

City of Grand Rapids
IRA Civic Center / Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, October 9th – 5:30 p.m.
IRA Civic Center

- I. Call to order
- II. Financial reports (only if end of quarter)
- III. Approve July Minutes
- IV. Setting of regular agenda
- V. Old business
- VI. New business
 - a. Parks & Trails Plan update work session with John Powers
- VII. Staff Reports
 - a. Programs and events update
- VIII. Correspondence
- IX. Visitors
- X. Adjournment

**To serve the Grand Rapids area by providing outstanding opportunities
through our facilities, programming and civic partnerships.**

Updating the Grand Rapids Parks and Trails Plan
Review of Possible Actions

Community Facility	Possible Action
American Legion Memorial Park	
Blandin Beach	
Blandin Garden	
Central School Square	
Cody Siem Skateboard Park	
Crystal Lake Landing	
Crystal Lake Pier	
Forest Lake Pier	
Grand Rapids Sports Complex	
Hale Lake Landing	
Hillside Park	
Izaak Walton Park	
McKinney Lake Landing	
Murhunt Park	
Newton Sliding Hill	
Pokegama Beach	
Ryan Flood Park	
Showboat Landing	
Skogebo Park	
Steamboat Landing	
Sylvan Lake Landing	
Veterans Memorial Park	

Neighborhood Facility	Possible Action
Crystal Lake Park	
Grussendorf Park	
Lost Creek Park	
Maplewood Park	
McGowan Park	
Oakland Park	
Syndicate Park	
Willow Park	
Forest Lake Elementary School	
Murphy Elementary School	
RJE Middle School	
Southwest Elementary School	
Murhunt Park	
Hillside Park	

Trail	Possible Action
Horseshoe / Isleview	
Riverfront	
Sylvan Point	
Through-town ATV	
Through-town Snowmobile	
Trails located within parks	
American Legion Park: ski / hiking	
American Legion Park: mountain bike	

Grand Rapids Park Plan:

Strategic Directions [First Principles]

Strengthening Neighborhoods.

- Create identifying focal point.
- Unify.
- Provide walkable access.

Serving the Whole Community.

- Serve all ages / all abilities.
- Support organized sports.
- Provide opportunities for life-long fitness.
- Encourage family-based recreation.

Making Connections.

- Connect neighborhoods and amenities to one another.
- Establish easily accessible links to surrounding communities and regional systems.
- Serve visitors to the community.

Building Community.

- Offer flexible space for performances.
- Provide space for events and supporting administrative system.
- Establish partnerships to support facilities and activities.

Linking with Nature.

- Sustain accessibility to diverse forest and open space lands.
- Ensure access to high quality water resources.
- Provide and sustain diverse mix of habitat.

Being Fiscally Responsible.

- Satisfy needs before wants.
- Consider maintenance effort and cost over time.
- Do not sacrifice sustenance of existing to development of new.
- Establish mutually beneficial partnerships to help finance facilities and activities.
- Seek solutions that address multiple issues.

Updating the Grand Rapids Parks and Trails Master Plan

Public Input Session #1

August 21, 2013

American Legion Park

Bocce ball courts by Civic Center – few folks are aware of them.

Need a pro-active forest management plan for the park. Not reactive to issues such as tree mortality due to insects. Could/should generate income. Work with ISD 318 School Forest Committee.

Blandin Beach

Add lifeguards.

Improve in-water equipment.

Needs to be safe for kids without parents/supervisors.

Central School

Create attractive play / use space that is artistic in design/style – make a statement while still being functional.

Izaak Walton Landing

Keep.

Add campground, at least for river users but maybe also touring bicyclists.

Murhunt Park

What is status of this park?

Establish a carry-in boat access here.

Good site for urban wildlife area.

Murphy Sliding Hill

Community garden was a good idea.

Oakland Park

Add older child play equipment – log roll, rock wall, bars, agility things.

Pokegama Park Place

Add play equipment.

Better publicize.

Improve the beach.

Skogebo Park

Don't forget this little site.

Sports Complex

Do more public park-like activities/facilities here.

Sylvan Landing Park

Add permanent bathroom – key for users of river.

Syndicate Park

Has been rezoned to industrial.

Few homes and few children in this neighborhood anymore.

Veterans' Park

Need pro-active forest/tree management program, especially regarding the jack pine.

Develop as a city park.

Willow Park

Does the presence of dense vegetation on periphery create a security issue? Pro and con statements offered.

Was under developed and used because it had been overshadowed by Riverview School site; but now that it is gone Willow Park has become more important.

Trails

Through town snowmobile trail needs better connections.

Trails Task Force is good contact/asset regarding all trails.

Bike trail connectivity

- North – South crossing the river is major safety issue for all, especially kids.
- Pokegama Bridge crossing is unsafe – narrow sidewalk, no railing between traffic and sidewalk
- All downtown crossings are not optimal for children to use
- Proposed bridge by library has had preliminary design by SEH; estimated cost of \$2.1 million
- New bike trails are basically on periphery of town – key is to provide connectors in core of city
- Better and safer connection west to Portage Park, and, west along Hwy 2
- Safe bike route to the high school

Snowshoeing trails? – can use American Legion mountain bike trails

Focus on snow removal on sidewalks that serve as trails

How to connect Fairgrounds/Mesabi Trailhead to downtown by bike

5th Street is being upgraded and will have new designated bike route signage, striping, etc.

Need trails connecting NW part of town to core

Trail from Horseshoe Lake are to the Pokegama Lake causeway

ATV trail access – Dale has a tentative route – will require change in ordinance to allow ATVs to use certain streets

Cross country ski trails – keep and maintain; need mix of skill levels

Add signage (e.g. destinations) along trails.

Dogs should not be allowed on some ski trails.

Maintain existing trails.

Continue to partner with local clubs on trail construction – GRIMBA, ski club, 4 wheeler, snowmobile

Create a two-mile looped walking trail – follow old CR A north to the Mesabi Trail (part of road was abandoned in 1980s), loop route along Mesabi Trail west to Fairgrounds, continue back along south side of Fairgrounds.

Any plan to put a bike trail through the yards on 6th St SW between 12th and 14th Ave SW?

General

Parks as event sites

- Way to encourage use/visitation to a specific park
- Get community to see/use all city parks
- Could be way to get sponsorships to help invest in a given park
- Community sing-along at a park
- Movies in the park
- Music in the parks

Keep merry-go-rounds.

Porta-potties / bathrooms

- Are a great amenity at parks.
- Mesabi Trailhead – when office closes the bathrooms are locked as well.
- American Legion trailhead – Reif Center, which has bathrooms, is not open 24/7.

Advantages of pro-active tree management in city parks:

- Generates revenue
- Prevents costly cleanup
- Promotes bird watching
- Education opportunities
- Mitigates liabilities
- Opportunities to specify sun and shade areas for recreation/rest areas

Add public art to park space – use new Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission to drive this.

River Place was a great facility that served all ages – a replacement for it would be great.

Parks for all ages – not just young children; older population is growing and has specific recreation needs and desires

Americans with Disabilities Act – few current parks/facilities meet ADA guidelines.

Policy: a neighborhood park within safe walking distance of all residents.

Policy: no net loss of parklands – questions raised regarding scope of this (all parks, just developed park land, include open space, etc.).

Parks are amenities that raise property values; more is better.

Drinking water at parks.

Crystal Lake walkway – in terrible shape, especially on east end of lake.

Fairgrounds – new site plan is in the works

Battle Lake (MN) has developed a solid plan for trails and public art in its downtown

Promote birdwatching at parks, open spaces, and along trails. City has great opportunities and this could promote tourism as well as enhancing quality of life for residents.

Former site of Riverview School is still owned by ISD 318. What are the plans for it? City lost huge asset when the River Place play area was razed. Acquire site for recreation.

Areas with large numbers of children that lack neighborhood parks: northwest and rural southwest.

Issue with trees and shrubs / do not unnecessarily remove them during facility construction.

Get rid of "squatty" tree on southeast corner by Yellow Brick Road.

Fishing under and adjacent to bridges crossing the river

Ideas for New Facilities

Consider adding community gardens at/near parks in order to increase adult usage of parks and provide more "eyes" on parks.

Provide water.

Campgrounds – need for facilities for residents and visitors; tent and/or RV campers; would bolster community as a center for biking tourism.

- Veterans' Park would be a good site both others can be considered.
- Old Public Works/Hawkinson site
- Consider that Hwy 2 is a nationally ranked high volume bike route – tent camping for bikes could boost area

YMCA is a resource – consider adding play equipment there for use by neighborhood children.

Land around PUC center could be used for some form of recreation facility.

Dog park

- Needed for residents
- Is asked for by visitors to town
- Possible sites – Fairgrounds, open area north of Lily Lake

Adult fitness circuit at a park

Sway swings in parks.

Water as recreation feature

- Most water access is at sites north of the river
- Get something on the south side
- Splash Pad could be fun feature to emphasize city's water orientation
- Water feature as art, as example, reflecting pool, that can also be a recreation feature

Performance space

- Central School Square is nice but not the best due to traffic noise
- Bandstand/performance shelter (e.g., Longyear Park in Coleraine, former Blandin Beach band shell, etc.)
- Way to build sense of community through shared, easily-accessed events at public places

Centralized, outdoor general skating rink – double as an event area, focal attraction point

Updating the Grand Rapids Parks and Trails Master Plan

Public Input Session #2

September 18, 2013

Blandin Beach

Needs more trees for shade

Central School

Flatten the "humps" to make space more friendly for sitting in chairs at events.

Add fence for safety against traffic.

Crystal Lake Park

Turf needs fixing.

Define boundary with adjacent homes – vegetation, landscaping, etc.

Hillside Park

Keep as parkland.

Steep slopes prohibit any developed features.

Izaak Walton Landing

Keep.

Murphy Sliding Hill

Maintain a sliding hill in town.

River Walk

Owned and maintained by city.

Long term plan is to connect from KAXE to Canal Street.

Sports Complex

There is "footprint" space for another football/soccer field.

Lacrosse also uses the soccer field.

Veterans' Park

Is within airport zoning 'B' zone – restricts uses such as campground.

Willow Park

Needs new/upgraded equipment – when?

Parcel of land immediately to south was donated to city as parkland; not officially part of Willow Park; some low land within it.

New land ideas – add to park, keep “wild” as natural play area for kids.

Trails

Roundabout at Airport Road / 10th Street has awkward trail crossing on west side. Puts bikers / hikers immediately into flow of traffic.

Sylvan Point trail head – mowing has been substandard; who owns this land – may be Grand Itasca who is also responsible for maintenance.

Snowmobile trails – need to cross river on west side of town

Also east to Blackberry

And to the west and southwest

2nd Avenue SE sidewalk/trail ends at Casper Construction – there is a platted 20' wide gravel alley that runs through the block, but this isn't wide enough for road/trail; Casper has built new buildings with an eye towards this eventually being a road.

Mesabi / Taconite Trail head at Fairgrounds – need better wayfinding signage into town and indication location of amenities.

Bike trails – why plowed in winter – multiple use by walkers, handicapped, etc. – consider policy that articulates which trails are plowed

Plowing trails in winter means trails open earlier in the spring.

Do not plow trails where needed as snowmobile trail connection.

Keep cross country ski trails intact

Usage of trails – how many people use – real numbers not estimates;

How much does it cost to maintain each trail per year?

Would like to see a longer walking circular route from the Fairgrounds north along Mesabi Trail to the junction of old CR A, then south along Soldiers Lane and back to Fairgrounds.

Trail/route – marking / signing can be done in a nonintrusive way across town; example trail signs can be only 5"x7" and be recognized by the dedicated users by shape and color; visitors need more directional signing.

General

Reoffer sailing classes – city still has the boats; interest dwindled; consider having private club/entity offer the classes using city boats/site.

What is future of Riverview school site? School district owns it.

Need access to undeveloped open space / forested land for unstructured play / exploration.

No net loss of green space with regards to parks.

Use green space wisely and carefully.

Showboat

DNR has stated that once that dock is gone, no others allowed on river

Could expand into the treed area to west – event camping, picnicking

What is time line for UPM to acquire? City policy is that this will be mill property.

Accessible equipment that accommodates variety of disabilities (e.g., sensory equipment, wheelchair access)

Promote parks within one mile of the river as an important bird area – for locals and tourists

Ease insurance requirements for one-time users of parks for events, etc. – or facilitate an umbrella insurance approach

During development and maintenance of facilities and utilities – the development of barriers to recreation use and trails often occur – example: snowplowing can obstruct a snowmobile trail or route and cause a safety issue.

Excellent improvements in the last 10 years to connect quadrants and parks as destinations (SW trail, LaPrairie, FHC, Vet Park, under bridge, Canal St, softball complex); thank you.

Keep trees and wetlands as vital components of parks.

Place playground equipment where it can be shaded.

Continue to provide good Zamboni ice on outdoor rinks.

Keep warming houses open afternoons and evenings. Very much appreciated.

Ideas for New Facilities

Tennis courts at golf course.

“Lawn” on hillside by library is used as open space by patrons and others. Blandin Foundation owns this land and has plans to convert it into parking. Consider replacing this open space with the land immediately east of Glorvigen Building – city owned, has 36” sewer main under it so it is unbuildable

Consider fairgrounds for new open skating area

ATV park immediately south of the airport

ICC – talk to them about their needs, student use of facilities, maybe city use of ICC sites

GRACF – establish legacy endowments to fund parks

Pay-to-play – actually is used quite a lot right now (sports teams, ice time, etc.)

Must keep in mind that every new facility requires maintenance – cost

How do we save money if we build all the new facilities?

RV park – water, power, sewer are musts; doesn't have to be open year-round; locate on the river or lake for amenities

Updating the Grand Rapids Parks and Trails Master Plan

Policy Direction

Community Vision Statement

Community Values

Guiding Principles

Comes from 2011 Comprehensive Plan

Parks and Trails Strategic Direction

Serving Whole Community

Building Community

Strengthening Neighborhoods

Making Connections

Linking with Nature

Organizing themes for this updated parks and trails plan.

Assessment Summary

Condition of facilities

Succinct summary in the main body of plan; appendix contains the lengthy review.

Parks and Trails Facilities

Community Parks

Neighborhood Parks

Special Facilities

Trails

Listing of future facilities – special facilities are golf course, civic center

Action Plan

Facilities

Policies

New facilities, facilities to close / dispose, enhancements / improvements – grouped by type (e.g., neighborhood parks) with specific information on each facility

Parks/Trails CIP

Separate document that is annually reviewed / updated; 1 page spreadsheet; rolling 5-year program

Comprehensive Plan Guidance

Vision Statement

Grand Rapids is a unique blend of small town hospitality and character with big city conveniences and opportunities. Grand Rapids offers an excellent quality of life to residents of the region with outstanding educational opportunities, excellent medical care, exceptional cultural, natural, and educational amenities, and an unequaled sense of community spirit. Grand Rapids provides all residents safe, friendly, affordable housing and inclusive neighborhoods that retain and enhance nature in the City. Residents and visitors can move around the City with equal ease by car, bicycle, walking or other mode of transportation. Grand Rapids welcomes and supports a diverse mix of thriving businesses and industry that provide quality jobs, promising careers, and economic vitality. Grand Rapids is a welcoming gateway to Minnesota's Northwoods tourism.

Community Values

Cultural and Recreational Opportunities

We value the availability and quality of artistic, cultural, and recreational opportunities. Cultural and recreational opportunities contribute to our quality of life, define Grand Rapids as a regional creative destination, and enhance our City's role as a center of state tourism.

Healthy Living

Providing opportunities for healthy living is a core value. Creating healthy living opportunities requires careful management of our built environment (housing, roads, other infrastructure), our natural systems (recreation, natural resources), and other local amenities (economic systems, education, local food systems, health care).

Accessible Movement

We understand and support the need for residents and visitors to move around our City with equal ease by car, bicycle, or on foot. Street design should accommodate all modes of transportation and public transportation provides mobility to those without cars.

Sustainable Natural Infrastructure

Our natural environment and natural resources are a defining and valued characteristic of our community. People, economy, and natural systems are connected in all aspects of daily life. Development should enhance natural systems, and sustainable natural systems should promote a sustainable economic base.

Guiding Principles

All eight principles have some importance to recreational facilities but the following two have the most direct applicability.

- Sustain Grand Rapids' neighborhoods: The City's neighborhoods and the social networks that connect neighborhood residents require conscious attention and support. Integrate housing with other land uses, design appropriate transportation infrastructure, protect community character in

public and private development decisions, enhance natural systems and create connected green space.

- Enhance Grand Rapids' regional role: The City is the commercial and service center for the surrounding region, serving surrounding communities and rural areas, and in turn is supported by them. Investments in regional infrastructure such as information technologies and both commercial and recreational regional transportation are critical, as is intergovernmental coordination, to sustain the City's regional benefits.

Land Use Goals and Objectives.

Goal 6: Balance open space and environmental preservation with the Grand Rapids' development needs.

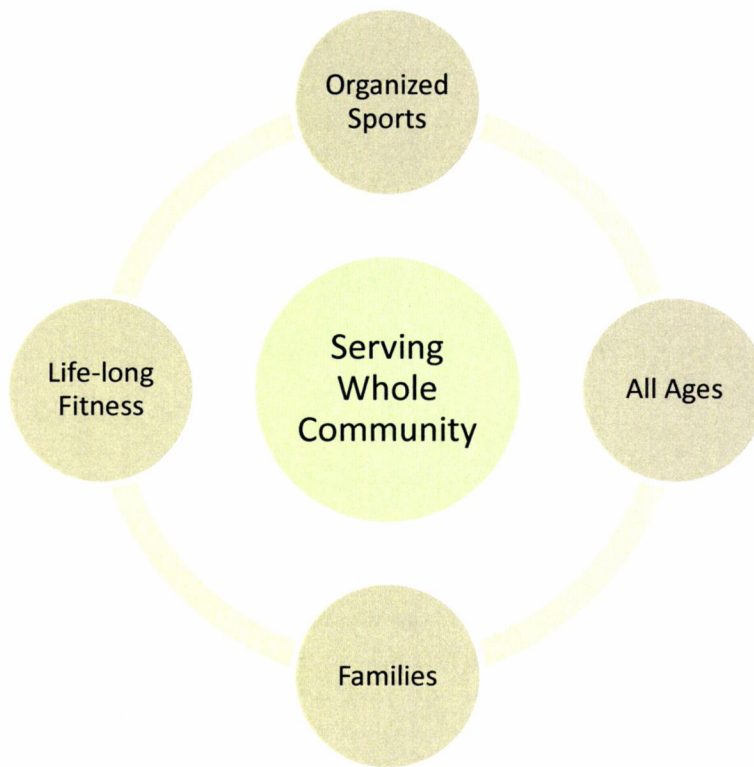
- a. Protect and preserve existing open space and natural systems and encourage expanded access of urban and rural open spaces.
- b. Provide sufficient opportunities for public use activities within Grand Rapids.

Goal 7: Provide physical accessibility throughout Grand Rapids.

- a. Encourage the development of pedestrian and bicycle pathways that link the community together in a cohesive manner, in addition to providing motorized vehicle access.
- b. Connect rural residential and suburban land uses to the urban form.
- c. Encourage the provision of access to residents and visitors with disabilities.
- d. Integrate the Complete Streets study results into the Comprehensive Plan.
- e. Connect businesses with surrounding land uses to increase access.

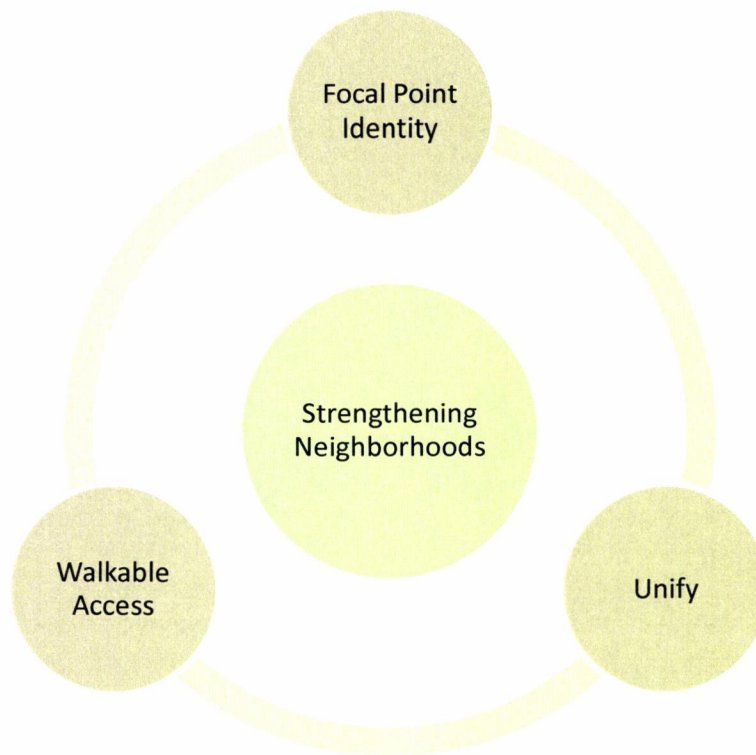
Possible Strategic Directions





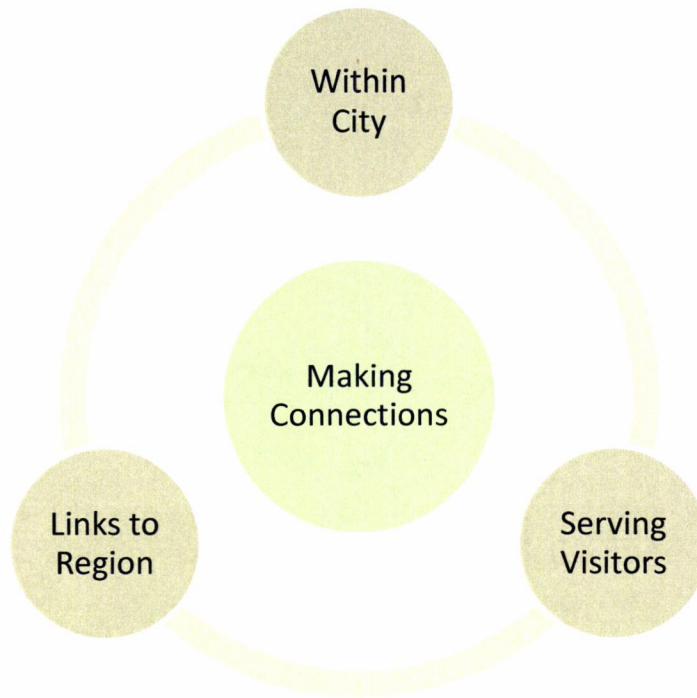
Possible actions:

- a. Address unmet needs of organized sports – practice space
 - a. Sports Complex has space for additional football/soccer/lacrosse field
- b. Dog park
- c. Multi-age play area (to replace River Place facility)
- d. Make parks ADA compliant – for all disabilities
- e. Features/facilities that serve all ages
- f. Add community gardens at/near parks
- g. Adult fitness circuit
- h. Update Blandin Beach: replace beach house, provide shade trees
- i. Add more park features to Sports Complex
- j. Pokegama Park Place – add play equipment, improve beach, better publicize
- k. Crystal Lake walkway – upgrade especially along east end
- l. Keep a sliding hill in town
- m. Tennis courts at golf course



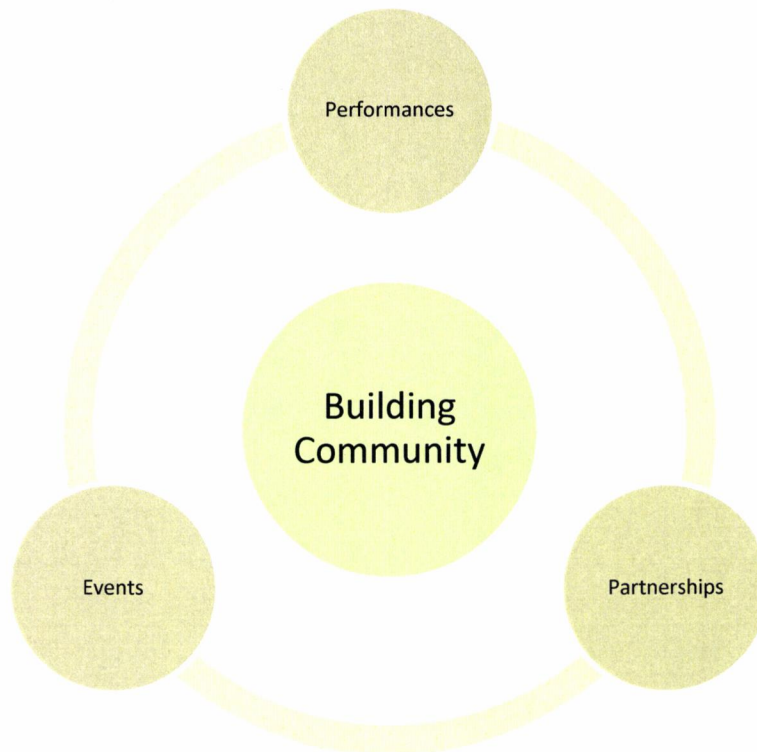
Possible actions:

- a. What neighborhoods lack a local park?
 - a. Possible park site on Isleview Road
 - b. Park at site of Riverview School
 - c. Use open space around PUC facility
 - d. Add outdoor play equipment at YMCA
- b. Does walkable/accessible neighborhood park for every neighborhood mean every neighborhood?
- c. Oakland Park – add older child play equipment
- d. Crystal Lake Park – add features, repair turf, define boundary with adjacent homes
- e. McGowan Park – replace play equipment
- f. Willow Park – replace some equipment; note – parcel to south donated for park use
- g. Keep working with ISD 318 regarding outdoor facilities at Forest Lake, Murphy and Southwest.



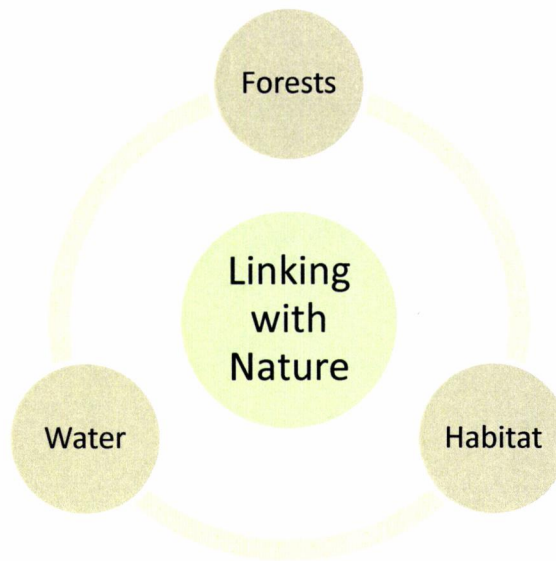
Possible actions:

- a. Links needed:
 - a. Fairgrounds/Mesabi Trailhead to downtown
 - b. West to Portage Park
 - c. West along Highway 2
 - d. Horseshoe Lake to Pokegama Lake causeway
 - e. NW part of town to city core
 - f. River Walk extension to east
- b. Snowmobile trail – better links, cross river west side of town, connecting to east/west/southwest
- c. Crossing Mississippi River – new bridge, enhance existing bridges – safer crossings
- d. Enhanced trail “connecting points” in city core
- e. Better wayfinding signage along routes indicating destinations and points of interest
- f. Bathrooms at trail heads
- g. More trails needed – snowshoeing, cross country skiing, loops
 - a. Looped walking trail: Fairgrounds north along Mesabi Trail to junction with old CR A, south along Soldiers Land, back to Fairgrounds
- h. Roundabout at Airport Road/10 St is awkward



Possible actions:

- a. Sponsorships for individual parks
- b. Create outdoor performance space
- c. Events in parks – music, plays, neighborhood gatherings
- d. Public art in parks – as art, as play equipment
- e. Centrally located outdoor skating rink
- f. Showboat Landing
 - a. needs to move
 - b. to where?
 - c. Develop multi-use facility?
 - d. DNR has stated no future docks like this to be allowed on river
- g. Central School – safety fencing, contour for events



Possible actions:

- a. Pro-active forest/tree management plan.
- b. Water features
 - a. Splash pad – especially south of the river where there is no water access/contact
 - b. Reflecting pool – water feature, art, and recreation
- c. Murhunt Park – upgrade and promote
- d. Hillside Park – promote as outdoor contact area, nature trails, keep as parkland
- e. Promote bird watching, especially along the river
- f. Need access to undeveloped open space/forested land for unstructured play and exploration

Other Possible Actions:

- a. Public art
- b. ADA compliance – for all types of disabilities
- c. Policy: no net loss of parklands
- d. Policy: winter maintenance / plowing of trails
- e. Provide drinking water at parks
- f. Campgrounds
 - i. Need?
 - ii. What type?
 - iii. Where?
 - iv. Note: Veteran's Park is within Airport Zoning B Zone which does not allow camping
- g. Counting park / trail usage
- h. Programming
 - i. Reoffer sailing classes but this time using private club / entity to provide programming
- i. Resolve future use of Riverview School site – any opportunity for park use on some portion of it
- j. Insurance requirement that is not onerous for one-time users/events
- k. Investigate ways to ensure that other activities (e.g., construction, snowplowing of streets) do not adversely impact trails / parks
- l. Keep warming shacks open afternoons and evenings
- m. "Lawn" on hillside by library is used as open space by patrons and others. Blandin Foundation owns this land and has plans to convert it into parking. Consider replacing this open space with the land immediately east of Glorvigen Building – city owned, has 36" sewer main under it so it is unbuildable
- n. ATV park south of airport
- o. Establish legacy fund to finance parks/programming via GRACF
- p. Increase level of pay-to-play use of facilities
- q. Integrate with other users/providers such as ICC, Cohasset, LaPrairie

Implementation Actions from 2011 Comprehensive Plan

Land Use: Implementation Priorities

Incorporate Connectivity and Access Development Considerations

- Enhance neighborhood safety and promote healthy living by creating greenbelts, arterial sidewalks, bicycle paths/routes among residential neighborhoods and between residential and commercial and institutional destinations. Recognize different needs of urbanized and rural areas, but plan for connections in both.
- Ensure that development and redevelopment standards create connections between residential land use districts and zoning districts, including continuation of subdivision standards requiring a designated ROW for connecting to adjoining parcels.
- Enforce the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Minnesota State Building Code regarding development and redevelopment.

Sustain Open Space and Natural Infrastructure

- Update the Park Master Plan, including a forest management plan for maintaining urban woods, in order to preserve, expand, and coordinate green space and to protect the broader public interest.

Natural Infrastructure: Goals Objectives Implementation

Natural Infrastructure: The network of open space, watersheds, woodlands, managed forest, wildlife habitat, parks, mineral deposits and natural areas that provide vital services and resource that contribute to the economic health and quality of life for our communities.

Goal 1: Protect natural infrastructure economic assets.

- c. Recognize synergy between recreational assets and other natural infrastructural goals.

Goal 2: Integrate the natural infrastructure within the urban core of the city.

- a. Create or protect buffers along the riverfront and lakes areas.
- b. Support and enhance the urban forest.
- c. Define the natural system infrastructure within future development and redevelopment areas.

Goal 4: Provide support and management of the city's parks and trails.

- a. Promote bicycle and pedestrian connectivity within neighborhoods and between destinations.
- b. Improve access to motorized trails.
- c. Support, manage, and promote parks within City boundaries.
- d. Work with adjacent local governing units and the State.

Natural Infrastructure: Implementation

Parks and Trails

1. Continue to seek funding for new trail connections within the urban fabric, including a new pedestrian crossing of the Mississippi River. Consider funding for trail planning, trail design, and

trail maintenance. Design the trails to follow best management practices to reduce sedimentation and erosion and be accessible to all.

2. Work with LaPrairie to improve trail and pedestrian connections between the cities, particularly into the downtown and the Mississippi River trail system.
3. Support MnDOT's ongoing effort to designate and improve the Mississippi River Trail.
4. Continue to improve connections between established residential areas and park and recreation areas.
5. Continue to hold biennial meetings with recreation leaders to discuss facility needs and determine programming specifics.
6. Determine a route for connecting snowmobile trails on the southwest and southeast of the City.
7. Continue to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian trail search corridors into development approvals and road planning and investment. Emphasize trails that incorporate landscaping and are separate from roadways.
8. Define needs for park expansion, particularly in annexed areas, to allow for parkland dedication formula revision.
9. Encourage DNR development of the McKinney Lake carry-in boat access and recreation area.

Transportation: Goals, Objectives and Implementation

Goal 3: Promote bicycling for commuters and recreational riders.

- a. Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to and between local destinations, including public facilities, schools, parks, open space, employment districts, and shopping centers.
- b. Promote bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation.
- c. Maintain existing trails and bike routes.

Implementation

1. Continue to plan for bicycle lanes and sidewalks or off-road non-motorized trails when new roads are planned and in all reconstruction plans for city streets.
2. Continue to connect sidewalks to create direct paths to destinations.
3. Create trail ROW requirements for Suburban Residential land use areas.
4. Extend the separated trail system into new neighborhoods as the city grows. Connections should be made to schools, parks, and other activity areas.
5. Link existing trails to form a continuous network, especially when new development occurs. While trail systems are usually implemented one section at a time, long-range planning should be emphasized so continuous corridors are eventually created.