



# PARKS, TRAILS, & OPEN SPACE PLAN

## JUNE 2007



Shakopee Parks + Trails + Open Space



**PREPARED BY: BONESTROO**

**SHAKOPEE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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## INTRODUCTION

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The City of Shakopee has acknowledged the importance of providing park, trail, and open space opportunities that enhance the quality of life of their residents and visitors. Parks and Recreation are essential in promoting community wellness, connecting the individual to ecological value and stewardship, promoting cultural understanding, and fostering economic viability. The City has reflected these principles through the Parks, Trail, and Open Space Plan to continue the successes of park development and offer a framework for future growth and renovation.

## PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

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The City's Park, Trail, and Open Space plan has been completed to ensure the City's vision and stewardship of the park system. The plan was last updated in 1998 and since that time significant residential and commercial development has occurred throughout the City. New trends in recreation and land use have emerged. Potential annexation of neighboring townships will impact land use and park development. Future growth is projected to increase by 77% for the year 2030. This creates an urgent demand for the Park, Trail, and Open Space Plan to address future needs, land preservation, and development.

The Plan explores each aspect of Park planning such as land acquisition, development, stewardship, maintenance, and operations. Listed below are the study goals that were set to be achieved in this process:

- Identify future park land, search areas, and candidate sites for park & trail acquisition through the development process or purchase
- Determine future park facilities and amenities that will be needed to serve future populations
- Evaluate and identify trail corridors and links, and assess open space opportunities
- Identify long-term needs, trends, and costs for the park and open space system
- Review the City's current park dedication formula for both land and cash dedication for its ability to meet future needs.



## PROCESS

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The City conducted a five month process to update the Park, Trail, & Open Space Comprehensive Plan in order to preserve and enhance the existing and future park, trail, and open space system. This process started in January 2007 as members from the community, Park Board, and City staff assembled to refine this document. Bonestroo facilitated monthly meetings and conducted the necessary research and analysis for discussion with the advisory group.

The first meeting was held to gain a better understanding of existing conditions. The initial analysis began with reviewing the department's mission statement and the 1998 Comprehensive Park Plan goals and strategies to see if the City had met these goals. The City conducted an overall inventory of existing parks and park facilities and created a chart to document their findings.

The next analysis that was conducted pertained to comparisons and trends. City staff and Bonestroo interviewed three different municipalities that included Eden Prairie, MN, Bend, Oregon, and the City/County of Broomfield, CO. This work looked at the organization's Comprehensive Park Plan, approaches to developing the plan, funding methods for the Park and Trail system, and lessons learned during the process. The advisory group took an active role in reviewing the comprehensive park plans and highlighted aspects that appealed to them for the Shakopee plan.

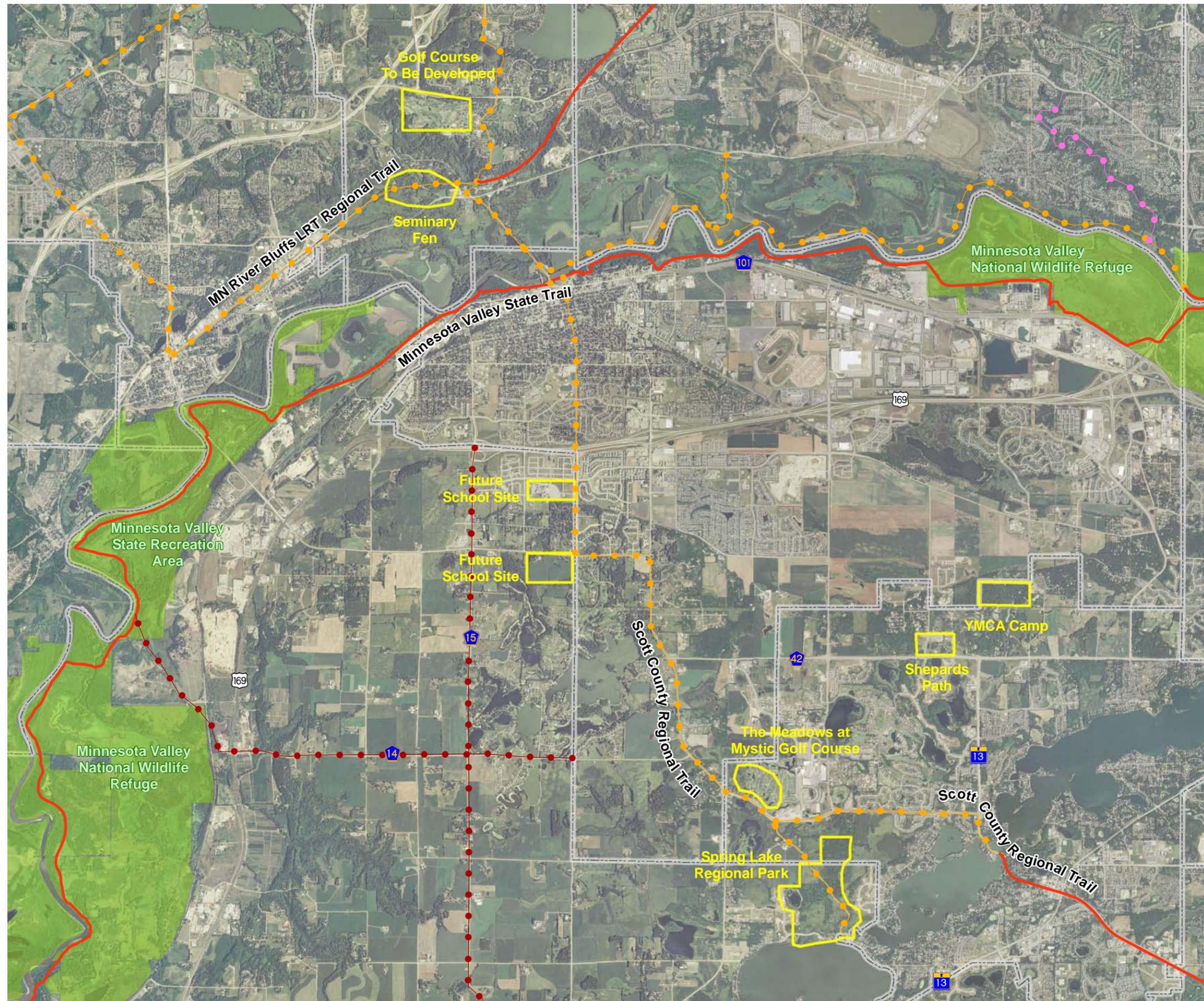
Demographic and recreational trends were gathered and calibrated to project Shakopee's future population and park facility needs. Multiple local Sports Associations were invited to one of the meetings so the advisory group could hear their needs and trends in participation. This would help in predicting the amount of land and park facilities required in order to adequately prepare for future demands.

A focus group meeting was held with local and regional interest groups. Each participant identified current and future facilities that would affect the Shakopee Park and Trail System. These comments were located and compile into the Regional Facilities Map, Figure 1.1.



# Regional, State, and Local Facilities

Figure 1.1



## Trails

- Existing State/Regional
- Proposed State/Regional\*\*
- Proposed Other Local Agency
- Proposed County Trail\*\*
- Parks
- Future Amenities
- City Boundary

\*\* As identified in the 2030 Scott County Comprehensive Plan Update. Final alignment to be determined.



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The advisory group then worked on setting goals and strategies to guide the revised plan. Several public participation techniques were used to gain individuals' ideas and visions for the park system. Various topics were considered and presented in depth such as the addition of an arts and cultural program or using sustainable practices in operations and construction. The group refined these goals and strategies and will include action statements to set a plan for accomplishing the goals.

Finally, the advisory group discussed methods of how to effectively fund the future park and trail system. Bonestroo worked with the group to review the current park dedication formula. Bonestroo completed projections based on future costs of trail and park facilities and the amount of funds generated from current methods of obtaining park related funds.

## **CITY BACKGROUND**

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The City is home to over 29,335 people and is experiencing a high level of growth as one of the outer ring communities of the Twin Cities. The region has developed along the Minnesota River with rail and industry as leading growth starters. The topography consists of the river valley, lowlands, and a bluff line that stretches through the community. Thousands of visitors enjoy attractions such as Valleyfair Theme Park, Canterbury Park, cultural celebrations of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and other community events.

Shakopee's population is changing in its ethnic and cultural makeup, age, and numbers. Changes in population and lifestyles have significantly impacted Shakopee's preference for park and recreational opportunities and need to access these types of resources. As lifestyles have changed, park and recreational needs have also changed.

Shakopee currently offers a diverse range of park amenities. A community survey from 2003 indicates that the current system's most popular and widely used facilities are trails as the highest and community parks as the second highest. The Park System supports over 45 miles of trail approximately 1,145 acres of parks and open space that feature the Minnesota River Valley Trail, Murphy's Landing, a Community Center, and Huber Park; a downtown riverfront park.

## **MISSION AND VALUES**

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The Advisory Committee aligned their future guiding approach of the park system with their park and recreation department's mission and City's vision goals. The City's park department mission states:

*“Our mission is to provide, develop, protect, and enhance excellent park and recreation services, open spaces, and natural resources that contribute to a high-quality of life for our residents.”*

The City's vision goals are below with a summary of how each one is connected to the park system.

**1. Active and healthy community:** Park and recreation facilities promote healthy lifestyles for people of all ages by providing easy access, the ability to recreate, and open space for mental relief. Recreation programs offer various activities in parks that can build self-esteem, team building skills, reduce stress through exercise, and improve overall wellness.



**2. High quality of life:** Parks give communities an essential identity and appeal. Well-maintained, accessible parks and recreation facilities are key elements of strong, safe, family-friendly communities. The park system provides places for learning, fun, and relaxation no matter what your age or ability. Nationally, the population uses parks and trails on a regular basis.

**3. Great place for kids to grow up:** Having parks available for kids to go to and recreate keeps kids occupied and off of the streets. Parks bring people together on a common ground, kids and adults alike, and develop strong communities. People have the opportunity to interact with one another and get to know one another's families. This adds to the safety and care of our park system. Offering cultural and art programs strengthen creative capability and diversity awareness.



**4. Vibrant, resilient and stable:** Parks play a key role in preserving water and air quality, providing visual relief, and protecting wildlife. People learn about the ecological processes and interrelationships firsthand in parks and open space. Parks and trails offer an attractive quality for new residents, visitors, and prospective developers. Civic identity and pride result from a well-maintained, diverse park, trail, and open space system. Open space preservation also promotes communities to grow in a sustainable manner that limits unplanned and wide-spread growth.

**5. Financially strong:** Parkland benefits the community as a whole by enhancing property values adjacent to park and open space areas which in turn increase tax revenue. Greenspaces and neighboring parks and trails of local businesses promote a healthier and more productive workforce. Cities with an active park and recreation environment are recognized by prospective new business owners as a healthy community that attract and retain these new businesses. Parks, trails, and open space enhance the local economy by

attracting tourists to outdoor recreational opportunities. Finally, by acquiring and protecting significant natural resources and waterways, City infrastructure and maintenance costs are reduced in the long term.

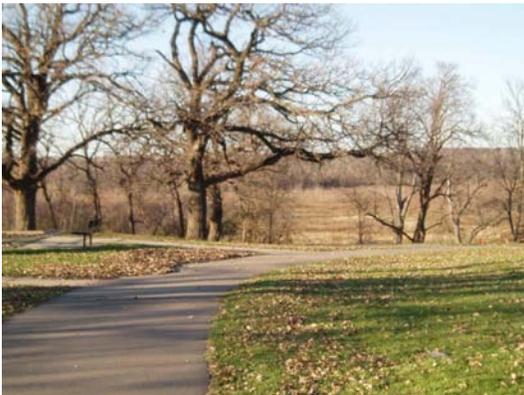
## REVIEW OF THE 1998 PLAN GOALS ACCOMPLISHED

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A review of the park and recreation department's goals from the 1998 Comprehensive Plan was conducted with the Advisory Committee. Each member ranked how well the goals have been met in the past 9 years. Many of the goals were ranked as being successfully addressed such as acquiring land, providing an attractive park system, and maintaining working partnerships with area agencies.

The following areas were identified as being inadequately addressed:

- Utilize the latest park standards to judge the adequacy of Shakopee's park system
- Continue to enhance and expand the Shakopee Community Center to meet demonstrated community needs.
- Promote the continuation and extension of the Minnesota River Valley Trail from Downtown Shakopee to Murphy's Landing and eventually to Fort Snelling.
- Completion of the Scott-Hennepin Trail
- Promote recycling and environmentally sound maintenance procedures
- A planting/reforestation program for all parks where trees and vegetation are lacking and it is feasible to add vegetation
- Maintain and improve neighborhood park standards
- Develop and enlarge the trail system while minimizing barriers that cause pedestrian conflicts and provide diversity.
- Develop volunteer programs
- Seek grant opportunities, bond referendum funding and other funding sources to meet system-wide funding needs.
- Comprehensive active and passive recreation opportunities shall be provided for all age groups, and equitably distributed throughout the City of Shakopee.



These results were used to guide the committee in setting new goals, strategies, and tactics. All items that had been inadequately met from the 1998 plan are now addressed and planned for throughout the new plan.

## INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

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Shakopee currently hosts multiple parks, trails, and open spaces that are frequently used by residents and visitors. As the City grows and plans for future development, it is important to look at what has been successful in distribution of park types and what amenities may be lacking.

The park system is divided into 6 classifications that provide different functions and opportunities for the City's residents. These classifications are a guide to future development to ensure an equitable distribution and diversification of parks throughout the community. This system also informs residents of what to expect within each park type. Beyond the City Park System, Shakopee's residents are serviced by regional, state, and federal park facilities near or within its borders.

### STATE AND FEDERAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE UNITS

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Two State and Federal park and open space units are within the City of Shakopee. The Minnesota Valley State Trail and Recreation Area run along the Minnesota River on the North edge of the City and are managed by the Minnesota DNR. A paved section of trail runs from Shakopee to Chaska while a natural surface trail runs from Chaska to Belle Plaine. The surrounding terrain includes wetlands, forest, and blufftop oak savanna. Users of this system enjoy wildlife observation and bird watching.

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a greenway of extensive marsh areas bordered by multiple types of land uses. The refuge is comprised of approximately 14,000 acres, spanning 99 miles of the Minnesota River and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. One large section of this system is adjacent to Shakopee called the Louisville Swamp. It consists of 2,600 acres with a diverse mix of old fields, prairie remnants, oak savanna, floodplain forest, and stone farmsteads. Four notable trails total thirteen miles of the trail system that runs throughout the Louisville Swamp area.

### REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM

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Scott County offers Shakopee residents multiple recreational destinations that host a variety of activities and terrain to explore. The nearby regional park system consists of Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve and Cleary Lake Regional Park. Descriptions of these facilities are below:

- Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve is managed by the Three Rivers Park District and is located in Savage, MN. This 2,400-acre park reserve remains mostly undeveloped with extensive amounts of forests and open space. Park facilities do include multiple type of trails with uses ranging from hiking, snow mobiling, cross-country skiing, horse-back riding, dog-walking, and mountain biking. This

park has become a popular destination for bird watching. In 2004, the park was designated as an "Important Bird Area" by the National Audubon Society.

- Cleary Lake Regional Park is also managed by the Three Rivers Park District and is located in Prior Lake, MN. This park facility consists of 1,045-acres that are home to a visitor center/clubhouse, a par-3, 9-hole golf course and driving range, swimming, boating, fishing, camping, a dog park, and groomed trails. Rental equipment for many of these activities is available at the visitor center.

In the future, three other regional parks are planned to service Shakopee residents. These include Spring Lake Regional Park, Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, and Cedar Lake Regional Park which are all managed by Scott County.

- *(Future)* Spring Lake Regional Park is located on the northern shore of Spring Lake in Prior Lake, MN. The site is made up of forest and wetlands. Future amenities may include a fishing pier, picnicking facilities, and trails among other developments. The master plan is currently undergoing the approval process through the Metropolitan Council.
- *(Future)* Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park is located in the southeast section of Scott County within the Cedar Lake Township. The park is slotted for 900 acres with 480 of those acres currently owned by the County. The landscape consists of rolling hills, wetlands, and woodlands. A master plan will be developed in the near future for the acquired acres.
- *(Future)* Cedar Lake Regional Park will be located on the southwestern shore of Cedar Lake in Helena Township. Scott County will acquire 172 acres through a land dedication agreement and reserve this for parkland. Currently the site has an area of Maple-basswood forest, cropland, and retired fields running along approximately 2000 feet of Cedar Lake shoreline. Park facilities and time of development have yet to be determined. This Park site is identified in the current Metropolitan Council Parks and Open Space Policy Plan as a park need beyond the year 2030.

The Scott County Regional Trail continues to be planned and developed. This trail corridor will extend from Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park westward to Cleary Lake Regional Park, Prior Lake, and Spring Lake Regional Park then northward through Shakopee and ultimately connecting with the Minnesota Valley State Trail. This facility will be a 12 mile multi-use trail.

## CITY PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

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**Neighborhood Park - Size:** 2-10 acres. **Service Area:** 1/4 to 1/2 mile service radius  
**Use:** Neighborhood Parks are conveniently located among residential areas surrounding the park. These parks serve as the recreational and social gathering focus of the neighborhood. They are easily accessible for pedestrians or bicyclists. Typical development features include playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, play fields, picnic areas, and paths. Examples: Holmes, Prairie Bend, Riverview



**Hybrid Park – Size:** 10-20 acres **Service Area:** 1/2 mile to 1 mile service area  
**Use:** Hybrid Parks serve a larger radius of a residential area that could include an entire neighborhood. The intention of a hybrid park is to create a larger amount of open space and offer a more diverse array of activities within a neighborhood setting. This also limits the amount of maintenance of multiple small parks. Typical development features include playgrounds, ball fields, playing courts, park buildings, paths, and specialized facilities. Examples: Westchester/Providence

**City-School Parks – Size:** 15-50 acres **Service Area:** Neighborhoods to City-wide  
**Use:** Joint development of City- School parks allows for shared uses and benefits a wider section of the public. While schools use the facilities during daytime weekday hours, sports associations and the public may use the facilities during evenings and weekends utilizing the park to its full potential. Typical uses included playgrounds, play areas, numerous athletic fields and courts, paths, and spectator seating. Examples: Junior High School, Red Oak Elementary

**Community Park – Size:** 25-50 acres **Service Area:** Community wide  
**Use:** Community Parks serve a larger geographical area and offer more specialized facilities. Often these types of parks are typically built around a specialized purpose or natural feature such as Huber Park along the Minnesota River or Tahpah Park Athletic Complex. These parks typically offer passive and active recreational opportunities for the entire community. Typical development features include large recreational spaces, playgrounds, picnics, multiple trails, nature study, athletic facilities, picnic shelters, restroom buildings, and special uses that provide community destinations. Examples: 17th Ave Sports Complex, Memorial Park

**Open Space: Size:** Variable **Service Area:** Community-wide

Use: Preservation of open space serves a variety of needs and functions. Open space preserves natural habitats, allows animal movement among a built environment, provides visual relief, connects humans to nature, and preserves significant natural resources.

Open space areas may include trails, picnic areas, or special use facilities such as fishing piers. Examples: Eagle wood, Southbridge Open Space, Deerview Acres

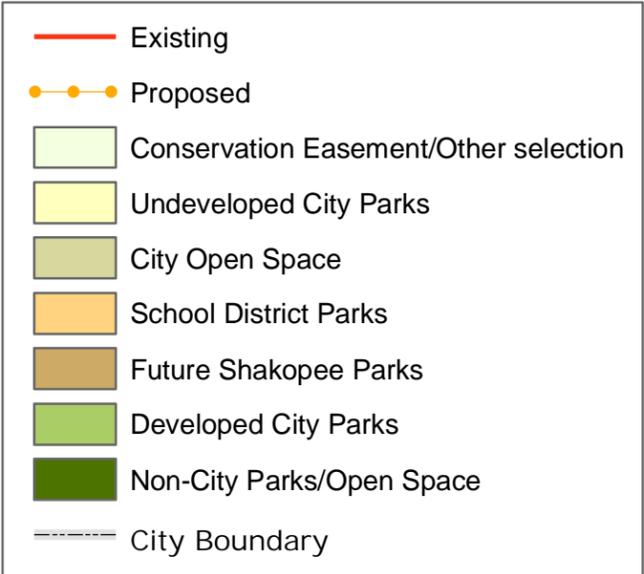
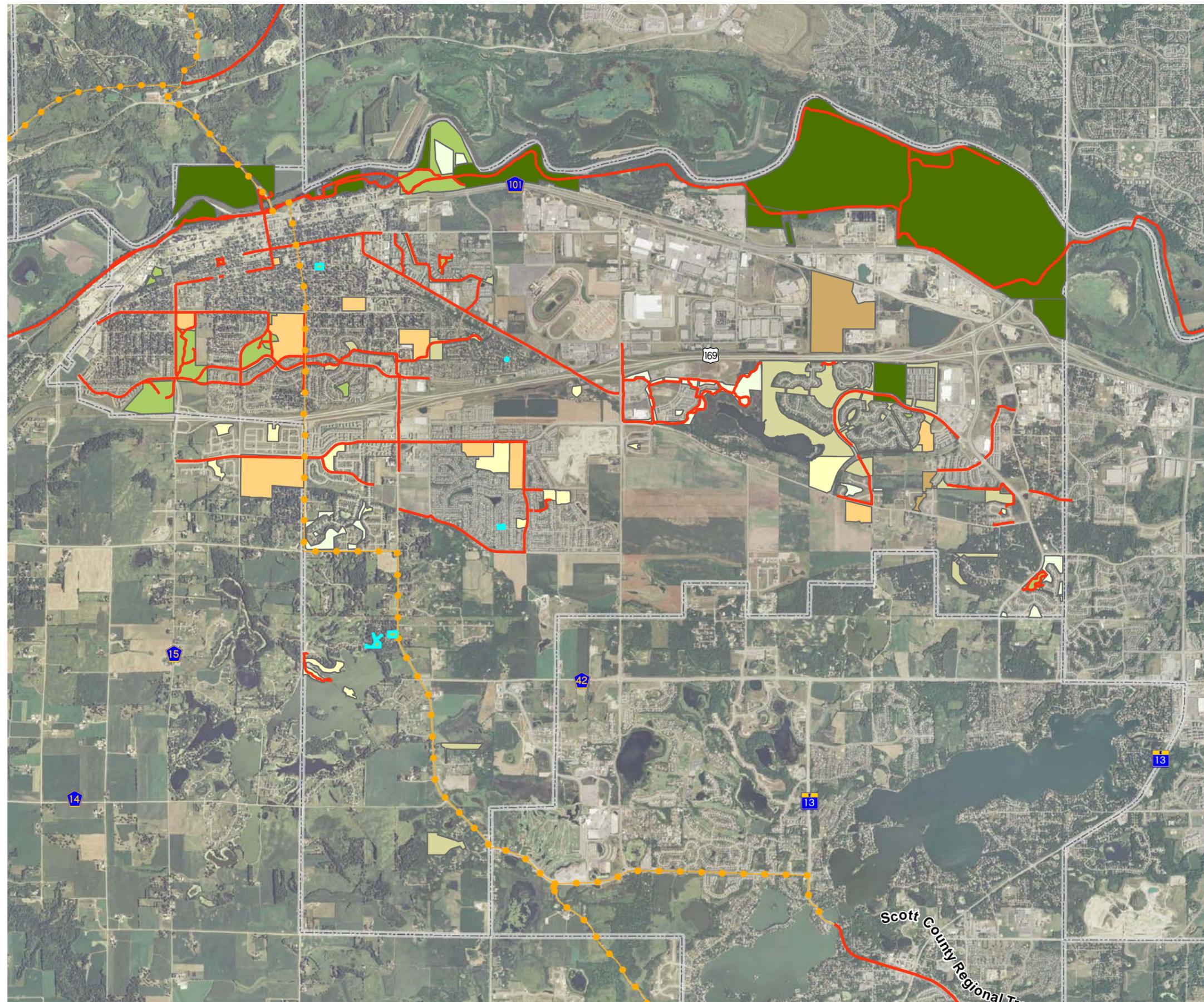


# INVENTORY OF EXISTING FACILITIES

	NAME	SIZE IN ACRES	Undeveloped	Archery	Youth Ball Fields	Adult Baseball Fields	Adult Softball Fields	Basketball Courts	Boat landing	Disc Golf	Fishing	Youth Football	Grills	Hockey	Horseshoe pits	General Ice Skating	Nature Area/ Open Space	Off street Parking	Gazebo	Performance Area/ Amphitheater	Picnic Shelters	Playfields (undeveloped)	Playground equipment	Park Bldg/ Restrom Warm House	Skate Park	Soccer - Full Size	Soccer - Youth (<U10)	Swimming	Tennis Courts	Trails	Volleyball Courts	
<b>Mini Parks</b>			2																													
	Emerald Lane Tot Lot	0.3																					1									
	P. & V. Additions	0.5	●																													
	Pheasant Run	0.8																					1									
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>			65																													
	Church Addition	2						1															1								●	
	Countryside NE	3						1									●						1								●	
	Countryside NW	2						1									●						1								●	
	Countryside SW	0.8															●						1								●	
	Glacier Estates	1																	1				1								●	
	Greenfield West	4						1											●				1								●	
	Hiawatha	2			1			1													1		1	1							●	
	Holmes	2						1					●		1	1						1	1	1							●	
	Killarney Hills	4	●																												●	
	Meadows	5						1															1								●	
	Prairie Bend	5						1								1							1								●	
	Riverview	3			1																		1								●	
	Scenic Heights	11						1														1	1	1							●	
	Southbridge Hamlet	1																					1								●	
	Southbridge Savanna Oaks	2																					1								●	
	Southbridge Pkwy Active	5	●																				1								●	
	Stans	2																					1							4	●	
	Timber Trails	4						1															1								●	
	Valley Creek Crossing	3																					1								●	
	Whispering Oaks	10																					1								●	
<b>Community Parks</b>			524																													
	17th Avenue Sports Complex	40																						1		7	28				●	
Hybrid	Greenfield/Park Meadows	13	●																												●	
	Huber Riverfront	24									1												1	1							●	
	Lions	50						1		1													1	1							●	
	Memorial	137																				2	1	1						4	●	
	Muenchow Fields	5			3																						6				●	
	O'Dowd Lake	22							1	1																					●	
	Quarry Lake Park	110	●																												●	
Hybrid	Riverside Bluffs/Fields	10	●																												●	
	Shutrop Park	52	●																												●	
	Tahpah	50			8	8					4												1	1							●	
Hybrid	Westchester/ Providence	12			2			1							1	1	1						1	1				2			●	
<b>School Facilities</b>			179																													
	Central Family Center	1																					1								●	
	Junior High School	20			2			2																						2	●	
	Pearson Elementary	2			2			1															1					4			●	
	Red Oak Elementary	12			2			1															1								●	
	Senior High School	18			4			1			1															1			4		●	
	Sweeney Elementary	2			2			1															1					4			●	
	Eagle Creek Elementary				2			1																							●	
	Sun Path Elementary	18			2			1															1					2			●	
	New High School	86			4			2			2															2	8	10			●	
	Shakopee Area Catholic E.C.	20			2																										●	
<b>Special Facilities</b>			99																													
	Dean Lakes Open Space	89																													●	
	Joe Schleper Stadium	n/a				1																									●	
	Minnesota River Sporting Area	10		1					1	1																					●	
	Community Center	n/a						2			1													1							●	
<b>Undeveloped Open Space</b>			273																													
	Deerview Acres	10	●																												●	
	Eaglewood	22	●																												●	
	Horizon Heights	13	●																												●	
	Southbridge Open Space	228	●																												●	
	Southview Addition	0.3	●																												●	
<b>Total</b>		1142		1	37	1	8	24	2	1	3	8	0	3	5	5	0	0	1	0	7	0	29	9	1	10	54	0	25	1	6	

# Existing Parks, Trails and Open Space Facilities

Figure 2.2



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## PEER COMPARISONS

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The City interviewed three specifically selected communities to compare their approach to preparing a Comprehensive Park Plan and adopted policies that resulted from the process. Specific questions were asked pertaining to funding methods of the park, trail, and open space system, beneficial partnerships, and sustainability. The conversations were insightful to the successes and hardships each community had experienced.

In summary, these communities encouraged Shakopee to consider the importance of acquiring and incorporating significant natural resources into the parks and open space system. City staff and the Advisory Committee were inspired by the way these communities were acquiring funds for their park systems, planning for trails, and establishing sustainable park maintenance guidelines.

### **Eden Prairie, MN**

**Contact:** Bob Lamberts, City Parks Director

**Plan completed:** 2003

Eden Prairie was selected for its regional proximity and well known developed park system in the metro area. The City had recently been named by Money Magazine as the sixth best place in the United States to live and work. The park and trail system was a major contributing factor to this achievement. Eden Prairie is also a comparable size to Shakopee's future growth potential.

### **Bend Park District, OR**

**Contact:** Bruce Roning, Park & Rec Planning and Development Director

Steve Jorgenson, Park Planner

**Plan completed:** 2005

The community of Bend Oregon is a commercial center located within 2.5 hours from a metro area. The area has seen rapid growth in the past 12 years due to recreational opportunities, a high quality of life, and now a popular retirement location. The Bend Park District was awarded the National Gold Medal Award for excellence in Park and Recreation management in 2006. This award is given to the best park and recreation agency in the nation for its population category.

### **Broomfield, CO**

**Contact:** Kristan Pritz, Open Space & Trails Director

John Ferraro, Recreation Director

**Plan completed:** 2005

The Broomfield Open Space, Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan represent a joint entity between the City and County of Broomfield. Broomfield is situated between Denver and Boulder Colorado. The City's plan is considered progressive for its inclusion of sustainable building methods, land preservation, and creative recreational programming. America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth gave Broomfield

recognition in its national competition as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People for the city’s commitment to provide healthy, safe and caring environments for young people. Many of the City’s park, open space, and trail facilities have encouraged a healthy well connected community. These facilities have also enabled the City to provide multiple sports, arts, and cultural programming to achieve such recognition.

Figure 2.3

PEER REVIEW COMPARISON CHART						
CITY	HISTORIC POPULATION	CURRENT POPULATION	ACRES PER 1,000 (PARKS)	ACRES PER 1,000 (OPEN SPACE)	FUNDING METHODS	HIGHLIGHTS
<b>Eden Prairie, Minnesota</b>	39,311 1990	60,600	16.84	NA	~Utilize private sponsors to support Historic features ~Do not create additional mini parks	~Acquire land early on ~Acquire unique natural areas and waterfront ~Acquire adequate land for athletic facilities ~Mini-parks are costly to City ~Monitor encroachment in park areas ~Offer natural areas in and adjacent to neighborhood parks
<b>Bend, Oregon</b>	37,500 1995	77,000	17	12.62	~Exactments - require trail segments to be located & owned by the City within new developments ~Acquire parkland early on - land prices increase rapidly	~Acquire land along the river, becomes a popular destination ~Identified ASI's (Areas of Special Interest) and focused park planning efforts here ~Establish review structure to meet Comprehensive Plan Goals: Strategic plan every 5 years, Budget review each year ~Trails & sidewalks are as important as roads
<b>Broomfield, Colorado</b>	24,638 1990	43,478	16	8	~\$.25 cent sales tax, 80% towards parks, 20% towards open space ~IGA's (Intergovernmental Agreements with adjoining cities and counties) ~School Expansion Fund (joint w/parks) - \$1/SF of house for residential developers	~Policy of 40% open lands (parks and open space) at build out ~Sustainability is a priority ~Incorporate buffer areas ~Invested in Community Center, has been a huge success

## **ARTS & CULTURE**

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Currently, the City of Shakopee does not have an arts or cultural component to their park programming. The Advisory Committee reviewed the success of metro area arts and cultural programs to determine if this was a beneficial element for the new plan. The Committee learned how arts participation can build civic engagement and thus can build a stronger diverse community. By offering arts and cultural programs, people can feel a connection to their heritage and the community they dwell in.

These types of programs can build bridges across ethnic and social divides. Research has shown that the presence of cultural organizations in a neighborhood stimulates residents' involvement in other civic activities. The impacts from a conscious art and culture community can lead to major economic benefits as well as foster personal growth of an individual. The following ways are examples of how other metro communities have embraced art and cultural programs: a community center for the arts, art in the park, music in the park, community bands, and a performing arts series.

Shakopee has adopted the exploration of creating an arts and culture program within the community. Outlined in the goals, strategies, and tactics section is the framework for involving key players to build up a program from a grassroots level.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

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The need and awareness to be environmentally sensitive in the way we live and impact our surroundings is ever increasing. The City of Shakopee recognizes that in order for change to occur it must start by adopting goals and standards to protect resources for future generations. The City has ample opportunity to demonstrate and educate its citizens on more sustainable practices through the park, trail, and open space system..

Sustainability in park planning can take a variety of forms and many have now been included throughout the goals, strategies, and tactics section. By reducing impervious surfaces such as parking lots, water body quality can be improved as surface water runoff pollutants are reduced. Stormwater treatment through alternative methods such as raingardens and native plantings can also reduce infrastructure costs. Utilizing the appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP's) for park maintenance and new develop will lessen human impact to the natural environment.

Other tools, the community can employ are LEED standards for park shelters and restrooms that will reduce energy use and emissions. The City can also evaluate and optimize the full life cycle of building materials, utilizing recycled materials when possible. While maintaining the park system, crews can use alternative fuels in machinery that are less pollutant, use compost, and apply natural fertilizers when needed. The park, trail, and open space system shall do its part to improve the environment and overall improve the health of the City through sustainable practices.

## FUTURE NEEDS

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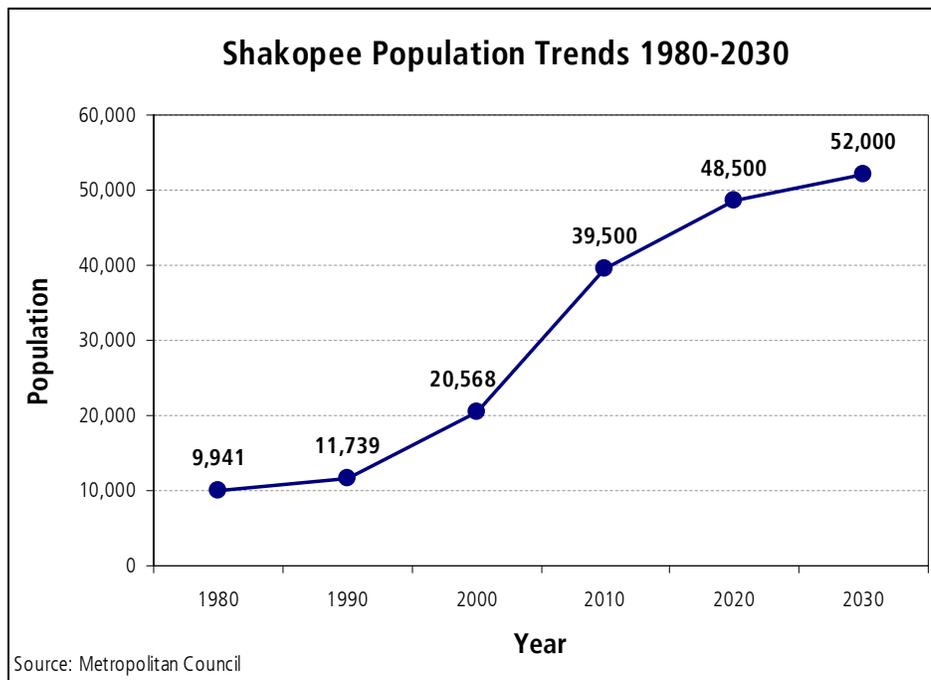
During the planning process, the City and Advisory Committee considered multiple factors in projecting the future needs of the park system. Participants reviewed demographic information, national and local recreational trends, and current and future land uses. These factors were key in determining the quantity of park amenities, athletic facilities, and missing park and trail links within the community.

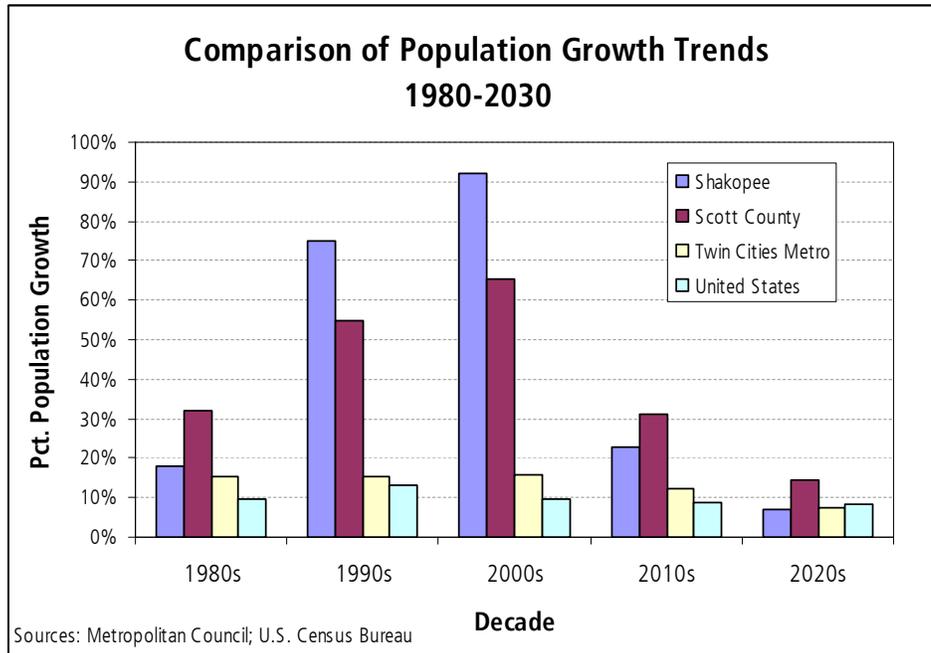
## DEMOGRAPHIC INFLUENCES

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### Population

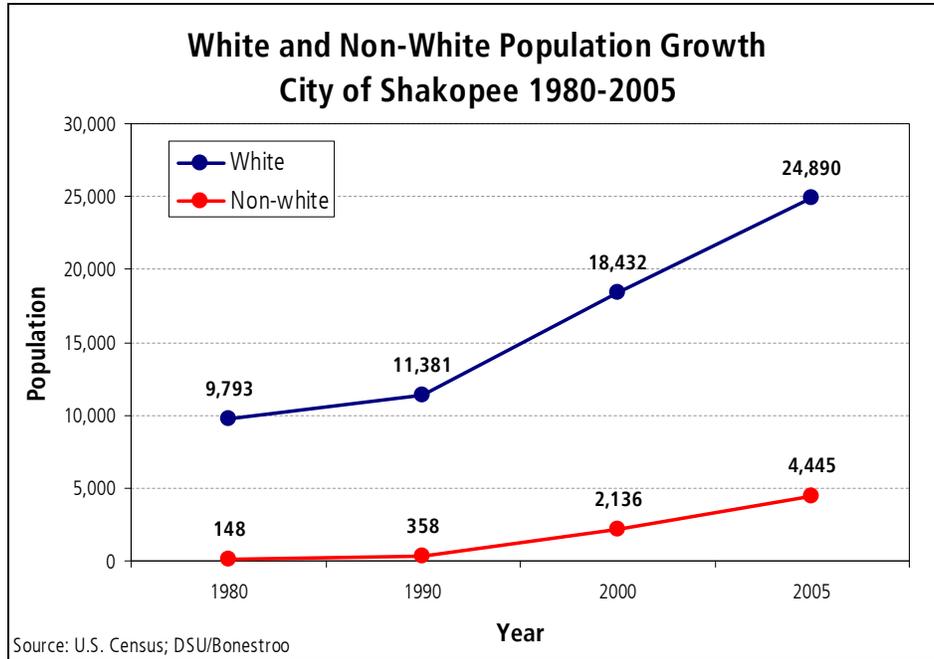
According to the Metropolitan Council, Shakopee had a population of 29,335 and 11,122 households in 2005, which was about triple that of 25 years ago. Shakopee is located in fast growing Scott County, which is situated at the expanding southwestern edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Over the next 25 years, it is anticipated that Shakopee will continue to grow at a much faster rate than the surrounding metropolitan region. By 2030, it is projected that Shakopee will have a population of 52,000, a 77% increase over the current population.





### Ethnicity

For the past couple decades, Shakopee’s steady growth has been coupled with an increase in racial and ethnic diversity. While the most recent data released by the U.S. Census through the American Community Survey indicate that the majority (84.8%) of Shakopee residents are white, the percentages of African-American, Asian-American, and Hispanic residents were also significant. In 2005, 6.1% of Shakopee’s population reported that they were of Asian heritage, while another 4.9% reported Hispanic origin. This is a significant change from 1980 when no non-white group comprised more than 0.5% of Shakopee’s total population. Changes in ethnicity will continue to impact park facility needs and program preferences as different cultures bring evolving needs forward.



**Language**

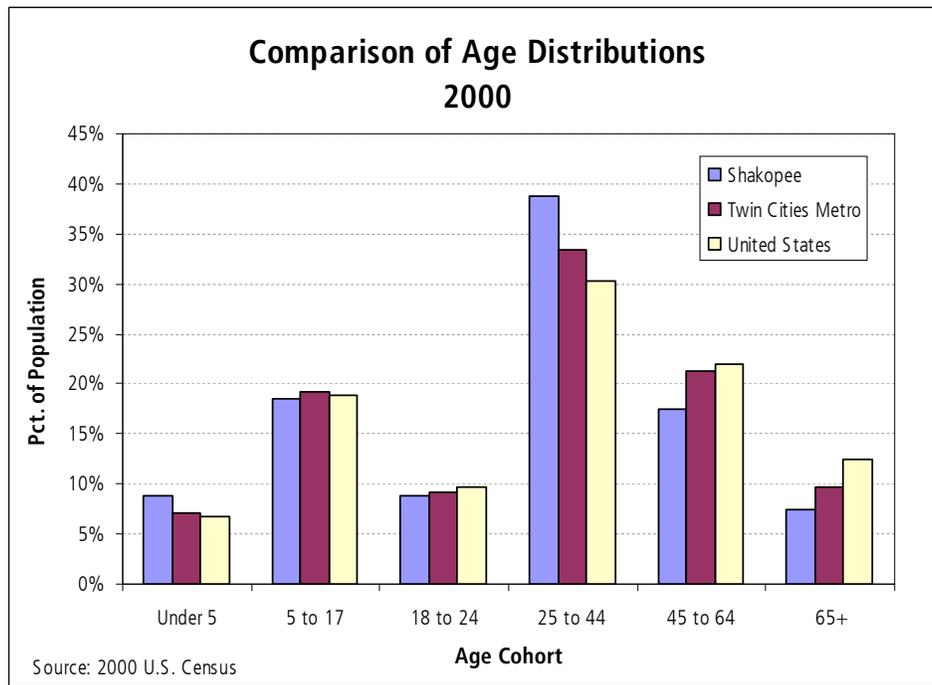
The prominent increase in the number of non-white residents has been largely due to substantial immigration of families from outside the United States. This has contributed to an increase in the number of non-native English speakers. In 2000, the U.S. Census reported that 3.7% of Shakopee’s population that was age five or older spoke English less than “very well.” This proportion was similar to the statewide rate of 3.5%. Between 2000 and 2005, however, this proportion grew to 6.1% in Shakopee, while the statewide rate only grew to 3.7%. Shakopee’s park plan will address communication strategies to bridge the language barriers and include non-native English speakers in public processes.

**Gender**

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Shakopee has a ratio of males to females that is similar to the State of Minnesota with 102 females for every 100 males. However, this ratio is slightly lower than the national ratio, which is 104 females to every 100 males. Interestingly, the Scott County ratio favors males with 98 females for every 100 males.

**Age Distribution**

Because Shakopee is a rapidly developing community, its age distribution is substantially skewed toward younger age groups when compared to metro or national distributions. In 2000, almost 40% of Shakopee’s population was between the ages of 25 and 44. This proportion was more than five percent higher than the Twin Cities Metro Area and almost nine percent higher than the national proportion. Conversely, the 65 and older age group only represented seven percent of Shakopee’s population in 2000, whereas this age group accounted for over 12% of the national population.

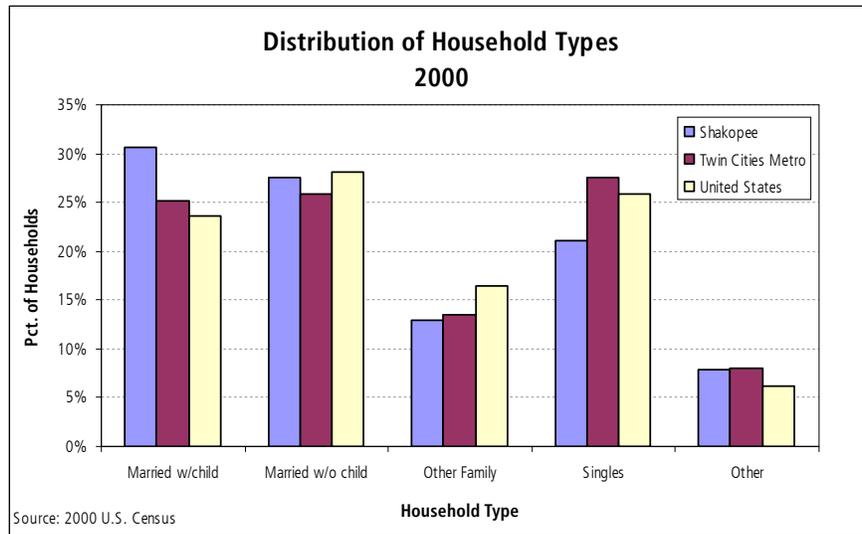


The impact of rapid in-migration of new households into Shakopee is also reflected in school enrollments. From fall 2000 to fall 2006, enrollment in the Shakopee school district has increased from 3,996 students to 5,814 students, an increase of 45.5%. These changes have also brought a higher demand for park uses and program enrollments. The parks system will need to accommodate for this growth by providing parks in new neighborhoods, planning for future trail needs, and acquiring enough land for future facility and program uses.



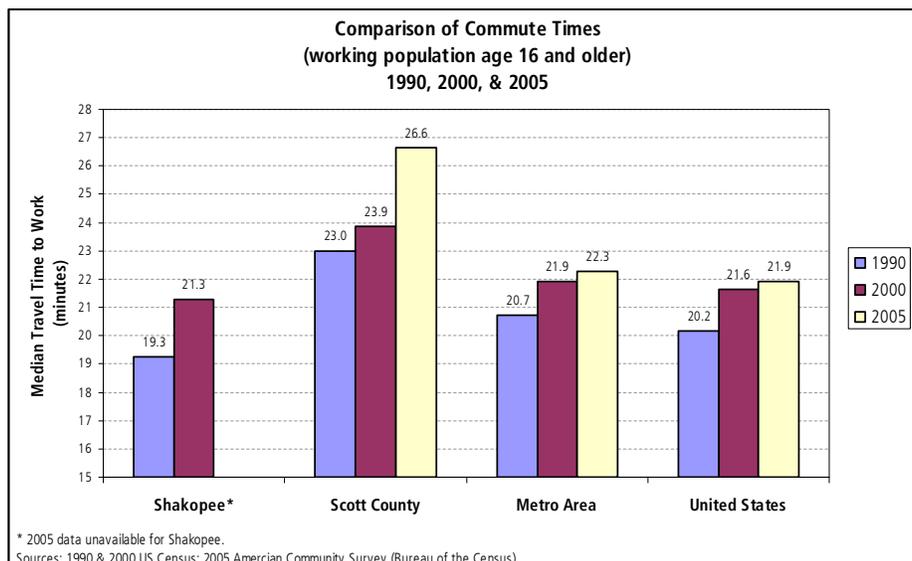
**Household Type**

In 2000, just over 30% of all Shakopee households were married couples with children. This is a significant proportion considering that only 25% of all metro area households and 24% of all US households were married couples with children. This difference is largely attributable to Shakopee’s rapid growth in the last 10 years in which many young households moved into the City, built new homes, and started having children. These recent growth has put a greater pressure on the Park System to adequately provide parks, trails, and open space in a balanced manner and within reasonable proximity to households.



### Commute Times

Commutes times have been increasing in most parts of the country. Between 1990 and 2000, the median commute time for working persons age 16 or older in the United States increased from 20.2 minutes to 21.6 minutes, a 7.3% increase. The Twin Cities Metro Area had a similar increase. However, for working persons in Shakopee, the median commute time increased from 19.3 to 21.3 minutes, or 10.6%. This is indicative of a sharp increase in the number of new households who relocate to Shakopee but continue to work outside of the immediate Shakopee area. This lifestyle trend creates a new demand on recreational needs as time is more limited and convenience is as important as ever. Recreational opportunities such as short trail loops and community-wide trail connections can compliment the evolving lifestyles.



## TRENDS

### National Trends

Each year the National Sporting Goods Association conducts an in depth study of how Americans spend their leisure time. The following table lists national participation rates for the most popular recreational activities and applies these rates to current and projected population figures for Shakopee.

Activity	2005 National Participation Rate	1995 National Participation Rate	Trend Since 1995	2003 Shakopee Participation Rate	Factor by which Shakopee rate exceeds National rate
Archery (target)	2.6%	2.1%	+	5%	1.9
Baseball	5.6%	6.6%	-	20%	3.6
Basketball	11.5%	12.6%	--	25%	2.2
Bicycle Riding	16.6%	23.6%	---	61%	3.7
Exercise Walking	33.0%	29.5%	+++	79%	2.4
Football (tackle)	3.8%	3.5%	+	11%	2.9
Golf	9.5%	10.1%	-	35%	3.7
Hockey (ice)	0.9%	0.9%		15%	16.3
In-Line Roller Skating	5.0%	10.0%	---	23%	4.6
Running/Jogging	11.2%	8.6%	++	32%	2.9
Skateboarding	4.6%	1.9%	++	10%	2.2
Skiing (cross country)	0.7%	1.4%	-	8%	11.0
Soccer	5.4%	5.0%	+	20%	3.7
Softball	5.4%	7.4%	--	25%	4.6
Swimming	22.3%	25.8%	---	48%	2.2
Tennis	4.3%	5.3%	-	18%	4.2
Volleyball	5.1%	7.5%	--	14%	2.8

SOURCES: National Sporting Goods Association; City of Shakopee

The American Planning Association prepared a series of briefing papers on how city parks can address urban challenges. In 2003, the APA published a report on how city parks can improve public health. The report found that people highly value the time they spend in parks and believe parks and recreation will play a larger role in reducing the obesity problem in America. Americans also believe that parks and trees will help improve the environment, as changing climate is increasingly becoming a prevalent issue.

Continued research shows that people who recreate in parks and natural settings have less occurrence of stress, depression, and are more at peace with their surroundings. This report shows that specific design considerations promote more use of parks such as accessibility, proximity, adequate lighting, restrooms, and well maintained paths. These studies support the rising trend of the need to plan for and provide parks, open space, and trails in our communities.

### Local Trends

The City conducted a community survey in 2003 that showed how local residents utilize their leisure time. Biking and walking trails scored the highest among those who were surveyed followed by recreating in community parks. Using the community center was the third most popular activity. Citizens utilize trails and playgrounds the most in the park system and highly value these amenities.

Citizens were asked what the greatest need was for future outdoor facilities. Trails, natural areas, and community parks were ranked as the greatest priority in terms of needs and importance of service. Citizens frequently requested the need for more parks as the City develops. Citizens also desired to acquire and preserve important natural areas for public enjoyment.

National trends are reflected in the Shakopee as citizen's lifestyles change and public awareness of health and environmental issues increases through multiple forms of media. This awareness leads to stronger feels, more public participation, and ultimately affects public policy and government. These trends are addressed in the plan and closely represent the community's needs and vision for a healthier tomorrow.

## PARK FACILITY PROJECTIONS AND NEEDS

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### Athletic Facility Needs

During the planning process, a representative from each of the local sports association groups gathered to discuss the trends they have seen in their athletics and future program needs. The following chart summarizes the collaborative effort of calculating future population, considering adjacent community facilities, national and local recreational trends, and City staff comments.



Figure 3.1 Projected Athletic Facility Need Based on Shakopee Sports Group Participation Rates and National Trends

Type of Facility	Total # of Existing Park Facilities in Park System	Total # of 2030 Park Facilities in Park System	2006 Facilities by Location used by associations			Total Existing # of facilities used by associations	Total 2030 Projected # of facilities used by associations	# of facilities to be added	# of acres per facility including parking	Total # of additional acres	Cost of each future facility	Total Costs of future facilities
			Parks	Schools	Other							
Youth ballfields	37	44	7	22	0	29	36	7	3	21	\$215,000	\$1,505,000
Baseball fields (adult)	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	4	4	\$360,000	\$360,000
Softball fields (adult)	8	12	8	0	0	8	12	4	3	12	\$240,000	\$960,000
Football fields/ Ultimate	8	13	4	3	1	8	13	5	5	25	\$150,000	\$750,000
Soccer fields (regulation)	10	19	7	3	0	10	19	9	5	45	\$150,000	\$1,350,000
Soccer fields (micro)	54	132	42	12	0	54	132	78	~	~	~	~
Tennis courts- outdoor	27	27	4	16	0	20	20	~	~	~	~	~
Basketball courts	24	30	0	10	2	12	18	6	~	~	~	~
Volleyball courts	16	19	0	10	1	11	14	3	~	~	~	~
Hockey rinks	4	5	0	0	1	1	2	1	~	~	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Wrestling space	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	1	~	~	~	~
Lacrosse/Rugby	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	4	5	20	\$150,000	\$600,000
<b>Subtotal</b>										127		\$6,525,000
<b>Soft Costs (25%)</b>												\$1,631,250
<b>Total</b>												<b>\$8,156,250</b>

<sup>1</sup> Youth ballfields are used by softball, little league, t-ball, and nearball programs.

<sup>2</sup> The "micro" soccer fields are created by partitioning soccer fields, football fields, and outfields into "micro" soccer fields.

<sup>3</sup> Soccer and football acreage estimates are sized for multiple uses

<sup>4</sup> Lighting has not been included in youth ballfield cost estimates

<sup>5</sup> Baseball, Softball, Soccer, & Football field costs include lighting, irrigation, and parking

<sup>6</sup> Cost estimates are based on current rates

<sup>7</sup> Lacrosse/rugby/ultimate field projections are based on regional trends

<sup>8</sup> \$1 million contribution towards Ice Hockey Rink

Note: All participation and population figures are for both Shakopee and Jackson Township.

\* Projected facility need is calculated as follows: (2030 pop x 2030 participation rate) ÷ (2006 participants ÷ # of facilities). The 2030 participation rate is derived from the 2006 participation rate based on minor adjustments to account for recent national trends.

Sources: City of Shakopee; National Sporting Goods Association; Bonestroo

**Park Amenity Needs**

An assessment was completed of these facilities to determine the type of park amenities that will be needed to serve current and future residents. These amenities were anticipated for the year 2030 by using population projections and facility use. As recreational demands have changed, new categories were added to the projections such as; bocce ball, community gardens, and splash pads which are an upcoming popular aquatic feature.

Figure 3.2 Projected Park Amenity Need and Associated Costs

Park Amenity	Current # of facilities	2030 # of facilities	Facilities to be added	Costs per facility	Total Costs
Archery Range	1	1	0	0	\$0
Bocce Ball	0	1	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
Boat Landing	2	3	1	\$150,000.00	\$150,000
Community Garden Area	0	2	2	\$5,000.00	\$10,000
Dog Parks - Large 15-18 AC	0	2	2	\$50,000.00	\$100,000
Frisbee Disc Golf Course -18 hole	1	2	1	\$30,000.00	\$30,000
Fishing Piers	3	5	2	\$10,000.00	\$20,000
Horseshoe Pits	5	9	4	\$4,000.00	\$16,000
Pleasure Ice Rink	5	6	1	\$200,000.00	\$200,000
Gazebo	1	3	2	\$40,000.00	\$80,000
Performance Area	1	1	0	0	\$0
Picnic Shelters	7	12	5	\$100,000.00	\$500,000
Playgrounds -Lg N'hood, Comm'ty	10	18	8	\$75,000.00	\$600,000
Playgrounds - Neighborhood	19	33	14	\$50,000.00	\$700,000
Park Building/Restroom -w/concession	5	9	4	\$600,000.00	\$2,400,000
Park Building/Restroom -w/warming house	4	7	3	\$300,000.00	\$900,000
Skate Park	1	2	1	\$80,000.00	\$80,000
Splash Pad - Large	0	1	1	\$250,000.00	\$250,000
Splash Pad- Mini (2-3 features)	0	2	2	\$100,000.00	\$200,000
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$6,241,000</b>
<b>Supporting Infrastructure -parking, lighting, etc. (15%)</b>					<b>\$936,150</b>
<b>Capital Improvements Subtotal</b>					<b>\$7,177,150</b>
<b>Soft Costs (25%)</b>					<b>\$1,794,288</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>					<b>\$8,971,438</b>

**Special Use Facilities**

A number of facilities were identified as major features of the park system but are not funded through park dedication fees. The projected desires are shown below for these facilities for informational purposes. If the City decides to propose a referendum or utilize another public funding source, this information will be useful in providing a holistic view of park facility needs.

It has been determined that the aquatic center needs to expand to serve the projected amount of residents. The facility is already operating near full capacity. The Community Center was identified in the community survey from 2003 as one of the top recreational services. Many citizens have expressed their desire to expand the amount of recreational opportunities. Multiple hockey-interest groups have also expressed the urgent need to add 1-2 more indoor ice hockey rinks. Currently the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is considering adding another indoor ice sheet to their facility. With this in mind Shakopee has projected one more facility to be added in the next twenty three years.

Figure 3.3 Special Use Facilities and Associated Costs

Park Amenity	Curent # of facilities	2030 # of facilities	Facilities to be added	Costs per facility	Total Costs
Aquatic Center/Expansion to Existing	1	2	1	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Community Center Expansion	1	1	0	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000
Indoor Ice Hockey Rink	1	2	1	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$29,000,000</b>
<b>Supporting Infrastructure (15%)</b>					<b>\$4,350,000</b>
<b>Capital Improvements Subtotal</b>					<b>\$33,350,000</b>
<b>Soft Costs (25%)</b>					<b>\$8,337,500</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>					<b>\$41,687,500</b>



## TRAIL FACILITY PROJECTIONS AND NEEDS

Trails were identified as the number one facility to expand in the City through numerous community surveys and public feedback. There are three categories of trails that have been identified:

1. City Recreational Trails – trails that are off-road
2. City Transportation Trails – trails that are along roadways and sidewalks
3. Regional/State Trails – trails that are not funded or governed by the City but are a part of the City’s trail system

City Staff worked to identify missing links in the current trail system, future recreational loops, and future growth areas that will need to be connected to the City trail system. Locations of the existing and proposed trails are found on Exhibit 3.4 Preliminary Search Areas and Trail Connections.



City Transportation Trail



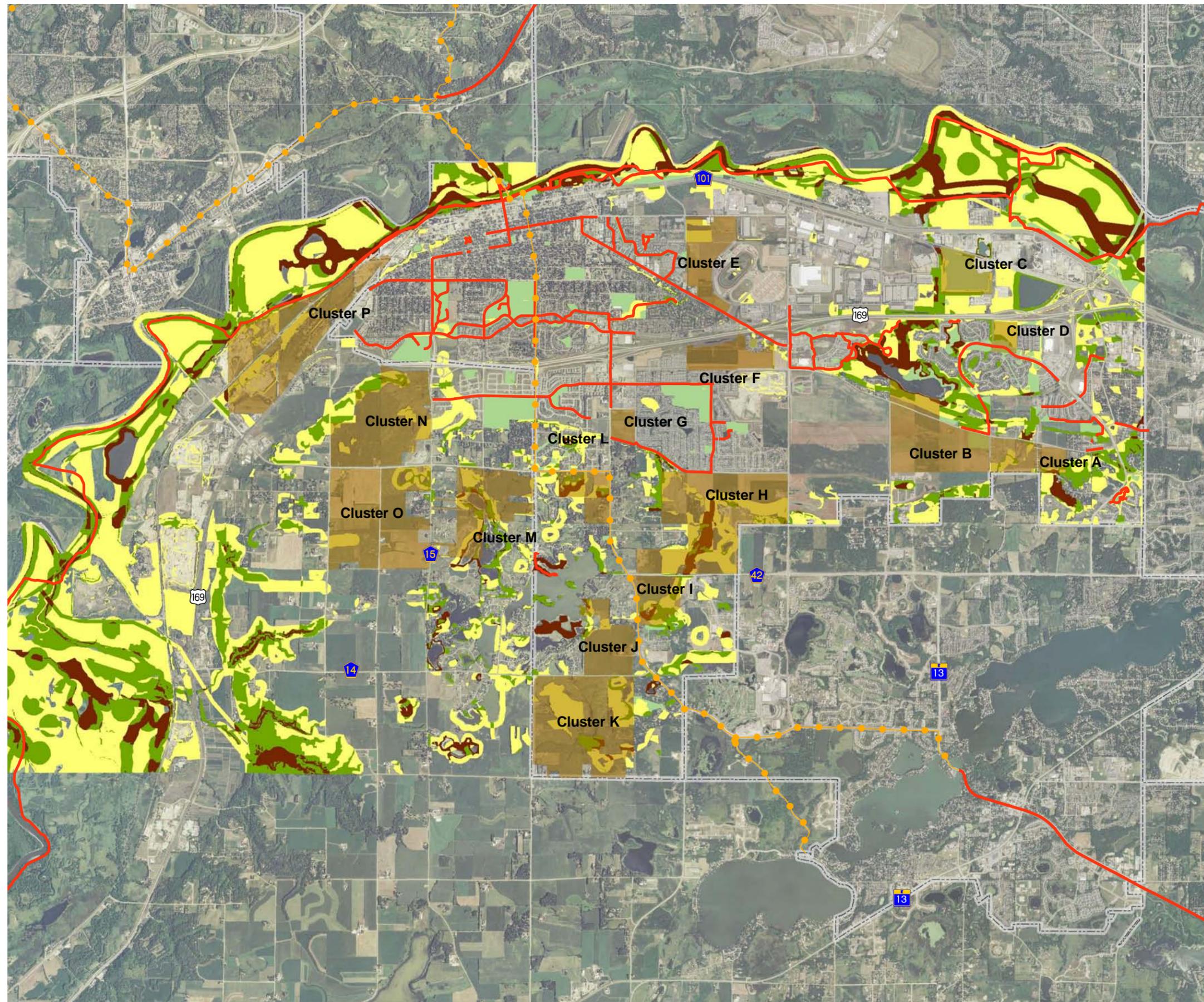
City Recreational Trail

Figure 3.4

Projected Trail Facility Need					
	Existing City Trails (LF)	2030 City Trails (LF)	# of LF of Trails to be Added (Proposed)	Costs per Linear Foot	Total Costs
City Recreational Trails	79,337	161,617	82,280	\$30.00	\$2,468,400
City Transportation Trails	156,758	439,610	282,852	\$30.00	\$8,485,560
Regional/State Trails	100,752	244,373	143,621	NA	NA
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$10,953,960</b>
<b>Soft Costs (.25)</b>					<b>\$2,738,490</b>
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$13,692,450</b>

# Preliminary Search Areas and Trail Connections

Figure 3.5



October 2008

## LAND NEEDS

In conjunction with identifying future recreational and athletic facility needs, parkland must be set aside to accommodate these future uses. The City’s current park classification system was analyzed to see how well it was functioning for residents. In the future projections, mini-parks are eliminated. These parks tend to be high maintenance, costly, and underused. The same purpose can be accomplished in providing accessible and diverse neighborhood parks.

The City has recently been constructing hybrid parks which are further defined in the park classification system. These parks are lumped into neighborhood parks for the following projection. The size of Neighborhood Parks has been increased from 2.2 acres per 1,000 people to 6.0 acres per 1,000 people. Creating a greater number of neighborhood parks while increasing the size of the park will better meet the desires of the community and decrease City maintenance costs.

Figure 3.6 **Projected Park Acreage Needs**

Park Type	Existing Acres	Existing # of Parks	2005 Existing Level of Service (acres per 1,000 pop.) <sup>1</sup>	NRPA standards	2030 Planned Level of Service (acres per 1,000 pop.) <sup>2</sup>	Total acres needed by 2030	Additional acres needed by 2030	2030 # of Parks	# of Parks to be Added
Mini-Park	1.6	3.0	0.1	.25-.50		1.6	0.0	0	0
Neighborhood Parks	65.0	20.0	2.2	2.5-3.5	6.0	312.0	247.0	26	6.0
Community Parks	534.0	13.0	18.2	5.0-8.0	12.0	624.0	90.0	20.8	7.8
Undeveloped Open Space	362.0	6.0	12.3	None	12.0	624.0	262.0	15.6	9.6
<b>Total Parks/Open Space</b>	<b>962.6</b>		<b>32.8</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>1,560.0</b>	<b>597.4</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>23.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on 2005 estimated population of 29,335  
<sup>2</sup> Based on 2030 projected population of 52,000  
<sup>3</sup> Future neighborhood parks are estimated at 12 acres each  
<sup>4</sup> Future community parks are estimated at 30 acres each  
<sup>5</sup> Future undeveloped open spaces are estimated at 40 acres each



## SEARCH CANDIDATE AREAS

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Search candidate areas for future parkland were identified through the process. The City looked for opportunities to protect scenic views, prime park locations, and high quality natural resource lands for future park expansion.

The City located missing trail links, future links to future schools and destinations, as well as trails along natural corridors. Refer to the Exhibit 3.4 Preliminary Search Areas & Trail Connections for search area location. Below is a description of each of the search areas identified along with the identified potential development use:

Cluster Name	Cluster Development Opportunity
Cluster A	Active Park
Cluster B	Active Park/Natural Resource
Cluster C	Special Use -Quarry Lake
Cluster D	Natural Resource Areas
Cluster E	Active Park
Cluster F	Active Park
Cluster G	Active Park
Cluster H	Active Park/Natural Resource
Cluster I	Athletic Complex/Natural Resource
Cluster J	Natural Resource Areas
Cluster K	Natural Resource Areas
Cluster L	Natural Resource Areas
Cluster M	Natural Resource Areas
Cluster N	Natural Resource Areas
Cluster O	Active Park/Natural Resource
Cluster P	Active Park/Natural Resource

- Cluster A: Make future connection to school, could be a future park for a variety of residential areas nearby
- Cluster B: If this land is not purchase by interested buyers, it has key bluff line and shoreline value.
- Cluster C: Quarry Lake Park is currently in the conceptual design process. It will have trails, picnic areas, and host water sport events. The land has already been acquired.
- Cluster D: MnDot Parcel could serve as a corridor to Southbridge and Quarry Lake and potentially the River
- Cluster E: Canterbury Park Site – If Canterbury decides not to expand on this 108 acres, this property could become residential with integrated parkland.
- Cluster F: Future residential area
- Cluster G: Currently owned by St. Francis Hospital/Beta Seed – will be moving away from site in 10 year timeframe
- Cluster H: Valleyview road could become a park for natural and active uses, High quality natural areas exist on site, and there is a potential for future residential development

- Cluster I: Nice site for natural resource value, good access at 47/17, surrounded by tribe land
- Cluster J: O'Dowd Lake- would provide lake access
- Cluster K: Adjacent to Eaglewood Park, contains wetlands and high quality maple basswood forest
- Cluster L: High natural resource value, contains nice woodland
- Cluster M: Forest area, lake shore and multiple access points on Thole Lake
- Cluster N: Located on upland of Bluff line, potential changes to 169 road alignment which is proposed to go across bluff
- Cluster O: Owned by Jackson Township, currently functions as a park with ballfields, picnic area, ponds, and tennis
- Cluster P: Located in Jackson Township, natural resource value

## REVIEW OF EXISTING PARK DEDICATION FORMULA

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Regarding Park Dedication State Legislature declares, “Cash payments received must be used only for the acquisition and development or improvement of parks, recreational, facilities, playgrounds, trails, wetlands, or open space based on the approved park systems plan. Cash payments must not be used for ongoing operation or maintenance of parks, recreational facilities, playgrounds, trails, wetland, or open space” Mn Statutes, 462.358

The City’s current park dedication formula was reviewed to verify if it could meet the future park system needs and costs. Presently, the City has land dedication set for residential development at one acre per seventy-five people or cash-in-lieu of land is set at \$5,340/unit (single family) and \$4,450/unit (multi-family). Commercial/industrial development land dedication is set at 10% of buildable land (net wetlands) or cash-in-lieu of land is set at \$6,930/acre. Park dedication fees do not include a separate trail fee.

The following research reveals that relying on park dedication fees alone will not support the future system as proposed.

Projected Land Need = 597.4 acres:

- 337 acres active space
- 262 acres open space

Projected Development Costs = \$30.8 million

- \$13.6 million in trail development
- \$8.9 million in park amenities
- \$8.1 million in athletic facilities

Assuming all park dedication obtained was land this chart shows the potential:

2005 – 2030 Pop. Change		Ordinance Requirements	Total Potential Acres*
22,665 population	/	1 acre/75 pop	= 302.2 acres
Undeveloped Commercial & Industrial Acres		10% Buildable Land	
602 acres	x	.10	= 60.2 acres
<b>Total Potential Acres</b>			<b>= 362.4</b>

This reveals a 235 acre gap compared to projected land needs.

Assuming all park dedication obtained was cash-in-lieu of land this chart shows the potential:

2005 – 2030 Household (HH) Growth = 10,378 HH	Required Fee	\$ Potential Range*
	\$5,340/SF unit	\$55.4 million
	\$4,450/MF unit	\$46.1 million

Commercial & Industrial (buildable acres)	Required Fee	\$ Potential
602 acres	\$ 6,930	= \$4.1 million

Total potential fees range from \$50.2 million to \$59.5 million. Projected development costs could be met, yet no land would be acquired or dedicated to build the park system upon. Below are estimated land costs based on the City’s current formula.

**Neighborhood and Community Parks**

Land Acquisition	362 acres x \$134K/acre <sup>1</sup>	= \$48M
Development		= \$16M
	Total	= \$64M

**Trails**

Land Acquisition	62 acres <sup>2</sup> x \$134K/acre <sup>1</sup>	= \$8M
Development		= \$13M
	Total	= \$22M

<sup>1</sup> Average Land Value per acre (Patchin Messner & Dodd 2006)

<sup>2</sup> Assumes 12’ ROW and 50% of planned trails are located in existing ROW

The review also considered residential and commercial share and the needed future fee based on the current share. This chart was created for comparison purposes only.

Residential Share <sup>1</sup>	85% Park Costs \$51M	75% Trail Costs \$16M	Total \$67M
Commercial Share <sup>1</sup>	15% Park Costs \$9M	25% Trail Costs \$5M	Total \$14M

Per HH Cost Estimate	Residential Share <sup>1</sup>	Projected 2005 – 2030 HH Change	Cost per HH
	\$67M	10,378 HH	\$6,500
Per C/I Acre Cost Estimate	Commercial Share <sup>1</sup>	Projected 2005 – 2030 C/I Acres	Cost per Acre
	\$14M	602 acres	\$24,057

<sup>1</sup> Ingram & Associates 1998

Considering the above fees are for comparison sake only, the City must set practical fees that will meet future park needs and continue to invite development. Below are comparisons of neighboring community fees for single family units, multi family units, and commercial/industrial units.

City	Cash fee in lieu of land* (single family unit)
Eden Prairie	\$6,000
<b>Shakopee</b>	<b>\$5,340 (Current)</b> <b>\$6,500 (Future Comparison)</b>
Prior Lake	\$3,750
Savage	\$3,230

City	Cash fee in lieu of land* (multifamily unit)
Eden Prairie	\$5,000
<b>Shakopee</b>	<b>\$4,450 (Current)</b> <b>\$6,500 (Future Comparison)</b>
Prior Lake	\$3,750
Savage	\$3,230

City	Cash fee in lieu of land* (per commercial/industrial acre)
Eden Prairie	\$11,000
Savage	\$7,800
<b>Shakopee</b>	<b>\$6,930 (Current)</b> <b>\$24,057 (Future Comparison)</b>
Prior Lake	\$6,400

## RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO FUNDING METHODS

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The above research revealed the need to find a recipe and balance of multiple funding methods that could support the future park, trail, and open space system. The City has expressed its desire to achieve this by setting specific goals, strategies, and tactics in the following section. Below is a list of potential methods to utilize in creating a well balanced and maintained park system.

### Revisit 2007 Park Dedication Requirements:

- Potential to increase level of service (1 acre per 75 people)
- Potential to increase both Residential and Commercial fees
- “Fair Share” must be well documented:
  - Conduct Park & Trail User Survey of Residents & Employees
  - Refine assumptions regarding park and trail usage to document “rational nexus” between requirements and impacts of proposed development
  - Who's using the facilities? Parks and Trails
  - Verify percentages on user groups (residential and commercial)
- 1998 plan combined park and trail fees – consider a separate trail fee (with legal counsel)

### Other Methods:

- Public and private partnerships
- Obtain open space through land dedication or conservation easements
- Sales or property tax (referendum)
- State or Federal grants
- Park user fees
- City program fees
- General funds

## GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND TACTICS

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It is crucial to have a clear road map of how to develop, maintain, and grow the park system into all that it can be. These goals, strategies, and tactics become a useful tool in communicating the steps it will take to achieve the desired park system. During the planning process, a number of focus areas emerged from the Advisory Committee which each goal is tailored around. The focus areas include:

- Connections
- Variety of Passive and Active Recreational Facilities
- Community Identity
- Community Involvement
- Historical/Cultural/Art Features
- Natural Resources
- Design Standards
- Sustainability



From these focus areas; individual goals were developed to guide the Park, Trail, & Open Space Plan. Goals 1-10 are as follows:

Goal 1: Provide an accessible interconnected and diverse park, trail, and open space system consistent with resident expectations.

Goal 2: Create a balance and variety of passive and active recreational opportunities.

Goal 3: Promote a strong community identity

Goal 4: Promote cultural, art, and historic resources through parks and City programs.

Goal 5: Adopt sustainable environmental practices.

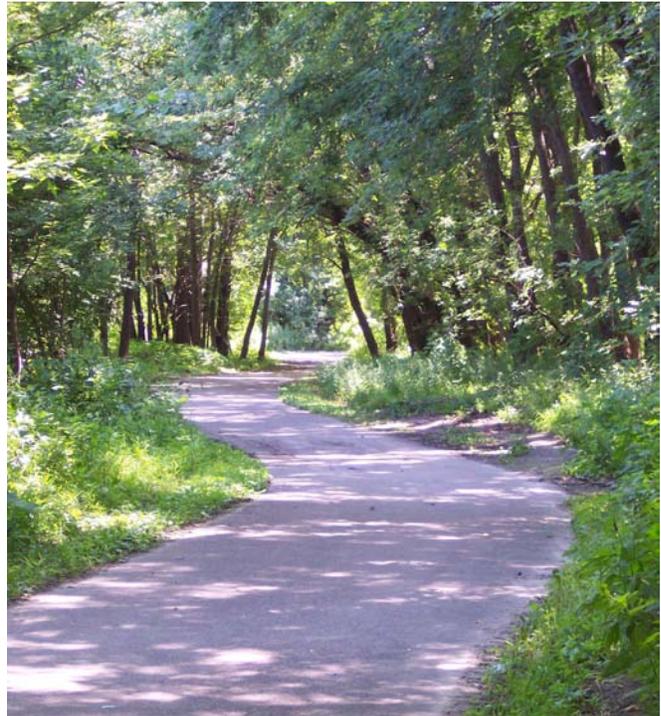
Goal 6: Seek & support community involvement.

Goal 7: Collaborate with adjacent and regional facilities.

Goal 8: Design and develop facilities that are accessible and safe with life-cycle features that account for long term costs and benefits.

Goal 9: Develop financing strategies to acquire land and develop the park & trail system.

Goal 10: Develop financing strategies to maintain the park system and renovate existing facilities.



**Goal 1: Provide an accessible and interconnected park, trail, and open space system consistent with resident expectations.**

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**Strategy 1.1: Promote trail connections between parks, schools, neighborhoods, and community destinations that will facilitate access to the entire system.**

- **Tactic 1.1a:** Study circulation patterns and potential trail locations at the neighborhood level to identify potential connections to the overall park, trail, and open space system.
- **Tactic 1.1b:** Work to remove barriers such as roads or missing links.
- **Tactic 1.1c:** Provide system wide safe trail access within ¼ mile of all residents.

**Strategy 1.2: Provide parkland and amenities within an appropriate distance of residents.**

- **Tactic 1.2a:** Provide neighborhood parks within ½ mile of homes.
- **Tactic 1.2b:** Conduct a study to ensure existing parks meet this requirement. The distance to parks should be measured by the walking route and consider barriers that affect walking route.

**Strategy 1.3: Review development proposals to ensure neighborhood streets, sidewalks, and lot configurations are compatible with the park needs of the eventual residents.**

- **Tactic 1.3a:** Review and enhance the current zoning ordinance requiring developers to dedicate trail easements to the city.
- **Tactic 1.3b:** Strongly encourage that all trails not follow a road system.

**Strategy 1.4: Develop a network of regional, community and local trails and on-street bike lanes. Connect these trails as a system of long and short recreational loops that provide numerous experiences.**

- **Tactic 1.4a:** Utilize the future trail plan by prioritizing and phasing each trail segment.
- **Tactic 1.4b:** Require trail loops within new parks.
- **Tactic 1.4c:** Create and adopt a unifying signage concept that would display park and trail maps and facility names.
- **Tactic 1.4d:** Budget for a signage plan and prioritize locations.
- **Tactic 1.4e:** Consider acquisition of abandoned railroad right of way for future trail routes.
- **Tactic 1.4f:** Promote trail connections to and along the Minnesota River.
- **Tactic 1.4g:** Provide appropriate public access to natural resource lands in order to promote understanding and support of natural areas.
- **Tactic 1.4h:** Maximize interconnectivity throughout the entire trail system while preventing isolated loops and or solitary trails.

## **Goal 2: Create a balance and variety of passive and active recreational opportunities.**

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### **Strategy 2.1: Provide 30 acres of parkland and open space for every 1,000 residents.**

- **Tactic 2.1a:** Adopt individual acreage amounts for active space and passive open space within the 30 acre allotment. Utilize this guideline to evaluate park development over time.
- **Tactic 2.1b:** Revise park dedication ordinance to support this ratio.
- **Tactic 2.1c:** Create a design ratio for each park to include passive and active recreational opportunities.

### **Strategy 2.2: Acquire sites identified in search candidate areas**

- **Tactic 2.2a:** Conduct a detailed inventory of search candidate areas.
- **Tactic 2.2b:** Create a plan and prioritize sites based on the Natural Resource Inventory and park needs. Work with the Environmental Advisory Committee to review locations.
- **Tactic 2.2c:** Designate land use and facility type for search candidate areas.
- **Tactic 2.2d:** Seek opportunities to obtain waterfront property whenever possible.
- **Tactic 2.2e:** Seek to acquire and develop sites for athletic complexes that could accommodate tournament quality uses for youth and adult athletic events.

### **Strategy 2.3: Provide space for reflection**

- **Tactic 2.3a:** Create design standards for parks that include seating areas and open space for quiet contemplation.
- **Tactic 2.3b:** Create scenic overlooks and places to visually appreciate natural resources.

### **Strategy 2.4: Provide facilities or dedicated areas for specific park uses.**

- **Tactic 2.4a:** Inventory and analyze developed and undeveloped parkland for the feasibility of providing off-leash dog areas.
- **Tactic 2.4b:** Consider opportunities to acquire and develop land purposed for athletic complexes.
- **Tactic 2.4c:** Seek opportunities to build unique and popular park features such as splash pads or community gardens.
- **Tactic 2.4d:** Pursue opportunities to provide indoor recreation by partnering with local jurisdictions, schools, and sports associations.
- **Tactic 2.4e:** Ensure that there are adequate park facility locations and appropriate activities within proximity for special population groups such as senior citizens.

### **Strategy 2.5: Provide natural areas adjacent to and/or within park areas.**

- **Tactic 2.5a:** Create and implement design standards requiring new parks to include natural areas and buffers.
- **Tactic 2.5b:** Inventory the amount of natural areas in existing parks.
- **Tactic 2.5c:** Create a plan to update existing parks to meet the new design standard.

- **Tactic 2.5d:** Integrate recreational opportunities with natural resource corridors where appropriate.
- **Tactic 2.5e:** Provide natural buffer areas between athletic fields and housing.



**Strategy 2.6: Optimize the use of existing park facilities through renovations that promote accessibility, safety, and maximum usefulness.**

- **Tactic 2.6a:** Conduct a facility inventory and identify the ability to meet future park needs.
- **Tactic 2.6b:** Seek to improve existing athletic facilities and playing capacity by adding lighting components to efficiently utilize the existing infrastructure.



**Strategy 2.7: Gather public input to gain accurate insight on recreational opportunities offered in the Park and Trail system.**

- **Tactic 2.7a:** Conduct community surveys on a semi-annual period to gain a current view of park system trends and evaluate performance of existing facilities.
- **Tactic 2.7b:** Form interest groups to gain a better perspective on recreational opportunities and needs.
- **Tactic 2.7c:** Determine the facility needs for low income households and diverse ethnic backgrounds through public participation strategies.

**Strategy 2.8: Identify and acquire land for preservation of high-quality natural resource areas, including ridgelines, woodlands, scenic views and waterways to compliment the Natural Resource Plan.**

- **Tactic 2.8a:** Place high priority for these land types when acquisition opportunities are available.

## Goal 3: Promote a strong community identity

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### Strategy 3.1: Provide well-maintained parks and facilities.

- **Tactic 3.1a:** Create a systems park and trail maintenance standard. Create a plan to implement these standards and budget for annual costs associated with each standard.
- **Tactic 3.1b:** Develop short term and long term maintenance costs for each facility.

### Strategy 3.2: Create a consistent overall park system design theme.

- **Tactic 3.2a:** Develop standard component specifications for furnishings such as benches, lighting, and signage.

### Strategy 3.3: Host community events and celebrations within the Park & trail system.

- **Tactic 3.3a:** Work with City staff to coordinate City wide events within the Park System
- **Tactic 3.3b:** Sponsor community events in partnership with community organizations and private businesses.



## Goal 4: Promote cultural, art, and historic resources through parks and City programs

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### Strategy 4.1: Continue to evaluate needs for cultural arts programming.

- **Tactic 4.1a:** Work with related interest groups to identify partnership opportunities and to build a foundation for art awareness.

### Strategy 4.2: Work with historical and cultural organizations to identify culturally and historically significant landscapes.

- **Tactic 4.2a:** Examine sites and significant resources to create development themes and interpretive materials to promote community awareness and appreciation whenever possible.
- **Tactic 4.2b:** Develop cost analysis to obtain or enhance identified features.
- **Tactic 4.2c:** Include identified properties in future acquisition plans.

- **Tactic 4.2d:** Conduct cultural and historic resource inventories for each design and development of new parkland.



**Strategy 4.3: Develop a diversified cultural arts program that supports music, art, and theatrical activities in order to increase community awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities.**

- **Tactic 4.3a:** Work with local schools, business community, service groups, and local artists to develop a series of programs.

**Strategy 4.4: Reach out to minority groups through cultural arts programs**

- **Tactic 4.4a:** Provide incentives to promote cultural celebrations and festivals.
- **Tactic 4.4b:** Survey minority groups on their interests and needs for a cultural arts program.

**Strategy 4.5: Support opportunities that encourage or provide incentives for artists and artworks within the community.**

- **Tactic 4.5a:** Partner with local organizations and schools to host art exhibits or design build art projects within the park system.

**Strategy 4.6: Protect and preserve unique cultural and natural resources within the community.**

- **Tactic 4.6a:** Designate areas of highest quality & cultural significance and work to acquire land if it is not already part of the Park System.

## Goal 5: Adopt sustainable environmental practices

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### Strategy 5.1: Evaluate need to implement sustainable city-wide operational procedures

- **Tactic 5.1a:** Explore methods and costs of transitioning to more sustainable operational practices.
- **Tactic 5.1b:** Identify and research other communities that have already adopted sustainable practices.

### Strategy 5.2: Practice sustainable methods of managing open space.

- **Tactic 5.2a:** Investigate best management practices for maintenance procedures to minimize environmental impacts.
- **Tactic 5.2b:** Become educated in sustainable practices to demonstrate proper application techniques to maintenance staff.
- **Tactic 5.2c:** Implement practices.

### Strategy 5.3: Promote design standards that reflect sustainable methods of construction, operations, and use of environmentally sound materials where feasible and cost effective over time.

- **Tactic 5.3a:** Develop demonstration projects that utilize sustainable approaches to construction and stewardship and interpret these sites to the public for educational purposes.
- **Tactic 5.3b:** Conduct an energy audit on existing park facilities and operational methods
- **Tactic 5.3c:** Identify improvement areas and cost saving benefits associated with more energy efficient upgrades.
- **Tactic 5.3d:** Utilize products that are made from recycled materials, have a long life span, or come from a local source to encourage less maintenance and promote air quality.
- **Tactic 5.3e:** Incorporate porous pavement and/or bio swales to minimize storm water runoff and enhance water quality.
- **Tactic 5.3g:** Collaborate with the Environmental Advisory committee to achieve a more sustainable City and park, trail, and open space system.

### Strategy 5.4: Promote multiple transportation systems by promoting trail connectivity and construction.

- **Tactic 5.4a:** Emphasize pedestrian spaces and corridors through planning and signage.
- **Tactic 5.4b:** Pursue integrated transportation and park and trail planning within City departments.
- **Tactic 5.4c:** Require new development to integrate sidewalks, open areas, trails, and recreational opportunities in their design and construction.



## Goal 6: Seek & support community involvement

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### Strategy 6.1: Establish an effective, ongoing means of communicating and interacting with the public about issues related to parks, trails, recreational programs, and development projects.

- **Tactic 6.1a:** Utilize technology, community newsletters, and signage to communicate with the broader public.
- **Tactic 6.1b:** Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations
- **Tactic 6.1c:** Develop adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood watches, park police patrols, and other innovative programs that increase safety and security awareness and visibility.



### Strategy 6.2: Seek cultural diversity and develop methods to engage minority populations.

### Strategy 6.3: Use a variety of techniques to inform, involve, and collaborate with the public.

- **Tactic 6.3a:** Identify the appropriate level of community involvement and result desired for each public project.

### Strategy 6.4: Advocate for greater public sector involvement throughout planning processes and City Programs.

- **Tactic 6.4a:** Create public participation plans for public development projects to ensure the inclusion of public feedback in park and trail planning.
- **Tactic 6.4b:** Promote community involvement by expanding the park volunteer program and partnering with local businesses to offer incentives for volunteers.

### Strategy 6.5: Promote public investment in stewardship of open space lands.

- **Tactic 6.5a:** Work with local environmental groups to create interpretive materials and signage for natural resource sites to allow visitors to learn from these areas.

## **Goal 7: Collaborate with adjacent and regional agencies.**

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**Strategy 7.1: Maximize the recreational opportunities available to city residents through the development of a fair and equitable working partnership between the Shakopee School District, adjacent cities, townships, Scott County, the DNR, USFWS, religious institutions, civic organizations, other organizations and the City of Shakopee.**

- **Tactic 7.1a:** Identify organizations that may be interested in partnering to implement plan objectives and common goals
- **Tactic 7.1b:** Initialize formal project specific partnerships with surrounding agencies, schools, townships, counties, and community residents.
- **Tactic 7.1c:** Develop and maintain partnerships on an annual basis.
- **Tactic 7.1d:** Encourage the shared use of parks and school facilities for community recreation purposes and to maximize utilization of limited space.
- **Tactic 7.1e:** Work with the school district to identify opportunities for outdoor classrooms and gathering spaces to facilitate environmental education for youth.

## **Goal 8: Design and develop facilities that are accessible and safe with life-cycle features that account for long term costs and benefits.**

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**Strategy 8.1: Design facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests**

**Strategy 8.2: Develop low maintenance and high capacity design standards and capabilities to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.**

- **Tactic 8.2a:** Budget for life cycle costs.
- **Tactic 8.2b:** Coordinate volunteer opportunities to maintain park facilities and promote a sense of ownership among neighboring residents.

**Strategy 8.3: Establish design standards for parks, trails and facilities that encourage durability, accessibility, and are responsive to unique site conditions.**

- **Tactic 8.3a:** Implement the provisions and requirements of the ADA and other design and development standards
- **Tactic 8.3b:** Evaluate existing parks for ADA compatibility.

**Strategy 8.4: Design all park facilities with commercial grade materials, fixtures, & site furnishings.**

- **Tactic 8.4a:** Create a standard specification of materials for new design and development.

## **Goal 9: Develop financing strategies to acquire land and develop the park & trail system.**

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### **Strategy 9.1: Develop strategies to guide all aspects of land acquisition and development to provide a park system that is sustainable over the long term.**

- **Tactic 9.1a:** Annually revisit the park plan goals and strategies to promote a continued vision for the park system.

### **Strategy 9.2: Use a variety of funding sources for acquisitions and development of park and recreation facilities.**

- **Tactic 9.2a:** Encourage the use of conservation easements in order to protect natural resource lands or scenic views.
- **Tactic 9.2b:** Aggressively apply for grants whenever appropriate.

### **Strategy 9.3: Generate collaborative action among diverse stakeholders to encourage and fund projects that support the park system.**

- **Tactic 9.3a:** Advocate public-private partnerships for the purposes of acquiring lands and constructing park and trail facilities.

## **Goal 10: Develop financing strategies to maintain the park system and renovate existing facilities.**

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### **Strategy 10.1: Encourage innovative methods to finance facility development, maintenance, and park improvement needs.**

- **Tactic 10.1a:** Optimize programming opportunities by charging appropriate fees for residents and non residents to gain dollars for park operating costs.
- **Tactic 10.1b:** Identify opportunities to generate revenue through special use recreational facilities and programs.
- **Tactic 10.1c:** Monitor and adjust the City's park dedication fee program.
- **Tactic 10.1d:** Develop a comprehensive replacement program, maintenance standards, and life cycle replacement costs.
- **Tactic 10.1e:** Partner with corporate entities to develop park and recreational facilities.

### **Strategy 10.2: Utilize financial forecasting tools to prepare long term financial management plans**

- **Tactic 10.2a:** Build upon the current maintenance and operation plan to create individual work plans for each park site and prioritize appropriately.