

**AGENDA
PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 1, 2022
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

"An opportunity for members of the public to address the Park Advisory Commission on items not on the current Agenda. Items requiring Park Advisory Commission action maybe deferred to staff for research and future Wyoming Park Advisory Commission Agendas if appropriate."

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items under the "Consent Agenda" will be adopted with one motion; however, council members may request individual items to be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and action if they choose.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the "Regular Meeting" of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission for July 12, 2022

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Review Draft Park and Trail Master Plan

COMMUNICATIONS:

3. Public Works Park Maintenance Report
4. All Boards Meeting on August 30, 2022 at 6:00PM to review a draft of the Comprehensive Plan
5. Park Steward updates

ADJOURN

**NEXT MEETING:
September 12, 2022
7:00PM**

DRAFT MINUTES
WYOMING PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
JULY 12, 2022
6:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Spangler called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission for July 12, 2022 to order at 6:00PM

CALL OF ROLL:

*On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission were present:
Members Bruce Spangler, Heather Vandenheuvel, Jessica Bergan and Bruce Vukelich*

Absent: None

Also Present: Alex Saxe, Assistant City Administrator and Claire Luger, Council Liaison

Visitors: None

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

Chair Spangler determined a Quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider Approving the Minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission for June 6, 2022

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER VANDENHUEVEL, SECONDED BY MEMBER BERGAN, TO APPROVE THE PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 6, 2022 MEETING, AS PRESENTED.

Voting Aye: Spangler, Vandenheuvel, Bergan, and Vukelich

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

2. 2022 Park Advisory Commission goals update

Assistant City Administrator Saxe gave a mid-year update on the 2022 goals the Park Advisory Commission set back in February. The biggest efforts continue to be fundraising for Railroad Park and awaiting a draft of the Master Park and Trail Master Plan from WSB, which Mr. Saxe stated will be ready to present to the Park Commission next month. The playground equipment for Swenson Park has been ordered and should be installed

before winter. The Park Commissioners will take photos of the parks for staff to put on the website as they are out doing their monthly park visits. There was some discussion around the benefits of being a Tree City and a Green Step City. Assistant City Administrator Saxe thanked the PAC for all of their hard work and said they should be proud of how much they have accomplished halfway through the year.

3. Grant updates and discussion

Assistant City Administrator Saxe gave an update on the last few grants the city had applied for. The City was awarded \$40,000 for an Emerald Ash Borer Grant from the DNR. But did not receive an award for the AARP Community Challenge Grant or the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Grant through the DNR. Mr. Saxe listed out some possible grants such as the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grant and Veteran Specific Grants. There was discussion around reaching out to companies or other potential donors to keep fundraising efforts strong.

COMMUNICATIONS:

4. Swenson Park playground update

Assistant City Administrator Saxe gave an update that on June 21, the City Council approved the purchase of the Game Time Vista Star 3 climbing structure for Swenson Park. Staff signed the quote on June 22 and the order should be fulfilled within 3 months and will be installed before the winter.

5. Public Works Maintenance Report

Assistant City Administrator Saxe stated that Public Works Superintendent Chuck Almhjeld submitted a maintenance report which was included in the packet. There was some general discussion on how nice the parks are and that Public Works does a great job with maintenance.

6. Park Steward Updates

Chair Spangler stated that he did not notice any issues this month and said with the summer months the parks have been really busy.

Member Vandenheuvel stated that at both Ashton and Fireside the picnic tables could use some refinishing.

Member Vukelich stated that Goodview is a beautiful park and the only thing he noticed is one of the swing set mats needs to be replaced. Centennial Park is in great shape. At Railroad Park, the weeds seemed to be out of control and the grass does not look great.

Member Bergan stated she did not notice anything that needed to be fixed during her visits.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER VUKELICH, SECONDED BY MEMBER SPANGLER, TO ADJOURN THE JULY 12, 2022 MEETING OF THE WYOMING, PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION AT 6:41 PM

Voting Aye: Spangler, Vandenheuvel, Bergan, and Vukelich

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

NEXT MEETING:
August 1, 2022
7:00PM



Park Advisory Commission Memo

Date: July 29, 2022

Presented to: Park Advisory Commission

Presented by: Alex Saxe, Assistant City Administrator

Department: Administration

Reference: Draft Park and Trail Master Plan

Method: New Business

Background Information:

The Park and Trail Master Plan started as a 10-month long planning process which began with a kick-off meeting to discuss the vision and goals for the park system plan as a guide for the next 10 to 20 years to better meet the needs of the community. A needs assessment with community engagement was conducted to identify how well the current system was functioning and to determine the greatest needs. The assessment data in conjunction with community feedback was used to provide planning recommendations and priorities included in this system plan to be used as a guide for future initiatives.

City staff and WSB have finished a Draft of The Master Park and Trail Plan which is included in the packet. The plan consists of these major sections:

- Section 1: Executive Summary
- Section 2: System Overview
- Section 3: Needs Assessment
- Section 4: Public Engagement
- Section 5: Park System Plan
- Section 6: Trail System Plan
- Section 7: Implementation Plan

Staff is looking for the Park Advisory Commission to create a vision statement for the plan and to provide comments and feedback.

Recommendation:

If there are minimal to no changes, staff is recommending presenting this draft plan to City Council on Wednesday, August 3rd for their comments and feedback.



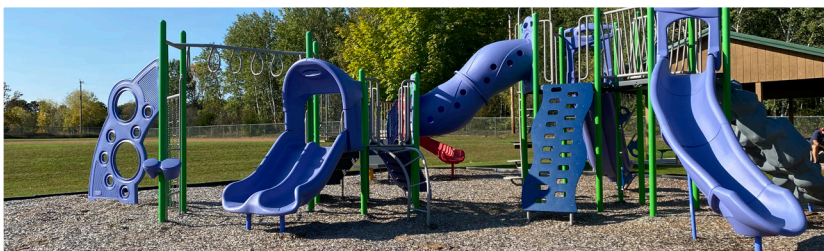
CITY OF WYOMING

P.O. Box 188, 26885 Forest Blvd., Wyoming, MN 55092
Phone: 651-462-0575 Fax: 651-462-0576



2022

Park System Plan



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The planning team would like to thank the City of Wyoming and the numerous community members who provided valuable information and feedback throughout the planning process.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work of city staff, the Wyoming Parks Advisory Commission, and the Wyoming City Council for providing their vision and insights, and truly understand the challenges facing the city's parks and trail system. These conversations have enriched our understanding of the community to establish a set of goals to help meet the vision for the future parks, trails and recreation.

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

Lisa Iverson, Mayor
Linda Nanko Yeager, Council Member
Claire Luger, Council Member
Brett Ohnstad, Council Member
Dennis Schilling, Council Member

CITY STAFF

Robb Linwood, City Administrator
Alex Saxe, Assistant City Administrator, Staff Liaison
Chuck Almhjeld, Public Works Superintendent

CONSULTANT

WSB & Associates, LTD



PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Bruce Spangler, Chair
Jessica Bergan, Vice-Chair
Bruce Vukelich, Member
Heather Vandenheuvel, Member
Claire Luger, Council Member Liaison
Alex Saxe, Assistant City Administrator, Staff Liaison

JOINT PARK PLANNING BOARD

Heather Vandenheuvel, Park Advisory Rep
Jessica Bergan, Park Advisory Rep
Katie West, Planning Commission Rep
Roger Carr, Planning Commission Rep
Claire Luger, Council Member

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

A special thank you to the many community members who engaged in planning throughout this process at events, meetings and online!

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

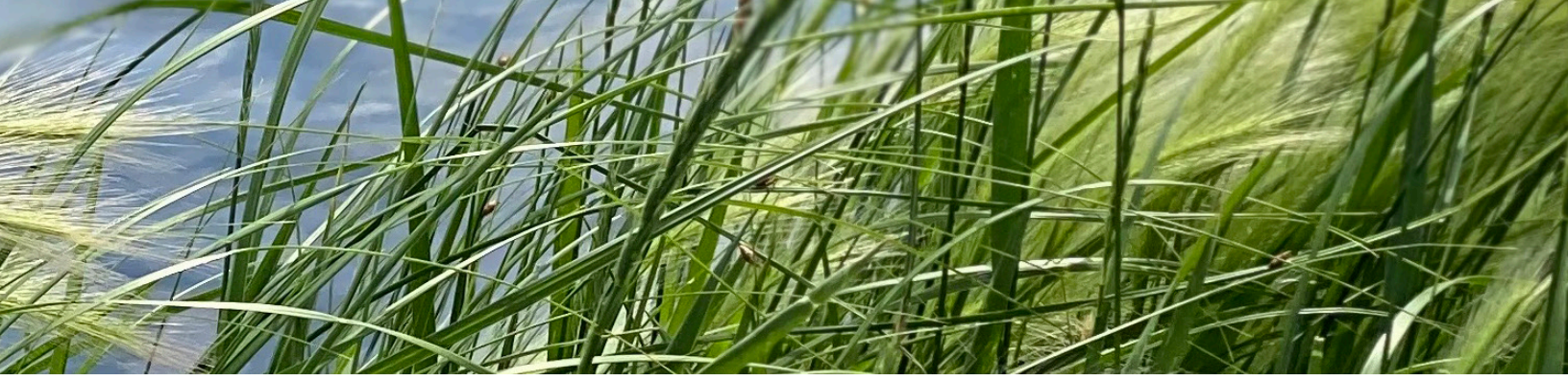
The City of Wyoming has an impressive community formed by the railroad. It has varying levels of park development with a direct connection to the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail. Its location is ideal for many families who prefer a rural character and small town feel with an abundance of natural resources, yet within an easy drive to the Minneapolis metro area.

Wyoming's Park System Master Plan is a strategic and comprehensive plan that provides an overall community vision for the parks, trails and recreation for the City of Wyoming for the next 10 to 20 years to help guide development in line with a growing community.

This system plan is meant to provide recommendations that will guide future investments for development and improvements by establishing goals, policies and priorities in line with community need.



Source: <https://www.lakesnwoods.com/WyomingGallery.html>

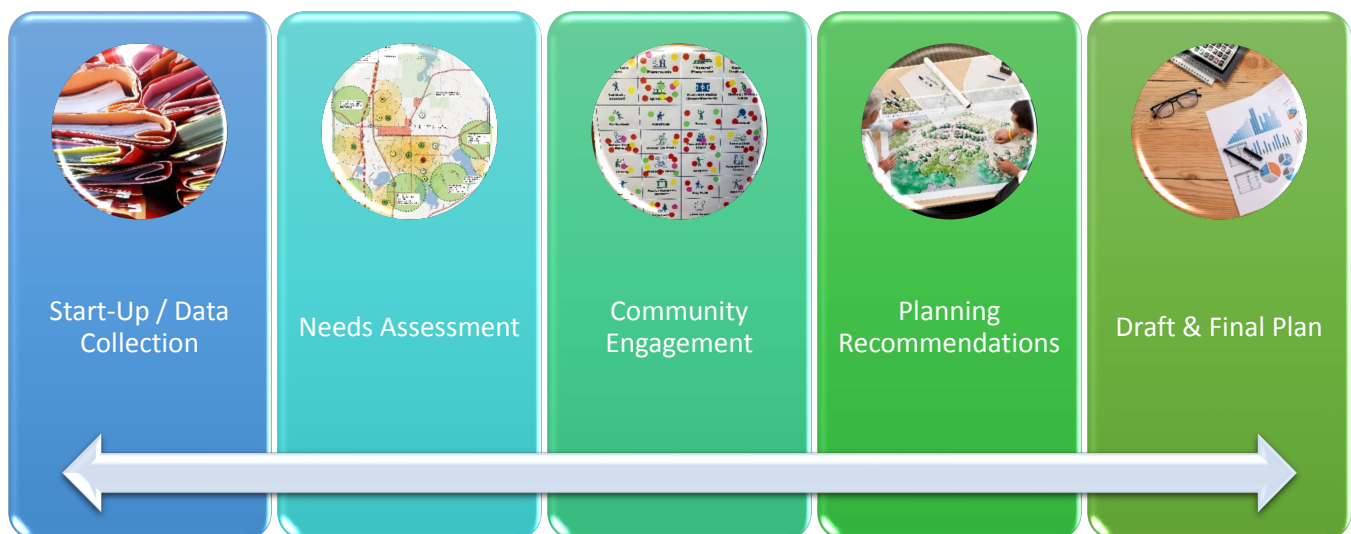


PLANNING PROCESS

A 10-month long planning process began with a kick-off meeting to discuss the vision and goals for the park system plan as a guide for the next 10 to 20 years to better meet the needs of the community.

A needs assessment with community engagement was conducted to identify how well the current system was functioning and to determine the greatest needs.

The assessment data in conjunction with community feedback was used to provide planning recommendations and priorities included in this system plan to be used as a guide for future initiatives. The plan draft plan went through a public review period with refinements made prior to final adoption by the Wyoming City Council.



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following summary of recommendations includes short and long term initiatives for parks and trails based upon the vision statement and the following plan goals.

1. Create high-quality recreational experiences;
2. Improve connectivity throughout the community;
3. Provide equitable recreation meeting diverse demographics;
4. Ensure responsible growth in alignment with funding.

PARK SYSTEM PLAN

The recommendations for parks were identified as follows:

1. Prioritize projects that serve the greater community, help promote the sense of place and community celebration and can help generate revenue.
 - » Railroad Park development
 - » Goodview park improvements
2. Prioritize projects that create high-quality experiences and meet existing needs in terms of proper access to quality recreation.
 - » Develop Sunrise Riverbank park in new neighborhood
 - » Redevelop Fireside Park
 - » Redevelop Verges Memorial Park.
3. Prioritize projects that meet needs for more equitable and balanced recreation.
 - » Complete Swenson Park improvements
 - » Develop pickleball courts
 - » Implement challenging, fitness and unique features
 - » Convert or develop ballfields for girls fastpitch
4. Prioritize budgetary methods to adequately staff and fund parks in line with available budgets.
 - » Review / update park dedication requirements
 - » Implement asset management plan
 - » Establish yearly Identify CIP budgets
 - » Seek out funding opportunities and partnerships



TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN

The recommendations for trails were identified as follows:

1. Prioritize safe pedestrian crossings
2. Prioritize development of trails and sidewalks for improved connectivity
3. Require sidewalks in new developments
4. Plan for a trail along the old railroad corridor to connect to downtown
5. Coordinate with partner agencies for trails along roadways
6. Implement community wayfinding program

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

This plan is meant to be used a guide for the next 10 to 20 years. It is intended to be a living document with recommendations, standards and guidelines for system planning for park and trail development.

The plan should be reviewed, revised and implemented according to City Council and the Park Commission recommendations and approval. Recommendations within this document will require more analysis and planning prior to implementation.

It is recommended that the plan be reviewed by staff annually and updated comprehensively every ten years, due to the fact that economic conditions, funding opportunities, partnerships, and community needs continue to evolve over time.

REPORT ORGANIZATION

The plan is organized into sections that cover various aspects of the system plan and is meant to provide information and findings for both broad general visioning (i.e.: general policies, strategic decision-making, setting priorities, and budget allocations) as well as day-to-day use by staff and those that will be implementing the plan to ensure a high level of consistency in interpretation.

The system plan is organized by the following sections:

- Section 1: Executive Summary
- Section 2: System Overview
- Section 3: Needs Assessment
- Section 4: Public Engagement
- Section 5: Park System Plan
- Section 6: Trail System Plan
- Section 7: Implementation Plan

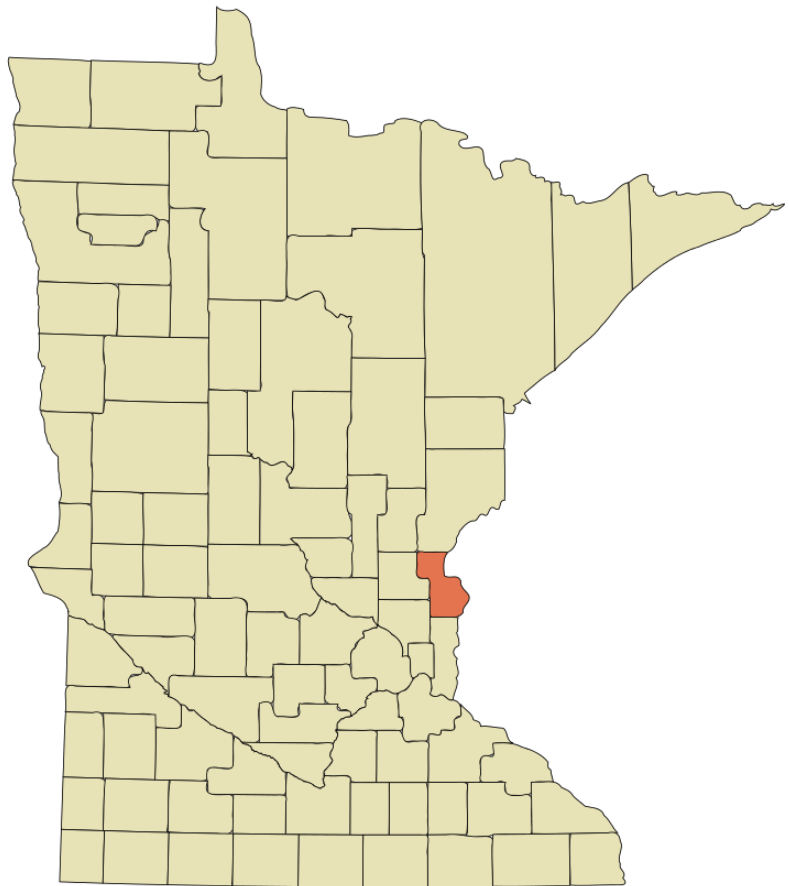
2. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The City of Wyoming is located in Chisago County, north of the Minneapolis metro region. It is located directly along Interstate 35, allowing for a direct connection to the metro for commuting. The convenient access and its location that is currently more rural with an abundance of natural spaces makes it an appealing location for many residents.

The City of Wyoming was platted in 1869 and its development was spurred by the St. Paul and Duluth Railroad that extended to this location.

The abandoned rail line is still evident and Railroad Park is planned to pay tribute to the influence of the railroad.



Source: By Arkyan - My own work, based on public domain information. Based on similar map concepts by Ixnayontheimmay, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2933223>



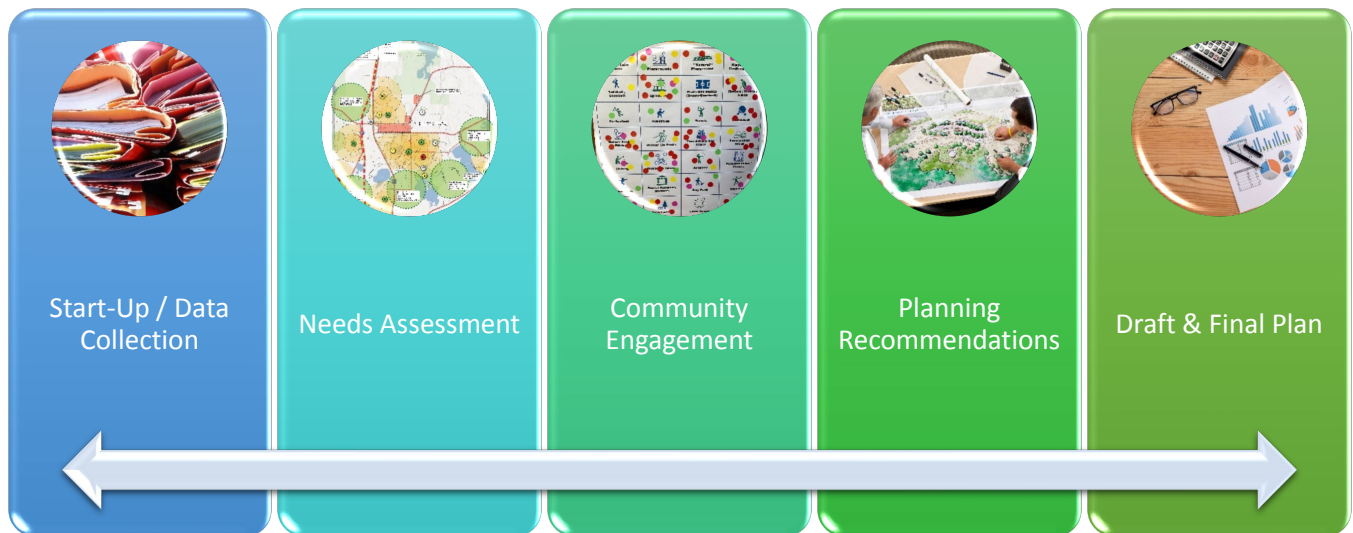
PLANNING PROCESS

PROJECT START-UP

The planning process began in September 2017 with a project start-up meeting with city staff to explore goals, objectives and visions for the park and trail system. This included a review of all prior planning documents, current plans and future objectives. A meeting was also held with the Park Advisory Commission for confirmation of primary goals for the system plan.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A needs assessment was then undertaken that included data collection and an analysis of the existing park and trail system to understand how well it is currently functioning. This included high level analyses to determine how well the parks are servicing the community based on the level of development and location relative to residents. More in-depth assessments were also conducted at each site to determine the level of service based on age, condition, accessibility and overall design.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A critical piece of the planning process was community engagement to obtain input and feedback from the community and stakeholders to identify the greatest needs and demands. This was accomplished through an online interactive map called Social Pinpoint where users could drop pins and comments onto the map of Wyoming. Additional engagement was held at two community events to raise awareness of the project and to gather input. The findings from the needs analysis and community engagement process provided guidance to the development of recommendations for the parks and trails.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this park system master plan is to develop a comprehensive long-range vision for the park system in order to guide strategic improvements for implementation. This plan provides the framework and recommendations to guide investments for both short and long term projects in order to achieve the goals of the master plan. It is meant to be a living document that should routinely be evaluated and amended to remain in line with community needs.

PARK VISION AND GOALS

VISION STATEMENT

The following vision statement reflects the ideal park system needed to meet

VISION STATEMENT

PLANNING GOALS

The following goals were identified for establishing both short and long term priorities for parks, trails and outdoor recreation in Wyoming to better meet the needs and desires of the community.

- High-Quality Experiences: Wyoming strives to provide high-quality recreational experiences based on current needs and prioritizing proper management to keep existing amenities in a safe and quality condition.
- Improved Connectivity: Wyoming will strategize methods and coordinate with partner agencies to improve pedestrian connectivity throughout the community.
- Equitable Recreation: Wyoming parks will align improvement projects to ensure the recreational needs of diverse demographics and user groups are being met.
- Responsible Growth: Wyoming will focus on improvement and development projects that are in alignment with current funding and operational budgets to responsibly move forward.



WYOMING PARK & TRAIL SYSTEM

CITY PARKS

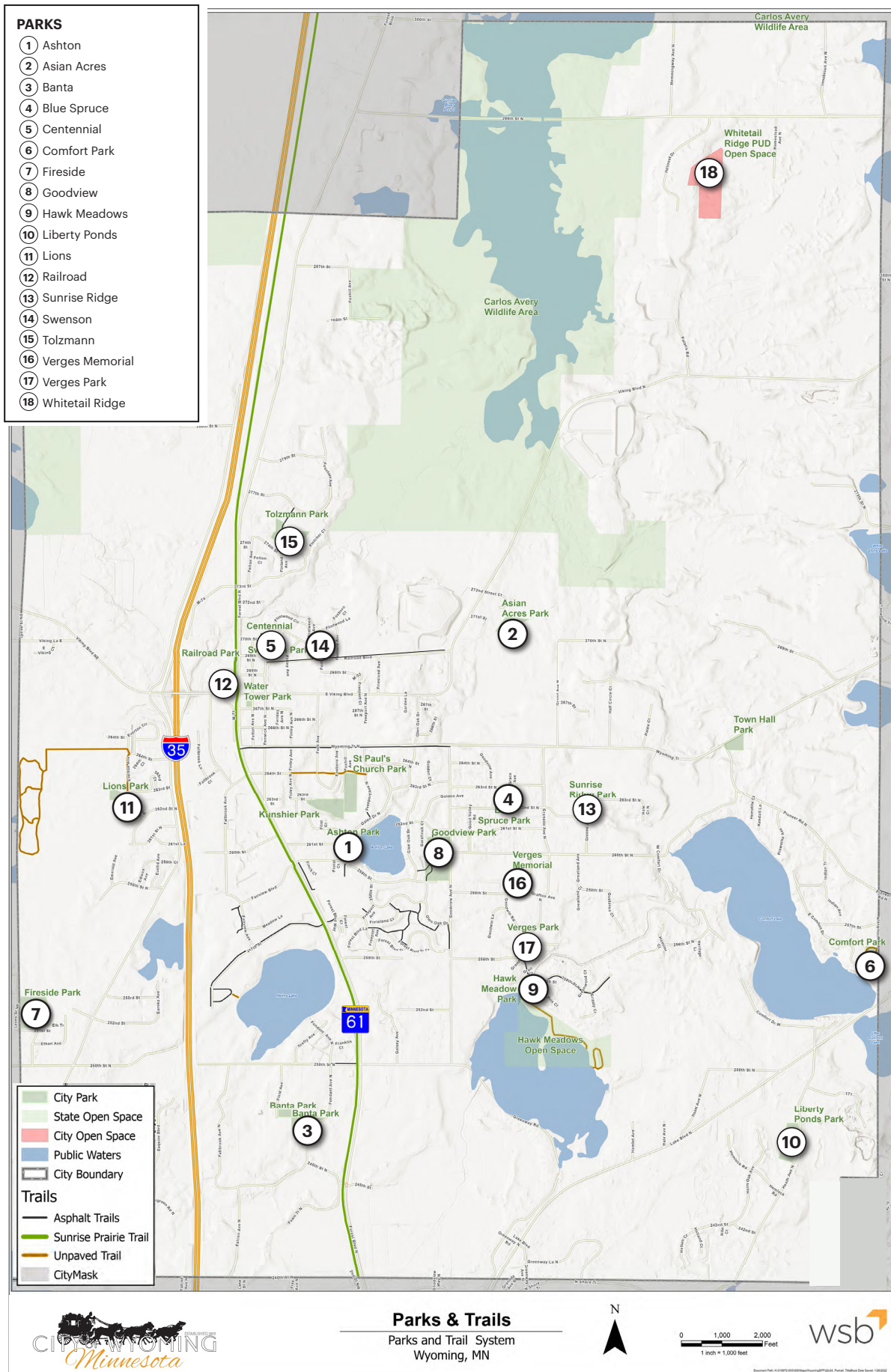
The City of Wyoming has a total of 18 listed park sites, 12 of which are developed to include recreational amenities, as follows:

- Ashton
- Asian Acres
- Banta
- Blue Spruce
- Centennial
- Comfort Park
- Fireside
- Goodview
- Hawk Meadows
- Liberty Ponds
- Lions
- Railroad
- Sunrise Ridge
- Swenson
- Tolzmann
- Verges
- Verges Memorial
- Whitetail Ridge

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The parks are divided into the following categories based on a uniform system of classification developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA):

- Mini-Park: Mini-parks are intended to serve concentrated populations with a 1/4 mile service area and 1.5 acres or less in size with limited features. Considered a “walk-to” park. Mini park service levels are 0.25 to 0.5 acres per thousand people.
- Neighborhood Park: Intended to meet the day-to-day recreational needs of populations with up to a 1/2 mile service area and are typically 2 to 10 acres in size, though most fall in the 2 to 5 acre range. Can be strictly a “walk-to” park or can include parking facilities for greater accessibility depending on park size. Service levels are 1 to 2 acres per thousand people.
- Community Park: Parks that provide recreational facilities that appeal to a broad spectrum of users across the community with active and passive features, though some have more dedicated uses, such as athletic facilities. Can range from 10 to 50 acres and accessible by multiple modes of transportation. Service levels are 5 to 8 acres per thousand people.
- Special Use Park: Parks with a dedicated special use such as a memorial, pool, etc. Size varies greatly and service levels generally do not apply.
- Open Space / Natural Resource Park: Parks with a focus on preservation of open space and natural resource systems. Some may include natural trails or minimal development.
- Undeveloped: Parks not currently developed or to remain as open space.



The following chart provides an overview of the amenities available at each City of Wyoming park site:

Parks & Recreation Areas																
	Classification	Acres	Parking Lot	Picnic Shelter	Warming House	Playground Equip.	Trail	Ballfield	Basketball	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Hockey Rinks	Skating Rinks	Sand Volleyball	Tennis Courts	Other:
PARKS - CITY OF WYOMING																
Ashton: 26120 Galen Dr	M	0.4				◆										
Asian Acres: 270th Street	U	3.27														
Banta: Fondant Ave	N	5.42	◆	◆		◆		◆								
Blue Spruce: 262nd Street	N	3.75	◆			◆			◆							
Centennial: Fenwick Ave & 270th St	SU	0.6														Memorial with picnic area
Comfort Park: 25578 Iris Ave	N	3.3	◆			◆										Disc Golf
Fireside: 4354 - 251st St	N	12.42				◆										
Goodview: 26079 Goodview Ave	C	14.75	◆	◆		◆	◆			3						Skate Park & Gaga
Hawk Meadows: 25419 Grail Court	OS	2.6				◆	◆									Natural trails (+66 acres)
Liberty Ponds: 24588 Heath Ave	U	8														Undeveloped
Lions: 4815 - 263rd St	N	2.8	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆							Winter trails
Railroad: Viking Blvd	SU	0.5														Undeveloped
Sunrise Ridge: 263rd St & Greene Ave	U	0.42														
Swenson: 26929 Flintwood Ave	N	4.45	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆		2	Gaga
Tolzmann: 274th & Finland Ave	N	7.9	◆	◆		◆	◆	2						◆		
Verges: 7665 Wyoming Trail	M	0.22														Picnic table & sign
Verges Memorial: 25915 Goodwin Rd	N	1.24	◆	◆		◆	◆		◆					◆		
Whitetail Ridge: 29134 Hillcrest Dr	OS	22.92														
TOTALS:		94.96	8	5	1	11	6	5	4	0	3	1	1	2	2	

Key:

M = Mini-Park
 N = Neighborhood Park
 C = Community Park
 SU = Special Use Park
 U = Undeveloped
 OS = Open Space / Natural Resource

OTHER PARKS & RECREATION

There are additional properties within the city that also help contribute to the recreational needs of the community as follows:

- City of Wyoming Police Department: Located along Wyoming Trail / 22 and includes the police department and equipment storage. There is a ballfield that is currently designated as a proposed facility expansion area.
- Wyoming Elementary School: Located along Hwy 61; property contains a playground, hardcourts and various ballfields / turf fields with trail connections to adjacent neighborhoods.
- St. Paul's Church / Kunshier: The Church has some open space and basketball goals with a natural trail connection and adjacent Kunshier open space area. Offers limited recreation.
- Downtown Site: Open lot that once contained the water tower; used for some community event space.
- Carlos Avery State Wildlife Management Area: A large natural resource area located north of Wyoming. The site consists of approximately 24,000 acres of which about 1/3 is upland and the remaining wetlands, and popular for bird watching.



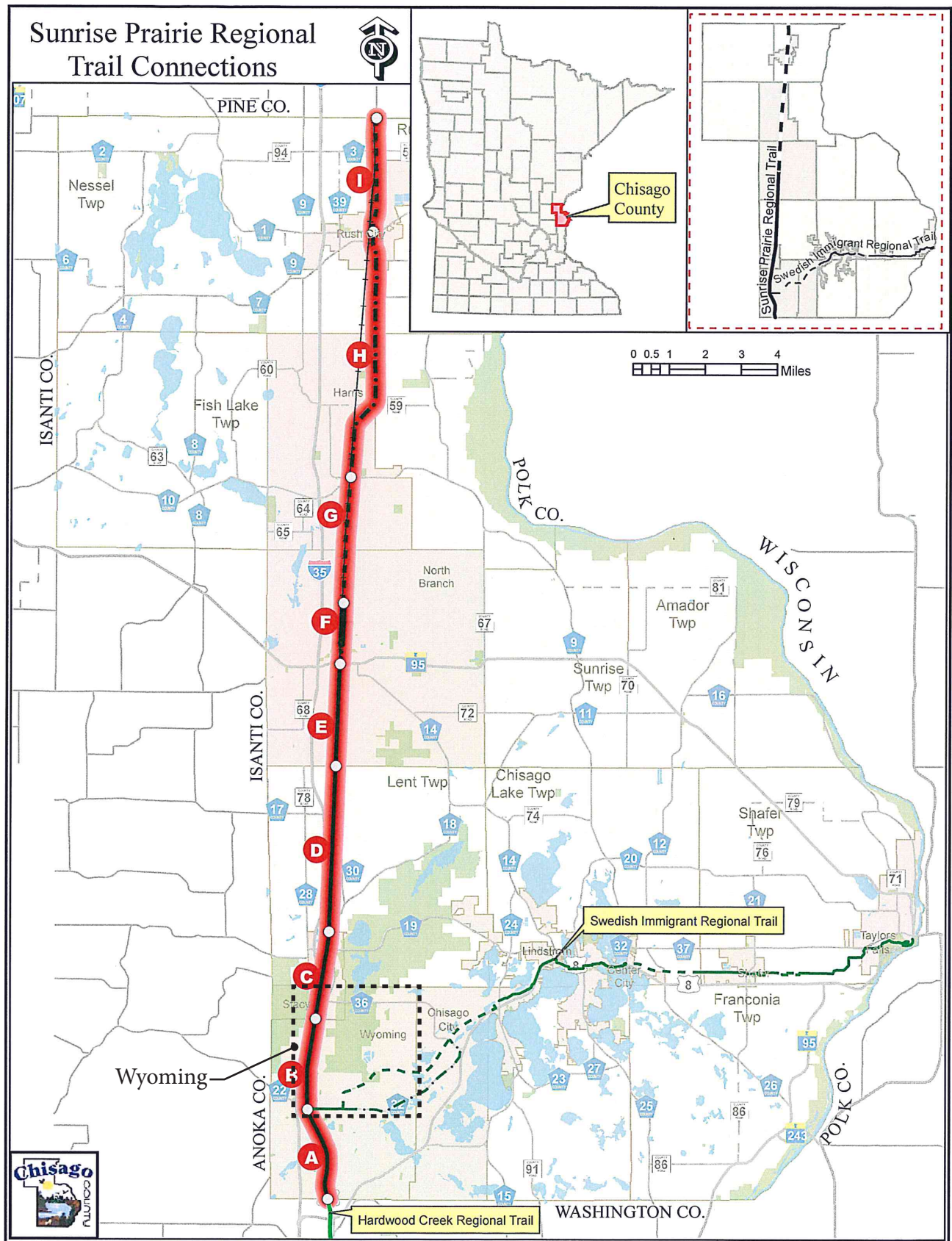
TRAILS

The City of Wyoming has a few newer neighborhoods that have sidewalks and two parks with natural trails and a couple of locations with bituminous trails. Overall, the city is lacking pedestrian routes, however, the city is fortunate to have two regional trail systems through the community, providing regional connectivity. The following is a list of some primary trails in Wyoming.

- Lions Park Winter Trails: Trails through wetlands that can be accessed from Lions Park and due to wet conditions is considered a winter trail used for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.
- Hawk Meadows Natural Trails: Natural trails that extend from the Hawk Meadows Park into the wetland property owned by the Wild River Audubon Society. The trails are used for walking/hiking and winter snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.
- Snowmobile Routes: There are identified snowmobile routes throughout the community, primarily in ditches.
- Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail: 26 miles of 10-foot wide paved trail along the west side of Hwy 61. The trail is identified as multi-use and allows non-studded snowmobiles. The trail is aligned through some scenic natural settings and connects to the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail in Hugo and planned to connect north to the Willard Munger State Trail.
- Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail: Portions of the Swedish Immigrant Trail have been constructed and, once complete, will connect to the Gateway Trail, Interstate Park, and Taylors Falls, to name a few. The trail will connect to the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail in Wyoming. Several routes have been studied and will likely be aligned along Hwy 8.



Source: Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail Master Plan - Chisago County, Minnesota (June 17, 2015)



Source: Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail Master Plan - Chisago County, Minnesota (Aug. 5, 2015)

3. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW

Assessing the needs of the community is a critical first step in developing a park and trail system master plan because it represents those who it is intended to serve. Several methods of assessing the existing park and trail system of Wyoming were conducted to identify areas of greatest need. The City of Wyoming also engaged with the community members to ensure the residents had the opportunity to voice their concerns and provide input on what they valued most for outdoor recreation.

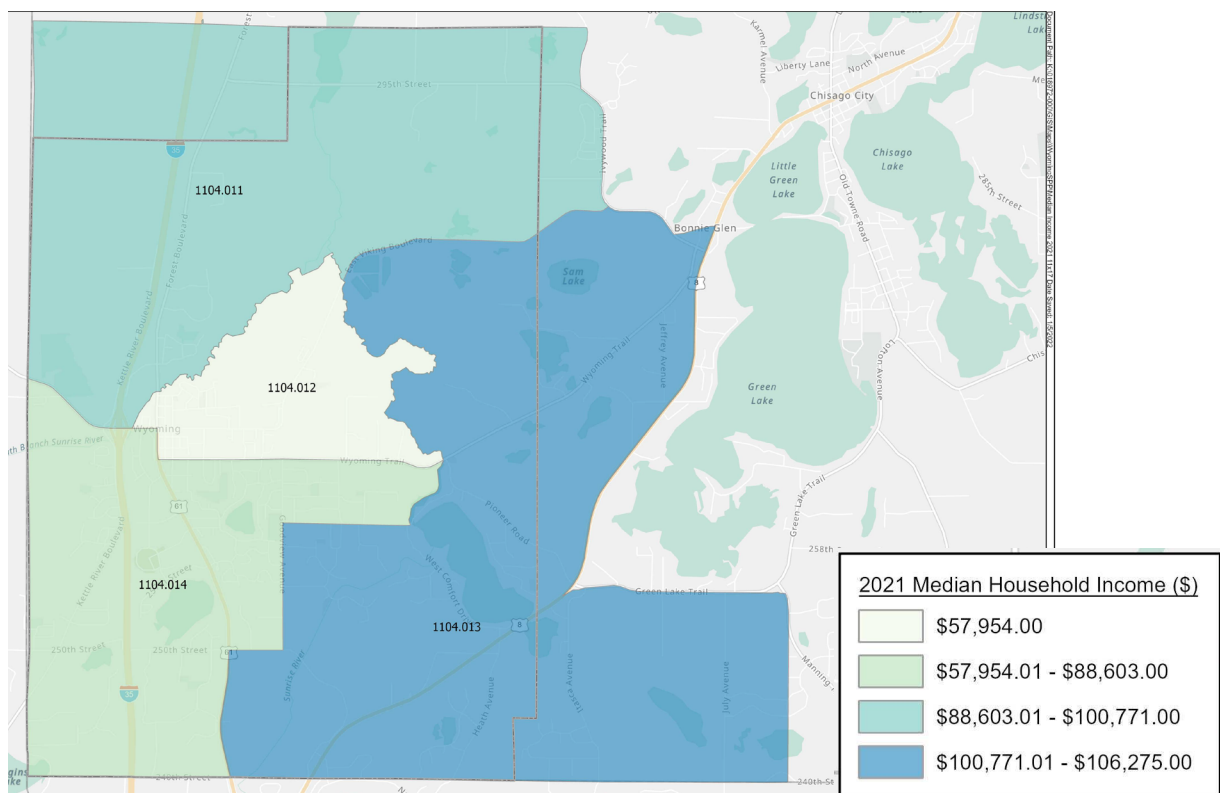
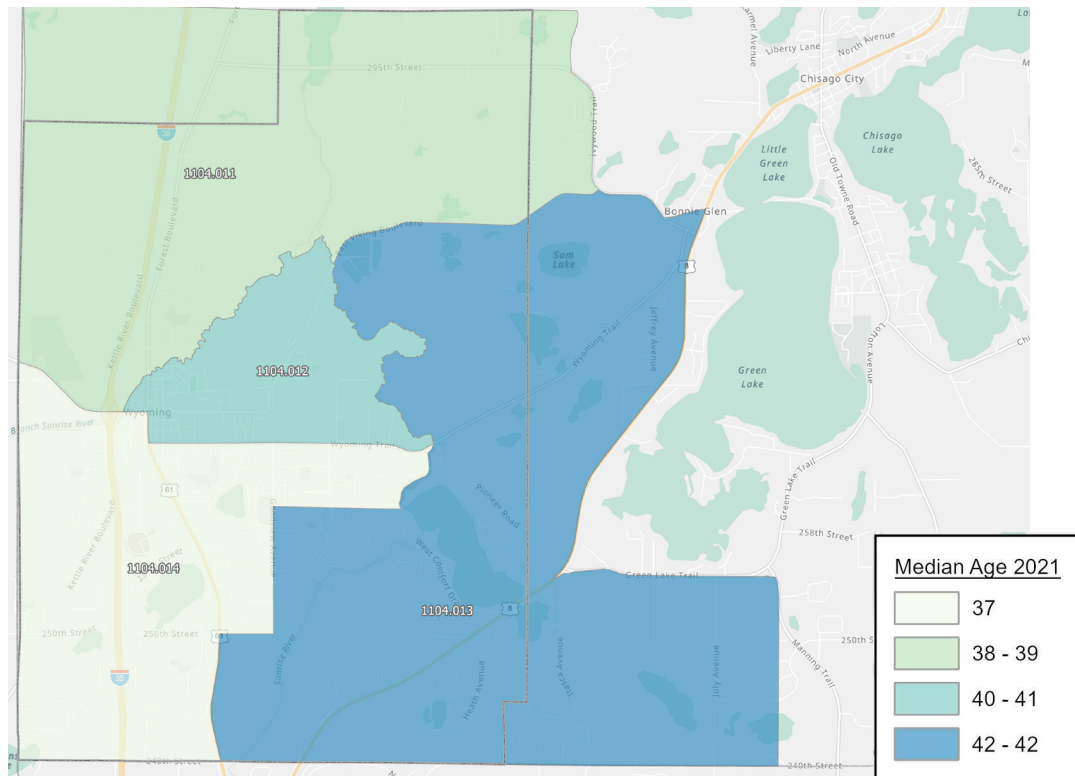
DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2020 United States Census Bureau, the current population of Wyoming is 8,309 while ESRI data suggests it is currently at 8,845 for 2021. The population in Wyoming since the 2010 census has grown an average of 6.42% with an average growth of slightly less than 1% yearly.

The average household income in Wyoming is \$97,474, the median age is 42.4 years and 99.32% of the population is white with 0.55% two or more races, and 0.13% Native American (World Population Review).

This shows that the vast majority of the population consists of families with kids and approximately 18% of the population falling in the senior category. There are many residential areas in Wyoming that contain large lots with room for private playground equipment, basketball hoops and more than adequate space for recreating at home. However, there are also areas with higher densities and lower incomes or aging populations that were considered during the planning process.

The following maps show current concentrations of the residents based on income and age.



LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

The level of service analysis provides a comparison of existing amenities in relation to benchmark standards. This includes a general comparison of the parks system based on NRPA averages to identify amenities that may be lacking in proportion to the community, though more importance is placed on input from the community. The analysis also includes site specific evaluations that rate the parks based on the current age, condition, design standards, and accessibility to determine how well they are, or are not, meeting community needs.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

The NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) publishes park amenity standards based on overall averages as a benchmark tool. Communities can obtain more tailored evaluations through the NRPA based on similar peer communities.

The table below shows a high-level comparison based upon NRPA averages as indicated in the 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review. For purposes of this comparison, the 2020 Wyoming population of 8,309 was used, keeping in mind each community and each neighborhood within the community will have varying needs based on actual population demographics and its service area.

Also of importance is the average operating expenditures of \$81.19 per capita per year and 8.31 FTE's per 10,000 residents.

Comparison to NRPA Averages			
Description	NRPA Averages	Provided within Wyoming	Assessment
Parks per residents (total)	2,281 residents per park	460 residents per park	Exceeds average
Parks per residents (developed only)	2,281 residents per park	692 residents per park	Exceeds average
Acres of park land per 1,000 residents	10.4 acres/1,000 residents	11.4 acres/1,000 residents	Meets average
Playgrounds	1 per 3,750 residents	1 per 755 residents	Exceeds average (11)
Basketball Courts	1 per 7,400 residents	1 per 2,077 residents	Exceeds average (4)
Baseball Fields (Youth)	1 per 7,369 residents	1 per 1,662 residents	Exceeds average (5)
Soccer / Multi-Purpose Fields	1 per 9,000 residents	1 per 2,770 residents	Exceeds average (3)
Outdoor Ice Rink	1 per 29,392 residents	1 per 8,309 residents	Exceeds average (1)
Outdoor Tennis Court	1 per 4,858 residents	1 per 4,155 residents	Meets average (2)

SITE ASSESSMENTS

Parks with higher service levels and better trail access and design character tend to have a higher use by the community. Parks with lower service level rankings not only can have lower use, but this will often times lead to vandalism and other undesirable activities.

Each individual park was visited and evaluated to determine how well the park meets the recreational needs of its users based on design standards, condition, age, and accessibility. The scores were then tabulated and averaged. The assessments help identify parks that have liability issues or other needs that are more immediate. In some cases, minor improvements will increase the park ranking to a higher level, in other cases the park may need a complete redevelopment.

Assessment Ranking Legend	
HIGH QUALITY - Meets or Exceeds Service Level, High Quality, Newer	75% +
GOOD - Meets Expected Service Level, Mid to Newer Range in Age	50-75%
MINIMAL - Meets Basic Service Level, Mid to Older Range in Age	25-50%
Poor - Not Meeting Service Level, Older in Age or Outdated	< 25%

Park Assessment Rankings			
Park Name	Classification	Acreage	Ranking
Ashton	Neighborhood Park	0.4	33%
Asian Acres	Undeveloped	3.27	N/A
Banta	Neighborhood Park	5.42	44%
Blue Spruce	Neighborhood Park	3.75	51%
Centennial	Special Use	0.6	33%
Comfort	Neighborhood Park	3.3	58%
Fireside	Neighborhood Park	12.42	5%
Goodview	Community Park	14.75	70%
Hawk Meadows	Open Space Park	2.6	33%
Liberty Ponds	Undeveloped	8	N/A
Lions	Neighborhood Park	2.8	58%
Railroad	Special Use (undeveloped)	0.5	N/A
Sunrise Ridge	Undeveloped	0.42	N/A
Swenson	Neighborhood Park	4.45	74%
Tolzmann	Neighborhood Park	7.9	26%
Verges	Mini-Park	0.22	N/A
Verges Memorial	Neighborhood Park	1.24	20%
Whitetail Ridge	Open Space Park	22.92	N/A

The park level of service ratings help to identify specific recommendations to improve the service level of each park along with a set of overall priorities to address the park sites with the greatest needs.

The Level of Service Analysis map on the right color codes each park to correspond with its ranking and easily identify locations of parks with the greatest needs.

PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE

RATING CRITERIA:

- » Condition - What is the condition of the equipment or surfacing? Is it rusting, broken or not functioning properly?
- » Design - Does the amenity meet design standards (slope, orientation, etc)? Are there safe and effective circulation patterns? Is the site inviting and does it feel safe to users?
- » Accessibility - Is there an accessible route to amenities? Is there an accessible parking stall with signage and striping? Is the site easily accessed by pedestrians?
- » Age - How old is the equipment or surfacing? Is it new, mid-life or at the end of its lifespan and in need of replacement?

ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS

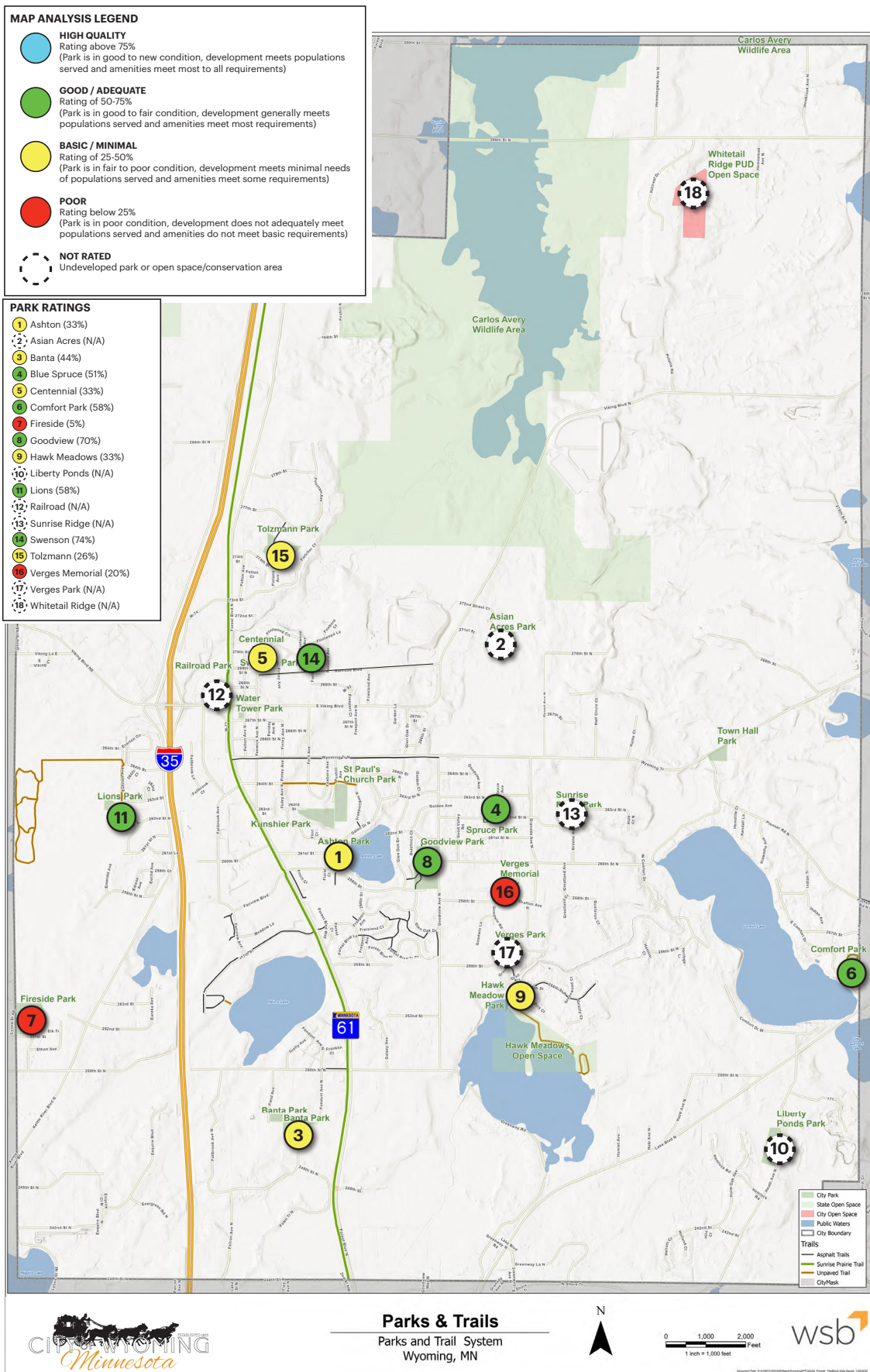
As with many park systems, accessibility and meeting ADA requirements are common items that affect the level of service ratings. It should be noted that when improvements are made to a park they must meet current accessibility requirements.

As an example; if the City decides to replace a playground at a park, not only does the equipment need to meet current ADA standards, but it must also have the proper surfacing, an accessible route to the equipment access points and transfer stations, and there must be an accessible walk/path leading into the playground container. Many times playground curbs cause a protrusion greater than a half inch, making the route non-compliant.

When making improvements, the City should consult a professional to ensure the park improvements meet the proper requirements.

ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS:

- » Provide an accessible route from an ADA parking stall to each park amenity (shelter, playground, court, etc)
- » Parking lots are required to have a minimum number of accessible stalls (including van accessible stalls) dependent on the total number of stalls provided in the lot with access aisles not to exceed 1:48 grade.
- » Accessible routes (trails and sidewalks) have a maximum 1:20 running slope and a maximum 1:48 cross slope. There are also standards on width, surfaces, landings and passing zones. No obstacles over 1/2" height are allowed on accessible routes.
- » Connections from streets to the park may require pedestrian curb ramps with truncated domes.
- » A certain percentage of park site amenities must be accessible, this includes drinking fountains, grills, tables and benches.
- » Standards, guidelines and exceptions may change. Before making improvements, verify with Minnesota's Accessibility Code, available online, and verify with local codes which may have differing requirements.



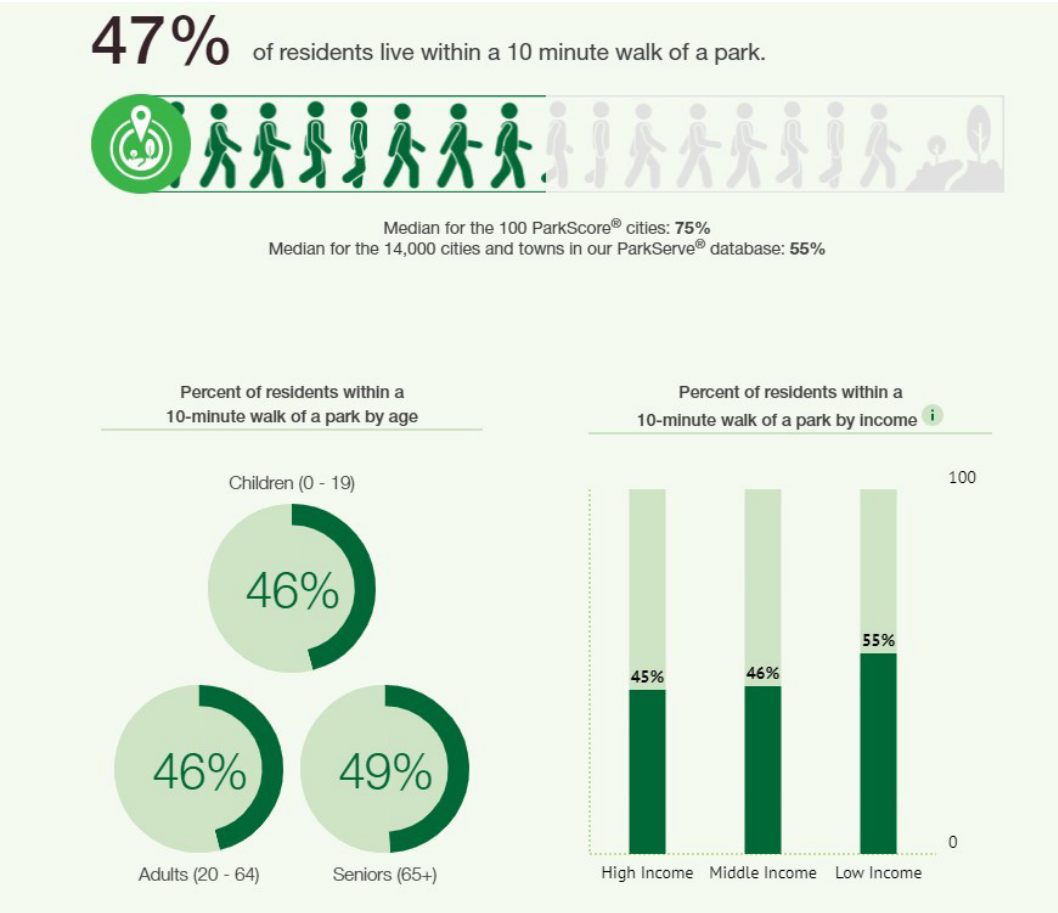
Park Level of Service Analysis

Wyoming, Minnesota
March 2022 | WSB Project number: 018972-000

SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

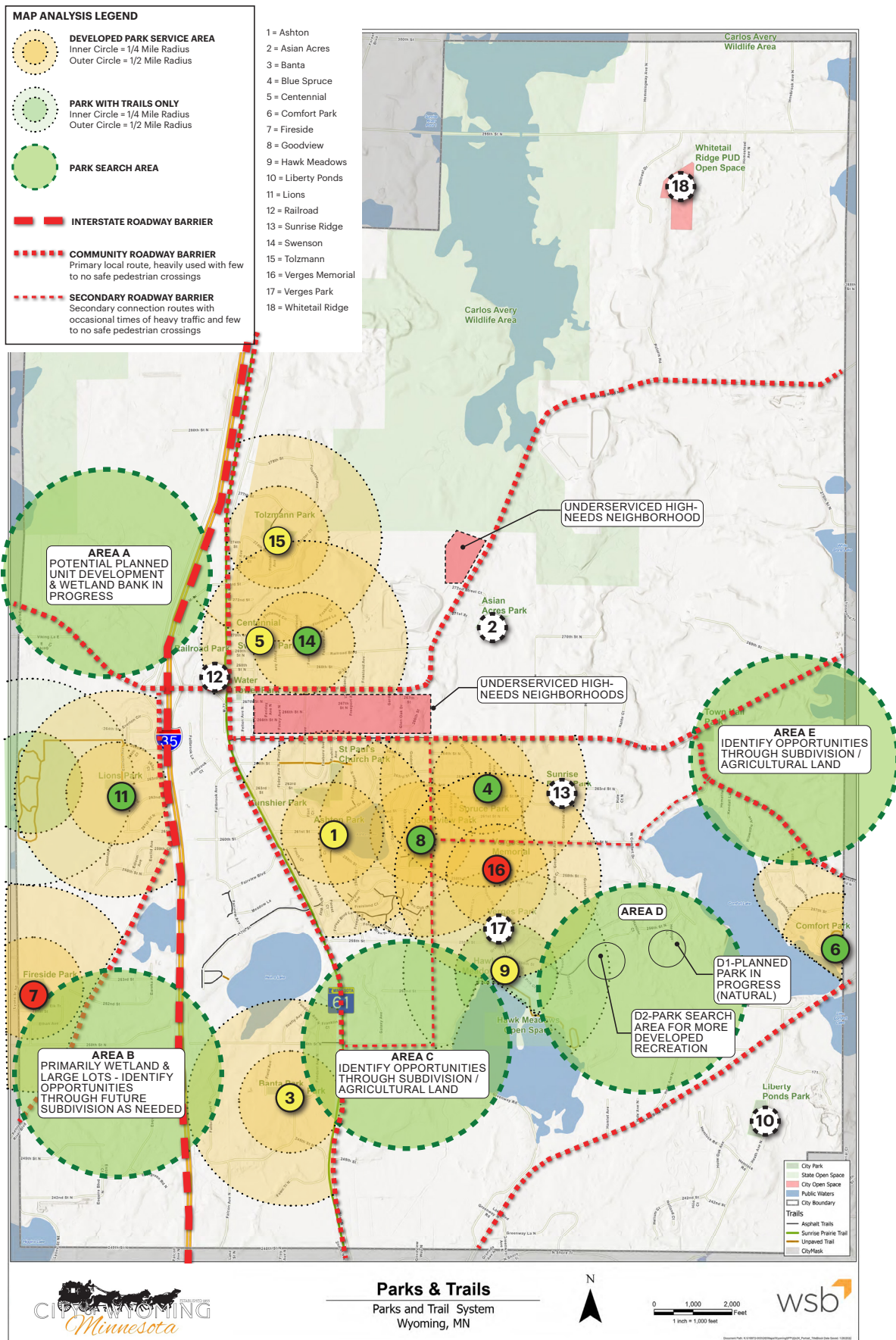
The NRPA recommends a guideline of having a quality park within a 1/4 to 1/2 mile from a place of residence, which is considered a 10-minute walk. This is a general guideline used to identify locations where large gaps in the system may exist and to help guide future park locations. It is important to note that this 1/2 mile distance needs to take into consideration barriers that can limit or prohibit a person being able to access a park. This may include large roadways, railroad tracks, or even natural features such as waterways. Interstate 35 and Hwy 62 are examples of primary barriers within Wyoming. Ensuring there are safe and adequate pedestrian crossings over these barriers are important plan goals.

Using ParkServe, an online mapping tool provided by the Trust for Public Land, it shows that 47% of Wyoming residents live within a 1/2 mile distance of a park. For comparison of nearby communities, North Branch shows 23% of its residents live within a 1/2 mile distance, and 57% of Forest Lake’s residents live within this distance.



Source: ParkServe by the Trust for Public Lands

The map on the following page illustrates the existing park service areas based on a 1/4 to 1/2 mile distance with major barriers shown and its park ranking. It also identifies potential underserved neighborhoods based on existing demographics with park search areas noted to better meet current and future populations with improved access to a quality park. Trail development is also used to improve access to populations currently outside the service areas.



Park Service Area Analysis

Wyoming, Minnesota
 March 2022 | WSB Project number: 018972-000

ANALYSIS FINDINGS

The analyses that were conducted help to identify the neighborhood areas with the greatest needs based on the park location and current level of service. Some findings include the following:

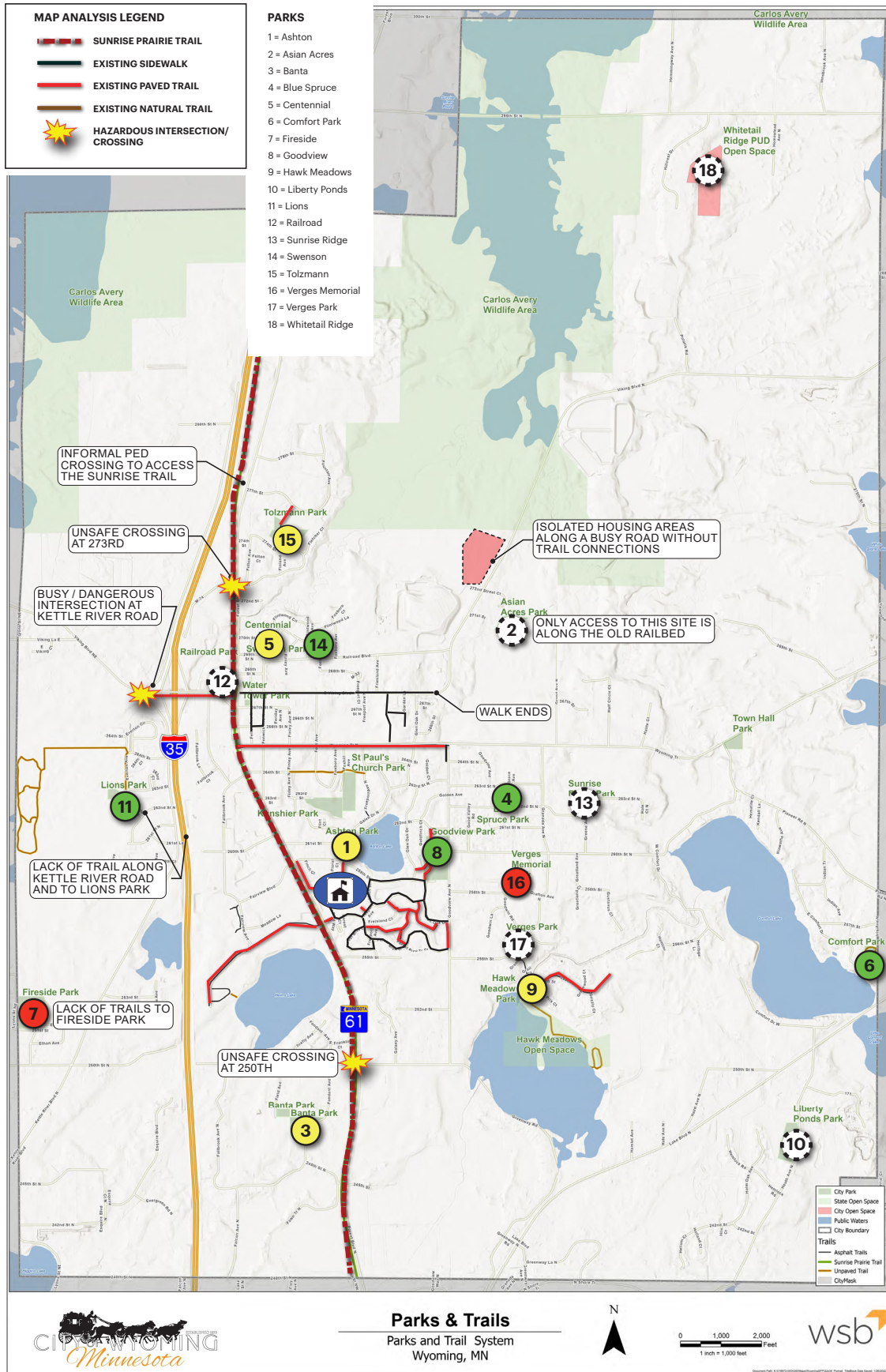
- Fireside Park is ranked very poorly and is now a liability to the City. It does not meet the needs of a neighborhood which does not have additional parks to rely on. The site has many opportunities to provide an improved park experience meeting broader user groups.
- Verges Memorial is ranked poorly. However, this neighborhood service area is also supplemented by Goodview Park & Blue Spruce Park which makes it lower in priority than Fireside. Vergas Memorial remains important as it will also help serve planned neighborhoods to the east.
- Tolzmann Park has a ranking that barely keeps it in the minimal category and due to the types of recreation provided, is able to meet varying user needs.
- There are some isolated neighborhoods that, through potential trail/walk connections, could have improved access to parks. These may be located in areas where it is less feasible to add additional parks.



TRAILS ANALYSIS

While the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail is a highly desired community amenity, the remaining areas of Wyoming have very few pedestrian trails or walks. Many parks cannot be safely or easily accessed by walking or biking. The large and busy roadways also pose concerns with a need for safe crossings to access destinations such as parks, schools and the regional trails.

The following map identifies some areas of concern regarding pedestrian routes. Refer to Recommendations for additional trail information.



Trails Analysis

Wyoming, Minnesota
March 2022 | WSB Project number: 018972-000

RECREATION TRENDS ANALYSIS

Trail use continues to be a major recreation trend nationwide, with the most popular outdoor activities being running, jogging and biking. This holds true for Wyoming with the primary comments through public engagement focused on trails. The Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail is highly popular and many are anticipating the future connection to the Swedish Immigrant Trail. There were also comments related to the natural winter trails at Lions Park and Hawk Meadows Park, which are also valued.

RECREATION TRENDS

ORGANIZED SPORTS

There have been shifts in some organized sports over the past decade. Football and baseball are seeing decreased participation rates while field sports, such as soccer, lacrosse and rugby, are increasing in participation. According to the NRPA, the pandemic increased the overall decline in organized athletics with approximately 3 in 10 youth not returning to organized sports.



PICKLEBALL

Nationwide there is an increased pressure for pickleball courts with the rise in its popularity not only for senior demographics, but with younger participants as well. This activity is popular for the fitness aspect but also for socializing. Pickleball is most successful in locations where noise is not a significant factor and where the court layouts can accommodate multiple groups with spaces for socializing.



CANINE COMPANIONS

Park and trail users are showing a higher interest in canine companions and bring them to parks, community events and programmed activities. Along with this use comes the increased demand for dog parks, particularly ones that have water bodies to allow dogs to play, cool off and train for retrieving. The NRPA states that 68% of people stated dog-friendly policies affected their decision to buy or move.



UNIQUE & CHALLENGING EXPERIENCES

Other trends include a desire for more unique and challenging elements such as ninja warrior and fitness courses that appeal to older youth and adults (both indoor and outdoor). Residents are looking for variety and more unique experiences. Ensuring that park development does not take a “cookie-cutter” approach to development is important to meeting these needs.



COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Comfort and convenience remain a top priority for recreation. Parks must be easy to access and restrooms remain a high demand for many users. Ensuring cell service and wifi accommodations with locations to charge smart devices is increasing in demand. This is especially a concern for locations where gatherings take place, such as rentable shelters. Shelters must also be able to adequately handle electrical needs without blowing a fuse since many users are unlikely to find city assistance on a weekend.



FOUR-SEASON RECREATION

With an increase in the overall desire to get out of the house for fitness and to connect with nature, many desire increased opportunities to recreate outdoors during all four seasons.

Wyoming residents currently value the winter trails at Lions and Hawk Meadows, as well as the snowmobile routes through the community. Fall and spring are also prime times to use trails and natural areas due to the more seasonable temperatures and lower issues with insects.



PROGRAMMING TRENDS

Some of the biggest trends related to successful recreation programming have to do with the overall convenience of attending the program (think beyond standard weekday hours), programs focused on community celebration, and the ability to try new activities. Wyoming events have met needs in terms of convenience and community celebration. Some events even attract visitors from other communities.

The NRPA provides examples of successful programs that included one program that allowed participants the ability to “sample” multiple sports at one event to encourage an interest for youth and adults. Another successful program was an event in Cottage Grove called a Pumpkin Chunkin Party that included showing up in costumes with a variety of methods to use and smash pumpkins. Keeping programs fun and interesting will continue to attract use.

The following are examples of some other popular programs.

- » Yoga with animals
- » Family fitness / challenge events (adventure races, etc.)
- » Try new activity (mountain biking, paddleboard, mini-golf, skiing, camping)
- » Board game night
- » Therapeutic recreation and fitness
- » Cultural events
- » HIIT cardio classes
- » Excursion trips - half to full day (kayaking, hiking, etc.)
- » Painting or yoga in the park



BARRIERS TO RECREATION

There are many barriers to recreation, many that were attributed to busy lifestyles with a lack of time. Since the onset of the pandemic, many more people worked from home and many also had kids at home who were no longer participating in organized sports due to restrictions. These restrictions resulted in a dramatic increase of park and trail users who were seeking a connection to nature, a method to get in exercise and enjoyed spending time with their kids. The previous barrier related to lack of time has since been altered as many people still choose to work from home and have continued to spend time outside recreating. It is unclear at this time if this will continue or if our busy lifestyles will be commonplace once more.

One of the more common barriers is a lack of awareness. With many new developments bringing in new residents, there is a lack of awareness of the current park and trail system.

There are many other factors beyond lack of awareness that can create barriers for participation in outdoor recreation but understanding the barriers will allow potential methods to overcome them.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION

- » Lack of leisure time
- » Programs are not offered at convenient times for working adults
- » Multitude of opportunities for leisure competing with parks and trails recreation
- » Lack of transportation or parks aren't easily accessible to participants (safe sidewalk routes)
- » Concerns about safety in the parks
- » Cost of entry (fees) and costs for specialized equipment (ex: mountain bikes, camping gear)
- » Lack of awareness of programs, parks, trails available for public use
- » Language barriers

Source: Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan



4. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

Engagement with the local community is crucial in determining what the current needs and desires actually are. Engagement also provides valuable information on the existing system from those who use the parks and trails and have a much better understanding of what is working well and what isn't. The public engagement efforts for the planning process included several methods to obtain input, review and feedback from the community.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

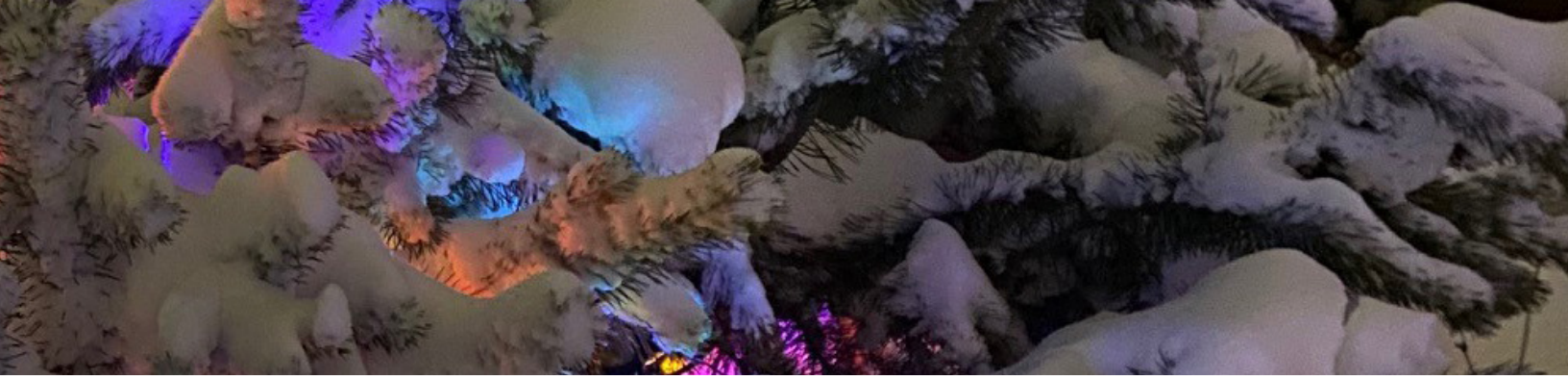
ONLINE PLATFORM

The use of an online platform called Social Pinpoint was used to reach a broader audience. The interactive project map was online for the duration of the project to gather input on the park and trail system.

There was a total of 85 comments left on the Social Pinpoint page. The full responses can be found in the Appendix. Some primary themes from the input included the following:

- Trails and pedestrian routes were highly commented on
- Goodview Park is a popular park with some requests for additional amenities
- Swenson Park had many comments on recent improvements with a desire for more challenging playground pieces

The screenshot shows a web interface for the "Wyoming Parks and Trails System Plan". At the top, there is a header with the "CITY OF WYOMING Minnesota" logo and the title "Wyoming Parks and Trails System Plan". Below the header, a welcome message reads: "Welcome to the City of Wyoming Park & Trail System". The main text explains that the city is developing a master plan and needs community input for the Railroad Park development project. It then provides instructions on how to use the interactive map, which allows users to drag and drop icons to leave comments or ideas. A list of icons is shown: "Make a Comment", "Something I Like", "Trail I Like", "Something I Dislike", "Concern", and "Idea". The instructions are numbered 1 through 3, detailing the steps from zooming to the map to filling out a comment form. At the bottom, there is a "Leave us your comment" section with a text area for the comment and a form for user information, including fields for "First name", "Last name", "Phone", "Phone Number", "Zip code", and "City".



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Attendance at two community events were undertaken. This included a table with boards and information to raise awareness of the project, as well as to gather input on the existing system.

Event #1 - Tree Lighting Ceremony: Held December 4, 2021 in Railroad Park. This was a popular event with many in attendance and included a variety of demographics from families with young children, to groups of teens and older adults. Input was provided with numerous comments on the popularity of trails, snowmobile routes and the desire to keep the rural feel of Wyoming.

Event #2 - Touch-a-Truck Event: Held June 4, 2022 at the Police Facility. The event resulted in more than 300 vehicles arriving almost immediately and stayed full through the full event. The vast majority of the attendees were families with younger kids with some families coming from longer distances just for the event.

OPEN HOUSE

One open house meeting was held with one person in attendance.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The City of Wyoming utilized their social media to advertise upcoming events and promote engagement in the planning.

ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

The community engagement process provided some general themes from the input. Refer to the Appendix for the list of comments and feedback.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

- Don't affect current rural feel of community; this is the reason many choose to live here
- Like the events that bring the community together to celebrate
- Locations west of I-35 want to feel more included as part of Wyoming
- Like the proposed Railroad Park plan

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Goodview Park highly popular - requests for additional amenities (hockey rink, basketball court, pickleball, loop park trail, splash pad)
- Tolzmann Park popular, more cut-off from community, needs trail connections
- More events for teens, young adults
- Swenson Park needs more robust playground equipment
- Fireside Park is very outdated and in need of redevelopment



Wyoming Parks & Trails Master Plan



WE NEED
YOUR INPUT!

Please join us for an Open House Public Input Meeting on Tuesday, December 14th

Location: Wyoming Public Library
Time: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Stop by anytime within the timeframe above to join the conversation, ask questions, and share your ideas, concerns and goals for the Wyoming Parks & Trails Master Plan.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to have your voice heard!



If you are unable to attend the neighborhood meeting, you may also provide comments and ideas on our interactive project website at: <https://wsb.mysocialpinpoint.com/wyoming/#/> or scan the QR code.

You may email Candace Amberg, the project consultant, directly at camberg@wsbeng.com.

CITY OF WYOMING Minnesota

Place a dot on items you feel are important to keep or to add

Beaches/Lake Access	Playgrounds	"Natural" playground	Ninja Warrior/Challenge Course
Softball/Baseball	Splash Pad	Multi-use Fields (Soccer/Football)	Hockey/Shooting Rinks
Basketball	Volleyball	Tennis	Pickleball
Nature Trail/Hiking	Winter Ski Trails	Paved Multi-use Trails	Snowmobile Trails
Fishing	Mountain Biking	Archery	Performances/Events
Skate Park	Rental Pavilions/Shelters	Dog Park	Disc Golf
Community Gardens	Picnic Area	Lawn Games	Education/History/Interpretation
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Non-Motorized Watercraft	Restrooms	Natural Scenery/Wildlife Viewing
ATV/ OHV	Public Art	(Other)	

TRAILS, TRAILS AND MORE TRAILS

- Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail is highly popular and valued by residents
- Swedish Immigrant Trail - many are anticipating its completion through the community and would love to see it follow along the old railroad line vs the planned route along Hwy 8
- A desire for a safe pedestrian route along Kettle River Blvd for pedestrians to access Lions Park, as well as for bikers to safely travel along this corridor
- East Viking Blvd needs safe pedestrian walks - extend out to mobile home park
- Need more pedestrian connections to Goodview Park
- Snowmobile Trails - some concerns with routes that are plowed for pedestrians
- Like Hawk Meadows and Lions winter trails; like groomed winter trails
- Need mountain bike trails - some go to St. Croix Woolly trail currently
- Love nature trails & hiking
- ATV / side-by-side trail routes desired





5. PARK SYSTEM PLAN

OVERVIEW

Wyoming's inception was predicated on the extension of the railroad line through this area. The City and community are in support of highlighting the influence of the railroad through the proposed developed at Railroad Park as well as looking at options for further trail development along the abandoned rail corridors.

Parks, trails and the abundant natural resources are significantly valued by the community. The system plan builds upon the existing infrastructure and provides recommendations that are in alignment with community values for a balanced and equitable system.

The recommendations may contain general descriptions or schematic concept plans to illustrate a particular appearance or general design ideas but is not considered to be a final design approach. When it comes to final decision-making regarding proposed improvements, developments or planning, it is highly recommended to approach each project with continued input from stakeholders. Stakeholder buy-in is essential for a successful project to ensure the project meets the needs of those it is intended to serve. Swenson Park is a prime example of how important stakeholder involvement is in order to meet expectations, otherwise the residents will not continue to support funding for future park improvement efforts.

It is equally important to approach projects and recommendations in line with overall city goals and priorities and not just according to the latest demand by a particular group. The city should conduct ongoing evaluation of priorities on a routine basis to account for any changes, trends and opportunities that may arise and adjust priorities as necessary to ensure the recreation is balanced.



PARK STANDARDS

As stated in Chapter 2 - System Overview, the parks are divided into varying categories based upon their size, purpose and level of development. The following standards identify the park standards used for this planning study.

MINI-PARKS

Mini-parks are facilities that are intended to serve concentrated populations residing generally within 1/4 mile of park sites and provide a limited array of recreational opportunities for short stays. The Mini-park standard is 0.25 to 0.5 acres of park land per 1,000 people.

They may contain:

- » Small, single age playground
- » Bench
- » Receptacles
- » Park sign

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are intended to meet the day-to-day recreational needs of populations with up to a 1/2 mile service area and are typically 2 to 10 acres in size. Service levels are 1 to 2 acres per thousand people.

They may contain:

- » Multi-age playground
- » Benches & picnic tables
- » Receptacles & bike racks
- » Picnic shelter
- » Basketball court - half or full
- » Trails / walks
- » Open lawn
- » Park sign

Optional:

- » Skating / hockey rink
- » Warming house
- » Tennis court
- » Volleyball
- » Parking lot
- » Athletic field (ballfield, soccer)

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks provide recreational facilities that appeal to a broad spectrum of users across the community with active and passive features, though some have more dedicated uses, such as athletic facilities. Can range from 10 to 50 acres and accessible by multiple modes of transportation. Service levels are 5 to 8 acres per thousand people.

They may contain:

- » Large multi-age playground
- » Benches & picnic tables
- » Receptacles & bike racks
- » Picnic shelter (group options)
- » Grills
- » Dedicated athletic facilities
- » Loop trails
- » Specialty trails
- » Natural resources
- » Restrooms
- » Basketball court - full
- » Open lawn
- » Park sign
- » Skating / hockey rink
- » Warming house
- » Tennis / pickleball court
- » Volleyball
- » Parking lot
- » Splash pad
- » Skate parks

SPECIAL USE PARKS

Special-use facilities serve a designated purpose which often cannot be found in a typical park. Examples of special-use facilities can include:

- » Memorials
- » Beach or lake access
- » Outdoor pool or waterpark
- » Athletic complex
- » Pump track / mountain bike trails
- » Disc golf course
- » Ice arena
- » Dog park

NATURAL RESOURCE PARKS

Parks with a focus on preservation of open space and natural resource systems.

They may contain:

- » Parking
- » Walking and hiking trails (many natural-surfaced)
- » Overlooks
- » Nature play elements
- » Interpretation / educational elements

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of this plan are meant to address the needs of the existing system in alignment with the park system vision and goals.

While the parks have been well maintained and are in fair condition, many amenities are reaching the end of their useful life. Proper accessibility is also a concern with many amenities lacking a required access route to meet ADA guidelines.

Primary recommendations relate to replacement of outdated amenities, improving accessibility and making improvements to meet broader use groups and demographics. Recommendations also address adding future parks in alignment with growing neighborhoods.

Each park is identified with existing amenities followed by recommendations for consideration.



PARK RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIES

The needs analysis provided the data necessary to develop recommendations to the park system to improve overall quality with a focus on making improvements that create a more balanced and equitable system. The individual site assessments also provided levels of need based on current conditions in order to develop a set of priorities for improvements.

The following map illustrates the individual parks for general recommendations which are color coded based on level of priority for making improvements.

- » RED = High Priority
- » YELLOW = Medium Priority
- » GREEN = Low Priority
- » WHITE = Not Rated

Each individual park on the following pages will identify the existing park site and built features followed by general recommendations with a corresponding estimate of probable costs. All estimates are in 2022 costs and are at a high-level suitable for general budgeting purposes. They do not take into consideration site specifics that will affect actual costs. It is also recommended to add in a minimum contingency of 20% of the total estimates to account for construction unknowns and related costs for professional engineering and permitting. The estimates should also add in approximately 3% yearly to account for inflation.

More in-depth information on priorities and estimation can be found in Section 6 - Implementation.



ASHTON

Address: 26120 Galen Dr

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Size: 0.4 acres

DESCRIPTION

Mini-park located along narrow side streets with a playground and some site furnishings. The mature trees are aesthetic and provide shade. The site has perimeter chain link fence which detracts from the pleasing park setting.

AMENITIES

- Playground - older, fair condition, sand surfacing is not accessible, timber border creates barrier
- Wood pedestrian bridge - old but interesting
- Bench - newer plastisol bench
- Picnic tables - old, wood
- Portable restroom enclosure
- Chain link fence
- Ornamental plantings
- No trails or walks

RECOMMENDATIONS

At time of replacement, focus improvements on proper accessibility and appealing amenities. Consider removal of bridge and using culvert under a trail. Recommendations and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Removals / General Earthwork	\$50,000
Playground w/concrete border and EWF surfacing	\$75,000
Culvert and FES	\$2,500
Benches (1) & tables (2)	\$8,000
Concrete walk - (5' wide x 100' long)	\$7,500
Optional: wood fence	\$20,000
TOTAL:	\$163,000



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

ASIAN ACRES

Address: North of 270th St

Park Classification: Undeveloped

Size: 3.27 acres

DESCRIPTION

Undeveloped site with natural resources (wetlands, woodlands) that is located along an old railroad bed and is currently the only method of accessing the property.

AMENITIES

- Natural resources

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should this area be developed in concert with a trail along the railroad bed, the focus would be development of support amenities related to the trail. Potentially consider renaming park and conduct natural resource management.

Recommendations & estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Tree removals / general earthwork	\$15,000
Seating & receptacle	\$4,000
Bike fix-it station	\$4,000
Wayfinding board w/map	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$33,000



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

BANTA

Address: Fondant Ave

Park Classification: Neighborhood

Size: 5.42 acres

DESCRIPTION

Neighborhood park along a rural road which is difficult to access by walking or riding bike. The park is scenic with mature trees around the perimeter. The larger portion of the site is developed with neighborhood amenities with an additional parcel that is undeveloped and has a mowed trail.

AMENITIES

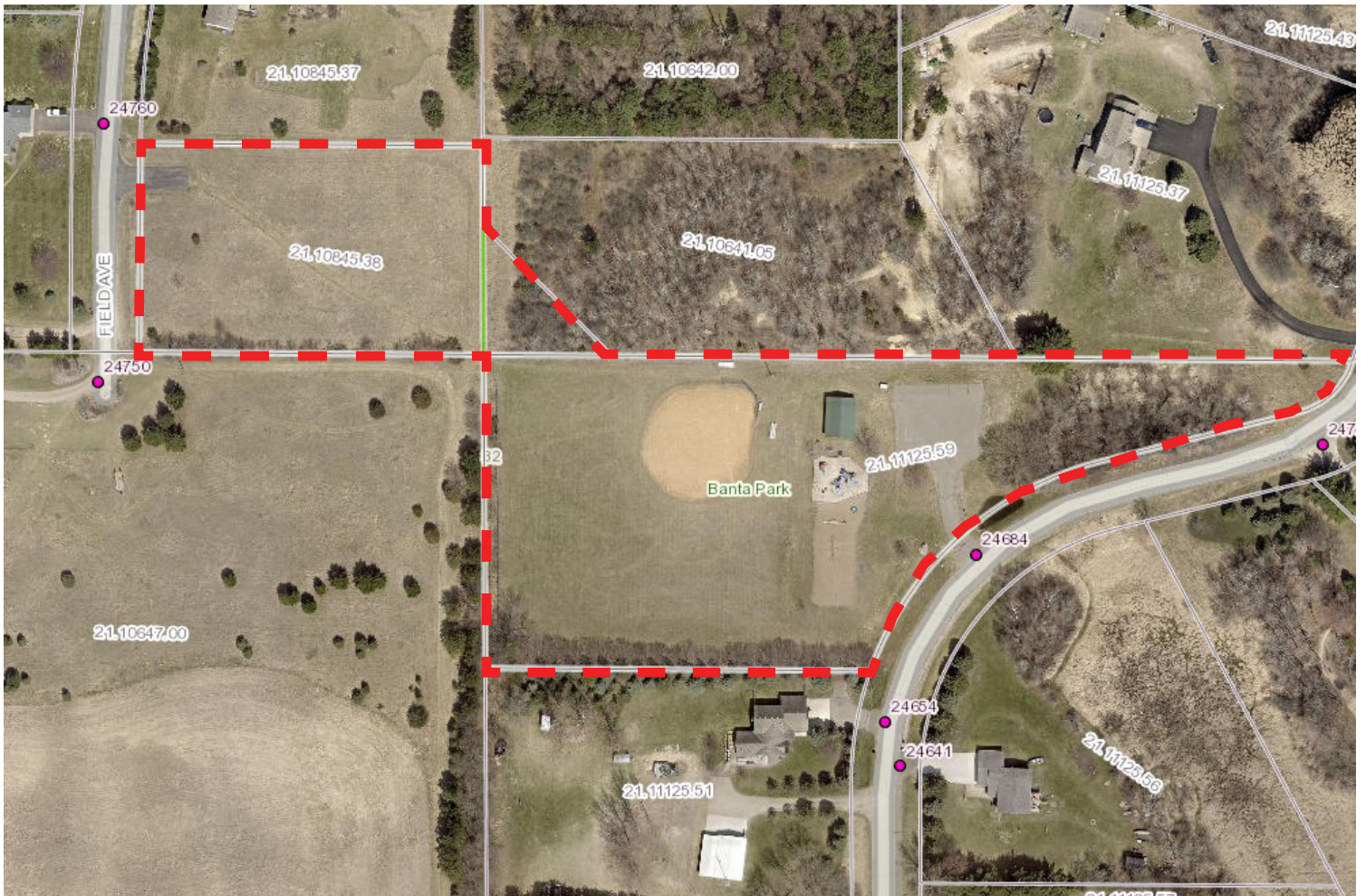
- Playground - older, retro pieces that are non-compliant and newer equipment with EWF surfacing and plastic border. Lacking proper accessible route into container.
- Wood group picnic shelter - older, fair condition, interior feels dark.
- Bench - good condition; plastisol
- Picnic tables - wood and aluminum; chained to structure which detracts from appeal
- Portable restroom - no enclosure
- Ballfield - good orientation, fair to good condition; backstop needs some maintenance on gap; ditch separates field from parking lot
- Parking lot - good condition, not striped and lacking ADA stall
- No trails or walks

RECOMMENDATIONS

At time of replacement, consider some layout improvements or new master plan to discuss options with neighborhood to determine extent of redevelopment. Ensure proper accessibility and appealing amenities. Identify options for pedestrian trail connections.

Recommendations and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Removals / General Earthwork	\$80,000
Playground concrete border and concrete walk connection	\$10,000
Benches (4) & surface mounted picnic tables (6), bike rack (1), grills (2)	\$32,000
Loop bituminous trail	\$55,000
Group shelter w/crock pot shelf	\$75,000
Stripe & sign parking lot	\$2,000
Backstop fence & players bench roof shelters	\$55,000
Restoration & landscaping	\$10,000
Utilities (budgetary)	\$40,000
Optional: Basketball court	\$27,000
Optional: Volleyball court	\$12,000
Optional: Pump track	\$70,000
TOTAL RANGE:	\$359-\$468K



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

BLUE SPRUCE

Address: 262nd St

Park Classification: Neighborhood

Size: 3.75 acres

DESCRIPTION

Neighborhood park within a more recent developed neighborhood with large lots. In close proximity to Goodview Park. Has a very large open lawn area and amenities suitable for neighborhood use but lacking proper accessibility.

AMENITIES

- Playground - good condition, EWF surfacing and plastic border. Lacking proper accessible route into container. 2 benches within container.
- Basketball court - full size, older but fair condition and backstops on both ends and 2 benches for viewing (1 damaged).
- Bench - differing styles.
- Picnic tables - 2 plastisol tables on pads.
- Portable restroom enclosure
- Open lawn - large area, seems too steep for programmed athletics.
- Parking lot - fair to poor condition, edges crumbling, ADA stalls not correct
- No trails or walks

RECOMMENDATIONS

At time of replacement, consider options with neighborhood for northern lawn (keep lawn or add additional amenities). to determine extent of redevelopment. Ensure proper accessibility and appealing amenities.

Recommendations and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Removals / General Earthwork	\$50,000
Playground concrete border & exterior concrete pads/walks	\$12,000
Benches (4) & picnic tables (2), bike rack (1)	\$20,000
Repave and stripe court	\$20,000
Repave, stripe & sign parking lot	\$22,000
Restoration & landscaping	\$10,000
Bituminous trail connections	\$6,000
Optional: loop bituminous trail	\$35,000
Optional: Picnic shelter - 20'	\$40,000
Optional: Regrade lawn	\$30,000
TOTAL RANGE:	\$140-\$245K



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

CENTENNIAL

Address: Fenwick Ave and 270th St

Park Classification: Special Use

Size: 0.6 acres

DESCRIPTION

Small lot with memorials to include one of the first homes built in 1855 to include the families of Struble & Tepel and one in memory of Tony Richner. The site is along very narrow streets with a lack of parking making the site difficult to access.

AMENITIES

- Memorial structures - panels good but structures are in need of repair or replacement.
- Picnic tables - 2 wood, old
- Grill - 1 old
- No trails or walks

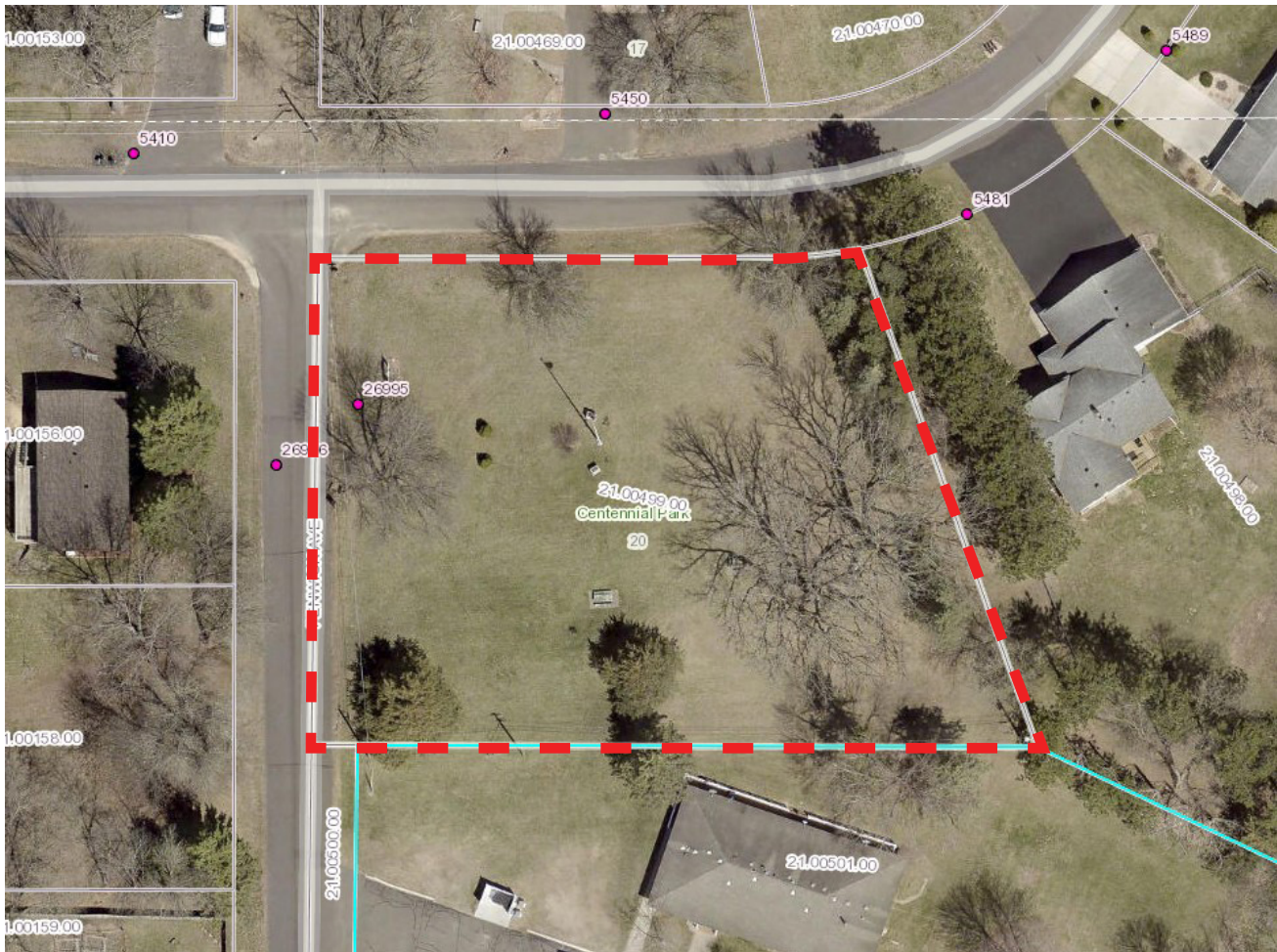
RECOMMENDATIONS

Repair / replace monument structures. Ensure proper accessibility and appealing amenities.

Recommendations and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Monument restoration (budget)	\$20,000
Concrete walks	\$23,000
Picnic tables (2), grill (1)	\$7,000
TOTAL RANGE:	\$50,000





Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

COMFORT

Address: 25578 Iris Ave

Park Classification: Neighborhood

Size: 3.3 acres

DESCRIPTION

The park is classified as a neighborhood park, however it mainly serves a special use purpose with a disc golf course which is popular. However, the playground routinely gets hit by discs, making this a hazard.

The surrounding neighborhood lacks any other neighborhood park development but are mainly large lots.

AMENITIES

- Playground - fair condition, EWF surfacing and plastic border. Lacks access into container.
- Picnic tables - 1 plastisol
- Benches - 2 plastisol in playground
- 9-hole disc golf - scenic setting, aggregate trails and some pedestrian bridges
- No paved trails or walks
- Small aggregate parking (2-3 stalls)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Meet with stakeholders (neighborhood and disc golf users) to determine if the site should be further developed as a neighborhood park with relocation of the disc golf. A better location for an expanded course may be feasible.

Recommendations and estimate (recommendations only include short-term improvements and do not account for relocation of the disc golf at this time):

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Playground concrete border & exterior concrete pads/walks	\$9,000
TOTAL RANGE:	\$9,000



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

FIRESIDE

Address: 4354 - 251st St

Park Classification: Neighborhood

Size: 12.42 acres

DESCRIPTION

Neighborhood park along a rural road which is difficult to access by walking or riding bike. The park is very scenic with mature trees and natural resources. The developed larger portion of the site is only 1/4 acre and in poor condition, with the rest left natural.

AMENITIES

- Playground - very old, non-compliant equipment, sand surfacing and no border.
- Bench - 2 old wood benches
- Picnic tables - 1 old wood table
- Bike rack - metal, old
- Portable restroom enclosure
- No parking
- No trails or walks

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that a master plan be prepared with neighborhood input for full redevelopment. The park contains a large amount of undeveloped land which can account for some new recreation but with a focus on preservation and enhancement of natural resources and identifying a trail connection to the north. The site may be a potential location for relocation of disc golf, however, the site programming and design should be determined by the community.

Recommendations (options) and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Removals / General Earthwork	\$100,000
New playground equipment, border and surfacing	\$90,000
Benches, picnic tables, bike racks (budget)	\$40,000
Parking lot (4-8 stalls)	\$50,000
Loop bituminous trail	\$80,000
Nature trails & simple boardwalks	\$75,000
Utilities (budgetary)	\$125,000
Picnic shelter - group	\$75,000
Restoration & landscaping, including native / pollinator	\$100,000
Optional: disc golf	\$35,000
TOTAL RANGE:	\$735-\$770K



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

GOODVIEW

Address: 26079 Goodview Ave

Park Classification: Community

Size: 14.75 acres

DESCRIPTION

Community park located more centrally in Wyoming in newer neighborhood developments. The park is very appealing and provides a broad range of recreation.

AMENITIES

- Playground - fair to good condition, about midway or further in age. Worn mats, EWF surfacing and plastic border.
- Large shelter - older wood shelter by playground in fair condition. Couple of styles of picnic tables chained to structure which detracts from setting.
- Small shelter - small steel shelter by skate park, newer with one table.
- Benches - mixture of styles, colors and conditions
- Grills - 2 old grills by large shelter
- Gaga pit - newer, near skate park
- Skate park - interesting design and in viewable area, good condition
- Portable restroom enclosure
- Parking lot - appealing design, nice character with split rail fence and center rain garden
- Bituminous trails with some neighborhood connections
- Soccer fields - 1 large field on the south and 2 on the north with options for smaller field overlays. Some turf maintenance necessary



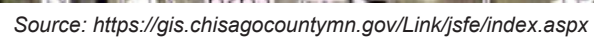
RECOMMENDATIONS

While many options for added amenities at Goodview Park were brought up during the public engagement, It is recommended that the city work with residents to explore feasible options that would improve the quality of recreation at the park without over-developing the site. New recreation should meet an existing need and it should be determined if it would result in a need for more parking or staff for operations and maintenance. The recommendations currently indicate added pickleball courts which should be determined, and completion of an internal trail loop system, which is highly desired.

General community comments for a desired splash pad could be considered for Goodview, as this is a community park, though this should be weighed with the ongoing maintenance and operational needs. Splash pads require an adjacent building with restrooms and changing areas and some also require staff certified in pool maintenance. This amenity would also attract more use so adequate parking would be needed. Due to the uncertainties that come with a splash pad, this is not included in the estimate, but a general range could be between \$350,000 - \$600,000.

General recommendations (options) and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Removals / General Earthwork	\$80,000
New community sized playground equipment, border and surfacing (includes half rubber surfacing)	\$300,000
Benches, picnic tables, bike racks (budget)	\$60,000
Group picnic shelter with permanent restrooms (optional interior room)	\$500,000 to \$800,000
Loop bituminous trail	\$60,000
Restoration & landscaping	\$50,000
Optional: Pickleball / tennis courts (double tennis)	\$120,000
TOTAL RANGE:	\$1.17-\$1.47M



HAWK MEADOWS

Address: 25419 Grail Court

Park Classification: Natural Resource Area

Size: 2.61 acres

DESCRIPTION

Hawk Meadows is a small lot along a cul-de-sac that adjoins a 66 acre wetland complex owned by the Audubon Society. The park has a small gazebo and the trails from the park through the wetland are used year-round with groomed winter trails for cross-country skiing and snow shoeing.

AMENITIES

- Natural trails - mixture of compacted soil, mowed grass and woodchips over fabric
- Gazebo - a little older, good condition but no trail connection
- Picnic tables - older wood and aluminum
- No parking

RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations include replacement of amenities as needs dictate. Longer-range visioning could include identifying methods to add a small parking area off of the cul-de-sac or future land acquisition to the west on a willing seller basis to expand the park to better accommodate current needs for park access.

Recommendations and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Replace wood chip trails with aggregate (some stabilization may be necessary)	\$6,000
Aggregate parking lot (3-4 stalls)	\$10,000
Benches (2), picnic tables (2), bike racks (budget)	\$13,000
Wayfinding signs and map	\$15,000
Restoration & landscaping	\$6,000
TOTAL:	\$50,000



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

LIBERTY PONDS

Address: 24588 heath ave
Park Classification: Natural Resource Area
Size: 8 acres

DESCRIPTION

Liberty Meadows is undeveloped except for a remaining metal shed that still stands on site. While the parcel is 8 acres in size, approximately 2 acres are developable with the remaining acreage consisting of wetlands.

RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations include determining if any park development is warranted based upon the neighborhood area. If there is a desire, work with the stakeholders to determine a level of development suitable for the property.

Options and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Removals and general earthwork	\$15,000
Playground with border and EWF surfacing	\$75,000
Picnic shelter - 20'	\$40,000
Small parking lot (4-5 stalls)	\$12,000
Benches (2), picnic tables (2), bike racks (budget)	\$13,000
Basketball half court	\$13,000
Cleared winter path	\$2,000
Restoration & landscaping	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$175,000

Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

LIONS

Address: 4815 - 263rd St

Park Classification: Neighborhood

Size: 2.78 acres

DESCRIPTION

Lions Park is a neighborhood park development with a trail connection to a 40-acre wetland complex used for winter trails.

AMENITIES

- Playground - old, fair condition, sand surfacing and wood border. Needs shade.
- Large shelter - older Lions wood shelter in fair condition, may not provide afternoon shade. Picnic tables chained to structure which detracts from setting.
- Picnic tables - consistent design and look newer
- Grills - 2 old grills by shelter
- Basketball court - full but undersized, older but in fair condition
- Ballfield - poor orientation for programmed use, balls aimed at playground, ~175' foul line
- Parking - approximately 27 stalls, 1 HC stall but access aisle is on wrong side
- Lack of benches
- Lack of portable restroom (at time of analysis)

RECOMMENDATIONS

At time of replacement, consider need for ballfield. If needed, consider reorientation of field for better play and improved safety. Ensure proper accessibility and appealing amenities and add wayfinding for winter trail area.

Recommendations and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Removals and general earthwork	\$75,000
Playground equipment, border and EWF surfacing	\$90,000
Re-stripe ADA aisles	\$500
New group shelter	\$75,000
Benches (2), grills (2) and bike rack	\$8,000
Restoration & landscaping	\$6,000
Resurface court, new goals	\$15,000
Wayfinding signs	\$6,000
Optional: permanent restrooms attached to shelter	\$400,000
Optional: Reorient ballfield with new fencing and players bench covers	\$150,000
TOTAL RANGE:	\$275-\$825,500



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

RAILROAD

Address: Viking Blvd & Hwy 62

Park Classification: Special Use

Size: 0.5 acres

DESCRIPTION

Railroad Park is an empty lot adjacent to the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail with a trailhead parking lot in close proximity. It is in a highly visible location that was once part of the railroad line.

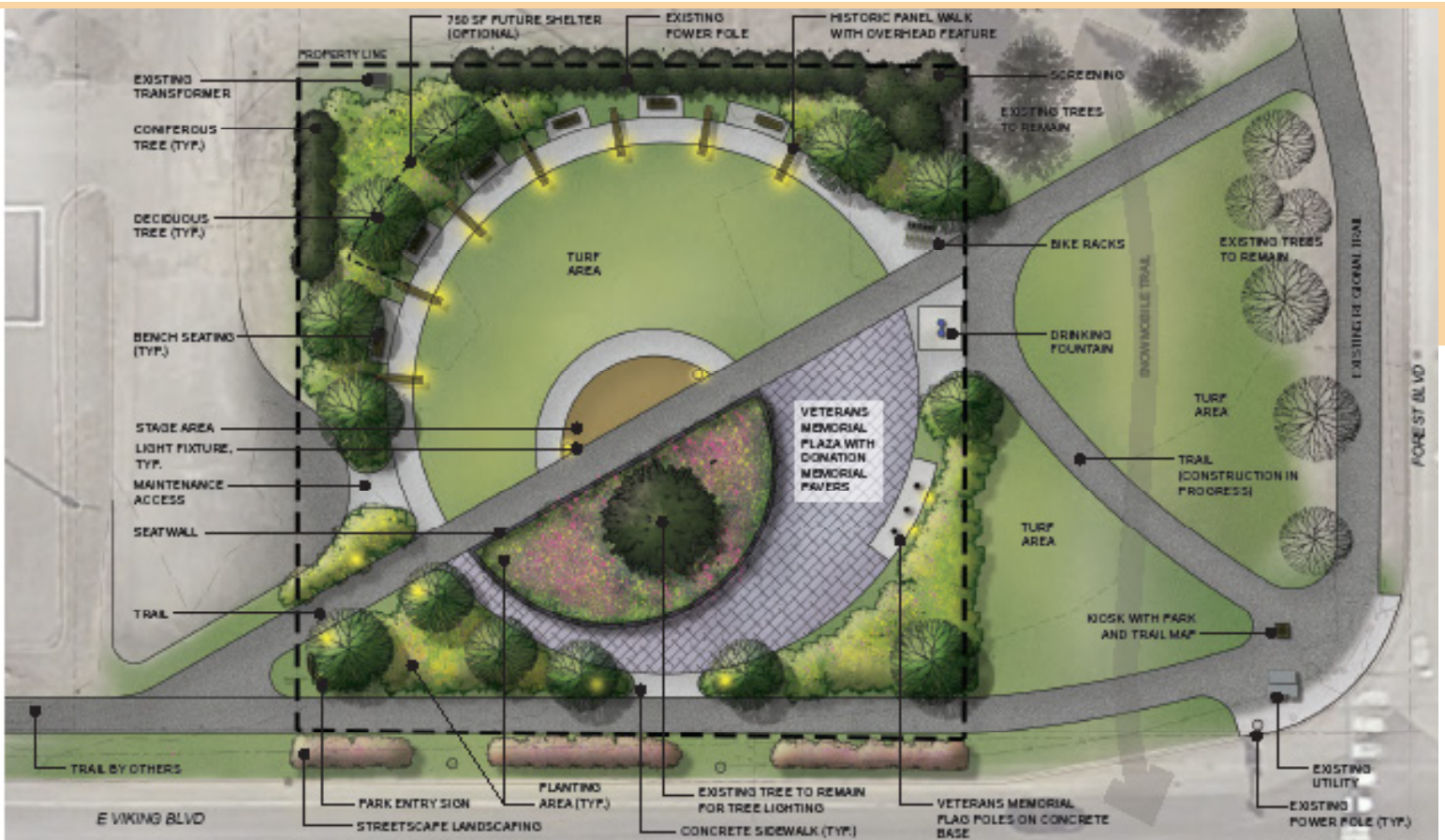
RECOMMENDATIONS

A concept plan was prepared that celebrates the history of the community of Wyoming. It includes the following:

- History Walk - elements and seating areas along a walk that pays homage to the history of the community.
- Veteran's Memorial - paver walkway with memorial pavers in honor of veteran's. Includes flag poles and an inner seat wall around a planting bed.
- Stage Area - small raised stage for park events and performances.
- Trails - connect to the existing Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail and a kiosk with information and trail map.
- Site Furnishings - benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, and a drinking fountain.

Estimate of Probable Costs

Description	Estimate
General earthwork	\$45,000
Electrical work & lights	\$100,000
History walk pavement	\$20,000
History walk panels	\$15,000
History walk benches (5), bike rack (1) & receptacles	\$15,000
Drinking fountain	\$9,000
Bituminous trail	\$6,000
Kiosk	\$15,000
Stage	\$10,000
Retaining wall / seat wall	\$27,000
Veteran's Memorial pavers and concrete pavement	\$80,000
Flagpoles and pad	\$10,000
Park sign	\$8,000
Landscaping	\$20,000
Optional: Railroad themed specialty pavement	\$17,000
TOTAL RANGE:	\$380-\$397K



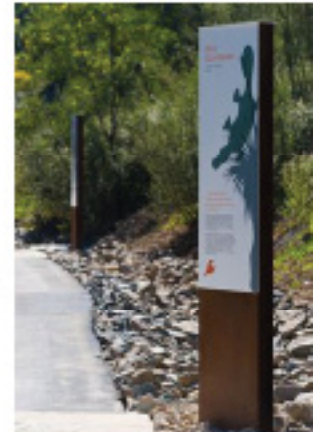
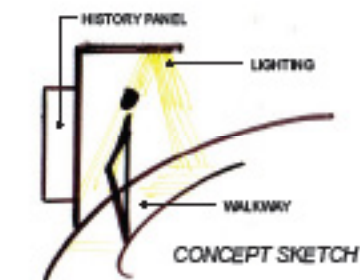
Railroad Park Concept Plan



PARK SIGN EXAMPLES



KIOSK EXAMPLES



HISTORY WALK & INTERPRETIVE SIGN EXAMPLES

SUNRISE RIDGE

Address: 263rd & Greene Ave

Park Classification: Undeveloped

Size: 0.42 acres

DESCRIPTION

Sunrise Ridge is a narrow lot adjacent to the pumpkin farm. It is currently a buffer space between the residential lot and the farm property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The existing parcel is too small and narrow to develop with park amenities. Should the pumpkin farm be redeveloped in the future the City may be able to secure additional land to expand upon the existing parcel to allow for park development, possibly large enough for any needed athletic fields.

It should be noted the option for expanding the park should be reviewed to determine a future need, as currently this neighborhood is served by Goodview Park and Blue Spruce Park and actual athletic needs would need to be determined.



SWENSON

Address: 26929 Flintwood Ave

Park Classification: Neighborhood

Size: 4.45 acres

DESCRIPTION

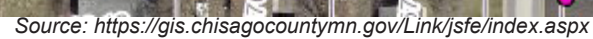
Swenson Park is a neighborhood park near the downtown location of Wyoming and situated along the route of the old railroad line. It has a broad range of recreational amenities for varying user groups and has recently had renovations.

AMENITIES

- Playground - new as of 2021 with second phase of equipment planned for implementation
- Gaga pit - newer
- Tennis court - double court recently had new color coat but cracking in bituminous surfacing is causing ongoing damage. Has new gate but fencing and nets are older.
- Parking - separate lot by the playground and pull-in stalls along hockey rink
- Trails and walks - 2021 added walks to amenities for improved accessibility
- Picnic tables - near ballfield
- No benches
- Ballfield - good orientation for programmed use, 200' foul line, fenced but in need of upgrades
- Lack of benches
- Lack of portable restroom (at time of analysis)
- Hockey rink - new boards, lights and surfacing, poor orientation
- Warming house - some recent upgrades started, additional phases remain
- Basketball Court - full but undersized, has new trail connection, surface fair condition, goals good condition

Estimate of Probable Costs

Description	Estimate
Phase 2 warming house improvements (budget)	\$32,000
Optional: tennis court reconstruction	\$150,000
Optional: Improve ballfield fencing - dedicate for girls fastpitch	\$80,000
TOTAL RANGE:	\$32-\$262K



TOLZMANN

Address: 274th and Finland Ave

Park Classification: Neighborhood

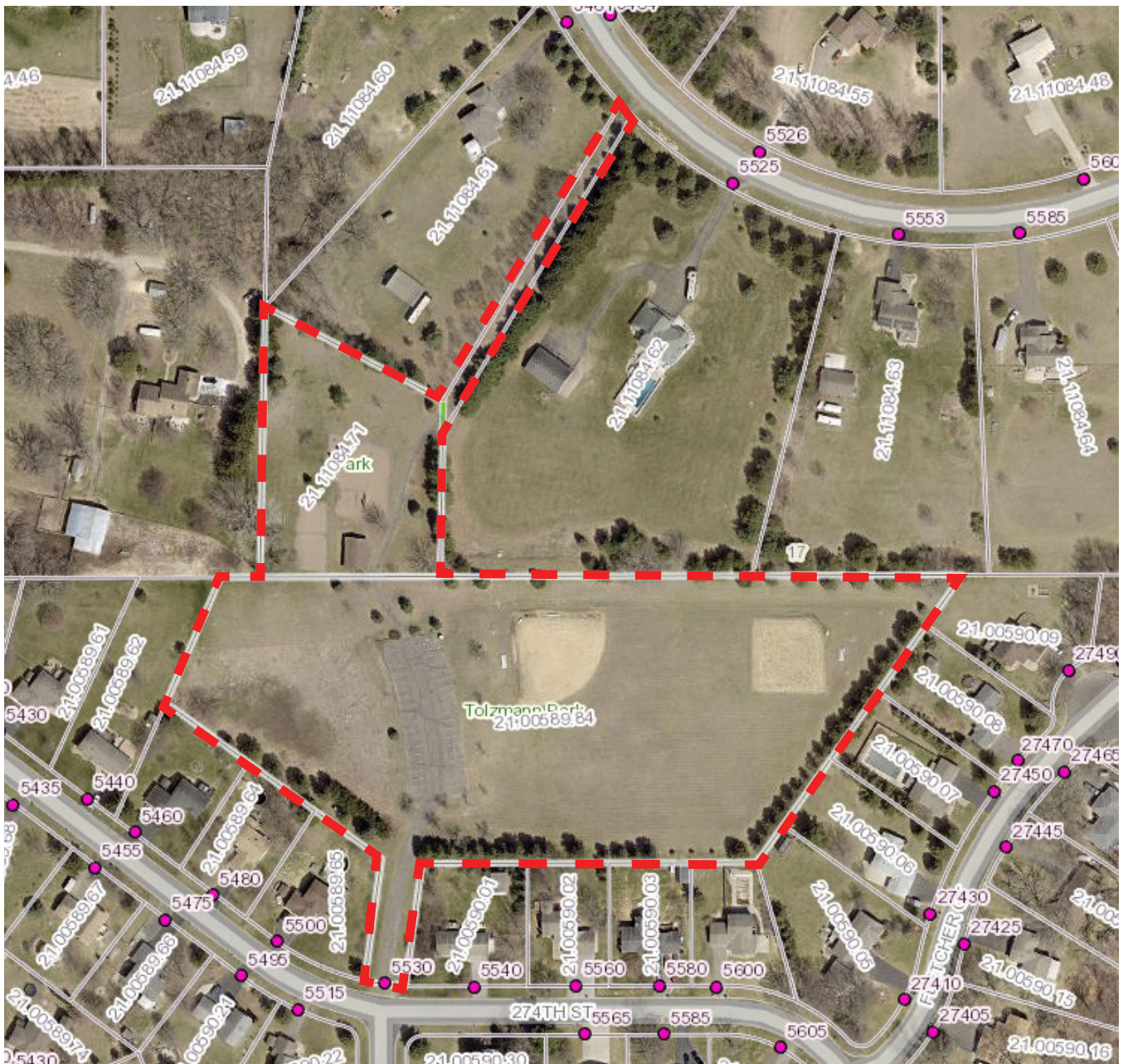
Size: 7.81 acres

DESCRIPTION

Tolzmann is a neighborhood park located on the north side of Wyoming with adequate acreage and park development to meet a broad range of users. It has a nice layout and design which is inviting but is older, which is becoming apparent.

AMENITIES

- Playground - old equipment, sand surfacing and no border.
- Large shelter - older wood shelter in fair condition. Picnic tables chained to structure which detracts from setting.
- Picnic tables - older, wood and aluminum
- Grills - old grill by shelter
- Bike rack - rack and footing sitting out of ground
- Bench - one Wyoming bench under shelter
- Volleyball court - sand court, no border, old net, and weeds throughout
- West Ballfield - poor orientation, fence in good condition, agg-lime full of weeds, bleachers on pads but no trail connection, pole out in field use area
- East Ballfield - good orientation, inadequate space for programmed use due to ballfield overlap and property line limits one foul line to 125', agg-lime full of weeds
- Parking - rough curb along street entrance, 39 stalls with 2 ADA stalls
- Trails - connection to neighborhood but does not connect to amenities, older in fair to poor condition, access route does not meet ADA
- Portable restroom enclosure



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

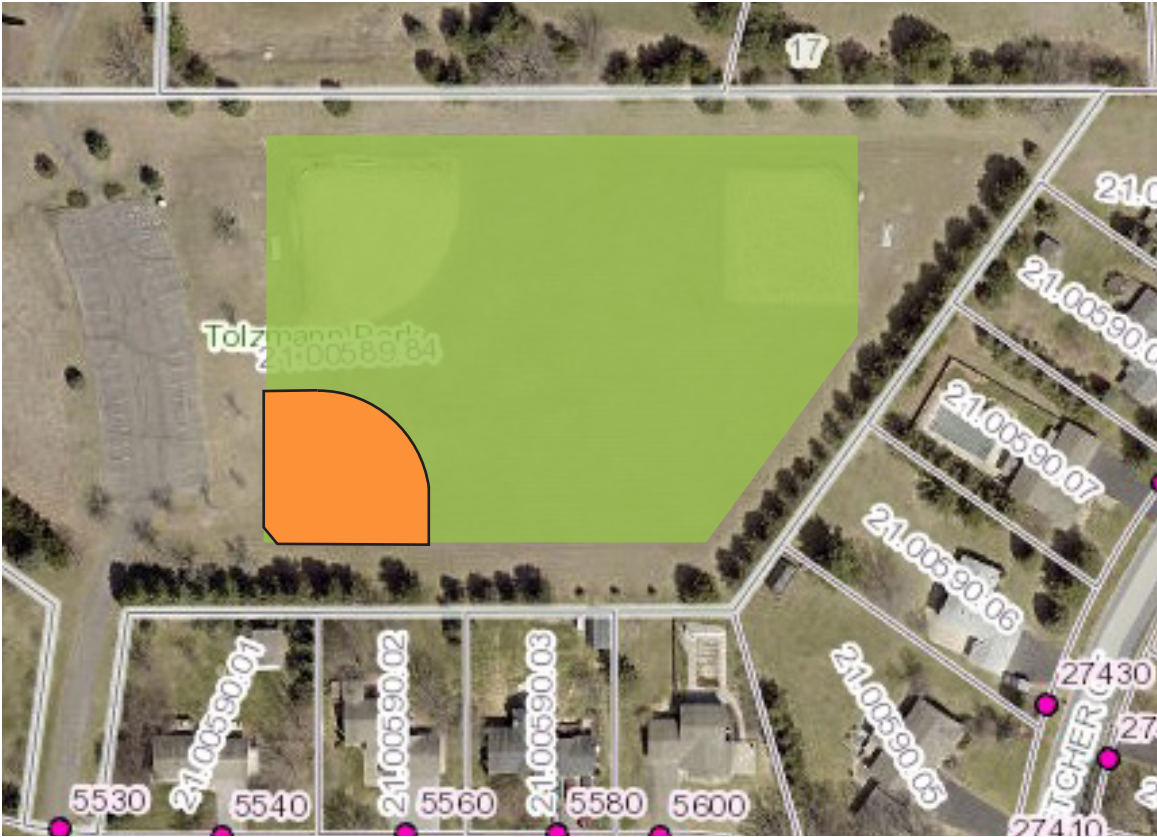


RECOMMENDATIONS

Upgrade park. At time of replacement, consider elimination of eastern field and reorient western field for optimal play conditions. Allow remaining green space to be flexible turf space for field sports such as soccer or informal play. Work with stakeholders to determine if volleyball is preferred to stay or if a basketball court would be more in demand.

Recommendations and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Removals / General Earthwork	\$75,000
New playground equipment, border and surfacing	\$90,000
Benches (2), picnic tables (8), and bike racks (budget)	\$27,000
Drinking fountain (does not include water service)	\$9,000
Resurface parking lot	\$60,000
Resurface bituminous trail	\$20,000
Picnic shelter - group	\$75,000
Restoration & landscaping	\$20,000
Optional: new ballfield (w/ soccer overlay & irrigation)	\$250,000
Optional: basketball court	\$35,000
TOTAL RANGE:	\$376-\$661K



VERGES

Address: 7665 Wyoming Trail

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Size: 0.22 acres

DESCRIPTION

Verges is a small lot along a street intersection. It has an old bench and old picnic table but is primarily wooded area.

AMENITIES

- Bench and Table - old wood furnishings

RECOMMENDATIONS

This lot is located approximately 1/4 mile from Verges Memorial which is more developed. It could have a small seating area, but is not well suited for development with amenities such as a playground.



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

VERGES MEMORIAL

Address: 25915 Goodwin Road

Park Classification: Neighborhood

Size: 1.24 acres

DESCRIPTION

Verges Memorial is a small neighborhood park in close proximity to Goodview Park. It has a very functional development that does not hold the same character or appeal as other Wyoming park sites.

AMENITIES

- Playground - one newer structure with plastic border and EWF surfacing but lacking a trail connection for access.
- Playground - older independent pieces in pea gravel and not compliant or accessible.
- Basketball court - very large court area with 4 goals, poor condition
- Picnic tables - old wood benches and tables
- Volleyball court - no border, in fair condition
- Parking - undelineated pull-in parking area (about 2 stalls) along a dead-end road
- Open lawn area
- Portable restroom enclosure

RECOMMENDATIONS

At time of replacement, consider a new park layout with more appeal and trees for shade. Remove old amenities and work with stakeholders to determine appropriate amenities and level of development.

Recommendations (options) and estimate:

Estimate of Probable Costs	
Description	Estimate
Removals / General Earthwork	\$40,000
Benches (2), picnic tables (2), and bike racks (1)	\$12,000
Drinking fountain (does not include water service)	\$9,000
Stripe parking lot	\$300
Resurface bituminous trail, add connections	\$18,000
Resurface & downsize basketball court	\$22,000
Volleyball court improvements	\$12,000
Picnic shelter - 20'	\$40,000
Restoration & landscaping	\$8,000
TOTAL:	\$161,000



Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

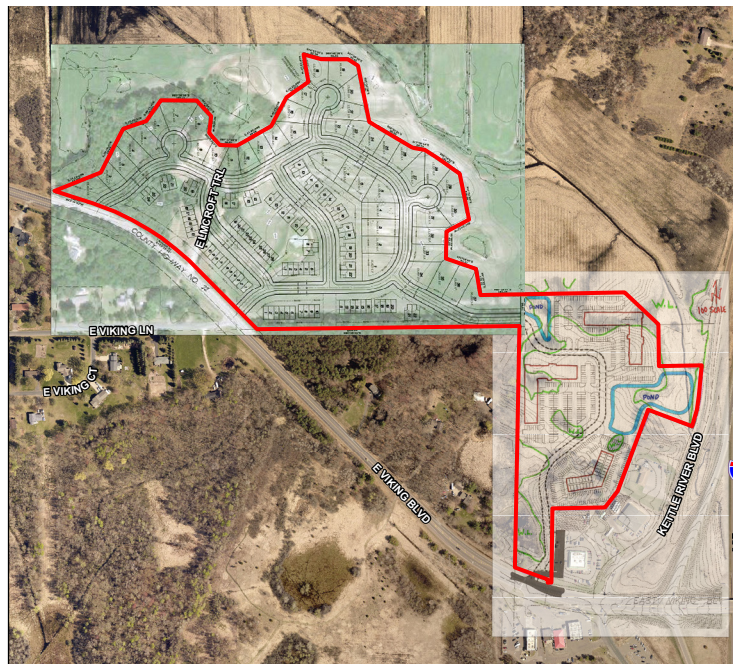
FUTURE / PLANNED PARKS

As noted in the park service area analysis on the graphic to the right, there were several locations noted for planned parks or search areas to help meet future needs as the community continues to develop which are described in further detail.

A: NORTHWEST AREA / AVERY PLACE

Avery Place is a proposed planned unit development that contains mixed housing from single-family to apartment complexes that may result in up to 600 housing units. The proposed development area may result in a mixture of park dedication consisting of half the required land acreage with the remaining to be cash-in-lieu.

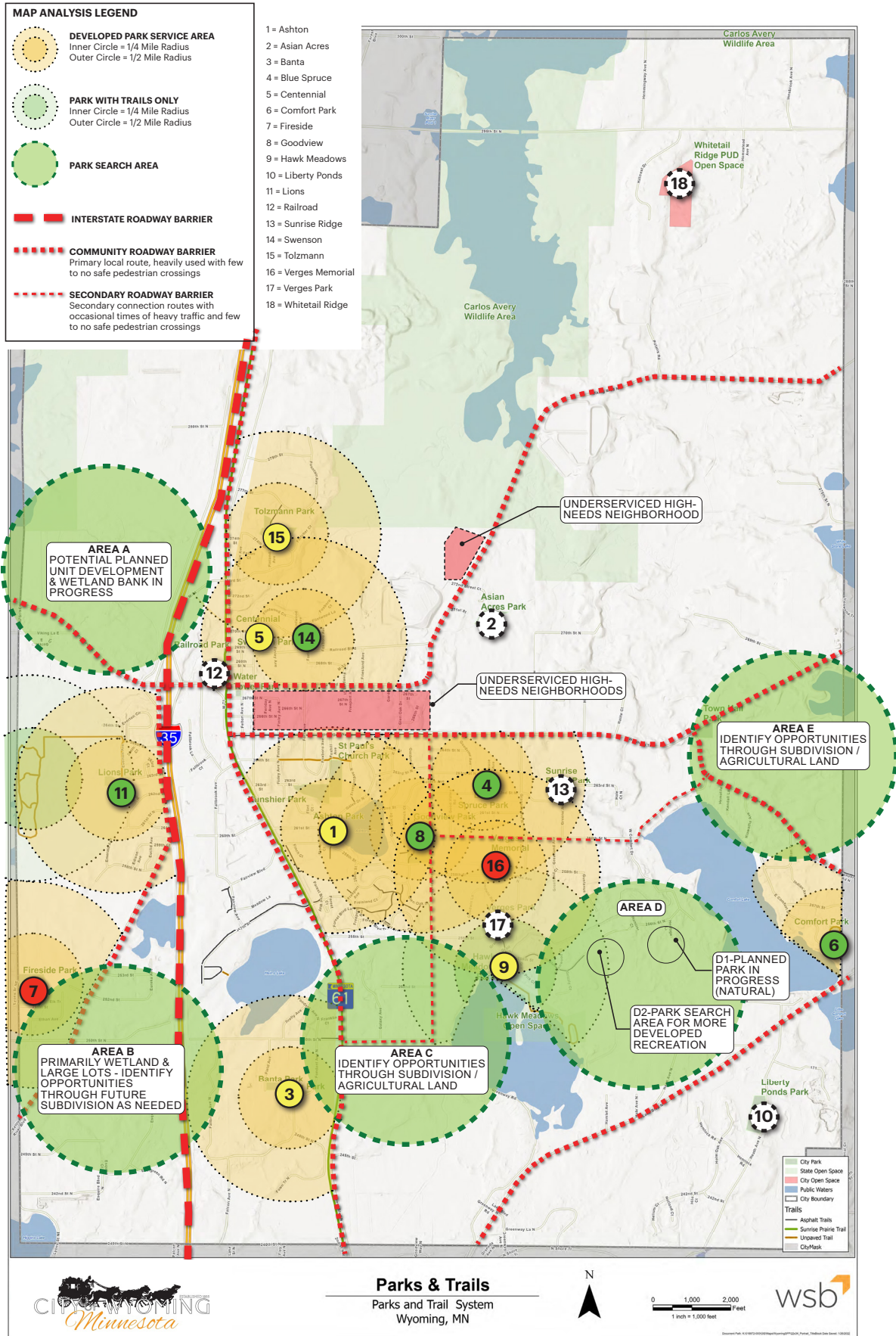
This particular housing location is cut off from the remainder of Wyoming with no pedestrian access to any existing parks due to significant road barriers. It is important to highlight the immediate need for an adequate park with developed amenities to be located within a 1/2 mile of the new residents. This includes both active and passive types of recreation.



Conceptual Development Plans

B: EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD

This neighborhood contains existing homes with large lots and there are also areas of significant wetlands. At the time of the planning process, there were no known concerns from the residents about a lack of access to parks. However, if in the future the properties are subdivided and there continues to be a lack of a safe pedestrian crossing over Kettle River Blvd, there may be a future demand for a park in this general location. The city should identify potential land dedication opportunities if future subdivision occurs to help meet these needs.



Park Service Area Analysis

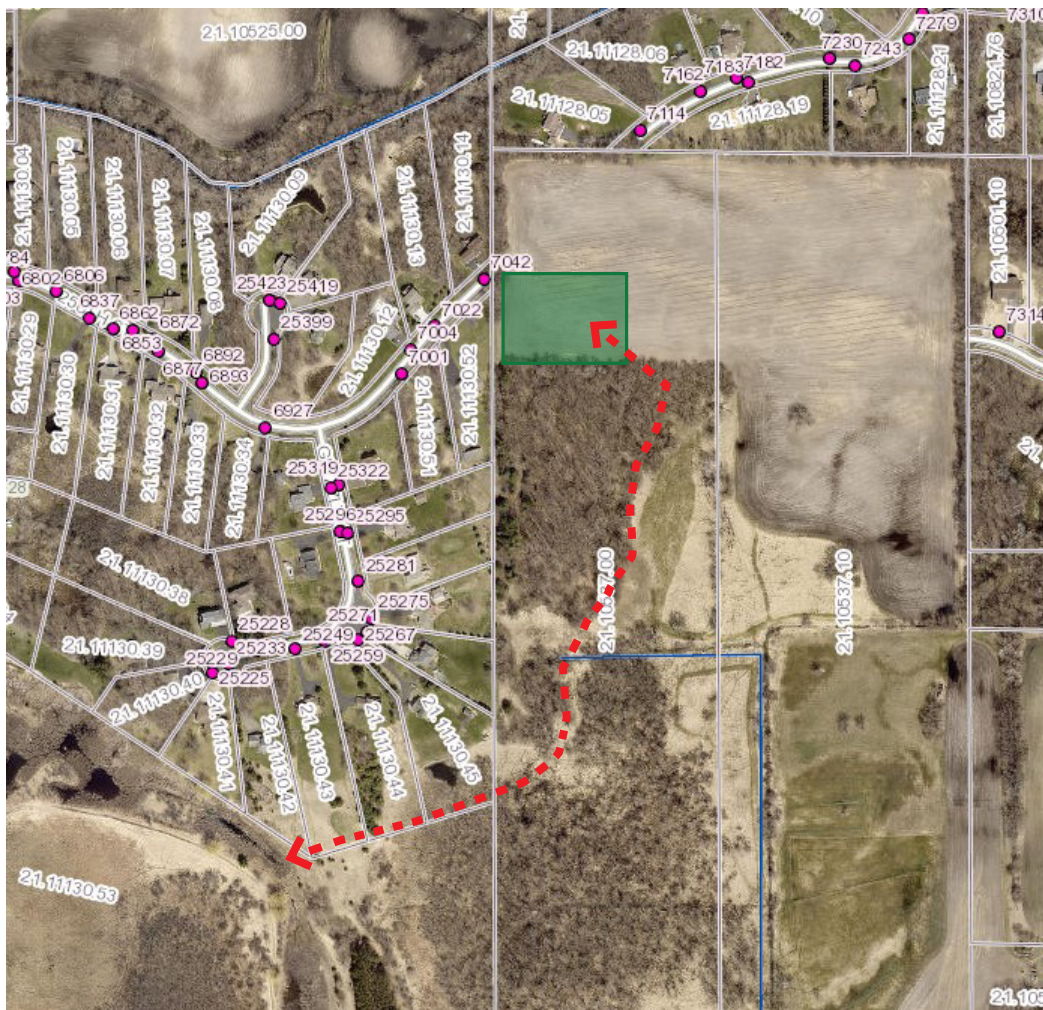
Wyoming, Minnesota
March 2022 | WSB Project number: 018972-000

C: UNDEVELOPED

There may be opportunities through land acquisition or future dedication to secure land for a small park in this general location as developments occur. A park approximately 2-4 acres in size may be sufficient depending on the amount of additional housing units proposed.

D: THE PRESERVE AT COMFORT LAKE

The city will receive lands for park dedication in the Preserve at Comfort Lake development, noted as D1. The dedicated lands are primarily natural resource areas, including numerous wetlands not suitable for park development, and access to the site is limited. The site can remain a passive use area unless there are opportunities to purchase adjoining lands suitable for park development. The City should also identify opportunities along 256th St as it is further implemented to develop a park with more active amenities, such as a playground, hardcourt, a small parking area, open lawn, and picnic shelter, noted as D2. This neighborhood area is a location where more active recreation should be developed. There may also be a potential to identify a winter trail connection to the Hawk Meadows trails through natural areas that are not suited for development.



Map Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>

E: HUNTER HILL DEVELOPMENT

The Hunter Hill development is located north of Comfort Lake and includes lots built within the past few years. This neighborhood area is not currently served by a park. As this area continues to develop, the City should identify potential lands suitable for park development as part of dedication somewhere in the shaded area noted below with access from the Hunter Hill neighborhood as well as a connection to the south along Indian Trail. Generally 2 to 5 acres would be ideal.



Map Source: <https://gis.chisagocountymn.gov/Link/jsfe/index.aspx>



6. TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN

OVERVIEW

Trails remain a popular recreational amenity that serve an important role in connecting parks, open spaces, schools and other primary destinations within the community, and beyond. The trail system focuses on an overview of the existing pedestrian routes through Wyoming, trail classifications, regional trails, and recommendations for future pedestrian corridors to improve connectivity across the community.

TRAIL DESIGN FACTORS

Trails provide recreational opportunities, an alternative mode of transportation, key connections to primary destination points, and contribute to improving the overall health and wellness of the community. There are four primary factors that can affect the overall use and success of a trail that include:

- » Trail safety, quality and convenience
- » Connectivity
- » Scenic quality and diversity
- » Health, wellness and fitness opportunities

Safety and convenience are baseline determinants for whether a person will even use an alternative transportation feature, irrespective of its quality. Once these two values are perceived as being acceptable, then the personal values will be given more consideration by the user.



TRAIL SAFETY, QUALITY & CONVENIENCE

If people don't feel safe, they will not be inclined to use a trail or pedestrian-way no matter how many other values might be provided. Physical safety can be relatively assured through good planning and design. Personal safety, which relates to a sense of well-being while using the system, is a less tangible yet still very important factor that cannot be taken lightly. This is especially important with safe routes to school, as parents will only allow their children to walk or bike to school if there is a high perception of safety. Visibility, location, lighting, and safe crosswalks all contribute to the overall trail safety. This is especially important in Wyoming where there are large roadways that break up the community and prohibit adequate access to parks, schools and other destination areas.

During the planning process, residents of Wyoming voiced concerns about safety as it relates to traffic volumes and speeds on roads and the need to safely cross them. Hwy 61 was noted as one location of concern, especially to access the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail from those who live east of Hwy 61. Kettle River Blvd was also routinely brought up as a concern, as this is a highly traveled, high-speed road that feels very unsafe and creates barriers. Those who live within a 1/4 to 1/2 mile of Lions Park are unable to access it due to the lack of pedestrian facilities along Kettle River Blvd. Interstate 35 creates a physical and visual barrier that makes the community feel like there are distinct east and west sides to Wyoming. Though there are pedestrian routes over I-35, they do not feel safe especially near the intersection to Kettle River Blvd.

Trail quality relates to the overall condition and experience while using the trail. If the trail is properly maintained on a routine basis, the overall perception by the community will also be high, but if the trails are in a degraded condition than the community is likely to be less inclined to support future funding for additional trails. The quality also affects the experience while using the trail since many strollers and in-line skates require smooth surfaces for a pleasing recreational experience.

Convenience is important for day-to-day use of the trail system. The vast majority of shared-use paved trails are used by those living within a few miles of the trail. Although convenience is important, its influence is still tempered by recreational value. No matter how convenient, a poorly designed trail system feature in an uninteresting setting will have limited recreational value. Alternatively, a well-designed feature in an interesting setting might draw users from greater distances. All trails, pedestrian-ways, and bikeways should be located where they are both convenient and offer the amenities that users are seeking.



CONNECTIVITY

Trails should connect people to nature, schools, parks, businesses, and other primary destinations. This is especially important for areas with low-income, high density and senior populations that may rely less on vehicles for their mode of transportation.

The transportation (commuting) aspect of an alternative transportation system is a value that appeals to a smaller group of users, with an underlying goal of the plan to entice recreational, fitness, and utilitarian users to use the system more and more for transportation. Transportation purposes include using the system to get to work, school, local stores, or around the neighborhood, along with other utilitarian trips that would otherwise be done using a motor vehicle. Realizing the use of the system for transportation will only be successful if it is perceived as safe, convenient relative to a user's skill level, and of a high quality. Without such a system, residents will simply use their vehicle.

Connectivity within the community, as well as regionally, is important to residents of Wyoming. Connected lengths of trails make longer trips possible with more opportunities for recreational experiences and commuter options. Many expressed their anticipation of connection to the Swedish Immigrant Trail and also expressed a desire to connect to more local destinations, such as park sites, downtown Wyoming and schools. In some cases residents will drive small distances to reach their destination due to a lack of proper pedestrian connectivity, including less than 1/4 mile.

Wyoming is also located along the MS 150 bike ride and promoted as a rest stop along the way.



SCENIC QUALITY & DIVERSITY

Of all the values ascribed to a trail system, recreational value is one of the most important in terms of predicting the level of use by most residents, assuming that safety and convenience are not issues. In general, system features offering a high-quality recreational experience occurs along trails that:

- » Are scenic and located in a pleasant setting, natural open space, or linear corridor buffered from traffic and the built environment.
- » Provide a continuous and varying experience that takes visitors to a variety of destinations and is a destination unto itself.
- » Offers continuity with limited interruptions and impediments to travel.
- » Allows for diverse types of trails meeting varying needs, preferences and abilities

Planning and connecting the trail system is more than simply providing miles of trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes. There should be emphasis placed on the quality of the experience more than the quantity. While high-value, well located trails often pose more challenges (and potentially more costs) to implement, the value of these features to the community will likely prove to be worth the investment.

Multi-use trails should be developed away from high volume traffic routes as much as possible in order to be successful. Routes along vehicular traffic are not as well received, whereas scenic routes with shade and resting opportunities will attract more ongoing use and make the investments more worthwhile. If trails are developed along roadways, then ensure adequate separation of trails from the vehicles and if possible and minimize the amount of vehicle crossings of the trail. The Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail is a good example of a successful trail. It is located along a highway but has adequate separation within a wide corridor and in many locations has dense vegetation on one or both sides for a scenic and pleasing trail experience.

HEALTH, WELLNESS & FITNESS

Health, wellness and fitness is an ever-expanding value for trail users. This especially applies to locations where residents use the trail system for daily fitness, such as daily walks by active seniors, or after-work bike rides and dog walking. Simply having a trail system nearby will entice residents who may have never used trails before to try them out.

Trails that provide the highest value for health and wellness tend to have looped routes, places to sit, shade, access to restrooms, and connection to a destination. Seniors like to have a destination such as a coffee shop or other food and drink location simply to socialize. It is critical to develop an interconnected system of pedestrian route options with varying lengths and challenge levels.

TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS

Trail design standards included in this section should be considered for all biking and walking infrastructure. Standards help make facilities safer by maintaining consistency and ensuring that the greatest number of people will be able to access and enjoy the system. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has specific requirements for the slopes, size, crossing placement, and other elements of pedestrian facilities that also need to be adhered to.

REGIONAL TRAILS

Regional trails are typically bituminous surfaced and are used for commuting as well as for recreational purposes. They can be considered destination or linking trails and can cross numerous municipal boundaries. Regional trails are recommended to be a minimum of 10-feet wide to meet regional trail design guidelines. Regional trails within Wyoming include:

- » Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail
- » Swedish Immigrant Trail (proposed)



Creator: Jan Lasar - Copyright: MN Trails Magazine



PAVED MULTI-USE TRAILS

Multi-use trails are generally defined as paved surfaces that can serve multiple users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, in-line skaters, etc. These trails are typically a minimum of 8 feet wide and are found in park settings and along roadway systems.

SIDEWALKS

Sidewalks are important to provide pedestrian access to park and trail systems. Most sidewalks are concrete and can be 4 to 6 feet in width. Some newer neighborhoods have sidewalks and more are being built in downtown locations, but overall, there is a lack of sidewalks in Wyoming.

BIKE LANES

Bike lanes are recommended to be a minimum width of 5 feet. Wyoming has some street routes with striped shoulders that are suitable for marking as designated bike lanes.

SPECIALTY TRAILS

Wyoming has winter trails that are groomed for winter snow shoeing and cross-country skiing located west of Lions Park and at Hawk Meadows. There are also designated snowmobile routes throughout Wyoming, including on the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail. As multi-use trails continue to be expanded, there will be higher demands for cleared winter trails which eliminates use by snowmobiles. It is important to allow for strategically located and designated snowmobile routes. This is especially important with Polaris located in Wyoming.



TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

The trail system plan consists of trails and pedestrian-ways/sidewalks defined under various classifications. The distinction between classifications is important due to the variability in their value, which in turn greatly affects the importance of the system to residents and the degree to which the various trails, sidewalks and bike lanes will be used. The following table provides an overview of general trail classification types and descriptions.

Trail Classifications	
Trail Classification	Description
Regional Trails	A trail of regional significance and designation. Regional trails are typically paved trails for walking, jogging, bicycling, and in-line skating and located within a greenway, open space, park, or designated trail corridor and can cross many municipal boundaries. Trails are typically 10-foot wide minimum and asphalt surfaced meeting regional trail design guidelines.
Paved Multi-Use Trails	General multi-use trails are typically 8-foot wide minimum and asphalt surfaced. Multi-use trails provide routes within parks and connections to parks and destination areas with an emphasis on safe travel within the community for walking, jogging, biking (as well as other wheeled forms of recreational travel)
Bike Lanes	Bike lanes are primarily oriented towards fitness and transportation bicyclists who are skilled and accustomed to travel adjacent to vehicular traffic. Bike lanes vary from striped lanes that are dedicated for bicyclists to wide shoulders suitable for bikes and potentially other pedestrian modes of travel. Striped bicycle lanes are recommended to be a minimum of 5 feet in width.
On-Street Shared Use Trails	On-street shared use routes on higher speed or higher volume roads are primarily oriented towards the fitness and transportation bicyclists who are skilled and accustomed to travel among vehicular traffic in the same lanes. In residential neighborhoods with lower speeds and traffic volumes, on-street routes are expanded to include the recreational bicyclist, walkers and joggers, and are generally more family-friendly. On-street routes can include pavement markings or signage to indicate a shared use lane. Some lower volume roads or shared use living street applications are predominantly restricted to a walking or biking pace with equal priority given to all modes of transportation and are typically built with traffic calming design measures to reduce conflicts.
Sidewalks	Sidewalks provide safe travel for walking and jogging within the community to and from parks, trails, businesses, developed areas and destinations. Sidewalks can accommodate bikes and other wheeled modes of pedestrian transportation, though their narrower width and concrete surface are not well suited for these uses. Sidewalks are most often located within a road right-of-way and ideally are a minimum of 5 feet in width.
Natural Trails	Nature trails are commonly used in areas where a natural appearance is preferred to fit with a natural character. Nature trails can consist of earthen, wood chip or aggregate surfaces, though the trail itself should be constructed in a manner that creates a firm and stable surface suitable for meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act. Nature trails should also be constructed in a manner that reduces the propensity for ongoing erosion and maintenance issues.
Specialty Recreational Trails	Specialty recreational trails, for the purposes of this plan, encompass a variety of trail types used for recreational purposes. This can include mountain biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, etc.

SUPPORT FACILITIES

With trail systems comes a need for support facilities. Wyoming has the downtown parking lot to access the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail which is convenient and in close proximity to additional amenities such as convenience stores for snacks and water. The following provides additional amenities to consider to support the trail users.

BICYCLE PARKING

Secure bike parking is an essential component of any trail network, whether it is primarily used for commuting or recreation. It is important for trail users to have a safe and convenient place to securely lock their bikes once they reach the end of their trip. Providing secure bike parking at trailheads and in parks on the trail system allows users to stop and take advantage of park amenities or business districts along the way.

Bike parking can also be used to enhance community placemaking with custom colors and logo's to make the stopping location easily identifiable for the user.



AMENITIES

Trail amenities will support the trail system and can be located at trailheads or points along the way. They can include bike fix-it stations, access to drinking water and restrooms, benches and picnic tables for a place to rest and eat, and shade. An important component to all trailheads is adequate wayfinding signage to include informational maps and kiosks, described in more detail on the following page.



Image Source: www.havefunbiking.com

WAYFINDING

A clear wayfinding signage program should be implemented throughout the community that provides guidance to parks, trails and other points of interest. This is particularly important along routes that are disjointed or have gaps in them, as well as to direct people to sites that are difficult to find. In some cases these can be actual signs, in other cases they can be markers along the route that will allow the user the ability to identify the route.

Trail users unfamiliar with an area rely on signs and landmarks to find their destination if they are commuting, or to locate restrooms, picnic areas, or other amenities if they are a recreational user.

A wayfinding signage program should have clear branding and theme in order to enhance the sense of place and ability to follow signs. Signs could be included with street signs, interpretive kiosks and park entrance and rules/operating hours signs. Signage can also direct trail users to destinations within the community and can be a way to support local businesses in the area.



RECOMMENDATIONS

A general assessment was completed for the trail and pedestrian systems to evaluate existing gaps, pedestrian crossing concerns and identifying routes that rank as important for improving overall connectivity within Wyoming. While the ranking provides guidance on priorities to meet the needs of the community, the actual implementation of the trails and pedestrian routes will be highly dependent on a number of additional factors, such as the timing of road improvement projects.

It is important that the City of Wyoming continues to evaluate proposed pedestrian routes and routinely collaborates with potential partners to ensure that as future road and development projects are implemented, that the trail system does not get overlooked and become a missed opportunity.

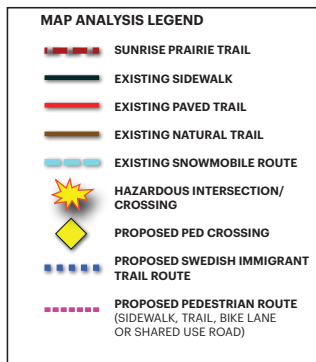
Proposed recommendations are meant to strengthen connectivity across the community with connections to local parks and destinations, local routes for general recreation, and primary connections to the regional trail systems.

Wyoming has the downtown parking lot adjacent to Railroad Park to access the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail. This trailhead is convenient and in close proximity to additional amenities such as convenience stores for snacks and water and is a stopping point along the MS 150 bike ride. Additional trailheads may need further exploration as the community continues to develop and connections to the Swedish Immigrant are implemented.

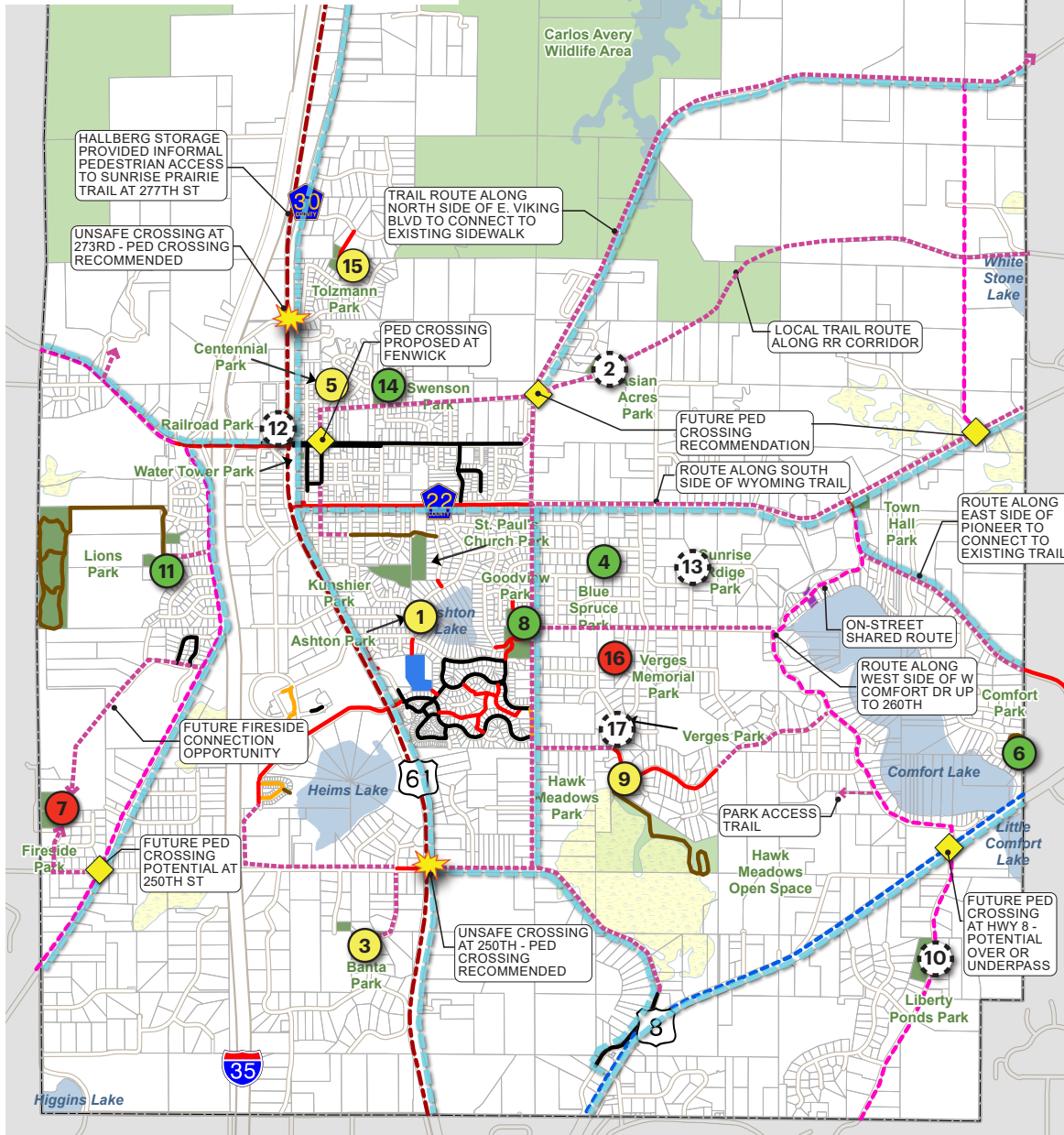
The following provides some recommendations to consider to improve safety and connectivity throughout Wyoming.

Pedestrian Crossings:

- Co Rd 30 / Forest Blvd and 279th St: Previous pedestrian path to access the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail is eliminated with the Hallberg Storage Development. Reducing the speed limit starting north of this location should be a consideration.
- Co Rd 30 / Forest Blvd and 277th St: Previous pedestrian path to access the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail is modified through the Hallberg Storage Development area and still allows for access.
- Co Rd 30 / Forest Blvd and 273rd St: Unsafe crossing, proposed advanced warning signal and crosswalk recommended.
- E Viking Blvd & Fenwick Ave: Proposed pedestrian crosswalk to connect neighborhoods north and south of E Viking Blvd for improved access to commercial areas and Swenson Park.
- E Biking Blvd & Railroad Blvd: Proposed future pedestrian crossing with advanced warning signal if a trail is built along the railroad corridor.



- 1 = Ashton
- 2 = Asian Acres
- 3 = Banta
- 4 = Blue Spruce
- 5 = Centennial
- 6 = Comfort Park
- 7 = Fireside
- 8 = Goodview
- 9 = Hawk Meadows
- 10 = Liberty Ponds
- 11 = Lions
- 12 = Railroad
- 13 = Sunrise Ridge
- 14 = Swenson
- 15 = Tolzmann
- 16 = Verges Memorial
- 17 = Verges Park
- 18 = Whitetail Ridge



Connectivity Analysis & Recommendations

Wyoming, Minnesota
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Pedestrian Crossings (cont):

- Hwy 61 and 250th St: While many community members desire a roundabout at this location, there should be considerations for an interim pedestrian activated signal and potential street light for traffic control. This would connect the eastern neighborhoods to the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail and Banta Park.
- Kettle River Blvd & 250th St: Recommendations for a potential pedestrian activated signal and street light for traffic control as development continues, as 250th St is a primary traffic route. This would connect the eastern neighborhoods to the Fireside Park.
- Hwy 8 & Heath Ave: Proposed over or underpass to cross over Hwy 8. This will especially be important if the route along Hwy 8 is the Swedish Immigrant Trail.
- Wyoming Trail & 269th St: Future pedestrian crossing to connect the proposed trail from Wyoming Trail at 269th St going north to E Viking Blvd to the proposed trail running parallel to Wyoming Trail on the south side.

Pedestrian Routes:

The following identifies some of the major proposed pedestrian routes but the map should continue to be referenced for all proposed routes smaller local routes and should be updated as planning within the community continues.

- Co Road 22: The existing bituminous trail terminates at the McDonald's location and is proposed to continue to points further west. A pedestrian crossing is to be placed at the intersection of the planned Sunrise Riverbank development entrance road to provide proper access to a neighborhood that will otherwise be cut off from the remainder of the community.
- Kettle River Blvd: Recommendations for an improved pedestrian route. There may be opportunities to widen the shoulder on each side of the road with a lowered speed limit and signage indicating pedestrian use, as many bikers use this road. While likely more difficult, road improvements to consider curb and gutter on the western side of the road with an adjacent sidewalk in addition to the widened shoulder lanes would provide additional safety measures and allow for family use of the route to better access Lions Park, as well as the Holiday station, McDonald's, and downtown Wyoming. This corridor has been identified as a high priority pedestrian route.

Pedestrian Routes (cont):

- E Viking Blvd: The existing sidewalk on the north side of the road is proposed to continue to extend further east and connect to the two housing developments identified as underserved communities. The sidewalk would initially terminate at the multi-family housing located on the road curve. The pedestrian route is then proposed to become a separated trail that would connect to the future trail along the railroad line at Railroad Blvd and extend up to the Birchwood Terrace housing. From this location it would continue north / northeast and eventually connect to other trail systems.
- Railroad Blvd: While previously identified as a potential route for the Swedish Immigrant Trail, this route may be a local trail instead, as the regional trail may likely be developed along Hwy 8. The Railroad Blvd route is a highly scenic setting and trail development along this corridor would become a primary destination trail for the community that would also provide a link to the Sunrise Prairie Regional trail at the trailhead alongside Railroad Park. This route has cultural and historical significance to the community and is a higher priority for implementation.
- Wyoming Trail: The existing trail from Hwy 61 terminates at Goodview Ave and it is proposed to continue this trail on the south side of Wyoming Trail.
- Goodview Avenue: A portion of walk extends from Wyoming Trail to the second driveway along the west side of Goodview Ave. A trail or sidewalk is proposed to continue along Goodview down to 250th St / Greenway Ave to provide improved access to Goodview Park and the Elementary School pedestrian routes.
- W Comfort Drive: There will likely be a need for some ROW acquisition, but there is opportunity to create a walk or separated trail along the west side of W Comfort Drive from Hwy 8 (to be Swedish Immigrant Trail route) up to 260th Street. This would provide optimal connections to the regional systems and a highly desired route around Comfort Lake with improved access to several parks. 260th St to Pioneer Road is a narrow route but can be signed as a Share The Road route.
- Pioneer Road: A trail on the eastern side of Pioneer Road to connect to the existing trail that currently terminates at Iris Avenue. This trail route, in combination with W Comfort Drive trails, would allow for a full loop around Comfort Lake and would provide improved connectivity to the proposed Swedish Immigrant Trail on Hwy 8.



7. IMPLEMENTATION

OVERVIEW

The implementation plan provides high level objectives and priorities that help meet the vision and goals set for the park and trail system. However, the implementation strategy shall remain dynamic as priorities will continue to evolve over time based on community needs, changing demographics, funding constraints, and as opportunities may present themselves.

It is recommended that the City of Wyoming review and update the implementation plan and estimates on an annual basis as yearly budgets are established and continue to use it as a guide for future priorities.

PRIORITIZATION STRATEGY

The recommendations in this plan, at the time of development, have been prioritized based upon a number of factors with a goal to provide quality parks in a balanced and reasonable manner in line with community needs and values. Knowing the realities of significant investments to implement all of the system plan recommendations are not feasible, the city will need to prioritize strategic system initiative and gain public support.

Recommendations to gain public support include:

- » Implement a public information campaign via city website, newsletters, social media, and local press for a convenient location for residents to learn information about proposed parks, trails and improvement plans with associated costs.
- » Engage the public prior to implementation to ensure the improvements meet the expectations of the community and allow the public to gain ownership of the project.
- » Develop an operations and maintenance strategy with an asset management plan that identifies future funding and staffing needs to ensure the city has the capacity and funding to meet these responsibilities.
- » Develop and promote partnerships for proposed projects and implementation.
- » Identify and seek out potential funding mechanisms to support implementation of proposed projects.



The following table outlines a series of criteria as the basis for the prioritization process. The criteria are based on factors that influence the demand for parks, trails and recreation and are broad enough to consider the important factors, yet limited enough to be manageable for decision-makers to gain consensus and take action.

Prioritization Strategy	
Evaluation Criteria	General Description
Community Demand	Identified community demand based on need assessment studies and defined trends, and action is warranted due to: » Existing or proposed neighborhood currently lacking adequate access to parks, trails and other recreation » Identified community need that is currently unmet » Existing amenity is ineffective at servicing current needs
Recreation Program Need	Action is warranted based on current and projected city and local associations' recreation program facility demands
Redevelopment / Upgrading	Action is warranted due to the following factors: » Unsafe conditions / hazard / poor quality » Old and at the end of its life-cycle » Ineffective at servicing current needs
Population Density Factors	Action is warranted to service the needs of a specific area based on: » Current and projected population density » Current and projected population and demographic profiles
Funding Availability	Action is warranted due to: » Funding availability for specific use » Partnership or funding opportunity for specific development
Preservation of Natural Resources	Action is warranted due to: » Protection of significant natural resources » Lands for climate mitigation / flood control / stormwater

PARK SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

PARK SYSTEM PRIORITIES

The recommendations in this plan, at the time of development, have been prioritized based upon a number of factors with a goal to provide quality parks in a balanced and reasonable manner in line with community needs and values. The following priorities should continually be evaluated and ranked in line with community values and available budgets.

Knowing the realities of significant investments to implement all of the system plan recommendations are not feasible, the city will need to prioritize strategic system initiatives.

1. Prioritize projects that serve the greater community, help promote the sense of place and community celebration and can help generate revenue.
 - » Implement Railroad Park as a special use park and community gateway with a focus on celebration of the history and culture of Wyoming and access to the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail.
 - » Improve Goodview park with amenities that meet broader community needs to include rentable facilities.
2. Prioritize projects that create high-quality experiences and meet existing needs in terms of proper access to quality recreation.
 - » Develop a park in the proposed Sunrise Riverbank to meet the needs of new populations.
 - » Prepare a master plan and improvement project for full redevelopment at Fireside Park to meet existing needs for quality recreation.
 - » Redevelop Verges Memorial to meet existing needs for quality recreation.
3. Prioritize projects that meet needs for more equitable and balanced recreation.
 - » Develop pickleball courts to meet the needs of broader demographics - potentially at Goodview Park.
 - » Implement more challenging and unique features for the teen to adult user groups (fitness and ninja warrior, unique playgrounds).
 - » Convert or develop ballfields for girls fastpitch.
4. Prioritize budgetary methods to adequately staff and fund parks in line with available budgets.
 - » Review and adjust park dedication requirements in line with current economy and ensure requirements are adhered to by new planned developments.
 - » Ensure the city has a park asset management plan in place to adequately project future funding and staffing needs.
 - » Establish CIP budgets with expected goals for park & trail system plan.
 - » Seek out grants, partnerships and cost-share opportunities to help fund improvements.

PARK SYSTEM COST PROJECTIONS

The estimate of probable costs are based on a high-level review and comparison of projects of similar size and nature. The costs assume all work is completed by private contractors, bonded and licensed. It does not take into account work that could be completed in-house, through volunteer efforts or through donations or actual site conditions which can greatly affect the costs such as topography, soil remediation, utility costs, etc.

Additional factors to include in the estimate of probable costs are as follows:

- » Construction contingency: A construction contingency of 10% of the estimated costs should be included in the budget for implementation.
- » Professional design, engineering & permits: An estimated fee of 10-20% of the estimated costs should be included in the budget for any items requiring professional design, engineering and permitting. The higher range is for sites that may also need a topographical base map, wetland delineation or geotechnical soils investigations.
- » Inflation: An estimated inflation rate of roughly 3-5% annually should be accounted for future budgeting.
- » Land acquisition or easements: Costs do not include any land acquisition or easements for new park land or trail corridors.

Estimates for future parks are not included.



	= High Priority
	= Medium Priority
	= Low Priority
	= Not Prioritized

Estimate of Probable Costs		
	Park	Estimate Range
	Ashton	\$163,000
	Asian Acres	\$33,000
	Banta	\$359 - 468,000
	Blue Spruce	\$140 - \$245,000
	Centennial	\$50,000
	Comfort	\$9,000
	Fireside	\$735 - \$770,000
	Goodview	\$1.170 - \$1.475 M
	Hawk Meadows	\$50,000
	Liberty Ponds	\$175,000
	Lions	\$275 - \$825,500
	Railroad	\$380 - \$397,000
	Sunrise Ridge	-0-
	Swenson	\$32 - \$262,000
	Tolzmann	\$376 - \$661,000
	Verges	-0-
	Verges Memorial	\$161,000
	TOTAL RANGE:	\$4.1 to 5.7 M

PARK FUNDING

The availability of funding sources will have a direct impact on the implementation of the recommendations of this plan. The following identifies current park revenue sources.

- **CIP:** Starting in 2021, the Wyoming City Council started contributing \$25,000 per year to go towards park Capital Improvement Projects.
- **Gambling Proceeds:** Proceeds can vary greatly yearly. 2020 resulted in almost \$20,000 of revenue and 2021 resulted in over \$32,000.
- **Rentals:** Revenue from building rentals and field reservations are minimal and account for approximately \$5,000 yearly.
- **Park Dedication:** Park dedication revenue is highly variable depending on the current economy as it relates to housing demand and construction costs. Wyoming received \$39,100 in 2020 and approximately \$76,000 for 2021.
- **Grants:** The Minnesota DNR has the Outdoor Recreation Grant that will fund up to 50% of eligible projects up to an amount of \$300,000. Wyoming received funds for Swenson Park through this grant. While there are additional grant opportunities, many are very competitive.

The following describes the current park dedication policy and potential considerations for dedication policies moving forward.

Sec. 32 - 63. Residential Platted Subdivisions.

The amount of land to be dedicated by a subdivider for residential development shall be based on the gross area of the proposed subdivision. The amount of cash in lieu of land dedication to be contributed by a subdivider for residential development shall be based upon the fair market value of the raw undeveloped land, or at a minimum based upon the actual proposed density determined by the number of building lots or the number of dwelling units.

For the purpose of relating park dedication requirements to the density of development, the following density/rate schedule shall apply to all residential platted subdivisions. These rates represent the total land and cash contribution.

Density / Rate Schedule	
Building Lots or Dwelling Units per Acre	Land Dedication Percentage Based upon Buildable Land
0 - 2.5	8%
2.5+ - 4	9%
4+ - 6	9.5%
6+ - 8	10%
8+ - 10	11%
10+	11 - 12%

There is additional information related to zoning, cash in lieu for part or all of the dedication requirements, fair market value determinations and planned unit developments (PUD's) that can be found in the city documents for further reference.

Park dedication is regulated by the Minnesota State Statute and it requires that lands meeting the dedication requirements must be suitable for development. So while lands containing wetlands, stormwater ponds, etc. that are not suitable for development can be included into the city's park system for open space and conservation purposes, the total acreage of these lands unsuitable for development cannot be used toward actual park dedication requirements.



It should also be noted that in some cases proposed residential developments, such as apartment buildings, are included under the commercial / industrial land use classification due to adjoining proposed development, which alters the park dedication fees. Wyoming currently has a dedication rate of 5% gross land area or 5% of fair market value for commercial or industrial park land which is half the amount necessary for high density properties zoned as residential.

Due to the concerns with higher density housing falling under a much lower park dedication rate, it is recommended that the park dedication rates be reviewed and modified to ensure park dedication lands are meeting the needs of actual populations.

The following provides options for park dedication requirement modifications:

- **Option 1:** Alter the park dedication to be a population-based calculation per dwelling unit, regardless of zoning. Many communities have a dedication amount of 0.017 to 0.02 acres of land per newly created dwelling unit. This allows park land to be more in line with actual populations. Cash in lieu can remain at the fair market rate for meeting the land dedication amounts or it can be a set fee per dwelling unit.
- **Option 2:** Alter the Commercial / Industrial zoning park dedication to be raised to 8-10% of total area or 8-10% of market value for cash in lieu. This is in line with many other communities, though there are some instances of rates from 5-8% for this zone.
- **Option 3:** Ensure all new residential housing developments are zoned separately as residential or create new categories for mixed developments with applicable rates.

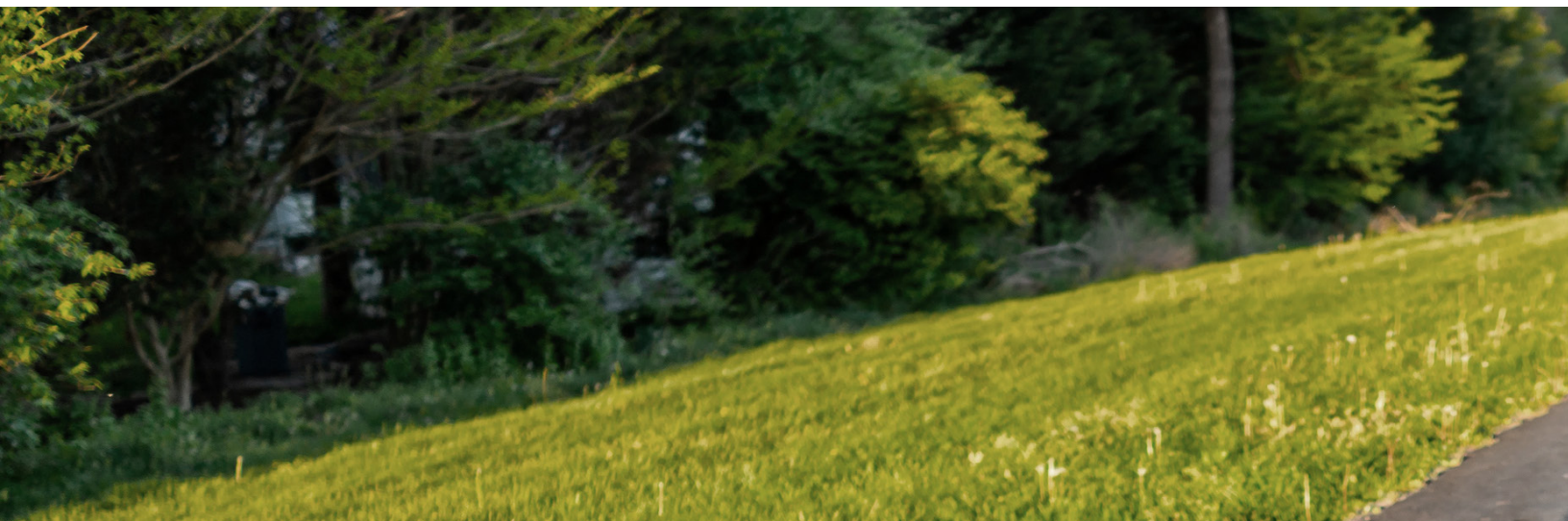
The following scenario's illustrate how differing park dedication policies affect the outcomes based on current dedication policies. Both scenarios show 170 unit developments equating to 425 total residents. Based on general NRPA averages for 9.9 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, the park dedication policies should equate closely to 4.2 acres of land to meet the needs of the new populations. The existing policies show only the single-family development meeting these needs with the apartments meeting only a quarter or less of the needs.

Example 1: 170-unit Apartment Complex on 8.5 acres = 20 housing units per acre

- Current Wyoming residential dedication of maximum 12% land = 1 acre of park
- Current Wyoming commercial / industrial dedication of 5% = 0.42 acres of park

Example 2: 170-unit single family development on 34 acres = 5 housing units per acre

- Current Wyoming residential dedication of maximum 9.5% land = 3.2 acres of park



Most single family homes have private yard space for general enjoyment with items such as patio's, grills, home play systems, trampolines, and a basketball hoop in the driveway. The 3.2 acres of additional dedicated park land supplements their need for outdoor recreation in line with national averages.

Apartment complexes can include small tot lots, possibly a small court space and even indoor facilities such as gyms and pools. The big difference is they lack private outdoor space and therefore the residents may have a larger need for open space and more robust outdoor recreation, especially for teens and adults. An additional 1/2 to 1 acre land will offer little value in outdoor recreation to meet their needs.

Now if we apply the population based dedication to either scenario we get:

- Proposed dedication of 0.017 acres of land per dwelling unit = 2.9 acres of park

The per unit dedication basis helps ensure a more balanced and equitable outcome to parks and recreation based on actual population needs.



Image Source: <https://www.mrlevel.com/blog/play-basketball-to-test-the-strength-of-your-concrete>



Image: Example of apartment building recreation



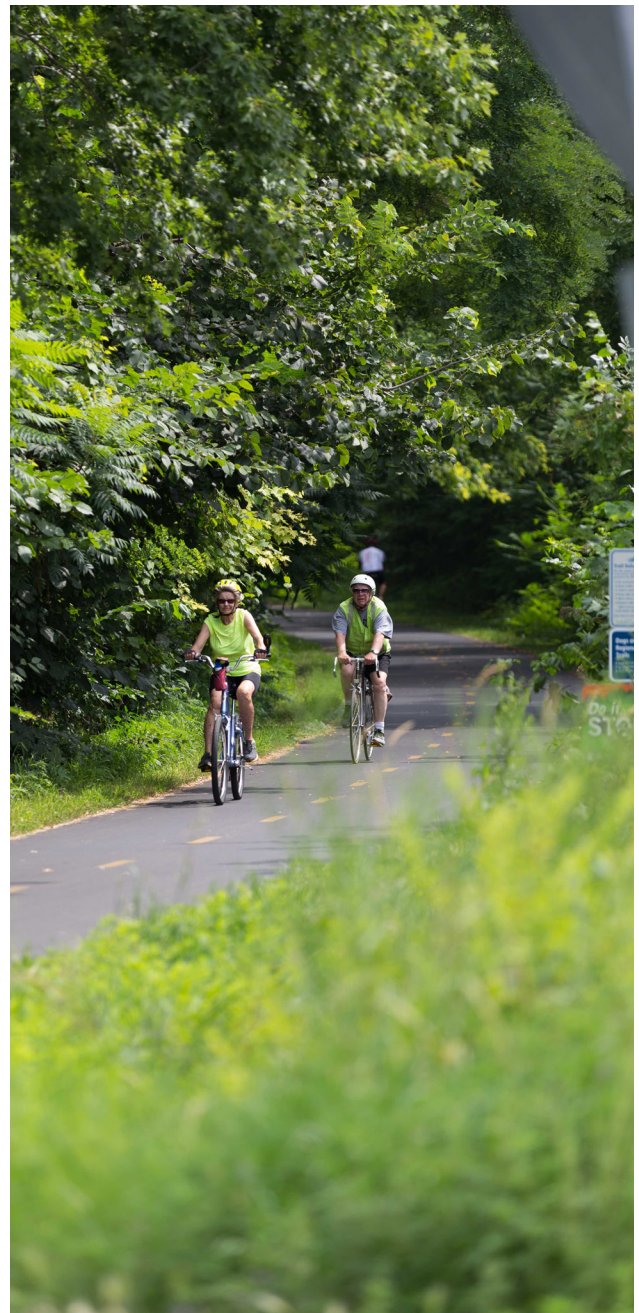
TRAIL SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

TRAIL SYSTEM PRIORITIES

The recommendations in this plan, at the time of development, have been prioritized based upon a number of factors with a goal to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity across the community.

The following priorities are based on high-level goals and actual implementation will be dictated by many other factors, such as timing of road improvement projects and potential partnership opportunities.

1. Prioritize projects that develop or improve safe pedestrian crossings at critical locations, specifically along high traffic routes such as Hwy 61, E Viking Blvd, Hwy 8, and Kettle River Blvd.
2. Prioritize development of off-street pedestrian routes (trails or sidewalks) along critical routes to connect Wyoming residents to primary destination areas such as parks, the downtown business district, schools and connections to the regional trail systems.
3. Implement requirements to new housing developments that include sidewalks along at least one side of the proposed roadways.
4. Plan for a pedestrian trail along the old railroad corridor between E Viking Blvd and White Stone Lake.
5. Coordinate with appropriate partner organizations to ensure pedestrian routes along roadways are implemented through future road improvement projects.
6. Implement a community-wide wayfinding program with a hierarchy of sign designs with specific design requirements to provide guidance and improve the sense of place.



TRAIL SYSTEM ESTIMATION

The cost of trail construction is a major barrier to communities hoping to build out non-motorized transportation and recreational networks.

The following tables outline planning level estimates as provided by MnDOT for common bicycle facilities. While actual implementation costs can vary dramatically depending on actual site conditions, any necessary easement or acquisition costs and the current economy, they provide a general idea of the investment required for the varying pedestrian facilities.

Planning-Level Bicycle Facility Cost Estimates*	
Type	Unit Cost per Mile
Paved Shoulder (For Bikes)	\$250,000–\$510,000
Bike Lane	\$14,000–\$20,000
Buffered Bike Lane	\$17,000–\$25,000
Delineator-Separated Bike Lane	\$25,000–\$36,000
Curb-Separated Bike Lane with colored pavement	\$1.9 –\$2.7 M
Shared Use Path (8'-10' wide bituminous trail)	\$250,000–\$360,000
Concrete Sidewalk (5' wide)	\$260,000-\$370,000

Planning-Level Pedestrian Facility Cost Estimates	
Type	Estimated Costs
Pedestrian Curb Ramp	\$2,000 - \$2,500 each
Pedestrian Activated Crossing Signal or Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB)	\$25,000 - \$30,000 each
Median Refuge	\$7,000 - \$10,000 each
Marked Crosswalk	\$1,000 - \$2,500 each (varies due to type)
Pedestrian Bridges and Overpasses	\$500,000 - \$2.5M+ (varies due to type and length)

**Bike Planning Cost Estimates are referenced in the MnDOT District 7 Bicycle Plan. The cost of implementing bicycle facilities depends on project context, design, economic conditions, and other factors. Estimates provided are for facilities on both sides of the roadway, except for shared use paths, and do not include engineering, utility, or right of way costs. High end estimates include 40 percent contingency. For more details, see MnDOT's District 7 Bicycle Plan.*

TRAIL SYSTEM FUNDING

On-going investments in the trail system are needed to implement the recommendations and maintenance practices identified in this plan. The city should incorporate trail maintenance funding and additional maintenance equipment needs into its annual budgeting process to ensure the system is preserved and to maximize the value of the initial investment. Annual trail improvement funds should be evaluated to determine whether they will address the demand. There will be opportunities for the city to extend the pedestrian and bicycle system through other transportation projects. City staff should annually review the CIP to identify opportunities to integrate trail projects into upcoming capital improvement projects.

In addition, the city should explore cost participation opportunities with Chisago County and MnDOT for completing new sidewalks, trails and bridge accommodations along county and state highways and interstates. Other external funding opportunities to consider are provided in the following table:

Table 6.8 Potential Funding Opportunities for Trails

Funding Source	Description	Probability
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR)	Federal Recreational Trail Program through the Federal Highway Trust Fund. Application by unit of government in conjunction with a local trail organization for motorized and non-motorized trails, (development or reconstruction) and trailheads.	Competitive, annual application process with priority given to urban youth corps. Award amount varies between \$2,500 and \$150,000 with 25% match.
Transportation Alternatives Program (MnDOT)	Funding opportunity for local and regional agencies for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and programs	Competitive, annual application process in the fall, award amount varies.
Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (MDH)	Funding available for programs that focus on improving health and decreasing obesity in Minnesota (not available for infrastructure, but can fund plans or qualified trailhead amenities)	Competitive, ongoing application process, could cover up to 90% of project costs.
Local Trail Connections Program (MN DNR)	Program for local trail connections, priority may be given to those that connect regionally or to state trails.	Competitive, annual spring application. 75% of total cost, up to \$150,000 maximum.
Highway Safety Improvement Program (MnDOT)	Intended to improve highway safety. Portion of funding can be allocated to finance bike and pedestrian safety and driver safety programs on highways.	Competitive, up to 90% project costs, annual fall application
People for Bikes Community Grant	Funding opportunity for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and corridor improvements	Spring and fall application. Up to \$10,000 but funding amount must be 49% or less of the total project cost
Private Donations and Sponsorships	Private donations and sponsorships or park and trail facilities could be provided to implement key trail segments or trailhead facilities.	Varies, dependent upon relationship with local businesses

APPENDIX



Public Works Report

Date: August 1st, 2022

Chair Spangler and Park Advisory Commission Members

Public Works Report for August 1st, 2022 Meeting

Pruning of trees in the parks continues/ Tolzman Park had a tree fall and it was cleaned up.

Reservation signs and garbage has been completed

Wood chips are installed in the playground areas

We are working with WSB on a collector app for trees

Wood chips spread on trails at Bee and Butterfly Garden

Meeting with Minnesota Playground on slide for Goodview was attended. The slide is no longer available. They are working on options with the space requirements that we have.

Items to Complete in August:

1. Complete Grant for Swenson Park refund.
 - A) Install handicap parking signs in the two lots
 - B) Stripe the parking lot August 3rd scheduled
 - C) Make the satellite restroom come off of a sidewalk or blacktop area for wheelchairs
 - D) Move the Gaga pit for disabled people that comes off a sidewalk or pavement for handicapped people
 - E) Remove the bike rack or reinstall
 - F) Install, the sign arrived from the DNR for the grant acknowledgement
2. Comfort, Blue Spruce, Banta, and Goodview. Certified playground chips installed/ Completed
3. Spray the weeds on the ball diamonds and drag them again/ Completed
4. Order new slide for Goodview. Plastic cracked and aluminum brackets installed for temporary use. Picture attached/ Not available- Minnesota Playground is looking into options for us.
5. The mats for under the swings, we are waiting on the estimates from Minnesota Playground.
6. Receive an estimate for lights along Highway 61 for Christmas and flag decorations



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Communication

Date: July 29, 2022

Presented to: Park Advisory Commission

Presented by: Alex Saxe, Assistant City Administrator

Department: Administration

Reference: All Boards Meeting for Draft Comprehensive Plan

Method: Communication

Background Information:

The Planning Commission has completed a final draft of the Comprehensive plan and it will be going back to WSB for final edits, pictures and diagrams. Staff believes it would be a good opportunity to have an all boards meeting and review the document in its draft form and provide feedback to both the Planning Commission and City Council. Staff has proposed Tuesday, August 30th, 2022 at 6:00PM for the meeting. Boards and commissions will be notified of the meeting date at their upcoming August meetings.

City Council will vote to set this meeting on Wednesday, August 3rd at their meeting.



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