



# City of Camanche Park & Recreation Commission ADA Transition Plan

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CITY OF CAMANCHE, IOWA  
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT - PARKS &  
RECREATION TRANSITION PLAN

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## 1. PURPOSE AND NEED

Mission: To create a plan so that our parks are more accessible to persons with disabilities and to retain and seek funding to work towards completing the plan set forth by the Park and Recreation Commission with recommendations and approval from City Council.

This document, known as the City of Camanche ADA Transition Plan, is a result of the mandate by the Federal government to insure that the rights of handicapped individuals in the United States are protected and preserved. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states:

*No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.*

Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. Title II of the ADA covers programs, activities, and serviced public entities such as municipalities. Title II provides protections to individuals with disabilities that are at least equal to those provided by the nondiscrimination provisions of Title V of the Rehabilitation Act. Title II of the ADA further provides that public entities must identify and evaluate all programs, activities, and services and review all policies, practices, and procedures that govern administration of the entity's programs, activities and services. The key goals of the ADA are to ensure that all people with disabilities have equality of opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, and full participation in lifestyle and living conditions.

The City of Camanche is classified as a "public entity" according to Title II of the ADA. As such, the City of Camanche staff strives to eliminate barriers that may prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying access to city facilities or from utilizing our transportation network with independent mobility. This report contains the findings based upon a survey and review of Camanche's public parks facilities in regard to handicap access.

Title II of the ADA identifies specific steps that municipal governments must follow to comply with the ADA:

- Prepare a self-evaluation of infrastructure, services and activities that may not be accessible to persons with disabilities;
- Develop a transition plan to provide for the elimination of barriers for disabled persons to obtain access to municipal parks and recreation services and infrastructure;
- Designate at least one employee to serve as the ADA Coordinator. This person will be responsible for the ADA compliance program;
- Establish a complaint and grievance procedure for the public to respond to issues and barriers regarding accessibility;
- Provide notice to the public of the municipality's obligations under Title II to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability.

## 2. FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Title II of the ADA applies to State and local governments, including cities, townships, school districts, water districts, special purpose districts, and other local governments. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all services, programs, and activities provided by the local government. Thus, people with disabilities must have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from a city's services, programs, and activities. To accomplish this, the ADA sets requirements for municipal facilities, new construction and alterations, communications with the public, and policies and procedures governing civic programs, services, and activities.

When programs, services, or activities are located in municipal facilities that existed prior to January 26, 1992 (the effective date of Title II of the ADA) cities must make sure that they are available to persons with disabilities, unless to do so would fundamentally alter a program, service, or activity or result in undue financial or administrative burdens. This requirement is called program accessibility. When a service, program, or activity is located in a building that is not accessible, a city can achieve program accessibility in different ways. It can:

- Relocate the program or activity to an accessible facility.
- Provide the activity, service, or benefit in another manner that meets ADA requirements.
- Make modifications to the building or facility itself to provide accessibility.

Thus, to achieve program accessibility, a municipality may not need to make every existing facility accessible. It can relocate some programs to accessible facilities and modify other facilities, avoiding expensive physical modifications of many facilities.

**New Construction:** ADA requirements for new construction have been in effect since January 1992. New buildings and facilities must comply with the new construction provisions of the ADA Standards for Accessible Design or the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS). This requirement includes facilities that are open to the public and those that are for use by employees.

**Building Alterations / Additions:** When a building or facility is renovated or expanded for any purpose, the alterations or additions must comply with the ADA Standards. In general, the alteration provisions are the same as the new construction requirements except that deviations are permitted when it is not technically feasible to comply.

Additions are considered an alteration but the addition must follow the new construction requirements. When existing structural and other conditions make it impossible to meet all the alteration requirements of the ADA Standards, then they should be followed to the greatest extent possible.

**Maintaining Features:** Cities must maintain in operable working condition those features that are already in place and are necessary to provide access to services, programs, and activities. Examples of these include curb ramps at intersections, accessible parking spaces, and ramps to building or facility entrances. Isolated or temporary interruptions in

service or access are permitted for maintenance or repairs.

Title II of the ADA identifies specific steps that municipal governments with greater than 50 employees must follow to comply with the ADA:

- Prepare a self-evaluation of infrastructure, services and activities that may not be accessible to persons with disabilities (barriers);
- Develop a transition plan to provide for the elimination of these barriers so that disabled persons can have access to municipal services and infrastructure;
- Designate at least one employee to serve as the ADA Coordinator. This person will be responsible for the ADA compliance program;
- Establish a complaint and grievance procedure for the public to respond to issues and barriers regarding accessibility;
- Provide notice to the public of the municipality's obligations under Title II to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability;

In summary, a municipality such as the City of Camanche generally is required to follow the Title II ADA requirements and needs to conduct business operations with a realization that discrimination of the handicapped cannot be tolerated. The actual technical ADA requirements are too expansive to be summarized here, but can be found at this web site: [http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII\\_2010/titleII\\_2010\\_regulations.htm](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/titleII_2010_regulations.htm)

This document was prepared to meet these specific requirements of the ADA.

### 3. ADA COORDINATOR

The ADA requirement for a Coordinator is for public agencies with 50 or more employees. At the time of this writing, the City of Camanche has 19 employees. However, the City of Camanche desires to have a coordinator designated. This function will always be the responsibility of the City Administrator. At the time of this document, the City Administrator is:

Andrew S. Kida.  
City Administrator  
City of Camanche  
818 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
PO Box 77  
Camanche, IA 52730

(563) 259-8342 (office)  
(563) 249-9219 (cell) (563) 259-9025 (fax)  
[akida@camancheia.org](mailto:akida@camancheia.org) (e-mail)  
[www.camancheia.org](http://www.camancheia.org) (web site)

The city administrator or a designated representative serves as the primary contact for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policies, practices, and procedures for the City of Camanche, Iowa. Requests for information, questions, complaints or grievances should initially be directed to him.

A complaint or grievance can be filed with the City of Camanche according to the following Section 4, Grievance Procedure.

## 4. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the City of Camanche. The City's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation. Please submit the complaint / grievance to:

Andrew Kida  
City of Camanche  
818 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
PO Box 77  
Camanche, IA 52730

Within 20 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the City Administrator or the designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 20 calendar days of the meeting, the City Administrator or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the City of Camanche, and will offer options for resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the City Administrator or the designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 20 calendar days after receipt of the response to the City Council. Within 20 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the City Council will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions.

Within 20 calendar days after the meeting, the City Council will render a decision in a format accessible to the complainant, and provide a final resolution of the complaint. All written ADA complaints or grievances received by the City of Camanche shall be retained by the City of Camanche for at least three years.



## 5. IMPROVEMENT METHODOLOGY

The directives and recommendations provided by the ADA stress that a transition plan should identify obstacles in the park facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs, describe the methods that would be used to make the facilities accessible, and specify the schedule for achieving compliance. This document is designed to address those facilities under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The City of Camanche has a current population of nearly 4,500 persons. Camanche is an active community that is currently subject to sustained growth. Over the past 5 years, Camanche has grown at the rate of 10 new homes per year. Camanche's civic organization provides the typical city services to our citizens through the functions of our municipal departments such as police, fire, library, public works, parks and recreation, municipal utilities, and city administration. The public parks and recreation infrastructure that is maintained by the City of Camanche is also typical and includes such features as:

- Parks and Recreation Equipment
- Parks Parking
- Bike Trails
- Facilities

The various departments and functions of the Camanche organization are located in different buildings throughout the city, as opposed to being centrally located. At this time, the City of Camanche has proper ADA access to all of its civic buildings including City Hall, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works and Library. The area most recognizable as not being ADA compliant for access is the pier at the Public Library. Although there is a sidewalk leading to the pier, it is not at a suitable grade to be ADA compliant. An overall plan for the library area, including the pier, is currently underway. Part of the plan is to create an ADA compliant paved path to the pier.

The Parks & Recreation Commission has recognized a need for making the facilities under its jurisdiction more accessible to persons with disabilities. The Commission has made attempts to accommodate to the best of its abilities those needs for equipment. The Commission also recognizes the need for more access within its parks system as well as additional equipment needs. The Commission will review this document annually and assess its achievements, discuss future projects, and reevaluate priorities.

Given Camanche's current situation as explained above and our limits in regard to staff resources and financing, the City's ADA compliance efforts are focused initially on sidewalk ramp, park access and park improvements, with secondary attention to our other public infrastructure. As is typical with most municipalities, current construction standards and techniques provide sidewalk infrastructure that complies with Title II ADA Standards, whether it be new improvements or reconstructed facilities.

## 6. INVENTORY AND SCHEDULING OF IMPROVEMENTS

The following subsections contain the inventory information for each of the listed parks and recreation elements. Where applicable, scheduling and prioritizing of the proposed improvements is included with the inventory information. Also, conceptual cost estimates for budgeting are not included with this document. Cost estimates will be provided to the Parks & Recreation Commission annually for each park that the commission addresses.

- 6A. Parks Parking Lots
- 6B. Bike Path
- 6C. Parks
- 6D. Pocket Parks
- 6E. Sensory Playground

**Prioritization:** As with all municipalities, the City of Camanche has limited resources to devote to capital improvements. As a city organization, we must prioritize prudently and uniformly to insure that the public is provided the highest quality infrastructure within the limits of our available funding, manpower and other resources. Our approach to ADA compliance, given these constraints, is to prioritize the required actions and improvements. Items with a higher priority will be scheduled for completion sooner than items with a lower priority. For each of the five parks and recreation elements listed above, the structure for prioritization will be as follows. This structure was generated based on the impact that the action or improvement would have, the relative location of the improvement in relation to traffic generation, and perceived severity of the shortcoming or non-compliance:

- Priority 1 Action:** These are improvements that are deemed to be of an immediate need and as such carry the highest priority. These will be targeted for action within the next 12 -24 months.
- Priority 2 Action:** These are improvements that are categorized as important and necessary for scheduling at this time. However, the impact of these actions may not be as high as the Priority 1 Actions, and they may carry a larger financial burden, which makes improvements more difficult to complete in a timely manner. These actions will be targeted for scheduling for completion within the next 24-48 months.
- Priority 3 Action:** These improvements are categorized as a priority to meet full compliance with the regulations of Title II, but are not feasible for immediate-term funding. These improvements will be scheduled and included in the annual Parks and Recreation budget as workload and funding allows.

## 6A. Parks Parking Lots

**Inventory:** There are currently parking lots at the following park locations:

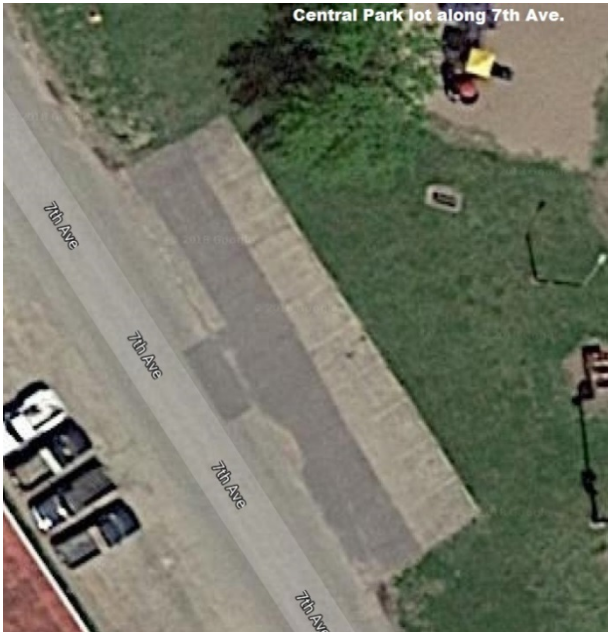
Platt Park	Central Park
Triangle Park	George Peck Park
Maxan St Park (pocket)	Chicago Park (pocket)
Main St. Park (pocket)	Buffalo St. Park (pocket)

There is also parking available at Far West St. Park, which is located in front of the library. This utilizes the library parking which has a designated ADA space. There are no ADA spaces at George Peck Park which shares the lot with the Camanche School District Administration building. The parking lot is under the City's ownership, so ADA spaces will be addressed. There is no parking lot at Lum Park or Anthony Park.

**Standards:** The City of Camanche standards were used to evaluate parking spaces. The standards were developed using the standards and requirements of the Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS), the Iowa Department of Transportation, and the ADA. In general terms, each parking lot was inspected for compliance in the following order of severity of defects:

1. Is there an existing parking lot?
2. Does the parking lot have an ADA parking space and is it an adequate number?
3. Is the parking lot in serviceable condition for ADA compliance?
4. Is there a trip hazard present?

Of the parking lots available, there is ADA accessible parking at Platt Park, Triangle Park, and the new parking lot installed at Main St. Park. There is adequate parking space available at the remaining parks to create an ADA compliant space.

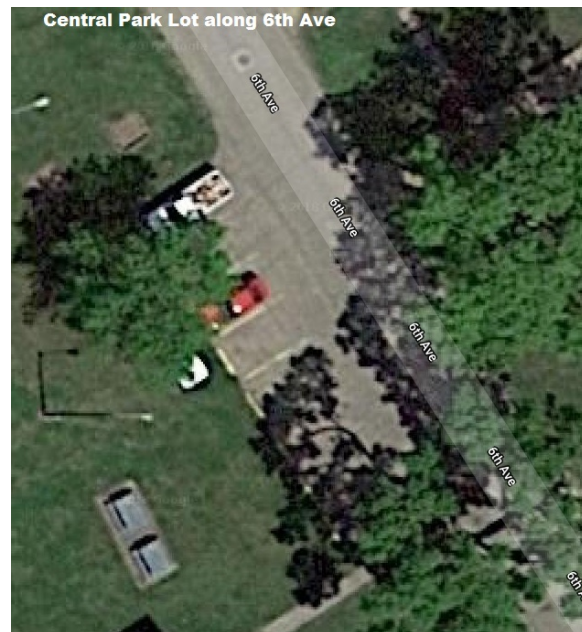


**Prioritization / Scheduling:**  
 Prioritization will be placed based on volume and usage of the parks. The City will take



action to correct any deficiencies in the structure of the parking lot and the availability of ADA spaces for parking. In the area where there are no parking lots, the City will take action to make parking spaces available as space and funding is available. Any programs which include major upgrades to the park facility will necessitate the inclusion of parking for those parks. When new parking is created, the City will install an adequate number of ADA compliant spaces to meet current SUDAS guidelines.

- **Priority 1 Actions:** Restriping of all pocket parks will happen as funding is available. Restriping of Central Park will include an ADA space at both parking lots. An ADA space should be designated on the street for Anthony Park. Platt Park has three parking lots. Two of the three lots have adequate ADA spaces. The North lot by the softball field will need additional ADA spaces. George Peck Park has adjoining parking lots with inadequate ADA spaces. Striping and designating ADA space in the two parking lots is necessary. Adding a street side ADA space along 13<sup>th</sup> Ave for the South diamond is recommended. Signage for all ADA spaces is in place but better signage may be added. Painting the stops blue to indicate ADA spaces will be helpful.



- **Priority 2 Actions:** The parking lots in need of repair or resurfacing will occur as funding is available. The Parks and Recreation Commission will maintain the inventory and grade the condition of the parking lots.



Funding for parking lot repairs or upgrades will be made out of the Parks Improvements and / or Parks Maintenance funds. As funds become available, priority will be placed on the highest volume parking lots. Alternative funding

through grants may supersede the priority list. Priority will go as follows: Central, Platt, Pocket Parks, George Peck

- **Priority 3 Actions:** Anthony Park and Lum Park are two locations without parking lots. Anthony Park has street parking available. Lum Park has a dedicated street area, but there is no pavement around the edge of the park. The creation of a parking lot at Anthony Park should be deemed a necessity as funding is available. Lum Park should have a parking lot installed as additional road work is completed to extend a paved road around the park. These solutions are costly and are to be included in overall park improvement master plans.



## 6B. BIKE PATH

The City of Camanche maintains a bike path and a network of associated roads and sidewalks designated as a path for bicycling and trails. More specifically, there are streets designated as portions of the Mississippi River Trail (MRT). These trails are frequented by a number of local residents as well as visitors to Camanche. There are a number of access points to the bike path and MRT, but there is a limited amount of parking available for people to park, which would include persons with disabilities. Those locations for parking consist of Triangle Park and the Library.

Parking will be assessed and the establishment of additional parking will be added as possible. The parking for the MRT is considered adequate.

The MRT is mostly designated by street signs. The MRT itself is contained for a majority of its position as city street. The MRT areas have adequate City Right of Way to expand and install a dedicated shared use path. It is the goal of the City to create a safer shared use path along the MRT to enhance the riverfront experience for both abled and disabled persons.

## 6C. PARKS

A majority of parks in Camanche have limited equipment and accessibility for persons with disabilities. Parking has been discussed in Section 6a, so those needs are not included here. Each park to address, and the park's specific needs / recommendations are provided.

**Central Park:** Central Park is the most actively used park within the City of Camanche. There is no equipment in this park to accommodate persons with disabilities. Equipment additions are necessary. Swings and other inclusive equipment will be installed. In addition, any playground equipment that is to contain inclusive items will have bottom material upgraded to a more solid base. Sand is not acceptable. Rubber material shall be added as funding is available. The only bathroom facilities available are portable in nature. The goal will be to provide at least one additional bathroom facility to accommodate wheel chair access.



A standard wheel chair height table shall also be added. There are no paved paths through the park, so the ability to maneuver throughout the park is not possible. Sidewalks shall be added throughout the park in order to provide easier access to all equipment. Any additional features shall include the needs of persons with disabilities.

- **Priority 1:** Portable bathroom features shall be satisfied by adding an ADA compliant portable facility. Adding a wheel chair height table to the park is a matter of selection. Adequate funding is available through normal budgeting and park upgrades.
- **Priority 2:** Upgrades to equipment should coincide with the replacement of materials underneath the equipment. This can become restrictive due to cost. As items are added to equipment, the material underneath the equipment will be upgraded. This may take additional funding through the budgetary process or through grant writing. The addition of ramps to equipment will also fall under this level of priority.
- **Priority 3:** The creation of a sidewalk system throughout this park will be quite costly. The goal is to connect all of the features for complete accessibility throughout the park. The items pictured in white are recommendations for sidewalk additions. Items in yellow are proposed, but not deemed a priority as the accessibility is currently for picnic tables only. The network uses the basketball court as a central point. The asphalt on the basketball court is beginning to fail. A resurfacing of the basketball court will be necessary.

Sidewalk connectivity is a long range plan and should be implemented in increments as deemed necessary by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

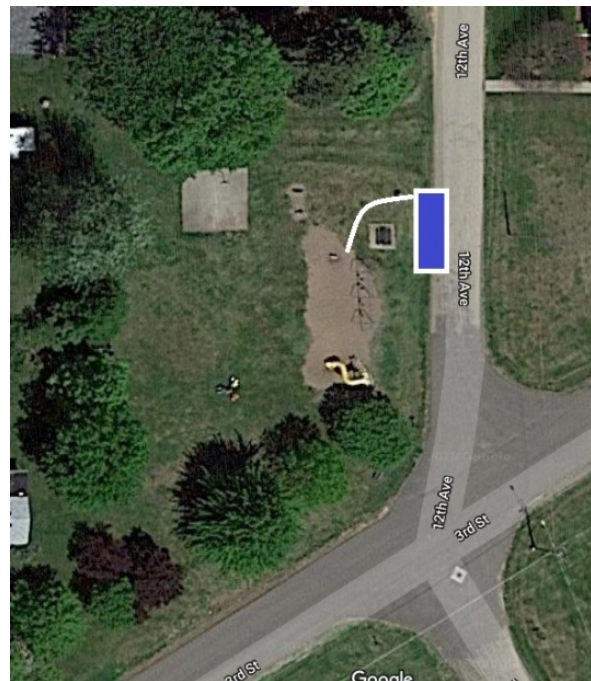


**Platt Park:** This park is the second most used park within the City of Camanche. It is the largest park in square footage, and is home to the City's most widely attended function, Camanche Days. It is also home to youth sports in the summer including baseball and softball. The park was developed in 1976 with funds from the Iowa DNR which included purchase of the land, equipment, and vaulted bathrooms. Over time, some of the equipment has deteriorated and the facilities have seen their wear. The park has adequate ADA parking in both lots, but access to the park is limited for persons with disabilities. Any recommended changes to structures or the facilities should be made with caution. At the

time of the development of this plan, there are some efforts underway to completely redesign this park which would necessitate the ADA consideration.

- **Priority 1:** Add some ADA type equipment for the existing playgrounds. Include picnic tables for wheel chair access.
- **Priority 2:** Change out sand underneath equipment to something more suitable for ADA needs. Add sidewalk paths for access to equipment and ball fields.
- **Priority 3:** Address bathrooms and redesign the facility to make them ADA compliant and more functional. Ensure all concession stands are ADA compliant for accessibility. Add playground equipment designed specifically and individually for persons with varied disabilities.

**Anthony Park:** This park is challenging as it is limited in size and available space. There is at least one swing to accommodate persons with disabilities, the parking situation does not make it adequate and accessible as a park. Section 6a of this document does note that a street location for parking should be designated as parking for persons with disabilities.



- **Priority 1:** Stripe and signage for disability parking. Add ADA picnic tables.
- **Priority 2:** Create a small path for access to the equipment from the previously mentioned parking to the equipment. The material under the playground equipment should be replaced with poured foam rubber.
- **Priority 3:** There are no Priority 3 items at this time as the park is limited in size and adaptation.

**Triangle Park:** This park has no ADA needs at this time. It is a lightly used park and has parking available.



**George Peck Park:** This park is primarily used for youth activities surrounding baseball. There are two standard ball diamonds and a field area for t-ball. The park is adjoined by City owned parking lots and sidewalks surround the park on two of the remaining sides.

- **Priority 1:** Nothing to add
- **Priority 2:** Add small sidewalk from parking lot to concession area at the Northwest corner.
- **Priority 3:** Nothing to add

#### 6D. POCKET PARKS

Maxan St Park  
Chicago Park  
Main St. Park  
Buffalo St. Park  
Far West St. Park

Maxan St. Park, Chicago Park, and Buffalo St. Park shall each have a sidewalk path created in a way that will allow access to picnic tables and bench areas.

- **Priority 1:** None at this time
- **Priority 2:** None at this time
- **Priority 3:** ADA picnic tables and sidewalks leading to the tables / bench areas will be addressed in each park as funding becomes available.

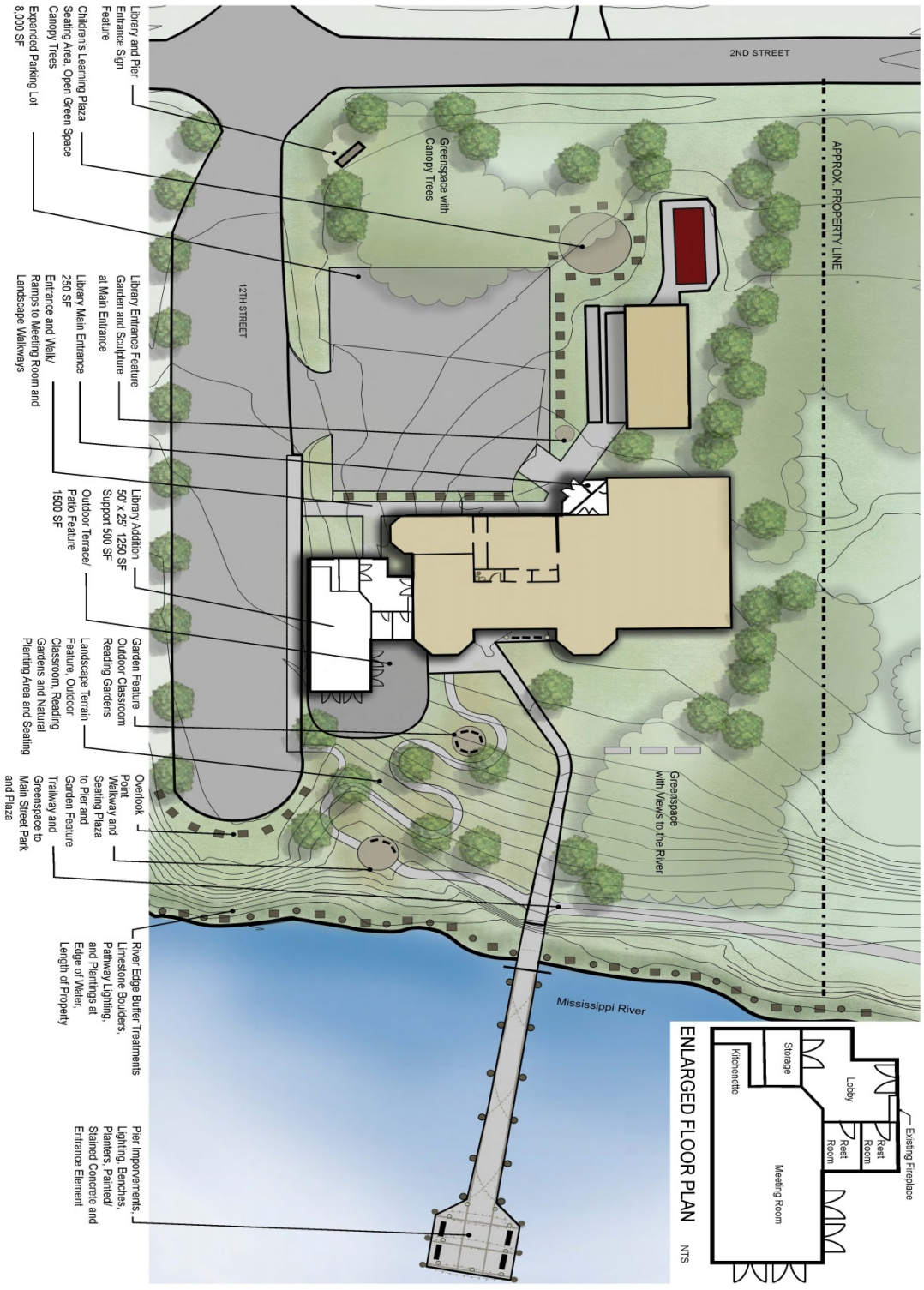
**Main St. Park:** A recent improvement to the area had added ADA parking in a new lot. Main St Park does not have access to get into the park. It is however, part of an overall concept to connect Main St. Park to Far West Park as part of a library improvement which is to include the dock at the library. The City owns the river front area connecting the library parcel to Main St. Park.

- **Priority 1:** There are currently no Priority 1 projects to list
- **Priority 2:** Install a graded walking path to the park area with the proper placement to eventually tie in Main St. Park and Far West Park along the river.
- **Priority 3:** Connect the main area of this park via a walking path along the river to Far West Park and the path to the dock at the library.

**Far West Park:** There is an overall plan for the library and Far West Park area for improvement. The park portion of this concept shares ADA requirements for access to the dock. There is currently a sidewalk but the grade does not match ADA requirements. The dock is a location where persons with disabilities access the river for fishing or river viewing.

- **Priority 1:** None at this time
- **Priority 2:** None at this time
- **Priority 3:** Implement all aspects of the plan for the library and Far West Park as indicated in the drawing below.

**SITE CONCEPT PLAN -CAMANANCHE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
CAMANANCHE, IOWA



Concept for Far West St. Park and connection to Main St. Park.

## 6E. Sensory Park

A Sensory Park offers adventures for all abilities. The goal is to make the entire park accessible not only for children with disabilities, but also parents and grandparents with disabilities who wish to play with their children.

At first glance, a sensory playground may look similar to an everyday playground. However, there are some key differences and considerations for a sensory playground, which could include:

- A fenced-in playground to prevent a child from wandering or fleeing due to overstimulation.
- Impact-ready surfaces that can soften a fall as children with autism have a tendency to climb higher or take riskier paths on a playground that could lead to falls.
- Quiet areas of refuge, such as a grassy area, dome, alcove, or playhouse where a child can have some quiet if he or she becomes over-stimulated.
- Space between equipment to prevent children from running into each other and giving children with autism their space to play.
- Games a child can play by himself or herself, such as panels that are a part of equipment. These could include a labyrinth, chimes, kaleidoscope, mirror, or clock panels.

Sensory panels are key components of a sensory playground because it allows children with autism and sensory integration disorder to play independently and be exposed to different types of sensory stimulation. Many sensory playgrounds often highlight nature, such as opportunities to dig in dirt or sand, view butterflies, or enjoy looking at flowers and unique plants.

Several picnic shelters will give plenty of space for family gatherings. A sensory garden (to be planted in a future phase of construction) could feature trees, shrubs, and perennial plants such as sages, lavenders, and ornamental grasses. Sand and water play offer a satisfying tactile experience for kids and should also be considered.

Rubber surfacing at the play areas should be brightly colored with eye-catching designs, and utilize a tire-recycling incentive program, which provides substantial cost savings.

An area for seniors should have items like chess tables, benches with backs, and covered areas for shade. An area for teens could have items like a small or large sculpted rock climbing structure to challenge all levels of skill.

Some examples of items for a sensory playground are provided:



Appendix A

# Parks Map

