

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Park and Recreation Commission
Thursday, October 12, 2017
6:30 pm
Lake Itasca Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Citizen Input**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.
- 5. Commission Business**
 1. Consider Goals and Objectives--Comprehensive Plan, and Parks Master Plan
- 6. Commission/Staff Input**
 1. Commission/Staff Input
- 7. Adjournment**

Park and Recreation Commission

4. 1.

Meeting Date: 10/12/2017

Submitted For: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

By: MaryJo Warner, Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.

Purpose/Background:

To review and approve Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes dated August 10, 2017.

Notification:

Observations/Alternatives:

Funding Source:

n/a

Recommendation:

Action:

Motion to approve Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes dated August 10, 2017.

Attachments

Minutes

Form Review

Inbox

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: MaryJo Warner

Final Approval Date: 10/06/2017

Reviewed By

MaryJo Warner

Date

10/06/2017 02:19 PM

Started On: 10/05/2017 08:56 AM

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on August 10, 2017, at the Lake Itasca Trailhead, 15700 Okapi Street NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Russell Bayer
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Jon Trappen

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Andrew Fyten (excused)
 Commissioner Charles Tchuinkwa

Also Present: Parks & Asst. Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
 Lydia Major, LHB Consultant
 Bruce Jacobsen, Consultant

INTRODUCTION OF LAKE ITASCA TRAILHEAD

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood gave a brief background of the Lake Itasca Trailhead, where the meeting was being held. The Trailhead is within a 1,200-acre conservation development, and the trail corridor was mapped out as part of the original Northfork Planned Unit Development agreement. This conservation area is preserved in perpetuity, which is a great achievement for the City of Ramsey.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated there was concern and opposition from residents of the Northfork neighborhood regarding the trail development. After the trail was completed, residents of the neighborhood connected to the trail from the south contacted the City to say how much they enjoyed having it in their neighborhood, and thanked the City for its conception and development.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the area in which the Commission was holding their meeting is also within a 7-acre area that is designated to be developed into a 'Monarch Trail'. Lake Itasca, and adjoin areas is an area of great beauty, surrounded by a forest succession from the wetland, with aspen succession to mature Oaks.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett welcomed the meeting attendees to Lake Itasca Trailhead. He called the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Trappen, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Trappen, Sis, Bayer, Leistico. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners Fyten, Tchuinkwa

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Leistico, seconded by Commissioner Bayer, to approve the following Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes:

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated June 8, 2017.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Leistico, Bayer, Sis, and Trappen. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners Fyten, Tchuinkwa.

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Follow-Up on Visioning Exercise and Discuss Objectives – Parks Master Plan

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the City Council kicked off its Master Parks and Trail Plan visioning exercise at its June Regular Meeting, and reviewed goals and objectives related to Chapter 10 of the Comprehensive Plan. He added the Master Plan exercise and Comprehensive Plan are occurring simultaneously and are very similar, so it makes sense to work on them at the same time. He noted City Staff are seeking consensus from the Park and Recreation Commission on elements of the larger Master Plan exercise. He introduced Bruce Jacobson, a consultant from the University of Minnesota, and invited him to address the Commission.

Mr. Jacobson stated the City of Ramsey's original Master Plan included a well-connected park system that would highlight the character and natural assets of the City's parks and trails. He added, in preparation for the Master Plan exercise, the initial statements in the Master Plan have been expanded and refined for the Commission's consideration, and will end up becoming a

front piece for the document, casting the overall vision for the City's Master Parks and Trail Plan.

Mr. Jacobson stated first item for discussion is the Visions and Objectives Statement. He added the concept of maintaining the rural character of the area has come up repeatedly. He noted there will be plenty of time to review and check back in as the plan coalesces over the next few months, and any comments or feedback can be directed to Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood.

Chair Bennett stated he read through the packet and looked at the slides, and he likes the additions. He added it expands upon several of the key points and has a good feel to it.

Mr. Jacobson stated it is just a beginning but hopefully will end up being something the City can use to give residents a chance to respond to the concepts.

Mr. Jacobson stated the second item for discussion is the key word exercise, and he read many of the words that the Commission had talked about, including safety, inspirational, diversity, playful, fundable, beautiful, connected, nature-full. He added it is not necessary to focus on making the list shorter, but to try to tease out what are the primary concepts and goals that should be inherent in the Parks and Trail system.

Mr. Jacobson stated the third item relates to the concept of taking the one-word ideas and expanding them into objective statements. He added this is the first step in making the Master Plan a cohesive and formal document, and he encourages the creation of a "top ten list". He gave a few examples:

Connected = improved connectivity

Beautiful = promote natural beauty

Natural = preservation of natural resources

Fundable = Cost effective design

Playful – fun and diverse recreational activities

Accessible – ensure that everyone can enjoy

Used – updated programming that people want

Mr. Jacobson stated the challenge is to find a balance within the plan that makes it unique – expressing the goals and objectives that are important to the residents of Ramsey.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated goals and objectives are often seen as interchangeable, but there are also specific strategies necessary to achieve them. He added, for instance, the preservation of natural areas is an important goal, but it transcends Parks and Recreation and relates to the overall goals for the City as expressed in the Comprehensive Plan.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated, related to the cost-effective category, a Capital Improvement Plan is being developed to include bonding and other financing tools. He stressed the importance of being specific about how to achieve goals and objectives, and how far the City might want to go in terms of Park Dedication and how much it can impact new development.

Lydia Major, LHB Consulting, stated the list of objectives may seem vague, but they are useful for making future decisions about things that are not anticipated.

Mr. Jacobson stressed the importance of keeping in mind that this is a starting point, and a way to tease out the crucial threads that tell a story that is unique to Ramsey, by creating a powerful statement about what the Master Parks and Trail Plan is setting out to accomplish.

Chair Bennett asked whether formal action is required.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the Commission can continue to refine and develop the key points of the Master Plan, and consider ways of reconciling these concepts with the Comprehensive Plan.

5.02: Approve Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated Master Plan survey was disseminated for Commissioners to complete and provide comments. The goal is to get feedback related to the survey, and any other comments that the Commissioners might have. He added only three Commissioners took the survey. He stressed the importance of having all seven Commissioners complete the survey.

Ms. Major, who is administering the survey, stated she will be going on vacation on August 21, and she would like to close the survey that day.

Chair Bennett stated the survey was written well, and some of the questions could be expanded, so it forced me to make difficult choices. He added there was a good mix of activities. He noted, on the first page, there no option to select that you have lived in Ramsey for 12 years.

Ms. Major said an internal goal can be set about how many people we want to respond to the survey. She added a good variety of respondents is important, rather than a majority from a specific group who will all have the same responses. She stressed the importance of keeping in mind that it is a statistically invalid survey. She noted the survey is long and very specific, and it would be better if it could be shortened and answers could be more general.

Commissioner Bayer asked whether Item 10 could have a map with parks locations, as some residents might not know where parks are, or what they are called. He added the list of parks is long, and some parks are on it twice.

Chair Bennett requested the addition of an open field, “Other”, for residents who might call a park something other than its official name.

Commissioner Sis stated the list of parks does not appear to be in any order.

Commissioner Leistico stated she thinks there is actually two lists, in alphabetical order, back to back.

Ms. Major agreed to consolidate the two lists and remove duplicates. She asked whether any activities or programs should be included.

Chair Bennett stated the survey should instruct residents to pick three activities, which forces them to prioritize.

Commissioner Sis stated he likes the inclusion of geocaching.

Ms. Major stated that is a very cost-effective activity.

Commissioner Sis asked whether trails along roads can be included. He added he was looking for a trail that runs through Brookfield, but it is not listed.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated he has not seen the survey, but they could probably be included as a category. He agreed to provide a list of trails data for inclusion on the survey.

Commissioner Sis stated question 28 is difficult, as it is not easy to project what parks and trails amenities will be available in 2028.

Ms. Major stated that question is asked several times in different ways, to tease out where priorities lie, and get people thinking about different things, and providing answers based on personal preference.

Chair Bennett asked that the Commissioners all complete the survey by August 21, 2017. He added no other action is required.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated Ms. Major described the survey as not being statistically valid, since anyone can take it. He added a statistically valid City-wide survey is conducted every 2 years, so the timing is very appropriate.

5.03: Discuss Park’s Precedent Plan Comparisons

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated this discussion will help develop the format and content of the Master Plan, as well as the concepts and complexity as it relates to community engagement. Stakeholders and venues will be identified, and the Commission should make sure to ask the right questions of the right people, and get a good cross section of the community.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated City Staff will have intercept Boards at Thursday's concert at The Draw. He hopes to reach the demographic groups of older residents as well as young families.

Ms. Major stated the community engagement plan will facilitate ways for the Commission to include residents in the engagement process. She added she will use the plan to record what she has learned from the Commission, and provide results for evaluation. She noted no matter how much the City Council and Commissions engage, how the survey is advertised, how many events and open houses are held, there will be someone who says they didn't know about it. She noted the City can have a record of all the opportunities for public engagement.

Ms. Major continued, regarding engagement targets and tools, she wants to understand who needs to be reached and what needs to be learned, and then tools and schedule can be formalized. She added broad categories of people to engage would include organizations, businesses, and government entities, and specific people within those categories would be residents, participants, and members. She asked the Commissioners who they would like to reach.

Chair Bennett stated sports groups are a good place to start as they are one of the most vocal groups. He added Ramsey's two sports organizations are Northern Lights Soccer Club and Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association. He noted he and Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood connect with their leadership often.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated Police and Fire representatives are included on the list. Police participation is obviously relevant and he interacts with his colleagues in the Police Department regularly. He added he can attend their department meetings, and get their feedback about parks safety and residents' perceptions of safety.

Ms. Major stated it is beneficial to meet with the Police Chief or whoever is in charge of Parks Safety, to ask what they see that can be done differently or any changes they think are necessary.

Commissioner Sis asked whether neighboring communities could be contacted to see what they have in place.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that is usually done at the City Staff level, and the draft Comprehensive Plan is required to be sent to neighboring communities for comment and feedback.

Commissioner Sis asked how to draw people out if they are homebound, to get their opinions, and get feedback from both park users and non-users.

Ms. Major stated that is one of the hardest things to get in any community. Residents with access to a computer can be reached via social media, but those that don't have access to a computer, it is almost impossible. She added sometimes cities can reach them through delivery of meals, or social services. She noted, however, there is a cost-benefit ratio – obviously their opinion matters, but it can be costly.

Mr. Jacobson stated churches and groceries stores might be a good place to capture them.

Commissioner Bayer stated he does not get responses from residents in certain demographics when he tries to reach out to residents via social media.

Ms. Major stated it is difficult to reach demographics that are relationship-driven. The Commission should determine whether those targets are key to improving how the parks system works, and use techniques and relationships to reach them. She stressed that it is unrealistic to expect to have a full response from them.

Commissioner Trappen stated Homeowner's Associations could be a good resource.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood agreed that is an excellent idea, as there are probably 30 or more Associations in Ramsey.

Ms. Major asked whether there is a Homeowner's Association contact list.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood agreed to provide that to Ms. Major, although some contacts are property managers who are not onsite.

Ms. Major asked about social services providers.

Commissioner Trappen stated church groups might be a resource.

Chair Bennett stated there are a few predominant church communities in Ramsey.

Mr. Jacobson asked whether there are other youth organizations that are not sports-related.

Chair Bennett stated the Lions Club sponsors many community events.

Commissioner Trappen stated there is a local 4H chapter.

Ms. Leistico stated the Boy Scouts are a good place to start, she added she is a troop leader and they have monthly meetings. She added her troop uses Central Park for their meetings, and she offered to be a contact.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated troops and their members are often recognized at City meetings. He added Scout Troops will have ideas about what they want from the City's parks that would be different than the responses a church group would provide.

Ms. Major stated sometimes at community events she uses giant rolls of paper and crayons or markers, and have kids draw out what they want to see in parks. She added that brings up a lot of great ideas.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated maybe Commissioner Leistico's Troop could be a pilot group, and provide them with a blank map of the City for the Troop to populate with their ideas for future parks amenities.

Ms. Major stated she has Happy Days as an event on the calendar for public interaction. She asked whether there are other local events.

Chair Bennett stated the EDA-sponsored Business Expo was held in April 2017. He added the Police Department holds a safety camp every summer in June for 2nd and 3rd graders that always has great attendance by parents as well as kids.

Commissioner Trappen stated health clubs might be considered.

Chair Bennett stated the challenge is to find residents who have limited mobility. He asked whether Coborn's grocery store is a possibility, or Acapulco Restaurant.

Ms. Major stated restaurants are not generally successful, but libraries work the best.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated City Hall lobby would be a good location for a booth, near the License Bureau, where residents often wait for appointments. He added it could be set up for 4-5 weeks.

Commissioner Sis stated pamphlets could be placed in "little free libraries" throughout the City.

Commissioner Leistico stated the two schools have back-to-school open houses, where there will be a lot of residents.

Ms. Major stated it is difficult to get into classrooms and cafeterias.

Chair Bennett stated Ramsey Elementary has a Family Night that is basically a school picnic, and they might be a little more flexible with allowing an information booth.

Commissioner Sis stated day care providers are a good resource.

Ms. Major asked how they could be reached.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated there is a local Moms Group that would be a good group to connect with, as well as the City's "Adopt-a-Spot" program.

Ms. Major stated it would be helpful to have the Commissioners act as Ambassadors for this initiative, to create more awareness. She added residents respond more when they feel they have a personal connection.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the Commissioners can get the survey out to everyone they know. He added the more responses the survey has, the more credibility the data will hold. He noted it would be disappointing to invest in the process and survey preparation and analysis, but not get adequate responses. He expressed concern that that would be waste of resources.

Commissioner Sis stated another good idea is to reach out to real estate agents in the area, who have an interest in finding out what potential residents want to see in the community.

Ms. Major stated she will provide the precedent plans by email with links, so the Commissioners can begin to make some judgments about their preference. She requested that the Commissioners respond to five different plans, so she can create a template for review next month.

Chair Bennett stated he went through the plans, and he felt some of them were too long. He added one plan was only 18 pages, but it was too fluffy, and he appreciates a good mixture of visual graphics. He noted he felt that in general many of them expressed the same points, although one plan felt more personal and unique, and he liked the terminology that was used. He thinks that was the Apple Valley document.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated some elements of the plan require an executive summary or syllabus, so it is not necessary to read the whole narrative.

5.04: Review Concept Plan for 175-Unit Market Rate Apartment in The COR: Case of Inland Group

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated four development concepts are being presented for consideration for a 4-5 story apartment building. He added Concept Plan C includes 1st floor indoor parking, and that is the developer's preferred option. He noted the preferred concept plan is favorable as it will increase available parking on Sunwood Drive and within the COR corridor, and opens access to municipal areas.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood requested that the Commissioners review the proposed concepts and contact him to provide feedback or if they have any questions. He added he hopes to have a consensus from the Park and Recreation Commission on this issue. He noted City Staff intends to reach out to Ramsey's Boards and Commissions early in the process to obtain comments and feedback.

Chair Bennett stated he does not think it would be ideal to have the proposed athletic center close to Anytime Fitness on Sunwood Drive. He added it might not be a problem, but it is something to consider.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood referred to a Dutch word meaning "shared use", that describes mechanical barriers that can be lowered across roadways to create open public spaces for outdoor events.

Chair Bennett stated he really likes the idea of a brew pub with direct pedestrian access to the municipal plaza.

5.05: Recommend 2017 Parks Capital Improvement Project(s) – Priority Trail Connections

1. Trott Brook Boardwalk Project

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated a boardwalk trail segment proposed for the Trott Brook Trail system is a recurring Capital Improvement issue. He added City Staff has sought State funding for this project for two years, but requests have been denied as the Trott Brook Trail does not provide a connection to the Regional trail system. He noted the proposed project includes boardwalk, two areas of blacktop at either end of the boardwalk, and a parking area for trail users. Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated City Staff advises that the Park and Trails Commission recommend the Trott Brook Boardwalk project to the City Council for their consideration and approval at a project cost not to exceed \$300,000.

2. Neighborhood Trail Link

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated City Staff is requesting consideration of a trail link at the northwest corner of the COR between 149th Lane and 149th Avenue. The trail will provide pedestrian access for the neighborhood to the amenities at the COR as well as making a connection for residents of both areas.

City Staff would draft a letter to be sent to residents of the COR and the benefitting neighborhood providing details and a map depicting the proposed trail connection.

Commissioner Sis asked whether City Staff have determined if there is a need for the trail connection, and if it will be used by residents.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated it is difficult to accurately predict how much the trail will be used. He added the trail connection will improve connectivity within the community, which is an imperative that has been identified in the City's Strategic Plan. He noted connecting the two neighborhoods seems like a worthwhile return on investment.

Chair Bennett stated the trail connection will also provide pedestrian access to public spaces in the COR for residents who would otherwise have to drive there.

Commissioner Bayer asked for clarification regarding the letter received by City Staff from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He asked if City Staff have re-applied for funding for the project.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated funding for these types of projects is usually granted to communities that have more opportunities for ensuring regional trail connectivity.

Motion by Commissioner Bayer, seconded by Commissioner Leistico, to forward the following recommendations to the City Council:

1. Recommend City Council approval of the Trott Brook Boardwalk Trail Project at a cost not to exceed \$300,000.
2. Recommend that the City Council direct City Staff to issue notification to benefitting neighborhoods of a potential trail connection at the northwest corner of the COR.

Further discussion: Chair Bennett asked whether the use of funding for the Trott Brook Boardwalk trail project will reduce available funding for future projects. Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated funding requirements for future projects are difficult to estimate. He added this expenditure should be viewed as a positive step toward regional trail connectivity and the benefits it will bring to the whole community, rather than a potential cause for lack of funding for future projects.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Bayer, Leistico, Sis, and Trappen. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners Fytten and Tchuinkwa.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

6.01: Mayors for Monarchs Pledge

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the City of Ramsey has pledged its commitment to the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors for Monarchs initiative, in which cities and communities take steps to restore habitat for monarch butterflies and pollinators, and provide information for residents about the Monarch butterfly. The location for the project is the Lake Itasca Trailhead, where this meeting is taking place. The project plans include

wildflower and native plant restoration, made possible by a funding grant of approximately \$5,000 from the Minnesota Fish and Wildlife division of the Department of Natural Resources.

6.02: Commission Representation at Happy Days

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the City of Ramsey's festival, Happy Days, will be held Saturday, September 9, 2017. He added Happy Days will be a great opportunity for the Park and Recreation Commissioners to interact with residents and get feedback and comments on what aspects of parks and trails are important to them.

Chair Bennett stated he would send out an email request to the Commissioners to come up with a schedule of coverage for Happy Days. He added he and Vice-Chair Logan represented the Commission at last year's Happy Days celebration and it was a lot of fun.

Commissioner Sis asked whether the Commissioners would need to be there all day.

Chair Bennett stated everything is wrapped up by early afternoon, and Commissioners could plan on taking a shift during a 3-4 hour time frame. He reiterated that he would send out the details.

6.03: Ballfields 3-4 at Alpine Park

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the Park and Recreation Commission recommended the renovation of Ballfields 3 and 4 at Alpine Park. City Staff has met with construction companies, and they have indicated that the necessary renovations can be completed for less than \$44,000, which will provide leftover funds for the replacement of the storage shed on site. Approval can be recommended to the City Council if the Commission has no objections.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Trappen, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Mary Mullen
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

Park and Recreation Commission

5. 1.

Meeting Date: 10/12/2017

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Consider Goals and Objectives--Comprehensive Plan, and Parks Master Plan

Purpose/Background:

In June 2017, the Park and Recreation Commission conducted a detailed review of the Goals and Strategies within the City's existing Comprehensive Plan, relating to parks, trails and open space. This review was useful in the context of the update to the 2040 Comp Plan (underway now), and also as the Commission continues the Park's Master Plan endeavor.

Notification:

Observations/Alternatives:

Attached are the approved June,8th 2017 meeting minutes which includes a summary of the discussion on each of the Goals and Strategies. Based upon discussion, the Commission should clarify which Goals and Strategies remain germane for the 2040 Comp Plan update—as well as other Goals and Strategies as may be envisioned for the Parks Master Plan.

Funding Source:

N/A

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission thoroughly acquaint themselves with the 2030 Comprehensive Plan (especially Chapter 10), to develop and refine goals and strategies for both the next Comp Plan, as well as the Parks Master Plan.

Action:

Based upon discussion and consensus, the Commission should identify which Goals and Strategies remain germane for the Comp Plan update—and other Goals and Strategies as may be envisioned.

Attachments

Chapter 10 Comp Plan

Park and Trail Map

June 2017 mtg minutes

Draft August 2017 Objective Statements

Community Engagement

Form Review

Inbox

Reviewed By

Date

Grant Riemer
Form Started By: Mark Riverblood
Final Approval Date: 10/06/2017

MaryJo Warner

10/06/2017 01:20 PM
Started On: 10/06/2017 10:02 AM

10. PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

A. Existing Park and Recreation Facilities

Parks and natural open space are vital to the quality of life in Ramsey and in many ways define the community. Ramsey is fortunate to have retained many natural resources within its boundaries. One such example is Trott Brook with its associated wetlands and uplands, creating a natural greenway spanning the northern 1/3rd of the city. Another is Elmcrest Park with the future potential of trails along Ditch #66, crossing the center of Ramsey, connecting Central Park, the Lake Itasca Trail, and neighborhoods along the way.

Ramsey by area is more than 17% wetlands of varying types and classes. Of the many wetland complexes, some have valuable oak and other forested areas in association providing residents opportunities to live and recreate in these natural settings. These patches of habitat are valuable vestiges for the wildlife that residents value.

Mississippi River and Rum River are significant water resources, and both part of the State's Wild and Scenic Rivers system and literally define the community. These two rivers are also state designated canoe routes, or recreational water trails. It is Ramsey's bituminous trail and sidewalk system that can be said to be the recreational fabric that knits all of these parks and resources together, while providing a recreational resource unto itself.

The City of Ramsey is also unique in that it has two county parks within its boundaries that are a part of the Metropolitan Council's regional system. Mississippi West Park includes bluffs, wooded areas and two islands on the Mississippi River. The 273 acre park is proposed to be developed within the next several years. The concept plan suggests a sustainable design center in addition to the usual county park facilities. One important feature will be a small boat landing and fishing pier, which will provide additional access to this most prominent river in the nation.

Rum River Central Park is 434 acres, 304 acres of which are in the City of Ramsey (the remaining is in the City of Oak Grove) and occupies the northeast corner of the city. The park has received over two million dollars in investments in recent years, including miles of bituminous and equestrian trails as well as a large pavilion, and canoe and small boat landing.

In addition the county facilities, Ramsey also benefits from the Mn/DOT Wayside Rest between Highway 10 and the Mississippi River in western Ramsey that has visitor contact building with restrooms, canoe access and picnic facilities. This site may also serve as a trailhead for the future Mississippi River Trail that will traverse from the Headwaters in Minnesota, through 10 states to New Orleans.

Several community and neighborhood parks ranging in size from less than one acre to over 100 acres are to be found throughout the City. These parks were typically deeded to the City as part of the subdivision park dedication requirements. Neighborhood parks include play structures, play fields and trail connections, while many non-urbanized public land remains undeveloped or is recognized as open space. Emerald Pond Park is unique in terms of a pergola and faux stream and like many neighborhood parks, popular for day care providers. Two notable community parks include the 45-acre Central Park (primarily an athletic complex), and also River's Bend Park with a mix athletic facilities, natural resources, and access to fishing.

In terms of significant outdoor recreation available from the private sector, Ramsey has two 18-hole golf courses open to the public; the Links at Northfork located in northwest of Lake Itasca and Rum River Hills

Golf Course to the east, adjacent to the river at the 167th Avenue alignment. An additional outdoor recreation facility that is privately owned and operated but open to the public is the 160 acre Boy Scouts of America site along the Rum River. This is used for recreational camping and outdoor activities for scouts, as well as the city's Safety Camp.

The total amount of acreage devoted to the park and open space system is over 1,800 acres or approximately 10% of the of the City's 28 square miles. Table 10-1 includes a basic park inventory for the City of Ramsey.

Table 10-1 Park, Recreation and Open Space Inventory

PARK NAME	ACRES	TYPE	BUILDING	RESTROOMS	PAVILLION	PARKING	WARMING HOUSE	SKATING	HOCKEY	TENNIS COURT	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASEBALL FIELD	SOCCER/ FOOTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PLAY AREA	PICNIC AREA GRILLS	SWIMMING BEACH	TRAILS	FISHING	OTHER
AUTUMN HEIGHTS	56.9	NEIGHBORHOOD				X					1					X					
BEAR		NEIGHBORHOOD									X										
BEAUDRY'S	5.6	OPEN SPACE																			X**
BROOKVIEW PARK NORTH	1.7	SPECIAL USE															X			X	
BROOKVIEW PARK SOUTH	1.5	OPEN SPACE																			
CAROLINE ACRES PARK	2.3	OPEN SPACE																			
CENTRAL PARK	41.3	COMMUNITY	2	X	X	X	X	X	2L		6	1	X	X		X					

PARK NAME	ACRES	TYPE	BUILDING	RESTROOMS	PAVILLION	PARKING	WARMING HOUSE	SKATING	HOCKEY	TENNIS COURT	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASEBALL FIELD	SOCCER/ FOOTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PLAY AREA	PICNIC AREA GRILLS	SWIMMING BEACH	TRAILS	FISHING	OTHER
CLOQUET ISLAND		COUNTY																			
COTTONWOOD		NEIGHBORHOOD																	X		
DEERWOOD	10.9	OPEN SPACE																			
EMERALD POND	11.2	NEIGHBORHOOD			X	X					X		X	X		X	X				
FLINTWOOD TERRACE	15.9	NEIGHBORHOOD									X					X	X		X		X ***
FORD BROOK	3.8	MINI-PARK														X	X				
FOREST HIDEAWAY		OPEN SPACE																			
FOSTER CEMETERY		CEMETERY																			
FOXPARK	22.4	NEIGHBORHOOD								X						X			X		X ***

PARK NAME	ACRES	TYPE	BUILDING	RESTROOMS	PAVILLION	PARKING	WARMING HOUSE	SKATING	HOCKEY	TENNIS COURT	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASEBALL FIELD	SOCCER/ FOOTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PLAY AREA	PICNIC AREA GRILLS	SWIMMING BEACH	TRAILS	FISHING	OTHER
GORHAM SANDY ACRES		OPEN SPACE																			
GREENLAND HILLS EAST	14.9	OPEN SPACE																			X**
GREENLAND HILLS WEST	8.5	OPEN SPACE																			X**
HUNTER'S HILL	3.7	MINI-PARK														X	X				
LAKE ITASCA	28.5	COMMUNITY																			
ITASCA TRAIL		TRAIL																	X		
MISSISSIPPI WEST	204.2	REGIONAL/ COUNTY																			
OAKRIDGE	32.2	OPEN SPACE																			
PELTZER PARK	32.9	NEIGHBORHOOD						X								X	X				

PARK NAME	ACRES	TYPE	BUILDING	RESTROOMS	PAVILLION	PARKING	WARMING HOUSE	SKATING	HOCKEY	TENNIS COURT	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASEBALL FIELD	SOCCER/ FOOTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PLAY AREA	PICNIC AREA GRILLS	SWIMMING BEACH	TRAILS	FISHING	OTHER
RABBIT PARK		NEIGHBORHOOD									X					X					
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	53.3	COMMUNITY				X	X	X	2		2										
REILLEY EAST	3.3	MINI-PARK																			
REILLEY WEST	2	MINI-PARK																			
RIVERDALE	2.7	TRAIL CORRIDOR								X	X			X		X				X	
RIVERS BEND	47.3	COMMUNITY				X				4	X		X			X			X	X	
RIVERWOOD HILLS NORTH	1.4	MINI-PARK																			
RIVERWOOD HILLS SOUTH		NEIGHBORHOOD																			
BOY SCOUT CAMP		PRIVATE PARK																			

PARK NAME	ACRES	TYPE	BUILDING	RESTROOMS	PAVILLION	PARKING	WARMING HOUSE	SKATING	HOCKEY	TENNIS COURT	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASEBALL FIELD	SOCCER/ FOOTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PLAY AREA	PICNIC AREA GRILLS	SWIMMING BEACH	TRAILS	FISHING	OTHER
RUM RIVER CENTRAL	308.8	REGIONAL/ COUNTY		X	X	X													X	X	
SHAWN ACRES	4.4	MINI-PARK														X	X				
SOLSTICE	1.6	MINI-PARK			X											X			X		
SPORTS HAVEN NORTH	23.4	OPEN SPACE SPECIAL USE																			
SPORTS HAVEN SOUTH	1.7	OPEN SPACE SPECIAL USE																			
STANHOPE RIVER HILLS		OPEN SPACE																			
TITTERUD	6.8	NEIGHBORHOOD								2L	X		X			X	X				
TRAPROCK COMMONS	3.8	OPEN SPACE				X															
TROTT BROOK CORRIDOR	6	TRAIL CORRIDOR																			

PARK NAME	ACRES	TYPE	BUILDING	RESTROOMS	PAVILLION	PARKING	WARMING HOUSE	SKATING	HOCKEY	TENNIS COURT	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASEBALL FIELD	SOCCER/ FOOTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PLAY AREA	PICNIC AREA GRILLS	SWIMMING BEACH	TRAILS	FISHING	OTHER	
WAYSIDE REST	18	REGIONAL/STATE	X	X	X	X														X	X *	
WHISPERING PINES NORTH		OPEN SPACE																				
WHISPERING PINES SOUTH		OPEN SPACE																				
WOODLAND GREEN PARK	4.7	MINI-PARK			X											X	X		X			

X * = INTERPRETATION
X ** = WETLAND
X *** = BOARDWALK

B. The Parks and Recreation Plan

In addition to the inventory, the Ramsey Park system is also divided into 17 Recreation Districts. These districts are delineated by major roadways or other barriers and provide a means for more effective planning in determining future park needs at the larger neighborhood level. A broad overview of the existing park system in Ramsey reveals a number of small underutilized neighborhood parks scattered throughout rural areas of the community that have developed at very low densities. This low-density development (or large lot development) does not support high use of a neighborhood park system and thus can lead to inefficiencies. A larger scale community park, which would provide park and recreation opportunities not available within private yards of large lots, would prove a more effective and efficient use of a park and recreation system to serve the rural areas of Ramsey. It is this opportunity, as well as the need for additional spaces for the growing youth athletic program that call for a sixth Community Park in the north central part of the city. The remaining major emphasis in the rural area of Ramsey should be in providing trail connections to get people to larger park facilities such as Central Park, Elmcrest and Rum River Central Regional Park as well as in preserving open space corridors consistent with more rural land use.

This same focus does not apply to the more urban areas of the city. Higher density development demands more parks that are within walking distances and provide a greater variety of activities. It would be wise to start planning for the provisions of neighborhood parks in future urban areas as well as looking to fill gaps in existing urban developed areas. Also as traffic patterns become denser within the urban areas, more neighborhood barriers exist increasing the need for more neighborhood park facilities. Trail development is a significant element of future park planning as a means to connect residents, and place to work, shop and recreate. Therefore, the City should continue installing paved trails or sidewalks along all collector streets concurrent with their construction.

The Mississippi River Regional Trail (Anoka County Segment) is an existing trail east of the Rum River in the city of Anoka. The trail is proposed to be extended to the west to connect to Mississippi West Regional Park and on to Sherburne County. Anoka County will work with the City of Ramsey and others on the completion of a master plan for this part of the trail. The Central Anoka County Regional Trail is an existing trail east of the City of Anoka. This trail is also proposed to be extended to the west to connect to Mississippi West Regional Park and Anoka County will work with the City of Ramsey and others on the completion of this trail in the future. A future segment of the Rum River trail is also being proposed, connecting to Rum River Central Regional Park. General alignment of these three trails are shown on Figure 10-2.

As an implementing agency for Metropolitan Council's Regional parks and Open space system, Anoka County essentially functions as the lead coordinator for regional trails. Planning is often performed in a macro sense with the individual jurisdictions, who are more likely to develop detailed plans and provide for specific routing of trails within these municipalities like Ramsey.

In reviewing future park and recreation needs to serve future and existing Ramsey residents, the following, generalized park type definitions will be used:

1. Park Type Definitions:

Mini-Parks: These are very small parks, often less than 1 acre in size, and are used to address limited or isolated recreational needs. These parks typically serve residents less than ¼ mile from the site.

Neighborhood Parks: Neighborhood parks are usually centrally located within neighborhoods and are designed primarily for use by neighborhood residents within easy walking and biking distances.

The Neighborhood Park should be a positive focal point of pride for the neighborhood. They are intended for both passive and active activities with facilities such as play equipment, court games, and picnicking. They are generally not intended to accommodate organized athletic activities. Neighborhood parks should be a minimum of 5 acres. These parks typically serve residents ¼ to ½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads or other physical barriers or have connecting trails with safe street crossings.

School Parks: Combining parks with school sites can be an efficient use of facilities. Care should be taken to not over use these facilities beyond what the landscape and scheduled maintenance can keep up with.

Community Parks and Athletic Complexes: Community Parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. The focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. A high priority for these parks should be connecting them through a trail system which then serves residents within ½ to a 3 mile distance, for those not traveling by auto.

The sports components of these facilities are often heavily programmed athletic fields. In Ramsey a strategy for Community Parks has been to ensure the park has a diversity of facilities, yet congregate like sports fields together.

Open Space: Land set aside for preservation of significant natural resources. Usually lacks any developed facilities.

Special Use: These parks consist of recreational facilities that are orientated toward a single-use.

Greenways: A greenway is a continuous corridor of natural vegetation that provides for critical habitat and the movement of wildlife and humans. They often follow natural waterways or land features.

2. Trail Types:

Off Road (Urban): Paved surface for non-motorized use, and paved or non-paved surface for users, both trails removed from roadway. These facilities should be developed in corridors a minimum of 35' feet in width.

On Road : Paved, striped and signed shoulder on roadway.

On Road Separated: Paved trail parallel to roadways, separated by a ditch, curb or other buffer.

Multi-Purpose: Paved surface and separate non-paved skiing or equestrian trail, both removed from roadways. These facilities should be developed in corridors a minimum of 75' feet in width.

Table 10-2 represents standards for park facilities needed to serve a community like Ramsey with the focus of the park development occurring within existing and future urban areas. These standards provide a basis for determining if the existing park system adequately serves today's population and if it will be able to handle the expected growth to the year 2020. These standards should only be used as a guide or rule of thumb.

Table 10-2 National Recreation and Park Association Standards

Facility Type	Acres/1000 Population	Desirable Size (Acres)	Population Served	Service Radius	Preferred Location	Typical Facilities
Playgrounds	.25 to .5	1 or less	500 to 1000	¼ mile or 5 minute walk	Within urban neighborhoods, close to multi-family residential	Play structure, small court games, turf area, picnic tables
Neighborhood Parks	2.0	6 to 8	1000 to 2000	½ mile or 10 minute walk	Within urban area, centrally located	Court games, field games, playgrounds
Community Parks	5 to 8	20 to 35	Community	1 to 4 miles	Centrally located and easily accessible to entire community	Ball fields, tennis courts, picnic facilities, active recreation facilities
Regional Parks	5 to 10	200 +	Regional Population	1 hour drive	Natural features, usually associated with water	Activities of community park, nature observation areas, cultural and historic learning facilities
Trails	-	-	-	-	Connecting important community features	-
Special Facilities	-	-	-	-	Varies, convenient access, central to community	Ice arena, community center, golf course, gun club

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In terms of Ramsey's park land area per resident, Ramsey may be adequately served by park and recreation opportunities. However, as future residential development occurs and new areas are developed, land must be dedicated and funds must be committed to meet the recreation needs of the community. Through subdivision ordinance, the City currently requires parkland dedication at a rate indexed to residential densities for new development to fulfill the need for park facilities.

Ramsey is fortunate to have many natural resources within its boundaries. Many of these resources are preserved and made accessible through existing large community parks and tracts of protected open space. The Future Mississippi West Regional Park has the great potential of strengthening Ramsey's connection and identity with the Mississippi River. Continued cooperation with regional partners like the National Park Service through the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area on the Regional Trail through Ramsey will be important as Ramsey works to improve its image along Highway 10. Presently, Anoka County provides regional trail organization relative to the MNRRA corridor. Cities like Ramsey are full players with respect to the Trails and Open Space Partnership (TOSP), which is a group that meets quarterly to guide and refine trails within the MNRRA corridor from Ramsey, south 72 miles to Hastings. Pedestrian connections across Highway 10 will likewise be critical in making this new park accessible and contributing to a vibrant Town Center.

With these great recreational facilities existing and planned, an important focus will be on making these larger systems of parks accessible to all Ramsey residents. Acquiring and constructing additional links to the Trail system are critical to the success of the future Parks and Recreation Plan

Smaller neighborhood parks remain appropriate in higher density areas where they serve more residents and are designed to be focal points of gathering for the neighborhood. Every attempt should be made to develop sidewalk and trail connections to these neighborhood resources. Similarly, future underpasses and elevated crossings should be carefully mapped, so as to identify funding and schedules, so as to time them with other infrastructure improvements.

3. Parks and Recreation Goals

The following goals and strategies came from the community meetings held in 2007 and 2008 under the Ramsey3 effort.

a) A comprehensive, balanced park and trail system consisting of large and small scale parks, active and passive parks, natural preserves, and recreational facilities.

STRATEGIES:

1. Incorporate planned parks and trails into all new development where appropriate
2. Design for connectivity with local and regional parks
3. Improve coordination of park and trail planning within City and adjacent communities
4. Establish a regional trail along the Mississippi River
5. Develop a Trott Brook Trail Corridor
6. Explore providing pedestrian access from the Mississippi River to the north side of Highway 10
7. Design trails with a variety of surfaces appropriate for different uses

8. Seek out alliances and partnerships with non-profit and governmental agencies to assist in securing funding and other resources that will assist in implementing the park and trail plan
9. Improve quality of existing parks, through careful planning, continued maintenance and adequate funding
10. Explore options for an additional community park
11. Where appropriate, consolidate existing parks to improve quality and provide more efficient service
12. Explore options for a revenue source for permanent protections of parks, trails and open space

b) A system of safe parks and trails

STRATEGIES:

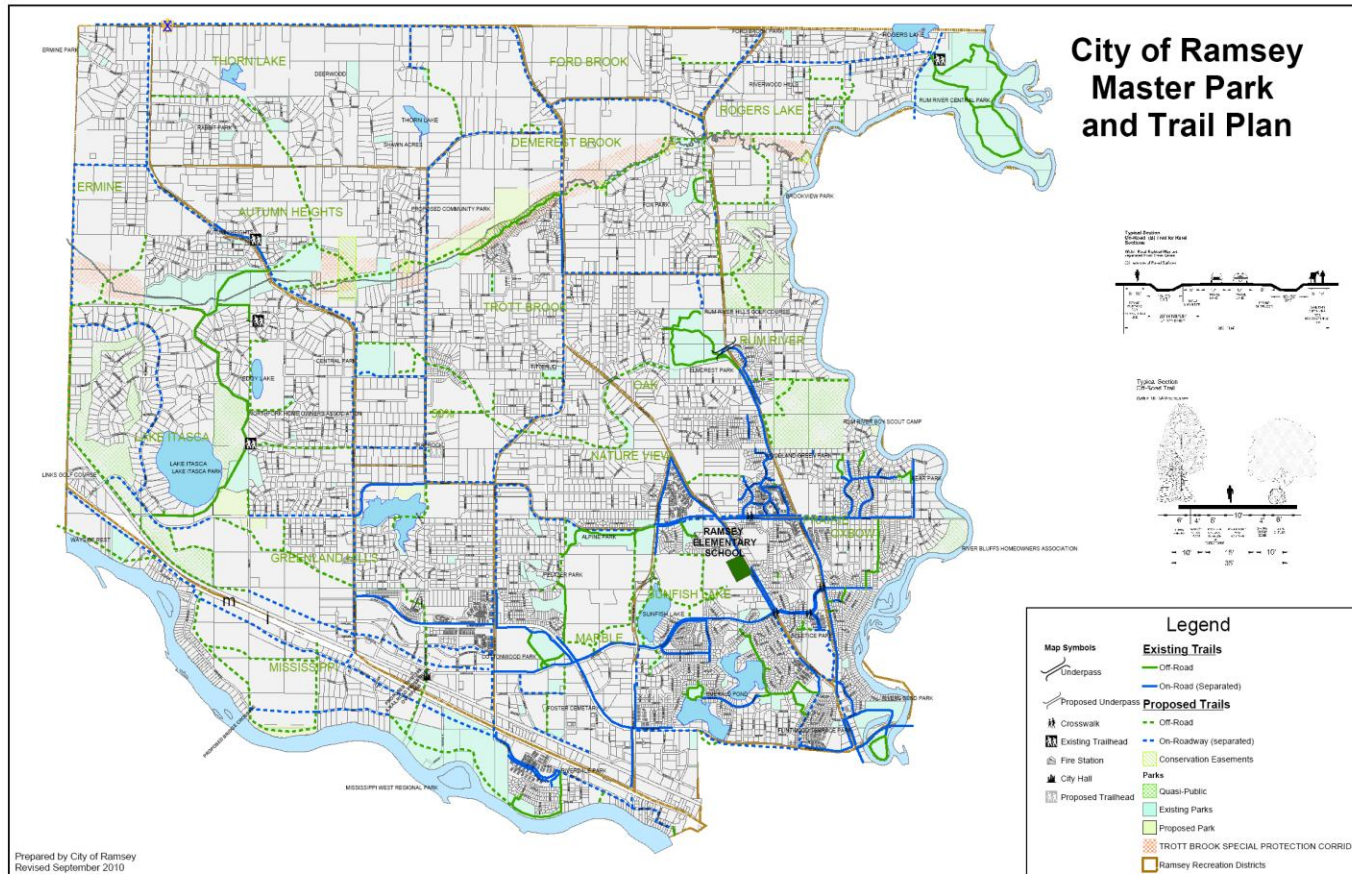
1. Locate trails where appropriate in greenway corridors and natural areas
2. Promote Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design CPTED and other techniques
3. Where appropriate, use existing power/utility easements for the trail system
4. Provide adequate signage and pavement markings to warn automobile traffic of park and trail traffic
5. Explore use of pedestrian-activated signals, continuous flashing signage, and mid-block crossings where safe and appropriate, to further increase park and trail safety
6. Minimize at-grade crossings of trails and roads and other interactions between trail users and automobiles, with underpasses or overpasses

e) A variety of park facilities and programs that meet the life cycle needs of residents.

STRATEGIES:

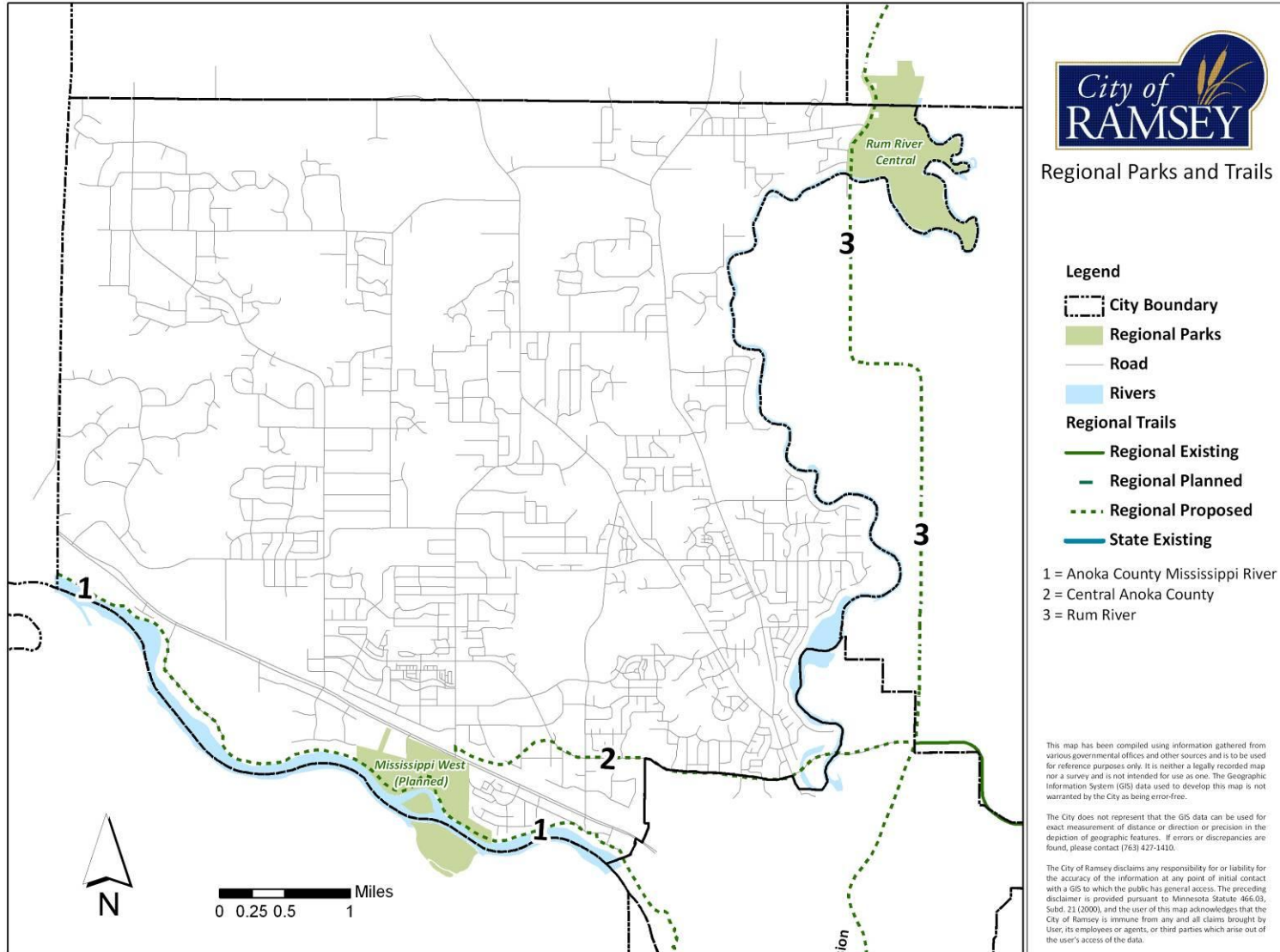
1. Work with the schools and community organizations to plan for athletic fields and facilities that will accommodate the growing community
2. Explore options for a revenue source for recreational facilities and programming
3. Study the need for a Community Center that offers a variety of recreational uses for all age groups

Figure 10-1 Park, Trail and Recreation Plan



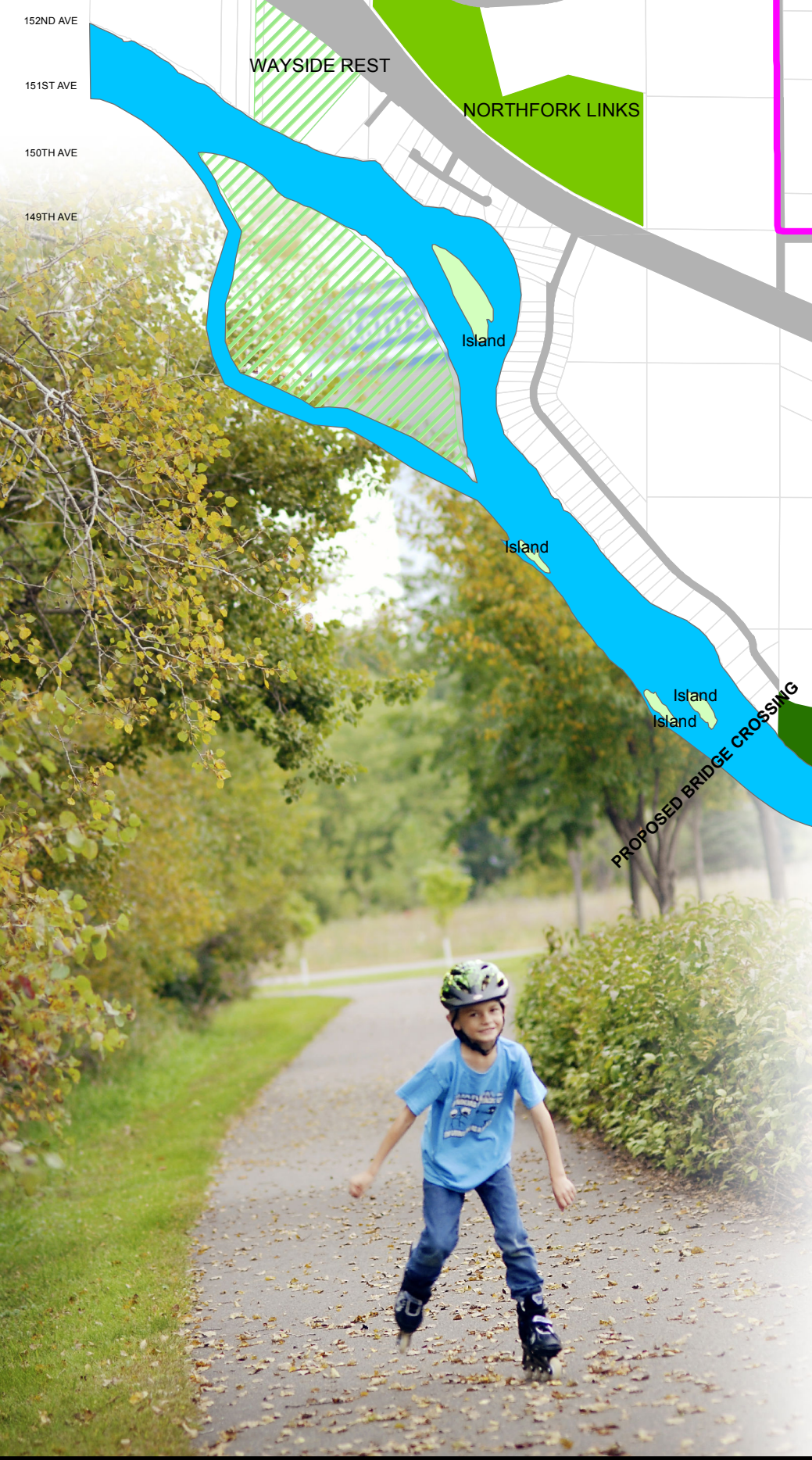
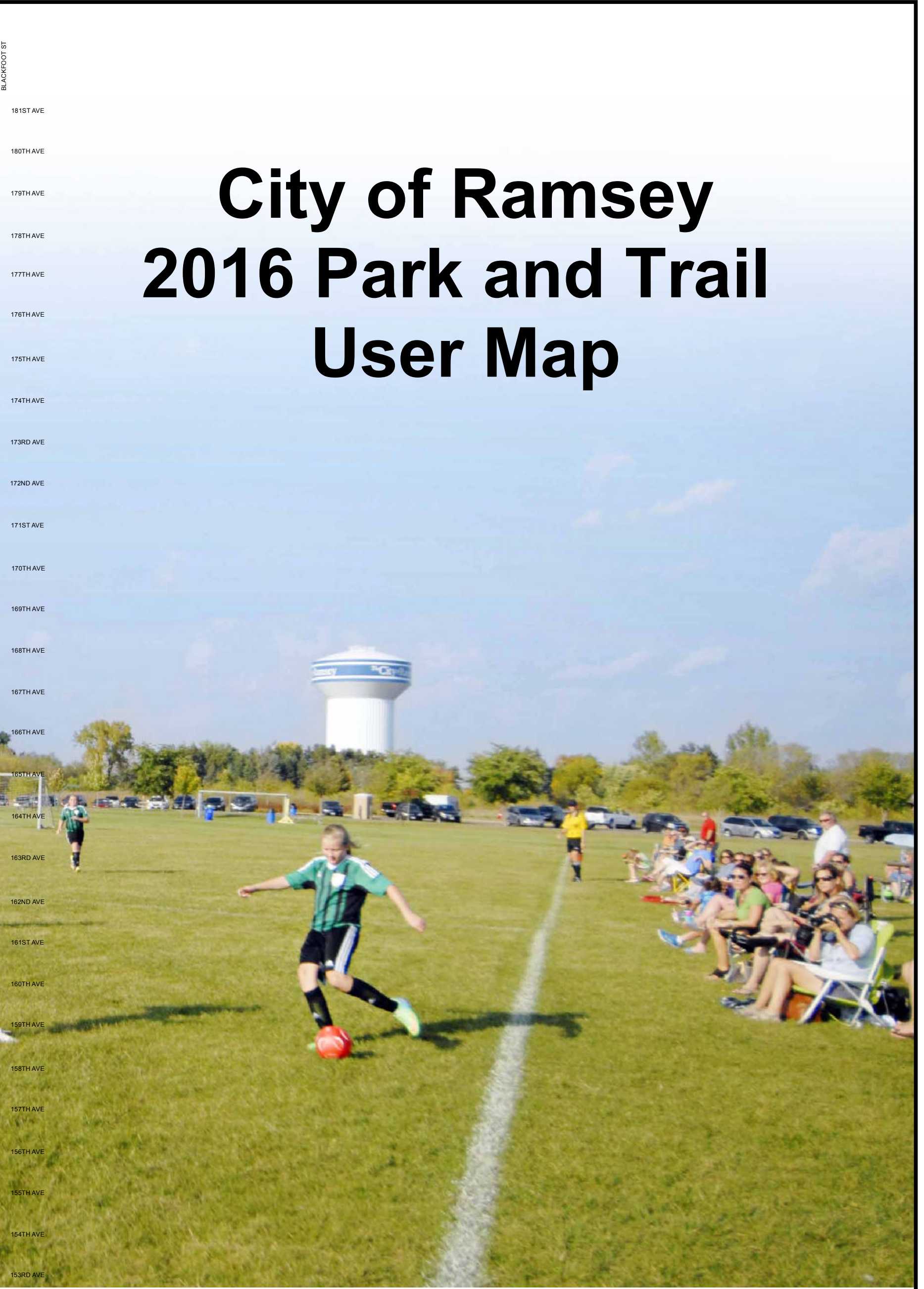
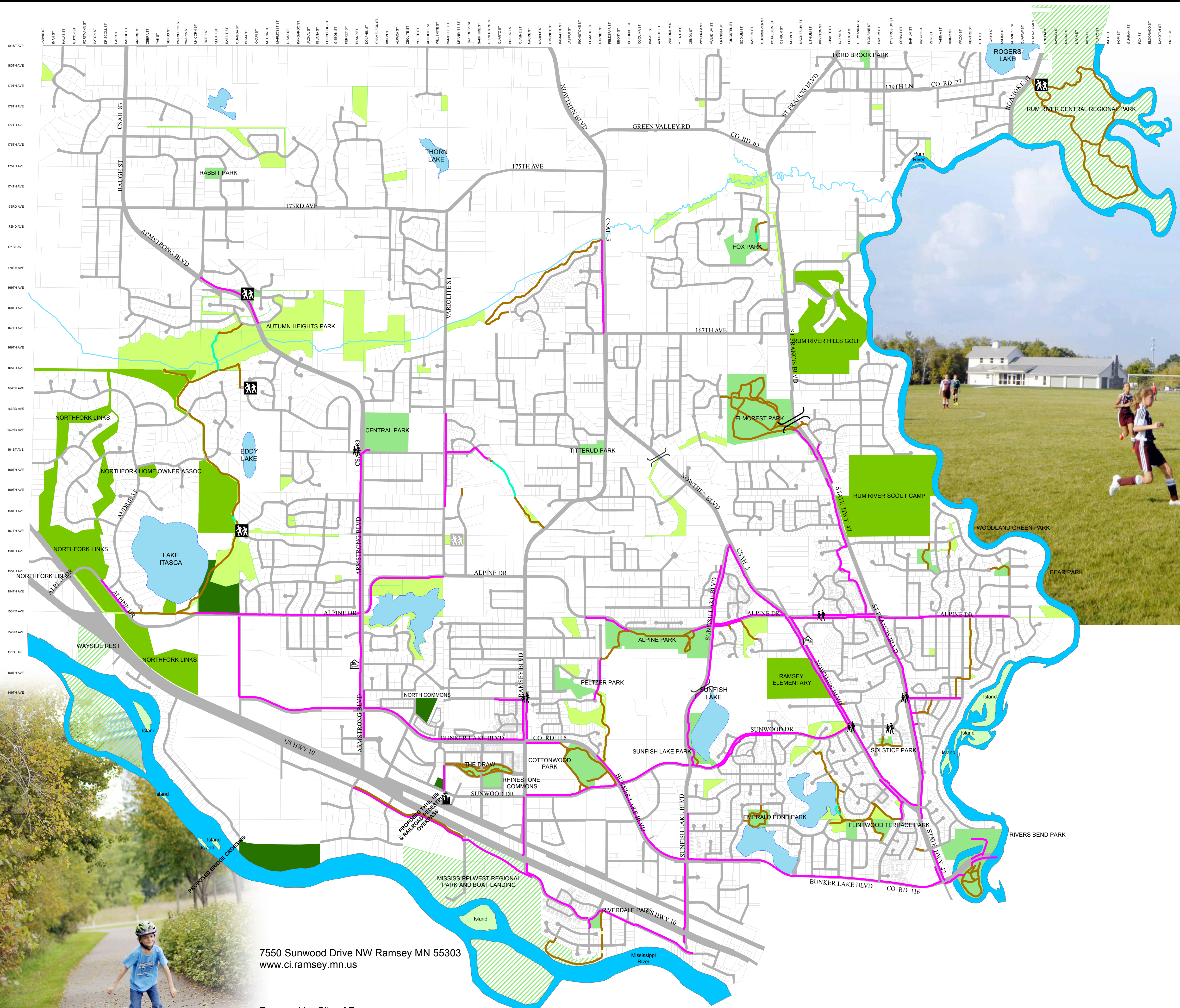
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Figure 10.2: Regional Parks and Trails



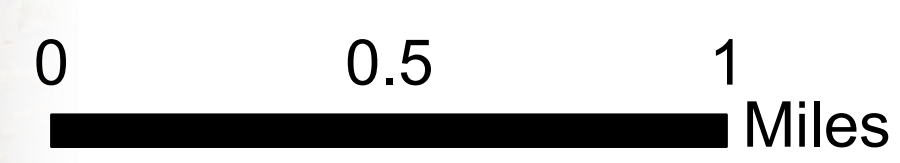
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City of Ramsey 2016 Park and Trail User Map



7550 Sunwood Drive NW Ramsey MN 55303
www.ci.ramsey.mn.us

Prepared by City of Ramsey
Revised September 2016



Legend

Park Map Symbols

- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass
- Crosswalk
- Existing Trailhead
- Fire Station
- City Hall
- Proposed Trailhead

TYPE

- OFF-ROAD (OUT OF ROW)
- BOARDWALKS
- ON-ROAD (WITHIN ROW)
- Right of Way (ROW)

Park and Open Space

- PARKS
- QUASI-PUBLIC
- REGIONAL
- PROPOSED PARK
- OPEN SPACE/ TRAIL CORRIDOR

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on June 8, 2017 at Elmcrest Park, 16303 Quicksilver Street NW.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Russell Bayer
 Commissioner Andrew Fyten
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Charles Tchuinkwa
 Commissioner Jon Trappen

Commission Members Absent: None

Also Present: Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
 Heather Lorch, Capstone Homes
 Bruce Jacobsen, Consultant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

No one was present to address the Commission.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Bayer, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Sis, Bayer, Fyten, Leistico, Tchuinkwa, and Trappen. Voting No: None. Absent:

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Trappen, seconded by Commissioner Leistico, to approve the following Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes:

1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 11, 2017.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Trappen, Leistico, Bayer, Fyten, Sis, and Tchuinkwa. Voting No: None. Absent:

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01 Recommend Park Dedication Components of the Development Agreement; Riverstone Subdivision

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood provided a summary of the purpose and background of this case noting for the last several months, the specifics of Park Dedication (land, cash or improvements for the proposed mini-park) for the proposed Riverstone Subdivision has been discussed between Capstone Homes and the City. There continues to be strong consensus on providing credit for the land needed for the greenway trail and the associated improvements. In contrast, there had not been clear consensus on aspects of Capstone's proposed mini-park, commonly known as Outlot C.

Since there was no agreement on the matter of Outlot C, Staff brought the matter to the City Council Work Session on April 25, 2017 in light of the long-standing policy "...to favor larger, accessible neighborhood and community public parks with quality amenities and improvements, and provide trail connections between them, over smaller, pocket parks with few to no 'destination' improvements". This discussion was intended to address whether the City should consider full, partial, or no Park Dedication credit for Outlot C proposed by the Developer. The outcome of the work session topic was to address the policy itself. This occurred as part of a joint meeting between council and the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on May 9, 2017.

Following the joint meeting, Staff prepared alternatives for Park Dedication relating to Outlot C which was the subject of considerable discussion at the last Park and Recreation Commission meeting (May 11, 2017). Following that meeting, three alternatives were developed relating to Outlot C and on May 23, 2017 City Council selected "Alternative 2" for the basis of the Park Dedication for the Riverstone Subdivision. The three alternatives developed were:

Alternative 1 – Outlot C – Not Credit Eligible.

Alternative 2 – Outlot C – Primarily Credit Eligible.

Alternative C – Outlot C – Full Park Dedication credit consistent with Capstone's April Park Dedication memo.

Mr. Riverblood reviewed the details of Alternative 2 – Outlot C – Primarily Credit Eligible, which was the Council selected Park Dedication scenario, and directs that the mini-park development be "unique" (nature-based play) and ancillary to greenway trail (either contiguous, or effective and safe pedestrian crossing of adjoining street). No land credit for the mini-park area is calculated under this alternative, as the Developer is requesting the mini-park and deviation from the Park plan and Park Development Policy. The land dedication for the mini-park (approximately one acre), is thoroughly consistent with the requirements of the PUD, which is the land use mechanism under which the Riverstone Subdivision is to be developed.

Outlot C “park”

Park Dedication Credit

Nature Based Playground	\$100,000
Landscaping irrigation (with H2O feature for play area)	\$100,000
Pavilion	\$50,000
Parking (parallel to street)	\$4,620
On-street pedestrian safety treatments (50% park ded, 50% developer)	\$5,000
Benches (4)	\$7,680
Drinking fountain and mister with pet attachment	\$8,000
Water and sewer services/stubs (Developer expense)	
Sidewalk(s) parallel to street (Developer expense)	
Total not to exceed Park Dedication credit amount	\$275,300

Max Credit - \$275,300 (if other improvements are desired by the developer e.g. monument/sign, these shall be at the developers expense).

The Development Agreement (DA) shall specify that the park shall be developed as a Stage 1 improvement and be substantially complete by August 1, 2018. All improvements and specifications shall be pre-approved by the City, with the Developer bearing all costs of bidding, administration, permitting (if any) as well as construction administration. The park construction agreement will be a reimbursable project, with the developer paying all cash Park Dedication owed, with the City issuing associated payment for each improvement as they are completed and accepted – for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$275,300.

Provided for Commission review were the following:

- Outlot C location map.
- Draft City Council May 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes.
- May 11, Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
- Draft City Council Work Session/Joint Meeting with Park and Recreation Commission.
- Area Parks Plan (synopsis).
- Capstone proposal April 2017.
- Example Development Agreement.
- Example of Nature Based Play Area.

Mr. Riverblood also provided two exhibits provided by Capstone Homes. One element of considerable discussion in May was the width of the greenway – and a concern that it was too narrow and not conducive for the movement of wildlife. On the drawings, the thick black easement line was traced with a red dashed line. These lines represent the area that would be subject to Park Dedication credit (the 10’ foot bituminous trail, plus the 2’ clear zone on either side). The dimensions are indicated in white on the drawing. Another element relating to the greenway corridor’s use/value for wildlife, would be appropriate plantings/landscape.

Staff is recommending the Park and Recreation Commission recommend the City Council approve the Preliminary Play for the Riverstone Subdivision with the detail above included within the Development Agreement to fulfill Park Dedication and Trail Fees, with Cash payment calculated per lot after credit is applied for completed park and trail improvements, as well as areas of trail easement.

A drawing of the concept was provided for Commission review. Ms. Heather Lorch representing Capstone was present at the meeting.

Ms. Lorch provided examples. She stated she has spent countless hours working on these concepts to meet the needs of Ramsey residents. The lots are smaller and at a lower price point. She stated a park element would be a good addition to the project. She has been working with the architect and have looked at different communities to view as examples. The architect's designs are providing elements that are within the budget while creating the best project they can. The trail was designed as 10 feet wide with 2 feet easements on either side. The trail was inserted after the first revision when the lots had already been determined. This is the reason the trail is somewhat winding through the project. One area she pointed out on the map is rather tight due to some drainage issues and a retaining wall will be created along with natural plantings. Within the cost limits they will make every effort to naturalize the area with the use of pollinators and prairie grasses.

Mr. Riverblood stated the trail will be "off center" due to a wetland area. Ms. Lorch distributed to the Commission another drawing which detailed further the trail location. Mr. Riverblood stated the developer and staff are in agreement with what the Council has requested. This will come before Council in the form of a resolution.

Ms. Lorch stated one of the conditions is they will work closely with Mr. Riverblood and staff and the project results will be a collaboration.

Chair Bennett stated the work that has been done is good and it fits the needs of the subdivision.

Commissioner Sis asked if there is any divider between the townhomes and the trail and Ms. Lorch said at this point there is no intention to have a divider.

Commissioner Leistico left the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Trappen, seconded by Commissioner Tchuinkwa to recommend City Council approve the Preliminary Play for the Riverstone Subdivision with the detail above included within the Development Agreement to fulfill Park Dedication and Trail Fees, with Cash payment calculated per lot after credit is applied for completed park and trail improvements, as well as areas of trail easement.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Trappen, Tchuinkwa, Bayer, and Fyten. Voting No: Commissioner Sis. Absent: Commissioner Leistico

5.02: Review Update on The COR Interim Development Plan

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the Commission is requested to review a preliminary draft of The COR Interim Development Plan, which essentially puts into motion a more formal amendment to the master plan. Details of the recommendations prepared by the Planning Commission were provided for Commission review. Mr. Riverblood noted direction from the April 25, 2017 Joint Work Session was to review this draft with advisory boards and commissions. The draft was reviewed by the Economic Development Authority on May 25, 2017. The Park and Recreation Commission and Environmental Policy Board will review the draft at their June 2017 meetings. Staff will be seeking authorization for public comment on the draft in July 2017. There were some revisions to the plan in 2011. At one point there appeared to be conflicting goals for The COR's development plan—one being to sell the land, and get the city out of the business of being a developer, the other to 'hold the vision'. A market panel was held which brought a lot of clarity to questions of market forces and the potentiality for big box retail etc. This evening is the second opportunity for the Park and Recreation Commission to weigh in.

Mr. Riverblood reviewed the Interim Development Plan. The porch element is something that will be held fast. The apartments are necessary to provide businesses 'rooftops' to attract the restaurants and other businesses in the community.

Commissioner Leistico returned to the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Riverblood showed the Commission The COR Development Concept indicating the various sections of the plan. The Planning Commission has recommended higher density for the residential area. There has been a shift in focus for large retailers to smaller retail businesses. The other major policy change would be regarding the office areas, where the office area would be retained until fully developed by office businesses.

Commissioner Sis asked for the location of Bunker Lake and Mr. Riverblood indicated it on a map. Mr. Riverblood indicated the Greenway area on a map. Mr. Riverblood reviewed the revisioning steps. The budget will be used to hire multiple consultants to assist in road planning, grading, stormwater, and sign plan. The retailers will help pay for some of the signage. Even during the recession, The Draw was being constructed and developers viewed that as the City's commitment to developing The COR. Mr. Riverblood drew for the Commission the parking lot plan with future expansion to a parking ramp.

5.03: Review Goals and Strategies within Ramsey's Chapter 10 of the Comprehensive Plan

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the purpose of this case is to review the Goals and Strategies within the City's existing Comprehensive Plan, relating to parks, trails and open space. This discussion was tabled in May. This review will be useful in the context of the update to the Comprehensive Plan (underway now) and also as the Park and Recreation Commission begins the Master Park Plan endeavor. Mr. Riverblood provided a status report on each of the Goals and Strategies. The Commission is asked to identify which Goals and

Strategies remain germane for the Comp Plan update – and other Goals and Strategies as may be envisioned.

- a) A comprehensive, balanced park and trail system consisting of large and small scale parks, active and passive parks, natural preserves, and recreational facilities.

STRATEGIES:

1. Incorporate planned parks and trails into all new development where appropriate.
Update - Master Park and Trail Plan.
2. Design for connectivity with local and regional parks
Update – Again, and Priority Trails
3. Improve coordination of park and trail planning within City and adjacent communities.
Update – Essence of Comp Plan, Joint Meetings
4. Establish a regional trail along the Mississippi River
Update – Done
5. Develop a Trott Brook Trail Corridor
Update – Significant land acquisition, trail in place, boardwalk grant app. (hear any day).
¾ of trail is in.
6. Explore providing pedestrian access from the Mississippi River to the north side of Highway 10
Update – Mississippi Skyway, grants, preliminary design, final plans and specs in process, \$300K shaved off the project.
7. Design trails with a variety of surfaces appropriate for different uses.
Update – Uncertainty
8. Seek out alliances and partnerships with non-profit and governmental agencies to assist in securing funding and other resources that will assist in implementing the park, and trail plan.
Update – Rec programming – low hanging fruit – develop partnerships.
9. Improve quality of existing parks, through careful planning, continued maintenance and adequate funding.
Update – Maint/replacement/fixes assets – Master Park Plan
10. Explore options for an additional community park
Update – 6th Community Park/purchase of Lk Itasca – Northern Tier of Ramsey
11. Where appropriate, consolidate existing parks to improve quality and provide more efficient service.

Update – Tried this – did not go well

12. Explore options for a revenue source for permanent protections of parks, trails and open space.

Update – Aspect/outcome of the Master Park plan – Future bonding discussions possible.

- b) A system of safe parks and trails

STRATEGIES

1. Locate trails where appropriate in greenway corridors and natural areas.

Update – More work on greenways needed (Master Parks Plan).

2. Promote Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design CPTED and other techniques

Update – SOP – City does that – neighborhood parks.

3. Where appropriate, use existing power/utility easements for the trail system

Update – Mr. Riverblood provided the Alpine example.

4. Provide adequate signage and pavement markings to warn automobile traffic of park and trail traffic

Update – Crosswalk inventory needed – (do not sign trails) – not feasible to put signs on 50 miles of trails.

5. Explore use of pedestrian-activated signals, continuous flashing signage, and mid-block crossings where safe and appropriate to further increase park and trail safety

Update – Case Study – Toole Group exercise re – Riverstone. Working with School District and County.

6. Minimize at-grade crossings of trails and roads and other interactions between trail users and automobiles, with underpasses or overpasses.

Update – Expensive – No engineering costs included.

- c) A variety of park facilities and programs that meet the life cycle needs of residents.

Demographics – Recreation/program planning. Large segment of population in 50-60 age group. Need to plan for them (arts, pickle ball, etc).

STRATEGIES

1. Work with the schools and community organizations to plan for athletic fields and facilities that will accommodate the growing community.

Update – New elementary school potentially at Nowthen Blvd.

2. Explore options for a revenue source for recreational facilities and programming.

Update – Council will tackle. Recreation Intern position will become full time Specialist – general fund.

3. Study the need for a Community Center that offers a variety of recreational uses for all age groups.

Update – RCP – Study of other community centers.

Chair Bennett stated the goals and strategies are consistent with the Parks and Recreation Commission discussions over the past few years.

5.04: Commission Work Session on Master Parks Plan – Visioning Exercise

Mr. Riverblood reviewed the purpose of this case is to conduct an informal work session for a visioning exercise relative to the long-range plan for the future of Ramsey’s park and trail system.

Mr. Bruce Jacobson, landscape architect, was present at the meeting. Mr. Riverblood and Mr. Jacobson have worked together for many years. Mr. Jacobson facilitated the Visioning Exercise. Mr. Jacobson noted the work done in Ramsey is very promising. “I See” was the first exercise to write down the vision of the future of Ramsey’s trail and park system. Each Commissioner read their statement. The second exercise was “We See”. The next exercise was to determine one word that each Commissioner is most interested in.

Chair Bennett thanked Mr. Jacobson for his help this evening.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided updates on the following:

Review May/June projects and events – Mr. Riverblood suggested the Commissioners sign up for the weekly update.

Next Comp Plan Workshop June 12, 2017 – Natural Resources and Economic Development.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Bayer to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Sis, Bayer, Fyten, Leistico, Tchuinkwa, and Trappen. Voting No: None. Absent:

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Debbie Wolfe
TimeSaver off Site Secretarial, Inc.



Item 1 – Vision + Objectives

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

June 8, 2017; Elmcrest Park; 6:30pm

Exercise #1 – I SEE / WE SEE

WE SEE (original) . . .

A recognized, beautiful, well-connected park and trail system that highlights our character and natural assets, that are the foundation of the city, and that provide activities and events that create a destination for all.

WE SEE (refined) . . .

A beautiful, city-focused, but regionally recognized, well-connected park and trail system that promotes our rural character, natural resource assets and attractive public amenities as the backdrop for social, recreational and special event activities that benefit Ramsey citizens and create a popular destination for everyone.

(for further discussion and refinement)

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

June 8, 2017; Elmcrest Park; 6:30pm

Exercise #2 – Key Words (primary objectives)

(original)

SAFETY

INSPIRATIONAL

DIVERSITY

FULLFILLING

PLAYFULL

FUNDED(ABLE)

BEAUTIFUL

CONNECTED

BELOVED

UTILIZED

FLOURISHING

REFRESHING

ACCESSIBLE

EXCITING

ATTRACTS(IVE)

NATURE-FULL

(refined)

SAFE

CONNECTED

SUSTAINABLE (flourishing)

BEAUTIFUL

NATURAL (nature-full)

COST EFFECTIVE (funded)

DIVERSE

PLAYFUL

ACCESSIBLE

USED (utilized, inspirational, attractive, beloved, fulfilling, refreshing)

(for further discussion and refinement)

Key Words translated into 'Objective' Statements

- 1 SAFE** – provide **safe** places for people
- 2 CONNECTED** – **connect** local assets with regional systems
- 3 SUSTAINABLE** – explore innovative approaches with **sustainable** outcomes
- 4 BEAUTIFUL** – promote **beauty** to showcase unique amenities and attractions
- 5 NATURAL** – protect, integrate, interpret **natural** resources wherever possible
- 6 COST EFFECTIVE** – match budget and benefit through **cost effective** design
- 7 DIVERSE** – provide a **diverse** mix of play/recreation activities for all ages and demographics
- 8 PLAYFUL** – add mystery, wonder, **playfulness** . . . and just plain FUN
- 9 ACCESSIBLE** – ensure universal **access** for everyone
- 10 USED** – update programming (refresh, inspire, fulfill) to ensure public places are **used!**

(for further discussion and refinement)

What activity/activities would you like to see added to the City of Ramsey's parks and public spaces?

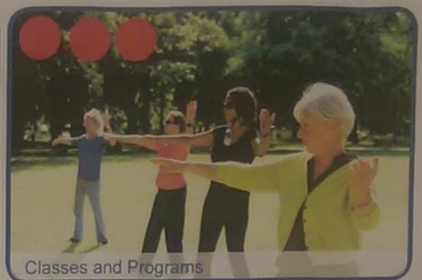
Place a sticker on the two (2) that are most important to you:



Food/Concessions



Dog Amenities



Classes and Programs



Large Community Events



Adventure Play



Gardens



Emerging Sports *Identify which emerging sports you find most appealing below



Nature Play



Water Play



Arts and Sculpture



Organized Kids Activities



Community Gardens

Don't see what you're looking for? Write your answers on a post-it note:

Trails to connect
Elmcrest Park.
More on the Art Fair!

More trail connections

Pedestrian
crossing would
be safer for the
bikers (July 10)

Trail along water on side
of water trail to connect
47 to Queen Blvd

Finish
Municipal
Park

Art in the Park is a
great idea!

Fun andover - visiting
Ramsey residents. Amphitheater
a beautiful facility

More staff at the draw

Trails to connect
Elmcrest Park.
More on the Art Fair!

Pedestrian
crossing would
be safer for the
bikers (July 10)

More trail connections
Ditto

Art in the Park is a
Great idea!
Ditto x 2

Fm
Ran
a b

Trail along bunker on W side
of bunker ~~area~~ to connect
47 to River's Bend.

Finish
municipal
Park

Fm Andover - visiting
Ramsay residents: Amphitheater
a beautiful facility

More stuff at the draw

PARKS

- Repair – i.e. boardwalks at Itasca Park
- Plant more shrubs and native grass
- No spray on plantings
- Add public art – parks and COR
- Community flower beds/parks
- Recreation Center
- Windbreak at dog park
- Playgrounds within neighborhoods, not just by parks
- Embrace the rivers – as an asset – use as a source of tourism
- Finish Central Park – lights, parking, state tourney
- More canoe rentals

Ramsey2040: Key Themes

2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP ONE

Monday, February 27, 2017

TOPIC IDENTIFICATION

Interested in the future of Ramsey	IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII
Rural Character	IIIIIIII
Community Center/Youth Athletics	IIIIII
Highways and Roads	IIIIII
Parks (dog park, small neighborhood parks)	IIII
Schools	IIII
Natural Resources/Climate Resilience	IIII
The COR	II
Housing issues	I
Destinations	I
Forward Thinking	I
Is this a plan for Agenda21?	I
Goals in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan never materialized	I
Rum River Hills Golf Course Redevelopment	I
Our parcel shrunk without our permission	I
Civic engagement	I
Shops and retail	I
National Self Storage compatibility	I
Harvest Estates	I
Property rights	I
Property pride – standards for code enforcement	I

Park and Recreation Commission

6. 1.

Meeting Date: 10/12/2017

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Commission/Staff Input

Purpose/Background:

- Native landscape renovations: Alpine, Sunfish Lake Parks and Monarch Trail
- Greenway Planning--Resilient Communities Project
- Trott Brook Trail, boardwalk project

Notification:

Observations/Alternatives:

Funding Source:

Recommendation:

Action:

Attachments

No file(s) attached.

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Grant Riemer	MaryJo Warner	10/06/2017 03:13 PM
Form Started By: Mark Riverblood		Started On: 10/06/2017 10:44 AM
Final Approval Date: 10/06/2017		