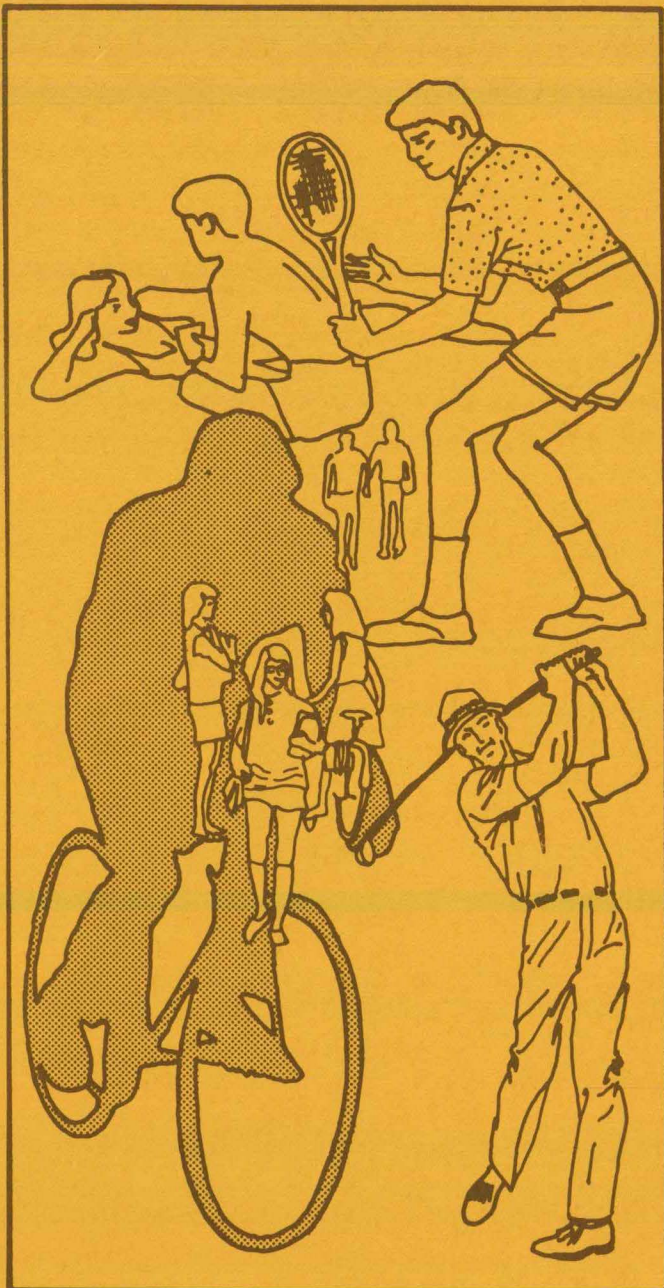
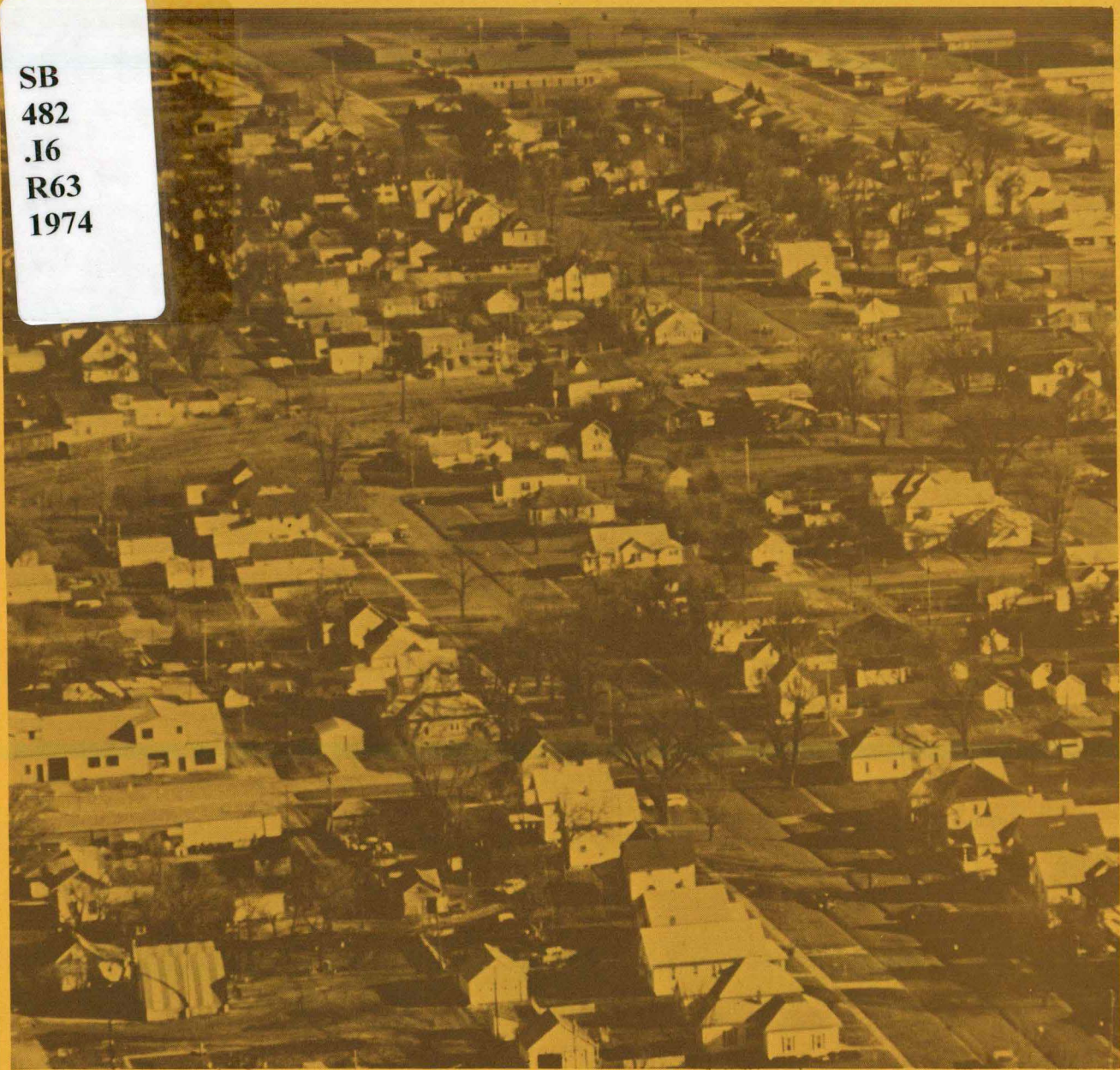


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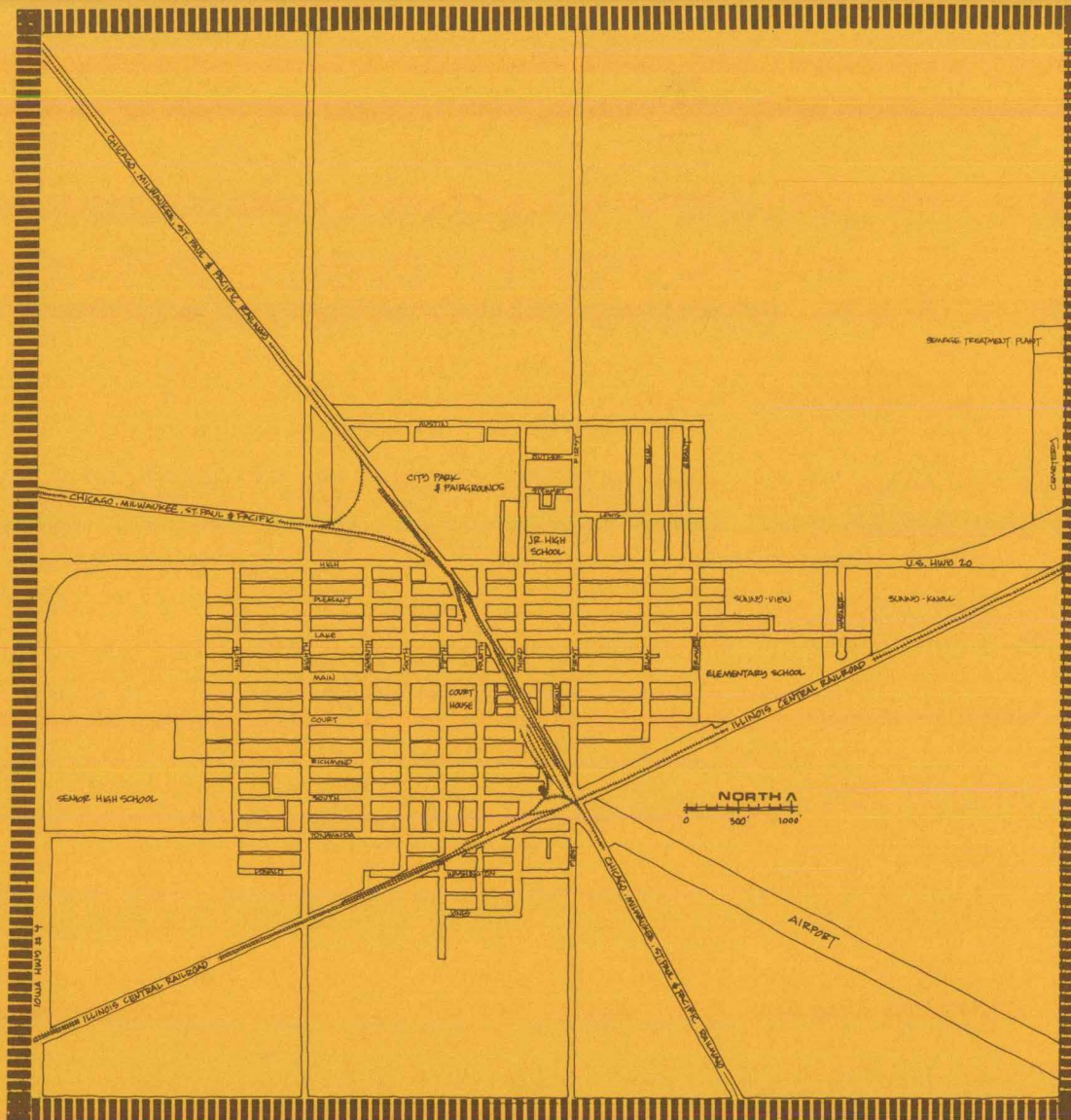


# ROCKWELL CITY 1974

A COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION PLAN

"there is no shame in setting goals so high that we have trouble reaching them... it is embarrassing when we set our goals so low that we reach them easily... and then wonder what to do next!"

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SOCIO - ECONOMIC FACTORS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES &amp; USE AREAS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ACTIVITY SURVEY - INVENTORY</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>RECREATION ENVIRONS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>LAND PATTERNS</b>	<b>12</b>
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<b>GAME COURT AREA PLAN</b>	<b>28</b>
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<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>31</b>

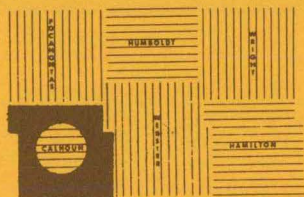


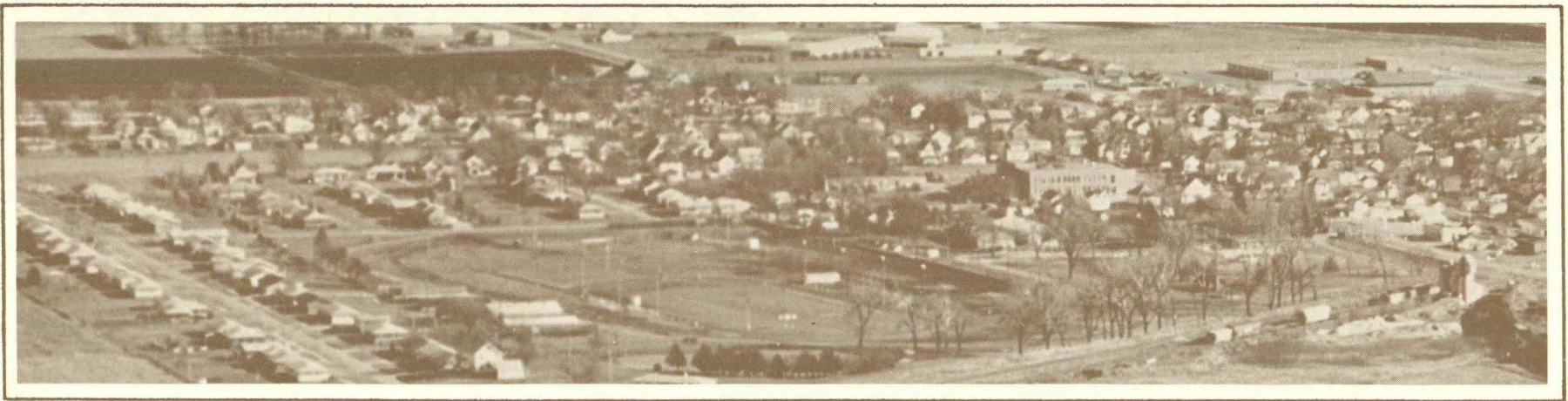
# ROCKWELL CITY 1974

## A COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION PLAN

THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT WAS FINANCED IN PART THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

# MIDAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION





Rockwell City, Iowa, population 2,396, is located in the geographical center of Calhoun County. As "county seat" of Calhoun County and the largest community of the county, the community shares a major responsibility for the provision of recreational services to itself as a community and generally to a very large segment of the county.

Recognizing this service responsibility, in the autumn of 1973, the Rockwell City Town Council contracted with MIDAS Regional Planning Commission to identify and develop a plan to meet the community's recreation needs. To help accomplish the task of this recreation study, the Council appointed a recreation committee to work locally to develop a sound basis for the plan's development.

As a part of a programmed plan of action, MIDAS accepted the challenge of studying Rockwell City's recreation potential. This year MIDAS has completed a similar study for the community of Badger, population 461. Hopefully, this Rockwell City Community Recreation Plan and the Badger Community Recreation Plan will come to be looked at as models by which communities of similar population characteristics may develop for themselves, or in conjunction with consultants, plans for the delivery of their community's recreation services.

This study includes a unique definition of "community," definition of socio-economic factors affecting recreation needs, consideration of recreation demands and standards, a description of the concept of "neighborhood services, and "detailed analysis of Rockwell City's land patterns, land use, transportation, neighborhoods, and existing park areas from these, in turn, is created a comprehensive recreation plan for the community; suggestions for typical recreation developments; and specific area development plans for Rockwell City's park areas. A proposed five year action program of acquisition and development of recreation areas is included. The various responsibilities and procedures that will evolve in meeting the community recreation needs are as well delineated.

The objectives of this study are, then, to: 1) Give the Town of Rockwell City an objective view of their present recreational needs and opportunities; 2) Give the community an idea of the social and economic atmosphere regarding recreation which might persist in the future; 3) Show the Town the existing resources they have which may be developed into recreating opportunities by individuals, clubs, or public agencies; and 4) Develop a conceptual plan for recreation with guidelines which outline priorities, financing and administration of the proposed facilities.

## **STUDY PREMISE STATEMENT**



# COMMUNITY

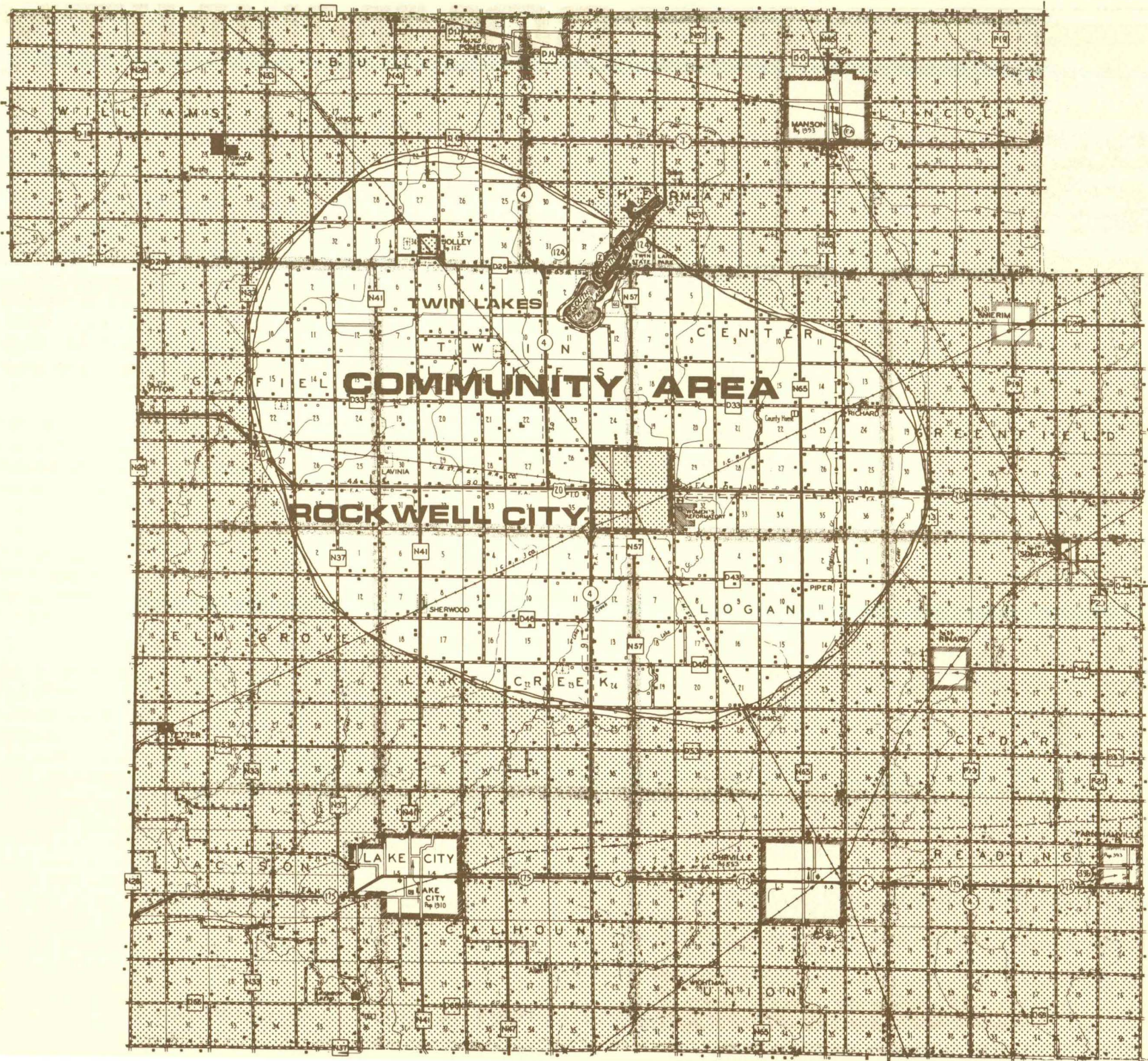
This study finds it erroneous to define the Town of Rockwell City as simply a "community of 2,396 persons." More appropriately, this study defines Rockwell City as an "agri-business service center" in a 180 square mile community with a population in excess of 4000 people.

Farmers from miles around recognize Rockwell City as their home community and, at the very least, commercial center. Rockwell City provides two large grain processing elevators, several churches, banks, schools, the post office, the downtown and the parks to meet the needs of that population larger than 4000 people. Many of the residents of Garfield, Twin Lakes, Center, Logan, and Lake Creek Township identify closely with Rockwell City. Portions of Greenfield, Cedar, Elm Grove, Butler, and Sherman Townships as well lie within Rockwell City's Community Area.

Since Rockwell City does maintain such close ties with many of the citizens in outlying areas, added demands are placed on the public services that the town provides. The Rockwell City Community Park becomes the hub of a tremendous amount of recreational activity in the warm summer months. The swimming pool has a fabulous reputation for miles around. The "Golden Buckle Days" celebration sees intensive activity carried into the late months of the year. This study finds it imperative that special attention be given to the community park to ensure that the "4000 plus residents" of Rockwell City can recreate in a first class park facility.

Rockwell City residents are indeed fortunate to have other recreational activities in such close proximity. Twin Lakes lie but four miles north of Rockwell City, and play host to a multitude of year-round recreational activities. Swimming, boating, golf, hunting, and nature study are but a few of the recreational endeavors available to Rockwell Citizens. In addition, as we will see, the Calhoun County Conservation Board maintains eleven separate outdoor recreation and open space units for the use of the area's residents.

Most certainly, the nearness of these other state and county parks must be considered in the preparation of this study. Although Rockwell City has a need for additional recreational facilities, it cannot afford to duplicate or compete with the wide number of uses offered in the surrounding parks. Rather, the recreational facilities developed in Rockwell City should be provided in complement to the other available recreational resources.



The demand for recreation facilities in a community is based on several variables. To be justifiable, a recreation use must relate to the natural patterns of the land, man's patterns of land utilization, and the important socio-economic factors. This section is devoted to socio-economic factors only such as population, income, occupation, education, leisure, and mobility.

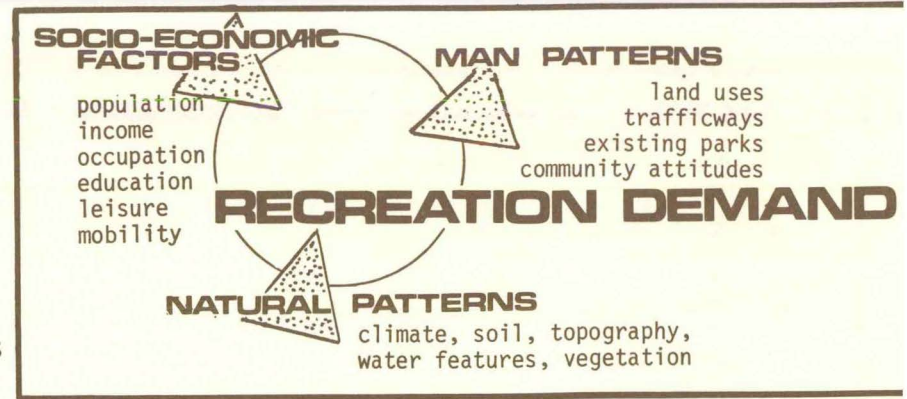
Since many of the socio-economic variables are not retrievable in terms of our study-definition of "community" most of the variables will relate to the 2,396 "in-town" citizens of Rockwell City.

In the decade of the sixties, Rockwell City's population began a commendable upward inclination. Actually the increase was 83 people; the amount of increase is relevant, but the positive fact of increase is all important. With a maintenance of this healthy trend, the stabilization of Rockwell City's population trend appears secure. The community of Rockwell City is in the enviable position of having a known, positive population trend. This fact allows a study such as this to develop plans for a known entity. Any recreational facilities provided in the near future can be regarded as community efforts to maintain such stabilization.

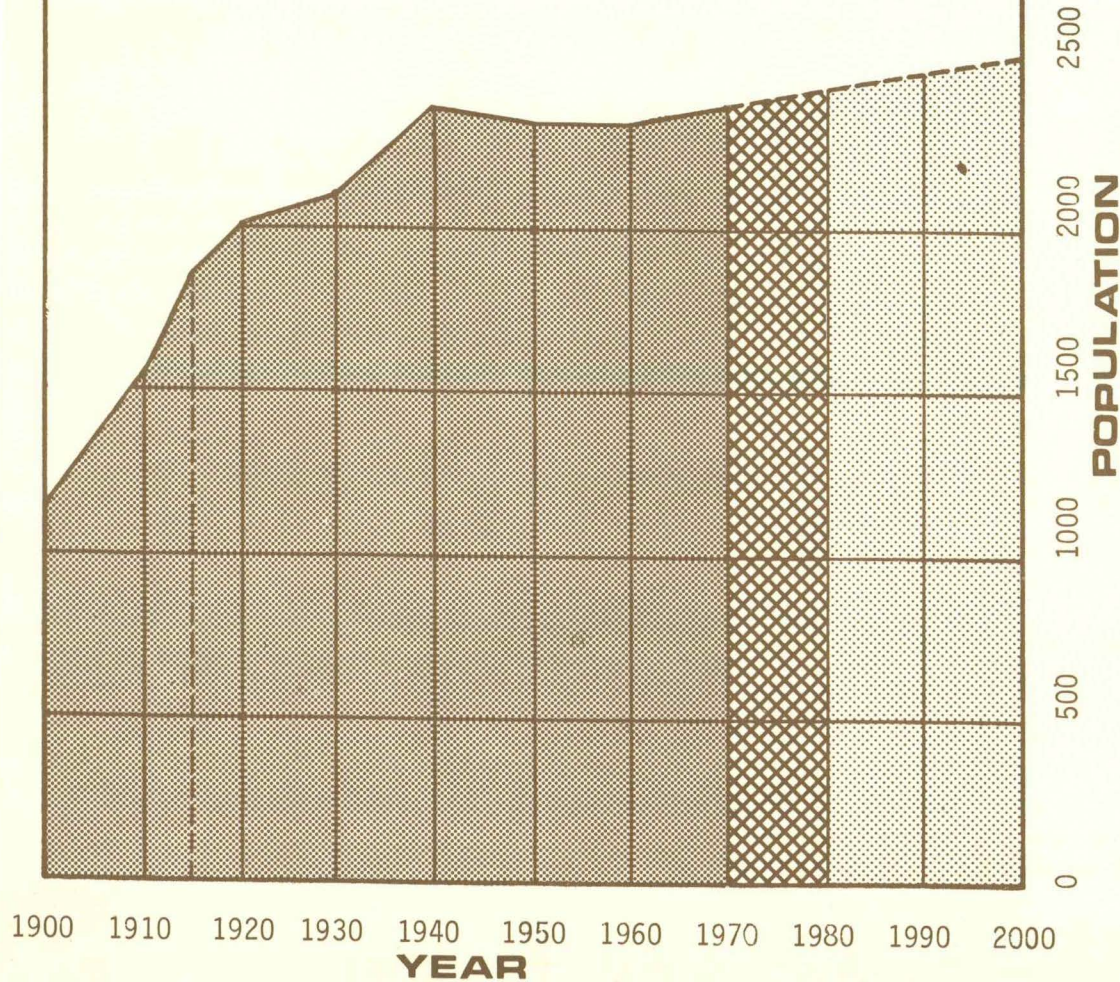
The age of the recreation participant certainly has an effect on his demands for recreation uses. Rockwell City's population is stacked in the upper three brackets of age grouping but in a state which ranks second highest in senior citizen concentration in the nation, this is to be expected. The urgency which a study like this can draw from a look at these age groups is this: everything possible should be done to create a social and physical environment attractive enough to retain residents. (One way to accomplish this is to provide the amenities which make life interesting. The Recreation Checklist provides Rockwell Citizens with a sampling of the types of activities attractive to children, families or senior citizens in a small community.)

Even if the total population remains constant, an increase in family income would mean an increase in recreation demand. In 1970, the median family income in Calhoun County was \$7,741. This is expected to rise by at least 50 per cent by the year 2000. The occupations and education of the residents of Rockwell City are also socio-economic factors which merit consideration in the definition of recreation demand. With a trend toward single-operator, large-area farms, more residents find themselves with regular hours and more leisure time. Comparably, with higher levels of education, the residents of the community will require more highly developed facilities for recreation-demand satisfaction.

Even if population and income levels remained constant, an increase in the amount of leisure time will increase the demand for recreation. The work day and work week have declined and the number of vacation days has increased steadily over the years. The individual's leisure time is expected to increase by 40 percent from 1970 to 2000. Mobility is an important factor in recreation demand. The almost total reliance on the automobile presents special problems in this day of "Energy Crisis". A community such as Rockwell City should attempt to provide more recreation uses in town than in previous years of lower fuel prices. A community should also place special emphasis on provision of recreation facilities for the elderly whose mobility is usually rather limited. Finally the Community of Rockwell City should seriously explore other modes of transportation to the Twin Lakes, Fort Dodge and other recreation areas.



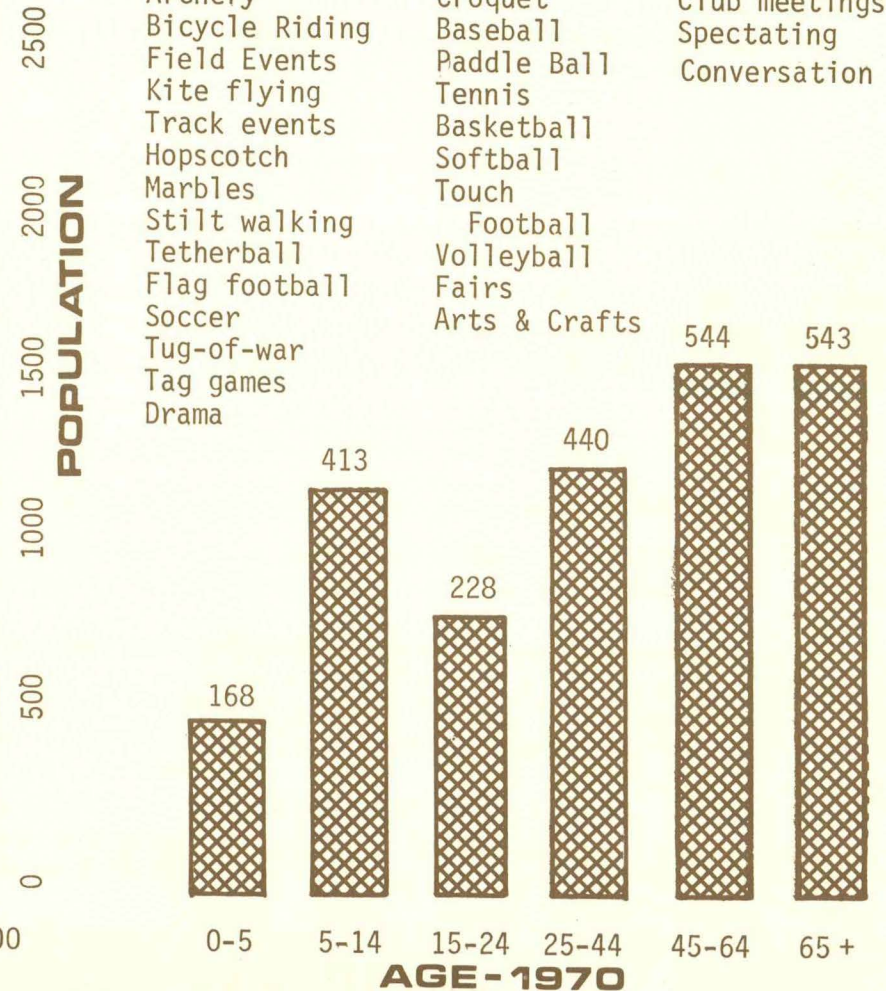
# ROCKWELL CITY POPULATION TREND



# RECREATION CHECKLIST

## CHILDREN      FAMILIES      ELDERLY

- |                 |               |               |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Scavenger hunts | Banquets      | Gardening     |
| Nature games    | Reunions      | Shuffleboard  |
| Pet Shows       | Potluck       | Horseshoes    |
| Sand play       | Suppers       | Arts & Crafts |
| Gymnastics      | Picnicking    | Picnicking    |
| Calisthenics    | Skating       | Reunions      |
| Rope Jumping    | Badminton     | Banquets      |
| Archery         | Croquet       | Club meetings |
| Bicycle Riding  | Baseball      | Spectating    |
| Field Events    | Paddle Ball   | Conversation  |
| Kite flying     | Tennis        |               |
| Track events    | Basketball    |               |
| Hopscotch       | Softball      |               |
| Marbles         | Touch         |               |
| Stilt walking   | Football      |               |
| Tetherball      | Volleyball    |               |
| Flag football   | Fairs         |               |
| Soccer          | Arts & Crafts |               |
| Tug-of-war      |               |               |
| Tag games       |               |               |
| Drama           |               |               |



# 5

# OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES & AREAS

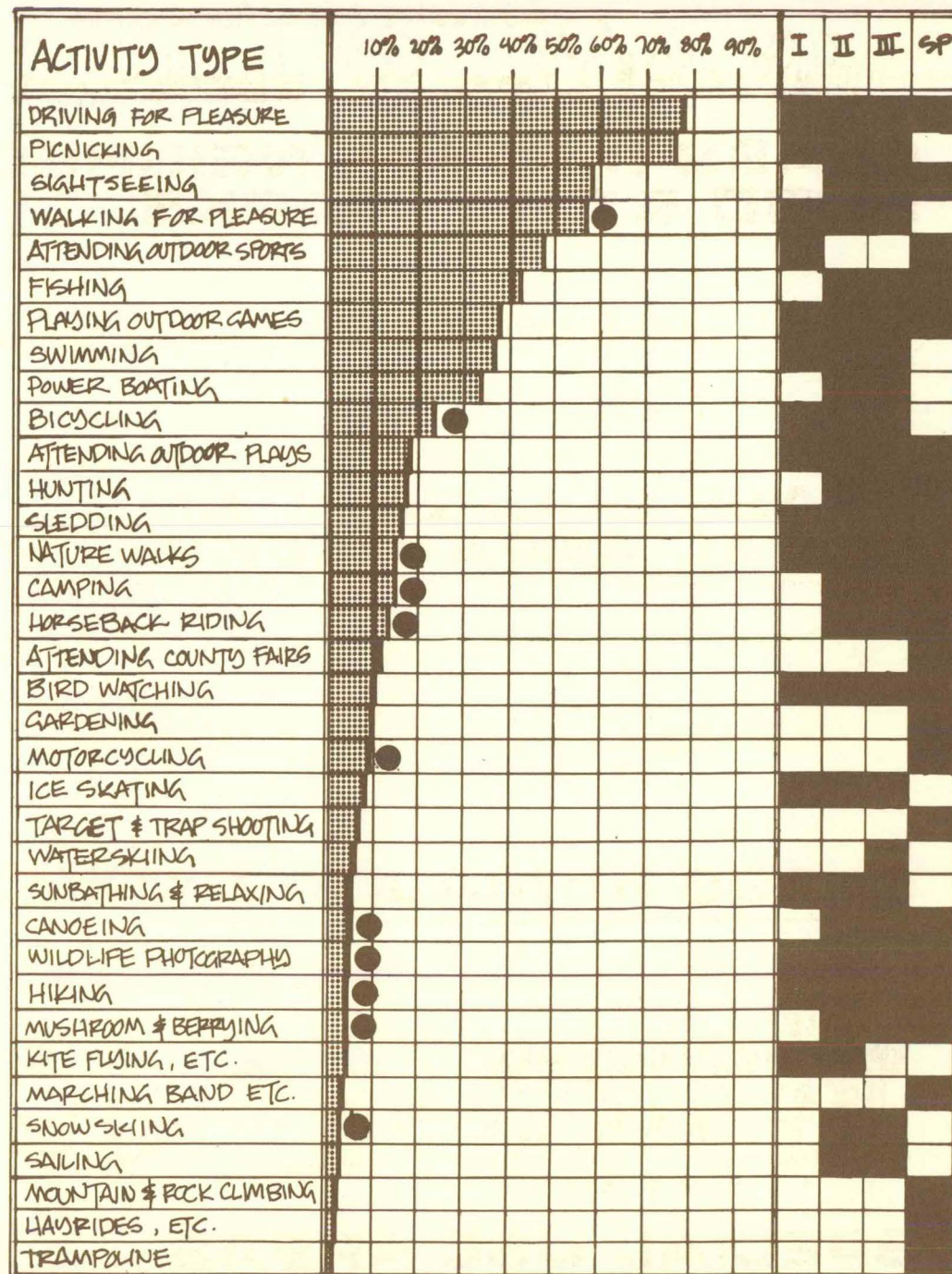
In 1966 an Iowa Recreation Survey was conducted by Iowa State University. It was directed toward determining which outdoor recreation activities are most popular in the State of Iowa. The results as shown on the right indicated that driving for pleasure, picnicking, sightseeing, and walking for pleasure were the most popular activities. (The circled activities are those in which an apparent increase has taken place since 1966.)

In terms of identifying recreation use areas, a class system presented in the Outdoor Recreation Review Commission Report of 1966 will be utilized with minor modifications. The adjustments are as a result of an Iowa Region Five Outdoor Recreation and Open Spaces Element of 1973. The major classes of recreation use that affect the community of Rockwell City are shown on the following page.

Class One Parks are town, neighborhood, and city parks and are of immediate concern to Rockwell City. Classes Two and Three and the Special Use Areas are important to Rockwell City in defining recreation demand. The proximity of these other uses varies the demand.

Other Classes mentioned in the ORRC Report are of less importance to Rockwell City's recreation system. They include Class IV, special features; Class V, natural or wild areas; Class VI, preservation and restoration; and Class VII, holding of fragile, key lands. These types of uses are categorized as Special Use Areas in this report. Class VI areas are presently being studied in a regional historic preservation study by MIDAS Regional Planning Commission.

This study attempts to key the types of activities to the Class system to assist Rockwell City residents in especially determining the types of Class One activities with which a small town usually needs to be directly concerned.



● apparent increase in activity participation percentage

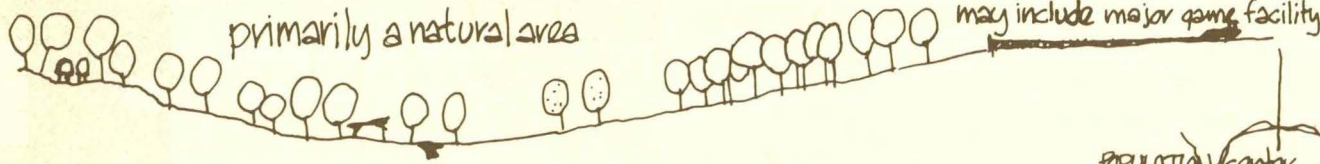
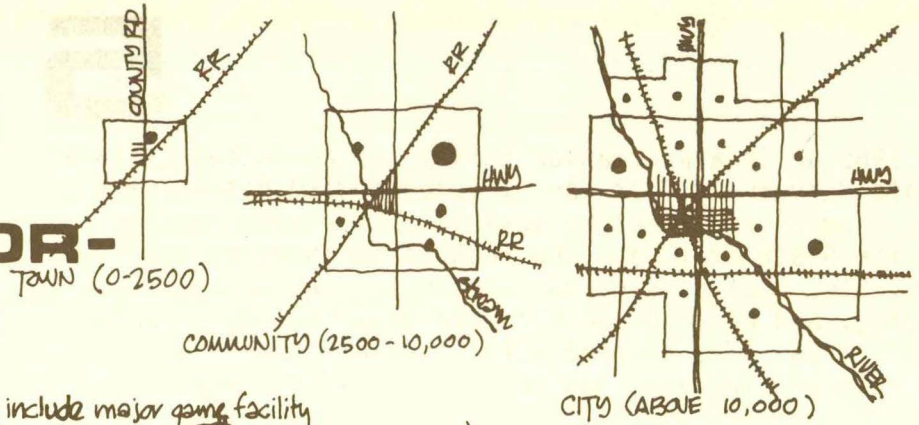
# USE AREAS



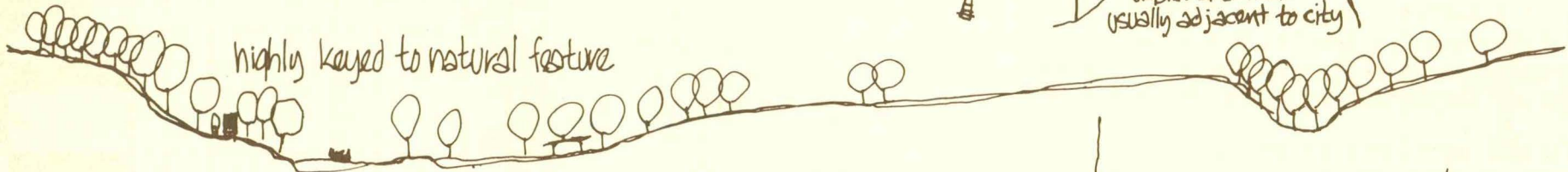
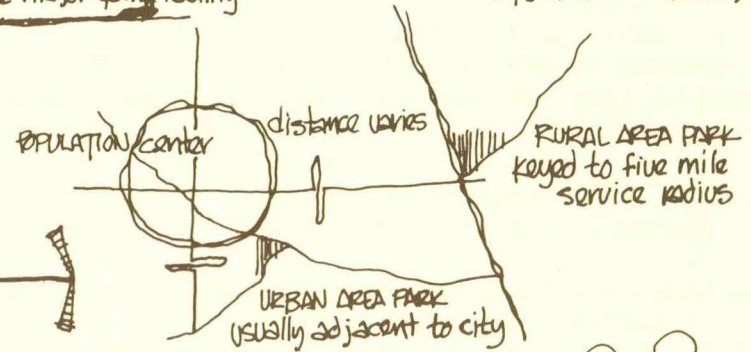
areas designed to meet high density recreation needs; must provide activity areas, picnic & passive uses, landscape plantings within walking distance from residences



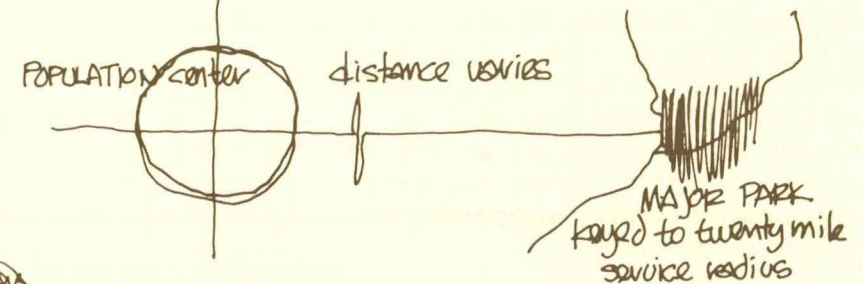
## CLASS I: TOWN, NEIGHBORHOOD & CITY PARKS



## CLASS II: URBAN AND RURAL AREA PARKS

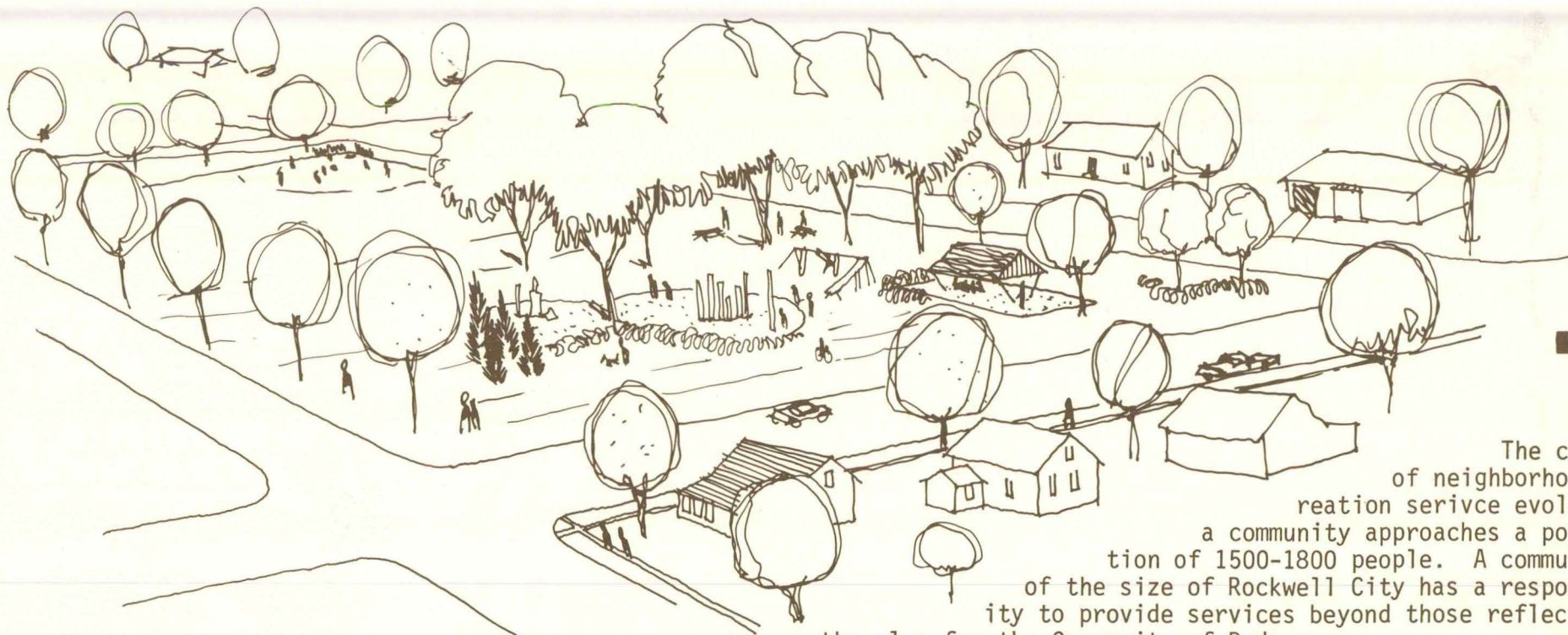


## CLASS III: MAJOR PARKS



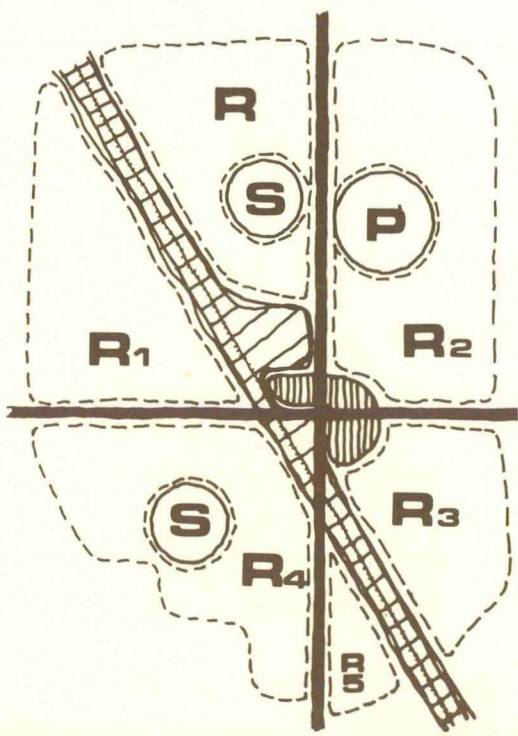
## SPECIAL USE AREAS

feature-dependant uses or uses requiring special development of facility



**7**

The concept of neighborhood recreation service evolves as a community approaches a population of 1500-1800 people. A community of the size of Rockwell City has a responsibility to provide services beyond those reflected in the plan for the Community of Badger.



For instance look at the schematic plan of a typical Mid-Iowa community. There is in each community, generally, a crossing of vehicular trafficways, including arterial highways, collector streets, and railroads. These in effect cordone off segments of the city into "neighborhoods." In turn, recreation planning should look to these neighborhoods for a definition of the efficiency of recreation service.

In our example to the left, the "P" indicates a park in neighborhood "R2". Critical review of the example shows this to be the only neighborhood so served.

However if the school grounds (" S ") of neighborhood "R" and "R4" were developed to accommodate park uses, then these school grounds could be regarded as neighborhood parks.

Neighborhoods "R1" and "R3" in the example still lie without service. Depending upon their density and the actual distance to the nearest existing park, these neighborhoods could require either the development of a neighborhood park, or pedestrian crosswalks at strategic locations to link them to a recreation service area.

A small neighborhood like "R5" should, if possible, be connected to the adjacent service via a crosswalk. However, if this is not possible, a small totlot and passive area would meet the area's needs.

The concept of neighborhood services is primarily why this study sees a distinction between the community recreation service of Rockwell City and Badger. The larger the community the more complex the recreation service system must be.

# NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE

# INVENTORY

## 8

Through a unique local volunteer survey a analysis of Rockwell City's recreation demands was realized. In answer to a request for the city's needs for development of recreation activities, a random sampling of community age groups produced the following results:

- |                     |                       |                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Volleyball       | 7. Archery            | 13. Rollerskating |
| 2. Tennis           | 8. Badmitton          | 14. Hockey        |
| 3. Bicycling        | 9. Snowmobiling       | 15. Sledding      |
| 4. Swimming         | 10. Basketball        | 16. Shuffleboard  |
| 5. Horseback-riding | 11. Softball/Baseball | 17. Jogging       |
| 6. Motorcycling     | 12. Hiking            |                   |

Stated simply, randomly selected people from a good mixture of the various age groups of Rockwell City expressed a preference for the recreation activities they would most like to have developed. The overwhelming preferences were volleyball and tennis. Third and subsequent choices were far behind these two activities. This study recommends that close attention be paid to this local survey.

An inventory of the public and semi-public recreation areas of Rockwell City produced the tabulation at the right showing recreation area size and equipment.

In essence, then, Rockwell City certainly has enough recreation space quantitatively with 28.4 public acres of space, or well over the one acre per 100 population. If the semi-public acreages are incorporated in the total the figure is in excess of 4 acres per 100 population. This is indeed commendable.

The equipment inventory figures seem to indicate, however, that qualitatively, considerable improvement could be seen. It will be the function of this study to qualitatively recommend improvements in the Rockwell City Community Recreation System.

### Rockwell City Community Park (including fairgrounds)

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Jungle Gym          | 5 Fireplaces              |
| 2 Teeter-Totters      | 5 Picnic Tables           |
| 8 Swings              | 3 Trash Cans              |
| 1 Tilt-a-Whirl        | 2 Drinking Fountains      |
| 1 Set of Chin-up Bars | 1 Swimming Pool           |
|                       | 1 Set Basketball Hoops    |
|                       | 1 Tennis/Volleyball Court |
- PUBLIC 28.4 ACRES

### Rockwell City Senior High School 37.5 Acres

- 1 Baseball Field

### Rockwell City Junior High School 2.6 Acres

- 1 Tilt-a-Whirl  
6 Swings  
1 Slide

### Rockwell City Elementary School 18.4 Acres

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 4 Basketball Hoops  | 1 Trapèze          |
| 4 Baseball Diamonds | 1 Large Ring Swing |
| 2 Tilt-a-Whirl      | 1 Overhead Ladder  |
| 1 Jungle Gym        | 1 Set Bike Racks   |
| 2 Slides            |                    |
| 12 Swings           |                    |

### Rockwell City Parochial School 1.3 Acres

- 1 Set Basketball Hoops  
2 Sets Swings

### Calhoun County Historical Building 1.7 Acres

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Pullaway/Tilt-a-Whirl  | 3 Picnic Tables     |
| 1 Whirling Tetter-Totter | 1 Drinking Fountain |
| 4 Horse Swings           | 1 Trash Can         |
| 1 Baseball Diamond       | 1 Latrine           |
| Culverts                 |                     |
| Logs and Gravel          |                     |

TOTAL SEMI-PUBLIC 61.5 ACRES

TOTAL OPEN SPACE 89.9 ACRES

CARROLL COUNTY

- 1.) Hobb's Access
- 2.) Artesian Lake
- 3.) Carroll County Access
- 4.) Dickson Timber
- 5.) Merritt Access
- 6.) Bennett Access
- 7.) Richey Access
- 8.) Middle Raccoon Access
- 9.) Swan Lake

- MAJOR PARK
- UNDEVELOPED
- RURAL AREA PARK
- SPECIAL USE AREA

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

- 1.) Bradgate Area
- 2.) Bradgate Access

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

- 1.) Little Clear Lake Park
- 2.) NW. Recreation Area
- 3.) Pilot Creek Park
- 4.) Lizard Lake Access
- 5.) Kalsow Prairie
- 6.) Sunken Grove Island
- 7.) Center Township Park
- 8.) Havelock Wildlife Area
- 9.) West Roadside Park

SAC COUNTY

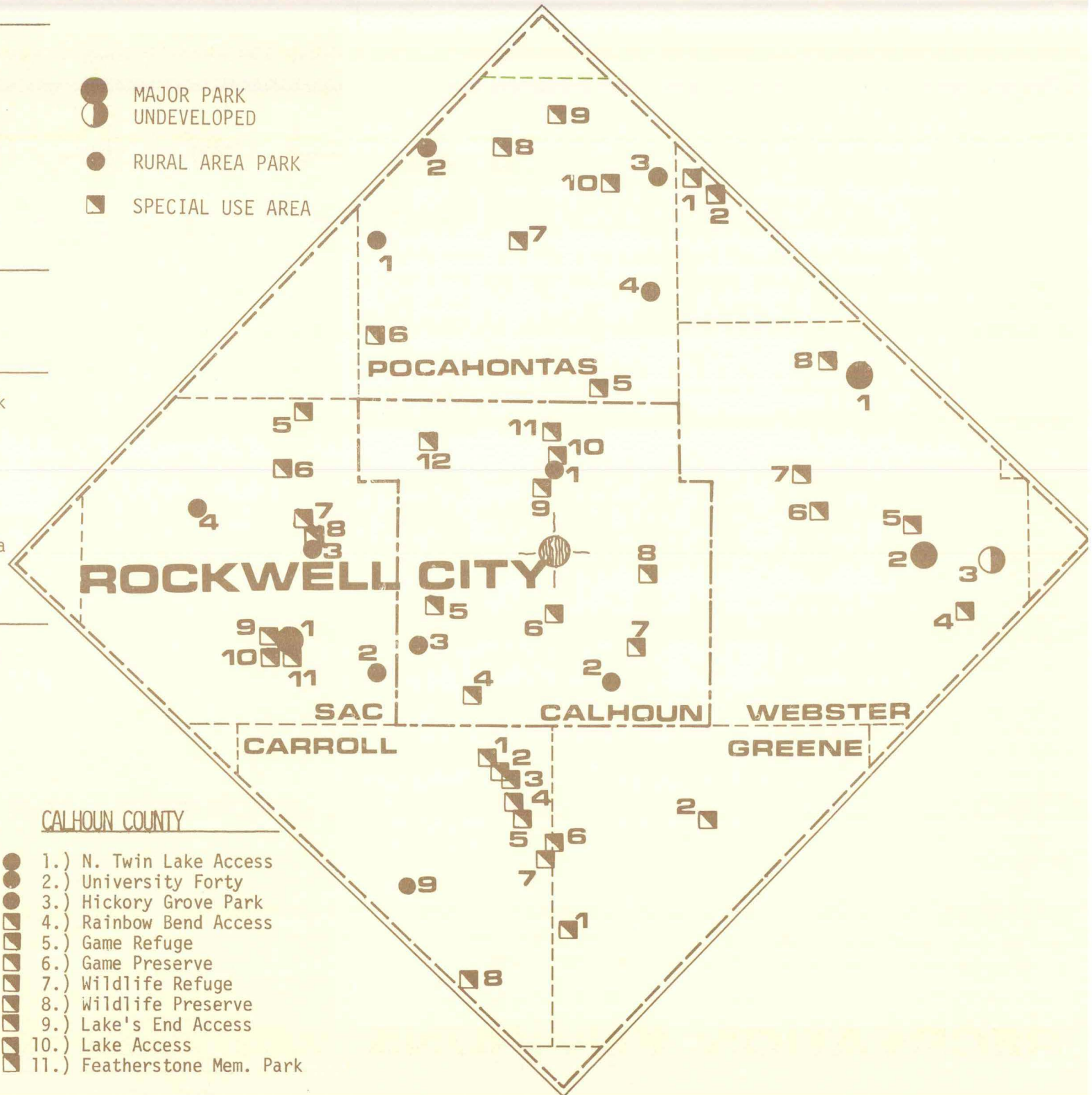
- 1.) Black Hawk State Park
- 2.) Grant Park
- 3.) Hagge Park
- 4.) Rief Park
- 5.) Kiaua Marsh
- 6.) Tomahawk Marsh
- 7.) Lubback Forest
- 8.) Sac City Access
- 9.) Black Hawk Lake
- 10.) Black Hawk Marsh
- 11.) Lake View Hatchery

WEBSTER COUNTY

- 1.) Kennedy Park
- 2.) Dolliver Park
- 3.) Brushy Creek
- 4.) Carlson Tract
- 5.) Woodman Hollow
- 6.) Liska-Stanek Prairie
- 7.) Lizard Creek Area
- 8.) Deer Creek Area

CALHOUN COUNTY

- 1.) N. Twin Lake Access
- 2.) University Forty
- 3.) Hickory Grove Park
- 4.) Rainbow Bend Access
- 5.) Game Refuge
- 6.) Game Preserve
- 7.) Wildlife Refuge
- 8.) Wildlife Preserve
- 9.) Lake's End Access
- 10.) Lake Access
- 11.) Featherstone Mem. Park



# 10

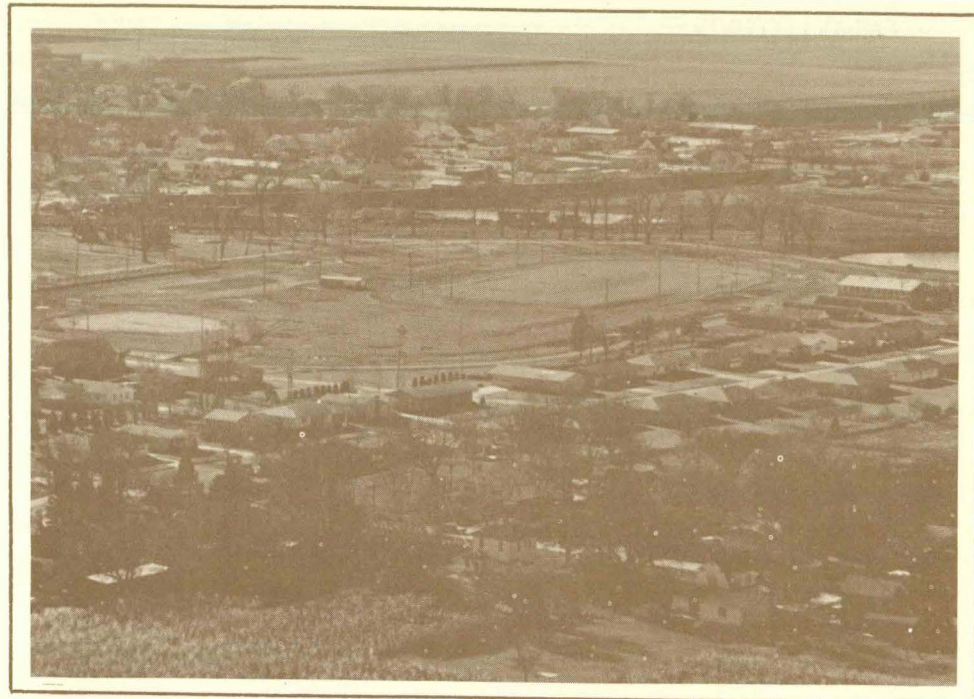
The functional economic area of influence map on the preceding page reveals the proximity of recreational facilities within a 40 mile environment of Rockwell City. The citizens of Rockwell City cannot and should not expect to meet all of their recreation demands within the community. The need for certain facilities must be tempered with the nature of the activity, the community's ability to pay and the attitude or desire for such an activity, and finally, the proximity of the activity in another recreation area.

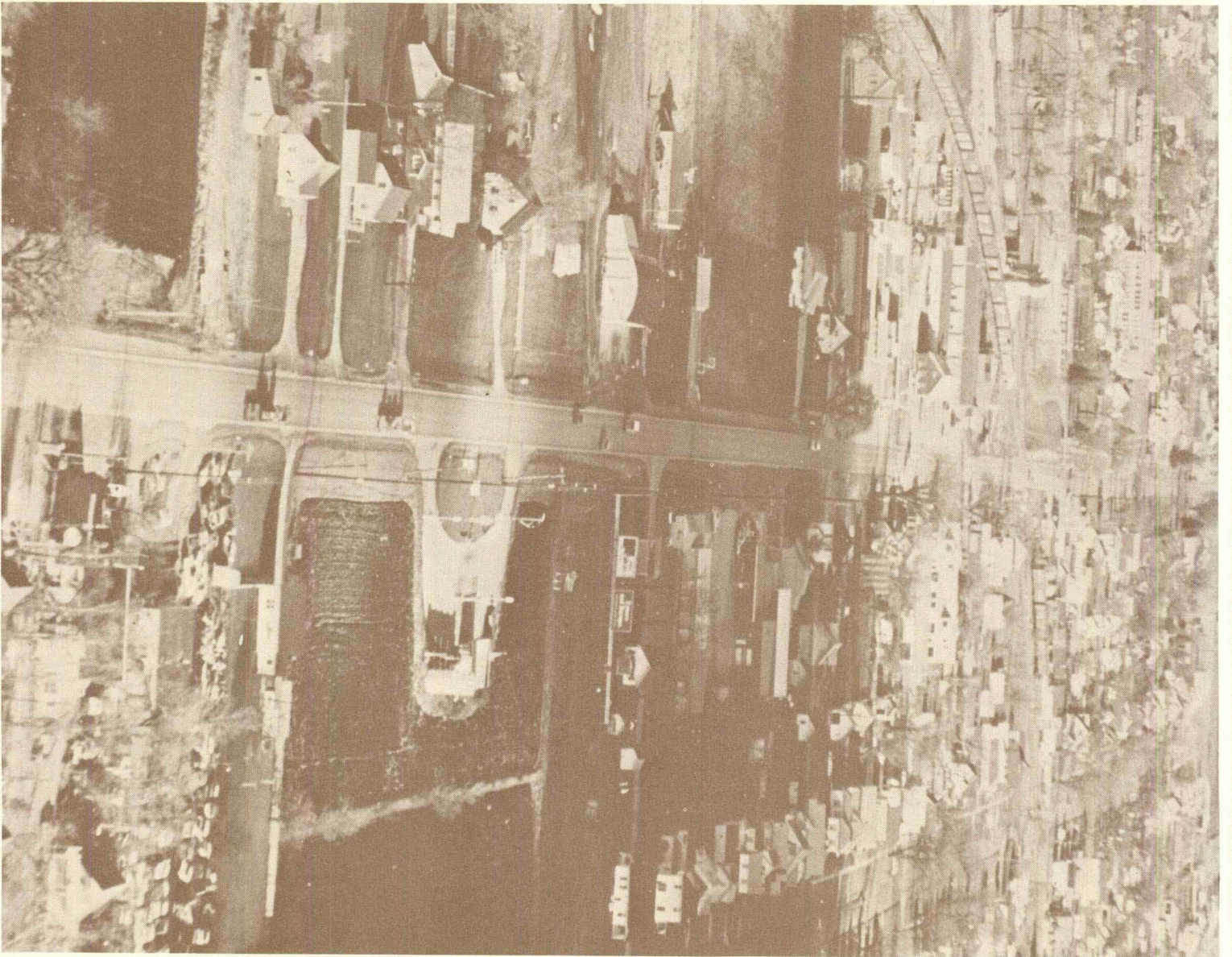
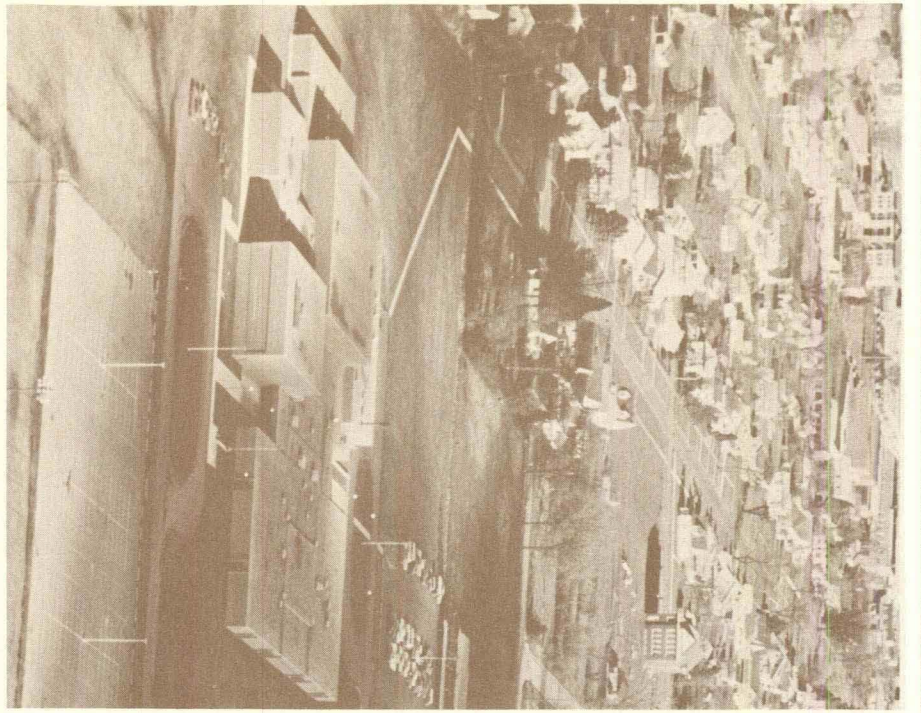
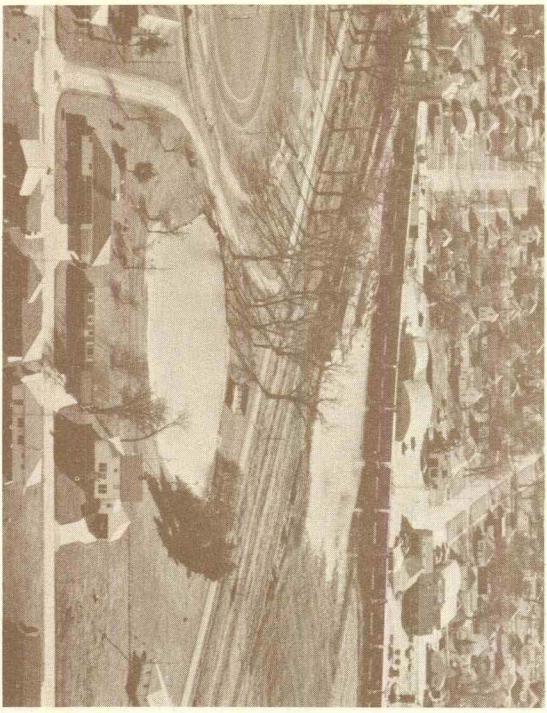
The Rockwell City Community Park is a Class One Park. Although each of the towns are not shown on the preceding map, it has been shown in the Iowa Region Five Outdoor Recreation and Open Spaces Element that "...each town, under 2,500 population, because it acts as a service center, not only for its residents, but for the surrounding farms as well, needs to fulfill a portion of the demand for recreation areas. Each town should have at least one Class One Area ("town park") of not less than four acres in size."

Twin Lakes and Twin Lakes State Park, fulfills both Class Two and Class Three requirements, by virtue of being but four miles from the community and because of its size and diversity of available activities, however, University Forty and Hickory Grove Park both can act as supplementary Class Two facilities. The residents of Rockwell City are fortunate to have such a range of recreational areas close at hand.

Introspectively, Rockwell City should look to the provision of a complete recreation system within the community which can be supplementary to the residents needs. The concept of neighborhood service should be tangibly developed.

## RECREATION ENVIRONS





tos indicate Rockwell City is located in the upland  
 mid-Iowa. The nearest major stream or river begins  
 ct in the landscape four miles from the city. Es-  
 hen, Rockwell City is on gently sloping and highly  
 and. Future city growth should be thought of in  
 centration, rather than expansion, with an eye  
 enance of all possible land for production.

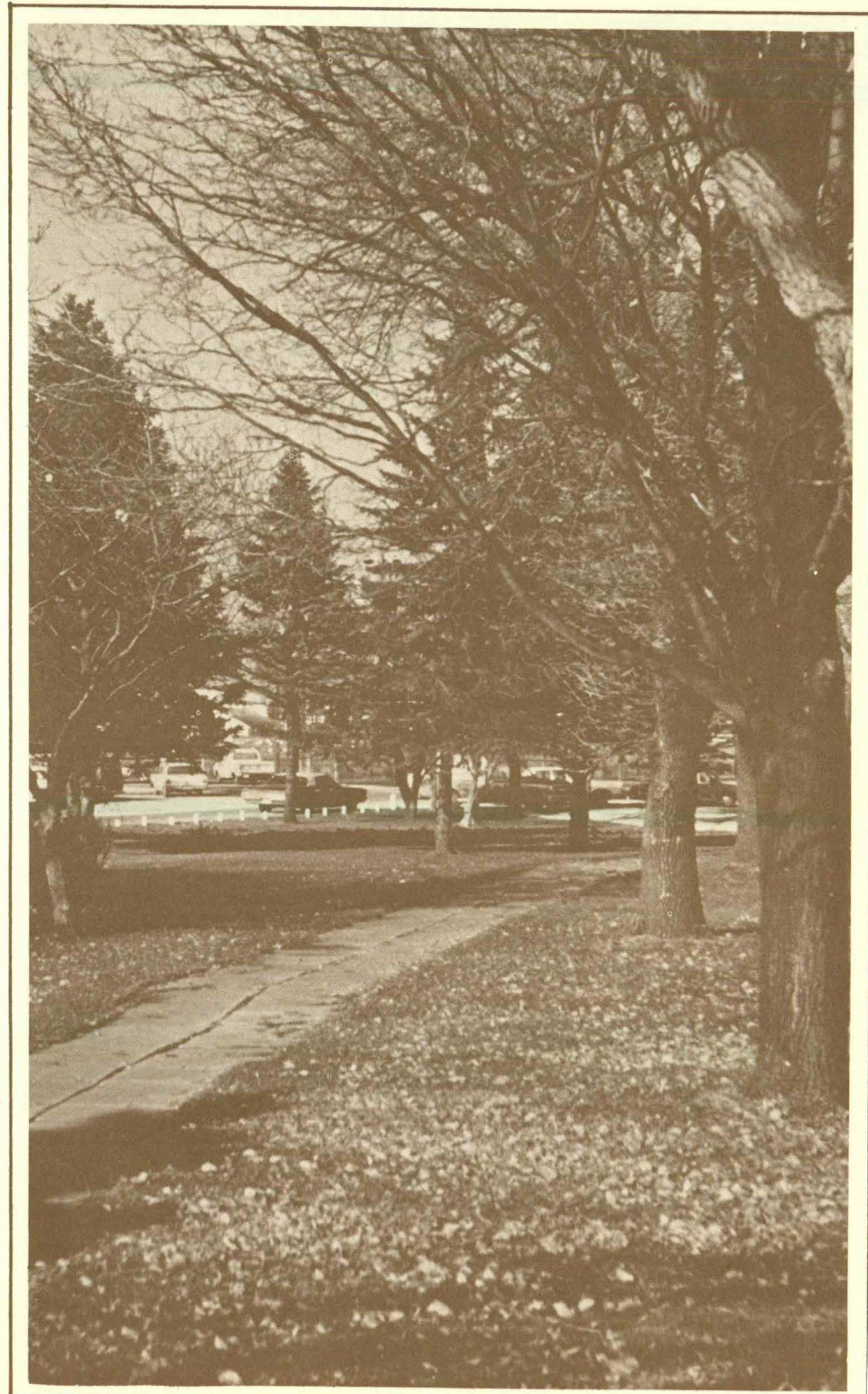
the land of Rockwell City and its immediate environs  
 tall grass prairie-slough association. The over-  
 evident in these photos have all originated from  
 sires for the aesthetic benefits which trees ac-  
 At this time, it is not inappropriate to recommend  
 ation of a community street tree program for re-  
 Dutch Elm disease losses, and improvement of the  
 ions of Rockwell City. Much work has been done  
 on an individual homeowner basis; a community-  
 would be meritorious.)

f Rockwell City are those of the Clarion-Nicollet-  
 ociation. Soils in this association developed as a  
 he Wisconsin glaciation of Mid-Iowa; they are es-  
 l suited to the intensive production of corn and

r and Nicollet soils will produce drainage problems  
 or bearing capacities. Planting fields and structures  
 rriented to the Clarion soil areas.

ion with artificial drainage ditches, the primary  
 re of Rockwell City is the pond in the Community  
 feature should be highlighted in any recreational

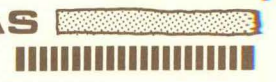
lopment of the plantings of Rockwell City should  
 lizing native plant species such as the prairie  
 wildflowers. The types of trees to be used are  
 onjunction with the area plan for the community  
 page 26 )



**NORTH**

**RESIDENTIAL AREAS  
NEIGHBORHOODS**

SEWAGE TREATMENT



CITY PARK  
& FAIRGROUNDS

JR. HIGH  
SCHOOL

**EAST**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

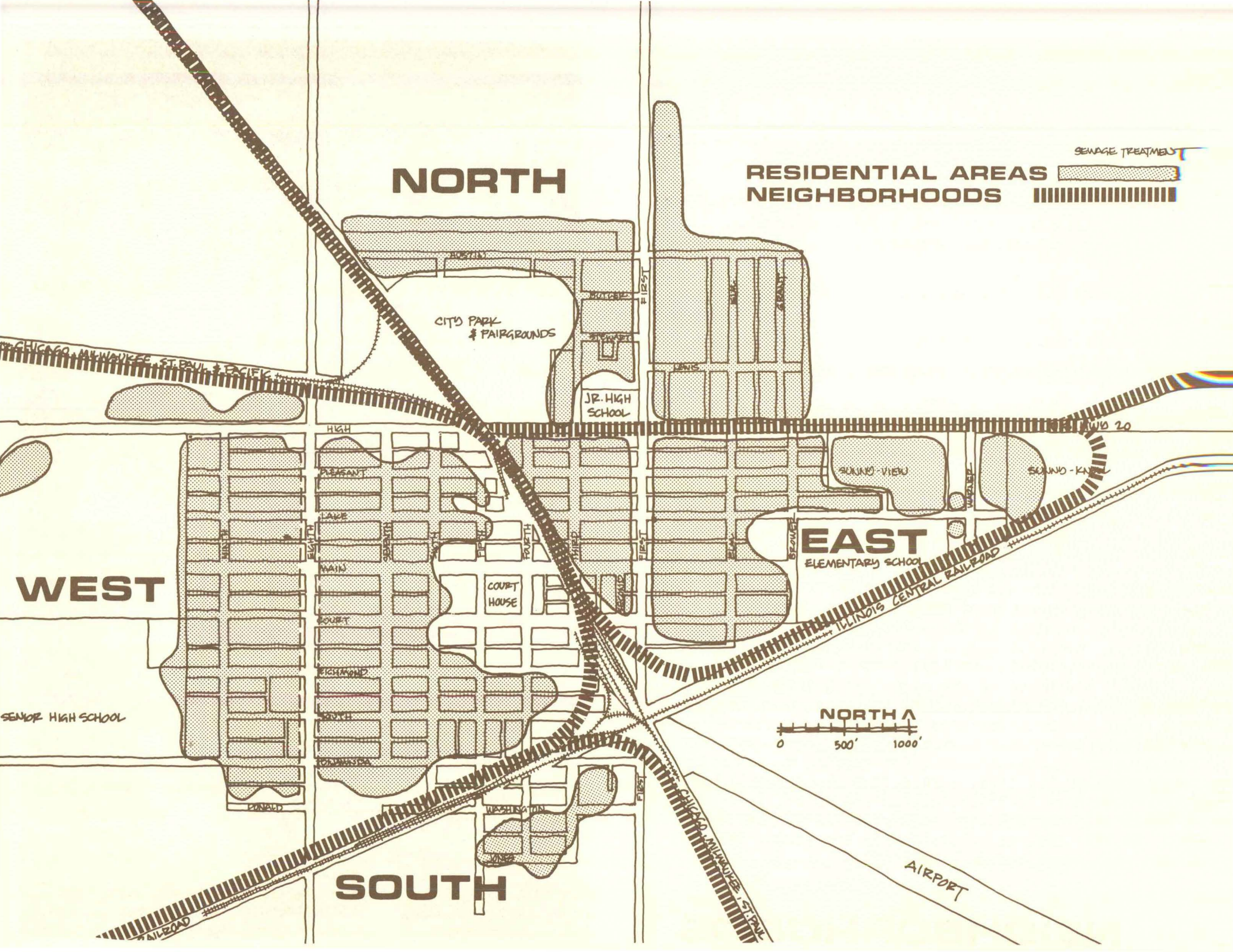
**WEST**

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

**SOUTH**



**NORTH** ^





# 12

As these photos indicate Rockwell City is located in the upland portion of Mid-Iowa. The nearest major stream or river begins to show effect in the landscape four miles from the city. Essentially, then, Rockwell City is on gently sloping and highly productive land. Future city growth should be thought of in terms of concentration, rather than expansion, with an eye toward maintenance of all possible land for production.

Originally, the land of Rockwell City and its immediate environs was entirely tall grass prairie-slough association. The over-story trees evident in these photos have all originated from the human desires for the aesthetic benefits which trees accommodate. (At this time, it is not inappropriate to recommend the consideration of a community street tree program for replacement of Dutch Elm disease losses, and improvement of the new subdivisions of Rockwell City. Much work has been done in the past on an individual homeowner basis; a community-wide effort would be meritorious.)

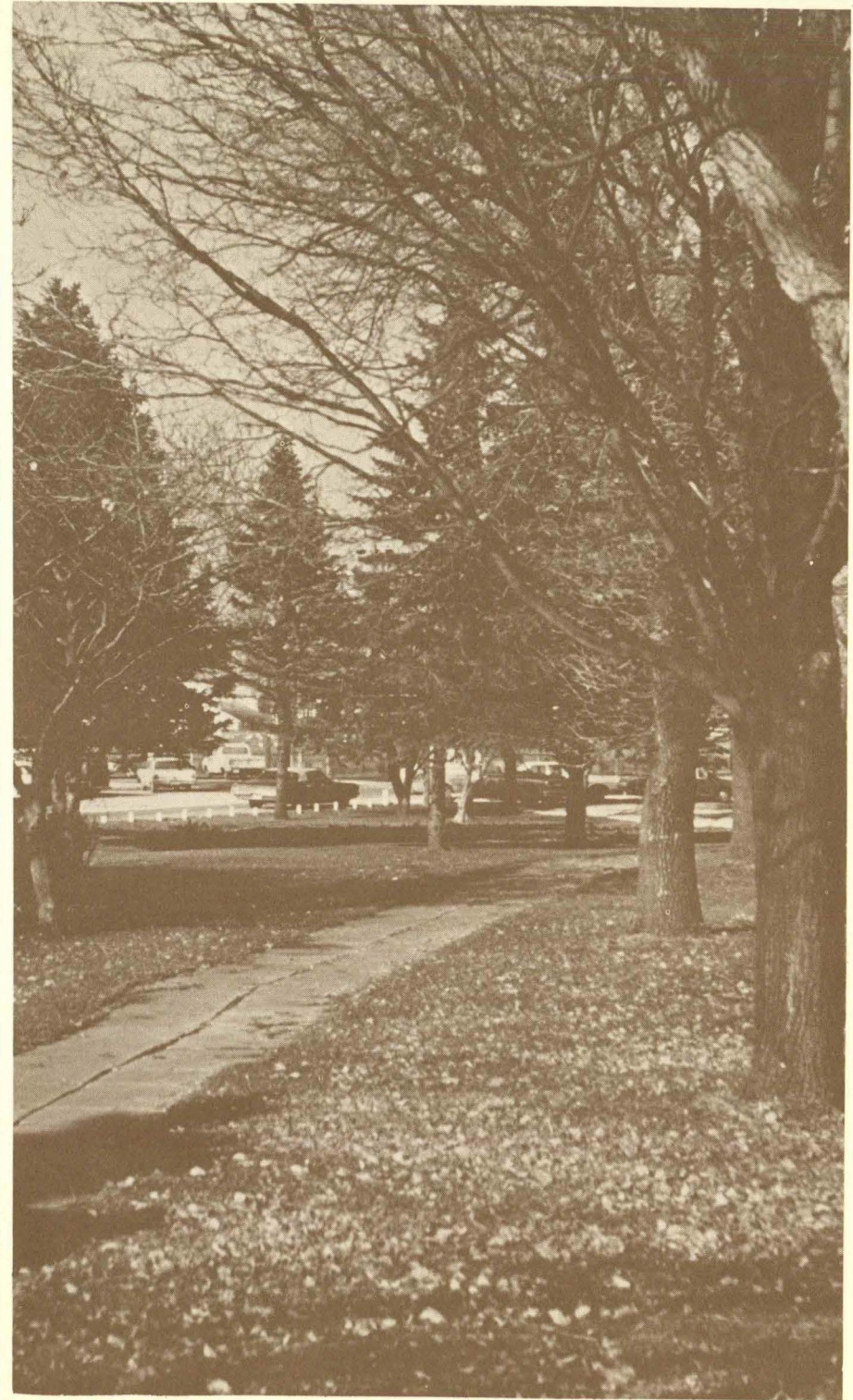
The soils of Rockwell City are those of the Clarion-Nicollet-Webster Association. Soils in this association developed as a result of the Wisconsin glaciation of Mid-Iowa; they are especially well suited to the intensive production of corn and soybeans.

Both Webster and Nicollet soils will produce drainage problems and have poor bearing capacities. Playing fields and structures should be oriented to the Clarion soil areas.

In conjunction with artificial drainage ditches, the primary water feature of Rockwell City is the pond in the Community Park. This feature should be highlighted in any recreational development.

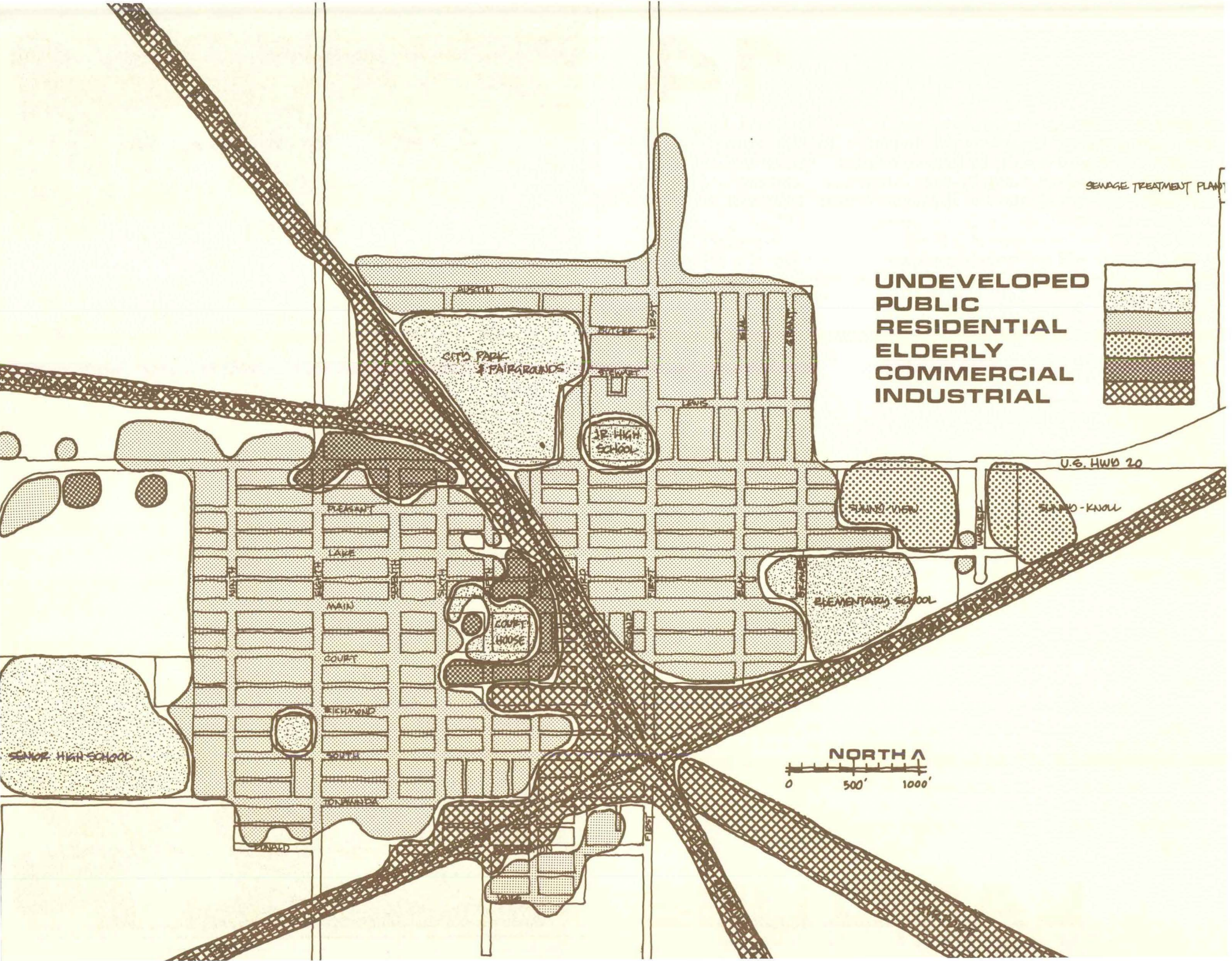
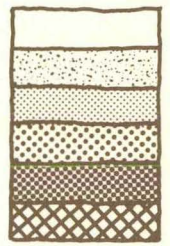
Future development of the plantings of Rockwell City should be done utilizing native plant species such as the prairie grasses and wildflowers. The types of trees to be used are listed in conjunction with the area plan for the community park. (see page 26 )

## LAND PATTERNS

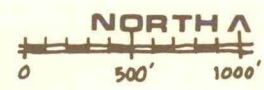


SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

UNDEVELOPED  
PUBLIC  
RESIDENTIAL  
ELDERLY  
COMMERCIAL  
INDUSTRIAL



U.S. HWY 20



# 14

Highly apparent from the land use map of Rockwell City is the dominance of the railroad industry in the community. Except for the airport to the southeast, the cross-hatched industrial area is largely rail-oriented. Rockwell City is fortunate to be such a railroad center in these days of renewed attention to large commodities shipping. However, the aesthetic improvement of rail areas is a constant concern. Every effort should be made to develop planting screens to blend the industrial area into the human patterns of the city.

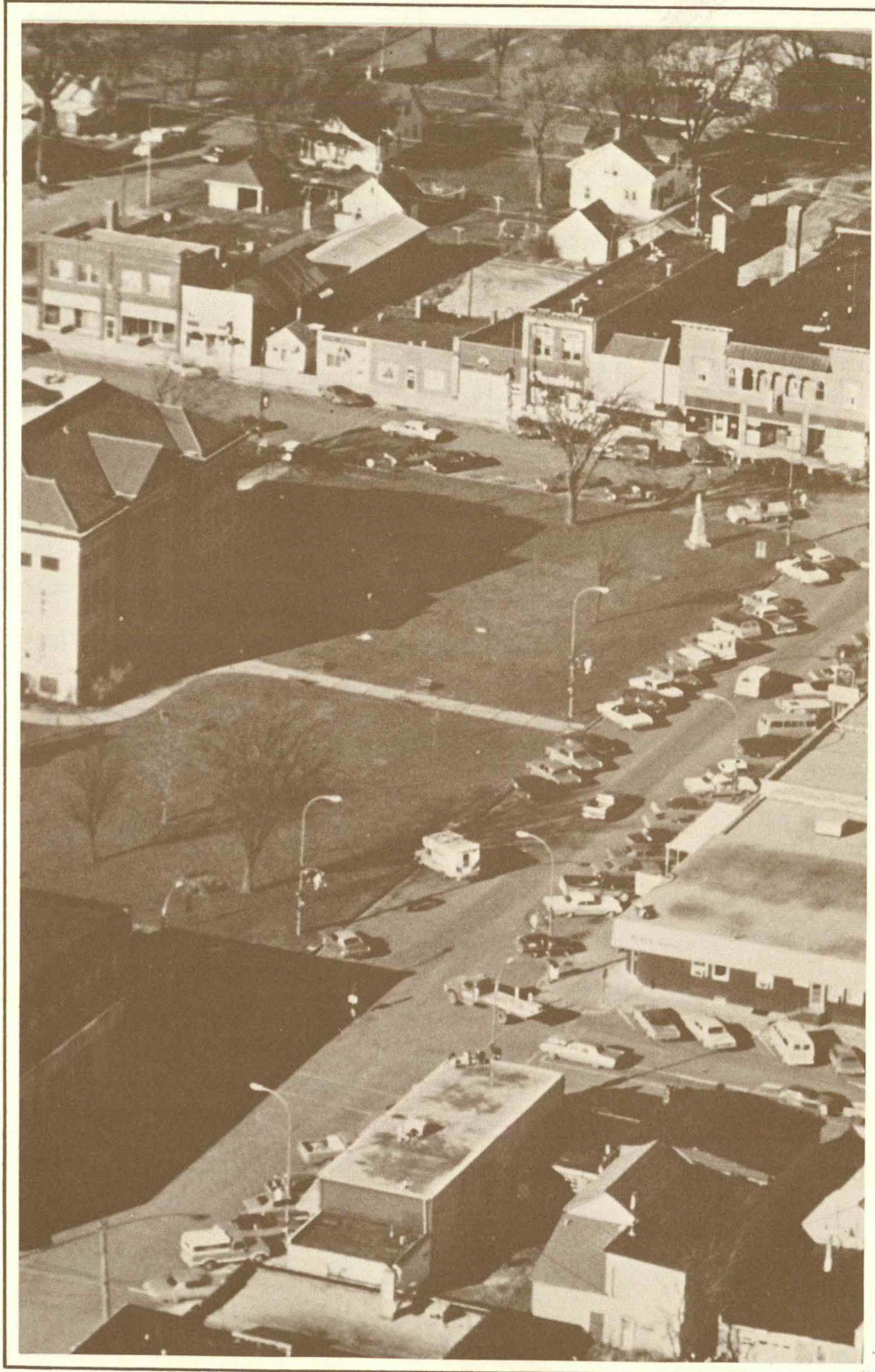
The commercial area of the community primarily surrounds the courthouse square, with some highway-oriented commercial development along Highway 20. The maintenance of a downtown commercial core will greatly assist the retention of a community identity.

Surrounding the courthouse-commercial area and interspersing the railroad lie the residential areas of Rockwell City. Primarily this study regards these areas as the reason for the community's existence. Obviously without commerce and industry the community would cease to exist, but the people of Rockwell City are Rockwell City. Thus, this report looks to the creation and provision of "people places" and "human scale" as its ultimate charge.

The newest residential areas fringe the city to the North and East. A major element of these is the housing for the elderly found in two complexes at the east edge of the city.

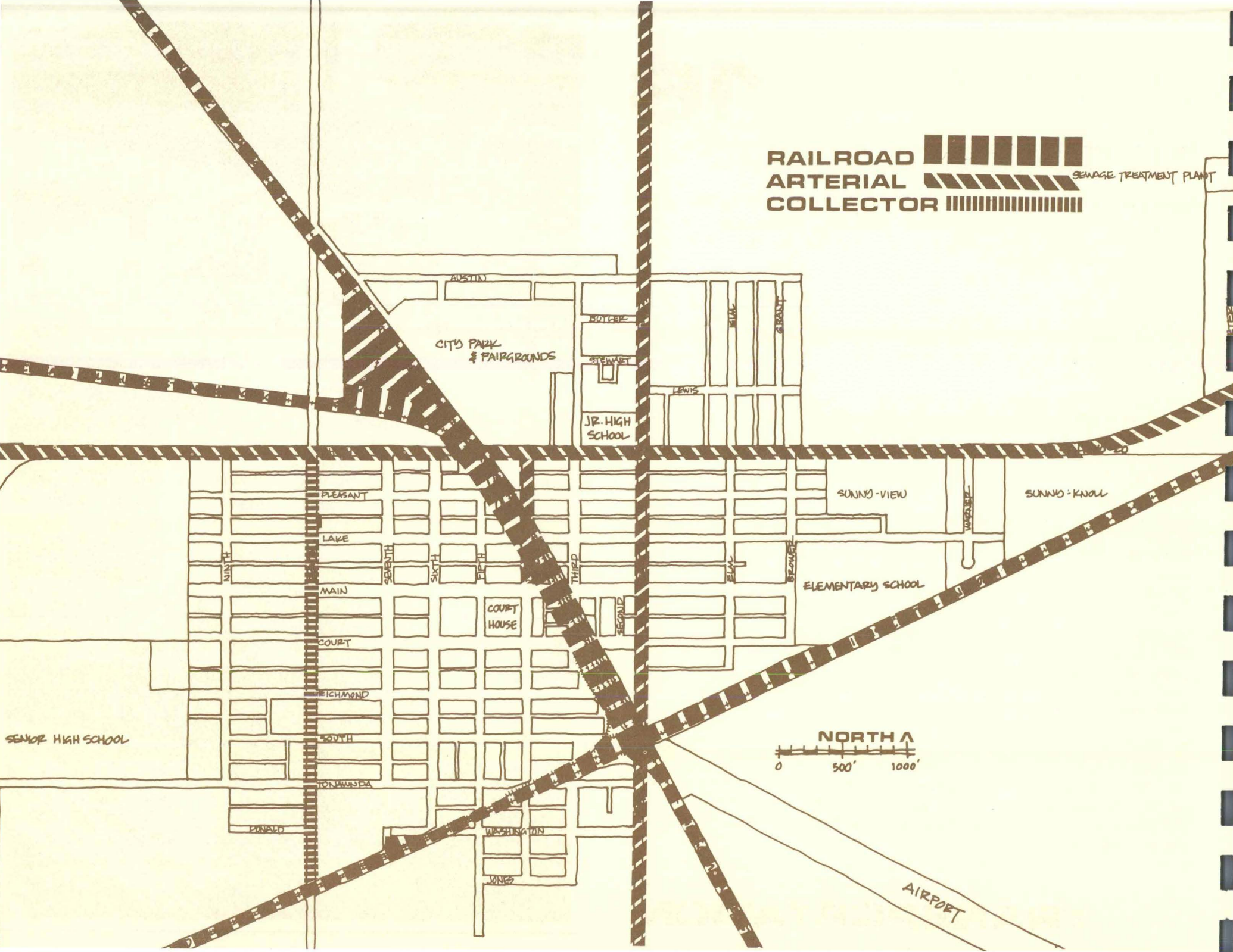
Just as the people of the community relate to the industrial-commercial aspects of the town, and the means of this relationship should be as aesthetic as possible, the realization of public open space is even more important. The public open space of Rockwell City is essentially the community park, the schools, courthouse, and County Historical Building. These are the primary areas of concern for this study.

## LAND USE



**RAILROAD**   
**ARTERIAL**   
**COLLECTOR** 

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT



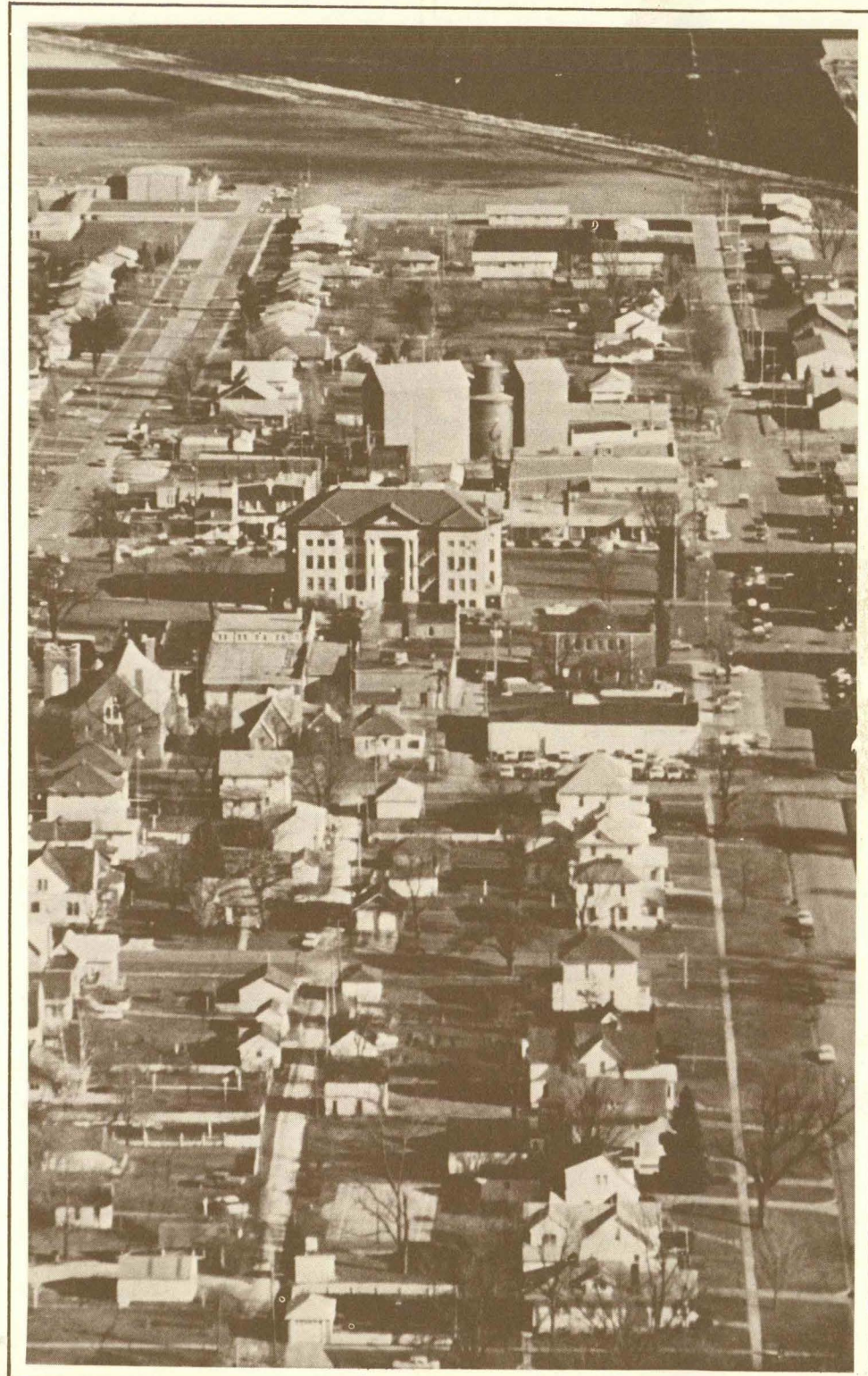
# 18

If the transportation system or road patterns of the previous pages are super-imposed upon the residential areas of Rockwell City, the neighborhoods of which we spoke become apparent.

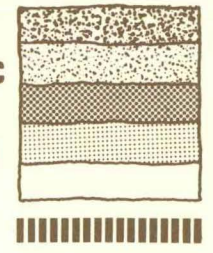
Essentially, Rockwell City is comprised of three major neighborhoods (West, North, and East,) and a less major area to the South. All three of the major neighborhoods are subdivided by an arterial or collector, but the constraints imposed by these roads can be alleviated so that the neighborhood stands as a unit.

Commensurate to its size, each neighborhood should have a neighborhood park facility in addition to or, in the case of the North neighborhood, in conjunction with, the Community Park. We will see, as we proceed in the study, how this concept can indeed become a reality.

## NEIGHBORHOODS



**PARK AREA  
OTHER PUBLIC  
SERVED AREA  
QUASI-SERVED  
UNSERVED  
BIKEWAYS**

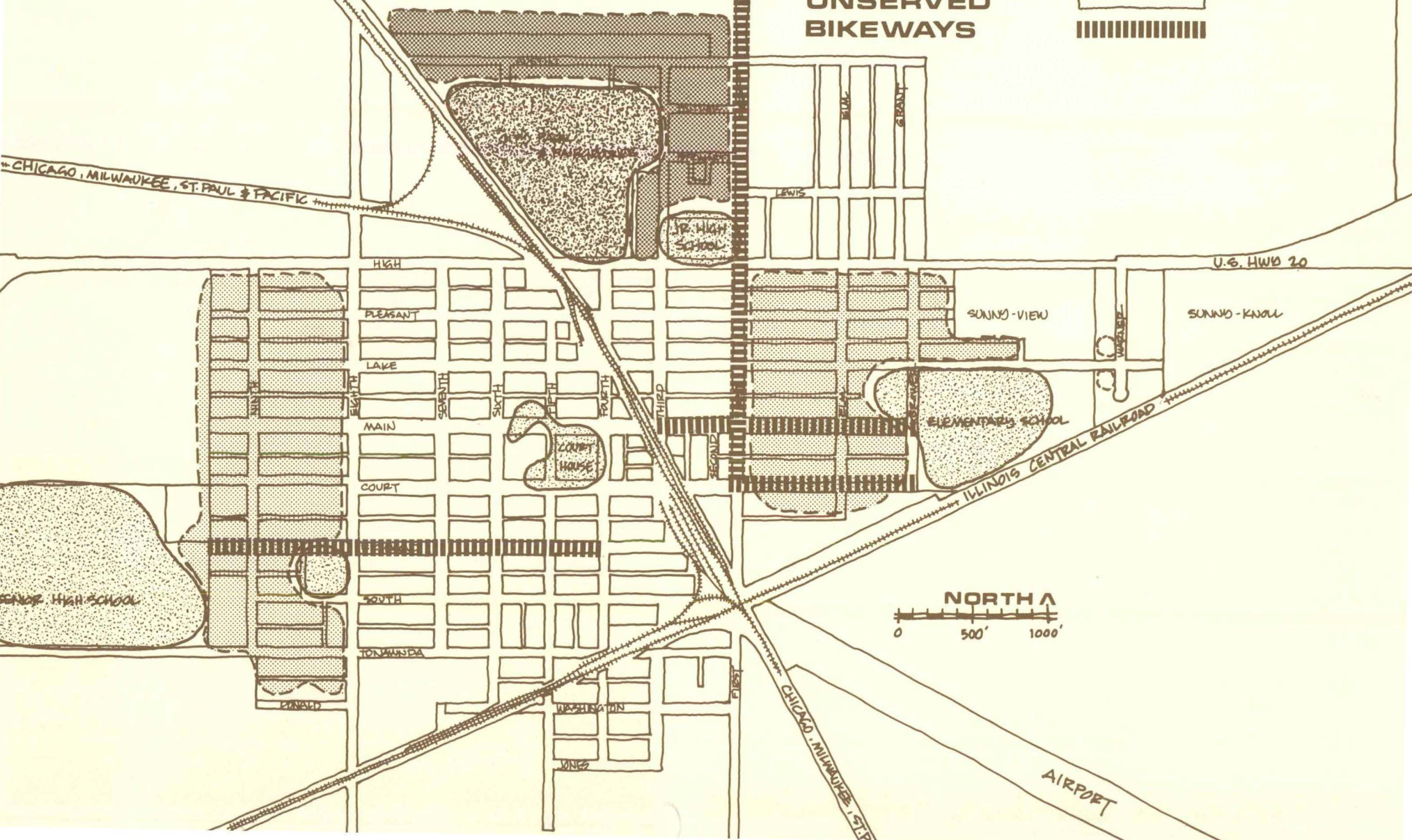


SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

AVENUE, ST. PAUL & PACIFIC RAILROAD

CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE, ST. PAUL & PACIFIC

U.S. HWY 20



# 20

The existing public open space of Rockwell City is shown on the map to the left. Obviously, the community park is ultimately important, but it is evident that, at present, very limited residential or pedestrian service exists for it.

No persons, young, middle-aged, or elderly, should be expected to have to walk more than four to six blocks to arrive at a recreation area. Thus, this study makes the statement that only such a small portion of the town is really served by the Community Park.

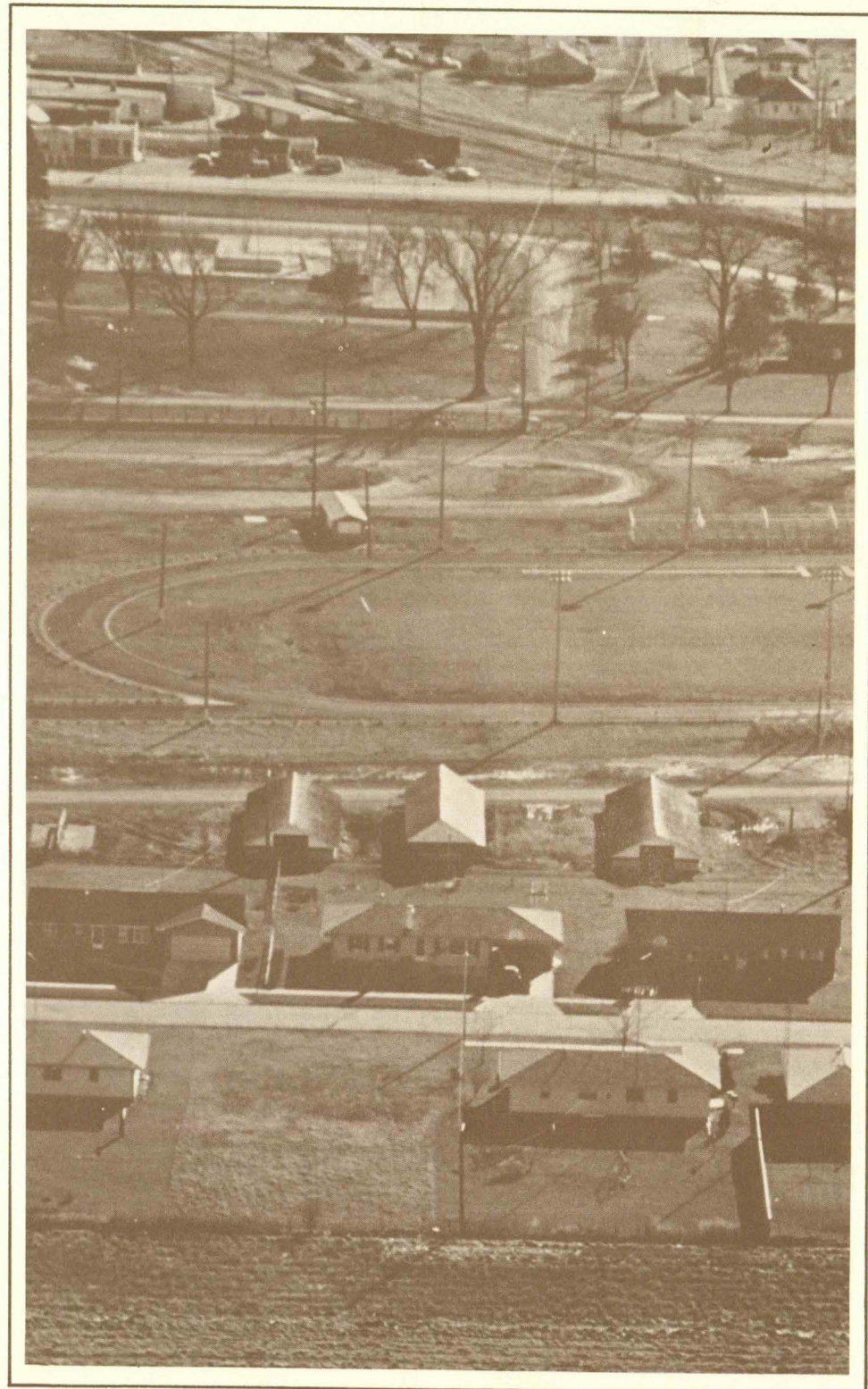
There are ways that this can be, and in fact, is overcome. The elementary and high school grounds do act as semi-public open spaces. If developed through mutual cooperation between the school board and city park board, these two areas could indeed fulfill the role of "neighborhood parks" with the amplification of the school ground's amenities.

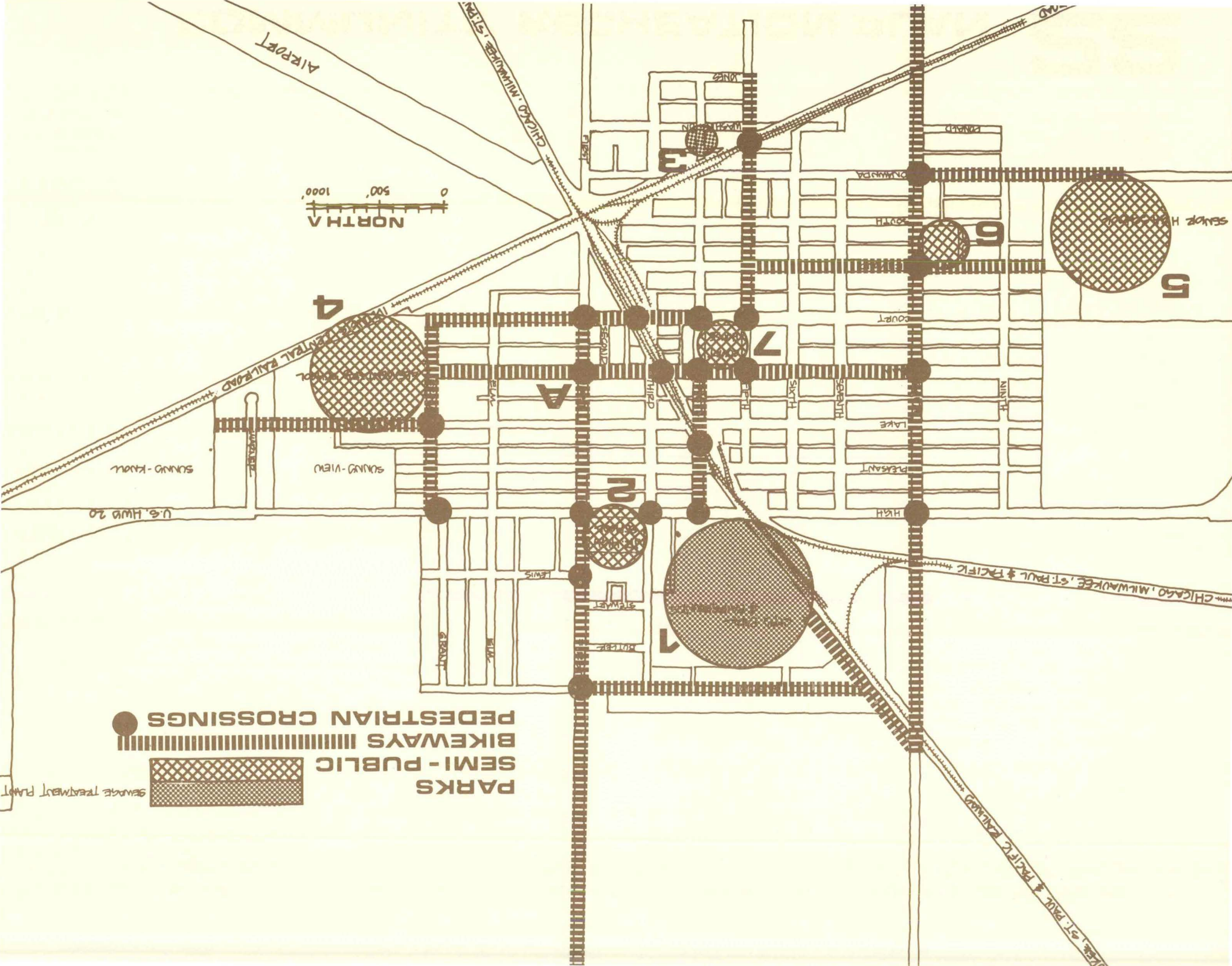
The County Historical Building with its present open space character and play apparatus can as well be regarded as a neighborhood park facility.





The courthouse square has potential as a shopper's park. Already the provision of plantings and benches accommodates this purpose.

The recent development of bike lanes along the city's streets is highly commendable. We will see, as we proceed in this study, how this idea can be capitalized upon and the constraints that currently define deficiencies in community and neighborhood service can melt away.

## PARKS & OPEN SPACES





 PARKS  
 SEMI - PUBLIC  
 BIKeways  
 PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

0 500 1000  
 NORTH



The most important and initial step which should be taken in the creation of a full recreation system for the community is this: make the constraints of the road patterns disappear through the designation and signing of twenty-one pedestrian crosswalks. (A). Through such an effort, a creation of "pedestrian-right-of-way" is indicated. All of a sudden, or at least gradually, the barriers which currently exist, especially for the young and the elderly, will disappear. No child should be discouraged from meeting his peers at a totlot or playground simply because a heavily-used street runs by his home. By the same token, no senior citizen should forego the opportunity to share life with others over a cup of coffee or in a chat on a park bench.

Secondly, bicycles are here in force and must be accomodated. When a bicyclist and a driver contend for the use of the same portion of the street, the bicyclist always loses, sometimes with injury. So while we're putting up signs for pedestrian crosswalks, while we're painting stripes on the pavement, let's go a little further and complete the job with bicycles as well. Rockwell City has, as was stated, made a commendable start in this direction. As such, it is one of the most evidently concerned communities in Mid-Iowa. All that needs to be done is to extend the system a little more and make it complete. The present and proposed systems are shown together at the right.

The next most important step in the improvement of the community's open space system is the rehabilitation and development of the Community Park (1). With the construction of the new high school to the West edge of Rockwell City, the use of this area has undergone change. Now is the time for the fair board to consolidate their uses of the area. The park board at this time, should amplify the existing park itself through plantings and the development of an efficient circulation system. Specific proposals are shown on page 26.

In conjunction with this, the community should take advantage of a unique opportunity to provide better game court facilities to replace the inadequate tennis courts at the Community Park. On the Junior High School grounds (2) an excess portion of land, left from the relocation of the Senior High School, should be developed to provide the game court facilities which can meet many of the community's demands for such activities (see local recreation desires survey page 8).

The beauty of developing game courts in the area to the east of the Junior High School is that a true integration of the parks and school grounds open spaces concept will occur. Not only will residents of Rockwell City have the benefits of game courts, but during school, actual education for the proper use of these facilities can be promoted. Specific area development plans for the game courts are presented on page 28.

The south neighborhood shown on the map of page 17 is currently without park space or easy access to park space. This should be corrected through the creation of a small parklet (3) at the position shown on the map to the left. An area of an acre or two would suffice to meet the needs of this unique area. A small totlot and passive use area with plantings should be provided.

Areas 4 and 5 represent opportunities for the cooperative extension of school and park intergration. Essentially the Senior High School and Elementary School grounds should come to serve as neighborhood parks with such facilities as totlots, picnic facilities, passive areas, and of course, aesthetic plantings.

Comparably, areas 6 and 7, the County Historical Building and the Courthouse square, should be cooperatively developed to accommodate "people places". A place for a child to swing or slide, or a place for an adult to sit and watch the world of Rockwell City would create a happy, healthy, proud community. (The actual listing of priorities is scheduled in the Five-Year Action Program of page 29).

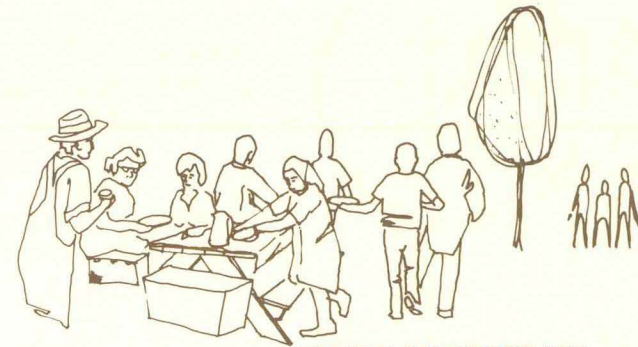
In addition to the customary game facilities such as ball diamonds, game courts, and swimming pools that each community should provide, three basic entities of recreation exist. They are picnicking areas, areas for the elderly, and totlots. Each should be provided to the degree a community realizes demand and its ability to afford such amenities.

Picnicking facilities should be provided at a rate of one "picnic unit" per every 74 persons in the community. A "picnic unit" is comprised of one picnic table (eight person capacity), one-half of one trash container, one sixteenth of a water faucet, and one sixteenth of a shelter and sanitary facility. In other words, every two picnic tables require a trash container. Every sixteen picnic tables should be accommodated by one water faucet, shelter and latrine. Each unit should be placed 100' from the next units for privacy. (Rockwell City's population of three to four thousand park users requires at least forty picnic units, 40 picnic tables, 20 trash receptacles, 3 faucets, 3 shelters, and 3 latrines.)

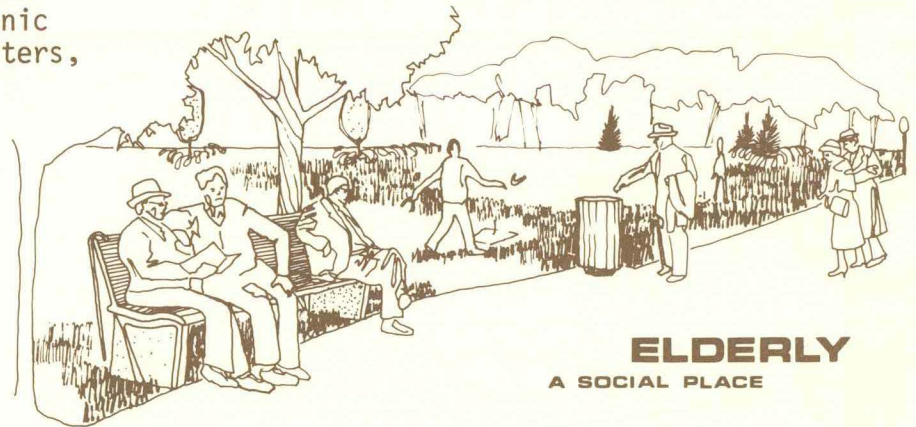
Senior Citizens' Areas should be developed in conjunction with all parks and "people places". These may be no more than simply a few benches, plantings, and a drinking fountain, or they may be developed to contain horseshoe courts, shuffleboard areas, bingo tables, and so forth. The development of such areas should be commensurate to the community's proportionate elderly population. (Rockwell City should give such areas high priority.)

And finally, totlots should be innovatively provided to challenge the community's youngsters with a multitude of opportunities to climb, sit, slide, play in sand, run, swing, and to meet friends. Besides recreation there is much opportunity here for learning. (Rockwell City requires at least one facility of four acres in size. Additional totlots should be provided at least in conjunction with the game court area, the small neighborhood park in the neighborhood to the south, and with the school grounds developments.)

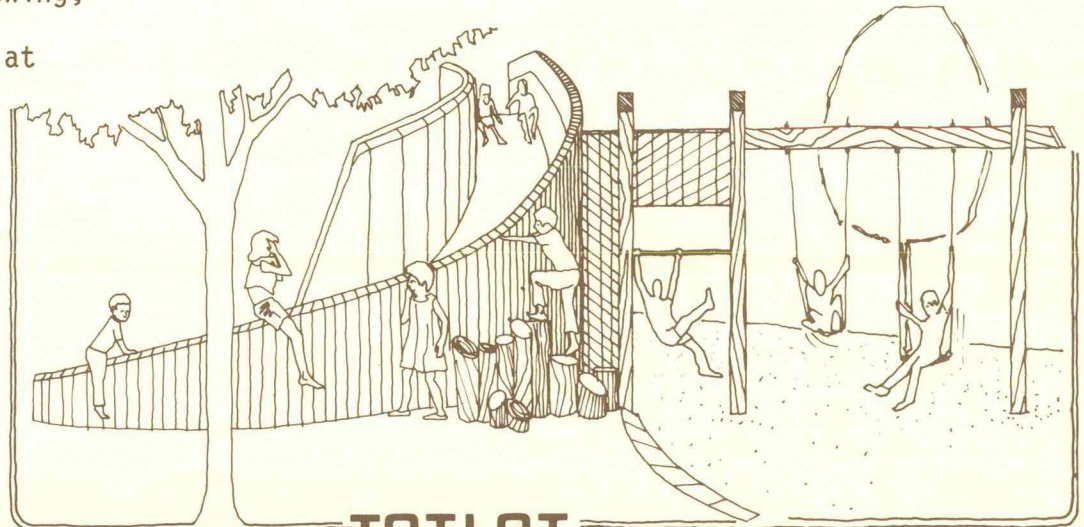
Areas where provisions of these picnicking, elderly and totlot facilities are immediately and apparently necessary are shown on the plans of pages 26 and 28. The Actual placement of these developments is a site design function. Only general locations are indicated on the plans enclosed within this study.



**PICNICKING**



**ELDERLY**  
A SOCIAL PLACE



**TOTLOT**

CLIMB, SIT, SLIDE, SAND, RUN, SWING, PLAY WITH FRIENDS ..... LEARN

# 23 SPECIAL USES

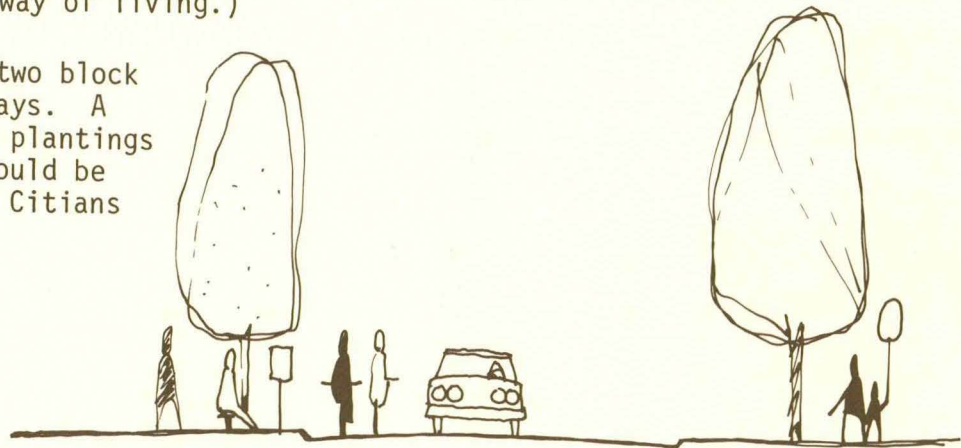
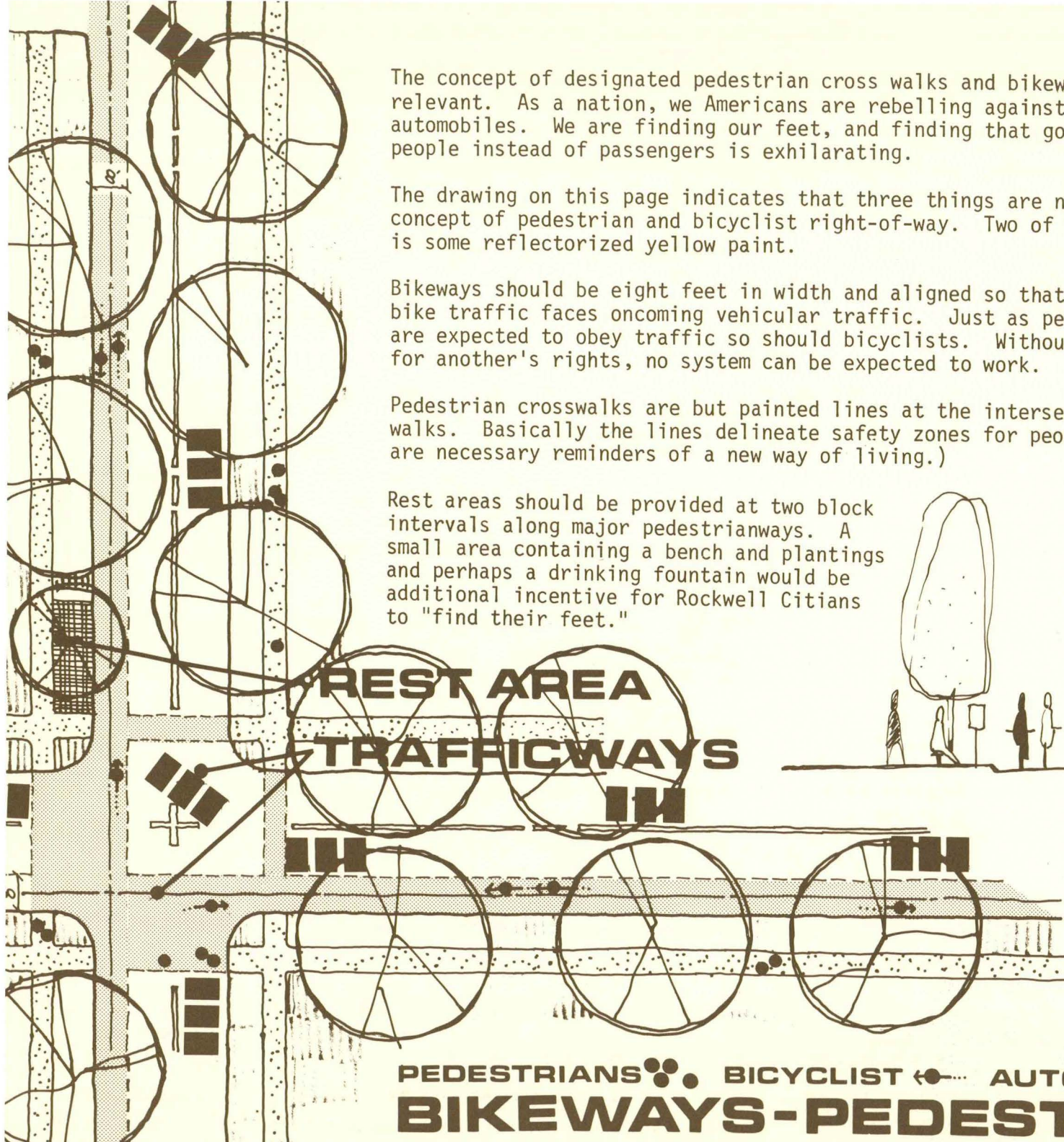
The concept of designated pedestrian cross walks and bikeways is becoming increasingly relevant. As a nation, we Americans are rebelling against the containerized life of automobiles. We are finding our feet, and finding that going slow is pleasurable. Being people instead of passengers is exhilarating.

The drawing on this page indicates that three things are necessary to implement the concept of pedestrian and bicyclist right-of-way. Two of them are signs. The third is some reflectorized yellow paint.

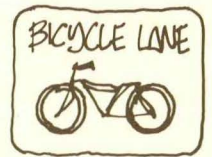
Bikeways should be eight feet in width and aligned so that the outside lane of the bike traffic faces oncoming vehicular traffic. Just as pedestrians and automobiles are expected to obey traffic so should bicyclists. Without respect on every level for another's rights, no system can be expected to work.

Pedestrian crosswalks are but painted lines at the intersection connecting two sidewalks. Basically the lines delineate safety zones for people on foot. (The signs are necessary reminders of a new way of living.)

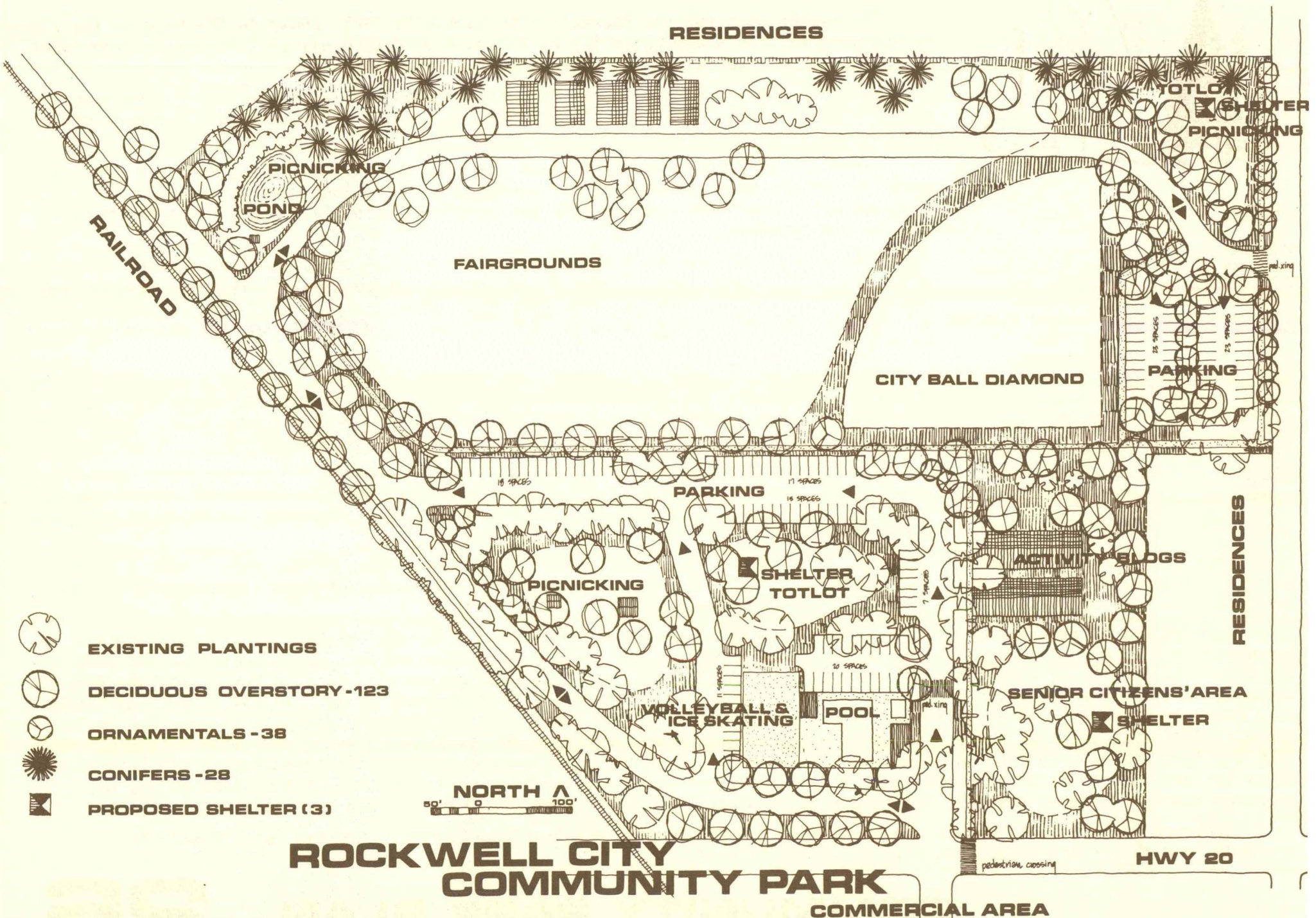
Rest areas should be provided at two block intervals along major pedestrianways. A small area containing a bench and plantings and perhaps a drinking fountain would be additional incentive for Rockwell Citizens to "find their feet."








24



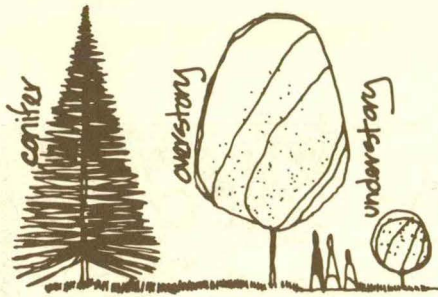
PEDESTRIANS ●● BICYCLIST ← AUTO ■■■  
**BIKEWAYS - PEDESTRIANWAYS**



-  EXISTING PLANTINGS
-  DECIDUOUS OVERSTORY - 123
-  ORNAMENTALS - 38
-  CONIFERS - 28
-  PROPOSED SHELTER (3)



**ROCKWELL CITY  
COMMUNITY PARK**  
COMMERCIAL AREA



OVERSTORY

black ash  
 green ash  
 white ash-seedless  
 catalpa  
 black cherry  
 Kentucky coffeetree  
 ginko  
 hackberry  
 thornless honey locust  
 American linden  
 littleleaf linden  
 norway maple  
 red maple  
 sugar maple  
 bur oak  
 southern pin oak

CONIFERS

scotch pine  
 austrian pine  
 white pine  
 white fir  
 blackhills spruce

UNDERSTORY

flowering crab  
 tree lilacs  
 amur maple  
 mountain ash  
 newport plum  
 russionolive  
 serviceberry

The master plan for the Rockwell City Community Park, shown on the page to the right is included in this study primarily as the most effective way of illustrating the ideas which should be entertained in redevelopment of the park.

With the removal of the school athletic program and its facilities to the High School grounds on the west edge of Rockwell City, the previous land use patterns of the park are in a state of flux.

Since the park board and fair board share in the responsibility for this land, a mutually satisfactory arrangement for management of the land must be derived. While the park board has year-round concern for the park's use, the fair board has short term intensive use problems.

This study envisions that the most equitable solution to joint-management is the reservation of a large central open field for fair activities. This space should link the two sets of fair buildings. The park uses, then, can surround the fairgrounds. In this manner they will act as a buffer for adjacent residential uses and provide overflow space.

The vehicular circulation pattern and parking areas are shown in a redesigned form. The road system surrounding the swimming pool is simplified and directionalized for pedestrian safety. A total of 134 parking spaces are provided in the plan. Short term seasonal parking can be anticipated on some of the grassed areas.

Also indicated is a proposed town league ball diamond. At present, the Rockwell City School System is relocating its facility to the High School grounds. The Town of Rockwell City should seriously explore the virtues of maintaining a diamond of city-wide use at the community park.

Three picnicking areas are designated. A totlot is shown in the most protected portion of the park. And, a senior citizen's area is designated for a very beautiful and active area of the park. The undersized tennis courts adjacent to the pool should be converted to a volleyball court/ice skating rink.

Finally, and in the opinion of this writer, the most important thing that can be done in the redevelopment of the community park is the planting of adequate trees and shrubs. The location of such plantings, is indicated on the plan to the left. In the box at the upper left are indicated the species which should be planted. Because trees are long term investments and the real benefit comes ten years after planting, planting should commence as soon as possible. The Rockwell City Park Board should develop this plan in one of several ways: 1) contact a consultant landscape architect for assistance; 2) contact the Iowa State University Extension Landscape Architect for assistance; or 3) work with a student group from the Iowa State University Landscape Architecture Studio in the finalization of the plan. The plan at the left only shows the possible location of groupings of trees. The aesthetic implications of intermixing of tree species has not been considered. Neither have the ramifications of site conditions. Both are prerequisites to a good planting plan.

Developed cooperatively and in conjunction with the five year action plan, Rockwell City can look forward to a community Park - Fairgrounds that will be second to none.

← ONE-WAY ALLEY  
(EXCEPT FOR SCHOOL BUS REQUIREMENTS)

BUS PARKING

PARKING

GAME COURT

TENNIS COURT

PRACTICE COURTS

DRINKING FOUNTAIN & BENCHES

SITTING AREA

TOTLOT

MINI-TENNIS

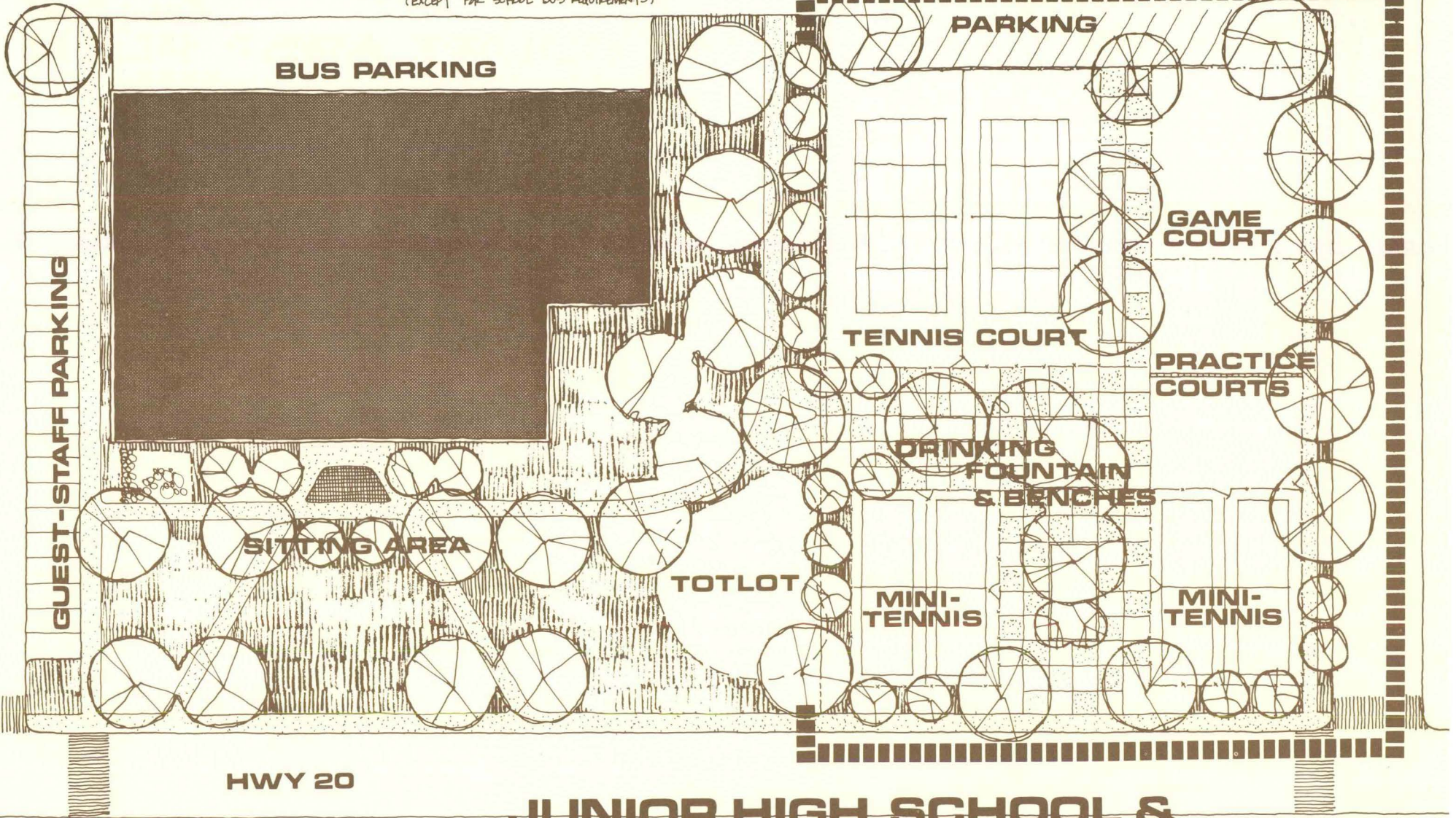
MINI-TENNIS

GUEST-STAFF PARKING

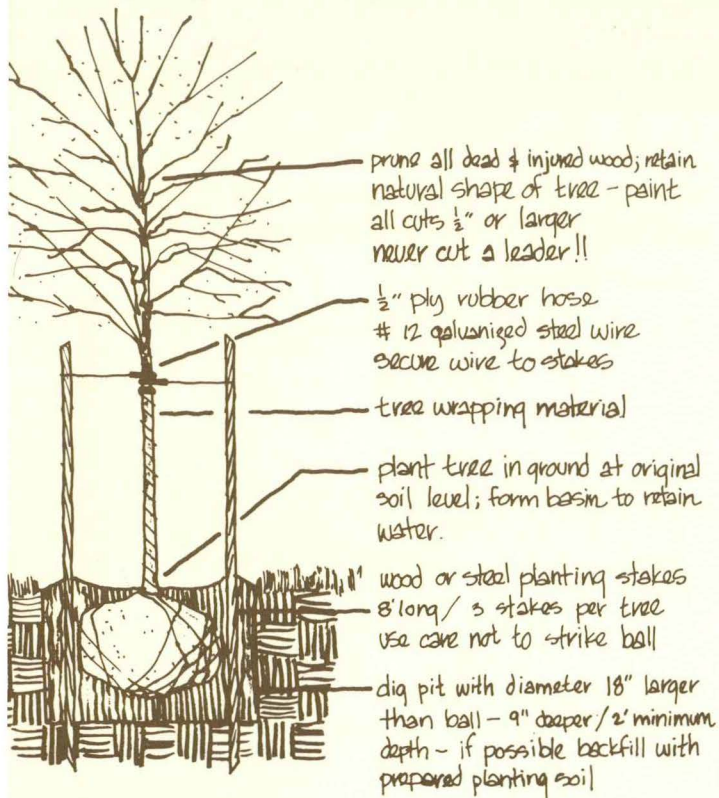
HWY 20

# JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL & GAME COURT AREA

▲ NORTH 0 50' 100'



## GAME COURT AREA PLAN



The Junior High School and Game Court Area is the unique acquisition and development project which receives a high priority in the presentation of this study. The land for this development is currently available because of the relocation of the Rockwell City High School and demolition of the former building on this site. Arrangements can be made at this time for the City Park Board and School Board to jointly develop the area to meet the local recreation demands reflected in the survey included on page 8 of this study.

Cooperation such as this is certainly to be commended and encouraged. In Rockwell City this game court project represents a great opportunity to initiate a mutually satisfactory relationship between the city school and park systems.

It is intended at present that the area delineated by the dark broken line would be leased to the city and the school and city would jointly enter into the development of the game court areas.

The game courts would contain two regulation tennis courts, four mini-tennis (paddle tennis) courts, and an all purpose game court for volleyball, mini-tennis, badminton, or whatever. A practice court separated by a ten foot concrete block wall would provide practice and teaching areas.

In conjunction with the game courts, courtyard or patio-like sitting spaces with plantings should be provided. Again, the design consideration of planting techniques should not be overlooked. (See planting detail at upper left.)

The School Board should at this time as well take advantage of the opportunity to extend the redevelopment to their grounds in a redefinition of pedestrian circulation and in the planting of the school grounds.

Parking should be created to the north of the game court area. The alley way should be directionalized with accommodation granted to school bus requirements.

A totlot should be provided as an assist to young mothers who wish to engage in an afternoon of tennis and yet must stay near their children.

Please note the creation of pedestrian crosswalks.

With such a project completed, Rockwell City will look back with the pride of achievement which will engender the enthusiasm to continue to transform the community into a "people place."

The aesthetic fulfillment of community desires isn't that difficult a task. It merely requires the concern and determination to see a local grass roots improvement program initiated.

### PAST FIVE YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION EXPENDITURES

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OPERATING</u>	<u>DEVELOPMENT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1969	\$4,223.65	\$ 655.39	\$4,879.04
1970	7,800.22	898.04	6,902.18
1971	5,575.85	3,651.10	9,226.96
1972	6,115.29	1,594.77	7,710.06
1973	8,644.82	954.85	7,689.97

### FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

#### YEAR ONE (1974)

1.) Bikeways & Pedestrianways (signs & paint)	\$1,000
2.) Game Court Area (paving-\$16,000; lights-7,000; equipment-3,000; plantings; amenities*-4,000)	\$30,000
TOTAL	\$31,000

#### YEAR TWO (1975)

1.) Bikeways & Pedestrianways (signs & paint)	\$1,000
2.) South Neighborhood Parklet (land acq.-\$1,000; totlot; plantings, amenities*-2,000)	\$3,000
3.) Community Park (plantings-3,000; roads and parking-3,000)	\$6,000
TOTAL	\$10,000

#### YEAR THREE (1976)

1.) Community Park (plantings-\$2,500; shelters-3,500; plantings; amenities*-2,000)	\$8,000
2.) Senior High School (totlot; plantings, amenities*)	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$10,000

#### YEAR FOUR (1977)

1.) Community Park (diamond-\$5,000; plantings; amenities*-3,000)	\$8,000
2.) Elementary School (plantings; amenities*)	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$10,000

#### YEAR FIVE (1978)

1.) Community Park (parking lot-\$3,000; plantings; amenities*-3,000)	\$6,000
2.) High School (plantings; amenities*)	\$2,000
3.) Elementary School (plantings; amenities*)	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$10,000

(\* benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, etc.)

### FIVE YEAR ACTION PROGRAM

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OPERATING</u>	<u>DEVELOPMENT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1974	\$ 9,000	\$31,000	\$40,000
1975	10,500	10,000	20,500
1976	11,000	10,000	21,000
1977	11,500	10,000	21,500
1978	12,000	10,000	22,000

With the design of a five-year action program, the community of Rockwell City is now equipped with the rationale with which to proceed in an expanded effort to provide much needed recreation facilities. However, as with the entire plan itself, the proposed budget figures to the left are subject to change to reflect unforeseeable future trends. While the past five years' expenditures for recreation evidence a healthy concern for Rockwell City's Parks, they appear on a "hit and miss" basis. With the completion and adoption of this guide, a planned approach will direct future expenditures.

The development program represents a much needed, ambitious program covering the gamut of Rockwell City's recreation needs. The program is broken into annual increments for the five year period. Within each year are listed by priority the year's development action.

Obviously Rockwell City has a great desire for game courts, and because of the unique availability of this double-purpose space, this study recommends high priority to this project. But most importantly this study finds that the Bikeways and Pedestrianways would yield terrific benefit. Completion of these developments within two years will see Rockwell City a fore-runner in its concern for its less mobile citizens.

The South Neighborhood Parklet is but a concession to a semi-isolated neighborhood of the community. From the minor expenditure it represents, a maximum benefit will be realized.

The last three years each show development in the Community Park, the heart of Rockwell City. In addition, the budget reflects expenditures in co-operation with the Rockwell City School System. These are contingent upon the concept of mutuality and should be approached cautiously.

The Community Park cannot fully be developed with the monies prescribed in this minimal proposed budget. Any effort beyond these guidelines will yield a better park sooner.

The five year action program contains an expanded operating budget needed to maintain the new facilities. The total development budget of \$71,000 is a considerable elevation from the last five years' total of \$6,159.39. This study definitely feels the community is capable of approaching the expenditures on a year by year basis.

In addition, much of this plan can be implemented by donation of funds from the community or by volunteer labor which allows more funds to be freed for the purchase of materials. The community should seek out project matching assistance from the federal government, if funds are available, but this study strongly recommends the need for continual local support. Any outside assistance should be regarded as supplementary and not substitutionary.

# **FIVE-YEAR ACTION PROGRAM**



THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN SUCH AS THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE GUIDELINES BY WHICH THE LIFE STYLES OF THE COMMUNITY MAY BE AUGMENTED. HOWEVER, ANY PLAN IS ONLY A PLAN, HOPEFULLY KEYED TO AN OBJECTIVE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE UNDERSTANDING OF EXISTING CONDITIONS. TIMES CHANGE AND A

Now that the study is at its conclusion, the responsibilities and procedures for the implementation of this plan must be discussed. It is the responsibility of the City Council of Rockwell City and the citizens involved in recreation to accept the charges of this plan and to work toward implementation of the plans on a continuing basis.

After the City Council adopts this plan, they should charge the Community Park and Recreation Board to carry out the recommendations in the plan. The Parks and Recreation Board should coordinate all public recreation activities in the community. The City Council will need to be receptive to the budget recommendations within their funding capability.

Financial assistance for the implementation of the plans developed within the study may be sought from: Superintendent, Grants-In-Aid Section, Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 Fourth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. The assistance, if available, will be in the form of 50 percent cost sharing on the costs of acquisition or development of the proposed project. Other funds might be derived from donations, user fees, endorsed finance bonds, community clubs, or special community fund-raising drives. The objectives are achievable if enough effort backs the project.

The community will need to perform these other important steps prior to the implementation of any project within the Five-Year Action Program if federal assistance is to be solicited:

1. Obtain appraisal reports (as per Grants-In-Aid Section stipulations) on any lands to be acquired.
2. Obtain detailed site designs based upon topographic surveys of the areas to be developed. More detailed landscape plans should be developed for all project areas.
3. Obtain construction floor plans and elevations of any proposed structures.
4. Obtain accurate cost estimates for acquisition and development.
5. File detailed applications for outside financial assistance.

In the case of projects where outside financial assistance is not sought, the four initial procedures are equally valid. (The community should realize full well that any grants received should be regarded as supplementary and not substitutionary.)

The Community Parks and Recreation Board can do much to expedite and coordinate the development of the project. Broad community support should be sought for the implementation of the projects presented within this report. The community services organizations are charged with the recommendation of providing both financial and manpower assistance as needed. The Rockwell City School System is endowed with the responsibility of cooperatively integrating facility development and operation as described within this study.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES 30**

MIDAS Regional Planning Commission can be expected to now fulfill an advisory function in recommending more detailed procedures and in assistance in applying for any available federal, state, or private funds. We at MIDAS are encouraged by the amount of local support that this plan has received. Our appreciation is expressed to the Recreation Committee that provided invaluable input into the study process. We would be remiss, however, if we failed to state that this plan may remain only a plan unless an entire, unified community of Rockwell City puts their efforts behind the implementation of this project.



### ROCKWELL CITY COUNCIL 1973-1974

PAUL L. WEBB, MAYOR

NORVAL F. JONES, COUNCILMAN

JERRY H. WENDT, COUNCILMAN

DONALD L. BROWNLEE, COUNCILMAN

ROBERT J. SCHULZ, COUNCILMAN

JACK R. GRAY, ATTORNEY

### ROCKWELL CITY RECREATION COMMITTEE

LYNN GRAY

JOYCE CARVER

BOB ANDERSON

JERRY WENDT

LARRY COOPER

JAMES MOORE

### ROCKWELL CITY PARK BOARD

LARRY COOPER (PRES.)

ROBERT GILBERT (SEC.-TRES.)

VACANCY

A unique aspect in the preparation of this plan was the involvement of Iowa State University Landscape Architecture Students, Kim Johnson, Carol Water-Beck, Denney Hemphill, Becky Jones and Bruce Calhoun. With their involvement in the basic research and development of the ideas contained in this report, a true symbiosis existed between the academic and practicing functions of recreation planning. The study is much the better for their involvement.

## CREDITS 31

We wish to extend our appreciation to the Rockwell City Council of 1973-74 who supplied the necessary funding to support the completion of the plan. Their concern for the betterment of the community's recreation system is indeed gratifying.

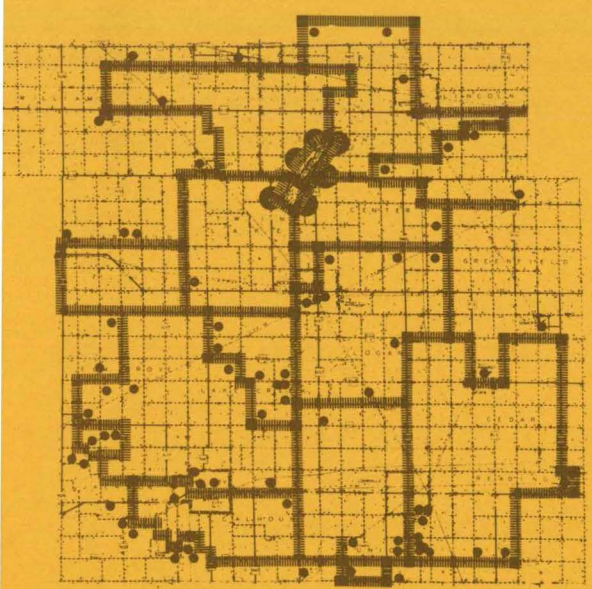
The City Council also appointed a fine Recreation Committee consisting of Lynn Gray, Joyce Carver, Bob Anderson, Jerry Wendt, Larry Cooper, and James Moore. This committee met several times with MIDAS during the study process. In many ways, these six residents of Rockwell City provided much of the information that developed this study.

In the coming five years, the responsibility of implementation of this study's goals falls back to the Council and Park Board. But most importantly, the credit for implementation of the plans will rest with the entire community. We hope that every citizen of Rockwell City will contribute to the successful completion of this effort. The continuation and maintenance of fine recreation areas is the entire community's responsibility.

MIDAS Regional Planning Commission is a relatively young public organization charged with a definite role in community development. As such, in the preparation of this report and the similar report for the Community of Badger, every attempt has been made to develop a prototypical model of recreation planning for utilization by all of Iowa Region Five's communities.

We at MIDAS sincerely hope that these plans can help to enhance the quality of life available to all Mid-Iowans. This sort of "home-grown" planning is essentially the way we, as Mid-Iowans, can "do for ourselves" a task sorely in need of "doing".

We wish to thank all of the innumerable persons who have entered into this study process, and we remind Rockwell City, Badger and all of Mid-Iowa that we are ready and willing to help, in whatever way possible.



# SCENIC DRIVES & PRESERVATION 32

At the conclusion of this study we should look to ways in which the citizens of the Community of Rockwell City can do even more to amplify their lifestyles. "The time is right for staying home....and seeing what we have around us!"

We do have the opportunity, with this concept, to stimulate personal awareness of the landscape upon which we live and of the heritage from which we have evolved. A scenic road becomes a "Scenic Drive" when someone decides to put up a sign informing everyone that it is such.

"Scenic Drives" merely assist us as people to make the right choice....to turn at the right corner, to have a pleasurable and meaningful drive through the countryside. Of course, it would not hurt if, in time, rest stops with comfort stations were ultimately developed along the way.

Scenic roads now connect parks and historic points, parallel our rivers, cross the fertile glacial plains, yielding access to the existential aspects of the landscape. The "post-card views" of our land are to be seen along these scenic roads.

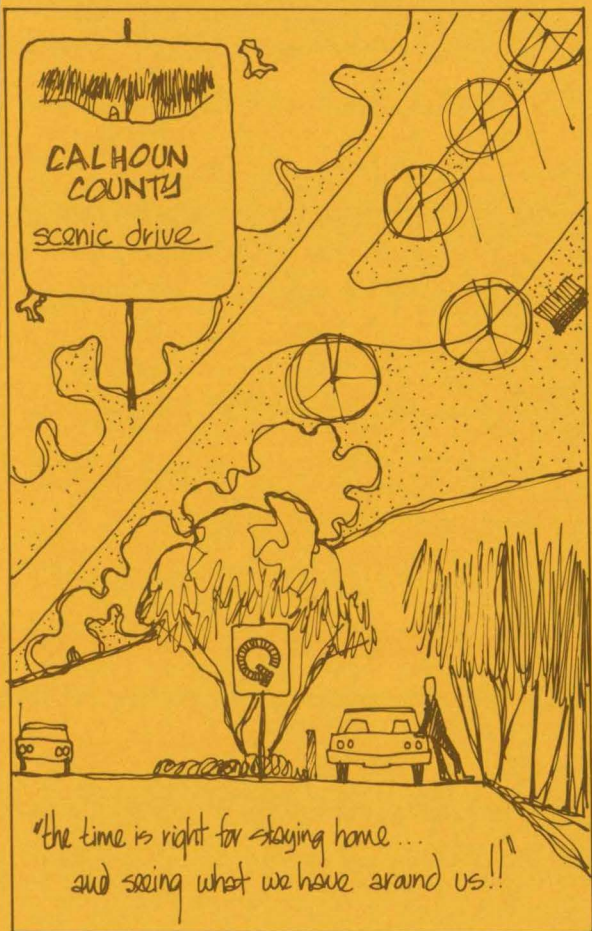
What this last page of the study is recommending is simply this: the residents of Rockwell City and its environs should strive to see developed a designated system of "Scenic Drives" throughout Calhoun County.

The delineation of the proposed "Scenic Drives" shown at the upper left is derived from the annual reports of the Calhoun County Historical Society. In excess of one hundred scenic views, rural parks, and historic features are available along the "Scenic Drive" system. It is readily apparent that anyone embarking upon such a drive would return more cognizant of their landscape and heritage.

With such familiarization this study feels that in time we would see an increased appreciation and understanding within all of the residents of the county. The anti-litter campaign has successfully instilled in us Americans a sense of responsibility for our land. Hopefully a keynoted system of "Scenic Drives" would instill in us the appreciation required for the preservation of the intrinsic values of our landscape-heritage.

Historical and ecological preservation are begot by understanding and appreciation.

The choice is ours; we only have to make it.



"the time is right for staying home ...  
and seeing what we have around us!!"

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