

# Vision 2020

## Focus on the Future

*Your parks. Your community. Your vision.*





# Acquire More Open Space

**COMMUNITY  
COULD USE  
ADDITIONAL  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
PARKS**



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# Acquire More Open Space Firms

- The Lakota Group
- Public Communications, Inc. (PCI)



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# Acquire More Open Space Guidelines

## Park Board Land Acquisition Guidelines and Criteria. . .

- Proposed property uses will **significantly enhance the District's recreation and leisure activities and amenities***
- Proposed property uses **fit the present and future needs of the District***
- Property is **adjacent to existing District-owned or leased land or other community open space**, which will allow for the expansion of recreation amenities and/or additional open space*
- Property is in **an underserved area(s) of the District based on the District's Comprehensive Plan land acquisition priorities***
- Property provides **a link(s) to existing and/or planned paths, trails, and/or parks***
- Property **facilitates the protection of wildlife, unique vegetation, and/or the riparian ecosystem***
- Funding is available to acquire, develop, and maintain the property** and can be utilized without negatively impacting the Board's ability to meet its financial policies*
- Property has **sufficient public and utility access***
- If lying in the flood plain or serving as detention basins, property must have significant recreation opportunities*





# Community Re-engagement

## Vision 2020 Re-engagement (e.g., email, website)

- *“Need small park in Pick Subdivision, 300+ homes no facility.”*
- *Received feedback from eleven people who would like the District to add a park in their neighborhood (east of West Avenue, north of First Street, west of York Avenue, south of North Avenue). Some of the feedback included:*
  - *“I have heard from numerous other families like mine the sentiment that we do not have a park in our neighborhood. We have 2 small girls and to go to a park we have to either cross North Ave or the railroad tracks. We would love if we could find a small area for a pocket park in our section of Elmhurst.”*
  - *“...area is becoming more congested and park space would benefit our neighborhood.”*







# Community Re-engagement

## PCI Feedback Meetings

- *“This town is getting swallowed up with building everywhere. And I feel like it’s a responsibility of the Park District.”*
- *“I think that there’s a need for us to have more outdoor space. Especially with all the people moving into town now. With all the high-rise complexes going up with more condo space, you’re going to have more people who are going to want to utilize these spaces. Not just for their kids but also for themselves. We need more park space.”*
- *“The problem with acquiring more open space is that it’s going very quickly. And we’re not going to have an opportunity in 10 or 15 years from now to go back and say, “Oh we should have bought this, we should have kept this space open.” I just think it’s an opportunity that might be slipping away with as you said, so much building going on. I think people are really going to appreciate the green space that’s there, even if they don’t realize it at this point in time. I think that in the future, it will be a selling point for the community too.”*
- *“There’s no parks in my neighborhood unless you count the school. And the school is not really a park. You can’t use it all the time.”*
- *Participants had concerns about the impact of properties becoming tax exempt*





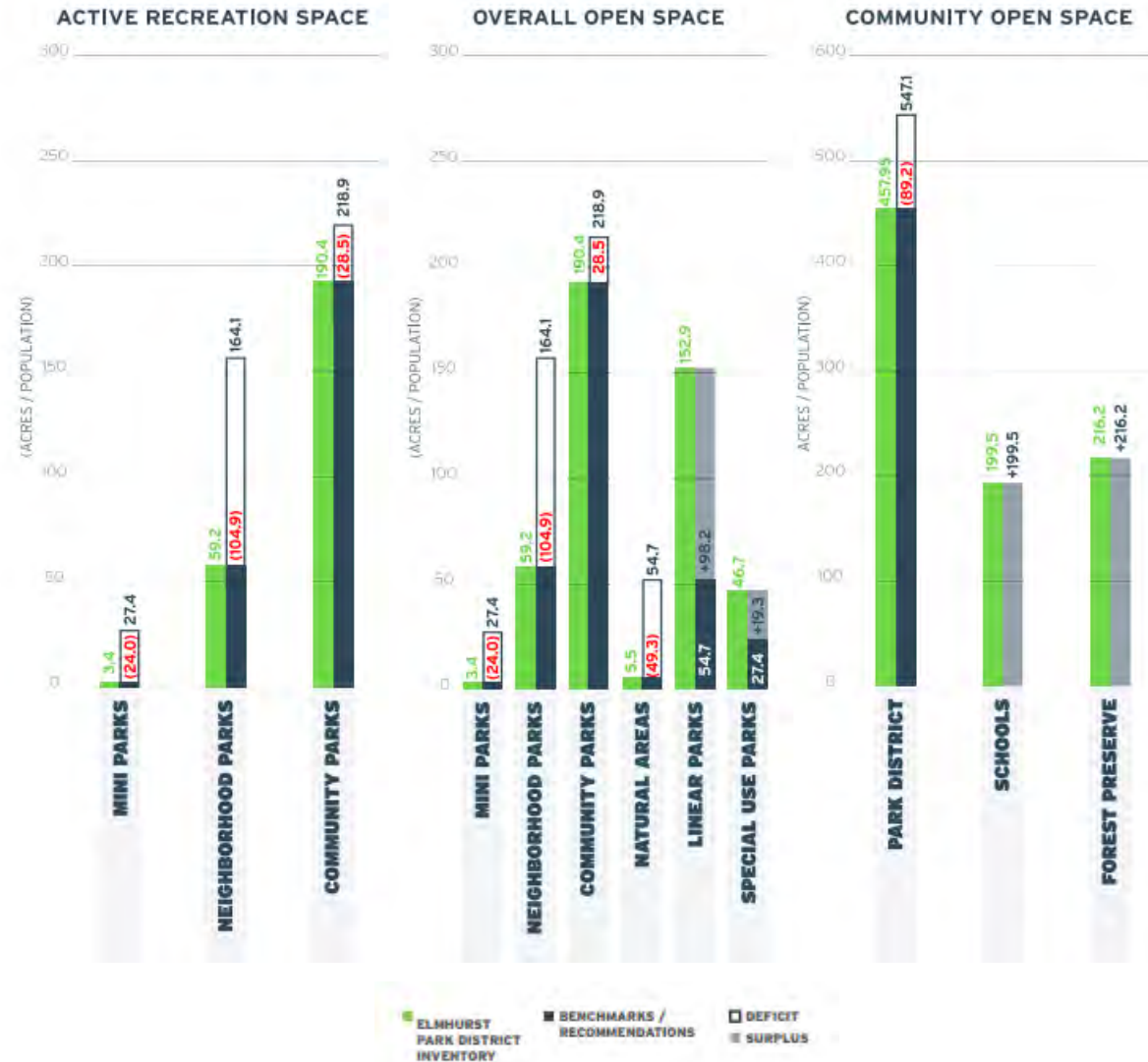
# Park Distribution Level of Service

- Level of Service (LOS) analysis evaluates how well an **agency's parks, outdoor amenities, and indoor recreation facilities compare to local, regional, and industry benchmarks.**
- While the Elmhurst Park District (EPD) is a leading community open space provider, there are **deficiencies in both acreage and distribution of community park space**, according Vision 2020 needs assessment LOS analysis.
- To narrow this gap, EPD could **add park space** and **spread it more evenly throughout the community.**





# Park Acreage Level of Service



- Overall, EPD has a **9.9 acre per 1,000 LOS**, which is **lower than the benchmark** of 11.8 acres per 1,000.
- For the total acres of parks and open space managed by EPD, it is **143.9 acres short of the recommended 547.1 acres**.
- For the 252.9 acres of active recreation sites that EPD manages, it is **deficient in all park categories, with the greatest deficiency being Neighborhood Parks (-104.9 acres)**.





# Park Distribution Level of Service Planning Areas



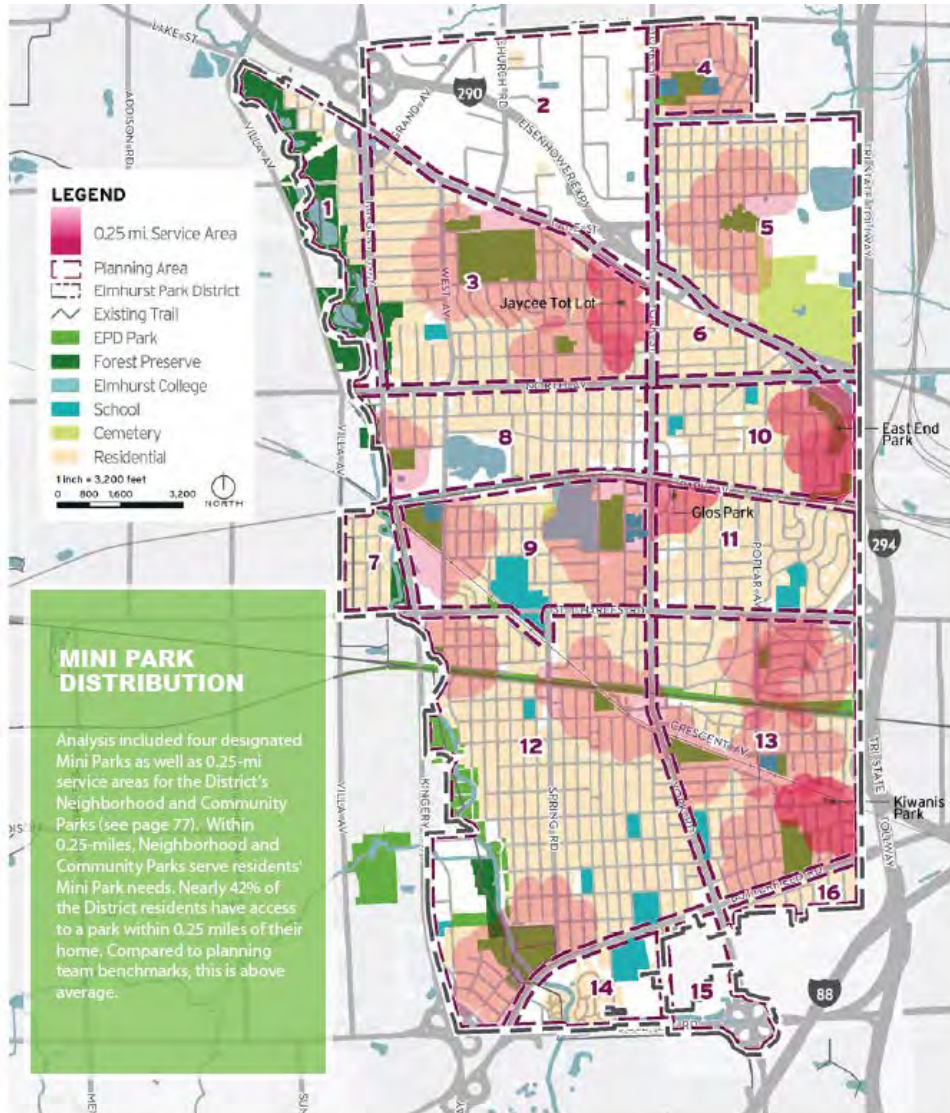
Figure 12: Planning Areas



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# Mini-Park Distribution



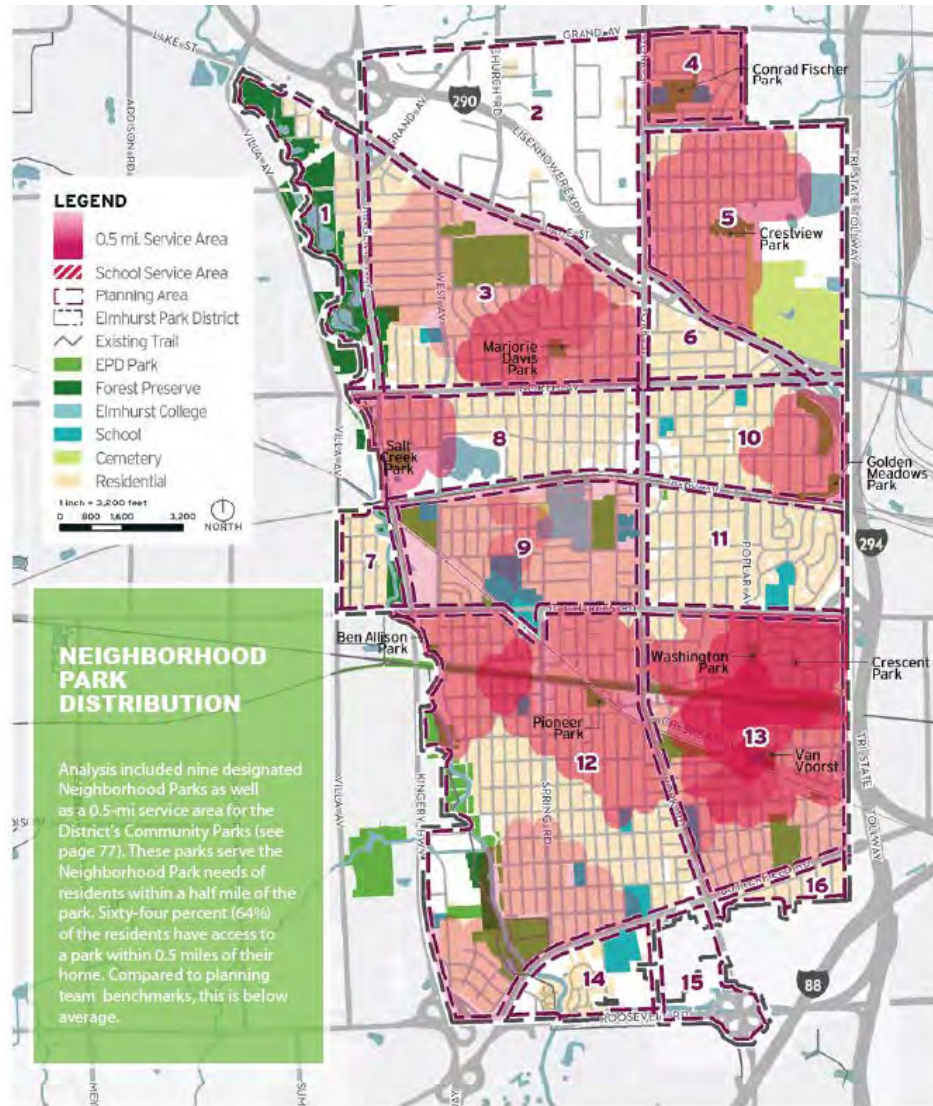
Map 4: Mini Park Distribution

General Description	Service Area	Size Criteria
Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience.	Less than 0.25 mile distance in a residential setting.	Between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size.
Appropriate elements in these parks include playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating. These parks usually do not include parking. Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.		2 to 3 residential lots





# Neighborhood Park Distribution

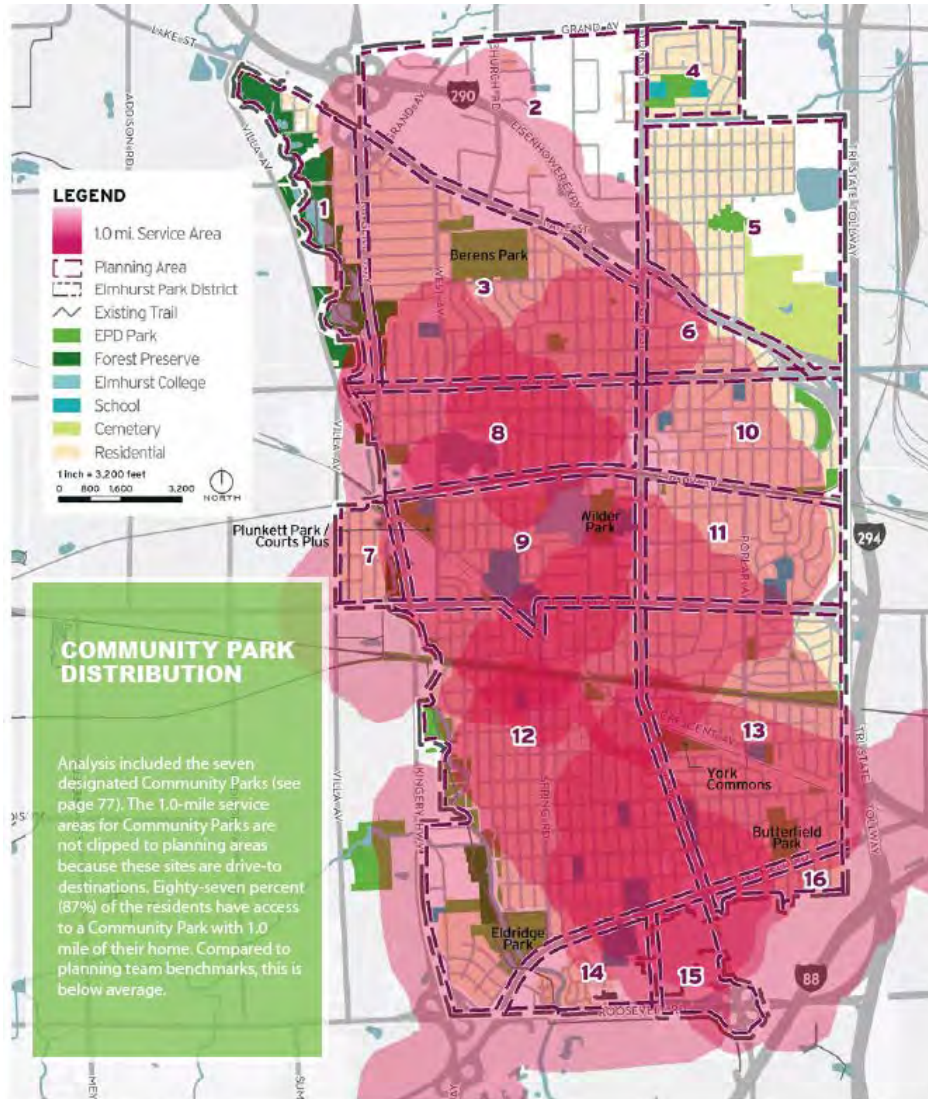


Map 5: Neighborhood Park Distribution

General Description	Service Area	Size Criteria
<p>Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and are generally designed for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces.</p> <p>Elements in these parks often include playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields, and trail systems.</p> <p>Neighborhood Parks serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.</p>	<p>0.25 to 0.5 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers</p>	<p>1 to 5 acres in size is typical.</p> <p>6 to 30 residential lots</p>



# Community Park Distribution



Map 6: Community Park Distribution

General Description	Service Area	Size Criteria
Community Parks focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. These parks preserve unique landscapes, and often serve the community as gathering places and general athletics.	Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 0.5 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 20 acres.
Elements in these parks include playgrounds, pavilions, trails and path systems, multiple sport courts and fields.		116 residential lots



# Park Distribution Level of Service

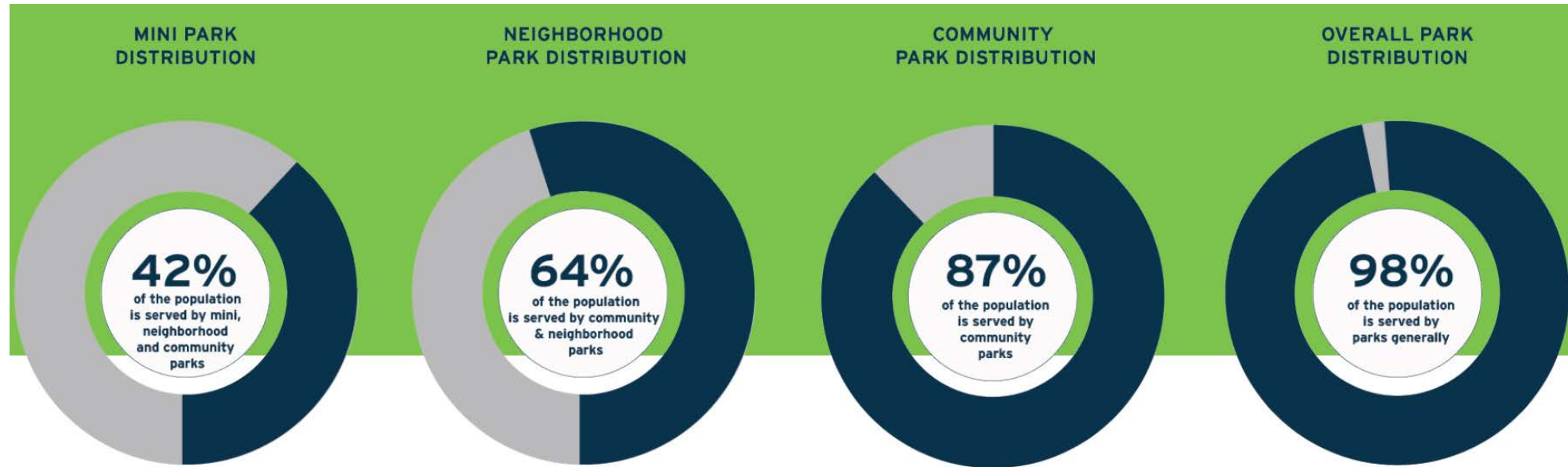


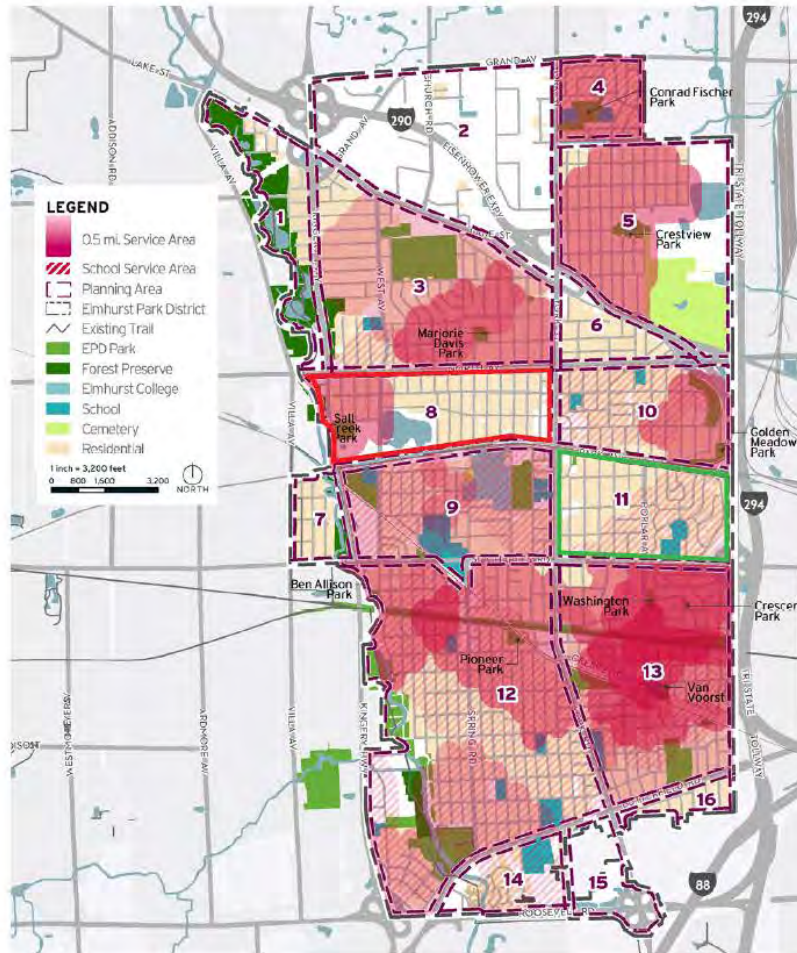
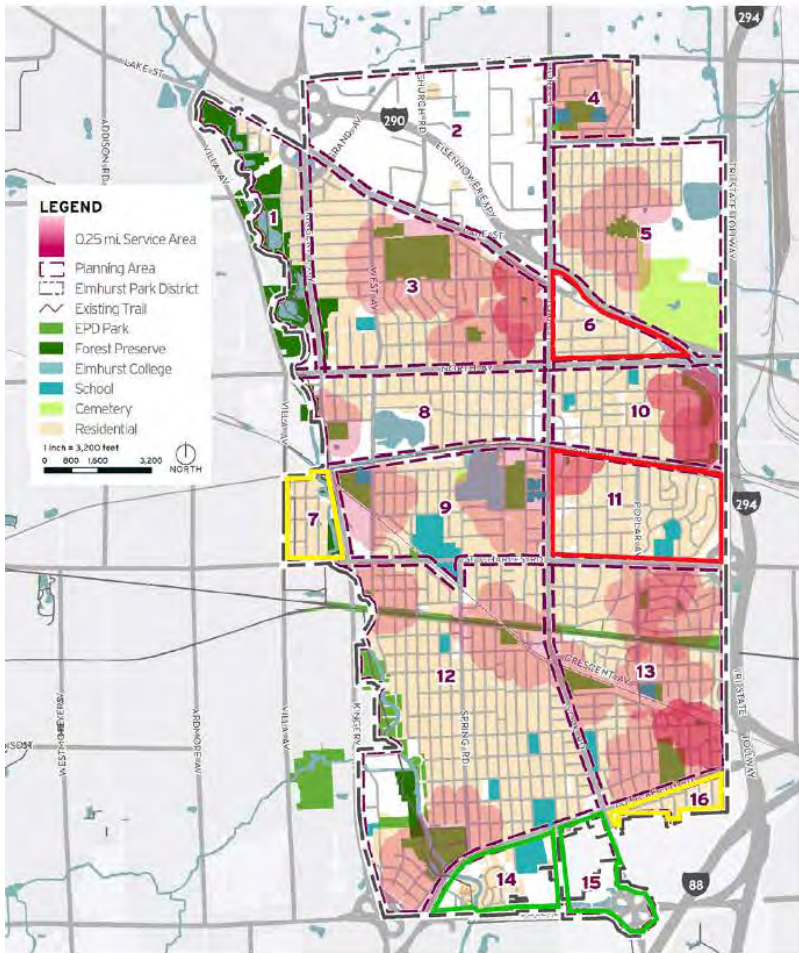
Figure 11: Park and Open Space Distribution

- **36% of residents are not served by neighborhood and community parks within 0.5-miles**, which decreases to 20% when schools are included in the analysis
- **13% are not served by community parks within 1.0 mile** of their home, which is below park distribution benchmarks





# Acquisition Priorities



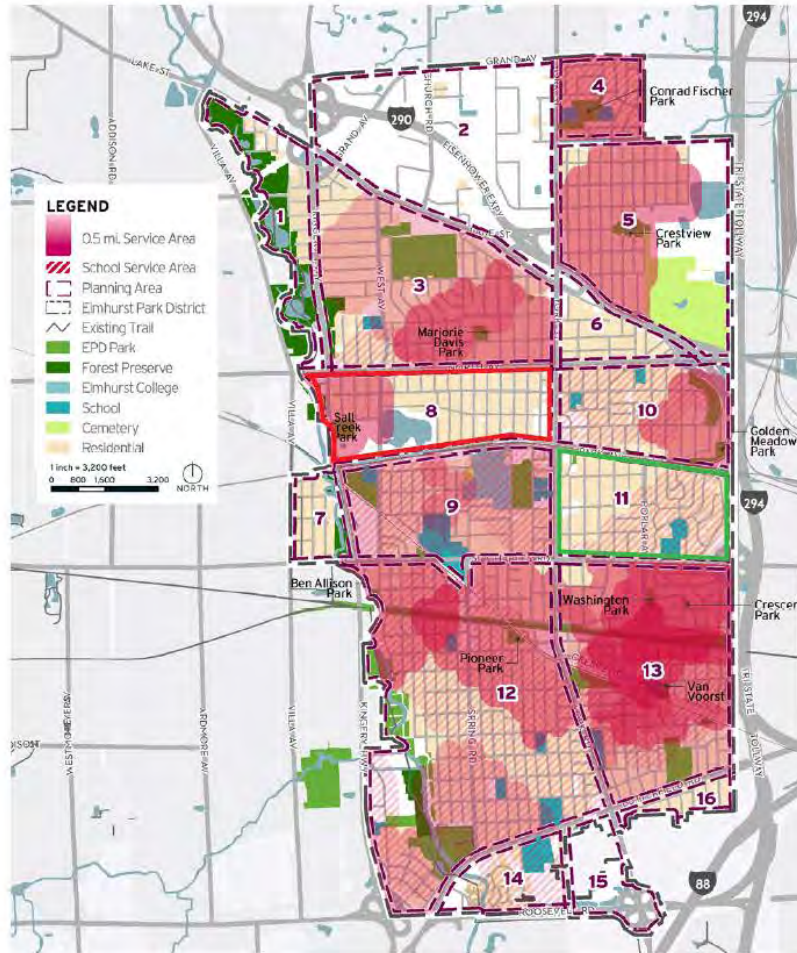
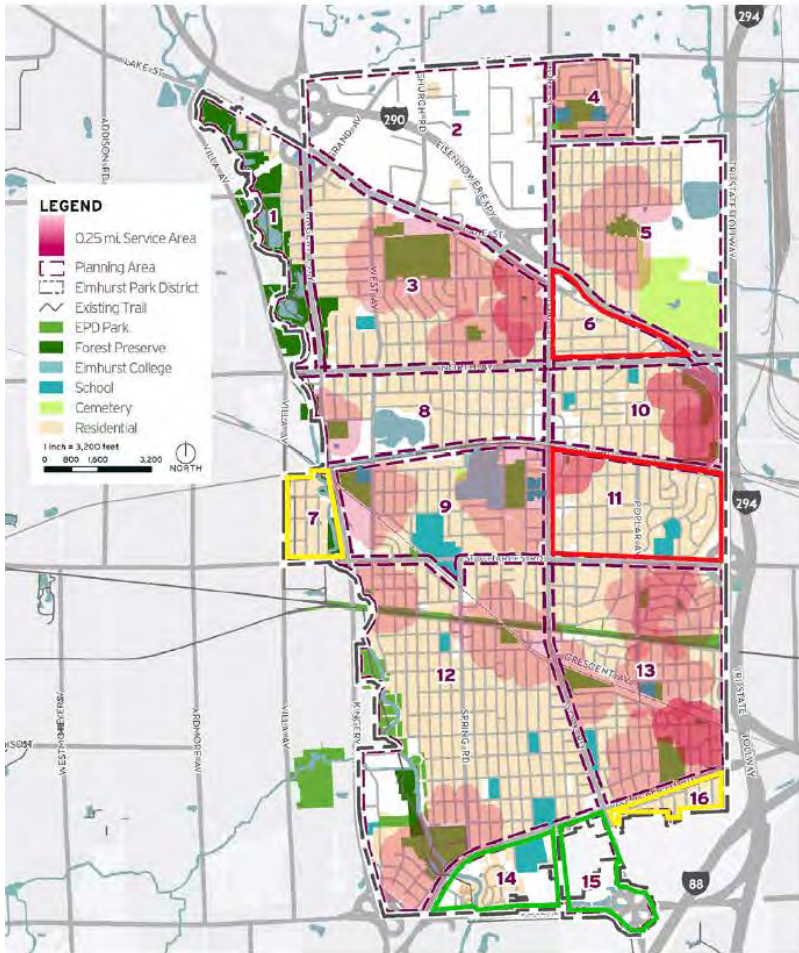
## High

- Planning Area 11: add mini-park (central area)
- Planning Area 6: add mini-park (anywhere, but lower priority than Area 11)
- Planning Area 8: add neighborhood park (east of Quarry)





# Acquisition Priorities



## Medium

- Planning Areas 16 & 7: add mini-park (adjacent to Forest Preserve land)
- Planning Areas 4 & 5: add community park space (buy land adjacent to Crestview Park or Conrad Fischer Park)



# Acquisition Strategy

- Prioritize acquisition in high & medium priority areas
- Conduct inventory in targeted planning areas, including:
  - residential, commercial, and industrial
  - ages of structures
  - land for sale
- Send letters of interest to owners of identified parcels
- Engage local realtors to assist with identified parcels
- Monitor real estate market
- Annually fund the purchase of one available residential lot
- Acquire tax-exempt property when and where feasible





# Funding Alternatives

- Referendum (rate increase)
- Land Acquisition Grant Programs (OSLAD, LWCF)





# Potential Partnerships

## Capital

- Grant Programs







# Closing Summary & Overall Financial Impact

**New Annual Operating Subsidy**

**\$500,000**



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