TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	TITLE	PAGE
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	The Plan and Importance of Recreation and Parks	1
	Creating the Plan	2
	Purpose of the Plan	3
2	AN OVERVIEW OF THE CITY OF READING	4
	A Brief History of the City of Reading	4
	Reading within the Region	6
	Existing Land Use and Development Patterns	7
	Demographic Inventory and Analysis	8
	Housing Inventory and Analysis	10
	Socio-Economic Inventory and Analysis	11
	The Government Composition of the City of Reading	12
	Parks and Recreation within the City of Reading	12
3	COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	14
	Student Recreation Survey	14
	Resident Recreation Survey	17
	Community Meetings	20
4	INVENTORY, ANALYSIS AND ISSUES	23
	Staffing and Financing	23
	Park Areas and Recreation Facilities	35
	Recreation Programs	45
	Maintenance, Safety and Security	55
	Communications and Public Involvement	59
	Overall Findings	60
5	ACTION PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES	65
	Goals and Policies to Implement this Plan	65
	Strategies for Action	67
	Funding the Recommendations	90

LIST OF FIGURES AND MAPS

MAP	TITLE / DESCRIPTION
1	City of Reading Geographic Proximity
2	Existing Land Use Composition
3	Berks County Regional Park and Recreation Facilities
4	City of Reading Park and Recreation Facilities
5	Environmental and Natural Features
6	Park and Recreation Service Areas

LIST OF PLAN APPENDICIES

APPENDIX	TITLE / DESCRIPTION
A	Student Recreation Survey
B	Resident Recreation Survey
C	Profiles of the City of Reading Park and Recreation Areas
D	Profiles of the Greenways, Linear Parks and Natural Resource Areas
E	Profiles of the Reading School District Facilities
F	Profiles of Public, Quasi-Public and Private Facilities

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Reading 10-Year Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (May 2002) was prepared with the assistance of many people, groups and organizations. In February of 2001, the City of Reading selected the professional consulting team of Hawk Valley Associates, ARRO Consulting, ELA Group, and Recreation and Parks Solutions, to prepare this Plan. With the assistance of the Public Works Department and Community Development Department, the City of Reading has successfully planned today for the recreation and open space needs of tomorrow. This Plan will provide guidance for future recreation planning efforts, park development, programs and infrastructure improvements within the City of Reading for the next 10 years.

City of Reading Government

Joseph D. Eppihimer, Mayor
Jeffrey White, Managing Director
Vaughn D. Spencer, Council President
Angel F. Figueroa, Council Member
Casey S. Ganster, Council Member
George R. Kerns, Jr., Council Member
Michael D. Shorn, Council Member
Donna Reed, Council Member
Jeffrey S. Waltman, Council Member

Department of Public Works

Charles M. Jones, P.E., Director
Kyle C. Zeiber, Operations Division Manager
Michael Zuber, Recreation Team Superintendent

Department of Community Development

Nan Balmer, Director
Karl Graybill, Planner
Amy Woldt, Historic Preservation Specialist

Department of Law

Keith Mooney, Esquire, Acting City Solicitor

Professional Consulting Team

J. Jerome Skrincosky, AICP, Hawk Valley Associates P.C., Project Manager and Principal Planner
Richard L. Jackson, RLA/ASLA, ELA Group, Inc., Landscape Architect and Recreation Facility Analyst
Michael Huxta, ELA Group, Inc., Landscape Architect and Recreation Facility Analyst
Susan E. Abele, CPRP, Recreation and Parks Solutions, Certified Park and Recreation Planner
Steven C. Landes, CPRP, Recreation and Parks Solutions, Certified Park and Recreation Planner
Alex J. Morrison, P.E., ARRO Consulting, Inc., Professional Engineer
Brian Higgins, ARRO Consulting, Inc., GIS Analyst and Profile Designer
Dianne L. Schlott, ARRO Consulting, Inc., Secretary and Profile Designer
Christopher M. Paff, ARRO Consulting, Inc., Certified Code Official and Profile Designer
Joseph R. Antonelli, ARRO Consulting, Inc., Planner and Profile Designer

The City of Reading 10-Year Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (May 2002) was adopted by City Council on May 13, 2002. The project was funded by a $50,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program.

CITY OF READING

10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

MAY 2002

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

THIS PLAN AND THE IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND PARKS

This Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan presents ways to enhance the quality of life for those who live and work in the City of Reading. It serves as a guide for the improvement of the City's public park areas, recreation facilities, and programs.

This Plan indicates how to develop, rehabilitate and improve active recreational facilities (such as tennis courts, skateboard parks, basketball courts and athletic fields) and more passive areas (such as bicycle trails and picnic areas) to serve the needs of the present and future residents. Additional and expanded recreation programs are also recommended within this Plan.

Recommendations have been provided within this Plan to consider adequate maintenance, security, and safety measures within the City's parks and to better inform the community about and involve them in the recreation opportunities that are available to them.

The City's Parks and Recreation Teams are the two major providers of parks and recreation services in Reading. The efforts of these agencies greatly enrich the lives of many people. While these two organizations have important roles to play in carrying out this Plan, so do others. Cooperation will be essential among residents, community groups and organizations, the Reading School District, County of Berks, and many other individuals and agencies for the recommendations, so this Plan can be successfully implemented.

Municipal recreation and park services offer significant benefits and value to Reading's citizens and the community as a whole. Through recreation and parks, opportunities are provided for neighbors to meet each other, to build a stronger sense of community, and to strengthen families. Citizens enjoy the outdoors, youth are provided with alternatives, and older adults stay active. Recreation and parks do more to improve the quality of life for City residents than any other municipal service. This Plan presents ways to strengthen and enhance the opportunities for citizens to enjoy the City's park areas and recreation facilities and participate in quality recreation programs.

The City of Reading was awarded a $50,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program to complete a Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan. This Plan will provide guidance for future recreation planning efforts, park development, programs and infrastructure improvements within the City of Reading for the next 10 years.

CREATING THE PLAN

This Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan was prepared to be a continued effort by implementing the goals, objectives and policies as contained within the City of Reading Comprehensive Plan, as completed in 2000. The Plan has been undertaken in four phases:

Phase 1: An Overview of the City of Reading

Demographic and economic profile and information concerning government structure within the City of Reading are included within this section.

Phase 2: Community Involvement

Three techniques have been used to involve and get input from the citizens of the City of Reading:

Written Surveys: A 12-question survey was distributed to and completed by 5,270 middle and high school students in the Reading School District. Written surveys were also distributed to 74 groups and organizations providing services in the City of Reading. Results of each survey were tabulated and analyzed.

Public Meetings: Citizens attended four neighborhood workshop meetings held at selected schools throughout the City of Reading. These meetings addressed local interests and concerns about parks and recreation to seek ideas and input.

Interviews: Interviews were held with City parks and recreation staff to gain additional information and insight about the present system.

Phase 3: Inventory, Analysis, and Issues

Five aspects of the system in place to deliver parks and recreation services within the City of Reading have been evaluated:

- Staffing and Financing
- Park Areas and Recreation Facilities
- Recreation Programs
- Maintenance, Safety, and Security
- Communications and Public Involvement

The parks and recreation inventory information has been summarized into key issues, to clearly show the opportunities and challenges facing the City of Reading in the future and to determine existing and future park, recreation, and open space needs.

Phase 4: Action Plan and Implementation Strategies

Utilizing the key issues facing the City's recreation and park system, goals and policies have been developed to provide a framework for making Plan recommendations.

Based upon community input and the findings of the inventory and analysis of existing conditions, recommendations and a 10-year action plan have been formulated including ways to finance and implement the necessary improvements and plan recommendations have been outlined. The professional park and recreation staff and revisions were made to the Plan before it was formally recommended to the Reading City Council for adoption.

PURPOSES OF THIS PLAN

This Plan serves the following 10 purposes:

1. Develop a detailed inventory of the City's parks, playgrounds, and open space areas and facilities.

2. Identify service areas for each of the City's parks and playgrounds based on the proximity of sites to neighborhoods.

3. Identify improvements of existing park areas and recreation facilities and potential locations for acquisition of additional parkland, to meet use and accessibility standards and address the current and future needs of neighborhoods.

4. Present a 10-year plan and budget to complete the identified improvements and acquisition of parkland, addressing the highest priority items first and distributing the expense evenly over the 10-year period.

5. Provide recommendations for development and expansion of recreation programs.

6. Evaluate the staffing and the allocations of funds for the park operation and maintenance and recreation program functions of City government, and provide direction to most cost effectively and efficiently provide recreation and park services for the City of Reading.

7. Provide potential trail and greenway opportunities for significant resources such as the Schuylkill River and to link park areas and recreation facilities to neighborhoods.

8. Provide guidance on methods to allow the public to enjoy greenways, park areas, and recreation facilities through improved maintenance of sites.

9. Identify revenue sources such as grants and user fees to fund recreation programs, provide adequate staffing, and finance the implementation of the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan recommendations.

10. Identify partnership opportunities for the City to improve parks and recreation services for citizens.

SECTION 2: AN OVERVIEW OF THE CITY OF READING

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CITY OF READING

Relatively little is known of the Native American settlements that were located on land now occupied by the City of Reading. As the Lenni Lenape tribe occupied this part of the country, the settlements were likely seasonal rather than permanent, a pattern that is consistent with the semi-nomadic lifestyle of these people. All of what is now the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was granted to William Penn by King Charles II of England as repayment of a debt owed to Penn's father. Unusual for his time, Penn believed that the real "owners" of his new territory were the original inhabitants. Upon his arrival in the New World, he proceeded to bargain with the native peoples for the right to the property granted him by the Crown. Consequently, the early history of Pennsylvania is notably free from the battles with natives that characterize the European settlement of most of the United States.

The European settlement of Reading did not begin until the 1730's, when it was first divided into six tracts of land. These parcels later became part of a plan for the "Towne of Reading" proposed in 1743 by William Penn's sons Richard and Thomas. The Penn brothers named the town after Reading in Berkshire, England, the ancestral "shrine" of the Penn family. Officially laid out in 1748, Reading's original plan featured 520 lots and 204 out lots in a grid pattern as well as two principal streets.

Penn Street, named for William Penn, was laid out in an east-to-west orientation perpendicular to the Schuylkill River, and incorporated part of the Tulpehocken Road that connected Philadelphia and Harrisburg. What are now the 400 and 500 blocks of Penn Street were historically called Market Street, since those blocks were the location of farmers' markets until 1871. Conrad Weiser, a prominent figure in the County's early history, operated the City's first general store on a lot purchased in 1749 along Penn Street. Callowhill Street, currently known as Fifth Street, was named after Hannah Callowhill, William Penn's second wife. It is laid out in a north-south direction, intersecting Penn Street at right angles. Most streets in the new "Towne" were originally given the names of royal titles and those of Richard and Thomas Penn, receiving their present names in 1833.

When the County of Berks was created in 1752, Reading became the County seat. The original Courthouse was erected in 1762 in what is now Penn Square. Reading grew, becoming an incorporated borough in 1783, a city in 1847, and a Third Class City, its current status in 1874. Transportation and its effects were largely responsible for Reading's early growth. Ferries were used to cross the Schuylkill River until the first Penn Street Bridge was built in 1810, followed by a bridge at Bingaman Street in 1831. The first major roads to connect Reading with other cities were turnpikes. The Centre Turnpike Company, incorporated in 1805, built a road to the north, the Perkiomen and Reading Turnpike (1810) led southeast, and the Berks and Dauphin Turnpike (1817) headed west. Stagecoaches provided inner-city transportation along these and other routes between 1786 and 1838. By the late 1820's, two canals served Reading, establishing the City as a halfway point in the system of canals linking the Susquehanna River with the Delaware River. The Schuylkill Navigation Canal, connecting Reading and Philadelphia, was completed in 1824; the Union Canal was in operation by 1828. The relative ease of movement afforded by these early "highways" resulted in a period of industrial growth during the first half of the 19th Century. The City's early industry consisted of smaller enterprises in trades, crafts, and light manufacturing. Local factories produced beer, cigars, shoes and boots. Reading was also a thriving center for hat making: in 1806, there were 40 hat factories in the City.

Reading developed rapidly between 1825 and 1850. The Industrial Revolution of the 1830's brought to this country the invention of steam-powered machinery and a surge of advances in heavy industry and transportation. The new railroads were so successful that the stagecoaches and the new canal system were unable to compete and were eventually abandoned. The largest local railroad was the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. Incorporated in 1833, the Philadelphia and Reading constructed the first line from Reading to Pottstown in 1837. This line was extended to Philadelphia in 1839. The company originally built the line to ship coal from Pennsylvania's anthracite region to the markets and ports of the eastern seaboard: there was no passenger service until the 1840's. The Philadelphia and Reading eventually became one of the largest railroad industries in the nation, and was briefly the largest industrial corporation in the world just prior to the Civil War. It was an industry unto itself, constructing its own railroad shops where the first coal-burning engine was designed and built. Other early industries included the Reading Iron and Nail Works and the Carpenter Steel Mills, along with hosiery and knitting mills, hardware production, foundries, machine works and flour mills. Other factories produced a variety of goods including bricks, furniture, combs and brushes, and pianos. The Civil War brought greater demands for goods, causing factories to increase in size as well as number.

The jobs provided by the railroad and the City's many other thriving industries were a powerful attraction to new immigrants seeking work. Reading's original population was largely of German heritage. Now, immigrants from Ireland, Poland, Italy and the Ukraine settled in the southern part of the City, right among the factories where they worked. As the immigrants and laborers settled in the southern part of the City, the introduction of the trolley in 1874 allowed Reading's wealthy industrialists to move north, building their Victorian-era mansions along Centre Avenue and establishing that neighborhood as one of Reading's first suburbs.

The boundaries of the city grew north and south, and by the late 1860's, the City limits included what is now the heart of the City. The Riverdale, Northmont, and Glenside neighborhoods were added in the early 1900's along with the 18th Ward and an area of Mt. Penn. The City achieved its current configuration in the late 1960's.

At the dawn of the 20th Century, Reading was a major manufacturing center. As the City's population grew, technological advancement led to modern industry and the manufacturing of machinery and automobiles. Retail activity became important, and the City had several large department stores. In 1923, there were 700 manufacturing institutions producing more than 300 different types of goods. Reading boasted the largest brick kiln in the country and was an important center for both hosiery manufacture and the production of builder's hardware.

The economic depression of the late 1930's affected the City just as it did the entire nation. However, the railroad and its related industries fared better than most because the rails were still used to move basic commodities. The Depression still marked the beginning of the City's seven-decade decline in prominence as a population and manufacturing center. The 1930 Census reported that the City was home to 111,171 people, or 48% of all Berks County residents, a peak that has never been equaled since.

With its concentration of heavy industry, Reading was an important center during World War II. Despite the high demand for labor both during and after the war, the population continued to drop. When the war was over, the boom in housing and highway construction enabled many families to leave the City for the new suburbs.

The 1940's, 1950's, and early 1960's were a particularly colorful era for the City of Reading as it gained a reputation as a haven for illegal gambling activity and attendant political corruption. The City achieved such notoriety that it became the focus of a 1966 investigation by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice. In 1967, the Commission produced a document entitled, Wincanton: The Politics of Corruption, with "Wincanton" being a thinly disguised Reading. However, by the time the report was finally issued, most of the principal players (easily recognizable to City residents despite the fictional names given by the authors) were either in jail or dead, and one of Reading's more shameful chapters had been closed.

The 1960's and 1970's were marked by the effect of Federal urban renewal programs upon the City. Although it later became fashionable to criticize the effects of the wholesale demolition and reconstruction that these programs sponsored, there is little doubt that Reading gained some clear benefits. Large areas of old, dilapidated and dense development in the downtown area were cleared and replaced with new structures or surface parking. The redevelopment effort was further "assisted" in June 1972 by Hurricane Agnes, which brought the most serious flooding the City had ever experienced. The low-lying areas along Riverfront Drive were destroyed, clearing the way for the Reading Area Community College campus and the industrial development that now occupies these lands.

The widespread demolition funded by Federal urban renewal programs may have contributed to a "backlash" in provoking a nationwide resurgence of interest in urban areas and their history. Reading felt some of this interest, and in 1978, the City received a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to conduct a historical sites survey of the entire City. It was recognized that the preservation of Reading's historic resources was vital in maintaining Reading's large inventory of early 20th Century structures and that significant elements of the City's historical integrity were being lost through the effects of demolition and "misguided" (i.e., historically inappropriate) improvements. The survey identified no fewer than 23 potential historical districts within the City. In the late 1970's and early 1980's, three historic districts were established in Reading: Callowhill, Centre Park and Prince. To protect the districts' historic resources, a Historic District Ordinance was adopted and a Historical Architecture Review Board (HARB) was established.

In 1991, the City of Reading Charter Study Commission was elected to study the existing commission form of government, and to determine whether becoming a Home Rule Charter City would be more economical or efficient. The Commission's study concluded that the City would benefit with a "strong mayor" form of home-rule government. The City electorate endorsed this recommendation and a new City Charter was drafted. The new Charter took effect in January 1996.

In 1998, Reading celebrated its 250th Anniversary, based on the year that Thomas and Richard Penn first laid out the City. The year-long bicenquinquagenary celebration included a combined 250th Anniversary-Armed Forces Day Parade, various projects by individual schools, celebration by various ethnic groups, a commemorative train trip to Philadelphia, and the burying of a time capsule to be opened in 2048.

READING WITHIN THE REGION

The City of Reading is strategically and geographically located within the center of Berks County. The City is comprised of a total land area of 9.99 square miles (6,394 acres) and is bounded to the north by Bern Township and Muhlenberg Township; to the east by Lower Alsace Township, Mt. Penn Borough

and Cumru Township; to the south by Cumru Township and Kenhorst Borough; and to the west by Wyomissing Borough and West Reading Borough. The City of Reading is regionally depicted within Berks County on Figure 1 of this Plan.

While the City of Reading is located within the heart of Berks County, it is also regionally located within close proximity to various diverse urbanized areas such as the City of Philadelphia (47 miles to the southeast), the City of Allentown (31 miles to the northeast), the City of Lancaster (29 miles to the southwest), the City of Harrisburg (52 miles to the west), the City of Lebanon (28 miles to the northwest), the City of Pottsville (28 miles to the north) and the City of Scranton (67 miles to the northeast). Figure 1 depicts the regional location of the City of Reading within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Based upon the regionalized location of the City of Reading, it is directly influenced by the land use characteristics and development patterns of all adjacent urbanized urban areas. The City of Reading has also been indirectly effected by the undeveloped rural and suburban areas located within close proximity to the City of Reading. The current trends of residential, commercial and industrial land development activity, encroaching upon the rural undeveloped areas of Berks County, has resulted in a significant social and economic impact on the City of Reading.

EXISTING LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

The existing land use and development patterns within any municipality are essential planning elements to formulate a plan for park, recreation and open space to accommodate the needs of the residents within the City of Reading. An Existing Land Use Map was prepared by the City of Reading in 1998, as part of the overall preparation of the City of Reading Comprehensive Plan 2000. In order to supplement the previous planning effort, an update to the Existing Land Use Map was conducted for the City of Reading and adjacent municipalities in July of 2001, utilizing real estate assessment records for use in developing this Plan. Although certain land use designations varied slightly, it could be concluded that the land use patterns were fairly consistent with the Comprehensive Plan 2000.

Based upon the 1998 land Use Survey conducted by the City of Reading as part of the Comprehensive Plan (2000), it was concluded that the City of Reading contained the following land use composition:

27.6 %	Residential
9.3 %	Commercial
8.3 %	Industrial
9.0 %	Public and Quasi-Public
13.1 %	Outdoor Recreational
2.5 %	Cemetery
20.1 %	Transportation
4.3 %	Railroad
2.2 %	Schuylkill River and Tulpehocken Creek
3.6 %	Undeveloped

The Existing Land Use Map of 2001 for the City of Reading and adjacent municipalities is depicted on Figure 2 of this Plan.

DEMOGRAPHIC INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Population characteristics generally provide guidance in determining the resources and needs of a community. The following information concerning population, sex and age characteristics, race and housing will be utilized to compare and analyze demographic data as it relates to the recreation and open space needs of the City of Reading.

Tables 1 and 2 provide historical population counts and trends for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Berks County and the City of Reading.

TABLE 1
HISTORICAL POPULATION COUNTS (1960 - 2000)

YEAR	PENNSYLVANIA	BERKS COUNTY	CITY OF READING
1960	11,319,366	275,414	98,177
1970	11,800,766	296,382	87,643
1980	11,863,895	312,497	78,686
1990	11,881,643	336,523	78,380
2000	12,281,054	373,638	81,207

Source: United States Census Bureau

TABLE 2
HISTORICAL POPULATION TRENDS (1960 - 2000)

DECADE	PENNSYLVANIA	BERKS COUNTY	CITY OF READING
1960 - 1970	4.24 %	7.61 %	- 10.73 %
1970 - 1980	0.53 %	5.44 %	- 10.22 %
1980 - 1990	0.15 %	7.69 %	- 0.39 %
1990 - 2000	3.36 %	11.03 %	3.61 %

Source: United States Census Bureau

Based upon a review of the historical population trends, the following conclusions and assumptions have been derived for the City of Reading:

- The City of Reading has experienced some significant losses in population between 1960 and 1990. This trend could be attributed to suburban sprawl, a decline in quality housing, a high crime rate, the 1972 flood (Tropical Storm Agnes) and potential undercounts by the United States Census Bureau.

- Over the past decade the City of Reading has experience a moderate gain in the overall population. This gain could be attributed to an increase subdivision and land development activity, promotional effort to improve the quality of life, and improved efforts by the United States Census Bureau.

Table 3 provides a demographic profile of selected data (sex, age, race and density composition) for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Berks County and the City of Reading for the year 2000.

TABLE 3
PROFILE OF GENERAL DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS (2000)

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE	PENNSYLVANIA		BERKS COUNTY		CITY OF READING	
	TOTAL NUMBER	PERCENT	TOTAL NUMBER	PERCENT	TOTAL NUMBER	PERCENT
SEX						
Male	5,929,663	48.3	182,956	49.0	39,205	48.3
Female	6,351,391	51.7	190,682	51.0	42,002	51.7
AGE						
Under 5 years	727,804	5.9	23,032	6.2	7,037	8.7
5 – 14 years	1,691,794	12.6	53,448	14.3	13,776	17.6
15 – 24 years	1,597,072	13.0	48,466	13.0	12,987	16.0
25 – 34 years	1,560,486	12.7	47,454	12.7	12,244	15.1
35 – 44 years	1,948,076	15.9	60,489	16.2	11,261	13.9
45 – 54 years	1,705,032	13.9	51,305	13.7	8,339	10.3
55 – 64 years	1,131,625	9.2	33,354	8.9	5,495	6.8
65 – 74 years	969,272	7.9	28,766	7.7	4,940	6.1
75 – 84 years	712,326	5.8	20,164	5.4	3,759	4.6
85 years and over	237,567	1.9	7,260	1.9	1,369	1.7
MEDIAN AGE		38.0		37.4		30.6
RACE						
One Race	12,138,830	98.8	368,028	98.5	77,815	95.8
2 or more Races	1,224,612	1.2	5,610	1.5	3,392	4.2
White	10,484,203	85.4	329,460	88.2	48,059	59.2
Black/Afr.-Amer.	1,224,612	10.0	13,778	3.7	9,947	12.2
American Indian	18,348	0.1	611	0.2	356	0.4
Asian	219,813	1.8	3,785	1.0	1,296	1.6
Hawaiian/Pac.Isl.	3,417	----	77	----	32	----
Some other race	188,437	1.5	20,317	5.4	18,125	22.3
Hispanic/Latino	394,088	3.2	36,357	9.7	30,302	37.3
DENSITY	274.01 Persons/Square Mile		432.3 Persons/Square Mile		8,202.7 Persons/Square Mile	

Source: United States Census Bureau

Based upon a review of the selected statistical data contained in Table 3, the following conclusions and assumptions have been derived concerning the demographics of the City of Reading:

- The City of Reading has a significantly younger population (34 years and younger) as compared to those of the Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This statistic is further evident when comparing all adult age groups (35 years and over) and in the median age for the City of Reading. This Plan must address the needs of the younger age groups.

- The race composition is more diverse within the City of Reading as compared to the percentages within Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This composition is generally a characteristic of urban environments within the United States. Of specific note, 37.3 percent of the population within the City of Reading is considered Hispanic or Latino in origin.

- The residential density composition was significantly higher within the City of Reading, as compared to Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This count is consistent with most cities and urban areas within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Based upon the demographic profile presented for sex, age, race and density composition, this Plan will attempt to address the recreational and open space needs within the City of Reading. Specific attention should be provided to the younger age groups (under 34 years), the ethnicity and minority composition, and the overall residential density within the City of Reading.

HOUSING INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Table 4 provides a housing profile of selected data (total housing units, occupancy and ownership rates) for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Berks County and the City of Reading for the year 2000.

TABLE 4
PROFILE OF HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS (2000)

HOUSING PROFILE	PENNSYLVANIA		BERKS COUNTY		CITY OF READING	
	TOTAL NUMBER	PERCENT	TOTAL NUMBER	PERCENT	TOTAL NUMBER	PERCENT
Total Number of Housing Units	5,249,750	100.0	150,222	100.0	34,314	100.0
Occupied Units	4,777,003	91.0	141,570	94.2	30,113	87.8
Vacant Units	472,724	9.0	8,652	5.8	4,201	12.2
Owner Occupied	3,406,337	71.3	104,719	74.0	15,355	51.0
Renter Occupied	1,370,666	28.7	36,851	26.0	14,758	49.0
Persons/Owner Occupied Unit	2.62 Average Persons/Unit		2.65 Average Persons/Unit		2.74 Average Persons/Unit	
Persons/Renter Occupied Unit	2.12 Average Persons/Unit		2.27 Average Persons/Unit		2.51 Average Persons/Unit	
Homeowner Vacancy Rate	1.6 %		1.7 %		4.9 %	
Rental Unit Vacancy Rate	7.2 %		6.3 %		9.1 %	

Source: United States Census Bureau

Based upon a review of the selected statistical data contained in Table 4, the following conclusions and assumptions have derived concerning the housing profile for the City of Reading:

- The percentage of vacant housing units is significantly higher within the City of Reading, as compared to Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This count is consistent with most cities and urban areas within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- The owner to rental housing occupancy ratio is almost 1 to 1 ratio within the City of Reading as compared to a nearly 3 to 1 ratio for Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- The average number of persons per household is significantly higher within the City of Reading, as compared to Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- The vacancy rates for homeowner and rental occupied housing units within the City of Reading is significantly higher within the City of Reading, as compared to Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Of specific note is the high vacancy rate for homeowners within the City of Reading.

Based upon the housing profile presented, this Plan will attempt to address the recreational and open space needs within the City of Reading. Specific attention should be paid to the ownership and rental composition, overall occupancy rates, and the average person per residential unit.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Table 5 provides a social and economic profile (income, poverty status and education) for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Berks County and the City of Reading for the year 1990.

TABLE 5
PROFILE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS (1990)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE	PENNSYLVANIA		BERKS COUNTY		CITY OF READING	
Per Capita Income	$ 14,068		$ 14,604		$ 11,041	
Median Family Income	$ 34,856		$ 37,755		$ 27,277	
Median Household Income	$ 29,069		$ 32,048		$ 22,112	
Persons Below Poverty Status and Conditions	1,283,629	10.8 %	26,220	7.8 %	14,857	19.0 %
Families Below Poverty Status and Conditions	259,117	8.1 %	4,806	5.2 %	2,947	15.2 %
High School Graduation	8,875,587	74.7 %	235,566	70.0 %	45,774	58.4 %
College Graduation	2,126,814	17.9 %	50,815	15.1 %	6,662	8.5 %

Source: United States Census Bureau

Based upon a review of the selected statistical data contained in Table 5, the following conclusions and assumptions have been derived concerning the social and economic profile for the City of Reading:

- The per capita income, median family income and median family income levels for the City of Reading are significantly lower compared to the averages of Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This statistic is consistent with most cities and urban areas

within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- The overall poverty status (persons and families) is significantly higher for the City of Reading, compared to the averages of Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This statistic is also consistent with most cities and urban areas within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- The educational attainment levels (high school and college graduation rates) are significantly lower for the City of Reading, as compared to the averages of Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This statistic is also consistent with most cities and urban areas within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Based upon the social and economic profile presented, this Plan will attempt to address the recreational and open space needs within the City of Reading. Specific attention should be paid to income levels, poverty status rates, and educational attainment levels.

THE GOVERNMENTAL COMPOSITION OF THE CITY OF READING

The City of Reading has an elected Mayor who supervises the day-to-day operations of City government. Seven (7) residents within the City of Reading are elected to City Council, with one (1) resident serving as president and the other (6) represent geographic districts. The primary responsibilities of City Council include enacting legislation, developing budget priorities, monitoring spending, and overseeing the administrative management performance of City government.

The City of Reading operates through a system of departments: Community Development, Finance, Fire and Rescue Services, Human Resources, Police, Law, and Public Works. The directors of each department report to the City Managing Director, who answers to the Mayor.

PARKS AND RECREATION WITH THE CITY OF READING'S GOVERNEMENT

Parks and recreation services in Reading fall under the Department of Public Works. As seen on the City's organizational chart, three division managers report to the Director of Public Works: Environmental, Services, and Operations. Parks and recreation services are housed in the Operations Division. The Operations Division Manager oversees four teams of service, Streets, Property Maintenance, Parks, and Recreation, each of which are headed by a superintendent or supervisor.

Table 6 of this Plan provides an Organizational Chart for the City of Reading Department of Public Works.

TABLE 6

CITY OF READING DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART (2002)

<table>
<tr><td colspan="8">Joseph D. Eppihimer, Mayor</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Jeffrey White, Managing Director</td><td colspan="4">City Council</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Charles M. Jones, P.E., Director of Public Works</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Deborah A.S. Hoag, P.E.
Environmental Division Manager</td><td colspan="2">Services Division Manager
(Vacant)</td><td colspan="3">Kyle Zeiber
Operations Division Manager</td></tr>
<tr><td>Kevin Edwards
W.W.T.P.
Superintendent</td><td>Jane Meeks
Solid Waste
Coordinator</td><td>Richard Maurer
Sanitary Sewer
Supervisor</td><td>John Giardiello
Traffic Engineer</td><td>George Fultz
Garage
Superintendent</td><td>Gene Tezak
Streets Team
Superintendent</td><td>Kyle Zeiber
Parks and Property
Maintenance Team
Superintendent</td><td>Michael Zuber
Recreation Team
Superintendent</td></tr>
<tr><td>Lab Supervisor
Bio Solid Supervisor
Maintenance Superv.
Electrical Engineer</td><td>Contractors</td><td>Foreman</td><td>Engineers
Traffic Control</td><td>Foreman</td><td>Foremen</td><td>Foremen</td><td>Foremen</td></tr>
<tr><td>Workforce</td><td>Workforce</td><td>Workforce</td><td colspan="2">Workforce</td><td colspan="3">Workforce</td></tr>
</table>

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In order to solicit input from citizens and special interest groups within the City of Reading, a Student Recreation Survey and a Resident Recreation Survey were conducted as part of this planning effort. In addition to the surveys, four (4) community meetings were held to gather background information and to document the recreational needs of the City of Reading.

STUDENT RECREATION SURVEY

A total of 7,100 surveys were distributed to all students within the Reading School District. These students are part of the Reading High School (3,550 students), Northeast Middle School (1,150 students), Northwest Middle School (950 students), Southern Middle School (800 students) and Southwest Middle School (650 students). A total of 5,270 students within the City of Reading completed the survey between June 1, 2001 and June 15, 2001. This represents a 74.4 percent response rate. A copy of the Student Recreation Survey is contained within Appendix A of this Plan. The following is a summary of the results, as they appeared on the Student Recreation Survey.

1. Male or Female:

   52.9 % were Female
   47.1 % were Male.

2. Age Distribution:

   38.7 % were between the ages of 11 - 13;
   30.8 % were between the ages of 14 - 15;
   30.5 % were between the ages of 16 – 18.

3. The parks, playground and recreation facilities within the City of Reading utilized the most (by percentage of the overall total):

   12.7 % City Park
   10.2 % Schlegel Park
   9.9 % Baer Park
   8.1 % Pendora Park
   8.0 % 11th and Pike Playground
   7.7 % 3rd and Spruce Recreation Center
   6.1 % Angelica Park
   4.9 % Barbey's Playground
   4.7 % Brookline Playground
   4.2 % Hillside Playground

   12.5 % Other park, playground or recreation facility

   11.0 % No Response

4. Swimming pool use over the summer.

25.8 % go swimming several times per week
42.4 % go swimming several times per month
31.7 % never go swimming

Top reasons for not going swimming: lack of swimming pools/facilities; too crowded; and don't like to swim

5. Top activities that the students like to do:

7.4 %	Basketball	1.2 %	Fishing
5.1 %	Baseball	1.2 %	Bowling
4.2 %	Hanging out with friends	1.2 %	Rock Climbing
3.9 %	Swimming	1.2 %	Billiards
3.7 %	Skateboarding	1.1 %	Tennis Lessons
3.5 %	Dances	1.1 %	Walking/Running
3.4 %	Softball	1.0 %	Drama/Acting Classes
2.9 %	Rollerblading	0.9 %	Flag Football
2.8 %	Soccer	0.9 %	Art Classes
2.8 %	Weight Training	0.7 %	In-Line Hockey
2.5 %	Concerts	0.7 %	Summer Day Camps
2.5 %	BMX Biking	0.7 %	Self Improvement Classes
2.3 %	Fitness/Aerobics	0.7 %	Fooseball/Air Hockey
2.2 %	Street Hockey	0.7 %	Ice Hockey
2.0 %	Playground Play	0.7 %	Lifeguard Training
2.0 %	Computer Classes	0.6 %	Babysitter's Training
1.8 %	Roller Skating	0.5 %	Frisbee/Frisbee Golf
1.7 %	Mountain Biking	0.5 %	Ping Pong
1.7 %	Weight Training	0.3 %	Outdoor Rec/Nature Class
1.7 %	Canoeing/Rafting	0.2 %	Driver's Education
1.6 %	Golf Lessons	0.2 %	Lacrosse
1.5 %	Track and Field	0.1 %	Dance Lessons
1.5 %	Craft Lessons	0.1 %	Gardening/Landscaping
1.5 %	Boxing	0.1 %	Volunteer Services
1.4 %	Self Defense/Karate Class	0.1 %	Rugby
1.4 %	Volleyball		
1.4 %	Hiking	0.9 %	Other
1.4 %	Ice Skating		
1.4 %	Music Lessons	9.3 %	No Response

6. Student awareness if recreation programs offered by the City of Reading:

26.1 % Know about them
38.6 % Know something about them
35.3 % Don't know about them

7. Top 10 recreation programs the students participate in:

1. 3rd and Spruce
2. Olivets Boys and Girls Club
3. PAL
4. 11th and Pike
5. Baer Park
6. YMCA
7. Schlegel Park
8. Blacktop League
9. City Park
10. 10th and Green

8. More recreation programs are needed for the students:

80.7 % Yes
19.3 % No

9. Top reasons for not participating in recreation programs:

1. no transportation
2. don't know about the them
3. facilities are in poor condition
4. not well organized
5. just not interested
6. don't have the time
7. can't afford the fee
8. what I like is not offered

10. Would you join a sports program where everyone makes a team?

77.1 % Yes
22.9 % No

11. Recreation facilities needed in the City of Reading:

14.1 %	Basketball	5.3 %	Gymnasium
9.3 %	Fitness Center	5.1 %	Teen Center/Coffeehouse
9.1 %	Outdoor Swimming	4.2 %	Indoor Swimming Pools
9.0 %	Skate Board Park	1.5 %	Sand Volleyball Courts
8.4 %	Teen Dance Club		
7.2 %	Indoor Soccer/Hockey	1.2 %	Other
6.3 %	Roller Blade Trails		
5.7 %	Batting Cages	8.1 %	No Response
5.5 %	BMX Bike Course		

12. Should the reading School District use parks as outdoor classrooms for history, biology and other subjects?

    63.7 % Yes
    36.3 % No

RESIDENT RECREATION SURVEY

A total of 2,000 recreation surveys were distributed throughout the City of Reading and to over 70 special interest groups and organizations. A total of 322 residents within the City of Reading completed the survey between June 1, 2001 and July 27, 2001. A copy of the Resident Recreation Survey is contained within Appendix B of this Plan. The following is a summary of the results, as they appeared on the Student Recreation Survey.

1. The 5 community parks utilized most frequently include:

    1. City Park
    2. Schlegel Park
    3. Pendora Park
    4. Baer Park
    5. Angelica Park

    The condition of these parks have been described as follows:

    37.6 % Good
    42.6 % Satisfactory
    19.8 % Poor

    The frequency of family use is described as follows:

    12.9 % Once per week
    33.1 % Once or more per month
    31.2 % Several times a year
    18.2 % Once per year
    4.6 % Never

2. The 5 neighborhood parks utilized most frequently include:

    1. 11th and Pike Playground
    2. 3rd and Spruce Recreation Complex
    3. Brookline Playground
    4. Barbey's Playground
    5. Windsor and Ritter Playground

The condition of these parks have been described as follows:

32.7 % Good
45.2 % Satisfactory
22.1 % Poor

The frequency of family use is described as follows:

14.1 % Once per week
27.8 % Once or more per month
33.5 % Several times a year
20.4 % Once per year
4.2 % Never

3. The 5 mini-parks utilized most frequently include:

1. Northmont Playground
2. Hillside Playground
3. Keffer park Playground
4. Neversink Playground
5. Sixth and Amity Playground

The condition of these parks have been described as follows:

30.1 % Good
39.7 % Satisfactory
30.2 % Poor

The frequency of family use is described as follows:

15.7 % Once per week
26.5 % Once or more per month
34.5 % Several times a year
19.8 % Once per year
3.5 % Never

4. The overall condition of the parks and recreation facilities were rated as follows:

22.7 % Good
38.5 % Satisfactory
33.2 % Poor
5.6 % No opinion

5. Top activities that the adults like to do:

5.7 %	Concerts
5.1 %	Walking/Jogging
4.9 %	Open Gyms
4.7 %	Aerobics/Fitness
4.5 %	Biking
4.2 %	One day Workshops
4.2 %	Self Improvement Classes
3.7 %	Golf Lessons
3.5 %	Community Sports Contests
3.0 %	Softball Leagues (35+/50+)
2.7 %	Hiking
2.6 %	Bus Trips
2.5 %	Basketball Leagues (35+/50+)
2.5 %	Roller Blading
2.4 %	Swimming Lessons
2.2 %	Karate/Self Defense
1.9 %	Fishing
1.8 %	Picnicking
1.7 %	Music Lessons
1.7 %	Social/Special Events
1.7 %	Computer Classes
1.6 %	Drama/Acting Classes
1.5 %	Programs taken with Children
1.5 %	Golf Leagues
1.5 %	Volunteer/Community Service
1.4 %	Volleyball League (35+/50+)
1.4 %	Softball League
1.4 %	Outdoor Recreation/Nature Classes
1.2 %	Youth Sport Coaching
1.2 %	Flag Football
1.0 %	Boxing
1.0 %	Soccer League
1.0 %	Boating/Sailing
0.9 %	Basketball League
0.9 %	Ice Skating
0.9 %	Mountain Biking
0.8 %	Programs w/ Grandchildren
0.7 %	Volleyball League
0.7 %	Dance Lessons
0.6 %	Arts and Crafts
0.5 %	Gardening/Landscaping
0.5 %	Weight Training
0.5 %	Tennis Leagues
0.4 %	Street Hockey
0.4 %	Health and Safety
0.3 %	Skateboarding
0.2 %	Coed Sports
0.2 %	Soccer League (35+/50+)
0.1 %	Ice Hockey
0.1 %	Cross Country Skiing
0.1 %	Tennis Lessons
0.2 %	Other
8.1 %	No Response

6. Resident awareness if recreation programs offered by the City of Reading:

25.8 %	Aware about them
37.5 %	Somewhat aware about them
36.7 %	Not aware know about them

7. Resident support of creating new trails:

87.4 %	Yes
12.6 %	No

How would you support creating new trails:

1. Use the trail
2. Help with fund raising
3. Join a "Friends of the Trail" group
4. Provide maintenance
5. Provide funds for acquisition
6. Serve on governing body

8. Age groups that need more recreation programs, facilities and/or services:

   1. Adults (19 – 59 years)
   2. High School (15 – 18 years)
   3. Middle School (12 – 14 years)
   4. Adults (60 years and up)
   5. Elementary School (6 – 11 years)
   6. Pre-School (2 – 5 years)

9. Are you willing to see an increase in funds to expand and improve park areas, trails, recreation centers and programs?

   51.7 % Yes
   48.3 % No

10. Are there enough parks in the City of Reading in the right places?

    67.4 % Yes
    32.6 % No

11. Recreation facilities needed in the City of Reading:

    Indoor Facilities:
    1. Indoor Fitness/Recreation Center
    2. Adult Social Center
    3. Indoor Swimming Pool

    Outdoor Facilities:
    1. Hiking/Biking Trails
    2. Open Space/Passive Recreation Areas
    3. Cultural Center

12. Should the City of Reading and Reading School District cooperate to allow use of the school facilities whenever possible for community recreation programs?

    93.5 % Yes
    6.5 % No

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Four (4) community meetings were held to gather background information and to document the recreational needs of the City of Reading. These community meetings were open to the general public and were held at the following venues and dates:

Milmont Elementary School on Thursday, June 14, 2001
Northeast Middle School on Tuesday, June 19, 2001
Southern Middle School on Wednesday, June 20, 2001
Northwest Middle School on Thursday, June 21, 2001

Although the attendance at the community meetings was low, some valuable information was exchanged through an open dialogue session between the residents, staff member and consultants. The following topics were discussed:

1. The area along the Schuylkill River should be utilized for passive recreation areas, such as walking and biking trails.

2. The greenways along the Schuylkill River should be partially cleared of the overgrown vegetation in order to enhance its scenic value.

3. The existing greenways along the Schuylkill River should be linked together.

4. The City of Reading should apply for grants to fund the improvements of existing recreation areas and the purchase of open space.

5. The recreation facilities owned and operated by the Reading School District should be open to the residents within the City of Reading.

6. The baseball field at Schlegel Park needs lights for night games, a concession stand, batting cage and bleachers.

7. The swimming pool at Schlegel Park needs improvements.

8. Facilities are needed to accommodate specific activities such as skateboarding, roller blading and street hockey.

9. Public restroom facilities should be provided at all parks to improve sanitary conditions.

10. The staff to maintain the existing facilities should be increased to effectively manage and beautify the park and recreation facilities within the City of Reading.

11. Security at the existing recreation facilities has been improving, however, increased security personnel are needed.

12. The City of Reading has many cultural and historical resources that should be considered as part of any future improvements.

13. City Park should be considered a focus point for existing and passive recreation activities.

14. City Park needs more tennis courts and provisions for street hockey.

15. Organized youth and adult leagues are needed for the residents within the City of Reading.

16. Communication needs to be enhanced in order to inform the residents within the City of Reading of the types of programs and activities that are available to the public.

17. Evening indoor events should be coordinated to provide recreation opportunities to residents who can not utilize the facilities during the day.

18. The 10th and South Playground has stormwater and erosion problems that need to corrected.

19. The 10th and South Playground has vehicular access problems.

20. Pendora Park needs improvements to the picnic areas, pavilions, water fountains and bathroom facilities.

21. The existing park and recreation areas within the City of Reading should be maintained as part of a community service requirement.

22. Environmental education is needed so the existing open space and recreation areas are appreciated by the residents within the City of Reading.

23. Consideration should be provided to naming or re-naming parks and recreation areas after famous athletes from the City of Reading.

24. Transportation enhancements and grant opportunities should be explored to finance access and transportation improvements in order to provide linkages between recreation areas.

25. The portion of River Road that traverses the Carpenter Technology site should be utilized as a bicycle and walk trail.

26. The area around the perimeter of Baer Park needs to be maintained.

27. Volunteerism should be coordinated on an individual, neighborhood and group effort.

28. Indoor recreation centers are needed to provide young people with active recreation opportunities and provide alternatives in order to reduce crime.

29. The 6th and Amity Playground needs improvements and renovations.

30. The E.J. Dives Playground needs improvements and renovations.

31. The City of Reading should consider employing a full time person to research and complete grant applications that could assist in the implementation of this Plan.

32. Community development funding should be utilized for the playgrounds that have not been renovated.

SECTION 4: INVENTORY, ANALYSIS AND ISSUES

To get a complete picture of existing conditions, five aspects of the system now in place to deliver recreation and park services within the City of Reading are inventoried and analyzed:

- ***Staffing and Financing***
- ***Park Areas and Recreation Facilities***
- ***Recreation Programs***
- ***Maintenance, Safety, and Security***
- ***Communications and Public Involvement***

STAFFING AND FINANCING

City of Reading Parks and Recreation Teams

A full-time Recreation Superintendent answers to the Public Works Operations Division Manager and oversees the Recreation Team, which provides public recreation programs throughout the City of Reading and maintains some facilities. The administrative offices are located in the 3rd and Spruce Street Recreation Center. The Recreation Team employs seven full-time people: one superintendent, three program supervisors (an athletic supervisor, a center manager/planner, and the RAFT program coordinator, who is funded by the Community Development Block Grant program), two maintenance workers, and one secretary. A permanent part-time employee is responsible for grant writing for the Team. Over 100 additional part-time staff works for the Team.

The Parks and Property Maintenance Team are responsible for the development, maintenance, and repair of park areas and recreational facilities within the City of Reading. The Teams headquarters are at the Park Maintenance Building at 14th and Walnut Streets. A full-time Parks and Property Maintenance Superintendent oversees the Team and reports to the Director of Public Works. Recently, the Parks Superintendent and Property maintenance duties were combined. The Parks and Property Maintenance Superintendent also serves as the City Horticulturist and also is responsible for cleaning, maintaining, and repairing all public buildings. The Property Maintenance Team currently has 10 full-time workers (carpenters, electricians, locksmiths, plumbers).

The Parks Team employs 22 full-time people: one parks supervisor, two foremen (a recreation equipment foreman who is responsible for repair and maintenance of park facilities, and a maintenance foreman, who oversees work such as grass mowing, tree trimming, and snow removal), five equipment operators, 11 maintenance workers (two of which answer directly to a foreman and function like crew leaders, and two of which are actually custodians), two custodians, and one secretary (shared with the Property Maintenance and Streets Team), plus one small equipment repairman who primarily works on Parks equipment. One Parks worker is stationed at each of these park sites: Angelica, Baer, Egelman's, Pendora, and Schlegel Parks. The full-time Parks workers are members of the AFSCME union. Four to five part-time maintenance workers are added to the work crew each summer. Occasionally, people who are required to do community service as a condition of court sentencing assist with park maintenance.

Tables 6 and 7 of this Plan provide organizational charts for the Operations Division and Recreation Team of the Department of Public Works.

TABLE 7

CITY OF READING DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
OPERATIONS DIVISION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART (2002)

Kyle Zeiber
Operations Division Manager

Vicky Hoffman
Operations Division Secretary

Streets Team	**Parks and Property Maintenance Team**		**Recreation Team**
Gene Tezak Streets Superintendent	Kyle Zeiber Parks and Property Maintenance Superintendent		Michael Zuber Recreation Superintendent
3 Foremen 16 Equipment Operators 2's 7 Equipment Operators 1's	3 Foremen 6 Tradesman 3 Maintenance Workers 3's	2 Foremen 3 Equipment Operators 3's 1 Equipment Repairman	3 Supervisors 1 Secretary 2 Custodians Seasonal Workers (part time)
		2 Maintenance Workers 3's 4 Maintenance Workers 2's 5 Maintenance Workers 1's 2 Custodians	Grant Writer (part time) Seasonal Workers (part time) Summer Playground Instructors Recreation Aides (part time)

TABLE 8
CITY OF READING DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
RECREATION TEAM ORGANIZATIONAL CHART (2002)

Michael Zuber
Recreation Superintendent
Community Centers
Neighborhood Centers
Playgrounds
11th and Pike Recreation Center
3rd and Spruce Recreation Center

RAFT	Athletics	Programs	Secretarial	Maintenance
Frank Denbowski RAFT Supervisor	Matthew Lubas Athletic Supervisor	Heather Boyer Program Supervisor	Joella Simmons-Ellis Secretary	Chester Gaylor Josh Smeltzer Maintenance Supervisors
11th & Pike Rec. Center Glenside Rec. Center CDBG Grant Administ. 10th & Green Rec. Center Summer Playgrnd. Programs Semi-Annual Safety Insp.	Schlegel Park Pool Adult Athletic Leagues Summer Tennis City Field Schedules	3rd & Spruce Rec. Center Nature Center City Wide Programs and Publicity Millmont Rec. Center	Bookkeeping Facility Rentals Equipment Rentals	Building and Ground Maintenance of: Keffer Park 11th and Pike Playground 3rd & Spruce Rec. Center

The Parks and property Maintenance Team grows 12,000 annuals from seeds at the City-owned greenhouse for 23 flowerbeds throughout the City. These are planted after Mother's Day each May. 10,000 tulips are planted in the fall.

In addition to park responsibilities, the Parks and Property Maintenance Team staff also runs the City's graffiti removal program, and delivers and sets up the City's showmobile portable stage when it is rented to outside groups. Folding tables and other rentals are also delivered to groups by the Parks staff.

A good working relationship currently exists between the Parks and Property Maintenance Team and the Recreation Team. The Recreation Superintendent sends written work orders to Parks and Property Maintenance Team for dragging and lining ball fields, and inspects playground sites for needed improvements prior to the summer season and in the fall. The Teams staff help to prepare the Schlegel Park Pool for opening and closing, and cut the pool grass throughout the summer.

The Parks and property Maintenance Superintendent and Recreation Superintendent are members of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS). Because of budget limitations, they have been unable to attend training workshops and conferences sponsored by PRPS.

The City of Reading Department of Community Development assists parks and recreation by helping to plan improvements to park areas and recreational facilities and seeking financing to carry out needed projects. It also administers the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) program in the City, which provides much of the financing for park improvements. The CDGB program also funds RAFT (Recreation Activities for Teens), a year-round social service/recreation program for City youth ages 13 to 17 that is coordinated by the Recreation Team.

Volunteers in Recreation and Parks

A seven-member Park and Recreation Citizen's Advisory Committee was re-established by ordinance in 1998 and meets monthly to provide input to appointed and elected officials on issues regarding park policies, recreation activities, and overall park and recreation planning. Members are appointed by the Mayor with the approval of City Council, for terms of three years. One Committee member must represent an independent organization that provides recreation programs in the City, two must represent active volunteer associations related to parks and recreation, and four members are chosen at-large, with consideration given to geographic representation. The Recreation Superintendent is the staff contact for the Committee.

The duties and responsibilities of the Citizen's Advisory Committee include:

- Recommending policies for the use of City-owned parks, open space, and playgrounds
- Providing guidance to the City on developing agreements with associations, leagues, athletic groups, or other community organizations that use City parks, playgrounds, and open space on a regular basis
- Overseeing the implementation of a 10-year park, recreation, and open space plan
- Providing guidance and feedback to the Recreation Superintendent on recreation programs and the use of recreation facilities

- Facilitating neighborhood meetings to obtain feedback from the community on park and recreation needs

A citizen volunteer Shade Tree Commission oversees the maintenance and planting of City street trees. Over 300 trees are lost each year to disease, accident, or removal to accommodate development activity. The Parks Supervisor is the staff contact and provides technical support for the Commission.

The duties and responsibilities of the Shade Tree Commission include:

- Identifying areas for the placement of new street trees
- Identifying areas to replace existing street trees when necessary
- Maintaining trees that are within the public right-of-way

The City of Reading is also fortunate to have a number of active community volunteer groups who contribute many hours of service as well as funding for recreation programs, park maintenance, and park development. Volunteer associations help to provide recreation programs, run concession stands, and/or maintain facilities at these City-owned park sites: Baer, Egelman's, 11th and Pike, Hillside, Keffer, Neversink, Pagoda, Pendora, Reading Iron, and 10th and South. Another group, the Rotary Park Association, operates and maintains an active sports facility on Earl Trust land. Four private swimming pool associations operate neighborhood pools in the summer months: College Manor, East Reading, Hillside and Northwest. The working relationship each organization has with the City of Reading varies.

A number of athletic associations exist throughout the City. Youth baseball and/or softball is provided by the Reading American Little League, Reading Junior Legion, Rising Sun Athletic Association, Northwest Athletic Association, East Penn Little League, East Reading Athletic Association, and 18th Ward Athletic Association. The Center City Youth Organization and Northwest Athletic Association offer youth football, cheerleading, and basketball, and the Street Hockey Association offers youth and adult street hockey. The Reading Adult Softball League sponsors adult softball.

The Centre Park Historic District Board sponsors many special events, both in the park and in the historic district surrounding the park. Annual events include a Flea Market, Arts and Antiques Fair, Easter Egg Hunt, Victorian Gardens Tour, and Holiday House Tour.

The Berks Urban Greening Committee is a grassroots organization that transforms vacant lots into green spaces. The committee solicits donations to fund their work.

City of Reading Public Parks and Recreation Budgets

The 1998, 1999, and 2000 actual expense budgets for park operation, maintenance, and recreation programs are summarized in the following tables. Personnel expenses are by far the highest budget item. Over the three-year time period, personnel costs averaged 89% of the total budget for Parks, and 87% of the total budget for Recreation. The vast majority of parks and recreation expenses are funded through the City's General Fund budget.

TABLE 9
CITY OF READING PARKS BUDGET – GENERAL FUND

Account Description	1998 Actual Expenses	1999 Actual Expenses	2000 Actual Expenses
Salaries	$ 649,392	$ 725,118	$ 650,471
Temporary Wages	75,912	78,706	80,261
Overtime	10,922	5,470	7,387
Fringe Benefits	215,840	233,001	223,489
Pension	43,382	47,627	14,461
Contracted Services	36,719	36,486	24,527
Conferences and Training	35	403	433
Maintenance/Repair Parts	13,096	20,260	17,421
Maintenance/Repair Machinery	11,924	1,370	0
Maintenance Supplies	1,464	1,677	0
Uniforms	0	10,374	8,873
Uniform Rental	6,772	216	0
General Plant Supplies	16,849	18,279	11,642
Botanical Supplies	5,449	4,655	4,604
Highway Materials	465	2,411	1,352
Minor Capital Equipment	11,733	13,925	7,170
Reading DID	35,000	34,999	35,000
Penny Fund	466	517	2,032
S. Boscov Marker	0	1,593	0
Total Parks Budget	**$ 1,135,420**	**$ 1,237,086**	**$ 1,089,122**

Capital Improvement Projects in Parks

The following table lists recent capital improvement projects within City parks. Over $290,000 of capital improvement projects were undertaken in 2000. The main source of funding has been Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds administered by the City, State Keystone Fund grants, and funds from City bond issues. The largest capital improvement project in the past three years was the 11th and Pike Recreation Center construction. A total of $814,000 was spent to develop this new recreation facility. Over three-quarters of the cost was funded by the CDBG program. Table 10 provides a list of resent capital improvement for parks within the City of Reading.

TABLE 10
CITY OF READING PARKS BUDGET – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Project Description	2000 Actual Expenses
2nd and Oley Playground	$ 20,593
Lance Playground	20,888
Keffer Park Field House Renovation	14,560
City Park Walkway Lighting	5,485
Pagoda Repairs	36,342
Egelman's Park Pavilion Repair	50,611
Playground Security Lighting – 6 Sites	4,283
11th and Pike Basketball Court	9,874
Wood Chipper	28,478
Front End Loader	99,876
Total Parks Budget Capital Improvements	**$ 290,990**

Recreation Budget

Table 11 provides an account description and list of expenditures of the recreation budget for the City of Reading.

TABLE 11
CITY OF READING RECREATION BUDGET – GENERAL FUND

Account Description	1998 Actual Expenses	1999 Actual Expenses	2000 Actual Expenses
Salaries	$ 214,772	$ 209,508	$ 189,891
Temporary Wages	227,108	275,677	273,704
Overtime	1,970	2,115	3,482
Fringe Benefits	63,343	64,837	60,856
Pension	14,236	13,796	4,251
Printing	0	3,405	0
Advertisement	0	0	4,652
Rent/Lease	167	87	0
Contracted Services	0	618	4,652
Special Events	7,252	6,750	14,101
Conferences and Training	422	1,204	595
Dues	160	597	833
Maintenance/Repair Machinery	0	0	934
Uniforms	4,682	5,588	3,462
Postage	0	3,793	7,438
Education/Recreation Supplies	31,224	48,759	39,468
Chlorine/Chemicals	8,554	9,371	7,235
Botanical Supplies	163	8	0
Medical/Surgical Supplies	667	416	1,314
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	1,159	613
Recreation Activities	0	3,262	4,345
Transportation	1,042	1,312	1,443
Penny Fund	119	139	570
Minor Capital Expenses	0	0	16,127
Recreation Youth Fund	0	0	12,248
Total Recreation Budget	**$ 575,881**	**$ 652,399**	**$ 655,695**

Recreation Revenue

Fees are collected by the Recreation Team and returned to the City's general fund for the rental use of athletic fields, recreation centers, field houses, athletic equipment, special event equipment, the Pagoda, City Park Band Shell, and Schlegel Park Pool. Revenue is also generated from recreation program fees. Non-resident fees are slightly higher than City resident fees. A breakdown of the revenue collected for the year 2000 is provided in Table 12 of this Plan.

TABLE 12
CITY OF READING REVENUE SOUCES

Revenue Source	Revenue Collected (2000)
Schlegel Park Pool	$ 41,000
Facility Rentals	12,000
Equipment Rentals	15,000
Field Rentals	6,000
Athletic Leagues	12,000
Recreation Programs	4,000
TOTAL REVENUE	**$ 90,000**

Comparison of Parks and Recreation Budgets Among Cities

The following table compares 2000 parks and recreation operating expenses in Reading and five other mid-sized Cities in eastern Pennsylvania; larger long-term, non-recurring capital expenses are not shown. The comparison among Cities shows the following:

- Overall, 95% of the money spent for parks and recreation in Reading is provided by local tax dollars. This is dramatically higher than most other Cities. As an example, Lancaster's spending for parks and recreation is 42% local tax dollars.

- A lower percentage of costs of recreation programs are paid for in Reading through fees than most similar cities.

- Reading's tax dollar spending on recreation programming is $1.35 more per resident than Allentown, which has over 20,000 more residents, and $1.60 more per resident than Bethlehem, which has 10,000 fewer citizens than Reading. Reading spends nearly $3 more per resident for recreation programs and pools than Lancaster does. In contrast, Lancaster offers substantially more recreation programs to its citizens of all ages than Reading does, but charges user fees for them.

- Reading spends less per resident on park maintenance than York and Harrisburg, both considerably smaller in population. Three cities, Lancaster and Bethlehem, also smaller in population than Reading, and Allentown, with approximately 20,000 more citizens, spend less than Reading on park maintenance.

- Reading spends less for swimming pools than any of the comparable cities. Reading's lower than average spending for pools results from the City government operating one public pool. In comparison, Harrisburg and Bethlehem each operate three adult pools, and Allentown operates six pools.

TABLE 13
COMPARISON OF 2000 ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IN MID-SIZED EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CITIES

CITY	2000 Total Population	2000 Area (sq. miles) Number of Parks and Park Acres	2000 Actual Spending for Public Recreation Programs and Pools	2000 Actual Spending for Public Park Maintenance	2000 Actual Total Spending for Public Recreation Programs, Pools, and Park Maintenance	Average City Tax Dollars Spent Per Resident for Public Recreation Programs and Pools	Average City Tax Dollars Spent Per Resident for Public Park Maintenance	Average City Tax Dollars Spent Per Resident for Public Recreation Programs, Pools, and Park Maintenance	Average Total Spending Per Resident for Public Rec. Programs, Pools and Park Maintenance
Allentown	106,632	17.7 sq. mi. 60 sites 3,100 acres	$844,747 See Note C	$1,229,865	$2,074,612	$5.64 ($7.92 total spending) See Note E	$11.53 (including water fund transfers)	$17.18	$19.46
Bethlehem	71,329	19.3 sq. mi. 50 sites 3,000 acres	$483,620	$1,363,000	$1,846,620	$5.37 ($6.78 total spending) See Note J	$19.11	$20.35	$25.89
Harrisburg	48,950	8.1 sq. mi. 28 sites 450 acres	$917,521 See Note H	$1,724,001 See Note I	$2,641,508	$12.58 ($18.74 total spending) See Note F	$35.22	$47.75	$53.96
Lancaster	56,348 in City/ 70,292 in City and Twp.	7.4/ sq. mi. in City 23 sites 320 acres	$1,954,939 See Note A	$701,379 See Note D	$2,656,318	$4.14 ($27.81 total spending) See Note B	$12.45	$16.59	$37.79
Reading	81,207	9.9 sq. mi. 44 sites 450 acres	$655,695	$1,089,122	$1,744,817	$6.97 ($8.07 total spending) See Note K	$13.41	$21.05	$21.49
York	40,862	5.2 sq.mi. 23 sites 350 acres	$886,000	$600,000	$1,486,000	$8.08 ($21.68 total spending) See Note G	$14.68	$22.76	$36.37

TABLE 13 *(continued)* SOURCES – 2000 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PROVIDED BY EACH CITY	
NOTE	**DESCRIPTION OF NOTE**
Note A	Includes $173,278 for administration, $143,021 for general office, $83,985 for maintenance, $158,079 for adult services, $225,886 for senior services, $969,536 for youth services, and $201,154 for miscellaneous services.
Note B	Includes fees and other revenue plus $233,394 from the City, $25,000 from CDGB funds, $103,250 from the School District, and $54,747 from the Township.
Note C	Includes $37,863 for therapeutic recreation, $395,138 for organized sports, $10,960 for special activities, 90,849 for maintenance, $89,558 for Sports fest, $220,379 for pool operation and maintenance.
Note D	Includes $320,735 for park maintenance salaries, $86,345 for operating expenses (fuel, power, equipment), $363,693 for various administrative salaries, benefits, and insurance.
Note E	Includes $89,218 in pool revenues, and $153,596 for various non-pool fees and rentals.
Note F	Includes $303,926 in revenue from fees, memberships, concessions, and sponsorships.
Note G	Includes $216,000 from ice rink, $116,000 from concessions, $82,000 from pool revenue, $72,000 from softball, $12,000 for volleyball, $8,000 from basketball, and $50,000 from adult classes.
Note H	Includes $260,537 from allocation of expenditures for administration
Note I	Includes $483,856 from allocation of expenditures for administration.
Note J	Includes $35,000 in recreation fees, $100,000 in leagues and rentals, $110,000 from swimming pools, and $150,000 from skating rink.
Note K	Includes $90,000 in revenue from adult sports leagues, pool fees, building, equipment, and field rentals; and program fees.

PARK AREAS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Regional Recreation Facilities within Berks County

Berks County has a number of existing regional parks and recreation areas to enjoy a variety of passive and active activities. Some of the more prominent regional parks and recreation areas include:

Nolde Forest Environmental and Educational Center: The 670 acre state-owned facility located within Cumru Township offers nature study, environmental education, hiking, active and passive recreation opportunities.

French Creek State Park: The 5,644 acre site located in southeastern Berks County and Chester County provides opportunities for boating, camping, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and swimming. The 848-acre Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site is located adjacent to the French Creek State Park.

Daniel Boone Homestead: The 579 acre site located in Exeter Township is a state historic site and museum. The area offers passive recreation opportunities.

Blue Marsh Lake: The 6,194-acre Blue Marsh Lake and Recreation Area, partially located in Bern, Penn, Lower Heidelberg and North Heidelberg Townships is operated by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, that offers boating, camping, fishing, hunting, picnicking, and swimming.

Lake Ontelaunee: Partially located in Maiden Creek and Ontelaunee Townships, offers camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, picnicking, and other passive recreation opportunities.

Kaercher Creek Park: The 185acre state-owned site, located in Windsor Township, is operated by Berks County for boating, fishing, hiking, winter sports and nature study.

Blue Mountain and the Appalachian Trail: Located in northern Berks County along the boundary with Schuylkill County is a picturesque mountain that provides hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, picnicking, and other passive recreation opportunities.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary: A 2,400 acre wildlife preserve located in Albany Township is part of the Blue Mountain and Appalachian Trail. This facility offers hiking, biking and nature study.

Conrad Weiser Park: This 26 acre facility, located within Heidelberg Township is state historic site and museum, which provides hiking, biking, fishing, picnicking, and other passive recreation opportunities.

Berks County Recreation Complex and Tulpehocken Creek Valley Park: This 360 acre par, owned by the County of Berks, is located in Spring, Lower Heidelberg and Bern Townships, features featuring fields, playgrounds, a fitness course, hiking, indoor and outdoor concerts, biking, fishing, and horseback riding. The park includes the Gring's Mill Recreation Area, Gruber Wagon Works, Red Bridge Picnic Area, Stonecliffe Recreation Area, Union Canal and Tow Path, and Heritage Center facilities.

Maple Grove Park The 250 acre facility located in Breaknock Township is a privately-owned facility for camping, picnicking, swimming and field sports

Since the City of Reading is centrally located within Berks County, many of the local residents utilize these regional parks and recreation areas. Figure 3 of this Plan depicts the locations of the regional parks and recreation areas within Berks County.

Parks and Recreation Facilities within the City of Reading

The citizens of the City of Reading are fortunate to have a diversity of park areas and recreation facilities to enjoy. These include City, County, School District, non-profit, and commercial business facilities.

The Parks Team maintains 450.31 acres of public parkland for passive and active recreational uses. These sites range from the smallest public property, the 4th and Chestnut Parklet (.04 acres) to the 117.1 acre Angelica Park.

Reading owns or manages several large parcels of land located outside the limits of the City of Reading, including Antietam Lake and Bernhart's Dam. The City's major natural features are the Schuylkill River, with more than five miles passing through the City, and the reserves on Mount Penn and Neversink Mountain, which are shared with 10 neighboring municipalities. The actual waterways of the Schuylkill River and Tulpehocken Creek occupy more than 140 acres of open space. The City-owned portions of the mountain reserves include 290 acres on Mount Penn and more than 70 acres on Neversink. The Berks County Conservancy and the Clinton F. Earl Trust have been acquiring additional land on Neversink Mountain. The variety of types of facilities makes the work of the Parks Team demanding. Facilities include Camp Jolly/Lily, a four-acre park designed for handicapped use that is utilized by the Easter Seals Society; the Pagoda, a City historic landmark located in the Mount Penn Reserve; City Park, also called Penn's Commons, a 44-acre park with a bandshell, Veteran's memorial grove, and rose garden; GPU Stadium, a City-owned baseball facility leased to the Reading Phillies Double-A Baseball Club; a City greenhouse; over 100 acres of greenway space; and Penn Square, a 4.65-acre public area in the midst of the City's business district.

Expansion of the City's bikeway along the Schuylkill River and Tulpehocken Creek over the past 20 years has added nearly 60 acres to the City's park system. Maintenance of the bikeway is lacking, and some segments of the riverfront system are not connected yet. The four-mile paved bikeway links numerous public areas: Heritage Park, Stonecliffe Recreation Area, Riverfront Park, Reading Area Community College, Barbey's Playground, Dana Memorial Park, Baer Park, and the 3rd and Spruce Street Recreation Complex. The City's trail connects to the 4.2-mile County Union Canal Trail at Stonecliffe and extends to Blue Marsh Lake. A section of the Thun Trail, which is on a former railroad right-of-way and is maintained by the Schuylkill River Greenway Association, will eventually run from Riverfront Park to the Montgomery County line.

The Reading School District owns 121.13 acres of property at its 13 elementary schools, four middle schools, and one high school. The school facilities and grounds are open for public use based on School District policy. In addition, the Reading-Muhlenberg Vo-Tech School is a 54.87 acre parcel of land within Muhlenberg Township that provides vocational and technology opportunities.

The City park areas and recreational sites have been classified into nine (9) categories for analysis. Listed below are the categories and a brief definition.

- **Mini-Parks** are areas of 2,500 square feet to one (1) acre in size. They are geared specifically for those living within a service radius of less than ¼ mile.

- **Neighborhood Parks** are generally areas of 10 acres or less that are developed for informal active and passive recreation activities. They serve people living within a ½ mile service area.

- **Community Parks** are larger in size than a neighborhood park, usually containing between 20 and 50 acres. Their focus is to meet active and passive recreation needs as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. The service area for community parks is a three-mile radius.

- **School-Parks** are public school sites with facilities that could serve as a neighborhood or community park. Sites are determined by the location of School District property.

- **Large Urban Parks** serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. They are usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 acres or more being optimal, and serve the entire community.

- **Greenways** are linear park areas that focus on passive recreation and the natural environment. These areas frequently form connections throughout the community.

- **Natural Resource Areas** are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics and buffering.

- **Single Purpose/Special Use Parks** covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.

- **Sports Complexes** consolidate heavily programmed athletic fields and facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community for community-wide use. These areas are usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.

Table 14 identifies each park and recreation area into its category, and identifies the total land area.

Figure 4 depicts the location of each park and recreation area within the City of Reading.

A detail profile for each park and recreation facility has been included within the following appendices:

Appendix C: Park and Recreation Areas owned and maintained by the City of Reading
Appendix D: Greenways, Linear Parks and Natural Resource Areas
Appendix E: Facilities and areas owned and maintained by the Reading School District
Appendix F: Facilities and areas classified as Public, Quasi-Public and/or Private

TABLE 14
CITY OF READING PARK AND RECREATION AREAS BY CATEGORY

Category	Park and Recreation Areas	Map #	Acreage
Mini-Parks *11.30 Total Acres*	Bingaman Plaza	C-15	.09
	Cedar Street Parklet	C-5	.43
	Centre Park	C-6	2.0
	Essick Playground	C-13	.50
	4th and Chestnut Parklet	C-26	.04
	Front and Schiller Playground	C-14	1.08
	Lance Place	C-20	.18
	Market Square	C-37	.28
	Minor Street Parklet	C-39	.06
	9th and Marion Playground	C-24	.30
	Reading Iron Playground	C-28	1.55
	2nd and Franklin Parklet	C-40	.06
	2nd and Oley Playground	C-30	.75
	6th and Amity Playground	C-31	2.23
	6th and Penn Courtyard	C-8; C-9	.53
	Spruce Street Parklet	C-16	1.16
	Yarnell Park	C-38	.06
Neighborhood Parks *30.73 Total Acres*	Barbeys Playground	C-3	2.37
	Brookline Playground	C-4	4.6
	E. J. Dives Playground	C-10	3.1
	Hampden Park	C-17	0.53
	Hillside Playground	C-18	3.72
	Keffer Park Playground	C-19	2.68
	Neversink Playground	C-23	3.86
	Northmont Playground	C-25	3.75
	10th and South Playground	C-33	3.1
	3rd and Spring Playground	C-34	3.02
Community Parks *170.55 Total Acres*	Baer Park	C-2	9.05
	City Park (Penn's Common)	C-7	44.21
	Egelman's Park	C-11	22.0
	11th and Pike Playground	C-12	6.32
	Mineral Spring Park	C-21	30.0
	Pendora Park	C-27	18.34
	Reading Nature Center and Museum	C-22	10.0
	Schlegel Park	C-29	23.0
	3rd and Spruce Recreation Complex	C-35	7.63

TABLE 14
CITY OF READING PARK AND RECREATION AREAS BY CATEGORY

Category	Park and Recreation Areas	Map #	Acreage
Greenways/Linear Parks *120.63 Total Acres*	Dana Memorial Park	G-1	21.76
	Heritage Park	G-2	2.6
	Reading Greenway	G-5; G-6	18.63
	Riverdale Park	G-7	40.0
	Riverfront Park	G-8	7.0
	Stonecliffe/Schuylkill River Bikeway	C-32	29.9
	Triangle at Hancock Boulevard	C-36	.73
Natural Resource Areas *365.01 Total Acres*	Mount Penn Reserve	G-3	323.0
	Neversink Mountain Reserve	G-4	42.01
	Antietam Lake (Lower Alsace Twp.)		
	Bernhart's Dam (Muhlenberg Twp.)		
	Lake Ontelaunee (Ontelaunee and Maidencreek Townships)		
Large Urban Parks *117.1 Total Acres*	Angelica Park	C-1	117.1
Single Purpose and Special Use Parks *65.14 Total Acres*	Camp Jolly/Lily	G-3	4.0
	Drenkel Field	G-3	3.0
	Egelman's Ball Field	G-3	14.0
	Building/Grounds	G-3	3.0
	Rotary Park	QP-6	20.0
	GPU Stadium	QP-7	2.1
	Sovereign Center	G-3	2.0
	Observation Tower	G-3	3.0
	The Pagoda/Overlook	QP-8	9.13
	Glenside Housing Playground	QP-9	5.00
	Oakbrook Housing Playground		

TABLE 14
CITY OF READING PARK AND RECREATION AREAS BY CATEGORY

Category	Park and Recreation Areas	Map #	Acreage
Reading Area School District Facilities and Park Areas ***121.13 Total Acres within the City of Reading*** ***176.00 Total Acres***	Administration Building	S-1	.84
	Amanda Stout Elementary	S-2	.73
	Glenside Elementary	S-3	8.95
	George Field	S-22	5.25
	Lauer's Park Elementary	S-4	6.36
	Millmont Elementary	S-5	2.07
	Northeast Middle	S-15	5.20
	Northwest Elementary	S-6	3.44
	Northwest Middle	S-16	4.37
	Reading High	S-19	36.91
	Riverside Elementary	S-7	3.36
	16th and Haak Elementary	S-8	3.72
	Southern Middle	S-17	1.95
	Southwest Middle	S-18	1.88
	10th and Green Elementary	S-9	2.52
	13th and Green Elementary	S-10	2.32
	13th and Union Elementary	S-11	5.18
	Thomas Ford	S-12	8.88
	12th and Chestnut Playground	S-17	.50
	12th and Marion Elementary	S-13	5.18
	Tyson Schoener Elementary	S-14	1.27
	Windsor and Ritter Playground	S-23	5.0
	Special Education Center	S-20	5.25
	Reading-Muhlenberg Vo-Tech (located in Muhlenberg Twp)	S-21	54.87
Private and Quasi-Public Education Facilities	Albright College	QP-1	
	Alvernia College	QP-2	
	Reading Area Community College	QP-3	
	Central Catholic High School	QP-4	
	Holy Name High School	QP-5	
Sports Complexes ***0 Total Acres***	No Sports Complexes		

Historically and Architecturally Significant Sites within Parks

Reading's public park system contains eight (8) important sites that are historically and architecturally significant including:

- The Pagoda at Mount Penn Reserve
- The Nature Center at Mount Penn Reserve
- The gauge house at Antietam Dam
- An 1884 waterworks and dam at Egelman's Park
- The East End Athletic Club at Mineral Spring Park
- The Heritage Park Industrial and Canal Site
- The remnants of the old jail at City Park
- The remnants of the canal locks along the Bikeway

City Park contains the Columbus statue and numerous Veteran monuments. Statues and monuments are also located throughout the park system.

Comparison of Existing Park Areas and Recreation Facilities to Standards

The National Recreation and Parks Society (NRPS) has discontinued its publication of standards for the amount of parkland to be provided per thousand residents of a given Study Area. In taking this action, the NRPS has determine that it should be up to each Study Area (in this case, the City of Reading) to determine what amount of parkland is suitable for its residents.

Therefore, as can be seen from the project mapping, the focus of this Plan is less on the number of acres of parkland provided and more on the areas of the City that are under-served by current facilities. With this as background, it is noted that the following regions of the City are insufficiently provided with park and recreation facilities: Northeast Center City, Northwest Reading, Downtown North, Eastern 18th Ward, College Heights, and Riverdale.

Deficiencies of Existing Park Areas

In addition to the areas identified above that are under-served by park and recreation facilities, the following deficiencies are noted:

Minimum Standards for Facilities

Consistency is lacking between the facilities that are provided at each park. Some parks are provided with rest rooms, others are not. The same is true of park signage (including rules and regulations), drinking fountains, pavilions, site furnishings, and level of landscaping. Meanwhile, lighting (for security and activity) and handicapped accessibility are not consistently addressed among the sites.

Underutilization of Parkland

Several of the City's parks are under utilized in terms of facilities that could be added to those available, thereby increasing the potential usage of the parks without acquiring additional parkland, elsewhere, to do so.

Bikeway and Greenway/Trail System

The City's residents have opportunities for hiking and biking; however, the system does not receive sufficient levels of maintenance nor is it currently complete with gaps existing in the bikeway system and the Thun Trail. The trail and greenway system could be further expanded to provide more connectivity with other parks and sites of civic, historical, and archeological significance.

Swimming and Aquatic Facilities

Survey results indicate a desire for swimming facilities and aquatic programs, yet the City of Reading operates only one public pool. The existing condition of the pool and its ability to meet future needs of the community should be assessed.

Indoor Recreation

Survey results also indicate an interest in additional indoor recreation facilities and programs. A detailed analysis of the existing indoor facilities that are available (either through City-owned or School District facilities) should be completed to determine if additional built space is needed and, if so, whether existing vacant structures could serve this purpose.

Management of Public Lands

The City greenhouse is underutilized. Sites of civic, historical, and archeological significance could provide the foundation for passive learning opportunities. Meanwhile large forested areas are not addressed by a timber management plan. The creative use of these resources could provide for expanded recreational use as well as possible sources of revenue for park and recreation programming.

Rehabilitation Versus Replacement

In considering rehabilitation-versus-replacement issues, it is necessary to think holistically, from the macro (site) to the micro (individual improvements on each site). On the basis, the following general observations have been made about park sites:

- Almost all of the City's park sites are in need of some level of rehabilitation.
- Several sites should be replaced in-kind (including the re-design of Lance Place Playground, Ninth and Marion Playground, and Sixth and Amity Playground).
- Several new parks could be developed utilizing existing available lands (including the Triangle at Hancock Boulevard and Yarnell Park).

- Land must be acquired and parks developed in the Northeast Center City, Northwest Reading, Downtown North, Eastern 18th Ward, College Heights, and Riverdale regions.

- While not a specific recommendation of this Plan, the City may actually want to consider whether it would be better to combine recreation facilities at new park locations, thereby removing underutilized, difficult-to-maintain parks from the City's rolls. This approach could make sense from the standpoint of ease of maintenance, ability to address larger resident needs, and "soften the blow" of removing land from tax-revenue generating status and turning it into public parkland.

We also make the following observations regarding existing improvements at specific park sites:

- Many of the facility recommendations revolve around the rehabilitation of existing amenities that have fallen into disrepair or whose useful life has expired. This is true of paved activity areas that need to be resurfaced, fences and backstops that are rusting in-place, and fountains that now require more maintenance than benefits derived.

- A series of recommendations relate to flood damage occurring at several parks that must be repaired. Clearly, the damaged amenities must be repaired, but consideration should be given to replacing same to avoid recurring cost implications.

- Many of the existing athletic/sports fields are not in their optimum solar orientation. Unless the specific field is in need of overhauling, we have not recommended the re-orientation of same, due to the cost in doing so. At a minimum, these fields should not be encouraged for league play. However, such fields would represent a logical place to start considering whether to provide lighted fields (so that the sun's angle during gametime is not an issue).

- Many of the City's park pavilions have fallen into disrepair due to the failure of materials used in their original construction. As part of developing consistent standards for park development, we recommend that many of these pavilions be replaced so that they could also house restroom, picnic, activity, and storage space as well.

Private and Semi-Public Recreation Facilities

Privately owned and semi-public recreation facilities are only a supplement to public parks and recreation areas. These facilities usually are not resources that serve citizens' everyday recreational needs, since they are not always open to the public, sometimes require fees or memberships, and occasionally serve only a small interest group. A change in ownership of a private recreation facility could cause it to close, as well. For these reasons, private and semi-public recreation facilities are not analyzed against recreation standards developed for public facilities. The primary purpose for reviewing the supply of these facilities in the City of Reading is to identify the extent to which they supplement public facilities.

The major private and semi-public recreation facilities and areas within the City of Reading include:

- Berks County Senior Citizens Council Horizon Center
- Jewish Community Center
- Olivets Boys and Girls Club

- Police Athletic League
- Salvation Army Reading Corps Community Center
- Senior Neighborhood Center Lutheran Home
- Northwest Neighborhood Ministries
- Glenside and Oakbrook Housing Authority Development Playgrounds
- AMF Heisters Lanes, Inc.
- Heisters Lane Bingo
- Comfort Hall Bingo
- Leisure Hall Walk-in Bingo
- Dillman Karate Institute
- Downtown Fitness
- Z's Fitness Factory
- Pro Health Fitness Center
- Berks Gymnastics Academy
- YMCA of Reading and Berks County
- Great Valley Girl Scout Council, Hawk Mountain Council Boy Scouts of America, and Reading-Berks County Council Campfire Girls group activities at City elementary schools, churches, and other meeting sites
- Alvernia College
- Albright College
- Four outdoor swimming pools: College Manor, East Reading, Hillside, and Northwest

Cultural and Entertainment Resources in the City of Reading

Reading has a concentration of cultural and entertainment opportunities, many of which are not available in the suburban communities surrounding the City. These resources include:

- Reading Public Library (main library at 5th and Franklin Streets, branches at West Windsor Street and Schuylkill Avenue, 11th and Pike Streets, and 15th Street and Perkiomen Avenue)
- Reading Public Museum (exhibits of fine arts and natural history)
- Reading Planetarium (educational shows)
- Historical Society of Berks County (history of the City and County)

- Central Pennsylvania African-American Museum (African-American culture)
- Reading Company Technical and Historical Society Museum
- Berks Arts Council (in The Pagoda, gallery space for local artists)
- Sovereign Performing Arts Center (SPAC), which serves as a performance venue for the following:

  Reading Symphony Orchestra
  Reading Pops
  Reading Choral Society
  Reading Civic Opera Society
  Berks Ballet Theatre
  Professional touring companies

- City Park Bandshell (site of summer concert series and other events)
- Genesius Theatre (theatrical performances)
- Reading Community Players (theatrical performances)
- Berks JazzFest (week-long event in March featuring famous and lesser-known jazz artists)
- Sovereign Center (civic center for trade shows, spectator sports, larger music and theatre productions)
- Alvernia College, Albright College, Reading Area Community College, Public and Parochial Schools (performances by students open to the public, galleries that exhibit art work, sports competitions)
- Reading Phillies (double-A affiliate of major league baseball's Philadelphia Phillies, play at GPU Stadium)
- Reading Royals (professional minor league hockey team, play at Sovereign Center)

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Providing parkland and recreational facilities is an important municipal function. Equally as important are the recreation experiences individuals have through involvement in recreation programs. The City of Reading believes that the benefits of municipal recreation services offer significant value to its citizens and the community as a whole, and invests public funds to offer recreation programs. Recreation programs provide opportunities to link individuals, neighborhoods, and groups, building a sense of community and improving the quality of life for City residents. Recreation programs bring people in touch with each other, giving them opportunities for physical fitness, happiness, creativity, competition, social relationships, and character development.

Community recreation is the entire range of activities, relationships, interactions, and experiences planned and carried out to meet the needs of individuals and groups. Community recreation is anything and everything the community does to satisfy people's leisure-time interests. Within the City of Reading, a variety of groups exist whose purpose is solely or partially to provide recreation opportunities to their members or to the general public. Reading City government is just one of these providers. In any community, recreation services are not all provided by government.

In addition to offering municipal recreation programs, part of the City of Reading's role is to improve communication and identify opportunities for collaborative efforts and sharing of resources among the other City recreation providers. The Recreation Team does not duplicate well-run private efforts if they serve the whole City. The Recreation Team has partnerships in place with the YMCA, Olivet Boys and Girls Club, Police Athletic League, Campfire Girls, Reading Library, 4-H Clubs, and the Park and Playground Associations.

The major public and quasi-public recreation program providers in Reading include:

- City of Reading Recreation Team
- YMCA of Reading and Berks County
- Jewish Community Center
- Reading Public Library
- Olivet Boys and Girls Club, Inc.
- Police Athletic League of Greater Reading
- Great Valley Girl Scout Council
- Hawk Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Reading-Berks County Council Campfire Girls
- Salvation Army Reading Corps
- Spanish Speaking Council
- Berks Arts Council
- Youth Sports Associations (9)
- Park and Playground Associations (9)
- Swimming Pool Associations (5)
- Reading Area Community College
- Penn State Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Clubs

Organizations that provide recreation services for special populations and persons with other special needs include:

- Advances of Berks County, Inc.
- Berks County Association for the Blind, Inc.
- Berks County Senior Citizens Council
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Easter Seals Society of Berks and Schuylkill Counties
- Exchange Club of Reading
- Hope Rescue Mission
- Northwest Neighborhood Ministries
- Parents without Partners
- Prospectus Associates, Inc.
- Southwest Christian Ministries
- Threshold of Berks County, Inc.
- United Cerebral Palsy

A number of commercial businesses provide recreation opportunities. They include:

- AMF Heisters Lanes
- Comfort Hall Bingo
- Dillman Karate Institute
- Downtown Fitness
- Heisters Lane Bingo
- Leisure Hall Walk-in Bingo
- Z's Fitness Factory
- Pro Health Fitness Center
- Berks Gymnastics Academy

A number of clubs exist that specialize in certain recreation activities. These include:

- Berks County Bicycling Club
- Berks Camera Club
- Blue Mountain Hiking Club

- Bridge Club
- Embroiderer's Guild of America
- Flying Dutchmen Ski Club
- Historical Society of Berks County
- Keystone Canoe Club
- Million Youth Chess Club
- Pagoda Pacers Running Club
- Star Dusters Western Square Dance Club

City of Reading Recreation Team Programs

The City concentrates much of its resources on providing recreation programs for children. Most of the activities offered are free of charge. As a result, the Recreation Team raises little non-tax revenue by charging program fees. Recreation program revenue that is collected is approximately $90,000 each year.

A traditional summer playground program takes place at 28 sites for 9 weeks (8 weeks are devoted to programs and 1 week is devoted towards playground training). Arts and crafts, games, sports activities, field trips, and more are offered at no cost to City children. Playground special events include a Track and Field Day, Cultural Festival, Carnival, Recreation Day, Hot Shot Basketball and Marbles Tournaments, and Celebration of Lights/Lantern Parade. The City of Reading invests a substantial amount of money in the summer playground program. Three (3) playground leaders are placed at 24 to 26 sites each summer. Six (6) area supervisors are hired to oversee the playground staff and help to plan activities. Two (2) additional staff, an arts and crafts and a sports specialist, are hired as well.

During the school year, two indoor recreation centers (3rd and Spruce and 11th and Pike Streets) and three neighborhood center field houses (Baer, Keffer, and Pendora Parks) are open from approximately 3 to 8 p.m. on weekday nights. A combination of structured programming and drop-in activities are offered for children ages 7 to 17. The neighborhood field houses are smaller facilities than the recreation centers. They are equipped with foosball and pool tables and offer table games and arts and crafts activities. Youth are issued membership identification cards to attend the centers. Kids Café operates at each site, offering snacks and meals provided by the Greater Berks Food Bank. A teen center also operates at Millmont Elementary from 5 to 8 p.m. on weekday evenings. RAFT, Recreation Activities for Teens, a special program funded by the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, operates from September to May at two City sites, as well as over the summer months at one site. Part-time recreation aides staff all of the indoor activity centers during the school year. Door attendants are also hired for security purposes.

The Recreation Team schedules the use of 22 athletic fields, six indoor recreation centers and/or field houses, the Pagoda, City Park Band Shell, Schlegel Park Pool, picnic pavilions at five park sites, picnic kits of sports and athletic equipment, and special event equipment such as sound systems, tables and chairs, and a Showmobile portable stage by outside groups. Rental fees are collected. The Reading School District allows the City to have free use of a number of gymnasiums for recreation programs, in

exchange for use of some City park fields and facilities for physical education classes and sports team practices.

The Recreation Team is responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the 3rd and Spruce Street and 11th and Pike Street Recreation Centers and outside grounds, and the Keffer Park Field House. The Parks Team maintains the City's other indoor and outdoor facilities.

A few annual special events are conducted, such as a Haunted House at Schlegel Park, an Easter Event at 13th and Union Elementary School, a Fishing Rodeo at Angelica Park Lake, and breakfast with Santa at Pendora Park.

The City operates two outdoor swimming pools, one for all residents at Schlegel Park, and one for the handicapped, the R. Cameron Billmyer Pool at Camp Jolly/Camp Lily. Fees at Schlegel Park Pool are very reasonable. Learn-to-swim, water polo, guard start, and other aquatics classes are offered. Five private swimming pool associations also operate outdoor pools in the City. The Reading School District's indoor swimming pool at the Geigle Complex is opened to the public on scheduled dates. The YMCA of Reading and Berks County allows the public to use its indoor pool on weekends.

A children's instructional tennis program is held at three sites in the City during the summer, free of charge. The Recreation Team also sponsors two annual tennis tournaments for adults. Men's summer and winter basketball leagues and men's and women's winter volleyball leagues are held in Reading School District gymnasiums. The Recreation Team offers a few fitness classes for children and adults, and approximately six family bus trips each year.

The Reading Nature Center, located in the vicinity of Antietam Lake, is open on weekends from April to November, and daily from mid-June to Labor Day. Environmental education programs are offered for all ages.

The City of Reading offers picnicking facilities at ten (10) park sites. In addition, ten (10) of the parks within the City of Reading have nice winter sledding areas and ice skating was previously permitted at Angelica Park Lake.

Table 15 summarizes the recreation programs that the Recreation Team provided in 2000 and the number of people who participated in them.

TABLE 15
City of Reading Recreation Team Programs Held in 2000

Program	Facility	Age	Fee	Number of Participants	Category	Description
Neighborhood Centers	Baer Park Pendora Park Keffer Park	7-17 years	Free	70 (25 daily) 50 (20 daily) 45 (18 daily)	Sports, Games, and Athletics Arts and Crafts Special Events	Nov.-March, M-F, 3-8 p.m., arts and crafts, games, sports, tournaments, homework centers special events (dances, movies, parties, trips)
Teen Centers	Millmont Elem	7-17 years	Free	70 (20 daily)	Sports, Games, and Athletics	Nov.-May, M-F, 5-8 p.m., sports, games
Recreation Centers	11th and Pike 10th and Green 3rd and Spruce Glenside Elem	7-17 years	$4 $5 (NR)	469 (85 daily) 360 (45 daily) 400 (63 daily) 250 (40 daily)	Sports, Games, and Athletics Arts and Crafts Special Events	Sept.-May, M-F, 3:30/4:30-8 p.m., arts and crafts, games, sports, tournaments, homework centers, special events (dances, movies, parties, trips)
RAFT – Recreation Activities for Teens	10th and Green Glenside Elem	7-17 years	Free	360 250	Sports, Games, and Athletics Special Events	Oct.-May, M-F, 5-8 p.m., basketball, trips, special events, tournaments, cheerleading
Kids Café	11th and Pike 10th and Green 3rd and Spruce Glenside Elem	7-17 years	Free	83 52 75 44	Fitness and Wellness	Sept.-May, days vary, meals and snacks provided by Greater Berks Food Bank
Summer Playground	2nd and Oley 3rd and Spring 6th and Amity 9th and Marion 10th and South 10th and Green 11th and Pike 16th and Haak Amanda Stout Baer Park Barbeys Brookline City Park E. J. Dives Essick Front/Schiller Glenside Hillside Keffer Park Lance Place Neversink Northmont Oakbrook Pendora Park Reading Iron Windsor/Ritter	5-18 years	Free	daily/site 200/tot lots 40/playgrds. 160/parks	Sports, Games, and Athletics Arts and Crafts Special Events	June-Aug., M-F, 9 a.m.- 12 noon, 1-5 p.m., 10 weeks, arts and crafts, group games, basketball, sports, trips to Schlegel Park Pool and Reading Nature Center, special events
Summer Playground Special Events		5-18 years	Free		Special Events	One-day special events

TABLE 15
City of Reading Recreation Team Programs Held in 2000

Program	Facility	Age	Fee	Number of Participants	Category	Description
Track and Field Day Imaginarium Cultural Fest Carnival Recreation Day Hot Shot B-ball Lantern Parade				150 105 125 160 200 100 500		
Summer Evening Program	11th and Pike 10th and Green	7-17 years	Free	200 110	Sports, Games, and Athletics Arts and Crafts	June-Aug., M-F, (11th and Pike), T/W/TH (10th and Green), 5-8 p.m., gym, arts and crafts, concession stand
Reading Nature Center	Mt.Penn Reserve Antietam Lake	All	Free	2,000+	Outdoor Recreation	April-mid-June/mid-Aug.-Nov., Sunday, 2-6 p.m., mid-June/mid-Aug., M-F, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., museum, guided tours, fishing, special programs such as leaf ID, nature walks, history talks
Sunday Special Events Trash Walk Gardening Day Mother's Day Picnic Historic Hike Native Amer. Wrkshp.	Reading Nature Center	All	Free	 20 25 25 45 25	Outdoor Recreation	May-Sept., Sunday, 2-6 p.m.
Exer-Hiking	Reading Nature Center	5 years and up	Free	10	Fitness and Wellness	June-Aug., M/W/F, 9 a.m.
Acoustic Jam	Reading Nature Center	13 years and up	Free	25	Performing Arts	June-Aug., T, 6-8 p.m.
Twilight Hikes	Reading Nature Center	5 years and up	Free	30	Outdoor Recreation	June-Aug., TH, 6-8 p.m.
Family Camping	Reading Nature Center	All	$5/pp	10	Outdoor Recreation	July-Aug., 2 weekends, tents provided
Haunted Hike	Reading Nature Center	5 years and up	Free	280	Special Events	October nights near Halloween, campfire with scary tales, hike in haunted woods
Summer Tennis Instruction	Albright College Baer Park Hampden Park	6-18 years	Free	168	Sports, Games, and Athletics	June-Aug., M-TH, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 8 weeks
Tennis Tournaments	Albright College Hampden Park	18 years and up	$10	40	Sports, Games, and Athletics	Last 2 weekends of June, singles and doubles tournaments
Swimming Pool Membership	Schlegel Park Pool	All	$2/day (8-17) $5/day (18+) $15/pp (8-17) $50/pp (18+) $20/pp (65+) $75 (sfam) $90-110 (fam) Group Camps ½ price Sunday Free	7,005 2,115 37 5 1 3 5 700 (7 grps) 3,114 1,416	Aquatics	Memorial Day to late Aug., 7 days, 12 noon-6 p.m.

TABLE 15
City of Reading Recreation Team Programs Held in 2000

Program	Facility	Age	Fee	Number of Participants	Category	Description
Group Learn-to-Swim Classes	Schlegel Park Pool	1-17 years	$25	119	Aquatics	July-Aug., follows American Red Cross program, 8 sessions
Guard Start Class	Schlegel Park Pool	11 years and up	Free	6	Aquatics	June-July, M, 12 noon-1 p.m.
Water Safety Class	Schlegel Park Pool	8 years and up	Free	12	Aquatics	June-Aug., F, 12 noon-1 p.m.
Intro to Water Polo	Schlegel Park Pool	13 years and up	Free	20	Aquatics	June-Aug., M/F, 9:30-11:30 a.m., T/TH, 12 noon-1 p.m.
Private Swim Lessons	Schlegel Park Pool	All	$12/half hour	7	Aquatics	By appointment
Lifeguard Certific.	Schlegel Park Pool	15 years and up	$125	10	Aquatics	2 sessions, Oct.-Jan. and June-Aug.
Adult Basketball Leagues	Northwest MS Southern MS Riverside Elem	18 years and up	$180/ team + refs	Frat (12) Social (6) 35+ (8) (teams)	Sports, Games, and Athletics	3 basketball leagues, men only, Frat (M), 35+ (W), Social (F), season Oct.-March
Adult Volleyball Leagues	3rd and Spruce 16th/Haak Elem 13th/Green Elem	18 years and up	$175/ team + refs	Men A (6) Women A (6) Coed A (6) Coed B (14) (teams)	Sports, Games, and Athletics	4 volleyball leagues, Men's A (T), Women's A (T), Coed A and B (M/W/TH), season Oct.- March
Cardio Karate Class	3rd and Spruce	18 years/up	$30	6	Fitness and Wellness	High impact aerobics class
Salsa/Merengue Dance Lessons	3rd and Spruce	15 years and up	$20	12	Fitness and Wellness	June, 3-week class
Bus Trips	Depart from and return to Northeast MS	All	$25-50	168	Social Recreation	Approximately 6 trips/year, Baltimore Inner Harbor, Pocono Fall Foliage, Atlantic City, Washington, D.C.
Kids Karate Class	Pendora Park 11th and Pike	5-17 years	$30	14 12	Fitness and Wellness	Oct.-Nov., June-July, W, 6 weeks
Kids Cooking Class	3rd and Spruce	8-17 years	$10/class	10	Self-Development/ Educational	June-July, T, 5 weeks
Adult Summer Basketball League	11th and Pike	18 years and up	$180/team	8 teams	Sports, Games, and Athletics	June-Aug., M-TH
Easter Event	13th and Union Elem	All	Free $3/pic	450	Special Events	Saturday near Easter, 9 a.m.-12 noon
Fishing Rodeo	Angelica Park Lake	3 years and up	$5	112	Outdoor Recreation Special Events	2nd Saturday in May, 7 a.m.-12 noon, brook trout, prizes awarded
Haunted House	Schlegel Park Pool House	Under 4 5-15 yrs 16 years and up	Free $2 $3	533	Special Events	Last week of October, 3 nights, 6-9 p.m.
Visit with Santa	Pendora Park Field House	All	Free $3/pic	85	Special Events	1st Saturday in December, 9 a.m.-12 noon

All recreation programs fall into a programming category and format. The program category and format types are:

Recreation Program Categories	Recreation Program Formats
Aquatics: Activities done in or upon the water. **Arts and Crafts:** Arts – creative work; making items that display form, beauty and/or unusual perception. Crafts – utilitarian; items made have decorative value, as well as being useful. **Fitness and Wellness:** Focuses in a holistic way on the well-being of individuals; directed toward achieving optimal health. **Outdoor Recreation:** Activities in the outdoors; land, water, or air-based. **Performing Arts:** Combines elements of several media; performance before an audience. **Self-Development/Educational:** Aimed at improvement of the individual; primary purpose focused on cognitive, communication, or affective skills; focused on changing behaviors. **Social Recreation:** Promotes sociability and opportunities for social interaction; key factor is to bring people together for socializing. **Special Events:** A specifically-planned and focused one-time or infrequently occurring event; an opportunity for an unusual recreation experience. **Sports, Games and Athletics:** Games require low level of organization or skill, few rules, short duration. Sports have rules and procedures, require vigorous exertion, higher level of organization. Sports become athletics when they are organized for competition.	**Camp:** Structured, week-long activities; can focus on one activity or a variety of activities; primarily for children; held indoors or outdoors. **Class:** An instructional activity with learning objectives. **Club/Interest Group:** A group of people that have formed for some common purpose or mutual advantage. Interest groups are similar to a club, only organized around a special activity, issue, or program. **Competitive:** Involves the act of people competing with one another in some form of contest or match, or against a standard. **Drop-In/Open:** Spontaneous activities in open areas and facilities, general supervision provided. **Outreach:** Involves expanding or extending services to broader segments of the community, reaching outside the traditional methods of service delivery to alienated or excluded participants. **Special Event:** Can be a program category or a program format; requires unusual or extraordinary activity planning. **Workshop:** Learning or sharing environments organized in short, intense periods.

To evaluate the scope and adequacy of City-sponsored recreation programs, the following table places each program offered by the Recreation Team into its category and format.

FIGURE 16
CITY OF READING RECREATION TEAM PROGRAMS BY CATEGORY AND FORMAT

	Camp	Class	Club/Interest Group	Competitive	Drop-in/Open	Outreach	Special Event	Workshop
Aquatics		Water Safety Group Learn-to-Swim Guard Start Water Polo Private Lessons Lifeguarding			Schlegel Park Pool Membership			
Arts and Crafts					Neighborhood Centers Recreation Centers Summer Playground Summer Evening Program			
Fitness and Wellness		Exer-Hiking Cardio Karate Salsa Dance Kids Karate			Kids Café			
Outdoor Recreation					Reading Nature Center Open Hours Twilight Hikes		Family Camping	Sunday Nature Center Events
Performing Arts					Acoustic Jam			
Self-Development/ Educational		Kids Cooking Cheerleading Make-up Classes						
Social Recreation							Bus Trips	
Special Events							Summer Playground Special Events Haunted Hike Easter Event Fishing Rodeo Haunted House Visit with Santa	
Sports, Games, and Athletics		Summer Tennis Instruction Girls Basketball League		Tennis Tourneys Adult Basketball Leagues Adult Volleyball Leagues	Recreation Centers RAFT Teen Centers Neighborhood Centers Summer Playground Summer Evening Program			

Availability of Public Transportation to Park Areas, Recreation Facilities, and Programs

Citizens can walk or bike to a great number of recreation programs and facilities throughout the City of Reading. Public transit is also available.

The Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA) operates an extensive system of public buses, Monday through Saturday. The standard fare in 2001 is $1.25, plus additional charges for changes between zones. The buses are free to senior citizens except during peak hours on weekdays (7 to 8 a.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.).

MAINTENANCE, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

The Parks and Maintenance Superintendent schedules all maintenance work. Citizen complaints are given priority and acted upon quickly. Other work is scheduled according to the most critical need. Monthly performance reports are prepared by the Parks and Maintenance Superintendent that list the major work tasks and projects completed, the number of hours worked, and the number of sick/vacation/holiday hours taken off. Policies are in place for park maintenance staff work hours, breaks, travel time between park sites, clean up, and other aspects of the workday.

Before mowing grass, maintenance crews must first clean park sites by picking up glass, trash, and other items. Dates that each park area's grass is cut are marked on a board in the Parks administrative office, to keep track of when cutting should be done next. Parks maintenance staff mow and mulch grass, rake leaves, prune trees, plant and maintain shrubs, pull weeds, and repair and paint all park equipment. The Parks and Maintenance Team utilize performance standards for grass mowing and trimming. A listing of all parks and grass areas cut by the Parks Team is provided under Table 17 of this Plan.

A comprehensive written inventory is kept of all City-owned park maintenance equipment and vehicles, from calculators to dump trucks. Maintenance and replacement of equipment is planned through a replacement program. When equipment can no longer perform effectively, requests are made to replace the equipment. Many of the park vehicles are over 10 years old. Written schedules and a systematic schedule for replacement of maintenance equipment and vehicles are defined within the capital budget.

The Parks Team provides portable restrooms in a number of parks through a contract with a local business. Other contracted services include grass fertilization and weed control, pest control, and pagers.

The City leases GPU Stadium to the Reading Phillies Baseball organization. The lease spells out the maintenance agreement for the property. The City is only responsible for capital expenditures such as repairs to the grandstands, entranceways, and brick walls. Maintenance leases are also utilized for the care and upkeep of Rotary Park and Egelman's Park.

A thorough review of high-risk areas is critical to any risk management and loss control program. The City of Reading utilizes Penn Prime, a service program of the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities that surveys the City park areas and recreation facilities for general liability loss exposures. The in-person surveys attempt to identify areas that need improvement, but are not intended to identify every potential loss, hazard, or exposure within the areas examined. Reports are issued that contain recommendations for improvement of deficiencies found at the time of the survey.

TABLE 17
PARKS AND GRASS AREAS CUT BY THE PARKS AND MAINTENANCE TEAM

PARK AREA AND MAINTENANCE NOTES	TOTAL ACREAGE	APPROXIMATE ACREAGE CUT	PST/HOURS	ACTUAL TIME
Angelica Park (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	117.11	50.0	30.5 N/A	24.0 12.0
Baer Park (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	9.05	7.0	4.28 N/A	3.0 10.0
Barbey's Playground (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	2.37	1.37	0.84 N/A	1.0 4.0
Bernhardt's Dam Tractor Trimming Crew	62.12	22.12	13.52 N/A	16.0 6.0
Bingaman Plaza (2) Tractor Trimming Crew	0.09	0.09	N/A 0.87	N/A 0.5
Brookline Playground (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	4.0	3.5	2.14 N/A	2.5 2.5
Camp Jolly/Lily (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	4.0	2.5	1.53 N/A	1.0 1.5
Carroll Street Property (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	0.5	0.5	0.3 N/A	0.25 0.25
Cedar Street Parklet (2) Tractor Trimming Crew	0.43	0.25	N/A 2.42	N/A 1.0
Centre Avenue (3) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	1.0	1.0	N/A 9.68	N/A 2.0
Centre Park (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	2.0	1.5	0.92 N/A	1.0 1.25
City Park (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	44.21	30.0	18.23 N/A	24.0 27.0
Drenkel Field (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	3.0	1.5	0.92 N/A	1.0 0.5
E.J. Dives Playground (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	3.1	2.6	1.6 N/A	2.5 2.0
Egelman's Ball Field (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	14.0	7.0	4.3 N/A	2.5 2.0

TABLE 17 (CONTINUED): PARKS AND GRASS AREAS CUT BY THE PARKS TEAM				
Egelman's Park Tractor Trimming Crew	22.0	9.0	5.5 N/A	12.0 6.0
Essick Playground (2) Tractor Trimming Crew	0.5	0.2	N/A 2.0	N/A 0.75
Front & Schiller (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	1.08	0.5	N/A 4.84	N/A 1.0
Heritage Park (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	2.6	1.0	0.6 N/A	0.75 2.0
Hillside Playgound (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	3.72	2.0	1.2 N/A	1.5 1.5
Keffer Park (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	2.68	1.5	0.92 N/A	1.5 4.0
Mews (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	N/A	1.5	0.9 N/A	1 0.25
Mineral Spring Park (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	25.0	5.0	3.1 N/A	2.5 2.0
Mt. Penn and Neversink Mountain Reserves (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	N/A	N/A	1.8 N/A	2.0 6.0
Neversink Playground (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	3.86	1.86	1.1 N/A	1.0 4.0
Northmont Boulevard (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	N/A	1.5	0.9 N/A	1.0 2.5
Northmont Playground (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	3.75	2.0	1.2 N/A	1.75 1.5
Oakbrook Fire Company (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	N/A	1.0	0.6 N/A	0.75 1.0
Observation Tower (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	2.0	1.5	0.9 N/A	1.5 2.0
Pendora Park (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	18.34	13.34	8.2 N/A	7.5 30.0
Reading Iron Playground (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	1.55	1.0	0.6 N/A	0.75 1.5

TABLE 17 (CONTINUED): PARKS AND GRASS AREAS CUT BY THE PARKS TEAM				
Riverfront Drive (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	N/A	1.5	0.9 N/A	1.5 2.0
Riverfront Park (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	7.0	6.5	4.0 N/A	8.0 5.0
Schlegel Park (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	23.0	17.0	10.4 N/A	12.0 12.0
Schuylkill River Park (3) Tractor Trimming Crew	29.9	2.0	1.2 N/A	1.5 N/A
Schuykill Riverside Fire Company (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	N/A	0.5	0.3 N/A	0.5 1.0
Yarnell Park (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	3.2	1.5	0.9 N/A	1.0 0.5
3rd & Spring Playground (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	3.02	1.5	0.9 N/A	1.0 1.0
6th & Amity Playground (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	2.23	1.5	0.9 N/A	1.0 2.5
6th & Canal (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	N/A	2.0	1.2 N/A	2.0 3.5
9th & Marion Playground (2) Tractor Trimming Crew	0.5	0.1	N/A 0.97	N/A 0.5
12th & South Playground (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	7.1	2.5	1.5 N/A	1.5 2.5
18th Ward Malls (1) Tractor Trimming Crew	N/A	6.0	3.7 N/A	6.0 6.0
11th & Pike Playground (1) (4) Tractor Trimming Crew	6.32	4.0	2.4 N/A	2.0 6.0

NOTES:

(1) grass is cut with tractors and handwork

(2) grass is cut by handwork only

(3) grass is cut by tractors only

(4) grass which includes steep slopes that must be cut by hand

A checklist of risk areas and anticipated completion dates to correct deficiencies is used by the Parks Team to respond to Penn Prime after its loss control visit report is received. The Parks Team does have a routine safety inspection program in place and a preventative maintenance program for park facilities and equipment. The Park Team has developed inspection reports and written standards for maintenance work.

The Parks and Maintenance Team runs the City's graffiti removal program, not only for public facilities but also for all homes and businesses in Reading. Written records are kept of graffiti removal, including address, date request was received, date work was completed, square footage, and the cost to remove the graffiti.

Park rules and regulations are enacted into law by Reading City Council. The Park Code was last amended in 1975. Security lighting is present at 33 of the City park areas. Vandalism is a major problem, as is drug and alcohol use and sexual activity at public parks.

The Recreation Superintendent submits an annual safety report each spring and fall to the Parks Supervisor that lists maintenance repairs needed at park and playground sites, in preparation for summer playground programs. Rental of all park areas, facilities, and equipment is done by the Recreation Team, which notifies the Parks Team.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

As important as it is to provide parks and recreation opportunities for citizens, it is equally as important to inform citizens about the opportunities they have. Without proper communication, citizens cannot take advantage of the recreation programs offered and park areas available for them to enjoy. Extensive publicity is important.

The media is used to promote available recreation opportunities in Reading. News releases are sent to newspapers, and public service announcements are distributed to radio stations on a routine basis by the Recreation Team to promote programs. The 3rd and Spruce Street Center Manager handles most publicity duties. The Parks Team does very little promotion of its areas and facilities. BCTV has a regularly scheduled weekly program slot exclusively for the Recreation Team to highlight activities and events. It is a live broadcast so viewers can call in to ask questions and express concerns.

The Recreation Team publishes a Recreation Bulletin twice a year that lists its program offerings and facility hours. It is mailed to all City households. Flyers are distributed to schools to promote individual recreation programs, and are printed in English and Spanish.

To understand the recreational needs of citizens and to provide the park facilities and programs they desire, it is important to ask for their input. Not much is currently done to solicit citizen opinions about improving services. Evaluation surveys to ask for feedback from current program participants are generally not utilized.

The Park and Recreation Advisory Committee is an excellent forum for citizen participation. It has recently been reestablished after being disbanded years ago. The existing neighborhood playground associations are also vital links for the active involvement of residents and are another excellent way to communicate between residents and City government. The interest, involvement, and concern of each playground association lead to improvement of Reading's park areas and recreation facilities. These volunteers raise funds, perform maintenance duties, plan and conduct recreation programs, run snack bars, and more, adding to the limited resources the City has to keep the park sites operating safely and successfully. While some groups are more active than others, the playground associations are a large part of the reason that the playgrounds and parks they represent continue to be safe and well-used public areas.

OVERALL FINDINGS

All of the recreation and park inventory information is summarized into the following key issues so that the City of Reading can clearly see its opportunities and challenges for the future. This listing of issues establishes the current situation within the City's recreation and park system, and shows areas of strength to build upon and areas of weakness to improve.

The key issues that follow are not meant as criticism of Reading's parks and recreation services. They are intended to clearly show the needs that exist, and highlight the major areas where attention must be focused and improvement must take place.

There is one compelling reason that these key issues exist: the park safety, maintenance and recreation program functions of City government are not funded at an adequate level. The lack of necessary funding directly results in not having enough staff to do the work needed to run a high quality parks and recreation system for a City the size of Reading.

The Parks and Recreation Teams do the best that they can with the money allocated to them. In fact, they are doing a good job with the resources they have to work with. However, the Parks and Recreation Teams are currently under-funded, which results in a seriously low number of employees working for both Teams.

The Parks Team maintains over 450.31 acres of public parkland at 57 sites throughout the City. As a comparison, with nearly the same amount of funding as Reading, the City of Lancaster Parks Bureau maintains only 320 acres of parkland at 23 sites.

The small size of Parks Team staff results in reactionary park maintenance, with only the most serious repairs taken care of by maintenance staff, allowing no time to truly maintain the park areas to the standards of care citizens deserve. Maintenance staff are constantly trying to play catch up, and are never able to get into an effective routine due to the staff having to take care of the most immediate problems first. As a result, some park sites are inadequately cared for. Some have even become unsafe for public use.

The Parks Team staff does a tremendous job, but because of its size is not able to keep up with its necessary work. Compounding this problem is the fact that the Parks Supervisor is pulled in far too many directions since he also serves as the Property Maintenance Supervisor, the Horticulturist, and has even more responsibility as the Manager of the Public Works Operations Division. This means that both the Streets and Recreation Teams are also under his supervision.

With crime, particularly vandalism, drug use, and sexual activity, impacting park areas, public safety is a significant issue for citizens to enjoy their park areas. Money is needed for the Reading Police to hire and supervise a Park Police crew, whose job would focus on overseeing the parks so that citizens may enjoy them safely.

Reading has not only made a significant investment in park areas and recreation facilities, but has also invested large sums of money in recreation programs so its citizens may enjoy the many public sites provided for them. The Recreation Team is charged with providing recreation programs for nearly 82,000 citizens.

The Recreation Team has always focused the vast majority of its programs on children. The staff does an excellent job by providing alternative programs and activities, which are very effective by keeping the youth of the community out of trouble. However, the low hourly wage currently paid to part-time staff could potentially result in the hiring of less qualified or less effective program leaders, which may result in fewer kids taking part in programs in the future. Very low or no fees are charged for youth recreation programs, which means that no revenue is available to help fund staff to offer more programs.

The City's two (2) large recreation centers and three (3) small field houses are used almost exclusively by school age children, since full-time staff has no available time to plan programs for preschoolers, adults, senior citizens, and families. Money is also not available to pay part-time staff to supervise any additional activities.

The key issues facing the City of Reading's recreation and park system are specified under Table 18 of this Plan.

TABLE 18 CITY OF READING RECREATION AND PARKS KEY ISSUES	
Staffing and Financing	• Little money is allocated for staff training. • Full-time staff salaries are low, especially for supervisory staff. • Part-time hourly wage rates are low ($6-$6.50/hour). • Staff orientation or training program exist during seasonal or certain periods of the year. The balance of the year, the staff serves as aids for a variety of programs. • The Parks and Recreation Teams are understaffed; with personnel resources extremely limited, the result is inadequate park maintenance. • The Parks and Recreation Teams employs staff who perform similar maintenance duties on an as needed basis or for special events. • The Parks Supervisor oversees the day-to-day operation of the Parks Team workforce (enforcing regulations, processing paperwork, providing on-the-job supervision and direction, planning work projects), and at the same time is performing three other full-time jobs – Operations Division Manager, Horticulturist, and Property Maintenance Superintendent. In addition to being overloaded with work, he is inadequately compensated. • The Recreation Superintendent and Parks Supervisor are Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society members, but cannot attend training programs due to lack of finances. • Little revenue is generated by charging fees for recreation programs to augment the tax funds provided to the Recreation Team. It should be noted that 79 percent of the operating budget is returned to the general fund. • The demand to repair facilities far outweighs the limited resources the City has to pay for repairs. • Fees for facility use, equipment rental, concessions, and lease agreements are evaluated and increased on a regular basis. • Private business financial support of public park areas and recreation programs is nearly non-existent. • Few seasonal workers are used for park maintenance. • Swimming pool fees are very low as compared to similar-sized cities. • General statistics on park facility usage are kept, however detailed statistics should be kept and recorded by additional staff positions, which are needed.
Park Areas and Recreation Facilities	• Many park areas have sufficient shade for summer use. • Citizens support the creation and linkage of trails. • Both adults and youth ranked indoor fitness/recreation center as a highly desired facility. • Students and residents use City parks frequently, however family use of the parks is relatively low. • Recreation centers must be continually evaluated to determine the need of new or additional equipment. • Rehabilitation of existing park areas has commenced and must continue to allow for expanded and safer usage by citizens. • The riverfront bikeway system should be linked with other regional facilities. • Opportunities should be explored for the protection and preservation of floodplain areas along the Schuylkill River. • The City greenhouse is an under-utilized facility. • A timber management plan should be coordinated for mountain reserve land areas. • Certain areas within the City are underserved with park sites and recreation facilities.

Recreation Programs	• Community needs are systematically evaluated to determine the need for recreation programs or to justify the importance or priority of the recreation programs that could be offered. This evaluation program must continue. • Recreation centers and indoor field houses are used mainly by youth. • Recreation programs are evaluated to gauge participant satisfaction or gain ideas for improvements. This evaluation program must continue. • Citizens support the use of Reading School District facilities for recreation programs. • An inclusion process currently exists for those with special needs to take part in recreation programs, such as Camp Jolly and Lily. • All future recreation programs must consider ADA requirements. • Few class, workshop, camp, and outreach format programs are offered. The staff should continue to explore expanding these opportunities. • Basketball is by far the most popular youth activity within the City of Reading. • An overwhelming majority of youth want more recreation programs offered. • Lack of transportation is the top reason youth gave for not participating in recreation programs.
Maintenance, Safety, and Security	• Records concerning park vandalism are currently kept by the staff. These records must continue to be maintained in order to prioritize needs. • Graffiti is a substantial problem at park areas and recreation facilities. • Contract maintenance has been considered for some park work and should be evaluated for future projects. • Written maintenance standards should continue to be updated for the upkeep and repair of park areas and facilities. • Over one-third of the survey respondents felt the overall condition of the parks and recreation areas are in poor condition. • The Recreation Team schedules the use of fields and facilities by outside groups but the Parks Team maintains the sites. • Only the 11th and Pike Recreation Center has an alarm system. • Maintenance of the City's bikeway system has improved and must continue to make the bikeway system safe and secure. • A park police program has been initiated and must be continued to provide a stronger police presence at all parks in an effort to provide and enhance security. • There is insufficient manpower to totally enforce park rules and regulations. • Drug and alcohol consumption, littering, sexual activity, and related crime problems impact the park areas and recreational facilities. • There is a lack of night lighting at many park sites, both security and activity lighting. • Vandalism, insufficient lighting, infrequent police presence, and crime may contribute to a lack of use of park areas and facilities by citizens. The park police program must continue in order to minimize these concerns and issues. • A preventative maintenance schedule does exist for all vehicles and equipment. This schedule must be continuously evaluated to extend their useful life and reduce the amount of downtime. • The Parks and Recreation Teams must continue to be systematically planned for the rehabilitation and repair of park and recreation facilities. • A few park areas have some erosion problems, affecting safe use of facilities. • Park maintenance staff delivers tables, chairs, and other equipment that has been rented by outside groups, which does take time away to care for park and recreation areas within the City of Reading.

Communications and Public Involvement	• The City website is updated on a monthly basis and contains adequate information on parks and recreation opportunities. However, technical support staff should be provided to enhance the information contained within the website. • Existing playground associations need to be better supported and strengthened. • Some of the playground associations are inactive due to lack of volunteers. • Information concerning recreation programs and facilities are provided through news releases, BCTV, Comcast, the website and flyers to the residents and students. These communications are generally prepared and distributed by existing staff member who are performing multiple tasks. If the promotional and communication efforts are to be increased, additional support staff will be needed. • Strong volunteer leadership and broader community representation is needed on the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee; the existing committee is becoming more active and is supported by the Recreation Team. • The Recreation Team Bulletin contains contact information but not enough information on the recreation programs provided by other groups, including the playground associations. • Many cooperative relationships and arrangements exist for the operation of recreation facilities and programs. Non-profit organizations such as PAL, Olivets, YMCA, Berks Art Council, 4-H Club, Reading Museum, Reading Library System, and Albright Explorers, do provide cooperative relationships and arrangements. However, more private or corporate sponsorship is needed in the future.

SECTION 5: ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

GOALS AND POLICIES TO IMPLEMENT THIS PLAN

The goals and policies that follow are targets the City of Reading should aim to strengthen and improve parks and recreation opportunities for residents.

Staffing and Financing Goal: Pursue the necessary allocation of funds and development of income sources to properly maintain existing City parks, recreation facilities, trails, and greenways; make rehabilitation, expansion, and redesign improvements; and adequately staff park maintenance and recreation program services.

- Provide adequate funds to hire the necessary level of staffing and purchase the equipment and supplies needed to properly care for the significant investment the City has made in park areas, recreation facilities, and recreation program services.
- Consider enhancing the administrative staffing and reallocate budget funds in an effort to continue increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the operation of the Parks and Recreation Teams.
- Seek public and private financial resources to assist in funding park capital improvements and the operational costs of park maintenance and recreation programs.

Park Areas and Recreation Facilities Goal: Provide park areas and recreation facilities that meet the daily close-to-home needs of the majority of City residents, protect significant cultural, historic, scenic, and sensitive natural resources; and provide pathways for recreational use that link neighborhoods, parks and recreation areas, and other community facilities.

- Continue to identify and preserve important natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources in the City and increase their use by citizens for passive recreation activities such as hiking and picnicking.
- Consider expanding the use of over utilized park areas and recreation facilities by redesigning them and making physical improvements and also eliminating under utilized park areas.
- Strive to distribute park areas and recreation facilities as equally as possible among City neighborhoods.
- Continue to upgrade all park areas and recreation facilities to meet safety and accessibility guidelines.

Recreation Programs Goal: Offer citizens a full variety of public recreation programs in a cost-effective manner.

- Establish mechanisms to evaluate the need for existing recreation programs, determine what new programs citizens want to see offered, and find out if participants are satisfied with the present recreation programs they are involved in.

- Continue to provide recreation programs that fully serve both genders and persons of all ages, races, and ethnic groups; adequately serve the handicapped and other special populations, and help address, when possible, key social problems.

Maintenance, Safety, and Security Goal: Ensure that City park areas and recreation facilities are properly maintained and provide an enjoyable, safe, and accessible environment for all residents.

- Continue to plan all park improvements to minimize vandalism, allow oversight of facilities, and increase safety and security for visitors.

- Continue to identify cost-effective ways to improve the maintenance of park areas and recreation facilities.

- Continue to improve park maintenance by developing and implementing a workable maintenance management system.

Communication and Public Involvement Goal: Strengthen existing relationships and develop new partnerships that expand and improve park areas, recreation facilities, and program opportunities for residents; increase the knowledge and awareness by residents of facilities and programs, and promote the value and importance of recreation and parks services to the quality of life in the City.

- Continue to explore ways to effectively inform and involve as many citizens, groups, and organizations as possible to help improve City park areas, recreation facilities, and recreation programs.

- Continue to improve the use of the media to inform citizens of and involve them in recreation opportunities.

- Continue to improve the content of the Recreation Bulletin to take full advantage of the opportunity to inform residents about recreation opportunities.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

This section outlines the strategies for action to implement the City's parks and recreation goals. These strategies are intended to provide guidance to the Parks and Recreation Teams and other City staff, volunteer groups, and citizens who will be implementing portions of the plan. The priorities for most immediate action are summarized. Recommended park improvements, estimated costs, and potential sources to fund the recommendations are described. Lastly, a 10-year action plan for implementation is presented for operations and capital improvements.

The strategies for action are organized by five topic areas:

- **Staffing and Financing**
- **Park Areas and Recreation Facilities**
- **Recreation Programs**
- **Maintenance, Safety, and Security**
- **Communications and Public Involvement**

Each topic area has a significant goal with several policies. All of the policies have a series of recommended strategies for implementation. Each strategy outlines who is responsible for accomplishing the task, the estimated cost, the priority for action (high, 1 to 3 years; moderate, 4 to 6 years; low, 7 to 10 years), and potential funding sources.

The cost estimates are probable costs and should serve only as a starting point for project evaluation. Detailed project costs should be developed whenever a particular strategy has been selected for implementation. The potential funding sources identified for each strategy offer options in providing complete and partial funding for the project. These are not exhaustive; they are intended to be illustrative. Other possible sources should be researched continually.

STAFFING AND FINANCING

While additional maintenance staffing would be beneficial and desirable, this Plan recognizes the City's fiscal limitations. Currently, the supervisors and staff within the Public Works Department are doing a remarkable job with the limited resources (staff and funding) that are available to them. However, additional staffing is needed to properly maintain the existing park areas and recreation facilities. Any money spent to improve park areas will be wasted if the City does not have adequate maintenance staff to care for them. When City parks are not cared for, they become dangerous, unsafe places for residents, attracting vandalism, drug dealing, and more.

Currently, the vast majority of City maintenance staff are full-time, year-round employees. For the low-skilled work that is needed, the City should continue using year-round part-time employees or full-time seasonal employees instead of hiring additional year-round full-time employees. Year-round part-time employees are preferable if they are able to work varying hours from season to season based upon the amount of work needing to be done.

Seasonal and part-time positions may also serve as a screening mechanism to assist in choosing people to fill year-round full-time positions that may become available. For work that does not involve significant skills and training, seasonal and part-time employees are less expensive than year-round full-time workers because of the high costs of fringe benefits for full-time workers.

To expand the number of recreation programs offered to residents, the Recreation Team must hire, at a minimum, three year-round and part-time employees. Further, a year-round part-time public relations and marketing coordinator should also be hired. Previous program attempts have been offered for preschool, youth sports, and older adult recreation programs. If these programs are to be considered, additional support staff and funding will be required to support them other than what is currently accounted for within the parks and recreation budget. Recreation programs can be wonderfully planned, but if people do not know about them, they cannot participate and the planning dollars will be wasted. It is important for the Recreation Team to have a staff person whose work focuses on program promotion.

It is strongly recommended that the City hire a full-time grant writer, whose job is to seek funds from government, foundations, business, and other sources to improve the operation of not only parks and recreation, but other essential City services such as police and fire protection. Time and expertise is needed to prepare grant applications, and also to oversee the proper implementation of the grants once they are received. If a skilled, experienced individual is hired, that person's salary could be multiplied many, many times over in the amount of outside funding Reading could receive.

Staffing and Financing Goal* – *Pursue the necessary allocation of funds and development of income sources to properly maintain existing City parks, recreation facilities, trails, and greenways; make rehabilitation, expansion, and redesign improvements; and adequately staff park maintenance and recreation program services.

Policy 1 – Provide adequate funds to hire the necessary level of staffing and purchase the equipment and supplies needed to properly care for the significant investment the City has made in park areas, recreation facilities, and recreation program services.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Upgrade Recreation Team with year-round part-time staff salaries to attract and retain better qualified staff	Recreation Superintendent	$10,000 to $15,000	City general fund budget	High		
Allocate additional funds to the Parks Team budget to hire 3 to 5 year-round part-time maintenance workers	City Managing Director, Director of Public Works, City Council	$30,000 to $40,000	City general fund budget	High		
Allocate additional funds to the Recreation Team budget to hire full time staff positions for community relations and/or marketing coordinator	City Managing Director, Director of Public Works, City Council	$50,000 to $65,000	City general fund budget	High		

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Increase the salary of the Operations Division manager to adequately reflect the level of management responsibility of the position	City Managing Director, Director of Public Works	$10,000 to $15,000	City general fund budget		Moderate	
Purchase program registration, league scheduling, and facility reservation software that includes computerized identification cards for citizen access to indoor recreation facilities	Recreation Superintendent	$8,000 to $10,000	City general fund budget		Moderate	
Consider hiring a part-time preschool recreation specialist to oversee the development of preschool programs, a part-time youth sports specialist to organize City-wide sports programs, a part-time older adult recreation specialist to oversee the development of older adult programs, and a part-time public relations and marketing coordinator to focus on program promotion and publicity	Recreation Superintendent	$10,000 to $30,000	City general fund budget, program fees			Low
Hire a full-time grant writer for the City, to seek funds for all Departments	City Managing Director, City Council	$35,000 to $40,000	City general fund budget	High		

Policy 2 – Consider enhancing the administrative staffing needs and reallocate budget funds to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the operation of the Parks and Recreation Teams.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Change Property Maintenance Team title to Public Property Team, and merge it with the Parks Team to create the Parks and Public Property Team	City Managing Director, Director of Public Works	N/A	N/A	High		
Conduct criminal background clearances and child abuse clearances on all staff and volunteers for the Recreation Team	Recreation Superintendent	$20/person	City general fund budget, staff and volunteers	High		

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Merge the two vacant positions, Parks Supervisor and Property Maintenance Supervisor, to become Parks and Public Property Superintendent. Hire Parks and Public Property Superintendent, setting salary at a level to attract qualified candidates	City Managing Director, Director of Public Works, City Council	$35-40,000	City general fund budget		Moderate	
Consider moving the maintenance staff currently working in the Recreation Team to the Parks Team	Director of Public Works, Operations Division Manager	N/A	N/A			Low
Continue to evaluate part-time and full-time staff performance once each year	Operations Division Manager, Parks and Public Property Superintendent, Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		
Budget funds for and send Recreation Team and Parks Team supervisory staff to the annual Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Conference	Director of Public Works, Operations Division Manager	$1,000-2,000	City general fund budget	High		
Continue to develop a park police force within the City Police Department to help enforce park rules and regulations, the curfew ordinance, and littering laws, with parks being patrolled within quadrants of the City by part-time staff	City Managing Director, Police Chief, City Council	$40-50,000	City general fund budget	High		
Based upon time constraints with the existing staff, consider stopping the rental and delivery of tables and chairs by the City	Director of Public Works, Operations Division Manager	N/A	N/A			Low
Move the responsibility for park facility reservations and field rentals to the Parks Team, who is responsible for preparing and maintaining these areas. Keep the building rental responsibility with the Recreation Team, who operates these facilities.	Director of Public Works, Operations Division Manager	N/A	N/A			Low

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Continue to examine the needs of the summer playground and school-year recreation center and field house operations; consider allocating funds to hire part-time recreation specialists and public relations and marketing coordinator	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A			Low

Policy 3 – Seek public and private financial resources to assist in funding capital improvements and the operational costs of park maintenance and recreation programs.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Continue to pursue private and business sponsorship for all Recreation Team special events	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	City businesses; Chamber of Commerce	High		
Set all non-resident fees for programs, services, and rentals of equipment and facilities at a set percentage higher than resident fees (example, 25-50% more)	Recreation Superintendent, Parks and Public Property Superintendent, City Council	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Continue to work with the Park and Playground Associations to help them establish non-profit 501(c)(3) status	Director of Public Works, City Solicitor, Parks and Public Property Superintendent, Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Apply for government grants and foundation funds in partnership with other agencies and groups, including Park and Playground Associations	Recreation Superintendent, Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	Berks County Community Foundation	High		
Raise fees for Schlegel Park Swimming Pool; Continue to monitor operations and maintenance costs versus the revenue that is collected.	Recreation Superintendent, City Council	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Apply for City CDBG funds and look for foundation funds to outfit space at each Recreation Center and Field House for preschool programs	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	City CDBG funds, Foundation funds			Low

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Continue to ask private, corporate and business interests within the City to help provide matching funds for grant applications for needed park improvement projects	City Managing Director, Director of Public Works, Parks and Public Property Superintendent, Recreation Superintendent, City Council	N/A	City businesses		Moderate	
Consider undertaking a timber management plan for mountain reserve land	Parks and Public Property Superintendent, Consultant	$10,000	DCNR grant, City general fund budget		Moderate	
Develop revenue-producing programs that will support the hiring of program staff, such as day camps	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A			Low
Place park development and rehabilitation projects in order of priority for seeking grant funds	Parks and Public Property Superintendent, Park and Recreation Advisory Council	N/A	N/A	High		
Apply for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources technical assistance peer-to-peer grant to have an experienced park and recreation professional prepare a maintenance management plan for the ongoing care of City park areas and recreation facilities	Parks and Public Property Superintendent	$10,000	City general fund budget, City CDBG funds, DCNR	High		
Review and increase all existing recreation program fees	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A			Low
Pursue finding organizations and groups for long-term rentals of recreation buildings	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A			Low

PARK AREAS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

This plan does not recommend that the City purchase significant additional land for recreation. The existing City-owned lands are generally adequately distributed to serve the City's population. The limited City funds available for parks and recreation are needed primarily to improve and maintain existing facilities. In addition, the City should avoid removing property from the real estate tax rolls.

The proposed list of park projects was developed based on in-person inspections of the facilities. The highest priorities are placed on projects needed to correct a safety hazard or to provide handicapped accessibility. A moderate priority is placed on those improvements needed to make a facility function more effectively through renovation or rehabilitation. These types of projects include repaving of macadam areas and expansion of undersized court areas. Those projects that would involve an entirely new facility are, for the most part, given a lower priority. An exception involves a few areas with clear deficiencies of recreation facilities.

Connecting the City's riverfront bikeway system with neighboring municipal greenways is a top priority. Much of the system is currently in place, so connecting the existing linkages will provide access to the City from suburban communities.

***Park Areas and Recreation Facilities Goal* – Provide park areas and recreation facilities that meet the daily close-to-home needs of the majority of City residents, protect significant cultural, historic, scenic, and sensitive natural resources; and provide pathways for recreational use that link neighborhoods, parks and recreation areas, and other community facilities.**

Policy 1 – Continue to identify and preserve important natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources in the City and increase their use by citizens for passive recreation activities such as hiking and picnicking.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Secure perpetual right-of-way access through the Carpenter property to link sections of the riverfront bikeway	City Managing Director, Director of Public Works, Parks and Public Property Superintendent, City Council	N/A	N/A	High		
Connect the riverfront bikeway system to regional greenway systems in neighboring municipalities	Parks and Public Property Superintendent	TBD	DCNR grants, Schuylkill River Greenway Association	High		
Continue City and encourage other efforts to preserve the natural environment of the Mt. Penn and Neversink Mountain reserves.	Parks and Public Property Superintendent	TBD	Berks County Conservancy	High		

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Plan for the upgrade and expansion of the trail system in Mt. Penn and Neversink Mountain reserves	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	TBD	DCNR grants, Foundation grants		Moderate	
Plan for expanded recreational and interpretive use of historically and archeologically significant sites	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super.	TBD	DCNR Grants, Foundation Grants, CDBG Funds		Moderate	
Study ways to connect parks to other parks and community features through development of greenways and trail plan	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	TBD	DCNR Grants, Foundation Grants, CDBG Funds		Moderate	
Develop Master Plan for Riverfront and Riverdale Parks as key greenways providing for heritage interpretation, vistas, fishing, and handicapped access	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	TBD	DCNR grants, Foundation grants		Moderate	
Plan for the expanded use of the City's greenhouse	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	TBD	DCNR Grants, Foundation Grants, CDBG Funds		Moderate	
Develop and implement timber management plan for large, forested portions of City's parkland	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	TBD	General Fund	High		

Policy 2 – Consider expanding the use of over utilized park areas and recreation facilities by redesigning them and making physical improvements and also eliminating under utilized park areas.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Purchase preschool furniture, equipment and supplies to set up space at each Field House and Recreation Center for preschool programs	Recreation Superintendent	$15-25,000	Donations, City CDBG funds, City general fund budget			Low
Purchase furniture, equipment and supplies to set up space at each Field House and Recreation Center to hold older adult recreation programs during the day	Recreation Superintendent	$15-25,000	Donations, City CDBG funds, City general fund budget			Low
Design and implement dam breast and lake reconstruction and boathouse improvements at Angelica Park [costs include design and (improvements)]	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$75,000 (TBD)	DCNR Grant, FEMA funds, General Fund	High		

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Design and implement Skate Park improvements at Hampden Park [costs include (improvements)]	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	($60,000)	DCNR Grant	High		
Masterplan Hillside Park, including consideration of operational organization and handicapped access [costs include design and (improvements)]	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$10,000 (TBD)	DCNR Grant		Moderate	
Redesign Ninth & Marion Park with community input [costs include design and (improvements)] on basis of Master Plan consider replacing fence and pavilion and providing new playstructures	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$10,000 (TBD)	DCNR Grant	High		
Redesign Sixth & Amity Park with community input [costs include design and (improvements)] on basis of Master Plan consider resurfacing basketball courts and renovating baseball field	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$15,000 (TBD)	DCNR Grant	High		
Redesign Tenth & South Playground with community input [costs include design and (improvements)] on basis of Master Plan consider redesign as "Gateway to Mountain" park and elimination of baseball field	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$10,000 (TBD)	DCNR Grant			Low
Redesign Third & Spring Playground with community input [costs include design and (improvements)] on basis of Master Plan consider resurfacing basketball courts, landscaping, and refencing of perimeter	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$10,000 (TBD)	DCNR Grant	High		
Redesign Third & Spruce Recreation Center with community input [costs include design and (improvements)] on basis of Master Plan consider resurfacing basketball courts, wall and pavement renovations, conversion of tennis to roller hockey, removal of field lights and fitness stations, removal of handball courts, site furnishings, and landscaping	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$15,000 (TBD)	DCNR Grant	High		

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Redesign Minor Street Parklet with community input [costs include design and (improvements)]	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$7,500 ($100,000)	DCNR Grant			Low
Determine the ability to expand park and recreation facilities or reshape the focus of the following sites [costs include concept design only for use in applying for DCNR grant funding]:	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super					
• Penn's Commons City Park (evaluate castle structure for continued use and design add'l facilities if found to be sound or plan for replacement if not sound)		$1,000 (structural analysis by City codes staff)	General Fund	High		
• Barbey's Playground (new design of fountain and construction of new basketball courts)		$1,000	General Fund		Moderate	
• Centre Park (new use for fountain area)		$500	General Fund			Low
• Eleventh and Pike Playground (design courts usable for ice skating and update recreation center design)		$500 $1,000	General Fund General Fund		Moderate	Low
• Essick Park (remove volleyball/replace with basketball, and provide new playground)		$1,000	General Fund	High		
• Pendora Park (fountain area design and redesign of volleyball and concession area)		$1,000	General Fund			Low
• Schlegel Park (convert tennis courts to inline skating and roller hockey facility)		$500	General Fund	High		
• Camp Jolly/Camp Lily (new facilities)		$1,000 $7,500	General Fund			Low
Design Hancock Boulevard Park with community input [costs include design and (improvements)]	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$15,000 (TBD)	DCNR Grant			Low

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Design Yarnell Park with community input [costs include design and (improvements)]	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$10,000 (TBD)	DCNR Grant			Low
Redesign Second & Franklin Parklet with community input [costs include design and (improvements)]	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$5,000 (TBD)	DCNR Grant			Low

Policy 3 – Strive to distribute park areas and recreation facilities as equally as possible among City neighborhoods.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Look for vacant land to develop park areas and recreation facilities in four underserved areas, Northeast Center City, Northwest Reading, Downtown North and Riverdale	Director of Public Works, Parks and Public Property Superintendent	TBD	DCNR grants, City CDBG funds		Moderate	
Improve access to school facilities for recreation programs	City Council, School Board	N/A	N/A	High		
Conduct Study of existing pool at Schlegel Park and determine its long-term ability to meet the needs of the City's residents; also, determine if new pool(s) is/(are) needed on basis of Study results	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$50,000	DCNR Grant	High		
Conduct Study of indoor park and recreation space and develop long-term strategy to meet the community needs	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$50,000	DCNR Grant			Low

Policy 4 – Continue to upgrade all park areas and recreation facilities to meet general, safety and accessibility guidelines.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Install consistent park signage (with rules and regulations) at each park site [costs include design and (improvements)]	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$2,500 ($50,000) Phased	General Fund, Bond Issue			Low
Design repairs to flood damaged facilities at Mineral Springs Park [costs include design and (improvements)]	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	$7,500 (TBD)	General Fund, Bond Issue, FEMA funds	High		
Renovate existing pavilion(s) and structures at the following sites [costs will include design and improvements] • Penn's Commons City Park Band Shell and Pond • Dives Playground Pavilion • Essick Playground Pavilion and Block House • Keffer Park Field House • Second & Oley Pavilion and Block House	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	(TBD) (TBD) (TBD) (TBD) (TBD)	DCNR Grant, CDBG Funds, Bond Issue	High High High High		Low
Construct small pavilion with one rest room, drinking fountain, vending machines, and shade/picnic area at the following park sites [costs include design and improvements]: • Barbey's Playground • Brookline Playground • Front and Schiller Playground • Northmont Playground • Reading Iron Playground	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	($25,000) ($25,000) ($25,000) ($25,000) ($25,000) ($125,000)	DCNR Grant, CDBG Funds, Bond Issue			Low Low Low Low Low
Construct large pavilion with two rest rooms, drinking fountain, storage, concessions, and shade/picnic area at the following park sites [costs include design and improvements]: • Angelica Park • Penn's Commons • Hampden Park • Mineral Spring Park • Neversink Playground • Schlegel Park	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	($35,000) ($35,000) ($35,000) ($35,000) ($35,000) ($35,000) ($210,000)	DCNR Grant, CDBG Funds, Bond Issue	High		Low Low Low Low Low

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Evaluate existing/provide new bleachers or update same for safety at each applicable park site	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	TBD	DCNR Grant, CDBG Funds, Bond Issue	High		
Provide/replace site furnishings/amenities at the following park sites [costs will include design and improvement]:	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super		DCNR Grant, CDBG Funds, Bond Issue			
• Angelica Park (tennis court fence)		TBD		High		
• Baer Park (safety surfacing)		TBD			Moderate	
• Barbey's Playground (tie wall and step repairs)		TBD			Moderate	
• Brookline Playground (safety surface, replace tot lot, resurface basketball courts, remove sliding board, and replace backstop)		TBD		High		
• Courtyards I & II (minor landscaping)		TBD				Low
• Dives Playground (safety surface and new backstop)		TBD		High		
• Egelman Park (new grills/fireplaces)		TBD			Moderate	
• Eleventh and Pike Playground (resurface basketball courts and remove bleacher standards)		TBD		High		
• Essick Playground (resurface basketball courts, new fence, and benches)		TBD		High		
• Front and Schiller Playground (new benches)		TBD				Low
• Keffer Park Playground (renovate baseball field and backstop and remove large sliding board)		TBD		High		
• Neversink Playground (resurface basketball and volleyball courts, replace baseball field fence, replace wooden steps)		TBD		High		
• Northmont Playground (resurface basketball courts and renovate baseball backstop and infield)		TBD			Moderate	

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
• Pendora Park (spray pool renovations, tennis and basketball crt. resurfacing)		TBD		High		
• Reading Iron (renovate baseball field and backstop)		TBD				Low
• Schlegel Park (replace baseball backstop)		TBD		High		
• Second & Oley Playground (safety surface and resurface and add one new basketball court)		TBD		High		
• Tenth & South Playground (repair walls and steps)		TBD				Low
Evaluate and improve handicapped access at all City parks and recreation areas, as required.	Director of Public Works. Parks & Public Property Super	TBD	DCNR Grant, CDBG Funds, Bond Issue		Moderate	
Plan for handicapped access, safety, non-motorized boating, and trailhead (rest rooms and/or parking) improvements at greenway sites, especially at the following locations [costs include design only]: • Angelica Park • Dana Memorial Park • Heritage Park • Mount Penn Reserve • Neversink Mountain Reserve • Reading Greenway • Riverdale Park • Riverfront Park	Director of Public Works, Parks & Public Property Super	TBD	DCNR Grant, CDBG Funds, Bond Issue		Moderate	

RECREATION PROGRAMS

At the present time, the City of Reading Recreation Team focuses most of its financial resources on programs for children, and offers these programs at minimal cost. The City of Reading has attempted to provide adult or specialty type programs in the past, however, duplication of services from private or quasi-public sectors created competition and limited utilization of the programs. As a result, many adults are not served by Recreation Team programs. It is not necessary for the City to provide a full range of activities, if each major type of activity is available to residents through at least one organization.

The following factors are important to understand as part of the City Recreation Team developing an expanded schedule of recreation program opportunities within the City, as well as other urban areas:

- The urban nature and density of the City
- The need to serve all age groups and both genders
- The need to serve individuals and families
- The need to serve people of different races, ethnic origins, and disabilities
- The need to address some people's limited ability to pay
- The important characteristics of the City's residents – total population, household size, age and gender distribution, education, race, income levels, and unemployment rates
- The other major recreation service providers – location and type of facilities, age groups served, costs, and schedule of activities provided
- The facilities available and likely to be available for programs
- The need to have a balanced variety of programs covering the major program categories
- The need to serve different skill levels
- The amount of financial and other resources expected to be available to provide recreation programs now and in the near future
- The benefits of involving participants in the planning of programs
- The need to incorporate fun into recreation programs to make them positive experiences
- The need to balance activities stressing cooperativeness and competitiveness
- The need for direction by and the supervision of professionally trained staff
- The importance of lifelong learning, especially for people re-entering the labor market or needing to expand their skills

The Recreation Team should continue to offer recreation programs to City residents at nominal fees so the park and recreation facilities are utilized and serve the needs of the community.

Recreation Programs Goal *– Offer citizens a full variety of public recreation programs in a cost-effective manner.*

Policy 1 – Establish mechanisms to evaluate the need for existing recreation programs, determine what new programs citizens want to see offered, and find out if participants are satisfied with the present recreation programs they are involved in.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Continue to implement an evaluation survey process for all recreation programs to determine whom the programs are serving and how well the programs are meeting their needs	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Enhance parent involvement in youth recreation programs	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	

Policy 2 – Continue to provide recreation programs that fully serve both genders and persons of all ages, races, and ethnic groups; adequately serve the handicapped and other special populations, and help address, when possible, key social problems.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Continue to increase the number of family programs offered	Recreation Superintendent	$3-5,000	Business sponsorship, City general fund budget		Moderate	
Determine program areas where gaps exist, where no agency is providing programming or doing it well, and concentrate on developing new programs in those areas	Recreation Superintendent, Park and Recreation Advisory Committee	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Continue to utilize national program resources to enhance existing recreation programs and develop new ones	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Continue to develop a variety of fee-based youth sports programs	Recreation Superintendent, Youth Sports Specialist	$5-15,000	Program fees, City general fund budget		Moderate	
Offer youth sports coaches training to all youth sports organizations, utilizing the American Sport Education Program	Recreation Superintendent	$15/coach	Youth sports organizations, coaches		Moderate	
Re-evaluate the need to develop a variety of day-time programs for older adults	Recreation Superintendent, Older Adult Recreation Specialist	$5-15,000	Program fees, City general fund budget			Low

MAITENANCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

With a relatively small staff and a large and diverse park system, the City Parks and Recreation Teams are confronted with many challenges associated with maintenance, safety and security. The Parks and Recreation Teams must continue to develop a maintenance management plan that establishes the standards of care for each site and provides a systematic scheduling of tasks. Likewise, a preventative maintenance program for vehicles and equipment, and routine, monthly safety inspections of all park areas and recreation facilities should also continue in the future.

Maintenance, Safety, and Security Goal – ***Ensure that City park areas and recreation facilities are properly maintained and provide an enjoyable, safe, and accessible environment for all residents.***

Policy 1 – Continue to plan all park improvements to minimize vandalism, allow oversight of facilities, and increase safety and security for visitors.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Have a lighting company provide cost estimates for providing, upgrading and/or installing security lighting at all existing parks.	Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		
Have a lighting company provide cost estimates for providing, upgrading and/or installing activity lighting at all existing parks.	Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	

Policy 2 – Continue to identify cost-effective ways to improve the maintenance of park areas and recreation facilities.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Seek out cooperative arrangements with other organizations (churches, private schools, non-profit agencies) for the maintenance of park areas and recreation facilities located close to their facilities	Parks and Public Property Superintendent, Park and Recreation Advisory Committee	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Determine what and how much maintenance work can be contracted out, concentrating on routine functions where the service can potentially be provided less expensively, while still maintaining quality and allowing sufficient work to remain for City staff	Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Seek out cooperative arrangements with surrounding municipalities and the County for maintenance and potential expansion of existing park areas and facilities that serve the region or extend through multiple jurisdictions	Director of Public Works, Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		
Look to match City service groups and clubs with specific park areas to help maintain them, and to raise money for improvements	Director of Public Works, Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		
Initiate discussions with the County with the goal of turning over maintenance of the City riverfront bikeway to the County	City Managing Director, City Council	N/A	N/A	High		

Policy 3 – Continue to improve park maintenance by developing and implementing a workable maintenance management system.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Continue to develop a maintenance management plan with a systematic approach for scheduling and completing park maintenance tasks and projects to provide information on the cost to maintain each park area, the cost to perform certain tasks, the percentage of productive time for each worker, etc.	Parks and Public Property Superintendent, Consultant	$10,000	DCNR grant, City CDBG funds, City general fund budget		Moderate	
Continue to develop inspection checklist forms to do routine safety inspections of playgrounds and other park facilities	Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		
Continue to establish and implement a monthly schedule for park area inspections	Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		
Continue to establish a preventative maintenance program for vehicles and equipment, a basic, routine system to regularly assess vehicle and equipment condition and to properly, efficiently schedule vehicle and equipment repairs and replacement of vehicles when needed	Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Continue to establish minimum standards of care for each park area and recreation facility	Parks and Public Property Superintendent, Consultant	See maintenance management plan above	See maintenance management plan above	High		

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Park areas, recreation facilities, and recreation programs are of little value if the public is not aware of the opportunities available to them. It is highly likely that many long-time City residents are unfamiliar with park areas or have never been inside one of the Recreation Centers or Field Houses. Newer City residents have substantially less knowledge. Most people are probably familiar with those parks that are closest to their homes or that are visible from major streets. They are unaware of the locations of other sites.

Communication not only involves informing residents about parks and recreation services, but also soliciting and listening to their advice, complaints, and suggestions. Actively involving them in planning, promoting, and conducting recreation programs, and helping to maintain facilities, gives people a sense of ownership and builds community pride. For the success of recreation programs in particular, it is necessary to involve as many people as possible.

Focusing time and effort into strengthening the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee and the neighborhood Park and Playground Associations will make them effective, essential partners in the provision of parks and recreation services in Reading.

Communications and Public Involvement Goal – ***Strengthen existing relationships and develop new partnerships that expand and improve park areas, recreation facilities, and program opportunities for residents; increase the knowledge and awareness by residents of facilities and programs, and promote the value and importance of recreation and parks services to the quality of life in the City.***

Policy 1 – Continue to explore ways to effectively inform and involve as many citizens, groups, and organizations as possible to help improve City park areas, recreation facilities, and recreation programs.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Maintain closer, more frequent contact with other City recreation providers to stay informed, avoid unnecessary duplication, share resources, and improve programs	Recreation Superintendent, Park and Recreation Advisory Committee	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Partner with other adjacent municipalities to offer joint recreation programs	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		
Continue to strengthen and educate the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee and Park and Playground Associations.	Recreation Superintendent, Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Hold a van tour of park areas, recreation facilities, and programs for City elected officials and administrative staff	Recreation Superintendent, Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Consult with a GIS Analyst to initiate and coordinate the digital mapping of all significant infrastructure (land, facilities and improvements) that are owned and maintained by the City of Reading.	City Managing Director, Director of Public Works, City Council	N/A	N/A	High		
Solicit a consultant to develop a GIS map, brochure and web page showing the location of each park site and listing all park areas and recreation facilities, rules and regulations, hours of operation, permit procedures, etc.	City Managing Director, Director of Public Works, Parks and Public Property Superintendent, City Council	N/A	Donation	High		
Solicit a printing company to print the maps and brochures for distribution. Solicit a consultant to prepare a map to download on the web page and Recreation Bulletin.	City Managing Director, Director of Public Works, Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		
Continue to place Recreation Team program information in School District public relations materials	Recreation Superintendent, School District staff	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Continue to make contact with and get on calendars to speak with Rotary, Lions, and other civic and service clubs about needed park projects and recreation program funding	Recreation Superintendent, Parks and Public Property Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		
Improve the flyers produced by the Recreation Team to promote recreation programs	Recreation Superintendent				Moderate	

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Establish a contact list to disseminate program flyers at churches, private schools, non-profit agencies, neighborhood stores, etc. and set up a system to routinely distribute the flyers	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Continue to look for partners to cosponsor most programs offered by the Recreation Team, particularly special events	Recreation Superintendent, Park and Recreation Advisory Committee	N/A	N/A		Moderate	

Policy 2 – Continue to improve the use of the media to inform citizens of and involve them in recreation opportunities.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Continue to meet with City news editors for daily and Sunday newspapers to discuss promotion opportunities	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Continue to meet with radio station promotions directors to discuss promotion opportunities	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Continue to utilize the Recreation Team cable television show to promote park areas and facilities, in addition to recreation programs	Parks and Public Property Superintendent, Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	

Policy 3 – Continue to improve the content of the Recreation Bulletin to take full advantage of the opportunity to inform residents about recreation opportunities.

Implementation Strategies	Responsibility	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	PRIORITY		
				High	Moderate	Low
Continue to update a yearly calendar of events for the Recreation Team, Park and Playground Associations, youth sports organizations, etc. and publish it in the Recreation Bulletin	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A	High		
Include School District news and program information from other City recreation providers in the Recreation Bulletin	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Promote membership in the Park and Playground Associations through the Recreation Bulletin and through all programs offered by the Recreation Team	Recreation Superintendent, Park and Playground Association	N/A	N/A	High		
Continue to improve the content of the Recreation Bulletin by including better explanations of existing recreation programs and by seeking additional funds to enhance the functional use and effectiveness	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	
Meet with a public relations/graphics company to get constructive help and detailed suggestions for improvement of design and content of Recreation Bulletin	Recreation Superintendent	N/A	N/A		Moderate	

FUNDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to annual appropriations from the City's General Fund, a combination of traditional and more creative financing methods are needed to put this Plan into action. The City of Reading should begin to more aggressively seek Federal, State, County, and private funds to increase staffing levels, expand recreation programs, and make park improvements. Collaboration and partnerships with other organizations will be essential, particularly to obtain grant funds. To greatly expand the number of potential funding sources, the City of Reading should work closely with the Park and Playground Associations to help them establish non-profit status.

Many, many grant sources and foundation programs exist that will fund parks and recreation projects. The following list should serve as a starting point. It is by no means all-inclusive.

FEDERAL GRANTS

- National Center for Recreation and Conservation, National Park Service, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program provides direct federal matching assistance to economically distressed cities and urban counties for rehabilitation of existing recreation facilities. Three types of grants are available: rehabilitation (70% federal/30% local), innovation grants (70% federal/30% local), and planning grants (50% federal/50% local). $29 million available in fiscal year 2001.
- (www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/uprr.index.html)

- National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program offers in-depth staff assistance and consultations for locally led conservation projects such as developing trails and greenway networks or protecting rivers and open space.
- (www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/RTCA/index.html)

- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Grants program supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed, responsible decisions that affect environmental quality. $3 million available each year.
- (www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html)

- U. S. Department of Transportation Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program, authorized by TEA-21, provides funds to reduce transportation-related emissions and improve air quality. Trails designed for transportation as well as recreation are eligible. States select projects.
- (www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaq.htm)

- U. S. Department of Justice provides information on crime and violence prevention grants that can be used to support recreation programs.
- (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm)

- U. S. Department of Education provides information on grants to apply for in cooperation with school districts.
- (www.ed.gov/funding.html)

- U. S. Department of Health and Human Services provides information on available grants such as drug prevention, preschool programs, exercise programs, and so on, that can be used to fund recreation programs that improve health.
- (www.hhs.gov/agencies/grants.html)

- Federal Grants Clearinghouse provides information on hundreds of federal grants that can be used to support youth recreation programs.
- (www.afterschool.gov/fed.html)

- Other websites for federal grant resources:
  - Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, www.cfda.gov
  - Conservation Technology Support Program, www.ctsp.org
  - Computers for Learning, www.computers.fed.gov/School/user.asp
  - Department of Energy, www.energy.gov/community/sub/involved.htm
  - Department of Labor, www.dol.gov/dol/oasam/public/grants/main.htm
  - Federal Commons Grants Portal, www.cfda.gov/federalcommons
  - Federal Nonprofit Gateway, www.nonprofit.gov
  - Federal Register, www.access.gpo/su_docs/aces140.html
  - Health and Human Services Grants Net, www.hhs.gov/grantsnet
  - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,
  - www.samsha.gov/grants/grants.html
  - Federal Funds Express, www.house.gov/ffr/Grants_Other.htm
  - The Watershed Academy, www.epa.gov/OWOW/watershed/wacademy/fund.html

STATE GRANTS

- Schuylkill River State Heritage Corridor, part of the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program, provides grant funding for Special Purpose Study projects of up to 75% of the total project costs, and for Implementation projects of up to 50% of total project costs. Match must be cash, with at least 10% private funding.
  (www.schuylkillriver.org)

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provides a single point of contact and application format for communities seeking state grant funding for recreation and conservation planning, acquisition, development, and technical assistance projects from the Community Conservation Partnership Program. $27.8 million was available during the most recent round of grant funding. (www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Planning Grant Projects:

Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plans: to develop a comprehensive long-range planning document that provides strategies to address a municipality's recreation, park, and open space needs

Conservation Plans: to encourage conservation planning and sound land use

Feasibility Studies: to determine the feasibility of acquiring, developing, or rehabilitating swimming pools, ice rinks, sports complexes and recreation centers.

Greenways and Trails Plans: to explore establishing, developing, and managing linear corridors of open space along streams, shorelines, wetlands, canals and ridge tops.

Rails-to-Trails Plans: to develop a design detailing the proposed development of the trail.

Master Site Plans: to design the proposed development of a neighborhood, community, or regional park

Rivers Conservation Plans: to study watersheds or rivers, including streams and creeks, to identify significant river resources, potential threats to these resources, and recommend restoration, maintenance or enhancement actions

Technical Assistance Grant Projects:

Education and Training: to provide assistance by recreation and park advisors to communities, sponsor workshops, and provide publications

Peer-to-Peer: to study problem-specific issues dealing with the administration of park and recreation facilities and/or services with the help of an experienced park and recreation professional.

Circuit Rider: to hire a full-time recreation and/or park director to share services through an intergovernmental cooperative effort created by two or more municipalities

Acquisition Grant Projects:

Park and Recreation Areas: to purchase land for park, recreation, and conservation purposes

River Conservation: to purchase land for rivers conservation purposes

Rails-to-Trails: to purchase abandoned railroad rights-of-way for public recreational trail use and purchase adjacent land for access or related support facilities

Development Grant Projects:

Park Rehabilitation and Development: to rehabilitate existing parks and indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, and to develop new park and recreation areas

Greenways and Trails: to rehabilitate existing and develop new greenways and trails

Rails-to-Trails: to rehabilitate and develop abandoned rights-of-way and support facilities for public recreational trail use

Rivers Conservation: to resolve specific issues for a river that is on the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program Grants provide funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. Match requirements are 80% grant money, up to a maximum or $100,000, and 20% project applicant money. Acquisition projects require a 50/50 match. Funding is provided through the Federal Highway Administration and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). $1 million available. (www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

Other websites for State grant resources:

Piper Resources State and Local Government on the Net,
www.piperinfo.com/state/index.cfm

The Grantsmanship Center's Funding through State Government,
www.tgci.com/STATES/states2.htm

U. S. State and Local Gateway, www.statelocal.gov

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, www.artsnet.org/pca/pca.html

Pennsylvania Humanities Council, www.pahumanities.org

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Community Revitalization Grants, www.esa.dced.state.pa.us/SingleApp.nsf/Home

Pennsylvania Department of Health, www.webserver.health.state.pa.us/health/site

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Growing Greener Grants, www.dep.state.pa.us

Federally-Funded/State-Administered Grants

- U. S. Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides funding for breakfast, lunch, and snacks for children ages 18 and under at summer playgrounds, camps, and other recreation programs. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides meals and snacks for after school and evening youth recreation programs. State administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. (www.frac.org)

- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Transportation Enhancements Program is a cost reimbursement program, not a grant program, funded through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) of the Federal Highway Administration. Funding is available for provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicycles, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, landscaping or other scenic beautification, historic preservation, and preservation of abandoned railway corridors. (www.dot.state.pa.us)

County Grants

- Berks County Open Space and Recreation Advisory Council consist of 9 members appointed by the Berks County Board of Commissioners to provide recommendations concerning open space and recreation needs in Berks County. The functions of the Council are to monitor open space and recreational needs; serve as a clearinghouse for potential projects; establish procedures and administer a screening process to evaluate projects; and advise interested community groups of other state and local resources. (610-478-6300)

Foundation Grants

- Berks County Community Foundation has over $24 million in assets and distributed $1 million in grants in 2001. Programs include Demonstration Grants, Community Investment Grants, Youth Advisory Committee Grants, and GPU Energy Environmental Grants. (www.bccf.org)

- Target Stores and Tiger Woods Foundation provide Start Something Scholarships for youth to use for summer camps, music lessons, sports equipment, travel expenses, and so on. Program enrollment forms are available at Target stores. (www.startsomething.target.com)

- American Legacy Foundation Initiative for Tobacco Control in Priority Populations provides grants of up to $200,000 for anti-smoking projects. (202-293-5960)

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provides grants for conservation and environmental education projects. (www.nfwf.org/programs/program.htm)

- Pew Charitable Trust provides grants in a number of program areas including environment, culture, and health and human services. (www.pewtrusts.com/grants)

- Three Guineas Fund supports projects to benefit women and girls. (www.3gf.org)

- UPS Foundation Community Investment Grant program allocates dollars to UPS region offices to invest in their communities. (www.community.ups.com/community/causes/us_relations/index.htm)

- Women's Sports Foundation offers a variety of grant programs to benefit women and girls sports programs and travel and training grants for athletes. (www.womenssportsfoundation.org)

- Funders Supportive of Communications Technology is a collection of funding information on how to get technology resources. (www.benton.org/Practice/Toolkit/techmoney.html)

- The Foundation Center's Finding Funders provides access to web sites for private foundations, corporate grantmakers, grantmaking public charities, and community foundations. (www.fdncenter.org/funders)

- Other resources for Foundation grants:

  The Foundation Center's RFP Bulletin, www.fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/index.html

  The Foundation Center's Finding Funders, www.fdncenter.org/funders

  The Foundation Center's Grantmaker Website, www.fdncenter.org/funders/grantmaker/index.html

  The Internet Nonprofit Center, www.nonprofits.org

  The Grantsmanship Center's Community Foundations by State, www.tgci.com/resources/foundationscommunity/com_pa.html

Non-Government Grants

- Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) RecTAP program provides technical assistance grants of up to $1,500 to help recreation and park departments with specific issues. No matching funds are required. (www.prps.org)

- Bikes Belong Coalition provides grants of up to $10,000 to assist agencies in developing bicycle facilities projects that will be funded by TEA-21. (www.bikesbelong.org)

- National Gardening Association Youth Garden Grants of over $750 are available for seeds, tools, and gardening supplies for children to learn and work in outdoor gardens. (www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp)

- NFL Community Football Fields Program provides grants of up to $100,000 for capital improvement projects to improve or create quality, safe local football fields in low and moderate-income neighborhoods. (212-455-9881)

- NFL Youth Football Fund provides grants of $500 to $2,500 to purchase equipment, repair fields, establish new football programs, and improve existing programs. (www.nrpa.org)

- American Forests provides tree-planting assistance with Global ReLeaf, an ecosystem restoration grant program, which includes urban and community forests. (www.americanforests.org/global_releaf/grants/grants_eval_criteria.html)

National Programs

- Smokey Bear Program encourages children to take an active role in protecting forest land and the animals that live in the forest from wildfires. (www.symbols.gov or www.smokeybear.com/hom_main.html)

- Woodsy Owl Program encourages children to develop a sense of responsibility and compassion for the natural world through hands-on land stewardship activities. (www.symbols.gov or www.fs.fed.us/spf/woodsy)

- National Center for Recreation and Conservation, Bureau of Land Management offers activity books and lesson plans to introduce environmental education to children. (www.blm.gov/education/00_resources/index.html)

- National Center for Recreation and Conservation, Bureau of Land Management offers activity books, lesson plans, posters, articles, and general information on heritage education. (www.blm.gov/heritage/he.htm)

- Endangered and Threatened Species Program, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers educational materials about the preservation and protection of wildlife, biodiversity, and habitat conservation. (www.endangered.fws.gov/education/index.html)

- American Forests sponsors A Tree for Every Child, an environmental education program for children that stresses the benefits and rewards of planting trees. (www.americanforests.org/global_releaf/earth_day_promo.html)

- Boat U. S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water offers brochures and posters on pollution prevention tips and littering on land and in the water.
(1-800-BOAT-USA)

- America the Beautiful Fund provides free flower, vegetable, and herb seeds to plant Freedom Gardens across America.
(www.freeseeds.org)

- NBA, WNBA, Gatorade, and Nike offer Jr. NBA and Jr. WNBA programs at no cost to recreational youth basketball leagues.
(1-800-JRHOOPS)

- First Serve, a United States Tennis Association National Inner City Initiative, provides inner-city youth with a safe and nurturing after-school program that combines academics with tennis.
(www.usta.com)

- JumpStart AfterSchool, sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association, provides a hands-on manual full of fun activities to get kids active and eating healthy foods.
(www.nrpa.org)

- S & S Crafts Worldwide sponsors the Chalk It Up! Program, which offers communities a kit containing sidewalk chalk, certificates of achievement, instruction booklets, and full-color posters to plan, run, and publicize events.
(1-800-642-7354)

- Let's Play Sports Coordinator's Manual is a comprehensive resource to implement introductory sport programs for elementary age youth in 16 sports.
(www.nrpa.org)

- Hershey Foods Corporation offers the Hershey Track and Field Program, a series of local, regional, state, and national track and field competitions for children ages 9 to 14.
(www.nrpa.org)

- Active Options is a free program resource guide to develop fitness programs for older adults from the National Recreation and Park Association.
(www.nrpa.org)

- Flaghouse, Inc. offers Catch Recreation, a resource compendium that provides hundreds of youth activities promoting physical activity, including a recreation leader's guide.
(1-800-793-7900)

- Pool Cool Program is a sun-safety, skin cancer prevention program focusing on informing children about sun-safety practices during swim lesson, utilizing lesson plans and poolside activities. Pool Cool is sponsored by the American Cancer Society and National Recreation and Park Association.
(www.nrpa.org)

- US Lacrosse offers a loan kit program which provides field sticks and goalie sticks, plus a dozen balls to keep, at no cost for communities interested in starting lacrosse programs. (www.lacrosse.org)

- Hooked on Fishing International sponsors the Kids All-American Fishing Derby, which provides a complete kit and guidebook to conduct a fishing derby, with prizes, posters, tote bags, decals, and more. (www.fishingworld.com/Kids-Fishing)

Program Fees

- The development of income-producing recreation programs should be explored. However, the revenue that exceeds expenses needs to be able to be utilized to offer additional programs and hire additional staff.

Business Support

- City and County businesses should be approached to contribute financially towards specific recreation programs and park improvements in return for public recognition.

Environmental Groups

- To preserve key lands, the City of Reading should seek assistance from major environmental groups, such as the Berks County Conservancy. These groups can often provide technical assistance to the City of Reading, financial advice to the landowner on major tax advantages, and possible fund raising assistance.

Bond Issues

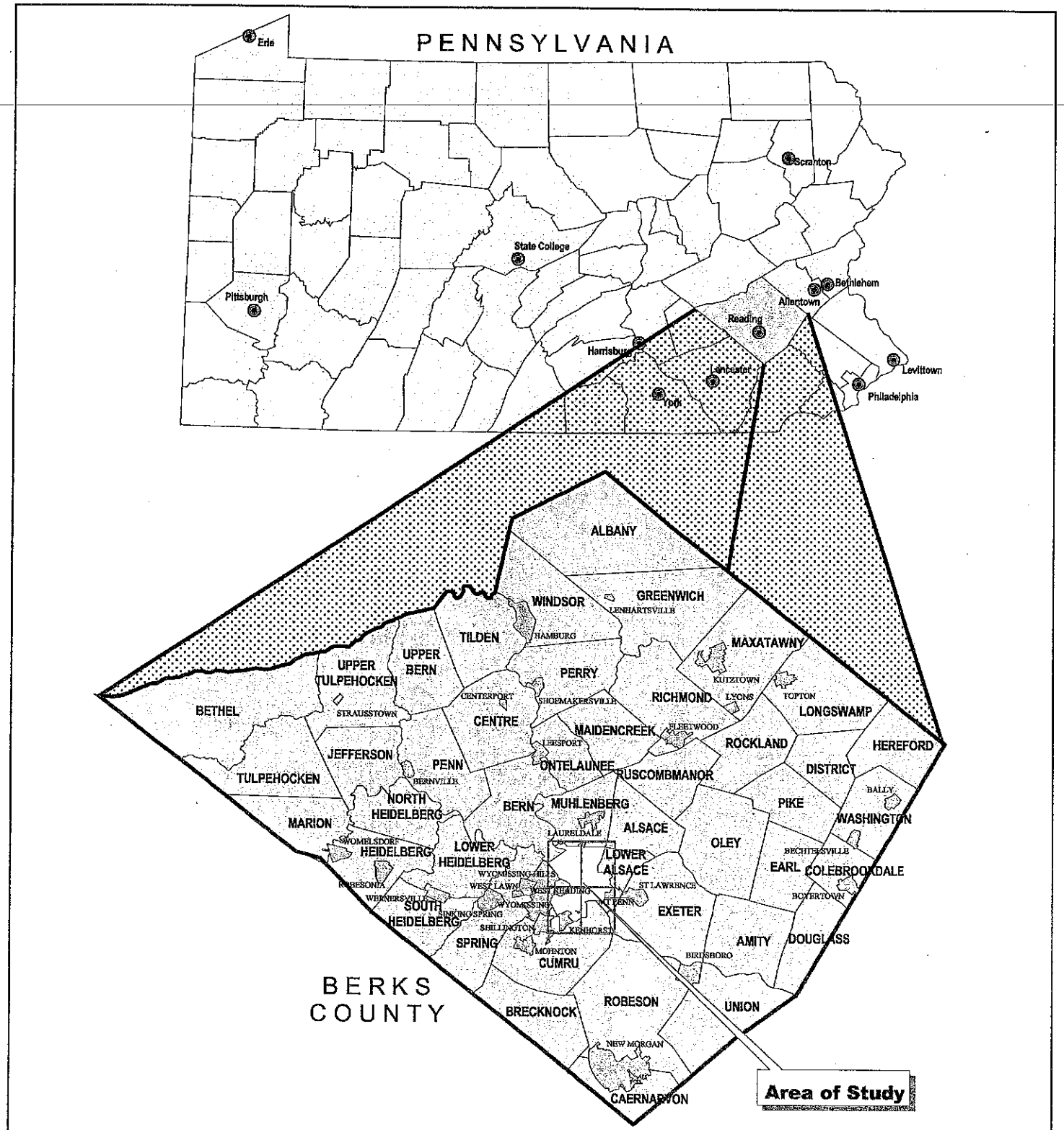
- The level of park and recreation improvements proposed in this plan is high. Because of this, the City of Reading should consider floating a bond issue to help pay for capital improvements. A bond issue makes sense to fund projects that have a long life expectancy, since it spreads the payment over many years during which the facility can be enjoyed by the public. It is best to time a bond issue when interest rates are low.

Recreation Impact Fees through Developers

- Requiring recreation fees to be paid by developers of new homes is another method of providing limited funding for capital improvements to park areas and recreation facilities. These fees are to compensate the City of Reading for the increased demand caused by each new household. The funds cannot be used for maintenance or recreation programs.

- A recreation fee could be collected with each building permit issued by the City of Reading. Based upon the existing needs and the increased demand upon park and recreation facilities, the recreation fee should be between $200 and $500 per permit. This recreation fee would be a source of revenue for recreation programs, maintenance of park areas and facilities, and purchase and development or recreational land.

FIGURES



City of Reading

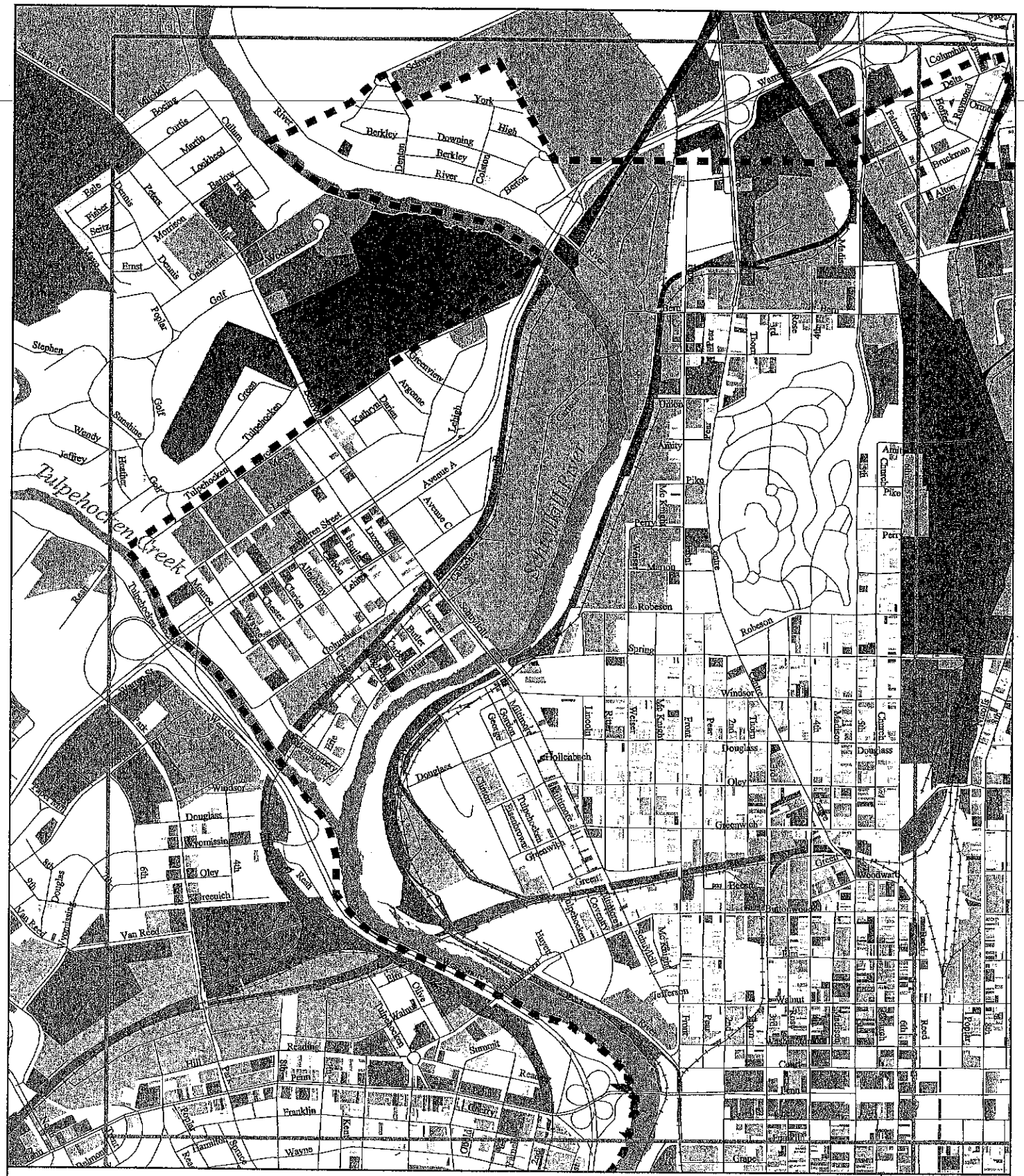
10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Geographic Proximity

Berks County Legend
Boroughs
Townships

20000 0 20000 40000 Feet

N

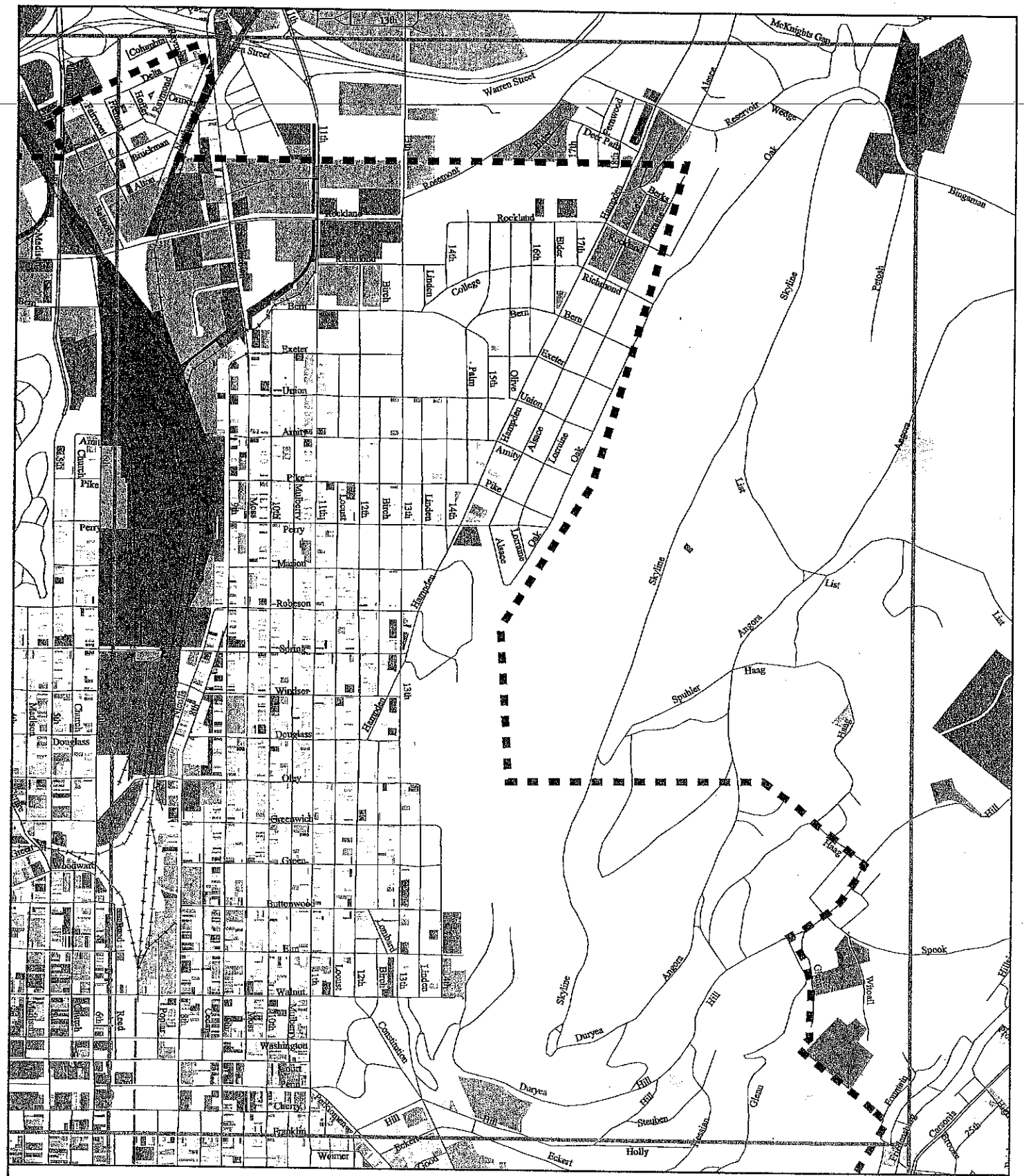
Figure 1



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Existing Land Use

Figure 2-A



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Existing Land Use

- Vacant or Undefined
- Single Family Residential
- 2-4 Units
- Apts, Condos, Townhomes, Mid to Hi-Rise
- Mobile Home Parks
- Mixed Use and Converted Dwellings
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Quarries and Landfills
- Conservation and Open Space
- Agricultural
- Public, Institutional, Governmental
- Boundary
- Railroad
- Roads

1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

N

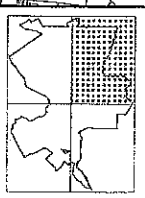
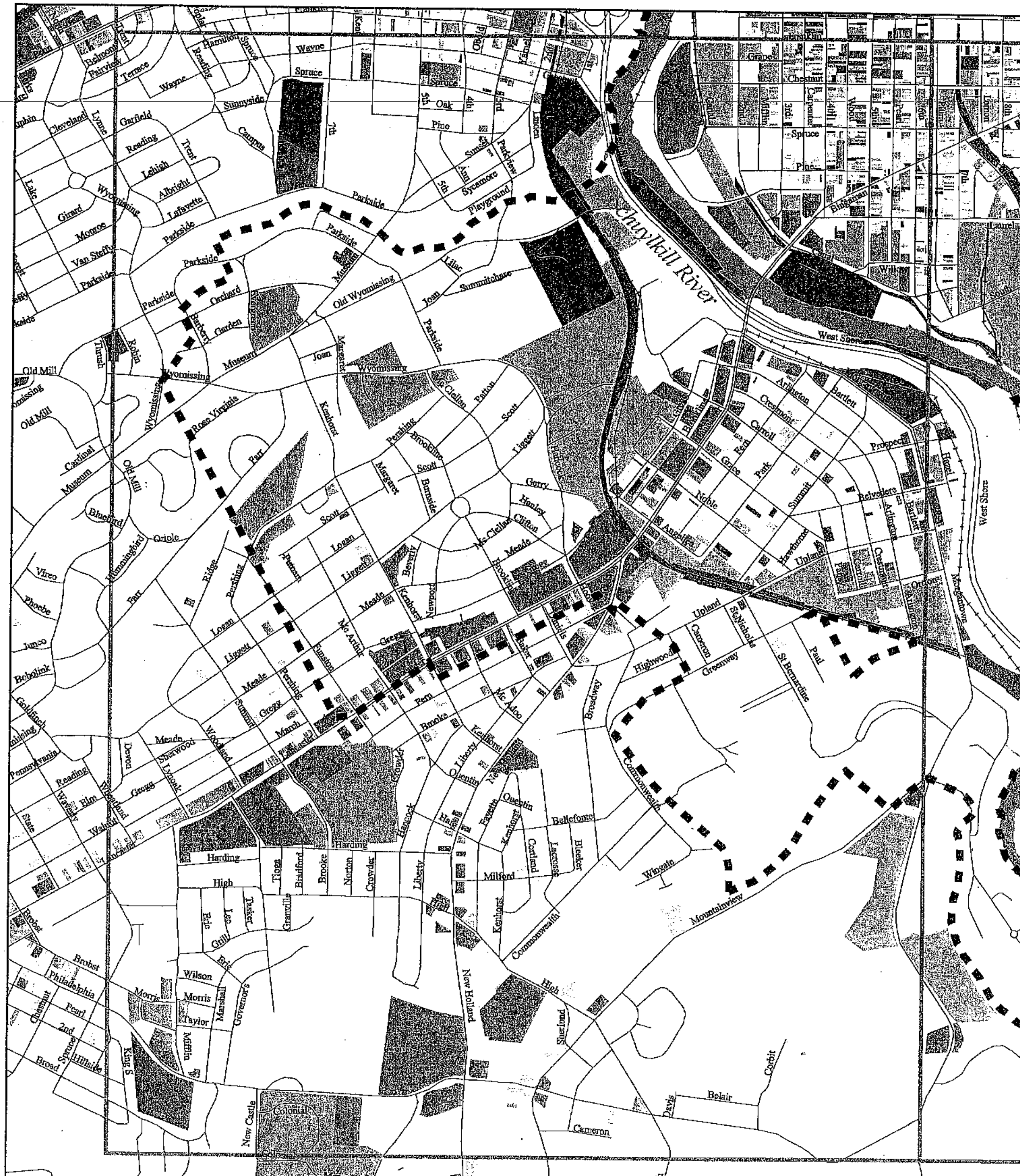


Figure 2-B



City of Reading

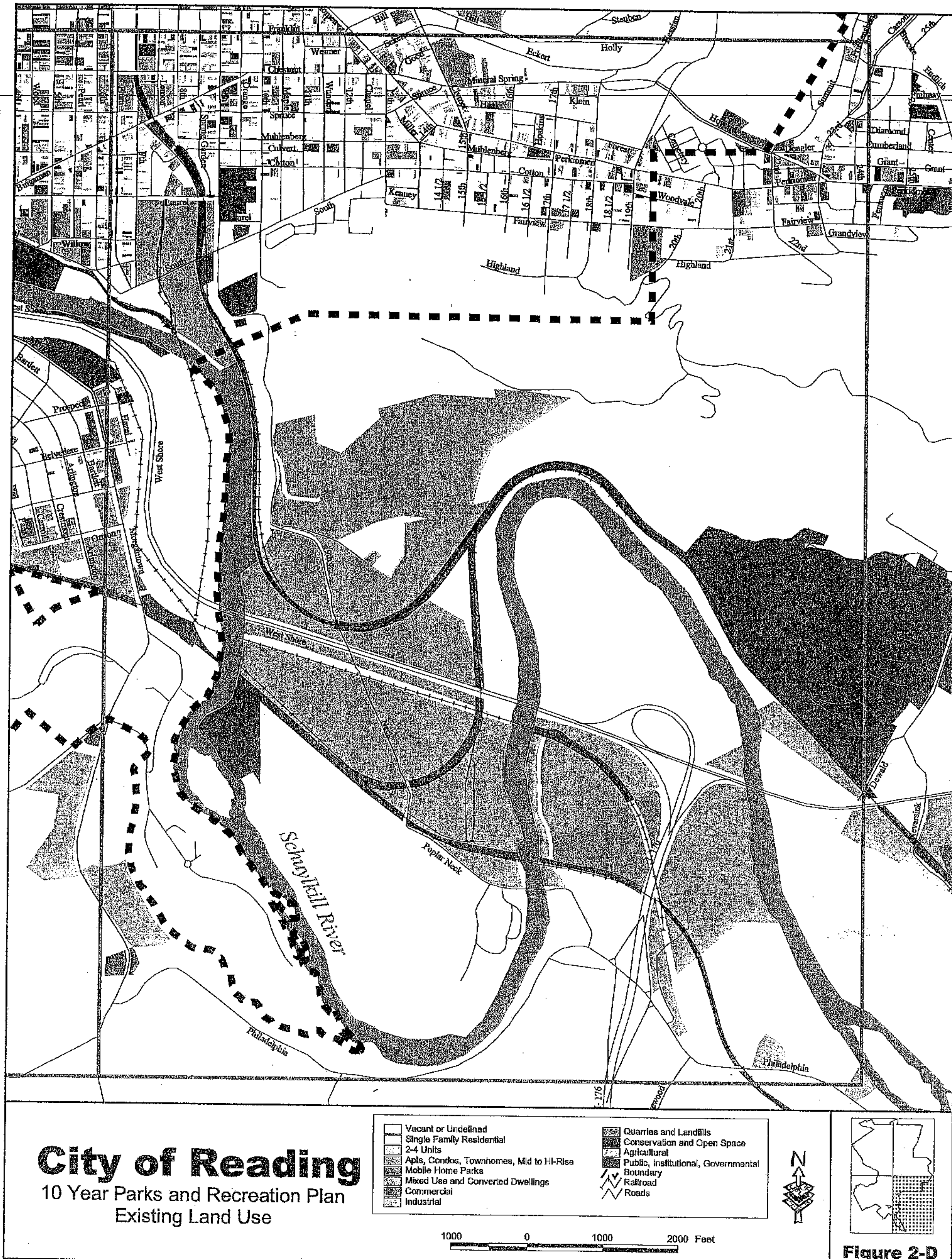
10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Existing Land Use

- Vacant or Undefined
- Single Family Residential
- 2-4 Units
- Apts, Condos, Townhomes, Mid to Hi-Rise
- Mobile Home Parks
- Mixed Use and Converted Dwellings
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Quarries and Landfills
- Conservation and Open Space
- Agricultural
- Public, Institutional, Governmental
- Boundary
- Railroad
- Roads

N

1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

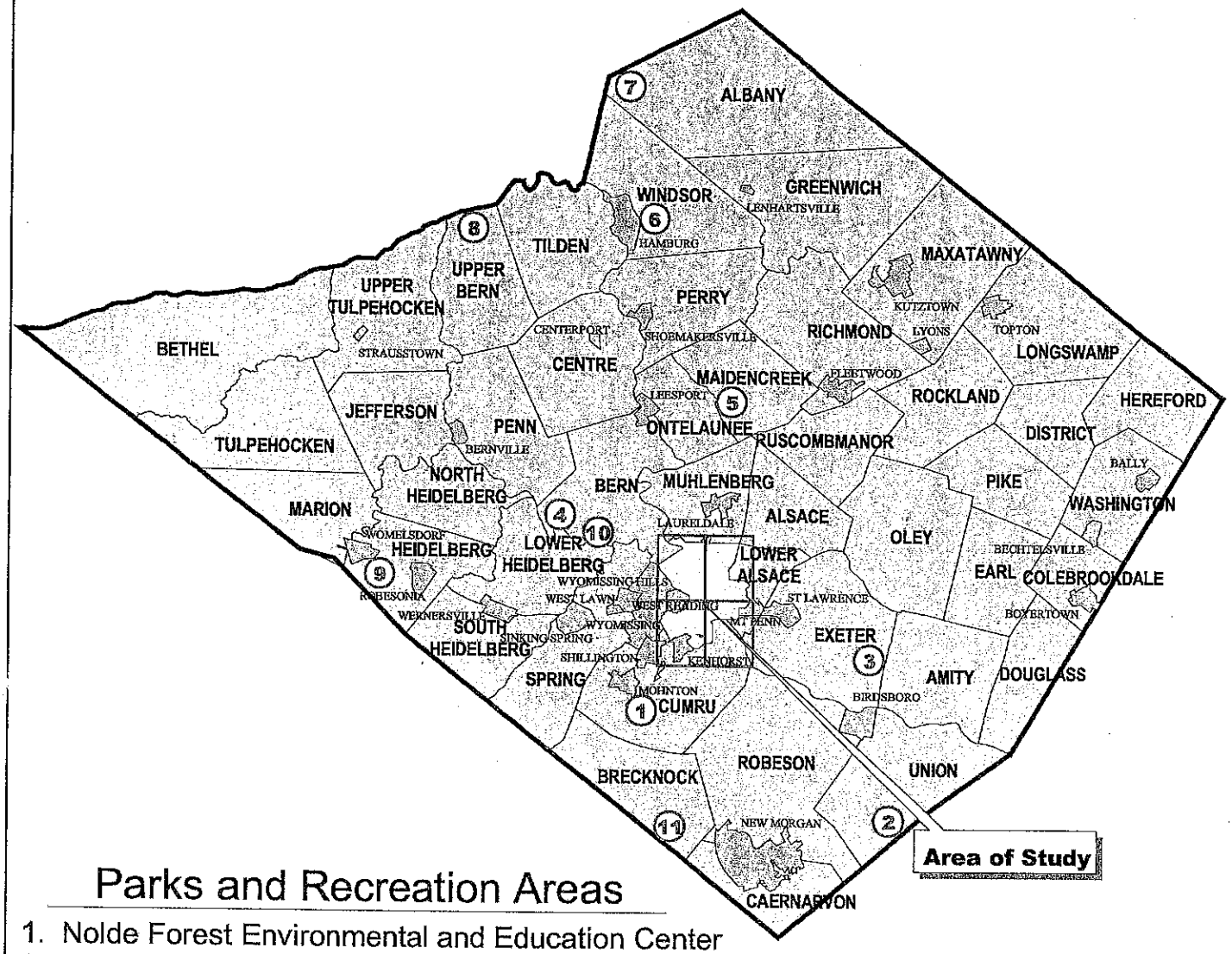
Figure 2-C



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Existing Land Use

Figure 2-D



Parks and Recreation Areas

1. Nolde Forest Environmental and Education Center
2. French Creek State Park
3. Daniel Boone Homestead
4. Blue Marsh Lake
5. Lake Ontelaunee
6. Kaercher Creek Park
7. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
8. Blue Mountain/Appalachian Trail
9. Conrad Weiser Park
10. Berks County Recreation Complex
11. Maple Grove Park

City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan

Berks County Regional Park and Recreation Areas

Berks County Legend

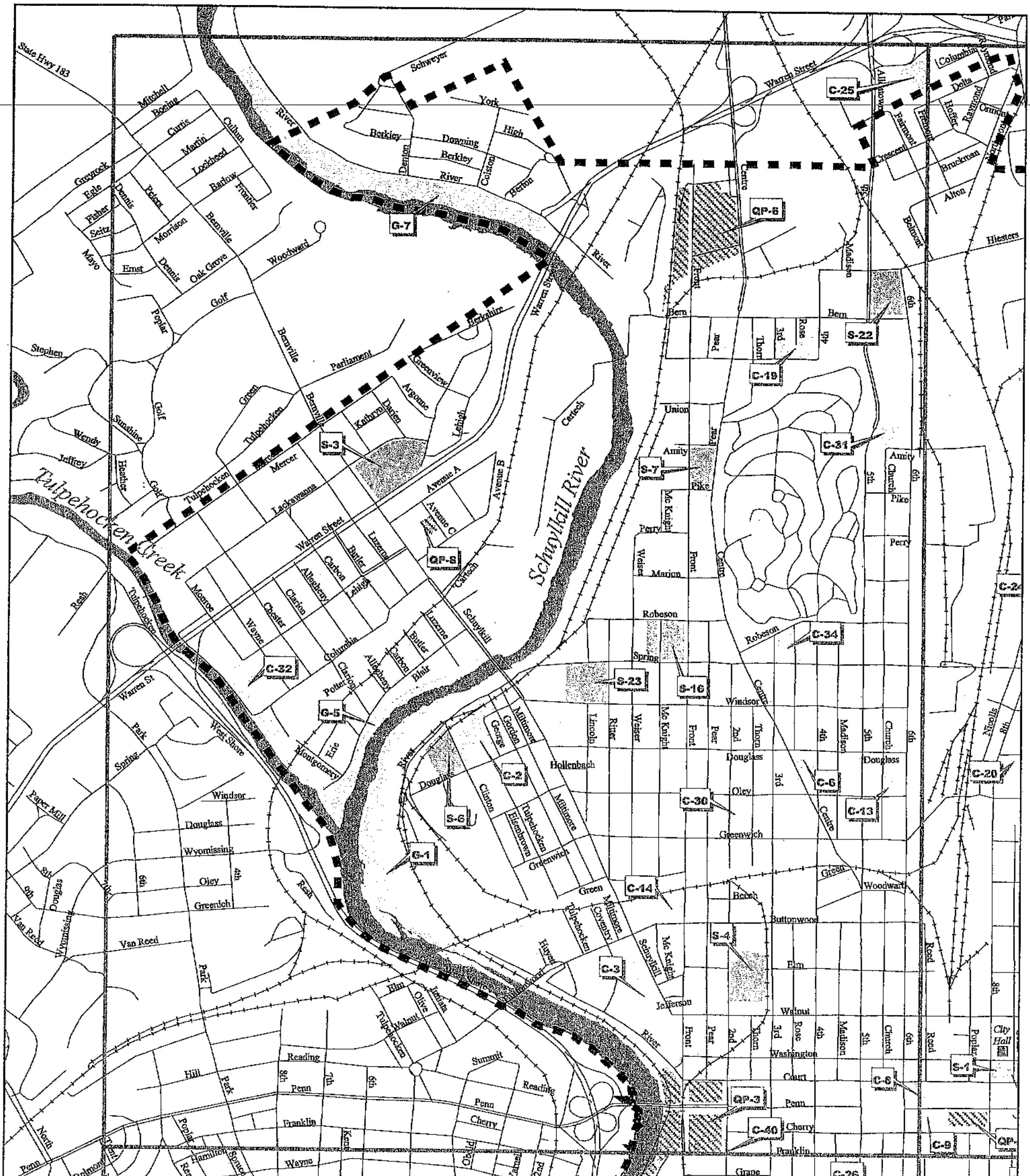
Boroughs

Townships

3 0 3 6 Miles

N

Figure 3



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

Parks and Open Spaces
Public Schools
Quasi-Public Facilities
Boundary
Roads
Railroads

N

1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

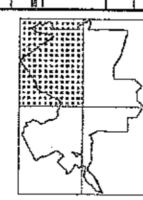
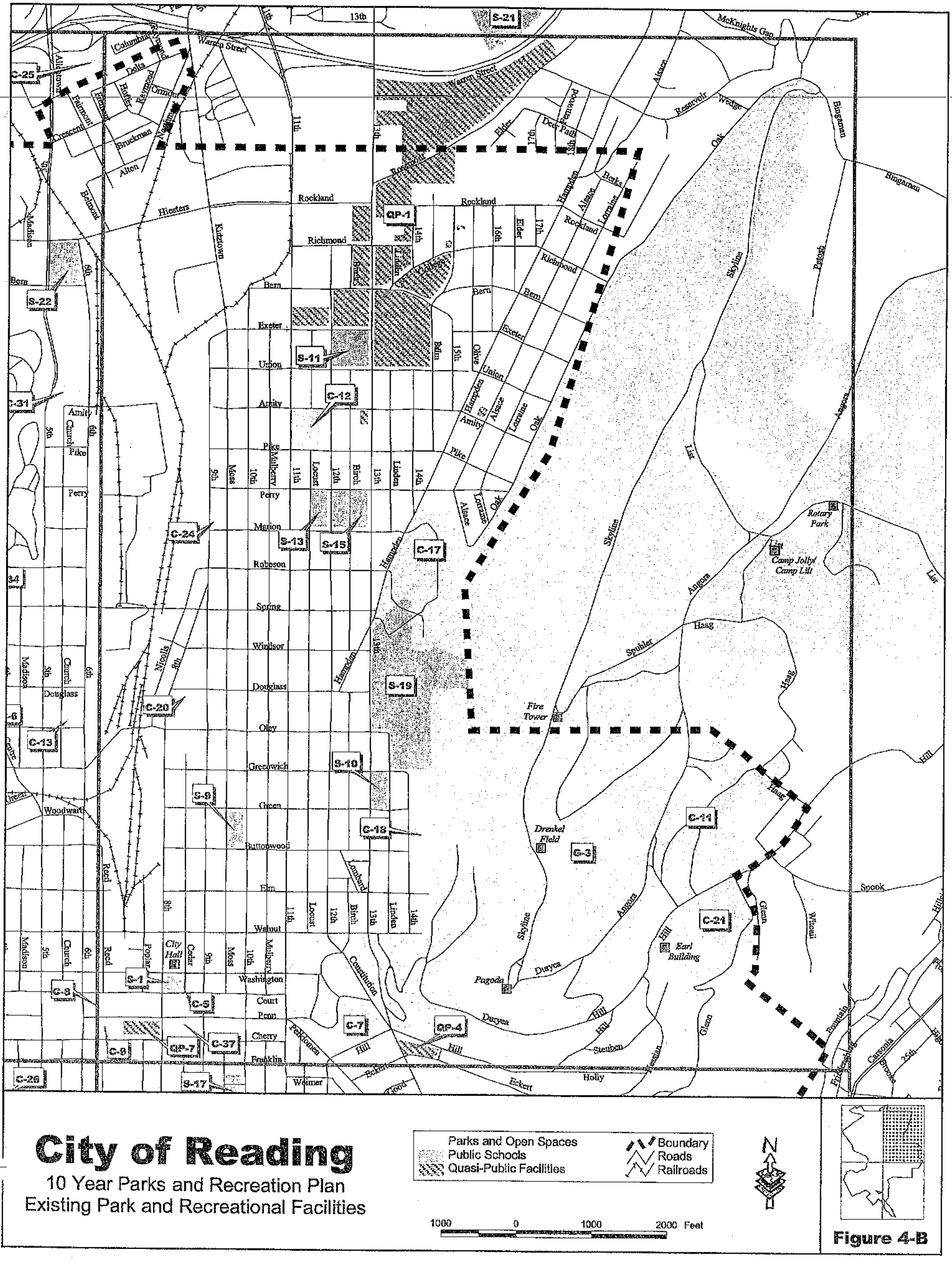


Figure 4-A

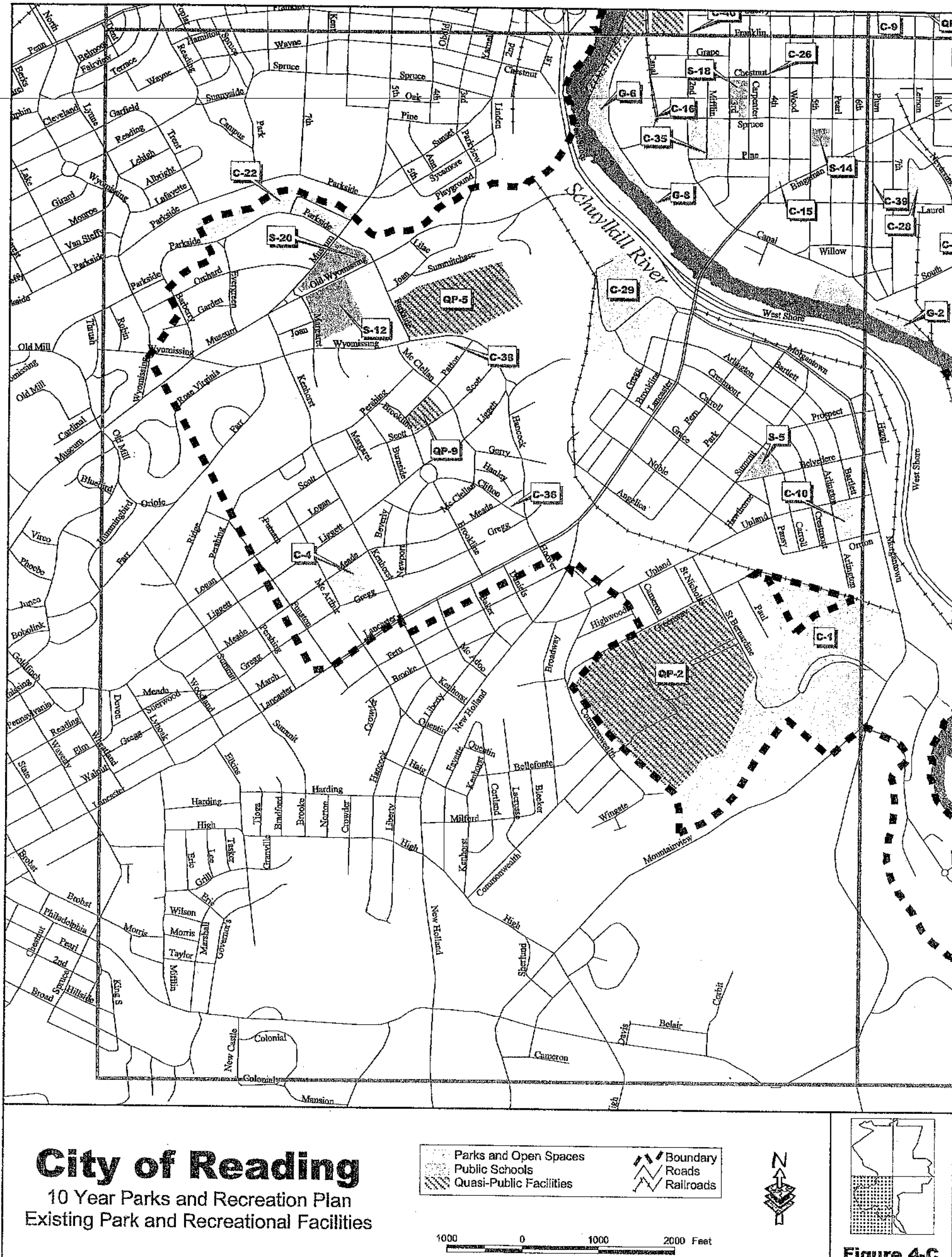


City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan

Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

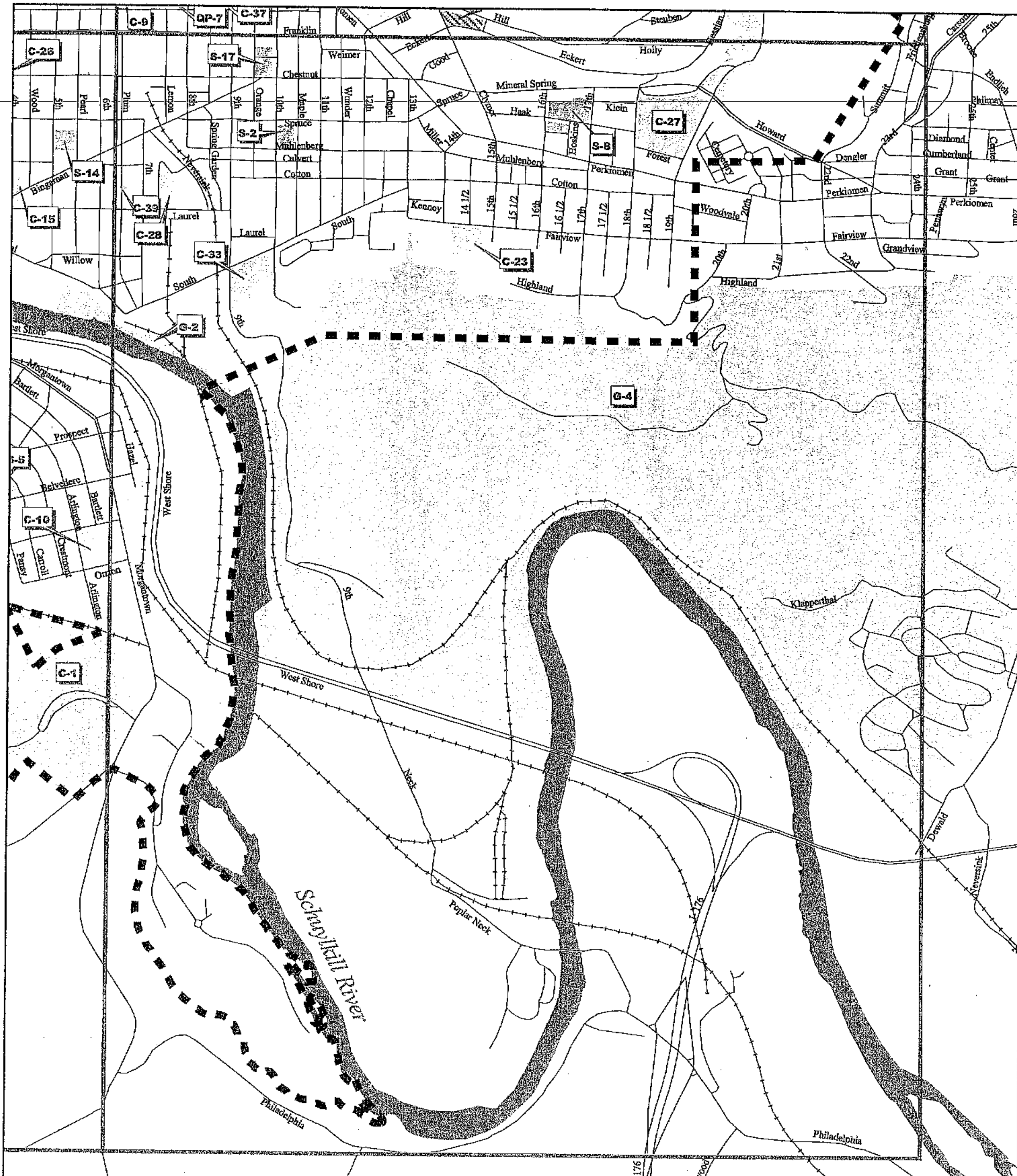
Parks and Open Spaces
Public Schools
Quasi-Public Facilities
Boundary
Roads
Railroads

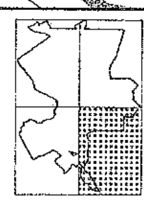


City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

Figure 4-C





City of Reading

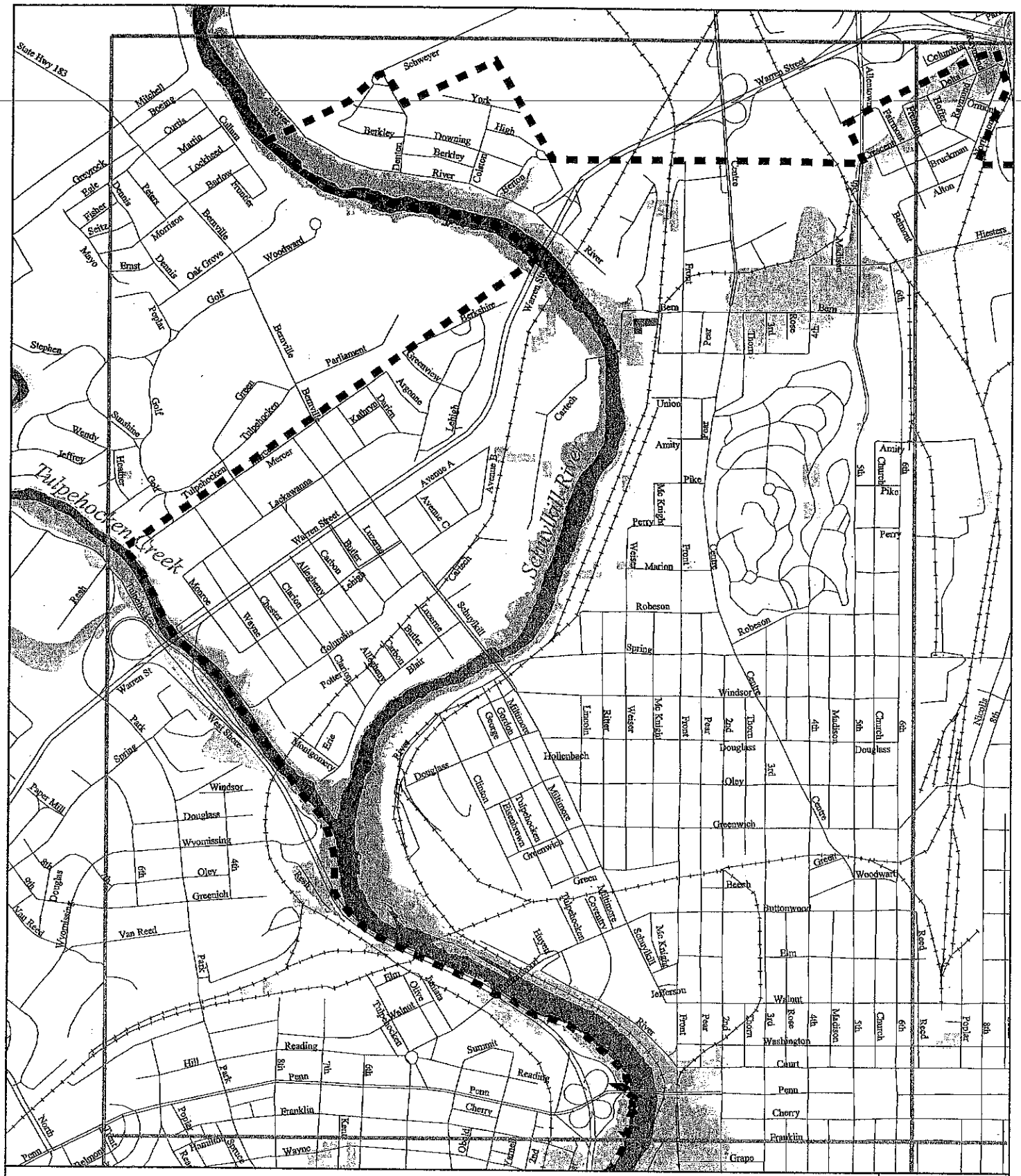
10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

- Parks and Open Spaces
- Public Schools
- Quasi-Public Facilities
- Boundary
- Roads
- Railroads

N

1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

Figure 4-D



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Environmental and Natural Features

- Rivers
- 100 Year Flood Plane
- 500 Year Flood Plane
- 15% - 25% Slopes
- Greater than 25% Slopes
- Boundary
- Roads
- Railroads

N

1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

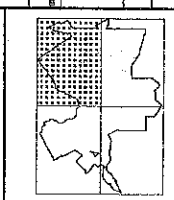
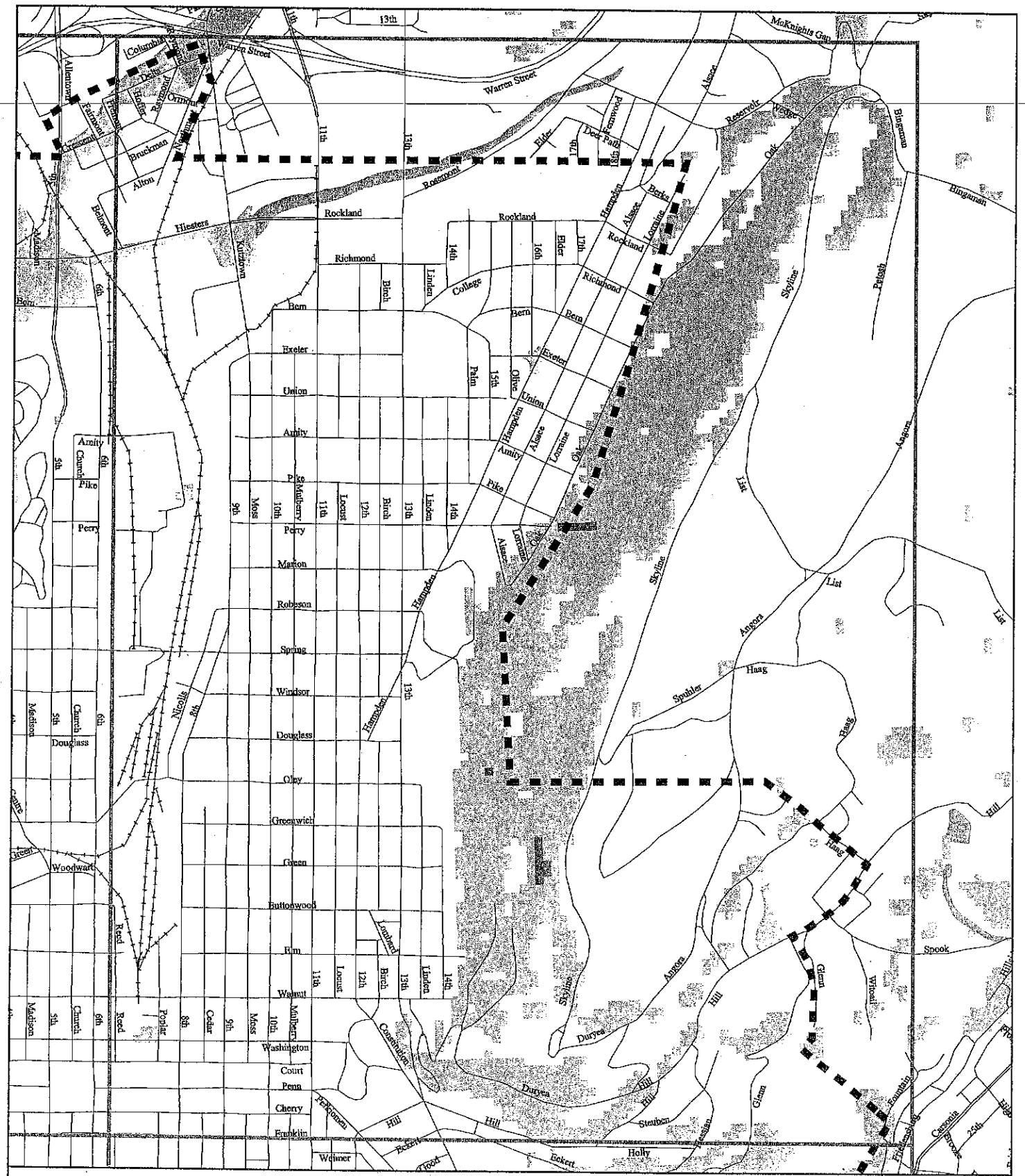


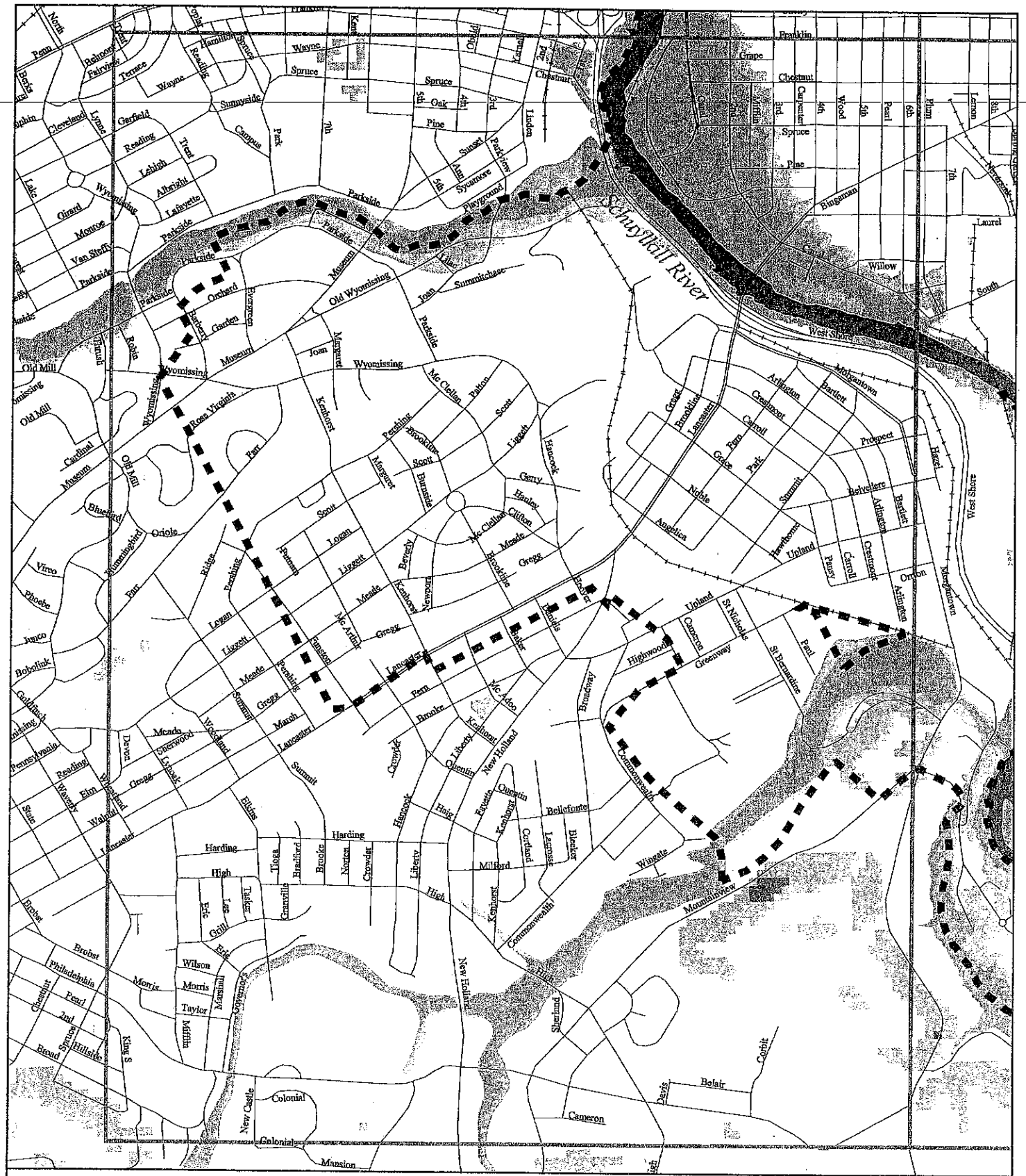
Figure 5-A



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Environmental and Natural Features

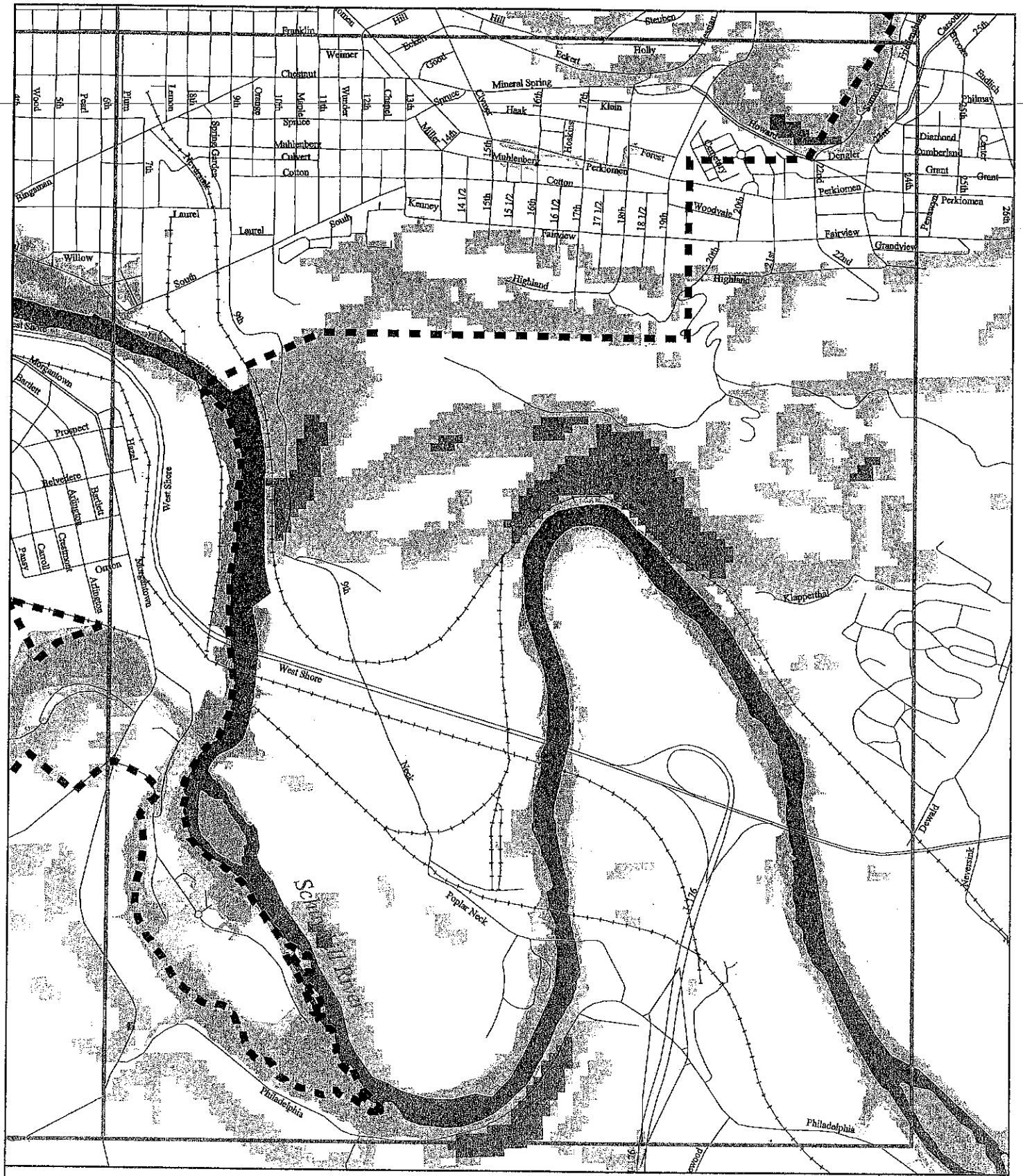
Figure 5-B



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Environmental and Natural Features

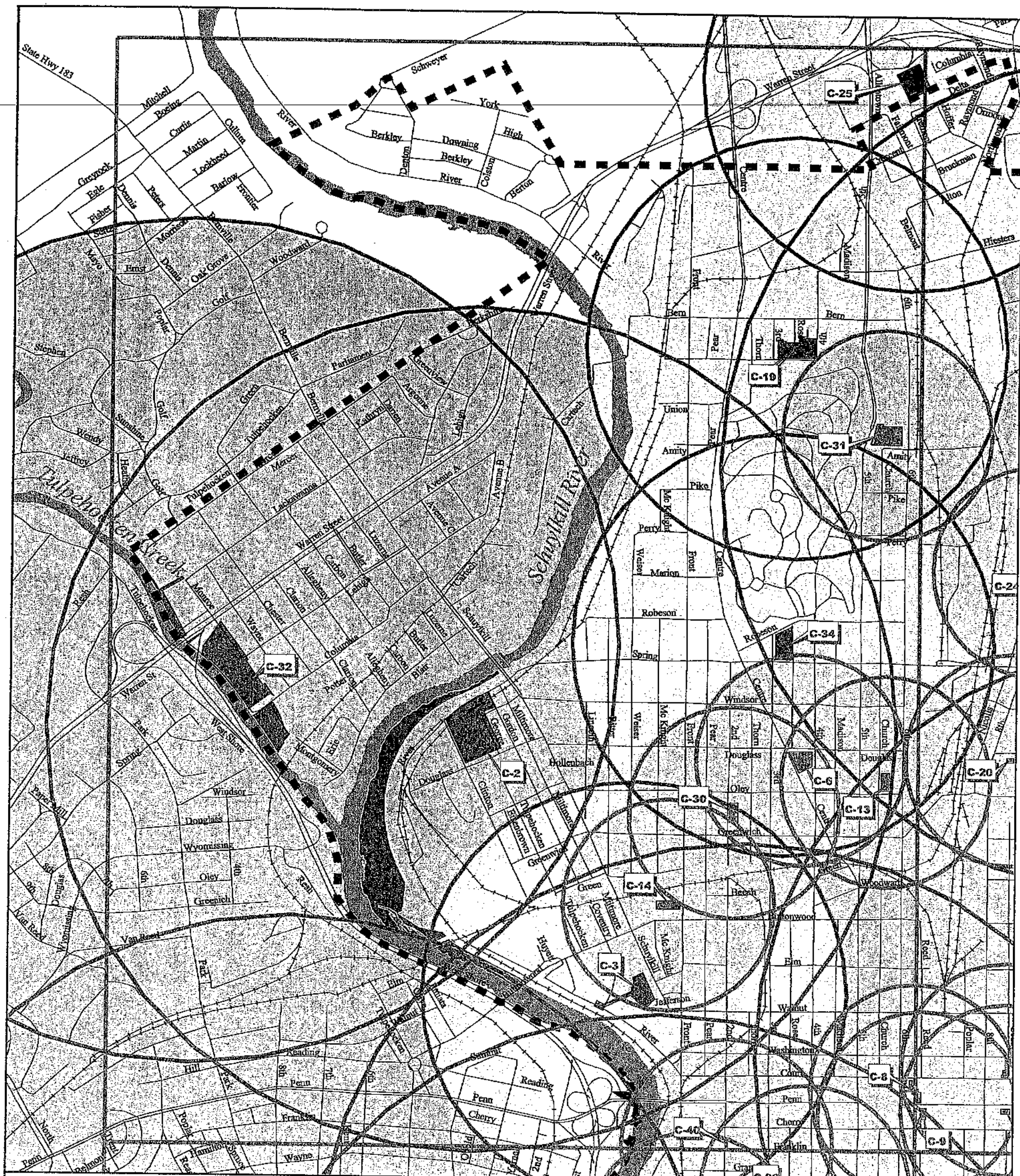
Figure 5-C



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Environmental and Natural Features

Figure 5-D



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan

Park and Recreation Service Area Map

0.25 Mile Service Area
0.5 Mile Service Area
1 Mile Service Area
Mini-Parks
Neighborhood Parks
Community Parks
Boundary
Roads
Railroads

N

1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

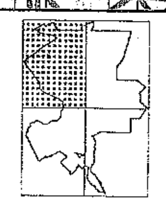
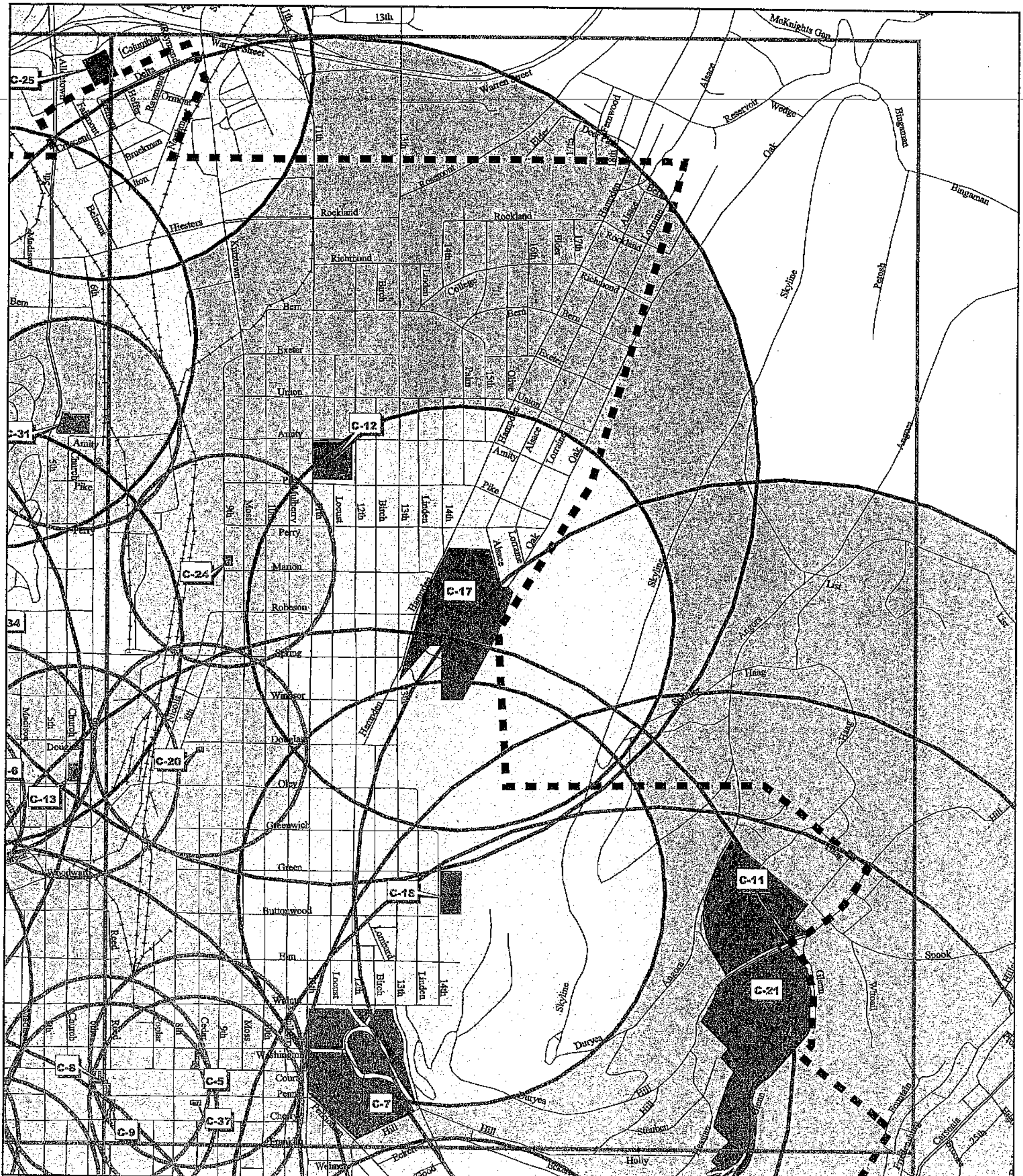


Figure 6-A



City of Reading

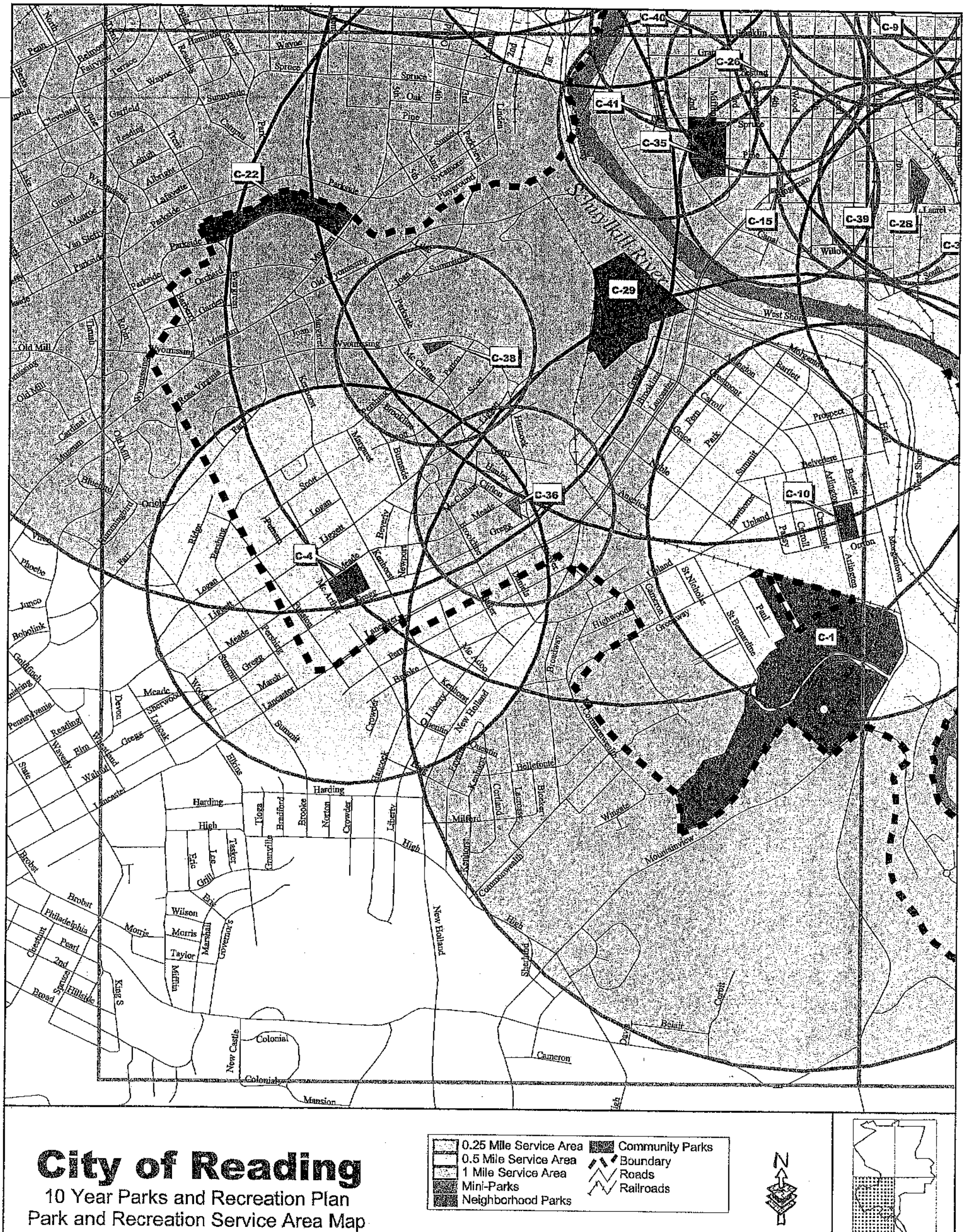
10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Park and Recreation Service Area Map

- 0.25 Mile Service Area
- 0.5 Mile Service Area
- 1 Mile Service Area
- Mini-Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Boundary
- Roads
- Railroads

N

1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

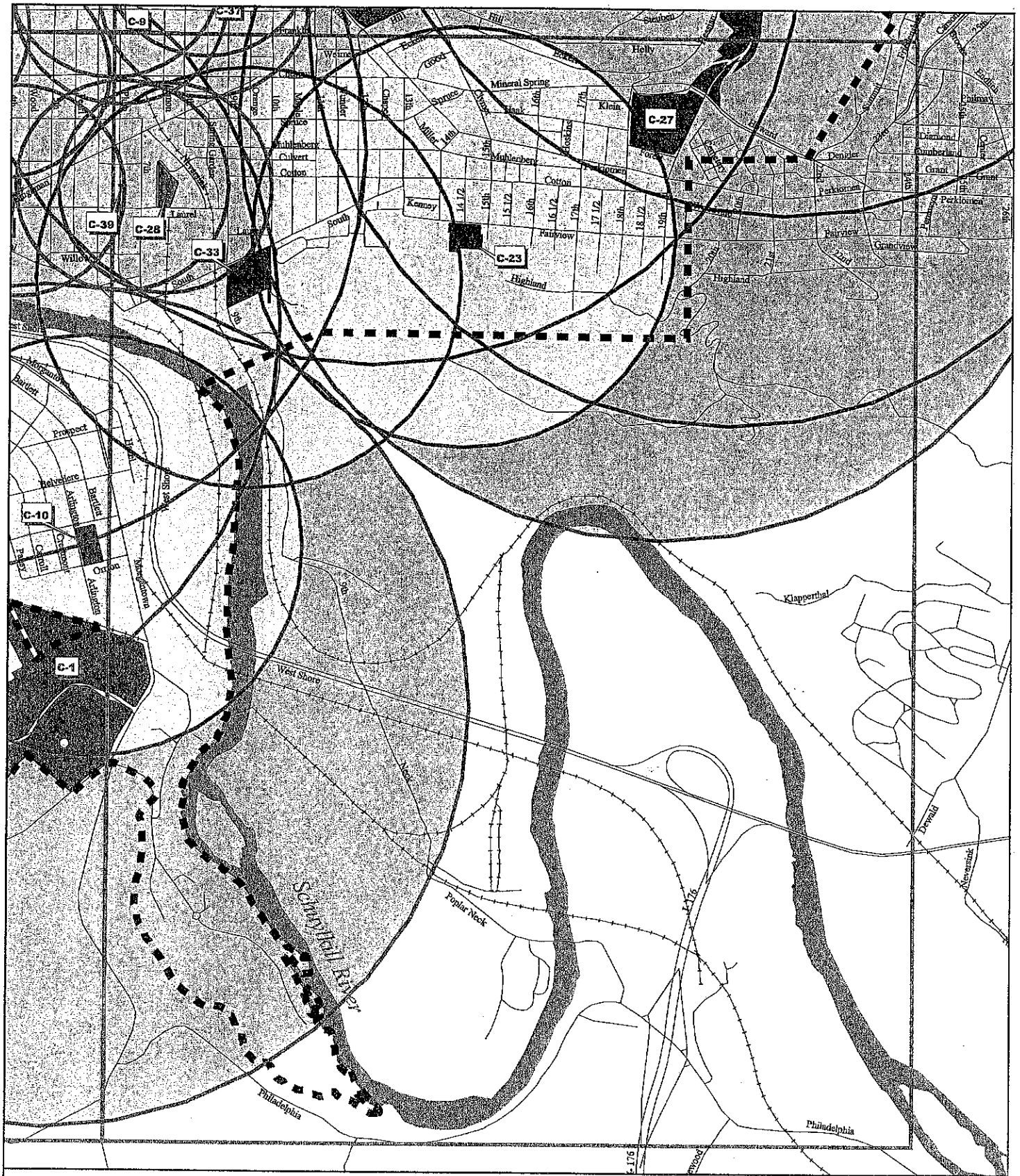
Figure 6-B



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan
Park and Recreation Service Area Map

Figure 6-C



City of Reading

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan

Park and Recreation Service Area Map

- 0.25 Mile Service Area
- 0.5 Mile Service Area
- 1 Mile Service Area
- Mini-Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Boundary
- Roads
- Railroads

N

1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

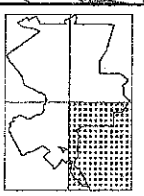


Figure 6-D

APPENDIX A

STUDENT RECREATION SURVEY
SPEAK UP AND BE HEARD!

Do you ever think that just because you're a teenager nobody cares about your ideas? Well we think you know all about parks and recreation, and we need your help. A study is underway to help improve your City parks and your recreation programs. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions.

1. Please check (✓), Are you a boy____or a girl____?

2. Please check (✓), How old are you? ____ 11-13 ____ 14-15 ____ 16-18

3. List the names of up to three (3) parks, playgrounds or recreation facilities within the City that you use most frequently in your free time. Describe the condition of each facility.

   _____; Condition: ___Good ___ OK ___ Poor

   _____; Condition: ___Good ___ OK ___ Poor

   _____; Condition: ___Good ___ OK ___ Poor

4. Please check (✓), How often do you go to a swimming pool during the summer?

   ____Several times per week ____Several times per month

   ____Never, why?_____

5. Circle up to <u>eight</u> (8) activities that you would most like to do:

1. Art Classes
2. Babysitter's Training
3. Baseball
4. Basketball
5. Billiards
6. BMX Biking
7. Bowling
8. Boxing
9. Canoeing/Rafting
10. Computer Classes
11. Concerts
12. Craft Classes
13. Dance Lessons
14. Dances
15. Drama/Acting Classes
16. Driver's Education
17. Fishing
18. Fitness/Aerobics Classes
19. Flag Football
20. Foosball/Air Hockey
21. Frisbee/Frisbee Golf
22. Gardening/Landscaping
23. Golf Lessons
24. Hangout with Friends
25. Hiking
26. Ice Hockey
27. Ice Skating
28. In-Line Hockey
29. Lacrosse
30. Life Guarding Class
31. Mountain Biking
32. Music Lessons
33. Open Gyms
34. Outdoor Recreation/Nature Classes
35. Ping Pong
36. Playground Play
37. Rock Climbing
38. Roller Blading
39. Roller Skating
40. Rugby
41. Self Defense/Karate Class
42. Self-Improvement Classes
43. Skate Boarding
44. Soccer
45. Softball
46. Street Hockey
47. Summer Day Camps
48. Swimming
49. Tennis Lessons
50. Track and Field
51. Volleyball
52. Volunteer Services
53. Walking/Running
54. Weight Training
55. Other_____
56. Other_____

APPENDIX B

CITY OF READING RECREATION SURVEY

1. **Community parks** are the largest and most developed parks (10 to 50 acres in size) within the City of Reading. They may include several lighted athletic fields and courts, large playgrounds, picnic pavilions and, sometimes, swimming pools. Angelica Park, Baer Park, City Park, Pendora Park and Schlegel Park are existing community parks within the City of Reading.

Please check (✓) one of the following responses which best describes your family's use of community parks:

_____ Once or more per week.
_____ Once or more per month.
_____ Several times per year.
_____ Once per year.
_____ Never. Why? _____

Which community park in the City of Reading do you use most frequently?

_____

Describe its condition (only check (✓) one):
_____ Good _____ Satisfactory _____ Poor

Explain: _____

2. **Neighborhood parks** are smaller parks (5 to 10 acres in size) that are generally located closer to your home. They usually have an athletic field and court, a small playground and one picnic pavilion. Brookline Park, 11th and Pike Playground, Third & Spruce Recreation Complex, Windsor and Ritter Park, and Glenside Playground are existing neighborhood parks within the City of Reading.

Please check (✓) one of the following responses which best describes your family's use of neighborhood parks:

_____ Once or more per week.
_____ Once or more per month.
_____ Several times per year.
_____ Once per year.
_____ Never. Why? _____

Which neighborhood park in the City of Reading do you use most frequently?

_____

Describe its condition (only check (✓) one):
_____ Good _____ Satisfactory _____ Poor

Explain: _____

3. **Mini-parks or tot lots** are the smallest park areas (5 acres or less). Hillside Playground, Essick Playground, Keffer Park, Neversink Playground and Northmont Playground are examples of mini-parks or tot lots within the City of Reading.

Please check (✓) one of the following responses which best describes your family's use of mini-parks or tot-lots:

_____ Once or more per week.
_____ Once or more per month.
_____ Several times per year.
_____ Once per year.
_____ Never. Why? _____

Which mini-park or tot lot within the City of Reading do you use most frequently?

_____

Describe its condition (only check (✓) one):
_____ Good _____ Satisfactory _____ Poor

Explain: _____

4. In general, how would you rate the overall condition of the parks and recreation areas within the City of Reading? **Please check (✓) only one response.**

_____ Good _____ Satisfactory _____ Poor. Where? _____; _____ No Opinion

5. **Please check (✓) up to <u>six</u> activities from the list below that adult members of your household would most like to participate in.** We are conducting a Student Survey with the Reading School District, so please only list your favorite <u>adult</u> activities:

1. ____Aerobic/Fitness Classes
2. ____Arts & Crafts Classes
3. ____Basketball League
4. ____Basketball League (35+/50+)
5. ____Biking
6. ____Boating/Sailing
7. ____Boxing
8. ____Bus Trips
9. ____Coed Sports League
10. ____Community Sports Contests
11. ____Computer Classes
12. ____Concerts
13. ____Cross Country Skiing
14. ____Dance Lessons
15. ____Drama/Acting Classes
16. ____Fishing
17. ____Flag Football League
18. ____Gardening/Landscaping
19. ____Golf Lessons
20. ____Golf Leagues
21. ____Health & Safety Topics
22. ____Hiking
23. ____Ice Hockey
24. ____Ice Skating
25. ____Karate/Self-Defense
26. ____Mountain Biking
27. ____Music Lessons
28. ____One (1) Day Workshops
29. ____Open Gyms
30. ____Outdoor Recreation/Nature Classes
31. ____Picnicking
32. ____Programs taken with Children
33. ____Programs taken with Grandchildren
34. ____Roller Blading
35. ____Skateboarding
36. ____Self-Improvement Classes
37. ____Soccer League
38. ____Soccer League (35+/50+)
39. ____Social/Special Events
40. ____Softball League
41. ____Softball League (35+/50+)
42. ____Street Hockey
43. ____Swimming Lessons
44. ____Tennis Lessons
45. ____Tennis League
46. ____Volleyball League
47. ____Volleyball League (35+/50+)
48. ____Volunteer/Community Service Opportunities
49. ____Walking/Jogging
50. ____Weight Training
51. ____Youth Sport Coaching
52. ____Other _____
53. ____Other _____

(OVER)

APPENDIX C

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Angelica Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community/Urban Park

MAP NUMBER: C-1

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

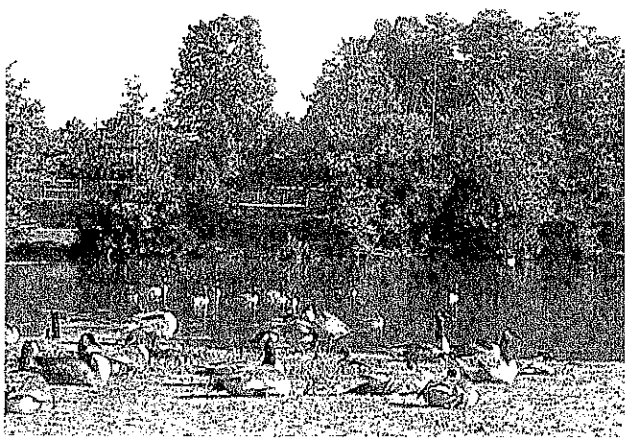
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

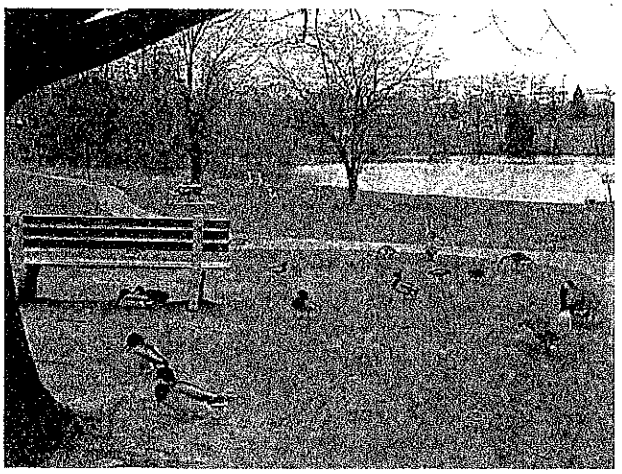
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 117.11

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Baseball/Softball – Lighted (2)
2. Tennis – Lighted (4)
3. Lake and Stream
4. Paved walkways, seating, picnic area
5. Security lighting
6. Woodland area/hiking
7. Ice skating
8. Boat House and Docks

NOTE: Severe flood damage occurred on June 22, 2001, destroying the lake and dam breast.





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-1

NAME OF AREA: **Angelica Park** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-1**

ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Quasi-Public

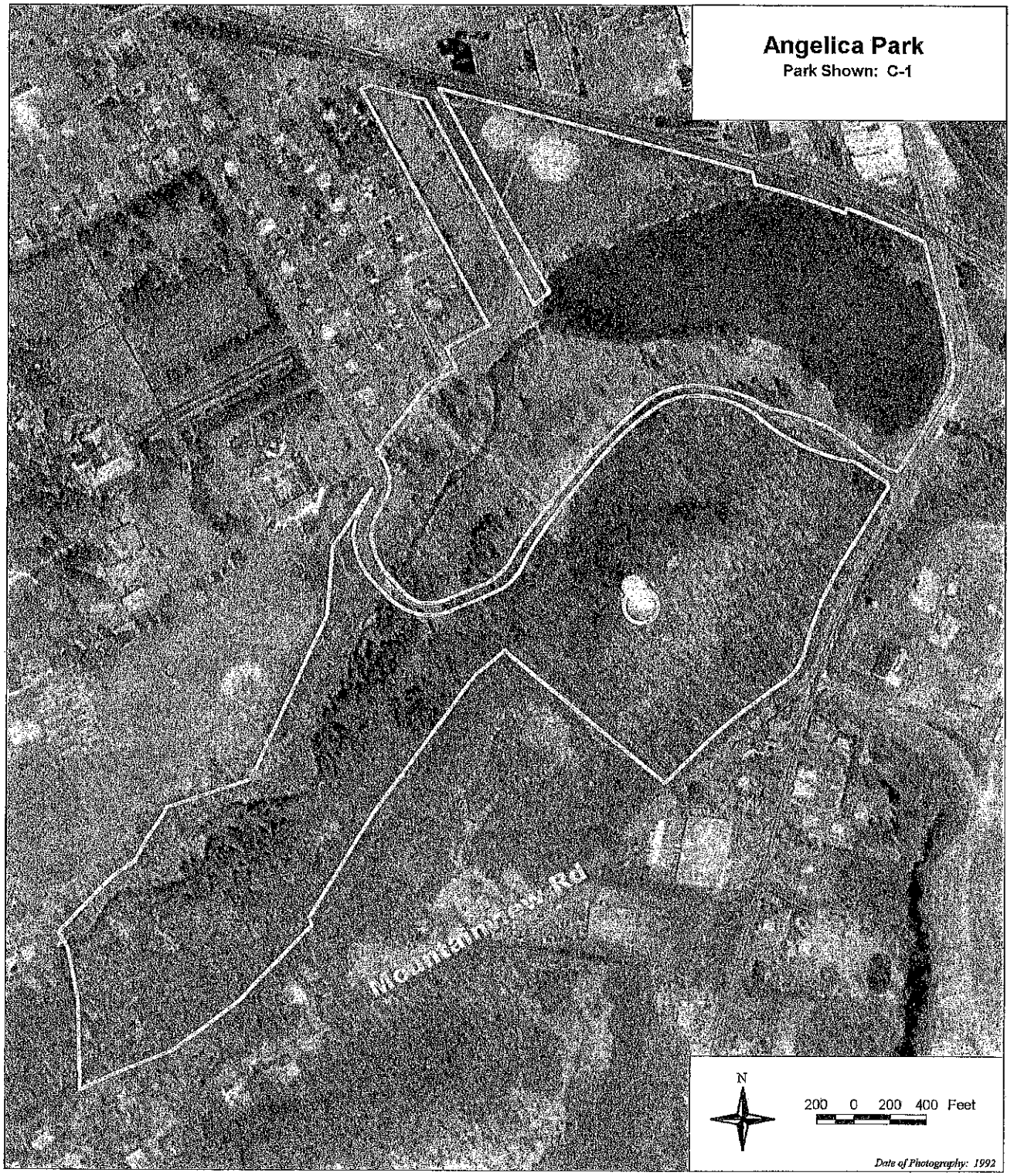
EXISTING LINKAGES: Cumru Township Recreation Areas; Alvernia College

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Thun Trail (Berks County); Schuylkill River; State Route 10; E. J. Dives Playground

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
2 baseball/softball fields (Cumru)	This field is well-maintained with a level surface (one field not optimum orientation). There are lights for evening games and bleachers to accommodate over 100 spectators. Restrooms are provided under the bleachers and an additional Port-O-Let.
Tennis Courts (Cumru)	These courts are lighted and are in decent condition, but have a very rusty fence.
Boat House/Docks	The facility is in decent shape and appears to be structurally sound. Could be renovated and utilized as boat house and launch site in the future (High Priority).
Angelica Lake and Stream	Good recreation for hiking or other uses. Many geese and ducks utilize the lake seasonally or for migratory purposes. The dam breast needs immediate repair as a result of flood damage (High Priority).
Ice Skating	Provisional area is provided in a depression adjacent to the lake.
Paved walkways, seating, picnic area, security lighting	These features add a nice appeal to the park for people of all ages. This makes it a safe and walkable park.. Trail system should be planned and designed to link existing trail system to regional facilities.
Woodland Area Hiking	There are many acres of forest in southern Reading for all of those people who enjoy hiking in a wooded atmosphere.
Parking	Angelica Park Hours: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. • Cumru Township: ±114 barely visible parking spaces, macadam, and lighted • Reading's side has two pull-off parking areas ± 80 barely visible spaces in parking lot.

Severe flood damage – June 22, 2001
OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-1



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Baer Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Park

MAP NUMBER: C-2

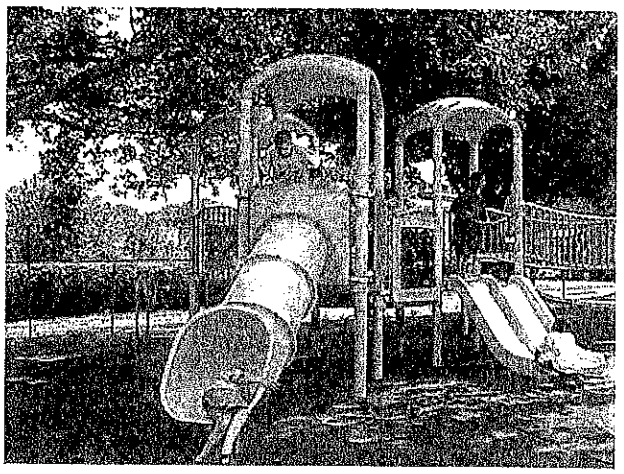
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

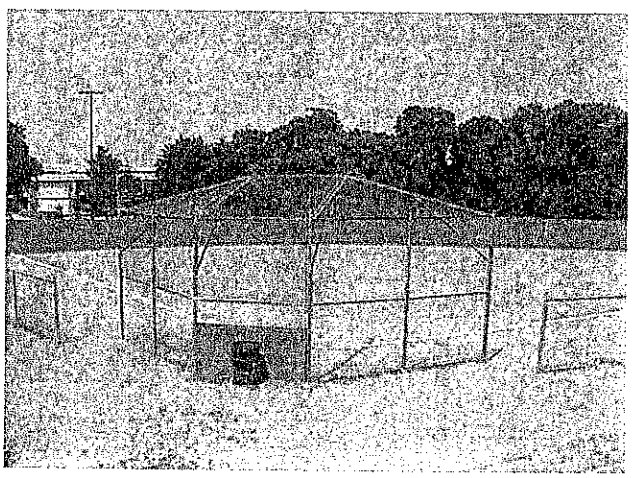
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 9.05

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Slide
2. Tot-Lot
3. Swingset (2)
4. Spring Pelican (1)
5. Tennis Courts (4) – Posts, no Lights
6. Basketball Courts (3 Overlapping) – Lighted
7. Volleyball Court – Lighted
8. Park Building
9. Concession Stand
10. Baseball/Softball Field (1 with bleachers) – Lighted
11. Football/Soccer Area – Lighted
12. Bike Rack
13. Benches
14. Hopscotch
15. Walkways – Lighted
16. Parallel Bars
17. Drinking Fountain





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-2

NAME OF AREA: **Baer Park** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-2**

ADJACENT LAND USES: Schuylkill River; Railroad; Residential; Quasi-Public

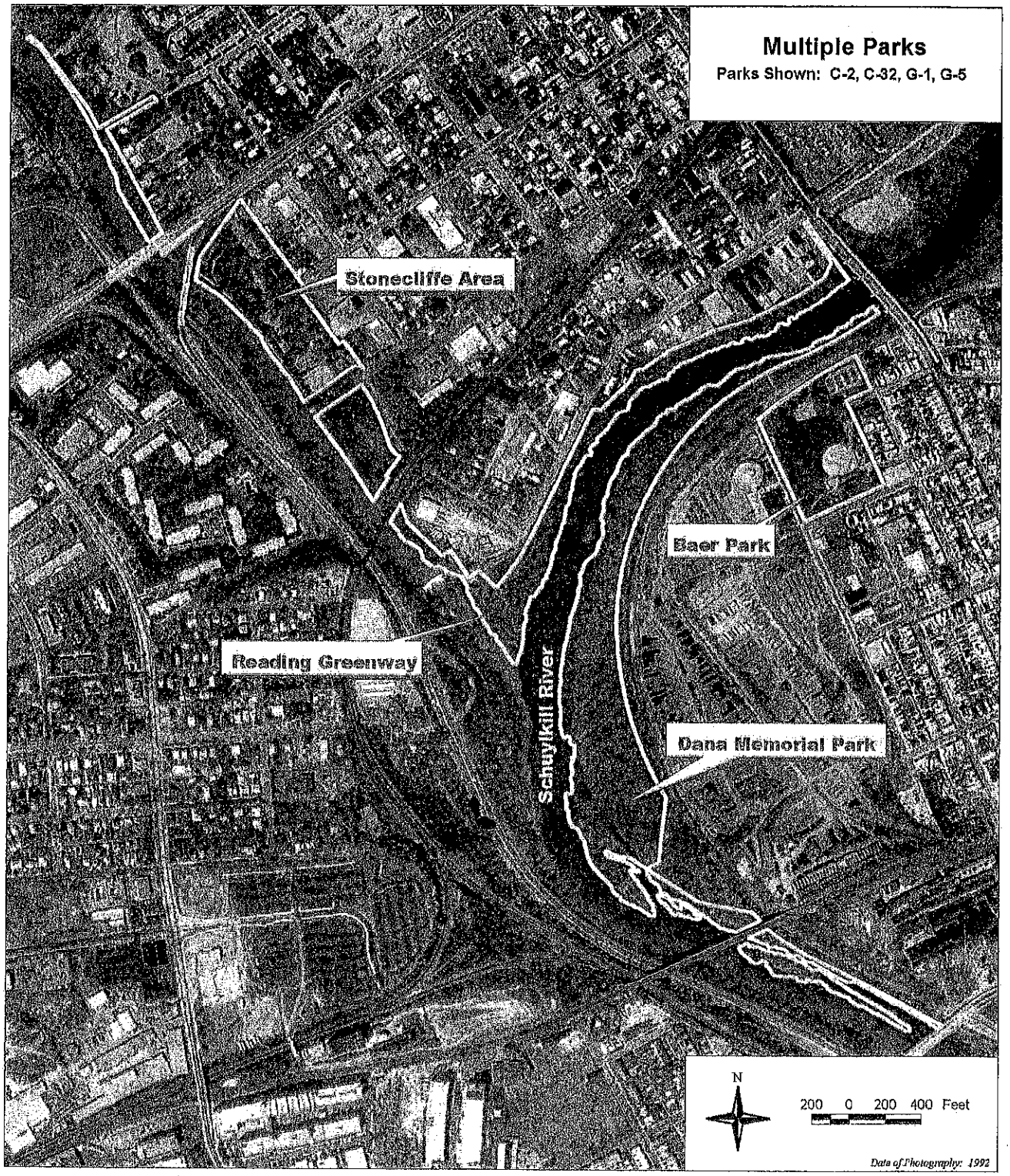
EXISTING LINKAGES: Northwest Elementary School; Schuylkill River

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Reading Greenway; Dana Memorial Park; Windsor and Ritter Playground; Berks County Park System

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
3 Basketball Courts (Overlapping) 1 Baseball/Softball Field Football/Soccer Area 4 Tennis Courts 1 Volleyball Court	Good condition, lights Good condition, level, lighted, bleachers (orientation not optimum) Lighted Good condition, posts but no lights Good condition, lighted
Slide, tot lot, 2 swing sets, spring pelican, hopscotch, and parallel bars	All of these features are in fair condition. One of the swing sets did not have swings. Baer Park has very nice, well-used (crowded), respected facilities. The safety surface matting needs to be replaced (Moderate Priority).
Park Building/(Indoor Activity) Concession Stand	Appear to be nice, older buildings that could be a great service to the park-goers. Some minor improvements are necessary (Moderate Priority).
Bike Rack, Benches, Walkways with Lights	Good condition. Bike racks add convenience for those who wish to transport here by bike. Walkways with lights add safety and security to all who use this park.
Drinking Fountain	A valuable commodity that many of the parks do not have. Good condition.
Parking Street Lighting	Street parking only. Off-street parking facilities could be provided by the Northwest Elementary School.
Pavilion	Good shape. Provides good shade and shelter.

OVERALL NEEDS: Moderate Priority

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-2



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Barbey's Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Neighborhood Park

MAP NUMBER: C-3

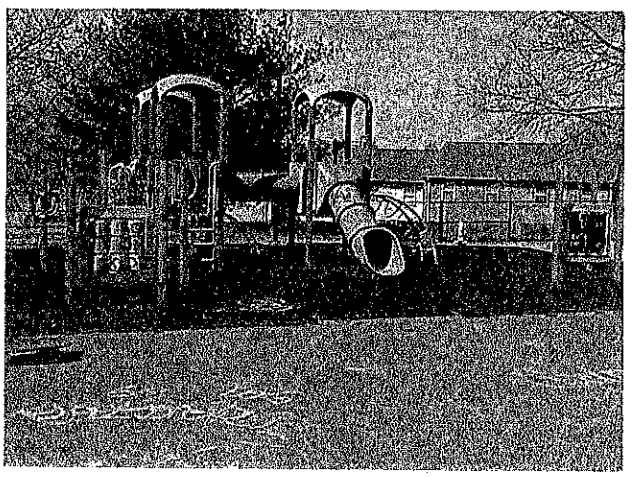
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

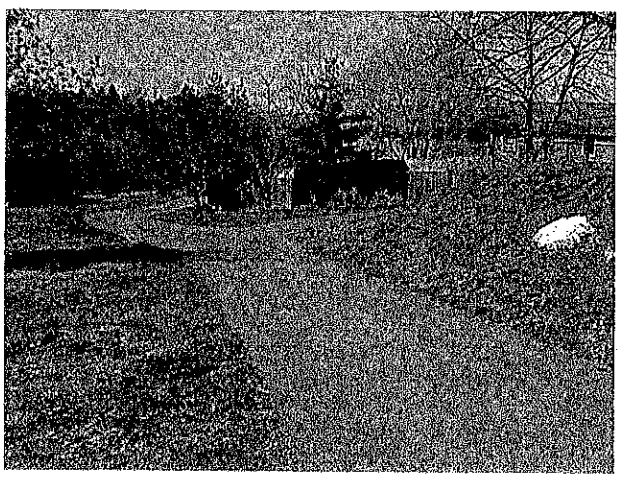
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 2.37

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Basketball (3) (Overlapping) – Lighted
2. Tennis Court
3. Volleyball (1) - Lighted
4. Swingsets (3)
5. Sprinklers
6. Walkways
7. Pavilion
8. Shed
9. Park Benches and Tables
10. Activity Center (formerly labeled as 'Tot Lot')
11. Spring Animals (2)
12. Merry-Go-Round
13. Security Lighting (Some)
14. Tether Ball
15. Drinking Fountain





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-3

NAME OF AREA: **Barbey's Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-3**

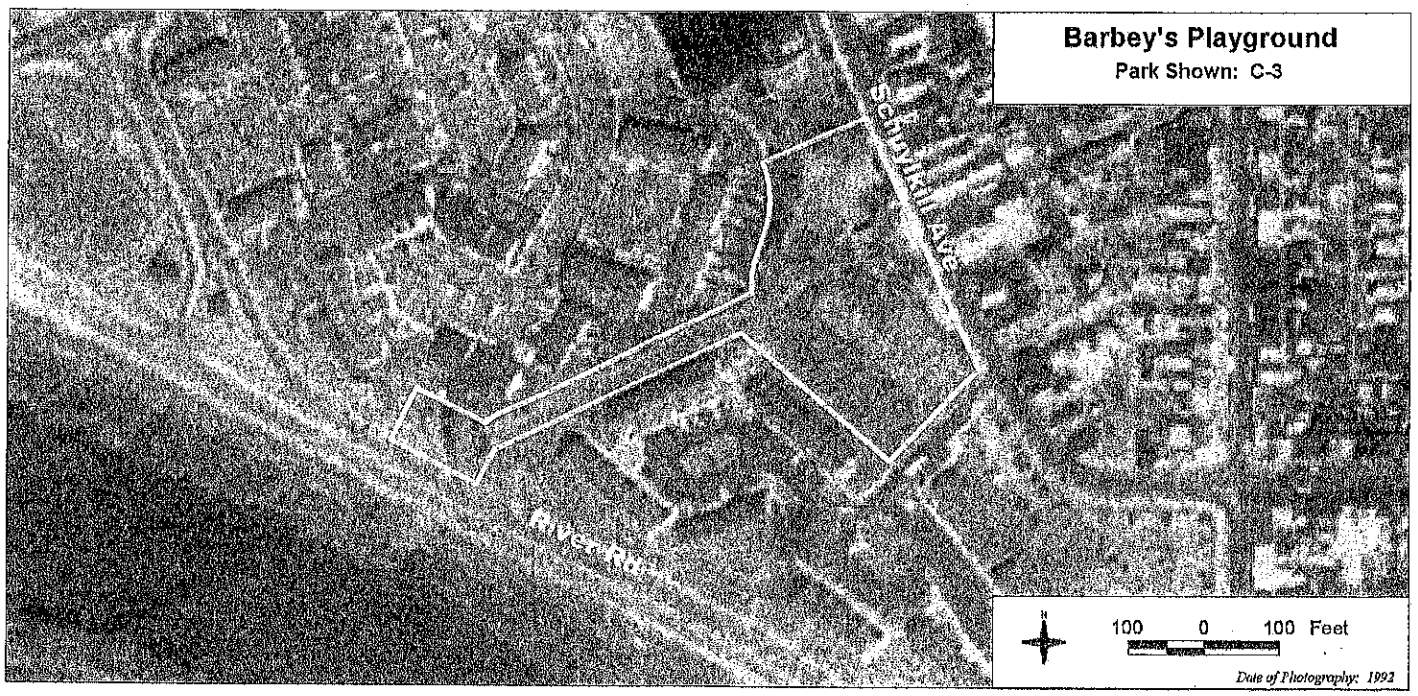
ADJACENT LAND USES: **Residential; Commercial; Quasi-Public**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **Schuylkill River**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Lauer's Park; Front and Schiller Playground; Reading Greenway; Dana Memorial Park**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
3 Overlapping Basketball Courts	Good condition, lights.
1 Volleyball Court	Tennis courts should be converted to basketball courts.
Tennis Court	No toilets; City staff has requested portable toilets.
Tetherball	
3 Swingsets	Good condition.
Tot-Lot	New, modern equipment.
2 Spring Animals	Good condition.
1 Merry-Go-Round	Standard equipment, good shape.
Pavilion	Nice shade, shelter (no bathrooms).
Shed	Locked.
Sprinklers	Needs to be repaired.
Park Benches/Tables	Nice, good for picnickers or people who want to rest, chessboard included on some tables.
Walkways	Convenient and safe. The railroad ties and steps need to be repaired.
Security Lighting	Some lights.
Water Fountain	Good commodity.
Parking	Paved parking which serves housing units, lights.

OVERALL NEEDS: Moderate Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Brookline Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Neighborhood Park

MAP NUMBER: C-4

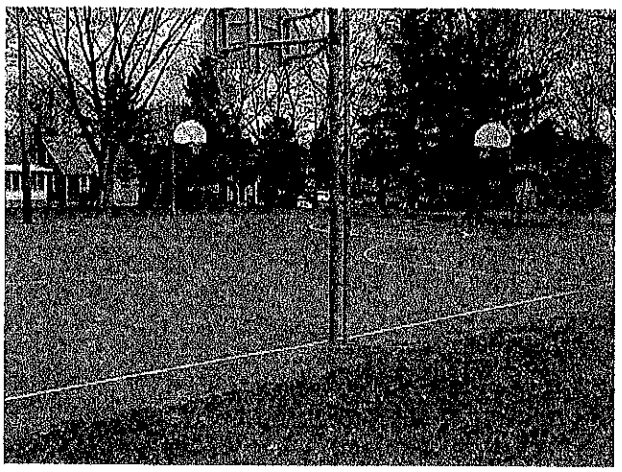
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

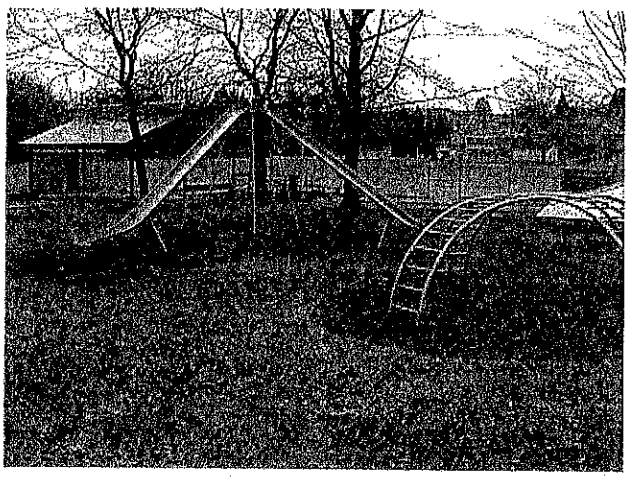
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 4.60

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Basketball (3) (Overlapping) - Lighted
2. Volleyball (1) - Lighted
3. Softball/Baseball (1) (with bleachers)
4. Football/Soccer 'area'
5. Benches/Walkways
6. Slides (3)
7. Merry-go-round
8. 4-Based Jungle Gym
9. Bike Stand
10. Swingset (2)
11. Balance Beam
12. Hopscotch
13. Pavilion
14. Parallel Bars
15. Concrete Shed
16. Security Lighting





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-4

NAME OF AREA: **Brookline Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-4**

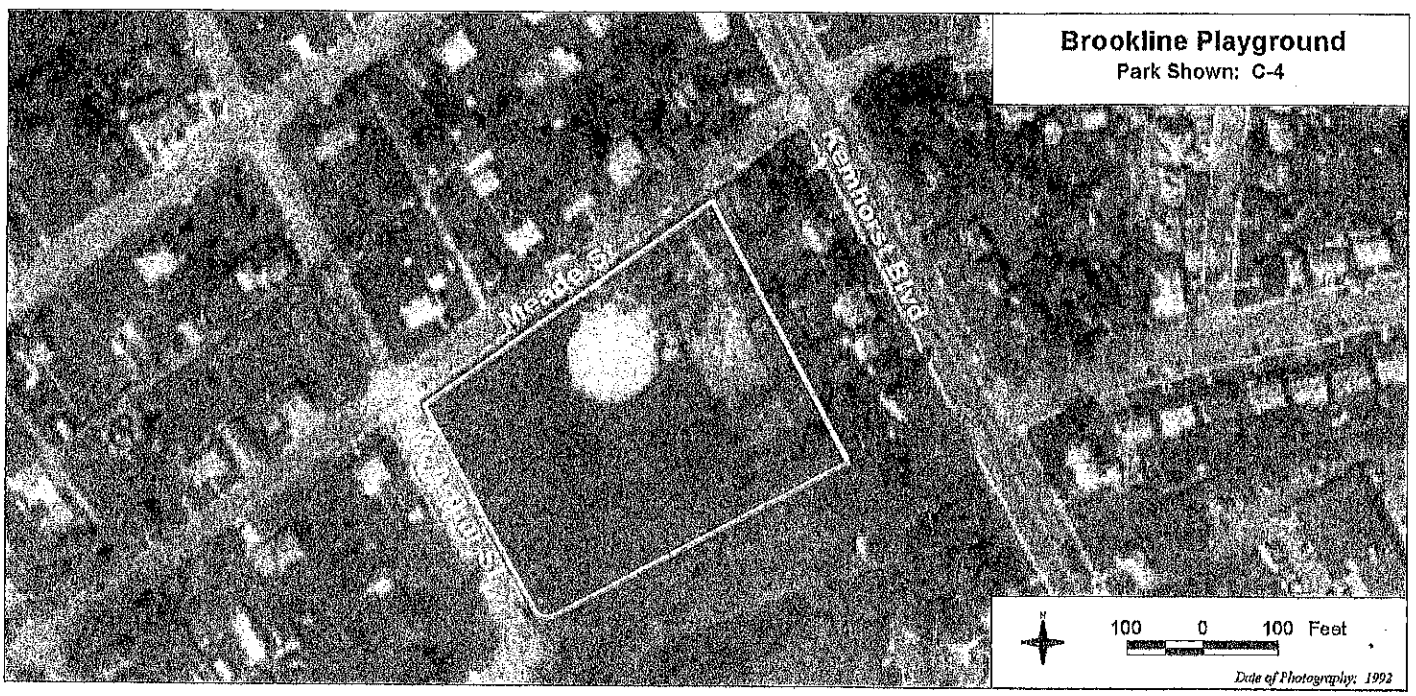
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Quasi-Public

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Oakbrook Housing Playground; Triangle at Hancock Boulevard; Museum Road

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
3 Basketball Courts (Overlapping) 1 Baseball/Softball Field 1 Volleyball Court Football/Soccer Area	Lights, no nets. Bleachers, no lights, moderate rusty backstop. No lights. In outfield of baseball field. } Needs to be renovated and/or resurfaced (High Priority).
3 Slides 1 Merry-Go-Round, 4-Based Jungle Gym, 2 Swingsets, Balance Beam, Hopscotch, Parallel Bars	Good shape. All facilities are well maintained with many available waste receptacles, security lights, benches, walkways, and even a bike stand. Safety surface matting needs to be replaced (High Priority).
Concrete Shed Pavilion Parking Walkways	For Public Works Department; needs to be replaced (High Priority). Standard pavilion – provides shade and shelter. Needs to be replaced. Street parking only. Security lights.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Cedar Street Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park (Passive)

MAP NUMBER: C-5

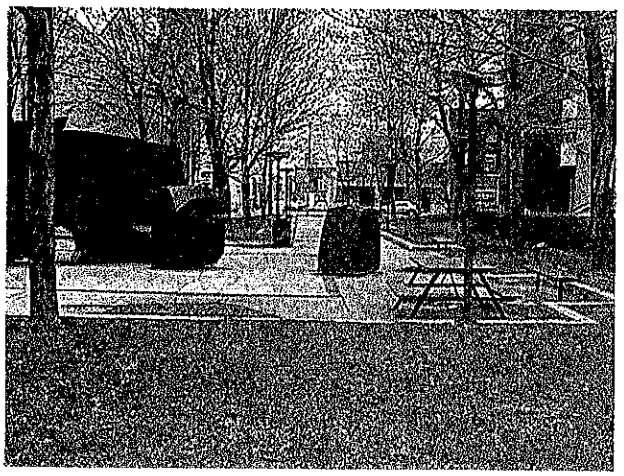
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

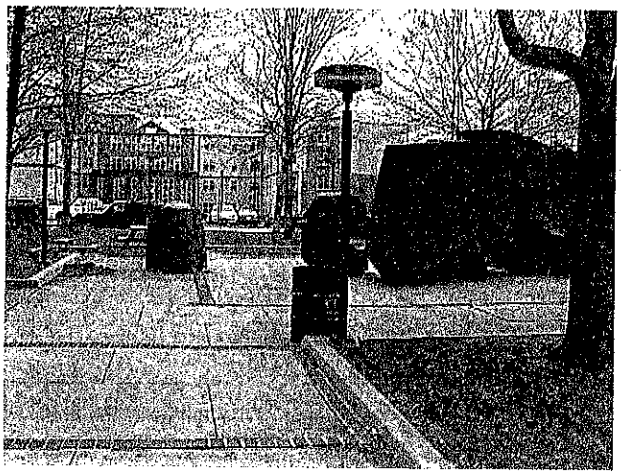
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

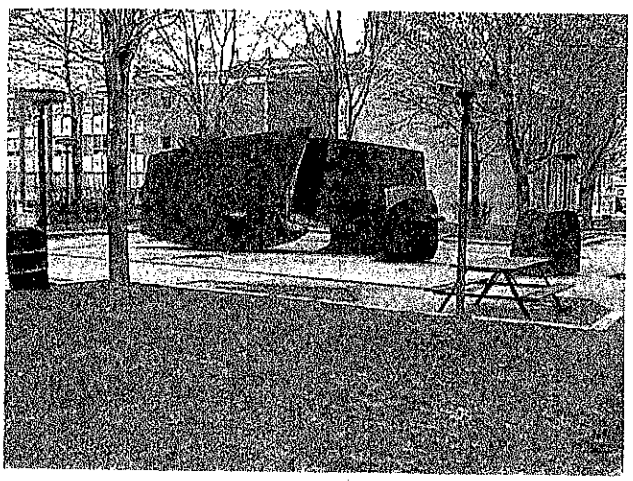
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.43

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Sculpture
2. Security Lighting
3. Seating
4. Private Parking Area
5. Linear Park







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-5

NAME OF AREA: **Cedar Street Park** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-5**

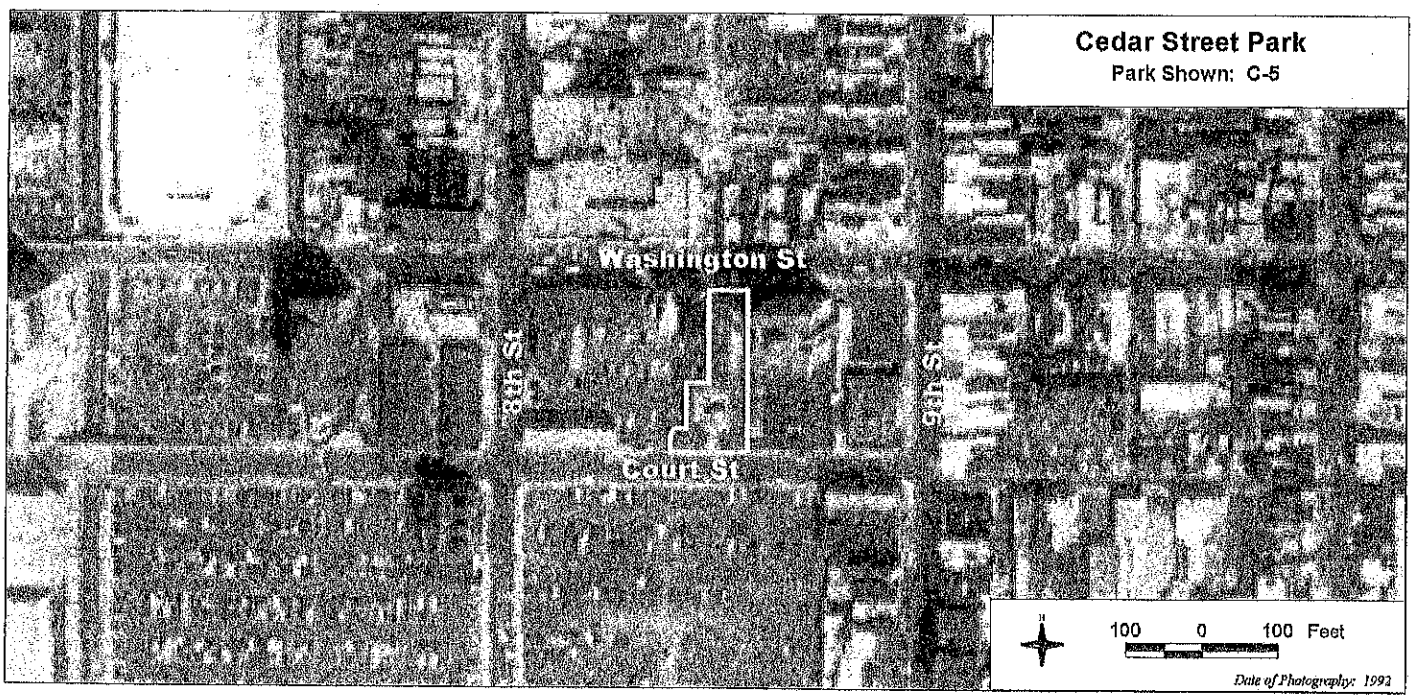
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Municipal

EXISTING LINKAGES: City Hall; Reading School District Administration Building

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: City Park; Courtyard I

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Sculptures Security Lights	Good for aesthetic and cultural purposes. Good for safety.
Seating	Good condition, nice place to rest/eat lunch.
Parking	Metered street parking. Parking nearby for housing/businesses.

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Centre Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park (Passive)

MAP NUMBER: C-6

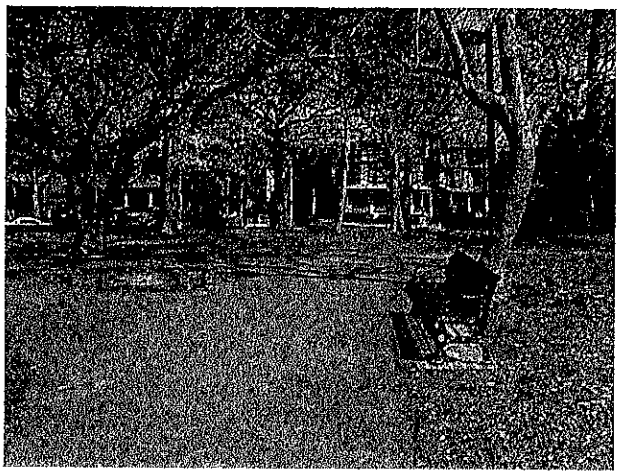
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

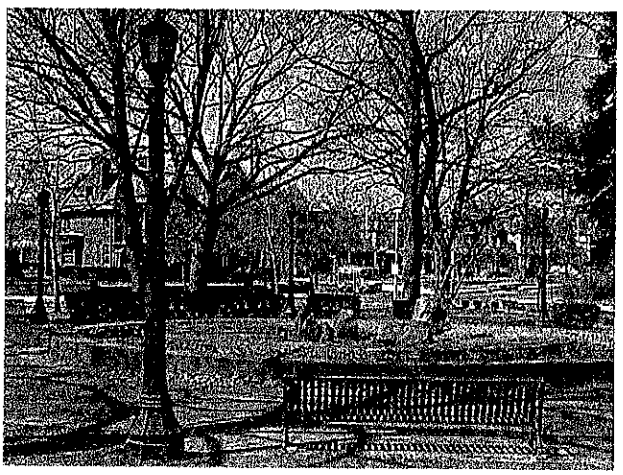
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

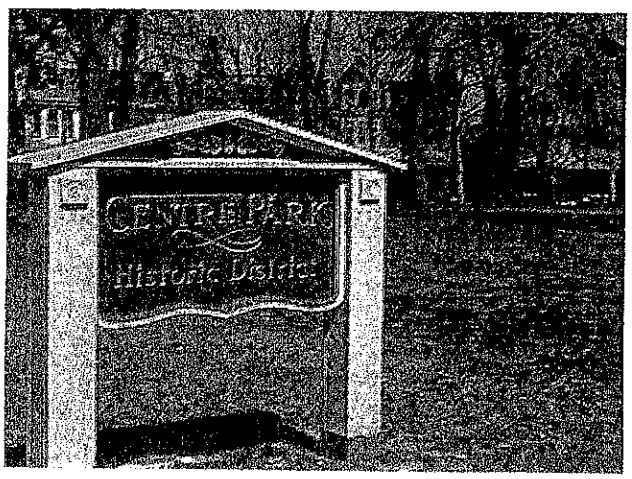
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 2.00

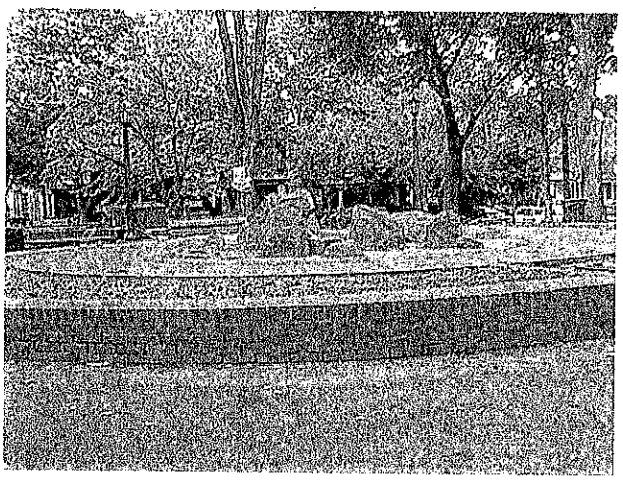
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Walkways with Seating
2. Security Lighting
3. Decorative Fountain
4. Linear Park
5. Historic District









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-6

NAME OF AREA: Centre Park **MAP NUMBER:** C-6

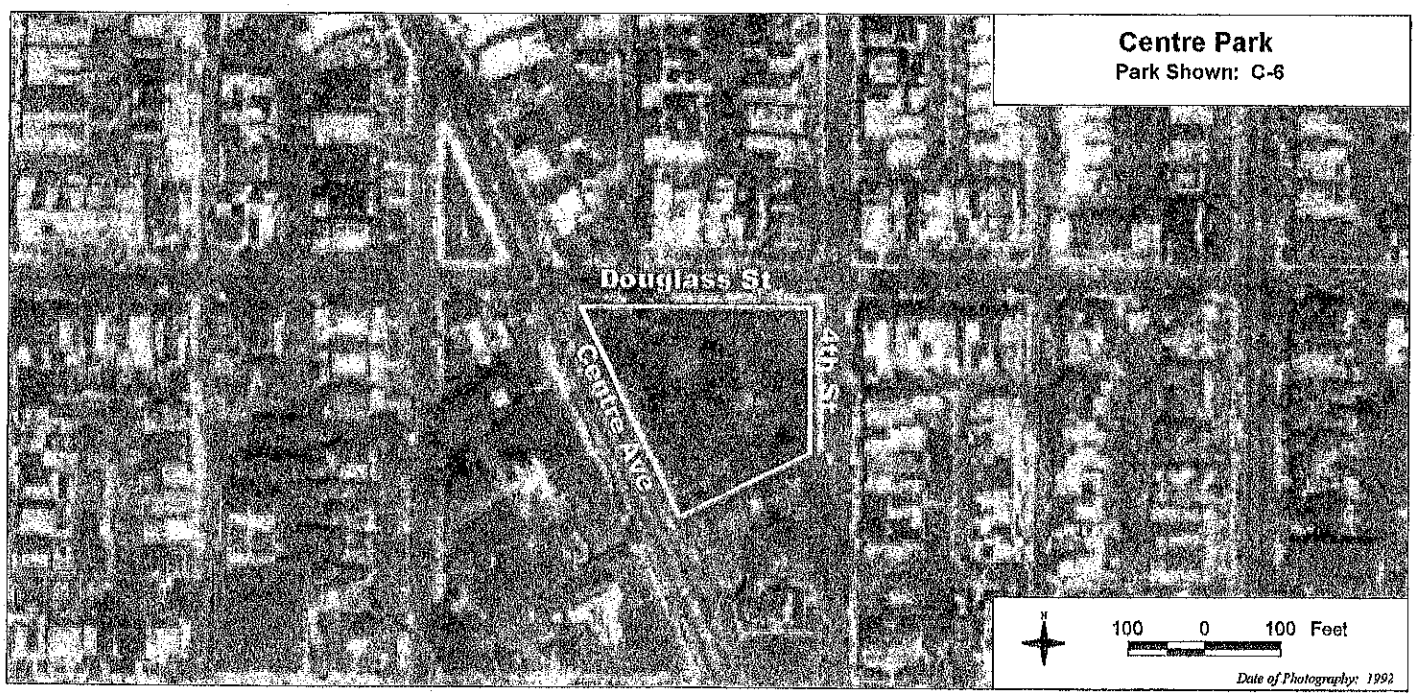
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Quasi-Public

EXISTING LINKAGES: Centre Park Historical District

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Second and Oley Playground; Essick Playground; Third and Spring Playground

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Decorative Fountain	Good for aesthetic purposes. Very nice. No water facilities. Needs to be repaired or removed. Constant maintenance associated with leaves and debris.
Walkways with Benches	Nice and shady – nine benches with security lighting. Very nice condition, not many facilities. Relaxing part of Historic District.
Parking	Street parking only.

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **City Park (Penn's Commons)**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Park

MAP NUMBER: C-7

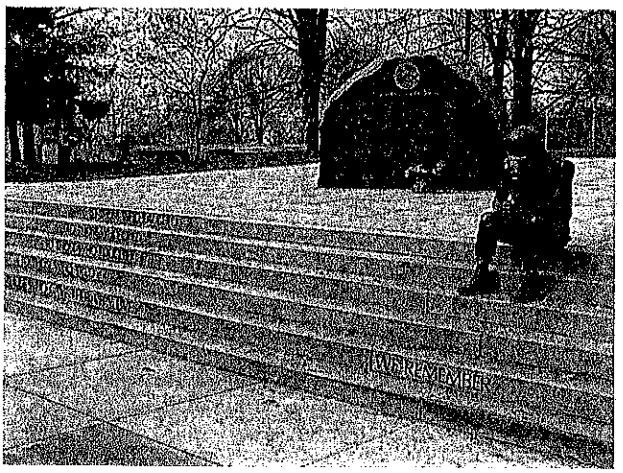
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

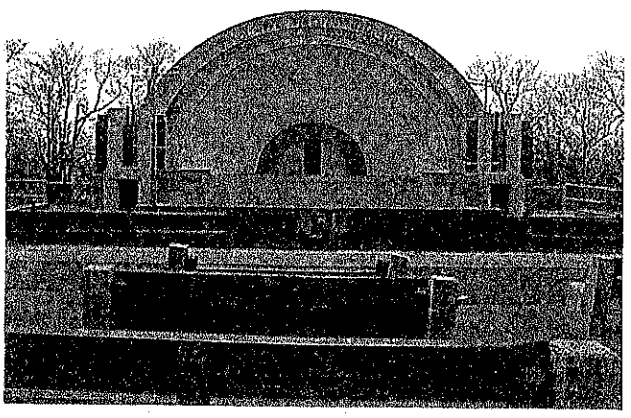
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

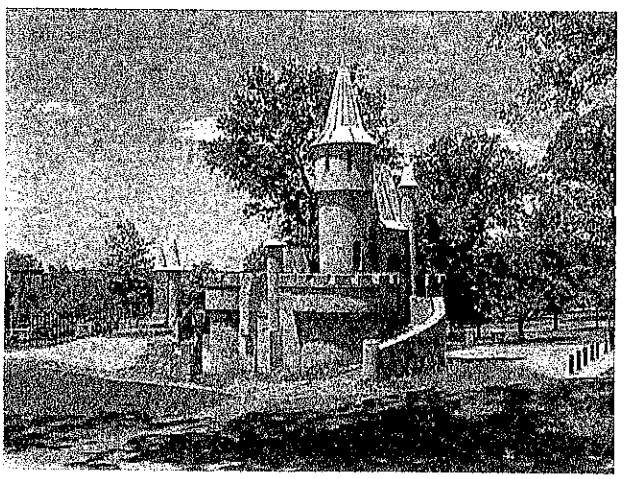
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 44.21

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Paved Walkways and Linear Trails
2. Cultural Center
3. Park Benches
4. Bandshell with Benches, Lawn Area, and Pond
5. Parking
6. Passive Open Space and Greenway
7. Memorials and Monuments
8. Some Security Lighting
9. Drinking Fountains (5)
10. City Greenhouse
11. Basketball Courts
12. Tennis Courts
13. Volleyball Courts
14. Tot-Lot/Playground
15. Pavilions and Activity Center
16. Castle







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-7

NAME OF AREA: City Park (Penn's Commons) **MAP NUMBER:** C-7

ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Municipal; Quasi-Public

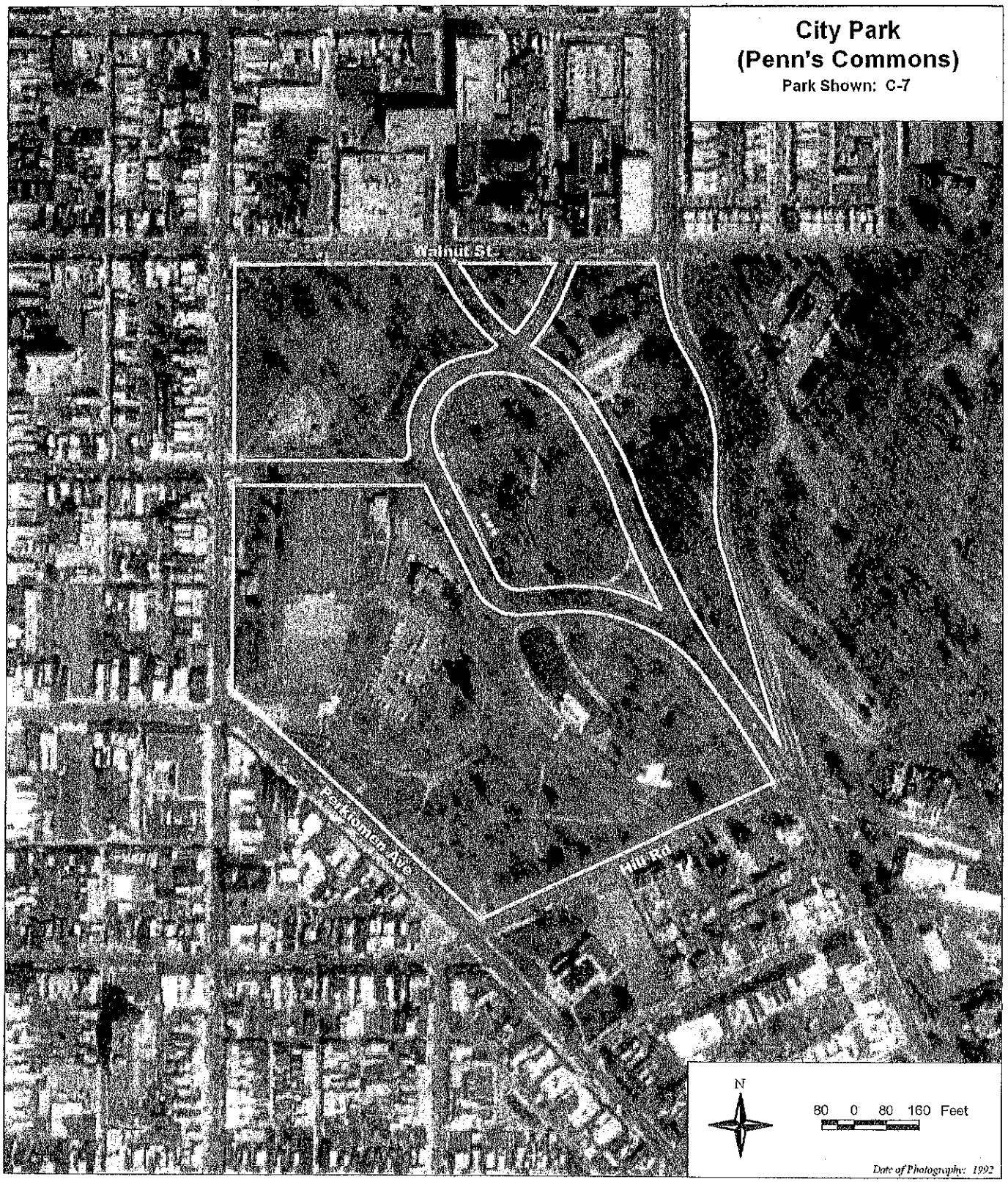
EXISTING LINKAGES: Mount Penn Reserve; Central Catholic High School

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Numerous Educational Facilities; Hillside Playground

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
6 Basketball Courts (3 overlap) 3 Tennis Courts	Good condition, well used, with lights; (3 new courts recently added). Average condition, with lights (need paint). New fence recently added.
Playground with Slide, 5 Swingsets, and Merry-Go-Round	The playground is in good condition and serves as a good recreational area for the neighborhood children. • Need for restrooms
Bandshell with Seating, Lawn Area, and a Pond at Foot of Stage	Very nice facility for music or other presentations. • Toilets. • Needs some upgrades and roof repairs (High Priority). • Pond needs to be reconstructed (High Priority).
Statues, Monuments, Memorials City Greenhouse and Gardens	Aesthetically pleasing (statues of Christopher Columbus and Lauer). To those who fought and/or died in WW I, WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. Good condition – visually pleasing.
Two Buildings, Large Pavilion, Activity Center, Small Pavilion	Appear to be in good condition.
Castle	Needs to be reconstructed and/or redesigned; structural integrity should be examined.
Open Space Paved Walkways Some Security Lights ±5 Drinking Fountains	Gives this park a good, spacious atmosphere. Make it easily accessible for all. Provides security and safety when needed. Very nice commodity.
Parking	30+ spots for City employees (upper side, paved). 20± spots (lower side). 85± public parking spaces.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-7



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Courtyards I and II**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-8 and C-9

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

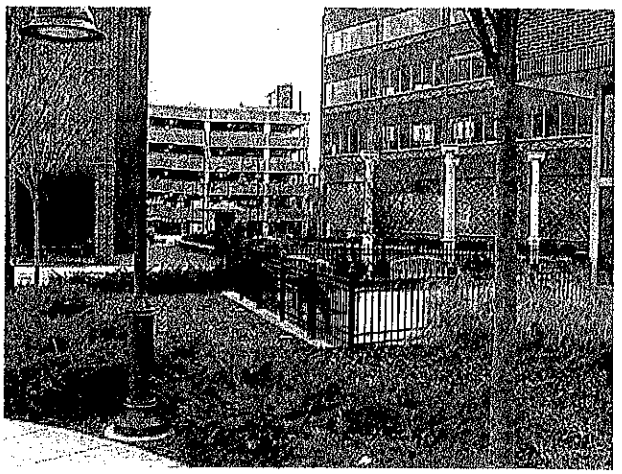
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

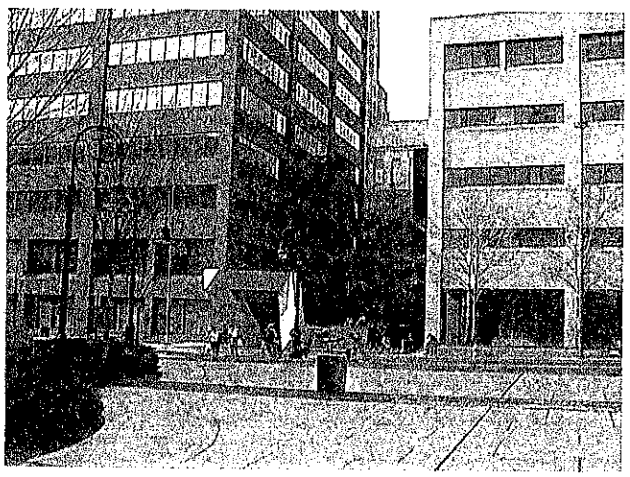
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): _____

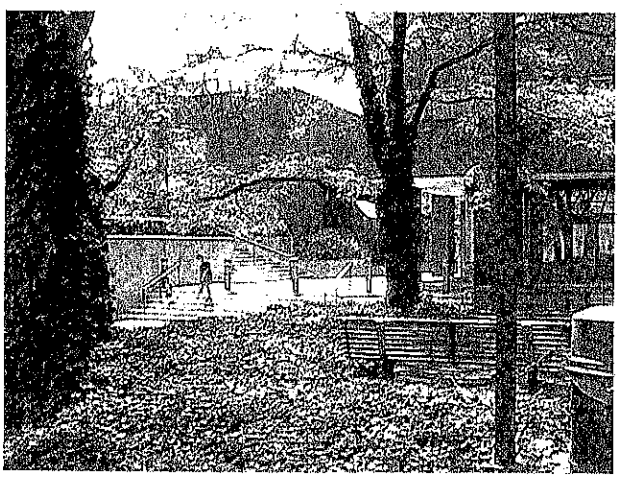
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Linear/Passive Park
2. Passive Recreation Uses
3. Sculptures
4. Landscaping
5. Park Benches
6. Adjacent Commercial/Office Uses
7. Central Business District
8. Adjacent Parking for 36 plus 2 handicapped

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **E. J. Dives Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Neighborhood Park

MAP NUMBER: C-10

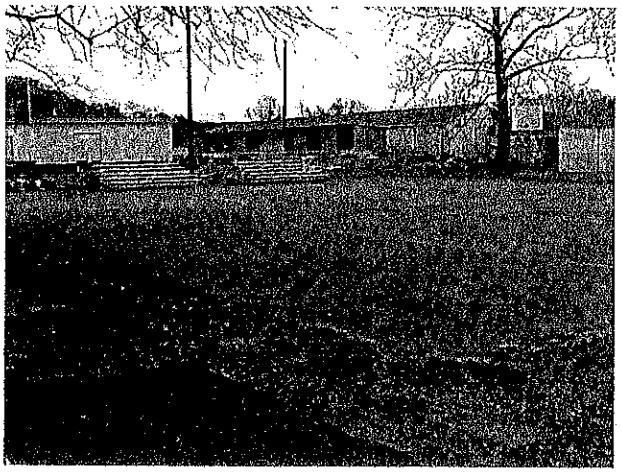
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

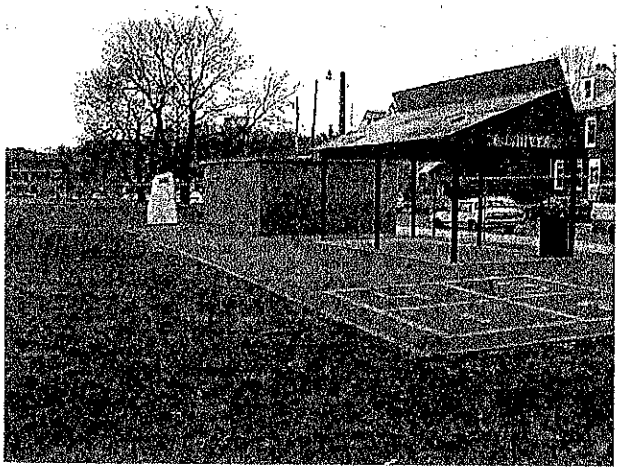
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

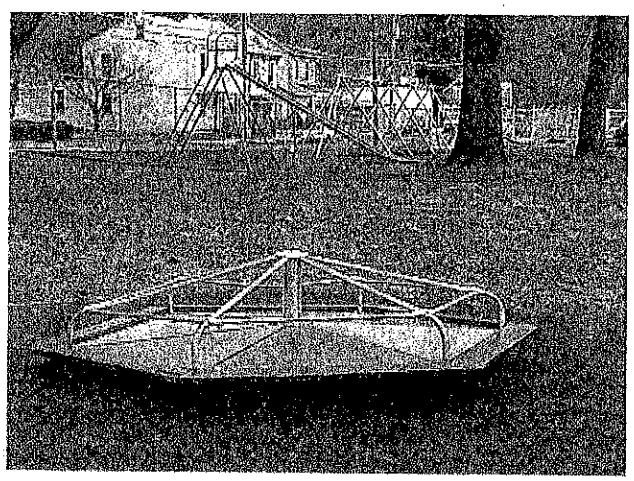
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.10

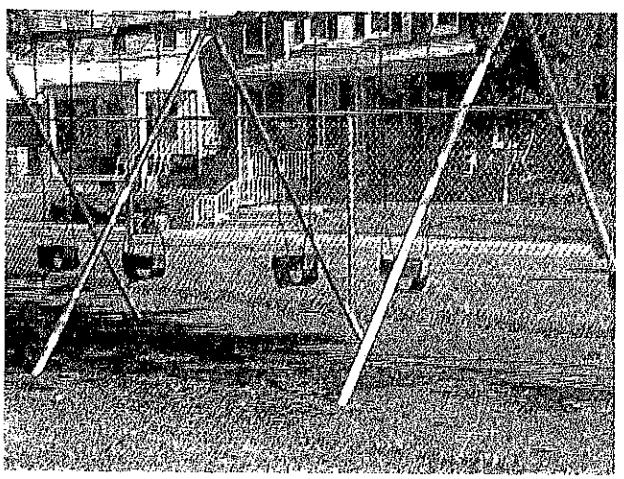
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Pavilion
2. Bathrooms/Storage
3. Softball/Baseball (1) (no lights)
4. Basketball - Lighted
5. Slides (2)
6. Swingsets (2)
7. Merry-Go-Round (1 or 2)
8. See-saws (1 set of 4)
9. Bleachers at Basketball
10. Football/Soccer Area
11. Volleyball (w/Basketball Court)









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-10

NAME OF AREA: E. J. Dives Playground **MAP NUMBER: C-10**

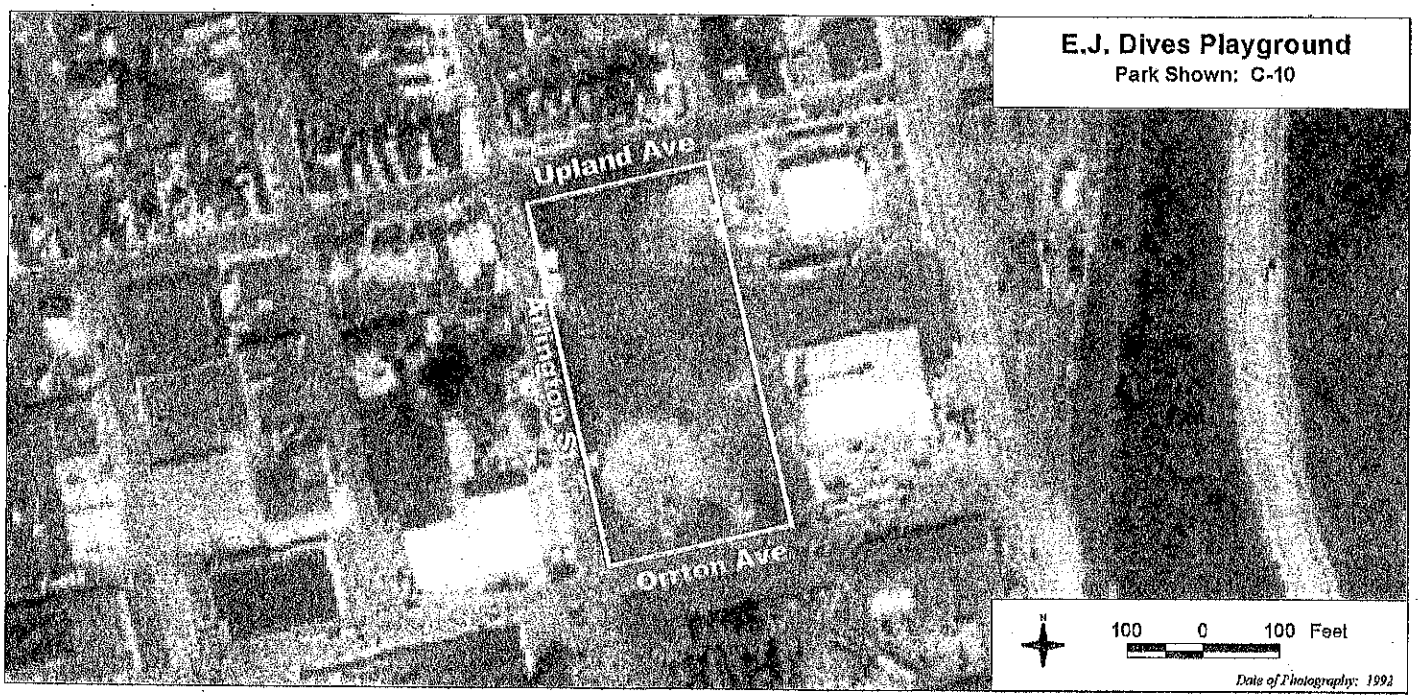
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Industrial

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Angelica Park; Millmont Elementary School; Schuylkill River; Thun Trail

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Basketball Court Volleyball Baseball/Softball Field	Lights, bleachers possible, average shape. With volleyball court. No lights, no bleachers, clumps or grass, football/soccer area in outfield, rusty backstop. Need comprehensive improvements and renovations.
2 Slides 2 Swingsets Merry-Go-Round See-Saw Posts	Playground area is in fair condition. The see-saws no longer remain here. Other facilities are in fair shape. Clean atmosphere. Need improvements. Safety surface matting needs to be replaced. Fair condition.
Pavilion Field House No Bathrooms Parking	Standard, rusty. Need improvements and renovations. Standard, locked for Public Works Department (needs renovations). Port-O-Let is occasionally present; need permanent facilities. Street parking only.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Egelman's Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Park

MAP NUMBER: C-11

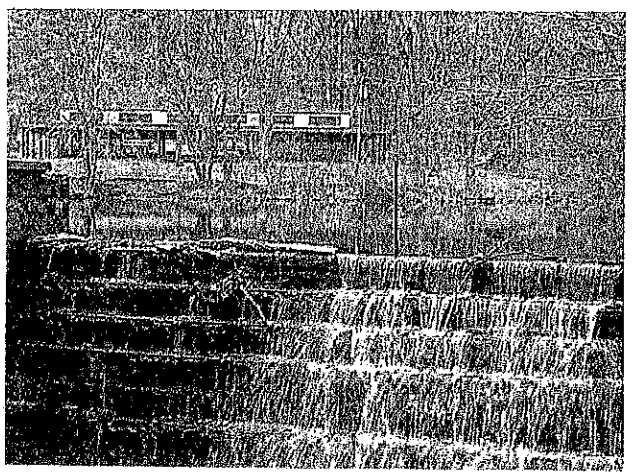
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

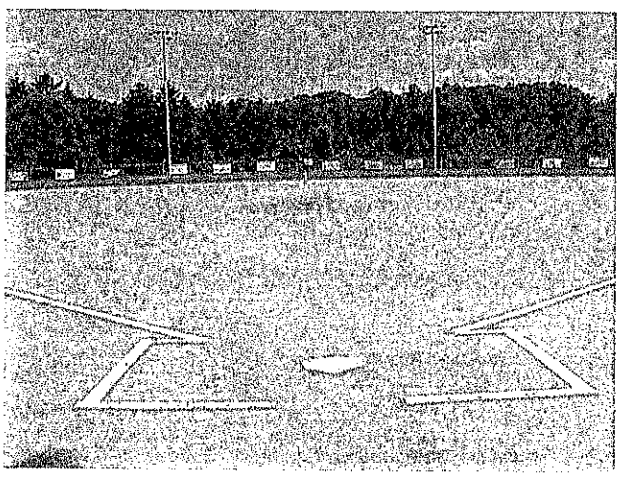
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 22.00

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Ponds (2)
2. Waterfall
3. Trails for Walking
4. Fireplaces
5. Picnic Areas and Seating
6. Pavilions (2)
7. Outhouses
8. Park Benches
9. Parking
10. Restrooms and Drinking Fountain
11. Baseball Fields
12. Soccer Fields





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-11

NAME OF AREA: **Egelman Park** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-11**

ADJACENT LAND USES: Woodland; Conservation; Residential

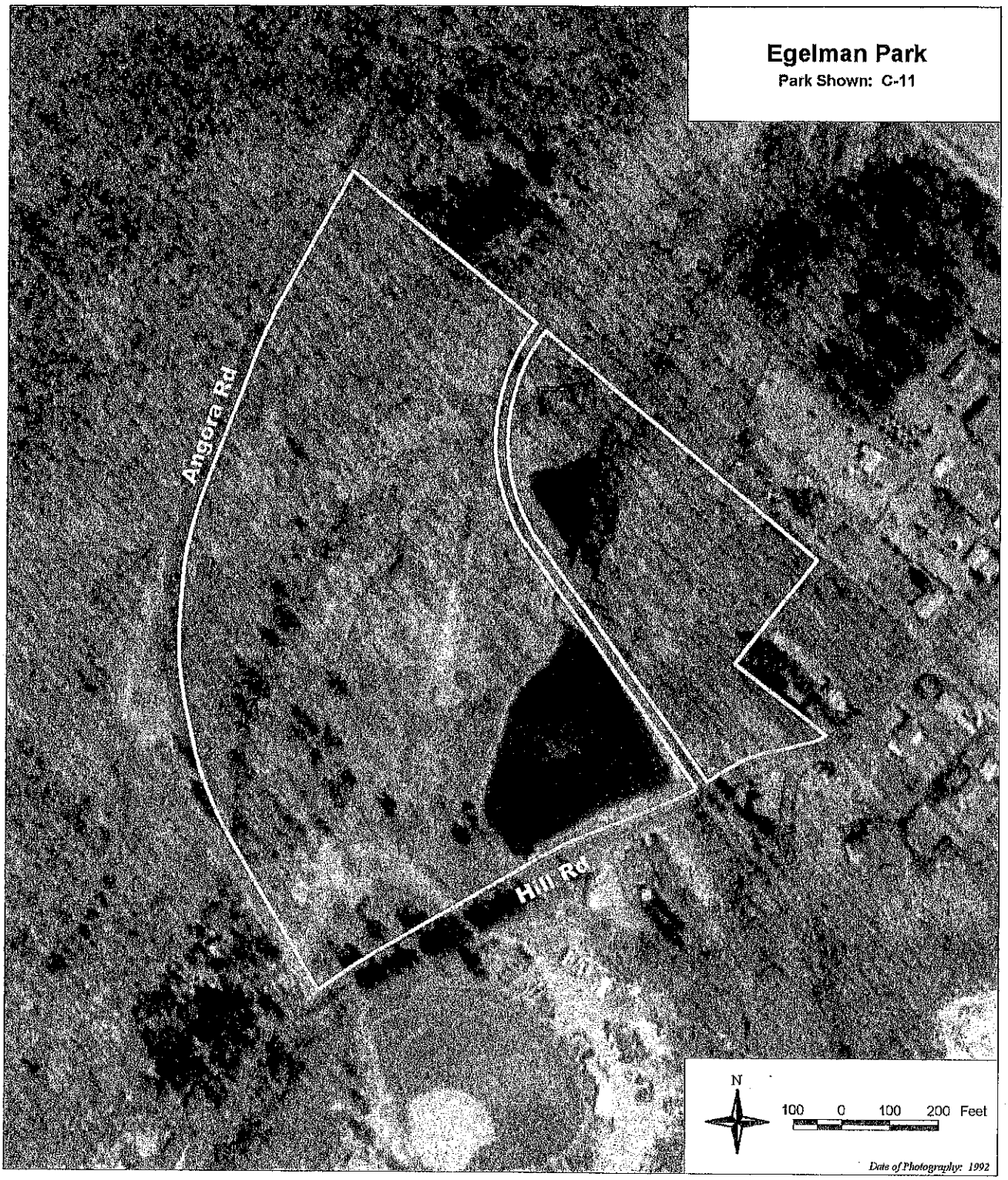
EXISTING LINKAGES: Mount Penn Reserve; Mineral Spring Park

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Pendora Park; City Park; Neversink Preserve

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Baseball Field (Possible Football/Soccer/ Field Hockey Field) Provisions	Excellent field with level playing conditions, good backstop, and sponsors' signs on the outfield fence. Not fully utilized by the community. Located on adjacent lands to the south within Mineral Spring Park. Gated entrance, paved parking.
2 Ponds and a Waterfall Trails for Walking	Very nice and relaxing for those who enjoy the outdoors.
Park Benches and Seating Picnic Areas Fireplaces Woodland Area	These conveniences serve those who enjoy picnics, bar-b-ques, or just a plain relaxing rest. All facilities are in good condition; additional fireplaces could be added within the park.
2 Pavilions	Pavilions are in good condition. Pavilion by ballpark even has a soda machine.
Outhouses/Restrooms	Existing restrooms and outhouses.
Drinking Fountain	Very nice commodity. Good condition.
Parking	Stone, ±50 cars and there is a large parking lot at the ballfield.

OVERALL NEED: Low to Moderate Priority

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-11



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Eleventh and Pike Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Park

MAP NUMBER: C-12

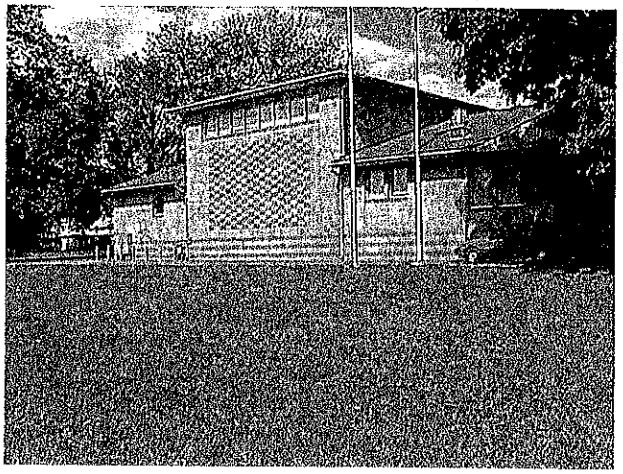
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

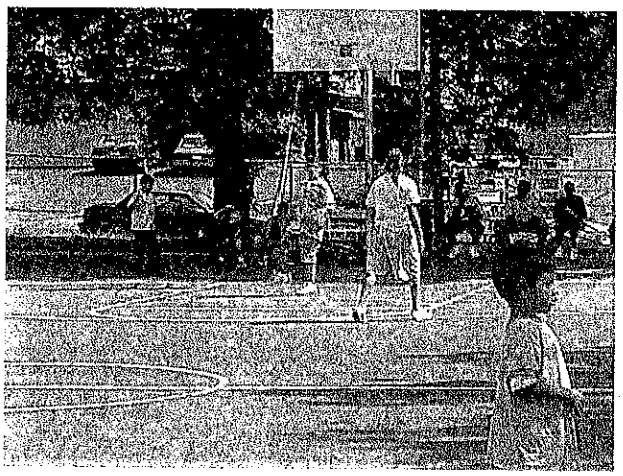
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

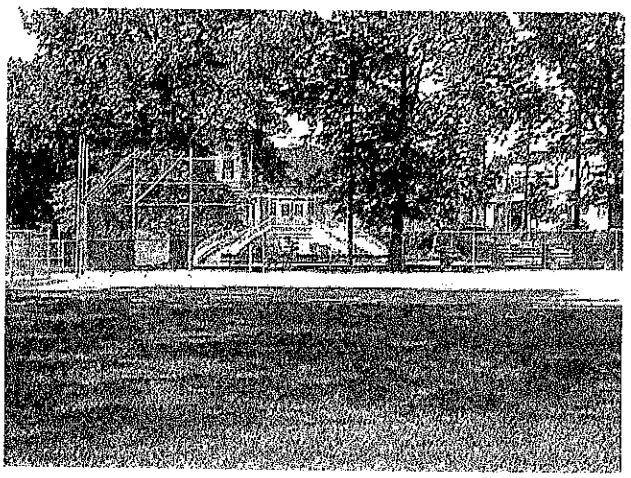
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 6.32

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Baseball Fields (2) with Bleachers
2. Football Sleds and Some Open Area
3. Swingsets (3)
4. See-Saws (2 Sets of 2)
5. Slides (2)
6. Activity Center
7. Sprinkler
8. Chin-Up Bars (3)
9. Tot-Lot w/Spring Animals (2)
10. Recreation Hall/Center
11. Basketball Courts (3) – Overlapping - Lighted
12. Volleyball
13. Security Lighting
14. Open Space







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-12

NAME OF AREA: **Eleventh and Pike Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-12**

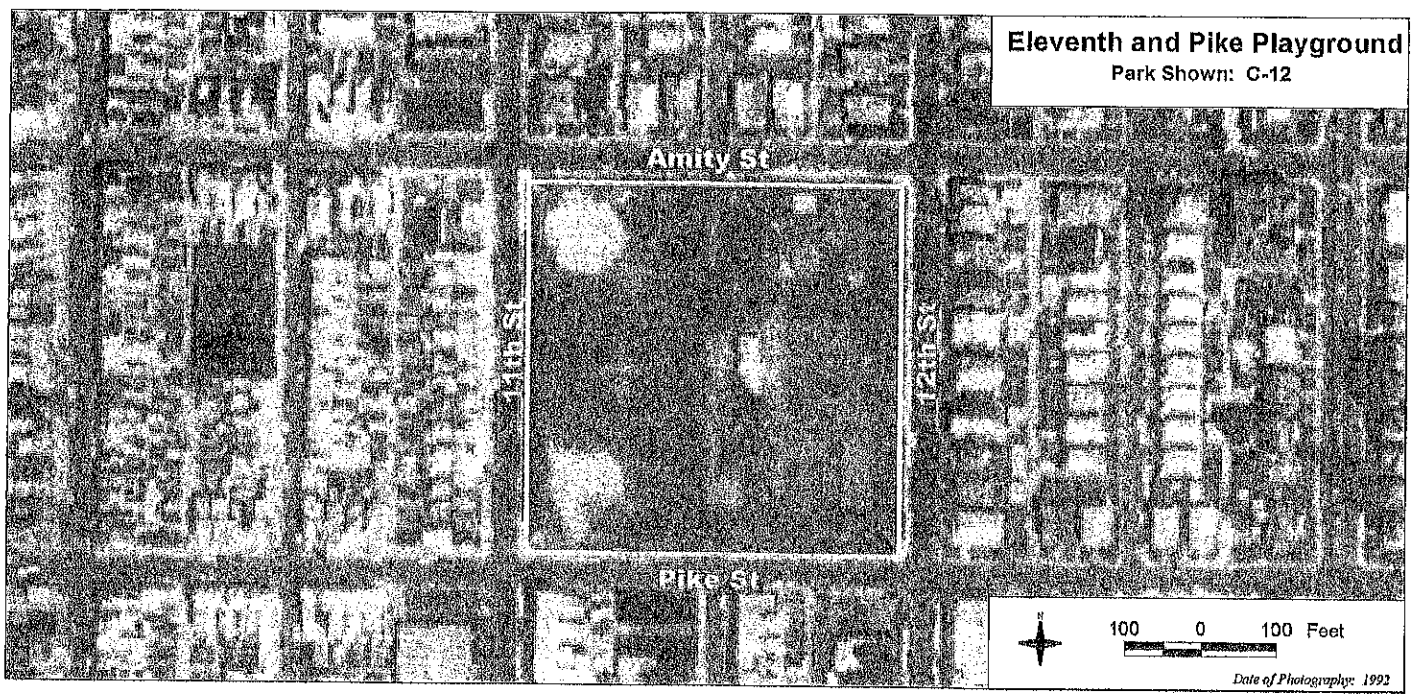
ADJACENT LAND USES: **Residential; Commercial; Quasi-Public**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **No Recreation Linkages**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Northeast Middle School; 13th and Union Elementary School; Albright College; Hampden Park**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
2 Baseball Fields 3 Basketball Courts (Overlapping) Volleyball Football Sleds	Good, adequate playing surface with bleachers (one field orientation not optimum). Lights, good condition, well used; resurfacing is necessary. Potential multi-purpose uses (ice skating). In outfield.
3 Swingsets, 2 Slides, 2 Sets of See-Saws, 3 Chin-up Bars, and Tot Lot with Spring Animals	These playground facilities are in good shape with a modern "tot-lot" with a rubber surface for safety. Additional facilities must be carefully planned so they do not disrupt other uses.
Activity Center, Sprinklers, Recreation Hall, and Security Lighting Parking	Structural improvements are necessary for the activity center (size of facility is questionable). Street parking only.

OVERALL NEEDS: Moderate to High Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Essick Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-13

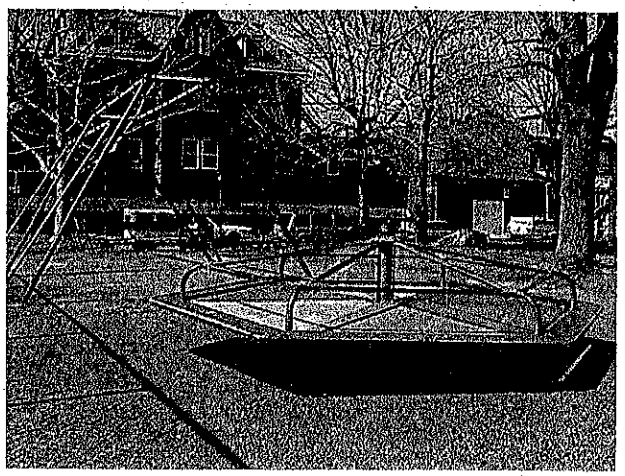
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

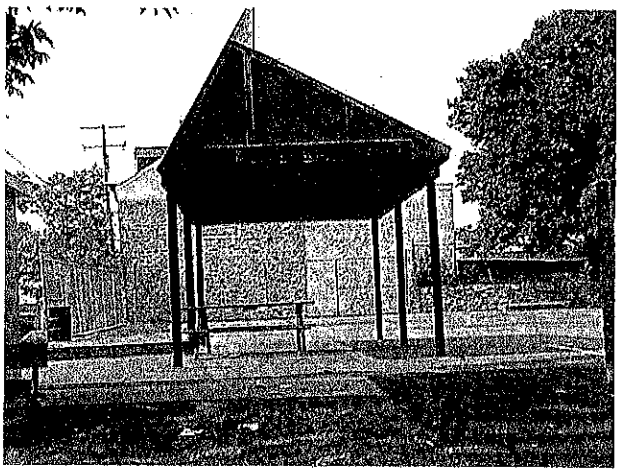
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

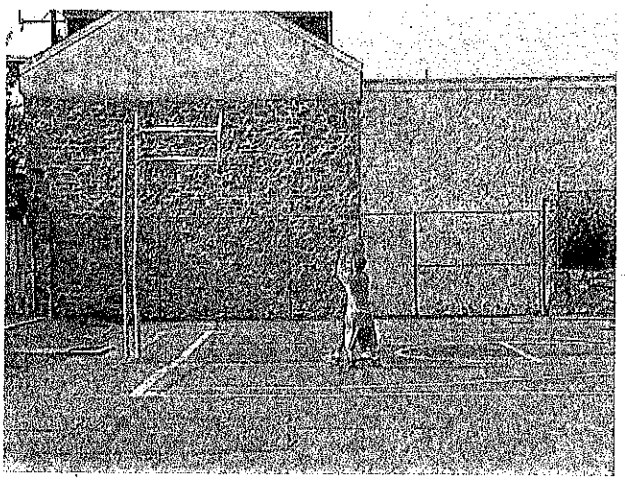
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.50

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Basketball (1) – Lighted
2. Volleyball (1)
3. Swingset (2) – Includes 'Push Bar' Animals
4. Merry-Go-Round
5. Benches
6. Shed (Typical)
7. Pavilion (Typical)
8. Activity Center
9. Spring Animals (2)
10. Hopscotch
11. Security Lights
12. Walkways







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-13

NAME OF AREA: **Essick Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-13**

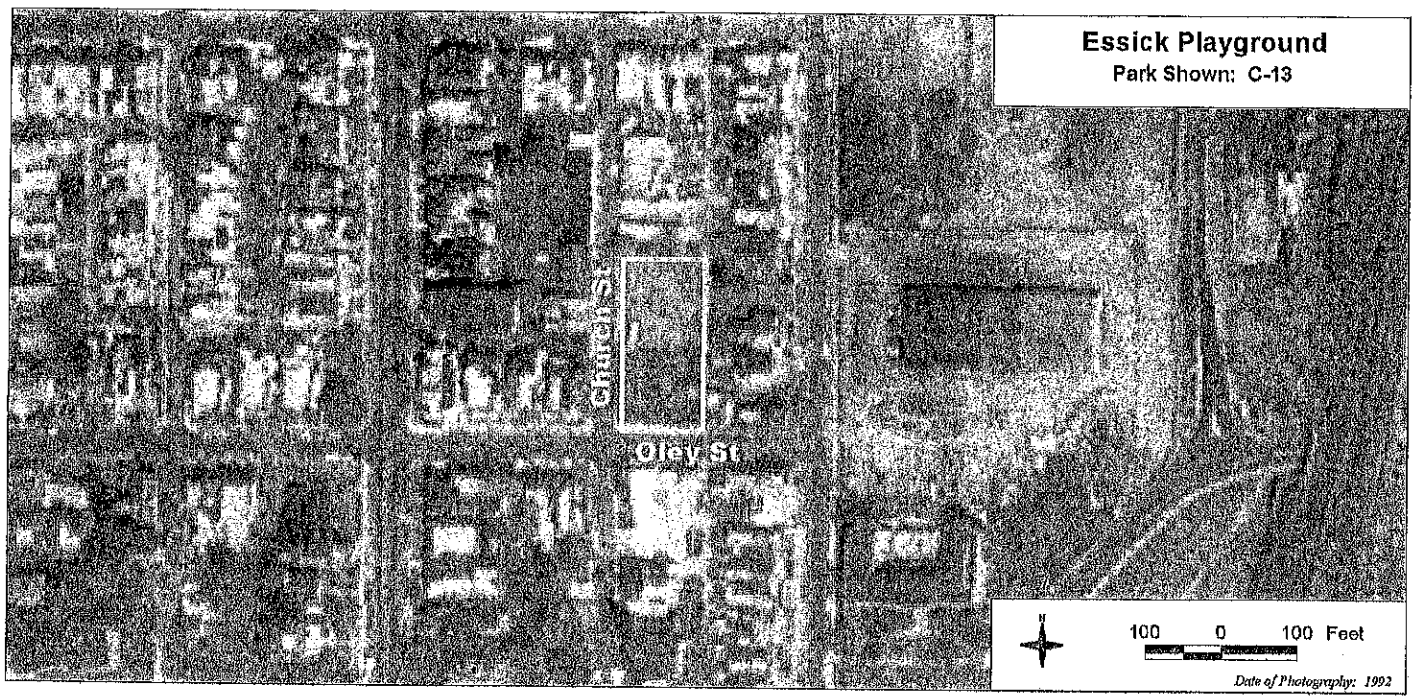
ADJACENT LAND USES: **Residential; Commercial; Industrial**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **No Recreation Linkages**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Centre Park Historical District; Centre Park**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Basketball Court Volleyball Court No Restrooms Fencing, Bleachers	Lights, no nets, fair condition. No net. New fencing is needed. New bleachers are needed. } Need renovations and improvements.
2 Swingsets, Merry-Go-Round, 2 Spring Animals, Hopscotch, and Activity Center	Playground is in good condition with very safe conditions as a result of the rubber pads. Activity center is modern and in good shape. Merry-go-round is broken. Additional facilities must be carefully planned so they do not disrupt other uses.
Benches, Shed, Pavilion, Security Lights, and Walkways Parking	These features provide safety and convenience for the park users. The shed and pavilion are typical of the Reading parks. (Locals desire water fountain.) Street parking only.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-13

NAME OF AREA: **Essick Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-13**

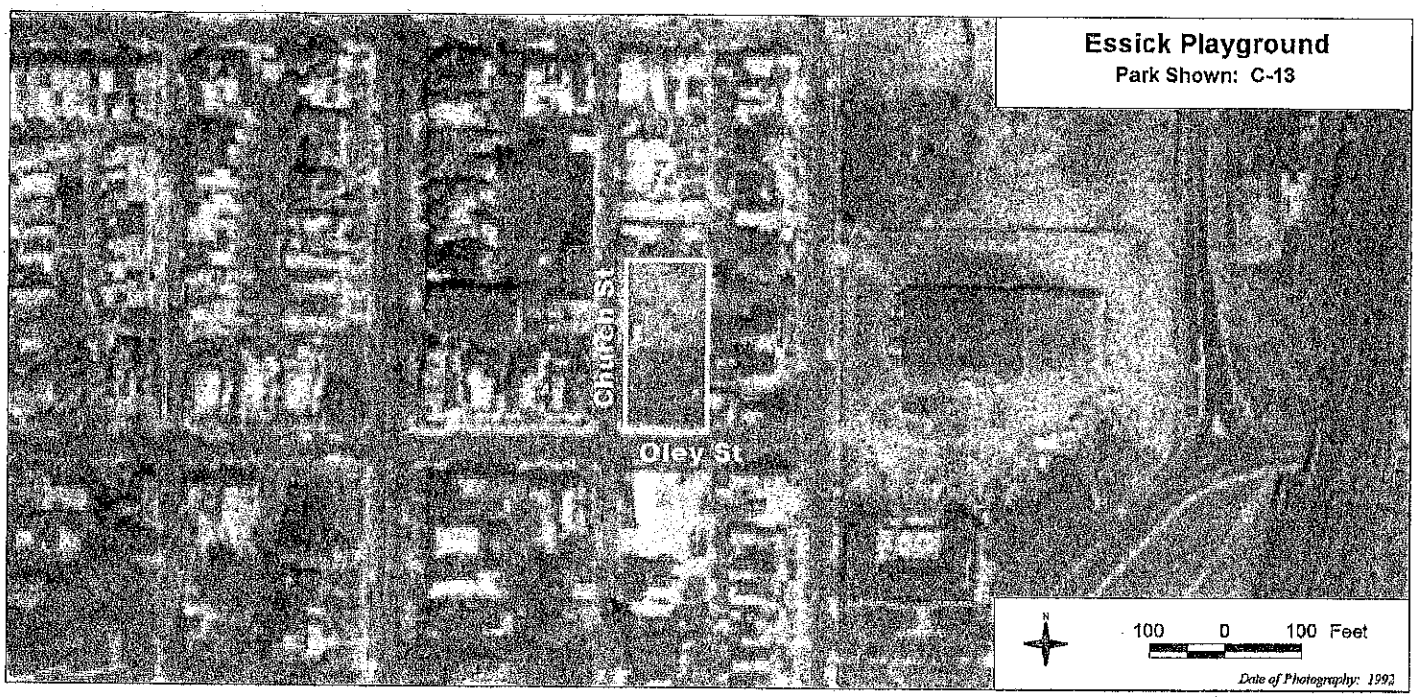
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Industrial

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Centre Park Historical District; Centre Park

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Basketball Court Volleyball Court No Restrooms Fencing, Bleachers	Lights, no nets, fair condition. No net. New fencing is needed. New bleachers are needed. } Need renovations and improvements.
2 Swingsets, Merry-Go-Round, 2 Spring Animals, Hopscotch, and Activity Center	Playground is in good condition with very safe conditions as a result of the rubber pads. Activity center is modern and in good shape. Merry-go-round is broken. Additional facilities must be carefully planned so they do not disrupt other uses.
Benches, Shed, Pavilion, Security Lights, and Walkways Parking	These features provide safety and convenience for the park users. The shed and pavilion are typical of the Reading parks. (Locals desire water fountain.) Street parking only.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Front and Schiller Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-14

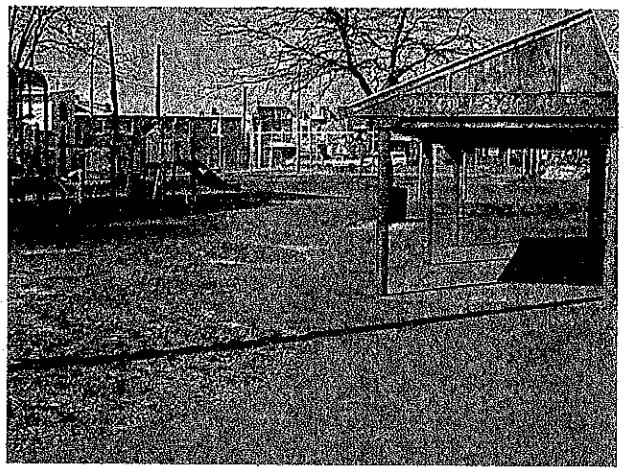
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

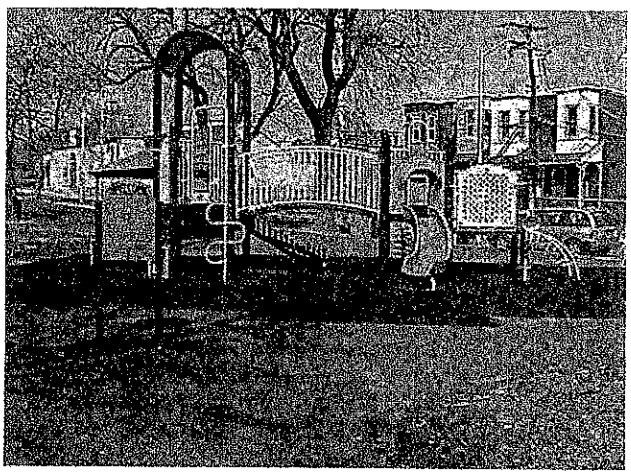
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

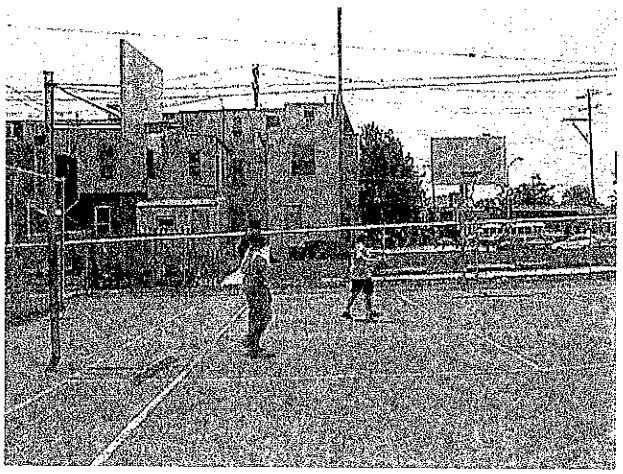
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 1.08

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Basketball (3) Overlapping (Lighted)
2. Swingset
3. Sprinklers
4. Ball Funnel
5. Tot-Lot Units (2) – Typical (Slides, Etc.)
6. Pavilion
7. Concrete Shed
8. Volleyball Provisions (on Basketball Court)
9. Street Parking Only







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-14

NAME OF AREA: **Front and Schiller Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-14**

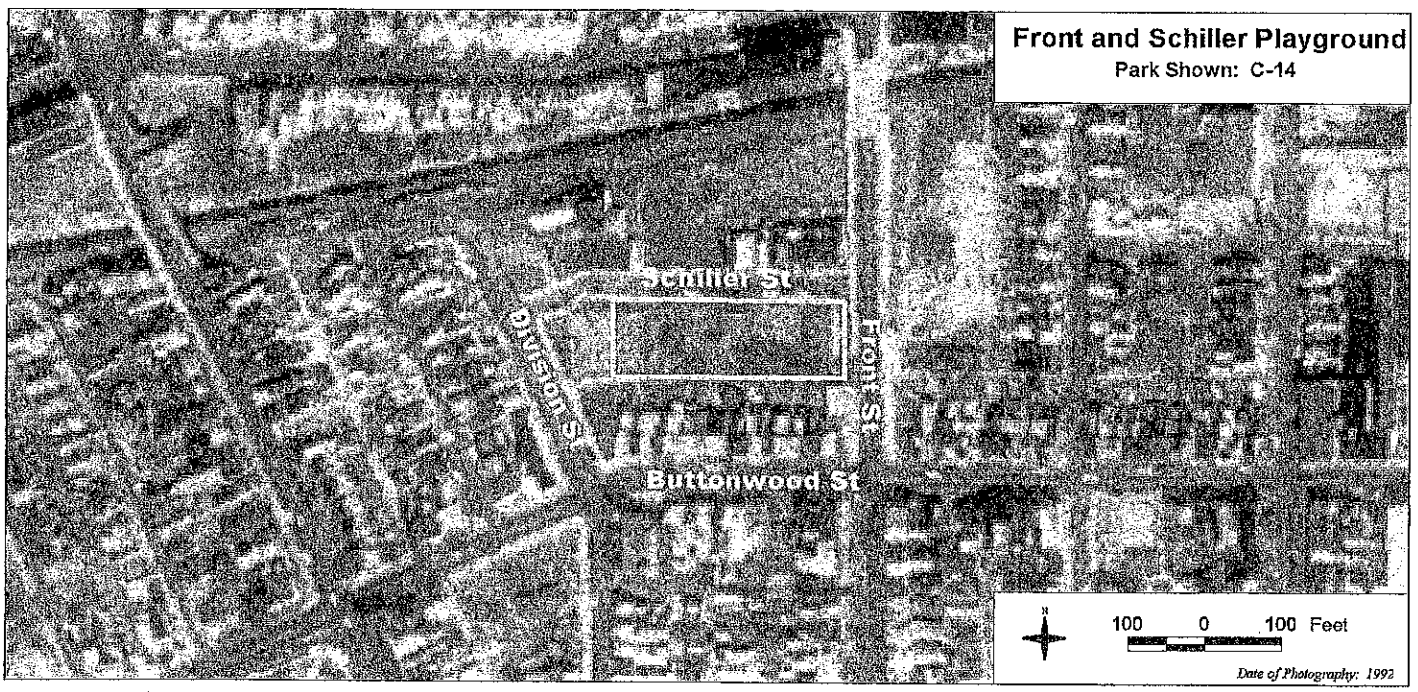
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Industrial

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Railroad Spur; Barbey's Playground; Lauer's Park

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
3 Basketball Courts Ball Funnel No Toilets Volleyball Provisions	Overlapping basketball courts with lights, fair condition. Modern facility; good condition. New facilities should be carefully designed so they do not disrupt other uses.
Swingset 2 Tot-Lots Benches	The playground facilities are modern and safe. The "tot-Lot" is typical of the parks. It has rubber mats for safety. New benches recently installed.
Pavilion, Concrete Shed Sprinklers Parking	Standard of parks; recently renovated. Street parking only.

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Bingaman Plaza (Court)**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-15

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

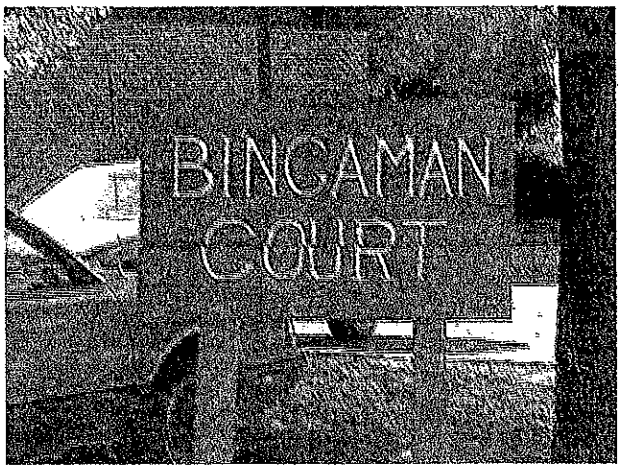
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.80

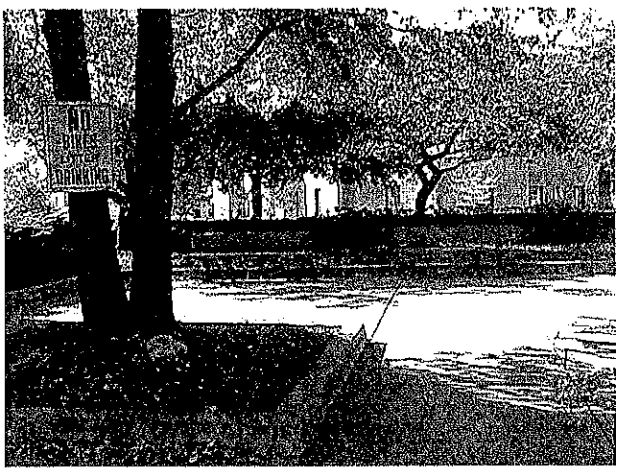
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Benches
2. Trash Can
3. Street Lights
4. Residential Apartments Park
5. Passive Recreation Area

LINKAGES: Tyson Schoener Elementary School; Schuylkill River; Reading Greenway; Heritage Park; Third and Spruce Recreation Center

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Spruce Street Walkway**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-16

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

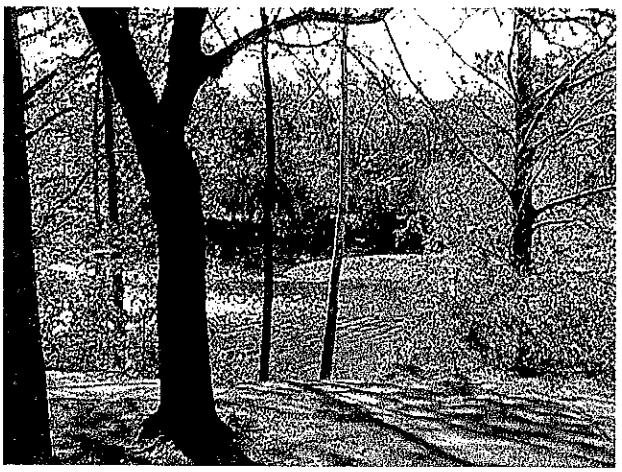
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.15

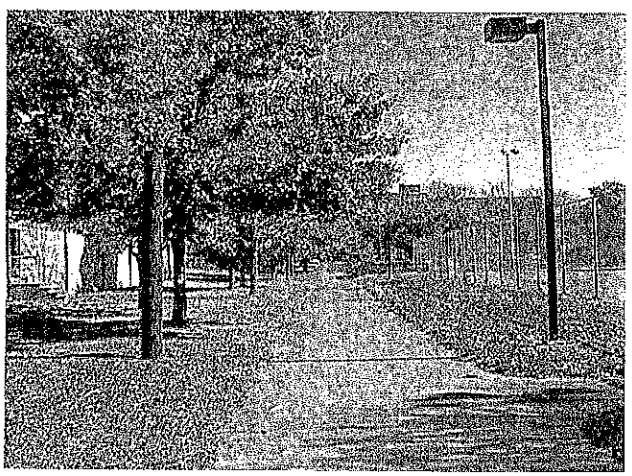
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

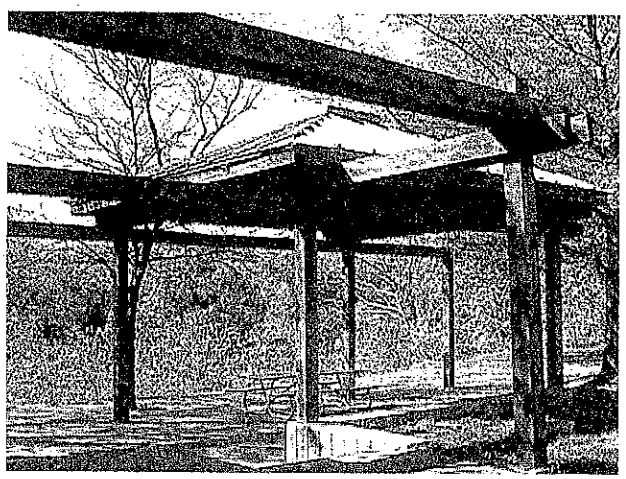
1. Paved (for bikes or easy walking)
2. Lights (well lit)
3. Access to riverfront trails
4. Connects Third and Spruce Recreation Complex with Riverfront Park
5. Pavilion along river with benches
6. Parking along river

LINKAGES: Third and Spruce Recreation Center; Reading Greenway; Schuylkill River; Reading Area Community College; Southwest Middle School

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Hampden Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Neighborhood Park

MAP NUMBER: C-17

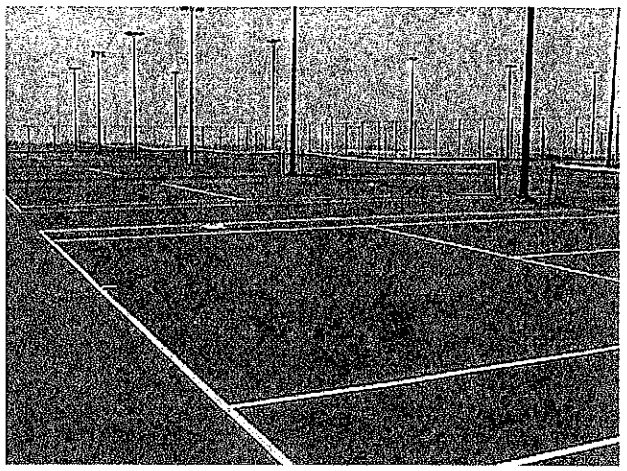
OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

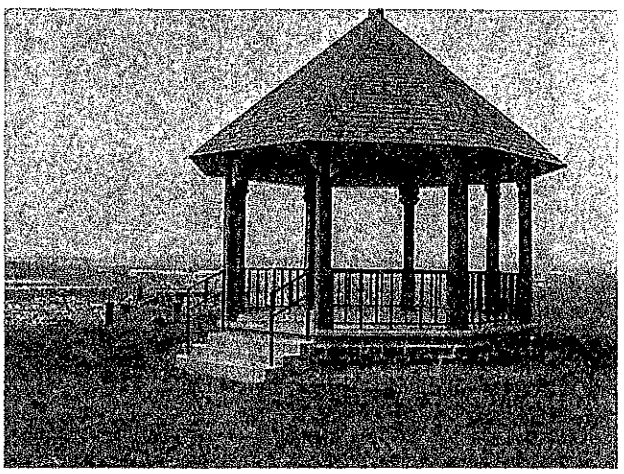
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading/Reading School District

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.53

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Soccer Field (Small Bleachers) – No Lights
2. Tennis Courts (8) – Lighted
3. Gazebo (2)
4. Baseball/Softball with Dugouts, Small Bleachers, Scoreboard (No Lights)
5. Privy (1)
6. Lighted Parking
7. Park Benches
8. Swingset
9. Hiking Trails
10. Open Space
11. Skateboard Facility (Planned)





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-17

NAME OF AREA: **Hampden Park** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-17**

ADJACENT LAND USES: Quasi-Public; Recreation; Residential; Commercial; Woodland; Conservation

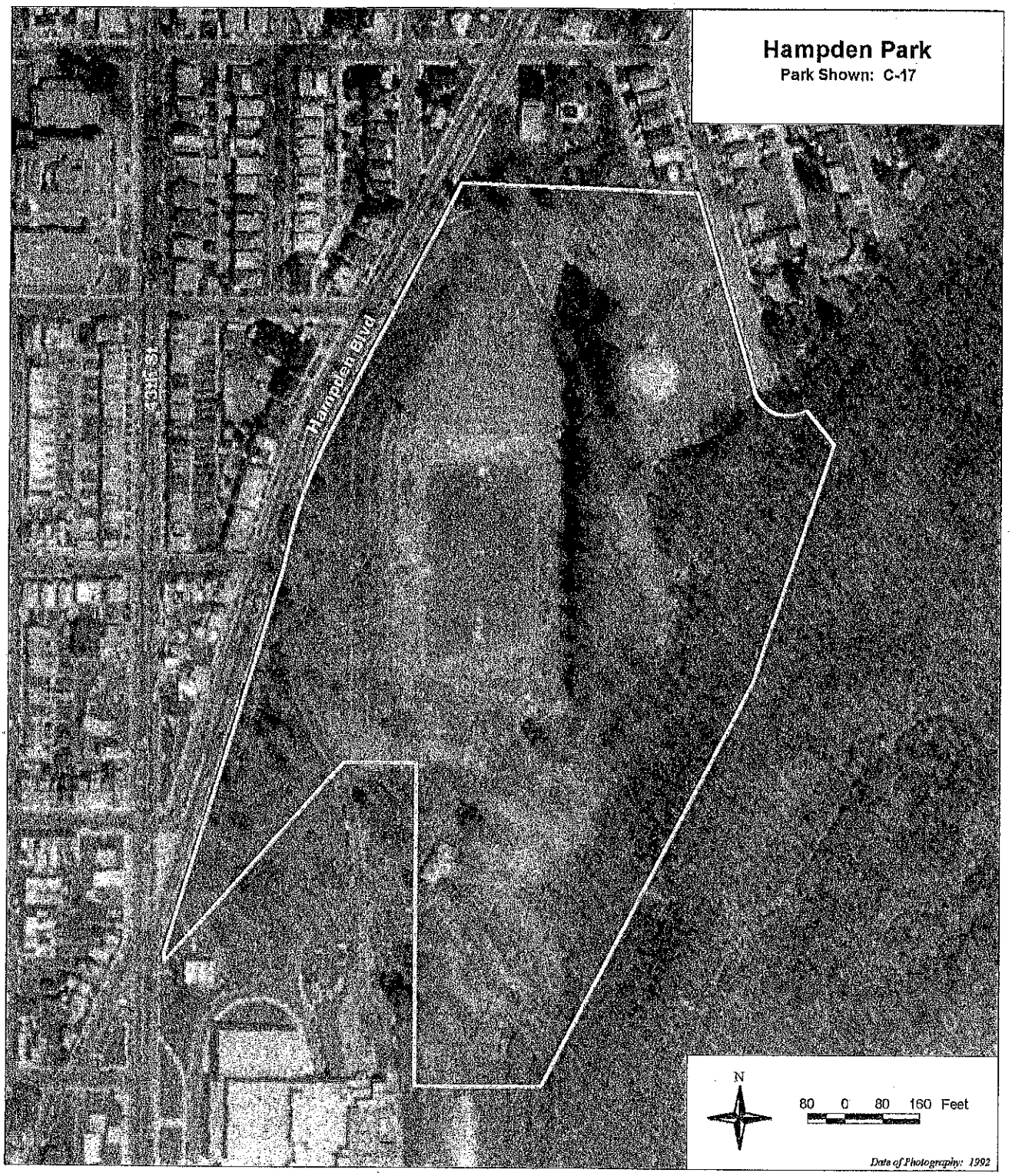
EXISTING LINKAGES: Reading High School; Mt. Penn Reserve

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Northeast Middle School; Hillside Playground

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Football Field 8 Tennis Courts Soccer Field Baseball Field	No lights, behind high school. Lights, fair condition, cracks. No lights, small bleachers. Dugouts, small bleachers, scoreboard, no lights (field orientation not optimum). } Reading School District
Paved Skateboard/Skating Area 5 Horseshoe/Quoit Fields	Lights; new facility is planned (High Priority). Two are dilapidated.
Swingset Climb-On Concrete Turtle	Good facilities for children.
Hiking Trails, Macadam Walking Trails, Open Space	These facilities are excellent for those who enjoy recreation outdoors. Provides access to Mt. Penn Reserve. Trail system should be planned and designed to link regional trail system.
2 Gazebos, 'Comfort' Building and Pavilion, Picnic Pavilion, Spring House	Good facilities for shade/shelter or family picnics.
1 Privy Park Benches	Good condition.
Parking	Lighted parking. • In combination with high school – 100+ spaces. • 40 paved spaces by tennis courts.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-17



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Hillside Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Neighborhood Park

MAP NUMBER: C-18

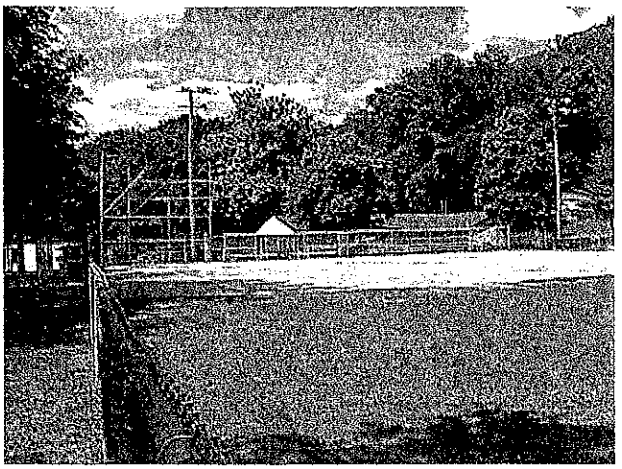
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

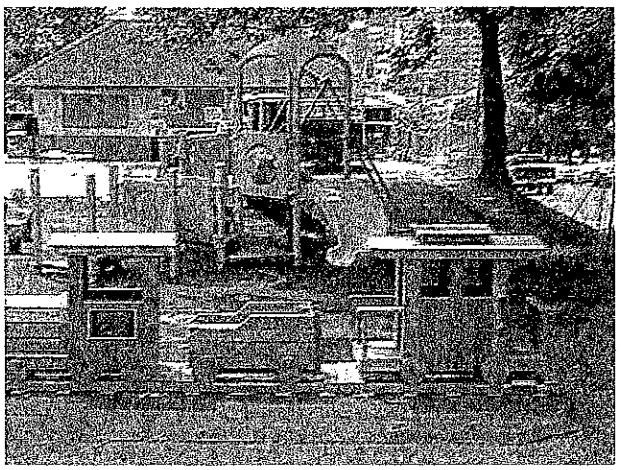
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

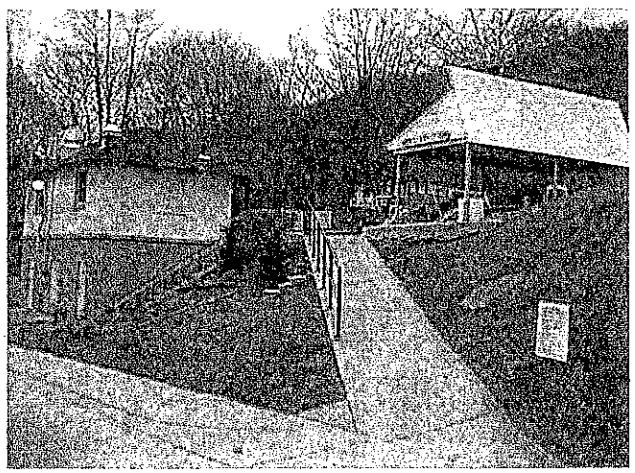
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.72

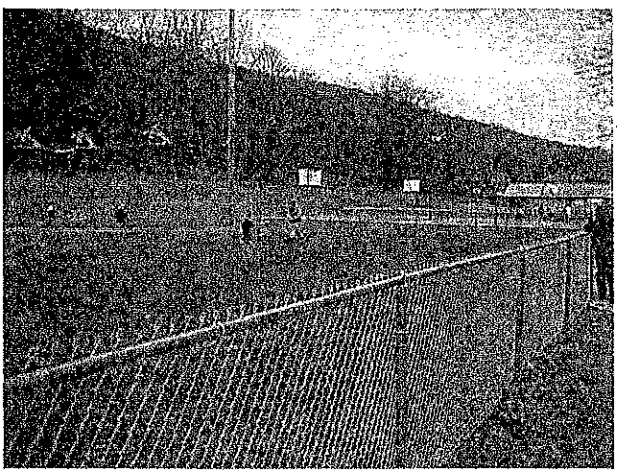
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Wooden Firetruck/Train
2. Activity Center
3. Spring Ducks
4. Baseball Field (1) with Bleachers – Lighted
5. Concession Stand
6. Pavilion (Typical)
7. Shed
8. Bathrooms
9. Basketball Courts (2) – Lighted
10. Volleyball (Within One Basketball Court)
11. Tables and Benches
12. Possible Football/Soccer Area









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-18

NAME OF AREA: **Hillside Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-18**

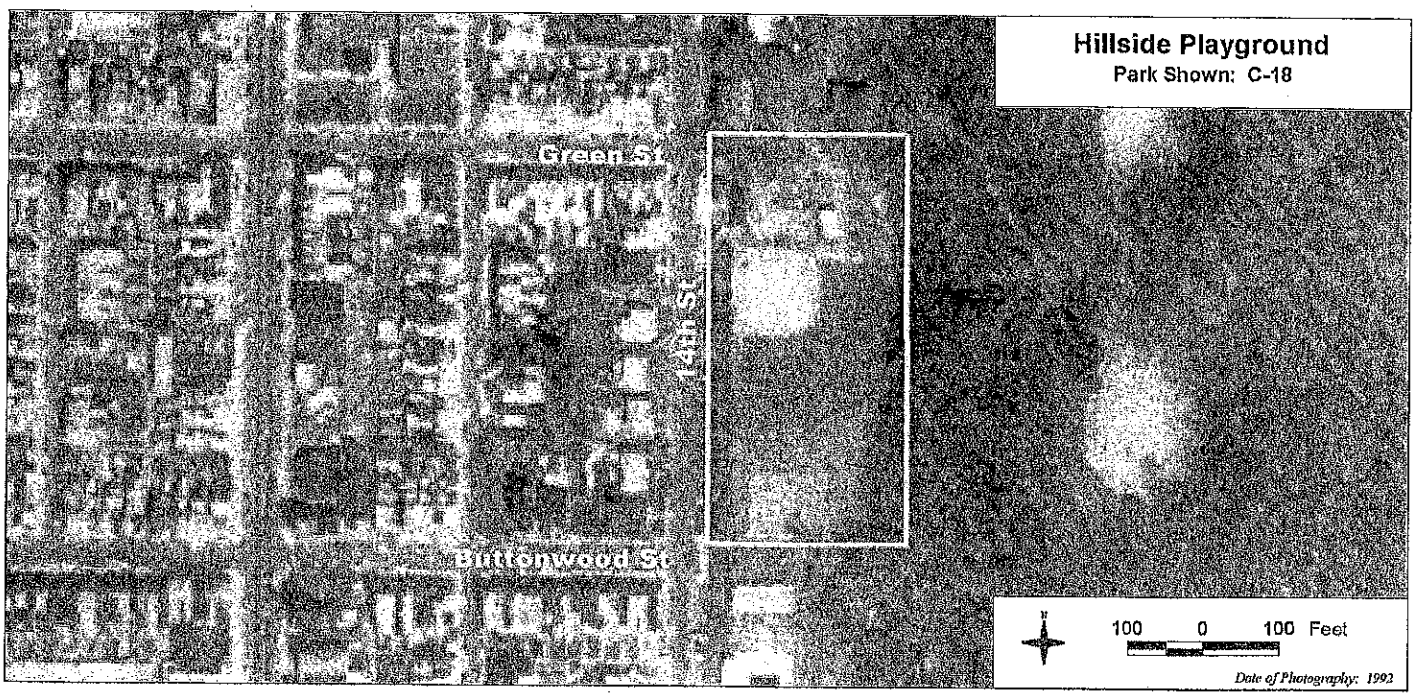
ADJACENT LAND USES: Quasi-Public; Recreational; Residential; Woodland; Conservation

EXISTING LINKAGES: Mt. Penn Reserve

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Reading High School; Tenth and Green Elementary School

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Baseball Field 2 Basketball Courts Volleyball Court Possible Football/Soccer Area	Lights, bleachers, good condition (field orientation not optimum). Lights, two have no rims, poor condition. In one of the basketball courts. Short- and long-range planning is needed.
Tot-Lot, Spring Ducks, Wood Train, Wood Fire Truck, Swings, and Activity Center	Facilities are rather modern and in good shape. Short- and long-range planning is needed.
Concession Stand, Pavilions, Sheds, and Bathrooms Parking	All of these are in good, working order. Control of facility improvements is needed. Perpendicular to street, for 32 cars.

OVERALL NEEDS: Moderate Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Keffer Park Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Neighborhood Park

MAP NUMBER: C-19

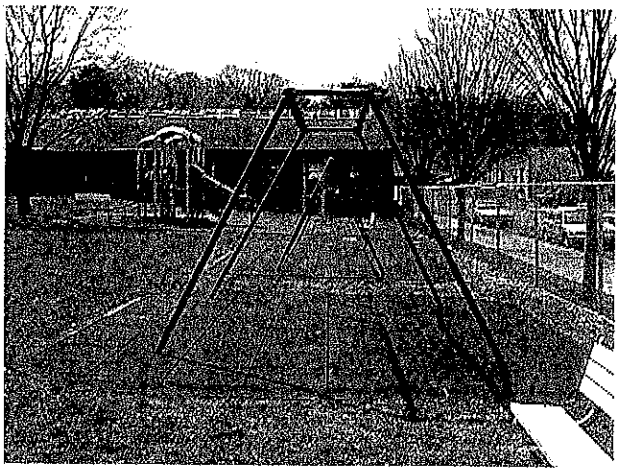
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

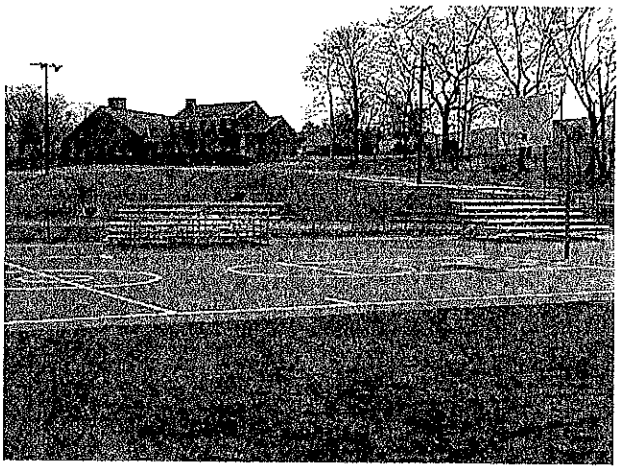
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

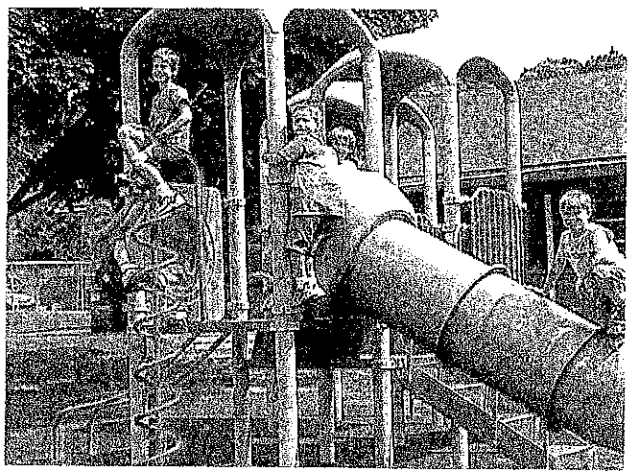
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 2.68

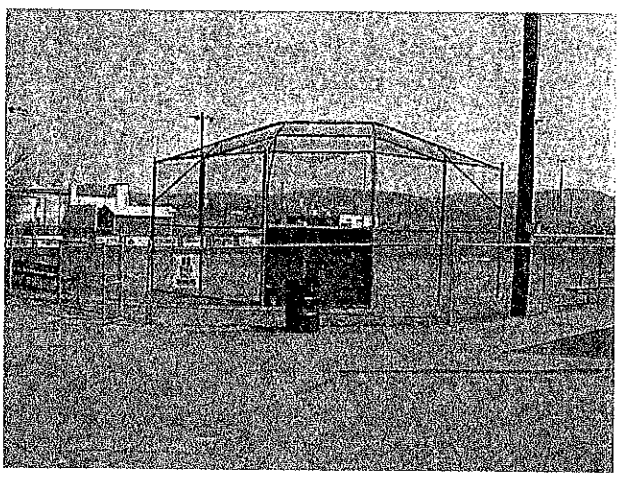
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Baseball/Softball – (1) – Lighted with Bleachers
2. Basketball (1) – Lighted
3. Volleyball (1) – Lighted
4. Recreation Hall
5. Activity Center
6. Benches
7. Merry-Go-Round (1)
8. Slide (1)
9. Shed/Concessions
10. Swingsets (3)
11. Bike Rack









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-19

NAME OF AREA: **Keffer Park Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-19**

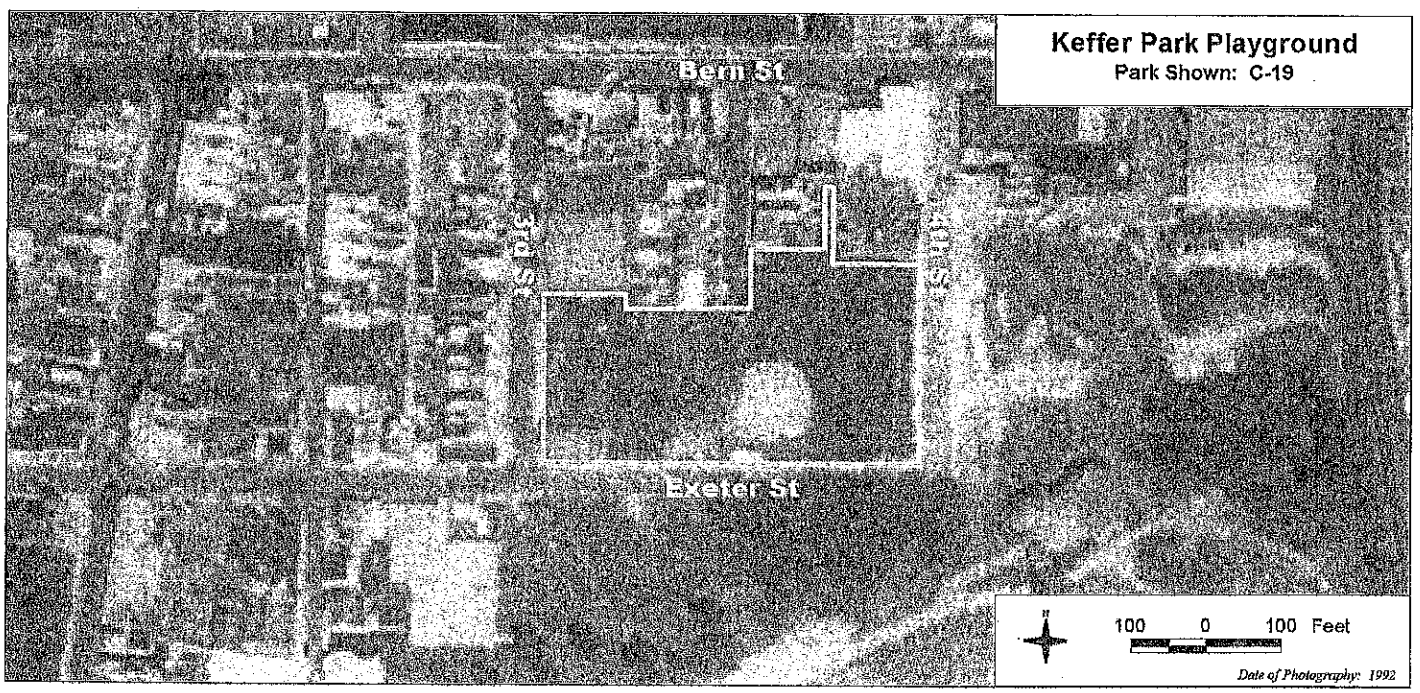
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Quasi-Public (Cemetery); Industrial

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: George Field; Riverside Elementary School; GPU Stadium

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Baseball/Softball Field Basketball Court Volleyball Court	Lights, bleachers, rusty backstop – in fair condition. Lights – in fair condition. Lights – in fair condition. } Need to be renovated.
Tot-Lot Merry-Go-Round, Slide, 3 Swingsets	Modern PVC facilities. All features are in good condition with rubber mats for safety. Sliding board should be removed.
Recreation Center Bike Rack Shed/Concessions Benches	Bingo; open on Easter for egg hunt. Park is generally in good condition. Recreation center needs to be repaired (floor tiles and windows).

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Lance Place Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-20

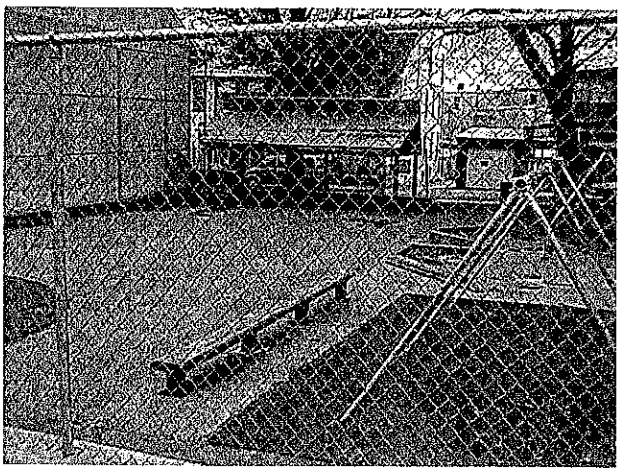
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

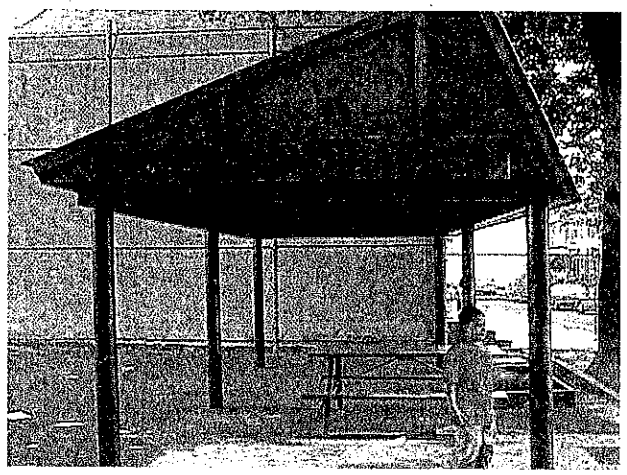
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

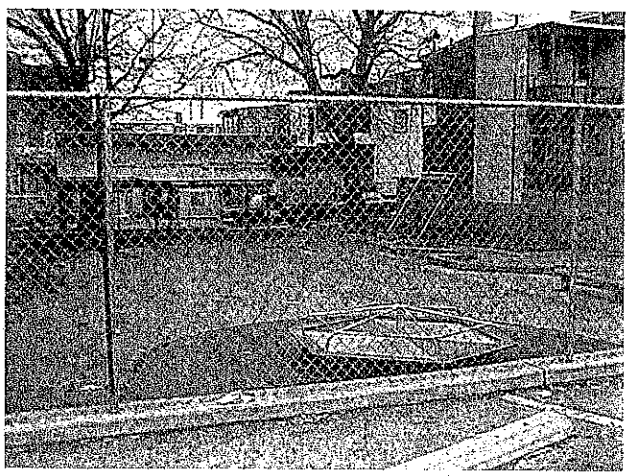
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.18

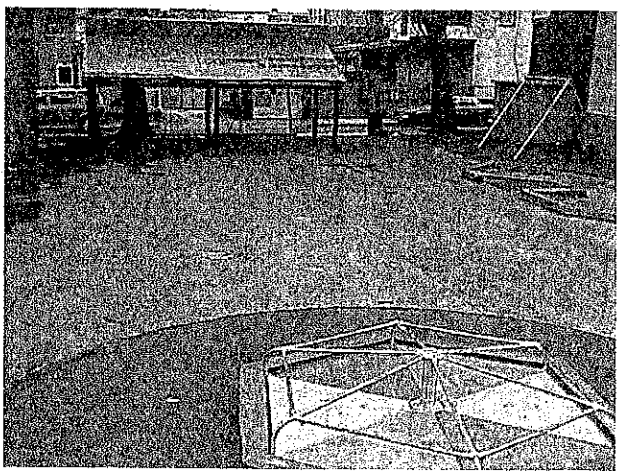
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Pavilion
2. Balance Beam
3. Swingsets(2)
4. Merry-Go-Round









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-20

NAME OF AREA: Lance Place Playground **MAP NUMBER:** C-20

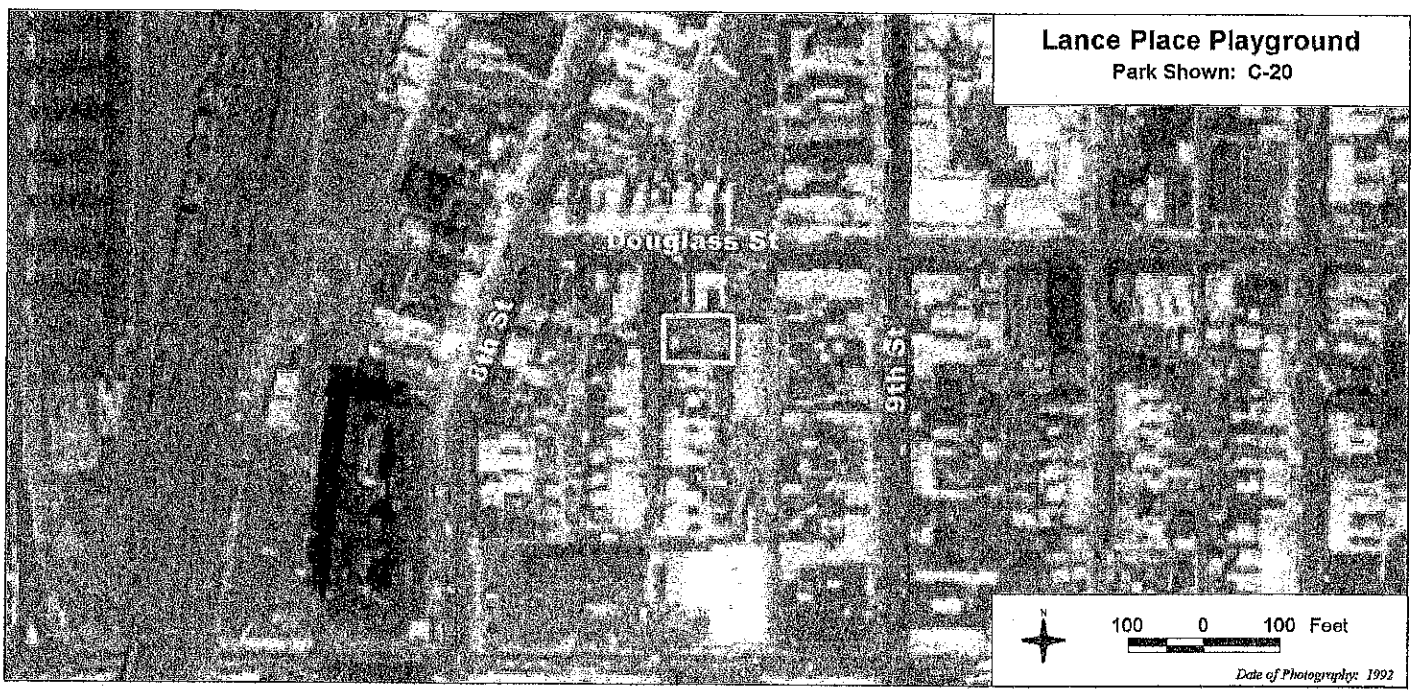
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Industrial

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Railroad Spur (Active)

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
2 Swingsets Balance Beam Merry-Go-Round	Facilities have recently been renovated.
Pavilion Shed	Facilities have recently been renovated.
Parking	Street or True Outlet's parking lot.

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Mineral Spring Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY:

MAP NUMBER: C-21

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

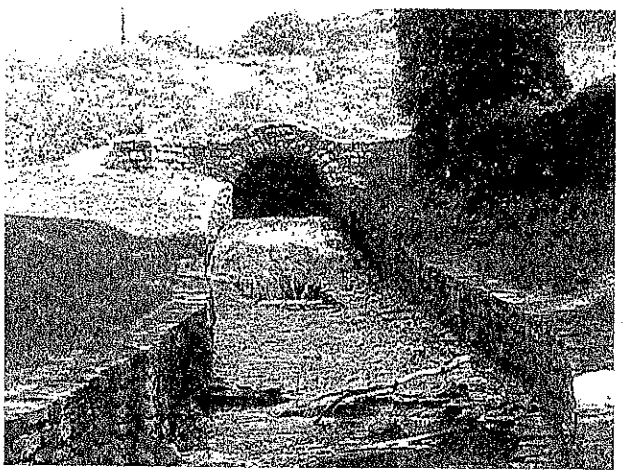
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 30.00

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. East End A. C. Building
2. Some Open Area Beyond Building
3. Open Space
4. Linear Park
5. Passive Recreation Area
6. Earl Building

NOTE: Severe flood damage occurred on June 22, 2001, destroying the defined stream bed and stone bridge crossings.



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-21

NAME OF AREA: **Mineral Spring Park** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-21**

ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Woodland; Conservation

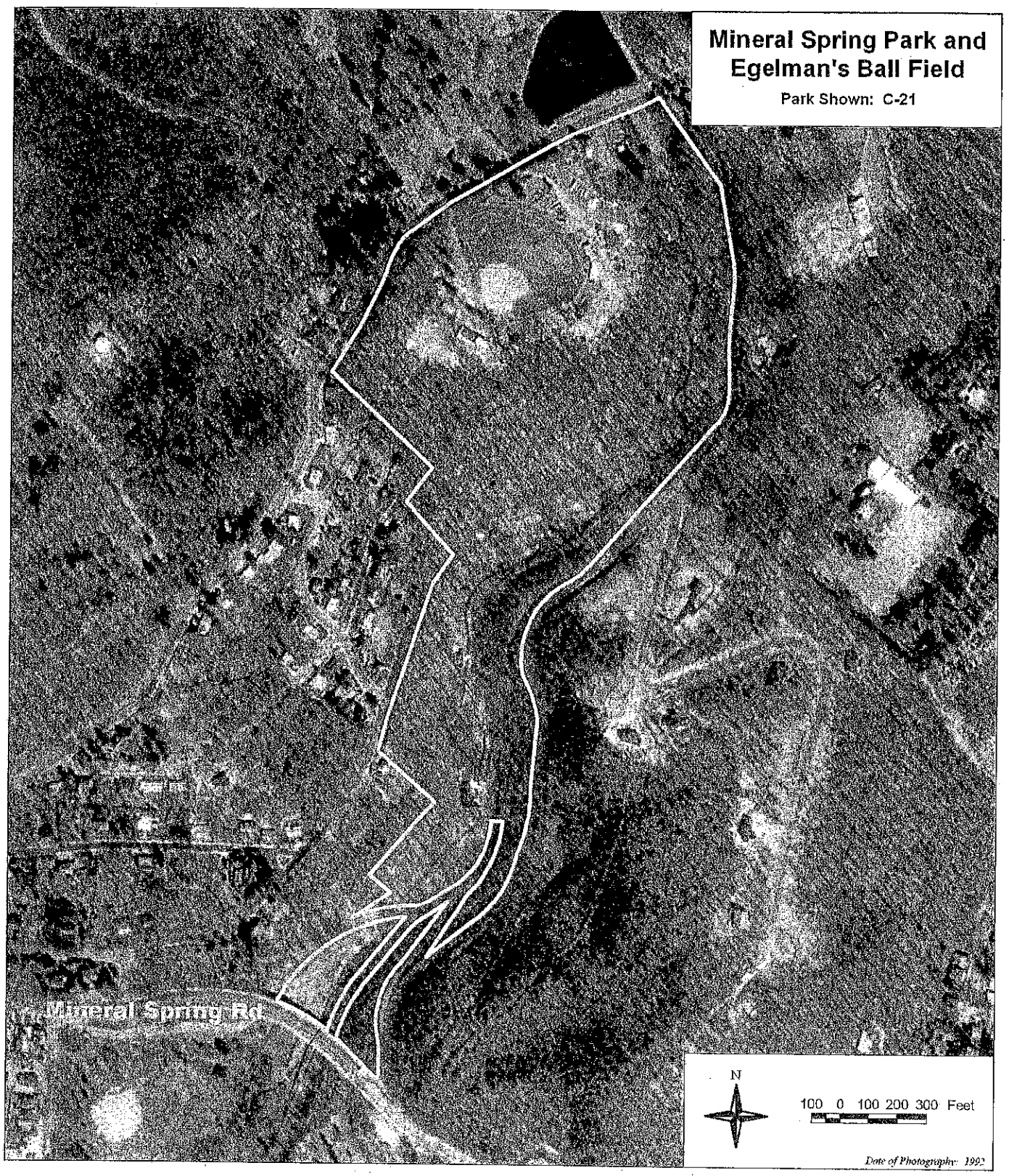
EXISTING LINKAGES: Mt. Penn Reserve; Egelman Park; City Park

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Pendora Park

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Contains Egelman's Baseball Field (adjacent park) Pavilion with Concession Stand	Lights, good facilities, bleachers, Soda machine
Hiking Trails Waterfalls/Stream	Excellent place for hiking and other recreational outdoor activities. Historical structures and waterfalls are in poor condition as a result of flood damage on June 22, 2001 (High Priority).
5 Pavilions with Seating and Tables	Excellent place for a picnic in the woods or just for a rest.
Garage	Good condition.
Shed	Good condition.
Parking	Available at Egelman's Ballfield. ±50 spaces paved and stone at east end A.C. building.
Security	Needs to be patrolled at night by police.

Flood Damage as a Result of Heavy Rains on June 22, 2001.
OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority.

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-21



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Museum Area Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Park

MAP NUMBER: C-22

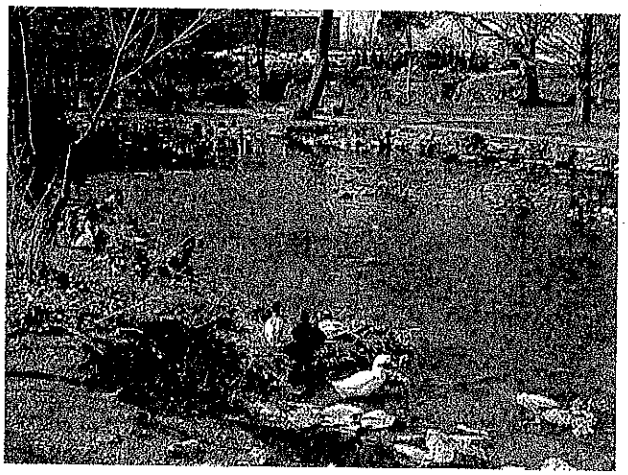
OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

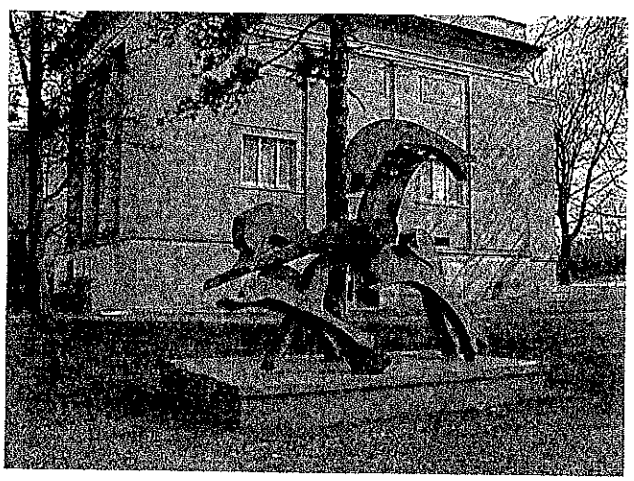
MAINTENANCE: Foundation for the Reading Public Museum

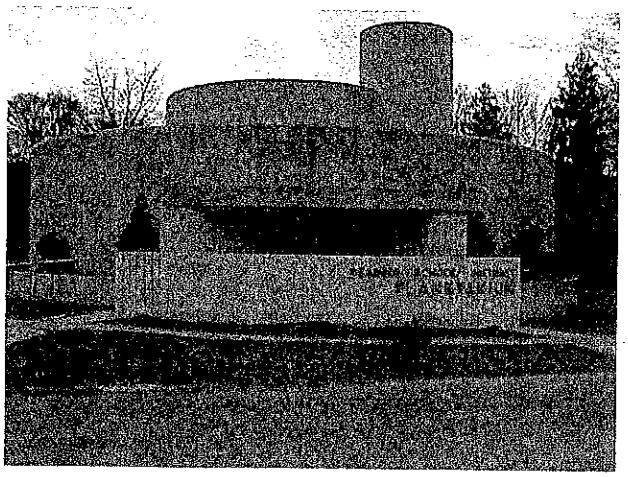
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 10.00

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Walkways
2. Museum
3. Lawn Sculptures
4. Gardens w/Nomenclature
5. Creek
6. Park Benches
7. Parking
8. Picnic Area
9. Planetarium
10. Linear Park







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-22

NAME OF AREA: Museum Tract **MAP NUMBER:** C-22

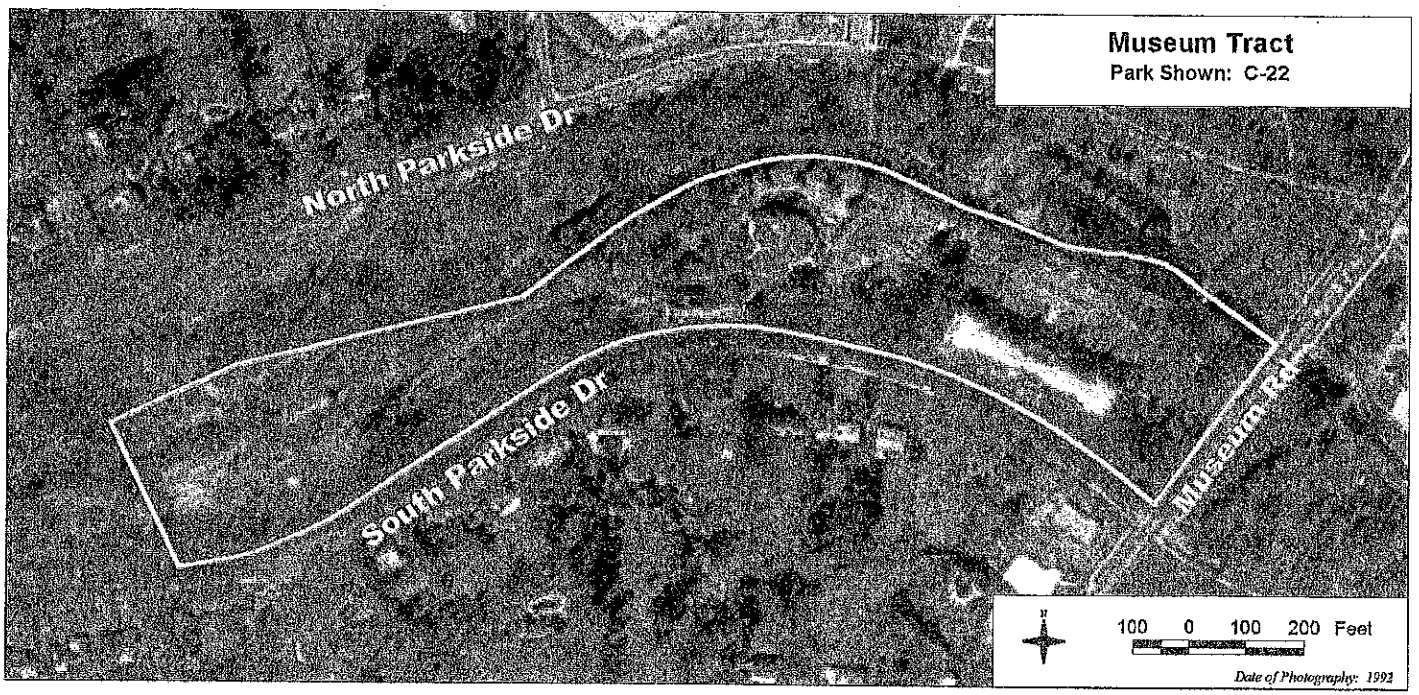
ADJACENT LAND USES: Conservation; Residential; Quasi-Public

EXISTING LINKAGES: Wyomissing Creek; Wyomissing Park

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Reading Hospital; Thomas Ford Elementary School; Holy Name High School

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Museum/Planetarium	Very nice establishment; excellent condition.
Lawn Sculptures Gardens	Nomenclature; well maintained.
Creek Picnic Area Park Benches Walkway	Add to the aesthetics and recreation of the museum.
Parking	10 + 4 handicapped spaces for staff ±50 + 3 handicapped for general parking
Woodland Hiking Areas	Good condition overall

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Neversink Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Neighborhood Park

MAP NUMBER: C-23

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

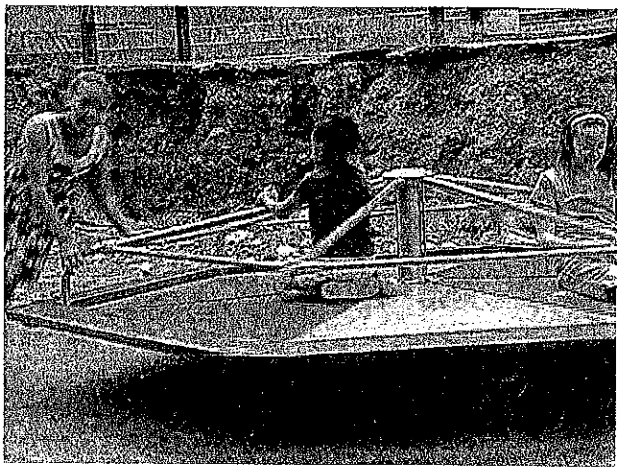
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

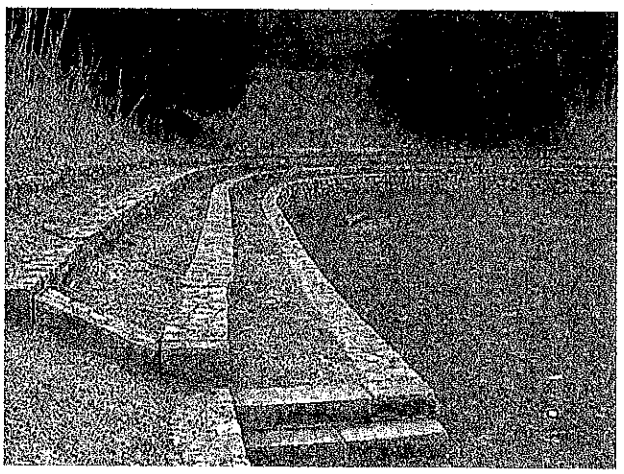
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.86

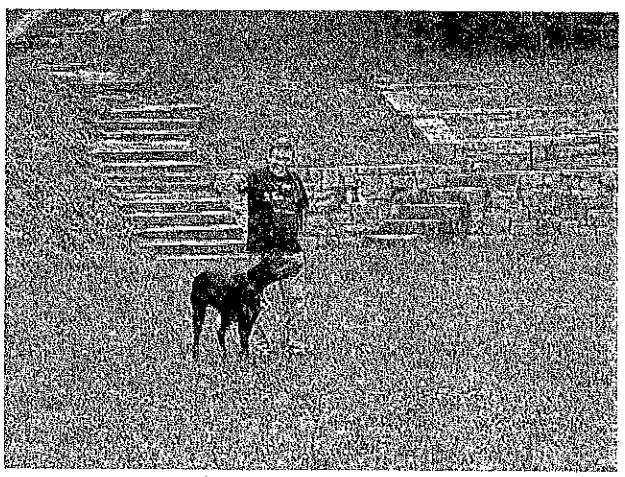
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Baseball/Softball (1) – (Rusty Backstop) – No Lights
2. Basketball (1 Full Court, 2 Half Courts) – Lighted (Full Court Missing One Basket)
3. Volleyball – Lighted – Macadam (Typical)
4. Pavilion (Typical) – Needs Roof
5. Shed
6. Merry-Go-Round
7. Wood Activity Center with Slides (2)
8. Swingsets (2)
9. Small Climbing Toy
10. Benches
11. Security Lighting
12. Parking on Street Only
13. Passive Recreation Area

NOTE: Recently renovated facilities.







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-23

NAME OF AREA: **Neversink Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-23**

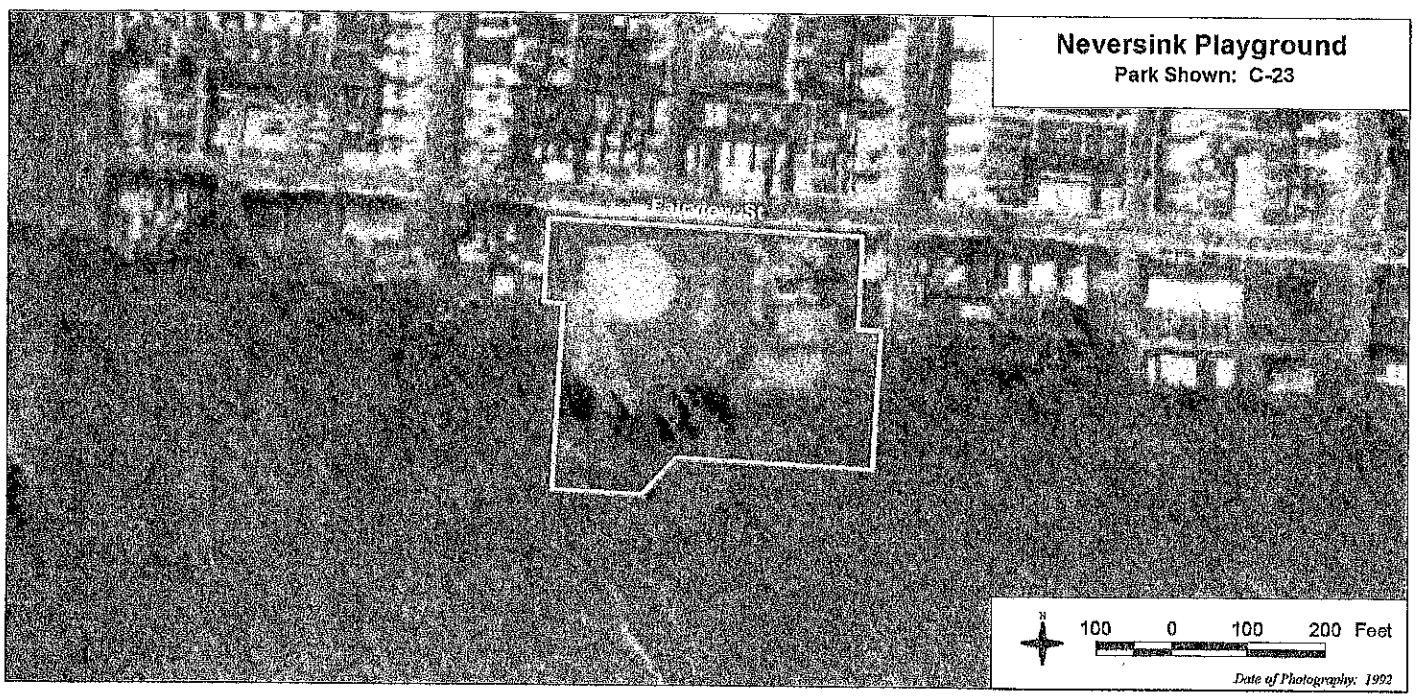
ADJACENT LAND USES: Conservation; Residential; Woodland

EXISTING LINKAGES: Neversink Mountain Preserve

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Tenth and South Playground; Schuylkill River; Thun Trail

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Baseball/Softball Field Basketball Volleyball Football/Soccer	Rusty backstop, no lights, nice outfield wall (field orientation not optimum). 1 full court, 2 half courts (full court missing one basket), lights, fair condition. Lights, macadam, good condition. In outfield.
Merry-Go-Round, Wooden Tot-Lot with 2 Slides, 2 Swingsets, Small Climbing Toy	All are in fair condition; some recent renovations.
Pedestrian Paths	Walk areas and steps need repair.
Pavilion (Standard) Shed (Standard) Benches Security Lighting	Roof renovation recently completed. Had graffiti (but was painted). Some facilities have been recently renovated.

OVERALL NEEDS: Moderate to High Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Ninth and Marion Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-24

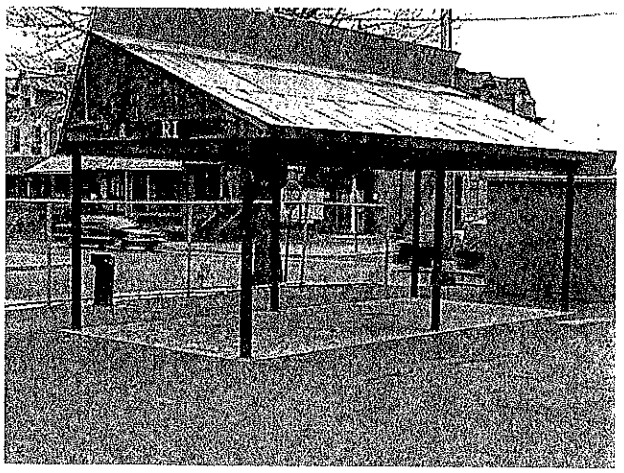
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

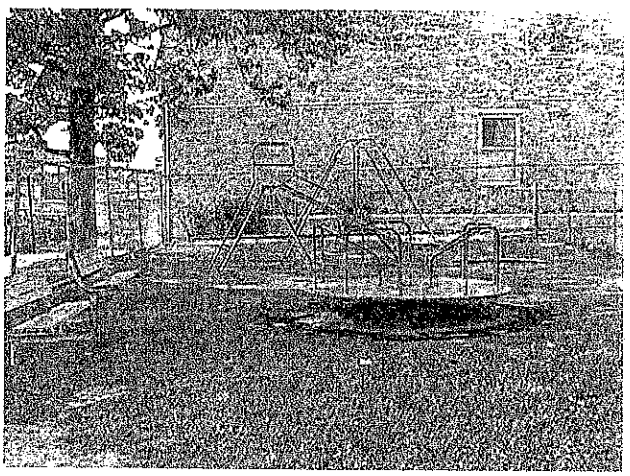
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

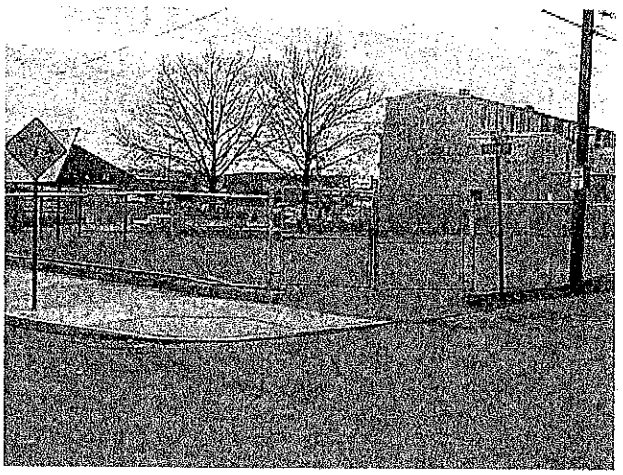
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.30

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Open Macadam Area
2. Pavilion (Typical)
3. Shed (Typical)
4. Water Fountain
5. Merry-Go-Round (1)
6. Swingset (1)
7. Slide (1)







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-24

NAME OF AREA: **Ninth and Marion Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-24**

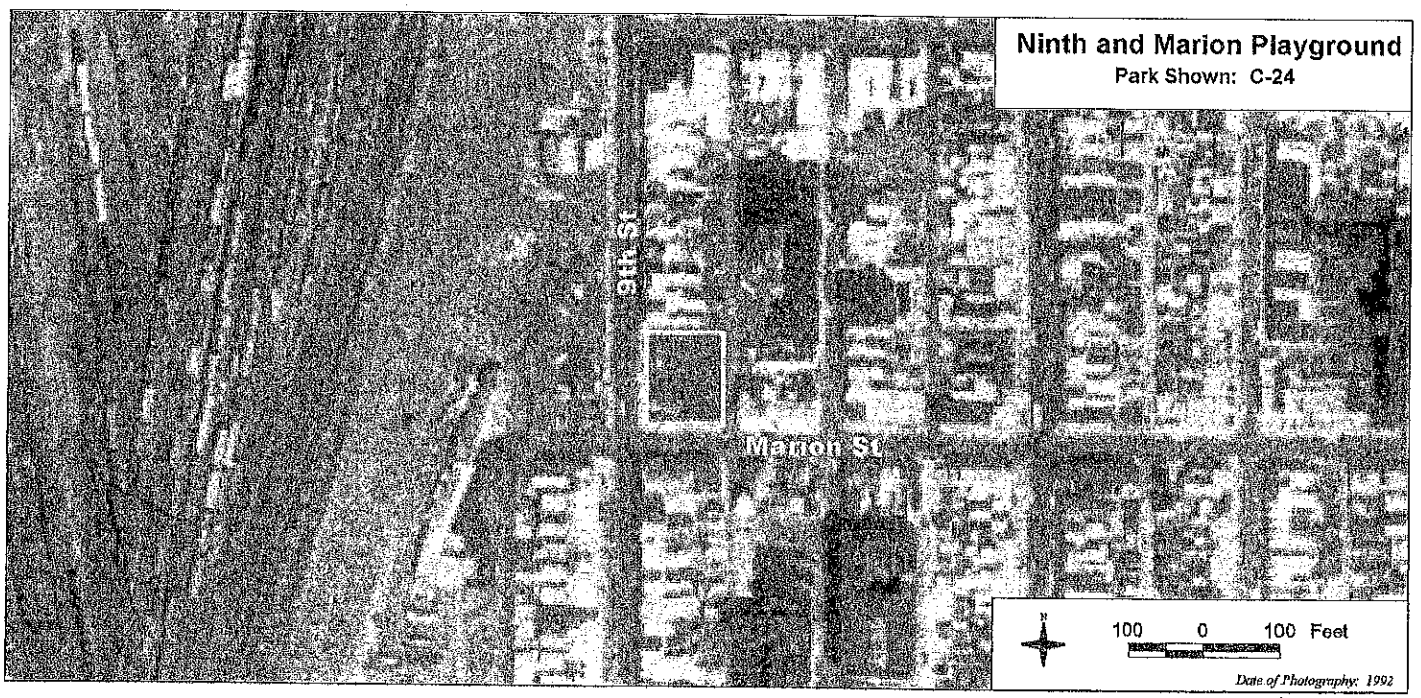
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Industrial; Railroad

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Railroad; Northeast Middle School; 11th and Pike Playground

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Merry-Go-Round 1 Swingset Slide	Poor condition. Only baby swings – need big kid swings. Small slide. Rubber mats on playground; broken glass and garbage all over.
Pavilion (Standard) Shed (Standard) Water Fountain Fencing	Rusty roof. Poor condition. Does not work. } Need complete renovations.
Parking	On-street parking only.
Future Uses	Need to consider uses and facilities for children 10 years and under.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Northmont Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Neighborhood Park

MAP NUMBER: C-25

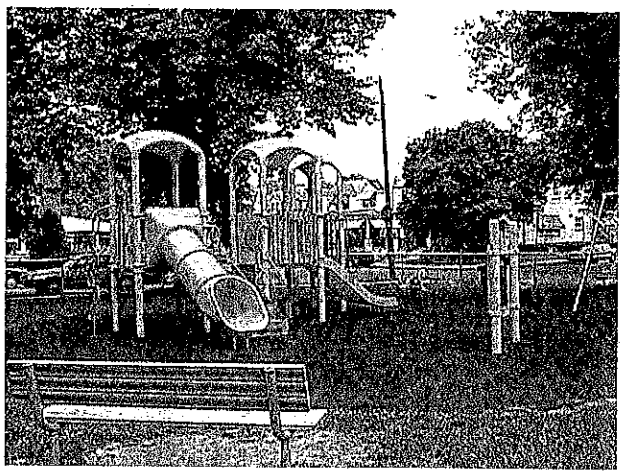
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

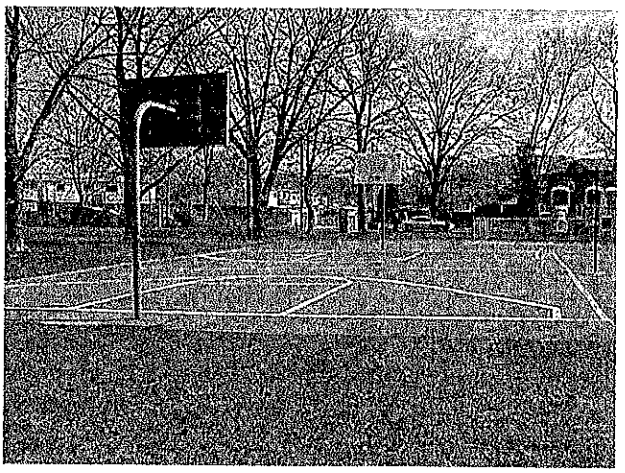
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

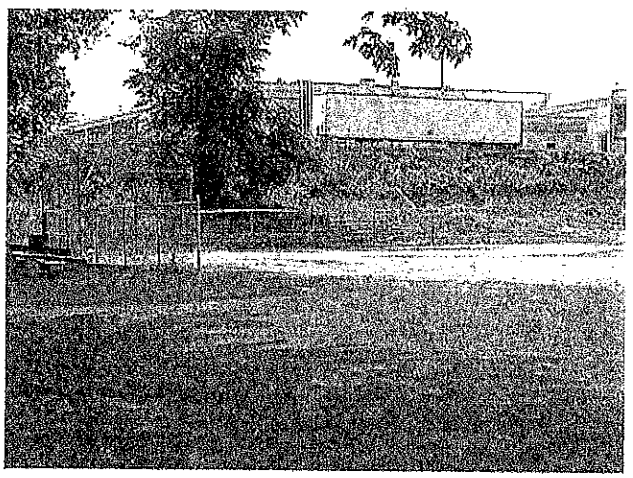
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.75

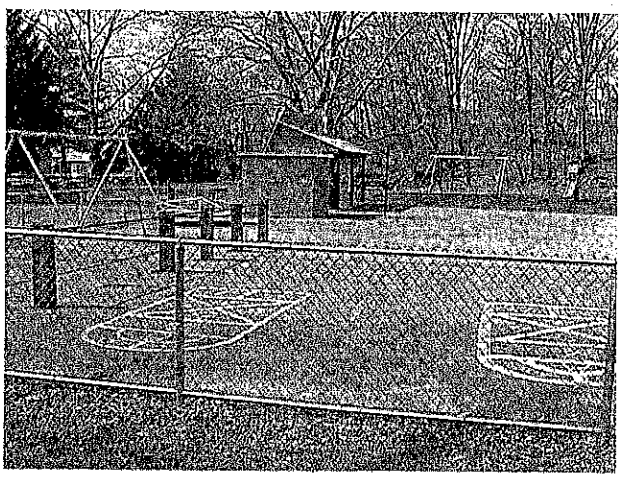
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Baseball/Softball – No Lights – Has Bleachers
2. Basketball (1) – No Lights
3. Volleyball (1) – No Lights
4. Football/Soccer Area
5. Pavilion and Shed (Typical)
6. Swingsets (3)
7. Slide (1)
8. Spring Animals (3) (No Lights)
9. Activity Center
10. Merry-Go-Round
11. See-Saws (1 Set of 4)
12. Drinking Fountain









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-25

NAME OF AREA: **Northmont Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-25**

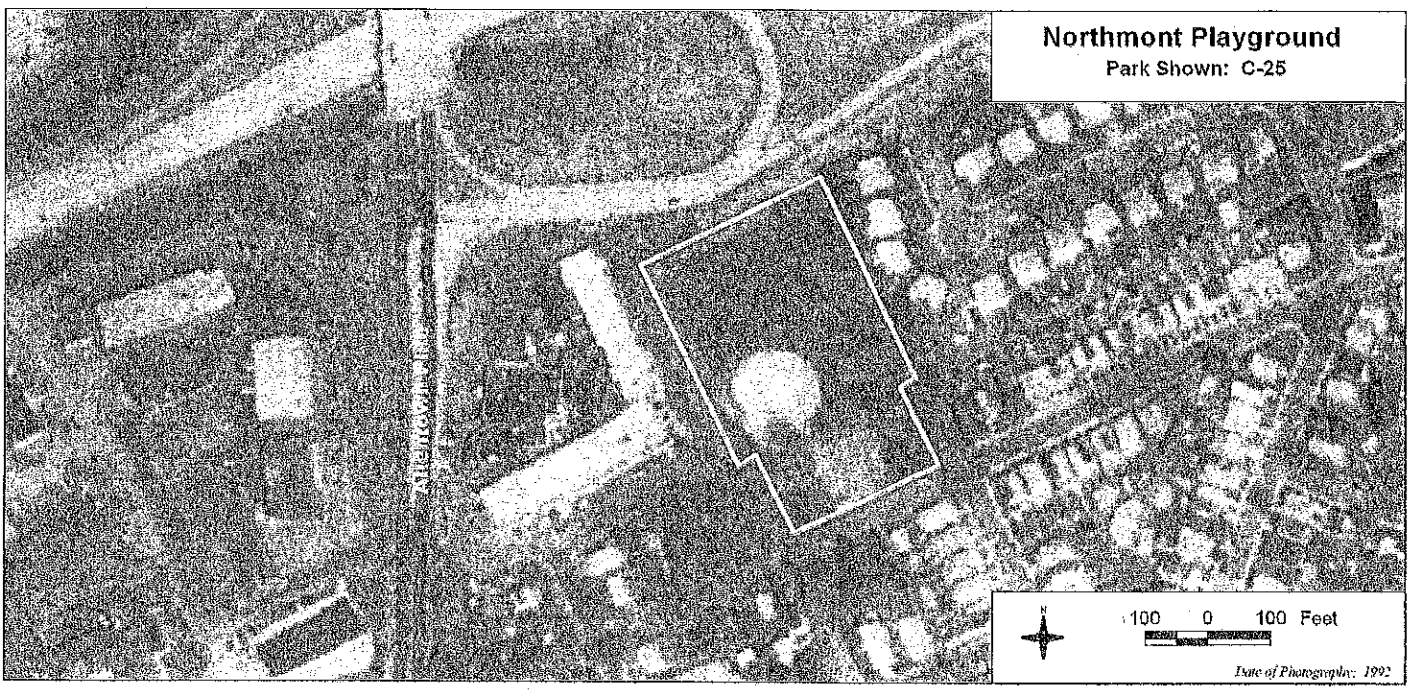
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Industrial

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Facilities

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: George Field; Muhlenberg Township

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Baseball/Softball Field	Bleachers, no lights, grass in the infield, fair condition (infield needs repair).
Basketball Court	No lights, no nets, fair condition (needs to be resurfaced).
Volleyball Court	No lights, no net.
Football/Soccer Area	In the outfield, undefined limits.
3 Spring Animals, 1 Slide, 3 Swingsets, Tot Lot, Merry-Go-Round, 1 Set of 4 See-Saws	This playground has decent facilities with rubber pads for safety under the Tot Lot. Facilities are in good condition.
Pavilion	Standard for Reading parks.
Shed	Standard for Reading parks.
Drinking Fountain	
Port-O-Let	
Parking	Street parking only.

OVERALL NEEDS: Moderate Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Fourth and Chestnut**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-26

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

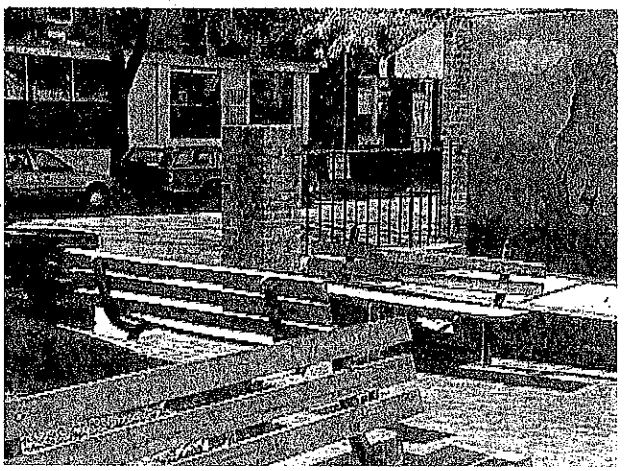
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.02

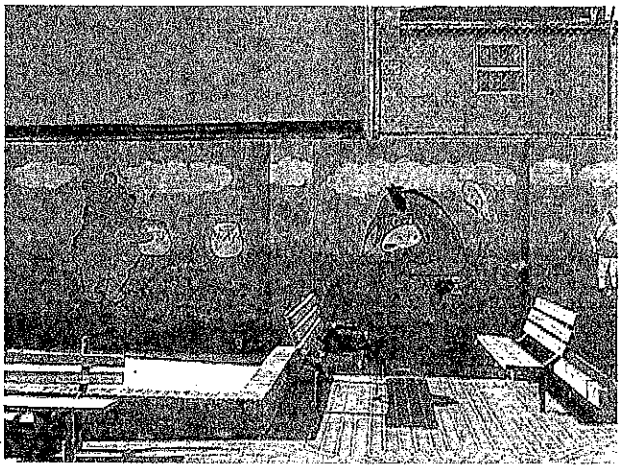
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

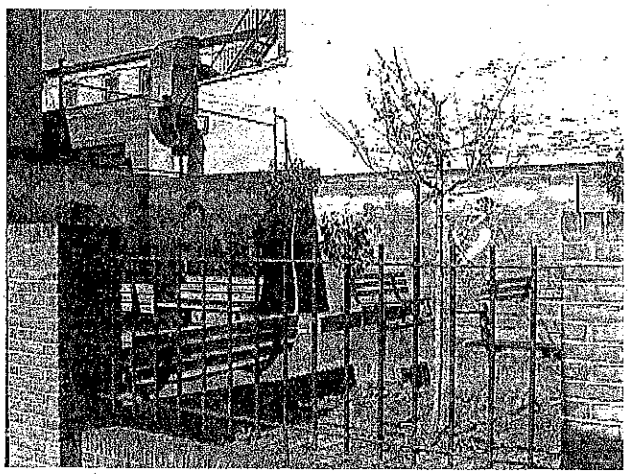
1. Benches (8)
2. Mural (cartoon characters)
3. Lights (street lights)
4. Very small park for sitting and relaxing
5. Passive Recreation Area
6. Trash Can

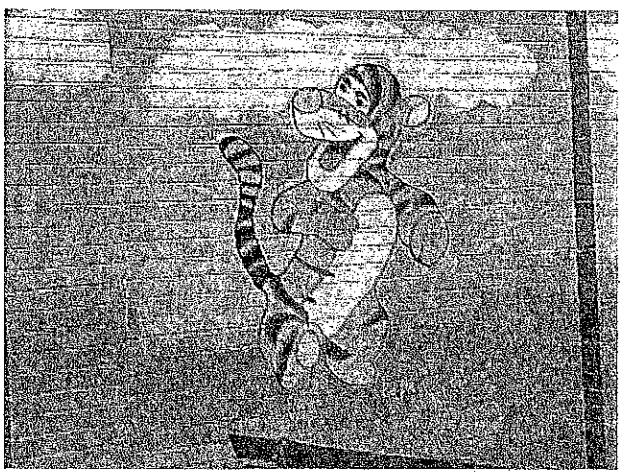
LINKAGES: Third and Spruce Recreation Center; Southwest Middle School; Reading Greenway

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Pendora Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Park

MAP NUMBER: C-27

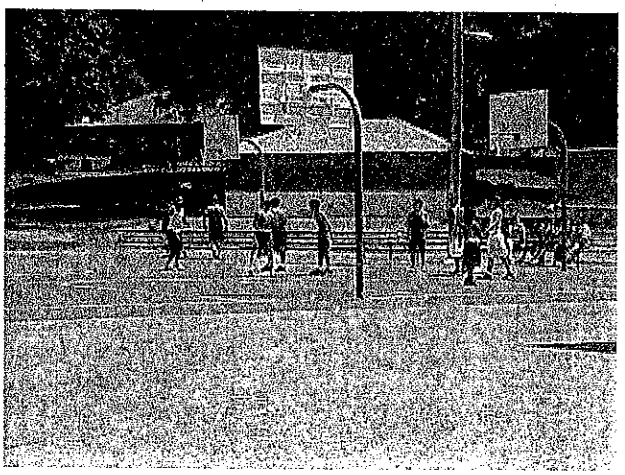
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

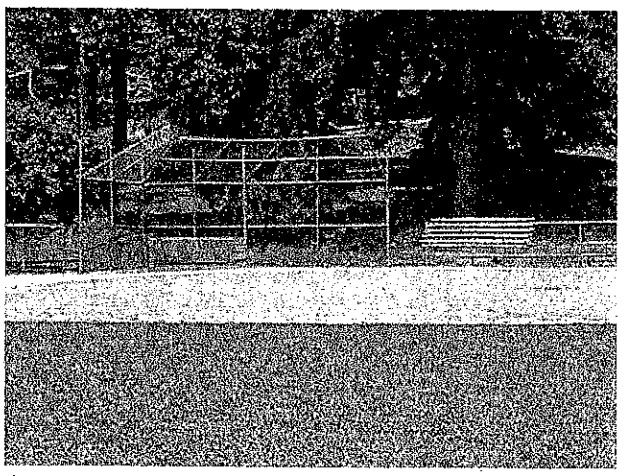
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

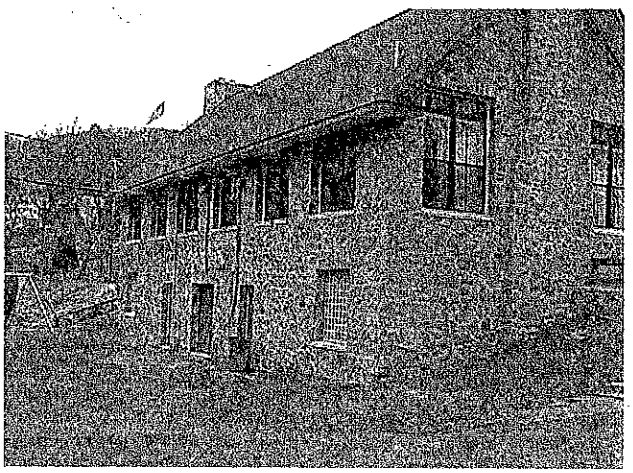
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 13.34

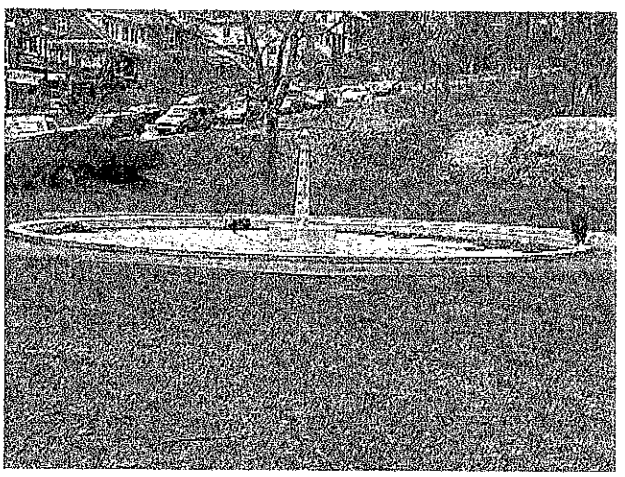
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Tennis Courts (2) – No Lights
2. Basketball Court (3) – Overlapping – Lighted
3. Volleyball (1) – Lighted
4. Baseball/Softball (1) – Lighted with Bleachers
5. Soccer/Football 'Area'
6. Concession Building
7. 'Old' Park Building
8. Pavilions (1 Large, 1 Small)
9. Picnic Tables
10. Stream and Waterfalls
11. Stage
12. Pull-Up Bar
13. Parking
14. Swingsets (4)
15. Merry-Go-Round (1)
16. Slide (1)
17. 'Spring" Rides
18. Spider and Worm Climb-Ons
19. Arched Slides (3)
20. Wading Pool/Fountain
21. Security Lighting
22. Walking Paths
23. Tables and Benches
24. Drinking Fountain
25. Fireplace









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-27

NAME OF AREA: Pendora Park **MAP NUMBER:** C-27

ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Conservation

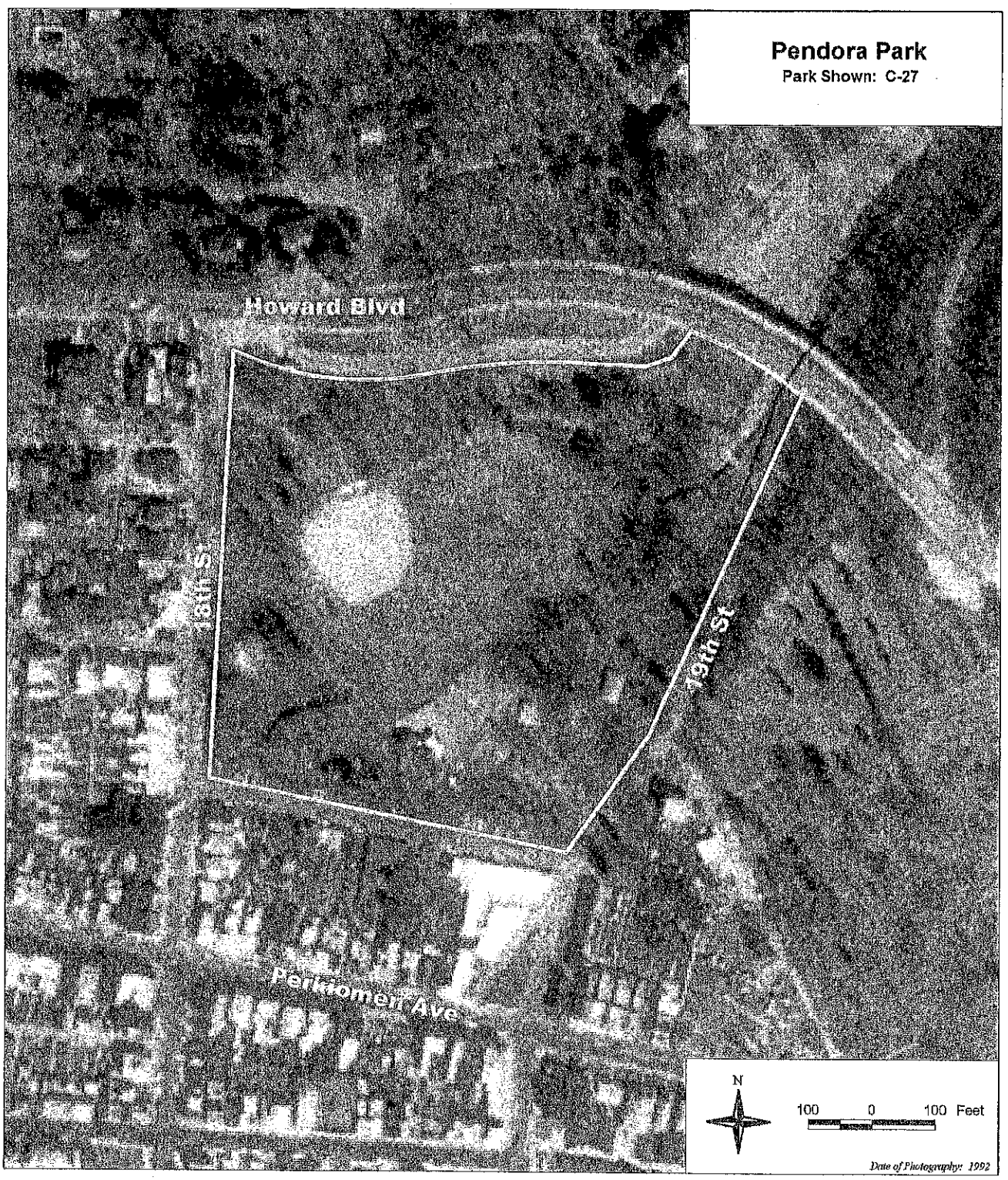
EXISTING LINKAGES: Mineral Spring Park

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Neversink Mountain Preserve; Mt. Penn Reserve; 16th and Haak Elementary School

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
3 Basketball Courts (Overlapping) 2 Tennis Courts 1 Volleyball Court 1 Baseball Fields Soccer/Football Area	Lights, good condition, frequently used; recently renovated. No lights, fair condition (needs to be resurfaced). Lights. Lights, bleachers, good field (field orientation not optimum). Undefined area.
4 Swingsets, 1 Merry-Go-Round, 3 Arched Slides, Spring Rides, Spider and Worm Climb-Ons, 1 Slide	Playground is located in the lower area of Pendora Park. The playground is very attractive, but not as modern as some of the other playgrounds. Recently renovated. New facilities should be carefully planned and located so they do not disrupt other uses.
Old Park Building Concession Building	The antiquity of this building adds to the attractiveness of Pendora Park. Needs to be removed so additional basketball courts could be added (High Priority).
Stream and Waterfalls Wading Pool/Fountain Fireplace	All of these features add to the pleasant atmosphere of Pendora Park. These attributes distinguish this park from the others. Spray pool needs to be improved or planned as an alternative use (High Priority).
1 Large, 1 Small Pavilion Picnic Tables Tables and Benches Stage	These features add an element of relaxation, comfort, and even entertainment (stage) to Pendora Park. These structures are in good condition and accommodate many people. Recently renovated. State should be removed so additional basketball courts could be added (High Priority).
Walking Paths Security Lights Drinking Fountains	Nice and level, good recreation, safe for seniors and handicap accessible. Trail system should be planned with Mineral Spring Park to provide a regional trail system.
Accessible Restrooms Parking	Not always accessible. On-street or a small lot on Forest Street.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-27



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Reading Iron Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-28

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

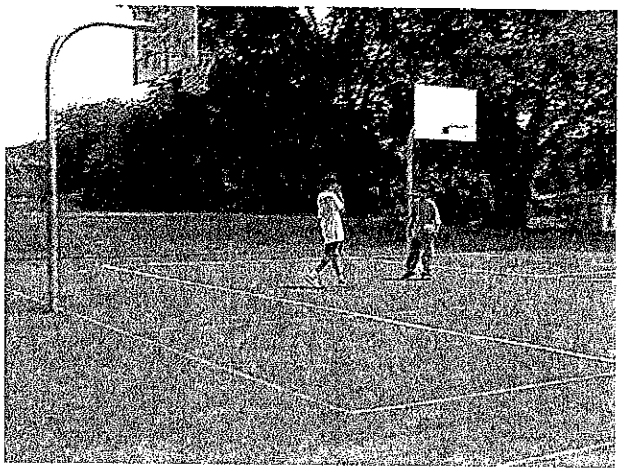
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

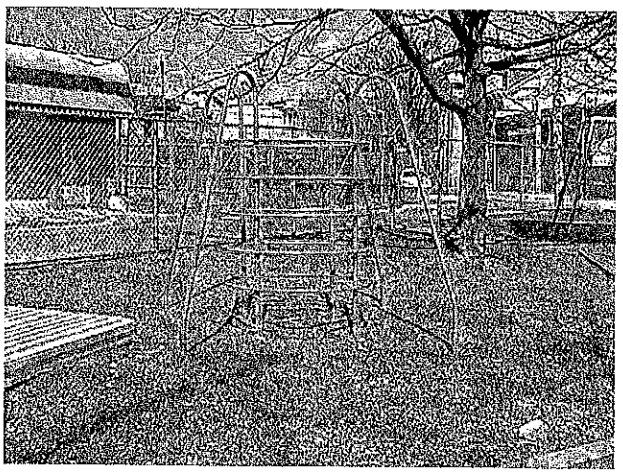
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 1.55

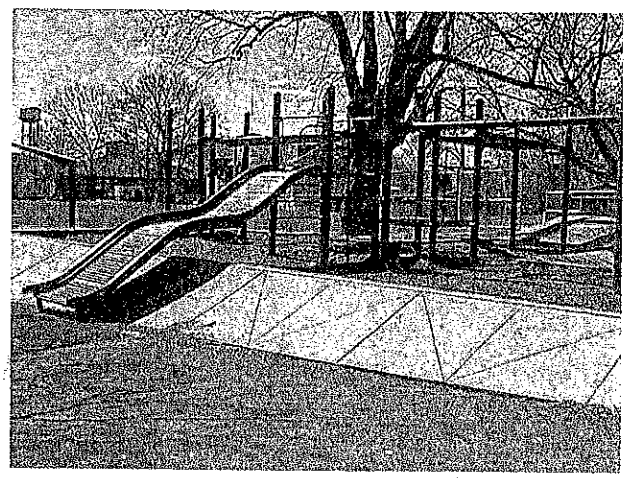
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Baseball/Softball (1) – No Lights
2. Basketball (3) – Overlapping – Lighted with Bleachers
3. Volleyball (1) – Macadam – One Post Missing
4. Swingsets (4)
5. Activity Center (1)
6. Ball Funnel (1)
7. Jungle Gym (1)
8. Spring Rides (2)
9. Shed and Concession Stand/Equipment Stand (?)
10. Tables
11. Security Lighting
12. Hopscotch, Etc.
13. Soccer/Football 'Area'
14. Steel Pavilion Structure with no Canopy
15. Bike Trails

NOTE: Recently renovated facility.







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-28

NAME OF AREA: **Reading Iron Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-28**

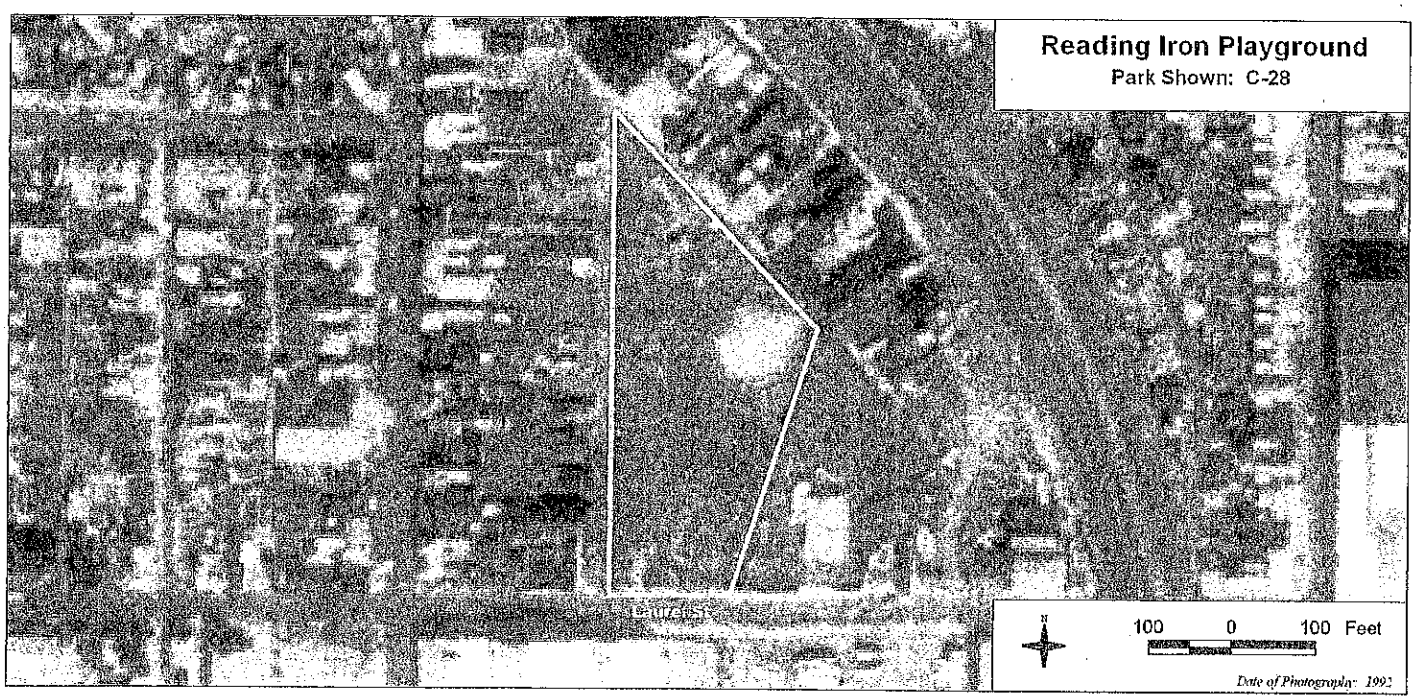
ADJACENT LAND USES: **Residential; Industrial; Railroad**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **No Recreation Linkages**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Minor Street Parklet; Tenth and South Playground; Heritage Park; Reading Greenway; Schuylkill River**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
1 Baseball Field 3 Basketball Courts (Overlapping) 1 Volleyball Court Soccer/Football Area	No lights, good condition. Lights, bleachers, good condition. Post missing, poor condition.
Tot-Lot, Jungle Gym, Ball Funnel, 2 Spring Rides, Hopscotch, 4 Swingsets	Facilities are fair. Two of the swings were wrapped around the top pole.
Shed, Equipment/Concession Stand, Tables, Steel Pavilion (No Canopy), Bike Rack, Security Lighting Parking No Restrooms.	Other than the pavilion, these features are in very good shape, and benefit Reading Iron Playground. Recently renovated. Could use additional refuse stations. Street parking only.

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Schlegel Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Park

MAP NUMBER: C-29

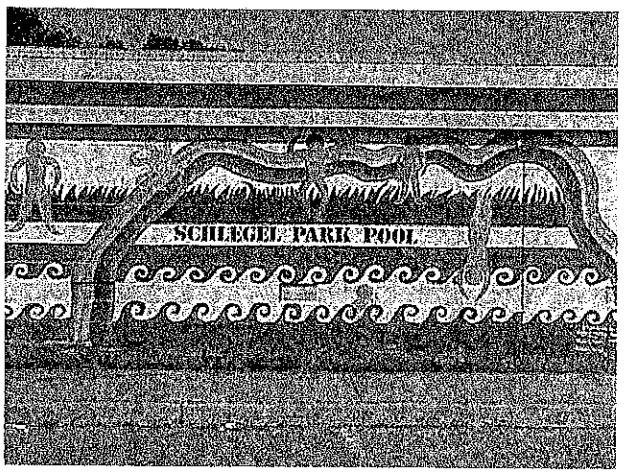
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

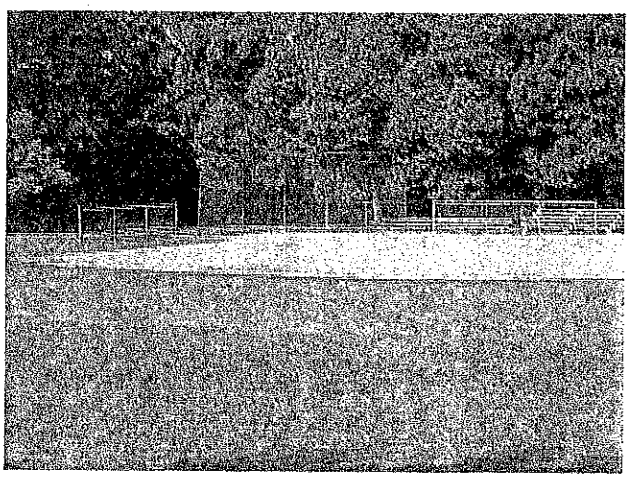
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

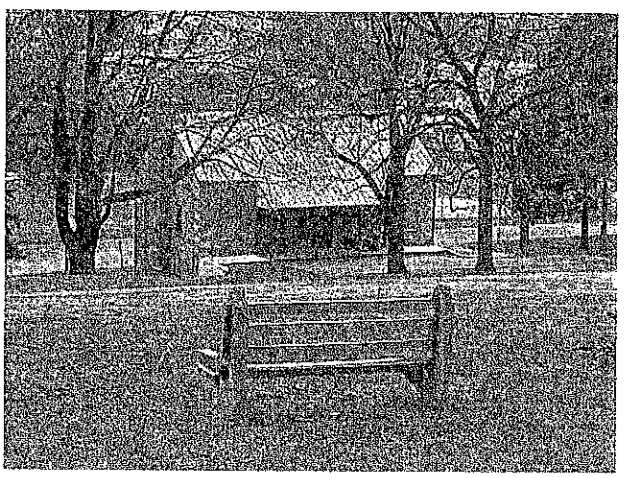
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 23.00

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Tennis Courts (3) (dilapidated)
2. Pavilion/Picnic Area
3. Soccer/Football
4. Baseball/Softball (3)
5. Pool
6. Concession Stand
7. Lighted Parking
8. Basketball (1)
9. Volleyball (1)
10. Tot-Lot (2 units) (3 slides, games, monkeybars, etc.)
11. Barn (park office)
12. Drinking Fountain







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-29

NAME OF AREA: **Schlegel Park** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-29**

ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Industrial

EXISTING LINKAGES: Schuylkill River; Railroad

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Reading Greenway; Riverfront Park; Heritage Park; Holy Name High School

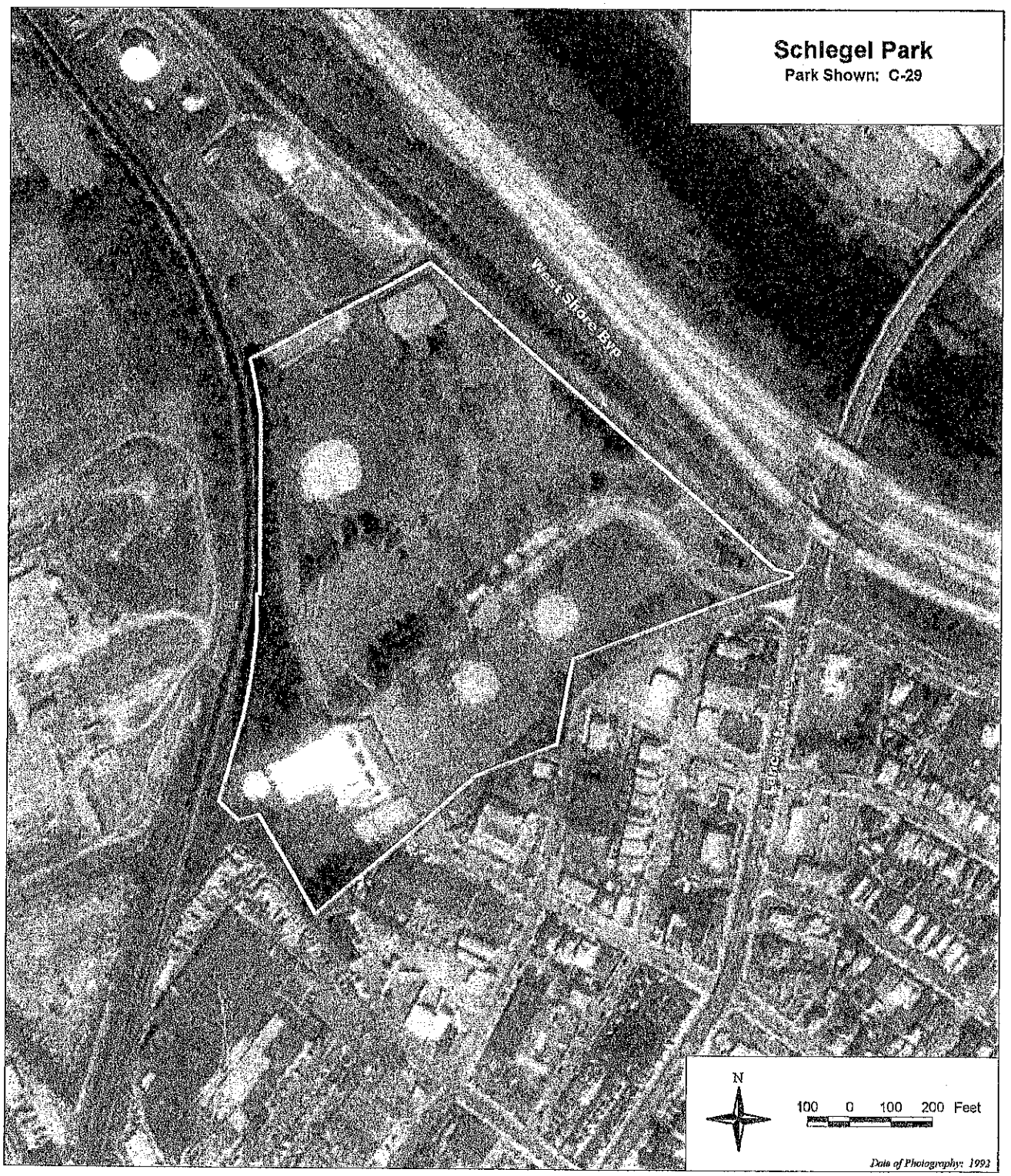
TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
3 Baseball/Softball Fields 1 Basketball Court 1 Volleyball Court	Two on lower side (field orientation not optimum), one on top side (rusty backstop); top – fair, lower – good condition (no lights). Backstops are needed. Basketball courts are in good condition; additional basketball courts could be planned.
Soccer/Football Pool	Open space – undefined area; needs to be planned. Needs to be resurfaced and provide a pump; diving well needs to be converted and reconstructed with a 7-foot maximum depth.
Tot-Lot (2 Units) 3 Slides Games Monkey Bars, Etc.	These features are modern and in excellent condition.
3 Tennis Courts	Fair condition; rusty fence in poor condition; not utilized. Area should be evaluated and planned for in-line skating and hockey.
Barn (Park Office) Security Lights Unpaved Walking Paths	Gives this park a nice appeal; in good condition. In some areas only. Improvements to the pedestrian paths are necessary as improvements are planned within the park.
Concession Stand No Accessible Bathrooms Drinking Fountain	Fair condition.
Pavilion/Picnic Area with Cookout Grills (on top)	Nice condition, good view of Reading. A good place to have a picnic.
Top Side – Parking for ±50 Cars (no markings) Lower Side – Parking for ±30 Cars	Decent parking.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority

CITY OF READING

10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

PROFILE SHEET C-29



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Second and Oley Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-30

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

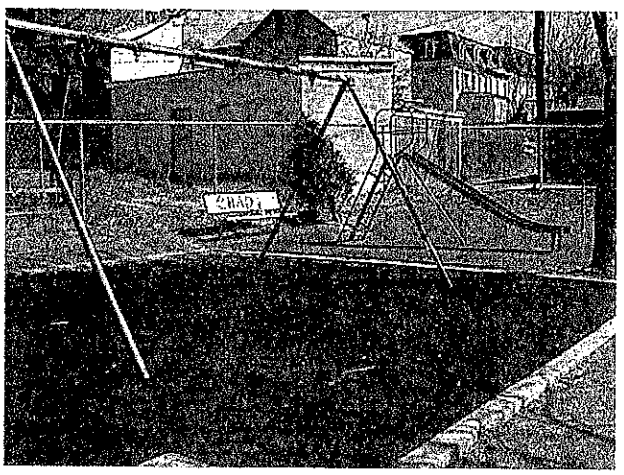
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

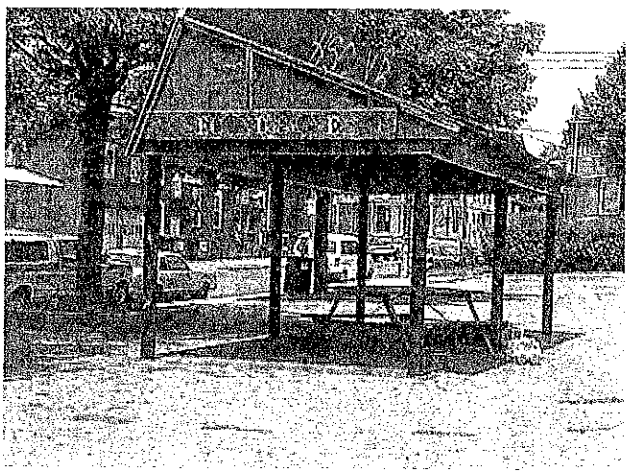
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.75

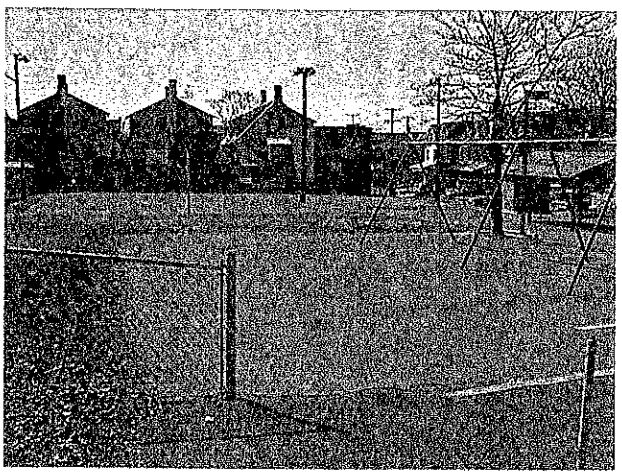
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Basketball (1) – Lighted
2. Volleyball (1) – Lighted
3. Swingsets (2)
4. Slide (1)
5. Three Spaces for Spring Animals (No Animals)
6. Shed (Concrete, Typical)
7. Pavilion
8. Hopscotch
9. Security Lighting
10. Street Parking Only

NOTE: Scheduled to be Renovated in 2002.







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-30

NAME OF AREA: **Second and Oley Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-30**

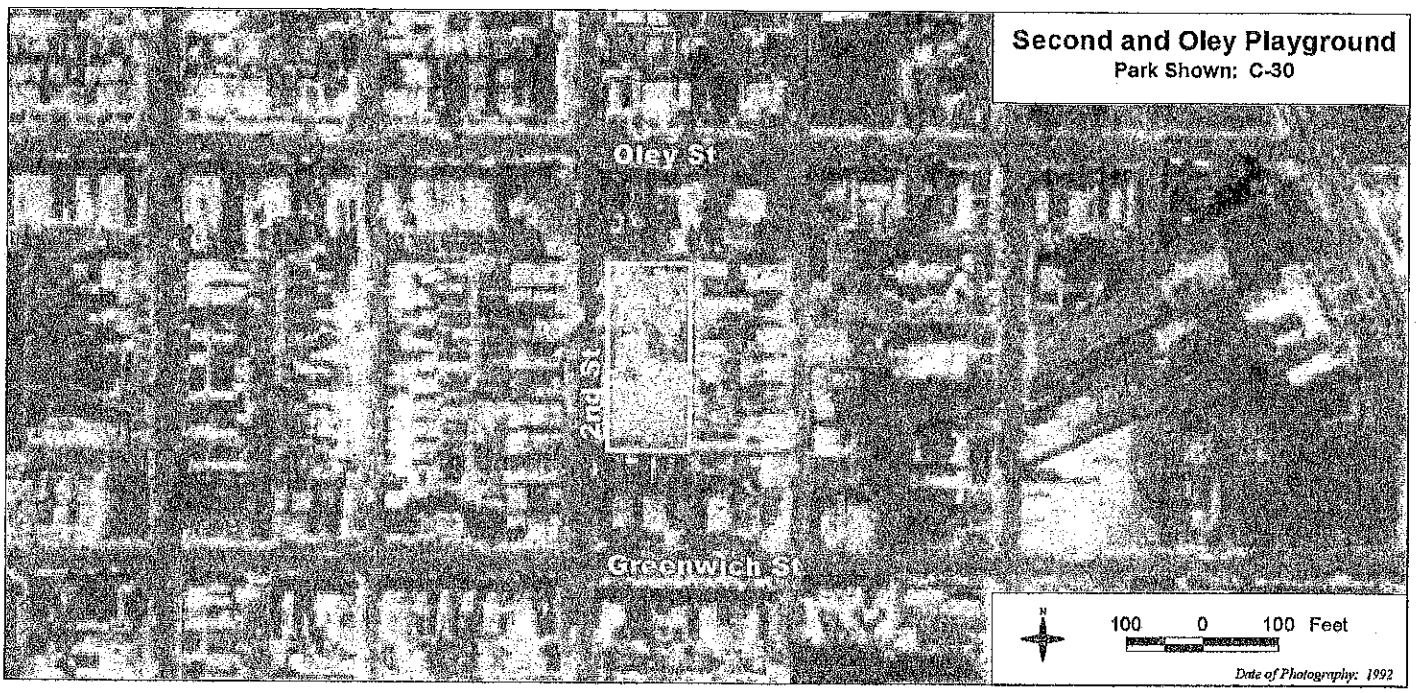
ADJACENT LAND USES: **Residential; Commercial;**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **No Recreation Linkages**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Centre Park Historical District; Centre Park**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Basketball Court	Lights, in fair condition. Resurfacing of existing court and adding a new court is necessary (High Priority).
Volleyball	Lights, no nets, in good condition.
2 Swingsets 1 Slide 3 Spaces for Spring Animals Hopscotch	No swings. No animals. } Poor condition; renovations are scheduled for safety surface matting.
Pavilion/Shed Security Lights Bench No Bathrooms Parking	Standard for Reading parks. Needs to be renovated. Graffiti. On-street parking only.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Sixth and Amity Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-31

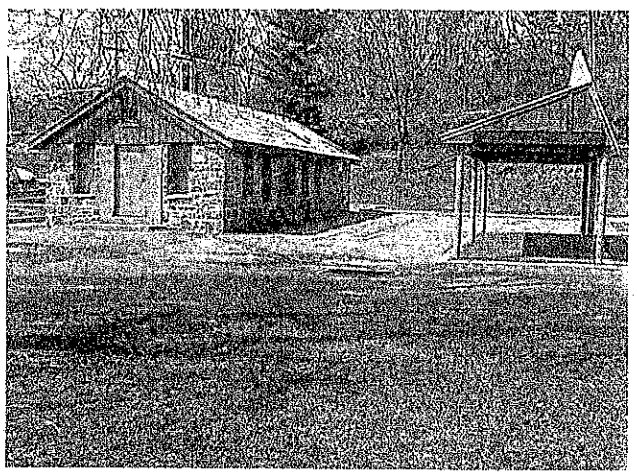
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

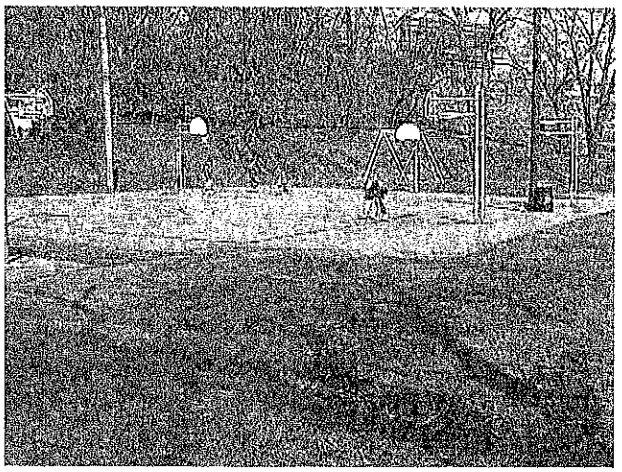
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 2.23

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Baseball/Softball – No Lights – Benches (1)
2. Volleyball (1) – Lighted
3. Basketball (3) – Overlapping – Lighted
4. Pavilion
5. Building
6. Tot-Lot (Slide, Swingset, Merry-Go-Round)
7. One Additional Swingset
8. Some Open Area for Football, Etc.





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-31

NAME OF AREA: **Sixth and Amity Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-31**

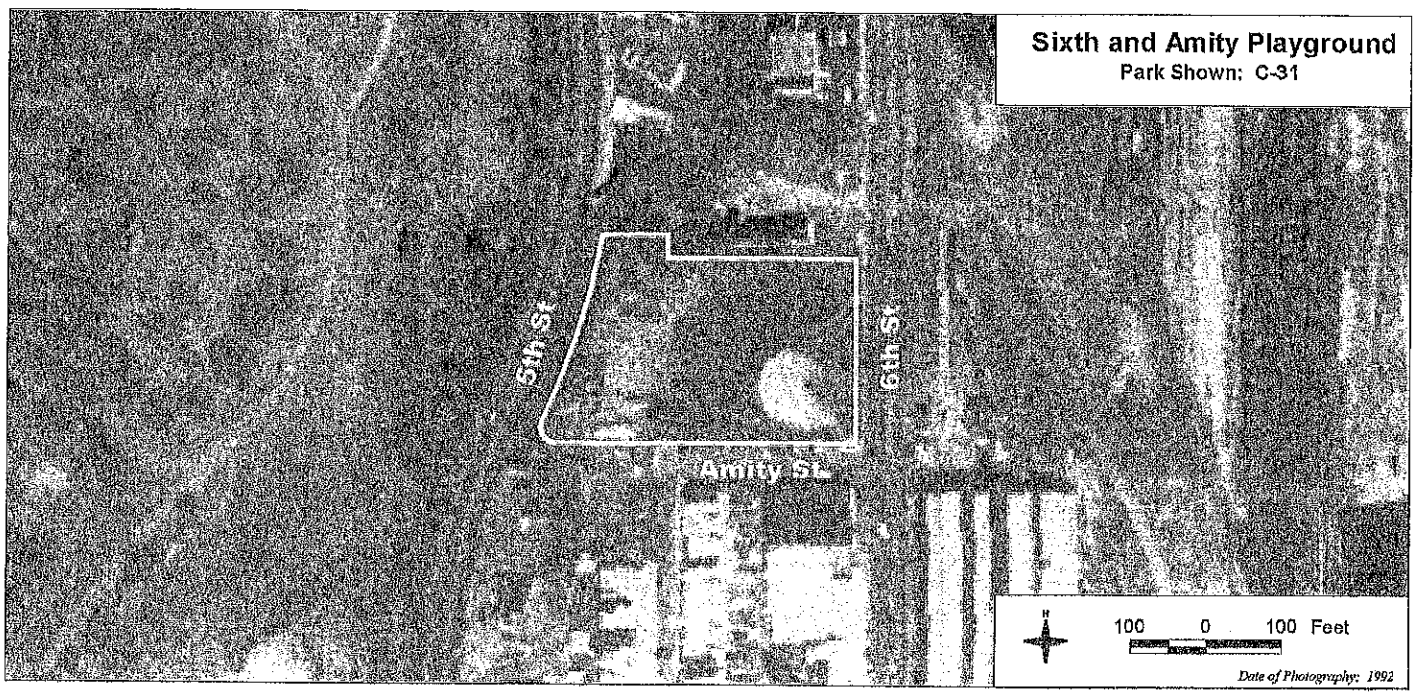
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Undeveloped; Cemetery

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: George Field; Keffer Playground; Railroad

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Baseball/Softball Field	No lights, one bench, rusty backstop, in poor condition (field orientation not optimum). Needs improvements; backstop and fencing along perimeter need to be replaced.
3 Basketball Courts (Overlapping)	Lights, no nets, in fair condition; additional courts are needed.
1 Volleyball Court	Lights, in fair condition.
Football/Other Sports	Open space for football or other sports, undefined area.
Tot Lot Slide 2 Swingsets Merry-Go-Round	• Poor equipment for kids. Needs improvements. • Park is directed toward sporting events rather than children's needs.
Building Pavilion No Restrooms Parking	Buildings needs roofing work and fence could use some repair. Needs improvements. Consideration should be provided to eliminating the existing building.

OVERALL NEEDS: High priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Stonecliff**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Park (Berks County)

MAP NUMBER: C-32

OWNERSHIP: County of Berks

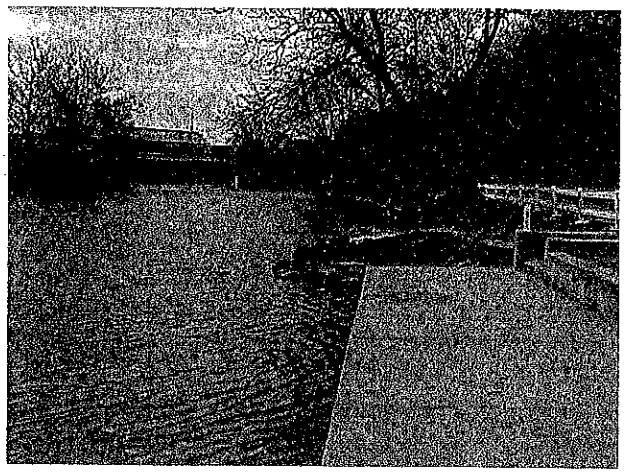
MAINTENANCE: County of Berks

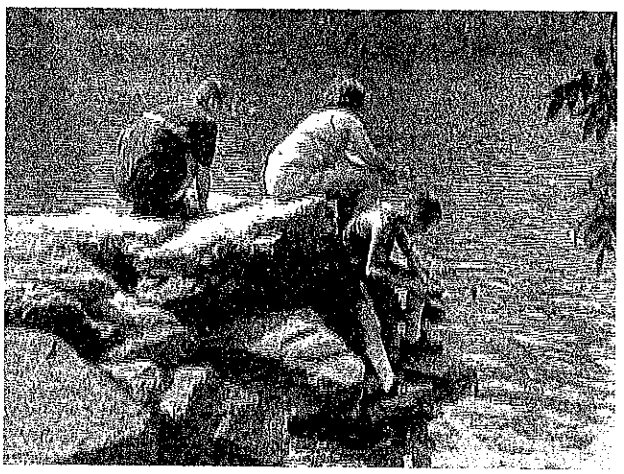
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 29.90

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Picnic Area
2. Benches
3. Fishing Dock (Concrete)
4. Restrooms/Pavilion
5. Wood Playground Area (jungle gym, monkey bars, balance beam)
6. Other Playground Area ("chain"-type jungle gym and tunnel, metal activity center, wood fort, and climbing area)
7. Basketball Court – Lighted (1)
8. Walkways – Lighted
9. Tennis Courts – Lighted (3)
10. Parking – 2 Areas
11. Possible Wading Pool
12. Climbing "Blocks"
13. Creek (Tulpehocken)
14. Fitness Center (Wood – Outdoors)
15. Bike Racks (5)
16. Football/Soccer Field with Goal Posts
17. Small Pavilion

NOTE: Part of Berks County park system.





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-32

NAME OF AREA: **Stonecliffe Area** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-32**

ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Tulpehocken Creek; Industrial

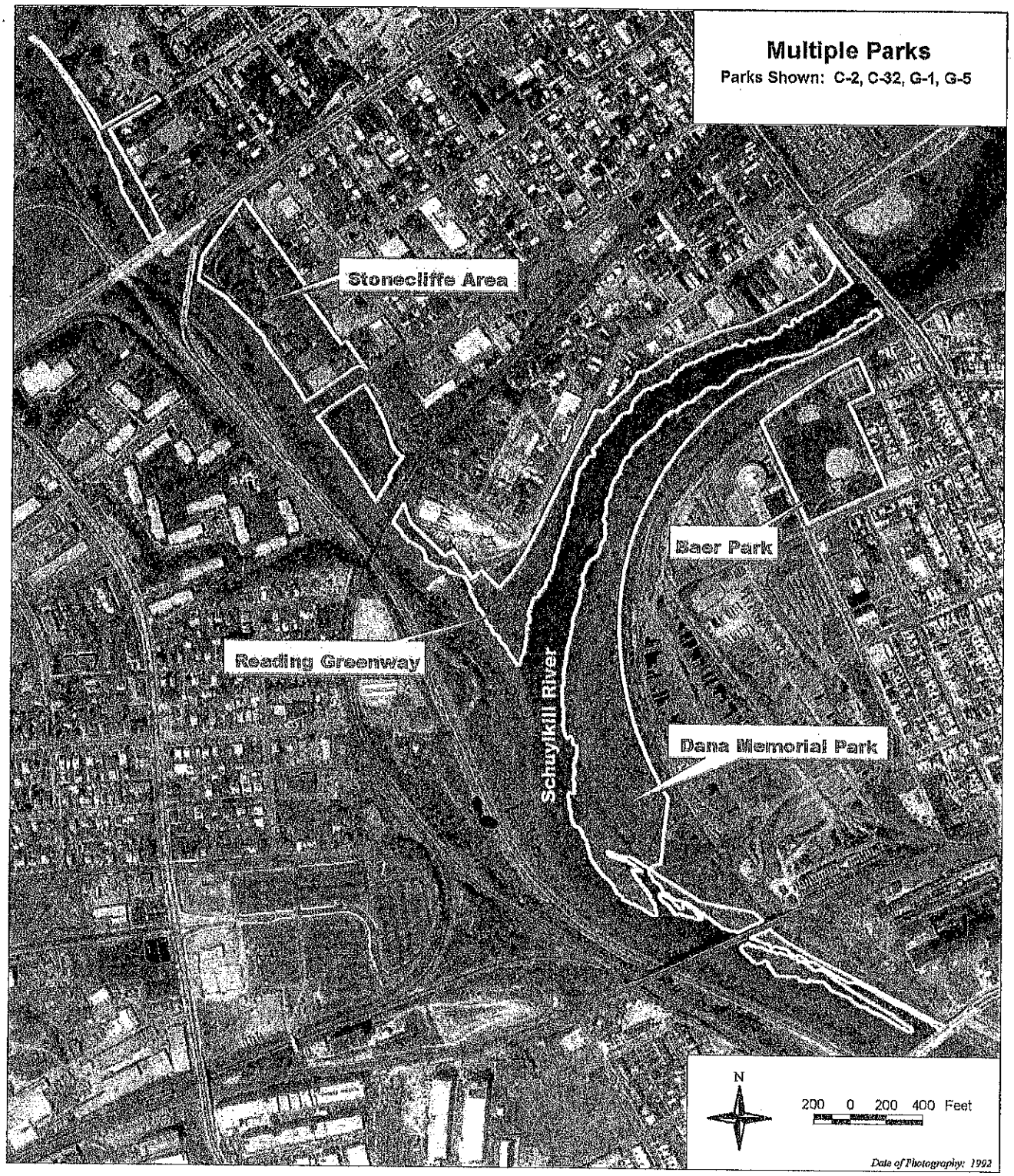
EXISTING LINKAGES: Reading Greenway; Berks County Park System

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Heritage Park; Baer Park

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Football/Soccer Field 1 Basketball Court 2 Volleyball Courts 3 Tennis Courts	Goal posts, nice playing surface, in good condition. Lights, in good condition. In good condition. Ground is faded, in fair condition.
Fitness Center Wood Playground Area Other Playground Area	Wooden, outdoors, in good condition. Includes jungle gym, monkey bars, and balance beam; in good condition. Includes "chain"-type jungle gym and tunnel, metal activity center, wooden fort, and climbing area; in good condition.
Climbing "Blocks" Possible Wading Pool Bike Rack	 Nice feature, in good condition.
Walkways Benches Picnic Area	Lighted, in good condition. In good condition. In good condition.
Concrete Fishing Dock Pavilion Restrooms Small Pavilion	All are very nice features in good condition.
Parking (2 Areas)	Improved off-street parking area (good condition).

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-32



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Tenth and South Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Neighborhood Park

MAP NUMBER: C-33

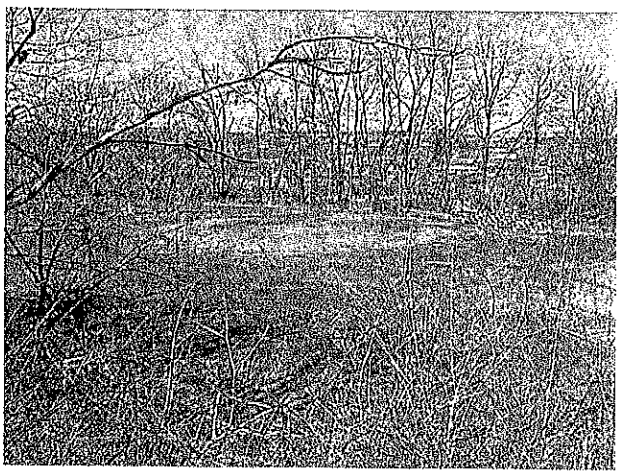
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

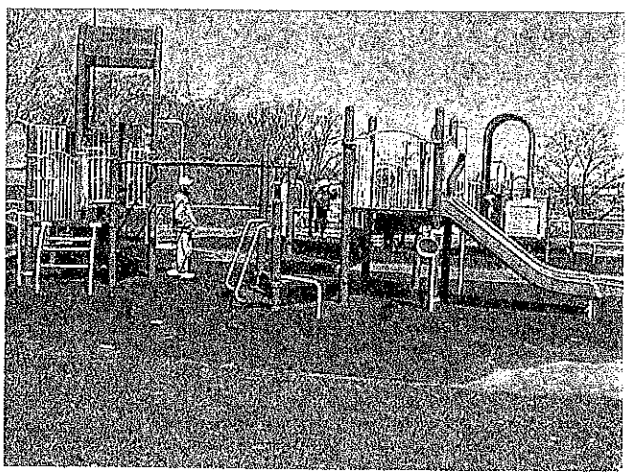
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.10

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Basketball (2) – No Lights – 1 Backboard/Basket Missing
2. Activity Centers (2)
3. Swingset (1)
4. Pavilion and Shed (Typical)
5. Baseball/Softball w/Bleachers (1) – No Lights
6. Parking – 3 Paved, 1 H.C., ±5 Stone
7. Access to Neversink Trails





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-33

NAME OF AREA: Tenth and South Playground **MAP NUMBER:** C-33

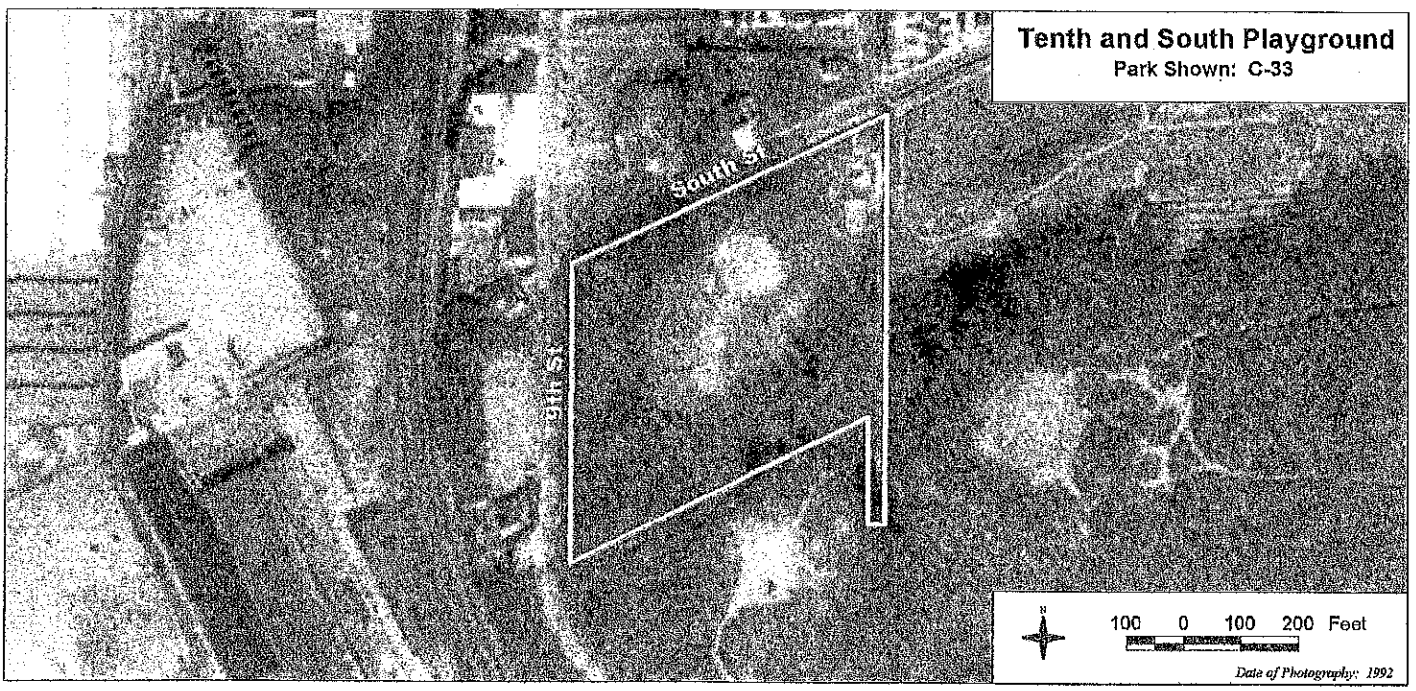
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Woodland; Vacant; Railroad

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Neversink Mountain Preserve; Heritage Park; Reading Greenway; Schuylkill River

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
2 Basketball Courts	No lights, one backboard and one basket missing, in poor condition, and should be improved; new court is too small for basketball.
Baseball/Softball Field	No lights, ground needs improvements, in fair condition (field orientation not optimum). Baseball field should be eliminated due to poor planning and positioning of other park improvements.
2 Tot Lots 1 Swingset	In good condition. Additional facilities could be planned, but should not disrupt other uses.
Access to Neversink Trails	Should be planned to facilitate linkages and other park improvements.
Pavilion/Shed No Restrooms	Standard.
Parking	3 paved, 1 H.C., 5± stone.

OVERALL NEEDS: Low to Moderate Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Third and Spring Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Neighborhood Park

MAP NUMBER: C-34

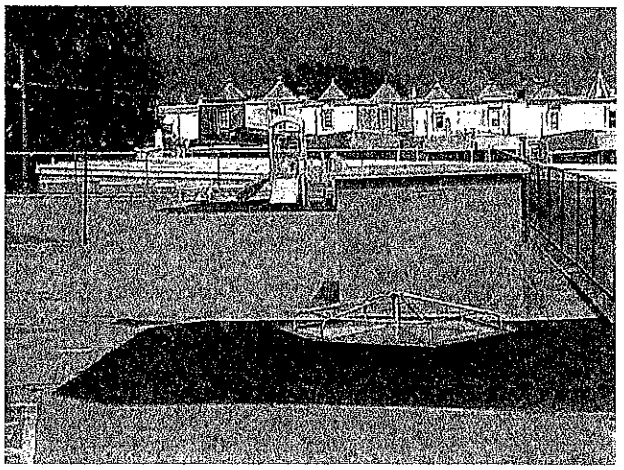
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

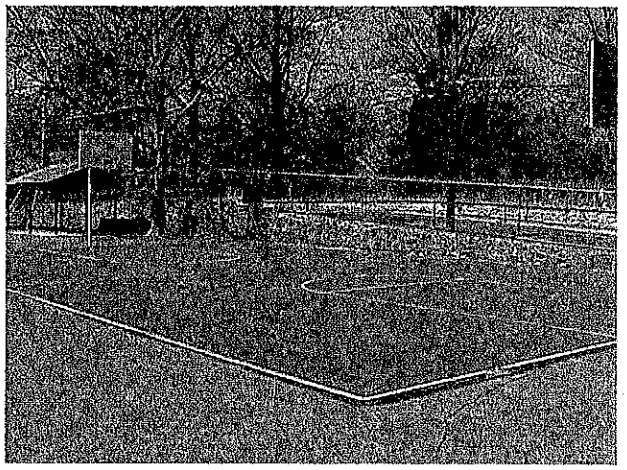
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

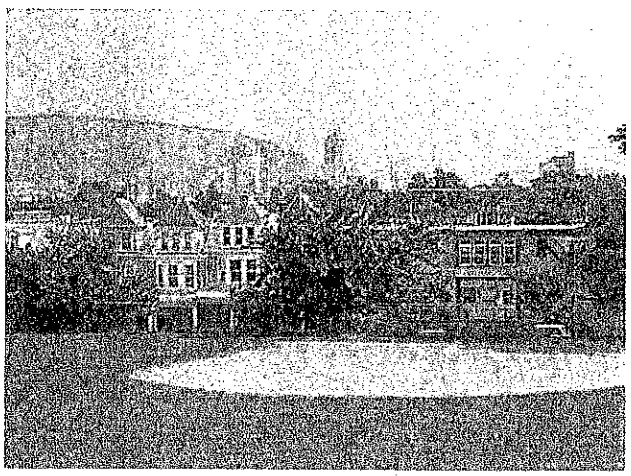
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.02

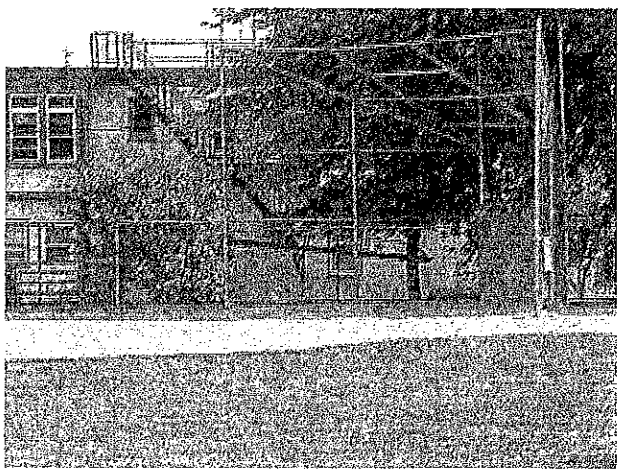
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Baseball/Softball with Bleachers (1)
2. Football/Soccer 'Area' (1)
3. Merry-Go-Round
4. Benches
5. Pavilion
6. Shed
7. Hopscotch
8. Volleyball (1)
9. Basketball (1) – Lighted
10. Swingsets (2)
11. Activity Center (1)
12. See-Saws (2 Sets of 2)
13. Spring Animals (2)









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-34

NAME OF AREA: **Third and Spring Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-34**

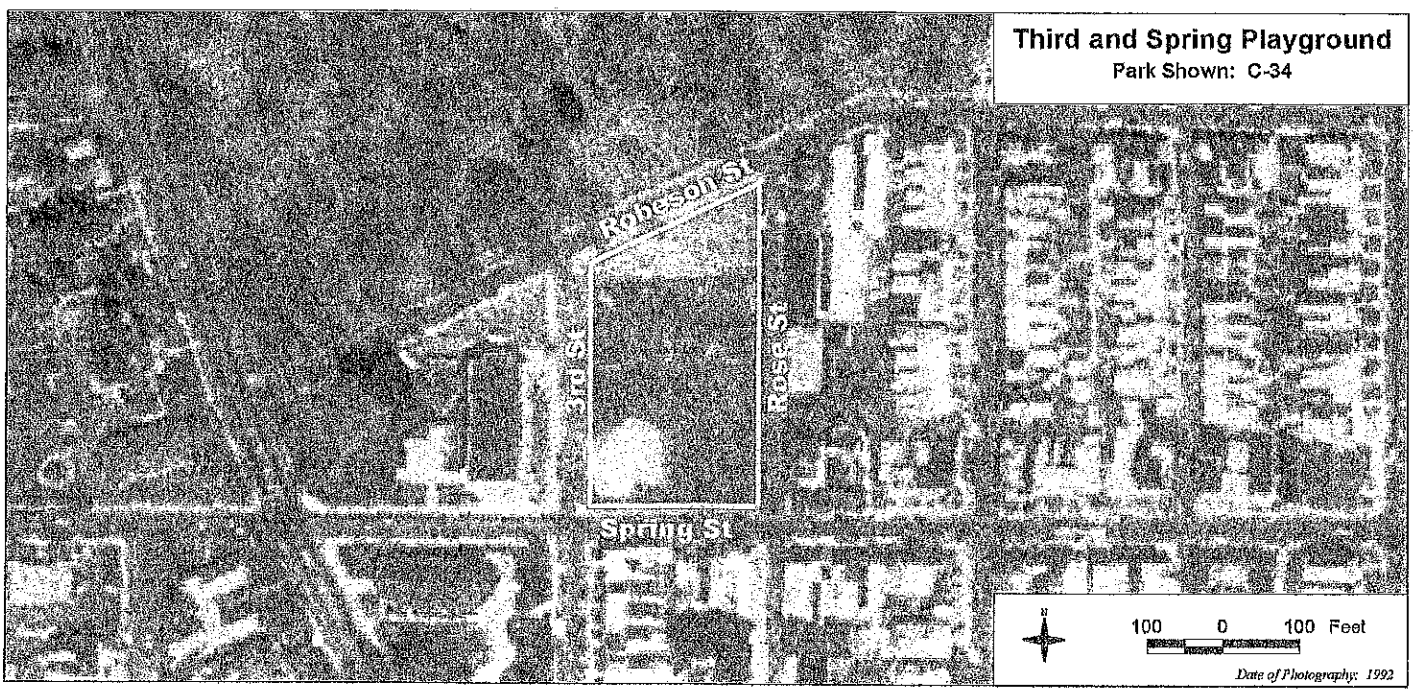
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Cemetery; Vacant

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Northeast Middle School; Centre Park; Centre Park Historical District

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Baseball/Softball Field Basketball Court Volleyball Court Football/Soccer Area	Well maintained, bleachers, in good condition. Lights, in fair condition; needs to be resurfaced. In fair condition. Undefined open space in outfield (needs to be planned). } Complete renovation required.
Tot Lot, Merry-Go-Round, Hopscotch, 2 Swingsets, 2 Sets of 2 See-Saws, 2 Spring Animals	All playground equipment is modern. Rubber mats are placed underneath these features for safety. Everything is in good condition. Additional facilities should be considered, provided they do not disrupt other uses.
Pavilion/Shed Benches No Restrooms Parking	Standard; needs to be replaced. Trees need to be removed (roots). Street parking or at St. Margaret's. } Complete renovation required.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Third and Spruce Recreation Center**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Park

MAP NUMBER: C-35

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 7.63

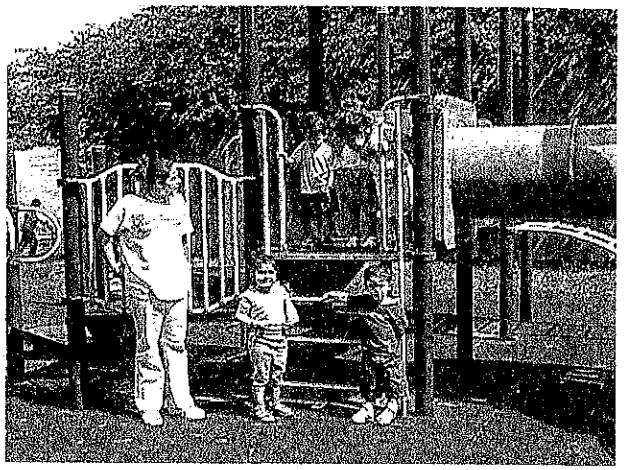
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

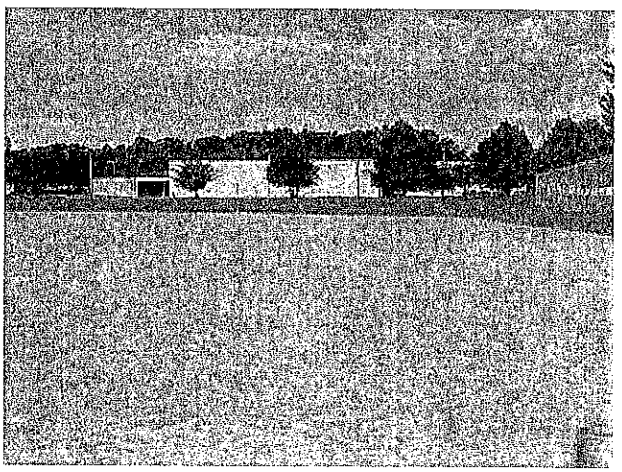
1. Gym
2. Recreation Hall
3. Administration

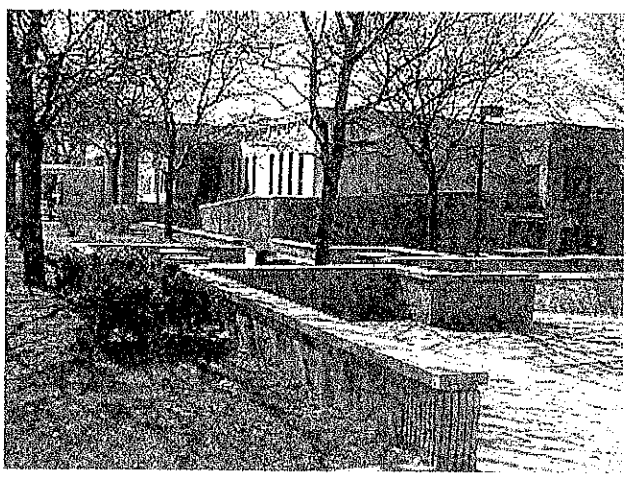
} Inside

4. Benches, Walkways
5. Tennis (3)/Handball (2) – Lighted
6. Pavilion
7. Activity Set (1)
8. Spring Rides (2)
9. Swingsets (3)
10. Baseball/Softball
11. Security Lighting
12. Open Space
13. Bike Racks
14. Fitness Area
15. Fitness Area (Outdoor)
16. Basketball (3) – Overlapping - Lighted

NOTE: Renovations scheduled to be completed in 2002.







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-35

NAME OF AREA: **Third and Spruce Recreation Center** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-35**

ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Commercial; Industrial; Vacant

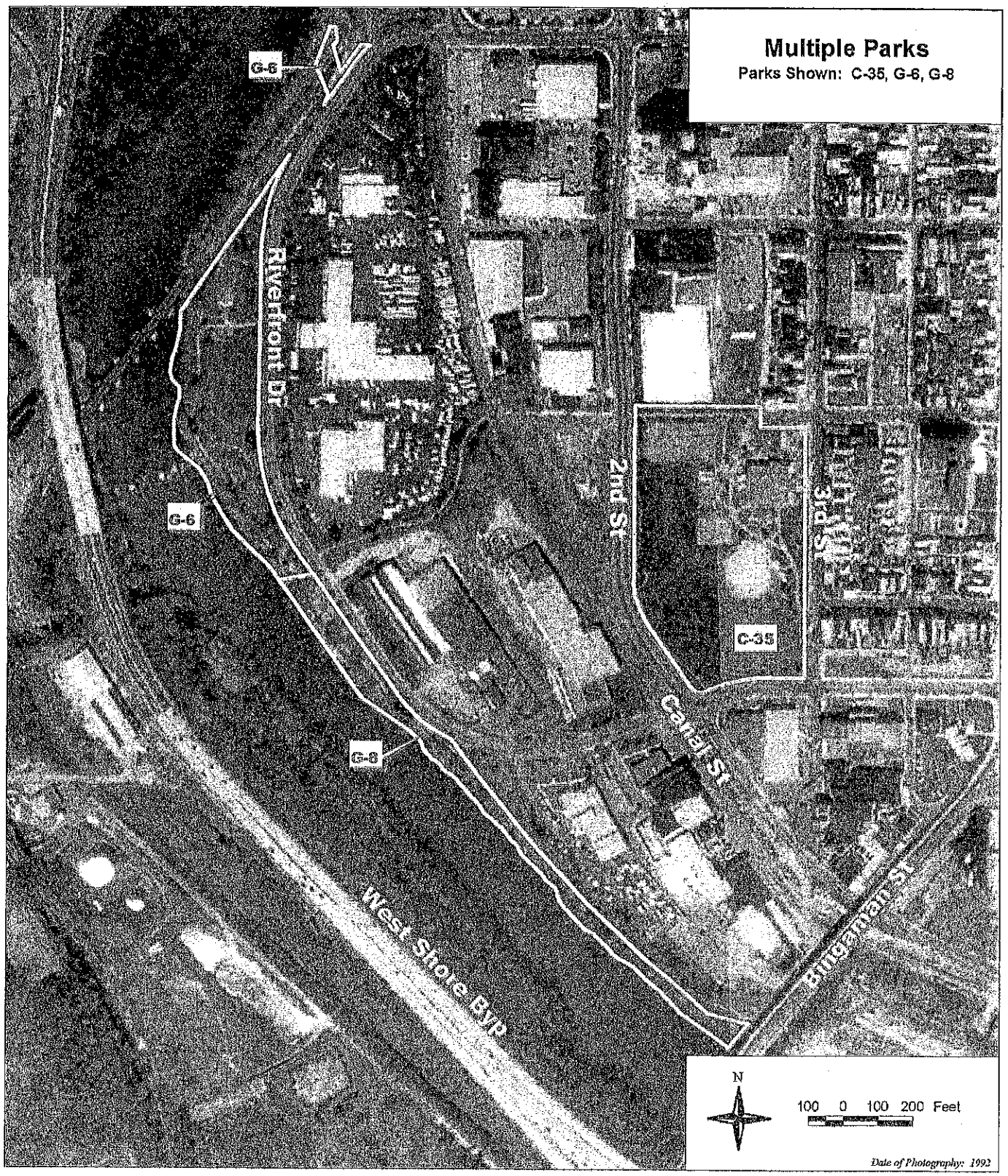
EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Riverfront Park; Reading Greenway; Schuylkill River; Southwest Middle School

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Gym Recreation Hall Administration	All inside recreation center and are undergoing renovations and are scheduled to be completed in 2002. Recreation programs are provided.
Baseball/Softball Field 3 Basketball Courts (Overlapping) Football/Soccer Area	No lights, in good condition. Lights, in good condition. Undefined space in the outfield. } Existing facilities will need to be improved.
Outdoor Fitness Area Tot Lot, 2 Spring Rides, 3 Swingsets	In good condition; missing exercise stations. In good condition, with rubber mats under playground facilities. Additional facilities should be planned, but should not disrupt other uses.
Bike Racks Benches Walkways	 In good condition. In good condition.
Pavilion Security Lights	In fair condition and will need to be replaced in the future.
Restrooms	Inside.
Future Planning	Park should be designed to maximize potential and to accommodate the demand on existing facilities and services.
3 Tennis Courts 2 Handball Courts	Lights; in good condition; not utilized by community; should be converted into a skateboard park or in-line skating facility.

OVERALL NEEDS: High Priority

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-35



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Triangle at Hancock Boulevard**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-36

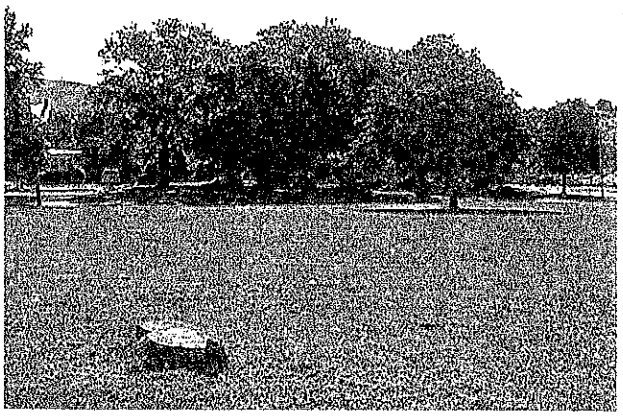
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

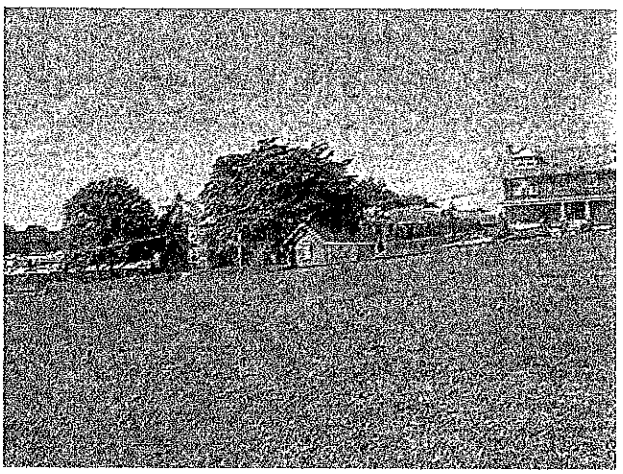
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES):

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Linear Park
2. Passive Recreation
3. Open Space





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-36

NAME OF AREA: **Triangle at Hancock Boulevard** **MAP NUMBER:** **C-36**

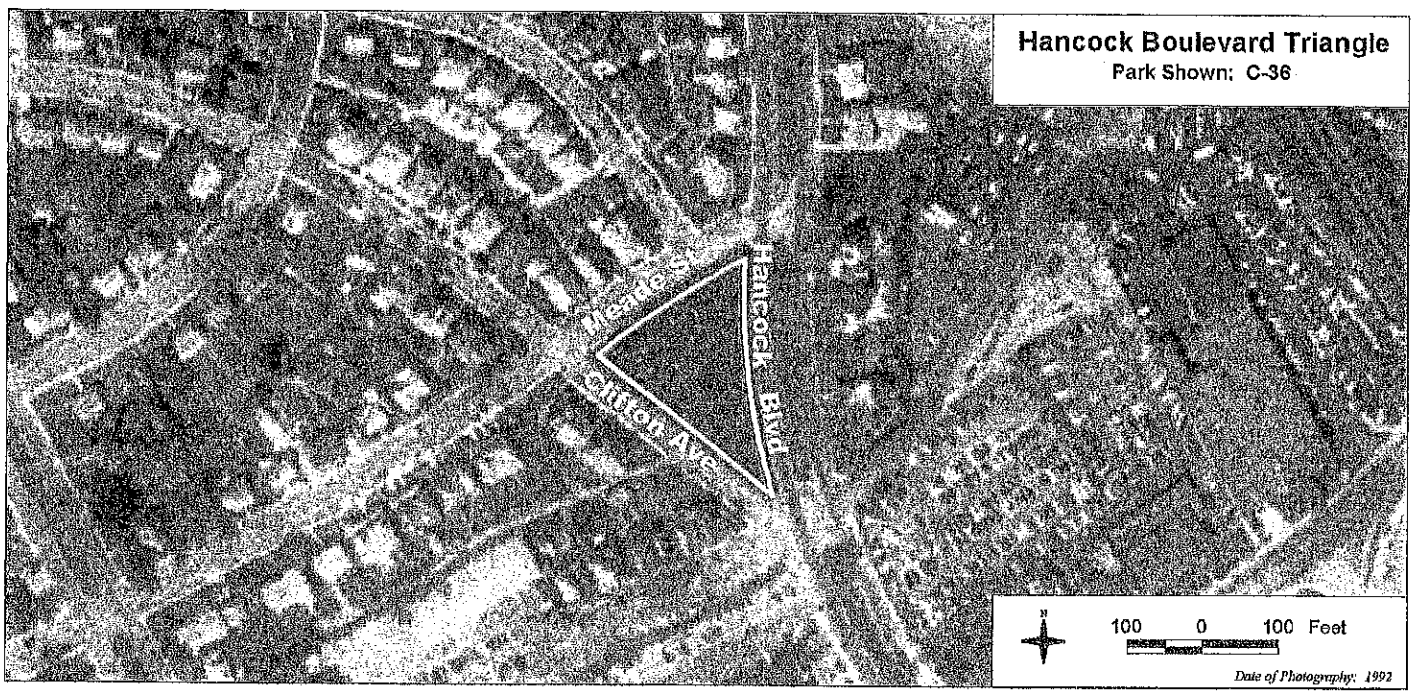
ADJACENT LAND USES: **Residential; Commercial; Quasi-Public**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **No Recreation Linkages**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Brookline Playground; Yarnell Park; Oakbrook Housing Playground; Alvernia College**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Undeveloped Parcel • No Facilities • No Lights	Could be designed and developed as a mini-park or neighborhood park.
Parking	On-street parking only.

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Market Square**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-37

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

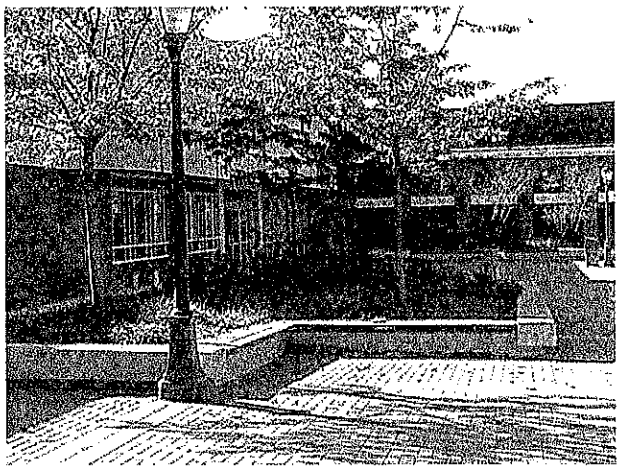
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.17

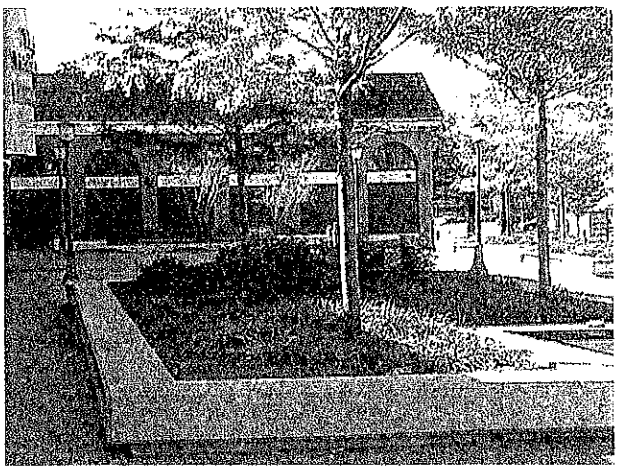
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

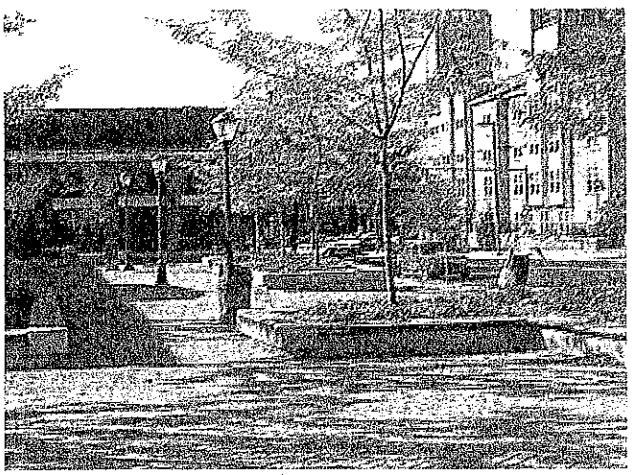
1. Benches
2. Lights
3. Trash Cans
4. Trees (Mountain Ash) and Shrubs
5. Passive Recreation Area
6. Downtown Improvement District
7. "Reading Health Dispensary"

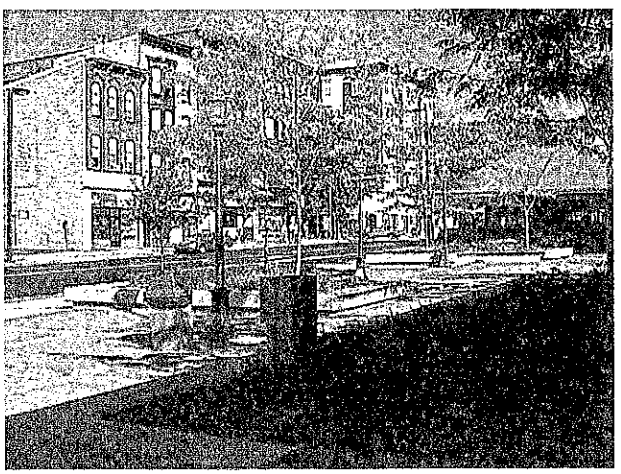
LINKAGES: Sovereign Center; Cedar Street Park; City Park; Downtown Improvement District

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Yarnell Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-38

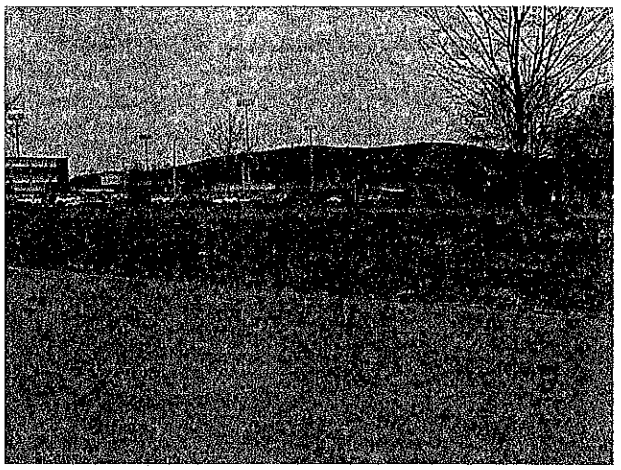
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

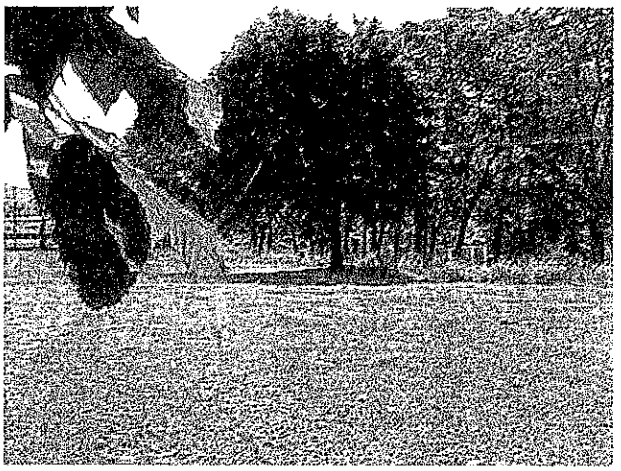
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

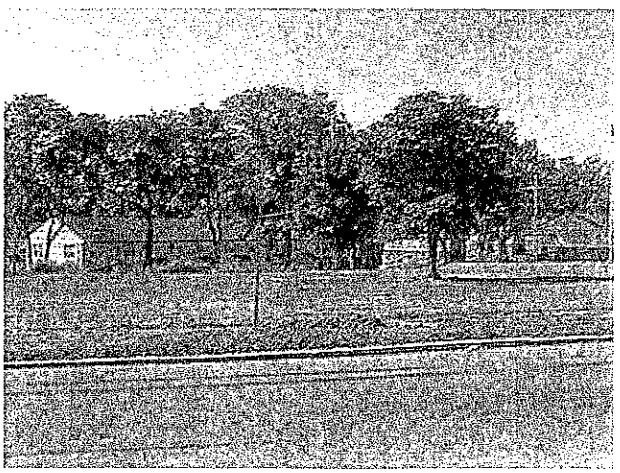
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.06

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Open Area
2. Passive Recreation
3. Linear Park







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET C-38

NAME OF AREA: Yarnell Park **MAP NUMBER:** C-38

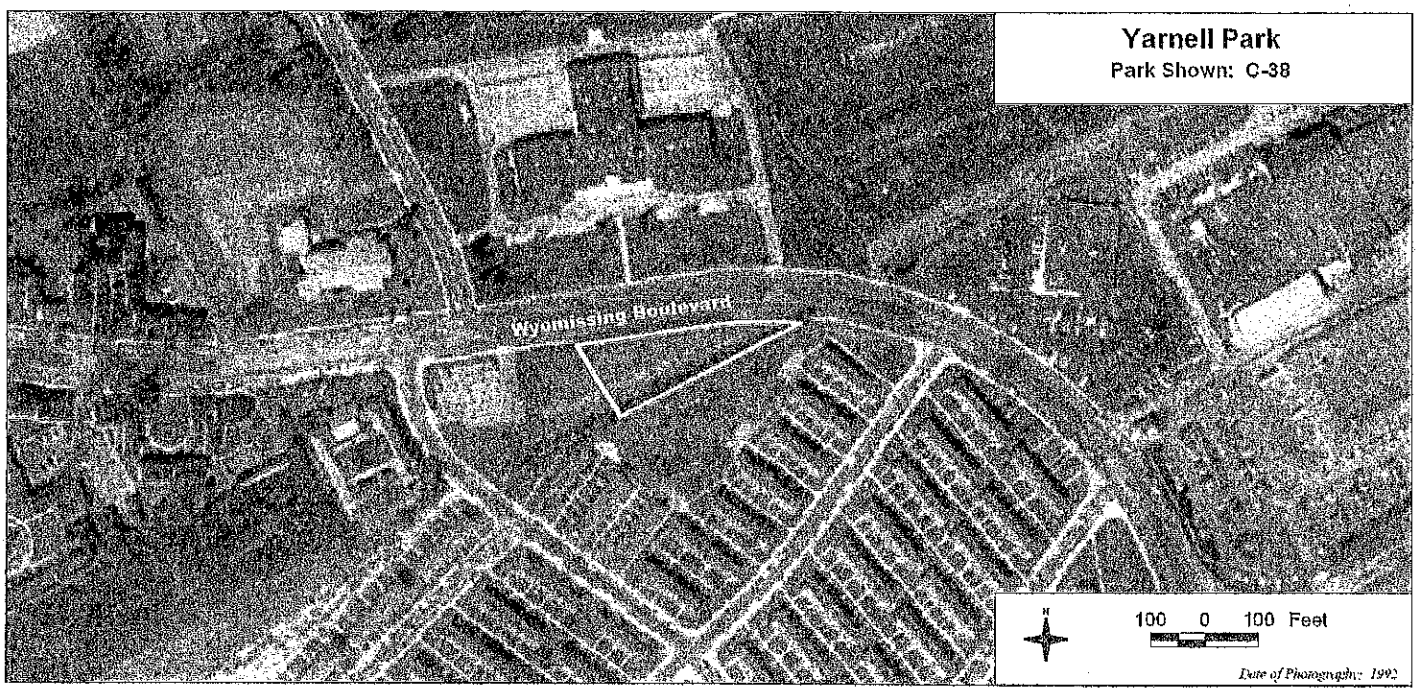
ADJACENT LAND USES: Residential; Quasi-Public

EXISTING LINKAGES: Holy Name High School

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Oakbrook Housing Playground; Thomas Ford Special Education Facility

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
No Facilities – Just an Open Lot Across the Street from Holy Name High School	Utilized for undefined or unorganized recreation uses (active and passive). Could be planned as a mini-park.
Parking	Lot next to mini-park.

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Minor Street Parklet**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-39

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

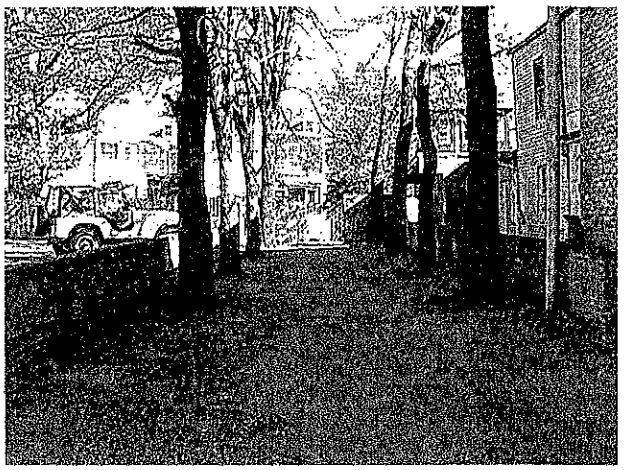
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.05

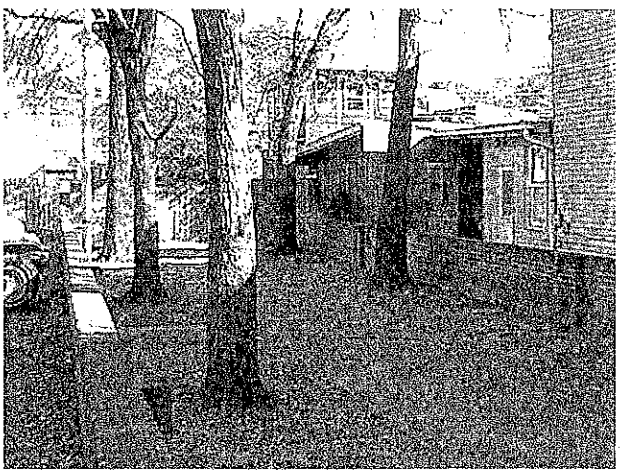
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Walkway
2. Trees – Showy Mountain Ash/Eur. Mountain Ash
3. Passive Recreation Area
4. No Benches or Facilities

LINKAGES: Reading Iron Playground; Tenth and South Playground; Tyson Schoener Elementary School

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Second and Franklin**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Mini-Park

MAP NUMBER: C-40

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

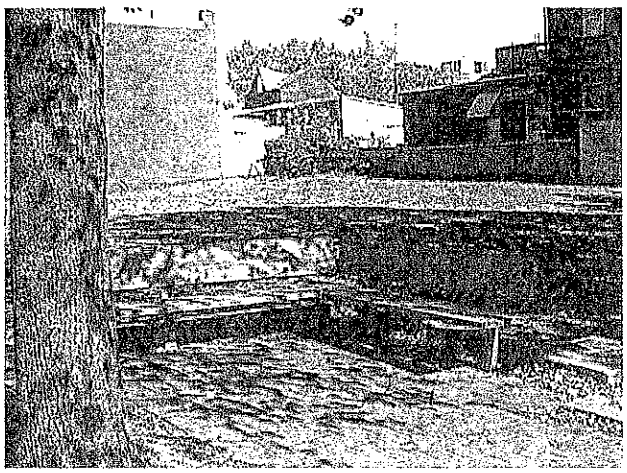
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.04

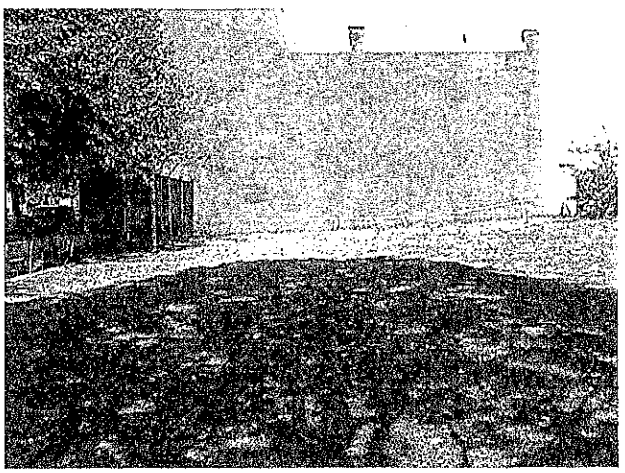
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Benches (2) – seating for 20±
2. Grass
3. Street Lights (across street)
4. Sitting Area

LINKAGES: Reading Area Community College; Schuylkill River; Reading Greenway; Dana Memorial Park; Third and Spruce Recreation Center

OVERALL NEEDS: Low Priority





APPENDIX D

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Dana Memorial Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Greenway/Linear Park

MAP NUMBER: G-1

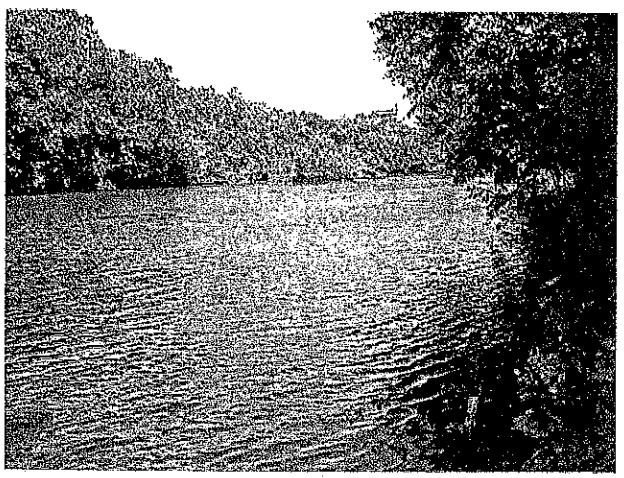
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 21.76

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Trails – Paved and Unpaved
2. Schuylkill River
3. No Parking
4. Passive Recreation
5. Linear Park



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-1

NAME OF AREA: **Dana Memorial Park** **MAP NUMBER:** **G-1**

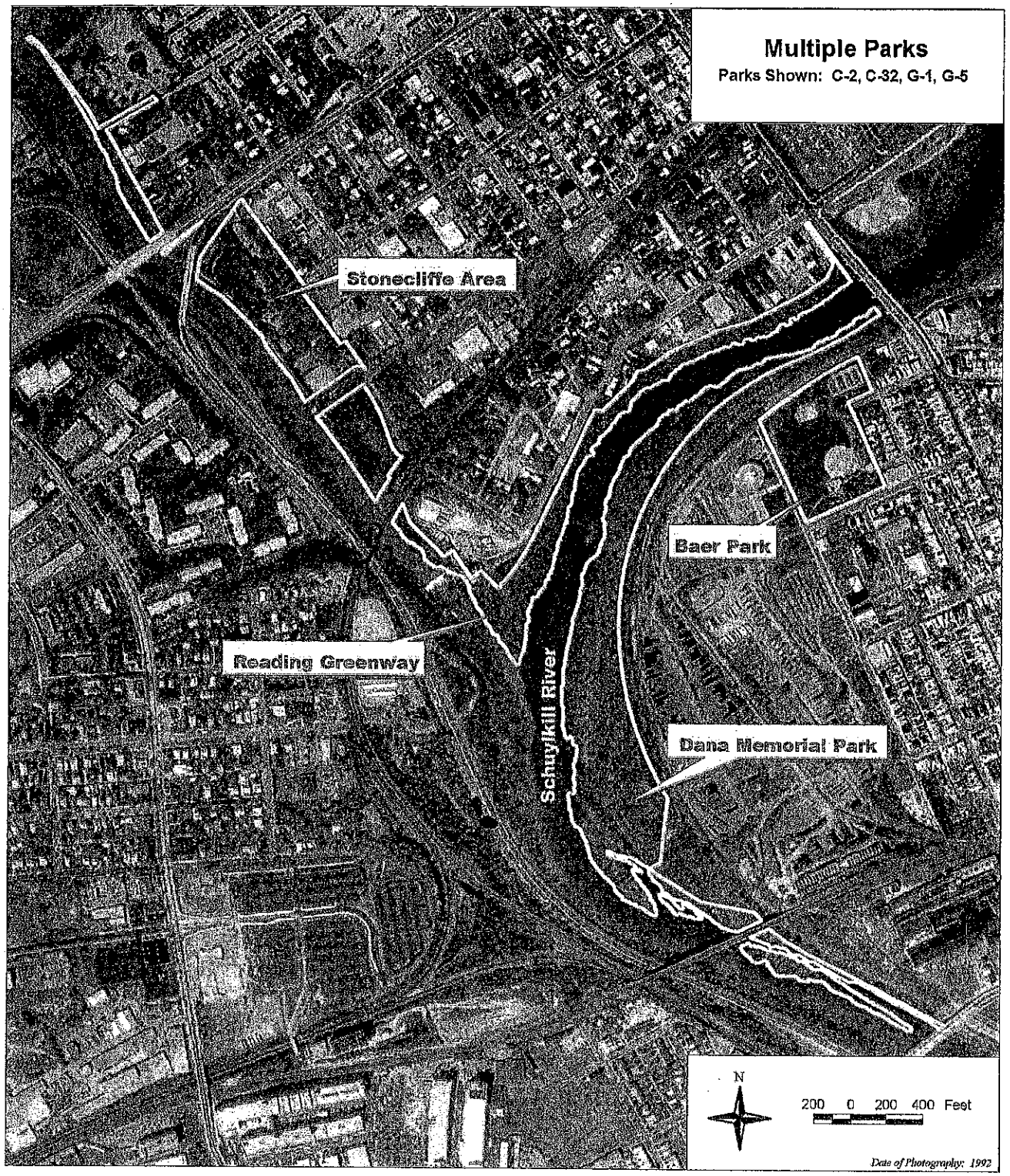
ADJACENT LAND USES: **Schuylkill River; Industrial; Railroad**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **Baer Park; Northwest Elementary School**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Reading Greenway; Berks County Trail System; Thun Trail; Reading Area Community College**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Hiking Trails	Both paved and unpaved, in good condition. Potential linkages should be planned, designed, and constructed (High Priority).
Schuylkill River	Most of the park is located within the 100-year floodplain.
No Parking No Restrooms	No parking within 250+ yards.
Lots of Potential	Park is in good condition.

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-1



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Heritage Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Greenway/Linear Park

MAP NUMBER: G-2

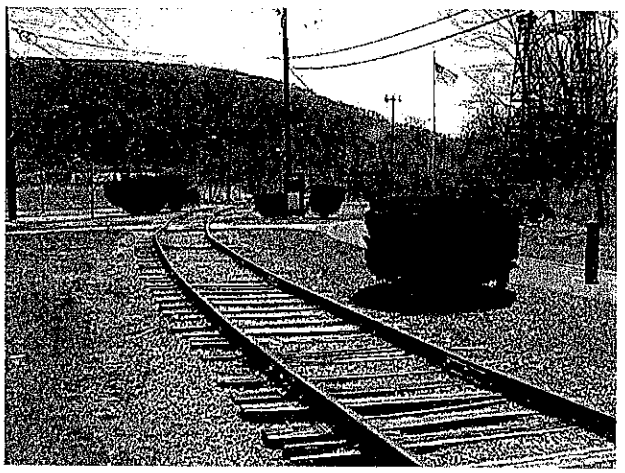
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

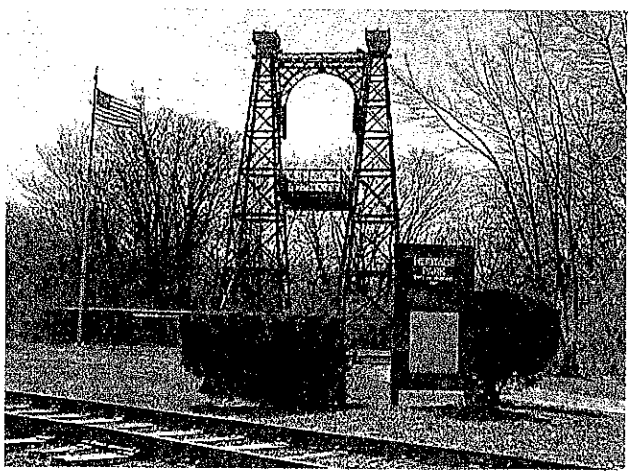
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

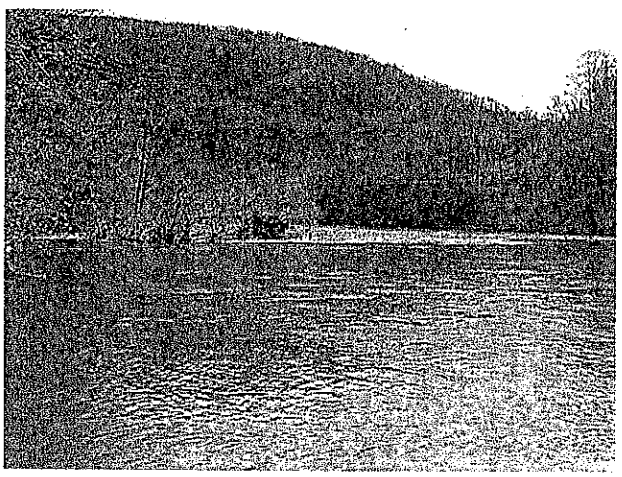
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 2.60

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Schuylkill River
2. Hiking/Biking Trails
3. Some Macadam Trails
4. Structure/Monument
5. Passive Recreation
6. Linear Park







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-2

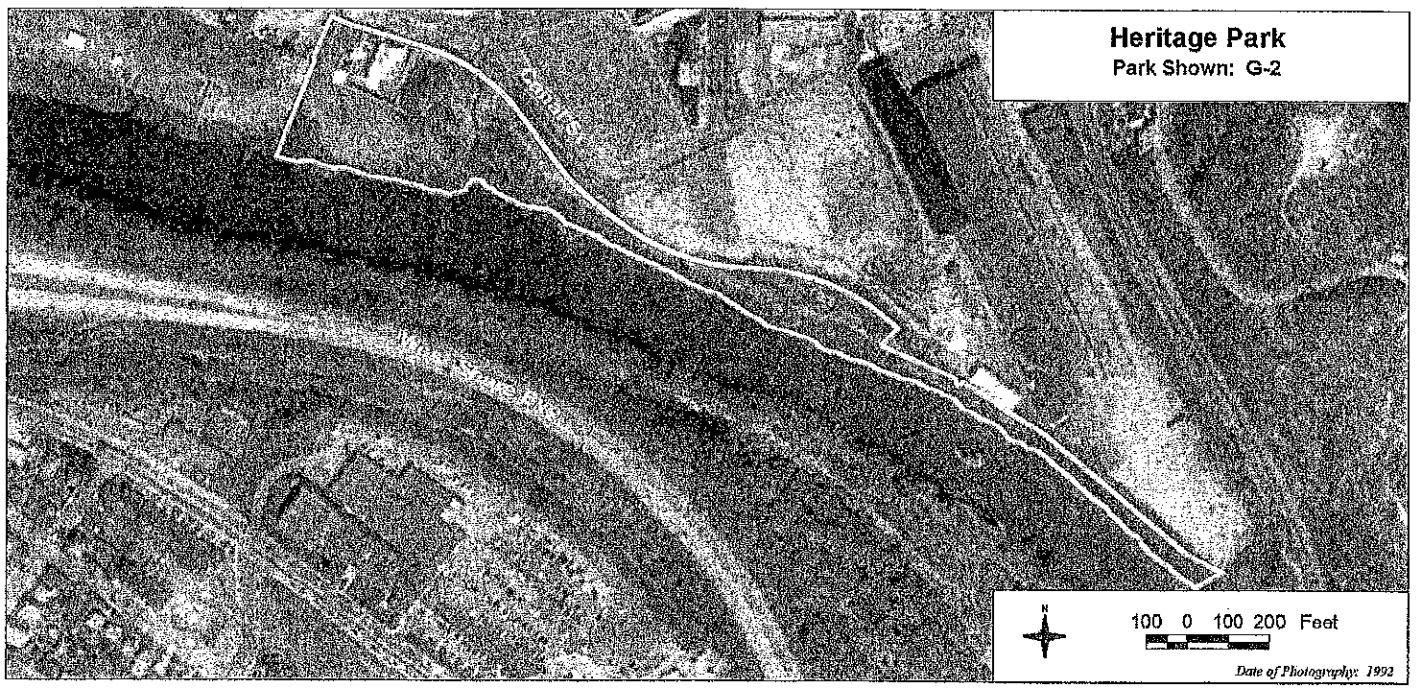
NAME OF AREA: Heritage Park **MAP NUMBER:** G-2

ADJACENT LAND USES: **Schuylkill River; Railroad; Conservation; Industrial; Vacant**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **Schuylkill River; Neversink Mountain Reserve**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Berks County Trail System; Thun Trail; Schlegel Park; 10th and South Playground; Riverfront Park**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Hiking/Biking Trails	Some trails are macadam; all trails are in good condition. Potential trail linkages should be planned, designed, and constructed (High Priority).
Structure Scenic Area	Acknowledges the industry in the area; is in good condition.
Parking	Across the street at Canal Street Pub.



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Pagoda and Observation Tower**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Nature Preserve/Passive

MAP NUMBER: G-3

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

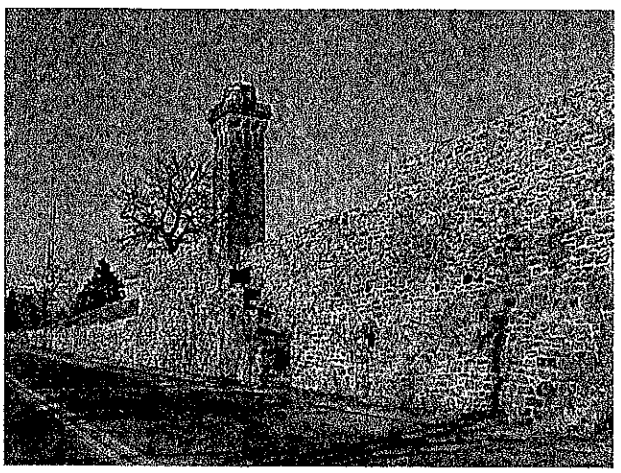
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

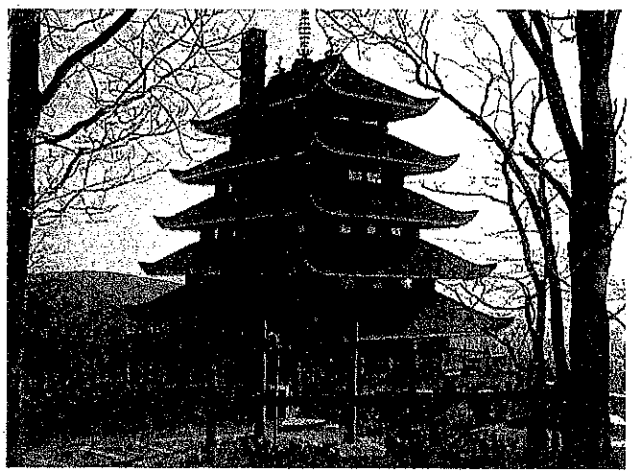
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 5.00

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Hiking Trails
2. Walking Trails
3. Pagoda
4. Art Area
5. Restaurant
6. Parking
7. Observation Tower
8. Passive Recreation

NOTE: The Pagoda is located on 3.00 acres of land within the City of Reading and the Observation Tower is located on 2.00 acres of land within Lower Alsace Township.





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Rotary Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Active/Passive Park

MAP NUMBER: G-3

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

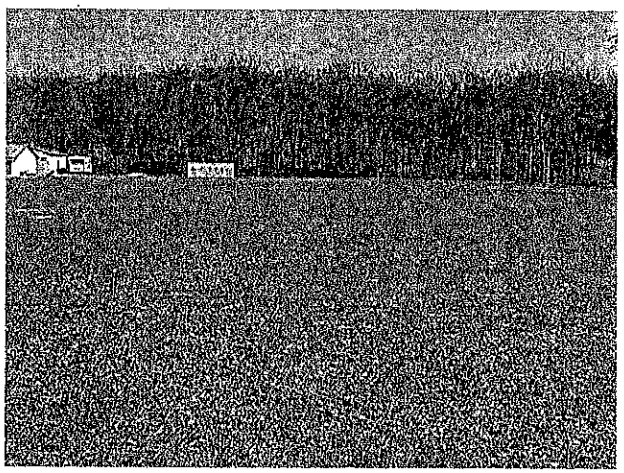
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

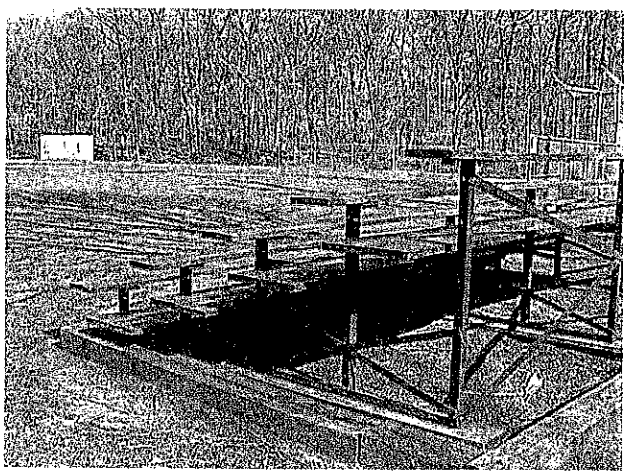
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.00

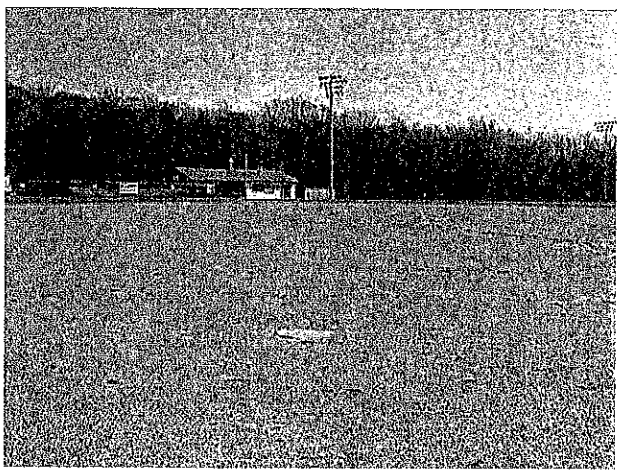
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Baseball/Softball (3) - Lighted
2. Stone Parking
3. Football/Soccer Areas - Lighted
4. Bleachers
5. Concession Pavilion
6. Seating/Tables
7. Bathrooms
8. Access to Mt. Penn Preserve Trails
9. Passive Recreation Area

NOTE: Rotary Park is located within Lower Alsace Township.







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Drenkel Flying Field**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Special Use

MAP NUMBER: G-3

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

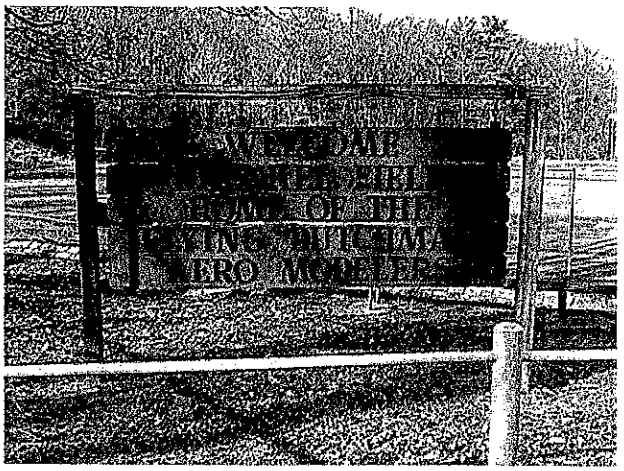
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

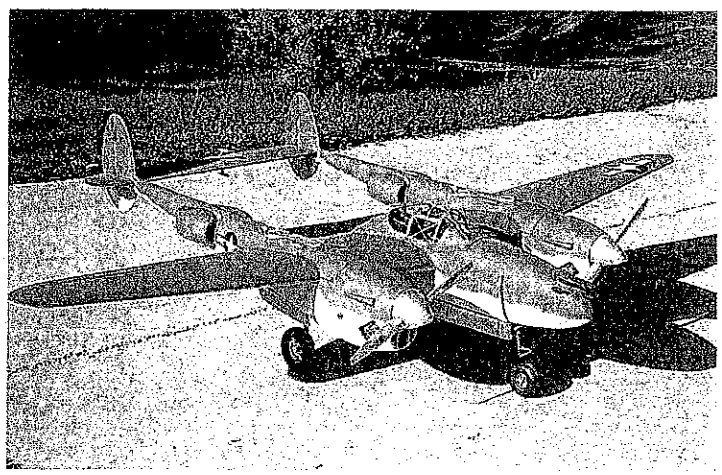
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.00

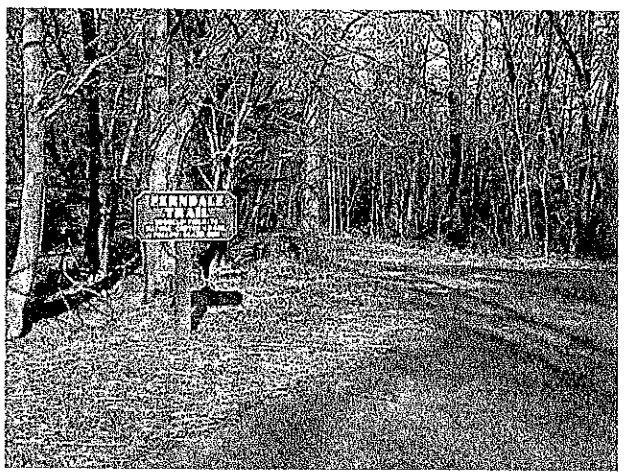
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Flying Circles (4) – Paved
2. Paved Parking – Gated Entrance
3. Bleachers
4. Mt. Penn Preserve Trails
5. Passive Recreation Area
6. Special Events

NOTE: Drenkel Field is located within the City of Reading.







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Camp Lily (Easter Seals) and Camp Jolly**

TYPE OF FACILITY:

MAP NUMBER: G-3

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

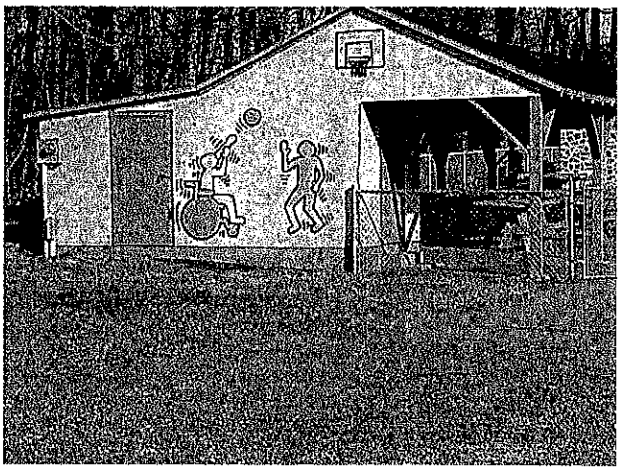
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

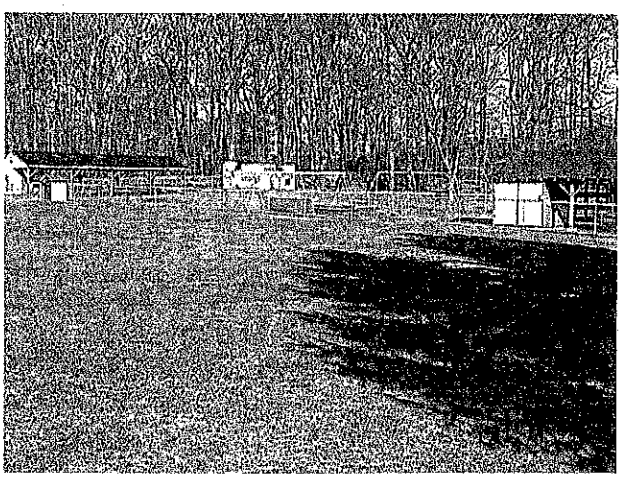
TOTAL AREA (ACRES):

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES: Kids/Special Needs?

1. Pavilions (2)
2. Sheds (2)
3. Bathrooms (1)
4. Mini Basketball Hoop
5. Swingsets (3)
6. Puppet Theater (?)/Fort
7. Tot-Lot
8. Sandbox with 2 Digging Toys (Seated)
9. Ball Funnel
10. Walkways
11. Seating
12. Small Baseball Field with Backstop
13. Small Swimming Pool with Showers and Changing Stalls
14. Greenhouse Framing
15. Building – Open Inside with Furniture
16. Provisions for Children with Special Needs
17. Passive Recreation Area
18. No Exterior Lighting

NOTE: Camp Jolly/Camp Lily are located within Lower Alsace Township.





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Mount Penn Reserve**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Greenway/Passive Recreation Area

MAP NUMBER: G-3

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading plus others

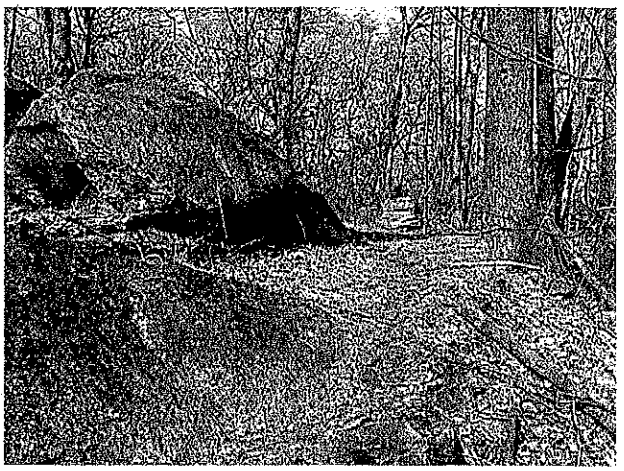
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading plus others

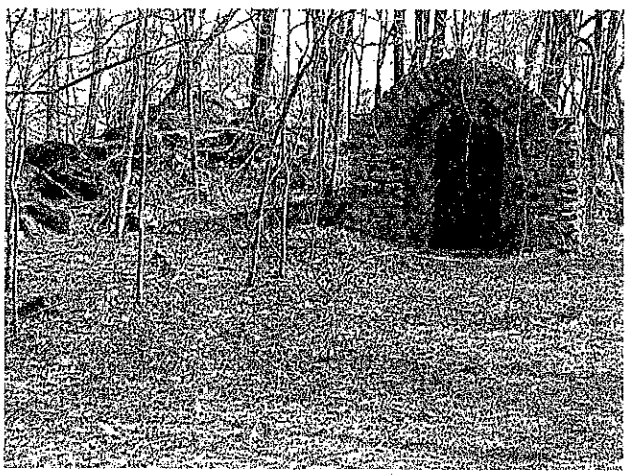
TOTAL AREA (ACRES):

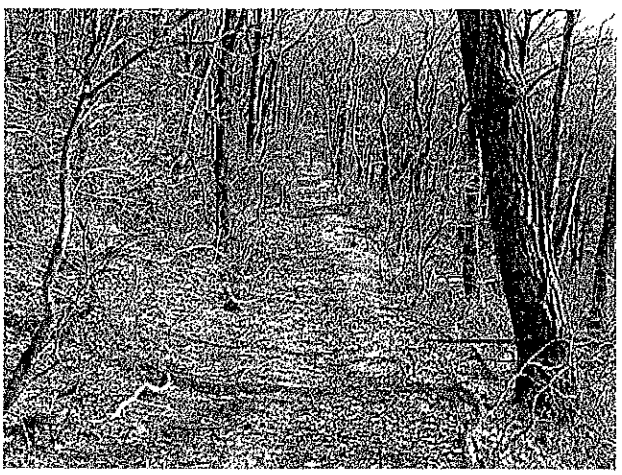
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Passive Recreation Area
2. Pagoda
3. Observation Tower
4. Drenkel Field
5. Rotary Park
6. Camp Jolly/Camp Lily
7. Hiking/Biking Trails with fireplaces
8. Seating and Tables
9. Trash Receptacles
10. Earl Building

NOTE: The Mt. Penn Reserve is located with the City of Reading and Lower Alsace Township







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-3

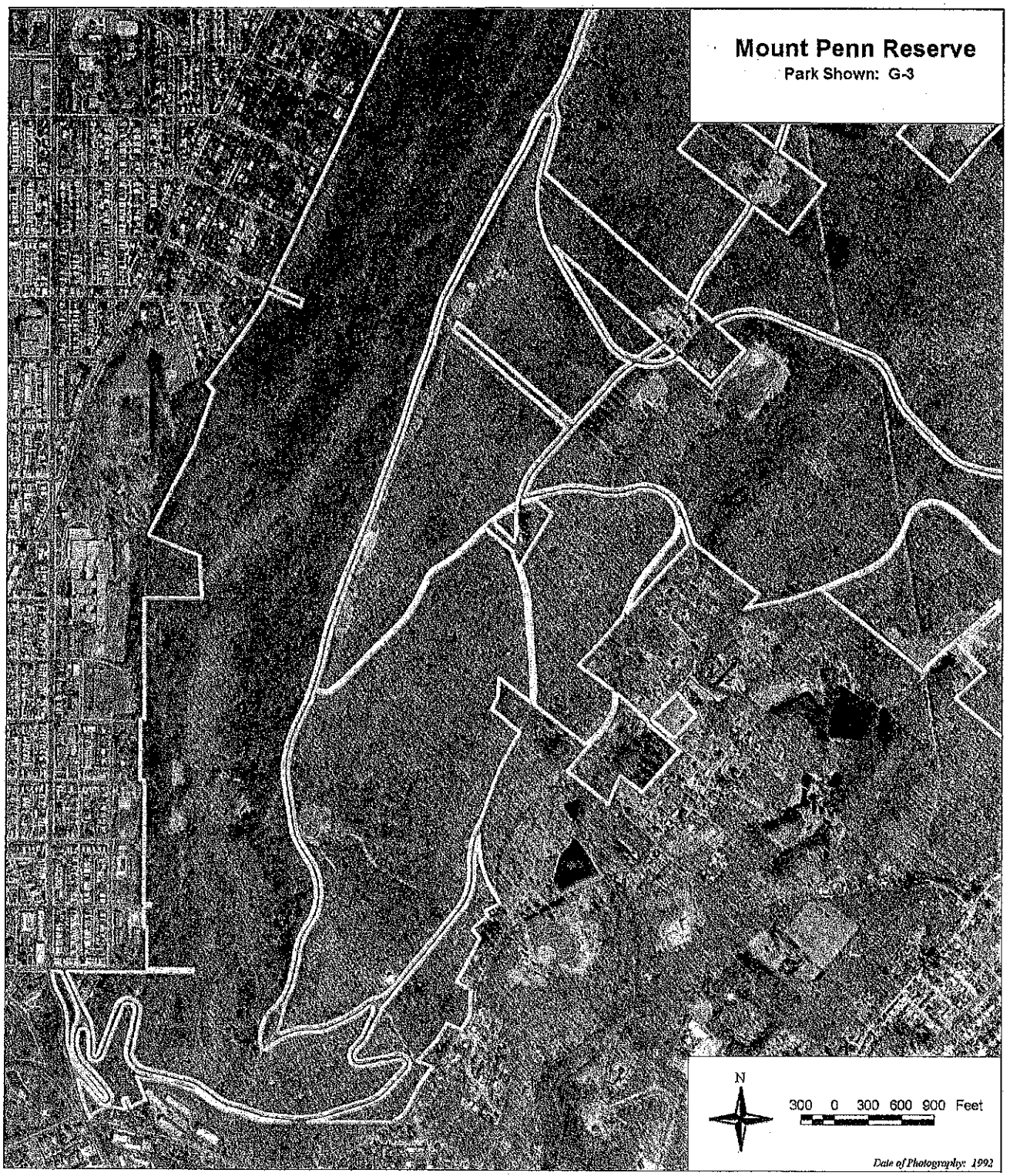
NAME OF AREA: **Mount Penn Reserve** **MAP NUMBER:** **G-3**

ADJACENT LAND USES: Conservation; Woodland; Residential

EXISTING LINKAGES: Hampden Park; Mineral Spring Park; City Park; Hillside Park; Reading High School; Lower Alsace Township
POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Numerous Regional Linkages

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Hiking/Biking Trails Seating, Tables, and Fireplaces Along Trails	Excellent condition. Numerous trails with a variety of challenges/skill levels. Trails should be linked with existing park system to enhance regional opportunities (High Priority).
Trash Receptacles Passive Recreation Area	Good condition. Excellent condition. Areas contain significant woodland areas and steep slopes. Trail system should be linked and include facilities, vista points, and improved trails.
Pagoda Observation Tower	Excellent historic structure (contains restrooms). Being restored (outside of Reading, in Lower Alsace).
Drenkel Field Rotary Park	Good condition. Excellent condition (in Lower Alsace).
Scenic Area	Excellent condition. Three overlook areas to view the City of Reading and Berks County; steep slopes.
Parking	Located at: Stone area at Antietam Lake Skyline pulloffs (paved) Observation Tower Pagoda Drenkel Field Reading High School Hampden Park

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-3



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Neversink Mountain Reserve**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Greenway/Passive Recreation Area

MAP NUMBER: G-4

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading plus others

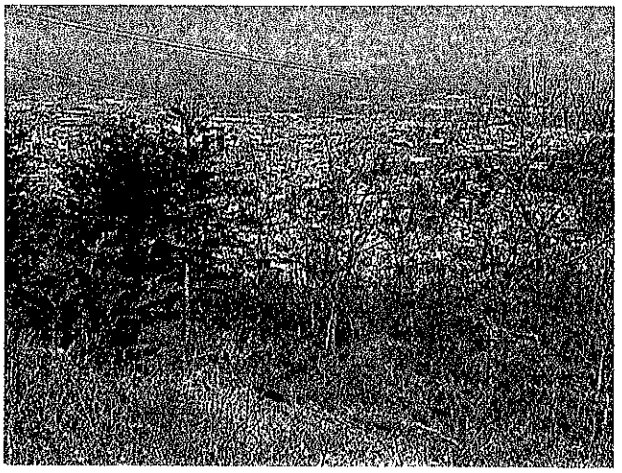
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading plus others

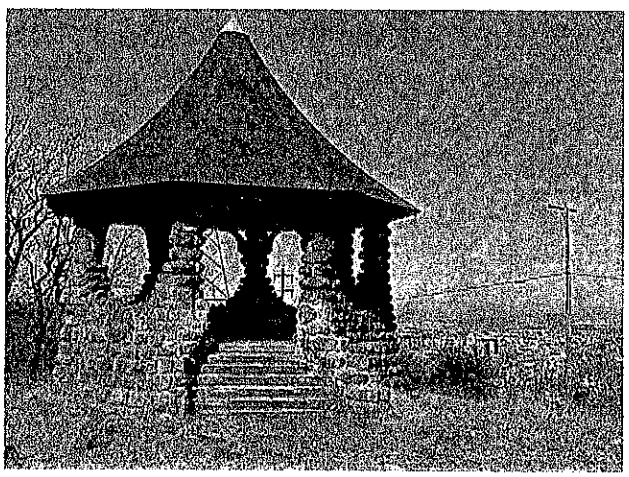
TOTAL AREA (ACRES):

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Hiking/Biking Trails
2. Schuylkill River
3. Gazebo (Stone) on Top
4. Woodland
5. Conservation/Open Space

NOTE: The Neversink Mountain Reserve is located within the City of Reading, Cumru Township, Lower Alsace Township, Exeter Township, Mr. Penn Borough, and St. Lawrence Borough.





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-4

NAME OF AREA: **Neversink Mountain Reserve** **MAP NUMBER:** **G-4**

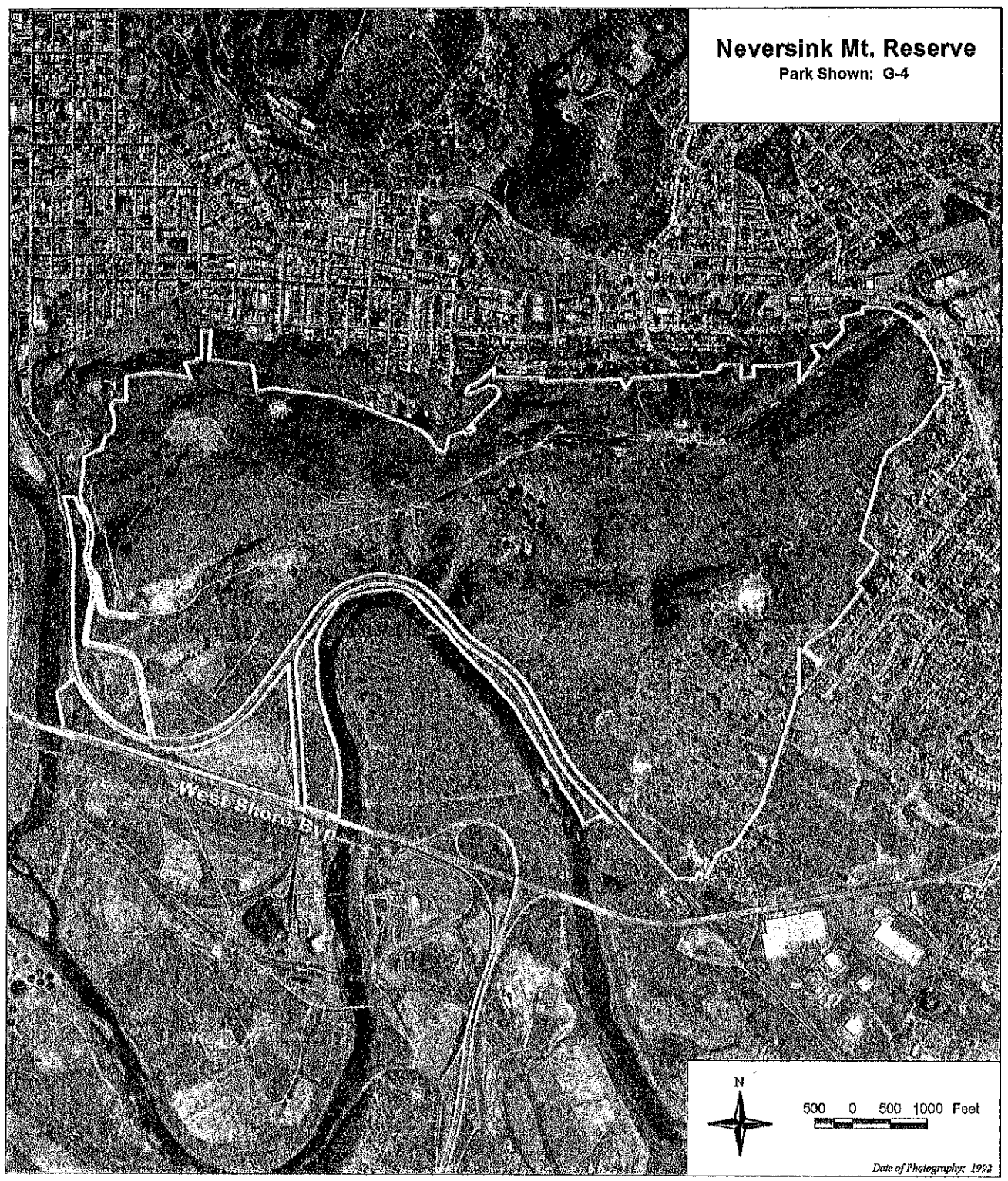
ADJACENT LAND USES: **Conservation; Woodland; Residential; Schuylkill River; Commercial**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **Schuylkill River; Heritage Park; Neversink Playground**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **10th and South Playground; Berks County Trail System; Thun Trail; Reading Greenway; Numerous Regional Linkages**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Hiking/Biking Trails	Excellent condition. Numerous trails with a variety of challenges/skill levels. Potential trail system and linkages should be planned, designed, and constructed (High Priority).
Stone Gazebo	On top of mountain, in excellent condition.
Schuylkill River on Cumru Side	Most of this area is in Cumru/Lower Alsace. Significant area is within the 100- and 500-year floodplain.
Parking	Parking available at Tenth and South Playground and Neversink Playground.
Passive Recreation Areas	Woodlands; steep slopes; conservation uses.

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-4



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Reading Greenway**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Greenway/Linear Park

MAP NUMBER: G-5

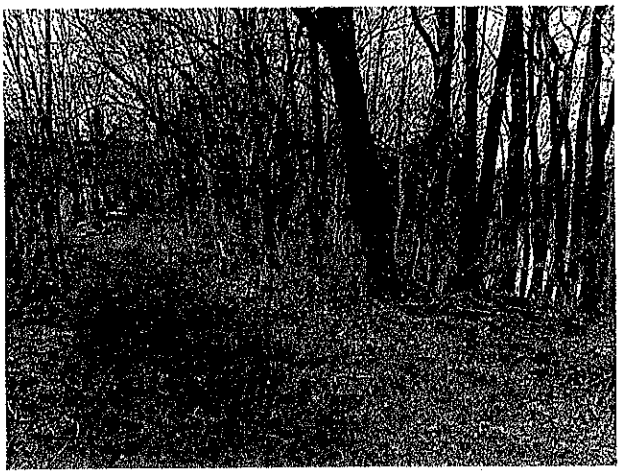
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES):

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Schuylkill River
2. Tulpehocken Creek
3. Walking Trail



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-5

NAME OF AREA: Reading Greenway **MAP NUMBER:** G-5

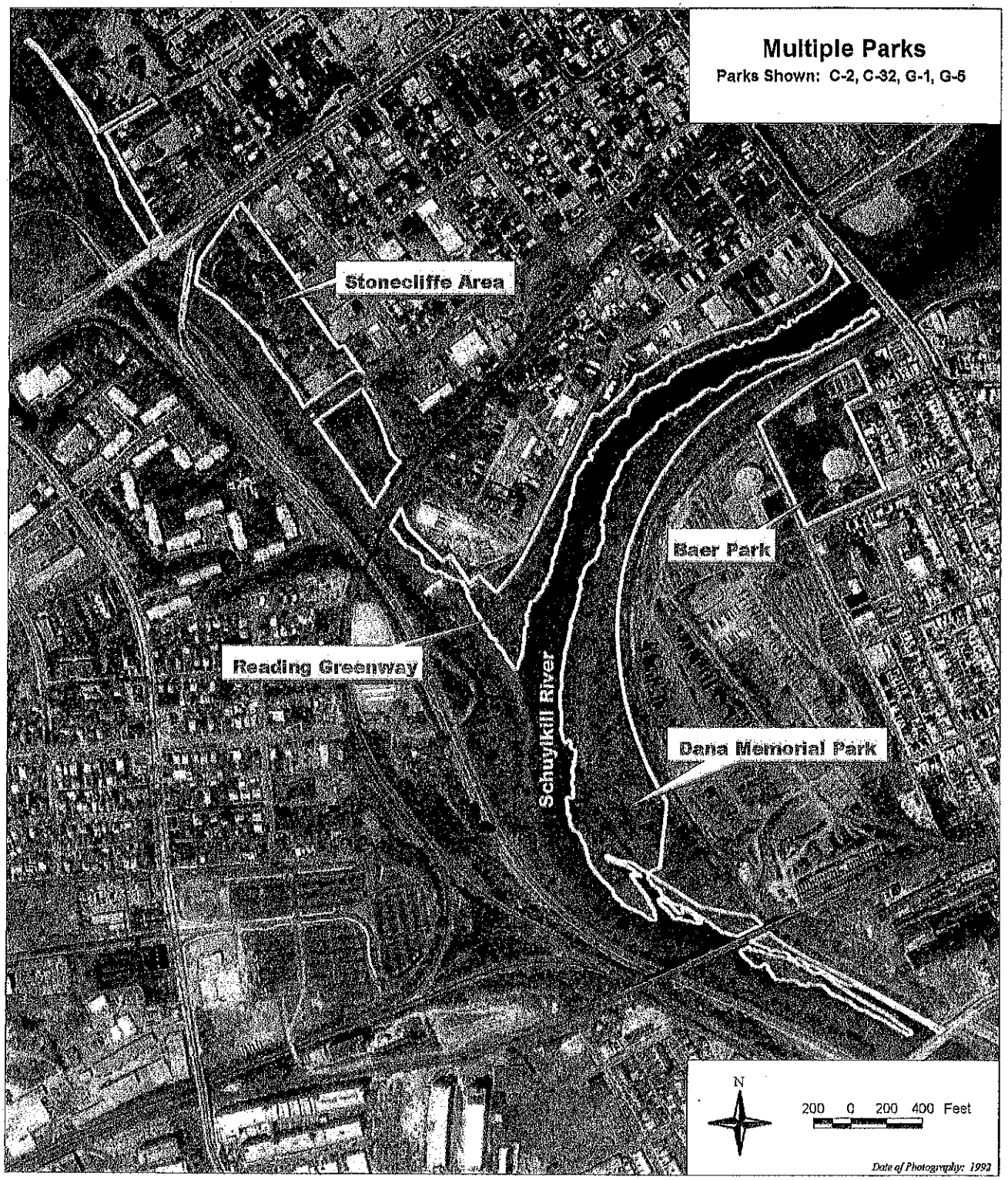
ADJACENT LAND USES: Conservation; Residential; Commercial; Industrial

EXISTING LINKAGES: Stonecliffe Recreation Area; Berks County Trail System

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Dana Memorial Park; Baer Park; Glenside Housing Playground; Railroad

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Hiking/Biking Trail	In good condition; enhances facilities. Has potential for multiple activities. Trail system should be planned, designed, and constructed to link other regional trails (High Priority).
Schuylkill River and Tulpehocken Creek	Confluence of Tulpehocken Creek and the Schuylkill River – excellent location (on west side of Schuylkill River). Most of the area is within the 100-year floodplain.
No Restrooms No Parking	Parking available at Stonecliffe, but not a nice walk to this facility.

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-5



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Reading Greenway**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Greenway/Linear Park

MAP NUMBER: G-6

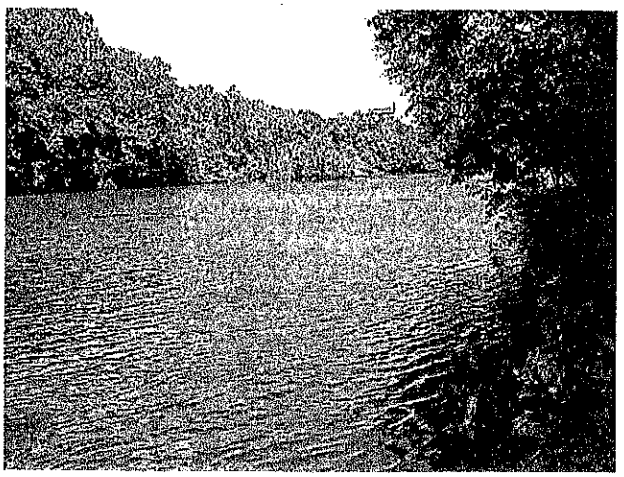
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES):

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Schuylkill River
2. Woodlands
3. Conservational Uses
4. Paved Trails



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-6

NAME OF AREA: Reading Greenway **MAP NUMBER:** G-6

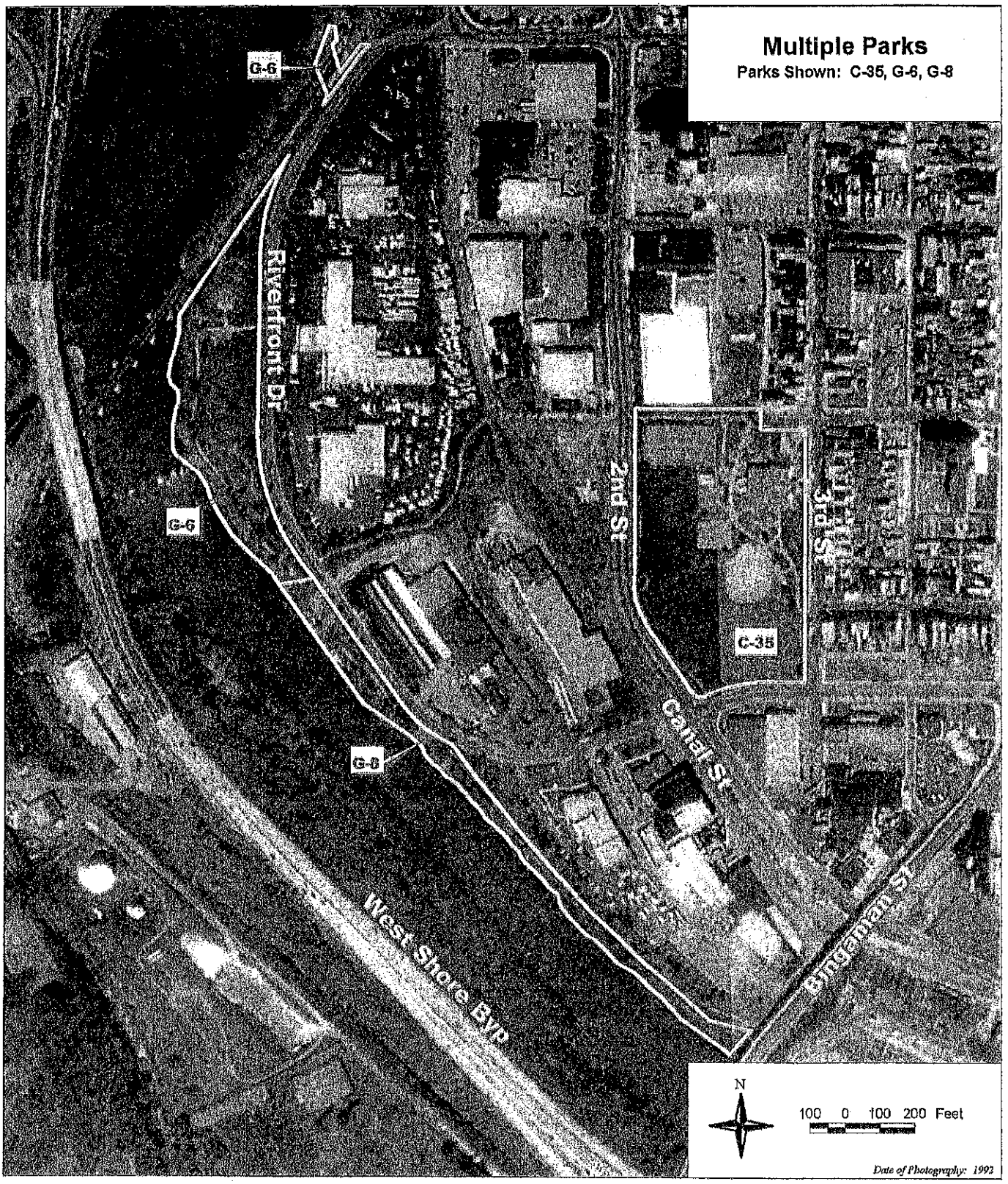
ADJACENT LAND USES: Quasi-Public; Commercial; Industrial; Conservation

EXISTING LINKAGES: Riverfront Park; Reading Area Community College

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Dana Memorial Park; Schlegel Park; Third and Spruce Recreation Center; Berks County Trail System

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Paved Walking Areas	In excellent condition; potential for recreational linkages.
Restrooms inside RACC	
Parking	Parking available on street or at RACC.
Schuylkill River	Area is within the limits of the 100-year floodplain.

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-6



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Riverdale Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Greenway/Linear Park

MAP NUMBER: G-7

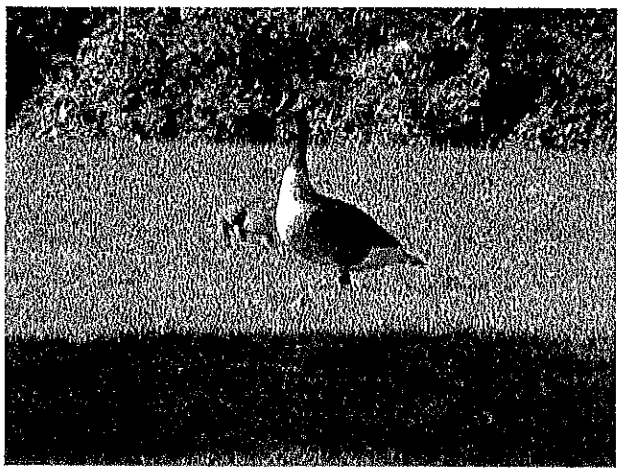
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

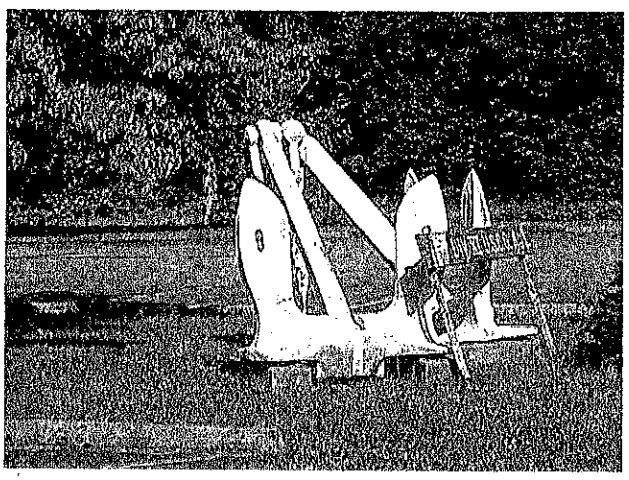
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

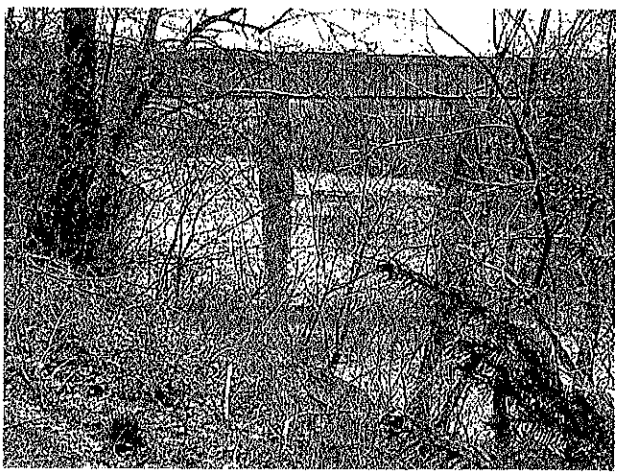
TOTAL AREA (ACRES):

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Open Space
2. Coast Guard Center
3. Paved Parking at Coast Guard Center
4. Hiking Trails (Undefined)
5. Schuylkill River
6. Conservational Uses
7. Passive Recreational







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-7

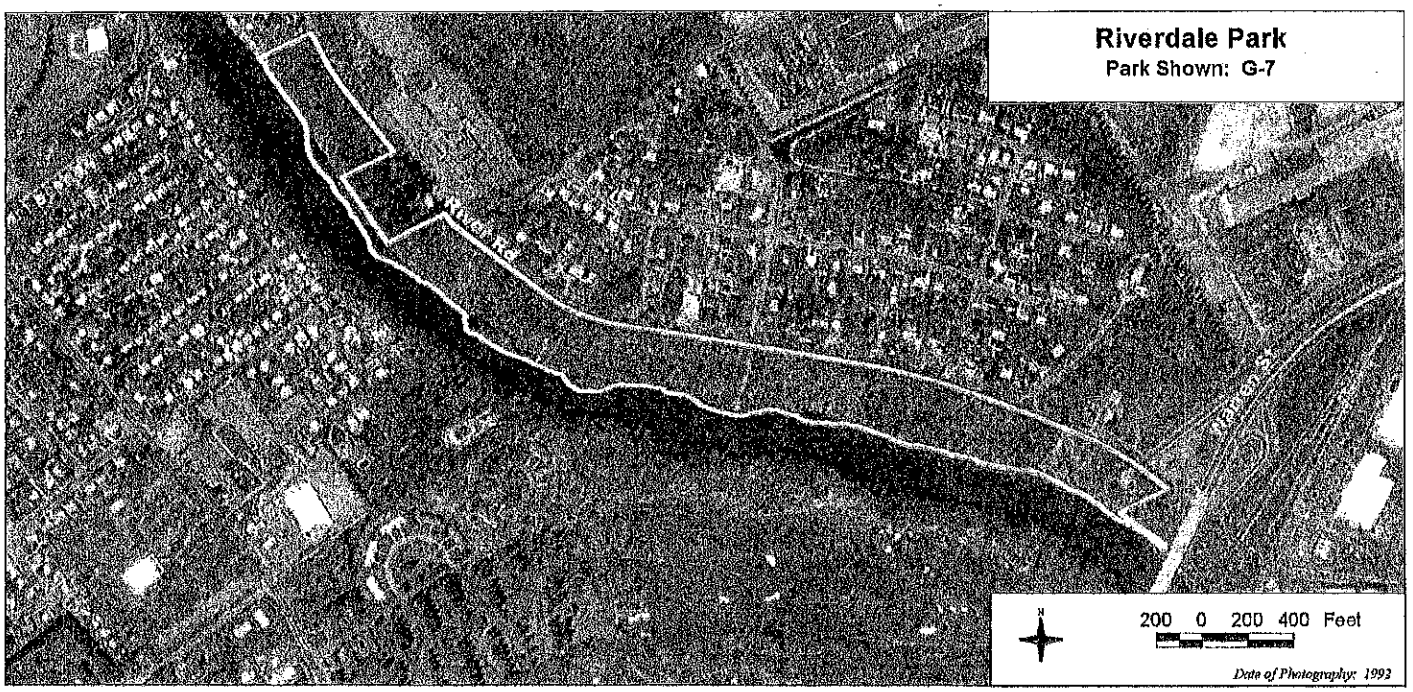
NAME OF AREA: Riverdale Park **MAP NUMBER:** G-7

ADJACENT LAND USES: Conservation; Woodland; Residential; Quasi-Public

EXISTING LINKAGES: No Recreation Linkages

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Muhlenberg Trail/Park System; Berks County Trail System; GPU Stadium; Reading Greenway

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Hiking Trails Schuylkill River Open Space	Excellent condition. Potential for recreation linkages. Park is located within the 100-year floodplain. Regional trail system should be planned, designed, and constructed (High Priority).
No Boat Launch No Restrooms	Potential for boat launch does exist near the Coast Guard Center.
Parking	At Coast Guard Center (paved).



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Riverfront Park**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Greenway/Linear Park

MAP NUMBER: G-8

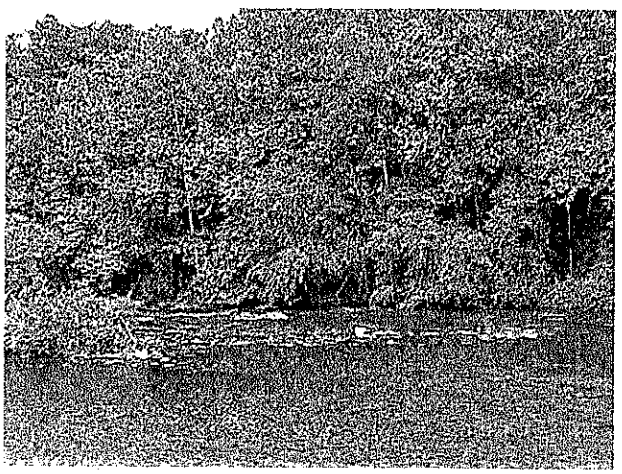
OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

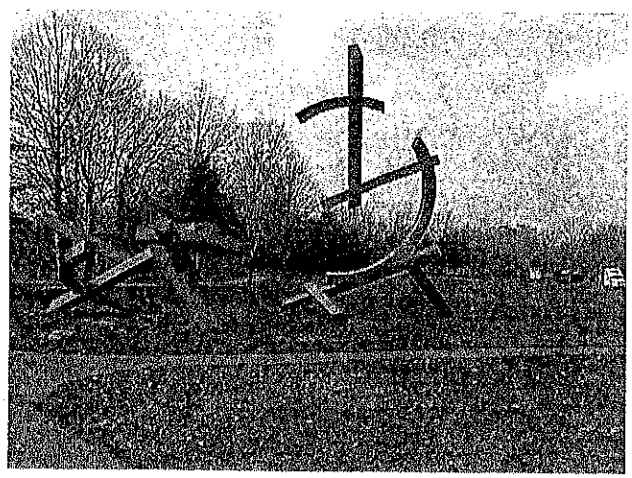
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 7.00

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Art Work
2. Schuylkill River
3. Boat Launch
4. Macadam Trails
5. Pavilion
6. Drinking Fountain
7. Seating
8. Picnic Tables
9. Security Lighting
10. Limited Off-Street Parking – 10 Spaces





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-8

NAME OF AREA: **Riverfront Park** **MAP NUMBER:** **G-8**

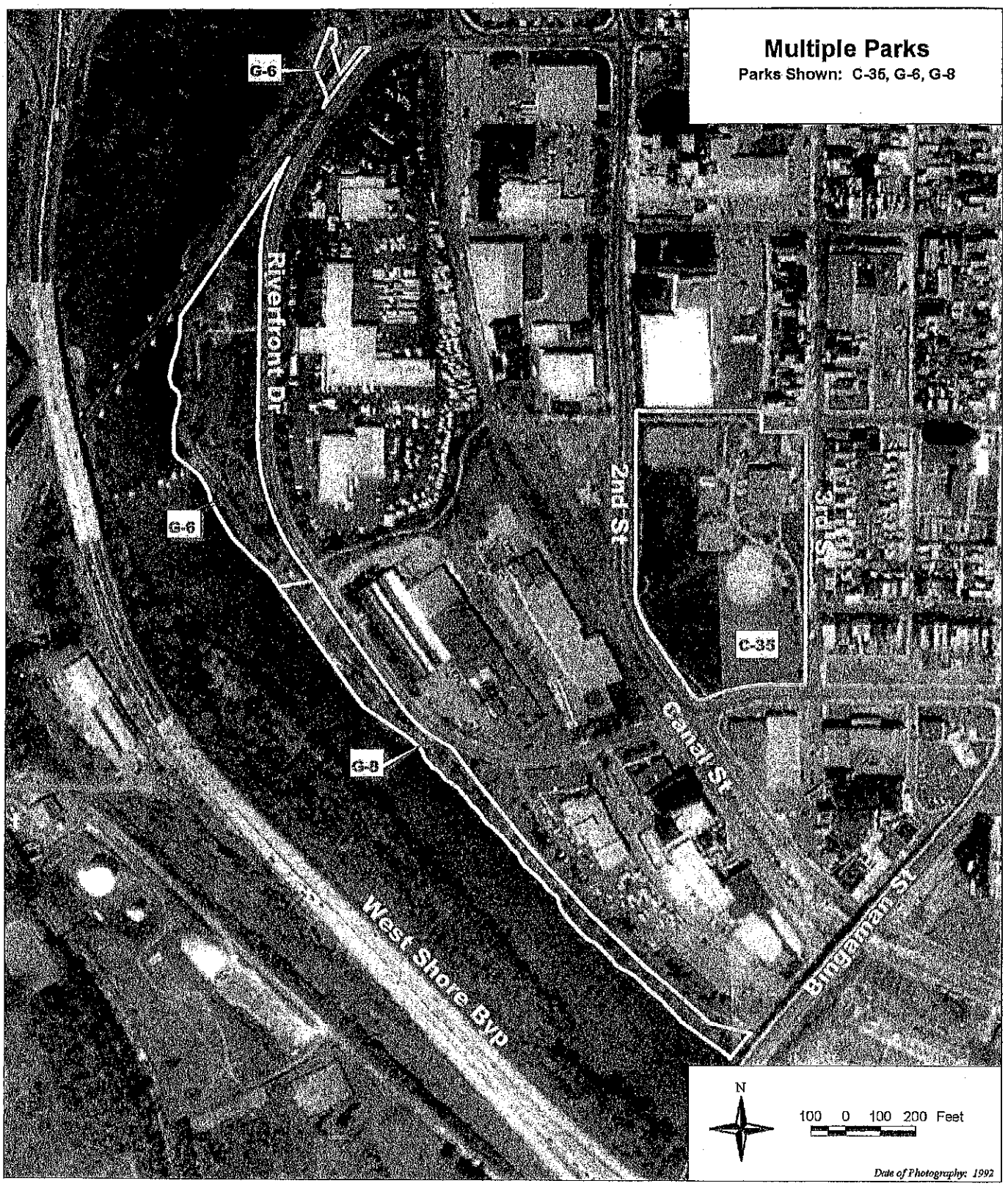
ADJACENT LAND USES: Quasi-Public; Industrial; Railroad

EXISTING LINKAGES: Schuylkill River; Reading Greenway; Reading Area Community College

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: Dana Memorial Park; Berks County Trail System; Thun Trail; Third and Spruce Recreation Center

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Art Work	Aesthetic value.
Macadam Trails	Excellent condition. Should be planned, designed, and constructed to link other regional trails.
Boat Launch	Dirt; in fair condition. Could be improved to provide additional boating opportunities.
Schuylkill River	The water level is typically shallow. Park is located within the 100-year floodplain.
Pavilion	Good condition.
Seating	Good condition.
Picnic Tables	Good condition.
Drinking Fountain	Good condition.
Security Lights	Good
Parking	Limited off street parking (10 spaces) plus on-street parking. Additional parking could be provided by adjacent business community.
Future Planning	Could be developed and improved to provide festivals, concerts, and cultural events (High Priority).

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET G-8



APPENDIX E

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Administration Building**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Administration

MAP NUMBER: S-1

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

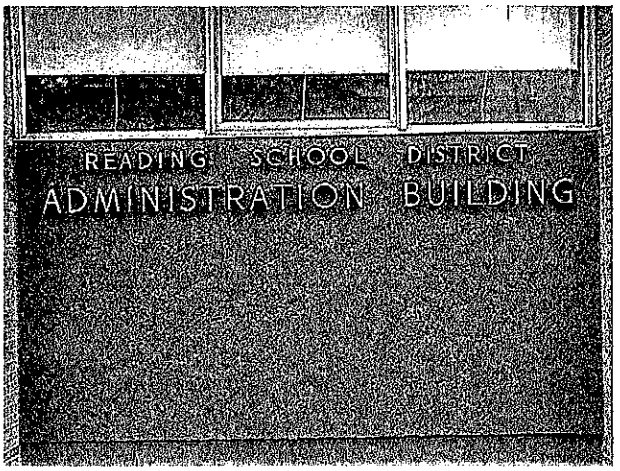
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

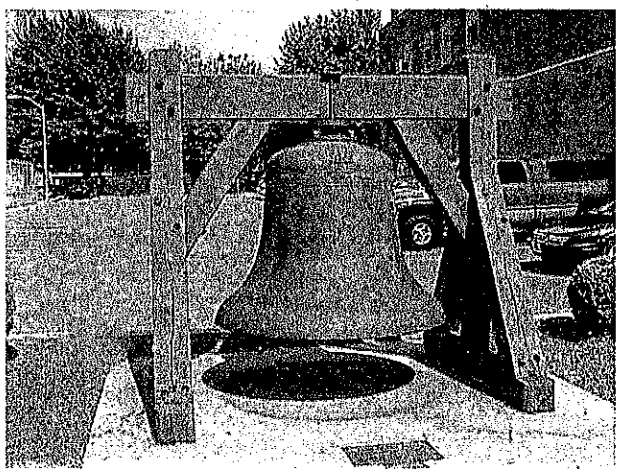
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.84

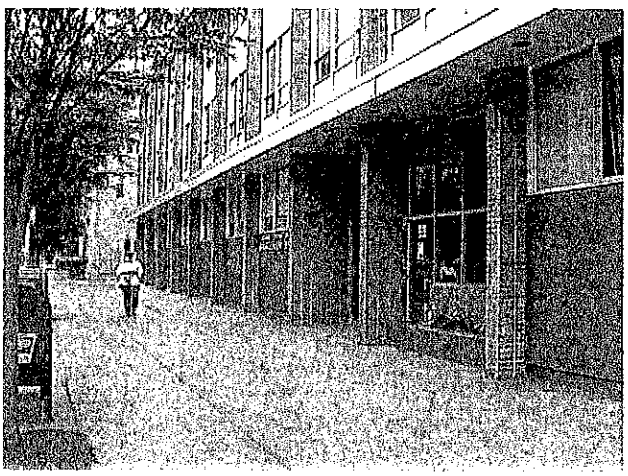
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

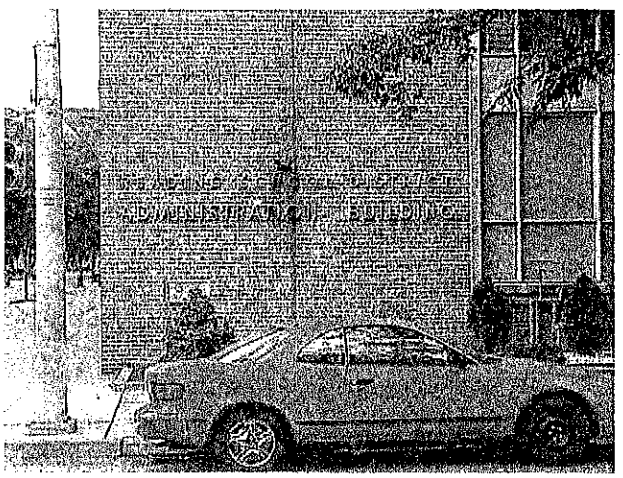
1. Administration Building
2. Offices
3. Parking

LINKAGES: City Hall; Cedar Street Park; Berks County Services Center, City Park









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Amanda Stoudt Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-2

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

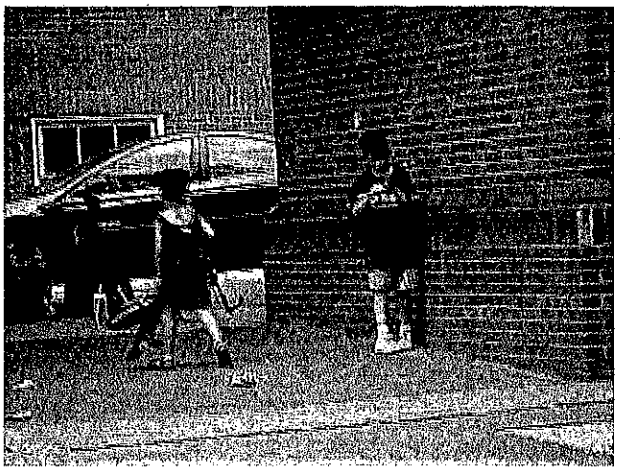
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

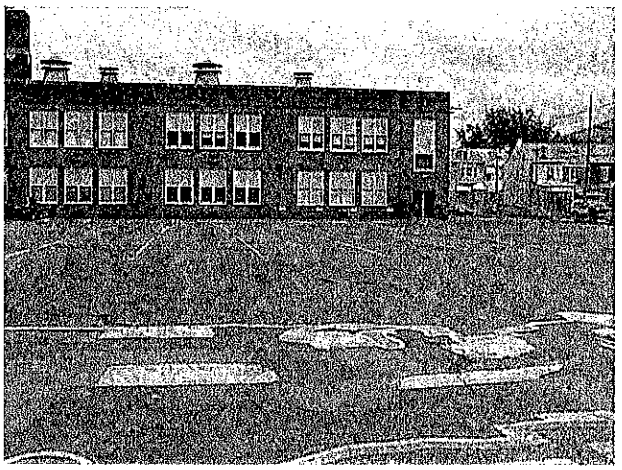
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 0.73

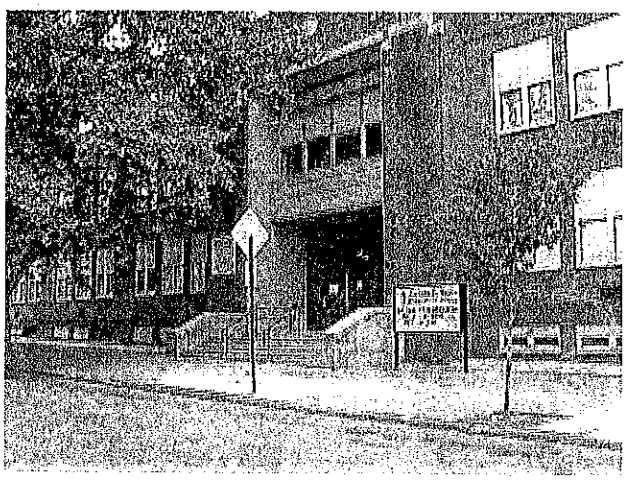
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

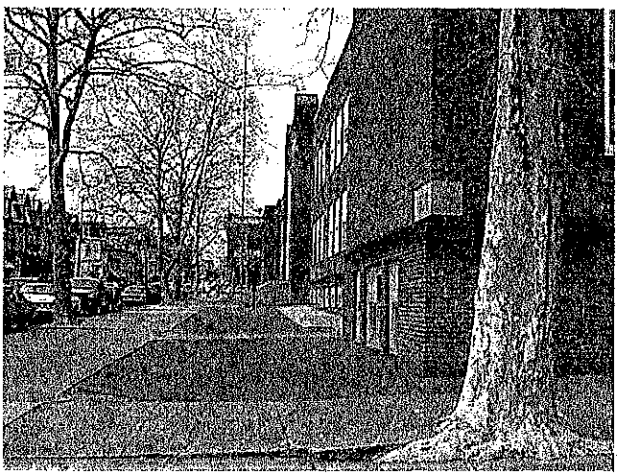
1. Elementary School Building
2. Off-Street Parking – 40±
3. Outdoor Recreation Facilities
4. Indoor Recreation Facilities

LINKAGES: Southern Middle School; Reading Iron Playground









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Glenside Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-3

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 8.95

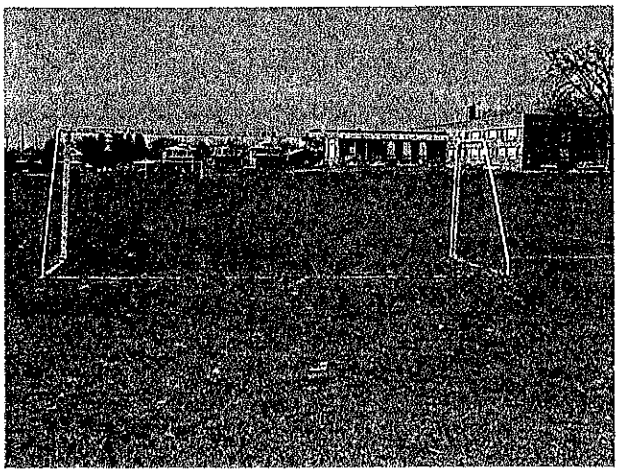
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

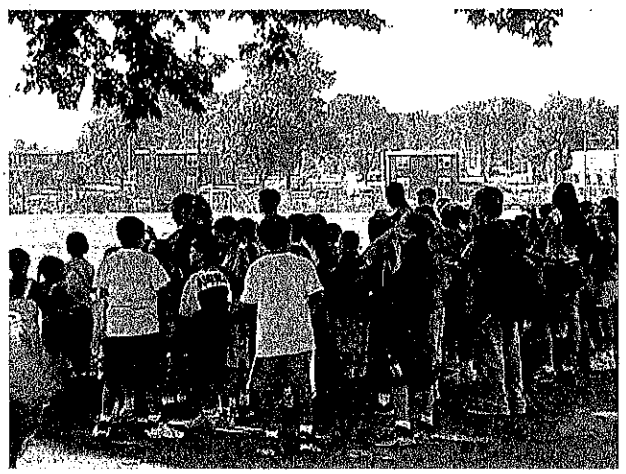
1. Elementary School Building
2. Swingsets (3) and Slide (1)
3. Small Bike Rack
4. Soccer Field (1)
5. Baseball Field (1)
6. Open Area
7. Basketball (1)

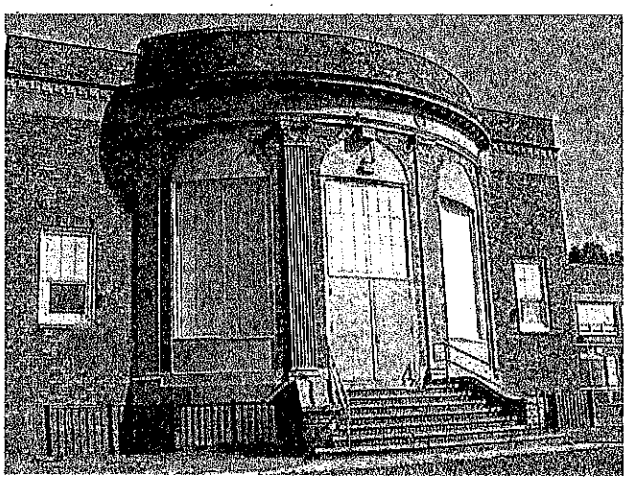
No Lights – Signs read "No Field Use Unless Authorized By School District"

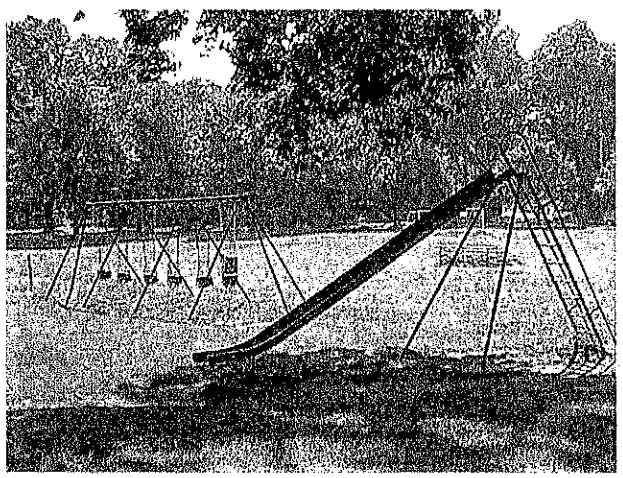
8. Paved Play Area
9. Parking ±25 Spaces for School

LINKAGES: Glenside Housing Playground; Schuylkill River; Reading Greenway









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Lauer's Park Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-4

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

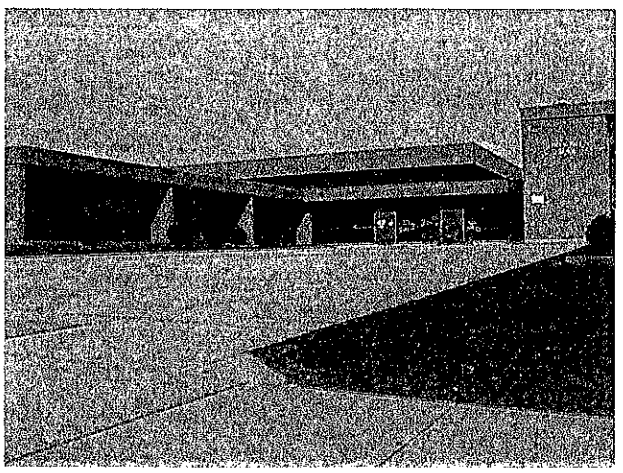
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

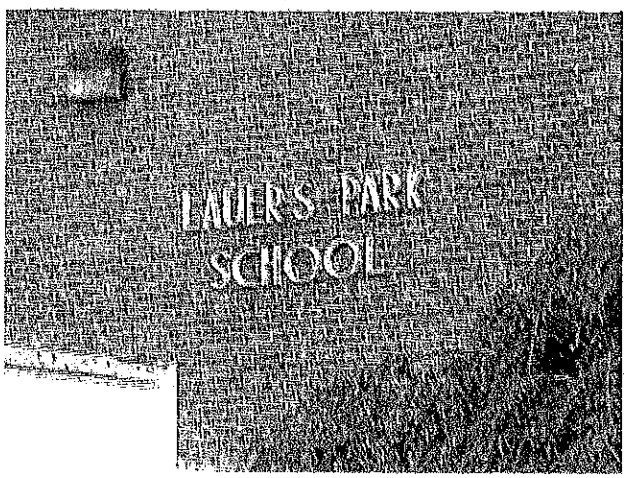
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 6.36

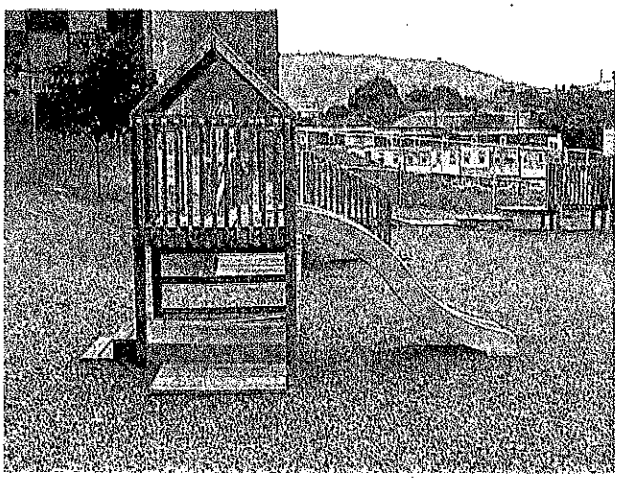
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Elementary School Building
2. Tot-Lot
3. Passive Open Space
4. Indoor Recreation Facilities
5. Outdoor Recreation Facilities

LINKAGES: Barbey's Playground; Reading Area Community College; Front and Schiller Playground; Dana Memorial Park







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Millmont Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-5

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

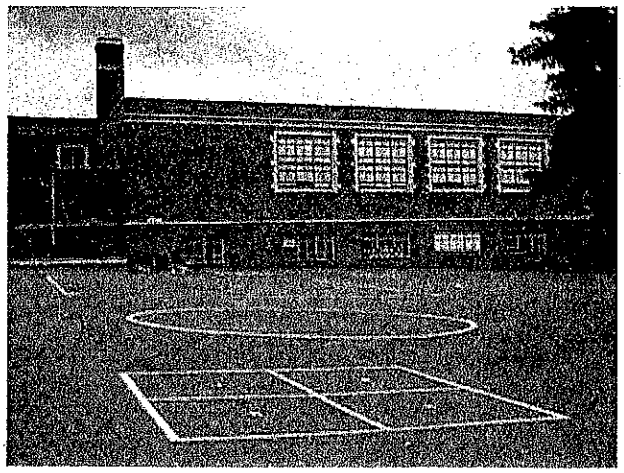
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

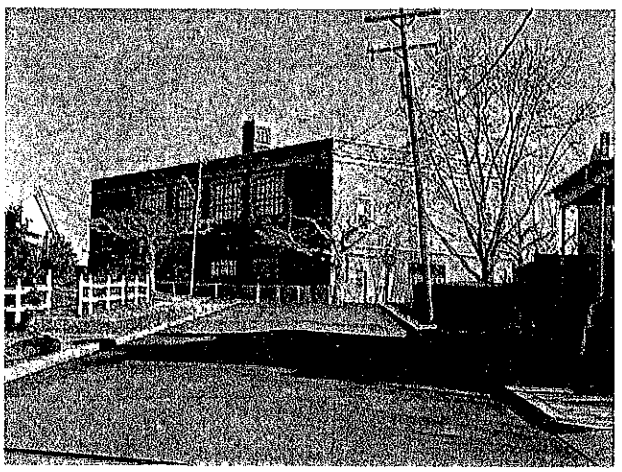
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 2.07

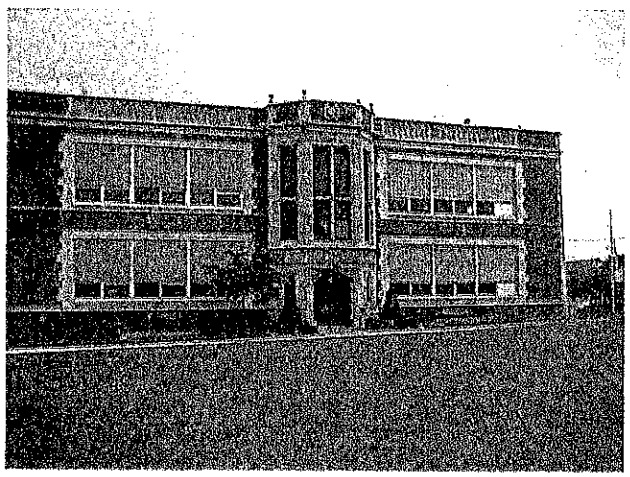
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

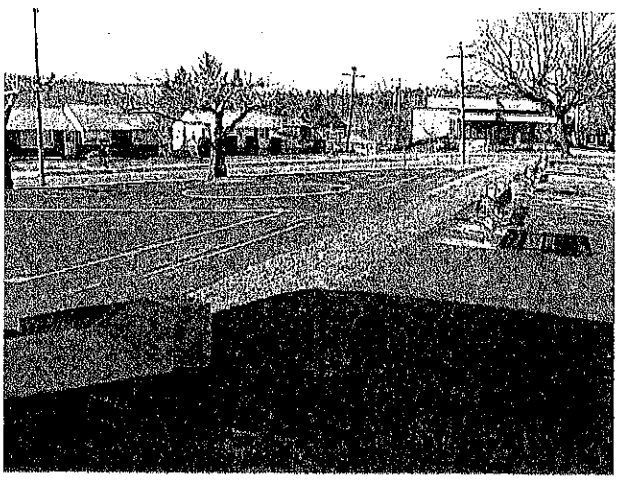
1. Elementary School
2. Macadam Court – Fenced
3. Open Macadam Playground with Markings – No Equipment
4. Benches
5. Indoor Recreation Facilities

LINKAGES: E. J. Dives Playground; Angelica Park; Schlegel Park; Thun Trail; Schuylkill River









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Northwest Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-6

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

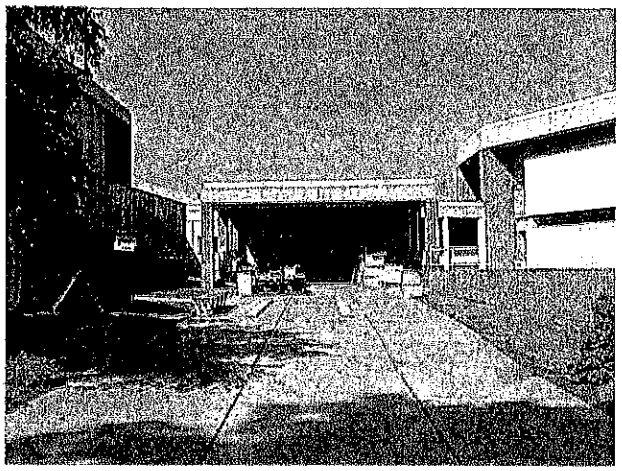
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

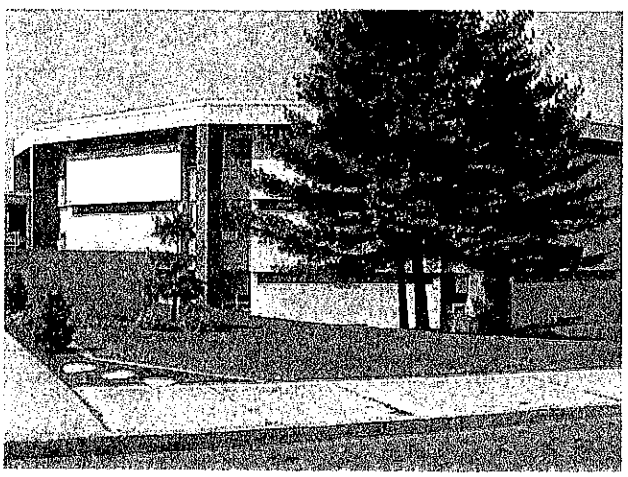
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.44

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Elementary School Building
2. Parking Spaces (20)
3. Indoor Recreation Facilities
4. Baer Park

LINKAGES: Baer Park; Dana Memorial Park; Schuylkill River; Reading Greenway, Windsor and Ritter Playground





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Riverside Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-7

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

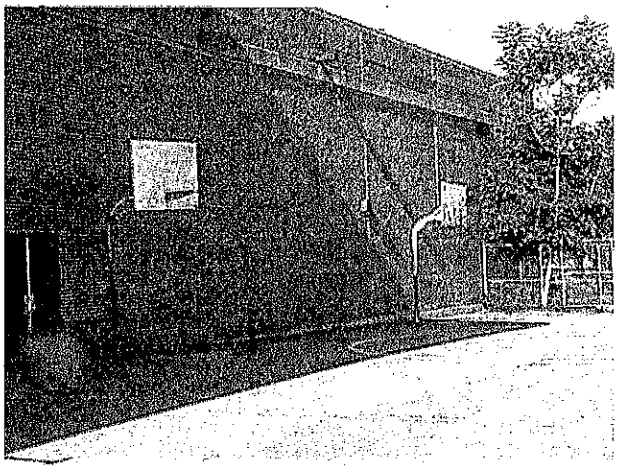
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

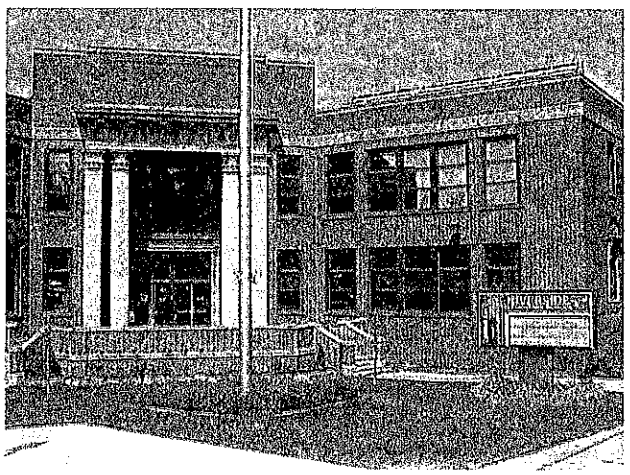
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.36

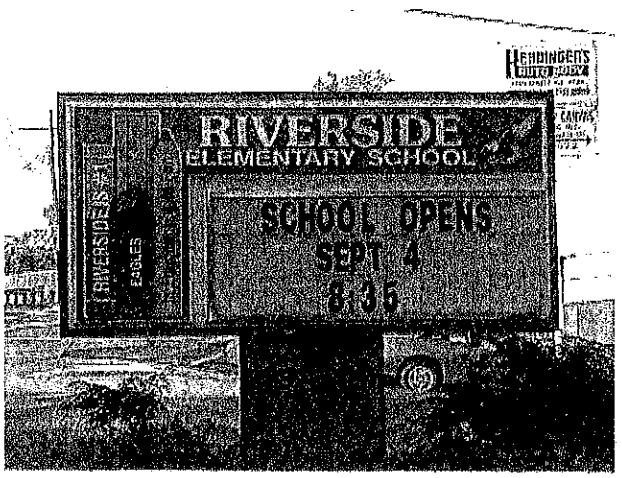
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Elementary School Building
2. Parking for ±75 Cars
3. Playground and Jungle Gym
4. Activity Center
5. Seating
6. Basketball Nets (2)
7. Outdoor Recreation Facilities
8. Indoor Recreation Facilities

LINKAGES: Centre Park Historical District; Schuylkill River; Riverdale Park; Keffer Park







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Sixteenth and Haak Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-8

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

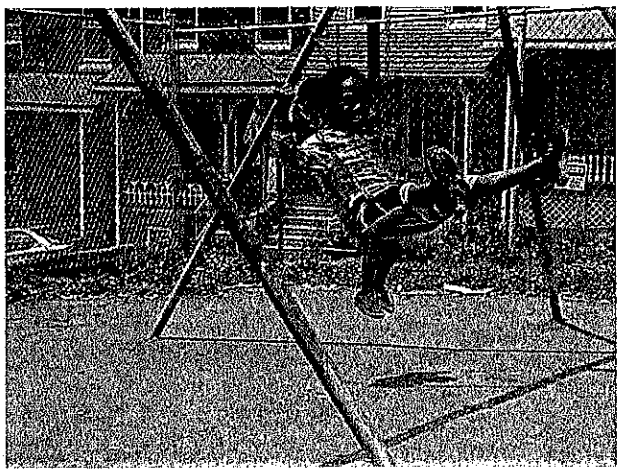
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

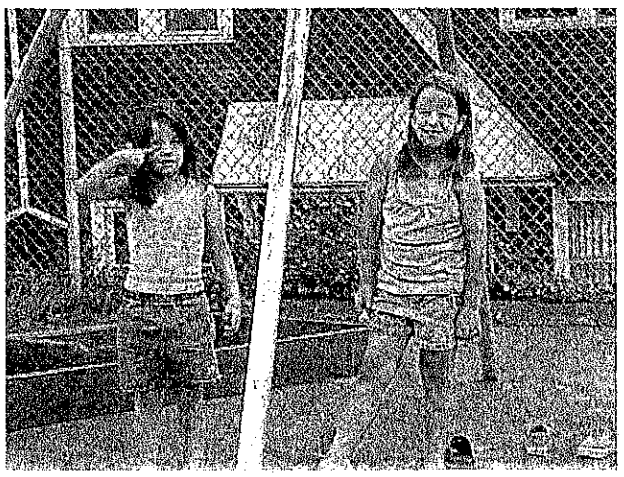
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 3.72

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Elementary School Building
2. Playground/Tot-Lot Equipment
3. Indoor Recreation Facilities
4. Outdoor Recreation Facilities
5. Swingset

LINKAGES: Pendora Playground; Mineral Spring Park; Neversink Mountain Preserve





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Tenth and Green Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-9

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

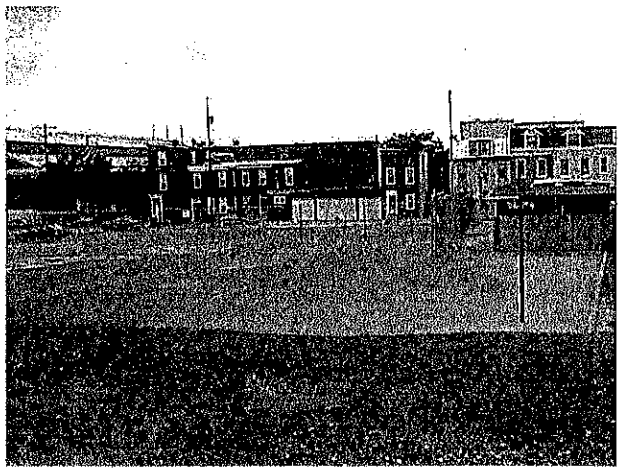
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

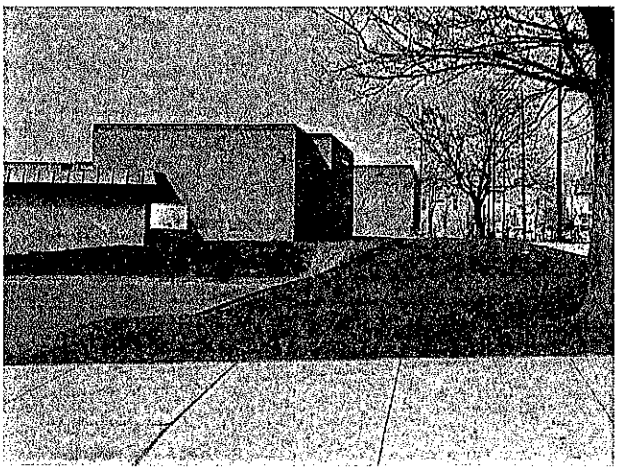
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 2.52

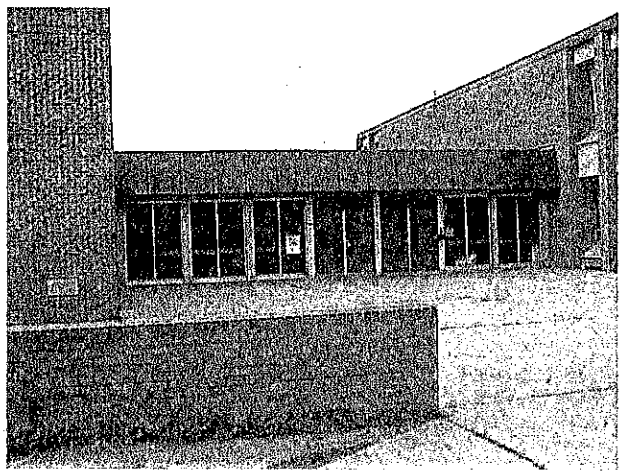
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Elementary School Building
2. Paved Outdoor Recreation Area
3. Seesaws (4)
4. Swingset (1)
5. Basketball (1) – Missing Backboard – No Lights
6. Parking – 40±
7. Indoor Recreational Facilities

LINKAGES: City Park; Hillside Playground







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Thirteenth and Green Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-10

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

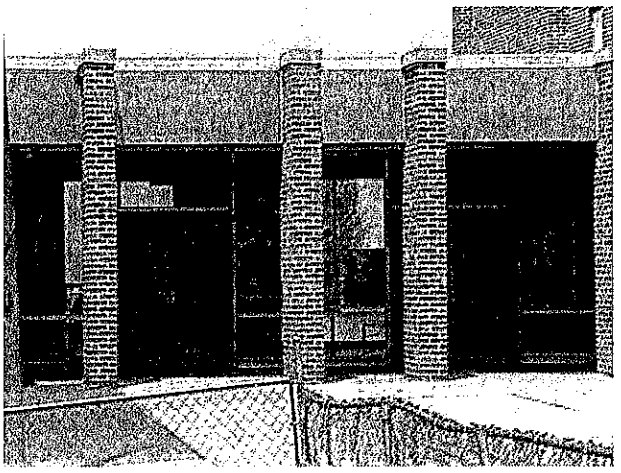
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

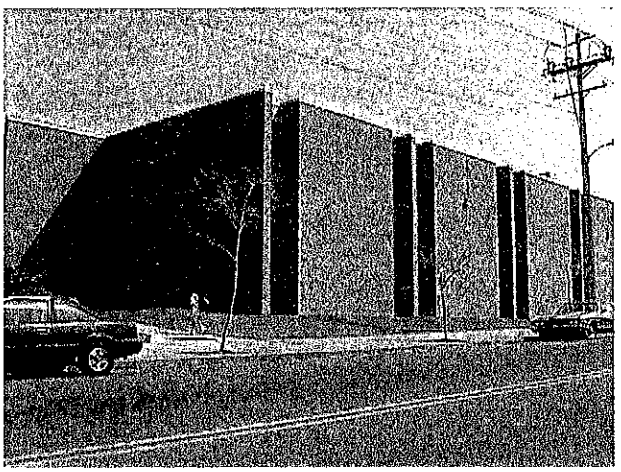
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 2.32

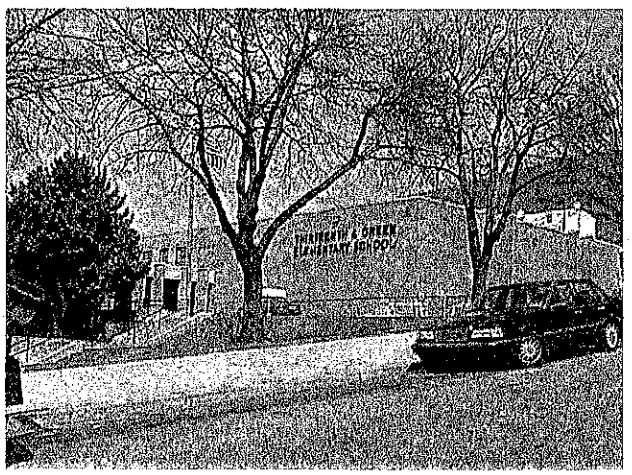
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

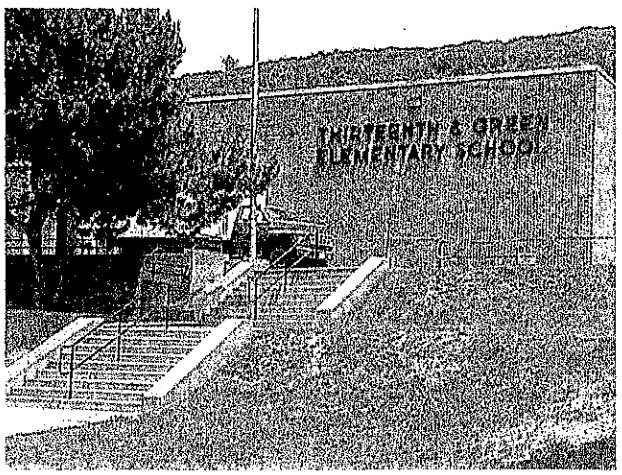
1. Elementary School Building
2. Parking for 40±
3. Indoor Recreational Facilities
4. Passive Recreation Area

LINKAGES: Hillside Playground; Hampden Park; Reading High School; Neversink Mountain Preserve; City Park









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Thirteenth and Union Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-11

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

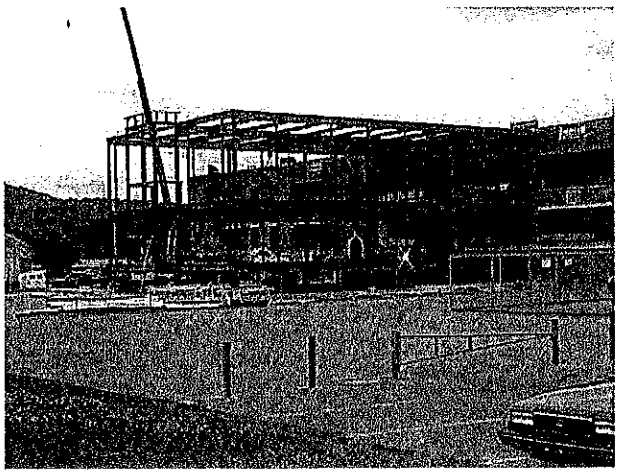
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

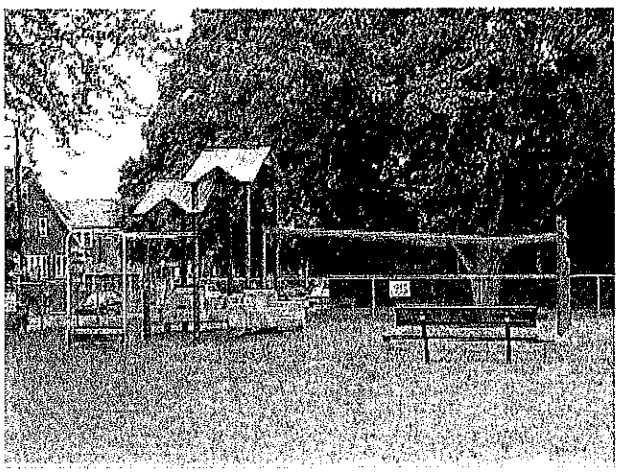
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 5.18

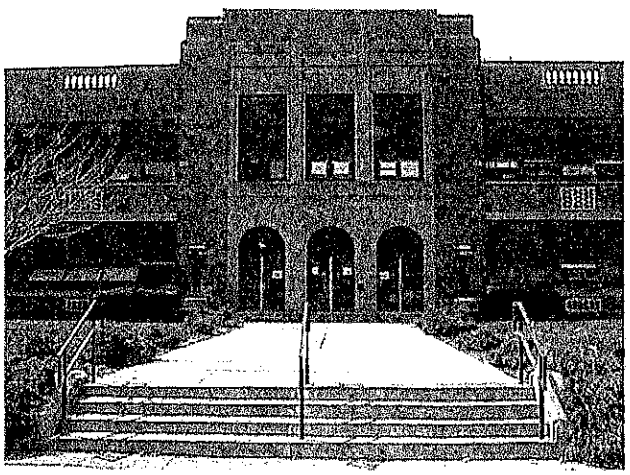
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

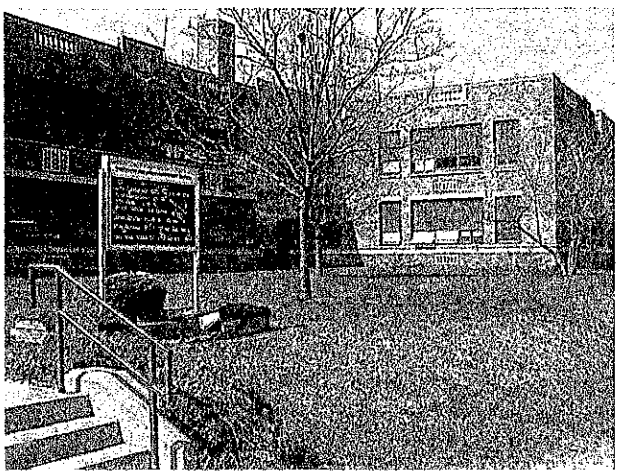
1. Elementary School
2. Baseball – No Lights (Rusty Backstop)
3. Playground and Activity Center
4. Indoor Recreation Facilities
5. Outdoor Recreation Facilities
6. Basketball Backboards (3) – No Baskets (1 Court)
7. Parking for ±24 (when construction complete ??)
8. Expansion in Progress

LINKAGES: Albright College; 11th and Pike Playground; Hampden Park; Neversink Mountain Preserve









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Thomas Ford Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-12

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

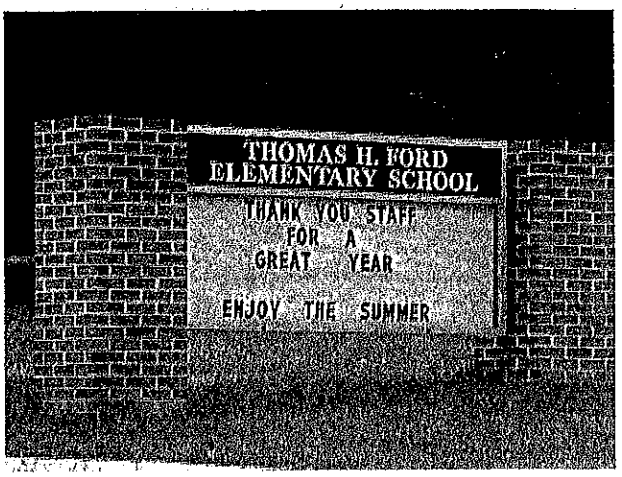
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

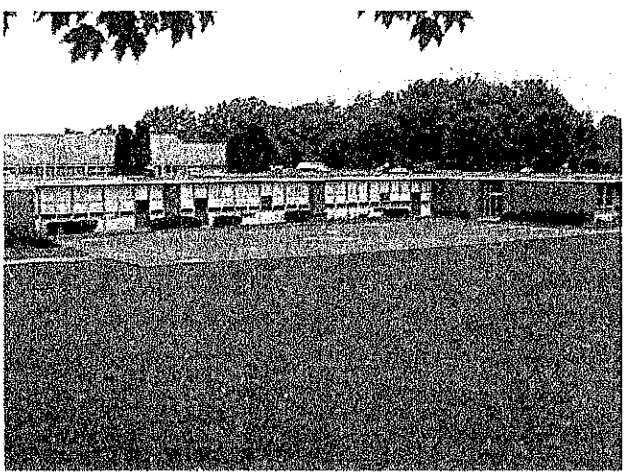
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 8.88

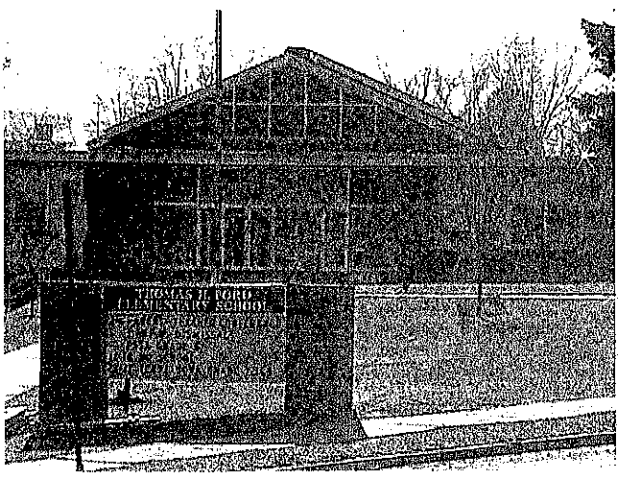
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Elementary School Building
2. Playground with 2 Swingsets and 1 Slide
3. Passive Recreation Area
4. Paved Play Area
5. Indoor Recreation Facilities

LINKAGES: Museum Tract; Holy Name High School; Schlegel Park; Oakbrook Housing Playground; West Reading Playground; Wyomissing Creek







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Twelfth and Marion Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School

MAP NUMBER: S-13

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

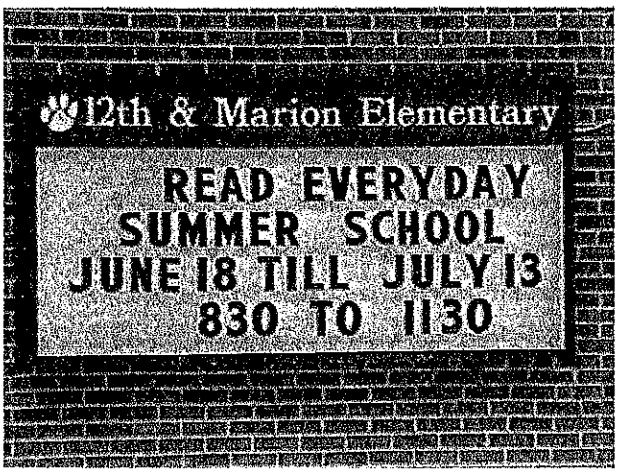
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

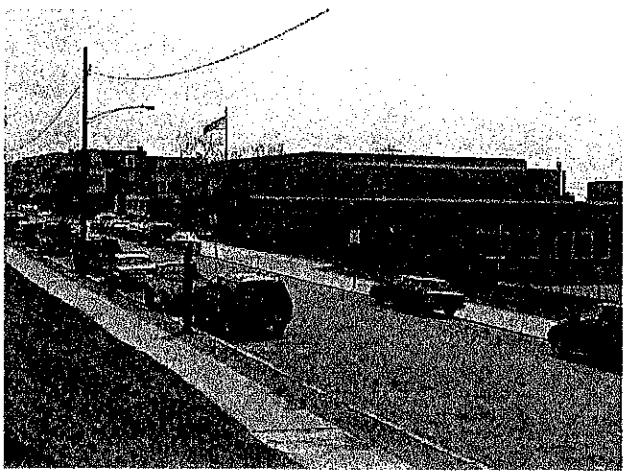
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 5.18

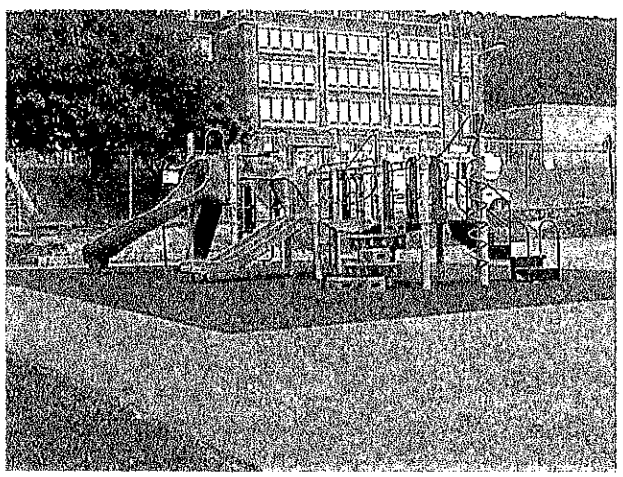
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Elementary School Building
2. Activity Center – No Lights
3. Ball Field – No Lights
4. Passive Recreation Area
5. Parking – Possibly for 100+
6. Indoor Recreation Facilities

LINKAGES: Northeast Middle School; 11th and Pike Playground; Hampden Park; Reading High School; Neversink Mountain Preserve; 9th and Marion Playground







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Tyson Shoener Elementary School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Elementary School Building

MAP NUMBER: S-14

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

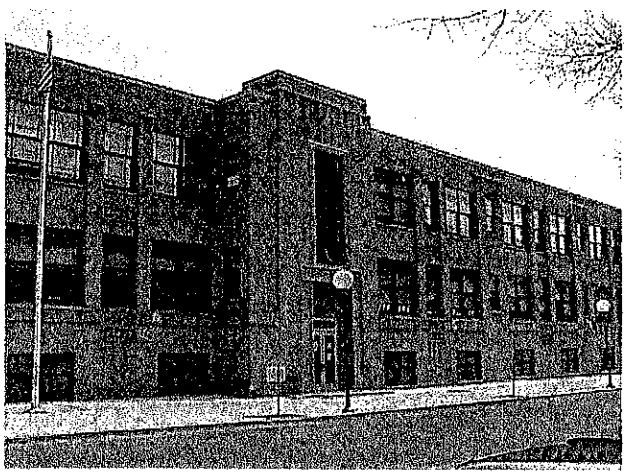
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 1.27

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Elementary School Building
2. Outdoor Recreation Facilities
3. Tot-Lot
4. Indoor Recreation Facilities

LINKAGES: Bingaman Plaza; Reading Iron Playground; Third and Spruce Recreation Center; Riverfront Park



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Northeast Middle School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Junior High School

MAP NUMBER: S-15

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

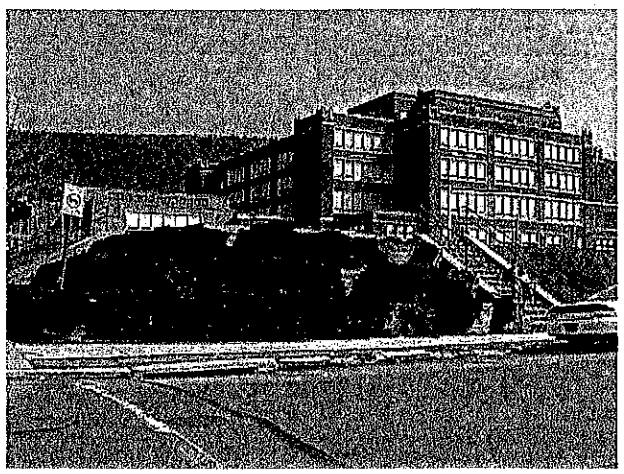
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

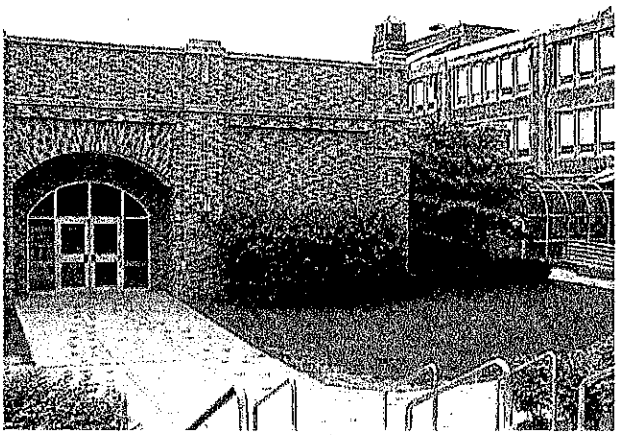
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 5.20

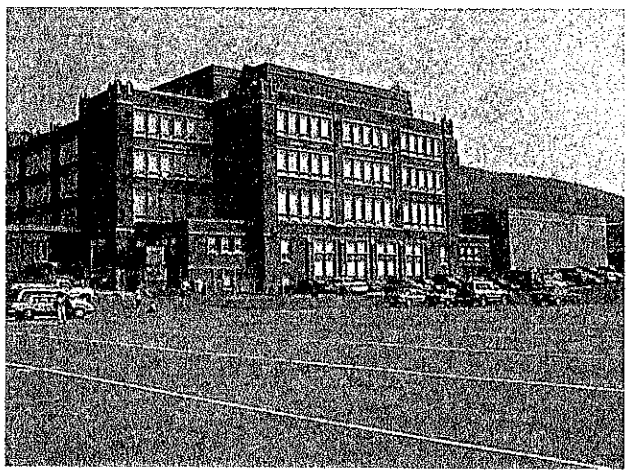
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

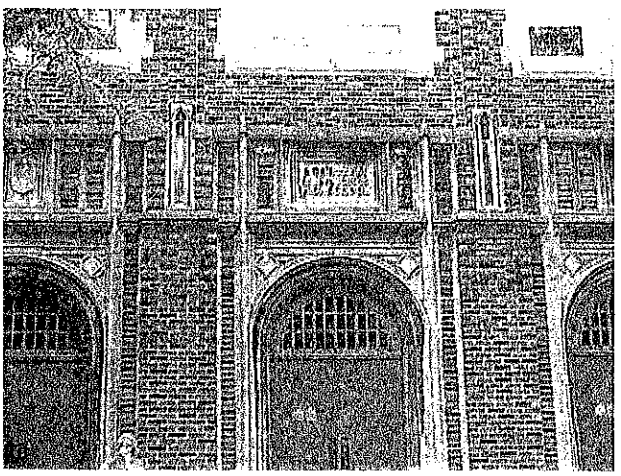
1. Middle School Building
2. Activity Center – No Lights
3. Ball Field – No Lights
4. Passive Open Space
5. Parking – Possibly for 100+
6. Outdoor Recreation Facilities
7. Indoor Recreation Facilities

LINKAGES: Hampden Park; Reading High School; 11th and Pike Playground; Neversink Mountain Preserve; 9th and Marion Playground









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Northwest Middle School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Junior High School

MAP NUMBER: S-16

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

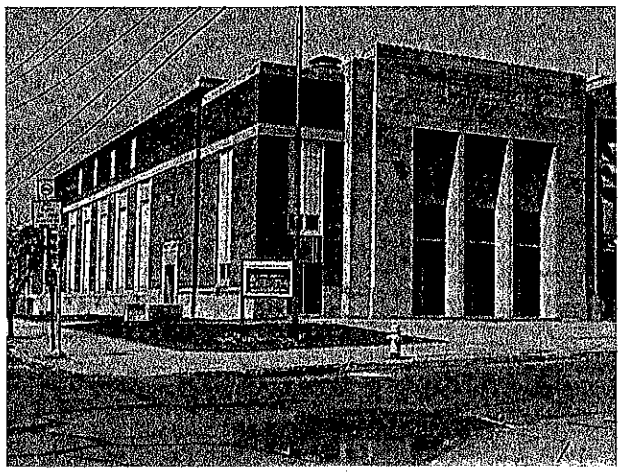
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

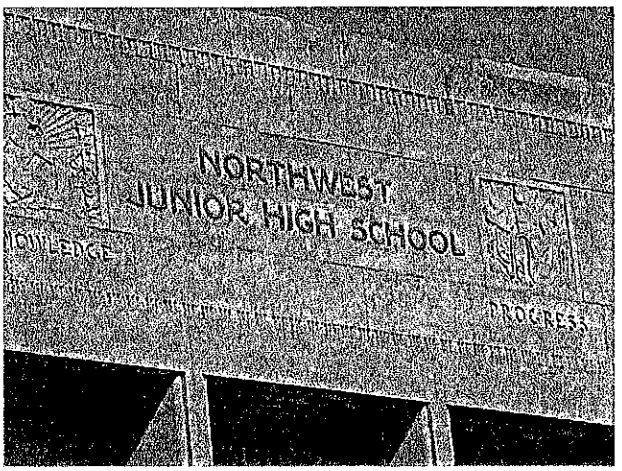
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 4.37

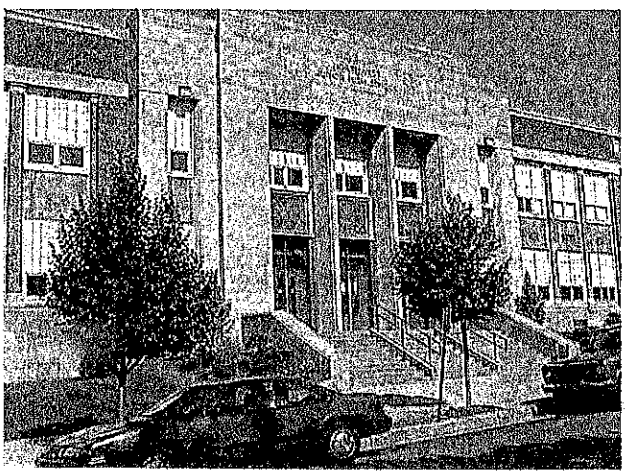
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

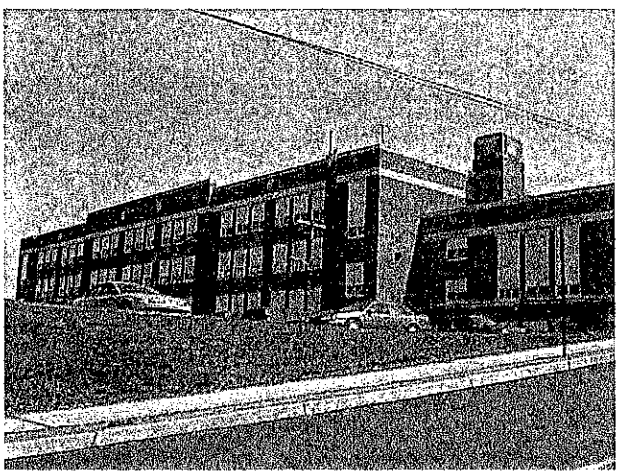
1. Middle School Building
2. Parking (80)
3. Passive Recreation Area
4. Indoor Recreation Facilities

LINKAGES: Windsor and Ritter Playground; 3rd and Spruce Playground; Centre Park Historical District; Schuylkill River; Dana Memorial Park









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Southern Middle School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Junior High School

MAP NUMBER: S-17

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

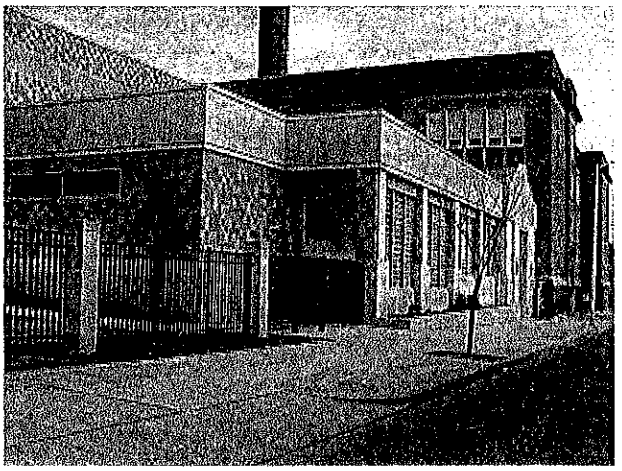
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

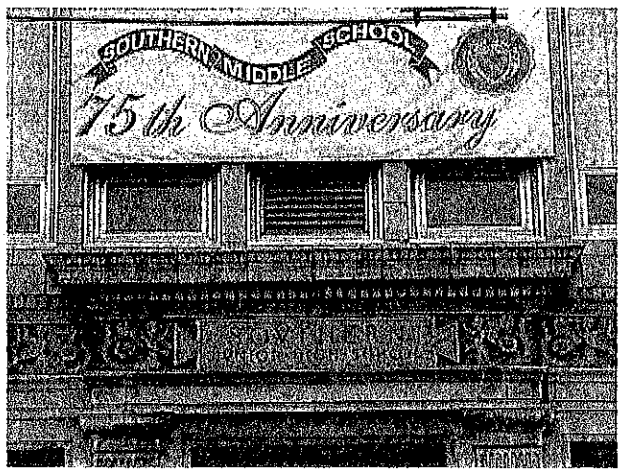
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 1.95

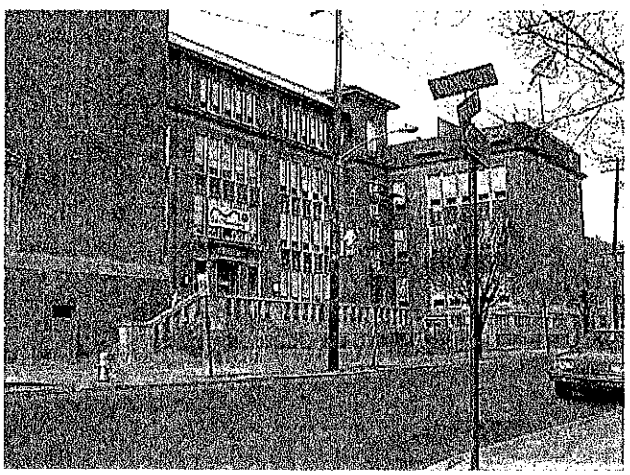
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

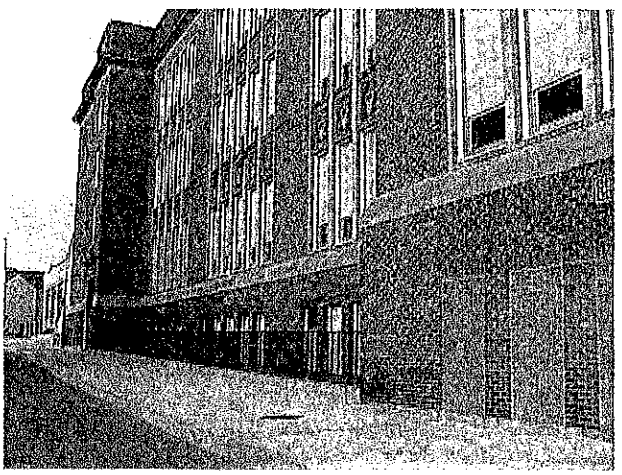
1. Middle School Building
2. Indoor Recreational Facilities

LINKAGES: City Park; Amanda Stoudt Elementary School; Market Square; Reading Iron Playground









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Southwest Middle School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Junior High School

MAP NUMBER: S-18

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

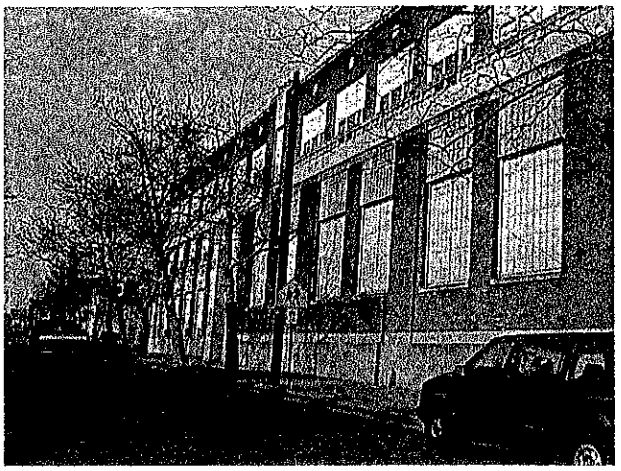
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

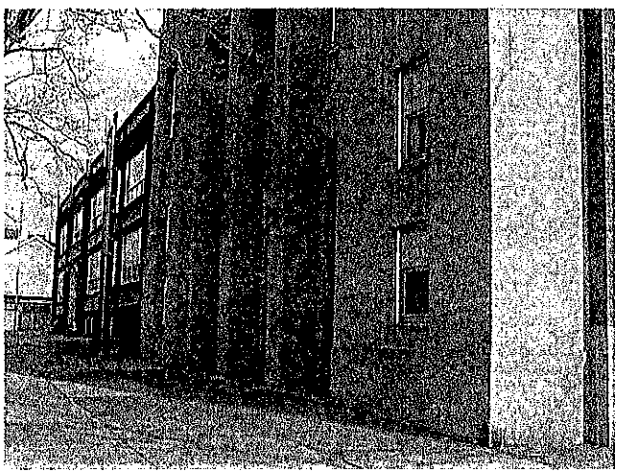
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 1.88

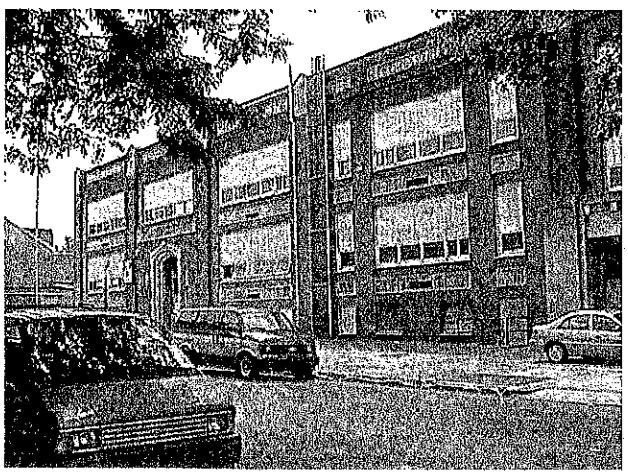
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

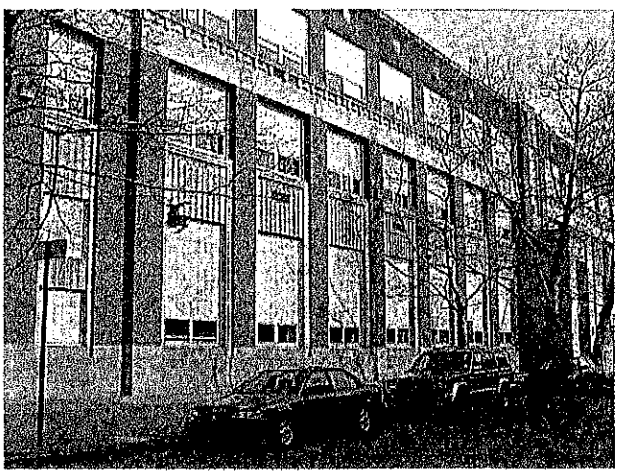
1. Middle School Building
2. Indoor Recreational Facilities

LINKAGES: 3rd and Spruce Recreation Complex; Reading Greenway; Schuylkill River; Riverfront Park; Reading Area Community College; Schlegel Park









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Reading High School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Senior High School

MAP NUMBER: S-19

OWNERSHIP: Reading High School

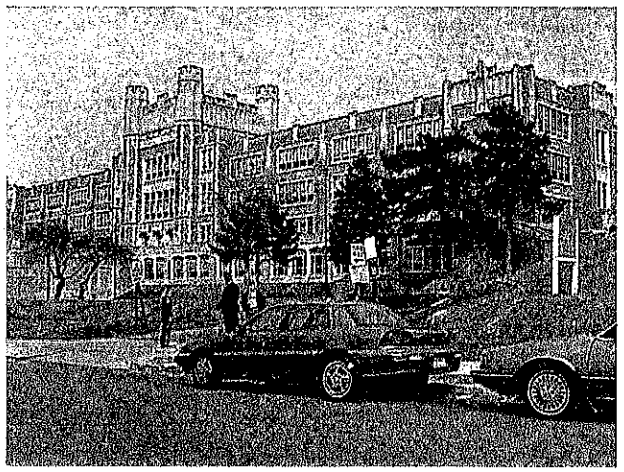
MAINTENANCE: Reading High School

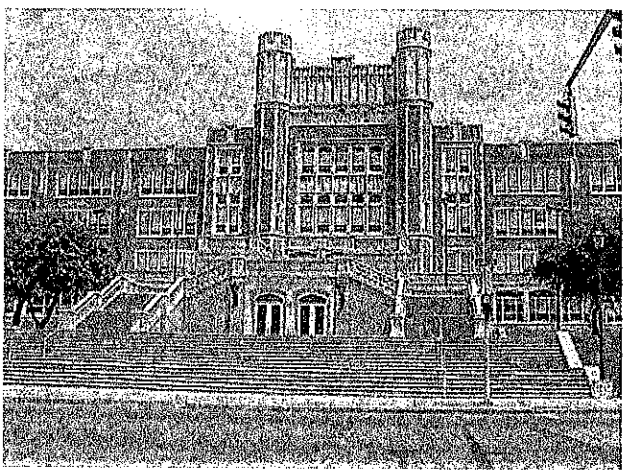
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 36.91

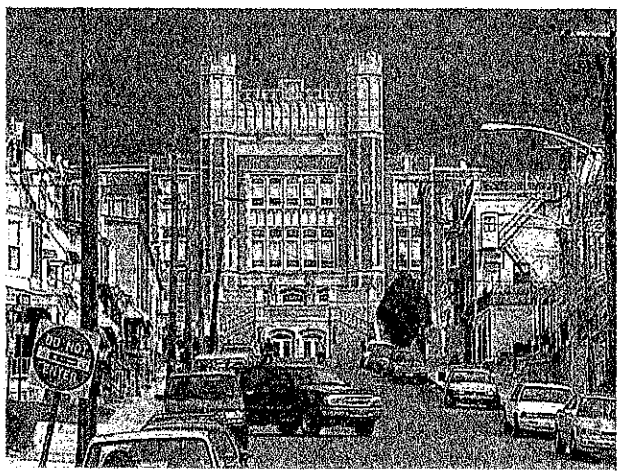
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Reading High School Buildings
2. Ralph C. Geigle Complex
3. Outdoor Recreational Facilities
4. Indoor Recreational Facilities
5. Parking

LINKAGES: Hampden Park; Mt. Penn Reserve; Hillside Playground; 11th and Pike Playground; 13th and Green Elementary School; Northeast Middle School







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Special Education Center**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Special Education

MAP NUMBER: S-20

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

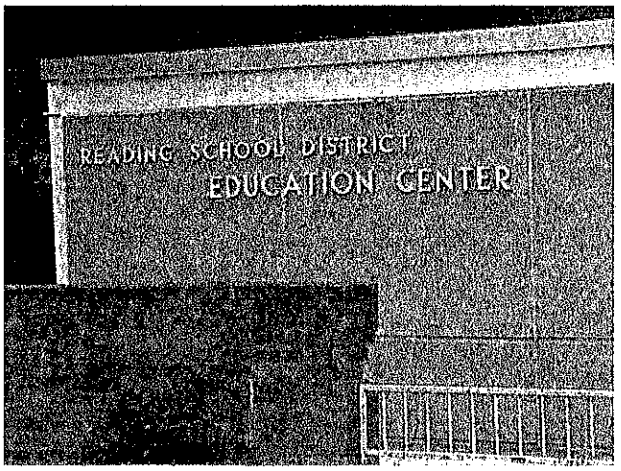
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

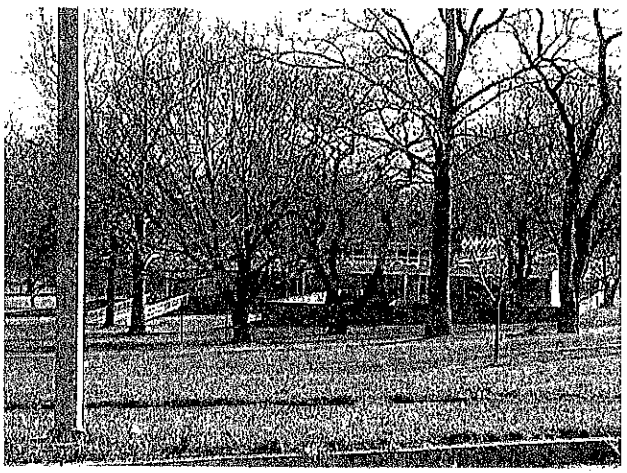
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 5.25

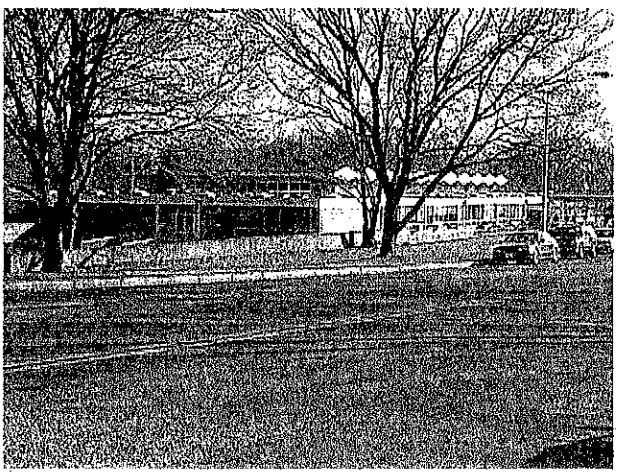
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Special Education Building
2. Playground with 2 Swingsets and 1 Slide
3. Open Area
4. Paved Play Area
5. Indoor Recreation Facilities

LINKAGES: Museum Tract; West Reading Playground; Wyomissing Creek; Holy Name High School; Yarnell Park







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Reading-Muhlenberg Vo-Tech School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Vo-Tech School located in Muhlenberg Township

MAP NUMBER: S-21

OWNERSHIP: Reading-Muhlenberg Vo-Tech

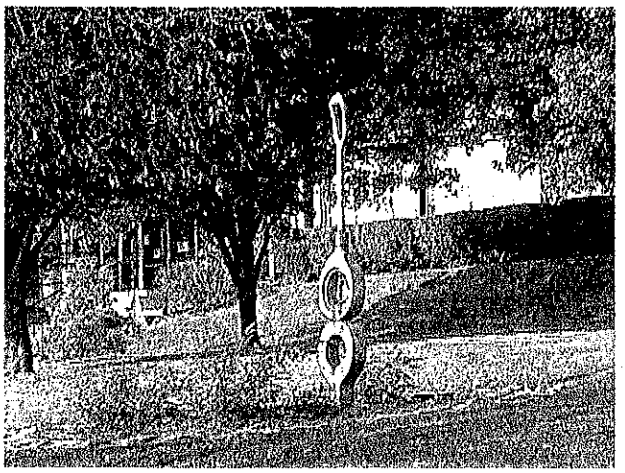
MAINTENANCE: Reading-Muhlenberg Vo-Tech

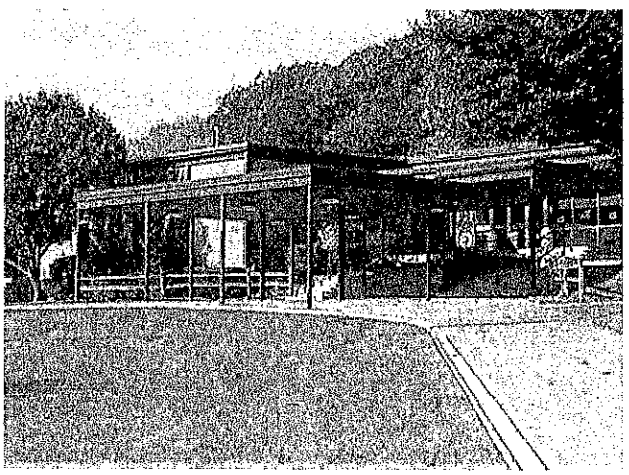
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 54.87

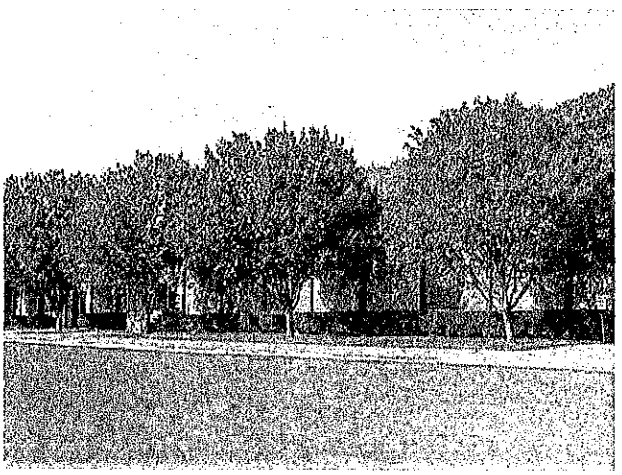
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Vo-Tech School Building
2. Passive Recreation/Open Space
3. Sculptures by Front Door
4. Parking Lot
5. Picnic Tables (2)

LINKAGES: Reading Area Community College; Muhlenberg Park System; Mt. Penn Reserve







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **George Field**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Athletic/Sports Complex

MAP NUMBER: S-22

OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

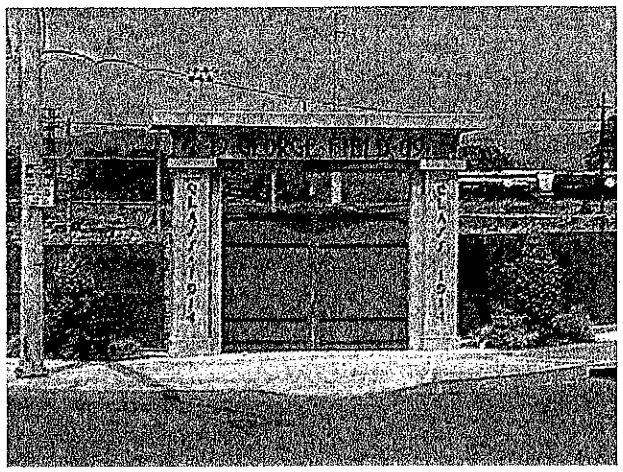
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

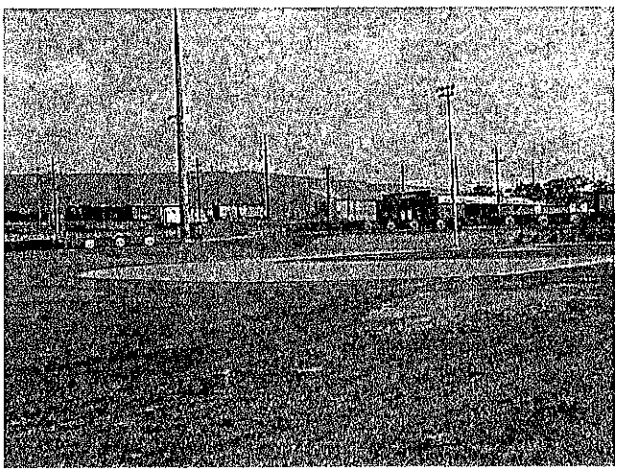
TOTAL AREA (ACRES):

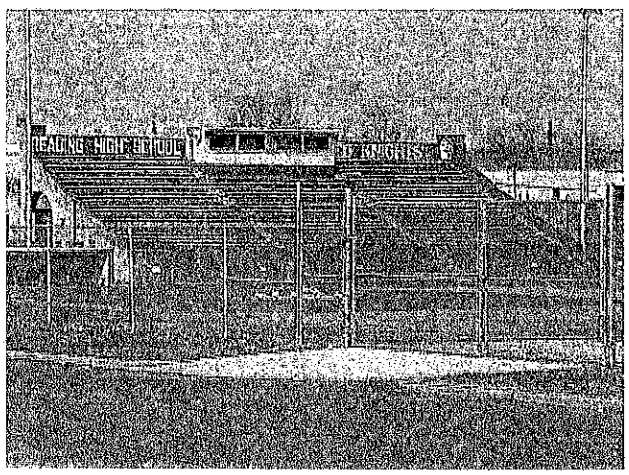
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

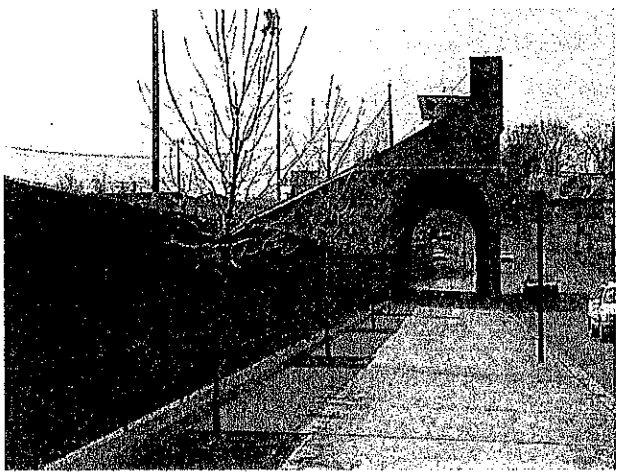
1. Ballfield – Lighted
2. Large Bleachers
3. Concession Stand
4. Bathrooms
5. Sports Booth and Dugouts
6. Shed
7. Parking

LINKAGES: GPU Stadium; Keffer Playground; 6th and Smith Playground









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET S-22

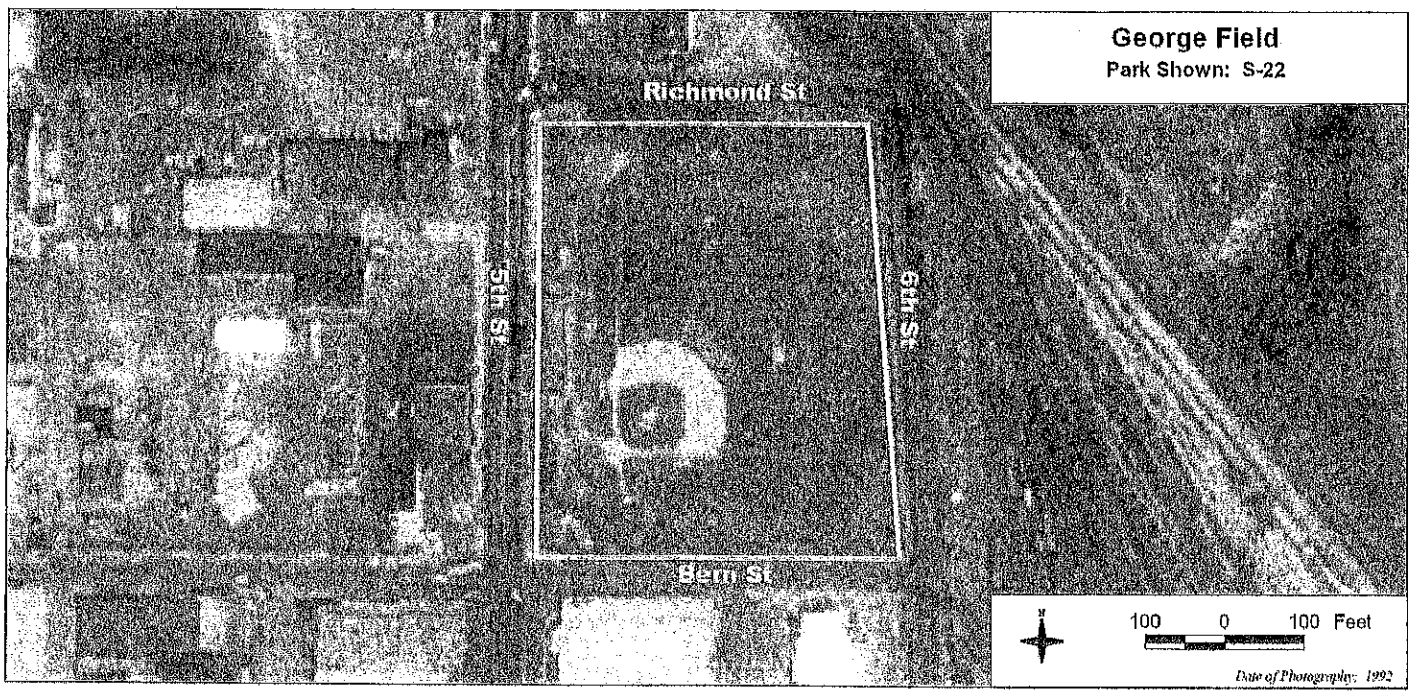
NAME OF AREA: **George Field** **MAP NUMBER:** **S-22**

ADJACENT LAND USES: **Railroad; Commercial and Industrial**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **No Recreation Linkages**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Keffer Playground; 6th and Amity Playground**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Ballfield and Dugouts	This is the Reading High School's baseball field. American Legion League uses it as well. It is an incredibly nice field, but right field slopes up toward fence. Field is well lit.
Large Bleachers Concession Stand, Bathrooms, Sports Booth, Shed	Seating for 200-300± people. • All features are in great shape and are being renovated. • All are located on third base side.
Parking	Parking for ±30 cars in left field.



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Windsor and Ritter Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: School District Park

MAP NUMBER: S-23

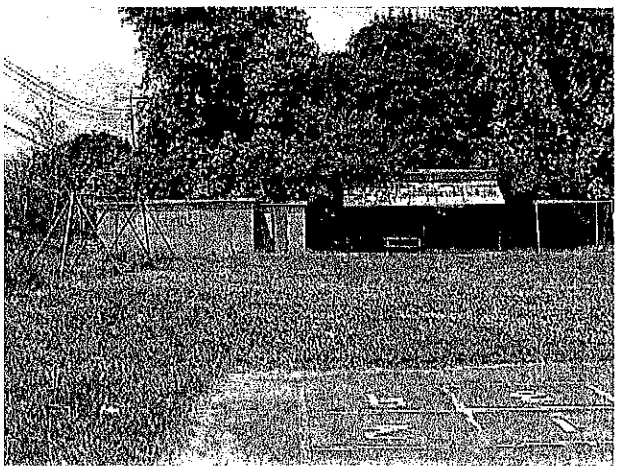
OWNERSHIP: Reading School District

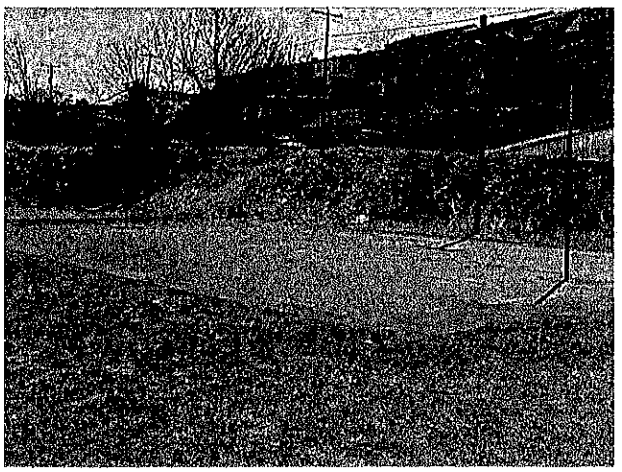
MAINTENANCE: Reading School District

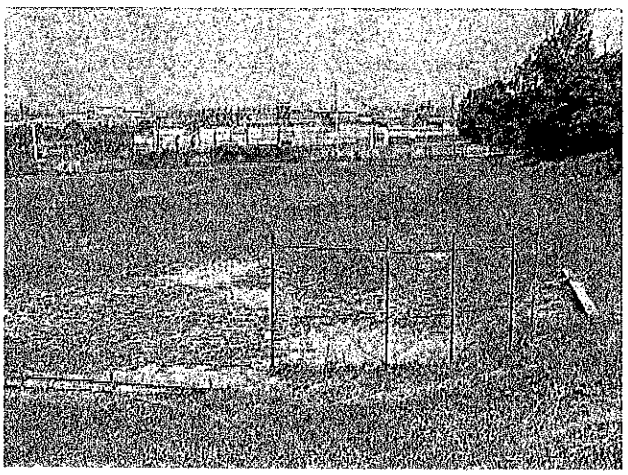
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 5.00

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Basketball – No Backboards or Baskets – Light Structure – No Lights
2. Volleyball Court – No Posts
3. Swingsets (2)
4. Slide (1)
5. Merry-Go-Round
6. Shed
7. Pavilion
8. Football/Soccer 'Area'
9. Baseball/Softball – Rusted Backstop – No Lights
10. Street Parking Only







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET S-23

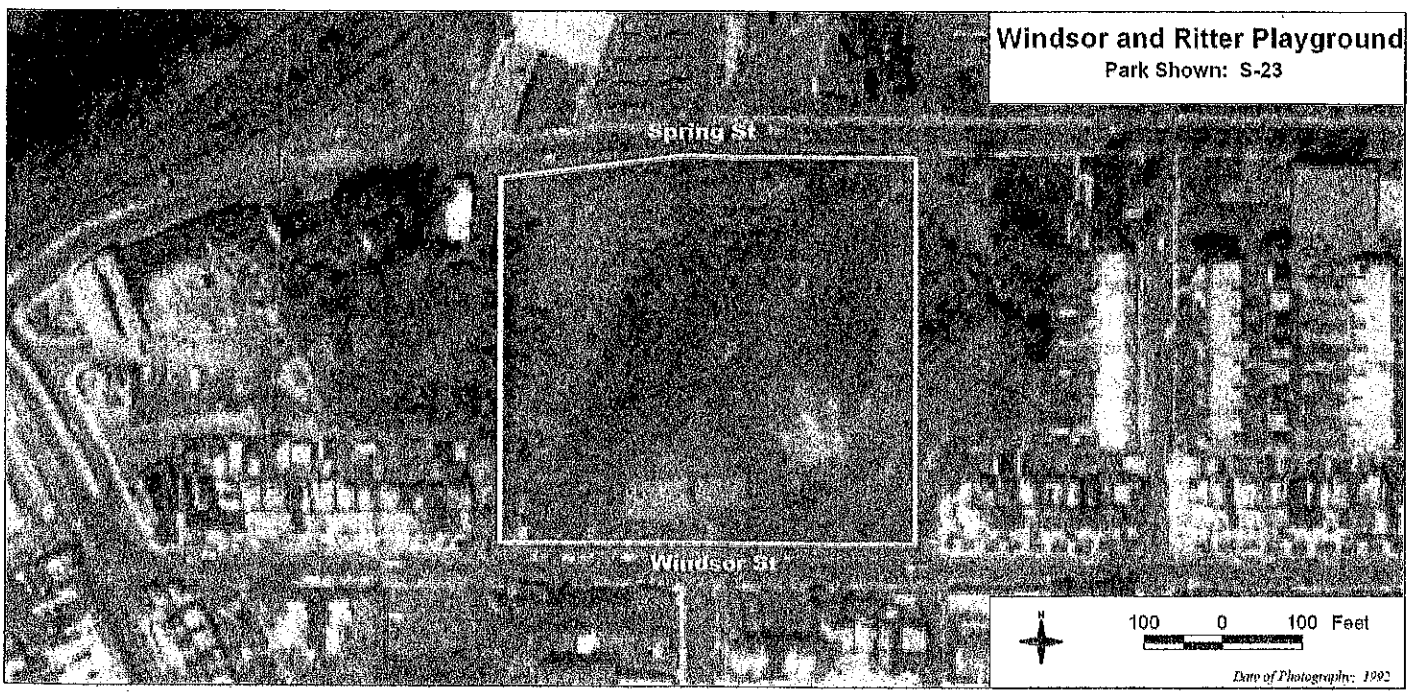
NAME OF AREA: **Windsor and Ritter Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **S-23**

ADJACENT LAND USES: **Residential; Commercial; Industrial**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **No Recreational Linkages**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Northwest Middle School; Northwest Elementary School; Schuylkill River; Baer Park**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Basketball Court Volleyball Court Baseball Field Football/Soccer Area	No backboards, no rims, no lights, in poor condition. No posts, in poor condition. Broken bench, rusty backstop, not graded, in poor condition. Undefined open space.
2 Swingsets 1 Slide 1 Merry-Go-Round	All these features are in poor condition.
Pavilion/Shed No Restrooms Parking	Rusty roof, in poor condition. Street parking only.



APPENDIX F

CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Albright College**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Quasi-Public; College

MAP NUMBER: QP-1

OWNERSHIP: Albright College

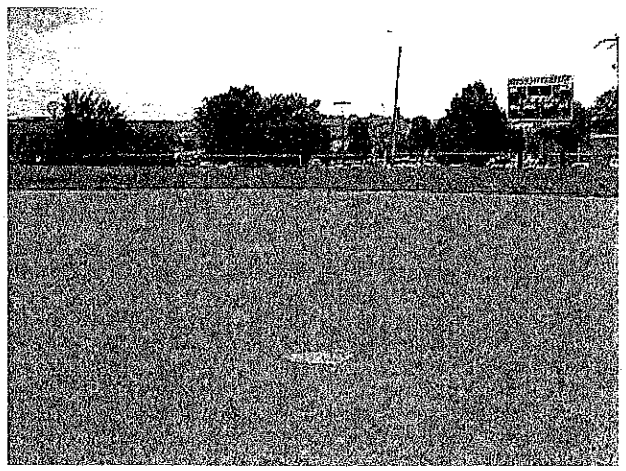
MAINTENANCE: Albright College

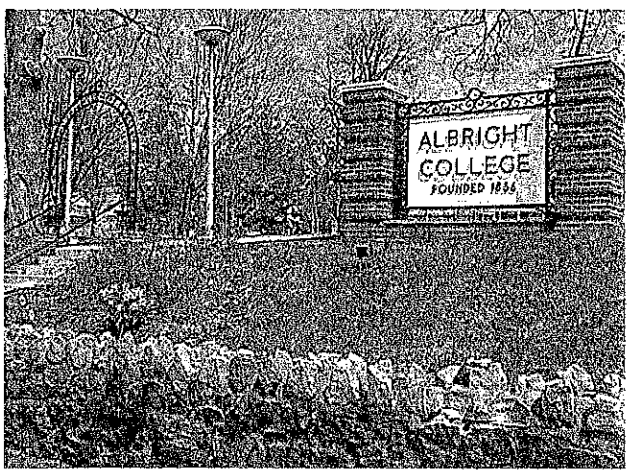
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 83.91

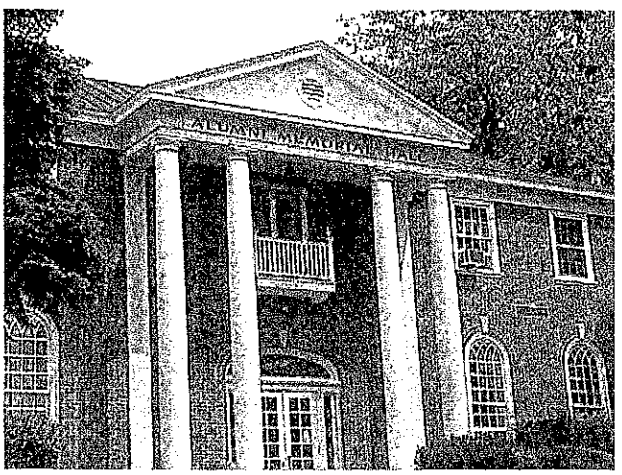
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. College Buildings and Facilities
2. Shirk Stadium
3. Bollman Center
4. Baseball Field
5. Softball Field
6. Tennis Courts
7. Indoor Recreation Facilities
8. Outdoor Recreation Facilities
9. Passive Open Space

LINKAGES: 13th and Union Elementary School; 11th and Pike Playground; and Mt. Penn Reserve







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Alvernia College**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Quasi-Public; College

MAP NUMBER: QP-2

OWNERSHIP: Alvernia College

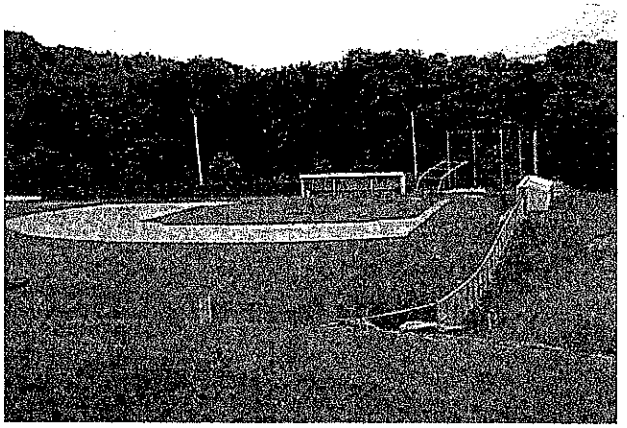
MAINTENANCE: Alvernia College

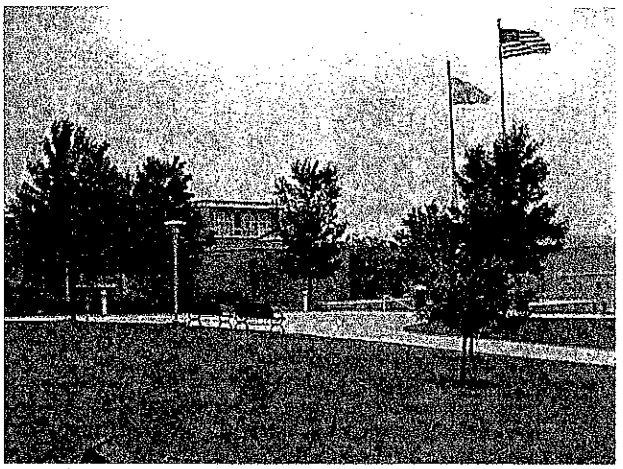
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 80.62

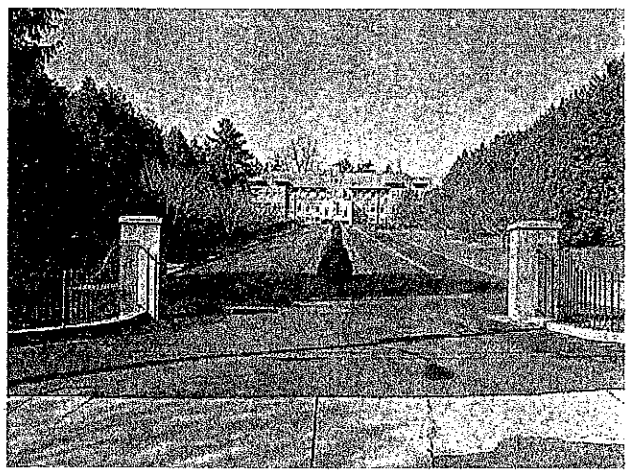
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

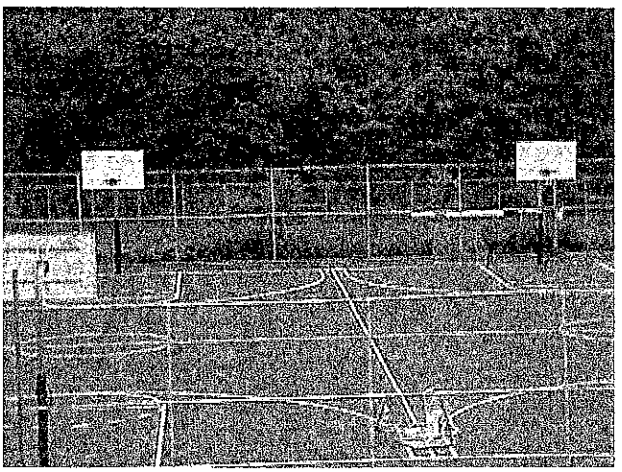
1. College Buildings and Facilities
2. Physical Education Center
3. Indoor Recreation Facilities
4. Soccer Field
5. Basketball Courts
6. Tennis Courts
7. Baseball Fields
8. Softball Fields
9. Passive Open Space

LINKAGES: Angelica Lake; Schuylkill River; Berks County Trail System; Thun Trail









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Reading Area Community College**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Quasi-Public; College

MAP NUMBER: QP-3

OWNERSHIP: Reading Area Community College

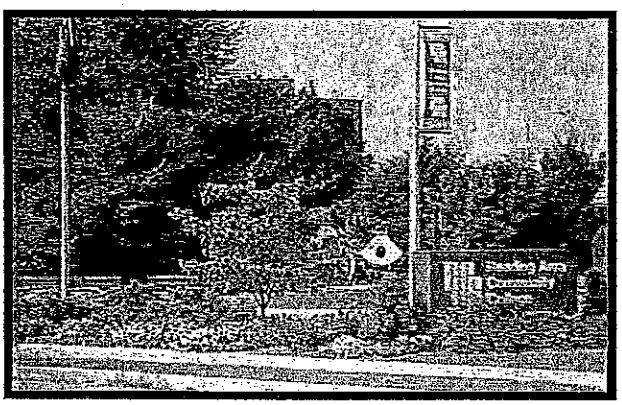
MAINTENANCE: Reading Area Community College

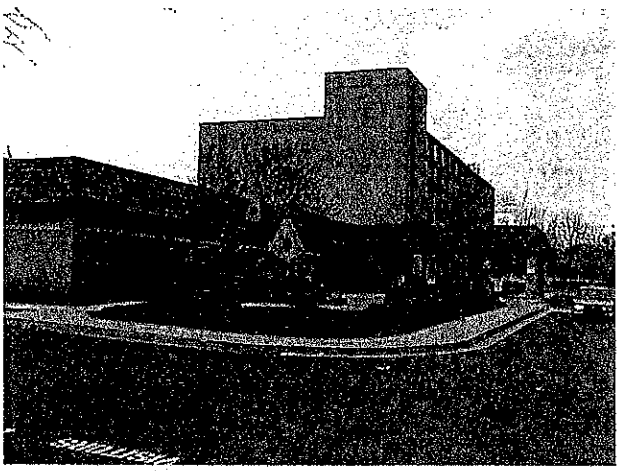
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 13.48

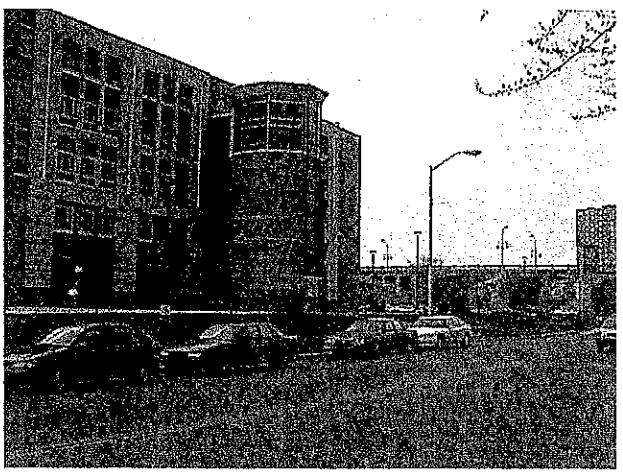
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. College Buildings and Facilities
2. Indoor Recreation Facilities
3. Outdoor Recreation Facilities
4. Passive Open Space
5. Parking Facilities

LINKAGES: Reading Greenways; Dana Memorial Park; Schuylkill River; Berks County Trail System; Third and Spruce Recreation Center; and Barbey's Playground







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Central Catholic High School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Quasi-Public; High School

MAP NUMBER: QP-4

OWNERSHIP: Central Catholic High School

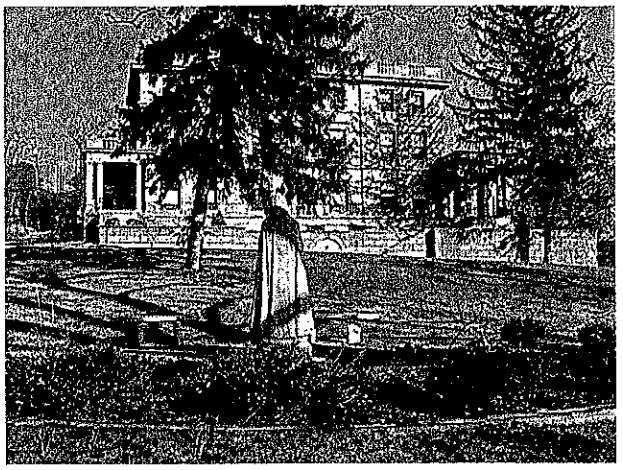
MAINTENANCE: Central Catholic High School

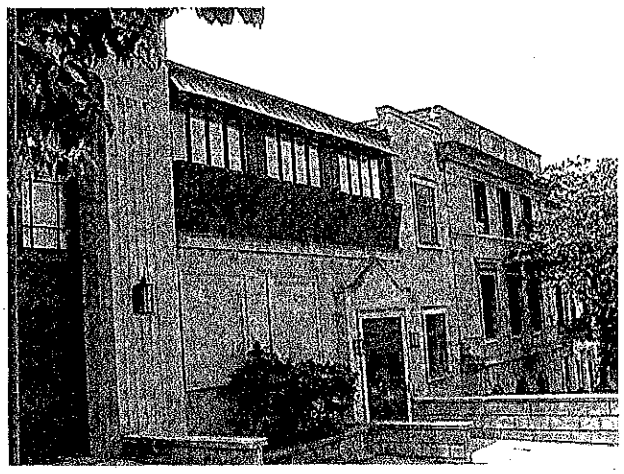
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 1.63

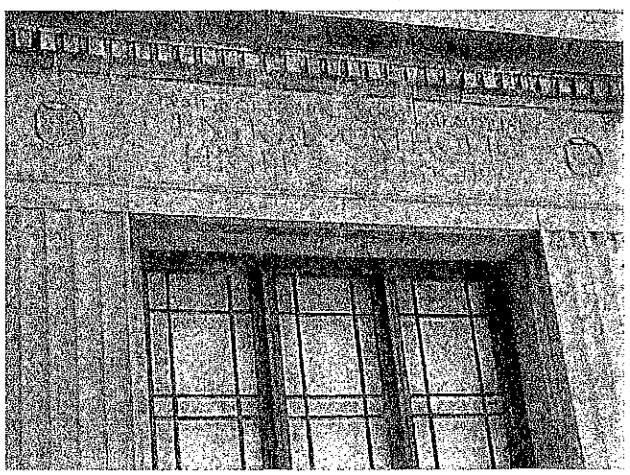
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

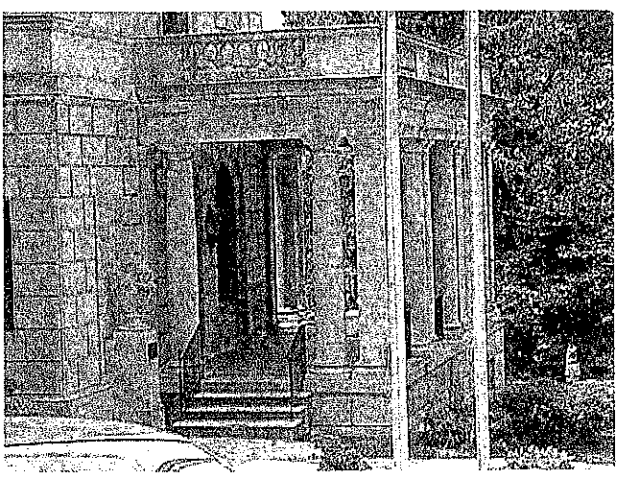
1. High School Building and Facilities
2. Indoor Recreation Facilities
3. Central Catholic Stadium (St. Lawrence)
4. Passive Open Space
5. Historical Building (Luden Mansion)

LINKAGES: City Park; Mt. Penn Reserve; Mineral Spring Park; Egelman Park; Pendora Park









CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Holy Name High School**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Quasi-Public; High School

MAP NUMBER: QP-5

OWNERSHIP: Holy Name High School

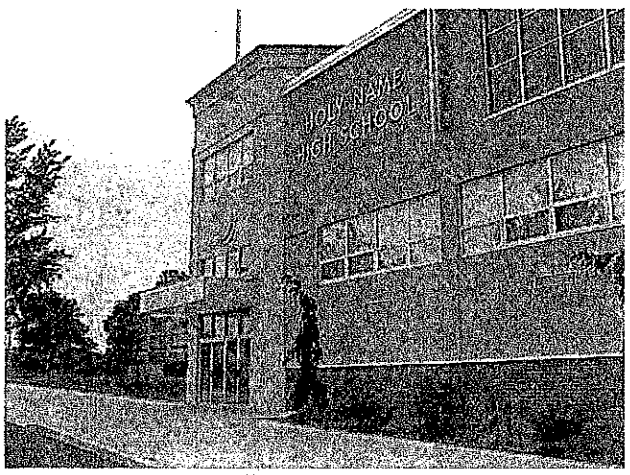
MAINTENANCE: Holy Name High School

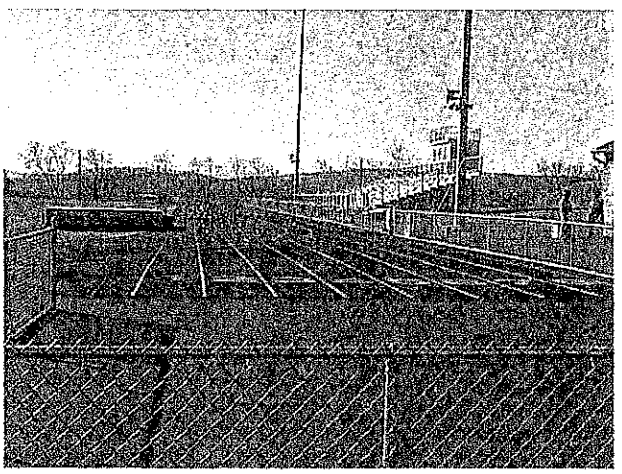
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 24.08

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. High School Building and Facilities
2. Indoor Recreational Facilities
3. Forino Sports Complex
4. Football Field
5. Parking
6. Passive Open Space

LINKAGES: Schlegel Park; Thomas Ford Elementary School; Museum Track; Wyomissing Creek





CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **GPU Stadium (previously known as Municipal Stadium)**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Quasi-Public, Stadium

MAP NUMBER: QP-6

OWNERSHIP: City of Reading

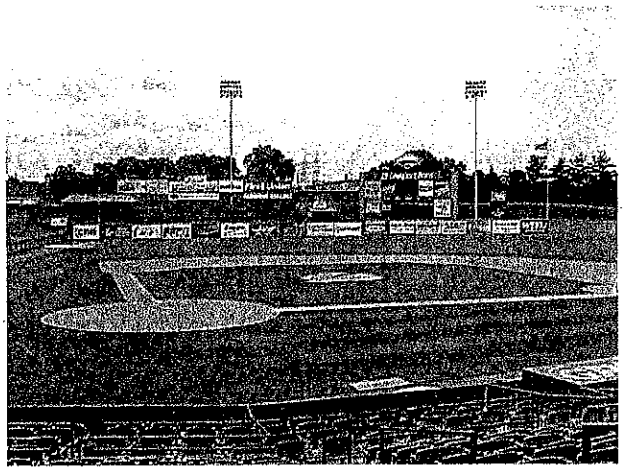
MAINTENANCE: City of Reading/Reading Phillies

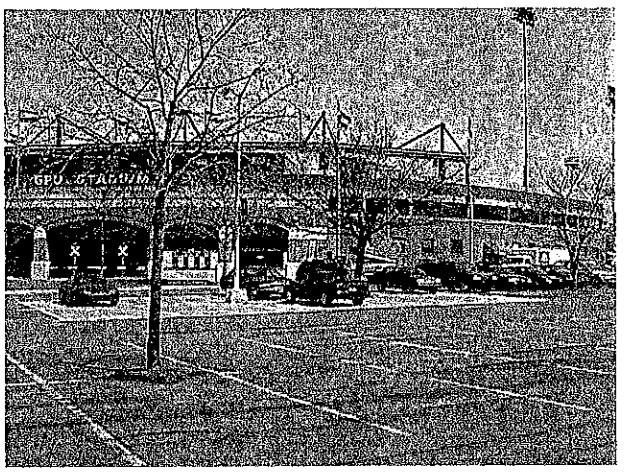
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 20.00

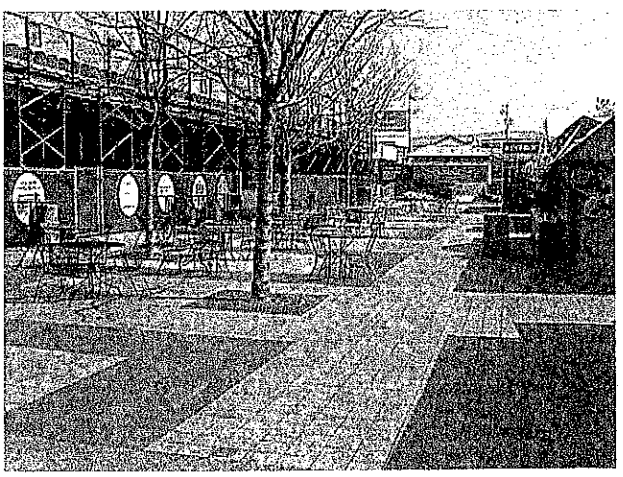
EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Baseball Field
2. Bleachers and Concessions
3. Parking
4. Picnic Areas
5. Passive Open Space

LINKAGES: Schuylkill River; Reading Greenway; Riverdale Park; Centre Park Historical District; Keffer Park







CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Sovereign Center**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Quasi-Public

MAP NUMBER: QP-7

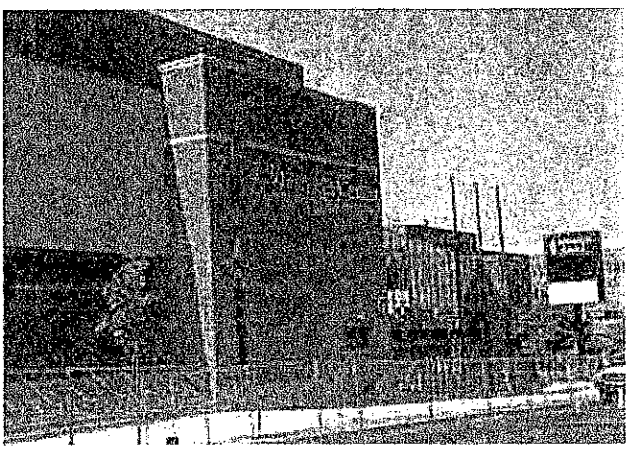
OWNERSHIP: Berks County Convention Center Authority

MAINTENANCE: Berks County Convention Center Authority

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 2.00

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Indoor Multi-Purpose Center
2. Ice Hockey (7,200 seat capacity)
3. Basketball (8,000 seat capacity)
4. Concerts (9,000 seat capacity)
5. Ice Skating (7,200 seat capacity
6. Exhibition Space (20,000 square feet)
7. Meeting Rooms (5,000 square feet)
8. Adjacent Parking (4,000 spaces)



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Glenside Housing Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Housing Playground

MAP NUMBER: QP-8

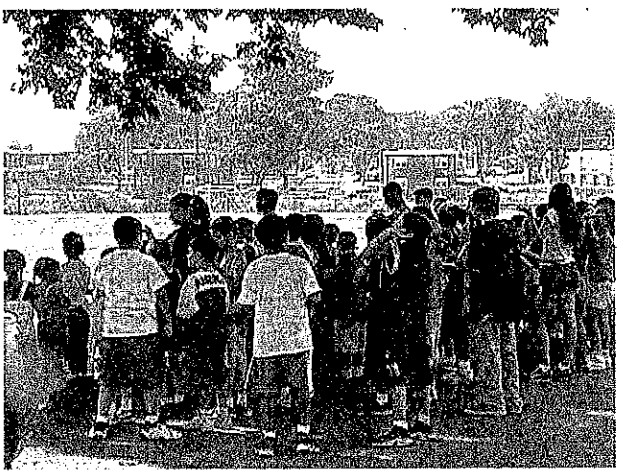
OWNERSHIP: Reading Housing Authority

MAINTENANCE: Reading Housing Authority

TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 9.13

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Tot-Lot (2 separate units – typical plastic as with others)
2. Basketball Court – Lighted
3. Slides (4)
4. Spring Animals (6)
5. Swingset (1)
6. Mini Jungle Gym



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET QP-8

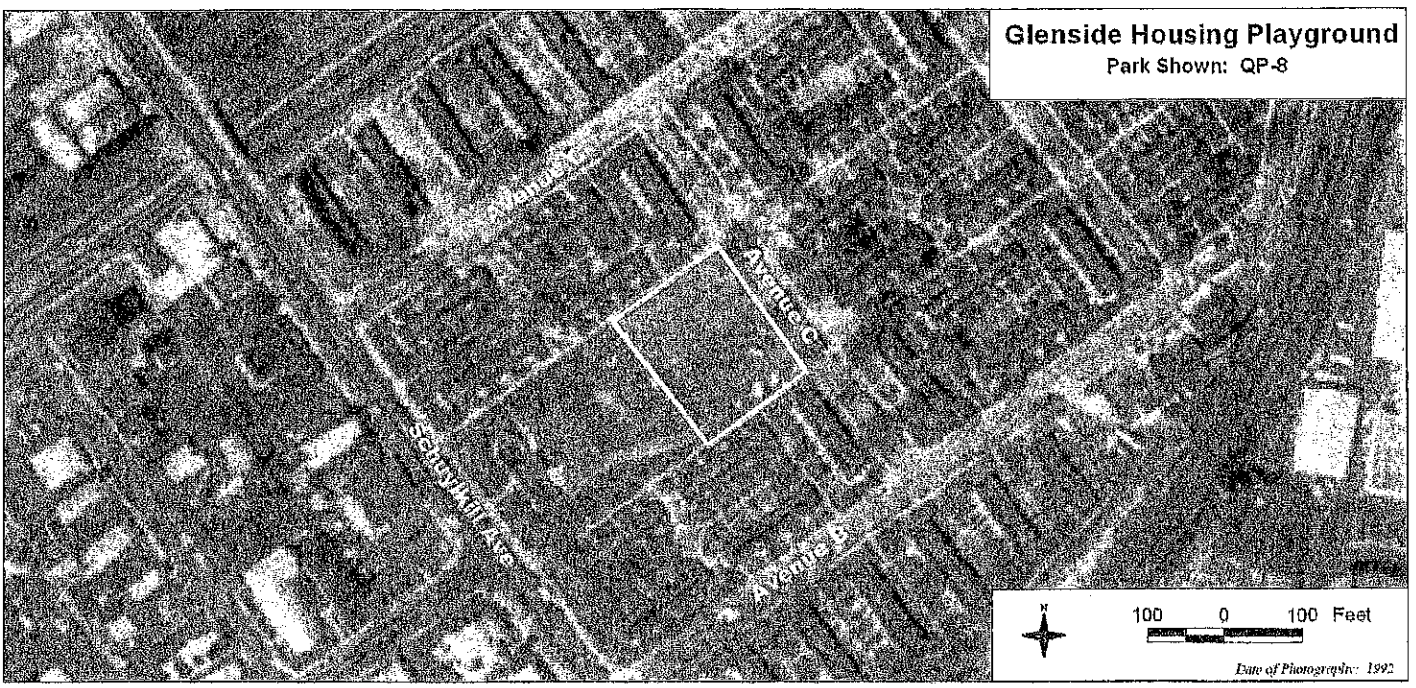
NAME OF AREA: **Glenside Housing Playground** MAP NUMBER: **QP-8**

ADJACENT LAND USES: **Housing Project (Residential); Commercial**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **No Recreation Linkages**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Glenside Elementary School; Schuylkill River; Reading Greenway**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Basketball Court	Fair condition, lights. No restrooms.
Tot-Lot 4 Slides, 6 Spring Animals, 1 Swingset, Mini Jungle Gym	Two separate units, modern "typical" facilities. Good facilities.
Parking	16 spaces plus 6 handicapped paved parking spaces that serve the housing units and playground.



CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NAME OF AREA: **Oakbrook Housing Playground**

TYPE OF FACILITY: Community Housing Playground

MAP NUMBER: QP-9

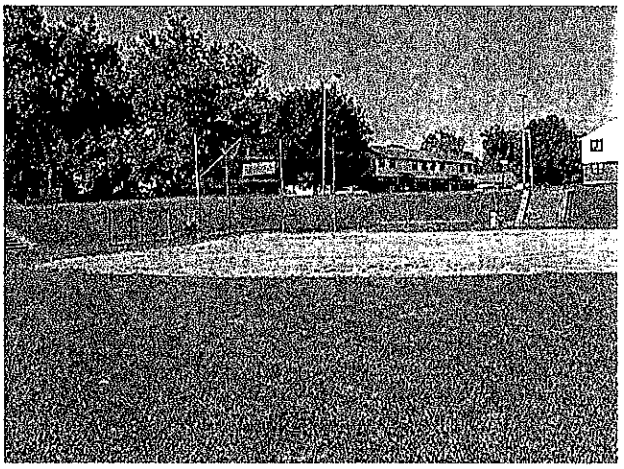
OWNERSHIP: Reading Housing Authority

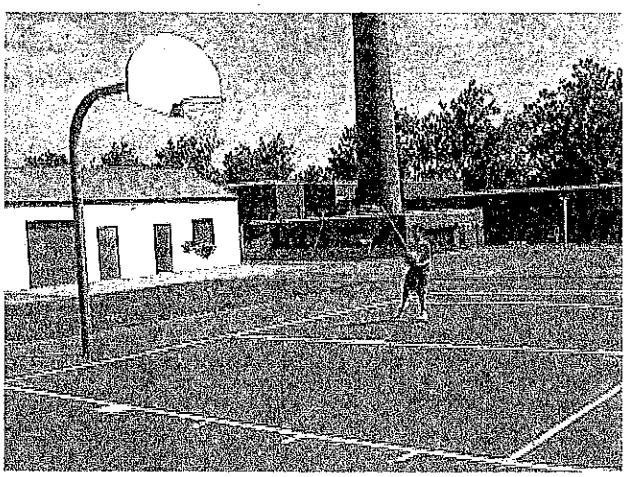
MAINTENANCE: Reading Housing Authority

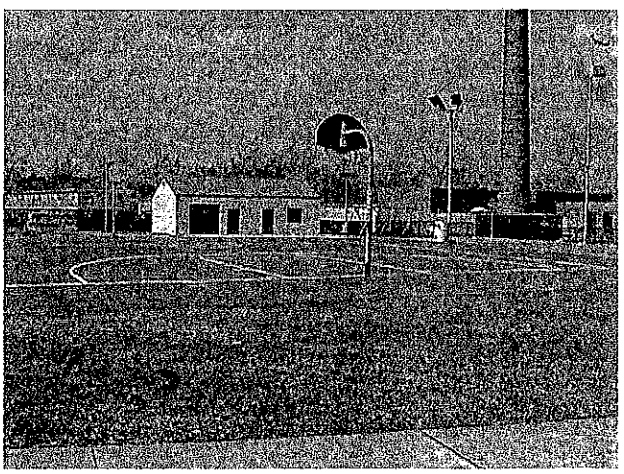
TOTAL AREA (ACRES): 5.00

EXISTING USES AND FACILITIES:

1. Basketball Court – Lighted (1)
2. Volleyball – Lighted (1 – dilapidated)
3. Playground/Tot-Lot (2 units)
4. Swingset
5. Ball "Funnel"
6. Baseball/Softball – no bleachers
7. Football/Soccer 'area'
8. Area Lighted





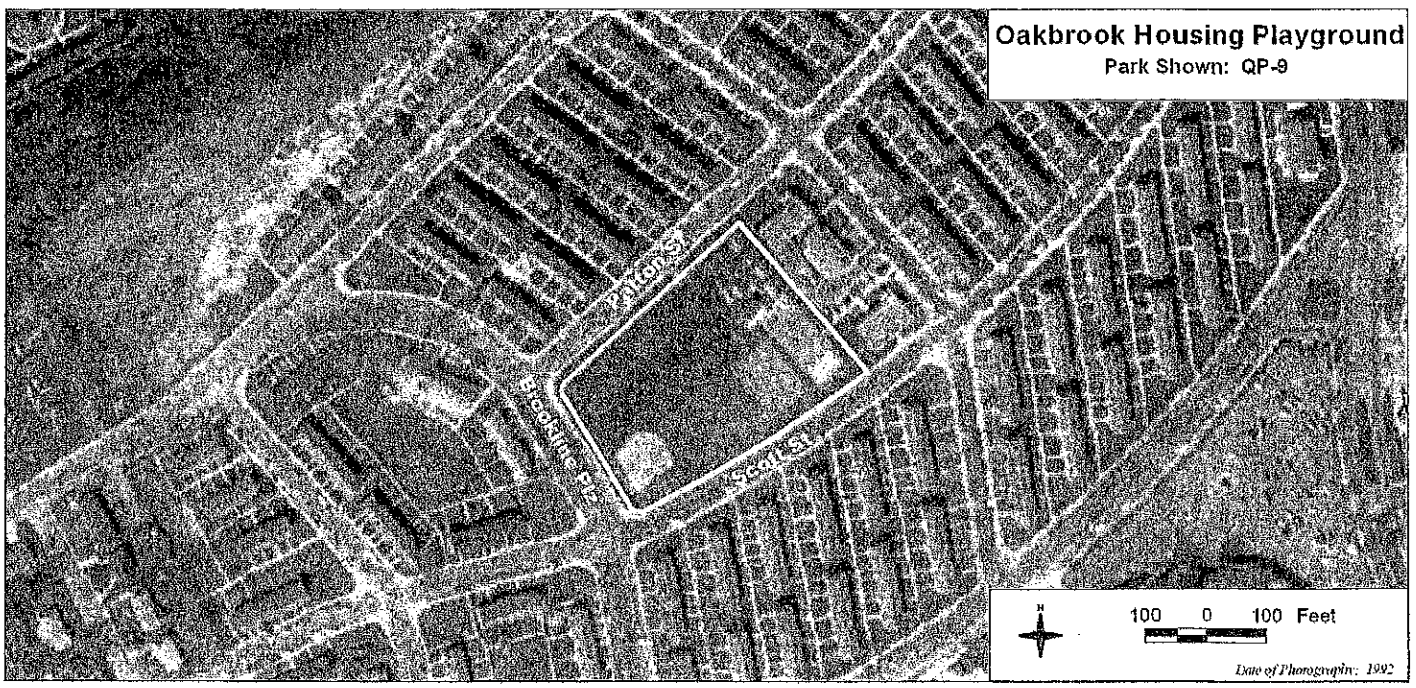


CITY OF READING
10-YEAR PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PROFILE SHEET QP-9

NAME OF AREA: **Oakbrook Housing Playground** **MAP NUMBER:** **QP-9**

ADJACENT LAND USES: **Residential**

EXISTING LINKAGES: **No Recreational Linkages**

POTENTIAL LINKAGES: **Schlegel Park; Triangle at Hancock Boulevard; Holy Name High School**

TYPES OF USES	CONDITION OF FACILITIES
Baseball/Softball Field Basketball Court Volleyball Court Football/Soccer Area	No bleachers, small field, rusty backstop, fair condition – needs improvement. Lights, good condition. Lights, dilapidated. Outfield of baseball field.
2 Tot Lots Swingset Ball Funnel	This playground has adequate and modern facilities. • Good condition.
Lights Indoor Activity Center Parking	The playground has lights for security reasons. No apparent restrooms. Street parking only.