



2012 Park Dedication & Funding Survey

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In August 2012, HKGi, with the assistance of the MRPA sent Park Dedication & Funding Surveys to cities, townships, and counties throughout Minnesota.

Twenty-six communities responded with information about their park dedication requirements and other funding mechanisms they are using to fund parks, trails, and recreation programming.

Residential Property

92% of the communities surveyed have some sort of park dedication requirements for residential development. Of these communities, the most common dedication requirement is “cash or land equal to a percentage of land value or area” with the most common dedication being 10%. The percentages varied from 5% to 30% (in instances of denser development).

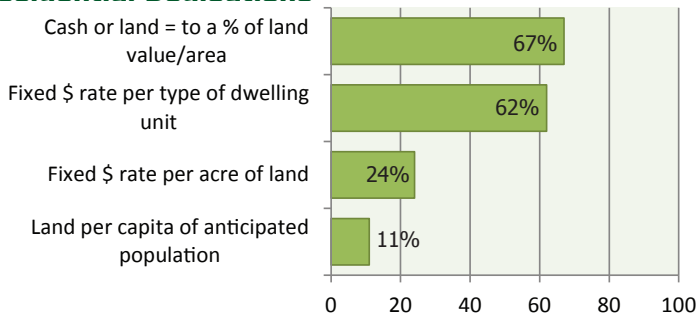
Many communities use a cash dedication fee based on acreage or dwelling units. The average fees are:

Fixed Fee Cash Dedications - Residential Development					
Per Acre	Per Dwelling Unit	Single family/ Unit	Duplex or TH/ Unit	Multi-Family/ Unit	Mobile Home/ Unit
\$4,250	\$2,722	\$2,789	\$2,727	\$2,776	\$1,744

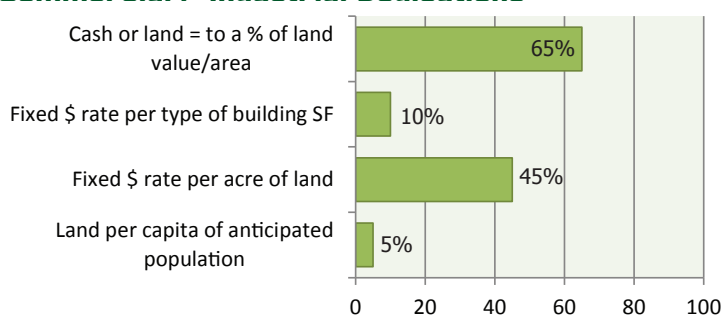
11% of communities reported using a dedication based directly on anticipated population with an average of 1 acre of park land per 63 people.

It is also worth noting that a number of cities use a mix of land and cash dedication requirements, either in tandem or as separate options.

Residential Dedications



Commercial / Industrial Dedications



Commercial / Industrial Property

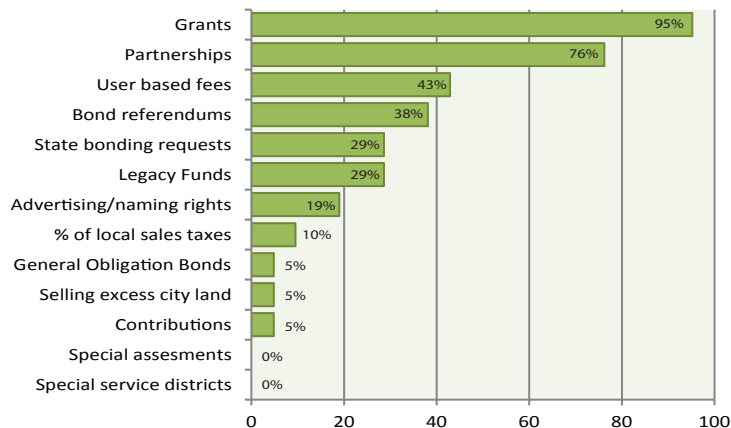
87% of communities also have a park dedication requirement for commercial and/or industrial development. 65% of communities utilize a “cash or land equal to a percentage of land value or area” requirement ranging from 1% to 10% with an average 7% dedication.

45% of communities with a commercial/industrial dedication use a fixed rate per acre of land. Among these communities, the average dedication is \$6,581/acre for commercial development and \$5,184/acre for industrial development.

Similar to the above residential developments, many cities use a mix of dedication options.



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Other Funding & Implementation Tools

Cities also identified a number of methods and mechanisms for funding parks, trails, and recreation programming. Outside of park dedications and general levy funds, most communities (95%) are paying for park improvements with grants. Partnerships (76%), user fees (43%) and referendums (38%) are also popular funding mechanisms.

Facing Tight Budgets

Many departments have faced tight budgets in the past few years, and communities are working hard to stretch available dollars. Half of respondents reported having to cut part time/seasonal staff and a third have cut full time staff.

More than anything else, departments are prioritizing and delaying expenditures. This includes prioritizing park improvements (75%) and delaying capital improvements (70%). Two thirds of the communities have also prioritized the level and frequency of park maintenance. 35% of the communities also indicated (jokingly?) that they have “begged, borrowed, or stole” to generate revenue.

New Sources of Funding

While many communities are dealing with tight budgets, they have also become more creative in finding and developing new sources of funding.

New Sources of Funding For:					
Physical Improvements	Maintenance	Operations	Programs	Trails	Sidewalks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPCA pilot project Grants Donations Legacy Funds Partnerships General obligation bonds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant fees Corporate Volunteers Partnerships Local foundations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation agreements with foundations Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with school districts Grants Donations Volunteers/volunteer coordinators Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants DNR Trail Connections Transportation Enhancement County/city partnerships General obligation bonds Referendum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developer installed Grants Referendum General obligation bonds

HKGI would like to thank the MPRA for their assistance in distributing the survey, and the following municipalities for their participation in the 2012 survey:

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|---------------|---------------------|
| Anoka Co. | Inver Grove Heights |
| Blaine | Maple Grove |
| Bloomington | New Brighton |
| Chanhassen | Plymouth |
| Chisago Co. | Rosemount |
| Eden Prairie | Roseville |
| Faribault | Shakopee |
| Farmington | South St. Paul |
| Fergus Falls | St. Louis Park |
| Fridley | Stearns Co. |
| Golden Valley | White Bear Lake |
| Grand Rapids | White Bear Township |
| Hastings | Woodbury |