

destinations. Using the sidewalks with lighting that will illuminate the area will create a comfortable walking space for all ages. Lighting increases safety, aids in geographic orientation, highlights the identity and history of the area, and creates a sense drama<sup>6</sup>. The average lighting fixture can be installed for an estimated \$800 dollars per light pole.

Broken down into stages, the first stage is to light up Main Street, 37A, so that the road can be properly illuminated along the pedestrian walkway. The sidewalk to the west of Main Street shall be illuminated from the pool to the downtown. Pedestrian lighting should be placed on the sidewalks on Main Street. On this same road, the opposite side of the road should be equipped with road orientated lighting. Doing both of these techniques will create a safe passage way for pedestrians to walk and drivers to be able to see anything in or on the road.

Phase two would be to create lighting from the school to the downtown. Lights should be placed

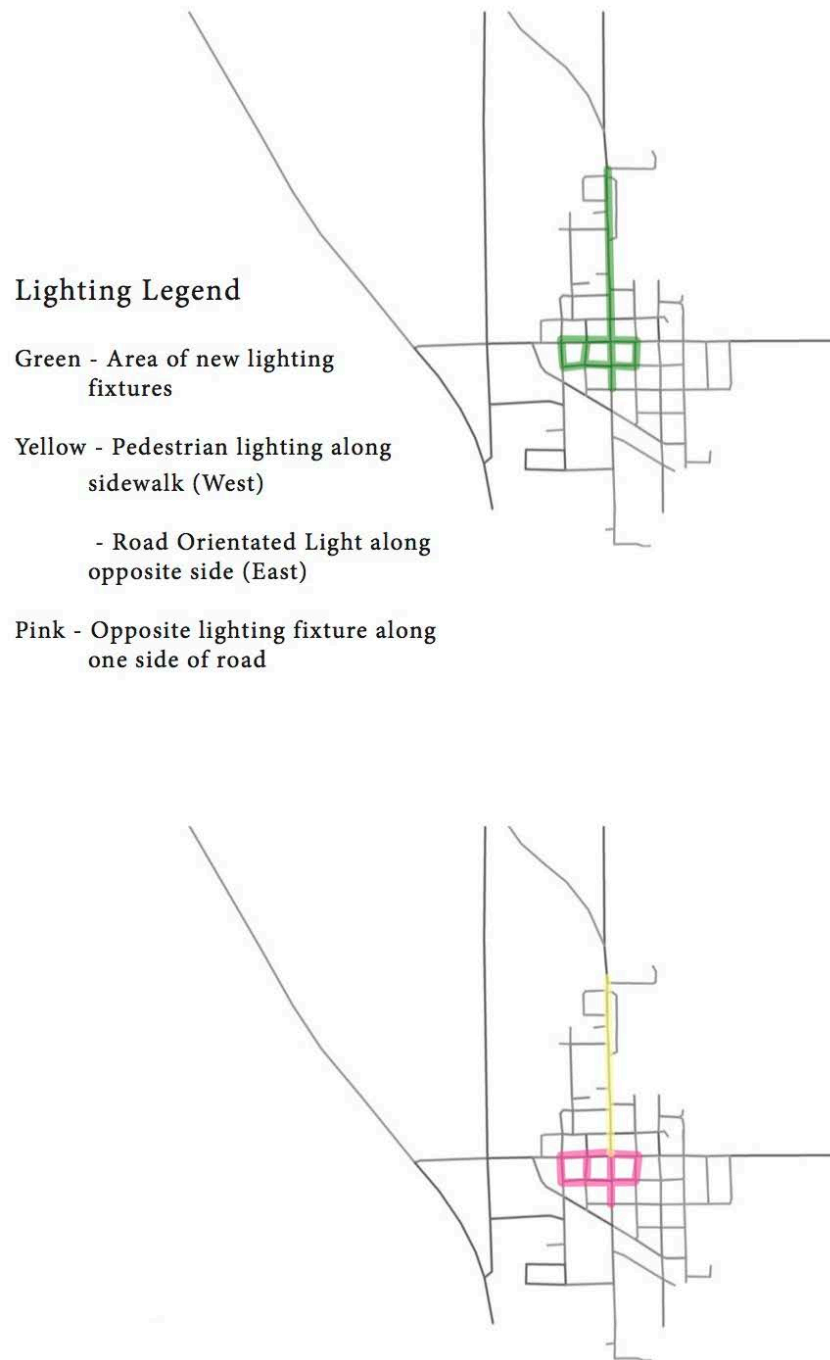


Figure 22: Lighting Plan Phases

around the school on each side, so when school is out of session, it creates a park that is welcoming to all age. Running lights along W. Dakota St to S. Main Street will also be beneficial for walkers/runners in the evening. Other streets that shall receive lighting are presented in the figures provided below.



*Figure 23: North Main Street Illumination Impact*



*Figure 24: School Neighborhood Illumination Plan*

### *Downtown Enhancements*

Tripp's downtown is used by the whole community. Updating the aesthetics of this important part of the city will improve use and create a sense of community pride. On-street planter boxes along Main Street, as mentioned in the bike trail section, soften the street, provide color and liveliness, and improve civic pride. Placing benches in key locations coincident with some planters can create more opportunities for the community to get out and enjoy some nice weather on the Main Street. Research from the University of Delaware<sup>7</sup> suggests that attractive downtowns help to spur commercial and economic development. The article goes on by giving information about keeping people in the downtown for longer periods of time can result in more exchange of goods in its own community.

Enhancing the downtown with site furnishings can create more foot traffic in the downtown which can create a stronger community as a whole. To attract more people, the downtown plaza should be redesigned to funnel visitors into this critical neighborhood. By using more planting boxes and hanging planting baskets closer to the plaza, it will become an eye-catching attraction.

The last phase that can help the downtown would be to create a screening effect of the elevator to the south of the town. Planting trees on the NE corner of S. Main St and E. Depot St can help with summer wind control along with the amount of dust in the enters the downtown. Another area that trees should be planted would be the SW corner of S. Main St and E. Depot St. Even though this is a gravel parking lot, trees should be used to visually screen the elevators from view.

## **Recreational Opportunities**

### **Recommendation 4: Improve Existing Downtown Recreation**

Downtowns are the heart of a community- the center of business, services, and engagement. With the renovations planned for Main Street in Tripp, there also comes the potential for improvement of the recreational opportunities of the downtown as well. Currently, the city is lacking a cohesive recreational attraction in the downtown. Rather, people drive to a business, get what they came for, and drive back home. In order to strengthen both the economy and social interaction in the downtown, spaces need to be provided that give people a reason to get out of their vehicles and spend more time in the downtown. This will ultimately increase community engagement, boost business sales, and help foster the use of active transportation methods. This section will highlight the emphasis areas to be addressed in reaching this goal.

#### *Downtown Plaza*

The current outdoor gathering space in the downtown was finished only a few years ago. It is a prime location as it is centered between other downtown gathering and recreational spaces such as the movie theatre, fire hall, and bowling alley. It was a good vision, but our interview with the town showed that it is not getting the amount of usage it was intended for. This is mainly due to the centrality of the canopy structure in the space. It creates the feeling that this is the only usable space in the plaza. However, there is opportunity for much more development in this lot that could help turn it into an anchor for downtown activity. A good example to follow would be Main Street Square in Rapid City, SD. It has a great division of active and passive space as well as a unique aesthetic that helps define the downtown<sup>8</sup>.

Some important elements that need to be added to the plaza space to support activity include seating infrastructure, open activity space, and plant material. Seating should include plenty of moveable seating that allows users to situate themselves more comfortably for socializing. The activity space should be well-defined with a change of material or partial enclosure. Plant material should be mainly in the form of container plantings and ground-plane beds that further define the space and provide a sense of comfort and enclosure.



*Figure 25: Rapid City Main Street Square*



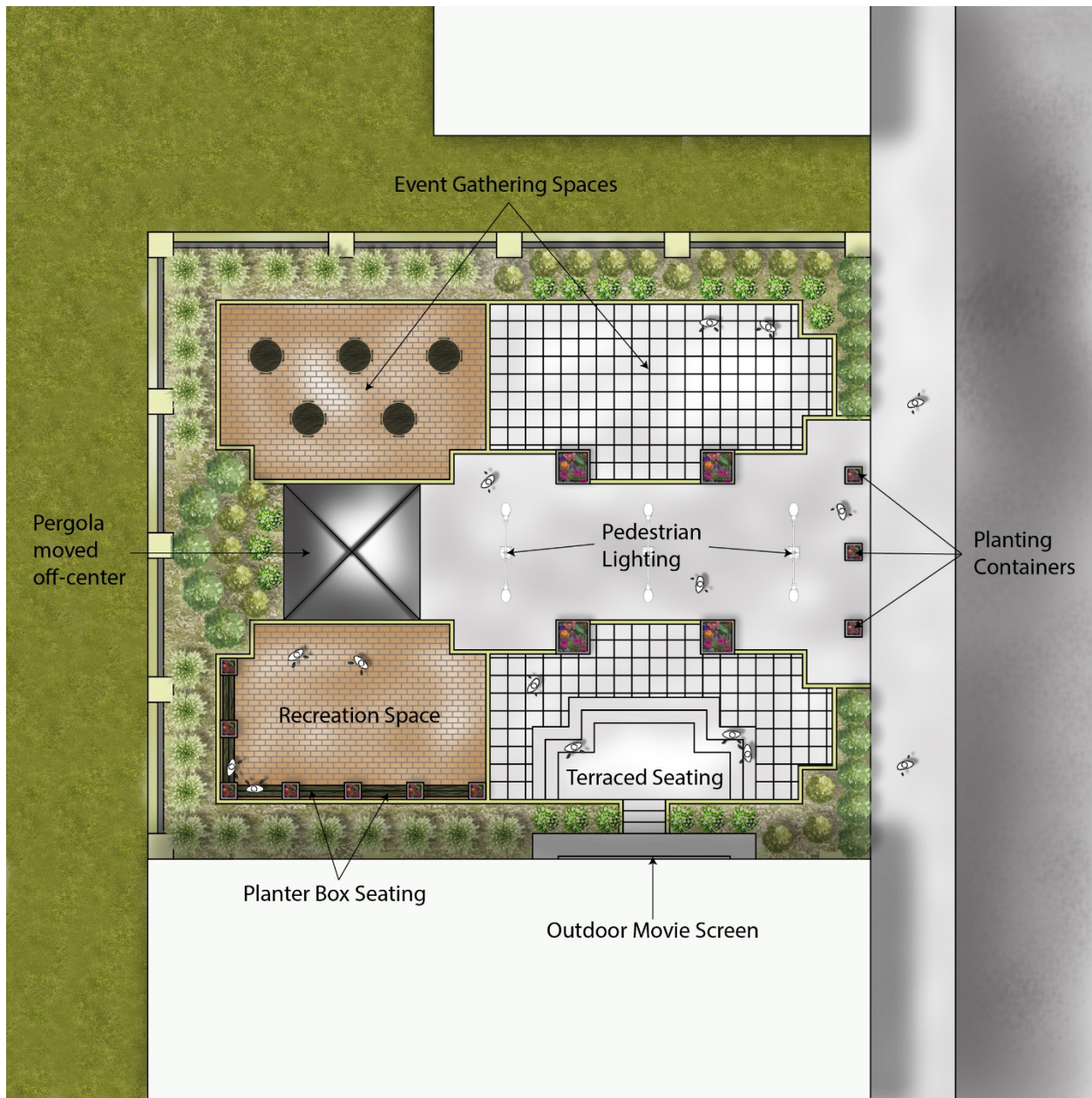


Figure 26: Downtown Plaza Redesign

A final step in fostering engagement within the downtown plaza will be the development of an events schedule that will attract people to the square. This schedule should provide a diversity of activity types and should be adaptable for seasonal change. The plaza could also be utilized as a part of larger community events. See the section on community engagement for more information on potential events.

## *Movie Theatre*

The movie theatre is another major recreational opportunity in the downtown. It provides alternatives to outdoor recreation and can be utilized during at night or during the winter months when other recreational options are unusable. Our interview with the town revealed that the theatre currently has problems with water leaks and is in need of renovation. It would be an expensive project, potentially up to \$1 million depending on the current conditions<sup>9</sup>. Thus, it would be lower on the priority list. However, even minor renovations could help revitalize the theatre and invite more people to utilize it. Also, its location directly adjacent to the downtown plaza would help to further solidify this area as the center of social recreation for the town. It would serve as the key hub for passive recreation and would help to diversify the types of activities the town has to offer.



*Figure 27: Existing Movie Theater*



## *Recreation Center*

The final recreational opportunity needed in the downtown is a community recreation center. This facility would provide space for numerous activities- event hosting, town meetings, plays and concerts, and casual social gatherings. Currently, the only areas for these activities are the fire hall, the American Legion building, and the Dugout<sup>10</sup>. This facility would provide much more room for these activities and would make event hosting more efficient. It would also include a space for children to play during the winter months when the park is closed. The facility would need to include spaces for small gatherings, a large auditorium/gymnasium to host large events or sports, and kitchen space. Work would also need to be done on the exterior to allow for active transportation. This would include the addition of plant material, bike racks, and pedestrian lighting. This project would be fairly expensive, potentially reaching around \$1 million<sup>11</sup>. However, costs could be kept lower if an existing building could be renovated to accommodate these goals. Overall, this project would serve as a strong center of community engagement and would help to further the appeal of the downtown.

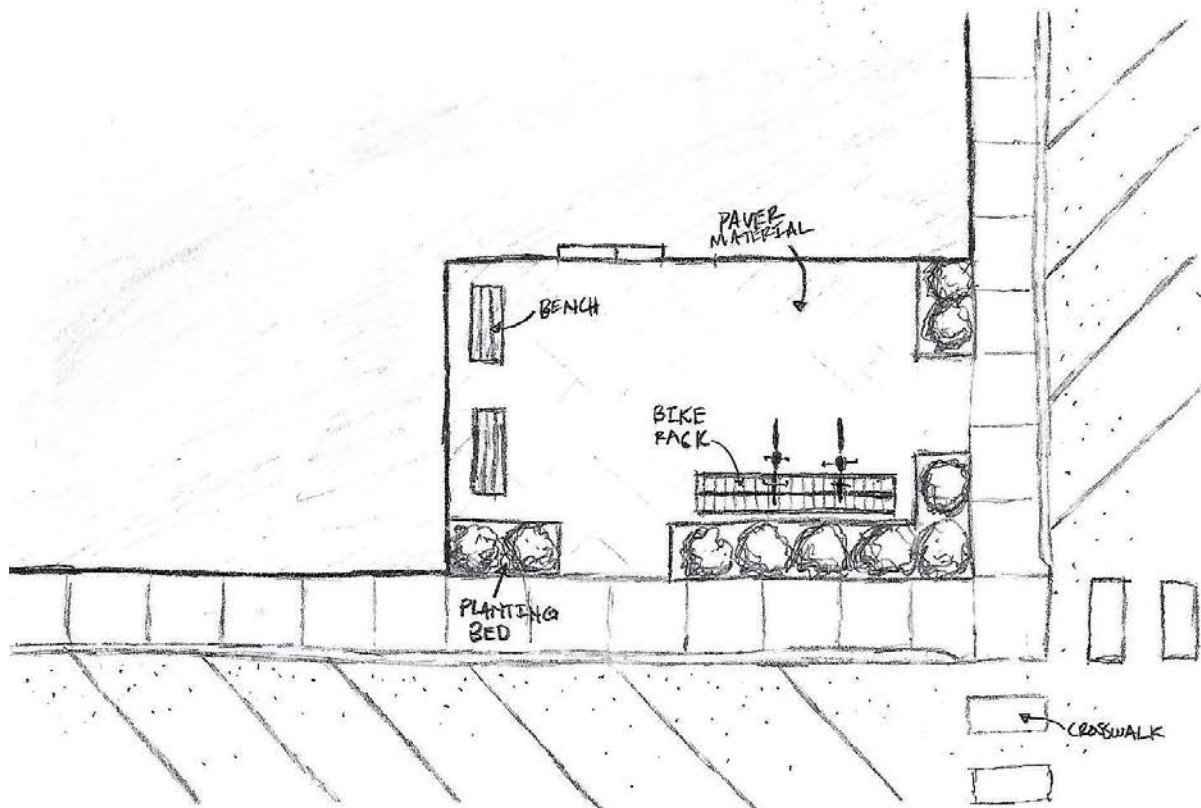


Figure 28: Recreation Center Plaza

## Recommendation 5: Update Current Park and Recreational Facilities

The current outdoor recreational facilities of Tripp serve as major proponents of active recreation, especially during the summer months. These areas include to swimming pool, park, fairground and ballfields, and shooting range. Our interview with the community showed that these areas were highly used and great for social engagement in the city. However, many of these facilities are in need of repairs. The following section will go over, in order of priority, the improvements that need to happen to achieve the best usage out of these facilities.

### *Swimming Pool*

During our town interviews, it became clear that the pool is one of the most used recreation spaces in Tripp. It helps to draw both kids and their parents to the park. However, the current facilities are in need of repair. The paint was peeling, the concrete was cracked in several places, and the current diving board and slide were worn.

Overall, repairing these issues would make the pool more attractive and improve the user experience. The renovation process would include sandblasting and repainting the pool interior, performing structural testing on the concrete and support structures, possible repairs of the drain system, and costs of a new slide and diving board. For reference, a project of similar size and scope was recently analyzed by the town of Otto, Pennsylvania and the cost estimate came out to around \$450,000<sup>12</sup>. It is a large investment, but will ultimately play a key role in attracting more users to the park. The project could be completed in phases in order to balance the timeliness of improvements with the available budget.



Figure 29: Existing Pool Facilities

## *Park Facilities*

Our tour of the park facilities revealed a need for additions and updates. The condition of the current play equipment was deteriorating, posing threats to the safety and enjoyment of the park.

A good model to follow in the renovation of these facilities would be the school playground.

Another area of improvement would be the sports courts. Currently, there are only tennis courts and sand volleyball pits. Both of these facilities are in need of repair. Also, the addition of basketball courts and soccer nets would help to diversify park activities and keep people coming back. All of these added facilities would come with a high price, so further prioritization would be needed to spread out the budget and meet key needs first.



*Figure 30: Deteriorating Playground Equipment*

In addition to the recreational facilities, the parking conditions for the park also need improvements.

Currently, the only parking spaces are those by the RV camping spots. However, as Figure 30 shows, there is a much higher need for parking closer to the pool and playground facilities.



*Figure 31: Current Pool Parking Facilities*



The most effective parking strategy would entail the creation of three small parking lots throughout the park. The first would be on the north end of the park near the pool and playground, the second on the west end near the sports courts, and the final on the south to further facilitate the camping and memorial areas. The cost of installing these lots would be around \$3 per square foot with additional costs

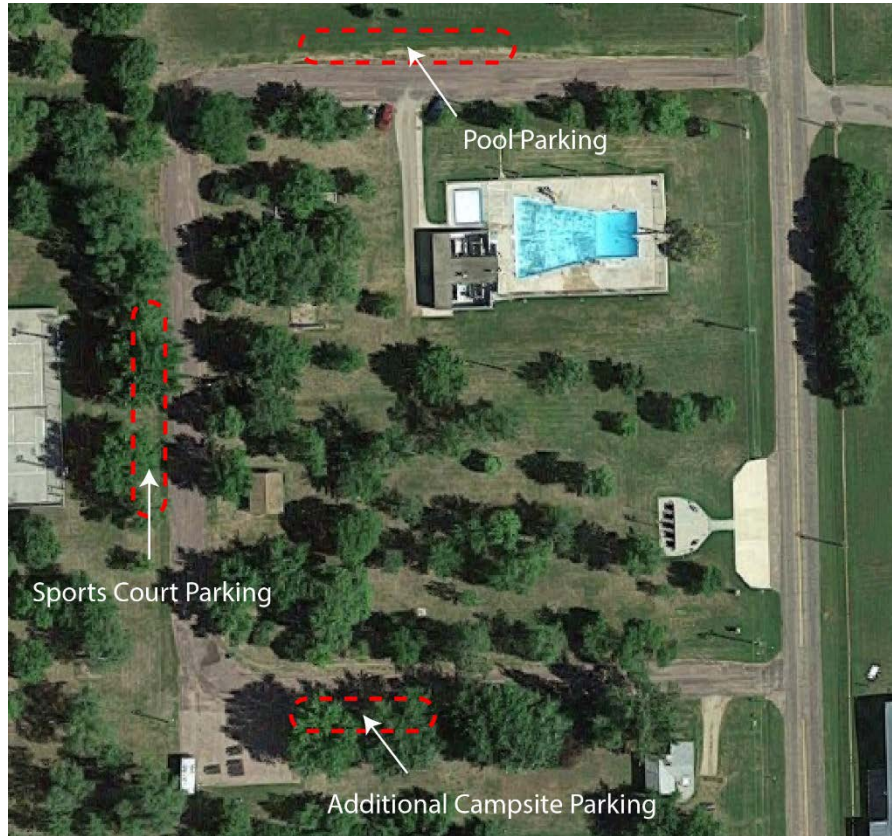


Figure 32: Proposed Parking Locations at City Park

for line painting and sealing<sup>13</sup>. Adding these parking areas would make the park more accessible and would help to delineate the park's circulation and recreational spaces.

### *Fairgrounds and Ballfields*

The fairgrounds and ballfields serve as a major gathering space during the summer, hosting large crowds of people at a time. The fields and grounds themselves are in fairly good condition, but there are some renovations to be done with the buildings surrounding the site. One of the major focus areas would be the dance hall. It would serve as the only large indoor gathering space outside of the downtown. Its location near both the ballfields and the park make it an attractive option for hosting wedding receptions or large reunions. However, in order to make it suitable for these events, it will need renovations both inside and outside. The same goes for many of the other buildings located on the site.

The second major emphasis area will be the addition of plant material and lighting. Currently, there is very little greenspace besides turf on the grounds. The space would benefit from areas of

overhead canopy for shade, as well as perennial or shrub plantings in locations around the buildings and facilities. Lighting is also very limited, making it hard to host events later at night. Much like the planting, lighting should be incorporated around the buildings and facilities. Overall, these additions will help increase the comfort and navigability of the site.



Figure 33: Fairgrounds and Ballpark Renovations



Overall, the renovation of this area will be the most costly. It would likely need to be done in steps, and would take years to complete. The dance hall should be the first priority, and then the planting and lighting design should be implemented as funds become available.

### *Shooting Range*

The shooting range provides a unique recreational opportunity for the town. Currently, the facility is fairly small. However, our town interviews revealed an interest in expanding these facilities to include trap shooting facilities and more room in general. Space is the major issue in this expansion, as it is located very close to the softball field already. However,

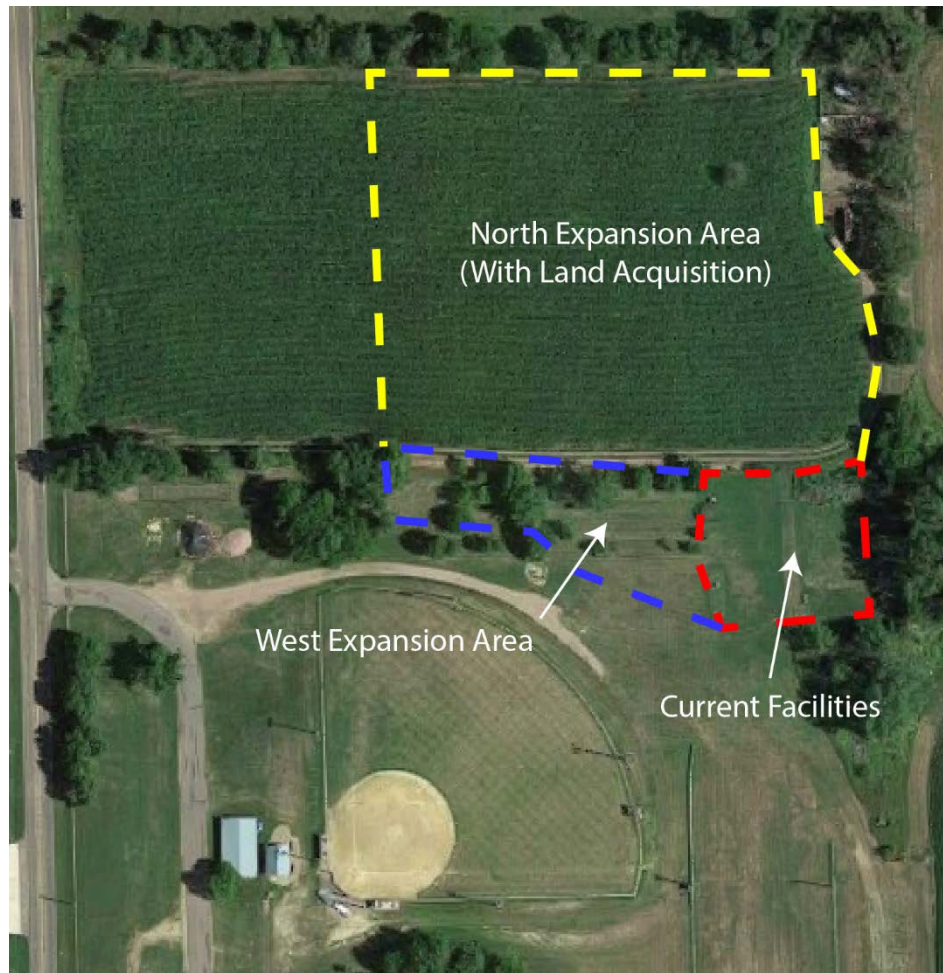


Figure 34: Shooting Range Expansion

expansion could take place to the north and east if the land was acquired. As it provides diversity to the recreational scene in Tripp, this would be a valuable investment.

## Recommendation 6: Develop Recreation Infrastructure in Vacant Lots

Throughout the town, there are a number of vacant lots. Many have the potential to be developed as new recreational spaces for the town. These spaces will help diversify the recreational opportunities for the town as well as create a more equal spatial distribution of park space in the town.



Figure 35: Proposed Recreation Additions



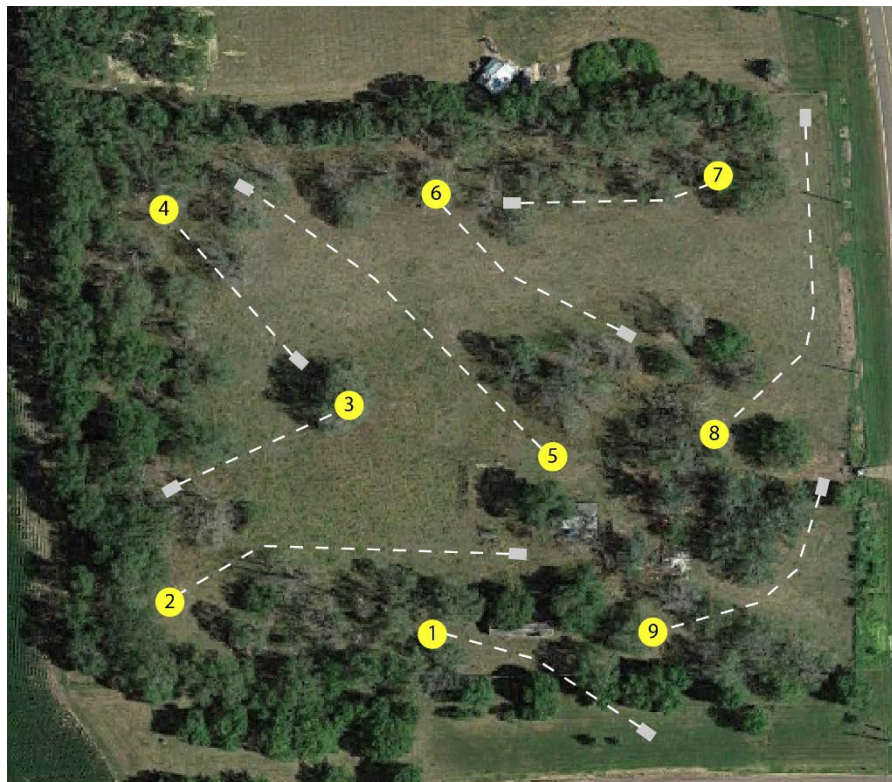
### Disc Golf Course

Disc golf is becoming an increasingly popular sport. It is able to be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities, and doesn't require the expensive equipment needed by other sports. It is also fairly affordable for cities to implement and does not require much maintenance or input after installation.

Thus, it would be a very affordable and beneficial addition to the current park facilities. Talking

to town members during our interviews, it was largely agreed that the area north of the park would be an ideal spot for a disc golf course, as it has a number of mature trees and plenty of clear space.

The cost of building the disc golf course would be very affordable. A 9-hole course would cost in total around \$8,000 for tee box slabs, baskets, and signage<sup>14</sup>. Thus, after a design was developed, it could be installed very quickly. The largest obstacle to this facility would be acquiring the land, as it is currently privately owned. The alternative would be to develop the course on the west side of the park, but the area to the north would be the preferred option.



Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Par	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	30
Distance (ft)	173	290	150	181	308	168	200	264	185	1919

Figure 36: Proposed Disc Golf Course

## *Pump Park*

A pump park is a bike track consisting of various dirt hills and turns that can be navigated with little pedaling effort. They are becoming increasingly popular, as they provide a mountain biking type environment without the need for hilly terrain. At our community meeting, we found out that many people in town enjoy biking, and a pump park would be an extension of



*Figure 37: Pump Park*

this activity. The ideal location for a pump park would be the lot northwest of the school, as it has a close proximity to both the school and the park. The park could also be incorporated as a part of a larger trail system (discussed later in this section).

The major concerns with a pump park would be cost and safety. The cost ranges based on the type and size of the park, but a typical track with jumps costs around \$10,000 to \$30,000<sup>15</sup>. It would also require access to heavy machinery to bring in dirt and shape the site. The maintenance needed to keep the paths smooth would also add to cost. As for safety, it would be encouraged that children only use the park supervised, and the surroundings of the park should be designed to minimize elements (trees, rocks, etc.) that could cause injury if a fall should occur. Overall, this facility will help diversify the activity scene and encourage increased bike usage in the town.



## *Sports Park*

The lot located on north Carpenter Street provides a great opportunity for the development of a multi-use recreational field. It is a large rectangular lot in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Thus, it would be a closer option than the park for children to play. The field could be used for pick-up soccer, football, or baseball games. It would require very little input expense. Mainly it would require the



*Figure 38: New Sports Park*

purchasing of soccer nets or other sports supplies and the addition of lighting around the perimeter. Maintenance would be a future cost, but would require only minimal mowing and irrigation. Overall, this space would provide a much closer play location than the park and would help support neighborhood engagement.

### *South Park*

The lot to the south of the east of the elevators would be a prime location for a new city park. Currently, residents on this side of town are not within comfortable walking distance of the park.



Figure 39: Current Parkland Accessibility



Thus, this new park would fill this need and help support active transportation. This walkability would be further enhanced by the addition of the sidewalk on Dobson Street. The park would not need to be as large as the north park, but would consist of a playground and a few sports courts. Parking spaces would also need to be added. The cost of this park would be fairly high, but grants could be acquired to help offset the cost.

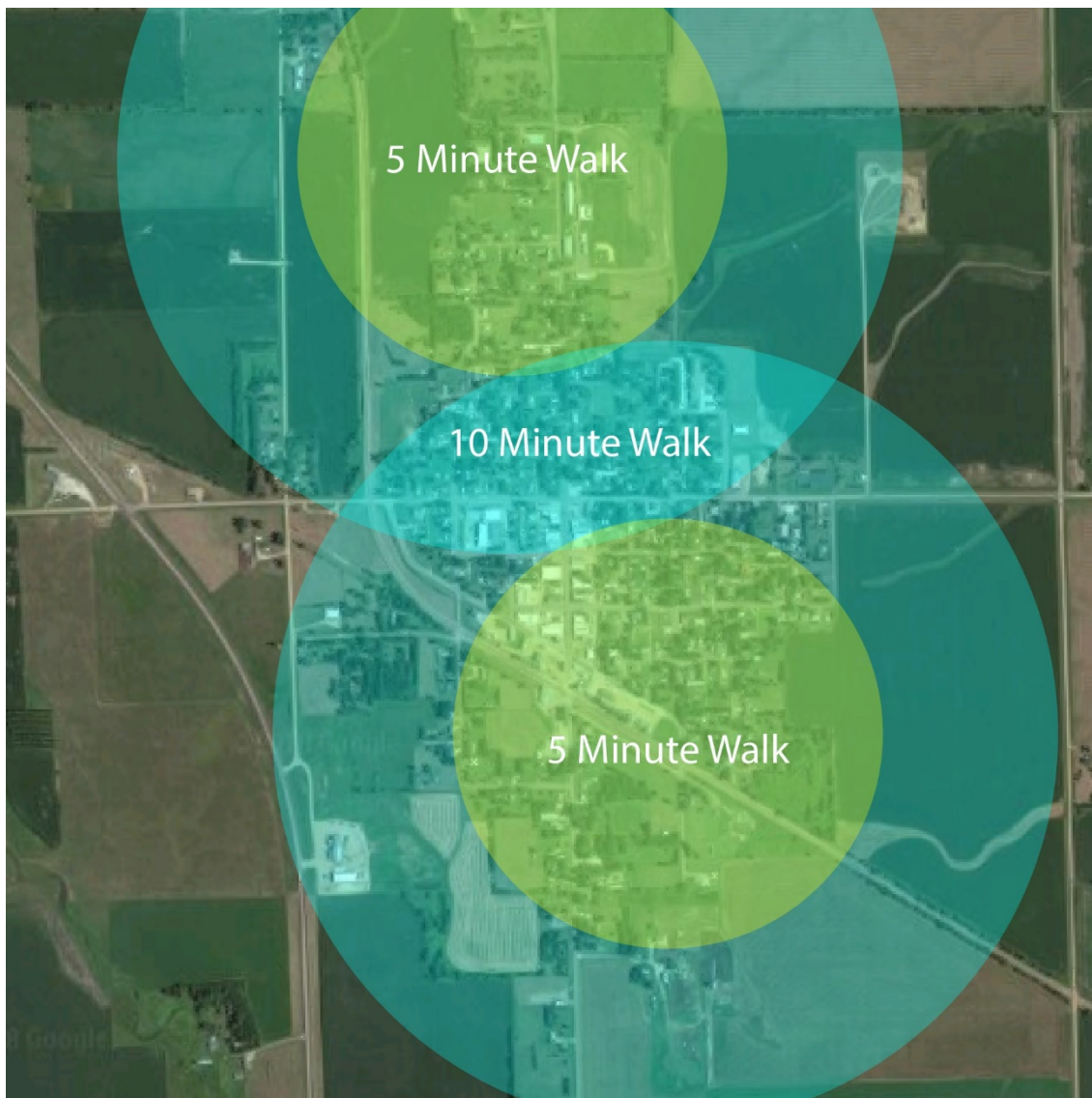
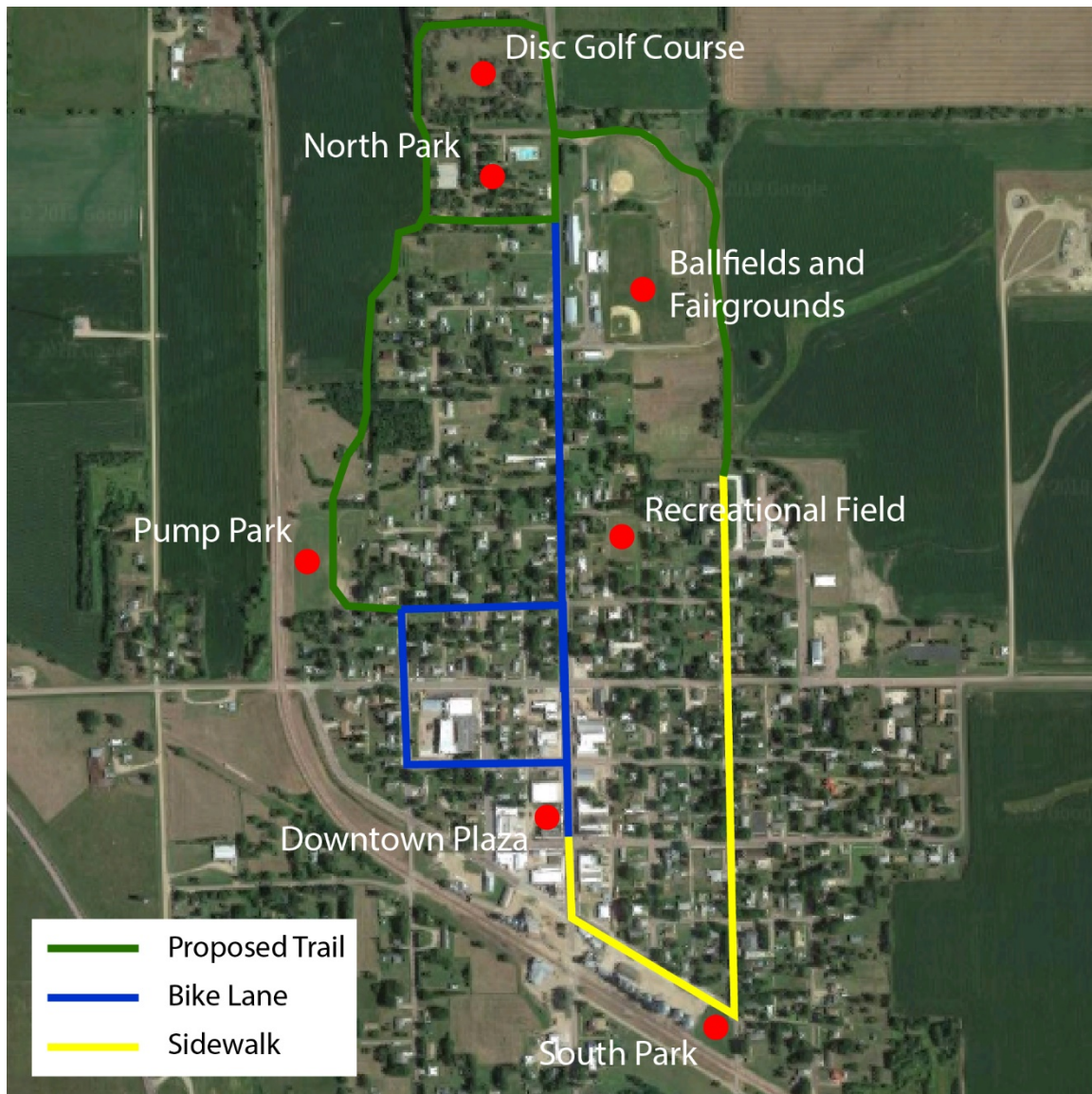


Figure 40: Proposed Parkland Accessibility

## *Recreational Trail*

In order to promote active transportation, connective infrastructure is needed to allow for easy access between each site. The sidewalks and bike lanes mentioned earlier help some, but the incorporation of a trail for the town would allow for easy access between sites and would encourage people to walk and bike rather than drive. On top of this, a trail provides another recreational opportunity for the town.



*Figure 41: Proposed Recreational Trail System*

The trail would begin near the aforementioned downtown recreation center, taking the form of the bike lane. This would continue on 1<sup>st</sup> street past the school, follow Sloan Street north to Iowa

Street, and then turn west until the road stopped. The asphalt trail would begin there, working its way to the proposed pump park and eventually up to the north park. Then, it would loop around the fairgrounds and down until it connects to Dobson Street. The trail would turn to sidewalk on this street, but would continue down to the proposed location of the south park. The sidewalk would provide the route back to Main Street, and then bike lane would take it back to the recreation center. Overall, the entire system would comprise around 1-1/2 miles of trail and a 3 mile loop with the sidewalk and bike lane connections. There would also be opportunities for short loops connected to the Main Street bike trail and on Iowa Street. These would allow for shorter running or biking routes. The bike trail would also need to be supported with plenty of signage and plant material along the length of the trail to help with wayfinding and aesthetics.

The cost of the trail system would be fairly expensive. Depending on the number of supporting features (culverts, bridges, etc.) needed, the price can range from around \$100,000 to \$300,000 per mile for an asphalt trail<sup>16</sup>. This cost could be split into phases as needed, or could be supported by grants. Other infrastructure, such as lighting, signage, mileage markers, and crosswalks, would add additional cost as would any plant material added along the trail. Maintenance would also factor in, though this would be mainly a future cost. Overall, this trail would be a substantial investment, but would be a great value in the long run, as it would lead to better town circulation, increased use of recreational facilities, and an improvement of the overall health of the town.



Figure 42: Recreation Trail



## **Community Building**

### **Recommendation 7: Promote Community Engagement and Fundraising**

#### *Community Engagement*

Community engagement can come in many different forms and can be a community fundraising event or a recreational event. The current events that are held in the summer are the Hutchison County Fair, SDMRI Mud Run, Tripp Sports Day, and the Foundation Picnic and movie nights. The



*Figure 43: Community Movie Night*

events in the winter is Hometown Christmas and American Legion Lucky Dollar Night. These events are great and promote community building through fun activities. The problem that comes with these types of activities is participation. The events should be tailored to the town and planned accordingly. In addition they should appeal to all demographics. If all ages have something to do they are more prone to show up. Another way to boost community engagement and attendance is to ask a variety of ages what they would like to see at some of these events. Not only does community involvement help at events, but also assists the community to come together and tackle obstacles within the community.

## *Fundraising*

The problem that presents itself when talking about all these recommendations is money. A small town like Tripp is capable of raising money and completing these proposals. Fundraising in a small town can be outlined in 4 steps and are as followed:

1. Appoint a fundraising chairman.
2. Identify what needs fundraising.
3. Select the proper fundraising strategy.
4. Set short term goals and long term goals until the goal is achieved.

Although all steps are important in funding a project, the most critical step is identifying the fundraising strategy. It makes more sense to apply for a grants to receive a safe sidewalk plan to the school than to raise the money through a bake sale. Grants are an effective way for small towns to receive money. Similar to general fundraising, someone who needs to be in charge of writing grants. An effective grant writer will allow for sums of money to be received. Other ways to generate some revenue to put back into the town is through donations, events, sales, and crowd funding. Money is not the only thing that can better a town. Once money or materials for a project are accumulated citizens can volunteer their time to get a project done. A great and cost free option is conducting a town clean up. Finding creative ways so save money and better your town can improve a town's image making it more desirable to live and invite more businesses to set up shop in town.

## Grant Websites

[http://www.sdmunicipalleague.org/index.asp?SEC=23477AE3-A0F3-40A8-A463-9EAE5934BC7B&Type=B\\_BASIC](http://www.sdmunicipalleague.org/index.asp?SEC=23477AE3-A0F3-40A8-A463-9EAE5934BC7B&Type=B_BASIC)

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants>

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps)

## **Recommendation 8: Establish a Foundation for Future Economic Growth**

### *Business opportunities*

Tripp may be a small town, but this does not mean economic growth is out of the picture. The previous mentioned recommendations will shape the way for an increase in businesses and the overall economy. It would not be practical to open up ton of businesses right away. Figure out what type of business could be beneficial to the town. An easy way to find out what the town needs is to ask the community where they run their errands. Identifying what people are buying will shed light on a business need in the community. The next challenge is to find a location or building that will host the business. There are a handful of places in town that could host business without having to build a whole new building itself. New business opportunities are not the only thing that could benefit the town economy. Reopening closed businesses can help the local economy and be a convenience to the community. A local business that would help, if reopened, is the community grocery store. The grocery store could become an amenity of the community and provide jobs to locals. Tripp could also benefit in reopening the gas station. The gas station would offer a small convenient store, fuel, and a reason for people to stop and visit the Tripp. Another business opportunity is to utilize the Good Samaritan building. If some of the recommendations are completed it may attract the Good Samaritan Society to reopen. The second option is to find a business that could utilize the building without messing with the no compete laws on the building. A potential business that would help Tripp is retrofitting the building into a County seat office.

### *County seat*

The county seat would be a great addition to Tripp. The current County seat for Hutchison County is Olivet and have a population of 74. (2015). The population of Tripp is 638 people. (2016). Tripp needs 2/3 majority of the entire 7,301 (2015) county population. This works out to be 4,868 votes. With a few of these recommendations to show, Tripp has the potential to get the county seat moved. This would in turn help out the economy and bring more people to the town. With the increase of visitors to Tripp, the need for other business amenities would be appropriate. More people would equal more money moving through current and future business.

## *Farmers Market*

A farmer's market could be a perfect fit an agriculture community like Tripp. The vision behind a farmer's market could yield beneficial results economically and socially. In addition the start- up is very cheap and easy for a small town to start up and encompass the promote community building and fundraising recommendation.



*Figure 44: Farmers Market*

The initial set up does not have to be very large. A couple of farmers and hobby farmers could citizens to set up a tent, some produce, and a sign. Informing citizens in the paper, with flyers, and word of mouth will help support the event. The citizens who run the event could benefit financially and bring the community together by feeding Tripp citizens. The consumers can come together and support their neighbor and buy some food.

A big picture concept of the market could be a permanent overhead structure to set up large farmer's markets that people are down to from neighboring communities. The structure could double as a gathering space whether that is in the downtown square or in the empty elevator lot. The bottom line is creating a destination that will bring people together and feed the comedy and people.

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