

CITY OF RAPID CITY

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
300 SIXTH STREET
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Parks and Recreation Memo

Date: August 3, 2007

To: Mayor Alan Hanks & Rapid City Common Council

From: Jerry W. Cole, Director

Subject: Park Land Report South Rapid City

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Recommendation: Report Only

Summary: The Rapid City area park and open space system consists of 1,643 acres of parkland and special use areas under the control of the City. The system includes a full range of developed facilities including community parks, neighborhood parks, mini-parks and special use areas located throughout the City. Existing city facilities serve most of the community's needs well at this time; however, as the city continues to grow, we need to continue to provide a system of interconnected parks and recreation facilities and services in the outlying areas.

The most commonly used method for measuring the adequacy of a community's parks and open space system is to determine if the number of people it serves-- or has the capacity to serve-- meets the City's desired standard, combined with an analysis of geographic distribution and accessibility along with specific activity. This analysis is done by assigning a minimum acreage standard to each type of park and to the system as a whole.

National Parks and Recreation Association recommends acreage standards for each type of park per 1,000 persons.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Acre per person</u>	<u>Size Standard</u>
Mini-Park	.25-.50 acre per 1000 persons	1 acre or less
Neighborhood Park	1.0-2.0 acres per 1000 persons	1-15 acres
Community Park	5.0-8.0 acres per 1000 persons	15-200 acres
Regional Park	Variable in size per 1000 persons	Varies
Sports Fields	1 field per 3500 people	

Using this information to evaluate the south side of the City*, we find several interesting facts.

This area of the City includes the following:

Population -	20,397 or 33% of the City's population
Acres -	8,426 or 21% of the City's land
Households -	7,884
Median Age -	35 years old
Population under 18 -	24%
Population over 65 -	12%

Parks & Facilities - Star of the West Softball/ Soccer Complex, Robbinsdale Community Park, Centennial Park, Minnesota Street Soccer Complex, Rushmore Little League Baseball Complex, Parkview Swimming Pool, ASA Softball Complex, Polo Grounds Soccer Complex, and open space. There are approximately 270 acres of parks, sports facilities, and open space in this area which is 16.5% of the total park and open space in the City.

In other words, this area has 21% of the land mass, 16.5% of the park and open space and 33% of the population. When we look at the area in terms of parks vs. population, we see that this area is adequately served by community parks and sports fields but is underserved in neighborhood parks by 24 acres or from two to twelve neighborhood parks depending on the size and location.

We have in place the land (10 acres) and some funding to plan and build a neighborhood park on the south side of the ASA ball field along Park View Drive. This would decrease the overall need down to approximately 14 acres and 1 to 10 new parks depending on size and scope.

In response to the growth in this area, strategies need to be addressed so the City can plan and construct an interconnected system of parks and greenways in an area where growth and development is happening. The benefits of having a City wide interlinked parks system are consistent with a strong economy, a healthy environment and a high quality of life for all.

Attached please find a map of parks in this area of the City and the coverage based on the NRPA standards. This map gives us the knowledge to see the areas that are underserved and help us plan for the future.

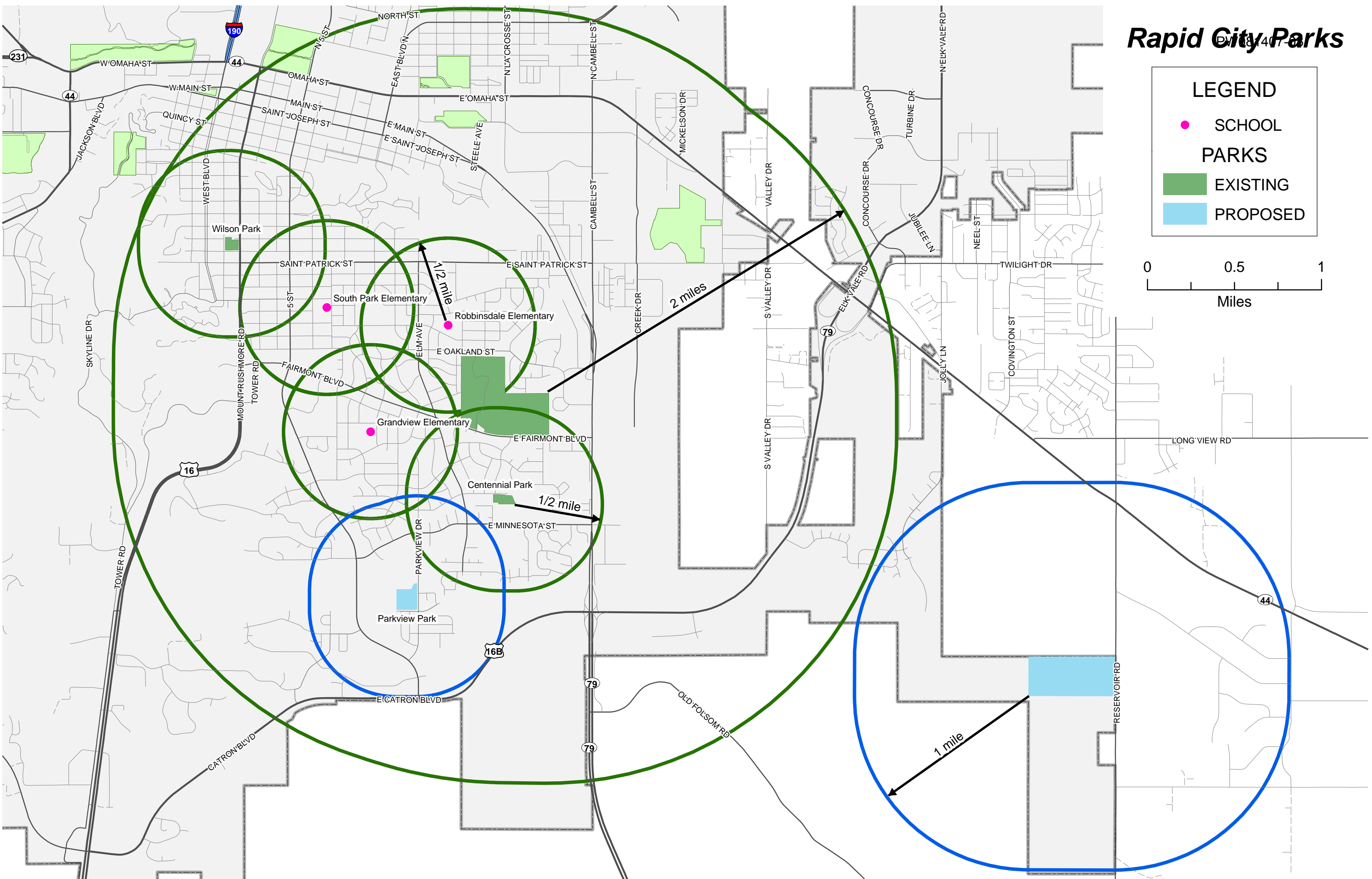
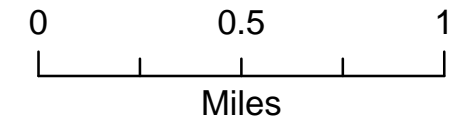
* The study includes everything south of Omaha Street from Hwy 16 on the west to Hwy 44 on the east and south.

** These numbers are approximates as of 2006.

Rapid City Parks

LEGEND

- SCHOOL
- PARKS**
- EXISTING
- PROPOSED



Rapid City Parks

LEGEND

- Existing Park
- Park Buffer

