



"OPEN MEETINGS ACT"

**City of Blair Regular Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board
Meeting
City Council Chambers
March 17, 2026 - 5:30 PM**

A Copy of the "Open Meetings Act" Has Been Posted at Both Exits

AGENDA

NOTE: A current copy of the agenda can be obtained at the City Clerk's Office at 218 S. 16th Street, Blair, Nebraska or on the City website at www.blairnebraska.org. The City Council reserves the right to go into Executive Session at any time.

- 1.Meeting called to order by Chairperson Anderson at 5:30 p.m.
- 2.Roll Call of members.
- 3.Approval of minutes from the February 17, 2026, meeting.
- 4.Budget report for February 2026.
- 5.Request to appear before the Board from Pastor Glen, First Lutheran Church for an update on Potter's Field at the Blair Cemetery.
- 6.Request from Baylor Barrow seeking approval for his Eagle Scout Project.
- 7.Presentation by Brent Fulmer regarding Bicycle Playground location and features.
- 8.Presentation by the Blair Historic Preservation Alliance regarding improvements to the Depot.
- 9.Discussion regarding possible E-Bike locations and the City applying for a grant through NRD to offset the costs of the program.
10. Staff Report.
11. Motion and second by Council members to adjourn the meeting.

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City of Blair Regular Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board Meeting
February 17, 2026

Agenda Item #1 – The Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board met in regular session on February 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, with Chairman Betsy Anderson presiding.

The Chairman publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Enterprise or the Pilot -Tribune as shown by the affidavit of publication filed in the City Clerk's office. Notice of the meeting was simultaneously given to all members of the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board and the agenda is filed in the City Clerk's office. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Board of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Agenda Item #2 – Roll Call of members – The following were present: Betsy Anderson, Corey Hafer, Neil Jensen, Sarah Boeka, and Kristi Rounds. Absent: Joe Burns. Also present were City Administrator Green, Deputy City Administrator of Public Works Heaton, and Non-Lawyer Assistant Ferrari.

Mayor Rump presented Neil Jensen with a plaque showing appreciation for his dedication to the Park, Cemetery and Recreation Board since 1998.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of minutes from the January 20, 2026 – Motion by Neil Jensen, second by Kristi Rounds to approve the Minutes from January 20, 2026, meeting. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Absent, Corey Hafer: Yea, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea. All Board members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Chairman Anderson declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 – Budget report for January 2026 – A budget report covering January was presented for informational purposes. No motion was made, and no formal action was taken.

Agenda Item #5 – Discussion of the Installation of a Wiffle Ball Field at Stemmermann Park – Nick Sweeney of Blair Little League gave a presentation on a proposed wiffle ball field at Stemmermann Park. His key points included: a) The goal is to improve family experiences at the sports complex and create a welcoming space for children and adults, b) The field would not be a Little League field but a general-use wiffle ball facility, c) Turfing this area to provide programming aimed at individuals with disability, d) Estimated cost: Up to \$144,000 with turf, fencing, leveling, sod, drainage and up to \$180,000 for the highest-quality version, e) Costs could be reduced by decreasing field size, reducing turf area, and receiving donated labor, f) Turf is important for accessibility and to help offer programming for individuals with disabilities and its lifespan is estimated at 12–15 years, and it would reduce chalking, mowing, and maintenance. Sweeney presented 3D models, concept drawings, and photos of fields in Kearney, Nebraska, and other areas. The proposed layout would not interfere with shelters, restrooms, or sidewalks. Board member Hafer supported the idea but emphasized the need to pursue grants and donations. Board

member Jensen expressed concern that kids might bring baseballs instead of wiffle balls, creating risk of baseballs being hit into the nearby playground. Sweeny stated that signage and providing wiffle balls would help reduce the misuse. Board member Boeka asked about the turf maintenance requirements. No action was taken by the Board. Topic may be revisited at budget time.

Agenda Item #6 – Discussion regarding adjusting cemetery fees and rules and permitting multiple cremations per burial lot – Deputy City Administrator Heaton reported the ad hoc committee met and discussed allowing multiple cremations per burial space. There is also a need to update the entire cemetery rule book to align with comparable cemeteries. Current cost to the city to dig a grave is \$500, and the city charges the public \$550, suggesting a need to examine the fee structure. Heaton recommended continuing to work with the same ad hoc group to complete the rule book update. No action was taken.

Agenda Item #7 – Deputy City Administrator of Public Works Report – Deputy City Administrator Heaton gave updates on parks and facilities stating restroom flooring is being redone with epoxy garage-floor coating and the city will evaluate its traction performance at Generations Park. Rhoades Park cleanup efforts are ongoing. The city issued a solicitation for a comprehensive plan and received a separate safety grant. Both plans will develop over the next 12–18 months, and Board members will be invited to participate in the planning process.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment – Motion by Sarah Boeka, second by Neil Jensen to adjourn the meeting 6:07 p.m. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Absent, Corey Hafer: Yea, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea. All Board members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Brenda Wheeler, Recording Secretary

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR CITY OF BLAIR

Balance As of 02/28/2026

*NOTE: Available Balance / Pct Budget does not reflect amounts encumbered.

GL Number	Description	25-26 Amended Budget	YTD Balance 02/28/2026 (Abnormal)	Activity For 02/28/2026 Increase (Decrease)	Available Balance 02/28/2026 Normal (Abnormal)	% Bdgt Used
Account Category: Expenditures						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
01-014-5001	SALARIES	328,200.00	138,127.48	24,977.68	190,072.52	42.09
01-014-5002	FICA - CITY SHARE	25,107.30	10,466.54	1,985.83	14,640.76	41.69
01-014-5003	WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION	12,100.00	11,128.86	0.00	971.14	91.97
01-014-5004	H.A.L. INSURANCE	100,300.00	47,368.81	9,984.59	52,931.19	47.23
01-014-5005	RETIREMENT - CITY SHARE	24,775.00	8,232.19	1,514.72	16,542.81	33.23
01-014-5006	UNEMPLOYMENT COMP	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
01-014-5007	DISABILITY	1,500.00	444.85	88.97	1,055.15	29.66
01-014-5008	PENSION ADMINISTRATION	300.00	78.00	0.00	222.00	26.00
	PERSONAL SERVICES	492,782.30	215,846.73	38,551.79	276,935.57	43.80
OPERATING EXPENSE						
01-014-5210	LEGAL	3,000.00	191.80	73.00	2,808.20	6.39
01-014-5211	AUDITING	2,500.00	570.00	570.00	1,930.00	22.80
01-014-5212	ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT	5,200.00	5,289.41	156.98	(89.41)	101.72
01-014-5213	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	31,000.00	0.00	0.00	31,000.00	0.00
01-014-5215	EMPLOYEE SCHOOLING	1,000.00	883.64	482.97	116.36	88.36
01-014-5216	POSTAGE	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
01-014-5217	PRINTING & PUBLICATION	1,000.00	133.78	9.11	866.22	13.38
01-014-5222	TRAVEL EXPENSE	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
01-014-5223	TRAINING EXP/CONF REGISTR	1,500.00	465.00	40.00	1,035.00	31.00
01-014-5224	DUES	500.00	68.63	0.00	431.37	13.73
01-014-5227	SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE	7,700.00	8,001.25	117.44	(301.25)	103.91
01-014-5228	UTILITIES	40,000.00	16,494.67	1,934.15	23,505.33	41.24
01-014-5229	TELEPHONE	3,500.00	2,743.51	78.23	756.49	78.39
01-014-5230	VEHICLE INSURANCE	5,000.00	5,809.32	0.00	(809.32)	116.19
01-014-5231	LIABILITY INSURANCE	1,500.00	1,666.80	0.00	(166.80)	111.12
01-014-5232	BLDG & CONTENT INSURANCE	32,000.00	50,305.33	0.00	(18,305.33)	157.20
01-014-5236	RADIO MAINTENANCE	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
01-014-5239	MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT MAINT	12,000.00	2,899.08	338.53	9,100.92	24.16
01-014-5240	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	45,000.00	26,668.55	485.74	18,331.45	59.26
01-014-5241	TREE/STUMP REMOVAL & PLANTING	20,000.00	215.90	0.00	19,784.10	1.08
01-014-5244	RECREATION ASSISTANCE	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00
01-014-5245	MEDICAL	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00
01-014-5253	REPURCHASE CEMETERY LOTS	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
01-014-5258	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
01-014-5259	BLACK ELK MAINTENANCE	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.00
01-014-5263	OPTIMIST BOAT RAMP	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
01-014-5266	CONTRACT MOWING	80,000.00	18,391.25	6,000.00	61,608.75	22.99
01-014-5276	DEPOT / SHELTERS / COURT REFUNDS	1,000.00	75.00	75.00	925.00	7.50
01-014-5281	STORM DAMAGE	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00
	OPERATING EXPENSE	435,600.00	142,872.92	12,361.15	292,727.08	32.80
EXPENDABLE MAT & SUPPLIES						
01-014-5359	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
01-014-5360	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000.00	586.92	19.98	413.08	58.69
01-014-5361	JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	3,000.00	771.80	123.60	2,228.20	25.73
01-014-5363	CHEMICALS	8,000.00	1,414.97	1,350.00	6,585.03	17.69
01-014-5364	SEED, SOD, ETC	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
01-014-5365	GENERAL SUPPLIES	11,000.00	158.39	0.00	10,841.61	1.44
01-014-5369	SAFETY EQUIPMENT/TRAINING	1,850.00	704.73	165.37	1,145.27	38.09

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Account Category: Expenditures						
EXPENDABLE MAT & SUPPLIES						
01-014-5370	GAS/OIL/DIESEL	8,500.00	3,217.98	632.99	5,282.02	37.86
01-014-5371	UNIFORMS	3,000.00	1,180.26	200.04	1,819.74	39.34
01-014-5372	BOOKS & MAPS	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
01-014-5373	SMALL TOOLS	4,500.00	2,905.32	53.27	1,594.68	64.56
01-014-5374	SAND/GRAVEL/ROCK	4,000.00	39.83	0.00	3,960.17	1.00
01-014-5383	OTHER EXPENSE MATL & SUPP	1,000.00	315.99	315.99	684.01	31.60
	EXPENDABLE MAT & SUPPLIES	49,450.00	11,296.19	2,861.24	38,153.81	22.84
RENTAL EXPENSE						
01-014-5392	MOTORIZED EQUIP/GRAVE OPENING	10,000.00	6,500.00	3,000.00	3,500.00	65.00
	RENTAL EXPENSE	10,000.00	6,500.00	3,000.00	3,500.00	65.00
OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY						
01-014-5401	OFFICE EQUIPMENT - CAPITAL	27,500.00	4,779.10	4,035.80	22,720.90	17.38
01-014-5402	MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT	14,000.00	5,189.30	0.00	8,810.70	37.07
01-014-5403	MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT (LARGE)	130,000.00	84,444.00	0.00	45,556.00	64.96
01-014-5419	OTHER IMPROVEMENTS/PARK SIGNS	64,000.00	1,156.35	276.89	62,843.65	1.81
	OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY	235,500.00	95,568.75	4,312.69	139,931.25	40.58
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS						
01-014-5504	PAVING STREET & HIGHWAY	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
01-014-5506	BUILDING/RESTROOM	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
01-014-5519	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	7,500.00	7,250.00	0.00	250.00	96.67
	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	32,500.00	7,250.00	0.00	25,250.00	22.31
Expenditures		1,255,832.30	479,334.59	61,086.87	776,497.71	38.17

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight.

My name is **Baylor Barrow**, and I am a 17-year-old Life Scout with **Troop 145, sponsored by Arlington Community Church**, working toward the rank of Eagle Scout. To earn this rank, I am required to plan, develop, and lead a service project that provides a meaningful and lasting benefit to the community. I am here this evening to respectfully request authorization to complete my Eagle Scout Service Project in partnership with the City of Blair.

My proposed project is a **Downtown Beautification and Recycling Project**, completed under the guidance of **Mrs. Betsy Anderson**, Master Gardener and president of the Blair Parks Board. The purpose of this project is to transplant overgrown decorative plants from locations along Main Street to several pocket parks throughout Blair, including the new **Art Alley** downtown.

Several decorative plantings downtown have become overgrown and require maintenance. Rather than removing and discarding these plants, this project focuses on reusing and relocating them to enhance public green spaces across our city. By moving these plants to areas such as Art Alley and other pocket parks, we can add natural beauty to spaces where families gather, events are held, and visitors experience Blair.

As our nation approaches its **250th Birthday celebration**, this project contributes in a small but meaningful way by improving community gathering spaces like Art Alley and our pocket parks. Beautifying these public areas helps prepare them for events, visitors, and celebrations that bring our community together.

I will lead a team of approximately 4 to 8 volunteers, including Scouts and community members. All plant selections and planting sites will be approved in advance, and transplanting will follow best practices under Mrs. Anderson's direction to help ensure long-term success.

I have previously worked as a **summer employee in the City of Blair Parks Department**, which has given me a strong appreciation for our parks and the staff who maintain them. That experience has taught me the importance of safety, planning, and maintaining city standards, and I am applying those lessons to this project.

Adult supervision will be present at all times, volunteers will receive safety instructions, and we will only dig in approved areas using hand tools. All sites will be cleaned and restored once work is complete, and ongoing maintenance will remain part of the City's regular parks schedule.

I respectfully request approval from the Parks Board to move forward with this project. Thank you for your time, for your leadership, and for your continued commitment to keeping Blair a community we are proud to call home. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.






City of Blair

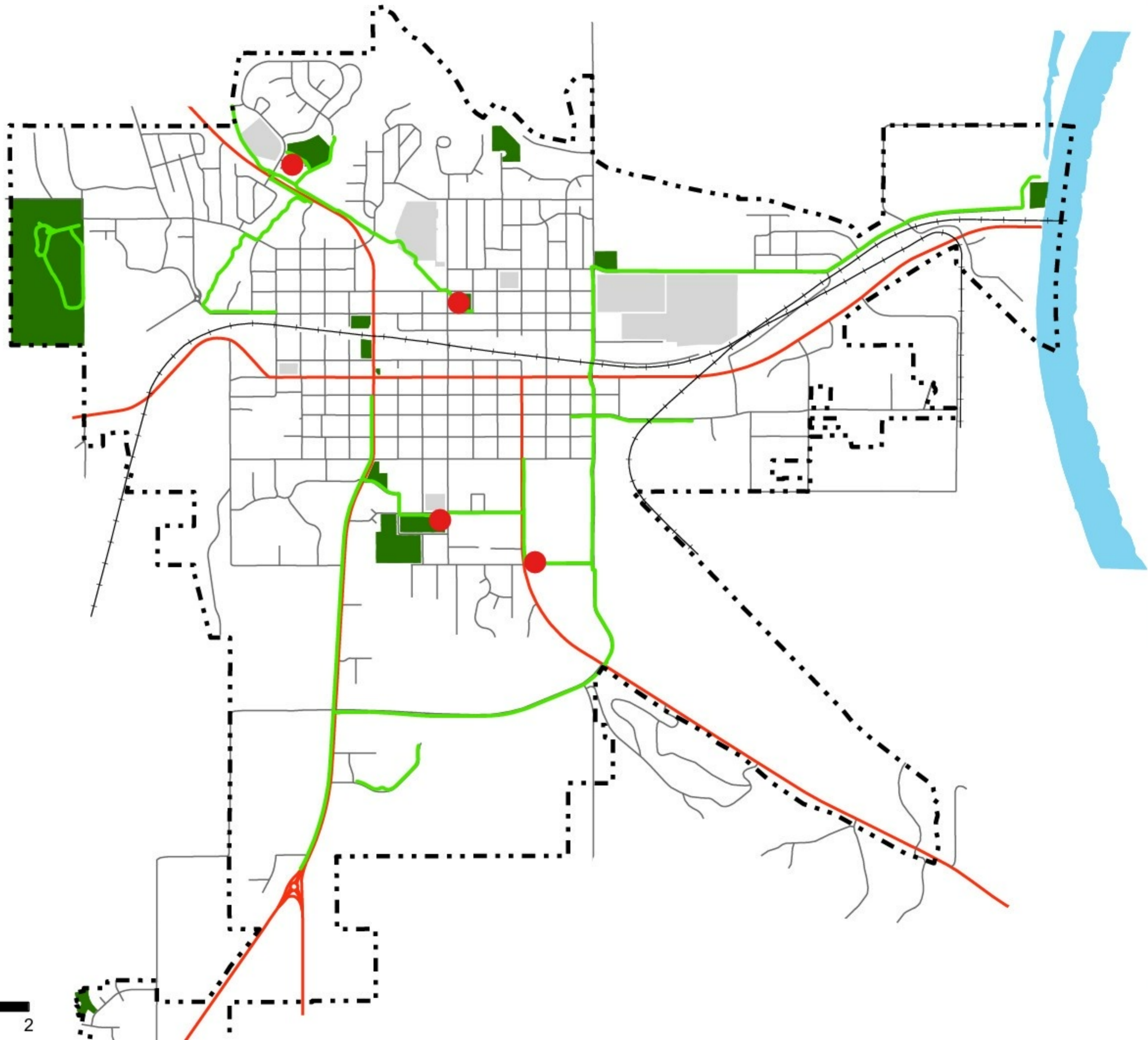
Walking and Biking Trail System



Legend

status

	Existing
	Schools
	Parks
	Stream/River
	City Limits





MEMORANDUM

TO: Blair Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Advisory Board
From: CJ Heaton, Deputy City Administrator of Public Works
Date: 3/17/26
Re: Heartland Bike Share Stations

City staff recently applied for a grant through the Papio Missouri NRD to help with the installation of 2 E-bike stations for Blair. Staff have also been in conversations with Heartland Bike Share about partnering with them to bring their program to Blair. There are currently over 450 bikes in the Omaha metro in this program.

The grant from the NRD has a \$50,000 limit, with a %100 match; the city would match \$50,000, for a total of \$100,000 towards this project. Each station is about 40-50k to install, depending on location. There would be some ongoing fees for the stations, dependent on the city's level of involvement with the routine maintenance. Heartland would be responsible for all of the maintenance to the bikes, while city staff may take on the responsibility of charging batteries and general clean up, and snow removal around the stations. All of the bike rentals are managed through an app and by Heartland.

For the time being, the staff would like the board to make a recommendation for two sites. Staff has made a few recommendations, as noted on the trail map with red dots. Our preference is to install one on each end of our trail system and near a public place. While we are open to suggestions, the 4 sites we recommend are: Generations Park, Lions Park, Blair YMCA, or the city pool area. All are close to the trails and in public places.

Recommendation: Please provide a recommendation for two locations.

Fiscal Impact: initial cost estimates \$50,000. This project is grant dependent.