



# 2017

CITY OF ROGERS, MINNESOTA

## **PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN**

Preserving the sense of place and livability of the community.

DECEMBER 2017

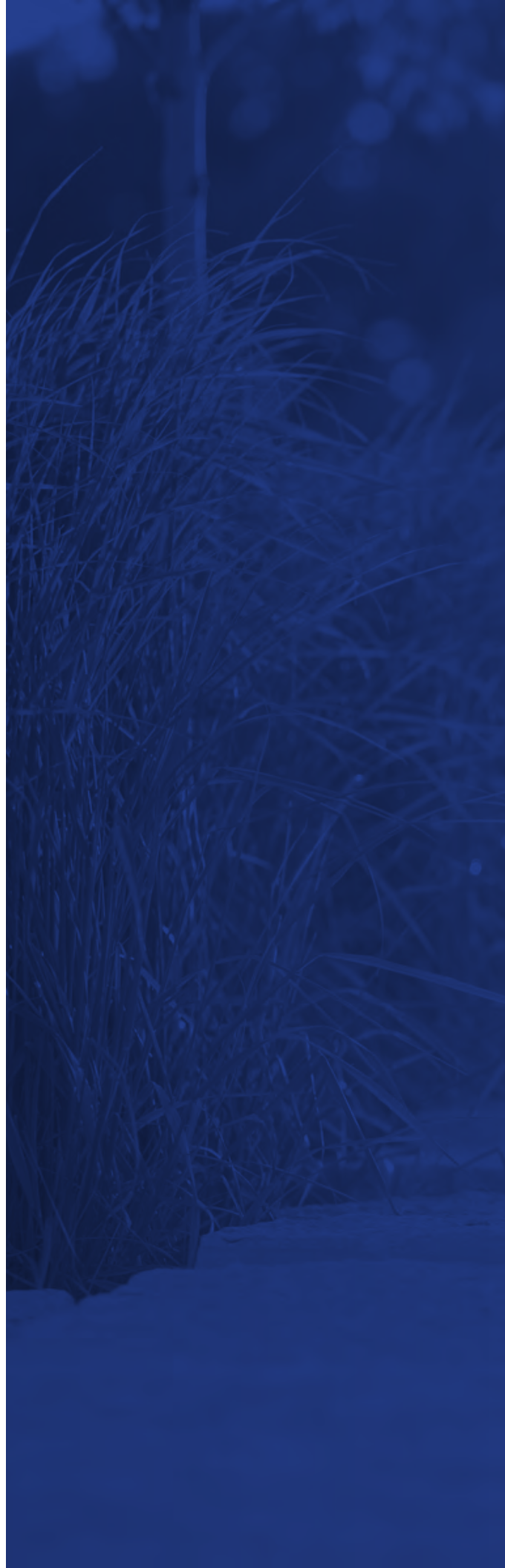
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CITY OF ROGERS, MINNESOTA

## **PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The 2017 Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan is an update to the 2007 plan, including the 2011 and other related amendments. Over the past 10 years, the City has made significant improvements and experienced changes within their system, with the most notable being the inclusion of Hassan Township into Rogers, all of which are captured within this plan. A variety of comprehensive city-wide engagement activities and survey were conducted from 2014-2017 to help determine what changes, if any, the City should plan for to meet the needs and desires of the community. The 2017 Plan consolidates past updates, incorporates the many improvements made to the parks and trails over the past 10 years and outlines proposed recommendations for the next 10 years.



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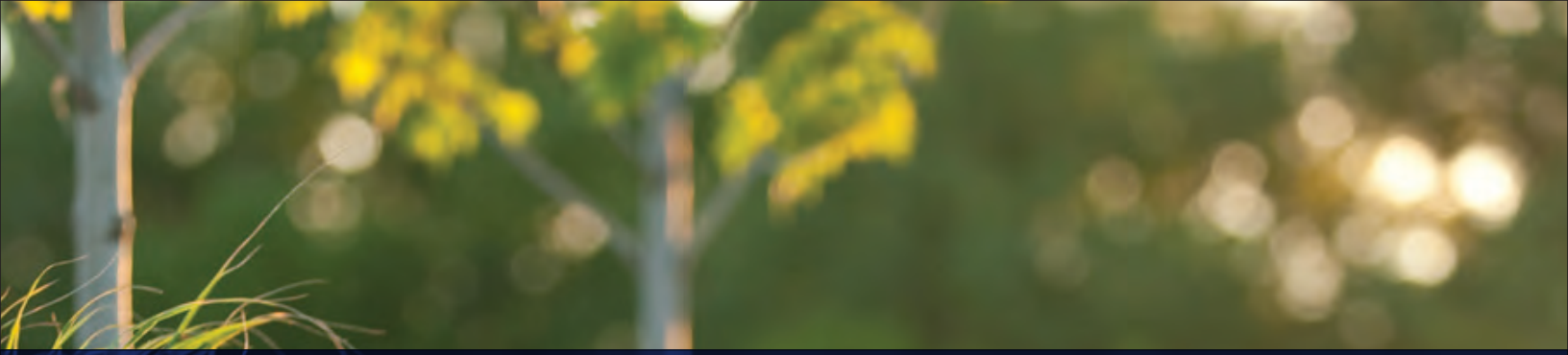
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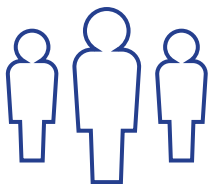
1 SECTION 1  
**COMMUNITY INPUT AND  
VALUE STATEMENT**



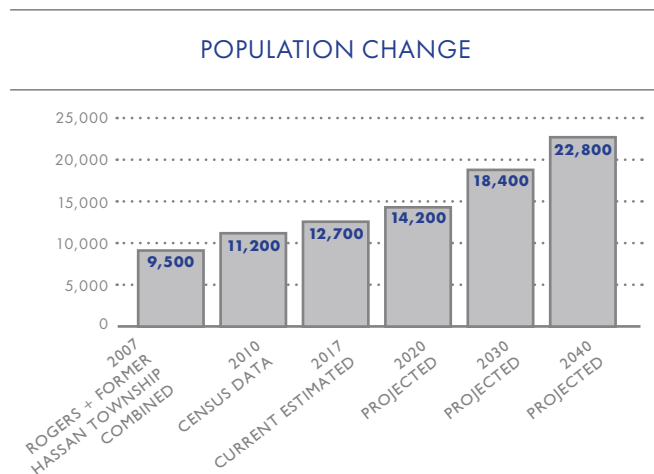
Understanding the needs and desires of the community was one of the first steps in developing the system plan in 2007. Through the public process, citizens and their local representatives on the Joint Task Force, Park and Recreation Advisory Commission, and City Council had a variety of opportunities to provide input and perspectives on planning issues. These findings provided the foundation for developing the parks, open space, and trail system plan. Through these interactions, a strong and consistent public statement was made, which still holds true in 2017. *“Preserve the sense of place and livability of the community in spite of increasing levels of development.”* These values continue to be extensively reflected in the 2017 system plan.

### COMMUNITY GROWTH

The City of Rogers is an emerging suburban community located on the western edge of Hennepin County. The City has grown considerably by both population and overall land mass since the last Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan Update in 2007, and as the chart below indicates, forecasts anticipate continued growth.



THE ESTIMATED PERCENT GROWTH OF POPULATION FOR THE CITY OF ROGERS IS AMONG THE HIGHEST WITHIN THE SEVEN COUNTY METRO AREA.



### DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

Household demographics in the City of Rogers have always been somewhat unique compared to other communities in the Seven County Metro Area. In 2016 the average household size in Rogers was 2.99 compared to a regional average of 2.50, which ranks Rogers in the top 10 in the Region. As a growing community, many of the new households will be families with school aged children, likely keeping the average household size above regional averages. Additionally, 45 percent of households in the City have children, of which 24 percent have children ranging from ages 0-5, 27 percent have children ranging from ages 5-10, and 30 percent have children ages 10-20.



**2.99**

ROGERS AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE  
*(Top 10 in the Region)*

**45%**

HOUSEHOLDS HAVING CHILDREN  
*(51% of which are 0-10 years old)*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT KEY TAKEAWAYS

-  **People want to see more, safer trails that connect places where they live and work to places where they want to be.** People crave more informal recreational activities with a trail system. Any future parks, trails, and open spaces should prioritize and emphasize this aspect for community support and buy-in.
  
-  **People want to see more community gathering places.** This should be an inclusive setting for a variety of different interest groups, age groups and uses. Whether indoor or outdoor, essential components included swimming and a place for seniors. Other important factors to consider are a venue/place for music and festivals. Any future planning efforts should include a community center or central gathering point for people of all ages to enjoy.

## 2014-2015 PUBLIC INPUT

Public input for the Parks, Open Space, and Trail System plan update began in 2014 and extended into 2015. Several methods were used to collect data during the community outreach efforts; community cafe meetings, athletic association interviews, and an online survey.



### *Community Café Summary:*

Three separate community café meetings were held in the spring of 2014, allowing the public to gather information, participate in brainstorming sessions, and provide feedback on the recreational needs and desires of the community. The meetings were held in various locations throughout the community on April 4, May 5, and May 17. The following highlights the priorities defined during the three meetings.

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## COMMUNITY CAFE PRIORITIES

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### #1

TRAIL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT  
*(ranked #1 by a significant margin)*

### #2 and #3

AQUATIC AND/OR COMMUNITY CENTER  
*(that can accommodate the needs of a wide range of age groups)*

### #4

PLAYGROUND AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARK  
DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

### #5

LAND ACQUISITION FOR COMMUNITY PARKS  
*(specifically south of Interstate 94)*

### LOWER PRIORITIES

OPEN SPACE/PASSIVE RECREATIONAL AREA DEVELOPMENT  
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING  
OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES





**Athletic Association Interview Summary:**

The City held interviews with various athletic associations that serve the community of Rogers in order to determine existing and potential future needs of the associations.

*THE OUTCOME OF THE INTERVIEW SESSIONS SHOW THE GREATEST NEED IS, AT A MINIMUM, ONE ADDITIONAL SHEET OF ICE AT THE ROGERS ACTIVITY CENTER AND AN INDOOR GYMNASIUM SPACE AND DRY LAND TRAINING FACILITY.*

With the recent approval of the school referendum in 2014, there may be potential future opportunities for partnerships for additional gymnasium space which may improve the availability of indoor facilities, but it still may not be enough to meet the current demands and the additional gym space may create more demand. The other high priority need is adequate outdoor field space. At the moment the existing fields are barely meeting the needs of the associations and it appears to be a very carefully balanced scheduling process that is making it work, along with use of fields in adjacent communities, such as the VFW fields, and church facilities. The high demand on the existing fields also limits recovery time needed for fields.

Given the comments from the interviews, the reduction or modification of even just one field will highly affect the associations. The other comment that came across time and again during the interviews was the generally poor maintenance practices of the fields located on the Independent School District 728 properties. There were numerous complaints about improper mowing, striping and poor field grades.

**Online Park & Recreational Survey Summary**



An online survey containing 10 questions was created and placed on the City of Rogers website to gather additional information from the community. There were approximately 1,150 responses to the survey, most of which appeared to consist of households living in the City of Rogers with children still in the household. The questions and responses below provide a snapshot of the key takeaways.

MOST UTILIZED FACILITIES	PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO IMPROVE OR ADD	MOST IMPORTANT PARKS AND RECREATION ISSUE TO ADDRESS
<p><b>1</b> ROGERS ACTIVITY CENTER</p>	<p><b>1</b> COMMUNITY CENTER AND POOL FACILITIES</p>	<p><b>1</b> INDOOR FACILITIES <i>(gyms, ice, training, etc.)</i></p>
<p><b>2</b> NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS <i>(typically the ones closest to where respondents lived)</i></p>	<p><b>2</b> BETTER TRAIL SYSTEM AND SAFER PATHS</p>	<p><b>2</b> PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS <i>(trails and sidewalks)</i></p>
<p><b>3</b> LIONS CENTRAL PARK <i>(highly used for a variety of reasons)</i></p>	<p><b>3</b> ADDITIONAL SHEET OF ICE AT THE ROGERS ACTIVITY CENTER</p>	<p><b>3</b> ADEQUATE SPORTS AMENITIES <i>(fields, courts, etc.)</i></p>
<p><b>4</b> TRAILS <i>(for walking)</i></p>		
<p><b>5</b> NORTH COMMUNITY PARK &amp; SCHOOL SITES</p>		

## 2017 SURVEY TOP PRIORITIES

THE TOP PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY RESIDENTS INCLUDE:

- ✔ TRAILS
  - Loops
  - Connections
  - Destinations
  
- ✔ PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
  - I-94
  - CSAH 144
  - High and Middle Schools
  - Regional Trails
  
- ✔ AQUATICS
  - Indoor Pool
  - Outdoor Pool
  - Splash Pad
  
- ✔ COMMUNITY CENTER
  - Exercise and Fitness

### 2017 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMUNITY SURVEY

Working with the framework from the 2014-2015 public input process, the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission recommended a scientifically valid community survey be conducted. In 2017 the City worked with Morris Leatherman Company to conduct the survey. The survey focused on residents opinions related to property taxes, quality of parks, trails, facilities, and City programs offered.

The study contained the results of a telephone survey of 400 randomly selected adult residents living in the City of Rogers. Survey responses across the community were gathered by professional interviewers between May 18 and June 12, 2017. The non-response rate was 4.0%. The average interview took 16 minutes. In general, random samples such as this yield results projectable to the entire universe of adult Rogers residents within ± 5.0 percentage points in 95 out of 100 cases.

The information gathered will:

- Guide City of Rogers Officials in implementing publicly accepted and sustainable funding sources.
- Provide an excellent baseline for the on-going planning efforts to increase the City’s Park and Recreational opportunities
- Help guide this plan.

In the future the City of Rogers will continue to use quantitative surveys and public outreach methods that will help steer prioritization of projects and funding sources.

The following highlights the key findings.

#### Community Ratings

Rogers residents are both pleased and satisfied with their community; in fact, positive quality of life ratings, favorable ratings of park and recreational facilities, positive value of city services, and high transparency ratings received good ratings.

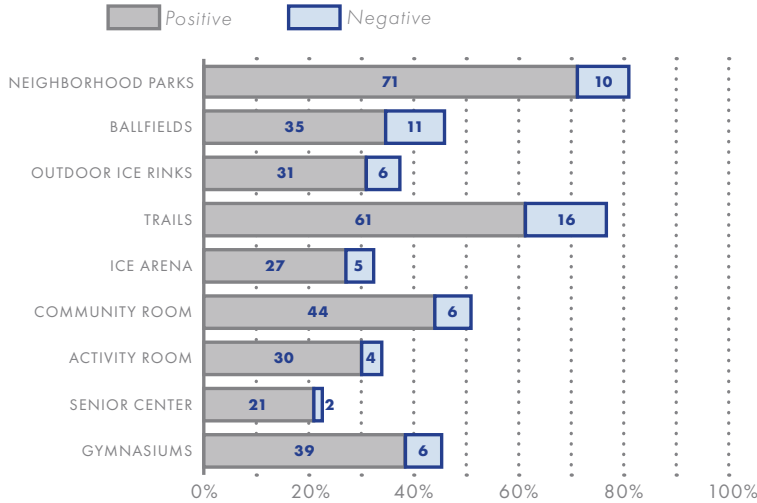
#### MOST VALUED COMMUNITY ASPECTS

- 1 SAFETY
- 2 SMALL TOWN FEEL
- 3 HOUSING STOCK

#### TOP COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- 1 HIGH TAXES
- 2 RISING CRIME
- 3 RAPID GROWTH  
*(Boosterism – the level of core support who see no serious issues currently facing the community – is twice the suburban norm, at 14%.)*

PARK USAGE AND RATINGS



**75%**

Consider park and recreation facilities to be either very important or important.

**81%**

Identically rate the importance of park and recreation facilities to the value of their home.

**86%**

Think the current mix of recreation or sports facilities meet the needs of members of their household.

**89%**

Think the current mix of sports leagues and recreational programs available by the City meet the needs of members of their household.

**21%**

Report household members regularly leave the city for recreational or sports facilities in another city.



PROPERTY TAX + SERVICE VALUES

**77%**

Of respondents to the survey indicated that their **perception** of property taxes within Rogers was either "very high" (39%) or "somewhat high" (38%).

**66%**

Of respondents stated that the value of city services are either "good" (49%) or "excellent" (17%).

**43%** ARE "MUCH MORE LIKELY" TO SUPPORT A SALES TAX INCREASE BECAUSE IT CAPTURES SALES TAX FROM CITY RESIDENTS AND ALSO FROM PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE CITY WHO MAKE PURCHASES IN ROGERS.

PREFERRED SOURCE OF FUNDING

(To use for development and expansion of park and recreation facilities)

**54%**

Reacted positively to an increased sales tax

**12%**

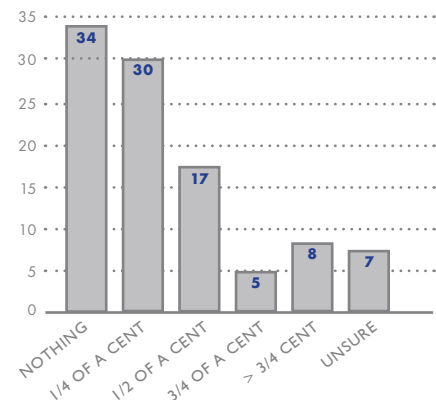
Reacted positively to a property tax increase



**26%**

Prefer no increase to either

WILLINGNESS TO RAISE SALES TAX



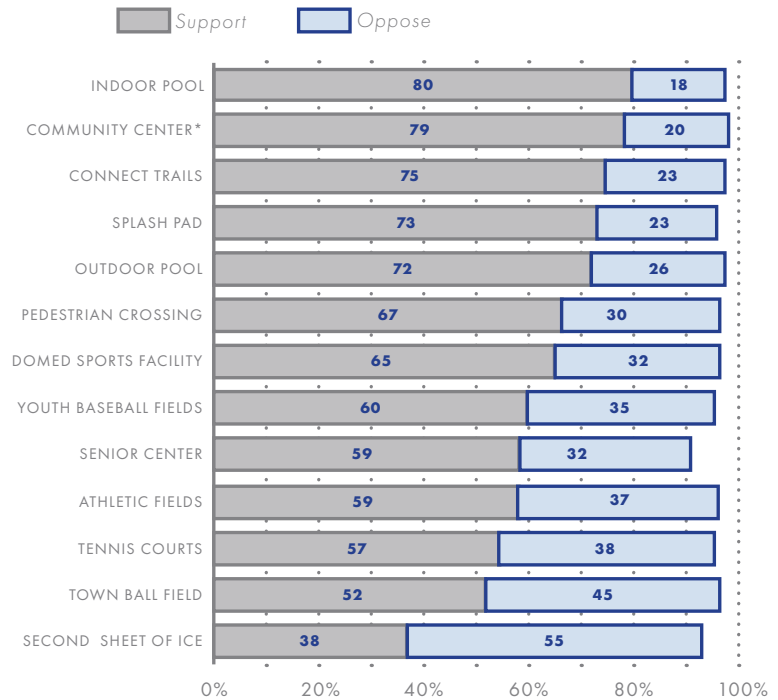
## BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Quality parks, along with schools and access to transportation, are typically the top three criteria people consider when choosing a place to live.

- ✓ **Health:** A healthy recreation and park system equals healthy residents. When people have access to parks, trails, and recreation, they exercise more. Increased exposure to natural areas has been linked to improved physical and mental health.
- ✓ **Cultural:** Parks preserve natural and cultural heritage, and significant natural features.
- ✓ **Social:** Parks also have important social benefits. Parks are often the focal points of neighborhoods. As places for neighborhood activities, celebrations, and informal interaction they provide places for community members to come together.
- ✓ **Natural Resources:** Parks and open space provide environmental benefits. Trees and vegetation found in parks, preserves, and open spaces improve air and water quality. These areas also play a role in managing stormwater runoff and protecting natural areas.
- ✓ **Property Values:** Parks and open space increase property values. Numerous studies show that proximity to parks, trails, and open spaces increases residential property values. Parks and open space can also positively affect commercial property and can be catalysts for redevelopment.
- ✓ **Beauty:** Parks contribute to aesthetics. Parkways, tree-lined streets, gardens, lush landscaped areas, views of rivers and lakes, stately woods, and public art are all things that make a city a beautiful place to live, work, play, and shop. They make essential contributions to a city's livability and vitality.

### SALES OR PROPERTY TAX INCREASE SUPPORT

(most to least supported components if a referendum was proposed)



\* The current population of Rogers is unable to sustainably fund the operational costs of a Community Center.

### Special Referendum

If a special referendum for parks and recreational facilities was proposed, 30% of the city residents would be projected to vote. Based on the outcome of the survey results the following constraints should be considered for such proposal to be successful:

- No property tax increase for these purposes would find sufficient support at the polls.
- 60% of likely voters would support a ¼ cent increase in the local sales tax for twenty years to fund construction.

At the outset of any referendum campaign, core opponents are more motivated to vote than core supporters. Both an aggressive grass roots persuasion and motivation campaign as well as a solid information campaign by the City will be required to convince sufficient persuadable voters to secure passage.

Note: Sales tax referendums must be held in general elections.

## GENERAL PARK AND TRAIL TRENDS INFLUENCING PLANNING OUTCOMES *(regional, state-wide, and national)*

Historically, residents of Minnesota support and value the parks and trails within the state and find them important to their quality of life. Satisfaction ratings of visitor experiences are high. However, outdoor recreation has seen a steady rate of decline since the 1990's, especially among young adults, and accommodating new trends is becoming increasingly important to bringing new populations to recreation areas. Like high quality design and experience, users are also expecting high service items such as programs that cater to children and the opportunity to rent equipment and attend special events when they visit these areas and facilities. **MAINTAINING PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE A CORE CHALLENGE FACING ALL PARK AGENCIES .**

The following highlights barriers and challenges as well as offers potential solutions to maintaining and increasing participation.

PARTICIPATION BARRIERS & CHALLENGES	IDEAS TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION
<p><b>"TECHNOLOGICAL RECREATION"</b> <i>(is taking over the larger percentages of youth (and adult) free time, diminishing the perceived time available to get outdoors)</i></p> <p><b>"VIRTUAL REALITY"</b> <i>(experience being used as a surrogate for real outdoor experiences )</i></p> <p><b>TIME MANAGEMENT ISSUES</b></p> <p><b>LACK OF ADULT DESIRE</b> <i>((habit)to participate and lack of parents influencing children to play in the outdoors)</i></p> <p><b>DESIRE FOR COMFORTS AND CONVENIENCES</b></p> <p><b>LACK OF TRANSPORTATION</b></p> <p><b>ENTRY FEES AND OTHER COSTS</b> <i>(like camping gear and specialized activity equipment)</i></p> <p><b>SAFETY CONCERNS</b> <i>(personal sense of security and worries about injury)</i></p>	<p><b>BETTER QUALITY FACILITIES</b></p> <p><b>PROVIDE ATTRACTIVE AND QUALITY EXPERIENCE TRAILS</b> <i>(four values rising to the top: scenic quality, quietness/peacefulness, place for exercise, being away from motorized vehicles)</i></p> <p><b>LOWER ENTRY FEES FOR PARKS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>EXPAND PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p><b>PROVIDE RELIABLE ACCESS TO WIFI</b></p> <p><b>REINFORCE THE VALUE OF THE OUTDOORS TO PARENTS</b></p> <p><b>INTEGRATE THE OUTDOORS IN SCHOOL CURRICULA</b></p>

Source: Recreational Trends and Themes, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, 2016

## KEY PLANNING THEMES TO ENHANCE AND INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

- ✓ Create Vibrant "Destination" Parks and Trails

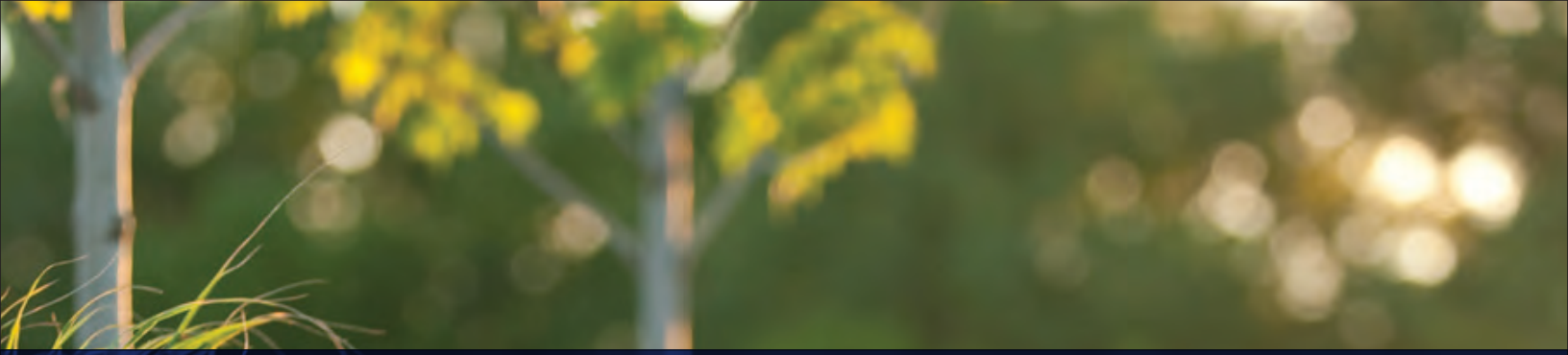
*The setting and characteristics of a park or trail is important; design quality and attention to detail is also vital in taking full advantage of site opportunities. This will be especially critical when designing and planning for the development of key community parks, athletic facilities and trail connections within Rogers.*

- ✓ Novelty of the user experience will initially entice people to visit the park or trail; quality of experience will get them to return time and again

*All neighborhoods parks within Rogers should include a unique play feature, which prompts the initial visit, but the overall park, amenities, and experience must be of high quality for people to return.*

- ✓ Parks and trails must be well-positioned as a regional "cornerstone" amenity and an integral part of the larger local and regional public infrastructure

*Looking beyond the boundaries of Rogers is especially important when designing and planning for the development of key community parks, athletic facilities and trail connections within Rogers.*



# 2

SECTION 2

## VISION AND POLICY PLAN



# A COMMON VISION

The common vision for the community has remained unchanged since 2007 and a key underpinning of the vision is fostering a high quality of life through the provision of parks, open spaces, athletic facilities, and trails within the context of responsible land stewardship, long-term sustainability, and economic viability.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement is an outgrowth of the common vision and reflects the City's commitment to its desired lifestyle and providing a balanced overall park and trail system.

*"Promote a high quality of life in Rogers by providing a balanced and sustainable system of parks, natural open spaces, athletic facilities, and trails consistent with the sense of place in the community."*

## QUALITY OF EXPERIENCE

Quality design and amenities are vital to maintaining high levels of use of local parks and trails. With the many other recreational choices available to people, participation studies clearly indicate that residents will not use parks or trails if they do not have a quality experience. Attention to details, amenities, design, materials, and surroundings are incredibly important for user experience and cannot be overlooked when improving existing parks and developing additions to a park's system. According to a survey conducted by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) in 2016, the number two reason Americans do not engage with parks more often is the lack of quality facilities nearby. The quality of residents' experience has become increasingly more important when determining which parks to use and how frequently parks are used in the community.

In order to take Rogers' parks and trails to the next level the city must budget and prioritize these elements of quality within the parks system. The same NRPA survey found that eighty-five percent of Americans consider high-quality park and recreation amenities an appealing feature when they are choosing a new place to call home.

## CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

The Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan (System Plan) is intended to be consistent with and complementary to the vision, goals, and policies of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The forthcoming goals are broad statements that chart the course for achieving the stated mission. They define desired future conditions and outcomes. Accompanying objectives qualify specific goals. Policy statements articulate strategies or actions necessary to achieve specific objectives.

*Note that policies are not ordinances and thus allow for some discretion by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council as to their application.*

## SHARED GOALS WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The City and School District have an established, mutually beneficial relationship in serving local residents' recreational needs, especially as it relates to athletic facilities. Where applicable, the following goals and policies are intended to be consistent with and complementary to those of the School District.



## PARKS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS SYSTEM PLAN

### GOAL STATEMENT

To implement the system plan.

### OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To routinely evaluate and update the system plan and recreational needs of the community to ensure adequate parks, athletic facilities, open space, and trails are provided
- ✓ To use the plan for the purpose of guiding implementation

### POLICY STATEMENTS

1. The plan shall be used to guide park, athletic facility, and trail development within Rogers.
2. All development shall be consistent with the system plan, unless approved otherwise by Park And Recreation Advisory Commission and City Council action.
3. Review and updating of the plan shall be undertaken as warranted; revisions should be made based on documented changes in community needs, unique conditions, or unforeseen circumstances/opportunities.
4. The plan shall be adopted by the City Council and referenced in the Comprehensive Plan.
5. Residents shall be given an opportunity to participate in the planning process (i.e., through needs assessment studies, neighborhood meetings, etc.) to ensure that their needs are understood and acted upon.
6. Copies of the plan shall be made available to residents upon request.



## POLICY STATEMENTS

1. The City shall reserve the right to acquire land within all development areas for park, natural open space, and trail purposes.
2. Parkland dedication policies and ordinances shall be used by the City to require each developer (of all land use categories) to dedicate land or, at the discretion of the City, an equivalent cash value contribution for parks and open space acquisition and development.
3. Parks, natural resource areas, and related recreation facilities shall be acquired and developed by the City in accordance with the system plan.
4. Alternatives to direct acquisition of property shall be used where appropriate to set aside land for park and open space purposes; this includes conservation easements and other means as defined by the system plan.
5. Acquisition of specific parcels of land for park uses shall be based on the quality of the land and natural resource, its suitability for the desired uses, and its location as defined in the system plan (or accepted alternative); undesirable land parcels with limited park and natural resource value shall not be accepted.
6. A reasonable effort shall be made to eliminate physical barriers that deter individuals from using parks and recreation facilities; barrier-free design principles shall be applied in accordance with accepted guidelines and laws.
7. Design and maintenance procedures shall be consistent with industry standards; design and maintenance of all parks and recreation facilities shall emphasize high quality and user safety.
8. The Park And Recreation Advisory Commission and city staff shall review all development plans that impact parkland, natural open space and trail corridor dedication, acquisition, and development.

## PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

### GOAL STATEMENT

To provide residents with an interconnected trail system for recreation and transportation and as a means to tie parks and open spaces together.

### OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To enhance the quality of life within the city by providing adequate parkland and natural areas to fulfill the present and future needs of residents
- ✓ To use the parks, natural areas, and interconnecting trail corridors as a major factor in shaping development
- ✓ To maintain and enhance the natural character and aesthetic qualities of the community by providing parks and natural areas
- ✓ To encourage sequential growth within the city in harmony with the natural environment

## TRAIL CORRIDORS ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

### GOAL STATEMENT

To provide residents with an interconnected trail system for recreation and transportation and as a means to tie parks and open spaces together.

### OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To provide a trail system that emphasizes harmony with the natural environment
- ✓ To allow for relatively uninterrupted pleasure hiking, biking, and other uses to and through the City's park and open space system and developed areas
- ✓ To effectively tie the various parks together into a interconnected, high quality system; and to effectively tie the city trail system with those of adjacent cities and the regional park and trail system
- ✓ To safely protect users from developmental encroachment and associated vehicular traffic

### POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Trail easement policies and ordinances shall be used to require developers to dedicate land for the core system of trails and provide access from new subdivisions to those trails.
2. Trail corridors shall be developed in conjunction with and integral to future developments, parks, greenways, and roadway projects as defined by the system plan.
3. The trail system shall be developed to minimize conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles.
4. Trail types, development standards, and general location shall be in accordance with the system plan and accommodate a range of activities (i.e., walking, hiking, bicycling, and in-line skating).
5. Trail support facilities should be provided as warranted (including trail signage and striping, benches, picnic tables, bridges, restrooms, parking, shelters, etc.).
6. Trail design shall be sensitive to the natural environment and character of the area
7. Trails shall be designed to be accessible wherever feasible given the specific setting .
8. Trails shall be constructed to require minimal maintenance and limit vandalism.
9. Screening and buffering shall be provided where necessary along trail corridors to provide a physical and psychological separation between the trail and adjacent uses.
10. Motorized vehicles shall be prohibited on trails unless required for maintenance and safety.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

1. In cooperation with other program providers, standards shall be established that apply uniformly to all programs, sites, and facilities and shall include: a) identification of the recreational program objectives and related facility needs for specific activities; b) ensuring that adequate support of local recreation providers is in place for program viability and success; and c) undertaking a seasonal review of the effectiveness of City support for each recreational program that uses local public facilities.
2. In concert with program providers, leadership and conduct guidelines for each activity and program shall be developed defining acceptable and appropriate actions and behavior of individuals responsible for overseeing specific programs and activities that use city parks and facilities.
3. An ongoing communication strategy shall be established between the City and program providers to encourage across-the-board collaboration among providers, broaden recreation interests, and track demand/recreation trends affecting the city.
4. The City shall encourage all program providers to provide an equal opportunity to participate in recreation.

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

### GOAL STATEMENT

Working with local recreational program providers, the City will strive to provide residents with the opportunity to participate in recreation activities and programs through well-designed, effective, and interesting recreation programs.

### OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To support local recreational providers efforts to meet local recreation needs, including those of children, teens, adults, elderly, and the disabled
- ✓ To support and encourage a wide diversity of recreation interests within the community
- ✓ To work with program providers to provide adequate facilities for programmed use on a fair and equitable basis to ensure that all individuals and groups receive reasonable access to facilities

## NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP

### GOAL STATEMENT

To provide for the preservation and conservation of ecological systems and natural resources within the city.

### OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To preserve significant natural resources as open space and a highly valued aspect of the overall open space system
- ✓ To maintain and enhance the character or appeal of the community through interconnected natural open spaces
- ✓ To encourage orderly and sequential growth within the community and in harmony with the natural environment
- ✓ To ensure sustainable and desirable natural resource areas and ecological systems are protected and managed within the city

### POLICY STATEMENTS

1. A well-defined natural resources stewardship plan shall be implemented for the purpose of enhancing and protecting the natural resources and ecological systems within the city.
2. Residents shall be educated and informed about ecological issues so that they better understand the importance of restoration and management programs and their role in protecting the natural resources of the community.
3. Natural resource areas may, at the discretion of the City, be set aside (through direct purchase, developer's agreements, conservation easements, or by other means) to preserve the natural character of the community; these areas shall be considered as desirable additions to, rather than substitutes for, other types of parkland.
4. Natural resource areas shall be defined to include all lands that are considered by the City to be natural amenities and/or of ecological significance; land areas exhibiting steep slopes and other non-buildable features may, at the City's discretion, be set aside as natural resource areas and included as part of the park, greenway, and trail system.
5. Policies and ordinances protecting natural resources and ecological systems within the city shall be reviewed, including the review of wetland and shoreland management policies to ensure that they are consistent with accepted statewide standards and requirements; the City's water quality management plan shall also continue to be updated consistent with current trends, and MS4 and Met Council requirements.
6. Property owners and local business community shall be encouraged to preserve the natural character of their properties.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Information sharing and education programs shall be used as needed to enhance participants and residents knowledge of the existing programs and facilities (e.g. community newspaper, activities brochure, etc.).  
Community participation and interaction shall be promoted to determine the needs and desires of the residents; periodically scheduled public meetings, needs assessment surveys, neighborhood meetings, focus groups, interviews, etc., shall be used as tools to assess the needs of the community.
2. The formation of athletic, youth, civic groups, and associations shall be promoted to assist in the continued development of recreation programs and facilities.
3. Residents and Park And Recreation Advisory Commission shall work together to define park facilities and programs that are needed, can be provided, and what residents can do to assist (e.g. Adopt-A-Park).
4. Volunteerism shall be promoted through the development of various volunteer programs (e.g. Adopt-A Park).

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

### GOAL STATEMENT

To establish an effective, ongoing means of communicating and interacting with residents about issues related to parks and recreation facilities, programs, and future development. To provide residents with the opportunity to participate in recreational activities and programs through the City and various civic and volunteer organizations.

### OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To promote active and ongoing interaction between the City and its constituents to ensure effective recreational programming and facility development
- ✓ To promote ongoing communication between the Park And Recreation Advisory Board and residents
- ✓ To promote ongoing volunteer programs and civic and athletic/youth organizations to encourage residents and community organizations to assist in park improvements, maintenance, and providing recreation programs

## PARTNERSHIPS

### GOAL STATEMENT

To maximize the park and recreational opportunities available to residents through the development of fair and equitable working partnerships between the City and the local recreational program providers, local school district, adjacent cities, county, churches, and civic organizations.

### OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To fairly and equitably integrate the City of Rogers parks and facilities with those of the other partners
- ✓ To fairly and equitably integrate the City of Rogers programs with those of the other partners

## FUNDING

### GOAL STATEMENT

To secure the funding necessary to carry out the mission of the Rogers Parks, Natural Open Space/Greenways, and Trail System Plan.

### OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To define the funding options available for implementation of the system plan, and to maximize the use of each source
- ✓ To prepare an implementation plan that defines the relative timing and extent of acquisition and development of system components

## POLICY STATEMENTS

1. A cooperative effort shall be undertaken between all partners to encourage the optimal use of limited resources and minimize duplication of park sites, facilities, and services.
2. All agreements - although intended to be fair and equitable to all partners - shall be made in the best interest of the City of Rogers.
3. Clearly defined joint-use agreements and policies shall be formally adopted between all partners.
4. Where feasible, new facilities shall be planned in consideration of the needs of other partners.
5. Where feasible, new facilities shall be located adjacent to property owned by other partners to facilitate shared use and programming.
6. Ongoing information sharing, communication, and interaction between all partners shall be undertaken to promote each one's system and programs.
7. The City shall appoint a staff person to be responsible for coordinating facility use and program development; each partner shall be encouraged to do the same.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

1. All forms of funding for implementing the system plan shall be pursued on an ongoing basis and in a time frame consistent with community need and development.
2. The use of public-private partnerships shall be maximized to help fund or defer costs to implement the system plan, with specific emphasis on the use of conservation development approaches to planning to maximize public values.
3. A complete analysis of financing mechanisms available to the City for implementation of the system plan shall be undertaken and updated on a periodic basis.
4. A review of the park and trail dedication formula and program fees (resident and non-resident) shall be undertaken on an annual basis.
5. A priority ranking system and an implementation plan shall be prepared prioritizing future improvements were future costs can be reasonably projected.
6. Shared-cost and joint-use agreements between the City and any partners shall be reviewed on an annual basis to determine if they are equitable, cost effective, and address exposures for each other.

## ACHIEVING THE COMMON VISION

Achieving the common vision will require the use of conventional and non-conventional approaches to planning, development, and funding. Successful implementation of the plan will also require a steadfast commitment to collaborating with the development community for a couple of key reasons:

- The nuances of integrating open spaces, parks, and trails into new developments requires a high level of collaboration and flexibility to achieve the highest public values
- The cost of implementing the system plan to its fullest potential is likely to be well beyond the City's means using conventional funding mechanisms, park dedication policies, and past approaches to acquisition and development

By combining standard regulatory controls with alternative approaches to the development process (such as conservation development), achieving the vision and goals set forth in this and other city plans becomes more realistic. Lacking that, realizing the full potential of the system plan becomes significantly more of a challenge, and perhaps even unlikely.

Achieving the common vision will also require expanding on the cooperative relationship between the City and School District as defined in various sections of this plan.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A number of guiding principles support the vision and mission statements. These include:

- ✓ Implement a balanced system plan offering multiple community values
- ✓ Allow for some flexibility in implementing the plan to adjust to realistic financial limitations and unforeseen events
- ✓ Maintain a high and consistent standard of quality throughout the system
- ✓ Plan and design parks for their entire lifecycle (i.e., 15 to 20 years for play equipment, 20 to 25 years for most other features)
- ✓ Adhere to a standardized planning and design process for individual parks to ensure consistency in public involvement and outcomes





# 3

SECTION 3

## **PARKS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**



This chapter describes the various parks, athletic facilities, and open spaces that make up Rogers' System Plan, including profiles and existing site conditions of each of the City's parks. The profiles of each park and other considerations for planning the system are also discussed, including natural resource and open space / greenway considerations.

The system plan is based on current and anticipated needs of residents as defined in Section 1 – Community Input and Values Statement and Section 2 – Vision and Policy Plan. *Although the public process provided a sound basis for system planning, the plan still remains dynamic and will require adjustments as changes occur in trends and resident expectations as Rogers continues to evolve as a community.*

## INTERLINKED SYSTEMS

The City of Rogers recreation system is intrinsically interconnected with School District properties and formerly Hassan Township's parks and trail system plan, for the mutual benefit of residents living in the city and township. Since the 2007 Plan was developed Hassan Township has merged with the City of Rogers and all facilities and maintenance operations are now overseen by the City.

The City and School District have an established, mutually beneficial relationship in serving local residents' recreational needs, especially as it relates to athletic facilities. This includes cooperation on land acquisition, development, operations, and maintenance of athletic facilities at a multitude of sites. Continuing this relationship remains important in order to maximize the efficient use of land and funding resources in meeting local needs.

Important to the continued success of this partnership is formalizing the commitments and responsibilities of each entity through partnership agreements as considered in more detail in Section 5 – Implementation Plan. These agreements will become increasingly important as both the City and School District reach their respective population and enrollment thresholds, at which time the efficient use of facilities is most important to leveraging funding and avoiding duplication of efforts.



## FLEXIBLE USE POLICIES

Flexible-use policies are typically applied on a case-by-case basis in response to a given circumstance. Standard protocol for establishing these policies includes:

- ✓ City staff identifies a use or need issue and defines the park or facility flexibility required to address it
- ✓ Park and Recreation Advisory Board considers staff recommendations and prepares a specific flexible-use policy to address it, which should include a strategy statement about the long-term approach to resolving the situation
- ✓ Flexible use policy is forwarded to City Council for approval
- ✓ Flexible use policy is recorded as an attachment to the System Plan

## PARK AND OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS

The system plan consists of a variety of parks and open spaces defined under various classifications. Each classification serves a particular purpose in meeting local park and recreation needs. Although some flexibility is warranted, classifying parks is necessary to ensure a well-balanced system and that all recreational needs are effectively and efficiently met. An overview of the classifications, related guidelines and parks, and application to Rogers is provided on page 3.3.

### *Flexible Application of the Classifications*

The system plan provides some flexibility in applying the park classifications to accommodate the ebb and flow of community needs as the system is being developed and in response to funding limitations. Flexibility is also needed to ensure that the city does not overbuild facilities if future demand is uncertain. Through flexible-use policies, activities that are not normally desired or allowed in a given type of park would be acceptable under select circumstances.

In Rogers, flexible use primarily relates to the working relationship between the City and School District, as well as between the City and adjoining communities in which local athletic fields are provided for programmed use on sites that would typically be limited to Rogers' Athletic Associations.

Note that although flexible use policies have their application, they should not be construed as long-term solutions to addressing facility supply and demand issues. Although flexibility is needed to meet community needs, the use of these policies by their nature compromises the system and therefore should not be considered permanent solutions.



\* Currently undeveloped.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>Existing Site(s) in Rogers</b>	<b>Application to Rogers</b>
<b>Neighborhood Park (and Mini-Neighborhood Park)</b>	Neighborhood parks are the basic units of the park system and serve a recreational and social purpose. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation. Neighborhood parks are typically 5 acres or more, 8 to 10 acres preferred. Mini-neighborhood parks, which are only used when securing more land is impractical, are 1 to 3 acres of developable land. Service area is 1/4-mile radius for mini parks and up to a 1/2-mile for a typical neighborhood park, uninterrupted by major roads and other physical barriers. Mini parks tend to be less effective at meeting neighborhood needs.	Brockton Meadows Park Brookside Meadows Crow River Heights Park Dutch Knolls Park Edgewater Park Erickson Park Fox Creek West Park Hassan Hills Park Hassan Meadow Park* Island View Estates Park* Shadow Woods Park Sunnyside Park	Neighborhood parks remain a basic unit of the park system in Rogers. In areas with urban densities, a service area of 1/4- to 1/2-mile radius remains appropriate. 1/4-mile radius is most appropriate for mini-parks. When new parks are connected with greenway-based trails, service areas can be expanded to 1/2-mile radius or slightly more since the trails and open space become part of the park experience.
<b>Community Park</b>	Community parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Size varies, depending on function. 5 acres minimum preferred, with 40 or more acres optimal. Service area can be community-wide or several neighborhoods in a given area of the city with pedestrian connections via trails or sidewalks.	Cowley Lake Park* Henry Woods Park Lions Central Park	Given the city's proximity to Crow-Hassan Park Reserve and the natural areas that will be set aside for future trail development, there is less overall need for traditional community parks beyond that defined under this plan.
<b>Park Reserve</b>	Park reserves are substantially larger than regional parks because they are to contain a diversity of natural resources with adequate space to protect and manage natural resources and provide the compatible outdoor activities. The minimal size for a park reserve is 1,000 acres, but larger park reserves are desirable. To establish and maintain an uncompromised sense of nature and protect high-quality natural resources, at least 80% of each park reserve should be managed as wild lands that protect the ecological functions of the native landscape. This would permit up to 20% of a park reserve to be developed for compatible recreational activities.	Crow-Hassan Park Reserve	Crow-Hassan Park Reserve plays an important role in the city by providing regionally-based outdoor recreational opportunities and reducing the need for the city to provide these amenities.
<b>Athletic Facility</b>	Consolidates programmed adult and youth athletic fields and associated facilities to a limited number of sites. Tournament level facilities are appropriate. Size varies, with 20 acres or more desirable, but not absolute. 60 to 80 acres is optimal.	Lynch Park North Community Park South Community Park*	This classification has application to Rogers to meet local needs for athletic facilities (in concert with park-school sites.) As a growing community with many families, facility demand will continue to grow in sync with population growth.
<b>Special Use</b>	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose uses – such as a nature center, historic sites, plazas, urban squares, aquatic centers, campgrounds, golf courses, etc. Overall size varies, depending on need.	Rogers Activity Center	The use of this classification will be limited in Rogers at this time.
<b>Greenway/ Open Space</b>	Greenways and open spaces are areas that are set aside for preserving and protecting natural resources, landscapes, critical habitats, high-value forested areas, conservation areas, providing buffer areas, and providing corridors for wildlife. Greenways also have a secondary use of trails if this use can be incorporated without infringing upon the natural system.	Cambria Farms Park* Dayspring Estates Park* Hassan Hills 2 Park* Hassan Hills 3 Park Heather Ridge Park* Meadow Lake Estates Park* Northridge Preserve* Walker Park* Woodman Hall Park*	Within the city proper, the potential for establishing greenways and preserving open space is more limited. This reinforces the importance of working closely with Three Rivers Park District, local developers, and other partners on interconnected trails systems to their planned greenway system. Trailhead facilities would also be found under the category.
<b>School</b>	Covers school sites that are used in concert with, or in lieu of, city parks to meet community recreation needs. School sites often provide the majority of indoor recreational facilities within a community. Size varies, depending on specific site opportunities.	Hassan Elementary Rogers Elementary School Rogers High School Rogers Middle School	Continuing the established relationship between the School District and City is vital to successfully meeting the long-term demand for athletic facilities in a cost-effective manner.



### PARK SYSTEM PLAN

Although the open space/greenway and park systems function as a cohesive whole, individual parks will continue to have a significant and defined purpose consistent with their classifications. The System Plan illustrates the location and name of each park within the system, and the general areas where new parks will be needed as development occurs. The following table provides an overview of the total number of parks under each classification, along with approximate number of total acres.



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#### TOTAL PARK ACREAGE

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**35** ACRES PER  
**1,000** RESIDENTS

*At 35 acres per 1,000 residents, the City of Rogers is well positioned to meet community needs for active recreation, trails, and natural open space.  
(Note: calculation excludes Greenway / Open Space and Park Reserve acreages)*

Classification	Existing	Proposed	Total Proposed
<b>Neighborhood Park</b> * Contingent on extent of future residential development; **Total Proposed acreage assumes selling the south parcel of Hassan Meadow Park (-13 acres), expanding the boundary of Brockton Meadows Park (+0.6 acres) and 6 neighborhood parks (+30 acres, 5 acres each) and, 1 mini-neighborhood park (+2 acres).	12 parks 97.0 acres	7 parks* 32.0 acres*	<b>19 parks</b> <b>116.6 acres</b>
<b>Community Park</b>	3 parks 68.7 acres	- -	<b>3 parks</b> <b>68.7 acres</b>
<b>Athletic Facility / School Sites</b>	7 parks 256.3 acres	- -	<b>7 parks</b> <b>256.3 acres</b>
<b>Special Use</b>	1 park 0.9 acres	- -	<b>1 park</b> <b>0.9 acres</b>
<b>Greenway / Open Space</b> *Total proposed acreage assumes eliminating Heather Ridge Park (-6.0 acres) Note: acreage does not include lands that might be set aside in the future for trail corridors that are negotiated as part of future developments and/or as part of the regional trail.	9 parks 140.1 acres	- -	<b>8 parks</b> <b>134.1 acres</b>
<b>Total Local Parks:</b>	<b>32 parks</b>		<b>38 parks</b>
<b>Total Combined Acreage:</b>	<b>563.0 parks</b>		<b>576.6 acres</b>
<b>Park Reserve</b> *Includes only the acreage within Rogers city limits	1 park 2,188 acres*	- 2.57 acres	<b>1 park</b> <b>2,190.5 acres*</b>

### UNDEVELOPED PARCELS TO BE PHASED OUT OF THE PARK SYSTEM

The following are undeveloped parcels currently classified as parks / open space. Given size, location, physical site characteristics they are either not suitable for development or do not offer value to the overall park system and would be better utilized for residential development. Consideration should be given to eliminate these properties from the park system and rezoned as residential.



**HASSAN MEADOW PARK**

48.0 acre park split into two parcels with limited connectivity. The northern parcel is developed as a Neighborhood Park while the 13.0 acre southern parcel is undeveloped, is excess to what is needed for park space in this area and would be better suited for residential development.



**HEATHER RIDGE PARK**

6.0 acre parcel located along the Crow River in a low-density residential area with limited potential for park or greenway development due to limited access, topography, and quality natural resources.

# PARKS LEGEND

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- 1 Brockton Meadows Park
- 2 Brookside Meadows
- 3 Crow River Heights Park
- 4 Dutch Knolls Park
- 5 Edgewater Park
- 6 Erickson Park
- 7 Fox Creek West Park
- 8 Hassan Hills Park
- 9 Hassan Meadow Park
- 10 Island View Estates Park
- 11 Shadow Woods Park
- 12 Sunnyside Park

## COMMUNITY PARKS

- 13 Cowley Lake Park
- 14 Henry Woods Park
- 15 Lions Central Park

## REGIONAL PARK

- 16 Crow-Hassan Park Reserve

## ATHLETIC FACILITIES

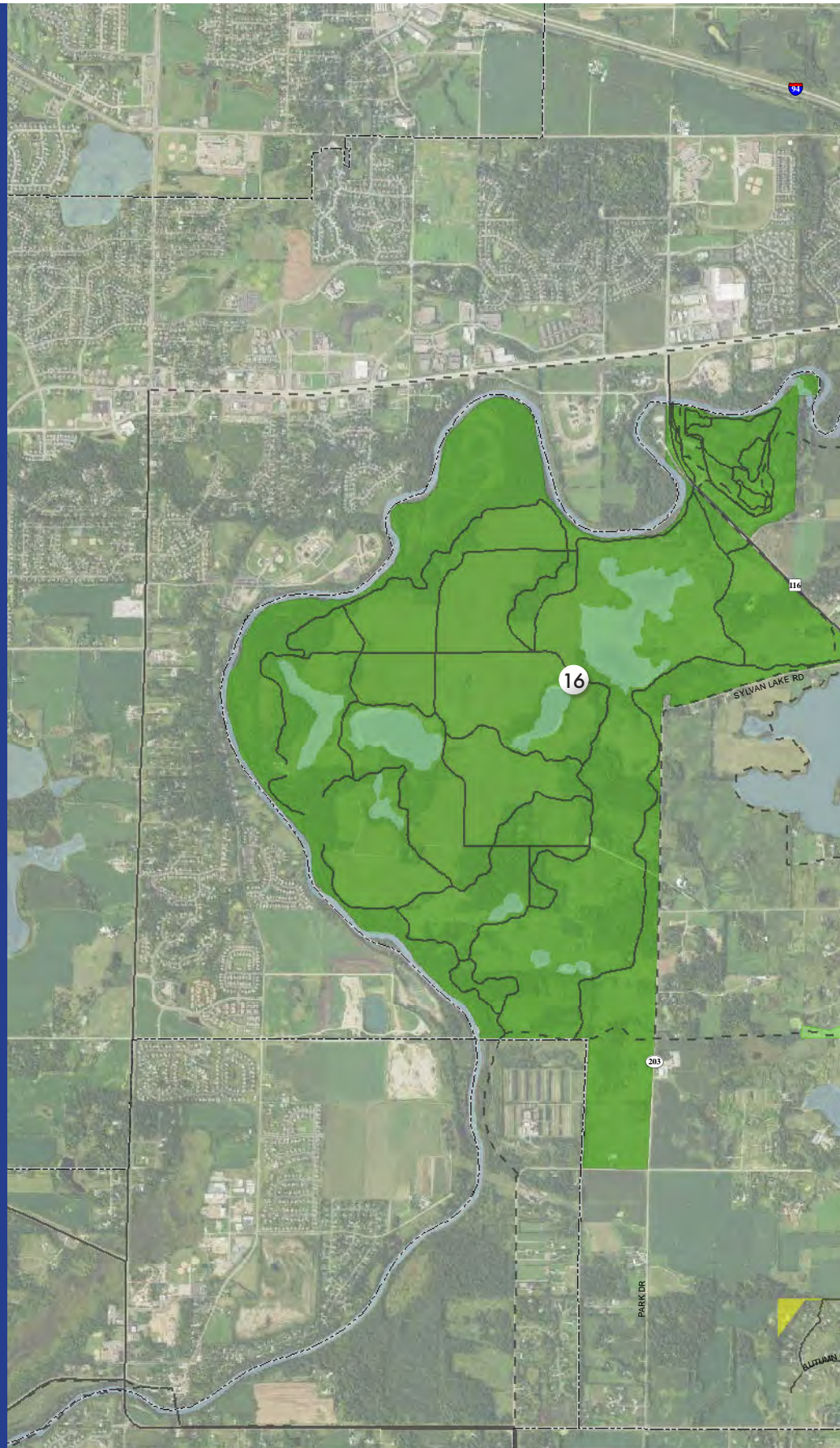
- 17 Lynch Park
- 18 North Community Park
- 19 South Community Park

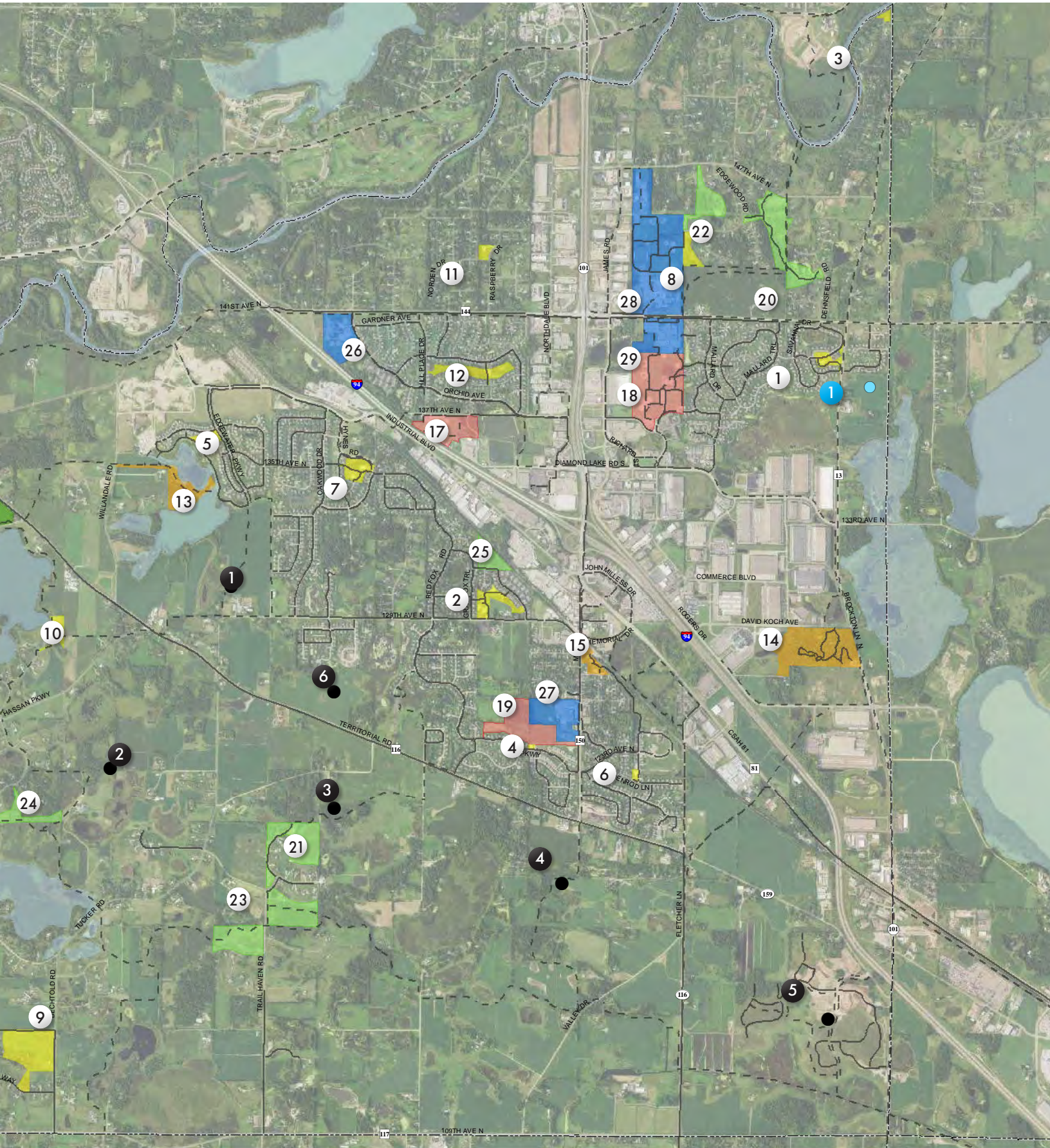
## OPEN SPACE / GREENWAY

- 20 Cambria Farms Park
- 21 Dayspring Estates Park
- 22 Hassan Hills 2 & 3 Park
- 23 Northridge Preserve
- 24 Meadow Lake Estates Park
- 25 Walker Park

## PARK / SCHOOL

- 26 Hassan Elementary
- 27 Rogers Elementary School
- 28 Rogers High School/Activity Center
- 29 Rogers Middle School
- # Proposed Neighborhood Park
- # Proposed Mini-Neighborhood Park







## #1 FOCUS OF THE 2017 PLAN

*IS TO INTEGRATE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD AND MINI-NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS WITHIN NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS.*

*THE FOCUS OF THE 2007 PLAN WAS TO FILL IN THE GAPS IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SYSTEM, WHICH THE CITY WAS INCREDIBLY SUCCESSFUL IN ACCOMPLISHING.*

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood-level parks serve the recreational needs of individual neighborhoods. Additionally, these parks can serve as a social pulse point and provide an area for socialization close to home.

Recreation is the main intent of these parks, but they should also have amenities that can appeal to a wide variety of individuals. Neighborhood parks should not be extensively programmed since that takes away from their capacity to serve local residents' day-to-day recreational needs. Although neighborhood parks can be used on occasion for younger children's programs such as T-ball, doing so should be carefully limited to avoid overuse issues, such as excessive parking in the neighborhoods, turf quality issues, and detracting from the sense of place in the park. The design of neighborhood-level parks should respond to the local needs of the neighborhood instead of general community needs. Neighborhood parks within a community should work in coordination with one another to ensure that all neighborhood recreational needs are met.

The system plan emphasizes providing both developed recreational facilities and natural areas within individual neighborhood parks to meet recreational demand while maintaining an appealing natural setting. The balance between turf and natural vegetation should be strategically determined on a site-by-site basis as part of the design process.



### *Areas Where New Neighborhood Parks will be Required as Development Occurs*

As illustrated on the System Plan, there are a number of areas within the city where new neighborhood parks will be required to service local needs as development occurs. The locations for these parks are general and do not represent a specific parcel of land. Their actual location will be based on how they can be best integrated with new developments that the park will serve and how it ties into the trail and sidewalk system.

### *General Criteria for Establishing the Location of New Neighborhood Parks*

The distribution of future neighborhood parks is intrinsically linked to development patterns and layouts, as well as how a given park interlinks with greenways and greenway-based trail system. This is especially the case in future development areas, where the greatest opportunity lies for blending neighborhood parks with greenways.

In situations where neighborhood parks are integrated with greenways and greenway-based trails, the spacing between individual parks can be somewhat greater (1/2-mile or more) than traditional standards suggest for two reasons:

- 1) the greenway is part of the park experience
- 2) the trails within the greenway make it easier and safer to get to the park from a given neighborhood.

As shown on the System Plan, this is most applicable to the areas in the west and south quadrants of the city. Should the greenway system substantially change or not materialize, the distribution of the neighborhood parks would need to be reconsidered.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SITE SELECTION

Site selection for a neighborhood park is critical to its ultimate quality and success. Desirable criteria for selecting new parks include:

- ✓ 5 acres or more, 8 to 10 acres preferred, with 3 acres the minimum size
- ✓ Centrally located within the neighborhood area it serves
- ✓ Site exhibits desirable physical and aesthetic characteristics, with a balance between developable open space and natural areas; lowlands and other lands not suitable for development are also not suitable for a neighborhood park
- ✓ Connection to neighborhoods via trails or sidewalks; the less convenient pedestrian access, the less use a park is likely to receive
- ✓ Connection to a greenway or open space system to expand the sense of open space at the neighborhood level

Although natural amenities are desirable, designated wetlands or non-upland protected areas that cannot be developed for active or passive park uses should not be included in the acreage calculation for a new neighborhood park. At the discretion of the Park Commission and City Council, "left over" land not suitable for residential development should not be accepted for neighborhood-park uses if it does not meet the desirable criteria. This includes stormwater holding ponds, which can only be integrated into the design of a neighborhood park under two conditions: 1) the ponds are a designed feature with either natural or ornamental qualities; and 2) the area of the pond is not considered as part of the neighborhood park acreage calculation. (Side note: Protected areas, such as wetlands, are still valuable aspects of the larger greenway system, but they are not a land substitute for neighborhood parks.)



### *Nuanced Considerations for Proposed Future Neighborhood Parks*

The following considers some of the nuances associated with the neighborhood park service areas shown on the System Plan Map.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD PARK #1

*SERVICE AREA:* Area between 129th Avenue North and 141st Avenue North

##### CONSIDERATIONS

- The park should complement the existing Neighborhood Parks within this quadrant of the City; Fox Creek West and Edgewater Parks.
- Provide trail connections linking to Cowley Lake Park and the greater trail network as shown in the Trail System Plan.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS #2,3,4,5

*SERVICE AREA:* Area most likely to be developed south of Territorial Road and parks function as part of a larger natural open space/greenway and trail system.

##### CONSIDERATIONS

- Utilizing the greenway system, service areas can be expanded to ½-mile or slightly more since the trails and open space become part of the park experience requiring fewer neighborhood parks to be developed while still meeting neighborhood needs.
- With fewer parks to develop, the level of investment in each park can be higher with the same overall level of investment by the City and/or developer, resulting in a higher quality experience for local residents.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD PARK #6

*SERVICE AREA:* Area between Territorial Road and 129th Avenue North

##### CONSIDERATIONS

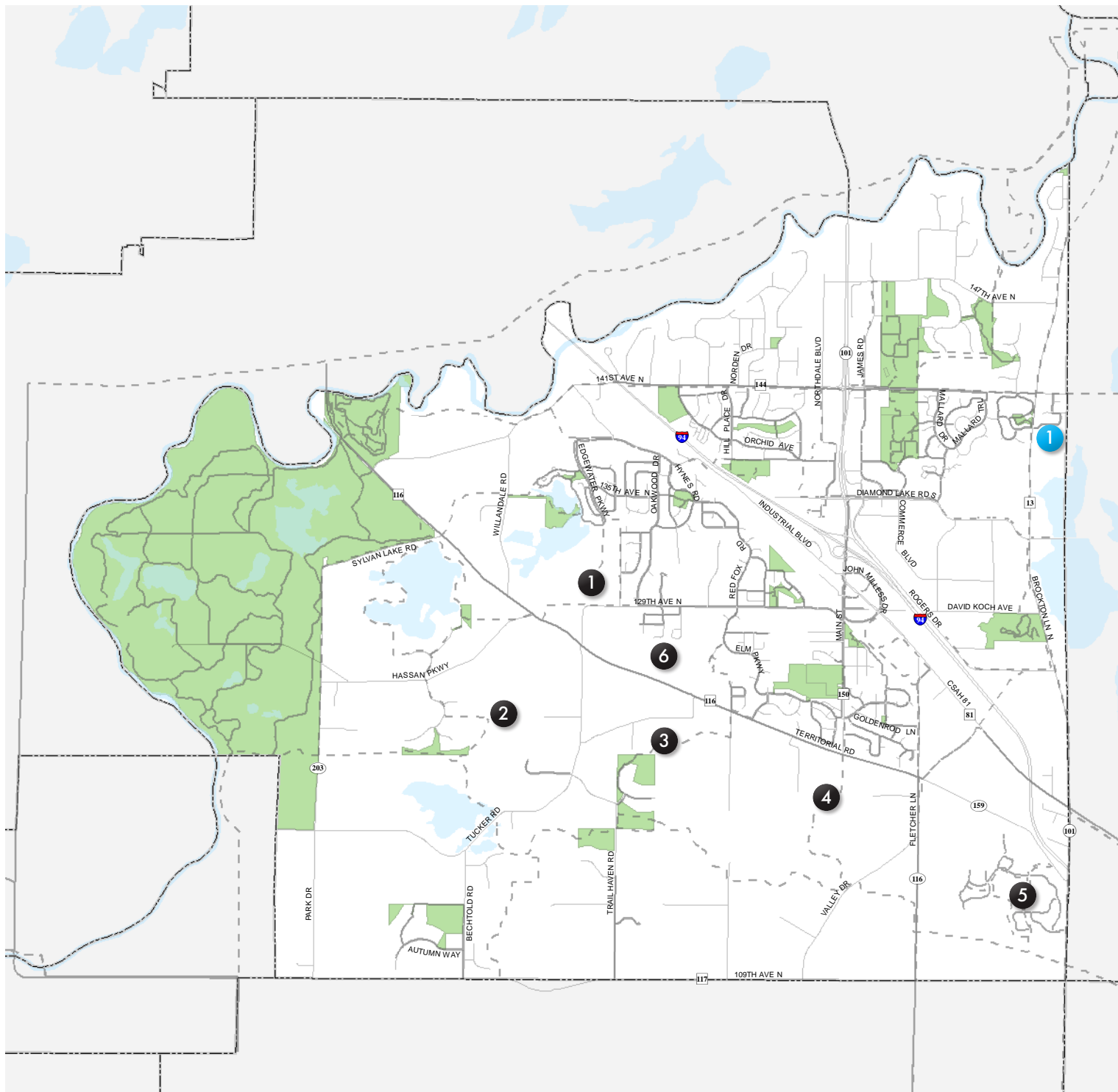
- The park should be developed to meet the typical standards for neighborhood parks. Provide trail connections linking to South Community Park if feasible.

#### MINI - NEIGHBORHOOD PARK #1

*SERVICE AREA:* Area east of Brockton Lane North and south of 141st Avenue North

##### CONSIDERATIONS

- The location of this mini-park has a couple of options to consider. It could be placed in close proximity to the border with Dayton under the presumption that future development in that city may allow for a larger park to be provided to service this area more effectively than a smaller park. If that is not achievable, including a mini-park as part of the future development of this area will be necessary.
- One to three acres is acceptable if a mini-park is provided. Five or more total acres is desirable if the park is shared with Dayton in the future.





### *Neighborhood Park Developer-Related Agreements*

In addition to stipulations about the amount, location, and character of land set aside for a neighborhood park, the developer’s agreement between the City and developer should also define qualitative expectations and requirements. These include, but are not limited to, the following types of construction impact-related stipulations:

- Tree and natural area protection – to ensure that all quality natural features will remain undisturbed during construction
- Soil condition and compaction protection – to ensure that the site is not used for unauthorized soil mining/transfer and that native soils are not unduly compacted relative to native conditions
- Excessive grading protection – to ensure that the site is not unnecessarily graded, hence creating drainage issues and soil quality and compaction concerns



THE CITY’S  
**DEVELOPER’S  
HANDBOOK**

REFERS TO THE SYSTEM PLAN DOCUMENT  
FOR DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS AS  
THEY RELATE TO PARKS.

### *Development/Redevelopment of Neighborhood Parks*

The design for each neighborhood park should be consistent with the desired service level and tailored to the neighborhood it serves, rather than the generalized needs of the community. The following table provides a palette of amenities typically found within neighborhood parks and offering three different levels of service.

<i>Service Level</i>	<i>Parameters</i>	<i>Amenities</i>
<p><b>Basic</b>            &lt;\$300,000            (2017 dollars)</p>	<p>Park size ranges from 1.0 to 3.0 acres; designed for active use, with limited passive use area given the smaller park size</p>	<p>Children’s play structure (2,500-3,500 SF) with age separation (2-5 years old and 5-12 years old)            A unique to Rogers park system play structure or amenity            Swing structure(s) with one accessible, one infant, and two belt swings included            Accessible trail to play structure and key park features            Pedestrian link to neighborhood sidewalk or community trail system            Maintained green space for informal use (1 acre minimum preferred)            Basketball halfcourt or small hardcourt (for hopscotch, 4-square, etc.)            Limited general site amenities (benches, picnic tables, trash/recycle receptacles, etc.)            Limited amount of ornamental landscaping            Rely on street lights for security lighting            Portable restroom on concrete slab            Limited off-street parking (4-6 stalls), on-street parking            Generally little to no programming</p>
<p><b>Medium</b>            \$300,000 - \$500,000            (2017 dollars)</p>	<p>Park size range from 2.0 to 4.0 acres, with more of a balance between active and passive uses</p>	<p>Children’s play structure (3,500-5,000 SF) with defined age separation (2-5 years old and 5-12 years old)            A unique to Rogers park system play structure or amenity            Adaptive play structure            Swing structure(s) with one accessible, one infant, and two belt swings included            Accessible trail to play structure and key park features            Trail loop internal to the park, plus a link to neighborhood sidewalk or community trail system            Maintained green space for informal use (1 to 2 acres preferred)            1/2 to full-size basketball court            Small hardcourt area (for hopscotch, 4-square, etc.)            Modest amount of general site amenities (benches, picnic tables, trash/recycle receptacles, etc. - might include a drinking fountain)            Modest amount of ornamental landscaping, particularly near active use areas            Off-street parking (8-12 stalls), on-street parking            Limited ornamental and basic security lighting            Portable restroom on concrete slab with screening            Small picnic shelter and picnic area (2-3 table capacity)            Modest emphasis on aesthetic improvements and architectural elements (arbor structure with benches, ornamental fencing, etc.)            Extensive emphasis on design details and quality aesthetic nuances            Limited structured internal or external programming</p>
<p><b>High</b>            &gt;\$500,000            (2017 dollars)</p>	<p>Park size range from 3.0 to 5.0 acres or more, with a balance between areas for active and passive uses maintained</p>	<p>Children’s play structure (5,000-6,500 SF) with age separation (2-5 years old and 5-12 years old)            A unique to Rogers park system play structure or amenity            Adaptive play structure shade structure            Additional swing structure(s) with one accessible, one infant, and two belt swings included            Accessible trail to play structure and key park features            Larger trail loop system internal to the park, plus a connection to neighborhood sidewalk or community trail system            Maintained green space for informal use (2 acres minimum preferred)            Full-size basketball court            Larger basketball court with multiple goals, hardcourt area (for hopscotch, 4-square, etc.)            Higher level of general site amenities (benches, picnic tables, trash/recycle receptacles, portable restroom and enclosure, drinking fountain, etc. )            Extensive amount of ornamental landscaping, particularly near active use areas            Off-street parking (12-20 stalls maximum), on-street parking            Multiple screened portable restrooms or if utilities exist in the area permanent restrooms with running water            Family picnic shelter and picnic area (20-30 person capacity) electricity if available            Higher level of emphasis on aesthetic improvements and architectural elements – arbor structure with benches, ornamental fencing, etc.            More extensive ornamental and security lighting            Pickleball/Tennis court (only if demand warrants)            Extensive emphasis on design details and quality aesthetic nuances            Internal and external programing allowed</p>



## COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks typically serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. The general palette of amenities typically found within this class of park includes:

- Amenities common to a neighborhood park, albeit at a larger scale
- Larger group picnic facilities
- 3-season and 4-season buildings
- Outdoor performance venues
- Learning and education opportunities
- Outdoor water play features
- More extensive looped trail systems
- Open maintained green space for passive and active use
- Winter activities, such as ice skating, sledding, and skiing
- Special use facilities

Cowley Lake Park is the only Community Park that is left to be developed within the System. The three Community Parks identified within this document should be adequate to meet future demands for this type of park when coupled with the open space offerings of the Park Reserve.

## PARK RESERVE

Operated and maintained by Three Rivers Park District, Crow-Hassan Park Reserve is the only Park Reserve within the City of Rogers. At approximately 2,600 acres located along the Crow River on the west side of the city the space is defined by the large uninterrupted expanse of land. It is an outstanding area for providing a feeling of wilderness and solitude and the 600 acre restored prairie is a colorful highlight of the reserve. Deer, fox, coyotes, trumpeter swans, hawks and bald eagles may be seen from the many miles of natural-surfaced trails that wind through the park. The City of Rogers is interested in the idea of a 'Sister Park' in collaboration with Three Rivers Park District. See pages 3.40 and 3.41 for additional collaboration and development considerations as it relates to Crow-Hassan Park Reserve.

## ATHLETIC FACILITIES

The System Plan, as it relates to athletic facilities, relies heavily on past partnerships between the City and School District to fulfill recreational needs within the community. Currently some of the athletic fields are utilized both by recreational groups and School District. Due to a large amount of economic development in the region, the School District may be expanding in the near future and relocating fields closer to the school campuses. This may give the City the opportunity to develop new athletic fields or re-purpose the current sites for other recreational uses.

The listed parks and school sites provide a variety of facility types to accommodate local demand. Local associations, Community Education/School District, and the City each use the facilities for programmed activities.

The following table provides additional information on the level of use of each of these sites for organized athletics. Note that this only refers to programmed use. Day-to-day use by residents is considered non-programmed general use and is therefore not specifically defined.



### Sites for Programmed Athletic Use (as of 2017)

Park	Classification	Proposed Level of Use for Programmed Athletics
Triangle Park	<b>Community Park</b>	Limited youth athletic programming
Lynch Park	<b>Athletic Facility</b>	Extensive youth/adult athletic programming (potential site of future town ballfield)
Meadow Brook Park	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	Informal use only Limited youth athletic programming
North Community Park	<b>Athletic Facility</b>	Extensive youth/adults athletic programming
South Community Park (currently undeveloped)	<b>Athletic Facility</b>	Proposed extensive youth athletic programming
<b>School</b>		
Hassan Elementary	<b>Park-School Site</b>	Extensive youth athletic programming
Rogers Elementary School	<b>Park-School Site</b>	Extensive youth athletic programming
Rogers Middle School	<b>Park-School Site</b>	Extensive youth athletic programming
Rogers High School / Activity Center	<b>Park-School Site</b>	Extensive youth athletic programming

Note: The table only refers to existing parks and school sites within the system in 2017.

### Relationship Between Rogers and Local School District Relative to Athletic Facilities

Park-School sites are those that offer joint-use opportunities between the City and School District for shared use of facilities. There are currently four school sites that fall under this classification within Rogers, each of which are in the Independent School District 728. Over the past years, the City and School District have jointly participated in the acquisition, development, and maintenance of these sites in various ways. In some cases, the relationship has been quite extensive and involved significant contributions from the City. The following table defines the relationship between the two entities as of 2017. It also provides recommendations for future refinement of the relationship and long-term opportunities to collaborate.

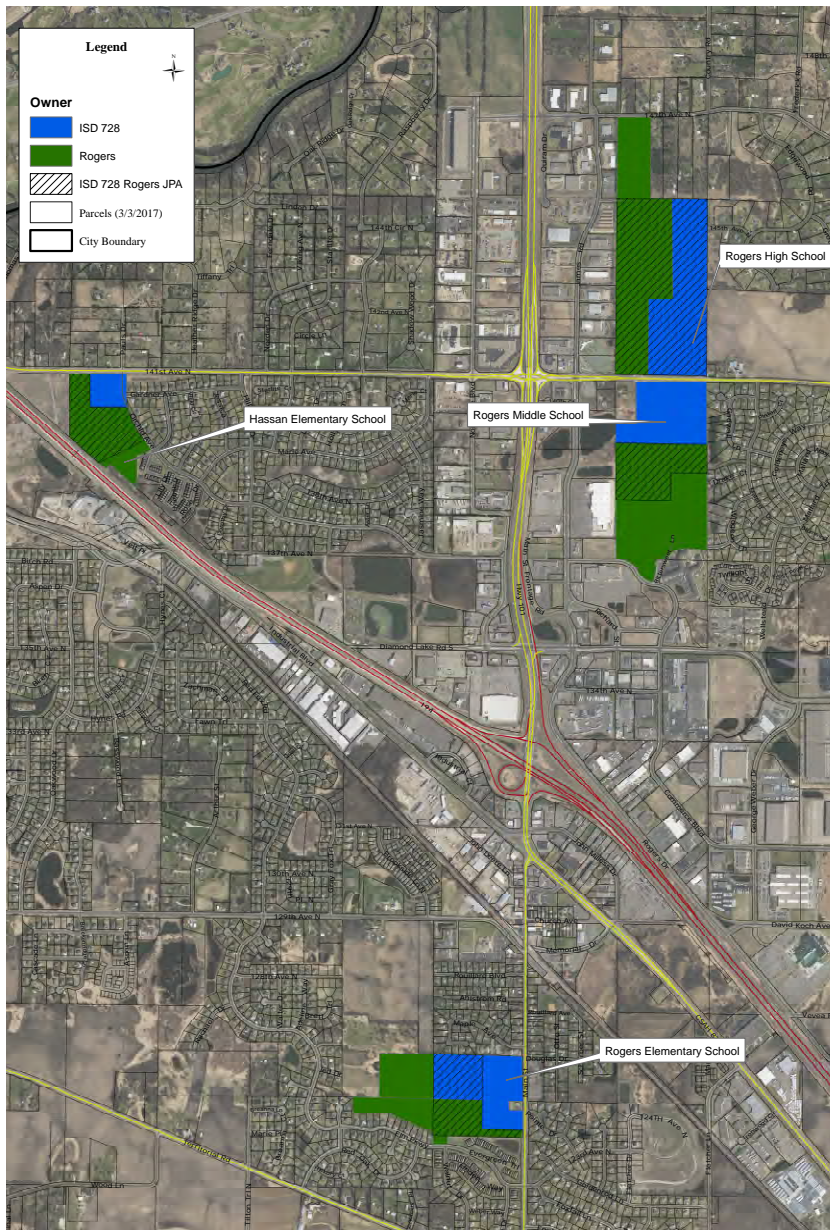
## LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP

As the City and School District reach their respective population and enrollment thresholds, taking full advantage of established partnerships will be vital to meeting the collective demand for facilities in an efficient and effective manner. The system plan is based on the premise that these relationships will continue, with any changes having potentially profound impacts on meeting future facility demands.

- ✓ Continue a strong working partnership in the development, operation, and maintenance of these sites to meet future recreational and athletic facility needs.
- ✓ Prepare new or update the existing formal agreements on the planning, land acquisition, development, operations, and maintenance of all joint-use facilities involving the City of Rogers and School District 728 is warranted and a top priority.
- ✓ The agreements should include stipulations regarding programming and scheduling priority and responsibility. (Refer to Shared Responsibility Agreements in Section 5 – Implementation Plan for additional information and set of parameters on this type of agreement.)

Facility	Overview of Relationship as of 2017
<b>Hassan Elementary</b>	<p><b>Acquisition:</b> Property acquired by Hassan Township and City of Rogers in 2000, with the intent to codevelop for joint recreational/athletic uses. The building site was donated to the School District.</p> <p><b>Development/Operations/Maintenance:</b> Under agreement, the City and School District (and previously Hassan Township) are jointly responsible for development, maintenance, and operation of the property.</p> <p><b>Desirable Objectives:</b> Plan for and construct an expansion to the gymnasium.</p>
<b>Rogers Elementary School</b>	<p><b>Acquisition:</b> Property acquired by the School District, with the intent to codevelop for joint recreational/athletic uses. The original property remains owned by the School District. In 2015 the City purchased additional property to facilitate an expansion of the school and space for the development of South Community Park.</p> <p><b>Development/Operations/Maintenance:</b> Under agreement, the City and School District are jointly responsible for development, maintenance, and operation of the property.</p> <p><b>Desirable Objectives:</b> Plan and construct South Community Park, relocate outdoor skating facilities, and complete the joint powers agreement for 2016 acquired property.</p>
<b>Rogers Middle School</b>	<p><b>Acquisition:</b> Property acquired by City of Rogers in 1997, with the intent to codevelop for joint recreational/athletic uses. The property remains owned by the City of Rogers.</p> <p><b>Development/Operations/Maintenance:</b> Under agreement, the City and School District are jointly responsible for development, maintenance, and operation of the property.</p> <p><b>Desirable Objectives:</b> Add pickleball court striping on the existing tennis courts and plan and construct a pool with community access.</p>
<b>Rogers High School</b>	<p><b>Acquisition:</b> Property acquired by the City of Rogers in 2000, with the intent to codevelop for joint recreational/athletic uses.</p> <p><b>Development/Operations/Maintenance:</b> Under agreement, the City and School District are jointly responsible for development, maintenance, and operation of the property.</p> <p><b>Desirable Objectives:</b> Plan for and construct greater community access to the field house and related facilities, performance gym, gymnastics space, wrestling room, additional workout/fitness space with community access.</p>





City of Rogers and School District 728 Joint Powers Agreement Properties Map

### *Relationship Between Rogers and Other Communities within School District 728*

The long-term strategy of the system plan is based on the presumption that other local communities will be responsible for providing adequate athletic facilities to support their local needs. This includes supporting the proportion of residents that may participate in broader recreation programs made available by local associations within the southern part of the local school district. Specifically, the Rogers' system plan does not include athletic facilities to support residents from Otsego, Saint Michael, or Dayton over the long-term.

Note: In 2007, the facilities in Rogers were being used by participants from these adjoining communities to varying degrees, collectively averaging 20 to 30% across all recreation programs. Important to note, however, is that facilities at both park and school sites are used to support these programs. As such, these communities will likely continue to have access to some of the school facilities consistent with any joint-use agreements they might have with the School District.

The issue of making sure that Rogers is not unduly supporting other communities' population base becomes increasingly important as peak population levels are reached. It is at that point where a close match between facility supply and demand becomes most important to ensure that local resources (land and financial) are being used to the highest public good.

Note that this is not to preclude the City from collaborating with other communities to meet the demand for certain types of facilities when it serves its best interest. However, any such agreements would likely result in a higher demand for facilities than envisioned under the system plan defined in this section.

### Facility Types Needed to Support Local Demands

The following table highlights the various facilities needed to support local programming, along with the local groups that routinely use them.

Facility	Basic Facility Description (Optimal*)	User Groups Served (2017)**
<b>Multi-purpose Field / Athletic Green Space</b>	Generically defined in terms of full-size soccer field equivalent, which is 75 x 120 yards (225' x 360'). Allow 5 to 10 yards between fields. This accommodates soccer, football, and lacrosse. Grading should allow for multi-directional play and smaller field layouts. Space requirement: 1.7 to 2.1 acres	Rogers Youth Football Rogers Youth Flag Football Rogers Youth La Crosse Three Rivers Soccer Association American Youth Soccer Organization
<b>Full-Size Ball Diamond</b>	90' baseline, 60'-6" pitching distance, raised mound, turf infield, aglime baselines, 320'-330' foul lines/380' centerfield, 8' to 10' fencing, and warning track. Space requirement: 3 to 3.85 acres.	Rogers Otsego Youth Baseball Rogers High School (varsity, junior varsity, and 9th grade) VFW and Legion Baseball Rogers Red Devils
<b>General Purpose Ball Diamond</b>	60' to 90' baseline, variable pitching distance, agg-lime infield, 200' to 280' foul lines and centerfield, and no fencing. Space requirements: 1.2 to 2.0 acres.	Rogers Otsego Youth Baseball Adult Softball Rogers Otsego Softball Association Rogers High School (occasionally)
<b>Youth Ball Diamond</b>	60' baseline, 46' pitching distance, raised mound, turf infield, agg-lime baselines, 200' foul lines/250' centerfield, 6' fencing, and warning track. Space requirement: 1.2 to 1.5 acres.	Rogers Otsego Youth Baseball Northland Little League
<b>T-Ball Field / Informal Playfield</b>	60' baseline, agg-lime infield, 100' to 120' foul lines and centerfield, no fencing. Space requirements: 0.3 to 0.5 acres.	Community Education Rogers Otsego Softball Association
<b>Hockey Rink (outdoor)</b>	85' x 200' rink size, boards, and warming house. Space requirements: 22,000 SF.	Rogers Youth Hockey Association
<b>Outdoor Basketball Court</b>	50' x 84' plus 10' unobstructed space on all sides (3' minimum). Half-court size is 40' x 40'. Space requirements: 5,040 SF.	Rogers Youth Basketball Association
<b>Tennis / Pickleball Court</b>	60' x 120' within fenced area for single court. Space requirements: 7,020 SF.	Need has been identified
<b>Volleyball Court (sand)</b>	50' x 80' area for single court. Space requirements: 4,000 SF.	Need has been identified

\* Optimal size relates to standards for new facilities. Some variability in these standards exists for existing facilities.

\*\* Community Education and City-based recreation also use many of these facilities for their programming.

### ATHLETIC FACILITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

*Staying on top of the demand cycle for athletic facilities is critical for efficiently using existing facilities and managing capital investment funding and operations and maintenance costs. Given the high cost to redevelop or expand the system, having a solid understanding of the facility supply and demand should be an increasingly important priority.*

### Athletic Facility Supply and Demand

The following defines the supply and demand for various facilities based on interviews and questionnaires with local associations and user groups.

Facility	User Group(s)	Nearer-Term Facility Demands (1 to 5 years)*	Longer-Term Facility Demands (6 to 10 years, or more)*
<b>Athletic Green / Soccer Field</b>	Rogers Youth Football  Three Rivers Soccer Association  American Youth Soccer Organization  Rogers United Soccer Club	Practice fields are biggest concern for football. Any growth in the program (which is expected) will result in a need for at least another full-size field.  For soccer, completing proposed improvements defined under the plan would alleviate near-term concerns about facility supply and keep pace with program growth of the two associations.	For football, the need for three full-size fields is anticipated to accommodate growth in facility demand.  For soccer, the need to add five or more fields is envisioned to accommodate expected growth in facility demand between the two associations.  In addition, growth in programs such as lacrosse will also increase the demand for athletic greens in the longer-term.
<b>Full-Size Ball Diamond</b> <b>Junior Varsity Ball Diamond</b> <b>Little League Ballfield</b> <b>Adult Softball Field</b> <b>General Purpose Ball Diamond</b> <b>T-Ball Field</b>	Rogers Youth Baseball  Rogers Otsego Adult Softball  Northland Little League  Rogers Otsego Softball Association	Following through with the proposed improvements defined under the plan would alleviate most of the near-term concerns about facility supply.	The need for a four-field complex for softball, general use, and youth baseball is envisioned to accommodate anticipated growth in facility demand and provide greater opportunities for tournament play. The need for another full-size Ball Diamond is also anticipated over time given expected growth in the program.
<b>Hockey Rinks</b>	Rogers Youth Hockey Association	New indoor arena will significantly reduce local demand, but some unmet demand for ice time is still likely. Adding an outdoor rink would also help alleviate near-term concerns about facility supply.	The need for an additional indoor rink is a strong possibility, especially if it is to serve participants from outside the city. The need for up to three more outdoor rinks is also anticipated over time given expected growth in program.
<b>Basketball Courts</b>	Rogers Youth Basketball Association	The basketball program primarily uses indoor facilities, of which there is already a lack of space for practices. Size limits on programs may be required in the next 2 to 3 years if new space is not available. 1 new gym is minimum, with 3 being optimal to effectively meet needs.  The basketball program does not rely heavily on outdoor basketball courts.	Continued growth in demand is expected, as common with the other sports in a growing community. Exact number of new gyms needed is too hard to predict with the available information.
<b>Tennis Court</b>	None	The demand for tennis courts is not linked to any specific program. No new courts are envisioned in the near term.	Adding new courts over time should be based on known demand.
<b>Volleyball Court (sand)</b>	None	The demand for volleyball courts is not linked to any specific program. Adding two new courts as summarized in the table on page 3.12 would alleviate any near-term concerns about facility supply.	Adding new courts over time should be based on known demand.

\* The facility demand summary relates primarily to information from the defined user groups. It is presumed that the same mix of facilities will support the School District's and City's programming needs as well. In the case of Rogers, growth of community-based recreation programs in the longer-term may add to the demand for certain types of facilities.



### *Facility Demand*

The information gained from interviews with local associations provides a reasonable level of confidence about understanding nearer-term demands and developing a strategy that maximizes the efficient use of existing facilities. Although keeping track of athletic facility supply and demand in a more complete and objective way is a top priority for guiding longer-term decisions, the information gained as part of this process for nearer-term decisions is adequate since overall growth in facility demand has yet to reach its peak. In other words, any over capacity that might occur in decisions made in the next few years will ultimately be absorbed through growth in demand. Likewise, any shortages will be recognized and can be addressed in future facility development decisions. Notably, as the demand for facilities reaches its peak in the future, it will be increasingly important that the city be able to objectively understand true demand to avoid over or under development of facilities since the opportunity to make adjustments in the mix of facilities thereafter would be more difficult and potentially costly.

### *Strategy for Athletic Facilities – Nearer-Term (Existing Sites)*

The primary strategy for balancing nearer-term facility supply and demand is through phased redevelopment of some existing sites and facilities to maximize the efficiency of the system. To accomplish this, the City worked with the School District, local associations, and various user groups to define the optimal mix of facilities at the various sites to meet current or projected demand. The following table highlights the outdoor facility count as of 2017 and highlights the proposed redevelopments defined under this plan.

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## BENEFITS OF CONSOLIDATING PROGRAMMED ATHLETIC SITES

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- 1 MAXIMIZE PROGRAMMING EFFICIENCIES AND ECONOMIES OF SCALE
- 2 LIMITS PROGRAMMING AT NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
- 3 CLOSER ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PLAYERS, PARENTS, AND COACHES DURING SCHEDULED EVENTS
- 4 GREATER CONVENIENCES, SUCH AS PARKING, RESTROOMS, AND CONCESSIONS
- 5 CAPACITY TO GENERATE REVENUE TO OFFSET OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

City Sites	Outdoor Facility Count as of 2017									Outdoor Facility Count with Proposed Redevelopment						
	Multi-purpose Field / Athletic Green Space	Ball Diamond 280' Agg-lime Infield	Ball Diamond 200' or < Agg-lime Infield	Ball Diamond 350- 375' Grass Infield	Diamond 200- 225' Grass Infield	Hockey Rink	Outdoor Tennis Court/ Pickleball	Volleyball Court	Multi-purpose Field / Athletic Green Space	Ball Diamond 280' Agg-lime Infield	Ball Diamond 200' or < Agg-lime Infield	Ball Diamond 350- 375' Grass Infield	Diamond 200- 225' Grass Infield	Hockey Rink	Outdoor Tennis Court/ Pickleball	Volleyball Court
Lynch Park	1.5	1							1.5	1	1					
North Community Park	2.5	3							2.5	3	1					2
Reservoir Fields								2						2		
Rogers Activity Center						1								1*		
Lions Central Park			1							1					1	
<b>Total City Sites:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>JPA Sites**</b>																
Hassan Elementary School	1		2						1	2				2		
Rogers Elementary School	2		2						2	2				2		
Rogers Middle School	2		2	2			6		2	2	2			1	6	
Rogers High School	6		3	2					6	3	2				8	
South Community Park									3				4	2	4	
<b>Total JPA Sites:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Private***</b>																
Mary Queen of Peace	1								1							
Walburga			2							2						
<b>Overall Total:</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>

Total Ball Diamonds in 2017: 20

Total Multi-Purpose Fields in 2017: 16

Total Ball Diamonds with Redevelopment: 25

Total Multi-Purpose Fields with Redevelopment: 17

Change in number of facilities of stated type will occur under proposed redevelopment scenario (increase or decrease)

Note: This list includes only actively programmed/ reservable venues through the City of Rogers Parks department.

Note: When South Community Park is developed maintenance and oversight responsibility of the existing fields on Rogers Elementary School site will be transferred to the City (South Community Park), which is reflected in the above chart.

\* The outdoor sheet will be removed when second indoor sheet is added at the RAC.

\*\* Joint Power Agreement (JPA) sites are sites with a cooperative agreement between two organizations where land or improvements may be owned or operated by either party. See pages 3.16-17 for more information.

\*\*\* Private Sites have been included in this list to reflect that even though the City of Rogers does not control them, the sites are fulfilling a community need.

**FIELD  
MAINTENANCE NOTE**

*As noted above, it is anticipated that with the inclusion of the proposed fields The city should be well positioned to meet the needs of the users. However, as demand grows and the need to maintain and/or take a field out of commission for a season to address compaction, surfacing, and/or safety issues it will be critical the city has sufficient fields still in play to allow for this necessary maintenance.*

*The city should also continue to evaluate whether there is demand to convert a key field to synthetic turf.*

**Strategy for Athletic Facilities – Longer-Term**

Over time, the demand for athletic facilities will grow in sync with population growth. Growth of other nearby communities within the school district will also occur, with at least some of those new participants likely using facilities in Rogers. The longer-term strategy makes the assumption that other communities will provide facilities to support their share of participants in recreation programs. If that does not occur, demand for facilities in Rogers will increase even more significantly as participants from outside the primary service area are accommodated on facilities within Rogers.

The extent to which the demand for specific types of facilities will grow over the longer-term is hard to predict with certainty due to several factors:

- Participation rates for existing programs may change over time due to trends
- Programs may change in terms of season
- New sports may emerge

**Ultimate Level of Athletic Facility Development**

Given where the city is at in its growth cycle, the ultimate level athletic development cannot be determined with absolute confidence. In the shorter-term, this is not a major concern since the City will “grow into” the system. Over the long-term, this becomes a much more significant concern to avoid over-development of facilities that goes beyond what the community is willing or capable of supporting. Prior to any development beyond what is outlined in this plan the City is encouraged to thoroughly access supply and demand to make sure that what is ultimately built is actually needed to support local demand.



### *Keeping Track of Athletic Facility Supply and Demand as a Top Priority*

Rogers and Community Education currently parcel out facilities on a permit basis to local user groups, with each group getting a certain percentage of available facilities relative to the number of participants. In 2017, city and school district facilities supported a multitude of local associations as previously defined. Although this approach has worked well in the past, the growth in the population and resultant facility demand will require a more robust system for tracking true demand and managing facility use to ensure the right mix of facilities is available and that each is efficiently scheduled. Currently, the City has limited ability to accomplish this.

Staying on top of the demand for athletic facilities is critical given the costs to acquire land and develop, operate, and maintain facilities. For this reason, establishing a more solid understanding of athletic facility supply and demand by working more closely with user groups should be a nearer-term priority (i.e., within the next 5 years). This will allow the City to gain greater confidence in determining the land area and right mix of facilities needed to meet future needs as they manifest. The following process is recommended to better position the city to gather this information:

Since the 2007 Plan was developed the City has made significant progress in tracking facility use and demand. A common registration tracking and scheduling system has been implemented, which should continue to be utilized and refined to better analyze the system and increase efficiency. Implementation of a use policy for the various groups, associations, leagues, etc. is still an area the City can improve upon and should be further developed.





### NATURAL OPEN SPACE (GREENWAY) SYSTEM

The open spaces (greenways) envisioned under this system plan primarily relate to undeveloped areas within the City. Setting aside some portion of these lands as development occurs for open space preservation and trail corridors was a major goal of the 2007 System Plan and continues to be a major goal today. Within the current city limits, the opportunity to set aside land for open space is relatively limited.

The natural open space system consists of publicly-owned lands (held by the city or other public agencies) and privately-owned lands that would be perpetually preserved as natural open space, most often through the use of conservation easements negotiated with developers and landowners as land is developed.

There are only a few publicly-owned parcels scattered throughout the city and township. Although park dedication will continue to be used in select instances to acquire open space, it alone will not be sufficient to achieve the full vision for the natural open space system.

The most desirable land for inclusion in the open space system is based on evaluation of the natural resource qualities of undeveloped properties, which are primarily found in the southern and western portions of the City. Since the vast majority of these lands are privately-owned, setting aside any portion of them for open space will require a high level of collaboration and flexibility between the City and landowners/developers to achieve win-win outcomes that serve everyone's best interests. It is very unlikely that this type of open space system can be realized through public funding alone.



### Natural Open Space Characteristics

The natural open space corridors highlighted on the system plan primarily relate to lands exhibiting natural qualities based on vegetative land cover analysis using the Minnesota Land Cover and Classification System (MLCCS). As shown, the system plan combines these lands into a simplified color scheme. These lands are defined under two zones, as the following considers.



#### NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTED AREA (WETLANDS)

Generally consists of water bodies and wetland areas that have some level of protection under current regulatory controls and ordinances.  
Specific areas included in this zone:

DESIGNATED LAKES AND WATER BODIES

WETLAND COMPLEXES

NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES LISTED ON THE COUNTY  
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Under protected status, development within this area is extensively controlled and most often prohibited. Under established regulatory rules, any encroachment into these areas typically requires special permitting and mitigation. As protected lands, the city can generally rely upon existing State and Federal regulations to preserve these areas as open space within the open space system.



#### NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AREA (UPLANDS)

Consists of upland areas defined under various natural vegetative cover or soil types, including:

UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS THAT SUPPORT RARE PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

OAK FOREST, ASPEN, MAPLE-BASSWOOD, LOWLAND FOREST, AND OTHER NATURAL COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SIGNIFICANT

FLOODPLAIN AREAS AND COUNTY DITCHES OR STREAMS

WATER QUALITY BASINS AND PONDS

PREVIOUSLY RESTORED NATURAL AREAS

Development in the conservation zone is allowed in accordance with city and township zoning codes and development ordinances. Beyond these requirements, the natural values of these lands are not inherently protected. In addition, land ownership and development rights give property owners certain rights to develop their property consistent with local zoning and development requirements. Because of this, the city will have to rely on a variety of strategies if desirable portions of these lands are to be preserved as open space when development occurs.

## ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT GOALS

- ✓ Enhance the health of the ecosystems in the city and township.
- ✓ Preserve and enhance the biological diversity of native habitats.
- ✓ Provide an appropriate balance between resource preservation, recreational use, and development.

### *Natural Resources Stewardship Plan*

The stewardship plan promotes an ecosystem-based approach to managing natural systems. Through a well-defined stewardship program and a concerted, ongoing effort to protect natural areas, confidence can be gained that current threats (e.g., inundation of invasive species, impacts of new development, degradation of water quality) can be effectively mitigated or managed.

The stewardship plan focuses on achieving a sustainable landscape quality. This is defined as the point at which Rogers can indefinitely maintain a certain acceptable level of resource quality within the context of realistic limits – which is contingent upon two primary factors:

- Public understanding of and commitment to natural resource preservation and stewardship programs
- Undertaking ecological restoration and management programs that are scientifically sound and technically feasible

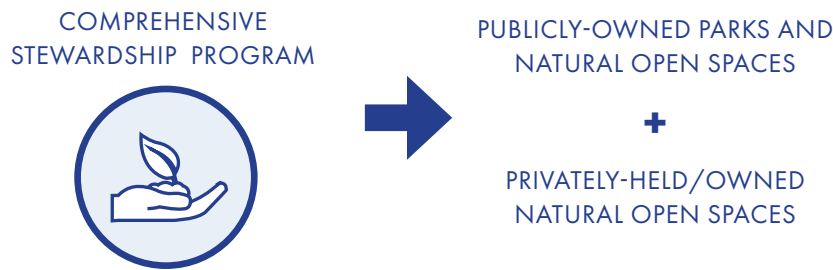
### *A Public –Private Partnership*

Undertaking a natural resource stewardship program across the city and township will require a close partnership with landowners, and private developers to be successful. The City alone will not likely have the financial resources to both set aside land for open space or parks and provide stewardship for those lands. Setting aside land for preserved natural areas and providing perpetual stewardship of those lands will have to be accomplished as part of the development process if it is to occur. Achieving these goals will have to be balanced against flexibility given to the developer to maintain the economic viability of a development.

### *Dual Track Stewardship Strategy*

The first track relates to publicly-owned parks and natural open spaces. The second track relates to privately-owned natural open space that are protected under conservation easements or land trusts.

Note that in this context, private and public relates to direct ownership, not access. Many privately-owned natural open space parcels will be accessible to the general public (via trails) as part of developers' agreements associated with establishing open spaces and destination trails as development occurs. Each of these tracks requires different stewardship strategies.



### Stewardship Action Steps for Publicly Owned Parks and Open Spaces

The stewardship strategy establishes a road map toward realizing a more healthy and vibrant natural landscape and achieving the stated vision. The following defines the action steps for developing and implementing a stewardship program as it relates to public lands.



### Stewardship Strategy for Privately-Owned Natural Open Space

Establishing a stewardship program for privately-owned land is tied to the development planning process, as is the actual setting aside of land for open space as defined in this plan. Since these programs are not inherently mandated, the City will have to rely on collaborations with the developers and landowners if stewardship programs are to be integrated into land development packages. The extent to which land included under the natural resource conservation area will actually be protected will be based on many factors, the most important being the incentives the City gives to landowners and developers in exchange for protecting these lands.



# DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT CONTROLS

To protect all interests, the developer's agreement as it relates to stewardship programs should include the following provisions:

- 
**Definition of a Stewardship Program**  
*(relates to the construction, restoration, maintenance, and monitoring of natural ecological systems as part of the designated development proposal)*
- 
**Fund Agreement**  
*(relates to the establishment of a perpetual funding source for long-term stewardship program within the designated development)*
- 
**Areas Covered Under the Stewardship Program**  
*(most often being legally defined under a conservation easement)*
- 
**Stewardship Program Phases**  
*(typically includes two phases: 1) development phase and 2) long-term stewardship phase. Under the development phase, the developer would bear the cost of stewardship. Once the development is complete, a homeowners association takes over stewardship responsibility through an established fund)*
- 
**Stewardship Program Technical Requirements**  
*(defines the technical specifications for restoring, managing, maintaining, and monitoring designated natural areas)*
- 
**Restriction of Uses**  
*(defines uses that cannot occur in conservation areas)*
- 
**Signage of the Conservation Easement**  
*(stipulates the type of signage required to define the limits of the preserved areas)*
- 
**Protocol for Administration of the Stewardship Program**  
*(stipulates the administrative procedures for program oversight and the city's legal authority to take action if the agreement is not fulfilled)*

## Collaborative Approach to Land Development

Collaboration with developers as the community continues to develop will be essential for the City to achieve its open space and trail corridor objectives.

The technically based practices, techniques, and phases associated with private stewardship programs are consistent with those ascribed for public land. The primary difference is that these programs are generally funded as part of an overall developer's agreement with the City. Depending on the economies of a specific development and the public values ascribed to the area, the City may also participate in some aspects of these stewardship programs.

Under this approach, cities allow themselves more flexibility to work with developers to achieve the desired public values within the context of the economic viability of a development. In Rogers, the current planned unit development (PUD) ordinance gives the City the authority to participate in this type of process and allows the City Council to decide which outcomes are in the best interest of the community. The City, in collaboration with landowners or developers, will undoubtedly need to rely more heavily on the use of well-managed collaborative process if it is to achieve the vision for the open space system.

The main value of this approach is that it allows for more creativity in development planning to accommodate specific public values being sought by the city consistent with its vision. Consistent with this plan, the park, open space preservation, and trail values being sought typically include:

- Preserving natural open spaces and greenways and viewsheds
- Preserving or enhancing the quality of local ecological systems
- Establishing a privately-funded endowment program for long-term natural resources maintenance and stewardship
- Managing stormwater/improving water quality through natural Best Management Practices
- Providing public park and trail opportunities
- Preserving the overall aesthetic quality and rural character of the community

Note: The city has been working collaboratively with three rivers park district to build trail segments incrementally as developer agreements are completed and termination points are able to be located at strategic destinations.

The following development plan illustrates the intended outcome achieved through a collaborative approach to land development between a city and private developer that resulted in public values consistent with the greenway vision defined in this section. In this case, over half of the total land area would be protected under the conservation easement. In addition, conservation development agreements of this nature also include establishing long-term endowment fund for ecological stewardship; and providing funding for park and trail-related improvements. In return, the city typically allows the developer more flexibility in lot sizes, densities, etc. in order to make the development economically viable and marketable. This example is used to illustrate the level of cooperation needed for each development project if the City is to fully realize the vision set forth in this plan.



# LAND-USE CONTROLS

Land use guidelines, zoning, and standard development policies and ordinances will continue to play a key role in managing development in Rogers, including protecting open spaces. Specifically, this includes:

-  Land Use Zoning Ordinance
-  Subdivision and Platting Ordinances

There are a number of other strategies and tools that can be used to preserve open space, depending on the circumstances and level of collaboration between the city and developer. These include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

-  Direct Purchase/Fee Simple Acquisition
-  Conservation Easement
-  Purchase or Transfer of Development Rights
-  Overlay Zoning
-  Bonus/Incentive Zoning
-  Development Clustering
-  Natural Resource Protection Zones
-  Land Trusts
-  Deed Restrictions/Mutual Covenants
-  Stewardship Program

## Additional Considerations

### Providing Buffers to Protect Sensitive Ecological Systems

Maintaining buffers between built features and adjacent sensitive natural areas is essential to ensuring their long term ecological quality, diversity, and habitat value. Irrespective of how well subdivisions are designed, all development has an impact on the adjoining natural resource, including habitat fragmentation, soil compaction, increased runoff, and erosion. For these reasons, providing adequate buffers is an essential part of development planning and design.

Given the variability of the situations that may be encountered, the extent to which buffers are provided adjacent to a given trail or development should carefully be considered by a trained specialist as part of the development planning and design process.

### BUFFER WIDTH GUIDELINES

*Buffer widths vary in response to a number of conditions, including:*

*SENSITIVITY OF THE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS BEING IMPACTED*

*SIZE AND SCALE OF THE NATURAL AREA BEING IMPACTED*

*TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT BEING PROPOSED AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR CREATING ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS*

### Water Resources Management

Water resources management refers to managing stormwater across the city in an ecologically-sound manner consistent with the larger ecological vision for the community. The main principles are to manage stormwater using natural infiltration methods and preserve natural hydrology across the city as development occurs. Under this approach, stormwater runoff from roads, buildings, and other built features will be effectively captured and treated prior to reaching downstream wetland, pond, and lake systems.

There are a variety of best practices related to managing stormwater, preventing erosion, and limiting non-point water pollution that have application to future development and complement the guidelines provided in this section. The following highlights several publications that are recommended resources covering many relevant best practices.

#### MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

*The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has developed a manual entitled **Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas** to help local government officials, urban planners, developers, contractors and citizens prevent stormwater-related pollution.*

#### URBAN SMALL SITES BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE MANUAL

*Available through the Metropolitan Council, **The Urban Small Sites Best Management Practice (BMP) Manual** provides information on tools and techniques to assist municipalities and watershed management organizations (WMOs) in guiding development and redevelopment.*

### Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat is a function of ecological quality. The healthier and more diverse the ecological systems found in the community, the more diverse and rich the array of wildlife that can be sustained. Today, the city still retains a capacity to support a diversity of wildlife, albeit that will become less robust as development occurs over time. Preserving as many of the innate natural qualities of the city, its landforms, access to water, and ecological diversity are especially important to wildlife, especially avian and waterfowl species.

Mapping ecological systems, carefully managing the development footprint, and providing buffers adjacent to development collectively reduce habitat fragmentation. In spite of these efforts, fragmentation can still occur if wildlife needs are not specifically considered as development occurs, including development associated with parks and trails. To reduce habitat fragmentation, the physical design and management of trails and other forms of development should incorporate the needs of wildlife and protect the ecological values that are most important to species of greatest conservation need. The following publication is an important resource in this regard and should be referenced as specific development projects are implemented.

*TOMORROW'S HABITAT FOR THE WILD AND RARE: AN ACTION PLAN FOR MINNESOTA WILDLIFE PUBLISHED BY THE MN DNR*



**OBSERVED TRENDS IN ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS** *Without human intervention and conscientious stewardship, the overall trend of ecological systems across the city and township will be toward continued decline, as measured by biodiversity and general ecological health.*

## RELATED PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING ISSUES

### *Park Design & Planning and Facility Standards*

The quality standard for built features within the park system should meet or exceed industry standards for safety and durability. This is especially the case with play equipment, outdoor furniture, and other site amenities where strict standards apply. The design of individual parks should also be of consistent and high quality. Master plans should be prepared for each park prior to their development to ensure that the right mix of amenities are provided and the park's design is cohesive with and complementary to the design for other parks and public spaces within the City. The city's standard practices for public participation in the design and planning process should continue to be used for each park development project.

### *Accessibility and Safety*

Guidelines for universal design, accessibility, and safety are important considerations in developing parks and recreational facilities and must be implemented properly into buildings and park and trail improvement projects. Since these publications change frequently, it is recommended that the city obtains the most current versions as provided online from the sources indicated below when considering the development or redevelopment of any given project. Subsequent guidelines and legal standards should also be monitored and incorporated, as well.

### *Parks Signage Program*

A comprehensive signage program carried uniformly throughout the parks and trail system is important to providing a consistent message and information to park and trail visitors. Typically, a signage program includes park and trail names, direction to features, general information and rules, and ecological stewardship program and interpretive information.



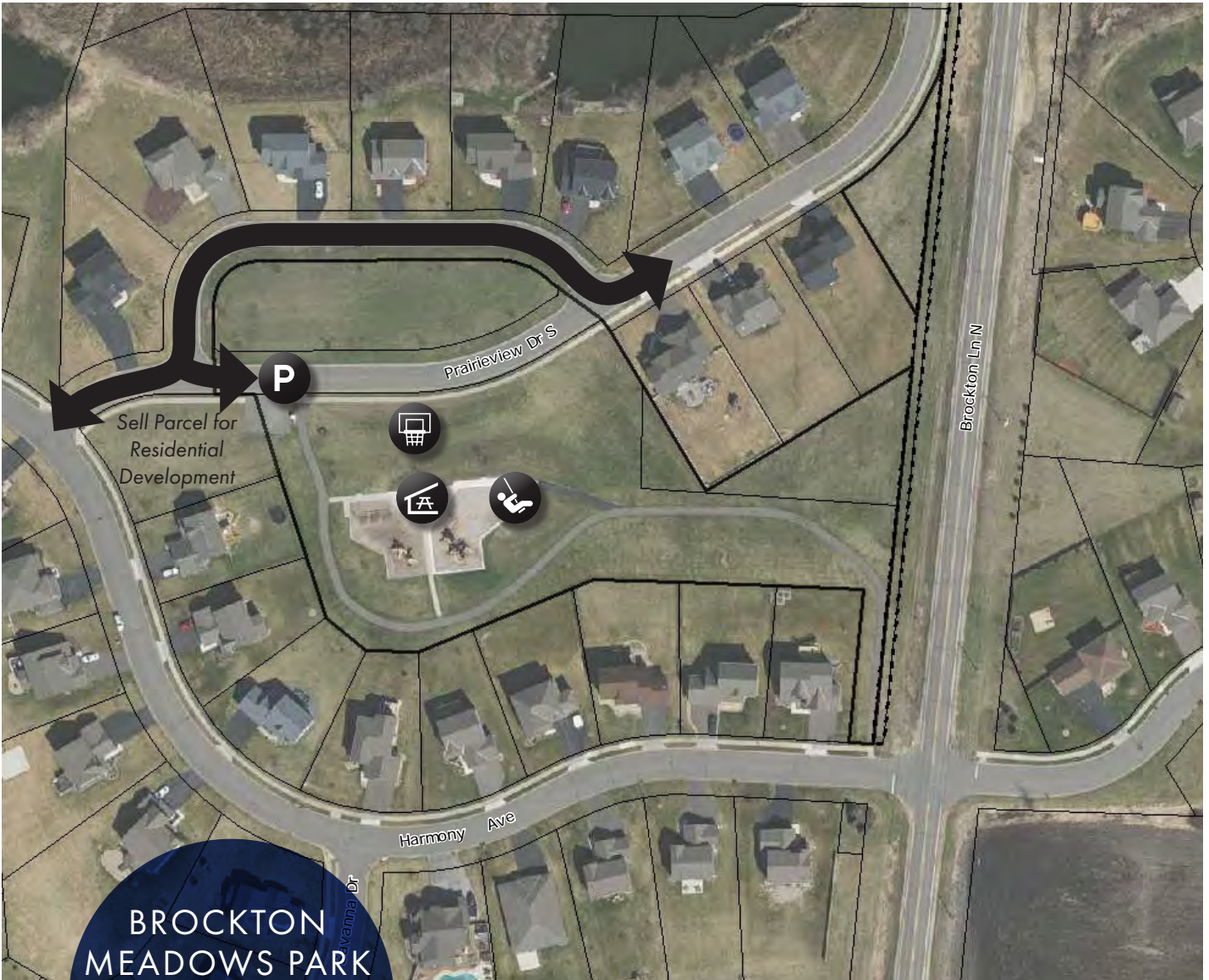


## PARK DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The following provides general overviews of each park based on field evaluations at a system plan-level. Recommendations on future development of parks and trails are also provided to help guide future decisions by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council.

### LEGEND

	Entrance Monument Sign		Play Area / Equipment
	Wayfinding / Educational Signage		Sledding Hill
	Roadway		Basketball / Hard Court
	Parking		Sand Volleyball
	Multi-Use Paved Trail		Amphitheater
	Paved Pedestrian Trail		Shade / Picnic Shelter
	Natural Surface Pedestrian Trail		Concessions + Restroom Building
	Staircase		Portable Restroom + Enclosure
	Swimming Pool		Community Building
	Watercraft Access		Overlook Structure
	Canoe / Kayak Launch		Wildlife Viewing
	Informal Lawn Space		Vegetative Buffer
	Tennis / Pickelball		Prairie Restoration/Pollinator Habitat
	Ball Diamond		Soccer



**BROCKTON MEADOWS PARK**

**CLASSIFICATION**

Neighborhood Park

**SIZE**

4.2 acres

3.6 ACRES

Existing

4.2 ACRES

Proposed (as shown)

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

- ✓ Incorporate a 1/2 court basketball court and/or multi-use hard court surface adjacent to the existing play area
- ✓ Incorporate a shade / picnic shelter structure within the paved surface between the two play areas
- ✓ Incorporate a unique play equipment piece within the eastern play area
- ✓ Remove roadway section between green spaces to enlarge the park space and re-align Prairieview Drive South as shown
- ✓ Provide a 4-6 stall parking lot as shown
- ✓ Sell parcel in SE corner of Prairieview Drive South and Harmony Avenue for residential development
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties
- ✓ Consider reducing amount of mowed lawn space and convert to native prairie especially around the perimeter of the park



## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Incorporate a shade / picnic shelter structure (should occur when the play equipment is replaced)
- ✓ Incorporate a unique play equipment piece when the play equipment is replaced
- ✓ Improve park access along the western side of the park
- ✓ Provide a pedestrian trail connection to the proposed future single-family residential development
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties
- ✓ Clean up and simplify the existing landscaping
- ✓ Incorporate educational signage and trail connections through the southern stormwater basins

## BROOKSIDE MEADOWS PARK

### CLASSIFICATION

Neighborhood Park

### SIZE

8.9 acres

*Maser Plan Note: When the existing play equipment and sports court are due for replacement the overall park layout and design should be reevaluated and an updated master plan prepared. The history of the park and adjacent farm could be considered as the theme for the future plan and improvements. Installation of the proposed physical structures noted above would occur after an updated plan has been prepared.*



**CAMBRIA FARMS PARK**

CLASSIFICATION  
Greenway / Open Space

SIZE  
9.1 acres

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

- Maintain open hillside for informal sledding use
- Provide an overlook pier / picnic area as shown
- Provide accessible trail connection to pond and a direct stair connection between the parking lot and overlook pier / picnic area
- Continue multi-use paved trail connection as shown for connection to future local trail system



### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- See pages 3.38 and 3.39 for the 2018 Cowley Lake Park Master Plan.

**COWLEY  
LAKE PARK**

**CLASSIFICATION**  
Community Park

**SIZE**  
17.4 acres



COWLEY LAKE PARK 2018 MASTER PLAN



## DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

See legend below for proposed development considerations.

### Parking + Circulation ||

- ① Proposed Parking
  - Approx. 57 total stalls

### Trails ||

- ② Bituminous Trail Loop
  - 10' wide
- ③ Accessible Concrete Walk + Stairway
  - 5' wide
- ④ Overlook Area
  - 40 square feet
  - Benches and waste receptacle
- ⑤ Boardwalk
  - 5' wide
- ⑥ Fishing Pier
  - 8' wide

### Facilities ||

- ⑦ Event Space
  - Repurposed house
  - Enhanced deck and entrance plaza
- ⑧ Canoe/Kayak Building
  - Storage and rental
  - 20' x 20'
- ⑨ Picnic Shelter
  - 20' x 20', open-air
  - Picnic tables, grills, and waste receptacle
- ⑩ Play Area
  - 5,000-7,000 square feet with nature theme
- ⑪ Archery Range
  - 5-7 targets, max distance 95 yards
- ⑫ Existing Maintenance Building
  - Includes 2-3 parking stalls for maintenance vehicles
- ⑬ Park Entrance
  - Monument sign
  - Driveway gate

### Landscaping ||

- Invasive species removal
- Select tree clearing @ overlook points
- Native landscaping + restoration



**CROW-HASSAN PARK RESERVE**

**CLASSIFICATION**

Park Reserve

**SIZE**

2,240.3 acres

2,188 ACRES  
Existing within Rogers

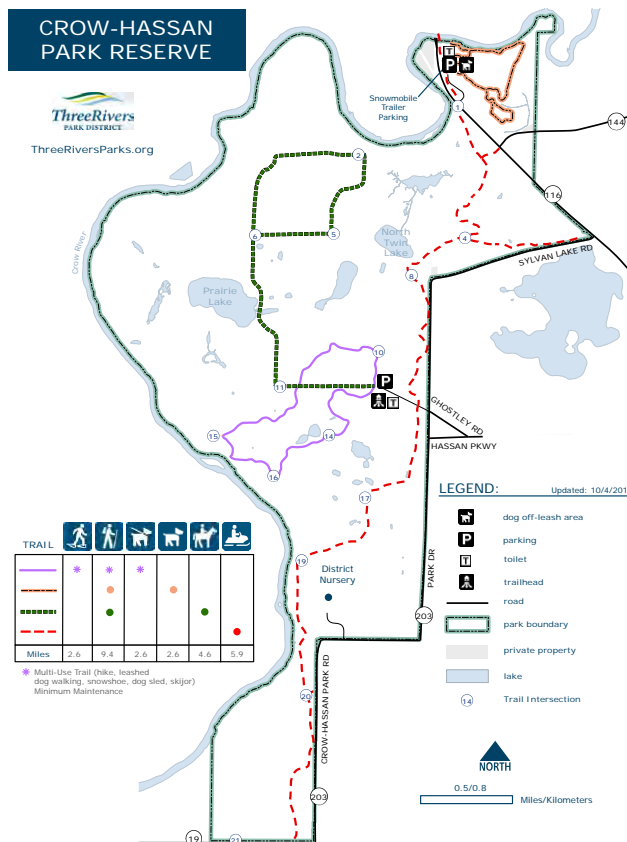
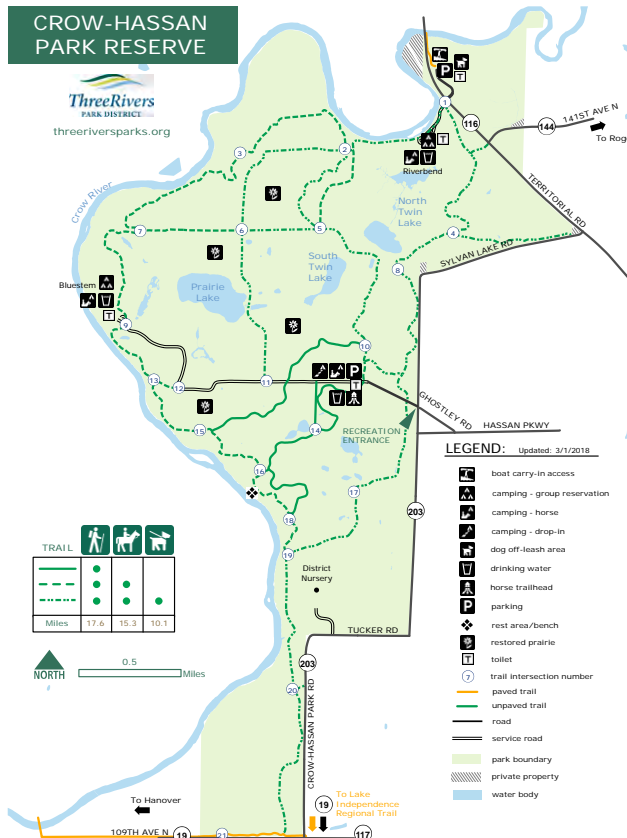
2,636 ACRES  
Existing Total (in and outside of Rogers)

**DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

Crow-Hassan Park Reserve is operated and maintained by Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) and is one of 12 park reserves within the regional system. Crow Hassan’s role within the District’s overall system is to provide primitive facilities and nature/resource-based activities and is not intended for active uses or heavy development within the core area of the Park. Currently there is 2.57 acres of Crow-Hassan Park Reserve confirmed inholdings yet to be acquired.

The idea of developing a ‘Sister Park’ in the NE portion of the Park is currently not part of TRPD’s or the Met Council’s formal development plans. However, this option should be further explored between the City and TRPD in 2018 when TRPD embarks on developing a new master plan for the park.





### EXISTING FACILITIES + AMENITIES

- Boating & Paddling: A carry-in/out watercraft access
- Group Campsites: Four are available by reservation; each can accommodate groups of 20-80 people; two sites are drive-in horse campsites and two sites are ride-in horse campsites. Additionally, there is one first come, first serve, walk-in site.
- Cross-Country Skiing, Skijoring & Dog Sledding: 2.6 miles of ungroomed/packed multi-use trails. Restrooms are at the trailhead and at the outermost area of the perimeter loop.
- Off Leash Dog Area: 40-acre, unfenced dog off-leash area. Daily or annual pass is required.
- Dog Trails: 10 miles of trail designated for dog walking during the summer months and nearly three miles for winter walking.
- Geocaching: Geocache sites are located throughout the park.
- Turf Hiking: Nearly 18 miles are designated for summer hiking and almost 10 miles are designated during the winter.
- Horseback Riding Trails: The park includes over 15 miles of summer trails that take riders through the reestablished tall grass prairie and along the scenic Crow River. There are nearly five miles of winter trails in the interior of the park with scenic vistas.
- Snowmobiling: Nearly six miles of trail provides links through the park along the eastern boundary to state Grants-in-Aid snowmobile trails. Snowmobile trailer parking is available at the park. A daily or season trailer parking pass is required.
- Snowshoeing: 2.6 miles of ungroomed/packed multi-use trails. Restrooms are at the trailhead and at the outermost area of the perimeter loop.



**CROW RIVER  
HEIGHTS PARK**

**CLASSIFICATION**  
Neighborhood Park

**SIZE**  
1.1 acres

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

- ✓ Remove sand volleyball court
- ✓ Provide 4-6 stall parking lot (in sand volleyball location)
- ✓ Incorporate an accessible watercraft access and fishing platform along Crow River (Will require DNR approval), including an accessible walkway connection from the proposed parking lot, wayfinding signage, and picnic areas.
- ✓ Provide an accessible walkway connection from the proposed parking lot to the existing play container
- ✓ Provide a portable restroom on a concrete pad
- ✓ Consider reconfiguring the existing play container when the plans for the proposed parking lot are developed and implement the play container changes when the play equipment needs to be replaced
- ✓ Continue to protect and manage the existing natural resources within the park and open space



### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Enhance the existing parking lot to include trailhead amenities such as portable restroom and enclosure, picnic tables / benches, wayfinding signage, trash / recycling receptacles, small picnic / shade structure, bike repair station, etc. Note: these improvements to be implemented when the regional trail is established.
- ✓ Incorporate future proposed regional trail through southern park parcel as shown, including a connection to the parking lot / trailhead area
- ✓ Continue to protect and manage the existing natural resources within the park and open space

## DAYSPRING ESTATES PARK

CLASSIFICATION  
Greenway / Open Space

SIZE  
45.3 acres



## DUTCH KNOLLS PARK

CLASSIFICATION  
Neighborhood Park

SIZE  
0.4 acres

### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Dutch Knolls Park is located directly south of the proposed South Community Park which will primarily serve the athletic needs of the community. As the master plan is developed for South Community Park connectivity to and the relationship between the two parks should be carefully considered. Dutch Knolls should still serve as the local Neighborhood Park, but maintain pedestrian connectivity to the larger park unit and amenities.

- ✓ Provide a shade / picnic shelter adjacent to the play area
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties
- ✓ Additional parking could be considered in this area if it makes sense with the overall South Community Park Plan. However, this should be a secondary access point / parking area to respect the adjacent residential neighborhood.



## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The open green space east of the park is owned by the developer of the residential development and the parcel was originally intended to include a Club House, but there is some uncertainty to the likelihood of this. The City has interest in adding amenities such as a hard court surface and potentially a tennis court within this area and given access and visibility within the neighborhood the City should pursue negotiations with the developer to acquire this parcel.

- ✓ Provide an accessible walkway connection from the existing park lot to the paved trail
- ✓ Provide an overlook pier / picnic area as shown along with an accessible trail connection
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties
- ✓ Reduce the amount of mowed lawn space around the wetland areas and convert to native prairie to improve water quality and to define the park space from private properties

## EDGEWATER PARK

CLASSIFICATION  
Neighborhood Park

SIZE  
3.3 acres



## ERICKSON PARK

CLASSIFICATION  
Neighborhood Park

SIZE  
1.0 acres

### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Provide a shade / picnic shelter adjacent to the play area
- ✓ Install a barrier (decorative fence or 3-4' high shrubs) between the play area and the adjacent street
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties



## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Remove the existing agg-lime ballfield surfacing and backstop and regrade and seed to create an open play area
- ✓ Expand the playground as shown while preserving the existing memorial trees
- ✓ Remove and realign a portion of the existing trail and provide an internal loop connection as shown
- ✓ Provide a shade / picnic shelter adjacent to the play area and open lawn space as shown
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties

## FOX CREEK WEST PARK

CLASSIFICATION  
Neighborhood Park

SIZE  
7.5 acres



**HASSAN  
ELEMENTARY**

CLASSIFICATION  
School

SIZE  
22.3 acres

**DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

There is limited to no opportunity to expand facilities on the existing site. The aesthetic qualities of the site could be improved by adding trees and landscaping.

The potential to expand to the west offer some potential to expand facilities at this site and should be considered as part of the discussion related to setting aside reserve land to meet future demand for athletic facilities. Note, however, that this option has a couple of key limitations, including excessive noise from the adjacent freeway and consolidation of future athletic facilities at a larger site offers some efficiencies not as achievable at this smaller site.

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

- Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping





### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Remove and relocate the existing basketball court adjacent to the play area
- ✓ Provide a shade / picnic shelter adjacent to the play area and open lawn space as shown
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties
- ✓ Convert the existing basketball court site to serve as a trailhead for the regional trail system and include a small parking lot (4-6 stalls), portable restroom, and other support amenities such as benches, bikes, racks, trash / recycle receptacles, wayfinding signage, etc.
- ✓ Provide a trail connection from Hassan Hills 1 to the regional trail / greenway system and Cambria Farms Park as shown
- ✓ Continue to protect and manage the existing natural resources within the park and open space

**HASSAN HILLS 1, 2, & 3 PARKS**

**CLASSIFICATION**  
Neighborhood Park & Greenway / Open Space

**TOTAL SIZE**  
42.8 acres

5.5 ACRES  
Hassan Hills 1 Park

13.8 ACRES  
Hassan Hills 2 Park

22.5 ACRES  
Hassan Hills 3 Park



# HASSAN MEADOW PARK

## CLASSIFICATION

Neighborhood Park

## SIZE

48.0 acres

13.0 ACRES

Size of South Parcel

35.0 ACRES

Size of North Parcel

## DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There is limited connectivity between the northern and southern parcels that make up this park and with the residential development being low density there is little to no demand for additional park amenities or programming within the southern parcel. It is recommended as part of this plan the southern parcel as shown is removed from the park and sold for redevelopment.

## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Remove the existing sand volleyball court and install a new play area
- ✓ Provide a paved or nature trail that follows the existing wetland area as shown and incorporate rest stops and/or wildlife viewing opportunities
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties
- ✓ Continue to protect and manage the existing natural resources within the park and open space



## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Provide a 3-season pavilion with amenities to facilitate maple syrup harvesting and education classes. The character of the building could have a maple syrup / barn theme.
- ✓ Provide a paved trail connection from the Park to the City-wide trail system as shown
- ✓ Incorporate wayfinding / educational signage at key points throughout the park and at nature trail entrance points
- ✓ Continue to protect and manage the existing natural resources within the park and open space

## HENRY WOODS PARK

### CLASSIFICATION

Community Park

### SIZE

45.9 acres



**ISLAND  
VIEW ESTATES  
PARK**

**CLASSIFICATION**

Neighborhood Park

**SIZE**

5.0 acres

**DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

Island View Estates Park is currently an undeveloped parcel that is intended to be developed as a Neighborhood Park. A master plan for the park should be developed following the design and planning process outlined within this document. In addition to the typical Neighborhood Park amenities this park should provide non-motorized boat lake access to Sylvan Lake and associated parking area as well as allow for a multi-use loop trail around the lake, trail connection to the regional trail system, and Crow-Hassan Park Reserve.



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ See pages 3.54 and 3.55 for the 2018 Lions Central Park Master Plan.



**Formal Garden Enlargement Plan**

N.T.S.

- ① Decorative Perimeter Fencing
  - 4-6' tall black, decorative fence
  - 30" square, decorative stone columns (typ.) with integral lights
- ② Entry Gate
  - Decorative, sliding gate system, 15-20' wide
- Concrete Walk
  - ③ • Standard 4" thick concrete paving
- Colored Concrete Banding
  - ④ • Stamped/stained concrete paving or concrete pavers
- Crushed Granite Paving
  - ⑤ • 6" Compacted depth
- ADA Accessible Ramp
  - ⑥ • Concrete ramp (<5% slope)
- Raised Concrete Curb
  - ⑦ • 14" high, 12" wide
  - Poured in Place concrete
  - Curb rises 2" above grand lawn grade
  - Mounted strip lighting along entire perimeter of curb
- Seating (typ.)
  - ⑧ • 8' Long freestanding bench
  - Recycled lumber or wood
  - Integral lighting (under seat)
- Perimeter Shrub Plantings
  - ⑨ • Potential species could include: Boxwood, Roses, Ornamental Grasses, Arborvitae, and Daylillies
  - Taller arborvitae along roadway (west perimeter)
- Deciduous Shade Trees
  - ⑩ • Potential species could include: Maple, Ginkgo, or Linden
- Grand Lawn
  - ⑪ • Sodded + irrigated
  - Underground drain system
- Future Artwork
  - ⑫ • Sculptural elements
  - Inground uplighting





## DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

See legends for proposed development considerations.

### Parking + Circulation ||

- ① Parking
  - Existing Parking: 80 stalls
  - Proposed Parking: 208 stalls
- ② Drive-thru Drop-off Area
  - Short-term parking with bollard separation between sidewalk
  - Accessible dropped curb

### Trails ||

- ③ Bituminous Trail
  - 12' wide
- ④ Concrete Sidewalk
  - 6-10' wide

### Facilities ||

- ⑤ Multi-Purpose Play Area Building
  - Includes: restrooms, changing rooms and splash pad mechanical system
- ⑥ Multi-Use Event Building

### Features ||

- ⑦ Dog Park
  - Agility/play features
  - Bordered by 4' high perimeter fence
  - 50' x 100'
- ⑧ Community Garden
  - Raised beds, 5' x 15'
  - Crushed granite walking surface
  - Bordered by 4' high decorative fence
  - 8' x 12' Garden storage shed
- ⑨ Formal Garden
  - See Enlargement Plan
- ⑩ Splash Pad
  - Approx. 2,500 square feet
  - Adjacent concrete plaza with shade structures + open lawn area
- ⑪ Existing Playground
  - Enhanced perimeter walkway to align w/ splash pad + plaza design
- ⑫ Synthetic Turf Grand Lawn
- ⑬ Park Sign
- ⑭ Half-Court Basketball
- ⑮ Open Lawn
  - Synthetic turf (alternative option)
- ⑯ Social Bosque
  - Crushed granite surface with landscape buffer from trail
  - Columnar tree plantings
  - Picnic table/cafe table seating
- ⑰ Ornamental Fence
- ⑱ Holiday Tree Location



### DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The park is developed primarily for youth athletic uses and offers few, if any, amenities for neighborhood use. A proposed redevelopment scenario was created in 2007 and included facilities such as a full-size ball diamond in lieu of the existing general purpose field, a little-league sized field, and expansion of the parking lots. Since the 2007 Plan was developed additional property was purchased by the City to primarily facilitate a pedestrian overpass connection over Interstate 94 as shown. Given uncertainty of desires and demand for the space it is recommended that a detailed master plan be developed prior to any future improvements taking place. Current user groups include: VFW, Legions, u17/u19 ball teams, as well as amateur baseball. Short-term improvements could include:

- Provide additional site amenities such as picnic tables, benches, trash/recycle receptacles, etc.
- Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties

**LYNCH PARK**  
 CLASSIFICATION  
 Athletic Facility  
 SIZE  
 20.4 acres





**MEADOW  
LAKES ESTATES  
PARK**

**CLASSIFICATION**  
Greenway / Open Space

**SIZE**  
13.2 acres

**DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

Island View Estates Park is currently an undeveloped parcel that is intended to provide a greenway corridor for a potential future regional trail connection. It is unlikely this parcel will be developed as a Neighborhood Park given the density of the adjacent residential areas, access and visibility, and physical constraints due to the existing natural resources.

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

- Continue to protect and manage the existing natural resources within the park and open space



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Provide a roadway and multi-use trail connection into the park from Rogers Drive, including an entrance / wayfinding sign at the entrance point as shown
- ✓ Provide a parking lot (~100 stalls) between the two existing ballfield as shown.
- ✓ Consider expanding the main concessions building to allow for an outdoor performance stage and venue. The existing open lawn space could be used for spectator seating. Sound and additional traffic generated from concert events should be carefully considered and addressed prior to moving forward with this type of facility.
- ✓ Provide two sand volleyball courts as shown.
- ✓ Provide an additional concessions / restroom building as demand warrants as shown.
- ✓ Provide an enhanced vegetative buffer along the northeastern property line as shown.
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties.

Also refer to Rogers Middle School for additional recommendations.



**NORTHRIDGE PRESERVE**

CLASSIFICATION  
Greenway / Open Space

SIZE  
20.0 acres

### DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Northridge Preserve is currently an undeveloped parcel that is intended to provide a greenway corridor for a potential future regional trail connection. It is unlikely this parcel will be developed beyond the proposed trail improvements given the density of the adjacent residential areas and physical constraints due to the existing natural resources.

### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Continue to protect and manage the existing natural resources within the park and open space



City of Rogers Proposed North Community Park Tennis and Soccer Improvements Area

School District / City of Rogers Proposed High School Improvements Area

**ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL + ACTIVITY CENTER**

**CLASSIFICATION**  
School  
**SIZE**  
90.0 acres

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

- ✓ Provide a roadway and multi-use trail connection into the park from James Road, including an entrance / wayfinding sign at the entrance point as shown
- ✓ Expand the existing parking lot (to ~100 stalls) and pave as shown
- ✓ Consider adding lighting to the fields to expand playing time and maximize the efficiency of the complex
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping

Also see proposed improvements as shown on page 3.58.



City of Rogers Proposed North Community Park Tennis and Soccer Improvements Plan

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

INDOOR TENNIS FACILITY  
(120' x 400')

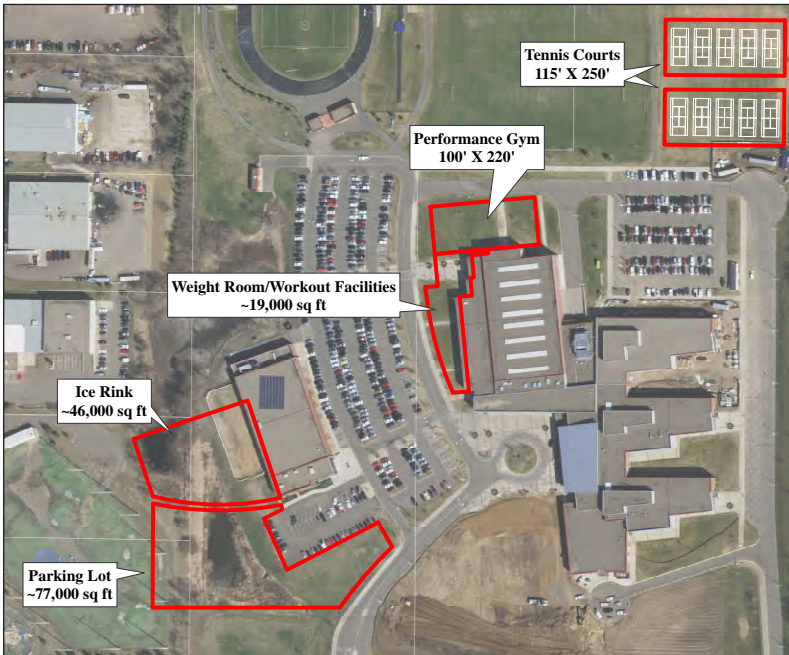
OUTDOOR TENNIS COURTS  
(114' x 190')

SOCCER FIELDS  
(180' x 360')

TRAIL CONNECTIONS  
(Accessible, paved)

ADDITIONAL PARKING  
(~110 stalls)

VEHICULAR ACCESS FROM 147TH AVENUE NORTH  
(Gravel surface with gate at entrance)



School District / City of Rogers Proposed High School Improvements Plan

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

OUTDOOR TENNIS COURTS  
(115' x 250')

PERFORMANCE GYM  
(100' x 220')

WEIGHT ROOM / FITNESS FACILITIES  
(19,000 SF)

ICE RINK  
(~46,000 SF)

PARKING LOT  
(~77,000 SF)



### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Provide an 8-lane indoor lap pool in location shown
- ✓ Provide striping for pickleball on existing tennis courts
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties

Also refer to North Community Park for additional recommendations.



## SHADOW WOODS PARK

CLASSIFICATION  
Neighborhood Park

SIZE  
2.4 acres

### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Shadow Woods Park was recently redeveloped in 2017 adding a new play area, including new equipment, safety surfacing, perimeter walkways, and site furnishings. The following improvements are proposed to complete the overall park enhancements and design:

- ✓ Provide site furnishings, including benches, picnic tables, trash / recycling receptacles
- ✓ Provide a shade / picnic shelter within existing circular plaza space
- ✓ Remove the NE access drive and convert the existing parking area into a hardcourt surface with a basketball hoop
- ✓ Relocate the existing portable restroom near the south parking bay and provide an enclosure
- ✓ Pave the existing parking bay and complete the internal trail loop system as shown



**SOUTH  
COMMUNITY  
PARK + ROGERS  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

**CLASSIFICATION**  
Athletic Facility

**SIZE**  
51.3 acres

23.0 ACRES  
*Rogers Elementary School*

28.3 ACRES  
*South Community Park*

**DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

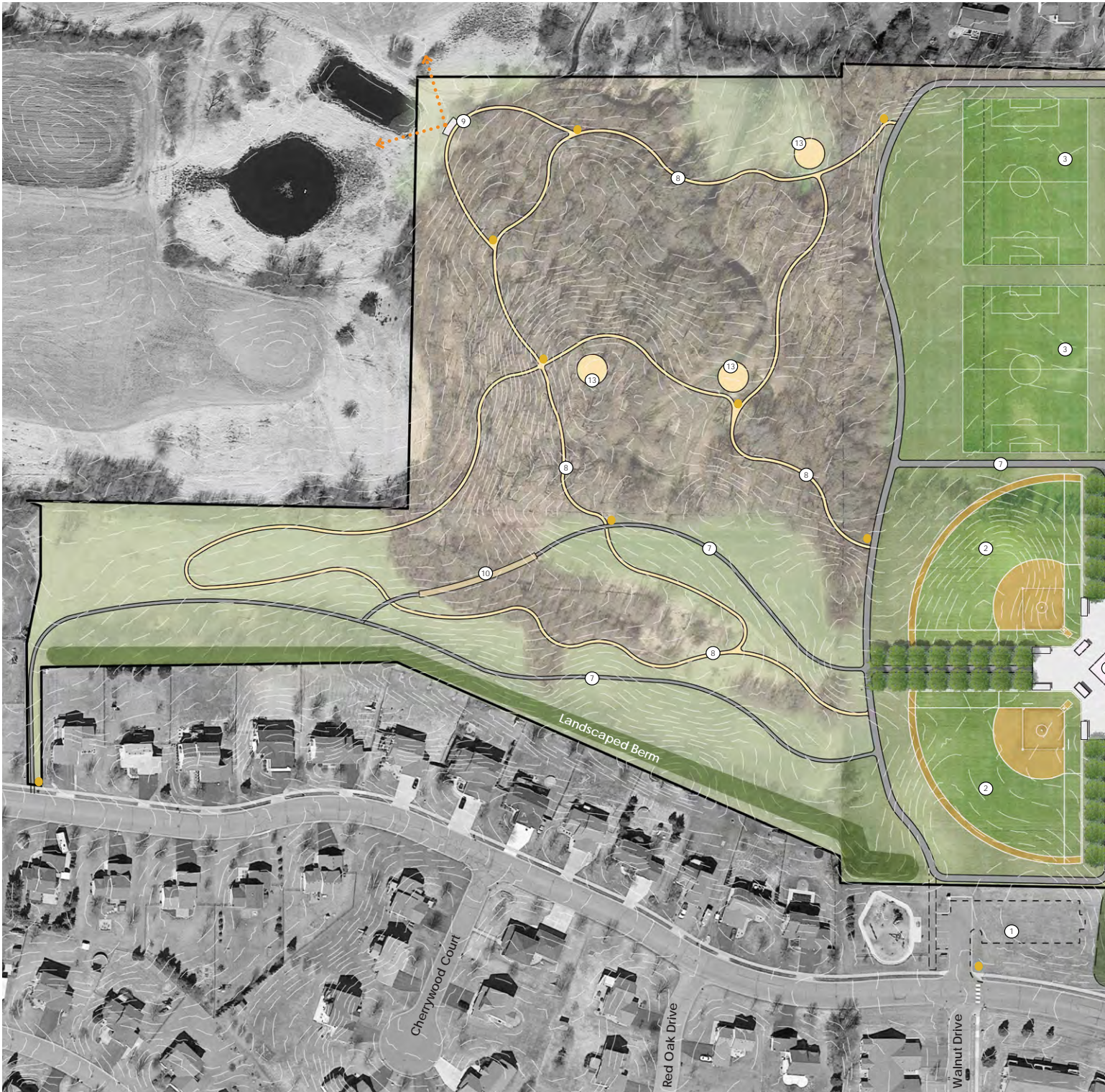
The 2007 Plan proposed redeveloping the existing site to accommodate four general purpose ballfields with two soccer-field sized overlays within the space directly east of the school. As part of the 2017 Plan Update a master plan was developed for the school property in conjunction with South Community Park. The master plan focused on providing youth-oriented athletic facilities that complement the existing facilities and elementary school setting.

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

- ✓ See pages 3.62 and 3.63 for the 2018 South Community Park Master Plan.



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SOUTH COMMUNITY PARK 2018 MASTER PLAN

## DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

See legend below for proposed development considerations.

## Parking + Circulation ||

- ① Proposed Parking
- Expand existing school lot
  - Expand Dutch Knoll lot
- Parking Count Breakdown
- Rogers Elementary Existing: 208 stalls
  - Rogers Elementary Additional Proposed: 50 stalls
  - Dutch Knolls Park Existing: 5 stalls
  - Dutch Knolls Park Additional Proposed: 37 stalls
  - NorthRidge Fellowship Existing: 147 stalls
  - Total Parking + Proposed: 402 stalls

## Athletics Expansion ||

- ② Youth Ballfields
- 4 fields
  - 225' outfield
- ③ Soccer/Lacrosse Fields
- 4 youth fields (180'x240')
  - Space can accommodate 2 full size soccer fields (240'x360')
- ④ Hockey Rinks/Multi-Use Courts
- 2 hockey rinks with boards
  - Can accommodate 6 pickleball courts
  - Roller hockey court in summer months
- ⑤ Leisure Rink
- Maintained lawn space for winter skating
- ⑥ Ninja Warrior Obstacle Course
- Various obstacles to challenge users of all ages

## Trails ||

- ⑦ Bituminous Trail Loop
- 10' wide
- ⑧ Mowed/Natural Surface Trails
- 5' wide
- ⑨ Overlook Area
- 40 sqft elevated deck
- ⑩ Boardwalk
- 5' wide
- ⑪ Crosswalks
- Relocate to improve pedestrian safety

## Education ||

- ⑫ Outdoor Gathering Space
- Amphitheater element for outdoor lessons/performances
  - Shade sails
  - Presentation platform space
- ⑬ Education Pods + Signage
- Educational signage + teaching exercise opportunities
  - Picnic table(s) + waste receptacle(s)

## Facilities ||

- ⑭ Multi-Use Rink Building
- 24'x48'
  - Includes: restrooms, warming area, zamboni storage space
- ⑮ Multi-Use Ballfield Building
- 24'x24'
  - Concessions, restrooms + storage
- Park Signage
- Park + Trail signs





**SUNNYSIDE PARK**

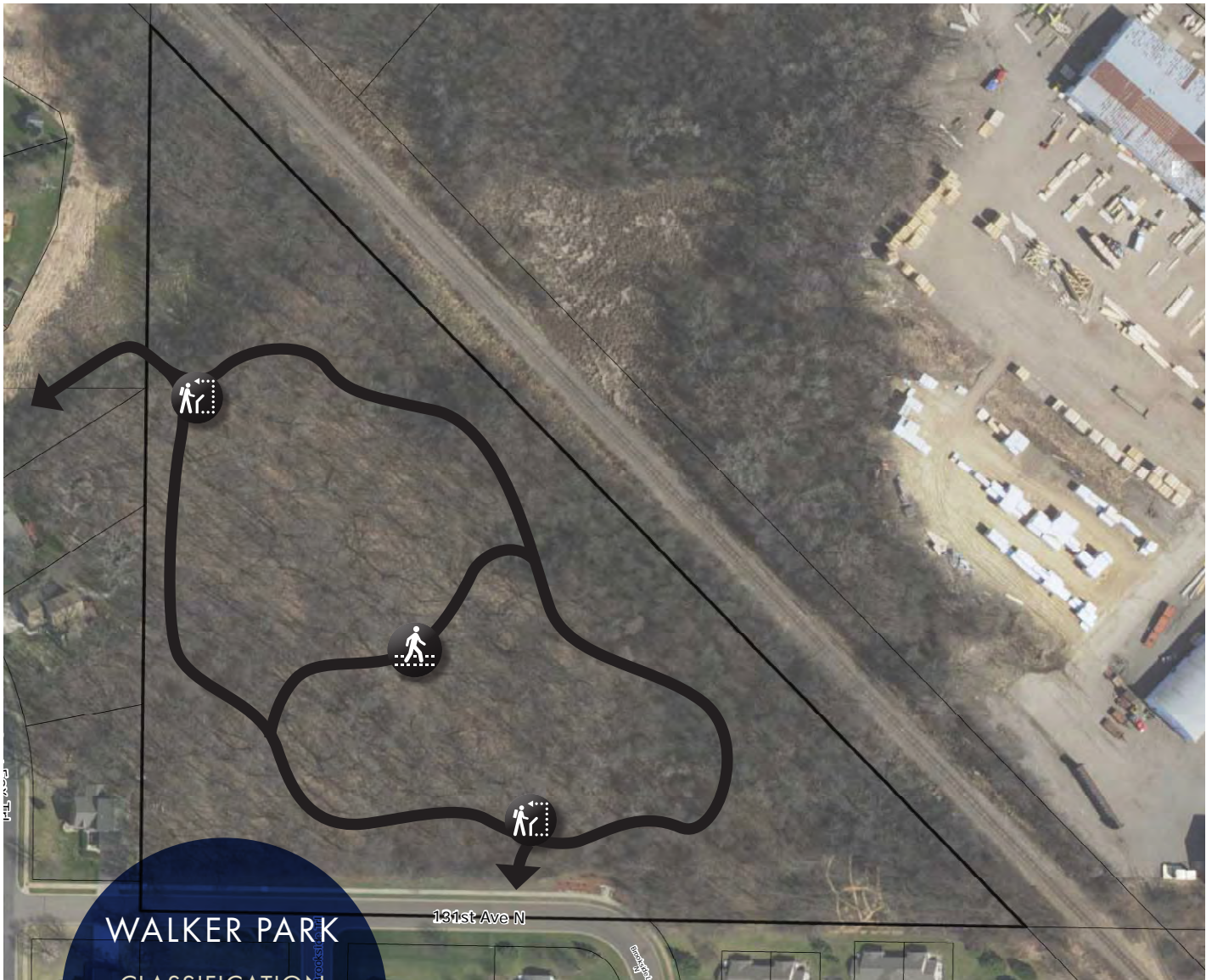
CLASSIFICATION  
Neighborhood Park

SIZE  
10.2 acres

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The park was redeveloped in 2007 which included a new play area, trail connection to the streets north and south of the park, and overall aesthetic enhancements. Given the park parcel is narrow with much of it being undevelopable wetland areas the proposed improvements are relatively limited and are focused around the play area.

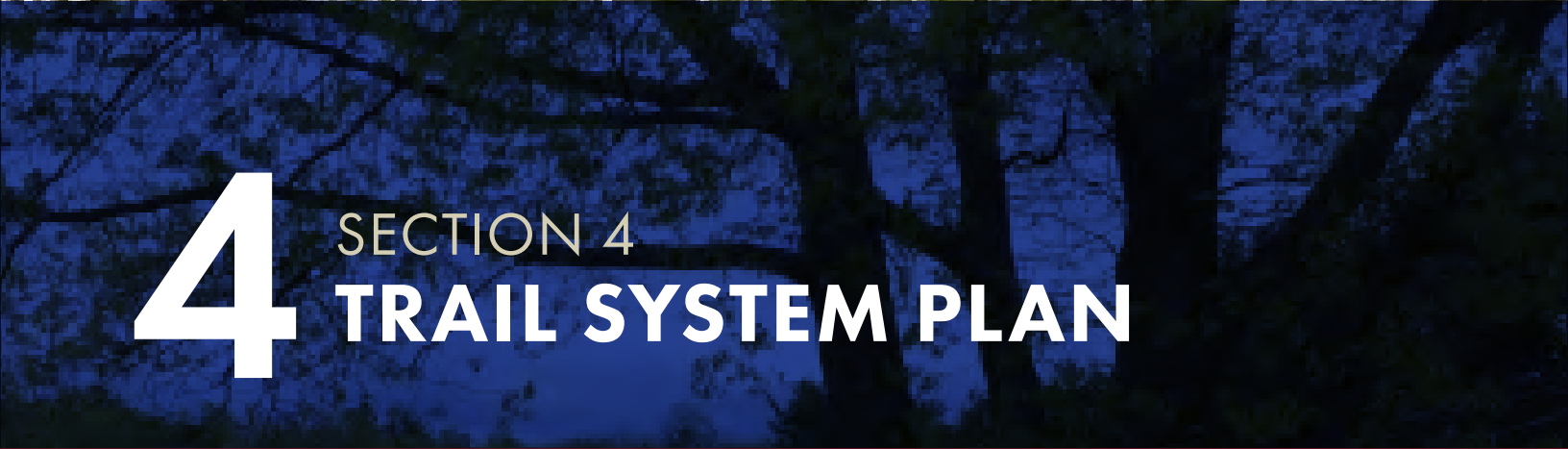
- ✓ Provide a shade / picnic shelter adjacent to the play area
- ✓ Include updated amenities that promote social gathering for all age groups (variety of seating options and areas)
- ✓ Improve overall park aesthetics with additional well-placed landscaping, especially along the property lines of adjacent residential properties and around the play area
- ✓ Continue to protect and manage the existing natural resources within the park and open space



**WALKER PARK**  
 CLASSIFICATION  
 Neighborhood Park  
 SIZE  
 9.3 acres

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

- ✓ Provide a natural-surfaced nature loop system within the park as shown with rest stops (bench seating or picnic table) at 2-3 select locations along the trail
- ✓ Incorporate wayfinding / educational signage as appropriate along the trail loop
- ✓ Continue to protect and manage the existing natural resources within the park



# 4 SECTION 4 TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN



# TRAIL SYSTEM OVERVIEW

As with parks, athletic facilities, and open spaces, the trail system is underpinned by the common vision defined in Sections 1 and 2. The overarching goals of the trail system are to:

1. Develop an interlinking system of high value trails, sidewalks, and on-street bikeways throughout the city that connect with regional trails and trails in adjoining communities
2. Provide reasonable trail access to the natural resource amenities within the community without unduly compromising their integrity and natural qualities
3. Provide an appropriate level of universal accessibility to trails throughout the system

## TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN INTRODUCTION

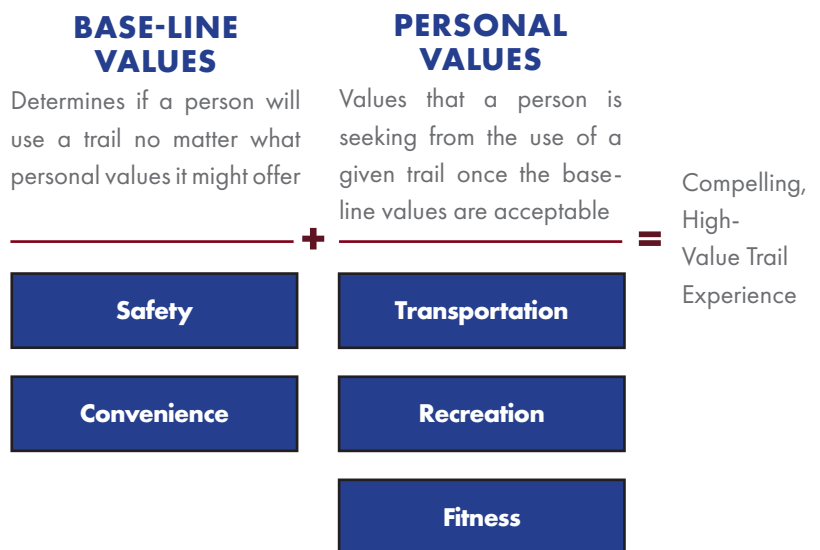
Trails, sidewalks, and on-street bikeways enhance the quality of life for Rogers residents by providing recreational, fitness, and transportation opportunities for multiple users, including people walking, bicycling, and in-line skating. The Rogers trail system plan provides information on trail classifications, the local trail system plan, trail amenities, bicyclist user groups, bikeway types, and design guidance for trails and bikeways.

## TRAIL VALUES

A key concept of the trail guidelines is maximizing the value of trails to local residents. The values ascribed to trails are important because they are at the core of why a person uses a particular trail on a repeat basis. Preference studies clearly indicate that trail users make a distinction between trails based on their perception of value, as figure 4.1 illustrates. Attention to the principles of trail design when trails are being planned will help ensure that each of these values will be maximized, resulting in high-quality trails to which users will return time and again.

**Figure 4.1 – Personal Values Ascribed to Trails**

Source: Modified from MN DNR's Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines (2007)





**Safety and convenience are critical to the success of a trail.** This photo illustrates how open sightlines help improve the perception of safety for trail users. This is especially important when a parent is using the trail with young children.



**High value trails are most often scenic and away from traffic.** This photo illustrates a trail through a greenway system that interlinks with neighborhood parks, making the trail itself a part of the recreational experience.

### Safety

A sense of physical and personal safety is the most important trail value, and without it people are disinclined to use a trail irrespective of how many other values it might provide. Physical safety can be relatively assured through good trail design. Personal safety, which relates to a sense of well-being while using a trail, is a less tangible yet still important factor that cannot be taken lightly. Safety of trails can also be influenced by the general design and maintenance of trails and their surroundings, a concept known as crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). Natural surveillance is one principle of CPTED, which ensures that the trail environment can be easily seen by others and has clear sightlines.

### Convenience

Convenience is important for day-to-day use of a trail. As defined in Section 1, studies have shown that 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 in an uninteresting setting will have limited recreational value. Alternatively, a well-designed trail in an interesting setting might draw users from some distance. Trails should be located where they are both convenient and offer the recreational amenities that users are seeking.

### Recreation

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

- Are scenic and located in a pleasant park-like setting, natural open space, or linear corridor away 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
- Offer continuity with limited interruptions and impediments to travel

This underscores that trail planning must be based on criteria that go beyond simply providing miles of trail – with considerable emphasis on the quality of the trail experience.



In Rogers, creating trails with high recreational value inherently affects community planning and development. Planning for trails that follow greenways that seamlessly traverse public open spaces and private developments alike is considerably different than planning for trails that follow road rights-of-way. While greenway-based trails often pose more challenges to plan and implement, the value of these trails to the community has proven to be very high and worth the investment. Cities that have successfully integrated these types of trails often highlight them as key aspects of the community's quality of life.

### *Fitness*

Fitness is a growing value that cannot be overlooked. Fortunately, this value is generally achieved if safety, convenience, recreational, and transportation values are met. Most critical to accommodating this value is developing an interlinking trail system that provides numerous route options with trail lengths necessary for the types of uses envisioned.

### *Transportation*

A growing subset of the population use trails and bikeways for transportation purposes, both for commuting to work or school, but also for utilitarian purposes such as errands, shopping, or travelling to parks or restaurants. This is especially the case with shared-use paved trails, where bicycling, in-line skating, and walking are viable means of transportation, especially for people in urban and suburban settings. Trails and bikeways that are well designed, easily accessible, and connected to destinations or other facilities will help encourage more transportation use.



## COMMUNITY DESIRE FOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2014-2015, the City of Rogers conducted a community survey to determine the top issues facing the city and the opinions and suggestions of community members. Residents were asked to review various components and identify their "top priorities" for parks, trails, and recreation.

### TOP COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- #1 Connect trails throughout the City and provide safe routes to schools
- #2 Pedestrian crossings over Interstate 94

## TRAIL SYSTEM FACILITIES

There are a variety of different facilities that make up the Rogers trail system. Each facility has different functions and varying applications. Table 4.2 provides an overview of each facility type, which are defined in more detail later in this section.

CLASSIFICATION	COMMON GUIDELINES	APPLICATION TO ROGERS
<i>Regional Trails</i>	Regional trails are typically longer trails that connect multiple communities in a region. The planning and designation of regional trails is led by Three Rivers Park District in collaboration with the City of Rogers and the Metropolitan Council. In order to be designated as Regional trails, they must first be identified through a master planning process.	Two regional trail master plans are approved in Rogers (Crow River Regional Trail and Rush Creek Regional Trail), in addition to the Diamond Lake Regional Trail Search Corridor.
<i>County Trails and Bikeways</i>	Hennepin County bikeways include off-street trails and on-street bike facilities. The County currently has over 2.5 miles of on-street bike facilities in Rogers, and has more planned facilities identified in the Hennepin County 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan.	Future Hennepin County bikeways are anticipated to be primarily off-street trails, which may run parallel to existing roadways.
<i>Local Trails and Bikeways</i>	Local bikeways include both on-street bikeways and off-street trails. Local trails are designed to be multiuse, and may be located within a greenway, park, or open space, or within road rights-of-way or utility easements. Some local trails may run parallel to a roadway (also known as a sidepath).	Local on-street bikeways and off-street trails will form the backbone of the trail system, connecting to neighborhoods, adjoining communities, regional parks, and other facility types in the trail system.
<i>Sidewalks</i>	Sidewalks provide safe travel for walking and jogging routes within residential areas and business districts. Sidewalks also connect residents to parks and other destinations around the community. Although biking and in-line skating are allowed on sidewalks, the narrower width limit their use for this purpose. Sidewalks are most often located within road rights-of-way of a local street.	Sidewalks are primarily used as a means to connect neighborhoods to local destinations and developed areas, as well as to other facilities in the trail system. Sidewalks are an essential part of the trail system, particularly for those who rely on walking as a means of transportation, recreation, or exercise, such as youth, seniors, or non-car owners.
<i>Unpaved Trails</i>	Unpaved trails have a natural surface and are commonly developed in areas where hiking and jogging is expected to be the primary activity. These trails are not intended for bicyclists or in-line skaters.	Unpaved trails are primarily developed in natural parks as secondary connections to other trails, such as within a preserved natural area such as the Crow-Hassan Park Reserve.

**Figure 4.2 – Trail System Facilities**

The trail system features a variety of facilities, including regional, county, and local trails, bikeways, sidewalks, and unpaved trails.

## PLANNED TRAIL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

The Rogers trail system map (Figure 4.4) includes existing and planned off-street trails, on-street bikeways, and sidewalks that collectively form an integrated trail system. The map displays City of Rogers local facilities, Hennepin County facilities, and planned regional trails or regional search corridors from Three Rivers Park District and the Metropolitan Council for regional trails and the regional bicycle transportation network (RBTN). Figure 4.3 illustrates the potential build-out of the trail system, including existing and planned mileage for each facility type. The subsections below describe each planned facility type.

### Planned Regional Trails

There are two planned Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) regional trails located in Rogers, and one TRPD regional trail search corridor. TRPD's regional trails provide off-street trail connections between multiple communities in the region, and are popular with bicycle commuters and recreational users alike.

TRPD's Rush Creek Regional Trail currently links the Elm Creek Park Reserve to Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park. The [Rush Creek Regional Trail Master Plan](#) was approved in 2008 and calls for extending the trail west from Elm Creek Park Reserve through the southeast corner of Rogers and up to Crow-Hassan Park Reserve in northwest Rogers. The precise location of the regional trail will be determined as land and easements are acquired from willing property owners.

The second planned TRPD regional trail in Rogers is the [Crow River Regional Trail](#), which was approved in 2017 and has a proposed route that stretches from the Luce Line State Trail in Watertown Township, through Rogers, and over to the West Mississippi River Regional Trail in Dayton. The planned alignment begins in the southwest corner of Rogers, goes north along the eastern edge of the Crow-Hassan Park Reserve, and then turns east along 141<sup>st</sup> Ave towards the northeast corner of Rogers. The trail was originally planned to follow the Crow River, but the alignment has been shifted to 141<sup>st</sup> Ave because acquiring individual land parcels adjacent to the Crow River is likely to be too difficult. This new alignment provides greater access to neighborhoods, retail areas, and direct connections to Hassan Elementary School, Rogers Middle School, and Rogers High School.

Potential Trail System Mileage With Full Development			
Facility Type	Existing	Planned	Total
Regional Trails	.6	29.8	<b>30.4</b>
County On-street Bikeways	2.6	0	<b>2.6</b>
County Off-street Trails	1	11	<b>12</b>
Local On-street Bikeways	0	5.7	<b>5.7</b>
Local Off-street Trails	15.4	22.1	<b>37.5</b>
Sidewalks	26.6	0*	<b>26.6*</b>
Unpaved Trails	23.4	0	<b>23.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>112.6*</b>

### Figure 4.3 – Potential Trail System Mileage with Full Development

The Rogers trail and bikeway system has the potential to grow to 113+ miles if all of the planned facilities are constructed.

\*This plan does not identify any planned sidewalks on the trail system map, but it is anticipated that the sidewalk network will grow as the City fills in gaps in the sidewalk network and as new development occurs in Rogers.

### *Metropolitan Council Regional Bikeway Search Corridors*

The [Metropolitan Council's Regional Bicycle Transportation Network \(RBTN\)](#) consists of prioritized alignments and corridors (where specific alignments are yet to be designated) that were developed for and adopted into the Metropolitan Council's 2040 Transportation Policy Plan. The goal of the RBTN is to establish an integrated seamless network of on-street bikeways and off-road trails to improve conditions for bicycle transportation at the regional level and to encourage planning and implementation of future bikeways by cities, counties, parks agencies, and the state, to support the network vision. There is one RBTN Tier 1 search corridor in Rogers, which begins in the southeast portion of Rogers and roughly follows Territorial Road to the northwest. This Plan recommends the RBTN alignment to follow Territorial Road and County Road 81, which are both planned Hennepin County off-street trails.

### *Hennepin County Trails and On-Street Bikeways*

The Hennepin County 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan identifies several planned bikeways in Rogers, and this plan identifies 11 miles of off-street County bikeways. One of the planned bikeway alignments in the County bicycle plan was along the railroad tracks west of I-94, but this Plan proposes to move that County bikeway to Territorial Road because it provides a more direct route across the community and connects to more planned bikeways and trails. This Plan proposes that both the RBTN and planned County bikeway follow the same alignment on Territorial Road and County Road 81. Developing County bikeways requires coordination between the City of Rogers and the County, including planning, design, and funding.

### *Local Trails and On-Street Bikeways*

Local trails and on-street bikeways form the backbone of the local system. The City of Rogers has 15.4 miles of off-street trails and currently does not have any existing on-street bikeways. The plan identifies 22.1 miles of planned off-street trails and 5.7 miles of planned on-street local bikeways.

### *Sidewalks*

The City of Rogers currently has 26.6 miles of sidewalks in the City. This plan does not identify any planned sidewalks on the trail system plan map, but it is anticipated that the sidewalk network will grow as the City fills in gaps in the sidewalk network and as new development occurs.

### *I-94 Crossings*

The community survey conducted by the City of Rogers in 2014-2015 identified pedestrian crossings of I-94 as the #2 most important issue facing the city regarding the trail system. The trail system map (Figure 4.5) identifies six existing or planned crossings of Interstate 94, which traverses Rogers and creates a barrier that is challenging to cross for people walking and biking.

1. **141<sup>st</sup> Avenue** - Planned crossing on the existing 141<sup>st</sup> Ave bridge, which would connect to the existing and planned trail on 141<sup>st</sup> Ave. This is the planned Crow River Regional Trail route and will provide a gateway to future partnership projects to implement an improved I-94 crossing. During the design phase, additional analysis will be required to determine if the trail can be accommodated on the existing bridge or if a new trail bridge would be required.
2. **137<sup>th</sup> Avenue** - Planned crossing would connect the existing trail on 137<sup>th</sup> Ave to the existing sidewalk on Industrial Blvd. Would require new bridge or tunnel construction.
3. **Highway 101** - An existing trail is located on the Highway 101 bridge.
4. **Fletcher bypass** - Planned crossing that would require a new bridge or tunnel construction to connect Territorial Rd and Brockton Ln. This crossing would connect the planned Hennepin County off-street trails along County Road 81 and west of County Road 81 and the planned local bikeway east of I-94.
5. **County Road 81** - Planned crossing on existing bridge would be part of the planned Hennepin County off-street trail along County Road 81. During the design phase, additional analysis will be required to determine if the trail can be accommodated on the existing bridge or if a new trail bridge would be required.
6. **Brockton Lane** - Planned crossing on existing bridge would be part of the planned Hennepin County off-street trail along Brockton Lane. During the design phase, additional analysis will be required to determine if the trail can be accommodated on the existing bridge or if a new trail bridge would be required.



*The existing bridge on 141st Avenue features a paved shoulder.*

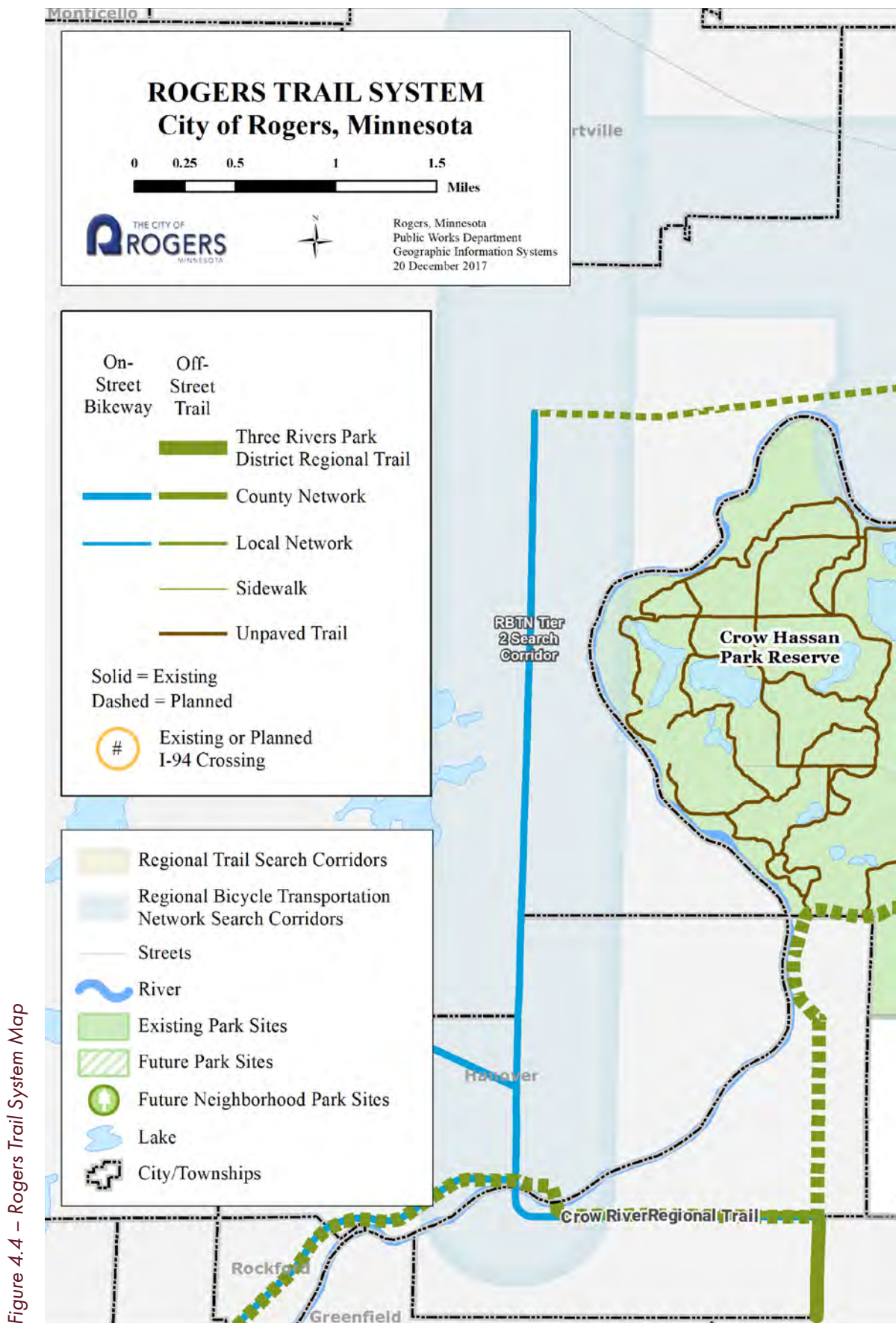


Figure 4.4 – Rogers Trail System Map

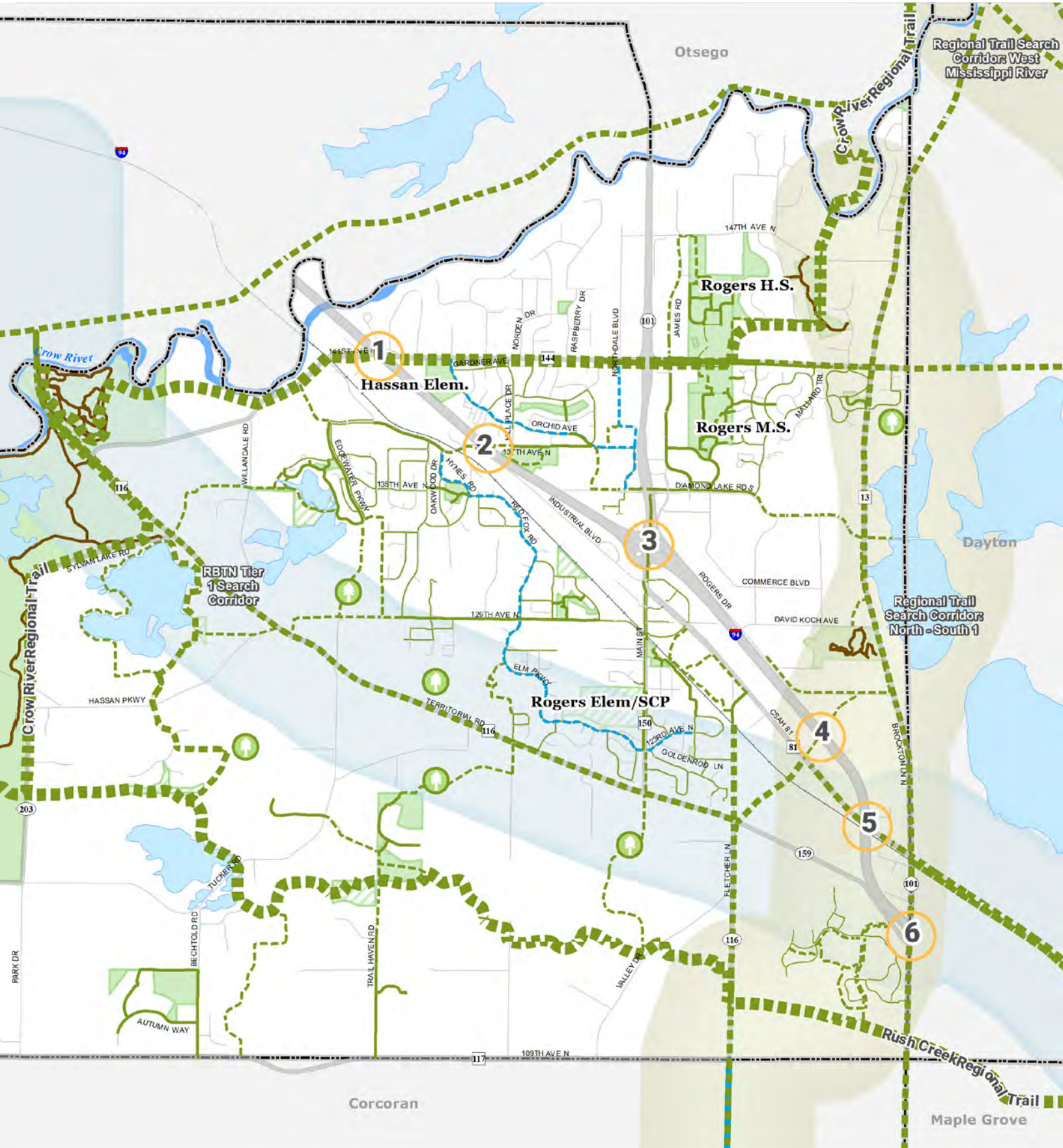
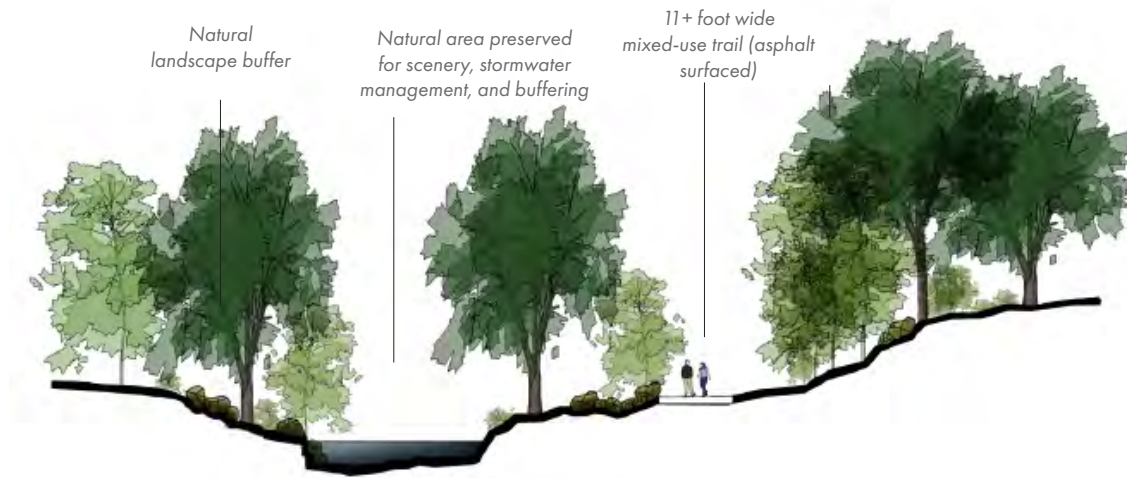


Figure 4.5 – Trails in Natural Greenway-Type Setting



The following sections describe and illustrate each type of facility included in the trail system plan.



Trails located within a greenway setting away from roadways and traffic are comfortable and scenic for recreational bicyclists, although they do not connect to as many destinations.

## LOCAL TRAILS

Local trails are paved trails that may be greenway based or right-of-way based. Greenway based trails are typically located within a park, parkway, open space, or designated trail corridor. Greenway based trails are most commonly used for recreation and exercise, and are less commonly used for transportation purposes. Figure 4.5 illustrates a typical greenway based trail cross section in a natural, scenic setting, and Figure 4.6 illustrates the character of the greenway-based trail and its relationship with adjacent development.

Right-of-way based trails are commonly developed alongside a roadway within road rights-of-way or utility easements and include a vegetative buffer space to physically separate trail users from the roadway (Figure 4.7). Whereas greenway trails typically attract users for exercise or recreational purposes, right-of-way based trails are also used for transportation purposes, such as walking or bicycling to destinations. These trails provide safe travel for pedestrians and bicyclists to and from parks and other destinations around the community.

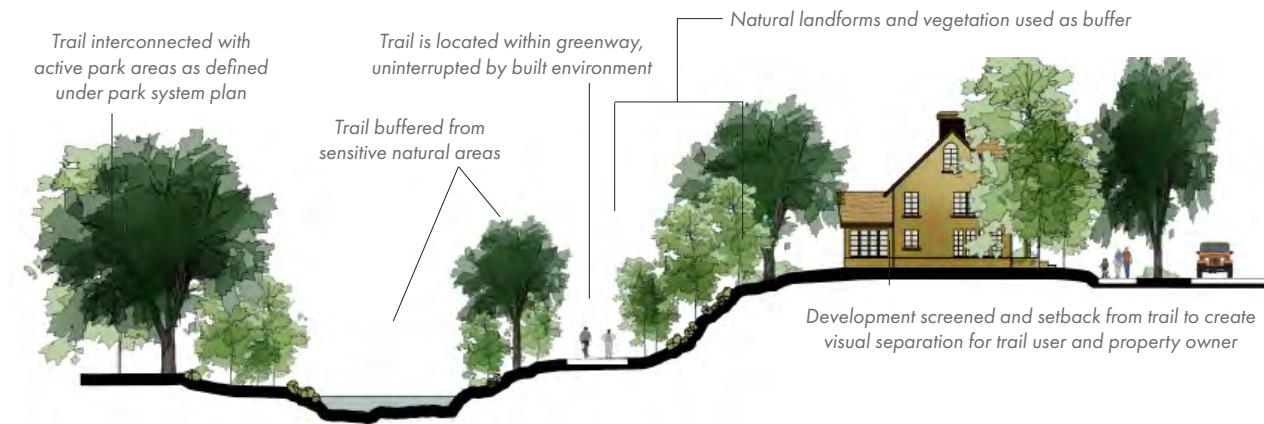
**Integrating trails into the fabric of the community's built form as it is being developed is critical to the realization of greenway-based trails. Once development occurs, the likelihood of retrofitting this type of trail into a developed area is exceedingly difficult.**

### *Development Standards and Guidelines*

National guidelines (currently in draft form) recommend a minimum of 11 feet for multi-use trails. Eleven-foot wide trails are needed to enable a bicyclist to pass another trail user going the same direction at the same time a trail user is approaching from the opposite direction. National guidelines (currently in draft form) recommend a 12 to 14-foot wide trail where heavy use is anticipated. In constrained situations, trail widths of 8 feet is acceptable. All of these trails should meet accessibility standards whenever possible, which as a general rule means grades of 5 percent or less.

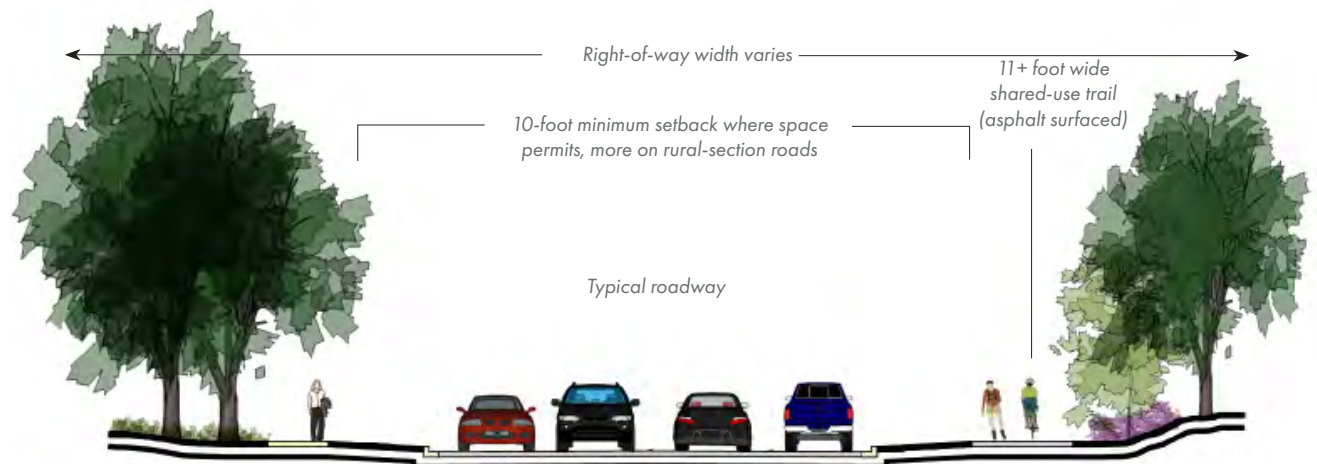


Figure 4.6 – Greenway-Based Trails and Adjacent Development



Adequate buffer space between the trail and the roadway provides a comfortable and appealing facility for a variety of trail users.

Figure 4.7 – Right-of-Way-Based Trails



A typical right-of-way based trail on one side of the roadway with a sidewalk on the other side. Depending on the circumstances, trails can be developed on one or both sides of the roadway. Trails on both sides of the road only occur when heavy use is anticipated.



## UNPAVED TRAILS

Unpaved trails are commonly used in areas where the anticipated uses are for recreation or exercise. The surface of unpaved trails are typically native soils, turf, crushed aggregate, or other non-asphalt or concrete surface. Figure 4.8 illustrates a cross section of a typical unpaved trail. The trail system map (Figure 4.4) only shows existing unpaved trails, although additional unpaved trails may be built in the future.

### *Development of Unpaved Trails*

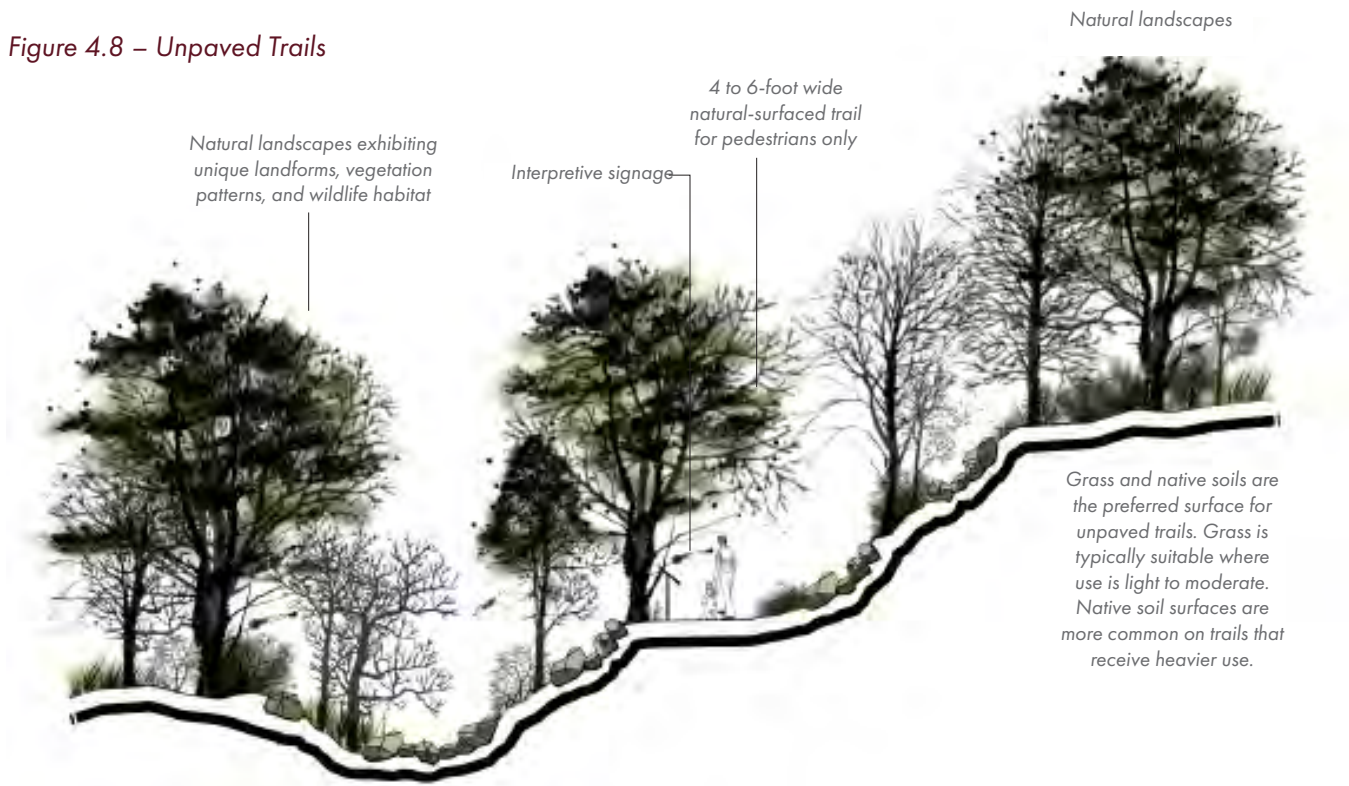
Unpaved trails complement the paved trail system, and may be appropriate in situations such as:

- Secondary connections from the trail system through natural conservation areas or open spaces
- Within natural parks or preserve areas for interpretation and general hiking
- Within regional parks as defined under master plans prepared by Three Rivers Park District

### *Development Standards and Guidelines*

For most unpaved trails in Rogers, a width of 4 to 6 feet is appropriate when designed for pedestrian-only use. The difficulty level for unpaved trails used for this purpose should be relatively “easy” whenever possible, consistent with accepted standards.

Figure 4.8 – Unpaved Trails



## SIDEWALKS

Sidewalks are typically constructed from concrete and are 5 to 6 feet wide, or up to 8 feet wide in areas with high pedestrian use such as in downtown Rogers. Sidewalks are most often located within road rights-of-way within a neighborhood, downtown area, or commercial district.

Sidewalks provide recreational value, but generally only serve walkers, joggers, and children on bikes. Older bicyclists and in-line skaters will not routinely use sidewalks because they are too narrow and the joints make for a rougher riding surface. The aerial image below shows some sidewalks in Rogers, which are typically only provided on one side of the street in residential developments.



*Sidewalks provide residents an opportunity to walk to local destinations, and give kids the opportunity to walk or bike to school.*



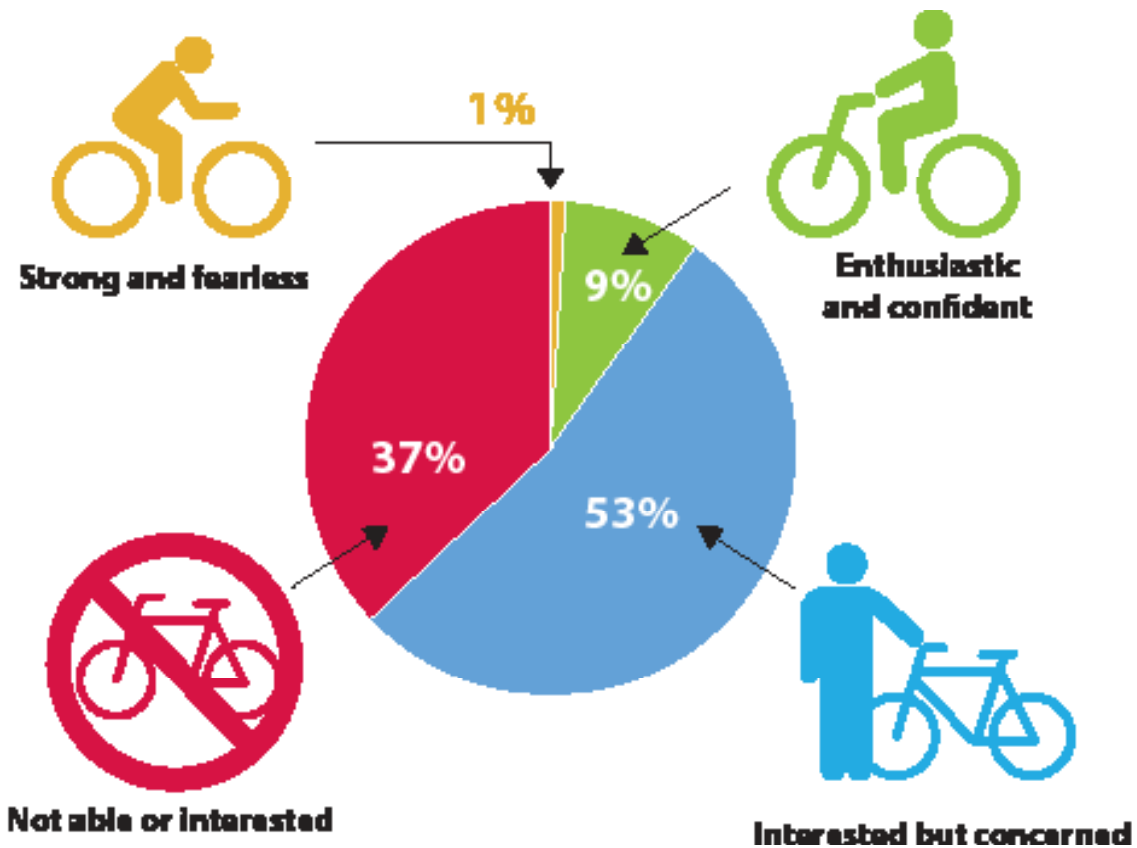
*The location of existing sidewalks varies considerably across the city. In most areas, sidewalks are provided along one side of the street through a neighborhood. Where provided, sidewalks add value to the trail system by providing a safe means for local residents to travel to the established trail system or get to a local park. Sidewalks should continue to be provided in new developments consistent with city standards.*

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FACILITY TYPES AND BICYCLIST USERS

One of the primary users of the Rogers trail system is bicyclists, and there are many different types. Some bicyclists are comfortable riding on any type of bike facility, whether or not they have any physical separation from motor vehicles. Other bicyclists will only ride on a bike facility that has adequate physical separation from motor vehicles, such as an off-street trail. Understanding the array of bicyclist user types, their characteristics, and their facility preferences allows the City to build a trail and bikeway system that serves all users.

### BICYCLIST USER TYPES

Research conducted by the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium shows that people can be categorized into four general attitudes and perceptions about bicycling (Figure 4.2): ‘Strong and fearless’, ‘Enthusiastic and confident’, ‘Interested but concerned’, and ‘Not able or interested’. Many communities have succeeded in attracting ‘Strong and fearless’ and ‘Enthusiastic and confident’ bicyclists to bike for recreation and transportation. The challenge moving forward is to encourage the largest bicyclist user type, the ‘Interested but concerned’ group. These users value bikeway comfort and safety over directness or speed, and are typically less comfortable with on-street bikeways. It important to understand general attitudes toward bicycling, as they provide clues as to which facility types are more likely to succeed.



**Figure 4.9 – Bicyclist User Types**

The four bicyclist user types and the percentage of the population that falls into each category. The research underlying this framework was done in Portland, Oregon, and the extent to which these attitudes hold true for the City of Rogers is unknown.

### *Strong and Fearless*

#### [ABOUT 1% OF THE POPULATION]

This group generally is undeterred by any roadway conditions or design. They often define themselves by their bicycling activity, and maintaining their identity as a cyclist is important to them — they will bike for the sake of biking. They usually take the shortest route when biking for transportation, and will seek challenges when biking for recreation. These riders prefer separation from pedestrians more than they do from motor vehicles. They tend to wear specialized bicycle gear and ride high-performance bikes. Their passion for bicycling can make them vocal bicycle advocates, but it is important to consider their bicycling experience is far different from that of most people.

- Minimum bikeway: none different from roadways serving motor vehicles
- Preferred bikeway: shoulders or bike lanes
- Support facilities: fewer stop signs, signals timed to be compatible with bicycling speed, signals that detect bicycles, secure bicycle parking
- Education needs: rules of the road for when biking and when driving



**Strong and fearless**

### *Enthusiastic and Confident*

#### [ABOUT 9% OF THE POPULATION]

People in this group are comfortable sharing the roadway with automotive traffic, but prefer bikeways and will go a little out of their way to get to a better bikeway. Bicycling often is a secondary part of their identity and they will bike to maintain this status. They might wear clothing that works well for biking but also is wearable as everyday clothing that does not stand out.

- Minimum bikeway: bicycle boulevards, shoulders, bike lanes or roadside trails
- Preferred bikeway: buffered bike lanes, separated bike lanes, bike boulevards, off-street trails; a continuous network with few gaps is important to them
- Support facilities: secure bicycle parking, drinking water, intersection treatments that delineate bicycle space, trip planning
- Education needs: how and where to safely operate a bicycle, rules of the road when biking and driving, advanced bicycle repair



**Enthusiastic  
and confident**



### Interested but concerned

#### *Interested but Concerned*

##### [ABOUT 53% OF THE POPULATION]

This is the biggest group in the population and represent the greatest opportunity to increase bicycle ridership. This group includes people who prefer off-street trails for recreation and will ride for transportation where there are bikeways that make them feel safe. Comfort is a priority for them, and they need a significantly better connected, safer, and more comfortable bikeway system if they are to bike regularly for transportation. They do not identify themselves as bicyclists and would not feel guilty if they never biked again. One or two uncomfortable experiences can discourage these residents from getting back on their bikes for weeks or months. Many are on the cusp of falling into another group. A good bikeway network will nudge some of them into the enthusiastic and confident group, while a poor bikeway network will push others into the not able or interested group.

- Minimum bikeway: bicycle boulevards, buffered bike lanes, off-street trail
- Preferred bikeway: off-street trail with few motor vehicle interactions
- Support facilities: bike parking, drinking water, rest rooms, benches, trip planning, wayfinding
- Education needs: how and where to safely operate a bicycle, how to bike commute, how to bicycle with children, how to securely park a bicycle, rules of the road when biking and driving, basic bicycle repair



### Not able or interested

#### *Not Able or Interested*

##### [ABOUT 37% OF THE POPULATION]

This group includes people who have no current interest in bicycling at all for a variety of reasons, or they are unable to bike. Some in this group could transition into the interested but concerned group if environmental or personal circumstances change. They still will enjoy the benefits of a bicycling region.

- Bikeways: none needed, but a safe and connected system over time could encourage them to give bicycling a second look and they would typically start with short recreational rides
- Education needs: rules of the road for driving and bicycling if they drive, awareness of bicycling

## ON-STREET BIKEWAYS

On-street bikeways differ from trails in that they are dedicated solely to bicyclists, whereas trails are multi-use facilities and accommodate many different users. On-street bikeways (i.e., bike lanes, buffered bike lanes) are paved portions of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from motor vehicle traffic. Bikeways generally allow bicyclists to travel faster than on trails by providing a more direct, continuous route to destinations. Complementing shared-use trails with on-street bikeways enhances the overall trail system by making it more connected, complete, and convenient.

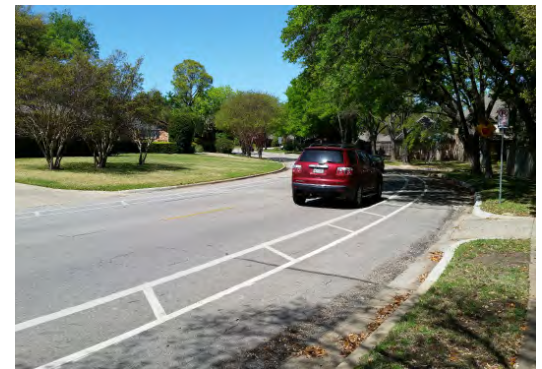
### *On-Street Bikeway Types*

There are many types of on-street bikeways that could be implemented to complement the trail system in Rogers. On-street bikeways range from paved shoulders, to bike lanes, and separated bike lanes. The facility type most appropriate for any given location depends on a number of factors, including the available right-of-way, motor vehicle speeds, and traffic volumes. Roadway conditions and land uses may change along the length of a corridor, which may result in the need to transition between bikeway types. The only on-street bicycle facility currently in Rogers is paved shoulders.

The distinction between a bike lane and bike route (paved shoulder) is the level of separation from motor vehicles, and often the roadway setting. A bike lane is a designated portion of the roadway defined by striping, signing, and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. A bike route, or paved shoulder, is a shared portion of the roadway that provides some separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists. Figure 4.10 summarizes various types of bikeways, as well as guidance to help choose which bikeway is most applicable to the roadway characteristics. These guidelines are based on national guidance, and are modified from the 2040 Hennepin County Bicycle Transportation Plan.



***Bike route (paved shoulder).***



***Buffered bike lanes provide a buffer space between motor vehicles and bicycles, which is more comfortable for most bicyclists.***

Figure 4.10: Overview and characteristics of bikeway types based on roadway characteristics.

	Bikeways				Separated Bikeways	
	On-street				On- or off-street	Off-street
Facility Type	Shoulder	Bicycle Boulevard	Bike lane	Buffered bike lane	Separated bike lane	Multi-use trail
Land use context	Suburban/rural	Urban/suburban	Urban/suburban	Urban/suburban	Urban/suburban	Urban/suburban/rural
Level of separation from motor vehicle traffic	Low	None	Low to moderate	Moderate to high	High	High
Traffic volume* (motor vehicles)	Low to moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate to high	High	N/A
Posted speed limit	35-55 mph	25-25 mph	Varies	Varies	Varies	N/A
Street type	All**	Local or collector	All**	All**	All**	Independent right-of-way along minor or principal arterial
Minimum widths	5'-8' (width based on vehicle speed)	N/A	5' (with parking), 6' (curb adjacent)	5' (with parking) 6' (curb adjacent), 2' buffer	5' lane/3' buffer (one-way); 10' lane/3' buffer (two-way)	8' with 2' clear zone each side (one-way); preferred 11' with 2' clear zone each side (two-way)
Construct new or as part of pavement maintenance (re-striping)	Both	Both	Pavement maintenance	Pavement maintenance	Both	New

\* Traffic volume (average daily traffic): Low is less than 3,000 ADT; Moderate is 3,000-15,000 ADT; High is above 15,000 ADT

\*\*All=Streets where bicycle use is not prohibited. Bikeway types will vary based on roadway and land use context



Information on each type of on-street bikeway is provided on the following pages.

### SHOULDER

Paved shoulders are typically located along moderate- to high- volume roadways in suburban and rural areas where there are long distances between intersections and access points. A paved shoulder improves bicycle connections where bike lanes would be inappropriate and a shared use trail would be prohibitively expensive.

#### Roadway characteristics

- Suburban/rural context
- Low separation from motor vehicles
- Moderate to high vehicle traffic volumes
- 35-55 MPH (posted speed)
- Minimum width 5 feet (width should be determined based on motor vehicle speed)
- Best for strong and fearless group
- Also serves some of the enthusiastic and confident group, depending on context

### BICYCLE BOULEVARD

A bicycle boulevard is a type of bikeway typically suited for a local street that is low-speed and low-volume. A bicycle boulevard prioritizes bicycle traffic by turning stop signs to prioritize bike movements, giving bicycles the right of way, as well as using traffic calming features (i.e., bulb outs or traffic circles), vehicle diverters, enhanced signage for bicyclists' and other means. They are intended to improve safety and comfort and provide an alternative to higher speed roadways that may be more intimidating for bicyclists with less experience or confidence.

#### Roadway characteristics

- Urban/suburban context
- No separation from motor vehicles
- Low vehicle traffic volumes
- 25 – 30 MPH (posted speed)
- Local or collector street
- Best for interested but concerned population
- Also serves enthusiastic and confident; and strong and fearless populations





### BIKE LANE

Bike lanes provide a dedicated space for bicyclists to operate alongside vehicle traffic. Bike lanes can be a low-cost option when adequate right-of-way is available, and often can be incorporated into roadway repaving or restriping projects.

#### Roadway characteristics

- Urban/suburban context
- Low to moderate separation from motor vehicles
- Moderate vehicle traffic volumes
- Speed limit varies
- Minimum width 5 feet (parking adjacent) to 6 feet (curb adjacent)
- Best for enthusiastic and confident; and strong and fearless groups
- Also serves interested but concerned group for critical connections, depending on context



### BUFFERED BIKE LANE

Buffered bike lanes enhance traditional bike lanes by incorporating additional space between people biking and motor vehicles. The buffer can be incorporated to the right of the bicycle lane, protecting bicyclists from the door zone of parked vehicles, to the left of the bicycle lane, protecting people biking from motor vehicles, or both. This application is most appropriate on streets with moderate vehicle traffic volumes. Similar to the implementation of bike lanes, buffered bike lanes can often be implemented as a low-cost retrofit as part of a paving or restriping project.

#### Roadway characteristics

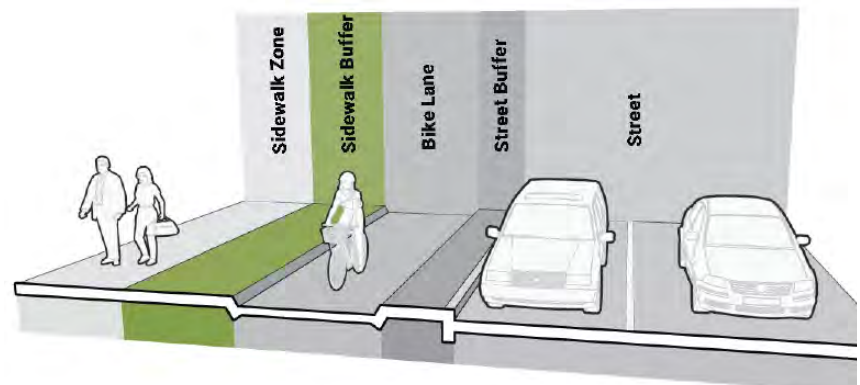
- Urban/suburban context
- Moderate to high separation from motor vehicles
- Moderate to high vehicle traffic volumes
- Speed limit varies
- Minimum width 5 feet (parking adjacent) to 6 feet (curb adjacent), minimum buffer 2 feet
- Best for enthusiastic and confident; and strong and fearless groups
- Also serves interested but concerned group and older children

## SEPARATED BIKE LANE

A separated bike lane, sometimes called a cycle track, is a type of bikeway that is vertically separated from motor vehicle traffic. A separated bicycle lane may be constructed at street level or at the sidewalk level, and can be a one-way or two-way facility. Separated bicycle lanes isolate bicyclists from motor vehicle traffic using a variety of methods, including curbs, raised concrete medians, flexible delineators (also known as bollards and flex posts), on-street parking, or large planter boxes. Separated bike lanes provide cyclists with a higher level of comfort compared to bicycle lanes, and are typically used on arterial streets where higher motor vehicle speeds exist. They may also be appropriate on high-volume but lower-speed streets.

### Roadway Characteristics

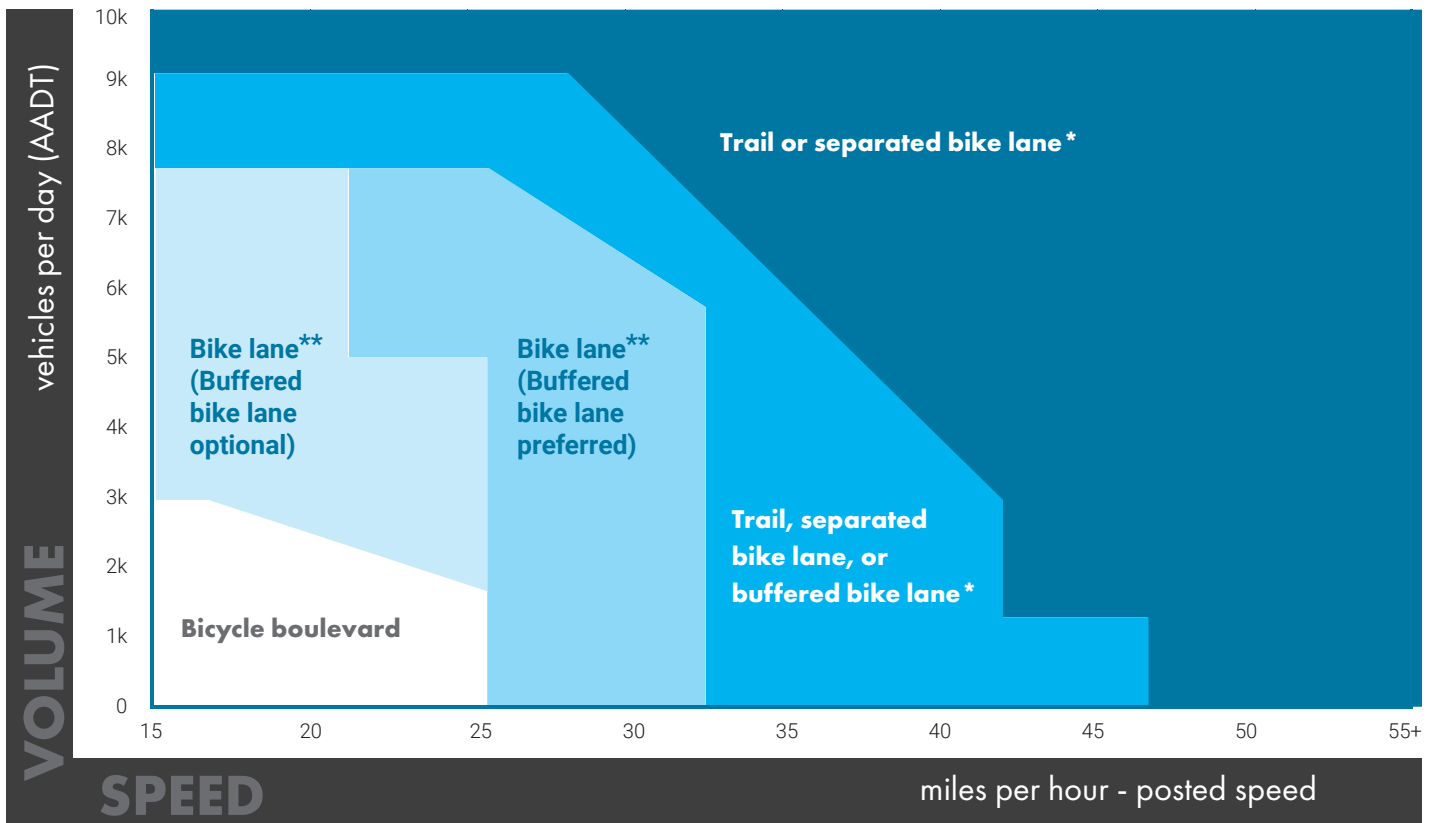
- Preferred width is 6.5 feet for a one-way facility, allowing for passing; 12 feet is preferred for a bi-directional facility
- Minimum width is five feet for a one-way facility, and eight feet for a bi-directional facility
- Preferably applied on medium to high-volume streets with an average daily traffic count of above 4,000 motor vehicles. Exceptions may be made for streets near K-12 schools.
- Appropriate on streets with operating speeds at 30 mph or higher
- Separated bicycle lanes require varying widths of buffer space between the bicycle lane and the adjacent lane. Small barriers such as flexible delineator posts or removable curbs can be separated with a minimum 2-foot buffer. In general, a 6-foot buffer is preferred for all separation methods.



### BICYCLE FACILITY SELECTION GUIDELINES

It is recommended to select bicycle facility types based on the “Interested but concerned” type of bicyclists, which makes up the largest share of the population and has the greatest opportunity for increasing bicycling in Rogers. This chart is based on the comfort level of the “Interested but concerned” bicyclists, a group that prefers physical separation as traffic volumes and speeds increase. The bikeway facility selection chart below identifies bikeway facilities that improve bicycling environment at different roadway speeds and traffic volumes. The “enthusiastic and confident” bicyclist will also prefer bikeway treatments noted in this chart.

Figure 4.11: Bikeway facility selection chart provides guidance for selecting a bikeway type based on existing roadway characteristics.



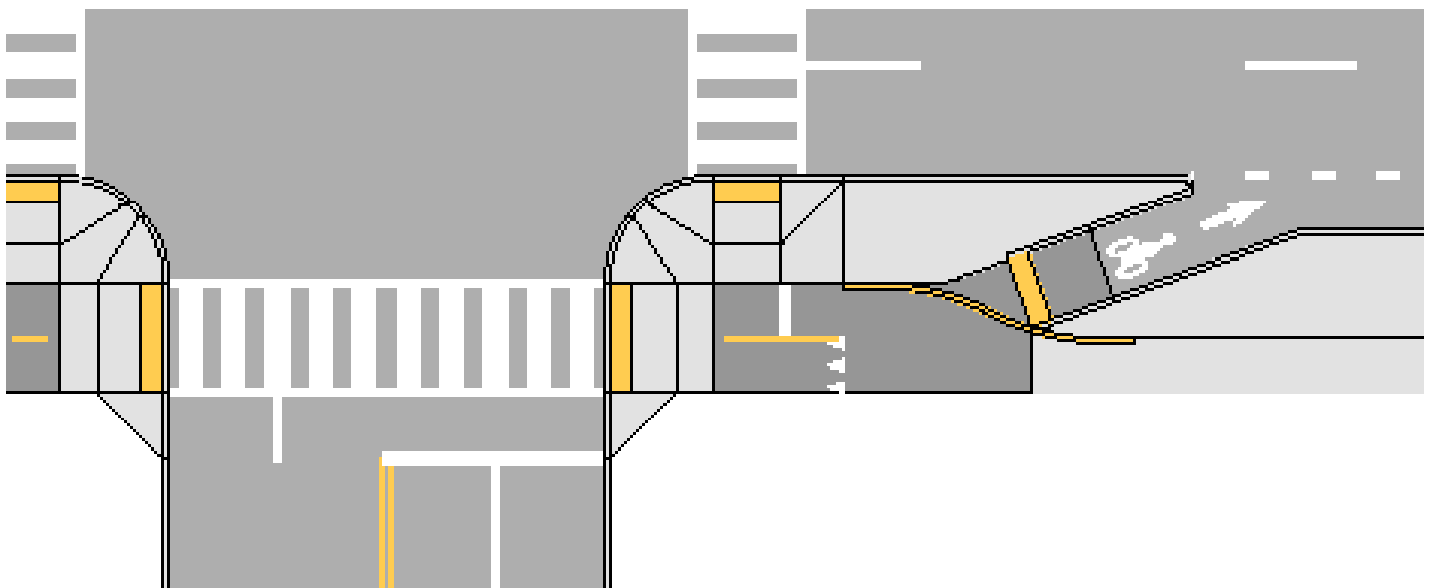
\* To determine whether to provide a shared-use trail, separated bike lane, or buffered bike lane, consider pedestrian and bicycle volumes or, in the absence of volume, consider land use.  
 \*\* Can use a bike route (shoulder) as necessary

## TRAIL AND BIKEWAY TRANSITIONS

Where a shared use trail crosses or terminates at an existing road, it is important to properly transition the trail into the existing on-street bicycle facilities to accommodate bicyclists, and into sidewalks to accommodate pedestrians and other trail users. Care should be taken to properly design a trail terminus to transition the trail traffic into a comfortable merging or diverging situation. Appropriate signing is needed to warn and direct bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists at such transition areas.

Transitions should be seamless, intuitive, and designed to insure visibility and predictability for all users. Signalized or stop-controlled intersections can provide effective opportunities for rapid transitions to other types of facilities. In no case should a transition be so abrupt as to create a hazardous or confusing situation, particularly for bicyclists who are transitioning from facilities separated from motorized traffic into facilities that bring them into close proximity with motorized traffic.

Each roadway crossing is also an access point, and should therefore be designed to facilitate movements of trail users who either enter the trail from the road, or plan to exit the trail and use the roadway. It is particularly important to ensure trail users are provided with clear guidance to ensure they are going in the correct direction of travel when they exit the trail and enter the roadway, and that they are provided with frequent opportunities to depart from the trail as it comes within close proximity to, or connects with, the road network.



*An off-street, shared use trail can transition to an on-street bike facility and sidewalk after crossing through an intersection. Careful design consideration is needed to ensure that the transition is seamless, intuitive, and designed to insure visibility and predictability for all users.*

## TRAIL CROSSING TREATMENTS

Where trails intersect roadways, the crossing design should minimize trail users' exposure to traffic, and minimize the speed differential at the points where travel movements intersect. Another goal is to provide clear messages regarding right of way to all users moving through an intersection in conjunction with design features that result in higher compliance where users are expected to yield. Figure 4.12 shows a trail crossing a roadway, which features optional but recommended MUTCD signs.

Please note the following:

1. crosswalk markings legally establish mid-block pedestrian crossing; 2. length varies: see MUTCD table 2C-4; 3. optional roadway markings;
4. shared-use trail centerline as needed; 5. optional trail markings and signage; 6. sign placement 4'-50' from crossing

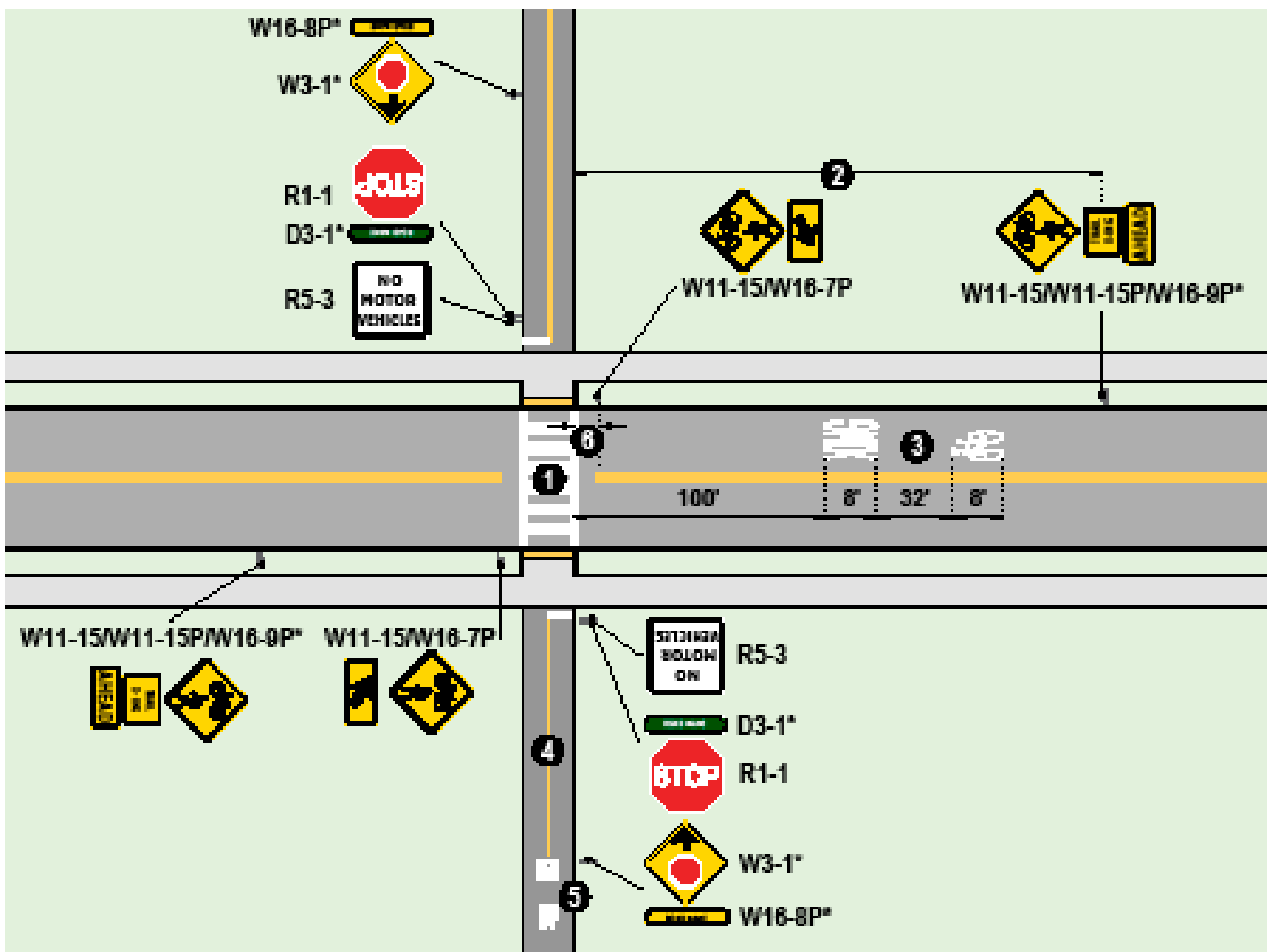


Figure 4.12: Trail crossings should be designed to minimize conflicts, reduce motor vehicle speeds, and provide signage to communicate the crossing to all modes.

## TRAIL AMENITIES

Trail related amenities include bicycle parking, motor vehicle parking, benches, lighting, water fountains and picnic tables, informational signage, wayfinding, benches, trash receptacles and more. Amenities enhance the experience of using trails, and may help attract trail users.

### *Bicycle Parking*

Consistent, organized bicycle parking encourages people to bicycle for transportation, provides site-specific benefits, and encourages good parking behavior. Inadequate bicycle parking facilities and fear of theft are major deterrents to bicycle transportation; as such, users are more likely to use a bicycle for transportation purposes if they are confident that they will find adequate bicycle parking at their destination.

The design of bicycle parking sites should consider a full occupied rack element and adequate space needed for users to access a parking space from both sides. The location of bicycle racks should follow these guidelines:

- Easily accessible from the street and protected from motor vehicle traffic;
- Visible to passers-by to promote use and enhance security;
- Does not impede or interfere with pedestrian traffic or maintenance activities;
- Does not block access to buildings or freight loading;
- Provides clearance for opening passenger-side doors of parked vehicles

Bicycle racks are manufactured in various shapes and sizes, however not all manufactured bicycle racks meet recommended standards. Features of an acceptable bicycle rack include:

- Bicycle rack should be secured to a permanent foundation;
- Use tamper-resistant hardware to fasten to location;
- Support a bicycle upright in two (2) or more places;
- Ability to support a variety of bicycle sizes and frame shapes; and
- Space to safely secure the frame with one or both wheels to the rack.



*Bike parking provided at trail heads allows users a convenient place to lock their bikes.*



*Bike parking on sidewalks in commercial areas provides a place for residents to lock their bikes while running errands, shopping, or dining. Bike parking also discourages bicyclists from locking their bikes to trees, railings, or other objects not designed for bike parking.*

### **Motor Vehicle Parking**

Most trail entrances do not provide off-street parking for motor vehicles, particularly where parking is located nearby, or where many users live within near the trail and are likely to either walk or bike to the entrance. For major trails that attract people travelling longer distances, off-street parking can be beneficial. The number of parking spaces should ideally be based on demand and include appropriate accessible spaces. However, vehicular parking is often constrained by the amount of property available. One method of determining parking demand is described in the Institute of Transportation Engineers publication, "Parking Generation"; other methods may also be appropriate.

### **Benches**

Trail entrances often act as meeting places and benches allow visitors to rest while waiting for other trail users. Trail users may also wish to rest after a walk or bicycle ride. Benches should be accessible and should generally be placed to maximize the view of people passing by, or a significant natural feature. It is generally not preferable to place a bench so that one's back is to the trail.

### **Lighting**

Lighting may be needed to improve safety and security at trail entrance that are open during evening hours.

### **Water Fountains**

Water fountains are a welcome amenity for some users, and can also be designed to provide water for pets. Water fountains are often placed at key locations along a trail system, such as at trailheads, restrooms, or shelter areas.

### **Picnic Tables**

Picnic tables are another welcome amenity for some users. In both cases, they should be accessible and should be placed away from the flow of trail traffic.

### **Informational Signage**

Informational signage can include helpful information such as the name of the trail, operating hours, "you are here" maps, contact information to report problems, emergency response information such as contact information, and trail rules and regulations. These should meet accessibility requirements for position, height and legibility of signs.

### **Bicycle Repair Stations**

Bicycle repair stations can be placed along trails or at trailheads to provide the public tools to perform basic bike repairs and maintenance, from adjusting brakes and derailleurs to inflating a flat tire. The tools are securely attached to a stand with stainless steel cables and tamper-proof fasteners to ensure they withstand weather and reduce theft. The stations typically include hanger arms which allows bikes to hang freely while making adjustments or repairs. Some bicycle repair stations come with a built-in air pump for inflating tires, or they may be sold separately.



*Bicycle repair stations provide quick access to bicycle repair tools for trail users, such as wrenches, screw drivers, and air pumps.*



## TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Several activities contribute to the maintenance of trails and bikeways, including those which are corrective, preventative, routine, and seasonal. Comprehensive maintenance covers the life of a trail from the conceptual stage to its eventual end. Trail and bikeway maintenance includes:

- Pavement markings (e.g. epoxy, latex, polypreform, thermoplastic)
- Pavement preservation (e.g. surface treatments, crack treatments, pothole repair, resurfacing)
- Routine maintenance (snow removal, sweeping, vegetation management)
- Sign and signal maintenance
- Traffic control (i.e. detours)

Snow and ice clearing

After constructing a trail, ongoing pavement preservation is important to maintain a smooth surface for users and prolong the life of the pavement. When selecting an appropriate pavement preservation method, it is important to consider the surface type and desired ride quality. Types of pavement preservation include: surface treatments, crack treatments, pothole and depression repair, and resurfacing. Properly maintaining trails on an on-going basis is more cost-effective than neglecting preventative maintenance and allowing the bikeway condition to decay to the point that reconstruction is needed (“pave it and leave it approach”). Figure 4.13 illustrates how neglecting pavement preservation treatments can cause a rapid decline in trail pavement condition.

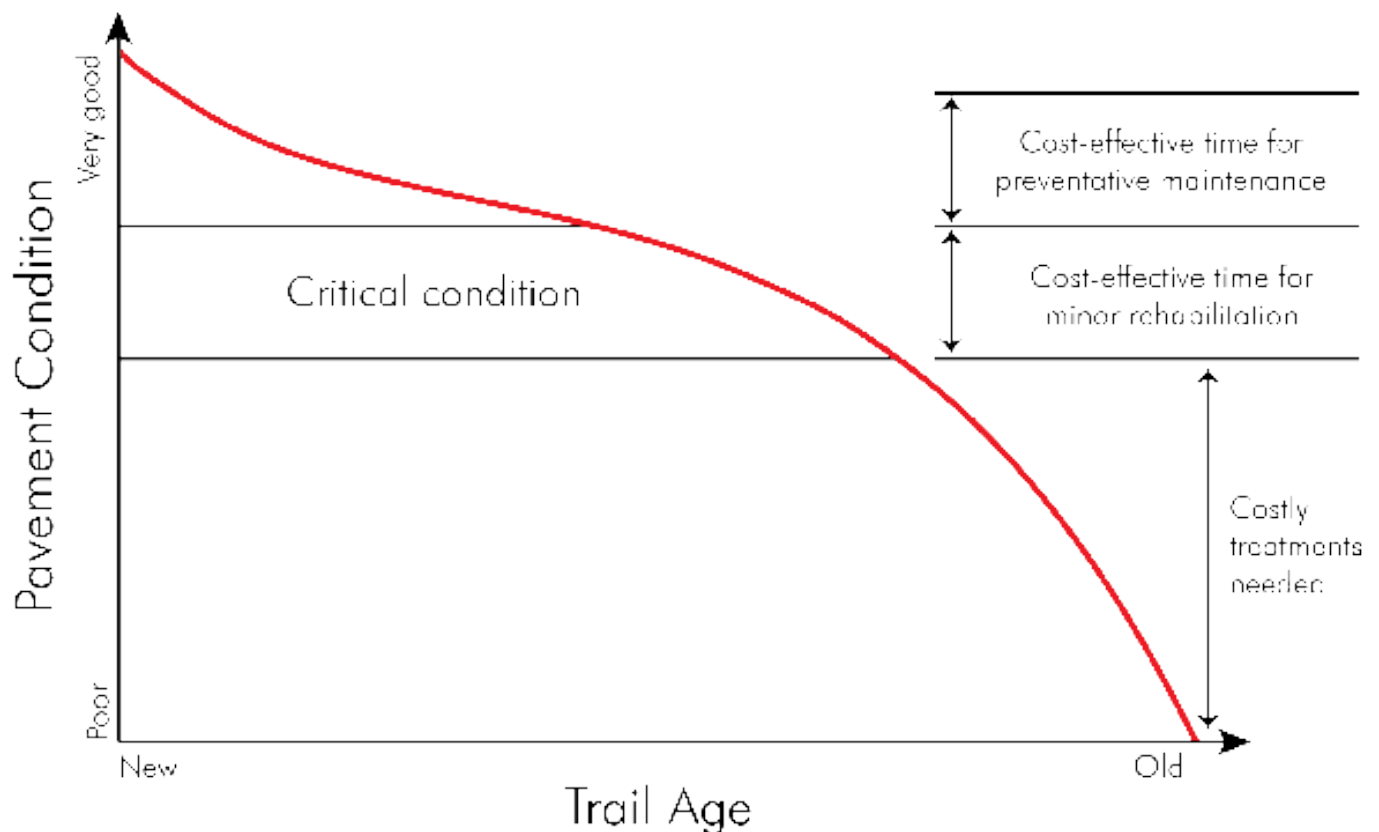


Figure 4.13: Preventative pavement maintenance and minor rehabilitation can significantly extend the lifespan of trails and help avoid costly future treatments such as mill and overlay or trail reconstruction.

Source: Modified from Minnesota Local Road Research Board

### *Surface Treatments*

Pavement surface treatments are intended to restore minor surface defects and to seal and refresh the pavement surface. These generally have relatively short lives when compared to pavement overlays, and must be re-applied on a regular basis to obtain maximum benefits. Surface treatments include the following:

#### FOG SEAL

Fog seals are a recommended application for sealing and enriching the asphalt surface, sealing minor cracks, helping prevent raveling (surface deterioration) on high volume open-graded friction courses and providing shoulder delineation.

#### SLURRY SEAL

Slurry seals are a mixture of fine aggregates (rock) ranging in size from approximately ¼ to ½ inch in diameter, asphalt emulsion (oil), water, and mineral filler, which is mostly Portland cement. Slurry seals, which are typically ¼ to ½" thick, may be used to seal existing oxidized and hardened asphalt pavements, slow surface raveling, seal small cracks, and improve skid resistance.

#### CHIP SEAL

Chip seals (also known as seal coats) are applications of asphalt followed immediately with a layer of small rocks. Applications with two layers are referred to as double chip seals. Seal coats are primarily used to protect the pavement from the deteriorating effects of sun (asphalt hardening and oxidation or "chalking") and water.

#### MICROSURFACING

Microsurfacing is a mix of polymermodified asphalt emulsion (oil), well graded and crushed mineral aggregate, mineral filler (normally Portland cement), water, and chemical additives that control the "break" (separation of water from asphalt) and evaporation time. Microsurfacing is primarily used as a preventive maintenance technique or surface treatment for asphalt pavements still in good general condition. Microsurfacing can slow raveling of aging asphalt pavements.

### *Crack Treatments*

Crack treatments are necessary to prevent moisture infiltration into bikeway pavements, which can accelerate pavement distress. Crack treatments should be applied within the first five years of pavement construction to achieve the maximum benefit, and then reapplied as needed thereafter. Common materials used primarily for asphalt crack treatments in Minnesota include crumb rubber, hot-poured elastic, and CRAFCO Mastic One.

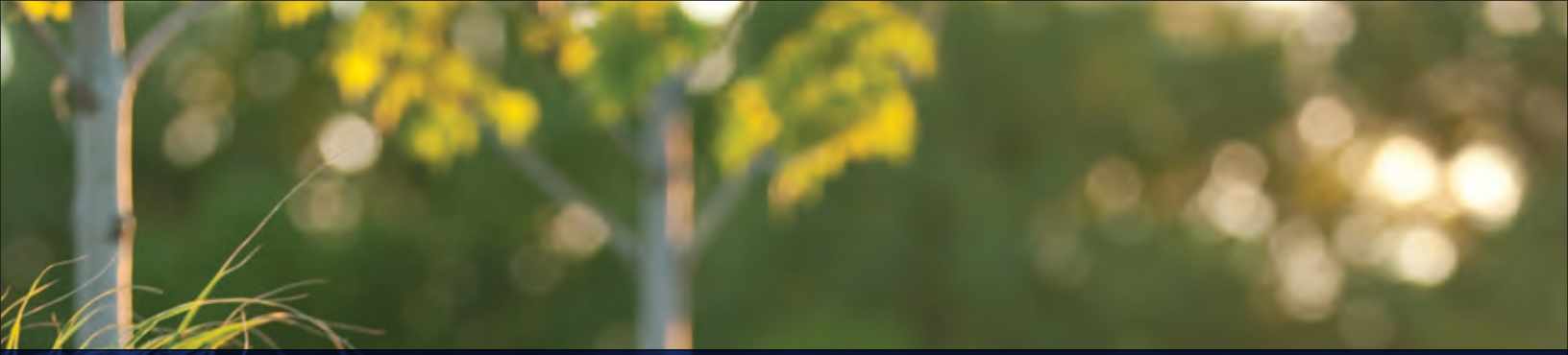
### *Pothole and Depression Repair*

Even with proper maintenance, potholes and depressions can appear in pavement. Methods to repair potholes and depressions include hot mix asphalt patching, cold mix asphalt patching, and infrared patching.

### *Resurfacing*

After a bikeway pavement has reached the end of its useful life, it will need to be reconstructed or resurfaced. Methods of resurfacing include asphalt overlay, mill and overlay, – The removal of a surface layer of asphalt to remove surface defects prior to the application of a new layer of hot-mix asphalt surfacing, and ultrathin bonded wearing course.





SECTION 5  
**5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**



The system plan establishes an overall vision for the community that is ambitious yet realistic if incrementally implemented. Thoughtful and prudent implementation of the system plan will be critical to being successful in meeting needs in a fiscally responsible and balanced manner. By taking an assertive role in managing implementation of the plan in sync with community development, the City can gain greater assurance that the quality of life values held by residents will be realized in the future. Success in this regard will require insightful leadership and a willingness to use a variety of approaches to managing development and leveraging financial resources (public and private) to achieve desired public values. This section sets forth an overall implementation strategy and establishes baseline priorities to guide that process.

BALANCED AND DISCIPLINED APPROACH

As defined in Section 2 – Vision Statement and Policy Plan, a key principle of the plan is taking a balanced approach to implementation to ensure that multiple community values are being realized and that the wide-ranging interests of residents are well served as time goes on. A balanced approach also provides the City more latitude in taking advantage of opportunities as they arise. By focusing on raising the level of service through strategic and prioritized investments, the role that the system plays as a defining element in the City’s infrastructure can be strengthened.

LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO A SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM

A sustainable system is the point to which the community is willing to support implementing the system plan to receive desired public benefits. Benefits relate to cultural (personal and social), ecological, and economic values that individual residents and the larger community find important and are willing to support by making investments in the system.

To be sustainable, implementation of the plan must take into account the long-term commitments required to develop, operate and maintain, and ultimately replace each aspect of the system as it moves through its lifecycle.

IMPLEMENTATION CATEGORIES

An overall implementation strategy, priorities, and development costs for each of these components is defined in this section.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

PARK SYSTEM

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

NATURAL OPEN SPACES / GREENWAYS

NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

TRAIL SYSTEM



## KEY OBJECTIVES OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

THE OBJECTIVES ASSOCIATED WITH INVOLVING RESIDENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Determine who the stakeholders are and their interest in a particular development initiative
- ✓ Understand their needs and unique perspectives
- ✓ Identify and understand concerns and problems
- ✓ Develop alternatives and find appropriate solutions with input from stakeholders

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Rogers is committed to continuing public involvement through the implementation of the system plan. The degree to which this will occur will vary depending on what aspect of the plan is being implemented. For larger scale projects, such as the development or redevelopment of a neighborhood park, public involvement in the actual design process will be fairly extensive and involve representation from key stakeholders. In addition, forums for broader public input (e.g., open houses and presentations) would also be used as needed to communicate and exchange ideas with interested citizens. For smaller scale projects, notifications of interested parties would be a more appropriate approach.

In addition to formalized processes for particular projects, Rogers will continue to use the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to advise the City Council on development initiatives as they occur. The public is welcome to attend its regularly scheduled meetings. Rogers uses numerous tools to provide a consistent level of communication with interested citizens.

## PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

The following table outlines general criteria for prioritizing plan implementation. The criteria are broad enough to encompass the predominant factors in the decision process, yet limited enough to be manageable for decision makers to gain consensus and take action.

<i>Evaluation Criteria</i>	<i>Criteria Description</i>
<b>Community Demand</b>	Action is warranted due to identified community demand based on needs assessment studies and defined trends.
<b>Recreation Program Need</b>	Action is warranted based on current and projected city and local associations' recreation program facility demands.
<b>Redevelopment/ Upgrading of Facility</b>	Action is warranted due to facility being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In an unsafe condition or of poor quality</li> <li>• Old and at the end of its useful lifecycle</li> <li>• Ineffective at servicing current needs</li> </ul>
<b>Development Patterns and Population Density</b>	Action is warranted to service the needs of an area based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current and projected residential development patterns</li> <li>• Current and projected population and demographic profiles</li> </ul>
<b>Funding Availability/ Partnership Opportunity</b>	Action is warranted due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding availability for specific use</li> <li>• Partnership opportunity for specific type of development</li> </ul>
<b>Preservation of Significant Natural Resources</b>	Action is warranted to preserve and/or enhance significant natural resources in the city.

### Implementation Priorities Between System Categories

The following table establishes priorities between categories and the underlying rationale for one priority over another. Note that this is not absolute, which means that if an opportunity to implement a lower priority presents itself, the City should take advantage of it before the opportunity is lost.

Priority	Category	Overall Priority Statement
1	<b>Trails</b>	The implementation of trails is also intrinsically linked to community development, especially the trails that would traverse the greenway system. Given its routine rating as the highest value recreational activity by people across age groups, developing the trail system is justifiably a very high priority within the city. As with the greenways, most of the trails need to be established as part of development and road construction processes if they are to occur at all.
2	<b>Athletic Facilities / Community Spaces</b>	Athletic facilities and community spaces are listed near the top due to the 2017 Community Survey responses and also to ensure the City's response to immediate and near-term facility supply and demand is in balance. Moving forward with phased implementation of these facilities and spaces is a high priority.
3	<b>Parks</b>	Continued development of the park system remains important to serving traditional recreational needs, especially neighborhood and community parks. This falls slightly behind the other priorities larger due to the greater immediacy of addressing those opportunities as development occurs. However, funding of parks is an immediate concern.
4	<b>Open Space and Greenways</b>	Setting aside lands for open space and greenways is a priority because it is intrinsically linked to community development. Setting aside this land must occur as part of that process if it is to occur at all.
5	<b>Natural Resources Stewardship</b>	With the ever increasing value that society places on preservation of remaining natural areas, establishing a stewardship program will become an increasingly significant priority. It is rated lower at this point since much of this relates to lands that have yet to be set aside as future open space and greenways, which will occur as development expands across the City.

*Note: The City will continue to foster a strong relationship with the School District to develop and expand parks and facilities for mutual benefit. This is especially the case with athletic facilities and program opportunities.*

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

The strategy for implementing the system plan and establishing priorities is underpinned by two objectives:

- 1 DEVELOPING A BALANCED SYSTEM OFFERING MULTIPLE COMMUNITY VALUES
- 2 TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AS THEY ARISE





## FACILITY USE POLICY

The main purpose of the facility use policy is to prioritize scheduled access and use of parks and facilities in the City of Rogers. The following outlines both mandatory and suggested guidelines for the interrelationship with local associations.

### *General Relationship Between the City and Local Associations*

The City of Rogers fully supports organized local athletic associations providing programs and services for the betterment of youth and adults in the city. To this end, the City is committed to providing facilities and material support deemed reasonable by the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council to support these programs. Further, the City, in concert with Community Education, will actively coordinate program offerings to effectively and efficiently meet community needs while avoiding duplication of efforts.

In return, local associations must commit to the City that program offerings are mindful of the public's health, safety and welfare, and are fair and equitable to all residents. In addition, it is the City of Rogers' policy that the public is best served when there is only one independently incorporated local association per sport or activity. The City also understands and supports that in some cases the public and volunteers are best served by having the traveling component of a particular sport administered by its own independent local association. In such cases, a clear link between associations must be apparent, that each complements the other, and that duplication of effort and use of facilities is avoided.

At its discretion, the City of Rogers may charge differing facility use fees as deemed appropriate by the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council. This would be implemented to discourage formation of new local associations that compete with existing athletic associations and/or create a need for duplicate services, which the City of Rogers views as not in the public's best interest. Further, any new associations that compete with existing athletic associations will be of lower priority and will not be assured of timely access to facilities or other material support. The City of Rogers will also not provide any administrative or professional recreation staff liaison assistance to competing local associations that are determined to be duplication of service and not in the public's best interest.

The City of Rogers also expects local associations to provide programs in a manner that is in keeping with the City's vision and policy plan as defined in Section 2, or otherwise documented by the City.

### *Scheduling Priority for Facilities Provided by the City*

Scheduling priority for facilities relates to all parks and recreation facilities owned or operated by the City as defined in this document or otherwise provided by the City. Examples include athletic fields, outdoor basketball courts, outdoor hockey rinks, etc. At all times, the City reserves the right to determine if a facility is considered "a scheduled facility" or not. In other words, the City may decide that it is in the public's best interest to periodically not schedule specific facilities for purposes of the need to rest a field for maintenance or safety or make a specific park or facility available to the public at large due to demand or its classification.



At the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council, certain City-owned facilities may be exempted of this policy and be administered under separate policy. The Recreation Center is an example of an exempted, which has its own set of adopted policies.

Local associations that meet the stated guidelines and request permitted use of a facility for a single use or ongoing program will be granted that opportunity based on the following priority of use schedule, and within the adopted standards for number of uses per team.

#### Priority #1 - City Programs

City provided programming and services will be the top priority for facility use. Examples include summer playground programs, basketball programs and special events open to the entire community.

#### Priority #2 – Community Education Programs

School District 728 Community Education programs, such as curriculum programs, interscholastic team practices, games, tournaments, etc.

#### Priority #3 – Youth Programs

Youth programs (18 and under) that are members of an independently incorporated local association currently recognized by the City of Rogers as the official organization for that particular program offering. One association per sport/activity will be given priority status based on seniority and number of participants. All recognized non-profit organizations must follow these general guidelines:

Note: There is a separate policy for indoor use at the Rogers Activity Center.

1. 75% of participants shall be City of Rogers residents, defined as youth residents 18 years old and under living in Rogers.
2. Association or Club is a non-profit organization as defined by State statute.
3. Association or Club must file a financial statement with the City each year that will be made public upon request; this statement must indicate revenue, expenditures and fund balances.
4. Association is open to all Rogers residents and may not discriminate based on race, ethnic background, or religion, or ability; however, team assignments may be based on ability.
5. All board meetings are open to the public, with the exception of personnel issues and litigation.
6. Organization must have an open process for parents to discuss concerns or recommend changes to the organization.

7. Teams are playing during the designated “primary season”.
8. The organization must abide by the City of Rogers core values and strategies for promoting healthy youth through involvement in programmed activities as may be developed in forthcoming years.

#### Priority #4 – Youth Programs, with Lower Percentage of Resident Participants

Non-profit youth associations or organizations that have 60% or more Rogers residents during the designated primary season.

#### Priority #5 – Adult Programs

Non-profit adult associations or organizations that have 60% or more Rogers residents during the designated primary season. Adult “residents” must either live or work full-time in Rogers.

#### Priority #6 – Service Groups

Rogers non-profit public service groups using City facilities to raise money for the benefit of the entire community.

#### Priority #7 – Local Businesses and Groups

Businesses and neighborhood groups located in Rogers during the designated primary season.

#### Priority #8 – Secondary Season Youth Programs

Priority #2 local associations during a secondary season.

#### Priority #9 – Non-Affiliated Associations

Youth and adult teams not affiliated with a Rogers non-profit organization. These teams are scheduled on a first come, first served basis after higher priority teams have had an opportunity to schedule their season. At least 50% or more of the participants on each team must either live or work full time in Rogers. Facility reservations will be limited to home games only, and team practices are limited to a maximum of one per week (may only have one game plus one practice per week maximum).



### *Field Use Fee*

The City will set fees prior to each season of use by the various local associations and other prioritized uses. All fees, any outstanding bills, and a complete participant roster (where applicable) must be submitted to the Recreation Department before any scheduling needs will be considered for a given season or event. This fee will be used to cover basic services including, but not limited to, coordination of scheduling and maintenance, providing portable toilets at select locations, and general field set up for games. Excluded items include maintaining a field more than once each day, providing extra portable toilets and/or cleanings, or moving of bases.

At the City's discretion, fees for priorities lower than #2 as previously listed typically covers use only. No maintenance will be performed nor may any changes be made to facilities by the persons/groups making the reservation unless expressly allowing in the permit. Any maintenance or changes to fields may be requested and will be reviewed for feasibility. If the City is able to honor requests, fees will be assessed based on actual expenses incurred as determined by the City.

### *Facility Use Permit*

Priority #3 through #9 teams must have an approved Rogers Park and Recreation Department Facility Use Permit to have access to scheduled facilities.

### *Preemptive Clause*

The City of Rogers will make every effort to avoid preemption of scheduled events once a facility has been reserved and all requirements are met. However, the City reserves the right to preempt a scheduled event at a scheduled facility when in the City's best judgment the preemption is in the community's best interests.

### *Administrative Procedures*

The following procedures will be used for administering facility use policies:

1. Fees for use of scheduled facilities will be subject to change each year at the discretion of the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council
2. The City will establish dates each year by which teams must commit requests for reservation use in order of priority status. After that date, fields, or facilities will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.
3. If associations or organizations are at the same priority level offering the same sport activity for the same age group and gender, then the team or organization that has the highest seniority will receive the higher priority status for reservations
4. Any organization that fails to provide for and follow the guidelines set forth by the City, or provides false information on a permit application, is subject to revocation of its permit at the discretion of the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council
6. No organization will be allowed to sublease the City's facilities without City approval

## JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS

As defined in other sections, maximizing the level of cooperation between the City and the School District is at the core of economically and effectively servicing all of the community's parks and recreational needs. It is important to recognize that the objective of these joint-use agreements is for the City to derive some quantifiable benefit from forming a partnership, verses going it alone, even though the agreement itself may not represent an even split with respect to commitment or responsibility.

Having very clearly defined shared responsibility agreements in place between partners is critical to describing each parties commitments to equitably and predictably implementing the system plan. Key elements of these agreements include:

- Equal representation – each partner, through mutual agreement, should appoint a staff person to represent their interests in any agreement
- Ongoing communication – between representatives should be undertaken to define the issues and take action on directives from elected officials
- Implementation planning – clearly defines the commitments and responsibilities of partner on an overall basis and on a specific facility basis

On an overall basis, the shared responsibility agreements should clearly define mutual goals and general principles of the process.

On a specific facility basis, the shared responsibility agreements should clearly define the specific responsibilities of each partner involved in the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of a particular facility. These detailed agreements are vital to the success of the system plan because it is at this level at which actual implementation takes place.

## GENERAL AGREEMENT PARAMETERS

THE FOLLOWING DEFINES THE GENERAL FORMAT FOR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

- ✓ Name of Project/Park Site
- ✓ Parties to the Agreement
- ✓ Date and Term of Agreement
- ✓ Site Description
- ✓ Ownership
- ✓ Lease Agreement
- ✓ Development Program and Site Master Plan
- ✓ Land acquisition responsibilities
- ✓ Development Responsibilities
- ✓ Operations and Maintenance Responsibilities
- ✓ Programming and Scheduling
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ User Fees and Income from Activities
- ✓ Review Process
- ✓ Rules

Although shared responsibility agreements have legal standing, it is important that they be written to be understandable by those responsible for implementation, namely the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and City of Rogers staff, maintenance crews, and programmers.



## RECREATION PROGRAMMING IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Starting in 2007, the City of Rogers initiated its own recreation program in order to meet the growing recreational needs of the community. Where advantageous to the City, new programs have been added to complement, expand upon, and, on occasion, replace the program offerings provided to residents through School District 728 Community Education or by local associations. The following provides an overview of the administrative system and considerations.

### *Registration Management System*

A formal registration and facilities scheduling process and management system has been implemented, which also assists in keeping track of facility supply and demand. Management systems will also be needed for a range of administrative functions as well, ranging from hiring and managing part and full-time staff to managing any participate waivers that might apply.

### *Recreation Categories*

The City should continue to analyze its current program mix and segment user populations based on diversity subjects, audiences, and formats. The greater the program diversity, the more residents will be actively engaged in local recreational activities. Flexibility of program offerings will be a key part of keeping the City’s offerings relevant to the community.

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#### RECREATION PROGRAM CATEGORIES

*Expected to evolve over time as recreation trends change*

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##### EVENTS

*(events, fairs, Themes-in-the-Park)*

##### FACILITY BASED ACTIVITIES

*(Rogers Community Room, District 728 facilities, Rogers city fields)*

##### TRIPS AND TOURS

*(youth and adult)*

##### CONTRACT TRAINING

*(contracting out services to other organizations)*

##### CAMPS

*(youth and adult camps or clinics)*

##### CLASSES

*(Specialty, arts and crafts, subject matter workshops, etc.)*

### *Program Authorization and Evaluation*

All programs will be annually evaluated to determine their relevance to the community. Key program statistical review will include:

- Overall average participants per class
- Average class fee
- Cancellation rate
- Operating margin (income minus direct costs)

At the discretion of the Rogers Park and Recreation Board and City Council, programs that are under performing will be scaled back, phased out, or eliminated to make way for new program opportunities. Authorization for undertaking all new programs will also be at the discretion of the Rogers Park and Recreation Board and City Council based on evaluation of program demand information and relevance to the community.

### *Ongoing Needs Assessment*

The implementation strategy for recreation programming centers on defining the type of programs most desired by the community and then providing that service either through Rogers Recreation or Community Education, whichever is in the best interest of local residents. This will include performing a needs assessment model once a year to help determine new program opportunities and analyze existing programs. The baseline process for the needs assessment will include:

- Brainstorming with staff, committees, instructors, etc. to generate ideas
- Research possible new or emerging ideas and trends and analyze the competition; determine competitive strengths, weaknesses, and gaps
- Define options narrowing down to two or three different recreation programs that hold the most promise for success
- Review findings with the Park and Recreation Commission to ensure consistency with overall mission and goals of the program
- Test with targeted audience to ensure potential offerings are relevant and well-received by residents
- Prepare a pro forma to make sure that the program is economically feasible and minimize risks

### *Program Income*

Income received from recreation programming will generally be used to offset direct costs. Having an established recreation programming account would minimize the need for general fund dollars to be used to support programs.

### *Marketing*

Recreation mailings, flyers, and the City website will be used for marketing recreation programs and services. Mailing brochures is expected to be the single most important promotion method for all new programs.

## KEY ACTION STEPS

### FOR PROVIDING AND IMPROVING UPON RECREATION PROGRAM OFFERINGS:

- ✓ Periodically surveying residents to define recreational program needs and issues; this practice should start in 2022 and be undertaken periodically as warranted to track trends and interests
- ✓ Development and adoption of formal policies on recreation programming at the local level.
- ✓ Preparation of formal agreements on the development and implementation of recreation programs serving Rogers residents; this will also involve formal or enhanced agreements with the School District and local associations as providers of recreational programs and services to ensure all needs are addressed.

## KEY ACTION STEPS

### FOR DEVELOPING THE PARK SYSTEM INCLUDE:

- ✓ Establish an initial five-year park improvement program specifically focusing on neighborhood and community parks as defined under the system plan.
- ✓ Prepare a master plan for priority parks consistent with the five-year park improvement program. This should include a development cost estimate and listing of priorities for each park.
- ✓ Undertake park improvement projects consistent with funding availability and set priorities.

### FOR DEVELOPING ATHLETIC FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Prepare a priority list and phasing program for redevelopment of select existing athletic facilities as defined in Section 3; phasing program should be implemented over time consistent with documented need.
- ✓ Secure funding for design and construction.

## PARK SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Based on the limited funding available from outside sources, implementing the neighborhood park system plan in the near term will continue to rely on traditional funding sources (i.e., park dedication fund and, at the discretion of the City Council, CIP or referendum funding.) Under this scenario, development of individual parks will continue on a priority basis consistent with past practices and available funding. Under a limited funding scenario, being disciplined to funding key parks first will put the City in the strongest position to meet the basic recreational needs of the community.

### *Park Dedication Policies*

As defined in Section 3, successfully setting aside and developing land for parks, open spaces, and trails will require the use of a variety of funding and land development tools and strategies. Continued reliance on park and trail dedication policies and ordinances will undoubtedly remain an important part of the funding mix. Policies should be consistent with regional standards typical of communities of similar size, character, and demographic profile. Yearly review and updating of these policies and ordinances should be undertaken by the City.

## ATHLETIC FACILITIES IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The implementation strategy for athletic facilities centers on current and project athletic demands. The City has secured land for future development and has implemented key components of the 2007 Plan aiding in tracking and scheduling, use. This plan focuses on prioritizing and constructing elements identified in the plan.

### *Cost Projections*

Cost projections for parks and athletic facilities are based on upgrading or developing the major components of the system plan to reach an optimal level of development. The projections are based on a combination of site-specific development issues and professional judgments based on projects of similar size and characteristics. The projections are also based on 2017 dollars, which will require inflation adjustments in future years. The following provides an overall projected cost for specific parks, recognizing that funding limitations may require phasing development of a given park over a period of years.

Acquisition costs associated with any new parks are not included in the table. Given the variability of land values, projecting acquisition costs with any degree of certainty from one year to the next is difficult. Even modest projections suggest that the cost for the City to directly acquire the land for future parks would be into the millions of dollars based on per acre land costs within the city.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	Range of Potential Costs
Brockton Meadows Park	\$200,000 - \$240,000
Brookside Meadows Park	\$400,000 - \$480,000
Crow River Heights Park	\$200,000 - \$240,000
Dutch Knolls Park	\$40,000 - \$50,000
Edgewater Park	\$150,000 - \$180,000
Erickson Park	\$40,000 - \$50,000
Fox Creek West Park	\$185,000 - \$225,000
Hassan Hills Park	\$90,000 - \$110,000
Hassan Meadow Park	\$165,000 - \$200,000
Island View Estates Park	\$300,000 - \$360,000
Shadow Woods Park	\$40,000 - \$50,000
Sunnyside Park	\$90,000 - \$110,000
Proposed Neighborhood Parks (6)	\$2,100,000 - \$2,500,000
Proposed Mini-Neighborhood Park (1)	\$225,000 - \$270,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,225,000 - \$5,065,000</b>

COMMUNITY PARKS	Range of Potential Costs
Cowley Lake Park	\$2,000,000 - \$2,500,000
Henry Woods Park	\$770,000 - \$925,000
Lions Central Park	\$4,000,000 - \$5,500,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6,770,000 - \$8,925,000</b>

PARK RESERVE	Range of Potential Costs
Crow Hassan Park Reserve	TBD
<b>Total:</b>	<b>-</b>

ATHLETIC FACILITIES + SCHOOL SITES	Range of Potential Costs
Hassan Elementary	\$50,000 - \$60,000
Lynch Park	\$75,000 - \$90,000
North Community Park	\$965,000 - \$1,160,000
Rogers Elementary / South Community Park	\$5,000,000 - \$7,000,000
Rogers Middle School	\$8,000,000 - \$12,500,000
Rogers High School	TBD
<b>Total:</b>	<b>-</b>

SPECIAL USE	Range of Potential Costs
Rogers Activity Center	\$6,500,000 - \$7,800,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,500,000 - \$7,800,000</b>

## KEY ACTION STEPS

TO ENHANCE ALL PARTIES' CONFIDENCE WITH THIS APPROACH:

- ✓ Develop a prototype process for conservation development through a hands-on working collaboration between the LGUs and developers for select development parcels.
- ✓ Formalize the use of the conservation development process as part of the City's tools for managing development. This includes updating the Comprehensive Plan and zoning, subdivision, and platting ordinances to reflect this approach to land development. (Note: Standard regulatory land use controls will continue to provide regulatory strength behind managing development. The key difference will be the increased emphasis on collaboration to achieve the highest public values from each development that occurs within the city).

### Cost Projections

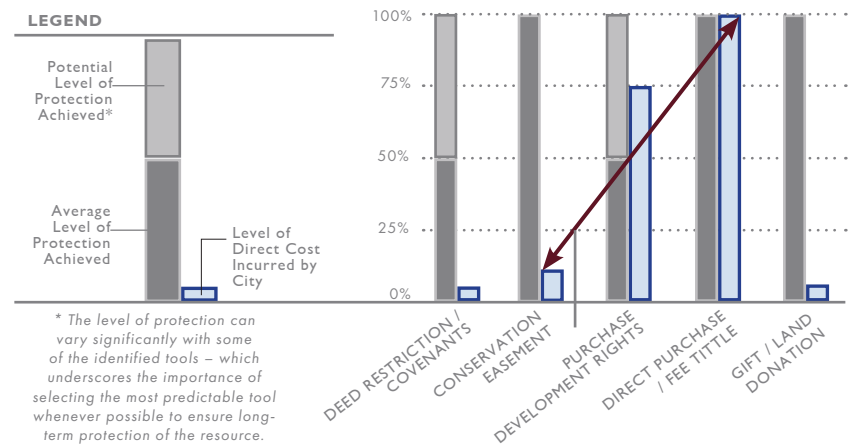
Given the uncertainty on the final shape and form that these greenways will take relative to the system plan, projecting costs with any degree of certainty is difficult. However, even modest projections suggest that the cost for the City to directly acquire the greenways would likely be prohibitively expensive, well into the millions of dollars based on per acre land costs within the city. Under the system plan, the City will have to rely extensively on working collaborations with and, in some cases, provide various incentives to landowners and developers in order to set aside land for greenways. The following cost projections are for the development of trailhead features within existing park properties owned by the City.

## OPEN SPACE / GREENWAY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Implementing the open space and greenway system will require the use of a variety of strategies as defined in Section 3 – Parks, Athletic Facilities, and Open Space Plan. The most important of these is greater reliance on a collaborative approach to land development where open space, trails, and park amenities can be more fully integrated into private developments. The use of alternative strategies defined in Section 3, such as conservation development, are relatively straightforward but also represent a significant departure from traditional land development practices. Making this transition will require a good-faith partnership between the City, landowners, and developers – along with a willingness by all parties to be flexible.

One of the key values of the conservation development process is that it allows the mixing and matching of strategies for protecting and managing natural resources, as defined in Section 3. The figure below illustrates the cost-benefit to the City for a number of these strategies.

Cost-Benefit of Land Protection Strategies



In Rogers, direct purchase of land for greenways and natural open spaces to the extent envisioned under the system plan will likely be cost prohibitive, especially as land values continue to escalate. Therefore, the use of other lower direct-cost tools such as conservation easements will be imperative if the City is to achieve its vision.

OPEN SPACE / GREENWAY	Range of Potential Costs
Cambria Farms Park	\$90,000 - \$110,000
Dayspring Estates Park	\$55,000 - \$70,000
Hassan Hills 2 Park	\$50,000 - \$60,000
Hassan Hills 3 Park*	-
Northridge Park*	-
Meadow Lakes Estates Park*	-
Walker Park	30,000 - \$40,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$225,000 - \$280,000</b>

\*No improvements beyond trail development and natural resource management are proposed within these areas. Costs for these items are provided on pages 5.13 and 5.14.



## NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Developing and implementing a natural resources stewardship program is also an important priority. A formal program will be needed as open spaces are preserved if the long-term health of the natural systems within these areas are to be assured. This is particularly important in that stewardship is a long-term endeavor where results from near-term actions (or the lack of action) will be most evident in years into the future.

The action steps defined in Section 3 outline the specific strategy for developing this program. The most critical factor in this endeavor is securing a perpetual funding source. Lacking this, gains made during initial phases of the program can be easily lost if not followed by continued investment in management in future years.

### Cost Projections

Since restoration and management of the natural resource areas in the city is still in its infancy and the ecological condition of the properties has not been fully evaluated, projecting the cost for implementing a comprehensive program is difficult to determine. However, for planning purposes, the following table considers a range of cost projections for restoring and managing ecological resources under similar conditions found in Rogers.

COVER TYPE	Potential Initial Restoration Costs/Acre
Maple-Basswood Forest	\$12,000 - \$18,000
Oak Savanna System	\$5,000 - \$10,000
Prairie System	\$3,000 - \$5,000
Wetland System	\$5,000 - \$10,000

*Note: there are many variables for costs due to site preparation, scope of construction activities, maintenance activities with current and future weather conditions.*

COVER TYPE	Potential Annual Long-Term Maintenance and Management Costs/Acre
Maple-Basswood Forest	\$4,000 - \$6,000
Oak Savanna System	\$3,000 - \$5,000
Prairie System	\$2,000 - \$3,000
Wetland System	\$2,000 - \$5,000

## KEY ACTION STEPS

### FOR ESTABLISHING A STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR PUBLICLY-OWNED LANDS AND OTHER OPEN SPACE LANDS SET ASIDE IN CONSERVATION EASEMENT:

- ✓ Establish a formal process for negotiating stewardship programs and funding mechanisms as part of new developments where land is set aside in conservation easements. The program should set forth funding level requirements and administration/oversight of funding use to achieve stewardship objectives.
- ✓ Establish an initial five-year stewardship program for publicly-owned natural open space lands. The intent is to begin the process of managing natural resources and building the city's capacity to fund the program on a long-term basis. This should include a formal process of defining new ways in which this type of program can be funded given the potential long-term costs of the program. (It is unlikely that sole reliance on CIP type funding program will be sufficient to accomplish this goal.)

## KEY ACTION STEPS

### FOR DEVELOPING THE TRAIL SYSTEM INCLUDE:

- ✓ The City should establish a five-year trail program that defines key priorities. Trails that serve the greatest public good in terms of recreational, transportation, and safety values will be the highest priorities.
- ✓ The City should seek a variety of federal, state, regional, and local funding sources to help implement the trail system plan.

## TRAILS SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The implementation strategy for the trail system will require the use of a variety of funding and land development tools and strategies. Trails should be considered one of the public values being sought as part of the development process. As with parks and greenways, the City will need to collaborate with developers to leverage the economies of each development to help fund trails. Direct public funding may also play a role in implementing the greenway-based trails consistent with its standard trail development policies. The strategy for other trails within the system will be consistent with past practices of prioritizing and developing trails in line with available resources and willing partners.

### *Trail System Cost Estimates*

Cost estimates for trails and on-street bikeways are based on cost per mile estimates from MnDOT's 2016 average bid price report. Estimates generally assume good conditions requiring a limited degree of extra site preparation (e.g., soil corrections), bridge building, and additional stormwater management planning. Cost estimates do not include any costs associated with land acquisition or major bridges across the interstate. Sidewalks are not included in the cost estimates because the trail system plan does not identify any planned sidewalks, but it is anticipated that the sidewalk network will grow as the City fills in gaps in the sidewalk network and as new development occurs.

Note that projecting the costs for developing trails without the benefit of site surveys and design layouts offers certain practical limitations. Given this, it is important to underscore that the cost projections presented here are for planning purposes and that more detailed evaluation is required to refine costs as the city develops their funding packages and grant applications.

FACILITY TYPE	PLANNED MILES	COST PER MILE	TOTAL COST
County Off-street Trails	11.0	\$534,000	\$5,874,000*
Local On-street Bikeways**	5.7	\$22,000	\$125,400
Local Off-street Trails	22.1	\$534,000	\$11,801,400
<b>Total:</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$17,800,800*</b>

All unit costs per MnDOT's 2016 average bid price report.

This table does not include mileage or costs for constructing planned regional trails that will be designated by Three Rivers Park District (refer to the Crow River and Rush Creek Regional Trail Master Plans for further details). Regional trail costs are typically \$60-\$120 per lineal foot.

\* The cost of implementing on-street bicycle facilities will be based on the type of on-street bicycle facility chosen. For the purpose of these cost estimates, standard on-street bicycle lanes were selected.

## USE OF THE COST ESTIMATES

The intended use of the cost estimates is to aid the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council in developing an overall funding and implementation strategy, including:

- Defining the potential magnitude of the public investment needed to develop the trail system
- Comparing the relative cost of one park or trail improvement over that of another
- Determining the level of service threshold that the community is willing to support with local funding
- Prioritizing and budgeting for capital improvement initiatives based on funding availability

Although the intent is to be conservative, actual costs will vary, perhaps significantly, depending on the actual conditions found out in the field, final design and scope of a given project, and economic conditions at the time of bidding and implementation. Note that the cost projections should be updated on a periodic basis to stay in alignment with potential cost increases over time and to factor in costs to replace items that will wear out over time.



### IMPORTANT COST PROJECTIONS QUALIFIER

Projecting the potential cost for implementing the system plan poses inherent limitations due to the lack of detailed development programs and design plans. Although the projections are valid for the intended purposes, detailed cost projections are recommended as individual projects are identified for implementation. An allowance for design, testing, surveying, contingency, etc. should also be accounted for when planning for improvements. 20% of construction cost is typically budgeted.



### ADJUSTING FOR INFLATION

Costs are based on 2017 cost to construct. A 10% per-year cost estimate increase is recommended from date of plan adoption to account for inflation.

## PARKS AND TRAILS FUNDING OPTIONS

The availability of funding to implement the Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan will have direct impact on the level of development that can be undertaken. For park development, the vast majority of funding will come through park dedication fees, CIP, local referendum, school district partnerships, and (increasingly) partnerships with developers to set aside open space and provide long-term stewardship funding. For trail funding, there are many more funding options available, including funding sources at the federal, state, regional, and local level. The following tables describe available funding sources for developing both parks and trails.

PARK SYSTEM FUNDING SOURCES	DESCRIPTION
PARK AND TRAIL DEDICATION FEES	<p>Park dedication ordinances are enacted to ensure that a new development will contain enough space for parks, trails, open space, and recreational areas. Rogers can require parkland dedication or fees or a combination of both from developers. These fees are paid by developers as part of the permitting process for new construction or redevelopment.</p> <p>“Cash payments received must be used only for the acquisition and development or improvement of parks, recreational facilities, playgrounds, trails, wetlands, or open space based on the approved park systems plan. Cash payments must not be used for ongoing operation or maintenance of parks, recreational facilities, playgrounds, trails, wetlands, or open space.” Minnesota Statutes 462.358 Subd. 2(b).</p> <p>A local jurisdiction must have an adopted park, trail, and open space plan to exact fees from developers. The fee must be rational and based on the cost of the park and trail elements. The City should periodically re-assess their park and trail dedication fees to determine what is appropriate.</p>
LOCAL/REGIONAL BOND MEASURES	<p>Local and regional units of government have the authority to issue bonds to support capital construction programs. These local bond measures, or levies, are usually initiated by voter-approved general obligation bonds for specific projects. In effect, using bonding to finance public infrastructure improvements results in the cost of an improvement to be spread over the expected life of the improvement, rather than up front as the improvement is actually made. The total amount of debt local governments are authorized to issue is limited by their own debt financing policies.</p>
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING	<p>The City of Rogers can set aside dedicated funding in their capital improvement program (CIP) to fund park development. A CIP is a short-range plan which identifies capital projects and equipment purchases, provides a planning schedule and identifies options for financing the plan.</p>
MINNESOTA OUTDOOR RECREATION AND LCCMR GRANTS	<p>The State of Minnesota annually allocates funds for park acquisition and development projects that meet recreational needs identified by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The grants are competitive and awarded through the Department of Natural Resources according to project merits.</p>
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND	<p>The federal government allocates monies each year to states for public acquisition and development projects. The State of Minnesota administers these grants through the Department of Natural Resources.</p>

TRAIL SYSTEM FUNDING SOURCES	DESCRIPTION
FHWA CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CMAQ)	FHWA's <a href="#">CMAQ program</a> provides a flexible funding source to State and local governments for transportation projects and programs to help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Funding is available to reduce congestion and improve air quality for areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards
FHWA SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBG)	The <a href="#">STBG, formerly known as the Transportation Alternatives Program</a> , authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities. In the Twin Cities metropolitan area, the Metropolitan Council's <a href="#">Regional Solicitation process</a> allocates these funds to locally-initiated projects to meet regional transportation needs. Regional solicitation funds support locally-initiated highway, road, transit and other transportation improvements in the seven-county metro.
COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CSBG)	The <a href="#">Community Services Block Grant</a> provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities and includes transportation projects. Administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, funding is allocated to states who then make it available to local communities. Funded projects have included: commercial district streetscape improvements; sidewalk improvements; safe routes to school; and neighborhood-based bicycling and walking facilities that improve local transportation options or help revitalize neighborhoods.
RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)	The <a href="#">Recreational Trails Program (RTP)</a> provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses.
FHWA HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HSIP)	The <a href="#">Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)</a> is a core Federal-aid program with the purpose to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads, including non-State-owned roads and roads on tribal land.
MINNESOTA LEGACY FUNDS	In 2008 the <a href="#">Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment</a> was passed to support funding for a number of activities through a sales tax, including parks and trails funding.
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	The <a href="#">Minnesota DNR's Local Trail Connections Program</a> provides grants to local units of government to promote relatively short trail connections between where people live and desirable locations, not to develop significant new trails.
HENNEPIN COUNTY PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROGRAM (PRESERVATION PLUS)	The pavement preservation plus program is a new county program that provides funding for additional small construction improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian environment such as curb extensions, pedestrian refuge medians, signage, and curb ramps.

## TRAILS SYSTEM FUNDING SOURCES (CONTINUED)

FUNDING SOURCES	DESCRIPTION
HENNEPIN COUNTY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	Hennepin County provides funding for bikeway and sidewalk projects through its pedestrian and bicycle capital improvement program (CIP). The purpose of the bikeway solicitation is to provide funding assistance to develop and implement effective bikeway projects that extend the Hennepin County bikeway system, support local plans, and support the implementation of the Hennepin County Transportation Systems Plan, including the Hennepin County Complete Streets Policy and the Hennepin County 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan. Bicycle projects must be designated on the most current Hennepin County 2040 Bicycle Transportation System Plan Map, and eligible sidewalk projects must be located along Hennepin County roadways. Funds for the construction of bicycle and sidewalk infrastructure will be awarded at a maximum of \$100,000 per project, and all project contracts must fully encumber funds within 3 years of the date of the funding award.
HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMUNITY WORKS PROGRAM	The Hennepin County Community Works program is focused on strategic public works investments to improve quality of life, stimulate economic development, strengthen communities through connections, maintain and improve natural systems, and enhance the tax base. The community works program targets investment in specific areas based on opportunities identified through comprehensive planning and stakeholder engagement. The community works program has funded multi-use trails, bike lanes, access improvements, and bicycling support facilities.
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT OPERATIONS FUNDING	Operation costs for the regional trail system are currently funded primarily through the Three Rivers Park District's operating budget. The operating budget's primary source of funds is property taxes with some revenue from the state as part of the operations and maintenance fund allocations from the Metropolitan Council. Additional costs associated with surface preventive maintenance are funded from the Three Rivers Park District's asset management program, which includes revenue allocated to the Three Rivers Park District from the state as well as Three Rivers Park District general obligation bonds.
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT ACQUISITIONS FUNDING	Typically acquisition costs of the regional trail system are split between the Metropolitan Council (75 percent) and Three Rivers Park District (25 percent). The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and Metropolitan Council bonds are utilized for open space acquisition with no habitable structures. The Parks and Trail Legacy Funding and Metropolitan Council bonds are used for other land acquisition. The park district funding contribution is generally from annual general obligation bond funds or the land acquisition, development, and betterment fund. On occasion, Hennepin County will also provide acquisition funds as part of a bikeway development grant.
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING	The park district strives to secure external funds to assist with developing the regional trail system. External funding sources include but are not limited to federal transportation grants, Metropolitan Council/State of Minnesota (Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program, Local Trails Connections Program), Federal Recreation Trail Grant Program, and Hennepin County bikeway development/gap grants. Three Rivers Park District also funds regional trail development through annual general obligation bond funds.
ROGERS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	The City of Rogers can set aside dedicated funding in their capital improvement program (CIP) to fund park development. A CIP is a short-range plan which identifies capital projects and equipment purchases, provides a planning schedule and identifies options for financing the plan.





CITY OF ROGERS, MINNESOTA

**PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND  
TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN**