

Joint Meeting Of The Park Board and City Council Agenda

Minnetonka City Hall — Boards & Commissions Room

December 3, 2008 6:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Board Vision

A city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a balanced natural environment.

Parks & Recreation Board Mission

The mission of the Minnetonka Parks & Recreation Board is to proactively advise the City Council, in ways that will:

- *Protect & enhance Minnetonka's natural environment*
- *Promote quality recreation opportunities and facilities*
- *Provide a forum for citizens interested in our parks, trails, athletic fields and open space*

1) Roll Call

___ Mayor Janis Callison	___ Terry Schneider
___ Dick Allendorf	___ Tony Wagner
___ Bob Ellingson	___ Brad Wiersum
___ James Hiller	

___ Jahn Anderson	___ Amber Greves
___ Kyle Gallagher	___ Tess Komarek
___ Bruce Gefvert	___ Denny Lambert
___ Tim Goodyear	___ Patrick Robben

2) Discussion Items

- A) 2008 Park Board progress report from the Chair
- B) Bond referendum project update
- C) Implementation of recommendations included in the Comprehensive Plan
- D) Trail system review

3) Adjournment

Joint Meeting of the Park Board and City Council
Item 2A
Meeting of December 3, 2008

Subject: 2008 Park Board progress report from the Chair

Park Board related goal: Enhance long-term Park Board development

Park Board related objective: Enhance council relations – serve as a voice to the council

Brief Description:	Park Board Chair Tim Goodyear will provide a status report on 2008 park board projects addressed to date.
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Background

Each year the park board adopts a Strategic Plan that includes the board’s Mission and Vision statement, as well as specific objectives and action steps designed to allow the park board to meet their established goals. Meeting agendas for the park board are then developed off of the action steps, and the board is kept apprised during the year on progress made towards their Strategic Plan.

At the December 3rd joint meeting with the city council, park board Chair Tim Goodyear will provide a summary of park board accomplishments to date. Feedback received from the council will be used to help the park board prepare for their 2009 Strategic Plan.

Discussion Points

- Are the park board’s mission, vision, goals and objectives in line with the expectations of the city council?
- Does the council have any requests for park board action in 2009?

Recommended City Council/Park Board Action: Receive the Chairs progress report and provide direction for the park board’s 2009 Strategic Plan.

Attachments

1. Minnetonka Park & Recreation Board 2008 Strategic Plan
2. 2008 Action Steps

Minnetonka Park & Recreation Board 2008 Strategic Plan

Vision for Minnetonka Parks and Recreational Facilities

A city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a balanced natural environment.

The mission of the Minnetonka Parks & Recreation Board is to proactively advise the City Council, in ways that will:

- Protect and enhance Minnetonka's natural environment.
- Promote quality recreation opportunities and facilities
- Provide a forum for citizens interested in our parks, trails, athletic facilities, and open space.

Goals and Objectives (order does not reflect priority)

To protect natural resources and open space

- Objective #1: Conduct an ongoing evaluation of the open space process
- Objective #2: Continue to review and comment on the implementation of the natural resources stewardship plan
- Objective #3: Assist staff in managing the open space process through successful completion
- Objective #4: Review options to enhance natural resources & open space
- Objective #5: Review all proposed changes to the city's code of ordinances that pertain to natural resources and open space
- Objective #6: Actively participate in development of the city's Minnehaha Creek Visioning Plan
- Objective #7: Consider a program to recognize historical aspects of the park system

To renew and maintain parks and trails

- Objective #1: Develop recommendations for scheduled 2008 park renewal projects
- Objective #2: Involve park board member participation in park projects
- Objective #3: Conduct an annual review of park dedication fees
- Objective #4: Utilizing completed updates to the Comprehensive Plan and the POST Plan, identify areas of the city that are deficient of adequate park amenities
- Objective #5: Conduct a comprehensive review of the trail system to identify missing links and required future improvements

To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities

- Objective #1: Implement recommendations for athletic field improvements as defined in the 2004 Athletic Field Needs Update
- Objective #2: Perform an annual review of the Gray's Bay Marina operations plan
- Objective #3: Evaluate 2007 – 2008 Glen Lake Golf Course cross-country ski trail operations and develop recommendations for 2008-2009
- Objective #4: Anticipate, review and respond to community needs not previously identified
- Objective #5: Annually review policies related to the operation and management of parks to determine if changes are required
- Objective #6: Review data related to changing demographics to ensure that park amenities address future community needs

Enhance long-term Park Board development

- Objective #1: Define CIP projects for 2009-2013 related to parks, trails & open space
- Objective #2: Enhance council relations- serve as a voice to the council
- Objective #3: Actively participate in the process developed for updating the POST Plan
- Objective #4: Increase community awareness of park board initiatives
- Objective #5: Provide park board participation in the development of the city's Comprehensive Plan
- Objective #6: Schedule board member involvement in annual park board and city related activities
- Objective #7: Annually assess the park board strategic plan
- Objective #8: Receive and respond to a staff update of 2008 changes made to the Parks for Tomorrow Program

**MINNETONKA PARK & RECREATION BOARD
GOALS & OBJECTIVES – 2008 ACTION STEPS**

GOAL #1: TO PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE

Objective #1

Conduct an ongoing evaluation of the open space process

Action Steps:

1. Receive timely updates as the city acquires property and as parcels are developed using conservation development techniques
2. Periodically review status of expenditures for open space acquisitions
3. Provide feedback on the city's efforts to promote open space preservation activities

Objective #2

Continue to review and comment on the implementation of the natural resources stewardship plan

Action Steps:

1. Receive periodic updates on the progress of the natural resource stewardship program
2. Review anticipated restoration needs and natural resource management activities associated with the park renewal projects
3. Continue restoration and management of community parks and the three creek corridors as outlined in the Natural Resource Restoration and Management Plan of 1995
4. Review and comment on the natural resource section of the Minnetonka website
5. Schedule a tour of management areas within the park system

Objective #3

Assist staff in managing the open space process through successful completion

Action Steps:

1. For city-owned properties (with houses) acquired for open space, recommend plans for full conversion to open space
2. Discuss land stewardship plans, priorities, and timelines for open space acquired by the city

Objective #4

Review options to enhance natural resources & open space

Action Steps:

1. Review and comment on a volunteer program to foster stewardship practices within the city's parks and public lands. This program may include components such as plant rescues, loosestrife control, control of buckthorn and garlic mustard and adopt a storm drain
2. Receive information about park designated water quality improvement projects
3. Review any interpretive signage developed by staff to highlight natural areas within the trail system

Objective #5

Review all proposed changes to the city's code of ordinances that pertain to natural resources and open space.

Action Steps:

1. Receive updates and provide feedback on the revisions to the grading and erosion control ordinance, steep slope ordinance and maximum impervious surface ordinance

Objective #6

Actively participate in development of the city's Minnehaha Creek Visioning Plan

Action Steps:

1. Participate in public review process as defined by the city council and provide feedback on proposed park related improvements

Objective #7

Consider a program to recognize historical aspects of the park system

Action Steps:

1. Review program with Minnehaha Creek Watershed District along the Minnehaha Creek corridor
2. Provide input on design and content of historical signage for designated parks.
3. Review financing options for signage through CIP process

Goal #2: TO RENEW AND MAINTAIN PARKS AND TRAILS

Objective #1

Develop recommendations for scheduled 2008 park renewal projects

Action Steps:

1. Recommend to the city council a concept plan for Oberlin Park

Objective #2

Involve park board member participation in park projects

Action Steps:

1. Park board members will be part of pre-planning strategy, neighborhood meetings and recommendation discussions

Objective #3

Conduct an annual review of park dedication fees

Action Steps:

1. Conduct a survey of comparable cities to determine if adjustments to park dedication fees are warranted.

Objective #4

Utilizing completed updates to the Comprehensive Guide Plan and POST Plan, identify areas of the city that are deficient of adequate park and Trail amenities

Action Steps:

1. Conduct a review of the Comprehensive Guide Plan to identify areas

Objective #5

Conduct a comprehensive review of the trail system to identify missing links and required future improvements

Action Steps:

1. Conduct an annual review of the trail system to prioritize future projects

Goal #3: TO PROVIDE QUALITY ATHLETIC AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Objective #1

Implement recommendations for athletic field improvements as defined in the 2004 Athletic Field Needs Update

Action Steps:

1. Annually assess potential partnership opportunities with the Hopkins and Minnetonka School Districts and community organizations
2. Perform an annual review of the Comprehensive Athletic Field Use Policy and recommend modifications as desired

Objective #2

Perform an annual review of the Gray's Bay Marina operations plan

Action Steps:

1. Develop recommendations for 2009 slip rental rates
2. Conduct an annual review of the Marina Operations and Business Plans and develop recommended changes as desired

Objective #3

Evaluate 2007-2008 Glen Lake Golf Course cross-country ski trail operation and develop recommendations for 2008-2009

Action Steps:

1. Receive an assessment report for use during the 2007-2008 season and develop recommendations for the 2009 budget

Objective #4

Anticipate, review and respond to community needs not previously identified

Action Steps:

1. Gauge interest in a dedicated off-leash area through community survey
2. Receive petitions submitted by residents for new/improved park amenities and schedule each item for park board discussion
3. Conduct an evaluation of the 2007/2008 outdoor ice rink volunteer program and develop recommendations for 2008/2009.
4. Conduct an overall assessment of the trail system
5. Conduct an assessment of park locations and programming to ensure availability to all city residents

Objective #5

Annually review policies related to the operation and management of parks to determine if changes are required

Action Steps:

1. Develop final recommendations for changes to the existing park regulations
2. Consider revisions to the athletic field use fee schedule
3. Conduct a meeting with athletic organizations to review athletic field use fee schedule recommendations developed by the Park Board
4. Review policies for use of Minnetonka outdoor hockey rinks scheduled by local youth hockey associations

Objective #6

Review data related to changing demographics to ensure that park amenities address future community needs

Action Steps:

1. Conduct an analysis of existing park amenities as compared to recommendations formulated in the Comprehensive Guide Plan update

Goal #4: ENHANCE LONG-TERM PARK BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Objective #1

Define CIP projects for 2009-2013 related to parks, trails & open space

Action Steps:

1. Review all CIP projects related to parks, trails and open space and recommend funding status
2. Prepare and recommend park, trails and open space CIP budget for city council consideration

Objective #2

Enhance Council relations - serve as a voice to the council

Action Steps:

1. Have a minimum of one park board member in attendance for all council reviews of park board recommendations
2. Conduct a joint meeting of the park board and city council
3. Provide park board input regarding park related issues reviewed by other city boards or commissions

Objective #3

Actively participate in the process developed for updating the POST Plan

Action Steps:

1. Provide feedback on format enhancements to keep the POST Plan as an active document

Objective #4

Increase community awareness of park board initiatives

Action Steps:

1. Publish an article related to park board activities in the *Minnetonka MEMO* at least two times in 2008
2. Promote use of the park renewal web site in the *MEMO*, on cable TV, and in the local newspapers
3. Place a minimum of three feature articles related to park board activities in local news papers

Objective #5

Provide park board participation in the development of the city's Comprehensive Plan

Action Steps:

1. Receive periodic updates from staff regarding the Comprehensive Plan development process

Objective #6

Schedule board member involvement in annual park board and city related activities

Action Steps:

1. Provide park board representation at the annual Eco-Fair, Summer Festival and Kids' Fest events
2. Schedule an annual park board tour of parks and trails
3. Schedule a park board/staff canoe trip down Minnehaha Creek

4. Review park board member park assignment schedule and make changes as needed

Objective #7

Annually assess the park board strategic plan

Action Steps:

1. Adopt the park board's 2008 Strategic Plan
2. Prepare 2007 action steps to address the park board's 2007 strategic plan and provide periodic progress updates

Objective #8

Receive and respond to a staff update of 2008 changes made to the Parks for Tomorrow Program

Action Steps:

1. Review 2008 Parks For Tomorrow projects to evaluate the program

**Joint Meeting of the Park Board and City Council
Item 2B
Meeting of December 3, 2008**

Subject: Bond referendum project update

Park Board related goal: Enhance long term park board development

Park Board related objective: Enhance council relations – serve as a voice to the council

Brief Description:	Park Renewal and Open Space Preservation Status Report
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Status of Park Renewal Projects

Attached is the project status report detailing all the park renewal work completed since 2002. Of the work completed in 2008 there are five parks that are important to note.

Big Willow Park and Guilliams Park athletic areas underwent some immediate upgrades to improve safety and function for the participants and spectators. At Guilliams Park outfield fencing upgrades will improve safety for players and spectators. In Big Willow Park a majority of the trail surfaces were upgraded and additional links formalized. This winter crews will remove the buckthorn north of the railroad tracks. This will drastically open up an area with new trails allowing additional access to Minnehaha Creek.

Lone Lake Park will undergo removals and then new playground and basketball court installation this spring. Picnic shelters are being renovated and irrigation was installed on the soccer field. The entrance to the park was realigned for improved traffic safety in conjunction with the Shady Oak Road Project.

Kinsel Park hazard tree removals have been completed after the wind storms that caused great loss of trees. The boardwalk was finalized after construction during the winter and restoration of the areas continues. The west side of the park was replanted using volunteers from an Eagle Scout project this fall. Buckthorn and other invasive species removal will continue with assistance from volunteers and the ICWC crews.

There were some major projects completed this season at Glen Lake Athletic Park. Overlook seating, walking paths and revised access points highlight the Glen Lake Mighty Mite fields. A new patio and pedestrian access points provide a cleaner and safer area around the concession stand at the Girls Athletic League field. Landscaping has also started to take root, especially the ivy plants that were installed to climb the retaining wall area.

Park Renewal Schedule

In September of 2006 the revised park renewal schedule was approved by the Park Board. The focus of that schedule was on master planning Big Willow and Guillian Athletic Areas, Lone Lake Park and Kinsel Park. Improvements are scheduled to be implemented based upon immediate need and safety. Below is the schedule for the remaining parks.

Park	Year	Notes
Oberlin	2009	Meetings will be scheduled for winter 2009.
Mayflower	2009	Meetings will be scheduled for winter 2009.
Lake Rose	2009	Meetings are not scheduled at this time.
Lake Charlotte	TBD	Meetings are not scheduled at this time.
Green Circle	TBD	Meetings are not scheduled at this time.
Mooney	TBD	Meetings are not scheduled at this time.

Park renewal planning meetings for Lake Rose, Lake Charlotte, Green circle and Mooney Parks are not planned due to the lack of needed improvements.

Status of Open Space Preservation

Since the approval of the bond referendum in 2001, the following parcels have been acquired by the city:

- 12418 Minnetonka Boulevard

Located east of Minnetonka Mills and west of Big Willow ball fields, the city continues to rent the house until the property will be converted for use as part of the Upper Minnehaha Creek project.

- 13410 Minnetonka Boulevard
- 13418 Minnetonka Boulevard
- 13500 Minnetonka Boulevard

These parcels are located immediately west of the Burwell House. All homes have been demolished in readiness for the Minnetonka Mills Park development.

- 11701 Cedar Lake Road

Also located along Minnehaha Creek, the house was demolished and the property restored.

Other expenses of note include the following:

- In 2002, the city acquired a conservation easement from Bennett Family Park for open space located east of the ball fields. The agreement with Bennett included a provision allowing the organization to buy back the easement from the city at a future point. This past year the agreement was amended, and Bennett is no longer allowed to buy back the easement.
- In 2004, the city entered a purchase agreement with an option to acquire 30 acres owned by Ann Cullen-Smith (located northwest of Meadow Park). Upon Ms. Smith's death, the city will pay \$2.5 million for the property. Ms. Smith has already donated a conservation easement over the entire property to the Minnesota Land Trust. Bond funds are earmarked for natural resources restoration at the site.
- Natural resources restoration in Hilloway, Woodgate, and Victoria-Evergreen Parks has been completed. Restoration is in progress at Big Willow and Kinsel Parks, and funds are reserved for restoration at Lake Rose.

Funds yet to be expended relate to additional acquisitions and restoration for the Upper Minnehaha Creek project.

Living Legacy Program

The Living Legacy program was introduced to the park board and city council last year. The program was developed to encourage land owners who own two or more acres of land to place that land into conservation easement in order to protect it into the future. By placing the land into conservation easement, the land owner may also realize income tax, estate tax or property tax benefits.

After reviewing specific criteria and identifying potential participants, city staff contacted several property owners inviting them to participate in this program. The criteria included properties consisting of a certain size, consisting primarily of upland vegetation, providing a connection to a park or a view shed and being a property identified on the original open space priority list. It is also a benefit if the property contains a remnant ecological resource such as a mesic oak forest.

The expectation is that the city would not purchase the easement but would pay for or provide the following:

- Appraisal of conservation easement area
- Survey work
- Title work
- Attorney's fees

- Fees associated with the property owner filing the easement document
- Preparation of city council documentation

City staff has been working closely with Andrew Fuller, 14505 McGinty Road West, to create a conservation easement on his 7.6 acre lot. Mr. Fuller has signed an agreement with the city to place six acres into an easement, including a mesic oak forest. Once title work is complete, the city and Mr. Fuller will enter into a purchase agreement for the easement for \$10 to ensure the easement belongs to the city. City costs, including title work, survey, appraisal, and legal fees are estimated at \$12,000.

Minnehaha Creek Corridor Project – Minnetonka Mills Park

Barr Engineering is working on creating detailed plans for Minnetonka Mills Park based upon staff and resident input during the neighborhood meetings. These details will be reviewed at a park board neighborhood meeting and their recommendation will come forward for city council review. Upon successful review of the plan by the city council, the public hearing procedure for use of the Community Investment Fund will be implemented as that is a source of funding as is the Park and Open Space Bond Referendum.

Discussion Point

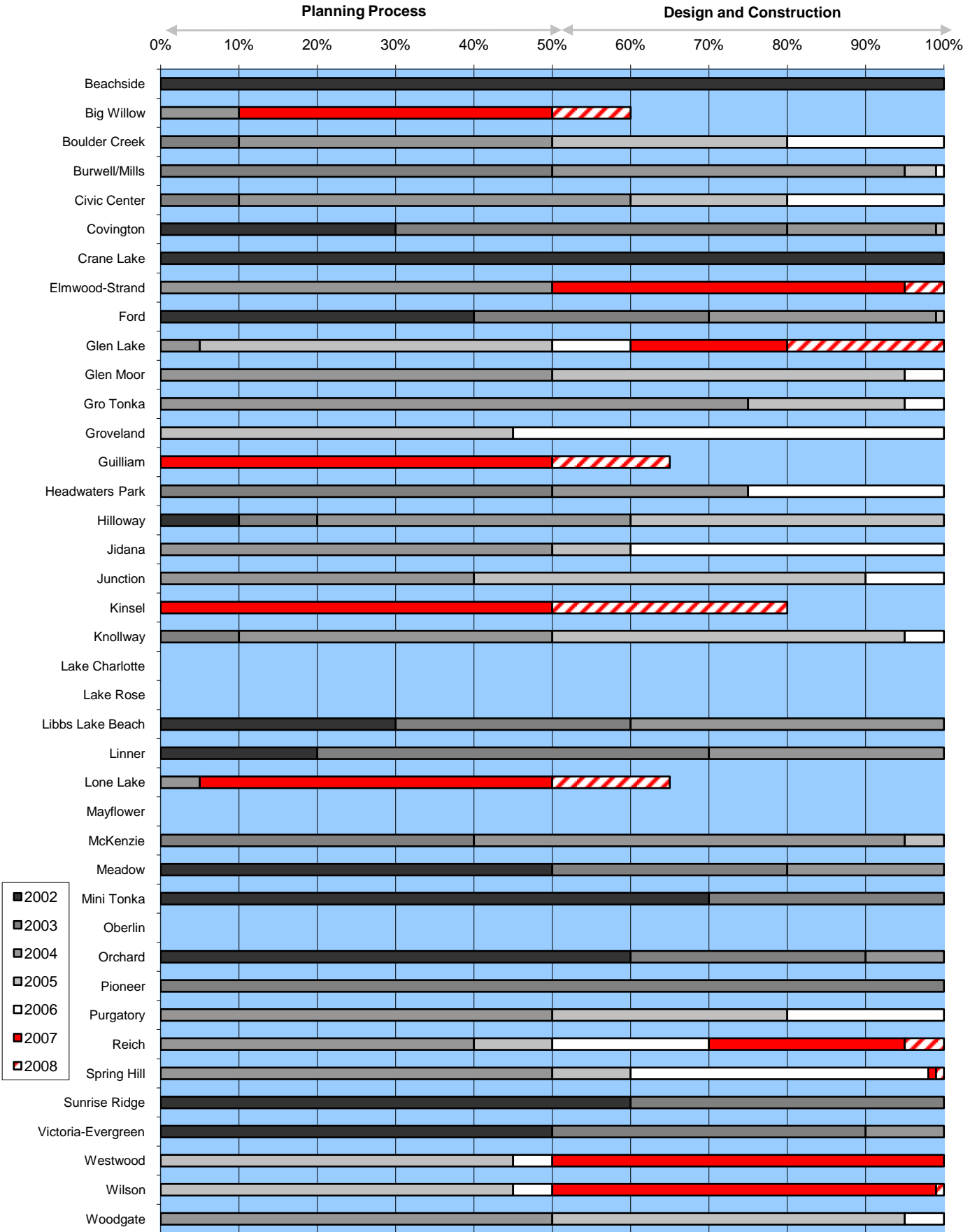
- Does the city council or park board have any questions about the park renewal, open space preservation or Minnetonka Mills Park?

Recommended Action: None. Informational only.

Attachments:

1. Status Report (all parks)

Park Renewal Status Report



Joint Meeting of the Park Board and City Council
Item #2C
Meeting of December 3, 2008

Subject: Implementation of recommendations included in the Comprehensive Plan

Park Board related goal: Enhance long-term Park Board development

Park Board related objective: Provide Park Board participation in the development of the city's Comprehensive Plan

Brief Description:	Provide feedback on implementation of Comprehensive Plan
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Background

As required by State law, the city council recently approved the draft of the updated comprehensive guide plan. The document is currently under review by neighboring jurisdictions and will be formally adopted by the city council early next year.

The purpose of the plan is to serve as a general guide for physical planning of the city in the areas of land use, transportation, parks, housing, utilities and economic development. The city council provided policy direction for the comp plan process and a citizen steering committee prepared the plan. The park board provided feedback to the committee specifically related to Chapter VII – Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan, in November 2007 and May 2008.

The park board will be discussing its 2009 strategic plan at its meeting following the joint session with the city council on December 3. Some of the implementation strategies identified in the comprehensive plan will become part of the 2009 strategic plan. The park board and city council are asked to identify those areas of Chapter VII, particularly those identified on pages 14 – 16, that are appropriate for inclusion in the 2009 strategic plan.

Discussion Point

- In 2009, on which specific priorities of the implementation strategies in the comprehensive guide plan, Chapter VII – Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan (pages 14 – 16) does the city council want the park board to focus?

Recommended City Council/Park Board Action: Receive feedback on 2009 priorities of the implementation strategies for the Parks, Open Space and Trails comprehensive plan chapter.

Chapter VII. Parks, Open Space and Trail Plan

The Minnetonka park, open space and trail system has become one of the more important community assets and serves city residents and businesses, alike. The park and open space system contributes a substantial amount of property for public activities in the community and reflects the city's commitment towards natural resource stewardship. Further, the trail system provides connections between public spaces and community-oriented activity areas within and outside the city.

The Minnetonka parks and recreation system has expanded and grown as the city has developed. Through thoughtful planning by community leaders in response to understanding the values and interests of the community, residents and workers enjoy diverse opportunities for leisure. As demographic changes continue to impact the city, it will be important to understand which recreational amenities can maintain the city's vitality and attractiveness.

The following chapter of the comprehensive guide plan provides a framework for the overall park, open space and trail planning activities through 2030. Much of the information within this chapter is based on the Minnetonka *Park, Open Space and Trail System Plan* (POST Plan) prepared and adopted by the city in 2000 and is referenced for specific park planning information. The POST Plan establishes a balanced approach to managing community and neighborhood parks, open space, athletic field and trail resources in the city.

The chapter includes:

- * a review of the park planning history in the city,
- * a summary of park, open space, trails, recreation resources in the city,
- * current strategic planning efforts,
- * future park, open space and trail improvements, and
- * concludes with implementation strategies and tools.

The basis for this chapter is represented in the Minnetonka 2030 Vision, and the community policies included in Chapter III - Overall City Policies.

A. Background

The Minnetonka parks and recreation system expanded over time in conjunction with the development and growth of the city. Early community leaders and residents had the foresight to acquire and preserve land for parks and open spaces, and over the years city decision makers have continued to understand the importance of this value to residents.

Soon after Minnetonka incorporated as a village (1956), the city developed a comprehensive park plan. At the time the plan was developed in the early 1960s, the city owned 332 acres of parkland at 14 sites, but only 70 acres were usable as the other 262 acres were used for water storage.

The long-term plan was to acquire an additional 1,050 acres and an initial bond referendum to fund acquisition and improvements totaling \$3,000,000 failed in 1969. The planned park activities included the acquisition and development of park lands, a year-round ice arena, an indoor swimming pool and golf course.

In 1971, the comprehensive park system plan was updated and a new bond referendum was held in 1972. The voters approved \$1,300,000 for park land acquisition, \$980,000 for park improvements, and \$134,000 for development of trails in the city.

Shortly after the bond referendum, the city started to experience significant development and subdivision of property. A large amount of acreage was obtained by the city, in addition to those acres acquired with park bonds, as a result of the park dedication requirements of the subdivision ordinance.

By 1984, the city had 43 park sites totaling 1,135 acres. In addition, significant acreage of floodplain and wetland areas were dedicated, donated and/or acquired by the city along Minnehaha Creek and Purgatory Creek. At that time, the city commissioned a planning document that included inventories and maps of every city park, along with a description of opportunities for development, if any, in each.

With a growing population and greater youth involvement in team sports, an athletic fields needs study was prepared in 1989 with updates in 1994 and 2004. As a result of the studies, several athletic fields were added to the city's inventory and agreements to share in the use and development of athletic fields were established with the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts, and private athletic associations to maximize public athletic field needs.

In the mid 1990s, the city determined that a stewardship program was needed to effectively manage park properties and the growing acreage of open space in Minnetonka. A natural resources restoration and management plan for the city's five community parks and three creek corridors was prepared in 1996 to combat the degrading condition of the city's public natural areas. Further, due to continuing development pressure, the city council appointed a citizens task force in the late 1990s to determine strategies to preserve open space and criteria for the level of preservation in appropriate locations.

A comprehensive parks, open space and trail system plan update was completed October 2000 that incorporated the need to update existing recreational parks and more aggressively preserve open space. This plan was utilized for a successful referendum in 2001 that provided \$15 million in bonds for parks renewal and open space preservation.

B. Existing Systems

Minnetonka's parks, recreational and open space system provides recreational opportunities to a broad cross-section of city residents and employees of Minnetonka businesses, along with protecting significant natural areas. Its primary components are:

- * Public park system - five community parks and 54 neighborhood, preserve, and special purpose parks with more than 500 acres of maintained parkland.
- * Open space preservation - approximately 1,000 acres of natural public open spaces are preserved, some complemented by the Natural Resources Stewardship program.
- * Trail system - 33 miles of city trails and a 65-mile ancillary network of walkways, pedestrian-bike lanes and neighborhood connectors, plus two regional trails managed by the Three Rivers Park District.
- * Recreational facilities - owned and operated solely by the city and also in collaboration with other communities and school districts.

This system is complemented by private recreational facilities and the many playing fields and playgrounds provided by public and private schools.

1. Public Park System

The 2001 bond referendum for parks renewal and open space preservation approved by residents has resulted in the reconstruction and renewal of the city's parks and preservation of open space. Today, nearly all the parks have undergone renewal in accordance with the city Park Renewal program through a neighborhood involvement approach that encourages residents to participate in the planning of neighborhood parks.

The following section describes the function and status of the current Minnetonka park system. The locations and function of the parks in Minnetonka are shown on Figure VII-1.

a. Community Parks

These parks are designed to provide a combination of passive and active recreational activities for the entire community. Community parks include areas suited for intense recreational use, such as athletic field complexes and ice arenas. They also include areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, biking, picnicking and nature study. Community parks are generally sited along collector or arterial streets for easy access from all or a part of the community, and are well-buffered from surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Minnetonka has five large community parks: Lone Lake, Big Willow, Meadow, Civic Center and Purgatory, most of which are located along stream valleys throughout the city. One of the more major park renewals occurred at Civic Center Park in 2006, where the theme of woods and wetlands influenced the updating of the park. Rain gardens were incorporated into areas around the parking lots, the horse arena was converted to practice fields, and an outdoor amphitheater was constructed.

b. Neighborhood Parks and Play Lots

Neighborhood parks, the basic unit of the park system, generally are designed to serve a residential area within approximately a half-mile radius, sometimes in conjunction with an elementary school. Facilities typically include a preschool play area and an area for free play and organized games. They may also include equipment for older children,

Placeholder for Map VII-1

multipurpose hard surface courts, shelter buildings and restrooms, and picnic and seating areas.

An amenity commonly requested by residents when planning the renewal of neighborhood parks was the inclusion or expansion of trails internal to the parks. This has been added in all of the renewed neighborhood parks.

Twenty-two of Minnetonka’s parks are classified as neighborhood parks. The newest park, Oakhaven, developed in 2008 in the Spring Lake area (northwest corner of I-494 and Highway 7). The other parks are Boulder Creek, Covington, Ford, Glen Moor, Groveland, Gro-Tonka, Holiday Lake, Junction, Knollway, Linner, Mayflower, McKenzie, Oberlin, Orchard, Pioneer, Reich, Spring Hill, Sunrise Ridge, Westwood, Wilson, and Woodgate.

There are also two play lots, which are smaller parks with facilities limited to play equipment: Elmwood-Strand and Mini Tonka.

c. Preserve Parks

The city owns ten parks throughout the community classified as preserves. Generally the only amenity is trails, although Jidana Park has a canoe landing and fire pit. Several of the parks, including Green Circle, Hilloway, Jidana, Kinsel, and Victoria-Evergreen, have been subjects of the natural resources stewardship program. The other preserve parks are Crane Lake, Lake Charlotte, Lake Rose, Mooney, and Tower Hill.

d. Special Purpose Parks

These parks consist of one or more specialized facilities. Many of the city’s 12 special purpose parks are centered on athletic fields and beaches. Others have facilities such as boat or canoe launches, historic house or site, and community garden plots.

Special purpose parks and their uses are as follows:

Special Use Park	Use
Burwell Park	Historic Burwell house, canoe landing
Glen Lake Park	Athletic fields
Glen Lake Station	Fountain, flower gardens
Gray’s Bay Causeway	Fishing - Lake Minnetonka
Guilliam Park	Athletic fields
Kelly Park	Garden plots
Libbs Lake Beach	Public swimming beach
Mills Park	Gazebo, historic marker
Minnehaha Creek Headwaters	Gray’s Bay Dam, canoe launch, trail and boardwalk

Additional special use facilities include athletic fields at Bennett Family Park (privately owned and operated), Shady Oak Park (owned by the City of Hopkins with beach operations shared by both cities) and Glen Lake Golf Course (owned by Hennepin County and operated by Three Rivers Park District). The city has also jointly improved athletic fields at Hopkins School District and Minnetonka School District locations.

2. Existing Trail System

The city's existing trail system, shown on Figure VII-2 consists of off-road trails, walkways (asphalt trails that parallel roadways) and on-road pedestrian-bicycle lanes. The original Loop Trail System was designed to connect the city's major parks and activity centers, and to function as both a transportation and recreation system. Its 33 miles of trails is the centerpiece of the entire trail system that includes neighborhood connectors, sidewalks, pedestrian-bicycle lanes and regional connectors.

The main city trail system connects with the Three Rivers Park District's combined 27 mile south segment of Lake Minnetonka and Minnesota River Bluffs LRT regional trails (formerly Southwest Regional LRT). Both corridors begin in Hopkins; the north corridor extends to Victoria, while the south corridor extends to Chanhassen. The city's trail and walkway system also connects with a DNR state trail, the 62 mile Luce Line Trail, in Plymouth just north of Minnetonka.

Trail facilities, including restrooms and drinking fountains, are located at each of the city's five community parks. Much of the main trail system is plowed during the winter months, making it usable throughout the year.

Each year, the city continues to add to the trail system. New trails are generally added with major road reconstruction projects (e.g., CR 101 and the planned 2008-09 improvements to Shady Oak Road). Internal trails have been included with the park renewal projects.

3. Recreational Facilities

Through Minnetonka's Recreation Services Department, in conjunction with the Hopkins-Minnetonka Joint Recreation Division, the city operates a variety of facilities, sponsors community-wide events such as Summer Festival and Kids Fest, and provides a wide range of recreational programming including youth and adult athletic leagues, senior programs, aquatics classes, summer playground program, lessons for skating, tennis, and other activities, and exercise classes.

The following facilities are operated by the city.

Facility	Use
Arts Center on 7	Theater, rehearsal and office space at Minnetonka High School (jointly owned and operated by the city and Minnetonka School District)
Community Center	Senior center, meeting space, city council chambers, banquet facilities
Glen Lake Activity Center	Public meeting space, police and ambulance substation
Glen Lake Skate Plaza	Outdoor skateboard facility
Gray's Bay Marina	Public boat launch, rental slips (property owned by DNR; operated by city)
Ice Arenas	Two indoor ice arenas
Lindbergh Center	Indoor athletic courts, running track at Hopkins High School (jointly owned and operated by the city and Hopkins School

	District)
Mills Landing	Senior craft/gift shop
Shady Oak Beach	Public swimming beach, picnic shelter (property owned by city of Hopkins; operated by Hopkins-Minnetonka joint recreation dept.)
Westridge Pavilion	Public meeting space
Williston Fitness Center	Fitness center, indoor swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts, batting cages,

The recreational facilities and associated programs are an important community asset and serve to attract families to the city while at the same time meeting current resident and business needs. It is important that the facilities be maintained to a level that continues to attract residents as well as respond to changing demographics. Further, existing programs need to be reevaluated and new programs added to respond to residents needs and to provide quality customer service.

4. Open Space Preservation

Minnetonka has long been committed to open space preservation, most recently reflected by the passage of the 2001 bond referendum, a shift to conservation development, and updates of land use ordinances related to preservation of steep slopes, shore land and trees. Following the 2001 referendum, the park board and city council prioritized approximately 50 areas throughout the community for possible preservation. The rankings were based on factors developed by the citizen open space preservation task force and adopted by the city council. These factors include sensitive environmental features, buffers for neighborhoods, high visibility, size and linkage to other open areas.

Preservation strategies were developed for each of these areas, ranging from the negotiation of easements to outright purchase. Following the passage of the referendum, the city successfully negotiated acquisitions of five parcels along Minnehaha Creek. Additionally, the city acquired an option to purchase a 30 acre property across from Meadow Park. The city still holds that option, and the resident has donated a conservation easement over the entire property to the Minnesota Land Trust.

Additionally, conservation development agreements have been negotiated for a number of properties to preserve as many of the natural features of the land as possible. Often a property owner has dedicated a conservation easement that prohibits future development activity. Between 2000 and 2006, 159 acres of private land have been placed in conservation easements.

In addition to the donation of easements, other conservation techniques continue to promote the quality of the environment. These include smaller road widths, which allow more open space and less impervious surface, and rain gardens or infiltration systems to treat the storm water run off and promote better water quality.

Placeholder for Fig. VII-2 - Existing Trail System

C. Strategic Planning Efforts

The Minnetonka Park Board, a city advisory commission, is charged with providing recommendations to the city council regarding park land, park facilities, program, and finances. The board's functions include long and short range planning related to capital improvement projects, acquisition, development and use of park lands, park facilities, recreational, and leisure time facilities, and recreational programs.

Annually, the Park Board establishes strategies that align with current planning efforts. The Board has adopted a "vision" and mission statement that serves as the framework for parks, open space and trails chapter of the 2030 Comprehensive Guide Plan as follows:

Vision: **A city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a balanced natural environment.**

Mission:

- * **Protect and enhance Minnetonka's natural environment.**
- * **Promote quality recreation opportunities and facilities**
- * **Provide a forum for citizens interested in our parks, trails, athletic facilities, and open space.**

Additionally, the Park Board has adopted goals and specific strategic objectives (the order does not reflect priority) for the future, that are updated on an annual basis. The 2008 goals and objectives follow the policies included in Chapter III - Overall Policies pertaining to parks, open space and recreation:

1. To protect natural resources and open space

- a. Conduct an ongoing evaluation of the open space process
- b. Continue to review and comment on the implementation of the natural resources stewardship plan
- c. Assist staff in managing the open space process through successful completion
- d. Review options to enhance natural resources & open space
- e. Review all proposed changes to the city's code of ordinances that pertain to natural resources and open space
- f. Actively participate in development of the city's Minnehaha Creek Visioning Plan
- g. Consider a program to recognize historical aspects of the park system

2. To renew and maintain parks and trails

- a. Develop recommendations for scheduled 2008 park renewal projects
- b. Involve park board member participation in park projects
- c. Conduct an annual review of park dedication fees
- d. Utilizing completed updates to the Comprehensive Plan and the POST Plan, identify areas of the city that are deficient of adequate park amenities
- e. Conduct a comprehensive review of the trail system to identify missing links and required future improvements

3. To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities

- a. Implement recommendations for athletic field improvements as defined in the 2004 Athletic Field Needs Update

- b. Perform an annual review of the Gray's Bay Marina operations plan
 - c. Evaluate 2007 - 2008 Glen Lake Golf Course cross-country ski trail operations and develop recommendations for 2008-2009
 - d. Anticipate, review and respond to community needs not previously identified
 - e. Annually review policies related to the operation and management of parks to determine if changes are required
 - f. Review data related to changing demographics to ensure that park amenities address future community needs
- 4. Enhance long-term Park Board development**
- a. Define capital improvement program projects for 2009-2013 related to parks, trails and open space
 - b. Enhance council relations- serve as a voice to the council
 - c. Actively participate in the process developed for updating the POST Plan
 - d. Increase community awareness of park board initiatives
 - e. Provide park board participation in the development of the city's Comprehensive Plan
 - f. Schedule board member involvement in annual park board and city related activities
 - g. Annually assess the park board strategic plan
 - h. Receive and respond to a staff update of 2008 changes made to the Parks for Tomorrow Program

D. Future Park, Trail and Open Space Improvements and Needs

The primary improvements planned to the city's existing park system include the implementation of the Upper Minnehaha Creek corridor plan and increasing local and regional connectivity through additional trail connections. Further, continued investigation of natural resource stewardship of open space and park property, and the development and review of strategies to increase connectivity with public and private ecological resources is needed to realize the Minnetonka 2030 Vision. Lastly, the city will need to continue to provide recreation facilities that reflect the desires of aging residents and yet, attract youth and families to remain competitive in the region.

1. Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor Vision and Master Plan

The Upper Minnehaha Creek corridor extends from the creek headwaters at Gray's Bay for six miles through Minnetonka, encompassing nearly one-third of the creek's entire length. Approximately, 85 percent of the land adjoining the creek in the city is owned or controlled by public entities, allowing for opportunities to forge collaborative partnerships for planning activities. In 2007, the city, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board, Three Rivers Park District Board and Hennepin County began discussions for an overall "vision" for the corridor area, and partnership opportunities to develop and implement an overall master plan for Minnehaha Creek.

The overriding principles of the master plan for the Upper Minnehaha Creek corridor are designed to implement complementary activities in appropriate areas that emphasize the creek corridor's natural resources, and recreational, educational, historic, and scenic values. Currently, a policy steering committee, composed of the aforementioned agencies, has been established to translate the overall master plan and principles into specific projects and programs.

The overall Upper Minnehaha Creek Master Plan is -available at the Minnetonka City Hall.

Current and future creek corridor projects and programs are centered on the following:

- a. Preservation and restoration: Minnetonka and other groups have implemented on-going stewardship projects to remove buckthorn, Siberian elm and garlic mustard, and perform other ecological improvements. Future projects include restoration of native plants, wildlife habitat and ecological zones. Additionally, "best practices" will be utilized to achieve water management goals for watershed, stormwater drainage, bank stabilization and creek flow. The watershed district is examining water quality improvement methods and demonstration areas to reduce urban runoff and control surface water pathogens that enter the creek.
- b. I-494 gateway area: The restoration of the creek's natural character under I-494 is planned to provide an enhanced gateway entrance to the city at the freeway. When the freeway was constructed, the creek bed was rechanneled with concrete culverts and stone riprap. Refurbishment of this creek passage will restore the natural experience for waterway users, pedestrians, bikers and motorists.
- c. Canoe access: The Minnehaha Creek Headwaters Park at Gray's Bay was recently redeveloped by the city and the watershed district. The park includes a new canoe landing, interpretive exhibit, shoreland restoration demonstration area and boardwalk. Additionally, the city has invested in improvements to the Civic Center campus bordering the creek, including a new canoe landing.

Existing landings have been upgraded at the Headwaters Park, Big Willow Park and at Hopkins Crossroads at the Hopkins Municipal Site. New canoe landings and launches

are planned to improve access and provide floating interpretive experiences throughout the corridor, and a canoe rental and shuttle service is being implemented by the Three Rivers Park District.

- d. Trails: New pedestrian and bike trails are planned to connect users with the network of local pathways and the south segment of the Lake Minnetonka LRT regional trail, and many creek and park amenities. New or improved trail connections are planned at Baker Road, under Plymouth Road, I-494 and at various other locations for neighborhood access. Parking is planned at various “trail head” locations along the corridor.
- e. Interpretive center: The potential for an interpretive center to provide opportunities for school, nature and other groups to connect with the creek is under consideration for an area east of Minnetonka Mills. The center would likely be a partnership of various parties, and be a center for experiential programs occurring throughout the corridor.
- f. Minnetonka Boulevard Parkway Concept: A future study to be conducted in 2008-09 is underway for the portion of Minnetonka Boulevard, between the Civic Center and Big Willow Park. Opportunities will be examined to integrate roadway, waterway and trails systems, to allow drivers, bikers, walkers and paddlers to collectively experience the creek corridor in a safe manner.
- g. Historic Minnetonka Mills District: A new park is planned on both sides of the creek in the area between I-494 and the Minnetonka Mills business district, adjacent to Plymouth and McGinty Roads. The city has acquired and removed four residential properties in the area, and programmed funding to develop the new park, which is expected to incorporate unique botanical and art features, including those reflective of the historical nature of the area, ranging from early American Indian trails to milling operations; small parking areas and joint parking facilities; canoe landings; trails; and potential roadway access improvements.

2. Future Trails and Pathway Connections

Two major additional regional trail links are planned in Minnetonka in the coming years as well as several local trails and pathways.

a. Planned Regional Trail Improvements

CR 101 Future Regional Trail Connection

A park corridor “search area” has been identified by the Three Rivers Park District to extend a regional trail north-south through western Minnetonka to connect the Minnesota Rivers Bluff LRT Regional Trail segment in Eden Prairie to the planned trail on the north side of Lake Minnetonka. A trail corridor was constructed along CR 101 from Hwy. 7 to Minnetonka Boulevard with recent roadway improvements.

The park district is examining alternatives for a portion of the north connection from Minnetonka Boulevard to McGinty Road in Wayzata. Two alternatives include constructing a trail along CR 101 in conjunction with a planned roadway reconstruction project to the north of Minnetonka Boulevard along CR 101 or using the right of way of McGinty Road within Minnetonka from Minnetonka Boulevard at I-494 to CR 101 in Wayzata. The McGinty Road alternative offers more positive benefits because of lower adjacent traffic levels, the ability to utilize existing trail segments, aesthetic benefits to trail users, and easy connections to the Luce Line trail through Carlson Center.

Connection to North Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail

Plans to connect the Lake Minnetonka Regional LRT Trail to the North Cedar Lake Road LRT Regional Trail involve providing a connection along the Minnetonka and St. Louis Park portions of Minnetonka Boulevard. This “missing link” is relatively easy to provide because partial local trails exist along Minnetonka Boulevard. New trail construction is needed near the TH 169 bridge, crossing Minnetonka Boulevard.

b. Local trail connections and pathways

Although there are numerous trails within the city, the trail system is many years from completion. As noted in Chapter VIII - Transportation, several trail connections are planned in conjunction with roadway improvements scheduled in the coming years. These trails will be physically separated from vehicular traffic.

However, there are numerous other trails and pathways that are needed to establish connections to the village centers, parks, schools, existing trails and other activity centers. Figure VII-3 shows the future overall trail plan and identifies numerous trails that currently remain unfunded. It is anticipated that the necessary right of way control and construction of the unfunded trails and pathways will eventually be accomplished as part of the following activities:

- * future roadway reconstruction,
- * new development and private development activities,
- * outside funding from other government agencies or private entities, and
- * future capital improvement programming.

3. Open Space and Natural Area Connections

The 2030 Minnetonka Vision shown as Figure III-1 in Chapter III - Overall Policies depicts the park and open space areas in the city under public control, water resources and areas of important vegetation in the city. The creek corridors, associated floodplain and wetlands, and trails create natural “greenways” within the city, often connecting the city’s parks that feature preservation and natural resource stewardship.

The 2000 POST Plan established the need to develop an overall program (with funding) for the preservation of open space under city control based upon the ecological qualities of the area. In the coming years, further study is needed by the city to determine the potential for other private and public stewardship activities to foster connections between the natural “greenways”, public open space and areas of important vegetation. Additionally, investigation is needed to review incorporating new stormwater sustainability techniques and address concerns with the growing number and type of plant and animal invasive species.

An update to the POST Plan is needed to further examine the potential for connections between the greenways, open space, and other conservation and sustainability efforts. Information pertaining to MLCCS data and other water quality management inventories reviewed in Chapter VI - Resource Management should be consulted and refined during the POST plan update process to determine the appropriate strategies for the city to manage public open space and encourage private conservation efforts on an ecological neighborhood basis.

4. Recreation Facilities

The continued growth of youth and young adult sports has continually created pressure for the programming of city and school district athletic fields. With limited open areas remaining

in the city, it will be difficult to acquire reasonably priced land for additional athletic field development. The city will need to review alternative approaches for relieving pressure for athletic field use. These approaches may include the review of revised layouts and field materials of athletic fields and other public property and buildings to maximize use, and the evaluation of programming with a partnership of uses (the city, school districts, athletic associations and others).

City recreational facilities within parks and activity buildings need continual attention to maintain investment in the infrastructure and meet residents' needs. With an aging population and the need to provide affordable programs to continue to attract families, well-kept facilities that include space for activities that cater to older residents and youth is important. Therefore, the city is committed to continuing to provide renovation to existing facilities, providing recreational programs to meet increasing participation levels, and establishing new areas (such as off-leash dog areas) to meet future resident needs. For example, the city has programmed approximately \$2.6 million in funding over the next several years for improvements to the Williston Center.

E. Implementation Strategies

In the coming years, the implementation strategies oriented towards parks, open space and trails consist of the measures described in this section. The overall implementation theme emphasizes development of strategies that complement the overall Minnetonka 2030 Vision and the Minnetonka Park and Recreation Board strategic planning efforts, by incorporating the following:

- * Recognition of changing demographics and providing facilities and programs that reflect an aging population, yet serve to attract families;
- * Provide and enhance connections between the village centers, regional areas and existing neighborhoods; and
- * Provide reinvestment, new services and programs with the existing park and open space facilities.

1. Park Development

- a. Continuation of the park renewal program for designated parks as established by the Park Board and approved by the City Council.
- b. Provide multi-year funding for the implementation of the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor Plan.
- c. Determine appropriate locations for off-leash dog areas within existing city parks to meet the increasing number of dog owners in the city.
- d. Continue reinvestment in city parks, park facilities and athletic fields to reflect demographic changes of Minnetonka residents and aging infrastructure.
- e. Utilize the Park Maintenance Standards, as may be amended, to respond to community needs; to maintain the infrastructure of city parks, trails, open space and recreational facilities in a manner that encourages sustainability; and to ensure public safety.

2. Trail/Pathway Development and Maintenance

- a. Continue yearly investments into the Future Trail Plan according to the schedule identified in the capital improvements program.
- b. Provide safe neighborhood trail connections to the overall trail system and community amenities in response to neighborhood requests or Park Board recommendations.

- c. Review and prioritization of the unfunded portions of the trail system by the Park Board to connect the village areas, community parks and adjacent communities.
- d. Incorporate identified trails, sidewalks and pathways connections in roadway reconstruction projects.
- e. Continue investments to rehabilitate older trail segments and improve signage (identification and wayfinding).
- f. Maintain trails in accordance with the Park Maintenance Standards, as may be amended, to improve “wheel-ability” for all age groups, sustainability and year round use, as appropriate.

3. Open Space

- a. Utilize the city open space preservation program and the management of natural resources policy to obtain, manage and improve open space for the public.
- b. Convert properties acquired for open space preservation to a park or natural setting environment.
- c. Continue to eradicate invasive plant and animal species from open space and other city property and maintain open space in accordance with the Park Maintenance Standards, as may be amended.
- d. Seek grants, funding partners and other outside funding opportunities to increase the amount of publically held open space in the city.

4. Education

- a. Continue to provide education programs to residents and businesses about resource protection, open space preservation opportunities and conservation management techniques to preserve the quality of private and public open space.
- b. Continue to participate in health initiatives, such as the “Step Up To Health” program to fight obesity and provide awareness of facilities and programs that meet healthy living objectives.

5. Implementation Tools

- a. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The city council annually allocates funding over a five year period for capital projects that involve park, open space, trail and recreational facilities. The current 2009 - 2013 CIP (attached in Appendix IV-A) includes numerous projects that directly implement the policies of this chapter of the Comprehensive Guide Plan. For example, significant funding over multiple years is programmed to increase “connectivity” in the city by improving trail and pathway connections individually, or as part of roadway projects.

Further, funding is provided to enhance maintenance of aging park facilities, improve and restore natural resources, and to reflect facility improvements needed to attract families and respond to an aging population. The funding identified in the CIP is often noted as the “city’s share”, in response to the need to maintain and forge new partnerships with the school districts, Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District and the watershed organizations.

- b. Other funding

The city will continue to seek outside funding opportunities, where possible, to leverage city funds and provide financing for projects when local funding is not possible. This may

include seeking County, State or federal resources for specific projects and programs, or if reasonable, charging fees for services for specific programs, as appropriate.

c. Park dedication

The city's park dedication requirements of the Subdivision Ordinance requires that a reasonable portion of land (not less than 10 percent of the property) being subdivided be dedicated to the city for use as parks, trails or open space. At the city's discretion, a fee in lieu of all or part of the land may be required, based on a fee per lot or residential unit, or per acre for nonresidential development. Because the park system is generally fully developed, the fee is generally accepted by the city, unless the land within the development is needed to expand an existing park or trail or meet an existing need for parkland. Fees are allocated to the Park Dedication Fund and used for land acquisition or facility improvements.

d. Partnerships

The city has a successful track record working with the City of Hopkins, local school districts and other agencies to provide recreational facilities and programs. These partnerships are planned to continue in the future and may expand dependent upon residents needs.

Additionally, new or expanded partnerships are planned with Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District for the long term development of the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor.

e. Updates to planning documents

- * Update the POST plan to incorporate the 2030 Comprehensive Guide Plan and changes that have occurred with the overall park, trail and open space system since 2000.
- * Participate in an athletic needs study with appropriate agencies and partners.

Appendix VII-A

2009-2013 Capital Improvements Program

**Joint Meeting of the Park Board and City Council
Item 2D
Meeting of December 3, 2008**

Subject: Trail system review

Park Board related goal: Enhance long term park board development

Park Board related objective: Enhance council relations – serve as a voice to the council

Brief Description:	Review Trail System Long Term Planning
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Background

The revitalization plan for the trail system includes three methods for improvement:

1. Trail Rehabilitation (used to rebuild, overlay or improve existing segments of the trail system)
2. Missing Trail Connections (used primarily to construct small trail segments used as connectors to existing trails or to improve routes to schools. Requests for these segments are typically received as petitions from neighborhoods or volunteer groups.)
3. New Trail Segment construction (construction of new trail segments within the city identified on our missing links map.)

These components are funded out of specific areas of the Park Dedication Fund (PDF) and scheduled through the Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

Trail Rehabilitation

Trail rehabilitation projects make the existing trail system safer, more efficient and protect the initial investment by maintaining the segment to a high level. Future rehabilitation areas include the Opus Trail System, the trail along Hwy 494 from McGinty Rd to Oakland Rd, the trail along Hwy 62 from Baker Rd to Hwy 101 and the sidewalk/trail around Hopkins High School on Lindbergh Drive from Cedar Lake Rd to Hillside Lane.

Below is the projected funding for the 2009 - 2013 PDF for Trail Rehabilitation. The funding for 2009 and 2010 are slightly higher since the Opus and Hwy 494 are larger areas that will be rehabilitated with overlaying the existing asphalt.

Trail Rehabilitation - Recommended and Scheduled for Five Years

Source of Project Funding	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Park Dedication Fund	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000

Staff is planning on these rehabilitation projects be scheduled during the fall season by the Streets Department of Public Works upon their completion of the neighborhood thin overlay program. This will lower the costs by completing the work internally.

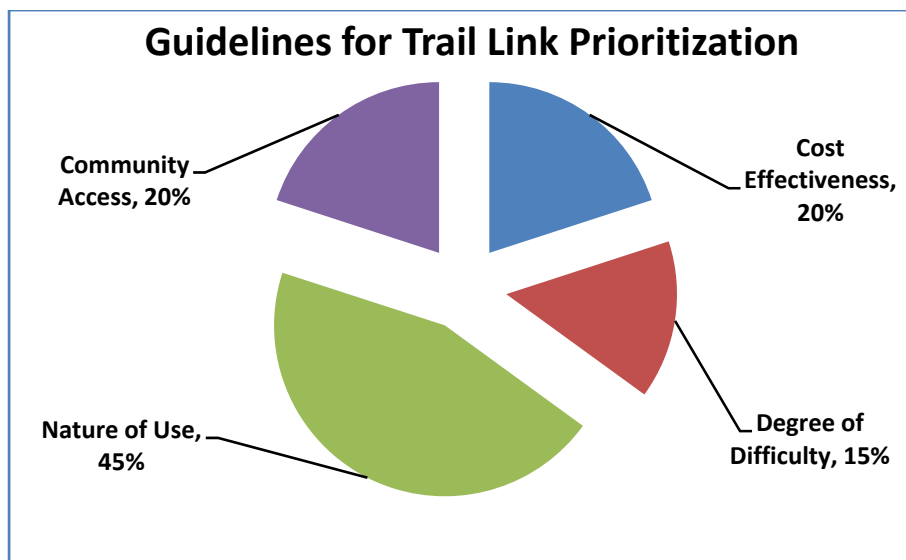
Trail Missing Links/Future Projects

Staff has identified 95 trail segments totaling over 66 miles that could be built to enhance the current trail system. Prioritizing the segments was previously done to simply coincide with the street reconstruction schedule. In the past several years staff has seen a large amount of projects in Minnetonka i.e., Cedar Lake Road, C.R. 101, Hopkins Crossroad & C.R. 5, etc. A new way to establish priority would use additional factors that would be weighted to determine the priority of new trail segments. Staff has identified several factors to serve as a guideline for park board and city council consideration.

Guidelines for Trail Link Prioritization

The following guidelines were created to help prioritize future trail segments and to function as an aid to select segments during the CIP planning process.

1. Community Access (20% weighting): This factor determines the ability of a trail segment to access business hubs, libraries/government centers, safe school access and the ability to use the link for commuting.
2. Cost Effectiveness (20% weighting): This factor considers any wetland impacts, drastic elevation changes or the need to purchase right-of-way or easements from private property owners.
3. Degree of Difficulty (15% weighting): This factor considers major tree loss, major utility relocation, and need for constructing retaining walls, bridges or boardwalks.
4. Nature of Use (45% weighting): This factor considers potential redevelopment areas, minimal infrastructure barriers and if the segment completes a missing link between other segments.



Each missing trail link segment is rated using these guidelines and receives a feasibility ranking from 10 (highest) to 1 (lowest). These segments can then be sorted and used for prioritization in the planning process. As the CIP is compiled, these rankings can be used as a guide to assist in decision making for scheduling trail construction to coincide with available funding. Listed below is a snapshot of the trail segment ranking.

Map Location	Segment	Length (miles)	Est. Cost	Feasibility (10=High 1=Low)	Considerations											Comments	Length (feet)	
					Cost Effectiveness			Degree of Difficulty			Nature of Use			Community Access				
					ROW/Easements Not Needed	Elevation Changes Minimal	Minimal Wetland Impacts	Minimal Tree Loss	Minimal Utility Relocation	Retaining Wall-Bridge-Boardwalk	Minimal Infrastructure Barriers	Completes a Route	Potential Redevelopment Area	Business Access	Library/Government Center			School Access
I7	A10	0.3	\$30,000	8.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Scheduled	1600
I9-J10	A11	1.5	\$235,000	6.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Scheduled	7950
I8	A9	0.7	\$80,000	7.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Scheduled	3900
A10-A11	D5	0.9	\$145,000	6.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Scheduled	4900
C5-C6	G53	0.3	\$50,000	8.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Scheduled	1600

Staff has started using the GIS system to capture missing links and begin mapping them. This missing link map will include all unscheduled and unfunded sections of the city that are missing trails or sidewalks.

Trail Link Funding – Park Dedication Fund

The 2009 – 2013 Park Dedication Fund portion of the CIP identifies \$1,035,000 in city funding and an additional \$205,000 in Hennepin County Participation Funds for trail segment construction. This amount includes funding for Undesignated Trail Segments in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

<i>Source of Project Funding</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Park Dedication Fund		\$285,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Hennepin County Participation Funds*			125,000	80,000	

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Segment</i>	<i>Length in Miles</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>	<i>Estimated City Cost</i>
2010					
	• Dominick Road, shady Oak to Pioneer Road	G62	1.4	\$135,000	\$135,000
	• Vine Hill Road, Covington Rd to Ashcroft Rd	D5	0.5	150,000	150,000
2011					
	• CSAH 101, Minnetonka Blvd to Grays Bay Bridge*	G53 TBD	0.3	\$275,000* 100,000	\$150,000 100,000
	• Undesignated Trail Segment				
2012					
	• Shady Oak Road, CSAH 3 – TH7*	A9	0.7	\$160,000*	\$80,000
	• TH7 – Shady Oak Road to existing trail at 4 th Street	A10 TBD	0.3	30,000 140,000	30,000 140,000
	• Undesignated Trail Segment				
2013					
	• Undecided Trail Segment	TBD		\$250,000	\$250,000

In addition to the trail segment funding, \$25,000 is allocated each year for Missing Trail Links. Normally these projects are the result of petitions or unique situations. If these funds are not requested by petition, they are typically used to offset trail construction and rehabilitation costs.

Unfunded Trail Segments

Of the 66 miles of additional trails that are identified, the funding needed to construct those segments is estimated to be approximately \$11,900,000. These segments all have various circumstances that would cause these estimates and distances to change when detailed planning for that segment is done.

Staff has heard support for additional recreational and commuting trails to provide safe pedestrian routes and alternatives to access areas without competing with automobiles. While the existing trail system is highly valued, staff is realistic that the completion of the missing links and any additions to the trail system are long term goals that will require patience for completion.

Discussion Points

None. Informational only. Staff will be prepared to respond to questions about the Trail Revitalization program from city council and park board members.

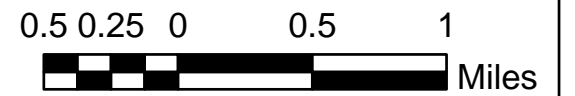
Attachments:

1. Map of unscheduled/unfunded trail links
2. Feasibility ranking of unscheduled/unfunded trail links

Future Trail Links Map

Status

-  2008 - 2013 Scheduled
-  Existing
-  Unscheduled/Unfunded
-  Parks
-  School Parcels



Map prepared by:

