



CITY PARKS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CITY OF HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

November 2014



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CITY OF HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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*The Application, Schedule and Standards are all available digitally to the City upon request.



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This report is also available in electronic format from the author.

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Team

City of Hot Springs Parks and Recreation ad hoc Committee: Wes Grimes (Ward III), Craig Romey (Ward I), Kim Moir, Gerald Collogan and Cindy Donnell

Thanks to City of Hot Springs Mayor Don DeVries (2008-2014) and Mayor Cindy Donnell (2014-present) City Manager Harley Lux, Alderman Wes Grimes, Alderman Craig Romey, city engineer Tracy Bastian, city building inspector / code enforcement Scott Simianer, Alderman Georgia Holmes and everyone who participated in the project.

Special thanks to the Dawn Johnson, David Schnuty, the Hot Springs Pioneer Museum and the Fall River Historical Society

In memory of Harley Lux (1956-2014)

COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL RECREATION ANALYSIS





SITE ANALYSIS: PARKS AND RECREATION GOALS

This statement of commitment and overall goals for parks and recreation was developed by the committee to guide the public input sessions and relate the importance of outdoor recreation in Hot Springs.

The City of Hot Springs is committed to:

- Retain and Protect Cultural Assets
- Reinvest & Rehabilitate historic properties and /or features
- Encourage a variety of recreation facilities and opportunities
- Provide ADA Accessibility – in areas w/ high levels of pedestrian activity
- Offer safe, quality, unique recreational opportunities throughout the city

Hot Springs Park and Recreation Goals

- Maintain and improve upon the existing park system
- Improve upon and expand the Freedom Trail system
- Provide for ADA access to parks and recreational amenities
- Expand the park system if in the best interest of the community
- Provide park amenities based on the needs and values of the citizens of Hot Springs

Comprehensive Plan Goals for Community Recreation

- Obtain land in flood zone for public use
- Continue Revitalization of Evergreen Cemetery
- Obtain vacated railroad rights-of-way for the expansion of the Mickelson Trail to Minnekahta Junction as available

HOT SPRINGS PARK AND RECREATION HISTORY



Hot Springs community health and recreation has a history as long as that of the city.

As early as 1881, city forefathers has a vision of creating a health spa town, capitalizing on the warm mineral springs that occurred throughout the valley near the Fall River. Spas with mineral waters had grown in reputation (and investor interest) throughout the world in this era for the healing or healthful benefits of the water and were generally patronized by the wealthy and growing middle class. Soaking and swimming in the mineral hot springs was referred to as 'taking a cure' or 'taking the waters'. For the respectable and genteel, spa towns were built to appeal to the needs and expectations of this well-heeled class of visitor, even on the western Frontier. Instead of the rustic wood and brick low-slung construction of most Black Hills towns, Hot Springs constructed its multi-story hotels from the locally available sandstone. Early photographs of the town show a number of elegant tall sandstone buildings, a bustling street with passenger rail cars, and public sidewalks and promenades. Hot Springs, like many spa towns became early vacation spots - taking the waters became a reason to have fun and 'recreate' with social peers. The vacation eventually became a middle class institution, and a time for physical, mental and spiritual self-improvement and entertainment.

While the mineral spring spas took care of physical and mental health, the Chautauqua movement addressed spiritual self-improvement and entertainment. Hot Springs Chautauqua grounds hosted its first Chautauqua in 1889 at the site of what is now Chautauqua Park. Early photographs show several elegant structures and lecture areas gracing the canyon floor on the banks of Hot Brook.

A number of public improvements were made throughout the 1890's - sidewalks and trees were added along the 'boulevards' and a pastoral gazebo with sculpture atop was built to celebrate the source of the city's success. Early photographs show This gazebo, called Hygieia Spring, supported a sculpture of the "Indian maiden Minnekahta" holding an electric torch as a beacon to those seeking the healthful mineral waters. Severe flooding and other impacts destroyed the original gazebo and several rebuilt versions, but it has always been rebuilt in the same location, now is called Kidney Spring.

By 1916 Hot Springs was hosting numerous regional events; Stock shows, baseball games, shooting exhibitions, races of all types - cars, motorcycles, horses and ponies, all on College Hill. In the early 1920's the resort town atmosphere attracted paper company baron F.O. Butler and his wife, Fanny, who would eventually become important civic leaders and philanthropists to the city of Hot Springs. Sometime between his arrival in 1924 and the deeding of the property to the City of Hot Springs in 1933, F.O. Butler acquired the racing grounds because of his interest in polo. Butler had purchased 1,000 acres of land in 1925 to establish a polo pony breeding ranch in the area.

In 1933, Mr. Butler conveyed the deed for the racing grounds property to the City of Hot Springs, by then already popularly known as Butler Park, "in order to insure the perpetuity of race meets and open air sports and a pleasure grounds for the citizens of Hot Springs, South Dakota", stipulating that the property be used "as a race track, open air sports and local pleasure grounds." Butler Park remained a race track, rodeo ground and location for open air sports, cultural events and entertainment until the mid-1970's when the park fell into disrepair and the grandstand was torn down. Changing economic and social times influenced the need for different open air sporting venues in Hot Springs. Rodeo grounds and race tracks gave way to baseball diamonds, tennis courts, playgrounds and soccer fields. Today Butler Park is still one of the most popular multi-use recreation facilities in the Black Hills.

The Flood Control Act of 1941 authorized the construction of Cold Brook Dam and Cottonwood Springs Dam and channel improvements throughout the city of Hot Springs in order to reduce flood damage in the Fall River basin. Before the dams, numerous flood control attempts had been made along the banks and in the river bed with little improvement. Railroad tracks, bridges and civic improvements still required periodic rebuilding. The finally successful flood control project and the eventual retreat of the railroad from the downtown river banks cleared the way for Centennial Park, Brookside Park, the Freedom Trail, the Veteran's Memorial and most recently Umiker Park.

- 1881 Hot Springs Incorporated
- 1889 first Chautauqua
- 1893 Hygieia Spring Gazebo built
- 1976 Centennial Park dedicated
- 1986 Cold Brook Neighborhood Park
- 1960's Brookside Park
- 1981 Comprehensive Plan (Recreation Plan)
- 2011 Freedom Trail Expansion Plans
- 2010 Fall River Revitalization Project
- 2011 Comprehensive Development Plan and Implementation Plan



CITY ANALYSIS: REGIONAL PHYSICAL CONTEXT



Location

Latitude: 43°25'51.96"N

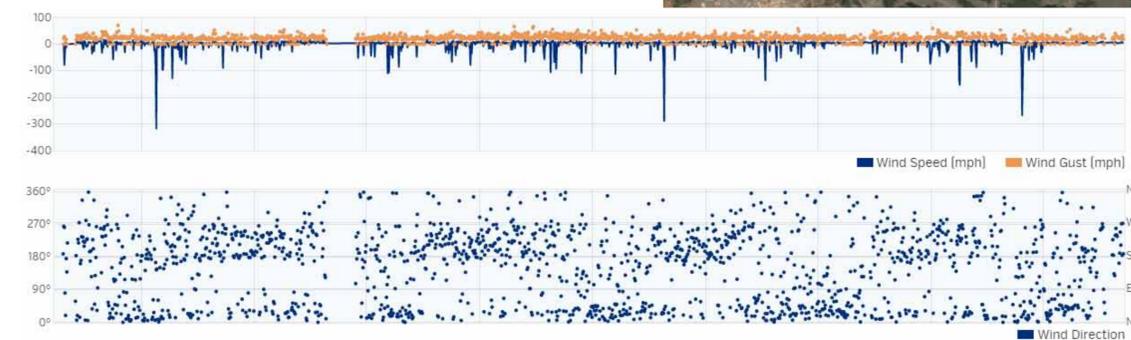
Longitude: 103°28'29.40"W

Wind Direction:

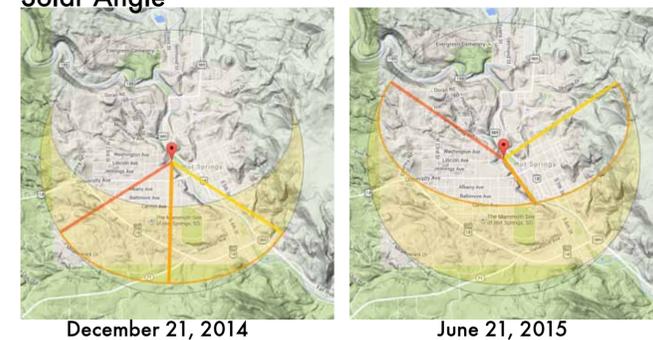
ASCE 7-10 Wind Speeds (3-sec peak gust MPH*:

Risk Category I: 105 | II: 115 | III-IV: 120

*A Wind Rose was not found for Hot Springs, but the airport data shows wind from the NE, S and SW to be most common:



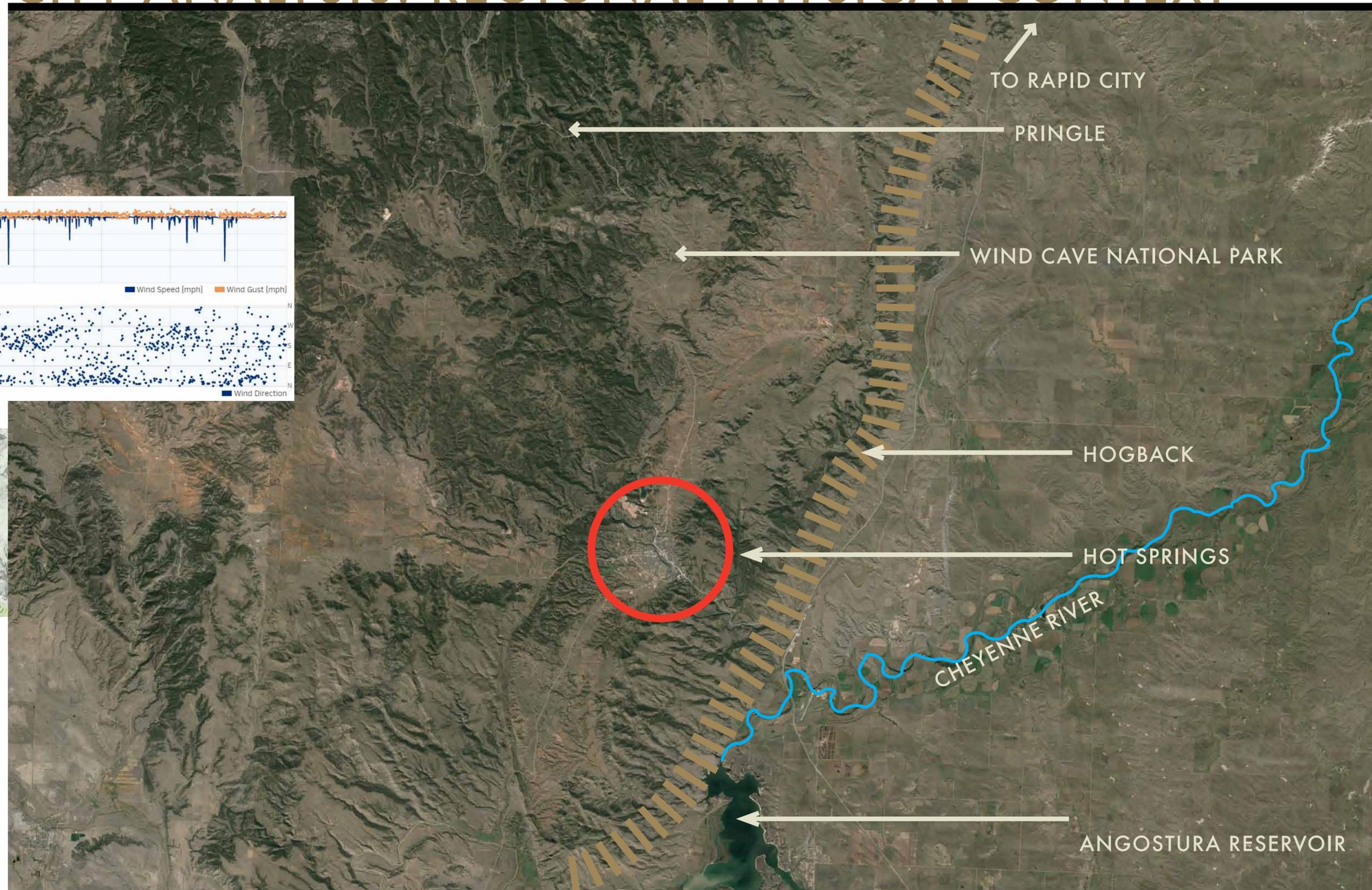
Solar Angle



Climate Summary:

Full Sun	229 days
Partial Cloud Cover	x days
Rainfall	17.02 Inches*
Snowfall	34.7 Inches
Precipitation Days	72 days
Avg. July High	89.3
Avg. Jan. Low	11.4
Comfort Index	59 (44 ntl. avg.)
UV Index	5
Av. Annual Max Temp	62.8
Av. Annual Min. Temp	33.3
General Elevation	3593 ft

*depending on source



SITE ANALYSIS: WATER AND FLOODING



FLOODING

Prior to Cold Brook Dam being constructed in 1953 by the United States Army Corps of Engineers flood damages in the Fall River Basin were a common occurrence. The river banks through the city were reported to be regularly flooded and often wiped out.

Major flooding prior to Cold Brook Dam

- 1892 - River Projects
- 1897 - wiped out Kidney Springs
- 1905 - wiped out railroad tracks
- 1918 - significant flood
- 1937 - flooding caused \$200,000 in damages
- 1938 - 13,100 cubic feet per second recorded at the Hot Springs river gauge
- 1947 - Flooding along Fall River

Since that time, flooding has been significantly reduced along the river, but is still know to flood the low water crossing bridge on 6th Street every couple of years (2005, 2008 and 2009 experienced this high water, but associated damages are limited to debris and high water).

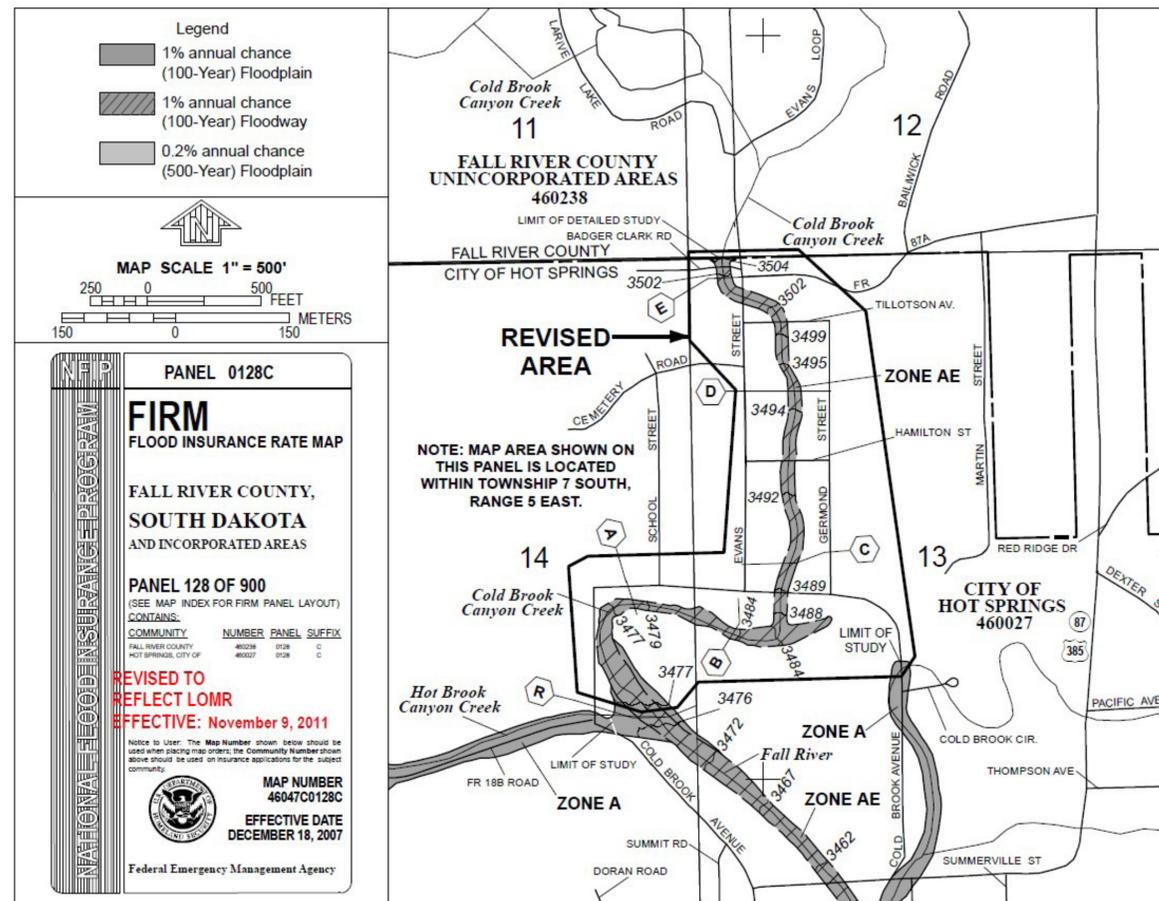
FEMA MAPPING

In 1968, the US Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Their intent was to reduce future damage and to provide protection for property owners from potential loses through an insurance mechanism that allows a premium to be paid by those most in need of the protection. FEMA produces Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that show areas subject to flooding. The flood risk information presented on the Flood Insurance Rate Map is based on historic, meteorological, hydrologic, and hydraulic data, as well as open-space conditions, flood-control works, and development.

These maps regulate the boundaries of zones with different flood risk. Within the city areas affected by flooding are almost entirely Floodway because of the flood channelization that has occurred in the past. Even past the downtown, the areas designated on the maps are all Zone A, the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to the 100-year floodplains that is determined in the Flood Insurance Study by detailed methods. In most instances, Base Flood Elevations derived from the detailed hydraulic analyses are shown at selected intervals within this zone. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements apply.

Encroachments are activities or construction within the floodway including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development. These activities are prohibited within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels.

The community is responsible to review and maintain record of the documentation demonstrating that any permitted floodway encroachment meets National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. A "no-rise certification" for floodways may be used to document the analyses.



This is the map from the 2011 Letter of Map Revision Determination Document for Hot Springs describing the Floodplain and Floodway through town.



SITE ANALYSIS: WATER AND FLOODING - FEMA

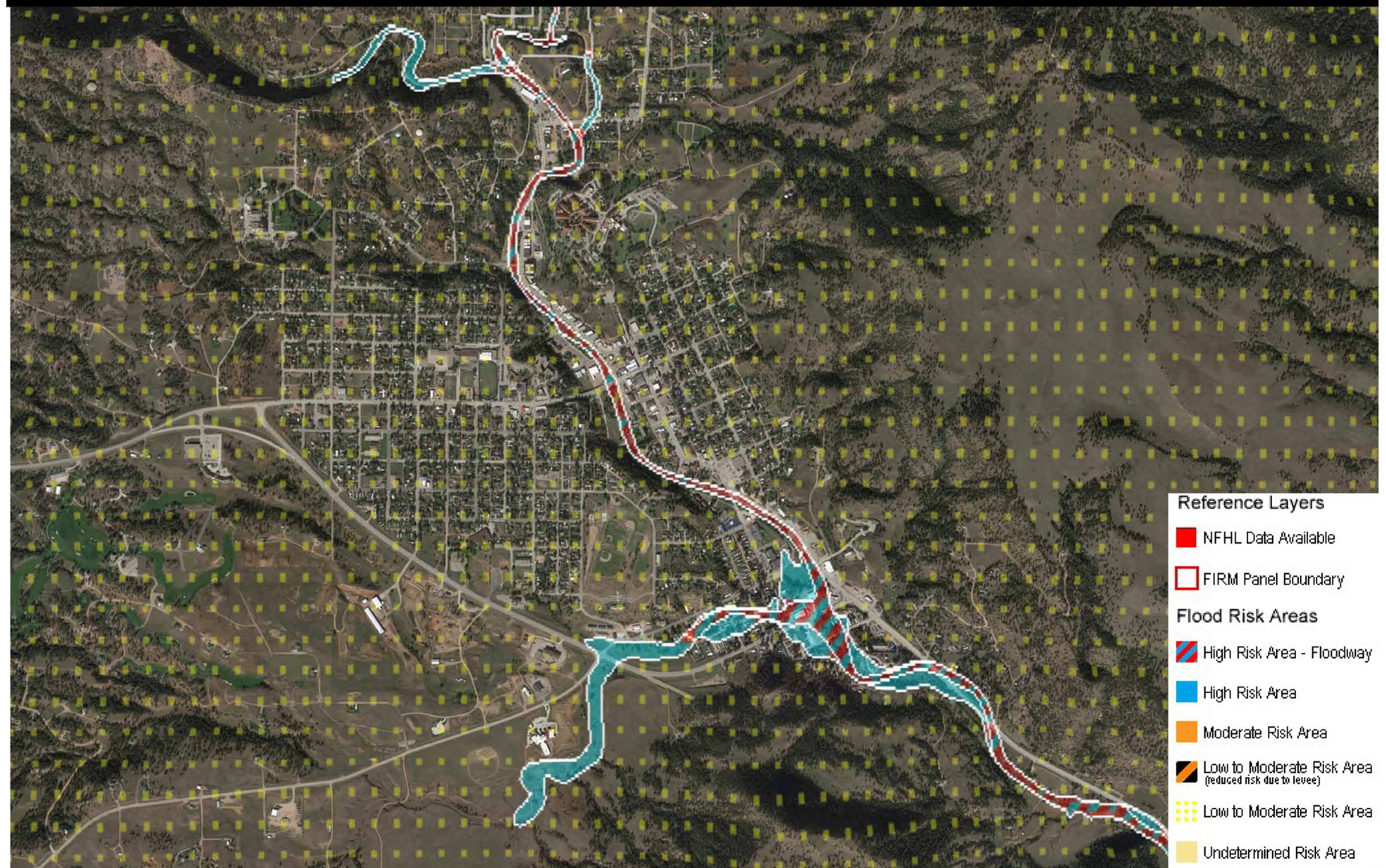


HOT SPRING'S RIVER PARKS

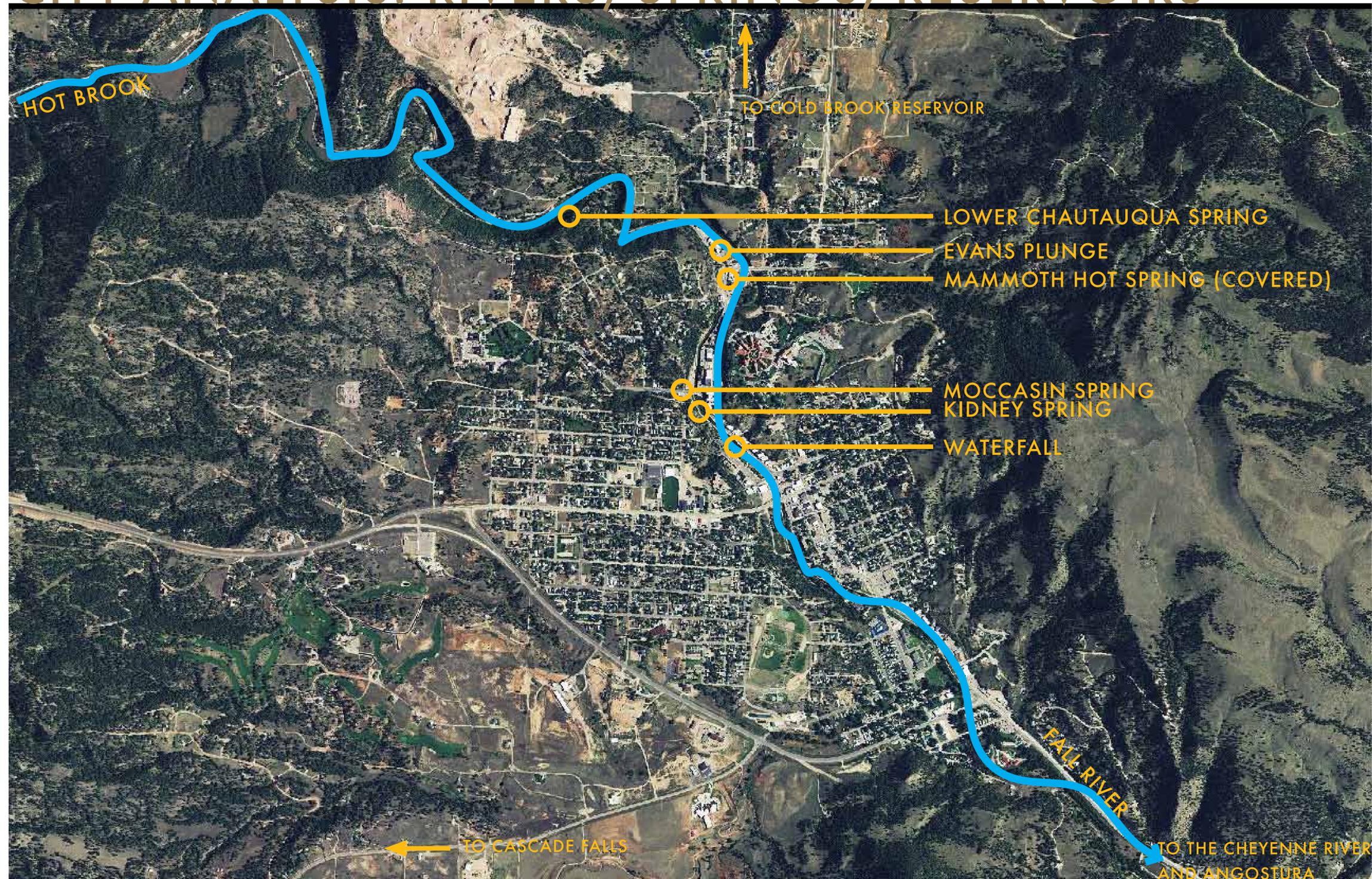
Many of the city parks within Hot Springs are affected by the floodway and floodplain designation. While this designation presents design challenges for new development, parks are a recommended use of floodplain areas.

Some of the challenges are:

- locating structures out of the floodway
- minimizing earthwork to limit base flood increases to less than a foot of rise
- keeping the channel clear of obstructions
- flood risk awareness by users during storm events
- emergency access



CITY ANALYSIS: RIVERS, SPRINGS, RESERVOIRS



At the time of the incorporation of the Hot Springs Town Site Company, it was reported that there were more than 75 thermal springs in the Hot Springs area. A few of the known and named springs are shown on this map. Most are now on privately owned land. Fall River reportedly flows at 74 degrees making it a perfect place to swim in the summer. Upper Chautauqua Park and Brookside Park are popular swimming areas along the Fall River.



Built on the hills and bluffs surrounding the Fall River, Hot Springs has a unique visual focus on its downtown area. Many areas of the town have beautiful views of downtown and the facing hillside. College Hill area residents enjoy panoramic views of the Seven Sisters range to the southwest. And Battle Mountain offers distant views to the north, northwest and west.

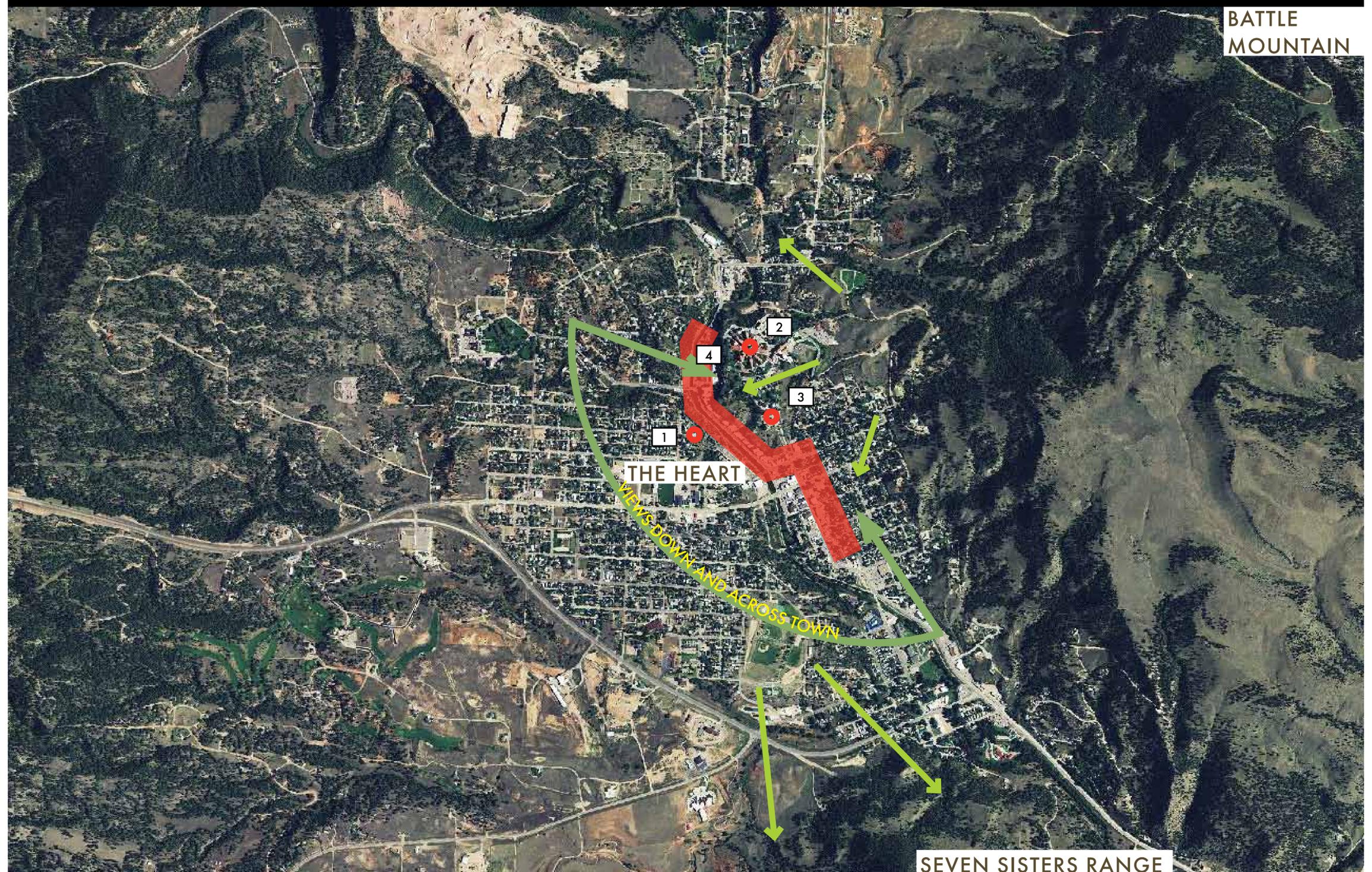
The unique architecture of the buildings in Hot Springs is always changing with the light and constantly draw the eye. Some of the prominent visual icons are noted here, but the entire ridgeline through town is full of wonderful sights:

1. Fall River Hospital
2. Battle Mountain Sanatorium - Veteran's Administration Hot Springs Campus
3. The Fall River County Pioneer Museum
4. The Water Fall

SITE ANALYSIS: PRIMARY VIEWS WITHIN CITY



BATTLE MOUNTAIN



SITE ANALYSIS: REGIONAL CULTURAL CONTEXT



A region with multiple nationally known monuments and parks

An area with a multitude of unique natural amenities

A city with rich architectural history

A city with a long history of parks which have hosted regional and national events since the 1800's

A city built around water



TYPES of PARKS

Community Park

Neighborhood Park

Linear Park

Pocket Park

Special Use Areas

Open Space

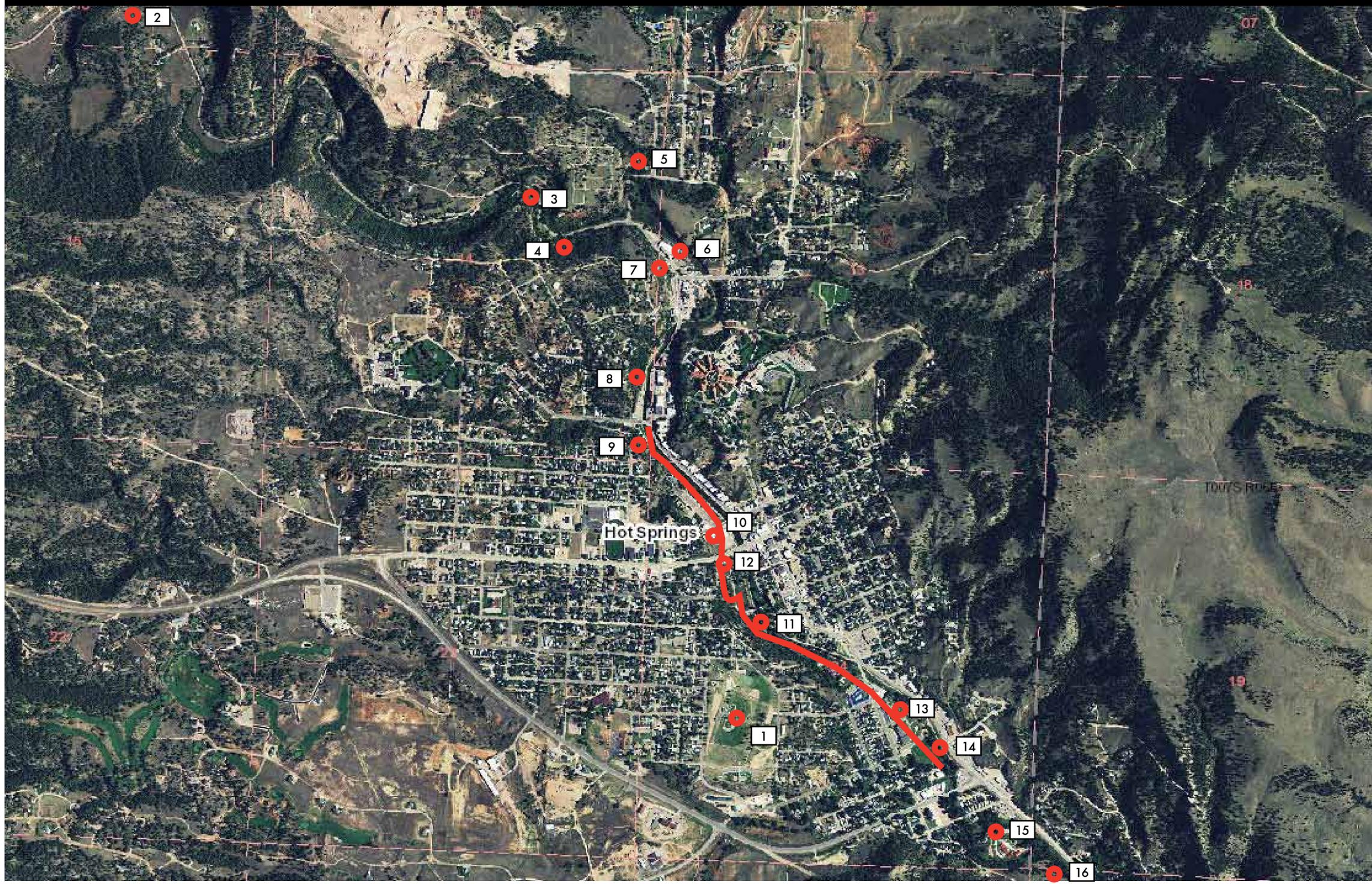
HOT SPRINGS MUNICIPAL PARKS LIST



PARK NAME	SIZE*	TYPE	PRIMARY AMENITIES
1. Butler Park (Recreation + Library)	29 ACRES	Community Recreation Park	Baseball Fields, Soccer Fields, Skate Park,
2. 90+ Acres - City Well	90 ACRES	Open Space	Playground, Tennis Courts, Public Rest room
3. Chautauqua Park - Upper	5.5 ACRES	Community Park	Hot Brook River Access, Shelter, Picnic
4. Chautauqua Park - Lower	2 ACRES	Community Park	Picnic Area, Swings
5. School Street Park + Connector	1 ACRE	Neighborhood Park	Playground, Picnic Area
6. Evans Plunge Grounds	<1 ACRE	Special Use Area	Picnic tables
7. City Park	<1 ACRE	Open Space	Picnic tables
8. Hot Springs Information Center (Train)	<1 ACRE	Special Use Area	Picnic tables
9. Kidney Springs (Gazebo)	.5 ACRES	Special Use Area	Public Parking, Train, Visitor Center
10. Centennial Park	1.5 ACRES	Community Park	Spring, Gazebo + Sculpture, Trail
11. Brookside Park	1.5 ACRES	Neighborhood Park	Public Rest rooms, Shelters, Picnic Areas
12. Freedom Trail		Linear Park	Playground, Covered Picnic tables
13. Veterans Memorial	< 1 ACRE	Special Use Area	Linear River Walk
14. Mueller Center Soccer Field	2.32 ACRES	Community Recreation	Veteran's Memorial
15. Umiker Park	1.45 ACRES	Neighborhood Park	Soccer Field, bleachers
16. Treatment Plan Open Space	4.8+ ACRES	Open Space	no developed amenities no developed amenities

*SIZE DENOTED IS THE FUNCTIONAL SIZE OF THE MAINTAINED PARK, NOT THE PARCEL SIZE

HOT SPRINGS MUNICIPAL PARKS MAP



TYPES of Facilities

Public Park

Cemetery

Private Land

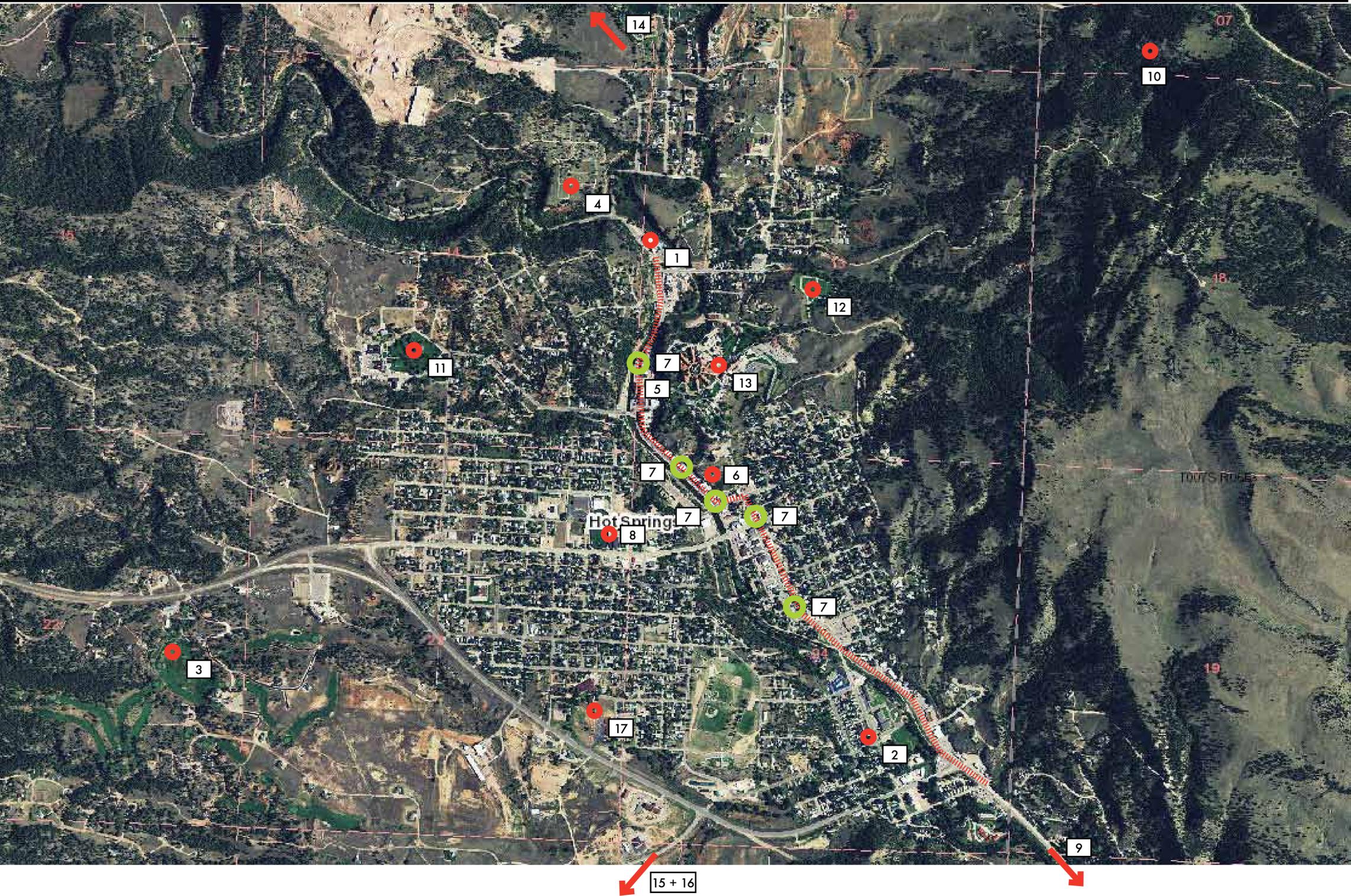


PUBLIC FACILITIES & OTHER OPEN SPACES:



PARK NAME	TYPE	PRIMARY FACILITIES
City Public Facilities:		
1. Evans Plunge	Community Recreation	Swimming pool
2. Mueller Center	Community Center	Community Center
3. Southern Hills Golf Course	Community Recreation	Public (fee) Golf Course
4. Evergreen Cemetery	Cemetery	Cemetery
5. City Streets (Sidewalks throughout town)	Municipal Infrastructure	
6. Goddard Park (Pioneer Museum)	County	Picnic area
Public Open Spaces		
7. Downtown Nodes - SDDOT	Beautification	Landscaping
8. Football Field - School District	School facility	School District Sports
State Government		
9. Angostura Reservoir - GF&P	Reservoir	Camping, fishing, boating
10. Battle Mountain - GF&P	public land	hiking
11. Battle Mountain Sanitarium Grounds & State Home Cemetery	Public Health	Health Campus
Federal Government		
12. Hot Springs National Cemetery	National Cemetery	Cemetery
13. Veterans Home Grounds	Federal Military Health	Health Campus
14. Cold Brook Lake - US Army Corps of Engineers	Reservoir	Camping, hiking, fishing, boating
15. Cascade Falls	US Forest Service	Swimming, hiking
Private Facilities		
16. BH Wild Horse Sanctuary	Horse Sanctuary	sanctuary / sightseeing
17. Mammoth Site Grounds	Paleontologic site	Ice Age paleontology excavation

PUBLIC FACILITIES & OTHER OPEN SPACES:





TYPES of PARKS

National Park

State Park

Private Open Space

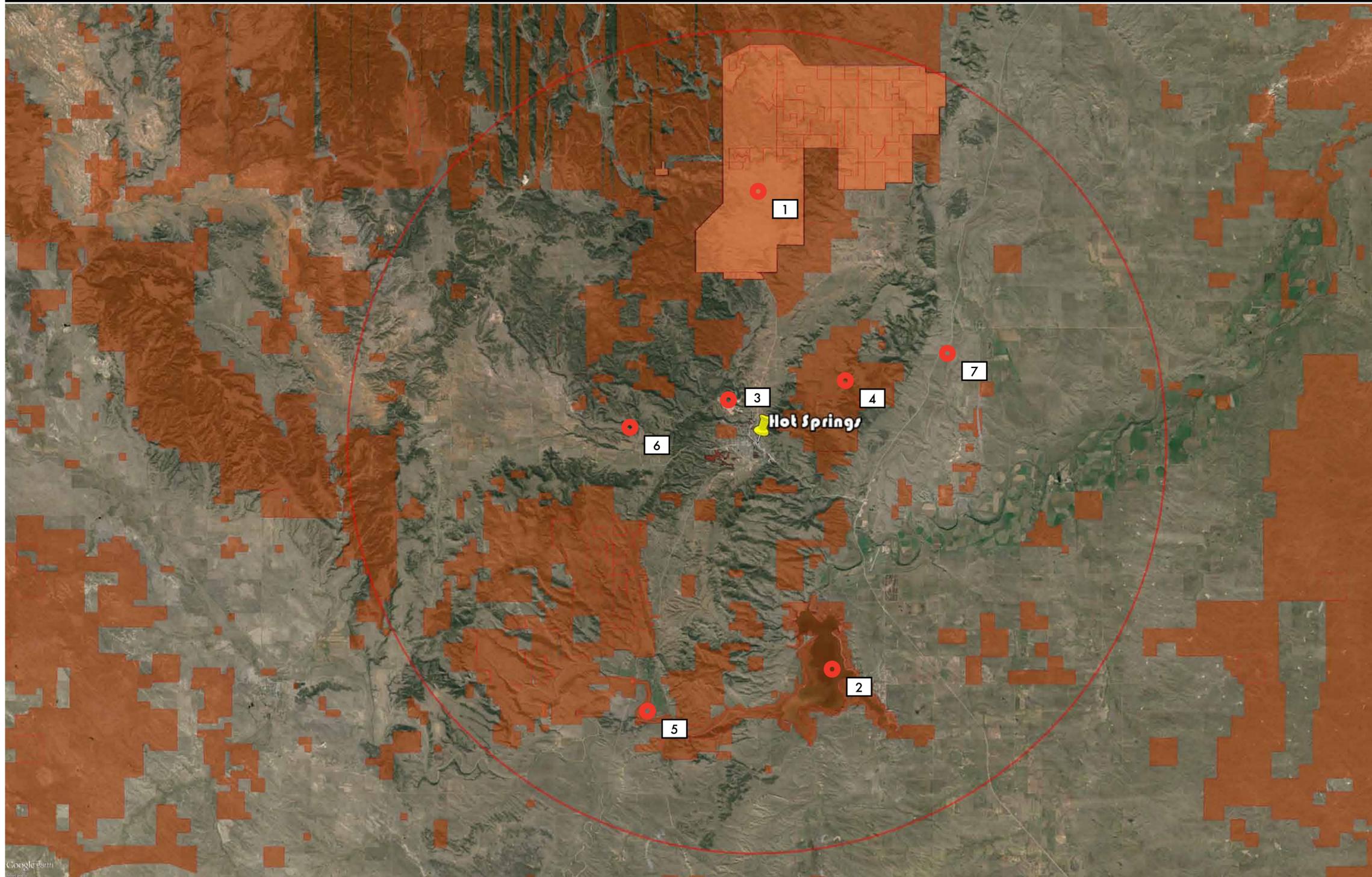
Other

15 Mile Recreation Zone:

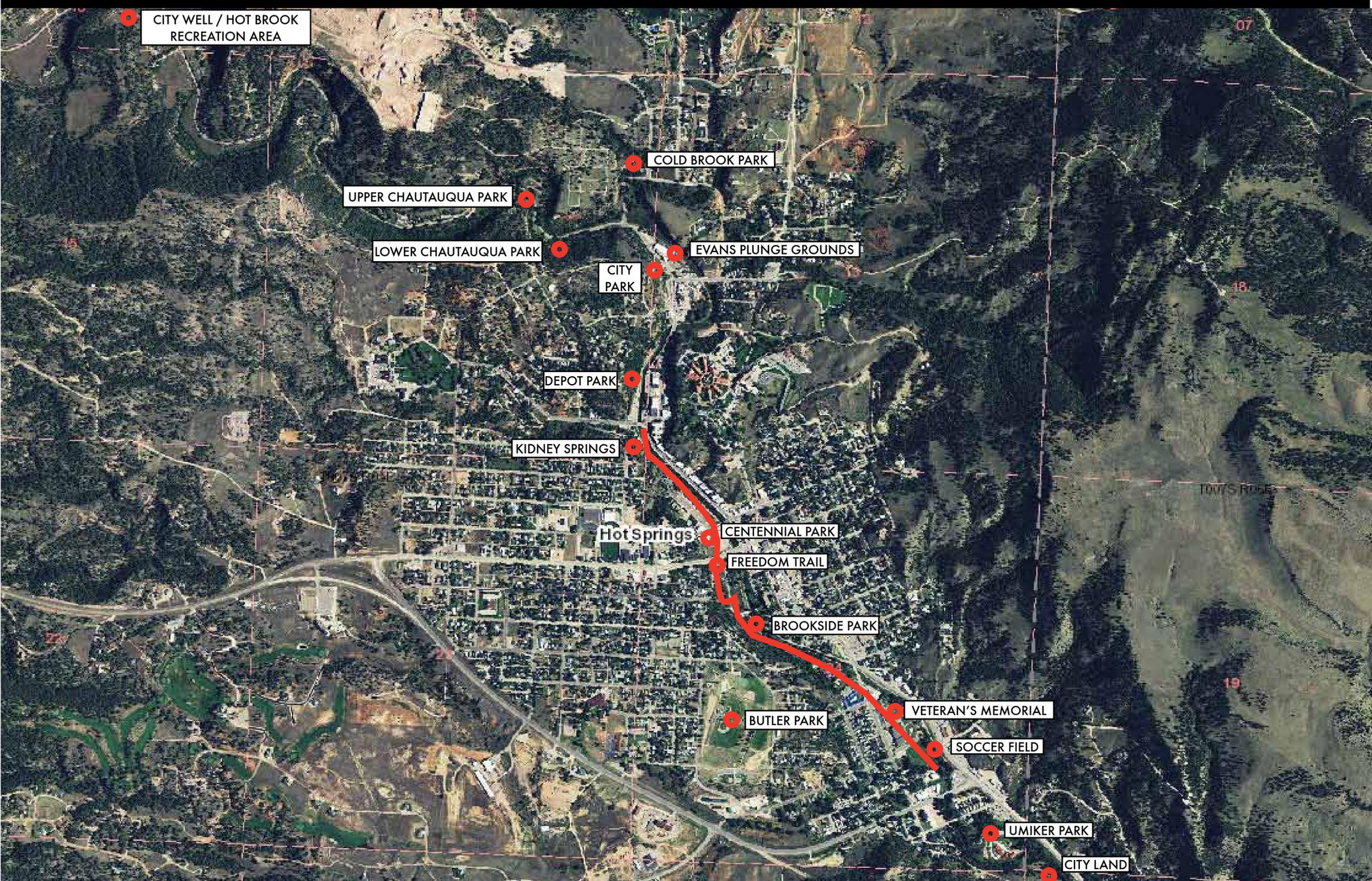


PARK NAME	SIZE	TYPE	PRIMARY FACILITIES
1. Wind Cave National Park	52.89 Sq. Mi.	National Park	National Park
2. Angostura Reservoir	6.88 Sq. Mi.	Reservoir	Camping, fishing, boating
3. Cold Brook Reservoir	36 acres	Reservoir	Camping, hiking, fishing, boating
4. Battle Mountain		SD GF&P	Hiking
5. Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary	11,000 acres	Private Horse Sanctuary	Sanctuary / sightseeing
6. Cottonwood Reservoir	36 acres	Reservoir	Camping, hiking, fishing
7. Fall River County Shooting Complex	140 + acres	SD GF&P	Shooting Range

PUBLIC LANDS IN 15 MILE RECREATION ZONE



HOT SPRINGS PARKS ASSESSMENT



01

Butler Park

SITE INFORMATION



1950's or '60's
photos courtesy of the Fall River Historic Society and Dawn Johnson



SIZE: 35.5ac
ESTABLISHED: by 1916
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #1 (adults) #2 (kids)

AMENITIES:

- (1) Baseball Field (w/ lighting)
- (1) Little League Field
- (1) Softball Field
- Soccer Fields
- 140'x240' (U12)
- (2) 100'x150' (U10) (one in Little League Outfield)
- 75'x90' (U8) (in Little League Outfield)
- 65'x80' (U6) (in Little League Outfield)
- Flag Plaza w/ textured paving
- 70'x120' Mud Pit (for Dakota Mud Run - seasonal event)
- East Parking Lot: up to 34 vehicles (10' spacing)
- West Parking Lot: up to 89 vehicles (10' spacing)
- North Parking Lot: up to 13 vehicles (10' spacing)
- 3,600 LF concrete paths (varying width)
- (2) Tennis + (1) Basket Ball Court (w /lighting)
- (4) Horseshoe pits
- (1) 60'x120' Skate Park
- (4) swing sets: (4) toddler seats, (14) strap seats on pea gravel surfacing
- 2-5 Play structure, engineered wood fiber safety surfacing
- (2) 5-12 Play structure, engineered wood fiber safety surfacing (1 at Library)
- Bike Racks, Benches, Picnic Tables
- Jenniges Memorial Drinking Fountain

SHELTERS:

- (3) Storage sheds & yard for baseball, soccer
- (3) Rest rooms - concession, soccer, playground area
- (3 Pairs) Dugouts + Bleachers
- (2) Picnic shelters
- Public Library

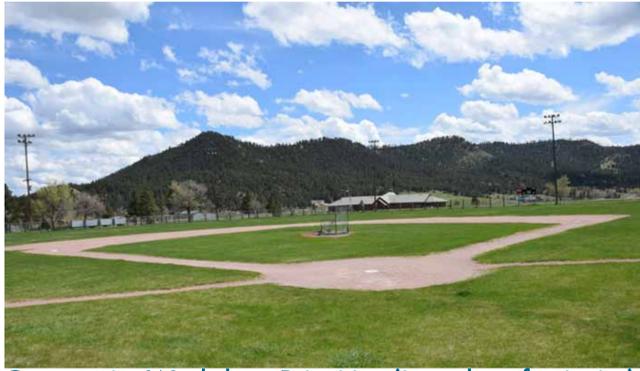
VEGETATION

- Pine grove (approx. 50 trees)
- Irrigated and non-irrigated turf
- 70 + Street trees & Ornamental trees planted by local groups & parks staff

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- No ADA parking except at library
- Sidewalks too narrow for passing
- No accessible seating at ball fields
- Play equipment accessible, no access to swings





BUTLER PARK SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Recreation Center / Community Activity Center in old Armory
- Finish concrete sidewalk loop
- Improved bathrooms - open all year
- More trees / shade
- Volleyball Court
- Complete walking circuit connections to Freedom Trail
- Splash Pad
- High School soccer field
- Good basketball court by itself
- 1/2 cent sales tax for parks only
- paved parking lots
- doggie waste stations
- exercise stations
- New pedestrian entrance at west side of park, near playground
- Make field north of library prettier

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- more playground equipment dispersed throughout the park - more for toddlers and handicapped
- bathrooms need much improvement, open in winter and more frequent maintenance
- All soccer fields together (relocate Mueller Center Field)
- more picnic tables in shade, trees, shelters, bbq
- Youth Center in old Armory
- better / wider sidewalks or trails
- splash pad
- trash cans near activity areas (near playgrounds)
- water bottle / dog watering fountain
- frisbee golf
- a place to legally have dogs off leash
- maintenance - weeds in lawns, trash
- more basketball courts
- expanded skate park
- rock climbing wall
- community gardens
- sand volleyball

PARK CONCEPT : COMMUNITY RECREATION

A community recreation park should meet a wide variety of recreational needs community-wide and regionally, from fields and courts for organized team sports to playgrounds and family gathering areas. Community recreation parks are normally 50-100 acres. Recommended amenities for this type of park include recreation fields, tennis, winter sports, picnic areas with barbeques, pavilion, walking trails, skate parks, multiple playgrounds for different age groups, parking areas and large turf and landscaped areas with a buffer between the park and neighborhood.

Butler Park currently meets many of these needs with existing amenities, making fairly good use of the 35 acres. Although the community has a mountain of ideas for the park, immediate needs rise to the top: rest room quantity, maintenance and availability, indoor recreation opportunities, complete walking circuits, picnic areas with shade, consolidated soccer facilities, and multiple issues that can be managed through better maintenance. Ideas for new amenities include a fountain splash pad, paved parking lots, additional playgrounds, a rock climbing wall and frisbee golf.



CLEAR NEEDS:

- Consolidate soccer fields
- Complete sidewalk loop
- Rest room Improvements
- Reorganize and pave parking lots with designated ADA parking
- Resurface tennis courts / basketball court
- Architectural Assessment of the Armory for suitability for a community / youth recreation center



PROPOSED PLAN:

- Include priorities and assessed needs in Butler Park Master Plan for future implementation



Hot Brook 02

Recreation area

SITE INFORMATION

AKA: City Well Property
SIZE: 90 ac
ESTABLISHED: TBD
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #9

AMENITIES:

- Historic Building
- Two outlying structures
- City water storage tanks
- Fenced with locked gate
- One trash can
- Expansive natural area along bluffs

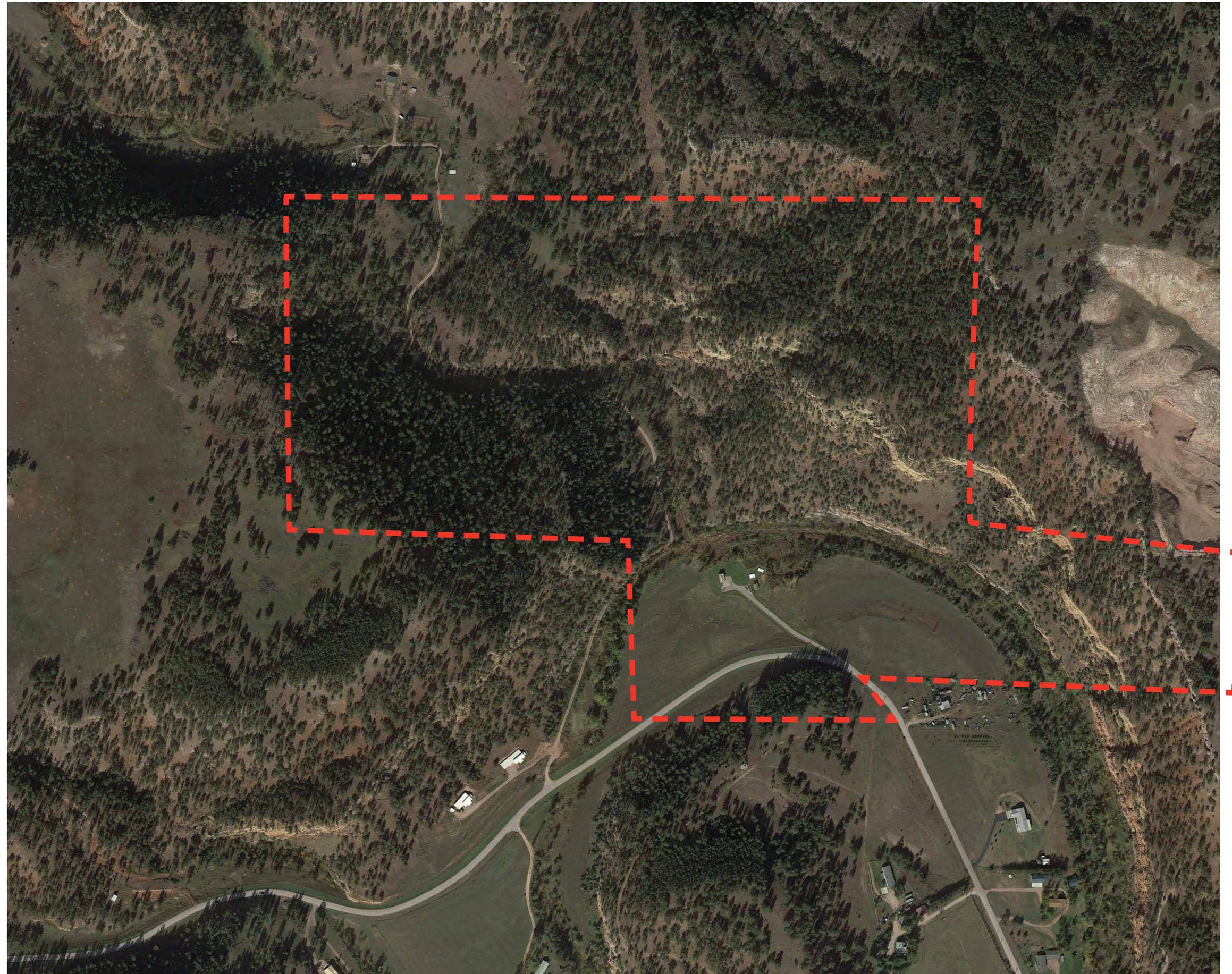
SHELTERS: N

VEGETATION

- Cliffside dry Ponderosa Pine forest and open meadow river bottom with deciduous trees. A power line runs through the site with trees removed from the right of way.

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- Not accessible



CITY WELL / HOT BROOK RECREATION AREA

SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS



Community Workshop Priorities:

- Hiking trails
- bike / walking / running path
- Nothing! Keep it natural.

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- none

PARK CONCEPT : REGIONAL OPEN SPACE

Regional open space parks are characterized by low-impact, low maintenance use for a variety of self directed recreational activities. They typically have primitive facilities and each community may determine appropriate uses. Common uses are day-use only, hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails with primitive rest room facilities and parking.

Because of the proximity of Hot Springs water supply, the most appropriate type of rest room should be studied to eliminate the possibility of contamination. Recreation should be limited to day use. Trails design should utilize the 'rolling dip' style of trail construction to avoid erosion.

CLEAR NEEDS:

If this recreation area is developed it will need some amenities to function:

- Parking
- Rest room
- Fencing around municipal buildings
- Trail Connection/Route to town

PROPOSED PLAN:

- No development recommended until higher priority park items are resolved
- Clear signage from town when it is developed
- Apply for RTP grants to develop trails



Historic photo of City Well

photo courtesy of the Fall River Historic Society



Upper Chautauqua Park

SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 5.5 ac
ESTABLISHED: Circa 1889
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #3 (adults) #6 (kids)

AMENITIES:

- Large picnic shelter
- Public rest rooms (single user pits)
- Garbage cans (9)
- Park grills - covered (2) and uncovered (1)
- Picnic tables (13)
- Water spigots (3)
- Play structure with swings, slide and see saw
- Stonework throughout - stairs, bridge, walls, weirs, entry columns
- Hand crafted metal work throughout - handrails and spear entry gate details
- Maintenance road crosses creek at lower end of park (could potential provided ADA access to far side of creek)
- Electric outlets available at the shelter and at a pole in the trees on the west side of the park.
- No night lighting

SHELTERS:

- Large Picnic Shelter (no lighting)

VEGETATION

- Many mature shade trees of multiple varieties

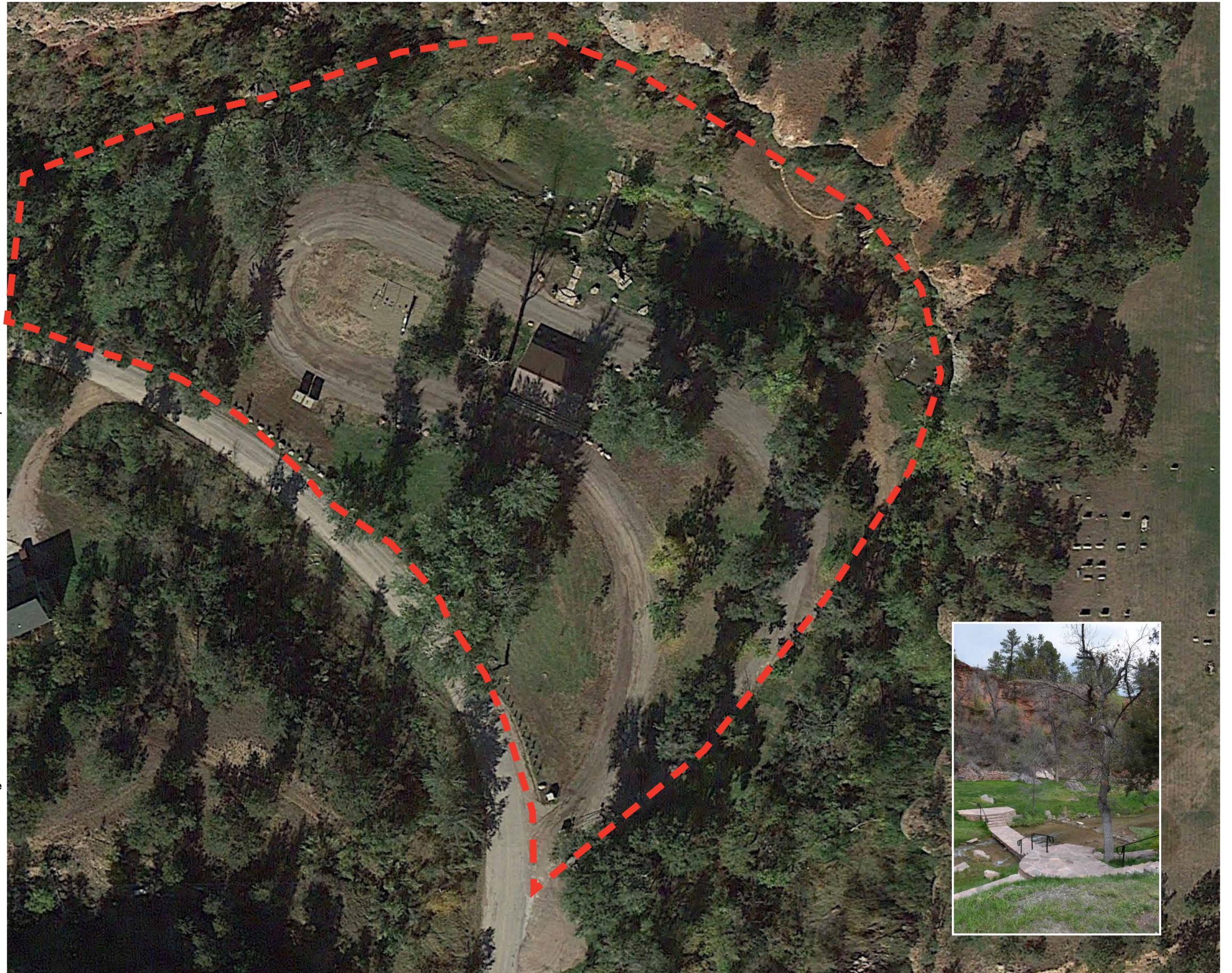
ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- No designated ADA parking
- Pea gravel playground surfacing not ADA accessible

SITE DESCRIPTION

Upper Chautauqua Park is set in a bend along Hot Brook. Multiple lawn areas, beautiful stonework walls, stairs, a bridge and river weirs make this park one of the crown jewels in Hot Springs historic parks. The park is used for weddings, parties, family reunions and other gatherings, and swimming.

Chautauqua Park is the oldest park in Hot Springs, being in continuous use since the first Chautauqua in 1889. The original structures were removed by 1901 and the current configuration set since the very early 1900's with minimal change.





UPPER CHAUTAUQUA PARK SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Bike path to park from town
- flush toilets
- keep as natural as possible
- upgrade shelter with lattice and cupola
- improve road shoulder (for races)
- drinking water fountains
- sink / clean up area
- better playground equipment

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- need sidewalks to safely access with bikes and walking
- more policing for speeders / unleashed dogs

PARK CONCEPT : COMMUNITY PARK

Upper Chautauqua Park is one of the most highly used and beloved parks in the community. The shelter is reserved nearly every weekend during the summer for weddings, family reunions, birthday parties and other group events. The community would like sidewalks or a trail from town to access this park more safely when walking or riding bikes. Other than that, the general feeling is to leave it alone. People enjoy the sublime natural beauty of the park and historic feeling stairs and river pools.

CLEAR NEEDS:

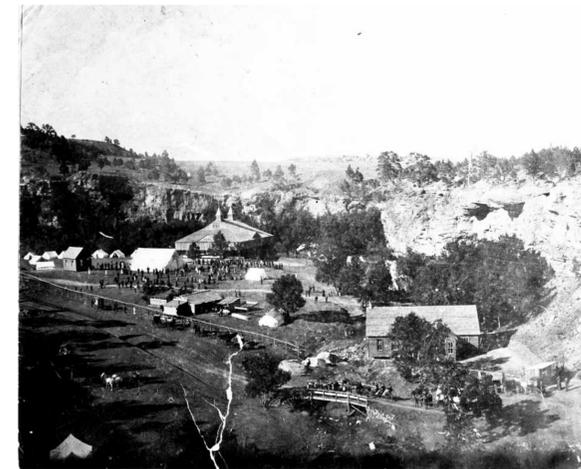
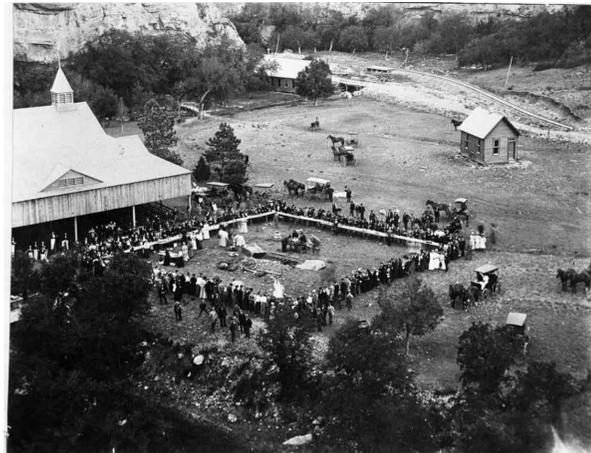
- New Playground Equipment
- Updated Rest rooms
- Pedestrian / biking access from town

PROPOSED PLAN:

- Make maintenance of existing rockwork and historic features a priority
- Connect to town with a sidewalk or trail
- Update playground equipment and surfacing after highest priority parks are addressed
- ADA rest rooms connected to city sewer

Historic photos of Chautauqua Park; pre-1901 and post-1901

photo courtesy of the Fall River Historic Society



04

Lower Chautauqua Park

SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 2 ac
ESTABLISHED: after 1901
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #7 (adults and kids)

AMENITIES:

- Picnic tables (2) poor to moderate condition
- Park grills - uncovered (2) rusty condition
- Swings
- Garbage cans (2)
- Historic stone wall
- Historic ruins throughout the park

SHELTERS:

- None

VEGETATION

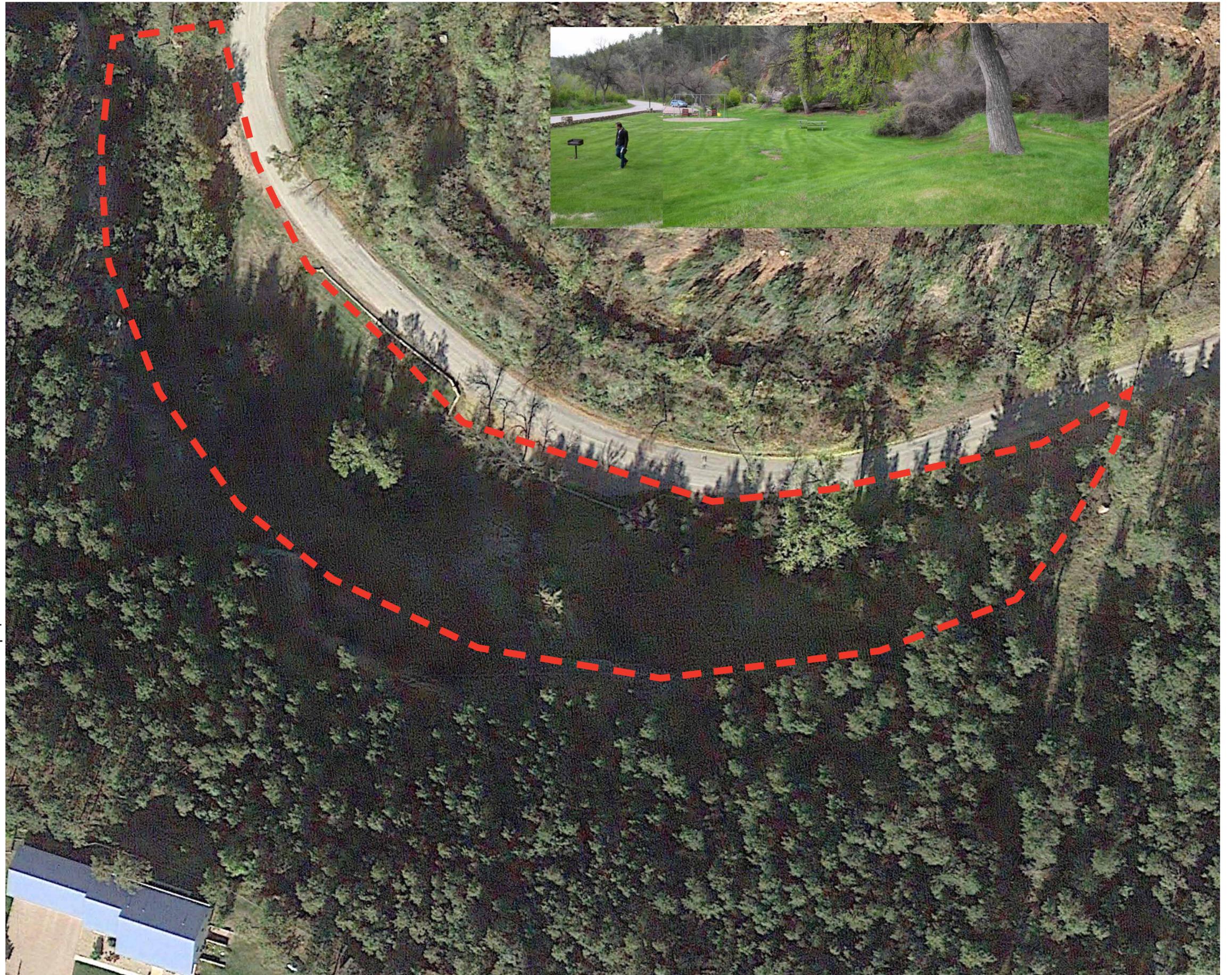
- Overgrown vegetation around ruins
- Small mowed area

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- No ADA parking
- Playground surfacing not ADA accessible
- picnic tables and grills not ADA accessible

SITE DESCRIPTION

Lower Chautauqua Park is set in a canyon bend just before Upper Chautauqua Park. Steep canyon walls with overgrown vegetation are the backdrop for small lawn areas, fallen boulders, beautiful stone walls, mysterious stairs and ruins.





LOWER CHAUTAUQUA PARK SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Bike path to park from town
- Rest room
- bike path with lights to match Freedom Trail
- Ice Skating (use small existing pond)
- Keep it natural
- More play equipment

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- need sidewalks to safely access with bikes and walking
- more policing for speeders / unleashed dogs

PARK CONCEPT : COMMUNITY PARK

Community Parks serve a variety of types of organized recreation activities as well as passive recreation. They generally provides a greater variety of facilities and more extensive service than can be justified in a neighborhood park. In the case of Hot Springs, Community Parks are differentiated from Neighborhood Parks by providing covered outdoor community gathering space, electrical service, park grills, and appropriate parking for large group gathering.

Among the most frequently used parks in Hot Springs, Lower Chautauqua Park is one of the more shaded and green parks in town. Improvements made to barbeque grills, picnic tables and swings / play surfacing would make this lovely small park more functional and usable. The swings are not ADA accessible but are in an easy to reach, albeit oddly placed location in the middle of the park entrance.

Of all of the Hot Springs Parks, Lower Chautauqua seems the most feasible for developing winter ice skating, using the shade of the canyon wall to help keep the pond frozen. However, further research indicates that the pond area at this park is spring fed, and too warm to freeze in the winter. Rest rooms are desired for this park, but may negatively impact its natural beauty.

The historic rock wall is in fair condition with some missing rocks. The wall should be repaired and missing stonework replaced yearly.

CLEAR NEEDS:

- Update grills, picnic tables and place in flat lawn areas
- Update play equipment and surfacing

PROPOSED PLAN:

- Make maintenance of rock walls and historic features a yearly maintenance item
- Connect to town with a sidewalk or trail
- Update playground equipment and surfacing after higher priority parks are addressed



05 Cold Brook Park

aka School Street Park SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 1.5 ac / connected to larger public lands
ESTABLISHED: 1986-87
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #6 (adults) #3 (kids)

AMENITIES:

- Play structure (in poor condition with outdated safety features)
- Swings (outdated safety features)
- Merry-go-round (outdated safety features)
- benches - 4 (poor condition)
- Picnic tables -3
- Waste receptacles -2
- water spigot - 1
- Canyon wall backdrop

SHELTERS:

- None

VEGETATION

- Mature shade trees
- mowed lawns
- Canyon side native vegetation

ADA ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY NOTES:

- Not ADA accessible
- Non-compliant railings at stairs
- Play structure guard rails have greater than 4" gaps, posts in poor, rotting condition

SITE DESCRIPTION

School Street Park is a beautiful neighborhood park with poor condition playground equipment. The park originally had a water fountain at the bottom of the staircase, planters to the side of steps and the whole park was ringed with split rail fencing and more picnic tables. Well built brick water fountain.





COLD BROOK PARK aka School Street Park

SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

05

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Rest room
- Bike path or sidewalk to park (from town)
- Spray Park
- Update play equipment
- Dog park

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Rest rooms
- Sidewalk or bike path for safe easy access

PARK CONCEPT : NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Neighborhood Parks can be as small as one acre and are characterized by open lawns, shade trees, smaller scale playgrounds, benches and picnic areas.

School Street Park is a small neighborhood park at the base of the Evergreen Cemetery bluff. It is an attractive park for parents with young children as it is surrounded by slopes which act as natural barriers and because of ample shade.

The existing playground structure is in very poor condition, as are the picnic tables and benches. The playground structure has an inadequate "fall zone" and has placement issues that cause safety concerns, such as the slide landing within head-butting distance of a mature tree. Swings and merry go round are in non-compliant condition for playground safety and ADA. Other compliance issues are non-compliance handrails at the stairs, poor condition landing at base of stairs, no ADA access to the park and no sidewalks within the park. There is a locked cover of an underground access constructed out of composite wood materials that is a trip and mowing hazard.

CLEAR NEEDS:

- Playground update
- Better connectivity to downtown
- ADA access / corrections

PROPOSED PLAN:

- 2015 - 2016 Replace play structure and merry-go-round
- Replace pea gravel surfacing with engineered wood fiber
- Replace swings or remove one swing from each bay and move single swing to middle of bay
- Add a sidewalk ramp to access the park
- Replace picnic tables and benches with steel rubber coated or powder coated benches
- Directional signage from downtown or the Evans Plunge area (after new play equipment is installed)
- replace underground access cover with a prefabricated vault or other at-grade secure access
- Rest room



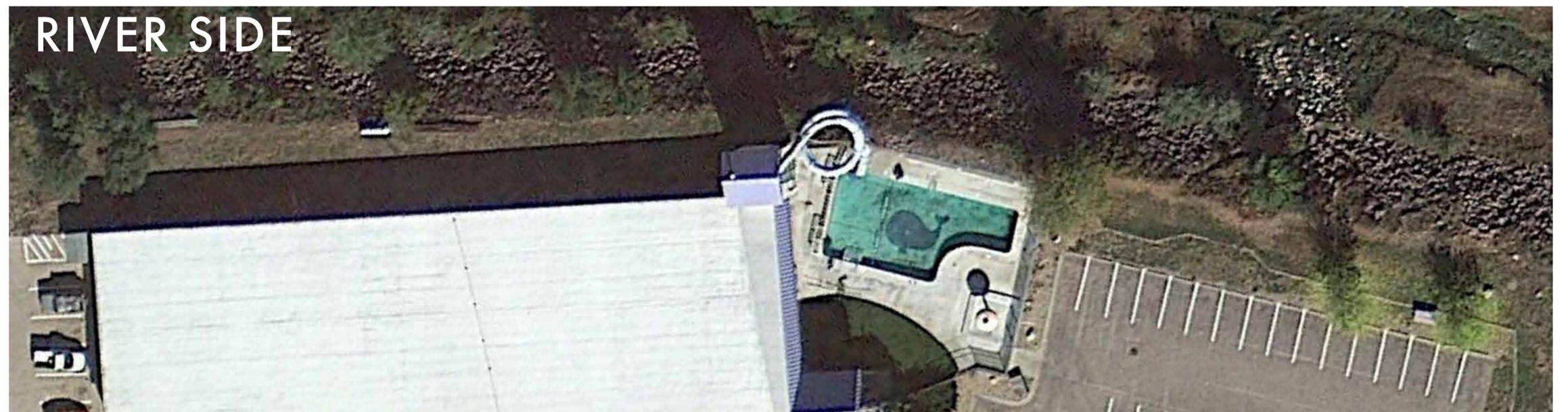
Evans Plunge 06 Grounds SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 2.5 ac
ESTABLISHED: 1891, last site remodel in 1990s
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #2 (adults) #1 (kids)

- AMENITIES:
- Within fenced fee area - Outdoor Pool, Water slide, Splash Feature
 - 56 car south parking lot
 - 19 car north parking lot
 - 2 bus spaces
 - landscape areas

- VEGETATION
- Landscape bed to south of the building
 - parking lot and street trees
 - Fall River riparian zone to east

- ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:
- adequate ADA parking
 - route to building generally complies





EVANS PLUNGE GROUNDS SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Expand outdoor pool and add a splash park and cabanas
- River access with wading area and picnicking
- Entry point for river tubing
- City pool

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Inviting, well groomed picnic area
- Information on 'what else to see / do in Hot Springs' at the Evan's Plunge picnic area
- Outdoor pool

PARK CONCEPT : SPECIALTY OPEN SPACE

Specialty Open Space is open space that serves a particular use or facility.

The grounds at Evan's Plunge are primarily related to the form and function of parking to access the facility. The community sees much more opportunity now that the city owns and operates the facility. Existing picnic tables are in poor condition with no ADA access to them. The fence around the outdoor pool area is in poor condition and not aesthetically arranged to take advantage of the site. There is no river access, which is high on the wish list of the community. Many in the community would also like to see the outdoor pool area expanded.

Historic photos of Evans Plunge

photo courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society



CLEAR NEEDS:

- Updated, ADA compliant picnic area
- Strong and clean maintenance guidelines and schedule for exterior elements of the site.

PROPOSED PLAN:

- Develop exterior maintenance plan
- Develop a plan that would include picnic areas with ADA access, river access to a Freedom trail expansion and/or to the water, better utilization of outdoor pool spaces and utility areas.



07

City Park SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: <1 ac
ESTABLISHED: 2013
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #15

AMENITIES:

- Picnic tables
- Historic Iron Fence

SHELTERS:

- None

VEGETATION

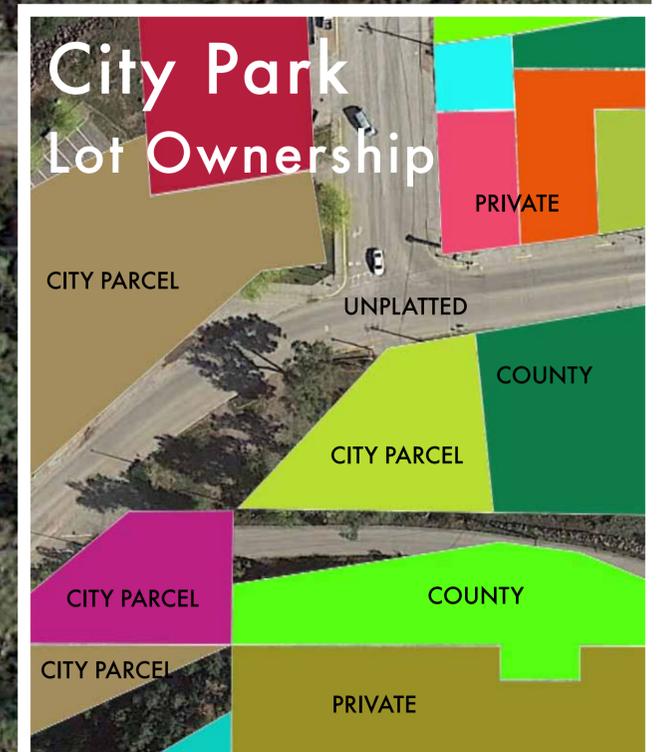
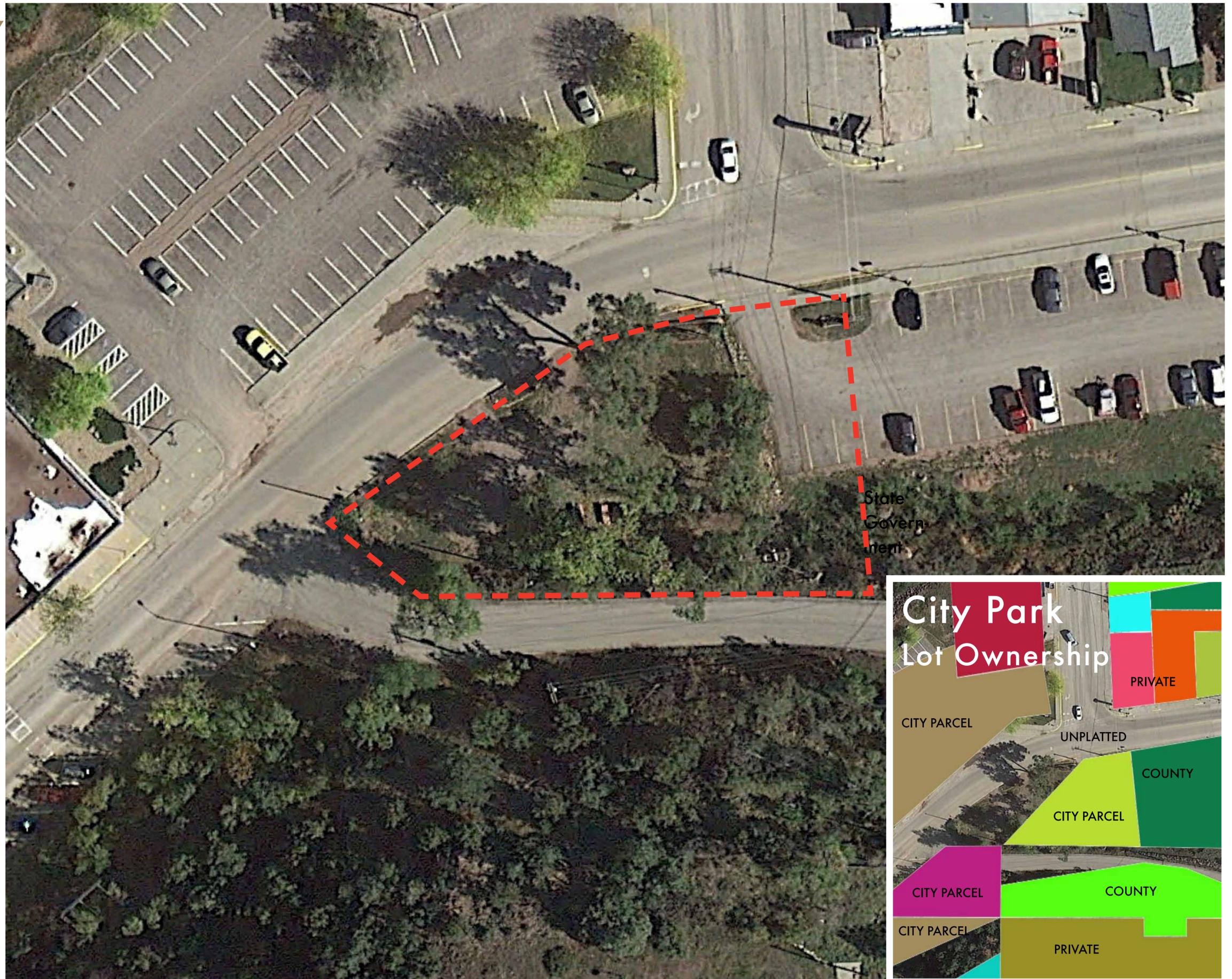
- Mature trees
- Shrubs and perennials

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- Not ADA accessible

SITE DESCRIPTION

Part dirt parking lot, part picnic area, this park seems tied to Evans Plunge (with matching picnic tables) but isn't clearly a park. A historic-looking wrought iron fence surrounds part of the park and garden flowers and plants are planted along the edges of the park. The retaining wall on the back slope of the park is in very poor, partially failing condition.





CITY PARK SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Clean up No Parking signs, add tables
- add toddler spring rides - horses, bison, mammoths
- Move / Update Evans Plunge book sign

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Should be improved with lawn and landscaping

PARK CONCEPT : POCKET PARK

Pocket Parks are small parks accessible to the general public, frequently created on a single vacant building lot or on small, irregular pieces of land.

City Park is partly used for wayfinding, partly for an informal picnic area, and partly abandoned lot. Another purpose of this park is to provide space for proper retaining of Summit Road. It appears that parts of both the log and stone the retaining walls have failed.

CLEAR NEEDS:

- Retaining wall stabilization / reconstruction
- Program - what is this open space to be used for?

PROPOSED PLAN:

- Retain a civil engineer to study and provide recommendations for retaining wall reconstruction and slope stabilization
- Provide crosswalk to park from Evan's Plunge for picnic access
- Improve "Welcome" sign and directional wayfinding signage.



08

River Walk Channel Park

SIZE: 6.1 ac
ESTABLISHED: TBD
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #8

AMENITIES:

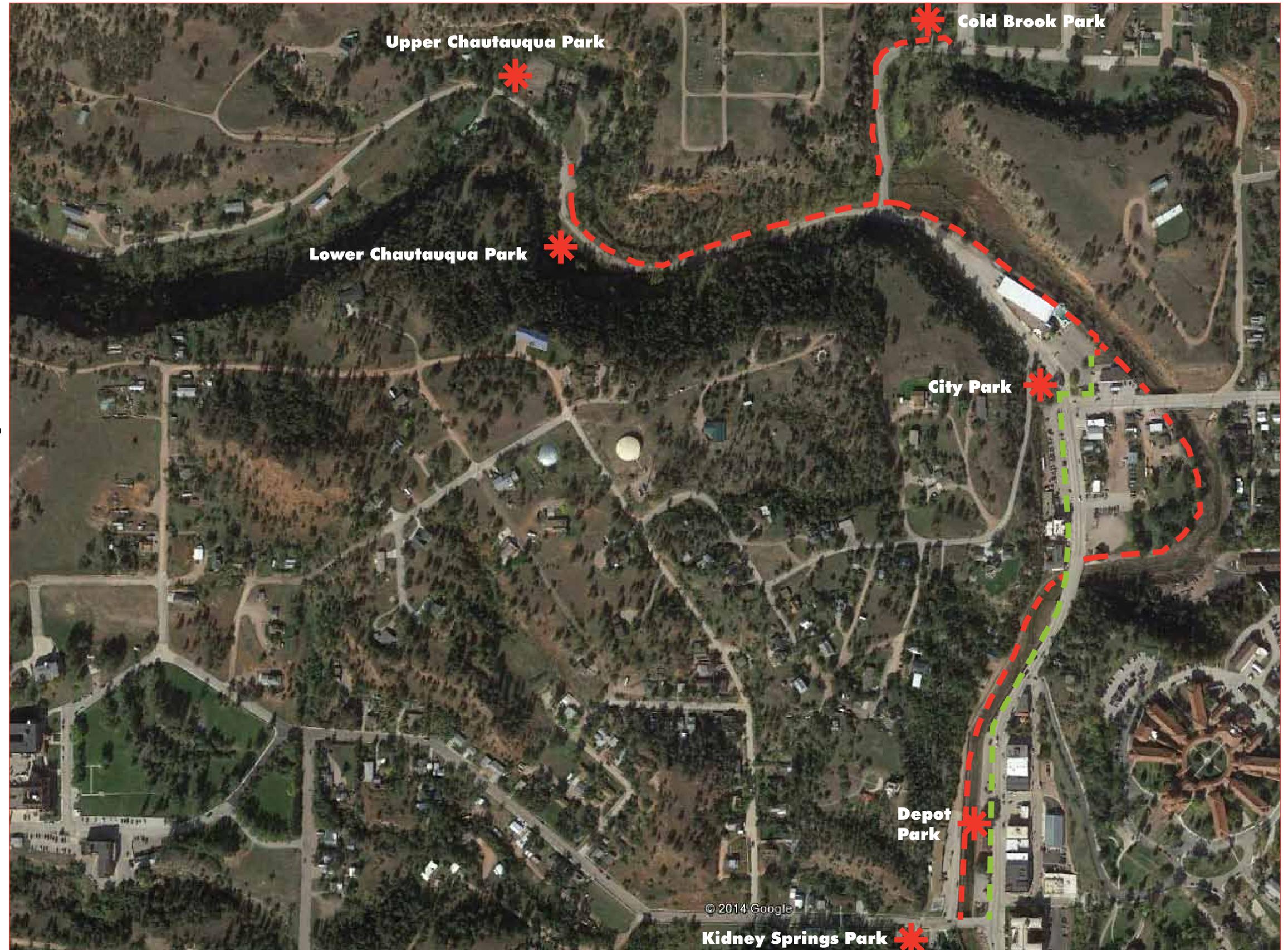
- Fall River
- Access to Evans Plunge site
- Access to N River Street at bridge
- 20 high concrete and stone channel walls between Hwy 385 and Kidney Springs

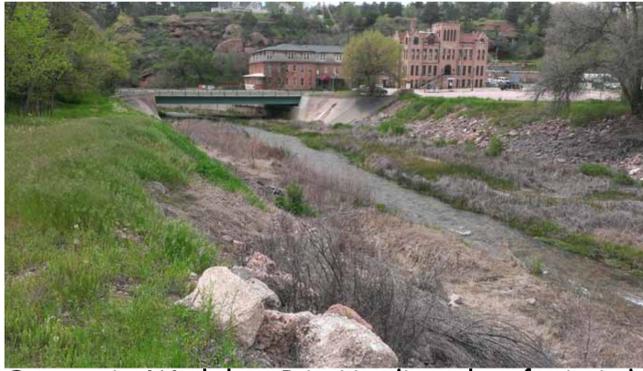
VEGETATION

- Riparian Vegetation

SITE DESCRIPTION

This corridor is the subject of the 2010 Fall River Revitalization Project which proposed extending the River Walk / Freedom Trail through this area and up to Chautauqua Park. Currently there is no official public access to this area.





RIVER WALK CHANNEL PARK

SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- River walk as far south as possible
- River walk to Chautauqua Park

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Should be improved with lawn and landscaping

PARK CONCEPT : TRAIL

River Walk Channel Trail is a spur of the Freedom Trail that has been in planning for more than four years. The preferred route described in the Fall River Revitalization Project Final Report (2010) describes a connection from Kidney Springs north to Chautauqua Park within the Fall River Channel, (shown in red on the site map). The trail would terminate at Upper Chautauqua Park. A spur of the trail would connect to Cold Brook Park. The Revitalization final report includes trail river access sections at Centennial Park and southern trail connections, not shown here.

Costs and spatial conflicts may preclude the trail following the river channel from Minnekahta Avenue to either North River Street to Battle Mountain Avenue. Possible lower cost alternatives are to follow city sidewalks from Minnekahta Avenue to the river crossing at North River Street, near the Braun Hotel or to access the trail at Evan's Plunge.

CLEAR NEEDS:

- Trail connection from Kidney Springs to Upper Chautauqua Park

PROPOSED PLAN:

- Seek RTP and other grants to design and construct a trail to connect northern city parks within the Fall River channel, generally following the Fall River Revitalization Project plan.



09

Historic Depot Information Center

SIZE: 0.85 ac
ESTABLISHED: 1890's (as a train depot)
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #17

AMENITIES:

- Historic train depot / Information Center
- Caboose
- 1888 Jail
- Covered picnic tables (2)
- Garbage cans (2)
- Parking (12 north+13 south spaces)
- Lighting - street lights, decorative Depot lighting

SHELTERS:

- Depot Visitor Center
- Covered picnic tables

VEGETATION

- Cotoneaster Hedge
- 17 Trees
- Small lawns

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- No ADA parking

SITE DESCRIPTION

With one of the largest public access parking lots in town, the Historic Depot welcomes visitors entering Hot Springs from the North with clearly visible visitor information, parking, and picnic areas. It serves as the northern access of the Freedom Trail, but that connection is not immediately clear.



HISTORIC DEPOT INFORMATION CENTER SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS



Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Get rid of cattails
- River Walk access from Evan's Hotel through town

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- No comments

PARK CONCEPT : SPECIALTY OPEN SPACE

The Depot Information Center Park is specific to the Depot Information Center and public parking serving several blocks of retail and housing along North River Street. Though the community didn't mention it, this park hosts the Welcome to the City of Hot Springs and should be kept in well groomed condition.

CLEAR NEEDS:

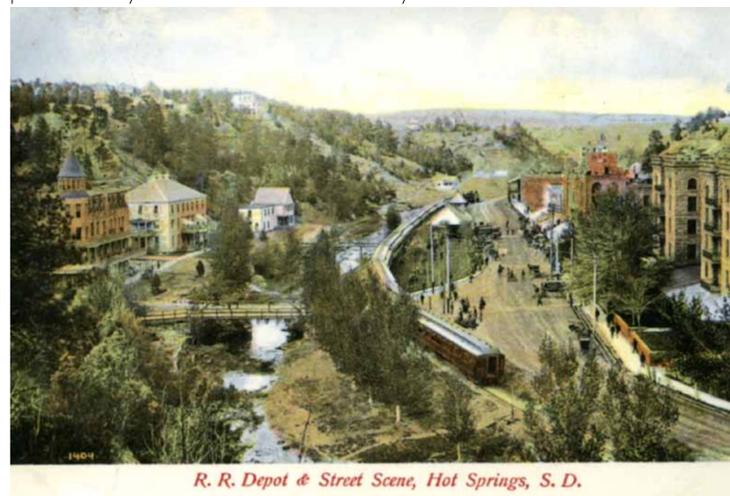
- ADA parking spaces

PROPOSED PLAN:

- Stripe and sign ADA parking, one for every 25 parking spaces in each lot
- Include directional signage to Kidney Springs, the Freedom Trail and Centennial Park

Historic photos of the Hot Springs Depot; early 1900's and 1916

photo courtesy of the Fall River Historic Society



10

Kidney Springs SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 2.9 ac
ESTABLISHED: Constructed in 1893 Originally called Hygieia Spring, topped with a sculpture of Minnekahta, an 'Indian maiden' holding an electric torch.
1901 city gained proper title of the property
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #12

AMENITIES:

- Picnic tables (2)
- 1936 Historic band shell
- Kidney Springs gazebo with sculpture
- Kidney Springs outlet
- Nearby waterfall
- Path Lighting

SHELTERS:

- Gazebo

VEGETATION

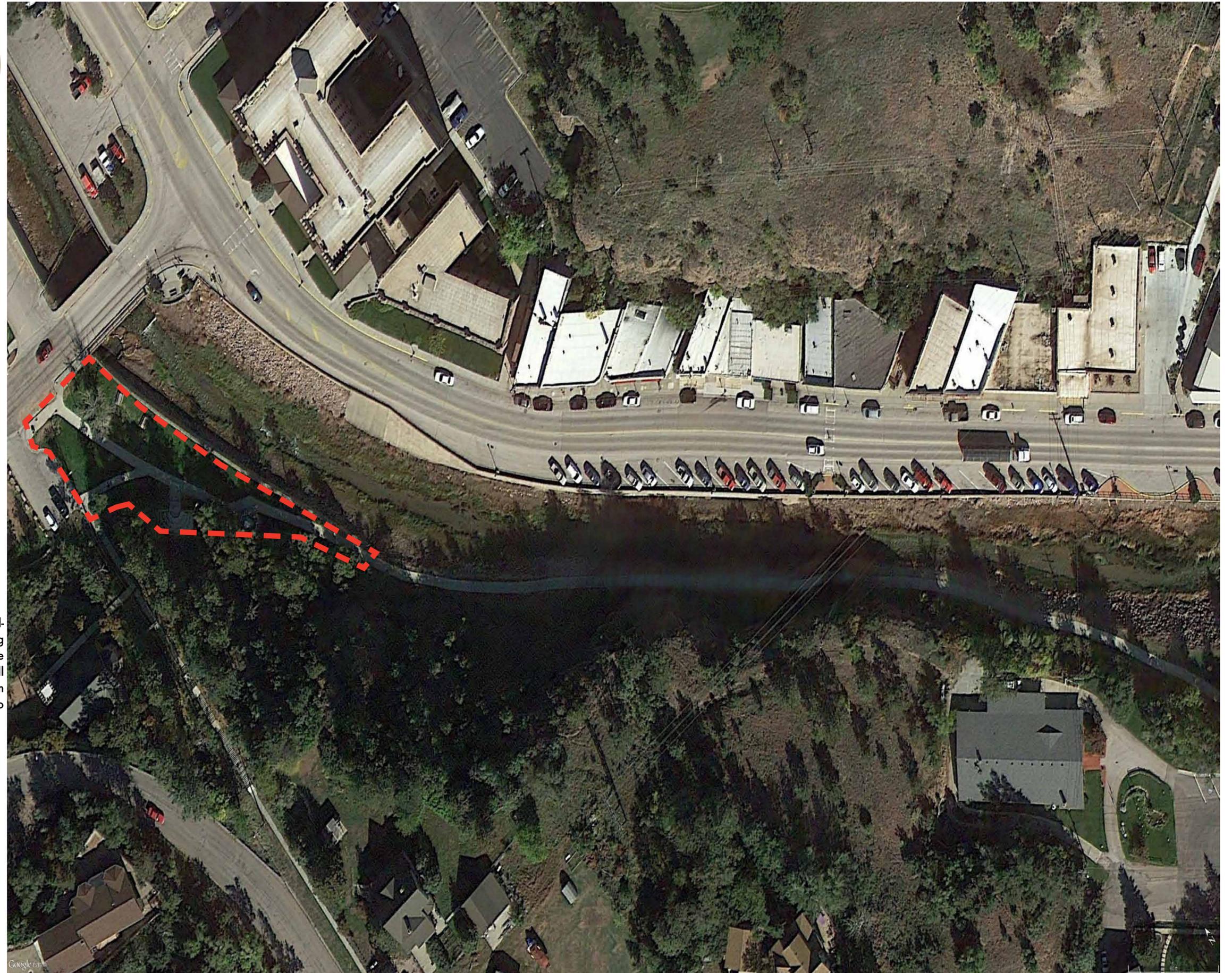
- Cliff side native vegetation

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- No ADA access to band shell

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Kidney Springs gazebo and nearby recently restored band-shell are cornerstones of historic Hot Springs. The live spring advertises healing waters and people come from far and wide to drink from the mythical spring. The spring issues from a wall fountain and spills into a concrete rill that carries it away from the fountain and finally drains into a plastic pipe that outlets into the Fall River.



KIDNEY SPRINGS SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS



Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Rock (decorative) existing river wall length of Hot Springs
- Sandblast 'painting' on concrete walls
- Chairs / benches

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- No comments

Kidney Springs History

from "Early Hot Springs" by Katherine Toomey and Helen Magee 1983

March 31, 1893 "A spring house is being built over the spring opposite the Evans. It will be a neat place and so arranged that it will be a pleasant place for one to rest and refresh themselves during the heated summer days" Mr. Leffingwell, the gentleman who was sent here by the Elkhorn company to write up the city for a pamphlet, wrote an article while here for the American Field of Chicago. He was permitted to name the spring opposite the Evans and christened it Hygieia spring. (the name was later changed to Kidney spring)

April 14, 1893 "a carload of trees and shrubs will be set out at once about the Evans and in the park opposite."

1897 The original spring house and statue is washed away in a flood

1898 Hygieia Spring House Rebuilt but without the Minnekahta statue

Around 1901 'Kidney Springs (Hygieia) Title Quieted' "the title to Kidney Springs property had been the subject of concern as the city claimed that the property had even dedicated to the town when the plat was made, although it appeared to be held as part of the Evans property. The council decided to take action in a suit to quiet the title".

PARK CONCEPT : POCKET PARK

Pocket Parks are small parks accessible to the general public, frequently created on a single vacant building lot or on small, irregular pieces of land.

Kidney Springs is a highly visible iconic park in the heart of Hot Springs. The potable spring is one of a kind in the city. Originally name Hygieia Spring, the gazebo has been destroyed and rebuilt several times since 1893, with the most recent renovation in 2014. Hygieia was the goddess of health, cleanliness and hygiene and was associated with the prevention of sickness and continuation of good health.

CLEAR NEEDS:

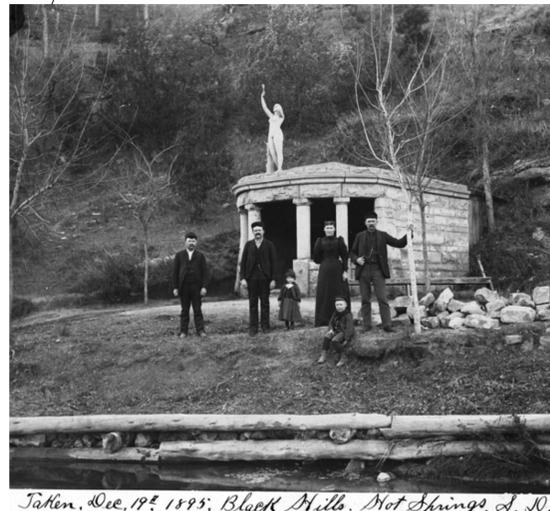
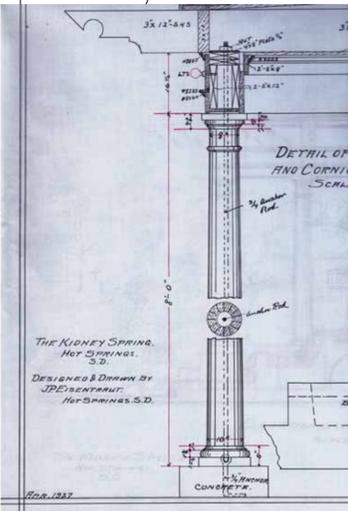
- Biennial Maintenance Program for gazebo
- Safety railings along river wall that meet current guard rail regulations.

PROPOSED PLAN:

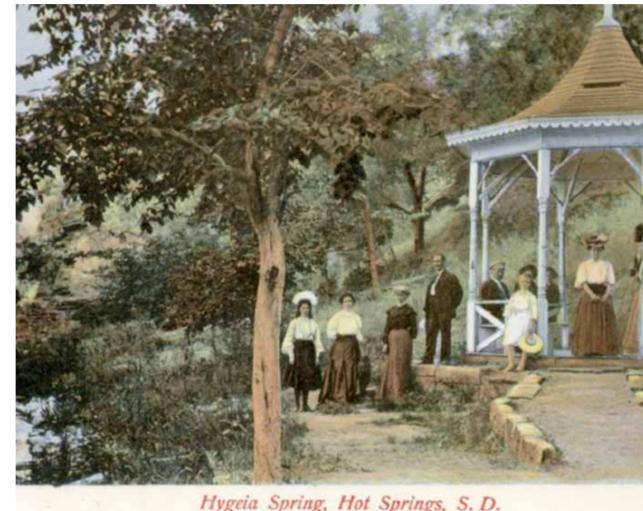
- Replace guard rail
- Budget for regular maintenance of the gazebo
- Replace the pvc pipe conveying the spring water into the river with a more dignified design
- Consider placing the springs and band riser on the National Register of Historic Places

Various designs for Kidney Springs over the years - 1893 to around 1930

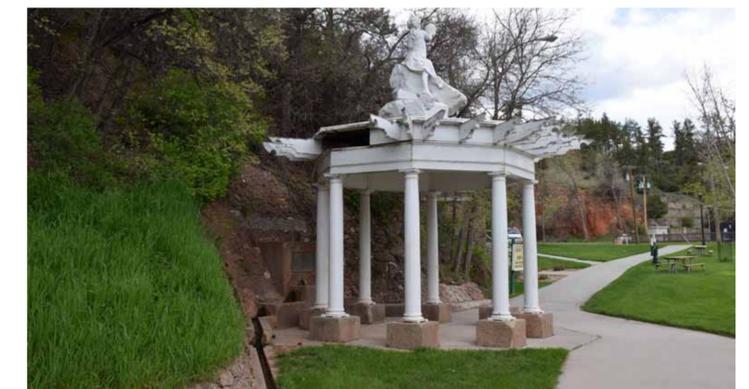
photos courtesy of the Fall River Historic Society



Taken Dec. 19th 1895; Blue Hill, Hot Springs, S. D.



Hygieia Spring, Hot Springs, S. D.



11

Centennial Park SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 1.84 ac platted, 5.63 functional
ESTABLISHED: 1975-1976
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #4 (adults and kids)

AMENITIES:

- Public rest rooms, M&F, 4 stalls
- Park Shelters (2)
- Fountain
- Picnic tables (13)
- Water spigots (8)
- Electrical outlet service (14 +)
- Benches (3)
- Bridge connection to downtown
- Freedom Trail integrated into Park
- Concrete Pad for performances and events
- Lighting - parking lot, two pole lights in park, path lighting along trail. No lighting in the shelters.

SHELTERS:

- Two Park Shelters

VEGETATION

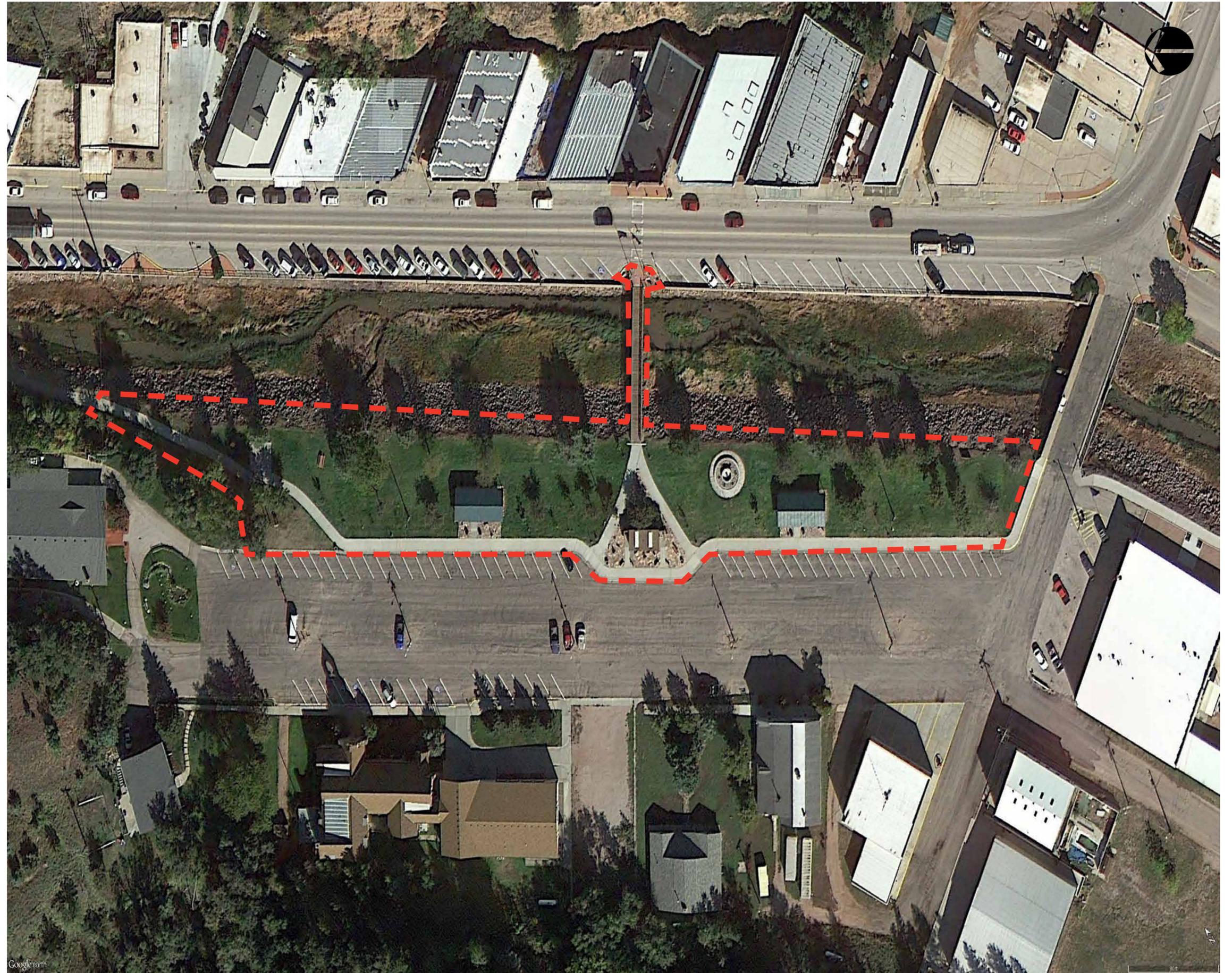
- Multiple mature trees
- Several dead or partially dead trees

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- Rest room stalls not ADA accessible
- No ADA parking

SITE DESCRIPTION

Centennial Park is a corridor park along the river side Freedom Trail. The park is used frequently throughout the summer months for festivals, craft shows and outdoor music events. In the winter months the fountain is turned off, though it doesn't appear to have been turned on during the summer of this study. (2014)





CENTENNIAL PARK SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- More / ADA rest rooms - Improve rest rooms
- Places for public to enter Fall River
- Play equipment
- Paintings or Bas Relief sculpture on river walls
- Water feature for children (similar to Rapid City)
- Fix up shelters to be more decorative

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Play area and swings
- Railing along embankment to Fall River

PARK CONCEPT : COMMUNITY PARK

Community Parks serve a variety of types of organized recreation activities as well as passive recreation. They generally provide a greater variety of facilities and more extensive service than can be justified in a neighborhood park. In the case of Hot Springs, Community Parks are differentiated from Neighborhood Parks by providing covered outdoor community gathering space, electrical service, park grills, and appropriate parking for large group gathering.

Centennial Park is reported to be the second most used park in Hot Springs. Shelters are used daily in the summer for picnics and gatherings, the park is used for live music and festivals throughout the summer, including the Main Street Arts and Crafts Festival, 4th of July events, street dances and carnivals. This park is located along the Freedom Trail. Attractive, organized landscaping is an important part of creating the spaces in this park. A non-functional fountain with limited planting around it is situated in one of the park lawn areas. Rest rooms have no electricity, no ADA accessibility and are not open in winter months. There is no available ADA parking for this park. A new ADA accessible drinking fountain was installed in 2014.

Despite public interest, a playground is not recommended for this park for several reasons: space conflicts with community events, "attractive nuisance" conflicts with the river embankment, and general lack of adequate space for a playground that doesn't conflict with other uses.

CLEAR NEEDS:

- ADA parking
- Improved rest room with ADA access
- Attractive location for access to Fall Rive

PROPOSED PLAN:

- Rebuild or renovate rest rooms
- Stripe ADA parking and access aisle in spaces nearest to the rest room building
- Study river access as part of this park or in the scope described by the Fall River Revitalization Project.
- Consider the existing fountain location for a splash pad.



12

Brookside Park SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 1 ac
ESTABLISHED: 1960's
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #5 (adults and kids)

AMENITIES:

- Faralynn and Adrian Phelps memorial bench
- Picnic tables - covered (2), uncovered (1)
- Garbage cans (3)
- On street parking for 3+ vehicles
- Water spigot (2)
- Bridge to west side of Fall River (poor condition)
- Swing
- Wood merry-go-round, poor / hazardous condition
- Street and path lighting (at trail)

SHELTERS:

- Covered picnic tables

VEGETATION

- Some mature trees (mostly on the north side of the park)
- Grassy slopes

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- No ADA access from street (existing ramps are vehicular, not ADA)
- Steep sidewalk from trail (non-compliant)

SITE DESCRIPTION

This small neighborhood park is the only park with playground equipment along the Freedom Trail. The play equipment is in poor to very poor condition. The surrounding grassy area is mostly mowed weeds and appears poorly maintained in contrast with the manicured neighboring senior housing lawn. The Phelps memorial bench is in very good condition.





BROOKSIDE PARK SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Updated playground - with more swings
- drinking fountain
- rest rooms
- clean / dredge river to make it more usable

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Year-round rest rooms
- New updated safe play equipment

PARK CONCEPT : NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Neighborhood Parks can be as small as one acre and are characterized by open lawns, shade trees, smaller scale playgrounds, benches and picnic areas.

Brookside Park is used frequently by people seeking in-town river access. An informal weir in the river makes a nice swimming hole. Access to the swimming hole is along the grassy bank, which is mowed nearly to the edge.

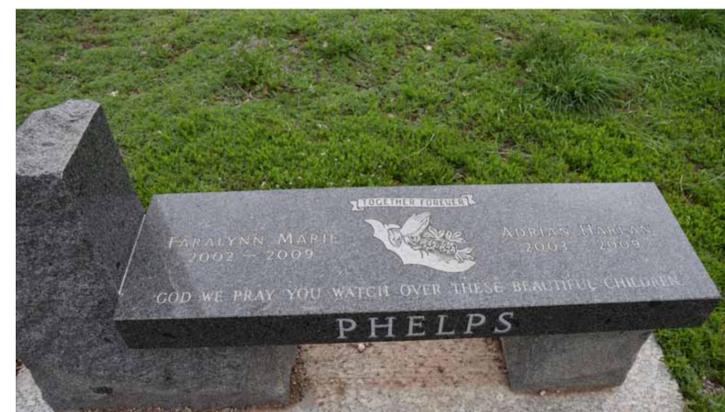
The playground equipment is very outdated and has numerous safety issues. Lawn quality is poor and weedy. Despite these shortcomings, it is a popular, well known and high priority park for both the adults and children in the community. The 2014 Hot Springs parks budget included funding for some new play equipment at the park and a rest room. ADA compliance must be addressed at this park as part of the park improvements.

CLEAR NEEDS:

- **Playground Equipment**
- **Rest rooms**

PROPOSED PLAN:

- **2014-\$30,000 Budgeted for play equipment**
- **2014 - \$40,000 Budgeted for a rest room**
- **2015 - Address ADA compliance - accessible routes to park and playground equipment, accessible curb ramps from street to park**
- **Better river access should be considered in years to come.**



13

Freedom Trail SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 1.4 miles long
ESTABLISHED: 1993, 2005, 2012
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #13

AMENITIES:

- Paved river side 7'-8' wide walking / biking trail
- Bollard lighting
- Runs from Minnekahta / Kidney Springs to Big Bat's (intersection of Indianapolis St. and Hwy 18)

SHELTERS:

- Various along the trail - mostly on northern end; no shelters south of Brookside Park

VEGETATION

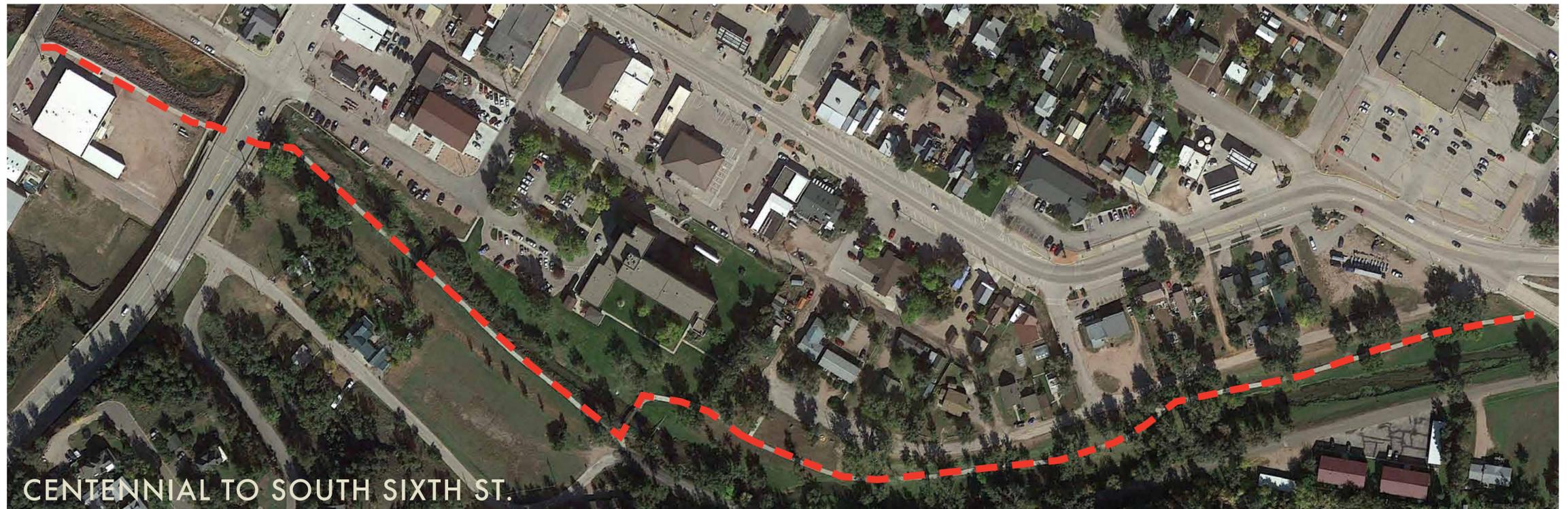
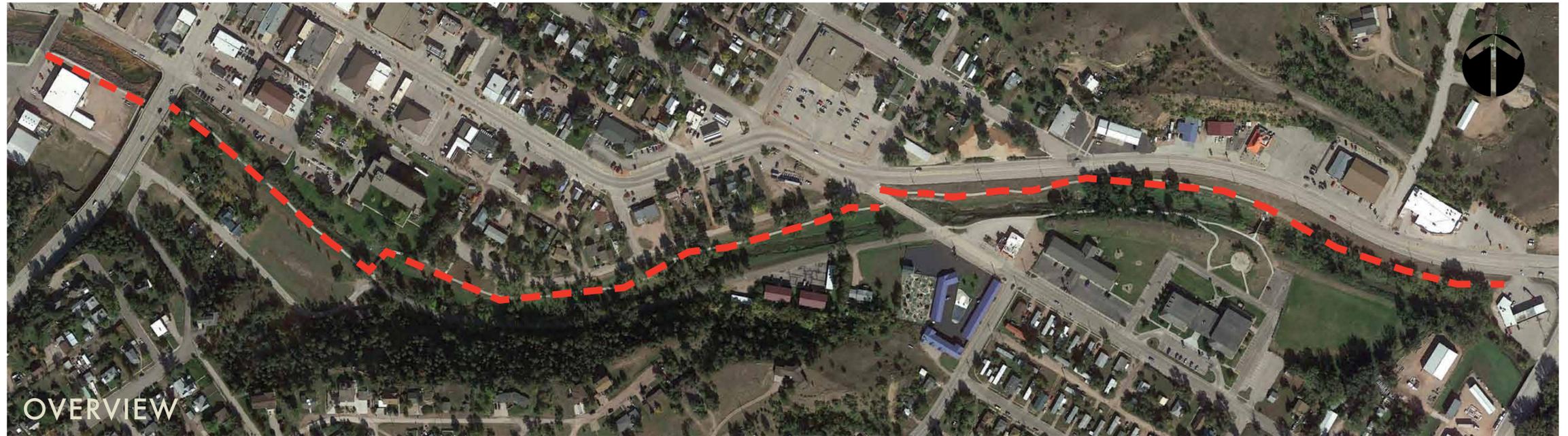
- Mature river side trees, river vegetation, mowed lawns

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

Trail is mostly ADA accessible except for the street crossing on south 6th street. The bridge at Brookside has some maintenance and compliance issues, particularly with the wood surfacing and transitions from abutments to the bridge.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Freedom Trail is a walking / biking trail that runs nearly the length of Hot Springs. It is used by many residents for exercise, river access, and safe walking and biking connections through town.



FREEDOM TRAIL SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS



Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Lights from Big Bat's to Chautauqua Park
- Extend trail to Chautauqua Park

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Safety railing along steep river embankments
- More rest rooms along trail
- Connect to Chautauqua Park
- Keep natural - keep it scenic
- Keep it looking marvelous with more maintenance / upkeep and weed control

PARK CONCEPT : TRAIL

The Freedom Trail is the backbone of Hot Springs river parks. It is the most used river park, according to the public survey. Residents use the park for health and exercise and visitors discover a river park system that is not obvious from the highway. Although this is a highly used trail, improvements are not desired except to extend the trail, particularly to the north, though there are plans to extend the trail south.

Benches along the trail need to be repaired or replaced and installed at the correct height, some of the bollard lighting needs to be repaired or replaced. The trail crossing at 6th street has multiple issues from safety and ADA standpoints. A study of how that crossing can be better is recommended. The Brookside bridge is aging and of questionable ADA compliance.

Fall River photos from various eras

photo courtesy of the Fall River Historic Society



CLEAR NEEDS:

- Address trail crossing at 6th Street
- Extend the trail north to Chautauqua Park
- Winter use rest rooms
- Maintenance and replacement program for lights, benches and picnic tables

PROPOSED PLAN:

- Seek trail grants to extend the trail to Chautauqua Park
- Budget for scheduled maintenance and incremental replacement of lighting and furniture yearly
- Budget for replacing the bridge near Brookside park with 8' width, handrails and ADA compliant bridge surface.



14

Veteran's Memorial SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 1 ac
ESTABLISHED: 1993
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #16

AMENITIES:

- Lit wall in an embankment with lit flag poles
- Fountain
- Planting areas (weedy and overgrown currently)
- Paved circle
- Connection to the Freedom Trail
- Barbeque area / picnic tables at Mueller Center

SHELTERS:

- None

VEGETATION

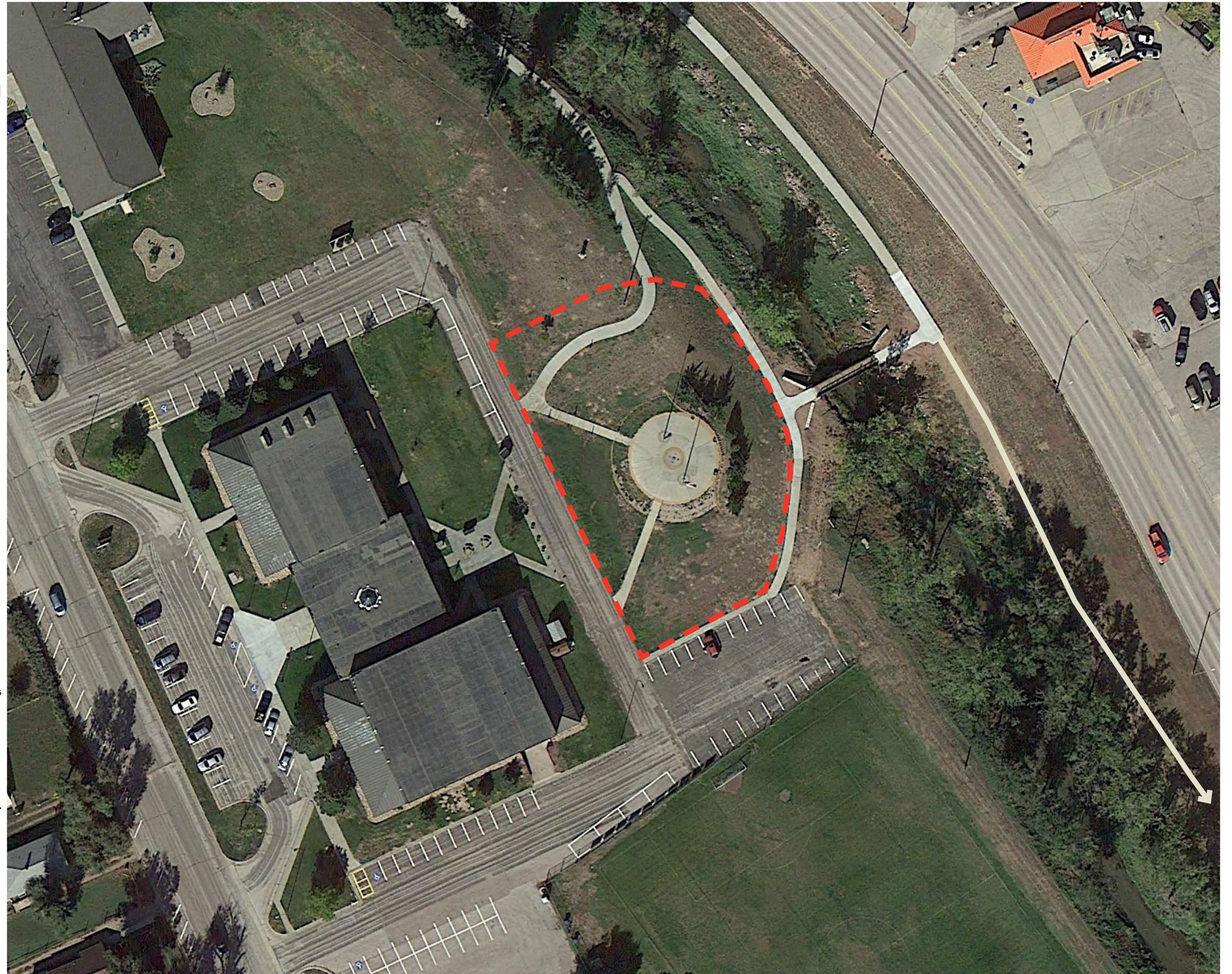
- Juniper trees on top of the wall
- Three barrel planters
- Planting areas (weedy, overgrown, no obvious plantings)

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- Accessible

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Veteran's Memorial is a circular design set between the Mueller Center and Fall River with a relationship between it and the picnic / barbeque area behind the Mueller Center. Built into an embankment, one arc of the circle is a retaining wall of Keystone-type block. American and South Dakota flags fly on the two flagpoles within the circle. In the center of the circle are fountain jets that were not working at the time of the visit. Gardens fences with a post and chain decorative fence surround the circle and are mostly weeds. A grove of juniper is planted at the top of the retaining wall. Lighting is provided for the flags and the retaining wall. Pathways connect the memorial to the back of Mueller Center and the Freedom Trail.





VETERAN'S MEMORIAL SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- General spending
- Splash park

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Large focal point of art /sculpture / statue / airplane
- Rest rooms
- play equipment
- The memorial is unfinished and sad looking

PARK CONCEPT : SPECIALTY PARK

The Hot Springs Veteran's Memorial is set between the Mueller Center and Fall River with a relationship between it and the picnic / barbeque area behind the Mueller Center. The fountain appears to be in non-working condition. There is no specific reference to veterans at the memorial either generally or specifically, so it is unclear to a visitor that this space is indeed a Veteran's Memorial. The planting beds surrounding the memorial are filled with weeds. The memorial has a nice relationship with the Mueller Center's outdoor picnic / barbeque area, but the garbage dumpster and storage sheds detract from the solemn nature of a memorial.

CLEAR NEEDS:

- **Obvious Memorial purpose and design**
- **Repair or remove fountain**
- **Clean up Mueller Center sheds - either remove them or repaint**
- **The community needs to "own" this area as the site of its ceremonial activities for memorializing veterans. Without caretaking and oversight by an outside organization, the city can not maintain this to the original vision. Without a clear purpose, specific activities, and champions, this amenity will continue to under perform to its potential.**

PROPOSED PLAN:

- **Complete memorial design**
- **Involve local Veteran's groups to fund raise to complete the memorial**
- **Promote its use during commemorative activities**



Mueller Center

15

Soccer Field

SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 2.33 ac
ESTABLISHED: 1980's
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #14

- AMENITIES:
- 205' x 295' Soccer Field
 - (2) Bleachers (Poor condition)
 - Boundary fence with sponsor logos to north

- SHELTERS:
- None

- VEGETATION
- Mature trees at edges
 - Maintained soccer field

- ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:
- No specified ADA parking or access

SITE DESCRIPTION
The Mueller Center field is a fenced soccer field used for High School soccer. Two bleachers and two nets are permanently set up at the field. The bleachers are in poor condition.





MUELLER CENTER SOCCER FIELD

SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- General spending
- RV / Car parking

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Move soccer fields to Butler Park
- Dog waste stations (people use field as dog park)

PARK CONCEPT : SPECIALTY OPEN SPACE

General community consensus about this soccer field appears to be to move the field to Butler Park as soon as possible. This area is needed for additional Mueller Center parking and Butler Park is more convenient to the High School soccer players who will be using the field.

CLEAR NEEDS:

- Relocate soccer field to Butler Park
- Add dog waste station near Freedom Trail / Veteran’s memorial parking

PROPOSED PLAN:

- Include soccer field of High School play dimensions in Butler Park Master Plan (do not reuse the bleachers)
- Prioritize according to City schedule for construction of additional parking for Mueller Center
- Minor grading project to improve safety along the ditches to the west and south.



16

Umiker Park SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 1.45 ac
ESTABLISHED: 2013
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #11

AMENITIES:

- Fall River
- Concrete Pads (may be used for picnic tables)
- Alley access
- Historic Sign just installed

SHELTERS:

- NA

VEGETATION

- Significant mature trees
- turf

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- No access (undeveloped)
- No parking

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This park area has been donated to the city to be used as a visitor's park with prime access to Fall River. The concrete pads are remnants of its history as a trailer park, but may find new use. The park is shaded by mature trees and has a number of domestic shrubs, like lilacs, planted in various locations.





UMIKER PARK SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Kid's park
- Water play (like Brookside)

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Dog park
- Access, signage, clear designation as public land

PARK CONCEPT : ROADSIDE PARK

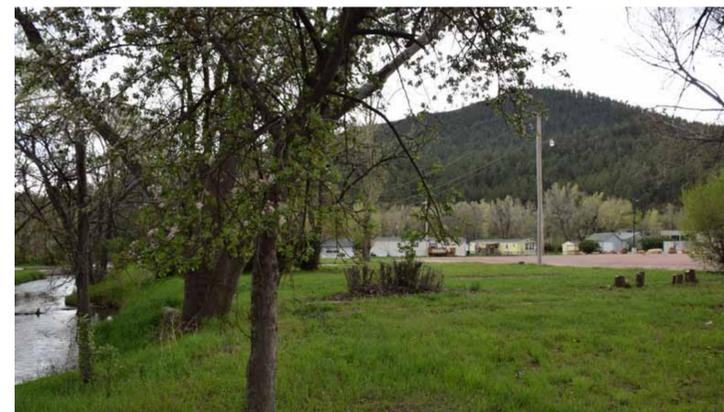
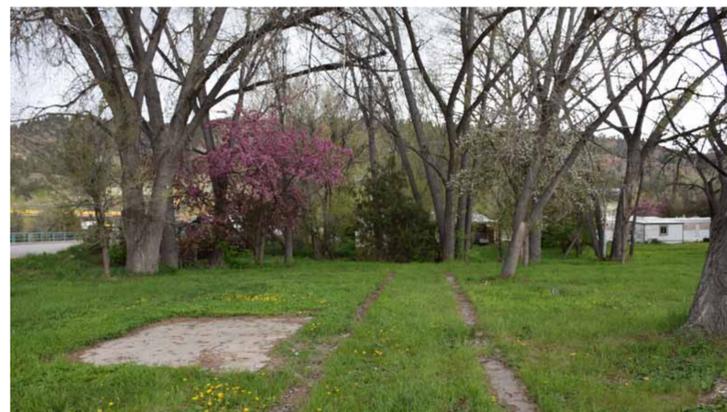
Umiker Park is Hot Springs newest park, the remnants of a trailer park removed because of flood danger. It has been proposed that this park serve visitors to Hot Springs who lodge at the adjacent hotel. Community members suggest a playground, dog park and water access.

CLEAR NEEDS:

- **Maintenance - mowing, concrete removal as necessary**

PROPOSED PLAN:

- **Prioritize after general and safety improvements in other parks Determine mowing and maintenance schedule, limits and priorities**
- **Add picnic tables, dog waste station, trash receptacles and other standard amenities.**
- **Add a "Welcome to Hot Springs" sign for travellers to learn about the activities and amenities available to them in Hot Springs**
- **Provide river access, including a path, clean-up and zone within the river that is maintained and watched for debris and safety hazards**



Open Land 17

in Hot Springs

SITE INFORMATION

SIZE: 4.80 ac +
ESTABLISHED: TBD
PARK PRIORITY RATING - #10

AMENITIES:

- Open meadows and tree lined creek bank.
- Vehicular access
- Fall River

SHELTERS:

- None

VEGETATION

- Mature river trees and understory
- Rough irregular unmown fields and riverbank areas

ADA ACCESSIBILITY NOTES:

- No ADA accessibility

SITE DESCRIPTION

This open field near the Hot Springs Waste Water Treatment Plant has been used for stockpiling soil or dumping waste soil. Some residents use it as a dog exercise area. A gravel drive / turnaround is used to access the site. Because of the proximity to the Treatment plant, this area is often very smelly.





OPEN LAND at the Waste Water Treatment Plant

SITE CHARACTER | FUTURE PLANS

Community Workshop Priorities (in order of priority):

- Dog Park
- Frisbee Golf

Public Survey Comments (in order of most mentions)

- Large focal point of art /sculpture / statue / airplane
- Rest rooms
- play equipment
- The memorial is unfinished and sad looking

PARK CONCEPT : OPEN SPACE or DOG PARK

The Waste Water Treatment Facility open space has been used for industrial purposes by the city for dirt piling and storage.

Some residents currently use it to exercise their dogs. Mature trees, ample open space and river proximity make this a potentially attractive location for a park, but the odor from the treatment plant makes it an unpleasant place to visit for most purposes.

There is some community interest in developing this land for city recreation. Creation of a parking lot, fencing would be necessary to make this a viable dog park.

CLEAR NEEDS:

- Ongoing maintenance, including mowing, tree thinning, removing roads,etc

PROPOSED PLAN:

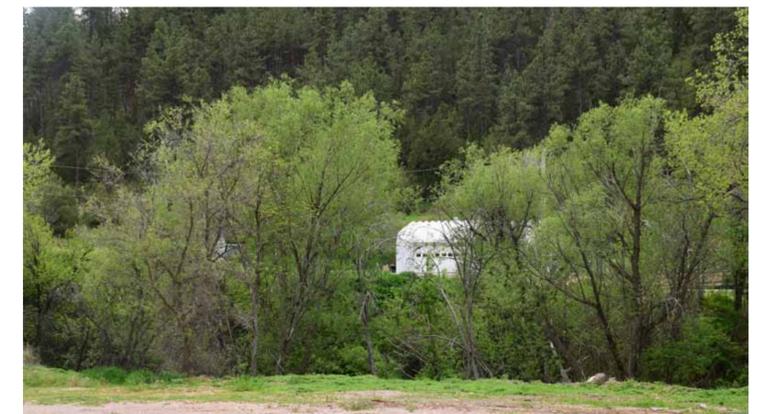
- Prioritize after general and safety improvements in other parks

If used as open space:

- Determine need and purpose of the Treatment Plant open space

If used as Dog Park:

- Add fence along north and southern sides, and 30-40' from 4th Street.
- Create a parking area with parking along 4th Street
- Create a double gated dog park entrance
- Add a watering station, dog wash station, waste receptacles, and signage with park rules
- Add a trail loop that goes around the area with access to the river and takes advantage of any other elements
- Provide a large mowed area in the open spaces



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS





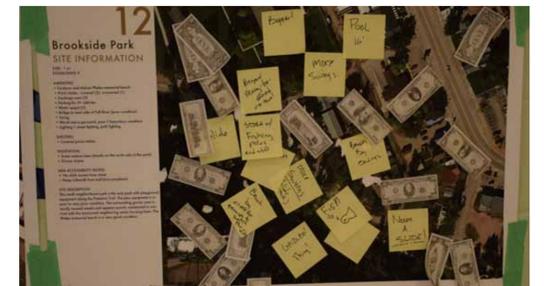
CONCLUSIONS: COMMUNITY PRIORITY SUMMARY

The following is an analysis of the community workshops showing common themes in community desire for Hot Springs Parks. Participants were asked to “spend” play money on their priority parks or amenities within the parks. We recorded how much they were willing to “spend” and the number of \$100 bills and used those totals to identify community preferences. Each participant was given \$136 in play money, one bill of each denomination. While not a perfect match, \$136 approximately matches the average amount of annual tax dollars an average home in Hot Springs pays towards Parks.

Park Name	“Spending”	# of \$100’s
Community Workshops		
1 - Butler Park	\$1,843	13
2 - Evans Plunge Grounds	\$1,239	10
3 - Upper Chautauqua Park	\$917	8
4 - Centennial Park	\$858	7
5 - Brookside Park	\$799	7
6 - School Street Park	\$576	3
7 - Lower Chautauqua Park	\$523	4
8 - River Walk Channel Park	\$521	2
9- Hot Brook Recreation Area	\$500	4
10 - Open Land	\$284	2
11 - Umiker Park	\$230	2
12 - Kidney Springs	\$187	1
13 - Freedom Trail	\$139	0
14 - Mueller Center Soccer Field	\$50	0
15- City Park	\$37	0
16 - Veteran’s Memorial	\$37	0
17 - Historic Depot Info. Center	\$27	0

Park Name	“Spending”	# of \$100’s
Kid’s Workshop		
1 - Evans Plunge Grounds	\$1,211	9
2- Butler Park	\$1,064	13
3 - School Street Park	\$644	3
4 - Centennial Park	\$500	4
5 - Brookside Park	\$435	3
6- Upper Chautauqua Park	\$418	3
7 - Lower Chautauqua Park	\$402	3
8 - Freedom Trail	\$127	1

Note: The Kid’s Workshop asked about a limited number of parks as there was limited time and space to work with the kids. We selected the parks that they would be the most familiar with.



Community Priority Parks

- **Top Priority Parks** of the entire community combined are **Butler Park, Evans Plunge Grounds, Upper Chautauqua Park tied with Cold Brook Park, Centennial Park, and Brookside Park.**
- Evans Plunge Grounds and Butler Park are the top two of all groups.
- Centennial Park and Brookside Park were the 4th and 5th pick respectively of all groups.
- The third priority park was different for the adult and child groups. Upper Chautauqua Park was the priority for the adults and Cold Brook Park / School Street Park, for the children.
- The children invested the majority of their \$136 in spending money “in general” for all of the parks. The adults preferred a mix of general spending and spending attached to specific ideas.

The most popular and most used parks in the community are clear from the voting. While the children of the community have very creative ideas, they also are pragmatic – a soccer field at Butler Park and more and better rest rooms were mentioned by many kids, but they weren’t very interested on spending money on rest rooms when competing with more fun ideas like ziplines and rollercoasters.

CONCLUSIONS: PARK SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Methods

A visual survey for ADA compliance and safety was conducted at all parks. Where significant issues were present, measurements were taken to confirm the exact nature of the compliance or safety issue. Generally speaking the greatest ADA and safety concerns are in the playground areas of the parks. Critical measurements were taken of each piece of play equipment to determine whether the equipment met playground CPSC safety requirements. The 2010 Standards for Accessible Design were used to determine ADA requirements and the Handbook for Public Playground Safety published by the CPSC was used to determine playground safety requirements.

General ADA Compliance - parking, access to amenities

Hot Springs Parks primarily are served by gravel parking lots entering mowed lawn areas. No Hot Springs Parks have striped or signed ADA parking.

Most parks have accessibility issues specific to that park:

- Cold Brook / School Street Park is inaccessible by ADA standards. Stair rails end at the top and bottom step of the stair and an existing ramp, likely only intended for maintenance access, is much too steep for an ADA ramp.
- Evans Plunge Grounds have good ADA parking and access to the building. There is no ADA access to the picnic tables, no are there ADA picnic tables.
- Depot Park has curb ramps facing both the north and south parking lots, but no marked ADA parking.
- Centennial Park has good sidewalk access throughout the park and into the shelters but no ADA parking and rest rooms are not ADA compliant. The nearest marked ADA parking is along River Street near the bridge entrance and lacks access aisle striping. The bridge from River Street to Centennial Park has significant gaps (1-1/2") where the bridge meets the concrete abutment (gaps must be less than 1/2"). Providing ADA parking in the Centennial Park parking lot reduces the need to correct the bridge gaps.
- Brookside Park has no ADA access to the playground from parking areas. A rolled curb type vehicular ramp from parking to Freedom Trail sidewalk is not ADA compliant at a 33% slope. The bridge at Brookside Park has 4.5" gap between bottom rail and bridge surface, where 4" is the maximum. There is no handrail on the bridge, but a handrail would adversely impact the usable width of the bridge. The walking surface of the bridge is in poor condition with gap of up to 1" and differences in surface elevation of 1/2" (<1/2" and <1/4" required respectively).

General ADA Compliance - accessible routes

According to the ADA, an accessible route to play equipment must be provided that is "firm, stable and slip resistant" and must meet other ADA accessible routes criteria for slopes,

obstructions, handrails, etc. The route doesn't necessarily have to be concrete, but all ways to get from parking or adjacent sidewalks to playgrounds must meet the accessible routes criteria. Parks listed are only those that have areas of concern.

- Coldbrook / School Street Park: No accessible route from parking to park.
- Evans Plunge Grounds: No accessible route to picnic tables, no accessible picnic tables
- Brookside Park: No accessible route from parking to play equipment (existing ramps are not accessible)
- Freedom Trail: The 6th Street curb ramps and crossing do not meet accessibility requirements
- Butler Park: Sidewalk to playgrounds from parking lot has a 2" difference in elevation (<1/4" is allowed) If parking remains gravel, sidewalks must meet the gravel at grade.

Playgrounds

Hot Springs Parks playgrounds include Upper Chautauqua Park, Lower Chautauqua Park, Cold Brook / School Street Park, Butler Park and Brookside Park. The playgrounds generally consist of several different unconnected play equipment areas surrounded by play surfacing with mowed grass between equipment areas. Only Butler Park has new play structures that appear to meet ADA and CPSC requirements. The new Butler Park play structures are surrounded by concrete sidewalks with level access from sidewalks to engineered wood fiber (EWF) play surfacing, which is an ideal ADA condition. Most other play structures and swings do not meet current CPSC requirements. Pea gravel surfacing, under most of the play equipment, is NOT ADA compliant and has poor performance for impact attenuation.

- Upper Chautauqua Park play structure; belt swings are too close to support posts (22"-24" existing, 30" required), see saw tires are buried a too deep, seat bolts are exposed on the underside of the seats, slide has inadequate fall prevention barriers at the top of the slide and existing barriers present entanglement hazards. There are no ADA play components and no ADA access to play structures.
- Lower Chautauqua Park; belt swings are too close to support posts (14"-18" existing, 30" required). There are no ADA play components and no ADA access to play structures.
- School Street Park; belt swings are too close to support posts (18"- 21" existing, 30" required), wood play structure surfacing is hard compacted sand with little to no give, slides have inadequate fall zones (5' existing, 6' required) and have one slide with a large tree exactly opposite the slide exit, play structure rails have 15" and 13" gaps, there are 2" gaps between logs on the structure walking surface, merry go round is 13" from play surface (9" maximum required), the outside metal rim of the merry go round surface protrudes above the surface 1/8" or greater, use zone is inadequate and consists of hard compacted sand, there is no speed regulator. There are no ADA play components and no ADA access to play structures.
- Brookside Park has a swing with one toddler seat and one strap seat and a merry go round. The merry go round does not meet CPSC requirements in any regard. Some swings have been removed from the swing structure, correcting the inadequate distance between the



The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (codified by the Americans with Disabilities Act), US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) are the regulatory bodies covering public parks, play equipment and site furniture.

The 2010 Standards for Accessible Design include provisions for historic sites and accessibility:

(i) Alterations to historic properties shall comply, to the maximum extent feasible, with the provisions applicable to historic properties in the design standards specified in § 35.151(c).

(ii) If it is not feasible to provide physical access to an historic property in a manner that will not threaten or destroy the historic significance of the building or facility, alternative methods of access shall be provided pursuant to the requirements of § 35.150.

In addition new ADA rules for trail compliance are being proposed which will impact all pedestrian routes. Program accessibility will have to be addressed for all parks in Hot Springs. From the National Trails Training Partnership; Questions and Answers on proposed ADA trail guidelines:

"While the proposed accessibility guidelines address the special circumstances where designers and operators may not be able to achieve accessibility, they are encouraged to always provide access to the greatest extent possible. Departures from specific accessibility guidelines are permitted for any portion of the trail where compliance would:

1. cause substantial harm to cultural, historic, religious, or significant natural features or characteristics;
2. substantially alter the nature of the setting or the purpose;
3. require construction methods or materials that are prohibited by Federal, State, or local regulations or statutes;
4. not be feasible due to terrain or the prevailing construction practices."



PARK SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY, Continued

swing and the support post. The swing has a bolting structure attached to one support post. Instances like this are generally avoided in new play equipment but it is not clear that this poses a particular risk. There are no ADA play components and no ADA access to play structures.

- Butler Park swings have multiple safety or ADA issues - toddler and strap seats located in the same swing bay, swings too close to support structures, no ADA swings and pea gravel surfacing.

Surfacing

All play structures, swings and merry go rounds, other than the newest structures at Butler Park, have playground safety surfacing of pea gravel or sand. Pea gravel is not an ADA compliant surfacing and in addition performs poorest for impact attenuation of all playground surfaces, according to studies by the National Program for Playground Safety. The pea gravel surfacing at most parks looks well maintained and is provided for the appropriate distance from the play structures. Depth was not measured, but the pea gravel was loose textured and flexible to the boundaries of required impact attenuation, indicating at least some significant depth. The wood play structure and merry go round at Cold Brook / School Street Park and the merry go round at Brookside Park have compacted and eroded sand surfacing which is inadequate safety surfacing.

Playground ADA Compliance

ADA compliance must be part of the playground planning – all new playgrounds must be compliant with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

This includes:

- playground components
- playground surfacing
- and access to the playground area

An accessible route from the parking area to the playground must be provided that is stable, firm and slip-resistant.



Splintered and worn equipment



Splintered and worn equipment



Hidden trip and mowing hazards



Obstacles inside safe use zone (the tree)



Bucket swings and strap swings sharing the same bay



Trip hazards, not ADA accessible, not level



A GOOD EXAMPLE OF SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY ON THE TRAIL



A GOOD EXAMPLE OF SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY IN A PLAYGROUND

CONCLUSIONS: PARK AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE



Existing Signage

Existing park signs are present in Upper Chautauqua Park, Kidney Springs, Centennial Park (on the rest room structure), Butler Park and Umiker Park. Few directional signs point visitors toward the parks from the main streets.



The existing signage for the few parks that have it is a variety of sign types, sizes and locations relative to the park entrances. Chautauqua Park is the only park that has directional signage from the street. Lower Chautauqua Park, Cold Brook / School Street Park, City Park, Brookside Park, and the Veteran's Memorial have no signs at all.

Hot Springs has three welcome signs as visitors enter from the north. Other community signs identify Evans Plunge, the public library, and various park memorials and locations of historic interest.



A playground signage program helps discourage smoking near areas where children are playing. These signs and other safety signs are present at most playgrounds. Even a historic rules and regulations of horse parking sign is preserved at the Historic Depot Information Center.



At times residents take park signage into their own hands.



RECOMMENDATIONS: 2015 BUDGET CYCLE



Preliminary Budget Recommendations for 2015

On August 4, 2014 Tallgrass Landscape Architecture provided the Hot Springs City Council and Mayor with immediate budget recommendations to be incorporated into the 2015 budget planning (completed in August and September of 2014). These recommendations were preliminary and were prioritized based on safety, ADA compliance and alignment with high community priorities.

1. Brookside Park



Existing Conditions

Brookside Park playground equipment replacement is accounted for in the 2014 budget cycle but may have components that will need to be budgeted for in 2015.

- The existing merry go round must be removed for multiple safety reasons.
- The existing swings appear to meet CPSC criteria, though the bolted connector on the swing post may be considered a safety hazard.
- The existing swings do not have an ADA component.
- The existing surfacing (pea gravel) is not ADA compliant and has a very poor safety rating for playground surfacing.
- ADA access to the park is questionable. The sidewalk 'ramps' from the parking area and from the sidewalk to Brookside Apartments are truly vehicular ramps and not compliant for ADA access. Replacing the ramps with ADA curb ramps is a relatively small measure to insure ADA access to the park.

Recommendations

- Issue an RFP for new playground equipment, engineered wood fiber surfacing and edging using the 2014 allocation. The RFP should list all of the equipment types, surfacing type, edging type and specify that equipment must be ADA compliant. A community-build may be an option to achieve cost savings and should be included in the RFP language if the city chooses to pursue that option. The city should expect that 50% of the budgeted amount will go to surfacing, edging, freight, installation (even with a community build) and site work. The recommended surfacing installation is an at-grade condition. Excavate safety zone to correct EWF depth and provide appropriate drainage so the EWF is at grade with the surrounding area (similar to the newest playgrounds at Butler Park).

- Remove existing merry go round
- Temporarily remove the memorial bench at the time of new playground installation. The bench can then be relocated in a good relationship to the new equipment.
- Replace pea gravel surfacing under the swings with engineered wood fiber to the correct depth. Excavate safety zone to correct EWF depth and provide appropriate drainage so the EWF is at grade with the surrounding area.
- Include in the 2015 budget to correct the sidewalk ramp to Brookside Park from the street. A sidewalk or asphalt path from the existing sidewalk to the play equipment is recommended for ADA compliance.

2. Cold Brook / School Street Park



Existing Conditions

- The existing merry go round and wood play structure must be removed for multiple safety reasons.
- The existing swings appear structurally sound, but do not meet CPSC safety criteria. A temporary solution could be to reduce the number of swings per bay to ensure a minimum 30" distance from the swing seat to structural posts.

ADA access to Playground and Park amenities

- The existing swings do not have an ADA component.
- The existing surfacing (pea gravel) is not ADA compliant and has a very poor safety rating for playground surfacing.
- There is no ADA access to the park.

Recommendations

- Budget for replacing playground equipment for School Street Park as soon as possible. Plan for replacing all equipment and surfacing to meet safety and ADA standards.
- An accessible route from the parking area to the playground must be provided that is stable, firm and slip-resistant.
- Budget for providing an ADA ramp from the sidewalk or street down to the park and internal sidewalks to play structures, at least one bench and at least one ADA picnic table.



RECOMMENDATIONS: 2015 BUDGET CYCLE CONT.

- Budget to replace stair handrails with ADA compliant handrails.
- Consider other park improvements, such as replacing the locked vault lid with a prefabricated vault box, removing dead or dying trees and replacing benches and picnic tables.

3. Maintenance and Small Projects

These projects are recommended simultaneously to the playground replacement projects to be built into existing maintenance hours and budgets.

Maintenance and small projects, continued

- Correctly paint all ADA parking city-wide. ADA law states that “access aisles must be marked so as to discourage parking in them”. This is particularly important for ADA Van Parking.
- Designate and stripe ADA parking with access aisles at Centennial Park adjacent to curb ramps near the rest room building.
- Set up a site furnishings program with a schedule to add and replace picnic tables, benches, waste receptacles and other site furnishings that have a limited life span. Our recommendation is to replace wood site furniture with composite (recycled) materials or metal site furnishings.
- Set up a maintenance schedule and task list for all parks (See next Page)
 - Include weekly or more frequent rest room cleaning and maintenance at all parks. This is a very high priority of the community.
 - A laminated ring-bound checklist works great for seasonal workers
- Railing at Kidney Springs is a tube rail with large openings adjacent to a steep drop into the river bank that does not meet guard rail safety specifications. Replace the guard rail with an appropriate barrier that meets standard guard rail safety requirements.
- Add dog waste stations in more locations along the Freedom Trail and in parks.

4. Policy / Regulation Recommendations

- A policy / statement of priority / strategic plan item should be made to replace pea gravel with engineered wood fiber at all playgrounds. It could either be ‘when playgrounds are replaced’ or as the budget allows.
- Encourage the formation of a Hot Springs Parks’ Foundation. This entity could be in charge of the site furnishings replacement, donations to parks, a tree planting program at parks. Parks Foundations are the fundraising entities for public park amenities. This entity could be in charge of ensuring that the community priorities identified in the Parks Assessment and Butler Park Master Plan come to fruition.

5. Additional improvements at Brookside Park

- Rest room building: An accessible rest room with space for changing into bathing suits is a high priority at this park for the community. The cost and feasibility of this project has been informally

studied by the Parks Committee.

- Improved water access: This is one of Hot Springs’ most accessible and popular swimming holes. Many comments were submitted asking for improved water access at this park.



Correct ADA parking striping, aisle striping and signage at Evans Plunge



Guard rail at Kidney Springs should meet applicable guard rail requirements

2015 BUDGET CYCLE: MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE



Thorough and regular maintenance determines the public perception of parks. Mowing is often seen as the primary maintenance activity, but is truly one of many tasks that need to be addressed. Each park is different and therefore requires specialised maintenance. Some tasks occur daily during peak season, others only need to be addressed once. Some items are the result of weather events and some are related to the machines and devices used to perform the maintenance.

As with any repeating tasks, checklists are vital to ensuring quality, completeness and consistency. The Appendix includes our sample checklists and maintenance schedule. These should be used by staff to develop complete task based maintenance schedules for every park. These are then bound into 3-ring binders and filled out every time maintenance happens. Over time a complete record of performed maintenance emerges, illustrating the work and value of the employees. This information can also be used to document the time allocations per park and the places that are disproportionately sucking time and resources to their benefit.

These documents are meant to facilitate communication between the staff and city managers. As a record they show what was performed and when. As a checklist they ensure consistency. As a task list they provide a job list for employees who might have idle time. As a living document they can be expanded as new needs come to the forefront. Notes can be made that identify issues early, before safety and health hazards emerge.

Tallgrass Sample Landscape Maintenance Guidelines

WEEKLY LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST
(See Landscape Maintenance Specifications for details.)

Jobsite: _____

 **Lawn mowers and weed whips: a tree's worst enemy!**
Repeatedly banging a mower against a tree trunk or whipping it with a weed whip each week seriously damages the bark and the sensitive tissues underneath. The damage kills young trees. If trees survive the initial damage their lifespan is significantly shorter and their growth reduced. To protect the tree cover the surrounding with a thick layer (3 to 6 inches deep) of organic mulch, such as compost or bark in a radius that allows mowing around the tree without breaking branches in normal activity (Keep the mulch 3 inches away from the of the tree) or install a tree mow guard.

Place a check mark by each item completed during the past week

- Clear and trash or debris from lawn areas
- Mow and edge lawns if needed.
- Prune back any shrubs overhanging curbs or sidewalks.
- Prune back any groundcover overhanging curbs or sidewalks.
- Prune and deadhead annuals and perennials.
- Remove litter and leaves from plants, planters, and parking lots.
- Remove any broken or fallen branches from trees. Remove sucker growth from tree trunks.
- Remove weeds. Weeds 2 inches (5 cm) and larger must be removed, not just killed.
- Reset any edging that has become misaligned.
- Replace bark mulch which has been knocked or washed out of planters. Smooth mulch layer if it has been disturbed.
- Replace decorative rock which has been knocked or washed out of planters. Smooth decorative rock surface if it has been disturbed.
- Check plants for signs of stress or disease. Replace any plants that meet conditions for replacement at the contractor's expense. Request authorization to replace other dead or missing plants. Note: You must request authorization to make replacements within one week of the damage becoming evident!
- Sweep or blow clean all walkways, curbs, and gutters.
- Treat for any signs of disease or pest infestation.
- Complete any items required on the Monthly Checklist.
- Hand water any plants that are dry and stressed.
- Check the irrigation system. Make emergency repairs as needed or request authorization to make major repairs. Note: Request authorization for major repairs within one week of the damage becoming evident!
- Adjust the irrigation controllers for current water needs of plants.
- Check water features, clean pump filters, adjust as necessary.

Checked by: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Tallgrass Sample Landscape Maintenance Guidelines

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Jobsite: _____

1. January:
 - Water trees, shrubs, lawns and perennials when there is no snow cover and air and soil temperatures rise above 40°. Water at midday so water can absorb into the soil. Do not create a condition where ice forms on the surface of the soil, suffocating plants.
 - Collect trash from site.
 - Identify any items that might smother lawns during cold weather and snow cover.
 - Remove holiday decorations by January 15.
2. February:
 - Prune trees after the coldest part of winter has passed. Prune branches that interfere with public safety and all parking lot and street trees to encourage strong upward growth.
 - Water trees, shrubs, lawns and perennials when there is no snow cover and air and soil temperatures rise above 40°. Water at midday so water can absorb into the soil. Do not create a condition where ice forms on the surface of the soil, suffocating plants.
 - Collect trash from site.
 - Identify any items that might smother lawns during cold weather and snow cover.
3. March:
 - Remove winter leaf and needle mulch when new growth of plants is observed.
 - Collect trash from site.
4. April:
 - Plant annual color for spring/summer bloom if weather conditions are favorable. Do not plant frost sensitive annuals until after the date of the last hard frost.
 - Trim remaining perennials and ornamental grasses that were left for winter interest. Trim ornamental grasses to no shorter than 4".
 - Clean and sanitize planter pots and refill with new planter soil.
 - Sanitize garden tools, particularly pruning shears.
 - Add new mulch to planters where the mulch depth has been reduced to less than 2 inches (5 cm) thick. Mulch not required where shrubs or groundcover completely hide the soil surface from view. Keep mulch 3" away from the crown of the plant.
 - Apply granular fertilizer to lawn areas in April (date may vary - use contractor's recommended date). Be sure to make application prior to a moderate rainfall in drip-irrigated planters so the rain will wash the fertilizer in. A pre-emergent herbicide for crab grass may applied when soil temps at 1/2" depth reach 52° if desired by the owner.
 - Submit receipts to owner's authorized representative as proof of fertilizer purchase.
 - Flush out irrigation systems as needed, and as weather conditions permit, and check for proper operation of each valve zone.
 - Remove and clean wye filter screens.
 - Clean or replace plugged sprinkler nozzles. Replace plugged drip emitters.



ADA Compliance for Picnic Areas

Number of Accessible Picnic Tables

The Draft Final Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas (Draft Final – Outdoor) states that in newly constructed picnic facilities that contain two or fewer picnic tables, each picnic table shall be accessible (Draft Final – Outdoor F245.2.1.1). Where picnic facilities contain more than two picnic tables, at least 20 percent but not less than two of the picnic tables shall be accessible (Draft Final – Outdoor F245.2.1.2). Where picnic tables are altered or added, the requirements shall apply only to the picnic tables that are altered or added until the number of accessible picnic tables complies with the minimum number required for new construction. For example if you have only two picnic tables within a picnic facility, both picnic tables must be accessible; if you have four picnic tables within a picnic facility, two must be accessible, and if you have 24 units within a picnic facility, five must be accessible.

Dispersion of Accessible Picnic Tables

According to the Draft Final - Outdoor guidelines, accessible picnic tables shall be dispersed throughout the picnic facility appropriately, based on the experience provided at each picnic table location (Draft Final – Outdoor F245.2.3). For example, if there are picnic tables near a lake and picnic tables near a playground, accessible picnic tables must be located within the area of each different picnic experience. It is important to note that this provision for dispersion of the accessible picnic tables does not require an increase in the total number of required accessible tables.

Wheelchair Seating Spaces

Provisions for wheelchair seating spaces include a minimum clear ground space, clear width and depth, knee and toe clearance, and firmness and stability. Knee clearance should allow a minimum of the following: 27 inches in height, 30 inches in width, and 11 inches in depth (ABAAS 306); Toe clearance should allow a minimum of the following: 9 inches in height, 30 inches in width and 17 inches in depth (ABAAS 306); Clear ground space for wheelchair seating is a minimum of 30 x 48 inches, with one full-unobstructed side connected to an outdoor recreation access route (ABAAS 306); Clear ground space requires a minimum of 36 inches along all usable sides of the table, measured from the back edge of the benches. One full-unobstructed side of the clear ground space shall adjoin or overlap an outdoor recreation access route (Draft Final – Outdoor Table 1011.2.1); Floor and ground spaces shall be stable, firm and slip resistant (ABAAS 302).

Clear Ground Space (Firmness, Stability and Slope)

The surface of the clear ground space (the clear area a person using a wheelchair utilizes to approach, and sit at the picnic table) at and around the usable sides of picnic tables must be firm and stable. A stable surface remains unchanged by applied force so that when the force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A firm surface resists deformation by indentations (Draft Final – Outdoor Advisory 1011.2.2). There are two exceptions noted in the Draft Final – Outdoor guidelines to providing clear ground space at a picnic table. The first is where an individual picnic table is altered and the ground surface is not altered, the clear ground space shall not be required to comply (Draft Final – Outdoor 1011.2 Exception 1). The second is in alterations where one of the conditions for exceptions does not permit full compliance (Draft Final – Outdoor 1019.2). The slope of clear ground space should not be steeper than 2.08 percent (1:48) in any direction. When the surface is other than asphalt, concrete, or boards, slopes not steeper than 3.03 percent (1:33) are permitted where necessary for drainage (Draft Final – Outdoor 1011.2.3).

Connection to Outdoor Recreation Access Route

An outdoor recreation access route (ORAR) is an accessible route used to connect accessible elements in the outdoor recreation environment. For instance, an ORAR may connect the accessible picnic unit to an accessible rest room, or accessible parking to the accessible picnic unit or even the accessible picnic table to an accessible grill. An ORAR connecting these features helps people to gain access to all available features. The surface must be firm and stable (Draft Final- Outdoor 1016.2); The clear width should be 35 inches minimum (Draft Final- Outdoor 1016.3); If the outdoor access route has a clear width of less than 60 inches, passing spaces must be provided at intervals of 200 feet maximum (passing spaces and resting intervals are allowed to overlap) (Draft Final- Outdoor 1016.4); Resting intervals should be 60 inches long and they must be at least as wide as the widest segment of the accessible route leading to the resting interval (Draft Final- Outdoor 1016.8).

RECOMMENDATIONS: 2016 AND BEYOND

Policy Recommendations

Policy Recommendations include operational changes that clarify the process by which park improvement and development takes place. This process ensures that community-driven projects all undergo the same due diligence and fact finding process. Accountability, transparency and relationships between governing bodies is specified and supported by codified law. Through this process formal adoption of the recommendations in this report can take place and projects can be completed in a timely manner.

1. Create a Parks and Recreation Board which operates by Ordinance, with bylaws, in an advisory role to the City Council.

The purpose of the park and recreation board is to serve as an advisory committee to assist in planning, establishing, improvement, upkeep, regulation and management of a system of public parks and parkways, and to facilitate a system of public recreation and playgrounds.

The formation, by ordinance, of Parks and Recreation Board must follow South Dakota Codified Law, 9-38-8. “Park boards in second and third class municipalities—Composition and functions—Qualifications of members—Teams. All municipalities other than cities of the first class may create by ordinance a park board, serve without pay, the number of which shall be determined by the governing body of the municipality, and who shall serve at the pleasure of the governing body. The park board shall control and supervise the public parks of the municipality whether within or without the limits of the municipality. The park board shall be under the control and supervision of the governing body of the municipality, and the governing body shall prescribe all rules, regulations, and responsibilities of the park board. The ordinance creating the board shall specify the qualifications, the term of office of the members, the frequency of board meetings, the officers to be selected and a description of their duties, the number of members necessary for a quorum, and the scope of the board’s authority.

Voting membership of the Parks and Recreation Board normally includes one city council member, three city residents, and one resident that lives outside of city limits, possibly within the three-mile jurisdictional zone.

Include City staff as non-voting members of the Parks and Recreation Board, particularly the Mayor and the Director or Head of Parks and Recreation. Non-voting membership should also include a representative of entities with whom the City has joint use agreements, such as the Hot Springs School District or the Summer Recreation program.

2. Form a Public Parks Foundation

A Public Parks Foundation works in coordination with the city Parks and Recreation Board to fund-raise for parks projects that are outside the budget capacity of the City. Parks Foundations generally focus on one improvement project or park at a time. The Parks

Foundation may also serve as a clearinghouse for projects suggested by community members and can assist with identifying and applying for grants that benefit the mission of Hot Springs Parks and Recreation.

3. Develop a process to address community suggested projects.

Community members are deeply invested in the parks and rivers in Hot Springs, many going as far as beginning to fund raise for specific projects with a varying understanding of construction, maintenance and long term costs of the project to the City. Create an application to the Parks and Recreation Board that details the plan, location, ownership, construction costs, time line for fund raising and construction, contractor (or RFP criteria), maintenance costs, life cycle replacement expectations, expected City investment over time, and action requested by the applicant. The Parks and Recreation Board will assess how the proposed project fits into the long term Parks strategy and pass onto City Council with a recommendation for approval or denial. If approved, the Parks and Recreation Board can connect the proponents of the project with the Public Parks Foundation as an avenue to continue fund raising.

A suggested “New Project Application Form” is included in the appendix.

4. Support regional park planning efforts to connect the City to regional recreational opportunities.

Trail connections to the Mickelson Trail and other regional recreational destinations should be supported whenever possible, though not to the detriment of the maintenance and improvement of City Parks.

The city can support these efforts by continuing its trail system development throughout the city and obtaining, receiving, or otherwise developing the trail and sidewalk connections throughout the city.

Maintenance and Small Project Recommendations

Maintenance and Small Projects include projects that can be incorporated into existing maintenance hours and budgets and scheduled life cycle replacement.

ADA Compliance

1. Correctly paint all ADA parking city-wide and in all park access lots. ADA law states that “access aisles must be marked so as to discourage parking in them”. This is particularly important for ADA Van Parking. See General ADA Compliance under Conclusions: Safety and ADA Compliance.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 2016 AND BEYOND



2. Designate, sign, and stripe ADA parking with access aisles at Centennial Park immediately adjacent to curb ramps near the rest room building.
3. Replace pea gravel with engineered wood fiber at all playgrounds. It could either be 'when playgrounds are replaced' or as the budget allows. Follow installation instructions for ADA compliance. If a border is required for correct installation, include ADA access ramps into the play area.

Build the Logistical Side of the Maintenance Effort

1. Designate a budget line item for yearly replacement of site furnishings.
2. Create a Site Furnishings Program with a schedule to add and replace picnic tables, benches, waste receptacles and other site furnishings that have a limited life span. Replace wood site furniture with composite (recycled) materials or metal site furnishings. In parks that have multiple picnic tables, replace a minimum of two or 20% of picnic tables with ADA picnic tables, per ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas.
3. Add dog waste stations in more locations along the Freedom Trail and in parks.
4. Create a maintenance schedule and task list for all parks
 - o Include weekly or more frequent rest room cleaning and maintenance at all parks.
 - o Create a laminated ring-bound checklist for Parks maintenance workers
5. Replace the guard rail at Kidney Springs with an appropriate barrier that meets standard guard rail safety requirements.
6. Create an attractive waterfall or water flow from the outfalls of the Minnekahta Springs and Kidney Springs

Park and Directional Signs

Many community members identified the need for better directional signs to parks.

1. Develop a park sign design that can be used at all parks and install at parks that have no signs. Replace existing signs with new sign type as they require replacement. Use historical signs where ever appropriate in lieu of a new design.
2. Develop a directional sign program to direct visitors to parks and locate along main driving routes. Additional signs to Butler Park, Upper and Lower Chautauqua Parks, and the Freedom Trail are the ones primarily needed. Take a measured approach; do not over-do it.
3. Use the Project Application to receive and implement suggestions for additional signs in parks such as "Curb Your Dog," "Park Hours," or other community suggestions heard during this process.



Umiker Park

This brand new park space was not a priority to the community in the surveys and public input sessions, but the basic park needs to be shaped and prepared for public use.

1. Designate a mow area from the alley to near the top of the river bank.
2. Add Picnic tables, waste receptacles, and benches to the existing concrete pads, and add park use signage in a limited fashion all as park of the Site Furnishings Program.
3. Future development could include an additional river access, ADA path down to the water, and a trail connection to the north. These items are of low priority.

Medium Project Recommendations

Medium projects include the renovation of aging parks and playgrounds that can be accomplished or mostly accomplished in one budget cycle. The projects are listed in order of priority, as developed from the community input sessions and safety and ADA compliance assessment. Note: Butler Park and Evans Plunge Grounds were higher on the community's priority list for improvements than Cold Brook / School Street, Brookside and Chautauqua Parks, HOWEVER, the safety and ADA compliance of parks must be the priority for the City of Hot Springs. Thus, parks are first listed in priority of safety and ADA compliance and then by community preference.

1. Cold Brook / School Street Park

Existing Conditions

- The existing merry go round and wood play structure must be removed for multiple safety reasons.
- The existing swings appear structurally sound, but do not meet CPSC safety criteria. A temporary solution could be to reduce the number of swings per bay to ensure a minimum 30" distance from the swing seat to structural posts.

ADA access to Playground and Park amenities

- The existing swings do not have an ADA component.
- The existing surfacing (pea gravel) is not ADA compliant and has a very poor safety rating for playground surfacing.
- There is no ADA access to the park.

Recommendations

- Budget for replacing playground equipment for School Street Park as soon as possible. Plan



RECOMMENDATIONS: 2016 AND BEYOND

for replacing all equipment and surfacing to meet safety and ADA standards.

- An accessible route from the parking area to the playground must be provided that is stable, firm and slip-resistant.
- Budget for providing an ADA ramp from the sidewalk or street down to the park and internal sidewalks to play structures, at least one bench and at least one ADA picnic table.
- Budget to replace stair handrails with ADA compliant handrails.
- Replace the locked vault lid with a prefabricated vault box
- Remove dead or dying trees
- Replacing benches and picnic tables.

2. Brookside Park

Several projects would complete the community and safety / ADA compliance checklist for Brookside Park.

Recommendations

- Complete ADA access items not completed in the 2014-15 park improvement project.
- Construct an accessible rest room in a location that meets floodplain development requirements.
- Construct accessible sidewalk from the Freedom Trail to the rest room.
- Improve water access if allowable by floodway and channel regulatory requirements.

3. Upper Chautauqua Park

Existing Conditions

- Upper Chautauqua Park play structure belt swings are too close to support posts (22"-24" existing, 30" required), see saw tires are buried a too deep, seat bolts are exposed on the underside of the seats, slide has inadequate fall prevention barriers at the top of the slide and existing barriers present entanglement hazards.
- There is no marked ADA parking
- Picnic tables are in acceptable condition, but there are no ADA picnic tables

ADA access to Playground and Park amenities

- The play equipment has no ADA play components
- The existing surfacing (pea gravel) is not ADA compliant and has a very poor safety rating for playground surfacing.
- Rest rooms are not ADA compliant

Recommendations

- Budget for replacing playground equipment for Upper Chautauqua Park as soon as possible. Plan for replacing all equipment and surfacing to meet safety and ADA standards.
- Add or replace ADA picnic tables in compliance with ADA Accessibility Guideline for Outdoor Developed Area

4. Centennial Park

The community wants to see an improvement in the rest rooms at Centennial Park, including ADA access. Fall River access from the park is desired. The Fall River Revitalization Project recommends that the Freedom Trail extend from the waterfall bridge to the river below Centennial Park and meet up with the trail south of the American Legion

Existing Conditions

- Benches and path lighting need replacement

ADA access to Playground and Park amenities

- Rest rooms are not ADA accessible
- There is no ADA Parking
- There are no ADA picnic tables

Recommendations

- Budget for replacing or remodeling the rest rooms at Centennial Park to meet ADA compliance.
- Although a number of community members suggest incorporating playground equipment into Centennial Park, it is our recommendation not to add this kind of activity as there is not adequate space for playground equipment that would not interfere with the more critical civic functions of the park. An alternate approach might be to develop the stage or a patio area as a chess board with oversized pieces, add wifi to the park, add benches or tables with unique character or other ideas that do not change the functional space of the park. Encouraging events (BBQ Championship) or programmed activities (Yoga in the Park) also enliven the space in a similar spirit to which this recommendation was made.

Large Project Recommendations

Large projects include parks and recreation projects that will require further consultant services and multi-year budgeting considerations or large grant applications. The projects are listed in order of priority, as developed from the community input sessions and safety and ADA compliance assessment.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 2016 AND BEYOND



1. Butler Park

The Butler Park Master Plan will dictate priority projects within Butler Park. Top priorities of the community include completing a sidewalk circuit around the park and moving the U-18 soccer field to Butler Park. Improvements at Butler Park will most likely be multi-year, multi-phase improvements. Existing Conditions, ADA Access and Playground safety will be accounted for in the Master Plan.

2. River Walk / Freedom Trail North Extension

A high priority of the community that came up in multiple parts of the surveys and community meetings is the vision of extending the Freedom Trail from Kidney Springs to Chautauqua Park with a spur to Cold Brook / School Street Park. This vision is summed up in the Fall River Revitalization Project document from 2010. The City Engineer developed schematic design documents with preliminary routes for a northern trail extension.

Existing Conditions

- Sidewalks are available to Evans Plunge along the street. Roadside walking or biking is required to reach Chautauqua Park.
- The Fall River channel from Kidney Springs to the Braun Hotel poses challenging engineering for a proposed walkway.

Recommendations

- From the existing schematic design documents, develop a feasibility study and projected cost analysis for extending the trail north of Kidney Springs.
- Seek South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks RTP Grants to develop a project schedule and plan.
- Keep future adjacent projects in mind (such as river access from Evans Plunge and Centennial Park) as the trail plan is being developed.

3. Evans Plunge Grounds

The community of Hot Springs would like to see the Evans Plunge facility expanded to the outdoors. A larger outdoor pool, splash park and cabanas were suggested along with Fall River access for wading and tubing. Direct access from the east side of the indoor pool to the outdoors was suggested. Better picnic areas were also a high priority.

Existing Conditions

- Picnic tables are in poor condition and are placed on a rocky surface

- No river access
- Landscaped areas are poorly maintained

ADA access to Playground and Park amenities

- Building is accessible
- Picnic areas are not accessible

Recommendations

- Because the purchase and management of Evans Plunge is new to the City, we recommend collecting use and maintenance data for the facility throughout the year to see if it financially feasible to add pools to the facility.
- Develop a site Master Plan that shows options for river access, the relationship with the proposed Freedom Trail extension, picnic facilities and potential expansion opportunities.

Partner Projects / Hero Projects

Multiple projects were suggested during the public input process that are not necessarily City projects, but that the City should or could support if they are brought forward by community organizations:

- Art on the Walls (Arts Council)
 - Murals have been suggested for the concrete retaining walls along the river. We suggest they be sculptural in nature (bas relief), rather than painted to minimize the long term maintenance effort
- Dog Park
 - Several people relayed the need for a dog park in town. Hot Brook Park and the Open Land at the Waste Water Treatment Center were discussed. This type of project can be accomplished simply, or with significant expense, depending on the amount of infrastructure desired by the community. Our recommendation is that the dog park be revisited after the other priorities are accomplished unless a strong advocacy group emerges
- Regional Connector Trails
 - The Southern Hills Recreation Board and other entities have long sought a viable route to connect Hot Springs to the Mickelson Trail. A connection of this nature would have a huge effect on the city tourism and marketing. South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks will necessarily need to lead or be involved in this project.



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- Frisbee Golf Course
 - Other communities have successfully developed Frisbee Golf Courses based on the efforts of a few dedicated volunteers and small amounts of municipal funds for goals and tee construction. These courses invite visitors into the community and often will host tournaments. However, the overall recreational impact is somewhat limited to the few that participate.
- Veterans Memorial
 - The Veterans Memorial behind the Mueller Center currently does not have a strong caretaking group, destination presence or attraction. Measures should be taken to find a dedicated group to maintain and improve the memorial.
- Splash Park
 - Fund raising for this project is underway. Current plans are to allow a space for it in the Butler Park Master Plan
- Armory Building Rehabilitation
 - While this building is a significant asset to the City, its development poses considerable financial hurdles, including parking, rest rooms, and more. No recommendation is made for its use.
- Parks Foundation supported projects
 - When the Parks Foundation is up and running, it will be a vehicle for philanthropy. The origins of Butler Park are philanthropic and it is hoped that this tradition can enact real and positive change for Hot Springs' Parks.

Heads Up Projects

Some types of parks projects are ongoing and need to be addressed when the opportunity arises. The efforts of staff towards these should be expected by the community

- Floodplain property acquisition / trail extensions
 - While Cold Brook Dam reduced the severity of damage within the city due to flooding, the continued procurement and receivership of lands within the floodway or floodplain is important. These lands also serve the public welfare by being convenient corridors for public trails.
- South Town Trail Extensions (to Open Space at Waster Water Treatment Center)
 - This is one example of a trail corridor that can be gradually implemented by the city, connecting the trails behind the Mueller Center down to the Open Land at the Waster Water Treatment Center. Currently undeveloped, this land or the nearby

Umiker Park could serve as the Southern Trailhead for the Freedom Trail within the city.

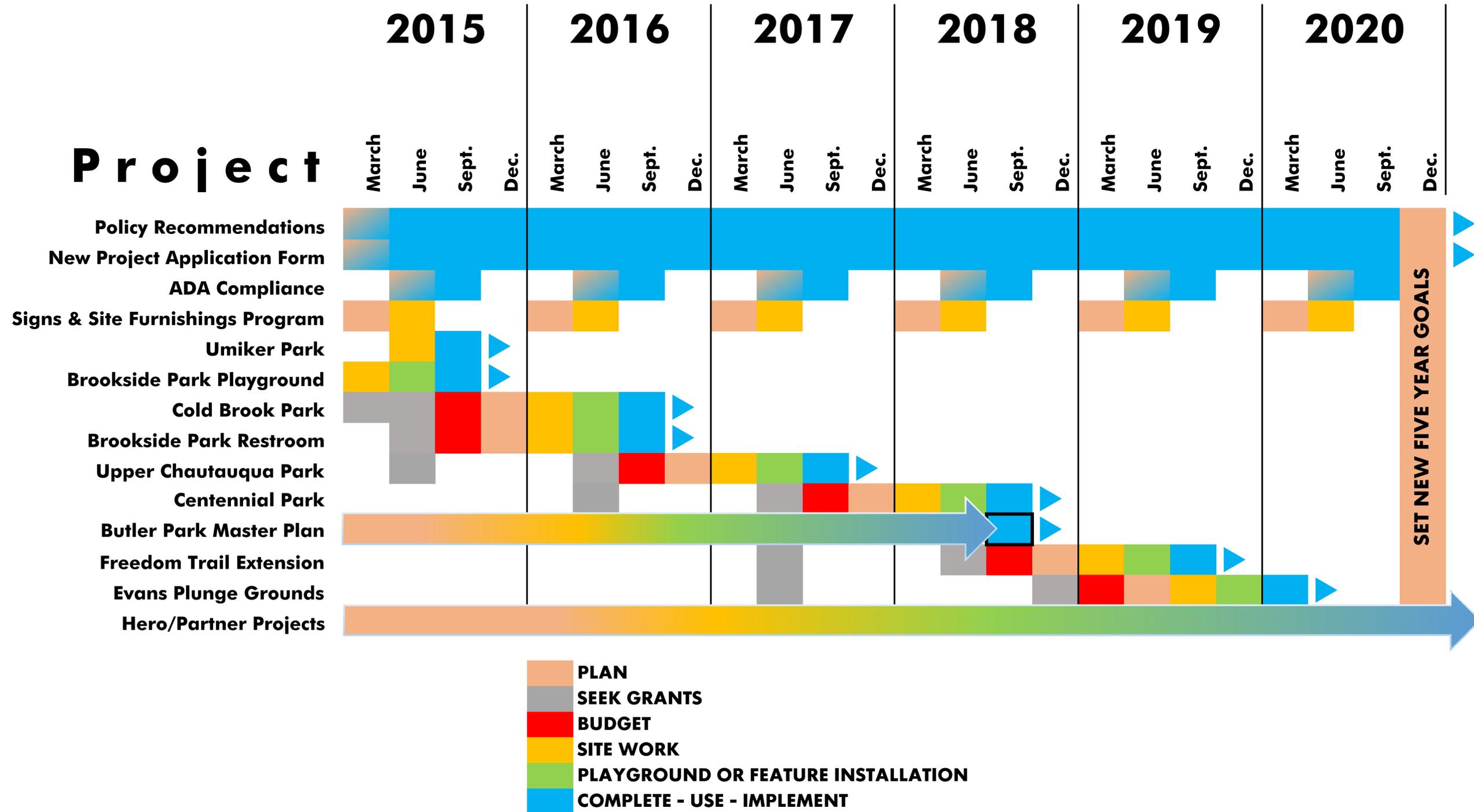
- Neighborhood park locations
 - Hot Springs lacks neighborhood parks in both the western and eastern residential neighborhoods. Neighborhood parks are small parks that could have playgrounds, sledding, picnic shelters and so on. These should be actively sought by staff, but development of these spaces is a lower priority than the other items in this assessment.
- Hot and Cold Brook Connector Trails (in concert with Comprehensive Plan)
 - Connecting the Freedom Trail all the way up to the 90 Acres property along Hot Brook Canyon Road and up the drainage to Cold Brook Lake would provide trail connections to two great recreational amenities that Hot Springs offers. The Hot Brook Canyon route would provide trail access to Upper and Lower Chautauqua Parks as well.

New and Future Projects

This report does not address every project and idea we heard from the community. Hot Springs has a wonderful park system, and an enthused citizenry. Many new ideas will emerge every year. This assessment encourages those ideas, but urges the city to be steadfast and methodical using the recommendations and time line to establish a baseline of improvement over time.

- New Projects
 - Use the New Project Application to sort new projects as they emerge. Add them to this plan as they come along and as a way to track their receivership.
- Renew the Assessment
 - This Assessment will need to be updated by the Parks Board in 2020 to evaluate the success and failures, establish a new small, medium and large project priority list for the next five years and - hopefully - celebrate five years of practical forward moving parks development!
 - A five year rotation would be a logical planning cycle for renewing the Strategic Implementation Plan outlined on the next page. Planning years would then be 2020,2025, 2030 and so on. This is a way to get new projects onto the City's schedule, and to stay the course while allowing new ideas into the mix.
 - Each five year plan should strive for a balance of small and medium yearly projects, with one or two visionary projects like Butler Park in the mix. This provides a feeling of yearly gains while having a couple big vision items to rally the community.

STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE





RECOMMENDATIONS: 2016 AND BEYOND

Budgeting

This report provides the following guidance for the annual Budgeting process. All numbers represent trends seen in 2014, the time of this writing.

• Policy Recommendations:

- General Considerations: These costs are all administrative.
- Park and Recreation Board: Normal City operating costs. The City Council may grant the board a moderate annual budget of \$5,000.00 to spend on small projects as they see fit. Spending approval would be granted by full council, but the board would choose.
- Parks Foundation: The goal is for this entity to be revenue generating.
- New Project Application Form: This form should help the city be fully aware of the associated costs of new and proposed projects.
- Supporting Regional Trail Connectivity: No initial costs. Significant projects could eventually come of this effort.

• Maintenance and Small Projects:

- Paint and sign ADA spaces: Staff
- Replace pea gravel with EWF: Ongoing
- Site Furnishings Program: A fixed annual amount of at least \$5,000 dedicated to providing new and replacing old site furnishings is recommended. Shipped and installed metal benches run \$800 - \$1,500 each, waste receptacles run \$500 - \$1,000, picnic tables run \$700 - \$1,000. Coated steel or composite material site furnishings are recommended over wood for better longevity and easier maintenance.
- Dog Waste Stations: \$250 Each
- Maintenance Schedule:
- Kidney Springs Guard Rail: \$60-80 per linear foot. An ornamental guardrail could be more. The estimated length is approximately 275 feet. \$16,000-\$22,000 total. Look at grants to provide the majority of the expected cost.
- Kidney Springs outfall: Cost will depend on design.
- Park and Directional Signs:
- Park signs: The recent Kidney Springs sign is much bigger than is necessary for other parks. But use this for a starting point for costs.
- Directional signage: Street signs usually run from \$200-\$300 installed in new construction. Signs are usually around \$50 for the sign and posts can be as low as \$30. Staff would install.
- Additional park signage: See above.
- Umiker Park: Add site furnishings with the first year Site Furnishings Program.

• Medium Projects:

- General Considerations: Staff and or volunteers can provide a majority of labor for specific projects, but having experienced playground installers on site and directing work during installation is essential.
- The playground prices vary widely depending on desired types and numbers of features. New playground prices can be \$20,000 for a small play feature, such as required at Cold Brook Park. Larger play equipment can cost \$35,000 for a play structure similar to the newest Butler Park play equipment. \$50,000 will purchase a comprehensive play structure with many play features that help children develop multiple motor, balance, movement and cognitive skills. Site work, Engineered Wood Fiber, drainage, fencing, benches and other associated work can be an additional 50 to 100% of the play feature cost.
- A basic prefabricated rest room building can run around \$50,000 with additional site work costs. New on-site construction can cost double that figure. In the past local volunteers have provided much of the labor for rest rooms in Hot Springs so a final cost may vary greatly.
- Remodel costs should be bid locally if possible.

• Large Projects:

- Butler Park: The Butler Park Master Plan will include estimated costs.
- River Walk: Staff should provide cost direction for this project.
- Evans Plunge Grounds: These improvements should be done in addition to any major upgrades to the facility.

Current construction costs in the Black Hills are currently higher than they have been for several years. Recent regional trends have shown that while in the past 10 years a single "hungry" contractor has provided a considerably lower bid than busier contractors, that may no longer be a reasonable expectation. Annual construction inflation is 3.3% nationally, but regional trends have been much more severe. Regional contractors report that they are having difficulty finding and keeping employees. Conservative estimates predict this will last until the North Dakota oil boom impacts start decreasing.

APPENDIX



Insert Appendix Pages before this page.

Thank you Hot Springs.

