

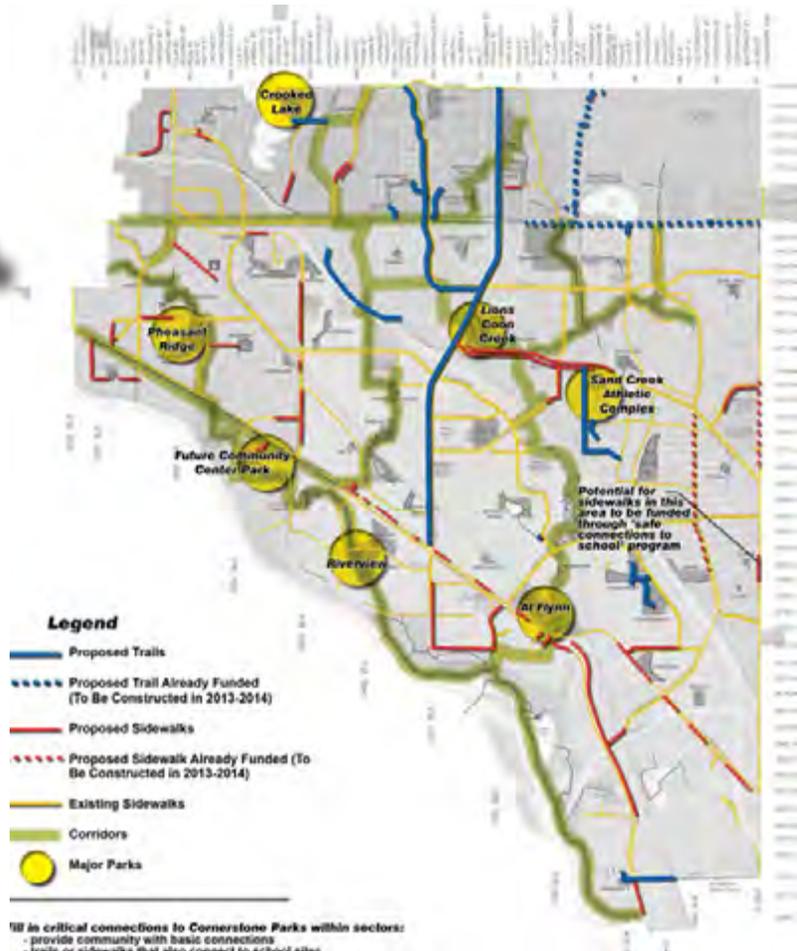


CITY OF COON RAPIDS, MN

2012

PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN UPDATE

*Draft for
City Council
Review*



October 17th, 2012



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PLAN SUMMARY

Introduction

This document is the end result of a joint planning effort between the City of Coon Rapids and the consultant team. The project began in the spring of 2012 and reached completion in the fall of the year. The project focused on assessing the current facilities and needs within the city and updating the 2001 comprehensive parks, open space, and trail system plan for the city. The planning process took the following issues into consideration:

- Past history of the park system
- Past planning studies and reports from multiple agencies and groups
- Community setting
- Needs and desires of the citizens
- Recreation programs from all providers
- Other related issues

The character of the community, its physical environment, and personal living space are all important to one's perception of the quality of life in Coon Rapids. The parks, natural open spaces and trails that surround residents and the recreational opportunities they offer are inherent to this perception. The system plan presented here expands upon and ties together past plans and studies and provides the framework and guidelines for enhancing the network of parks, open space/natural resource areas and trails for public use.

Identifying stakeholders and having them involved in the planning process was crucial to preparing a system plan that will meet community needs today and tomorrow. The public process undertaken as part of this planning effort gave the city and consultant team the chance to gain a better understanding of the community's perceptions and value system, which in turn served as the foundation for development of a system plan that responds to those sensibilities.

Acknowledgments

The planning team would like to thank the Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council and project Task Force Committee for providing their insights and understanding of the concerns and issues facing the city. We would also like to thank the many individuals who attended the focus group and public meetings for their input. The open dialogue with members of the community helped enrich our collective understanding of the issues and needs facing the city.

Coon Rapids City Council

Tim Howe, Mayor
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 Denise Klint, Ward 1
 Melissa Larson, Ward 2
 Paul Johnson, Ward 3
 Jerry Koch, Ward 4
 Bruce Sanders, Ward 5

Park Commission Members

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Our appreciation is also extended to city staff for providing their insights and guidance on many planning issues and enriching our understanding of the local conditions. In particular, we would like to thank Steve Gatlin, City Manager and Director of Public Services, who spent many hours providing insight.

City Staff

Steve Gatlin, City Manager and Director of Public Services
 Gregg Engle, Parks Supervisor
 Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

Planning Process

Modern recreational planning processes are based upon the specific needs of the community being served and its citizens. No longer is it acceptable to simply apply national or state wide facility standards to derived facility requirements or desires. As such this plan has been based upon exhaustive efforts of outreach to the community. A total of 17 meetings, including 3 Open House meetings were held. In addition to these meetings online social media was used to gather additional input from the public. The findings and recommendations are therefore based upon a synthesis of the input from city staff, commissions, council and most prominently the citizens of the city of Coon Rapids.

Findings

The demographic changes within the City are not necessarily unique to Coon Rapids. In general the population is aging and demands for recreation to meet this shift in user age and preference is ongoing throughout the metropolitan area. This aging of the population is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

The economic conditions that have put a strain on public resources are beginning to show in the Coon Rapids park system. Deferred replacement and maintenance of the systems infrastructure is evident to the users.

Competition between communities in the northern metropolitan region for development or, in many cases redevelopment, is acute. Cities that are still in the development phase of growth rely on park dedication fees to pay for the development of their park system. Communities that are in the process of redevelopment need to find ways of not only of maintaining their park system but also transforming it to meet the changing needs of its citizens and attract new residents to the community.

Recommendations

- The City should build flexibility into the parks system to meet the changing needs of the citizens of Coon Rapids.
- The City should eliminate duplication of neighborhood facilities for greater efficiency. This can be accomplished by creating a hierarchy of neighborhood parks and linking them with safe pedestrian routes.

- The City should not divest itself of park properties as this will take future flexibility out of the park system.
- The City should provide a balance of unique facilities and experiences throughout the city and make them accessible by creating “Cornerstone Parks”. Physical barriers such as highways and railroad tracks, etc. that make safe routes difficult should form the boundaries of service areas for each cornerstone park.
- The City should increase maintenance of existing park infrastructure. Greater effectiveness could potentially be gained by decreasing the number of duplicative facilities in the adjacent neighborhood parks as redevelopment occurs. Restoring maintenance budgets to pre-2009 levels should be a high priority for the City to gain the confidence of the park users and their support for future redevelopment.
- The athletic associations within the City are providing an invaluable service and the coordination provided by the City has increased user satisfaction considerably. The City should provide more effective coordination of other city recreation services and cooperative ventures with the County and private recreation providers to achieve even greater satisfaction, efficiency and flexibility by creating a recreation supervisor position.

These recommendations are based upon the public input received during the study and assessment of physical resources and park system operations and management. For the purposes of this Plan Summary they are brief. Supporting reasoning and documentation can be found in the following report sections and appendices.

Consultant Team

Sincerely,

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ASSESSMENT OF NEED

Overview

Assessing the needs of the community is one of the fundamental first steps in developing a parks, open space and trail system plan that will fulfill the expectations of those it is intended to serve. As a city with a dynamic population, it can be expected that the needs of individuals and families living in Coon Rapids will continue to change and evolve. Anticipating and preparing for these changes will require ongoing measuring and monitoring if the plan is to remain responsive to community needs. It is with this understanding that the forthcoming needs assessment is presented, which summarizes the needs of today and circumstances affecting planning decisions.

The Impact of Demographic Changes on Planning Outcomes and Priorities

As was the case in 2001 when the previous plan was prepared, the changing demographic character and increasingly diverse nature of Coon Rapids' population remains an important factor in shaping the parks, open space and trail system plan and establishing future investment priorities. The ongoing nature of these changes also underscores the importance of building flexibility into the overall plan to ensure that meeting current community needs (over the next ten years) does not unduly compromise the community's ability to reevaluate its needs and alter course decades from now as may be warranted by demographics and needs at that time.

The following summarizes the key demographic factors influencing the details and points of focus of the system plan for the next 10 year period, which is the outside time frame before this plan needs complete updating. (Appendix A should be referred to for a more complete demographic overview).

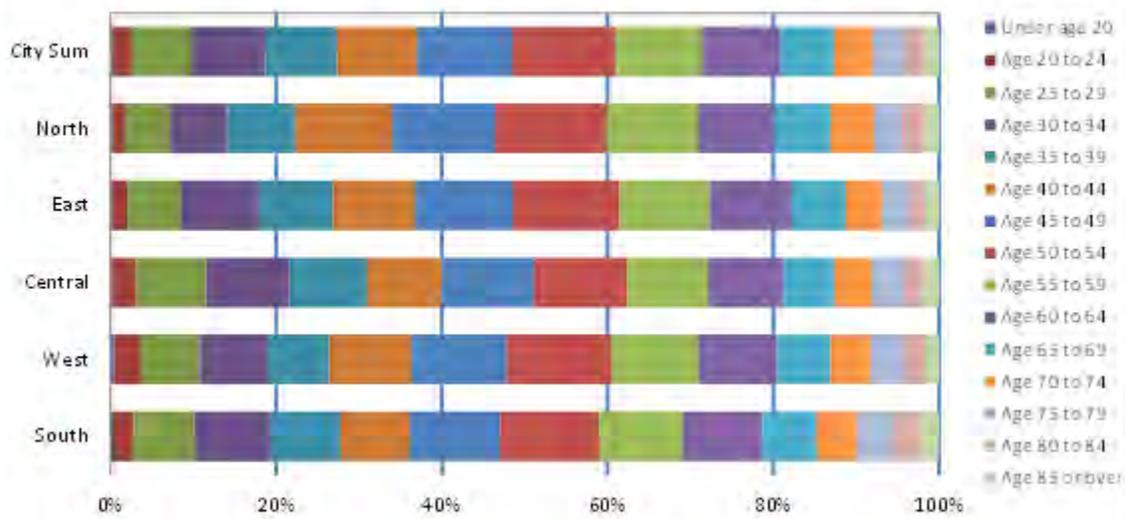
Resident Demographics have Changed from 2000 to 2010

The past decade has seen significant changes in Coon Rapids resident characteristics, as the following highlights:

- 2010 US Census reported a total population of 61,476; whereas this was not much different than in 2000, the characteristics of the population changed dramatically
- Coon Rapids' population age profile was much older in 2010 than it was in 2000, with the number of older residents (ages 65 or older) increasing by 54 percent and residents ages 45 to 64 increasing by 27 percent
- Increases in older populations was offset by decreases in young adults and children
- About three-quarters of the city's 23,532 households in 2010 were living in owner-occupied housing; however, over the decade, there was a significant increase in non-family households (i.e., single-person households or households with unrelated individuals)
- Along with resident aging and the shift from family to non-family households, the period from 2000 to 2010 saw an increase in resident diversity, with a decrease in White residents of eight percent and a corresponding increase in residents in all other races

Within the context of the geographical areas of the city that define park service sectors (as illustrated on page 3.06), household distribution by age varies only modestly. As the chart on the next page illustrates, the Central Region has the largest share of young households (more than 20 percent are under age 35) while the North Region has the smallest share.

Region Household Age Comparisons - Proportions (2011)



Resident Demographics will Continue to Change 2012 to 2032

Although projecting demographic changes over the next 20 years poses some inherent limitations and uncertainty, it can still be reasonably expected that the trends of the last decade will continue, as the following summarizes:

- A continuing decrease in younger households should be expected, with a relatively flat profile for households ages 35 to 54, and strong continuing growth in households ages 55 or older
- By the end of the 20 year forecast, households ages 55 or older are expected to account for half of all households (as compared to around 38% in 2010) – which is a consistent trend in some of the Metro Area’s first ring suburbs

From a planning perspective, the following conclusions can be drawn from the demographic review:

- Younger age groups (under 19) – will hold steady to slightly decline; as such, meeting the needs of today should bode well for meeting future needs with respect to facilities like neighborhood parks, ballfields, and soccer fields; focus here will be on quality of facilities and meeting the needs of emerging populations and accommodating changing recreational trends
- Adult age groups (19 to 64) – will grow, especially the upper end of these ages; shift toward individual-type activities like walking, biking, and observing nature and away from organized sports like softball will continue; quality of facilities becomes an important factor for these age groups participating in outdoor recreational pursuits, and their mobility allows them more discretion on where they live and how far they are willing to drive for a chosen activity
- Senior age groups (65+) – will grow, with demand for easily accessible programs and facilities for social interaction, walking areas and so forth becoming more and more in demand as time goes on. Therefore, providing intergenerational opportunities for senior groups to participate in active living.
- Race and ethnicity – will continue to be an increasingly important consideration, with an increasing percentage of the population being represented by minority groups; the key point here is that the needs and values of these groups need to be taken into consideration when parks and recreational facilities located in the service areas where they live are developed

Community Perspective on Needs

An extensive public process undertaken as part of the planning effort allowed the consulting team and city to gain a better understanding of the community's perceptions and value system, which in turn allows for defining core themes and preparing a system plan that responds to those sensibilities. The stakeholder involvement process included a series of task force meetings, general open houses, focus group meetings with residents and various community groups, and meetings with the Parks Commission and City Council. The following listing outlines the public process meetings.

Task Force Meeting #1, May 16, 2012
 Public Open House #1, May 23, 2012
 Public Open House #2, May 30, 2012
 Task Force Meeting #2, June 6, 2012
 Council Workshop #1, June 19, 2012
 Summer in the City Meeting #1 (Ward 1-Cardinal Woods), June 26, 2012
 Multiple individual stakeholder interviews, June 27, 2012
 Park Commission Meeting #1, July 9, 2012
 Multiple individual stakeholder interviews, July 12, 2012
 Summer in the City Meeting #2 (Ward 2-Burl Oaks), July 24, 2012
 Summer in the City Meeting #3 (Ward 3-Parkside), June 31, 2012
 Park Commission Meeting #2, August 6, 2012
 Summer in the City Meeting #4 (Ward 4-Vineyards), August 20, 2012
 Summer in the City Meeting #5 (Ward 5-Aspen), August 28, 2012
 Park Commission Meeting #3, September 10, 2012
 Joint Park Commission / Task Force Meeting, October 1, 2012
 Public Open House #3, October 9, 2012

Key Findings from Community Survey

In May, 2012, Decision Resources undertook a residential survey to gain an understanding of residents' perspectives on quality of life factors and a host of issues facing the community. Key highlights of the survey most pertinent to parks, open spaces and trail system planning include:

- Parks and trails ranked 7th on the list of what residents like most about living in the community, with convenient location, housing/neighborhood, and being close to family and friends examples of higher rated items
- Lowering the crime rate, bringing in new businesses and lowering taxes were identified as top actions that would improve the quality of life in the city
- In terms of favorite activities, walking/running were by far the favorite activities to do in the city (40%), with biking coming in third (10%) after shopping (12%); participating in recreation programs came in at 2%
- In terms of aspects needing "fixing", streets were on top at 33%, with parks and trails coming in at one of the lower concerns at 3%
- In terms of characteristics of the city, a high percentage of residents felt that the provision of parks/open spaces and trails was about right, at rates of 91% and 88% respectively
- Residents express overall satisfaction with the quality of park and recreation facilities and programs, with 83% and 69%, respectively, rating them as good or excellent
- Parks and recreation facilities are considered somewhat important to important by a strong majority of residents, with 79% agreeing
- 93% of residents feel that the appearance of their neighborhood park is somewhat to very important to the value of their home
- 97% of residents feel that the current mix of recreational facilities meets the needs of members of their household
- With respect to taxes, 46% of residents see their's somewhat high to very high, with 40% seeing them as about average

These findings suggest that residents do value the parks, open space, and trail system and overall it meets their expectations. Whereas this may be the case, the findings also suggest some caution about the extent to which residents would support tax increase for making improvements to the system.

An online survey was also completed in mid 2012 during the public process to focus on park and trail desires. The results complemented the Decision Resources Survey with much more specific feedback related to the wants and needs of the community. A more complete overview of the Decision Resources Survey and the Online Survey is provided in Appendix D.

Major Themes from the Public Process

While residents and community groups each brought forth specific ideas and perspectives, there was also a high degree of commonality on community values, strengths and weaknesses of the current system, and opportunities for improvements. Additionally, these groups and individuals believe that an update of the long-term vision for the parks, open space and trail system is needed to give the city a basis for developing action plans. Focus group participants collectively applauded the City Council for making all of the improvements that they have in the past 10 years. Most groups are excited to see Coon Rapids continue to make investments in the system as long as they are well-targeted, of discernible value and are relevant.

The following summarizes the major themes that emerged from the public input process, which have been used to shape the vision statement (defined in the next section) and the system plan itself. (For a complete summary of the meeting notes and findings from the public process, refer to Appendices B & C - Public Process Meetings and Stakeholder Interviews.)

1. Focus on Making Quality Improvements to Parks and Recreational Facilities

As highlighted in the assessment of existing facilities, parks that received major upgrades in the last ten years have been well-liked and well-visited by the community – even if it meant, in some cases, traveling a bit further



to get to them. Throughout the public process, focusing on quality was often cited as being of higher importance than quantity, if having to make a choice. Importantly, however, residents also made it clear that having access to nearby and well-kept neighborhood parks also remained important, recognizing that the level of service in each may be more limited in order to put more resources into select larger parks within each area of the city.

Photo illustrates the recently renovated Prospect Park. This park is well attended by residents of the community.

2. Enhance Connectivity

With respect to improving the trail system, focusing on making connections, enhancing continuity and improving the quality of experience on the major trail corridors was most important to residents. Improving the quality of experience relates to design features such as sight lines, curve radii, signage, trailside amenities (benches, drinking fountains, etc.). Maximizing the potential of regional trails through the city was also cited as being important, with an emphasis on working with Anoka County on finding creative ways to fund these facilities.



Example: Adding pedestrian trails and walkway connections in these areas would fill in the missing gap along Coon Creek Regional Trail and provide better access to the park system as a whole.

3. Maintain Aesthetic Appearance of Parks and Trails

One of the common concerns cited during the public process was a noticeable decline in maintenance across the system, especially as it relates to lesser used parks that are already aged and in need of a face-lift. Whereas the public was generally aware budget cuts makes this more of a challenge, it was generally agreed that maintaining the aesthetic quality of the system was important to keeping the city an appealing place to live. Maintaining the parks and trails was also considered important to supporting property values in the community, especially those nearby local parks.



Trackside Park is becoming worn out and lacks 'curb appeal'



Photo of unsafe section of trail within Peppermint Stick Park

4. Both Directly and Through Partnerships, Provide a Balanced and Affordable Approach to Recreational Programming

Although some residents expressed a desire for a more centralized approach to recreation programming, the general consensus was for the city to work with local program providers to provide the opportunity for residents to participate in recreation activities and programs through well-designed, effective and cost efficient recreation programs. Although the city will provide some targeted programming directly, equal emphasis will be placed on working with other program providers to address this need and to provide adequate facilities for programmed use on a fair and equitable basis. The addition of the Recreation Coordinator position has improved the city's relationship with the various recreation associations within the city.

5. Ensure that the System Plan is Implementable – with New Investments being Well-Targeted, Geographically Balanced and of Clear Value

One of the most important themes coming out of the public process is that the 2012 plan must be implementable, with clearly defined priorities. While the community expects the plan to be visionary, it must also be realistic. A number of factors discovered during the public process help to underscore the importance of taking a well-considered approach to making new investments. Most notable of these include:

- Current satisfaction with the system is generally high – which means that the demand for major or across-the-board improvements is yet to manifest itself
- An aging population (with many on fixed incomes) – which means limited capacity to pay additional taxes
- Generally modest-priced housing and modest incomes – which means caution about money and spending outlays, including willingness to support tax increases.

With these factors in mind, residents in Coon Rapids will expect new investments to be well-targeted, geographically balanced, and of clear value. Further, residents will expect that the city will make the commitment to maintain the parks and trails already in place and only make improvements that can be indefinitely maintained and operated.

Input From Local Athletic Associations

The public process included a series of focus group meetings with local athletic associations to gain an understanding of the relationship between these groups and the city. Groups interviewed included:

- Coon Rapids Athletic Association (CRAA)
- Coon Rapids Soccer Association (CRSA)
- Coon Rapids Baseball Association (CRBA)
- Coon Rapids Fastpitch (CRFP)
- American Little League
- National Little League
- Central Little League

The following provides a collective summary of the issues raised by these groups and their perspective on the city's support of their programs and facilities.

Functional Relationship With Athletic Associations

One of the key aspects of the local athletic associations is that they each serve a defined user group and have for many years taken on the responsibility for developing their programs and working with the city to find and develop facilities. Over the years, these groups have managed to do quite well in meeting their individual needs and keep their programs running smoothly. Undoubtedly, continuing the relationships between the city and these groups will remain a necessity long into the future for these programs to continue to prosper, a fact that is well understood by each group.

Within this context, however, there are several commonly-held perspectives that these groups hold with respect to how their relationship with the city can build upon its current base and grow into a stronger, more collaborative effort. These include a need for:

- Continued enhancement of the working relationships between the local associations and city leaders and staff to ensure that their programs are understood and interface well with city programs
- Continued close coordination to ensure that facilities are scheduled efficiently and that there is a high degree of fairness in how the city works with each group
- Developing common standards for maintenance of facilities irrespective of who owns and operates them
- Tight coordination of programs and who is serving which groups to make sure that no participants are left out or under-served

The associations interviewed were very appreciative of the space and maintenance provided by the city. The fundamental desire of the athletic groups is to work with the city so their organizational issues and needs are recognized and dealt with in order to effectively serve residents of the city. Note that this expectation is couched in the realization that the city is only one of the partners that must work together to meet community needs.

Individual Group Needs

In addition to the commonly-held perspectives, each group had a number of specific thoughts related to their programs. For the most part, these focused on the facility needs of a given group and how the city might play a role in resolving them. Note that each group does not expect that the city bears the sole responsibility for doing so. Instead, the intent was to simply alert the city to their needs and desires and see what can be achieved by working together in future years. Below is a summary of the major issues and needs. Section 4 - Parks and Open Space System Plan considers the issues raised by each group within the context of the system plan, thus assuring that what was heard has been addressed in the proper context.

- Inadequate parking for tournaments at Wintercrest Park and the Soccer Complex
- Sand Creek Park needs to be redeveloped to current standards
- Include storage at Moor Park for association's chalk and field equipment
- Install power/outlets at Moor Park for pitching machines
- In general, add and improve restrooms at all parks
- Add fencing around perimeters to allow for 'ticketing' opportunities
- Improve field drainage at Wintercrest Park

Input From Individuals and Groups (Non Athletics)

Through the public process we received considerable input from various individuals and groups related to improvements within the system. Many of these wishes focused on desires as related to current trends and what is available in other cities within the metropolitan area. The following provides a collective overview of the major issues and desires. More detailed information is provided in Appendices B & C.

- Trail system improvements - Fill in gaps, increased signage and improved sightlines/stripping/width for safety at curves
- Improve maintenance at parks in decline
- More seating & drinking fountain opportunities
- Incorporate water opportunities (splash pads / beach)
- Restrooms
- Skate parks / BMX park
- Relocate dog park to more appropriate community location (not neighborhood park)
- At time of park redevelopment, avoid duplication of similar amenities in locations where multiple parks are close to one another - adjacent parks could complement one another vs. having the same things
- Disc golf

General Assessment of Existing Parks, Open Space, and Trail System

The existing parks and trails were evaluated to determine their current condition and establish a base point for system planning. Since 2001, the improvements that the city has made to the park system have been generally well-received and the parks well-used. While most of the parks continue to provide some level of recreational value, some are clearly showing the wear of time and, in a number of cases, are not well positioned to meet future needs. As the individual park evaluations illustrate (in Section 4), facilities that are older and have not received any major upgrades ranked on the lower end in terms of overall quality ratings – which is common to an aging system. In contrast, the redeveloped parks consistently ranked medium to high in quality and performance and demonstrate noticeably higher levels of attendance because of it.

With respect to the trail system, progress has been more limited on making improvements. Based on public input as part of this project, residents want to see an increased focus on making qualitative improvements and enhancing connections between localized neighborhoods and the key parks and trails within each of the geographical areas of the city.

The following table summarizes the key findings related to evaluating the existing parks, open space and trails in the city, which was further used as the basis for the system plan update presented in later sections.

Issue	Summary Assessment
Overall Park Land Area	<p>In general, the land area set aside for parks, open space and trails is generally adequate and reasonably positioned to service the present and future needs of the city. Although distribution of land for some uses, like athletic facilities is slightly imbalanced, adding new lands to system is not a top priority given the need to focus on redeveloping and maintaining the parks already in existence. Although community park space remains a bit limited, the regional parks substantially offset any shortages in this category.</p> <p>As was the case in 2001, the city does not appear to have any significant shortage of space for athletic facilities, which bodes well from a land mass perspective. By efficiently using the land that is available in the park system and working closely with the local school district and community college, it seems reasonable that the city can effectively meet the needs of the current athletic associations and other user groups. One qualification to that continued use of the community college site remains important to meeting land needs for athletic facilities.</p>

Overall Design	As previously noted, design quality varies widely throughout the system. On one hand, parks like Lions Coon Creek Park exhibit stronger design themes and tend to tie together into a cohesive park design. On the other hand, many of the smaller and older neighborhood parks lack a strong design theme and often offer only an eclectic collection of limited amenities that may or may not be positioned to meet neighborhood needs in future years. Many of the older parks also followed a common blueprint and offer little in the way of an individual sense of place or overall park-like appeal.
Aesthetic Quality	Visual appeal in numerous parks needs to be enhanced to create a stronger sense of place and appealing visual aesthetic. The lack of design quality in some of the older, lower rated parks creates a setting that is not all that inviting to the casual park user – which results in people simply not being enticed to come to the park for the less tangible, but very important, uses such as relaxation and just being outside on a nice day. As the population ages, this type of use will be every bit as important as features like play areas and basketball courts.
Natural Resource Quality	A tour of the parks to review ecological issues suggests that the natural resource qualities of the parks and open spaces are an area of concern that should be addressed. Whereas the conditions found are not unique to Coon Rapids, developing and implementing a step by step natural resource restoration and management program will continue to be important if the natural values of these lands is to be sustained.
Trail System Development	The trail system will likely remain one of the most important recreational amenities provided in Coon Rapids and should continue to be expanded and maintained.

Needs Assessment Summary

The assessment of need clearly illustrates that the city has chosen an opportune time to update its parks, open space and trail system plan and develop a comprehensive strategy for future improvements. The fact that residents view the current system as being very important to their quality of life is quite fortunate in that it allows the city to focus its attention on being proactive toward meeting future needs, rather than reactively trying to address current problems.

Nonetheless, addressing the ever-shifting demands of the populous will not be easy. This is especially the case in fiscally-challenging eras, where the willingness and capacity of homeowners to fund improvements will likely be limited. This simple reality will require the city and its residents to make difficult choices about priorities and the level of service that is desired to meet their quality of life expectations.

It is also clear from the assessment of need that there will be no shortage of parks, open space and trail development initiatives to choose from in forthcoming years. In their own context, each initiative has considerable merit. Although this plan spells out many of those choices, the burden of deciding which of these are of highest priority ultimately lies with residents, whose voice will be heard through their elected and appointed city officials and their support for funding initiatives.

VISION STATEMENT

A Common Vision

The extensive public process and open communication with citizens was instrumental in shaping a common vision for parks, open spaces and trails that will serve the needs of Coon Rapids over the next decade. Key expectations defined through the public process include:

- Taking a proactive and focused approach toward developing a system plan that addresses wide-ranging and evolving community needs and values for active and passive parks, natural open spaces and trails
- Using existing park and open space land to its highest and best use
- Being creative in defining an implementation strategy and establishing priorities that allow for incremental and orderly improvements to the system – in a manner that is forward looking and realistic

This common vision – in concert with the forthcoming mission statement and guiding principles – provides the foundation for the system plan (as further defined in Sections 4 and 5) that addresses core community needs and meets baseline expectations while being responsive to resource availability for development, operations, maintenance and programming.

Mission Statement

The assessment of need clarified and defined many of the pertinent issues affecting the park, open space and trail system in Coon Rapids and serves as confirmation that the following mission statement remains valid. This brings to light the basic precept by which the system is built upon.

Mission Statement

“The purpose of the *Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space and Trail System* is to provide a comprehensive, balanced, and sustainable system of parks, open spaces and trails and support for providers of recreation-oriented activities/programs for city residents in as cost effective manner as possible.”

Guiding Principles in Support of the Mission Statement

The forthcoming guiding principles support the vision and mission statements and reinforce the ideals of a dynamic high quality system that is well-positioned to meet the needs of current and future residents of Coon Rapids.

Guiding Principle #1 - Implement a Balanced System Plan that Provides a Consistent Level of Service within Each Geographic Area of the City

Based on findings from the public process, providing a consistent level of service across the city is considered central to meeting local needs for parks, trails and recreational facilities. Defined as a “service sector,” residents expect that the parks within each geographical area of the city collectively provide them with a cross-section of recreational opportunities in which to choose.

Guiding Principle #2 - Maintain a Consistent Level of Quality Across Service Sectors to Ensure Equal Access to Parks, Trails and Open Space

Residents participating in the public process stressed the importance of maintaining a consistent level of quality at each level of the system across the city. Although it is recognized that extensive improvements to all parks may not be possible due to resource limitations, residents still expect at a minimum that access to high quality parks, trails and recreational facilities will be available within each of the service sectors as defined under this plan. Although it is accepted that not all parks will be significantly improved over the next ten years, residents still expect them to be safe, functional, reasonably maintained and aesthetically appealing. Equally as important is to provide the pedestrian connections to these parks and open spaces by filling in the gaps and expanding the existing trail system.

Guiding Principle # 3 – Maintain Adequate Staffing to Oversee Development, Operations and Maintenance of Parks and Trails and Administration of Recreational Services

Maintaining a well-trained, highly motivated staff to carry out the mission of developing a quality park and trail system and providing a variety of recreational facilities and services for residents remains vital to long-term success. The goal is to maintain staffing a level that is adequate to undertake these responsibilities in a professional, effective and efficient manner. Personnel should be planned for, hired and trained prior to the date of actual need to ensure that a consistent level of service is maintained as park facilities enhanced and local recreational programs or services expanded.

Guiding Principle #4 - Plan and Design Parks for Their Entire Lifecycle

An important consideration in implementing the system plan is the expected lifecycle of each component or park unit, which is the time frame between when it is initially developed until it is redeveloped or refurbished. In most cases, parks have an effective lifecycle of 15 to 20 years, although this will vary substantially depending on the specifics of the park in question.

The design for any system component should take into consideration who the users are likely to be throughout its lifecycle. In the case of a neighborhood park, amenities that appeal to those living nearby today may not be that highly regarded in the future if the neighborhood dynamic is such that people are growing older in the same residence (i.e., “age in place”) or as the entire population grows older and simply wants different amenities. On the other hand, in neighborhoods where housing turnover is high and younger families are a constant, the mix of amenities should reflect that dynamic.

As might be expected, determining how a park’s lifecycle will affect its design and development can be difficult. This is especially true with community-level parks and athletic complexes, where developing a site that meets the needs of today may not necessarily meet the future needs. Unfortunately, there are no easy answers to rectifying these concerns, but it does clearly indicate the importance of systematically evaluating the changing demographics of the city and staying in close contact with constituents to anticipate changes in recreation trends and community needs. It also underscores the need to provide a broad palette of recreational opportunity within a given area of the city so that shifts in recreational trends can be reasonably accommodated.

Guiding Principle #5 - Allow for Flexibility in Implementing the Plan

One of the hallmarks of the system plan is its emphasis on flexibility within the context of an established overall vision and framework for how the system functions as a collective whole. The plan presented in this document sets the underlining goals of the system and establishes the basic parameters behind its development. Within that framework however, a certain degree of flexibility is warranted to ensure that what is ultimately developed and how it is used takes into consideration the individual nuances and details associated with a given project.

The system plan and park classifications function to ascribe certain parameters for a given park so that it serves a particular purpose within the larger system. Within these parameters, however, a certain degree of flexibility is warranted to allow for needs, desires, and opportunities that arise on an individual site basis to be addressed and incorporated into the plan. The value of this flexibility is that individual neighborhoods or areas of the city have an opportunity to create parks that reflects their needs in concert with the inherent park setting, yet still function as part of the collective whole. The end result is a park system with a cohesive overall character while individual parks still offer their own unique sense of place.

Accommodating the varying demand for facilities to service recreational programs will also require a certain degree of flexibility within the system. Realistically, the city will have to continue to rely on a combination of public and private athletic facilities to fulfill their collective needs. Given this circumstance, the objective then becomes using available facilities in the most suitable and efficient manner for any given point in time.

Guiding Principle #6 - Foster Community Involvement at Each Level of System Planning and Implementation

Continuing community involvement in the decision-making process as the plan is implemented is fundamental to the city being successful in gaining residents support for funding initiatives. Community involvement in the planning and implementation process serves several important purposes:

- Assessing the needs of the community from a variety of perspectives.
- Fostering collaboration and consensus building on important development initiatives.
- Building direct and lasting relationships with key individuals, groups and organizations to gain their insight on planning issues and support for implementing planning initiatives.
- Enlisting key individuals, groups and organizations to help ensure the success of any given project

All of these will be important in an era where funding sources will be limited and implementation priorities will need to be very focused to meet the most pressing community needs. An ongoing commitment by the city leaders and staff to community involvement in implementing the system plan should remain a cornerstone of the implementation strategy.

This includes adhering to a standardized process for designing individual parks to ensure that citizens have a voice in the decision process and that a high degree of discipline to arriving at design solutions is maintained. This is also critical when trying to create a unique sense of place within a given park while using the same general mix of facilities, give or take a few, that can be found at any other park of similar size.

Guiding Principle #7 – Provide Access to Recreational Activities and Programs through Coordinated Services with Local Partners

Working with local program providers, the city will work to provide the opportunity for residents to participate in recreation activities and programs through well-designed, effective and cost efficient recreation programs. Although the city may provide some targeted programming directly (especially for pre-k and elementary age groups), equal emphasis will be placed on working with other program providers to address this need and to provide adequate facilities for programmed use on a fair and equitable basis.

In addition to structured activities and programs, the city will encourage the use of local facilities for organized outdoor events, weddings and other forms of social gathering and cultural events.

Park and Recreation Commission Role and Responsibility

The Park and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory role to the City Council as defined by Coon Rapids City Code under a separate document. The following table highlights the key role and responsibility of the Commission although the city code should be referred to as the authoritative document should discrepancies be found.

Section	City Code Language
Parks and Recreation Commission Composition	The Parks and Recreation Commission shall be composed of Seven (7) members. [Revised 12/20/05, Ordinance 1913]
Eligibility	Members must be a resident of the city of Coon Rapids. All seats are at-large and represent the entire city rather than individual districts or wards.
Appointment Procedure and Term	All members shall be appointed by the City Council and serve three (3) year staggered terms. There are no term limits.
Duties	The functions of the Parks and Recreation Commission shall be as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan for the development of parks and recreation within the city. 2) To conduct hearings and make recommendations to the City Council in regard to proposed changes of the ordinances relating to parks and recreation in regard to means to carry out the Comprehensive Plan and regulations therefore. 3) To study and make recommendations to the City Council in regard to programs and practices of the Parks and Recreation Department concerning the utilization of facilities, and coordination of long-range park and recreation plans with the county, the Metropolitan Council, and the State of Minnesota, and in regard to licensing and concession operations. 4) To study and make recommendations to the City Council in regard to the development of guidelines to ensure proper coordination of public recreational programs and park use; community school programs, programs such as those offered by other public agencies such as the Anoka-Ramsey Community College and the Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District; and with all private organizations offering park and recreational programs.
Meetings	The park and recreation commission shall meet quarterly at a minimum. Standard practice is to have a formal bi-monthly meeting, with a work session on the off month. Meetings are typically held on the first Monday of each month, but can be changed if warranted.
Compensation	There is no compensation for members.

Park Regulations

Park regulations establishes the rules associated with the use of parks and other public property as defined by Coon Rapids City Code (Chapter 10-400, Conduct in Public Parks). Note that its provisions are subject to change, the formally adopted code should be referred to as the authoritative document.

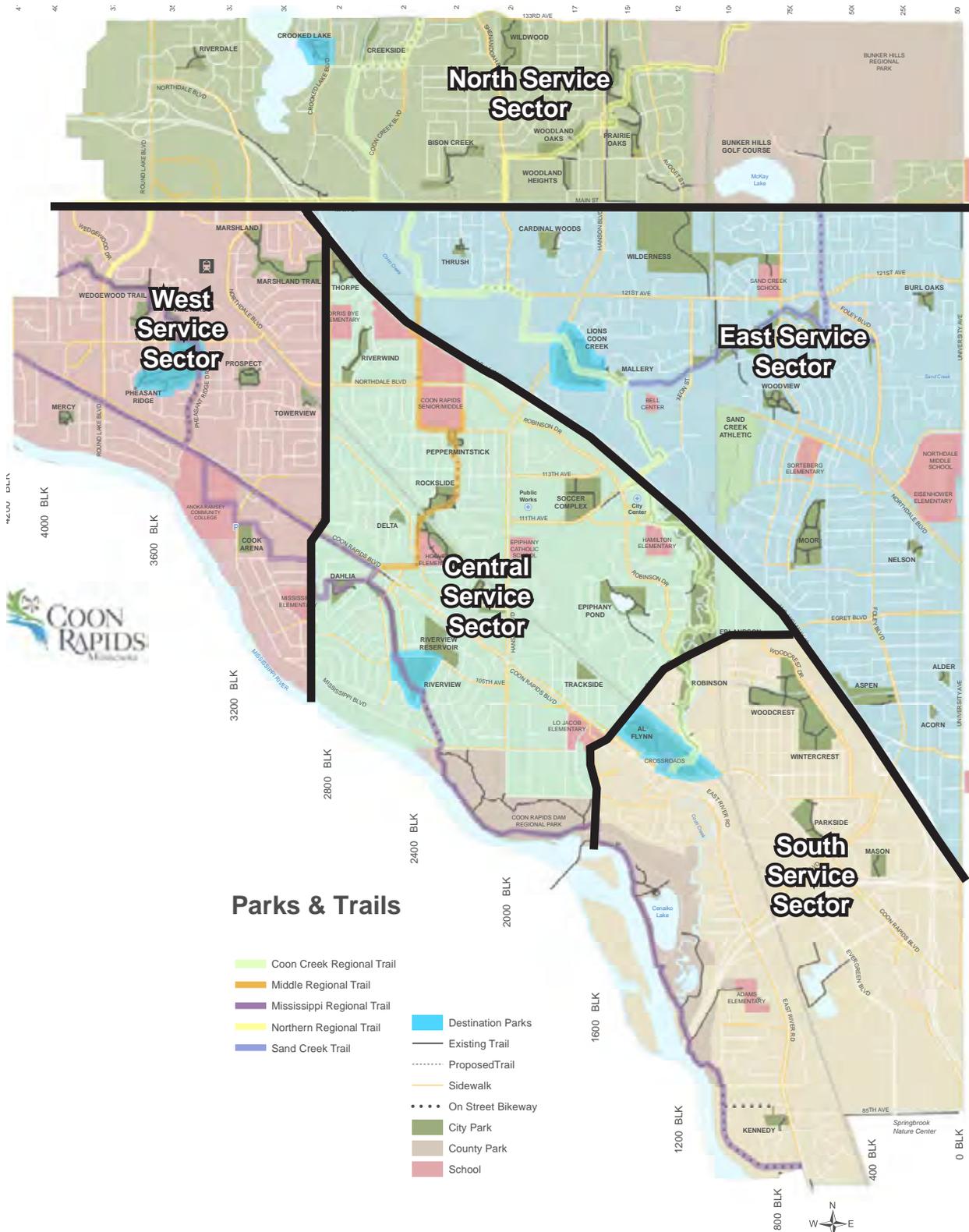
Framework for the Parks, Open Space, and Trail System

The following framework establishes the base set of parameters used for developing a comprehensive and cohesive physical system plan. The framework serves as a means to translate the assessment of need and vision statement into a plan that meets the physical requirements, land and facilities, that will satisfy community needs.

The framework builds upon the well-established park and trail infrastructure that is already in place within the city, with the basic precept being to use existing parks and open space lands to their highest and best uses within the context of demographic changes and resource limitations (capital investment and operations/maintenance funds) that are expected to prevail for some years to come. This last point is of particular importance in that meeting residents' desire for quality facilities within the context of anticipated limited resources required some rethinking of past planning models and points of emphasis. To that end, the major themes and key aspects at the center of the updated plan include:

- Expansion of the trail system will continue to be a point of focus with particular emphasis on connections and continuity between neighborhoods and the cornerstone parks and athletic facilities within each of the service sectors. Interconnections between local and regional trails will also be a point of emphasis, with improving the quality of experience and important design factor
- Ensure that each development, whether parks or trails, is maintainable not only from a feasibility standpoint, but from a maintenance staff capability standpoint
- Neighborhood parks will continue to be provided and offer a “baseline” level of service to keep them viable and aesthetically appealing; importantly, the level of service will start out more limited than outlined in the 2001 plan, with the potential to add facilities/enhancements based on the community’s capacity and willingness to pay for additional improvements
- Quality improvements to athletic facilities will continue to be a point of focus as well, with very limited emphasis on land expansion
- Dividing the city into 5 geographic areas, referred to as “service sectors,” which are defined by the physical characteristics of such as roads, railroads, etc. that give the city its built form and pose barriers to safe and convenient travel between where people live and their local parks and trails
- Each service sector will be anchored by a “cornerstone” park, which will focus on providing a broader range of quality facilities to meet the needs of existing/emerging populations and accommodating changing recreational trends
- Each cornerstone park will provide a cross-section of facilities most pertinent to that sector; each of these parks will become the focal point of the service area and will receive a higher level of development than would be found in a typical neighborhood park
- The city will continue to work with local school districts and adjacent communities on meeting the facility needs of local athletic associations and program providers in a fair and equitable manner
- All parks will be kept in the system to maintain open space and provide a hedge against future needs, which may not materialize for decades in the future based on demographic trends

The accompanying map defines the “service sectors” along with the cornerstone parks and major trail corridors. All of the elements of system are more fully defined in Sections 4 and 5.



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN

Overview

This section describes the various components of the Coon Rapids parks and open space system. The plan is based on the findings and themes sections.

As previously defined, Coon Rapids remains a dynamic city with a changing population and evolving community needs. Staying abreast of these changes and anticipating how they will impact the development of the park system is of paramount importance if the city is to be successful in meeting the needs of the community. In this context, it must be kept in mind that:

- All system components must be justifiable within the context of definable needs and values
- As needs and values change in future years, the system plan itself must also change

Park and Trail Classifications Guidelines

The system plan consists of a variety of parks and open spaces defined under various classifications. Each classification serves a particular purpose in meeting local park and recreation needs. Although some flexibility is warranted, classifying parks is necessary to ensure a well-balanced system and that all recreation needs are effectively and efficiently met.

The classifications applied to Coon Rapids are based on guidelines recommended in the *National Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Guidelines* (National Recreation and Parks Association, 1996) and *Planning and Urban Design Standards* (American Planning Association, 2006), albeit expanded or modified to address circumstances unique to the city. The following table provides an overview of each classification used in Coon Rapids. (Each of the pertinent classifications are further expanded upon later in this section.)

Parks and Greenway Classifications

Classification	General Description	Size Criteria
Mini Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs, typically at the neighborhood level.	Up to a couple of acres
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on <i>informal</i> active and passive recreation.	Typically 5 acres or more, with 3 acres being the desired minimum size.
Cornerstone Park (a new classification for Coon Rapids that is a modified version of Community Park classification)	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Focus is on meeting service sector-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Varies, depending on function.
Youth Athletic Complex	Consolidates programmed youth athletic fields and associated facilities to fewer strategically located sites within the community. Also often provides neighborhood-use functions.	Varies, with 20 acres or more most desirable, but not absolute.

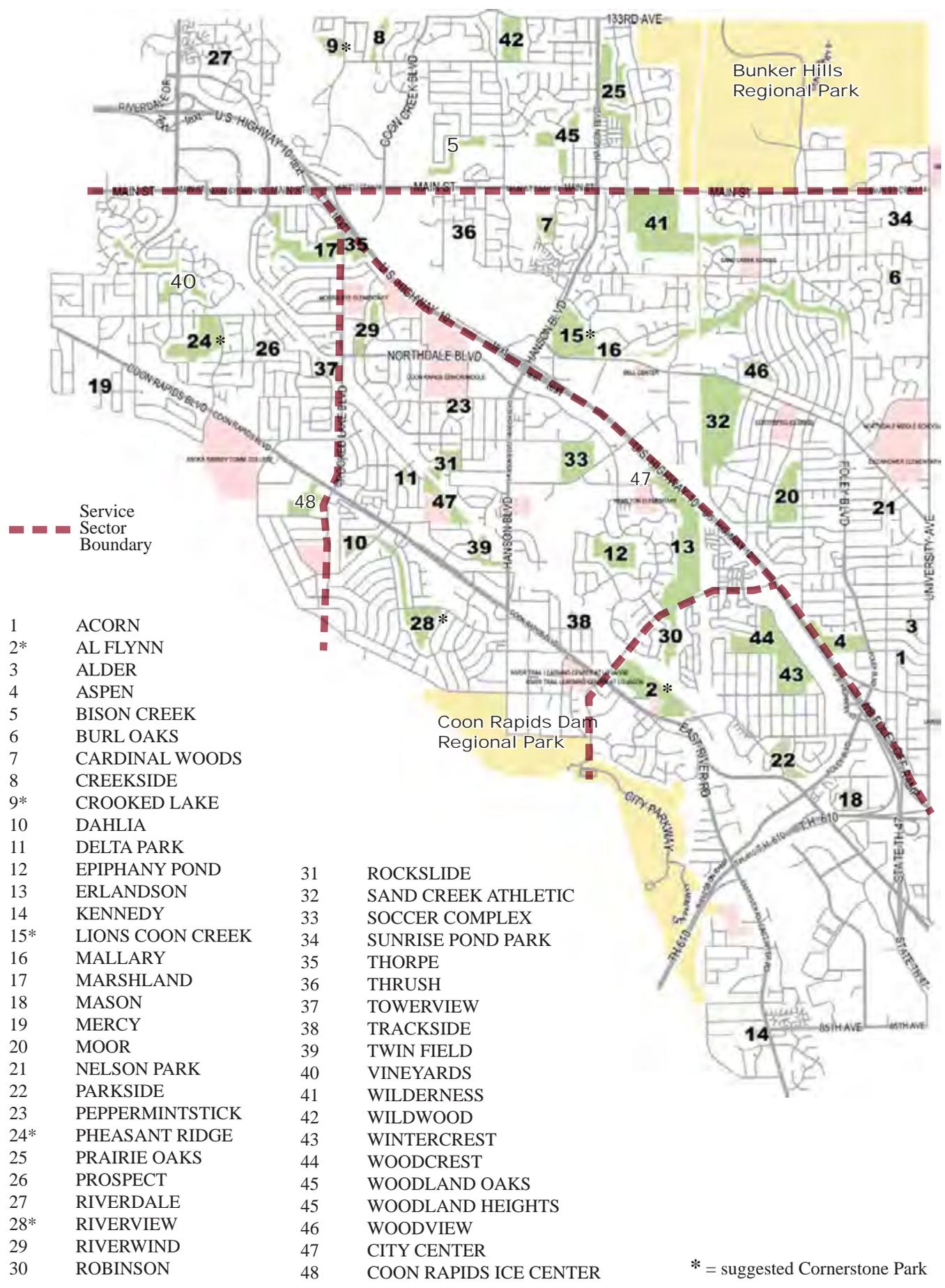
Community Athletic Complex	Consolidates programmed adult and youth athletic fields and associated facilities to a limited number of sites. Tournament level facilities. Also provides neighborhood-use functions.	Varies, with 20 acres or more are most desirable, but not absolute.
Community Preserve	Lands set aside for preservation of natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetics/buffering. Also provides passive use opportunities (i.e., nature-type trails, overlooks, interpretive program, etc.).	Varies, depends on resource opportunities and qualities.
Protected Open Space	Lands set aside for preservation of natural resources and open space through means other than community preserves. This includes lands in wetlands and floodplains and an assortment of outlots left as open space	Varies
Greenways	Serve as linear corridors exhibiting a natural environment. Focus is on protecting ecological resources and providing wildlife and trail corridors. Secondary use is for trails, assuming that they can be integrated without compromising the integrity of the natural systems.	Varies
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use - such as a nature center, historic sites, plazas, etc.	Varies
Park-School	Combines parks with school sites to be used in conjunction with, or in lieu of, other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, athletic complex and special use.	Varies
Regional/ County Park/ Open Space	Regional parks and open spaces with a natural resource and larger acreage focus.	Varies
Private Park/ Rec. Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned, yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Varies

Parks and Open Space System Plan – General Overview

The parks and open space system consists of 48 individual park units contained within the five service sectors as defined in Section 3 - Vision Statement. In addition, the plan also considers a number of school sites and a variety of stand-alone facilities that add to the park, recreation and open space opportunities available to the public.

Each component of the parks and open space system plays a unique role in meeting the needs of the community. Individually, each park provides certain features that serve a particular niche within the overall system plan. Collectively, the parks and open spaces provide a comprehensive collection of facilities and amenities to serve the local population. The following profiles provide an overview of the individual contribution that each park makes to the overall system and how it serves the community relative to other parks and open spaces.

The following parks system plan and accompanying table illustrate the name, location and classification of each park and open space land within the city.



Park Name	Approximate Park Acreage			Park Classification
	Natural*	Developed*	Total	
Acorn	0	1.5	1.5	Neighborhood / Mini Park
Alder	0	2.6	2.6	Neighborhood Park
Al Flynn **	16	18.3	34.3	Cornerstone Park
Aspen	10.5	8	18.5	Athletic Complex / Community Preserve
Bison Creek	8.8	4	12.8	Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve
Burl Oaks	2	3.4	5.4	Neighborhood Park
Cardinal Woods	5	3.3	8.3	Neighborhood Park
Creekside (<i>no park plate</i>)	0	6.2	6.2	Community Preserve
Crooked Lake Beach **	0	8	8	Cornerstone Park
Dahlia	0	8.1	8.1	Neighborhood Park
Delta	0	3	3	Neighborhood Park
Epiphany Ponds	16	6	22	Neighborhood Park
Erlandson Nature C.	64	3	67	Community Preserve
Kennedy	0.5	5	5.5	Neighborhood Park
Lions Coon Creek **	25.3	10	35.3	Cornerstone
Mallary	0.1	3	3.1	Neighborhood Park (Trail Corridor)
Marshland	20	9	29	Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve
Mason	0	6.4	6.4	Neighborhood Park
Mercy	0.5	3.5	4	Neighborhood Park
Moor	6	21.1	27.1	Neighborhood Park / Athletic Complex
Nelson	0	3.9	3.9	Neighborhood Park
Parkside	8.6	4	12.6	Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve
Peppermint Stick	0	4	4	Neighborhood Park
Pheasant Ridge **	23.3	8	31.3	Cornerstone Park
Prairie Oaks	0	29	29	Neighborhood Park
Prospect	0	7.2	7.2	Neighborhood Park
Riverdale	0	5	5	Neighborhood Park
Riverview **	0	20.5	20.5	Cornerstone Park
Riverwind	3	6.8	9.8	Neighborhood Park
Robinson	12	0	12	Community Preserve (Trail Corridor)
Rockslide	0	12	12	Neighborhood Park
Sand Creek	15	58.5	73.5	Athletic Complex
Soccer Complex	5	35	40	Athletic Complex
Sunrise Pond	0	2.7	2.7	Neighborhood Park
Thorpe	0.5	8	8.5	Neighborhood Park
Thrush	1	1.9	2.9	Neighborhood Park
Towerview	0	5	5	Neighborhood Park
Trackside	0	4.3	4.3	Neighborhood Park
Twin Field	3.5	3.5	7	Neighborhood Park
Vineyard	6	7	13	Neighborhood Park
Wilderness	73	0	73	Community Preserve
Wildwood	15.7	3	18.7	Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve
Wintercrest	0	27	27	Athletic Complex
Woodcrest	23	6	29	Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve
Woodland Oaks/Hghts.	15.8	3	18.8	Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve
Woodview	0	10	10	Neighborhood Park
Acreage Totals	379.3	419.7	799	

* Acreage shown under natural and developed are approx. and listed to illustrate *current* general use of the land within the park. Note that the acreage totals may change when the parks are developed/redeveloped depending on the development program and park design.

** Suggested Cornerstone Park

The following provides an overview of the parks and open space system by functional classification. In reviewing the information, it is important to recognize that a park system is more than simply a collection of individual park units. It represents a comprehensive package of parks and recreational facilities that give those living in the community a cross-section of recreational opportunity and natural amenities to appreciate. This last point is of considerable importance in that for local parks to be successful, they must respond to the localized needs of the neighborhood, rather than the generalized needs of the overall community.

The parks under the various classifications will also function as a collective whole to help ensure that the city is well positioned to respond to the ebbs and flows of recreational trends and the desire for one type of park or recreational facility over that of another. By having a system that is multidimensional there is greater assurance that the city will have the flexibility to shift its priorities in one direction or another in response to community demand. This flexibility is one of the fundamental planning precepts of this updated system plan.

Cornerstone Parks

As defined in Section 3 - Vision Statement, each of the five service sectors will be anchored by a “cornerstone” park, which will focus on providing a broader range of quality facilities to meet the needs of existing/emerging populations and accommodating changing recreational trends. Each of these parks will provide a cross-section of facilities most pertinent to that sector, with each becoming the focal point of the service area and receiving a higher level of development than would be found in a typical neighborhood park.

As illustrated on the Parks and Open Space System Map, there are five Cornerstone Parks. The following considers each of these.

North Service Area:

Crooked Lake Park should be redeveloped to improve layout, access and circulation. A strong focus on water based activities should be considered. Primary elements of the redeveloped park could include:

- Improve aesthetics at main entry points
- Improve tennis courts, trails and playground
- Improve parking lot (consider consolidation of multiple lots)
- Improve beach
- Splash pad
- Skate park
- Ballfield
- Picnic shelter / beach house with restrooms

East Service Area:

Lions Coon Creek Park should continue to serve as the city’s premier ‘picnic’ park. The public shared many stories of family use of this facility at the open house meetings and interviews. Redevelopment of this park could involve:

- Improve overall layout of picnic areas, playground, and other features
- Improve aesthetics at main entry
- Large picnic shelter
- Stormwater improvements to minimize erosion and impacts to the creek

West Service Area:

Pheasant Ridge Park offers the residents of Coon Rapids with variety, however, the wetland area located in the middle of the park makes the various active spaces seem like separate parks. Improvements at this park could include the following:

- Improved aesthetics at main entry points
- Better mapping and signage throughout the trails
- Group picnic shelter

- Interpretive nodes along trails
- Improved trails & connections
- Update playground & amenities
- ADA improvements (deficiencies at existing play area)
- Passive space improvements (seating areas)

Central Service Area:

Riverview Park currently serves as one of the main youth athletic parks. The city undertook a master plan process in 2010 which was well received by the community. The master plan was approved and is awaiting funding for development. More opportunities will be provided by implementing the proposed improvements than are currently available at this park. The proposed improvements could include:

- Improve aesthetics at main entry points
- Community building (suggest eliminating this if the Community Center is developed)
- Skate park
- New playground
- Tennis
- T-ball fields
- Improved layout and expansion of parking

South Service Area:

Al Flynn Park is one of the most visible parks in the system due to being located directly on Coon Rapids Boulevard. This current youth athletic complex could provide a more robust experience by improving and redeveloping as listed below:

- Improve aesthetics at main entry points
- Improve layout & circulation throughout the park
- Renovate tennis courts
- Splash pad
- New playground & amenities
- Picnic areas / group shelter

The five cornerstone parks each make a unique contribution to the local park system and both individually and collectively are vital elements to the quality of life in the city and meeting the needs of residents in an efficient yet quality way.

Interconnection of Cornerstone Parks to Local Neighborhoods within Each Sector

The interconnection of parks through the trail and sidewalk system is of particular importance to the success of the park system. This is especially the case with the cornerstone parks where safe and appealing access to them is critical to their use levels. Lacking these trail connections, any inequity in park distribution will become more apparent to the user because the parks will be harder to get to and from within a given residential area. The less convenient the access, the less use parks are likely to receive.

Neighborhood-Level Parks

Neighborhood parks will continue to be provided and offer a “baseline” level of service to keep them viable and aesthetically appealing. However, with the greater focus on the cornerstone parks under this plan, the level of service in many of the neighborhood parks will start out more limited than outlined in the 2001 plan, with the potential to add facilities/enhancements based on the community’s capacity and willingness to pay for additional improvements over time.

Even at a more basic level of development, neighborhood parks will continue to serve the recreational needs of individual neighborhoods within each service sector. To be successful the design of neighborhood parks must respond to the localized needs of the neighborhood where they are located rather than the generalized needs of the overall community. By considering a park in a given area on its individual merits it becomes more achievable to effectively and efficiently service the needs of that particular constituency.

Overview of Neighborhood Park Redevelopment / Development Service Levels

Service Level	General Site Parameters	Palette of Amenities to Consider
<p>Basic Service Level</p> <p>(<\$300,000 in 2012 dollars)</p>	<p>Park size ranges from 1.0 to 3.0 acres; designed for active use, with limited passive use area given the smaller park size</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller-sized children’s play structure with limited age separation (2,500-3,500 s.f.) • Accessible trail to play structure and key park features, plus a link to neighborhood sidewalk or community trail system • Smaller maintained green space for informal use (1 acre minimum preferred) • Basketball halfcourt or small hardcourt (for hopscotch, 4-square, etc.) • Limited general site amenities – benches, picnic tables, trash containers, etc. • Limited amount of ornamental landscaping • Limited natural landscaping • Relies on street lights for security lighting • On-street parking, or no parking (walk-to park)
<p>Medium Service Level</p> <p>(\$300,000 to \$500,000 in 2012 dollars)</p>	<p>Park size range from 3.0 to 5.0 acres, with more of a balance between active and passive uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modest-sized children’s play structure with more age separation (3,500-5,000 s.f.) • Accessible trail to play structure and key park features • Trail loop internal to the park, plus a link to neighborhood sidewalk or community trail system • Medium-sized maintained green space for informal use (1 to 2 acres preferred) • 1/2 to full-size basketball court • Small hardcourt area (for hopscotch, 4-square, etc.) • Modest amount of general site amenities – benches, picnic tables, trash containers, etc. also might include a drinking fountain • Modest amount of ornamental landscaping, particularly near active use areas • Greater use of natural landscaping and natural-based stormwater infiltration systems in non-developed areas • On-street parking, or small on-site parking lot (up to 10 spaces) • Small picnic shelter and picnic area • Modest emphasis on aesthetic improvements and architectural elements – arbor structure with benches, ornamental fencing, etc. • Limited ornamental and basic security lighting • Extensive emphasis on design details and quality aesthetic nuances – i.e., park is an important streetscape/urban design feature; the importance of design should not be underestimated, with aesthetically appealing parks far more likely to be used
<p>Higher Service Level</p> <p>(>\$500,000 in 2012 dollars)</p>	<p>Park size is up to 10 acres or more, with a balance between areas for active and passive uses maintained</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger-sized children’s play structure with extensive age separation (5,000-6,500 s.f.) • Accessible trail to play structure and key park features • Larger trail loop system internal to the park, plus a connection to neighborhood sidewalk or community trail system • Larger open maintained green space for informal use (2 acres minimum preferred) • Full-size basketball court; if demand warrants • Larger hardcourt area (for hopscotch, 4-square, etc.) • Higher level of general site amenities – benches, picnic tables, trash containers, etc.; might include a restroom enclosure; also includes a drinking fountain • Extensive amount of ornamental landscaping, particularly near active use areas • Extensive use of natural landscaping and natural-based stormwater infiltration systems in non-developed areas • On-street parking, or small to medium on-site parking lot (from 10 to 20 spaces, maximum) • Larger family picnic shelter and picnic area • Higher level of emphasis on aesthetic improvements and architectural elements – arbor structure with benches, ornamental fencing, etc. • More extensive ornamental and security lighting • Tennis court – only if demand warrants • Extensive emphasis on design details and quality aesthetic nuances – i.e., park is an important streetscape/urban design feature; the importance of design should not be underestimated, with aesthetically appealing parks far more likely to be used

Limiting the Use of Neighborhood Parks for Programmed Athletics

As defined later in this section, the defined athletic facilities are intended to handle the vast majority of programmed athletic uses within the city. As such, neighborhood parks should not be excessively programmed since that takes away from their capacity to serve local residents’ day-to-day recreational needs. Although neighborhood parks can be used on occasion for younger children’s programs such as T-Ball, doing so should be carefully limited to avoid overuse issues, such as excessive parking in the neighborhoods, turf quality issues and detracting from the sense of place in the park.

Interconnection of Neighborhood Parks to Local Neighborhoods

As was the case with the cornerstone parks, the interconnection of neighborhood parks through the trail and sidewalk system is of particular importance to the success of the park system. Here too, the less convenient the access, the less use parks are likely to receive.

Development/Redevelopment of Neighborhood Parks

The design for each neighborhood park should be consistent with the desired service level and tailored to the neighborhood it serves rather than the generalized needs of the community. As previously defined, with the nearer-term focus being on development of the cornerstone parks, the extent of development of neighborhood-level parks will at least initially be limited to a more basic level, with the potential being to add facilities/enhancements after the cornerstone parks are completed if supported by the community. For reference, the table on page 4.07 provides a general palette of amenities typically found within neighborhood parks at three different levels of service.

Athletic Facilities (Youth Athletic Complex and Community Athletic Complex)

The system plan, as it relates to athletic facilities, relies heavily on past public-private relationships to fulfill recreation program needs. The primary difference between community and youth athletic complexes is that the former services adult athletic needs in addition to youth. The latter focuses exclusively on youth programs.

Overall, when considering all of the facilities available for use in the city for recreation programs, supply and demand are fortunately in relative balance. Much of the credit for this goes to the strength and tenacity of the local associations themselves, who took on much of the burden over time to find fields and establish working relationships with Coon Rapids, adjacent cities and local school districts to meet their needs over the years. The city and school district also deserve credit in this regard.

With respect to both youth and community athletic complexes, limiting these to a limited number of existing sites remains the most viable option for a number of reasons:

- Program efficiency
- Closer association between players, parents, and coaches when at scheduled events
- Greater conveniences, like parking, restrooms and concessions
- Development, operations and maintenance efficiency\
- Improve organizational layout of athletic facilities

Of this list, the last one will perhaps be the most pressing over the next ten years, whereby limited resources will require careful consideration of which facilities are in highest demand, and also keeping the focus on improving the quality of the existing infrastructure over expanding the system per se.

With respect to overarching priorities related to improving the athletic complexes, a number of key items come to the top of the list:

- Continued upgrading of existing facilities to better service the needs of the established user groups
- Continued development of trail linkages to these parks to encourage alternative forms of transportation
- Continued involvement of the user groups in designing these facilities to ensure that what is developed is in line with the actual need
- Give more attention to ornamentation and beautification, which is lacking at many of these complexes

Community Preserve

The Community Preserve classification was created to integrate designated open space/natural area parcels into the larger park system. The community preserves have two important functions:

- Preserve and protect key natural areas and open spaces within the city
- Create opportunities for human use and appreciation of the community's natural areas to a level that is appropriate for the site

There are a number of key developmental and use considerations that can be applied to the community preserve sites, including:

- Completing detailed ecological plans for the sites, including analysis of existing conditions, refinement of

- ecological prototypes, and detailed ecological restoration and management plans
- Integrating human use of the sites within the context of their ecological underpinnings
- Developing trail linkages to these parks

With respect to restoration and management of ecological systems, community preserve sites rank at the top of the priority list because they offer the greatest diversity of ecological systems and are most in need of immediate attention to preclude continued degradation.

Please note that due to being underdeveloped and a very low priority for the city at this time Creekside Park does not have a detailed information plate within this section.

Protected Open Space

Protected open spaces augment the community preserve sites in setting aside open space within the city. These lands largely consist of protected lands, such as wetlands and floodplains and water bodies. The primary difference between natural open space lands and community preserves lies in their level ecological diversity and level of development for human use (i.e., trails, overlooks, etc.). In general, protected open spaces are less diverse and of lower ecological quality than community preserve sites and thus fall to a lower priority for restoration and management.

For the most part, the existing natural open spaces within Coon Rapids will remain protected and thus undeveloped land and water bodies that provide relief from the built form. Many of these areas will also continue to play a vital role in the larger stormwater management plan for the city. In general, development in these areas will be minimal. In a few cases, however, park trails may be developed to allow for some human access to and appreciation of these areas.

Special Use Parks

The special use park classification refers to parks that are unique and do not readily fall under any other classification. As with the other parks, continued enhancement of trail linkages to these parks should be a key priority.

Regional Parks

Regional parks and open spaces serve a regional population. However, the location of the two regional parks affecting Coon Rapids make them very important components of the local park and open space system. This is especially the case here, where these parks are instrumental in offsetting what would otherwise be considered a deficiency in community parks.

The most important consideration with the regional parks is maintaining a strong working relationship with Anoka County to foster development in these parks that serve the needs of Coon Rapids residents. The current system plans for both of these parks reflect amenities that will be very much in sync with local needs. This includes picnic facilities, extensive trails, camping areas, archery, nature viewing, boat launch, and aquatic center, to name a few.

Regional Parks include:

- **Bunker Hills Regional Park:** The 1,600-acre Bunker Hills Regional Park offers a wide spectrum of recreation opportunities including swimming and water slides at the Bunker Beach Water Park, horseback riding at Bunker Park Stables, a playground, biking, hiking, golf, camping, archery, picnicking, and cross-country skiing. Bunker Hills is also home to the Anoka County Veteran's Memorial. The Bunker Hills Activities Center offers meeting and banquet facilities and is host to the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department headquarters.
- **Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park:** The 446-acre Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park is one of the most popular in Anoka County. It is a year-round destination, especially during the cross-country ski season. Picnicking, fishing, in-line skating, walking and bicycling are favorite activities in the park. The boat launch is heavily used during the summer. The East Coon Rapids Dam Visitor Center is open year-round and offers many amenities and services including programs. Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park is also home to Cenaiko Lake, a stocked trout lake, which provides ample opportunity to catch large fish in a beautiful setting.

Expanding Park Offerings

The following suggested park amenities were brought up by the public, task force, and parks commission through the planning process. These are all items that are becoming more common in other communities and should be considered for inclusion as planning and design for individual parks proceeds.

- **Splash Pads** - These elements would provide water play on a seasonal basis to enhance existing park amenities at key cornerstone parks. Depending on extent of spray features and filtration system for this offering, a city could expect to utilize 1,000 to 3,000 square feet for a small to medium splash pad. Restrooms with changing areas should be provided adjacent to the splash pad.
- **Skate Parks / BMX Parks** - This type of feature has seen a dramatic increase in popularity in the past 10 years. The standard has become a custom formed concrete facility with built-in ramps and events although pre-engineered equipment is still an alternative, but does not last nearly as long. BMX and skateboard users have different needs which may require separation of areas. Most city provided facilities require 3,000 to 10,000 square feet of space.
- **Beach** - Crooked Lake Park offers the only potential opportunity for lake access within the city. Developing a beach at this park could be very modest and allow only for access to a maintained beach, or it could be much more robust to provide lifeguards, programs, and other activities. Some cities have experienced success by developing beaches in conjunction with splash pads. This could also provide revenue to help offset some of the management and maintenance costs.

School Sites

Although not a direct focus of the city's park system study, the following school sites are ones that offer joint-use potential between the city and school district for shared use of facilities. There are a total of 12 school sites that fall under this classification. With limited reserve space available for growth in athletic programs in the city, taking full advantage of partnership opportunities may be warranted if programming needs change in any substantial way.

Clearly defining development, use and maintenance responsibilities associated with these facilities is important to ensure that all parties understand the terms of any agreements.

School Sites include:

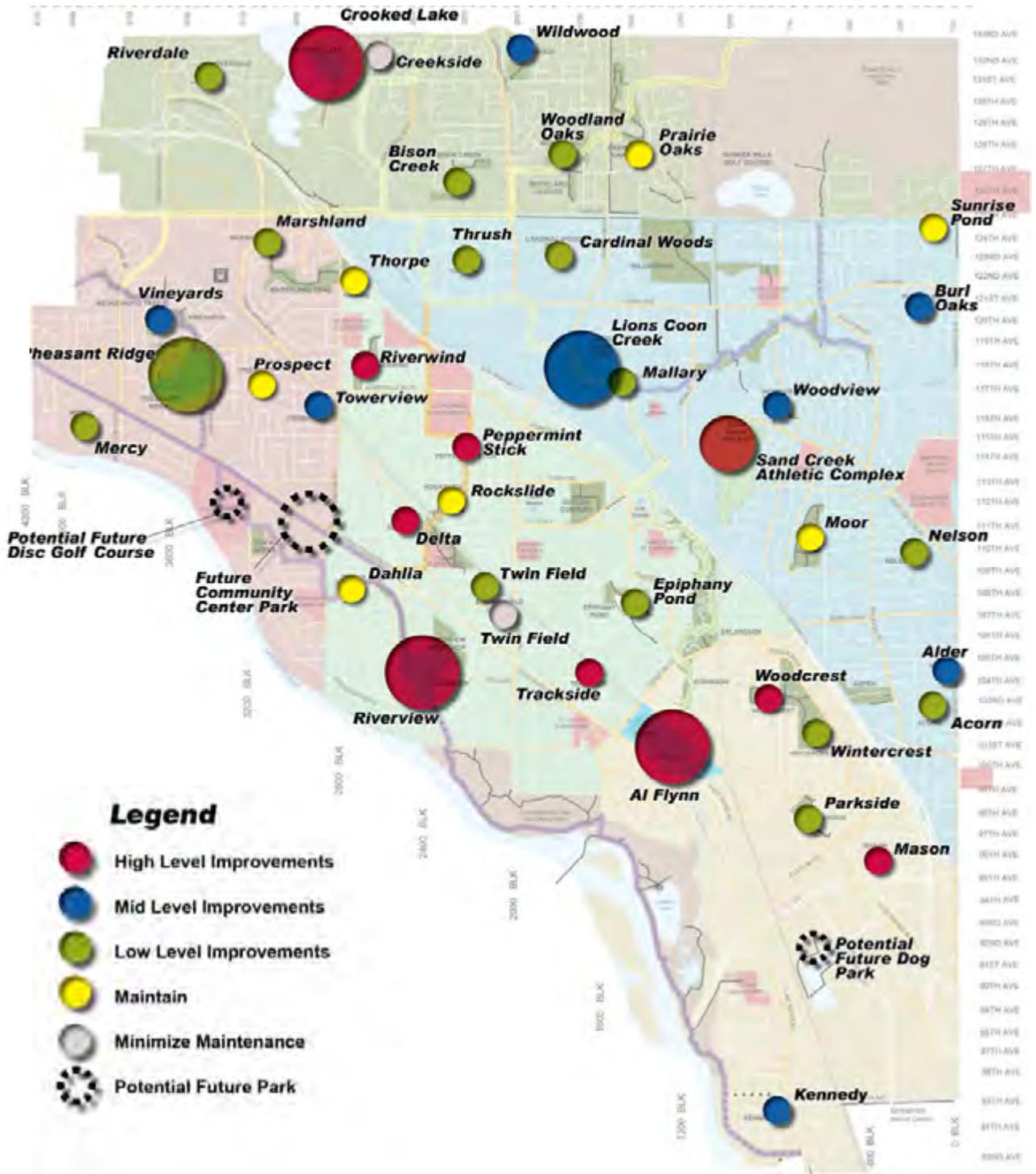
- Anoka - Ramsey Community College
- Coon Rapids High School / Middle School
- Northdale Middle School and Eisenhower Elementary
- Sand Creek Elementary
- Mississippi Elementary
- Morris Bye Elementary
- Sorteberg Elementary
- Hoover Elementary
- Crossroads
- Adams Elementary
- L.O. Jacobs Elementary
- Hamilton Elementary

Profiles of City-Owned Parks and Open Space System Components

Each component of the parks and open space system plays a unique role in meeting the needs of the community. Individually, each park provides certain features that serve a particular niche within the overall system plan. Collectively, the parks and open spaces provide a comprehensive collection of facilities and amenities to serve the local and, to a significant degree, regional population.

The park profiles provide an overview of the individual contribution that each park makes to the overall system and how it serves the community relative to other parks and open spaces. Included in the following park profiles is a park rating, which is an evaluation that scored a variety of features within the parks such as accessibility, maintenance, quality and diversity of amenities, layout, natural resources, condition of existing features, etc. The 'Performance %' indicates the 'Actual Performance Rating' divided by the 'Optimal Design Rating.'

Park Classification	Optimal Design Rating	Actual Performance Rating	Performance %
Neighborhood Parks	1122	627	56%
Athletic Complexes	420	194	46%
Special Use Park	60	22	37%
Community Preserves	28	23	82%
Overall Rating:	1630	866	53%



Development Program Overview

The development program for each of the parks defines the basic parameters for future improvements within the context of the park’s use or classification. Its purpose is to provide a starting point for preparing a detailed master plan for each site. Note, however, that the development program is dynamic and, to a certain degree, flexible in order to respond to issues and ideas that arise during the public design process associated with a given park. Also recognize that the program statement reflects an optimal level of development. In reality, the extent of each park’s development will have to respond to funding limitations.

Acorn Park

Classification: Neighborhood / Mini Park

Location: 125 102nd Avenue

Size: 1.5 acres

Park Performance Rating: 14 out of 24 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the adjacent neighborhood with the basic day-to-day park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 14 out of 24 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood, but a few enhancements could improve the park experience. Overall park design was ranked low as it has a lack of design/character or sense of place. The park has a low to medium ranking for maintenance as some areas are maintained to an adequate level, but other items need better maintenance or will soon need to be replaced.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. Playground area
2. Tennis



Acorn Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park contains newer and unique playground equipment not found at other parks located in a nice shady location of the park.

Recommendations include removing the tennis court, as this is in poor shape and best located at the adjacent Alder Park, which will allow for open space for informal uses in a more passive manner. Recommendations also include making the necessary updates and improvements for meeting ADA guidelines, providing additional seating areas, and a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is very close to Alder Park and therefore should offer complementary park amenities to Alder.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

Trails link to the neighborhood streets and provide access to the playground equipment but not to the tennis court. The playground is surrounded by a mixture of asphalt trails and concrete sidewalk. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas. Accessible seating spaces should also be provided.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The trees in this park are all fairly mature and appear to be about the same age. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Entering the playground from the NE



View B - Existing play area



View C - Existing tennis courts

Alder Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 50 104th Lane

Size: 2.6 acres

Park Performance Rating: 23 out of 27 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the adjacent neighborhoods with a broad range of recreational park amenities, including some that are more active in nature. Overall park quality is ranked at 23 out of 27 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood at the proper level. Overall park design was ranked at medium as it has a nice inviting park character. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as it is being properly maintained but some items may need further maintenance or repair in the near future.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Basketball 1/2 court*
3. *Tennis (2)*
4. *Open space*
5. *Ballfield*



Alder Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park contains somewhat older playground equipment which is still in fair condition but needs a proper access into the container.

The park contains a basketball half court with bounce wall and a double tennis court. The courts need a trail link for access and surface repairs are also needed.

The ballfield is sufficient for informal play and appears to be irrigated.

Recommendations include making the necessary maintenance repairs to existing amenities, improvements for meeting ADA guidelines, providing additional seating areas, and a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is very close to Acorn Park and with a focus on more active recreation, it provides complementary park amenities to Acorn.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

Trails link to the neighborhood streets and provide access to the playground container but not to the ballfield, basketball court or tennis court. There were some lights located along the trail. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating and the playground needs an accessible route into the container.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The trees in this park are all fairly mature and appear to be about the same age and provide nice shade for the court areas as well as enhance the park aesthetics. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Entrance



View B - Basketball court



View C - Ballfield

Al Flynn Park

Classification: Cornerstone Park

Location: 1351 100th Lane

Size: 34.3 acres

Park Performance Rating: 21 out of 55 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the community with athletic recreational amenities and trail access. Overall park quality is ranked at 21 out of 55 points which means it is not meeting the recreational and athletic needs at an appropriate level. Overall park design was ranked low as it lacks proper circulation, design and character. The park has a low to medium ranking for maintenance as some areas are maintained to a fairly adequate level, but many items need better maintenance or need to be replaced.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Softball field | 4. Tennis |
| 2. Playground area | 5. Open space |
| 3. Picnic space | 6. City fire station |



Lack of consistent style / park character..



Al Flynn Park Aerial Image

(Imagery ©2012 Google Map Data)

Assessment and Recommendations

The site lacks an identity or sense of entrance and upon entering the site it is unclear what areas are park space and what are not, which can be confusing for the user. Proper vehicular and pedestrian circulation is lacking, some areas lack a defined road, and parking is scattered.

The park contains three softball fields. The one furthest east is outdated and in need of replacement. The two fields on the west side are programmed fields and are tucked in a very nice wooded area. These two fields have spectator seating, fencing, lighting and good turf, though they could use some improvements.

The playground area is old and does not meet current safety or ADA guidelines. The tennis courts have a carpet surface, the fencing is old and rusty and it lacks a trail connection.

Recommendations include a reorganization of the park to provide the community with a cornerstone sector park. The park should have a clear identity, provide proper circulation for vehicles and pedestrians with better emphasis and links to the greater trail systems, update the recreational amenities, add in a splash pad, meet current ADA guidelines and provide a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park has significant trail connections from the East side. It connects to Robinson and Erlandson Park to the north and Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park to the south.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

From the East end of the park there are significant trail connections which need better emphasis. The remaining internal park trails need better circulation and connections to the larger trail systems and park amenities. Existing trails cross vehicular areas at less than ideal locations and some dead-end. The trail segment that winds through the trees to the NW softball field and fire station is very pleasant. Trails should provide access to all recreational amenities and they need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating and spectator viewing, accessible trail links to all recreational amenities, ADA parking and amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains dense wooded areas around much of the perimeter, providing some screening, shade and an aesthetic park setting. A natural resource plan should be implemented to control invasive plants and encourage new growth and a healthy system.



View A - SW softball Field and parking



View B - Play area



View C - Tennis courts

Aspen Park

Classification: Athletic Complex / Community Preserve

Location: 10300 Foley Blvd.

Size: 18.5 acres

Rating: 34 out of 40 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the community with Little League athletic fields and is run by the local association. Overall park quality is ranked at 34 out of 40 points which means it is meeting the specific athletic needs for Little League athletics. Overall park design and maintenance were both ranked high as it has a very inviting appearance and is very well maintained, though some improvements to accessibility and seating meeting current standards need to be implemented.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. Playground area
2. Concessions building
3. Baseball field
4. T-ball field
5. Batting cages
6. Creek



Spectator seating should be accessible and up to current codes



Aspen Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park contains two Little League fields with one T-ball field and batting cages. The main parking lot is in very good shape and provides easy access to the site but water runoff is directed down an asphalt flume directly into the adjacent creek.

The park has a concession building by the parking lot with a small pod of swings and diggers by the building to allow for a small adjunct activity.

The fields are lighted, irrigated and have spectator seating. The majority of the seating should be reviewed and upgraded to meet current safety and ADA guidelines.



View A - Play area

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park has a specific use related to athletics and does not have a relation to other parks.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park has a trail connection to the local sidewalk system. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating /spectator seating, the playground needs an accessible route into the container, and picnic pavement pads should not exceed 2% slope in any direction.



View B - Concessions and picnic area

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains dense wooded areas surrounding a creek on the north and west sides of the park. The parking lot drainage should be altered to collect and pre-treat runoff before it enters the adjacent creek to improve water quality. A natural resource plan should be implemented to control invasive plants and encourage new growth and a healthy system for the wooded areas.



View C - Concessions building

Bison Creek Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve

Location: 2280 127th Lane

Size: 12.8 acres

Rating: 13 out of 24 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

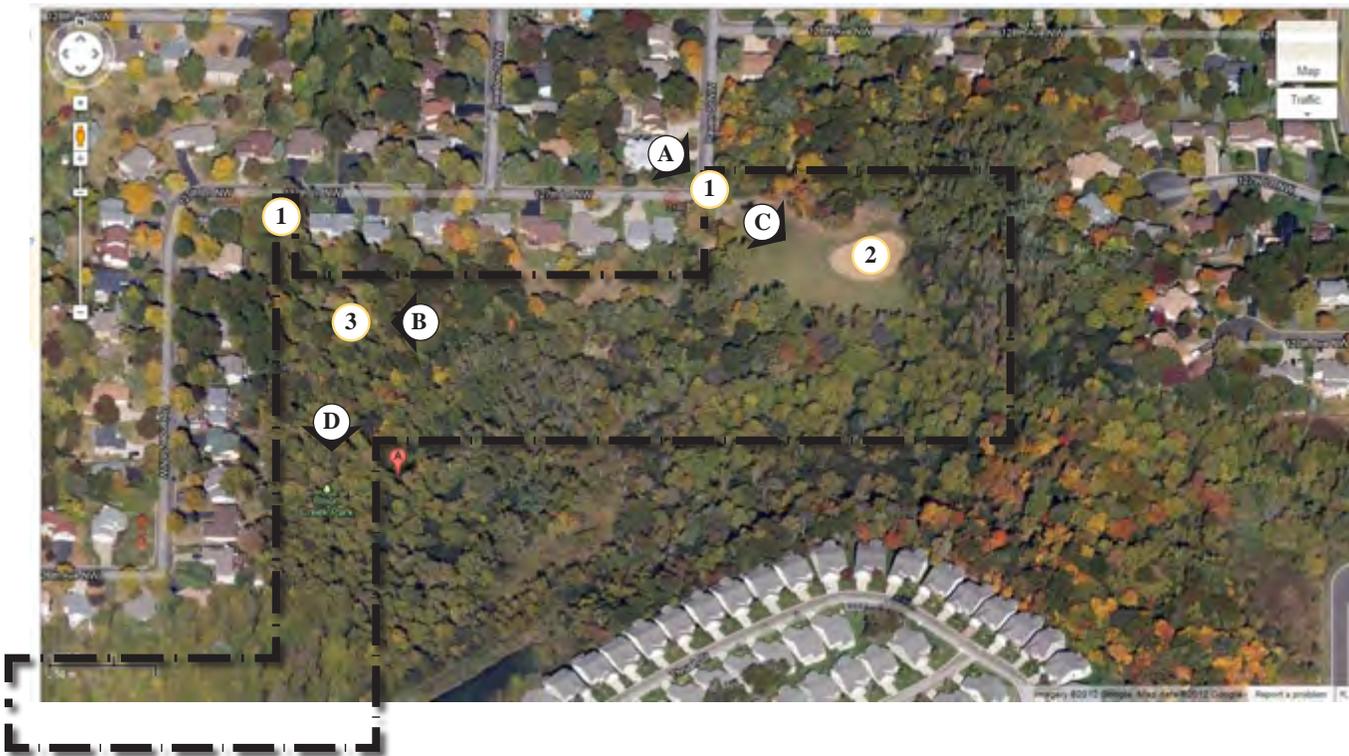
Park Function and Overview

This park provides the adjacent neighborhoods with the standard park recreational amenities located among a nature preserve area. Overall park quality is ranked at 13 out of 24 points which means it is meeting the basic needs of the neighborhood, but some enhancements could improve the park experience. Overall park design was ranked at low to medium as it lacks ease of access and though the natural areas can be very pleasant, they can also provide a sense of insecurity. The park has a low to medium ranking for maintenance as many areas are in need of further maintenance or repair.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Park entrance*
2. *Ballfield*
3. *Playground area*



Bison Creek Park Aerial Image

(Imagery ©2012 Google Map Data)

Assessment and Recommendations

This park is mainly dense wooded areas with some recreational amenities located along the northern section of the park.

The park entrance on the corner of the road is the one most evident to users, but there is also a trail connection further to the west between residential lots. The ballfield off of the corner access is set into the wooded area and is very pleasant. The playground is further down the trail to the west and feels too tucked or hidden away in the trees. Trails in the park dead-end in both directions, some are poor quality, and some of the trails have a lot of vegetation taking over clear zones.

Recommendations include a park map at the entrances to allow users to view where the amenities and trails are located. Other recommendations include select clearing to open up a few areas so they don't get overgrown, making the necessary maintenance repairs to existing amenities, creating an internal loop trail system, creating park access for the neighborhoods to the south and east and possibly west, improvements for meeting ADA guidelines, providing additional seating areas, and a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is very close to Woodland Oaks / Woodland Heights parks located to the east and providing a trail connection between them would be beneficial.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails should provide proper access to the recreational amenities and should not dead-end if possible, whether asphalt or natural surfaced. One asphalt trail turns to a nature trail that ends at a foot path with a sign prohibiting access. Providing trail access to the east and south for neighborhood connections, to the west for possible future neighborhoods, and linking to the Woodland Oaks / Woodland Heights park areas would be beneficial in the long term, along with enhancing the park trails with an internal loop system. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating /spectator seating, the playground needs an accessible route into the container, and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains dense wooded and wetland areas with an abundance of buckthorn in some locations. A natural resource plan should be implemented to control invasive plants and encourage new growth and a healthy system for the various natural areas. Trails through some of the natural areas could provide educational information to the users.



View A - Park entrance



View B - Play area



View C - Softball field



View D - Park trails

Burl Oaks

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 149 120th Lane

Size: 5.4 acres

Rating: 17 out of 27 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides a large neighborhood area with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 17 out of 27 points which means it is meeting the basic needs of the neighborhood, but some enhancements could greatly improve the park experience. Overall park design was ranked at low as the amenities are randomly placed and it is lacking character. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as many areas are very well maintained, but some items are in need of further maintenance or repair.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Basketball*
3. *Ballfield*
4. *Open space (previously general skating area)*



Burl Oaks Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park services a large neighborhood area and should provide a better park experience.

The park entrance by the road is where the general skating once was, and is now left as open space. The ballfield takes up a large portion of park space and has some uneven grades and older benches and backstop. The playground, while in a nice shady location, is very far from the road tucked in trees and does not have trail access. It is also at the end of the ballfield and could have stray balls flying directly at it. The full basketball court has older standards and the surface is showing its age.

Recommendations include removal of the ballfield with a full reorganization of the park amenities to provide an enhanced neighborhood park. It should have an inviting park entrance, a playground that offers more unique equipment suitable for a broader range of age groups, informal green space, a small picnic shelter to allow for gatherings, possibly a basketball half court instead of a full court, should meet ADA guidelines, provide adequate seating areas and should have a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

Though Sunrise Park is located to the north, it is cut off from the same service area as Burl Oaks. The Sand Coon Creek Trail system is located just to the SW of this park accessible by the local streets.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are wide, in very good shape and provide links to some of the cul-de-sac neighborhoods, but do not provide proper access to the recreational amenities. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park has mature trees around much of the perimeter of the park by the local residential lots. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Play area



View B - Basketball court



View C - Ballfield

Cardinal Woods

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 12290 Jay Street

Size: 8.3 acres

Rating: 19 out of 24 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the adjacent neighborhood with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 19 out of 24 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood very well, though some improvements could be undertaken. Overall park design was ranked medium as it fairly basic and some enhancements could be implemented as items need replacement. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as many areas are maintained to an adequate level, but some items need better maintenance or will soon need to be replaced.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Ballfield*
3. *Basketball*
4. *Wooded area*



View C - Ballfield



View D - Basketball half court



Cardinal Woods Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This is a park that services a fairly large neighborhood area with about half of the park dedicated to recreation, the other half dedicated to wooded natural areas.

The park playground is surrounded by nice shade trees and while some effort has been made to try and make the play equipment accessible, it still has some issues with grades and maintenance of surfacing. There is a basketball half court by the playground and the ballfield is in a lower area of the park, both in good condition.

Recommendations include replacement of the playground area in the near future to include more unique equipment that serves a broader range of age groups, make improvements to meet ADA guidelines, enhance the street side appearance, maybe add in an internal loop trail system that meanders through the wooded area, provide adequate seating areas and implement a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park has no relation with other parks as it sits in a neighborhood cut off by major streets and/or natural areas that are undeveloped.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are minimal and only located from the street to the playground and basketball court. An internal loop system that provides access to all park amenities would be beneficial along with potential connections to the west for possible future developments. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to recreational amenities, and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park has a large stand of mature trees on the north end. A natural resource plan should be implemented to control invasive plants and encourage new growth and an overall healthy ecosystem.



View A - Park entrance



View B - Play area



Addressing the safety and accessibility issues as shown above are high priority items for this park.

Crooked Lake Park

Classification: Cornerstone Park

Location: 13180 Crooked Lake Blvd.

Size: 8.0 acres

Rating: 22 out of 60 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This community park has a quality ranking of 22 out of 60 points as it is not currently serving the proper level of recreational amenities for the community. Overall park design was ranked low as it lacks park character and items are randomly located. The park has a low to medium ranking for maintenance as some areas are maintained to a fairly adequate level, but many items need better maintenance or need to be completely replaced.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Tennis courts*
3. *Previously beach*
4. *Lake overlook*
5. *Fishing pier*
6. *Picnic shelter*
7. *Open space*
8. *Ballfield*
9. *Storage building*



Water quality issue...



Erosion issue...



Crooked Lake Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

The park has a lot of potential given its location along a lake and the types of recreational amenities it can provide to the community, but it currently lacks an adequate design and appropriate character. The beach area no longer exists and many recreational amenities are outdated and in need of complete replacement.

The park has two separated parking lots with a ballfield in between them. A fairly large playground is located off of the northern parking lot where the first park entrance feature visitors encounter is a portable restroom and trash cans attached to metal posts. The tennis courts have a carpet surface that is faded, the park shelter is outdated and lacks style, and the lake front is eroding and inaccessible. The trails are mainly in very good shape and are wide.

Recommendations include a reorganization of the park to provide the community with a cornerstone sector park. The park should have a clear identity and sense of entrance with consolidated parking, an internal loop trail system that provides accessibility to all of the recreational amenities, new tennis courts, the inclusion of a splash pad and skate park, improved group shelters, redeveloped beach area, the park should meet current ADA guidelines and provide a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is to provide the community with a broader range of recreational amenities not provided in smaller neighborhood parks.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in good shape and are wide to accommodate vehicles, but they need to provide accessibility to all of the recreational amenities. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to recreational amenities, and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

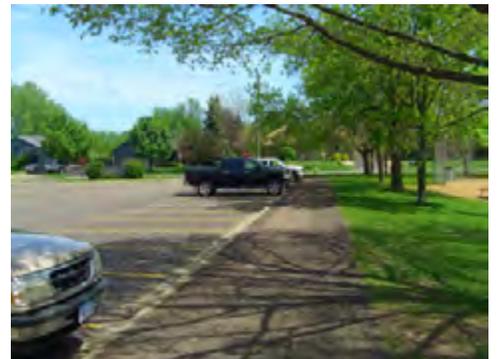
The trees in this park are all fairly mature and appear to be about the same age. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials. Stormwater runoff should be intercepted and pre-treated before the water enters the lake to improve the water quality. The steep slopes along the lake edge should be addressed to reduce or eliminate the soils and banks from eroding into the lake.



View A - Picnic shelter



View B - Restroom / trash receptacles



View C - Parking lot and ballfield



The current trail connection to the lake dock does not meet accessibility standards. These types of issues need to be addressed as redevelopment occurs.

Dahlia Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 10760 Direct River Drive

Size: 8.1 acres

Rating: 18 out of 21 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the adjacent neighborhood with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 18 out of 21 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood very well, though some minor improvements or additions could still improve it. Overall park design was ranked medium as it has a nice entrance sequence upon entering the park, though the playground area is quite basic. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as many areas are maintained very well.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Open space*
3. *Wetland*



Dahlia Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park was recently redeveloped and provides a nice mixture of open green spaces and natural areas with a playground component.

Recommendations include the possible inclusion of a small shelter structure for neighborhood gatherings and updating amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park has a direct trail link along a greenway system to Riverview Park, which is a community park with an athletic focus, providing complementary activities.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are new, have truncated domes where needed and not only provide access to the playground and the adjacent neighborhoods, but they also create an internal loop system and connect to Riverview Park.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park has some scattered fairly mature trees with a wetland area in the center of the park. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution and to provide more shade around the playground and some seating areas. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials. A more intensive plan may need to be implemented over the next 5 years or so for the wetland area to get established properly with native vegetation.



View A- Trails and seating areas



View B - Playground area



View C - Trails and open space

Delta Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 11151 Yukon Street

Size: 2.8 acres

Rating: 9 out of 36 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the adjacent neighborhood with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 9 out of 36 points which means it is not currently at an acceptable service level. Overall park design was ranked very low as there was little thought to design, access or circulation. The park has a very low ranking for maintenance as everything is very run down and in need of replacement.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Basketball court*
3. *Ballfield*
4. *Hockey rink*
5. *Pleasure rink*



Delta Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park contains too many active recreational components for a small neighborhood park, especially considering there is only on-street parking. The park has a very run-down feel to it with turf filled with weeds and amenities that are becoming old and run down.

The hockey rink and pleasure rink are located at the park entrance from the street and the rink is lying directly along the edge of the ballfield, which all take up the vast majority of the park space. An older playground and full basketball court are placed on the far end of the park along the residential lot lines where overhead power lines run through and along the edge of the park.

Recommendations include a complete renovation of the park to include the possible removal of the hockey rink and/or the ballfield to allow for more room for a more appropriate neighborhood park design. Other recommendations include a new playground, informal green space, a loop trail system, basketball half or full court, a small shelter structure for shade and providing amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is in close proximity to the Hoover School site and Rockslide Park, both of which are larger areas that provide a broader range of recreational amenities.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

There are no park trails and no accessibility to the park amenities. All recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park only contains boulevard trees along the street and lacks internal vegetation other than turf and dandelions.



View A - Ballfield



View B - Playground area



View C - Basketball court

Epiphany Ponds Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 1475 106th Avenue

Size: 22.0 acres

Rating: 17 out of 27 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the adjacent neighborhood with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 17 out of 27 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood fairly well, though some improvements or additions could enhance it. Overall park design was ranked medium to high as it has a nice entrance sequence upon entering the park on the west side and the developed area is very pleasing, but the water quality is a distraction. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as many areas are maintained very well.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Ballfield*
2. *Shelter*
3. *Playground area*
4. *Basketball*
5. *Open space*
6. *Aggregate trail start/end*



Epiphany Ponds Park Aerial Image

(Imagery ©2012 Google Map Data)

Assessment and Recommendations

This park contains a nice balance mixture of natural areas and developed areas for recreation. The developed areas are well maintained and pleasant.

The playground is a little older, but still in fair shape and one belt swing is set too high. There is also no trail connection to the play area. The trails are a mixture of asphalt trails in the developed area and an aggregate trail through the natural spaces. The asphalt trails and basketball court are in need of maintenance repairs or replacement. The field area is in good shape and the shelter is in a nice location relative to the locations of other amenities and overlooks the pond.

Recommendations include improving the asphalt surfaces, providing links to all the recreational amenities and updating amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park has an almost complete connection with the trail system that runs through Erlandson / Robinson Parks.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in need of improvement or replacement and need to connect to all recreational amenities. They provide nice links to the neighborhood and the trail on the SE side winds along the creek corridor up to 105th Lane, but needs a connection to Robinson Drive to continue the link to the trails in Erlandson / Robinson Parks. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park has some nice mature trees and wooded areas. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials. A more intensive plan should be implemented in regard to the water bodies. They are currently stagnant and silted in. A plan addressing the park water quality issues, as well as upstream areas, should be implemented.



View A - Play area



View B - Basketball court



View C - Picnic shelter

Erlandson Park / Robinson Park

Classification: Community Preserve & Community Preserve / Trail Corridor

Location: 1105 Egret Blvd / 1201 Egret Blvd.

Size: 67.0 acres / 12.2 acres

Rating: 12 out of 16 / 11 out of 12 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessments)

Park Function and Overview

These parks are nature preserve areas containing woods, wetlands and the Coon Creek Trail system that provides the community with a pleasing trail through a greenway corridor. Overall park quality is ranked at a 12 out of 16 points for Erlandson and 11 out of 12 points for Robinson which means they are meeting the needs of the community quite well, though some improvements could enhance it. Overall park design was ranked medium as they have very pleasing natural areas along the trail corridor, with the exception of the views of the large overhead lines and adjacent railroad, but improvements should be done to the park entrance areas and picnic space. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as many areas are maintained very well.



View A - Trail entrance

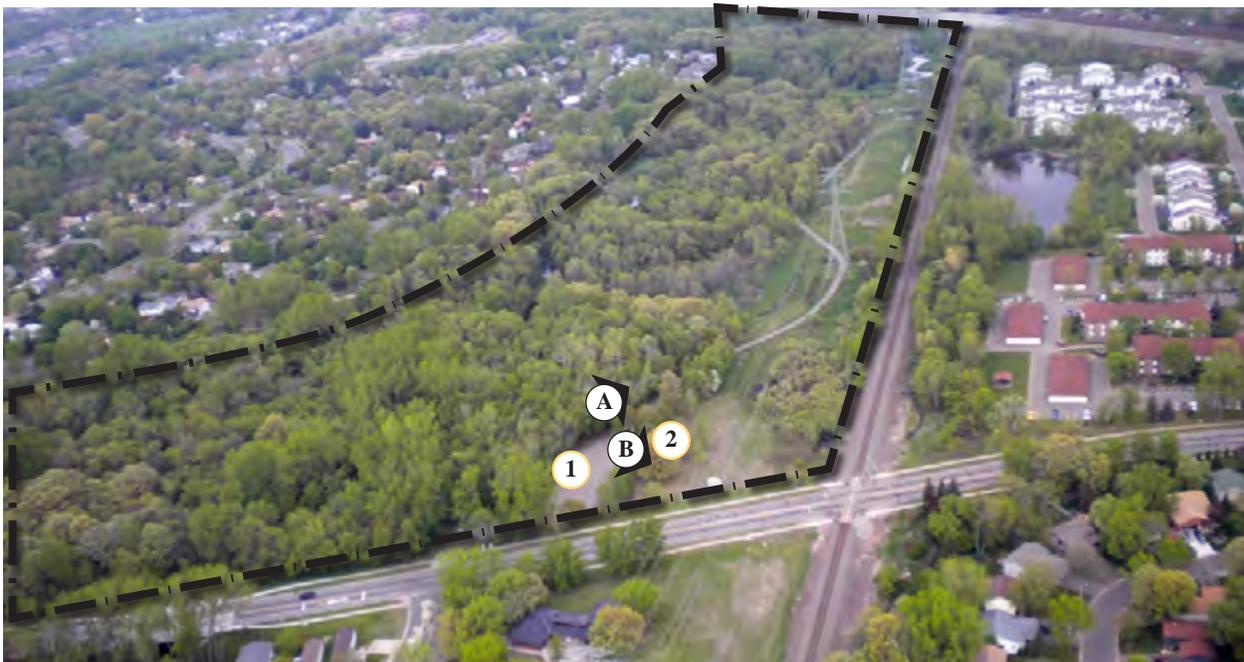


View B - Picnic area

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Parking*
2. *Picnic area*



Erlandson Park Aerial Image

Kennedy Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 8490 East River Road

Size: 5.5 acres

Rating: 18 out of 33 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides a large neighborhood area with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 18 out of 33 points which means it is meeting the basic needs of the neighborhood, but some improvements or additions could enhance it considerably. Overall park design was ranked medium as it has a nice park atmosphere, though some elements are not ideally located. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as most areas are maintained very well, though some amenities are in need of repair or replacement.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Play area*
2. *Ballfield*
3. *Basketball*
4. *Tennis*



Ensuring that access routes and site amenities meet appropriate ADA guidelines is crucial to a successfully functioning park.



Kennedy Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park serves a fairly large neighborhood area. It has a pleasant park atmosphere but some amenities are showing their age and are in need of repair or replacement. The park entrance from the street could use some aesthetic improvements. The mature oaks are very nice, but the portable restroom sitting beneath them is not. The chain link fencing is also a detraction.

The playground is a little older, but still in fair shape and is accessible. At the far back corner of the park are the courts. A tennis court and basketball court with bounce wall are located back in this space and are in need of improvements and trail access. The majority of the park space between the courts and the playground is dedicated to the ballfield which is maintained well.

Recommendations include looking at a new overall park design when it comes time to make improvements so the park can provide a better recreational area for the neighborhoods. Instead of a dedicated field, more informal green space would be appropriate, which will allow for a better organization of the other recreational amenities. The park entrance should provide more of a visual impact with more aesthetic enhancements. The playground should be suitable for a broad range of age groups and the inclusion of a small picnic shelter would enhance the space. The basketball court could be downsized to a half court and moving the courts away from residential lots would be encouraged. Update amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style and provide a pad and enclosure for the portable restroom.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

The Springbrook Nature Center down the road provides the area with a nature experience. Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park is in close proximity, but a trail link is needed.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails provide nice links to the neighborhood and are in good shape. Finding a trail link that would connect to the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park trail located northwest of the park is encourage. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park has some nice mature oak trees that should be preserved. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials. The rain garden / infiltration basin should be enhanced with native plants.



View A - Play area



View B - Ballfield



View C - Basketball court and bounce wall



View D - Tennis court

Lions Coon Creek Park / Mallery Park

Classification: Cornerstone Park & Neighborhood Park / Trail Corridor

Location: 1664 119th Avenue

Size: 35.3 acres / 3.1 acres

Rating: 34 out of 65 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

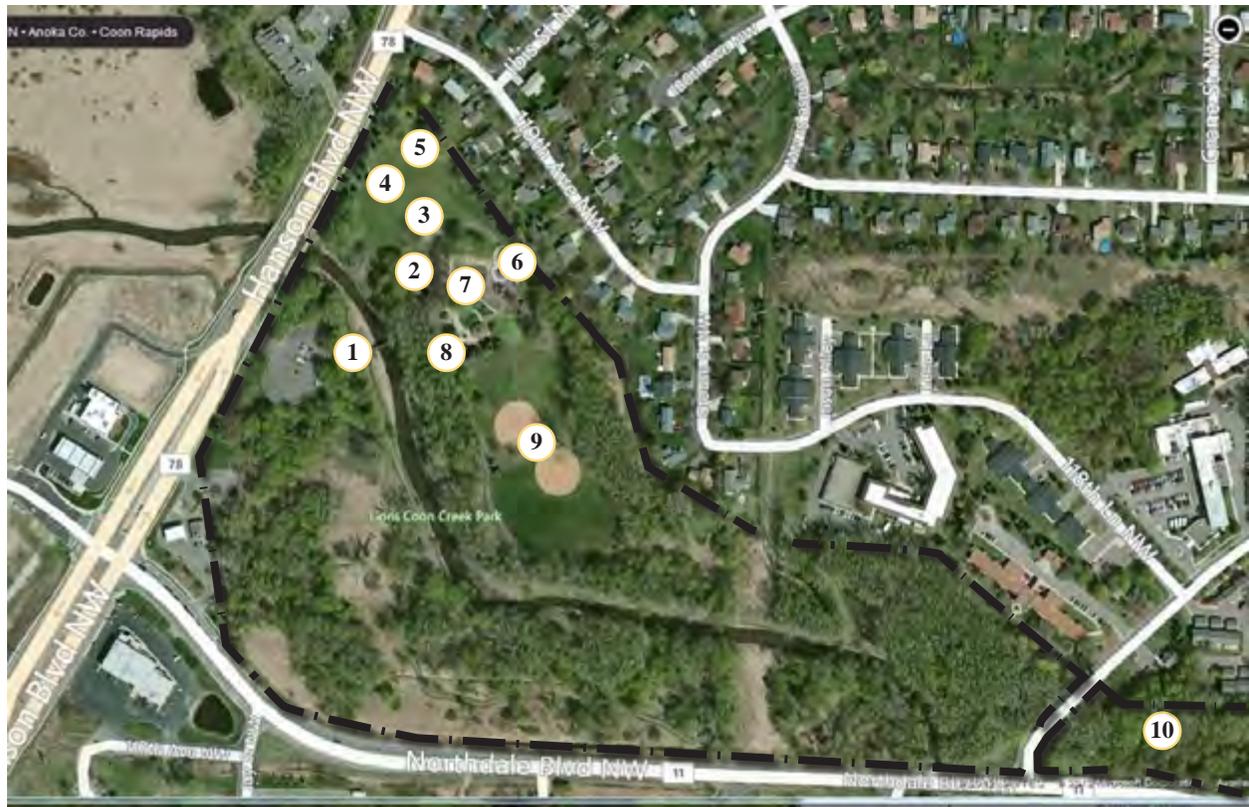
Park Function and Overview

This park provides the community with a broader range of park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 34 out of 63 points which means it is meeting the basic needs, but some improvements or additions could enhance it considerably. Overall park design was ranked medium as it has some nicely designed areas, but other amenities could use some improved layouts. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as most areas are maintained very well, though some amenities are in need of repair or replacement. Mallery Park is an extension of Lions Coon Creek Park and contains natural areas along the creek with the Sand Coon Creek Trail.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Parking / entrance bridge over creek | 6. Lions garden |
| 2. Basketball courts (2) | 7. Playground area |
| 3. Volleyball court | 8. Picnic shelters |
| 4. Open space | 9. Ballfields |
| 5. Bocce ball court | 10. Mallery Park |



Lions Coon Creek Park Aerial Image

(Imagery ©2012 Microsoft Corporation Bing Map Data)

Assessment and Recommendations

This community park provides numerous recreational amenities for the community and is designed to serve large group gathering functions, as well as a trailhead for the Coon Creek Regional Trail. This park is recommended to be a cornerstone sector park due to its community wide functions and location.

The parking lot off of Hanson Blvd. has a difficult entrance to maneuver with traffic, the parking lot itself is undersized for the park and the runoff is directed directly into the creek. The creek with the pedestrian bridge is a nice entrance feature but needs improvement to meet current codes and regulations. The scattered portable enclosures and various trash receptacles around the site deter from the park aesthetics greatly.

The park contains a large playground area with equipment of varying age and quality. Surrounding the playground area is a group of small shelters, a restroom building, a specialty garden and courts off to the north side. To the far north is open space and a bocce ball court. To the south are two ballfields.

Recommendations include a reorganization of the park to provide the community with a better park suitable for a cornerstone sector park. The park entry should have a clear and aesthetic entrance identity and the parking will need to be expanded to be adequate for functions. Other recommendations include larger picnic shelters, reduce full sized basketball courts, reconfigure the other amenities to provide the best pedestrian circulation, meet current ADA guidelines and provide a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

The regional trails connect this park to the greater community in multiple directions.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

Lions Coon Creek Park contains the Coon Creek Regional Trail system and serves as a trailhead. There needs to be a better trail connection and crosswalk across Northdale Blvd. for the trail to connect to the trail system as it heads south. As the trail heads through Mallary, it becomes the Sand Coon Creek Trail. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park is along a creek corridor. The parking lot runoff should be intercepted and treated before it enters the creek. A natural resource plan should be implemented for improving the creek corridor as there are already numerous areas of invasive plants present and erosion issues along the banks.



View of the playground area



View of the bocce ball court



Issues with aesthetics



Entrance bridge across the creek

Marshland Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve

Location: 3170 Northdale Blvd.

Size: 29 acres

Rating: 20 out of 33 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides a fairly large neighborhood area with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 20 out of 33 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood fairly well, but some improvements or additions could enhance it. Overall park design was ranked medium as it has a nice park atmosphere. The park has a medium to low ranking for maintenance as some areas are in need of better maintenance, repair or replacement.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. Basketball court
2. Sledding hill
3. Ballfield
4. Playground area
5. Trail system continuation



Marshland Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park has a fairly pleasant park atmosphere but could use some enhancements, especially around the park perimeter. Some amenities are showing their age and are in need of maintenance, repair or replacement.

A basketball half court is located along the street with a sledding hill in the main portion of the park and a ballfield at the bottom of the sledding hill with drainage issues. The playground is set back in the park away from the noisy streets. The equipment is a little older, but still in fair shape.

Recommendations include drainage improvements, possibly relocating the basketball half court closer to the playground area, enhancing maintenance on the ballfield, and eventually replacement of the playground with equipment suitable for a broad range of age groups. A small picnic shelter and portable restroom by the playground would also be beneficial since many people can end up walking quite a distance to get here. It would be recommended to look into dedicated parking for the park area due to the large neighborhood it serves. Update amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park connects into a natural trail corridor which leads to Thorpe Park.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in fair condition but may need resurfacing soon. The trails provide nice links to the neighborhood and extend through a natural corridor to connect into Thorpe Park. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to all recreational amenities, and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The main park area needs additional plantings along the perimeter and within the park for screening, shade and enhancing the park character. A natural resource plan should be implemented for improving the creek corridor to control invasive plants and improve water quality.



View A - Park entrance



View B - Play area



Drainage issue

Mason Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 9600 Holly Circle

Size: 6.4 acres

Rating: 13 out of 42 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood area with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 13 out of 42 points which means it is not meeting the needs of the neighborhood at an appropriate level. Overall park design was ranked low to medium as it has a nice park atmosphere but some amenities are not placed in the most appropriate locations. The park has a low ranking for maintenance as most of the amenities are run down and in need of replacement.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. Tennis court
2. Basketball court
3. Playground area
4. Horseshoe court
5. Ballfield
6. Open Space



Mason Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park contains a large amount of mature oak trees which add a lot of character and should be preserved, but the recreational amenities are mainly run-down and should be replaced.

Recommendations include a complete renovation of the park to include the possible removal of the tennis court, or at least relocate it to a more appropriate location. Other recommendations include a new playground, new basketball half court, informal green space instead of a developed ballfield and provide amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is in a fairly isolated area and does not relate well to other parks, though you can gain access to Parkside Park by traveling along the street until you get to the sidewalks along Foley Boulevard.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in fair to poor shape and do not connect to all of the amenities. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated domes where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas. Effort should be made to connect this park to a trail or sidewalk system that would lead up to Foley Blvd.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains a large stand of mature oak trees that should be preserved. Additional tree plantings should be implemented soon to allow for wider tree age distribution. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Play area



View B - Basketball court



Maintenance / Use issue

Mercy Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 3950 115th Avenue

Size: 4.0 acres

Rating: 18 out of 33 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood area with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 18 out of 33 points which means it is meeting the basic needs of the neighborhood but some improvements or additions could greatly enhance it. Overall park design was ranked low to medium as it has some nice areas but the park lacks an identity and proper access and the chainlink fencing detracts from the character. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as most of the areas are maintained fairly well, but the turf needs improvement.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Picnic area*
3. *Basketball*
4. *Ballfield*
5. *Open space*



Mercy Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park has great trail loops and most of the amenities are in decent condition, but the site lacks an inviting park entry at most points and the perimeter needs enhancement to screen the sea of asphalt parking lots and the chain link fencing. The lack of a full street connection along 115th Avenue also contributes to the low park image with the dead end that becomes an aggregate alley that eventually leads to a barrier where the park trail starts.

Given the location next to Mercy Hospital, and the obvious park users who come from the hospital, this park should provide amenities for those uses as well as the neighborhood uses.

The playground seems a little older but is still in fair condition. There is a large asphalt pad with tables and grills next to it, which is not a nice design for a park. The basketball court is in very good shape. The ballfield takes up considerable park space, it doesn't have a great orientation and the turf is in poor condition.

Recommendations include enhancing the park perimeter with better screening and vegetation enhancements and making the entrance points more inviting. Amenities suitable for hospital users should be added. This could be as simple as additional seating areas, possibly one that is in more of a garden setting. Other improvements include addressing the vehicular circulation to the south and west of the park, possible reorientation of the ballfield, adding in a picnic shelter and portable restrooms by the playground area, update the playground with play equipment suitable for a broad range of age groups and update amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park does not relate to other parks.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in very good condition and make some nice loops around the site. The trails provide nice links to the neighborhood but should also connect to the walkways to the north into the parking lots where the crosswalk is located. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains some nice mature trees along the south. Additional tree plantings should be implemented to allow for wider tree age distribution and to screen the parking. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Play area



View B - Softball field



View C - Basketball court



View D - Park entrance

Moor Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park / Athletic Park

Location: 10921 Magnolia Street

Size: 27.1 acres

Rating: 52 out of 60 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

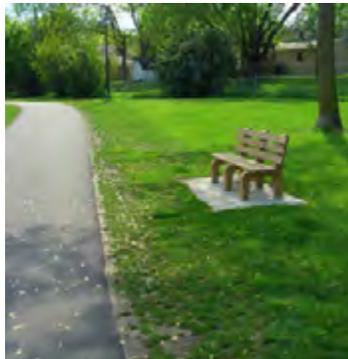
Park Function and Overview

This recently redeveloped park provides the community with numerous recreational amenities with a focus on youth athletics. Overall park quality is ranked at a 52 out of 60 points which means it is meeting the needs of the community very well, but some minor improvements or additions could still enhance it. Overall park design was ranked high as it has a nice layout and inviting park character. The park has a high ranking for maintenance.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. Park entrance / parking
2. Picnic shelters
3. Ballfields
4. Open field
5. Playground area
6. Soccer fields
7. Tennis and basketball courts



Accessibility issue



Moor Park Aerial Image

(Imagery ©2012 Google Map Data)

Assessment and Recommendations

This park has been recently upgraded to provide the community with an outstanding facility oriented mainly toward active recreation and athletics. There is adequate parking for the amenities provided, the park has a nice entrance identity, and the natural areas located with the park separate the use areas while enhancing the park character.

Most of the site contains all new amenities with the exception of the tennis / basketball court area which is still in good shape but it would be nice if these were color coated and they also need a trail link for proper access.

Recommendations include enhancing the park perimeter with better screening and vegetation enhancements, making all the proper trail connections and update amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a uniform style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park does not link to other parks but there are nearby athletic and small neighborhood parks.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in very good condition and make some nice loops around the site and connect to the neighborhood in various locations. A trail connection should be made to the tennis and basketball court. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains some wooded areas and a creek in the middle of the park. Additional tree plantings should be implemented to allow for wider tree age distribution, provide shade along the parking lots, and add additional screening / softening of the park perimeter. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.

Currently it appears the parking area by the playground may drain directly into the creek in the park. This water should be intercepted and run through a pre-treatment system prior to the water entering the creek for improved water quality.



View A - Play area picnic shelter



View B - Ballfield picnic shelter



View C - Ballfield



View D - Tennis / basketball courts

Nelson Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 209 110th Avenue

Size: 3.9 acres

Rating: 12 out of 30 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood area with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 12 out of 30 points which means it is not meeting the needs of the neighborhood at an appropriate level. Overall park design was ranked low as it lacks park character and is not inviting. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as most of the amenities are being maintained properly.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Ballfield*
3. *Basketball*
4. *Open space (previously general skating)*



Nelson Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park contains a large amount of space dedicated to the ballfield with chainlink fence along the park entrance leading to the playground area, which is very uninviting. The opening in the fence is very narrow and does not provide proper access to the park.

The playground area contains fairly new equipment and is accessible, but additional seating is needed. The basketball half court is older, but still in decent shape. The ballfield area and open space that was once used for general skating takes up the vast majority of this small park.

Recommendations include removal of the developed ballfield to provide room for a more inviting design with improved recreational amenities and the possible inclusion of a small picnic shelter for shade and small neighborhood gatherings. The basketball half court could be relocated and improved upon and there could be open green space for informal play. Other recommendations include making a more creative container for the playground equipment, adding ornamental fence along the street, landscape enhancements and new amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is close to Moor Park, which provides complementary active recreational amenities for the neighborhood.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in fair to poor condition. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains some fairly mature trees by the playground area but additional plantings should be placed along the west and north sides and along boulevards. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Basketball court



View B - Play area



View C - Park entrance

Parkside Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve

Location: 700 99th Avenue

Size: 12.6 acres

Rating: 15 out of 24 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood area with the standard park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 15 out of 24 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood to an adequate level, but some improvements or additions could enhance it and make it more user friendly. Overall park design was ranked medium as it has a nice park atmosphere with a nice blend of natural and developed spaces. The park has a medium for maintenance as it is being maintained adequately.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Basketball half court*
3. *Ballfield*
4. *Natural areas*



Parkside Park (northern section) Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park contains a large amount of space dedicated to natural areas with the neighborhood recreational areas placed on the north side of the park, allowing for a very pleasing park setting. The biggest downfall of the park is related to parking obstacles. 99th Avenue is a main road adjacent to the developed park area and has wide shoulders on both sides that is used for bike lanes and parking everywhere but directly adjacent to the park. That section is filled with No Parking signs which forces vehicles to park along neighborhood residences on the narrower side streets and walk a greater distance or across busier streets in order to access the park. For those with disabilities or larger groups, such as daycare children, this can be an unnecessary obstacle.

The playground area contains older equipment but it's in fair condition. The basketball half court is older, but still in fair shape. The ballfield area is maintained well, but has some older benches and backstop. Trails run through the park and connect to the neighborhoods in select locations, one of which is dangerous to pedestrians.

Recommendations include addressing the parking and trail crossing concerns, providing a more interesting playground area when it comes time for replacement, and adding new amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is close to Woodcrest / Wintercrest Parks to the north. Wintercrest provides more athletic and winter related activities.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

One trail connection leads to the bend in Coon Rapids Blvd. Extension which is a dangerous location and does not connect into a crosswalk or sidewalk, encouraging pedestrians to cross the road at a dangerous location. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains dense wooded areas and a natural resource plan should be implemented to control invasives and encourage a healthy system.



View A - Playground area with varying benches, tables, trash



View B - Park entrance with varying user types



View C - Basketball half court

Peppermint Stick Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 11480 Raven Street

Size: 4.0 acres

Rating: 3 out of 30 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood area with barely the basic park amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at 3 out of 30 points which means it is not currently at an acceptable service level. Overall park design was ranked low to medium as it is not inviting, but it has some potential. The park has a low to medium ranking for maintenance as some areas are maintained to a decent level, but most of the park is not.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Open space*
3. *Sledding hill*



Peppermint Stick Park Aerial Image



Safety issues such as the the examples above should be addressed immediately

Assessment and Recommendations

This park has a very run-down and uninviting feel to it with amenities that are in need of complete replacement and chain link fencing separating the park from the school site. The street that accesses the park on the NW side dead ends into peppermint stick bollards.

An odd-shaped sledding hill that looks like extra fill was dumped at the park site sits at the end of the dead-end street and if it is used for sledding, has mainly poor orientation. The layout of the loop trail system is decent, but the trails are mainly degraded and should link to the school parking lot. The playground has older equipment, some that is in fair condition, other pieces that are dangerous.

Recommendations include a complete renovation of the park to provide the neighborhood with some basic recreational amenities in a pleasing and inviting park setting. This could include the possible removal of the sledding hill, providing a small parking area and turn-around and a new playground in a more interesting design with adjacent arbor and plaza feature for some shade and aesthetic enhancements. Other recommendations include new trails, possibly adding in a small hard court and providing amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is directly adjacent to Coon Rapids Middle School and in close proximity to Rockslide Park which provides a broad range of recreational amenities, including a sledding hill so that may need to be duplicated here.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails create nice internal loops and some neighborhood connections, but are in need of replacement. A trail link to the school parking lot should be added. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

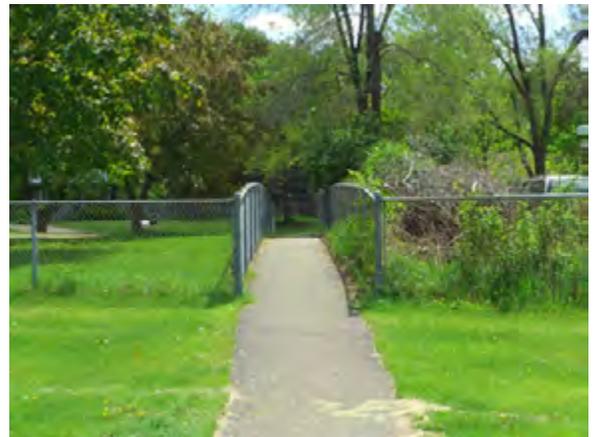
Add in accessible seating, provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains a nice stand of trees by the playground, but additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution and to screen/soften the park perimeter. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Park entrance



View B - Neighborhood park entrance



View C - Playground area

Pheasant Ridge Park

Classification: Cornerstone Park

Location: 11845 Pheasant Ridge Drive

Size: 31.3 acres

Rating: 20 out of 60 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood and community with the standard park amenities for recreation mixed in a natural preserve. Overall park quality is ranked at a 20 out of 60 points which means it appears is not meeting the needs of the community at an appropriate level, but the lower rank has to do mainly with improvements needed to make this a sector park. Overall park design was ranked as medium to high due to the natural areas blended in with the recreational spaces to provide a pleasant park character. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as most of the amenities are being maintained fairly well, but there are items that need improvement or replacement.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

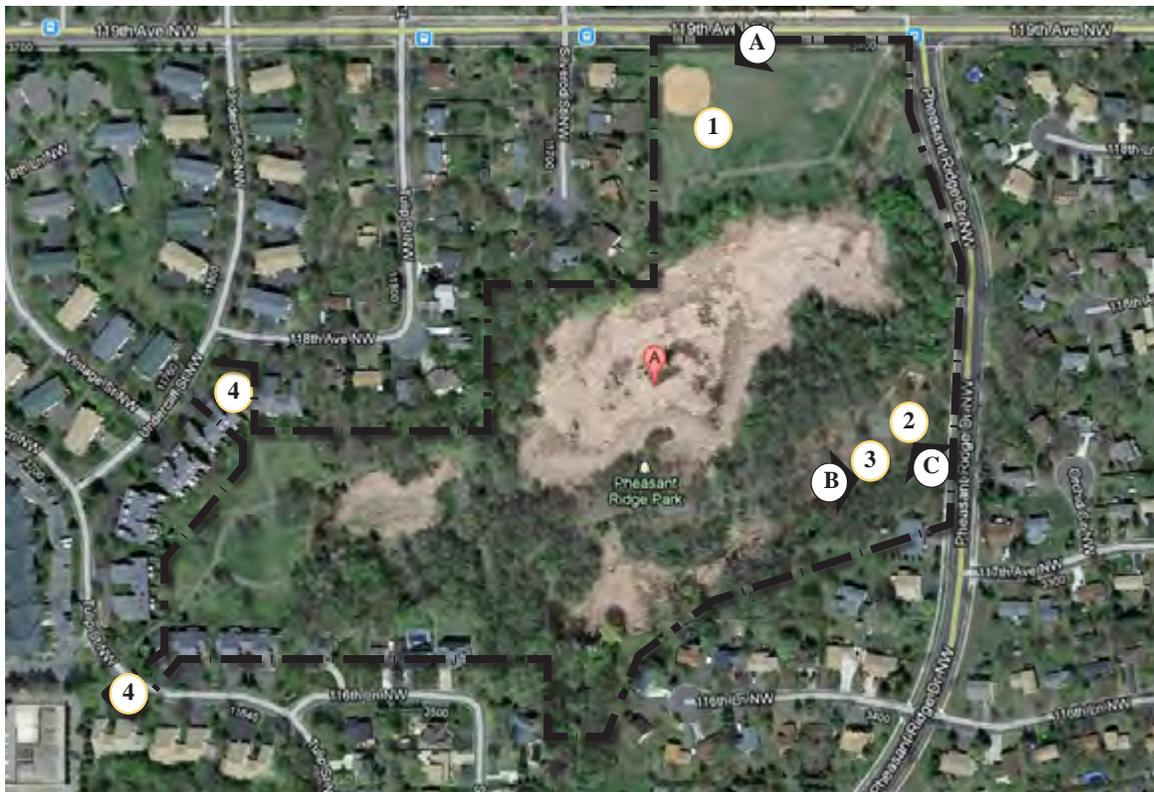
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ballfield | 3. Basketball court |
| 2. Playground area | 4. Trail access |



Trail intersections and sight lines need to be carefully evaluated in every situation. Slight modifications to this intersection could improve safety greatly.



Ensuring all play area access points meet ADA guidelines is critical for any play area.



Pheasant Ridge Park Aerial Image

(Imagery ©2012 Google Map Data)

Assessment and Recommendations

This community park and nature preserve is meant to be a more passive park with just a few recreational amenities surrounded by vast natural spaces. The park has a very pleasing atmosphere and is recommended to be a cornerstone sector park.

The park contains an older playground area that is not accessible. The basketball half court has a ridge which is dangerous and not accessible. The ballfield is in fair condition though some improvements could be made or the space could become more informal. Parking is on the street along Pheasant Ridge Drive.

Recommendations include providing a new playground area and picnic shelters that can accommodate both small and large groups. The park entry points should have a clear and aesthetic identity and parking concerns may need to be addressed if the on street parking is not adequate for park functions. Other recommendations include a new half sized basketball court, either portable or full restrooms, and provide a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

Prospect Park is located just to the east and provides more active recreational amenities. A trail provides a link from Pheasant Ridge to Vineyard Park trails to the north.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park is connected to the trail system that runs north through Vineyard Park, though this connection is dangerous as it comes out mid-street where pedestrians are more inclined to cross, rather than following the sidewalk to the corner. Park trails meander around the site and connect into the neighborhood areas. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated domes where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in accessible seating, provide access to recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains a vast amount of natural spaces from wooded areas to wetlands. A natural resource plan should be implemented for controlling invasives and improving the ongoing health of the systems.



View A - Ballfield



View B - Basketball court



View C - Playground area

Prairie Oaks Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 1455 127th Avenue

Size: 29.3 acres

Rating: 27 out of 30 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with the basic amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 27 out of 30 points which means it is meeting the needs of the community very well, but some minor improvements or additions could still enhance it. Overall park design was ranked high as it has a nice layout and inviting park character. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as it is being maintained fairly well, but some improvements are needed.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Picnic area / shelter*
3. *Open space*



Prairie Oaks Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park was developed in the early 2000’s with just the minimum amount of development, but has created a very popular gathering spot for the neighborhood. The playground area and shelter is the focal point of the entrance with ornamental fence and plantings placed along the main walkway. The playground, shelter and amenities do have some maintenance issues that need to be addressed, but the overall uniform character is still being retained.

The park contains a nice loop trail system around an informal open lawn space with trail connections to the neighborhood.

Recommendations include maintenance to control rust, add in pads to make the benches accessible and enhance the landscaping.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park has trail links to Bunker Hills Regional Park.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are wide and in very good shape. They extend to the north where they connect into Bunker Hills Regional Park. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Add in pads to make the benches accessible.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains fairly young trees since it is a newer development. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution and to screen/ soften the park perimeter. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials. The water storage basin to the north could have a wider band of native vegetation surrounding it instead of maintained turf.



View A - Open space



View B - Playground area and shelter



View C - Parking area and portable restrooms

Prospect Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 3159 116th Lane

Size: 7.2 acres

Rating: 28 out of 30 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with a broad range of amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 27 out of 30 points which means it is meeting the needs of the community very well, but some minor improvements or additions could still enhance it. Overall park design was ranked high as it has a nice layout and inviting park character. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as it is being maintained fairly well, but some improvements are needed.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Picnic area / shelter*
3. *Basketball*
4. *Ballfield*
5. *Open space*



Prospect Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park was developed in 2006 and provides numerous recreational amenities and a gathering area for the neighborhood with a parking lot. The park has a very pleasing and inviting character with the exception of some issues at the park entrance from the parking lot. The inclusion of the trail gates and the portable restroom placed in this location has become a distraction.

The playground area by the shelter provides equipment for varying age groups but some maintenance is needed and additional bench seating may be beneficial given the amount of use. The large ballfield area is very well maintained and the informal open space in the park provides a nice balance to the developed areas. The basketball court is in very good shape and a multiple loop trail system meanders through the park while providing access to the amenities.

Recommendations include moving the portable restroom and/or screening it, placing ornamental bollards at the parking lot entrance instead of the gates, and adding additional seating.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is located in close proximity to Pheasant Ridge Park which provides more passive and natural recreational amenities.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails have lighting, are wide and in very good shape. The park contains a nice loop trail system around an informal open lawn space with trail connections to the neighborhood. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated domes where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Concrete pads can be added to make the benches accessible.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains fairly young trees with a few fairly mature trees along the north portion of the park and around the perimeter. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution, screen/soften the park perimeter and add more shade. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Park entrance



View B - Playground area



View C - Basketball court



View D - Picnic shelter

Riverdale Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 3356 131st Lane

Size: 5.0 acres

Rating: 18 out of 27 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with the basic amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 18 out of 27 points which means it is meeting the needs of the community fairly well, but some improvements or additions could enhance it greatly. Overall park design was ranked at medium as it has decent pedestrian circulation and is pleasant, but needs some aesthetic improvements. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as it is being maintained to an adequate level though the turf could use some improvement.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Ballfield*
3. *Basketball half court*



Riverdale Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park is surrounded by development on all sides with trail connections into the park in select areas. The park is pleasant but not as inviting and interesting as it could be.

The playground area contains some older equipment that is in fair condition and not accessible. Directly adjacent to the playground is the basketball half court and ballfield, both of which are in fair condition.

Recommendations include creating more of a social center or gathering spot that could contain a picnic shelter or arbor and spinning off the recreational amenities, such as the basketball half court and playground area, around it. Other recommendations include providing additional seating areas, players benches and a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is intended to service the surrounding neighborhoods and does not relate to other parks.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in fairly good shape. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

All recreational amenities should have proper access and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains fairly young trees. Additional tree plantings (especially deciduous trees) should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution, screen/ soften the park perimeter and add more shade. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Softball field



View B - Play area



View C - Basketball court

Riverview Park

Classification: Cornerstone Park

Location: 2420 105th Avenue

Size: 39 acres

Rating: 28 out of 95 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the community with athletic recreational facilities. Overall park quality is ranked at a 28 out of 95 points which means it is not meeting the needs of the community at an adequate level, but a master plan has been created for redevelopment. Overall park design was ranked at low as amenities are scattered and haphazardly placed. The park has a low ranking for maintenance as many items are very run down and in need of repair or complete replacement.



Photo of existing trail conditions

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Playground areas | 8. Pleasure rink |
| 2. Asphalt parking | 9. Hockey rinks |
| 3. Tennis | 10. Gravel parking |
| 4. Basketball | 11. Lift station building |
| 5. Softball | 12. Regional trail |
| 6. Baseball | 13. Drainageway |
| 7. Little League fields and related facilities | |



Riverview Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This community athletic park is very run down with the exception of the two fields owned by the Little League. The park is in need of a full redevelopment to meet the current needs of the community to become a cornerstone sector park. A master plan has been created with recommendations that include adequate parking, the inclusion of a multi-purpose building, new playground area, skate park, basketball half court, tennis court and t-ball fields. Other recommendations include providing adequate seating and viewing areas, naturalizing the drainageway, aligning the regional trail and a consistent style for amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

Trails connect this park to Dahlia Park to the north which contains some newer amenities in a more natural setting.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are very narrow and in terrible shape and do not provide adequate connections to park amenities. There is a regional trail that runs through the park that is in good shape. It is connected by a crosswalk that doesn't lead anywhere on the south side of the park and on the north the trail connection is offset to the west. This same issue happens again along the trail to the north where it crosses Xavis Street. Trails should be aligned properly where they cross a street and need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

All recreational amenities should have proper access and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains a lack of natural resources. Tree plantings should be implemented in stages over time to provide a wide tree age distribution, screen/ soften the park perimeter and add more shade. It is recommended to reconfigure the shape of the drainageway to control flow and allow for a more natural edge along it to clean the water and naturalize the park.



Photos of existing conditions



B
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 Fax: 303.299.8800
 Project #10-20
 Date: January 10th, 2011

Riverwind Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 11747 Crocus Street

Size: 9.8 acres

Rating: 6 out of 36 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park acts as a neighborhood park to provide the basic amenities for recreation for the adjacent neighborhood, but also contains special use community amenities. Overall park quality is ranked at a 6 out of 36 points which means it is not meeting the needs of the neighborhood or community. Overall park design was ranked at low as there is an overall lack of any design quality to it. The park has a low ranking for maintenance as it is in very poor condition.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Basketball*
3. *Tennis*
4. *Open space*
5. *Informal ballfield*
6. *Skate park / community building*



Riverwind Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This is a long linear park that has special use community facilities located on one side of a neighborhood park. The special use facilities include a community building that used to be the community pool, but now the pool has been replaced with a fenced skate park along the building. The park is very run down and in need of a complete renovation.

The parking lots are extensive due to the previous community functions and they run up to the back of the street curb, making it difficult to differentiate where to access the parking. The courts, playground, trails and ballfield areas are all in very poor condition. Park Lane up to the NW of the site dead-ends into the park.

Recommendations include creating a plan to renovate the entire site in order to provide the neighborhood and community with adequate recreational amenities in an inviting setting. Other recommendations include removal of Park Lane and create a wide trail connection in this location instead. The need for the existing building should be further assessed and improved accordingly.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park has a trail that leads to the Coon Rapids High School site field area and could connect into the Morris Bye School site as well.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails provide the necessary neighborhood connections, but are in poor condition. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

All recreational amenities should have proper access and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains some fairly mature trees along the perimeter in the northern section. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution, screen/ soften the park perimeter and add more shade, especially in the southern areas. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Basketball court and parking area



View B - Tennis courts



View C - Skate park



View D - Playground area

Rockslide Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 11200 Swallow Street

Size: 12 acres

Rating: 32 out of 36 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with a broad range of amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 32 out of 36 points which means it is meeting the needs of the community very well, but some minor improvements or additions could still enhance it. Overall park design was ranked high as it has a nice layout and inviting park character. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as it is being maintained fairly well, but some improvements are needed.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area & hardcourt games*
2. *Picnic area / shelter*
3. *Ballfield*
4. *Basketball*
5. *Sledding hill*
6. *Open space*
7. *Trail / pedestrian underpass*



Potential safety issue resulting from sand and debris washed into resilient wood fiber surfacing



Rockslide Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park was developed in 2005 and provides numerous recreational amenities and a gathering area for the neighborhood with an adequate parking lot separated by an ornamental fence. The park has a very pleasing and inviting character.

The playground area by the shelter provides equipment for varying age groups but some maintenance is needed and additional bench seating may be beneficial given the amount of use with modifications to make seating HC accessible. The inclusion of a lighted sledding hill provides a winter activity. The full basketball court is far enough from the playground to provide a nice buffer between age groups, the ballfield is in good shape, and there are many informal open space areas.

Recommendations include improvements to the park turf, landscape enhancements, adding additional seating areas and pads to make them accessible, and adding in players benches along the ballfield.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is located in close proximity to Peppermint Park to the north and connects to the Hoover School site to the south, both of which currently do not provide adequate recreational amenities for the neighborhoods, so this park services a wide area.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails have lighting, are wide and in very good shape. The park contains a nice multiple loop trail system with trail connections to the neighborhood, including a trail underpass beneath the railroad tracks to allow for safe and easy access for other neighborhoods.

Concrete pads should be added to make the benches accessible.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains some mature trees and some fairly young trees but the vast majority of the park is open with a small water basin on the SW section of the park. Additional tree plantings should be implemented in phases over time to allow for wider tree age distribution, screen/ soften the park perimeter and add more shade. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Play area and picnic shelter



View B - Parking and ornamental fence



View C - Ballfield with sledding hill in background

Sand Creek Park

Classification: Athletic Complex

Location: 1008 Northdale Blvd.

Size: 73.5 acres

Rating: 56 out of 130 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the community with an athletic complex containing adult softball fields, baseball fields, football fields, tennis and miscellaneous park amenities. Overall park quality is ranked at a 56 out of 130 points which means it is not meeting the needs of the community at an adequate level. Overall park design was ranked at very low due to a lack of proper circulation and field orientation. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as it is being maintained quite well, but some improvements are needed for certain areas.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. Softball field
2. Picnic shelter building
3. Warming house building
4. Hockey rink (one with skate park)
5. Pleasure rink
6. Baseball field (Little League)
7. Baseball field (Babe Ruth)
8. T-ball field
9. Football field
10. Playground area
11. Tennis (4)
12. Basketball half courts (4)



Safety issue with light posts within the ballfield



Sand Creek Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This athletic complex provides the community with numerous athletic and active recreational amenities, but the poor layout of the site and older amenities diminish the quality of the site. Vehicular and pedestrian circulation is very poor and the site lacks aesthetic and noticeable entry points.

The ballfields have excellent turf quality, but the backstops, fencing and seating are all in need of replacement. One field has lights located inside the fence line which is a hazard. The baseball fields are in very good to excellent condition with dugouts. Bleachers on all fields are mainly older and non-compliant and some fields have poor orientation. The three hockey rinks are all paved and one contains a skate park on it. It is preferable to have concrete as a skate park surface. The general skating area is located on the far side of the rinks, furthest from the warming house. The football fields have new scoreboards but need to be accessible by trail. The tennis and basketball courts are in need of replacement. The playground is in a nice shaded area, but is older and there is no trail to it.

Recommendations include a master plan to rework the site layout for better vehicular and pedestrian circulation, better field orientations and updated amenities. The park should have key access points with significant identification and the park should have amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park provides the community with athletic based facilities.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park lacks sufficient trails to connect to all of the amenities and the park lacks a safe pedestrian entry along the north section of the park. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas. Provide access to all recreational amenities, and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains some natural areas along the south end that should be maintained for a healthy system and additional tree plantings should be implemented in phases as part of a new master plan to add shade, screen the perimeter areas and enhance the park character.



View A - Skate park



View B - Picnic shelter



View C - Tennis courts

Soccer Complex

Classification: Athletic Complex

Location: 1705 111th Avenue

Size: 40.0 acres

Rating: 25 out of 45 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the community with fully developed soccer fields and related amenities. Overall park quality is ranked at a 25 out of 45 points which means it is meeting the needs of the community, but some improvements or additions could enhance it greatly. Overall park design was ranked at medium to high as it has a very appropriate layout and inviting park character. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as it is being maintained quite well, but some improvements are needed for certain areas.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Concessions building*
3. *Picnic shelter*
4. *Soccer field*



Soccer Complex Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This soccer facility contains six full sized soccer fields that are lighted and irrigated. Parking appears to be adequate though the layout of the H.C. parking stalls need evaluation. The park has a nice red and white theme to their amenities, but should carry through better to tables, benches and receptacles. The concessions building is older but still in fair condition. There is a picnic shelter that is also in fair to good condition, but it needs a trail link and maintenance on the surrounding shrubs. The playground in this area is small, older, not accessible and has no adjacent seating.

Recommendations include updating the playground, add trail links and accessible concrete pads where necessary, add landscape enhancements, screen utility areas, make sure all seating areas meet current codes and provide amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park provides the community with athletic based facilities.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails should connect up to some bleacher pad areas for accessible seating/viewing, as well as to all amenities. The trail connection to the northern piece of the parking lot is not accessible and H.C. stalls should be evaluated. They playground is not accessible. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas. Provide access to all recreational amenities, and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park has a stormwater treatment pond and a section of natural area along the western boundary that should be properly maintained to be sure they do not become eyesores. There is one piece of the park with somewhat mature trees, but there are a lot of ash trees here so additional tree plantings should be implemented as soon as possible to take their place.



View A - Playground area



View of concessions / picnic building



View B - Soccer field



Accessibility and compliance issues



Aesthetic issues (entrance from parking lot)

Sunrise Pond Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 125 124th Lane

Size: 2.7 acres

Rating: 15 out of 24 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park is part of a new housing development and just provides the adjacent neighborhood with some basic amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 15 out of 24 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood very well, but some minor improvements and additions could provide a well finished park. Overall park design was ranked medium to high as it has a nice layout given the small amount of space. The park was not ranked for maintenance as it is a new park that has not been completed at the time of the assessment.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Basketball half court*
2. *Playground area*
3. *Open space*



Sunrise Pond Park Aerial Image

(Imagery ©2012 Google Map Data)

Assessment and Recommendations

This newly developed park is located along a storm water pond and street and was recently added into the park system, built as part of the surrounding housing development.

At the time of assessment, this construction and restoration of the site was not complete, but design intent was obvious. The park has adequate trail connections and new amenities, but could use some shade opportunities. There are currently trash cans scattered around the site, but no seating.

Recommendations include making sure the park turf is fully established to reduce erosion issues that are detrimental to the ponds, which may be difficult on the sandy soils. Other recommendations include adding in bench seating areas, create pads for the trash receptacles and locate a small picnic shelter adjacent to the playground area. Another potential improvement includes adding ornamental fence along the street edge for increased safety for children. Based on discussions with staff, this is already budgeted for and will be completed in 2012.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park services the adjacent neighborhood area.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trail links up to the sidewalk and provides access to the recreational amenities, but there is no proper access into the playground container.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park has not had any trees planted. Tree plantings should be implemented as soon as possible to add shade. The stormwater pond adjacent to the park should be retained with a natural vegetated buffer around the edge. The sandy park soils are currently eroding and migrating towards the pond, which will cause siltation.



View A - Playground area



View B - Basketball half court



Erosion issues

Thorpe Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 2691 Carlson Drive

Size: 8.5 acres

Rating: 30 out of 37 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with the standard amenities for recreation, many geared toward winter recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 30 out of 37 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood quite well, but some minor improvements or additions could still enhance it. Overall park design was ranked high as it has a nice layout and inviting park character. The park has a high ranking for maintenance as it is being maintained fairly well.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Parking*
2. *Warming house building*
3. *Hockey rink*
4. *Pleasure rink / informal ballfield*
5. *Playground area*
6. *Sledding hill*
7. *Open space*



Thorpe Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park has many newer amenities and a very nice warming house building that is the focal point upon entering the park. The hockey rink with an asphalt surface for multiple uses is beyond the building and has some ponding issues, which is common due to the minimal slope needed on rinks. The pleasure rink is off to the north side over the top of the informal ballfield. The playground is set into the park a little bit surrounded by nice vegetation, it has adequate seating around it, but there have been amenities added in that do not blend with the original styles. Further east is a sledding hill with proper orientation and a nice open lawn space.

Recommendations include adding in pads to make the benches accessible, possibly adding in a small picnic shelter and ensuring the amenities such as the tables, benches and trash cans are all of a similar style / design line. Other recommendations would include addressing the dead-end street off the corner of Carlson Drive / 121st Lane.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park services the adjacent neighborhood area. Riverwind Park is located to the south, but due to its poor condition, this park ends up servicing a larger neighborhood area. Trails provide a connection to Marshland Park.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are wide, lighted, in good shape and provide links to the neighborhood and greater trail system. Most of the site is quite accessible, but the addition of pads along bench areas will improve accessibility.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains some fairly mature trees along the perimeter of the park which screen the housing and highway. A large stand of mature oak trees are located to the south of the hockey rink and should be properly managed to maintain its health. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution and add more shade. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Warming house building



View B - Playground area



View C - Trails



View D - Hockey rink

Thrush Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 2250 123rd Lane

Size: 2.9 acres

Rating: 20 out of 24 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with the basic amenities for recreation within a small space. Overall park quality is ranked at a 20 out of 24 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood quite well, but some minor improvements or additions could still enhance it. Overall park design was ranked high as it has a nice layout and inviting park character. The park has a high ranking for maintenance as it is being maintained fairly well.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Picnic area / shelter*
3. *Open space*



Thrush Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This small park is tucked back behind residential areas and is directly adjacent to a large natural open space area containing mature trees, wetlands and creeks. Everything seems in fair to good condition and there is a nice figure eight loop trail system perfect for young riders.

Recommendations include updating amenities as they become older and provide amenities, such as tables, benches and trash cans with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park services the adjacent neighborhood area. Riverwind Park is located to the south, but due to its poor condition, this park ends up servicing a larger neighborhood area. Trails provide a connection to Marshland Park.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are wide, lighted, in good shape, and provide links to the neighborhood and greater trail system. Most of the site is quite accessible, but the addition of pads along bench areas will improve accessibility.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park is adjacent to a large open space system containing wetlands, creeks and some wooded edges. A natural resource plan should be implemented for controlling invasives and improving the ongoing health of the systems.



View A - Playground area



View B - Playground and picnic shelter



View C - Entrance

Towerview Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 2849 116th Avenue

Size: 5 acres

Rating: 11 out of 24 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with the basic amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 11 out of 24 points which means it is not meeting the needs of the neighborhood to an adequate service level. Overall park design was ranked at low to medium as it has a fair layout. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as some areas are being maintained well, while others are not.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Ballfield*
3. *Open space*
4. *Parking*



View of the parking lot pavement



Towerview Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park has a nice perimeter of fairly mature vegetation in pockets for screening which enhances the park, but needs more vegetation and shade internally. The park is in somewhat fair condition but it will soon need a complete upgrade.

The parking lot along the entrance detracts from the overall park feel as it is not sized properly, is not striped and is in very poor condition. The playground area contains somewhat older equipment that is still in fair condition but needs some shade, more seating areas and proper accessibility. The ballfield area and open space that was once used for general skating takes up the vast majority of this small park.

Recommendations include removal of the developed ballfield to provide room for a more inviting design with informal lawn space and improved recreational amenities. The playground should be replaced with a more interesting design with the possible inclusion of a small picnic shelter for shade and small neighborhood gatherings. The parking lot needs to be redone or simply have parking on the street and create a basketball half court in the park. Other recommendations include landscape enhancements and new amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is close to Prospect Park, which provides much broader recreational amenities.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in good condition. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated domes where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains some fairly mature trees along the perimeter. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution, additional screening and more shade internally. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Park entrance



View B - Playground area



View C - Ballfield

Trackside Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 10425 Hummingbird Street

Size: 4.3 acres

Rating: 7 out of 29 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with the basic amenities for recreation with a special community use added. Overall park quality is ranked at a 7 out of 29 points which means it is not meeting the needs of the neighborhood to an adequate service level. Overall park design was ranked at low as it lacks design. The park has a low ranking for maintenance as the majority of the park is in poor condition.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Basketball half court*
3. *Dog park*



Trackside Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This neighborhood park has a community wide special use function, which is a dog park. The dog park area has a terrible appearance from the street and causes numerous parking issues, as well as conflicts with the neighborhood residences.

The actual park area contains a playground and basketball half court, both of which are in fair to poor condition. The playground border is falling apart and has large metal stakes sticking out. The inconsistent style of amenities, cans chained to signs, and vast amount of chain link fencing surrounding the park detracts from the park experience.

Recommendations include removal of the dog park use and redevelop the neighborhood park area to create an appropriate park setting that is inviting and provides the neighborhood with some recreational amenities.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is close to Al Flynn Park, which is a cornerstone park that provides more active recreational amenities, though it is not adequately servicing the community at the moment.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park just has a simple trail leading in to the playground and half court. They are in fair to poor shape. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains a low area utilized for flood storage. This area should be naturalized with native plantings for a more aesthetic appearance and screening along the street edges. Plantings in the park should be maintained to include removal of undesirable species, removing unhealthy or poor trees and replacing them with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Playground area



View B - Basketball court



View C - Dog park area

Twin Field Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 2141 108th Avenue

Size: 7 acres

Rating: 18 out of 30 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

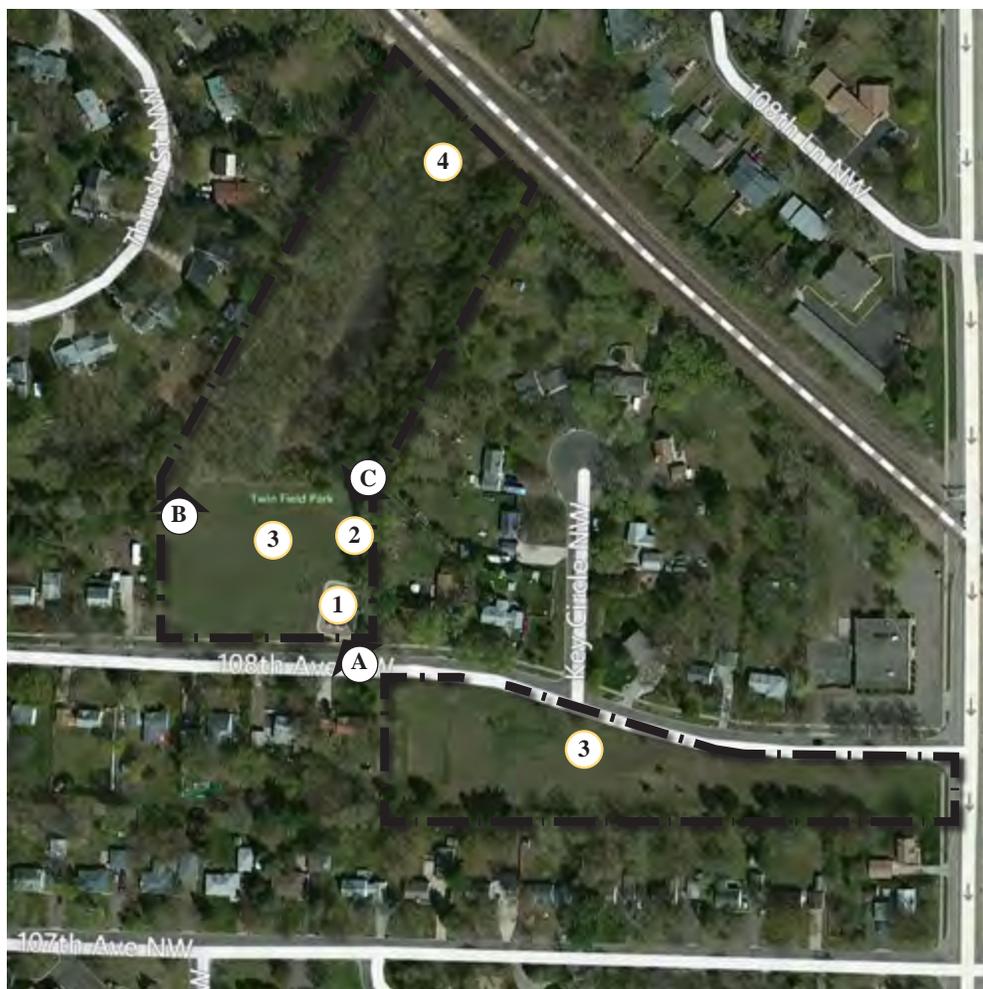
Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with the basic amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 18 out of 30 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood to an adequate service level, but some improvements could enhance it. Overall park design was ranked at medium as it has an appealing character, but could still be improved upon. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as the majority of the park is in good condition, though some items will need repair or replacement soon.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Basketball*
3. *Open space*
4. *Trail*



Twin Fields Park Aerial Image

(Imagery ©2012 Microsoft Corporation Bing Map Data)

Assessment and Recommendations

This park is split into two pieces of land. The land to the north is the neighborhood park component with a large natural area that has a trail through it. The mix of developed spaces and natural spaces provides a nice variety for the neighborhood and a picturesque backdrop. The southern piece of land is a large lawn space that requires a lot of maintenance.

The playground area is in very good condition and has nice landscaping around it, though its directly adjacent to the street and needs some seating areas and shade opportunities. The basketball court is located by the playground and is in fair to poor condition. There is open lawn space with a backstop for informal play which is perfect for this type of neighborhood park.

Recommendations include adding ornamental fence between the playground and street, possibly add a small shelter by the playground for shade and small gatherings, add in seating areas, and redo the basketball court. Other recommendations include landscape enhancements and new amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is meant to serve the adjacent neighborhood.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in fair condition, though some areas may need repair or replacement. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Provide access to all recreational amenities, and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains a natural area containing wetlands, deciduous wood stands and coniferous wood stands. A natural resource plan should be implemented for controlling invasives and improving the ongoing health of the systems. Additional tree plantings should be implemented for shade by the playground. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Playground area



View B - Backstop



View C - Basketball court

Vineyard Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 11947 Vintage Street

Size: 13 acres

Rating: 20 out of 40 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with varying amenities for recreation along a trail corridor. Overall park quality is ranked at a 20 out of 40 points which means it is not meeting the needs of the neighborhood to an adequate service level. Overall park design was ranked at low as the amenities appear to have been randomly placed, but the park has great potential. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as some areas are maintained well, others are in need of repair or replacement.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. Playground area
2. Basketball
3. Tennis
4. Open space trail system



Erosion issues



Trail connection issue



Vineyard Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park has a very pleasing setting, but the amenities themselves are becoming older and the lack of an overall design with proper pedestrian circulation detracts from the overall park experience. The park is along a greater greenway trail corridor which highlights the significance of this park as a destination park for a broad neighborhood area.

The playground area is older, in fair condition and is not accessible. The tennis court is not accessible and needs to be replaced. The basketball court is in fair condition but is located directly off of the street. All of the amenities are scattered and do not relate to one another and there are erosion concerns in the park.

Recommendations include creating a new plan for the reorganization of the recreational amenities in order to provide a suitable neighborhood park with various recreational amenities, as this park serves a large neighborhood area. The plan should include a small shelter, new playground that will accommodate a range of user groups, basketball (full or half court), tennis and informal lawn areas. Removing or relocating the power lines through the park would also be encouraged. Amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. should all have a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park serves a large neighborhood area with a broad range of amenities. It is linked to Pheasant Ridge Park by the trails, which provides more passive recreational spaces, therefore this park should provide complementary amenities.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The developed park space lacks proper trails to connect the amenities or a proper connection to the greenway trails. The greenway trails provide nice linkages and scenery in most areas, but there are some issues with safety where sight lines are poor and there needs to be a safe pedestrian crossing at Round Lake Boulevard. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains some stands of fairly mature trees and the greenway corridor is along waterways and wetland. A natural resource plan should be implemented for controlling invasives and improving the ongoing health of the systems and the erosion issues will need to be remedied. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for wider tree age distribution. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Playground area



View B - Basketball court



View C - Tennis court

Wilderness Park

Classification: Community Preserve

Location: 1300 Main St NW

Size: 73 acres

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the natural open space within the community. The space is currently undeveloped, but could potentially serve to provide educational nodes along trails.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, Wilderness Park does not contain any developed features, but there are some developed areas on the city owned land to the south that include:

1. *Community Gardens*
2. *Fire Station #2*



Wilderness Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park is a large parcel of natural areas, most of which are lowlands / wetlands with areas of dense woods. Any development for this park should be minimal and more passive or interpretive in nature. Trails and boardwalks could provide links in and around the park and provide connections to the trails north of Main Street, though some consideration to a controlled intersection at Main Street and Avocet Street may be necessary to provide a safe pedestrian crossing. A small parking lot may be warranted once the trail system is developed.

The City should also look for additional acquisition opportunities to not only enhance and control the natural areas, but also to keep park and trail users from mistakenly encroaching upon private property.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park currently lacks connections to the adjacent park areas due to lack of trails, railroad tracks and large highly traveled roads, though there is great opportunity for providing these connections.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

This park has great potential to connect into the Sand Coon Creek Regional Trail south of 121st Street on the east side of the railroad tracks and then connect into the trail system north of Main Street that connects to Bunker Hills Regional Park. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains extensive natural open space with a variety of ecological systems, though it is evident the original systems have been manipulated by man. A natural resource plan should be implemented for controlling invasive plant species, improving the ongoing health of the systems and preserving the quality pieces, such as the remnant tamaracks. A more natural watercourse could also be implemented in place of the straight waterways that currently exist.

Wildwood Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve

Location: 2005 131st Avenue

Size: 18.7 acres

Rating: 14 out of 21 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with basic amenities for recreation located within a large natural area. Overall park quality is ranked at a 14 out of 21 points which means it is meeting the needs of the neighborhood to an adequate service level, but some improvements could enhance it. Overall park design was ranked at low to medium as the park has pleasing natural surroundings, but safety is an issue with the amenities tucked in the middle of the park. The park has a medium ranking for maintenance as some areas are maintained well, but others are in need of repair or replacement.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Basketball*



Wildwood Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This park is mainly natural areas containing wetlands and woods. There is a playground and basketball court placed inside the park tucked among the trees, which is a nice visual setting, but has issues with safety.

The trails connect on the north and south sides of the park along larger, busier streets which is also a safety concern. The playground area is older, in fair condition and is not accessible. The basketball court is in good shape, as are all of the trails.

Recommendations include maintaining visibility through the trail system for safety and ease of patrolling. Consistent styles should be used for site amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

There are several other parks of similar size as this park in the vicinity, each helping to serve the immediate neighborhoods with basic amenities.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The trail that runs through the park is wide and in very good shape. It does not connect to a larger trail system but does connect to a sidewalk on the north. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated domes where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Provide access to all recreational amenities, and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains wetlands and mature wooded areas that have issues with vines and buckthorn. A natural resource plan should be implemented for controlling invasive plant species and improving the ongoing health of the systems. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for tree replacement. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Park entrance



View B - Playground area



View C - Basketball in background

Wintercrest Park

Classification: Athletic Complex

Location: 10300 Woodcrest Drive

Size: 27 acres

Rating: 30 out of 55 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

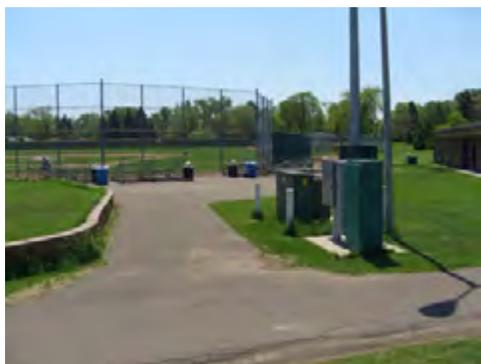
Park Function and Overview

This park provides the community with athletic based recreational amenities, winter activities, a small neighborhood park component and natural areas. Overall park quality is ranked at a 30 out of 55 points which means it is meeting the needs of the community to an adequate service level, but some improvements or additions could improve it. Overall park design was ranked at medium as some of the amenities have a nice arrangement and are aesthetic, while other areas need improvement. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as some areas are maintained very well, but others are in need of repair or replacement.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. Playground area
2. Baseball
3. Open space
4. Pleasure rink
5. Hockey rink
6. Sledding hill
7. Park building
8. Batting cages



Aesthetic issues

Wintercrest Park Aerial Image

(©2012 Nokia ©2012 Microsoft Corporation Digital Globe Bing Map Data)

Assessment and Recommendations

This park contains the highly active recreational areas on the southern portion, a small neighborhood park component on the north side and natural areas in between. The southern portion of the park has two Babe Ruth baseball fields and a new park building which provides restrooms, concessions and warming house functions. There is a potential accessibility issue related to trail access to the building that should be evaluated further to ensure compliance with sloped walks to buildings. The ballfields contain some older bleachers that are non-compliant. The hockey rink has a poor orientation and there isn't a trail connecting the rinks to the warming house. There is a large sledding hill along the wooded areas that is lighted but has poor orientation. Overall, most of this park space is in good shape, but the scattered amenities in varying styles, numerous sheds, utilities, and poor trails detract from the overall quality of the site. It is also in need of trees along the parking lot and internally around the active areas.

The playground is located on the north side of the park surrounded by natural areas which is very aesthetic, but is just an isolated activity. It would be nice to add a play component by the athletic fields.

Some recommendations include screening utility boxes and portable restrooms, adding a small playground by the athletic areas and add new trails to connecting all park areas together and provide a walkway along the parking lot. Amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. should all have a consistent style. The northern portion could be enhanced by an updated playground and container with an adjacent small picnic shelter.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is part of Wintercrest Park, which is an athletic based park site, connected together by large natural spaces.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The trails are in need of improvement and there should be proper trails linking this park space to the Woodcrest Park site and even natural trails and boardwalks could be incorporated through the natural areas. The parking lot does not meet ADA guidelines and there is a need for better trail connections from the new building to the ballfield areas and skating areas.

Provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

A natural resource plan should be implemented for controlling invasive plant species and improving the ongoing health of the natural systems. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for tree replacement. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Warming house building



View B - Batting cages



View C - Spectator seating



View D - Playground area

Woodcrest Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve

Location: 901 103rd Avenue

Size: 29 acres

Rating: 8 out of 39 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with the basic amenities for recreation as part of a larger nature area. Overall park quality is ranked at a 8 out of 39 points which means it is not meeting the needs of the neighborhood to an adequate service level. Overall park design was ranked at low as it lacks design. The park has a low ranking for maintenance as the majority of the park is in poor condition.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. Playground area
2. Picnic area
3. Ballfield
4. Athletic green
5. Previous hockey
6. Warming house
7. Parking lot / basketball court



View of the parking lot entrance



Woodcrest Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This neighborhood park is part of a large park space containing many natural areas and the athletic based Wintercrest Park. This park contains a lot of older facilities, though some improvements have been implemented. The park lacks an adequate park appeal with an old warming house building set alongside a broken up parking lot, which also contains basketball on it, as the park entrance. This park serves a fairly large neighborhood area as many of the other parks in this region are either special use or nature based.

The playground is decent sized and in fair to good condition, but is not accessible. The backstop to the ballfield is older and the turf weedy, but there is ample open lawn space for informal athletic based activities such as soccer and football. The hockey rink has been removed, leaving even more open lawn space.

A master plan should be created for this site to allow for new and updated amenities to be placed in more suitable locations to create an interesting and inviting park space. Some recommendations include removal of the existing building, incorporating a more suitable park shelter structure, new playground with equipment suitable for a broad range of age groups, hard court spaces (possibly basketball or tennis), new parking area, loop trail system, and maintaining open lawn spaces for informal athletic fields.



View A - Ballfield



View B - Warming house building & parking

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is part of Wintercrest Park, which is an athletic based park site, connected together by large natural spaces.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park lacks trails to provide access to the recreational amenities but has a trail link to the neighborhood on the north side. There are footpaths through the natural areas. There should be proper trails linking this park space to the Wintercrest Park site and even natural trails and boardwalks could be incorporated through the natural areas.

Provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.



View C - Playground area

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

A natural resource plan should be implemented for controlling invasive plant species and improving the ongoing health of the natural systems. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for tree replacement. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.

Woodland Oaks / Heights Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park / Community Preserve

Location: 12750 Hummingbird Street

Size: 18.8 acres

Rating: 15 out of 27 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

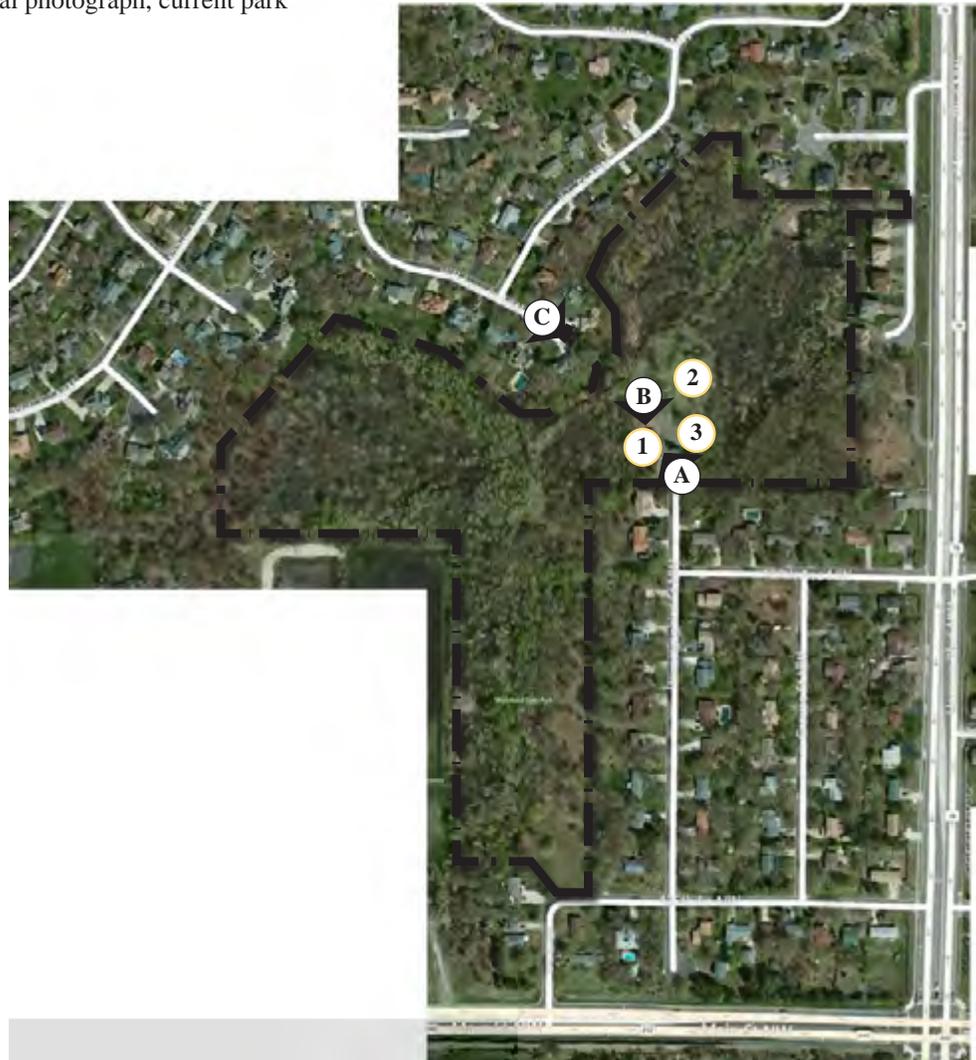
Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with the basic amenities for recreation as part of a larger natural area. Overall park quality is ranked at a 15 out of 27 points which means it is meeting the basic needs of the neighborhood but improvements would improve the quality. Overall park design was ranked at low to medium as it does have a nice entrance on both sides, but the amenities seem to be placed with no thought to their appropriate setting. The park has a medium to high ranking for maintenance as the majority of the park is in good condition.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Picnic area*
3. *Basketball*



Woodland Oaks / Heights Park Aerial Image

(©2012 Nokia ©2012 Microsoft Corporation Digital Globe Bing Map Data)

Assessment and Recommendations

This park contains a small neighborhood component placed among large spaces of natural areas. The park component has a nice entrance sequence from the trail on the north. The entrance along the south is fine, but not as nice. Parking is only available in cul-de-sacs, so it is very limited, but this is mainly a walk-to park.

The playground area is small, in fair condition and has wood chips, but there is no access into the container. The basketball court is located by the playground and is in good condition. The trails are in good condition and create a nice loop. There is an open space and picnic opportunities on a hill in the middle but the grills seem to be placed very randomly. There are benches placed in turf and scattered trash cans, all of varying styles, detracting from the park experience.

Due to the size of the neighborhood this park serves, recommendations include reorganizing the playground component and enhancing it to serve a broader range of age groups when it comes time for replacement and adding in real swings, which residents generally prefer over the tire swing. Other recommendations include enhancing the southern entrance, enhancing picnic areas, creating nature trails, and add new amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is meant to serve the adjacent neighborhood.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in good condition, they connect to the neighborhoods, though the north section is not accessible, and they create a nice internal loop. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas.

Provide access to all recreational amenities, and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

A natural resource plan should be implemented for controlling invasive plant species and improving the ongoing health of the natural systems. Additional tree plantings should be implemented over time to allow for tree replacement. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.



View A - Park entrance



View B - Play area



View C - Park entrance

Woodview Park

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Location: 11540 Olive Street

Size: 10 acres

Rating: 13 out of 39 (refer to Appendix E for detailed park assessment)

Park Function and Overview

This park provides the neighborhood with the basic amenities for recreation. Overall park quality is ranked at a 13 out of 39 points which means it is not meeting the needs of the neighborhood to an adequate service level. Overall park design was ranked at low to medium as some amenities are nicely placed, while other amenities don't relate to their surroundings appropriately. The park has a low to medium ranking for maintenance as there is a mix of poor to good maintenance.

Park Features/Amenities

As illustrated by the aerial photograph, current park features include:

1. *Playground area*
2. *Picnic area / shelter*
3. *Open space*



Accessibility issue



Woodview Park Aerial Image

Assessment and Recommendations

This neighborhood park has some nice areas to it, but overall the feeling of the park is not desirable. The park has a lot of potential and a good plan will provide the greater neighborhood area with an inviting recreational space.

The parking lot entrance drive is difficult to find, needs a better circulation design and is hard to distinguish from the existing park trails. The playground area is in fair condition but lacks accessibility and should be more creative. There is a large outdated shelter that only has a few tables beneath it and it is surrounded by vehicular areas.

Due to the size of the neighborhood this park serves, recommendations include creating a master plan for an inviting neighborhood park area. The park entrance should be enhanced with proper wayfinding or monument signage and better vehicular circulation to reduce the amount of park space that parking and the access drives take up. A larger picnic shelter could be placed to relate as the anchor for the park amenities, such as an enhanced playground suitable for a wide range of age groups, picnic spaces, possibly add in a basketball court or volleyball court, and informal lawn space. Other recommendations include new amenities such as benches, tables, receptacles, etc. with a consistent style.



View A - Playground area



View B - Picnic shelter

Interrelationship with Other Parks

This park is close to Sand Creek Athletic Park to the southwest, which provides athletic based recreation and the Sand Coon Creek trail system to the north which provides trail opportunities through natural areas.

Trail & Accessibility Issues

The park trails are in good condition, they connect to the neighborhoods and create an internal loop system. The link to the north provides connection to the Sand Coon Creek trail. It would be nice to create a tie to the Sand Creek Park to the south. Trails need a pedestrian ramp with truncated dome where pedestrian trails meet up to vehicular areas. The playground is not accessible.

Provide access to all recreational amenities and all recreational amenities should meet ADA guidelines.



View C - Parking lot

Ecological/Natural Resource Issues

The park contains gorgeous oak trees all about the same age that should be protected and enhanced with younger tree plantings to allow for tree replacement. Unhealthy or poor trees should be removed and replaced with more suitable plant materials.

Natural Resources Stewardship Program Framework

The 2001 review plus the 2012 update still pertains, and recommendations are still the same, with the following being a summary of key points. As part of the system study, a general review of the natural resource areas within parks and open spaces was undertaken to gain a sense of their overall ecological condition, which was then used as the basis for developing a framework for the ecological stewardship program presented in this section.

The stewardship program applies to all public parks and open space parcels within the city that exhibit natural plant communities and ecological systems. For consistency and continuity, the program can also be applied to privately-held properties or those that are held by other public agencies, such as Anoka County, where there is opportunity to do so. In these cases, the city should work with landowners in adopting a stewardship program to preserve these values on their property.

Achievability & Sustainability of Ecological Stewardship Programs

It is important to recognize that restoring and managing ecological resources must be done in a manner that is both achievable and sustainable. Achievable refers to what is scientifically and economically feasible. Sustainable refers to the level to which restoration and management programs can be scientifically and economically sustained over an extended period of time. The following considers achievability and sustainability from the two distinct but interrelated perspectives of ecology and economy (human/economic capital).

Ecological Perspective

From an ecological perspective, what is achievable and sustainable is defined in scientific terms based on testing and research. Scientifically, human intervention through well-thought-out programs that are carefully implemented over a period of time can help to reverse the current downward trend in the ecological quality of the city's natural systems (as measured by biodiversity and general ecological health). A successful program requires a full understanding of the ecological problems being faced and a defined course of action that is based on science.

Although dramatic improvements can be made in some cases, restoring the landscape to pre-settlement conditions is not realistic from a scientific perspective. Past impacts to the land since man first settled and introduction of invasive alien plants simply preclude this possibility. However, it is achievable to restore and manage ecosystems to sustainable and productive levels that result in considerable human and ecological value and that can be perpetuated for generations to come. The key point here is that the city of Coon Rapids must set realistic goals and expectations as to what can be achieved through restoration and management programs.

Economic (Human/Economic Capital) Perspective

From an economic perspective, what is achievable and sustainable is based on the amount of human and economic capital that the city can commit to ecological programs now and in the future. The importance of this cannot be overstated in that the long-term viability of any ecological program undertaken is directly related to the long-term commitment made to it in terms of human and economic resources. Ultimately, how the collective community values land stewardship and ecological health relative to other quality of life issues will define the extent to which ecological programs can be successfully implemented. Recognizing this, it is critical that the city time ecological programs in a pragmatic and paced manner that keeps pace with available economic resources.

Overview of Ecological Conditions of Natural Resource Areas

The quality of the natural ecological systems found within the city range from relatively healthy natural and undisturbed systems to those that have been highly impacted and degraded by past development. In virtually all cases, the lack of natural processes, like fire, along with impacts from adjacent development has resulted in conditions in which the overall health of native plant communities is becoming more threatened as the years pass. Essentially what is happening is that certain species of plants, native and non-native, are out-competing other native plant species when natural processes are disturbed or halted. This results in a substantial reduction in biodiversity, function, and from a human perspective, visual beauty. In addition, the stands of trees in many of the parks are of one age class, which makes them highly susceptible to disease and wind blow, which could result in the parks losing their character in a short period of time. The following photos and accompanying text illustrate these points.



The trees in Nelson Park are limited to one or two species that are near pathological maturity, making them vulnerable to disease and wind blow. More diversity in species and age classes are needed to ensure a healthy and sustainable tree canopy in the park. Adding in a diverse group of tree and shrub species is recommended when future park improvements are implemented.



Erosion along waterbodies and within mowed turf areas within parks as shown in Vineyard and Crooked Lake Parks is not only detrimental to the ecosystem, but it is also an on-going maintenance issue. Planting native vegetation and minimizing the amount of mowed turf would solve the maintenance issue, improve the wildlife habitat and improve the water quality of the various streams, creeks, ponds, etc. within the city.

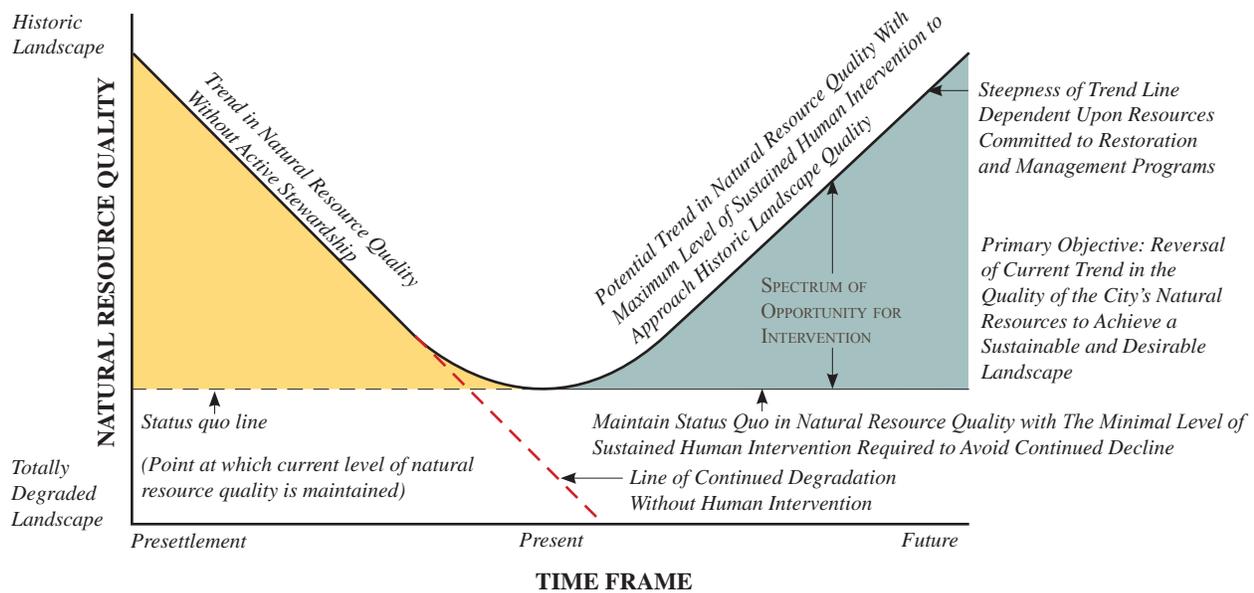


Invasive woody species, such as buckthorn, have invaded some of the parks and shorelines within the city. In doing so, they destabilize the overstory and understory species, which leads to loss of native overstory tree reproduction and understory grasses that stabilize the side slopes. Implementing a program that organizes a group of volunteers or staff that removes invasive species should be part of the long-term natural resources management plan for the city.

Observed Trends In Ecological Systems

Without conscientious stewardship, it is expected that the overall trend of the ecological systems within the city will continue to decline, as measured by biodiversity and general ecological health. The following graphic illustrates the current overall trend in ecological quality in many systems across the city. Of equal importance, it also defines the spectrum of opportunity for reversing this trend. This example is reflective of the type of trends that are apparent to varying degrees in many of the ecological systems found in the city.

Trend Analysis



Partnerships for Ecological Preservation & Management

Where the opportunity exists, the city should work in partnership with other public agencies toward creating healthy and sustainable ecological systems on a larger, regional landscape scale. Since ecological resources do not follow jurisdictional boundaries, neither can preservation and management approaches and programs. To be effective, these partnerships must be developed and strengthened over time at all levels of local, regional, and state government.

Rationale for Undertaking Restoration and Management Programs

The overall trend in ecological quality provides its own rationale for taking action. Review of the city's parks makes it clear that the long-term prospects for preserving the quality of the natural resources within the city is suspect unless appropriate measures are taken over time.

Although there are many scientific reasons for taking action, an equally compelling reason is that citizens have an expectation that the natural resources that surround them will remain healthy and ecologically viable, and that responsible land stewardship will remain at the forefront of discussions and decisions.

Whereas the spectrum of opportunity for reversing the trend in the quality and vitality of the city's natural resources is quite broad, the framework presented here suggests that the city seek to achieve a sustainable landscape quality, which is defined as the point at which the city can indefinitely maintain a certain acceptable level of resource quality within the context of available resources to do so.

Ecological Stewardship Program Action Planning

Ecological stewardship action planning refers to developing specific action steps to address the stated ecological concerns facing the city. Importantly, the city should not become overwhelmed by the magnitude of the work that could be done. Realistically, technical knowledge and funding limitations will require starting small and expanding the program as time goes on. What is most important is that the city consider ecological stewardship as an important part of managing the system, rather than assuming that the natural qualities that citizens have come to expect will remain healthy on their own.

The following list of priorities provides a general recommendation for implementing an ecological stewardship program. This list serves as the starting point for determining top priorities and then budgeting and scheduling those priorities for implementation. The priorities list includes:

- 1) Undertake ecological evaluation of existing natural areas and develop prototypes
- 2) Complete ecological plans for parks as part of master plans for parks as they are updated: This should include refinement of prototypes defining healthy ecological systems and development of an ecological restoration and management plan. Top priorities in this regard are the cornerstone parks.
- 3) Develop education programs: Through a cooperative venture with the local school district, an education program should be developed and implemented. This should be considered a long-term effort that starts modestly and builds over time. The school district's current program could be used as the model.
- 4) Implement the stewardship program one step at a time in line with resources (fiscal and manpower): As resources allow, roll out the program in a controlled fashion. Making a commitment to long-term management of restored areas is critical to the success of the program.

Priority Areas for Natural Resource Restoration and Management

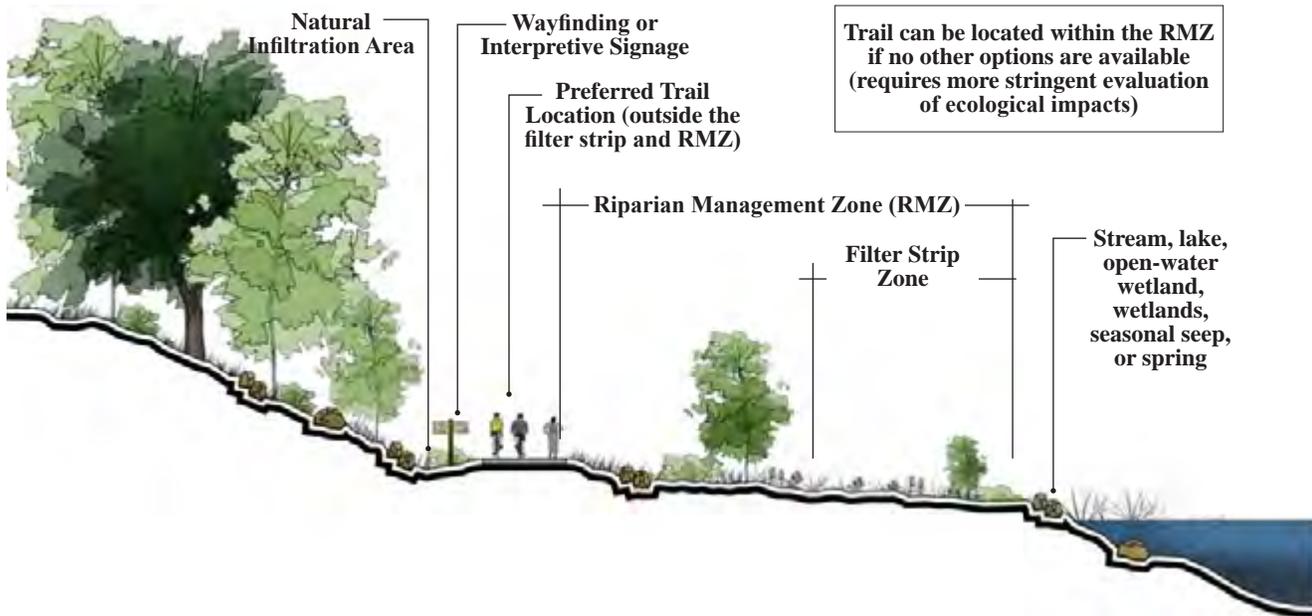
Restoring, enhancing and protecting water bodies throughout the city should be a high priority. Particularly creeks where trails and parks are adjacent to them. Stormwater runoff treatment and erosion control needs to be addressed along these creek corridors.

General Buffer Guidelines for Riparian Areas

Sustaining Minnesota Forest Resources (Minnesota Forest Resources Council, 1999) provides guidelines for buffers ("filter strips") for managing nonpoint pollution near surface water and wetlands associated with timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and road construction. These guidelines also have application to park and trail development adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, open water wetlands, wetland inclusions, seasonal seeps, and springs.

The guidelines distinguish between filter strips and riparian management zones (RMZs). Filter strips help minimize the runoff of sediment, debris, nutrients, and pesticides into water bodies and wetlands. RMZs encompass the area of land and water forming the transition from aquatic to terrestrial ecosystems along streams, lakes, and open-water wetlands. Within this zone, a higher level of protection is recommended, including greater scrutiny of trail alignments. The following graphic defines the width guidelines for filter strips and RMZs.

Buffer Width Guidelines Associated With Filter Strips and Riparian Management Zones



Filter Strip Zone Width Guidelines

<u>Slope of Land</u>	<u>Recommended Width</u>
0%-10%	50'
11%-20%	51-70'
21%-40%	71'-110'
41%-70%	111'-150'

Non-Trout Stream RMZ Width Guidelines

<u>Water Body Type</u>	<u>Recommended Widths</u>
Stream > 10' wide	100' min. / 200' preferred
Stream 3-10' wide	50' min. / 100' preferred
Perennial stream > 3' wide	50' min. and preferred
Open water > 10 acres	100' min. / 200' preferred
Open water < 10 acres	50' min. / 100' preferred

Trout Stream RMZ Width Guidelines

200' preferred (150' min.) for all designated trout streams, lakes, and tributaries

A Balanced Approach to Developed and Natural Areas in Individual Parks

As defined under some of the profiles for individual parks, the system plan places greater emphasis on providing both developed and natural areas within many of the parks to add interest, aesthetic appeal, vegetative diversity, and in many cases, to take advantage of inherent site characteristics. Increased public demand for passive, natural areas close to home that offer respite from the built urban form also supports this approach. In addition, a balanced landscape reinforces the notion that neighborhood and community parks are meant to appeal to a broad cross-section of residents by providing both active and passive spaces.

The degree to which developed areas with manicured turf, versus natural vegetation, are used will vary from park to park depending on its development program and the innate character of the site. In some cases, natural vegetation may be limited to selected accents or placed in peripheral or border areas of the park. At other times, it can become a dominant feature. In all cases, the balance between turf and natural vegetation should be determined on a site by site basis as part of the design process, whereby the type of vegetative cover in the park is a designed feature, rather than something that happens in a haphazard, unplanned fashion.

TRAIL / PEDESTRIAN - WAY PLAN

Introduction

The 2001 Parks, Open Space and Trail System Plan, (2001 Plan), outlined the trail standards that have been followed and corridor and linkage alignments that have been aggressively pursued by the City of Coon Rapids since the completion of the document. The principles, alignments and physical standards illustrated in the 2001 Plan continue to be valid and the following summarizes the key provisions of that plan that remain most pertinent going forward.

The purpose of this update is to focus on the key gaps in the trail system along with adding trail connections based upon the addition of the ‘Sector Park’ concept of recreation delivery.

Building a Highly Valued System

Three guiding principles provide the foundation for developing a highly-valued trail/pedestrian-way system, including:

- **Principle #1:** Incrementally fill in gaps and otherwise improve the pedestrian-level public infrastructure to enhance safety and encourage the use of alternative forms of transportation within neighborhoods and along routes to school.
- **Principle #2:** Focus on interconnections between local and regional trails as the trail system continues to expand.
- **Principle #3:** Improving the overall quality of experience trail users have.

Personal Values Ascribed to Quality Trail Systems

The following defines how these principles tie into the key values associated with high quality trail systems.

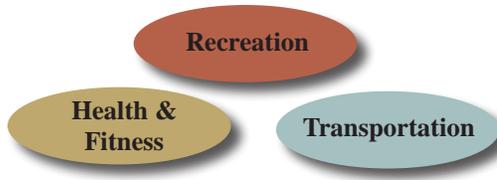
Baseline Values

Determines if a person will even use an alternative transportation feature no matter what personal values it might offer



Personal Values

Values that a person is seeking from the use of a given alternative transportation feature once the baseline values are acceptable



=

**Compelling,
High-Value
Experience**
Enjoyable
Safe
Sustainable

Attention to the principles of quality trail, pedestrian-way, sidewalk and bikeway design when the system is being planned will help ensure that each of these values will be maximized, resulting in high-quality system to which users will return time and again

* Source: MN DNR's Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines (2007)

As the graphic illustrates, safety and convenience are baseline determinants for whether a person will even use an alternative transportation feature irrespective of its quality. Once these two values are perceived as being acceptable, then the personal values will be given more consideration by the user. The following considers each of these values in greater detail.

Safety

A sense of physical and personal safety is the most important value in that without it people are disinclined to use a trail or pedestrian-way irrespective of how many other values might be provided. Physical safety can be relatively assured through good planning and design. Personal safety, which relates to a sense of well-being while using the system, is a less tangible yet still very important factor that cannot be taken lightly. This is especially important with safe routes to school, whereby parents will only allow their children to walk or bike to school if there is a high perception of safety.

Convenience

Convenience is important to day-to-day use of the trail system. As is clear from various studies, the vast majority of shared-use paved trails, for example, are used by those living within a few miles of the trail they use most frequently.

Although convenience is important, its influence is still tempered by recreational value. No matter how convenient, a poorly designed trail system feature in an uninteresting setting will have limited recreational value. Alternatively, a well-designed feature in an interesting setting might draw users from some distance. The point is that all trails, pedestrian-ways, and bikeways should be located where they are both convenient and offer the amenities that users are seeking.

Recreation

Of all the values ascribed to an alternative transportation system, its recreational value is one of the most important in terms of predicting its level of use by the majority of residents, assuming that safety and convenience are not issues. In general, system features offering a high-quality recreational experience are those that:

- Are scenic and located in a pleasant setting, natural open space, or linear corridor buffered from traffic and the built environment
- Provide a continuous and varying experience that takes visitors to a variety of destinations and is a destination unto itself
- Offer continuity with limited interruptions and impediments to travel

This underscores that system planning must be based on criteria that go beyond simply providing miles of trails, sidewalks, and bikeways – with considerable emphasis on the quality of the experience as much or more than quantity. While high-value, well located trails, for example, often pose more challenges to implement, the value of these features to the community will likely prove to be very high and worth the investment. Cities that have successfully integrated these types of trails often highlight them as key aspects of the community's quality of life.

Health and Fitness

Health and fitness is a growing and increasingly important user value that cannot be overlooked nor understated. Fortunately, this value is generally achieved if safety, convenience, recreational, and transportation values are met. Most critical to accommodating this value is developing an interlinking system that provides numerous route options of varying lengths as necessary to accommodate the types of uses envisioned.

Transportation (Commuting)

The transportation (commuting) aspect of an alternative transportation system is valuable to a subset of the overall user population. Although this is traditionally a value that appeals to a smaller group of users, an underlying goal of the plan is to entice recreational, fitness, and utilitarian users to use the system more and more for transportation. Transportation purposes include using the system to get to work, school, local store, or around the neighborhood, along with other utilitarian trips that would otherwise be done using a motor vehicle. To that end, realizing the use of the system for transportation will only be successful if it is perceived as safe, convenient relative to a user's skill level, and of a high quality. Without such a system, residents will simply use their vehicle.

Trail Classifications

The trail system plan consists of a variety of trails and pedestrian-ways/sidewalks defined under various classifications. Each classification helps translate the aforementioned personal values and principles into an implementable form, with each serving a particular purpose in meeting local needs. *The distinction between classifications is important due to the variability in their value*, which in turn greatly affects the importance of the system to residents and the degree to which the various trails, sidewalks, and bikeways will be used. The classifications applied to Coon Rapids are consistent with the MN DNR's *Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines* (2007), albeit modified to accommodate some local nuances.

Typical Classifications for Core Trail System Components

Classification	Basic Guidelines
Destination (Regional) Trails	Destination trails are paved trails for walking, jogging, bicycling, and in-line skating located within a greenway, open space, park, parkway, or designated trail corridor. Typically 10 feet wide and asphalt surfaced.
Linking Trails	Linking trails emphasize safe travel for walking, jogging, bicycling, and in-line skating to/from parks and destinations around the community. Linking trails are most often located within road rights-of-way. Typically 10 feet wide and asphalt surfaced, which is an important distinction between linking trails and pedestrian-ways. (Bicyclists prefer a wider, uniform surface free of the crack control joints found in concrete.)
Pedestrian-Ways and Sidewalks	Pedestrian-ways and sidewalks emphasize safe travel for walking and jogging within residential areas and business districts and to/from parks and destinations around the community. Pedestrian-ways are essentially enhanced sidewalks designed as part of a larger streetscape scheme. Although biking and in-line skating are allowed on sidewalks in Coon Rapids, the narrower width and concrete surface limit their use for this purpose. Sidewalks are most often located within road rights-of-way of a local street and vary in width from 5' to 6'.
On-Road Bikeways	Bike routes and lanes are on-road facilities that primarily serve fitness and transportation bicyclists, as well as recreationalists with a higher skill and comfort level being around automobiles. (The difference between bike routes and lanes is a matter of exclusivity.)
Natural Trails	Natural trails are commonly used in areas where natural tread is desired and harmony with the natural environment is emphasized. Use includes hikers, joggers, and mountain bikers in select locations in Coon Rapids. Natural trails in this context typically have a compacted native soil surface.

Value Comparison Between Classifications

As noted, the value of each of the above classifications is important, with each:

- Accommodating specific types of users
- Providing a certain type of experience and value to pedestrians, bicyclists, in-line skaters, and specialized users
- Located in a specific type of setting appropriate for the designated activity and desired experience
- Following design guidelines that ensure safe and enjoyable use of the facility

The following table considers the expectations of the most common types of users in Coon Rapids, and the values and preferences that are likely to be of most importance and thus seek out when using trails, pedestrian-ways, and bikeways.

Typical Values and Preferences of Common User Groups

User Group	Values and Preferences	Symbols
Family Group – Various Modes	Safety and convenience are top priorities, followed by a pleasant recreational experience. Controlled, traffic-free access to sidewalks and trails is preferred. Length of trail is less important than quality of experience. Will typically only use low-volume residential streets when biking or skating, and rarely busy streets even with bike lanes or routes.	 FAMILY
Recreational Walker, Bicyclists, and In-Line Skater	Same as family user group, with trail continuity and length also being important for repeated use. 20 miles of connected trails are needed for bicyclists, at a minimum. This user group is also more comfortable with street crossings. Bicyclists and in-line skaters will use roads that are not too busy. Loops are preferred over out-and-back routes for variety.	 RECREATIONAL
Fitness Walker/Jogger, Bicyclists, and In-Line Skater	Length of trail and continuity are most important, although an appealing setting is also desired. Bikers are reasonably comfortable on busier roads, but prefer bike lanes/routes with adequate separation from vehicles. Bikers will often use a combination of roads and trails to create a desirable loop, which is much preferred over out-and-back routes.	 FITNESS
Transportation Walker, Bicyclists, and In-Line Skater	Directness of route is important. Will use a combination of sidewalks, trails, residential streets, and roads that are relatively safe, convenient, and direct. Bike lanes/routes are preferred on busy roads to improve safety. Bicyclists are not overly dependent on trails, but will use them if convenient and not too heavily used by families and recreational users, who tend to slow them down. Walkers need a trail or sidewalk.	 TRANSPORTATION

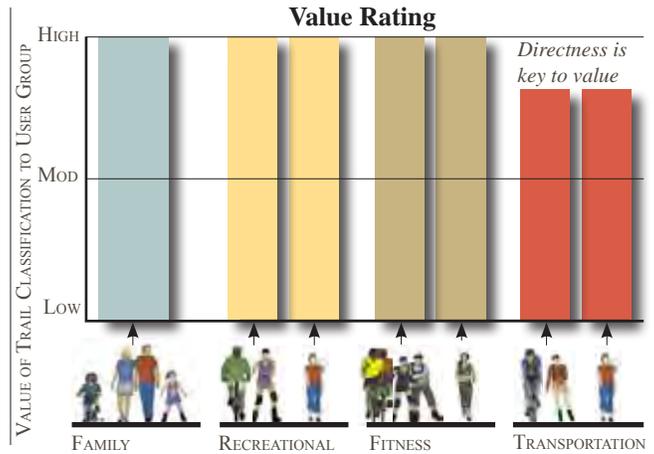
Comparative Analysis of Classifications Relative to User Group Values and Preferences

Destination (Regional) Trail – Greenway or Parkway Setting

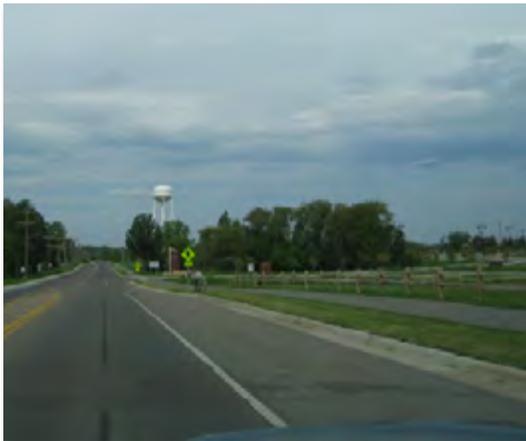


Value Statement

Desirable and safe environment for family and recreational users in an appealing setting away from traffic and distractions. If continuity is provided and design standards adhered to, also serves fitness users very well. Sometimes lack of directness reduces value to transportation user.

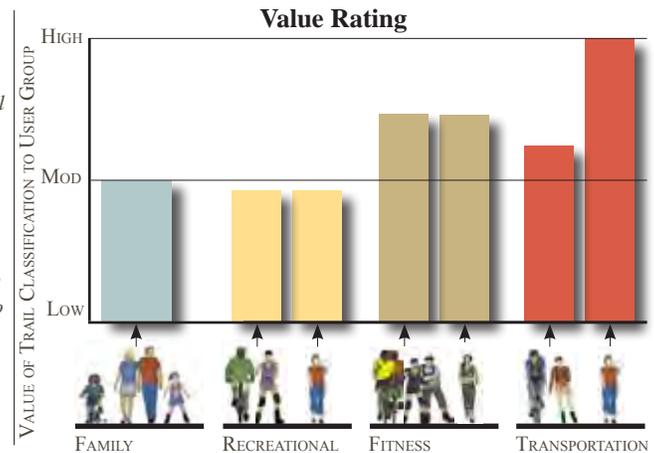


Linking Trail – Road Right-of-Way Setting



Value Statement

Provides safe and often convenient travel for families, but recreational value diminishes as separation from traffic decreases and traffic volumes increase. If continuity is provided, still has value to fitness and transportation users getting from one place to the next.

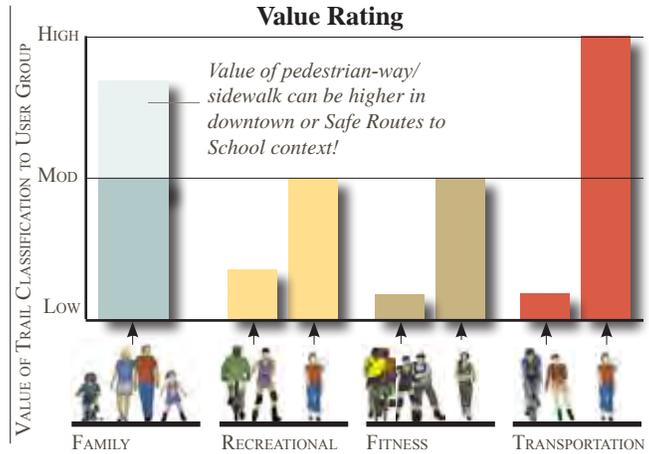


Pedestrian-Way and Sidewalk



Value Statement

Families will use to get to a park, trail, or around the neighborhood and shopping area, as is the case with recreational walkers. Less friendly to family bikers. Recreational bicyclists and in-line skaters will use streets to avoid sidewalks. Fitness and transportation users will use which ever is most convenient.

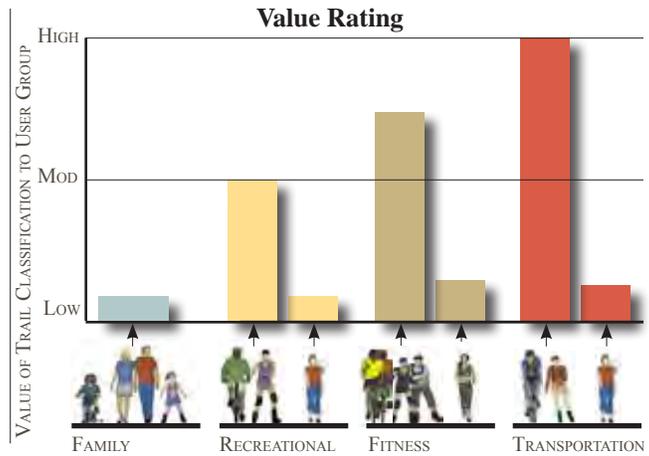


On-Road Bikeway – Bike Lane and Bike Routes



Value Statement

Families will rarely use if traffic volumes are high and for other perceived safety reasons. Recreational users will occasionally use as a means to connect to another trail or less-busy street. Fitness and transportation users will use if convenient and direct. Meeting desirable design standards is important.



As the comparisons illustrate, the type of trails (and resultant quality of the experience relative to expectations) provided within the system greatly affects whether or not a given targeted user group will routinely use a particular component. For example, as illustrated, a destination trail within a greenway setting has decidedly higher value to families and recreational users than that of a linking trail along a roadway or sidewalk. The important point is that quality of experience indeed matters and that any deviation from an optimal classification, alignment, and design detail will directly affect whether or not the trail system is fully successful (i.e., routinely used). The system plan presented in this section is based on this fundamental premise.

System Plan Overview

As stated before, the purpose of this update is to highlight the remaining gaps in the trail system and add trail connections based upon the addition of the ‘Sector Park’ concept of recreation delivery.

- **Coon Creek Regional Trail**
- **Sand Creek Linkage Trail**
- **Mississippi Regional Trail**
- **Middle Linkage Trail**
- **Northern Linkage Trail**

The distinction made between trails called ‘Linkages’ and ‘Regional’ is important as the funding sources for the development of these corridors differ. Regional trails are designated as such because they cross jurisdictional boundaries and serve to connect features of regional significance. They are therefore eligible for a broader array of metropolitan, state and federal funding. Trails designated as Linkages, on the other hand, serve to make safe and convenient access to the regional trails for the citizens of Coon Rapids. These Linkage trails are funded primarily by the City of Coon Rapids. **Although the current priority is to fill gaps and make connections to expand access within the system, the long-term goal should be to update all regional trails to current state standards.**

Subsequent to the 2001 Plan document the City added two Linkage Trails to the system. One linkage designated in this Trail System Plan Update as the Western Linkage connects the west central residential portion of the city to the Mississippi Regional Trail and the Northern Linkage Trail. The second addition came as a result of the city’s development of a civic center on Coon Rapids Blvd. The document refers to that proposed trail as the ‘Civic Center Linkage Trail’.

For the sake of clarity for the reader we have included the current trail names and linkage trails added by the city subsequent to the 2001 to the following 2012 System Plan graphic. The purpose of this graphic is to illustrate the routing and distribution of major trail corridors in the City of Coon Rapids and to confirm the validity of original network of trail corridors.



Major Trail Corridors - for reference

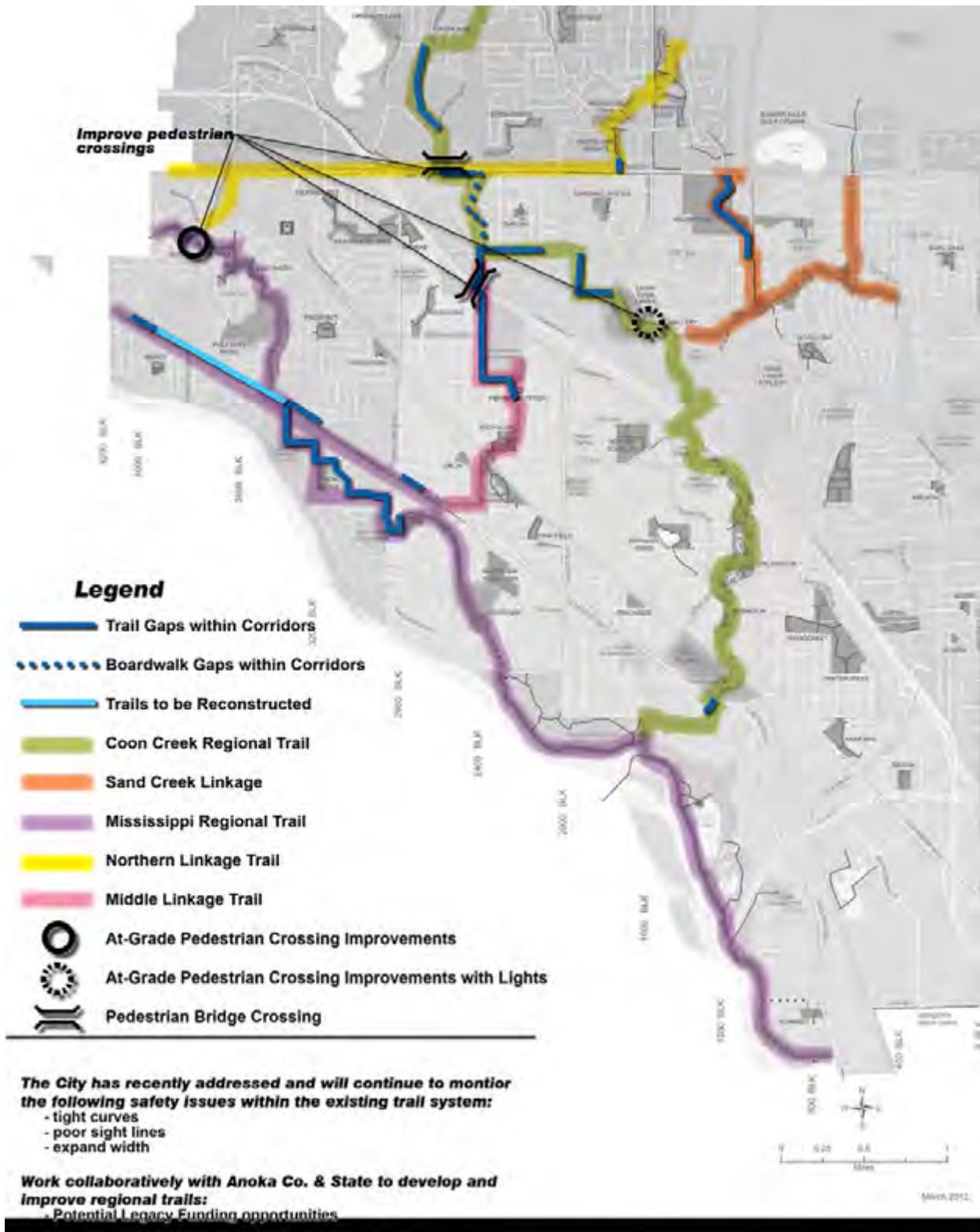
Corridor Trail Gaps Remaining

Significant gaps remain to be in the Coon Creek Regional Trail and the Northern Linkage Trail. The Civic Center Linkage Trail will develop as the plans for the Community College and City Civic Center become clearer. Small segments of the Mississippi Regional Trail, Sand Creek Linkage Trail and Middle Linkage Trail also require completion.

Gaps by Corridor include:

Mississippi Regional Trail	Approximately 6260 lineal feet or 1.18 miles
Middle Linkage Trail	Approximately 1970 lineal feet or 0.37 miles and bridge at Hwy 10
Coon Creek Regional Trail	Approximately 12,000 lineal feet or 2.3 miles One pedestrian bridge over the creek Approximately 1,400 lineal feet of boardwalk Pedestrian crossing signal @ Northdale Blvd.
Northern Linkage Trail	Approximately 3,700 lineal feet or 0.7 miles Two Bridges @ Coon Creek
Sand Creek Linkage Trail	Approximately 3,700 lineal feet or 0.7 miles

For an illustration of these gaps in the Corridor Trails refer to the graphic on page 5.08.



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GAPS WITHIN CORRIDORS

Corridor Intersection Concerns

Coon Creek Regional and Sand Creek Trails @ Co. Hwy 11 and Xeon Blvd. NW

The offset intersection of the Coon Creek Regional Trail and Sand Creek Linkage Trail at the intersection of County Road 11 and Xeon Blvd. NW leaves the trail user at an awkward point with no visible crossing of County Hwy 11 or identification of a continuation of the trail. A crosswalk with appropriate cautionary signage should be stripped and a linking trail segment constructed from the north side of the Xeon Blvd and Co. Hwy 11 intersection as the graphic to the right indicates.

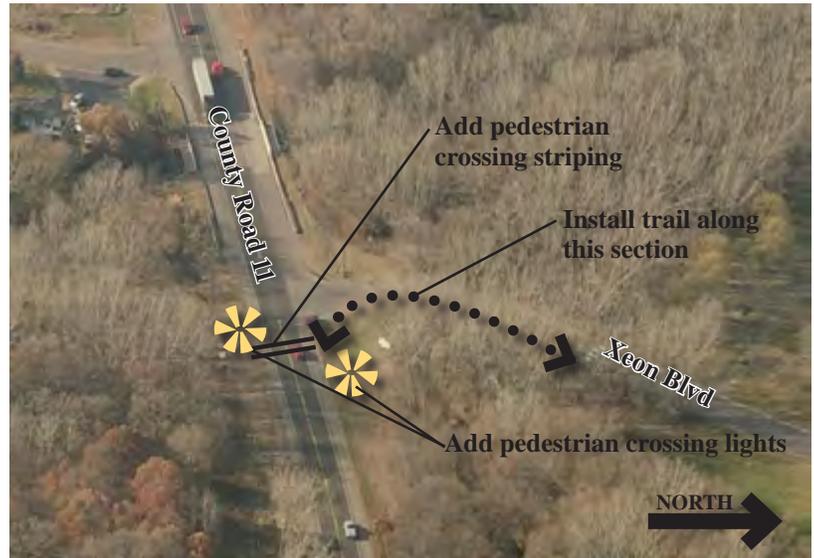


Illustration shows proposed intent to fill missing trail gap.

Middle Linkage Trail Crossing @ 119th Avenue NW

The Middle Linkage Trail at 119th Avenue NW again presents the south bound user with little indication of the proper place to cross the street. The south bound traffic on the ten foot wide bituminous trail reaches the intersection with a narrower sidewalk at 119th Avenue. A striped crosswalk exists at the intersection of Pheasant Ridge Dr. NW and is intended to act as a safe and identifiable place to cross. Added directional signage and/or a widening of the sidewalk between the path/sidewalk intersection and the crosswalk would help direct traffic to the appropriate crossing point. Also a curve in the bituminous path at the intersection with the sidewalk would also emphasize the change in direction and lead the user to the crossing. See the intersection graphic below.



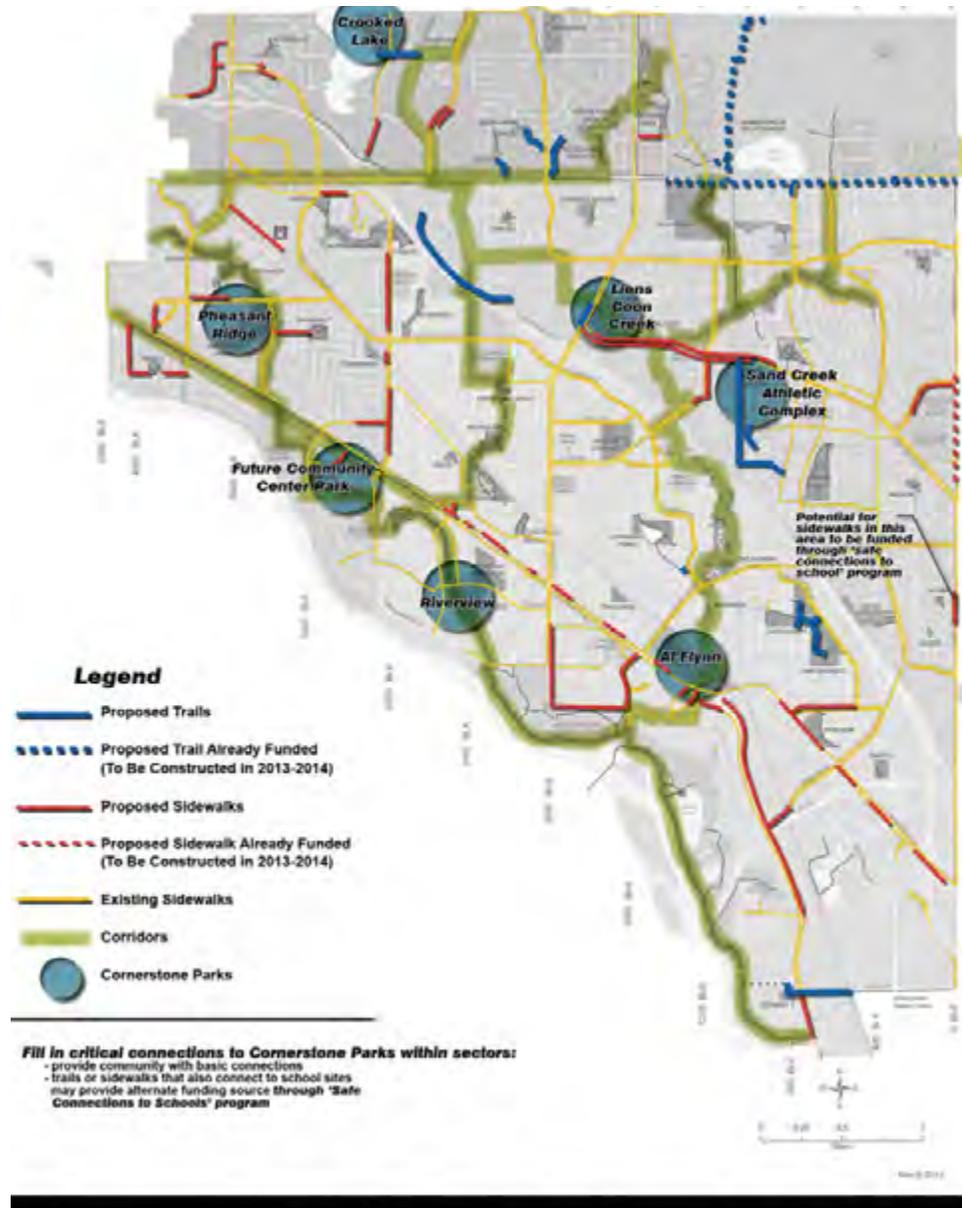
Cornerstone Parks and Connections

In an effort to bring more recreational opportunities more efficiently to the citizens of Coon Rapids, the Cornerstone Park concept has been developed in this plan update. See Section 4 of this update document for details regarding this Cornerstone Park concept. Key to the success of this concept is the connection of these key facilities to the Corridor Trail System for safe and efficient alternatives to driving. In two instances new trails will be necessary to link these parks to the trail system. See the graphic below for the trails proposed to Sand Creek Athletic Complex and Crooked Lake.

Although an extensive sidewalk system exists today in the city, gaps remain and will need to be completed to fully realize the efficiency and effectiveness of the Cornerstone Park concept.

The total length of sidewalk required to infill all gaps is approximately 14.75 miles.

The total length of new trail connections is approximately 10 miles.



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TRAIL AND SIDEWALK GAPS AND CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS TO CORNERSTONE PARKS

RECREATION / SPORTS PROGRAM

PROVIDERS

Overview

The range and depth of recreation opportunities help to define the health and livability of a community. This section of the plan provides a brief overview of whom and how sports and recreation services are provided within the City of Coon Rapids with a focus on those organizations who use the park and recreation facilities. This section will also look at the organizational structure in the delivery of city programs for potential improvements and streamlining in reporting and delivery of new programs.

The scope of this study excluded a full review of two major facilities within the city; Bunker Hills Golf Course and the Coon Rapids Ice Center. Failure to make mention of them in this section of the report would also fail to give credence to the full range of recreation services provided by the city that are available to residents as well as challenges, opportunities and responsibilities for city officials to maximize opportunities.

Recreation Services Providers can be identified into one of four categories; Governmental, Community Based Organizations, Educational and the Private, for Profit Sector.

Governmental

Anoka County Parks

In addition to its extensive parks system, Anoka County Parks provides a variety of various recreational programs and self directed opportunities that serve area residents. These programs are typically resource based within the County Park(s), non- competitive in nature and occasionally in concert with city sponsorship and support. The county has also entered into use and operation agreements with community based organizations, for example the Coon Rapids Archery Club, for programming and operations of its facilities. The County Parks System places little demand on the city in carrying out these program activities.

The building of a strong collaborative relationship with County program staff for the delivery of services that make the quality of life experiences better for residents should be fostered.

Action Step

The Recreation Coordinator should be identified as the primary city contact person for communications with the Anoka County Parks staff and as a representative for joint program initiatives between city and county. Enhancing programs that serve Coon Rapids residents diverse interest should be an outcome of this collaborative effort.

City of Coon Rapids

The city provides direct program delivery through four distinctly separate divisions within the city; Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids Ice Center, the Coon Rapids Senior Services Program and various adult league programs through the Recreation Coordinators position. In addition, the Coon Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission and the Coon Rapids Arts Commission represent two more channels. The Coon Rapids Arts Commission is involved with the concerts provided at the Civic Center and at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park in partnership with Anoka County Parks.

The Bunker Hills Golf Course is a free standing provider of golf and golf related programs including sales of golf merchandise through its pro shop. A long term lease with Anoka County provides for the operations and administration of the course by the city, despite the facility being on County land. Widely known as a premier golf venue, having hosted numerous prestigious golf tournaments, the course provides wonderful opportunity for recreation services not many communities are able to provide. In addition, the recently renovated Club House is available to support golf functions and in the hosting of golf tournaments, corporate and group outings. The new facility has aggressively marketed its availability for weddings, retirement parties and other large community events and area functions with the availability of its banquet facilities.

The golf course manager, who oversees the entire golf operation, reports to the City Manager. There is no direct links to the Parks Maintenance Division or to the Recreation Coordinator.

The new Coon Rapids Ice Center provides skating activities on a year round basis with instructional skating conducted through the Coon Rapids Skating Academy. The Academy provides group lessons for figure and hockey for youth and adults. An ice show, open skating, and open hockey are routinely scheduled as are tournaments and skate camps. The facility also acts as the venue for Anoka Ramsey Community College hockey, the Coon Rapids High School Hockey teams and the Coon Rapids Youth Hockey Association (CRYHA). The Center provides training rooms and office and storage room for the CRYHA. The Center also markets meeting rooms for community rent. In addition to the indoor ice center, an outdoor refrigerated ice sheet is also managed by the Ice Center staff. The outdoor facility generally operates from mid November to February. Additional hockey and skating opportunities exist as the result of a joint powers agreement with area local governments partnering with the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission at the Schwan's Super Rink located in Blaine. The city has no management or operational responsibilities associated with the operation of this facility.

Like Bunker Hills, the Ice Center is a free standing provider of recreation services with the Center Manager reporting to the Director of Public Works.

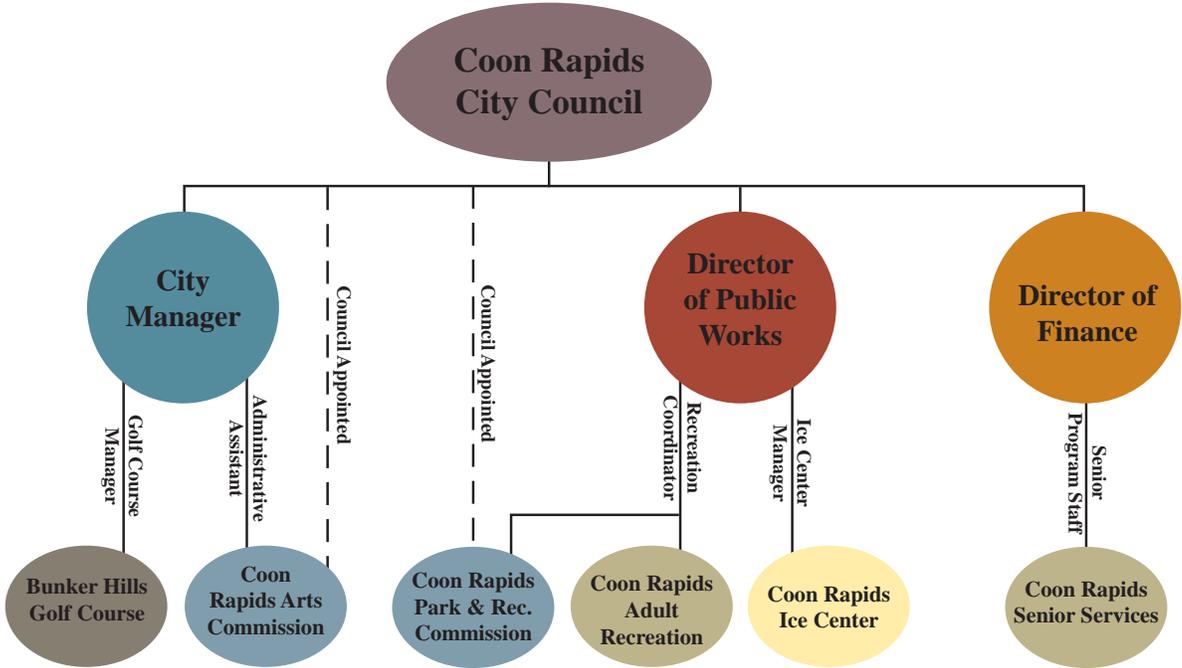
Parks Maintenance has responsibility and cares for the exterior grounds of the facility only. There is no formal or indirect linkage to the Recreation Coordinator for programs or activities. The Parks and Recreation Commission do not engage in program or operational reviews or have oversight responsibilities.

The City provides comprehensive Senior Services Activities in the Civic Center. Programs offered cover a broad spectrum of scheduled activities and periodic events which provide for social contact, physical well being and educational opportunities for area seniors. Transportation services are also available to Coon Rapids residents. Two program staff conduct the senior program who report to the Director of Finance. There is no direct contact with parks maintenance or with the Recreation Coordinator. The Parks and Recreation commission do not engage in program review or have oversight responsibilities of this program.

Adult Sports Leagues are administered through the Recreation Coordinators position, which was initially created in 2007. The Coordinator registers teams, collects program fees, schedules games and fields, obtains officials and administers general rules and guidelines involving play and player behavior. The softball program alone involved over 1,200 games in 2012 with 162 teams. Previously the city contracted with Anoka-Hennepin School Community Education for administration of these league sports. The Recreation Coordinator is supervised by the Public Works Director with the Parks and Recreation Commission responsible for program oversight.

The Coon Rapids Arts Commission is a long standing body comprised of volunteers and is the fifth component in delivery of program services. Focusing on arts and cultural activities, the Arts Commission has annually hosted a Summer Concert Series in collaboration with the County Parks system. The County provides the venue for these performances, waves park entrance fee requirements and provides for traffic control and clean up. Additional

concerts and events are sponsored by the Arts Commission with joint sponsorships including such activities as the Holiday Light and Photo Contests. The commission is assigned an administrative assistant from the City Manager’s department to act as a liaison to the Commission. There is no connectivity with the Recreation Coordinator nor do the Parks and Recreation Commission have program oversight.



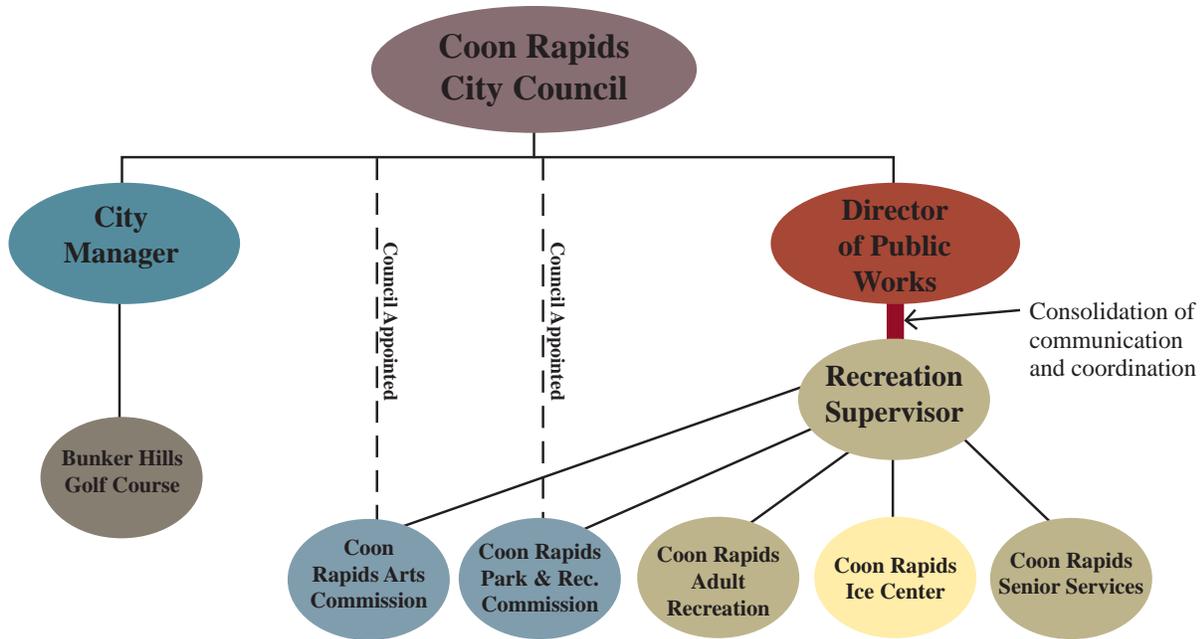
The chart above illustrates the hierarchy of reporting for each of the various city divisions. It is evident that there is a potential for lack of communication between the divisions.

With the various divisions, the city of Coon Rapids has a very distributive approach to providing direct delivery of programs to its residents. Each provider (golf course, ice center, arts commission, adult athletics and senior services) appears to be very independent of each other. There is no identifiable and consistent interconnectivity between each of the five identified areas other than at the very top of the organizational chart with the City Council.

However, this distributive approach appears to be working successfully with a general acceptance and approval by participants of the programs and service levels. From a holistic view, even without a communicative line between them, Coon Rapids generally has good program diversity and has activities and opportunities for virtually every age cohort. If there is a weakness, it is the tendency of developing programs slanted towards sports and athletics as the core to the activities offered, as are those programs offered by the community based organizations. This should not come as a surprise or be unexpected as most communities follow this same pattern. Sports and athletics are areas that often have large numbers of participants, are quick to generate interest, with a willingness to pay chargeable fees.

Without the interconnectivity at the staff level, these various divisions of the city are silo providers, whose focus does not go outside their narrow program definition. As such it’s very likely that there are a number of resident driven needs which will be unmet and fall through the gaps in service definitions. These voids can best be met through a cohesive approach that unifies the programs with a central connector.

Implementation of the suggested action steps is illustrated in the chart below. The position title of Recreation Coordinator has been replaced with Recreation Supervisor to better reflect a wider range of responsibilities. Unification of program services should enhance internal communications, make for fewer reports for the Manager and Council, as well as help direct external communications to visible source for processing. Unchanged is the Bunker Hills Golf operations, which continue to report to the City Manager.



The chart above illustrates the potential communication and coordination benefits of reorganization.

City Program Delivery Enhancements

Enhancing the delivery of recreation services is not unachievable. Streamlining service delivery, making effective use of available resources, fostering easier access to existing programs and creating a focus point for the directing of identified needs by resident and then filling the program voids are likely outcomes of a citizen centered delivery system. To that end, the following strategy should be considered in the near term.

Over Arching Goals

- 1) Create a focal point and portal for residents to access city and community based organizations.
- 2) Enhance the delivery and coordination of services internally and with external agencies.
- 3) Streamline reporting and oversight of programs to a more manageable number
- 4) Provide a source for new program development that responds to and represents interests of the community

Action Step One

The Recreation Coordinator position should be elevated to Recreation Supervisor with expanded roles & responsibilities

Action Step Two

The Recreation Supervisor should replace the administrative assistant in the City Manager's office as the liaison to the Arts Commission.

This places the Recreation Supervisor in position to actively work with the Arts Commission and Anoka County Parks staff with the coordination of the Concert Series. Further it defines the coordinator as the source person for contact by the county staff for expanding joint program development and community offering in other areas of interest.

Action Step Three

The Senior Services Program staff should report to the Recreation Supervisor as opposed to the Finance Director.

Despite the strengths of the senior services program, the Recreation Supervisor can act as an additional resource with a background in programming services that has access to other assets and knowledge of resources. The connectivity can work towards properly evaluating, prioritizing and then responding to requests for new programs. The Parks and Recreation Commission should also provide program oversight. Members of the Commission may be able to bring other networking sources into the program mix.

Action Step Four

The Ice Center Manager and the Skating Academy Director should report to the Recreation Supervisor.

The centralization of program helps create uniformity in policy development and administration as it relates to the public. This also responds to citizen desire for a focus point of contact and problem resolution. The recent relocation of the Recreation Supervisor to the Ice Center should also foster the opportunity for new event programming when facility availability presents itself. A beneficial by product of this move and reporting is the ability to cross train staff should vacancies arise in key positions within the Ice Center.

With the CRYHA use of outdoor facilities that are scheduled through the Recreation Supervisor, as well as the Ice Center, the Recreation Supervisor will be better positioned to understand their over all needs for ice and assist the CRYHA.

Community Based Organizations

Coon Rapids has several youth organization that provides sport activities. These organizations include American Little League Baseball, Central Little League Baseball, National Little League Baseball, Fastpitch, and the Coon Rapids Baseball Association. The Coon Rapids Athletic Association (CRAA) provides a collection of recreational level programs though parent volunteers. This umbrella organization includes slow pitch softball, lacrosse, football, basketball, and wrestling. The Coon Rapids Soccer Association provides for both travel and in-house soccer programs. For those organizations requiring game and practice fields, requests are processed though the Recreation Coordinators' position who in turn relates the field preparation needs to the Parks Supervisor. Not to be forgotten is the Coon Rapids Youth Hockey Association who request outdoor ice through the Recreation Coordinator. By supporting and coordinating facility use needs with the youth organization, it provides the city with three important consequences.

First, it is a way of ensuring park maintenance resources are effectively distributed to field space that are being used; second, it strengthens communication and fosters an understanding of the needs and limits for both the city and the sports organizations in delivering quality play; and third, enhancement of long term planning to meet future organization needs.

Within the context of the system plan, the concern is to be able to monitor local organization programs so that resources dedicated by the city toward athletic facilities are appropriate and justifiable. Since the city is not in direct control of a given program, it is important to stay in close communication with program providers to ensure that their needs are being reasonably and efficiently met. This is particularly pertinent when the organizations being served are volunteer based, where a turnover of leadership can be challenging for the organization and the continuity between them and the city less certain. For this reason, the city is encouraged to work with the local associations as partners, whereby each supports the other in providing high quality recreation programs that are for the common good of the community.

Educational

The Anoka-Hennepin School District Community Education provides program services through its community school locations for residents of the district as well as those who reside in Coon Rapids. Recreational services extend from pre-school thru adults in various programs from aquatics, to special events, to crafts to sporting activities to mention a few services.

Through supplemental funding by the City of Coon Rapids, the Community Education department also conducts a city wide summer and school year program for youth and teens. These programs are conducted at school and park sites. The “Element Teen Center” is housed at the Riverwind Recreation Center, but the program is administered through Community Education. The parks division provides for the building maintenance and operations. The City Manager provides for program monitoring. There is no formal connectivity with the Parks and Recreation commission in program oversight or to the Recreation Coordinators Position.

Action Step

As time and opportunity presents, the Recreation Coordinator should be recognized as the communication link between community education and the city in discussions about program changes and challenges. Strengthening the relationship between program providers will create networking opportunities and ability to respond to community requests.

Private “For Profit” Providers

While not included in the master plan study, private providers should not be overlooked as an important community asset in providing recreation activities. Private providers help round out the community’s palate of recreational opportunities and often provide opportunities, services and programs community based organizations and the public sector is unable to accomplish for any number of reasons. Just three such examples in Coon Rapids include Lifetime Fitness, the YMCA, and Grand Slam. Occasionally private providers are willing to partner with community based organization and recreation departments in extending and expanding service programs to meet other needs, particularly if they are in alignment with their business model.

The city should remain open to these collaborative program opportunities should they present themselves.

Action Step

The city, through the Parks and Recreation Commission and Recreation Coordinator, should make an effort to identify businesses in the private sector that provide recreational services. An “inventory” of these providers may be useful should there be a desire to offer a program or an event that may align with the private business operation. Both the city and the business will want to carefully review the cost/benefits of any collaborative efforts before proceeding to insure that the best interest of the citizens are met first.

Facility Demand Overview

Achieving Parity among Recreational Facility Providers Servicing Coon Rapids and Surrounding Area

As defined in Section 2, Assessment of Need, the local athletic associations and other recreation program providers are all very appreciative of the facilities provided by the city for their programs. These groups also recognize that their programs often serve more than just city residents and therefore do not see the city as being solely responsible for meeting all of their facility needs. Coupled with the reality that growth in younger age groups participating in these programs will be limited for years to come, both the city and these local providers recognize that the demand from within Coon Rapids for facilities will likely be fairly static, even taking into consideration some expansion of programs. With public resources at all levels expected to be limited over the next decade, the importance of Coon Rapids, the School District, adjacent cities, and the providers themselves working together to make strategic investments in facilities to meet collective needs becomes all that much more important.

In this light, defining and then achieving some level of parity between providers becomes an increasingly important issue that will take time for all of the parties to fully and collectively assess. To provide a starting point for this process, the following outlines some of the options available and action steps that Coon Rapids will be taking on providing facilities and shaping its relationship with local providers in order to meet local needs.

Action Step 1 – Facilitate Establishment of an Athletic Council

Coon Rapids will support and help facilitate the creation of an Athletic Council to serve as an umbrella organization to oversee, guide, and coordinate the activities of all user groups that use athletic facilities within the geographical area of the city/school district where their programs are provided. The current Affiliation Agreement was, in large part, a first step in the direction of meeting some of the objectives listed below. In part, the Athletic Council will serve to:

- Clarify the relationship between the city, school district, adjacent cities, and local associations in meeting local facility and service needs
- Confirm the intensity of use of facilities being used to support local associations and program providers, along with rating their value in meeting local needs
- Define the extent to which a parity gap exists between Coon Rapids, the school district, and adjacent cities in providing facilities to meet local needs
- Define options available for these local partners to achieve parity in supporting local associations and program providers
- Increase communication between various associations and the city
- Enhance registration tracking to make better projections of needs

Action Step 2 – Maintain Baseline Support for Local Programs

As defined in Section 4, the individual and aggregate performance ratings for facilities provided by the city are generally below their optimal ratings. This suggests that facilities are either being overused, in need of upgrading, and/or not maintained at a high enough level to accommodate current uses or demands. From a programming standpoint, options to address this issue include the following:

- Maintain existing program levels to establish a baseline that preserves current participants or programs; this means that all partners will have to work together to improve facilities if current demands are to be met and facility performance issues alleviated
- Reduce level of programming to not exceed capacity of current system; this would likely require limiting some participants in selected program(s)

Recommended Approach: Maintaining current program levels is proposed as a starting point to avoid turning away established programs and participants. Note that taking this approach is based on the assumption that each of the partners will ultimately do their share to help alleviate any existing facility performance and parity issues and funding inequities.

Action Step #3 – Make Strategic Improvements to Facilities that Support Local Programs

As previously defined, Coon Rapids has been a major contributor in supporting local associations over the years. Whereas this commitment has been generally sustainable, addressing the performance issues associated with an aging infrastructure, coupled with challenging funding realities for the foreseeable future, will require a cautious and strategic approach to improving and/or expanding facilities.

Recommended Approach: Maintaining the current level of facilities to support local programs is proposed, with the key focus being on improving Sand Creek Park and Riverview Park to enhance the design quality and overall performance of these facilities. Any additional improvements beyond these facilities will only occur after confirming that a reasonable level of parity between Coon Rapids, the school district, and adjoining cities is being achieved. In concert with local program providers, continuing to enhance current registration and scheduling practices is also proposed to improve participant tracking and the reliability of the data used to determine fee structures, the demand for facilities, and scheduling of facilities.

Action Step #4 – Address Any Parity Inequities through Variable Approaches and Fee Structures Associated with Local Program Providers Using Coon Rapids’ Facilities

As defined during the public process, local program providers already contribute to offsetting the costs for facilities and services in the city through various fees and charges. The extent to which participants and/or associations will be asked to contribute in the future depends on a variety of decisions to be made, especially the extent to which parity is achieved between facility providers relative to where the users are coming from. If a parity gap is defined and persists over time, baseline options include:

- Assessing higher participant fees, which could take into consideration resident/non-resident status
- Imposing higher facility use fees – charged for each use of a given facility
- Imposing facility maintenance surcharges – charged on a seasonal basis for facilities that require higher levels of maintenance
- Seeking additional formal commitments to provide more in-kind contributions – in which a local association takes on more of the maintenance burden associated with a given facility

If none of these prove adequate or acceptable, scaling back on program offerings would need to be considered, albeit this is certainly the least desirable option. Addressing these long-term funding issues should be part of any scenario associated with improving facilities.

Recommended Approach: Establishing the context for and then working through these issues with the Athletic Council will be a top priority as the plan is implemented. This will include consideration of a variety of If/Then scenarios should hard decisions need to be made. Engaging select athletic associations one-on-one to outline issues and options for their consideration may also be warranted.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

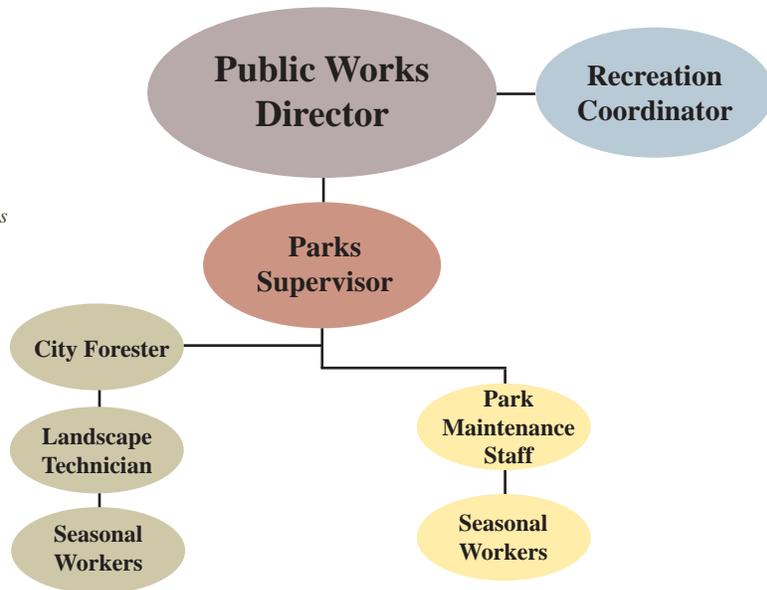
Overview

The 2001 Master Plan went into significant detail in outlining the operations and maintenance structure, defining management responsibilities, and provided recommendations for park infrastructure and turf care. This information continues to be relevant today, perhaps even more so given the community’s desire to see quality over quantity, the limitation on resources and new initiatives contained within this document. The intent with this section is to provide the Park and Recreation Commission, City Council, and residents with a broader perspective of how the department functions and is structured to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of the operation as well as the challenges in meeting the standards for asset care. Consequently much of this section re-presents information from the previous master plan but updated with relevant data.

Public Works Department Organization / Parks and Grounds Division

The Public Works Department is organized under a director, with the parks supervisor working under the director to oversee parks, open spaces, and trails. As defined in the following organizational chart, the department is divided into a number of areas of responsibility. In 2007 a Recreation Coordinator position was added. The responsibility of this position is to coordinate field and program use by the various youth sports associations as well as developing and administering adult sports programs and managing winter skating rink attendants. This position reports to the Public Works Director with a strong interdependent relationship to the parks supervisor.

The chart to the right illustrates the city's organization as related to the park system



The number of seasonal employees under each category can vary from year to year. In recent years the total number of seasonal employees has dramatically declined from 33 (in 2009) to 15 (in 2012) due to budget cuts.

Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Related Division of Responsibility

Category	Responsibility of Division	Personnel Training Requirements
Public Works Director	Director is responsible for all operations and maintenance of the Public Works Department, including the parks, open space, and trail functions.	Educated and trained in all aspects of the public works function of the city. Responsible for oversight of all training requirements of the operation.
Parks Supervisor	<p>In concert with the Director, Supervisor is responsible for operations and maintenance activities associated with parks and trails, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance • General park inspections (safety, wear and tear, etc.) • Playground safety inspections (safety, quality control) • General trail inspections (safety, erosion, surface quality) • Parks, trails, and facilities upgrading (internal work force and contracted) <p>In concert with the Director, Supervisor is also responsible for work force hiring, scheduling, and oversight.</p>	Educated and trained in all aspects of the parks, open space, and trail function. Education and experience in contract administration, budget projecting, agronomy, and knowledge of specialized trades in the care and maintenance of building and structures. Supervisory skills in the hiring and training of full time and seasonal staff and in planning, scheduling resources and directing work flow. Knowledge of statutory requirements that affect parks. The individual in this position must also understand the significance and interrelationship that the timely delivery that parks play in the success of recreation programs that rely on well maintained grounds.
City Forester	<p>Under the Parks Supervisor, Forester is responsible for all forestry and natural resource programs and activities associated with the parks and open spaces in the city, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resources restoration and management stewardship program • Urban forestry (shade trees, etc.) 	<p>Specialized training and licensing is required for many of the work tasks under this division, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicide and pesticide use and application as part of the natural resources restoration and management program • Ecological background required for broad-based understanding of restoration and management of natural areas
Landscape Technician assists City Forester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diseased tree program • Inspection and compliance oversight of tree preservation policies associated with new development • Natural resources public education program development and implementation • General resource to the community 	Of critical importance with the work force under this function is the capacity and desire for each person to embrace a holistic approach to resource management, which requires an understanding of, and commitment to, the techniques used for restoring and managing healthy native plant communities. In many cases, the use of professional contractors with needed expertise is a viable and often recommended option.

Category	Responsibility of Division	Personnel Training Requirements
Parks Maintenance Staff	<p>Under the Supervisor, staff is responsible for operations and maintenance activities associated with parks and trails, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance and specialized repairs • General park inspections (safety, wear and tear, etc.) • Playground safety inspections (safety, quality control) • General trail inspections (safety, erosion, surface quality) • Parks, trails, and facilities upgrading (internal work force) • Parks, trails, and facilities capital improvements (contracted) 	<p>Experience and training for the particular area of specialization is critical to an effective and motivated work force. Individuals should be selected based on their qualifications to do the specific work tasks under this function. An appreciation for the role parks plays in service delivery of recreation programs and community use of parks. Specialized training and/or experience is required for a number of the work tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to perform repetitive and routine functions from trash collection, sign installation, sweeping, trimming, winter rink clearing & flooding, ball field dragging / field stripping to more technical and precise work. • Park maintenance specialists - dedicated work force with training and experience needed to maintain high quality facilities that are clean, aesthetically pleasing and safe for public use. This is especially important in maintaining the premium athletic facilities, where specialized understanding of turf management and related tasks is of critical importance. • Playground safety inspections - the city has four certified inspectors to ensure compliance to ever-changing regulations and guidelines

The Need for Periodic Monitoring and Adjustment of Departmental Organization

Given the ambitious vision that is outlined by this master plan, changes to the organizational structure and responsibilities of team members will perhaps be warranted over time as the plan is implemented and the demands placed on the organization change. As the expectations of the community escalate in line with the implementation of the master plan, a parallel rise in the expectations placed on staff will also be manifested. The critical point here is that for the plan to be successfully implemented, the organization itself will have to continuously assess its own effectiveness and rate of evolution relative to what is expected from citizens and policy makers.

To this last point, it is recommended that the organizational structure and the responsibilities of individual team members be routinely reviewed internally to ensure that the organization is capable of achieving desired ends. This review process is important across the full spectrum of staff levels, where responsibilities will be wide ranging - from managing the implementation of the plan and pursuing funding opportunities to the need for higher-level technical skills in the field to ensure a high quality service is provided to the community.

Routine Functions

The following table highlights the routine functions of the Public Works Department as related to parks, open spaces, and trails.

Function	Description
Turf Management	One of the most labor intensive summertime maintenance functions is turf, care, which includes mowing, trimming, fertilization, broadleaf applications, irrigation (where available) and a host of other activities to keep the turf grasses in good shape for various levels and intensity of use. To stay within overall budgets, the department prioritizes turf management based upon the application of several qualifiers, as defined in this section.
Park and Trail Routine Maintenance	This category relates to a wide-range of maintenance issues ranging from fixing fences to repairing vandalism, fixing drinking fountains, repairing play equipment, repairing buildings, fixing irrigation systems, patching trails, and so forth. Although not as definable as turf management, these are necessary and very time consuming function of the department. Also included under this function is coordination of maintenance activities with the local school districts as it relates to athletic fields and other facilities.
Playground Safety Inspections	This relates to trained personnel who routinely inspect the play equipment in the city to ensure it meets accepted standards. Certification is required, with yearly continuing education needed to stay abreast of industry changes and new safety guidelines.
General Park Inspections	Although not as defined as a playground safety inspections, general inspections are routinely completed in the parks and along the trails to identify hazard and general quality of the built infrastructure. In general, each park is inspected at least once every two weeks for maintenance concerns and hazards.
Snow Removal Program	As with turf maintenance, snow removal is a labor intensive maintenance function requiring a prioritization schedule to stage work and stay within working budgets.
Park and Trail Upgrades	As time and budget allow, the department will routinely take on construction projects where it can do so more cost efficiently than contracting out. The department also contracts out capital improvement projects as dictated through City Council action.
Natural Resources Stewardship Program (and Related)	Although in its infancy, this program will be a growing concern of the department and encompass a variety of interrelated responsibilities. The ecological restoration and management section of the 2001 system plan is still valid and should be implemented.
Hockey / Skating Rink Maintenance	One of the most labor intensive wintertime maintenance functions is ice rink maintenance, which includes cleaning rinks in preparation for and making new ice. To stay within overall budgets, the city has reduced the number of winter locations, further the department prioritizes rinks for this maintenance.
Buildings/ Special Facilities Maintenance	Includes repair and maintenance as well as daily/weekly clean up and preparation of parks and recreation buildings and special facilities for program use (Soccer field stripping, ball field dragging) Trailheads would also be included under this function.
Recreational Facilities Coordination and Setup	This function involves setup and site preparation for special events and annual affairs that require barriers, tents, special facilities, and so forth. The challenge with this function is that the time allotted to these responsibilities takes away from other functions, which can pose short-term issues with timely completion such items as field preparation, field mowing, and required daily maintenance functions.
Coordinate Volunteer Programs	This function relates to coordination of volunteer programs local associations / advocacy groups, local schools, and other civic groups.

As the table defines, the responsibilities of the department and the balancing act that is required to stay within working budgets is an ongoing challenge that changes from year to year. Establishing priorities is a fundamental reality to meeting the needs of the community in a fiscally responsible way. In this light, expectations of performance must be in sync with overall resources.

Maintenance Level Guidelines for Turf Management

There are a number of variables associated with turf maintenance, each having a significant role on what level of use a field or park can sustain while still retaining an acceptable level of quality. The figure below highlights the key components of a turf management program, which is followed by a table on the next page defining each of these variables. The table on page 7.07 establishes guidelines for maintenance levels for athletic fields and parks to achieve an optimal level of turf quality within the context of intensity of use, inherent growing mediums and conditions present on the sites. Resources availability will ultimately affect the application of these guidelines and must be consider in prioritizing their application. These guidelines allow reasonable latitude between the different levels of maintenance to address different levels of play intensity, maintenance budgets, and other use factors. Note that these guidelines are general and will need to be evaluated against, and perhaps modified to, the found conditions at each park site.



Maintenance Variables for Turf Grasses

Variable	General Description
Soil Testing	Relates to doing a complete soil analysis on individual sites to determine the soil structure and fertility. Both major and minor elements should be reviewed during the analysis. Ideally, 15 to 20 cores should be tested per field for high use fields. Where time and budget are limited, 10 or so soil samples from each of the fields can be combined together to give an average soil analysis reading for the park. In either case, the samples should be random to ensure an accurate soil analysis. The results of the soil test serve as the baseline for determining fertility needs. Soil testing on a routine basis allows for prescriptive maintenance to take place on a field by field basis.
Fertility	<p>Relates to the level of essential compounds and nutrients within the soil structure that foster growth and increase durability of turf grasses. The primary components in fertilizer include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen (N) -- is the key element in the production of turf grass. It affects turf greenness, ability to recover from damage, root and shoot growth and density, resistance to disease, and drought tolerance. • Phosphate (P)-- is the workhorse of the nutrition team and fosters energy transformation. It is extremely important in new seedling development. Since it is cold sensitive, the most severe deficiencies of phosphate are usually in the spring and fall. • Potassium (K) -- is at the center of plant growth and development. It thickens the cell wall and makes the plant more resistant to heat, cold, and frost conditions. It also increases disease resistance, including dollar spot, posariumblite, ground batch, and road thread. <p>An important side note about fertilizer selection is that its use should be in sync with city policies regulating the type of fertilizer used in parks and private property. Finding a responsible balance between ecological protection and “green grass” is essential to land stewardship.</p>
Aeration	Aeration fragments or opens-up compacted soils to allow for the free flow of air, water, and soil nutrients within the soil structure. It is an extremely important maintenance function that cannot be overlooked if quality turf on the sports fields is to be achieved.
Over-seeding	Relates to reseeding of turf areas in order to introduce new seed growth and new varieties of seeds that are more resilient to heavy use, diseases, and limited maintenance budgets. The type of seed that would be prescribed for any given situation is highly dependent on the level of turf maintenance, irrigation, and inherent soil structure. Slit seeding is the preferred method because it impregnates the seed into the ground, therefore protecting it from the elements and fostering quicker growth.
Top-dressing	Relates to adding relatively small amounts of sand, sandy loam, or other soil mixture to existing turf areas to protect the crowns of plants and provide better footing for the players. The best time to topdress a field is after slit-seeding. Particular attention should be given to high-use areas (i.e., soccer goal areas, baseball infields, etc.), where top-dressing can be of significant benefit.
Irrigation	Adding an irrigation system to a sports field allows for more nutrient uptake in the soil structure, which in turn provides a more vigorous and durable growth of turf grasses. Also, it allows for a greater selection of turf grass varieties to be used. For intensively used and premium level fields, irrigation is important to maintaining turf quality.
Mowing	Relates to the routine mowing of turf grasses to a preferred height to ensure strong plant structure and disease resistance. Using the proper equipment along with routine maintenance, especially sharpening blades, is of distinct importance to maintaining quality turf.
Growth Regulators	On high-use fields where fertility, aeration, overseeding, and irrigation are available, plant growth regulators can be used to redirect the growth from vertical to horizontal, resulting in a tighter knit and more durable turf. New products, such as Primo, are very effective and environmentally sound. As with fertilization, use of growth regulators should be in sync with the city’s policy on the use of chemicals on turf grasses.
Disease/ Pest Control	The use of prescriptive treatments for diseases, infestations, and pest control varies greatly and is dependent upon many variables. Therefore, the use of pesticides, herbicides, and other treatments is on an as-needed case-by-case basis. All applications should be done by trained personnel. As with fertilization, use of pesticides and herbicides should be in sync with the city’s policy on the use of chemicals on turf grasses.

Maintenance Levels Guidelines for Outdoor Athletic Facilities

Maintenance Variable	Maintenance Levels		
	Level A (High Intensity Maintenance)	Level B (Moderate Intensity Maintenance)	Level C (Low Intensity Maintenance)
Use Level/ Average Games Per Wk. Threshold	Premium facilities with high use each week during season. Average games per week: Ballfield: over 25 Soccer/Football Field: over 20	Second tier facilities with extensive use but not premium level. Average games per week: Ballfield: 10-25 Soccer/Football Field: 10-20	Low use facilities and neighborhood parks. Average games per week: Ballfield: under 10 Soccer/Football Field: under 10
Soil Testing	Sample each field at the same time each year (test representative/ composite sample if budget precludes testing all fields).	Sample each field at the same time every other year (test representative/ composite sample if budget precludes testing all fields).	Every 2 to 3 years test representative/ composite sample to determine general needs.
Fertility	Based on soil test results. General guidelines include: Nitrogen (N): 4 -5 lbs./1000 sf. applied during growing season, 40-50% being slow release. This should be done 3-4 times per season. Phosphate (P): Spring and fall only and based on soil analysis. <i>Very limited use</i> given environmental impacts. Potassium (K): 1:1 ratio with nitrogen minimum/1: 2 ratio with nitrogen on extremely high use fields.	Based on soil test results. General guidelines include: Nitrogen (N): 3 lbs./1000 sf. applied during growing season, 25% being slow release. This should be done 2 times per season - early spring and early fall. Phosphate (P) and Potassium (K) amounts are based on soil test results.	Apply 1 application of fertilizer in either the early spring to maximize spring play quality or early fall for recovery of summer use. Nitrogen is the primary component, with Phosphate (P) and Potassium (K) used as dictated by latest soil test results.
Aeration	Minimum 3 times per season.	Minimum once, preferably twice per season in early spring or early fall.	Minimum once per season. Fall is an appropriate time if equipment is being used on higher level fields during spring and summer.
Overseeding	Minimum 2 times per season - in early spring and early fall (best season).	Minimum 1 time per season - in early spring or mid-fall	Only when required (turf grass selection is extremely important under low maintenance level).
Top-dressing	Ideally 2 times per season, 1 time being minimum. 1/8 - 1/4 inch per application is desirable.	Higher wear areas as required to address wear, footing, or safety concerns.	Only as needed.
Irrigation	Required on high use fields - with minimum 1 inch of water per wk.	Not required, but desirable. Turf grass selection important.	Not required. Turf grass selection important.
Mowing	Mow to a height of 1-1/2 to 2 inches, taking 1/3 or less of the plant each time.	Mow to a height of 2 to 3 inches, taking 1/3 or less of the plant each time.	Mow to a height of 3 to 4 inches, taking 1/3 or less of the plant each time.
Growth Regulators	Case by case basis. Especially effective on extremely high use fields.	Not required nor recommended under this level.	Not required nor recommended under this level.
Pesticide/ Herbicide/ Pest Control	On as-needed basis only with highly controlled applications.	On as-needed basis only with highly controlled applications.	On as-needed basis only with highly controlled applications.

While these standards apply primary to athletic and game fields, there may be occasion to apply them to other turf maintenance areas in which high quality appearances are desired, for example the Civic Center or other highly visible or highly prized locations. Further, as it relates to all turf care in neighborhood parks, other municipal facilities, trail / green belt corridors, open space and preserve a fourth classification, level D of , “non maintained” may be appropriate. The non-maintained implies that these areas are managed with a seasonal mowing (or no mowing), debris removal, and removal of invasive plant materials.

In park planning and design, level “D” should be considered to keep future maintenance costs lower. This implies a different range of turf grasses to be used.

Action Step

While beyond the scope of this study it may be appropriate for the development by staff and Commission of a “Site Specific” prescription for applied turf maintenance. The site specific approach defines very specific mow and turf care areas within each park to determine the prescribed levels of turf care to be provided. This approach insures that appropriate level of turf maintenance is applied to specify park sections. This may mean very large parks have more than two levels of turf maintenance

The process of developing such a program is a strong tool in developing a common understanding of the intricacies of turf maintenance and the required resources in maintaining these areas to agreed upon levels.

Schedule of Maintenance Levels

The following table lists the general category of maintenance that each of the parks falls within where parks maintenance has involvement in turf care. Note the schedule is general and that a shift in maintenance levels is possible from year to year as budget allocations are modified. In recent years these modifications have resulted in a lowering of applied maintenance to essentially every park site. In the near term, the reality of shrinking resources is likely to continue or at best be stabilized.

Routine Functions

Maint. Level	Description/Scheduling Priority	Parks/Outdoor Facilities Under this Level
“A”	High use facilities heavily scheduled for programmed activities for all age groups. Particular focus is on premium facilities used for upper level programs. Also focuses on facilities that support city-sponsored programming.	Parks <i>not</i> listed In order of priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sand Creek Athletic Complex Coon Rapids Soccer Complex “ <i>A</i> ” maintenance level required primarily during actual season of play and as needed off-season to ensure fields will be ready for next season use.
“B”	Moderate to high use facilities one step below the premium facilities. Intensity of use is slightly less than level “A” facilities. Higher ranked facilities under this level would slip into upper level if budget allows.	Parks <i>not</i> listed in order of priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moor Youth Athletic Fields Wintercrest Youth Athletic Fields Aspen Youth Athletic Fields Al Flynn Youth Athletic Fields Riverview Youth Athletic Fields Hanson Community Park (after development) “ <i>B</i> ” maintenance level required primarily during actual season of play and as needed off-season to ensure fields will be ready for next season use.
“C”	Low to moderate use facilities such as neighborhood parks and special use parks that are not heavily programmed.	All neighborhood parks.

Maintenance Additions

Additions to the park system in the future will have implications for added maintenance and potentially, require new skill sets and expertise to care for or operate. A full understanding of the impact on maintenance and operational costs should be addressed during the design process to insure that adequate budget additions are made at the time the facility is commissioned.

Section 4 discusses one such potential in a “Splash Pad.” Splash pads, unless they are “flow thru” require filtration systems and water sanitation systems, chlorine being the typical disinfectant of choice. At a minimum, the splash pad system will require a daily check on the filter operation and on water purity and chemistry. Proper disinfectant levels require a number of variables in water to be in balance (PH, total alkalinity) to be effective, which will require specialized training for the operator to be able to maintain. Filter backwashing will also be required on a periodic base (two to five times a week). Other routine functions will include disinfecting areas surrounding the pool to prevent alga, trash removal, and annual start up and close down each season to mention a few tasks. Outsourcing this work in part or in whole is a potential option that should be explored as an alternative if a splash pad is considered.

Action Step

To insure that there are adequate resource allocation for each new facility addition contemplated within the parks and trails system, staff should do an analysis of the required maintenance based upon the assumed commissioning of the addition. This analysis should include an expectation of operational costs that might include utilities, necessary materials and supplies, potential renewal and replacement costs as well as the quantity of labor required weekly, monthly and annually. Further, identification of the necessary skills required to maintain the new addition assessed and an assessment as to the current maintenance staffs competency to administer. Outsourcing of any highly technical or complex functions should be considered as an option.

The Budget Challenge

In the last several years municipalities have seen an appreciable decline in their tax base, the end result of the housing boom and then bust lowering property valuations. With the accompanying decline in the local and national economy, citizens have implored local governments to avoid any tax increase in favor of a reduction in expenditures. As such, City Councils have been reluctant to increase tax rates to continue to fund the increasing costs of a consistent level of service. Consequently municipalities have faced the task of reprioritizing services with budgetary cuts, reduction of services levels, and where possible fee increase for services. The parks and ground maintenance division has been no exception to specific and across the board reductions; directing supervisory staff to implement the reductions as best as possible.

During the park evaluation phase and public comment sessions, it’s clear that the results of the reductions are obvious to the park user (quality over quantity) and consultant staff. Since 2009, the relative high point at which staffing levels and materials and supplies were adequate to meet desired service levels, there has been a reduction in the parks maintenance division. Park Maintenance staff estimate that the current annual budget of \$1.2 million will need to be increased to \$1.4 million to restore maintenance levels to meet the desired quality standards expected by park users. This is an increase of approximately 15.5%, which will clearly be a challenge in these tough economic times.

Other Maintenance Responsibilities

The parks division is also responsible for the care and up keep of other municipal grounds including the Civic Center, Maintenance Shop, Fire Stations and other locations. These locations, primarily because they are relatively small in scale, require the use of walk behind mowers and hand operated equipment rather than large capacity mowers that are assigned to large field turf areas. Clearly, assigning mowing and grounds care to one division within the city makes for more efficient and affective operations. However, the care of these additional facilities is often lost in developing a broad understanding of the demands placed upon the division and the costs of maintaining these grounds. It would not be surprising to find that the labor and material cost for an intensive location may exceed a large neighborhood park. Maintenance reports that they provide turf care for 12 other non-park locations which total approximately 48 additional acres to be maintained.

In a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), the division is responsible for the maintenance of the Anoka Ramsey Community College Athletic facilities and surrounding grounds. In exchange the city has the right to use these facilities during non use periods. The current agreement extends through fiscal 2015. Should the city aggressively develop additional athletic fields, the need for the use of Community College facilities may become less acute. A reassessment of the benefits of continuing the JPA vs. the cost of maintaining the grounds should be undertaken before another extension of the agreement.

Another impact on providing for recreational services occurs in the winter when maintenance staff is assigned to snow plowing and removal. Clearing streets and snow removal from fires stations, Police, Civic Center parking lots, pedestrian sidewalks are first priority and usually accomplished within the first 48 hour period after a measurable snowfall event. Outdoor skating rink clearing and flooding follow snow removal from these priority facilities. Since the number of outdoor has been reduced over the years, this has become a non-issue.

Maintenance Guidelines for the Trail System

Although none currently exists, development of a comprehensive program for maintaining the trail system is recommended. As pointed out in previous sections, some of the trails in parks and along linear corridors are in need of repair and general maintenance. As the system is today and continues to grow, managing the maintenance of the trails will be vital to their quality, durability, and longevity. Specifically, the maintenance program should provide a listing of all of the trails in the system, define the routine (day-to-day) maintenance requirements, and provide seal coating, over-lays and replacement schedules along with projected costs. It's further recommended that this be a document that projects needs for at least a ten year cycle.

In addition, the long-term maintenance associated with the development of new trails within the city should be defined prior to their construction and included on the general maintenance schedule to ensure that the total cost for developing and maintaining the system as it grows can be assessed at any point in time.

City/User Group Responsibilities for Various Athletic Facilities

The city has relied upon strong partnerships with the various associations and organized user groups for making some of the improvements to and maintaining athletic facilities throughout the city. In 2008 the city entered into an Affiliation Agreement with several of these associations which recognize each as community based organization and defines roles and responsibilities of the city and the association. In a couple of instances, such as Riverview and Sand Creek parks the associations actually own, operate, and maintain their own facilities. Other than these situations, the city generally takes care of the maintenance of facilities that are part of the public park system.

Maintaining a Quality Workforce

Key to a successful system is ensuring that it is maintained and operated by a well-trained and motivated staff that understands the importance and value of their service to the community and performs to the highest possible level. To this end, the city should continue current training programs like the NRPA Playground Safety School and expand into other training opportunities, such as natural resource management, turf management, and so forth. These training programs offer a couple of important benefits:

- Improve technical and professional knowledge of a subject area, which will increase productivity and quality
- Enhance the motivation of the work force by showing a commitment by the city to career enhancement and giving them the knowledge to perform the work expected of them

Note that an increased focus on training and career enhancement will only pay dividends in an environment where the work force is motivated to provide a quality service to the community. Lacking this, the likelihood of providing a high quality system is greatly reduced because much of that quality rests with how well the day-to-day activities are performed by city staff.

Policy on the Use of Chemicals for Maintaining Vegetation

As the attitude toward greater environmental/ecological stewardship of parks and open spaces has gained momentum in the city in recent years, greater concern has arisen as to the appropriateness of using chemicals as part of the management of natural areas, turf grasses, woody vegetation, and lakes/creeks. Ideally, prohibiting the use of chemicals would be desired. Realistically, that offers some downsides in that contemporary natural resources restoration and management programs require the careful use of specific chemicals to achieve management objectives. With respect to turf grasses, user expectations for field quality and maintaining a durable and safe playing surface often requires the use of fertilizers and other specific chemicals.

Bridging the gap between the day-to-day realities of managing natural resources and turf grasses without compromising the spirit of ecological stewardship is challenging, but not inconceivable. A comprehensive policy for the use of chemicals by city employees should include the following, at a minimum:

- Listing of accepted chemicals, including the rationale behind their use, specific application rates, and training requirements
- Procedures for the safe use of all chemicals
- Authorization and accountability procedure to ensure compliance

With respect to private citizens, a comprehensive policy should include a listing of acceptable chemicals and how to use them safely, as well as educational material to educate residents about the importance of responsible chemical use.

Park and Trail Signage Program

One of the more important communication tools is a comprehensive signage program that is carried uniformly throughout the park and trail system. The signage should provide a consistent message to park and trail visitors and provide information on park and trail names, direction to features, general information and rules, ecological stewardship program, and interpretive information.

The signage program is of particular value with respect to the way finding and ecological stewardship program, where providing interpretive information to park and trail users at the point of contact has proven to be one of the most effective forms of education. The key benefit is that the park/trail user can more easily navigate throughout the city and while they do this, apply new knowledge immediately and begin to internalize its significance based on firsthand experience. The city has begun to implement the signage program in some locations, with good feedback from trail users. This should continue to be incorporated throughout the system.

Guidelines for Accessibility and Safety

Guidelines for universal design, accessibility, and safety are important considerations in developing parks and recreational facilities and must be implemented properly into buildings and park and trail improvement projects. Since these publications change frequently, it is recommended that the city obtains the most current versions as provided online from the sources indicated below when considering the development or redevelopment of any given project. Subsequent guidelines and legal standards should also be monitored and incorporated, as well.

ADA Guidelines (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Information is available from the U.S. Access Board, phone: (800) 872-2253 (voice), or (800) 993-2822 (TTY)

The following sets of guidelines are applicable to many projects:

- * *ADA Standards for Accessible Design*: http://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm
- * *Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas*: <http://www.access-board.gov/outdoor/>
- * *ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for Recreation Facilities*: <http://www.access-board.gov/recreation/index.htm>
- * *ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for Play Areas*: <http://www.access-board.gov/play/index.htm>

Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines

Information is available from the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), <http://www.cpsc.gov>

The following guidelines are applicable to play areas:

- * *Public Playground Safety Handbook*: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/325.pdf>

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Overview

This section establishes a strategy and set of priorities for implementing the system plan. The plan for parks, open space and trails presented in preceding sections defines the *optimal* or *potential* level of service that each component of the system can provide to the community. This section sets forth an implementation plan that defines key implementation priorities within the context of expected fiscal limitations over the next 10 years.

A Strategic Approach to Implementing the System Plan

As was the case in 2001, important underpinnings for developing the implementation strategy include:

- Understanding that the opportunities to enhance the park and trail system are substantial and diverse
- Recognizing that the magnitude of investments needed to achieve full plan implementation presents a major challenge and will require the community to set priorities that respond to public will and realistic limitations of resources
- Avoiding the temptation to spread investment dollars too thinly across the entire system

The last bullet point is of particular importance in that spreading investments dollars too thinly most often falls short in having a major effect on one's perception that the quality of the park and trail system has improved. This ultimately leaves residents with a sense of unmet expectations, which in turn can actually result in a decrease in the perceived value of the system.

With this in mind, the underlying strategy for implementing this plan is to undertake initiatives that best respond to the prioritization criteria set forth in this section. Even more so than in 2001, by making strategic, prioritized investments, the city's parks and trails will continue to expand their role as defining elements in the city's infrastructure and enhance the region's economic prospects by attracting new residents and supporting robust levels of tourism.

Dynamic Nature of the Implementation Strategy

Whereas every attempt has been made to thoughtfully select implementation priorities, the implementation strategy remains dynamic, whereby established priorities are subject to change if:

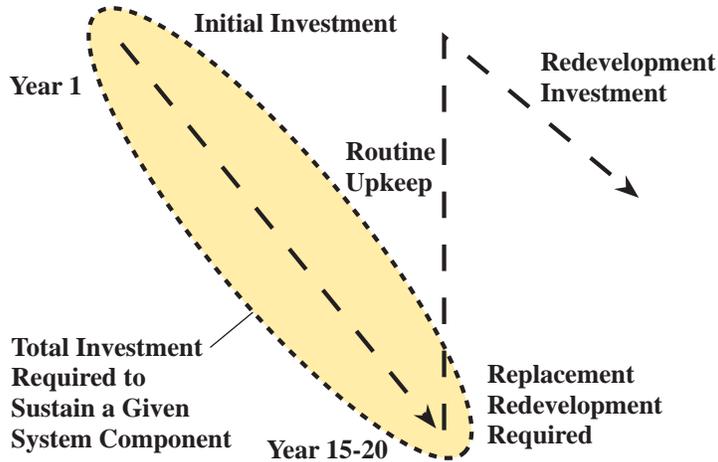
- Needs, recreational trends and population dynamics change
- Actual benefits derived from capital investments have proven to be different from the benefits that were anticipated; this is both in terms of greater or less than anticipated benefits
- Funding availability and opportunities change

The city is encouraged to routinely (i.e., yearly) assess the implementation plan and priorities to ensure that they remain in alignment with the community values and needs.

Long-Term Commitment to a Sustainable System

For investments in parks and trails to have enduring value, the implementation strategy must also take into account the commitments required to sustain the system on a long-term basis. As the figure below illustrates, the total investment required for a given component of the system plan is the cumulative costs for initial development, routine costs for operations and maintenance and redevelopment once a given park or trail reaches the end of its useful lifecycle.

Long-Term Commitment to Sustaining Each System Component



Cost Projections

Whereas the initial capital investment for a development initiative will raise the level of service threshold in the short-term, that level can only be sustained if the commitment is made for its routine upkeep and eventual replacement. In this context, the city should focus on providing a level of service that can be indefinitely sustained, and that new initiatives should only be undertaken if this long-term commitment can be made.

The cost projection tables on the next several pages define the potential costs associated with upgrading each major component of the system plan. The projections are based on a combination of site-specific development issues and professional judgements based on projects of similar characteristics. The projections are also based on 2011 dollars, which will require inflation adjustments in future years.

The cost projections take into consideration assumptions regarding the age of existing amenities and the extent to which they can be salvaged at the point of redevelopment. The actual timing of upgrading will affect whether there is any value in salvaging an existing feature, or simply replacing it.

Use of the Cost Projections

The intended use of the cost projections is to aid in developing an implementation strategy in a number of ways, including:

- Defining the magnitude of the public investment needed to develop and maintain the system to its optimal/potential level
- Comparing the relative cost of one item to that of another
- Determining the level of service threshold that the community is willing to support
- Prioritization of, and budgeting for, capital improvement initiatives based on funding availability

Although the intent is to be conservative, actual costs will vary, perhaps even significantly, depending on the actual conditions found on a given site, final design and scope of a given project, and economic conditions at the time of bidding and implementation. Note that the cost projections should be updated on a periodic basis to stay in alignment with potential cost increases across time, and to factor in costs to replace items that were considered to be in working order but have worn out over time.

Cost Projections for Parks

Cost projections for parks are based on the descriptions below and not necessarily the full development according to the development program defined for each park in Section IV - Parks and Open Space Plan. In cases where a master plan process is proposed to determine the exact needs and desires for a specific park, the projected costs may change based on the program developed from the planning process. The following table provides an overall projected cost for a specific park, recognizing that funding limitations may require phasing development over a period of years.

Cost Projections for Trails, Bikeways, and Pedestrian-Ways

Projecting the costs for developing these trails and bikeways without the benefit of site surveys, wetland delineation and design layouts offers certain practical limitations. Given this, it is important to underscore that the cost projections presented here are for planning purposes and that more detailed evaluation is required to firm up costs as the city develops their funding packages and grant applications.

The following cost projections for trails are based on estimated unit costs assuming generally good construction conditions and requiring a modest degree of site preparation (e.g., soil corrections), stormwater work, and limited retaining walls. Commonly, trail development ranges from \$220,000 to \$300,000 per mile, exclusive of bridges, underpasses, or other significant infrastructure such as large retaining wall segments. Where limited right-of-way and other constrictions are present, the costs will move toward the higher end of the cost range.

Cost Projections for Restoration and Management of Natural Open Spaces

Since restoration and management of the natural resource areas in the city is still in its infancy, projecting the cost for implementing a comprehensive program is difficult to ascertain. Factors that will greatly influence the actual cost of restoration and management programs include the ecological quality of existing resources and the extent of volunteers that can be used as in-kind labor resources. However, for planning purposes, the following table considers a range of cost projections for restoring and managing ecological resources under similar conditions found in Coon Rapids.

Although projecting the ultimate cost of restoring and managing natural areas across the system is elusive, for fiscal planning purposes, the following estimated cost ranges on a per acre basis for both initial restoration and long-term maintenance are provided. A more detailed investigation of these areas will need to be performed separately prior to updating these costs and performing restoration.

Potential Initial Restoration Costs

Cover Type	Range of Cost/ Acre
Forest Systems	\$1,500 - \$4,000
Prairie Systems	\$1,500 - \$3,000
Wetland Systems	\$1,500 - \$3,500

Potential Yearly Long-Term Maintenance & Management Costs

Cover Type	Range of Cost/ Acre
Forest Systems	\$150 - \$250
Prairie Systems	\$150 - \$250
Wetland Systems	\$150 - \$250

Criteria for Prioritizing Initiatives

The following table outlines a set of criteria that were used to establish a basis for prioritizing implementation initiatives. The criteria are based on factors that influence the demand for parks and trails. The criteria are broad enough to consider the important and predominant factors, yet limited enough to be manageable for decision makers to gain consensus and take action.

Criteria for Prioritizing Initiatives

Evaluation Criteria	Criteria Description
<i>Community Demand</i>	<i>Action is warranted due to identified community demand based on public input during planning process, needs assessment studies, and identified trends.</i>
<i>Recreation Program Needs Redevelopment/</i>	<i>Action is warranted based on current and projected the city's and local associations' recreation program facility demands.</i>
<i>Upgrading of Facility</i>	<i>Action is warranted due to facility being:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Unsafe conditions / poor quality</i> • <i>Old and at the end of its useful lifecycle</i> • <i>Ineffective at servicing current needs</i>
<i>Development Patterns and Population Density</i>	<i>Action is warranted to service the needs of an area based on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Current and projected residential development patterns</i> • <i>Current and projected population and demographic profile</i>
<i>Funding Availability/ Partnership Opportunity</i>	<i>Action is warranted due to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Funding availability for specific use</i> • <i>Partnership opportunity for specific development</i>
<i>Preservation of Significant Natural Resources</i>	<i>Action is warranted to preserve and/or enhance significant natural resources in the city.</i>

Strategy & Priorities for Park and Trail/ Pedestrian-way Development Initiatives

The strategy for prioritizing park and trail/pedestrian-way initiatives focuses on taking a balanced and measured approach to implementation, recognizing that funding levels will be more limited over the next 10 years than was the case over the past 10 years, perhaps markedly so. The top priorities are defined under the following categories:

1. Develop key trails/pedestrian-ways (including wayfinding and signage)
2. Upgrade/redevelop athletic facilities
3. Upgrade/redevelop remaining cornerstone parks
4. Upgrade/redevelop neighborhood parks

The following defines overall priorities within each of these categories. As shown, priorities are defined as first and second-tier to purposefully limit the number within each category to a select group of initiatives that will be the focus over the next 10 years. Second-tier priorities are provided to identify additional initiatives should first tier priorities be accomplished earlier than expected. These priorities provide the overall direction for implementing the plan and the basis for preparing funding strategies.

How far down the priority list the city can advance is largely a function of funding availability. Once the city determines the funding approach that is supported by the residents, final determination of the top priorities and associated budget allocations can be determined. Note that not all of the parks and trails/pedestrian-way elements defined in Sections 4 and 5 are included in the listings in recognition of the fact that more limited funding requires a more limited list of priorities.

Tier 1 Development Priorities:			
<i>estimated cost range</i>			
Parks	low cost	to	high cost
Sand Creek Park - complete renovation	\$4,900,000.00		\$5,750,000.00
Crooked Lake Park - complete renovation	\$1,450,000.00		\$1,750,000.00
Evergreen Dog Park (small parking lot, fencing, & water)	\$50,000.00		\$100,000.00
Tier 1 Parks Subtotal	\$6,400,000.00		\$7,600,000.00
<i>estimated cost range</i>			
Trails	low cost	to	high cost
Coon Creek Regional Trail	\$968,850.00		\$1,184,150.00
Sand Creek Linkage Trail	\$141,750.00		\$173,250.00
85th Ave. Trail connection to Kennedy Park	\$313,650.00		\$383,350.00
Tier 1 Trails Subtotal	\$1,424,250.00		\$1,740,750.00
<i>estimated cost range</i>			
	low cost	to	high cost
Tier 1 Development Priorities Total	\$7,824,250.00		\$9,340,750.00

Tier 2 Development Priorities:			
<i>estimated cost range</i>			
Parks	low cost	to	high cost
Riverview Park - complete renovation	\$1,650,000.00		\$2,000,000.00
Tier 2 Parks Subtotal	\$1,650,000.00		\$2,000,000.00
<i>estimated cost range</i>			
Trails	low cost	to	high cost
Mississippi Regional Trail	\$601,200.00		\$734,800.00
Middle Linkage Trail	\$794,925.00		\$971,575.00
Northern Linkage Trail	\$276,750.00		\$338,250.00
miscellaneous trail gaps	\$2,025,000.00		\$2,475,000.00
miscellaneous sidewalk gaps	\$2,754,562.50		\$3,366,687.50
Tier 2 Trails Subtotal	\$6,452,437.50		\$7,886,312.50
<i>estimated cost range</i>			
	low cost	to	high cost
Tier 2 Development Priorities Total	\$8,102,437.50		\$9,886,312.50

Tier 3 Development Priorities:			
<i>estimated cost range</i>			
Parks	low cost	to	high cost
Al Flynn Park - Cornerstone / complete renovation	\$1,350,000.00		\$1,600,000.00
Lions Coon Creek Park - Cornerstone / select renovation	\$750,000.00		\$1,000,000.00
Pheasant Ridge Park - Cornerstone / select renovation	\$175,000.00		\$250,000.00
Delta Park - high level improvements	\$225,000.00		\$300,000.00
Mason Park - high level improvements	\$350,000.00		\$425,000.00
Peppermint Stick Park - high level improvements	\$325,000.00		\$375,000.00
Riverwind Park - high level improvements	\$625,000.00		\$750,000.00
Riverwind building improvements - budget	\$350,000.00		\$500,000.00
Trackside Park - high level improvements	\$225,000.00		\$300,000.00
Woodcrest Park - high level improvements	\$550,000.00		\$600,000.00
Alder Park - mid level improvements	\$100,000.00		\$150,000.00
Burl Oaks Park - mid level improvements	\$120,000.00		\$165,000.00
Kennedy Park - mid level improvements	\$150,000.00		\$200,000.00
Towerview Park - mid level improvements	\$125,000.00		\$175,000.00
Vineyards Park - mid level improvements	\$150,000.00		\$200,000.00
Wildwood Park - mid level improvements	\$50,000.00		\$100,000.00
Woodview Park - mid level improvements	\$175,000.00		\$225,000.00
Acorn Park - low level improvements	\$45,000.00		\$70,000.00
Bison Creek Park - low level improvements	\$75,000.00		\$100,000.00
Cardinal Woods Park - low level improvements	\$75,000.00		\$100,000.00
Epiphany Pond Park - low level improvements	\$50,000.00		\$75,000.00
Mallary Park - low level improvements	\$15,000.00		\$20,000.00
Marshland Park - low level improvements	\$65,000.00		\$90,000.00
Mercy Park - low level improvements	\$75,000.00		\$100,000.00
Nelson Park - low level improvements	\$75,000.00		\$100,000.00
Parkside Park - low level improvements	\$30,000.00		\$45,000.00
Riverdale Park - low level improvements	\$45,000.00		\$75,000.00
Thrush Park - low level improvements	\$7,500.00		\$12,500.00
Twin Field Park - low level improvements	\$45,000.00		\$75,000.00
Wintercrest Park - low level improvements	\$75,000.00		\$100,000.00
Woodland Oaks Park - low level improvements	\$50,000.00		\$75,000.00
Tier 3 Development Priorities Total	\$6,522,500.00	to	\$8,352,500.00

Current low priority items - to be evaluated further in the future based on public needs			
<i>estimated cost range</i>			
Add community building to a cornerstone park	low cost	to	high cost
1 building (restroom/warming house/ storage / meeting space / utility services)	\$750,000.00	to	\$1,000,000.00

Grand total for all priorities	\$23,199,187.50		\$28,579,562.50
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Strategy for Operations and Maintenance

With the implementation of the system plan comes expanded responsibilities of the city to operate and maintain the parks, trails and athletic facilities. The public expectation is very high that the city update its operation and maintenance plan in conjunction with implementation of the system plan. It is recommended that the city include, at a minimum, the following in this plan:

- Existing operations and maintenance plan – including a definition of current expenditures, operating practices, and standards (i.e., maintenance schedules, routine maintenance procedures, etc.); this should also include a description of currently unfunded operations and maintenance concerns and the projected costs to address them
- Operations and maintenance plan – for new developments/renovations to include cost projections; note that this should also identify opportunities to reduce costs in cases where time is currently spent maintaining facilities that are worn out and need more attention than if it were replaced or redesigned to require less day-to-day upkeep; although outside sources of information can be helpful, projecting these costs relies most heavily on past experiences within the city.
- Replacement and upgrade schedules – for both parks and trails, which includes a schedule for replacing facilities based on expected lifecycles; for example, a typical park has a lifecycle of 15 to 20 years; preparation of this schedule will ensure that the city has a clear understanding of the overall costs of a given development over time

Although the city's operation and maintenance budget will likely grow to some degree, it may not be as much as one might envision. Since the land area for parks remains relatively the same, the overall acreage that needs maintenance will not change dramatically. However, adding new types of amenities will increase maintenance and should be accounted for.

Strategy for Natural Resources Stewardship Program

Establishing a yearly budget for natural resource stewardship is recommended as a means to establish this program and begin to make progress on restoring and managing ecological systems more pro-actively in the city. In the nearer-term, the goal is to get the program established in a limited, controlled, and affordable manner.

The city is also encouraged to stay abreast of and apply for grants that support natural resource stewardship. In addition, the city should partner with MN DNR and Anoka County to take advantage of their expertise and methodologies.

Funding Options and Strategy

Funding local park and trail improvements is a local government responsibility. Although grants to local governments can, and will, continue to provide some outside funding, these are often limited, competitive, and highly variable from year to year. Realistically, the city itself will have to rely on locally-based funding initiatives to implement much of the system plan.

The following table provides a brief overview of some of the grants that are typically available to local governments. It also provides an overview of the probability of any given source adding to the funding stream for system improvements. Note that each funding source requires an application process that includes an action plan and description of funding requirements. All of these funding sources are competitive and/or require political action, local funding commitments, and citizen approval.

Potential Funding Sources

The availability of funding for implementing the park, open space and trail system initiatives will have direct impacts on the timing of implementing the plan. The following table provides a brief overview of the funding sources typically available to local governments. It also provides an overview of the probability of any given source adding to the funding stream for system improvements.

Note that each of the non-local funding sources require an application process that includes an action plan and description of funding requirements. All of these funding sources are competitive and/or require political action, local funding commitments, and citizen approval.

Potential Funding Sources for Parks, Open Space, and Trail Development

Funding Source	Description / Overview	Probability
State Outdoor Recreation, LCCMR, Legacy Fund, and Similar Grants	The State of Minnesota annually allocates funds for park acquisition and development projects which meet recreational needs identified by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In recent years, Legacy Amendment Fund has emerged as a legitimate potential funding source for projects of regional or state-wide significance. Whatever the program, the grants are competitive and awarded according to project merits.	Very competitive, especially with very tight public funding available at all levels. Most promising might be Legacy Amendment Funds, especially for parks or trails of regional significance.
Land and Water Conservation Fund	The federal government allocates monies each year to states for public acquisition and development projects. The State of Minnesota Administers these grants through the Department of Natural Resources.	Funding availability through this program has been limited in recent years.
Federal Transportation Funds (T-21, RTP, etc.)	The federal government allocates monies each year for alternative forms of transportation, which includes bicycle trails that focus on transportation.	Funding availability through this program has been significant in past years. The potential for receiving funding for local trails is relatively good.
Fees/ Enterprise Funds	Minnesota statute allows cities to prescribe and provide for the collection of fees for the use of any city park or other unit of the city park system or any facilities, accommodations, or services provided for public use therein.	Becoming a much more relied upon funding source, especially for singular use facilities ranging from ballfields to hockey arenas.
Partnerships	Relates to partnerships formed with adjacent cities, the county, and school districts to develop, maintain, and operate parks and recreational facilities on a joint-use basis.	Although limited public funding availability is an issue at all levels, forming partnerships to spread the cost of providing a specific type of service or facility still has merit whenever there is an opportunity.
Park Dedication Fees	The park dedication fund provides funding for parks as long as community development continues to occur. Any controls imposed on the extent (i.e., total number of units) or rate of development (i.e., number of units per year) allowed within the city will limit the revenue generated under this fund. The City will need to ensure the fees imposed are consistent with current state statutes.	Even with periodic adjustments, park dedication fees alone will not be adequate to fund the system plan to an optimal level.
Donations	Donations relates to cash donations, gifts, volunteerism, and professional services donated to the park for planning, acquisition, or development purposes.	Limited potential from a cash perspective, but important with respect to the use of volunteers to offset some program costs.

Strategy for Gaining Public Support for Implementing the System Plan

Based on input during the planning process, the public seems ready for the city to continue making improvements to the park and trail system over time.

In terms of a strategy, the following recommendations are made:

- Develop an implementation package that clearly defines the proposed developments and the costs associated with those developments. For the larger cornerstone and neighborhood parks, preparing a master plan is highly recommended for two reasons: 1) to engage the public in the design process and get them enthused about supporting the project; and 2) to prepare tighter cost estimates based on a well-conceived and more detailed plan.
 - Develop an operations and maintenance strategy for each development to assure the public that the city has the capacity to meet these responsibilities
 - Clearly define how improvements will be funded, and the potential costs to the average homeowner in the city, to avoid any uncertainties in this regard
 - Undertake a public information campaign that takes the message out to the people in a non-threatening and convenient manner
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Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space and Trail System Plan

Area Demographic Change – Population and Household Projections

John Carpenter, Excensus LLC - July 16, 2012

What residents want in their community parks, open space, and trails is greatly influenced by their age and family characteristics. For example, younger families with small children will likely see value in parks that include playground equipment, while older families may be more inclined to want more developed recreational facilities and trails. The purpose of this report is to provide the City with profiles and projections of resident households and population that can be used to size the demand for recreational amenities both today and 20 years into the future.

Resident Demographics are Changing

The past decade has seen significant changes in Coon Rapids resident characteristics. The 2010 US Census reported a total population of 61,476. While the number of reported residents in total was not

much different than in 2000, their characteristics changed dramatically.

The city's population age profile was much older in 2010 than it was in 2000. The number of older residents (ages 65 or older) increased by 54 percent and residents ages 45 to 64 increased by 27 percent. This increase was offset by decreases in young adults and children. There were 6,303 fewer households under the age of 45 in 2010 than in 2000 and 2,696 fewer residents under age 24.

Much of this change can be explained by the changes in area households over the same period. The City's household profile is shown in the table on the next page. About three-quarters of the City's 23,532 households in 2010 were living in owner-occupied housing. Over the decade, there was a significant increase in non-family households (i.e., single-person households or households with unrelated individuals). Losses of families in owner occupied housing was partially offsets by increases in families living in rental housing.

US Census - Decennial Counts - 2000 and 2010				
City of Coon Rapids, MN				
<u>Population by Age Group</u>				
	2000	2010	Change	Impact
Under Age 5	4,628	4,229	}	-11.6%
Age 5 to 9	5,127	4,000		
Age 10 to 14	4,992	4,100		
Age 15 to 19	4,622	4,335		
Age 20 to 24	3,830	3,839		
Age 25 to 29	4,409	4,545	}	-17.6%
Age 30 to 34	4,958	4,251		
Age 35 to 39	5,801	3,938		
Age 40 to 44	5,353	4,180		
Age 45 to 49	4,430	4,970		
Age 50 to 59	3,934	4,879	}	27.8%
Age 55 to 59	2,935	3,980		
Age 60 to 64	2,092	3,285		
Age 65 to 69	1,637	2,278		
Age 70 to 74	1,168	1,708	}	54.5%
Age 75 to 79	823	1,337		
Age 80 to 84	511	900		
Age 85+	357	722		
Total	61,607	61,476	(131)	-0.2%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census, SF1 (100% sample)

Demographic Trends

Households

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Impact</u>
Households	22,578	23,532	954	4.2%
In Owner-occupied housing	18,142	18,159	17	0.1%
Family households	14,215	13,353	(862)	-6.1%
Non-family households	3,927	4,806	879	22.4%
Average household size	2.81	2.65	(0.16)	-5.7%
In Renter-occupied housing	4,436	5,373	937	21.1%
Family households	2,359	2,970	611	25.9%
Non-family households	2,077	2,403	326	15.7%
Average household size	2.30	2.42	0.12	5.2%
Families	16,574	16,323	(251)	-1.5%
Married couples	12,939	12,091	(848)	-6.6%
Own child under age 18	6,485	4,914	(1,571)	-24.2%
Male only, no wife present	878	1,162	284	32.3%
Own child under age 18	464	625	161	34.7%
Female only, no husband present	2,757	3,070	313	11.4%
Own child under age 18	1,890	1,805	(85)	-4.5%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census, SF1 (100% sample)

Along with resident aging and the shift from family to non-family households, the period from 2000 to 2010 saw an increase in resident diversity. The table below shows a decrease in White residents of eight percent and a corresponding increase in residents in all other races. These trends correspond to shifts being seen across the Twin Cities Metro Area and particularly in first and second ring communities with affordable housing options.

US Census - Decennial Counts - 2000 and 2010

City of Coon Rapids, MN

Population by Race

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Impact</u>
One Race:				
White	57,430	52,847	(4,583)	-8%
Black or African American	1,346	3,384	2,038	151%
American Indian and Alaska Native	410	438	28	7%
Asian	984	2,157	1,173	119%
Native Hawaiian and Other PI	8	16	8	100%
Some other race	366	722	356	97%
Two or More Races:	<u>1,063</u>	<u>1,912</u>	<u>849</u>	<u>80%</u>
	61,607	61,476	(131)	0%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census, SF1 (100% sample)

Current Estimate of Households and Population

This table provides a breakout of households by householder age and by population (adults, seniors, and children) in each household age group. The column at the right shows the average population per household for each age group. Note that population yields tend to be highest among households ages 35 to 54.

<u>Householder Ages</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Total Pop</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Persons/HH</u>
Under Age 20	62	119	73	2	44	1.92
Age 20 to 24	559	1,449	821	8	620	2.59
Age 25 to 29	1,643	4,431	2,873	12	1,546	2.70
Age 30 to 34	2,109	5,731	3,710	22	1,999	2.72
Age 35 to 39	2,009	5,718	3,586	25	2,107	2.85
Age 40 to 44	2,268	7,373	4,429	42	2,902	3.25
Age 45 to 49	2,698	8,960	5,961	58	2,941	3.32
Age 50 to 54	2,893	8,465	6,701	67	1,697	2.93
Age 55 to 59	2,436	6,251	5,459	73	719	2.57
Age 60 to 64	2,208	4,757	4,290	140	327	2.15
Age 65 to 69	1,510	3,055	935	1,927	193	2.02
Age 70 to 74	1,098	2,139	433	1,638	68	1.95
Age 75 to 79	876	1,462	210	1,200	52	1.67
Age 80 to 84	567	812	103	687	22	1.43
Age 85 or Over	429	522	38	426	58	1.22
Total	23,365	61,245	39,622	6,327	15,296	2.62

Source: Excensus Household Database, Excensus LLC 2012.

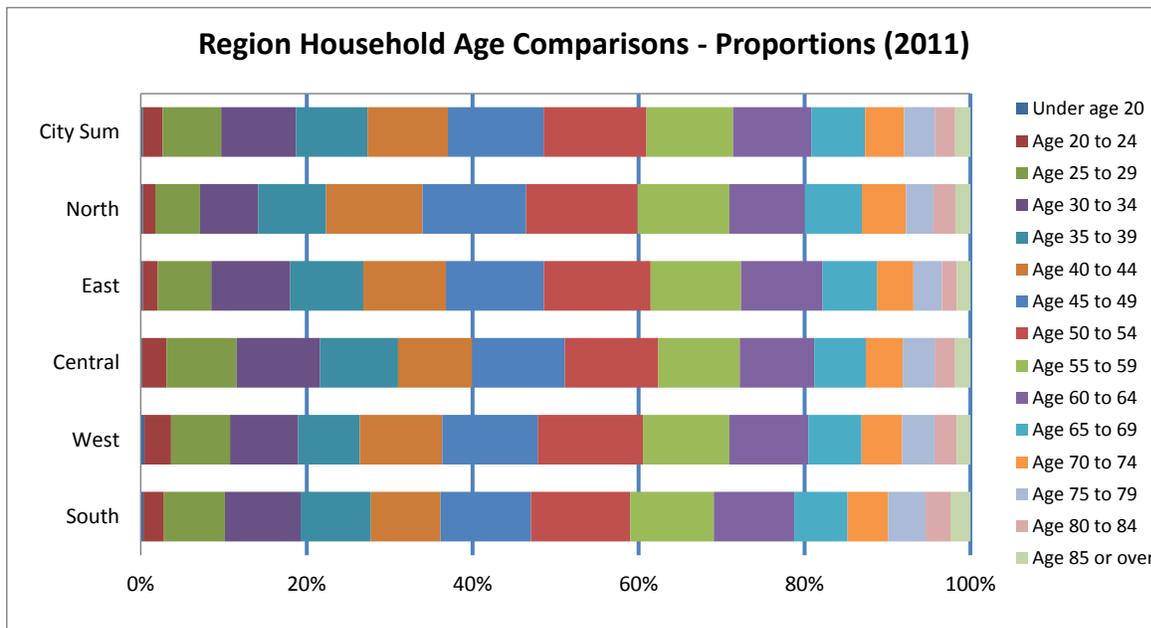
Park Region Counts

<u>Householders</u>	<u>City Sum</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>South</u>
Under age 20	62	9	15	10	17	11
Age 20 to 24	559	50	123	177	122	87
Age 25 to 29	1,643	181	434	502	269	257
Age 30 to 34	2,109	237	640	602	311	319
Age 35 to 39	2,009	275	593	562	282	297
Age 40 to 44	2,268	392	671	535	377	293
Age 45 to 49	2,698	420	795	665	436	382
Age 50 to 54	2,893	453	866	674	482	418
Age 55 to 59	2,436	372	732	585	394	353
Age 60 to 64	2,208	307	663	537	361	339
Age 65 to 69	1,510	231	440	371	243	225
Age 70 to 74	1,098	179	297	267	185	170
Age 75 to 79	876	112	229	229	148	158
Age 80 to 84	567	89	123	147	102	106
Age 85 or over	429	61	110	111	63	84
Total	23,365	3,368	6,731	5,974	3,792	3,499

Source: Excensus Household Database, Excensus LLC 2012.

The table on the previous page provides a count of households by age in each of the park regions. The total shows that the East and Central Regions hold approximately half of the Coon Rapids household base.

The chart below shows how households are distributed by age in each of the park regions. Each bar represents 100 percent of the households in each regional area. The Central Region has the largest share of young households (more than 20 percent are under age 35) while the North Region has the smallest share.



Births by Region – 2001 to 2010

Resident births have been decreasing steadily in the Coon Rapids since 2001. New births average just over 700 per year in the City. The downward trend in births is consistent with the household and population trends presented earlier. Births by city residents are down by 18 percent since 2001. The region counts show an increase for the North Region and the largest decrease appearing in the Central region.

Births by Year by City and Park Region Area												
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total	Chg. 2001/10
North Region	92	77	87	96	110	115	100	95	102	99	973	7.6%
East Region	228	212	202	202	178	205	204	205	182	191	2,009	-16.2%
Central Region	206	189	185	179	193	173	182	172	178	145	1,802	-29.6%
West Region	122	125	121	123	122	129	135	122	106	96	1,201	-21.3%
South Region	133	115	91	97	133	105	92	98	85	104	1,053	-21.8%
City Total	781	718	686	697	736	727	713	692	653	635	7,038	-18.7%

Source: MN Dept of Health - Public Birth Records - Address based; Excensus LLC.

Household and Population Projection (2012 to 2032)

The tables below show projected household and population counts by householder age and by housing type. These estimates were extrapolated from eight years of historical records that tracked residential turnover and replacement in Coon Rapids by age of householder and type of dwelling.

Housing Change Assumptions

The projection model assigns households to available dwelling units based on historical turnover and new resident infill rates broken out by housing type and household age. Assumptions made about the growth in the City’s housing stock directly affects the projection.

- Owned Single Family Detached – no new construction; picking up some rental units conversions.
- Rental Single Family Detached – decreasing as rental units return to owner-occupied status.
- Duplex and Triplexes – no changes to 2011 counts
- Owned Multi-Family (condos) – increase of 50 units per year from 2011 count
- Rental Multi-Family(townhomes) – increase of 50 units per year from 2012 count
- Mobile Homes – No change to 2010 counts
- Apartments – increase of 50 units per year from 2011 count

Housing Type	2,010	2,011	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032
Owned SFD	15,623	15,537	15,562	15,650	15,650	15,650	15,675
Rental SFD	1,641	1,575	1,551	1,463	1,463	1,463	1,438
Duplex/Trplx	788	770	770	770	770	770	770
Owned MF	1,529	1,510	1,560	1,810	2,060	2,310	2,560
Rental MF	311	291	301	351	401	451	501
Mobile Home	244	236	236	236	236	236	236
Apartment	3,694	3,445	3,495	3,745	3,995	4,245	4,495
Total	23,830	23,364	23,475	24,025	24,575	25,125	25,675

Source: Excensus LLC 2012

Household Projection

The household projection model is run for each combination of household age group (e.g., householders under age 25) and each housing category (e.g., owned single family detached). The model starts with the count of occupied housing units at the start of the year and calculates the number of units by type that will not turn over during the year (based on historical data for Coon Rapids). An “aging in place” adjustment is applied to these “carry-over” households to reflect those who will shift into or out of the age category and the remaining units are filled based on the historical age distribution of new incoming residents into that housing type category. The city projection is forced each year to the total number of dwellings in the housing inventory table (above) and the household age totals are the sum of the projections for each age/housing type combination.

Projection Totals – Households and Population

The projected 5, 10, 15 and 20 year household and population counts for the City of Coon Rapids are shown below. The household projection indicates a continuing decrease in younger households, a relatively flat profile for households ages 35 to 54, and strong continuing growth in households ages 55 or older. By the end of the 20 year forecast, households ages 55 or older are expected to account for half of all households. Note that this older age profiles is already being seen in some of the Metro Area’s first ring suburbs.

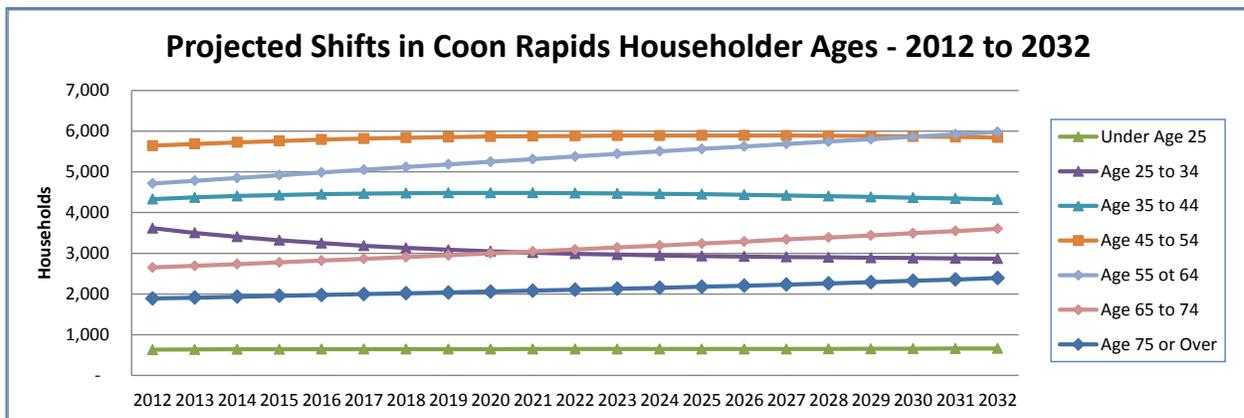
The population projections are then calculated by applying the population per households ratios (adults, seniors, and children) derived from historical data for Coon Rapids. The ratio of children to households was augmented by the US Census counts of children residing in the Coon Rapids in 2010. The population projection shows small increases through the period with some fall off in later years. The 20 year (2032) population total is 65,809.

Householder Age	2010	2011	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032
Under Age 25	785	621	632	645	648	649	662
Age 25 to 34	4,016	3,752	3,617	3,185	2,989	2,909	2,868
Age 35 to 44	4,476	4,277	4,331	4,467	4,479	4,421	4,324
Age 45 to 54	5,789	5,590	5,643	5,817	5,884	5,892	5,843
Age 55 ot 64	4,464	4,644	4,714	5,050	5,377	5,684	5,979
Age 65 to 74	2,541	2,608	2,651	2,863	3,093	3,339	3,603
Age 75 or Over	1,759	1,872	1,890	1,997	2,105	2,232	2,392
Total	23,830	23,364	23,475	24,025	24,575	25,125	25,675

Population Groups	2010	2011	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032
Adults (Age 19-64)	40,708	39,622	39,793	40,539	41,202	41,769	42,212
Seniors (Age 65+)	6,099	6,327	6,412	6,852	7,315	7,820	8,391
Children (< Age 19)	16,060	15,296	15,306	15,321	15,313	15,280	15,206
Total	62,867	61,245	61,511	62,712	63,830	64,869	65,809

Source: Excensus LLC 2012

The graph shows the annual projection trends. Note that the projection model indicates that the number of households age 65 to 74 will match and exceed the number of households ages 25 to 34 by 2020 and that householders age 55 to 64 will become the largest household age group by 2032.



Task Force Meeting #1 Notes

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2012
Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update
From: Jason Amberg

Meeting attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
X	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
X	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
X	Ken Vraa	Consultant team, Ken Vraa Consulting, LLC
X	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
X	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
X	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
X	Matt Fulton	City of Coon Rapids, City Manager
	Gary Friend	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
X	Tom Redmann	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
	Kelley Scott	Coon Rapids High School Athletic Director
	Jalai Laiel	Arts Commission
X	Bob Krahn	Sustainable Commission
	Julie Stevens	Planning Commission
	Mike Jacobson	Parks & Recreation Commission
X	Neal Livermore	Parks & Recreation Commission
X	Steve Wells	Community At-Large
	Susie Miller	Community At- Large
	Noble Rainville	Community At-Large
X	Robert Plante	Community At-Large
X	Scott Doolittle	Community At-Large
	Rebecca Milanovich	Community At-Large
X	Steve Rice	Business Ower Rep.

Primary goals of meeting:

1. Share highlights of what consultant team has learned so far
2. Review potential planning ideas
3. Receive task force input on variety of broad based issues

Task Force Input:

1. Thorpe Park
 - a. most users drive to this park since it is blocked by highway 10 on the norther edge
 - b. Very visible from highway and gets alot of use
 - c. good sledding and skating winter use
 - d. comments about too much going on within the space
 - e. like drinking fountain and restroom
2. Agreement that upgraded parks get more use than the non-upgraded parks
3. Residents seem willing to drive to the newer parks to get to newer facilities
4. Safety (perceived and actual) is always something to be thinking about with parks, with the newer parks seeming more safe because more people are around
5. Sports teams practice much less than they used to, so facilities need to be geared for game play
6. Hoover School Park has great elementary play area
 - a. Could potentially avoid play area redundance with Rockslide Park now that there is a grade separated crossing beneath railroad

7. Good idea to avoid duplication of opportunities at nearby parks
8. School district considerations include
 - a. OK to use for neighborhood use if it does not conflict with school-time use (can be an issue with daycare providers, though)
 - b. Opportunities to share use of land resources, with proper agreements
 - c. School district resources very limited, so not likely to invest significantly in outdoor facilities for foreseeable future
9. Delta Park
 - a. Would be nice to add ballfield amenities for practice use, such as benches, bases / lock box, etc.
 - b. Staff indicated this is not currently done due to cost limitations relative to the minimal season of use and vandalism
10. Greenways & trails are high priority
 - a. Better signage needed for orientation within the system (especially at junctures and dead ends)
 - b. Avoid dead-end trails
 - c. Safe connections needed to tie system together
 - d. Incorporate interpretive opportunities with system (natural / cultural opportunities)
 - e. If done right there is the possibility of leveraging 'regional aspect' of greenways to seek other potential funding sources
11. Balance any system plan with neighborhood park upgrades – low ranked neighborhood parks should not be ignored
12. Promote 'adopt-a-park'
 - a. Staff indicated that this currently occurs at a number of parks, but primarily relates to cleanup rather than funding for development or maintenance
13. Need to consider providing more special use-type facilities that appeal to select groups; for example, a BMX Park is desired amenity that could potentially provide regional interest
14. There are a number of schools in the city that offer 'park like' opportunity
 - a. recreation fields and play areas (elem only) are open to the public during non-school use
 - b. maintenance & costs are an issue for school district, but there is potential for improvements with city funding and maintenance
 - c. tennis focused more at middle schools and high schools
15. Dog Park at Trackside Park is causing problems – consider alternate location(s) for dog park with better visibility/patrollability and community access
16. General agreement that 'Sector' idea has some merit
 - a. however, not everyone is on board with idea of adding a community building at each sector park
 - b. focused development will help provide enough variety that a "tipping point" will occur, in which a park becomes a social gathering place where people want to be
 - c. provide more opportunity at 'sector parks', but still need to maintain neighborhood parks at more basic level
 - i. neighborhood park opportunities should be evaluated with specific neighborhood and demographic input prior to implementation
 - ii. Although facilities might be more basic, keeping up maintenance and appearance is still important
17. Sand Creek Park
 - a. Terrible parking and facility layout / much of built infrastructure is outdated
 - b. Lack of ADA accessibility
18. Financing strategies will be evaluated – referendum or other tax hike is likely needed, unlikely to rely on state or regional funding
 - a. Some task force members feel that this planning is pointless unless a referendum will be done to fund the improvements
19. Recreation and Quality of Life are important to residents – need to think in terms of how the park and trail system can help lure more families into the community

20. Financing issues are more complex since the city is mostly developed and park dedication dollars minimal; need to think creatively about financial strategies and practicalities – what is and is not realistic
21. Need to be able to demonstrate the value of the park and trail system to the community
22. Potentially seek help from the retirement community to be involved in gardening / landscaping within parks
23. Suggested interview groups – this will complement any feedback received in public open house meetings and citywide survey results:
 - a. Real estate association members (Steve Rice will provide recommended contacts to city)
 - b. Day care groups
 - c. Athletic associations
 - d. Non-athletic youth groups, such as boy scouts and girl scouts, teen center group,, etc.
 - e. Church groups
 - f. Schools
 - g. Retired community
 - h. 'Vibrant' empty nesters
24. Also need to think “outside the box” on how to get people involved, and to give input into the process
25. Task force will send Ryan or Jason further thoughts via email.

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Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

May 16th, 2012
Task Force Meeting



1

Questions... (we'll return to these)

1. Overall perspective on the system: What works?... What doesn't?
2. Quality vs. Quantity: Which is more important?
3. How is the park system important?
 - Recreation?
 - Quality of life?
 - Property value?
 - Health?
 - Other?
4. Task force suggestions for interview groups?

3

Meeting Agenda:

1. Share highlights of what we've learned to date
 - Information gathered from discussions with staff and recent studies provided by staff
 - Recent improvements and park site evaluations
2. Discuss preliminary planning ideas / approaches
 - Traditional Approach
 - Trail Focused Approach
 - Sector Driven Approach
 - Combination of one or more based on priorities
3. Open discussion with Task Force to obtain the groups perspective and priorities

2

Highlights

- Information gathered from discussions with staff and recent studies provided by staff
 - Past surveys indicate general satisfaction
 - Demographic changes:
 - less household turnover
 - Increase in percentage of age groups of 50+ yrs
 - Decrease in percentage of age groups of 35- yrs
 - Desire for better connected trail system

4

Highlights

- ...Continued
 - Recent park redevelopments projects have been very well received
 - Additional athletic fields desired, but extent should be evaluated based on participation #'s and population trends
 - A new park will be located in front of future community center
 - Locations for maintenance equipment storage at parks to avoid hauling equipment across city desired if fits into budget
 - Consider efficiency due to budget cuts

5

Highlights

- Improvements and park site evaluations
 - ★ - Park upgrades in past 10 years at the following parks:
 - Prairie Oaks, Rockslide Park, Prospect Park, Thorpe Park, Moore Park, Epiphany Pond Park, Sunrise Pond Park & Dahlia Park
 - - Planning performed for the following parks:
 - Riverview Park & Sand Creek Park
 - Variety of trail connections/extensions
 - Redeveloped parks had mid to high levels of attendance, whereas parks that have not been redeveloped had minimal to no attendance



6

Highlights

- Parks Site Evaluations:
 - On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being highest), the facilities that have not received major upgrades ranked an average score of 1 to 3.
 - Redeveloped parks ranked higher (scores of 3 to 4+) and demonstrate noticeably higher levels of attendance
 - Refer to examples on following slides

7

Highlights

- Prospect Park:
 - high rank (score of 4+)
 - Design
 - Quality turf / plantings
 - Shaded seating
 - Good connections / accessible
 - Variety of amenities / opportunities
 - Lighted trails



** Appearance at parking entrance could be improved*

8

Highlights

Dahlia Park medium rank (score of 3)

- Updated equipment
- Lack of planting enhancements
- Turf quality varies
- Limited seating - lack of shade
- Good trail connections
- Trail surface is good
- Play area does not meet ADA accessibility requirements



9

Highlights

Peppermint Stick Park low rank (score of 1)

- Not inviting
- Poor trail condition
- Lack of seating
- Safety concerns
- Lack of variety
- Outdated



11

Highlights

Delta Park low ranking park (score of 2)

- Not inviting
- Poor turf / weedy / no plantings
- Lack of seating
- Lacks accessible connections and trails
- Poor layout / items in disrepair

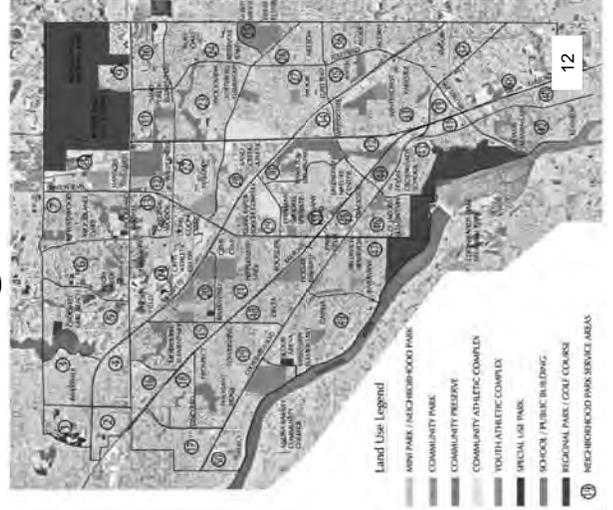


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Preliminary Planning Ideas

•Traditional Approach

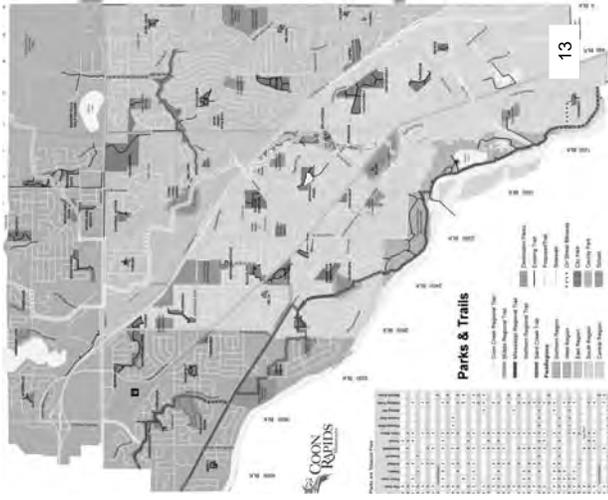
- Basic service areas based on widely accepted planning standards
- Maintain facilities at basic standards
- Neighborhood service areas



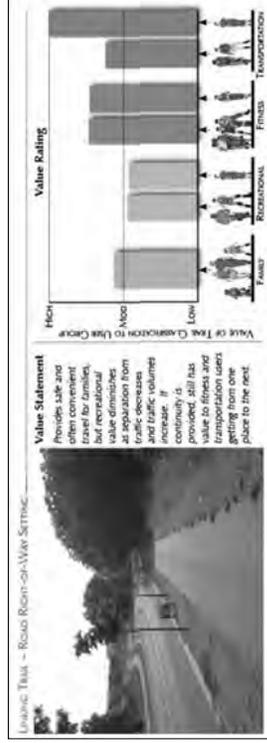
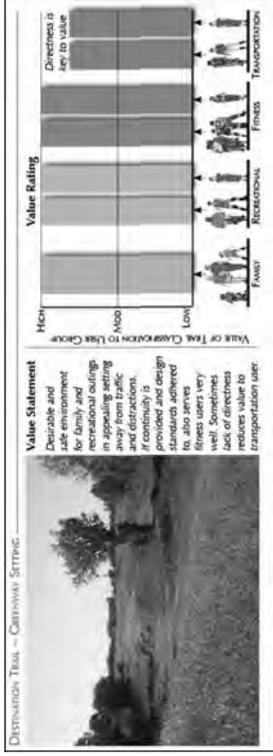
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Preliminary Planning Ideas

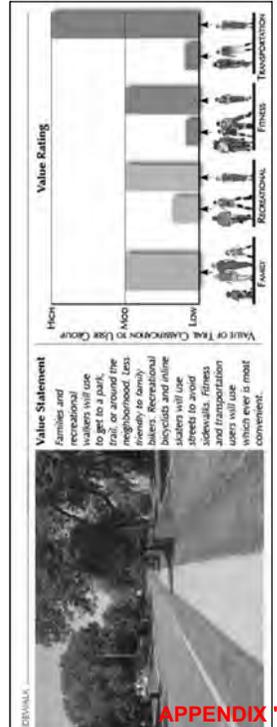
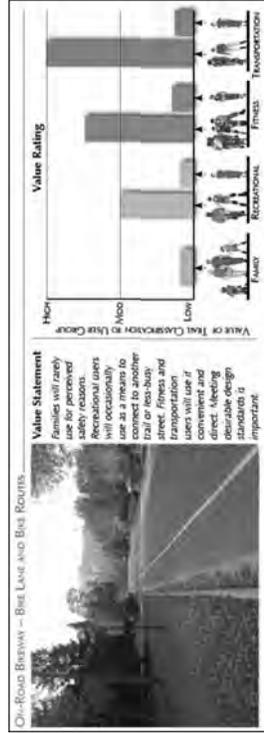
- **Trail Focused Approach**
 - Focus on connections...
 - Perceived value and importance of greenway beyond acting as connector.
 - Consider the following trail classifications relative to user group value



Preliminary Planning Ideas



Preliminary Planning Ideas

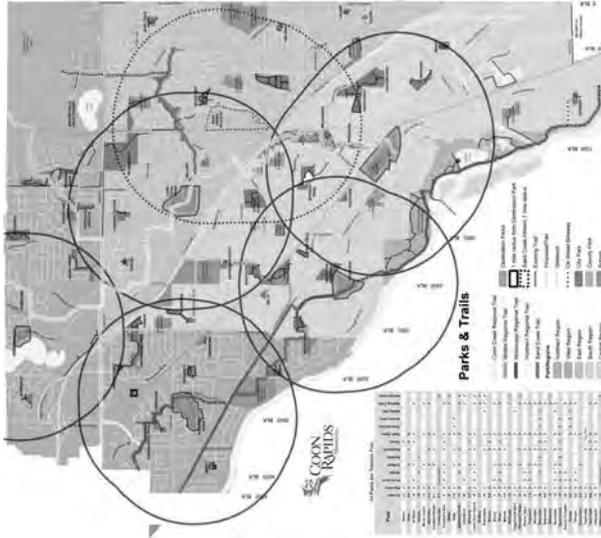


NOTE: various planning 'approaches' may be combined

Preliminary Planning Ideas

- **Sector Driven Approach**
 - Sectors created by physical barriers (roads/rails/land feature)
 - Enhanced community hubs with potentially decreased focus on neighborhoods parks
 - Recommendations for neighborhood park improvements based on evaluations and public input

Preliminary Planning Ideas



- Map of sectors areas & potential 'Destination' park within each sector. Also illustrates 1 mile boundary

17

Open Discussion

- Other considerations:
 - Dog parks
 - Skate parks
 - Importance of community buildings with full restrooms and meeting spaces at 'anchor' parks associated with the sector approach
 - Critical trail connections / greenway connections
 - Youth athletic complex (North of Main St.)
 - Recreation programming
 - Realities... wants vs. needs vs. cost impacts / tax increases
 - Other items?

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Questions...

1. Overall perspective on the system: What works?... What doesn't?
2. Quality vs. Quantity: Which is more important?
3. How is the park system important?
 - Recreation?
 - Quality of life?
 - Property value?
 - Health?
 - Other?
4. Task force suggestions for interview groups?

18

Schedule

- **Public Open House #1**
Wednesday, May 23rd
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
- **Public Open House #2**
Wednesday, May 30th
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
- **Task Force Meeting #2**
Wednesday, June 6th
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

Reconvene in August – dates/times to be determined

20

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2012
Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update
From: Jason Amberg

Meeting attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
X	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Ken Vraa	Consultant team, Ken Vraa Consulting, LLC
X	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
X	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
X	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
X	Matt Fulton	City of Coon Rapids, City Manager
	Gary Friend	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
	Tom Redmann	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
	Kelley Scott	Coon Rapids High School Athletic Director
	Jalai Laiel	Arts Commission
	Bob Krahn	Sustainability Commission
	Julia Stevens	Planning Commission
	Mike Jacobson	Parks & Recreation Commission
X	Neal Livermore	Parks & Recreation Commission
	Steve Wells	Community At-Large
	Susie Miller	Community At- Large
	Noble Rainville	Community At-Large
	Robert Plante	Community At-Large
	Scott Doolittle	Community At-Large
	Rebecca Milanovich	Community At-Large
	Steve Rice	Business Ower Rep.

Note: see attached sign-in sheet for public attendees.

Primary goals of meeting:

1. provide basic overview of what consulting team has learned from research & discussions with staff and task force
2. Review potential planning ideas
3. Receive input from the public on variety of issues

Public Input / Comments:

1. Improve equipment at parks for a variety of age groups – currently some parks have little to offer, or offer options only for narrow range of age groups
2. Moore Park is great... Peppermint Stick Park is not (has very little to offer)
3. Nice balance of quality and quantity.
4. Trails work great for walking and running, but there are safety issues with biking due to poor sight lines, tight and narrow curves, lack of striping / signage.
5. Sector approach sounds like a good way to spread out variety of unique opportunities throughout the city
6. Trail crossings should be improved and/or added where missing
7. Water activities / splash pads / wading pools would be nice addition to select parks – some residents travel to other cities to use their free facilities

8. More structured park and recreation programming by the city is desired. Single source to participate in variety of offerings, vs having to call each association individually.
9. There has been some housing turnover to younger families in the area north of Sand Creek Park.
10. Desire for shelter opportunities that could be used for variety of park programs and or neighborhood/community gatherings.
11. Maintain landscaping beyond basic mowing. Residents have notice decline in maintenance at neighborhood parks. Staff indicated that this relates to major budget and staff cuts over past several years.
12. Nelson Park:
 - a. needs better cleanup and maintenance... ICWC (Lino Lakes Correctional Facility) crews are not doing a very good job
 - b. have been issues requiring more policing after hours
 - c. ballfield is rarely used
13. Don't spend vast amounts of money building or improving items that do not have adequate funding to be sufficiently maintained long term.
14. Promote more 'adopt-a-park' programs
15. It would be great to have 2 to 3 nice skate parks throughout the city – could complement sector idea. Same idea with splash pads or water activities.
16. Quality is preferred over quantity – quality improves sense of community
17. Frisbee golf would be nice to incorporate into one of the parks
18. Implement exercise/fitness station opportunities within the parks
19. Additional sitting spaces and trails for walking
20. Part of the 'fun' of parks is actually traveling to different parks by trail connections.
21. Community dog park improvements
22. Add outdoor ice rink(s) – potentially in front of future community center or at other parks
23. Disappointed that 'community center' resulted only in indoor ice arena
24. Improvements should bring outsiders into community.
25. Public noticing decline in youth athletic participation numbers based on vacant ball fields
26. Preference to 'keep and maintain' park items vs. remove them now only to have to rebuild them in the future due to changing demands
27. Don't want the system to be a liability to the city – need safer trails
 - a. poor sightlines at Sand Creek Trail have caused bike accidents
 - b. centerlines, arrows, tree/brush clearing, and widened pavement is desired (especially on tight curves)
 - c. need better signage and rules
28. Attendees indicated that Recreation / Quality of Life / Property Value / Health, and Parental Sanity are all important aspects of the Park System.
29. Park maintenance is important to the public and reflects on the entire community
30. Residents love the trails – this is a major reason for living in Coon Rapids, but still need to make improvements to broaden connections.
31. Most important items when considering purchasing a home include:
 - a. Access to trails
 - b. Drive time to work and commercial locations
 - c. Nearby parks
 - d. Nearby open space
 - e. Quality of schools
32. Public may also fill out comment cards and mail or email them to Jason.
 - a. 1 comment card filled out by attendee at the meeting – see attached

Public Open House / Input Meeting #1 - Attendance Sheet

Parks, Trails, Open Space System Plan Update

City of Coon Rapids

Date: May 23, 2012 @ 6:30

Location: City Hall

	Name:	Address:	Phone:
1	Lisa SILFMAN	10051 GROUSE ST	763 155-4829
2	Jennifer Flynn	12094 Butterant St NW	763-242- 3298.
3	Jay Holm lund	160-109 th Lane N. W.	763-757-4689
4	Noble Rainville	10961 BUTTERANT ST. NW	763 528-3077
5	Laura Marguerdt	11890 Redwood St NW	763 767 6854
6	Shannon Hadtrath	930 117 th Ave NW	763 767 7519
7	Becky Melanovich	1267 129 th ave NW	763 612-805-0091
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			

Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan Update Process Public Input Comment Card



What do you / your family enjoy the most about the parks and trails in Coon Rapids? *(please be as specific as possible)*

running sitting

What do you / your family feel is missing or could be improved within the Coon Rapids park and trail system?
(please be as specific as possible)

Any additional comments?

Thank you for having this session!

Optional info:

Name:

Jennifer Flynn

Address:

12094 Butternut

Email:

Phone: 763-755-3497

Thank you for your input!

You may fill out and leave comment card at the meeting.

Or send to:

Feedback must be received by June 30, 2012

Brauer & Associates, Ltd,
Attn: Jason Amberg
10417 Excelsior Blvd., Suite #1
Hopkins, MN 55343

Or email to: jason@brauer-ltd.com

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Date: Wednesday, May 30, 2012
Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update
From: Jason Amberg

Meeting attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
X	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
X	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Ken Vraa	Consultant team, Ken Vraa Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
X	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
X	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
	Matt Fulton	City of Coon Rapids, City Manager
	Gary Friend	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
	Tom Redmann	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
	Kelley Scott	Coon Rapids High School Athletic Director
	Jalai Laiel	Arts Commission
	Bob Krahn	Sustainability Commission
	Julia Stevens	Planning Commission
X	Mike Jacobson	Parks & Recreation Commission
	Neal Livermore	Parks & Recreation Commission
X	Steve Wells	Community At-Large
	Susie Miller	Community At- Large
	Noble Rainville	Community At-Large
	Robert Plante	Community At-Large
X	Scott Doolittle	Community At-Large
	Rebecca Milanovich	Community At-Large
	Steve Rice	Business Ower Rep.

Note: see attached sign-in sheet for public attendees.

Primary goals of meeting:

1. provide basic overview of what consulting team has learned from research & discussions with staff and task force
2. Review potential planning ideas
3. Receive input from the public on variety of issues

Public Input / Comments:

1. Trackside issues:
 - a. Remove dog park – this conflicts with neighborhood. This has been long going problem for about 7 years
 - b. Suggested other locations for dog park
 - i. Evergreen business park
 - ii. Sand Creek Park
 - iii. Wilderness (suggested by city staff)
2. Burl Oaks – heavily used by dog owners, problems with dog owners not picking up after their pets; placing these in residential areas is a problem
3. City has not had success with working with County on dog park locations on County land

4. Simple things get missed that make a difference; for example, Improved signage has really helped to identify public park space. This is very important and could help park attendance at some of the more 'hidden' park locations
5. numerous attendees really like lots of different park opportunities available to them – very easy for family to have different park experience without having to travel very far
6. Would really like to see Riverview Park be improved as per the master planning last year.
7. Advertise scout community assistance to maintain parks – similar to adopt-a-park program
8. safety and maintenance is a high priority
9. Disc golf opportunity is desired
10. Quality and Quantity are both important. Since there are already a large number of parks, improvements to quality makes sense to the group without eliminating parks
 - a. Make more efficient use of land available
11. Improved trails and connections to sector parks would help justify the sector park idea
12. Trails
 - a. add sitting areas along trails
 - b. add drinking fountain opportunities along trails
 - c. add lighted trails at critical intersections or problem areas
13. Safe trail crossing north of central middle school/sr. high school north of hwy 10
14. skate park / bmx park could provide unique amenity to draw people to the city
15. consider selling park property that is not or can not be maintained due to budget limitations; or selling parks that are underperforming or simply not needed
16. ask specific neighborhood residents for further input prior to actually implementing any park changes as the demographics can change quickly
17. focus on amenities that will get kids out of the house and away from the tv and computer
18. desire for water type amenity, but could be difficult to justify given costs for development and long term maintenance and operational costs
19. lack of parking at Sand Creek Park
20. if possible, residents would like to be able to have access to creeks for purposes of tubing or other non-motorized uses
21. Prefer to keep parks vs. sell any property for development – too much development as it is
22. Keep the parks to provide further greenspace for infiltration opportunities – too much flooding in the metro.
 - a. Consider gardening and/or foraging to potentially reduce maintenance and increase attendance of parks by different user groups
 - b. Provided via email by attendee after meeting... Forage Parks are a potential way to reduce maintenance while still resulting in useful quality park. Foraging parks are becoming a recent trend – Nat'l Geographic article...
<http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/blogs/thegreenguide/2010/09/urban-foragers-cropping-up-in.html>
23. Many people living in city are in "last third of life" and want to be able to stay healthy, take grand kids to nice park features, and walk along a trail; also want to protect their property values
24. All open land has value in a developed city like Coon Rapids, so City should preserve as much of it as possible
25. Community looking nice has intangible value to living in the city
26. Primary reasons that the park system is important include:
 - a. Convenience / easy to access
 - b. Community relationship opportunities
 - c. A place to 'tire out' the kids
 - d. Health
27. High Ranking considerations when considering purchase of home
 - a. Cost of home
 - b. Location based on type or neighborhood character (including appearance of parks)
 - c. Location based on affordability
 - d. Access to nearby trails and parks
 - e. Commute times

- f. Proximity to other family
 - g. Quiet / no gunshots
28. Public may also fill out comment cards and mail or email them to Jason.
- a. 1 comment card filled out by attendee at the meeting – see attached

H:\DOCS\2012\12-06 Coon Rapids Syst Plan\04 - public open house meeting #2 - Coon Rapids system update.doc

Public Open House / Input Meeting #1 - Attendance Sheet

Parks, Trails, Open Space System Plan Update

City of Coon Rapids

Date: May 30, 2012 @ 6:30

Location: City Hall

	Name:	Address:	Phone:
1	Traci Lehman for CR National Little League	12380 Raven St NW COON RAPIDS, MN 55448	612-501 3553
2	Rose Griffith	10332 Xavis St, NW CR 55433	763-427- 7419
3	Scott & Shawn Doob-Hle	11985 Songvil Str. N.W CR. 55433	763-370 0090
4	Mike & Val Carter	10410 Hummingbird St CR 55433	763-757 2046
5	Jeremy Dworschak	3052 121st Ave NW Coon Rapids 55433	763. 208. 7587
6	Jennifer Flynn		
7	Steve Welly		763-323 4984
8	Stacey Demmer	10020 Norway St NW CR	763-862. 8322
9	ROBERT BRINNER	811 98TH AVE NW # 101	
10	Tim Kramer	11603 Yukon St. N.W. Coon Rapids, MN 55433	612-242 0735
11	John Ward	10280 MISSISSIPPI BLVD NW #232 COON RAPIDS 55433 JWARD2248@gmail.com	763-432 3375
12	Julia Stevens	12149 Martin St CR 55448	612-296 1847
13	Tom Jarog	10420 Hummingbird St NW	763-754- 8196
14			

Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan Update Process Public Input Comment Card



What do you / your family enjoy the most about the parks and trails in Coon Rapids? (please be as specific as possible)

What do you / your family feel is missing or could be improved within the Coon Rapids park and trail system? (please be as specific as possible)

if some parks go to lower maintenance, I would be thrilled to have a park(s) designated as insect/bird/wildlife areas with a path + bench. Foraging park! A dirt path for running.

Any additional comments?

Events? It would be interesting to know if Blaine Parks made \$ with the Triathlon they put on.

Many of people's needs to be near nature can be met by the basic infrastruce of a city. Parks don't have to do all!
→ "SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOLS", "COMPLETE STREETS"

Optional info:

Name: Jennifer Flynn

Email: flynn127@umn.edu

Address: _____

Phone: 763-755-3497

Thank you for your input!

You may fill out and leave comment card at the meeting.

Feedback must be received by June 30, 2012

Or send to:

Brauer & Associates, Ltd,
Attn: Jason Amberg
10417 Excelsior Blvd., Suite #1
Hopkins, MN 55343

Or email to: jason@brauer-ltd.com

Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan Update Process Public Input Comment Card



What do you / your family enjoy the most about the parks and trails in Coon Rapids? (please be as specific as possible)

Having a vehicle free (safe) route to ride recreationally.
Being amongst nature, as our preferred routes are
along the creek and in the woods.

What do you / your family feel is missing or could be improved within the Coon Rapids park and trail system? (please be as specific as possible)

Improved connectivity between the neighboring parks via trails.
Increased number of water fountains and porta potty's.
Some number of non-paved trails (gravel, limestone, etc)

Any additional comments?

When I moved to CR 5 years ago, I considered many of the items presented; cost of home, commute time, trails, etc.
Yes, my biggest disappointment is the lack of a community identity that is desirable. To me, Coon Rapids means loud trains!
Having an improved 'sector' park system w/ interconnecting trails may help improve our community identity.

Optional info:

Name: Jeremy Dworshak
Address: 3052 121st Ave NW
CR 55433

Email: jsdworshak01@comcast.net
Phone: 763.208.7587

Thank you for your input!

You may fill out and leave comment card at the meeting.

Feedback must be received by June 30, 2012

Or send to:

Brauer & Associates, Ltd,
Attn: Jason Amberg
10417 Excelsior Blvd., Suite #1
Hopkins, MN 55343

Or email to: jason@brauer-ltd.com

Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan Update Process Public Input Comment Card



What do you / your family enjoy the most about the parks and trails in Coon Rapids? (please be as specific as possible)

The athletic complexes (baseball fields)
soccer

What do you / your family feel is missing or could be improved within the Coon Rapids park and trail system? (please be as specific as possible)

More basketball pads & hoops at the neighborhood parks. Smaller shelters at the neighborhood parks with benches.

Any additional comments?

I agree with the strategy of focusing on building up the sector parks and the trails to get to them. I feel that we could do a better job on the "standard" maintenance of the smaller neighborhood park. Also - meet with neighbors of under utilized parks what they want.

Optional info:

Name: Traci Lehman
Address: 12380 Raven St NW
Coon Rapids MN 55449

Email: TraciL@citiesmanagement.com
Phone: 612.501.3553

Thank you for your input!

I would like to know more about Riverview Park. I am on the CR National Little League Board.

You may fill out and leave comment card at the meeting.

Or send to:

Brauer & Associates, Ltd,
Attn: Jason Amberg
10417 Excelsior Blvd., Suite #1
Hopkins, MN 55343

Feedback must be received by June 30, 2012

Or email to: jason@brauer-ltd.com

Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan Update Process Public Input Comment Card



What do you / your family enjoy the most about the parks and trails in Coon Rapids? (please be as specific as possible)

I love being near three neighborhood parks. They may not be state of the art but we really utilize them. We also occasionally make "special" trips to larger parks like Lions.

What do you / your family feel is missing or could be improved within the Coon Rapids park and trail system? (please be as specific as possible)

A few key amenities like disc golf or bouldering would be great. Things targeted at teens are very needed.

Any additional comments?

We love our parks and I am willing to pay more in taxes to support them.

Optional info:

Name:

Stacey Demmer

Address:

10020 Norway St NW
C.R. 55433

Email:

stacedemmer@hotmail.com

Phone:

763-862-8322

Thank you for your input!

You may fill out and leave comment card at the meeting.

Or send to:

Feedback must be received by June 30, 2012

Brauer & Associates, Ltd,
Attn: Jason Amberg
10417 Excelsior Blvd., Suite #1
Hopkins, MN 55343

Or email to: jason@brauer-ltd.com

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Date: Wednesday, June 6, 2012
Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update
From: Jason Amberg

Meeting attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
X	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
X	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
X	Ken Vraa	Consultant team, Ken Vraa Consulting, LLC
X	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
X	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
X	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
	Matt Fulton	City of Coon Rapids, City Manager
	Gary Friend	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
X	Tom Redmann	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
	Kelley Scott	Coon Rapids High School Athletic Director
	Jalai Laiel	Arts Commission
X	Bob Krahn	Sustainability Commission
X	Julia Stevens	Planning Commission
X	Mike Jacobson	Parks & Recreation Commission
	Neal Livermore	Parks & Recreation Commission
X	Steve Wells	Community At-Large
	Susie Miller	Community At- Large
	Noble Rainville	Community At-Large
	Robert Plante	Community At-Large
X	Scott Doolittle	Community At-Large
X	Rebecca Milanovich	Community At-Large
	Steve Rice	Business Ower Rep.
X	Mary Lou Hecht	Parks & Recreation Commission (in place of Neal Livermore)

Primary goals of meeting:

1. provide basic overview of what consulting team has learned from public input meetings
2. open discussion to gain feedback and confirm direction on planning approaches
3. refer to powerpoint presentation (attached - following these notes)

Taskforce Input / Comments:

1. Advertise upgraded parks so people know where the improvements are located.
2. Level of programming by the city needs to be justified for additional costs to city.
 - a. City feels they could potentially reallocate funds from donation to community ed programs to small park & rec dept.
 - b. Park and Recreation Dept should be considered a public service and does not need to be a huge department. Could begin with very limited expansion to provide better assistance/communication to the public as related to various association based program offerings.
3. Consider how Sand Creek and Riverview Parks are planned given the current separate property of the little league.

- a. Work with them, and or around them.
4. Can city generate revenue from associations with members outside of the city limits?
5. Task force stresses importance of:
 - a. Improved quality of facilities.
 - b. Improved connector trails in concert with sector approach focusing on quality.
 - c. Improvements that attracts young families.
 - d. Do what can be done with the means available, but do it well. Be cautious of making improvements that do not have long term funding strategy for maintenance.
6. Might make sense to make public aware of reasons for decline in maintenance... Budget cuts and seasonal-help cuts.
7. Task Force Group agrees that the information and approach defined in powerpoint presentation should be presented at the City Council Workshop.

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Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

June 6, 2012
Task Force Meeting #2



1

Meeting Agenda:

1. Share highlights of what we've learned since last meeting
2. Discuss public feedback related to preliminary planning ideas / approaches
3. Open discussion to gain feedback and confirm direction on approaches, perspectives and priorities

2

Questions Posed to the Public

1. Overall perspective on the system: What works?... What doesn't?
2. Quality vs. Quantity: Which is more important?
3. How is the park system important?
4. What is most important when purchasing a home/deciding to live in city?

3

Previously Discussed Points

- Past surveys indicate general satisfaction
- Recent park redevelopments projects have been very well received
- Demographic changes will continue to impact priorities:
 - Limited household turnover
 - Increase in percentage of age groups of 50+ yrs
 - Decrease in percentage of age groups of 35- yrs

4

Summary of Existing Quality

- Mixed bag of results – common to an aging system
- Parks Site Evaluations Summary:
 - On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being highest), facilities that have not received major upgrades ranked an average score of 1 to 3.
 - Redeveloped parks ranked higher (scores of 3 to 4+) and demonstrate noticeably higher levels of attendance

5

Summary of Public Input

- Overall perspective on the system: What works?... What doesn't?
- Quality vs. Quantity: Which is more important?
- How is the park system important?

6

Summary of Public Input

Overall perspective on the system:

- What works?
 - Residents like that there are many nearby parks to go to, although some are difficult to get to or are hidden
 - Redeveloped parks have much more to offer
 - Preservation of open space
- What doesn't work?
 - Need to improve/add opportunities for wider range of age groups
 - Trails need work (sight lines, tight & narrow curves, lack of signage and striping, resting locations, drinking fountains, lights at critical areas)
 - Lack of skate opportunities, no water activity, no disc golf, limited seating & shelters
 - Residents would like a centralized Park and Recreation programming department to arrange for variety of activities (vs. having to call individual associations)
 - Noticeable decline in maintenance (due to budget cuts)
 - Dog park in neighborhood park setting
 - Improving parks without funding source to maintain them

7

Summary of Public Input

Quality vs. Quantity: Which is more important?

- Quality seemed to have higher importance than quantity, however, it was clear that residents feel that both are important.
- Residents indicated they would not want to see decrease in quantity of parks or see any parks decline in quality.

8

Summary of Public Input

How is the park system important?

- Maintenance / aesthetic of system is important and reflects on the community as a whole
- Trails and associated recreation and transportation value provide opportunity to variety of users
- Environmental aspect of parks: infiltration and natural benefits as well as other opportunities
- Protection of property values

9

Reality Check – Importance Factor!

- Caution about assumptions on willingness to pay
- Satisfaction with system is generally high (meeting expectations)
- Aging population with fixed income (careful with spending outlays/willingness to support tax increase)
- Modest-priced housing / modest incomes = cautious about money
- Industry perspective also reinforces caution when considering purchasing decisions

Top tier factors

1. Cost of home
2. Location based on type or character
3. Location based on affordability
4. Quality of schools
5. Type of house (character style etc.)
6. Property taxes

Second tier factors

7. Drive time to work
8. Nearby neighborhood parks
9. Access to natural open space
10. Nearby natural open space
11. Drive time to retail other services etc.
12. Lot size (how house fits on property)
13. Sense of privacy

Third tier factors

14. Directly abutting natural open space
15. Directly abutting neighborhood parks
16. Access to public transit
17. Lot size (how house fits on property)
18. Nearby public athletic facilities
19. Access to public transportation

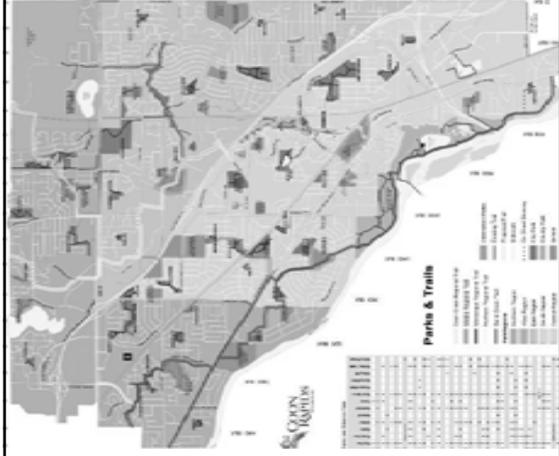
10

Qualified Approach

- **Sectors** defined by physical characteristics of the city
 - Key select parks get higher level of development
 - Become focal point in that sector
 - Start with one, do it well (prove value), and then proceed forward
- **Neighborhood parks** get defined with graduated offerings based on community's willingness to pay
 - Define baseline service to keep park viable
 - Provide graduated listing of optional improvements over time
 - Keep all parks in system now – to hedge bet and to maintain open space
- **Trail system** focus on connections, continuity, and quality of experience
- Athletic facilities focus on improvements to major facilities, no land expansion

11

City Map for Reference



12

701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55343

Date: Monday, July 9, 2012
Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update
From: Jason Amberg

Meeting attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
X	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
X	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
X	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
X	Matt Fulton	City of Coon Rapids, City Manager
X	Mary Lou Hecht	Park Commission
X	Tim Arntson	Park Commission
X	Neal Livermore	Park Commission
X	Mike Jacobson	Park Commission
X	Ryan McAlpine	Park Commission
X	Gen Sand	Park Commission
X	Steven Head	Park Commission

Primary goals of meeting:

1. provide basic overview of what consulting team has learned from:
 - a. public input meetings
 - b. surveys
 - c. stakeholder interviews
 - d. park evaluations
 - e. demographics
2. review preliminary planning approaches and ideas
3. seek consensus from Park Commission to proceed with 'big picture' planning approach
 - a. sector parks
 - b. trail connections
 - c. maintain neighborhood parks
 - d. discuss role of neighborhood parks

Park Commission Input / Comments:

1. Concern that basketball complex would ignore other community needs
2. Parks & Rec program should be expanded to offer more opportunity through the city
 - a. Questioned whether the \$120k currently allocated to community education annually could be re-directed to foster further development / expansion of park and recreation program
3. Sector park approach makes sense as long as trail connections to sector parks are developed / improved and neighborhood parks are maintained / improved

- a. Some neighborhood parks are redundant and we should explore ways to provide better efficiency regarding amenities offered in parks that are located close together in the same general neighborhoods
4. The following parks are highest priority:
 - a. Sand Creek
 - b. Lions Park
 - c. Riverview
5. Develop a natural beach at Crooked Lake Park
6. Dog Park will likely be relocated to a County operated location near the Bunker Hills Compost Facility. Park Commission suggested providing a separate city dog park somewhere in the southern side of the city.
7. Generally agreed that the building at Riverwind Park should be replaced.
 - a. If the community center is successful, the park building for Riverview could potentially be more modest.
8. It was suggested that "sector" parks be renamed "community" parks. We will evaluate this further as we move forward being cautious not to label parks as 'community' parks, if they do not meet the minimal standard requirements as set forth by the American Planning Association.
9. It is suggested that the existing sod farms north of Main Street are recommended for future acquisition to develop an athletic complex when the need arises.
10. Plan will address maintenance cost projections for new facilities or amenities that are not currently maintained or offered within the system.
11. At close of meeting, and after great open discussion to address many concerns/questions, the Park Commission indicated they are in agreement with the planning approach defined. All seemed to be very excited about the potential to see changes in the parks system.

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Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

July 9, 2012

Parks Commission Meeting



1

Questions Posed to the Public

1. Overall perspective on the system: What works?... What doesn't?
2. Quality vs. Quantity: Which is more important?
3. How is the park system important?
4. What is most important when purchasing a home/deciding to live in city?

3

Meeting Agenda:

1. Share highlights of what we've learned to date
2. Discuss public feedback related to preliminary planning ideas / approaches
3. Seek to gain consensus on 'big picture' planning ideas / approach
 - Discuss role of neighborhood parks
 - Discussion / additional comments

2

Previously Discussed Points

- Recent surveys indicate general satisfaction
- Recent park redevelopments projects have been very well received
- Demographic changes will continue to impact priorities:
 - Limited household turnover
 - Increase in percentage of age groups of 50+ yrs
 - Decrease in percentage of age groups of 35- yrs

4

Summary of Existing Quality

- Mixed bag of results – common to an aging system
- Parks Site Evaluations Summary:
 - Facilities that have not received major upgrades ranked low to medium quality
 - Redeveloped parks ranked medium to high quality / performance
 - Also demonstrate noticeably higher levels of attendance

5

Summary of Public Input

Overall perspective on the system:

- What works?
 - Residents like that there are many nearby parks to go to, although some are difficult to get to or are hidden
 - Redeveloped parks have much more to offer
 - Preservation of open space
- What doesn't work?
 - Need to improve/add opportunities for wider range of age groups
 - Trails need work (sight lines, tight & narrow curves, lack of signage and striping, resting locations, drinking fountains, lights at critical areas)
 - Lack of skate opportunities, no water activity, no disc golf, limited seating & shelters
 - Noticeable decline in maintenance (due to budget cuts)
 - Dog park in neighborhood park setting
 - Improving parks without funding source to maintain them
 - Some residents desire a centralized Park and Recreation programming department to arrange for variety of activities (vs. having to call individual associations)

7

Summary of Public Input

- Overall perspective on the system: What works?... What doesn't?
- Quality vs. Quantity: Which is more important?
- How is the park system important?

6

Summary of Public Input

Quality vs. Quantity: Which is more important?

- Quality seemed to have higher importance than quantity, however, it was clear that residents feel that both are important.
- Residents indicated they would not want to see decrease in quantity of parks or see any parks decline in quality.

8

Summary of Public Input

How is the park system important?

- Maintenance / aesthetic of system is important and reflects on the community as a whole
- Trails and associated recreation and transportation value provide opportunity to variety of users
- Environmental aspect of parks: infiltration and natural benefits as well as other opportunities
- Protection of property values

9

Summary of Stakeholder Group Input

Groups interviewed on June 27, include:

- Anoka Hennepin School District
- CRAA
- Realtors
- Scouts
- Soccer
- Little Leagues
- Churches
- Daycare/Mom's Club

Summary:

- Very similar feedback to that of public open house input. Similar likes and dislikes.
- Agree that the 'sector park' approach makes sense, but must also improve trail connections and maintain neighborhood parks.
- Groups very excited about the possibility of improved system.

10

Summary of Online Survey Results

This brief summary includes repeat comments only:

() = Total of all with this comment. Total of approximately 80 responses.

Likes-

- Many trails and parks, well maintained. (25)
- Variety (2)
- Like and use outdoor hockey rinks in winter.
- Parks and Trails are fine (2)

Don't like and /or need improvements-

- More trash cans on trails / in parks. (11)
- Enforcement of dogs off leash (4)
- More dog parks and/or more amenities
- More picnic/grilling areas (2)
- More lighting on heavy used for parks for night usage (3)
- More bike trails (5)
- Map at the entrance of trails (3)
- Swimming pool/lake/splash pad (3)
- Disc golf course (4)
- More activities for kids and teens (2)
- More benches, restrooms and water fountains (5)
- Connect trails (4)

11

Reality Check – Importance Factor!

- Caution about assumptions on willingness to pay
- Satisfaction with system is generally high (meeting expectations)
- Aging population with fixed income (careful with spending outlays/willingness to support tax increase)
- Modest-priced housing / modest incomes = cautious about money
- Industry perspective also reinforces caution when considering purchasing decisions

Top tier factors

1. Cost of home
2. Location based on type or character of neighborhood
3. Location based on affordability
4. Quality of schools
5. Type of house (character style etc.)
6. Property taxes
7. Drive time to work
8. Nearby neighborhood parks
9. Access to nearby trails
10. Nearby natural open space
11. Drive time to retail other services etc.
12. Lot size (how house fits on property)
13. Sense of privacy

Second tier factors

14. Directly abutting natural open space
15. Directly abutting neighborhood parks
16. Directly adjacent to trails
17. Lot size (larger lots being better)
18. Nearby public athletic facilities
19. Access to public transportation

Third tier factors

- Reality – must prove value step-by-step (City Assessment Dept. will research this based on past park improvement projects)

12

Recommended 'Qualified' Approach

- **Sectors** defined by physical characteristics of the city
 - Key select parks get higher level of development
 - Become focal point in that sector
 - Start with one, do it well (prove value), and then proceed forward
- **Neighborhood parks** get defined with graduated offerings based on community's willingness to pay
 - Define baseline service to keep park viable
 - Provide graduated listing of optional improvements over time
 - Keep all parks in system now – to hedge bet and to maintain open space
- **Trail system** focus on connections, continuity, and quality of experience
- Athletic facilities focus on improvements to major facilities, no land expansion

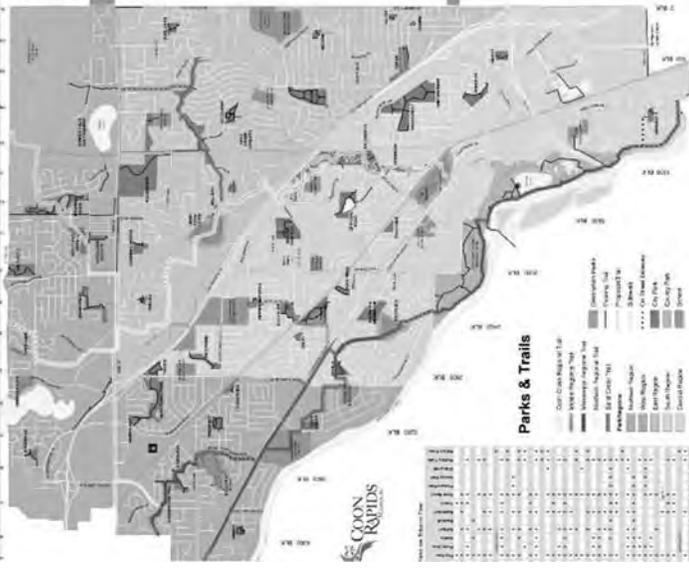
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Open Discussion

- Role of neighborhood parks?
- Comments:

15

City Map for Reference



14

Schedule

- **July:**
 - Completion of stakeholder input meetings
- **August:**
 - Preliminary update to Park Commission
 - Continued work on draft system report
- **August/September:**
 - Task Force Meeting
 - Public Open House Meeting
- **October:** Final Report

Note: All dates/times to be determined

16

701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55343

Date: Monday, August 6, 2012
Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update
From: Jason Amberg

Meeting attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
X	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
X	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
X	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
X	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
X	Mary Lou Hecht	Park Commission
	Tim Arntson	Park Commission
X	Neal Livermore	Park Commission
X	Mike Jacobson	Park Commission
X	Ryan McAlpine	Park Commission
	Gen Sand	Park Commission
	Steven Head	Park Commission

Primary goals of meeting:

1. Review system plan preferences in graphic format based on following draft plans prepared
 - a. Cornerstone Parks within Sectors
 - b. Neighborhood Parks
 - c. Pedestrian Connections

Input / Comments:

1. Disc golf potentially located at Anoka Ramsey Community College and/or Woodcrest / Wintercrest Park

2. Tennis should be located at the following parks. (Phase out at other parks)
 - a. Alder
 - b. Kennedy
 - c. Crooked Lake
 - d. Moor
 - e. Sand Creek
 - f. Al Flynn

3. Dog Park at Trackside should be phased out after the County/City Dog Park west of Bunker Hills is developed.
 - a. Another potential dog park on the southern part of the city could be developed on city owned property west of Evergreen Blvd.

4. Splash Pads should be planned at the following parks:
 - a. Crooked Lake (also improve swimming beach)
 - b. Lions Coon Creek Park
 - c. Al Flynn
 - d. Indoor aquatics at future Community Center
5. Skate / BMX facilities should be planned at the following parks:
 - a. Sand Creek – Skate & BMX
 - b. Crooked Lake – Skate
 - c. Riverview – Skate
6. In addition to the critical pedestrian connections indicated on mapping, also consider the following:
 - a. Extend 85th Ave. trail west to Kennedy Park
 - b. Fill in the missing caps along Coon Rapids Blvd. east of the railroad (include signage on east river road to notify pedestrians to use Coon Rapids Blvd. as the pedestrian link)
 - c. Hanson Blvd.: convert one side from a sidewalk to a trail
 - d. Incorporate sidewalks identified in City provide mapping titled “proposed sidewalks”
7. Gregg Engle will review mapping of trails to confirm accuracy of what is currently built. (trail shown as ‘existing’ through Wilderness park is non-existent)
8. Develop draft cost projections for all proposed system planning improvements
9. Review plan revisions and draft cost projections at meeting in September

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701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55343

Date: Monday, September 10, 2012
Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update
From: Jason Amberg

Meeting attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
X	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
X	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
X	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
X	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
X	Mary Lou Hecht	Park Commission
X	Tim Arntson	Park Commission
X	Neal Livermore	Park Commission
	Mike Jacobson	Park Commission
X	Ryan McAlpine	Park Commission
X	Gen Sand	Park Commission
	Steven Head	Park Commission

Primary goals of meeting:

1. Review and take comments related to the following plan graphic updates:
 - a. Cornerstone Parks within Sectors
 - b. Neighborhood Parks ("Other" Parks)
 - c. Regional trail gaps
 - d. Miscellaneous trail and walkway gaps
2. Review and take comments related to preliminary cost projections
3. Obtain Park Commission's priorities

Input / Comments:

1. Adjust trail map to include proposed trail connection for Sand Creek Linkage through Wildwood Park from 121st to Main St.
2. Confirm status of pedestrian connections associated with Foley Blvd. (from Post Office to Northdale Blvd) as part of a County project and include on mapping. Reflect in cost projections.
3. Reflect cost projections for sidewalks associated with University Ave.
4. A trail is desired on 1 side of Shenandoah Blvd.
5. A trail is desired on 1 side of Hanson Blvd
6. Park Commissions Priorities are listed below (from highest to lowest):

- a. Complete trail connections
 - i. Connections to regional parks
 - ii. Trail connection to Kennedy Park
 - b. Sand Creek Park redevelopment
 - c. Maintenance of park system
 - d. Cornerstone Park development
 - i. Crooked Lake Park
 - ii. Riverview Park
 - e. Evergreen Dog Park
 - f. Improvements to other parks (high, mid, and low level)
 - g. Add Community buildings to Cornerstone Parks
7. Next meetings:
- a. Joint Park Commission / Task Force meeting: October 1, 2012
 - b. Public Open House Table Top Displays: October 9, 2012
 - c. Council Work Session: October 23, 2012

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Task Force and Park Commission Meeting Notes

701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55343

Date: Monday, October 1, 2012
Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update
From: Jason Amberg

Meeting attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
x	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd., (a division of WSB)
x	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Ken Vraa	Consultant team, Ken Vraa Consulting, LLC
x	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, City Manager
x	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
x	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Tim Himmer	City of Coon Rapids, Public Works Director
x	Jerry Koch	City Council
	Gary Friend	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
x	Steve Anderson	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
	Tom Redmann	Anoka-Hennepin School Maintenance
	Kelley Scott	Coon Rapids High School Athletic Director
x	Jalai Laiel	Arts Commission
x	Bob Krahn	Sustainability Commission
x	Julia Stevens	Planning Commission
x	Steve Wells	Community At-Large
	Susie Miller	Community At-Large
	Noble Rainville	Community At-Large
	Robert Plante	Community At-Large
x	Scott Doolittle	Community At-Large
	Rebecca Milanovich	Community At-Large
	Steve Rice	Business Owner Rep.
x	Mike Jacobson	Parks & Recreation Commission
x	Neal Livermore	Parks & Recreation Commission
x	Mary Lou Hecht	Parks & Recreation Commission
x	Tim Arntson	Parks & Recreation Commission
	Ryan McAlpine	Parks & Recreation Commission
x	Gen Sand	Parks & Recreation Commission
	Steven Head	Parks & Recreation Commission

Agenda:

1. Powerpoint presentation: (copy is attached to these notes for reference)
 - a. Update on process throughout the summer
 - b. Review key planning framework for system plan
 - c. Review priorities recommended by Park Commission and corresponding cost projections
 - d. Open discussion – comments/questions
 - e. Next meetings

Input / Comments:

1. Financing options were discussed. City staff indicated that all options will be evaluated after plan is adopted.
 - a. City should explore other revenue generating ideas such as bike rentals. Although this may help offset some costs of such program, it is not likely to dramatically fund the improvements.
 - b. Referendum is the most likely route to implementing meaningful improvements within the system. Given the current economic conditions, this is not likely to happen in the upcoming year. Referendum planning should include information for the public to understand how the costs will impact the average homeowner.
 - c. There are other possible funding sources / strategies associated with pedestrian connections and regional trail, but there are also many other projects competing for these same funds. This option may help alleviate some of the financial burden, but will probably not totally eliminate the need for local funding.

2. Increased budget for maintenance is also a high priority. This will be addressed to bring maintenance back to the budget and staff levels prior to the cuts imposed in the mid 2000's as well as account for some of the new proposed elements that may require additional maintenance not currently included in the system.

3. Sand Creek makes sense as a high priority due to the age of the infrastructure, its inefficient layout, and its central location within the city. The redevelopment of this park would also alleviate some of the athletic pressure on Al Flynn Park, which would essentially set that up well for future redevelopment of the Tier 2 priorities.

4. It was agreed by the Task Force and Park Commission that the following items should be moved from Tier 2 priorities, to Tier 1 priorities. Doing this would also provide more uniform cost projection distribution among the three tiers of priorities.
 - a. Crooked Lake Park: this would help distribute a broader range of park offerings/improvements throughout the city and not be so heavily weighted on athletics. This is also one of the most unique parks in the system as it is located directly adjacent to a lake.
 - b. Evergreen Dog Park: this would provide another cross section of public need at a reasonable cost and eliminate the dog park & related problems at Trackside Park.

5. Next meetings:
 - a. Public Open House Table Top Displays: October 9, 2012
 - b. Council Work Session: October 23, 2012

Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

October 1, 2012

Parks Commission & Task Force Meeting



1

Meeting Agenda:

1. Update on process throughout the summer
2. Key Planning Framework Parks and Trails System Plans
3. Plan Priorities and Cost Projections

2

Updates since last Task Force Meeting

1. Individual interviews with more than a dozen community groups including:
 - Athletic associations
 - Church groups
 - Seniors
 - Realtors
 - Schools
2. Received feedback from online survey and community wide survey
3. City staff receive feedback at 'Summer in the City' meetings held at various parks throughout the city.
4. Three Park Commission meetings with additional discussion and input
5. Results of the above were similar to open house meeting from last spring:
 - **Public is generally satisfied with the system, however, there is desire to improve the aging facilities, general maintenance, and the connectivity & quality of trails**

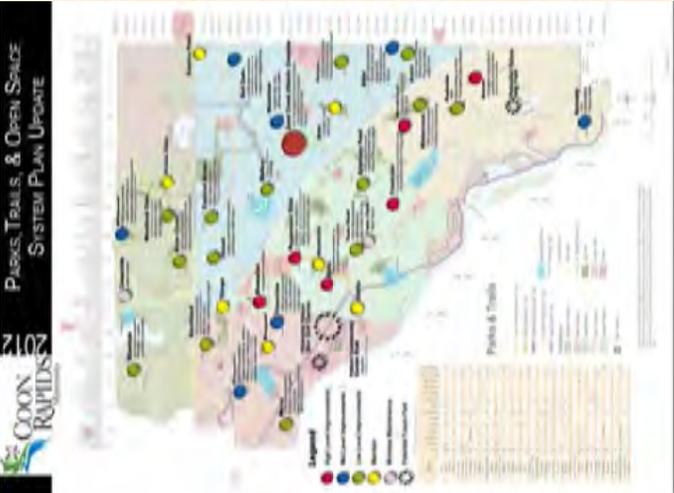
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Cornerstone Park Priorities within Sectors

- **Divide the city into 5 geographic areas** — referred to as "service sectors" — which are defined by the physical characteristics of such as roads, railroads, etc., that give the city its built form, and pose barriers to safe and convenient travel between where people live and their local parks and trails
- **Each service sector will be anchored by a "cornerstone" park**, which will focus on providing a broader range of quality facilities to meet the needs of existing/emerging populations and accommodating changing recreational trends
- **Each cornerstone park will provide a cross-section of facilities most pertinent to that sector**; each of these parks will become the focal point of the service area and will receive a higher level of development than would be found in a typical neighborhood park

4

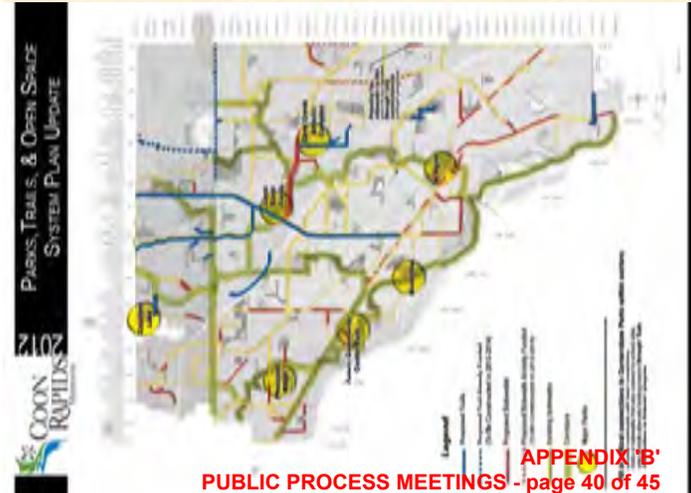
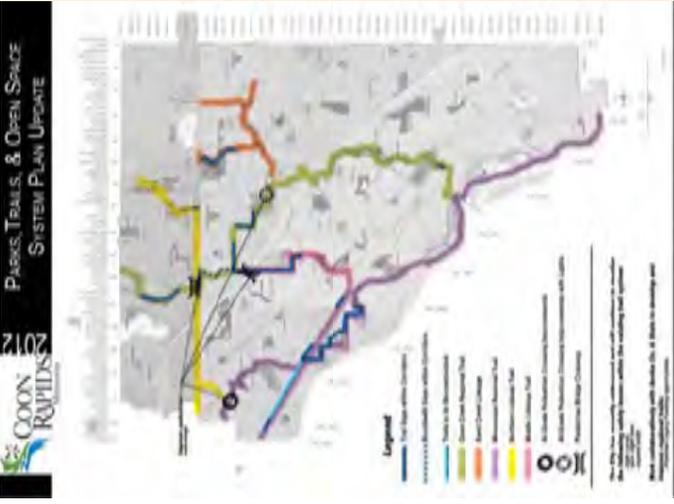


Other Park Priorities (Non-Cornerstone)

- Neighborhood parks will continue to be provided and offer a "baseline" level of service to keep them viable and aesthetically appealing; importantly, the level of service will start out more limited than outlined in the 2007 plan, with the potential to add facilities/enhancements based on the community's capacity and willingness to pay for additional improvements
- All parks will be kept in the system to maintain open space and provide a hedge against future needs, which may not materialize for decades in the future based on demographic trends
- Quality improvements to athletic facilities will continue to be a point of focus as well, with very limited emphasis on land expansion
- The city will continue to work with local school districts and adjacent communities on meeting the facility needs of local athletic associations and program providers in a fair and equitable manner

Gaps within Corridors

- Interconnections between local and regional trails will also be a point of emphasis, with improving the quality of experience and important design factor



Trail & Sidewalk Gaps and Connections to Major Parks

- Expansion of the trail system will continue to be a point of focus;
- Particular emphasis on connections and continuity between neighborhoods and the cornerstone parks and athletic facilities within each of the service sectors;

Implementation Plan

Tier 1 Priorities

Parks	low cost	estimated cost range	high cost
Sand Creek Park - complete renovation	\$4,900,000.00	to	\$5,750,000.00
Tier 1 Parks Subtotal			
Trails	low cost	estimated cost range	high cost
Coon Creek Regional Trail Sand Creek Unkege Trail 85th Ave. Trail connection to Kennedy Park	\$1,199,625.00	to	\$1,458,875.00
Tier 1 Trails Subtotal			
Tier 1 Development Priorities Total		low cost	high cost
		\$6,099,625.00	\$7,208,875.00

Implementation Plan

Tier 2 Priorities

Tier 2 Development Priorities:

Parks	low cost	estimated cost range	high cost
Cracked Lake Park - complete renovation			
RiverView Park - complete renovation			
Evergreen Dog Park (small parking lot, fencing, & water)			
Tier 2 Parks Subtotal	\$3,150,000.00	to	\$3,850,000.00
Trails	low cost	estimated cost range	high cost
Mississippi Regional Trail			
Middle Linkage Trail			
Northern Linkage Trail			
miscellaneous trail gaps			
miscellaneous sidewalk gaps			
Tier 2 Trails Subtotal	\$6,452,437.50	to	\$7,886,312.50
Tier 2 Development Priorities Total	\$9,602,437.50	to	\$11,736,312.50

Implementation Plan

Tier 3 Development Priorities:

Tier 1 Priorities

Parks	low cost	estimated cost range	high cost
Al Flynn Park - Cornerstone / complete renovation			
Lions Court Creek Park - Cornerstone / select renovation			
Pleasant Ridge Park - Cornerstone / select renovation			
Delta Park - high level improvements			
Wilson Park - high level improvements			
Peppermint Slice Park - high level improvements			
Riverwind Park - high level improvements			
Riverside Park - high level improvements - Budget			
Woodcross Park - high level improvements			
Alder Park - mid level improvements			
Burl Oaks Park - mid level improvements			
Kennedy Park - mid level improvements			
Townsend Park - mid level improvements			
Vineyards Park - mid level improvements			
Wildwood Park - mid level improvements			
Woodview Park - mid level improvements			
Acorn Park - low level improvements			
Bison Creek Park - low level improvements			
Cardinal Woods Park - low level improvements			
Epiphany Pond Park - low level improvements			
Malhary Park - low level improvements			
Marshland Park - low level improvements			
Mercy Park - low level improvements			
Nelson Park - low level improvements			
Parkside Park - low level improvements			
Rivendale Park - low level improvements			
Thrush Park - low level improvements			
Twin Field Park - low level improvements			
Wintercrest Park - low level improvements			
Woodland Oaks Park - low level improvements			
Tier 3 Development Priorities Total	\$6,522,500.00	to	\$9,352,500.00

Implementation Plan

Low Priority

Current low priority items - to be evaluated further in the future based on public needs	low cost	estimated cost range	high cost
Add community building to a cornerstone park			
1 building (restroom/warming house/ storage / meeting space / utility services)	\$750,000.00	to	\$1,000,000.00
Total for all development items	\$221,968,562.50		\$28,297,687.50

Total

Questions / Comments?

Next steps...

- October 9th, 2012 System Plan Display at Public Open House
- October 23rd, 2012 City Council Workshop to review & comment on final plan

13

Public Open House - Attendance Sheet

Parks, Trails, Open Space System Plan Update

City of Coon Rapids

Date: October 9, 2012 @ 6:30

Location: City Hall

	Name:	Address:	Phone:
1	Chuck Ponder	923 Woody Ln NW	763-755-4317
2	Paul Kochler	10701 XAVIS St NW	651-485-8153
3	Mark McNab	1295 97th Ave NW	763- 755-2162
4	Betty McNab	1295 97th Ave NW	763- 755-2162
5	Judy deMarais	3170-118th Ave NW	763-427-9516
6	Karla Lian	11803 Underdiff St NW Coon Rapids 55433	763-323- 6635
7	Tim Farmer	11534 Poppy Street Coon Rapids, MN 55433	763-755 2321
8	John Legger	12124 Cottonwood St NW Coon Rapids MN 55448	
9	Brian Armstrong	700 113th Ave NW Coon Rapids, MN 55448	
10	Chris Czech	11779 Orchid St. NW Coon Rapids MN 55433	(763) 862-8345
11			
12			
13			
14			

Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan Update Process Public Feedback Card



Comments:

Prospect Park is labeled for Maintenance. What does that mean? I live right on the park and don't see a lot of 'maintenance' as I would define it. The only thing evident is grass cutting. Signs to each of the 3 entrances are all different why not some - saying same thing. Weeds are never pulled around shrubbery. Only neighbors using the park have pulled →

Optional info:

Name:

Judy DeMarais
3170 - 117th Ave NW
Coon Rapids 55433

Address:

Email:

Phone:

763-427-9516

Thank you for your input! Please fill out and leave comment card at the meeting.

them sometimes. Shrubs are not ever trimmed, mulch ^{was} just thrown on top of everything. No care given to cleaning up edging. Ball diamond was not kept up & baseball bases are laying on the dirt and have been all summer. The signs: 1 entrance has regulations on dogs being picked up after & having ^{dogs} them leashed. This sign is not @ the other 2 entrances. B16 issue because there are a lot of dogs off leash in the park. Most of the trees are in bad shape in the park they need help. How can the irrigation system be added to in order to help the trees instead of just the grass in the outfield of ballpark?

Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan Update Process Public Feedback Card



Comments:

Our interests are on improving bike trails. We really like the proposed ideas. We fully support all the park updates - Coon Rapids will start to turn over and we will only get new 3 miles with the amenities.

Optional info:

Name:

McNab

Email:

Address:

1295 97th Ave NW

Phone:

763-755-2162

Thank you for your input! Please fill out and leave comment card at the meeting.

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 3:00

Interview Group: City Staff

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
x	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
x	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Brad Wise	City of Coon Rapids, Police Chief
x	Heidi Cederstrand	City of Coon Rapids, Assessing Dept.
x	Steve Wachter	City of Coon Rapids, Cable TV
x	Stephanie Ring	City of Coon Rapids, Cable TV

1. The best way to communicate with the public is:
 - a. Email – enews subscribers
 - b. City newsletter (reaches 25,000 households) is also available for articles relating the park system planning effort.
 - c. Potentially on future utility bills (need to know announcement in advance)
 - d. Signs at parks and trails
 - e. Target audiences (all groups that we interviewed have lists that they would forward information to)
 - f. “Summer in the City”, Council meetings in each ward are currently being held and are a good forum for gathering informal response to park ideas.
 - g. Gregg and Ryan have launched an online survey that has generated fairly good response. (62 have completed as of June 27th)

2. Public Works Department has an officer that patrols the parks and reports to the Public Safety any ongoing law violations. Public Safety then follows up and the departments work openly together.

3. Heidi will send Ryan or Jason information regarding trends related to property values adjacent to parks, trails, open space system.

4. Items / Areas that are deficient within the current parks, trails, and open space system, that requires improvement include:
 - a. Improving site lines throughout the park particularly at Lions, Coon Creek, and Peppermint Stick Park to make patrolling parks easier.
 - b. Cars get broken into at Lions Park parking lot – cannot see it from roadway.
 - c. BB Courts are perceived as being problems, but they really are not. Police records can back this up.
 - d. It would be nice if the younger kids are separated from teenage focused activities to provide a buffer from foul language.
5. Public Safety would like more thought to go into public safety as the parks are renewed.
6. Public Safety would like to be able to drive squad cars on the trails to improve access and surveillance.

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Stakeholder Interview Anoka Hennepen School District

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 3:30

Interview Group: Anoka Hennepin School District

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
x	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Tim Dahlheimer	Community Education
x	Kelley Scott	High School Athletic Director
x	Gwen Dillenburg	Hoover Principal

1. High School and Middle School student population contains 50% at or below the poverty level.
2. Community Ed. No longer runs programs at the neighborhood parks. The parents don't feel it's safe to send their children to the parks. This is a condition of accessibility and safety. All programs are now run at the Middle School and adjacent park as there is parking available for parents to drive to the program.
3. Communication with parents is non-existent. 40% of the students will not remain in the district a year. Very transient. So communicating the parks message through the schools would be difficult. PTO is non-existent.
4. Community Ed. Like the idea of the Sector Parks as it would allow programs at larger parks, parks with parking for parents. Still need the connections for people to walk to the parks.
5. The school district Athletic Director, Kelly Scott, would like improvements at Sand Creek Park and thinks that the Community Center Park – a central feature park, should be done.
6. A test of the Sector Park idea might be best if it was at Lions Park.

7. Kelly Scott would be a willing participant in a referendum effort and asked to be kept in the information loop.

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10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 3:30

Interview Group: Seniors

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
x	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Kris Niebler	Senior Director
x	Lois Gifford	Senior Center Member
x	Bill Reichenborn	Senior Center Member

1. The group's/organization's goal is to provide recreational, social, educational resources for 55+ members of the community 5 days / week (mon-fri) at a reasonable cost.
2. Currently the park(s) and trail(s) are not used by the group because there is insufficient staff to have events at parks or trails.
3. A walking club was initiated, but many people couldn't attend and in general there wasn't much interest.
4. The group likes the trail system and it is used frequently – would like to see the trails striped to separate directions.
5. They thought Lions Park is great for kids.
6. Like the regional parks within the county and Thorpe, Lions and Coon Creek.
7. Some of the deficiencies pointed out include:
 - a. Crossing Northdale @ Mallory is an issue. Unsignalized with trails leading to this intersection.
 - b. Eliminate gaps in the trail system.

- c. Erosion along Sand Creek trail needs to be addressed.
- d. The Senior Center side yard is desired for events such as weddings, but quality is insufficient. Many of the seniors will not go outside and use the space and many previous wedding parties have been dissatisfied with the outcome. They would like to have comfortable shaded seating (not picnic tables).

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10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 4:00

Interview Group: Realtors

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
x	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Rick Bandimere	Realtor
x	Mike Hunstead	Realtor
x	Eric Meyers	St. Paul Area Realtors

1. People are buying in Coon Rapids because of affordability (Average home price is \$145,000) and locality relative to work and shopping centers (Riverdale in particular) – close to freeways and Northstar.
2. People are selling here because they are seeking better schools at High School level (families do not want kids going to H.S. at Coon Rapids, many homes are built in the 50s and 60s, with inherently limited value appreciation possible, and older people are moving out.
3. Tier factors (as per handout) remain consistent in Coon Rapids, with affordability being by far the most important factor.
4. People want to be near, but not necessarily directly on park(s) or trail(s). However, access to trails is important.
5. Sellers are more sensitive about taxes, which if too high, may push out potential buyers. However, some may see benefit of improvements.
6. Idea of focusing on “destination” parks makes sense to realtors, with neighborhood parks still being important for aesthetic appeal; but most people are willing to drive or use trails to get to a higher level/more developed park; means basically Sector idea has merit with this group

7. Connectivity and quality of the trail system was considered very important, especially connecting with the regional parks
8. A levy based on history does not bode well in this community – it will be difficult to sell to public. (Potholes are higher priority than park improvements)
9. If there is a referendum, it should be timed so parks are not competing against schools.
10. The City will need to market the tax increase by indicating to homeowners exactly what the increase in home value may be, which will be difficult to prove.
11. Another way to sell parks and trails is to use video of the current system or examples of great parks and trails.
12. Play pods right off trails are more practical in Coon Rapids than Neighborhood Parks. Parents will not let their kids walk to Neighborhood Parks by themselves.
13. Group felt that gaining the support of home owners for increasing property taxes for parks and trails will require:
 - a. Proving that current resource are being efficiently used
 - b. Selling excess unneeded parks to reduce maintenance costs or de-program (remove active elements, but keep 'open space') and allow better funding for other remaining parks. Taking a limited approach by focusing on development of select key parks, and not expecting to do everything – in other words, provide good quality access to all areas of the city, but don't overreach or try to do everything
 - c. Key priorities – select parks plus trail connections

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 4:30

Interview Group: Soccer

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
x	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Gary Mahle	Soccer Assn., Field Coordinator
x	Ric Nelson	Soccer Assn., President

1. The CRSA has an agreement with the City to be its official provider of soccer. As such the CRSA has first priority on the fields available.
2. The central soccer complex meets most of the CRSA needs.
3. The soccer complex does provide parking although during major tournaments it is inadequate and street parking occurs. This is something that happens 2 to 3 times a year. Additional overflow parking exists at the public works building but people don't seem to be able to or want to use it.
4. The CRSA organization is a mid-level, from a competitive soccer stand point, and is at capacity.

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 4:30

Interview Group: Church

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
x	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Cullen Tanner	United Methodist
x	Kevin Schultz	Epiphany Catholic AD

1. The best way to communicate with the public is:
 - a. Thursday folders – sent home with participants
 - b. If athletic related the City should contact Kevin.
 - c. Cullen is the point of contact at United Methodist.
 - d. Facebook
 - e. Email lists – City just needs to provide content.
2. Sand Creek is the park primarily used by your group/organization, which is used for the annual carnival.
3. The parks are being used for volunteer opportunities such as cleaning the parks. They are always looking for ways to serve the community. The parks are also used for ultimate Frisbee, Epiphany uses the soccer complex, Epiphany summer program uses Sand Creek, Rockville, and Peppermint sticks. Picnic spaces are also utilized.
4. Church groups are currently using the county park trails for marathon events.
5. Items / Amenities that are liked about the current parks, trails, and open space system include:
 - a. It is well kept
 - b. The City is very responsive to the church group's needs.
 - c. Accessibility to parks and their amenities

6. The groups felt that the following items / amenities were deficient within the current system:
 - a. Need to add more drinking fountains to reach further athletic fields.
 - b. At Lions Park it is very hard for parents to see the various play areas.
 - c. The Co-rec softball leagues can have foul language and poor behavior. This should be monitored.

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10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 6:00

Interview Group: CRAA

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
x	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Ted Schmolke	CRAA, President

1. Ted would be very interested in helping the City work toward a referendum that would include improvements at Sand Creek Park.
2. Would like to see all athletic based parks have restroom facilities.
3. Suggested eliminating or selling parks that don't get used and use the proceeds for betterment of heavily used facilities.
4. Suggested that Al Flynn Park become an exclusive football facility and that Sand Creek be an exclusive Baseball / Softball park.
5. The exit from Al Flynn Park to Coon Rapids Blvd is dangerous.
6. They would like to see the parks tied together with a 4G information system for education and games.
7. There is no large community park in Coon Rapids that would hold a kids or parents interest for very long. Suggested that Koval Park in Redwing would be an example of what he was suggesting.

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 6:00

Interview Group: Girl Scouts / Boy Scouts

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
x	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Jessica Comstock	Girl Scouts

1. The best way to communicate with the public is:
 - a. Marque at Riverwind building
 - b. Info at ice arena and/or warming houses
 - c. Email- Jessica could distribute to her group (200-250 girls within the Mississippi Service Group. The Sand Creek Service Group (which is larger) could also be sent the info)
2. City hall meeting rooms and Riverwind building, which are used throughout the school year are the primary spaces used by this group.
3. Lions Park is used for geocaching, Thorpe / Marsh Park are used for nature based activities. The group also uses the ice skating facilities.
4. The scouts help maintain and improve parks and Riverwind building.
5. For group events they typically need picnic space for about 30-50 people.
6. The scouts like Thorpe Park because of the good sight line to the trail.
7. The city generally accommodates the group.
8. Older kids like to climb, use zip lines, bike, etc. Need more opportunities for them.
9. A splash pad within the City would be great!

10. Riverwind play equipment often has graffiti with the teen center adjacent.
11. The scouts feel the following is deficient within the current system:
- a. 4-season building adjacent to park facilities is very important
 - b. Restroom facilities
 - c. City Hall is used for their year-end event – they also use the adjacent outdoor space
 - d. Need parking for large events
 - e. Would like opportunity for public flower garden – Scouts would maintain.
 - f. Knowing who to speak to for community service projects – would like a single city contact that can make decisions.
 - g. Rules & Regulations for putting up temporary signs for events.
 - h. Better lighting within public / park parking lots and around buildings (especially Riverwind)

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10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 6:30

Interview Group: Little Leagues

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
x	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Gregg DeRusha	American LL
x	Scott Latta	National LL
x	Libby Jorgenson	Central LL

1. Seem to have an adequate supply of game fields.
2. Practice facilities are adequate, but not all of them are located on city property. (they use the College and Andover fields for practice.)
3. The athletic associations represent the stable core of the City and should be involved in any referendum attempt.
4. The organizations would be willing to link their websites to the city's to improve communication with their participants and spread the work of the planning process.

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Time: 6:30

Interview Group: Daycare

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
x	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
x	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
x	Darcy Hanson	Daycare
x	Laura Marquardt	Mom's Club

1. The best way to communicate with the public is to:
 - a. Send information directly to Darcy and Laura who will pass it along
 - b. City website
 - c. E-news
 - d. Post at little league fields and parks
2. Moore Park is popular because of the new playground equipment, Sand Creek is used for baseball and football, and Lions Park appeals to a wider age group.
3. The group likes the availability and access to the trail system. The trail gaps need to be filled though.
4. They also liked the variety and number of parks.
5. This group would be fine if taxes were raised \$100-200.
6. Stressed the need to get young families into Coon Rapids and make them stay.
7. The group feels the following is deficient within the current system:
 - a. The toddler equipment at Lions Park should not have opening at higher levels (i.e. to access the fireman pole)
 - b. Activities for broader range of age groups should be provided at all parks

- c. Homeless population
- d. Redwood & Northdale intersection (north side of Sand Creek) needs a crosswalk.
- e. Need better signage to hidden parks (i.e. Adams and Woodview)
- f. Would love a splash pad (i.e. Lakeside Commons in Blaine)
- g. Lack of a community center

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10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Thursday, July 12, 2012

Time: 11:00

Interview Group: Anoka Ramsey Community College (Interviewed via telephone)

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
X	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
X	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
X	David Alto	Anoka Ramsey Community College Athletic Director

1. ARCC currently uses Wintercrest Park for baseball games and practices.
2. ARCC properties are available for non-school groups and the public on nights and weekends when the ARCC does not use the facilities.
3. ARCC has a good relationship with the City.
4. The college is currently developing a new Wellness Center which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2012. This facility will be located north of the gymnasium.
5. Although not confirmed at this point, there may be a potential for trail access along the river on the ARCC property. This could potentially:
 - a. serve as a better location for the Mississippi River trail
 - b. provide the college with alternative pedestrian connections to the school
 - c. provide the community with expanded opportunities adjacent to the future community center
 - d. tap into other sources of funding
 - e. Dave recommended contacting Lisa Boxwell at 763-433-1289 or Roger Freeman at 763-433-1378 to discuss sharing opportunities.

10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Thursday, July 12, 2012

Time: 5:30

Interview Group: Fast Pitch

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
X	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
X	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
X	Bernie Protex	Fastpitch Softball
X	Jim Best	Fastpitch Softball

1. The park below are primarily used by fastpitch softball:
 - a. Moor Park – for games (10U & 12U)
 - b. Cardinal Woods – for overflow games and practice (10U & 12U)
 - c. Prospect Park – for practice (14u) – also use highschool
 - d. Sand Creek Park – for tournaments (1 time per year with 40 teams)
 - e. Lions – for picnics and other functions

2. The following items are desired within the parks, trails, and open space system:
 - a. Space for variety of functions and picnics, etc.
 - b. Various opportunities and trails
 - c. Utilization of community ed
 - d. Like trail maps with distances and loops

3. Group would like improvements in the following areas:
 - a. Outlets/Power for pitching machines
 - b. Taller / hooded backstops

- c. Dugouts with shade
 - d. Additional fencing
 - e. Storage shed for chalk and field maintenance equipment
4. The participation numbers fluctuate slightly, but are generally steady
 - a. The vast majority of participants live within the City of Coon Rapids limits.
 5. The organization would be supportive of referendum if some of the improvements were directed toward improvements of the facilities this group uses.
 6. Redevelopment of Sand Creek is highly desired with a focus on tournaments
 7. Group would like to implement an in-house program. Currently trying to work on this with CRAA.
 8. Group is interested in volunteering opportunities to maintain/cleanup Moor Park.

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10417 Excelsior Boulevard - Suite One - Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Project: Coon Rapids Parks, Open Space & Trail System Plan Update

Date: Thursday, July 12, 2012

Time: 6:00

Interview Group: Baseball

Stakeholder interview attendees:

X (if present)	Name:	Organization
X	Jason Amberg	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	George Watson	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Amanda Prosser	Consultant team, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
	Jeff Schoenbauer	Consultant team, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC
	Steve Gatlin	City of Coon Rapids, Director of Public Services
	Gregg Engle	City of Coon Rapids, Parks Supervisor
X	Ryan Gunderson	City of Coon Rapids, Recreation Coordinator
X	Bill Nelson	Baseball, 13/15 yr olds in-house
X	Rick Johnson	Baseball, 16/18 yr olds traveling
X	Larry Mossey	Baseball 13/15 yr olds traveling and 16/18 yr olds

1. The following parks are primarily used by baseball:
 - a. Wintercrest, 16/18 yr olds (primary fields)
 - b. Anoka Ramsey Community College, 16/18 yr olds
 - i. Field is maintained by city
 - c. Sand Creek, 13/15 yr olds
 - d. Epiphany Church Field, 13/15 yr olds
 - e. Practices are primarily at school fields

2. The athletic opportunities and trails are most desired in the current parks, trails, and open space system.

3. Baseball would like to see improvements in the following areas:
 - a. Wintercrest:
 - i. Correct drainage issues
 - ii. Improve /expand parking (tournaments)
 - iii. Add fenced/gated access for ticketing opportunity
 - iv. Make the restrooms accessible (often times they are locked)

 - b. Anoka Ramsey Community College:
 - i. Protected players bench areas
 - ii. Correct drainage issues

- iii. Cleanup forest / poison ivy adjacent to ballfield (problems with foul ball retrieval)
 - c. Field quantity is at capacity
 - i. Field lighting would help with capacity / number of games available
 - ii. Practice fields are needed
 - iii. If ARCC field is not available, it would drastically impact baseball
- 4. Participation numbers are steady with the majority of participants living within the City of Coon Rapids limits.
- 5. Other issues:
 - a. School fields are not maintained very well and do not have sufficient parking.
 - b. Trail maintenance could be improved.
 - c. Parking issue at parks with games needs improvement / expansion
 - d. Sand Creek is in dire need of improvement due to its age and use. Layout could be greatly improved along with updating the lighting and making other improvements.
- 6. Comments from Tom Yelle (provided via email due to conflict with scheduled interview)
 - a. Priorities for baseball facilities
 - i. A better "daily" maintenance plan on both Wintercrest fields during the baseball season. We need someone assigned just to Wintercrest baseball to address the small issues from regular edging around the infield lips, filling low areas on the infield ag-lime, mound and home plate upkeep with clay and spot watering of worn sod areas. This is where over the past 12 years we have had the facility where we lose ground. The lack of general upkeep on small things ultimately cause big problems and money in the end when you are talking about replacing large areas of sod, ag-lime and, yes clay. Packaged clay used correctly in small amounts following each day's play will save us money and keep the mound and home plate areas at a peak levels. An on-site fields manager each day could attack small problems on a regular basis and make the facility even better.
 - ii. On-site fields manager for weekend. We need someone to make sure patch-up of the facilities is correctly occurring on weekends as well as someone in charge who will say it is too wet to play so fields do not sustain major damage. We have had too many users of Wintercrest play on fields that I do allow my teams to play because of wet conditions.
 - iii. A better drainage system for the West field. We need to draw off the water from Wintercrest West better after storms or in the spring than what we have now. Standing water in the infield and foul line grass near the third base line not only prevents play, but kills the grass. It takes a good 18 hours after a heavy rain storm for this field to dry out adequately.
 - iv. Scoreboard for the East field. The only thing missing from the East field and making it a premier playing facility is a scoreboard.
 - b. I know budgets are tight and some of these requests/thoughts to make possible may provoke some kind of charge or higher charge to user teams. But the way we are going now, each year we lose a little bit of ground in keeping the facility at Wintercrest at a high level for our high level baseball programs, which are the principle users of this facility at all age levels.

Community Online Survey Results

() =Total of all with this comment. Total of approximately 80 responses.

Likes-

- Many trails and parks, well maintained. (25)
- Love the baseball fields at Lions Park
- Like and use outdoor hockey rinks in winter.
- Variety (2)
- Parks and Trails are fine (2)
- Dog park size
- Separation of ages

Don't like and /or need improvements-

- More trash cans on trails and in parks. (11)
- More dog parks and/or more amenities to the one that we have (4)
- More bike trails (5)
- Map at the entrance of trails (3)
- Disc golf course (4)
- More benches, restrooms and water fountains (5)
- Enforcement of dogs off leash (4)
- More picnic/grilling areas (2)
- More lighting on heavy used for parks for night usage (3)
- Swimming pool/lake/splash pad (3)
- City events to bring neighbors together
- More activities for kids and teens (2)
- Real dugouts at Moor Park for fastpitch
- Better football facility for CRAA
- Clear out dead trees in wildwood Park
- Safe access to Sand Creek elementary by tunnel under railroad in South Wexford along Main Street
- Tennis, basketball, or t-ball added at Prairie Oaks Park
- "Get to Know" your parks and trails day or event
- Switch from wood chips to recycled rubber
- Some trails need resurfacing
- Parking at Riverview needs to be fixed
- Plant more shade trees at Sand Creek for spectators
- Add mileage on trail maps for runners
- Striping on trails
- New shade covers on some playgrounds

- Maintenance of brush on sides of trails
- Add trail behind ARCC along river.
- Connect trails (4)
- Larger building for restrooms, concessions, and shelter at Soccer Complex
- Community Theater
- Nothing, perhaps some room for cost cutting and saving tax payers money.
- Nelson Park Teen, smoking, and graffiti issues
- Trail through wilderness park
- Bocce courts
- Basketball hoops
- Resurface Coon Rapids Blvd. trail
- Free public running track
- Extend Coon Creek trail to Foley Park-N-Ride
- More smaller kid swings

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2012 City of Coon Rapids

City Demographics:

The typical adult resident lived in the City of Coon Rapids for 16.3 years. Sixteen percent lived there for five years or less, while 22% lived there for over 30 years.

Twenty-one percent of the households in the city contain senior citizens. Senior couples are approximately equal to single seniors across the city. In fact, 14% of the households are composed exclusively of seniors. Thirty-six percent of the households in Coon Rapids contain school-aged children or pre-schoolers. Women outnumber men by two percent in the sample. Seventy-nine percent own their current residents, while 21% are renters.

The median adult age of Coon Rapids residents is 47.7 years old. Twenty percent of the sample are under 35 years old; sixteen percent are 65 years old or older. The median household pre-tax yearly income is \$53,500.00, down 25% in five years. Ten percent post incomes under \$25,000.00, while 21% report incomes over \$75,000.00.

Twenty-three percent live in Ward Two, while 21% live in Ward One. Nineteen percent each live in Ward Three, Ward Four or Ward Five.

Quality of Life Issues:

Four aspects of the City of Coon Rapids are mentioned most frequently as liked most by residents: “convenient location,” at 23%; “good housing and strong neighborhoods,” at 18%; “close to family and friends,” at 14%; and, “friendly people,” at 11%. There is no one single dominant aspect of the community, though, cited by at least 25% of the respondents; but, “convenient location” approaches this threshold.

The most serious two issues facing the community are “rising crime,” cited by 15%, and “street maintenance,” at 10%. Nine percent point to “high taxes.” Eight percent each mention “growth” and “lack of jobs.” However, a solid 14%, over double the Metropolitan Area norm, report there are no very serious issues currently facing the community.

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Eighty-eight percent rate the quality of life in Coon Rapids as either “excellent” or “good.” Thirteen percent, though, are more critical. A comparatively large 32% rate the quality of life as “excellent;” although this level is down 23% from the 2007 level, it still ranks the community within the top quartile of Metropolitan Area suburbs. Suggested actions to improve the quality of life include: “lower the crime rate,” at 21%; “attract more businesses,” at 17%; “lower taxes,” at 15%; and “fix potholes,” at 12%.

Seventy-eight percent rate the overall sense of community in Coon Rapids as either “excellent” or “good.” But, 22% rate it lower. Most residents, 67%, feel the closest connection to their “neighborhood.” Nineteen percent are closest to the “entire city.” Seven percent are closest to their “school district,” and five percent, to their “church.” Since the 2007 study, connections to the neighborhood increased from 55% to 67%.

In describing Coon Rapids to a friend, 18% would say “clean,” 16% would highlight “small town feel,” and 15% would mention “friendly people.” Twelve percent state “safe.” Ten percent point to Coon Rapids as a “suburb.”

Thirty-three percent believe non-residents have a “positive impression” of the City of Coon Rapids. They think this because the City is a “nice community” or had a “positive experience” there. Twenty-four percent think outsiders have a “negative impression.” This groups believes the “name is a negative” and is experiencing “rising crime rates.” Thirty-five percent think non-residents have a “neutral impression.”

Favorite activities to do in the City of Coon Rapids include “walking or running,” at 42%, “shopping,” at 12%, and “bicycling,” at ten percent. Twenty percent, over double the 2007 level, report they have “no favorite activities” in the City of Coon Rapids.

In assessing aspects of the community to be fixed or improved in the future, three issues are mentioned: “streets,” at 33%; “Coon Rapids Boulevard,” at 13%; and, “local job market,” at 10%. Similarly, residents suggest three things currently missing from the community which, if present, would greatly improve the quality of life in Coon Rapids: “more businesses,” at 19%; “Coon Rapids Boulevard improvements,” at 11%; and, “street maintenance,” at 10%. Twenty-six percent thought “nothing” was missing which could significantly improve the quality of life.

A solid 86% rate the overall appearance of the city favorably, while 15% are more critical in their evaluations.

Majorities feel that Coon Rapids has “about the right amount” of each of six community characteristics – parks and open spaces, trails and bikeways, service establishments, retail shopping opportunities, entertainment establishments, and dining establishments. But, in three cases, over 20% saw a need for more: “dining establishments,” at 35%; “entertainment

establishments,” at 28%; and, “retail shopping opportunities,” at 21%.

City Services:

The average favorable grade given by residents familiar with a specific city service is 85.4%. The positive ratings range from a high of 99% to a low of 42%. In comparison with other suburban communities, these ratings place the City of Coon Rapids within the top quartile.

City Service	Positive Rating
Emergency medical services	100%
Fire protection	99%
Dependability of city water supply	97%
Sanitary sewer service	95%
Elections services	94%
Condition of trails	91%
Police protection	90%
Street sweeping	90%
Park and recreation facilities	89%
Recreational programs	87%
Snow removal on city trails	85%
Property inspection services	80%
Property assessment services	80%
Street lighting	80%
Quality of drinking water	80%
Snowplowing of city streets	79%
Property maintenance enforcement	78%
Pavement repair and patching on city streets	42%

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One outlying positive evaluation – on pavement repair and patching on city streets – is less than one-half of the overall average. If it were eliminated, the average of the remaining service evaluations is 87.9%, which would rank within the top decile. Consistent with these findings is the response pattern to a general question about the overall quality of city services – 84% rate the overall quality highly, and 7% rate it more critically.

In particular, 64% rate the condition of city streets as either “excellent” or “good,” while 36% rate it lower. The 36% negative rating is about 10% higher than the suburban norm.

City Taxes:

Seventy-two percent rate the value of city services for the property tax they pay as either “excellent” or “good.” Twenty percent see the value as either “only fair” or “poor.” The over 3-to-1 ratio of favorable-to-unfavorable ratings is just above the Metropolitan Area suburban norm.

Forty percent see their total property taxes as comparatively “about average,” a 16% decline in five years. Forty-six percent think they are either “very high” or “somewhat high,” a similar increase since the 2007 study. Three percent think they are “very low” or “somewhat low.” An unusually large 15% have no opinion.

City Government:

Fifty-eight percent think they can have a say about the way the City of Coon Rapids runs things; but, a somewhat higher than average 36% think they could not have a say. This level of alienation from government has reached a “cautionary level” – not high enough to warrant major communications changes, but high enough to warrant further examination.

Forty percent of the residents report first-hand contact with the Coon Rapids City Staff. Residents award the job performance of the City Staff a comparatively high 75% approval rating; seventeen percent are more critical in their evaluations. “Doing a good job” and “no major city problems” are the two key reasons for a favorable rating. These staff evaluations place the Coon Rapids City Staff among the top decile of suburban communities.

Public Safety:

A nearly-unanimous 95% feel either “very safe” or “reasonably safe in the community; only five percent feel unsafe. Taking a narrower focus, 69% feel “safe” walking alone in their neighborhood after dark; but, 27% disagree and report feelings of being “unsafe.”

Commuting Dynamics:

Among residents working outside of their homes, the median commute time to their job location is 17.0 minutes. Twenty percent report commute times of ten minutes or less; while 21% post commute times of 20 or more minutes. Fifteen percent each work in the City of Coon Rapids, itself, or in Minneapolis. Another 15% work in other Anoka County communities. Ninety-one percent normally drive alone to work. Three percent use Northstar Commuter Rail.

Park and Recreation System:

Residents rate the park and recreational facilities highly. Eighty-three percent award them a positive rating, while only 11% are more critical. Similarly, 79% regard the city's park and recreational facilities as "important" to them; only 21% disagree. Focusing on the appearance of their neighborhood park, 93% report the appearance of these parks is at least "somewhat important" to them. The three most used city recreational facilities are: smaller neighborhood parks, at 73%; larger community parks, at 68%; and, trails, at 71%. Other components, such as community ballfields, Coon Rapids Ice Arena, Bunker Hills golf center, soccer fields, and outdoor ice rinks draw fewer households because of their more limited clientele. Positive ratings by visitors of each component exceed 85% except in one case; outdoor ice rinks are positively rated by 84%.

A very solid 97% think the current mix of recreational or sports facilities in Coon Rapids meets the needs of household members. Twenty-nine percent of the households in the community contain members who participated in a sports league; a very high 98% rate these programs highly. Similarly, a very solid 97% think the current mix of sports leagues and recreational programs available in the city meets the needs of their households. Indicative of this general satisfaction, 61% report they do not leave the City of Coon Rapids to use leisure-time recreational facilities elsewhere; the only major reason for leaving the city is boating and fishing, cited by 17%.

During the past two years, 51% of the households in the community report members undertook recreational activities on or along the river. By a large majority, 78%-18%, residents support the city working to increase accessibility to the Mississippi River. If accessibility to the river is increased, residents support three types of amenities to be offered: 15% wish for picnic areas; 13% want a boat landing; and, 11% would like to see more trails. However, 33% would prefer to see no further amenities to keep the river more natural.

Coon Rapids Community Center Proposal:

By a promising 61%-30% majority, residents support the construction of a community center by the City of Coon Rapids. The 2012 level of support remains virtually unchanged from the 64% in the 2007 study. This level of initial support mirrors the 57% expected to use the facility.

At least 60% of the residents support the use of city funds for the inclusion of seven facilities in the community center. Seventy-one percent support space for teen programs, while 69% feel the same about space for senior programs. Sixty-seven percent each support a community space with kitchen facilities for weddings and large gatherings or a center for career development and job training. Sixty-five percent favor the inclusion of multi-purpose rooms. And, 63% each support an indoor walking and running track or an indoor leisure swimming pool. Top priorities for the facilities at the community center mirror this list. Over ten percent award top or second priority ranks to five facilities: an indoor swimming pool, a fitness center, an indoor water park, a teen center, and a senior center

But, by a narrower 51%-41% judgment, residents support the use of city property taxes to fund the construction of a community center. When asked about establishing financial and program partnerships with community organizations and businesses, 77% favor this joint approach, while opposition drops to 16%.

Communications Issues:

The city newsletter is both the major source of information about city government and its activities for most residents, at 46%, and the most preferred source of information, at 50%. The “Coon Rapids Herald” ranks next, at 27% as major source, and 24%, as the preferred source. The source of information ranking third is the “grapevine,” mentioned by 10%. The major change since the 2007 study is the switch in ranking between the city newsletter and the local newspaper. Even so, print media remains dominant in this community.

The city newsletter is also the information source with the highest penetration and reach across the community. Eighty-seven percent consider the newspaper to be at least a “minor source” of information, while 58% call it a “major source” of information. The “Coon Rapids Herald” follows closely behind: eighty-seven percent label it at least a “minor source” of information and 47% view it as a “major source” of information. No other tested source of information has a majority reach – the “Star Tribune,” at 47%; direct mail updates, indicated by 46%; the city website, at 45%; programming on the community cable television channels, at 34%; city employees, at 23%; and, social media, at 13%.

Eighty-eight percent receive the City Newsletter. Among residents receiving this publication,

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92% rate the format highly. Additionally, 74% of the residents receiving the newsletter read either “all of it” or “most of it.”

Eighty-one percent of the households report they have access to the Internet at home or at work. In fact, 44% of the households in the community have accessed the city website. Among city website visitors, 95% report finding the information they were looking for.

Sixty-five percent connect via cable high speed internet. Twenty-four percent use a DSL, and seven percent employ a dial-up modem. Fifty-three percent primarily use a personal computer to connect to the internet. Thirty-three percent connect through a laptop, and 12% use multiple devices.

There is moderate interest in using social media sources to obtain information about the City of Coon Rapids. Forty-one percent of the residents are likely to communicate with the City through Facebook. Thirty percent are likely to do so through YouTube. Twenty-four percent are likely to use Twitter for this purpose. Fifteen percent would access podcasts for information, and 13% would read blogs.

Fifty-eight percent of the households in the community subscribe to cable television. Twenty-six percent subscribe to satellite television, and 16% use neither. A comparatively large 44% of cable households report members watched programming on Channels 14-16 or 19 during the past year.

Core audience size and overall reach of CTN programming varies among cable subscribers; the table below arrays those statistics for nine programs:

<i>Television Program</i>	<i>Core Audience</i>	<i>Overall Reach</i>
CTN News with Steve Ericson and Karen Sivanich	7%	31%
Sportsnight with Joe Yund and Howie Shapiro	1%	23%
City Council Comments with Steve Ericson and the Mayor or City Council Member	18%	51%
City Connections	4%	39%
City Council Meetings	34%	77%
City Planning Commission Meetings	22%	56%
Local sports events	7%	44%

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<i>Television Program</i>	<i>Core Audience</i>	<i>Overall Reach</i>
Local city events	2%	54%
Community events listings and announcement on Channel 14	4%	45%

The three programs with significantly large core audiences deal directly with city government in action – “City Council Comments,” “City Council Meetings,” and “City Planning Commission Meetings.”

The City of Coon Rapids receives a sterling rating for its overall performance in communicating key issues to residents. Eighty percent rate city efforts as either “excellent” or “good,” while 19% rate them as “only fair” or “poor.” The favorable communications rating easily places the community within the top five suburbs.

Conclusions:

1. Overall, residents remain positive about their quality of life in 2012, even though “excellent” ratings have slipped by 23% since the 2007 study. Current ratings still place Coon Rapids among the top quartile of Metropolitan Area suburbs.
2. “Rising crime,” “traffic and roads,” and “high taxes” are the key serious issues facing the community today. In fact, the perception of rising crime significantly impacts other ratings, such as the quality of life and city services.
3. There is no one aspect of the community a majority of residents like most about living in Coon Rapids. One theme is “small town feel” – safe, friendly people, small town ambience, and quiet and peaceful. A second theme is “connectedness” – close to family, close to job, and strong neighborhoods. In addition, 78% rate the overall sense of community highly.
4. The property tax climate in Coon Rapids is mildly hostile. A moderate 46% view their taxes as “high” while 40% see them as “about average.” But, 72% think the value they receive in the quality of city services is at least “good” when compared to the property taxes they pay.
5. Overall, a solid 84% rate the quality of city services as either “excellent” or “good.” Core city services, with the exception of street maintenance, receive positive ratings above 90% from residents able to rate the service. In the case of pavement repair and patching on city streets, negative ratings outnumbered positive ratings: 58% to 42%. In comparison with other suburban communities, the ratings are on a par with the norm of 55% negative to 45% positive.

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6. Residents are proud of the park and recreation system. They also feel that both facilities and programs adequately meet the needs of their households. Indicative of this satisfaction, 61% of the households do not regularly leave the city to recreate elsewhere, and 14% leave the city for fishing and boating.

7. Support for the construction of a community center is again sufficiently high to justify further examination. The ideal center would include gymnasiums, an indoor leisure swimming pool, community space for large gatherings, multi-purpose rooms, a teen center, a senior center, a center for career development and job training, and an indoor walking and running track. The key decisions will surround tax impact versus amenities, keeping in mind a mildly hostile tax climate in the community. The establishment of financial and program partnerships will actually strengthen support for the community center.

6. Communications efforts prove to be extremely effective in keeping a well-informed community. The city newsletter is the key source of information about city government and its activities. In addition, the “Coon Rapids Herald” effectively supplements the newsletter. The City may wish to establish a system of driving residents to its website; usage of the website appears limited compared with other suburban communities. In addition, if not completed already, a city presence on Facebook and YouTube could increase the residential audience, particularly with younger residents.

As a maturing, though changing, community, Coon Rapids residents are satisfied with the operation of the City enterprise. There is, however, room to sharpen the city’s image – particularly on the crime issue – and align it with the aspects of the community which draw residents. And, there remains sufficient support to further examine a community center as a focal point for the City. In view of the existing large reservoir of good will residents possess toward the City, even as these discussions progress, public support should remain at impressively high levels.

NOTE: all ratings relate to classification		Rating Scale					
		1 = Basic service level - meet minimum requirements					
<i>This classification includes neighborhood parks and parks classified as neighborhood park/community preserve</i>		3 = Enhanced service level					
		5 = Premium service level					
		Performance				Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Optimal	Actual	Gap	Miscellaneous Comments:		
Acorn	Play structure	3	3	0	New equipment that is different from most parks. Has woodchips and walkway around the container. Swings may be non-compliant with a belt next to a tot seat.		
	Park trails	3	2	1	Trails have curb cut to street and link to playground. Fair condition, will need maintenance or replacement in near future.		
	Informal play field	3	0	3	No open space or informal play located here		
	Tennis court	3	1	2	Asphalt in poor shape, no trail access. Takes up a lot of the park space.		
	Parking	3	3	0	On-street parking which is adequate.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Need newer amenities with a consistent style.		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Need ADA seating and access to all recreational amenities Put truncated dome where trails meet streets.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	Has some nice mature trees for shade. Turf is fair in some areas, poor in others.		
Overall Rating - Acorn		24	14	10		1	2
Alder	Play structure	3	3	0	Equipment in good condition. Has wood chips, but no access into container was visible.		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Fair condition, but needs some maintenance or replacement soon. Has lights.		
	Informal play field	3	3	0	Good infield and turf, backstop needs maintenance or replacement.		
	Tennis court	3	3	0	Two full sized courts that are color coated, but has cracks in the surface. No trail link. Nice trees shade part of the courts.		
	Basketball court	3	3	0	Half court, color coated, but has cracks in the surface. No trail link.		
	Parking	3	3	0	On-street.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Need updated amenities with consistent style.		
	Accessibility	3	1	2	Need ADA seating and access to all recreational amenities and into play container. Put truncated dome where trails meet streets.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Has some nice mature trees for shade. Turf has some irrigation. Nice appearance for a small park.		
Overall Rating - Alder		27	23	4		3	4
Bison Creek	Play structure	3	3	0	Equipment in fair to good condition, swings may be non-compliant, no access into container and it's a little too hidden, tucked in a corner.		
	Picnic area	3	0	3	Good potential for picnic areas		
	Park trails	3	2	1	Some ok condition, others in need of replacement / repair. Paths dead-end in certain locations where footpaths continue.		
	Informal play field	3	3	0	Just right size and location for neighborhood field		
	Parking	3	0	3	On street but awkward along corner of road		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Older benches, have doggie station, need consistent style		
	Accessibility	3	1	2	No access into play container, need access to ballfield, need ADA seating		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Fantastic wooded areas and wetlands, need to control invasives as needed		
Overall Rating - Bison Creek		24	13	11		2	2

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
Burl Oaks	Play structure	3	2	1	Play equipment in fair condition, has wood chips, nice border, but needs link to trail and proper access into the container. Tucked back in the park, hidden from the street.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be a nice addition		
	Park trails	3	4	-1	Trails in excellent condition, wide but don't connect to the playground or basketball court.		
	Informal play field	3	2	1	Fair turf and infield condition, backstop needs maintenance and turf has some uneven grades. Just right size for neighborhood park though it takes up a lot of park space. Though informal, balls head straight towards court and playground.		
	Basketball court	3	2	1	Full court, older standards, surface needs repair, not striped, no trail access.		
	Parking	3	3	0	On-street only		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Need more seating and consistent style		
	Accessibility	3	1	2	Trails connect to neighborhoods but need to connect to site amenities. Provide ADA seating, access into container and add ped ramps with truncated domes where trails meet the street.		
Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	Nice mature vegetation around perimeter, turf needs maintenance, many weeds.			
Overall Rating - Burl Oaks		27	17	10		2	3
Cardinal Woods	Play structure	3	1	2	Tucked among the trees for shade. Older equipment, has woodchips with some rubber, but it's falling apart. Grades slope noticeably from one end of the playground to the other.		
	Park trails	3	2	1	Good to fair condition, minimal amount - would be nice to expand upon trails and would also be nice to have a small loop through the woods.		
	Informal play field	3	3	0	Nice field that takes up almost all of the useable park space. Good condition turf, infield, players benches, fencing and backstop.		
	Basketball court	3	3	0	Half court, older standard, surface in good shape, has trail connection.		
	Parking	3	3	0	On-street which seems adequate		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Need seating around playground, consistent amenities		
	Accessibility	3	3	0	Need proper access into the play container, add ADA seating and ped ramps with truncated domes where trails meet the street. Provide a link to the ballfield.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Majority of the park is wooded space with a small creek along the perimeter. Need to control buckthorn and invasives. Install more perimeter landscape for screening along the townhomes.		
Overall Rating - Cardinal Woods		24	19	5		3	3
Dahlia	Play structure	3	3	0	New playground equipment, has wood chips - doesn't appear to have access point into container.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be a nice addition by the playground.		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Has ADA ramps, great condition, wide, creates an internal loop and makes neighborhood connections.		
	Parking	3	3	0	On-street only which seems adequate		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	3	0	Need consistent style, maybe add more seating along trails and by playground.		
	Accessibility	3	3	0	Need to maintain an access into the play container, add ADA picnic tables.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Ponding area nice view, this should be improved with restoration program. Turf in very good condition - though there is a lot of unused space. Mature vegetation around perimeter.		
Overall Rating - Dahlia		21	18	3		3	5
Delta	Play structure	3	1	2	Some equipment may be ok, some is older equipment that should be replaced, tucked in back corner, not accessible, sand should be removed.		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be a nice addition		
	Park trails	3	0	3	Lack of trails		
	Informal play field	3	1	2	Weeds everywhere in turf and infield, backstop needs repair, though nice size for neighborhood park		
	Tennis court	3	0	3			
	Basketball court	3	1	2	Full size, older standards, surface needs repair / replacement		
	Parking	3	0	3	On-street only		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Update amenities, keep consistent style		
	Hockey rink	3	3	0	Maintenance of boards would improve it, but seems too large for a small neighborhood park		
	Skating rink	3	2	1	Adjacent to rink, weedy		
	Accessibility	3	0	3	No accessibility		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	0	3	No real park vegetation other than turf with numerous weeds		
Overall Rating - Delta		36	9	27		0	0
Epiphany Pond	Play structure	3	3	0	Equipment in fair condition but one swing is way too high. Has wood chip surface and nice walkway around it, but no trail link.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	3	0	Nice shelter but no trail access to it. Grills would be a nice addition.		
	Park trails	3	1	2	Mixture of fair to poor condition. Section on the north side that is all aggregate between asphalt sections.		
	Informal play field	3	3	0	Backstop in good condition, newer benches, good infield and turf.		
	Basketball court	3	2	1	Asphalt in fair to poor condition. Full sized, standards in good condition, no trail access.		
	Parking	3	3	0	On-street only which seems adequate.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	2	1	Update some of the amenities to keep consistent character / style.		
	Accessibility	3	0	3	Create links to recreational amenities, add ADA seating, add truncated dome sections where trails meet streets.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	0	3	Nice mature vegetation in and around perimeter of park creates a nice park setting. Work on buckthorn and other invasives. Water quality is in terrible condition and in dire need of improvement. This could be a nice feature to the park if improved upon. The water is stagnant, covered in slime and algae, pond is filled with silt and surrounded by non-native vegetation. Control silt and water entering this site, dredge the pond, and provide a wide naturalized buffer around the edge.		
Overall Rating - Epiphany Pond		27	17	10		3	3
Kennedy	Play structure	3	3	0	Equipment in good condition, has woodchips, linked to trail, concrete walk around (some cracked panels).		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Might be a nice addition for shelter		
	Restrooms	3	1	2	Portable sitting in turf. Need pad, and enclosure would be nice.		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Has access from parking lot to playground and links to neighborhood. No links to courts or ballfield. Good shape.		
	Informal play field	3	2	1	Backstop in fair condition, older players benches, infield fair (little weedy) and turf fair with a few uneven areas.		
	Tennis court	3	1	2	Color coated, but cracked surface, tucked at back of park with no trail access.		
	Basketball court	3	1	2	Full size, nice standards, asphalt cracked, tucked at back of park with no trail access.		
	Parking	3	2	1	Parking lot is at a controlled intersection, but tight turn in / out. Need ADA spot. Good condition.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Need newer amenities with consistent style.		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Trails need truncated dome where it meets parking lot and streets. Need trail links to all amenities and ADA seating.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	Appears to be an infiltration basin which needs naturalization. Have some fantastic oaks by parking lot. Need better park image along street / park entry.		
Overall Rating - Kennedy		33	18	15		2	3
Lions Coon Creek	Play structure	5	4	1	Much of the equipment is newer, some needs replacement. Good separation of use areas, needs more seating & shade. There is some type of utility box in the container.		
	Parking lot picnic shelter	5	3	2	Seems in fair condition. Unsure what this shelter supports. Maybe trail users or lunch.		
	Park picnic shelter grouping	5	2	3	Seem in fair condition, though undersized for the amount of use. Nice grouping to allow for varying sizes and in relation to one another and the playground. Would be nice to have another shelter to the north.		
	Restrooms	5	3	2	Building in reasonable condition. Portables need better locations and screening.		
	Park trails	5	2	3	Some in fair condition, others in need of replacement, widening. Not all amenities accessed by trails and need a link to the walkway along Hanson.		
	Informal play field	5	3	2	Nice sized fields for informal use and great vegetation surrounding them, though one is pretty hidden. It was noted one is sometimes used by HC group, it would be nice to make it more accessible.		
	Bocce Ball	5	2	3	Eagle Scout project in fair condition. No access.		
	Basketball court	5	2	3	Two full sized courts (is this needed?) Surface fair, older standards, isolated, poor appearance and doesn't relate to other amenities / spaces.		
	Parking	5	3	2	Good condition, undersized, dangerous entry from Hanson, runoff not controlled properly.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	5	1	4	Need more seating, tables, trash, bike racks, and consistent style. Bike rack at trailhead would be beneficial and maybe a drinking fountain.		
	Community Garden	5	4	1	Aesthetic		
	Accessibility	5	2	3	Trails link to most amenities, though not all trails are accessible. Bridge not accessible. Need proper access into play containers. Need ADA seating. Provide truncated domes where trails meet vehicular space.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	5	3	2	Nice wooded areas, creek adds value to the park, but the parking lot runs directly into the creek, there are erosion concerns on the banks, and need a plan to restore / enhance native vegetation. Wooded areas surround main park space, nice aesthetics.		
Overall Rating - Lions Coon Creek		65	34	31		3	3
Mallary	Parking	3	0	3			
	Park trails	3	3	0	Wide trail through the park runs along the creek with nice surroundings. There are crosswalks and signs on both sides of the park where the trail crosses the street. NOTE: Trail section that is south of Mallary / Lions Coon Creek does not have a trail connection across the street to link to the Mallary / Lions Coon Creek trails and the crossing on the street lacks a crosswalk.		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Add truncated domes where trails enter streets.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Nice wooded areas surrounding a creek that runs through this natural space. Need a plan to enhance native vegetation and control invasives. Look into controlling how adjacent property runoff / drainage affects the creek.		
Overall Rating - Mallary		12	8	4		4	3

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
Marshland	Play structure	3	3	0	Equipment good condition, has wood chips and trails, lacking access into container, wood border, nice loop trail around container		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Small shelter would be nice addition		
	Park trails	3	2	1	Good connections, needs repair or new surfacing soon in some areas, sections not ADA compliant		
	Broader trails	3	2	1	Trail system along wetland / natural area that links to Thorpe		
	Informal play field	3	1	2	Poor drainage, poor turf, weeds in infield, poor backstop		
	Basketball court	3	3	0	Half court, no trail access, good surface, no striping		
	Parking	3	0	3	No parking other than in office building lot, no trail connections to lot		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	2	1	Need more seating, keep consistent style. Should enhance park entrance.		
	Sledding Hill	3	2	1	Nice orientation, top close to trail		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Some trails not accessible, need access into play container, add truncated domes where trails enter streets. Need ADA seating and trail link to court.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Natural areas in main park should be enhanced with better screening around perimeter and around play area for shade. Creek area vegetation should have maintenance plan.		
Overall Rating - Marshland		33	20	13		2	2
Mason	Play structure	3	1	2	Older equipment in fair to poor condition. Has wood border, wood chip surface but no access to or into container. Nice shaded area.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be a nice addition for small gatherings, shelter		
	Restrooms	3	0	3	Portables would be nice to add		
	Park trails	3	1	2	Trails in poor shape.		
	Informal play field	3	1	2	No access, just an older backstop and poor turf.		
	Tennis court	3	1	2	Very poor shape and directly adjacent to residential lot. No link to trail.		
	Basketball court	3	1	2	Fair to poor surface, older standards. Does have a link to the trail. Undersized full court.		
	Parking	3	3	0	On-street only which is adequate		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Need updated amenities with consistent style.		
	Skating rink	3	1	2	Appears to be at park entrance on north side. Unsure if this is used any longer. A berm existing along the NE section of the park.		
	Horseshoes	3	1	2	Wood backstop in poor to fair condition. Thin turf in shady spot.		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Need access into play container and other amenities, add truncated domes where trails enter streets. Need ADA seating.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	The park is full of mature oak trees. Ensure young oaks are growing to take the place of the older trees in the future. Turf is kind of sparse even in the sunny locations. Need to enhance park image.		
Overall Rating - Mason		39	15	24		2	1
Mercy	Play structure	3	3	0	Has woodchips, equipment in fair shape, need to maintain access into container.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be a nice addition.		
	Picnic area	3	2	1	Grill by playground and large asphalt slab		
	Restrooms	3	0	3	Portables would be nice		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Wide, good shape, nice loop system.		
	Informal play field	3	2	1	Infield good, backstop in fair condition, older players benches, turf is full of weeds		
	Basketball court	3	3	0	Full court, newer standards, asphalt good shape		
	Parking	3	1	2	No parking for park - there is parking at hospital which is mainly fenced off and parking in office building lot which needs better connection		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	2	1	Grill, benches and tables available - need consistent style. People walk over from hospital and office - a nice garden space or seating area would be a nice addition to this site.		
	Accessibility	3	0	3	No ADA parking or seating. Playground not accessible. Need truncated domes on trails where they meet streets.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	One end of the park has nice mature trees but more needs to be done to improve park aesthetics and screen some of the parking. Control weeds in turf.		
Overall Rating - Mercy		33	18	15		2	2
Moor	Play structure	5	5	0	New playground, concrete border, concrete walkway on one side (some broken panels), wood chips, and trail access. Maintain chips for proper access into container.		
	Western picnic shelter	5	5	0	New, nice style, good sized shelter surrounded by a nice landscaped bed.		
	Eastern picnic shelter	5	5	0	New, nice style, medium sized shelter.		
	Park trails	5	5	0	New trails, wide, lighted and provide access to neighborhoods and most amenities. Nice loop system that goes around the wooded areas.		
	Informal play field	5	5	0	Two new ballfields in great condition with infield, backstop, bleacher on asphalt pad, players benches with fencing in front.		
	Informal soccer field	5	5	0	Two new fields.		
	Tennis court	5	4	1	Good condition, would be nice if it were color coated and would be nice to have a bench by it, maybe fence side by street. Not connected by trail.		
	Basketball court	5	4	1	Good condition, would be nice if it was color coated. Not connected by trail.		
	Parking	5	5	0	Two large parking lots in new condition. Need HC parking signs.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	5	2	3	Need nice consistent style of amenities to go with the newly developed site. Be nice to add a bench by the playground and make benches along trail ADA compliant. Nice screened areas for portable restrooms. Bike racks would be a good addition. Add seating by tennis.		
	Accessibility	5	4	1	Good access to most amenities. Need to link to tennis and basketball courts and add truncated domes where trails meet parking lots and streets.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	5	3	2	Big chunk of woods and a creek in the middle of the park. New parking lot on northern side appears to drain directly into the creek that separates the two sections of the park. This should be altered to run into an infiltration basin / rain garden. Shade trees by the courts would be nice with additional trees needed by fields and parking lots for shade. Screen utility boxes.		
Overall Rating - Moor		60	52	8		4	5
Nelson	Play structure	3	3	0	New equipment, wood chip surfacing, new border and access into container.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Might be a nice addition for shade & shelter		
	Restrooms	3	1	2	Portable could use screening.		
	Park trails	3	1	2	Some fair condition, others are in poor condition and trail into the park is not HC accessible (too narrow on one end, too steep on the other). Two separate trails that don't connect.		
	Informal play field	3	1	2	Infield weedy, turf in fair condition, backstop is older but in fair condition.		
	Basketball court	3	2	1	Half court in fair condition.		
	Parking	3	3	0	On-street which seems adequate		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	0	3	Get rid of the chainlink fence along street - this really makes the park feel uninviting - not a good park character. Need additional benches by playground, keep a consistent style of amenities.		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
	Accessibility	3	0	3	Trail to playground not accessible. Need truncated domes on trails where they meet streets.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	1	2	Some nice shade trees around playground. Mature trees on eastern end of the park.		
Overall Rating - Nelson		30	12	18		1	3
Parkside	Play structure	3	3	0	Good walkway around the container, has some rubber and wood chips, equipment in fair condition. Nice shady location.		
	Park trails	3	2	1	Fair condition, could be resurfaced or patched up in the near future. Park trails connect to neighborhoods. Trail leading through the woods takes pedestrians out onto Coon Rapids Blvd. where it seems unsafe. The trail pops out of the woods, there is no trail connection or crosswalk, no signage, and it's on a curve in the road. Footpath trails through the woods.		
	Informal play field	3	3	0	Backstop in fair condition, good infield, fair turf, older benches.		
	Basketball court	3	2	1	Fair condition, could be resurfaced in the near future. Undersized full court, not striped, no trail access.		
	Parking	3	-1	4	No parking available next to park. Very unfriendly to park users with no parking signs on both sides of the street adjacent to the park entry. This forces people to drive back and forth and end up parking in the neighborhood streets in front of peoples homes to walk over.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Update amenities with consistent style.		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Some trails need truncated dome leading onto street, others have exposed aggregate surface. Need access to all recreational amenities.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Majority of the park wooded, need a plan in place to remove buckthorn and other invasives and ensure new natives are growing in.		
Overall Rating - Parkside		24	15	9		2	3
Peppermint Stick	Play structure	3	1	2	Outdated and unsafe equipment mixed with some older equipment in fair condition. Not accessible.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Might be a nice addition for shade & shelter		
	Restrooms	3	0	3	Might be a nice addition		
	Park trails	3	1	2	Terrible condition. Makes internal loop and connects to neighborhood streets. Would be nice to connect to school parking lot.		
	Basketball court	3	0	3	Small court would be a nice addition		
	Parking	3	0	3	Either in the school parking lot or at the end of the dead-end street. Park needs its own parking area off of the street.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	0	3	Lack of amenities. Need amenities with consistent style.		
	Sledding Hill	3	0	3	Unsure if this is still used. Poor orientation.		
	Accessibility	3	0	3	No ADA parking or seating. Playground not accessible. Need truncated domes on trails where they meet streets.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	1	2	Some mature trees in a portion of the park. Need shade by playground and screening around perimeter. Turf in fairly good condition.		
Overall Rating - Peppermint Stick		30	3	27		2	2
Pheasant Ridge	Play structure	5	2	3	New wood border, equipment older but in fair condition, one new bench. Not accessible but has woodchips.		
	Small picnic shelter	5	0	5	A small shelter is recommended		
	Large picnic shelter	5	0	5	A large group shelter is recommended		
	Picnic area	5	0	5	Need picnic area		
	Restrooms	5	0	5	Needs portables and possibly full restrooms		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
	Park trails	5	4	1	Trails in great shape, need access to playground and need truncated domes where they meet streets. Would be nice to have a better link to the trails on the north side of 119th Ave.		
	Informal play field	5	3	2	Updated players benches, backstop in fair condition. Good infield and turf.		
	Basketball court	5	2	3	Good surface, has tapered edge onto court (safety issue) and older standard.		
	Parking	5	3	2	On-street parking which seems adequate at the moment, but more dedicated parking will be needed for larger events		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	5	2	3	Need consistent style, more seating at playground. Have doggie stations.		
	Accessibility	5	0	5	No ADA parking or seating. Playground not accessible. Need truncated domes on trails where they meet streets.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	5	4	1	Very nice / scenic landscape with wooded areas and wetlands. Maintain / control undesirable species.		
Overall Rating - Pheasant Ridge		60	20	40		4	3
Prairie Oaks	Play structure	3	3	0	Playground newer and in good shape - need to maintain chips regularly for proper access		
	Small picnic shelter	3	3	0	Nice sized shelter for the park, creates a nice focal point upon entry - need maintenance on rust issues		
	Picnic area / Informal Space	3	3	0	Nice multi-functional open green space with very well maintained turf.		
	Restrooms	3	3	0	Portables with enclosure		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Trails in great shape, lighted, wide, create an internal loop and connect to larger system with a trail map at entrance		
	Informal play field	3	3	0	Open green space - just right for park		
	Parking	3	3	0	Parking lot in good shape, sometimes under-sized for the amount of use this park gets.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	2	1	Amenities in good shape, but faded. Good consistency in design. Fence needs maintenance on rust.		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Need to update benches with ADA space, need truncated dome at parking lot access		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	Newer park so vegetation is young and could be filled in a little more around the perimeter. Turf is in excellent condition.		
Overall Rating - Prairie Oaks		30	27	3		5	4
Prospect	Play structure	3	3	0	Newer equipment (some maintenance issues), has woodchips and access points, trail connections and seating		
	Small picnic shelter	3	3	0	Nice focal point and gathering area.		
	Restrooms	3	1	2	Portables need enclosure		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Great condition, link to amenities, seating along trails, lighted, multiple internal loop system and neighborhood trail connections.		
	Informal play field	3	3	0	Great turf and infield, newer backstop and benches.		
	Basketball court	3	3	0	Full sized, new standards, great condition - striped but not color coated. Has seating.		
	Parking	3	3	0	Parking lot in very good shape, just needs ADA signs.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	3	0	Need enclosure for portable restrooms. Any amenities added should stay with style already there. Maybe add some doggie stations. Add a bench by the pre-school container. Ornamental fencing at entrance and by shelter are very inviting - maintain to control rust.		
	Accessibility	3	3	0	Add pads to make seating ADA compliant. Add ped ramps with truncated domes where paths meet streets and parking lots, maintain wood chips in playground for proper access.		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	For a newer park, the perimeter is very aesthetic, many larger trees were saved, and the new vegetation is filling in quite well. Add more vegetation in certain areas for shade, softening perimeter and separating use areas (between playground and basketball court and in turf islands).		
Overall Rating - Prospect		30	28	2		5	4
Riverdale	Play structure	3	1	2	Remove sand and add woodchips, equipment older but still in fair shape.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be nice to have a small shelter.		
	Park trails	3	3	0	In very good shape, wide, makes neighborhood connections		
	Informal play field	3	3	0	Good shape, well maintained, nice size for neighborhood park. Maybe add players benches.		
	Basketball court	3	2	1	Good shape, slightly older standard, not striped		
	Parking	3	3	0	On-street only which seems adequate		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	2	1	Benches in fair shape - need consistent style		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Trails link to most amenities. Need proper access into play containers and around play equipment. Need ADA seating. Provide truncated domes where trails meet vehicular space.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	All maintained turf, vegetation is maturing, more screening needed along perimeter		
Overall Rating - Riverdale		27	18	9		3	3
Riverwind	Basketball court	3	0	3	Looks like it used to be old tennis court. Pavement too large, older standards, poor condition.		
	Parking lot	3	0	3	Parking lots go up to the street curb, making it confusing and difficult to see where to enter - needs separation from street. Asphalt in poor condition.		
	Tennis courts	3	0	3	Double tennis courts, fenced. Poor condition and not useable.		
	Picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be a nice addition.		
	Children's play area	3	1	2	Equipment in fair condition, old wood border falling apart has wood chips and rubber but rubber is falling apart.		
	Ballfields	3	0	3	All turf filled with weeds, backstop needs replacement.		
	Trails	3	1	2	Trails in poor condition, no trails to parking lots. Long trail through park that connects to neighborhoods.		
	Community Center	3	1	2	Older, looks a little run down - has fenced in skate park.		
	Skate Park	3	2	1	Enclosed in chain link fence by building.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	0	3	Older amenities, need consistent style.		
	Accessibility	3	0	3	No trails leading from parking to amenities, only one neighborhood connection on north side. Need proper access into play container. Need ADA seating and truncated domes where trails meet streets or parking lots.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	1	2	Some areas with nice mature vegetation, other areas in need of improvements. Very weedy turf.		
Overall Rating - Riverwind		36	6	30		1	1
Rockslide	Play structure	3	3	0	Newer equipment, good separation of use areas, accessible (maintain chips for proper accessibility)		
	Small picnic shelter	3	3	0	Nice sized for park, nice shade for playground area.		
	Restrooms	3	3	0	Portable restroom with enclosure		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Very good shape, lighted, wide, makes good connections to neighborhood, creates an internal loop system and goes beneath railroad tracks.		
	Informal play field	3	2	1	Turf in fair to good condition, infield good, newer backstop, no players benches.		
	Basketball court	3	3	0	Very good condition, new standards, striped and has seating.		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
	Hardsurface games	3	3	0	Adjacent to playground area, very good shape but striping is fading.		
	Parking	3	3	0	Very good condition, large, separated by ornamental fence.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	3	0	Portable restroom with enclosure, benches, tables, bike racks and trash receptacles. Any added amenities (recycling and additional trash) should be of same or similar style as existing amenities. Update pads to add accessibility to seating.		
	Sledding Hill	3	2	1	Not accessible. Lighted, fair orientation.		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Maintain compliant access into container, add ADA seating and picnic areas and add ped ramps with truncated domes where trails meet street on west end of the park.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	Nice trees in a few areas. A wetland or infiltration area exists on south end. Needs more perimeter landscaping for screening and softening and more internal landscaping for aesthetics, shade and separation of use areas. Turf is of mixed quality, some areas need maintenance		
Overall Rating - Rockslide		36	32	4		5	4
Sunrise Pond	Play structure	3	3	0	Newer equipment, good separation of use areas, accessible (maintain chips for proper accessibility)		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be nice located between court and playground - perfect spot for it		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Very good shape, wide		
	Basketball court	3	3	0	Very good condition		
	Parking	3	1	2	On street only seems adequate but maybe dangerous on a curve.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	lot of scattered trash cans but no seating		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Add ADA seating		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	The storm water pond should be kept naturalized. The park is a new development and it appears no trees have been planted.		
Overall Rating - Sunrise Pond		24	15	9		3	0
Thorpe	Play structure	3	3	0	Newer structure, has wood chips and access (keep maintained)		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be a nice addition.		
	Restrooms	3	3	0	Have a portable in an enclosure.		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Some repair / replacement of trails needed. Good trail links and access with lighted sections.		
	Informal play field	3	1	2	Small informal field with just a backstop		
	Parking	3	3	0	Good shape and appears adequate.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	2	1	Some newer amenities, but have some older ones mixed in with varying styles.		
	Hockey rink	5	4	1	Paved for multi-season use, though there are ponding issues on asphalt		
	Warming House	5	5	0	Very nice building, nice entrance feature		
	Accessibility	3	3	0	Maintain compliant access into container, add ADA seating and truncated domes where trails meeting parking lot or street.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Nice trees in some areas. Parking lot has an infiltration basin. Many white birch trees planted which will likely get birch borer and should be replaced sooner rather than later. Large open green space.		
Overall Rating - Thorpe		37	30	7		4	4
Thrush	Play structure	3	2	1	Older equipment in fair condition, has wood chips, need to maintain access.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	3	0	Small shelter in fair condition, just right for this park size.		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Figure 8 internal loop system, connects to amenities.		
	Informal play field	3	3	0	Open green space, no developed amenities, which is just right for this park.		
	Parking	3	3	0	On street only, which seems adequate		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Tables under shelter, but need a bench or two. Keep consistent style.		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Maintain compliant access into container, add ADA seating and truncated domes on ped ramps.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Nice wooded backdrop. Park is nestled along woods surrounded by homes and turf is in very good condition. A few internal trees for shade and aesthetics may be nice.		
Overall Rating - Thrush		24	20	4		4	4
Towerview	Play structure	3	2	1	Playground equipment in fair condition, looks older. Has access though it is still not compliant as rubber has chunks missing. Right along street.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Small shelter would be nice since there aren't many shade trees.		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Fair condition, could use some repair / resurfacing		
	Informal play field	3	2	1	Nice neighborhood sized ballfield, good turf and infield. Backstop needs repair, has older players benches.		
	Parking	3	0	3	Asphalt area not identifiable as a parking lot, not sized correctly or striped, broken pavement		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Older benches, need consistent style. Need more seating.		
	Accessibility	3	1	2	Maintain compliant access into container, add ADA seating and parking, add truncated domes where trails meeting parking lot or street		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	Nice trees around perimeter, needs more landscaping internally to soften the park and provide shade.		
Overall Rating - Towerview		24	11	13		2	3
Trackside	Play structure	3	1	2	Older equipment, has wood chips and old wood border. Wood border is falling apart with the metal stakes sticking out. Resident noted that the City comes down and sprays poison across the wood chips to control mushroom growth.		
	Restrooms	3	0	3	Portable is sitting along the street by the chainlink fence not near the playground or the dog park entrance.		
	Park trails	3	1	2	In fair to poor shape.		
	Basketball court	3	1	2	Half court, not striped, in fair to poor condition.		
	Parking	3	0	3	On-street only which would normally be sufficient for a small neighborhood park, but the dog park use takes up all side residential streets and makes it dangerous for kids to access the park amenities		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Need new amenities with a consistent style.		
	Dog Park	5	1	4	Fenced in area down low with very poor turf which is the first thing seen and a huge eyesore. Needs parking dedicated for dog park area as it is causing a lot of serious issues for the neighborhood residents. Dog park users fill the neighborhood streets, many fights break out among dog park users with foul language used. Too small of a park for the amount of use this gets.		
	Accessibility	3	1	2	Trails need truncated dome at streets, need ADA seating, need access into play container.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	1	2	Some mature vegetation, a lot of areas that need serious improvement.		
Overall Rating - Trackside		29	7	22		1	1
Twin Field	Play structure	3	3	0	Play equipment looks newer, in good condition. Has woodchips, need to maintain an access into the container. No benches. Right next to street, maybe some safety concerns. Nice walkway around.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Small shelter would be a nice addition.		
	Park trails	3	2	1	Fair shape, may need repair/ replacement soon. Nice loop trail through the woods, wide.		
	Informal play field	3	2	1	Good turf, old backstop, no infield.		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
	Basketball court	3	2	1	Half court, asphalt in fair condition, may need repair / replacement soon.		
	Parking	3	3	0	On-street only which seems adequate		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	0	3	No park sign, need benches by the playground, need consistent style.		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Need ramp with truncated dome where trail meets street. Lacks any connection to other turf piece across the street. Need to maintain access into the play container and add ADA seating.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	Nice wooded area with a wetland in half of the park. More landscaping needed along the street side and to provide shade by the playground. Control buckthorn and other invasives.		
	Twin Field Lawn	3	2	1	Seems to require a lot of mowing for no apparent use other than un-connected open space		
Overall Rating - Twin Field		30	18	12		3	4
Vineyard / Wedgewood Trail	Play structure	3	2	1	Has wood chips but is not accessible, needs trail link, old wood border, older equipment in fair condition - nice shady location		
	Restrooms	3	0	3	Portables would be nice addition		
	Park trails	3	2	1	Needs repair / resurfacing, west end needs ramp to street, should make a direct link to green space trail		
	Vineyard Greenway trails	5	3	2	Nice linkages, fair condition some repair needed, striped, needs to connect to main park space. Some areas feel a little enclosed with residential fencing on both sides. Need some seating areas along trail. Major safety issue where it meets Round Lake Blvd - need a safe pedestrian crossing.		
	Wedgewood Greenway trails	5	3	2	Some dangerous curves and sight line issues, but nice mature vegetation in areas. Fair condition, some repair needed and is striped. Can minimize maintenance by increased naturalization. Major safety issue where it meets Round Lake Blvd - need a safe pedestrian crossing.		
	Tennis court	3	2	1	Needs trail link, surface needs repair / replacement (has tiles over it now)		
	Basketball court	3	1	2	Full court, not striped, older standards, surface could use some repair - located right off of street		
	Parking	3	2	1	On-street only which seems adequate, though some more defined parking (pull in parallel along street possibly) and a trailhead might be a nice addition		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Need consistent styles, some seating opportunities along greater trail with good views.		
	Skating rink	3	1	2	Curb cut for access, not sure if this is still used or not, light was on while we were here.		
	Accessibility	3	0	3	Need access to park amenities, need ADA seating, provide truncated domes where trails meet streets.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Main park space has nice mature trees, turf in fair condition, though some areas of erosion and some weeds. Natural areas along trail provide a nice setting - ensure program to control invasives and improve water quality. Need more naturalization and landscaping along north end of Vineyard greenway trail to soften all the fencing. Could enhance naturalization in areas of Wedgewood trail to minimize maintenance.		
Overall Rating - Vineyards		40	20	20		1	3
Wildwood	Play structure	3	1	2	Play equipment older, needs replacement. Remove sand - sand creeping all over. Nice setting in wooded area, but some safety concerns.		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Good shape, connects to neighborhoods, wide. Need truncated domes at streets.		
	Basketball court	3	3	0	Half court, good shape, no striping, older standard		
	Parking	3	1	2	On-street only and does not seem adequate for safety		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	2	1	Has playground and court benches. Need consistent style for amenities.		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Maint. Quality
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Has trail links, but need domes at street and access for playground (sand not accessible)		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	Fantastic wooded setting, has some issues with buckthorn and vines		
Overall Rating - Wildwood		21	14	7		2	3
Woodcrest	Play structure	3	2	1	Equipment in fair to good condition, good sized playground that has wood chips but no access to it.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be a nice addition		
	Picnic area	3	1	2	Random grill in the trees.		
	Restrooms	3	0	3	Portables would be nice		
	Park trails	3	0	3	No trails. Not sure if the neighborhood connection still exists on the north side.		
	Informal play field	3	1	2	Older backstop in fair condition. Infield fair, turf in weedy condition.		
	Basketball court	3	0	3	Full court with older standards on the parking lot.		
	Parking	3	0	3	Hard to determine the parking lot is actually a parking lot. Entrance is too narrow, it's falling apart and has a basketball court on it.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Need updated amenities with a consistent style.		
	Football Field	3	1	2	Fairly level area, weedy turf, and older goal posts with one end adjacent to the playground.		
	Warming House	3	0	3	Should be removed.		
	Accessibility	3	0	3	Lacking trails for access. Updated amenities should be consistent in style and accessible.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	Nice mature vegetation along north and eastern perimeters of the park. Park need enhancements along the street edge and some vegetation within the park.		
Overall Rating - Woodcrest		39	8	31		1	1
Woodland Oaks	Play structure	3	2	1	Equipment still in fair condition, has wood chips but no access into container. User requesting real swings be included.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	would be a nice addition		
	Picnic area	3	1	2	Open green space on top of the hill where random grills are located. Placement seems odd, top of hill seems unused and turf needs maintenance		
	Park trails	3	3	0	Condition of the trails are very good. Internal loop trail and neighborhood connections made, though some very steep.		
	Basketball court	3	3	0	Good condition, full court, not striped, standards nice		
	Parking	3	1	2	On-street only which would normally be adequate, but the cul-de-sacs are limited for space		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Benches, trash and grills scattered randomly and don't relate to anything - need consistent style and access to the amenities		
	Accessibility	3	1	2	Connections made to neighborhoods, need truncated domes at streets, need to provide access to benches, grills, etc. and access into play container		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	3	0	Nice mature vegetation, nice entry into park through the vegetation on one side, add in plan for controlling invasives - turf needs maintenance		
Overall Rating - Woodland Oaks		27	15	12		2	3
Woodview	Play structure	3	1	2	Equipment in fair condition. Compacted sand with some rubber pieces falling apart and/or not connected to trail. Wood border.		
	Small picnic shelter	3	0	3	Would be a nice addition		
	Large picnic shelter	3	1	2	Old, in isolated location, and no trail connection.		
	Picnic area	3	0	3	Need picnic areas around large shelter		
	Restrooms	3	0	3	Would be nice to have portables, possibly real restrooms in a larger multi-purpose building		
	Park trails	3	2	1	Most are in good shape, plenty of park trails, neighborhood connections, loop system.		
	Informal play field	3	3	0	Nice open green space, not developed		
	Basketball court	3	0	3	full or half court would be nice addition		
	Volleyball	3	0	3	Might be a nice addition next to shelter		

Neighborhood Park	Design Feature	Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park	Overall Maint.
		Optimal	Actual	Gap		Design Quality	Quality
	Parking	3	1	2	Hard to find park entrance drive, parking lot difficult to distinguish from a trail (narrow and needs better separation from trails), parking lot is in need of repair / replacement and a better design.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	3	1	2	Need updated amenities with consistent style.		
	Accessibility	3	2	1	Trails link to some amenities, need all amenities accessible ped ramps with domes where trails meet vehicular areas		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	3	2	1	Gorgeous oaks, need more smaller oaks to grow in. A lot of potential with wooded areas and open lawn areas. Turf in fair condition, some maintenance needed.		
Overall Rating - Woodview		39	13	26		2	2
		Optimal	Actual	Gap		Design Quality	Maintenance Quality
Totals for Neighborhood Parks		1122	627	495	Totals	89	96

NOTE: all ratings relate to classification		Rating Scale						
		1 = Basic service level - meet minimum requirements						
<i>This classification includes athletic complexes</i>		3 = Enhanced service level						
		5 = Premium service level						
		Performance						
Athletic Complex	Design Feature	Optimal	Actual	Gap	Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Design Quality	Maintenance Quality	
Al Flynn	Softball field with lights	5	3	2	SW field does not have trail access. Has good infield, turf, lights, and fencing. Bleachers are non-compliant. Center outfield has a swale in it, though grades aren't too drastic.			
	Softball field with lights	5	3	2	NW field has access by the trail through the woods. Good infield, turf, lights, and fencing. Newer players benches. Bleachers non-compliant.			
	Eastern field	5	1	4	Old rusty fencing and backstop. Non-compliant bleachers, no players benches, has lights.			
	Tennis courts	5	2	3	Double court with older rusty fencing and sandy carpet surface. No trail access.			
	Children's play area	5	1	4	Older equipment in fair to poor condition, lacks interest, old wood border, sand surface.			
	Open play space	5	2	3	Some areas are nice and wooded, others need improvement and need to relate to adjacent activities			
	Parking lot	5	1	4	Very confusing trying to figure out which parking lots are for the park and which ones are for the adjacent land uses. Also confusing trying to tell where you can and can't drive. Parking lots for the park have a haphazard arrangement. Varying conditions from fair to poor.			
	Trails	5	3	2	Nice trail through the woods leading to one ballfield and the fire station but poor design having it enter the park drive into a parking area before connecting to the rest of the trail and stopping in other areas without any connections. Varying conditions from good to fair to poor. Need more trail links to the amenities. Trail from Robinson Park enters into the eastern parking lot but does not connect to remaining park trails.			
	Accessibility	5	1	4	Need ADA parking, trail access to recreational amenities, truncated domes where trails meet streets or parking lots, need ADA seating / viewing.			
	Natural Resources / Landscape	5	3	2	Great wooded area and some mature vegetation around the site. Need to control buckthorn and other invasives. Need to enhance the center of the park and the park entrance.			
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	5	1	4	Scattered portable restrooms that could use screens, need updated amenities with a consistent style.			
Overall Rating - Al Flynn		55	21	34		1	2	

		Performance					
Athletic Complex	Design Feature	Optimal	Actual	Gap	Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Design Quality	Maintenance Quality
Aspen	Parking lot	4	4	0	Very good shape, but drains directly into the creek.		
	Little league baseball field	4	5	-1	Great shape, irrigated, fenced, lighted, bleacher viewing (though not compliant), dugouts, trail access, and nice orientation.		
	Little league baseball field	4	5	-1	Great shape, irrigated, fenced, lighted, bleacher viewing (though not compliant), dugouts, trail access, and nice orientation.		
	Batting cage	4	3	1	Double cage		
	Concessions Building	4	4	0	Nice building, needs better picnic table area. Concrete pad is too slanted.		
	Accessibility	4	3	1	Need truncated domes on trails, need ADA seating / viewing and access into swing container.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	4	2	2	Park has a good appearance from the street and when entering. Scenic dense wooded area as a backdrop that has a creek running through it. Water from parking lot should be treated before it can enter the creek, right now it goes down an asphalt flume directly into it.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	4	2	2	Non-compliant bleachers. Keep a consistent theme / style to amenities. Bleachers along the outfield of one field is dangerous.		
	Playground	4	3	1	Only swings and diggers. Has walkway around it and woodchips, but no access into container.		
	Trails	4	3	1	Some maintenance / repair needed, but overall in fair shape with access to the majority of the site amenities. Need truncated dome where it meets the parking lot.		
Overall Rating - Aspen		40	34	6		4	4
Riverview	Tennis court	5	0	5			
	Hardcourt	5	0	5	Poor shape. Large, odd-shaped piece of asphalt with no real reason or use for it.		
	Half basketball court	5	0	5	Row of half courts with older standards and poor asphalt.		
	Hockey rink	5	3	2	Boards in fair condition		
	Hockey rink	5	3	2	Boards in fair condition		
	Skating area	5	3	2	Decent sized skating area.		
	Park Baseball field	5	4	1	Recently improved with good turf, infield and fencing. Has dugouts, scoreboard, and old bleachers that are non-compliant.		
	LL Baseball field	5	3	2	Due to boundary lines, one piece of the field is cut off and the balls are aimed at the park baseball field. Need some safety netting. Condition is very good with some older dugouts.		
	LL Baseball field	5	3	2	Poor orientation facing directly west. Condition of the field is good with older dugouts.		
	Softball field	5	2	3	Good orientation. Turf fair to good, agg-lime good and fencing / backstop in fair condition.		
	Softball field	5	2	3	Turf fair, agg-lime good and fencing / backstop in fair condition.		
	Children's play area	5	0	5	Old equipment with wood border and sand surfacing in need of complete replacement. Swings are way off in the other corner of the park and are old.		
	Parking lot	5	0	5	Very poor asphalt for some parking areas and not adequate for the park uses causing park users to park in the neighborhood streets. Informal aggregate parking used in the center of the park.		
	Regional trail	5	3	2	The large trail is in good shape but it doesn't meet up with the crosswalk across 105th avenue to connect to the trail on the north. On the south it has a crosswalk that doesn't connect to anything.		
	Park Trails	5	0	5	Park trails are in poor shape and most are very narrow and do not connect to amenities.		
	Park buildings	5	2	3	Fair shape, block buildings lacking character. LL buildings are older wood buildings in fair shape.		
	Accessibility	5	0	5	No trail connections to amenities, need truncated domes on trails where they meet the street and parking lots.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	5	0	5	Needs improvements to the landscaping with screening needed along the perimeter, softening the interior, adding shade and make improvements to naturalize the ditch.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	5	0	5	Need updated amenities with consistent style / character.		
Overall Rating - Riverview		95	28	67		1	2

		Performance			Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Design Quality	Maintenance Quality
Athletic Complex	Design Feature	Optimal	Actual	Gap			
Sand Creek	Parking area	5	2	3	Various conditions, most are older with poor to fair conditions. Placement is poor with many parking areas in areas that get balls flying into them. Very haphazard arrangement. The baseball fields do not have adequate parking adjacent to them. There are too many access points into the park which is confusing. Some access points are very "back door" and difficult to find and too close to residential lots.		
	Park buildings	5	2	3	Buildings appear to be in fair condition, but some are not sited well in relation to the activities on the site.		
	Adult softball field	5	2	3	Turf and agg-lime are in excellent condition, very well maintained. Fencing, backstop, light standards and seating are all old and in need of replacement.		
	Adult softball field	5	2	3	Only 300' field. Very unsafe with light poles on the inside of the field space. Turf and agg-lime are in excellent condition, very well maintained. Fencing, backstop, light standards and seating are all old and in need of replacement.		
	Adult softball field	5	2	3	Turf and agg-lime are in excellent condition, very well maintained. Fencing, backstop, light standards and seating are all old and in need of replacement.		
	Adult softball field	5	2	3	Turf and agg-lime are in excellent condition, very well maintained. Fencing, backstop, light standards and seating are all old and in need of replacement. Field is oriented so balls will fly into Tball field, which is very unsafe.		
	Adult softball field	5	1	4	Poor orientation. Turf and agg-lime are in excellent condition, very well maintained. Fencing, backstop, light standards and seating are all old and in need of replacement.		
	Adult softball field	5	1	4	Poor orientation. Turf and agg-lime are in excellent condition, very well maintained. Fencing, backstop, light standards and seating are all old and in need of replacement.		
	Tball field	5	4	1	Field is in excellent condition with dugouts and spectator seating (need compliant bleachers). Location is poor with the adjacent field oriented directly at this field, though there is safety fence / netting.		
	Baseball field	5	4	1	Field is in good to excellent condition with dugouts and spectator seating (need compliant bleachers). Good orientation.		
	Baseball field	5	4	1	Field is in good to excellent condition with dugouts and spectator seating (need compliant bleachers). It may be improved if baselines were agg-lime instead of partially turf.		
	Baseball field	5	4	1	Field is in good to excellent condition with dugouts and spectator seating (need compliant bleachers). It may be improved if baselines were agg-lime instead of partially turf.		
	Hockey rink / Skate Park	5	3	2	Equipment a little beat up but still in fair shape, asphalt is in fair shape but has some ponding issues and concrete surface is preferred for skate park use. Boards in fair shape, could use some stain.		
	Hockey rink	5	3	2	Boards in fair shape, could use some stain.		
	Hockey rink	5	3	2	Boards in fair shape, could use some stain.		
	Skating area	5	1	4	General skating area too far from the parking area and the warming house.		
	Football field / lacrosse	5	3	2	Good drainage, new scoreboard. Not sure about actual condition or if they are irrigated. Aerial looks poor but I thought Ryan said they were good fields. One field is torn up.		
	Football field / lacrosse	5	3	2	Good drainage, new scoreboard. Not sure about actual condition or if they are irrigated. Aerial looks poor but I thought Ryan said they were good fields. One field is torn up.		
	Open space area	5	0	5			
	Children's play area	5	2	3	Looks older, not entirely sure though, far from any parking and not connected to trail. Nice shade.		
	Tennis courts	5	1	4	Light standards in the courts are dangerous. Fencing is in fair condition though could stand to be replaced. Surface is fair with the carpet type of coating. (Jason can you verify this info?)		
	Basketball courts	5	1	4	Half courts off of the tennis courts. No trail access, older standards		
	Trail	5	2	3	No safe pedestrian access / crossing into the park on the north side. An internal loop system would be nice, need connection to amenities.		

		Performance					
Athletic Complex	Design Feature	Optimal	Actual	Gap	Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Design Quality	Maintenance Quality
	Accessibility	5	0	5	Need ADA seating, links to fields and amenities and parking areas. Add truncated domes to trails where they meet parking lots or streets. Need safe pedestrian connections into the park.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	5	3	2	South end of the site has a nice wooded area. Could use better screening along the RR tracks. Playground has mature trees.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	5	1	4	Add compliant bleachers, seating needed at playground, screens / enclosures around utilities and portable restrooms would improve the views. Need consistent style of amenities.		
Overall Rating - Sandcreek		130	56	74		1	4

		Performance					
Athletic Complex	Design Feature	Optimal	Actual	Gap	Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Design Quality	Maintenance Quality
Soccer Complex	Soccer field	5	5	0	Full sized soccer fields are in very good condition, irrigated, have lights, bleachers.		
	Parking lot	5	4	1	In good shape, large.		
	Concessions building	5	3	2	Older but in fair shape. Has pad with picnic tables.		
	Picnic shelter building	5	4	1	Nice octagon shelter, but needs a trail connection. Trim the landscaping for safety.		
	Children's play area	5	1	4	Older equipment, sand surfacing with some rubber that in falling apart, no seating.		
	Trails	5	4	1	Trails connect to neighborhoods and are in very good shape, need proper ADA access to recreational amenities and parking lot.		
	Accessibility	5	1	4	Need ADA seating, links to bleacher pads and picnic shelter. Add truncated domes to trails where they meeting parking lots or streets. Trail that connects to the northern portion of the parking lot does not meet ADA requirements but could be fixed fairly easily.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	5	1	4	Need better views upon entering site. Shade needed. Park has NURP pond which is fenced for safety and wide natural area on eastern side.		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	5	2	3	Have a nice red & white theme to play upon, improve amenities to fit the scheme. Add compliant bleachers, seating needed at playground, screens / enclosures around utilities and portable restrooms would improve the views. Update the water spigot area.		
Overall Rating - Soccer Complex		45	25	20		4	4

		Performance					Overall Design Quality	Maintenance Quality
Athletic Complex	Design Feature	Optimal	Actual	Gap	Miscellaneous Comments:			
Wintercrest	Babe Ruth baseball field	5	4	1	Fully developed with dugouts, irrigation, lighting, fencing, adjacent batting cages, and bleacher areas. Bleachers are non-compliant.			
	Parking lot	5	4	1	Large parking area in fair shape. Need ADA parking signs.			
	Hockey rink	5	3	2	Poor orientation, lighted, boards in fair shape, could use extra protection on the end adjacent to the parking lot.			
	Skating area	5	2	3	Small area outside the hockey rink contained by retaining wall blocks.			
	Sledding hill	5	2	3	Nice size, lighted, very large but poor orientation and not accessible.			
	Park Trails	5	2	3	Fair to poor condition, some cracks and dips, edges crumbling. Needs a trail link to the walkway along Woodcrest Drive and a link from the new building to the backstop area of the eastern-most field. Would be nice to connect to greater park and Woodcrest Park as there are already foot paths in place.			
	Play Structure	5	0	5	In a separate portion of the park, further to the north. Fair equipment, on-street parking access. Has wood chips, old wood border where top row has been removed in one portion for access into container. Would be nice to have something small in the athletic portion for families with kids.			
	Building	5	4	1	Newer building that needs more accessible links. Warming house, restrooms and concessions.			
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	5	2	3	Need consistent style for amenities. Need compliant bleachers and screening enclosure for portable restrooms. Picnic shelter and / or picnic areas would be a nice addition by the ballfields.			
	Accessibility	5	4	1	Has trail links, but need domes at streets and parking lots. Improve accessibility to building.			
	Natural Resources / Landscape	5	3	2	Needs an enhanced park entrance and some trees / landscaping within the active park space to soften the expansive views, provide shade for parking lot and along pedestrian viewing areas, screen utilities, and separate use areas. Wooded areas are very nice with a creek / wetland. Work on controlling invasives and improving water quality.			
Overall Rating - Wintercrest		55	30	25			3	4
		Optimal	Actual	Gap			Design Quality	Maintenance Quality
Totals for Athletic Complexes		420	194	226		Totals	14	20

NOTE: all ratings relate to classification		Rating Scale					
		1 = Basic service level - meet minimum requirements					
<i>This classification includes special use parks</i>		3 = Enhanced service level					
		5 = Premium service level					
		Performance					
Special Use Park	Design Feature	Optimal	Actual	Gap	Miscellaneous Comments:	Overall Park Design Quality	Overall Park Maintenance Quality
Crooked Lake	Basketball court	5	0	5			
	Parking lot	5	4	1	Two separate lots, fair shape. Would be nice to consolidate and maybe bring in further in the park.		
	Tennis courts	5	3	2	Double courts - seem to be in fair shape with the carpet-sand surfacing that is faded.		
	Picnic shelter	5	2	3	Decent size, but outdated and showing signs of wear		
	Children's play area	5	2	3	Older equipment, has woodchips and some rubber, better access needed (cross-slopes severe in some areas). Wider walkway needed and needs to relate to other amenities.		
	Ballfields	5	2	3	Nice turf and infield, backstop and players benches need to be upgraded. Maybe rotate for better orientation.		
	Trails	5	2	3	Some trails are in good shape, others in need of repair, trails don't link to a lot of benches, trail to dock isn't accessible.		
	Beach area	5	0	5	No beach any longer, swimming not allowed. Hillside has erosion issues - lake access is a missed opportunity.		
	Fishing pier	5	3	2	Dock is in decent shape, but trail to it is not accessible		
	General site amenities - benches, bike rack, drinking fountain	5	2	3	Variety of styles and conditions - need consistent style. Need ADA seating and more seating, screening around portable restrooms.		
	Accessibility	5	1	4	Trails connect to parking lots and some amenities, but dock isn't accessible, playground access needs improvement, and ADA seating needed. Provide access to all amenities, need truncated domes where trails meeting parking lots.		
	Natural Resources / Landscape	5	1	4	Appears that parking lots and maybe the neighborhood / street systems drain directly into the lake, many erosion issues. Site has some nice mature trees.		
Overall Rating - Crooked Lake		60	22	38		1	3
		Optimal	Actual	Gap		Design Quality	Maintenance Quality
Totals for Special Use Parks		60	22	38		Totals	1
							3

Coon Rapids Facility Rating Matrix - Totals for all Classifications

	A	B	C	D
1	Classification	Optimal Design Rating	Actual Performance Rating	Gap in Performance
2				
3	Neighborhood Parks	1122	627	495
4	Athletic Complexes	420	194	226
5	Special Use Parks	60	22	38
6	Community Preserves	28	23	5
7				
8	TOTAL OVERALL	1630	866	764

