

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Master Plan



City of Bloomington, Minnesota

2007-2026

Presented to City Council

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City of Bloomington Organizational Mission - A positive, professional, productive, learning organizational building community and its renewal by providing quality services at an affordable price.

Parks and Recreation Division Mission - to enhance the quality of life, health and wellness of our patrons through innovative and diversified parks, arts, recreation, leisure and cultural opportunities. This is accomplished through the stewardship of the community's parks and natural areas, and through the provision of quality recreational facilities and programs at an affordable price.

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Chapter 1- Introduction

Why a Master Plan?.....	1-1
Users Guide.....	1-2
Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services.....	1-2
Relationship to Other Plans.....	1-3
Master Plan Development Process.....	1-3
Organization of Master Plan.....	1-4

Chapter 2 - Existing Parks and Recreation System

Park System History	2-1
Existing Conditions and Inventory.....	2-3
City Parks.....	2-3
System Description.....	2-3
Existing Park Classifications.....	2-4
Trails.....	2-5
Special Recreational Facilities.....	2-6
Golf Courses.....	2-6
Bloomington Ice Garden.....	2-6
Bloomington Center for the Arts	2-6
Old Town Hall.....	2-6
Pond-Dakota Mission Park.....	2-7

Regional Park and Open Space Facilities.....	2-7
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.....	2-7
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve.....	2-8
Other School and Partner Facilities.....	2-9
Recreation Programs.....	2-9

Chapter 3 - Parks and Recreation Division

Parks and Recreation Division Mission	3-1
Structure and Services.....	3-1
Operational Revenue and Expenses.....	3-4

Chapter 4 - Needs Assessment and Evaluation

Needs Assessment Process.....	4-1
Changing Community and Mature Park System.....	4-2
Community Trends	4-2
Recreation Trends	4-4
Benchmark Comparisons	4-7
Community and Stakeholder Input Summary.....	4-8
Park Service Area Evaluation.....	4-8
Parks System Evaluation.....	4-8
Park Revitalization Needs.....	4-10
Parkland Acquisition Needs.....	4-10
Natural Resource / Environmental Sustainability Needs.....	4-11
Park Maintenance Needs	4-11
Trails Needs	4-12
Recreation Facility Needs	4-13
Recreation Programming Needs	4-15
Priority Needs	4-17
Park Funding and Funding Gap	4-17

Capital Revenue and Expenses.....	4-17
-----------------------------------	------

Chapter 5 - Goals and Guidelines

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Goals	5-1
Park and Facility Guidelines	5-1
Level of Service Standards.....	5-1
Updated Park Classifications.....	5-2
Park Classification Changes.....	5-2
Recreation Facility Guidelines.....	5-4

Chapter 6 - Parks and Recreation Action Plan

Introduction.....	6-1
Priority Strategies.....	6-1
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Goals	6-1
Park Renovation.....	6-2
Park System Repositioning - Create Signature Parks.....	6-2
Parkland Acquisition.....	6-4
Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability.....	6-5
Trails and Bikeways.....	6-8
Recreation Facilities.....	6-9
Program and Events.....	6-10
Operations and Maintenance.....	6-13
Arts and History	6-13
Communications and Marketing.....	6-14
Partnerships and Community Outreach.....	6-15
Future Plan Review and Updating.....	6-16

Chapter 7 - Funding Plan

Introduction.....	7-1
Funding Gap.....	7-1
Need for Economic Sustainability.....	7-2
Funding Cycle.....	7-2
Reduced Park Dedication Monies.....	7-3
Protection of Public Investment.....	7-3
Funding Options.....	7-3
Recommendations-Major Initiatives.....	7-3
Park Revitalization Program.....	7-3
Repositioning Strategy	7-4
Bond Referendum.....	7-4
Fiscal Accountability.....	7-5
Partnerships and Community Outreach.....	7-5
Capital Improvement Program Review	7-6

Strategies

Strategy 1 : Reposition parks to reduce maintenance and capital investment costs, improve quality to better meet evolving park and recreation needs and the increasingly diverse park user.....	6-3
Strategy 2: Develop/improve facilities and parks to enhance sense of community.....	6-4
Strategy 3: Promote active living in parks.....	6-4
Strategy 4: Improve park identification and way-finding.....	6-4
Strategy 5: Ensure the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Master Plan update addresses park in-holding acquisition funding.....	6-5
Strategy 6: Address existing neighborhood park service area gaps when suitable land becomes available to meet neighborhood needs.....	6-5
Strategy 7: Hire an ecological consultant to develop a natural resources management plan of priority preservation and management areas to support the regeneration and expansion of native plant communities.....	6-5
Strategy 8: Use native plants to meet environmental objectives and reduce maintenance requirements.....	6-6
Strategy 9: Preserve and manage aquatic and terrestrial environments.....	6-6
Strategy 10: Promote community stewardship of natural areas.....	6-6
Strategy 11: Partner with agencies, organizations and businesses to enhance natural resource access and management.....	6-8
Strategy 12: Improve bicycle and pedestrian access across highways and major roads and the Minnesota River.....	6-9

Strategy 13: Adopt an Alternative Transportation Plan.....	6-9
Strategy 14: Connect to neighboring cities trails and bikeway systems.....	6-9
Strategy 15: Develop trails and bikeways to meet a range of needs for an aging population.....	6-9
Strategy 16: Maximize use and quality of existing community recreation facilities.....	6-9
Strategy 17: Modify park and recreational assets to meet a range of needs for an aging and diverse population....	6-10
Strategy 18: Assure quality community facilities to meet evolving needs.....	6-10
Strategy 19: Develop community gathering locations and improve facilities and parks to enhance sense of community.....	6-10
Strategy 20: Serve a spectrum of age, ability, and interest.....	6-11
Strategy 21: Improve program accessibility to allow for broad community participation.....	6-12
Strategy 22: Distribute community events geographically across the quadrants of the City.....	6-12
Strategy 23: Promote informal and casual gatherings.....	6-12
Strategy 24: Provide culturally rich and cross-cultural programming.....	6-13
Strategy 25: Continue to increase operational efficiency and innovation.....	6-13
Strategy 26: Develop and implement environmentally sustainable practices.....	6-13
Strategy 27: Integrate public art into community life.....	6-14
Strategy 28: Increase opportunities to participate in arts and culture activities.....	6-14
Strategy 29: Identify and preserve sites and properties of historic significance.....	6-14
Strategy 30: Increase communications and marketing to increase knowledge of recreational opportunities, needs and benefits.....	6-14
Strategy 31: Promote community stewardship of parks.....	6-16
Strategy 32: Develop collaborative partnerships with individuals, public, private and non-profit organizations, schools and associations to build support for parks and recreation.....	6-16
Strategy 33: Keep the Park Master Plan updated and relevant.....	6-16
Strategy 34: Adopt and fund a park revitalization program for park infrastructure.....	7-4
Strategy 35: Define the content (amount and improvements) and approach/timing of a future parks, recreation and community facilities bond referendum; an essential tool needed to fund park system improvements.	7-4
Strategy 36: Improve fiscal accountability, monitoring and efficiency.....	7-5

List of Figures

Figure 1.1 - Park Master Plan Use Diagram.....	1-2
Figure 1.2 - Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services.....	1-3
Figure 1.3 - Community Open House, March 21, 2007.....	1-3
Figure 2.1 - Bloomington Regional Context Map.....	2-2
Figure 2.2 - Park Classification Summary.....	2-3

Figure 2.3 - Park Classifications, Bloomington Comprehensive Plan 2000.....	2-4
Figure 2.3 - Park Classifications, Bloomington Comprehensive Plan 2000 (continued).....	2-5
Figure 2.4 - Bloomington Family Aquatic Center in Valley View Park.....	2-6
Figure 2.5 - Bloomington Center for the Arts Mural.....	2-6
Figure 2.6 - Old Town Hall, 1900's.....	2-6
Figure 2.7 - Gideon Pond House, 1800's.....	2-7
Figure 2.8 - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.....	2-7
Figure 2.9 - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Long Meadow Unit Map.....	2-8
Figure 2.10 - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Bloomington Ferry Unit Map.....	2-8
Figure 2.11 - Bush Lake Picnic Shelter.....	2-9
Figure 2.12 - Bush Lake Beach.....	2-9
Figure 2.13 - Bloomington Parks and Recreation Facilities Map.....	2-12
Figure 2.14 - Bloomington Parks and Recreation Facilities Map Index.....	2-13
Figure 2.15 - Existing Bloomington Trails and Sidewalks.....	2-14
Figure 2.16 - Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Composite Master Plan Map.....	2-15
Figure 3.1- Departmental/Division Organizational Chart.....	3-2
Figure 3.2 - City of Bloomington Organizational Chart.....	3-3
Figure 3.3 - 2006 Operational Revenue & Expense.....	3-4
Figure 4.1 - Change in Bloomington.....	4-2
Figure 4.2 - On-line Web Survey Example (See Appendix D for survey results).....	4-2
Figure 4.3 - Bloomington's Population by Age (2000 census data).....	4-3
Figure 4.4 - Bloomington's Changing Population by Race 1990-2000 (2000 census data).....	4-3
Figure 4.5 - Lyndale Green Park - a new townhouse development focused around a new urban park.....	4-4
Figure 4.6 - Artificial turf fields are increasing in demand as people seek quality facilities. In addition, the demand for field use has increased.....	4-4
Figure 4.7 - Indoor recreation facilities are increasingly popular, including indoor playground facilities.....	4-4
Figure 4.8 - Central Park Skate Plaza, Bolingbrook, Illinois - Skate Board Plazas along with other skate board facilities are increasing in popularity, along with other alternative sports.....	4-5
Figure 4.9 - Public art is increasingly popular and a good "fit" with park and recreation facilities - Touchstone Plaza, Rafala Green mosaic bench/plaza in Peavey Park, Minneapolis.....	4-5
Figure 4.10 - Rain gardens and other sustainable elements are increasingly desired by the public.....	4-5
Figure 4.11 - Bike Trails and other bike facilities are the most popular recreation facility.....	4-6
Figure 4.12 - Peer Community Comparisons Table.....	4-7
Figure 4.13 - Park Service Area Coverage Map.....	4-9
Figure 4.14 - Graffiti removal on park equipment requires ongoing maintenance.....	4-12

Figure 4.15 - An example of trail renovation needs - 86th St. West.....	4-12
Figure 4.16 - Ongoing facility lifecycle replacement is needed to replace aging playgrounds.....	4-13
Figure 4.17 - Trails and Bikeways Opportunities Map.....	4-14
Figure 4.18 - More intergenerational programming is needed.....	4-16
Figure 4.19 - Trail and bikeway connections were identified as a high priority such as over the Long Meadow Lake Bridge.....	4-17
Figure 4.20 - Natural resources management was identified as a high priority.....	4-17
Figure 4.21 - Renovation and replacement of aging parks and recreation facilities to meet changing needs was identified as a high priority, such as replacement of old warming houses.....	4-17
Figure 4.22 - 1997-2006 Park Dedication Fees.....	4-18
Figure 4.23 - Projected 2008-2012 Capital Revenue Needs and Funding Gap.....	4-19
Figure 4.24 - 2000-2005 Capital Improvement Funding Sources.....	4-19
Figure 5.1 - Park Classifications Summary, 2008.....	5-2
Figure 5.2 - Park Classifications 2008.....	5-3
Figure 5.3 - Recreation Facility Guidelines.....	5-5
Figure 5.3 - Recreation Facility Guidelines (continued).....	5-6
Figure 6.1 - Bloomington Park System Repositioning Diagram.....	6-3
Figure 6.2 - Cedarcrest Park Splash Pad.....	6-4
Figure 6.3 - Natural Resources/Open Space Natural Community Quality Map.....	6-7
Figure 6.4 - Youth volunteers posing during Buckthorn pull	6-8
Figure 6.5 - Moir Park swing bench	6-11
Figure 6.6 - Upgrade tennis court nets.....	6-11
Figure 6.7 - Bloomington Program Brochure.....	6-12
Figure 6.8 - Tri-City Skate Board Park.....	6-15
Figure 6.9 - Tree sale at Civic Plaza.....	6-15
Figure 7.1 - Parks and Recreation Funding Cycle Illustration.....	7-2
Figure 7.2 - Bond Referendum History.....	7-5

Appendices

Appendix A - Parks and Recreation Goals and Strategies

Appendix B - Existing Parks Inventory and Park Improvement Recommendations

Appendix C - Community Input Process

Appendix D - Web Survey Results

Appendix E - Tennis Court Study Memo

Appendix F - Community Center Study

Appendix G - Park Service Area Evaluation

Appendix H - Accessibility Study Executive Summary

Appendix I - Future Parkland Acquisition Sites

Appendix J - Bloomington Program Listings

Appendix K - Park Amenity Matrix

Appendix L - Park System Funding Options

Appendix M - City of Bloomington Natural Resource Inventory

Appendix N - Alternative Transportation Plan, Draft April 9, 2008

Executive Summary

The Bloomington Park Master Plan was prepared in 1973 and served the City well in building the park system. The park system is now largely complete and there is a need for a plan to guide park and recreation system replacement and revitalization. The City hired Hoisington Koegler Group, inc., park planning consultants, to work with City staff, a citizen planning task force, officials and the public to prepare a new park and recreation master plan. The Master Plan includes a background, needs assessment, strategies and actions to guide park and recreation operation and investment until 2026.

Situation and Needs

Extensive Park System

The Bloomington park and recreation system is a mix of 97 neighborhood, community, natural resource and regional parks and specialty recreation facilities that are highly valued by Bloomington residents. This extensive parks system positively affects quality of life and provides great access to parks, but requires resources to maintain and replace aging facilities.

Changing Community

The population of Bloomington has changed considerably since the park system was built in the 1960's and 70's. The City now has significantly fewer children, more active seniors and baby boomers and is more culturally diverse. There is an emphasis on active living (trails, walking and exercise) and a desire for quality facilities over quantity.

1950-2000	2000-2026
Developing	Redeveloping
Homogeneous	More diverse
Suburban	More urban
Building park system	Maintaining park system
Developer funds	Stable funding needed

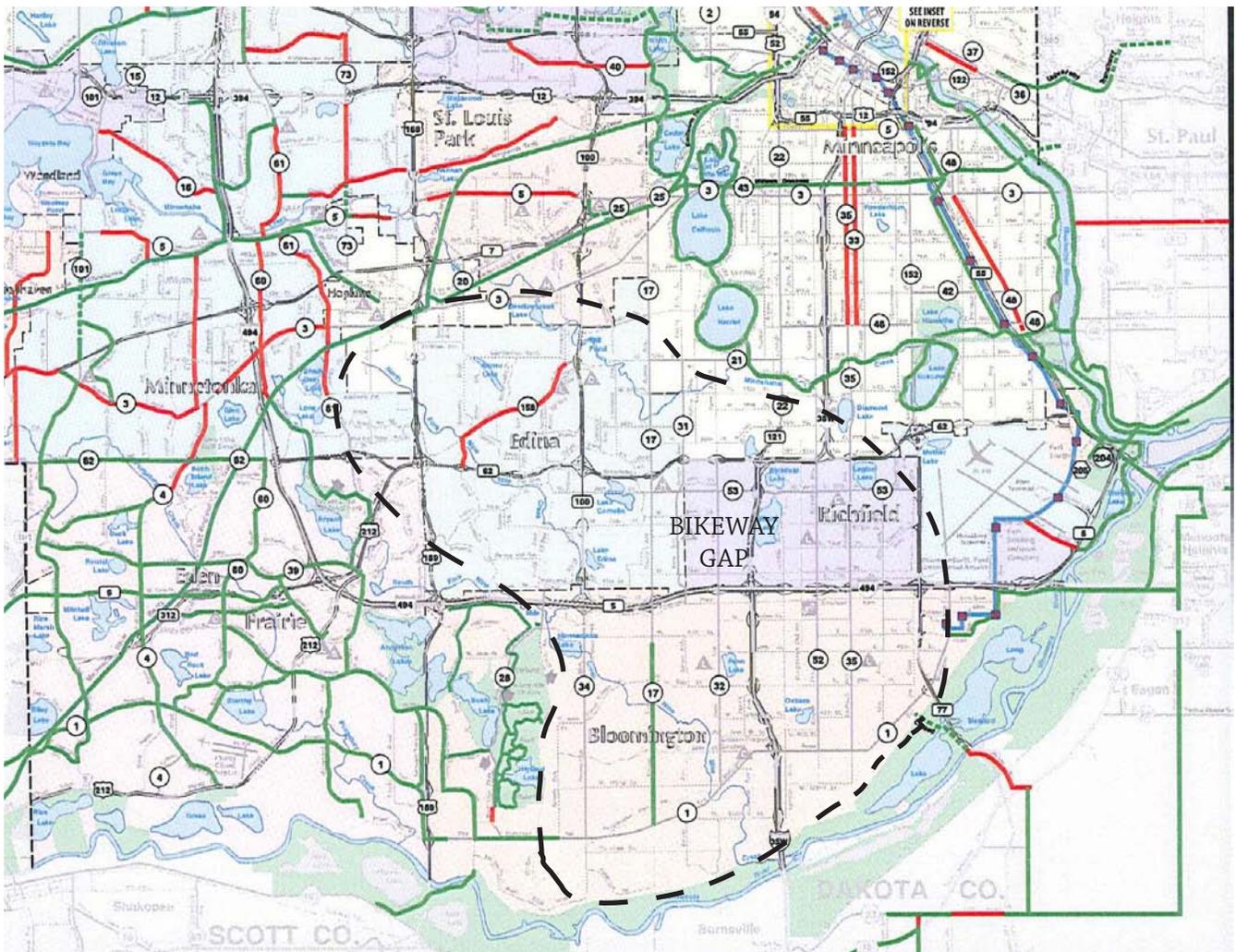
Partnership Approach

The City provides neighborhood and community parks and partners with schools, churches, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Three Rivers Park District, recreation associations and others to provide additional facilities and to operate programs. This is an efficient method of delivering services but has challenges of coordination and access to facilities.

Park Revitalization Needs

Much of the park system was built 25 - 40 years ago, and aging play equipment, buildings, paving, etc., need replacement. In addition, investments are needed to keep parks fresh and vital and to meet changing community and recreation needs. A strategic approach is needed to prioritize and shape that investment.

Figure 1 - Hennepin County Bikeways Map



Trail Needs

Trails are the number one desired recreation amenities in Bloomington. Much of the City lacks trails and bikeways. Connections across highway barriers and to neighboring trail systems are needed. The Bloomington-Edina -Richfield area is a “hole in the doughnut” where community and regional trails are almost non-existent (See Figure 1). The City is at a competitive disadvantage to newer suburbs with highly developed trail networks and to cities like Minneapolis which have an extensive city-wide trail and bikeway system.

Natural Resources

There is a need and desire for more natural resource management and sustainability actions. The City is blessed with many natural areas and conservation lands but has lacked any systematic plan and the resources to wisely manage these lands. As a result the quality of the natural areas is declining.

Funding Shortfall

Funding for upkeep, replacement and revitalization of the system has not kept up with the needs. The funding gap of approximately \$27.6 million over the next five years is due primarily to:

- ▶ The need to reinvest and renovate existing facilities.
- ▶ New trails, community facilities and completing the planned park land acquisitions.
- ▶ Lack of traditional funding from new development. A large portion of the park system was acquired and built using non-tax revenue (park dedication from subdivision developers) which is now a very limited source of funds.

Plan Initiatives

Five major initiatives are recommended to address significant park system revitalization requirements, to position parks and recreation to meet the needs of a changing community, to create an appropriate and sustainable funding method for on-going replacement needs, and to obtain funding for park, trail and recre-

ation improvements to address changing community needs and to keep the system fresh and vital.

A. Revitalize Parks

Renew aging facilities

Invest in a planned and phased program (Park Revitalization Program) of replacement and revitalization of aging park facilities and infrastructure (play equipment, paving, buildings, fencing, etc.).

Create signature parks

A repositioning strategy is recommended to guide investment in aging parks to create attractive community oriented parks at key locations. Depending upon funding availability this may mean shifting funding from smaller parks to focused improvements at signature parks. Signature parks would serve a broader area and would have a greater range of amenities. This is in response to the desire for quality over quantity and the reality of limited funds. Investment in smaller parks should not stop, but it should be tailored to create a more sustainable system overall; such as, removing worn out tennis courts in areas with other tennis courts nearby and replacing the former courts with gardens, lawn, natural plantings or another recreation facility which has less initial and on-going operational costs. Focusing investment at signature parks may result in some people having to travel further to reach a certain park facility. This can be offset somewhat by connecting signature parks with a City-wide bikeway/walkway network.

B. Create Sustainable Funding

Park Revitalization Program - *Sustaining actions*

Fund a life-cycle cost replacement program that dedicates monies annually to the planned and systematic replacement and revitalization of aging park facilities, equipment and infrastructure. This funding program is modeled after the successful Bloomington Pavement Management Program. It is prudent to protect the significant public investment in Bloomington parks by implementing a life-cycle replacement program to keep them in good, safe condition and responsive to community needs through regular sustainable invest-

ment. The Park Revitalization Program should focus on regular life cycle park infrastructure replacements such as play equipment, paving, shelters, buildings, lighting and fencing, etc. This program will require the use of approximately one million in general fund dollars on an annual basis to keep the Bloomington park and recreation system as a valued element of the City.

Bond referendum - New initiatives

Within the next 1-3 years (before 2010), utilize a bond referendum (vote on a temporary property tax increase) to fund a package of new facilities such as trails, bike-ways, community park and recreation improvements and natural resource enhancements. Consider the timing of other agency referendums and build support and advocacy for a park and recreation referendum package of approximately \$15-\$20 million.

Expand outreach and partners - Build advocacy

Expand outreach and communication efforts regarding the services, facilities and benefits of Bloomington Park and Recreation to develop broad support for park, recreation, trail, and improvement funding. Develop partnerships with area businesses and organizations. Consistently portray the benefits of parks and recreation in internal and external communications. Use challenge grants to stimulate private funds. Establish a park foundation and legacy giving and create a staff position to encourage and coordinate volunteerism.

C. Add Trails

Connect the City

Adopt an alternative transportation plan which includes a city-wide trail, bikeway and sidewalk plan. Integrate the trail and bikeway plan with parks, park trails, and surrounding community's trail plans. Eliminate pedestrian and bicycle barriers at highway crossings.

Build trails and bikeways

Building new trails and bikeways in Bloomington should be the top priority for new facilities and should be a major cross-department initiative (Park and Rec., Public Works and Community Development) for the next 20 years. There are many trail grant and cost sharing opportunities. Acquiring right of way for trails can

be difficult in a built community, and variation in existing street width preclude "captured" for trail or bikeway use in most corridors. Major trail opportunities exist within the Xcel Energy power line corridor and within the Minnesota River Valley. Support for trails and active living (walking, biking and exercise) is at an all time high. That level of interest makes trails and bikeways an attractive element for bond referendum funding.

D. Enhance Natural Resources

Improve management, access and sustainability

The completion of the Bloomington Natural Resource Inventory by Hennepin County offers the City a tool to prioritize natural resource preservation, management and enhancement. A city-wide natural resource management plan is a natural extension of the inventory work. Priority vegetation and habitat actions should be identified and resources allocated according to an overall plan. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Three Rivers Park District and others should be partners in this effort. The scope of the natural resource lands in Bloomington warrant a greater focus and devotion of resources and staff to ensure long term sustainability.

E. Improve Community and Recreation Facilities

Build community gathering places

Bloomington has an extensive system of neighborhood parks but lacks places where community events and social interaction can occur. Park amenities such as plazas, gardens, spray grounds, skate parks, loop walking trails, dog parks, and even coffee shops, restaurants, beer gardens, etc., can enhance a sense of community by bring people together in parks and public places. As redevelopment occurs and as parks are revitalized, an emphasis on social spaces and places is appropriate. As the City becomes more diverse, the need to address different cultures' social traditions and recreational needs becomes more important and will require a flexible approach to park space. Gathering places help create a sense of community and can bring people together. The City does not have any gym space and relies on access to school and other facilities to run programs. While there is interest in a community center, there appear to be higher priority needs in the immediate future (1-3 years).

Maximize use of facilities

Efficient use of facilities makes sense from a budget, user and space allocation standpoint. For parks and recreation this means adding irrigation to extend turf life and use, using artificial turf to allow unlimited use, adding lighting to extend playing time and looking at refrigerated ice to allow longer and higher quality outdoor skating. Park users are looking for quality experiences. Use of more durable materials and elements like lighting and irrigation adds cost to park renovations but pays dividends through increased use, better life-cycle cost/benefit and lower annual maintenance costs.

Complete key park land acquisitions

The City park system is 99% complete. However, a few key planned park land acquisitions, such as completion of the park land acquisition around Bush Lake to allow a loop trail, are very important. Most of the Park Reserve inholding property acquisitions are eligible for matching funds through the Metropolitan Council.

Capital Improvement Program Review

The park systems Capital Improvement Program (CIP) identifies and budgets for priority park improvements such as playgrounds, buildings, trails, etc., on a yearly basis. The CIP allows the City to budget and prioritize specific park improvement projects matched to available funding and resources. The list of projects in the CIP does not obligate the City to undertake the improvement. The Parks Master Plan's list of park improvements is part of a twenty-year vision. Due to the limited financial resources, not all listed projects will necessarily be completed. However, the Parks Master Plan is a big picture tool to be used by the City to review and prioritize the CIP, including newly recommended improvements, with respect to the Park and Recreation goals and strategies of this Plan.

Priority Strategies

A set of 36 strategies were developed to implement the Master Plan goals and initiatives. Citizens, City staff, Citizen Task Force members and the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission were asked to prioritize

the strategies. The top ten priority strategies are listed below:

1. Park Revitalization Program - Adopt and fund a park revitalization program for park infrastructure. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will need to be reviewed and prioritized relative to the Park and Recreation goals and strategies and ongoing revitalization of parks.
2. Signature Parks - Reposition parks to reduce costs, improve quality, and better meet evolving and diverse needs.
3. Trails – Adopt an Alternative Transportation Plan including improved internal and external bicycle and pedestrian connections.
4. Natural Resource Management – Enhance planning and resource allocation devoted to natural resources and sustainability.
5. Recreation Programming - Emphasize quality programming to serve a spectrum of ages, abilities, and interests. Encourage active living actions.
6. Community Gathering/Sense of Community – Develop community gathering locations and improve facilities and parks to enhance a sense of community.
7. Arts - Integrate public art into community life and identify and increase opportunities to participate in arts and cultural
8. History - Identify and preserve historical sites and properties with historical significance.
9. Collaboration - Increase communication and partnerships with advocacy groups, partners, and the business community. Support volunteerism and community stewardship of parks and natural areas.
10. Bond Referendum – Define the content and timing of a future park, trail, green space, and community facilities bond referendum, an essential tool needed to fund planned park system improvements.

1 Introduction

Why a Master Plan?

The City of Bloomington has one of the premier parks and recreation systems in Minnesota with nearly one third of the City being comprised of parks, open space, wetlands or lakes. The City park system consists of 97 parks, recreation or open space properties. Regional parks, Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, along with school and other private recreation facilities complement City facilities. Much of the park system was acquired and constructed in the 1960's, 70's and 80's. Many of these recreation facilities are aging and in need of replacement or updating. The population of the City is changing with many empty nester households, fewer children and more cultural diversity. New recreation trends have emerged such as lacrosse, in-line skating, skate boarding, off leash dog parks, disc golf, etc., which may require facility or programming changes.

The City recognized the importance of parks and recreation to quality of life and initiated an update to the City Park Master Plan. The current Park Master Plan was prepared in 1973. That plan served the City well, but its focus is on acquiring and building the park system. The need now is primarily to fine-tune the system, to plan for and fund system upkeep and revitalization and to respond to changing needs.

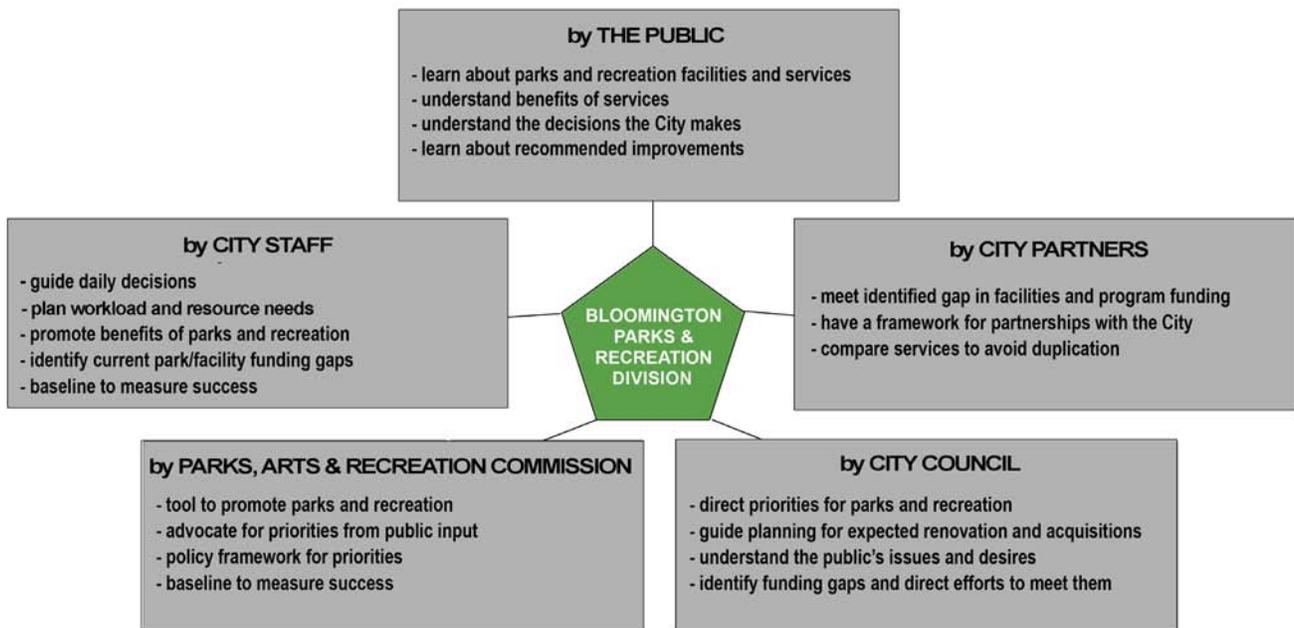
The goals of the Park Master Plan:

- ▷ Demonstrate the need for and benefits provided by the Parks and Recreation Division.
- ▷ Chart the growth, direction, priorities and agenda for the Division through 2026.
- ▷ Demonstrate the Division's alignment with and contributions to achieving the Parks and Recreation Division Mission and Goals and the [Imagine Bloomington 2025 Strategic Plan](#).
- ▷ Identify community needs and desires.
- ▷ Identify sustainable funding sources.
- ▷ Prioritize park and recreation system improvements.

Users Guide

This Park Master Plan is intended to act as a guide to the future and to set the general direction for parks and recreation from 2007 to 2026. The Plan includes a summary of public input, desires and needs, mission, goals and action plans. It also includes detailed park plans for physical improvement projects, as they are known in 2007. This Park Master Plan should be viewed as a living document, to be evaluated and refined on a regular basis to keep pace with demographic, recreation, funding and other trends as they evolve.

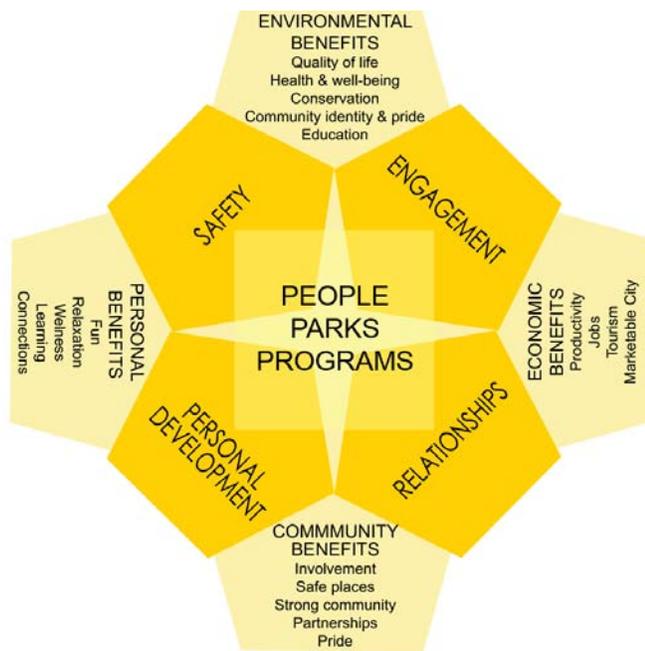
Figure 1.1 - Park Master Plan Use Diagram



Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services

The benefits of Bloomington parks, recreation and open space are broad-ranging and are important to the quality of life in Bloomington. Year round programs, activities and special events, parks, park facilities and open space all contribute to meeting the diverse needs of our community. Parks, recreation, and open space are not mere expenditures, but an investment in the future well-being of individuals and groups, as well as the continued attractiveness and viability of the City.

Figure 1.2 - Benefits of Parks and Recreation



Relationship to Other Plans

The City’s Park Master Plan was prepared in 1973 to guide the City on acquiring and building the park system. That plan served the City well, but times and conditions have changed. The park system is for the most part built. There is now a need for a plan to guide the City’s focus from building the park system to managing a park system to meet current needs including better connectivity, active living opportunities, a desire for high quality facilities, environmental and economic sustainability, etc. In 2000, the City updated its comprehensive plan with an updated parks element, which provided an overall framework and guiding policies for this anticipated Park Master Plan update.

In 2007, The City of Bloomington began preparation of Imagine Bloomington 2025 Strategic Plan, a city-wide strategic plan for development, redevelopment, City services, infrastructure, and fiscal strength and stability. The Strategic Plan is a work in progress as this Master Plan was being prepared. The Strategic Plan looks ahead 20 years and is being guided by resident input through an online survey, town hall meetings and focus groups. The Strategic Plan includes broad goals and strategies for parks and open space.

In 2007, the City also initiated an Alternative Transportation Plan to develop a comprehensive system for inter- and intra-city travel via walking, bicycling, personal transportation assistance devices and rollerblading -- and their connections/interface with transit (LRT and bus). The Alternative Transportation Plan will provide details on trails, walking and biking needs, and supplement those identified in this Master Plan. A working draft of the Alternate Transportation Plan can be found in Appendix N.

This Master Plan incorporates and builds on the 2000 Comprehensive Plan and the Imagine Bloomington 2025 Strategic Plan to plan for system upkeep and revitalization and to respond to changing needs. The updated Park Master Plan, by reference, will be incorporated into the 2008 City Comprehensive Plan update.

Figure 1.3 - Community Open House, March 21, 2007



Master Plan Development Process

The City of Bloomington hired Hoisington Koegler Group, inc., park-planning consultants, to work with city staff and officials, a citizen task force, stakeholders and the public to prepare a Comprehensive Parks System Master Plan to guide city-wide park and recreation improvements, operations, set priorities and to plan for sustainable funding for parks. The Park Master Plan Citizens Task Force consisting of a diverse group of residents was the main advisory body for the preparation of this master plan.

7. Funding Plan - The Funding Plan has been identified as “where the rubber hits the road.” This section identifies funding options and recommended funding alternatives to pay for community parks and recreation needs.

Organization of Master Plan

The Master Plan has seven sections:

1. Introduction.
2. Existing Park and Recreation System - Existing Park and Recreation System section is an overview of the park system today.
3. Parks and Recreation Division - The Parks and Recreation Division section provides an overview of the Division’s organizational structure.
4. Needs Assessment and Evaluation - The Needs Assessment included evaluation of existing parks, trails, open spaces, facilities, recreation programs and funding, an evaluation of park and recreation supply and standards, and review of existing plans and plans of surrounding communities. Input into the Needs Assessment was provided by the public and stakeholders, and guidance from City staff, the Park Master Plan Citizen Task Force, Arts and Recreation Commission.
5. Goals and Guidelines - The Goals and Guidelines section identifies the Parks and Recreation Division’s goals and level of service standards.
6. Parks and Recreation Action Plan - The Parks and Recreation Action Plan is based on findings found in the Needs Assessment with guidance from the level of service standards. The Parks and Recreation Action Plan sets strategies and actions to meet the identified needs.

2 Existing Parks & Recreation System

Park System History

As Bloomington transitioned from a rural to urban community, local government began to create the present public park and open space system through dedication and purchase. Bloomington's first parks, Beaverbrook and Lower Bryant, were dedicated to Bloomington Township in 1946. The Village of Bloomington made its first park purchase in 1954: 28 acres of Moir Park for \$60,000. A Park Board was established in 1946, followed by a Park and Recreation Advisory Commission in 1955. The City Subdivision Regulations were amended in 1958 to require park dedication from developers. The City relied largely on these dedications of land or cash from land subdividers to acquire and construct the park system.

The 1960s brought successful park bond referendums and federal grants. In the 1970s, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Program (LAWCON) created additional opportunities for park and open space acquisition. LAWCON purchases resulted in acquisition of major park and open space areas including North Corridor Park, Marsh Park, Tierney's Woods and Pond-Dakota Mission Park. Bloomington's park system has been significantly enhanced through State and Metropolitan Council funding of Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve and federal funding of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The character of Bloomington's parks and open spaces reflects the surrounding natural features, as well as the timing and pattern of surrounding development. With few limiting natural features and a relatively flat landscape, development in the eastern portion of the City occurred very rapidly and in a grid pattern. Correspondingly, there are few passive open space resources in the eastern part of the City (with the exception of the Minnesota River Valley). Park facilities in this area generally focus on active recreation and fit within the grid pattern. Trails were generally not a feature of city development in the 1940's and 1950's, so the eastern portion of the City was built without off-road trails.

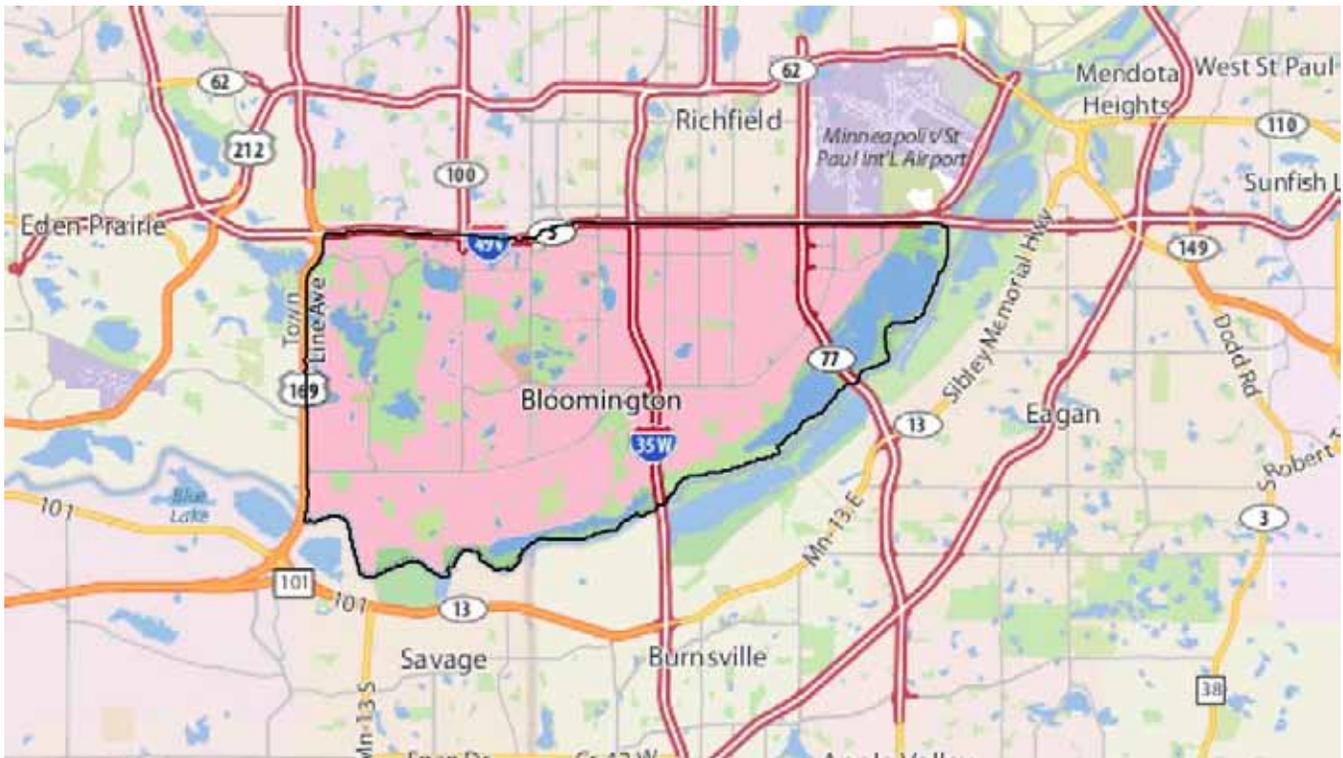
Park and open space areas in central Bloomington primarily follow a similar pattern except that the valley and marshlands of Nine Mile Creek have been largely set aside as park and open spaces. Central Bloomington

also provides an accessible location for community wide facilities such as the Bloomington Ice Garden, the National Guard Armory, and Creekside Community Center.

In addition to being more topographically varied, the western portion of Bloomington developed at a slower pace and at a later date, when the City was better equipped to undertake proactive park planning. Park and open space planning was an important part of the Western Area Plan in the 1970s and in the 1980 Bloomington Comprehensive Plan. In addition to playfields and neighborhood parks, the City planned for and then required dedication of many open space corridors to link larger open space areas and to facilitate wildlife movement. The City also established trails in the western part of the city.

Across Bloomington, the City has strategically partnered with the school district to co-locate playgrounds at elementary schools to serve neighborhood recreation needs. As the City has developed, schools have provided active recreation facilities such as playfields, play equipment and gymnasiums; however, public

Figure 2.1 - Bloomington Regional Context Map



access to these facilities is often limited during school use times.

As the student age population of the City declined, schools were closed and access to some recreation facilities was lost. In some cases, such as with Gene C. Kelly Playfield, the City purchased the former school land from the School District for park use.

Existing Conditions and Inventory

A parks and trails system inventory and analysis was conducted as part of this master planning process. The existing parks, trails, facilities and recreation programs were evaluated to determine their existing condition and to identify issues and opportunities related to design, aesthetic quality, recreation mix, natural resource quality, and trail connectivity (See Figure 2.13 - Bloomington Parks and Recreation Facilities Map). All City parks have been mapped giving the city a digital resource for future planning (See Appendix B - Existing Park Inventory Maps).

City Parks

System Description

The City of Bloomington is well served by 97 City parks that feature 80 baseball and softball fields, 31 soccer fields, 7 football fields, 29 horseshoe courts, 35 outdoor basketball courts, 55 playgrounds, 53 tennis courts, 19 outdoor hockey rinks, 33 park buildings, 14 picnic shelters and 19.2 miles of trails and sidewalks in the parks (See Appendix K - Park Amenities Matrix). Parks and open space encompasses nearly one third of the land area of the City, not including non-City parks, facilities and open spaces such as portions of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, and School District fields. If these lands are taken into consideration, the amount of parks and open space is nearly 39% of the land area in Bloomington. Park and open space property is an extensive land resource that provides residents great access to passive and active recreation and programming. Within the park system there are

Figure 2.2 - Park Classification Summary, Comprehensive Plan 2000

Classification	Quantity	Acres
Playlot	17	25.4
Neighborhood Park	28	255.5
Community Park	7	228.1
Community Playfield	3	110.4
Large Urban Park	2	269.7
Regional Park	2	6,870.8
Corridor Park	1	15.6
Conservation Area	30	969.4
Special Use Area	4	29.3
Golf Courses	2	152.8
Total	97	8,927.0

Source: Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division, March 2000

Figure 2.3 - Park Classifications, Bloomington Comprehensive Plan 2000

Playlot	
<i>Use:</i>	Intended for children up to ten years of age. Usually includes play apparatus and turf areas.
<i>Service Area:</i>	1/2 Mile radius
<i>Size:</i>	1 to 2 Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Frequently within neighborhood playgrounds or community parks.
Neighborhood Playground	
<i>Use:</i>	Intended to meet primary play needs of 5 to 17 year olds. Usually includes play apparatus and areas for field games, court games and skating.
<i>Service Area:</i>	1 Mile radius
<i>Size:</i>	5 to 20 Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Co-locate with elementary schools and spaced throughout community to serve neighborhoods.
Community Park	
<i>Use:</i>	Intended for use by all ages. Usually includes areas of natural or ornamental quality for walking, bicycling, viewing, sitting or picnicking. Often includes playlot.
<i>Service Area:</i>	4 to 16 Square miles
<i>Size:</i>	20 to 50 Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing natural features.
Playfield	
<i>Use:</i>	Emphasis on facilities for organized and individual sports. Usually includes lighted athletic fields, areas for court games and skating.
<i>Service Area:</i>	9 to 16 Square miles
<i>Size:</i>	20 to 50 Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing natural features and good transportation access.
Large Urban Park	
<i>Use:</i>	Attractive natural features contrast to urban environment. Caters to nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as picnicking, boating, walking and skiing.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Southwest metropolitan area
<i>Size:</i>	100+ Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing natural features.
Regional Park	
<i>Use:</i>	Continuous or groupings of open spaces offering facilities/activities determined by natural assets. Recreation development limited to no more than 30 percent of the total acreage; much of park retained in a natural state.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Metropolitan area
<i>Size:</i>	250+ Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing natural features.

many recreation facilities that have community and regional significance:

- ▷ Bloomington Center for the Arts.
- ▷ Bloomington Family Aquatic Center.
- ▷ Bloomington Ice Garden.
- ▷ Bush Lake Beach.
- ▷ Cedarcrest water play area.
- ▷ Dred Scott Playfields.
- ▷ Dwan Golf Course.
- ▷ Hyland Greens Golf course.
- ▷ Gene C. Kelly Playfields.
- ▷ Normandale Lake Bandshell.
- ▷ Off-leash Dog Exercise Area.
- ▷ Pond-Dakota Mission Park.
- ▷ Old Town Hall.
- ▷ Valley View Playfields and Skate Park.
- ▷ Creekside Community Center.

In addition to City parks, partnerships with the Bloomington School District and churches provides public access to active recreation facilities such as playlots, playfields and gymnasiums not owned by the City. Although providing a benefit to the park system, public access to these facilities is often limited during school use times and the quality is also somewhat limited.

Existing Park Classifications

Bloomington’s parks and trails are classified according to their use and function. Figure 2.3 contains a list of park classifications from the City of Bloomington 2000 Comprehensive Plan with a description of the

Figure 2.3 - Park Classifications, Bloomington Comprehensive Plan 2000 (continued)

Conservation Area	
<i>Use:</i>	Protects natural environment rather than satisfying demand for recreation opportunities or scenic quality. Ensures proper functioning of natural systems, especially hydrologic. While secondary, passive or active recreation uses coexist with primary conservation function.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Metropolitan area
<i>Size:</i>	250+ Acres and water quality ponding areas
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing natural features and proximity to water resources.
Corridor Park	
<i>Use:</i>	Developed for recreational travel including hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing or horseback riding. Serves as corridors for wildlife movement.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Metropolitan area
<i>Size:</i>	Sufficient width to provide maximum use and protection of resource. Sufficient length to serve recreational travel purposes.
<i>Location:</i>	Where linear resources such as watercourses or bluff lines occur. Link recreation system components.
Special Areas (Historic Parks, Arts Facilities, Indoor Ice Arenas)	
<i>Use:</i>	Preserve and maintain buildings, sites, or objects of historical or archeological significance. Provide for fine arts activities. Indoor ice facilities.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Varied
<i>Size:</i>	Varied
<i>Location:</i>	Where resource occurs.
Golf Course	
<i>Use:</i>	Daily fee golf course and associated facilities such as driving ranges, putting greens, and clubhouses.
<i>Service Area:</i>	40,000 Population
<i>Size:</i>	120 to 180 Acres for 18-hole course
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing natural features.

Source: Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division, March 2000

park classifications sizes, typical service areas, etc. An update of these classifications is presented in Chapter 5 - Figure 5.1. A summary of park classifications by quantity and acres is found in Figure 2.2 . Park classifications are used as a general guide to park planning, acquisition and use. Standards are designed to assure that Bloomington residents have convenient access to neighborhood parks and that the community has a range of active and passive recreation facilities to meet current and future recreation needs. Active recreation refers to sports like baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, tennis. Passive recreation refers to activities such as picnicking, nature study, bird watching.

Trails

Typical of some older suburban communities, much of the Bloomington park system was developed during the 1940's-1960's, at the same time as the rise of the automobile as the dominant transportation mode. The present popularity of bicycling and walking as a mode of transportation and the emphasis on active living and other current trends were not anticipated or planned for. There are relatively few trails in Bloomington. There are 19.2 miles of park trails in City parks most of which are within Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve. Pedestrian connectivity in Bloomington is primarily provided with 233 miles of sidewalks spread throughout the City (See Figure 2.15- Existing Bloomington Trails and Sidewalks).

Figure 2.4 - Bloomington Family Aquatic Center in Valley View Park



Figure 2.5 - Bloomington Center for the Arts Mural



Figure 2.6 - Old Town Hall, 1900's



Special Recreational Facilities

The parks and open spaces are enhanced by the following special recreational and cultural facilities, which are maintained and operated by the City of Bloomington (See the park system inventory in Appendix B):

Golf Courses

There are two City golf courses in Bloomington, Dwan and Hyland Greens. Dwan Golf Course is an executive length, 18-hole, par 68 golf course. Hyland Greens Golf Course is a long “pitch and putt” 9-hole, par 3 course, with a 12-station practice range.

Bloomington Ice Garden

The Bloomington Ice Garden has three indoor rinks that meet the community’s existing needs for indoor skating except during the most sought-after prime hours. To maintain a high quality of service, the Ice Garden a lobby, snack bars and locker rooms need remodelling. Additional indoor skating facilities should be considered only after the debt on the existing facilities is retired.

Bloomington Center for the Arts

Bloomington Center for the Arts, located at 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, occupies the north end of the Bloomington Civic Plaza. The Center is a focal point for performing and visual arts in Bloomington and the surrounding communities. The facility is fully utilized by the the Bloomington Fine Arts Council’s eight member organizations, the City and the community. The facility contains a private theater, rehearsal space and classrooms that are available for rent and provides art classes, exhibits and performances. The Bloomington Fine Arts Council receives operating support from the City.

Old Town Hall

The Old Town Hall, located at the intersection of Penn Avenue and West Old Shakopee Road, was the original Bloomington Town Hall. The building was moved to its present location in 1924. In 2007, the building was rehabilitated to historical standards. The building serves as a depository for historic artifacts, photos and

Figure 2.7 - Gideon Pond House, 1800's



documents, and provides limited meeting space. The Old Town Hall is leased to the Bloomington Historical Society to operate a historical museum.

Pond-Dakota Mission Park

Pond-Dakota Mission Park, acquired with federal LAWCON funds in the late 1970s, contains the historic Gideon Pond house and farm. The Gideon Pond house, initially constructed in 1856, was restored and dedicated in 1996 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Pond-Dakota Mission Park is the site of the annual River Rendezvous, a major week long event celebrating Native American and pioneer history.

Regional Park and Open Space Facilities

The Bloomington park and open space system is fortunate to have two major regional facilities with unique physical and natural characteristics. These facilities are the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve.

As large park and open space areas, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve provide nature based recreational opportunities within a diverse natural environment.

Figure 2.8 - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center



Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established by the Congressional Act in 1976 to preserve the Minnesota River valley's natural resources, develop recreational opportunities, and to provide a wildlife interpretation and education center. The Refuge boundaries extend from the northeast boundary of Bloomington, south and west along the Minnesota River valley to the Louisville Swamp near the city of Carver. The Refuge within the City extends the entire length of the Minnesota River valley between the river and the 722 foot elevation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns 4,210.61 acres of the refuge, specifically the Long Meadow Lake and the Bloomington Ferry refuge units. The refuge area between the Long Meadow and the Bloomington Ferry units is the City of Bloomington

Figure 2.9 - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Long Meadow Unit Map

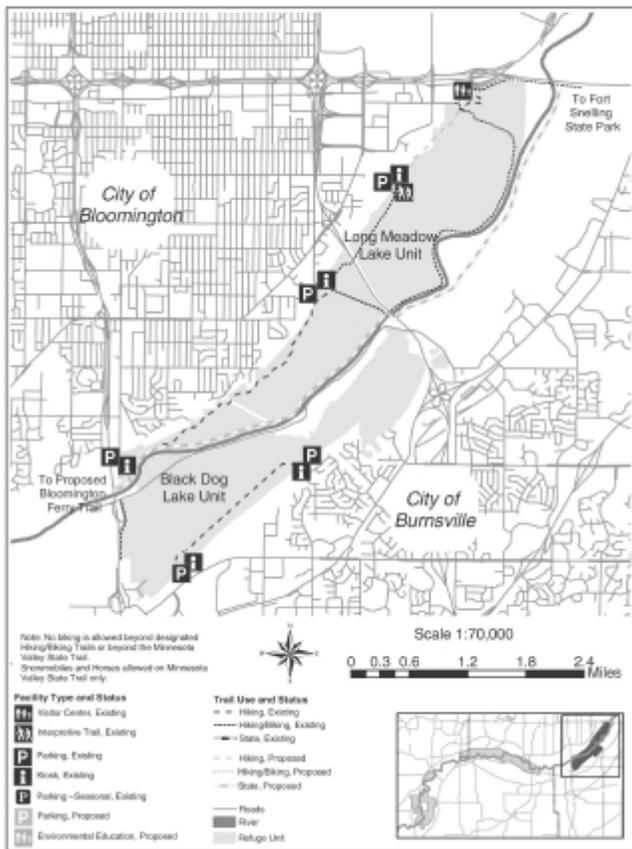


Figure 2.10 - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Bloomington Ferry Unit Map



unit, owned and maintained by the City. The Bloomington owned unit is 747.93 acres in size, not including portions of Central Park, Mound Springs Park, and Pond-Dakota Mission Park. Figure 2.13 - Bloomington Parks and Recreation Facilities Map identifies historical names of portions of the MN River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Auto Club, River Valley, Anderson and Hopkins Parks).

The wildlife refuge constitutes a large regional corridor park. It is designated for conservation uses and serves as major habitat for resident and migratory wildlife. Recreation uses include walking, biking, nature study and other trail uses. A proposed State trail, the Minnesota Valley State Trail will connect the refuge units in the future. The visitor center and refuge headquarters is located at 3815 East 80th Street in Bloomington.

Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve

The 2,486 acre Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve is part of the metropolitan regional parks and open space system. The park reserve consists of seven individual park units: Hyland Lake, Bush Lake, Anderson Lakes, Tierney's Woods, North Corridor, South Corridor, and Normandale Lake. Six of the park units are located entirely within the City of Bloomington, and the seventh, Anderson Lake, is split between Bloomington and Eden Prairie. The City of Bloomington and the Three Rivers Park District are joint implementing agencies for the Park Reserve as they each own and operate several of the individual park units. Bush Lake, Tierney's Woods, North Corridor, South Corridor and Normandale Lake park units are owned by the City of Bloomington. Anderson Lakes park unit is jointly owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District and the City of Bloomington. Hyland Lake park unit is solely owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District. Of the entire park area, 2,007 acres are within the City of Bloomington. Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve provides a broad spectrum of natural resource based recreational opportunities and outstanding facilities that were developed by both the City of Bloomington and the Three Rivers Park District. Most notable are the picnicking and beach facilities at Bush Lake Park, the Hyland Hills Ski Area, 70-meter ski jump, an

Figure 2.11 - Bush Lake Picnic Shelter

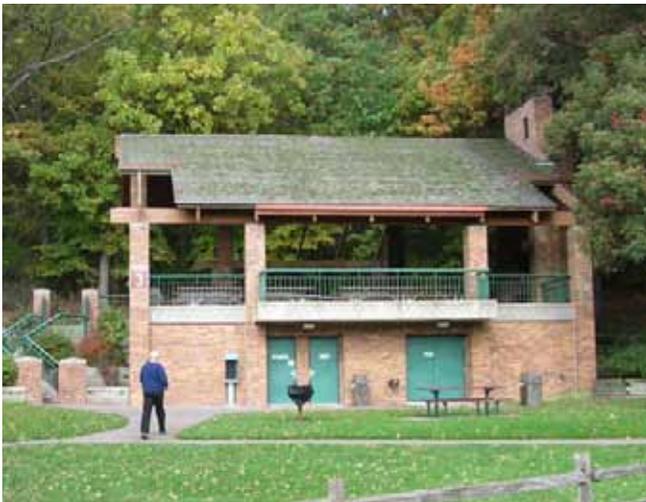


Figure 2.12 - Bush Lake Beach



extensive network of trails and the Richardson Nature Center. A master plan for Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve was last updated in 1984 (See Figure 2.16 - Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Composite Master Plan Map). An update is planned for 2008.

Other School and Partner Facilities

The City of Bloomington park system also relies on partners such as the Bloomington School District, the National Guard, area churches, and Normandale Community College to provide access to indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. The City of Bloomington does not have indoor recreation facilities other than the Ice Garden, Creekside and the Bloomington Center for the Arts, so the City is largely dependent upon the use of other facilities. Schools and other non-City partners add approximately 460 additional acres of fields and facilities that are accessible to the public.

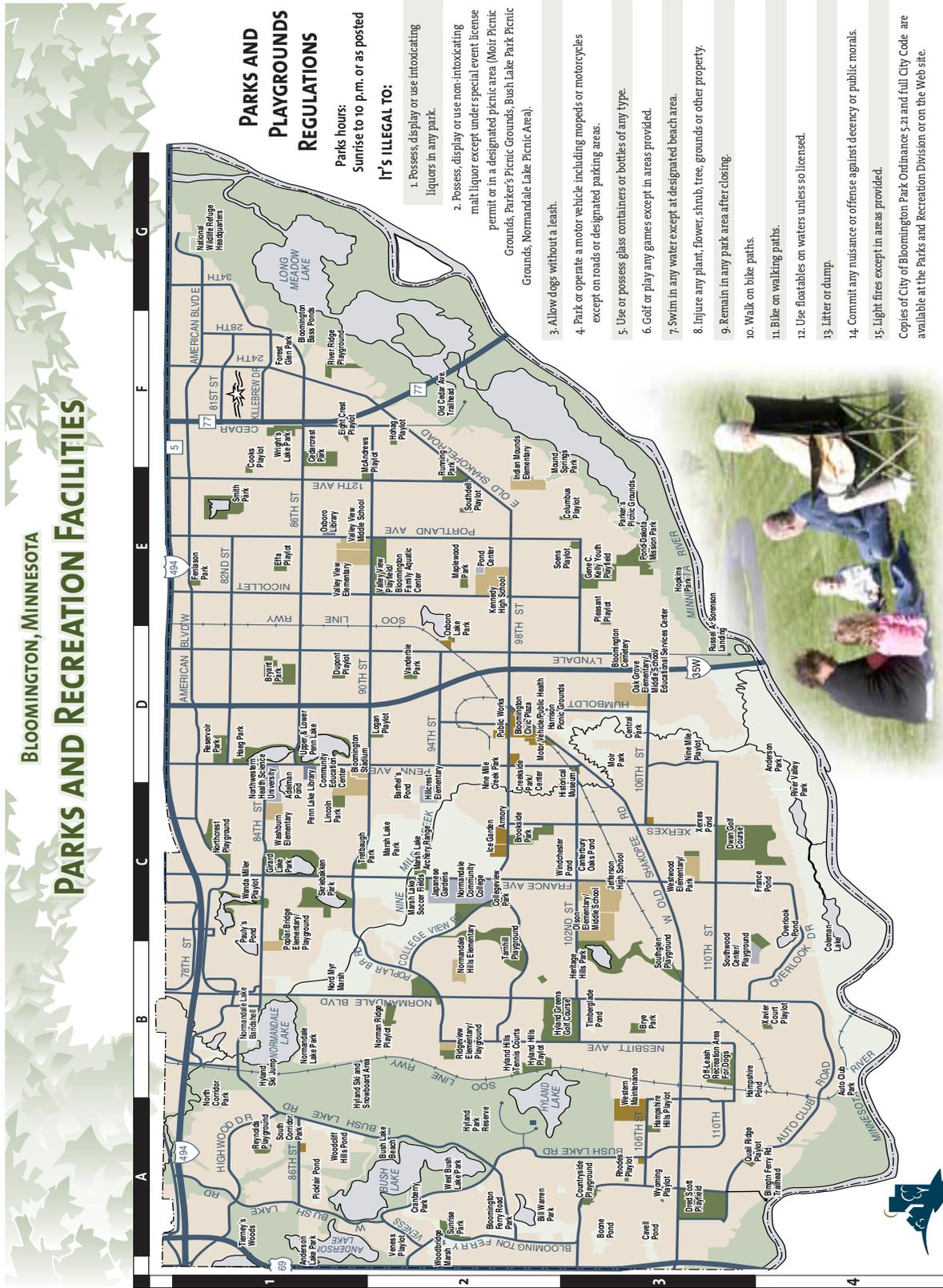
Recreation Programs

The City of Bloomington supports a comprehensive array of parks, arts, recreation, leisure and cultural programs to a diverse population with differing recreational needs. Program offerings include: adult athletic leagues, outdoor skating rinks, adaptive recreation and inclusion services, arts-in-the-parks, bandshell concert series, special events (Summer-Fete, Winter-Fete, Halloween party, egg hunt), River Rendezvous, Bloomington Loves Its Kids, swimming, tennis and summer playgrounds (See Appendix J - Bloomington's Program Listings).

The City also collaborates and partners with many organizations to provide numerous other program opportunities including: Summer Spectrum youth programs with Bloomington Public Schools and the Bloomington Art Center; youth athletic programs with several youth sports associations such as the Bloomington Athletic Association, Bloomington Youth Soccer Club and the Bloomington Hockey Association; Galaxy Youth Center with the Bloomington Public Schools, YMCA Tri-City Skate Park with the Southdale YMCA and the cities of Edina and Richfield; Winter

Fete program with Three Rivers Park District; Old Town Hall Museum with the Bloomington Historical Society; and Pond-Dakota House interpretive programs with Pond-Dakota Heritage Society.

Figure 2.13 - Bloomington Parks and Recreation Facilities Map



**BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA
PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

Figure 2.14 - Bloomington Parks and Recreation Facilities Map Index

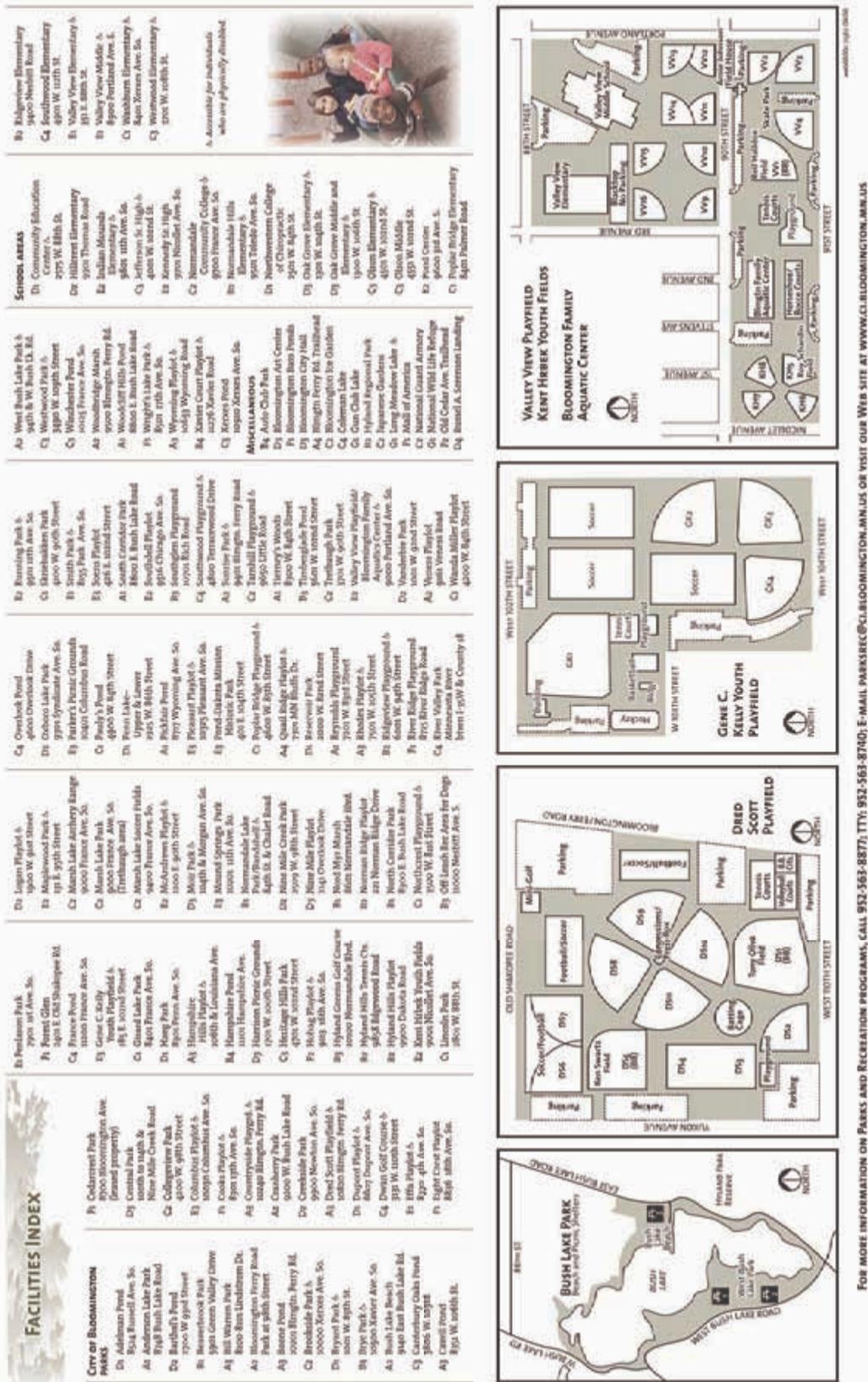
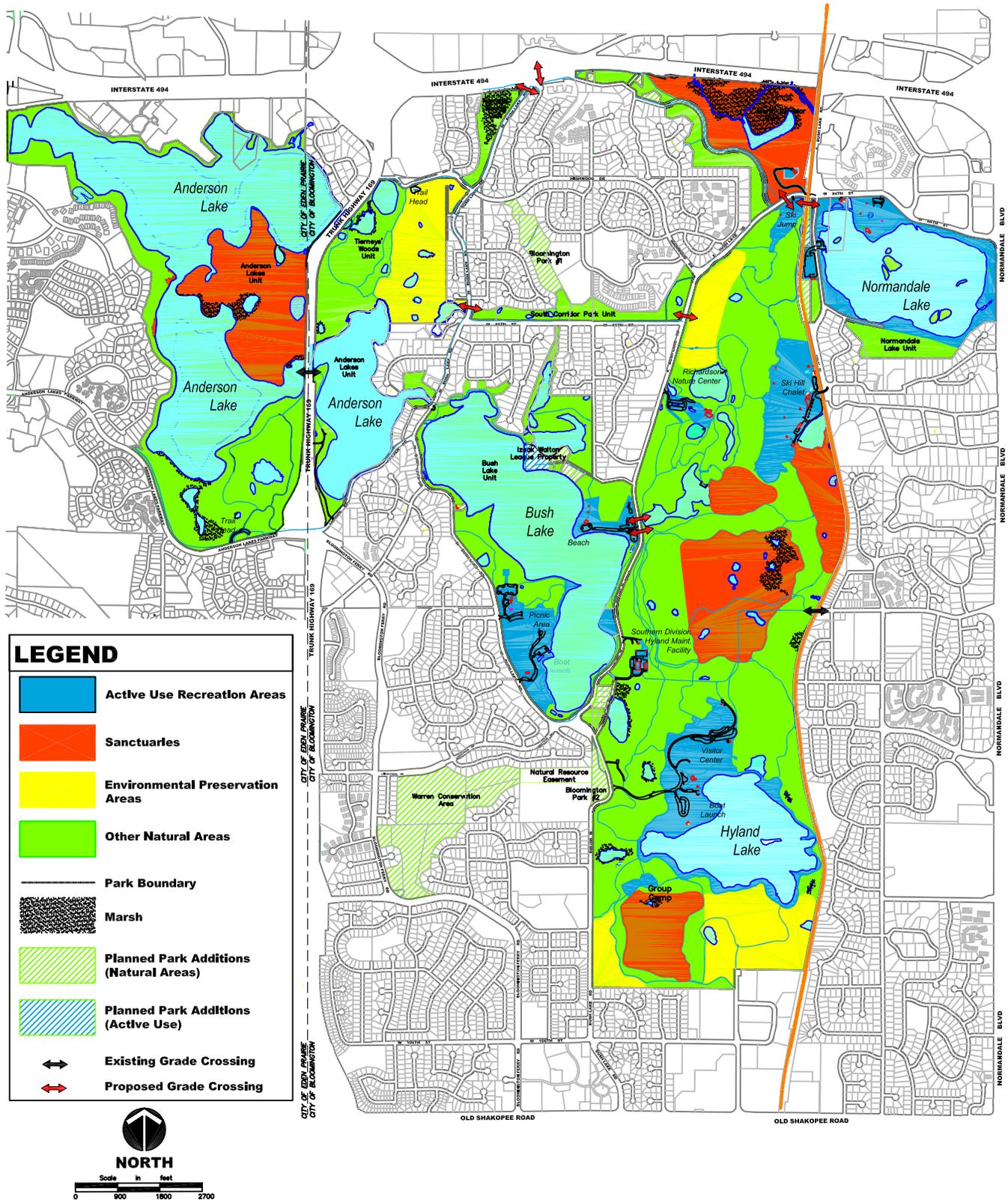


Figure 2.15 - Existing Bloomington Trails and Sidewalks



Figure 2.16 - Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Composite Master Plan Map, 2004 Master Plan Update.



3 Parks & Recreation Division

Parks and Recreation Division Mission

The Parks and Recreation Division Mission Statement has evolved over time and provides the over-arching purpose for the Parks and Recreation Division and is a guide to decision making. The Bloomington Parks and Recreation mission statement is:

“To enhance the quality of life, health and wellness of our patrons through innovative and diversified parks, arts, recreation, leisure and cultural opportunities. This is accomplished through the stewardship of the community’s parks and natural areas, and through the provision of quality recreational facilities and programs at an affordable price.”

Structure and Services

Bloomington Parks and Recreation is a division of the Community Services Department and is responsible for park and recreation facility planning and operations and recreation and event programming (See Figures 3.1 and 3.2). The Division coordinates park projects for the following facilities: the Bloomington Center for the Arts, Pond-Dakota Mission Park, Bush Lake Beach, the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, Normandale Bandshell, and the off leash recreation area for dogs. The Bloomington Ice Garden and the golf courses, Dwan Golf Club and Hyland Greens Golf Course and Driving Range, are managed by recreation facility managers that report directly to the Community Services Department Director. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Division maintains partnerships with the Bloomington School District, recreation associations and other private entities to provide facilities and run recreation programs. Park and facility maintenance is conducted by the Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department.

The number of separate departments, divisions and groups having a role in parks and recreation in Bloomington puts a premium on communications and affects budgeting, priorities and quality control.

Division organizational changes should be considered. Restructuring the department such that the Parks and Recreation Manager is in charge of

Figure 3.1- Departmental/Division Organizational Chart

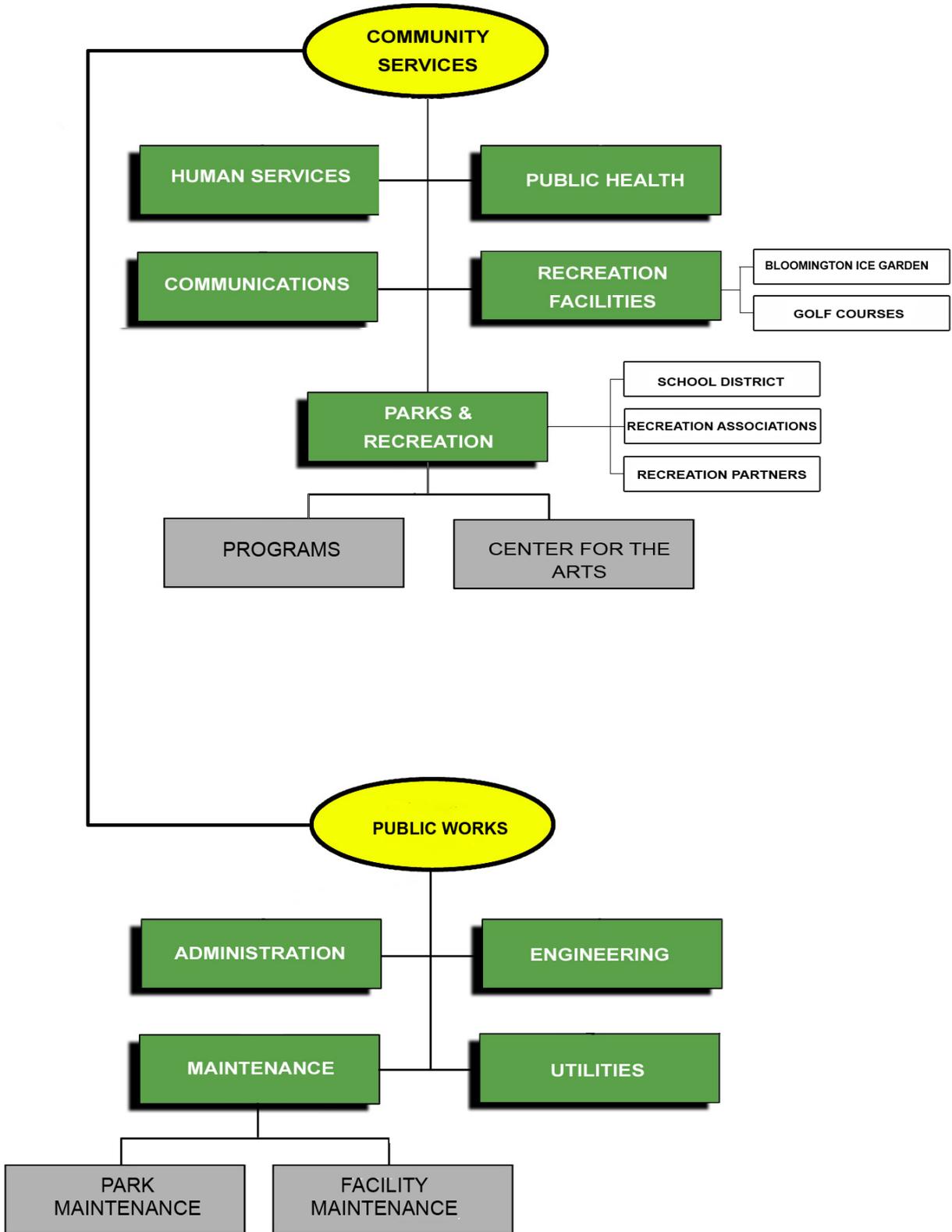
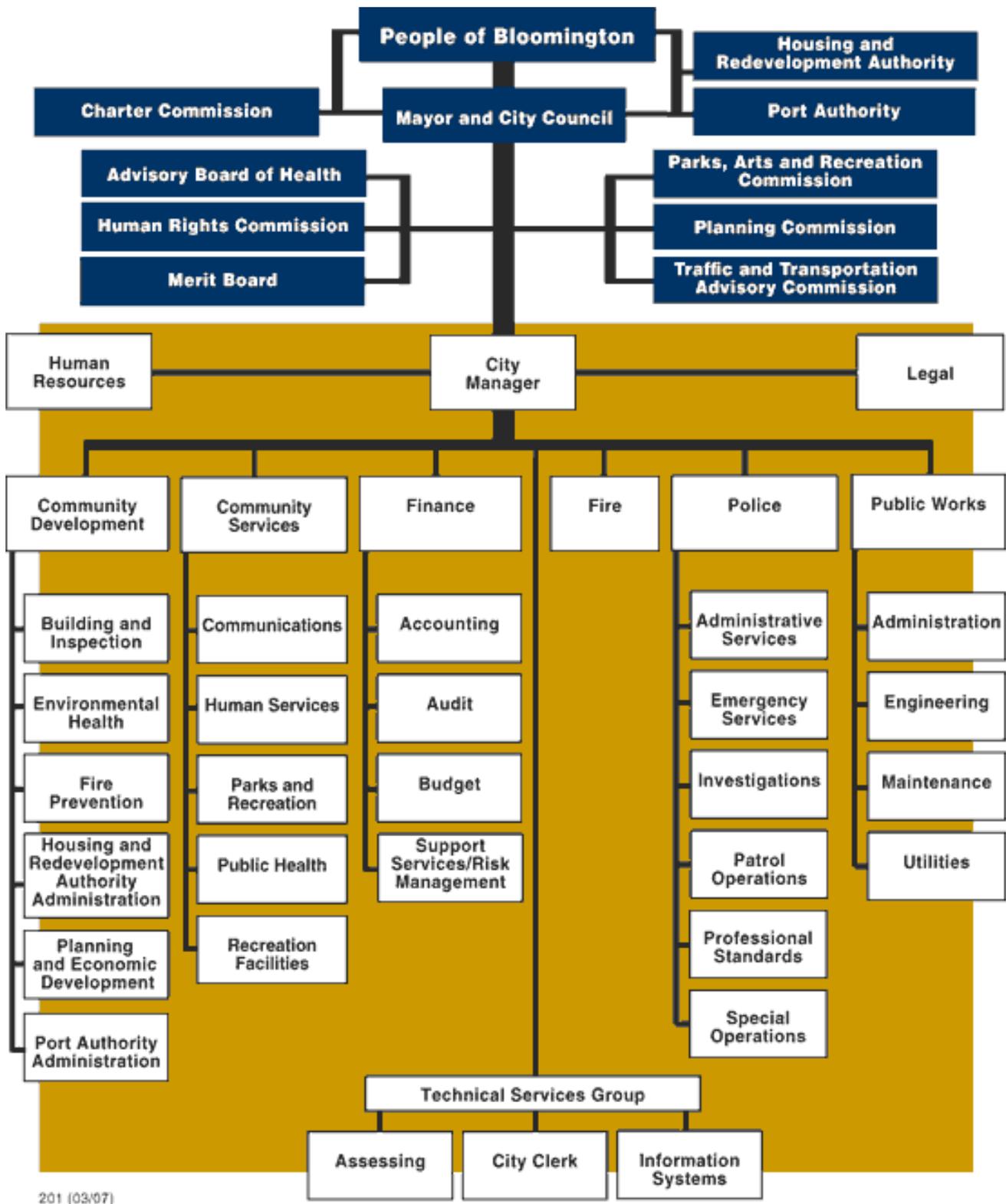
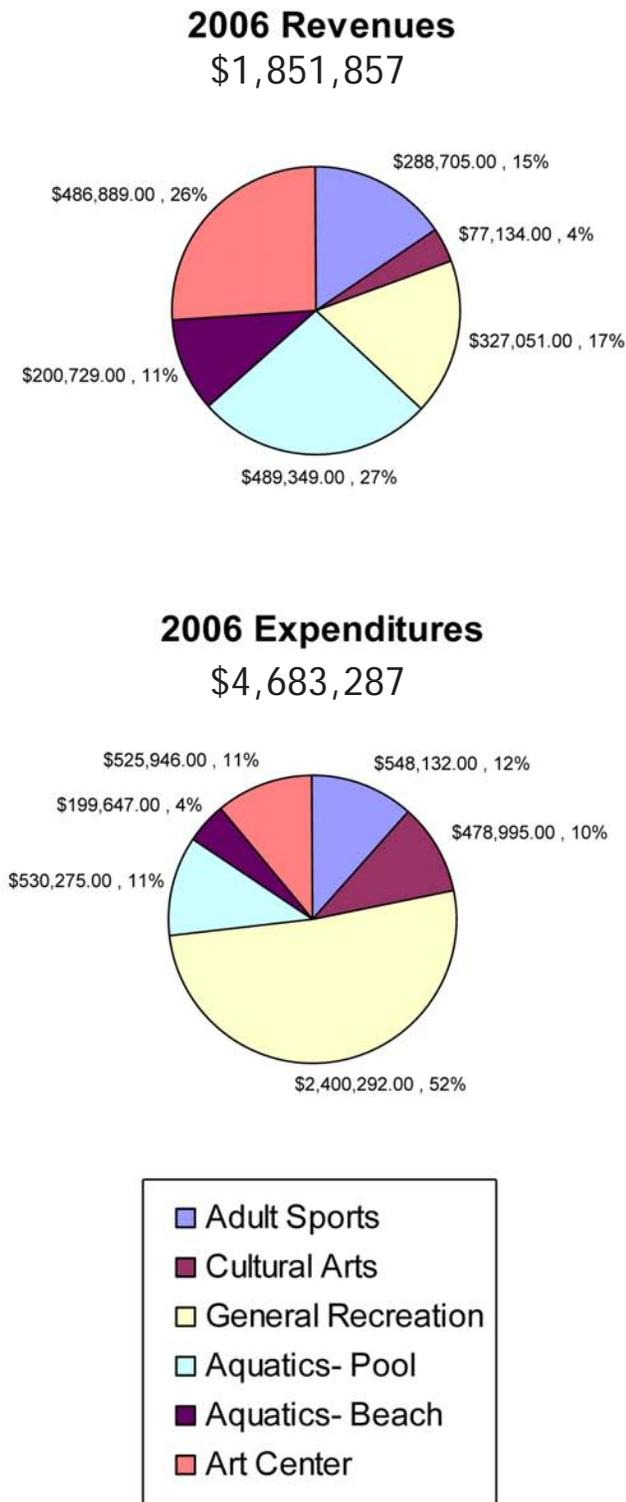


Figure 3.2- City of Bloomington Organizational Chart



201 (03/07)

Figure 3.3 – 2006 Operational Revenue & Expense



and has control over the funding, staffing, budgeting, maintenance and construction of City parks and recreation facilities would improve efficiency and accountability.

The Division relies on a number of partners to deliver quality parks and recreation services and facilities. For example, youth sports associations operate leagues and tournaments, arts groups run programs and events, the School District and the City cooperate on numerous recreation and community activities. Many other partners contribute to parks and recreation activities in Bloomington.

Operational Revenue and Expenses

In 2006, the Parks Division has an annual operational budget of approximately \$4.7 million dollars. Revenue is generated from a variety of programs, facilities, grants and general fund dollars. Division operational expenditures typically exceeded revenue by approximately \$2.8 million dollars, not including capital improvements. Figure 3.3 - 2006 Operational Revenue and Expenditures is an example of a single year's revenue and expenditures. Typically, the exact dollars and percentages vary year to year. As illustrated in Figure 3.3, some programs and facilities generate income, whereas others are subsidized by the City's general fund. In most cases, income from adult programs and facilities off-set some of the cost of providing youth and other programming. In addition, park and facility maintenance is provided by Public Works and is billed back to the Parks and Recreation Division. Operational budget shortfalls are paid for out of the City's general fund and are authorized by the City Council. Parks and recreation facilities and programs are a City service like police and fire protection. As such, an annual subsidy from the general fund is appropriate.

4 Needs Assessment and Evaluation

Needs Assessment Process

The Needs Assessment is the fact-finding phase of the Park System planning effort. An evaluation of the park, trail and open space system was conducted in November 2006 -April, 2007 by Hoisington Koegler Group, inc. and City staff. The Needs Assessment process included:

- ▷ Evaluation of existing parks, trails, open spaces, facilities, recreation programs and funding.
- ▷ Evaluation of park and recreation supply and guidelines.
- ▷ Review of existing plans and plans of surrounding communities.

Public and stakeholder input, with guidance from City staff, a Park Master Plan Citizen Task Force and the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission helped define park and recreation needs. Community open house meetings, focus group sessions, Task Force meetings, newsletter and the City web site were used to gather community input (See Appendix C, Community Input Process). A parks and recreation survey was used to gather community input at the first community open house meeting in March, 2007 and using the Bloomington web site in April, 2007 with 440 respondents (a summary of the survey results is attached in Appendix D). A 2006 web based survey, conducted by the city, also included input on Bloomington park and recreation needs and resource allocation.

Review of existing studies, reports and plans included: [City of Bloomington Comprehensive Plan 2000](#), [Bluff Report District Plan](#), [The Park Master Plan 1973](#), City tennis court study report, 2005, an accessibility study by JQP, Inc., [Imagine Bloomington 2025 Strategic Plan](#), [MN Bicycle Plan](#), [Metropolitan Council Regional Parks System Plan](#), [Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Master Plan](#), LRT plans and other documents. This Needs Assessment is a summary of the these findings and is the foundation for the preparation of the Master Plan recommendations.

Figure 4.1 - Change in Bloomington

From 1950's to 1990's	From 2000 to 2026
Construction	Maintenance
Facilities	Programs
Development	Administration
Capital Budgets	Operational Budgets
General Public	Targeted Publics
Opportunities	Services
Broad Initiatives	Finely Tuned Initiatives
Cost Effectiveness	Cost Accounting
Equipment Improvements	Technological Improvements
Youth	Older Adults
Park Dedication Funding	Property Tax/General Fund
Land Acquisition	Land Management
Homogenous	Diversity
Active Sports	Trails and Natural Open Spaces
Development	Sustainability
Natural Resource Preservation	Natural Resource Management

Figure 4.2 - On-line Web Survey Example (See Appendix D for survey results)

20. We would like your opinion on several issues facing the Bloomington Parks System. Please read each statement and mark the response that best represents your opinion.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Bloomington should concentrate on improving existing facilities vs. adding new parks and facilities.	<input type="radio"/>				
Bloomington should replace the Creekside Community Center facility with a new multi-purpose community center.	<input type="radio"/>				
A good parks and recreation system enhances property values in Bloomington.	<input type="radio"/>				
Bloomington should consolidate some activities such as tennis courts and ice rinks in order to improve efficiency and provide higher quality facilities. (Note: this would require closing some existing facilities)	<input type="radio"/>				
A good parks and recreation system enhances the quality of life in Bloomington.	<input type="radio"/>				

Changing Community and Mature Park System

The past 50 years can be characterized as a period of growth for Bloomington Park System. The next 20 years will need to focus on maintenance and change. The Park Master Plan of 1973 was the guide plan that built the park system. The Plan served the City well; however, needs and priorities are changing along with changes in the community. Figure 4.1 illustrates the type and extent of change that is likely to occur over the next 20 years.

Parks and open spaces, comprising nearly one-third of the total land area of Bloomington, are among the City's most treasured assets. Feedback from community surveys, community meetings, and focus groups highlighted the importance of protecting and preserving these assets. The on-line survey, conducted in April of 2007, show that survey respondents highly value the City park system and are satisfied with most aspects of the system.

Bloomington's recreational programs and facilities bring people together and add to a sense of civic pride and belonging. As a fully developed community, maintaining and updating park and recreational facilities will preserve the value and popularity of the City's park system. Demographic and lifestyle changes will lead to new demands such as more biking and walking trails and inter-generational programming.

The City's arts, culture, and historic assets add vibrancy and meaning to community life. Residents want places to gather, socialize, and meet one's neighbors. Residents also want facilities and encourage activities that build a sense of community such as city-wide festivals and events that celebrate Bloomington's cultural diversity.

Community Trends

Comparing the past to the 2000 census provides some clues about future demographic trends, but probably under represent the degree of change likely in the future. Since the 1990's there have been significant demographic trends that have and will likely continue to affect change:

Figure 4.3 - Bloomington's Population by Age (2000 census data)

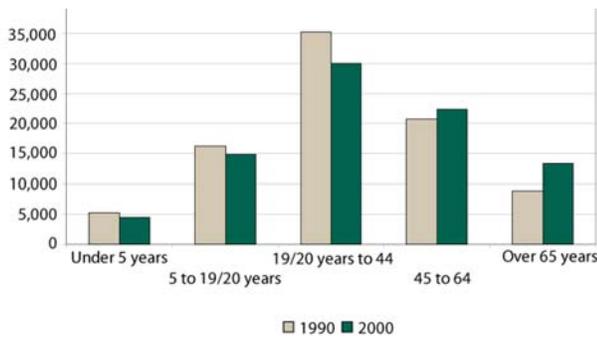
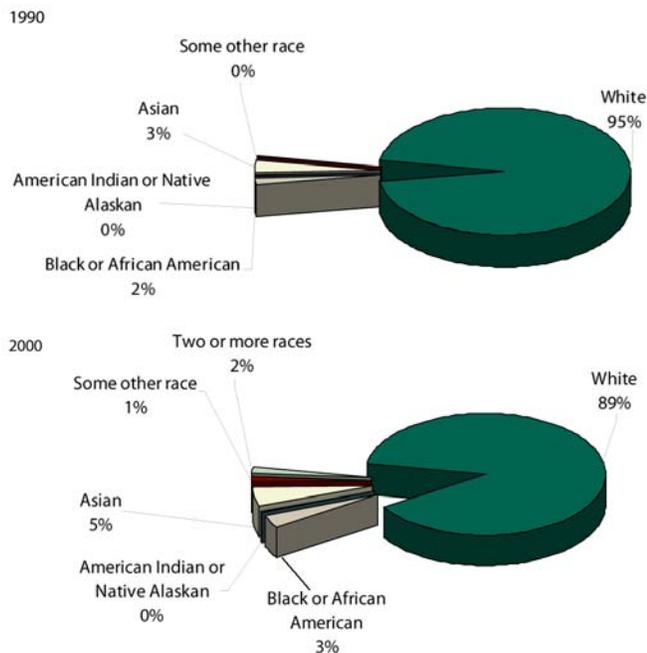


Figure 4.4 - Bloomington's Changing Population by Race 1990-2000 (2000 census data)



- ▷ Since 1990 the city has grown older with a 50% increase in the population over 65 years of age, a slight increase in the population 45-64 years of age and declines in all other age groups.
- ▷ By 2020, 16-17 percent of the population will be 65 years and older and the number of school age children will decrease.
- ▷ The cadre of adults over the age of 50 is expanding both in numbers and diversity, with many sub-groups, each with differing needs and expectations.
- ▷ The City is becoming more ethnically diverse. Although only at around 11% of the population in 2000, the percent of the City's non-white population has grown significantly, with those of Latino or Hispanic backgrounds experiencing the largest growth (184%).
- ▷ The number of family households has decreased; however, single parent households with children have increased.
- ▷ The public perception of safety and crime has changed such that many families no longer feel it is safe to send children to parks without parental supervision.
- ▷ Climate change. The warm winters and more variable precipitation rates of the past decade have affected winter sports like skating, hockey and cross country skiing. It has also raised people's interest in environmental sustainability and energy efficiency.

These trends will likely have an impact on the City's parks and recreation system. An aging population may result in lesser demand for neighborhood playlots and active recreation, and greater interest in passive recreation, trails, places to sit, interest in the arts, gardening, sustainability, adult and senior programs and desire for high quality facilities. New families moving into the community often come from diverse cultural backgrounds. They often have larger families with children, tend to be less involved in community recreation and typically use the system differently than traditional park users. Single parent households tend to have less time to devote to recreation and when they do they look for the most efficient use of their time. The City is fully developed, so future residential growth will likely be through redevelopment and will likely consist of townhomes, apartments and condominiums with

Figure 4.5 - Lyndale Green Park - a new townhouse development focused around a new urban park



Figure 4.6 - Artificial turf fields are increasing in demand as people seek quality facilities. In addition, the demand for field use has increased (image not from Bloomington)



Figure 4.7 - Indoor recreation facilities are increasingly popular, including indoor playground facilities (image not from Bloomington)



higher densities than what exists today placing new demands on the park system.

Recreation Trends

Recreation trends change over time as a result of demographic, social, economic and cultural changes. Changes in recreation trends affect park and recreation facility wants and needs. Recreation trends that may significantly affect the Bloomington park system include:

- ▷ Urban parks. As a result of higher density residential development, the City has begun to see the trend towards more urban parks and plazas. Local examples of this trend are Lyndale Green Park, associated with a townhouse redevelopment project, and Bloomington Central Station, a private park built in association with a mixed-use transit oriented development centered around a light rail transit station.
- ▷ Increased importance of parks, open space and trails as a catalyst for redevelopment.
- ▷ Commercialization of parks. Demand for and willingness by cities to subcontract facilities to private groups is increasing, in part due to demand for increased efficiencies, limited financial resources, and the public's desire for quality. Some cities allow advertising in parks and sell naming rights for facilities.
- ▷ Demand for larger park shelters. New of immigrant groups often have a tradition of larger family gatherings which has placed a greater demand for larger shelters in parks.
- ▷ Active living movement. The rates of obesity are increasing across all age groups. As a result, there has been an increased awareness of the benefits of exercise, walking and biking - active living. Some corporations are willing to fund wellness programs.
- ▷ Parks and recreation funding. Economic trends such as rising health care costs, anti-tax sentiments, increasing fuel and material costs, expectations of higher efficiencies are reducing the resources available to provide park and recreation improvement and upkeep.

Figure 4.8 - Central Park Skate Plaza, Bolingbrook, Illinois - Skate Board Plazas along with other skate board facilities are increasing in popularity, along with other alternative sports



Figure 4.9 - Public art is increasingly popular and a good “fit” with park and recreation facilities - Touchstone Plaza, Rafala Green mosaic bench/plaza in Peavey Park, Minneapolis



Figure 4.10 - Rain gardens and other sustainable elements are increasingly desired by the public (image not from Bloomington)



- ▷ Quality versus quantity. Expectations and demands for quality have increased in part due to sports specialization. Participants will seek higher quality facilities when lesser quality facilities exist closer to home.
- ▷ New technology is enhancing performance and delivery of existing recreation activities and in part is driving the demand for quality facilities.
- ▷ Demand for indoor recreation facilities has grown, in part due to a desire for quality indoor recreation facilities and a desire for community gathering places. Residents in many cities, including Bloomington, desire a community center with indoor facilities including: playgrounds, gym space, field house, indoor ice, meeting rooms, teen and senior centers and fitness centers.
- ▷ Outdoor refrigerated ice is desired to provide dependable winter usage regardless of weather conditions.
- ▷ Demand for fields and facilities has increased as youth sports has shifting from recreational to competitive play, year-round play has increased, participation in girl’s/woman’s sports has increased, and emerging sports, such as lacrosse, field hockey, rugby, cricket and ultimate Frisbee have become popular.
- ▷ Demand for recreation support facilities is growing, e.g., bathrooms, concessions stands, and batting cages.
- ▷ Demand for greater sustainability. There is an increasing sensitivity to ecological issues, e.g., use of pesticides, native plants, and water.
- ▷ Time constraints on families are prevalent, with two parents working. People are looking for an efficient use of recreation time. This may be reflected in the decline in golf and tennis and the popularity of program offerings that are shorter in duration.
- ▷ Growing competition for leisure time. Primarily among young , more leisure time is spent enjoying a multitude of media, technology and entertainment options that compete with traditional recreation opportunities.
- ▷ Non-traditional recreation and individual sports, such as skateboarding, in-line skating, BMX biking and disc golf, are increasing in popularity.

Figure 4.11 - Bike Trails and other bike facilities are the most popular recreation facility (image not from Bloomington)



- ▷ Nature deficit - A growing number of children and adults are increasingly alienated from the natural world.
- ▷ Participation in adult and senior programs and sports is increasing, in part due to the aging of the population. Adult programming such as nature study, gardening and fitness are popular.
- ▷ Trails are the most popular recreation facility for all age groups. Walking, running, biking and in-line skating occur on paved trails. People of all ages and abilities use trails. Natural surface trails are also popular with walkers, hikers, nature enthusiasts and cross country skiers.
- ▷ Off leash dog areas are a very popular facility in many communities.

Recreation trends suggest that trail use will continue to be one of the most popular recreation activities. The City should continue to work to provide trails to improve connectivity and looped trails where opportunities arise.

Bloomington has a large enough population of households with dogs that another off leash dog area is warranted due to their popularity.

Demand for passive and natural resource based recreation such as hiking, nature study, bird watching and fishing will continue to grow, especially as the baby boom generation ages. Access to conservation and natural resource sites are needed to accommodate these activities.

The City should continue to analyze these needs and work with participants and user-groups to provide appropriate facilities. In addition, to meet new demands for facilities, the City needs to address the issue of removing unneeded or obsolete facilities, such as excess tennis and outdoor ice rinks, unused park buildings and, or playlots that require expensive ongoing maintenance or replacement costs (See Appendix E - City of Bloomington Tennis Courts Study, 2005).

Additional recreation facilities may be needed to meet demands posed by demographic changes and emerging recreation trends. The need for a new Family Service Center, teen center, refrigerated outdoor ice rinks, indoor gym, indoor play area, and field house were

mentioned during the community meetings and further study is warranted. See Appendix F - Community Center Study.

Benchmark Comparisons

A comparison between Bloomington's park and recreation facilities and those of peer communities (communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and in others States with similar populations, and, similar relationships to their metropolitan region, and other similar characteristics) was conducted to assess the appropriate level of recreation service for Bloomington. Based on the comparison, City's vary greatly in the degree in which their park systems have been built with a reliance on school district properties for active or neighborhood recreation and how park systems benefit by large non-city open space/ natural resource areas such as regional parks or forest

Figure 4.12 - Peer Community Comparisons Table

Category	Bloomington, MN	Burnsville, MN	Edina, MN	Maple Grove, MN	Plymouth, MN	Richfield, MN	Naperville, IL (Naperville Park District)	Sunnyvale, CA	Bellevue, WA
Population	84,347	61,355	47,425	60,867	73000	33,497	142,000	131,700	117,000
City area in square miles	38	28	16	36	36	5	39	23	33
# of parks	71+18 ponds	78	40	79 (includes Linear Parks)	45	21	139	20	80
# of Community parks	11	27	13	15	16	8	7 District Parks; 17 Community Parks	Category not used	28
# of Neighborhood parks	23	27	10	16	29	9	65 Neighborhood Parks (Remaining Parks are Greenways/Natural Areas/etc.)	20	29
# of Tot lot parks	18	15	12	11		4	Category not used	Category not used	22
Total acres of city parks	3884	1800	1,209	1385 (includes 440 acres in joint powers agreements)	900	352	2,500	223	1627
Acres of active city parks space	725	645	977	Not available	350	303	Not Classified	Not available	1627
Acres of passive city park space	3159	1155	352	Not available	550	150	Not Classified	Not available	716
Acres of non-city parks and open space	4707	1460	N/A	3Rivers - 1747	350	?	Forest Preserves = 4,600	118	607 acres of public school land.
Total park, open space and recreation area in acres (% of city)	13.42 sq. mi. or 36%	5.09 sq. mi. or 18%	1.89 sq. mi. or 12% City only	4.89 sq. mi. or 14%	3.04 sq. mi. includes trail outlots, or 8%	.55 sq. mi. or 11% City only	11.09 sq. mi. or 11%	.53 sq. mi. or 2.3%	4.61 sq. mi. (public park, school, & open space) or 13.8%
Total City & private public open space acres /1000 population	101/1000	53/1000	25/1000	51/1000	26.6/1000	10.5/1000	50/1000	2.59/1000	25/1000
City park acres/ 1,000 population	46/1000	29/1000	25/1000	15.5/1000	12.3/1000	10.5/1000	17.6/1000	1.69/1000	13.9/1000

preserves. By comparison, Bloomington's park, trail and open space system has more parkland per resident than any of the cities compared and has more playlots and neighborhood parks serving its neighborhoods than other communities. Bloomington's large number of playlot/miniparks indicate good access to parks, however, the small size of the playlots are more expensive to maintain (See Figure 4.12).

Community and Stakeholder Input Summary

Input from the public, stakeholders, the Park Master Plan Citizen Task Force, partner groups and City staff helped define park and recreation needs. Some of the current challenges and opportunities facing the Bloomington Parks System include:

- ▷ The parks system aging infrastructure, buildings and equipment need revitalization or replacement.
- ▷ Use of existing facilities need to be maximized to meet recreation demand.
- ▷ Trail and pathway connections are needed in Bloomington to connect to other communities, but trails are difficult to achieve in a built environment.
- ▷ Park and Recreation capital improvement needs significantly exceed existing funding resources.
- ▷ The City needs to be more responsive to changing demographics and recreation trends.
- ▷ Better marketing and outreach to diverse populations is needed.
- ▷ Need for more programs and activities for teenage populations.
- ▷ There is an increased interest in culture, arts and history.
- ▷ Emphasis should be placed on active living opportunities (trails, walking, biking, exercise). There are increased rates of obesity and a growing awareness of the benefits of active living.
- ▷ Desire for quality over quantity in recreation facilities.
- ▷ Desire for more natural resource management and sustainability actions.

- ▷ City has limited indoor facilities and is reliant on the School District and others to provide recreation programming.
- ▷ There is a growing interest and desire for a new Family Service Center with indoor recreation facilities to serve adults, families and seniors.
- ▷ Hockey boosters expressed a desire for outdoor refrigerated ice rinks.

Park Service Area Evaluation

An analysis was conducted of the Bloomington's Park Service Areas. A 1/3 mile to 1/2 mile radius area is considered a safe walking distance to neighborhood parks or playlots. The analysis revealed the following (See Figure 4.13) Park Service Area Coverage Map and Appendix G for basketball, tennis court, playground-parks service area maps:

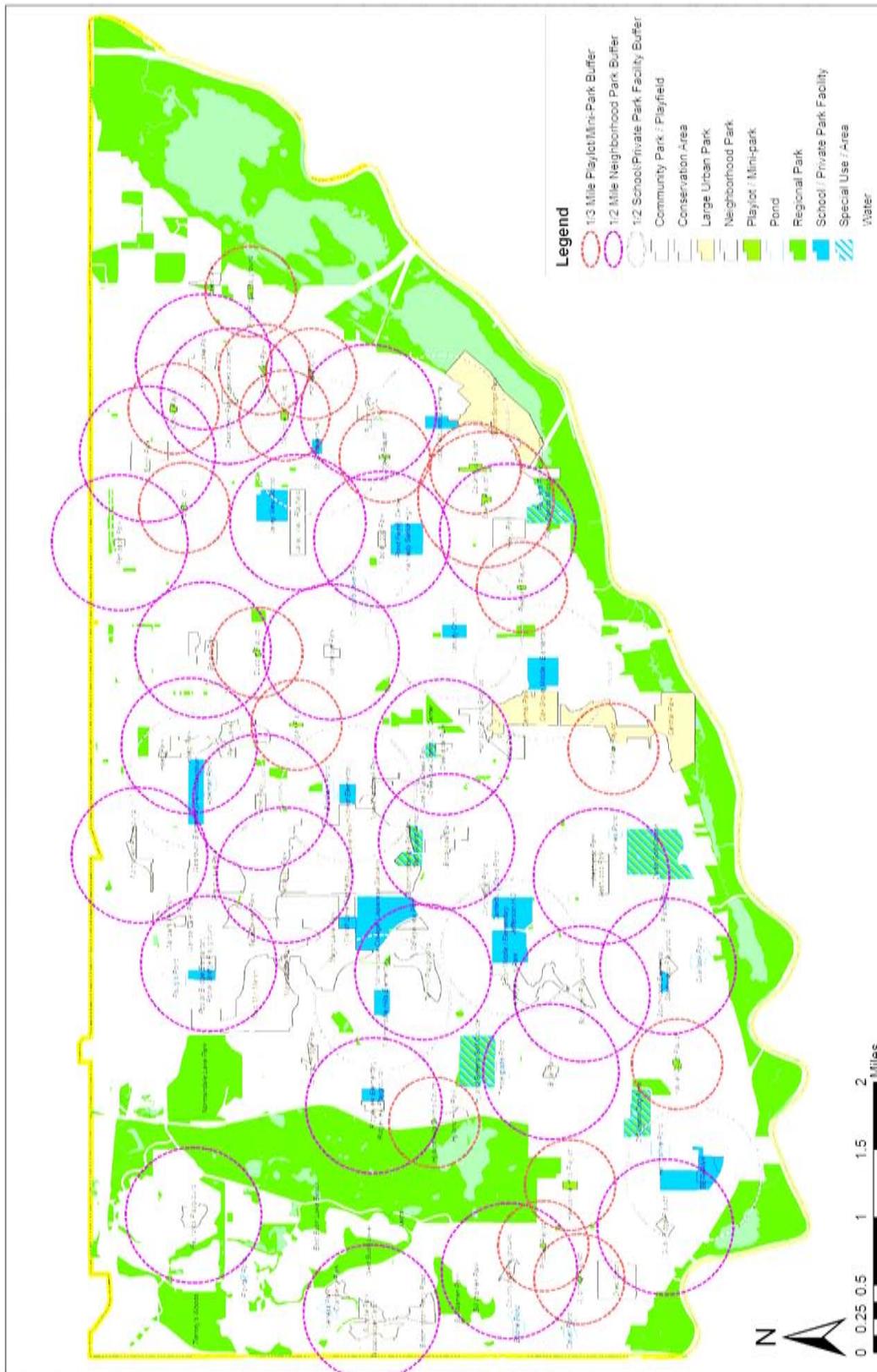
- ▷ Playlots and parks are accessible from most neighborhoods.
- ▷ There are a few minor "gaps" in park service area coverage where there is poor access to a neighborhood park.
- ▷ Community parks and community playfields provide an important neighborhood park function.
- ▷ In some areas, overlapping park service areas provided redundant facilities within a walkable geographic area.
- ▷ Schools or private recreation facilities provided the needed recreational opportunities in key areas of the city; whereas in others they are redundant with existing city facilities.

Parks System Evaluation

The evaluation process began with a tour of the city's parks and facilities in the fall of 2006. The evaluation process continued with inventory and analysis of Bloomington's parks through the spring of 2007. The analysis of Bloomington's parks identified the following general opportunities and needs:

- ▷ Park revitalization needs.
- ▷ Park acquisition needs.
- ▷ Park maintenance needs.

Figure 4.13 - Park Service Area Coverage Map



- ▷ Natural resource/conservation area needs.
- ▷ Trail needs.
- ▷ Facilities needs.
- ▷ Recreation programming needs.
- ▷ Park system funding needs.

Park Revitalization Needs

An inventory and analysis of Bloomington’s parks identified many revitalization needs as a result of aging infrastructure, changing recreation trends, and demographic changes. For each park, the existing features, planned facilities, facility improvements and Americans with Disabilities Act guideline (ADA) improvements were identified (See Appendix H for the Accessibility Evaluation Transition Plan Executive Summary). The general park revitalization needs/ desires identified in the Needs Assessment process include:

- ▷ Ongoing facility lifecycle replacement for park buildings, tennis courts, playground equipment, park trails, etc. (See Appendix B - Existing Parks Inventory Maps and Improvement Recommendations).
- ▷ An over-supply of tennis courts and courts renovation needs (See Appendix E - City of Bloomington Tennis Courts Study). Alternative uses for some courts should be considered.
- ▷ Fenced-off small dog area, drinking fountain and security lighting at the Dog Exercise Area.
- ▷ Additional off-leash dog exercise areas.
- ▷ Large picnic shelters in community and regional parks for an increasing diverse community.
- ▷ New and remodeled concessions areas – open up physically for better visibility to increase concession revenues.
- ▷ Park signage improvements; identification, interpretation and wayfinding, policies for naming parks, regulations, policies for special uses.
- ▷ Park safety and standards for parks including security lighting guidelines for trails, parking lots, buildings, etc.

- ▷ Neighborhood park facilities which better reflect the neighborhood demographics. Improvements might include:
 - ▶ Facilities catering to seniors.
 - ▶ Community gardens.
 - ▶ Landscape accents.
 - ▶ Shaded seating areas.
 - ▶ Looped trails for a variety of ages and abilities.
 - ▶ Larger picnic shelters for family gatherings.
 - ▶ Less mowed active recreation areas and more natural areas.

Parkland Acquisition Needs

While the Bloomington Park System is largely complete, there remains a need for acquisition of several key properties, most of which lie within Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve. Forty properties are identified in Bloomington for potential future parkland acquisition. Fourteen of them are in-holdings (private lands within public park areas) totaling approximately 16 acres bordering Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve. Acquisition of these properties is a high priority. Public ownership around Bush Lake will allow for a loop trail around the lake - a very popular recreation element. The estimated total acquisition cost for the fourteen priority properties is \$12,231,055 in 2007 dollars. The remaining twenty-six acquisition properties are a lower priority (with the exception of a priority property in Pond-Dakota Mission Park) These remaining twenty-six properties have been identified for potential expansion of neighborhood and community parks, open space areas and for new parks and facilities. A complete listing of potential future parkland acquisition properties is provided in Appendix I. The current City policy regarding parkland acquisition is to purchase parcels on a willing seller basis. Acquisition funding of these priority acquisition sites around Bush Lake should be addressed in detail in the next update of the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Master Plan.

Analysis of park service indicates that there are two neighborhoods lacking access to a neighborhood park. These service gaps are a result of high traffic volume streets that create barriers to safe and easy pedestrian

movement to parks. The identified neighborhood areas with restricted park access are the James Avenue neighborhood south of 106th Street and the neighborhood north of Highwood Avenue in Northwest Bloomington. Additional parks may be needed to serve these areas; however, land availability is limited. Other areas that may create a need for additional park facilities include sites with new multi-family redevelopment.

It has been suggested that the City explore selling existing parkland where it is not needed, to help generate revenue for high priority park acquisition and needed park improvements. Feedback from the Citizen Task Force suggests that there is little support for such a policy. The short-term, one-time revenue gained from the sale of “excess” parkland would be relatively insignificant compared to long term ongoing revenue needs. Furthermore, the parkland, although perceived as unneeded today, may be more valuable to the City in the future. The Task Force did suggest a policy of purchasing park acquisition sites around Bush Lake; keeping a portion of the land for key facilities such as a trail corridor, and selling the remainder to minimize net public costs.

Natural Resource / Environmental Sustainability Needs

Community input suggests a growing desire for natural resource preservation and environmental sustainability in part due to concerns about climate change, the development of remaining open spaces, invasive species and other factors. Roughly a third of the Bloomington park system is comprised of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, Ponds and Conservation Areas. Although a large portion of this land is not managed or maintained by the City, it is a valuable resource for residents to experience nature close to home. Hennepin County recently completed a NRI (Natural Resources Inventory) in which natural resources were evaluated and ranked according to quality. The completion of the NRI provides an opportunity to better understand and prioritize conservation management and preservation efforts in the City (See Appendix M - Natural Resources Inventory).

Community natural resource and sustainability needs and desires identified in the Needs Assessment process include:

- ▷ More protection and preservation of high quality open space is needed; areas with species diversity and definable ecosystems.
- ▷ Preservation of areas with rare or endangered bluff and ravine ecosystems.
- ▷ Prioritize natural resource management areas based on the Natural Resources Inventory quality ranking.
- ▷ Better control of invasive species such as Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard.
- ▷ Restore a connection in East Bay Pond, so people can canoe to Bush Lake.
- ▷ Balance recreation access versus preservation/protection (i.e., in high quality natural areas there should be limited access. Views to the natural resources can be encouraged; trails should skirt the edges of the resources).
- ▷ Improved water quality.
- ▷ Improve environmental sustainability to combat global warming and other environmental concerns.
- ▷ Add a natural resources staff position to reflect the importance of managing roughly one third of the City’s land that is parks and open space.

Park Maintenance Needs

According to community input, the quality of maintenance of parks and facilities is quite favorable and safe, clean parks are a priority. However, the ability to continue high quality maintenance is a challenge with aging facilities. The general park maintenance input identified in the Needs Assessment process are:

- ▷ Bloomington has some of the best fields and best turf grass in the metropolitan area.
- ▷ There is support for naturalizing unused portions of the parks.
- ▷ Enhance natural resource management and increase sustainability are desired.
- ▷ Better quality outdoor ice for skating is desired.
- ▷ Building and facility replacement is needed.

Figure 4.14 - Graffiti removal on park equipment requires ongoing maintenance



Figure 4.15 - An example of trail renovation needs - 86th St. West



Trails Needs

As is typical of some older suburban communities, much of Bloomington park system was developed at the same time as the rise of the automobile as the dominant transportation mode. The present popularity of bicycling and walking as a mode of transportation and the emphasis on active living and other current trends were not anticipated or planned for in the 1940's-1960's. Trails are now the most popular and desired elements of the Bloomington park system. As a result the community has identified trail and pathway connections as a primary need and the City has concurrently begun preparing an Alternative Transportation Plan. That Plan will provide greater details on trails, bikeways and walking and biking and walking needs. A working draft of the Alternate Transportation Plan map can be found in Appendix N. Input received during the Needs Assessment identified the following trail and bikeway issues and opportunities (See Figure 4.17 - Trails and Bikeway Opportunities map):

- ▷ Short trail loops within parks to encourage “active living”.
- ▷ Construct a Minnesota River Valley Trail across the City in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- ▷ Develop a trail along the Xcel transmission line corridor from Parkers Picnic Grounds to American Boulevard and into Richfield and the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes.
- ▷ Improve trail safety, particularly trails in remote areas of parks.
- ▷ Improve trail and maintenance and funding.
- ▷ Connect Hennepin and Dakota County trail systems over the Long Meadow Lake bridge.
- ▷ Form a coalition of communities to work towards lobbying and funding of a river trail across communities.
- ▷ Develop/provide a comprehensive park and trail map system with historical, cultural and natural resource interpretation.
- ▷ Improve the continuity of trails across the city and to neighboring community trail systems.

Figure 4.16 - Ongoing facility lifecycle replacement is needed to replace aging playgrounds



- ▷ Improve connections across the Minnesota River to Scott County.
- ▷ More and better snow removal on trails.
- ▷ Improve the path across the marsh from Nine Mile Creek to the Minnesota River.
- ▷ A formal policy for adding lanes/trails when streets are rebuilt.
- ▷ A trail segment from West Bush Lake Road south of Veness Road and W. 84th Street to Bush Lake Beach.
- ▷ Trail improvements along Bloomington Ferry Road.
- ▷ Improve trails in Pond-Dakota Park.
- ▷ Bike and pedestrian crossing improvements at TH77, I-35W and I-494.
- ▷ Evaluate planned natural surface mountain bike trails and hiking trails in the MN River Valley and connections to the planned MnDNR trail.
- ▷ An underpass between West Bush Lake and Anderson Lakes under Highway 169.
- ▷ An overpass near Bush Lake Beach connecting Bush Lake Beach and Hyland Park.

Recreation Facility Needs

When compared to the NRPA guidelines (See chapter 5 Goals and Guidelines), the City of Bloomington exceeds these guidelines for the minimum number of playgrounds, and basketball courts with some overlap of neighborhood and playlot service areas. There are a few park service areas that are lacking basketball courts. The City also exceeds NRPA and United States Tennis Association (USTA) guidelines for the number of tennis courts. USTA recommends a community of 50,000 have at least 50 tennis courts and a community of 100,000 have 80 courts. Bloomington has 99 tennis courts (including city, school and private courts) and easily exceeds all guidelines. The City prepared a study of the City's tennis courts with several recommended options to reduce the number of courts and overall maintenance costs while still exceeding minimum service guidelines (See Appendix E - Tennis Court Study).

According to NRPA guidelines, the City is lacking outdoor hockey rinks; however, the City's three indoor rinks significantly expand skating opportunities. The

Figure 4.17 - Trails and Bikeways Opportunities Map



City recently reduced the number of outdoor rinks due to poor usage and high maintenance costs. The City exceeds the NRPA guidelines for soccer/lacrosse fields; however, these two sports have increased participation due to recreation trends and the NRPA guidelines do not reflect this local need.

There are also park buildings and shelters in City parks that are in need of renovation. Although some of these facilities are relatively new, many more are unused or underutilized. The general facility needs/desires identified in the Needs Assessment process are:

- ▷ There is an over-supply of tennis courts in Bloomington and many courts need renovation. (See - City of Bloomington Tennis Courts Study).
- ▷ Plan for reuse of the Wallo Property (8200 E. Bush Lake Road).
- ▷ New facilities for under-served populations.
- ▷ Ongoing facility lifecycle replacement for park buildings, tennis courts, playground equipment, park trails, etc.
- ▷ Park building revitalization.
- ▷ Teen center for teen programming.
- ▷ Replace Creekside Community Center with a new Family Service Center that includes a mix of uses including a teen center, multi-use area, etc. (Potential location is at Creekside - 98th St. and Penn Avenue).
- ▷ Maximize the use of existing facilities to meet recreation demand. Although increasing consumption of energy and other resources, maximizing use of existing facilities maximizes the City's existing investment in parks and facilities.
- ▷ High quality multi-purpose indoor gymnasium. (Normandale Community College will be remodeling their Activity Center, which will result in the closing of the small gym and turning it into a fitness center, losing some indoor soccer use).
- ▷ Outdoor refrigerated rinks (The quality of outdoor ice has declined due to changes in winter climate and many people prefer the quality and consistency of refrigerated ice).
- ▷ Reduce the quantity of outdoor ice rinks to reduce maintenance/staffing costs.

- ▷ More cooperation between arts programs and facility providers to allow for more specialization, efficiency and higher quality programming.
- ▷ Bloomington Ice Garden renovation beyond the new boards and refrigeration. Skating stakeholders desire a fourth rink claiming that many skate groups leave the City in search of desired ice-time.
- ▷ Facilities to attract new families to older housing stock and to be competitive with other cities.
- ▷ BMX track at Tretbaugh Park.
- ▷ Dog Exercise Area improvements:
 - ▶ Trash cans inside, not just at entrance.
 - ▶ Fully fenced dog park.
 - ▶ Water and security lighting.
 - ▶ Fenced small dog area.
- ▷ Additional dog exercise areas.
- ▷ Heated indoor pool with lap swimming for seniors
- ▷ The Bloomington Armory gyms are aging and are underutilized in part due to the community's desire for quality recreation facilities.
- ▷ Park safety and standards for parks including security lighting, guidelines for trails, parking lots, buildings, etc
- ▷ Neighborhood park facilities that better reflect the neighborhood demographics.
- ▷ Add lacrosse fields.
- ▷ Youth association and multipurpose fields.
- ▷ A playground at Haeg Park.

Recreation Programming Needs

The City of Bloomington recreation programming is a well established and serves the community well, however community input suggests that there are segments of the community not being served as well as others. Many of the needs identified respond to this need and needs due changing demographics and recreation trends. Program needs and desires identified in the Needs Assessment process are include:

- ▷ Movies in the parks.
- ▷ More preschool programs.
- ▷ The following additional programming:

Figure 4.18 - More intergenerational programming is needed



- ▶ Geo-caching in the parks to get kids outside (Global Positioning System treasure hunt).
 - ▶ Nature based programming.
 - ▶ Programs for adults such as Summer Fete bike ride or race, safety expo.
 - ▶ More programs on off hours (weekend and over noon hour).
 - ▶ More contemporary history to get kids interested in historical resources.
 - ▶ Get larger, more popular bands or music groups, partner with surrounding communities to attract them.
- ▷ Better promotion of programs:
 - ▶ Promote bandshell events with an electronic reader board sign on Normandale Boulevard.
 - ▶ Put bandshell programs in the Sun Current.
 - ▷ Year-round youth programming.
 - ▷ More cooperation between arts program and facility providers to allow specialization, greater efficiencies and higher quality programming.
 - ▷ Programs in more than one language.
 - ▷ Target neighborhoods with diverse populations – For example, the school district targeted an apartment complex with a large number of under-served and immigrant families; went door to door to promote activities and involvement.
 - ▷ Better connection with the police and neighborhood watch programs, i.e., “Bloomington night out in the parks”.
 - ▷ Inter-generational programming:
 - ▶ Programs that get kids to Creekside – to provide an outlet for seniors - people to talk to.
 - ▶ Seniors volunteers in schools and playgrounds and to provide instruction to youth, such as the senior tennis group teaching tennis.
 - ▶ Transportation for seniors.
 - ▶ Children to teach computer skills to seniors.
 - ▶ Seniors volunteers to teach reading, knitting and other programs.

Figure 4.19 - Trail and bikeway connections were identified as a high priority such as over the Long Meadow Lake Bridge



Figure 4.20 - Natural resources management was identified as a high priority



Figure 4.21 - Renovation and replacement of aging parks and recreation facilities to meet changing needs was identified as a high priority, such as replacement of old warming houses



Priority Needs

The Needs Assessment evaluation process identified the needs and desires for the park system. Those identified were then evaluated and prioritized by the Citizen's Task Force and City staff. The needs with the highest priority are as follows:

1. Park revitalization – aging infrastructure, buildings, equipment, etc.
2. Improvements for accessibility in parks to meet the American Disability Act guidelines.
3. Maximizing use of existing facilities to meet recreation demand.
4. Trail and bikeway connections to other community's trail systems and to destinations within the city.
5. Sustainable funding resources - there is a significant funding shortfall between identified existing needs and funding (See below).
6. Teenage programs and activities.
7. Improve parks system with an emphasis on active living (trails, walking, biking, exercise).
8. Make quality a priority over quantity in recreation facilities.
9. Improve protection and management of high quality natural resource.
10. More natural resource management and sustainability actions.
11. Refine parks and recreation facilities to city demographic changes, i.e., more cultural diversity and an aging population.
12. Indoor recreation and community facilities.
13. Evaluate and define Family Service Center/ recreation facility needs – conduct a feasibility study.

Park Funding and Funding Gap

Capital Revenue and Expenses

Overall, the City's level of capital funding has not kept pace with identified park and recreation needs. The park systems CIP (Capital Improvement Program) identifies and budgets for priority park improvements such as playgrounds, buildings, trails, etc., on a yearly basis. Unfortunately many of these projects are awaiting

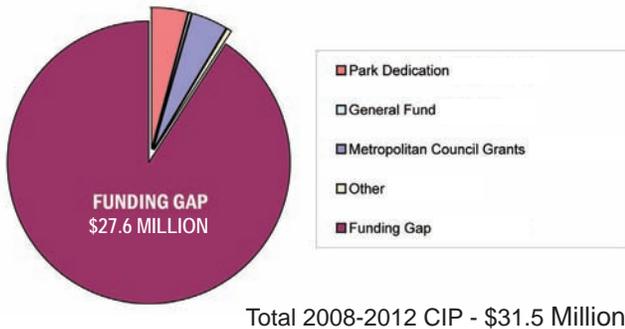
funding sources. There is a significant shortfall in revenue when compared with the identified park revitalization needs. The City's five year (2008-2012) CIP identifies roughly \$31.5 million in needed improvements. Park improvements and acquisitions have historically been primarily funded through park dedications fees, Metropolitan Council regional park grants and strategic priority funds. Park dedication is a fee paid by developers at the time land is subdivided. Park dedication funds tend to vary from year to year depending on the amount and type of development and redevelopment. Over the years this has declined significantly from the levels of 1970's to 1980's. In 2006, the park dedication collected was \$260,385 dollars. The ten year average for all projects was 9.1 projects per year at \$19,915 per project for an annual average of \$181,227 (See Figure 4.22). Since Bloomington is a developed community, the amount of park dedication funding is not likely to be a significant source of future improvement funds. In recent years (2000 to 2005) the City undertook \$11.5 million in park improvement projects including: renovation of the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, Bloomington Center for the Arts, East Bush Lake Road Trail, Marsh Lake Soccer Fields, Hrbek Fields concessions/restrooms building, Normandale bandshell, Smith Park renovation, and the City will soon complete several additional athletic field and park improvements. The \$11.5 million in park improvement projects was funded through the numerous funding sources (See Figure 4.24).

There is a significant shortfall in funding sources when compared with the identified park revitalization needs and the gap continues to grow due to a lack of enduring, stable funding sources (See Figure 4.23). There is also an increase in what the community feels is needed. In the past, to help close the funding gap and to pay for improvements, Bloomington voters approved several park bond referenda: \$1.5 million in 1963, \$2.6 million in 1968, \$5.7 million in 1974, \$3.75 million in 1990, and \$7.2 million in 2000 for the Bloomington Center for the Arts. This approach is subject to many political, social, and economic uncertainties, but it is a likely source of funds for future packages of revitalization, capital projects or new large capital initiatives such as a Family Service Center. Clearly more and more

Figure 4.22 - 1997-2006 Park Dedication Fees

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. Projects</i>	<i>Fee Amount</i>
1997	6	\$120,338
1998	11	\$175,631
1999	8	\$367,295
2000	14	\$224,917
2001	14	\$96,670
2002	3	\$9,157
2003	11	\$369,346
2004	7	\$215,028
2005	9	\$83,440
2006	8	\$260,385
Total	91	\$1,812,257

Figure 4.23 - Projected 2008-2012 Capital Revenue Needs and Funding Gap



sustainable operational and capital funding monies are also needed.

The general funding needs/desires identified through the Needs Assessment process are as follows:

- ▷ Funding acquisition of remaining park inholdings.
- ▷ Identification of sustainable funding sources - there is a significant funding shortfall between identified existing needs and funding and operations and maintenance costs versus revenue.
- ▷ Create an annual park facility replacement program, similar to the City pavement management program. Funding is set aside and earmarked for a planned set of annual improvement/replacement projects.
- ▷ Identify and consider alternate funding such as:
 - ▶ Community referendum.
 - ▶ Parks foundations.
 - ▶ Challenge grants.
 - ▶ User fees, resident and non resident.
 - ▶ Corporate sponsorship and partnerships.
 - ▶ Greater due diligence to increase efficiencies.
 - ▶ Better coordination with schools and private recreation providers.
 - ▶ Better coordination with other communities.

Figure 4.24 - 2000-2005 Capital Improvement Funding Sources

Strategic Priority Funds	\$4.5 million (39% of total)
Park Capital Funds/Park Dedication Fees	\$3.0 million (26% of total)
Metro Council/State Grants	\$2.2 million (19% of total)
Federal Grants/Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21)	\$700,000 (6% of total)
Park Maintenance Capital Funds	\$300,000 (2% of total)
Aquatic Funds	\$300,000 (3% of total)
Other Sources	\$500,000 (5% of total)
Total	\$11,500,000

5 Goals and Guidelines

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Goals

The following parks and recreation goals are based on draft goals of the Imagine Bloomington 2025 Strategic Plan with additional goals added to reflect the Parks and Recreation Division mission and community needs (See Appendix A for the Parks and Recreation Goals).

1. Maintain and enhance city park and recreational assets.
2. Anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly.
3. Preserve and maintain our natural resources for ourselves and future generations.
4. Enhance the City's arts, cultural, and historic assets.
5. Promote a sense of community through recreation programming.
6. Connect the community with trails, walks and bikeways.
7. Build community support for parks and recreation.

Park and Facility Guidelines

Level of Service Standards

Future demand for parkland and facilities is based on comparing projected populations with recognized level of service standards and responding to changing trends. Park and recreation needs are also related directly to the characteristics of a city's population. For example, areas with more young children require outdoor recreation opportunities close to home and within comfortable walking distance. Areas with older populations can benefit from having passive open spaces located near residential areas, community centers, and transit to accommodate senior activities. A balance of parks and facilities is necessary to accommodate the population mix. Because of changing demographics over time, facilities need to be flexible enough to meet changing demands for services.

The concept of level of service standards for parks and playgrounds was first introduced by the Playground Association of America and the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) in the early 1900s. NRPA first published the National Park, Recreation and Open Space Standards in 1971, which guided park and recreation agencies throughout the major growth years of the 1970s. Over the past 30 years, the NRPA has been involved in the refinement of standards for parks, recreation, and open space. These standards are used throughout the United States; however, it should be recognized that standards such as these represent only one measure of a successful park system and a “one size fits all” approach is not appropriate for all cities. Standards do not measure the qualitative factors of a park system. For a complete analysis of a park system, both qualitative and quantitative factors should be considered. The Master Plan recommendations consider the unique qualities, needs, and opportunities found in Bloomington; however, there are two basic sets of standards or benchmarks used by the NRPA for park system evaluation which are informative:

1. Park classifications – classifications based on park use and function, including geographic and population service guidelines.
2. Recreation facility guidelines – guideline for minimum facility needs based on population or area.

Updated Park Classifications

The existing park classifications found in the City’s 2000 Comprehensive Plan (See Figure 2.9) are not well aligned to the function of the City’s parks. As a result, the park classifications have been updated and are shown in Figure 5.2 along with their use, function and a summary of total acreage of each type of city park, or classification. Park classifications are intended to act as a general guide to park planning, acquisition and use. A summary of parks by new classification, quantity and acreage can be found on Figure 5.1

Figure 5.1 - Park Classification Summary, 2008

Classification	Quantity	Acres
Playlot	19	32.15
Neighborhood Park	23	218.03
Community Park	7	202.04
Community Playfield	4	122.40
Pond	18	113.10
Large Urban Park	2	369.75
Regional Park	2	961.22
Conservation Area	14	1,564.75
Special Use Area	8	203.99
Total	97	3,787.43
* Figures do not include Regional, State, Federal, School or other non-City owned open space.		

Park Classification Changes

Conservation Parks - The park classification fits well with the Bloomington Park System; however, the term Conservation Park does not accurately describe the character or function of the storm ponds within the park system. The definition of Conservation Parks have been modified and those parks that are primarily storm ponds with limited conservation value have been reclassified (See Ponds Classification).

Corridor Parks - Nine Mile Creek is the only park in the system classified as a Corridor Park. The term corridor park gives the connotation of public access. Nine Mile Creek Park only has access across the creek and no access along the length of the corridor. Furthermore, the corridor itself appears to have more conservation value than recreation value. This park has been reclassified as a Conservation Park and the Corridor Park classification has been deleted.

Figure 5.2 - Park Classifications, 2007

PLAYLOT/MINI-PARK	
<i>Use:</i>	Intended for families with children up to ten years of age in areas that cannot be served by a neighborhood park service area. Usually includes play apparatus and turf areas. Area considered a Mini-Park if no play apparatus is provided.
<i>Service Area:</i>	1/3 Mile Radius
<i>Size:</i>	1 to 2 Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Spaced throughout the community to serve neighborhoods. Frequently within neighborhood playgrounds or community parks.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	
<i>Use:</i>	Intended to meet primary recreation needs of a neighborhood. Focus is on family and informal play needs of 5 to 17 year olds. Usually includes play apparatus and areas for field games, court games and skating.
<i>Service Area:</i>	1/2 Mile Radius
<i>Size:</i>	5 to 10 Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Spaced throughout the community to serve neighborhoods. Can co-locate with elementary schools.
COMMUNITY PARK	
<i>Use:</i>	Intended for use by all ages. Usually includes areas of natural or ornamental quality for walking, bicycling, viewing, sitting or picnicking. Often includes a playlot.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Two Mile Radius
<i>Size:</i>	10-50 Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing natural features.
COMMUNITY PLAYFIELD	
<i>Use:</i>	Emphasis on facilities for organized and individual sports. Usually includes lighted athletic fields, areas for court games and skating.
<i>Service Area:</i>	20 minute driving distance
<i>Size:</i>	20-80 Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing topography and good transportation access.
LARGE URBAN PARK	
<i>Use:</i>	Attractive natural features contrast to urban environment. Caters to nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as picnicking, boating, walking and skiing.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Southwest metropolitan area
<i>Size:</i>	100+ Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing natural features.
REGIONAL PARK	
<i>Use:</i>	Continuous or groupings of open spaces offering facilities/activities (trails, picnic, wildlife observation, water sports, etc.) determined by natural assets. Extent of active recreation development area is typically limited to a proportion of park area. Much of park retained in a natural state.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
<i>Size:</i>	250 + Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing natural features.
CONSERVATION AREA	
<i>Use:</i>	Protects natural environment, wildlife habitat and scenic quality rather than satisfying demand for recreation opportunities. Secondary, passive or active recreation uses can coexist with primary conservation function.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Local and Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
<i>Size:</i>	20 + Acres
<i>Location:</i>	Determined by existing natural features.
POND AREA	
<i>Use:</i>	Ensures proper functioning of hydrologic systems. Provides some scenic observation.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Watershed and sub-watersheds
<i>Size:</i>	Varies
<i>Location:</i>	Proximity to water resources.
SPECIAL USE AREAS	
<i>Use:</i>	Preserves and maintain buildings, sites, or objects of historical, or archeological significance. Provide for community activities such as golf courses, fine arts, indoor ice facilities, gymnasiums, etc.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Varied
<i>Size:</i>	Varied
<i>Location:</i>	Where resources occur.
SCHOOL/PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES	
<i>Use:</i>	Recreation facilities on private or school property that typically provide some level of recreation and access to the public. Public use is typically formalized with an agreement or easement for public use. Development and maintenance costs are often shared with the City.
<i>Service Area:</i>	Varied
<i>Size:</i>	Varied
<i>Location:</i>	School district or private property

Playlots/Mini-Parks - The Playlot classification fits well with the Bloomington Park System; however there are several Playlots with no play apparatus. Playlots with no apparatus will be referred to as Mini-Parks to better address the distinction.

Neighborhood Parks - The classification fits well with the Bloomington Park System. There are several neighborhood parks that have been reclassified based on their function primarily as conservation areas or ponds.

School/Private Recreation Facility - There are many schools or private recreation facilities that are utilized by the Park System by joint powers agreements. These facilities should be recognized distinctly from City Parks, yet recognized as contributing to the park system with their own classification referred as School/Private Recreation Facility.

Special Use Areas - Golf courses have been added to the special use area category and do not need their own category and the Golf Course classification has been deleted.

Ponds - Many of the Conservation Parks identified in the 2000 Comprehensive Plan are pond areas that serve primarily a storm water utility function. These have been given a new classification; Ponds. Many of these areas have maintenance and protection guidelines under the 1997 Wetland Protection and Management Plan.

Recreation Facility Guidelines

The NRPA recreation facility guidelines are the most recognized guide to minimum recreation facility needs within a community. The City of Bloomington at present does not have any formal guidelines in which to measure facility needs.

The guidelines presented in Figure 5.3 are a modified version of standards prepared by the NRPA in 1990. The NRPA standards have been modified to take into account changing recreation “wants” (e.g., increased participation in soccer, lacrosse, etc.) and to more accurately reflect facility “needs” in the City of Bloomington. The Recreation Facility Guidelines contain a summary of minimum standards by facility type (e.g., basketball court or football field). The guidelines and criteria should be used as a guide to meeting minimum facility needs. The guidelines are flexible to account for changing local demands and specific conditions.

Figure 5.3 - Recreation Facility Guidelines

Activity/Facility	Space Requirements	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	Minimum Number per Population	Minimum Service Radius	Notes
Outdoor Basketball	2,400-3,100 sq. ft.	Full court: 46' - 50' x 84' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides Half Court: 40' x 40'	Long axis north-south	Full Court: 1 per 5,000 Half Court: 1 per 3,000	¼ to ½ mile	Usually at a school or community park Half court typically in neighborhood parks
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft. including support area plus parking	Rink 85' x 200' (minimum 85' x 185') + additional support area	Long axis north-south	Outdoor - 1/3,000 Indoor - 1/20,000	10-15 minutes travel time maximum	Lighted facility. Outdoor rinks usually includes a general skating area
Free Skating	Minimum 20,000 SF	Varies flat terrain for ease of flooding	None		¾ - 1 mile	Lighted facility
Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 SF single court	36' x 78' 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both sides	Long Axis north-south	1 court per 2,000	½ mile	Best in batteries of two or more. Usually concentrated at schools and community parks and/or spread throughout the city in neighborhood parks
Sand volleyball	Minimum of 2,000 SF	20' x 60' Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long Axis north-south	1 court per 7,500	1 mile	Same as other court activities (e.g., basketball, etc.) Sometimes associated with larger rental picnic shelters
Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5 AC	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance	long axis north to south	1 per 20,000	10-15 minutes travel time	Usually part of sports complex in community park or adjacent to high school
Football	Minimum 1.5 AC	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides	Same as field hockey	1 per 20,000	10-15 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey
Baseball Official	Minimum 3.0-3.85 AC	- Base lines - 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' Foul lines min. 320' Center field 400'+	North northeast - South-southwest (home plate to center field)	1/city plus 1 per 5,000 plus lighted - 1 per 15,000	10-15 minute travel time	Lighted fields part of community complex
Little League	Minimum 1.2 AC	Base lines - 60' Pitching distance 46' Foul lines 200' Center field 200'-250'		1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	

Sources: National Recreation and Parks Association and Hoisington Koegler Group, inc.

Figure 5.3 - Recreation Facility Guidelines (continued)

Activity/ Facility	Space Requirements	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	Minimum Number per Population	Minimum Service Radius	Notes
Softball	1.5 to 2.0 AC	Base lines 65' Pitching distance 50' -men, 40' - women. Fast pitch radius from plate - 225', Slow pitch 275'- 320' (men) 265"- 275' (women)	Same as baseball	adult fields 1 / 5,000 Youth fields 1 per 2,500	1-2 miles ¼ - ½ mile	Sight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball
Indoor Gym Courts for public use	10,000 SF	120' x 80'	NA	1 per 20,000	10-15 minute travel time	Usually in schools and/or community centers
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool & amenities. Usually ½ to 2 AC site + parking	Teaching - Min. 25' x 45' Competitive- min. 25m x 16m. Aquatic - varies. Unusually has zero depth entry and spray/play feature	Indoor NA. Outdoor - None, but requires careful siting of life-guard stations in relation to afternoon sun	1 per 20,000 (pools should accommodat e 3-5% of total population at a time)	15-30 minute travel time	Typically in a community park, school site or stand alone facility
Soccer 1 Full size 2. Age specific	1.7 to 2.1 AC	Full size: 195' to 225' x 300' to 360' with a 10' min. clearance on all sides, plus age appropriate size fields	long axis north to south	1/7,500 1/4,000 people	1-2 miles	Number of fields depends on popularity

Sources: National Recreation and Parks Association and Hoisington Koegler Group, inc.

6 Parks and Recreation Action Plan

Introduction

This chapter is a strategic guide to park and recreation improvements, program enhancements and operations from 2007 to 2026. The Needs Assessment identified two over-arching issues that need to be addressed: capital improvements needs (mostly for trails and ongoing facility replacement) and a capital improvement funding gap. In order to reach the parks and recreation goals and to respond to community needs, this chapter proposes a strategic refocusing of park facility investments. This would be a change from the old model of providing a full array of recreation facilities in each neighborhood park to one that strategically invests monies in targeted parks and facilities to serve a broader district area. This strategic repositioning of the park system will in the long-term allow greater efficiencies, improve quality, minimize maintenance and replacement costs, improve system responsiveness and improve the economic sustainability of the system. This chapter identifies parks and recreation strategies by area of need, followed by specific implementation tasks. These strategies build on the draft parks and recreation strategies of the [Imagine Bloomington 2025 Strategic Plan](#). Strategies for addressing the capital funding gap are addressed in Chapter 7.

Priority Strategies

A set of 36 strategies were developed to implement the Master Plan goals and initiatives. Citizens, City staff, Citizen Task Force members and the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission were asked to prioritize the strategies. The top ten priorities and their strategies are listed below:

1. Park Revitalization Program Strategy # 34 – Adopt and fund a park revitalization program for park infrastructure. The park facility improvement in the park system Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will need to be reviewed and prioritized relative to the Park and Recreation goals and strategies and ongoing revitalization of parks.
2. Signature Parks Strategy #1 - Reposition parks to reduce maintenance and capital investment costs, improve quality to better meet evolving park and recreation needs and the increasingly diverse

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Goals

1. Maintain and enhance city park and recreational assets.
2. Anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly.
3. Preserve and maintain our natural resources for ourselves and future generations.
4. Enhance the City's arts, cultural, and historic assets.
5. Promote a sense of community through recreation programming.
6. Connect the community with trails, walks and bikeways.
7. Build community support for parks and recreation.

park user. + Strategy #16 – Maximize use and quality of existing community recreation facilities. + Strategy #17 - Modify park and recreation assets to meet a range of needs for an aging and diverse population. + Strategy #18 – Assure quality community facilities to meet evolving needs.

3. Trails Strategy #13 – Adopt the Alternative Transportation Plan. + Strategy #12 – Improve bicycle and pedestrian access across highways and major roads and the MN River.
4. Natural Resource Management Strategy #7 – Hire an ecological consultant to develop a natural resources management plan. + Strategy #9 – Preserve and maintain our natural resources for ourselves and future generations. + Strategy # 10 – Promote community stewardship of natural areas.
5. Recreation Programming Strategy #20 - Serve a spectrum of age, ability and interest.
6. Community Gathering/Sense of Community Strategy #19 – Develop community gathering locations and improve facilities and parks to enhance a sense of community.
7. Arts Strategy #27 - Integrate public art into community life. + Strategy #28 – Increase opportunities to participate in arts and culture activities.
8. History Strategy #29 - Identify and preserve sites and properties of historical significance.
9. Collaboration Strategy #30 - Increase communication and partnerships with advocacy groups, partners, the business community and others about recreation system needs and benefits. + Strategy # 31- Promote volunteer involvement in parks. + Strategy #32 - Enhance partnerships with individuals, businesses, public, private and non-profit organizations, schools and associations to build support for parks and recreation.
10. Bond Referendum Strategy #35 – Define the content (amount and improvements) and approach/timing of a future parks, recreation and community facilities bond referendum, an essential tool needed to fund planned park system improvements.

Park Renovation

The first park and recreation goal is to: *Maintain and enhance city parks and recreational assets.*

Community input identified a need for park revitalization to upgrade aging facilities, to improve the function and aesthetics of parks, and to make parks more relevant to the neighborhoods they serve. Based on community-identified needs, detailed improvement plans have been prepared for 23 of the City’s parks. The new facilities identified in the park plans will be added to the City’s CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) list for future prioritization and funding. The park improvements identified in the Parks Master Plan are part of a twenty-year vision and not all listed projects will necessarily be completed due to the City’s limited financial resources. The list of projects in the CIP does not obligate the City to undertake the improvement. The completion of the Parks Master Plan, will allow the City to review and prioritize the CIP, including newly recommended improvements, with respect to the Park and Recreation goals and strategies of this Plan (See Appendix B - Existing Park Inventory Maps and Park Improvement Recommendations).

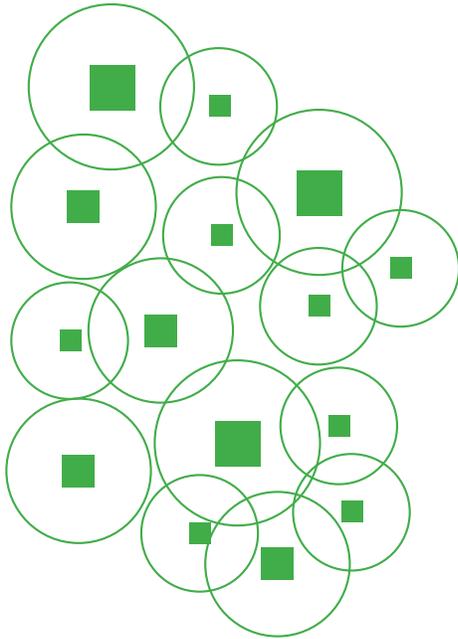
Much of the park system was built in the 1960’s and 1970’s and many facilities in them have reached their useful lives. Focused and phased renovation is needed to keep the system safe, vital and functioning as a community asset. While the City’s preference is to replace, renovate and maintain all park and recreation facilities at the highest level of quality, it is possible that sufficient funding may not be available to replace all needed facilities when their useful life is reached and their condition deteriorates. Employing a repositioning strategy as a guiding principle for park renovation will focus renovation where it is most needed and will better allow the City to address these evolving needs.

Park System Repositioning - Create Signature Parks

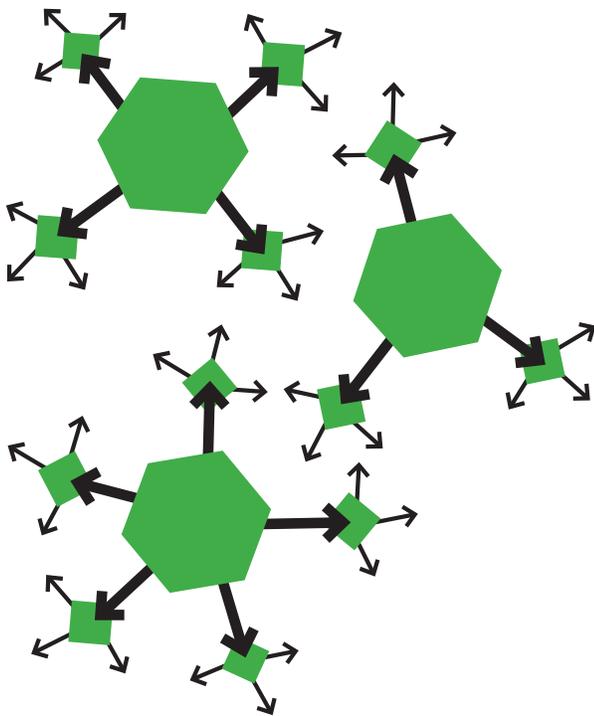
If funds are not available to replace all existing facilities, then the recommended approach is to reposition or guide investment in aging parks to create attractive community oriented parks at key locations, or signature parks. Depending upon funding availability this may mean shifting investment from smaller parks to certain

Figure 6.1 - Bloomington Park System Repositioning Diagram

EXISTING PARK SYSTEM



PARK SYSTEM REPOSITIONING



larger parks to create signature parks with higher quality unique features, a greater range of amenities with more opportunity park programming. With a greater range of quality amenities and programming opportunities, signature parks will become gathering focal points for the community. The smaller nearby parks over time might then receive less investment with fewer or smaller facilities or be allowed to become neighborhood open space. Investment in smaller parks should not stop, but when a facility has deteriorated, individual case-by case decisions would be made whether to reinvest funds to replace that equipment or use those funds to create a higher quality recreation at a signature park. The repositioning would be tailored to create a more sustainable system overall by changes such as, replacing worn out tennis courts with gardens, lawn, natural plantings or another recreation facility with lessor initial and on-going operational costs.

The City has created such a signature park, Cedarcrest by renovating a pair of aging tennis courts into a combination tennis and basketball court, and adding a water play splash pad, rain garden and new landscaping. Cedarcrest has become a recreation destination and gathering space for the community due to its unique mix of facilities.

Focusing investment to create signature parks may result in some people having to travel further to reach certain park facilities. This can be offset somewhat by connecting signature parks with a City-wide bikeway/walkway network.

The City has begun studying the potential for park repositioning in the park system as the Capital Improvement Program is updated. A final determination will be based on an independent public input process.

Strategies for park renovation include:

Strategy 1 : Reposition parks to reduce maintenance and capital investment costs, improve quality to better meet evolving park and recreation needs and the increasingly diverse park user.

- ▷ The City should evaluate repositioning opportunities across the City, to create signature parks where there are multiple parks serving a district area,

Figure 6.2 - Cedarcrest Park Splash Pad



duplication or under-utilization of facilities, and facilities in need of renovation.

- ▷ Develop signature facilities in parks to serve as neighborhood focal points and icons.

Strategy 2: Develop/improve facilities and parks to enhance sense of community.

- ▷ Create large and small socializing and gathering spaces when parks are renovated.
- ▷ Determine the role of park buildings in neighborhood activities and potential use/reuse or rehabilitation needs.
- ▷ Provide accent landscaping (native plantings) and provide port-a-potty screening in the parks.

Strategy 3: Promote active living in parks.

- ▷ Add looped trails of varying lengths in parks where feasible.
- ▷ Improving accessibility.
- ▷ Provide shade and resting places.
- ▷ Improve lighting and safety measures.
- ▷ Implement CEPTD standards (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).

Strategy 4: Improve park identification and way-finding.

- ▷ Improve signs with park and trail system maps.
- ▷ Integrating parks with the City's trail network.

Parkland Acquisition

There are two City park service area gaps in Bloomington; James Avenue neighborhood and the Highwood Avenue neighborhood. The City should continue to seek to fill service gaps by identifying parkland acquisition sites as opportunities arise. Similarly, as redevelopment occurs, the City should evaluate park and recreation needs associated with new multi-family development as it has occurred with the Lyndale Green and Bloomington Central Station multi-family developments. The majority of the proposed parkland acquisition sites border Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve and these properties are increasingly expensive to acquire (See Appendix I for complete listing of potential future parkland acquisitions). Acquisition and funding

for Park Reserve in-holding sites should be addressed in detail in the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Master Plan update.

Strategy 5: Ensure the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Master Plan update addresses park in-holding acquisition funding.

- ▷ Work with Three Rivers Park District and the Metropolitan Council to evaluate prioritization and funding options in the purchase of the remaining park in-holding properties in Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve.
- ▷ In lieu of the total purchase of park inholdings sites, consider acquisition of trail easements across park inholdings.
- ▷ Consider the purchase of park inholdings for the purpose of create trail easements and then resell the land to recoup the purchase price.

Strategy 6: Address existing neighborhood park service area gaps when suitable land becomes available to meet neighborhood needs.

- ▷ Evaluate park service area gaps and land acquisition opportunities.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability

The third parks and recreation goal is to: *Preserve and maintain our natural resources for future generations and ourselves.*

The City of Bloomington is rich in natural resources with large areas of preserved open spaces. Much of the open space system is contained within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, and City parks and conservation areas. Although a large portion of this land is not managed or maintained by the City, there is an opportunity to better understand, prioritize and promote conservation and preservation efforts and to actively manage conservation and open space areas throughout the City.

The City of Bloomington and the Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services (HCDES)

recently completed a natural resource inventory for the City (See Figure 6.5 and Appendix M).

HCDES gathered information on land cover throughout the City of Bloomington (examples of land cover include maple-basswood forest, hay field and cattail marsh). The collected data will inventory and assess the existing plant community composition and quality. The NRI data can be used by the city for long-term planning and conservation efforts.

The inventory will provide an opportunity to identify high quality plant communities in the City and in particular within City parks and open space and then prioritize conservation and management efforts.

The long-term success of management and conservation efforts will depend in large part on improved and continuing public education on the plant communities and the ecology of the City of Bloomington and allocation of resources and staff.

The recommended approach to natural resource management includes:

Strategy 7: Hire an ecological consultant to develop a natural resources management plan of priority preservation and management areas to support the regeneration and expansion of native plant communities.

- ▷ Identify areas of relatively intact native plant communities in parks and open space; Utilize the Land Cover Mapping to prioritize preservation and management activities.
- ▷ In priority management areas or “management cores”, eradicate invasive species such as Common Buckthorn, hybrid Honeysuckle, Garlic Mustard and Spotted Knapweed. By anchoring these core communities of high ecological value, management efforts can then radiate outward into more disturbed areas, improving with time the plant community quality and ecological function of the parks and open spaces. Specific tasks include:
 - ▶ Begin by removing invasive species from high quality areas then over time expand management efforts to the lower quality areas.

- ▶ Initiate invasive plant removal with the species of greatest threat. For most of the park system, this entails buckthorn and garlic mustard control. Where buckthorn removal is limited by labor and/or time, efforts should focus on removing fruiting trees first.
- ▶ As management moves to medium quality areas, remove invasive species from around large oaks, basswood and other desirable remnant natives. Removing invasive trees and shrubs (buckthorn, honeysuckle, Siberian elm, etc.) from around these large trees will enhance both regeneration of native trees and the establishment of forest floor shrubs and herbs which will move in from adjacent high quality areas.
- ▷ Expand existing education programs in Bloomington to improve citizens understanding of ecological processes and environmental benefits.
- ▷ Provide interpretive signage along trails and at key locations in parks.
- ▷ Partner with local homeowners and environmental organizations such as the Izaak Walton League - Bush Lake Chapter to build rain gardens, to plant native species, conduct community educational workshops and other community stewardship actions.
- ▷ Encourage citizen volunteers in the implementation of the management plan to create more sustainable effort- stretching management efforts.

Strategy 8: Use native plants to meet environmental objectives and reduce maintenance requirements.

- ▷ Use native plants to reduce watering, fertilizing, and mowing.
- ▷ Promote the use of native plants as a source of food and shelter for wildlife.
- ▷ Restore and manage native prairie where appropriate.

Strategy 9: Preserve and manage aquatic and terrestrial environments.

- ▷ Develop and implement control methods for nuisance species such as geese and deer.
- ▷ Use native plant species as a buffer around shorelines to control runoff into ponds, lakes, streams and rivers and to discourage geese.

- ▷ Control invasive plant species.
- ▷ Seek biologic controls for invasive species.
- ▷ Monitor plant and animal disease outbreaks and plan/act accordingly.
- ▷ Develop a City policy for delineating and creating wetland buffer zones.
- ▷ Implement and enhance City policies and criteria for stormwater maintenance activities consistent with planning objectives for development.
- ▷ Implement and enhance criteria to determine ponding requirements, acceptable storm sewer drain expectations, and reasonable sediment levels.
- ▷ Evaluate best management practices to improve storm water management techniques and reduce levels of pollutants in water.
- ▷ Explore greater use of pervious pavers and rain gardens to create demonstration projects in the parks, such as proposed overflow parking at Brookside Park.
- ▷ Encourage broad citizen participation in the development of policies, programs, and criteria for stormwater management.

Strategy 10: Promote community stewardship of natural areas.

- ▷ Inform citizens of available maps of areas that are currently considered wetland areas, park-related, and non-buildable areas.
- ▷ Hire a natural resource coordinator City staff position.
- ▷ Creating an advisory commission on environmental resources.
- ▷ Maintain the “Tree City USA” designation.
- ▷ Sign the U.S. Mayors Conference Climate Protection Agreement.
- ▷ Coordinate activities for Arbor Day and Earth Day with local neighborhoods and schools.
- ▷ Develop a public information program and prepare materials on specific areas of environmental interest.
- ▷ Evaluate the effectiveness of the adopt-a-bit-of Bloomington programs and evaluate opportunities to improve this program.

Figure 6.3 - Natural Resources/Open Space Natural Community Quality Map

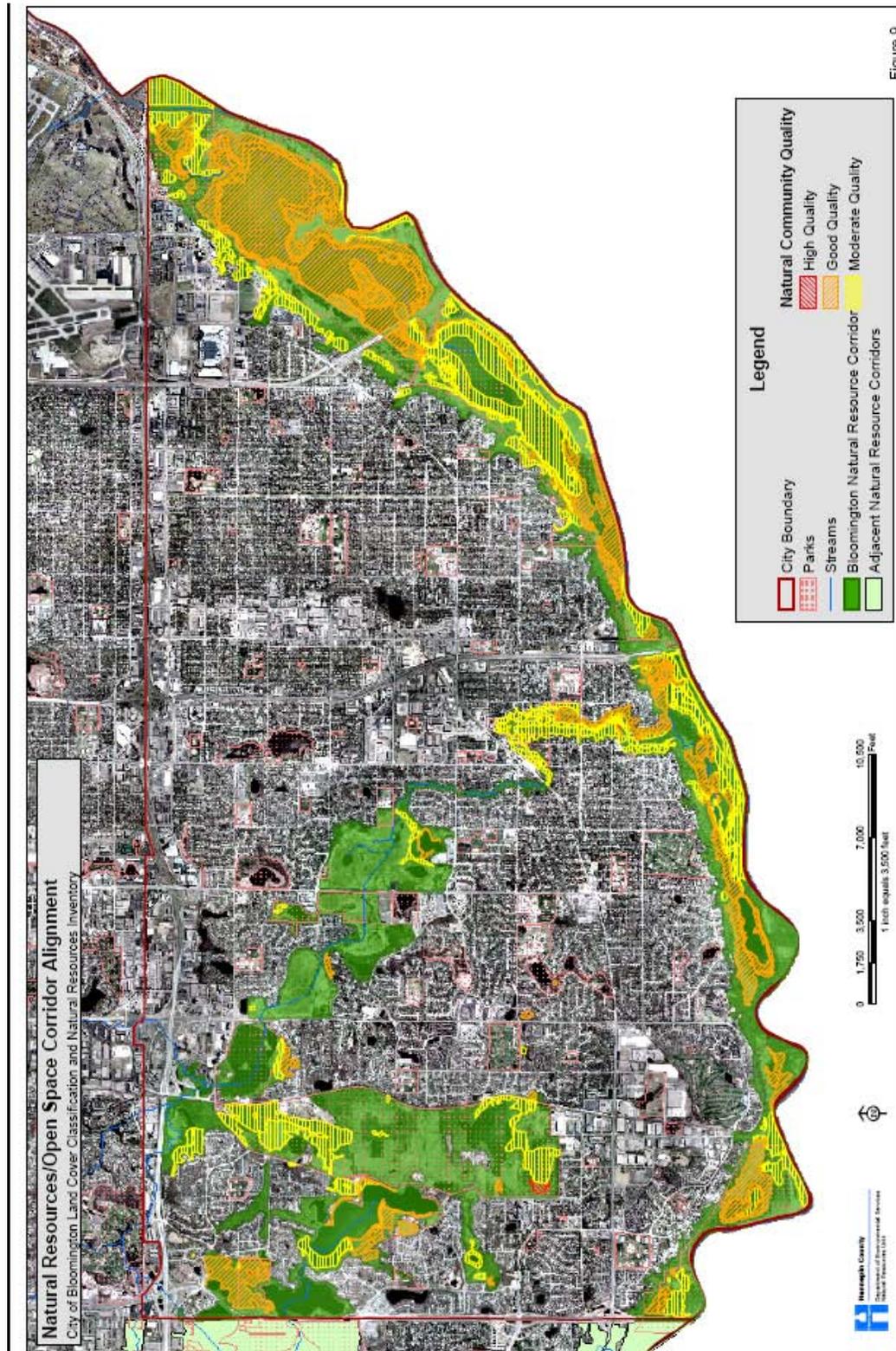


Figure 6.4 - Youth volunteers posing during Buckthorn pull at Pond-Dakota Mission Park



- ▷ Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MnDNR, and private organizations to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a trout stream from a bluff seep or stream to the Minnesota River.
- ▷ Add natural resource and environmental interpretation/education signs and information in conservation areas and during environmental management activities.
- ▷ Encourage citizen volunteers in natural resources management efforts.

Strategy 11: Partner with agencies, organizations and businesses to enhance natural resource access and management.

- ▷ Leverage available resources by pursuing co-funded and/or cooperative agreements for provision and maintenance of natural resources and management.
- ▷ Support public and private efforts to acquire, develop and maintain open space for public use.
- ▷ Take advantage of opportunities that arise from redevelopment activities to add to or to enhance access to the City's open space and natural resources while protecting environmentally sensitive areas.
- ▷ Emphasize the adopt-a-bit-of-Bloomington program for maintenance and management of open spaces and natural resources.

Trails and Bikeways

The sixth parks and recreation goal is to: *connect the community with trails, walks and bikeways.*

Trails have been identified as the most used and desired facility in the park system for a host of reasons including to enhance health, fitness, use for transportation, recreation, accessibility and usability by all ages. The City of Bloomington was primarily developed around automobile transportation and pedestrian and bike facilities were secondary considerations. The City is now mostly developed and lacks a comprehensive network of trails and pedestrian facilities. The City is presently (in 2007 and 2008) preparing an Alternative Transportation Plan, a comprehensive system for inter- and intra-city travel via walking, bicycling, personal transportation assistance devices and rollerblading

-- and their connections/interface with transit (LRT and bus) (See Appendix N). Establishing a system of trails in an existing built community will be a challenge, although trails are the only facilities eligible for Federal and State funding. To establish a system of trails the City will need to utilize numerous strategies identified in the Alternative Transportation Plan (see the working draft Alternative Transportation Plan Map) and as follows:

Strategy 12: Improve bicycle and pedestrian access across highways and major roads and the Minnesota River.

- ▷ Replace Long Meadow Bridge for bicyclists and pedestrian traffic.
- ▷ Add safe and convenient bike and pedestrian crossings of I-494, I-35W, TH 169 and TH 77 and other high traffic streets.
- ▷ Invest to keep trail surfaces and street crossings in safe and good condition.
- ▷ Create grade-separated crossings where feasible.

Strategy 13: Adopt the Alternative Transportation Plan.

- ▷ Identify planned bike trails, lanes, routes and sidewalks.
- ▷ Create landscaped boulevards with a continuous bikeway and walkway.
- ▷ Provide amenities such as public art, gardens, and benches along routes.
- ▷ Integrate parks with transportation, transit and other destinations.
- ▷ Explore opportunities to reclaim space for off street trails when roads are rebuilt.
- ▷ Utilize opportunity corridors (Minnesota River, Xcel Transmission line).
- ▷ Add a trail from I-494 to the Minnesota River Valley largely within the Xcel transmission line corridor. Work with Richfield and Minneapolis to extend that trail north to the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes.
- ▷ Create linkages to trail systems in adjacent communities.
- ▷ Work to develop a MN River valley trail from Fort Snelling to LeSueur, MN.

- ▷ Develop maps of City trail system for distribution, on-line reference and for park kiosks.
- ▷ Pursue non-motorized transportation implementation and funding strategies.

Strategy 14: Improve access to and promote use of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MVNWR).

- ▷ Increase the number of bike and pedestrian access points.
- ▷ Provide connections to the City trail system.
- ▷ Improve signage for access points.
- ▷ Coordinate connections to the planned MnDNR Minnesota Valley River Trail.
- ▷ Partner with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Friends of Minnesota Valley River to market MVNWR facilities and programming.
- ▷ Enhance interpretive and educational opportunities in MVNWR.
- ▷ Provide natural surface trails for bikers and hikers separate from a paved Minnesota River Valley Trail.
- ▷ Provide docks and piers for fishing, bird watching and water access.

Strategy 15: Develop trails and bikeways to meet a range of needs for an aging population.

- ▷ Add loop trail opportunities within parks.
- ▷ Provide amenities such as public art, gardens, and benches along routes.
- ▷ Implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards.

Recreation Facilities

The second park and recreation goal is to: *anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly.*

The community demographics are changing and with it recreation demands and needs are changing including a desire for quality indoor facilities. In order to address recreation facility needs, the following strategies are recommended:

Strategy 16: Maximize use and quality of existing

community recreation facilities.

- ▷ Add restroom timer locks to park buildings.
- ▷ Evaluate the ongoing use and maintenance of outdoor hockey rinks relative to the feasibility of adding refrigerated outdoor rinks.
- ▷ Determine the role of park buildings in neighborhood activities and potential use/reuse or rehabilitation needs.
- ▷ Implement a preferred Tennis Courts Study 2005 recommendation option to reduce the number of courts and overall maintenance costs.
- ▷ Evaluate existing facilities to add quality improvements to extend use such as: lighting, irrigation, artificial turf, etc.
- ▷ Partner with the school district to install artificial turf at Lincoln Stadium to expand community usage of this facility.

Strategy 17: Modify park and recreational facilities to meet a range of needs for an aging and diverse population.

- ▷ Develop facilities for passive and unstructured recreation to address trends and changing tastes.
- ▷ Identify and eliminate barriers to physical accessibility in existing facilities.
- ▷ Continue to develop accessible playgrounds with appropriate equipment for people with disabilities.
- ▷ Enhance access to athletic fields to promote use by people with disabilities.
- ▷ Build or renew facilities to meet or exceed standards for accessibility.

Strategy 18: Assure quality community facilities to meet evolving needs.

- ▷ Build quality facilities that can be adapted to new uses as community needs change.
- ▷ Pursue opportunities to add soccer/lacrosse fields in the system, in particular a lacrosse field for Heritage Hills Park.
- ▷ Evaluate cost-benefit of continued use of City funds for the Bloomington Armory.
- ▷ Evaluate Family Service Center needs, benefits and feasibility including a teen center component.

- ▷ Plan for reuse of Wallo Property as part of the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Master Plan update.
- ▷ Support active living movement in facilities.
- ▷ Pursue opportunities to create additional dog exercise areas and provide the following improvements to the existing dog exercise area:
 - ▶ Trash cans inside at the entrance and within the park area.
 - ▶ Boundary fence around the dog exercise area.
 - ▶ A small dog area with fenced boundary.
 - ▶ Drinking fountain for dogs and people.
 - ▶ Security lighting in the parking lot.
- ▷ Provide access to restrooms, drinking water, bike racks, and shade throughout the park system.

Strategy 19: Develop community gathering locations and improve facilities and parks to enhance sense of community.

- ▷ Develop Normandale Lake Park to improve profile and access for large community gatherings.
- ▷ Develop a lawn games location.
- ▷ Determine the role of park buildings in neighborhood activities and potential use/reuse or rehabilitation needs.

Programs and Events

The second and sixth parks and recreation goals are particularly relevant to programming: *Anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly*, and *Promote a sense of community through recreation programming*.

The City of Bloomington gets high marks on the quality of its recreation programs, but there is room for improvement, in particular in outreach to underserved populations. There are numerous factors that influence recreation participation, including barriers to participation, program communication and marketing and the quality of facilities. Barriers to participation can be: physical, social, cultural, economic affordability, scheduling, language, culturally appropriate methods of engagement and safety. The Needs Assessment suggested that barriers to

Figure 6.5 - Moir Park swing bench is an example of quality amenity for older adults and families



Figure 6.6 - Upgrade existing tennis courts nets such as these "chain-link" nets at Wrights Lake tennis courts

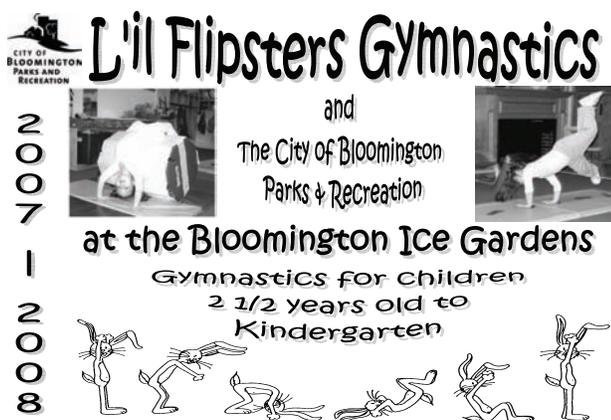


participation might be affecting participation from certain segments of the population, particularly those from immigrant families. In many cases citizens are unaware of program offerings or there is an issue with the presentation. In other cases the facilities used for the programming do not serve the program well or meet resident's expectation for quality. Strategies related to programming and events are as follows:

Strategy 20: Serve a spectrum of age, ability, and interest.

- ▷ Develop inter-generational opportunities in programming:
 - ▶ Programs that get kids to Creekside Community Center.
 - ▶ Programs where seniors can teach, reading, knitting, etc.
 - ▶ Programs for family members to enjoy within the same location.
 - ▶ Encourage seniors to volunteer in schools and playgrounds.
 - ▶ Provide volunteer opportunities to provide transportation for seniors.
 - ▶ Provide volunteer opportunities for children to teach computer skills to seniors.
- ▷ Develop programs to reconnect families and children to nature.
- ▷ Develop programs to teach residents about geo-caching in the parks (Global Positioning System treasure hunting)– to get more residents, especially children into parks and natural areas.
- ▷ Develop history programs to engage children, such as contemporary history.
- ▷ Use participant and community feedback to keep programs and activities fresh and appealing.
- ▷ Benchmark programs annually to determine effectiveness. Evaluate and retool programs not achieving benchmark targets.
- ▷ Use pilot programs to determine effectiveness and increase efficiency.
- ▷ Develop more cooperation between arts program and facility providers in the region to allow more quality, specialized programs and to eliminate duplication of programs.

Figure 6.7 - Bloomington Program Brochure



L'il Flipsters Gymnastics, LLC is a mobile gymnastics organization dedicated to providing the highest quality gymnastics training and motor skill development in a safe and enjoyable environment. It is L'il Flipsters Gymnastics, LLC desire to provide this great opportunity to help improve strength, coordination, balance, spatial awareness, and self-confidence to all children. L'il Flipsters Gymnastics, LLC provides individualized training to each child to enhance development.

L'il Flipsters Gymnastics, LLC enhances children's physical and mental development. Utilizing stuffed animals, shapes, hoops, bearbags, cones, and jump ropes; L'il Flipsters Gymnastics, LLC emphasizes these key areas:

<i>Gymnastics</i>	Instruction on balance beam, tumbling, springboard, vaulting techniques, and other equipment
<i>Rhythm</i>	Warm up and creative movement to music
<i>Gross motor skills</i>	Hops, skips, jumps, leaps, gallops, walks, chasses, and dance steps on balance beam and floor
<i>Hand-eye Coordination</i>	Catch, strike, track, punt and volley with balls and bearbags
<i>Perpetual motion</i>	Challenging movement skills through various circuits

Classes are for boys and girls 2 1/2 years old to kindergarten. Every class has a "L'il Flipsters Training Theme" such as "Animals Can Do Gymnastics, Too!", "Spring Into Action", and "Hey! We're Upside Down". These themes give the children a new challenge, along with teaching concepts, for each class. L'il Flipsters Gymnastics, LLC wants you to know the "whys" behind our class activities. So, L'il Flipsters Gymnastics, LLC will bring you short notes to explain these themes.



- ▷ Work to obtain popular music groups at music events at the Normandale Bandshell and Bloomington Central Station Park; partner with surrounding communities to share resources.

Strategy 21: Improve program accessibility to allow for broad community participation.

- ▷ Continue to offer programming and facilities to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.
- ▷ Provide grants and scholarships to eliminate financial barriers.
- ▷ Create a blog to allow networking between program participants.
- ▷ Expand off-peak programming with more programs over the Noon hour and weekends.
- ▷ Improve the cooperation and connections with the police and neighborhoods with events such as "Bloomington Night Out in the Parks".

Strategy 22: Distribute community events geographically across the quadrants of the City.

- ▷ Match park attributes to prospective events.
- ▷ Use census data and participant mapping to determine likely popularity of specific events with neighborhoods.
- ▷ Use block clubs to plan and promote neighborhood events.

Strategy 23: Promote informal and casual gatherings.

- ▷ Schedule neighborhood get-togethers at picnic shelters.
- ▷ Coordinate community gardens.
- ▷ Identify and promote a "Game of the Week" to encourage casual get-togethers.
- ▷ Add a movies in the park program to provide family oriented and community oriented activities.
- ▷ Provide informal/drop-in activities for people of all ages.
- ▷ Promote the Normandale Bandshell with an electronic reader board sign on Normandale Blvd.

Strategy 24: Provide culturally rich and cross-cultural programming.

- ▷ Build on the popularity of the Latino music festival and provide similar events focused on other cultures.
- ▷ Develop shows for children and diverse cultures at the Center for the Arts.
- ▷ Add another ethnic festival, i.e., a multi-ethnic food and culture festival.
- ▷ Provide translation, work with cultural groups, and recruit leaders to assist with overcoming language, social, and cultural barriers.
- ▷ Target neighborhoods with diverse populations and conduct special events such as roving playground programs, carnivals, music, events with food, etc.

Operations and Maintenance

The Parks and Recreation Department has on average an operations and maintenance budget of approximately \$4.7 million dollars of which roughly 37% is for park and facility maintenance. Public input suggests there is desire for high quality and well maintained parks and facilities and that the City has been able to meet this challenge. However, to continue to do so, will be increasingly difficult with aging facilities and declining revenue. Responsibility for parks and facility maintenance is with the Public Works Department and associated costs are billed back to the Park and Recreation Division. This has functioned fairly well over time; however, this arrangement lessens the Parks and Recreation Division's control over its maintenance budget, priorities, and expenditures. Public input also suggests a growing interest in environmental sustainability. Greater sustainability can be achieved over time through operations, maintenance and facility changes. The following operations and maintenance strategies are recommended to improve operations, reduce costs and create greater environmental sustainability:

Strategy 25: Continue to increase operational efficiency and innovation.

- ▷ Work with the hockey association to improve the quality of outdoor ice.

- ▷ Use the latest technological resources to improve field irrigation, lighting, etc., to reduce repair time and use water and energy more efficiently.

Strategy 26: Develop and implement environmentally sustainable practices.

- ▷ Determine the cost-benefit of "naturalizing" unused portions of parks. A no-mow policy for parks generally requires intensive restoration and periods of intensive maintenance initially, but lower day-to-day costs associated with routine mowing. Larger areas of parks restored to prairie or no-mow tend to be more successful than smaller areas.
- ▷ Provide education and interpretation to inform the public about the purpose and function of no-mow natural areas.
- ▷ Purchase "green" products made from high recycled and post-consumer waste material content and focus on quality versus quantity.
- ▷ Choose economically sustainable options, considering staff time, energy use, resource use and life-cycle costs.
- ▷ Encourage employee use of alternative forms of transportation for commuting to work.
- ▷ Train staff in sustainable maintenance and environmental management best practices (BMP's) such as Integrated Pest Management.
- ▷ Integrate sustainable practices, low impact development practices and green design into new construction and renewal of all facilities.

Arts and History

The fourth parks and recreation goal is to: *Enhance the City's arts, cultural, and historic assets.*

The construction of the Bloomington Center for the Arts at the Bloomington Civic Plaza in 2002 provided a central facility for performing and visual arts in the community. While the Center is a wonderful facility, there is a need to extend art out into the community. This can occur through programs, events and physical art elements in parks and public places. Public art and events help build a feeling of community, create identity, attract visitors, supports economic development and enhances aesthetics. Art programs and instruction

build well-rounded individuals and provide social opportunities. Author Dr. Richard Florida in “The Rise of the Creative Class” asserts that creativity has emerged as the single most important source of economic growth. He states that an economic engine of growth are people who value investments in research and development, the arts, and education rather than sports stadiums and strip malls and that these people and their activities have a profound affect upon the economy, society and class structures.

Bloomington has a rich heritage of Native American and pioneer settlement, city formation, culture, entertainment, transportation and hospitality. The City has been expanding its effort to restore and encourage access to this history through projects like Pond-Dakota Mission Park and the restoration of the Old Town Hall.

Bloomington can expand the reach of the arts, history and culture through the following strategies:

Strategy 27: Integrate public art into community life.

- ▷ Designate locations for public art.
- ▷ Seek sponsors for creation of public art.
- ▷ Hold an annual art fair.
- ▷ Integrate art into park and public space improvement projects. This can be free-standing art elements or artistically designed infrastructure, such as fences, benches, lighting, etc.

Strategy 28: Increase opportunities to participate in arts and culture activities.

- ▷ Provide informal/drop-in activities for people of all ages.
- ▷ Increase the variety and number of opportunities for interactive participation.
- ▷ Partner with the Bloomington Fine Arts Council to bring art and cultural activities into neighborhoods.
- ▷ Include shows for children and diverse cultures at Center for the Arts concert series.
- ▷ Offer culturally based programs and classes.

Strategy 29: Identify and preserve sites and properties of historic significance.

- ▷ Increase programming to educate residents about the region’s history, including Native American history, and preservation of historic assets.
- ▷ Adopt evaluation criteria for potential sites and properties to be added to the Bloomington Historical Register.
- ▷ Rebuild the historic barn at Pond - Dakota Mission Park.
- ▷ Work with Bloomington Historical Society to raise funds for the completion of phase three and four of the Old Town Hall interior restoration and to undertake the evaluation of the Town Hall for placement on the Register of Historic Places. The Bloomington Historical Society will undertake the raising of funds to upgrade the storage and exhibit capabilities for the continuing preservation of its significant collections.

Communications and Marketing

The last parks and recreation goal is: *Build community support for parks and recreation.*

The success of this Plan is dependent on the Park and Recreation Division’s ability to provide public awareness and promote park programs, operations, facilities and policies as well as being able to receive meaningful community feedback to guide the parks system into the future. Specific communications and marketing strategies are as follows:

Strategy 30: Improve communication and marketing to increase knowledge of recreational opportunities, needs and benefits.

- ▷ Use internet and new technologies to provide 24/7 customer service.
- ▷ Provide translation, work with cultural groups, and recruit leaders to reach an ethnically diverse population.
- ▷ Provide information on the City’s web site and in other publications about parks and facilities that are accessible to people with disabilities.

Figure 6.8 - Tri-City Skate Board Park; An Existing Partnership between the YMCA, Edina, Richfield and Bloomington



Figure 6.9 - Tree sale at Civic Plaza



- ▷ Become a clearinghouse for community events, facilities and recreation programs.
- ▷ Add a business liaison to the parks and recreation commission.
- ▷ Highlight the economic and quality of life benefits of parks, trails, recreation and open space. Consider using the VIP (Vision, Insight and Planning) as a model of communications.
- ▷ Acknowledge and recognize parks and recreation sponsors and donors.
- ▷ Increase public, partner and city and staff awareness of Parks and Recreation services, programs, and facilities.
- ▷ Ensure a Parks and Recreation Division workforce that is reflective of city demographics.
- ▷ Produce marketing materials to be distributed to hotels and businesses.
- ▷ Notify hotels of community events to promote visitor participation and enhance the City's reputation as a tourist destination.

Partnerships and Community Outreach

The Bloomington parks system consists of a mix of public and private parks, facilities, open spaces. The City has long maintained partnerships with schools, churches, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Three Rivers Park District, recreation groups and others to provide public access to facilities (fields, gyms, playgrounds, etc.) and to operate programs. These partnerships are an efficient and generally mutually beneficial arrangement, and in some cases critical to providing needed neighborhood or community facilities, but there are challenges of coordination and access to facilities. Continued partnerships and outreach to businesses, service groups, and other alternative organizations, and better recruitment and management of individual volunteers and volunteer groups will become even more critical to the park system to respond to community need and recreation trends, to improve service efficiencies, and to minimize facility and maintenance costs. Strategies for partnerships and community outreach are as follows:

Strategy 31: Promote volunteer involvement in parks.

- ▷ Host a community park clean-up day.
- ▷ Hire a volunteer coordinator.
- ▷ Provide volunteer opportunities that are meaningful to individuals of all ages and families.
- ▷ Recruit adult volunteers to be positive role models for youth through mentoring and coaching.
- ▷ Partner with businesses and hotels to identify needs of non-resident population.
- ▷ Partner with civic organizations to form a festival planning committee.
- ▷ Work with volunteers to create gardens, perform trash clean-up, park maintenance efforts, and other such beautification projects.

Strategy 32: Develop collaborative partnerships with individuals, public, private and non-profit organizations, schools and associations to build support for parks and recreation.

- ▷ Work with parks and recreation departments in other municipalities to promote and provide special event services.
- ▷ Update Joint Use and Programming Agreements with the school district, college and other entities serving residents to maximize public access to community resources.
- ▷ Establish and maintain ongoing formal relationships with partners to facilitate communication, needs identification and program delivery.
- ▷ Establish agreements and relationships with service clubs to enhance program opportunities through the sharing of resources.
- ▷ Foster partnerships with businesses to develop and provide resources for recreational programs and facilities.
- ▷ Seek non-traditional partnerships to provide new and greater recreational opportunities
- ▷ Pursue public and private partnerships to acquire or promote access to land for parks, open space and recreation when commitment to develop, operate and maintain the land and or facility is established.
- ▷ Partner with environmental groups to provide educational opportunities.

- ▷ Hold an annual “green business” awards ceremony.
- ▷ Engage businesses and employees in active living actions and facility development.

Future Plan Review and Updating

This Master Plan is a general guide to park and recreation improvements, program enhancements and operations over the next 20 years (2007 to 2026) however, to keep it relevant, it needs to be evaluated and refined on a regular basis to keep pace with demographic, recreation, funding and other trends as they evolve.

Strategy 33 : Keep the Park Master Plan updated and relevant.

- ▷ Survey residents biannually to determine needs and trends.
- ▷ Review and refine the Park Master Plan annually as needed and do a major update every ten years.

7 *Funding Plan*

Introduction

This chapter addresses the second of two over-arching issues identified in the Needs Assessment: the capital improvement funding gap. In order to achieve the parks and recreation goals and City-wide strategic plan goals, this chapter identifies strategies and actions to minimize the imbalance between capital improvement needs and capital funding revenue and to achieve a stable and sustainable funding program. This chapter is broken down into the following sections: funding options available to cities, park facility replacement program, fiscal accountability and priorities to address the shortfall in capital funding revenue. Within each section, strategies are identified followed by specific implementation tasks.

Funding Gap

The Need Assessment identified a significant funding gap between planned capital improvements and capital funding revenue. Funding for upkeep, replacement and revitalization of the system has not kept up with the needs. Based on the Parks and Recreation CIP, the funding gap is of approximately \$27.6 million over the next five years is due primarily to:

- ▷ The need to reinvest and renovate existing facilities.
- ▷ New trails, complete park acquisition, and community facilities.
- ▷ Lack of traditional funding from new development. A large portion of the park system was acquired and built using non-tax revenue (park dedication from subdivision developers) which is now a very limited source of funds.

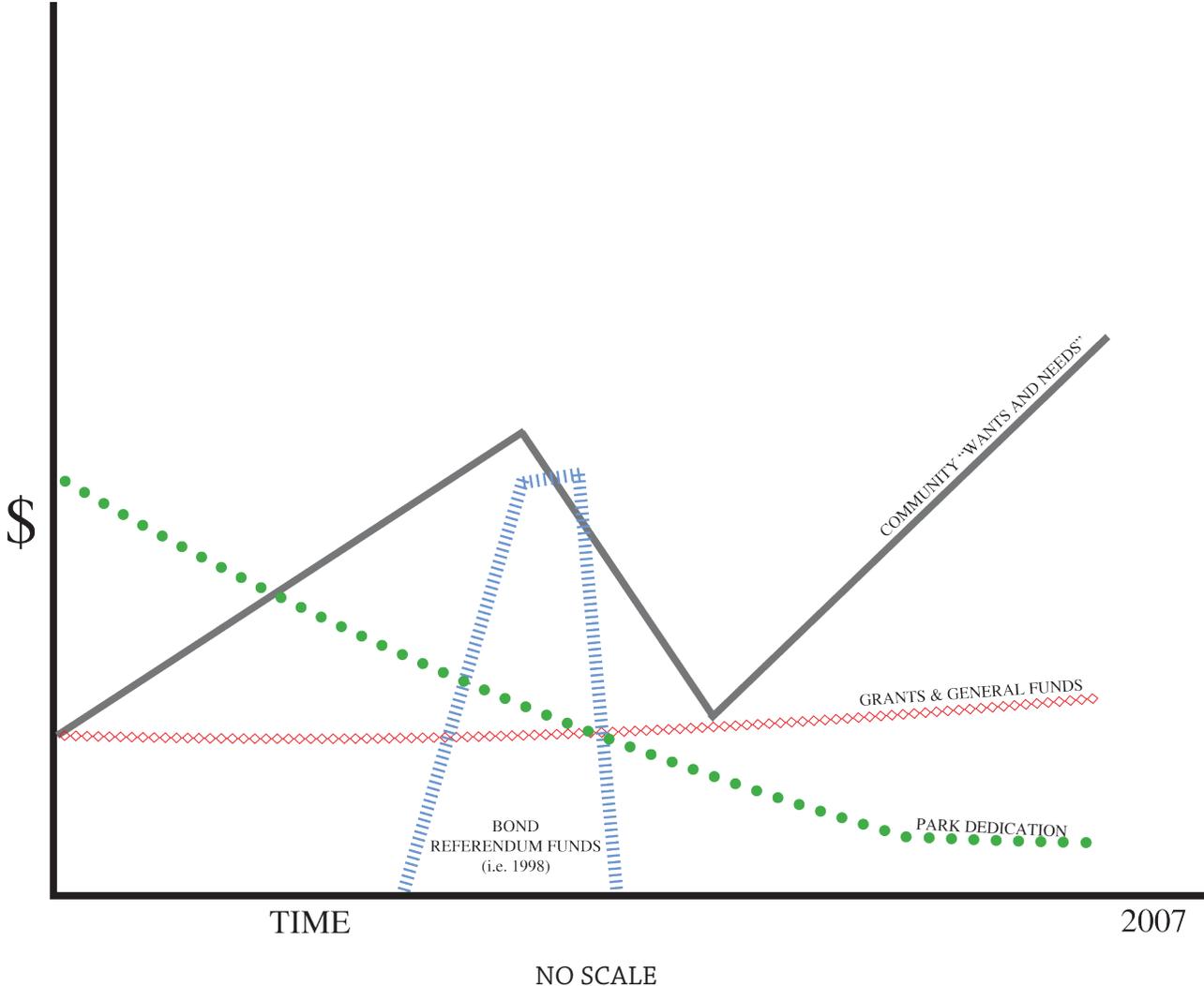
It should be noted that the \$27.6 million funding gap does not include specific city-wide trail improvements which will be determined through the Alternative Transportation Plan.

Need for Economic Sustainability

Funding Cycle

A consistent and higher annual level of park funding is necessary for the timely renovation and replacement of park facilities and to meet community wants and needs. Capital improvement funding for parks and facilities in Bloomington has varied over time; however, over the long term there is a cyclical nature to the funding cycle (See Figure 7.1). Over time park dedication has been in decline, grants and general fund revenue have remained relatively flat. Public wants and needs rise as revenue declines and priority improvements are deferred. The City turns to a bond referendum for additional revenue for capital improvements. The community's

Figure 7.1 - Parks and Recreation Funding Cycle Illustration



wants and needs are fulfilled. Over time, the needs begin to grow as funding for replacement declines and the cycle continues. The boom and bust cycle is more pronounced now because park dedication funds from new subdivisions have declined. The park dedication funding has not been replaced by a stable on-going annual fund for park renovation.

Reduced Park Dedication Monies

In the past, park dedication was the primary source of revenue used to build the Bloomington park system. As Bloomington transitioned from a rural to urban community, park dedication was a significant and reliable source of revenue for capital improvements and parkland acquisition. As Bloomington became fully developed, park dedication revenue significantly declined. Today, most of the park dedication monies are from redevelopment and in 2006, the park dedication collected was approximately \$250,000 dollars. This amount represents only a fraction of what is needed to meet identified needs. As a developed community, it is unlikely that Bloomington will have park dedication as a significant source of park improvement funds into the future. A replacement funding source is needed.

Protection of Public Investment

The Bloomington park and recreation system is a mix of neighborhood, community, natural resource and regional parks and specialty recreation facilities that are highly valued by Bloomington residents. This comprehensive parks system positively affects quality of life and provides great access to parks, but requires resources to maintain and replace aging facilities. Parks and open space in Bloomington encompass over 1/3 the land area with 97 parks and recreation facilities that serve the neighborhoods, the community and the entire metropolitan region. The estimated value of the parks system in today's dollars is approximately \$700 million. This is a very significant investment in public infrastructure. It makes sense to maintain the value of this significant public investment through a regular funding of renovation and revitalization.

Funding Options

The capital funding gap is significant and the ability to reduce the imbalance between revenue and spending will require a long term commitment and use of all available funding options. There is an array of funding options available to cities to choose from. There are economic, social and political ramifications associated with each funding option. Some options are widely used and feasible for Bloomington. Other options will require careful consideration. Appendix L provides a description of potential funding options and the positive and negatives attributes associated with each option. All options were considered for the City of Bloomington and the most feasible considering economic, social and political ramifications are:

- ▷ Park revitalization program.
- ▷ Bond referendum.
- ▷ Parks foundations.
- ▷ Challenge grants.
- ▷ Benefit assessment districts.
- ▷ User fees, resident and non resident.
- ▷ Corporate sponsorship and partnerships.
- ▷ Greater due diligence to increase efficiencies.
- ▷ Better coordination with schools and private recreation providers.
- ▷ Better coordination with other communities.

Recommendations-Major Initiatives

Park Revitalization Program

The City has been successful at providing a high level of maintenance of its many parks and facilities over the years; however, the ability to continue high quality maintenance is a challenge as facilities age, maintenance costs rise and funding is decreasing. City residents desire well maintained high quality parks and facilities. As the City moves forward, it is important that park and facility maintenance remain at a relatively high level and be carried out consistently from year to year in order to meet public expectations and to maintain the quality of life in the City.

The City of Bloomington should fund a life-cycle cost replacement program that dedicates monies annually to the planned and systematic replacement and revitalization of aging park facilities, equipment and infrastructure. This funding program is modeled after the successful Bloomington Pavement Management Program. It makes sense to protect the significant public investment made in the Bloomington parks, by implementing a life-cycle replacement program to keep them in good, safe condition and responsive to community needs through regular sustainable investment. Approximately \$1,000,000 per year is needed to cover planned and phased on-going replacement and revitalization of children’s play equipment, paving, trails, buildings, lighting and fencing, etc. In order to ensure consistent and timely maintenance and funding, the following strategy is recommended:

Strategy 34: Adopt and fund a park revitalization program for park infrastructure.

- ▷ Identify the life-cycle and replacement costs for key park and recreation facilities such as shelters, trails, playgrounds, fencing, parking areas, and lighting, etc.
- ▷ Budget the replacement cost of these assets over their life cycles and annually fund replacement through the general fund.

Repositioning Strategy

Park repositioning as described in Chapter 6 is to focus on creating magnet parks that have high quality “signature” recreation facilities and allow other nearby parks to become satellite parks. These parks would become community focal points and the focus of re-investment with higher quality facilities and signature features, a greater range of amenities and opportunities for programming. The satellite parks will evolve over time to serve as neighborhood open space and will provide informal recreation.

This strategy is recommended to guide investment in aging parks at key locations to long-term allow greater efficiencies, improve quality, minimize maintenance and replacement costs, improve system responsiveness and improve the economic sustainability of the park

system. This strategy is expected to reduce maintenance and capital expenditures by 5-10% over the long-term.

Bond Referendum

Minimizing the gap between capital improvement needs and the funding sources will require all available options. A bond referendum is one option that has worked well for the City in the past (Figure 7.2 - Bond Referendum History). With the right package of new parks and recreation facility improvements, consideration of the timing of other agency referendums and with efforts to build support and advocacy, a referendum should serve the City well in the future. A park improvement bond referendum of \$15 million to \$20 million is recommended to occur by 2010. It should include a mix of new trails and bikeways, community park and recreation improvements and natural resource enhancements.

Strategy 35: Define the content (amount and improvements) and approach/timing of a future parks, recreation and community facilities bond referendum; an essential tool needed to fund planned park system improvements.

- ▷ Conduct a bond referendum study to determine the appropriate bond referendum amount, package of improvements and appropriate timing.
- ▷ Develop a bond referendum marketing strategy that identifies key partners to assist the City to market and champion the referendum.

Figure 7.2 - Bond Referendum History

Year	Bond Amount	Bond Package
1954	\$450,000	Parkland acquisition & park development
1956	\$600,000	Parkland acquisition & park development
1963	\$1,500,000	Parkland acquisition & Park improvements
1968	\$1,660,000 \$2,600,000	Municipal buildings (\$1,660,000), parkland acquisition (\$1,600,000) & park development (\$1,000,000)
1974	\$1,100,000 \$3,570,000 \$1,600,000	Municipal buildings (\$1,100,000), parkland acquisition and development (\$3,570,000) and recreational facilities - golf course and ice garden (\$1,600,000).
1990	\$22,014,700 \$3,750,000	Municipal buildings (police & fire facilities, public works, Creekside Center and city hall & arts center) (\$22,014,700) * and parkland acquisition and park improvements (\$3,750,000). *Referendum was defeated by voters.
2000	\$7,200,000	Bloomington Center for the Arts facility.

Fiscal Accountability

As identified in Chapter 2, the number of separate departments having a role in parks and recreation affects communications, budgeting, priorities and quality control.

Greater control over funding, staffing, budgeting, maintenance and construction of City parks and recreation facilities would likely create some improvement in efficiency and cost accounting.

Strategy 36: Improve fiscal accountability, monitoring and efficiency.

- ▷ Consider Department/Division restructuring such that the Parks and Recreation Manager is in charge of and has control over the funding, staffing, budgeting, maintenance and construction of City parks and recreation facilities.
- ▷ Seek funding for the anticipated level of activity associated with new park and recreation facilities so that routine maintenance functions (such as mowing, restroom services and trash removal) are adequately provided for.
- ▷ Develop sustainable spending practices throughout the park system that consider the short and long-term costs of projects, programs and services.
- ▷ Leverage available resources by pursuing co-funded and or cooperative agreements for provision and maintenance of parks, recreation facilities and open spaces.
- ▷ Adopt a challenge grant program to leverage and match private and foundation funds with public dollars.

Partnerships and Community Outreach

The City provides neighborhood and community parks and partners with schools, churches, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Three Rivers Park District, recreation groups and others to provide additional facilities and to operate programs. This is an efficient method of delivery, but has challenges of coordination and access to facilities.

Capital Improvement Plan Review

The park systems Capital Improvement Program (CIP) identifies and budgets for priority park improvements such as playgrounds, buildings, trails, etc., on a yearly basis. The CIP allows the City to budget and prioritize specific park improvement projects matched to available funding and resources. The list of projects in the CIP does not obligate the City to undertake the improvement. The Parks Master Plan's list of park improvements are part of a twenty-year vision. Due to the limited financial resources, not all listed projects will necessarily be completed. Upon approval of this Plan, the 2008-2026 CIP should be reviewed and reprioritized using the Parks Master Plan as a tool. Improvement projects should meet one or more of the following parameters to be considered:

Capital Improvement Projects

The project:

- A. Supports multiple park and recreation goals and strategies.
- B. Revitalizes an existing park or recreation facility that is needed to meet a minimum service area need or fulfill a minimum facility guideline.
- C. Maximizes quality and use of an existing community recreation facility.
- D. Is unique to the service area or any similar, overlapping or duplicate facilities have been evaluated for achieving efficiency and service needs.
- E. Improvement is needed for safety, accessibility or usability reasons.
- F. Leverages city funds with private sector monies, Regional Park funds, grants, or other partner funds.
- G. Is a replacement/upgrade based on an established lifecycle revitalization program.
- H. Maintenance and operations needs are identified and funded.
- I. Improves management and sustainability of City natural resources areas.
- J. Adds new facilities which meet an identified program need and provide access to community recreation for target audiences (families with children, seniors, teens, or new cultures) which are not available today.
- K. Creates a community gathering space which increases identity, builds sense of community and enhances heritage and the arts.
- L. Creates a trail or bikeway connection which enhances recreation and mobility, enhances access to parks, connects internal trails/bikeways or connects to other trail networks.

Land Acquisitions

Park land:

- A. Purchase is needed to preserve or gain access to a high quality natural resource area, as defined by the Bloomington Natural Resources Inventory.
- B. Purchase is an identified acquisition need and is leveraged by private sector monies, Regional Park funds, grants, or other partner funds.
- C. Purchase is needed to fill an identified minimum park service area need.

A *Appendix A*

Park and Recreation Goals and Strategies

Parks and Recreation Goals and Strategies

Introduction

Parks and open spaces, comprising one-third of the total land area of Bloomington, are among the City's most treasured assets. Feedback from the on-line survey, community meetings, and focus groups highlighted the importance of protecting and preserving these assets. Respondents and participants emphasized the need for stewardship of open spaces and natural resources.

Bloomington's recreational programs and facilities bring people together and add to a sense of civic pride and belonging. As a fully developed community, maintaining and updating park and recreational facilities will preserve the value and popularity of the City's park system. Demographic and lifestyle changes will lead to new demands such as for more biking and walking trails or intergenerational programming.

The City's arts, culture, and historic assets add vibrancy and meaning to community life. Residents want places to gather, socialize, and meet one's neighbors. Residents also encourage activities that build a sense of community such as city-wide festivals and events that celebrate Bloomington's cultural diversity.

The Parks and Recreation Goals and Strategies are based on draft parks and recreation goals and strategies from [Imagine Bloomington 2025 Strategic Plan](#) planning process, and modified to reflect the Parks and Recreation Division's Mission and community needs.

Community Values

We have high quality recreation and open spaces available to all.

We support actions that promote our physical and emotional well-being.

We protect and preserve our environmental resources.

We are a community that appeals to families with children.

Goals

- 1. Maintain and enhance City park and recreational assets.**
- 2. Anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly.**
- 3. Preserve and maintain our natural resources for ourselves and future generations.**
- 4. Enhance the City's arts, cultural, and historic assets.**
- 5. Promote a sense of community through recreation programming.**
- 6. Connect the community with trails, walks and bikeways.**
- 7. Build community support for parks and recreation.**

Potential Strategies and Actions

1 Goal – Maintain and enhance City park and recreational assets.

Strategy: Keep Parks Master Plan updated and relevant

Review and refine the Park Master Plan annually as needed and do a major update every ten years.

Strategy: Promote community stewardship of parks

Enhance the neighborhood adopt-a-park program.
Solicit private sector sponsorship to support park improvements.
Host a community park clean-up day.
Create a business park stewardship forum.

Strategy: Improve access to and promote use of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MVNWR)

Increase the number of bike and pedestrian access points.
Provide connections to the City trail system.
Improve signage for access points.
Coordinate connections to the planned DNR Minnesota Valley river trail.
Partner with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Friends of Minnesota River Valley to market MVNWR facilities and programming.
Enhance interpretive and educational opportunities in MVNWR.
Replace the Long Meadow Bridge (Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) for bicyclists and pedestrian traffic.
Provide docks and piers for fishing and water access.
Improve Natural Surface Trails to enhance safety and reduce erosion.

Strategy: Create a city-wide loop to link parks and open spaces throughout City

Designate route and provide signage.
Create landscaped boulevards with a continuous bikeway and walkway.
Provide amenities such as public art, gardens, and benches along route.
Create linkages to trail systems in adjacent communities.
Develop maps of City trail system for distribution and on-line reference.

Strategy: Preserve and manage aquatic and terrestrial environments

- Develop and implement control methods for nuisance species such as geese and deer.
- Control invasive plant species.
- Monitor plant and animal disease outbreaks and plan/act accordingly.

Strategy: Use native plants to meet environmental objectives and reduce maintenance requirements

- Use native plants to reduce watering, fertilizing, and mowing.
- Promote the use of native plants as a source of food and shelter for wildlife.
- Restore and manage native prairie where appropriate.

2 Goal – Anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly.

Strategy: Keep Park Master Plan updated and relevant

- Review and refine the Park Master Plan annually as needed and do a major update every ten years.

Strategy: Modify park and recreational assets to meet a range of needs for an aging population

- Market options and opportunities for passive and unstructured recreation.
- Develop facilities for passive and unstructured recreation to address trends and changing tastes.
- Identify and eliminate barriers to physical accessibility.
- Add loop trail opportunities within parks.

Strategy: Serve a spectrum of age, ability, and interest

- Survey residents biannually to determine needs and trends.
- Implement intergenerational programming.
- Provide recreational and educational opportunities for active adults.

Strategy: Partner with athletic, arts, and business organizations

- Partner with businesses and hotels to identify needs of non-resident population.
- Produce marketing materials to be distributed to hotels and businesses.

Notify hotels of community events to promote visitor participation and enhance the City's reputation as a tourist destination.

Foster partnerships with businesses to develop and provide resources for recreational programs.

Strategy: Improve customer service and marketing to increase participation in programs and knowledge of recreational opportunities

Use census data and participant mapping to locate programs.

Use internet and new technology to provide 24/7 customer service.

Provide translation, work with cultural groups, and recruit leaders to reach an ethnically diverse population.

Provide information on the City's web site and in other publications about parks and facilities that are accessible to people with disabilities.

Gather program feedback on a regular and systematic basis to determine customer needs and seek input from non-users on barriers to participation and programs/service needs.

Use feedback to continue to refine program content, delivery and outreach to increase participation and satisfaction.

Become a clearinghouse for community events, facilities and recreation programs.

Strategy: Emphasize quality programming

Use participant and community feedback to keep programs and activities fresh and appealing.

Benchmark programs annually to determine effectiveness.

Evaluate, retool programs not achieving benchmark targets.

Use pilot programs to determine effectiveness and increase efficiency.

Strategy: Improve program accessibility to allow for broad community participation

Continue to offer programming and facilities to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Continue to develop accessible playgrounds with appropriate equipment for children with disabilities.

Provide an accessible athletic field to promote use by people with disabilities.

Provide grants and scholarships to eliminate financial barriers.

Provide translation, work with cultural groups, and recruit leaders to assist with overcoming language, social, and cultural barriers.

Create a blog to allow networking between program participants.

3 Goal – Preserve and maintain our natural resources for ourselves and future generations.

Strategy: Preserve and maintain our natural resources for ourselves and future generations

Coordinate with Hennepin County development of “Land Cover Mapping Inventory Report”.

Utilize the Land Cover Mapping to prioritize preservation and management activities.

Develop a City policy for delineating and creating wetland buffer zones.

Inform citizens of available maps of areas that are currently considered wetland areas, park-related, and non-buildable areas.

Strategy: Promote community stewardship of natural areas

Create an advisory commission on environmental resources.

Add a natural resource coordinator City staff position.

Be a model for stewardship through city practices, maintenance, operations, land management and facilities.

Coordinate activities for Arbor Day and Earth Day with local neighborhoods and schools.

Develop a public information program and prepare materials on specific areas of environmental interest.

Evaluate the effectiveness of adopt-a-wetland and/or adopt-a-park programs and identify ways to improve these programs.

Continue curbside cleanup and include hazardous household materials such as fluorescent bulbs, thermostats, and paint cans to prevent inappropriate disposal.

Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MnDNR, and private organizations to establish a trout stream from a bluff seep or stream to the Minnesota River.

Develop programs to reconnect families and children to nature.

Add natural resource and environmental interpretation/education signs and information in conservation areas and during environmental management activities.

Strategy: Continue development of existing stormwater maintenance and management policies and programs

Implement and enhance City policies and criteria for stormwater maintenance activities consistent with planning objectives for development.

Implement and enhance criteria to determine ponding requirements, acceptable storm sewer drain expectations, and reasonable sediment levels.

Evaluate best management practices to improve storm water management techniques and reduce levels of pollutants in water.

Encourage broad citizen participation in the development of policies, programs, and criteria for stormwater management.

Strategy: Partner with agencies, organizations and businesses to enhance natural resource access and management.

Leverage available resources by pursuing co-funded and or cooperative agreements for provision and maintenance of natural resources and management.

Support public and private efforts to acquire, develop and maintain open space for public use.

Take advantage of opportunities that arise from redevelopment activities to add to or to enhance access to the City's open space and natural resources while protecting environmentally sensitive areas.

Form a trail coalition of surrounding communities and stakeholders to lobby and fund the development of a trail along the MN River from Fort Snelling to LeSueur.

Work with partner agencies to develop an appropriate trail signage that provides way-finding and education and interpretation of the natural resources.

Develop an "adopt a park" program for maintenance and management of open spaces and natural resources.

Work to enhance appropriate access to natural resource and conservation areas.

Strategy: Develop and implement sustainable practices

Integrate low-impact development techniques into stormwater management plans for development and redevelopment projects.

Cut energy use in vehicles and equipment

Partner with environmental groups to provide educational opportunities.

Hold an annual "green business" awards ceremony.

Promote the use of native plants in landscaping.

Sign the U.S. Mayors Conference Climate Protection Agreement.

4 Goal – Enhance the City’s arts, cultural, and historic assets.

Strategy: Integrate public art into community life

Designate locations for public art.

Seek sponsors for creation of public art.

Hold an annual art fair.

Integrate art into park and public space improvement projects. This can be free-standing art elements or artistically designed infrastructure, such as fences, benches, lighting, etc.

Strategy: Increase opportunities to participate in arts and culture activities

Provide informal/drop-in activities for people of all ages.

Increase the variety and number of opportunities for interactive participation.

Partner with the Bloomington Fine Arts Council to bring art and cultural activities into neighborhoods.

Strategy: Increase arts activity to embrace the ethnic diversity of Bloomington

Build on the popularity of the Latino music festival and provide similar events focused on other cultures.

Create another multi-ethnic food and culture festival.

Strategy: Identify and preserve sites and properties of historic significance

Increase programming to educate residents about the region’s history, including Native American history, and preservation of historic assets.

Adopt evaluation criteria for potential sites and properties to be added to the Bloomington Historical Register.

Rebuild the historic barn at Pond-Dakota Mission Park.

Work with Bloomington Historical Society to improve quality of artifacts and interpretation of the BHS museum and collections.

5 Goal – Promote a sense of community through recreation programming and facilities.

Strategy: Distribute community events geographically across the quadrants of the City

Match park attributes to prospective events.

Use census data and participant mapping to determine likely popularity of specific events with neighborhoods.

Use block clubs to plan and promote neighborhood events.

Strategy: Develop community gathering locations

Build a community or neighborhood center(s).

Develop Normandale Lake Park to improve profile and access for large community gatherings.

Develop a lawn games location.

Strategy: Promote informal and casual gatherings

Schedule neighborhood get-togethers at picnic shelters.

Coordinate a community garden.

Identify and promote a “Game of the Week” to encourage casual get-togethers.

Strategy: Increase arts activity to embrace the ethnic diversity of Bloomington

Include shows for children and diverse cultures at Center for the Arts concert series.

Increase profile and marketing of the Latin music festival.

Add another ethnic festival.

Strategy: Host a City-wide community festival

Partner with civic organizations to form a festival planning committee.

Hold events in various locations across City of Bloomington.

Include a variety of activities to appeal to the diverse community.

Seek volunteers and sponsors to finance, plan, and run the festival.

Strategy: Develop/improve facilities and parks to enhance sense of community.

Evaluate Community Center needs, benefits and feasibility.

Develop signature facilities in parks to serve as neighborhood focal points and icons.

Determine the role of park buildings in neighborhood activities.

6 Goal – Connect the community with trails, walks and bikeways.

Strategy: Adopt an Alternative Transportation Plan.

Identify planned bike trails, lanes, routes and sidewalks.

Pursue non-motorized transportation implementation and funding strategies.

Support Active Living movement in facilities, events and programs.

Integrates parks with transportation, transit and other destinations.

Strategy: Improve bicycle and pedestrian access across highways and major roads and the Minnesota River.

Replace the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge trail crossing.

Add safe and convenient bike and pedestrian crossings of I-494, I-35W, TH 169 and TH 77.

Strategy: Connect to neighboring cities trails and bikeway systems.

Add a trail from I-494 to the Minnesota River Valley largely within the Xcel Energy power line corridor. Work with Richfield and Minneapolis to extend that trail north to the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes.

Work to develop a MN River valley trail from Fort Snelling to LeSueur.

7 Goal – Build community support for parks and recreation.

Strategy: Increase outreach and communications with advocacy groups, partners, the business community and others about recreation system needs and benefits.

Adopt a challenge grant program to leverage and match private and foundation funds with public dollars.

Add a business liaison to the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission.

Highlight the economic and quality of life benefits of parks, trails, recreation and open space.

Engage businesses and employees in active living actions and facility development.

Strategy: Utilize a VIP (Vision, Insight and Planning) approach to positioning parks and recreation as a vital element of a quality community.

Consistently portray the benefits of parks and recreation in “Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs”.

Market sustainable actions and initiatives to build community good will.

Strategy: Adopt and fund a facility management/replacement program for park infrastructure.

Identify the life-cycle and replacement costs for key park and recreation facilities such as shelters, trails, playgrounds, parking areas, and lighting.

Budget the replacement cost of these assets over their life cycles and fund replacement through the general fund.

If necessary, pursue localized benefit assessment districts to fund area park facility replacement/renovation.

Strategy: Develop collaborative partnerships with individuals, businesses, public, private and non-profit organizations, schools and associations to build support for parks and recreation.

Work with other fellow parks and recreation departments in other municipalities to promote and provide special event services.

Develop challenge grants for park and recreation facility improvements.

Update Joint Use and Programming Agreements with the school district, college and other entities serving residents to maximize public access to community resources.

Establish and maintain ongoing formal relationships with partners to facilitate communication, needs identification and program delivery.

Establish agreements and relationships with service clubs to enhance program opportunities through the sharing of resources.

Create an “adopt a park” program for parks and open space maintenance and management

B *Appendix B*

Existing Park Inventory Maps and Park Improvement Recommendations

Table of Contents

Park Name	Page No.	Park Name	Page No.
Adelman Pond.....	1	Hampshire Pond.....	63
Barthel's Pond.....	2	Harrison Picnic Grounds.....	64
Bill Warren Park.....	3	Heritage Hills Park.....	67
Bloomington Center for the Arts.....	5	Hillcrest Elementary.....	69
Bloomington Family Aquatic Center.....	6	Hohag Playlot.....	70
Bloomington Ferry Road Park.....	7	Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park.....	71
Bloomington Ice Garden.....	8	Hyland Greens Golf Course.....	73
Bloomington National Guard Armory.....	9	Hyland Hills Park.....	74
Boone Pond.....	10	Hyland Hills Tennis Courts.....	75
Brookside Park.....	11	Indian Mounds Elementary.....	76
Bryant Park.....	14	Jefferson High School.....	77
Brye Park.....	17	Kennedy Senior High School.....	78
Bush Lake Beach.....	19	Lincoln Park.....	79
Canterbury Oaks Pond.....	22	Lincoln Stadium.....	80
Cavell Pond.....	23	Logan Playlot.....	81
Cedarcrest Park.....	24	Lyndale Green Park.....	82
Central Park.....	27	Maplewood Park.....	83
Collegeview Park.....	30	Marsh Lake Park.....	86
Columbus Playlot.....	31	Marsh Lake Playfields.....	89
Cooks Playlot.....	33	McAndrews Playlot.....	90
Countryside Park.....	36	Moir Park.....	91
Cranberry Park.....	39	Mound Springs Park.....	94
Creekside Park.....	40	Nativity of Mary Church.....	95
Creekside Community Center.....	42	Nesta Hills Park.....	96
Dred Scott Playfield.....	43	Nine Mile Creek Park.....	98
Dupont Playlot.....	46	Nine Mile Creek Playlot.....	99
Dwan Golf Course.....	47	Nord Myr Marsh.....	100
Effa Playlot.....	49	Norman Ridge Park.....	101
Eight Crest Park.....	50	Normandale Elementary.....	102
Fenlason Park.....	51	Normandale Lake Park.....	103
Forest Glen Park.....	52	Northcrest Park.....	106
France Pond.....	53	Oak Grove Elementary/Middle School.....	109
Gene C. Kelly Playfield.....	54	Off-leash Recreation Area for Dogs.....	111
Girard Lake Park.....	55	Old Town Hall.....	112
Haeg Park.....	59	Olson Middle / Elementary School.....	113
Hampshire Hills Park.....	62	Overlook Pond.....	115

Table of Contents

Park Name	Page No.	Park Name	Page No.
Oxboro Lake Park.....	116	Woodbrige Marsh.....	168
Parker’s Picnic Grounds.....	118	Wright’s Lake Park.....	169
Pauly’s Pond.....	119	Wyoming Playlot.....	171
Penn Lake Park.....	120	Xavier Court Playlot.....	172
Pickfair Pond.....	121	Xerxes Pond.....	173
Pleasant Playlot.....	122		
Pond-Dakota Mission Park.....	124		
Poplar Bridge Park.....	126		
Quail Ridge Playlot.....	128		
Reynolds Park.....	129		
Rhodes Playlot.....	132		
Ridgeview Park.....	133		
River Ridge Playlot.....	135		
Running Park.....	136		
Skreibakken Park.....	137		
Smith Park.....	138		
Soens Park.....	141		
Southdell Playlot.....	142		
Southglen Park.....	144		
Southwood Park.....	146		
St. Bonadventure.....	148		
Sunrise Park.....	149		
Tarnhill Park.....	151		
Timberglade Pond.....	153		
Tretbaugh Park.....	154		
Valley View School and Playfield.....	156		
Vanderbie Park.....	158		
Veness Pond.....	160		
Wanda Miller Pond.....	162		
Washburn Elementary.....	163		
West Bush Lake Park.....	164		
Westwood Park.....	166		
Winchester Pond.....	167		

Adelman Pond

Address: 8524 Russell Avenue S.

Classification: Pond

Size: 6.6 Acres water area

1.0 Acres land area

7.68 Total acres

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Barthel's Pond

Address: 2700 West 93rd Street

Classification: Pond

Size: 4.2 Acres water area

4.3 Acres land area

8.5 Total acres

Existing Features:

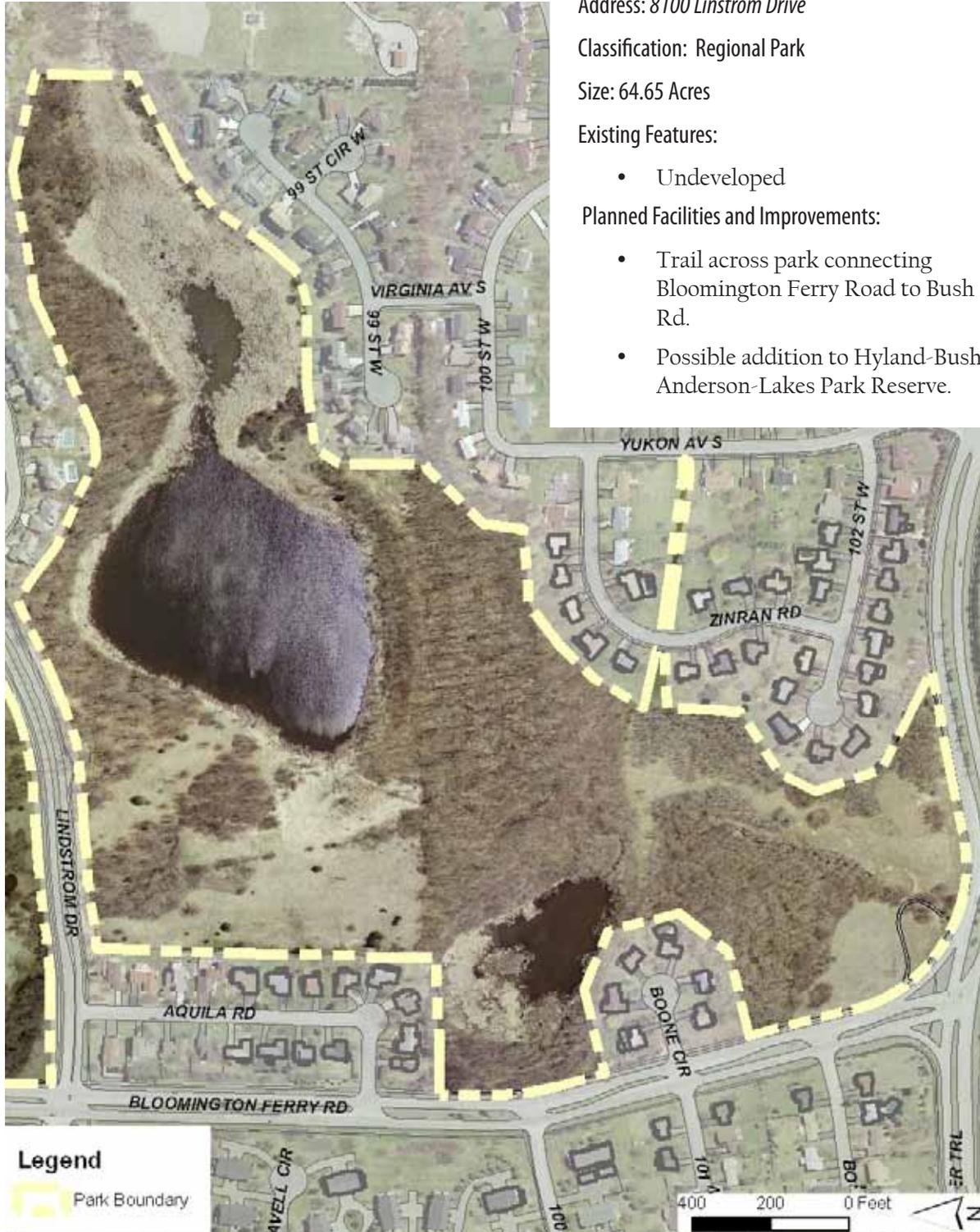
- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Bill Warren Park

Existing Conditions



Address: 8100 Linstrom Drive

Classification: Regional Park

Size: 64.65 Acres

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Trail across park connecting Bloomington Ferry Road to Bush Lake Rd.
- Possible addition to Hyland-Bush-Anderson-Lakes Park Reserve.

Bill Warren Park - Master Plan



Bloomington Center for the Arts

Address: 1800 West Old Shakopee Road

Classification: Special Use Area

Size: 1 Acre

Existing Features:

- 2 Exhibition galleries
- 2 Theaters
- Rehearsal hall
- Dance studio
- 5 Classrooms
- Bloomington Fine Arts Council offices
- Off-street parking

Existing Conditions



Bloomington Family Aquatic Center

Address: 301 East 90th Street

Classification: Special Park Area

Size: (Located at Valley View Playfield)

Existing Features:

- A 17,500 Square foot pool area
- B Zero-depth entry wading
- C Water slide
- D Bathhouse

E Diving boards and drop slide

F Sand volleyball

G Concession stand

H Off-street parking

Planned Features and Improvements:

- Expanded food court area
- Playground equipment
- Splash play area
- 2nd Water slide
- Locker room improvements

Existing Conditions



Bloomington Ferry Road Park



Bloomington Ice Garden

Address: 3600 West 98th Street

Classification: Special Park Area

Size: 10.6 Acres

Existing Features:

- A 3 Ice sheets
- B Off-street parking

Existing Conditions



Bloomington National Guard Armory

Address: 3600 West 98th Street

Classification: Private Recreational Facility

Size: 9.88 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Gymnasium
- B Off-street parking

Proposed Facilities and Improvements::

- Gymnasium expansion

Existing Conditions



Boone Pond

Address: 10324 Zinran Avenue S.

Classification: Pond

Size: 4.4 Acres water

4.9 Acres land

9.3 Total acres

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Brookside Park



Address: 10000 Xerxes Avenue S.

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.47 Acres water area

18.03 Acres land area

22.5 Total acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 Tennis courts
- D 4 Soccer fields
- E 1 Volleyball court
- F Lighted hockey rink
- G Lighted general skating rink
- H Off-street parking
- I 1 Softball diamond

Planned Facility and Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2026
- Remove skinned infield on softball field
- Permeable overflow parking area
- Pave hockey rink and replace boards
- Renovate park building with restroom timer locks
- Improve lighting for security
- Add field with irrigation on adjacent church property

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to tennis courts, soccer fields & volleyball court
- Upgrade playground for safety and accessibility

Brookside Park Existing Conditions



Brookside Park Master Plan



Bryant Park

Address: *1001 West 85th Street*

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.89 Water acres

19.81 Land acres

20.7 Total acres

Existing Features:

- A Park building
- B 4 Tennis courts
- C 2 Softball diamonds
- D 1 Baseball diamond
- E Basketball/game court
- F Lighted hockey rink
- G Off-street parking
- H Playground

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2021
- Renovate park building with exterior restrooms & timer locks
- Additional trail connections and loop
- Improve park lighting for security

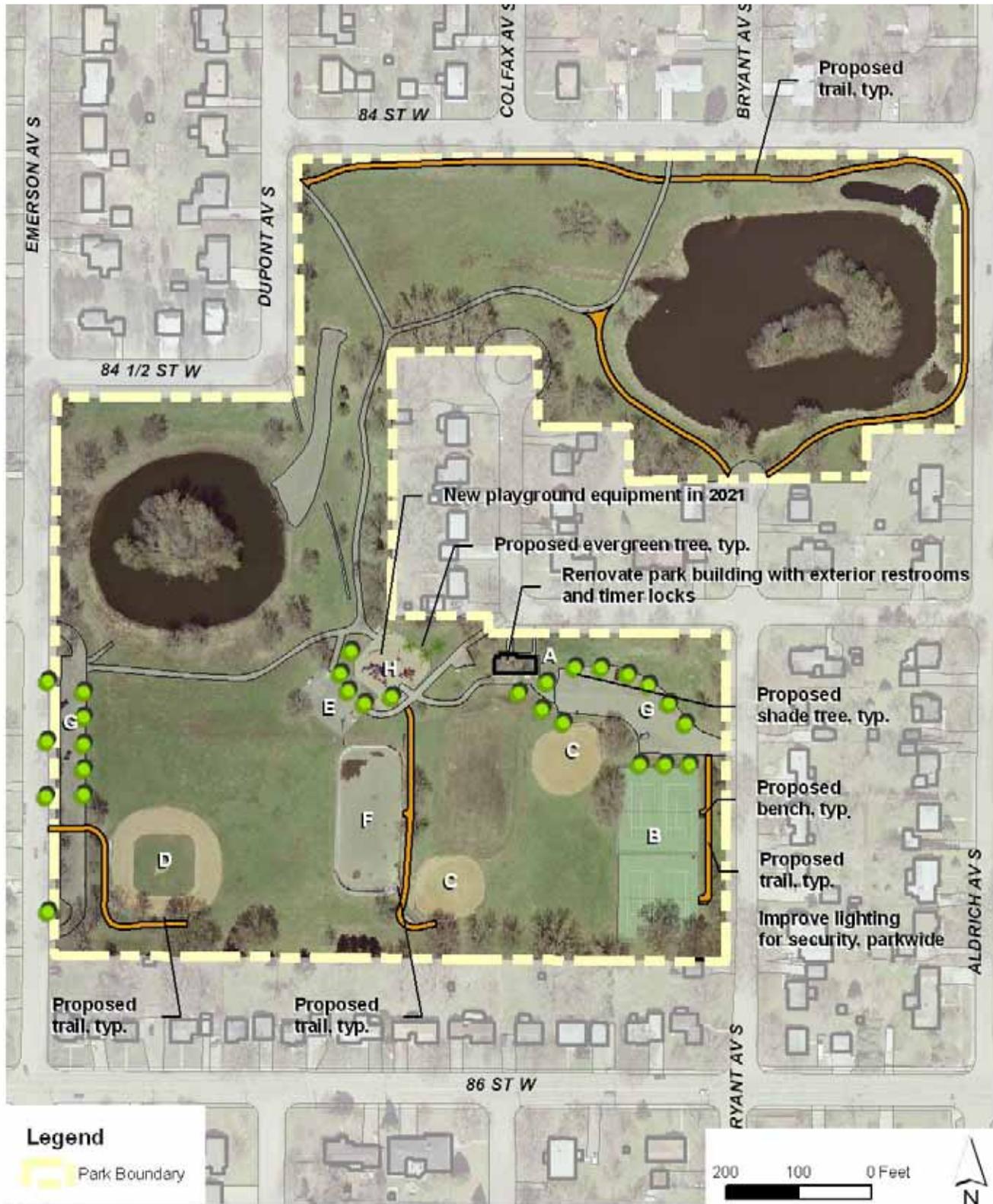
Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to tennis courts, soccer fields & baseball fields, spectator seating & hockey rink
- Accessible parking lot striping and signage

Bryant Park Existing Conditions



Bryant Park Master Plan



Brye Park



Address: 10500 Xavier Avenue S

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.5 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 Tennis courts
- D Basketball court
- E Soccer field
- F Softball diamond
- G Lighted hockey rink
- H Lighted general skating rink
- J Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2011
- Renovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to soccer fields
- Accessible parking lot striping and signage
- Add accessible picnic table and path by playground
- Upgrade playground for safety and accessibility

Brye Park Existing Conditions



Bush Lake Beach



Address: 9140 East Bush Lake Road

Park Classification: Regional Park

Size: 12.47 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C Beach house
- D Swimming Beach
- E Off-street parking
- F Picnic shelter
- G Sand volleyball
- H Trails
 - Grills

Proposed Facilities and Improvements:

- Picnic shelter
- Replace playground equipment in 2016
- Pedestrian bridge

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to bench near bathhouse
- Add bumper rail to fishing pier
- Accessible van parking near bathhouse
- Upgrade playgrounds for accessibility and safety
- Upgrade picnic areas near shelter building & volleyball courts for accessibility with paths

Bush Lake Beach Existing Conditions



Bush Lake Beach Master Plan



Canterbury Oaks Pond

Address: 3806 W. 103rd Street

Park Classification: Pond

Size: .84 Acres water area

.76 Acres land area

1.6 Total acres

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Cavell Pond

Address: 8351 W. 106th Street

Park Classification: Pond

Size: 1.79 Acres water

6.44 Acres land

8.23 Total acres

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Cedarcrest Park



Address: *8700 Bloomington Avenue*

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.0 Acres

Note: Land leased from church

Existing Features:

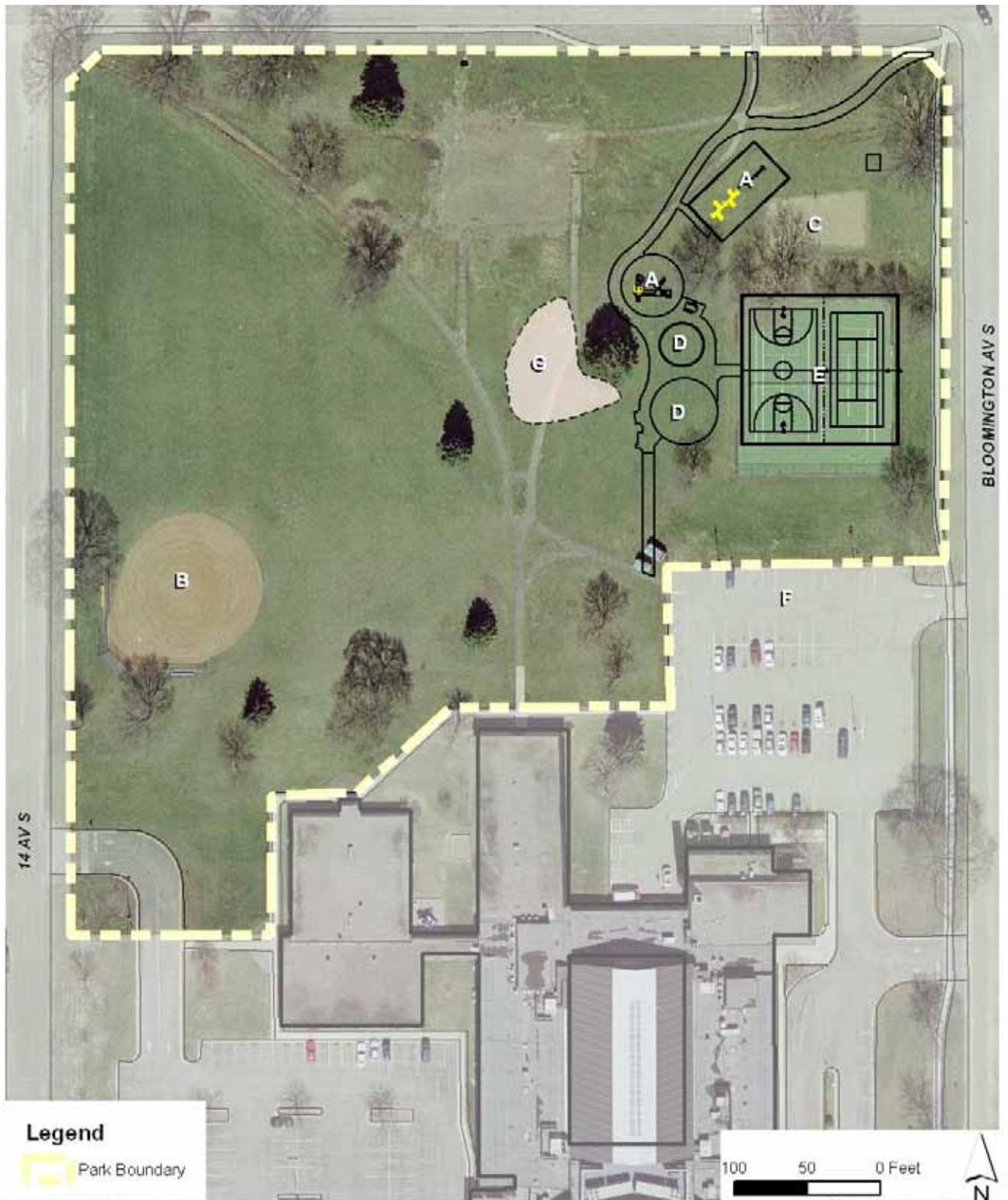
- A Playground equipment
- B Softball diamond
- C Volleyball court
- D Splash pad play equipment
- E Tennis/basketball courts
- F Off-street parking
- G Temporary pond

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Relocate ballfield after gymnasium addition
- Expand off-street parking
- Storm detention pond



Cedarcrest Existing Conditions



Central Park

Address: 100th to 114th Avenue and Nine Mile Creek

Park Classification: Large Urban Park

Size: 218.75 Acres

Existing Features:

A Trails

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Trail head parking area at Morgan Avenue cul-de-sac
- Playground near James Avenue intersection

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Provide accessible surface adjacent to bench at the overlook

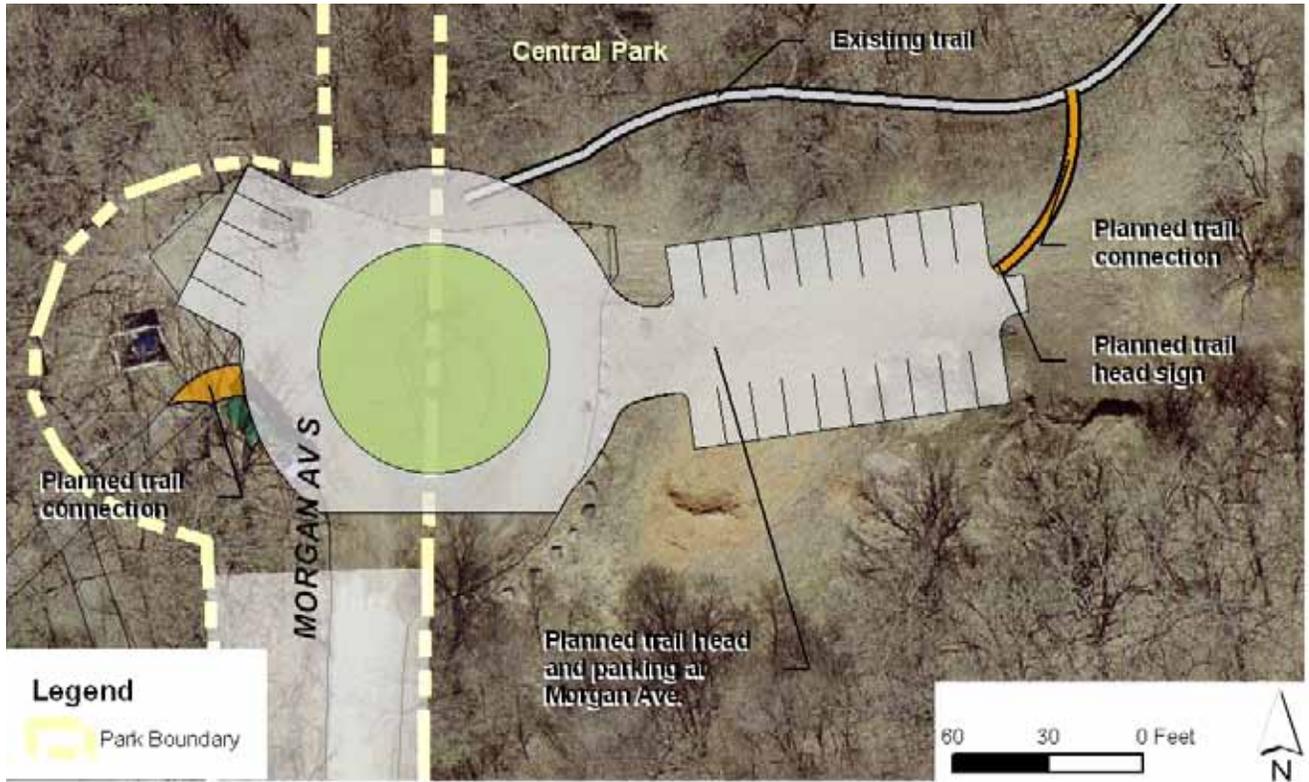
Note: Park boundary extends to the MN River

Central Park Existing Conditions



Central Park Master Plan

Master Plan Area 'A' Detail Area (see Existing Conditions Map for location)



Master Plan Area 'B' Detail Area (see Existing Conditions Map for location)



Collegeview Park

Address: 4200 W. 98th Street

Classification: Conservation Area

Size: 7.5 Acres

Existing Features:

- Trail

Existing Conditions



Columbus Playlot



Address: 10030 Columbus Avenue S.

Park Classification: Playlot

Size: 5.6 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B 2 Softball diamonds
- C Half-court basketball



Proposed Features and Improvements:

- Trail on west side of the park
- Picnic shelter
- Replace playground equipment in 2009



Accessibility Recommendations:

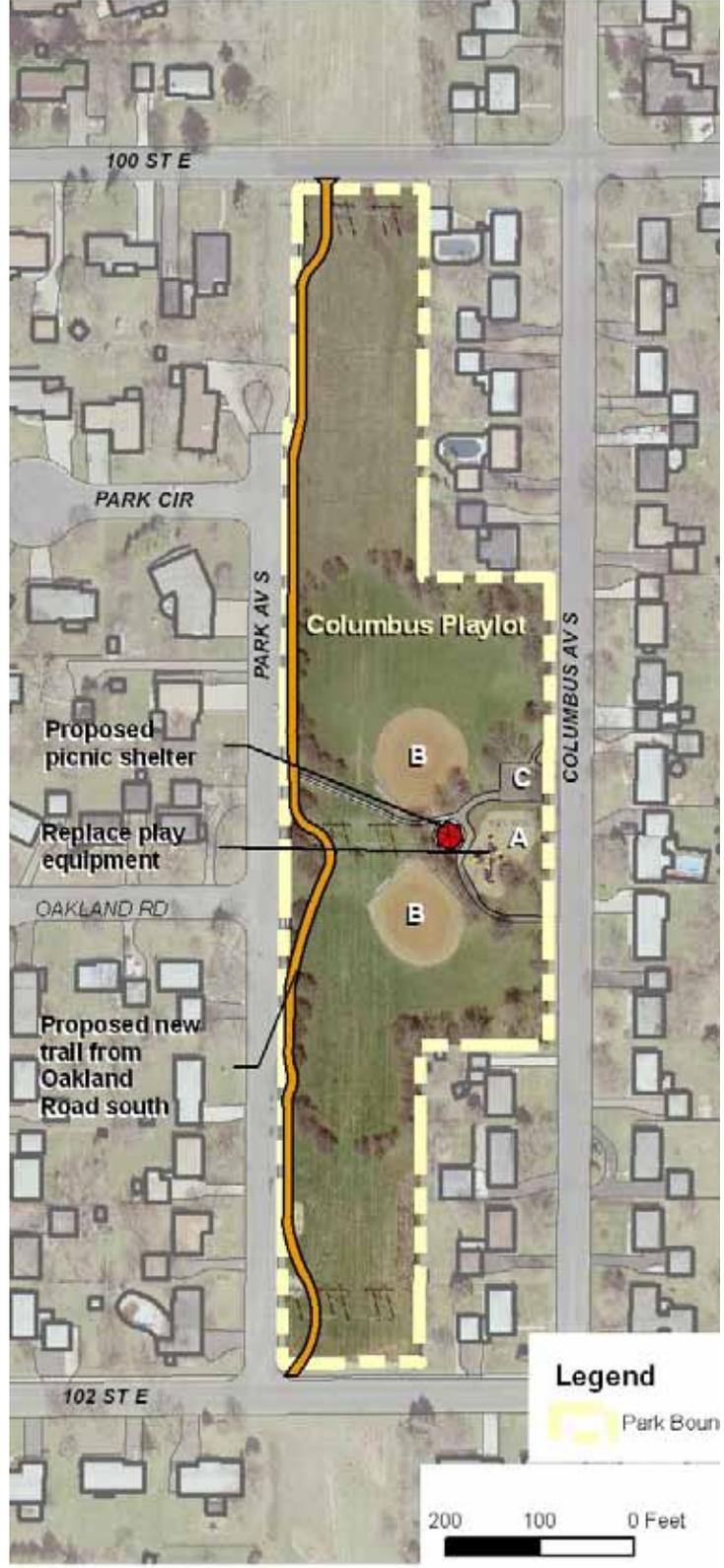
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Add accessible surface under bench by playground
- Modify trail from Columbus Ave with a grade less than 5%



Columbus Playlot Existing Conditions



Columbus Playlot Master Plan



Cooks Playlot



Address: *8301 13th Avenue South*

Park Classification: Playlot

Size: 1.6 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Trail
- C Half-court basketball

Proposed Features and Improvements:

- Accessible trail to both streets, playground, basketball court
- Replace playground equipment in 2009

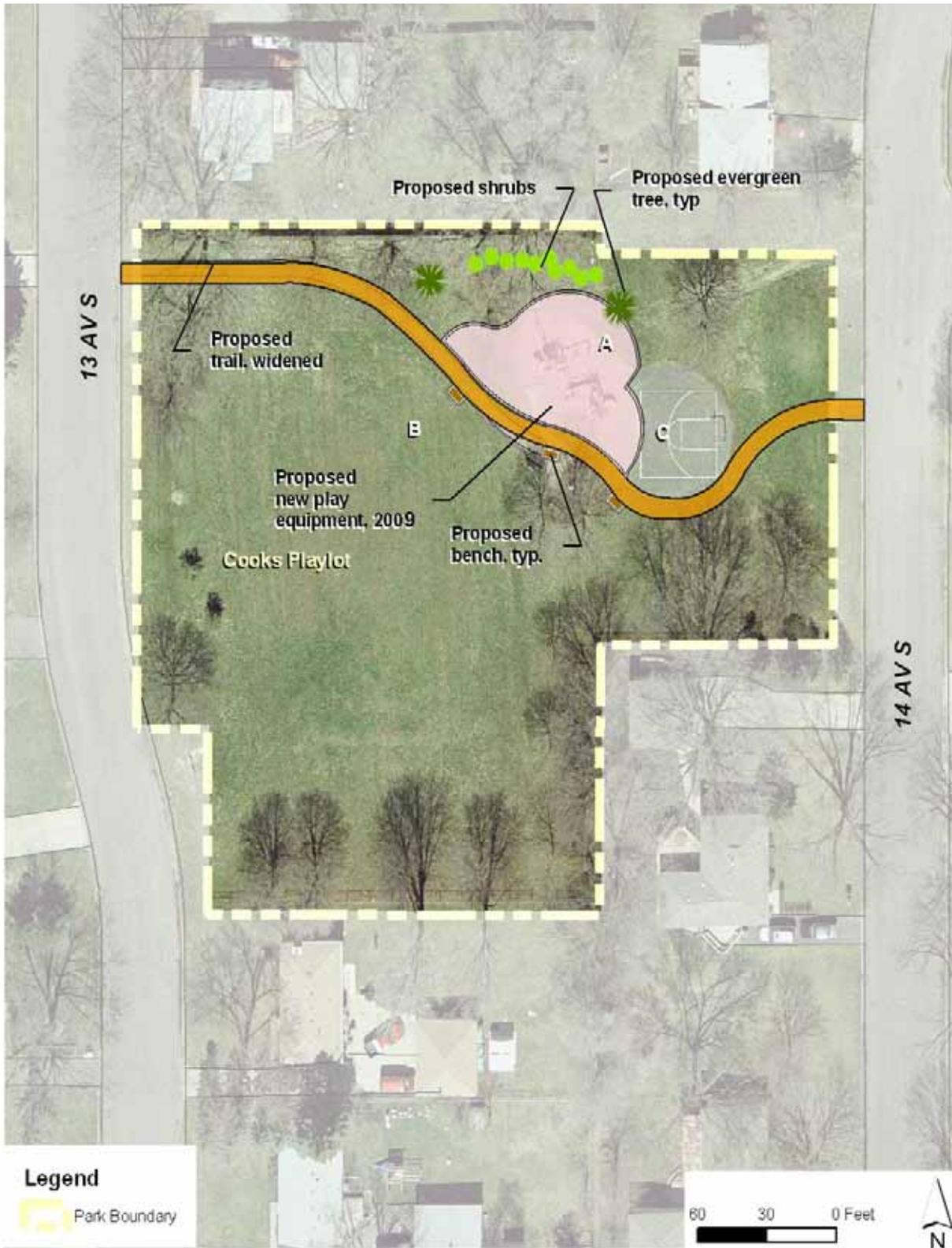
Accessibility Recommendations:

- Upgrade playground for accessibility
- Connect accessible picnic table to walkway
- Provide accessible surface adjacent bench seating
- Accessible path to basketball court

Cooks Playlot Existing Conditions



Cooks Playlot Master Plan



Countryside Park



Address: 10240 Bloomington Ferry Road

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.2 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment-accessible
- B Softball diamond
- C Half-court basketball
- D Picnic shelter
- E Off-street parking

Proposed Features and Improvements:

- Park shelter building for programming with restrooms
- Enlarge parking lot
- Replace play equipment in 2020
- Walkway to public sidewalk

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Modify walkways to have grades less than 5% grade
- Provide paved surface under benches
- Provide accessible parking & signage
- Provide accessible picnic table
- Upgrade play structure for accessibility and safety
- Provide accessible path to bench, play structure, to public sidewalks & ballfield.
- Move softball field fencing to provide wider route to field



Countryside Park Existing Conditions



Countryside Park Master Plan



Cranberry Park

Address: 9200 West Bush Lake Road

Classification: Conservation Area

Size: 9.4 Acres

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Creekside Park



Address: *9900 Newton Avenue S.*

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.0 Acres

Existing Features:

- B Softball diamond
- C 2 Soccer fields
- D Off-street parking (Creekside Community Center)

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible curb-cut ramp from parking lot

Creekside Park Existing Conditions



Creekside Community Center

Address: 9801 Penn Avenue S

Classification: Special Use Facility

Size: 4.74 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Creekside Community Center building
- D Off-street parking

Planned facilities and improvements:

- New Family Services Center

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking lot striping and signage

Existing Conditions



Dred Scott Playfield



Address: 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road

Classification: Community Playfield

Size: 48.5 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C Concessions
- D 6 tennis courts
- E 2 Soccer/football fields
- F 9 softball diamonds
- G 2 baseball fields: Tony Olivia Field (DS1) & Ken Swartz Field (DS5)
- H 3 volleyball courts
- I 2 basketball/game courts
- J Off-street parking
- K Mini-golf course (fee)
- L Batting cage (fee)
 - Drinking fountain

- Resurface trails
 - Volleyball lights
 - Plant shade trees
 - Large picnic shelter
- Accessibility Recommendations:**
- Provide accessible parking stalls, striping & signage
 - Provide accessible paths to tennis courts, basketball court, playground, baseball fields & softball fields
 - Upgrade playground for accessibility
 - Provide accessible picnic tables at each field with accessible paths

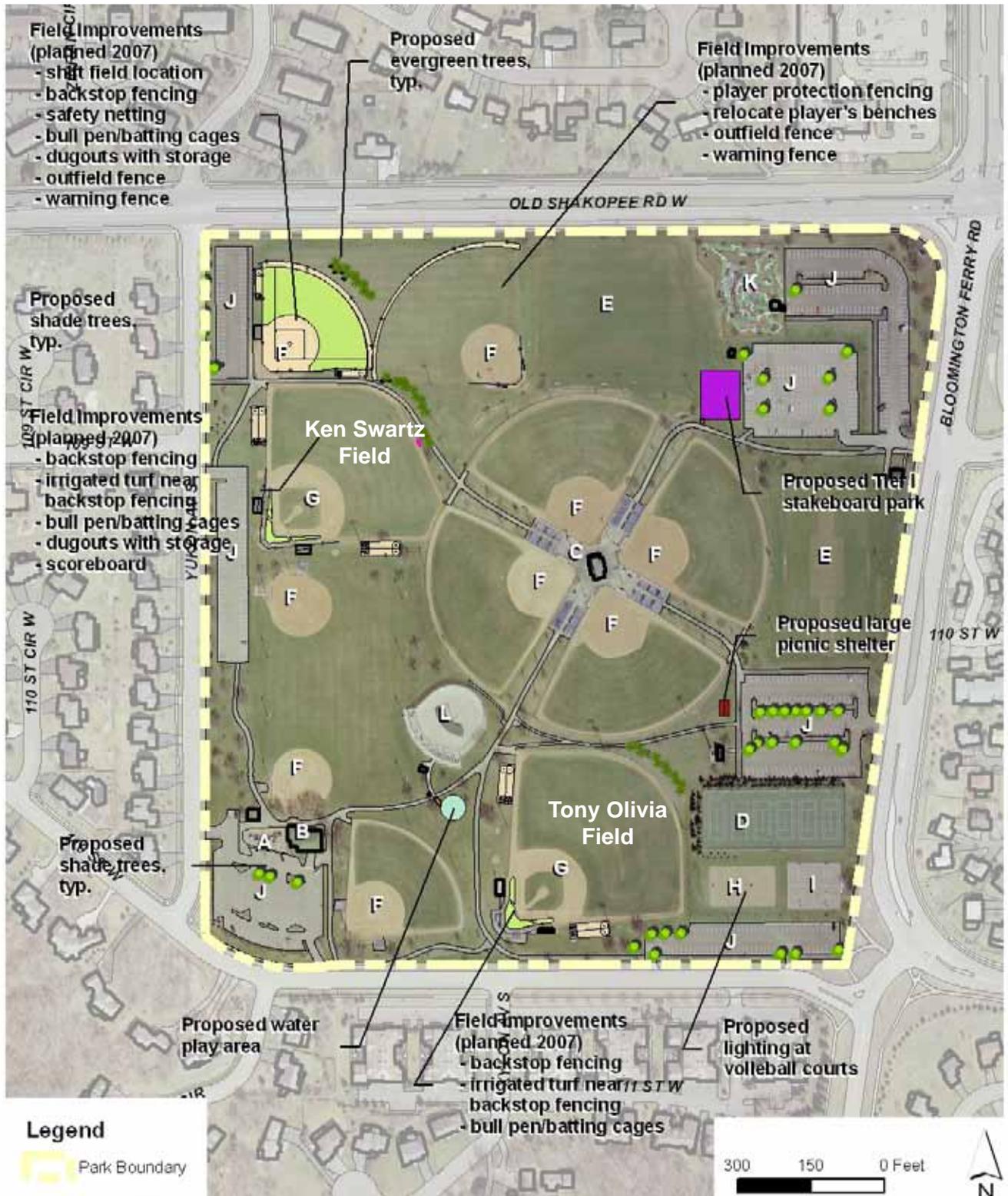
Planned Features and Improvements:

- Baseball and softball field improvements in 2008
- Press box on Field #1
- Restroom timer locks
- Safety netting over wagon wheel area
- Wireless controls on scoreboards
- Tier I skateboard park
- Water play area
- Replace playground equipment in 2011

Dred Scott Playfield Existing Conditions



Dred Scott Playfield Master Plan



Dupont Playlot

Address: 8807 Dupont Avenue S

Classification: Playlot

Size: 1.4 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Half-court basketball

Planned Features and Improvements:

- New playground in 2010
- Extend trail to Dupont Ave

Existing Conditions

Accessibility recommendations:

- Provide accessible path to basketball court
- Provide accessible surface under playground benches
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety



Dwan Golf Course

Address: *3201 W. 110th Street*

Classification: Golf Course

Size: 92.2 Acres

Existing Features:

- A 18 Hole golf course
- B Clubhouse and cafeteria
- C Off-street parking

Planned Features & Improvements:

- Additional shade trees and landscaping around parking lot

Dwan Golf Course Existing Conditions and Master Plan



Effa Playlot



Address: 8330 4th Avenue S.

Classification: Playlot

Size: 0.7 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New Playground equipment in 2015

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to the accessible picnic table and bench seating
- Accessible surface under bench seating
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety

Existing Conditions



Eight Crest Park

Address: 8836 18th Avenue S.

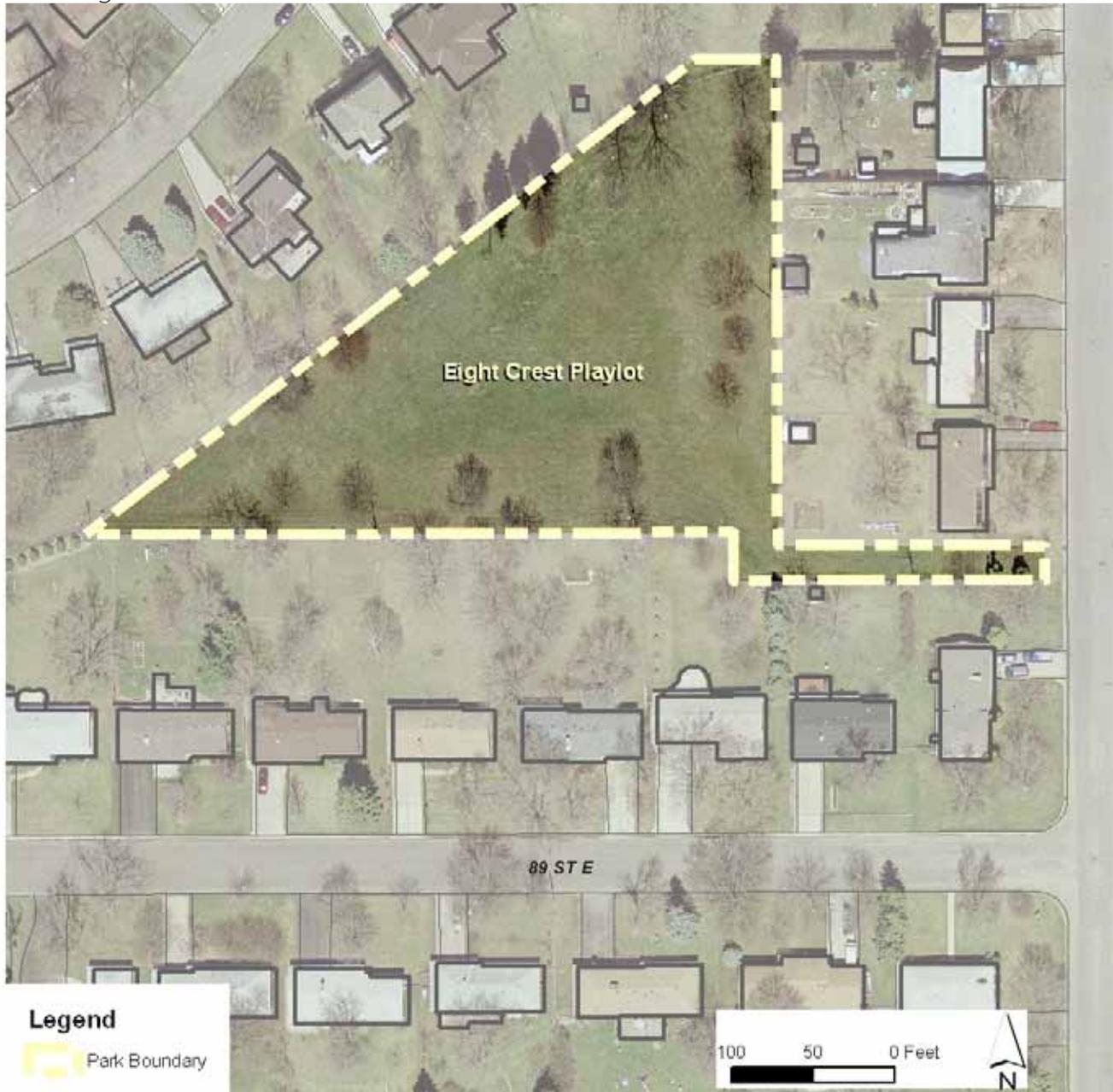
Size: 1.6 Acres

Classification: Mini-park

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Fenlason Park

Address: 7901 1st Avenue S.

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 2.5 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment - accessible
- B Softball diamond
- C Basketball/game court
- D Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements

- New playground equipment in 2019

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Accessible path to softball field

Existing Conditions



Forest Glen Park

Address: 2401 East Old Shakopee Road

Classification: Conservation Area

Size: 7.7 Acres

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Trout stream
- Hiking trail along stream



France Pond

Address: 11200 France Avenue S.

Classification: Pond

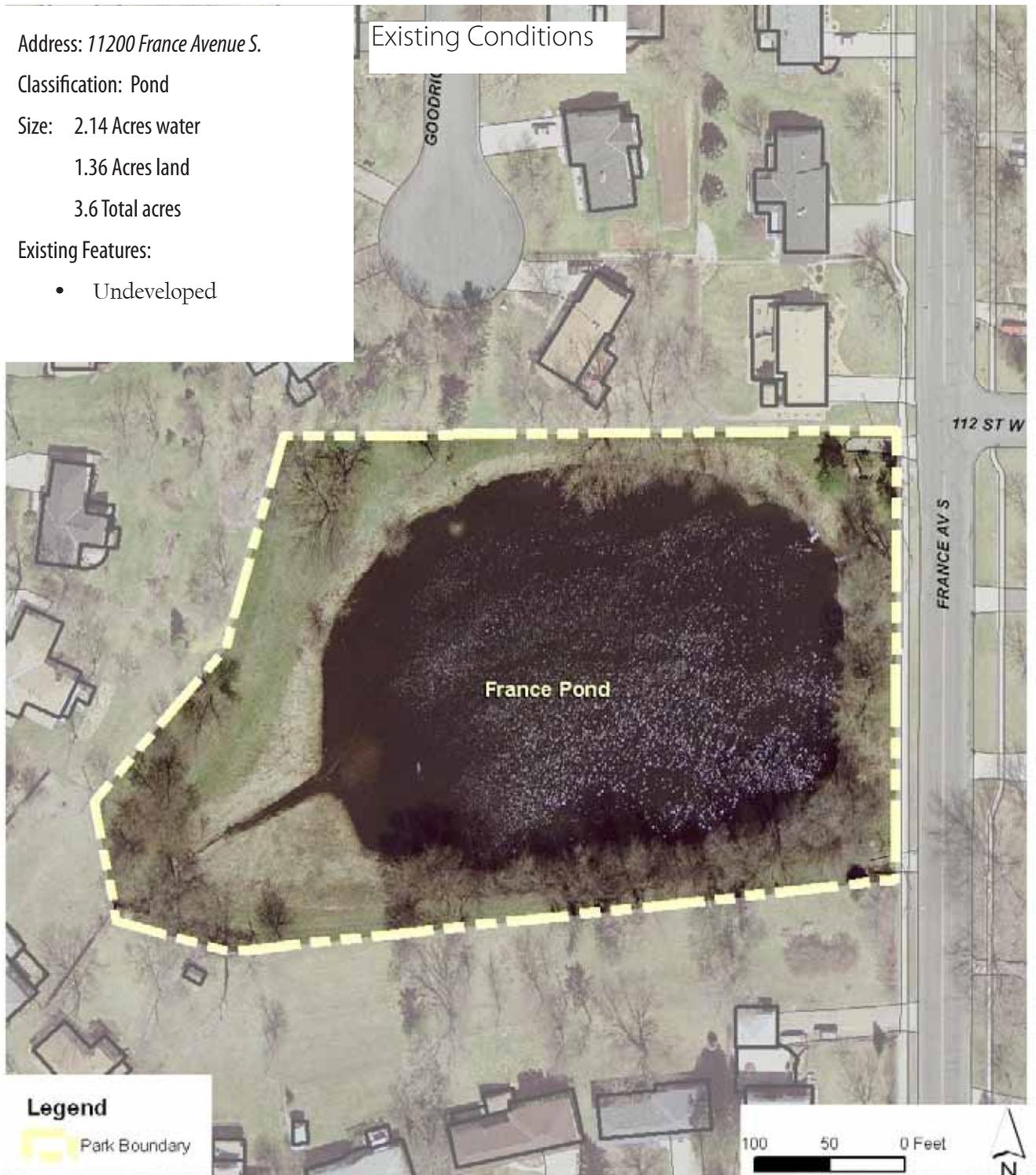
Size: 2.14 Acres water

1.36 Acres land

3.6 Total acres

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped



Gene C. Kelly Playfield



Address: 185 East 102nd Street

Classification: Community Playfield

Size: 27.5 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 tennis courts
- D Basketball/game court
- E 3 soccer fields
- F 1 baseball field
- G 3 softball fields
- H Lighted paved hockey rink
- I Lighted general skating rink
- J Off-street parking
 - Drinking fountain
 - Concessions



Planned Features and Improvements:

- Resurface hockey rink and replace boards
- Landscape around building
- Add concessions/restroom/press box building
- New playground equipment in 2011
- Renovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks
- New maintenance building
- Consider field lighting



Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking , striping & signage
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible surfacing under spectator seating, picnic tables
- Add accessible picnic table near parking lot with accessible path



Gene C. Kelly Playfield Existing Conditions



Gene C. Kelly Playfield Master Plan



Girard Lake Park



Address: 8401 France Avenue S.

Classification: Conservation Area

Size: 18.26 Acres water area

42.24 Acres land area

60.5 Total acres

Existing Features:

A Trails

B Off-street parking

Planned Features and Improvements:

- Parking lot and entrance improvements in 2008 (evaluate the use of pervious paving and/or raingardens)

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to the accessible picnic table from parking lot
- Accessible surfacing under accessible picnic table
- Install sign at trailhead indicating level of accessibility
- Accessible parking stall striping & signage
- Provide accessible trails as use increases with development

Master Plan Detail Area

(see following page for existing condition map for the entire park)



Girard Lake Park Existing Conditions



Haeg Park

Address: 8301 Penn Avenue S.

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 11.69 Acres water area

12.11 Acres land area

23.8 Total acres

Existing Features:

- A Park building
- B 2 Softball fields
- C Lighted hockey rink paved for in-line skating
- D Lighted skating rink
- E Off-street parking
- F 2 Tennis courts

Planned Features and Improvements:

- Access trail from W. 83rd Street to park building
- New playground equipment in 2008
- Renovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks

Accessibility Recommendations

- Accessible path to hockey rink, tennis courts, softball fields, bench seating by lake & accessible picnic tables
- Parking lot striping & signage
- Accessible picnic tables (one near lake)

Haeg Park Existing Conditions



Haeg Park Master Plan



Hampshire Hills Park

Address: 10601 Louisiana Avenue S.

Classification: Neighborhood Park Existing Conditions

Size: 3.9 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Softball diamond
- C Basketball court
- D Off-street parking
- E Sand volleyball court

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Replace playground equipment in 2010
- Picnic shelter

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Provide, stripe and sign accessible stalls
- Upgrade playground for safety and accessibility
- Accessible path to accessible picnic table
- Accessible surface under bench by volleyball court



Hampshire Pond

Address: 11101 Hampshire Avenue S.

Classification: Pond

Size: 2.7 Acres water

6 Acres land

8.7 Total acres

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Harrison Picnic Grounds



Address: 1701 West 100th Street

Classification: Community Park

Size: 18.9 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Trails (Access to Moir Park/Nine Mile Creek trails)
- C Off-street parking
- D Grills

Planned Features & Improvements:

- Replace playground equipment in 2009 with swings and small play structure
- Additional shade trees
- New picnic shelter with exterior access timer locks.
- Security lights near parking lot

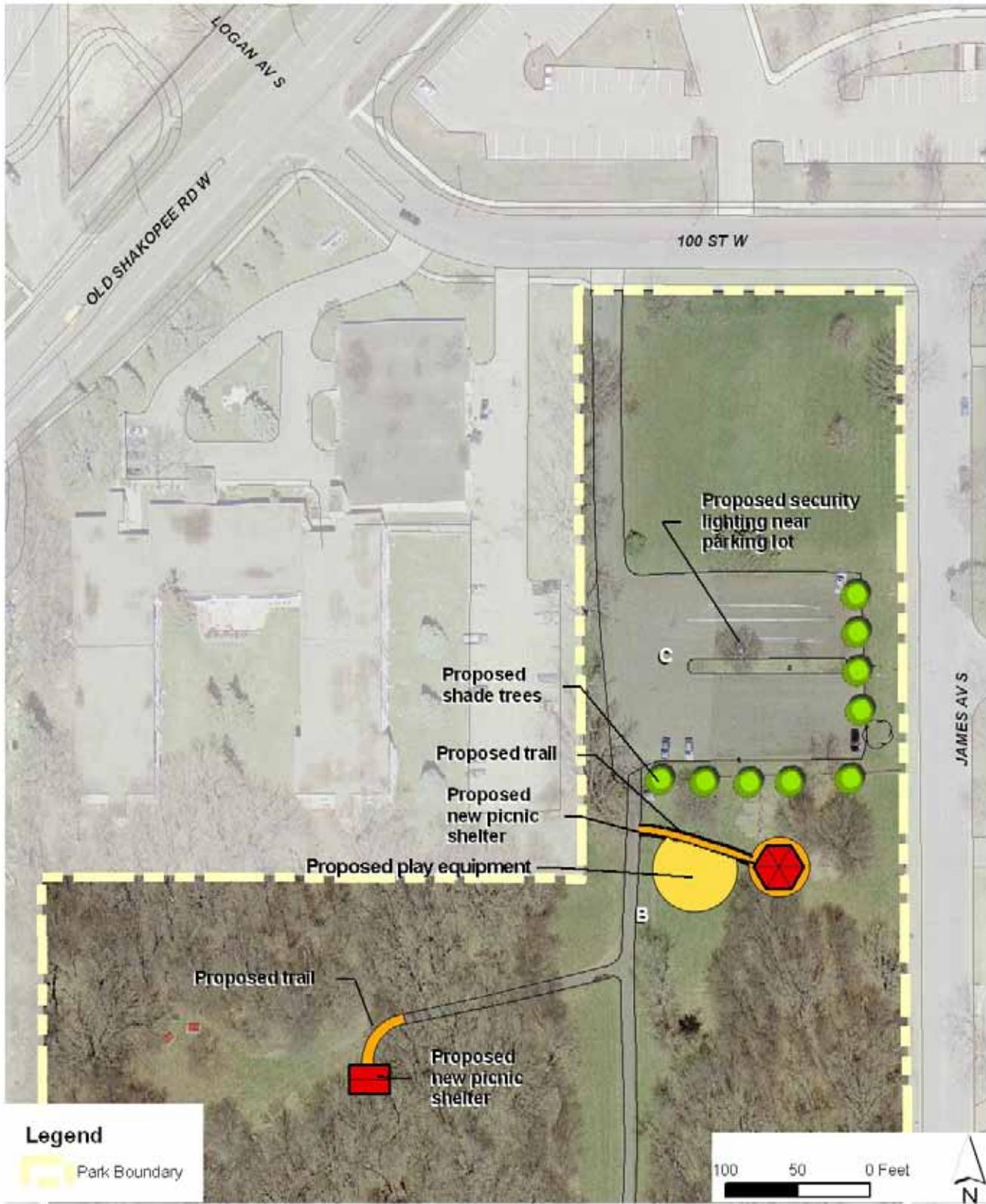
Accessibility recommendations:

- Parking lot striping & signage
- Accessible path to the accessible picnic table
- Provide sign at trail head indicating level of accessibility of trails
- Provide accessible surfacing under picnic tables
- Modify walkway to hilltop picnic with grades less than 5%

Harrison Picnic Grounds Existing Conditions



Harrison Picnic Grounds Master Plan Detail Area



Heritage Hills Park

Address: 4701 West 100th Street

Classification: Community Park

Size: 17.83 Acres water area

26.77 Acres land area

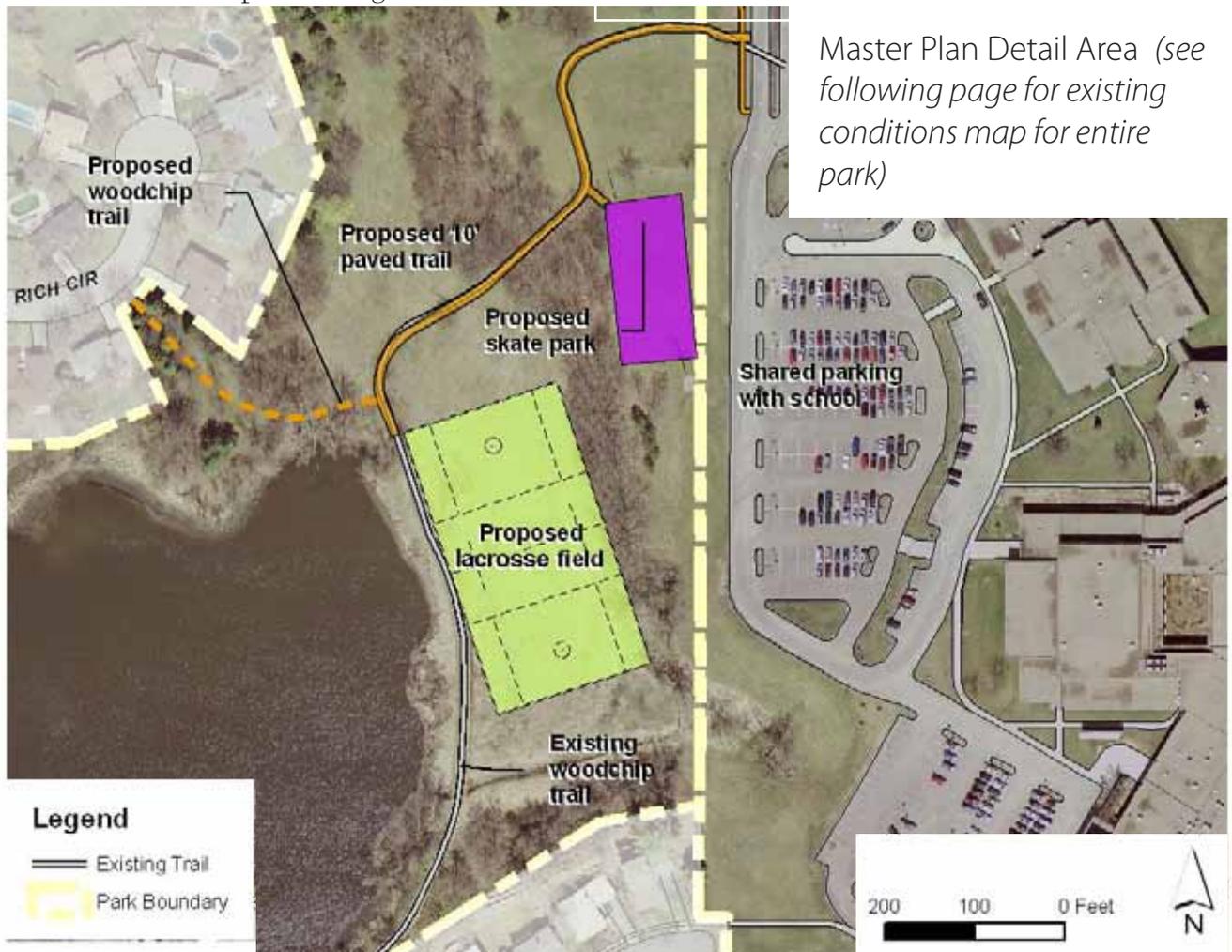
44.6 Total acres

Existing Features:

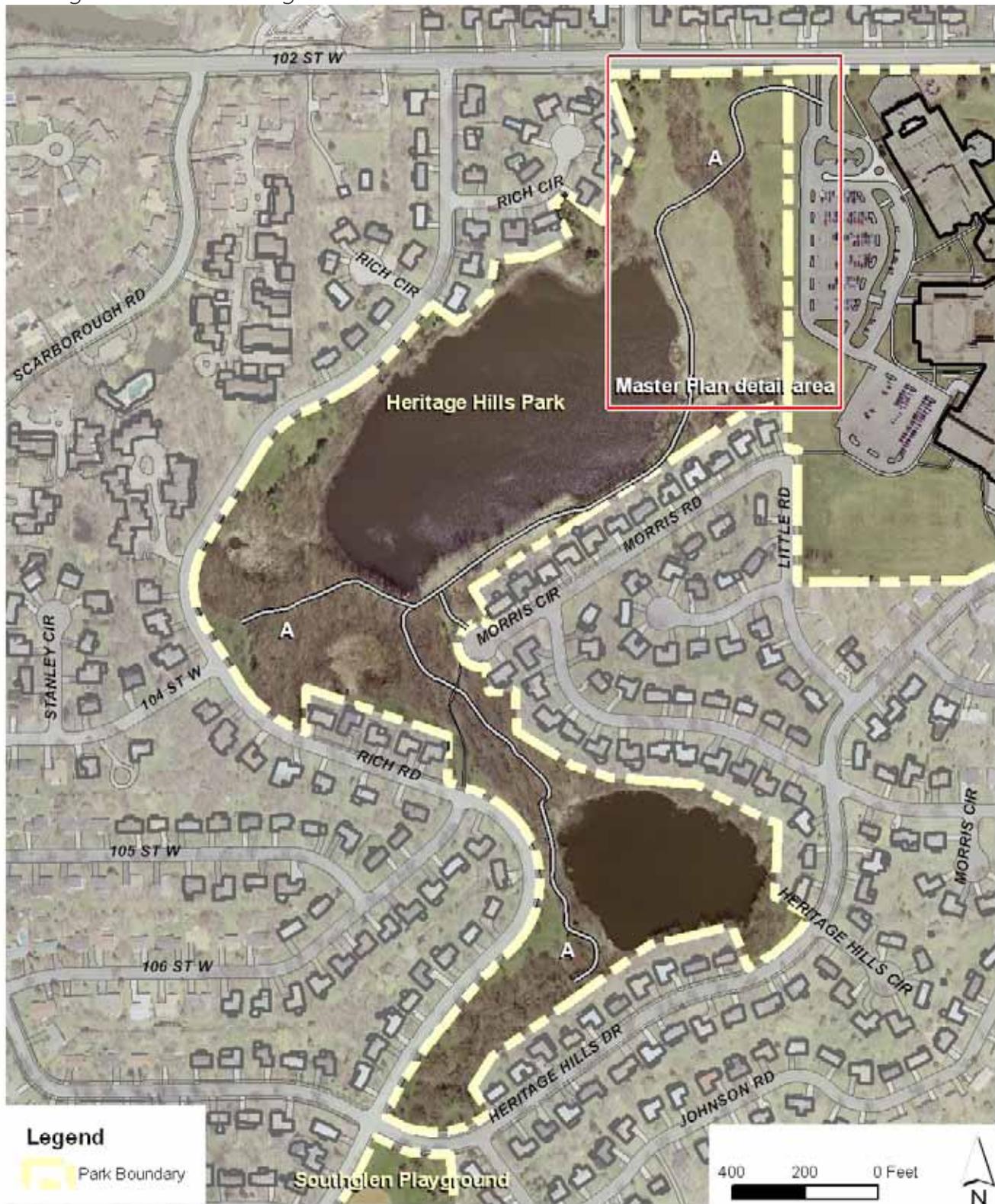
A Informal unpaved hiking trails

Proposed Features and Improvements:

- Woodchip trail to Rich Circle
- 10' Paved trail connection
- Lacrosse/soccer field
- Skate park



Heritage Hills Park Existing Conditions



Hillcrest Elementary

Address: 9301 Thomas Road

Classification: School/Private Recreation Facility

Size: 12 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Basketball/game court
- C Soccer field

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Upgrade parking lot accessibility signage

Existing Conditions



Hohag Playlot



Address: 9113 16th Avenue S.

Classification: Playlot

Size: 1.1 Acres

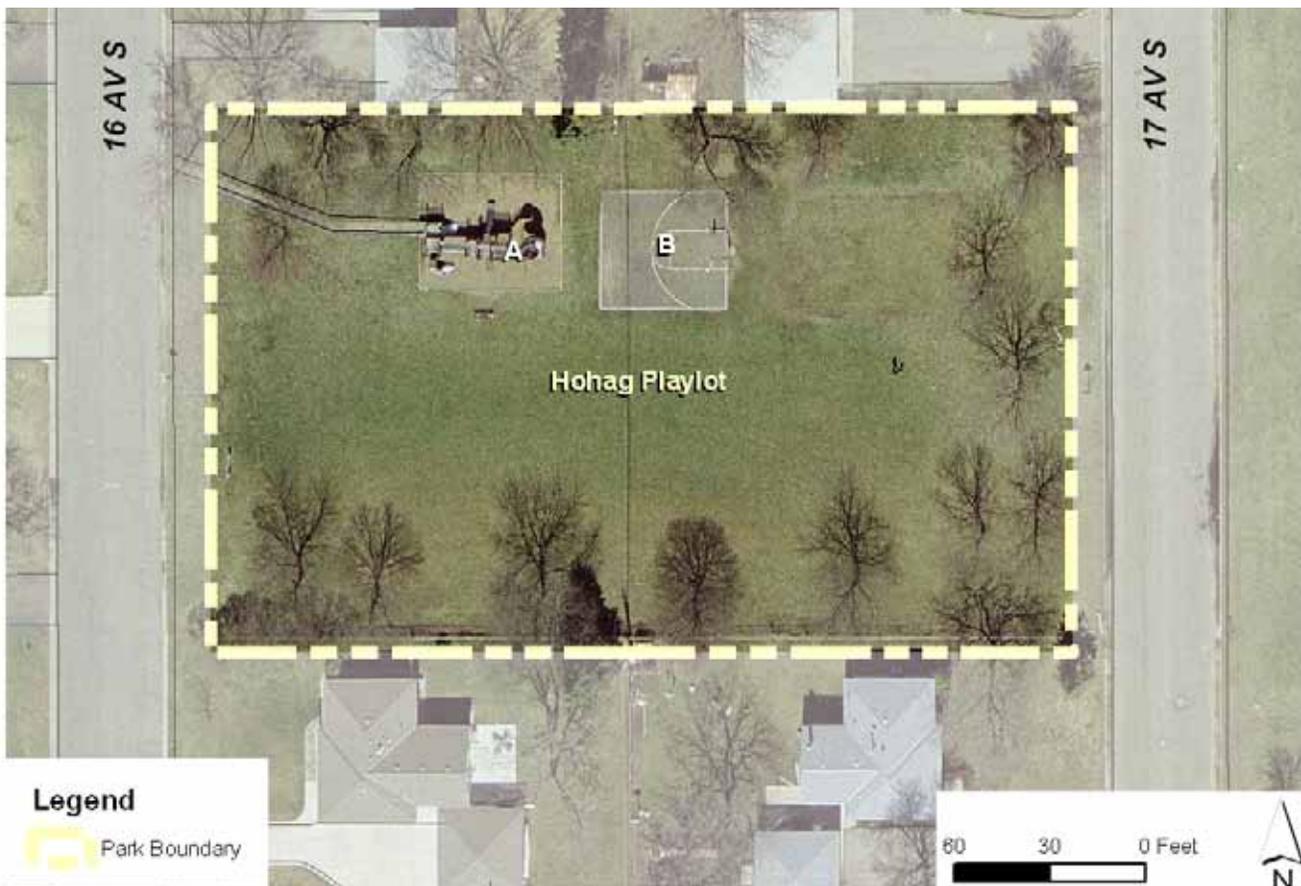
Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Half-court basketball

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2026

Existing Conditions



Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve

Address: *(several)*

Classification: Regional Park

Size: 2,486 Acres

Existing Features:

Anderson Lakes (trails only)

Tierney Woods (parking lot and trails)

Bush Lake (see park unit maps)

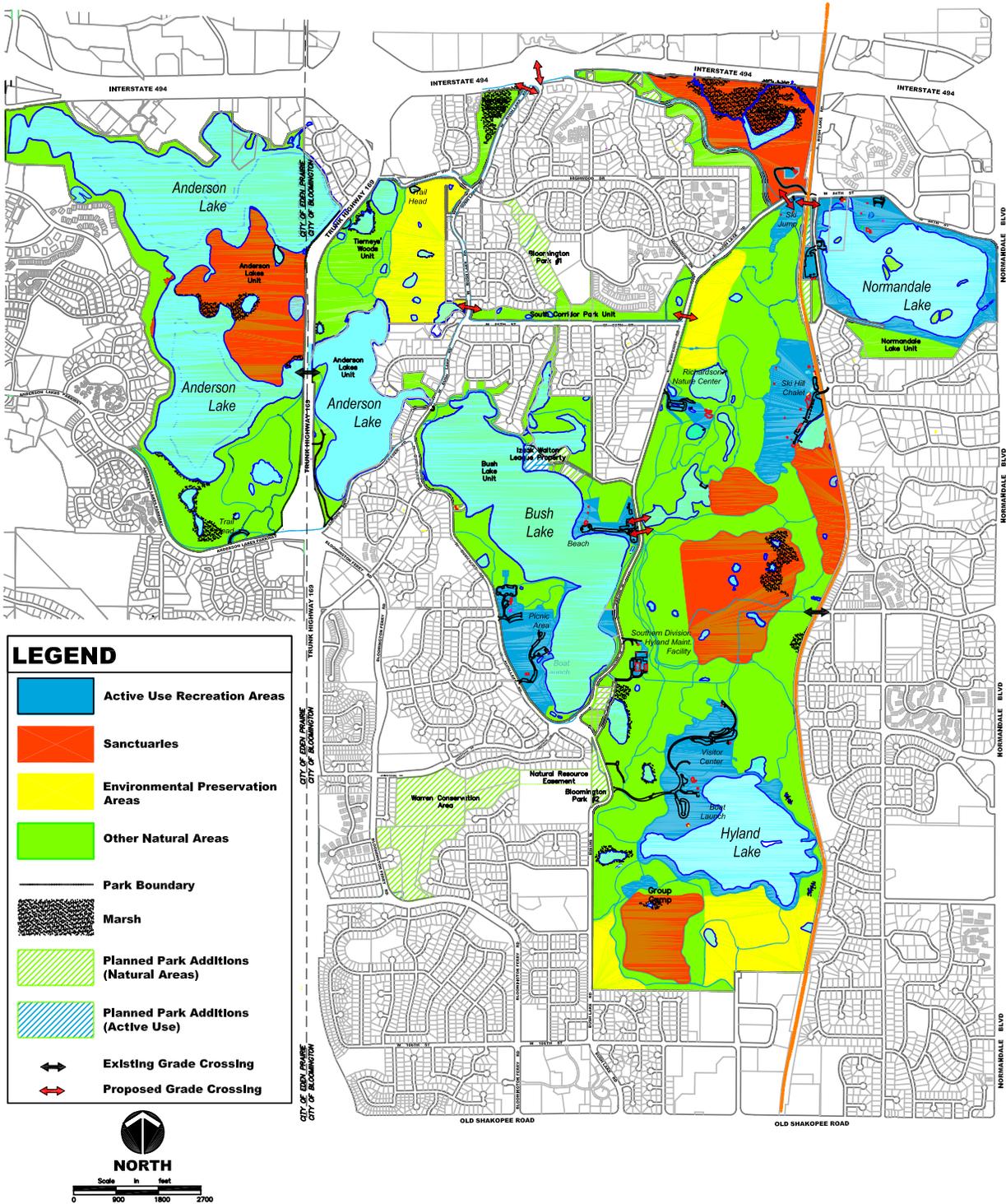
Hyland Lake (See Three Rivers Parks for list of features)

Normandale Lake (see park unit map)

North Corridor (trails only)

South Corridor (trails only)

Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve Composite Master Plan Map



Hyland Greens Golf Course

Address: 10100 Normandale Boulevard

Classification: Golf Course

Size: 60.6 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Off-street parking
- B Clubhouse
- C Driving range
- D Maintenance building
- 18 Hole Golf

Existing Conditions



Hyland Hills Park



Address: 9900 Dakota Road

Classification: Conservation Area

Size: 8.2 Acres

Existing Features:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Hyland Hills Tennis Courts



Address: 9858 Edgewood Road

Classification: Mini-park

Size: 0.5 Acres

Existing Features:

- A 2 Tennis courts

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to courts with curb-cut ramp from street

Existing Conditions



Indian Mounds Elementary

Address: 9807 11th Avenue S.

Existing Conditions

Classification: School/Private Recreation Facility

Size: 14 Acres

Notes: school district owned, city maintained

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B 2 Softball fields
- C Tennis courts
- D Unpaved trails (Access to Minnesota River Valley trails)
- E Soccer field/LaCrosse Field

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Replace playground in 2021

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to benches, playground, tennis courts, baseball field & softball field
- Benches near playgrounds with accessible surfacing underneath
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible parking signage



Jefferson High School

Address: 4001 W. 102nd Street

Classification: School/Private Recreation Facility

Size: 44 Acres

Notes: School district owned & maintained

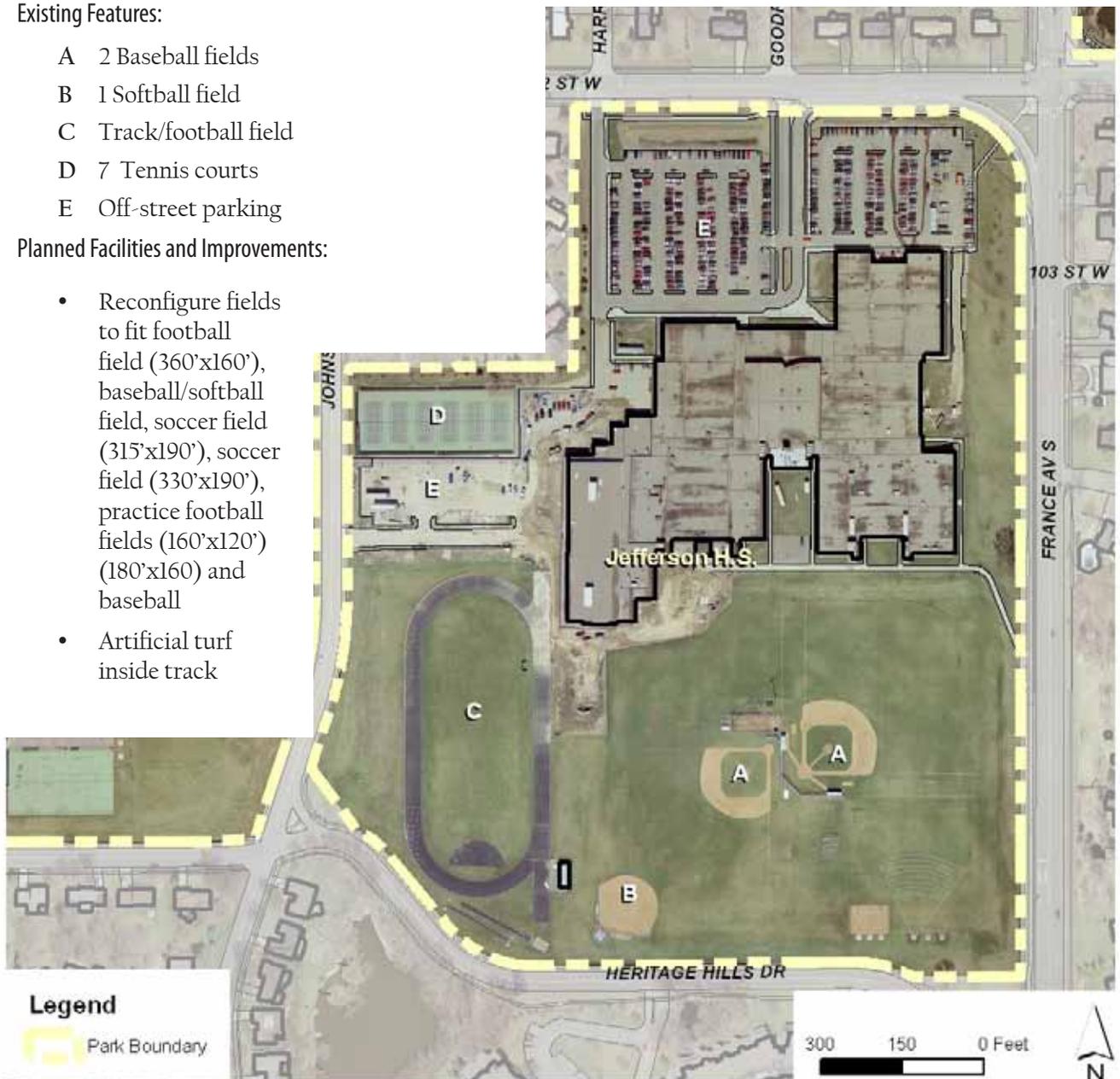
Existing Conditions

Existing Features:

- A 2 Baseball fields
- B 1 Softball field
- C Track/football field
- D 7 Tennis courts
- E Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Reconfigure fields to fit football field (360'x160'), baseball/softball field, soccer field (315'x190'), soccer field (330'x190'), practice football fields (160'x120') (180'x160) and baseball
- Artificial turf inside track



Kennedy Senior High School

Address: 9701 Nicollet Avenue S

Classification: School/Private Recreation Facility

Size: 27 Acres

Note: school district owned

Existing Features:

- A 1 Baseball fields
- B 1 Softball field

C 7 Tennis courts

D Track/football field

E Practice football field

F Off-street parking

Proposed Facilities and Improvements:

- Artificial turf inside track
- Baseball field renovation

Existing Conditions



Lincoln Park



Address: 2801 West 88th Street
Classification: Neighborhood Park
Size: 5.5 Acres
Existing Features:
A 5 Soccer fields

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Perimeter fencing

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Provide accessible sidewalk from 88th Street, to soccer fields

Existing Conditions



Lincoln Stadium

Existing Conditions

Address: 2801 West 88th Street

Classification: School/Private Recreation Facility

Size: 6.6 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Football stadium

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Artificial turf
- Domed field



Logan Playlot

Existing Conditions

Address: 1900 West 91st Street

Classification: Playlot

Size: 1.6 Acres

Existing Features:

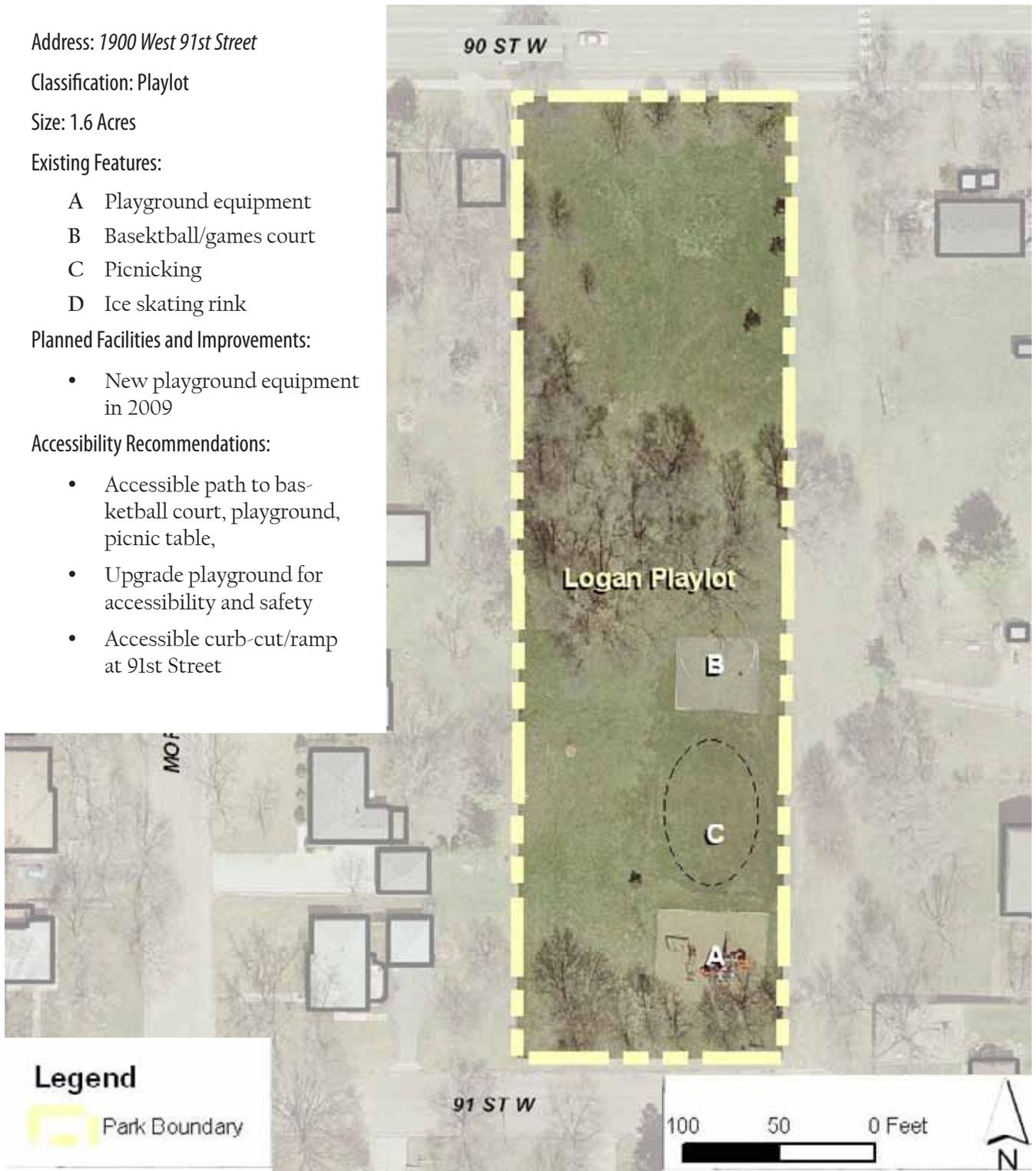
- A Playground equipment
- B Basketball/games court
- C Picnicking
- D Ice skating rink

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2009

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to basketball court, playground, picnic table,
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible curb-cut/ramp at 91st Street



Lyndale Green Park



Address: 84th Street and Lyndale Avenue

Classification: Mini-park

Size: 1.0 Acres

Existing Features:

- Walkways & landscaping

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- None

Accessibility Recommendations:

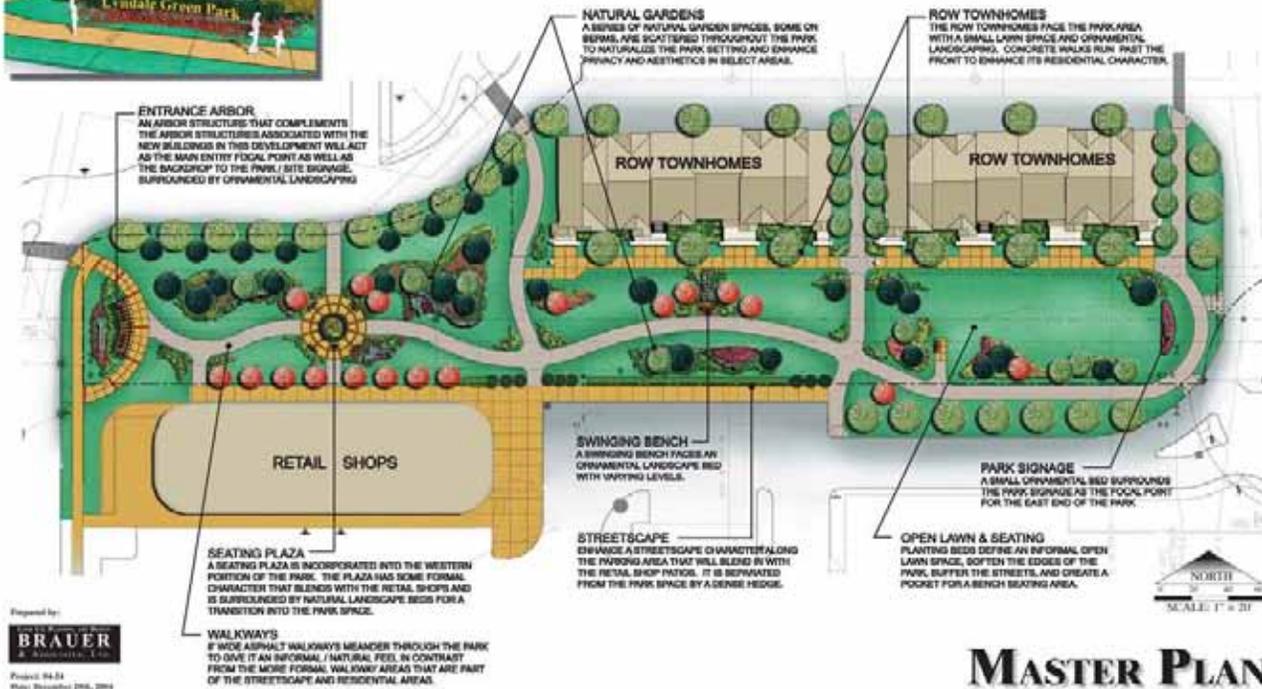
- None



LYNDALE GREEN OF BLOOMINGTON



UNITED PROPERTIES



Maplewood Park



Address: 131 East 95th Street

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 3.8 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C Basketball/game court
- D 2 Softball diamonds
- E Off-street parking

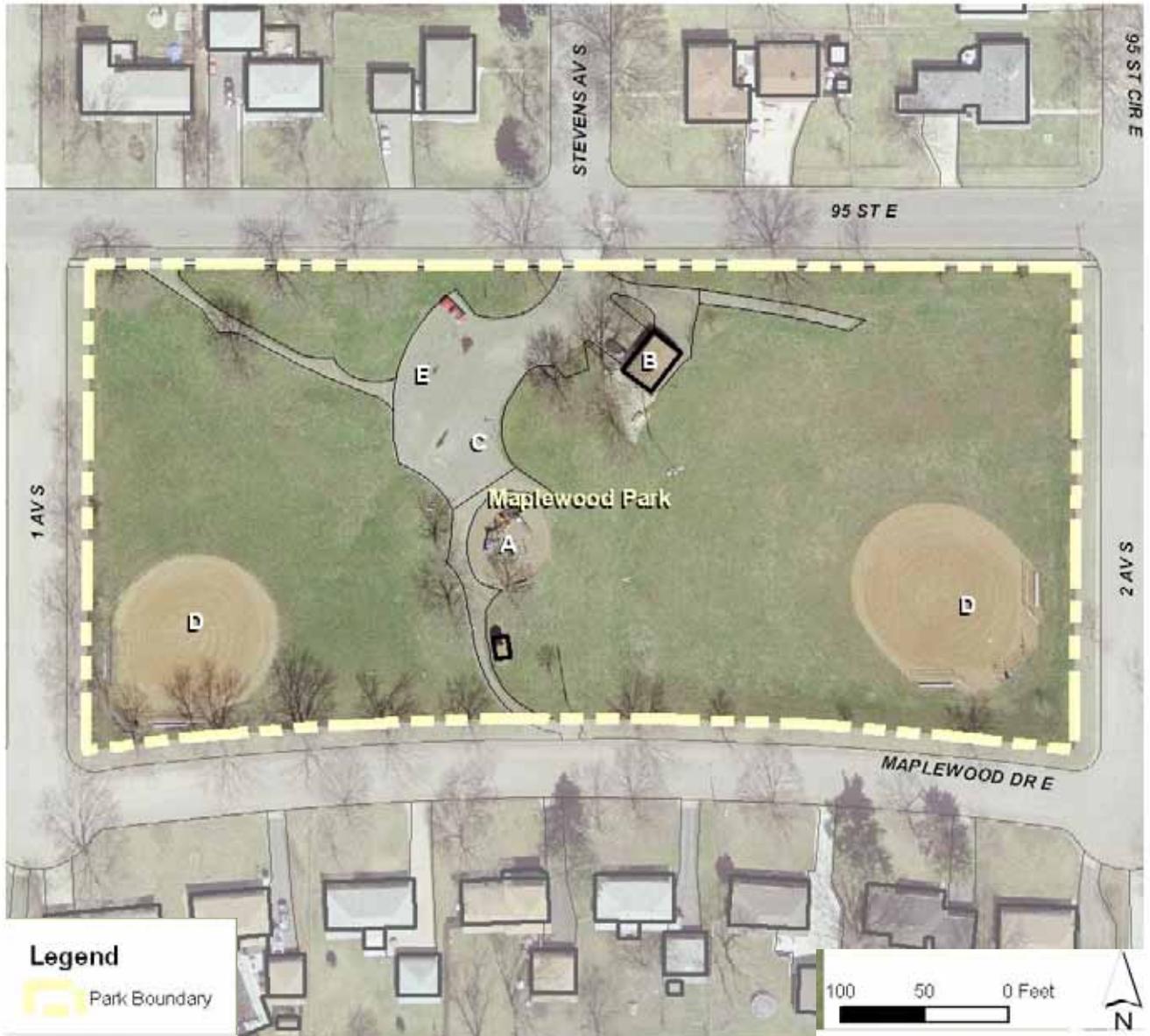
Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2008
- New park shelter
- Half-court basketball
- New off-street parking lot

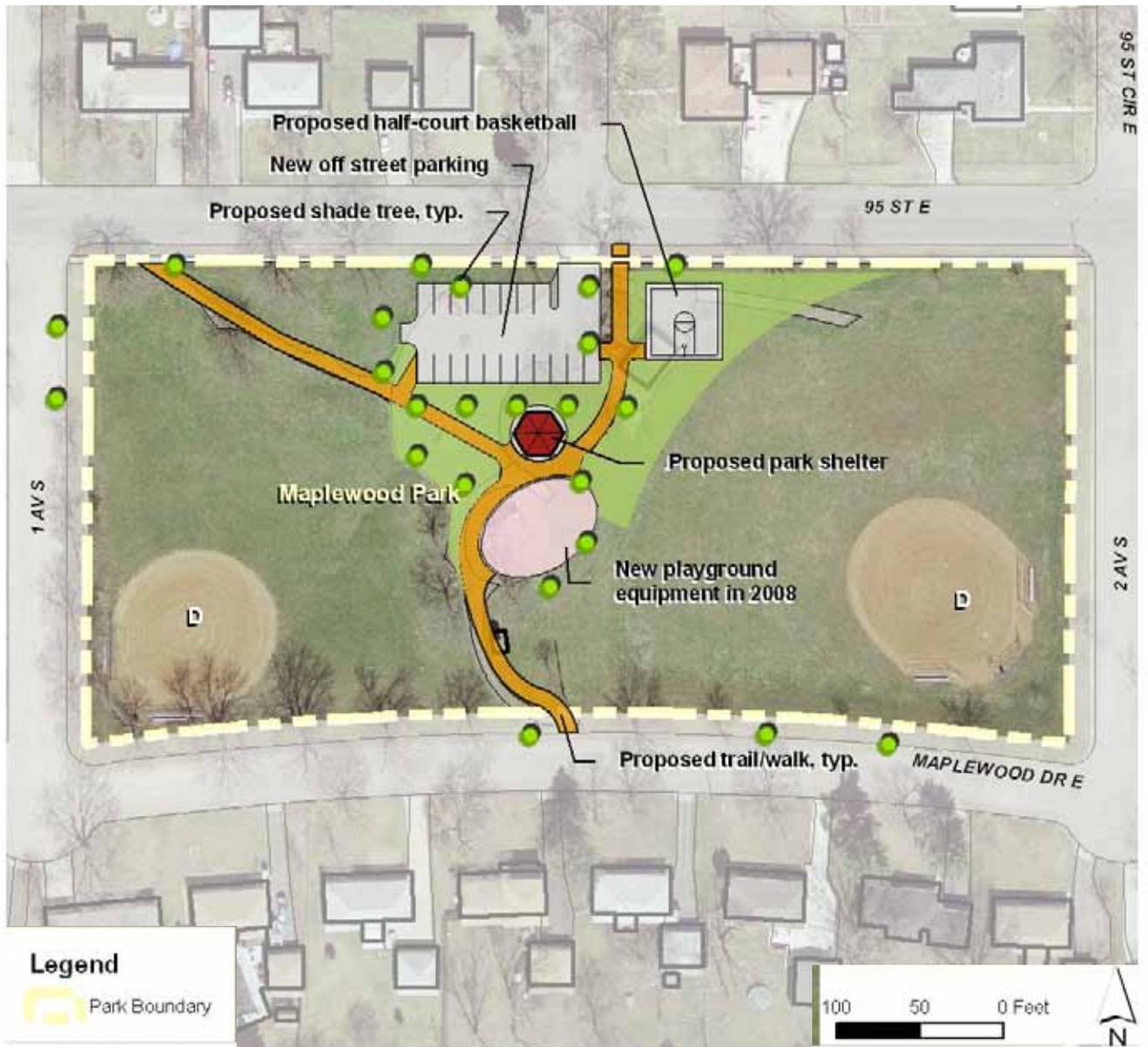
Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible path to accessible picnic tables & softball fields
- Provide accessible surface under benches

Maplewood Park Existing Conditions



Maplewood Park Master Plan



Marsh Lake Park



Address: *9000 France Avenue S.*

Classification: Conservation Area

Size: 306.77 Acres water area

171.18 Acres land area

477.95 Total acres

Existing Features:

- A Trails
- B Archery range
- C Off-street parking

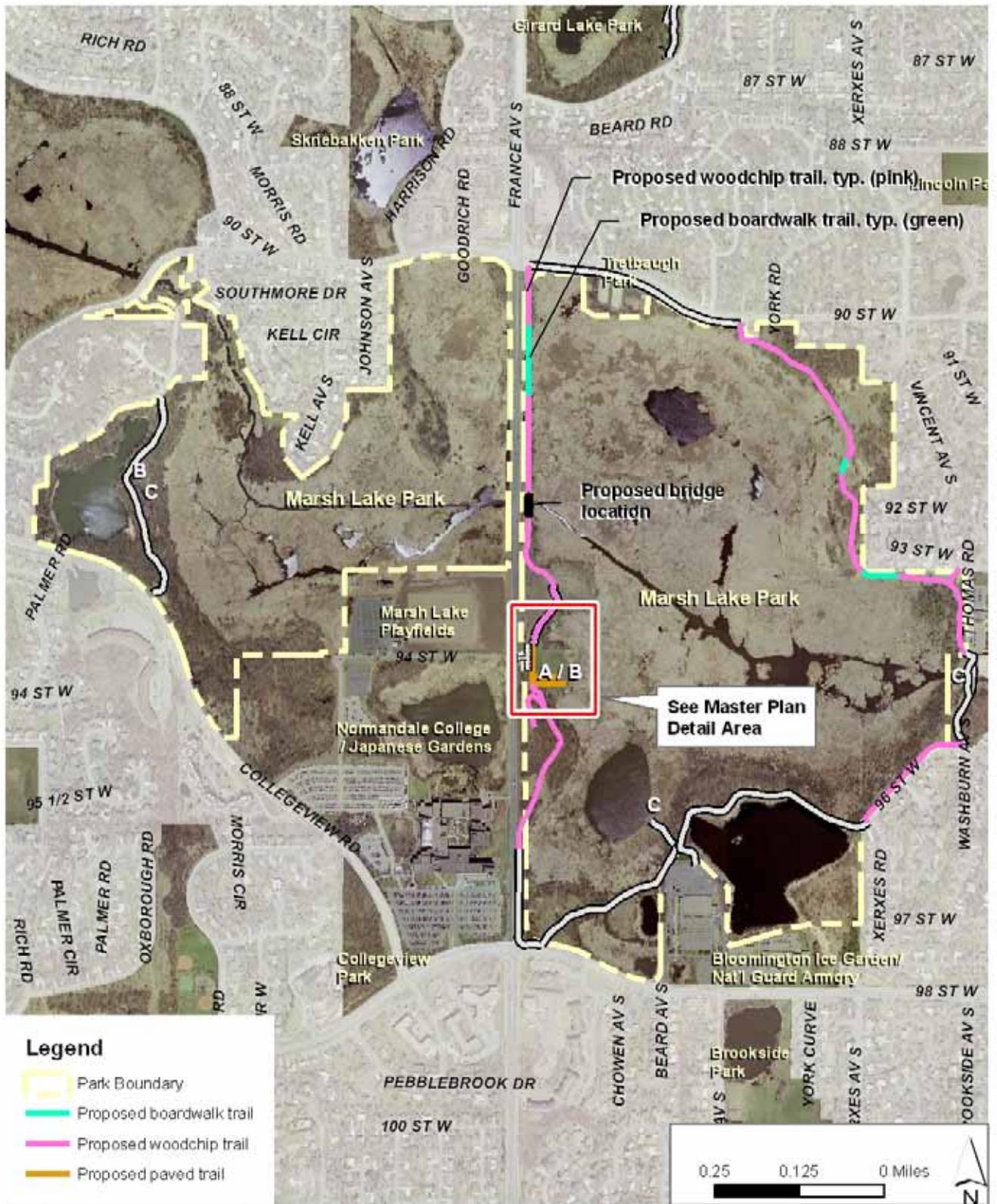
Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Woodchip/boardwalk trail around Marsh Lake
- Scenic overlook south of archery range
- Accessible path and archery
- Pave parking lot

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking lot striping and signage in parking lot
- Accessible paths to archery range from parking lot

Marsh Lake Park Existing Conditions



Marsh Lake Park Master Plan



Marsh Lake Playfields

Address: 9000 France Avenue S.

Classification: Community Playfields

Size: 12 Acres

Existing Features:

- A Marsh Lake Soccer Fields: 3 fields (for use by permit only)
- B Off-street parking (on Normandale College property)

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Renovate soccer fields into a stadium

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible paths to soccer fields from parking lot

Existing Conditions



McAndrews Playlot



Address: 1200 East 90th Street

Classification: Playlot

Size: 2.0 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Softball diamond
- C 2 Soccer fields

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2010

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to softball field, picnic table & benches near playground

- Modify walkway from Park Road with a max. slope of 5%
- Upgrade playground for accessibility & safety



Moir Park



Address: 104th Avenue S. and Morgan Avenue South

Classification: Community Park

Size: 23.2 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 Picnic shelters
- D 2 Softball diamonds
- E Volleyball court
- F Disc golf
- G Trails
- H Off-street parking
 - Grills

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2022
- Replace picnic shelter roof
- Renovate disc golf tees and basket areas and signs
- Trail along Morgan Avenue

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall in both parking lots with striping and signage
- Accessible path from east parking lot, to one of the softball fields, to sand volleyball, to playground, to 2 accessible picnic tables, to grill at covered pavillion
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety

Moir Park Existing Conditions



Moir Park Master Plan



Mound Springs Park

Address: 10201 11th Avenue S.

Classification: Large Urban Park

Size: 151 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Trail access to MN River Valley trails



Nativity of Mary Church

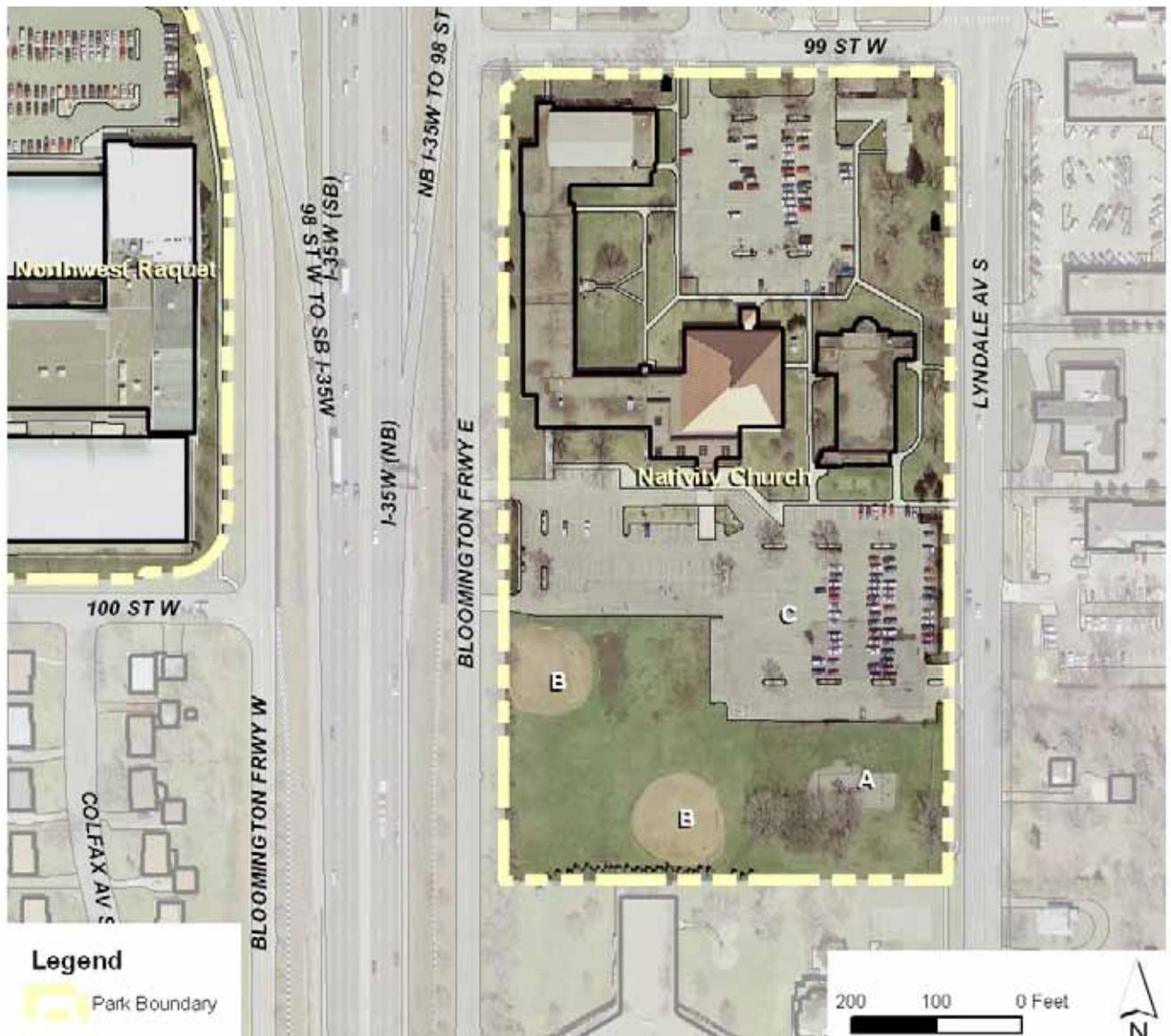
Address: 9901 East Bloomington Frwy

Classification: Private Recreation Facility

Size: 1.9 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- Two softball fields



Nesta Hills Park

Existing Conditions

Address: (To be added to Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park)

Classification: Regional Park

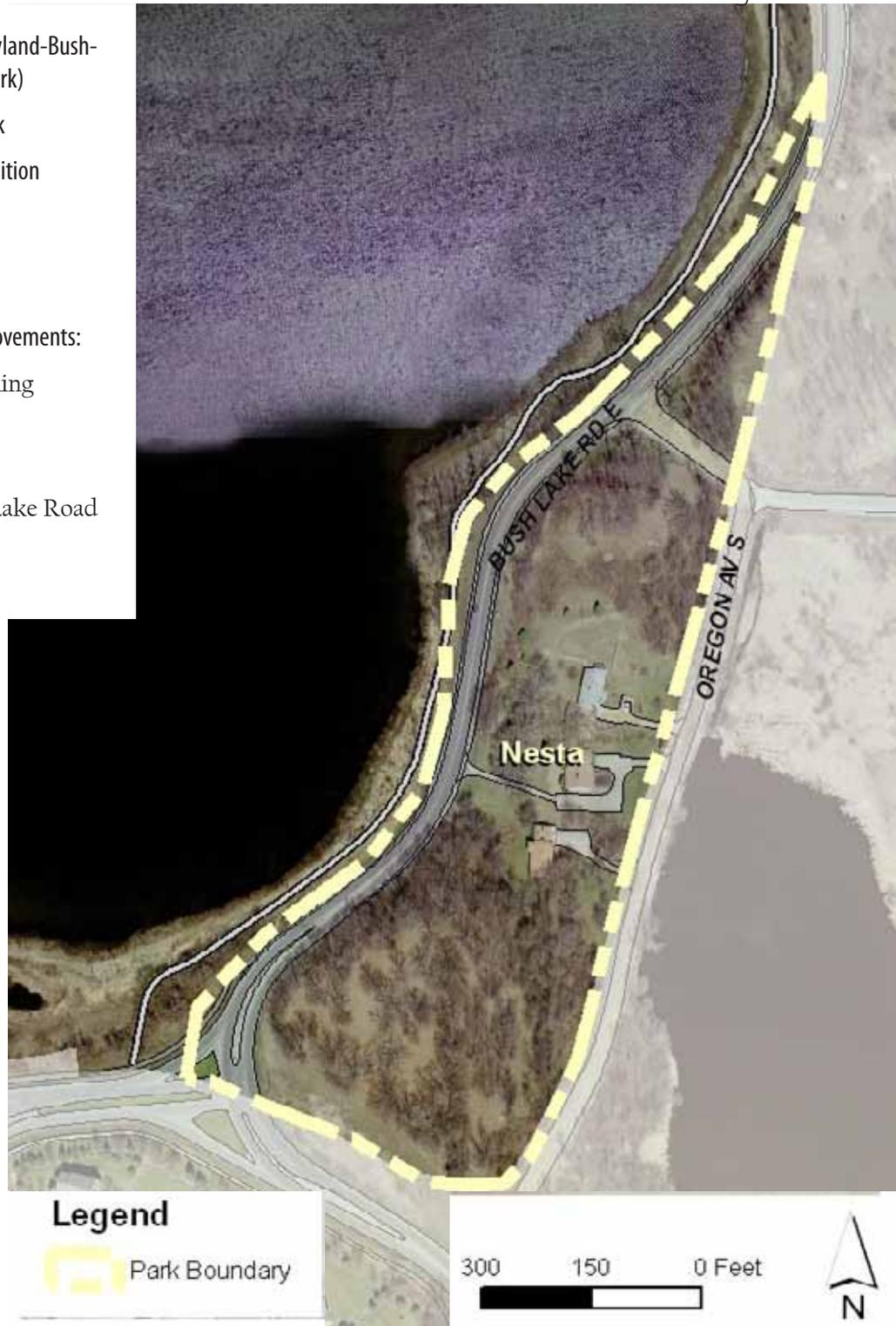
Size: 9.81 Acres (land acquisition incomplete)

Existing Features:

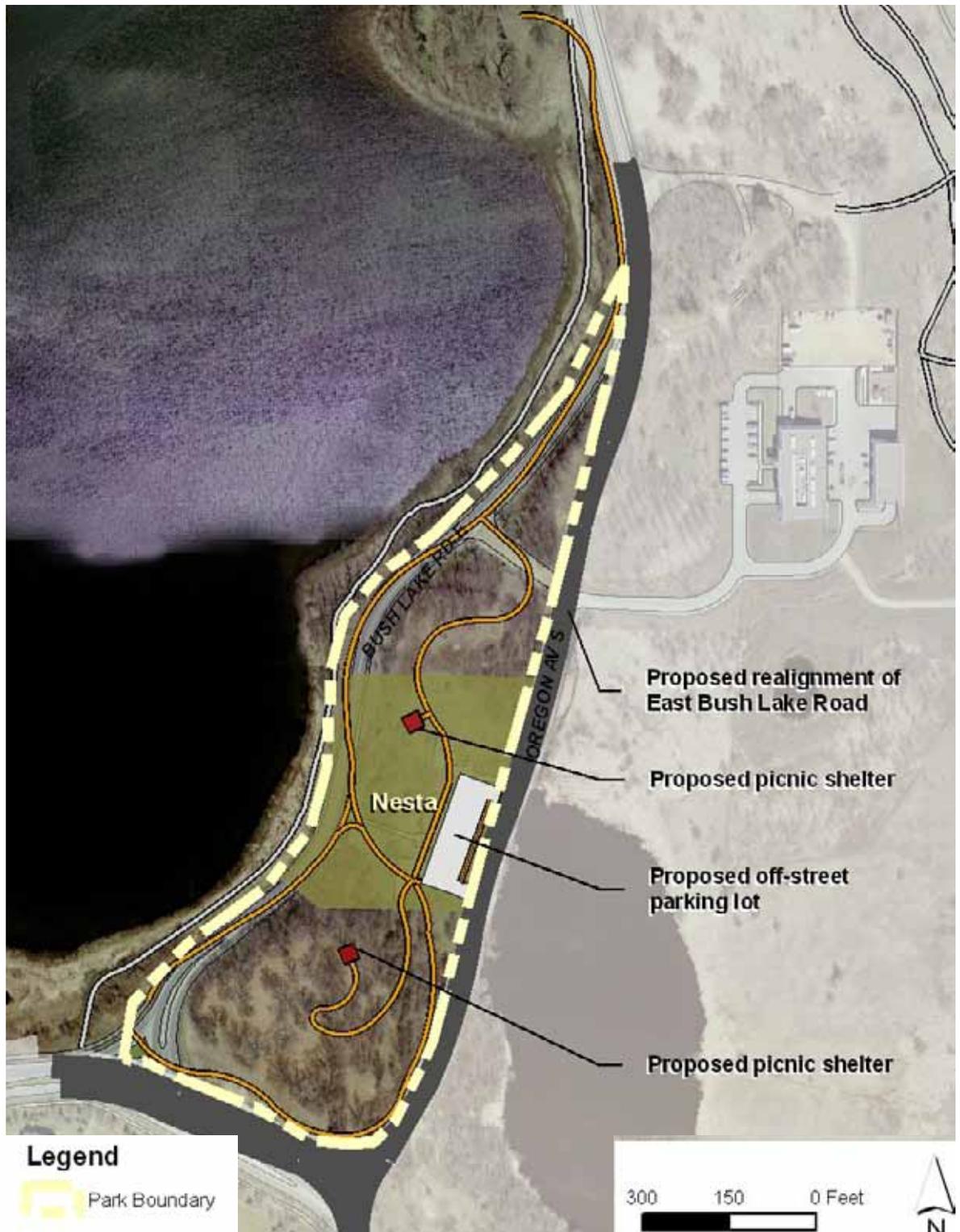
- Undeveloped

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Off-street parking
- Trails
- Picnic shelters
- Realign Bush Lake Road



Nesta Hills Master Plan



Nine Mile Creek Park

Address: 2509 West 98th Street

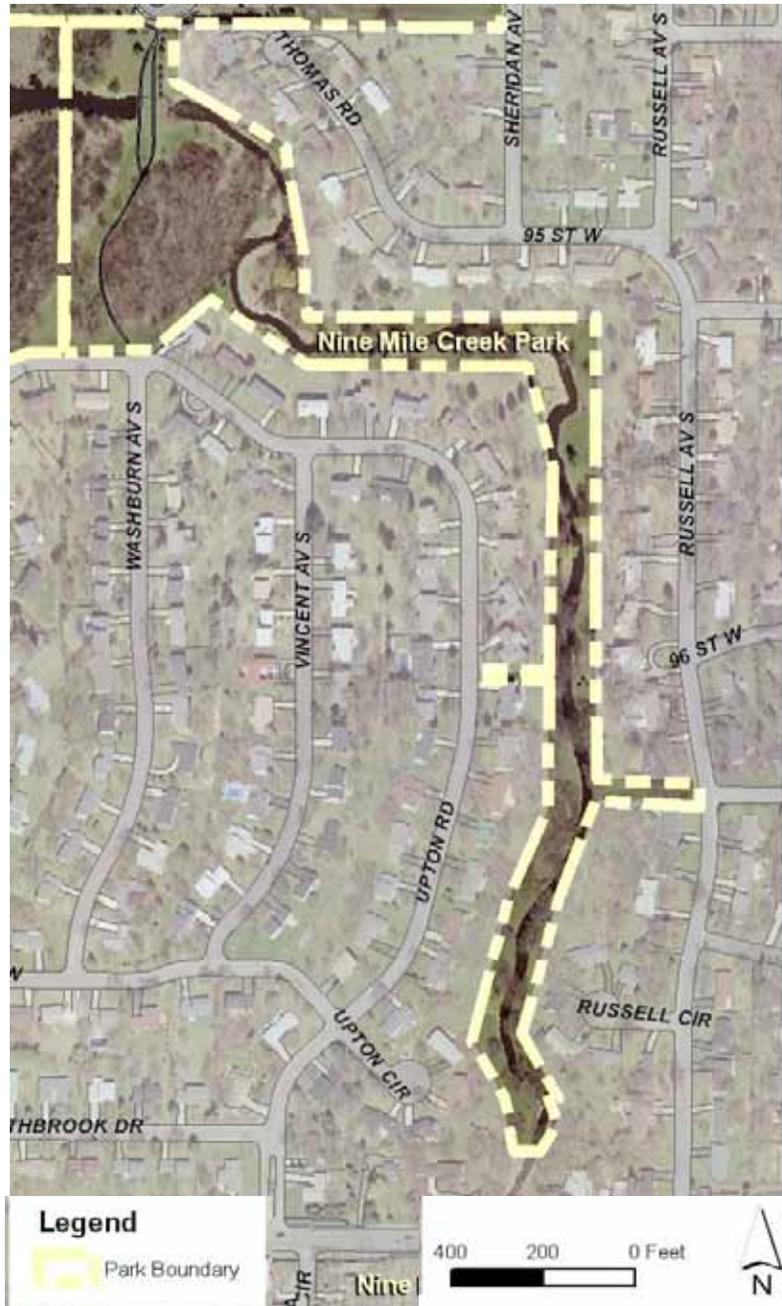
Classification: Conservation

Size: 15.6 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Nine Mile Creek Playlot



Address: 2141 Overlook Drive

Classification: Playlot

Size: 0.3 Acres

Existing Facilities:

A Playground equipment

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Upgrade playground in 2018

Accessibility Recommendations

- Accessible surface adjacent benches
- Modify trail to playground and swings with slope not to exceed 5%

Existing Conditions



Nord Myr Marsh

Address: 8601 Normandale Boulevard

Classification: Conservation Area

Size: 134.32 Acres

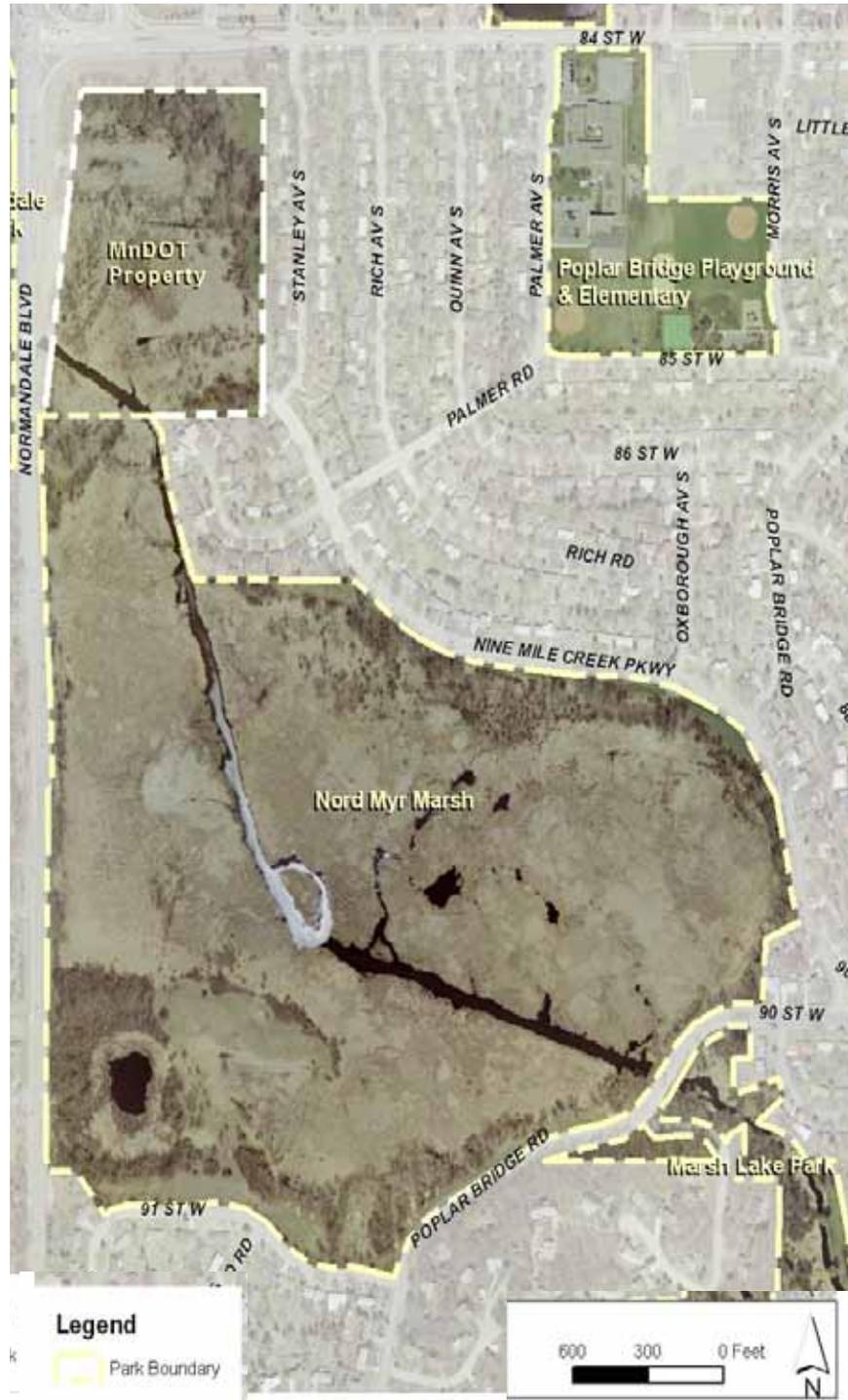
Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Pedestrian bridge between Normandale Lake Trails and Mn/Dot property

Nord Myr Marsh Existing Conditions



Norman Ridge Park

Address: 221 Norman Ridge Drive

Classification: Conservation Area

Size: 8.9 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Normandale Hills Elementary

Address: 9501 Toledo Avenue South

Classification: School Recreation Facility

Size: 14 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- Three softball fields



Normandale Lake Park

Address: *84th and Chalet Road*

Classification: Regional Park

Size: 103.39 Acres water area

77.76 Acres land area

181.15 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Band shell
- B Picnic shelters, tables & grills
- C Off-street parking
- D Paved trails
- E Canoe launch

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Parking and trail connections on Chalet Road
- Fishing platform and trail connection to 84th Street
- Improved pedestrian crossing of Normandale Boulevard to Mn/DOT property
- Changeable message sign for bandshell events
- Accessible playground near picnic area
- Replace maintenance building
- Install benches and trail serving the bandshell
- Complete trail lighting around lake
- Shoreline restoration and water quality improvements

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Accessible portable toilet in north parking lot
- Accessible path to accessible picnic tables (upgrade 4 in various picnic areas), overlook bench, trail around lake
- Accessible trail connection to neighborhood
- At all trailheads, provide signage that indicates level of handicap accessibility
- Accessible surface adjacent to benches

Normandale Lake Park Existing Conditions



Normandale Lake Park Master Plan



Northcrest Park



Address: 3500 West 81st Street

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 12.8 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 Tennis courts
- D Softball diamond
- E Basketball/game court
- F Off-street parking
- G Prairie



Planned Facilities & Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2010
- New park building
- New parking lot configuration
- Connecting trails to tennis courts and ballfield



Accessibility Recommendations

- Accessible parking striping and signage
- Upgrade playground for accessibility
- Accessible path to softball field, tennis courts, playground bench & accessible picnic tables
- Accessible surface adjacent to benches and accessible tables
- Accessible picnic table near tennis courts

Northcrest Park Existing Conditions



Northcrest Park Master Plan



Oak Grove Elementary/Middle School

Address: 3500 West 81st Street

Classification: School/ Private Recreation Facility

Size: 34 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Warming house
- C 4 Tennis courts
- D Softball diamond
- E Basketball/game court
- F Hockey rink
- G Off-street parking
- H Football/soccer fields

Planned Facilities & Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2007
- New warming house
- New parking lot and trail
- Pave hockey rink

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to benches, basketball/ games court, softball field, hockey rink & school playground
- Accessible surface adjacent to bench
- Accessible parking with striping and signage near hockey rink

Oak Grove Elementary Existing Conditions



Off-leash Recreation Area for Dogs

Address: *Humbolt and 111th Street*

Classification: Special Use Area

Size: 35 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Off-street parking
- B Fenced dog run areas

Planned Facilities & Improvements:

- Perimeter fencing
- Small fenced in dog run area
- Drinking fountain for humans and dogs
- Security lights in parking lot

Existing Conditions



Old Town Hall

Address: 10200 Penn Ave. So.

Classification: Special Use Facility

Size: 0.39 Acres

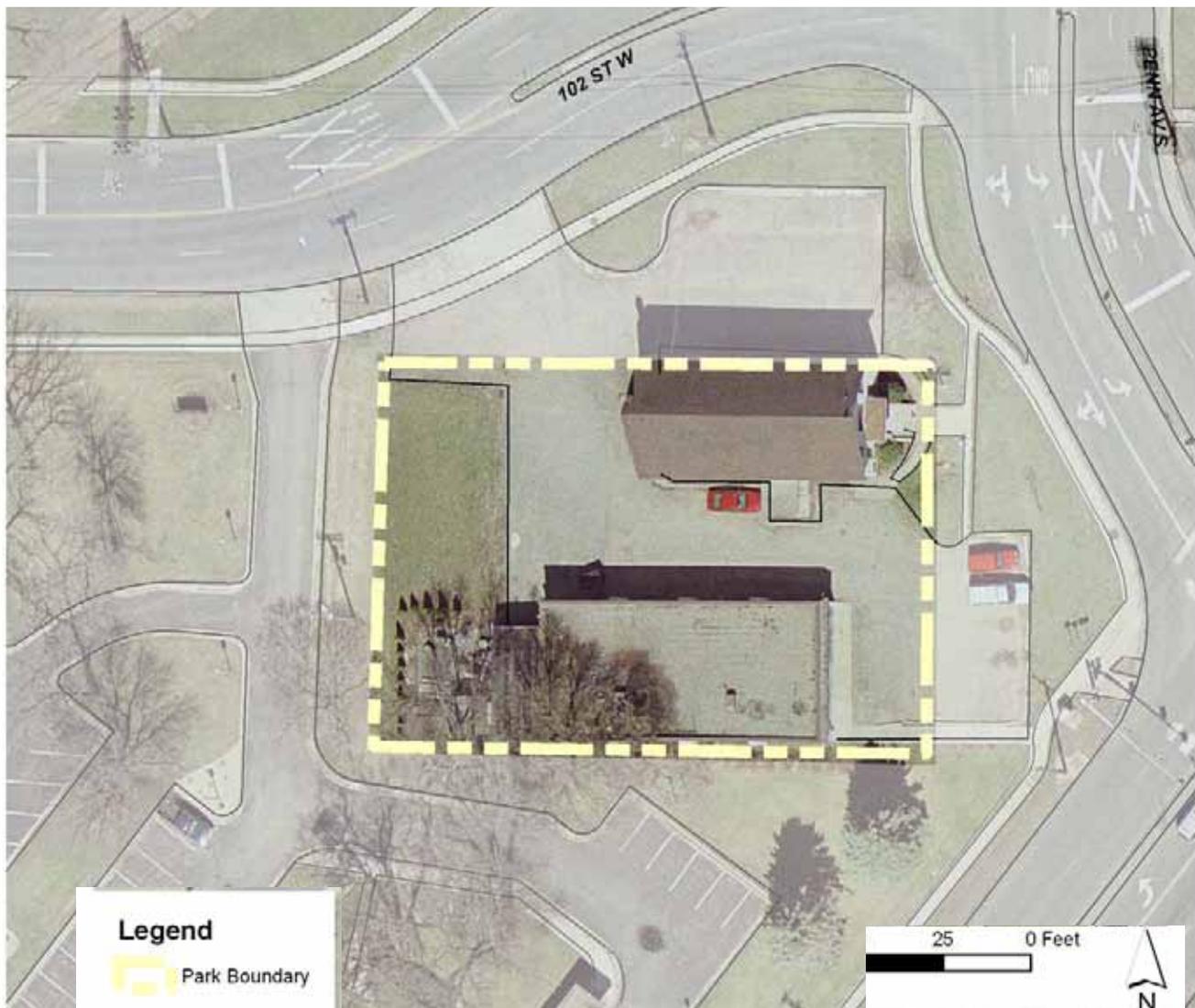
Existing Facilities:

- A Historical museum
- B Off-street parking

Accessibility Recommendations:

- None

Existing Conditions



Olson Middle / Elementary School

Address: *Humbolt and 111th Street*

Classification: School/ Private Recreation Facility

Size: 42 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground
- B Softall fields
- C Tennis courts
- D Soccer fields
- E Basketball/game court
- F Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements

- Replace playground in 2008
- Relocate tennis courts and hardsurface playarea to create full size football/soccerfield

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible surface adjacent to bench
- Accessible path to playground
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety

Olson Middle / Elementary Existing Conditions



Overlook Pond

Address: 4600 Overlook Drive

Classification: Pond

Size: 5.75 Acres water

2.45 Acres land

8.2 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Oxboro Lake Park

Existing Conditions

Address: 49301 Syndicate Avenue S.

Classification: Pond

Size: 19.5 Acres water

5.3 Acres land

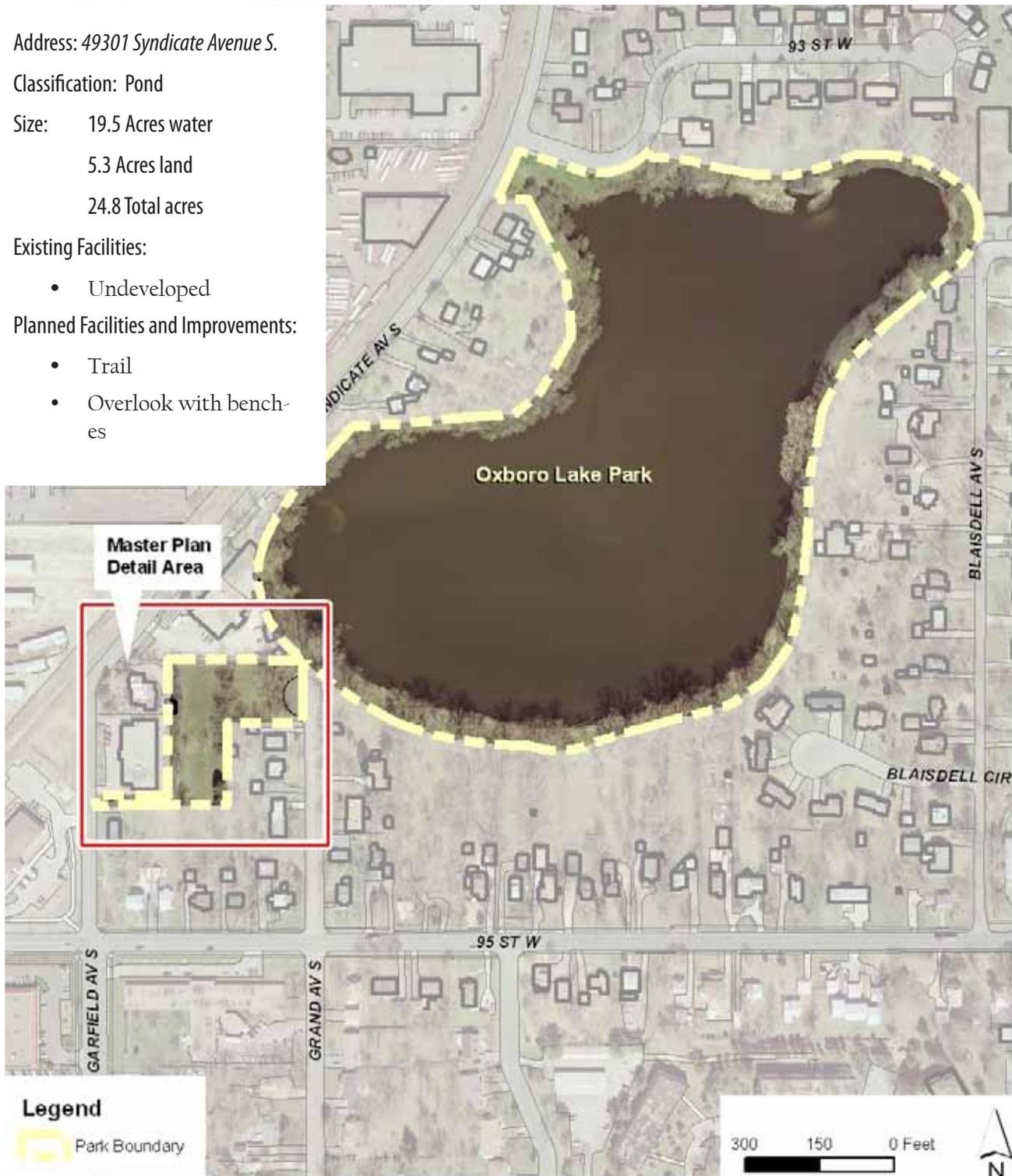
24.8 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Trail
- Overlook with benches



Oxboro Lake Park Master Plan Detail Area



Parker's Picnic Grounds

Existing Conditions

Address: 10401 Columbus Road

Classification: Community Park

Size: 12.7 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- Trails - access to MN River Valley trails
- Grills

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Picnic shelter
- Trail to American Blvd. along Xcel Energy Corridor

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stalls, striping & signage
- Accessible path from parking to picnic area with accessible picnic table, to bench
- Trailhead signs indicating level of accessibility



Pauly's Pond

Existing Conditions

Address: 84th Street W

Classification: Pond

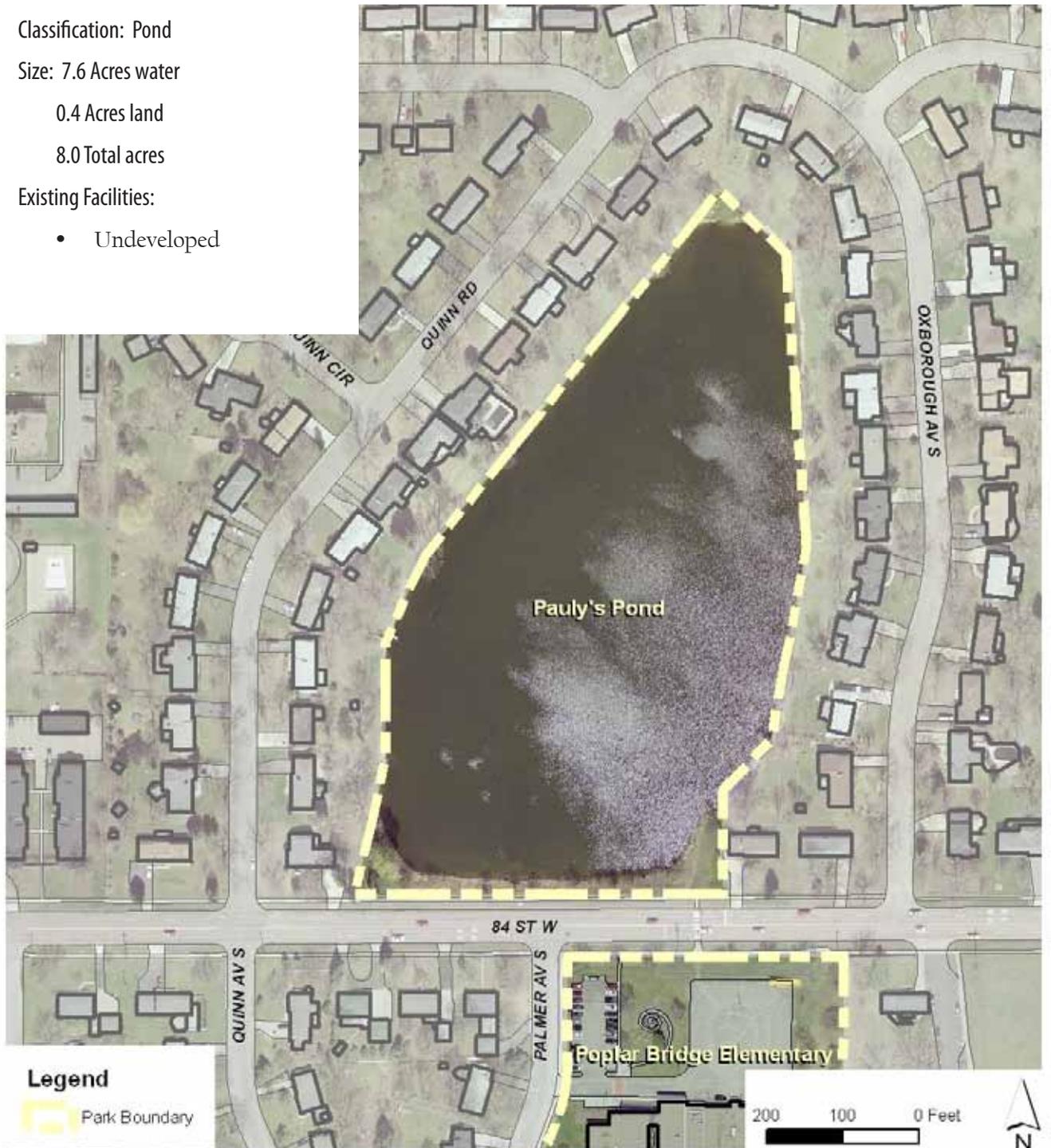
Size: 7.6 Acres water

0.4 Acres land

8.0 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped



Penn Lake Park

Address: 1925 West 86th Street

Classification: Community Park

Size: 32.66 Acres water area

7.84 Acres land area

40.5 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Picnic shelter & grills
- B Off-street parking
- C Canoe launch

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- None

Accessibility

Recommendations

- Accessible parking stall with striping and signage
- Accessible path to picnic area (grill and accessible table)

Existing Conditions



Pickfair Pond

Address: 8717 Wyoming Avenue S.

Classification: Pond

Size: 0.7 Acres water

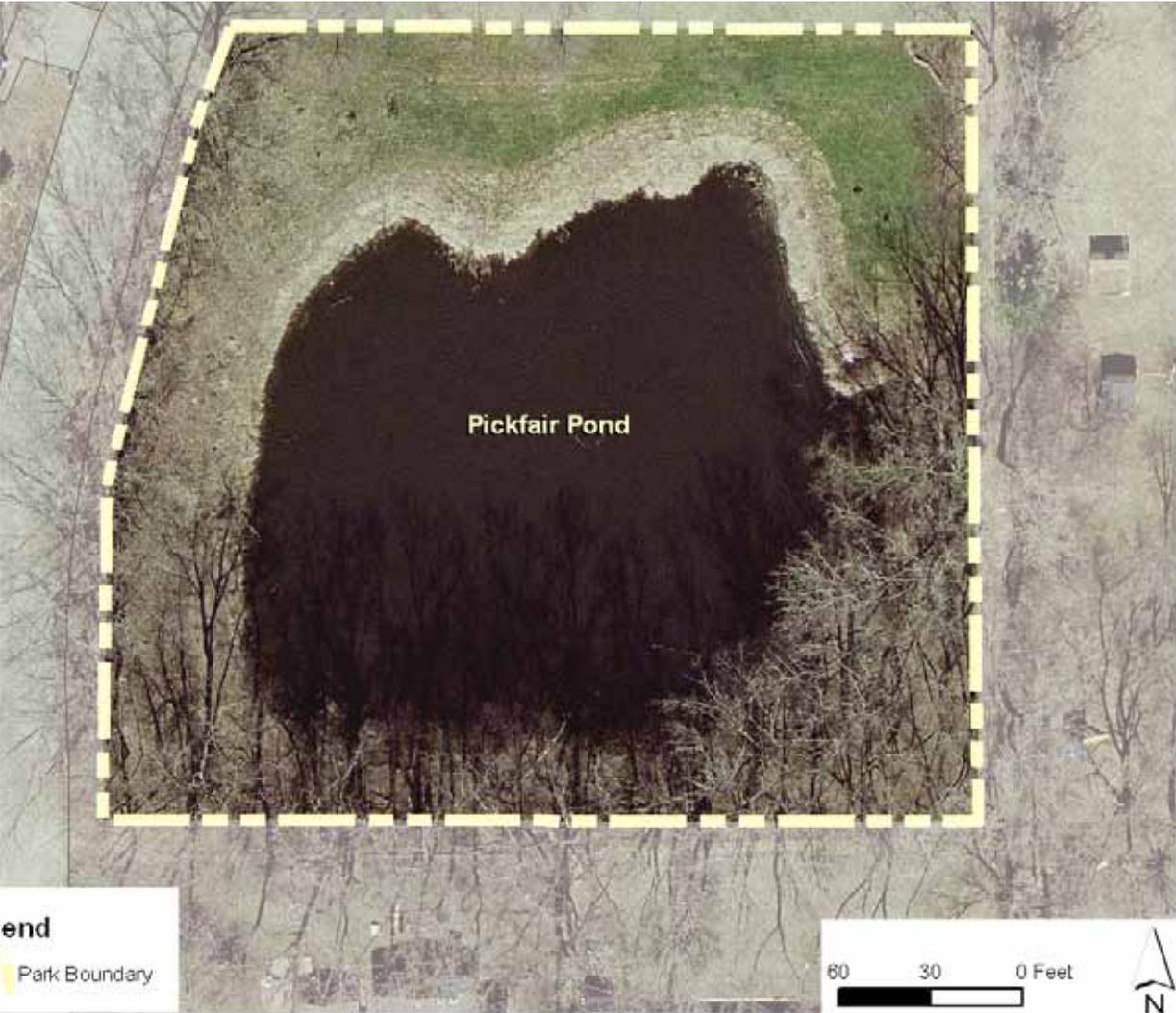
1.0 Acres land

1.7 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Pleasant Playlot

Existing Conditions

Address: 10325 Pleasant Avenue S.

Classification: Playlot

Size: 1.1 Acres

Existing Facilities:

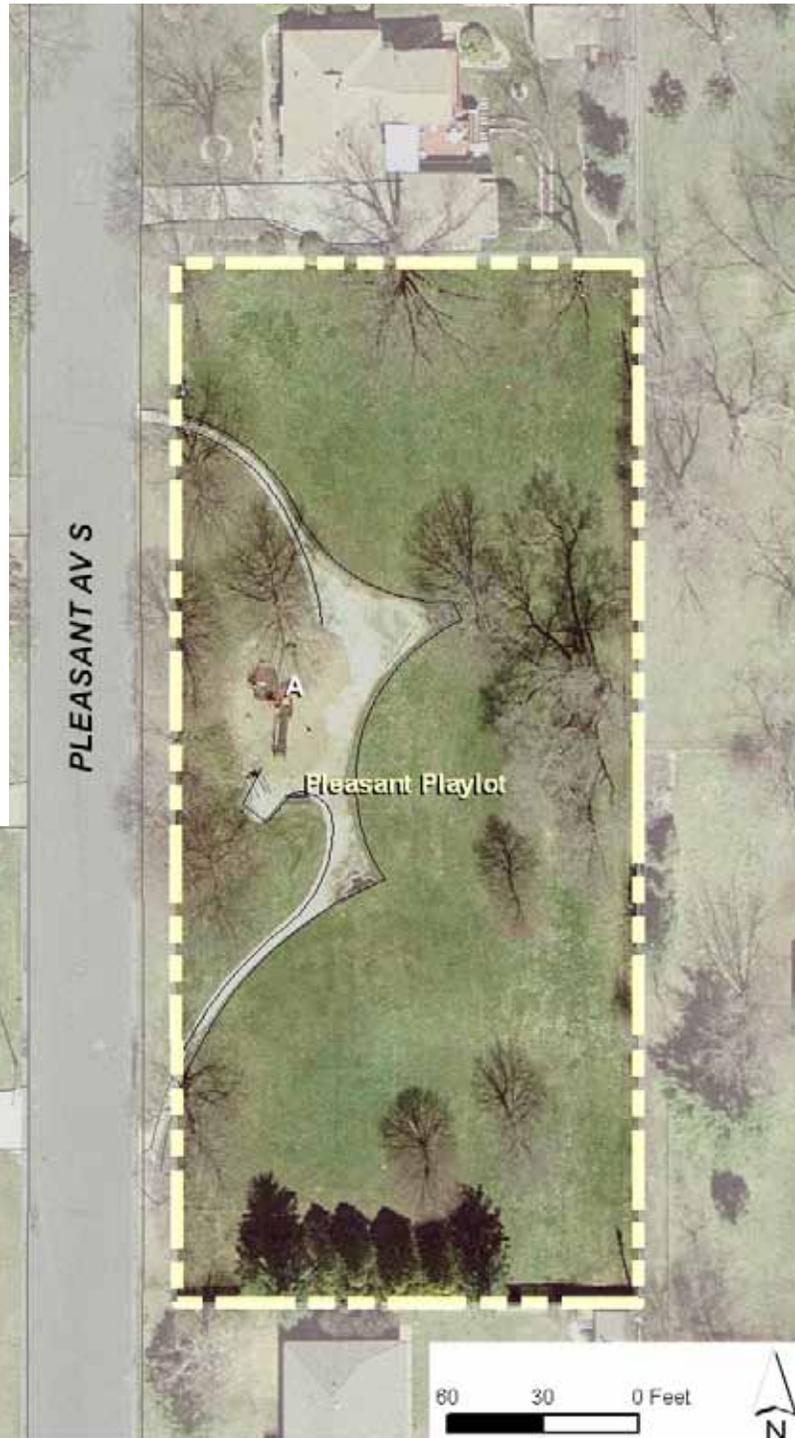
A Playground equipment

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Half-court basketball
- New playground equipment
- Sun shelter
- Benches
- Upgrade trails

Accessibility Recommendations:

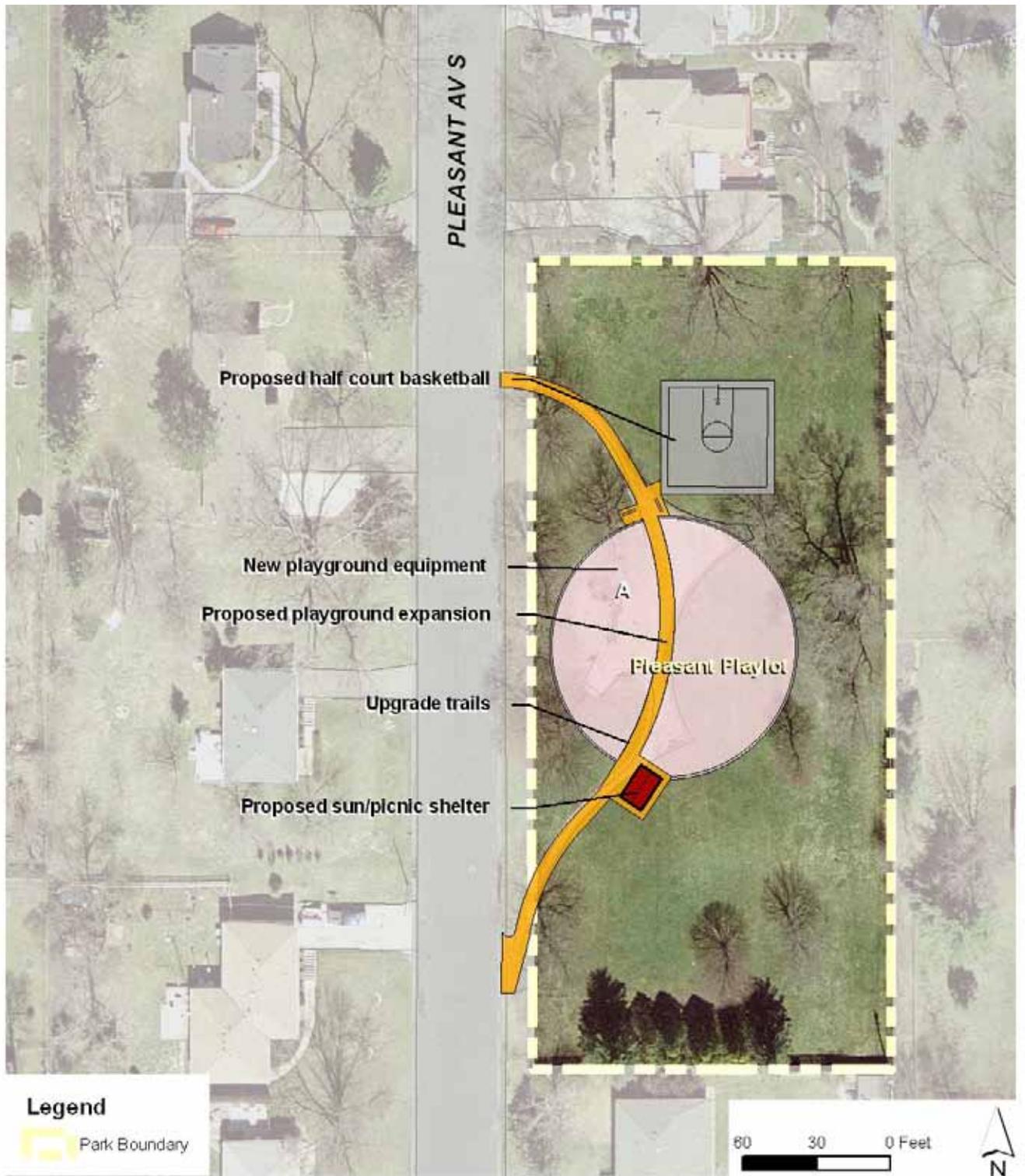
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible picnic table



Legend

 Park Boundary

Pleasant Playlot Master Plan



Pond-Dakota Mission Park



Address: *10501 Third Avenue S.*

Classification: Special Use Area

Size: 34.49 Acres

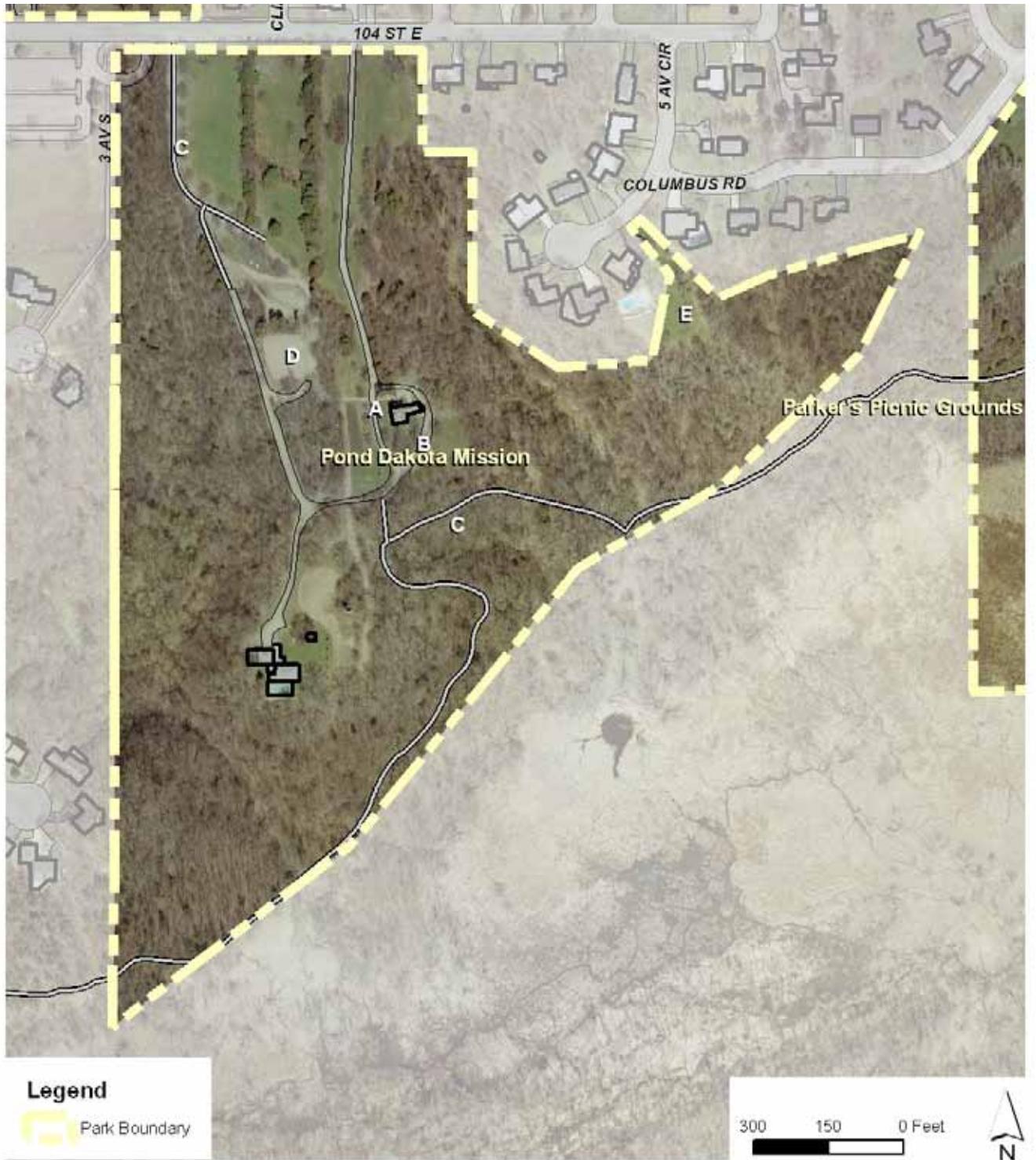
Existing Facilities:

- A Restored historic home and site (1856)
- B Interpretive trails
- C Trails
- D Off-street parking
- E Mission graveyard

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Interpretive facility/barn
- Construct Interpretive log-house
- Add drinking fountain

Pond-Dakota Mission Park Existing Conditions



Poplar Bridge Park

Address: *4600 West 85th Street*

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.2 acres (11 Acres School)

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 Softball diamonds
- D Basketball/game court
- E Lighted hockey rink
- F Skating rink
- G Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Parking lot improvements
- Remove playground at the end of its lifecycle
- Pave hockey rink for in-line skating
- Renovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to soccer field, to accessible picnic tables & to softball field
- Accessible picnic table by warming house
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible parking stall striping and signage

Poplar Bridge Park Existing Conditions



Quail Ridge Playlot

Address: 7301 Minnesota Bluffs Drive

Classification: Playlot

Size: 6.4 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Half-court basketball
- C Trails

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- A Upgrade playground equipment in 2026

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible surface adjacent to benches
- Upgrade play structure for accessibility
- Accessible picnic table near playground
- Accessible path to basketball court
- Modify existing paths with max. grade of 5% and 2% cross slope.

Existing Conditions



Reynolds Park



Address: 7201 West 83rd Street

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 14.6 Acres

Notes: Site shared with City water tower

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Warming house (removed)
- C Tennis courts
- D 2 Soccer fields
- E Softball diamonds
- F Half-court basketball
- G Off-street parking



Planned Facilities & Improvements:

- Irrigate - restore turf
- Replace park building with 4 table shelter
- Move & upgrade playground up hill to make room for improved soccer field in 2008
- Looped trail
- Resurface parking lot
- Plant trees in park and parking lot for shade
- Water tower hillside sliding and overlook



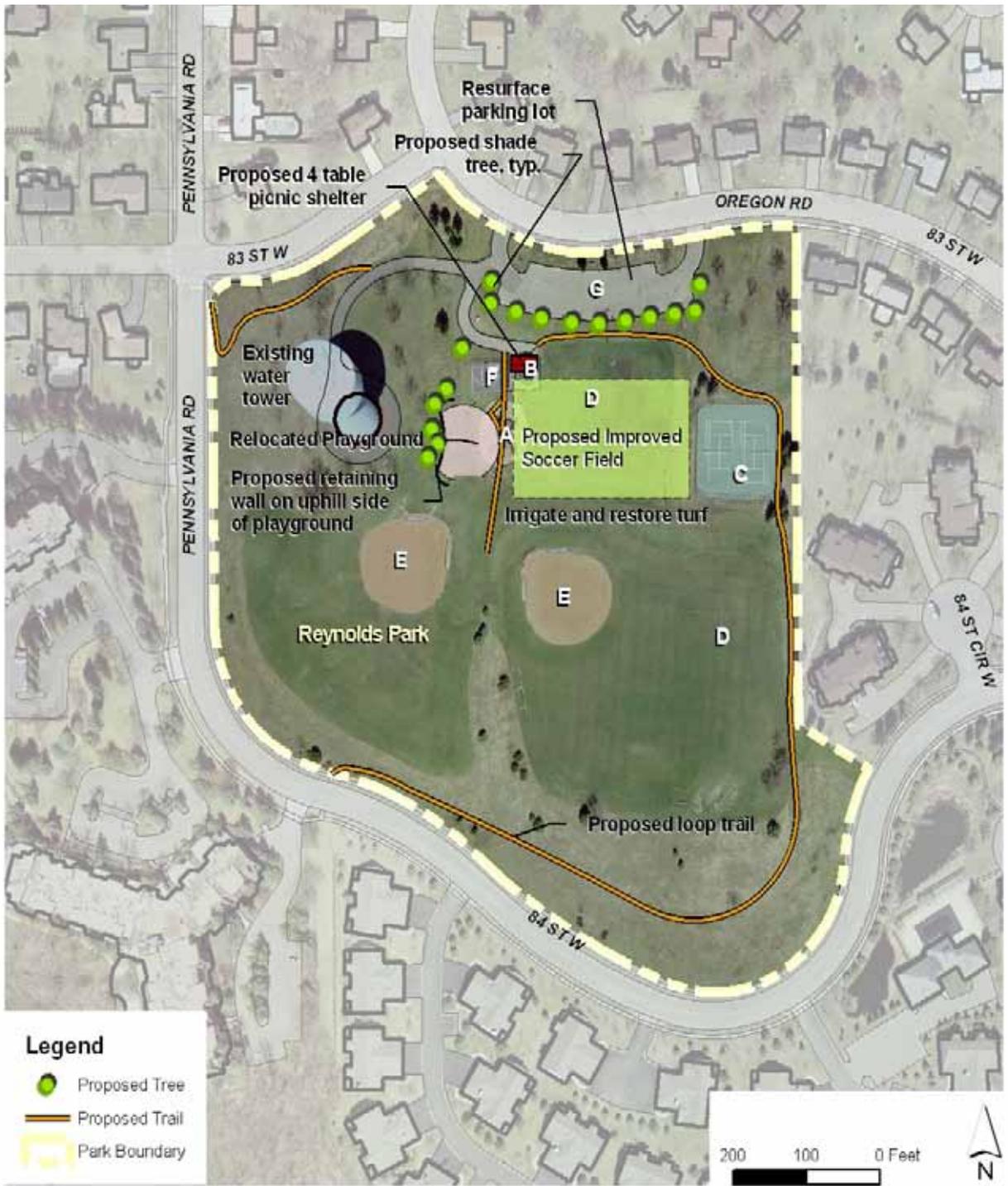
Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Accessible path to tennis courts, benches, accessible picnic tables and softball fields
- Accessible picnic table
- Accessible surface adjacent to benches and picnic tables

Reynolds Park Existing Conditions



Reynolds Park Master Plan



Rhodes Playlot

Address: 7501 West 105th Street

Classification: Playlot

Size: 0.8 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2010

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground equipment in 2008

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible path to swings
- Accessible bench seating with accessible path (relocate to accessible path)

Existing Conditions



Ridgeview Park



Address: 6001 West 94th Street

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.8 Acres (11 Acres School)

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Warming shelter
- C 2 Tennis courts
- D Soccer field
- E 1/2 Basketball/game court
- F Hockey rink
- G Lighted skating rink
- H Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Rennovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks
- Upgrade playground in 2018

Note: Consider removing west tennis court as per tennis court study recommendations

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Accessible trail to baseball field, softball field and spectator seating, soccer field, hockey rink
- Accessible surface under spectator seating areas



Ridge View Park Existing Conditions



River Ridge Playlot

Address: 8715 River Ridge Road

Classification: Playlot

Size: 2.1 Acres

Note: Parking per agreement with church

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment - accessible
- B 2 Tennis courts
- C Soccer fields
- D Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Upgrade playground in 2011
- Irrigate soccer field

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible path to soccer field

Existing Conditions



Running Park

Address: 9501 12th Avenue S.

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 2.14 Acres water area

8.36 Acres land area

10.5 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 Softball diamonds
- D Football field
- E 2 Lighted hockey rinks
- F Skating area
- G Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Half-court basketball

- New playground in 2017
 - Renovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks
- Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking lot striping and signage
- Accessible surface adjacent to benches and accessible picnic tables
- Accessible path to accessible picnic tables, softball field, football field & skating rink
- Accessible path to accessible picnic table



Skreibakken Park

Address: 4100 W. 90th Street

Classification: Conservation Area

Size: 20.8 Acres water area

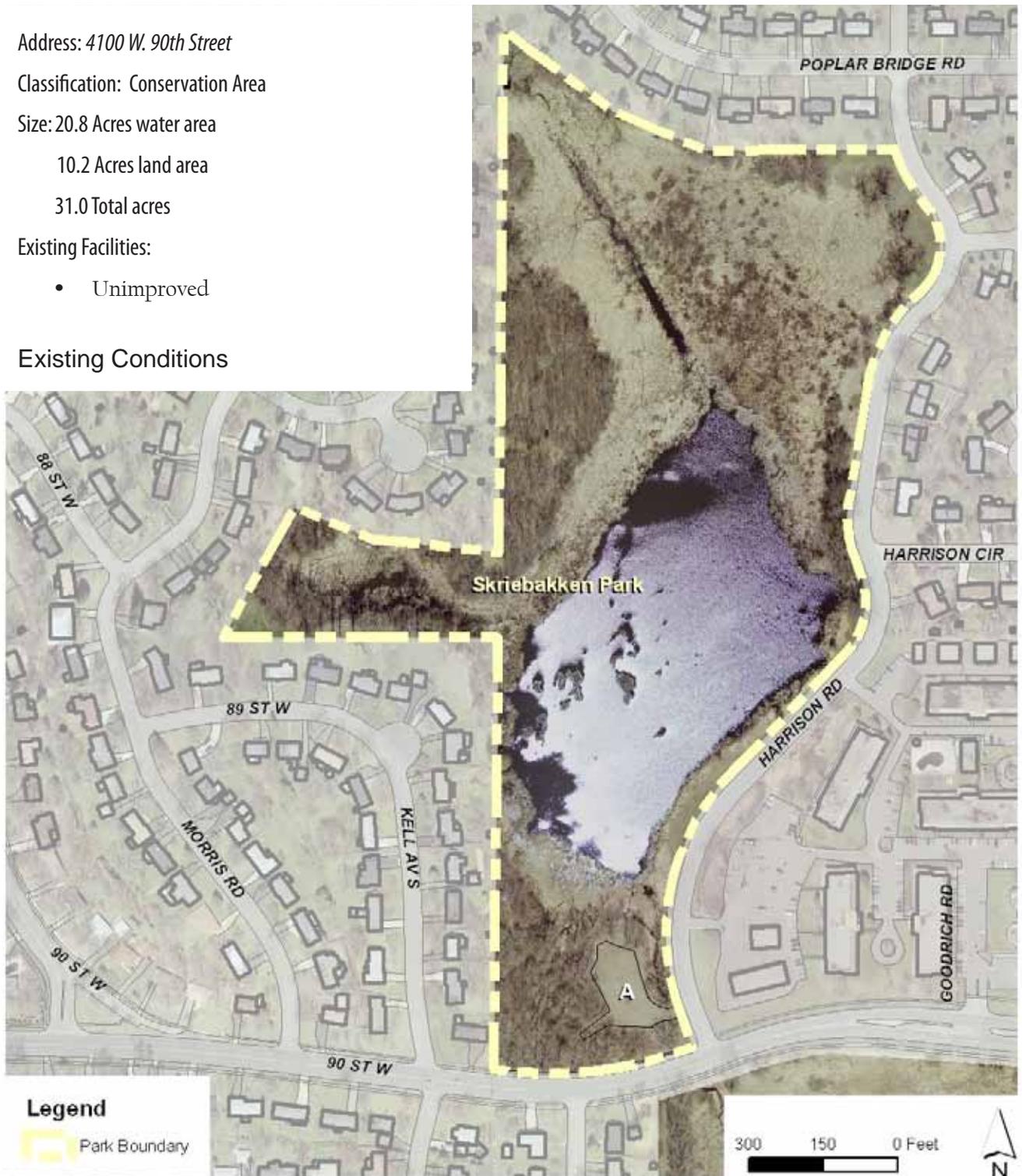
10.2 Acres land area

31.0 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- Unimproved

Existing Conditions



Smith Park



Address: 8155 Park Avenue S.

Classification: Community Playfield

Size: 7.06 Acres water area

17.64 Acres land area

24.7 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C Gazebo
- D 2 Softball diamonds
- E Baseball diamond
- F Soccer field /Football field
- G Sledding hill
- H Trails
- I Pedestrian bridge
- J Off-street parking
- K Basketball court
- L 2 Tennis courts
- Grills

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Ballfield improvements
- New playground in 2019
- Renovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks and storage

Accessibility Recommendations:

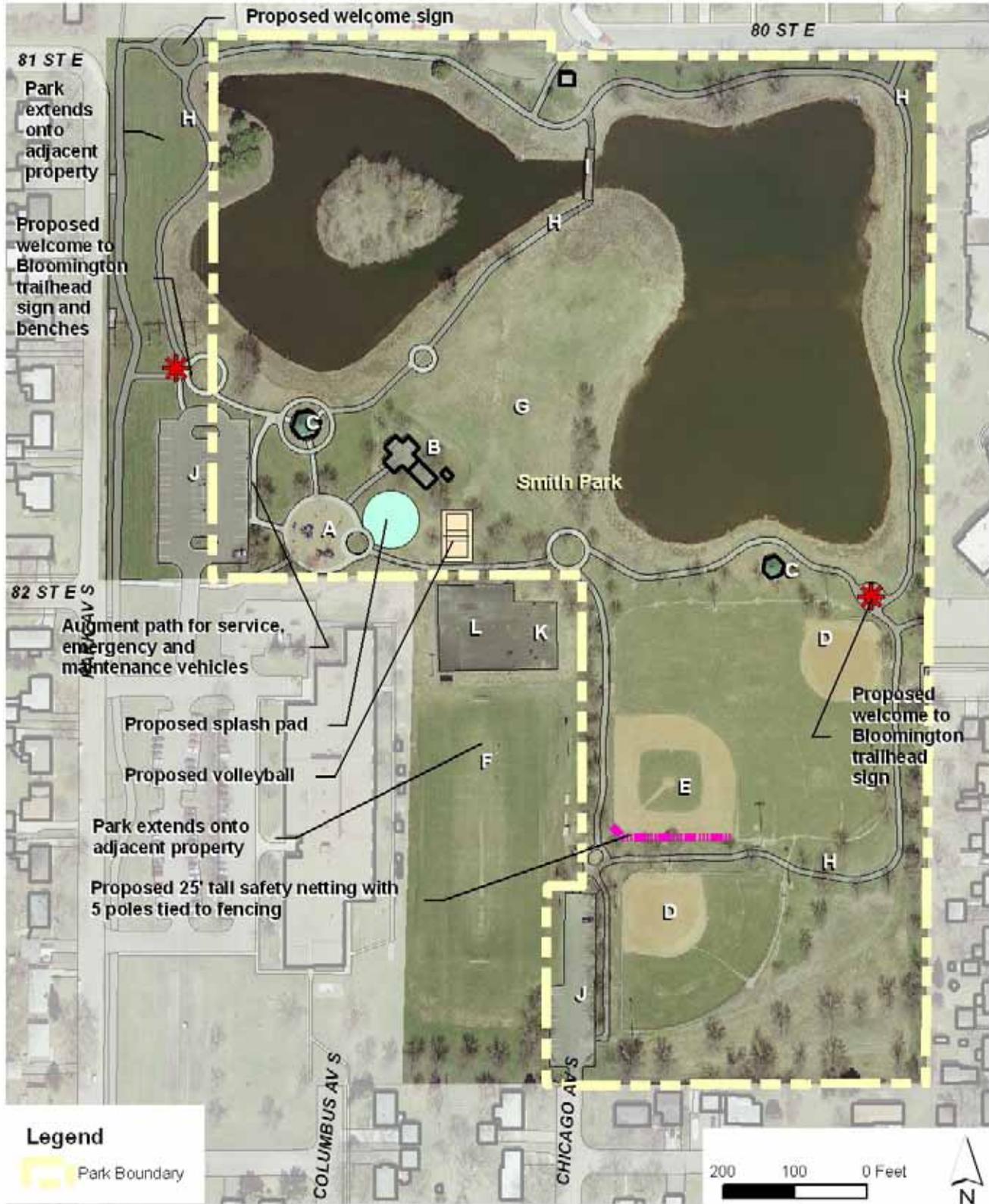
- Accessible parking stall striping and signage (J)
- Accessible path to Ballfields



Smith Park Existing Conditions



Smith Park Master Plan



Soens Park

Address: 426 East 102nd Street

Classification: Mini-park

Size: 2.5 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped



Southdell Playlot

Existing Conditions

Address: 10701 Rich Road

Classification: Playlot

Size: 1.3 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

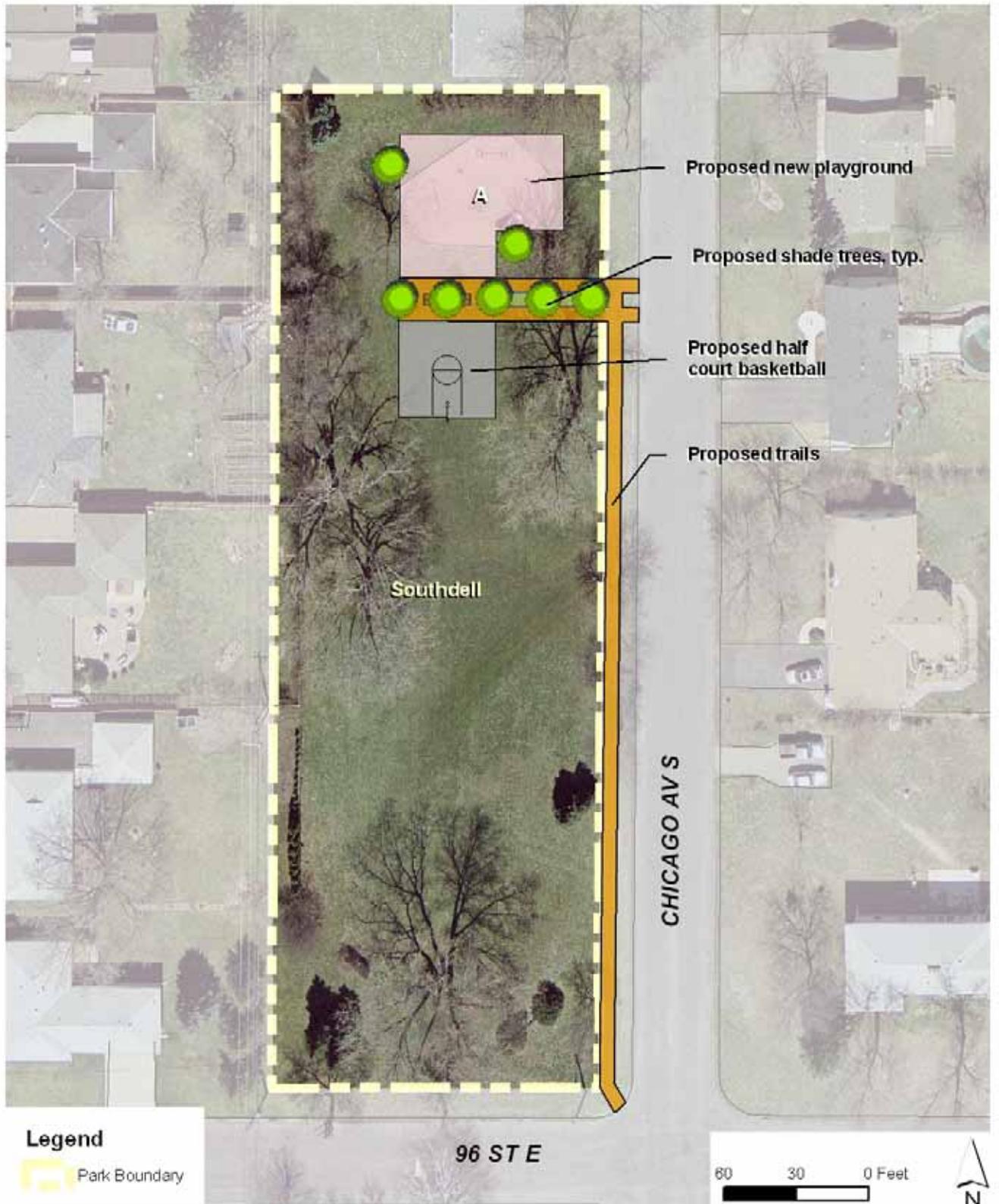
- Half-court basketball
- New playground in 2008
- Trail along Chicago Avenue S.
- Landscaping
- Benches
- Accessible paths

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to playground & benches
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety



Southdell Playlot Master Plan



Southglen Park



Address: 10701 Rich Road

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.96 Acres water area

10.14 Acres land area

12.1 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C Tennis court
- D Softball diamond
- E Soccer field
- F Basketball/game court
- G Lighted hockey rink
- H Skating rink
- I Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Tennis court resurfacing
- Renovate soccer fields - improve drainage
- New playground in 2017
- Renovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Accessible path to the accessible picnic table, play structure, softball field, hockey rink, soccer field, Basketball/game court
- Provide an accessible surface material to play equipment



Southglen Park Existing Conditions



Southwood Park



Address: 10701 Rich Road

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 7.0 Acres (5 Acres School)

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 Tennis courts
- D 2 Softball fields
- E Soccer field
- F Basketball/game court
- G Lighted hockey rink
- H Skating area
- I Off-street parking

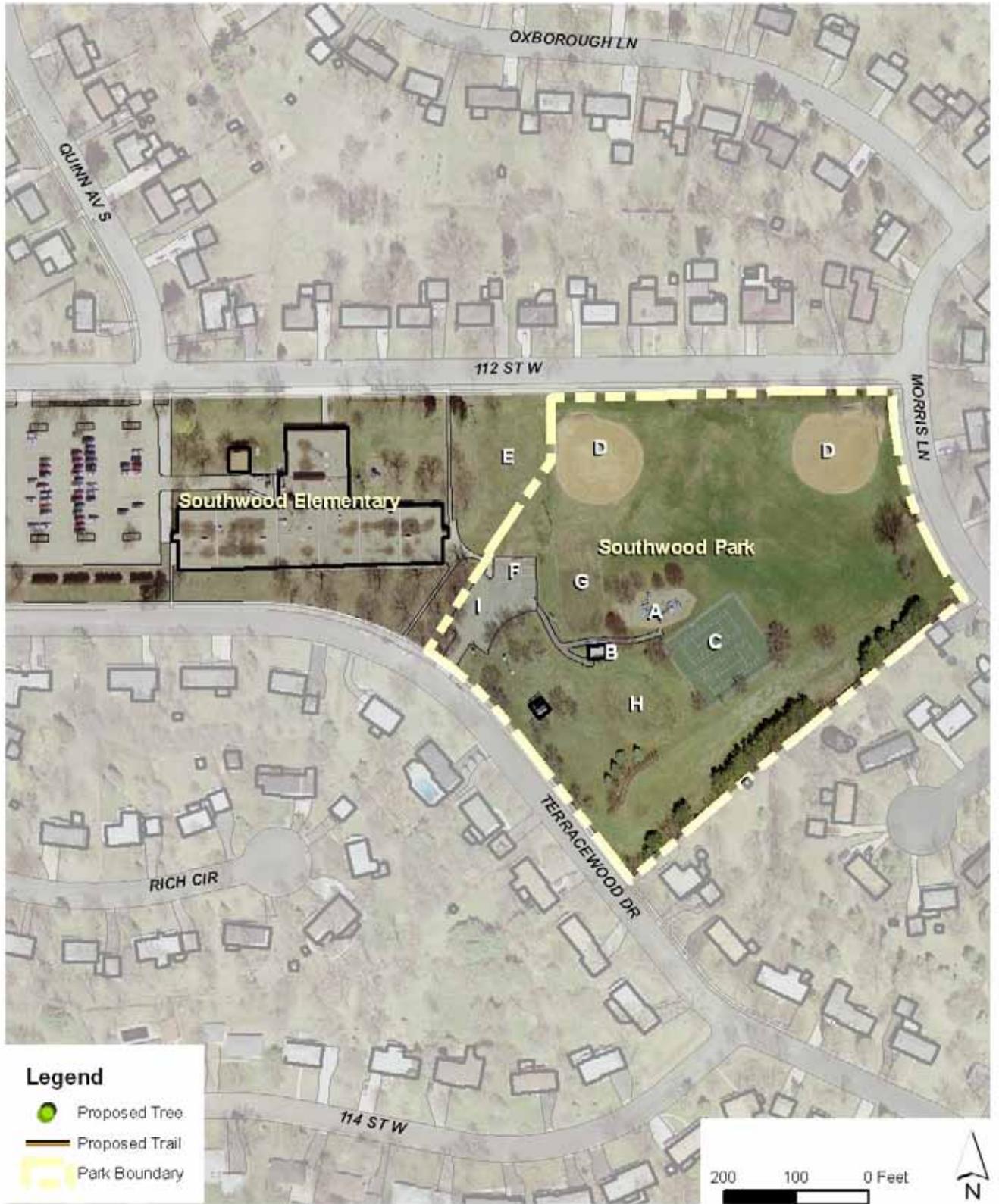
Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground in 2012
- Renovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Accessible surface under bench
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible path to tennis courts, warming house, softball fields, and hockey rink

Southwood Playground Existing Conditions



St. Bonaventure

Address: 901 East 90th Street

Classification: Church/Private Recreation Facility

Note: Church owned, City maintained

Size: 5 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A 4 Softball fields

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Renovate fields into a ballfield wheel

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible path to ballfields

Existing Conditions



Sunrise Park



Address: 9401 Bloomington Ferry Road

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.92 Acres water area

14.28 Acres land area

15.2 Total acres



Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 Tennis courts
- D Basketball/game court
- E Soccer field
- F 2 Softball diamonds
- G Lighted hockey rink
- H Lighted skating area
- I Off-street parking
- Paved Trails

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New playground in 2020
- Renovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks
- Renovate tennis court fencing
- Add shade trees

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible path to ballfields and tennis courts

Sunrise Park Existing Conditions



Tarnhill Park



Address: 9650 Little Road

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.79 Acres water area

34.71 Acres land area

36.5 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 Tennis courts
- D Basketball/game court
- E 3 Softball diamonds
- F Lighted hockey rink
- G Lighted skating area
- H Volleyball court
- I Off-street parking
- J 2 Soccer fields
- Trails

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- New tennis practice area
- New playground in 2021
- Renovate park building with exterior restrooms and timer locks

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Accessible trail to tennis courts, softball fields and spectator seating, playground, accessible picnic tables, benches & soccer field
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible picnic tables
- Accessible surface under benches, accessible picnic tables and spectator seating

Tarnhill Park Existing Conditions



Timberglade Pond

Existing Conditions

Address: 5601 W. 102nd Street

Classification: Pond

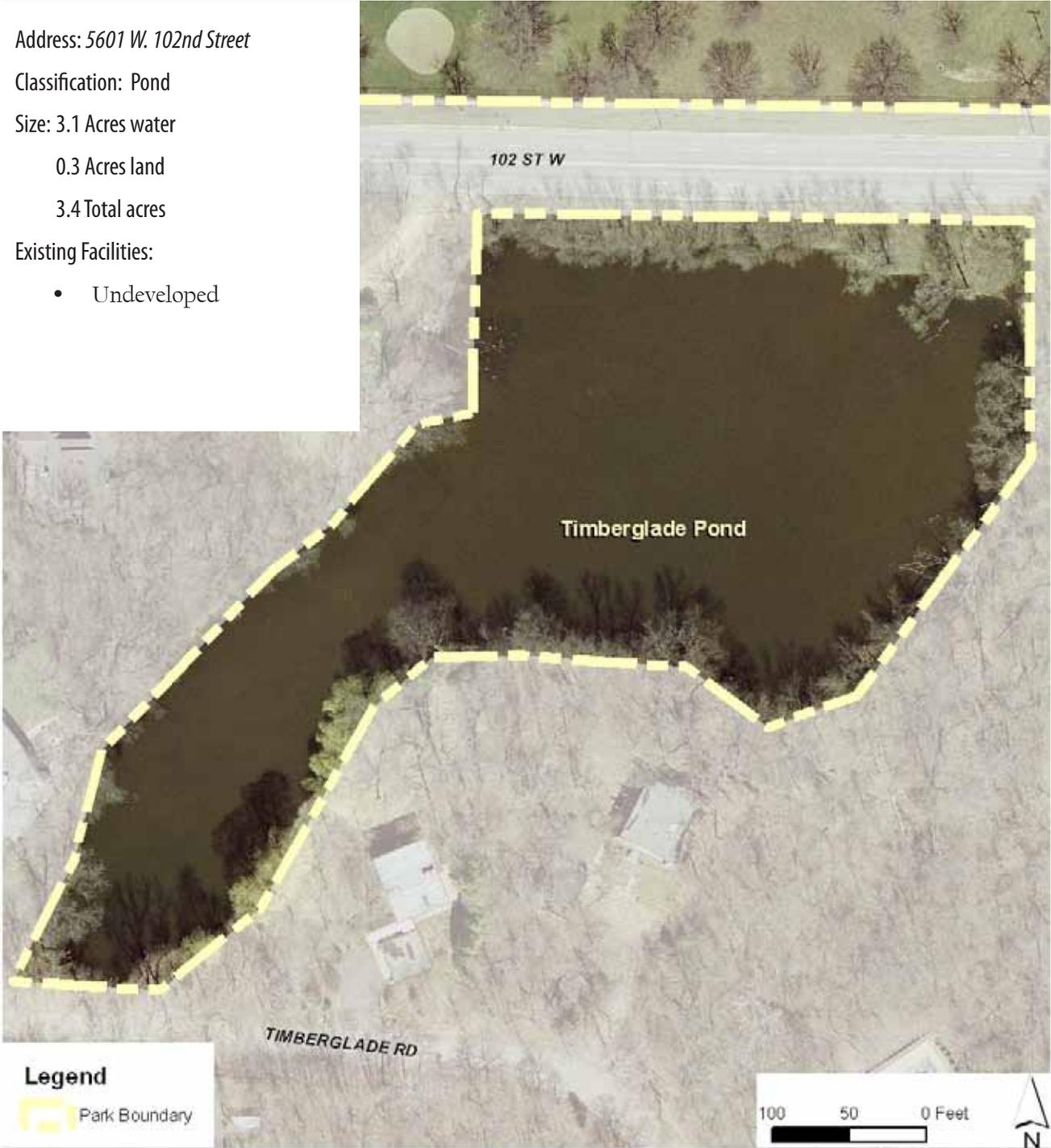
Size: 3.1 Acres water

0.3 Acres land

3.4 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped



Tretbaugh Park



Address: 3701 West 90th Street

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 3.1 Acres (Part of Marsh Lake)

Existing Facilities:

- A Warming house
- B 2 Hockey rinks
- C Off-street parking

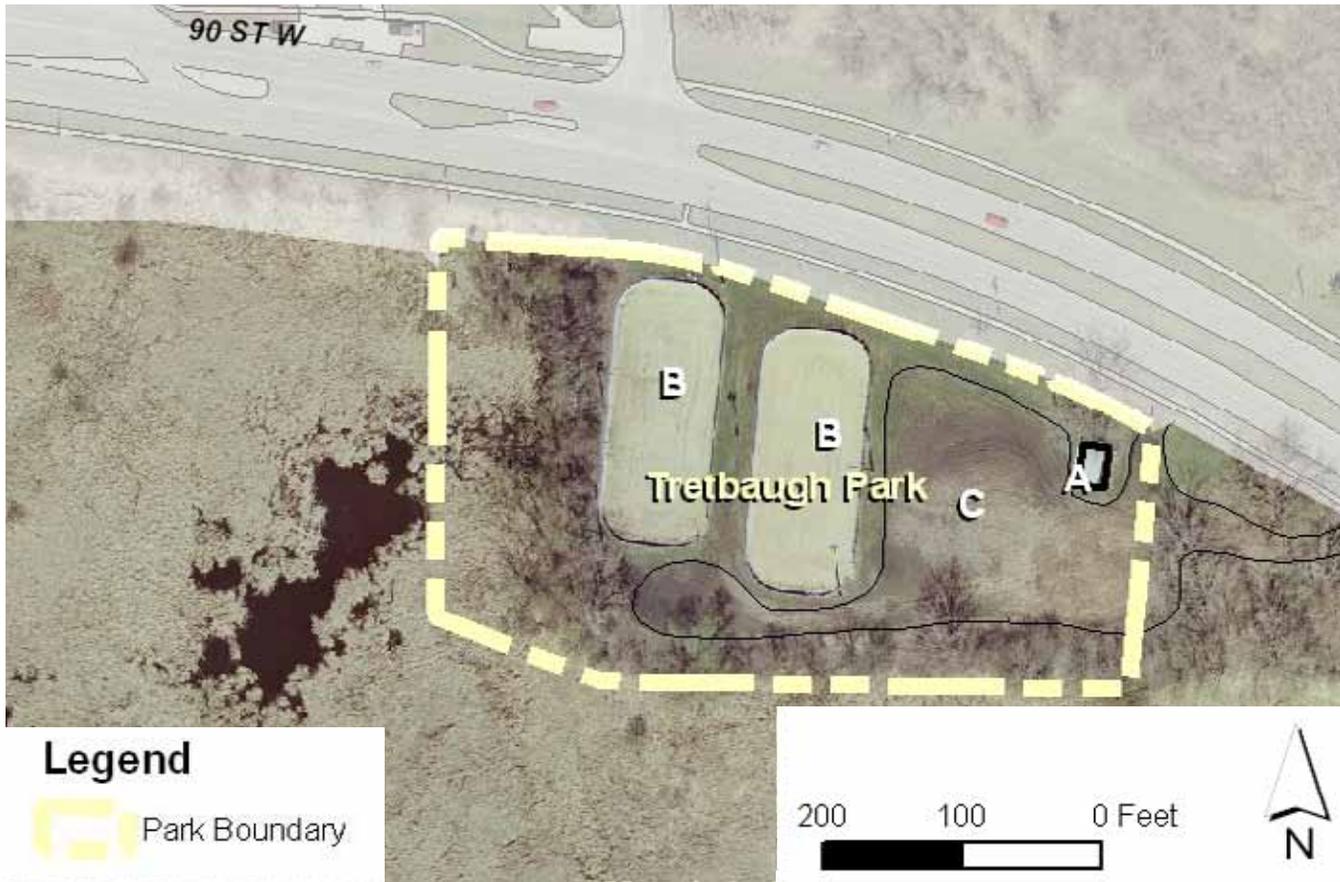
Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Warming house
- Paved parking lot
- Off-leash dog exercise area in rink

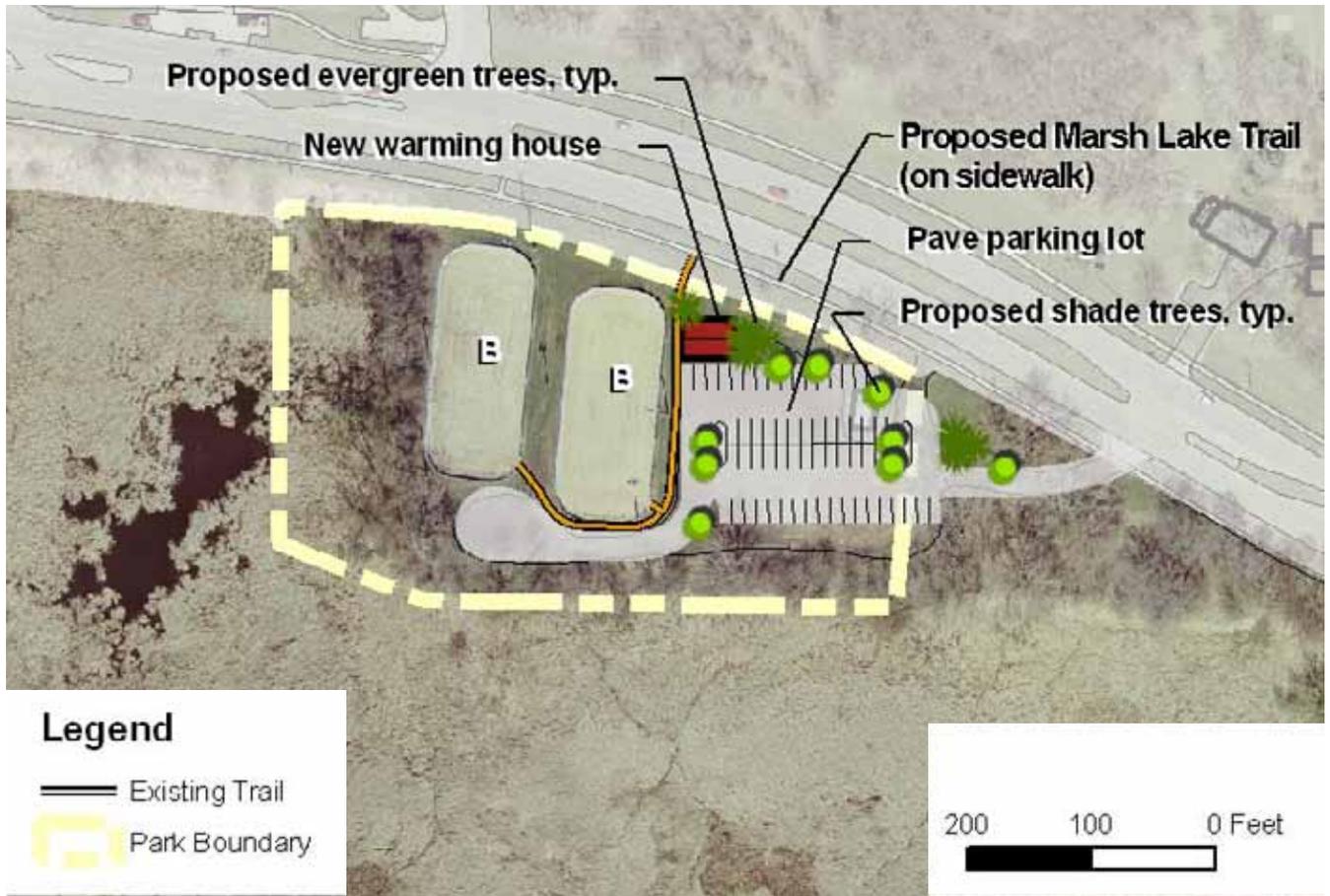
Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stalls with striping and signage
- Accessible path to warming house and hockey rinks from parking lot

Existing Conditions



Tretbaugh Park Master Plan



Valley View School and Playfield



Address: 9000 Portland Avenue S.

Classification: Community Playfield

Size: 34.2 Acres (40 Acres School)

Notes: Valley View School property is school district owned and City maintained

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Skate park
- C Park building/Concessions
- D 6 Tennis courts
- E 2 Basketball/game courts
- F 11 Softball diamonds
- G 5 Baseball diamonds: includes Red Haddock (VVI), Kent Hrbek Fields (KH5-KH8); Roy Schardin Field (KH5)
- H 24 Horseshoe courts
- I 6 Bocce ball courts
- J Bloomington Family Aquatic Center
- K Volleyball court
- L Off-street parking
 - 3 Soccer fields
 - Football field

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Install protective fencing and other ballfield improvements
- Expand skate park
- Renovate Arnie Johnson field house with exterior restrooms and timer locks
- Renovate Red Haddock Field with concessions building

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking lot stalls with striping and signage
- Accessible path to softball fields and spectator seating, playground structure, soccer field

Valley View School and Playfield Existing Conditions



Vanderbie Park



Address: 1001 West 92nd Street

Size: 5.9 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B 2 Tennis courts
- C Soccer field
- D Softball diamond
- E Baseball diamond



Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible bench near playground
- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety in 2017
- Accessible path to ballfield, spectator seating and players benches, softball field



Vanderbie Park Existing Conditions



Veness Pond

Address: 9161 Veness Road

Classification: Pond

Size: 0.8 Acres water area

4.0 Acres land area

4.8 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Wanda Miller Pond



Address: *4200 West 84th Street*

Classification: Pond

Size: 8 Acres water area

3.45 Acres land area

11.45 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Wanda Miller Pond Existing Conditions



Washburn Elementary

Address: 8401 Xerxes Avenue S.

Classification: School/Private
Recreation Facility

Size: 13 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B 3 Tennis courts
- C Basketball court
- D 2 Soccer fields
- E 2 Softball diamonds
- F Off-street parking

Accessibility Recommendations

- Accessible parking lot stall striping and signage
- Accessible path to bench seating, playground & softball fields

Existing Conditions



West Bush Lake Park

Address: *94th and West Bush Lake Road*

Classification: Regional Park

Size: 30.6 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Boat landing (6 h.p. max)
- C Rental canoe racks
- D Picnic tables
- E Picnic shelters
- F Off-street parking
- G Fishing pier
- H Volleyball court
- I BBQ grills

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Reconstruct trails and parking lots
- Looped trail around Bush Lake
- Replace picnic tables and benches

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Relocate “pick-up after your pet” container to accessible trail
- Accessible parking stalls. signs and striping at parking lots
- Accessible picnic tables at covered picnic area
- Accessible trail to fishing pier, horseshoe pits by shelter
- Upgrade playground for accessibility
- Accessible picnic tables
- Accessible pathway to playground, sand volleyball, picnic shelter, accessible picnic tables
- Add bench at fishing pier

West Bush Lake Park Existing Conditions



Westwood Park



Address: 3490 West 109th Street

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.1 Acres (15 Acres School)

Existing Facilities:

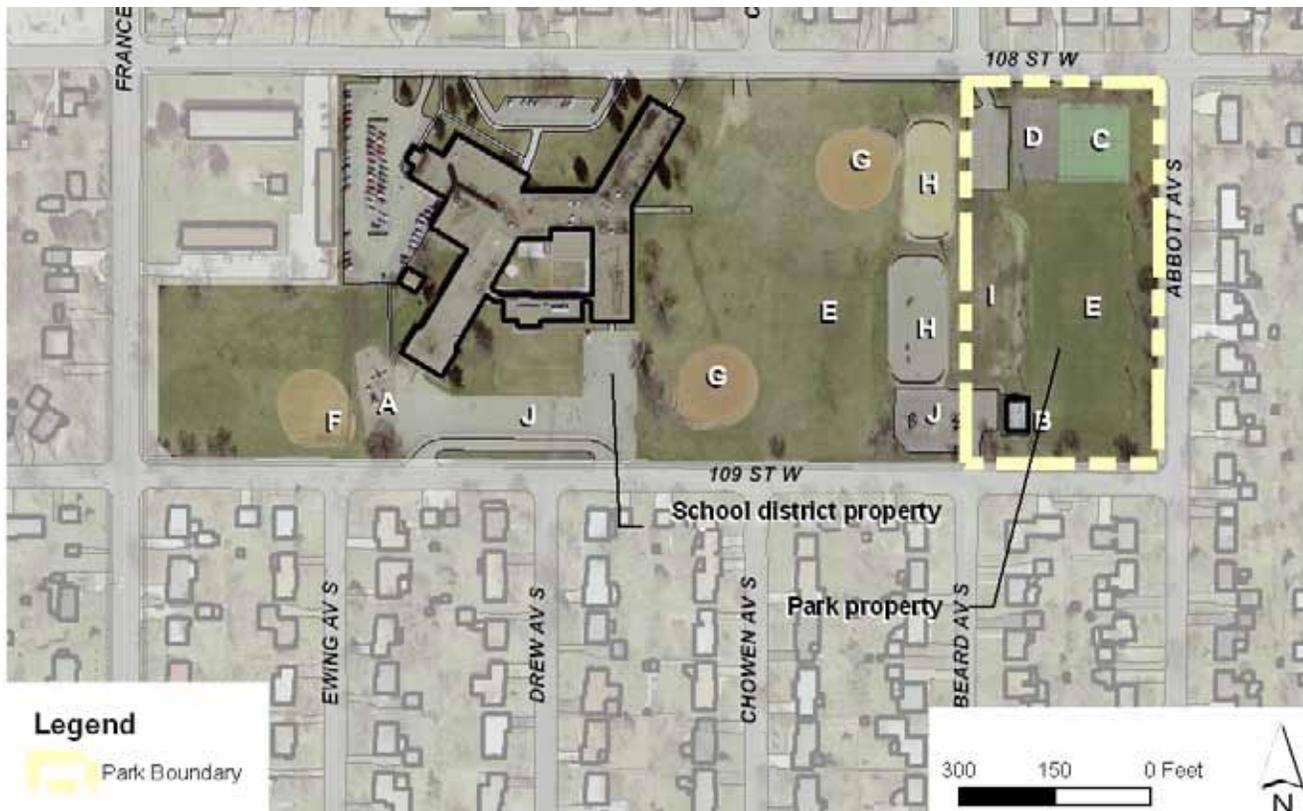
- A Playground equipment
- B Park building
- C 2 Tennis courts
- D Basketball court
- E 2 soccer/football fields
- F 1 Baseball diamond
- G 2 Softball diamonds
- H 2 Hockey rinks - one paved for in-line skating
- I Skating rink
- J Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Building renovation with outdoor restrooms and timer locks
- Replace playground in 2011

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible pathway to hockey rink, softball fields, basketball court, bench seating by playground, playground
- Accessible parking stalls, signs and striping at parking lot



Winchester Pond

Address: 10125 France Avenue S.

Classification: Conservation

Size: 1.5 Acres water

1.0 Acres land

2.5 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Woodbrige Marsh

Address: 9500 Bloomington Ferry Road

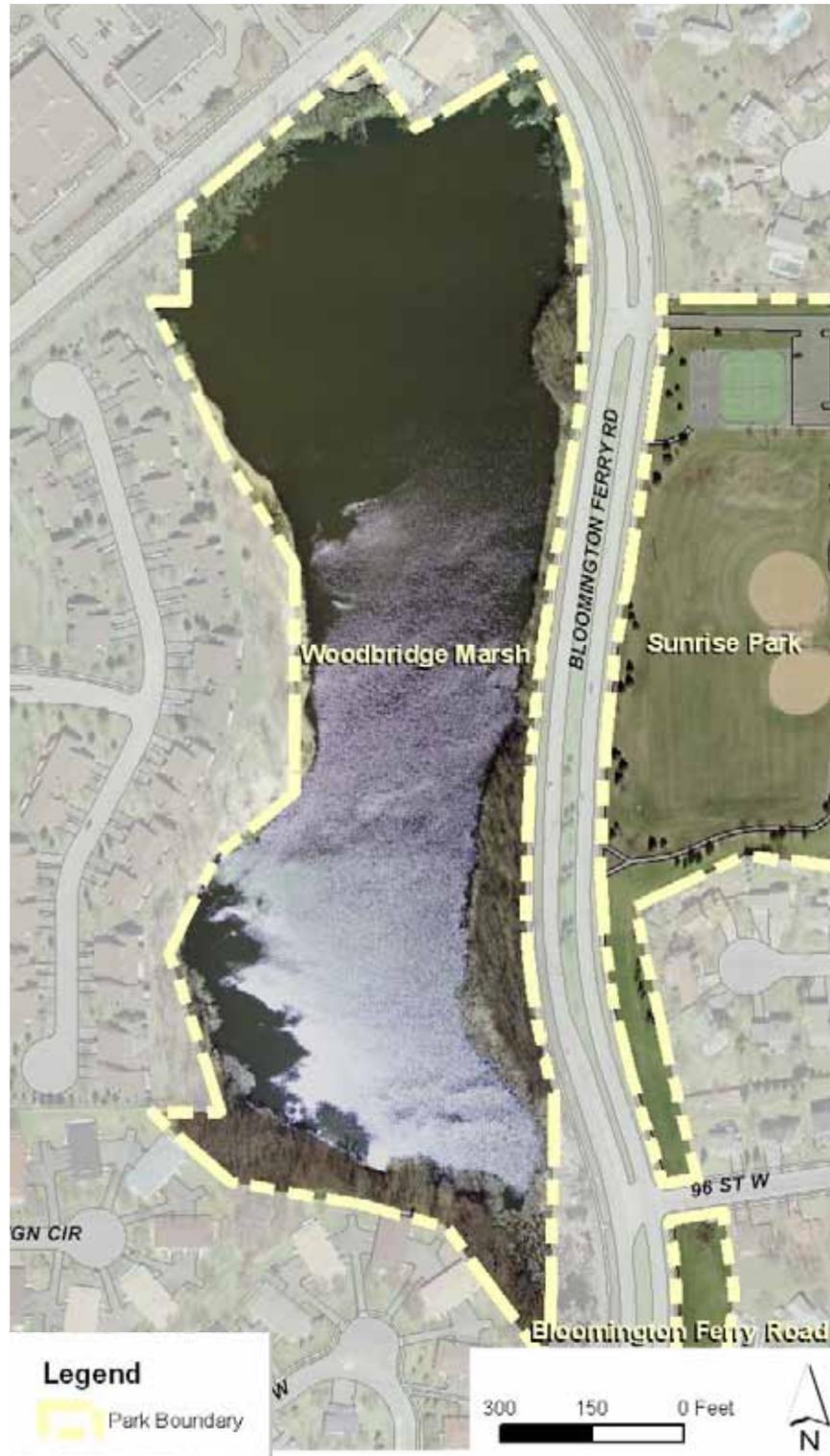
Classification: Conservation Area

Size: 22.8 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



Wright's Lake Park

Address: 8501 17th Avenue S.

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.29 Acres water area

9.51 Acres land area

13.8 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B 2 Tennis courts
- C 1 Soccer field
- D 1 Baseball diamond
- E Trails
- F Off-street parking

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Trail connection to tennis court
- Shade trees
- Irrigate fields
- New playground equipment in 2010

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Accessible parking stall striping and signage
- Accessible pathway to tennis court, bench at playground, accessible picnic table, baseball field and spectator seating, portable toilet & soccer field
- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety
- Accessible portable toilet

Existing Conditions



Wright's Lake Master Plan



Wyoming Playlot



Address: 10653 Wyoming Road

Classification: Playlot

Size: 0.8 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Half-court basketball

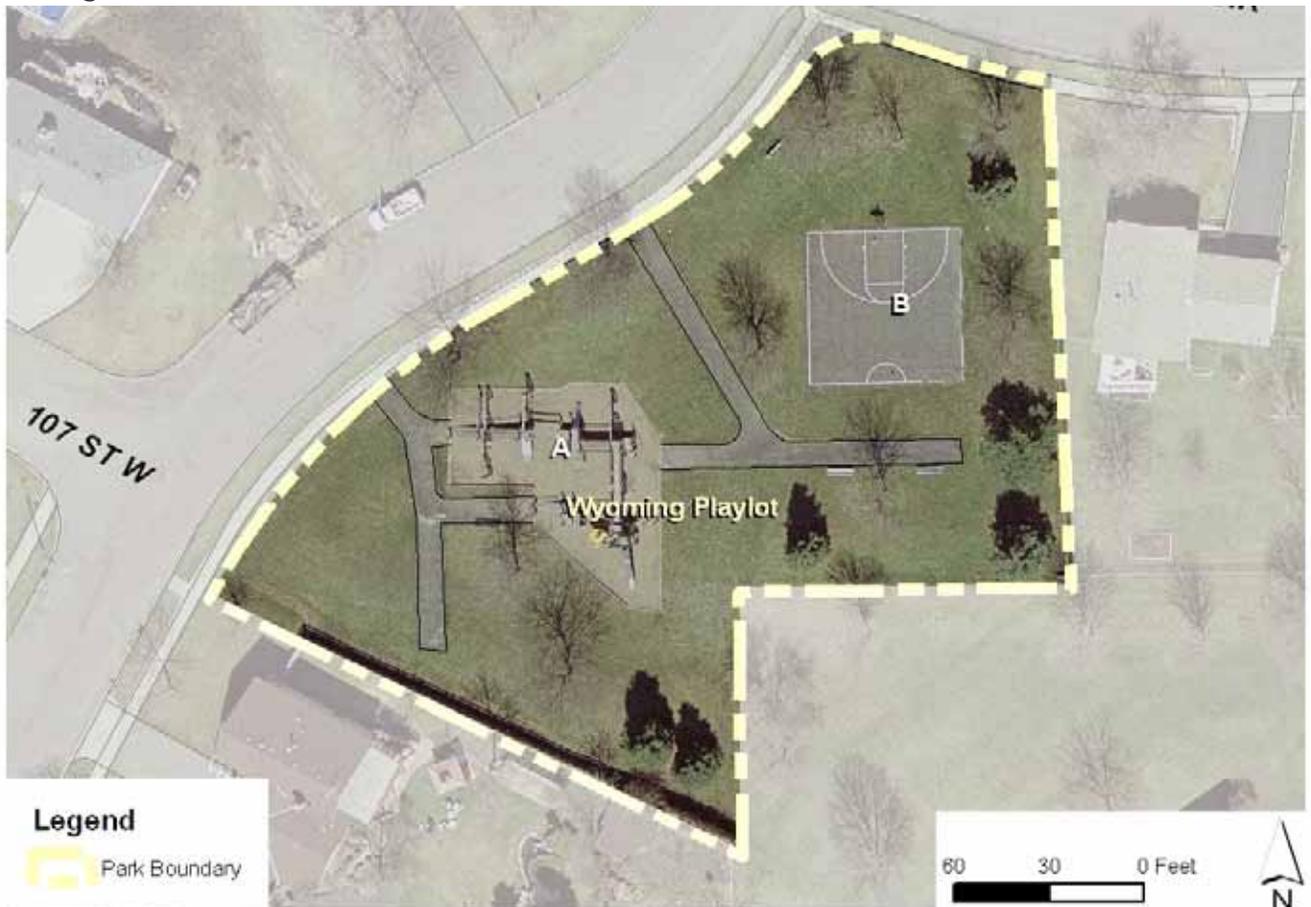
Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- B Replace playground in 2023

Accessibility Recommendations:

- Upgrade playground for accessibility and safety

Existing Conditions



Xavier Court Playlot



Address: 11276 Xavier Road

Classification: Playlot

Size: 2.2 Acres

Existing Facilities:

- A Playground equipment
- B Half-court basketball

Planned Facilities and Improvements:

- Replace playground equipment in 2026

Existing Conditions



Xerxes Pond

Address: 10910 Xerxes Avenue S.

Classification: Pond

Size: 0.8 Acres water

4.0 Acres land

4.8 Total acres

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped

Existing Conditions



C *Appendix C*

Community Input Process

Community and Stakeholder Input Process

The preparation of the Needs Assessment was in part based on community and stakeholder input. Input was obtained through a variety of input and evaluation opportunities including a park system tour with City staff, City staff meetings, Citizen’s Park Task Force, Focus Group Sessions, Public Open Houses, and a Parks Survey, both on-line and distributed at the Community Open House. The Bloomington City Council formed a Citizens Park Task Force to provide input on: “park needs, financing of park improvements/acquisitions, needs for additional park facilities (e.g. Family Service Center, additional indoor ice sheet, golf course expansion, bike trails, etc.” The Citizens Task Force includes representatives from each of the following: City Council, Planning Commission, School District, citizens, business, arts, and youth athletics. The Focus Groups were identified and assembled by City Staff to gather specific stakeholder input and included the following: park and recreation partners, athletic associations, conservation, natural resource and arts, youth, families and seniors. Two Community Open House meetings were held to both inform the community about the Park System Plan Update and to gather general information regarding the following topics: Parks and Recreation Facilities, Trails and Pathways, Environment and Sustainability, Cultural Resources and Arts and Recreation Programs and Events. Community meetings were well attended with 75 residents in attendance at the first and 20 at the second meeting. At the first community open house and through the City’s web site, 414 residents completed the community parks survey. Overall, the public input provided a good snapshot of the communities needs, desires, goals and priorities.

Date	Event	Description
September 22 & 27, 2006	Park tour and evaluation with Bloomington Parks Staff.	City Park Staff led a tour of all City parks with the Parks Master Plan consultants, HKGi.
December 14, 2006	Focus Group Session with Bloomington City Staff.	Three-hour session was held with City staff to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats involving the Bloomington park system.
March 14, 2007	Focus Group Session: Park and Recreation Partners.	The consultants, HKGi, led a focus group session of park and recreation partners, consisting of representatives from area schools, community education, Three Rivers Parks District, neighboring cities, Bloomington Historical Society, Pond Dakota Mission and City staff.

Date	Event	Description
March 15, 2007	Focus Group Session: Athletic Associations.	The consultants, HKGi, led a focus group session of area Athletic Association with representatives of each group and City staff.
March 20, 2007	Focus Group Session: Bloomington Conservation, Natural Resource and Arts.	The consultants, HKGi, led a focus group session of conservation, natural resource and arts groups represented by, 9-Mile Creek Watershed District, Trust for Public Lands, Hennepin County DES, Izaak Walton League, Friends of the MN River Valley the Sierra Club and City staff.
March 22, 2007	Focus Group Session: Youth/Families/Seniors.	The consultants, HKGi, led a focus group session of Youth/Families/ and Seniors groups in the City with representatives for the disabled, BUY, Parent Teachers Association, AARP, Schools and Churches, Community Ed., Fine Arts Council, Little Flipsters, Cornerstone, VEAP, Parents of program participants and volunteer participants and City staff.
March 21, 2007	Community Open House.	To gather input on the following topics: Parks and Recreation Facilities, Trails and Pathways, Environment and Sustainability, Cultural Resources and Arts and Recreation Programs and Events.
April 2007	Park and Recreation Survey.	A on-line Survey Monkey, Parks and Recreation survey was available on the Parks and Recreation Division website and a paper version was available at the Community Open House.

Date	Event	Description
April 28, 2007	Park tour with Bloomington Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission and Citizen Task Force members.	A second parks tour was conducted to provide the Task Force greater familiarity of the Bloomington Parks system.
January -September, 2007	Citizen Task Force meetings.	6 Meetings of the Citizens Task Force.
September – October 24, 2007.	On-line review of the draft Master Plan.	The draft Parks Master Plan was made available on the Parks Division website for on-line review for most of September and October.
October 6, 2007	Bloomington Farmers Market Booth	Park Master Plan available for comment.
October 16, 2007	Community Open House #2.	A second Community Open House was held with a presentation of the Master Plan highlights and an opportunity for public comment.
October 24,2007	Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission Meeting.	The Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission reviewed the draft Parks Master Plan and made a recommendation to the City Council.

D

Appendix D

Web Survey Results

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Survey

1. Do you live or work in the City of Bloomington? Below is a map of Bloomington divided into the four City Council Districts. If you live in Bloomington, please indicate in which Council District you reside by checking the appropriate number. If you do not reside in Bloomington, please check #5 or #6 below.

		Response Percent	Response Count
1 - Council District #I	<input type="checkbox"/>	18.9%	77
2 - Council District #II	<input type="checkbox"/>	30.2%	123
3 - Council District #III	<input type="checkbox"/>	27.9%	114
4 - Council District #IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.1%	25
5 - I work in Bloomington, but do not reside in Bloomington	<input type="checkbox"/>	14.5%	59
6 - I do not work or reside in Bloomington	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.5%	10
		answered question	408
		skipped question	6

2. How often do members of your household visit the City of Bloomington parks, trails or facilities?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Have never used		0.0%	0
Use once a year or less	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.7%	7
Use once a month or less	<input type="checkbox"/>	15.7%	63
Use once a week or less	<input type="checkbox"/>	25.6%	103
Use more than once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	57.0%	229
		answered question	402
		skipped question	12

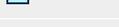
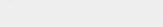
3. Which City of Bloomington parks, trails or facilities do you or members of your household use, and if so how often?						
	Do not use	Use once a year or less	Use once a month or less	Use once a week or less	Use more than once a week	Response Count
Playground equipment	40.9% (146)	12.0% (43)	20.7% (74)	11.5% (41)	14.8% (53)	357
Cedarcrest water play area	85.4% (280)	8.5% (28)	4.3% (14)	1.2% (4)	0.6% (2)	328
Outdoor basketball/game courts	53.7% (183)	15.5% (53)	21.4% (73)	5.9% (20)	3.5% (12)	341
Tennis courts	49.0% (170)	16.1% (56)	23.1% (80)	8.9% (31)	2.9% (10)	347
Sand volleyball courts	77.0% (258)	15.2% (51)	5.4% (18)	1.8% (6)	0.6% (2)	335
Soccer or lacross fields	59.4% (203)	6.7% (23)	12.0% (41)	10.5% (36)	11.4% (39)	342
Softball or baseball fields	44.1% (153)	8.1% (28)	13.3% (46)	12.4% (43)	22.2% (77)	347
Football fields	69.7% (237)	7.4% (25)	14.1% (48)	3.5% (12)	5.3% (18)	340
Horseshoe pits	85.9% (287)	9.6% (32)	2.4% (8)	1.2% (4)	0.9% (3)	334
Marsh Lake Archery Range	85.2% (287)	7.4% (25)	4.5% (15)	2.4% (8)	0.6% (2)	337
Outdoor skating rinks	37.9% (135)	14.3% (51)	13.2% (47)	13.2% (47)	21.3% (76)	356
Normandale Lake Bandshell	39.4% (137)	36.5% (127)	21.6% (75)	2.6% (9)	0.0% (0)	348
Bloomington Center for the Arts	44.6% (158)	25.7% (91)	19.8% (70)	5.1% (18)	4.8% (17)	354
Bloomington Family Aquatic Center	51.0% (176)	15.9% (55)	18.0% (62)	10.4% (36)	4.6% (16)	345
Pond-Dakota Mission Park	71.8% (245)	16.1% (55)	10.0% (34)	1.5% (5)	0.6% (2)	341
Dwan or Hyland Hills Golf Courses	41.4% (147)	15.5% (55)	20.3% (72)	13.8% (49)	9.0% (32)	355
Bush Lake Beach	27.2% (98)	25.3% (91)	28.1% (101)	14.4% (52)	5.0% (18)	360
Valley View Skate Park	76.7% (257)	10.1% (34)	6.9% (23)	4.2% (14)	2.1% (7)	335
Off-leash dog exercise area	67.1% (235)	6.9% (24)	9.7% (34)	4.0% (14)	12.3% (43)	350
Picnic Shelters	30.3% (106)	39.1% (137)	22.9% (80)	6.3% (22)	1.4% (5)	350
Minnesota River Valley Trails	22.4% (83)	21.4% (79)	25.4% (94)	19.2% (71)	11.6% (43)	370
Lower Nine Mile Creek trails	25.5% (92)	21.3% (77)	25.8% (93)	15.2% (55)	12.2% (44)	361
Trails – others	17.1% (62)	16.9% (61)	26.2% (95)	16.0% (58)	23.8% (86)	362
	answered question					411
	skipped question					3

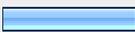
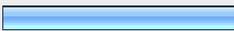
4. Other (Please describe below any City of Bloomington parks, trails or facilities you or members of your household use and are not listed above in Question 3):		Response Count
		161
	answered question	161
	skipped question	253

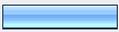
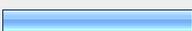
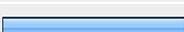
5. In which activities have you or members of your household participated within the City of Bloomington during the past three years (in parks or elsewhere)? Please check all that apply.						
	Do not use	Use once a year or less	Use once a month or less	Use once a week or less	Use more than once a week	Response Count
Organized indoor sports (i.e. basketball, volleyball)	56.8% (200)	8.2% (29)	10.8% (38)	9.7% (34)	14.5% (51)	352
Informal sports (i.e. playing catch, "pick up" sports games, Frisbee)	31.9% (112)	10.8% (38)	31.6% (111)	14.5% (51)	11.1% (39)	351
Alternative sports (i.e. climbing, snorkeling, wind-surfing, etc.)	74.5% (251)	13.1% (44)	8.0% (27)	2.7% (9)	1.8% (6)	337
Organized outdoor sports (i.e. softball, football, soccer)	44.2% (150)	3.5% (12)	9.1% (31)	15.3% (52)	27.7% (94)	339
Outdoor court sports (i.e. basketball, volleyball)	55.5% (187)	14.5% (49)	19.6% (66)	7.1% (24)	3.3% (11)	337
Tennis	51.3% (176)	18.1% (62)	18.4% (63)	9.0% (31)	3.2% (11)	343
Inline skating/skateboarding	57.9% (197)	9.4% (32)	17.4% (59)	8.5% (29)	6.8% (23)	340
Visit nature areas	13.6% (49)	17.3% (62)	31.5% (113)	19.8% (71)	17.8% (64)	359
Fishing	54.4% (186)	18.4% (63)	14.9% (51)	8.5% (29)	3.8% (13)	342
Ice skating or hockey	39.7% (140)	14.7% (52)	9.6% (34)	7.1% (25)	28.9% (102)	353
Downhill skiing	51.5% (175)	17.9% (61)	16.2% (55)	10.9% (37)	3.5% (12)	340
Ski jumping	97.3% (322)	1.5% (5)	1.2% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	331
Walking or hiking	7.7% (28)	7.4% (27)	22.7% (83)	24.1% (88)	38.1% (139)	365
Jogging or running	38.4% (134)	8.9% (31)	16.3% (57)	14.9% (52)	21.5% (75)	349
Cycling	21.1% (67)	6.9% (22)	21.1% (67)	24.0% (76)	26.8% (85)	317
Swimming	37.1% (128)	17.7% (61)	27.2% (94)	12.2% (42)	5.8% (20)	345
Disc golf	71.7% (246)	14.0% (48)	8.5% (29)	3.8% (13)	2.0% (7)	343
Archery	86.0% (288)	6.9% (23)	4.5% (15)	1.5% (5)	1.2% (4)	335

Cultural arts	50.4% (171)	19.2% (65)	20.1% (68)	5.6% (19)	4.7% (16)	339
Picnicking	30.1% (105)	28.1% (98)	27.8% (97)	12.0% (42)	2.0% (7)	349
Bird watching	55.2% (190)	13.4% (46)	14.0% (48)	9.9% (34)	7.6% (26)	344
	answered question					395
	skipped question					19

6. Other (Please describe below any other activities you or members of your household participated in within the City of Bloomington during the past three years - in parks or elsewhere, that are not listed above in Question 5):	
	Response Count
	109
	answered question 109
	skipped question 305

7. If you or members of your household don't use City of Bloomington parks, trails or facilities, what are the reasons? Please check all that apply			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Inadequate transportation		4.3%	9
Not interested in recreation		4.8%	10
Inconvenient timing of programs		5.2%	11
Not aware of recreation programs		14.8%	31
Lack of information about recreation opportunities		12.4%	26
Programs are too expensive		3.8%	8
Maintenance of facilities		18.1%	38
Lack of money		3.8%	8
Don't feel safe		7.1%	15
Better recreation programs elsewhere		8.6%	18
Architectural (handicap) accessibility		0.5%	1
Prefer parks in other communities		11.0%	23
Lack of time		25.7%	54
Programs too crowded		1.0%	2

There are no barriers to participation		21.4%	45
Other (please specify)		37.6%	79
		answered question	210
		skipped question	204

8. What type of outdoor park or recreation activities do you feel are lacking in Bloomington? Please check all that apply.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Water play/splash pad areas		8.1%	32
Children's playgrounds		2.8%	11
Outdoor swimming area		7.9%	31
Indoor swimming complex		18.1%	71
Indoor gyms		8.4%	33
Soccer & lacrosse fields		5.6%	22
Baseball & softball fields		5.1%	20
Mini-golf		13.0%	51
Skateboard area		10.2%	40
Dog parks		15.3%	60
Refrigerated skating facilities		30.5%	120
Picnic shelters		4.8%	19
Sliding hills		15.0%	59
Bike and walking trails		32.3%	127
Interpretive/historic areas		9.2%	36
Natural areas		13.0%	51
River access		13.0%	51
Park landscaping		7.6%	30
Nothing lacking		8.4%	33
Other (please specify)		29.5%	116
		answered question	393
		skipped question	21

9. Overall, how satisfied are you with the following elements of the Bloomington parks and recreation system and what priority does the element hold for your household in the future? Please rate each element by circling the correct response with (5) being satisfied or a high priority and (1) being unsatisfied or a low priority.

Satisfied - Unsatisfied

	5 - Satisfied	4	3	2	1 - Unsatisfied	Response Count
Trails (walking, bicycle, inline skate, etc.)	31.7% (118)	30.9% (115)	23.7% (88)	8.1% (30)	5.6% (21)	372
Indoor recreation opportunities (gymnasiums, basketball & volleyball courts, & fitness equipment)	33.4% (101)	23.2% (70)	30.1% (91)	9.6% (29)	3.6% (11)	302
Playgrounds	43.2% (130)	28.9% (87)	23.9% (72)	2.3% (7)	1.7% (5)	301
Active parks (ballfields, soccer, tennis, etc.)	38.9% (119)	30.4% (93)	23.9% (73)	5.2% (16)	1.6% (5)	306
Passive parks (picnic, trails, nature study, etc.)	35.8% (117)	35.5% (116)	23.2% (76)	3.7% (12)	1.8% (6)	327
Park maintenance and upkeep	28.3% (98)	35.0% (121)	21.4% (74)	8.7% (30)	6.6% (23)	346
Natural Resources management	32.7% (102)	28.8% (90)	30.8% (96)	5.1% (16)	2.6% (8)	312
Adaptive recreation/inclusion services	33.2% (84)	25.7% (65)	39.5% (100)	1.2% (3)	0.4% (1)	253
Park safety	35.5% (108)	35.5% (108)	24.0% (73)	3.3% (10)	1.6% (5)	304
Teen Center	19.2% (46)	12.5% (30)	47.1% (113)	9.6% (23)	11.7% (28)	240
Senior Center	32.1% (77)	24.2% (58)	37.9% (91)	4.2% (10)	1.7% (4)	240
Cultural Arts programs	45.3% (120)	26.8% (71)	24.2% (64)	3.0% (8)	0.8% (2)	265
Recreation programs	31.9% (87)	34.1% (93)	30.4% (83)	2.6% (7)	1.1% (3)	273
Special events (festivals, fun runs, etc.)	34.1% (93)	25.6% (70)	30.4% (83)	8.1% (22)	1.8% (5)	273
Communications	28.6% (75)	26.7% (70)	34.4% (90)	8.0% (21)	2.3% (6)	262

High Priority - Low Priority

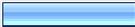
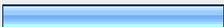
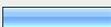
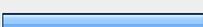
	5 - High Priority	4	3	2	1 - Low Priority	Response Count
Trails (walking, bicycle, inline skate, etc.)	69.4% (250)	16.1% (58)	9.4% (34)	1.9% (7)	3.1% (11)	360
Indoor recreation opportunities (gymnasiums, basketball & volleyball courts, & fitness equipment)	20.5% (60)	21.2% (62)	28.3% (83)	11.6% (34)	18.4% (54)	293

Playgrounds	29.3% (86)	18.4% (54)	24.8% (73)	7.8% (23)	19.7% (58)	294
Active parks (ballfields, soccer, tennis, etc.)	36.3% (109)	20.3% (61)	20.0% (60)	8.0% (24)	15.3% (46)	300
Passive parks (picnic, trails, nature study, etc.)	43.1% (135)	26.2% (82)	18.5% (58)	4.2% (13)	8.0% (25)	313
Park maintenance and upkeep	60.4% (201)	24.3% (81)	11.4% (38)	1.5% (5)	2.4% (8)	333
Natural Resources management	52.6% (159)	19.5% (59)	18.9% (57)	2.6% (8)	6.3% (19)	302
Adaptive recreation/inclusion services	9.3% (24)	17.1% (44)	32.3% (83)	17.5% (45)	23.7% (61)	257
Park safety	63.4% (187)	17.3% (51)	10.8% (32)	3.7% (11)	4.7% (14)	295
Teen Center	24.1% (61)	17.0% (43)	26.5% (67)	11.1% (28)	21.3% (54)	253
Senior Center	17.7% (45)	21.7% (55)	22.8% (58)	12.2% (31)	25.6% (65)	254
Cultural Arts programs	21.3% (57)	19.8% (53)	25.0% (67)	10.4% (28)	23.5% (63)	268
Recreation programs	28.3% (76)	27.5% (74)	27.9% (75)	8.9% (24)	7.4% (20)	269
Special events (festivals, fun runs, etc.)	16.6% (45)	30.3% (82)	29.9% (81)	12.2% (33)	11.1% (30)	271
Communications	26.2% (68)	28.5% (74)	31.2% (81)	6.9% (18)	7.3% (19)	260
	answered question					395
	skipped question					19

10. Other (Please describe below any other element of the Bloomington parks and recreation system not listed above in Question 9 and its priority to your household):

	Response Count
	103
	answered question
	103
	skipped question
	311

11. Which additional indoor recreation and social activities would you and/or members of your family be interested in? Check all that you are interested in.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Racquetball		22.1%	76
Climbing wall		35.2%	121
Skateboard		21.5%	74
Aerobics		18.0%	62
Swimming/water play		39.8%	137
Running/walking track		35.5%	122
Indoor play equipment		20.4%	70
Indoor tennis		17.2%	59
Indoor golf practice		29.7%	102
Indoor soccer		13.1%	45
Gymnasium (volleyball, basketball)		15.4%	53
Auditorium		9.0%	31
Meeting rooms		15.4%	53
Daycare		9.3%	32
Senior center		10.8%	37
Teen center		25.0%	86
Gardens		32.9%	113
Other (please specify)		16.0%	55
		answered question	344
		skipped question	70

12. The following is a list of services provided by Bloomington Parks and Recreation. For each one, please rate the quality of service as good, fair, or poor.

	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	Rating Average	Response Count
Park maintenance/conditions during winter months	35.7% (139)	26.7% (104)	25.4% (99)	12.1% (47)	2.14	389
Park maintenance/conditions during summer months	63.1% (245)	31.2% (121)	4.1% (16)	1.5% (6)	1.44	388
City athletic field maintenance	44.2% (164)	26.4% (98)	3.5% (13)	25.9% (96)	2.11	371
Neighborhood centers (park buildings)	34.2% (124)	35.3% (128)	5.0% (18)	25.6% (93)	2.22	363
Playground facilities	47.7% (173)	30.9% (112)	2.5% (9)	19.0% (69)	1.93	363
Tennis courts	24.5% (89)	32.0% (116)	7.7% (28)	35.8% (130)	2.55	363
Trails	55.4% (210)	34.0% (129)	5.5% (21)	5.0% (19)	1.60	379
Natural resources management	41.8% (156)	31.9% (119)	5.1% (19)	21.2% (79)	2.06	373
Safety in the parks	47.6% (178)	36.9% (138)	4.8% (18)	10.7% (40)	1.79	374
Overall park system	58.6% (219)	35.8% (134)	2.7% (10)	2.9% (11)	1.50	374
	answered question					397
	skipped question					17

13. If you answered "poor" for any of the services listed above in Question 12, please specify below why you gave it that rating?

	Response Count
	133
	answered question
	133
	skipped question
	281

14. Which of the following improvements or additions to the Bloomington parks and recreation system would you be willing to support? (i.e. through a temporary or annual property tax increase).				
	Great support	Marginal support	No support	Response Count
Additions to and extension of bike/walk trails	66.1% (234)	23.2% (82)	10.7% (38)	354
Renovation of existing parks	39.6% (134)	51.8% (175)	8.6% (29)	338
Improvements to existing athletic complexes	29.0% (97)	46.4% (155)	24.6% (82)	334
Improvements to existing passive, nature parks	44.7% (152)	40.3% (137)	15.0% (51)	340
Improvements to natural resource management	40.7% (137)	43.6% (147)	15.7% (53)	337
More alternative recreation including skateboard, climbing, BMX tracks, mountain bike trails, disc golf, etc.	34.1% (118)	37.0% (128)	28.9% (100)	346
Refrigerated ice (rinks, skating, oval)	40.9% (149)	24.7% (90)	34.3% (125)	364
Construction of a community center	39.3% (136)	33.8% (117)	26.9% (93)	346
Domed athletic facility with multipurpose artificial turf field	25.8% (88)	29.3% (100)	44.9% (153)	341
Indoor aquatic center	26.0% (88)	40.7% (138)	33.3% (113)	339
Teen center	30.9% (106)	45.5% (156)	23.6% (81)	343
	<i>answered question</i>			394
	<i>skipped question</i>			20

15. Other (Please specify any improvements or additions to the Bloomington parks and recreation system that are not listed above in Question 14 that you would be willing to support):		Response Count
		59
	<i>answered question</i>	59
	<i>skipped question</i>	355

14. Which of the following improvements or additions to the Bloomington parks and recreation system would you be willing to support? (i.e. through a temporary or annual property tax increase).				
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Teen center	30.9% (106)	45.5% (156)	23.6% (81)	343
	<i>answered question</i>			394
	<i>skipped question</i>			20

15. Other (Please specify any improvements or additions to the Bloomington parks and recreation system that are not listed above in Question 14 that you would be willing to support):		Response Count
		59
	<i>answered question</i>	59
	<i>skipped question</i>	355

16. Listed below are a number of ways the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division shares information about its programs, activities and facilities. Please indicate below how you and/or members of your household learn about the parks and recreation programs, activities and facilities. Please check the appropriate box.

	Yes	No	Response Count
City of Bloomington "Briefing" newspaper	83.8% (306)	16.2% (59)	365
Bloomington Sun-Current newspaper	77.5% (286)	22.5% (83)	369
Minneapolis or St. Paul newspapers	31.8% (108)	68.2% (232)	340
City web site	66.6% (237)	33.4% (119)	356
Cable television	28.4% (95)	71.6% (240)	335
Reader boards	17.0% (56)	83.0% (274)	330
Posters or flyers	44.7% (151)	55.3% (187)	338
Mailings from the City	69.6% (245)	30.4% (107)	352
Word of mouth (friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.)	85.7% (311)	14.3% (52)	363
	<i>answered question</i>		388
	<i>skipped question</i>		26

17. Other (Please specify below any other way you learn about the parks and recreation programs, activities, and facilities that are not listed above in Question 16):

	Response Count
	25
	<i>answered question</i>
	25
	<i>skipped question</i>
	389

18. What additional recreation programs or activities do you think should be offered?

	Response Count
	95
	<i>answered question</i>
	95
	<i>skipped question</i>
	319

19. When should additional recreation programs be offered? Please check all that apply.							
	Mornings	After school	Days	All day	Evenings	No more needed	Response Count
Monday - Friday:	3.5% (13)	31.7% (119)	4.0% (15)	14.4% (54)	35.2% (132)	11.2% (42)	375
Weekends:	9.2% (31)	2.1% (7)	19.2% (65)	39.1% (132)	16.9% (57)	13.6% (46)	338
	answered question						283
	skipped question						131

20. We would like your opinion on several issues facing the Bloomington Parks System. Please read each statement and mark the response that best represents your opinion.						
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Response Count
Bloomington should concentrate on improving existing facilities vs. adding new parks and facilities.	24.0% (91)	39.1% (148)	21.1% (80)	14.8% (56)	1.1% (4)	379
Bloomington should replace the Creekside Community Center facility with a new multi-purpose community center.	25.1% (95)	20.1% (76)	39.2% (148)	11.1% (42)	4.5% (17)	378
A good parks and recreation system enhances property values in Bloomington.	67.4% (258)	28.2% (108)	3.7% (14)	0.3% (1)	0.5% (2)	383
Bloomington should consolidate some activities such as tennis courts and ice rinks in order to improve efficiency and provide higher quality facilities. (Note: this would require closing some existing facilities)	28.5% (109)	23.0% (88)	31.2% (119)	14.1% (54)	3.1% (12)	382
A good parks and recreation system enhances the quality of life in Bloomington.	74.3% (284)	24.3% (93)	0.8% (3)	0.5% (2)	0.0% (0)	382
	answered question					391
	skipped question					23

21. I am satisfied with the parks and recreation services and facilities I receive for my tax dollar. (Individuals who do not live or work in Bloomington should check "Not Applicable")			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		12.3%	48
Agree		48.9%	191
Not sure		12.3%	48
Disagree		12.0%	47
Strongly Disagree		3.1%	12
Not Applicable		11.5%	45
		answered question	391
		skipped question	23

22. If Bloomington increased its fees for parks and recreation programs and services, would you feel the same way?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		12.7%	48
Agree		38.1%	144
Not sure		36.2%	137
Disagree		10.6%	40
Strongly Disagree		2.4%	9
		answered question	378
		skipped question	36

23. If Bloomington increased its taxes for programs and services, would you feel the same way? (Individuals who do not live or work in Bloomington should check "Not Applicable")

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		12.6%	49
Agree		34.4%	134
Not sure		28.5%	111
Disagree		10.5%	41
Strongly Disagree		3.3%	13
Not Applicable		10.8%	42
answered question			390
skipped question			24

24. How much would you be willing to see your property taxes increase annually to support park and recreation facility and program improvements? (Individuals who do not live or work in Bloomington should check "Not Applicable")

		Response Percent	Response Count
\$25/yr.		20.3%	79
\$50/yr.		28.7%	112
\$75/yr.		8.0%	31
\$100/yr.		17.4%	68
No increase		12.3%	48
Not Applicable		13.3%	52
answered question			390
skipped question			24

25. How many people of what age and gender are in your household? In the spaces below, put the number of people in your household that are in the various age and gender groups.

Female											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Response Count
0-4 years	86.0% (37)	14.0% (6)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	43
5-9 years	86.7% (39)	11.1% (5)	2.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	45
10-19 years	67.4% (62)	32.6% (30)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	92
20-29 years	88.7% (47)	9.4% (5)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.9% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	53
30-44 years	92.7% (153)	6.7% (11)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.6% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	165
45-59 years	94.4% (135)	4.2% (6)	0.0% (0)	0.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	143
60-79 years	97.1% (34)	0.0% (0)	2.9% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	35
80+ years	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1
Male											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Response Count
0-4 years	81.3% (26)	18.8% (6)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	32
5-9 years	83.6% (56)	16.4% (11)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	67
10-19 years	69.5% (89)	21.9% (28)	7.0% (9)	0.8% (1)	0.8% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	128
20-29 years	86.7% (39)	11.1% (5)	2.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	45
30-44 years	93.9% (138)	4.8% (7)	0.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	147
45-59 years	94.2% (131)	3.6% (5)	1.4% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	139
60-79 years	94.1% (32)	0.0% (0)	2.9% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.9% (1)	34

80+ years	100.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	1									
	<i>answered question</i>											404
	<i>skipped question</i>											10

26. Answering our questions may not have given you the opportunity to say all that you wanted to say about the parks and recreation system in Bloomington. Please use the space below as well as the back of this page for any additional comments you may have. Specific suggestions about parks, programs and facilities are most appreciated.

	Response Count
	167
	<i>answered question</i>
	167
	<i>skipped question</i>
	247

E

Appendix E

Tennis Court Study

To view the attachment for the Tennis Court Study report, contact the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division.



MEMO TO: Mark Bernhardson, City Manager

MEMO FROM: Randy Quale, Parks and Recreation Manager
Paul Edwardson, Park Maintenance Manager

DATE: June 22, 2005

SUBJECT: 3rd Draft - City of Bloomington Tennis Courts Study

Note – below has been revised to incorporate changes per May 26, 2005 meeting with City Manager.

Per an inquiry from Councilmember Harden, Parks & Recreation and Park Maintenance staffs have undertaken a study of tennis courts located in the City of Bloomington. The purpose of the study is to:

1. **Update the City tennis courts inventory.**
2. **Provide a history of past tennis court resurfacing or reconstruction.**
3. **Identify City tennis courts currently in need of resurfacing or reconstruction.**
4. **Calculate costs for undertaking tennis court resurfacing or reconstruction.**
5. **Determine level of use of City tennis courts.**
6. **Determine appropriate number and location of tennis courts to best meet community needs.**
7. **Provide recommendations for undertaking tennis court facilities resurfacing, reconstruction and maintenance.**

1. **Update the City Tennis Courts Inventory**

Attachment A includes a list of tennis courts located within the City that are available for use by the public. There are a grand total of 100 tennis courts in the City, of which 53 are City-owned courts, 24 are Bloomington School District-owned courts and 23 are owned by others. Fourteen of the City’s outdoor courts are lighted. Twelve of the 23 courts owned by others are indoor courts located at the 98th Street Racquet and Swim Club. This list does not include tennis courts that are not available to the general public such as courts located at private residences or apartment complexes.

The City of Bloomington has two classifications of tennis courts: **premier and recreational**. Premier courts have traditional tennis nets while the recreational courts utilize chain link “nets”. The chain link “nets” are more economical to maintain and much less prone to vandalism (vandals cutting nets are a continual concern). The higher skilled players are encouraged to utilize the premier courts while recreational-level players are served at the neighborhood

recreational courts. Also, premier courts are typically placed at larger park sites and consist of four or six courts per site that facilitate tournament play and lesson programs. **The City of Bloomington's premier courts include Bryant Park (four courts), Dred Scott (six courts) and Valley View (six courts).** Those residents who seek the highest quality tennis playing experience may pay a fee to utilize the indoor courts at the 98th Street Racquet and Swim Club.

2. Provide a History of Past Tennis Court Resurfacing or Reconstruction

The Parks Maintenance Division routinely maintains City-owned tennis courts. All other tennis courts in the City are maintained by their respective owners. In select circumstances, the City may assist with the maintenance of courts not owned by the City, provided the courts are made available to the public. For example, the City maintains the courts at Indian Mounds Elementary School for public usage. Also, three years ago the City agreed to split costs for resurfacing the Normandale Community College to facilitate public usage of the courts.

Attachment B includes a history of City tennis court resurfacing or reconstruction.

Resurfacing a court involves the replacement of a color-coated playing surface over the bituminous sub surface, and is typically done every three to four years. Reconstructing a court involves the complete replacement of both the color-coated playing surface and the bituminous sub-surface, and is typically done every twenty to twenty-five years. In addition, the chain-link fencing around the tennis courts needs to be replaced every thirty to thirty-five years. Of the 100 tennis courts in the City, 67 of the courts are in good condition and 33 are in average/poor condition and are in need of resurfacing or reconstruction.

3. Identify City Tennis Courts Currently in Need of Resurfacing or Reconstruction

Since tennis courts need to be resurfaced every three to four years, approximately fifteen of the City-owned courts need to be resurfaced annually. However, due to limited financial resources, resurfacing of courts is often delayed. **Of the 53 tennis courts owned by the City, ten of the courts are in immediate need of reconstruction (Brookside, Brye, Cedarcrest, Ridgeview and Westwood). An additional eight courts will need to be reconstructed within the next three years (Haeg, Kelly, Sunrise and Tarnhill).**

Regarding tennis courts not owned by the City, the Bloomington School District courts are for the most part in good condition. New courts were recently installed at the two high schools. The only School District site where courts are in poor condition are the four courts located at Olson Middle School. However, the School District is planning to reconstruct these courts within the next year.

The six tennis courts at Normandale Community College are in need of reconstruction. However, NCC is reluctant to fund the reconstruction as they only program the courts on a limited basis. NCC has made preliminary inquiries as to whether the City would be interested in a land swap or lease agreement with the City taking over ownership/operation of the tennis courts. The five courts at Old Lincoln High School are in poor condition.

4. Calculate Costs for Undertaking Tennis Court Resurfacing or Reconstruction

The costs for maintaining tennis courts can be broken into three categories: resurfacing, reconstruction and fencing. The estimated costs for resurfacing is \$2,750 per court, reconstruction is \$24,200 per court and replacement of the chain link fencing around a two-court site is \$22,700 per site.

If the City were to proceed with reconstructing the ten tennis courts that are currently in need of reconstruction (Brookside, Brye, Cedarcrest, Ridgeview and Westwood), it would cost an estimated \$242,000 (ten courts at \$24,200 per court). The estimated cost to reconstruct the eight courts that need to be reconstructed within the next three years (Haeg, Kelly, Sunrise and Tarnhill) would be an additional \$179,200 (eight courts at \$24,200 per court). The fencing at these sites does not need replacement at this time. The total estimated cost for reconstructing the eighteen courts listed above is \$421,200.

5. Determine Level of use of City Tennis Courts

While there has been no “official” study of tennis court usage in the City, Parks & Recreation and Parks Maintenance staff have observed usage patterns of the City tennis courts throughout the years. Use of City tennis courts peaked in the 1970’s and dropped off during the 1980’s and 1990’s. During the past five years, tennis court usage has shown an increase, but below the usage levels of the 1970’s.

Based on staff observations, the City’s premium tennis courts (Bryant, Dred Scott and Valley View) are heavily used, often with players waiting to access the courts (especially in the early evening and on weekends). The City’s neighborhood courts are for the most part lightly used. Neighborhood courts are often vacant during the daytime and there are only a few selected sites that get moderate use on evenings and weekends. **The following neighborhood tennis courts receive the most use: Brookside, Haeg, Hyland Hills, Kelly and Sunrise. The neighborhood courts that receive the least use are: Cedarcrest, Northcrest, Ridgeview, Southglen and Tarnhill.**

School District tennis courts are normally not available for public use weekdays during the school year. These courts are heavily used for School District programs during these times. The School District courts are available for public use during the summer months as well as evenings and weekends during the school year. However, these courts are often booked out during the summer daytime hours for lesson programs, league play and school team practices, so public access is somewhat limited. There is also a perception amongst the general public that School District tennis courts are not available for public usage.

6. Determine Appropriate Number and Location of Tennis Courts to Best Meet Community Needs

According to the United States Tennis Association (USTA), a community of 50,000 residents should have at least 50 tennis courts and a community of 100,000 residents should have at least 80 tennis courts. Since the City of Bloomington has 100 courts for 86,000 residents, we easily exceed the USTA’s national standards for tennis courts in our community. **Based on the USTA’s national standards, the City of Bloomington should have a minimum of 75 tennis courts in the community.** Also, as a “rule of thumb”, USTA national standards indicate that a community can support one indoor tennis court for every 10,000 people. Since there are twelve

indoor courts at the 98th Street Racquet and Swim Club, the City of Bloomington again exceeds the USTA's national standards.

Attachment C is a map depicting the locations of tennis courts within the City. The service area shown for each court is a one-mile radius, which is considered the maximum distance that a resident must travel to reasonably access a tennis court. The one-mile radius is the same service area as delineated in the City Comprehensive Plan for neighborhood playgrounds.

As Attachment C illustrates, the virtually all the land within the City falls within a one-mile radius of a tennis court. Accordingly, there doesn't appear to be a need for the construction of additional tennis courts in the City to properly serve the residents of our community. There are in fact several regions in the City where tennis court service areas significantly overlap. It is in these regions of significant overlap where the City should consider reducing the number of tennis courts.

7. **Provide recommendations for undertaking tennis court facilities resurfacing, reconstruction and maintenance**

Based on the information provided in this report and the referenced attachments, staff offers the following recommendations for City tennis courts facilities resurfacing, reconstruction and maintenance.

- A. Since the number of tennis courts within the City greatly exceed USTA national standards, the City should consider reducing the number of tennis courts. This will in turn reduce the City's annual maintenance costs for resurfacing and reconstructing courts. In order to maintain a number of courts that continues to reasonably exceed USTA national standards, staff recommends removing no more than eleven tennis courts in the community.
- B. Tennis courts that are removed may either be replaced with natural green spaces or another desirable park amenity, such as a basketball court. Since basketball courts consist of a bituminous pad without color coating, it is less expensive to maintain than a tennis court (no need to resurface the color-coated surfacing every three to four years).
- C. Removal of tennis courts should occur only in the regions of the City where there are significant overlap of tennis court service areas. This will minimize the impact on residents who play tennis. Also, it is recommended that removal should occur only when the selected courts have reached their useful life and are in need of reconstruction (no sense in removing a court that is in playable condition). Staff recommends the removal of the following courts:
 - i. Old Lincoln High School – immediately remove the five courts from the list of public-accessible tennis courts. The Lincoln courts are in a region of significant tennis court service area overlap. Also, there is no use agreement in place with the property owner so public access to these courts is not officially permitted. Plus the courts are in great disrepair so they are seldom used. It is also quite doubtful that the owners of the courts will provide any funding to reconstruct the courts.

- ii. Reservoir Park – immediately remove the two courts at this location. This is in a region of significant tennis court service area overlap. Plus the City’s Utilities Division supports the removal of the courts due to ongoing security issues with the 82nd Street water reservoir. The estimated cost to the City for the removal of the two Reservoir Park tennis courts is \$6,900. This work would include the removal of the tennis net posts and perimeter fencing (the concrete playing surface would be left in place).
- iii. Cedarcrest Park – immediately remove the two old tennis courts and replace with a single tennis court and a basketball court (the courts and perimeter fencing are in immediate need of reconstruction). This is in another region of significant tennis court service area overlap. Funding for this work including demolition of the old courts and fencing has already been approved by the City Council as part of the overall Cedarcrest Park improvement project. The estimated cost to the City for this work is \$63,000.
- iv. Ridgeview Park – remove the west tennis court and replace with natural green space by 2007 (this is when the courts are due for reconstruction). This is in another region of significant tennis court service area overlap. The estimated cost to the City for this work is \$16,100. This work would include the removal of the west tennis court (\$6,900), planting turf grass and trees (\$3,400), and installation of new perimeter fencing along the west side of the east court (\$5,800).
- v. Brye Park – remove the west tennis court and replace with natural green space by 2007 (this is when the courts are due for reconstruction). This is in another region of significant tennis court service area overlap. The estimated cost to the City for this work is \$16,100. This work would include the removal of the west tennis court (\$6,900), planting turf grass and trees (\$3,400), and installation of new perimeter fencing along the west side of the east court (\$5,800).
- vi. Tarnhill Park – remove the east tennis courts and replace with a basketball court by 2008 (this is when the courts are due for reconstruction). This is in another region of significant tennis court service area overlap. The basketball court would consist of a bituminous pad without color coating, thereby reducing the cost for resurfacing the court every three to four years. The existing tennis court is of a substandard size and is co-located in the parking lot. This is in another region of significant tennis court service area overlap. The estimated cost to the City for this work is \$13,700. This work would include the removal of the tennis net posts (\$1,000), removal of the color coated surfacing (\$4,000), striping a basketball court on the bituminous pad court and installation of two basketball backboards with support posts (\$8,700).

- vii. The total cost to the City to undertake the work described above is \$115,800. Considering the \$22,400 cost to reconstruct a tennis court and the one-time \$16,100 cost to remove a court, it is obviously more cost effective to remove the tennis courts described above than reconstruct them.
- D. The City should strive to provide sufficient funding in the Parks Maintenance budget to properly maintain the City-owned tennis courts. The recommended tennis court maintenance schedule is: resurfacing courts every 3.5 years, reconstructing courts every 22.5 years and replacing chain-link fencing around the courts every 32.5 years. Below are five options to consider for maintaining City tennis courts.
- i. Option #1 - Status quo - retain all 55 existing City-maintained tennis courts and provide maintenance of the courts at the current funding level of approximately \$61,000 per year. This would result in the City continuing to fall behind the recommended tennis court maintenance schedule (the City would only be able to undertake approximately 50% of the annual recommended tennis court maintenance.) **Attachment D shows the maintenance schedule for tennis courts at the status quo funding level.** At a funding level of \$61,000 the City can annually reconstruct two courts and resurface six courts.
- ii. Option #2 - Provide maintenance of all 55 existing City-maintained tennis courts according to the recommended maintenance schedule. In this option, the City would have be able to reconstruct 2.44 courts per year at cost of \$59,048, resurface 15.7 courts per year at a cost of \$43,175 and replace tennis court fencing on 1.69 courts per year at a cost of \$19,182. The total annual cost to maintain the 55 courts according to the recommended maintenance schedule would be \$121,405, nearly double the current funding provided annually for tennis court maintenance (\$61,000). **Attachment E shows the maintenance schedule for the 55 City-maintained tennis courts according to the recommended maintenance schedule.** At a funding level of \$121,405 the City can annually reconstruct two courts and resurface sixteen courts.
- iii. Option #3 - Remove the six City-owned courts described in 7.C. above and maintain the remaining 49 City-maintained tennis courts at the current funding level of approximately \$61,000 per year. This would result in the City continuing to fall behind the recommended tennis court maintenance schedule, although at a lesser extent than in Option #2 above (the City would only be able to undertake approximately 57% of the annual recommended tennis court maintenance.) **Attachment F shows the maintenance schedule for maintaining 49 tennis courts at the current funding level of \$61,000 annually.** At a funding level of \$61,000 the City can annually reconstruct two courts and resurface six courts.

- iv. Option #4 - Remove the six City-owned courts described in 7.C. above and provide maintenance of the remaining 49 City-maintained tennis courts according to the recommended maintenance schedule. In this option, the City would have to reconstruct 2.17 courts per year at cost of \$52,048, resurface 14 courts at a cost of \$38,500 and replace tennis court fencing on 1.5 courts per year at a cost of \$17,025. The total cost to maintain the 49 courts according to the recommended schedule would be \$107,405 annually. **Attachment G shows the maintenance schedule for maintaining 49 tennis courts according to the recommended maintenance schedule.** At a funding level of \$107,405 the City can annually reconstruct two courts and resurface twelve courts.
 - v. Option #5 - Proceed immediately with reconstructing the ten tennis courts that are in immediate need of complete reconstruction (two each at Brookside, Brye, Cedarcrest, Ridgeview and Westwood) at an estimated cost of \$242,000. Also, reconstruct an additional eight courts by 2008 (two each at Haeg, Kelly, Sunrise and Tarnhill) at an estimated cost of \$179,200. The total estimated cost for reconstructing the eighteen courts listed above is \$421,200.
- E. The six courts at Normandale Community College are in need of reconstruction. However, NCC is reluctant to fund the reconstruction as they only program the courts on a limited basis. NCC has made preliminary inquiries as to whether the City would be interested in a land swap or lease agreement with the City taking over ownership the tennis courts. The estimated cost to reconstruct the six courts would be \$145,200. There may be additional costs to address poor soil conditions under the courts. With six courts at one location, the site would serve as an excellent site for tournaments and lessons programs. Staff recommends that the City enter into discussions with NCC to determine whether it is desirable for the City to take over ownership/operations of the NCC courts.
- F. Staff recommends that this report be reviewed with key stakeholders (e.g. School District, USTA, community tennis program administrators, Normandale Community College, etc.) prior to presentation to the City Council at a Council study meeting. We'd also like your take on whether the PARC should review the report prior to presentation to Council.

Paul and I are available to meet at your convenience to discuss this study.

F

Appendix F

Community Center Study

Bloomington Community Center Potential Components

Component	Ideal sq. ft.	Est. Cost /sq. ft.	Subtotal	Equipment	Subtotal	Total
Parks & Recreation, Human Services Divisions						
Aerobics room/dance studio/yoga	2,000	\$135	\$270,000		\$270,000	
Banquet/congregate dining room/stage	5,000	\$135	\$675,000		\$675,000	
Billiards/pool room	1,800	\$135	\$243,000		\$243,000	
Ceramics room	1,800	\$135	\$243,000		\$243,000	
Coat storage	250	\$135	\$33,750		\$33,750	
Commercial kitchen/storage	2,000	\$175	\$350,000	\$150,000	\$500,000	
Community organization/service agencies offices (leased)	10,000	\$135	\$1,350,000		\$1,350,000	
Community Center Offices/work and file room	5,000	\$135	\$675,000		\$675,000	
Exhibit area	450	\$135	\$60,750		\$60,750	
Game room - video games, pool tables, etc.	1,500	\$135	\$202,500		\$202,500	
Gift shop/boutique	1,800	\$135	\$243,000		\$243,000	
Indoor playground	1,500	\$135	\$202,500	\$100,000	\$302,500	
Lapidary room	900	\$135	\$121,500		\$121,500	
Library/media center/Computer Lab	2,000	\$135	\$270,000		\$270,000	
Loading dock	1,000	\$135	\$135,000		\$135,000	
Mechanical rooms	896	\$135	\$120,960		\$120,960	
Meeting rooms (near banquet facilities)	4,000	\$135	\$540,000		\$540,000	
Outdoor patio/Healing Gardens	896	\$135	\$120,960		\$120,960	
Parking lot and lighting 300 spaces @\$4,500	300	4500	\$1,350,000		\$1,350,000	
Pre-school room/day care/crib room	1,500	\$135	\$202,500		\$202,500	
Restrooms (number proportioned to building size)	1,800	\$135	\$243,000		\$243,000	
Service counter and lobby	896	\$135	\$120,960		\$120,960	
Storage	900	\$135	\$121,500		\$121,500	
Transportation hub/Bus shelter	1,800	\$135	\$243,000		\$243,000	
Unisex bathroom	200	\$135	\$27,000		\$27,000	
Vending area	250	\$135	\$33,750		\$33,750	
Woodshop	1,200	\$135	\$162,000		\$162,000	
Youth coffee house	5,000	\$135	\$675,000		\$675,000	
Youth/teen center	2,500	\$135	\$337,500		\$337,500	
Subtotal - Parks & Recreation, Human Services Divisions					\$9,623,130	
Architect/Engineering @ 8.5%					\$962,313	
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment @ 10%					\$817,966	
Contingency @ 10%					\$962,313	
Total - Parks & Recreation, Human Services Divisions						\$12,365,722

Public Health Division*

Est. 15,000 sq. ft. at \$135/sq. ft. for entire PHD area	15,000	\$135	\$2,025,000		\$2,025,000	
Separate entrance for health dept clients (privacy issues)						
Lab area with refrigerator						
Clinic toilets						
Public toilets						
Employee toilets						
Secure area for chart lock-up (data privacy)						
Library for health dept reference books and materials						
Storage space for health dept equipment, educational materials						
Coat and boot storage area						
Subtotal - Public Health Division					\$2,025,000	
Architect/Engineering @ 8.5%					\$202,500	
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment @ 10%					\$172,125	
Contingency @ 10%					\$202,500	
Total - Public Health Division						\$2,602,125

* Public Health would not necessarily have to be in the Community Center, but if on a different site, there would be additional costs for parking, utilities, etc.

Bloomington Community Center Potential Components

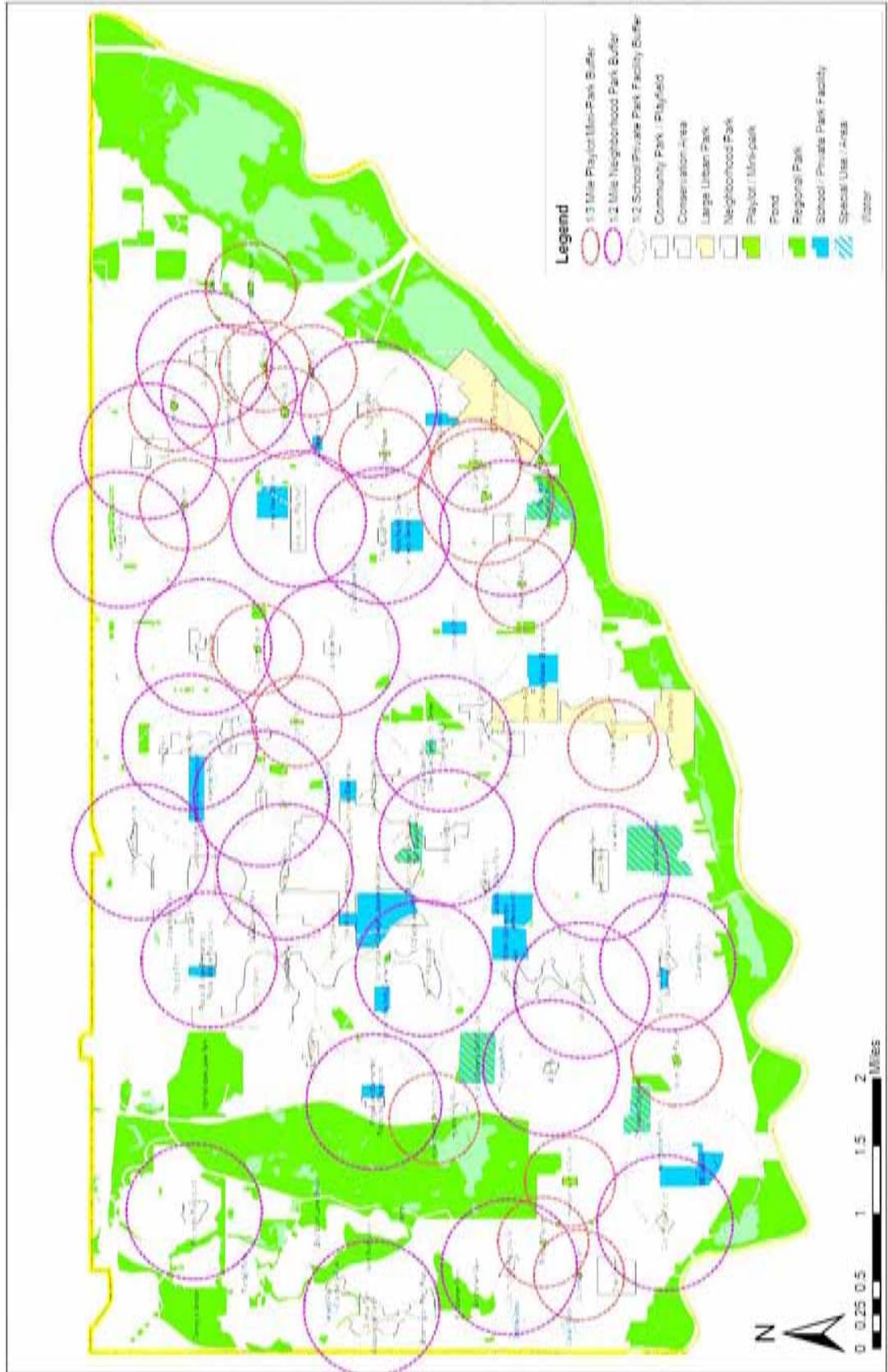
Component	Ideal sq. ft.	Est. Cost /sq. ft.	Subtotal	Equipment	Subtotal	Total
Indoor Family Aquatic Center						
Indoor family aquatic center	25,000	\$175	\$4,375,000		\$4,375,000	
Zero-depth entry leisure pool	5,400	\$175	\$945,000		\$945,000	
Main pool area deck space	7,950	\$175	\$1,391,250		\$1,391,250	
Therapy Pool	3,100	\$175	\$542,500		\$542,500	
Pool locker rooms/toilets (includes family space)	3,700	\$135	\$499,500		\$499,500	
Pool mechanical room	1,650	\$135	\$222,750		\$222,750	
Control room and offices	1,345	\$135	\$181,575		\$181,575	
Misc. space, hallways	555	\$135	\$74,925		\$74,925	
Subtotal - Indoor Family Aquatic Center					\$8,232,500	
Architect/Engineering @ 8.5%					\$823,250	
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment @ 10%					\$699,763	
Contingency @ 10%					\$823,250	
Subtotal - Indoor Family Aquatic Center						\$10,578,763
Add'l option:						
8-lane, 25-meter lap and exercise pool	5,000	\$175	\$875,000		\$875,000	
Architect/Engineering @ 8.5%					\$87,500	
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment @ 10%					\$74,375	
Contingency @ 10%					\$87,500	
Subtotal - 8-lane, 25-meter lap and exercise pool						\$1,124,375
Total - Indoor Family Aquatic Center						\$11,703,138
Gymnasium or Domed Field House & Related Facilities						
Gymnasium (13,000 sq. ft.) or Domed Field House (80,000 sq. ft.)*		\$175	\$2,275,000		\$2,275,000	
Locker rooms/showers/toilets (included family space)	3,600	\$135	\$486,000		\$486,000	
Walking/running track (upper level of gym)	4,500	\$175	\$787,500		\$787,500	
Concessions/snack bar	450	\$135	\$60,750		\$60,750	
Fitness center, weight room	4,500	\$135	\$607,500	\$100,000	\$707,500	
Hobby/workshops/Crafts	1,200	\$135	\$162,000		\$162,000	
Indoor climbing wall	1,500	\$175	\$262,500	\$150,000	\$412,500	
Subtotal - Gymnasium or domed field house & related facilities					\$4,891,250	
Architect/Engineering @ 8.5%					\$489,125	
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment @ 10%					\$415,756	
Contingency @ 10%					\$489,125	
Total - Gymnasium or domed field house & related facilities						\$6,285,256
Grand Total						\$32,956,241

* It appears that there may not be room on the current site for a domed field house. The facility could be located at another site.

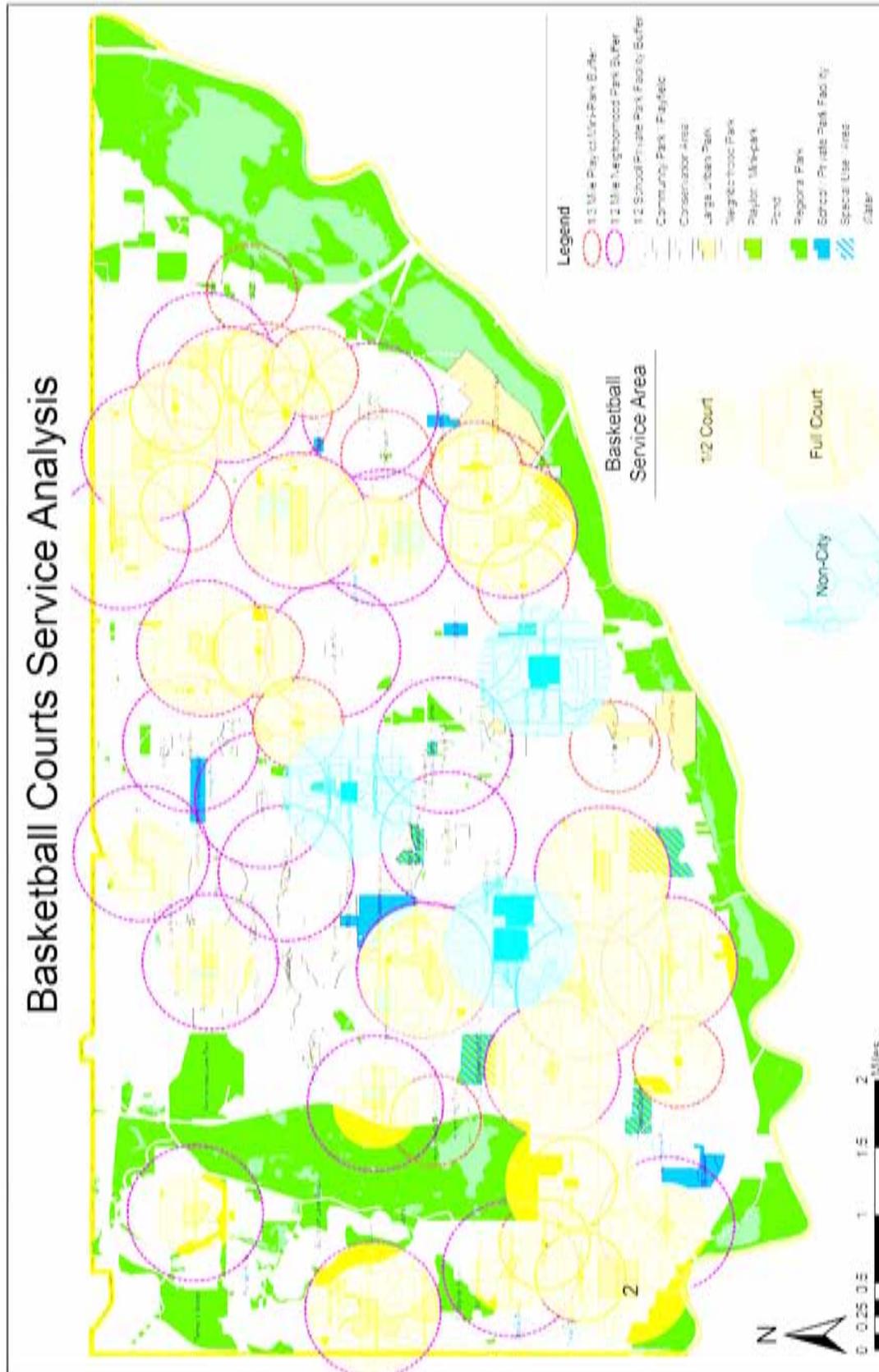
G *Appendix G*

Park Service Area Evaluation

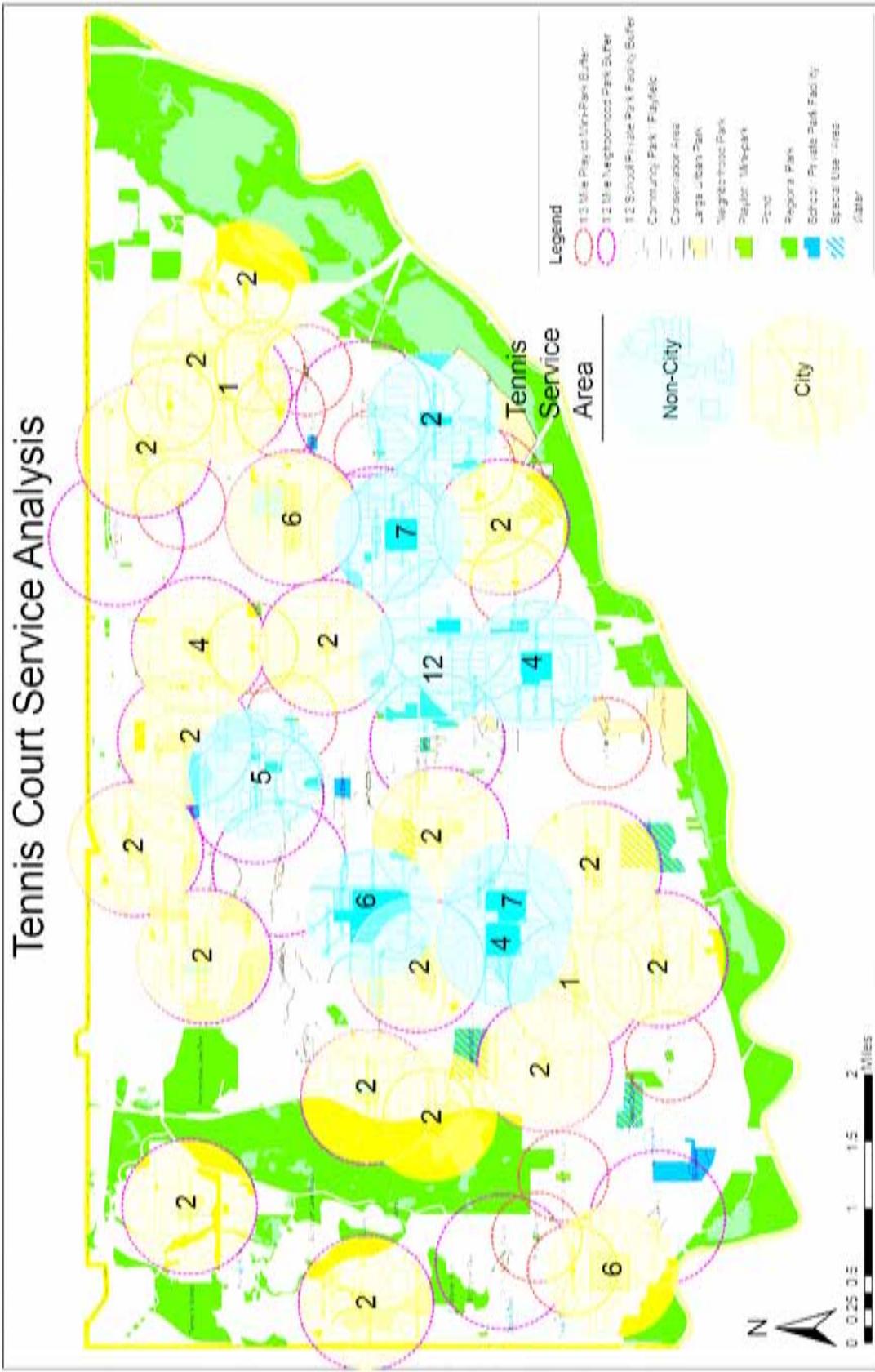
Park Service Areas Coverage Map



Basketball Courts Service Analysis



Tennis Court Service Analysis



H *Appendix H*

Accessibility Evaluation Executive Summary

To view the full report, contact the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division.

INTRODUCTION

This Transition Plan report for Bloomington Parks and Recreation was prepared by JQP, Inc. Its purpose and intent is to:

1. Assist Bloomington Parks and Recreation in understanding its obligations under various state and federal regulations and guidelines to provide persons with disabilities access to its programs, services and activities.
2. Assist Bloomington Parks and Recreation in reviewing their existing facilities regarding program accessibility and creating a transition plan. The transition plan recommends which modifications may be implemented first and those that can become part of longer-range plan.
3. Identify items that are “encouraged” to improve accessibility, but are not necessarily required by law or building code.

METHODOLOGY

On-site surveys of Bloomington Parks and Recreation facilities and sites were conducted during the summer and fall of 1999. The sites were reviewed for usability by persons with disabilities and for compliance with various state and federal laws, regulations and guidelines for accessibility.

Recommendations are based on our knowledge of the current interpretations of multiple regulations, legislation and guidelines, as well as, over 20 years experience working with clients such as Bloomington Parks and Recreation.

ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

The Executive Summary describes applicable codes and guidelines and summarizes transition plan requirements.

A Red Yellow Green Chart rates and gives quantities of amenities.

Following the Executive Summary and Red Yellow Green Chart are the Individual Site Transition Plans. These reports provide detailed information of recommended upgrades and cost estimates.

Reports are grouped by category:

Undeveloped (in alphabetical order)

Playlots (in alphabetical order)

Others (in alphabetical order)

School/Park Sites (in alphabetical order)

A system wide Summary Report details by site the priority 1, 2, 3, and 4 monetary totals.

Please contact Julee Quarve-Peterson at JQP, Inc. (612-374-3031) if there are any questions regarding this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department in its continuing efforts to provide an appropriate environment for its users has completed an evaluation for compliance with applicable laws, codes, and design guidelines pertaining to accessibility.

As a government entity, Bloomington Parks and Recreation is required to comply with specific state and federal laws, which mandate architectural barriers to discrimination be removed to provide persons with disabilities equal opportunity. The following laws, codes and design guidelines specifically pertain to Bloomington Parks and Recreation:

■ **Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act**

Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act states that any entity receiving Federal financial assistance (either directly or indirectly) must prohibit any discrimination against “qualified individuals with disabilities” in their programs, activities or services.

As a result, an evaluation of all City buildings, facilities, sites, programs, and practices were to be completed as well as the implementation of a barrier removal program (Transition Plan).

Enforcement for Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act is through various Departments of the Federal Government. If an entity is found not making efforts to comply with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, there is a risk of losing federal funding.

■ **Minnesota State Building Code Chapter 1341**

The Minnesota State Building Code Chapter 1340 regarding accessibility was implemented in November 1975 and updated in January 1996. The code was revised in May 1999 and is now called the Minnesota State Building Code Chapter 1341. Any building remodeled, constructed or having a change of occupancy after that date is to comply with the Minnesota State Building Code Chapter 1341 design guidelines. The Minnesota State Building Code Chapter 1341 is enforced by local or state building officials

■ **Americans With Disabilities Act Title II**

The Americans With Disabilities Act of July 1990 (ADA) is the most recent in a series of civil rights laws for persons with disabilities. The ADA has five titles:

Title I:	Employment
Title II:	Public Services and Public Transportation
Title III:	Public Accommodations
Title IV:	Telecommunications
Title V:	Miscellaneous Provisions.

The focus of this evaluation is Title II.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act is intended to apply to all programs, activities, and services provided or operated by public entities. Where Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act protected patients and employees, the Americans with Disabilities Act expands coverage to include any individual who participates in activities sponsored by the City or are located in facilities owned and operated by Bloomington Parks and Recreation.

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act, facilities such as Bloomington Parks and Recreation are to review all buildings and facilities to determine what architectural barriers exist, the cost to remove those barriers, and then determine what the appropriate implementation plan should be to comply.

Like Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that architectural barriers be removed if they are necessary to provide program accessibility.

Enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act is through lawsuits filed as a result of a complaint by a person with a disability or an organization representing persons with disabilities. As of July 26, 1992, an entity such as Bloomington Parks and Recreation is at risk of being exposed to a lawsuit if implementation plans have not been developed.

■ **Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas**

These guidelines are for newly constructed and altered play areas and certain outdoor recreation areas covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The final rule was published in July 1997.

Site Evaluations

The following report is an overview of those issues that should be upgraded to meet the intent of the new construction guidelines for accessibility. Each barrier has been assigned a priority identifying those items we consider to be of higher priority, potentially a barrier to program access, by the Americans with Disabilities Act and to assist Bloomington Parks and Recreation in developing a plan for the removal of barriers.

It is encouraged that Bloomington Parks and Recreation use the information provided in this report as well as their knowledge of existing budgets and future capitol improvement plans to develop a barrier removal plan which outlines a schedule of the action to be taken for each recommendation listed. As each upgrade has been completed as a result of repair, remodeling, replacement, or as a proactive approach to removing architectural barriers, those specific items should be dated or "checked off" to identify that the action has been completed.

Priority 1 recommendations are accessibility issues which are encouraged to be upgraded within the near future a "special project", i.e. one year. These recommendations typically present the greatest impact in improving accessibility at a site or are considered "inexpensive" and "easy to implement".

Priority 2 recommendations are to be implemented within forthcoming years. These recommendations are important in providing an accessible environment but may require a greater level of planning, the potential involvement of an architect and/or outside contractor and may require separate budgeting.

Priority 3 recommendations are accessibility projects that do not critically affect the impact on accessibility but are still important to provide full accessibility.

Priority 4 recommendations are accessibility projects that do not affect the impact on program accessibility and are to be improved at such time as repair, replacement, or remodeling occurs. For example, if faucet hardware located in a rest room needs to be replaced, it should be replaced with hardware that requires single effort operation, i.e. single lever, dual blade or automatic sensor. Over a period of time, through general upgrades, full accessibility will be provided.

A **reactive** approach should be taken to accommodate a qualified employee's request for accessibility upgrades to provide an appropriate work environment. It is encouraged that Bloomington Parks and Recreation establish a procedure to communicate with employees to determine appropriate needs. Employee issues have been assigned a Priority 4.

All **new construction and remodeling** should meet the new construction guidelines produced as a result of the Americans with Disabilities Act or MN Building Code 1341.

Within the database, each accessibility issue was assigned a project type: Maintenance, Capitol Improvement or None. The purpose of identifying the style of project was to assist the City of Bloomington in determining which projects could easily be completed in house without creating a special budget request.

Transition Plan

The recommendations of this report are presented in a Transition Plan format. The transition plan is the plan of action the City may propose to remove barriers relating to architectural or site modifications. A transition plan is to include the following information, at a minimum:

- The issues for upgrade
- The location where the upgrade is needed
- The time frame for removing the barrier
- The person responsible

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act indicates all programs must be accessible, not necessarily all buildings, sites or facilities. Program accessibility is an option in lieu of making architectural changes. This gives the City the option of relocating programs to accessible facilities or areas of a building instead of upgrading certain facilities to made them accessible. The success of relocating programs to gain accessibility depends on current and future numbers and locations of individuals with disabilities. The long-range goal should be to make all sites and facilities accessible to the maximum extent feasible. How to move toward that goal remains the responsibility of the City.

It is recommended that the City complete the transition plan by inserting estimated completion dates, persons responsible, etc.

Please contact Julee Quarve-Peterson at (612) 374-3031 if there are any questions regarding this report.

I *Appendix I*

Future Parkland Acquisition Sites

(Updated – February 21, 2008)

This list of future park land acquisitions was developed by Parks and Recreation Division staff to identify properties that the City may have an interest in acquiring for addition to the park system at some point in the future. This list is a “watch” list of potentially desirable properties - the City will monitor these properties and if a particular property becomes available, the City will then determine whether to pursue acquisition of the property. It is the current policy of the City that properties listed herein will be acquired on a willing seller basis.

It should be noted that the City does not necessarily intend to acquire all of the properties on the list. As an example, there are several properties listed under the Future Youth Athletic Fields Acquisition category, but the acquisition of only one or two of these properties may provide sufficient acreage to address the need for additional youth athletic fields in the City. In addition, the City may consider acquiring a particular property, keeping a portion of the land for key facilities such as a trail corridor, and selling the remainder to minimize net public costs.

The attached maps detail the locations for all properties on the future park land acquisitions list.

City of Bloomington
Future Park Reserve Park Land Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)

Property/ Priority Number	Address	2006 Assessor's Value	Estimated Purchase Price	Estimated Other Acquisition Costs	Estimated Total Acquisition Costs	Funding Source
PR1	7321 Izaak Walton Road	522,700	963,555	65,000	1,028,555	Unidentified
*PIN #19-116-21-41-0005, 0.836 acre, zoning R-1, FH. "Johnston" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on "quick & dirty" estimate prepared by Assessing in 2005 following review of a limited number of comparable properties.						
PR2	7401 Izaak Walton Road	695,800	1,217,650	65,000	1,282,650	Unidentified
*PIN #19-116-21-41-0004, 1.164 acres, zoning R-1, FH. "Dale" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 175% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
PR3	7501 Izaak Walton Road	440,900	771,575	65,000	836,575	Unidentified
*PIN #19-116-21-41-0001, 0.384 acre, zoning R-1, FH. "Bratsch" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 175% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
PR4	7811 Pickfair Dr.	375,700	657,475	65,000	772,475	Unidentified
*PIN #19-116-21-12-0013, 0.686 acre, zoning R-1, FH. "Herrmann" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 175% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
PR5	7901 Pickfair Dr.	642,400	1,124,200	65,000	1,189,200	Unidentified
*PIN #19-116-21-12-0040, 0.953 acre, zoning R-1, FH. "Boruta" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 175% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						

City of Bloomington
Future Park Reserve Park Land Acquisitions
(Page 2)

Property/ Priority Number	Address	2006 Assessor's Value	Estimated Purchase Price	Estimated Other Acquisition Costs	Estimated Total Acquisition Costs	Funding Source
PR6	9125 W. Bush	411,200	719,600	65,000	784,600	Unidentified
*PIN #19-116-21-42-0001, 0.493 acre, zoning R-1, FH. "Anderson" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 175% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
PR7	7515 Izaak Walton Rd.	1,392,600	2,437,050	65,000	2,502,050	Unidentified
*PIN #19-116-21-14-0004, 6.282 acres, zoning R-1, FH. "Izaak Walton League" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 175% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
PR8	9609 E. Bush Lake Road	173,400	260,100	65,000	325,100	Unidentified
*PIN #29-116-21-23-0005, 0.605 acre, zoning R-1. "Nesbitt" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
PR9	9633 E. Bush Lake Road	353,100	529,650	65,000	594,650	Unidentified
*PIN #29-116-21-23-0008, 0.568 acre, zoning R-1. "Belter" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						

City of Bloomington
Future Park Reserve Park Land Acquisitions
(Page 3)

Property/ Priority <u>Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	2006 Assessor's <u>Value</u>	Estimated Purchase <u>Price</u>	Estimated Other Acquisition <u>Costs</u>	Estimated Total Acquisition <u>Costs</u>	Funding <u>Source</u>
PR10	9616 Oregon Ave. So.	345,300	517,950	65,000	582,950	Unidentified

*PIN #29-116-21-23-0006, 0.598 acre, zoning R-1. "Nesbitt" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

PR11	7416 Izaak Walton Rd.	489,600	856,800	65,000	921,800	Unidentified
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*PIN #19-116-21-14-0002, 1.794 acres, zoning R-1, FH. "Jensen" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 175% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

PR12	7420 Izaak Walton Rd.	517,200	905,100	65,000	885,650	Unidentified
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*PIN #19-116-21-14-0003, 0.897 acre, zoning R-1, FH. "Olish" property to be acquired for Bush Lake Park Unit. Estimated purchase price based on 175% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

PR13	7907 Lea Rd.	200,800	301,200	55,000	356,200	Unidentified
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*PIN #18-116-21-11-0003, 0.493 acre, zoning SC. "Anderson" property to be acquired for North Corridor Park Unit. Former address was 7300 Marth Rd. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

PR14	7927 Lea Rd.	170,500	255,750	55,000	310,750	Unidentified
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*PIN #17-116-21-22-0021, 0.403 acre, zoning SC. "Peterson" property to be acquired for North Corridor Park Unit. Former address was 7001 Marth Rd. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

Total Acquisition Costs – Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve (14 properties, 16.113 acres total) \$12,373,205

City of Bloomington
Future Dwan Golf Course Land Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)

Property/ Priority <u>Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	2006 Assessor's <u>Value</u>	Estimated Purchase <u>Price</u>	Estimated Other Acquisition <u>Costs</u>	Estimated Total Acquisition <u>Costs</u>	Funding <u>Source</u>
GC1	3501 Overlook Dr.	937,800	1,406,700	25,000	1,431,700	Unidentified

*PIN #29-027-24-32-0002, 5.625 acres, zoning residential R-1 Multiple. Property to be acquired for Dwan Golf Course expansion. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

GC2	3401 Overlook Dr.	1,403,800	2,105,700	60,000	2,165,700	Unidentified
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*PIN #29-027-24-31-0006, 10.606 acres, zoning residential R-1 Multiple. Property to be acquired for Dwan Golf Course expansion. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

GC3	3325 Overlook Dr.	297,800	446,700	25,000	471,700	Unidentified
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*PIN #29-027-24-31-0005, 2.869 acres, zoning residential R-1 Multiple. Property to be acquired for Dwan Golf Course expansion. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

Total Acquisition Costs – Dwan Golf Course (3 properties, 19.1 acres total) \$4,069,100

City of Bloomington
Future Lower Penn Lake Land Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)

Property/ Priority Number	Address	2006 Assessor's Value	Estimated Purchase Price	Estimated Other Acquisition Costs	Estimated Total Acquisition Costs	Funding Source
LP1	2001 W. 86th St.	348,300	522,450	60,000	582,450	Unidentified
*PIN #04-027-24-33-0007, 0.425 acre, zoning residential R-1. Property to be acquired for Lower Penn Lake Park. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
LP2	2105 W. 86th St.	295,600	443,400	50,000	493,400	Unidentified
*PIN #04-027-24-33-0006, 0.725 acre, zoning residential R-1. Property to be acquired for Lower Penn Lake Park. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						

Total Acquisition Costs – Lower Penn Lake (2 properties, 1.15 acres total) \$1,075,850

City of Bloomington
Future Minnesota River Valley Land Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)

Property/ Priority Number	Address	2006 Assessor's Value	Estimated Purchase Price	Estimated Other Acquisition Costs	Estimated Total Acquisition Costs	Funding Source
MRV1	11100 Humboldt Ave. So.	38,200	150,000	10,000	160,000	Unidentified
*PIN #28-027-24-21-0001, 7.959 acres, zoning R-1 Multiple. Property to be acquired for MN River Valley Park. Portion of Nine Mile Creek crosses the property. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of Owner's 2000 asking price.						
MRV2	11245 Bloomington Ferry Rd.	297,400	446,100	50,000	496,100	Unidentified
*PIN #06-115-21-13-0009, 1.793 acres, zoning residential R-1 BP1. Property to be acquired for MN River Valley Park. Potential to renovate historic Chambers House into trailhead facility for Bloomington Ferry Bridge trail. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						

Total Acquisition Costs – Minnesota River Valley (2 properties, 9.752 acres total) \$656,100

City of Bloomington
Future Moir Park Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)

Property/ Priority Number	Address	2006 Assessor's Value	Estimated Purchase Price	Estimated Other Acquisition Costs	Estimated Total Acquisition Costs	Funding Source
MP1	10420 Humboldt Ave. So.	272,200	408,300	50,000	458,300	Unidentified
PIN #21-027-24-24-0001, 0.444 acre, zoning residential R-1. Property to be acquired for Moir Park.. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
MP2	10301 and 10309 Morgan Ave. So.	422,200	633,300	50,000	693,300	Unidentified
*10301 Morgan Ave So. PIN #21-027-24-22-0003, 0.915 acre, zoning residential R-1. 10309 Morgan Ave. So. PIN #21-027-24-22-0004, .915 acre, zoning residential R-1. Properties to be acquired for Moir Park.. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						

Total Acquisition Costs – Moir Park (2 properties, 1.359 acres total) \$1,151,600

City of Bloomington
Future Moir Park Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)

<u>Property/ Priority Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>2006 Assessor's Value</u>	<u>Estimated Purchase Price</u>	<u>Estimated Other Acquisition Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Total Acquisition Costs</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
MP1	10420 Humboldt Ave. So.	272,200	408,300	50,000	458,300	Unidentified

PIN #21-027-24-24-0001, 0.444 acre, zoning residential R-1. Property to be acquired for Moir Park.. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

MP2	10301 and 10309 Morgan Ave. So.	422,200	633,300	50,000	693,300	Unidentified
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*10301 Morgan Ave So. PIN #21-027-24-22-0003, 0.915 acre, zoning residential R-1. 10309 Morgan Ave. So. PIN #21-027-24-22-0004, .915 acre, zoning residential R-1. Properties to be acquired for Moir Park.. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

Total Acquisition Costs – Moir Park (2 properties, 1.359 acres total) \$1,151,600

City of Bloomington
Future National Guard Armory Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)

<u>Property/ Priority Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>2006 Assessor's Value</u>	<u>Estimated Purchase Price</u>	<u>Estimated Other Acquisition Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Total Acquisition Costs</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
NG1	3100 W. 98th St.	223,200	334,800	50,000	384,800	Unidentified

*PIN #17-027-24-24-0002, 0.822 acre, zoning residential R-1. Property to be acquired for expansion of National Guard Armory. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

Total Acquisition Costs – National Guard Armory (1 property, 0.822 acre) \$384,800

City of Bloomington
Future Playgrounds and Playlots Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)

Property/ Priority Number	Address	2006 Assessor's Value	Estimated Purchase Price	Estimated Other Acquisition Costs	Estimated Total Acquisition Costs	Fund Source
PP1	8600 Bloomington Ave. So.	5,915,500	640,000	25,000	665,000	Unid

*PIN #11-027-24-12-0093, Northern most 4 acres of parcel, zoning residential R-1. Cedar Valley Church property to be acquired for Park. The 2006 Assessor's Value is based on the entire property. Purchase price based on an estimated \$160,000 per acre for the four acres.

PP2	7320 Highwood Dr.	0	300,000	25,000	325,000	Unid
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*PIN #18-116-21-14-0063, 1.875 acres, zoning residential R-1 PD. Townhome "Common Area" property to be acquired for new park price based on \$160,000 per acre.

PP3	9931 Harriet Ave. So.	203,100	304,650	50,000	354,650	Unid
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*PIN #15-027-24-32-0022, 0.82 acres, zoning R-1. Property to be acquired for a playlot. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of Estimated Market Value.

PP4	9935 Harriet Ave. So.	214,600	321,900	50,000	371,900	Unid
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*PIN #15-027-24-32-0023, 0.82 acres, zoning R-1. Property to be acquired for a playlot. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of Estimated Market Value.

PP5	9943 Harriet Ave. So.	329,600	494,400	50,000	544,400	Unid
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*PIN #15-027-24-32-0024, 0.82 acres, zoning R-1. Property to be acquired for a playlot. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of Estimated Market Value.

Total Acquisition Costs – Playgrounds and Playlots (5 properties, 8.335 acres total) \$2,260,950

City of Bloomington
Future Pond-Dakota Park Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)

Property/ Priority Number	Address	2006 Assessor's Value	Estimated Purchase Price	Estimated Other Acquisition Costs	Estimated Total Acquisition Costs	Funding Source
PD1	345 E. 104th St.	261,200	391,800	50,000	441,800	Unidentified

*PIN #22-027-24-14-0002, 0.689 acre, zoning residential R-1 Multiple. Property to be acquired for Pond-Dakota Park. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

Total Acquisition Costs – Pond-Dakota Park (1 property, 0.689 acre) \$441,800

**City of Bloomington
Future Smith Park Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)**

<u>Property/ Priority Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>2006 Assessor's Value</u>	<u>Estimated Purchase Price</u>	<u>Estimated Other Acquisition Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Total Acquisition Costs</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
SP1	7900 & 7940 Chicago Ave. S.	5,799,900	8,699,850	1,346,000	10,045,850	Unidentified

*7900 Chicago Ave. S. PIN #02-027-24-22-22-0013, 4.594 acres, zoning FD-2. 7940 Chicago Ave. So. PIN #02-027-24-23-0043, 3.225 acres, FD-2. Property to be acquired for Smith Park. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value. Estimated other acquisition costs based on \$825,000 for demolition costs; \$500,000 for relocation costs; and \$21,000 for appraisal, taxes and closing costs.

Total Acquisition Costs – Smith Park (2 properties, 7.819 acres total) \$10,045,850

**City of Bloomington
Future Tretbaugh and Marsh Lake Parks Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)**

<u>Property/ Priority Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>2006 Assessor's Value</u>	<u>Estimated Purchase Price</u>	<u>Estimated Other Acquisition Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Total Acquisition Costs</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
TML1	3309 W. 90th St.	288,800	433,200	50,000	483,200	Unidentified

*PIN #08-027-24-31-0010, 0.365 acre, zoning residential R-1. Property to be acquired for Tretbaugh & Marsh Lake Parks. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

Total Acquisition Costs – Tretbaugh and Marsh Lake Parks (1 property, 0.365 acre) \$483,200

**City of Bloomington
Future Wright's Lake Park Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)**

<u>Property/ Priority Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>2006 Assessor's Value</u>	<u>Estimated Purchase Price</u>	<u>Estimated Other Acquisition Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Total Acquisition Costs</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
WL1	8400 Old Cedar Ave.	157,700	236,550	50,000	286,550	Unidentified

*PIN #02-027-24-44-0015, 0.286 acre, zoning residential R-1. Property to be acquired for Wright's Lake Park. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

WL2	8406 Old Cedar Ave.	211,800	317,700	50,000	367,700	Unidentified
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*PIN #02-027-24-44-0016, 0.286 acre, zoning residential R-1. Property to be acquired for Wright's Lake Park. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

WL3	8412 Old Cedar Ave.	203,300	304,950	50,000	354,950	Unidentified
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*PIN #02-027-24-44-0017, 0.286 acre, zoning residential R-1. Property to be acquired for Wright's Lake Park. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.

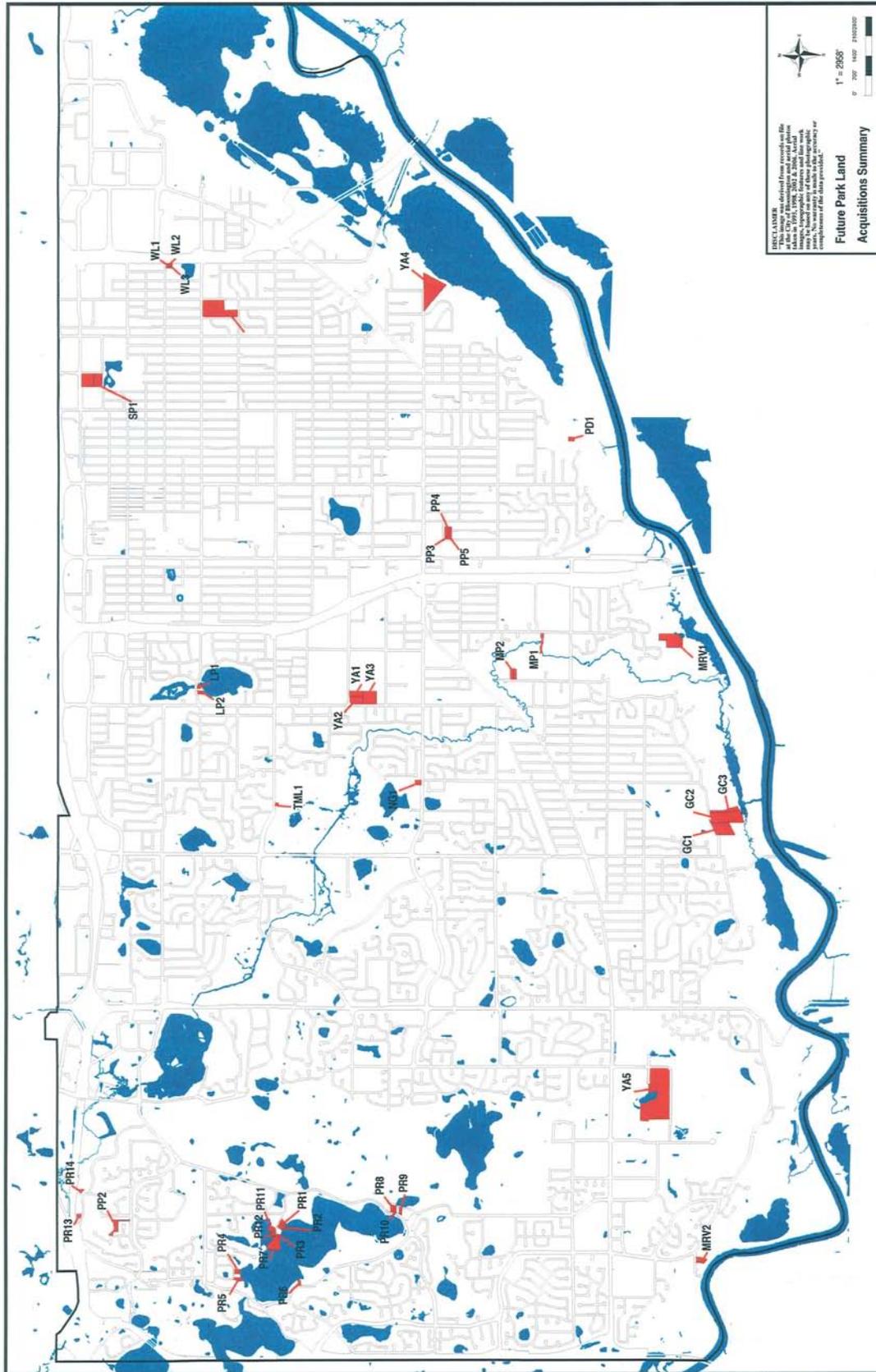
Total Acquisition Costs – Wright's Lake Park (3 properties, 0.858 acres total) \$1,009,200

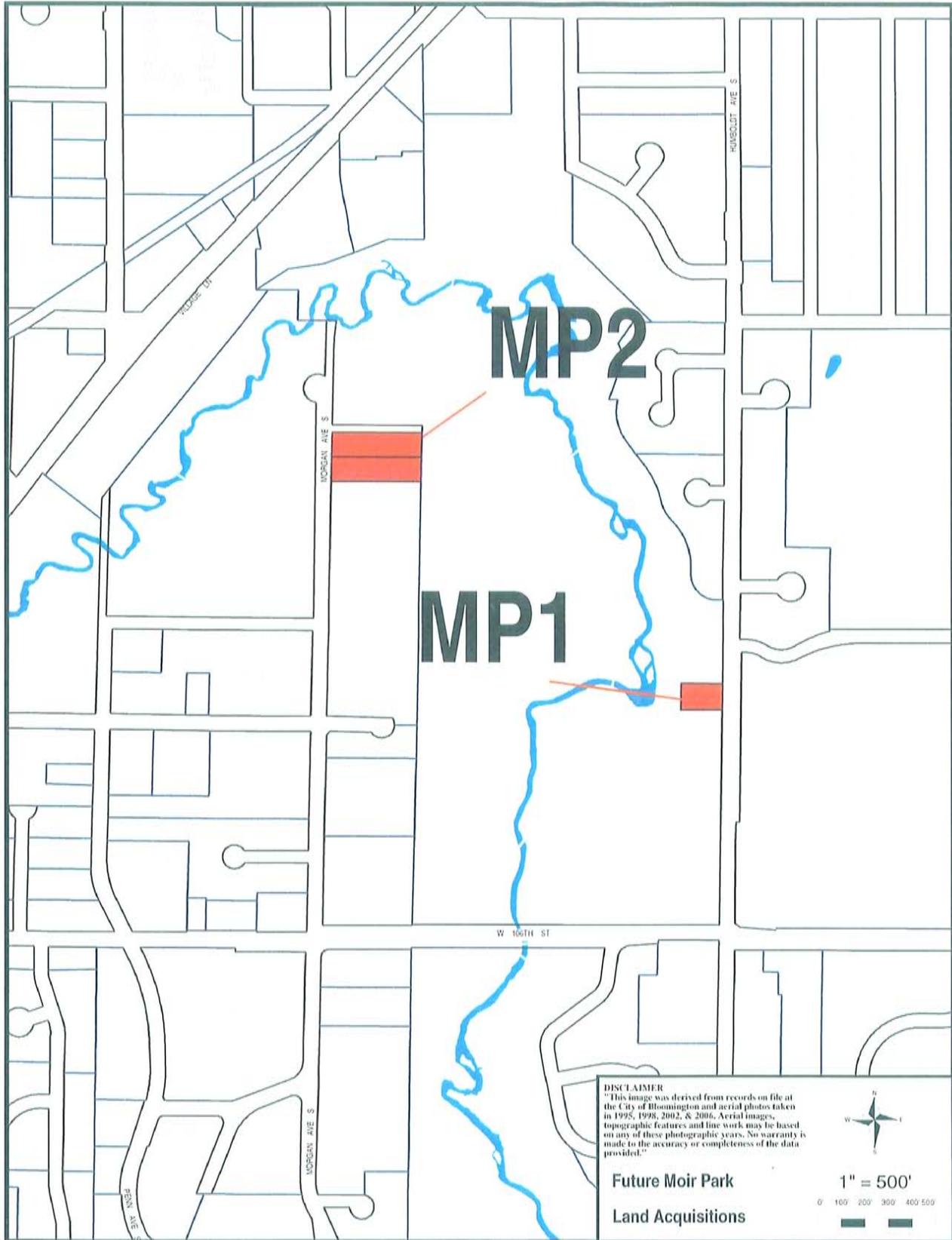
City of Bloomington
Future Youth Athletic Fields Acquisitions
(Updated – February 22, 2008)

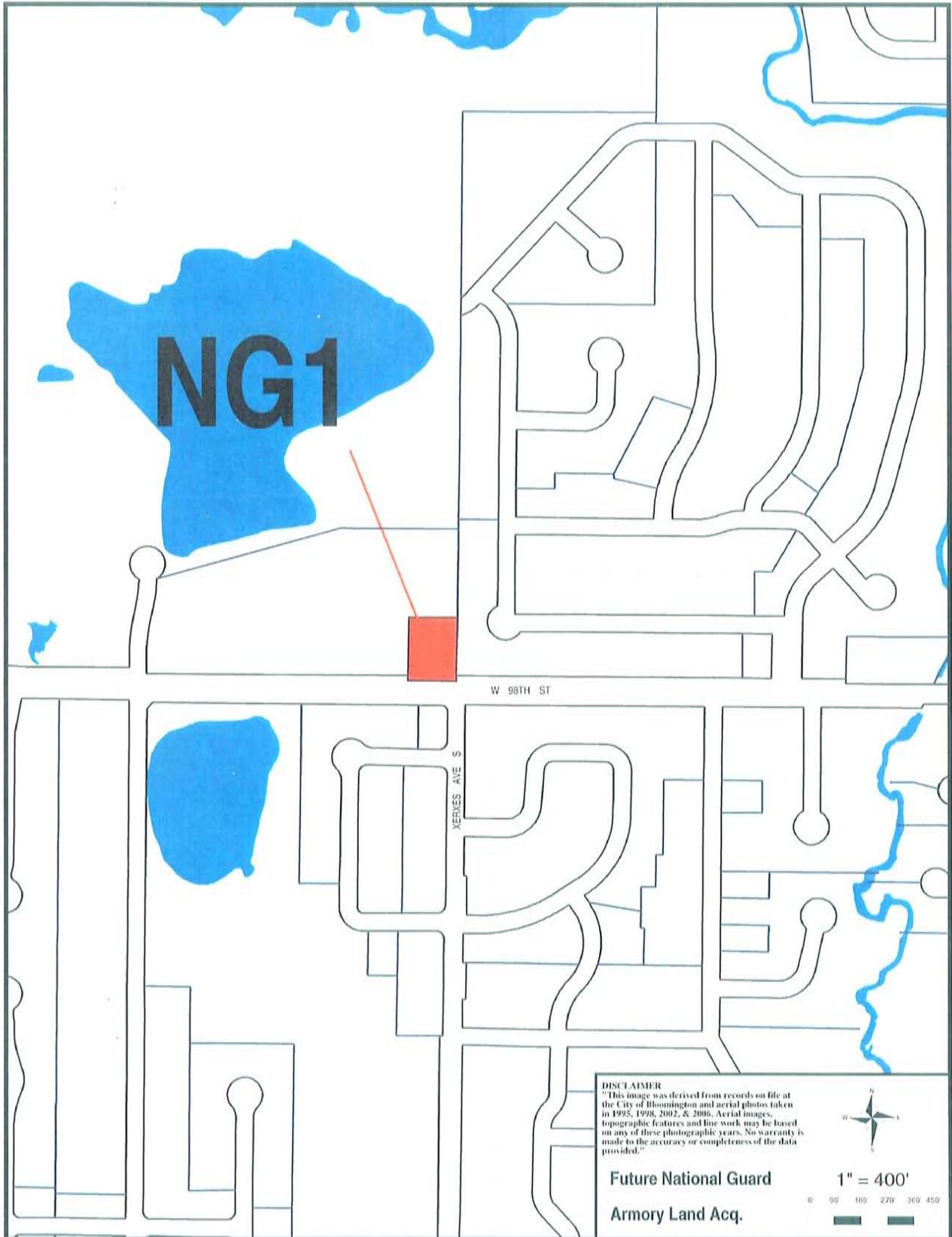
Property/ Priority Number	Address	2006 Assessor's Value	Estimated Purchase Price	Estimated Other Acquisition Costs	Estimated Total Acquisition Costs	Funding Source
YA1	1701 W 94th St.	1,739,100	2,608,650	60,000	2,668,650	Unidentified
*PIN #16-027-24-21-0008, 5.323 acres, zoning I-2. John Deere property to be acquired for youth athletic fields. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
YA2	2101 W 94th St.	678,700	1,017,000	60,000	1,077,000	Unidentified
*PIN #16-027-24-22-0006, 2.081 acres, zoning I-2. John Deere property to be acquired for youth athletic fields. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
YA3	2201 W. 94th St.	923,600	1,385,400	60,000	1,445,400	Unidentified
*PIN #16-027-24-22-0005, 2.827 acres, zoning I-2. John Deere property to be acquired for youth athletic fields. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
YA4	1515 E. 98th St.	1,763,300	2,644,950	60,000	2,704,950	Unidentified
*PIN #14-027-24-41-0006, 12.229 acres, zoning I-2. Property to be acquired for youth athletic fields. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
YA5	11000 Nesbitt Ave. So.	5,349,700	8,024,550	25,000	8,049,550	Unidentified
*PIN #05-115-21-11-0003, 35.089 acres, zoning IP. Future water treatment plant property to be acquired for youth athletic fields. Estimated purchase price based on 150% of 2006 Estimated Market Value.						
Total Acquisition Costs – Youth Athletic Fields (5 properties, 57.549 acres total)					\$15,945,550	

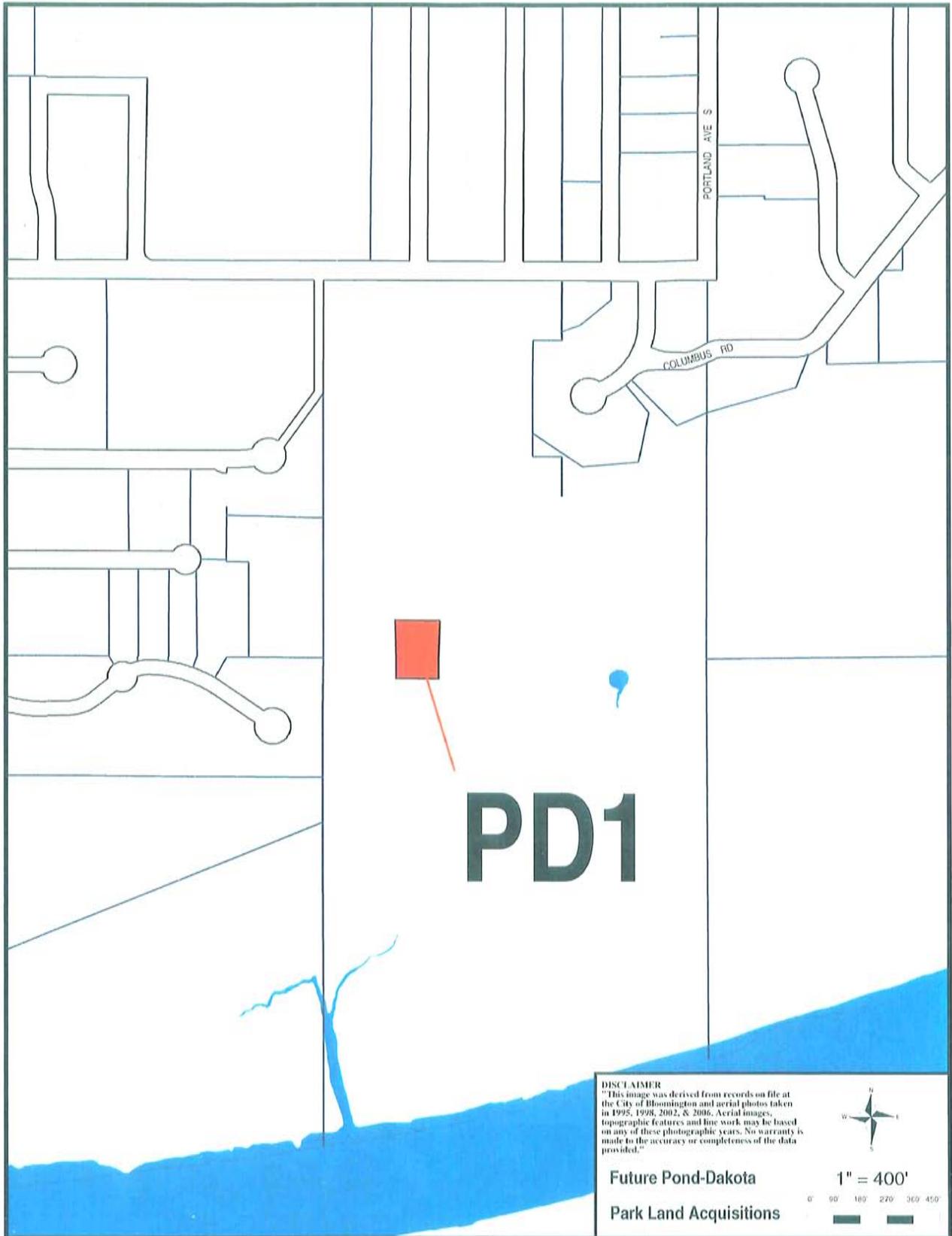
City of Bloomington
Future Land Acquisitions – Cost Summary

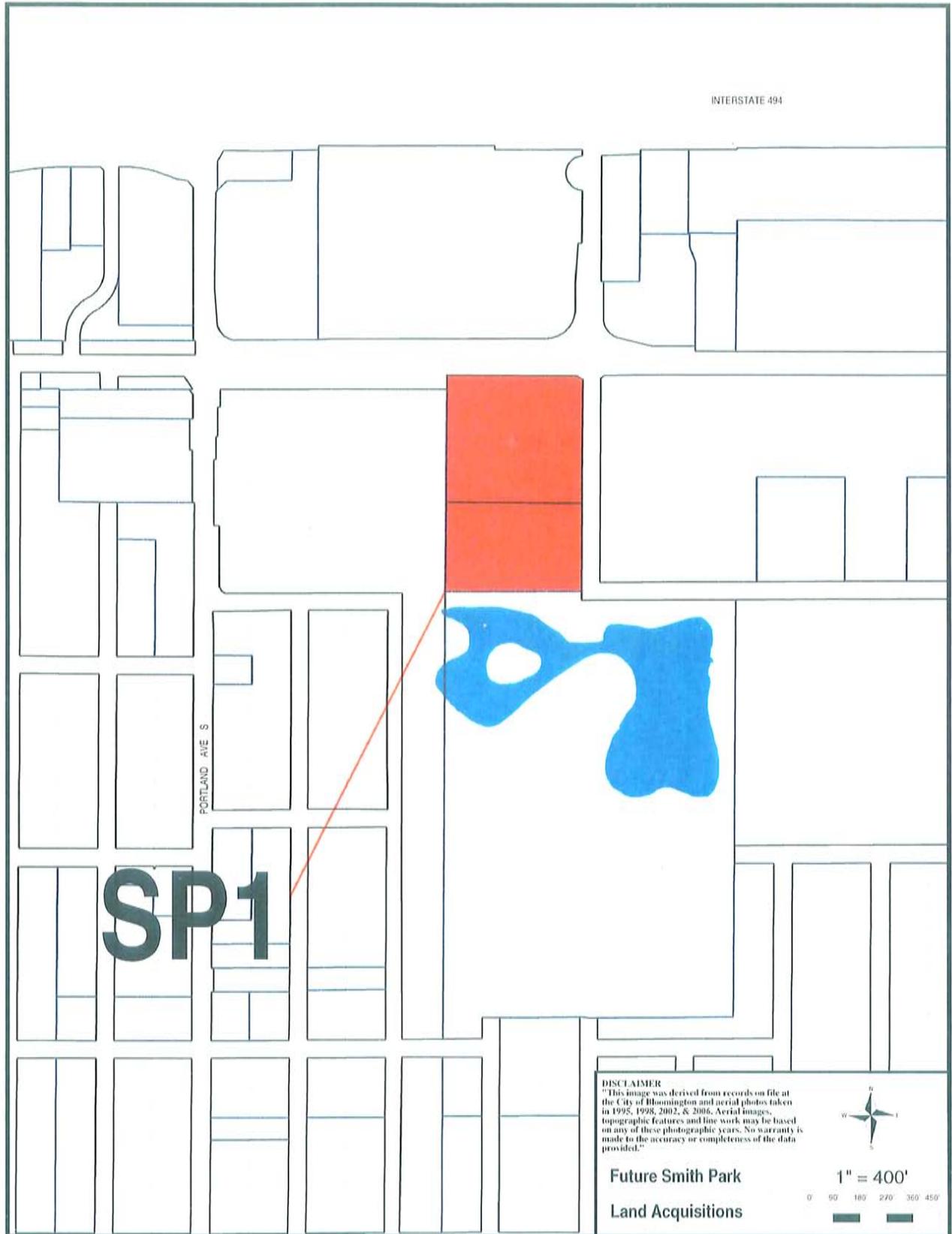
Total Acquisition Costs – Dwan Golf Course Expansion (3 properties, 19.1 acres total)	\$4,069,100
Total Acquisition Costs – Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve (14 properties, 16.113 acres total)	\$12,373,205
Total Acquisition Costs – Lower Penn Lake Park (2 properties, 1.15 acres total)	\$1,075,850
Total Acquisition Costs – Minnesota River Valley (2 properties, 9.752 acres total)	\$656,100
Total Acquisition Costs – Moir Park (2 properties, 1.359 acres total)	\$1,151,600
Total Acquisition Costs – National Guard Armory (1 property, 0.822 acre)	\$384,800
Total Acquisition Costs – Playgrounds & Playlots (5 properties, 8.335 acres total)	\$2,260,950
Total Acquisition Costs – Pond-Dakota Park (1 property, 0.689 acre)	\$441,800
Total Acquisition Costs – Smith Park (1 property, 7.819 acres)	\$10,045,850
Total Acquisition Costs – Tretbaugh & Marsh Lakes Parks (1 property, 0.365 acre)	\$483,200
Total Acquisition Costs – Wright's Lake Park (3 properties, 0.858 acres total)	\$1,009,200
Total Acquisition Costs – Youth Athletic Fields (5 properties, 57.549 acres total)	\$15,945,550
Total Estimated Acquisition Costs for the 40 properties (123.911 acres total)	\$49,897,205

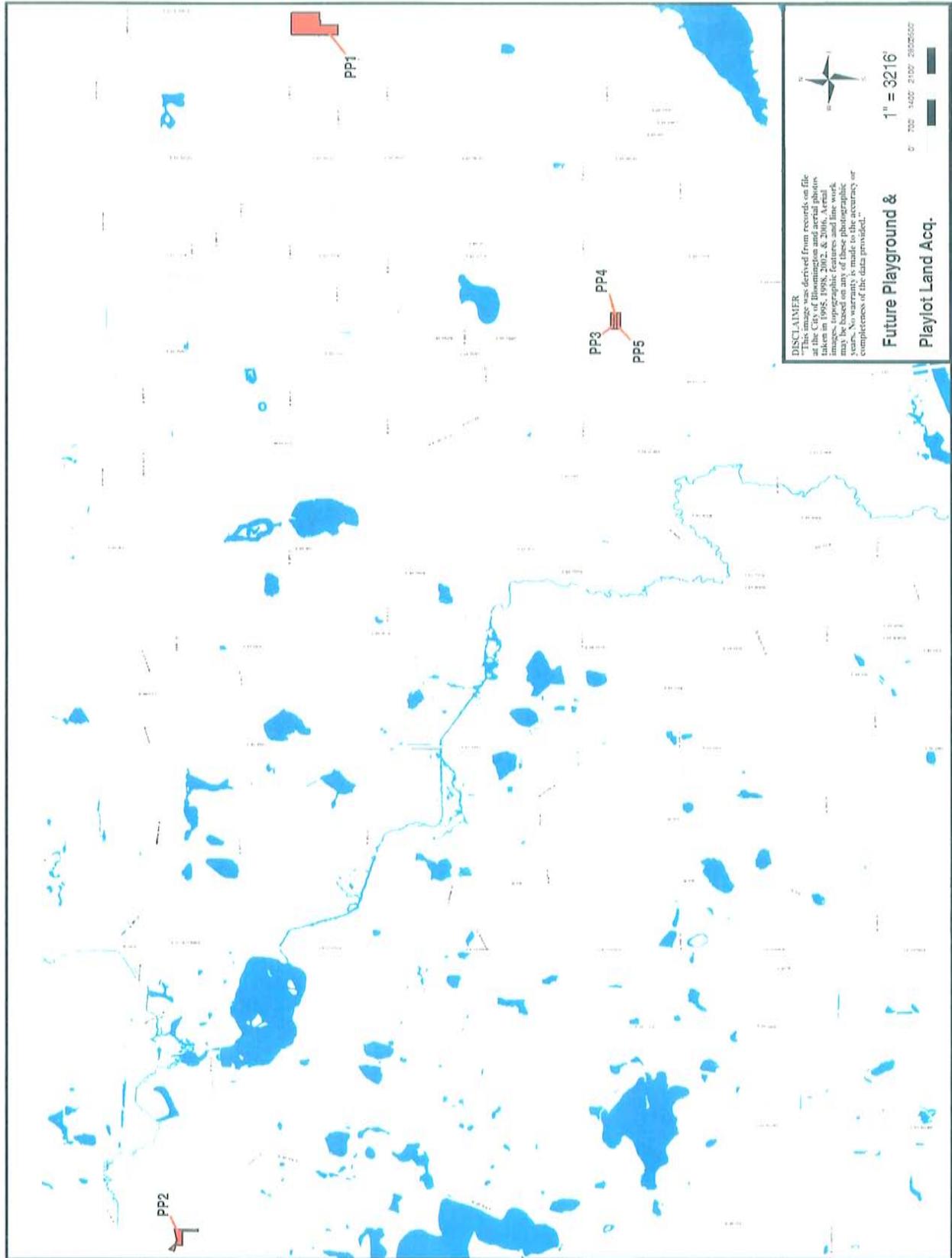


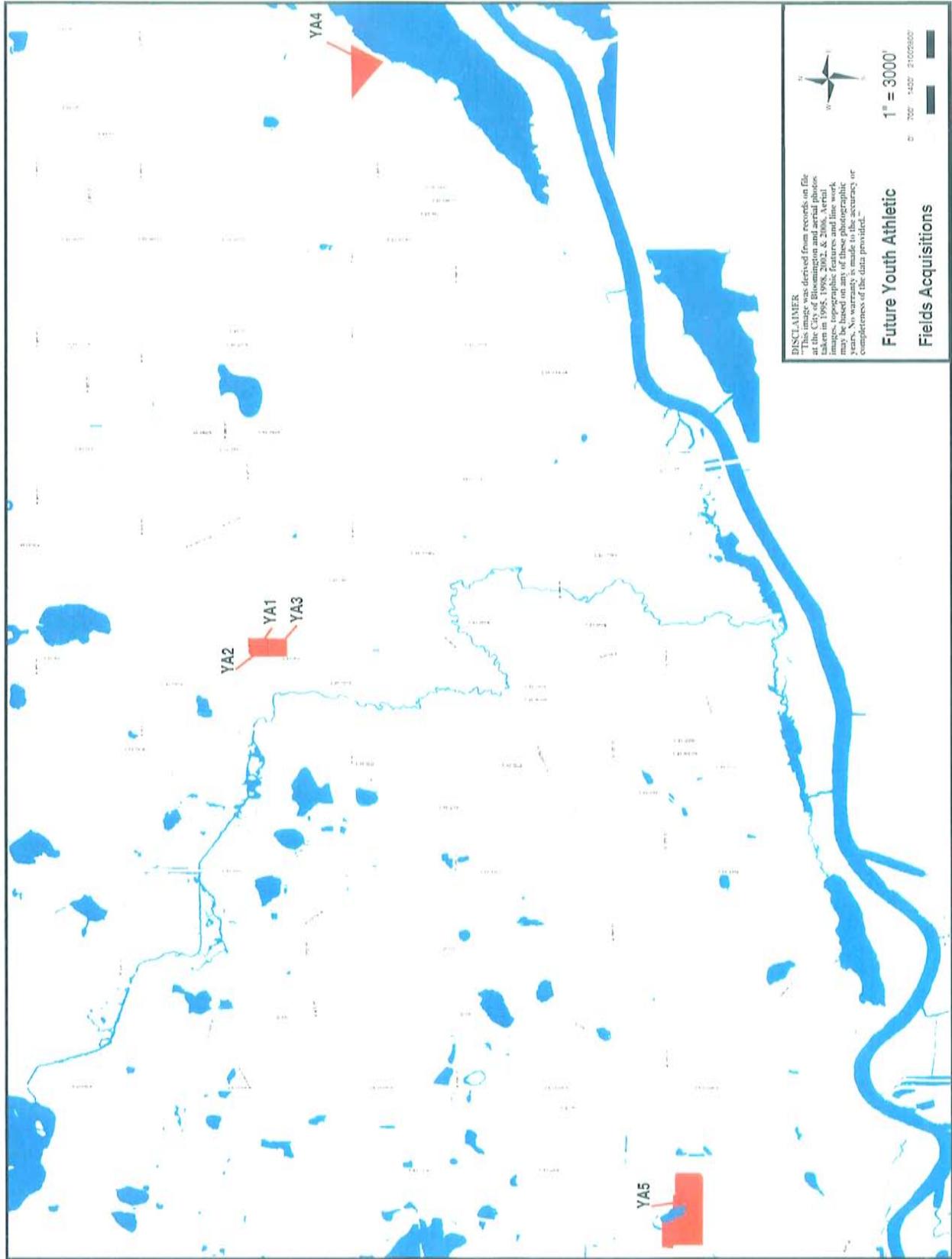


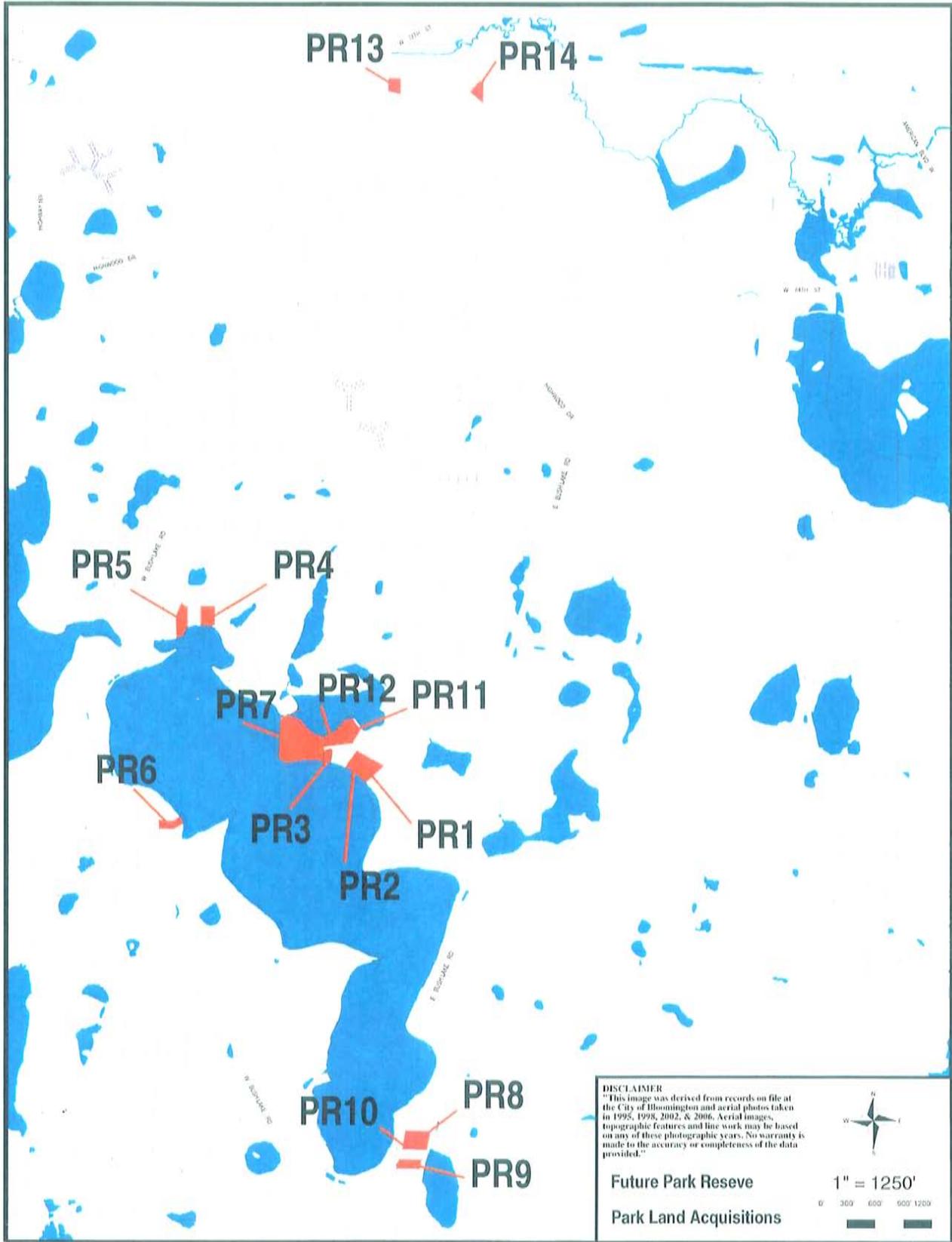


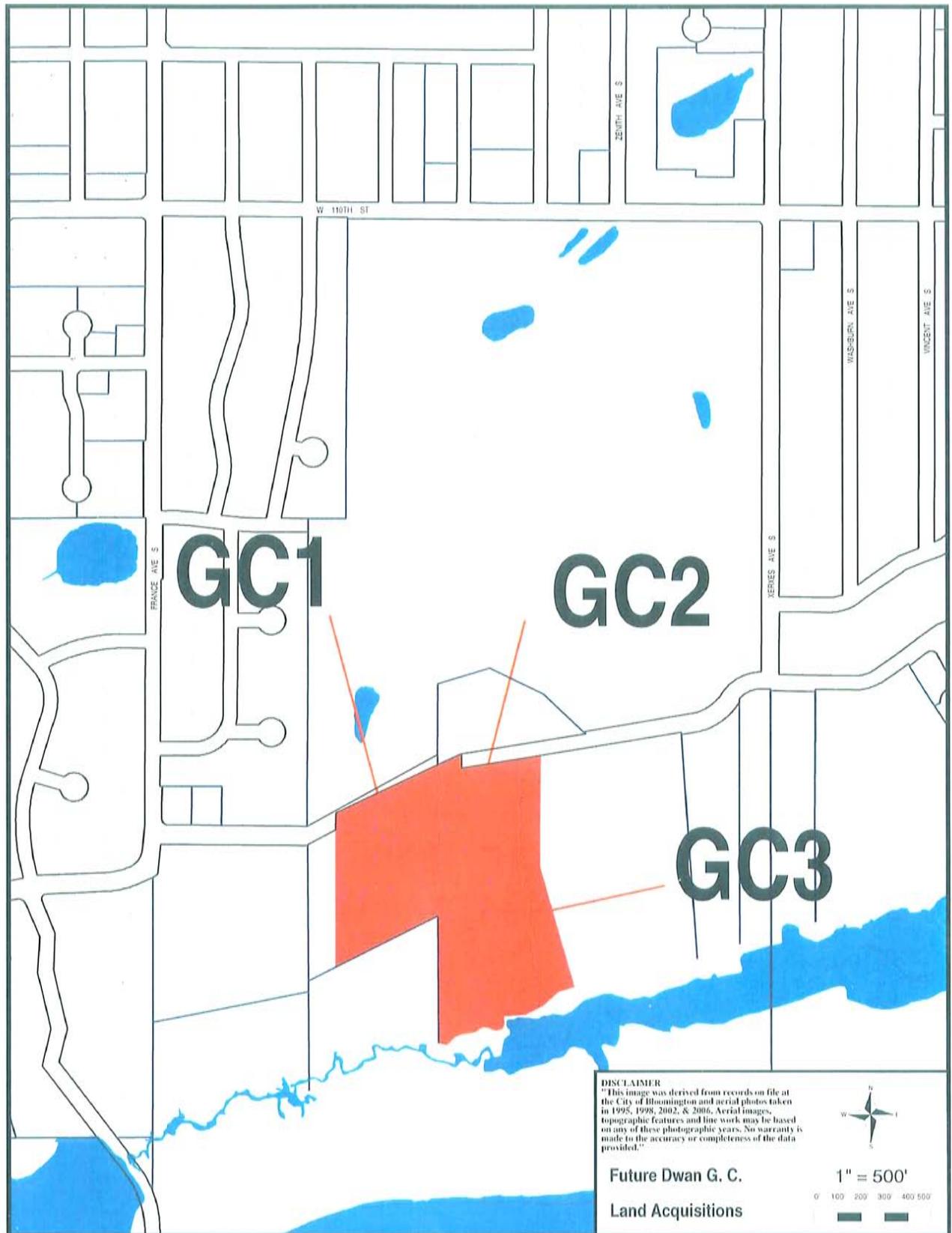


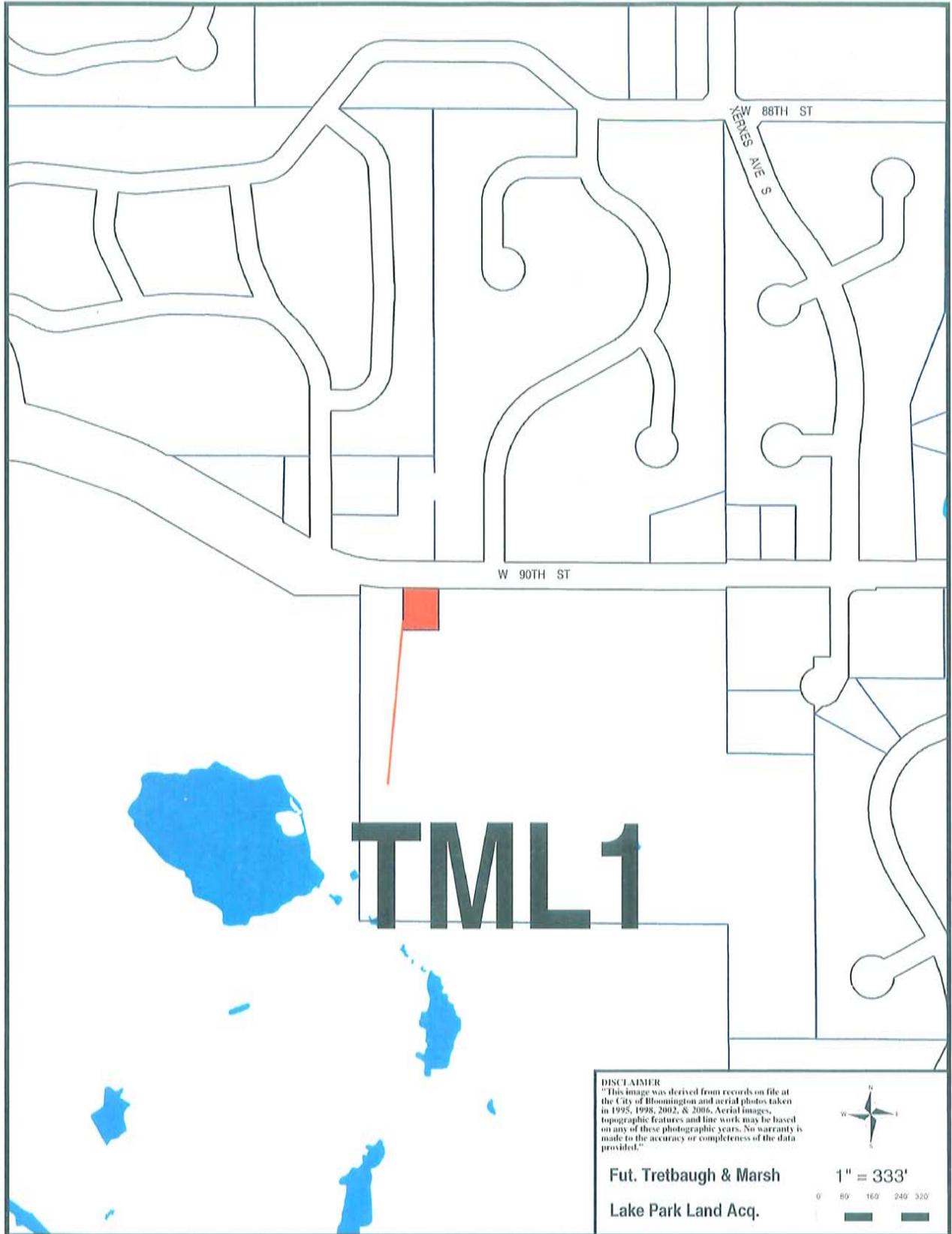




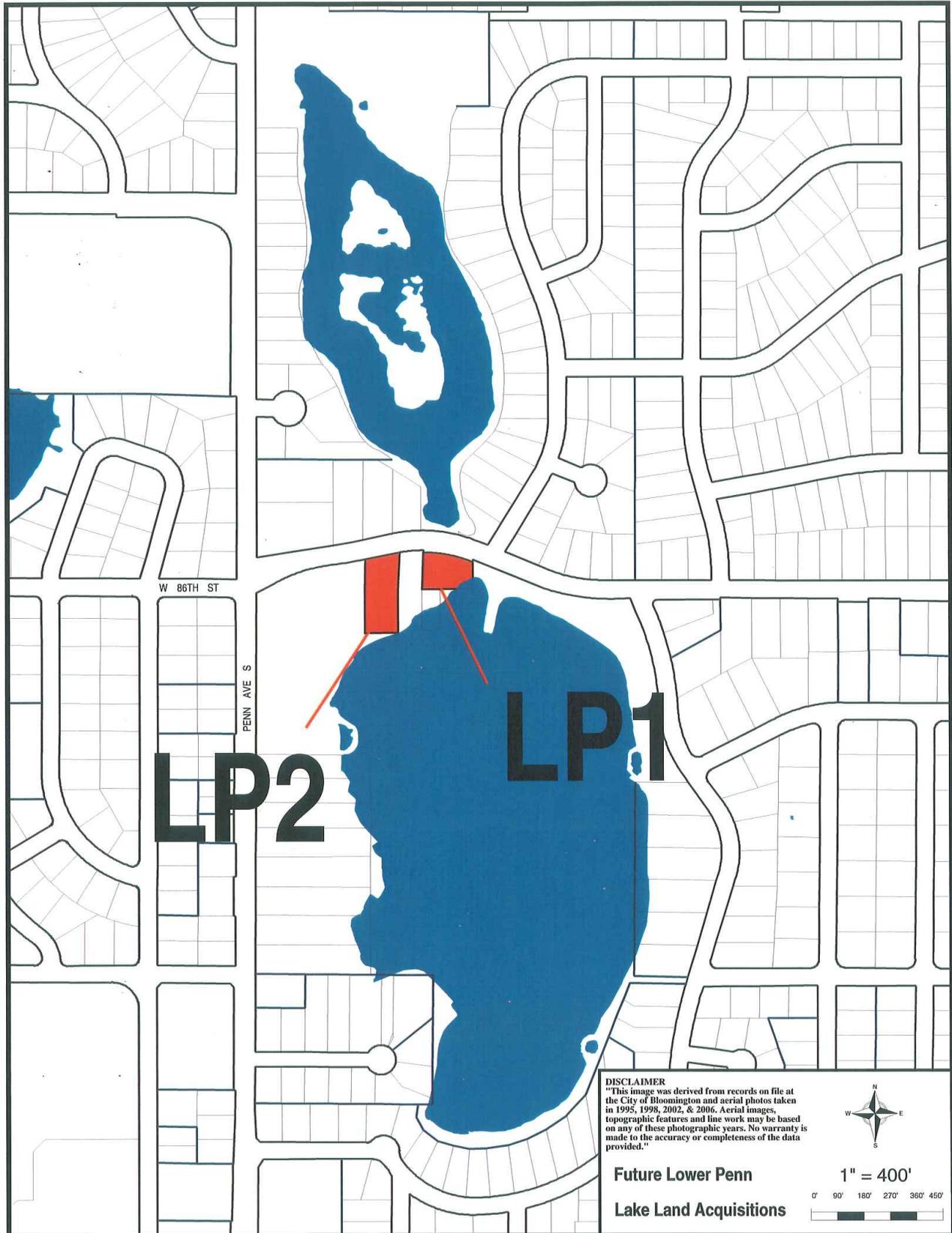


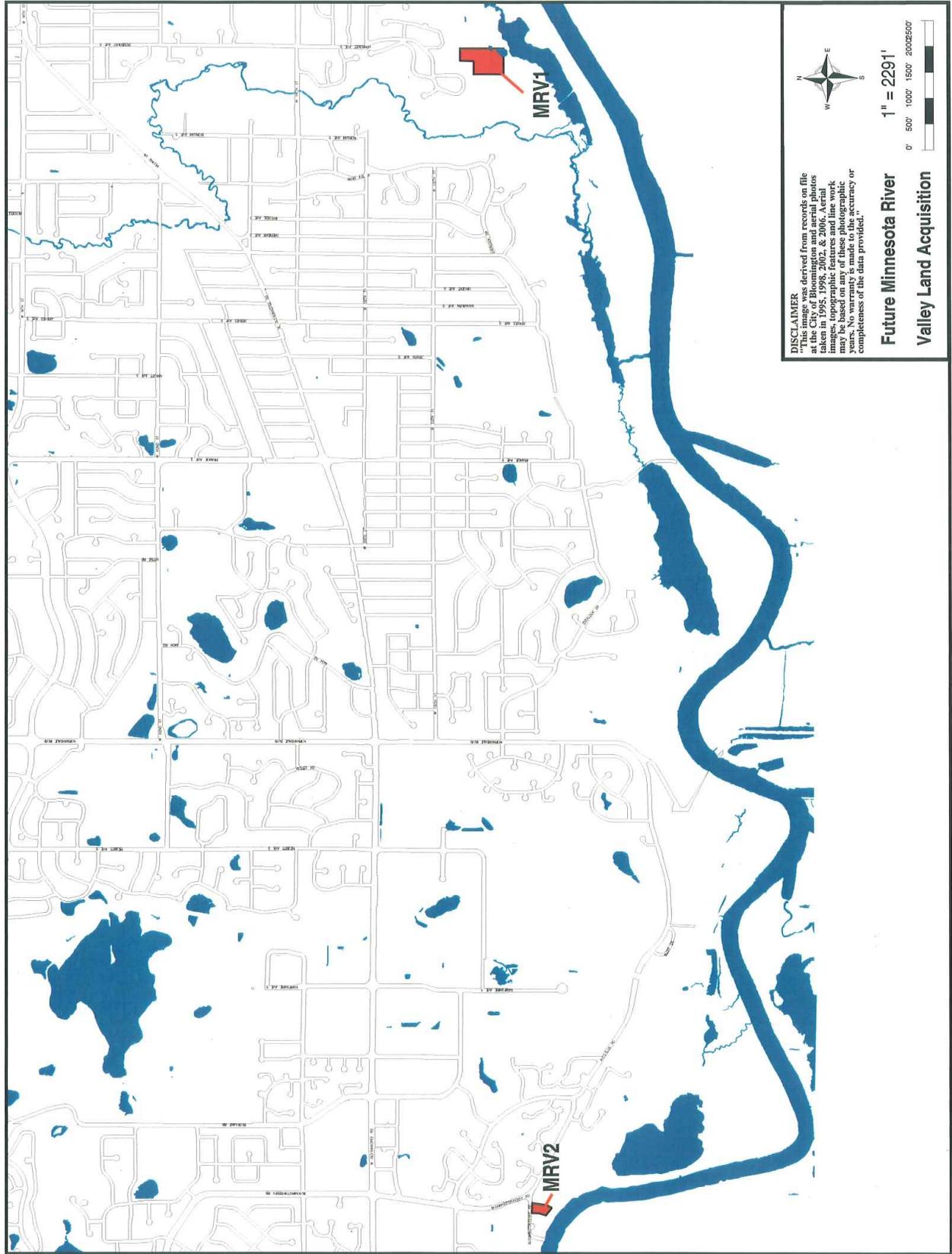












J *Appendix J*

Bloomington Program Listings

Parks & Recreation Programs

Season	Program	Supervisor	Description
Winter/ Spring	Athletics – Adult Volleyball	Jason Hicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-October and continue through mid-March. • Co-rec and women's leagues are available
	Bloomington Loves Its Kids	Randi Wallenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February • P & R teams with Bloomington public schools, Northwestern Health Sciences University & various community businesses, clubs & organizations to sponsor this month-long event. • Combines community & family fun with educational programs & recognition ceremonies.
Summer	Normandale Lake Bandshell Rentals	Mark Morrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be rented for events as approved by the City Parks and Recreation Division on an individual basis. • General event usage may include picnics, weddings or other special celebrations, organization performances or events, and business or family meetings. • Must fill out a Facility Use Permit and pay appropriate fees
	Arts in the Parks	Mark Morrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to entertaining & educating citizens by providing positive cultural arts events for all ages. • Summer schedules are available, call 952-563-8895
	Summer Fete	Mark Morrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 3 • Normandale Lake Bandshell • Entertainment – music, fireworks, food • Free & open to the public.
	Summer Spectrum	Greg Boatman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative program of Bloomington Public Schools' Community Education, the City's Parks & Recreation Division and the Bloomington Art Center. • Season activities for youth • Catalog available for registration
	Playgrounds/Field Trips	Randi Wallenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games, sports, story time, arts & crafts, carnivals, & special weekly events. • Adult directors experienced in recreation and youth leadership supervise summer playgrounds.
	Aquatics	Kari Hemp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush Lake & Bloomington Family Aquatic Center (BFAC) • Outdoor aquatics such as Swimming Lessons, open swim, concessions, lifeguard training, reservations. • Open swim, Lap swim
	Tennis	Kari Hemp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth team tennis • Adult singles ladder & doubles leagues (men & women), Lifetime – 98th St lessons
	Athletics – Sand Volleyball	Jason Hicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June – August • Co-rec & women's leagues are available, with 2 divisions in each league to allow participants to choose the level of competition that suits them.

Season	Program	Supervisor	Description
	Camp Kota/Kota Kids	Randi Wallenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized to provide an opportunity to learn basic camping skills & to develop an appreciation for the outdoors. Many opportunities of nature crafts, nature studies, knots, & camp craft skills, along with preparing meals Tuesday - Friday. Activities – swimming, canoeing, arts & crafts, active games, field trips & an overnight campout Thursday night at Sumac Knoll Group Campsite in Hyland Park. Bus transportation is provided to and from camp except on Friday mornings.
Summer/ Fall	Athletics – Adult Softball	Jason Hicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May – October Men's, Women's & Co-Rec Approximately 350 teams participate in the summer and fall. Games are played at two different complexes, Dred Scott and Valley View. Leagues are available Monday through Friday.
Fall	Pre-school Gymnastics	Greg Boatman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. – May Ages 3-5 Basic tumbling and other gymnastic skills
	River Rendezvous	Mark Morrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pond-Dakota Mission Park in Bloomington, Minnesota. Goal is to demonstrate the lifestyles of people living in Minnesota between 1830 and 1870 through story-telling & interactive, hands-on demonstration! School Days (by registration only) & the public Rendezvous Day (no registration necessary).
	Athletics – Adult Touch Football	Jason Hicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Played from the last week in August to the middle of October. Games are seven-on-seven contests. Fields are located on the north side of Dred Scott.
Winter	Outdoor Skating Rinks	Kari Gerdes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P & R operates 17 outdoor ice skating rinks. Facilities include a lighted general skating rink, a hockey rink & a heated park shelter for changing skates & warming up.
	Athletics – Adult Basketball	Jason Hicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 on 5 End of November – March
	Winter Fete	Mark Morrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote recreation and exercise during the winter months. Variety of programs being held all over the city, & being sponsored by a wide array of groups.
All Year Around	Bloomington Center for the Arts	Jim Urie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage facility through developed management plan Promote the arts by working with BFAC on joint projects Offer and manage rental of spaces, staff, & equipment Make recommended changes to facility management plans as needed
	Adaptive Recreation & Learning Exchange	Greg Boatman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptive Recreation programs in the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina & Richfield offer specialized recreation programs & services specifically designed for people with disabilities. Works cooperatively with the Learning Exchange, the Community Education Adults with Disabilities programs in the school districts of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina & Richfield

Season	Program	Supervisor	Description
	Inclusion Support Services	Greg Boatman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided to program participants with disabilities who request some kind of support that will allow them to fully participate the programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Division.
	Athletics – Open Gym Volleyball	Jason Hicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9 AM – 1 PM • For players who want some fun & competitive exercise during the day • Come when you can • New teams will be formed up each day. • Bloomington Armory, 3300 W. 98th St. • \$1.50 per day (price subject to change)
	Galaxy Youth Center	Randi Wallenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a safe and nurturing environment where youth, grades 6 to 8, can discover themselves through recreation, social interaction, community involvement, education & service to others. • Activities: music, Foosball, Ping-Pong and billiards, video games, arts and crafts, service projects, sports and more! • Open afternoons & evenings.
	Gideon Pond House/ Pond Dakota Mission Park	Mark Morrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Tours • Lectures & monthly historical programs • Hiking trails and guided hiking • Biking trails
	BAA	Jason Hicks & Greg Boatman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All volunteer sports organization. • Provide opportunities for over 5,800 participants annually in 12 different sports programs. • Largest volunteer youth sports organization in the Country. • Offer youth organized sports programs to participate in without tryouts, without regard to ability and at a cost affordable to all. • Baseball, Girls & Boys Basketball, Girls floor hockey, football, golf, ice hockey, outdoor soccer, girls softball, volleyball, wrestling
	Park Facility Reservations	Jason Hicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservations for all park buildings and fields.

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3096; (952) 563-8733 (Voice); (952) 563-8740 (TTY).

K

Appendix K

Park Amenity Matrix

L *Appendix L*

Park System Funding Options

Park, Trail and Recreation Funding Options

Method	Description	Positives	Negatives
Park Dedication	% of land or cash payment in lieu of dedication at time of land subdivision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most traditional form of park funding. • Expected by developers. • Ability to finance land and improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More limited opportunities as less land available for subdivision. • Additional statutory requirements adopted in 2006.
Special Assessments	Assess the costs of acquire, improve and equip parks, open space areas, playgrounds, and recreational facilities to benefited properties (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to finance almost any type of park system improvement. • General obligation bonds can be issued if at least 20% of the costs are assessed. Other revenues, including property tax, can be used to pay costs not assessed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment cannot exceed benefit received as measured by the increase in property value.
Housing Improvement Area	Special taxing district to fund improvements in areas of owned housing (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 428A).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to finance any type of park system improvement. • Great flexibility in designing district boundaries and allocation of costs. • Revenues can be pledged to general obligation bonds used to finance the improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Untested approach – may be unforeseen legal issues. • Does not work for rental housing. • City must be petitioned by property owners to initiate process.

Method	Description	Positives	Negatives
Special Service District	Special taxing district to fund improvements in commercial districts (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 428A).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to finance any type of park system improvement. • District can also be used to maintain the improvements. • Great flexibility in designing district boundaries and allocation of costs. • Revenues can be pledged to general obligation bonds used to finance the improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service charge applies solely to commercial-industrial property (residential property <u>can</u> be in the district). • City must be petitioned by property owners to initiate process.
Benefit Assessment District	A special charge levied on property to pay for public improvements that benefit property in a predetermined district. The assessment may be a flat amount per parcel or based on a measure such as square footage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs paid by those with direct benefit. • Can fund specific project/ improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires majority approval of affected property owners. • Requires broad base of support and citizen participation for success. • Requires Staff resources to create.
Tax Abatement	Use the property valuation as the basis for an abatement (property tax) levy (Minnesota Statutes, sections 469.1812 to 469.1815).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to finance any type of park system improvement. • Could be used to reimburse for private park improvements. • Revenues can be pledged to general obligation bonds used to finance the improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total abatement capacity of city is limited. • Bond proceeds must be used for “public improvements that benefit the property” used as the basis for the abatement levy.

Method	Description	Positives	Negatives
Recreational Facility Bonds	Acquire, lease, equip, or maintain land, buildings, and other rec. facilities, including, but without limitation, outdoor or indoor swimming pools, skating rinks and arenas, athletic fields, golf courses, marinas, concert halls, museums, and facilities for other kinds of athletic or cultural participation, contests, and exhibitions, together with related parking facilities (MN Statutes, section 471.191).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease with nonprofit for operations. • Issue revenue bonds for acquisition and construction. • Levy a tax for any anticipated deficiency in the revenues available for such operation and maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonds may not be general obligations unless approved by voters.
Voter Approved Bonds	General obligation bonds for any park related capital improvement Acceptance of bond referendum to be determined by voters in an election.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levy to repay debt not subject to any levy limitations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuance must be approved by voters. • Amount of debt applies to statutory debt limit. • Tax to debt service based on market value.
Sales Tax	Special legislation authorizing local sales tax targeted at specific uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential funding for any park, recreation and open space need. • Potential to pledge to general obligation bonds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be authorized by State Legislature. • Typically requires voter approval. • Typically time and use limited.

Method	Description	Positives	Negatives
Lease Purchase Financing	Lease any form of real or personal property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use to finance the construction of facilities. • May be used to secure other obligations (i.e. HRA and EDA revenue bonds) that function as a “G.O. bond like” debt. • Levy to pay these bonds traditionally outside of debt limit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to statutory debt limit. • Lease subject to annual appropriation of funds.
State Grants - MNDNR/ LCMRR	State funds for natural resource, historic or recreation projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use for projects of regional or state significance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited funds and lots of competition for funds. • Need legislative “champion” and sponsor. • Requires local match.
Federal Grants –T-21, Safe Routes to School, Other	Federal funds for trail projects and enhancement to transportation projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good source for trails, bikeway, pedestrian facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have transportation role. • Requires some local match. • Limited and competitive funds. • Little or no funds for parks or recreation.
Met Council Funding	Regional funds for regional parks or regional trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential funds for Hyland Bush Anderson Park (acquisition or improvements). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to HBA Park only for Bloomington. • Competitive funding situation.
Foundation Grants	Funding from foundations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding source for certain types of projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited and complete fund availability. • Project must match foundation goals/role.

Method	Description	Positives	Negatives
General Funds – Tax Levy	Local property tax funds. Used to fund most local government operations, services and capital improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steady source of annual funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds are spread and allocated across the range of city functions and departments. Little opportunity for significant increases in funding.
Building Permit Surcharge	Fee added to building permit application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steady revenue fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase development costs. No clear relationship to all permit activities. Legal challenge potential.
User Fee Increases	Fees collected from park and recreation users. Existing fees at pool, golf, ice arena, recreation programs, and adult sports. Associations collect youth fees to cover their expenses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users pay for participation/use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can discourage participation in recreation. Limited source of funds i.e. \$ from youth. Difficult to collect fees on some uses – trails, neighborhood parks, conservation areas, etc.
Franchise Fee	Fee attached typically to a utility bill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steady, on-going revenue source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to prove the benefit of the fee.
Hotel-Motel-Liquor Tax	Tax Bloomington collects on hotel, motel, liquor and entertainment spending.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steady on-going revenue stream. Tourism benefit could justify fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing revenue stream is allocated. Would have to increase fee or shift revenue flow from existing groups.
Park Utility	An on-going fee placed on all properties for park upkeep and replacement. Similar to a storm water utility fee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steady, on-going revenue source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-tax concerns.

Method	Description	Positives	Negatives
Park Endowment	Typically a significant donation from a donor or donors for parks. Interest (and funds) help pay for park improvements and/or programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long-term sustainable strategy for park improvement and /or program funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires significant staff resources, outreach and effort to identify potential donors. • Funds may have restrictions attached to them. • Endowment funds need to be managed.
Park Foundation	Non-profit “friends” group set up to help procure funds and support for the park and recreation system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A source of non tax income over the long term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of funds may have some restrictions. • Needs several years to reach viability. • Requires active/interested citizens.
Sell “Excess” Park Lands	Sale of excess or underutilized park or open space land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate use of proceeds from the sale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term benefit, long term loss of land. • Land forever gone from the system – loss of flexibility for the future. • Many park lands have deed restrictions which prevent sale.
Long-term Lease	Lease of undeveloped park land for development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term or medium term use of unused public lands for income stream. • Over the long term the land remains public for future use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns over proper use of public lands. • Some restrictions on how parkland can be used. • Must have the right land for a viable use.
Special Events (Fund raising)	Events designed to raise money for parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One time source of income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires significant Staff resources and expertise. • More risk/ unreliable income.

Method	Description	Positives	Negatives
Charitable Gambling	Proceeds from charitable gambling can flow to non-profit and public uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable source of income. Precedent for this type of income regionally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical issues/Social negative.
Public/Private Partnerships	Concessions, sponsorships, naming rights, outsourcing/ privatization, Gifting, co-development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of costs and/ or maintenance and responsibility with private sector. Less direct cost to tax payers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercialism of parks/ public space. Requires staffing to develop and manage partnerships.
Public/Public Partnerships	Shared funding, use, development of facilities among cities, schools and other jurisdictions. Joint powers arrangement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared funding for projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only works for certain types of community or sub-regional projects. “Turf” issues can arise over location and use.
Challenge Grants	Local government funds to match private or non-profit funds in a competitive manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverages public monies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relies on initiative and funding from private and non-profit groups.
Legacy Giving	Donation through wills and estates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows supporters of Bloomington Parks to donate upon their death. Tax break for estate of donor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must reach supporters to get them to enable legacy donation.
Wireless Fee	This source of revenue involves revenue from wireless antennae.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User fee paid by telecommunication companies, not tax payers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal challenge concerns.
Enterprise Operation	This source of revenue could, for example, involve revenue from municipal liquor operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steady source of funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competition concerns from the private sector. Must have the right use and venue.

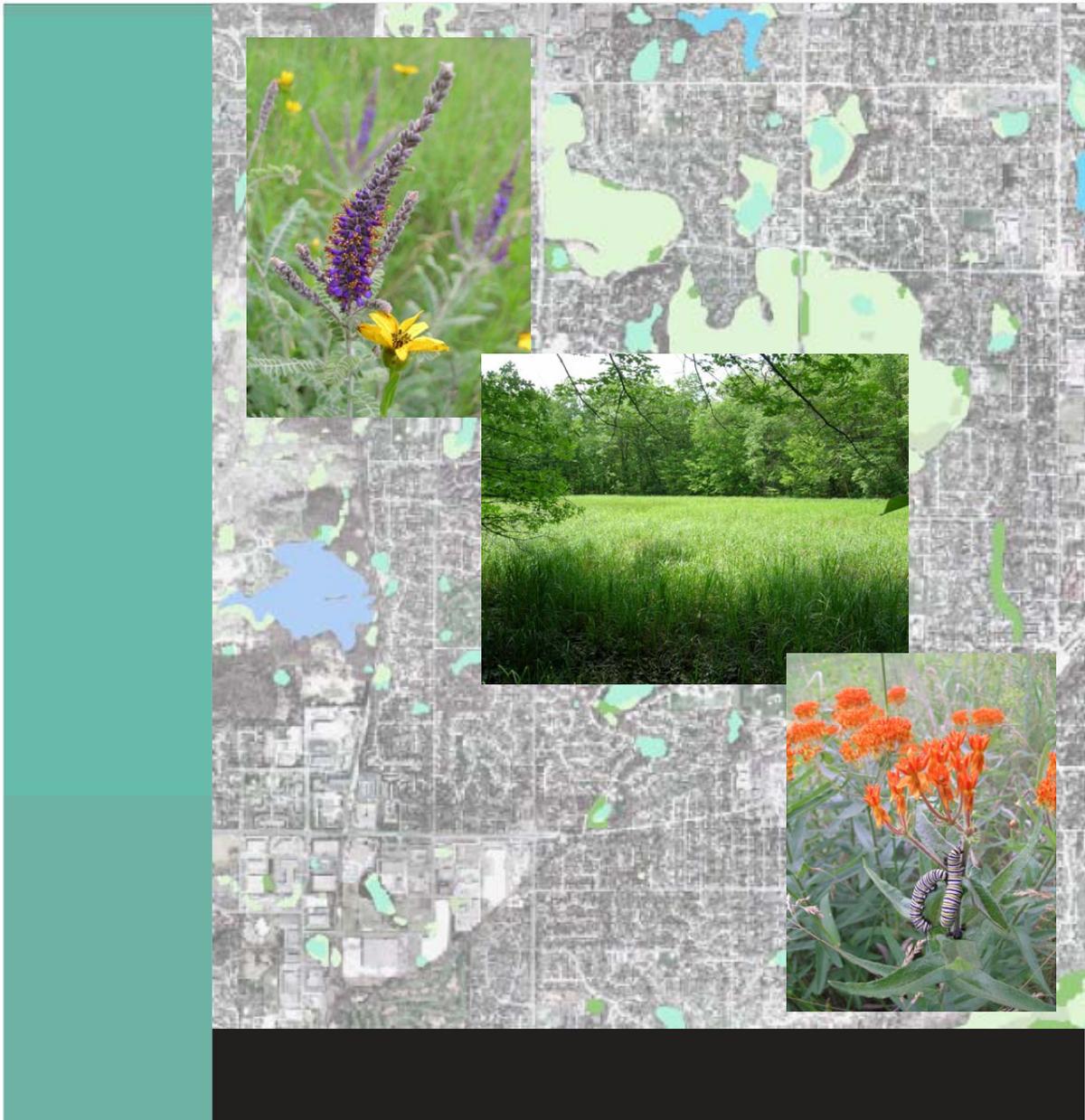
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Appendix M

City of Bloomington Natural Resources Inventory

For the complete Natural Resources Inventory report, contact the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division.

Natural Resources Inventory of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota



City of Bloomington
Natural Resources Inventory and
Minnesota Land Cover Classification System Mapping

**Prepared for the City of Bloomington and
Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services**

by

**Tony Randazzo
Hugh Johnson
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of
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Table of Contents

List of Figures.....	3
Introduction	4
Project Methodology	7
Background Information	7
Land Cover Classification	15
Aerial Photo Interpretation	16
Field Evaluation	16
MLCCS Modifiers.....	17
Land Cover Classification Results.....	20
Natural Resource Inventory Results.....	27
Natural Community Area Descriptions.....	30
Recommendations	49
Conceptual Natural Resources/Open Space Corridors	49
Natural Areas with Potential for Rare Species.....	56
Natural Areas Active Management/Protection Recommendations.....	61
References.....	74

Appendices

Appendix A Land Cover Summary Tables.....	75
Appendix B Natural Areas Species Lists and Habitat Descriptions.....	86
Appendix C Glossary of Technical Terms.....	285
Appendix D MLCCS Methodology.....	294

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1: Hennepin County, Minnesota.....	6
Fig. 2: Pre-settlement Vegetation of Hennepin County, Minnesota.....	9
Fig. 3: City of Bloomington National Wetlands Inventory.....	11
Fig. 4: City of Bloomington Soil Survey Slope Gradient Map.....	12
Fig. 5: County Biological Survey Sites.....	14
Fig. 6: Bloomington Level 1 Land Cover Classification.....	24
Fig. 7: Bloomington Level 3 Land Cover Classification.....	25
Fig. 7a: Legend for Bloomington Level 3 Land Cover Classification.....	26
Fig. 8: Natural Areas in Bloomington.....	53
Fig. 9: Conceptual Greenway Corridor Alignment for Bloomington.....	43
Fig. 10: Natural Areas with Potential for Rare Species in Bloomington.....	59
Fig. 10A: Ecologically Significant Natural Areas.....	60
Fig. 11: Natural Areas with Species Lists for Bloomington.....	73
Fig. 11: Appendix Copy of Natural Areas with Species Lists for Bloomington.....	87

INTRODUCTION

In 2005, Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services (HCDES) retained Great River Greening (GRG) to conduct land cover classification mapping and a natural areas assessment within the City of Bloomington, in Hennepin County, Minnesota (**Figure 1**). The Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) methodology (**Appendix D**) that was developed by the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources was utilized for this project. This project was funded by Hennepin County and the City of Bloomington.

The goal of the project was to divide and classify the area constituting the City of Bloomington into appropriate land cover types, assess the relative ecological quality of the remaining natural and semi-natural areas, and recommend potential natural resources/open space corridors and management considerations. During the spring and summer of 2006 and 2007, the land cover areas, as determined through the use of aerial photo interpretation, were field checked in order to confirm and/or correct boundaries and land cover type designation. During the field check phase of the project, species lists for natural area polygons and other site appropriate coding modifiers were recorded.

GRG staff identified 3297 distinct landscape areas within the municipal boundary for the City of Bloomington. All land cover was coded to the highest level of detail (Level 5) and approximately 84% of all land-use polygons were field checked at least from the edge (level 2) or higher. During the 2006/2007 field season all land cover areas identified through the air photo mapping process were field checked. All natural and semi-natural area land cover areas were visited by staff ecologists. Natural area polygons (not entirely dominated by non-native species or sufficiently disturbed to warrant an altered ranking) were field checked to a level 3 (partially visited) or level 4 (entirely visited) with species lists and DNR rankings attributed to each.

During the field check process, 368 natural area polygons were identified to be of sufficient quality to receive Natural Community Quality Rankings according to the DNR's Natural Heritage Element Occurrence Ranking Guidelines. Of the 368 natural areas, 3 were provided with the highest quality (A) ranking. Of the highest quality natural communities, there is one a high quality wetland community (Poor Fen, Sedge Subtype), a dry prairie and a dry prairie, sand-gravel subtype. 106 natural areas were given a good quality natural condition (B) ranking. For the most part, the B ranked communities are high quality wetland and floodplain communities with limited encroachment by non-native invasive species as is typical of urban natural communities. 118 natural communities were ranked as moderate quality (C) with the remainder ranked as poor quality (D) natural communities. The primary factor that determines the quality of natural communities in this urbanized community tends to be the presence or dominance of non-native, invasive species within natural community remnants and the extent of cultural uses within a remnant natural area. Given the urbanized nature of Bloomington, the identification of these remnant natural communities can serve as a valuable planning tool for the City, residents and planners in determining valuable natural resources in need of protection.

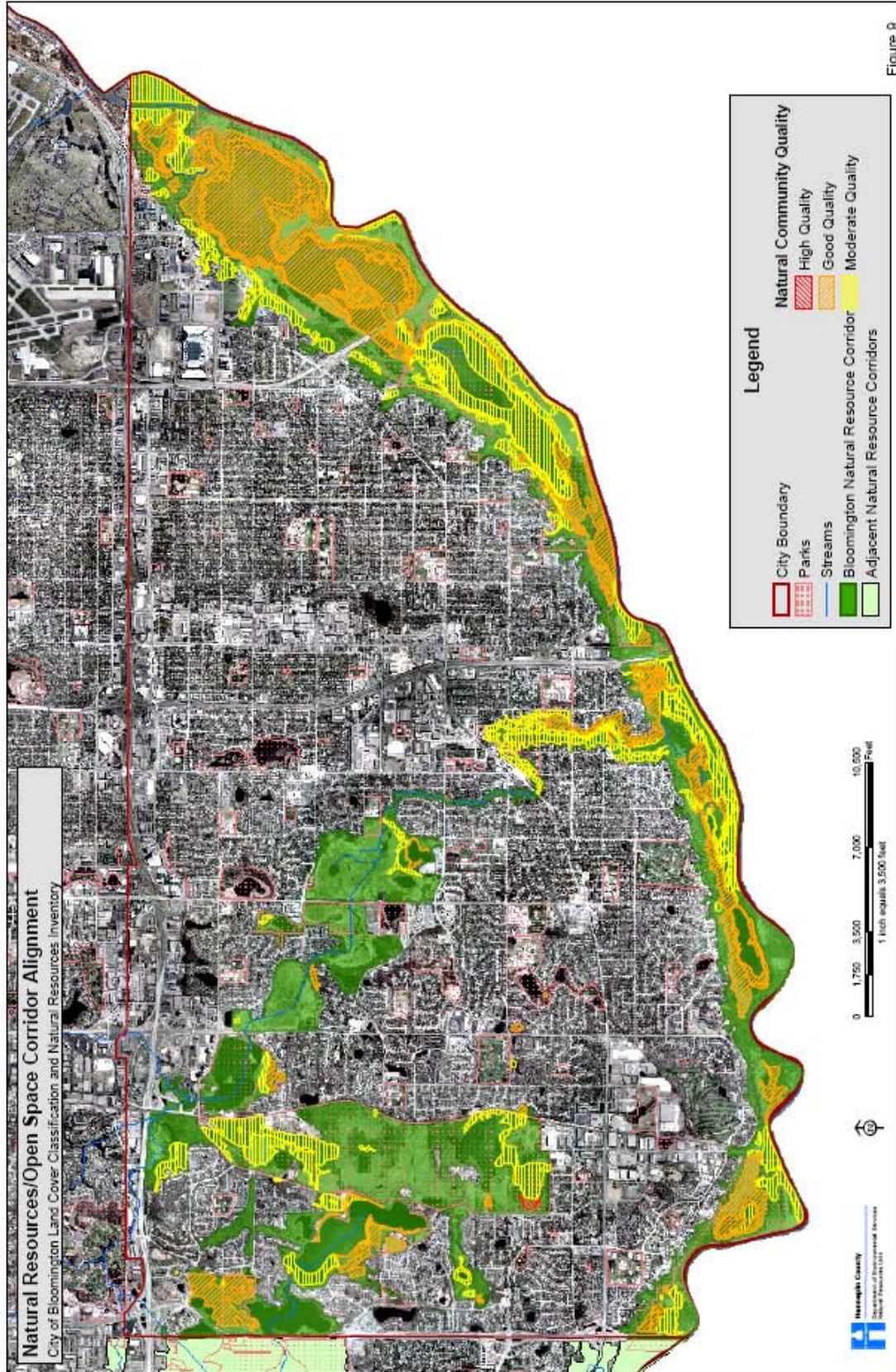


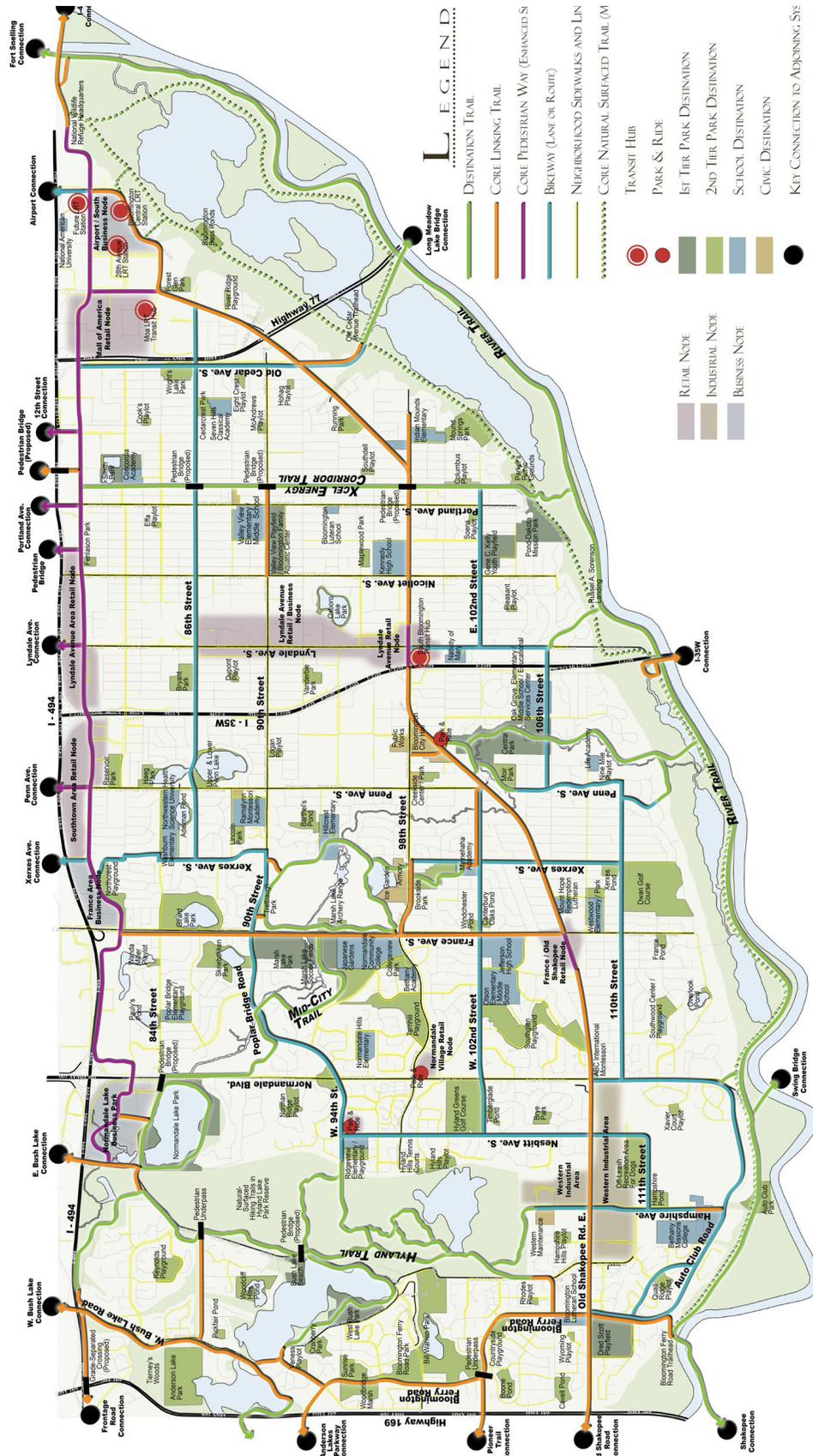
Figure 9

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Appendix N

Alternative Transportation Plan (April 9, 2008 Draft)

To view the full report, contact the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division.



ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA