials.

At Site P-6, a proposed re-alignment of the Route 195 and Route 95 interchange will potentially open up a huge area for new waterfront development. This development will require years of study, design and negotiation. A preliminary conceptual study is due to be undertaken in 1991 by the Providence Foundation. While it is unlikely that this area will be re-developed before 1995, it is important to ensure that the planning for this re-development examine the following: a public walkway along the Providence River that would extend from Point Street to the Crawford Street Bridge area.

Narragansett Electric will shortly begin a multi-million dollar expansion of their Manchester Street plant. This Site, P-7, will also afford the opportunity for a public river walk in the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier area on the western side of the Providence River. City planners will need to work with Narragansett Electric officials to ensure appropriate public access along the River is compatible with the design of the plant expansion.

Site P-8 is the location of the present Corliss Landing passive park, which is a fenced, grass area overlooking the Providence River between the Hot Club and the Hurricane Barrier. Design is underway for upgrading public access to the River by the construction of a pedestrian overlook over the water and by providing access along the top of the Hurricane Barrier.

Providence Upper Harbor:

The city and the state are jointly funding the renovation of India Point Park. To date, two docks have been completely rebuilt. With the completion of these docks, public access opportunities for getting out on the water have expanded greatly. One dock offers ferry rides to Newport and Block Island during the summer season. Parks Department officials, beginning in the summer of 1991, hope to arrange for a private boat operator to offer harbor tours on a weekly basis. At the annual Providence Waterfront Festival, these harbor tours have proved very popular.

Also, at Site P-9, India Point Park, an organization called Community Boating, Inc. of Providence has begun preliminary planning to develop and operate a community boating club that would allow low cost sailing in the upper harbor for all .

residents. This effort is still tenuous, however, at this point because of the need to raise substantial private funds to get the effort off the ground.

Canada Pond:

The city, with state assistance, has purchased Canada Pond, Site P-10, for conservation purposes. With the implementation of a Canada Pond Management Plan, the city will be trying to secure the site from illegal dumping that has taken place over the years. In addition, there will be opportunities for controlled access by visitors to walk along a small portion of the Pond's edge.

Mashapaug Pond:

This pond has seen major industrial development built right up to its edge over the last 100 years. There are, however, several conservation/recreation opportunities that would allow greater public access to the Pond. Presently, the state owns the J.T. Owens Field at the edge of Mashapaug Pond. This park, not only provides little league fields and tennis courts, but also has a boat ramp for small boats to use the Pond.

The city hopes to purchase Site P-11, which would provide almost four (4) acres of conservation land along the southwest edge of the Pond. This proposed purchase would enable Parks Department officials the opportunity to develop a jogging/walking path that would link up with J.T.Owens Field. Purchase of the land is contingent on state financial assistance.

Site P-12 is public easement that runs along the shoreline of the Pond behind the Huntington Industrial Park. Over the years, this easement has not been enforced and fence lines from

abutting industrial property have cut through the easement. Extensive legal research and meetings with abutting property owners is required to implement this public access.

Site P-13 is the vacant Gorham Manufacturing facility. As economic conditions improve, this privately owned site will eventually be re-developed, perhaps into an institutional or residential use. City planning officials should ensure that public access to the Pond is ensured when this is re-developed.

### 3.5.2. Opportunities for Linear Park Development:

As users of the Blackstone Boulevard jogging trail on the East Side would testify, there are special benefits in having a linear park space in an urban environment. The tremendous success of the completed portion of the East Bay Bicycle Path also indicates the popularity of linear park experience.

Additional opportunities for linear parks in Providence are summarized below.

#### Blackstone River Bikeway:

This is a proposed bikeway to be developed jointly by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. This bikeway would coincide with Blackstone Boulevard, eventually winding its way to India Point Park where it would connect with the bikeway in the Park. Most of the bikeway would be a striped bicycle lane along existing city right-of-ways, a so-called Class II bikeway. This proposal has not gone to public hearings or design stage yet and many details yet need to be worked out between city and state officials.

Promenade River Walk:

As discussed above, this walkway, when completed in 1991, will not only provide access to view the Woonasquatucket River, but also to experience a modest linear walking circuit.

Providence River Park:

As discussed above, this park is being developed as part of the River Relocation Project. When completed in 1993, it will provide a jogging/walking link from Capital Center to the existing Harborview Trail, south of the Crawford Street Bridge.

The Providence River/Woonasquatucket River segment also has the potential to provide a water-based linear park experience. When Water Place Park is developed and the river is dredged, it will be feasible to run a shallow bottom tour boat from Water Place to India Point. While there are many institutional issues to work out between the city and the state, this type of tour boat service looks likely by 1995.

3.5.3 Opportunities for Community Conservation and Recreation:

While Providence is largely an urbanized community with only modest amounts of areas that can be considered environmentally sensitive, there are a few natural resource issues that should be considered as new development and re-development takes place in the city.

Wetlands/Flood Plain Areas:

The remaining major wetlands and undeveloped flood plain areas are located on Map 3-4 as follows:

W/FP-1	Butler Hospital
W/FP-2	West River/Middle Segment
W/FP-3	West River/Upper Segment
W/FP-4	Woonasquatucket River/Upper Segment

These areas are important to the city for several reasons.

They provide the following benefits:

- \* Flood storage;
- \* Wooded environment;
- \* Sanctuary for birds, particularly waterfowl and small mammals;
- \* Open space and a relief from urbanized development.

Sites W/FP-1 and W/FP-2 appear to be reasonably protected from future development. Butler Hospital controls W/FP-1, and the wetlands area is not in an area that they intend to develop. Site W/FP-2 is proposed under the new proposed Providence Zoning Ordinance to be zoned "Open Space." This zoning classification would exclude any development.

Sites W/FP-3 and W/FP-4 are both presently zoned "Manufacturing" and would remain so under the new Providence Zoning Ordinance. While development in these areas would likely be significantly restrained by the state wetlands management process administered by the Division of Water Resources of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, city planning officials should consider additional zoning provisions to provide protection of these areas.

Water Quality:

As referenced in the discussions above on access to waterways, a crucial element of the recreational experience for Providence waterways is improved water quality. The existing water quality of the Woonasquatucket, Moshassuck, Providence, and Seekonk Rivers is presently degraded by 62 combined sewer overflows (CSO's). The Narragansett Bay Commission does not plan to address the CSO problems upstream of Water Place Park until

the late 1990's. The city, through its representation on the Narragansett Bay Commission, should continually lobby to have the abatement plans reasonably expedited.

Vacant Lots:

Like many older inner cities, Providence is plagued by a large inventory of vacant lots that have been essentially abandoned by their owners. For the past three (3) years, the city has been taking title to these tax-reverted lots and marketing them for re-use. Many lots have been sold to abutting owners for expansion of their yards; or new owners have bought the land and built new housing.

The majority of these lots are concentrated in the following neighborhoods: Upper South Providence, Lower South Providence, the West End, and Elmwood.

In addition to being a resource for neighborhood development, these vacant lots, singularly or in groups, represent an opportunity for open space or recreation. The Parks Department, city planners, and neighborhood leaders should identify potential lots that can be used for either: passive open space, playgrounds, or community gardens.

**CHAPTER FOUR**  
**NEEDS ANALYSIS**

4.1 Introduction:

This chapter examines the outdoor recreation patterns in the Providence park system; proposes standards for park system development; and outlines the type of overall citywide needs for improving the system. The discussion on needs is in general terms in this chapter. Specific planning area and park-by-park capital development needs are presented in Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

4.2 Outdoor Recreation Pursuits of Providence Residents:

Background

The Parks Department undertook two surveys to help determine Providence recreation patterns. A mail survey was done in 1990 to 1,000 randomly selected residents to determine recreational patterns and basic demographic information. On-site observations at twenty-five selected parks in the system were also done in 1990 to measure use, peak times, and participant characteristics. The mail survey produced 361 responses. The demographics of the responses revealed that South Side, West Side and minority residents were not adequately reflected. Thus, the mail survey was administered at 10 South Side and West Side parks, plus Roger Williams Park, to obtain 70 additional responses. The total sample size for the survey was, therefore, 431.

The results of the survey are summarized in Exhibit 4-1. Appendix B contains a copy of the survey questions. A discussion of the findings of the survey follows.

## EXHIBIT 4-1

PARTICIPATION BY PROVIDENCE RESIDENTS  
IN SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, 1990

(% of Population)

ACTIVITY	CITY	EAST SIDE	NORTH SIDE	WEST SIDE	SOUTH SIDE	DOWN- TOWN
Sightseeing	.72	.81	.65	.60	.81	.69
Walking	.48	.59	.45	.39	.49	.56
Picnicking	.43	.29	.48	.47	.47	.24
Playground Activities	.34	.19	.26	.35	.52	.05
Saltwater Swimming	.30	.32	.36	.33	.22	.17
Freshwater Swimming	.14	.10	.08	.19	.18	.08
Basketball	.11	.04	.07	.14	.17	.03
Jogging	.06	.11	.06	.05	.03	.14
Golf	.04	.07	.06	.02	.01	.12
Fishing	.03	.04	.05	.04	.02	.08
Boating	.03	.04	.05	.02	.01	.07
Baseball	.03	.02	.04	.04	.02	.01
Tennis	.02	.05	.01	.01	.01	.05
Softball	.02	.01	.04	.02	.01	.02
Soccer	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01
Bicycling	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01
Ice Skating	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01
Football	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01
POPULATION	160,728	34,645	39,764	37,408	46,969	2,124

FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING AREA, THE PERCENTAGE IS OF THAT AREA'S POPULATION.

Sightseeing

By far, the most popular outdoor recreational activity of Providence residents is sightseeing. Almost three-quarters of the population engaged in sightseeing activities in 1990. Like several activities listed in Exhibit 4-1, however, much of this activity does not take place in Providence. The top five sightseeing destinations were as follows:

1. South County locations;
2. Roger Williams Park
3. Newport
4. Other New England States
5. Lincoln Woods/Colt State Park

The relative easy accessibility of South County beaches and Newport make these attractive sightseeing destinations for Providence residents. It should be noted that South Side residents relied heavily on Roger Williams Park as their sightseeing destination. Only 15 percent of South Side respondents had visited South County locations in 1990 for sightseeing.

Approximately 59 percent of Providence residents had visited Roger Williams Park on at least two occasions in 1990. The Park is not only a major destination for Providence, but also for outside residents. Two visitor surveys have been done at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in the past five years in which visitor origin has been surveyed. The results are shown below.

<u>Zoo Visitors Origin</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1989</u>
Providence	20%	27%
Other Rhode Island	60%	55%
Non-Rhode Island	20%	18%
	-----	-----
	100%	100%

The statewide use of the Zoo, which drew 420,000 visitors in

1990, is obviously significant. The Park, as a whole draws approximately 1.3 million to 1.5 million visitors a year. The estimated ranking of Park activities in terms of attendance/sightseeing is as follows:

Roger Williams Park Attractions/Activities Ranked by Use

1. Zoo
2. Carousel
3. Greenhouse
4. Outdoor Gardens
5. Museum of Natural History
6. Walking/Jogging
7. Temple to Music Events
8. Duck Feeding
9. Winter Activities - snow sledding, Christmas Festival  
of Lights, cross-country skiing
10. Bandstand Events

The Park is a year-round destination for both Providence and other Rhode Island residents. A warm Sunday afternoon in February will even bring out eight to ten thousand visitors. The peak months for the Park are surprisingly not the summer months, but the April - June period. In July and August, the Park's attendance is good, particularly on weekends, but during these hot weather months people prefer to go to the ocean areas of the state.

Walking

The increasing emphasis on physical fitness has been an incentive to Providence residents to engage in the recreational activity of walking. Almost half of the city's residents indicate that they engage in walking as a recreational activity. While most of this activity does not take place in a Providence park (most of it on neighborhood streets), there has been increased demand from residents for adequate walking trails in the park system. The city's most active public walking trail is

Blackstone Boulevard, which is used from dawn to dusk year-round. During the peak season, April to October, daily weekday use averages about 500-600 people; weekend use averages 1,200-1,400 people per day.

Other areas of the city are demanding walking trails in their neighborhood parks. Thus, in the 1988-1990 Park Improvement Program, in response to neighborhood requests, walking trails or paths were installed at Davis Park, Mount Pleasant Fields, Wallace Park, and Dexter Training Grounds. In 1991, one is scheduled to be installed at Pleasant Valley Parkway. And a more extensive walkway system is due to be built at India Point Park. One is presently being built at Promenade Center, along the banks of the Woonasquatucket River.

Proposed riverwalks being built as part of Capital Center and River Relocation, will add several thousand feet of public walking space.

#### Picnicking

The family activity of picnicking is still a popular recreational experience for Providence residents. The survey indicated, though, that most Providence residents limit their picnicking to the May - August period and prefer locations outside of Providence. South County locations, Colt State Park, Lincoln Woods, and Goddard Park are the favorite picnic destinations. Roger Williams Park is the only Providence location with a significant preference. Virtually all those indicating the Park came from the South Side neighborhoods.

#### Playground Activities

This preference encompasses children playing at local

playgrounds and the activity of parents taking children to the park. The figures from Exhibit 4-1 reveal a couple of interesting situations. The South Side neighborhoods use their playgrounds more heavily for tot activities than any other section of the city. It also reflects the fact that there are twice as many children age 0-11 in the South Side as there are on the East Side.

The overall 34 percent participation rate for the city in this recreational activity is interesting from a policy point of view. The 34 percent figure is considerably higher than the combined total for all of the active sports activities: basketball, baseball, tennis, softball, soccer, and football. Yet, the capital development costs and maintenance costs for the active sports areas of the city park system are significantly higher than those for simple playgrounds.

#### Saltwater Swimming

While Providence has no facility providing saltwater swimming, we sought this preference to see to what extent Providence residents enjoy this activity. Not surprisingly, Providence residents enjoy the easily accessed Ocean State beaches, just like other Rhode Islanders.

The South Side area, particularly the low-income neighborhoods, however, do not participate in saltwater swimming at the same rate as other neighborhoods. These neighborhoods have less cars per capita than other Providence neighborhoods and therefore have much more difficulty in getting to Rhode Island's saltwater beaches.

### Freshwater Swimming

The dominance of saltwater swimming in Rhode Island clearly is evident in Exhibit 4-1. The drop off to 14 percent for Providence residents who participate in freshwater swimming is significant. While several hundred Providence residents use Lincoln Woods and western Rhode Island ponds, most of the freshwater swimming done by Providence residents is at the six public pools in the city. The heavy use of these pools in the West Side and South Side neighborhoods is evident from Exhibit 4-1. The Recreation Department operates a very successful public program in the city as seen in Exhibit 4-2.

Residents from North Side and East Side neighborhoods are fortunate to be able to take advantage of pools at Boys and Girls Clubs, and to a lesser extent, college pools located at Providence College and Brown University.

As discussed in Chapter 6, the outdoor pool on Wickenden Street in Fox Point has been closed for over five years because of subsurface problems that caused foundation problems. While the city has worked out a shared use arrangement with the indoor Fox Point Boys & Girls Clubs, there is some intense pressure in the neighborhood to solve the problems at the Wickenden Street pool so it can be re-opened.

### Basketball

Not surprisingly, basketball is the most popular sport in Providence. In the urbanized neighborhoods, basketball has always had significant participation. All of Providence's outdoor basketball courts are heavily used in the peak season of May - August. But, if the weather is good, Providence's 33

EXHIBIT 4-2PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL PROGRAM

<u>OUTDOOR POOLS</u>	<u>POOL</u>	<u>NEIGHBORHOOD/PARK</u>
	McGrane	West End/Bucklin
	Almagno	Silver Lake/Neutaconkanut
	Zuccolo	Federal Hill/Zuccolo Rec. Ctr.
	Joslin	Olneyville/Joslin Rec. Ctr.
	Rogers	Smith Hill/Danforth Rec. Ctr.
	Dudley*	Upper S.Prov./Dudley Rec. Ctr.
<u>POOL HOURS</u>	July 1 - Labor Day	
	Monday - Friday	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
	Weekends	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
<u>POOL ATTENDANCE</u>	700 - 900 Per Pool - Per Day	
<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<p>Summer Lunch Program at All Pools;</p> <p>Swimming Lessons at All Pools, Monday - Friday in the a.m.;</p> <p>Special Events: Perishable Theater, Puppet Workshop, etc.;</p> <p>Annual Swim Meet Among Pools.</p>	

\* Indoor/Outdoor

courts will have players on them at all times of the year. The courts at Bucklin Park, Nathan Bishop Courts, Davis Park, and Fagnoli Park are the city's busiest with ad hoc basketball games going on if no snow is on the courts.

The 33 outdoor public courts in the city are significantly supplemented by those in the recreation centers, the community centers, the Boys & Girls Clubs, and local private schools (Providence College, RI School for the Deaf). In order not to disrupt neighborhood play, the Recreation Department runs a variety of basketball leagues geared for all ages from youth to adult both in the summer and the winter. These formal leagues, plus the summer youth clinics, involve over 1,500 participants.

#### Jogging

While not as popular as walking, there is a hard core of jogging enthusiasts in Providence as seen in Exhibit 4-1. While a great deal of this activity takes place on city streets, several parks are also used. Roger Williams Park, Blackstone Boulevard, India Point Park, and Mount Pleasant Fields are regular running areas.

The Recreation Department helps to sponsor the Annual Columbus Day Road Race for area high schools and two or three "fun runs" at Roger Williams Park in conjunction with non-profit groups. The Recreation Department and the Parks Department should try to develop a more regular schedule of "family fun runs" at Roger Williams Park and Blackstone Boulevard.

#### Golf

The municipal golf course, Triggs Memorial Golf Course, run by the Parks Department, has enjoyed renewed popularity in the

last six years. Approximately 50,000 rounds were played there in 1990. The Department leases the facility to a private operator. This arrangement has resulted in improved course conditions and greater satisfaction from course users. The Recreation Department and the Parks Department should work on providing more youth clinics at the course. Golf remains largely a middle-class, middle-age sport in the city with very few players under 30 years of age.

While Triggs is popular, about 80 percent of Providence golf enthusiasts play on courses outside of the city.

#### Fishing

Despite its urban location, Providence is the home to a few thousand fishing enthusiasts. Over 90 percent fish outside of the city, particularly on Narragansett Bay in South County, and in Newport. Fishing is enjoyed to some extent, however, in public areas in Providence. Hot spots include: India Point Park, Roger Williams Park, and Mashapaug Pond.

#### Boating

Virtually all of the Providence residents who participated in some type of recreational boating in 1990 did it outside of Providence waters. Many are boat owners who keep their boats in marinas down the Bay. Or they simply go boating or on fishing charters on other boats not owned by them. There is some boating in the Seekonk and the Providence Harbor. A new private marina was built at Corliss Landing in the late 1980's. Another one is under construction near India Point Park. The most consistent boating on the Seekonk takes place by the scullers who row out of the Narragansett Boating Club, located in Blackstone Park, and

the Brown University Boat Club, next to India Point Park.

Interest has been expressed to establish a community boating facility at India Point Club. Such a facility would provide yearly rental and use of small sailing boats to its members. Such an operation on the Charles River has over 1,000 members and allows residents from low and moderate income to enjoy boating. The group behind this proposal, Community Boating of Providence Inc., has only made tentative progress as of this writing in organizing fundraising efforts.

A promising recreational activity to be developed in the near future will be harbor and bay cruises from India Point Park. Parks Department officials have been impressed by the demand for boat cruises at the Annual Providence Waterfront Festival held at India Point Park. Weekend cruises will be tried in the summer of 1991 from India Point Park, for the first time, with a private boat operator. When Waterplace Park is developed by DEM at the Capital Center in 1992, it will be possible to take a boat ride from India Point Park up the Providence River to the Capital Center.

Freshwater boating can also be enjoyed at Mashapaug Pond by small sail boats and power boats via the boat ramp owned by DEM at J.T. Owens Field. The Annual Mashapaug Pond Festival held in June by local residents in the Mashapaug Pond neighborhood promotes boating, fishing, and appreciation of the Pond.

Rowboats, once a beautiful sight in Roger Williams Park, have long since been replaced by the ubiquitous paddle boat. The Parks Department sponsors a canoe event each year at the Park to get people out on to the 105 acres of lakes. More extensive

promotion of canoeing on the Park's waterways is being considered.

### Baseball

Considerable funds were invested in upgrading little league and baseball fields in Providence in the 1988-1990 period. With the exception of one of the three fields (Fox Point) used by the East Side-Fox Point Little League, all of the little league, senior league, and high school fields were renovated. In addition, new little league fields were added at Davis Park and Sessions Street Park. For the 1991-1995 time period, no major renovations or additional capacity is anticipated.

While the number of people involved in baseball leagues is low in comparison to the city's population, the almost 5,000 people involved in organized baseball in the city use their fields intensively and actively during the April - August period. The neighborhood teams are a source of great pride to neighborhood residents. Over the course of the season, more than 100,000 fans watch organized baseball in the city.

Exhibit 4-3 summarizes leagues and fields used in Providence.

### Tennis

While tennis has boomed in other communities, its popularity in Providence is limited primarily to the East Side and to Roger Williams Park. The primary courts with active use are at Hope, Nathan Bishop, and at Roger Williams Park. These courts are crowded from May to September.

Part of the attraction of the Roger Williams Park courts is due to the presence of clay courts -- the only public clay courts

EXHIBIT 4-3

## BASEBALL LEAGUES AND FIELDS IN PROVIDENCE

LEAGUE	FIELD(S)	# OF TEAMS
<u>Little League</u>		
Elmwood	J.T. Owens; Ardoene	29
So. Providence/ Washington Park	Tim O'Neil	16
Federal Hill	Bridgham	4
Elmhurst	Fargnoli; Davis	16
East Side/Fox Point	Fox Point; Gano; Sessions St.	22
North End/Wanskuck	Prete-Metcalf	23
Silver Lake/ Olneyville	Neutaconkanut; Wallace	51
Mt. Pleasant	Mt. Pleasant; George West	33
<u>Babe Ruth</u>		
	Davis; Collyer	7
<u>High School</u>		
Classical	Davis/Bucklin	2
Mount Pleasant	Mount Pleasant	1
Central	Neutaconkanut	1
Hope	Hope	1

in the state (to the best of our knowledge). There is a fee for the clay courts, however, and this discourages use by junior players, but fees are necessary because of the cost of clay court maintenance.

Observations at the city's tennis courts indicate that the vast majority of tennis players in the city are adults. There are very few youth playing in the city. Only one public high school, Classical, has a tennis team. Public tennis clinics are limited and should be expanded to the city's youth.

#### Softball

While softball does not involve the same number of participants as basketball, it runs a close second to baseball in terms of the number of organized teams playing in the city. In 1990, the Recreation Department issued permits to 126 softball teams involving over 30 different softball leagues. The softball season runs from April to October, and during its peak months of June and July involves 22 fields in the city.

Providence is the king of organized softball in the state and the softball hotbeds in Providence are Neutaconkanut Park and Gano Street. The lighted softball fields at these two parks have hundreds of games played each season. Other lighted fields that are key softball fields in the city are Collyer and Corliss. While the 1988-1990 period saw a great number of softball fields renovated, many did not receive any attention and have moderate to serious needs. Hopkins Park and the three fields at Obediah Brown have the most significant needs.

Participation in Providence softball has several interesting facets:

- There are as many non-Providence participants involved in organized softball leagues in the city as there are Providence residents.
- Softball participation cuts across age, sex, and income more than any other organized sport in Providence. There are scores of girls and women's teams, industrial league teams, lawyer's and accountant's leagues, and an "over 55" league. Once a blue collar, male, middle age sport, softball, at least in Providence, has the most diverse demographics of any team sport in the city.

### Soccer

While still involving a relatively small number of participants in the city, soccer has been a growth sport in the 1980's. All four public high schools now have teams. There are several types of groups playing in the city. The largest, by far, are the new immigrants in the city: Asians and Hispanics of all ages from the Dominican Republic, and other South and Central American countries. There is also an active and growing number of youth playing on the East Side; an older Italian men's league playing out of Neutaconkanut Park; a women's league playing at India Point Park; and several Portuguese and Cape Verdean teams playing at Gano Street.

Given the growing Hispanic population in the city, soccer is expected to grow in popularity in Providence. At the present time, there are nine soccer fields in the city, located as follows:

- India Point
- Gano Street
- Veazie Street
- Hope High Fields
- Mount Pleasant Fields
- Neutaconkanut
- Danforth
- Drummond
- Bucklin

For the 1991-1995 period, these fields are expected to be adequate. Though, the amount of play should be monitored closely to plan for additional fields after 1995.

#### Bicycling

Very few bicyclists pedal their wheels in Providence public parks. Even Roger Williams Park has not been a haven for bicyclists. The hills and the traffic at the Park are daunting, particularly to the Sunday cyclist.

The proposed DEM Blackstone Bike Way is due to be developed in the 1991-1995 period and will link Providence to the Blackstone Valley area. The East Bay Bike Way, also developed by DEM, in Bristol, Barrington, and East Providence has enjoyed tremendous popularity and is used by scores of Providence residents.

#### Ice Skating

There are no public indoor skating rinks in Providence, and the once popular high school sport of ice hockey in the city has vanished. The ponds at Roger Williams Park have not had enough cold weather to enable consistent ice skating since the early 1980's.

There are active privately sponsored youth teams that play in metropolitan leagues. There generally is outdoor skating each year at the shallow Hockey Pond and York Pond located in Blackstone Park along River Road.

#### Football

Football does not have significant participation in the city. While the four public high schools all have teams, it is often a struggle for the coaches to recruit sufficient numbers of

players each year. With the exception of Hope, which plays on its own field, all of the other public high schools play their home games at Conley Stadium near Mt. Pleasant.

There is one Pop Warner League organization in the city, the West End Intruders, who field three teams at different age levels. They play their games at Bucklin Park.

#### 4.3 Community Facility Standards:

##### Accessibility and Crowdedness

The National Recreations and Park Association (NRPA) has established a set of park and recreation standards to help guide communities in planning for facilities. These standards are useful in determining in a general way how Providence's park and recreation system measures up to national standards. Thus, it is a useful step in the overall process of assessing the city's park and recreation needs.

Exhibit 4-4 presents suggested standards for the type of parks that should exist in Providence. These standards are adopted from those suggested by NRPA.

The intent of these standards is to ensure an adequate number of different types of parks for Providence residents. The standards focus on acreage and service area as measures of a park system's adequacy. These are surrogate measures for accessibility and crowdedness respectively.

A park system with too few acres dedicated to Local Parks, for example, will result in over crowded and, perhaps, dangerously crowded play areas. A park system where totlots are

**EXHIBIT 4-4**

**CITY OF PROVIDENCE SUGGESTED TYPES OF PARKS: GENERAL STANDARDS**

TYPE	SIZE	SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION & FUNCTION	FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT	RECOMMENDED ACREAGE
Local Park (LP)	To about 1 acre	1/4-1/2 Mile	Includes totlots, generally small areas intended for young children under immediate supervision; and Passive Parks	May include play equipment for young children inc. slides, swings, climbing devices, benches. May include green spaces-formal and informal	.5 per 1000 population
Neighborhood Park (NP)	4-7 acres	1/2-1 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	1.5 per 1000 population
Community Park (CP)	8-20 acres	1-2 Miles (several neighborhoods, or citywide for team)	Developed primarily as athletic fields; usually contain active & passive sub areas for neighborhood use. Some N.P.'s that are used by more than one neighborhood	May include baseball & softball diamonds, football, soccer, running track, parking lot, spectator seating	5 per 1000 population

(EXHIBIT 4-4 - CONTINUED)

TYPE	SIZE	SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION & FUNCTION	FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT	RECOMMENDED ACREAGE
Metro-politan Park (MP)	Approx. 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	10 per 1000 population
Special Use (SU)	Based upon activity served	Based upon activity served	Areas developed for special use	Uses such as pools, golf courses, gymnasiums, bike trails, etc.	Varies w/ population

not located within walking distance of children are essentially inaccessible to families without cars.

It should be emphasized that these standards are somewhat generalized and rough. Actual neighborhood circumstances have to be considered carefully in applying the standards.

Exhibit 4-5 summarizes how Providence stacks up to the suggested minimum standards. From this table, it is fairly evident that Providence is significantly deficient in the amount of acreage that is devoted to Community Parks.

To understand this overall acreage deficiency, it is important to focus on the definitions used in Exhibit 4-4 for Local Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Community Parks. These definitions emphasize usable park and recreation space and not just any acreage that is under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. Providence has presently 1,178 acres of park and green space which is a considerable amount. But, 362 acres of Providence's park and green space is in cemetery land, Triggs Golf Course, school grounds, pools, recreation centers, and other "special use" areas. Triggs and the North Burial Ground account for 270 acres -- about 23 percent of the total amount of city park and green space.

Exhibit 4-5 indicates that Providence's park acreage deficiency is almost 300 acres. The biggest deficiency is in the area of acreage defined as "Community Park." Given Providence's largely developed urban fabric, it is unlikely that Providence will ever make up this deficiency. There isn't enough low cost vacant land available to develop this amount of park land.

**EXHIBIT 4-5**

**SUGGESTED ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS VERSUS ACTUAL ACREAGE FOR PROVIDENCE PARKS\***  
**BASED ON MINIMUM STANDARDS**

PLANNING AREA	POPULATION	LOCAL PARKS	NGHBHOOD.PARKS	COMMUNITY PARKS	TOTAL
		SUG./ACTUAL	SUG./ACTUAL	SUG./ACTUAL	SUG./ACTUAL
East Side	34,465	17.2/11.0	51.6/74.0	172.0/38.8	240.8/123.8
North Side	39,764	19.9/6.0	59.6/63.0	198.5/30.8	278.0/99.8
West Side	37,406	18.5/12.1	55.5/47.5	187.0/48.7	261.0/108.3
South Side	46,969	23.5/11.8	70.5/37.1	234.5/435	328.5/483.9
Downtown	2,124	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	
Citywide	160,728	80.8/40.9	237.2/221.6	792.0/555.3	1109.3/815.8*

\* Does not include 362.4 acres devoted to "Special Use" areas, such as, school grounds, pools, recreation centers, golf courses, or Downtown plazas and squares.

N.A. = Not applicable in a Downtown area.

Many of Providence's "Neighborhood Parks" currently serve double duty -- they are both neighborhood parks and community parks, i.e., serving more than one neighborhood. While the city is significantly deficient in terms of Community Park acreage, it is fairly adequate in supplying specific types of athletic facilities as discussed below.

See Chapters 5-9 also for a more specific discussion of park-by-park needs for each planning area.

#### Athletic Facilities

Exhibit 4-6 presents NRPA standards for specific athletic facilities common to Providence. The last two columns specify the recommended number of units based on the standards and the actual number of units in Providence.

This exhibit clearly shows that Providence is only significantly deficient in athletic facilities in volleyball. Since volleyball is not a traditional interscholastic sport in New England, particularly among males, this deficiency is not surprising. Only in the last five years has the city seen a demand for volleyball facilities. The exhibit also appears to indicate a deficit for tennis courts. The standards must be based on a more middle class population standard than exists in Providence. The Parks Department has only witnessed a demand for tennis on the East Side and at Roger Williams Park.

#### Playground Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association does not publish standards for playgrounds. The Parks Department, since 1988, has adopted the design requirements of the Consumer Product

**EXHIBIT 4-6**

**CITY OF PROVIDENCE SUGGESTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	SERVICE RADIUS	#OF UNITS PER POPULATION	RECOMMENDED FOR PROVIDENCE	EXISTING IN PROVIDENCE
Basketball 1. Youth 2. H.Sch. 3. Collegt.	2400-3036 5040-7280 5600-7980 (Sq. Ft.)	46'-50'x84' 50'x84' 50'x94' w/5' space on sides	1/4-1/2 Miles	1 per 5000	32	33
Swimming Pools	Varies on sz.of pool & amenities Usually 1/2 to 2 Acre site	Min. of 25yds.x45' even depth of 3-4'	15-30 Min. Travel Time	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3-5% of total population at a time	8	6
Tennis	Min.of 7200 Single Ct. (2 Acres- complexes)	36'x78'-12' space on sides; 21' space on ends	1/4-1/2 Miles	1 Court per 2000	80	32
Volley- ball	Min. of 4000 Sq. Ft.	30'x60' Min. 6' space on sides	1/4-1/2 Miles	1 Court per 5000	32	3
Baseball 1. Official	3.0-3.85 Acre Min.	Baselines- 90'; Pitch- ing Dist.- 60-1/2'; Foul Lines- min. 320' Ctr.Fld.- 400'+	1/4-1/2 Miles	1 per 5000  Lighted- 1 per 30,000	32  6	27  8

(EXHIBIT 4-6 - CONTINUED)

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	SERVICE RADIUS	#OF UNITS PER POPULATION	RECOMMENDED FOR PROVIDENCE	EXISTING IN PROVIDENCE
(Baseball Con't.) 2. Little League	1.2 Acre Min.	Baselines- 60';Pitch- ing Dist.- 46';Foul Lines-200'; Ctr.Fld.- 250'	(See Previous Page)	(See Previous Page)	(See Previous Page)	(See Previous Page)
Football	1.5 Acre Min.	160'x360'w/ a min.of 6' space on sides	15-30 Min. Travel Time	1 per 20,000	8	6
Soccer	1.7-2.1 Acres	195'-225'x 330'-360'w/ 10' min. on sides	1-2 Miles	1 per 10,000	16	9
1/4 Mile Running Track	4.3 Acres	Overall Width-276'; Lgth-600.02' Track Width for 8 to 4 Lanes is 32'	15-30 Min. Travel Time	1 per 20,000	8	2
Softball	1.5-2.0 Acres	Baselines- 60';Pitch. Dist.-46'min 40' women; Fast Pitch Field Radius From Plate- 225' Between Foul Lines. Slow Pitch- 275'(men)/ 250'(women)	1/4-1/2 Miles	1 per 5000 (if also used for youth baseball)	32	22

Safety Commission (CPSC), which spell out requirements for play surface, spacing around equipment, and type of hardware. Each playground design is reviewed in terms of the CPSC standards and those recommended by playground equipment manufacturers.

In addition to the CPSC standards, the Parks Department has attempted to apply basic design principles while renovating existing play areas and building new ones. These design principles are summarized below:

DESIGN PRINCIPLES FOR PROVIDENCE PLAY AREAS

1. Each play area should provide a variety of experiences and movements.
2. Play areas should include opportunities for both group and individual play.
3. Play areas should encourage children to devise creative and individual ways to use play equipment.
4. Play areas should make the play environment as safe as possible.
5. Play components should be constructed of materials which are, and will remain, durable, attractive, and maintainable.
6. Play areas should ensure that there is a minimum of conflict between pedestrian movement and play activity.
7. Play areas should be visible from the street, but protected by a fence or distance from the street.
8. Play areas should segregate activities for older children from those for younger children.
9. Seating should be provided for parents at play areas.
10. Play areas should be located a safe distance from high activity areas for older children, such as athletic fields.

#### 4.4 Factors Affecting Future Needs:

##### Population Changes

As discussed in Chapter 2, Providence's overall population is not expected to significantly change by 1995. The current population of 160,728 is expected to increase slightly to approximately 163,500.

This relative stability in the overall population number, however, masks expected changes in the population mix. The population composition is expected to continue some of the trends evident in the 1980's. Specifically, the following is expected to occur:

- White population is projected to decrease at the same rate as the 1980's.
- Asian population is expected to remain stable or to decrease slightly.
- Black families are expected to increase slightly.
- The Hispanic population is expected to continue to increase, but not at the same rate as the 1980's.

The continued increase in minority population will mean that Providence's median family income will continue to lag behind that of the state and surrounding suburban communities.

The net changes in population mix will also result in a population increase for the South Side neighborhoods. The population total for the other neighborhood planning areas are expected to remain the same or to increase slightly. The East Side planning area, however, is expected to show a small decline in population from 1990 to 1995.

The age structure of the city's population is expected to change as follows during the 1990-1995 period:

- The 0-11 group is expected to decrease slightly;
- The 12-21 group is expected to increase slightly;
- The 22-54 group will continue to grow and be the largest cohort of the city's population;
- The 55+ category is expected to remain about the same.

The changes in population in the 1990-95 period are not expected to dramatically alter current conditions. Many current needs will have to be addressed, however, during this period. The implications for park planning are projected to be the following:

- The growing minority population needs to have institutionalized access to park and recreation decision-makers.
- The expected modest population increase in the South Side neighborhoods, where park deficiencies already exist, will heighten the need to provide some new or rehabilitated facilities.
- The increase in population in the 5-16 age cohort reinforces the current youth-oriented recreation needs.
- There is a widening gap between the richer and poorer neighborhoods in Providence. It is more critical, therefore, to ensure accessibility of low-income neighborhoods to park and recreation facilities.
- The continued increase in the 30-54 age group reflects the need to continue to address adult and fitness needs of Providence's middle age population.

#### Downtown Development

The recession that Providence is experiencing in 1990 and 1991 will temporarily halt the gradual increase in Downtown work

force employment. Overall Downtown employment is expected to remain relatively stable through 1995 as increases from the Capital Center development are expected to be offset by current reductions in Downtown employment in the financial services and retail sector. Thus, the need for additional public passive parks to accommodate Downtown lunchtime workers is not expected to change by 1995. The increase in Capital Center employment will be accommodated by the planned Water Place Park being developed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

The number of tourist visits is expected to grow only modestly in the 1990-95 period. Until the Convention Center is completed and River Relocation is completed, the number of tourists coming to Downtown and East Side sites is expected to be about the same as now. The Park implications of Downtown development are summarized in Exhibit 4-7.

#### Historic Preservation

As discussed in Chapter 3, the Parks Department has a number of park sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, a number of historic statuary are located in public parks.

During the planning period of 1990-1995, on-going restoration needs will continue to be important in Roger Williams Park. Specific historic restoration issues in the Park include: remaining statuary, front gates, walkways, and the landscape itself.

Equally important will be the continued renovation of roads and infrastructure in order to preserve the existing historic landscape.

EXHIBIT 4-7

## ONGOING AND NEAR TERM DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

-----  
DEVELOPMENTPARK IMPLICATIONS  
-----

Capital Center - 60 acres;  
mixed use development:  
1985-2000; \$250-350 million.

Includes Waterplace Park  
to be built and owned by  
the State.

River Relocation - 50 acres;  
realignment of Moshassuck and  
Woonasquatucket Rivers and  
uncovering of Providence River;  
1988-1993; \$39 million.

Will provide new river  
walkways for walking  
and jogging.

Convention Center Complex -  
15 acres; new convention  
facility; \$250 million.

Will stimulate use of Downtown  
and Waterfront area parks and  
Roger Williams Park, but  
after 1995.

Promenade Center - 60 acres;  
street and infrastructure  
improvements; adaptive re-  
use of "Foundry Complex";  
\$20-30 million.

Includes river bank  
improvements along  
Woonasquatucket River.

Corliss Landing - 5 acres;  
streetscape improvements;  
\$1-2 million.

Includes renovation of  
Corliss Landing Park.

Statue restoration needs in the neighborhoods include: the Esek Hopkins Statue at Hopkins Square (St. Ann's Square), and the Columbus Statue at Columbus Square. The General Burnside Statue, the "Hiker," and the Banjotti Fountain, all located Downtown, should also be restored during the 1990-1995 period.

#### Special Populations

The city has made many of the indoor facilities, such as the schools, the community centers, and recreational centers handicap accessible in the 1980's. A significant effort was made in the last three years to make outdoor recreation sites accessible to the handicap through curb cuts. Much work remains to be done, however, in this regard.

The Parks Department also has made the Casino, the new Carousel Building, and the Zoo Menagerie handicap accessible in the last two years. New curb cuts were also added as part of the sidewalk renovation program in Roger Williams Park. All of the Zoo exhibits at the Park are also now handicap accessible. The Parks Department has also developed volunteer programs for autistic groups at the Park Greenhouse. A totally accessible playground for the handicap is still needed in the city, and Roger Williams Park is a good site for such a facility.

The city's community centers are the principal facilities providing recreational activities to the city's elderly. In addition, the Senior Citizens Center at the Recreation Department is active year-round. Increasing the recreational opportunities for the elderly remains a programming and transportation issue.

#### 4.5 Types of Park and Recreation Needs Facing Providence, 1990-1995:

This section outlines in general terms the types of needs facing the Providence park and recreation system over the next five years. Specific needs for each planning area and park are summarized in chapters 5 through 9.

##### 4.5.1 Capital Development:

###### Rehabilitation

In a park system as extensive and as old as Providence's, it is not too surprising that many park sites still need renovation work. A major portion of the rehabilitation needs in the Park system were addressed in the 1988-1990 Park Improvement Program.

The types of rehabilitation needs that remain in several parks include:

- correcting inadequate design;
- replacing worn out and unsafe equipment;
- enhancing handicap accessibility;
- adding new play activities;
- preserving historic landscape or structure;
- complementing community development.

###### Facility Expansion

To address overcrowding problems in otherwise adequate park facilities, it will be necessary to add new equipment or activities at selected sites. Expansion at existing sites is generally more cost-effective than developing new sites.

For example, it is often possible to add a set of swings, additional basketball hoops, or a jogging track at an existing site to accommodate recreational needs. An existing facility may also have its use increased by other measures. For example, capacity at a ballfield can be added by lighting the ballfield.

By adding well drained sand surfaces below play equipment in many parks, the Parks Department has been able to have play areas be used year-round. Formerly, much of the city's play equipment was installed in grassy areas. In the February - April muddy season, this play equipment was not used because surface conditions restricted access to the play equipment.

#### New Facilities

While most of the expansion needs of the Providence Park System can take place through creative rehabilitation of existing sites, some new sites will be needed to meet neighborhood needs, to accommodate statewide recreational objectives.

The proposed new sites for the 1991-1995 period are shown in the accompanying Exhibit 4-8. As seen in this list, several of the sites are being developed by the state through the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.

The new Summit Avenue site meets a long-standing need for recreation in the Hope neighborhood. This neighborhood has the least access to neighborhood park and recreation facilities in the city. After several years attempting to acquire park and recreation sites in the Summit Neighborhood, the city should initiate acquisition efforts in 1991-1992 for approximately 50,000 sq. ft. of land in the area of the former Summit Avenue School for the development of park facilities. The land to be acquired should be developed with playground equipment, basketball courts, tennis courts, and a volleyball court. The new park facility will address the significant recreation needs for families in the neighborhood.

The Cadillac Drive vacant site should be developed as a new

EXHIBIT 4-8

## PROPOSED NEW PARK AND RECREATION SITES, 1991-1995

NEIGHBORHOOD	SITE	JURISDICTION	YEAR
Downtown	Water Place	State	1992-93
Downtown	Prov. River Walk	State/City	1993
Downtown	Collier Point	N. Electric	1995
Fox Point	East Bay Bike Path	State	1992
Blackstone/ Wayland/Fox Point	Blackstone Bike Path	State	1992-93
Reservoir	Mashapaug Pond Conservation Area	City	1991-92
Elmwood	Cadillac Drive; other sites to be in Laura Ave. vicinity	City	1992-93
Hope	Summit Avenue Park	City	1991
Federal Hill	DePasquale Sitting Area	City	1993
Upper South Providence	o Indian Village Housing	City	1992
	o Comstock Ave. Vicinity	City	1992

Elmwood neighborhood park. Land available through the city's Vacant Lot Program (which reclaims tax-reverted land) will be reviewed to select and acquire other sites.

The proposed DePasquale Avenue site in Federal Hill is under review for a passive park for the elderly in the area.

The Mashapaug Pond site includes approximately four (4) acres of woods and grass that, when acquired, will provide both conservation and recreation benefits. Its acquisition will prevent further development along the Pond and accompanying storm water runoff from new development.

Preliminary plans call for a paved jogging/walking trail through the area that would be linked to J.T. Owens Field and the Huntington Industrial Park via a striped jogging lane along Lakeview Drive. This jogging trail will fill a significant demand for fitness by the noontime workers in the Industrial Park.

#### 4.5.2 Maintenance: Protecting the Investment

##### The Challenge

The glue that holds a park and recreation system together is good maintenance. Good maintenance ensures safe conditions to enjoy park facilities and it also ensures the protection of the city's investment.

Maintenance of the city's outdoor recreation system is not an easy assignment. Several factors make park maintenance difficult in Providence at the present time:

- The heavy use of the facilities both by residents and non-residents. Softball fields, Roger Williams Park, and Downtown parks receive extensive use by non-Providence residents.

- Extensive turnover of population, particularly in the city's South Side and West Side neighborhoods. Attachment to local public spaces is difficult in neighborhoods in constant transition.
- Litter, a fundamental problem, is a peculiar Rhode Island cultural defect that is unrelenting in several parks.

The above forces are largely beyond the control of Parks Department administrators. Providence is a city of rental housing (70 percent of the housing units) and will always have people moving in and moving out as families climb the economic ladder. Getting new residents to care about their public spaces will remain a challenge that many institutions in the city will have to address.

Complicating the park maintenance challenge in Providence is the nature of the recreation system itself. The Parks Department is responsible for maintaining 109 sites of the 149 in the citywide inventory. In one word, the system is diverse -- by far the most diverse in the state. A few statistics tell the story: 55 ballfields, 33 basketball courts, 3 waterfront docks, 9 historic buildings, outdoor amphitheaters, 25 historic public sculptures (statues, fountains, and major markers), a major zoo, 125 acres of lakes, and 15 miles of fencing. Add to this list the 6 pools and the recreation centers maintained by the Public Property Department and it represents a significant annual cost to the city.

Most importantly, a continuing maintenance challenge that all park administrators in the state face is adequate resources. The Providence Parks Department competes for funds in a city that is poor, that has significant crime problems, and that has one of

the highest tax rates in the state. When Park requisitions for turf fertilization compete with police overtime to fight drugs, the outcome is predictable.

An additional challenge to the Providence Parks Department is the operation and maintenance of the Roger Williams Park Zoo. The Zoo consumes, in total, about 20 percent of the Department's annual operating budget, while 80 percent of its visitors are from outside of Providence. A Zoo Admissions Fee was instituted in 1987 to help with maintenance and modest capital improvements. This admissions fee is now being used to help pay for the new African exhibit and will likely be committed to this debt service for at least two to three more years.

#### Progress

The track record of the Parks Department on maintenance has improved in the last five years despite the daunting hurdles outlined above. Obviously, there is room for considerable improvement. During the 1990 season, park conditions were monitored on a weekly basis and the average conditions for the season were as follows:

<u>Condition</u>	<u>% of Parks</u>
Excellent	30%
Good	40%
Fair	15%
Poor	15%

Several management and administrative changes have been made in the last five years to improve maintenance:

- (1) Ballfield Lineups - Little Leagues are now totally responsible for lining their fields for their games; fees are collected from softball teams to pay elderly residents to line softball fields.

- (2) Adopt-A-Park - The Parks Department has lease or other maintenance arrangements for 10 of the 109 sites under its jurisdiction. The 10 sites maintained by others are: Biltmore Park, Kennedy Plaza, Burnside Park, Abbott Park, Market Square, M.E. Sharpe Memorial Park, Mt. Hope Community Gardens, Rochambeau Park, Triggs Golf Course, and Laurel Hill Avenue Playground.
- (3) Equipment - The Parks Department has virtually replaced its entire fleet of trucks and lawn mowers in the last 3 years. Lawn mowers have been standardized to ease parts replacement.
- (4) Seasonal Employees - Greater use of seasonal employees has been accomplished. In the face of permanent staff retirements without replacements, this has been essential during the peak park season. See Parks Department maintenance personnel expenditure trends below:

	1986-87	1978-88	1988-89	1989-90	% Change 1986-90
Full-Time Personnel	1,449,000	1,436,487	1,481,175	1,524,094	+5%
Temporary Employees	41,436	72,301	106,274	113,813	+175%

To properly maintain the park system during peak season, there will need to be more resources spent on seasonal employees.

- (5) Design - Virtually half of the park system has been rebuilt in the last 4 years. The Parks Department used the opportunity to design maintenance considerations into the renovations.
- (6) Maintenance Manuals - All newly renovated parks have had maintenance manuals developed which detail maintenance frequencies for every aspect of the respective park. See sample in Appendix D.
- (7) Roger Williams Park Trust Accounts - The Parks Department has been very successful in the last 5 years in developing non-city funds to help to maintain features in Roger

Williams Park. The following have been done:  
 (a) Concession leases in the Park have all been re-written and re-bid. (The revenue to the Park on some of the leases had not changed in 25 years.) All of the concession revenues go into a special fund that stays in the Park. (b) Casino user fees have been increased to ensure that the Casino pays for itself. (c) A Zoo Admissions Fee was initiated, which while controversial at first, is now generating long needed maintenance funds for the Zoo. This has helped to free up city funds for the rest of the Park. (d) The Charles H. Smith Trust Fund, which was ignored by previous Park administrators, is being used on an annual basis to provide Park landscape maintenance improvements.

Needs

Despite the gains made in the maintenance area, much needs to be done. The major needs can be summarized as follows:

- A commitment by the city to hire additional seasonal employees as permanent staff retire.
- A firm commitment by the city to increase revenues at the rate of inflation for maintenance, supplies, repairs, and services. In recent years, funds for these items have decreased as follows:

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	% Change 1986-90
Park Maintenance Supplies & Services	\$238,947	\$265,132	\$202,021	\$169,617	-29%

Investment in park renovation has reduced the needs in the last 2 years, but normal maintenance needs will begin to re-occur and additional city operating funds will be required.

- Additional lease arrangements for maintenance of selected park sites.

#### 4.5.3 Programming:

While the Parks Department and Recreation Department have committed extensive efforts to programming (see discussion in Chapter 3), there are important needs not presently addressed:

- The majority of Recreation Department programming is geared for male youth athletic endeavors. Female youth, adult fitness, and adult non-athletic programming is limited.
- The majority of Parks Department programming is done at Roger Williams Park, with the exception of the Zoomobile, which goes out to neighborhood schools and sites. More neighborhood programming by the Parks Department is needed.
- Recreation Department sports clinics should be expanded beyond the traditional inner-city sports to activities as tennis, golf, and volleyball.
- Input from the Asian and Hispanic population in the city is needed to ensure that their programming needs are being addressed.

#### 4.5.4 Additional Planning:

There are several issues in the Providence Park system that are unresolved at the time of the writing of this Plan. Further study or resolution of conflicting needs are required before definitive recommendations can be made.

The major issues in the park system that require additional planning or monitoring are the following:

##### Facilities

- Disposition of Merino Park;
- Disposition/development of Dyerville State Park;
- Feasibility of renovating the Fox Point Pool;
- Ultimate use of the Esek Hopkins Homestead;

- Feasibility of using the existing Pleasant View School pool as a community pool for the North Side area;
- Feasibility of building an indoor Silver Lake Recreation Center at Neutaconkanut Park;
- Feasibility of using existing school facilities in Lower South Providence for use as an indoor recreation center;
- Feasibility of creating park and open space land in the existing Rt.95/Rt.195 interchange area if the interchange is re-located.
- Feasibility of using East Transit Street for a public boat ramp.
- Coordination with DEM on public boat cruises for Water Place Park.
- Design for Narragansett Electric Parks at Collier Point.
- Feasibility of using Mashapaug Pond public easement for walking trail.
- Ultimate path of DEM Blackstone Bikeway through Providence.
- Selection of vacant lots for new Elmwood playground.

Management

- Analysis of permit operations of the Parks Department and Recreation Department to ensure better coordination of park programming efforts and park use permits.
- Coordination with Narragansett Bay Commission to see if CSO abatement program can be accelerated for the CSO problems along the Woonasquatucket River.

CHAPTER FIVE  
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

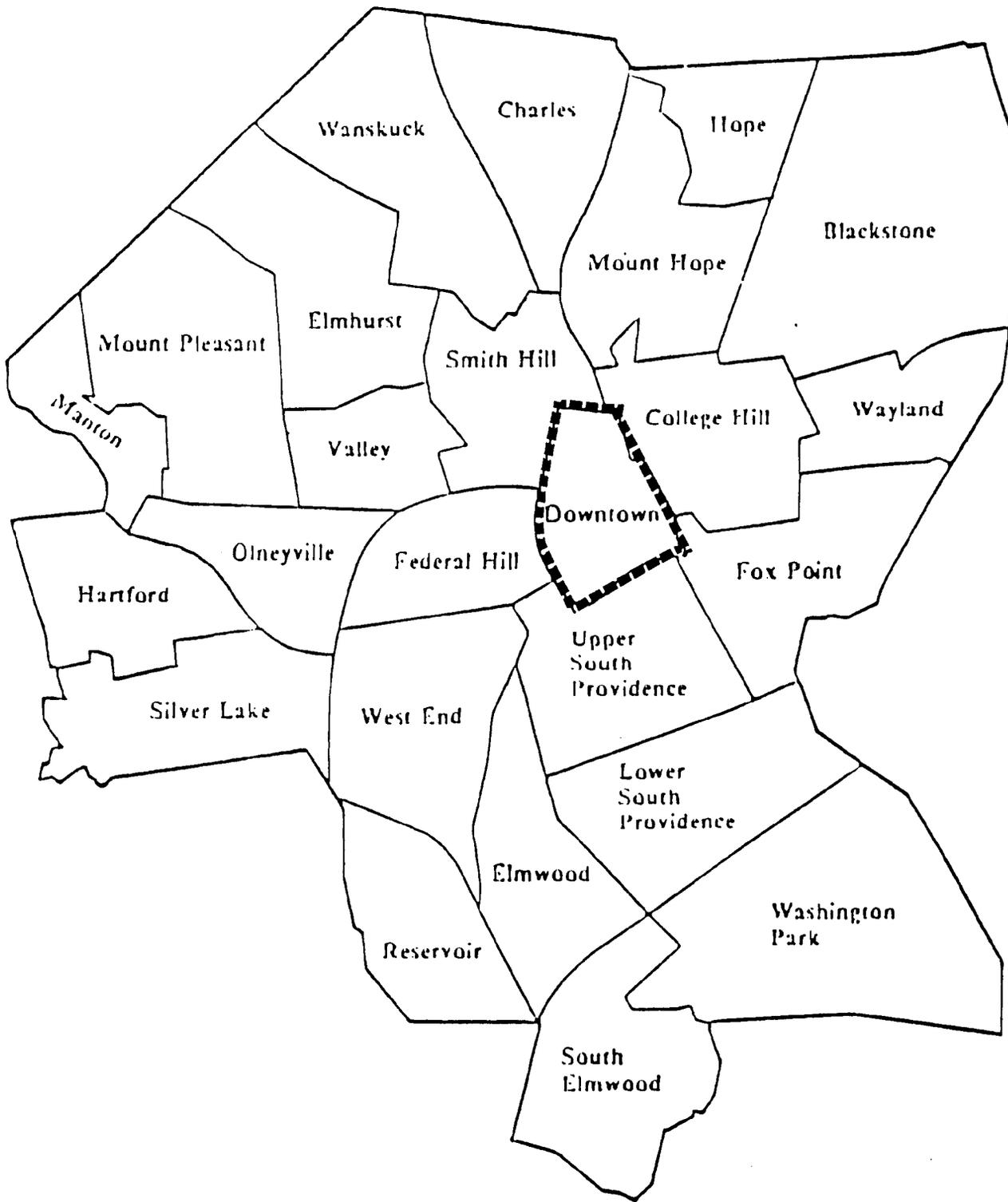
5.1 Development and Demographic Trends:

The Downtown area is relatively small and only has a population of approximately 2,100 people. From a park and recreation point of view, it is not the Downtown's small resident population that is the issue, but rather Downtown's role as a civic, government, cultural, and office center for the region.

While few people live in the Downtown District, thousands come to Downtown daily for a variety of reasons. Providence continues to lose its place in the state as a retail center. Though, "Providence Place," the planned Capital Center mall, may someday after 1995 become an isolated retail Downtown draw. The Downtown's strength is in its steadily growing office economy that results in 28,000-30,000 people a day commuting to Downtown offices. This steady growth in office workers has been fueled by governmental job growth and by the service sector in such businesses as finance, law, communications, and health care. While the Downtown office economy has been stung in 1991 by the state's recession and banking crisis, the Downtown is poised for continued modest growth through 1995 as the Capital Center and the re-developed old Jewelry District develop office space for rent.

Despite several public and private initiatives in the works to provide "Downtown residential living," the Downtown residential population as seen below is not projected to appreciably grow in the planning period.

<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1994</u>
2,045	2,124	2,130



This modest growth is easily explained. On the one hand, 25 percent of the Downtown's residents are Johnson and Wales (J&W) University students. Students shift in and out each year without adding to the population. Most of J&W's dormitory growth is occurring in other parts of the city and the state. Most importantly, fully half of the Downtown residents are 65 years of age and older. (The median age of Downtown residents is 61.0, the highest of any neighborhood in the city.)

No children are being produced from these two groups of residents. This phenomenon is likely to continue in Downtown as the proposed new residential units are marketed towards singles and well-off retired elderly.

Downtown is likely to continue to grow as a cultural and civic center for the region. The Providence Performing Arts Center, the Civic Center, Trinity Repertory, and the recently renovated Veterans Memorial Auditorium are likely to continue to draw over a million visitors a year to the Downtown. These are primarily evening visitors to Downtown, however, and not prime user of park or open space.

The major development in the civic area in the 1991-1995 period will be the new Convention Center. It will bring several thousand new visitors to the Downtown area for one or more days at a time. This visitor and tourist growth will help to justify planned park and open space development in the Capital Center, along the Providence River, and at India Point Park.

## 5.2 Existing Facilities:

The growth of the Downtown commuter population has spurred

the growth of several privately-developed mini-passive parks in the Downtown area. These parks, as previously listed in Exhibit 3-2, accommodate office workers during the lunchtime period where people watching and occasional entertainment help to provide a relief from the daily work routine. See also the public parks in Exhibit 5-1.

The city's major Downtown parks were rehabilitated in the 1985-86 period. Burnside and Biltmore Parks provide passive green space also, but have not been successful in attracting the lunchtime crowd, in part because they are not near food outlets and rarely have any programming. Kennedy Plaza, also renovated in 1985-86, while listed as a park, primarily serves as a Downtown bus stop for RIPTA. It is, however, a focal point for a number of noontime special events for charitable and civic purposes.

Kennedy Plaza, Burnside Park, and Biltmore Park are also the home to several outstanding examples of public sculpture. The "Scout," located in Biltmore Park, and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument have both been rehabilitated after years of neglect. Restoration work remains to be done, however, on the Bajnotti Fountain (which is operable), the General Burnside statue, and the "Hiker" (a Spanish War memorial).

The most underutilized park in Downtown is Cathedral Square. Built in the early 1970's as part of Weybosset Hill Redevelopment Project, the Square succeeds visually as a public square to complement the powerful Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral structure. And it does provide "open space" for the other residential buildings surrounding the Square. But, its location

EXHIBIT 5-1DOWNTOWN PLANNING DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES

## DOWNTOWN:

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
1	Biltmore Park	.93	SU	Historic Statuary, Passive Park
2	Kennedy Plaza	1.75	SU	Historic Statuary, RIPTA Bus Area
3	Burnside Park	1.64	SU	Historic Fountain, Passive Park
4	Abbott Park	.18	SU	Historic Fountain
5	Cathedral Square	1.03	SU	Fountain, Passive Park
6	Trinity Mews	.15	SU	1,6

---

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

away from the Downtown office area, and the lack of programming in the Square, has resulted in very little public use as a place to sit and relax.

### 5.3 Needs and Opportunities:

Rehabilitation needs of existing facilities in Downtown are relatively modest. Verrazano Park should be renovated as part of River Relocation and the Providence Riverwalk project; minor renovations are needed at Cathedral Square.

The major park and recreation challenges in the Downtown area in the 1991-1995 period will be to complete the design and construction of the park spaces proposed at Waterplace and along the Providence Riverwalk. These spaces have the potential to provide many benefits: complementary urban design to Downtown development; open space; access to the water; needed jogging/walking pathways; and the opportunity for linear park development from Capital Center to India Point Park. Part of the design challenge will be to make the Providence River usable by small cruise boats and to make the Riverwalk easy to maintain.

As discussed in Chapter 3, the up-grading of the Manchester Street electric power station by the Narragansett Electric Company also provides an opportunity to provide access via a public park to the water. Considerable efforts need to take place between Narragansett Electric and city officials to maximize the potential of this park. Key issues include the type of public access to the Providence River; the linkage to the city's Providence Riverwalk, Harborview Trail, and Hurricane Barrier; and egress for the public from Allens Avenue and Point Street.

As discussed earlier in Chapter 3, the proposed relocation of the Route 95/Route 195 interchange will present a tremendous opportunity to reshape the land use between the Downtown retail area and the old Jewelry District. The city will need to stay actively involved in this "transportation" planning effort to ensure that open space results from the redevelopment of this area.

Exhibit 5-2 summarizes the capital development needs and opportunities for Downtown parks.

**EXHIBIT 5-2****DOWNTOWN DISTRICT****CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES, 1991-1995**

<b>NEEDS</b>	<b>PARKS</b>	<b>JUSTIFICATION</b>
Rehabilitation	Verrazano, Cathedral Square	Age of facilities
New Facilities	Water Place, Providence River- walk, Narragansett Electric Park at Collier Point	Access to water, linear linkage of parks, additional recreational opportunities
Historic Restoration	Public sculpture in Kennedy Plaza and Burnside Park	Historic resource protection
Additional Planning	Relocation of Rt. 195/Rt. 95 interchange will open up new land for development; Park space should be included.	Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

CHAPTER SIX

EAST SIDE DISTRICT

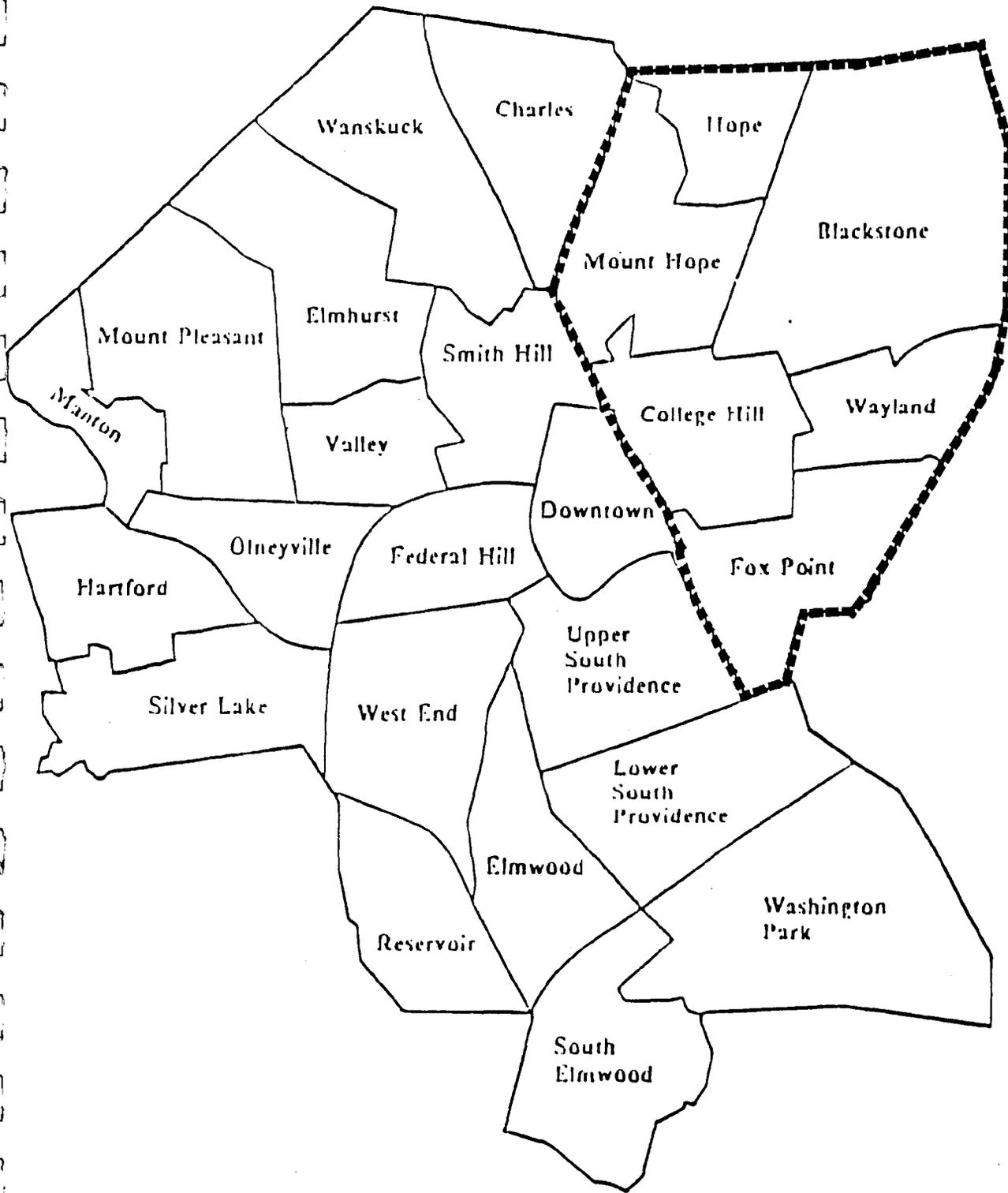
6.1 Development and Demographic Trends:

The East side area of the city is the wealthiest section of the city with also the highest housing evaluations. All of the neighborhoods in the East Side exceed the city figure of \$25,392 for median family income. Wayland, College Hill, Blackstone, and Hope substantially exceed the city figure with Blackstone and College Hill having the highest figures in the city. Mount Hope and Fox Point are just slightly above the city median figure. Both of these neighborhoods have substantial numbers of working class, blue collar residents.

In terms of population, the East Side has the fewest people of any planning district, having about 1,000 people less than the West Side neighborhoods. Population is distributed as follows:

Hope (Summit)	3,986
Wayland	4,115
Fox Point	5,714
Mt. Hope	5,776
Blackstone	7,208
College Hill	9,308
	-----
Total	36,107

The College Hill numbers are swelled by the presence of Brown University and Johnson & Wales University students. Brown has a major impact on population beyond just the presence of its students. As one of the largest employers in the city, Brown has a substantial number of its administrative teaching staff living on the East Side. At one time, Brown's residential impact was confined to College Hill and Fox Point. The Brown presence has helped to raise the cost of housing in both the College Hill



EAST SIDE PLANNING DISTRICT

MAP 6-1

and Fox Point neighborhoods. Brown's off-campus students have also been an incentive for College Hill and Fox Point property owners to convert large, old, historic houses into apartments and condominiums.

Increasingly in the 1980's, the Brown influence has extended up Hope Street to both the Mount Hope and Hope neighborhoods. Both of these neighborhoods have available moderately priced housing (a rarity on the East Side) affordable for young middle-class families. In the case of the Mount Hope neighborhood, this trend has helped to increase the already large numbers of children in the 0-11 age category, which is the highest of any East Side neighborhood. In the Hope neighborhood, young families have replaced many retired "empty-nesters." There are about 500-600 children between the ages of 0-11 in the Hope neighborhood, and as discussed below, without any public park.

In general, new housing development throughout the East Side has been virtually non-existent in the last five years. The exceptions have been new condominiums in College Hill and at Corliss Landing in the Waterfront area of Fox Point. A proposed expensive condominium project at India Point never got off the ground due to a lack of demand for high price units. Another more moderately priced project, with several hundred apartment units, has been proposed along the Seekonk River in the Wayland neighborhood near the IGA market. It too has been stalled due to changed market conditions. About 50-60 affordable housing units are currently being built in the Mount Hope neighborhood by the Mt. Hope Neighborhood Land Trust on vacant land donated by the Parks Department. The land was part of the Mt. Hope Walkway,

which had been a nightmare to maintain and which was used as a convenient get-a-way by house thieves trying to elude police.

The most dramatic re-development in the East Side area has been along the Fox Point Waterfront. The area has seen a new marina, a new condo project, and several new restaurants and clubs. In addition, a new Days Inn hotel has been built near Route 195 off Gano Street. This waterfront development is largely positive for India Point Park, as it will bring more people to the Park and provide a greater constituency for the Park. On the negative side, the new development will exacerbate already difficult parking and traffic problems.

#### 6.2 Existing Facilities:

The major outdoor recreational opportunities on the East Side are summarized in Exhibit 6-1. See also Exhibit 6-2 for a listing of all public facilities in the area.

The East Side's population and income characteristics affect existing and future park and recreation use. Facilities with the heaviest participation by children and teenage youth are in the East Side's relatively poorer neighborhoods -- Mount Hope and Fox Point. The latter neighborhood, however, has a relatively good concentration of facilities. Mount Hope, on the other hand, has only two active recreation areas -- Billy Taylor Park and Hope High School Fields (and this facility is on the edge of the neighborhood). Consequently, Billy Taylor Park suffers occasionally from overcrowding during the peak summer days.

While Fox Point has a relative abundance of facilities, one East Side neighborhood, Hope, has the most pronounced lack of

EXHIBIT 6-1

**MAJOR OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
IN EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC FACILITIES**

ACTIVITY	FACILITY
Basketball	Nathan Bishop Courts, Hope High Fields, Patterson Park, Billy Taylor Park, Fox Point Fields, Gano Street Park.
Baseball/Little League	Fox Point Fields, Gano Street Park, Sessions Street Park.
Baseball/Senior	Sessions Street, Hope High Fields, Collyer Field.
Football/Jogging	Hope High Fields, Blackstone Blvd., Blackstone Park, India Point Park, Harborview Trail.
Playground Equipment	India Point Park, Fox Point Fields, Brook & Arnold Playground, Preston & Ives, Hope High Fields, Gladys Potter, Patterson, Lippitt, Sessions Street, Morris Ave., M.L. King Fields, Peach Street Park, Billy Taylor Park.
Soccer	Gano Street, India Point Park, Hope High Fields.
Softball	Gano Street, Hope High Fields, Sessions Street, Collyer Field
Swimming	NONE
Tennis	Nathan Bishop Courts, Hope High Fields.

**EXHIBIT 6-2****EAST SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****FOX POINT:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
9	Harborview Trail	N.A.	SU	10
10	Corliss Landing	.25	LP	Water View
11	India Point Park	18.0	CP	Water View,3,9,10
12	Veterans Mem. Park	.10	LP	Memorial Marker
13	East Street Park	.05	LP	Water View
14	Fox Point Fields	.54	NP	1,6,9
15	Fox Point Pool	.57	SU	Closed
16	Fox Pt. Sch./Grounds	.10	SG	
17	Brook/Arnold Plygrnd.	.40	LP	9
18	Fenner Square	.15	LP	Passive Park
19	Preston&Ives Plygrnd.	.40	LP	9
20	Roger Wlms. Landing	.92	LP	Passive Park, Historic Marker
21	Gano Street Park	8.3	CP	1,2,3,6

**COLLEGE HILL:**

7	Verrazano Park	.77	LP	Memorial Marker, Passive Park
8	Market Square	.28	LP	Passive Park
22	M.E. Sharpe Mem. Park	.23	LP	Passive Park
23	Prospect Terrace	.90	LP	Passive Park, Historic Marker
24	Hope High Fields	12.53	CP	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9
25	Hope High Sch/Grnds.	.50	SG	

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility; CA=Conservation Area

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Plygrnd Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 6-2 - CONTINUED)

**EAST SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****WAYLAND:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
26	Constance Witherby Park	1.55	LP	Passive Park, Memorial Marker
27	Gladys Potter Park	1.24	LP	Passive Park,9
28	Patterson Park	1.23	LP	6,9
29	Blackstone Park	40.30	CA	Passive Park,10,Water Views

**BLACKSTONE:**

30	Blackstone Blvd.	19.30	NP	Historic Landscape,10
31	Lippitt Mem. Park	6.00	NP	1,6,9
32	Sessions St. Park	2.85	NP	1,2,9
33	Morris Ave. Totlot	.09	LP	9
34	Nathan Bishop Cts.	1.40	NP	6,7
35	Nathan Bishop Sch.	1.50	SG	

**MOUNT HOPE:**

36	M.L.King Sch/Grounds	.75	SG	
37	M.L.King Fields	2.15	LP	Passive Park,9
38	Billy Taylor Park	1.85	NP	6,9
39	Mt.HopeComm.Gardens	.20	SU	Community Gardens
40	Peach Street Plygrnd.	.09	LP	9
42	Collyer Park	2.66	NP	5
43	North Burial Ground	109.3	SU	5

**HOPE:**

41	Rochambeau Park	.04	LP	Passive Park
----	-----------------	-----	----	--------------

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility; CA=Conservation Area

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Plygrnd Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

park and recreation facilities in the city. Families in the Hope neighborhood, or the Summit neighborhood as many of the residents call it, must walk, and cross busy Hope Street, to Lippitt Park at Hope and Blackstone, or ride to another facility on the East Side.

The East Side's other neighborhoods -- College Hill, Wayland and Blackstone -- are among the wealthiest in the city. Some of the distinct recreational patterns in these neighborhoods include:

- Blackstone Boulevard experiences the heaviest jogging and recreational walking of any facility in the city.
- The tennis courts at Hope High and Nathan Bishop are heavily used from April to October. Courts in other neighborhoods are barely used.
- A mini baby boom has strained existing parks with major play equipment--Lippitt Park, Gladys Potter and Patterson.
- The only outdoor skating consistently available on a year-to-year basis is at Hockey Pond and York Pond in Blackstone park, near River Road. Both ponds are shallow and freeze sufficiently enough to allow skating before any other ponds in the city.

During the 1988-1990 period, the Parks Department added additional play equipment at Patterson, Sessions Street, Hope High Fields and Gladys Potter to help meet the play equipment need.

Basketball courts on the East Side, as in all city neighborhoods, experienced heavy use in the warm weather months. The courts at Nathan Bishop are heavily used, with groups of adults and youth waiting for up to one hour for playing time. The Parks Department added a new court at Hope High Fields, which

has partially helped to relieve overcrowding. The Gano Street basketball complex is lighted, and the lights help to spread out the demand.

Athletic fields on the East Side are heavily used in the April to October period. Two of the city's largest sports complexes are Hope High Fields and Gano Street. These facilities provide space for soccer, football, softball, baseball and basketball. Lights at the Gano Street softball field extend the use of this facility and make it one of the prime softball fields in the city.

With the increase in teams in the East Side-Fox Point Little League (now at 22 teams), the Parks Department carved out an additional field at the Sessions Street Park. This field, in conjunction with the fields at Fox Point and Gano Street, should accommodate the little league through 1995.

Soccer is played at Hope High Fields, Gano Street and India Point. The latter is primarily used by women's leagues. Because it has lights, Gano Street is used from April to November and the heavy use takes a toll on the turf. Use restrictions are necessary to prevent wearing out the turf. Hope High Fields are also potentially overplayed. One multi-purpose area is active from April to November with baseball, rugby, softball and soccer. Restricting use on the field has been difficult.

### 6.3 Needs and Opportunities:

One recreational issue that remains unresolved at the time of this writing is the closed outdoor Fox Point Pool. Closed in the early 1980's because subsurface conditions were causing the

pool to crack, Recreation Department officials had worked out an agreement with the nearby Fox Point Boys & Girls Club to allow neighborhood youth to use the club's indoor pool. In the summer of 1990, this arrangement was questioned by many neighborhood residents. The issue of whether to re-open the Fox Point Pool is a priority problem to study in 1991.

India Point Park represents a relatively untapped opportunity for the city, the East Side district, and the Fox Point neighborhood. Though presently used for jogging, soccer and festivals, the Park has suffered from a number of problems. An inadequate sea wall that allows erosion to take place, a poorly sighted play area, poor lighting, and vandalism have all contributed to only modest recreational use of the Park. Plans to address these problems are in the works and will be addressed in 1991.

In terms of meeting the Facility Standards outlined in Chapter 4, overall the East Side is somewhat deficient in terms of the amount of acreage devoted to Local Parks. In gross terms, the East Side should have approximately 18 acres devoted to Local Parks and it only has about 11 acres.

The deficiency in Local Parks is also apparent in terms of service area. There are no Local Parks within the 1/4-1/2 mile service area standard for large residential areas of the Blackstone and Hope neighborhoods. It is typical in these neighborhoods for parents to drive their youngsters to Lippitt Park or Patterson Park to enjoy play equipment.

The East Side does meet the overall facility standard for Neighborhood Park's. The area by standards should have 54 acres

and it has 74 acres. However, the Hope neighborhood and the Blackstone neighborhood both are a great distance from Neighborhood Park facilities.

On the plus side, the East Side district has several park and recreation resources that distinguish it from other Providence areas. Blackstone Boulevard, a 1.8 mile long jogging park; India Point Park, the city's only waterfront park; and Prospect Terrace, a park with one of the most dramatic view of the city --all provide the East Side with unique park experiences in Providence.

Exhibit 6-3 summarizes the specific capital development needs of the East Side area.

**EXHIBIT 6-3****EAST SIDE DISTRICT****CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES, 1991-1995**

NEEDS	PARKS	JUSTIFICATION
Rehabilitation	Constance Witherby, Peach St, Collyer Field, Nathan Bishop Courts, Blackstone Park, India Pt. Park, Harborview Trail, Corliss Landing, North Burial Ground, Hope High Tennis Courts, Fox Pt. Fields.	Amt. of use, age of facilities and design problems.
Expansion of Facilities	Lippitt Park, India Pt. Park, Billy Taylor Park, Hope High (Basketball).	Changes in existing or projected recreational use patterns.
New Facility	Summit Avenue Park	Replacement Recreational Facility.
Statewide Opportunity	East Bay Bikeway, Blackstone Bikeway	Increased demand for biking.
Open Space Protection	Seekonk River at proposed Pitman St. site	Resource protection, access to water.
Additional Planning	Fox Point Pool, East Transit St. Boat Ramp.	Issues need to be resolved.

**CHAPTER SEVEN**  
**NORTH SIDE DISTRICT**

7.1 Development and Demographic Trends:

The North Side of Providence encompasses the following neighborhoods: Charles, Wanskuck, Elmhurst, Mount Pleasant, and Manton. The area in many ways can be considered mainstream Providence. The neighborhoods have a mix of single-family and multi-family housing; the neighborhoods are ethnically diverse; and the median family income in four of the five neighborhoods is virtually the same as the city median family income. It is not surprising that this area is very stable with long-time residential roots, and strong neighborhood institutions.

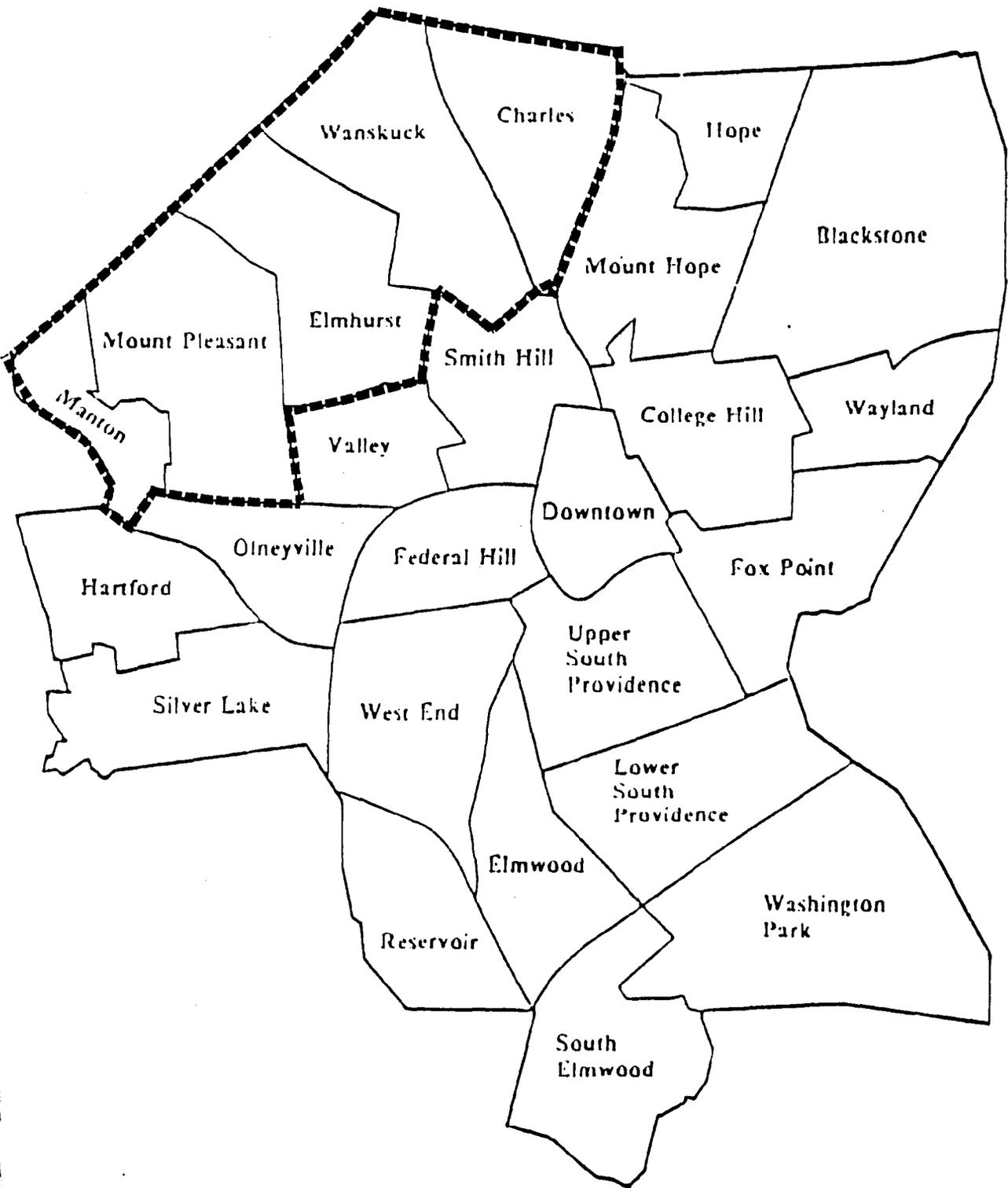
The population by neighborhood is shown below:

Manton	3,341
Charles	6,214
Wanskuck	9,150
Mt. Pleasant	9,848
Elmhurst	11,711
	-----
Total	40,264

Population growth has been modest in the area because of the stability of the neighborhood. There has been very little new residential construction except for infilling of vacant lots. The presence of Providence College in the area has resulted in increased student living off campus in the nearby neighborhoods. Student noise has been a cause of tension between neighbors and students on some streets.

Other population characteristics for the area include:

- While the North Side neighborhoods have been very stable, opportunities for young families to move into some neighborhoods have been limited. Consequently, there are not as many children in the 0-11 age category as other areas of the city. Mt. Pleasant and Elmhurst, in particular,



NORTH SIDE PLANNING DISTRICT

are well below the city's average. The Wanskuck and Charles neighborhoods have had a mini baby boom and the city has had to re-open two schools to accommodate the children.

- The Elmhurst and Mt. Pleasant neighborhoods have the highest median family incomes in the area -- about \$10,000 above the city average.
- While the neighborhoods have a variety of ethnic groups as residents, the North Side neighborhoods do not have many minority groups living there. Only the Wanskuck neighborhood with the Chad Brown and Admiral Terrace housing projects has a sizable population of minority families.

## 7.2 Existing Facilities:

Exhibit 7-1 summarizes the major outdoor recreational opportunities in the North Side of Providence. Exhibit 7-2 lists the facilities by neighborhood. The parks and athletic fields of the North Side of Providence have a long tradition of producing some of the city's best high school athletes. For decades, youngsters have come from the North End, Mt. Pleasant, Wanskuck, Elmhurst, and Manton neighborhoods and gone on to play and star on the field and on the court at LaSalle, Mt. Pleasant, and Hope High Schools.

Not surprisingly, there is a strong tradition of organized athletics in this area of the city that is reflected in heavy use of the athletic fields. The major sports complexes, Prete-Metcalf Fields, Fagnoli Park, and Mt. Pleasant Fields are active facilities that hum with players and spectators from April to August. Three well organized little leagues make their home in this section of the city: North End-Wanskuck, with 23 teams; Elmhurst, with 16 teams; and Mount Pleasant, with 33 teams. Overall, there are about 1,100 players on these teams.

EXHIBIT 7-1

MAJOR OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
IN NORTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC FACILITIES

ACTIVITY	FACILITY
Basketball	Corliss, Prete-Metcalf, Fagnoli George West Park, Mt. Pleasant Fields
Baseball/Little League	Prete-Metcalf, Fagnoli, Mt. Pleasant Fields
Baseball/Senior	Prete-Metcalf, Mt. Pleasant Fields, George West Park
Football	Conley Stadium
Jogging	Mt. Pleasant Fields, Wanskuck Park
Playground Equipment	Hopkins, Chad Brown, Corliss, Ascham, Veazie St., Fagnoli, Nathanael Greene School, Mt. Pleasant Fields, George West Park, Viscolosi Park
Soccer	Veazie Street, Mt. Pleasant Fields
Softball/Men	Veazie St., Hopkins, O. Brown Fields
Softball/Girls or Women	Ascham, Corliss, Mt. Pleasant, Hopkins
Swimming	None
Tennis	Mt. Pleasant Fields, Fagnoli, Nathanael Greene School

EXHIBIT 7-2NORTH SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES

## CHARLES:

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
44	Hopkins Park	7.8	NP	2
45	Esek Hopkins Hmstead	1.1	SU	Historic House
46	Chad Brown Plygrnd.	.3	LP	9
47	Corliss Park	5.9	NP	2,6,7,9
48	Esek Hopkins Sch.	.1	SG	
49	Prete-Metcalf Flds.	11.36	NP	1,6
50	Hopkins Square	1.0	LP	Passive Park, Historic Statuary
51	Windmill Sch. Annex I	.5	SG	
52	Ascham Street Park	1.72	LP	2,9
53	Windmill St. Sch/Grnds	1.0	SG	Arboretum
54	Canada Pond	22.8	CA	10

## WANSKUCK:

55	Wanskuck Park	24.5	NP	Passive Park
56	Windmill Sch. Annex II	.4	SG	
57	Veazie Street Park	4.49	NP	5,9

---

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility; CA=Conservation Area

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 7-2 - CONTINUED)

**NORTH SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****ELMHURST:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
58	R.F.Kennedy School	.30	SG	
59	Fargnoli Park	3.05	NP	1,6,7,9
70	Pleasant Valley Pkwy	3.46	SU	10
71	N.Greene Sch/Grnds.	2.12	SG/LP	9

**MOUNT PLEASANT:**

60	Trinity Parkway	.44	SU	10
61	Mt. Pleasant Fields	17.8	CP	1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10
62	Mt.Pleasant Sch/Grnds	1.5	SG	
63	Conley Stadium	4.0	CP	5,8
64	TriggsMem.GolfCourse	161	SU	18 Hole,6900 Yd. Course
65	Obediah Brown Fields	9.4	CP	2
66	Pleasant View School Grounds	3.5	SG/SU	Indoor Pool
68	George West Park	4.28	NP	1,6,9
69	George West Sch/Grnds	.25	SG	

**MANTON:**

67	Viscolosi Park	.88	LP	9
----	----------------	-----	----	---

---

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

The North Side is also the City's hotbed of organized girl's softball leagues with teams playing on their own fields at Mt. Pleasant, Corliss, and Ascham. These are all excellent facilities. Women's softball teams from throughout the state play at Hopkins, a facility in bad condition that has not seen any investment since the 1950's. All of these leagues have strong roots in the community and are likely to remain stable and strong during the 1991-1995 period.

Men's softball leagues play almost every night in the summer season at Hopkins, as well as at Obediah Brown and Veazie. The Obediah Brown facility, with three fields, is also outdated and in need of rehabilitation.

While there are as many tennis courts in the North Side as the East Side, the tennis courts are rarely used. Only the six courts at Mt. Pleasant Fields are used occasionally. Only one public high school in Providence, Classical, has a tennis team, and it plays at Hope High School. There are fewer Providence youth being exposed to tennis as a sport as there once was. Surprisingly, the Elmhurst and Mt. Pleasant neighborhoods, while solid middle class enclaves, do not appear to have a great demand for tennis.

In 1988, the Parks Department converted two of the then eight tennis courts at Mt. Pleasant to a basketball court. This has proved to be a popular move and to satisfy the demand for more basketball courts in the North Side, two more tennis courts should be considered for conversion to a basketball court. The most active basketball facility in the North Side, and one of the most heavily used in the city, is the one at Fagnoli Park. The

heavy neighborhood demand is exacerbated by Providence College students playing on the courts.

Unlike other areas of the city, there are no adult soccer leagues playing on the North Side soccer fields at Mt. Pleasant and Veazie. These fields are used by Mt. Pleasant High School and Classical High School respectively. There does not appear to be demand for adult soccer in the area for the next five years.

A recent addition, by the Parks Department, of a paved jogging/walking track at Mt. Pleasant Fields has proved to be very popular. It is used from sunup to sundown in all seasons of the year by the 21-54 age group and by the 55+ age group.

Conley stadium, next to Mt. Pleasant Fields, is the primary football field in the city for high school league games. With the exception of Hope High School, which plays its games at Hope High Fields, all of the city's other public high schools play their games at Conley Stadium.

Besides Conley Stadium, the North Side is also home to several other unique city park and recreation resources. Triggs Memorial Golf Course, located in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood, is the city's only municipal golf course. Since 1982, it has been operated by private firms under lease to the Parks Department. Designed by noted golf course architect Donald Ross in the 1920's, the course fell in hard times in the 1970's. It has made great strides under the lease agreement, which has enabled critical capital improvements to be made to the course. The number of rounds played on the course has increased by 50 percent since 1980 to about 50,000 rounds in 1990, and now there is a need to make further investments in the facility to bring it

up to modern standards.

The Wanskuck neighborhood has a unique resource, Wanskuck Park, which is now a 25 acre passive park, but was formerly the Jesse Metcalf estate. It is park of the Wanskuck National Register District of Historic Places. The park, which is underutilized, needs minor improvements to address lingering aesthetic and landscape issues.

The Charles neighborhood was the home of Esek Hopkins, the first commander in chief of the United States Navy. Two sites owned by the Parks Department are significant reminders of Hopkins. First, the Esek Hopkins Homestead, where Hopkins lived most of his adult life, is located on Admiral Street, across from the Chad Brown Housing Project. The Parks Department, in 1987-88, restored the exterior of the house and stabilized the building. A caretaker lives in the house, and its valuable furniture is stored at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. There is a need for a study to determine a future use of the house. Should the house be restored to museum quality? Who would operate it? Should the house be leased to a preservation organization? Is it feasible to convert the house to an office use without compromising the house's exterior and historical importance? These are some of the issues that need to be addressed in a comprehensive study.

Hopkins is also remembered by a commemorative statue at Hopkins Square where he is buried. The statue needs restoration to restore is to its original beauty.

Unique to the city, and located in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood, is the Pleasant View School for the handicapped

which includes an indoor swimming pool and gymnasium. Fiscal austerity has diminished Recreation Department programming here. It is important that organized recreational services for the disabled be increased here and that transportation be provided.

The well-maintained grounds and facilities of Rhode Island College are in constant use by city residents and those from neighboring communities. The country-like setting provides beautifully landscaped open space, tennis courts, baseball and softball fields, a soccer field, and a newly resurfaced running track.

The North Side neighborhoods, like the East Side ones, do not have any outdoor swimming pools. This is a major deficiency in an area where there are over 40,000 people living.

### 7.3 Needs and Opportunities:

In general terms, the North Side neighborhoods are well served by overall acreage devoted to Neighborhood Park facilities. According to standards discussed earlier, the area should have 60 acres of neighborhood parks and it has about 61 acres. Local Park standards, from an acreage point of view, however, are not being met in the North Side area. The area should have 20 acres in Local Parks and it only has 6 acres. This substandard sum in overall acreage for Local Parks is not too devastating for two reasons: (1) the Neighborhood Parks in the area all include play equipment and are plentiful in terms of the number of parks as well as acreage; (2) Elmhurst has relatively small numbers of children in the 0-11 age category compared to other neighborhoods.

Besides the lack of Community Parks, there are also at least two service area problems in the area. First, the northern section of the Elmhurst neighborhood and the Wanskuck neighborhood, between Admiral Street and Douglas Avenue, is totally lacking in a Local Park since the sale of Valley View housing project in the early 1980's. The Valley View playground disappeared when the project was sold to a private developer. A search for more adequate replacement site in the immediate area (playground equipment was added at Nathanael Greene School to partially compensate for the loss) should remain a priority.

A second need in the area is the additional play equipment needed at Mt. Pleasant Fields. While equipment was added in 1988, the park is extremely crowded during Little League games and during other seasons of the year. The play equipment area should be expanded.

Finally, the city purchased, in 1989, the Canada Pond Conservation Area. To prevent illegal dumping on the site, to control access to the site, and to protect the resources on the site, the Parks Department developed a Canada Pond Management Plan in 1990. The plan calls for a number of capital development actions over a five year period. These should be phased in starting in 1991.

Exhibit 7-3 summarizes the capital development needs and opportunities of the North Side neighborhood park and recreation facilities.

**EXHIBIT 7-3****NORTH SIDE DISTRICT****CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES, 1991-1995**

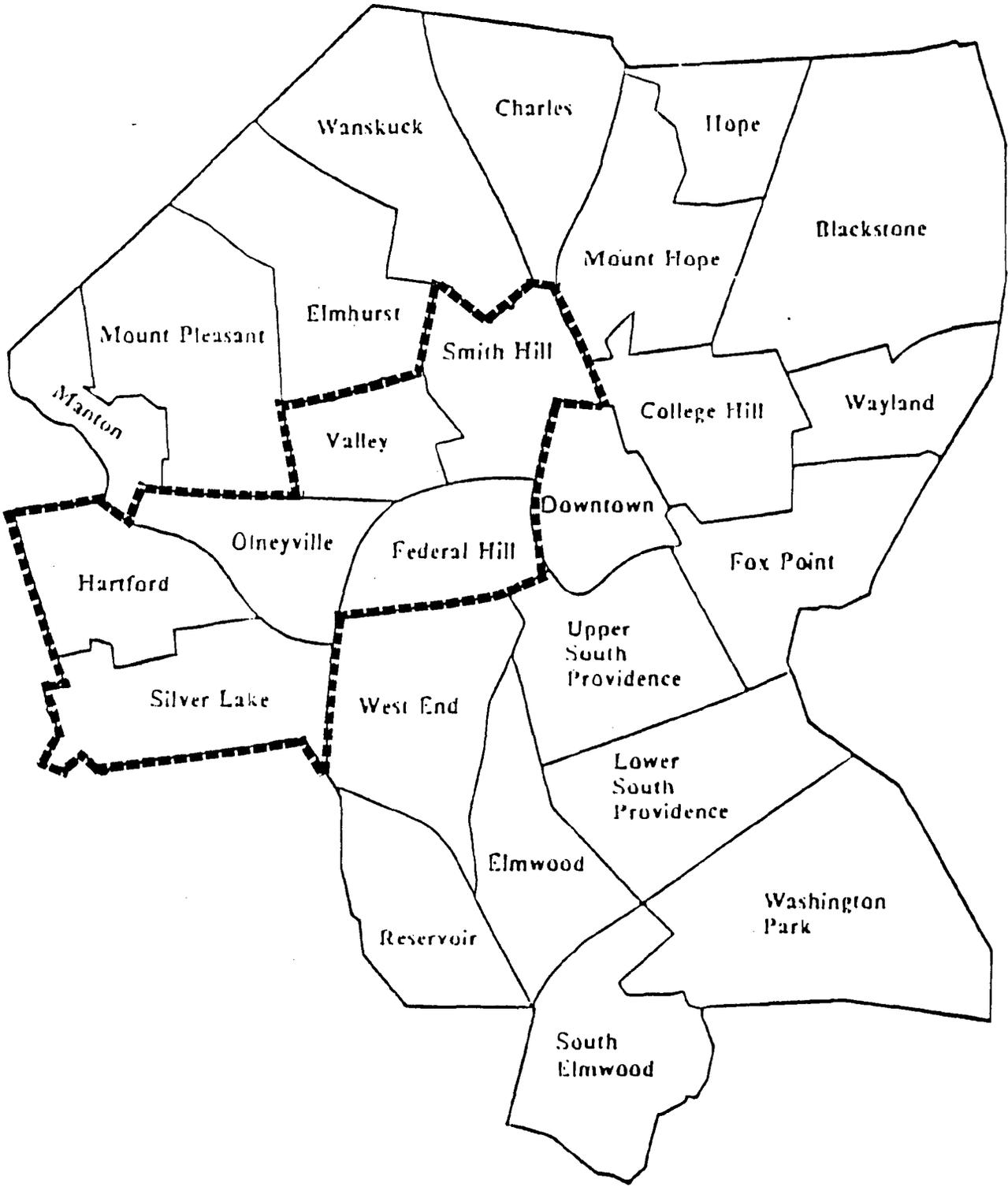
NEEDS	PARKS	JUSTIFICATION
Rehabilitation	Hopkins Park, Corliss Park, Wanskuck, Obediah Brown Fields, Triggs Golf Course, Pleasant Valley Parkway	Increased use patterns; worn out equipment
Historic Restoration	Hopkins Square (Statue)	Historical importance
Expansion of Facilities	Mt. Pleasant Field, (basketball, play equipment); Prete-Metcalf (2nd lighted field, restrooms); Pleasant Valley Parkway (jogging/walking path); Pleasant View School (play equipment for handicapped).	Expand needed recreational opportunities
New Facility	New park in Wanskuck area between Admiral Street and Douglas Ave.	Limited existing recreational opportunities
Open Space Protection	Canada Pond Conservation Area	Resource protection
Additional Planning	Esek Hopkins Homestead; Use of Pleasant View School Pool by neighborhood residents.	Issues need to be resolved

**CHAPTER EIGHT**  
**WEST SIDE DISTRICT**

8.1 Development and Demographic Trends:

The West Side neighborhoods stretch from Smith Hill to Silver Lake. The principal physical feature linking these diverse neighborhoods is the Woonasquatucket River which flows into Providence from North Providence and flows through the West Side neighborhoods of Hartford, Olneyville, Valley, and Smith Hill. The Woonasquatucket River valley was once Providence's "Industrial Valley." Along its banks once stood the industrial giants of Brown & Sharpe, Nicholson File, and U.S. Rubber. Huge textile mills, such as Atlantic Mills, once worked around the clock in Olneyville alongside the Woonasquatucket. Literally thousands of workers walked to work from their tenements in the Smith Hill, Federal Hill, Valley and Olneyville neighborhoods to those sprawling factories.

In the post war era, the manufacturing fortunes of Providence declined rapidly as industries moved out of the city or shut down. Jewelry has replaced textiles in Olneyville and the numerous business in the Promenade Center provide hundreds of jobs. But thousands of jobs that were lost were never replaced. In time, the people of these neighborhoods left also. During the 1970 to 1980 period, the West Side neighborhoods had the biggest population losses in the city. The once stable Smith Hill neighborhood lost 20 percent of its population during the 1970's; Federal Hill lost 28 percent; Olneyville lost 16 percent; and even the most stable neighborhood in the area, Silver Lake, lost 13 percent. School closings followed and many houses were abandoned.



The West Side neighborhoods are still in transition, but in the 1980's at least, the area's population decline stopped. A modest gain in population took place, as the overall population increased from 36,013 in 1980 to 37,406 in 1989. Estimated population by neighborhood is listed below:

Valley	3,911
Olneyville	4,855
Hartford	5,749
Smith Hill	5,856
Federal Hill	7,605
Silver Lake	9,430

-----  
Total 37,406

Several other population characteristics are worth noting:

- Silver Lake is the most prosperous neighborhood with median family income almost at the city median family income.
- All of the other neighborhoods have median family incomes \$5,000-\$6,000 below the city median family figure of \$25,392.
- The Silver Lake and Federal Hill neighborhoods are traditionally strong Italian neighborhoods with many Italian institutions in the form of churches, clubs, and organizations. Both areas, Federal Hill in particular, have witnessed significant departures of old Italian families and the arrival of new Hispanic immigrants.
- Smith Hill, once an Irish stronghold, now has one of the largest concentration of Cambodians in the city.
- Federal Hill has a high percentage of its population 65+ in age: approximately 24 percent compared to city wide figure of 16 percent.
- Neighborhoods with the highest numbers in the 0-11 age group are Hartford and Olneyville, which reflects the presence of the Hartford and Manton Housing projects.

The West Side neighborhoods are still in transition, but in the 1980's at least, the area's population decline stopped. A modest gain in population took place, as the overall population increased from 36,013 in 1980 to 37,406 in 1989. Estimated population by neighborhood is listed below:

Valley	3,911
Olneyville	4,855
Hartford	5,749
Smith Hill	5,856
Federal Hill	7,605
Silver Lake	9,430
	-----
Total	37,406

Several other population characteristics are worth noting:

- Silver Lake is the most prosperous neighborhood with median family income almost at the city median family income.
- All of the other neighborhoods have median family incomes \$5,000-\$6,000 below the city median family figure of \$25,392.
- The Silver Lake and Federal Hill neighborhoods are traditionally strong Italian neighborhoods with many Italian institutions in the form of churches, clubs, and organizations. Both areas, Federal Hill in particular, have witnessed significant departures of old Italian families and the arrival of new Hispanic immigrants.
- Smith Hill, once an Irish stronghold, now has one of the largest concentration of Cambodians in the city.
- Federal Hill has a high percentage of its population 65+ in age: approximately 24 percent compared to city wide figure of 16 percent.
- Neighborhoods with the highest numbers in the 0-11 age group are Hartford and Olneyville, which reflects the presence of the Hartford and Manton Housing projects.

## 8.2 Existing Facilities:

Exhibit 8-1 summarizes the major outdoor recreational opportunities in the West Side neighborhood public parks and recreational facilities. Exhibit 8-2 lists all of the public facilities. The area generally meets the planning standards outlined previously in Chapter 4, except for the Community Parks category. The Federal Hill and Silver Lake neighborhoods have a relative abundance of Local Parks with playground equipment when compared to some of the North Side and East Side neighborhoods.

One of the major features of the West Side park and recreation system is the number of pools. The area has four (4) pools, while the North Side has none and the East Side has one closed one. While the number of pools may seem extravagant, since the West Side's total population is not appreciably different than the North Side or East Side, it reflects the income status of the West Side residents.

Median family income in the West Side neighborhoods is below the city's average and considerably below that of the East Side and North Side. Residents, particularly youth, in the West Side neighborhoods of Smith Hill, Valley, Olneyville, Federal Hill, Hartford, and Silver Lake do not have easy access to beaches and parks outside of Providence. Thus, West Side neighborhood pools are heavily used and are essential in providing some relief from summer heat.

An example of the demographic changes that occurred in the 1980's in Federal Hill was the dissolution of the Federal Hill Little League due to the declining numbers of youth still living

EXHIBIT 8-1

MAJOR OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
IN WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC FACILITIES

ACTIVITY	FACILITY
Basketball	Candace St., Davis Park, Danforth St., Donnigian, Daniel Ave., Neutaconkanut Park, Wallace, Bridgham, Ridge St., Knight St.
Baseball/Little League	Neutaconkanut, Bridgham, Davis Park
Baseball/Senior	Neutaconkanut, Davis Park
Jogging	Neutaconkanut, Wallace, Davis Park
Playground Equipment	Candace St., Danforth St., Regent Ave., Davis Park, Donnigian, Joslin, Laurel Hill, Neutaconkanut, Daniel Ave., Clarence St., Wallace St., Ridge St., Knight St.
Soccer	Danforth St., Neutaconkanut Park
Softball/Men	Donnigian, Joslin, Perry Fields, Neutaconkanut, Wallace St.
Softball/Girls	Wallace St.
Swimming	Almagno Pool, Zuccolo Pool, Danforth Pool, Joslin Pool
Tennis	Bridgham Fields

EXHIBIT 8-2WEST SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES**SMITH HILL:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
72	Chalkstone/Oakland	.80	SU	Vacant Site
73	Camden Ave. School	.10	SG	
74	Danforth St. Plygrnd.	1.57	NP	3,6,9
75	DanforthPool/Rec.Ctr	3.15	SU	Pool & Recreation Center
76	Candace St. Plygrnd.	1.75	NP	6,9
77	Boyle Park	.01	LP	Passive Park
78	Promenade RiverWalk	.25	SU	Under Development

**VALLEY:**

79	Davis Park	10.05	CP	1,2,6,9,10,Volleyball
80	Regent Ave. Plygrnd.	.89	LP	9

**OLNEYVILLE:**

81	Donnigian Mem.Park	4.49	NP	2,6,9
82	Joslin Pool/Rec.Ctr.	1.57	SU	Pool & Recreation Center
83	Joslin Fields	.83	LP	2,9
84	D'Abate Sch/Grnds.	.50	SG	

**HARTFORD:**

85	Laurel Hill Ave. Playground	2.5	LP	9
86	Laurel Hill Ave. School Grounds	.25	SG	
87	Perry School Fields	3.28	LP	5
88	Perry Sch/Grounds	.30	SG	
148	Merino Park	13.27	NP	Closed

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Plygrnd Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 8-2 - CONTINUED)

**WEST SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****SILVER LAKE:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
89	Almagno Pool	1.57	SU	Pool
90	Neutaconkanut Park	73.17	NP/CP/CA	1,2,3,5,6,9,10
91	Daniel Ave. Plygrnd.	1.18	LP	6,9
92	Scalabrini Piazza	.29	LP	Passive Park
93	Cerbo Square	.10	LP	Passive Park
94	Clarence St. Park	1.0	LP	9
95	Webster Ave. Sch.	.25	SG	
96	Wallace St. Park	3.4	NP	1,6,9,10

**FEDERAL HILL:**

97	Bridgham Sch/Grnds.	.20	SG	
98	Bridgham Fields	2.31	NP	1,6,7
99	Ridge St. Plygrnd.	.63	LP	6,9
100	Atwells Ave. Sitting Area	.04	LP	Passive Park
101	Knight St. Plygrnd.	.58	LP	6,9, Street Hockey
102	Zuccolo Pool/Rec. Ctr	.93	SU	Pool & Recreation Center
103	DePasquale Plaza	.27	LP	Passive Park, Fountain
104	Lauro School	.44	SG	
105	Garibaldi Square	.53	LP	Passive Park

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility; CA=Conservation Area

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

in the neighborhood interested in baseball. In 1990, the League was re-instituted with four (4) teams and with strong recruitment of youth from the immigrants in the neighborhood.

The demographic changes in the area have not occurred without some tension between the traditional neighborhood residents and the new arrivals. Unfortunately, this tension has manifested itself sometimes in the playgrounds and parks. "Graffiti wars" plague several parks in the area. Park vandalism has taken a worse toll in the Federal Hill and Silver Lake neighborhoods than in any other neighborhoods in the city. Litter is a significant problem in all of the parks in the West Side neighborhoods. The established community organizations, such as the community centers, the recreational centers, and the little leagues will have to work more diligently in the 1990's to help the new immigrant families be assimilated into the West Side neighborhoods. The Silver Lake-Olneyville Little League has been a leader in recruiting youth from all ethnic backgrounds. The League, including its girls teams, had fifty (50) teams in 1990.

With the exception of jogging and tennis, for which there is very little demand in the West Side neighborhoods, the use of all the park and recreation facilities is moderate to heavy. In the 1988-1990 period, ten of the facilities in the West Side parks were rehabilitated to accommodate the heavy use of the facilities. In fact, more funds went into the neighborhood facilities in this area than in any of the city's areas. The challenge will be to maintain those facilities with heavy participant use and with the need to re-educate the public about respect for public parks.

### 8.3 Needs and Opportunities:

There are significant rehabilitation needs in many West Side facilities that have not been renovated for years. Exhibit 8-3 summarizes the needs for the area. New basketball courts should be added, for example, at Perry School Fields, to accommodate the increased demand in the Hartford area where the Hartford Projects are located.

In terms of Local Parks, the West Side should have about 18.5 acres, but only has 12.1. There appear to be enough Local Parks; many of them are relatively small and thus the overall acreage is deficient. One way to meet the Local Parks need without incurring new land acquisition costs is to install play equipment at some of the local school yards. Camden Avenue and D'Abate School have adequate room and are in areas with large numbers of children.

Neighborhood Park acreage is about 47.5, while the standards suggest the need for 55.5 acres. (The 47.5 acres figure does not include Merino Park which is closed, or 40 acres of Neutaconkanut which are largely inaccessible to the public.) One way to compensate for the deficiency in the Neighborhood Park category would be to develop Perry Fields (now categorized as a Local Park) more intensively. Alternatively, Merino Park, after further study, may be re-designed to safely accommodate a Neighborhood Park. A third alternative is to work with the state to develop Dyerville State Park which is presently vacant.

Two issues will need considerable study and planning in the next couple of years. There has been a consistent demand for several years in the Silver Lake neighborhood for an indoor

recreation center. The financial feasibility of such a facility needs to be carefully examined. A potential location would be at the Almagno Pool site next to Neutaconkanut Park.

A second issue that needs to be resolved is the fate of Merino Park, located behind the Hartford Project. It has been closed for two years because of uncontrollable illegal dumping at the site. The site is accessible only by a long driveway off of Hartford Avenue that must remain ungated in case emergency vehicle access is required. This hidden driveway allows trucks to enter at all hours for illegal dumping. The site will remain closed in a landbank status until access and park protection issues can be resolved.

**EXHIBIT 8-3****WEST SIDE DISTRICT****CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES, 1991-1995**

NEEDS	PARKS	JUSTIFICATION
Rehabilitation	Danforth Park, Joslin Pool, Almagno Pool, Zuccolo Pool, Joslin Fields, Perry Fields, Danforth Pool	Heavy Participation
Facility Expansion/Play Equipment	D'Abate School, Danforth Street Neutaconkanut Park (parking)	Expansion of Recreational Opportunities
New Facility	Promenade Center Riverwalk	Complement Nearby Community Development
Open Space Protection	Upper Woonasquatucket River	Resource Protection
Additional Planning	Potential Indoor Recreation Center in Silver Lake; Development of Merino Park and Dyerville State Park	Unresolved Development Issue

**CHAPTER NINE**  
**SOUTH SIDE DISTRICT**

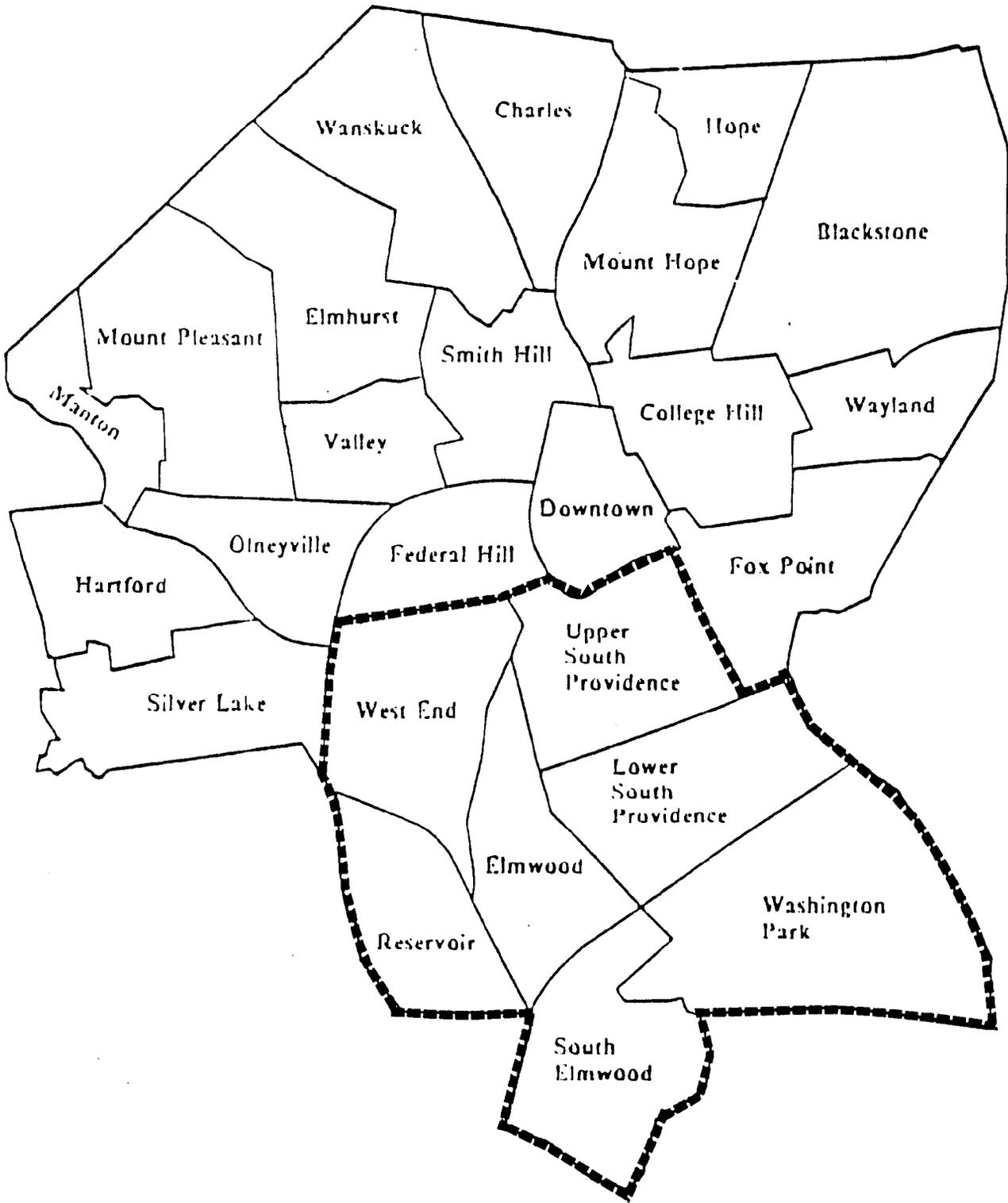
9.1 Development and Demographic Trends:

The South Side area contains seven (7) neighborhoods. The area includes the biggest industrial areas of the city: Huntington Industrial Park, in the Reservoir neighborhood; the Port of Providence, in Washington Park; and the "new" Jewelry District, between Allens Avenue and Eddy Street in Washington Park. Upper South Providence also contains the largest hospital complex in the state -- the ever growing Rhode Island Hospital/Jane Brown/Women and Infants complex. In short, outside of Downtown, the South Side has the largest number of jobs in the city of any area.

This proximity of jobs helps to explain why the South Side area has the largest population of the five planning districts used in this report -- an estimated 46,969 as of 1989. This represents a modest increase of 4 percent from 1980's population to 45,221. Population growth is expected to continue to grow in the next few years with a projected 48,200 residents by 1995.

The Elmwood and West End neighborhoods are the most densely populated in the area and two of the most urbanized in the city. The 1990 estimated population by neighborhood is the following:

South Elmwood	1,145
Reservoir	2,692
Upper South Providence	3,796
Lower South Providence	5,833
Washington Park	7,902
Elmwood	11,280
West End	14,321
	-----
Total	46,969



Several other population characteristics are worth noting:

- South Elmwood and Reservoir are working class middle income neighborhoods with substantial amounts of single-family housing.
- Upper South Providence and the West End have some of the poorest neighborhoods in the city with Lower South Providence and portions of Elmwood not too far behind.
- Upper South Providence, Lower South Providence, the West End, and Elmwood have the highest concentrations of minorities in the city.
- The South Side's population mix has the largest number of children in the 0-11 age cohort. The city average is 16.4 percent in this age cohort. On the South Side the figure is 22 percent. Fully, 40 percent of the city's youth in the 0-11 age group live on the South Side.

#### 9.2 Existing Facilities:

The city and state investment in rehabilitating neighborhood parks and the restoration work in Roger Williams Park in the 1988-1990 period has helped to significantly address park and recreation needs in the South Side neighborhoods. Eleven neighborhood parks were renovated and over \$3 million of improvements were completed at Roger Williams Park between 1988 and 1990. Exhibit 9-1 summarizes the outdoor recreational opportunities available in the South Side. Exhibit 9-2 lists the facilities by neighborhood.

It is important to note that while Roger Williams Park is a city-wide and metropolitan facility, it is also an important neighborhood park and recreation resource. In particular, the Park is heavily used by Elmwood, Washington Park, South Elmwood, Reservoir, and Lower South Providence residents. Neighborhood

**EXHIBIT 9-1**

**MAJOR OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
IN SOUTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC FACILITIES**

ACTIVITY	FACILITY
Basketball	Ellery St., Bucklin, Niagara St., Sackett St. Park, Ardoene, Dudley St., Columbia, Harriet & Sayles, Richardson
Baseball/Little League	J.T. Owens Field, Roger Williams Park (Tim O'Neil Fields)
Baseball/Senior League	Ardoene, Joseph Williams, Bucklin
Football	Bucklin
Jogging	Roger Williams Park
Playground Equipment	Cranston St., Coddling Court, Dexter Training Ground, Ellery St., Waldo St., Diamond St., Warren Ave., Bucklin, Niagara St., Sackett St. Park, Ardoene, Joseph Williams, Roger Williams, Columbia, Harriet & Sayles, Salisbury St., Mattie Smith Totlot, Dudley St.
Soccer	Drummond Field
Softball	Central-Classical Fields, Dexter Training Ground, Bucklin, Sackett St. Park, Richardson, Harriet & Sayles
Swimming	McCrane Pool, Dudley Pool (indoor)
Tennis	Roger Williams Park

**EXHIBIT 9-2****SOUTH SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****WEST END:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
106	Central-Classical School Grounds	.60	SG	
107	Central-Classical Fields	7.92	NP	2,4,8
108	Cranston St. Park	.49	LP	9,Volleyball
109	Codding Ct.Plygrnd	.5	LP	9
110	Dexter Trng. Grnds.	9.10	NP	2,9,10
111	Ellery St. Park	.92	LP	6,9
112	Asa Messer School Grounds	.22	SG	
113	Mansion Park	1.72	LP	Passive Park
114	Waldo St. Totlot	.40	LP	9
115	Diamond St. Totlot	.03	LP	9
116	Warren Ave.Plygrnd	.35	LP	9
117	McCrane Pool	1.57	SU	Pool
118	Bucklin Park	5.52	NP	1,2,4,5,6,9
119	Gilbert Stuart School Grounds	1.40	SG	
120	Burnett St.Park	.04	LP	Vacant

**RESERVOIR:**

123	Senior Citizens Ctr.	.10	SU	Indoor Senior's Center
124	Columbus Square	.21	LP	Passive Park,Historic Statuary
125	Reservoir Ave. School Grounds	.20	SG	
126	Ardoene Park	4.5	NP	1,6,9

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Plygrnd Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 9-2 - CONTINUED)

**SOUTH SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****ELMWOOD:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
121	NiagaraSt.Park	.18	LP	6,9
122	Locust GroveCemetary	8.0	SU	Historic House
127	Sackett St. School Grounds	.7	SG	
128	Sackett St. Park	2.21	LP	2,6,9
129	Cadillac Drive	3.5	SU	Vacant

**SOUTH ELMWOOD:**

130	Joseph Williams Park	5.3	NP	1,9
131	Roger Williams Park	435	MP/CP	1,7,9,10

**WASHINGTON PARK:**

132	Washington Park Sq.	.15	LP	Passive Park
133	Broad St. Sch/Grnds.	.3	SG	
134	Columbia Park	.66	LP	6,9
135	Drummond Field	2.75	NP	3

**LOWER SOUTH PROVIDENCE:**

136	Richardson Park	3.2	LP	2,6
137	Roger Williams School Grounds	1.0	SG	
138	Fogarty Sch/Grnds.	.7	SG	
139	Harriet&Sayles Park	2.05	NP	2,6,9
140	Baxter St. Park	.07	LP	Vacant
141	Salisbury St.Totlot	.08	LP	6,9

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park;  
MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use  
Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer  
Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields;  
6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track;  
9=Plygrnd Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

(EXHIBIT 9-2 - CONTINUED)

**SOUTH SIDE DISTRICT: EXISTING CITY FACILITIES****UPPER SOUTH PROVIDENCE:**

<u>SITE #</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SITE TYPE*</u>	<u>MAJOR FEATURES**</u>
142	Mattie L. Smith Totlot	.06	LP	9
143	Alphonso St. Totlot	.05	LP	Undeveloped
144	Flynn School/Grounds	1.0	SG	
145	Dudley Pool/Rec.Ctr	1.57	SU	Pool & Recreation Center
146	Dudley St. Plygrnd.	.59	LP	9
147	Pearl St. Park	.30	LP	Undeveloped

---

\* SITE TYPE: LP=Local Park; NP=Neighborhood Park; CP=Community Park; MP=Metropolitan Park; SG=School Grounds; SU=Special Use Facility

\*\* MAJOR FEATURES: 1=Baseball Field(s); 2=Softball Field(s); 3=Soccer Field(s); 4=Football Field; 5=Multi-purpose Fields; 6=Basketball Court; 7=Tennis Court; 8=Track; 9=Playground Equip.; 10=Bicycle/walking/jogging trail

use of the park encompasses picnics, concerts, the Museum, the Carousel, the play area, the Zoo, and the Tim O'Neil Ballfields. The latter is the home of the South Providence-Washington Park Little League. Three new fields are presently being built for the South Providence-Washington Park Little League which is now one of the fastest growing little leagues (now 16 teams) in the state. The League has been a model in recruiting new immigrants from the area to little league baseball. The three new fields, two of which are lighted, at the Park should accommodate the League for decades.

Semi-public recreation facilities play a significant role in the South Side park and recreation system as seen below:

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>NEIGHBORHOOD</u>
West End Community Center	West End
St. Martin DePorres Center	West End
John Hope Settlement House	West End
Elmwood Community Center	Elmwood
Providence Public Library	
--Knight Memorial	Elmwood
--South Providence Branch	Upper South Providence
--Washington Park Branch	Washington Park
Washington Park Community Center	Washington Park
South Side Boys/Girls Club	Lower South Providence
South Side Community Land Trust	Upper South Providence
Central YMCA	Upper South Providence

These institutions and facilities provide vital recreation services in the area. A key state-run facility is the J.T. Owens Field in the Reservoir neighborhood. This complex is the home field for the Elmwood Little League (22 teams) and also includes a boat ramp for Mashapaug Pond and tennis courts.

A potential problem exists with the on-going maintenance of J.T. Owens Field. Facing severe budget cuts, DEM has had to cut resources including maintenance personnel for J.T. Owens Field.

The Elmwood Little League and the Parks Department, which faces its own maintenance resource problems, are attempting to work out a shared maintenance arrangement for the 1991 season.

Another site with some risk is Drummond Field. There is continual pressure on the city, because of the field's location in the Port area and near Johnson and Wales Harborside Campus, to sell the land. Because of deed restrictions, the land would have to be replaced in-kind somewhere else in the neighborhood.

Nevertheless, the city should not consider selling Drummond Field because of the shortage of developed recreation sites in the Washington Park neighborhood. Furthermore, as seen in Exhibit 9-1, Drummond Field is the only soccer field in the entire South Side District.

While Roger Williams Park is a dominant recreation site in the South Side District, the South Side recreation system depends heavily on neighborhood play areas. As seen in Exhibit 9-1, the South Side has the greatest number of play areas of any area of the city. Because of the large number of children aged 0-11, these play areas are crowded throughout the summer months.

The most heavily used facility in the area outside of Roger Williams Park is Bucklin Park. The diversity of facilities in this park attracts users throughout the year. In the peak months of May - August, the park attracts several hundred users a day.

### 9.3 Needs and Opportunities:

While Roger Williams Park has had major improvements in recent years, it will still require significant investment in the 1990's to restore and improve facilities in the Park. The sheer

number of annual visitors to the Park from all over the state, estimated to be 1,500,000 in 1990, needs to be better accommodated in terms of improved roads, parking, and other visitor services.

The age of the Park's infrastructure -- sidewalks, curbs, drainage lines, water lines -- dates in many cases to the 1930's and early 1940's. Much of the infrastructure needs replacing. The Park is also an historic facility. It is one of the best remaining examples of an urban Victorian-era park in the country, and the entire park is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Park's historic character places special burdens on restoration efforts. Park renovation efforts have to be done within standards established by the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission. A separate Roger Williams Park Restoration Plan, 1988-1995 has been developed to guide near term restoration efforts.

Except for Upper Elmwood and Upper South Providence which have major deficiencies, the South Side has an adequate number of Local Parks that offer playground equipment. The South Side entire area, however, is deficient in terms of acreage for Local Parks. This deficiency is due in part to the small size of many of these parks. The area should have 24 acres of Local Parks, it has 11.8 acres.

The Elmwood neighborhood, because of its population density, requires not only a park in the triangular area bounded by Public, Elmwood and Broad, but also another small park between the Sackett Street Park and the Niagara Street Park. The Upper South Providence area has been the recipient of substantial new housing development in the 1985-1990 period. Where there was

once abandoned lots, houses and families now exist. New facilities are needed to accommodate the increased population.

The 1980's also saw the demise of most of the occupied housing units at the Roger Williams Housing Project in Lower South Providence. After years of planning and study, it appears that construction will begin in 1991 on a new housing development at the Roger Williams Housing site. This rebirth of that area of South Providence will be the signal to invest in new facilities at Richardson Park which is surrounded by the project.

The South Side area has a great number of Neighborhood Parks, seven, but again falls short in terms of acreage. It should have 70.5 acres, but only has 37.5. This deficiency is compensated, however, by the presence of a Metropolitan Park, Roger Williams Park, which is within two miles of four of the South Side neighborhoods.

One of the challenges of the park system in the South Side is to accommodate the park and recreation needs of its low income and its new immigrant residents. The South Side neighborhoods, with the exception of Reservoir and South Elmwood, are the poorest in the city. The Upper South Providence and West End neighborhoods have median family incomes half that of the city's overall median family income of \$25,392. Many of the families in these neighborhoods are also single parent families. This combination makes it difficult for families to get access to park and recreation facilities outside of the city, or, in some cases, outside of their neighborhood. In general, this dependence on local facilities has meant a heavy use of local parks and recreation facilities. In the summer, all of the South Side

facilities are jammed. Totlots are sometimes dangerously overcrowded. The Summer Lunch Program brings literally thousands of children and mothers every day to the South Side facilities.

While pre-teen boys and teenage boys use the facilities for basketball, and increasingly in Little League baseball pursuits, the park and recreation system on the South Side does not attract pre-teen and teenage girls. City park and recreation administrations and private organizations in the neighborhoods need to figure out programs and activities to interest the area's girls and young women in the park and recreation system.

The park and recreation system also needs to adopt to the park and recreation needs of new immigrant families in the South Side. The area has the largest number of Southeast Asians and Hispanic families in the city. In recent years, some encouraging progress has been made in accommodating the South Side's new residents.

The South Providence-Washington Park Little League has been very successful in attracting Hispanic youngsters into its league. It now has 16 teams. The Parks Department, as previously mentioned, is accommodating this growth with the construction of three (3) new fields at Roger Williams Park. The Parks Department is also responding to the interest in volleyball by Southeast Asian youth. A court has been constructed at Cranston Street Park and more are planned at Roger Williams Park. Many Southeast Asian families have also requested community garden space in the South Side. The Parks Department has set aside a few acres at Roger Williams Park for community gardening. At some time in the next year or two, this garden will be

switched to an area nearer the Broad Street entrance where it will be more accessible to the public.

The largest community garden program in the city is operated in Upper South Providence by the South Side Community Land Trust. This organization has turned several vacant city lots into community gardens which are used by over 200 families. There is a need for additional community garden space in the area and one or more of the closed park spaces in the area should be considered for conversion into community garden space.

Finally, the Parks Department acquired 3.5 acres of land on Cadillac Drive in 1989 for potential satellite Zoo parking for Roger Williams Park or for re-located Tim O'Neil Fields from the Park. Neither of these needs now exist. The Parks Department re-located the Tim O'Neil Fields within Roger Williams Park and has developed a separate plan for Zoo parking at the former site of the Tim O'Neil Fields. The site is close to Sackett Park which has play equipment, a ballfield, and a basketball court. The Parks Department should develop a planning process with the neighborhood to determine what should take place at the land. Options to consider include: (1) using all of it for a park; (2) using part of it for a park and selling the rest of the land and using the proceeds for the acquisition of other land in the city; or (3) selling all of it and using the proceeds for the acquisition of other land in the city.

Capital development needs for the South Side for 1991-1995 are summarized in Exhibit 9-3. Needs for Roger Williams Park are listed in Exhibit 9-4.

**EXHIBIT 9-3****SOUTH SIDE DISTRICT  
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES, 1991-1995**

NEEDS	PARKS	JUSTIFICATION
Rehabilitation	Central-Classical Fields, Salisbury St., Niagara St., Ellery St., Diamond St., Waldo St., McCrane Pool, Richardson Park, Joe Williams Field, Chaffee Playground, Wash. Park Community Center Playground.	Heavy participation use; old equipment; inadequate design.
New Facilities	New Local Parks on Alphonso St. and Pearl St.; New Elmwood Park(s); New Community gardens at Burnett St. and Baxter St.	Inadequate recreational opportunities in the neighborhood.
Facility Expansion	Sackett Street (play equipment and basketball)	The number of youth in the area.
Open Space Protection/ New Facility	Mashapaug Pond Conservation Area with Jogging/ Walking Trail	Resource protection; provide access to water; changes in recreational demands.
Additional Planning	Indoor recreation facility in Lower South Providence, perhaps at re-developed Roger Williams Housing project.	Inadequate accessible indoor recreational opportunities in cold weather season.
Historic Restoration	Columbus Square Statue	Historic Importance

**EXHIBIT 9-4****ROGER WILLIAMS PARK****CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES, 1991-1995**

-----  
**PROPOSED PHASE II ROGER WILLIAMS PARK RESTORATION PROJECTS**  
**1991-1995 IMPLEMENTATION**  
 -----

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Roads	\$600,000
Bridges	\$350,000
Zoo Parking Lot	\$450,000
New Zoo Entrance	\$250,000
Pony Barn Renovations	\$665,000
Lakes Restoration	\$500,000
Maintenance Garage	\$450,000
Museum	\$900,000
Zoo Exhibits and Facilities	\$900,000
Ballfields	\$600,000
Trees/Landscape Improvements	\$500,000
Tennis Court Renovations	\$150,000
Dock Repair	\$50,000
Front Gates	\$100,000
Walkways/Trails	\$300,000
Fencing/Auto Barriers	\$176,000
Site Amenities	\$350,000
Old Carousel Removal	\$85,000
Statues/Fountains	\$95,000
	-----
TOTAL	\$7,471,000

## CHAPTER TEN

### PROPOSED POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS: CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

#### 10.1 Introduction:

This chapter, and the next chapter, set forth policies and recommendations to guide the development and management of the Providence park and recreation system for the 1991-1995 period. The policies and recommendations provide a framework to guide the city in responding to its major park and recreation needs.

These policies and recommendations are set forth as good faith commitment by the city to tackle key issues and needs in the park and recreation system. It is particularly important in an era where resources are tight to spend time and money with a clear focus. Neither the city or the state have the luxury to focus time and money on strategies that do not solve real problems.

Proposed policies and recommendations are outlined for the following capital development needs:

1. Facility Rehabilitation;
2. Facility Expansion;
3. Capital Development Financing;
4. Handicap Accessibility;
5. Natural Resources Protection;
6. Historic Resources Preservation;

#### 10.2 Policies and Recommendations:

##### (1) *FACILITY REHABILITATION:*

##### NEED:

The rehabilitation of the remaining backlog of park and recreation facilities in need of renovation and repair.

---

POLICY:

The city should focus capital development funds on the rehabilitation of existing facilities, particularly on the renovation of unsafe and hazardous equipment and conditions.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should oversee the implementation of the project list in Exhibit 10-1.
  2. Maintain an up-to-date inventory of priority rehabilitation projects.
  3. Package rehabilitation efforts across several parks, where possible, of like equipment to obtain most cost effective prices. Packages, for example, may focus on fencing, basketball hoops, or play equipment.
  4. Give first priority to high use facilities.
- 
- 

(2) *FACILITY EXPANSION:*

NEED:

Additional facilities and equipment are needed in selected areas of the city.

---

POLICY:

The city should provide additional facilities where needs are the greatest.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should oversee the implementation of the project list in Exhibit 10-1.

2. Where possible, facilities should be added at existing park and recreation sites to minimize land purchase costs.
3. The Recreation Department and Mayor's Office should seek expanded shared-use arrangements with Brown University, Providence College, Rhode Island College, and Rhode Island School for the Deaf, particularly for the following activities: adult swimming, track, indoor basketball, and indoor public skating. Formal agreements should be developed to implement these arrangements.
4. In areas where no existing parks exist, needed new totlots should be added at school sites, if possible.
5. New Local Park facilities should be added in the South Providence, Hope, Elmwood, and Wanskuck neighborhoods. Land for the Elmwood Park(s) should be obtained through the Vacant Lot Program.
6. A jogging/walking trail should be developed in the proposed Mashapaug Pond Conservation Area.
7. The Parks Department should work closely with state agencies to ensure that the proposed East Bay Bikepath, Blackstone Bikepath, Providence Riverwalk, and Waterplace Park are appropriately designed and sited.

---

---

(3) *FACILITY FINANCING:*

NEED:

Financing of capital development needs with limited city resources.

---

POLICY:

The city should continually seek out a variety of alternative approaches for financing capital development projects.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department Capital Improvement Fund should have an annual budget so that needy projects receive priority.
2. The Parks Department should continually seek maximum fees possible from all concession and lease arrangements at Roger Williams Park and Triggs Golf Course.
3. The Parks Department should seek private sponsors where possible for capital projects.
4. The Parks Department should actively monitor and seek capital development funds from state and federal agencies, particularly the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
5. Parks Department officials should seek the targeting of School Bond funds for the rehabilitation and provision of recreation facilities located on School Department property.
6. The Parks Department, in conjunction with the Department of Planning and Development, should attempt to have park and recreation facilities provided as part of community development initiatives.

---

---

(4) *HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY:*

NEED:

For the handicapped populations of the city, the park and recreation system is often inaccessible.

---

POLICY:

The city should continue to increase recreational opportunities for the handicapped population.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department, in conjunction with the School Department, should develop three (3) handicapped usable totlots by 1995, that are geographically distributed in the city and that are scheduled for renovation.
2. The remaining public facilities in Roger Williams Park should become handicapped accessible through the implementation of the Park Restoration Plan.
3. The Parks Department should systematically evaluate the handicap accessibility of all park and recreation sites and develop a detailed priority schedule of improvements to the sites to be implemented each year as sites receive renovation funds.

-----

(5) *NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION:*

NEED:

Preservation of Providence's remaining natural resources.

-----

POLICY:

The Parks Department should work with the Planning Department in taking a lead role in city government in ensuring the protection and enhancement of Providence's natural resources.

-----

RECOMMENDATIONS: (See Exhibits 10-1 and 10-2)

1. The Parks Department should protect Mashapaug Pond by purchasing available vacant land.
2. The Parks Department should reduce the stormwater pollution entering the ponds in Roger Williams Park as part of the Roger Williams Park Restoration Plan.
3. The Parks Department should implement the Canada Pond Conservation Management Plan.

-----

(6) *HISTORIC RESOURCES PRESERVATION:*

NEED:

The preservation and restoration of the Park System's historic resources.

---

POLICY:

The Parks Department should balance the needs of preserving its inventory of historic landscapes, buildings, and sculptures with the recreational needs of park users.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS: (See Exhibit 10-1)

1. The Parks Department, in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission, should continue the progress in restoring Roger Williams Park, particularly in implementing the 1990 Roger Williams Park Restoration Plan.
  2. The Parks Department should restore neighborhood and Downtown historic public sculptures that have not yet received any restoration efforts. Private funding should be sought for these efforts.
- 
- 

(7) *SALE OF PARK AND RECREATION LAND:*

NEED:

The sale of city park and recreation land in Providence often does not receive sufficient wide spread review and discussion.

---

POLICY:

The sale of any city park and recreation site shall require

a public hearing, approval of the Board of Park Commissioners, and the approval of the City Council.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Given the shortage of park land in Washington Park, the city should not consider any proposals to sell Drummond Field.
  2. Given the shortage of park land in the Hartford Park and Manton neighborhoods, the city should not sell Merino Park.
- 
- 

10.3 Priority Rankings

As seen in Exhibit 10-1, a priority ranking system is used to rank facility development projects for each year in case insufficient funds are available to fund all projects. The rating system used in the 1985 Plan was used in this Plan with the most worthy projects being rated a "9". Priority rankings took into account condition of the site, neighborhood and city needs, and use of the facility.

10.4 Financing

Several sources of financing are proposed to fund the capital development projects listed in Exhibits 10-1 and 10-2. The sources are discussed as they are listed on the exhibits. A=City Park Bond . These are the remaining funds from the 1987 Providence Recreational Area and Open Space Bond. B=School Bond . The City is renovating the school system during the 1990's with periodic bond sales. This Plan proposes that some of these funds be used to fund landscape and outdoor recreation facilities in selected schools.

EXHIBIT 10-1 FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

YEAR: 1991

FACILITY	SITE #	PLANNING DISTRICT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	COST (000s)	SUGGESTED FUNDING SOURCE		
						LOCAL/*	STATE/*	OTHER/*
India Point	11	E.Side	Site renovations	9	860	210/A	650/C	
Pleas. Val. Pky	69	N.Side	Site renovations	9	328	328/A		
Ellery Street	114	S.Side	Site renovations	9	53	9/A		44/D
Niagara Street	121	S.Side	Site renovations	9	48	9/A		39/D
Salisbury Street	141	S.Side	Site renovations	9	22	3/A		19/D
Alphonso Street	143	S.Side	New Facility	9	29	29/A		
Pearl Street	147	S.Side	New Facility	9	51	51/A		
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Tim O'Neil Ballfields	9	599		599/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Tennis Court renovations	9	160		160/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Planning/A&E services	9	141		141/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Handicap usable playground	9	90		45/C	45/E
Wanskuck	55	N.Side	Site renovations	8	10	10/A		
Diamond Street	112	S.Side	Site Renovations	8	9	9/A		
Promenade Cntr.	65	W.Side	New Facility	8	275	275/A		
Lowr.Prosp.Terr.	23	E.Side	Site Renovations	8	51	51/A		

\*FUNDING SOURCE: A=City Park Bond; B=School Bond; C=State DEM Grant; D=UPARR Grant; E=LWCF Grant; F=Park Capital Account; G=Operating Budget; H=Foundation Grant; I=PBA; J=TIF; K=PRA; L=CDBG; M=Lease Holder

10-8

FACILITY	SITE #	PLANNING DISTRICT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	COST (000s)	SUGGESTED FUNDING SOURCE		
						LOCAL/*	STATE/*	OTHER/*
Prete-Metclfd.Fld	48	N.Side	Ballfield Lights	9	40	40/F		
Pleas.View Sch.	76	N.Side	New playground	9	60	60/B		
Richardson	136	S.Side	Site Renovations	9	150	50/F		100/D
New Elmwood Pk.	P-9	S.Side	New facility	9	60	30/L		30/E
Columbus Sq.	124	S.Side	Site renovations	9	10			10/H
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	New Zoo parking lot	9	450		450/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Second Zoo entrance	9	250		250/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Zoo exhibit renovations	9	900		900/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Museum renovations	9	700		700/C	
Neutaconkanut Pk.	90	W.Side	Additional Parking	9	30	30/A/F		
Joslin Fields	82	W.Side	Site renovations	9	50	50/F		
Neigh. Parks	NA	NA	A&E services	9	25	25/A		
Almagno Pool	94	W.Side	Site renovations	8	20	20/L		
Danforth Pool	59	W.Side	Site renovations	8	20	20/L		
Zuccolo Pool	100	W.Side	Site renovations	8	20	20/L		
Joslin Pool	81	W.Side	Site renovations	8	20	20/L		
McCrane Pool	117	S.Side	Site renovations	8	20	20/L		
Dudley Pool	145	S.Side	Site renovations	8	20	20/L		

\*FUNDING SOURCE: A=City Park Bond; B=School Bond; C=State DEM Grant; D=UPARR Grant; E=LWCF Grant; F=Park Capital Account; G=Operating Budget; H=Foundation Grant; I=PBA; J=TIF; K=PRA; L=CDBG; M=Lease Holder

EXHIBIT 10-1 FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

YEAR 1992 CONTINUED

FACILITY	SITE #	PLANNING DISTRICT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	COST (000s)	SUGGESTED FUNDING SOURCE		
						LOCAL/*	STATE/*	OTHER/*
Triggs Mem. G.C.	74	N.Side	Site renovations	8	100			100/M
Burnett Street	120	S.Side	Convert to com. gardens	8	3	3/G		
Baxter Street	140	S.Side	Convert to com. gardens	8	3	3/G		
Canada Pond	54	N.Side	Conservation management	8	10	10/F		
Corliss Landing	10	E.Side	Site renovations	8	300	300/J		
Mashapaug Pond	P-6	S.Side	New facility	8	75	38/A	37/C	
Indian Village	S-1	S.Side	New facility	8	30	30/K		
Comstock Ave.	P-11	S.Side	New facility	8	50	50/K		
J.Williams Field	130	S.Side	Site renovations	8	40	40/F		
Nor. Burial Grn.	41	E.Side	Site renovations	7	20	20/G		
Con. Witherby Pk	26	E.Side	Site renovations	7	10	10/F		
N.Bishop Courts	34	E.Side	Site renovations	7	20	20/B		
Cathedral Square	5	Downtn	Site renovations	6	5	5/F		

10-10

\*FUNDING SOURCE: A=City Park Bond; B=School Bond; C=State DEM Grant; D=UPARR Grant; E=LWCF Grant; F=Park Capital Account; G=Operating Budget; H=Foundation Grant; I=PBA; J=TIF; K=PRA; L=CDBG; M=Lease Holder

## EXHIBIT 10-1

## FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

YEAR 1993

FACILITY	SITE #	PLANNING DISTRICT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	COST (000s)	SUGGESTED FUNDING SOURCE		
						LOCAL/*	STATE/*	OTHER/*
Cadillac Drive	129	S.Side	Site Development	9	250	50/F	100/C	100/L,C
Merino Park	148	W.Side	Site renovations	9	250			250D
Perry Sch.Flds.	86	W.Side	Site renovations	9	90	90/B		
Summit Avenue	P-8	E.Side	New Facility	9	170	40/F	130C	
Fox Pt. Fields	14	E.Side	Site renovations	9	70	20/F	50/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Museum/handicap access.	9	200		200/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Maintenance Garage	9	450		450/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Road repair	9	300		300/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Front gates/Statuary	9	100		195/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	A&E services	9	100		100/C	
Hopkins Park	45	N.Side	Site renovations	8	50	50/F		
Mt.Pleasant Flds	71	N.Side	Addl. basketball/ply. eqpt.	8	60	60/F		
D'Abate School	83	W.Side	New facility/ply. eqpt.	8	50	50/B		
Danforth Street	74	W.Side	Site renovations	8	50	50/F		
Triggs Mem G.C.	74	N.Side	Site renovations	8	150			150/M
Canada Pond	54	N.Side	Conservation management	8	10	10/F		

\*FUNDING SOURCE: A=City Park Bond; B=School Bond; C=State DEM Grant; D=UPARR Grant; E=LWCF Grant; F=Park Capital Account; G=Operating Budget; H=Foundation Grant; I=PBA; J=TIF; K=PRA; L=CDBG; M=Lease Holder

EXHIBIT 10-1 FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

YEAR 1993 CONTINUED

FACILITY	SITE #	PLANNING DISTRICT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	COST (000s)	SUGGESTED FUNDING SOURCE		
						LOCAL/*	STATE/*	OTHER/*
Chafee Playgrnd.	N-3	S.Side	Site renovations	8	30	30/L		
Wash. Park Cntr.	P-1	S.Side	Site renovations	8	15	15/L		
Collyer Park	42	E.Side	Site renovations	8	35	35/F		
Nor.Burial Grnd.	41	E.Side	Site renovations	7	20	20/G		
Blackstone Park	29	E.Side	Site renovations	7	25	25/F		
Hope High Flds.	24	E.Side	Additional basketball	7	25	25/B		
Lippitt Park	31	E.Side	Fountain renovations	7	20			20/H
Kennedy Plaza	2	Downtn	Statuary renovations	7	5			5/H
Billy Taylor Pk.	38	E.Side	Additional basketball	7	40	40/L		
Waldo Street	116	S.Side	Site renovations	8	30	30/F		

\*FUNDING SOURCE: A=City Park Bond; B=School Bond; C=State DEM Grant; D=UPARR Grant; E=LWCF Grant; F=Park Capital Account; G=Operating Budget; H=Foundation Grant; I=PBA; J=TIF; K=PRA; L=CDBG; M=Lease Holder

10-12

EXHIBIT 10-1 FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

YEAR 1994

FACILITY	SITE #	PLANNING DISTRICT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	COST (000s)	SUGGESTED FUNDING SOURCE		
						LOCAL/*	STATE/*	OTHER/*
Danforth Street	60	W.Side	Site renovations	9	90	90/F		
Verrazano	7	Downtn	Site renovations	9	75	75/F		
Corliss Park	47	N.Side	Site renovations	9	100	50/F	50/C	
Neigh. Parks	NA	NA	A&E services	9	40	40/F		
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Road repairs	9	300		300/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Bridge repairs	9	350		350/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Pony Barn renovations	9	665		665/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Lake restoration	9	250		250/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Landscape improvements	9	250		250/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Dock repairs	9	50		50/C	
Rog.Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	A&E services	9	200		200/C	
Triggs Mem. G.C.	74	N.Side	Site renovations	8	150			150/M
Canada Pond	54	N.Side	Conservation management	8	10	10/F		
Hope High Flds.	24	E.Side	Handicap usable playground	8	75	75/B		
Burnside Park	3	Downtn	Bajnotti Fountain repair	7	60			60/H
Nor.Burial Grnd.	41	E.Side	Site renovations	7	50	50/G		
DePasquale Sit.	P-7	W.Side	New facility	7	50	50/K		

\*FUNDING SOURCE: A=City Park Bond; B=School Bond; C=State DEM Grant; D=UPARR Grant; E=LWCF Grant; F=Park Capital Account; G=Operating Budget; H=Foundation Grant; I=PBA; J=TIF; K=PRA; L=CDBG; M=Lease Holder

10-13

EXHIBIT 10-1 FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

YEAR 1995

FACILITY	SITE #	PLANNING DISTRICT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	COST (000s)	SUGGESTED FUNDING SOURCE		
						LOCAL/*	STATE/*	OTHER/*
Rog. Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Lake restoration	9	250		250/C	
Rog. Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Landscape improvements	9	250		250/C	
Rog. Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Walkways/trail improvements	9	300		300/C	
Rog. Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Fencing/auto barriers	9	176		176/C	
Rog. Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	Site amenities	9	350		350/C	
Rog. Williams Pk.	131	S.Side	A&E services	9	150		150/C	
Canada Pond	54	N.Side	Conservation management	8	50	50/F		
Nor. Burial Grnd	41	E.Side	Site renovations	8	50	50/G		
Locust Grove Cem.	122	S.Side	Site renovations	8	75	75/F		

\*FUNDING SOURCE: A=City Park Bond; B=School Bond; C=State DEM Grant; D=UPARR Grant; E=LWCF Grant; F=Park Capital Account; G=Operating Budget; H=Foundation Grant; I=PBA; J=TIF; K=PRA; L=CDBG; M=Lease Holder

10-14

EXHIBIT 10-2 LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS

FACILITY	SITE #	PLANNING DISTRICT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	YEAR	COST (000s)	SUGGESTED FUNDING SOURCE		
						LOCAL/*	STATE/*	OTHER/*
New Summit Ave. Park	P-8	E.Side	Acquire 50,000 sq. ft.	1992	250	50/A	200/C	
New Mashapaug Pond Conservation Area	P-6	S.Side	Acquire 3.5 acres	1991	580	130/A	450/C	
New Elmwood Playground	P-9	S.Side	Acquire 5,000 sq. ft.	1991	NA	Vacant Lot Program		
New DePasquale Sitting Area	P-7	W.Side	Acquire 5,800 sq. ft.	1993	NA	PRA project		
New Comstock Ave. Park	P-10	S.Side	Acquire 5,000 sq. ft.	1992	15	15/K		

\*FUNDING SOURCE: A=City Park Bond; B=School Bond; C=State DEM Grant; D=UPARR Grant; E=LWCF Grant; F=Park Capital Account; G=Operating Budget; H=Foundation Grant; I=PBA; J=TIF; K=PRA; L=CDBG; M=Lease Holder

10-15

C=State DEM Grant . The state has funds from the 1987 Rhode Island Recreational Area and Open Space Bond and the 1989 Environmental Management Bond. Funds from both of these have been committed to several projects listed in Exhibits 10-1 and 10-2: India Point Park, Summit Avenue Park, Mashapaug Pond, and the Phase II Roger Williams Park work. Future funds are likely to be scarce, particularly in 1992. The funding scheme in this Plan assumes funds will be available on a limited basis in 1993 and 1994.

D=UPARR Grant . The National Park Service provides limited funds through the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery program. Funds have been obtained for 3 parks in 1991, and funds will be sought in 1992 for Richardson Park.

E=LWCF Grant . The National Park Service also provides limited funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund each year. Funds are very limited.

F=Park Capital Account . The Parks Department has a Park Capital Account set up to receive lease payments from the operator of Triggs Golf Course and from other sources. This fund is expected to grow substantially in 1993 and thereafter.

G=Operating Budget . Limited funds are available in both the Parks Department budget and that of the North Burial Ground to implement small scale development projects.

H=Foundation Grants . The Parks Department will seek funds from local foundations to fund statuary and fountain restoration projects in the park system.

I=PBA . The Providence Building Authority is able to finance projects for which there is revenue stream to pay back the loan. This is a potential source of funds for some of the park system projects.

J=TIF . Tax Incremental Financing is a method of dedicating the increased tax benefit from a development project to fund public improvements. This method is being used to fund public improvements in the Corliss Landing area and a portion is allocated for the Corliss Landing park space.

K=PRA . The Providence Redevelopment Authority has the ability to float bonds and pay for public improvements.

L=CDBG . The City receives a yearly entitlement Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Housing and Development. There is keen competition for these funds and so only a limited amount are proposed for park development. Funds are also limited to low income neighborhoods.

M=Lease Holder . The Parks Department leases out Triggs Golf Course to a private operator who is responsible for undertaking facility development projects.

#### 10.5 Summary

The proposed capital development program projects spending of approximately \$13.0 million dollars during the 1991-1995 period. About \$9 million dollars of this would be from the state with the majority of the state money going to Roger

Williams Park to meet a commitment from the 1989 State Environmental Management Bond. City funds would be concentrated on neighborhood parks. See the summary below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Other</u>
1991	\$2,706,000	\$964,000	\$1,595,000	\$147,000
1992	3,871,000	1,094,000	2,537,000	240,000
1993	2,775,000	740,000	1,610,000	425,000
1994	2,765,000	440,000	2,115,000	210,000
1995	1,651,000	175,000	1,476,000	-----
-----				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,768,000</b>	<b>\$3,413,000</b>	<b>\$9,333,000</b>	<b>\$1,022,000</b>

The breakdown for City funds for the 1991-1995 period by source is as follows:

o 1987 Recreational Area & Open Space Bond:	\$1,067,000
o School Bond:	320,000
o Park Capital Account:	1,125,000
o Park and N. Burial Ground Operating Funds:	146,000
o Tax Incremental Financing:	300,000
o PRA	130,000
o CDBG:	325,000
	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,413,000</b>

In addition, the Plan proposes, as outlined in Exhibit 10-2, the expenditure of \$195,000 in city funds and \$650,000 in state funds for the acquisition of new park land.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### PROPOSED POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS: MANAGEMENT

#### 11.1 Introduction:

This chapter sets forth policies and recommendations to guide the operation of the Providence park and recreation system for the 1991-1995 period. The policies and recommendations provide a framework to guide the city in responding to the major management needs that the park and recreation system face.

Proposed policies and recommendations are outlined for the following management needs:

1. Facility Maintenance;
2. Public Participation;
3. Elderly Populations;
4. Public Programming;
5. Community Development Opportunities;
6. Water-Based Recreational Opportunities;
7. Natural Resources Protection;
8. Historic Resources Preservation;
9. Scenic View Resources Enhancement;
10. Minority and Women Business Opportunities;
11. Planning.

#### 11.2 Policies and Recommendations:

##### (1) *MAINTENANCE:*

###### NEED:

Continuous and consistent maintenance of the Providence outdoor park and recreation system.

---

###### POLICY:

The city should implement a variety of means to improve the maintenance of the park and recreation system.

---

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should continue to fight for increased City general operating funds to maintain the park and recreation system.
  2. Increases in the Zoo Admission Fee and the Casino Rental Fee at the Park should seek to balance maintenance requirements with the need to keep these facilities accessible to the Providence public.
  3. The Parks Department should seek some type of assistance from the state to help offset Zoo operating costs in light of the Zoo's statewide visitation.
  4. The city should establish a Neighborhood Park and Recreation Trust Fund to help supplement city general operating funds to help maintain and program neighborhood facilities. This sinking fund should be endowed from the sale of city land, foundation grants, and other one-time city financial windfalls. See Exhibit 11-1.
  5. The Parks Department should expand the Adopt-A-Park program to appropriate sites for assumption of maintenance responsibilities. (See Exhibit 11-2).
  6. The Parks Department should add more seasonal employees in lieu of full-time employees to handle peak season maintenance demands.
  7. The Parks Department should use the Park Friends Organization to develop a "Pride in Providence Parks" program in the schools to develop positive attitudes about park spaces.
  8. The design process for the rehabilitation of existing facilities and the construction of new facilities should continue to incorporate maintenance reduction design features.
  9. All newly renovated facilities should have Maintenance Manuals developed for them.
- 
-

EXHIBIT 11-1PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AND RECREATION TRUST FUND


---

<u>PURPOSE</u>	To supplement existing city operating funds to improve neighborhood facility maintenance and to expand neighborhood recreation programming.	
----------------	---	--

---

<u>EQUITY GOAL</u>	\$2,000,000 by 1995.	
--------------------	----------------------	--

---

<u>SOURCE OF EQUITY</u>	1. Sale of City Land	(\$500,000)
	2. Foundation Grants	(\$250,000)
	3. Partial Proceeds From Sale of other City Assets	(\$1,000,000)
	4. Private and Corporate Donations	(\$150,000)
	5. CDBG Funds	(\$100,000)

---

<u>ANNUAL YIELD AT FULL ENDOWMENT</u>	\$175,000 - \$200,000	
---------------------------------------	-----------------------	--

---

<u>PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF ANNUAL YIELD</u>	50% - Park Maintenance 50% - Recreation Programming	
---	--	--

---

<u>FUND GOVERNANCE</u>	Standing Committee comprised of Mayor, City Council representatives, Board of Park Commission representatives, and Recreation Advisory Committee representatives.	
------------------------	---	--

---

**EXHIBIT 11-2**

**POTENTIAL PARK FACILITIES TO CONSIDER FOR ADOPT-A-PARK  
PROGRAM FOR FULL OR PARTIAL MAINTENANCE  
DURING 1991-1995 PERIOD**

SITE	SITE #
Cathedral Square	5
* Verrazano Park	7
Prospect Terrace	23
Esek Hopkins House	46
North Burial Ground	41
* Peach Street Playground	40
Constance Witherby Park	26
Drummond Field	135
* Richardson Park	136
Dexter Training Ground	105
Columbus Square	124
* Baxter Street Park	140
* Burnett Street Park	120

\* After the sites are renovated.

(2) *PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:*

NEED:

The resource constraints of the city park and recreation system mandate the need for the public to be getting involved in park and recreation decision-making.

---

POLICY:

The city should provide greater opportunities for the public to shape the planning and programming of the Providence park and recreation system.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should publicize the Board of Park Commissioners meetings more broadly than is presently done.
  2. The Parks Department has held over 150 neighborhood meetings in the past 3 years to get public input on park development. The Department should continue to hold regular neighborhood meetings to obtain public views on facility development, operation and programming.
  3. The Parks Department and Park Friends should resume publishing the Park Friends Newsletter.
  4. The Recreation Department should consider expanding the Recreation Advisory Committee to include more minority and elderly representation.
- 
- 

(3) *ELDERLY POPULATIONS:*

NEED:

For the and elderly population of the city, the park and recreation system is often inaccessible.

---

POLICY:

The city should to increase recreational opportunities for the elderly population.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Recreation Department should focus its transportation of elderly to events to those elderly without their own means of transportation.
  2. The Parks Department and Recreation Department should schedule a regular Roger Williams Park bus to serve the city's elderly high-rises and community centers on Saturday during the April to June period.
  3. The Recreation Department should develop elderly fitness programs for the elderly high-rises.
  4. A special elderly swim program should be established at Pleasant View School Pool and Dudley Pool during hours set aside for the elderly.
  5. The Roger Williams Park Zoomobile should visit every Providence elderly high-rise and every Providence Community Center at least once a year.
- 
- 

(4) PUBLIC PROGRAMMING:

NEED:

Public programming for park and recreation sites that is responsive to public needs.

---

POLICY:

The Parks Department and the Recreation Department should work together to enhance and diversify existing park and recreation programming efforts, particularly in the neighborhoods, and particularly in non-sports activities.

---

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should ensure that Zoo and Museum of Natural History programming efforts are accessible to low-income populations of the city.
  2. The Parks Department should focus more of its public programming resources into neighborhood parks, particularly in terms of music events and the Zoomobile.
  3. The Recreation Department should expand traditional athletic programming into areas such as volleyball, "family fun runs," golf, tennis, "bicycle jamborees" at Roger Williams Park to provide the public with broader fitness opportunities.
  4. The Recreation Department should develop programs that would provide more public adult swimming opportunities at the city pools.
  5. The Recreation Department should publicize learn-to-swim programs more aggressively at the schools and at the community centers.
  6. The Parks Department and the Recreation Department should work more closely with the Little League to recruit minority youth into the city's Little League.
  7. The Parks Department should continue to expand its Museum and Zoo programs with the Providence School Department.
  8. The Recreation Department and the Mayor's Office should seek expanded shared use arrangements at the local colleges, particularly for adult swimming and public ice skating.
  9. The Parks Department should assist the Southside Community Land Trust and other community gardening organizations to support community gardening efforts in appropriate park and recreation sites.
- 
-

(5) *COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:*

NEED:

Park and open space considerations are sometimes not adequately considered in the city's community development efforts.

---

POLICY:

The Parks Department should ensure that park and open space considerations are integrated into the city's ongoing community development efforts.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should work closely with the Planning Department to shape the planning for parks in all current proposed large-scale residential and commercial developments in the city.
  2. The Parks Department should lobby to get a provision in the new proposed Zoning Ordinance that mandates that developments of a certain magnitude be required to provide developed public open space or a negotiated payment to the Park Improvement Fund.
- 
- 

(6) *WATER-BASED RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:*

NEED:

Providence park users have limited water-based recreational opportunities.

---

POLICY:

The Parks Department should work with state agencies, private organizations, and private businesses to

increase water-based recreational opportunities in the Providence Park System.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should seek private concessionaires to provide Providence Harbor and Narragansett Bay cruises from India Point Park.
  2. The Parks Department should seek private organizations or concessionaires to provide additional public boating opportunities in Roger Williams Park.
  3. The Parks Department should work with Community Boating of Providence, Inc. to provide public sailing from India Point Park.
  4. The Parks Department should work with the Friends of Mashapaug Pond to promote public boating on Mashapaug Pond.
  5. The Parks Department should work with the Narragansett Boat Club to expand rowing opportunities for the public on the Seekonk River from Blackstone Park.
  6. The Parks Department should work with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Capital Center Commission to develop guidelines for boating and boat tours on the Providence and Woonasquatucket Rivers which will be dredged as part of the River Relocation Project.
  7. The Parks Department should seek to have the Narragansett Bay Commission and the Department of Environmental Management examine the priorities for resolving Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) problems on Providence waterways.
- 

(7) *NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION:*

NEED:

Preservation of Providence's remaining natural resources.

---

POLICY:

The Parks Department should work with the Planning Department in taking a lead role in city government in ensuring the protection and enhancement of Providence's natural resources.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should implement the Canada Pond Conservation Management Plan each year during the 1991-1995 period. See Exhibit 11-3.
  2. The Planning Department should incorporate flood plain and wetlands overlay zones in the proposed new Zoning Ordinance for the upper Woonasquatucket River area (W/FP-4 on Map 3-4), and the upper West River area (W/FP-3 on Map 3-4).
  3. The Parks Department and the Planning Department should develop educational materials for the public on the unique natural resources contained in the Providence Park and Open Space System.
  4. The City Department of Planning and Development should seek to have the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management adopt a goal of "fishable waters" for the Seekonk River.
  5. The Parks Department should ensure that any Narragansett Bay Commission proposals for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) treatment plants for Blackstone Park only include underground alternatives.
  6. The Parks Department should develop a Blackstone Park Conservation Management Plan.
- 
- 

(8) *HISTORIC RESOURCES PRESERVATION:*

NEED:

The preservation and restoration of the Park System's

---

**EXHIBIT 11-3**

**CANADA POND CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

-----  
PUBLIC AWARENESS:

- Install Interpretive Signs
- Provide educational field trips

-----  
ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:

- Provide wood fencing barriers to restrict vehicles

-----  
USE RESTRICTIONS:

- Limit access to nature trails
- Limit watercraft to non-motorized boats

-----  
WATER QUALITY:

- Clean up debris
- Erosion controls
- Install grease traps in catch basins that empty into pond

-----  
DAM IMPROVEMENTS:

- Repair gate valves
- Remove foot bridge
- Repair concrete spauling
- Erosion control

-----  
VEGETATION:

- Thin out trees and over-vegetation in selected areas
- Revegetate selected areas for buffer and erosion control issues

-----  
ABUTTING PROPERTIES:

- Acquire conservation easements where appropriate to protect views
-

historic resources.

---

POLICY:

The Parks Department should increase the public awareness about the park system's historic resources.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should carefully limit park permits in several neighborhood historic parks threatened by overuse, namely Blackstone Boulevard, Dexter Training Ground, and Prospect Terrace.
  2. The Parks Department, in conjunction with the city's Department of Planning and Development, should do a better job educating the public about the Park System's historic resources, particularly through newspaper articles, tours, brochures and public exhibits.
  3. The Park's Department should work with the Rhode Island Historical Society to develop interpretive signage and tour information for harbor tours of the historic Providence waterfront.
- 
- 

*(9) SCENIC VIEW RESOURCES ENHANCEMENT:*

NEED:

The preservation and enhancement of the limited number of scenic views available from or in Providence parks.

---

POLICY:

The Parks Department should recognize the importance of scenic views as a legitimate design issue in the rehabilitation of city parks.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should inventory and rate the qualities of scenic views in the entire park system. A separate evaluation should be done in Roger Williams Park to guide tree pruning and removal efforts.
  2. Special evaluation efforts should also focus on Blackstone Park, Prospect Terrace, and the uplands at Neutaconkanut Park.
- 
- 

*(10) MINORITY AND WOMEN BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES:*

NEED:

To provide economic development opportunities for minority business enterprises (M.B.E.) and women business enterprises (W.B.E.).

---

POLICY:

The Parks Department should systematically recruit MBE and WBE firms for the renovation and development of park and recreation facilities and should attempt to award 10 percent of the value of construction contracts each year to MBE and WBE firms.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department should update on a quarterly basis its list of MBE and WBE firms.
2. The Parks Department should provide semi-annual workshops to promote MBE and WBE contractor opportunities in Parks Department projects.

3. The Parks Department and the city Purchasing Department should review city performance bond requirements for contracts below \$50,000.
- 
- 

(11) PLANNING:

NEED:

There are several park and recreation issues that require more detailed planning beyond the resources available for this Plan.

---

POLICY:

The Parks Department and Department of Planning and Development should outline an annual work program and commit staff resources to address continuing planning needs in the park and recreation system.

---

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Parks Department and Department of Planning and Development should focus on the facilities planning issues shown in Exhibit 11-4.
2. The Parks Department and Recreation Department should develop a joint permit tracking system to ensure coordination between the two departments for park and recreation system permits.

EXHIBIT 11-4**PROPOSED MANAGEMENT AND FACILITIES PLANNING: 1991-1995**

ISSUES	RESPONSIBILITY*	TIME FRAME
1. Merino Park: type of site renovations	DPD, Parks, CC, REC	1991
2. Fox Point Pool: renovation feasibility	REC, CC, Parks, PP	1991
3. Proposed Silver Lake Recreation Center	DPD, REC, PP, CC, Parks	1991
4. Proposed Elmwood Playground Site Selection	DPD, Parks, CC	1991
5. Dyerville State Park: potential development	DEM, Parks, Town of Johnston	1992
6. Lower South Providence Recreation Center feasibility study	DPD, REC, PP, CC, SCH	1992
7. Esek Hopkins Home- stead: potential use	Parks, CC	1992
8. Pleasant View School Pool: expanded use	SCH, REC, PP, CC	1992
9. Proposed Black- stone Bikeway: location	DEM, Parks, CC	1992
10. Mashapaug Pond: Shoreline ease- ment analysis	Parks, DPD, Law Dept.	1992

\* DPD = Department of Planning & Development; Parks = Parks Department; REC = Recreation Department; SCH = School Department; PP = Public Property; CC = City Council; DEM = RI Department of Environmental Management

(EXHIBIT 11-4 - CONTINUED)

ISSUES	RESPONSIBILITY*	TIME FRAME
11. Water Place Park: potential boat cruise operation	DEM, Parks, DPD	1992
12. East Transit St. & other potential Seekonk River access points	DPD, Parks, Public Works	1993
13. Collier Point: proposed park	N.Electric, DPD, Parks	1992-1994
14. Existing Rt.95/ Rt.195 Interchange area: proposed relocation and land re-use study	DPD, Parks, RIDOT	1992-1994
15. Washington Park Community Center: Feasibility of city funding assistance for existing playground.	Parks, CC, Law Dept.	1992
16. Blackstone Park Conservation Management Plan	Parks	1992

\* DPD = Department of Planning & Development; Parks = Parks Department; REC = Recreation Department; SCH = School Department; PP = Public Property; CC = City Council; DEM = RI Department of Environmental Management  
RIDOT = RI Department of Transportation

17. Proposed Indian village Park	DPD, Parks, Indian village	1992
18. Constock Ave Area Park site selection	DPD, Parks, CC	1992
19. Mt. Hope Recreation Center	DPD, Parks, CC.	1991

APPENDIX A, B, C, D will be available in the final Plan