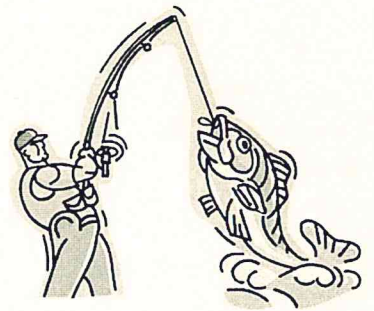
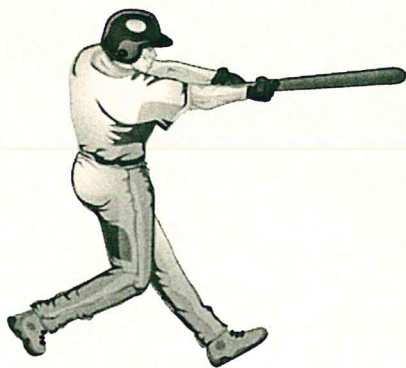




PINE BLUFF PARK PLAN



CITY
OF
PINE BLUFF,
ARKANSAS

**MASTER
PARK
PLAN**

2001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1: THE PAST AND PRESENT

AN OVERVIEW OF PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION	1
SECTION 2. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN 1974	2
SECTION 3. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN 1980	5
SECTION 4. INVENTORY OF CURRENT RECREATION FACILITIES	9
• City-Owned Facilities	9
• Other Public Facilities	14
• Quasi-Public Facilities	16
• Non-Public Facilities	17
SECTION 5. PROGRESS MADE: 1974 THROUGH 1998	20
SECTION 6. ANALYSIS OF THE CITY & ITS RECREATIONAL NEEDS	27
• Participation in Recreational Activities	27
• Population Characteristics	37

PART 2: THE FUTURE

2001 MASTER PARK PLAN

SECTION 1. DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PARK SYSTEM	48
• Goals of the Master Park Plan	48
• Park Classification	49
▫ Regional Parks	49
▫ City Parks	50
▫ Neighborhood Parks	52
▫ Playground Parks	53
▫ Passive Areas	54
• Provision of Land	55
SECTION 2. THE MASTER PARK PLAN	59
• Plan Map	59
• Implementation	63
APPENDIX A	66

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Summary of Recreation Facilities	26
2. Outdoor Activities Participated in at Least once in the Past Twelve Months - by Income	31
3. Outdoor Activities Participated in at Least once in the Past Twelve Months - by Age	32
4. Outdoor Activities Participated in at Least once in the Past Twelve Months - by Race and Gender	33
5. Outdoor Activities Participated in at Least Ten Times or More in the Past Twelve Months - by Income	34
6. Outdoor Activities Participated in at Least Ten Times or More in the Past Twelve Months - by Age	35
7. Outdoor Activities Participated in at Least Ten Times or More in the Past Twelve Months - by Race and Gender	36
8. Population by Age by Census Tract	38
9. Population by Race and Gender by Census Tract	40
10. Population by Family Income by Census Tract	42
11. Families with Own Children Under 18 Years	44
12. Existing Recreation Facility Location By Census Tract	46

LIST OF MAPS

<u>Map</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	1974 Master Parks Plan	4
2.	1980 Park Locations	8
3.	Regional Park	18
4.	Current Park Locations	19
5.	1990 Census Tract Map	39
6.	Census Tracts With Over a Minority Population of 50% or More	41
7.	Census Tracts With A Low and Moderate Income Population of 50% or More	43
8.	Census Tracts With 50% or More Single Parent Families	45
9.	Existing Recreation Facility Location by Census Tract	47
10.	Master Park Plan	62

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

Since 1959, the City of Pine Bluff has been planning for its recreation facilities. In October of that year, the Pine Bluff Planning Commission staff prepared a park and recreation study at the request of the Pine Bluff Parks Commission. The study was subsequently adopted by the commission and has been known since that time as the Pine Bluff Master Park Plan. The study identified deficiencies in the park system at that time in terms of facilities, areas of park land per total population, and service area ratio. The proposals for overcoming the identified deficiencies were (1) that the City purchase ten designated parcels of land for parks and (2) that an area be defined and purchased along Bayou Bartholomew for a "Green Belt Park." This area was to serve the purpose of providing a new city park in the southern portion of the City and also to perpetuate a strip of green space through the southern portion of the City to buffer areas of intense development in years to come.

Unfortunately, the study was prepared during a period of scarce recreational funds and none of its proposals were followed. The parcels identified for purchase were developed by private interests within 13 years of the original Master Park Plan's adoption. An ordinance was passed placing the land in the green belt in reserve until the City could purchase it, but during this same time period, no land was ever purchased by the City and several property owners eventually had their land released from the ordinance by the City Council. In 1972, the possibility of purchasing land in the Green Belt area was investigated, but it was found that the land had become highly speculative and asking prices far exceeded the City's ability to pay. In view of the economic circumstances surrounding the Green Belt Park as proposed in the 1959 study, the Parks Commission subsequently voted to recommend the City Council abolish the existing ordinance.

In 1974, the City commissioned a new park plan financed through an urban planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and prepared by Hodges, Vines, Fox, Casing and Associates. The document analyzed the existing recreational facilities in Pine Bluff, identified deficiencies, and presented methods of overcoming the deficiencies. An interim report concerning the Master Parks Plan was prepared in 1980, but there have been no revisions of the document since that time other than the physical addition of several neighborhood park sites.

The following pages will present listings of facilities in existence at the time of the 1974 Plan and the 1980 Interim Report, current facilities, a discussion of the past and current Plans' recommendations and their validity in 2001, an analysis of the City's population, and recommendations for Pine Bluff recreation in the new millennium.

SECTION 2

RECREATION FACILITIES IN 1974

RECREATION FACILITIES -- 1974

Regional Park. One of the main catalysts in preparing a new park plan in 1974 was the 1973 purchase of a 1,145-acre site through a grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for the development of an area-wide park. At the time of the 1974 plan, the site was undeveloped and a master plan for the entire site was underway.

Oakland Park. Oakland Park was donated to the City in the early 1930's. Until the purchase of Regional Park, it remained the largest park in the City, covering approximately 164 acres. In 1974, facilities in the park included: nine hole golf course, children's' fishing lake, meeting hall, picnic areas, little league field, softball field, rides and concession area, and ten acres of undeveloped open space.

Townsend Park. Townsend Park lies almost adjacent to Oakland Park, directly to the northeast. This park was developed as a city park during the era of segregated facilities to serve the black population of the City. The park covered approximately forty acres and contained a swimming pool, lighted baseball field, picnic areas, two recreation halls, a softball field, and fifteen acres of undeveloped open space.

Central Park. Central Park was donated to the City in 1951 and contained almost eight acres. It was sparsely covered with small trees and contained a ball field and two tennis courts with plans for two additional courts.

Civic Center. There was a seven-acre park in the Pine Bluff Civic Center complex, which contained benches and picnic tables for passive recreation.

Hutson Park. Hutson Park contained two practice fields, a tennis court, and miscellaneous playground equipment. At that time, the tennis court and some of the play equipment were in extremely deteriorated condition.

Mini-Parks. At the time of the 1974 study, there were four sites containing less than one acre each the study called mini-parks. They were located at: Ninth Avenue and Gum Street; 28th Avenue and Ohio Street; Third Avenue and Grant Street; and Poplar Street and Lake Pine Bluff. These parks contained scattered play equipment.

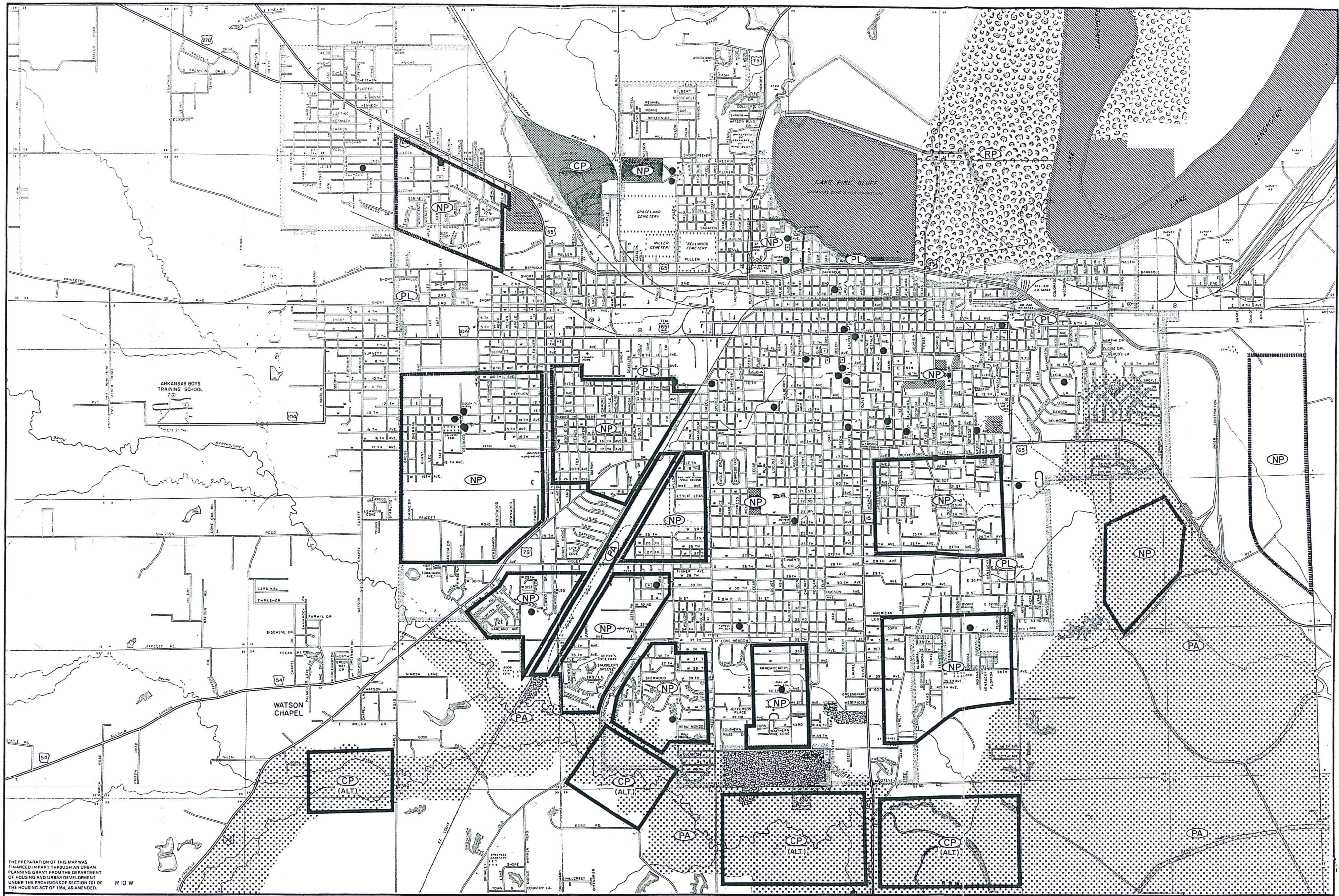
Also existing in 1974 were the following quasi-public sites which were used for public recreational use but were not under the direct authority of the Pine Bluff Parks Commission: *Southeast Arkansas Fair Ground; Taylor Field; Lake Pine Bluff; Lake Langhoffer; and Boyd's Point Recreational Facility.* Since they were available to the general public, they were considered as a part of the overall recreation system. However, the following private facilities were not considered as a working part of the City's public park system: *Butram Country Club;*

Eden Park County Club; Pine Bluff Country Club; Teen Town; Pine Bluff Boy's Club; Broadmoor Recreation Area; and Windsor Park Recreation Area (proposed).

The 1974 Plan established the following priorities:

1. The establishment of a network of neighborhood parks throughout the City.
2. Creation of a Park/School Agreement.
3. Adoption of a Flood Plain Ordinance to restrict development along drainage ways.
4. Adoption of an Ordinance requiring mandatory dedication of park land in new subdivisions.
5. Development of Regional Park.
6. Planning of a future City Park in the southern portion of the Pine Bluff SMSA.
7. Formation of an open space system along floodways and drainage easements.
8. Continued maintenance and improvements program.

Map 1 shows the master plan for parks adopted in 1974. In comparing the existing park sites with those proposed, it is apparent that the southern and western portions of the City were greatly underserved by the City's park system existing at that time. The following two sections document the progress made over the past 24 years toward meeting the 1974 priorities.



THE PREPARATION OF THIS MAP WAS FINANCED IN PART THROUGH AN URBAN PLANNING GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 701 OF THE HOUSING ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED.

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- | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| | EXISTING SITES | | REGIONAL PARK |
| | FLOOD PLAIN | | CITY PARK |
| | UNDEVELOPED SITES | | PLAYGROUND |
| | PRIVATE RECREATIONAL | | NEIGHBORHOOD PARK |
| | QUASI PUBLIC SITE | | MASSIVE AREA |
| | GENERAL SITES | | SCHOOL SITE |



MAP 1 MASTER PARK PLAN
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS
 PINE BLUFF PARKS COMMISSION

1
9
7
4

SECTION 3

RECREATION FACILITIES IN 1980

RECREATION FACILITIES -- 1980

Many recreation improvements occurred in the City of Pine Bluff between 1974 and 1980. With the help of Jefferson County, the Land & Water Conservation fund, and in-kind services from the City, Regional Park became more than the 1,145 acres of open space existing in 1974. About eight miles of gravel roads and two miles of paved roads were constructed, and the beach, model airplane landing strip, and a four-field softball complex were completed. The RC Airfield and Civitan Playland and Vita-Course were the results of volunteer efforts. Oakland Park saw the establishment of a senior citizen's center, and sanitary sewer service was programmed for installation with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Four neighborhood parks were added to the park network with an additional site under negotiation and the construction of a neighborhood community center underway. The following listing and information was taken from the April 1980 Master Parks Plan Interim Report.

Parks Existing in 1974: 1980 Facilities and Condition

- *Regional Park:* (see above)
- *Oakland Park:* Virtually all facilities in Oakland Park have deteriorated and many buildings have obsolete heating and air conditioning system. Both lakes in the Park are suffering from severe water quality and siltation problems.
- *Townsend Park:* The facilities are undersigned and overused, and have deteriorated significantly.
- *Central Park:* Located at 20th and Hickory Streets, this parcel contains the Bloom Tennis Center, with eight lighted courts, a pro shop/showers, play area, ball field, and restrooms, all in good condition.
- *Civic Center Park:* This park is not listed in the 1980 document.
- *Hutson Park:* A three-acre park at East 6th Avenue and Mississippi Street, this park needs rehabilitation of its two tennis courts, and two practice ball fields, restroom, and playground equipment.
- *Ninth and Gum:* Less than one acre, this park contains rundown playground equipment.
- *28th and Ohio:* Less than one acre, this park contains minimal improvements.
- *3rd and Grant:* Less than one acre, this park contains minimal improvements.
- *Poplar and Lake Pine Bluff (George Washington Carver Park):* This is a one-acre, undeveloped parcel.

Parks Acquired/Developed between 1974 and 1980

Brumps Park. Located at Ash Street and the confluence of Brumps Bayou and Lake Pine Bluff, this area was originally developed by the Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Program in 1970. Facilities programmed for implementation in the summer of 1980 included a trail system, bridges, and fishing dock, and picnic areas.

Lakefront Park. Located at Walnut and Pullen Streets, this is a 2.3 acre site programmed for playground development, and has a two acre Land Use Permit for Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Lake Pine Bluff access area.

Taylor Park. Located at 33rd and Mississippi and containing six acres, this parcel was acquired as a neighborhood park using CDBG and Land and Water Conservation Service funds; it is programmed for improvements including parking, basketball courts, picnic area, and restroom in 1980.

Bryant and Mosely Street Park. This 2.5-acre site was also acquired as a neighborhood park using CDBG and Land and Water Conservation Service funds and is programmed for improvements in 1980.

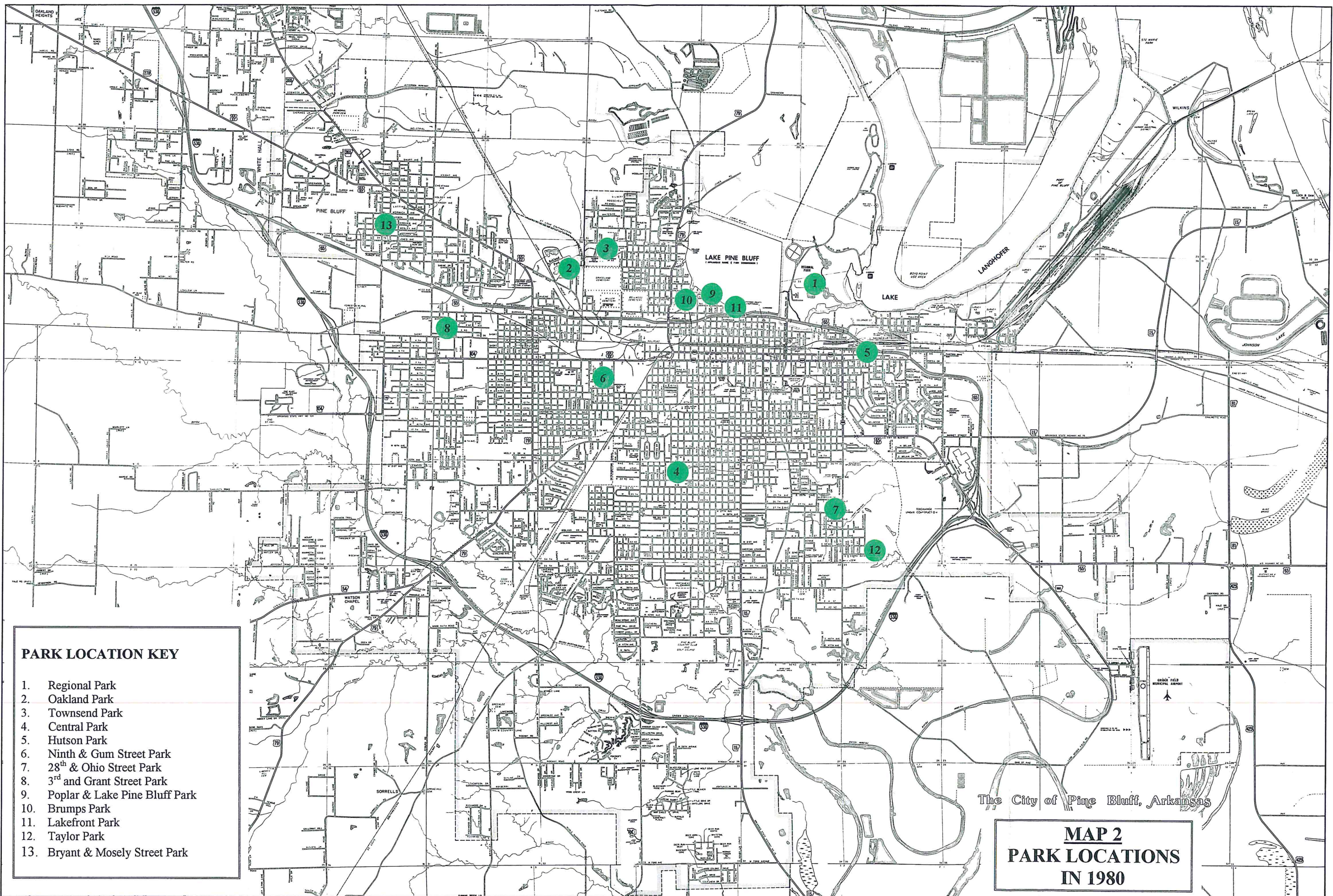
The 1980 document states that the purchase of a six-acre site at 27th and Indiana was under negotiation and that a neighborhood community center, located at 10th and Hazel, was under construction, slated to provide a 20,000 square foot multi-purpose center. It also lists: Ste. Marie Park, a 25-acre park located north of the Port on Lake Langhoffer which is owned and maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers and contains one tennis court, and a vita-Course Exercise Trail; St. Peter's Gym, which was rented by the Parks and Recreation Commission and provided gymnastics, boxing, baton, ballet, judo, and disco exercise classes; the Southeast Arkansas Arts & Sciences Center, which was located in the Civic Center Complex and which offered visual and performing arts, galleries, and numerous workshops; and the Pine Bluff Convention Center, built in 1976 and providing a 2,000 seat auditorium, and 8,000 seat arena, and several smaller meeting rooms and dining facilities.

The document recommended that continued attempts be made to implement the priorities of the Master Parks Plan of 1974. It also established the following priorities:

1. Rehabilitation of Parks. Although some of the parks were developed and maintained, none were fully developed and some required rehabilitation.
2. Development of New parks in Southern and Western Pine Bluff. Areas in southern and western areas of the City were designated as being park deficient.
3. Lack of Adequate Community Centers. Other than the one under construction at 10th and Hazel, there were no community centers in the City.
4. Handicapped Accessibility. Many park facilities needed to be brought up to an acceptable level for the handicapped, particularly Oakland and Townsend Park, as well as curb cuts at all park sites.
5. Lack of Senior Citizen's Centers. Although the Oakland Park facility provided facilities for senior citizens, it is not the exclusive responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department to provide said facilities.
6. Aquatic Facilities. Several surveys and studies indicated a need for two additional swimming pools.
7. Lack of Covered Facilities. Many outdoor facilities can only be used during the summer and could offer substantially more play time by being covered/enclosed.
8. Access to the River. More access for area boating enthusiasts was needed.

- 9. Increased Demand for Urban Recreational Facilities. The need for new urban park facilities (new park land, more facilities, and expanded recreational programs) was indicated due to the combination of gasoline shortages, increased interest in recreation, and the existence of more leisure time.

The following map (Map 2) shows the locations of the parks and recreation facilities existing in 1980.



PARK LOCATION KEY

- 1. Regional Park
- 2. Oakland Park
- 3. Townsend Park
- 4. Central Park
- 5. Hutson Park
- 6. Ninth & Gum Street Park
- 7. 28th & Ohio Street Park
- 8. 3rd and Grant Street Park
- 9. Poplar & Lake Pine Bluff Park
- 10. Brumps Park
- 11. Lakefront Park
- 12. Taylor Park
- 13. Bryant & Mosely Street Park

The City of Pine Bluff, Arkansas

MAP 2
PARK LOCATIONS
IN 1980

SECTION 4

INVENTORY OF CURRENT RECREATION FACILITIES

CITY-OWNED FACILITIES

REGIONAL PARK

Between 1980 and 2001, the City has actively pursued the development of Regional Park. As is shown on Map 3, the 1,145-acre Regional Park has come along way. The road system has been improved, and in addition to the softball complex, Civitan playground (see below), model airplane park, and beach, the following improvements have been implemented:

- 18-hole golf course and club house
- Baseball field
- Practice fields
- Batting cages
- Miniature golf course
- Archery range
- Jaycee picnic area
- Waterfront meeting facility
- Weigh-in pavilion (fishing tournament)
- Handicap fishing pier
- Two boat ramps
- Docking piers
- Fishing pier
- 53-Space RV park
- Youth fishing lake
- Civitan Playground: Slide, three one-table pavilions, see saws, 5 spring toys, play cluster with slide, chinning bars, bench, wood play cluster, new large play cluster, tire swings, grill

Regional Park is the location of the first of four future nature centers to be built by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The Delta Rivers Nature Center held its grand opening on July 29, 2001. Indoor and outdoor exhibits showcasing this area of Arkansas' unique geography and wildlife will be integrated into the center grounds and will include aquariums, interactive exhibits, and a swamp-themed theater. Picnic areas and hiking trails will also be located within the site, and a meeting room will be available for classes and other gatherings.

In addition, Regional Park contains approximately 400 acres, called Boyd's Point, located directly across water from the beach and boat launching facilities. The northern 80 acres of park property has been set aside for the Pine Bluff Bowhunters archery range. The remaining 320 acres has been designated a natural area by the Park Commission for wildlife observation and photography.

CITY PARKS

Oakland Park was donated to the City in the early 1930's and was developed by the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression. It is located in the north-central area of the city just off Rhinehart Road. Until 1974, it remained the largest park in the City, covering about 164 acres. At one time, its facilities included a swimming pool, a small zoo, and an amusement park, but they deteriorated to the point where continued operation was no longer possible. The park name was changed in 1997 to Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Facilities currently available in King Park include:

- 2 Fishing lakes
- Walking course
- 2 Softball fields with concession
- Oakland Tavern
- Sand box
- Swing set
- Chin-up bars
- Pavilion
- Horseshoe pit
- 2 benches
- 13 picnic tables
- Merry go-round
- 3 three-table pavilions
- Slide
- 12 picnic table cluster
- Restrooms
- 4 basketball courts
- Young child area: modular cluster, cannon, slide, rocking horses, mini basketball court, swing set, sand box, bench, one-table pavilion with grill
- Civitan playground: picnic table with grill, slide, rocket slide, submarine, benches, seesaw, 2 swing sets, flying saucer, sand box, buckboard, volleyball area, checker board, toad stool, crows nest, helicopter
- Nine-hole Jaycee Golf Course
- 3-story modular play cluster

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Townsend Park

At 30.6 acres, this is the largest neighborhood park in the City. The park lies just east of Martin Luther King Park, north of Fluker Street, and is adjacent to Townsend Jr. High School. Developed into two types of parks, facilities include:

- East side: T-Ball field, practice field, basketball courts, Little League field, and Babe Ruth field.

- West side: swimming pool, two-table pavilion with grill, monkey bars, one-table pavilion with grill, two large swing sets, basketball courts, two two-table pavilions, modular play cluster, tractor tires, merry go-round, slide animal spring toys, restrooms, two additional grills.
- Giant modular play cluster.
- 2 Rental facilities for reunions, dances, etc.

Central Park/Bloom Tennis Center

This 9.8-acre site is located at 20th and hickory. The tennis center includes eight lighted tennis courts, baseball field, three swing sets, merry go-round, bell climber, two parallel bars, wood cluster, pavilion, and benches.

PLAYGROUND PARKS

33rd and Mississippi

Located on the west end of Taylor Lake, this two acre park contains a volleyball court, a full basketball court, four chinning bars, seven picnic tables, two grills, three swing sets, a slide, bike rack, restrooms.

Lake Pine Bluff Park

Lake Pine Bluff Park is located just east of Lakefront Park on the part of Lake Pine Bluff that parallels U.S. Highway 65. Lake Pine Bluff is a 430-acre fishing lake developed by the Game and fish Commission, and the park is a passive site and a joint endeavor between the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the City of Pine Bluff. The park contains several covered picnic tables and a handicapped fishing pier, all accessible by vehicle.

Lakefront Park

This 2.3-acre site is located west of Lake Pine Bluff Park at the corner of Walnut and Pullen Streets. The park contains a full basketball court, benches throughout, 2 merry go-rounds, single-table pavilion, two-table pavilion, wheel chair sandbox, handicap sandbox, slide, parallel bars, swinging bridge, several play clusters, handicap fishing pier, swings, double glider, restrooms.

Brumps Bayou Park

Containing 4.7 acres, this park is located at Ash Street and the confluence of Brumps Bayou and Lake Pine Bluff. It contains a footbridge and a fishing dock.

Belmont Park

Originally developed as a park for the property owners within the Belmont subdivision, this 3.7-acre site has been in various states of ownership and park development until it was donated by Stewart Sanders in early 1998. Currently, the park contains 6 swings, 2 slides, 6 picnic tables, 6 benches, a merry-go-round, balance beam, 2 see saws, a physical activity center, and a 1/4-mile walking trail.

Hutson Park

Located at East 6th Avenue and Mississippi Street, this 3 acre park site contains four basketball courts, a baseball field, monkey bars, three swing sets, a see saw, sand box, slide, and a two-table pavilion with grill.

Bryant Street Park

Located on the corner of Bryant and Mosely Streets, this 2.5 acre site contains a large multi-purpose court, 2 swing sets, 3 picnic tables, grills, spring toys, see-saws, chinning bars, and restrooms.

3rd and Grant Street Park

Located on the corner of 3rd and Grant Streets, this 1.1 acre park contains: two basketball courts, monkey bars, two swing sets, teeter totter, see saw, slide, double slide, merry go-round, two single-table pavilions with grills.

9th and Gum Street Park

This small park (less than one acre) contains a two-table pavilion, a play cluster, a basketball court, volleyball area, and a swing set.

3rd and Plum Street Park

This 1.5 acre park is located southeast of the Jefferson County Mounted Patrol facilities on 3rd Avenue. The park contains a basketball court, six benches, two picnic tables, 1 grill, half moon climber, monkey bars, swing set, slide, and a modular play cluster.

Packingtown Park

This site was acquired by the City through the Pine Bluff Community Development Department in early 2000 and is currently in the process of being developed. The park is proposed to contain a basketball court, a playground, and off-street parking. The major emphasis of the park is proposed to be toward the young children of the Packingtown area.

COMMUNITY CENTERS

Chester Hynes Community Center

Located at 10th and Hazel is a 20,000 square foot community building featuring a gymnasium, classroom meeting rooms, kitchen facilities, dining area, and recreation room. The site also features a small playground, which contains play clusters, see saws, swings, monkey bars, and log roller.

Merrill Community Center

The Merrill Center is leased by the City and features two gymnasiums, a pool and Ping-Pong room, a weightlifting room, a TV room, an arcade, a computer room, and three multi-purpose fields.

PASSIVE AREA PARKS

3rd and Main Street Park

This park is located in the middle of Pine Bluff's central business district on the northwest corner of 3rd Avenue and Main Street. Comprising what was once a downtown store site, the park's main attraction is the large mural painted on the park-side of the common wall between the park and the adjacent downtown store. The park is also landscaped by a garden and is an attractive downtown feature.

OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES

Lake Pine Bluff

This 430-acre lake is owned by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and is situated on what used to be part of the Arkansas River bed. Levies were built to form the north and west banks. The recreation facilities located on the south bank of the lake are described on page 11.

Ste. Marie Park

Located northeast of Pine Bluff at the end of Port Road, this 57-acre park is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It contains two tennis courts, several picnic tables and pavilions, and a boat launch.

Taylor Woodlands

Approximately 166 acres, Taylor Woodlands is an example of bottomland hardwoods and was donated to the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission by the E.T. Phillips family.

Byrd Lake

This 144-acre site is located east of the junction of Old Main Street and Highway 15, on the south end of town. Byrd Lake is believed to be a natural river scar lake situated on what was formerly part of the Arkansas River Channel. At one point, the lake was part of the Bayou Bartholomew course. The lake was purchased in the early 1980's by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. It currently contains a 1/2 mile paved nature trail, fishing lake, and observation benches and is maintained by the Pine Bluff Parks and Recreation Department.

The Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas

The Arts & Science Center was founded in 1968 and commissioned by the City of Pine Bluff in 1971. Housed in a new facility located on a two acre site on 8th Avenue between Main and State Streets, the Arts & Science Center has four exhibition areas, a 232-seat theater, library, instructional studio, darkroom, and administrative area. The Center offers art exhibits, science exhibits, a permanent collection of art works, studio classes, theater productions, concerts, films and outreach programs.

Pine Bluff Convention Center

Pine Bluff Convention Center, built in 1976, is comprised of over 90,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space. The arena contains 10,000 festival/ 9,000 reserved seats and provides staging and dressing rooms, and a broad concourse providing concessions and one to twelve customized meeting rooms. The auditorium/theater seats 2,027 auditorium style and 600 theater style. The full banquet hall can seat 1400 at rectangular tables or 800 at round tables, and can be divided into four separate banquet halls. The Pine Bluff Convention Center is also the location of the New State Entertainers Hall of Fame. A life size talking animatronic statue of Johnny Cash

greet visitors with songs that he is well known for singing throughout his career. Other well-known Arkansas entertainers, both performing and non-performing, who have been inducted into the Hall have contributed artifacts that run the length of their careers. Current inductees include Art Porter, Sr., Lum & Abner, Mary Steenburgen, Al Green, Tracy Lawrence, Levon Helm, Charlie Rich, and Conway Twitty.

Taylor Field

This facility at 16th and Pennsylvania is the site of a regulation size baseball field. Originally in private ownership, the property and facilities located on it were donated to the City by Pinchback Taylor. The facilities are maintained by the Taylor Field Board. The field is lighted and has a large grand stand area. It is used primarily by the Babe Ruth League, and has recently been the site of the Junior Babe Ruth World Series.

Jefferson County Historical Museum

The Jefferson County Historical Museum displays tools, relics and cotton farming implements, plus Victorian furniture, clothing, Civil War artifacts and antique dolls. The museum also hosts special displays from time to time. Not only does the Museum display historical items, its location is historical as well. Located in the Union Station Train Depot on the corner of 4th Avenue and State Street, this 1906 railroad depot has been restored and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

QUASI-PUBLIC FACILITIES

Quasi-public facilities are sites that are used for public recreational use but are privately owned or are not under the direct authority of the Pine Bluff Parks Commission. Since they are available to the general public, they can be considered as a part of the overall recreation system.

Southeast Arkansas Livestock Show Fair Grounds

Located on 50 acres on Dollarway Road near U.S. Highway 65, the grounds have two buildings located on them; one is a large exhibition hall and the other is a covered arena. The facility is location of the annual Southeast Arkansas Livestock Show and Rodeo, which includes a carnival, a variety of horse shows, and other activities throughout the year that are open to the general public.

Pine Bluff Citizens Boys and Girls Club

This is a community-type center located north of Fluker Street, next to Townsend Park. It is funded largely by the United Way agency and, while open to the general public, charges a nominal membership fee. The Club serves boys and girls ages 8-18 after school, on Saturdays, and during the summer through indoor and outdoor recreation, arts and crafts, and tutoring.

Seabrook YMCA

The Seabrook center is located at 6808 S. Hazel Street, and offers both indoor and outdoor activities in its new facilities. Available to the general public, membership in the center, which includes a joining fee and monthly membership dues, is required to use the Seabrook facility, while the many team activities (baseball, soccer, softball, etc.) require only a sport activity fee.

Arkansas Railroad Museum

This Museum is located in the vintage shop buildings of the Cotton Belt railroad yards just off U.S. Highway 65B (Martha Mitchell Freeway). Vintage railroad rolling stock is displayed in the Museum. The premier display is Engine 819, a 368 ton steam engine.

Band Museum

This Museum, located at 423-425 Main Street, is the only museum in the country devoted to band instruments and the history of the band movement in America. The collection includes hundreds of vintage and antique band instruments, some dating to the early 1700's.

NON-PUBLIC FACILITIES

Private facilities are not a working part of a city's public park system. They do, however, provide sources of leisure activity and should be identified. Private enterprise often fills a recreational need that cities do not ordinarily provide, such as amusement parks, skating rinks, and movie theaters. In many instances, private recreational facilities are products of a system of economic segregation wherein the more affluent citizens of a city provide their own recreation. In this case, a city's priorities should be in areas not adequately served by private facilities.

American Legion Field

This regulation size baseball field is located on American Legion Road, between Main and Olive Streets. This field is lighted with a grandstand area, and is owned, operated, and maintained by the American Legion. It is almost exclusively used by the American Legion Baseball League and the Senior Little League.

Little League/Jr. Babe Ruth Fields

The following fields are regulation little league size fields with lights and grandstand areas, and are utilized, operated, and maintained by the City's Little League and Junior Babe Ruth associations.

- Ed Brown Field -- 34th and Catalpa; American Little League
- Hill-Alford Field -- 8th and Oak; National Little League
- Benny Hatcher Field -- 21st Avenue, west of Oakwood Road; Western Little League
- Monroe Ryburn Field -- Good Faith Road; Eastern Little League
- Bush Field -- Miramar and Amis; Junior Babe Ruth

Butram's Country Club

This three-acre facility, consisting of a lighted swimming pool, is located at 37th and Bay Street.

Eden Park Country Club

This 10-acre site is located at the end of 41st Avenue, east of Jefferson Regional Medical Center. It contains two indoor tennis courts, six outdoor tennis courts, a large swimming pool, recreation hall, and clubhouse.

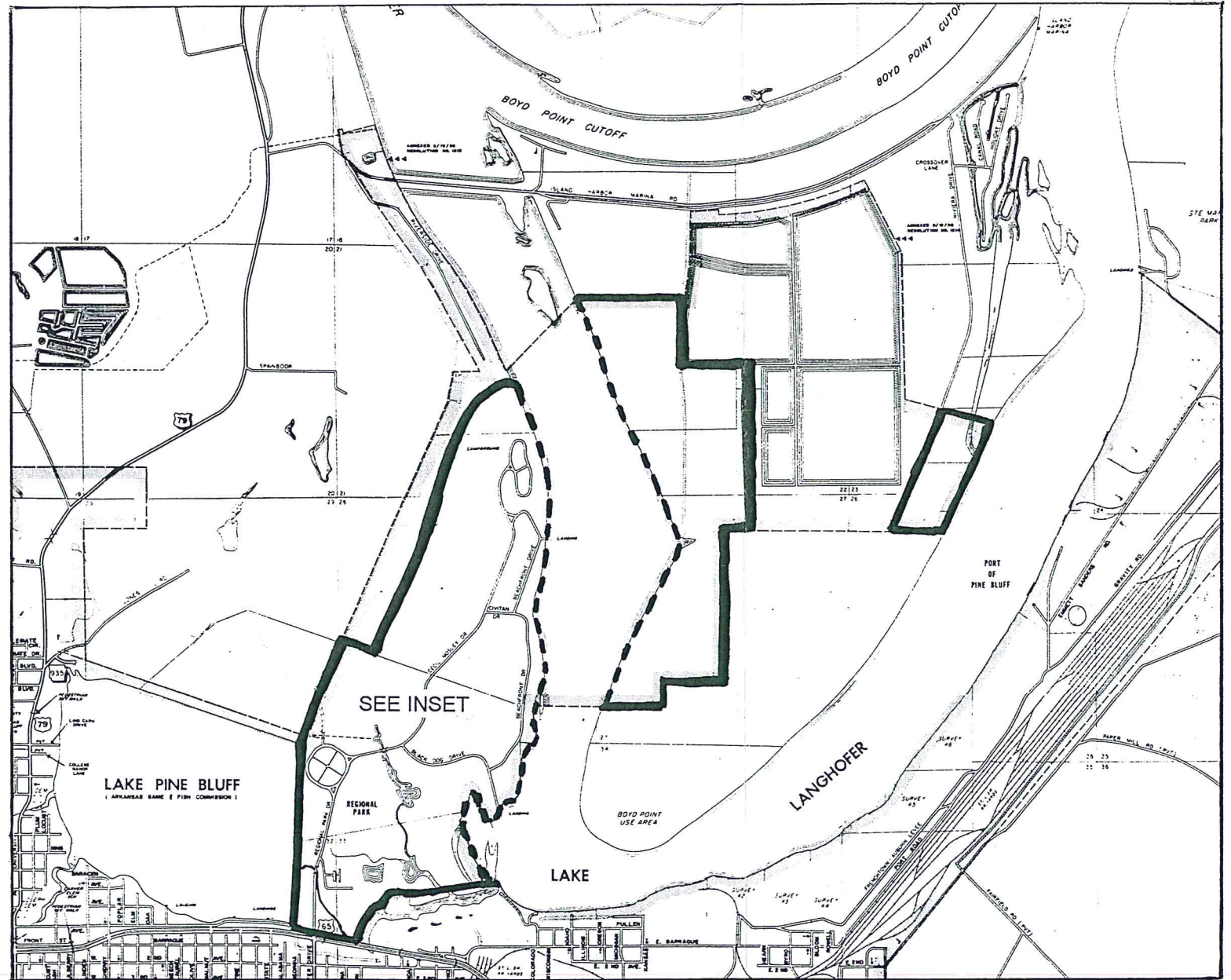
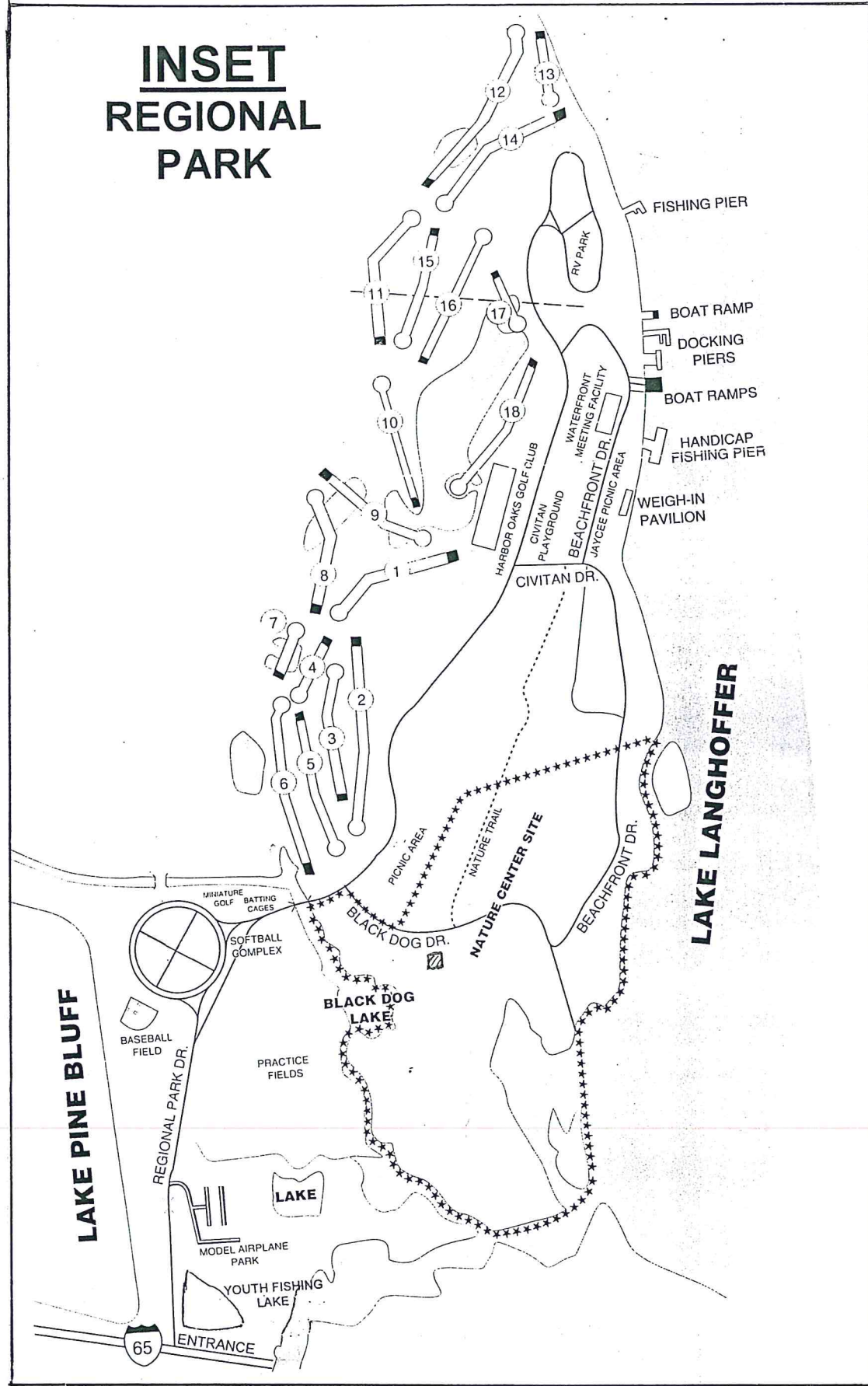
Pine Bluff Country Club

Located at the south end of Cherry Street, Pine Bluff Country Club contains 140 acres. The club includes a swimming pool, six tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, and a clubhouse.

Rosswood Country Club

Also containing 140 acres and amenities similar to the PB County Club, this club is located south of 73rd Avenue on Rosswood Road, just outside the southern-most part of Pine Bluff city limits.

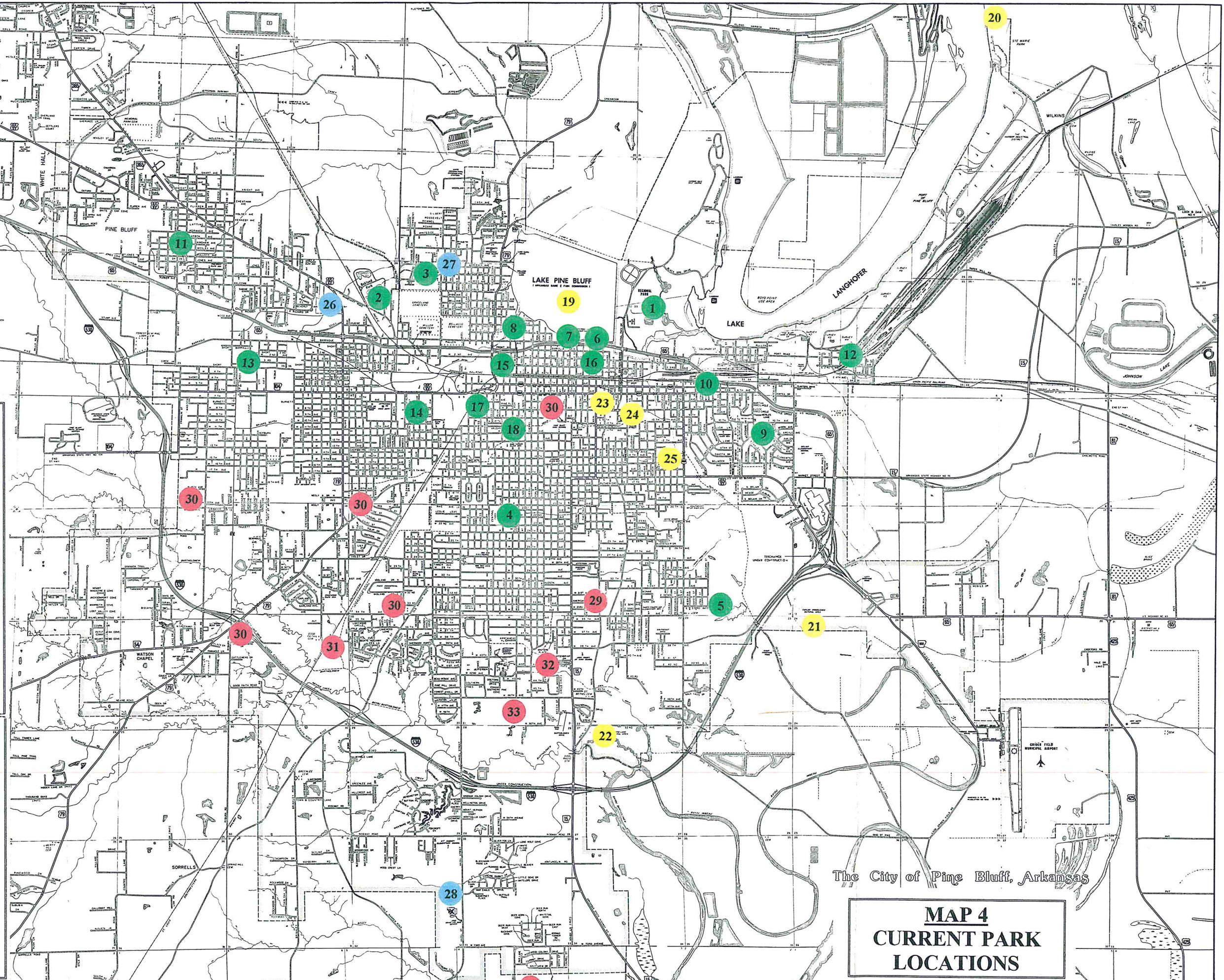
INSET REGIONAL PARK



**MAP 3
REGIONAL
PARK**

PARK LOCATION KEY

1. Regional Park
2. MLK, Jr. Memorial Park
3. Townsend Park
4. Central Park/Bloom Tennis Center
5. 33rd & Mississippi Street Park
6. Lake Pine Bluff Park
7. Lakefront Park
8. Brumps Bayou Park
9. Belmont Park
10. Hutson Park
11. Bryant Street Park
12. Packingtown Park
13. 3rd & Grant Street Park
14. 9th & Gum Street Park
15. 3rd & Plum Street Park
16. 3rd & Main Street Park
17. Chester Hynes Community Center
18. Merrill Community Center
19. Lake Pine Bluff (Other Public)
20. Ste. Marie Park (Other Public)
21. Taylor Woodlands (Other Public)
22. Byrd lake (Other Public)
23. Arts & Science Center (Other Public)
24. Pine Bluff Convention Center (Other Public)
25. Taylor Field (Other Public)
26. SE Arkansas Livestock Show (Quasi-Public)
27. Citizens Boys & Girls Club (Quasi-Public)
28. Seabrook YMCA (Quasi-Public)
29. American Legion Field (Non-Public)
30. Little League/Jr. Babe Ruth Fields (Non-Public)
31. Butram's Country Club (Non-Public)
32. Eden Park Country Club (Non-Public)
33. Pine Bluff Country Club (Non-Public)
34. Rosswood Country Club (Non-Public)



The City of Pine Bluff, Arkansas

**MAP 4
CURRENT PARK
LOCATIONS**

SECTION 5

PROGRESS MADE: 1974 THROUGH 1998

The previous sections have presented an overview of the current recreation facilities of Pine Bluff, inventoried the facilities available in the City's recent past, and presented the recommendations made during previous park plans to improve the availability of recreation facilities. This data can now be examined to determine what progress has been made in meeting the goals and priorities of the 1974 Master Park Plan and the 1980 Interim Report.

The 1974 Master Parks Plan established the following priorities:

1. The establishment of a network of neighborhood parks throughout the City.
2. Creation of a Park/School Agreement.
3. Adoption of a Flood Plain Ordinance to restrict development along drainage ways.
4. Adoption of an Ordinance requiring mandatory dedication of park land in new subdivisions.
5. Development of Regional Park.
6. Planning of a future City Park in the southern portion of the Pine Bluff SMSA.
7. Formation of an open space system along floodways and drainage easements.
8. Continued maintenance and improvements program.

The 1980 Interim Report recommended that continued attempts be made to implement the priorities of the Master Parks Plan of 1974, and also established the following priorities:

9. Rehabilitation of Parks.
10. Development of New parks in Southern and Western Pine Bluff.
11. Lack of Adequate Community Centers.
12. Handicapped Accessibility.
13. Lack of Senior Citizen's Centers.
14. Aquatic Facilities.
15. Lack of Covered Facilities.
16. Access to the River.

How have we done? The following responses show progress made toward the priorities listed in both 1974 and 1980.

- *The establishment of a network of neighborhood parks throughout the City.*
The network of parks as recommended in the 1974 Plan included twelve neighborhood general sites in which neighborhood parks should be developed. Of the proposed sites, six were located in western and southwestern Pine Bluff (the area south of 10th, east of Hutchinson, north of Bayou Bartholomew, and west of Hazel); one designated the Dollarway area; one was in the south central portion of the City; two were east of Olive and south of 17th Avenue; one was south of the Pines Mall; and one was west of the Mall. The 1980

Interim Report reiterated the 1974 goals while adding that development of new parks in western Pine Bluff was another major goal.

In furtherance of the 1974 and 1980 park network goals, a neighborhood park in southeastern Pine Bluff (33rd and Mississippi) was purchased by the City between 1974 and 1980, and the Bryant Street Park was also purchased during this time period to provide park resources in the Dollarway area. Between 1980 and 2001, the City added four new neighborhood parks -- one in the Broadmoor (eastern Pine Bluff) area, one in the Central Business District, one in north central Pine Bluff (3rd and Plum), and one in the Packingtown area (northeastern Pine Bluff) -- while making major strides in developing all the existing and new parks. In all, between 1974 and 2001, eight new neighborhood parks were added to the City's parks network, and all have experienced either substantial development, rehabilitation, or redesign (see Table 1 for a summary of the increases and improvements accomplished in the City park network). Also, Byrd Lake Natural Area and Taylor Woodlands, located in southeastern Pine Bluff, were developed as passive area sites by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. One existing, undeveloped park was removed from the network during this period. The City sold the George Washington Carver Park located at Lake Pine Bluff and Poplar Street to a private developer for much needed housing development. Several parks are located in the vicinity of this site and continue to provide recreation opportunities for the residents of the area.

The new and improved public parks have put the City closer to its goals of providing a city-wide network of parks, and the City has made great strides in providing a variety of recreational resources in northern and eastern/southeastern Pine Bluff. However, the western, southwestern and southern portions of the City remain severely park deficient.

- *Creation of a Park/School Agreement.*
There are three public school districts that have all or a substantial part of their facilities situated within the City limits. At present, the City has arrangements with the Watson Chapel School District to utilize its gym for golf, with Pine Bluff High School to use its gym for tennis, and with the Pine Bluff and Watson Chapel Districts to use their facilities for softball.
- *Adoption of a Flood Plain Ordinance to restrict development along drainage ways.*
The City of Pine Bluff initiated its flood hazard prevention program in 1976 which requires specific measures to be taken when construction occurs in the 100-year floodplain, such as elevating the structure to or above the 100-year flood elevation, flood proofing the structure, and/or determining the effects of construction on the floodplain and surrounding properties. While the City does not prohibit construction in the floodplain, costs involved in developing land located in a floodplain discourage its development.
- *Adoption of an Ordinance requiring mandatory dedication of park land in new subdivisions.*
The Pine Bluff Subdivision Regulations provide that whenever a tract of land is to be subdivided, and a site which is contained as part of the Master Parks Plan for a park or community building, an historic site, or a scenic area is located within the area to be subdivided, the developer must give the appropriate public body a forty-five day period in which to express its interest in the site. The land can either be dedicated for public use,

purchased, or eminent domain procedures applied, but dedication of the site is not mandatory.

- *Development of Regional Park.*

The regional park site had been purchased prior to the 1974 Plan, but no development had occurred at the time the Plan was published. Since 1974, great strides have been made in the development of Regional Park, resulting in providing an array of fine facilities that any City would be proud of. Not only does the park now contain facilities that provide resources for a variety of recreational interests and pursuits, additional major developments such as the Delta Rivers Nature Center are entering the implementation phase and additional acreage has been added to the park and will remain in its natural state.

- *Planning of a future City Park in the southern portion of the Pine Bluff SMSA.*

The city park existing in 1974 was located in the northern section of Pine Bluff; the 1974 Plan recommended four alternate sites for the location of a city park to be developed for southern Pine Bluff. In 1980, this recommendation was reiterated. However, no positive statements concerning this priority can currently be made. While southeastern Pine Bluff has benefited through the purchase by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission of the passive recreation area known as Byrd Lake, neither a City Park nor any neighborhood parks have been developed in southern or southwestern Pine Bluff.

- *Formation of an open space system along floodways and drainage easements.*

The Bayou Bartholomew "Green Belt Park" has been a part of the park facility vision since it began. Although the City has not purchased property within this Green Belt for the specific purposes of providing open space, passive recreation, or park facilities, the City does own land within the area, and the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department owns several mitigation areas which were developed as a part of the construction of the Southern Bypass. These two circumstances provide the City with an opportunity to provide a Green Belt Park that was not available in 1974 and 1980. Currently, the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance, a private-nonprofit organization, has submitted a recreation trail grant application to the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department to develop an educational nature/ recreational trail within a portion of the Green Belt. The City provided technical assistance to the Alliance in preparing the grant in terms of cost estimates, land parcel ownership, and mapping, and the outlook for funding of the trail by AHTD later this year is encouraging.

- *Continued maintenance and improvements program.*

The Parks and Recreation Department does a good job of maintaining park grounds and facilities with the funds available to it. Not only does the Department provide grounds maintenance such as mowing and weeding, it provide the lights, water and other utilities necessary to operate the facilities, provides rehabilitation and upkeep to severely aged structures, schedules ball games and other recreation activities, purchases and installs park equipment, and accomplishes various other operational activities associated with park development and maintenance. There is not, however, a capital improvements program for the Parks and Recreation Department, and there has been no scheduling of improvements to

be made to existing parks or purchasing of existing parks. These have occurred as funds become available.

- Rehabilitation of Parks.

This priority refers to the need to add facilities to some parks while rehabilitating park grounds and facilities in other parks. All in all, the existing park network is in good shape. One of the fishing lakes in MLK Park has recently undergone extensive repair and has been stocked with fish. A swimming pool has been provided in Townsend Park, and Hutson Park has been redesigned and rehabilitated with facilities that are more in demand than previous facilities. However, the two buildings available for rent by the general public are closed and need major rehabilitation. Developing the parks added since 1980 has also been a priority.

- Development of New Parks in Southern and Western Pine Bluff.

The 1974 Plan included recommending a new City Park in southern Pine Bluff as well as the addition of 12 neighborhood parks throughout the City. In 1980, these two priorities were made into one priority: to provide southern and western Pine Bluff with public recreational opportunities. As previously stated, these areas are still without public park facilities. Map 4, on page 19, shows that the north half of the City has gained much ground in the development of the network of City recreation facilities as recommended in 1974 and 1980; the northern, north-central, and southeastern portions of the City are also provided several other public and quasi-public recreational sites. There are a variety of private facilities in south Pine Bluff, but these facilities do not meet the recreational needs of the majority of residents of the area because the membership fees are out of reach of most of the residents. In summary, western and southwestern Pine Bluff are severely deficient in the availability of public parks facilities.

- Lack of Adequate Community Centers.

At the time of the 1980 study, a recreation center was in the process of being constructed. This center, the Chester Hynes Center, has now been part of the recreational facility network of the City for many years. The City has also leased an additional community center facility, the Merrill Center, which has also become part of the City's network. In addition, quasi-public facilities that should be included under this heading are the Citizen's Boys and Girls Club and the Seabrook YMCA. The Boys and Girls Club has existed since the 1960's. It is open to the general public but charges a nominal membership fee. Seabrook has also been in existence for many years and has recently constructed new facilities. It provides a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational activities for children and youths. While available to all Pine Bluff residents, there is a membership fee for use of the indoor facilities; outdoor activities are in the form of organized sport teams and require paying a fee to participate. Of the four above listed community centers, Seabrook is the only one located in southern Pine Bluff; the Boys and Girls Club is located in north Pine Bluff, and the Chester Hynes and Merrill Centers are both located in north/north-central Pine Bluff.

- Handicapped Accessibility.

All the City's park facilities are handicapped-accessible or are currently in the process of becoming so. Also, many facilities have been constructed especially for use by handicapped

persons such as the fishing piers at Lake Pine Bluff Park and Regional Park and Lake Front Park's playground equipment.

- Lack of Senior Citizen's Centers. The 1980 document stated that there was a need for facilities for senior citizens. Although providing facilities for the senior citizen is not the exclusive responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department, there is and will continue to be a definite need for senior citizen facilities. For many years, Oakland Tavern in Martin Luther King Park was the only senior citizen's center in the City. It was used by the Area Agency on Aging for the senior citizen lunch program, but since it was a City-owned property that was part of the park system, it was also available for other activities. The Area Agency moved its operation to a building downtown a few years ago, and it is expected that Oakland Tavern will soon be removed from the park due to its condition. In addition to allowing Oakland Tavern's use for senior citizen activities, the Parks Department has concentrated on providing recreation facilities that can be easily used by senior citizens who don't need special care. Martin Luther King Park has walking trails, there are many picnicking facilities in Regional and other parks that have close-in and handicapped parking and are wheelchair accessible, there are fishing docks in both Regional Park and the Lake Pine Bluff Park, and there are two public golf courses in the City park system.

A new senior citizen facility to be operated by the Area Agency on Aging has just been constructed in MLK Park through the City's Community Development Block Grant Program. Since the new center is being constructed specifically for the senior citizen, the new facility will better serve this target population than Oakland Tavern and will bridge a gap in senior citizen services. However, since it is expected that Oakland Tavern will be removed and the new facility will not be available for activities not associated with the Area Agency's senior citizen activities, the City may need to consider construction of a facility in the park that can be used by the general public.

- Aquatic Facilities. Townsend Park is the site of the City's only public swimming pool. The Park originally contained a pool, which after years of deterioration, was filled in and a new one constructed. The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff has swimming facilities that are often the site of public swimming lessons. Other facilities that offer swimming facilities are private (Pine Bluff Country Club, Rosswood Country Club, Eden Park Country Club, and Butram's). Regional Park does contain a public beach that is swim-at-your-own-risk, and there are various sand bars along the river that can be used for swimming but must be reached by boat.
- Lack of Covered Facilities. The 1980 document stated that many outdoor facilities such as swimming pools and tennis courts can only be used during the summer, and that these facilities can offer substantially more play time by covering them. The one public swimming pool and the public tennis courts in Central Park are not covered. Eden Park Country Club has enclosed tennis courts, and UAPB has an indoor swimming pool, but these private and quasi-public facilities cannot be considered as being available to the general public.
- Access to the River. At the time of the 1980 document, the only public access point (in close proximity to the City) to the Arkansas River and Lake Langhoffer was at Ste. Marie Park, a

Corps of Engineer facility located on the Lake. There were two private facilities that also provided access. The City has now developed two boat ramps, docking piers, and fishing piers in Regional Park on the banks of Lake Langhoffer. Ste. Marie and the two private facilities still provide boat ramps, and one of the private facilities provides a marina with boat stalls, fuel, and store.

- *Increased Demand for Urban Recreational Facilities (new park land, more facilities, and expanded recreational programs)*

This 1980 priority contains goals that all cities must continually pursue because a city is constantly in a state of change. The socio-economic make-up of the residents varies as a result of the increase, expansion, or decrease of businesses and industries. The residential centers shift for a variety of reasons such as improving financial conditions which make it possible to “move up,” deteriorating older residential areas which cause residents to move to more stable neighborhoods, commercial developments which spur residential developments, and so on.

As has been previously stated, the City has been quite busy expanding its recreational resources through purchase and development. However, the City must look to the future and provide resources that are accessible and available to all its residents. The next two sections of this document provide population and recreational demand data and a plan to provide recreational opportunities to current and future Pine Bluff residents.

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF RECREATION FACILITIES

PARKS IN 1974	STATUS	PARKS IN 1980	STATUS	PARKS IN 2001	STATUS
Regional Park	Vacant	Regional Park	Partially developed	Regional Park	Largely developed. Needs additional development.
Oakland Park	Developed, deteriorated	Oakland Park	Developed, deteriorated	Now called Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park	Needs some rehabilitation
Townsend Park	Developed	Townsend Park	Developed, deteriorated	Townsend Park	Needs rehabilitation.
Central Park	Partially developed	Central Park	Developed	Central Park	Needs new restroom facilities
Civic Center Park	Passive	No longer in park network	Part of Civic Center Grounds	N/A	Unchanged. Needs additional development.
Hutson Park	Developed, Deteriorated.	Hutson Park	Developed, deteriorated	Hutson Park	N/A
9th and Gum	Scattered play equipment.	9th and Gum	Minimal development	9th and Gum	Redesigned and Rehabilitated.
28th and Ohio	Scattered play equipment.	28th and Ohio	Minimal improvements, deteriorated	No longer in park network	Developed
3rd and Grant	Scattered play equipment.	3rd and Grant	Minimal development	3rd and Grant	N/A
Poplar and Lake Pine Bluff	Undeveloped	Poplar and Lake Pine Bluff (G.W. Carver Park)	Undeveloped	No longer in the park system.	Developed
		Brumps Bayou Park	Some development	Brumps Bayou Park	Unchanged
		Lakefront Park	Not developed	Lakefront/Lake Pine Bluff	Developed
		Taylor Park	Not developed	Now called 33rd and Mississippi Street Park	Developed
		Bryant and Mosely	Not developed	Bryant Street Park	Developed
		Community Center	Under construction	Chester Hynes Community Center	Completed, developed
				Belmont Park	Donated, developed
				3rd & Plum Street	Donated, developed
				3rd & Main Street	Donated, developed
				Merrill Community Center	Leased, developed
				Packingtown Park	New Park, developed

SECTION 6

ANALYSIS OF THE CITY AND ITS RECREATIONAL NEEDS

The previous pages describe the recreation facilities of Pine Bluff's recent past and recommendations made during those times to improve these facilities for Pine Bluff's future. It also provides a listing of current recreation facilities in and adjacent to the City and shows the progress made toward implementing a city-wide park network as well as the other priorities listed. Before determining what recommendations made in 1974 and 1980 are still valid and what the current and future recreation priorities should be, it is necessary to examine the City's population. And, it is necessary to explore the recreational needs and desires of the people.

PARTICIPATION IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A key component of developing recreation programs is to know the interests of the group being targeted. For instance, if your target group is toddlers through third grade children, spring-riders, slides, and swings are an option for the playground you are planning, but these facilities would go largely unused if the target group were teenagers. To further illustrate, some studies have identified differences in recreational activity participation patterns between African Americans and Caucasians. Various survey results generally show lower participation among African Americans in outdoor recreational activities such as camping and hiking, and higher participation in active, social, and urban-oriented activities like ball playing and picnicking. There is also a tendency for African Americans to concentrate more of their recreational participation closer to home than is the case with Caucasians. These and other statistics are beneficial when planning what types of facilities or programs should serve the community and where to locate them, however, these numbers could also mean that there is a definite need to diversify the recreation facilities and opportunities that have been offered in the past.

In 1995, the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism prepared the Arkansas Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), a five-year plan designed to assess and improve outdoor recreation across the State. In conjunction with the SCORP, the State Parks Department conducted a statewide public opinion recreation survey in order to identify the type of recreational activities in which residents participated and their perceptions of park safety, use/access by the disabled, and park preferences.

Generally, the major findings of the survey were:

- A majority of respondents lived within 30 minutes of a park or recreation area and visited a local park at least once in the last 12 months. Respondents were most satisfied with the facilities for pre-school children and least satisfied with facilities for middle aged and older adults.

- A majority of respondents reported their communities offered public athletic programs and educational and/or information programs. Those that did not have access to these programs would like to have them, and those who did have them present would like to have more.
- Fishing, swimming, going on wildlife observations and walking and driving for pleasure were among the most frequently participated in activities.
- The distance one lives from a public park, not surprisingly, appears to affect park utilization.
- Those living the closest to a public park tend to visit it more frequently, but for shorter durations, than do those living farther away.
- Outdoor recreational facilities for pre-schoolers received the most favorable rating, with 46% of all those responding feeling these types of facilities were good. This rating held regardless of demographics.
- Facilities for youth and young adults received the second highest set of ratings. Roughly 40% of the respondents rated outdoor recreational facilities as good, while about 23% rated the facilities as poor. Blacks and females were not nearly so satisfied as whites and males. Only 19% of blacks and 35% of females rated the facilities as good versus 42% of whites and 45% of men.
- Overall, 42% of the respondents felt the outdoor recreational facilities for the mid to older adults were good. However, there was a major difference in attitude among blacks and whites. Almost 38% of blacks believed these facilities were poor, compared to 23% of whites.
- Fourteen percent of the respondents had at least one family member with a disability. Those respondents who had family members with a disability were asked how often the disabled were able to use park facilities. Most (57%) felt the disabled were sometimes able to use park facilities. Only small percentages felt the disabled were always (19%) or never (12%) able to use park facilities.
- Overall, 78% of the respondents felt safe in their local parks. Males (81%) felt safer than females (75%). Persons from all income levels felt safe in their local parks, with those making between \$20,000 and \$30,000 (84%) feeling the safest in public parks. Those making less than \$10,000 and those earning \$10,000-\$20,000 felt the least secure (75%). Sixty-four percents (64%) of blacks did not feel as secure in their local parks as did whites (80%).
- Of those who felt unsafe at local parks, 82% reported fearing for their personal safety and 41% expressed concern about the safety of their vehicles. Only 34% felt unsafe because they feared accidents.

- Over 72% of those who felt unsafe in local parks felt better park security was the best answer to stem their fears. Blacks (70%) and whites (72%), males (80%) and females (67%), and those in all income and age brackets responded in a similar fashion. Over 51% felt better lighting would help them feel safer in parks. About 34% of the respondents believe improved park maintenance would reduce the number of accidents.
- Over 53% of the respondents were aware of outdoor events held at parks in their town or community. About 45% had actually attended one of these types of events within the last 12 months. Whites (56%) were more aware of these types of events than were blacks (43%). Respondents in the \$40,000-\$50,000 income bracket claimed the greatest awareness of outdoor events and were more likely to attend. Those who attended such events most often were between 25 to 44 years of age. Whites attended these types of events more often than blacks, and a greater percentage of males attended these types of events than did females.
- Newspapers were by far the primary source of information concerning concerts, festivals, and other outdoor events. Television and radio finished virtually even. More whites (57%) acquired their information from newspapers than did blacks (41%), and more blacks (18%) gained their information from television than did whites (14%). Females (59%) saw the newspapers as their primary source of information, more so than did males (40%). While newspapers were the most dominant source of information about parks, lower income groups were less reliant on newspapers as a primary information source than are higher income groups. All age groups relied on the newspapers as an information source, with the highest level of usage among those 55 to 59 (59%). However, 18 - 20 year olds relied on television as their primary information source (29%), and respondents between 25 and 44 years of age were more likely to use the radio than any other group as a primary source of information (21%).
- Most respondents (43%) indicated they favored concentrating most of the parks' money on facility maintenance. About 25% felt that the money should be spent on park-related activities. An overwhelming number of respondents (71%) felt funding for parks should come from both taxes and fees. Respondents seemed to be willing to pay some charges and fees. Respondents were asked to respond to two statements regarding park fees and asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statements. The first stated, "I will not go to a park that charges fees." Overall, 74% disagreed with the statement, including 76% of males and 73% of females. However, 37% of blacks agreed with this statement, while only 17% of whites agreed. Among those making less than \$10,000 per year, 49% said they would not go to a park that charges fees. Faced with the possibility of closing local parks in their area, raising fees for park use, or passing an earmarked sales tax to be used for parks, only 10% opted for closing local parks in their area. Raising fees was the most popular choice, with 57% preferring this alternative followed by an earmarked sales tax (27%).

Specific outdoor activities in which the survey respondents participated are presented in the following tables. The tables examine outdoor activities in two ways. Tables 2 through 4 present the responses for each activity participated in at least once during the past 12 months by race, gender, income, and age. Tables 5 through 7 show the five most popular activities by race, gender, income, and age based on participating in them ten or more times in the last 12 months.

For all ages, income levels, sex, and race, driving for pleasure, fishing, walking for pleasure, swimming, and going on wildlife observations were among the most frequently participated activities. There were a few exceptions, however:

- Jogging/running has been participated in 10 or more times in the past 12 months by 20% of blacks. Blacks were the only group to have this result.
- Short hikes have been participated in 10 or more times in the past 12 months by 20% of those 45 to 54, and 21% of those 65 to 74. These were the only two groups with this result.
- Golf has been participated in 10 or more times in the past 12 months by 10% of those 75 and over. This is the only group to have this result.

Obvious trends present themselves when the results for all outdoor recreational activities and demographic groups were examined. For example, as age increases, the likelihood of a person participating in vigorous activities decreases. Because of costs associated with an activity, respondents in the upper income brackets were much more likely to participate in outdoor recreational activities than were those in the lower income brackets. Most recreational activities surveyed require capital expenditures such as the need to purchase or rent special equipment such as fishing tackle, water skis, or a baseball/softball glove. Costs may also involve travel to and from an area where the activity takes place, fees to join a basketball or softball league, greens fees, etc. This also might account for the smaller percentages of blacks participating in almost all outdoor recreational activities. Statewide, the average household income for blacks is \$16,902, compared to \$29,056 for whites.

TABLE 2
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN
AT LEAST ONCE IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS
BY INCOME

	Overall	<\$10K	\$10-20K	\$20-30K	\$30-40K	\$40-50K	>\$50K
Driving for Pleasure	80%	63%	78%	79%	85%	93%	89%
Walked for Pleasure	73%	65%	66%	69%	82%	83%	83%
Picnicking	70%	61%	62%	72%	74%	87%	85%
Fishing	59%	39%	57%	55%	61%	77%	75%
Swimming	55%	33%	44%	54%	72%	77%	77%
Visited Historical Sites	54%	39%	45%	52%	58%	73%	68%
Wildlife Observation	54%	45%	44%	55%	67%	72%	62%
Short Hikes	47%	41%	37%	44%	62%	63%	64%
Pleasure boating	40%	20%	25%	39%	42%	60%	68%
Bicycling	39%	26%	33%	35%	48%	50%	53%
Camping/Developed Sites	39%	35%	25%	38%	42%	47%	62%
Basketball	33%	26%	27%	34%	35%	47%	47%
Jogging/Running	32%	17%	25%	31%	38%	47%	51%
Baseball/Softball	31%	20%	25%	30%	38%	50%	42%
Photography	31%	31%	22%	20%	48%	47%	36%
Hunting	30%	16%	25%	31%	35%	40%	44%
Other Outdoor Games	27%	22%	32%	30%	29%	33%	34%
Off-road Driving	25%	12%	20%	27%	32%	37%	26%
Canoeing/Floating	23%	8%	20%	21%	23%	30%	32%
Camping/Undeveloped Sites	21%	12%	21%	18%	23%	20%	32%
Golf	17%	8%	12%	8%	23%	30%	34%
Water Skiing	17%	8%	13%	13%	27%	27%	34%
Lengthy Hikes	17%	10%	18%	13%	24%	30%	19%
Horseback Riding	15%	14%	14%	11%	17%	17%	21%
Tennis	14%	10%	9%	11%	14%	17%	23%
Soccer	7%	6%	7%	3%	12%	7%	6%
Sailing	6%	6%	7%	3%	9%	7%	7%
Overnight Hikes	5%	2%	9%	3%	6%	3%	4%

Source: 1995 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism

TABLE 3

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN
AT LEAST ONCE IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS
BY AGE

	Overall	18-20	21-24	25-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-74	>75
Driving for Pleasure	80%	79%	87%	86%	82%	65%	68%	83%	57%
Walked for Pleasure	73%	72%	87%	74%	79%	52%	84%	68%	52%
Picnicking	70%	43%	78%	81%	77%	59%	54%	57%	48%
Fishing	59%	64%	65%	73%	54%	52%	40%	47%	24%
Swimming	55%	71%	78%	75%	51%	34%	38%	21%	14%
Visited Historical Sites	54%	43%	48%	62%	51%	48%	51%	49%	43%
Wildlife Observation	54%	43%	65%	51%	58%	48%	62%	53%	52%
Short Hikes	47%	36%	30%	54%	52%	34%	54%	36%	29%
Pleasure boating	40%	50%	43%	51%	35%	24%	30%	28%	24%
Bicycling	39%	57%	39%	56%	29%	28%	30%	21%	9%
Camping/Developed Sites	39%	29%	43%	49%	31%	48%	27%	28%	14%
Basketball	33%	50%	52%	49%	26%	17%	19%	11%	0%
Jogging/Running	32%	43%	43%	45%	26%	28%	16%	13%	10%
Baseball/Softball	31%	36%	56%	50%	22%	14%	11%	7%	5%
Photography	31%	36%	30%	33%	39%	17%	30%	21%	29%
Hunting	30%	14%	30%	44%	25%	17%	16%	26%	5%
Other Outdoor Games	27%	29%	48%	37%	23%	28%	5%	13%	9%
Off-road Driving	25%	29%	35%	33%	23%	14%	11%	19%	9%
Canoeing/Floating	23%	14%	26%	34%	18%	17%	16%	6%	9%
Camping/Undeveloped Sites	21%	7%	39%	29%	19%	14%	8%	10%	9%
Golf	17%	29%	26%	22%	16%	10%	11%	9%	9%
Water Skiing	17%	21%	35%	30%	16%	7%	8%	4%	5%
Lengthy Hikes	17%	14%	17%	22%	21%	7%	11%	13%	0%
Horseback Riding	15%	29%	17%	24%	8%	3%	8%	7%	5%
Tennis	14%	29%	22%	22%	5%	10%	8%	2%	5%
Soccer	7%	7%	9%	13%	3%	0%	5%	0%	0%
Sailing	6%	0%	13%	9%	4%	7%	5%	0%	5%
Overnight Hikes	5%	7%	9%	7%	1%	3%	5%	2%	0%

Source: 1995 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism

TABLE 4

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN
AT LEAST ONCE IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS
BY RACE AND GENDER

	Overall	Whites	Blacks	Males	Females
Driving for Pleasure	80%	81%	73%	82%	78%
Walked for Pleasure	73%	74%	66%	71%	75%
Picnicking	70%	73%	54%	70%	71%
Fishing	59%	62%	43%	72%	49%
Swimming	55%	60%	23%	60%	52%
Visited Historical Sites	54%	56%	39%	58%	52%
Wildlife Observation	54%	57%	29%	58%	51%
Short Hikes	47%	50%	29%	51%	43%
Pleasure boating	40%	53%	16%	45%	35%
Bicycling	39%	39%	37%	41%	38%
Camping/Developed Sites	39%	42%	16%	44%	35%
Basketball	33%	32%	34%	44%	24%
Jogging/Running	32%	30%	34%	33%	31%
Baseball/Softball	31%	31%	20%	38%	25%
Photography	31%	32%	20%	29%	32%
Hunting	30%	32%	23%	44%	19%
Other Outdoor Games	27%	27%	20%	31%	24%
Off-road Driving	25%	26%	20%	33%	19%
Canoeing/Floating	23%	25%	5%	32%	15%
Camping/Undeveloped Sites	21%	24%	4%	25%	18%
Golf	17%	20%	2%	23%	13%
Water Skiing	17%	22%	5%	26%	15%
Lengthy Hikes	17%	18%	9%	21%	14%
Horseback Riding	15%	15%	11%	21%	11%
Tennis	14%	14%	7%	13%	15%
Soccer	7%	6%	7%	6%	8%
Sailing	6%	7%	4%	7%	5%
Overnight Hikes	5%	4%	5%	6%	4%

Source: 1995 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism

TABLE 5

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN
AT LEAST TEN TIMES OR MORE IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS
BY INCOME**

Less Than \$10,000		\$10,000-\$20,000	
Walked for Pleasure	41%	Driving for Pleasure	37%
Driving for Pleasure	29%	Walked for Pleasure	32%
Picnicking	12%	Fishing	28%
Fishing	12%	Wildlife	22%
Swimming	12%	Observation	
		Bicycling	21%
\$20,000-\$30,000		\$30,000-\$40,000	
Walked for Pleasure	38%	Walked for Pleasure	50%
Driving for Pleasure	34%	Driving for Pleasure	46%
Fishing	28%	Swimming	36%
Swimming	23%	Wildlife	33%
Hunting	22%	Observation	
		Picnicking	30%
\$40,000-\$50,000		Over \$50,000	
Driving for Pleasure	57%	Walked for Pleasure	57%
Walked for Pleasure	50%	Driving for Pleasure	57%
Swimming	40%	Swimming	51%
Fishing	30%	Fishing	40%
Wildlife Observation	30%	Wildlife	30%
		Observation	

Source: 1995 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism

TABLE 6

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN
AT LEAST TEN TIMES OR MORE IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS
BY AGE**

18 TO 20		55 TO 59	
Walked for Pleasure	43%	Walked for Pleasure	31%
Swimming	43%	Wildlife Observation	24%
Fishing	36%	Fishing	17%
Driving for Pleasure	29%	Driving for Pleasure	17%
Bicycling	21%	Swimming	14%
21 TO 24		60 TO 64	
Driving for Pleasure	52%	Walked for Pleasure	46%
Swimming	39%	Driving for Pleasure	38%
Walked for Pleasure	39%	Wildlife Observation	32%
Wildlife Observation	30%	Fishing	19%
Fishing	26%	Swimming	14%
25 TO 44		65 TO 74	
Driving for Pleasure	46%	Walked for Pleasure	43%
Swimming	41%	Driving for Pleasure	42%
Walked for Pleasure	37%	Wildlife Observation	27%
Fishing	32%	Fishing	23%
Bicycling	31%	Short Hikes	21%
45 TO 54		75 AND OVER	
Walked for Pleasure	49%	Driving for Pleasure	29%
Driving for Pleasure	31%	Wildlife Observation	29%
Wildlife Observation	23%	Walked for Pleasure	24%
Fishing	22%	Fishing	19%
Short Hikes	20%	Golf	10%

Source: 1995 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism

TABLE 7

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN
AT LEAST TEN TIMES OR MORE IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS
BY RACE AND GENDER**

Whites		Blacks	
Walked for Pleasure	42%	Driving for Pleasure	36%
Driving for Pleasure	40%	Walked for Pleasure	27%
Swimming	28%	Fishing	20%
Fishing	27%	Jogging/Running	20%
Wildlife Observation	24%	Bicycling	18%
Males		Females	
Driving for Pleasure	41%	Walked for Pleasure	44%
Fishing	38%	Driving for Pleasure	38%
Walked for Pleasure	35%	Swimming	22%
Swimming	32%	Wildlife	20%
Wildlife Observation	26%	Observation	
		Bicycling	19%

Source: 1995 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The following four tables and maps present an overall picture of the City of Pine Bluff, as well as breaking down population characteristics by Census Tract. As important as it is to know the recreational interests of a city's residents, you must also know the demographics and characteristics of your city. Ages of the residents, income levels of families and the location of families with children, population concentrations, and racial characteristics are all indicators of where neighborhood and city parks should be located as well as what type of facilities should be offered in these parks.

Table 8 shows the age breakdown by Census Tract. Ages are grouped together in a way that generally defines common leisure-time activities. For example, children five and under need playground equipment catering to their sizes and abilities while children 10 to 14 need more challenging, adventurous, or sophisticated facilities and equipment. In the same fashion, Census Tracts with high populations of persons over 65 years of age should provide recreational facilities suited to their needs. By and large, the age table shows no surprises as far as extraordinarily large or small groups; age groups will be of the size respective to the Tract population.

The largest population group in the City are those persons aged 25 through 44, comprising 28% of the City's population. Even though this group has one of the widest age ranges, the group largely has the same interests and likes and dislikes. The Statewide survey revealed that the respondents in this age group gave a poor rating to outdoor recreation facilities in the state. There are seven Census Tracts containing over 1,000 persons in this age group. One is in the Dollarway area (3.03), one is in the area containing UAPB (5.02), two are in the older central portion of the City (12 and 16), two are located east of Blake Street and south of U.S. 65 (14.02 and 15.01), and one is located west of Hazel Street and south of Harding (15.02). These areas for the most part are some of the older areas of the City.

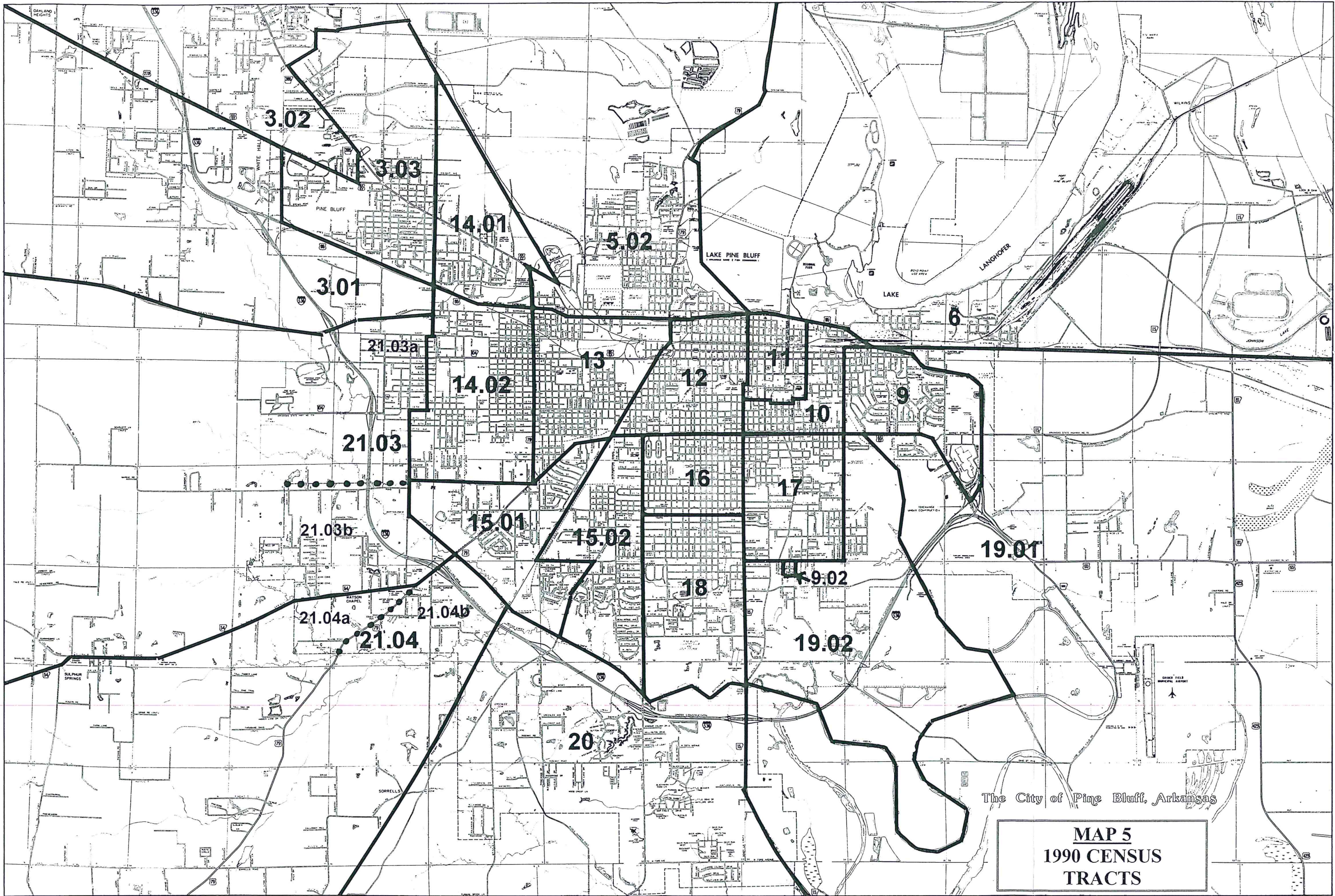
The second largest age group are children aged 14 and under, comprising 24% of the City's population. While respondents of the Statewide survey rated facilities for pre-school aged children as good, there was very little discussion concerning facilities for older children and young teens. The same can be said for the age groups 10 through 19 (16% of the City's population).

Residents aged 65 and over comprise 15% of the City's population, and those persons aged 45 through 64 comprise 17%.

TABLE 8**POPULATION BY AGE BY CENSUS TRACT**

CENSUS TRACT	5 & UNDER	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 & OVER	TOTAL
3.01	16	8	0	0	0	20	0	20	39	103
3.02	45	11	12	36	77	138	28	63	37	447
3.03	291	227	274	274	218	1,055	371	257	372	3,339
5.02	401	183	417	884	747	1,002	262	293	617	4,806
6	25	55	42	32	50	160	55	47	160	626
6.99	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	5
9	285	273	297	271	208	992	390	310	498	3,524
9.02	0	7	0	0	0	13	0	0	39	59
10	231	179	173	185	133	556	120	197	348	2,122
11	14	47	75	18	40	117	60	60	83	514
12	483	299	537	397	320	1,188	229	230	666	4,349
13	380	264	377	326	243	885	234	312	645	3,666
14.01	220	144	139	197	205	669	188	228	290	2,280
14.02	401	265	308	265	215	1,050	272	276	414	3,466
15.01	350	254	307	293	256	1,188	388	365	402	3,803
15.02	289	192	198	184	310	1,000	368	458	736	3,735
16	424	275	455	344	301	1,291	321	284	618	4,313
17	490	289	310	367	289	973	328	279	567	3,892
18	206	131	217	163	129	916	308	406	817	3,293
19.01	111	72	118	111	103	315	82	80	102	1,094
19.02	233	151	131	149	125	572	201	145	439	2,146
20	248	202	201	177	148	973	385	210	420	2,964
21.03a	75	56	82	57	34	162	41	94	82	683
21.03b	97	54	118	115	51	406	208	124	142	1,315
21.04a	5	7	15	17	0	45	11	20	42	162
21.04b	21	25	31	26	27	125	55	91	33	434
TOTALS	5,341	3,670	4,834	4,888	4,231	15,814	4,905	4,849	8,608	57,140

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing Summary Tape File 3A



The City of Pine Bluff, Arkansas

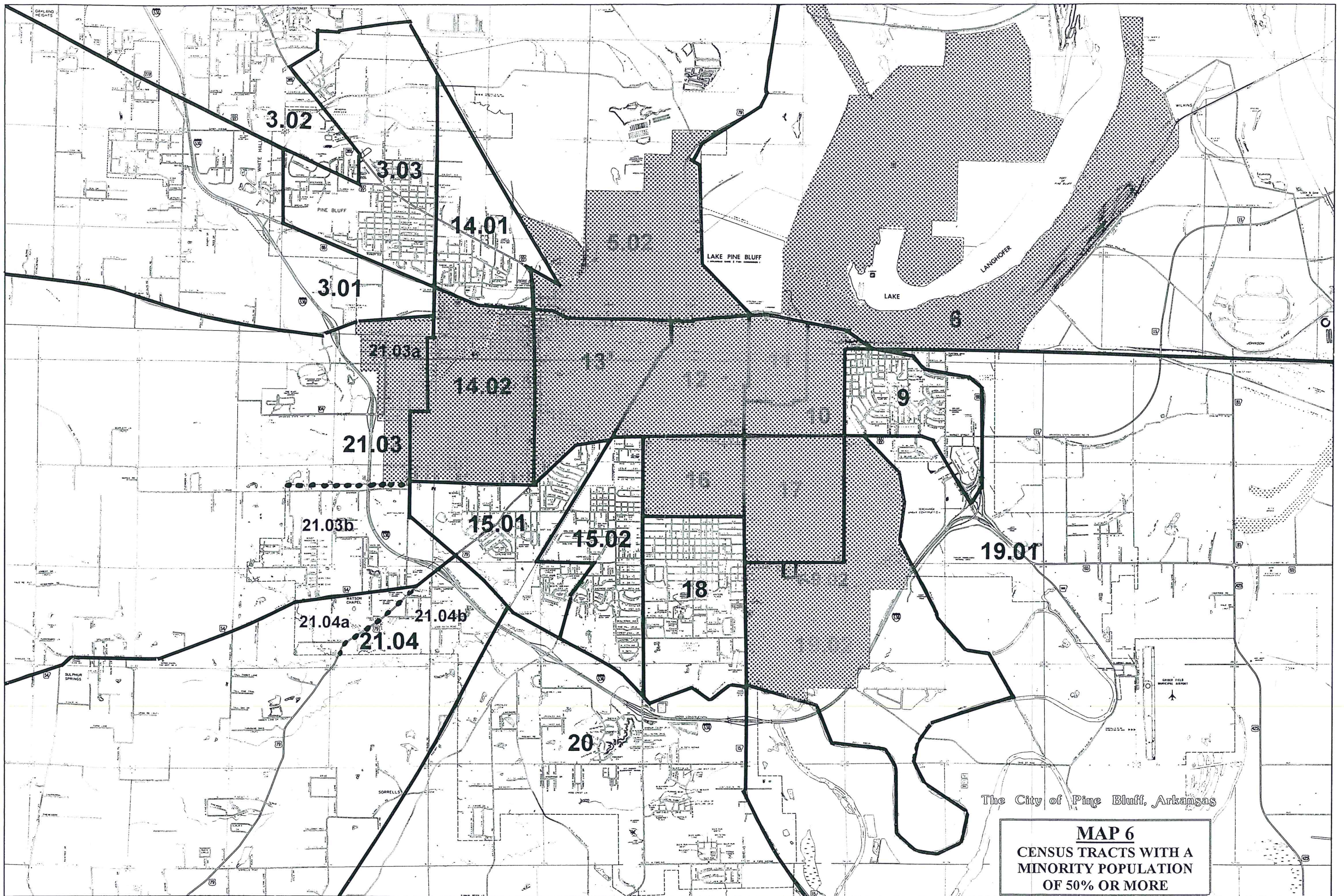
MAP 5
1990 CENSUS
TRACTS

TABLE 9

POPULATION BY RACE AND GENDER BY CENSUS TRACT

CENSUS TRACT	MALE	FEMALE	WHITE	BLACK	OTHER RACE	MINORITY PERCENT
3.01	43	60	87	16	0	15.5%
3.02	193	254	425	22	0	4.9%
3.03	1,607	1,732	3,047	281	11	8.7%
5.02	2,074	2,732	92	4,710	4	98.1%
6	279	347	145	481	0	76.8%
6.99	5	0	5	0	0	0%
9	1,508	2,016	2,112	1,385	27	40.1%
9.02	28	31	0	59	0	100%
10	978	1,144	323	1,775	24	84.8%
11	266	248	95	419	0	81.5%
12	1,953	2,396	852	3,478	19	80.4%
13	1,631	2,035	189	3,468	9	94.8%
14.01	1,149	1,131	1,413	834	33	38.0%
14.02	1,587	1,879	813	2,615	38	76.5%
15.01	1,885	1,918	2,527	1,200	76	33.6%
15.02	1,705	2,030	2,720	980	35	27.2%
16	2,008	2,305	1,932	2,361	20	55.2%
17	1,681	2,211	620	3,247	25	84.1%
18	1,488	1,805	2,843	450	0	13.7%
19.01	559	535	553	541	0	49.5%
19.02	1,051	1,095	724	1,415	7	66.3%
20	1,431	1,533	2,741	165	58	7.5%
21.03a	289	394	44	633	6	93.6%
21.03b	607	708	1,267	20	28	3.7%
21.04a	82	80	162	0	0	0%
21.04b	208	226	423	0	11	2.5%
TOTALS	26,295	30,845	26,154	30,555	431	54.2%

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing Summary Tape File 3A



MAP 6
CENSUS TRACTS WITH A
MINORITY POPULATION
OF 50% OR MORE

TABLE 10**NUMBER OF FAMILIES BY INCOME BY CENSUS TRACT**

CENSUS TRACT	MEDIAN INCOME	< \$10K	\$10-\$20K	\$20-\$30K	\$30-\$40K	\$40-\$50K	>\$50K	TOTAL FAMILIES
3.01	\$38,214	0	8	8	7	6	7	36
3.02	\$37,917	12	35	10	23	31	29	140
3.03	\$22,649	230	168	228	198	51	94	969
5.02	\$14,012	341	190	134	88	44	63	860
6	\$20,263	27	43	35	20	4	15	144
6.99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	\$26,764	115	191	243	136	103	177	965
9.02	\$4,999	11	0	6	0	0	0	17
10	\$15,242	193	97	81	36	27	64	498
11	\$8,107	59	21	7	8	0	8	103
12	\$14,059	347	292	163	108	33	48	991
13	\$13,482	343	211	128	64	79	36	861
14.01	\$23,182	148	135	88	100	56	83	610
14.02	\$21,426	200	198	242	113	81	51	885
15.01	\$33,031	103	147	202	268	125	254	1,099
15.02	\$31,698	85	125	255	193	76	268	1,002
16	\$21,917	273	233	176	181	100	141	1,104
17	\$17,733	311	219	170	83	76	94	953
18	\$39,494	117	85	149	160	126	368	1,005
19.01	\$16,793	89	51	37	39	9	42	267
19.02	\$23,301	126	129	85	64	46	99	549
20	\$53,885	16	47	86	78	133	454	814
21.03a	\$13,000	78	23	17	23	17	0	158
21.03b	\$37,788	24	53	95	54	65	115	406
21.04a	\$20,179	12	14	15	7	5	0	53
21.04b	\$32,188	8	34	31	28	27	39	167
TOTALS	\$24,442	3,268	2,749	2,691	2,079	1,320	2,549	14,656

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing Summary Tape File 3A

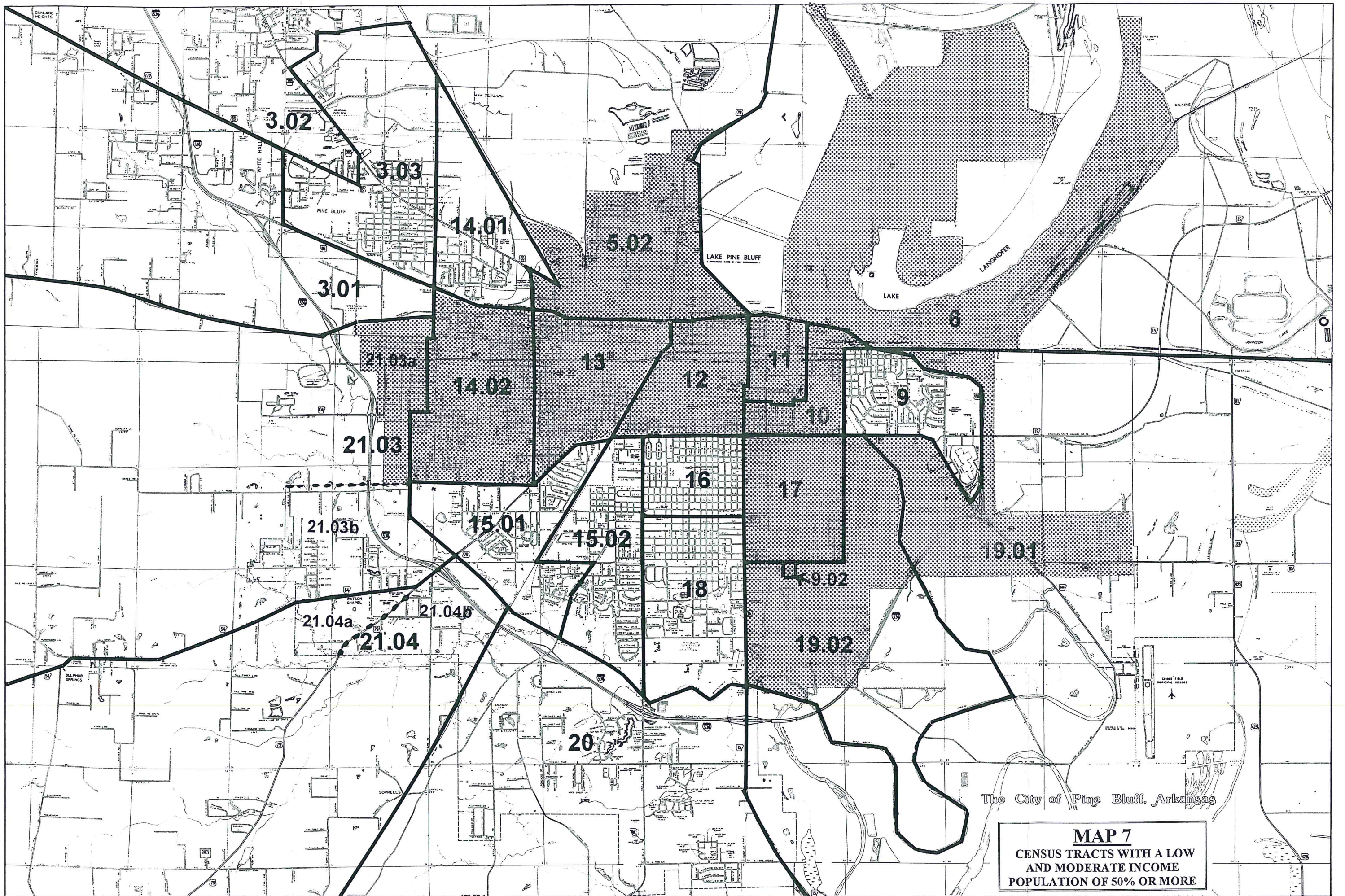
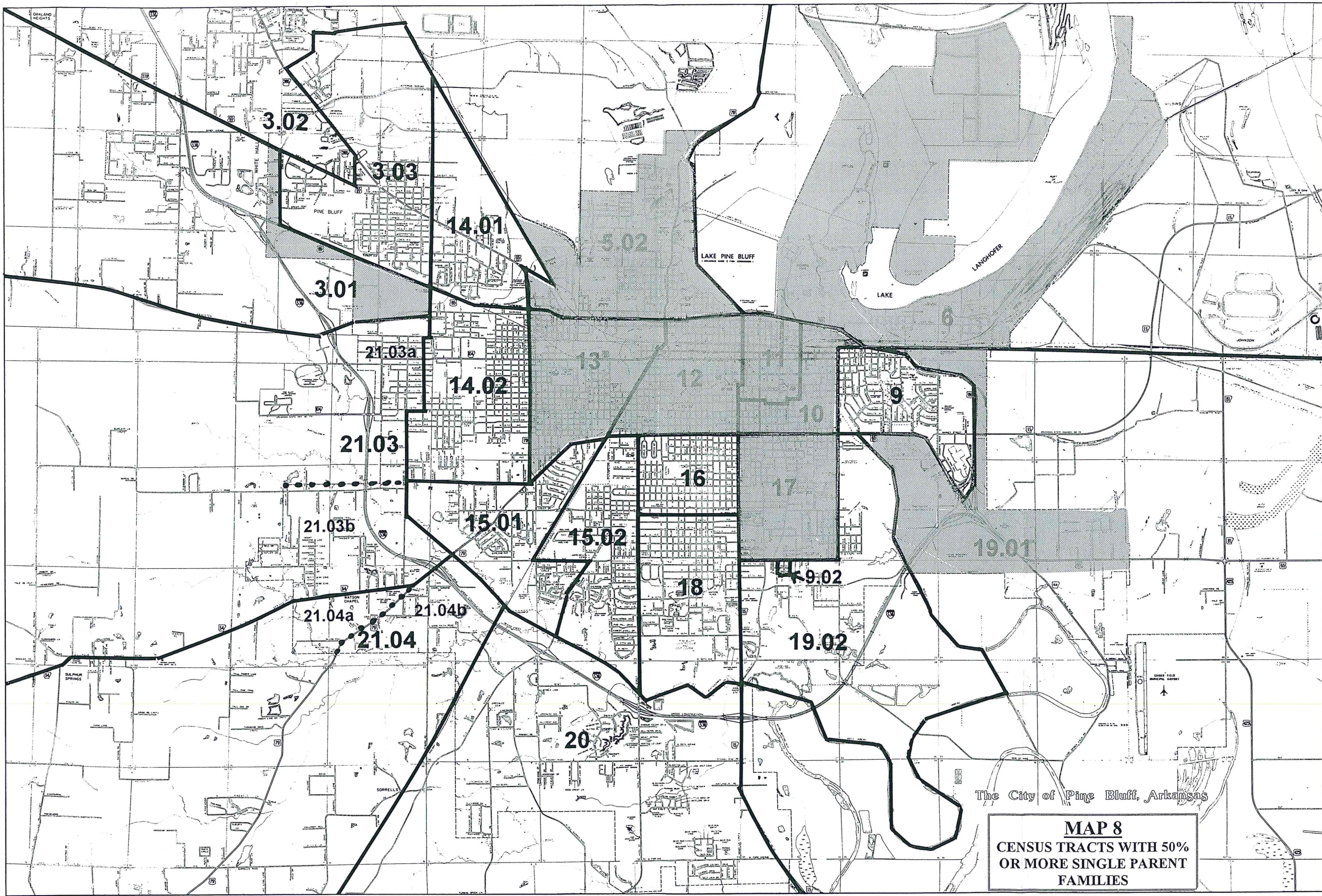


TABLE 11
FAMILIES WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS
CITY OF PINE BLUFF

CENSUS TRACT	MARRIED COUPLE FAMILY WITH CHILDREN 11 AND UNDER	MARRIED COUPLE FAMILY WITH CHILDREN AGED 12 - 17	SINGLE PARENT FAMILY WITH CHILDREN 11 AND UNDER	SINGLE PARENT FAMILY WITH CHILDREN AGED 12 - 17
3.01	16	0	8	0
3.02	50	5	12	15
3.03	498	216	75	48
5.02	230	165	249	150
6	32	10	20	24
6.99	0	0	0	0
9	416	228	146	65
9.02	7	0	0	0
10	122	115	222	105
11	6	7	65	63
12	384	199	394	297
13	220	127	390	253
14.01	254	33	119	83
14.02	406	164	251	157
15.01	496	278	168	90
15.02	442	151	101	32
16	465	246	258	197
17	301	203	451	123
18	334	167	75	48
19.01	54	66	100	88
19.02	214	114	182	54
20	524	168	25	20
21.03a	46	56	55	29
21.03b	195	133	0	4
21.04a	20	24	0	0
21.04b	37	23	18	11
Total	5,769	2,898	3,384	1,956

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing Summary Tape File 3A



The City of Pine Bluff, Arkansas

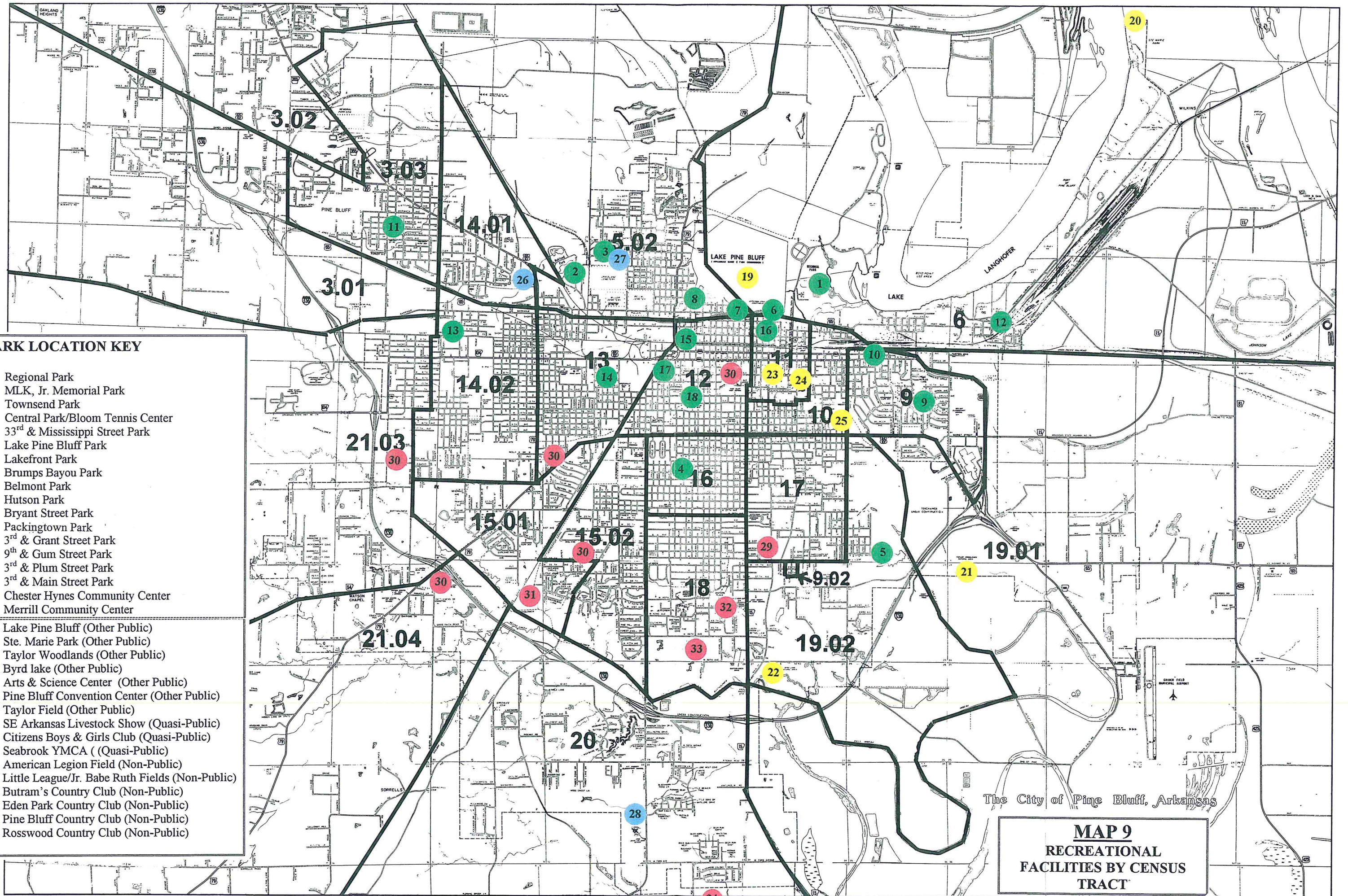
MAP 8
**CENSUS TRACTS WITH 50%
OR MORE SINGLE PARENT
FAMILIES**

TABLE 12
EXISTING RECREATION FACILITY LOCATION
BY CENSUS TRACT

CENSUS TRACT	RECREATION FACILITY (City facility in bold type)
3.01	None
3.02	None
3.03	Bryant Street Park
5.02	Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park
	Townsend Park
	Brumps Bayou Park
	Lakefront Park
	Pine Bluff Boys and Girls Club (Quasi-Public)
6	Regional Park
	Lake Pine Bluff Park
	Packingtown Park
	Lake Pine Bluff (other public facilities --Arkansas Game and Fish Commission)
	Ste. Marie Park (other public facilities -- Corps of Engineers)
	Railroad Museum (quasi-public facilities)
6.99	N/A
9	Belmont Park
	Hutson Park
9.02	None
10	Taylor Field (other public facilities)
11	3rd and Main Street Park
	Pecan Grove Park/Pine Bluff Convention Center (other public facilities)
	Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas (other public facilities)
	Jefferson County Historical Museum (other public facilities)
12	3rd and Plum Street Park
	Chester Hynes Community Center
	Merrill Community Center
	Hill-Alford Field, National Little League (non-public facilities)
13	9th and Gum Street Park
	Bush Field, Junior Babe Ruth (non-public facilities)
14.01	Southeast Arkansas Livestock Show Fair Grounds (quasi-public facilities)
14.02	3rd and Grant Street Park
15.01	Butram's Country Club (non-public facilities)
15.02	Ed Brown Field, American Little League (non-public facilities)
16	Central Park
17	American Legion Field (non-public facilities)
18	Eden Park County Club (non-public facilities)
	Pine Bluff Country Club (non-public facilities)
19.01	Taylor Woodlands (other public facilities)
19.02	33rd and Mississippi Street Park
	Byrd Lake Natural Area (other public facilities)
20	Seabrook YMCA (quasi-public)
	Rosswood County Club (non-public facilities)
21.03	Benny Hatcher Field, Western Little League (non-public facilities)
21.04	Monroe Ryburn Field, Eastern Little League (non-public facilities)

PARK LOCATION KEY

1. Regional Park
2. MLK, Jr. Memorial Park
3. Townsend Park
4. Central Park/Bloom Tennis Center
5. 33rd & Mississippi Street Park
6. Lake Pine Bluff Park
7. Lakefront Park
8. Brumps Bayou Park
9. Belmont Park
10. Hutson Park
11. Bryant Street Park
12. Packingtown Park
13. 3rd & Grant Street Park
14. 9th & Gum Street Park
15. 3rd & Plum Street Park
16. 3rd & Main Street Park
17. Chester Hynes Community Center
18. Merrill Community Center
19. Lake Pine Bluff (Other Public)
20. Ste. Marie Park (Other Public)
21. Taylor Woodlands (Other Public)
22. Byrd lake (Other Public)
23. Arts & Science Center (Other Public)
24. Pine Bluff Convention Center (Other Public)
25. Taylor Field (Other Public)
26. SE Arkansas Livestock Show (Quasi-Public)
27. Citizens Boys & Girls Club (Quasi-Public)
28. Seabrook YMCA ((Quasi-Public)
29. American Legion Field (Non-Public)
30. Little League/Jr. Babe Ruth Fields (Non-Public)
31. Butram's Country Club (Non-Public)
32. Eden Park Country Club (Non-Public)
33. Pine Bluff Country Club (Non-Public)
34. Rosswood Country Club (Non-Public)



The City of Pine Bluff, Arkansas

MAP 9
RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES BY CENSUS
TRACT

SECTION 1

DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PARK SYSTEM

One of the major aims of any park plan should be to relate all existing recreational facilities in a city to each other in a comprehensive system of services. In this respect, a park plan should resemble a comprehensive plan for a city that proposes the simultaneous and orderly growth of population, services, and traffic patterns. A functional park system will not contain facilities that compete with one another for patrons, nor will it offer an overabundance of certain services and facilities at the expense of others. The working apparatus of a park system must include not only the physical facilities for recreation and leisure activities, but also the administration of staff and equipment to maintain those facilities. In addition, the park system must be an integral part of the entire mechanism of city services. It is the purpose of this plan to propose steps for the establishment of such a system in Pine Bluff and to outline a program by which the system's continual usefulness will be guaranteed.

GOALS OF THE MASTER PARK PLAN

In the process of planning a park system, it is first of all necessary to establish goals. These goals will establish, in general terms, what the park system will accomplish for the City and for the residents of the City. Once the goals are known, principles of development can be established. These principles of development set forth the type of parks that should be located in certain areas and the types of facilities the different park types should contain.

1. Improvement of the quality of life in Pine Bluff by the provision of varied and accessible facilities for recreation and leisure time activities.
2. Protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural resources in the Pine Bluff area.
3. Coordination of recreational activities with existing and anticipated land use patterns in the Pine Bluff area.
4. Provision of methods by which future recreational needs will be anticipated and programs designed to meet those needs.
5. Consolidation of elements of recreation, education, open space, and urban beautification into a unified park system.
6. Preservation of historical heritage of Pine Bluff and Jefferson County.

PARK CLASSIFICATION

The comprehensive park system, and thus, this Master Park Plan, classifies parks by intensity and people served. It is recommended that all recreational facilities within the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department be divided into the following functional categories: regional parks, city parks, neighborhood parks, playground parks, and passive areas. The existing parks in the City park system were listed by category and described in Part 1, Section 4. They were classified by comparing the existing size and facilities available to the standards set forth in this section. In summary, Regional Park was, of course, categorized as a regional park; Oakland Park was listed as Pine Bluff's only city park; Townsend Park and Central Park were listed as neighborhood parks; and the following parks were listed as playground parks: 33rd and Mississippi, Lake Pine Bluff Park, Lakefront Park, Brumps Bayou Park, Belmont Park, Hutson Park, Bryant Street Park, 3rd and Grant Street Park, 9th and Gum Street Park, 3rd and Plum Street Park, and Packingtown Park. Community centers, other public facilities, quasi-public facilities, and private facilities are not classified due to their serving other recreational needs and functions. While these facilities are needed to provide a comprehensive park system, their availability largely depends on the needs of the community, what the community can support in terms of paying for recreational services, resources available to other governmental units such as State and Federal parks, and the availability of funding sources than the City.

REGIONAL PARKS

Principles of Development

1. Regional parks should contain facilities for a wide range of activities. Services should be provided for various age and special interest groups.
2. Regional parks should be located near major traffic arteries in such a manner that large volumes of traffic are not channeled through residential areas in order to reach the park.
3. Regional parks should have a master plan to guide both long-range and short-range improvements.
4. Potential tourist trade should not be overlooked in the planning of the regional park. Care must be taken to provide support services such as motels, restaurants, and service centers.

Standards

Size:	In excess of 250 acres
Population Served:	90,000
Acres Per 1,000 People:	13 – 15
Service Area:	Within 1-Hour Driving Time

Policies

- a) The City will endeavor to develop the regional park in accordance with a long-range capital improvements program that allows concurrent development of other recreational facilities.
- b) The City will explore the participation of any available county, state, or federal agencies in the development of the regional park.
- c) The City will encourage active sponsorship of regional park facilities by non-profit organizations.

Typical Facilities

Aquarium	Midways
Arboretum	Miniature Golf
Archery Range	Model Airplane Areas
Baseball/Softball Fields	Model Boating Ponds
Beaches	Motorcross
Bike Trails	Museums
Botanical Gardens	Natural Areas
Campgrounds	Nature Centers
Children's Play Areas	Outdoor Theater
Culture Centers	Parking Areas
Driving Range	Pavilions
Golf Course	Picnic Areas, Restroom Facilities
Fishing Piers	Soccer Fields
Hiking and Riding Trails	Swimming Center
Horseshoe Courts	Tennis Complex
Jogging Paths	Water Slides
Lakes and Water Sports	Wildlife Preserves
Marina	Zoological Parks

CITY PARKS

Principles of Development

1. City parks should be of sufficient size to allow for a variety of developments.
2. City parks should be accessible by bikeways and pedestrian ways as well as by automobile.
3. City parks should provide off-street parking adequate for all included facilities.
4. City parks should have a master plan to guide both long-range and short-range improvements.

5. City parks should be located near minor arterial and collector streets in such a manner that large volumes of traffic are not channeled through residential areas in order to reach the parks.
6. City parks and their facilities should be evaluated periodically in relation to new trends or patterns in recreation.
7. The emphasis in city parks should be toward providing city dwellers an opportunity to escape the noise and congestion of the city without traveling great distances.

Standards

Size:	50 to 250 acres
Population Served:	50,000 – 60,000
Acres Per 1,000 People:	2 - 3
Service Area:	5-10 Minutes Driving Time

Policies

- a) The City will endeavor to discourage traffic or development plans that will encroach upon or diminish the value of city parks.
- b) The City will endeavor to remove those facilities in the existing city parks that have deteriorated beyond repair.
- c) The City will endeavor to actively solicit sponsorships of facilities in city parks by individuals, organizations, and businesses.
- d) The City will endeavor to maintain an awareness of city parks by utilizing them for civic events such as beauty pageants, festivals, fairs, golf tournaments, and annual Easter and Christmas programs.
- e) The City will endeavor to include in its long-range capital improvement program the possibility of a new city park in the southern region of the city to accommodate projected development in that area.

Typical Facilities

Baseball/Softball Fields	Nine Hole Golf Course
Bike Paths	Outdoor Amphitheater
Botanical Gardens	Parking Areas
Children’s Play Areas	Pavilions
Fishing Areas	Picnic Areas
Hiking Trails	Playgrounds
Horseshoe Courts	Soccer Fields
Jogging Trails	Swimming Pool
Natural Areas	Tennis Courts

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Principles of Development

1. Neighborhood parks should provide active and passive recreational areas.
2. Active recreational areas should be located toward the center of neighborhood parks so that passive areas around the perimeter can be used to buffer the noise and lights from neighboring development.
3. Wherever possible, neighborhood parks should be accessible by bike paths or pedestrian walkways.
4. The service radius – population profile should be a major determinant in the development of a neighborhood park.
5. Neighborhood parks should be laid out with respect to existing vegetation, soil conditions, climatic conditions, and topography.
6. Neighborhood parks should be compatible with surrounding development.
7. Neighborhood parks should be lighted if at all possible in order to extend use and reduce vandalism.
8. Neighborhood park designs should be flexible to allow for changes in patterns of recreational needs.

Standards

Size:	5 to 10 acres
Population Served:	2,000 – 8,000
Acres Per 1,000 People:	2
Service Area:	½ to 1 mile or Within Walking Distance

Policies

- a) The city will provide initial land, minimal facilities, and maintenance of neighborhood parks.
- b) The City will explore the possibility of combining neighborhood parks with other facilities such as fire stations and police substations in order to preserve space and provide on-site supervision.
- c) The City will provide assistance in the formulation of neighborhood improvement districts for the purpose of acquiring additional lands and/or facilities for neighborhood parks.
- d) The City will actively encourage the donation of land and cash for the development of neighborhood parks.
- e) The City may require the dedication of land for neighborhood parks in all new subdivisions.
- f) The City may require the dedication of necessary easements to preserve ecologically significant areas such as floodways and marshlands.

Typical Facilities

Basketball Courts	Playfields
Community Centers	Playground Equipment
Horseshoe Courts	Picnic Areas
Jogging Courses, Walking Trails	Sitting Areas
Multi-Purpose Courts	Swimming Pool
Parking Areas	Tennis Courts

PLAYGROUND PARKS

Principles of Development

1. Playgrounds should primarily be areas for active play; passive uses should be incorporated into the park design to provide sitting areas for parents to be near their children and to provide “calm” areas for children playing quiet games such as board games, coloring, etc.
2. Playgrounds should not be located on streets with high traffic volumes or traffic speeds unless sufficient safety measures, such as fencing, can be incorporated into the site upon its initial development and are aesthetically acceptable to the neighborhood.
3. Playgrounds need not be furnished with expensive, formal play equipment; children are often more interested in unfamiliar objects such as wood towers, concrete pipes, tires, rope ladders, and dirt mounds.
4. Use areas in playgrounds should be defined so that young children are not placed in conflict with older children and their more active games.
5. Playgrounds should contain only signs with a positive approach rather than a negative one.
6. Playgrounds should be constructed of natural materials and not covered with asphalt or concrete.
7. Durability should not be stressed in playground equipment at the expense of safety, popularity, and aesthetics.

Standards

Size:	Determined By Land Availability; not in excess of 5 acres.
Population Served:	500 – 2,000
Acres Per 1,000 People:	Not Applicable
Service Area:	Sub-Neighborhood

Policies

- a) The City will provide only facilities in playground parks. Land should be provided by donations, sponsorship, lease, or by an agreement with school authorities.

- b) The City will accept donations of land for playground parks only when the location of the land is consistent with the Master Park Plan and when the land is suitable for use as a park.
- c) The City will not accept donations or leases for playground parks that are not flexible or permanent enough to justify development.
- d) The City will provide technical assistance to neighborhood groups seeking to develop playground parks in terms of park design, cost estimating, and other in-house assistance as may be available.

PASSIVE AREAS

Principles of Development

1. Passive Areas should include open space, natural areas, urban beautification areas, and special use parks.
2. Open space can be utilized in conjunction with new construction or to emphasize special areas such as historical sites.
3. Open space can be used to link other recreational facilities by pedestrian or bike trails.
4. Open space can be used to provide scenic vistas and corridors.
5. Natural areas should include wildlife refuges, forest preserves, and drainage easements.
6. Natural areas should contain provisions for individual, dispersed activities such as hiking, bicycling, animal and bird watching, and jogging/walking.
7. Urban beautification areas should include urban shaping, transportation rights-of-way, street landscaping, and shopping malls.
8. Special use areas should include vest pocket parks for shopping areas, parks for elderly citizens, and parks for handicapped persons.
9. All of the uses termed "Passive Areas" may exist separately or as elements of regional, city, or neighborhood parks.

Policies

- a) Whenever possible, or as deemed necessary because of the location of floodplains, passive areas shall be provided in newly developing areas of the City.
- b) The City will pursue development of a natural area passive recreation park utilizing elements of the former "Green Belt Park" along Bayou Bartholomew and I-530 (Southern Bypass).
- c) The City will prepare tree and landscaping ordinances for consideration by the Pine Bluff Planning Commission in order to provide for urban beautification.
- d) The City will provide technical assistance to non-profit organizations in preparing grant applications for passive parks open to the general public in terms of cost estimates, land parcel ownership, and mapping.

PROVISION OF LAND

There are numerous methods by which a city may acquire or provide land for recreational or open space use. Some of these are quite familiar, such as outright purchase or donation. Easements or dedications during new development are other methods of providing park land. The City of Pine Bluff should remain aware of all these and be prepared to use them to supplement the existing recreational system. This section deals with each of the various methods and the possibilities of specific uses in the Pine Bluff area.

PURCHASE

It is likely that outright purchase of park property will remain the only effective method of acquiring key parcels of land. This is frequently a costly process and may require the exercise of the power of eminent domain. There are steps, however, that the City can take to minimize these obstacles.

It is possible for a city to maintain a reserve fund for park land acquisition to take advantage of economically beneficial opportunities. This fund should be generated from a specific revenue-producing source set aside for land acquisitions. The source could be derived from activities within the Parks and Recreation Department or it may originate from other city income such as parking meter proceeds. Regardless of the source, it should be adequate to create a fund of sufficient size that the City will be in a position to take advantage of favorable opportunities as they arise.

Acquisition of park land becomes extremely expensive when the City is forced to purchase land in developed areas. This problem can be alleviated to a degree by anticipating development trends and purchasing land prior to the development of residential areas and the subsequent rapid escalation of land prices.

In addition to anticipating directions that future development will take, it is important that the City analyze the form that present development has taken before large acquisitions are made. Careful attention to demographic characteristics, zoning density trends, and economic indicators may result in considerable savings to the City. Inadequate or poorly located facilities represent considerable expense to the City if they have to be replaced, such as locating a neighborhood park in an area that has shown a substantial decline in population.

LEASEBACK AND SALE BACK

In some cases, a locality may be able to achieve a return on property that it has purchased and still be assured of the continued recreational use of the land. This can be done by leasing or selling the property to private concerns with restrictions on future use. Land could be leased or sold for specific recreational purposes such as amusement parks and fishing areas, or it could be sold or leased with the restriction that its continued use be

one that preserved the natural features of the land for open space. If lands are leased, they will produce revenue for the locality and remain productive; if they are sold they conform to the general plan of the locality while remaining on the tax records.

DONATIONS OF LAND AND CASH

Much of the park land currently developed in the City of Pine Bluff was acquired through donations. It is not expected that the City can rely upon donations of land to provide adequate recreational space to any large degree in the future. Nonetheless, the City should actively pursue the policy of land donations to supplement the present parks system. Generally, these lands are donated with the only stipulation being that should the City discontinue the use of the land as public parks, ownership would revert back to the original owners or designated heirs.

Occasionally, complications arise when land is donated to the City under vague or informal circumstances. The City should, therefore, formulate a strict policy of acceptance of land for public parks. Such a policy would exclude the donation of land that is undevelopable for recreational use or land that is unsafe to the point where the City would be faced with substantial liability expenses. Land donations should fit into the City's Master Park Plan in terms of size, location, and proposed use. Land should also be donated with sufficient latitude that the City can expend funds for its long-term use without fear of its donation being rescinded.

LESS THAN FEE TITLE ACQUISITION

An alternative to the outright acquisition of complete property rights to land is the purchasing of easements for restricted recreational purposes. Such easements can provide open space for natural or scenic areas or buffer zones to eliminate unlimited vistas of urban sprawl. In acquiring easements, the City purchases only those rights that it needs; the property remains under private ownership and therefore on the tax records, although perhaps at a reduced valuation.

Acquiring easements for recreational purposes will be a more realistic alternative to fee title acquisition in areas where large tracts of undeveloped land are available. In developed areas, the cost of easements will probably be almost as expensive as the cost of the land. In addition, the acquisition of an easement does not protect the property against encroachment for other uses.

There are easements already in existence within the City of Pine Bluff that could be put to use as open space networks. Too often utility, drainage and maintenance easements are neglected in terms of recreational potential. The parks department should make every attempt to form cooperative agreements with the various agencies responsible for these easements to explore the possibility of creating a continuous network of pedestrian and bike trails through the City.

Another manner in which land may be provided for public use is through the use of lease-agreements. This should especially be explored in instances where unused land is owned by the school board or other public commissions. These agreements should be made as permanent as possible in order to warrant development expenditures by the parks department.

PARK-SCHOOL AGREEMENTS

Under a park-school agreement, the parks department would utilize school facilities for programs throughout the year to the extent that normal school activities are not disrupted. In return, the parks department will pay for damages beyond normal wear and offer a wide range of programs to augment the educational aspects of the school plant. While this is currently occurring on a small scale, the agreements could be expanded to encompass a city-wide youth basketball program and/or other similar type recreational activity.

GRANT PROGRAMS

There are various programs that can be utilized for development of parks, most notably the annual Outdoor Recreation Grants Program administered through the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. This program is funded through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Grant and Trust fund and matches an applicant's funds on a 50/50 reimbursement basis. This means that the grantee must finance 100% of project costs and may be reimbursed for up to 50% of the project's eligible costs. Only cities and counties are eligible to apply for these grant funds, which can be used to acquire new park land or to develop existing parks, and also may be used for a combination of both. The application process is competitive in that any city or county in the state may apply for funding through the program, but the program has only a limited amount of funds available for award each year. Pine Bluff has not applied for a grant under this program in many years.

A second program that has recently been offered is the Recreational Trails Program by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. This is an 80% - 20% matching program that funds up to 80% of the total project cost. Of the 20% required matching funds, 15% can come from federal agencies interested in implementing the project. The remaining 5% must come from other sources. Both private/non-profit organizations and government agencies are eligible to apply for the grant program. This program provides funds for the purposes of developing recreational trails and can be used for a variety of activities including purchase of land or easements, bridge construction, interpretive brochures, lighting, engineering, planning, or architect costs, bike racks, trail signs and marking, and trail head facilities (parking areas, picnic tables, restrooms, water supply, etc.). In the past, FHWA has not approved visitor centers, playground equipment, or sidewalks.

Another program also offered by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department is the Enhancement Program. This 80%-20% matching program is available

in alternating years to local governments to provide travelways for transportation modes other than normal street programs such as pedestrianways (sidewalks or trails) or bicycle paths/lanes. The funds can also be used for rehabilitating historic properties relating to transportation such as railroad depots; urban beautification projects such as streetscaping and downtown pedestrian plazas; or other types of programs that directly affect transportation systems.

SECTION 2 THE MASTER PARK PLAN

PLAN MAP

Included with this report is a plan map that reflects the plan proposals for the Pine Bluff Park System in graphic form. This map contains the location of existing park sites and the general location of proposed facilities. The history of past plans indicates that sites for future parks should not be located exactly. When specific sites are chosen too far in advance, the City loses the option to negotiate for alternate sites in the same vicinity that may become available at low costs. In addition, owners of specified sites are given notice that their property is designated for park use, sometimes years in advance. This can result in animosity toward the City government and sometimes in expensive and needless litigation. The general sites on the plan map indicate areas of need, and offer a flexible approach by the City and neighborhood groups in locating sites within these areas. As options or fee titles are purchased, general locations can be replaced on the plan map with specific locations.

As is apparent when the 1974 Master Park Plan (Map 1) is compared to the 2001 Master Park Plan (Map 10), the two are very similar. This is primarily due to the fact that the areas of the City that were underserved in 1974 are still underserved. As has been stated previously, most of the park development activities undertaken since 1974 have been developing existing parks, rehabilitating existing parks, and establishing new playground parks in the northern part of the City. Southern Pine Bluff, southwestern Pine Bluff, and western Pine Bluff have no city parks of any type.

While Part 1 of this document provides a variety of information utilized in preparing the proposed 2001 Master Park Plan recommendations, following is a brief narrative of how the proposed park locations were chosen.

CITY PARKS

Four areas have been identified as alternative sites in which to establish a new city park in the southern area of the City. The current city park (MLK, Jr. Memorial Park), as well as Regional Park, is located in the northern area of the City. All four recommended areas are located south of the Southern Bypass and are near major roads that have direct access to the Bypass. The sites can easily be reached utilizing the existing road network and are not developed to the point that there are no available site options within each alternative in which to locate a city park. The areas sited for possible city park establishment are also good locations for neighborhood parks should the opportunity arise to develop neighborhood parks in any of these four areas. Should a city park site be selected, the remaining three specified areas should be considered as possible locations for neighborhood parks.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Six general areas have been identified as areas in which neighborhood parks should be developed. These areas all have the population base recommended when developing a neighborhood park, none are within walking distance of an existing neighborhood park, nor, with the exception of the Dew Drop/Dollarway area, are any of them within a ten-minute drive of a city park. In addition, the areas proposed for neighborhood parks are divided by major streets or other barriers to children walking from their homes to the park. Providing neighborhood parks so that such parks are located throughout the City should reduce the need of children to cross major barriers such as major roads or railroad tracks when trying to access a park.

There may be areas that on the surface appear to warrant a neighborhood park being located in the area, such as the south-central part of the City. However, as is shown, Central Park is located within the area between Hickory and Mulberry on 23rd Avenue, and the area between 41st and 46th Avenue is largely medical-associated developments such as Jefferson Regional Hospital and doctors' offices. Another such area would be the Watson Chapel area in the vicinity of East Lake Drive and Scenic Village. This area does not have a population that currently warrants the establishment of a neighborhood park. Even though the extension of the city limits in this area would increase the population base, the lack of a connective street network would prevent a neighborhood park from being within walking distance of most of the residents or would encourage children to walk along the highway. The development of a City Park in south Pine Bluff along with playground park development in this area should provide an adequate park system for the area.

PLAYGROUND PARKS

Playground parks should be placed in areas that meet the general standards listed for this type of park. Locations of playground parks, other than those currently existing, are not shown on the plan map because their locations should be subject to the population characteristics of the neighborhood, available sites that meet the locating criteria, desire of the residents to establish a park in the neighborhood, and other neighborhood-driven factors.

PASSIVE AREA PARKS

Green Belt Passive Area Park

Beginning in 1959, the City's Master Park Plans and interim studies have all contained an area located along Bayou Bartholomew designated as either a "Green Belt Park" or at a minimum, a passive area park. In the 1959 Plan, this area was designated to serve the purpose of providing a new city park in the southern portion of the City and also to perpetuate a strip of green space through the southern portion of the City to buffer areas

of intense development in years to come. The 1974 Plan also contained the area by either classifying it as a passive area park or identifying it as alternative locations of a city park.

The 2001 Master Park Plan continues to identify this area as a desirable area in which to establish passive recreational activities through a series of trails and other passive development. The City is in a unique position of having available to it parcels of land under other government ownership and parcels of land the City itself owns within the proposed area. While determination of total design, costs, and development options is beyond the scope of this study, it is strongly recommended that the City thoroughly investigate the possibility of establishing the Green Belt Park from its western edge (Shannon Road) to its eastern edge (Highway 63 South) while opportunities to do so still remain.

Currently, the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance, a private-nonprofit organization, has submitted a recreation trail grant application to the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department to develop a public educational nature/recreational trail within a portion of the Green Belt. If the application is successful, the first phase of development of the green belt since its inception over 40 years ago will finally become a reality. Appendix A contains maps showing the area for development and the development concept. Continuation of the development of the trail system throughout the designated green belt area will provide not only a premiere recreational opportunity for the City but will also provide a pedestrian way along I-530 and will connect a number of neighborhoods with one another.

Other Natural Areas

Pine Bluff is blessed with many unique natural features due to the abundance of lakes, rivers, and bayous in the City. There are many areas of the City in addition to the Green Belt Park that could be developed as passive recreation areas. In addition to providing a recreation resource, such development could revitalize older developed areas of the City and provide for connections between parks and commercial or educational areas. One such resource is Brumps Bayou, which begins near the intersection of U.S. Highway 79 and 6th Avenue and empties into Lake Pine Bluff. In fact, Brumps Bayou is the primary tributary that feeds the lake. In the past, the Bayou has experienced a dumping and contamination problem, but the City and other organizations including Jefferson County, Clean and Beautiful, and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality have been working toward returning it to its natural state. Much of the Bayou is located near abandoned industrial sites that have redevelopment potential, so it will be necessary to determine what portions are suitable for greenspace development. Appendix A contains a map showing the location of Brumps Bayou and its relationship to Lake Pine Bluff. Development of the Bayou as an urban trail could connect many areas of the City with Lake Pine Bluff and any waterfront development such as boardwalks, etc., that may be developed around the Lake.

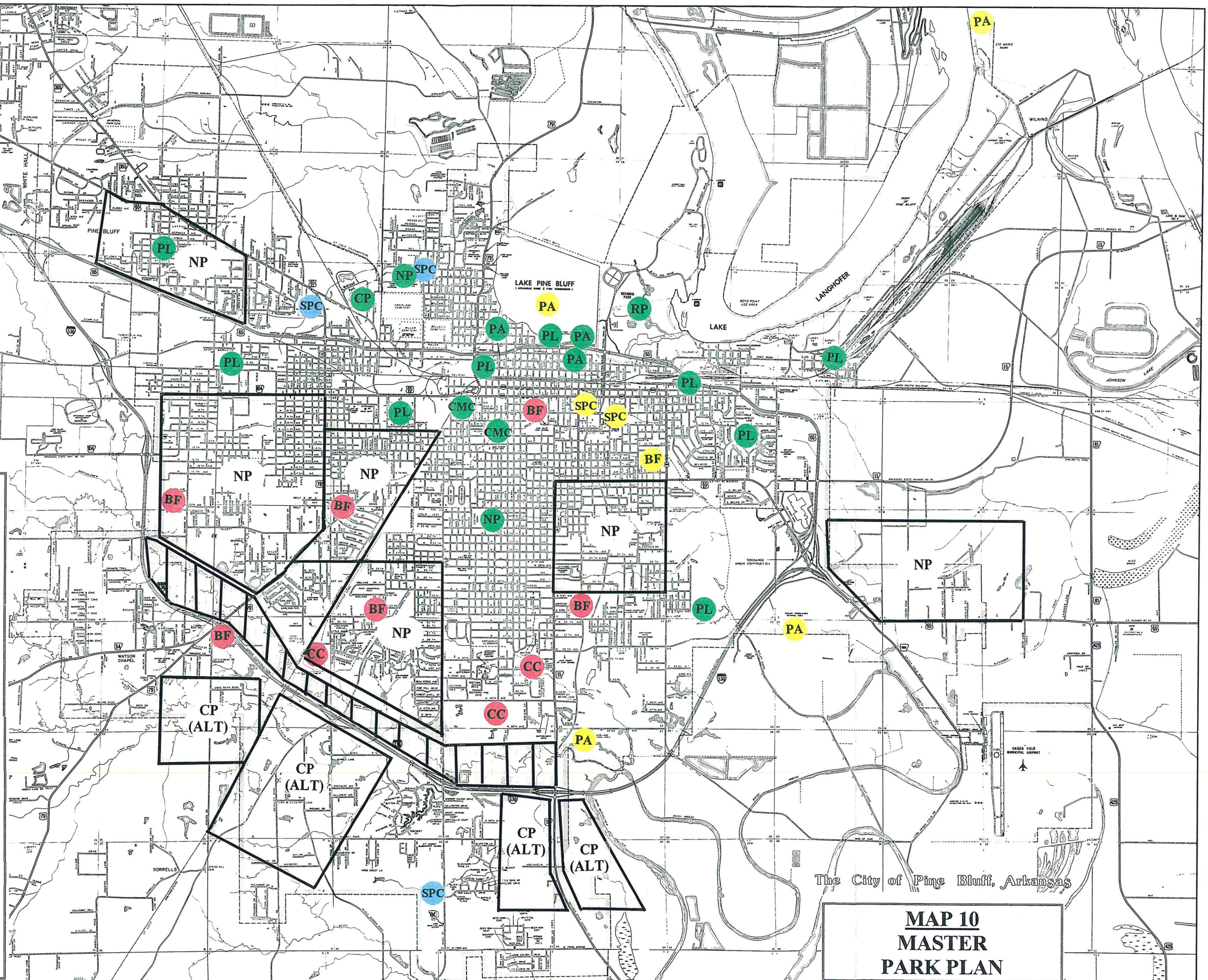
Two other passive recreational areas are Taylor Woodlands and Byrd Lake, which are owned by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and described in Section 4.

MAP KEY

- RP.....Regional Park
- CP.....City Park
- NP.....Neighborhood Park
- PL.....Playground Park
- PA.....Passive Area
- SPC.....Specialized Recreation
- CMC.....Community Center
- CC.....County Club
- BF.....Ball Field

- Existing City Recreation Sites
- Existing Other Public Recreation Sites
- Existing Quasi-Public Sites
- Existing Private Recreational Sites

- NP Areas Proposed for Neighborhood Park Sites
- CP Alternative Areas Proposed for City Park Site
- ||| Proposed Green Belt Passive Area Park



The City of Pine Bluff, Arkansas

**MAP 10
MASTER
PARK PLAN**

IMPLEMENTATION

There are many avenues that need to be traveled when implementing the Master Park Plan. Determining what we have, what we need, and where we need it is only the first step toward implementing a plan for a diverse park system. Following is a listing of items that need to be accomplished in order to provide for a well-maintained, comprehensive park system that will provide a myriad of recreation opportunities for Pine Bluff residents and aid in making Pine Bluff an attractive city in which to live.

1. Prepare a long-range capital improvements program for the park system. A long-range capital improvements program is a necessary step in order that the best available use of funds will occur, so that park purchase and development can be made in an orderly fashion, and so the City and its residents will be apprised of when and where park improvements are to be made. A long-range capital improvements program should be developed that:
 - a. Incorporates the development principles, standards, and policies set forth in the Master Park Plan into the staging of new park purchase, new park development, existing park development and redevelopment, and existing park maintenance.
 - b. Allows concurrent development of new parks and existing parks.
 - c. Programs development of a new city park in the southern region of the city.
 - d. Provides for a rehabilitation and maintenance schedule for existing facilities in order to bring the facilities up to standard and keep them in peak repair.
 - e. Schedules removal and replacement of obsolete facilities or those facilities that have deteriorated beyond repair.
 - f. Provides for public input on facilities in existing parks and for locations and facilities of new parks.
 - g. Incorporates applying for park funding from State and Federal agencies.
 - h. Develops methods that the City can use to match federal grants received by public, neighborhood, and private, non-profit agencies to acquire or develop parks.

2. Prepare a maintenance program that provides for the Parks Department's most beneficial use of time and resources. Developing and adhering to a maintenance program will provide for a well-maintained and clean park system, reduce duplication of effort, extend the life of the facilities, and will ultimately save city tax dollars. At a minimum, the maintenance program should:
 - a. Determine the amount of time required for the routine maintenance of each park (mowing, trimming, litter pickup, trash collection, raking, removal and replacement of dead shrubs, etc.).
 - b. Determine how often routine maintenance should be performed on each park.
 - c. Develop a monthly checklist for each park to ensure that routine maintenance has been performed. The checklist should also include a determination of the condition of the facilities of each park so that maintenance of the facilities can be scheduled before the facilities deteriorate or become unsightly.

- d. Schedule maintenance of facilities within each park that includes painting/preserving wood facilities such as play clusters and buildings, painting metal equipment and posts, and repairing driveways and parking lots.
3. Prepare a year-end performance audit so that the City government will be able to interpret the benefits received by the City in relation to the Parks and Recreation Department's budget. Many times department budgets will be approved simply because the amount requested is the same amount that was requested in preceding years. Requiring a department to certify its accomplishments in relation to funding will enable the City government to determine if the budget request is justified. The performance audit, maintenance plan, and current budget can be compared to the new budget request. This can be an advantage to both the Department and the City in that it will show if the next year's funding request is appropriate for the activities to be accomplished. For example, it can show that there is a need for an additional maintenance employee because the current maintenance staff does not constitute enough man-hours to complete the work. It can also show that the current maintenance staff is not performing to standards and that some sort of staff adjustment is required.
4. Prepare a city-wide recreation plan whereby the Pine Bluff Parks and Recreation Department acts as the umbrella organization under which all city-funded recreational activities are operated. It stands to reason that the Pine Bluff Parks Department should be responsible for implementing any recreational programs funded by the City. Such a plan will reduce duplication of effort while promoting the City's park resources. The City should strive to develop year-round recreational activities for children, youths, and adults. Currently, recreational activities are provided by a variety of sources with little or no coordination, there appear to be duplications in effort, and the recreational activities offered do not reach all target groups or are segregated in their efforts.
5. Continue development of the Pine Bluff Parks and Recreation web site to include a City map showing locations of all City park facilities, a list showing the amenities provided in each park, an updated Regional Park map that shows the location of the Nature Center, and continual updating of all activities being conducted within the Parks. The activity listing should provide a brief explanation of the activities, time of event, and place of the event. The web site is a good idea, but if it does not contain the information that people are interested in knowing and is out of date, it is not an asset to the City.
6. Develop a marketing plan that promotes Regional Park on a regional scale, and promotes it and other City parks for use for local civic events. There are many activities that occur within our parks, predominantly Regional Park, but there appears to be a lack of publicity concerning the activities, particularly to groups that are not active participants in the activity. There also may be other activities that could occur within the parks but are not actively solicited. In addition, the marketing plan should include innovative means by which individuals, organizations, and businesses can

sponsor certain facilities or activities. The City government needs to be more involved in and on top of the activities that take place in the parks in order that the events can occur in a more organized and safe fashion. Well-organized events are more likely to be repeated than those that were conducted haphazardly and that had little or no information available to the participants and spectators.

7. Hold neighborhood meetings to determine the need for neighborhood and playground parks in certain areas of the City. These meetings should provide a mechanism for formulating neighborhood improvement districts for the purposes of acquiring lands and facilities for neighborhood and playground parks. These meetings should also explore the possibility of combining neighborhood parks with other facilities such as fire stations and police substations in order to preserve space and provide on-site supervision. Neighborhood and playground parks may be the most important types of parks on an individual level, and therefore, the residents for whom the parks are being developed should have a voice in their location and development.
8. Discuss the possibilities of requiring the dedication of land for neighborhood parks, or cash in lieu thereof, in all new subdivisions, and of requiring the dedication of necessary easements to preserve ecologically significant areas such as floodways and marshlands. The State of Arkansas allows a city to obtain land for purposes such as parks when land is developed. If, due to the location or size of the subdivision, the developer and city agree that park land is not available within the subdivision or that park land is not needed in the specific area, the developer can contribute to a park fund set aside for the purchase and development of parks.
9. Prepare tree and landscaping ordinances for consideration by the Pine Bluff Planning Commission in order to provide for urban beautification. Such ordinances can be used to provide much needed green areas and shade within high-density residential, commercial, and industrial parking lots. They also ensure that when development occurs, properties are not clear-cut and that significant trees remain on the site. Both types of ordinances will help the City increase its attractiveness and provide for pleasant oases within acres of concrete.

Appendix A