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**Policy:** Land Acquisition Strategy

**Adopted by Board of Park Commissioners:** May 2023

BPRYCS is continually identifying opportunities and gathering information for potential park acquisitions to meet the department's mission to provide residents greater access to high-quality recreation and parks. Property acquisitions for park purposes are made possible through a variety of resources including donations, grants and special one-time allocations from the Board of Finance and City Council. Due to limited resources it's important to be selective on which properties to acquire.

The purpose of this policy is to establish the strategic framework to guide staff and the Board of Park Commissioners in the prioritization, review and approval of new land acquisitions.

**Property Considerations must meet 1 or more of the following criteria:**

- Connection to recreational needs and/or strategic goals identified in the current Parks Master Plan or other formal community need assessment reports
- Offers a setting in which a diversity of active and passive recreational opportunities can be undertaken, including sites that may be uniquely positioned to offer specific kinds of recreation opportunities not currently offered by the city
- Abuts and/or is closely connected to existing park properties (see Appendix A)
- Abuts the Pequabuck River or other natural area
- Abuts existing and/or future planned bike trails
- Potential to serve a large number of underserved households, or are in high density areas with limited recreational opportunities (See Appendix B)
- Meets equity and access goals such as the 10-minute Walk Campaign (see Appendix B, Appendix C, and Appendix D)
- Contains habitat types that are endangered, under-protected and/or under-represented in the City's park system

Properties that meet 1 or more of the criteria may be pursued by staff and recommended to the Board of Park Commissioners for approval. Properties that are approved by a vote of the Board of Park Commissioners are then referred to the Planning Commission and the City Real Estate Committee for approvals with further referral to the City Council and Board of Finance for funding.

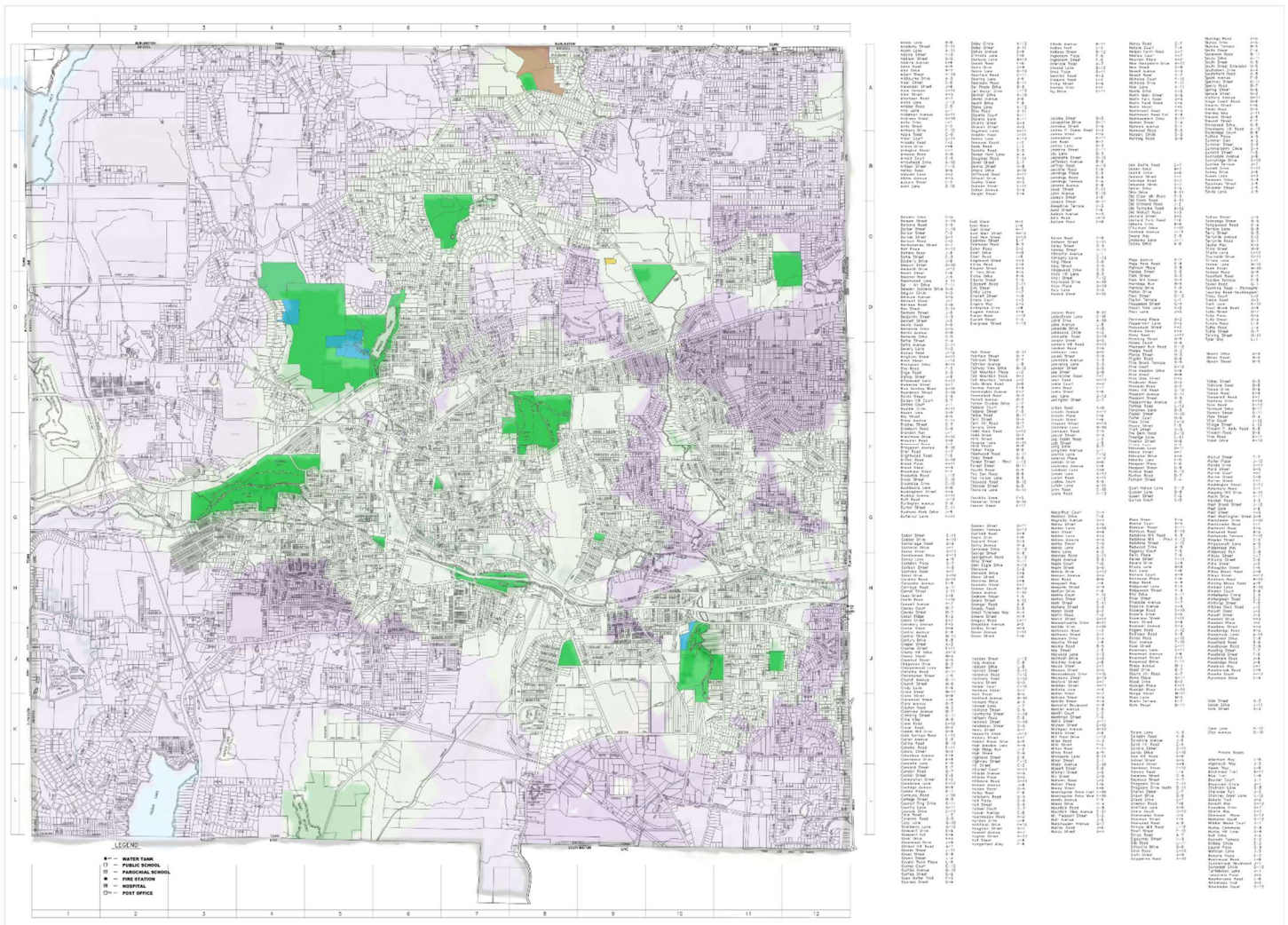


<b>Adjacent Properties of Interest</b>		
<b>Address</b>	<b>GIS Parcel #</b>	<b>Adjacent Park</b>
460 Pine Street	03-38A_0104558	Pine Lake
260 Perkins Street	60-12-5_0158976	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve
Perkins Street	60-11 REAR_0158925	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve
Ambler Road	60-15_0093718	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve
1 Ambler Road	20-221_0011495	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve
3 Ambler Road	20-219_0100196	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve
112 Ambler Road	20-220_0153389	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve
144 Ambler Road	20-218_0098701	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve
Ambler Road	20-216_0014850	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve
45 Grassy Road	20-214_0014826	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve
51 Grassy Road	20-215_0014761	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve
Grassy Road	20-217_0014842	Hoppers and Birge Pond Nature Preserve

## Appendix B: Properties with 10 Minute Walk Impacts

The Trust for Public Land’s 10-minute Walk Campaign encourages safe, equitable access to a high-quality parks within a 10-minute walk of home. Close-to-home parks serve as essential backyards for millions of people and open up countless possibilities for communities and cities by helping to confront some of today’s most pressing urban challenges. The 10-minute walk metric—equivalent to approximately a half-mile for an able-bodied person—is the average distance most people are willing to walk to reach a destination. Ensuring that all people have access to a park within a 10-minute walk of home and that there’s adequate park space in all neighborhoods is essential to creating an equitable park system.

### 10 Minute Walk - Overlay



#### Key

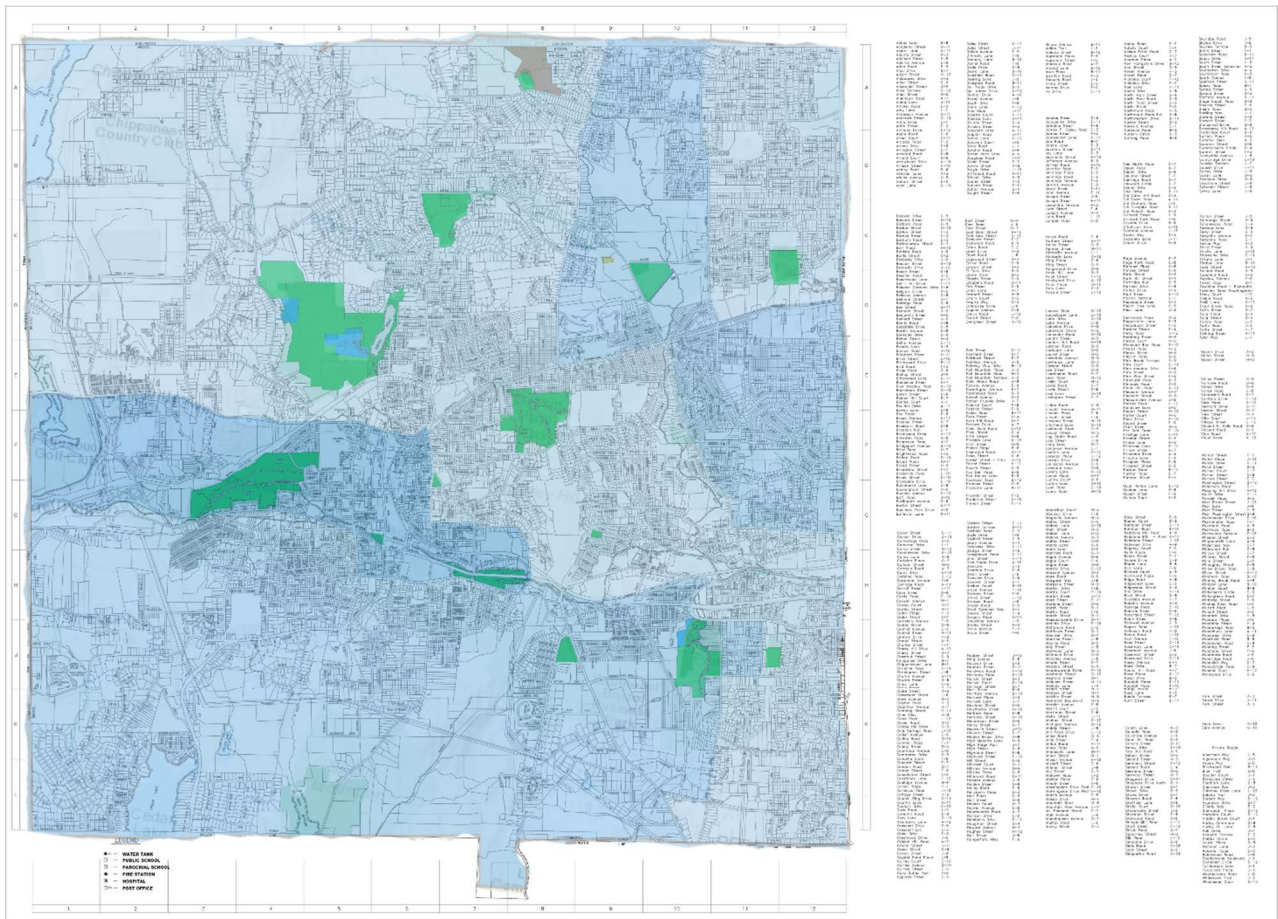
Color	Meaning
Green	Neighborhoods within a 10-minute walk of a public park
Light Purple	Neighborhoods without a 10-minute walk of a public park
Dark Purple	High-Impact neighborhoods without a 10-minute walk of a public park

## Appendix C: Properties with a Mental and Physical Health Impact

Public parks support good health for people of all abilities, ages, socio-economic backgrounds, and ethnicities. Parks help reduce obesity and incidence of chronic disease by providing opportunities to increase rigorous physical activity in a variety of forms and provide a connection to nature which studies demonstrate relieves stress levels, tightens interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health. These areas highlight the prevalence of the two following CDC metrics from 2021 data: Poor mental health: Respondents aged  $\geq 18$  years who report 14 or more days during the past 30 days during which their mental health was not good.

Lack of physical activity: Respondents aged  $\geq 18$  who answered “no” to the following question: “During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise” Source: TPL

Mental and Physical Health - Overlay



### Key

Color	Meaning
Lightest Blue	Neighborhoods with low mental and physical health disparities
Medium Blue	Neighborhoods with moderate mental and physical health disparities
Darkest Blue	Neighborhoods with high mental and physical health disparities

## Appendix D: Properties with a Temperature Impact

Urban heat islands are urban or metropolitan areas that are warmer than their surrounding rural areas, due to human activities, such as energy use, transportation, and building construction, which generate and retain heat. These areas highlight where urban heat islands coincide with high density of people outside a 10-minute walk of a park using Landsat 8 satellite imagery to identify thermal reflectance values hotter than 1.25 degrees over the average of the whole City. Parks with tree canopies are one of the most effective ways to combat extreme heat cooling the air temperature by as much as 17 degrees more than parts of the city lacking trees and green space. In addition, the cooling benefit of parks can extend as far as a half-mile from park boundaries, helping cool the neighborhood and reduce heat stress for residents.

Urban Heat Island - Overlay

