

CITY OF OWATONNA

PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

FEBRUARY 12, 2020



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INTRODUCTION

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The planning team would like to thank the Park Board, Mayor, City Council and City staff for providing insights, feedback and issues facing the City's parks and trail system. We would also like to thank the community and many individuals who attended stakeholder interviews, pop-up events, and public meetings for their input. The conversations with community members helped enrich our understanding of Owatonna and the needs of the community.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Thomas A. Kuntz, Mayor
Nathan Dotson, First Ward
Greg Schultz, Second Ward
Dave Burbank, Third Ward
Kevin P. Raney, Fourth Ward
Brent Svenby, Fifth Ward
Jeff Okerberg, Council Member at Large
Doug Voss, Council Member at Large

2019 PARK BOARD

Greg Posch, Chair
Nicholas Elsner, Vice-Chair
Angie Malo, Secretary
Greg Louis
David Christianson
Jonathan Thiel
Andi Arnold
Greg Posch

2018 PARK BOARD

Angie Malo, Chair
Karina Garcia, Co-Chair
Lee Kostelecky, Secretary
Greg Louis
Judd Dingmann
Nicholas Elsner
Greg Posch

CITY STAFF

Troy Klecker, Interim Parks Director /
Community Development Director
Mary Jo Knudson, Recreation Supervisor
Kris Busse, City Administrator
Parks & Recreation staff members

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

PARK & TRAIL SYSTEM PLANNING PROCESS

This plan is the first Parks and Trails System Master Plan for the City of Owatonna. It is intended to serve as a long term planning guide for the parks and trails into the future. This is considered a living document which must adapt to changing community trends, demographics, funding opportunities, and concerns of the public.

The planning process began in October 2018. An inventory of the parks and trails including site assessments, were conducted in October and November. The park sites were evaluated for accessibility, connectivity and distribution, existing condition of park amenities, as well as the park's overall design and character and function. The city trails were assessed based upon condition, connections, trail issues (sharp turns), gaps to connecting trails, and overall character.

THE GOALS OF THE OWATONNA PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM MASTER PLAN INCLUDE:

1. Provide guidance and a strategy for the future park and trail system modifications to maximize opportunities in a balanced manner.
2. Evaluate the trail system and seek opportunities for regional significance, grant funding opportunities, and/or partnerships.
3. Determine ways to enhance recreation tourism in Owatonna.
4. Create a concept plan for Manthey Park to include a Miracle Baseball Field and an All-Inclusive Playground.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The park and trail planning process relies heavily on input and needs of the community. Therefore, this plan was based upon feedback provided by the community through an online interactive map, public open house, pop-up events, stakeholder interviews, passive survey boards and through the City's social media channels. Refer to Community Engagement Summary in the Appendix for more details.



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below are a summary of the plan document based upon community engagement, city staff feedback and direction, as well as, park and trail system analysis and assessment:

- The City should continue focusing on trail development, trail safety, and maintenance of existing trails in the community as this is of great importance to the public.
- The City should build flexibility into the parks system in order to meet the changing needs of the citizens of Owatonna.
- The City should seek regional park status for the combined properties of Kaplan's Woods, Lake Kohlmier and a portion of the Straight River public land as a regional park. This could aid in future funding opportunities for improvements.
- For new parkland acquired, the City should utilize a master planning process to best determine correct use of park space, trail connections, amenities and to ensure accessibility standards are met before the park is constructed.
- The City should engage the community and involve them in the programming of the parks including selecting character and styles of amenities.
- The Owatonna school district is an invaluable resource and partner for the City by utilizing shared facilities and maintenance agreements. The City should continue developing athletic fields in partnership with the school district.
- The City should continue to establish relationships with Steele County and neighboring communities (Clinton Falls, Medford, Claremont) to partner on regional trail opportunities in order to best secure future grant funding of these amenities.
- As a result of the successful November high school bond referendum, the City should work with the school district to consolidate fields currently existing in the park system to the new high school to serve future athletic needs.



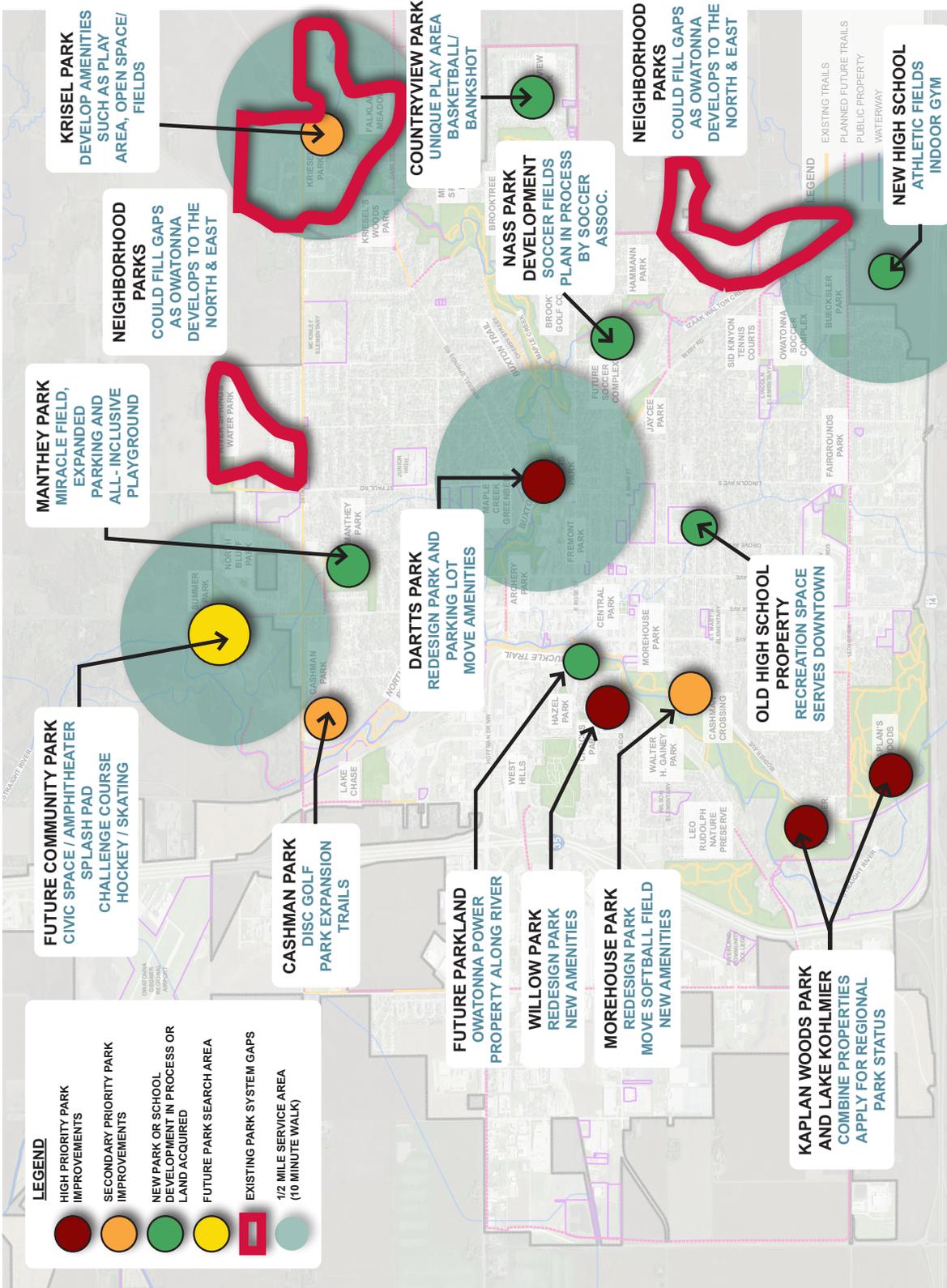
Trail Bridge at Cashman Crossing

Overall, Owatonna has a beautiful park and trail system with character, history, and abundant natural resources. The following report including appendices will convey the reasoning, mapping, and other documentation necessary to support the overall recommendations for the City of Owatonna.

Sincerely,

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MAP 1.2: HIGH PRIORITY PARK IMPROVEMENTS MAP

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SECTION 2: ASSESSMENT OF NEED

OVERVIEW OF OWATONNA

The critical first step in developing a parks and trails system master plan for Owatonna is assessing the current and future needs of the community. This plan is intended to represent those that the parks and trails system serves. Therefore, the community's input is vital to the success, support, and future implementation of this plan.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Owatonna is located in southern Minnesota at the intersections of Interstate 35 and Highway 14. It is the county seat of Steele County, the historic courthouse is right in downtown. Within Owatonna, lies the Straight River, Maple Creek, and Izaak Walton with many bridges (vehicle and pedestrian) traversing through the city. Owatonna has notable historic properties including its downtown "main street", and its City Hall and campus (West Hills Park).

Owatonna has its own school district which draws students from the region outside city limits. Owatonna has a number of large industrial employers and one of the higher concentrations of manufacturing jobs within southern Minnesota. Its location at the intersection of major highways, benefit its businesses by providing access to transportation routes. Known as the "The City of Friendliness and Beautiful Parks", Owatonna has recreational and open space along its scenic waterways throughout the city.



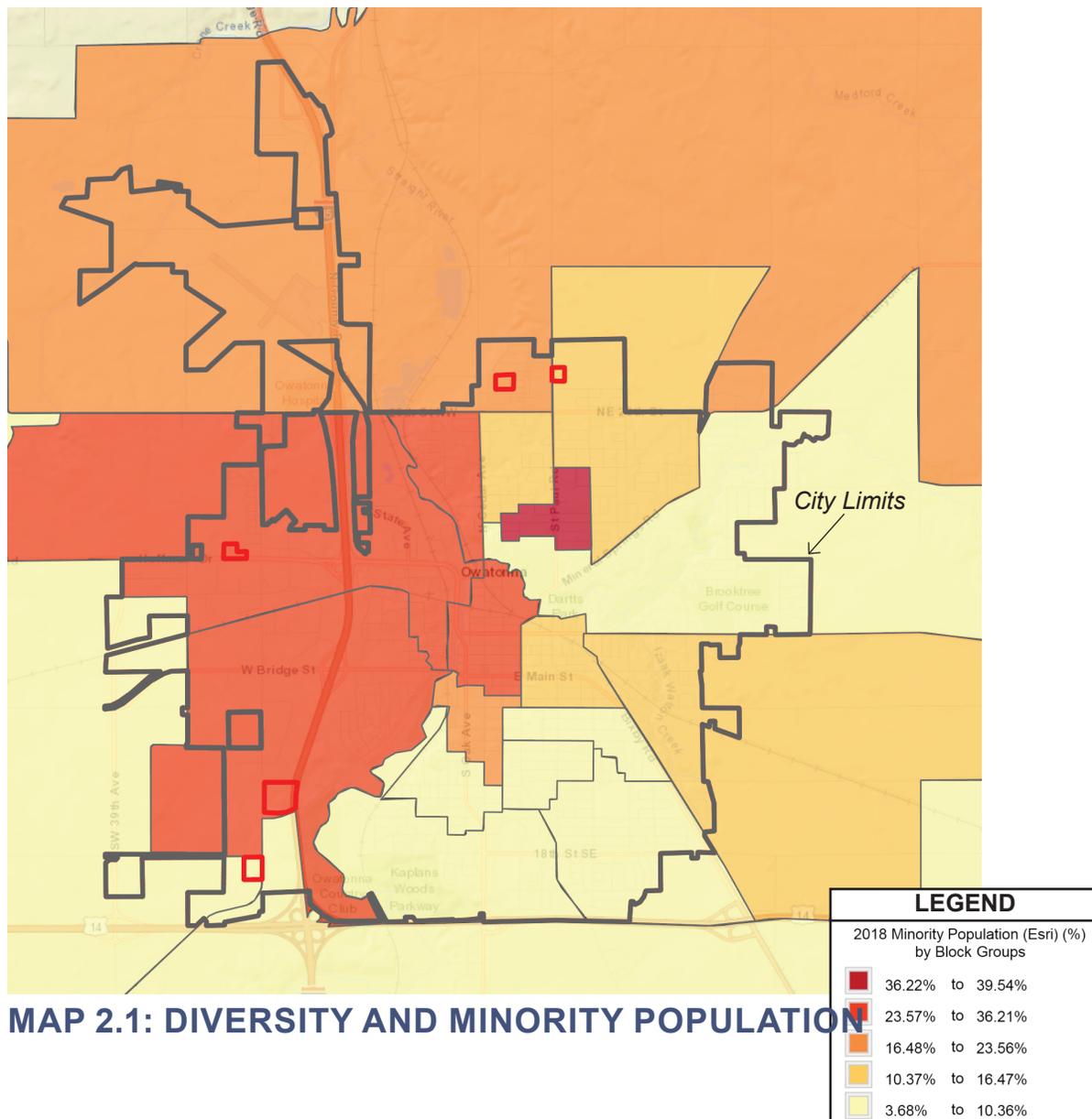
View of Historic Downtown Owatonna

DEMOGRAPHICS

The population of Owatonna is 25,794 as of 2017. There's an average household size of 2.48 and the median age in Owatonna is 38.4. Owatonna is matching populations nationwide with increased aging due to the size of the baby boomer generation.

Overall in Minnesota, the population represented by people of color (those self-identifying as one or more races other than White, and/or Latino) is projected to grow from 14 percent in 2005 to 25 percent by 2035. Currently, Owatonna's population is a majority 85% white, 8% Hispanic/Latino and 4.5% African American. Owatonna has seen an increase in diversity of its population. It is critical to review changing city demographics when planning modifications to the City's parks and trails system.

The median household income in Owatonna is \$53,507 (slightly below the national average). Owatonna has a 10.4% poverty rate which is on average with the State of Minnesota but higher than neighboring communities (such as Medford). Approximately 92% of residents hold a high school diploma with 27% holding a bachelor's degree. Within Owatonna, older adults, females, and people of color are more likely to live below the poverty line.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

A community engagement process was completed as part of the planning effort to develop a better understanding of the community's perceptions and value system. This understanding helped define a system plan that responds to community desires. The process included a public open house, stakeholder interviews, a pop-up community event, online survey, online interactive map, and passive boards with the Park Board and City Council.

During these events, residents were asked to provide feedback on their favorite parks and trails, preferences for recreational activities, and improvements could be made to the overall park and trail system in Owatonna. Refer to the Appendix for summaries of community engagement events along with the comments from the community.

The majority of public comments addressed trail connectivity, walk-ability to parks, the need for improvements at lakes, and trails/shelters for winter activities. Residents would like to see the trails around Owatonna be safe, cohesive, and facilitate runners and bikers. Specific locations for additional trails or improvements were Bixby Road, Country View to the 4 corners (Rose St and County 43), the portion of Muckle trail near Bridge St, and along Crestview between Dane Road and Wedgwood Drive. Residents have noticed there are fewer parks in southeast Owatonna and would like this to be taken into consideration during long-range planning. Lake Kohlmier and Lake Chase were both noted as places people like to fish and residents would appreciate more rules on catch-and-release, as well as, restocking the lakes. Overall, residents love the Owatonna park and would like to enjoy the parks and trails year round without worrying about safety and accessibility.

PUBLIC INPUT GATHERING SESSIONS

- Pop Up Event Lighted Holiday Parade in Downtown (November 2018)
- Social Pinpoint online (November 2018-March 2019)
- Social Pinpoint priority maps online (June-October 2019)
- Public Open House (January 31, 2019)
- Comment Boards at City Facilities and Chamber (January - February 2019)
- Five Key Stakeholder Interviews (January 31, 2019)
- Email sent to list of 26 Stakeholders
- Joint City Council Work session / Park Board Meeting (June 2019)



Lighted Holiday Parade Pop up Community Engagement Event



Public Open House held at City Hall

INPUT FROM KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Five stakeholder groups were identified for one-on-one interview sessions to discover more in-depth needs of the specific groups. A list of 26 stakeholders including athletic association, community members and school district contacts were invited to the public open house and to comment online. Below are the highlights of the interviews and detailed notes are included in the Appendix.

WEST HILLS SOCIAL COMMONS (FORMERLY SENIOR CENTER)

GREG POSCH

- Enjoys the public golf course.
- Enjoys the indoor tennis games and pool facility (aquatics programs) at West Hills.
- Enjoys card games and programming at the Senior Center/West Hills Social Commons.
- Pickleball group currently uses indoor space at local church near Hwy 35 (in winter).
- Trails are highly used and appreciated.
- Suggest linking greenway trails between Straight River and Maple Creek .

HISPANIC/BUSINESS COMMUNITY

KARINA GARCIA

- Enjoys trails.
- Darts Park is popular for basketball .
- Enjoys the Soccer Complex and is highly used.
- Enjoys the outdoor chimneys at parks (Mineral Springs) are used and appreciated.
- Suggest more rental buildings or options for gatherings/parties.
- Suggest more indoor recreation, basketball (used at West Hills).
- Suggest way-finding signage in Kaplan's Woods for those not familiar with the parks.

OWATONNA SCHOOL DISTRICT MARK ACHTERKIRCH

- Many partnerships with high school sports use of city fields and facilities. There is a good working relationship and formal maintenance agreements.
- High School soccer games are played at the Soccer Complex.
- High School baseball is played at Darts Park and softball is played at Morehouse Park.
- Bond referendum for new high school is being voted on in May 2019.
- Spring flooding at Morehouse Park softball field.

OWATONNA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

MARC OIEN & MIKE KELLER

- Uses soccer complex, rotates fields to reduce wear and tear from multiple games per week.
- There is increased participation every year, every kid can participate in the program (no cuts).
- Currently no indoor soccer facilities
- Suggests lighting for fields.
- Suggests shade structures for large fields.
- In process of building five new soccer fields in Owatonna in partnership with the City at the Nass property.

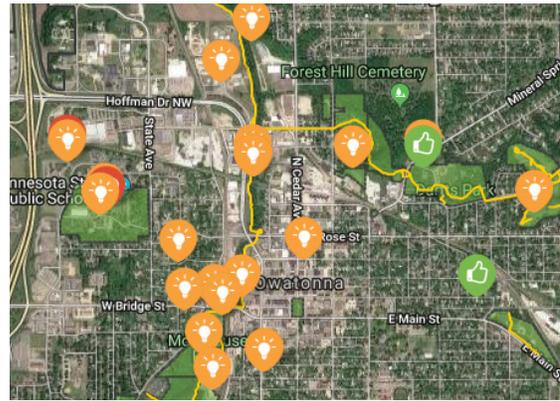
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ELIZABETH VELDMAN

- Families specifically enjoy the playgrounds with newer equipment such as at Fairgrounds Park, Lincoln Elementary School, Manthey Park and Brown Park.
- Families participate in recreation programs, especially summer camps at the parks.
- Parents have raised concerns about safety in parks, specifically at Darts Park.
- Families are in need of places for indoor recreation, suggest providing gym time for little ones.
- Changing tables should be available in the park restrooms for both genders.
- Nature play is popular and a desire of the families, it has been shown children play longer when unstructured.
- Parks could use more areas of shade, especially close to playgrounds .

SOCIAL PINPOINT & ONLINE COMMUNITY

The online interactive map makes it easy for the community to identify issues and concerns and brainstorm ideas. Social Pinpoint online map was open for comments from November 2018 - May 2019. A 14-question information gathering survey was also posted online. A total of 90 surveys were completed. A second online map showing the priorities of this plan was posted from June-October 2019. Refer to the Appendix for a summary of social pinpoint comments, likes and dislikes as well as survey responses.



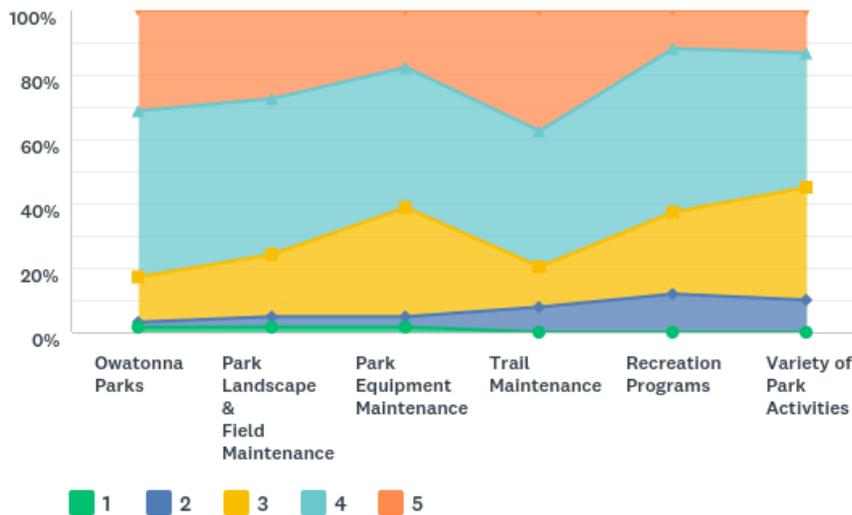
Screenshot of Social Pinpoint site

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the community is proud and uses the City's parks and trails (those who participated in the engagement events in person or online). There is a great deal of interest in connecting bike routes around the City and to neighboring communities. The trail loop within the City following the greenway along Straight River/Maple Creek and parks was the most popular suggestion. The online survey was taken during a very cold winter in Minnesota, so there were many comments regarding indoor recreation. Suggestions included: indoor play areas, indoor gym space with time for open play / pickup basketball games as well as an indoor pool. Residents agree that there is a variety of activities at the parks in Owatonna. It was commented maintenance of the landscape at most parks was of a high quality. There is a desire for additional water related recreation. Many suggested a splash pad, rentals for canoes and kayaks at Lake Kohlmier (recently implemented this past summer), and more locations and access to shore-fishing. Overall, the park specific comments align with our assessment of the sites including equipment that is dated or in disrepair.

2,342

Community engagement interactions (this includes online comments, likes, dislikes, in-person interviews, completed surveys, attendance at open house, or council worksession) It should be noted that one person can have multiple interactions.



How would you rank the following (1-5) 5 being the highest quality?
(from online user survey)



MOST POPULAR PARK ACTIVITIES REQUESTED FROM THE COMMUNITY

- Splash pad
- Beaches / Lake Access / Fishing
- Water Recreation
- Natural Playground
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment / Challenge Course
- Archery
- Paved Trails
- Dog Park
- Hockey / Skating
- Community Gardens
- Indoor Pool
- Indoor Play Area

MOST VISITED PARKS

- Mineral Springs Park
- Morehouse Park
- Dartts Park
- River Springs
- Brown Park

FAVORITE TRAIL

- Trails (hiking/ mountain biking) within Kaplan's Woods Park
- Cashman Crossing
- North Straight River Parkway

THEMES FROM THE PUBLIC PROCESS

- Greater focus on comprehensive trail planning is needed, including critical trail gaps and creating a loop within the city limits as well as connecting to communities such as Medford to the north.
- Trails are very popular within the community.
- The community is proud of its parks and trail system.
- The community values its access to water and water recreation (fishing, boating).

FAVORITE PARKS



RECREATIONAL TRENDS IN MINNESOTA

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AFFECTING RECREATION

Nationwide, populations are aging and in need of accessible facilities. In general, accessibility is a trend that relates not only to people with disabilities, but younger generations (think: stroller maneuvering), older generations (think: walking with a cane, poor eyesight). Among older adults, there is a growing interest in active living as well as providing appropriate recreational programming and opportunities for social gathering. Owatonna is similar in that there has been an increase in residents over the age of 65 within the last ten years. Owatonna has also seen an increase in diversity in the younger generations.

RECREATION TRENDS

Trails are a major recreation trend. The most popular outdoor activities nationwide are running, jogging, and biking. Communities have focused on active living, and health and wellness activities. Over the past decade, there has been significant changes in recreational trends in Minnesota and nationwide. As sports such as baseball are seeing decreased participation rates, other field sports such as soccer, lacrosse, and rugby have been increasing in participation. Other trends include ninja warrior and fitness courses for older youth and adults. There is a nationwide interest in pickleball especially within the baby boomer generation. Gaga ball, bocce ball, and lawn games are rising in popularity amongst the young and old.

Splash pads have become a common alternative to the wading pools of the past and don't require city staff (lifeguards) to monitor the safety of users. There are multiple options for creative and unique play areas including nets, spinning, water play and natural play areas. Park and trail users have also shown an interest in dog parks and bringing their dog companions to parks, events, and programmed activities.

Another concern affecting recreation departments nationwide is barriers to access park programming. Many families today have two working parents and cannot attend during a workday. Hosting programs with convenient times for families is important to consider as part of overall recreation offerings.



BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION*

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

**Source: Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan*

TRENDS IN RECREATION

- Dog Parks
- Pickleball
- Gaga Ball
- Bankshot
- Bocce Ball and Lawn Games
- Challenge Courses (Ninja Warrior)
- Nature Play Areas
- Splash Pads
- Paved Trails & Trail Loops
- Mobile Bike and Scooter Rentals (companies such as Byrd, Nice Rice) docked & dock-less
- Raised Planting Beds for Accessibility and Senior Citizens / Community Gardens
- Community installed playgrounds (as a community engagement activity and not just to save money)
- Public Art
- Use of drones
- Skate parks
- Passive Recreation within Natural Areas and interest in pollinator gardens
- Disc golf



TRENDS IN RECREATION PROGRAMMING

- Active Living & Outdoor Fitness (Yoga) Classes
- Mommy Fitness-exercise and fitness classes for pregnancy
- Joint Programming with Seniors and Teens
- Increased partnering with both non-profit and for-profit organizations
- Program sponsorships
- E-Sports (or esports) combined with physical activity challenges

COMPARISON TO PARK & RECREATION STANDARDS

NATIONAL PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA)

Through a comparison of other parks and recreation agencies across the country, the ratios below are only one method used in this plan to evaluate amenities. The following is a list of park amenity standards established by the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) based on population size to similar municipalities. The population used for this assessment is the estimated 2017 population of 25,794 (US Census Bureau).

- Typically provide a park for every 1,849 residents. Owatonna has 34 parks and based upon this data, the City exceeds this ratio with one park per every 860 residents. However, not every park should be considered especially if it is undeveloped with limited access by residents (e.g. Summer's).
- Typically provide 9.6 acres of park land for every thousand residents. Owatonna has allocated 807 acres. Based upon this data, the City exceeds this standard by providing 31 acres of park land per every one thousand residents.
- Typically provide a playground for every 3,600 residents. Owatonna has 11 playgrounds (this includes those provided by the schools). Based on these figures, the City exceeds this ratio with one playground per every 2,344 residents.
- Typically provide a basketball court for every 7,122 residents. Owatonna has 5 basketball courts. Based on these figures, the City meets and exceeds this ratio with one basketball court per every 5,158 residents.
- Typically provide a baseball field per every 6,519 residents. Owatonna has 13 baseball/softball fields. Based on these figures, Owatonna exceeds this ratio with one field per 1,984 residents.
- Typically provide a multi-purpose field (two-acre field) per every 6,039 residents. Owatonna has a variety of multi-purpose fields but only 4 fields meet this 2-acre requirement. Based on these figures, Owatonna does not meet this ratio with one multi-purpose field per every 6,448 residents. However, there are plans to remove potentially one of the fields and add additional fields built by the Owatonna Soccer Association.
- Typically provide an outdoor ice rink per every 17,310 residents. Owatonna has only one outdoor ice rink. Based on these figures, the City does not meet this ratio and has one outdoor ice rink per 25,794 residents. However, residents do use the indoor ice arena (Four Seasons Centre) operated by Steele County located within the city limits.
- Typically provide an outdoor tennis court per every 4,545 residents. Owatonna has 7 outdoor tennis courts. Based on these figures, the City exceeds this ratio with one outdoor tennis court per every 3,685 residents. There are also 6 indoor tennis courts at West Hills. The high school also has tennis courts.

Source: NRPA recommendations are based upon the 2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review report.

REGIONAL COMPARISON

Owatonna's park and trail system was compared (based on numbers) to other cities with similar populations and/or that serve as regional destinations. Overall, Owatonna has more park acres per population than similar communities, except for Faribault (which has a large natural area included in their park system). The number of parks is similar across the board, although it is important to note that many of Owatonna's parks do not have recreational amenities (such as Summer's or Kriesel's Park). In comparison to other regional destinations, Owatonna does not have an indoor aquatics facility on par with other communities and/or an official community center space. Refer to table on the following page.

TABLE 1.1: COMPARISON TO SIMILAR AND REGIONAL COMMUNITY PARK SYSTEMS

CITY	POPULATION	PARK LAND (ACRES)	ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS	NUMBER OF PARKS	PARKS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS	TRAIL LENGTH	ADDITIONAL FACILITIES
Bemidji	15,366	250 acres (160 maintained)	17 acres/1,000 residents	22 parks	1.43 parks / 1,000 residents	30 miles of paved walking trails	10 picnic shelters, 3 buildings, 3 swimming beaches, 4 boat accesses with 5 docks, 1 fishing pier, marina, 6 softball and baseball fields, 1 disc golf course, 1 lighted cross country ski trail, 4 skating rinks, 13 miles of trails, 10 playgrounds, 8 play courts (tennis, basketball, and pickleball), a skate park and dog park.
Faribault	23,750	1,150 acres (including 778 ac nature center)	48 acres/1,000 residents	45 parks	1.89 parks / 1,000 residents	8.4 miles of paved trails	Fitness Center, Community Center (with aquatics), dog park
New Ulm	13,238	320 acres	24 acres/1,000 residents	42 parks	3.17 parks / 1,000 residents	13 mile loop	Recreation Center, Civic Center, Community Center
Northfield	20,084	418 acres	21 acres/1,000 residents	38 parks	1.89 parks / 1,000 residents	31 miles	
Waseca	8,978	200 acres	22 acres/1,000 residents	15 parks	1.67 parks / 1,000 residents	9.2 miles of paved trails	Water Park, outdoor skating rinks, Northwest Nature Park
Willmar	19,628	Unknown	Unknown	37 parks	1.89 parks / 1,000 residents	Unknown	Civic Center, Community Center, splash pad, aquatic center, disc golf, destination playground (all-inclusive), golf course
Owatonna	25,794	807 acres	31 acres / 1,000 residents	34 parks	1.32 parks / 1,000 residents	12 miles	West Hills Fitness Center, River Springs Water Park, dog park, golf course

Highest reported number

NON-CITY AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

Nearby recreational amenities (public and private) were also identified which could provide complementary facilities. In order to reduce duplicates in the system, those spaces which provide residents with alternate recreation options were noted. In some cases, such as the school district, where there is an existing partnership with the City, the schools and their amenities are listed in this report. Other recreational amenities and destinations, used by Owatonna residents, include:

RICE LAKE STATE PARK - CLAREMONT

- Located 10 miles east of Owatonna in Claremont, Minnesota. The state park offers hiking trails through woods, prairies, and along Rice Lake (headwater of the Zumbro River). There is also a campground with electric hook-ups, walk-in and group campsites. Canoe and kayak rentals are available at the park. A vehicle permit is required to entrance.

OWATONNA COUNTRY CLUB - OWATONNA

- A private golf club with 18 holes designed by Joel Goldstrand. There is also a pro shop, golf leagues and lessons, private swimming and wading pool, locker rooms, and a fitness facility. The clubhouse hosts weddings, events, and has a restaurant open to the public. A private membership is required to access country club amenities.

HAVANA HILLS - OWATONNA

- A par 3 golf course and driving range just outside of town.

OWATONNA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #761

- Owatonna's public schools operate their athletics in cooperation with the City of Owatonna's park and recreation department.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY CHURCH - OWATONNA

- The church in partnership with Owatonna's Pickleball Association hosts indoor games and tournaments.

FOUR SEASONS CENTRE AND STEELE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, OWATONNA

- The ice arena (Four Seasons Centre) has two indoor ice sheets and programs hockey and figure skating for nine months of the year.
- The Steele County Free Fair (Minnesota's largest county fair) is held every year in August. Fairgrounds Park is utilized for RVs and campers during the week of the fair. Off-season, the grounds, and buildings are available for event rentals.

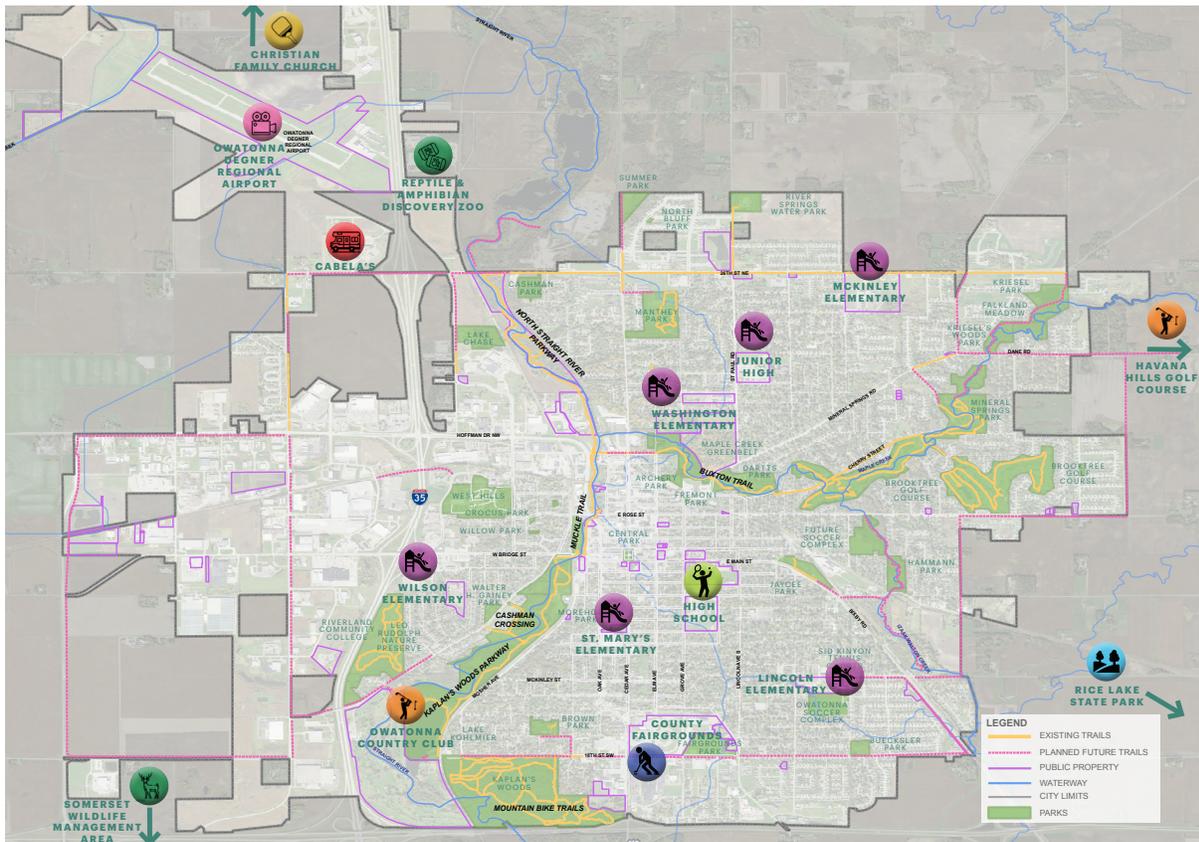


*Rice Lake State Park
Source: MnDNR*



*Indoor Pickleball Courts
Source: Christian Family Church website*

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MAP 2.2: LOCATION OF NON-CITY & PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN DISCOVERY ZOO – OWATONNA, MINNESOTA

- Located north of the city, the zoo has reptiles and amphibians on display. It also hosts events, school programs and private birthday parties. There is an admission charge.

CABELA’S – OWATONNA, MINNESOTA

- The local Cabela’s is a regional outdoor recreation shopping destination and has services for RVs at its store on the west side of I-35.

DEGNER REGIONAL AIRPORT – OWATONNA, MINNESOTA

- The airport typically hosts an annual free family movie night outdoors.

SOMERSET WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - OWATONNA, MINNESOTA

- This 440 acre state managed wildlife area along the Straight River, south of the city limits, near Trout Creek is a natural floodplain with hardwoods and wetlands.

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SECTION 3: TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN

TRAIL SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Thanks to a long history of generous donations and community support, many of Owatonna's parks are connected by or contain their own internal multi-use trails. The backbone of the trail system is a north-south greenway corridor along the Straight River and an east-west corridor that follows a string of parks between the river and the City's eastern edge. This section summarizes the City's existing and planned trail system and evaluates how it fits into the greater regional and state trail system.

EXISTING TRAILS

There are several different trail types that provide a mixture of recreational opportunities for Owatonna's residents. The City's existing trails are described in this section and shown in Figure 3.1.

PAVED MULTI-USE TRAILS

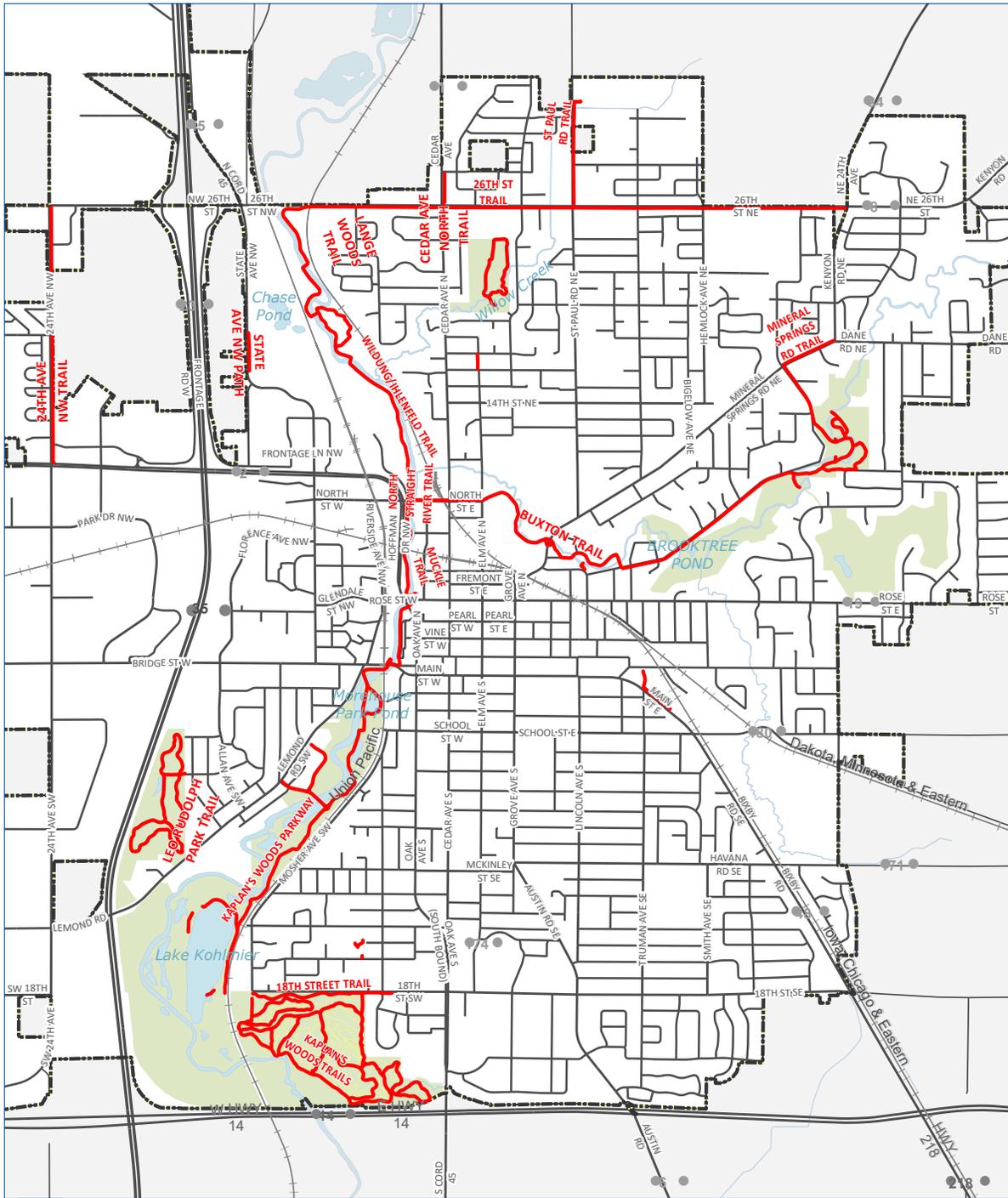
Multi-use trails (referred to as trails throughout this plan) are generally defined as paved surfaces that can serve multiple users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, in-line skaters, etc. These trails are generally 8-10 feet wide and support two-directional traffic. There are over 12 miles of paved multi-use trails. The key multi-use trail segments are summarized on the following pages.

- Buxton Trail
- Kaplan's Woods Parkway Trail
- Muckle Trail
- North Straight River Parkway Trail
- 26th Street Trail

SIDEWALKS

While not part of the trail system, sidewalks provide pedestrian access to the City's parks and trails, while also providing some recreational opportunities for residents to walk and run. There are over 62 miles of sidewalk in the city. Most of the sidewalks are between four and six feet wide and are generally intended to serve pedestrians. While the downtown and surrounding area was originally built with sidewalks along both sides of the streets, most other neighborhoods were not built with sidewalks.

Trails City of Owatonna



November 13, 2019



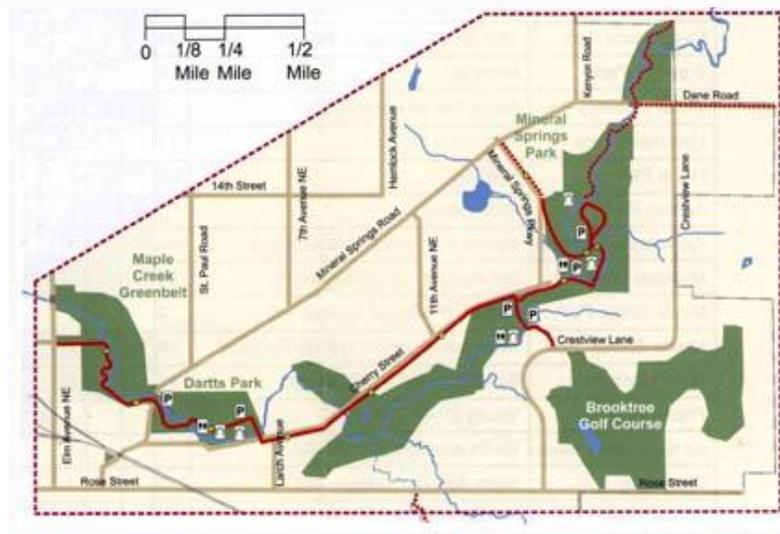
This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This information is a compilation of records, information, and data located in various city, county, and state offices and other sources, affecting the area shown, and is to be used for reference purposes only.

OWATONNA TRAILS MAP



BUXTON TRAIL

LOCATION	From Elm Avenue NE to Dane Road, Central/Eastern Owatonna
LENGTH	2.5 miles
SURFACING	Bituminous
TRAIL WIDTH	12 feet
DESCRIPTION	The Buxton Trail begins at North Street and travels through Darts Park, Brooktree Golf Course, and Mineral Spring Park, then terminates near the eastern edge of the City. For the most part, the trail follows Maple Creek.

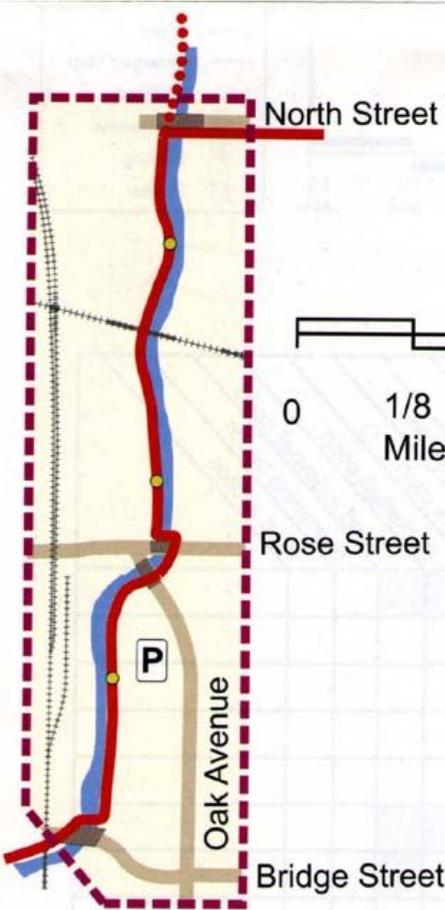


Map 3.1: Buxton Trail



MUCKLE TRAIL

LOCATION	From Bridge Street to North Street, Central Owatonna
LENGTH	1.5 miles
SURFACING	Bituminous
TRAIL WIDTH	12 feet
DESCRIPTION	The Muckle Trail runs through the center of Owatonna along the Straight River and connects Morehouse Park north to the Buxton Trail and south to Kaplan's Woods Parkway.

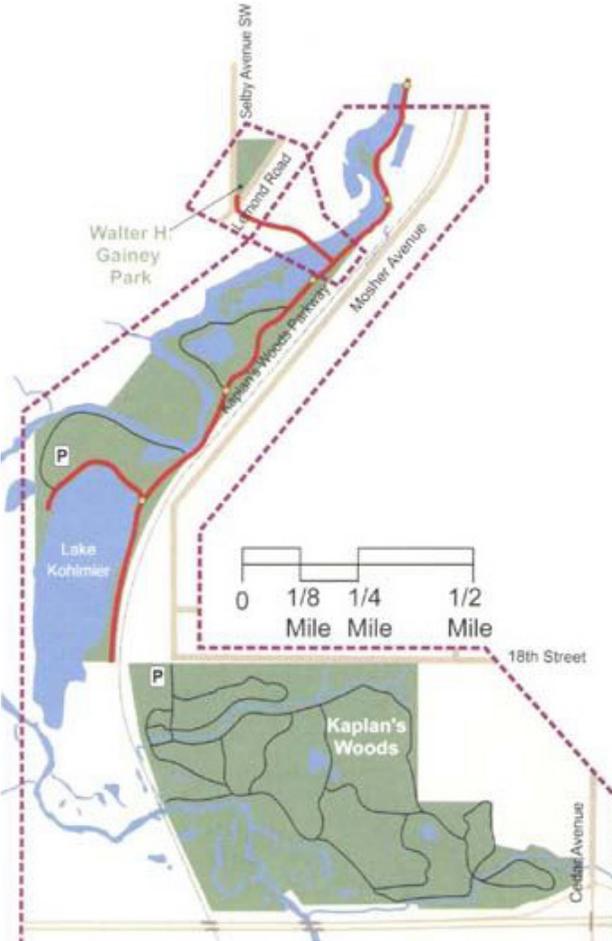


Map 3.2: Muckle Trail



KAPLAN WOODS PARKWAY

LOCATION	From Kaplan's Woods to Bridge Street
LENGTH	1.5 miles
SURFACING	Bituminous
TRAIL WIDTH	12 feet
DESCRIPTION	Kaplan's Woods Parkway Trail connects Morehouse Park south to Kaplan's Woods.

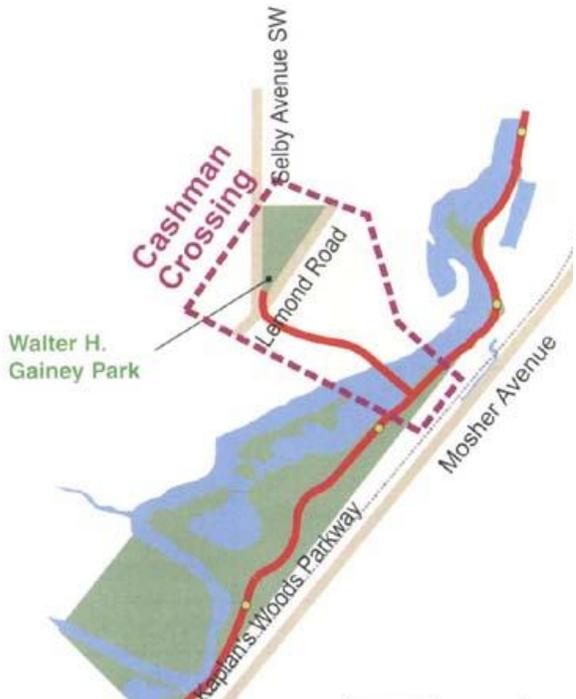


Map 3.3: Kaplan Woods Parkway Trail



CASHMAN CROSSING

LOCATION	Over the Straight River, south of Morehouse Park
LENGTH	200 feet (pedestrian bridge)
SURFACING	Bituminous / Wood Deck (at bridge)
TRAIL WIDTH	12 feet
DESCRIPTION	Cashman Crossing connects Kaplan's Woods Parkway Trail on the east side of the Straight River to Walter H. Gainey Park and Lemond Road on the west side.



Map 3.4: Cashman Crossing



26TH STREET TRAIL

LOCATION	Along 26th St NE from Cashman Park to Kenyon Road
LENGTH	2.0 miles
SURFACING	Bituminous
TRAIL WIDTH	10-12 feet
DESCRIPTION	The 26th Street Trail creates an east-west connection between the North Straight River Trail and the string of parks that line the Buxton Trail corridor. It is currently planned as the northern portion of the City's loop trail.



Map 3.5: North Straight River Parkway

NORTH STRAIGHT RIVER PARKWAY

LOCATION	Along the Straight River from the Muckle Trail to 26th Street.
LENGTH	1.8 miles (approximate)
SURFACING	Bituminous
TRAIL WIDTH	10-12 feet
DESCRIPTION	The North Straight River Parkway is a combination of the Lange Woods Trail and Ihlenfeld/Wildung Trail. It continues the Muckle Trail corridor north along the Straight River, connecting to the 26th Street Trail near Cashman Park.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

Owatonna’s Parks and Recreation department maintains groomed cross-country ski trails in two locations from mid-December to mid-February depending on weather and snow conditions.

CROSS-COUNTRY TRAILS WITHIN BROOKTREE GOLF COURSE

LOCATION	Within the golf course, along Maple Creek, Northeast Owatonna
LENGTH	2.0 miles+
DESCRIPTION	Cross country trails used seasonally and maintained by city staff.

CROSS-COUNTRY TRAILS ALONG KAPLAN’S WOODS PARKWAY

LOCATION	Morehouse Park, Kaplan’s Woods, and the County Country Club Course, Southern Owatonna
LENGTH	8.0 miles+
DESCRIPTION	Cross country trails used seasonally and maintained by city staff.

OTHER TRAILS

KAPLAN WOODS PARK - NATURAL TRAILS & MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

LOCATION	Within Kaplan Woods Park property along Straight River and near Lake Kohlmier, Southern Owatonna
LENGTH	7.0 miles (approximate)
SURFACING	Varies, wood chips, natural surfacing
TRAIL WIDTH	Varies
DESCRIPTION	Kaplan’s Woods offers trails for mountain biking, hiking, and trail running. Single-track mountain bike trails are maintained by the Owatonna Trails Association.



Natural trails in Kaplan’s Woods Park



Mountain bike trail map in Kaplan’s Woods Park

SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS PLAN

The City completed the Sidewalks and Trails Plan in 2012. (See Figure 3.1). This plan outlines the desired function and context for sidewalks and trails. The plan also includes a map of existing and planned facilities and outlines a list of policies and relevant ordinances. The plan envisions over 11 miles of new sidewalks and 20 miles of multi-use trails connecting to all neighborhoods. The key outcomes of this plan are summarized in this section.

Sidewalks - Planned Improvements

The Sidewalks and Trails Plan (Figure 3.1) identifies planned over 11 miles of new sidewalk connections to key community assets such as schools, parks, and the existing sidewalk and trail system. Significant sidewalk development is planned north of 14th Street NE, south of East School Street, and west of I-35 where existing sidewalk facilities are limited.

Trails - Planned Improvements

In addition to filling gaps in the existing network, the City also plans to pursue a trail system that would create a continuous loop near the city limits and connect to existing and planned trails at various points. The trail is planned to travel along 26th Street NE in the north, connect Dane Road, Rose Street, and Havana Road in the east, follow 18th Street along the City's southern edge, cross I-35 at Lemond Road, follow 39th Avenue on the west side, then use Hoffman Drive and 24th Avenue to complete the loop at 26th Street. This planned loop was identified as a high priority in the Sidewalks and Trails Plan. See the map for additional planned trail locations.

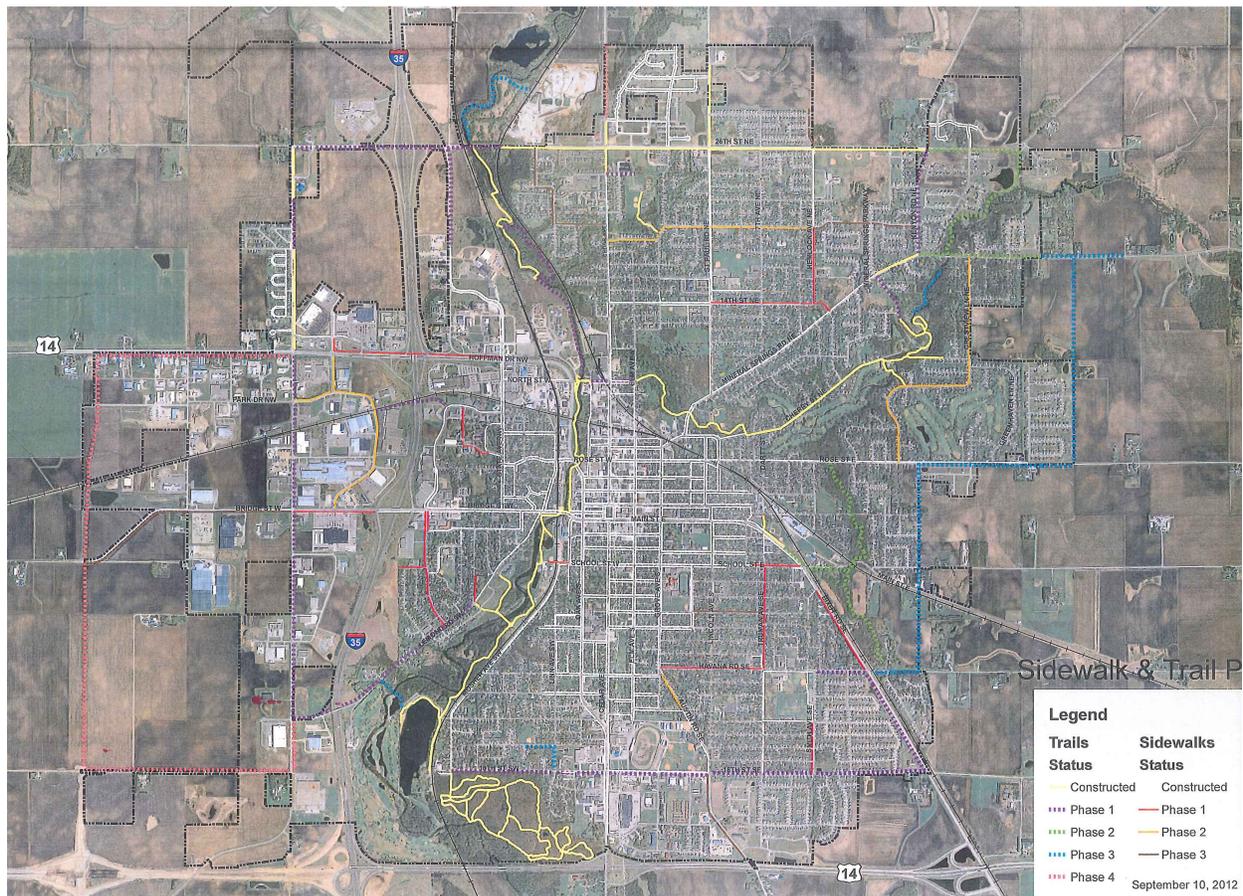


Figure 3.1: City of Owatonna's Existing and Planned Trails map

SIDEWALK AND TRAILS POLICIES

The City has established several policies within its Sidewalks and Trails Plan related to completing and enhancing the sidewalk and trail system. Key policies specific to trails are summarized below:

- Schedule planned trails improvements in the City's capital improvement program based on the plan's priorities.
- Include planned trail improvements in street construction and reconstruction projects.
- Coordinate planned trails with the land subdivision and development process.
- Coordinate planned trails with the County and State of Minnesota as part of their respective roadway improvements and key roadway/river crossings.
- Trails shall be constructed in priority to obtain a continuous loop around the City.
- Trails shall be constructed to provide a trail connection to every park.
- Trail (or sidewalk) connections are envisioned within ¼ mile of every property within the City.
- Bike lanes will be considered as an option where trails either cannot be constructed due to physical conditions or where they may be constructed more expediently where existing conditions meet proper design standards for bike lanes.

OTHER PLANNED TRAILS AND STATE TRAIL CORRIDORS

PRAIRIE WILDFLOWER STATE TRAIL

The Prairie Wildflower State Trail is a legislatively authorized trail corridor proposed to run from Faribault south to the Iowa border, passing through Owatonna. A master plan has not been prepared for the Prairie Wildflower State Trail, however the communities have met with the DNR in recent years to discuss trail planning and development opportunities. Parks and public works staff from the City of Owatonna have participated in these meetings.

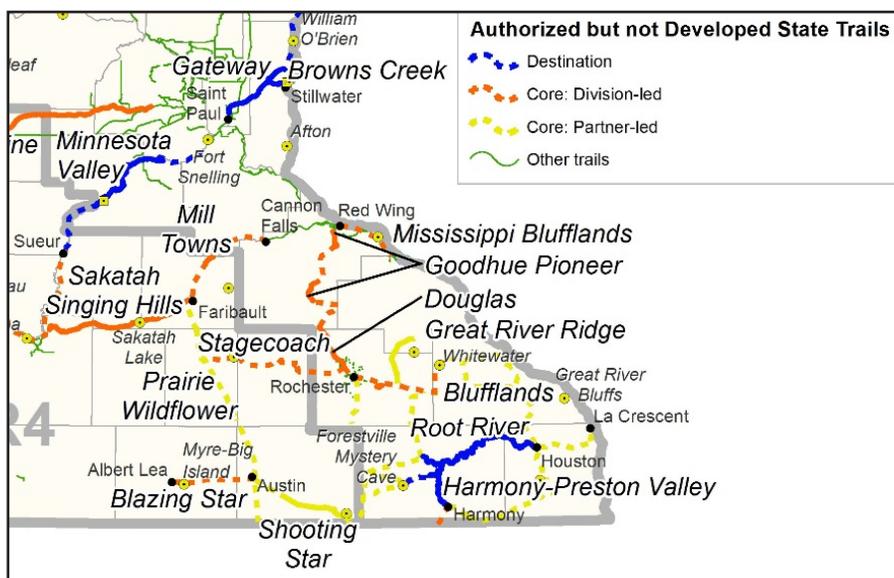


Figure 3.2: Map of MN State Trail Investment Groups. Source: Minnesota State Parks and Trails System Plan, MN DNR, 2015

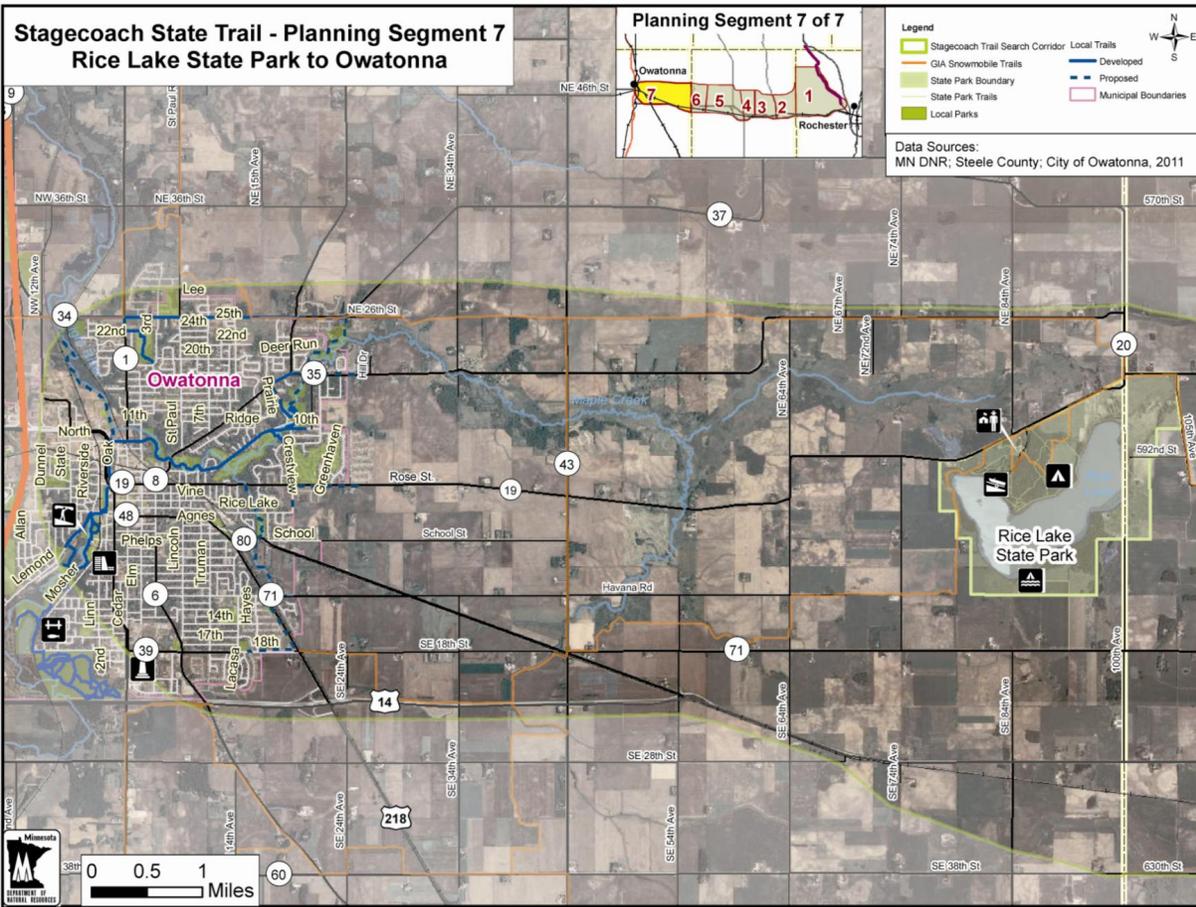


Figure 3.3: Stagecoach State Trail Planning Segment 7 Search Corridor Source: Stagecoach State Trail Master Plan, MN DNR

STAGECOACH STATE TRAIL

The Stagecoach State Trail is a legislatively authorized trail corridor that is planned to run between Owatonna and the Douglas State Trail near Rochester. While a master plan for the corridor already exists, an exact alignment for the segment between Owatonna and Rice Lake State Park has not been identified.

The master plan makes several proposals for the state trail route in the Owatonna area:

- Follow County Road 19/Rose Street, toward Owatonna (which was likely the location of the Winona – St. Peter Stage Road around 1856).
- Follow County Road 35/Dane Road, to Owatonna.
- Scenic routes may generally follow or provide views of the Maple Creek corridor from Rice Lake to Owatonna.
- Connect to local Owatonna trail (Buxton Trail System) on north side of the city, near or at Kriesel’s Park.

KEY GAPS AND CONNECTION POINTS

While Owatonna has a strong core network of sidewalks and trails, there are some gaps in the existing and planned network that could be addressed to improve access and enhance connectivity for recreation and transportation. An issues map(see Map 3.6) was developed based on evaluation of the trail network, public input, and review of existing city documents. Each critical trail gap is identified and described below:

GAP BETWEEN BUXTON AND MUCKLE TRAILS

The lack of a trail or dedicated bike facility along North Street to connect the Buxton, Muckle & Straight River Parkway trails is a prominent gap in Owatonna's trail system. While the distance between the two trails is only a few blocks, the industrial land uses and possibility of truck traffic may conflict with trail users, especially for families and young children. Refer to Map 3.7 for proposed trail route between these popular trails.



Current informal route for trail users at intersection of North St. and Cedar Ave between Buxton, Muckle & Straight River Parkway Trails

BUXTON TRAIL EXIT FROM DARTTS PARK

Where the Buxton Trail exits Dartts Park onto Cherry Street, the trail shares right-of-way with the driveway that passes through the park. This creates a potentially uncomfortable situation for trail users who are already trying to navigate the Cherry Street trail crossing.

SE PART OF CITY (BIXBY ROAD, 18TH STREET)

There is currently a lack of connections to recreational opportunities in the southeastern portion of Owatonna. Many streets lack sidewalk connections to nearby parks and there is no trail access. The City's planned loop trail would help meet this need.

CRESTVIEW LANE NE

This street provides a key connection from Mineral Springs Park to the parks and neighborhoods in the northeast corner of Owatonna. Responses from the Social Pinpoint survey suggest that despite the lack of dedicated facilities for biking and walking, this route still sees lots of foot traffic.



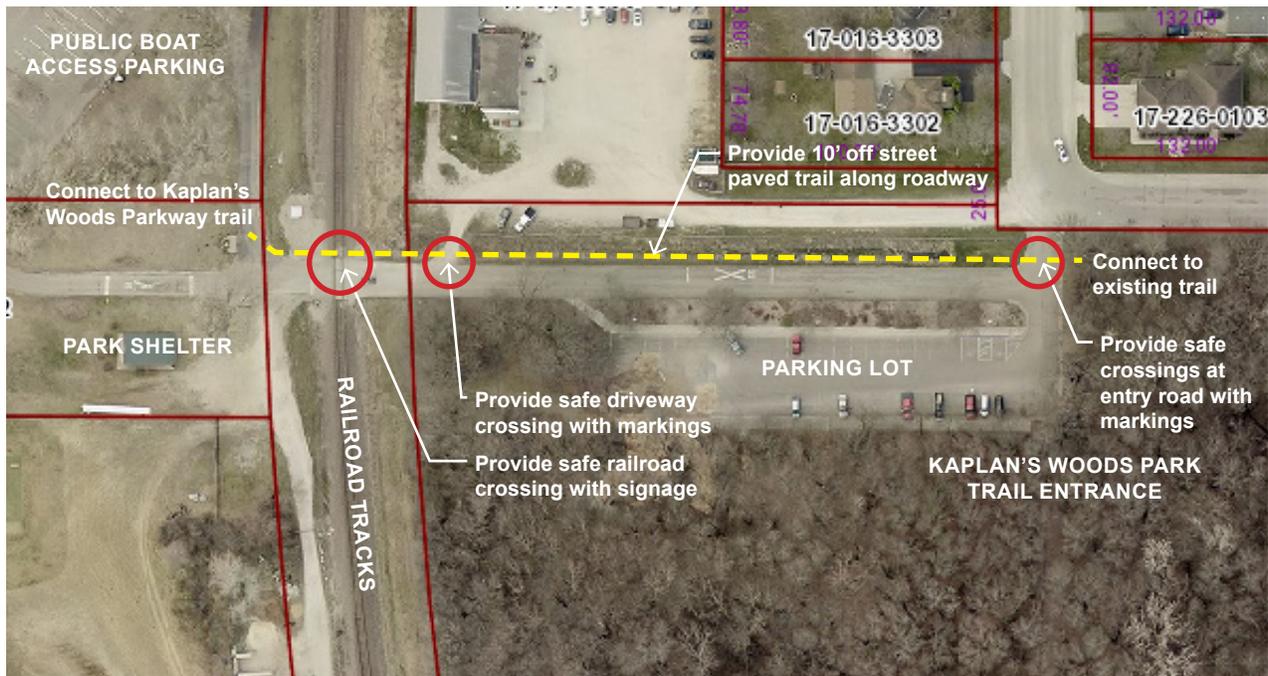
MAP 3.7: PROPOSED PAVED TRAIL CONNECTION BETWEEN STRAIGHT RIVER PARKWAY/MUCKLE TRAIL AND BUXTON TRAIL

GAP BETWEEN THE MUCKLE, STRAIGHT RIVER PARKWAY, BUXTON TRAILS

The lack of a trail or dedicated bike facility along North Street to connect the Buxton and Muckle trails is a prominent gap in Owatonna’s trail system. While the distance between the two trails is only a few blocks, the industrial land uses and possibility of truck traffic may conflict with trail users, especially for families and young children. Refer to Map 3.7 above for proposed trail route between these two popular trails.

The proposed trail route routes trail users across the Straight River to the east, north of W. North Street, from the Straight River Parkway Trail. The trail runs adjacent to industrial land and would travel under N Cedar Avenue via a trail underpass. From there, it heads south through wooded areas, crossing at mid-block on 11th Street (due to truck movements at nearby loading dock) and heads south along Maple Creek. Another pedestrian bridge would be necessary to cross Maple Creek south to connect to the Buxton Trail. A cost estimate for this connection is included in Section 5 Implementation Plan of this document

Constructing this route will involve coordination and land donation (or trail easement) from current landowners. One of the landowners has been in contact with City staff throughout this planning process and in the past has indicated they would be willing to work with the City to complete this project.



MAP 3.8: PROPOSED PAVED TRAIL CONNECTION BETWEEN KAPLAN'S WOODS PARK ENTRANCE AND LAKE KOHLMIER BOAT LAUNCH

KAPLAN'S WOODS PARK TRAIL GAP

Trail users heading through the north side of Kaplan's Woods Park must travel through the parking lot, entrance drive, and across railroad tracks before connecting to the Kaplan's Woods Parkway trail at the public boat access. Making a direct trail connection off-street along the entrance road would increase safety and visibility of trail users. Refer to Map 3.8 above.

MOREHOUSE PARK TRAIL GAP

Trail users passing through Morehouse Park must travel through the parking lot and potentially navigate around cars backing out of parking spaces. Making a direct trail connection could enhance the trail experience. The city is currently looking at options to complete this trail gap along the river.

TRAIL GAP FROM LAKE CHASE PARK TO N. STRAIGHT RIVER PARKWAY TRAIL

The property boundary of Lake Chase Park on the northern side of Owatonna is within 100 feet of the North Straight River Trail. A railroad crossing will be necessary here in order to connect the park to the trail. Trail connections through the east side of the park to the parking lot will also need to be addressed as the park currently does not have paved trails.

26TH STREET NE TO MINERAL SPRINGS PARK

The existing trail along 26th Street NE does not connect south to Mineral Springs Park and the Buxton Trail. There are two proposed trails that could fill this gap: one along Kenyon Road, and another that would extend the 26th Street Trail east and create a greenway trail through Kriesel's Park, Falkland Meadow, and Kriesel's Woods Park.



MAP 3.9: PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE CONNECTION AT BRIDGE STREET

BRIDGE STREET/MUCKLE TRAIL RIVER CROSSING

The current river crossing on the Muckle Trail at Bridge Street is considered substandard. After navigating a hairpin turn on the west side of the Straight River, trail users must use a narrow sidewalk on the bridge over the river before getting back onto the trail. Widening the sidewalk to support two-directional traffic or adding a separate bridge for people walking and biking would create a higher quality trail experience for everyone. Another option is to pursue a standalone pedestrian bridge across the river to enhance the trail experience.

MUCKLE TRAIL/BRIDGE STREET TRAIL GAP

After crossing the river on Bridge Street using a narrow sidewalk, Muckle Trail users must navigate a small parking area and side street to return to the off-street trail. This creates the potential for conflict between trail users and vehicle traffic. This gap is partially caused by presence of utility poles that interrupt the ideal trail alignment. Solutions could be explored to provide a clear connection for trail users of all ages.

TRAIL LINK TO DOWNTOWN

The existing trail system does not have a dedicated trail connection to downtown Owatonna. Rose St, Bridge/Main St, and Vine St are possible connections. A bike facility could be added along Walnut Street. Vine Street could serve as the on-street bike lane into downtown Owatonna. Another option is providing a route south from the Buxton Trail on-street along Cedar Avenue or Elm Avenue.

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REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Many Social Pinpoint participants referenced the potential for extending the existing trail system to reach destinations at a regional scale, including a trail connection to Rice Lake State Park to the east and to reach the commercial area around Cabela's and communities like Medford and Faribault to the north.

CONNECTION TO RIVERLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

While there is currently a trail planned for 24th Ave NW, there are no sidewalk or trail facilities planned along Alexander Drive SW that would complete the connection to Riverland Community College and the City's sidewalk/trail network.

EAST MAIN STREET/EAST SCHOOL STREET AND BIXBY ROAD

Neighborhoods east of Bixby Road currently have no dedicated biking or walking facilities to parks, schools, or other locations west of Bixby Road. Providing a trail along East Main Street/East School Street along with a safe crossing at Bixby Road would facilitate this connection.

SIDEWALK/TRAIL ALONG HOFFMAN DRIVE

There is currently a planned sidewalk along the north side of Hoffman Drive from 21st Avenue NW to State Avenue, but there are no current plans to continue the sidewalk around the curve to meet up with North Street. Completing this segment would connect the trail system to the commercial areas around I-35.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The City of Owatonna Sidewalks and Trails Plan identifies how to address existing gaps in the sidewalk and trail network around schools. As an option to further assess conditions and how to make it easier for students to walk and bike to school, the City and School District could pursue a planning assistance grant through the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program.

Planning grants are offered on an annual basis and provide an opportunity to identify both infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions to overcome the barriers that prevent students from walking and biking to school. Completing a Safe Routes to School plan is the first step towards securing SRTS funding for infrastructure. More information about planning assistance grants and other opportunities offered through the Safe Routes to School program is available on the MnDOT website.

It is also recommended to incorporate sidewalks and connections to city trails when new neighborhoods are developed.



Providing sidewalks to school is important for safety and public health. Source: MnDOT

TRAIL SYSTEM EVALUATION FOR GREATER MINNESOTA REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION CRITERIA

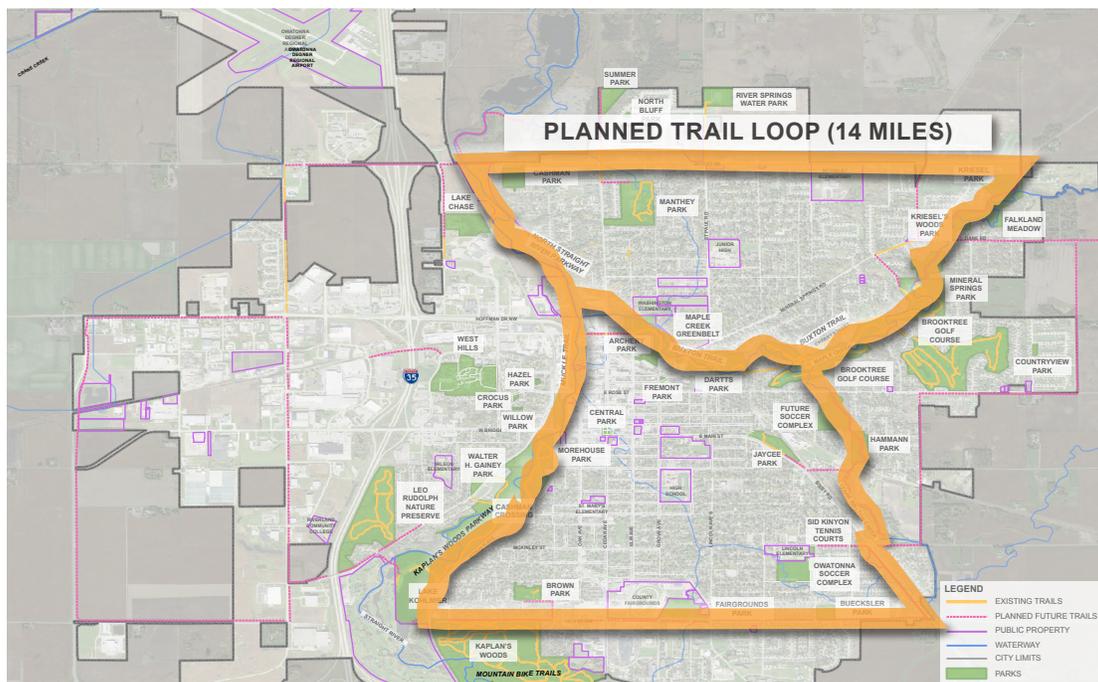
OVERVIEW

As a component of the Owatonna Parks and Trails Master Plan, the City's trail system was evaluated for potential inclusion into the regional trail system as defined by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC). Securing regional trail status creates an opportunity to become part of a larger trail network to expand recreational opportunities for residents and access funds for future trail development. This section summarizes the trail selection process, the evaluation criteria, and whether Owatonna's trail system meets the criteria. Based on this analysis, it is recommended that the City of Owatonna work with neighboring communities to pursue regional or state trail status for two corridors: an east-west corridor beginning with the current alignment of the Buxton Trail, and a north-south corridor in the current alignment of the Muckle, Kaplan's Woods Parkway, and North Straight River Parkway Trails. These two trail corridors have the potential to become regional destinations by providing connections to amenities such as Rice Lake State Park and existing state trails such as the Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail. The planned loop trail around the city is also a possible candidate for regional status with some modifications to the trail alignment.

TRAILS UNDER CONSIDERATION

The following existing trails make up the core of the east-west and north-south trail corridors with the greatest potential for regional connections.

- Buxton Trail
- Muckle Trail
- Kaplan's Woods Parkway Trail
- North Straight River Parkway
- The planned loop trail around the perimeter of the City was also evaluated.



Map 3.10: Planned Trail Loop Corridor

TRAIL DESIGNATIONS

Trails can be classified by state, regional, or local designations depending on their location, the type of users they serve, their historical or cultural significance, the destinations they connect, and other factors.

State non-motorized trails, which are managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), focus on “Destination Trails” that draw tourists from around the state. Broadly speaking, these trails highlight Minnesota’s unique landscape features, state parks, and other destinations of statewide significance.

Regional non-motorized trails provide “high quality non-motorized recreational trail experiences that are readily accessible from an already populated or rapidly growing regional center or tourist destination.” Trails that improve connectivity between regional centers and existing state and regional parks and trails are more likely to receive the regional designation.

Local trail systems primarily attract residents within a given town or city. They may be used by visitors, but primarily connect local destinations and serve the recreation and transportation needs of the surrounding population. Ideally, local trails will provide connections to regional and state trails where applicable.

Owatonna forms the junction of two legislatively authorized state trail corridors detailed in the Minnesota State Parks and Trails System Plan and administered by the DNR: Stagecoach and Prairie Wildflower. Both state trail corridors in the Owatonna area are still in the planning phases; defined trail alignments and trail development have not occurred. As described in the Stagecoach State Trail Master Plan, the Stagecoach State Trail is proposed to run east from Owatonna to the Douglas State Trail and the City of Rochester, passing through Rice Lake State Park on the way. The Prairie Wildflower State Trail is proposed to run from Faribault south to the Iowa border, passing through Owatonna on the way. A master plan has not been prepared for the Prairie Wildflower State Trail, however as discussed earlier there is a group that would like to further advance this corridor. There is potential that a portion of the City’s trail system could serve as part of these state trail corridors.

REGIONAL NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

- Provide a high-quality “destination” trail experience.
- Are well-located (i.e., convenience of access/adequate length) to serve a regional population and/or tourist destination.
- Enhance connectivity to regional destinations.
- Fill a gap in recreational opportunity within a region.



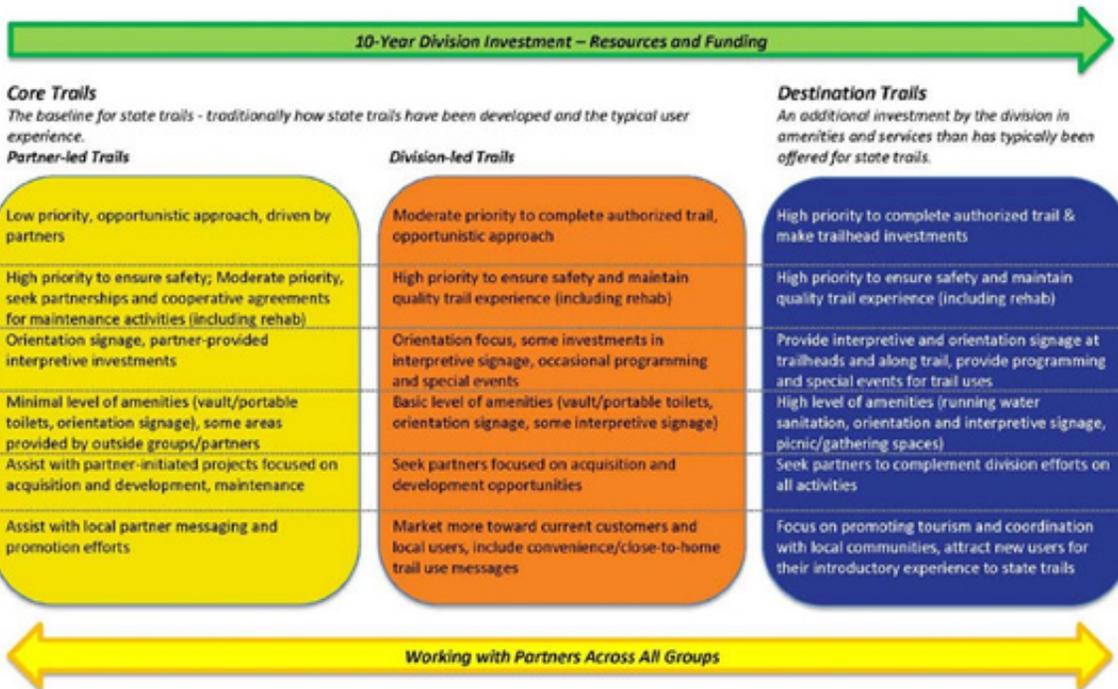


Figure 3.4: State Trail Investment Groups.

Source: Minnesota State Parks and Trails System Plan, MN DNR, 2015

STATE TRAIL INVESTMENT GROUPS

Under the Minnesota State Parks and Trails System Plan, both developed and authorized state trails are classified and prioritized according to the level of state resources they will receive. “Destination Trails” are the highest priority and receive a level of investment not typically offered for state trails. “Core Trails” serve as the baseline and are further divided into “Partner-led Trails” and “Division-led Trails” based on DNR involvement. Figure 3.4 shows how these classifications impact trail acquisition, operations, amenities, and more.

Figure 3.5 shows developed and legislatively authorized state trails around Minnesota. The Prairie Wildflower State Trail is shown as a partner-led core trail, while the Stagecoach State Trail is shown as a Division-Led core trail, suggesting that the latter is a higher priority for development. Given the backlog of unfunded state trail projects, it is unclear when non-destination trails would receive funding and move forward with development.



Figure 3.5: Map of MN State Trail Investment Groups. Source: Minnesota State Parks and Trails System Plan, MN DNR, 2015

GREATER MINNESOTA REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION (GMRPTC)



OVERVIEW

Prior to the establishment of the GMRPTC in 2013, Greater Minnesota did not have an established history of comprehensive planning for regional parks and trails. The documents and organizations highlighted below establish the criteria and protocol that grants the GMRPTC responsibility in this area.

The Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee (LAC) was created as a part of the implementation of the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan. The Legacy Plan establishes the basic structure and guidelines both for the creation of the GMRPTC, and for the Regional System Plan it is responsible for creating.

Local agencies and groups have the opportunity to submit requests to designate park and trail facilities for regional status through the GMRPTC. As defined in the Commission's Strategic Plan (and guided by the Parks & Trails Legacy Plan), the Commission will evaluate, rank, and determine funding recommendations for regionally-significant projects of highest merit. As the three-step graphic below illustrates, all regional park and trail projects will flow through the Commission's evaluation process to ensure consistency with the protocol and criteria defined under the Strategic Plan.

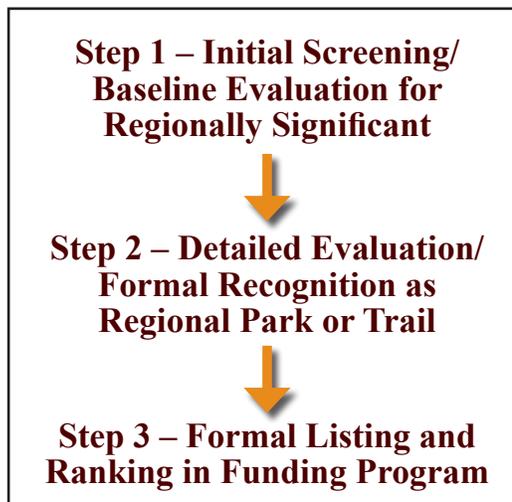


Figure 3.6: Regional Designation Application Process. Source: GMRPTC Strategic Plan, 2015

The vetting process defined and implemented by the Commission through the Strategic Plan is the only route to Legacy or other funding sources as related to regional parks and trails in Greater Minnesota. The Commission is responsible for ensuring that the physical system plan that emerges over time only reflects parks and trails that are well-vetted and formally recognized as being regionally-significant and essential to meeting regional needs. There are currently no GMRPTC designated parks and trails in the Owatonna and Steele County area.

GMRPTC MASTER PLAN REQUIREMENTS

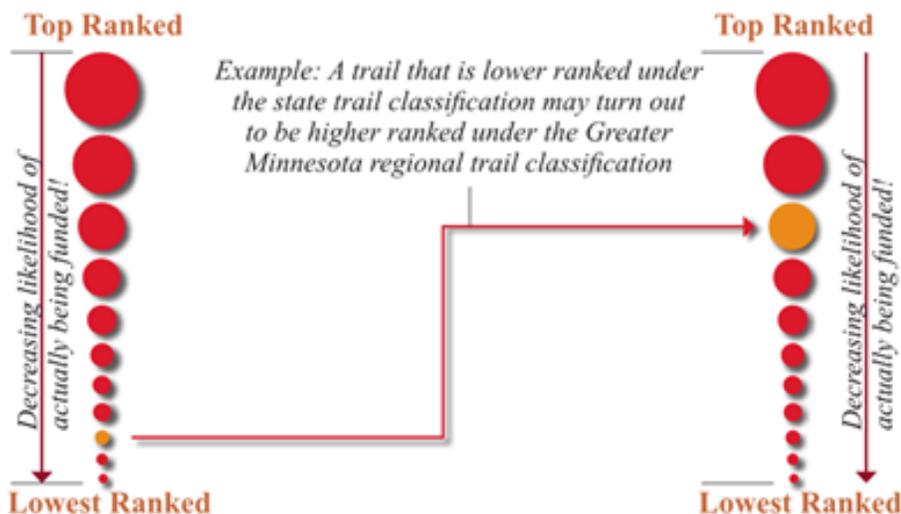
A trail master plan is required before any funding can be used for trail development. Plans should focus on describing the trail's regional-level purpose and compelling features. Details on master plan requirements are available in the GMRPTC Strategic Plan.

EVALUATING STATE VS. REGIONAL TRAIL STATUS

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) Strategic Plan acknowledges that there are many currently authorized state trails that may be more suited for regional trail status. In some cases these trails may better align with regional versus state criteria, and there are also practical funding issues to consider. Figure 3.7 illustrates how an existing state trail that ranks low on the list of state priorities may score higher and receive a higher ranking according to regional priorities. This has the potential to unlock additional funding streams for a trail that may struggle to receive state resources. It is the GMRPTC's responsibility to work with the DNR to appropriately classify trails and modify existing classifications as necessary. Given that the existing Stagecoach and Prairie Wildflower State Trail corridors are relatively low priority in terms of state funding, there may be an opportunity to pursue regional trail status as a means

State-Level Trails (DNR) Priorities
 (Ranked Using DNR Criteria for State Trails)

Regional-Level Trails (Greater Minnesota Priorities)
 (Ranked Using Greater Minnesota Criteria for Regional Trails)



The classification of a trail – state versus regional – will significantly affect its ranking relative to established criteria for each of the classifications. This is important in that a misclassified trail that does not rank high at the state level may be of much greater value (and higher ranked) at the regional level, potentially resulting in a missed opportunity to service a legitimate regional need.

Figure 3.7: Comparison of State and Regional Trail Priorities. Source: GMRPTC Strategic Plan, 2015

of accelerating trail development. This process would involve coordination with the GMRPTC and DNR to start a conversation about modifying the existing trail classifications for these two corridors.

REGIONAL TRAIL CLASSIFICATION (NON-MOTORIZED) CRITERIA AND EVALUATION

Applications for Regional Non-Motorized Trail Classification must meet four criteria that reflect an emphasis on “providing high quality non-motorized recreational trail experiences that are readily accessible from an already populated or rapidly growing regional center or tourist destination.” The Commission gives higher priority to trails in designated corridors that improve connectivity between regional centers and existing state and regional parks and trails. Trails are evaluated on a five-point rating scale for each criterion.

The following provides an evaluation of the Buxton, Muckle, North Straight River Parkway, Kaplan Wood’s Parkway, and loop trails based on the Regional Non-Motorized Trail Classification based on their potential to serve as part of a greater regional trail corridor.

FOUR CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL TRAIL STATUS

- Criteria #1 – Provides a High-Quality “Destination” Trail Experience
- Criteria #2 – Well-located (i.e., Convenience of Access/Adequate Length) to Serve Regional Population and/or Tourist Destination
- Criteria #3 – Enhances Connectivity to Regional Destinations
- Criteria #4 – Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within a Region

CRITERIA#1–PROVIDESAHIGH-QUALITY“DESTINATION”TRAILEXPERIENCE

- Trail is located in a highly scenic setting and exhibits interesting natural, cultural, and/or historic features.
- Trail is a regional destination unto itself, and may draw visitors from outside the region.
- Trails must be a minimum of 10 feet.
- Must provide high quality, safe recreational experience with convenient access, limited roadway crossings, secure parking, and access to support services.



Kaplan's Woods Parkway Trail follows the Straight River to Lake Kohlmier.

Owatonna's trail system as it currently exists is primarily designed to serve the recreational needs of local residents, but has potential to serve as part of a larger regional trail network. The Buxton and Muckle trails are located in scenic greenway corridors that not only showcase Owatonna's parks, but also provide connections between them. The Muckle Trail also provides a connection to the City's historic downtown. With trail widths of 10 feet and grade-separated crossings that minimize conflicts with vehicles, both the Muckle and Buxton trails provide a high-quality recreational experience. Passing through city parks provides convenient access for users and allows them to take advantage of park amenities. Future improvements could be provided to further enhance the high-quality recreational experience by enhancing trail heads and key access points, highlighting nearby connections and culturally significant sites, and enhancing roadway and river crossings. The loop trail could also provide connections between city parks and natural features, however the route as it is currently shown in the City's trail plan would lack the scenic setting of the other trails that run through greenway corridors and along waterways. Aligning the trail to maximize scenic value, minimize road crossings, and coincide with future greenway and park development would create a valuable regional destination trail.

CRITERIA #2 – WELL-LOCATED (I.E., CONVENIENCE OF ACCESS/ADEQUATE LENGTH) TO SERVE REGIONAL POPULATION AND/OR TOURIST DESTINATION

- Trail located near a populated, rapidly growing, and/or established regional center or tourist destination.
- Planned length of at least 10 miles desired, preference for 20 or more miles. Connections with existing regional or state trails count towards length objectives.



Owatonna is an established regional center and is home to nearly 26,000 people, many of whom live within just a few miles of the existing and planned trail system. Since the Buxton and Muckle trail corridors are already well-established local amenities, there is a built-in audience of existing users. Engaging with nearby communities in a larger trail planning process could easily produce an alignment for either a north-south or east-west trail that would exceed the distance objectives for regional significance. Table 3.1 provides approximate distances for several regional destinations.

CRITERIA #3 – ENHANCES CONNECTIVITY TO REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

- Priority placed on connections within a region.
- Emphasis on enhancing usefulness of the trail for commuting and filling missing links within established systems.
- Points awarded for connections to local, regional, and state parks as well as schools, work locations, tourist areas, and business districts.

The Buxton and Muckle trails already connect various destinations within Owatonna, including multiple City parks and the historic downtown. The Buxton Trail currently terminates near the eastern edge of the City but could become a future connection to Rice Lake State Park. This possibility is discussed further in the Stagecoach State Trail Master Plan.

Future trail development to the north of the city could also connect to the Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail in Faribault and the Mill Towns State Trail near Northfield once these two trails ultimately connect. The group that has met with the DNR to discuss the Prairie Wildflower Trail has identified an out-of-service rail corridor between Faribault and Owatonna that is owned by Canadian Pacific. While the line is not currently scheduled to be abandoned, and the post-abandonment acquisition process can take several years, the corridor is still a promising opportunity for a future trail segment. The loop trail could also fill missing links by creating a safe, dedicated facility that serves longer trips. For example, the segment along the eastern edge of Owatonna would provide a simpler connection between the northeast and southeast corners of the City than is currently possible.

DESTINATIONS	APPROXIMATE DISTANCE (MILES)
NORTH-SOUTH ALIGNMENT	
Medford	8.0
Faribault	17.0
Austin	32.0
EAST-WEST ALIGNMENT	
Rice Lake State Park	9.0
Dodge Center	22.0
Rochester	42.0
Waseca	15.0

Table 3.1: Approximate Distance From Owatonna to Other Regional Destinations

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TRAIL USER COUNTS

Trail user counts were collected at five locations in Owatonna along developed paved trails. There are many factors which can affect trail user count data including weather, time of day, road or trail construction, etc. The counts were collected on a non-holiday summer weekend with a sampling of weekday morning, lunch hour, and weekend day hours. This information creates a baseline of data that the city can use in the future to collect additional trail user counts (for example, when a trail gap is completed to connect the east/west and north/south trails) and compare to the existing data.

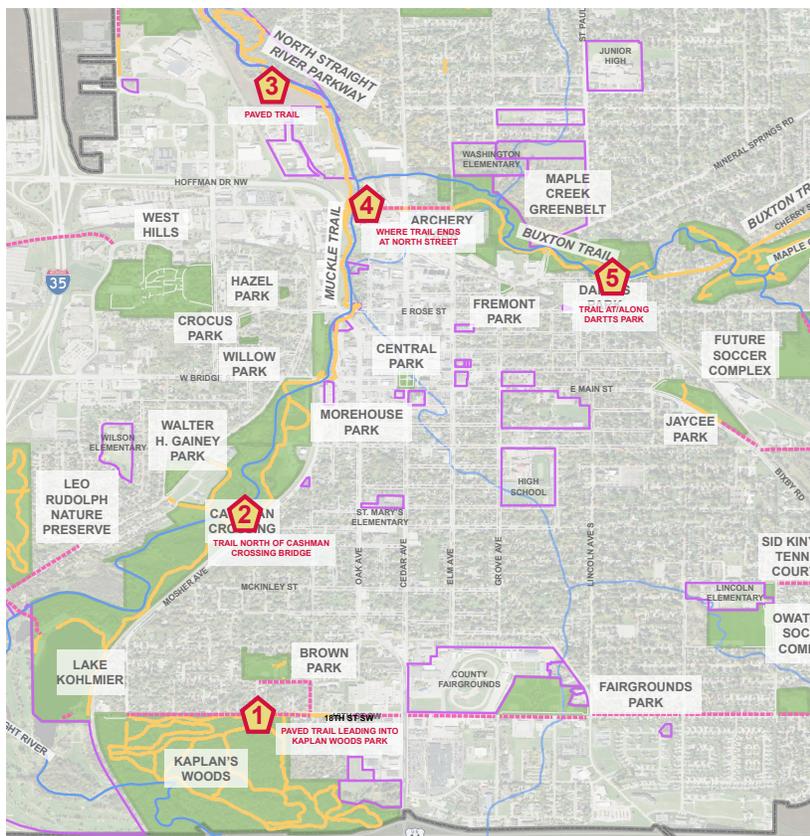
It is important to note that trail user count data was collected only during the following dates and times*:

- Friday May 31, 2019: 11 am - 2 pm
- Saturday June 1, 2019: 10 am - 6 pm
- Sunday June 2, 2019: 10 am - 6 pm
- Monday June 3, 2019: 7 am - 9 am

**Trail counts are a snapshot of users during that particular time period and do not include an entire 24 hour period.*

TRAIL COUNT KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Approximately half of all trail users are biking
- Trails average 15 users per hour during days and times observed
- Of the five locations, the Buxton Trail closest to Darts park counted the most users
- Trails close to employers downtown were popular during weekday lunch hours



 Trail Traffic Count Location

Map 3.12: Trail Count Location Map

SITE LOCATION	PEDESTRIANS TOTAL (%)	BICYCLISTS TOTAL (%)	TOTAL COUNT DURING DATA COLLECTION TIME	TOTAL HOURS OF DATA COLLECTED PER SITE	AVERAGE TRAIL USER COUNTS PER HOUR
Site 1: Along paved trail leading into Kaplan Woods Park property	110 (41%)	157 (59%)	267	21	12.7
Site 2: Along Kaplan Woods Parkway paved trail north of Cashman Crossing bridge	251 (68%)	118 (32%)	369	21	17.6
Site 3: Along North Straight River Parkway paved trail	150 (52%)	140 (48%)	290	21	13.8
Site 4: At location where major trail gap exists	41 (20%)	165 (80%)	206	18	11.4
Site 5: Along paved Buxton trail close to Dartts Park	236 (57%)	180 (43%)	416	18	23.1
Total per site during data collection times (average %)	788 (48%)	760 (52%)	1,548	99	15.7

Table 3.2: Trail Counts by Type of Trail User

SITE LOCATION	TRAIL USERS DURING SATURDAY/ SUNDAY DAYTIME 10 am - 6 pm	TRAIL USERS DURING WEEKDAY MORNING 7 - 9 am	TOTAL
Site 1: Along paved trail leading into Kaplan Woods Park property	246	8	267
Site 2: Along Kaplan Woods Parkway paved trail north of Cashman Crossing bridge	328	17	369
Site 3: Along North Straight River Parkway paved trail	253	12	290
Site 4: At location where major trail gap exists	203	3	206
Site 5: Along paved Buxton trail close to Dartts Park	413	3	416
Total each site	1,443	43	1,548

Table 3.3: Trail Counts by Location and Time of Day

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Based on an evaluation of the City of Owatonna’s trail system, there is potential that existing and planned trail segments could serve as part of the state or regional trail systems if they connect to other communities in the area. The City of Owatonna should pursue an east-west corridor beginning with the current alignment of the Buxton Trail, and a north-south corridor in the current alignment of the Muckle, Kaplan’s Woods Parkway, and North Straight River Parkway Trails. The opportunity for regional status for the planned loop trail should also be explored.

Based on the discussion of the criteria above, these trails have the potential to expand high-quality recreational opportunities in and around Owatonna by creating connections to regional destinations such as Rice Lake State Park. To support these opportunities, the City should work with neighboring communities (Medford, Faribault, Rochester, Austin, etc.) And groups such as the Prairie Wildflower State Trail group to establish a vision and goals for trail development in the region. Involving the DNR and GMRPTC will help clarify whether a regional designation is a better fit for advancing these goals and securing funding for trail development.

NEXT STEPS SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Engaging surrounding communities in conversations around regional trail development and possible trail alignments.
- Reaching out to the Prairie Wildflower State Trail citizens group to discuss updates on conversations with the DNR.
- Starting a discussion with the GMRPTC and DNR about the potential to modify the existing classifications for the Stagecoach and Prairie Wildflower State Trail corridors.
- Continue to prioritize completion of a continuous trail loop around the City.
- If a decision is made to pursue regional designation, completing the Request for Designation as a Regional Park or Trail in Greater Minnesota Application to receive an initial determination from the Commission using the evaluation criteria provided in this plan.

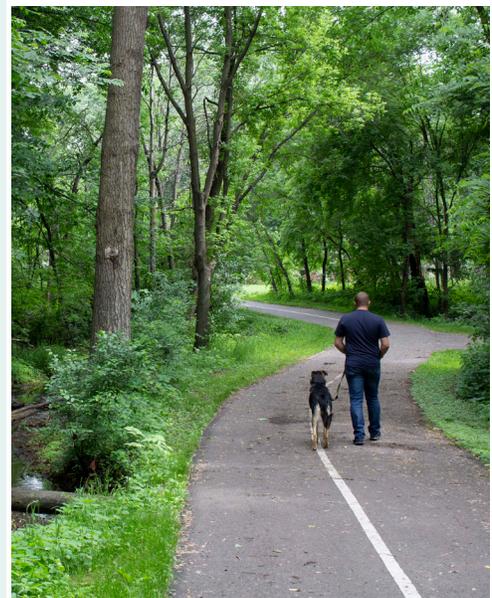
TRAIL MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

DESIGN STANDARDS

Owatonna should consider adopting design standards for all biking and walking infrastructure, including trails. Standards help make facilities safer by maintaining consistency and ensuring that the greatest number of people will be able to access and enjoy the system. General best practices for designing and improving sidewalks and trails are outlined below.

MULTI-USE TRAIL GUIDELINES

- For two-way trails, the minimum width is 10 feet. For trails that experience significant use, 12-14 feet is encouraged.
- Use center lines for heavily used trails.
- Utilize cautionary signage as necessary.
- Maintain trails in good condition to avoid potential safety hazards.
- Provide a two-foot graded shoulder on each side of the trail surface as a reaction zone for users.
- Any signage, poles, trees or other obstructions should be at least 3 feet from the edge of the trail surface. However, signage for cyclists should not be farther than 6 feet from the edge of the trail surface.
- Consider pedestrian-scale lighting for user safety and security.
- If a route experiences significant traffic from a variety of users (cyclists, pedestrians, in-line skaters, etc.) separate trail facilities should be considered. Separated facilities for cyclists and pedestrians should be considered when peak hour bicycle traffic volumes exceed 100 users per hour or where combined pedestrian and cycle user volume is greater than 2,000 individuals per day.



IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY

The Americans with Disabilities Act has requirements for the slopes, size, crossing placement, and other elements of pedestrian facilities. In addition to implementing the ADA Transition Plan, the City of Owatonna should consider ADA design standards as part of trail design.

An overall city ADA assessment and transition plan is an option to evaluate the existing conditions of Owatonna as it relates to current accessibility standards.

ROADWAY CROSSING FACILITIES

Special attention should be paid to trail and sidewalk crossing facilities to minimize the potential for conflicts with vehicle traffic. Treatments that reduce crossing distances, warn drivers of people crossing, or stop vehicle traffic entirely can be used to create safer crossings. While the exact solution should be adapted for each context, some examples are provided here. Additional guidance is available in the resources listed below.

CURB EXTENSIONS

Curb extensions extend the sidewalk and shorten crossing distance. They decrease the amount of time needed to cross at intersections and can help to lower traffic speeds by narrowing the street. Curb extensions are most beneficial at intersections with wide crossings. Curb extensions can be done as standalone projects or as part of a roadway reconstruction project. Generally, they are constructed to assist pedestrians and bicyclists in crossing higher-volume roadways and are most relevant in established urban areas.



MARKED CROSSWALKS

Crosswalks are a marked portion of the roadway indicating use for pedestrians to cross. Striping the roadway at the location of a crosswalk alerts drivers that this is a location where pedestrians may be present and have the right to enter the roadway. Mid-block crossings should be avoided if there is an intersection alternative that is close and likely to be used by pedestrians. If mid-block crossings are truly the appropriate location for a crossing, active notification should be considered as part of the design.

Durable materials (rather than paint) should be used when feasible. The more durable materials can last several years versus the one to two years that may be obtained by paint.

DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR CURB EXTENSIONS

- Should not extend into traffic lanes or cut off bike lanes.
- Intended for streets with on-street parking or wide shoulders.
- Should be visible for oncoming traffic.

MEDIAN REFUGE ISLANDS

DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR CROSSWALKS

- May be used at intersections or uncontrolled/mid-block locations.
- Marked crossings are especially beneficial for intersections with high levels of vehicle traffic and high speeds.
- Crosswalks at mid-block locations may be accompanied by active warning systems (options discussed below) to increase awareness. This should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Should be at least 6 feet in width.
- Continental markings or zebra-style are recommended (perpendicular to crosswalk direction). Lines should be 12-24 inches wide and be spaced 12-24 inches apart.
- Marked crossings should extend the full width of the crossing.
- Appropriate signage warning drivers of crossings may be considered.



Median refuge islands provide bicyclists and pedestrians a safe zone halfway through an intersection. By providing a safe midpoint while crossing a street, pedestrians and bicyclists are only required to focus on one direction of oncoming traffic at a time. This is especially beneficial when crossing wide roads with high traffic volumes and speeds. Median refuge islands allow pedestrians and bicyclists to take advantage of gaps in one direction of traffic which decreases the amount of time waiting to cross. Placing a median refuge island within a roadway can also calm traffic. Like curb extensions, refuge medians can be constructed as a standalone project or as part of a roadway reconstruction project. They are generally constructed on busier state or county roadways.

PEDESTRIAN ACTIVATED CROSSINGS

DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR MEDIAN REFUGE ISLANDS

- Can be applied at signalized or no signal intersections.
- Minimum width is 6 feet.
- Medians should be raised at least 6 inches.
- Shape of the island should conform to the natural vehicle paths.
- Must be clearly visible for oncoming vehicles.
- Reflective markers around the median are recommended.
- Should only occupy the minimum area necessary while providing enough space to serve its purpose.
- If median refuge islands are placed in locations where bicyclists can or will likely use them, then the City may wish to have a minimum width of 10 feet to accommodate bicyclists that have trailers or connect with a second bicycle.

Pedestrian activated crossings are a warning system used at crosswalks that flash a blinking light to oncoming motor vehicles to alert them of pedestrians or cyclists using the crosswalk. These types of systems are used at mid-block and no signal intersections where warranted to notify drivers to yield to cyclists and pedestrians using the crosswalk. The system is typically activated by pedestrians and cyclists pushing a button but may also be designed to automatically detect users. By requiring pedestrians to activate the system or incorporating detection as part of the design, the system reduces the likelihood of drivers overlooking the beacon. If the beacon is always on, motorists tend to begin to ignore it and not pay attention to see if there are any pedestrians or bicyclists present. The most common pedestrian activated crossing used is the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB).

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR PEDESTRIAN ACTIVATED CROSSINGS:

- Pedestrian activated crossings should be installed on the sides of roadways.
- Beacons should not be lit unless being used by pedestrians and cyclists to cross the intersection.
- Pedestrian activated crossings should not be used at signalized intersections or intersections with a yield or stop sign.
- If pedestrian activated crossings are used in locations where bicyclists can or will likely use them, then the City should consider placing them in locations where cyclists can activate them without having to dismount from their bicycle.

HIGH-INTENSITY ACTIVATED CROSSWALK (HAWK)

High-intensity activated crosswalk or hybrid beacons can be used when a street with lower traffic volumes intersects with a major street and a traffic signal is not desired. The hybrid beacon helps pedestrians and bicyclists when crossing the major streets. Hybrid beacons consist of an overhead signal over the major street and have two horizontal red lights on top of one yellow light to alert drivers of people using the crosswalk. The HAWK or hybrid beacon is only lit when pedestrians or bicyclists activate the system. This reduces the likelihood of drivers overlooking the signal. Drivers tend to ignore traditional pedestrian signals because they are always on and are usually green for the motorists. Coordination with Steele County or MnDOT should be considered as part of larger roadway construction projects or as part of intersection or standalone projects on county and state facilities.

LED SIGNAGE AND WARNING SYSTEMS

Flashing LED stop signs or LED markers can be an effective means of alerting vehicles that a pedestrian is using the crosswalk. Utilizing LEDs can be an effective way to catch a driver's attention and can be used to provide advance notice of a crossing ahead. They are also beneficial when visibility conditions are poor (e.g., nighttime, poor weather).



Example of a Pedestrian Activated Crosswalk

DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR HAWKS

- Typically used when a major street intersects a minor road with low traffic volumes and does not warrant a traffic signal.
- The MMUTCD permits the use of hybrid beacons depending on vehicle speed, traffic volume, intersection length, and pedestrian volume.
- The MMUTCD provides standards for hybrid beacons including location and height, as well as length of signal phases.
- Sight obstructions such as on-street parking should not be permitted within 100 feet in front of a hybrid beacon or 20 feet beyond the marked crossing.
- The signal should not be lit unless being used by pedestrians to cross the intersection.
- Installation of a HAWK system should be based on meeting one of the signal warrants of Chapter 4C of the MMUTCD and justification through an engineering study. The engineering study should consider major-street volumes, speeds, widths and gaps in conjunction with pedestrian volumes, walking speeds and delay if no warrants are met. Systems should be installed based upon the provisions of Chapters 4D and 4E.

LED SIGNAGE AND IN-ROADWAY DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

- The MMUTCD regulates design, color, spacing, and usage of light sources used for traffic crossings.



Example of a High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK)

RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Special design considerations apply when trails cross active or abandoned railroads. Rail crossings can create a challenge for people on bikes because the gap between the tracks and the trail surface is often larger than a typical bike tire. Traveling parallel to the tracks can allow bike tires to become stuck in these gaps. To reduce the risk of crashes, trails should utilize a large radius to allow trail users to cross railroad tracks at a 90-degree angle as shown in Figure 3.7. The same effect can be accomplished in an on-street bike lane by widening the lane at rail crossings to allow cyclists to cross at a right angle.



Figure 3.7 Railroad Crossings

SIGNAGE AND WAY-FINDING

Appropriate signage is important for maintaining safety for people walking and biking, but it is also key to the user experience. Trail users unfamiliar with an area rely on signs and landmarks to find their destination if they are commuting, or to locate restrooms, beaches, or other amenities if they are a recreational user. Way-finding signs can also be used as a branding tool for a city or for the parks system more specifically. Signage that directs out-of-town trail users to downtown or other commercial areas can even function as a way to support local businesses.



Examples of trail wayfinding signs

SUPPORTING FACILITIES

BICYCLE PARKING

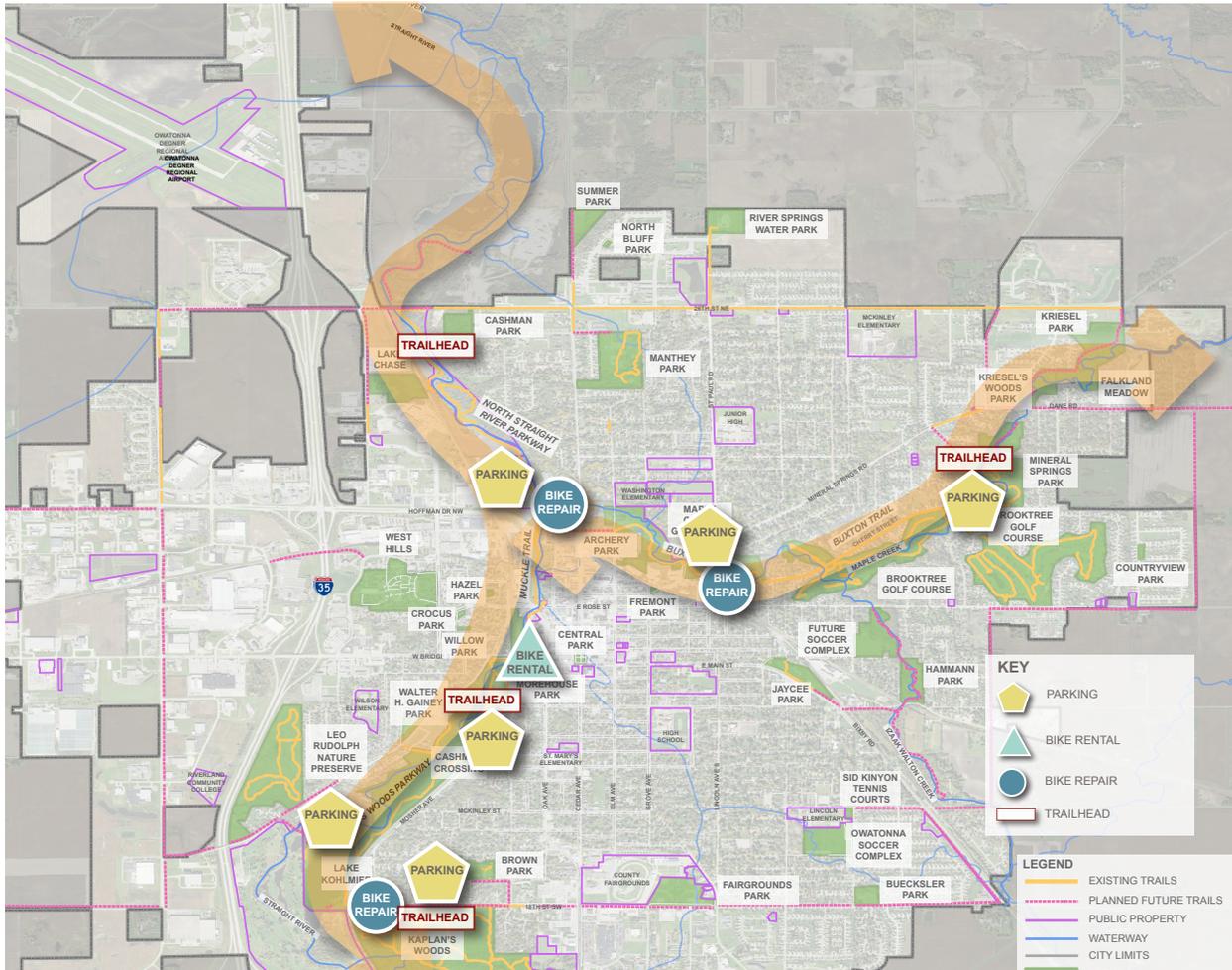
Secure bike parking is an essential component of any trail network, whether it is primarily used for commuting or recreation. In the context of a trail system that offers access to parks, downtown Owatonna, and other destinations, it is important for trail users to have a safe and convenient place to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

OTHER SUPPORTING FACILITIES

Owatonna’s existing trail system benefits from its proximity to restrooms and other facilities located within the City’s parks. As new trails are developed, providing bicycle repair stations, restrooms, maps/signage, and other supporting facilities at trailheads and along routes will be key to maintaining an enjoyable recreational experience.

Specific bike trail supporting facilities are recommended in Owatonna:

- Trailheads with Restrooms. The chalet at Morehouse Park is considered a trailhead with restrooms open to the public. Other trailhead locations to be considered are Kaplan’s Wood Regional Park, Cashman Park and Mineral Springs Park.



Map 3.13: Supporting Bike Facilities

- Bike Repair Stations (three stations currently exist in Owatonna)
- Bike Equipment Rentals (one private rental facility exists close to downtown directly off the trail). Consider bike rentals during the summer at the concessions stand/building at Lake Kohlmier.
- Dedicated Vehicle Parking Lots (these currently exist within city parks along the trails). Future trail extensions should dedicate space for parking (both vehicle and bikes).
- Way-finding signage, map kiosks, trail lighting and seating along trails.



Example of a bike trailhead facility

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Quality maintenance is critical to ensuring safety and comfort for users of trails and other bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Cracks, potholes, and similar surface issues not only create a less enjoyable experience, they can be safety hazards. Longitudinal cracks large enough for a bicycle tire are just one example of a maintenance issue that could result in a serious injury. Regularly-scheduled inspection and preventative maintenance programs can help identify and correct these issues before they create safety risks.

Debris is also a concern on trails. Trails located in wooded areas or near water bodies are especially prone to accumulation of leaves, mud, and other materials that can create hazards for trail users. Establishing a schedule for trail sweeping and other basic maintenance can help minimize these issues and create a safer and more enjoyable experience for users. Performing a trail maintenance audit can help identify problem areas (such as a low-lying area with drainage issues) that should receive more frequent and targeted attention. Properly maintaining existing facilities also shows the City's commitment to investing in and supporting walking and biking.

The Park & Recreation Department removes snow and ice from trail segments in the multiple-use system that are designated as four-season. A complete list of the four-season trail locations is provided in the Sidewalks and Trails Plan.

MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Utilize sustainable practices to protect the public investment and ensure the safety and quality of trails through long-term management.
- Continue replacing curb ramps to comply with ADA requirements: The city should identify and replace necessary curb ramps to bring them into compliance with ADA design requirements to improve accessibility for all users.
- Maintain vegetation to ensure horizontal and vertical clearances on all trails.
- Sweep trails annually.
- Repaint crosswalks annually so that crosswalks are in good condition throughout the summer and fall.
- Develop an assets management system for the city trails in order to determine the immediate and long term funding needs as it relates to maintenance, extensions, and conditions.



Kaplan's Woods Parkway Trail

TRAIL RESOURCES

There are many resources and reference materials at the state and national level that provide valuable insight on everything from signage and facility design to maintenance.

Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD)

Any signage, striping, or traffic control features should follow the standards and design practices outlined in the MMUTCD, the guiding reference document for all traffic control devices in Minnesota. The federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices can also provide additional information.

MnDOT Bikeway Facility Design Manual

This manual provides bicycle facility design guidance with a specific focus on the Minnesota context and providing consistent facilities for users across the state. Note: this manual is currently being revised and updated.

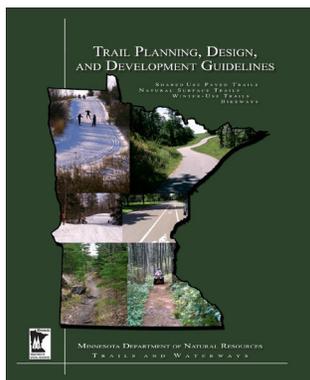
AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities

This guide outlines a set of national design standards for bikeways, including trails. It also addresses related issues such as signage, maintenance, and the bicycle planning process. Note: this guide is currently being revised and updated.

FHWA Small Town and Rural Multi-modal Networks

As Owatonna starts to investigate the possibility of working with smaller communities in the region to make its trail network part of a larger system, this guide can help answer questions about how bikeway networks can fit into the small town and rural context.

APBP Essentials of Bike Parking: Selecting and Installing Bicycle Parking that Works



MnDNR Trail Planning Guidelines

The APBP (Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals) produced this guide as a useful reference to inform bike rack selection, siting, installation, and other issues relating to providing parking in different contexts.

MnDNR Trail Planning, Design AND Development Guidelines

A comprehensive trail manual covering all aspects of trail planning, design, and development for use by public agencies across the state, professional planners, designers, and lay persons interested in trails. Available online at through MnDNR at: www.mndnr.gov/publications/trails_waterways.

Minnesota Parks and Trail Council - Trail Assessment Process

The MN Parks and Trail Council have developed a system for tracking trail conditions. They used a smartphone app with accelerometer to record data on the force of vibration caused by bumps and depressions on the trail. The State of the Trails Report is a useful guide in evaluating trail conditions in the future for Owatonna.



Examples from the State of the Trails Report by the Minnesota Parks and Trail Council

TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following list is a set of recommendations that the City should pursue to enhance and continue to build out of its trail system. In addition to implementing the policies and recommendations established in the current Sidewalks and Trails Policy, other key efforts and recommended trail projects include:

- Allocate funding for the continued development and maintenance of the City's trail system. Explore dedicated funding sources to ensure prioritized trail segments in the City's Sidewalks and Trails Plan are completed.
- Coordinate with street improvement and adjacent land development projects to implement planned trail segments when opportunities arise.
- Coordinate planned trails with the County and State of Minnesota as part of their respective roadway improvements and key roadway/river crossings.
- Continue to prioritize completion of a continuous trail loop around the City. Consider the opportunity to provide a more scenic route to better meet the criteria for obtaining regional trail status.
- Actively participate in efforts to advance the Stagecoach and Prairie Wildflower trail corridors, and explore the potential for obtaining regional trail status for these corridors.
- Establish a trail connection between the Buxton and Muckle Trails.
- Complete a link between the Muckle Trail and Downtown Owatonna to enhance access between these two key destinations and promote economic development opportunities. Explore new bicycle facilities (trail or on-street bike lane) on Vine Street and Rose Street.
- Construct a new, standalone pedestrian bridge to provide an alternative trail route to Bridge Street. This will improve operations and enhance the trail experience.
- Prioritize sidewalk or trail facilities along Crestview Lane NE between Rose Street and Dane Road.
- Develop an asset management program for trails within the city to help determine immediate and long term funding needs as it relates to trail connections and development.

FUNDING IMPROVEMENTS

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

In addition, the City should explore cost participation opportunities with Steele County and MnDOT for completing new sidewalks and trails along county and state highways as identified in the Sidewalks and Trails plan. Other external funding opportunities to consider are provided in the following Table 3.4 External Funding Opportunities.

TABLE 3.4: EXTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

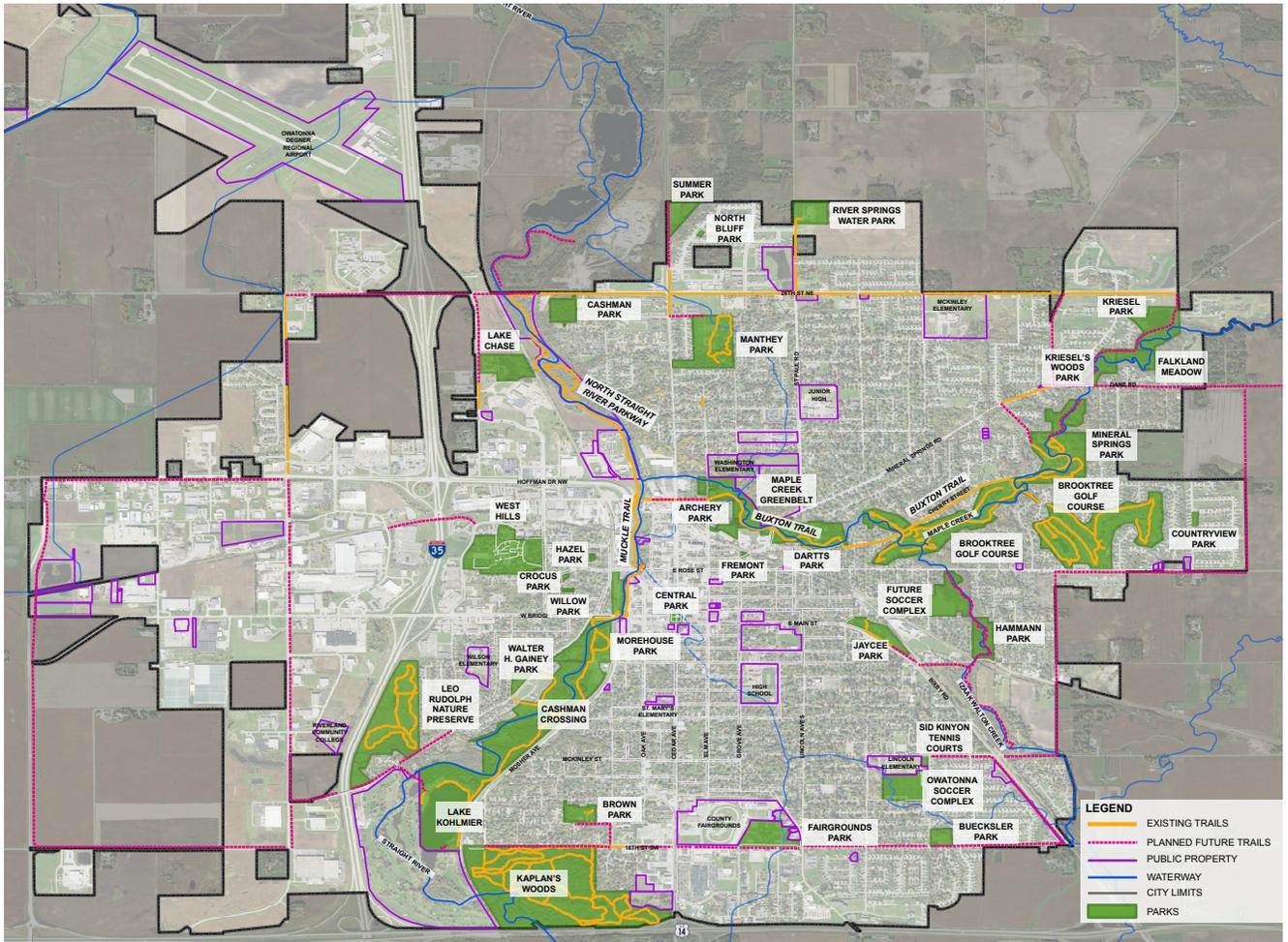
FUNDING PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	AWARD AMOUNT	APPLICATION TIME FRAME
Transportation Alternatives Program (MnDOT)	Funding opportunity for local and regional agencies for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and programs	Varies	Fall Annually
Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (MDH)	Funding available for programs that focus on improving health and decreasing obesity in Minnesota (not available for infrastructure, but can fund plans or some trailhead amenities)	Up to 90% of project costs	On-going
Local Trail Connections Program (MN DNR)	Local Trail Connections Program (DNR)	Up to 75% of the total cost; maximum of \$150,000	Spring Annually
Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Council			
Highway Safety Improvement Program (MnDOT)	Intended to improve highway safety. Portion of funding can be allocated to finance bike and pedestrian safety and driver safety programs on highways.	Up to 90% of project costs	Fall Annually
People for Bikes Community Grant	Funding opportunity for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and corridor improvements	Up to \$10,000 but funding amount must be 49% or less of the total project cost	April and September Annually
Owatonna Foundation and other charitable groups	The Owatonna Foundation focuses investments on community, arts, recreation, and education within Owatonna. The Foundation has helped build the City's current trail system, including the Morehouse trail bridge. This and other charitable groups can be pursued for potential funding opportunities.	Varies	Varies
Private Donations and Sponsorships	Private donations and sponsorships or park and trail facilities could be provided to implement key trail segments or trailhead facilities.	Varies	Varies

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SECTION 4: PARKS SYSTEM PLAN

EXISTING PARK SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Owatonna has a total of 33 parks in its system. Many of these parks play a unique role in meeting the needs of the community, past and present. There are a number of special use parks devoted to specific recreational activities (such as the Archery Park). Collectively, the parks provide a comprehensive set of recreational amenities to serve the community.



MAP 4.1: EXISTING PARKS AND EXISTING/PROPOSED TRAILS MAP

ACCESS TO PARKS

Most residents in Owatonna are within a half-mile radius (10-minute walking distance without barriers to access such as highways or railroad tracks) to a park. However, the south-eastern edge of the city is lacking in active recreation facilities. It is separated by the railroad and has access to only undeveloped parkland.

ACCESS TO OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES

There are a number of schools in the Owatonna area as part of the Independent School District No. 761 that provide recreational amenities used by the public. The City of Owatonna has a number of shared cooperative agreements with the school district in use of athletic fields at city parks. The Owatonna Middle School currently provides community education swimming lessons. The City also uses the facility for lessons and lap swim. Soccer fields are used for practices at area elementary schools. The playground at Lincoln Elementary adjacent to the Owatonna Soccer Complex is used and valued by the public. Most playgrounds at schools are open to the public on evenings, weekends, and summer months. The exception is the early childhood playground (which is fenced) and not accessible to the general public.

SCHOOLS IN OWATONNA

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Lincoln Elementary, Grades K-5
- McKinley Elementary, Grades K-5
- Washington Elementary, Grades K-5
- Wilson Elementary, Grades K-5
- Middle School, Grades 6-8
- Owatonna Senior High School, Grades 9-12
- Owatonna Alternative Learning Center (ALC), Grades 7-12

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- Owatonna Christian School, Grades K-12
- St. Mary's Catholic School, Grades K-8

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Riverland Community College

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

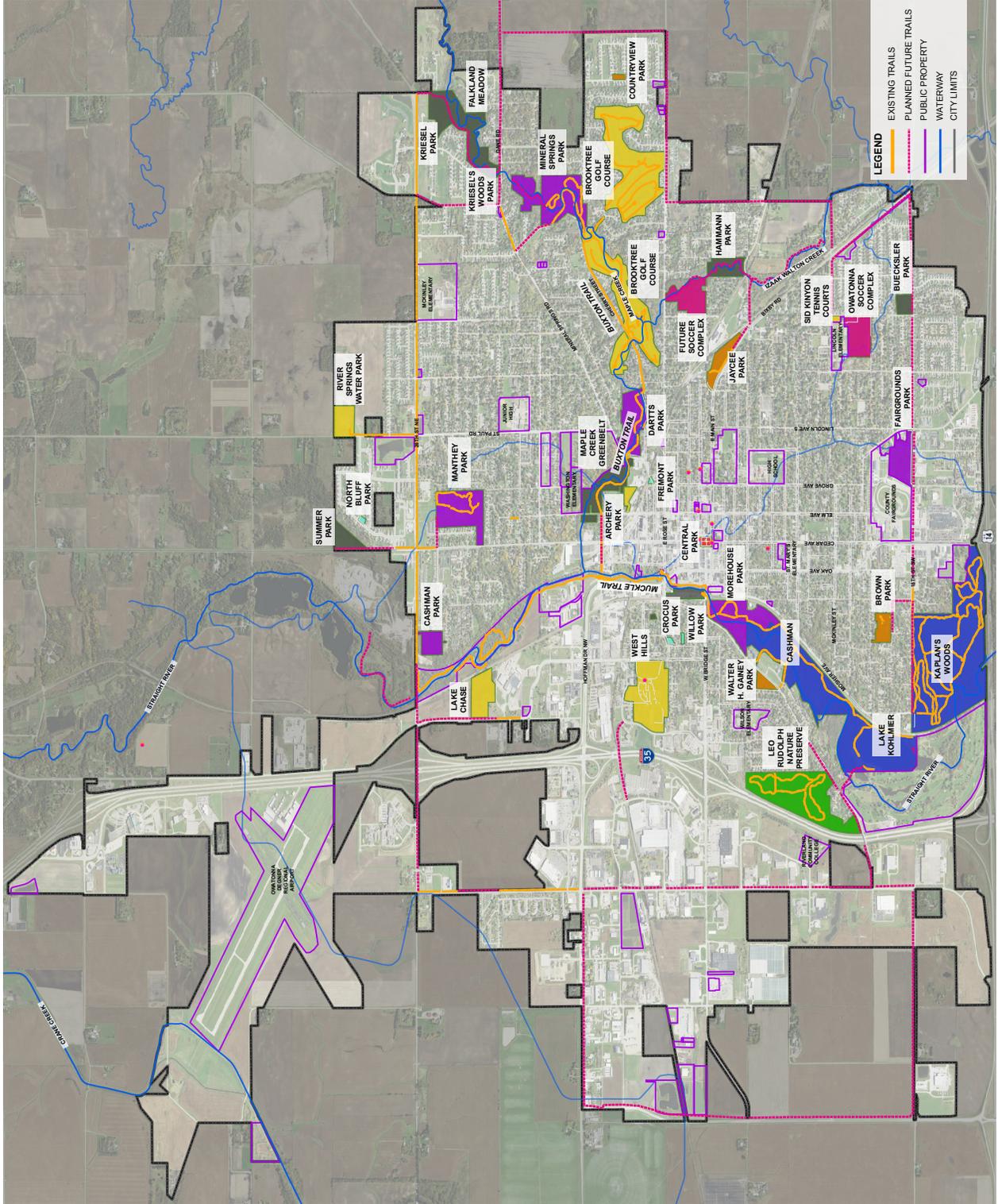
The existing park system does not currently have classifications for each type of park. Classifications are important because each type of park serves a particular purpose in meeting local recreation needs. Although some flexibility is warranted, classifying parks is necessary to ensure a well-balanced system to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of residents and recreational programs for the City. It is useful in analyzing which areas of the city do not have access to certain types of recreation (such as court sports, fields or playgrounds). Many parks in Owatonna are undeveloped without active recreational amenities, so although they are considered parks, they currently function as passive open space.

Because of the variety of parks currently in Owatonna, these were categorized into nine distinct classifications as a result of the planning process as described in the table below. See also Proposed Park Classifications Map.

TABLE 4.1: PARK CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTIONS

PARK CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL SIZE
Regional Park	Focus on setting aside larger tracts of land to preserve natural resources, remnant landscapes, and public open space. Passive uses, such as hiking, and nature viewing, are common forms of recreational activities. Active recreational facilities, gardens, picnic facilities, and certain special uses are also appropriate based on site-specific opportunities.	Varies
Community Park	Larger in scale and broader serving than Neighborhood Parks. The primary objective of this type of park is meeting wide-ranging and clearly defined community recreation and social needs. Development focuses on both active and passive recreation, with a wide array of programmed activities often being accommodated. Special use facilities are routinely located within this type of park. Community Parks also encompass unique and/or extensive landscape features indicative of the region. Providing open spaces is also a major objective of these parks.	20 acres minimum
Community Athletic Complex	Consolidates athletic facilities to strategic locations within the city to take advantage of programming efficiencies and economies of scale. These complexes serve youth and adult athletic programs and complement the facilities that are provided at Recreation Sites within each service area and throughout the city.	20 acres minimum
Neighborhood Park	A basic unit of the park system that serves a recreational and social purpose. Development focuses on informal active and passive recreation at a neighborhood level.	3 acres minimum
Mini Park	Typically used to address limited, isolated, or unique park needs. Usually incorporated at the neighborhood level.	Up to 2 acres
Community Preserve	Lands set aside for preservation of natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/ buffering. Also provides passive use opportunities such as nature trails, overlooks, interpretive programs.	Varies
Special Use Park	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose or specialized uses such as historic, nature, outdoor performance, specialized recreation, etc.	Varies
Urban Plaza Park	Small public spaces located in the City’s downtown area that provide pedestrian relief from the built form, a place for social interaction, and that add an ornamental and architectural character to a downtown space.	Up to 2 acres, varies
Undeveloped	Undeveloped park land	Varies

MAP 4.2: PROPOSED PARK CLASSIFICATIONS



PARK CLASSIFICATION DEFINITIONS

- REGIONAL PARK**
Focus on setting aside larger tracts of land to preserve natural resources, remnant landscapes, and historic sites. Parks are designed for hiking, canoeing, and nature viewing, and common forms of recreational activities. Active recreational facilities, gardens, picnic facilities, and certain other amenities are appropriate based on site-specific opportunities.
- COMMUNITY PARK**
Larger in scale and broader serving than neighborhood parks. The primary objective of this type of park is meeting wide-ranging and clearly defined community recreation and social needs. Development focuses on both active and passive activities often being accommodated. Special use facilities are routinely located within this type of park. Community parks are economically unique and provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for the region. Providing open spaces is also a major objective of these parks.
- COMMUNITY ATHLETIC COMPLEX**
Consolidates athletic facilities to strategic locations within the city to take advantage of programming efficiencies and economies of scale. These facilities include swimming pools, tennis courts, and complement the facilities that are provided at Recreation Sites within each service area and throughout the city.
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**
A basic unit of the park system that serves a recreational and social purpose. Development focuses on informal active and passive recreation at a neighborhood level.
- MINI PARK**
Typically used to address limited, isolated, or under-served portions of the city. Usually incorporated at the neighborhood level.
- COMMUNITY PRESERVE**
Lands set aside for preservation of natural resources, historic sites, and scenic views, and visual aesthetics/buffering. Also provides passive use opportunities such as nature trails, overlooks, interpretive programs.
- SPECIAL USE PARK**
Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose or specialized uses such as historic, nature, outdoor performance, specialized recreation, etc.
- URBAN PLAZA PARK**
Small public spaces located in the city's downtown area, often in close proximity to transit and that add an ornamental and architectural character to a downtown square.
- UNDEVELOPED**
Undeveloped park land.

LEGEND

- EXISTING TRAILS
- PLANNED FUTURE TRAILS
- PUBLIC PROPERTY
- WATERWAY
- CITY LIMITS

PARK ASSESSMENTS

The existing park system was evaluated to determine a foundation for system-wide planning. Each park’s overall site design was evaluated along with its maintenance, natural resources, overall character and each amenity. Refer to the Individual Park Evaluations located in the Appendix of this document.

PARK RANKINGS

After each park evaluation was completed, the amenity scores were tabulated and averaged resulting in an overall park ranking. See Park Ranking Description table.

The Park Classifications and Ranking table on the following page highlights which parks are meeting basic service level needs and which are not. While most parks provide some type of recreational value, other parks are aging and in need of a re-design. The newer parks, such as Archery Park and Sid Kinyon, which has been recently built or re-developed received higher rankings. Parks with older facilities ranked on the lower end of the rankings, which is common with an aging system. Owatonna’s parks offer many recreational amenities within its parks and as trends and use patterns change, the need to evaluate whether certain recreational offerings are appropriate in the park. Parks with higher service levels, better access, design and character have higher use with the community.

Ranking each park is critical to determine priorities for repairs and improvements. These park assessments along with input from the community and park system planning goals will inform the recommendations for improvements in the overall park system plan.

PARK AMENITIES WERE ANALYZED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Condition - What is the condition of the equipment or surfacing? Is it rusting, broken or not functioning properly?
- Design - Is the equipment safe? Is the design aesthetic consistent with the park?
- Accessibility (ADA) - Does the amenity meet minimum standards for accessibility? Is there an accessible parking stall with signage and striping? Are accessible furnishings available?
- Age - How old is the equipment or surfacing? Does it need to be replaced?



The staircase to Maple Creek at Dartts Park is close to the playground and poses a safety issue.

TABLE 4.2: PARK RANKING DESCRIPTIONS

RANKING DESCRIPTION	RANGE (%)
Park meets or exceeds expected service level. Park may be newer to mid-range in age.	75 - 100%
Park meets basic service level but may be in the mid to older range in age.	34 - 66%
Park does not meet expected service level for the community.	< 33 %

TABLE 4.3: PROPOSED PARK CLASSIFICATIONS AND ASSESSMENT RANKINGS

PARK	CLASSIFICATION	SIZE (ACRES)	RANKING (%)
Archery Park	Special Use Park	2.4	90
Brooktree Golf Course	Special Use Park	128.42	58
Brown Park	Neighborhood Park	6.77	47
Buecksler Park	Mini Park	4.75	42
Cashman Park	Neighborhood Park	8.00	44
Central Park	Urban Plaza Park	1.52	58
Countryview Park	Undeveloped / Future Mini Park	0.68	NA
Crocus Park	Mini Park	0.45	NA
Dartts Park	Community Park	18.00	33
Fairgrounds Park	Community Park	15.5	41
Falkland Meadow	Undeveloped	7.38	NA
Fremont Park	Undeveloped	0.27	33
Hammann Park	Undeveloped	10.5	NA
Hazel Park	Undeveloped	0.31	NA
Jaycee Park	Neighborhood Park	8.68	42
Kaplan's Woods Parkway	Regional Park	276.16	73
Kriesel Park	Undeveloped	19.76	NA
Kriesel's Woods Park	Undeveloped	9.94	NA
Lake Chase Park	Special Use Park	14.59	40
Leo Rudolph Nature Preserve	Nature Preserve	58.09	58
Manthey Park	Community Park	29.67	54
Maple Creek Park	Neighborhood Park	20.90	NA
Mineral Springs Park	Community Park	42.57	42
Morehouse Park	Community Park	27.71	43
Nass Park	Undeveloped / Future Park	16.6	NA
North Bluff Park	Mini Park	0.41	50
Owatonna Soccer Complex	Community Athletic Complex	15.90	71
River Springs Water Park	Special Use Park	9.97	80
Sid Kinyon Tennis Courts	Special Use Park	0.80	92
Summer Park	Undeveloped	7.90	NA
Walter H. Gainey Park	Neighborhood Park	3.09	73
West Hills Park	Special Use Park	38.75	65
Willow Park	Mini Park	0.35	17
	Total Park System	807 acres	57% average

OVERALL PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Connect existing and future parks to neighborhoods via sidewalks and trails.
- Build flexibility into the parks system in order to meet the changing needs of the citizens of Owatonna.
- For future parkland, utilize a master planning process with public input for redevelopment of existing parks or acquisition of new parkland to determine ideal use of land, trail connections, and placement of facilities to meet current compliance requirements.
- As Owatonna develops to the north and east, secure park land in these areas to meet the growing community needs and equitable distribution throughout the city. Currently, the southeast portion of Owatonna is lacking in park land and amenities. Consider complementary park features at the future soccer fields such as a play area.
- Protect and secure land for parks and trails in areas with significant natural resources such as wooded areas, prairie restoration areas, Straight River, Lake Kohlmier, Maple Creek, and Issac Walton Creek.
- Continue to engage the community to ensure programming of the parks aligns with the community’s changing desires over time.
- The Owatonna school district is a valuable resource and partner for the city utilizing shared facilities and maintenance agreements. Continue to foster this relationship to provide facilities and opportunities for the collective residents served.
- The City should continue to establish relationships with Steele County and neighboring communities (Clinton Falls, Medford, Claremont) to partner on regional trail opportunities to best secure future grant funding of these amenities.



Walter H. Gainey Park

GENERAL PARK SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

Equipment Maintenance: In general, all park facilities include maintaining, repairing, and replacing items as needs dictate. When a playground is replaced, old equipment should be removed from the park.

Consistency: Select a consistent style of product for benches, tables, lights, and trash cans. Replace site furniture when it ages with a consistent look within the park and/or park system.

Master Planning: Prior to adding new park features at a park, analyze the site’s overall design, collect feedback from park users, and consider any impact to the overall facility. Changing or adding a new feature to an existing park can increase visitors and require expanded parking, spatial requirements for stormwater, capacity of seating/restrooms, shade opportunities, and meeting accessibility standards, etc. Design considerations include circulation, orientation of amenities (sun, shade), accessibility, security & safety as well as environmental concerns (placing items in floodplains or natural park drainage-ways).

Accessibility: Overall, when any park is updated or equipment is replaced, an accessible route shall be provided to each of these features per current national accessibility standards. Utilize a design professional when adding features or parking to a park.

Natural Resources: Within each park conserve the character of the park by preserving and enhancing its significant natural resources (including groves of mature trees, prairies, waterways and lakes).

WINTER OPPORTUNITIES

Consider implementing winter activities or programming at the following parks:

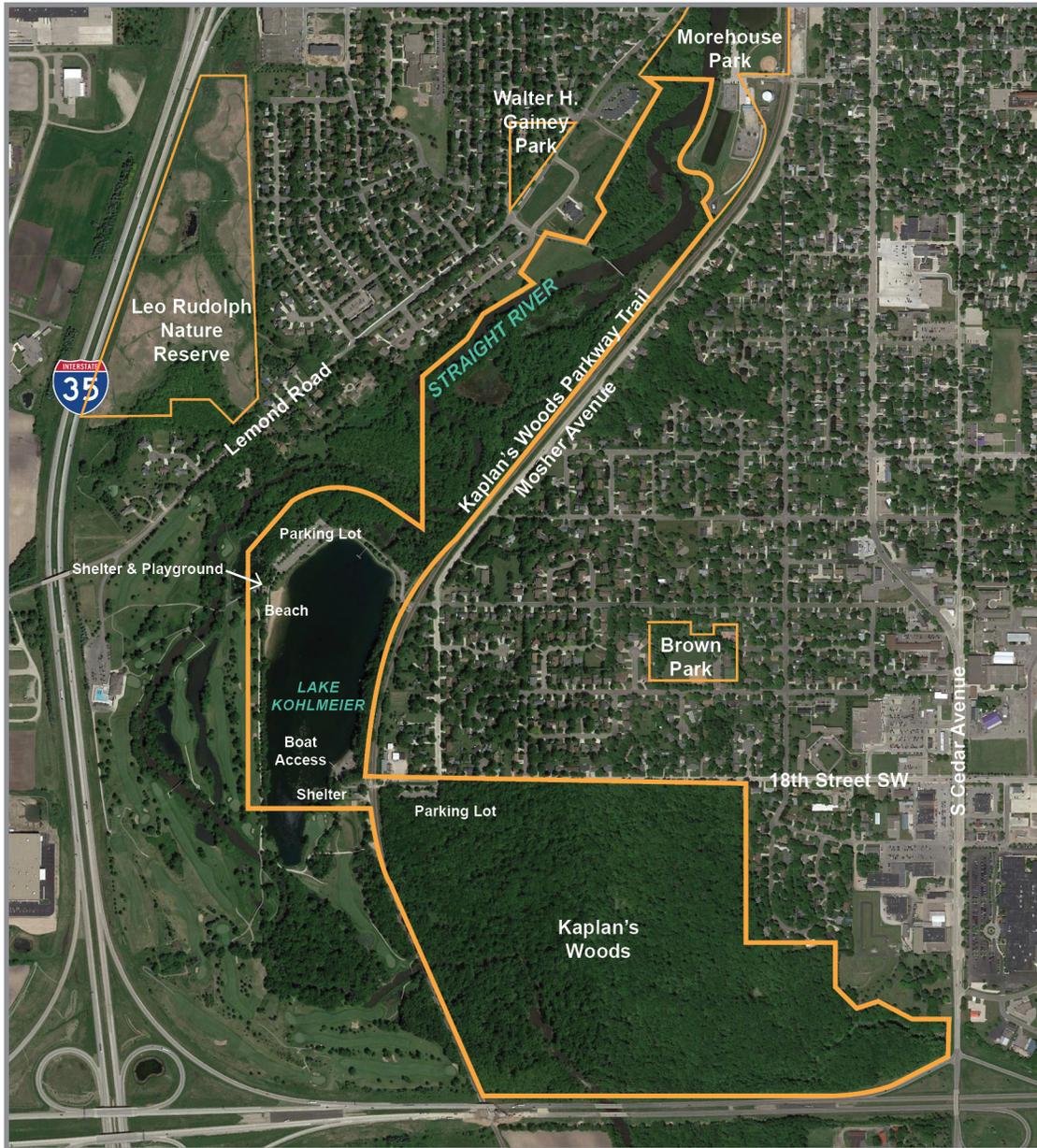
- **Brooktree Golf Course** - consider using the clubhouse as a warming house during winter months for special events and equipment rentals (cross-country skis).
- **West Hills Campus** - recommend an architectural study of historic buildings to assess conditions, improvements and programming to maximize indoor public recreation opportunities and accessibility for the public.
- **River Springs Water Park** – consider adding winter activities here, an outdoor hockey rink and sledding hill, while using the building during winter months as a warming house. This will require additional land acquisition adjacent to the water park to accommodate an outdoor hockey or skating rink.



Kaplan Woods Regional Park



Straight River



KAPLAN WOODS REGIONAL PARK*

LOCATION	1205 SW 18th Street, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	276.16 acres (proposed combined acreage)
CLASSIFICATION	Regional Park
DESCRIPTION	<p>Large scenic park with woodlands and passive recreation along the Straight River and Lake Kohlmeier. The property includes former portions of a state park donated to the City in 1963. The remainder of the park was donated and developed with funds from Reuben Kaplan and the Owatonna Foundation.</p> <p>*A rename is suggested to include the Lake Kohlmeier area.</p>
PARK AMENITIES	Open air shelter, picnic areas, 6 miles hiking trails, 1.5 miles of paved trails, mountain bike trails, bike repair station, parking lot, public beach and boat access, fishing pier, shelter with restrooms (at Lake Kohlmeier), volleyball court and a small playground.

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The park land is wooded with hilly terrain. On the south end of Lake Kohlmier, there is a public access kayak/canoe launch with a parking lot and a bridge to an island that is popular with residents. There is a fishing pier on the north end of Lake Kohlmier. The parkway trail extends from the boat launch around to the beach at Lake Kohlmier. A railroad follows the western edge of the park. The southern edge of the park is Highway 14, which can be heard within the park limits. There is currently no trail connection from the entrance to the hiking trails to the boat launch and paved trail. The current trail ends at the parking lot.

RECREATION

There is an active mountain biking group which assisted in the development of the trails within the park. Wayfinding maps are included along the trails as well as places to sit. Hiking trails are great for viewing nature, wild animals, flowers and for exercise. The beach is a popular destination for families during the summer months. Fishing is popular at Lake Kohlmier as well as boating, canoeing and kayaking.

Natural Resources

Lake Kohlmier Created from an oxbow off the Straight River, Lake Kohlmier is a 35 littoral acre lake with a maximum depth of 14 feet. According to the MnDNR, some of the fish species found in the lake include black crappie, bluegill, sunfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, walleye, perch, and common carp.

Straight River The river flows north from Highway 14 around Lake Kohlmier to the west and south before heading underneath Highway 14. Some areas of the Straight River banks are eroding due to changing river patterns.

Woodlands Kaplan's Woods is forested with mature growth hardwood trees.



Wood chip trails throughout the park.



Beach at Lake Kohlmier



Open-air shelter by boat launch.

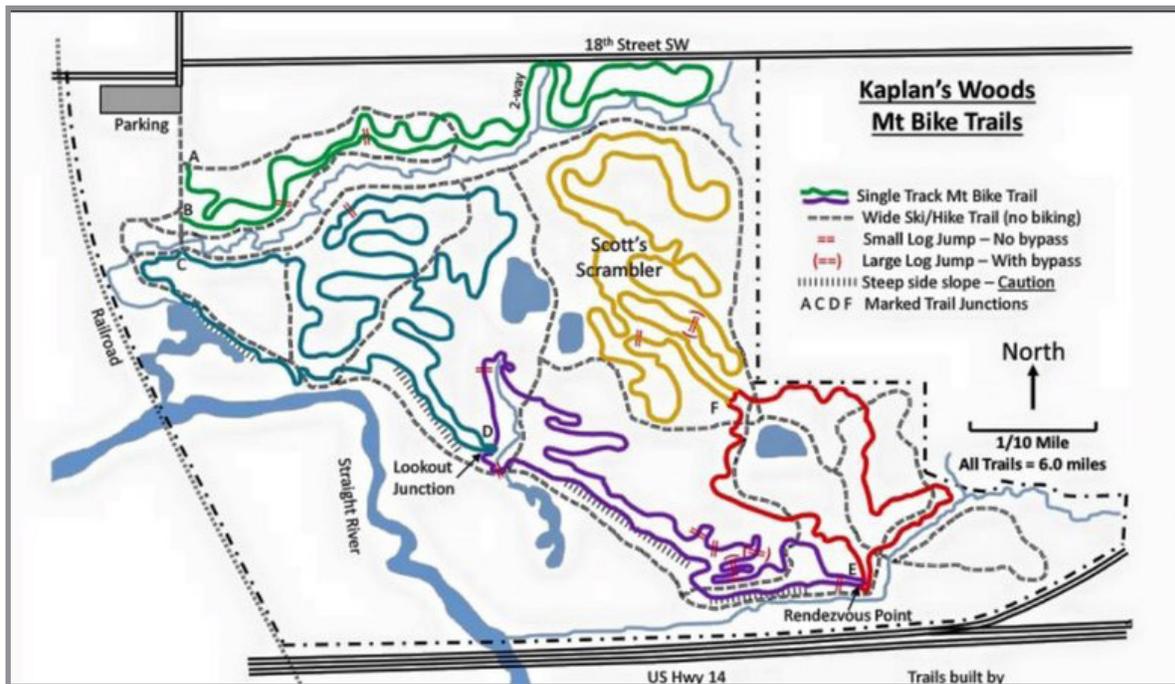


Figure 4.1 Mountain Biking Trails Map by the Owatonna Trails Association



The start of Scott's Scrambler, a mountain bike trail.
Source: Photo by Reilly Dibble and Owatonna Trails Association www.mtbproject.com/kaplanwoodspark

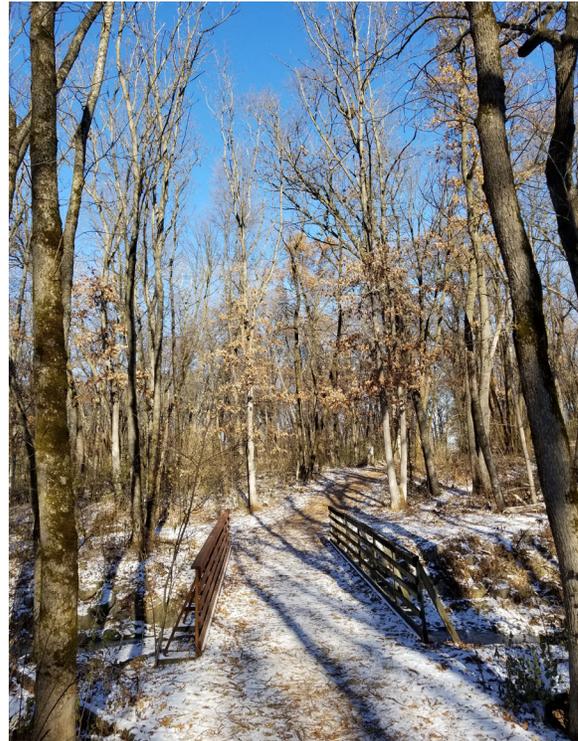


Existing play area at Lake Kohlmier

SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Upgrade the existing parking lot and add a critical off-street trail connection between the boat launch area/shelter to the entrance to the hiking trails at Kaplan Woods.

- Incorporate wayfinding signage throughout the forested areas of the park.
- Consider a splash pad at Lake Kohlmier incorporated into a new playground focused on a water and/or nature theme.
- Consider a regional nature center and/or outdoor amphitheater that could serve as an environmental education outdoor classroom.
- Continue to incorporate opportunities for the public to rent canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and other water recreation equipment at Lake Kohlmier.
- Enhance the shoreline of the Straight River and shoreline of Lake Kohlmier, consider adding locations for the public to fish off the shoreline. Consider native shoreline techniques to eliminate erosion and filter runoff into the waterbodies. Any impacts to the DNR Public Waters (including the Straight River and Lake Kohlmier) would be subject to DNR permits and approvals.
- Utilize existing shelter and restrooms during winter months for cross-country skiing rentals and warming house.



Bridge across Straight River within the park.



Example of shoreline restoration.



Boat launch and parking lot at Lake Kohlmier.



Migrating geese on Lake Kohlmier in late fall. Shelter with restrooms in the background.

Steps in Designation Process – With/Without Master Plan

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

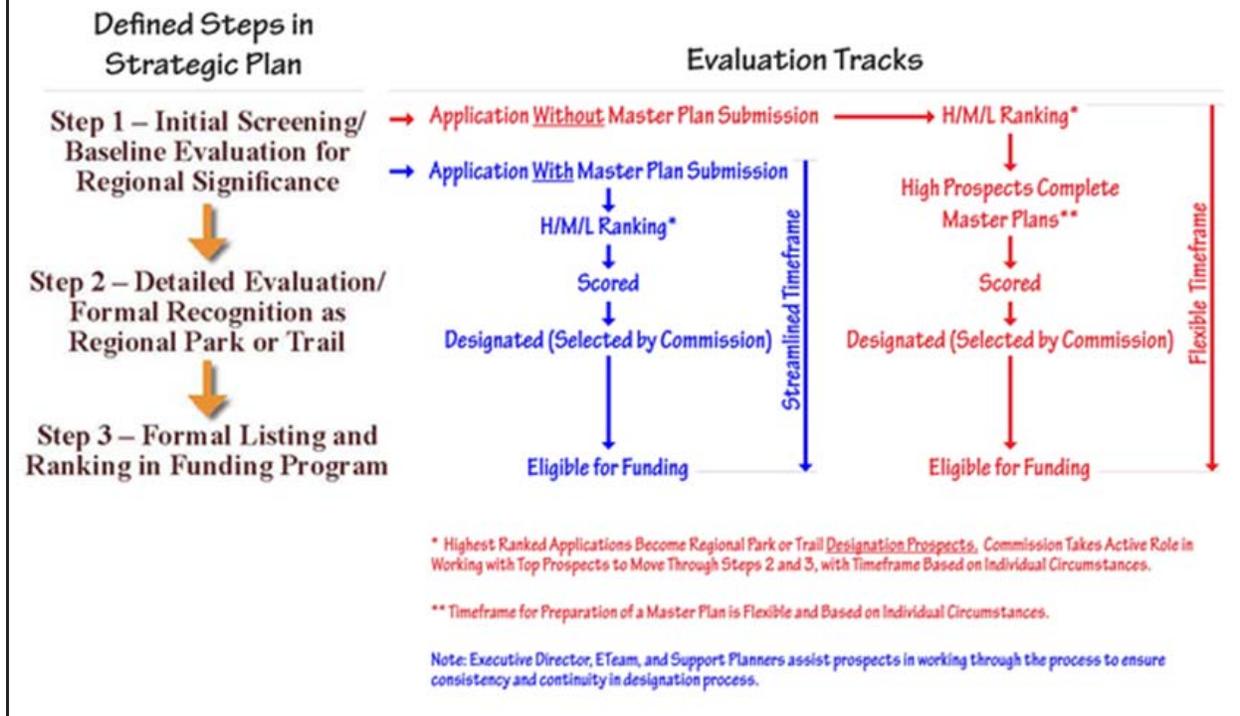


Figure 4.2: Regional Designation Steps

Source: Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission



Bridge to island by Lake Kohlmier boat access.

FOR REGIONAL DESIGNATION THROUGH GMRPTC, THE MASTER PLAN MUST INCLUDE:

- Introduction / Overview of the Park
- Proposer/Implementing Agency(s) including partnerships
- Setting/Regional Context
- Site Information
- Vision, Trends, and Public Values
- Regional Significance Statement
- Public input and Participation
- Development Master Plan
- Ecological/Land Resources Plan
- Programming Plan
- Research Plan
- Implementation, Management, and Sustainability Plan

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COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks within Owatonna are meant to serve the greater community and typically include athletic fields along with play areas, trails, and gathering spaces.

Owatonna has five community parks:

- Dartts Park
- Fairgrounds Park
- Manthey Park
- Mineral Springs Park
- Morehouse Park



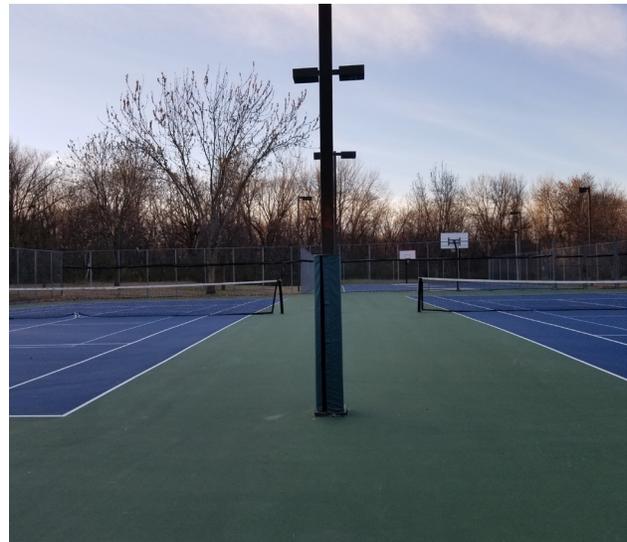
Playground at Dartts Park



Horseshoe Courts at Mineral Springs Park



Straight River and bridge at Morehouse Park



Tennis Courts and Basketball Court at Manthey Park



DARTTS PARK

LOCATION	600 Cherry Street, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	18.00 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Community Park
DESCRIPTION	An inviting park with lots of character along Maple Creek. Park has many recreational offerings but feels over-programmed.
PARK AMENITIES	Varsity high school baseball stadium (Chuck Fuller Field), open air shelter, shelter with restrooms, playground, volleyball court, full basketball court, two tennis courts, and parking lots.

PARK ASSESSMENT

Existing Conditions

The park has plenty of shade from mature trees. This is good separation from the active recreation and more passive recreation. The Buxton Trail winds through the park along Maple Creek. The water noise from the creek adds to the atmosphere. Surfacing on the basketball court is in poor condition. The play equipment is dated and older.

Natural Resources

The park has mature hardwood trees and Maple Creek. The landscape at the park is well maintained, however, there is severe erosion on the banks. There is opportunity to restore the banks of the creek by incorporating native plantings or a more permanent rip-rap bank.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to repair and replace any eroding banks along Maple Creek.
- Redesign park to include recently acquired land. Consider safety and security with patrol visibility, lighting and selective vegetation clearing. Reconfigure layout of parking lot and provide consistent parking stall striping to maximize the available spaces for park users. Consider removing practice field and shed out of the park due to flooding.
- When play equipment needs replacement, consider unique equipment and playground orientation. Layout should increase visibility for security at the park.
- Replace and repair full basketball court.
- Update park to meet accessibility standards by providing trails or sidewalks to amenities. Provide equipment and seating that is accessible.
- Continue Buxton trail through park (and off of entrance drive)
- Repair and paint benches and other site amenities for consistency.



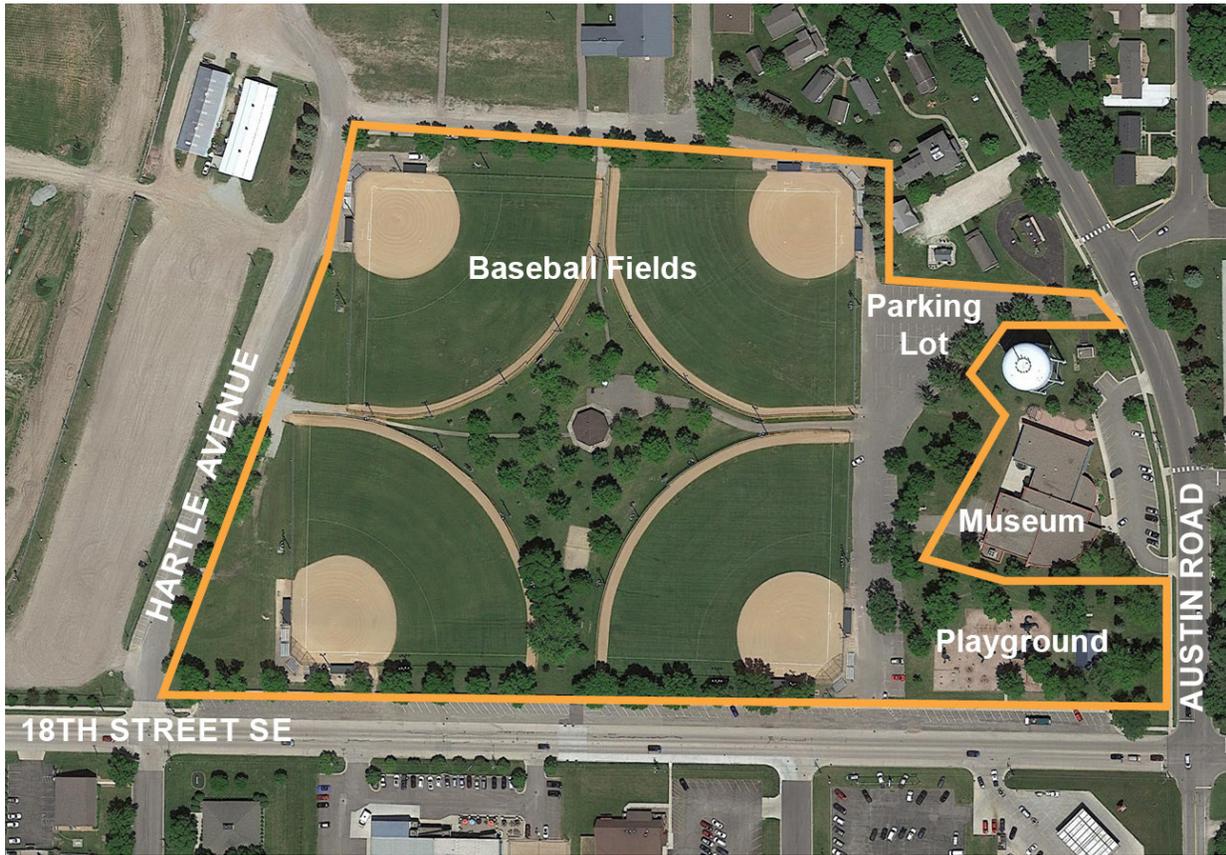
Chuck Fuller Field - used by Men's high school varsity team



View of open air shelter and picnic area.



Basketball court has surfacing issues and is bowing, likely due to flooding and subsurface soils.



FAIRGROUNDS PARK

LOCATION	450 18th Street SE, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	15.50 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Community Park
DESCRIPTION	A compact, urban park with ballfields and a popular community playground.
PARK AMENITIES	Four baseball fields, one shelter with restrooms, one open air shelter, large playground, and parking lots.

PARK ASSESSMENT

Existing Conditions

The park is located along a busy street and some of the parking stalls are angled, requiring visitors to back out onto the street. The park is used annually in conjunction with the annual Steele County Free Fair. There are electrical hookups close to the playground for campers during the fair which could pose a safety hazard and is not ideal next to the playground. The baseball fields are in good condition and new dugouts were built recently. The layout of the ballfields (reverse pinwheel) puts the shelter with restrooms far away from the fields. There is little space for spectators to sit and watch the games as the fields are up against the two parking lots. The trails between the fields are narrow (less than 4 feet wide) and in poor condition.

Natural Resources

This park is in an urban setting along a busy road but there are mature trees throughout the park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Partner with Steele County for any proposed improvements. Consider event needs and orientation of baseball fields. Consider a safer parking alignment along 18th Street SE and overall parking layout and efficiency within the entire park. Move shelter with restrooms closer to ballfields where it is not isolated within the park.
- Create a buffer zone between 18th Street and the ballfields/playground.
- Improve accessibility and add sidewalks to spectator areas and park amenities such as shelters, benches, and drinking fountains. Add accessible parking stalls to each parking lot with a sidewalk to the baseball fields.
- Replace trails and increase widths to five feet minimum throughout the park.
- Repair and paint benches throughout park. Consider a cohesive design for amenities within this park.



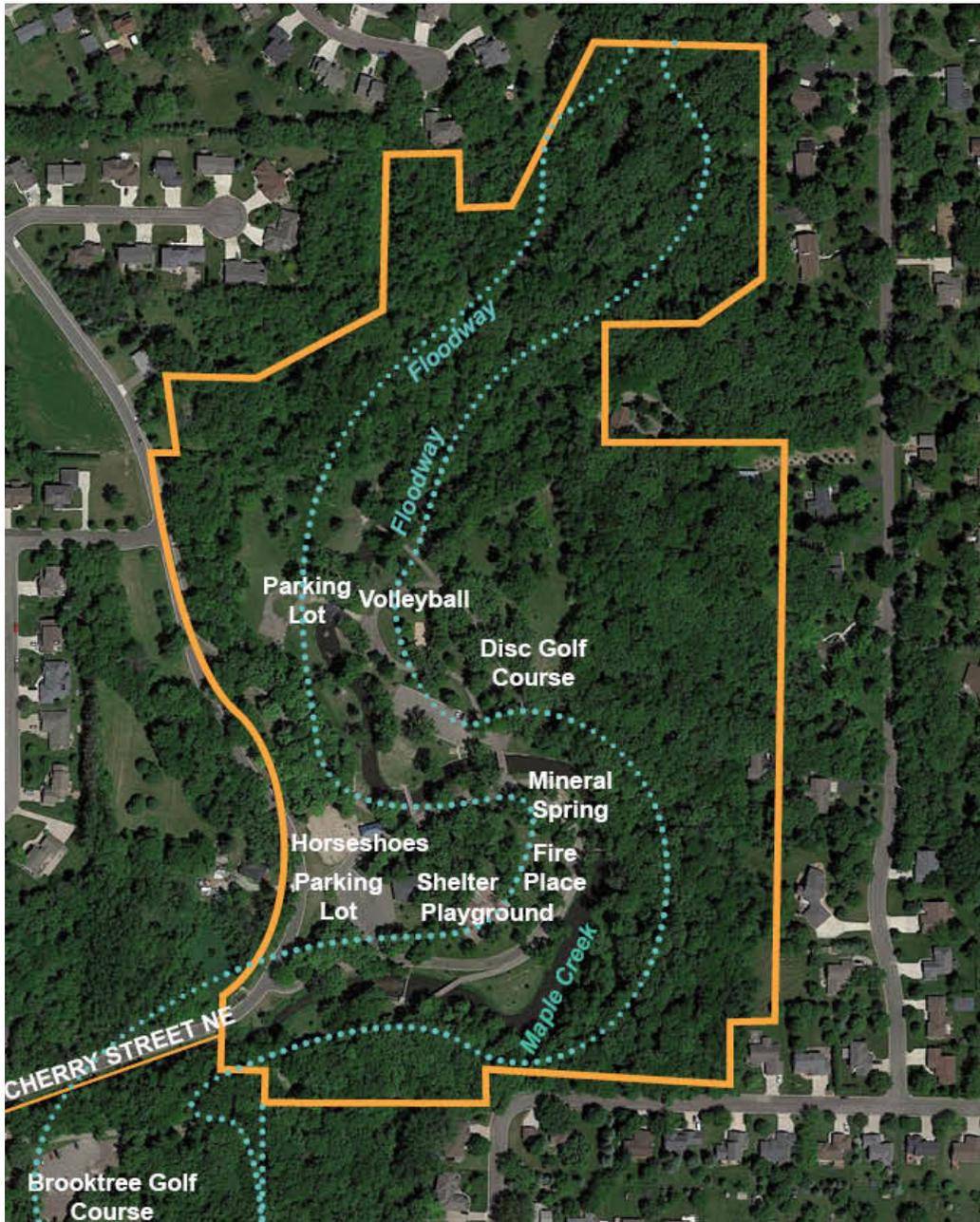
View of newer baseball dugout.



View of playground and camping hookups.



View of shelter and volleyball court.



MINERAL SPRINGS

LOCATION	1025 Mineral Springs Parkway, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	42.57 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Community Park
DESCRIPTION	A prominent park with beautiful, historic character along Maple Creek. The park has many recreational amenities.
PARK AMENITIES	Large group shelter, restroom building, playground, outdoor fireplace, volleyball courts, 9-hole disc golf course, historic drinking fountain for springs, horseshoes, trails, and parking lots.



MINERAL SPRINGS PARK - ENLARGEMENT

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Playground equipment is older and historic elements at the park could be enhanced. The horseshoe courts are popular and a newer addition but there is no sidewalk to the courts. The shelter is beautiful but lacks a buffer from the parking lot. The playground is dated and in need of replacement. There are many shoreline treatments along Maple Creek. The park has a historic character and winding trails.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Maple Creek winds through the park and there are multiple vehicle and pedestrian bridge crossings. The creek naturally separates areas of that park but wayfinding is confusing. The banks of the creek have eroded in some places. Mature trees provide shade in the park. There is a natural springs drinking fountain and a man-made waterfall (not in operation at time of visit). There are steep cliffs overlooking the park. Portions of the park are within the floodway and is prone to damage from floodwaters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Remove failing wooden staircase on slope (safety hazard).
- Redesign portions of this park with community input as it is one of the most popular and well-known parks. When the disc golf moves out of this park, add hiking trails through clearings.
- Replace playground equipment, consider a unique and larger play area with a theme relating to the natural springs or the history of the park.
- Provide a vegetative buffer between parking lot and shelter.
- Provide accessible routes and sidewalks to all amenities within the park (specifically the horseshoe courts and to the restrooms).
- Provide interpretive and educational nodes to highlight history and environmental resources of the park.
- Remove concrete swales from parking lots to Maple Creek and consider alternative shoreline treatments that work to prevent erosion including native plantings.
- Restore areas of the park to native plantings to reduce maintenance costs and promote pollinators as well as sustainability.



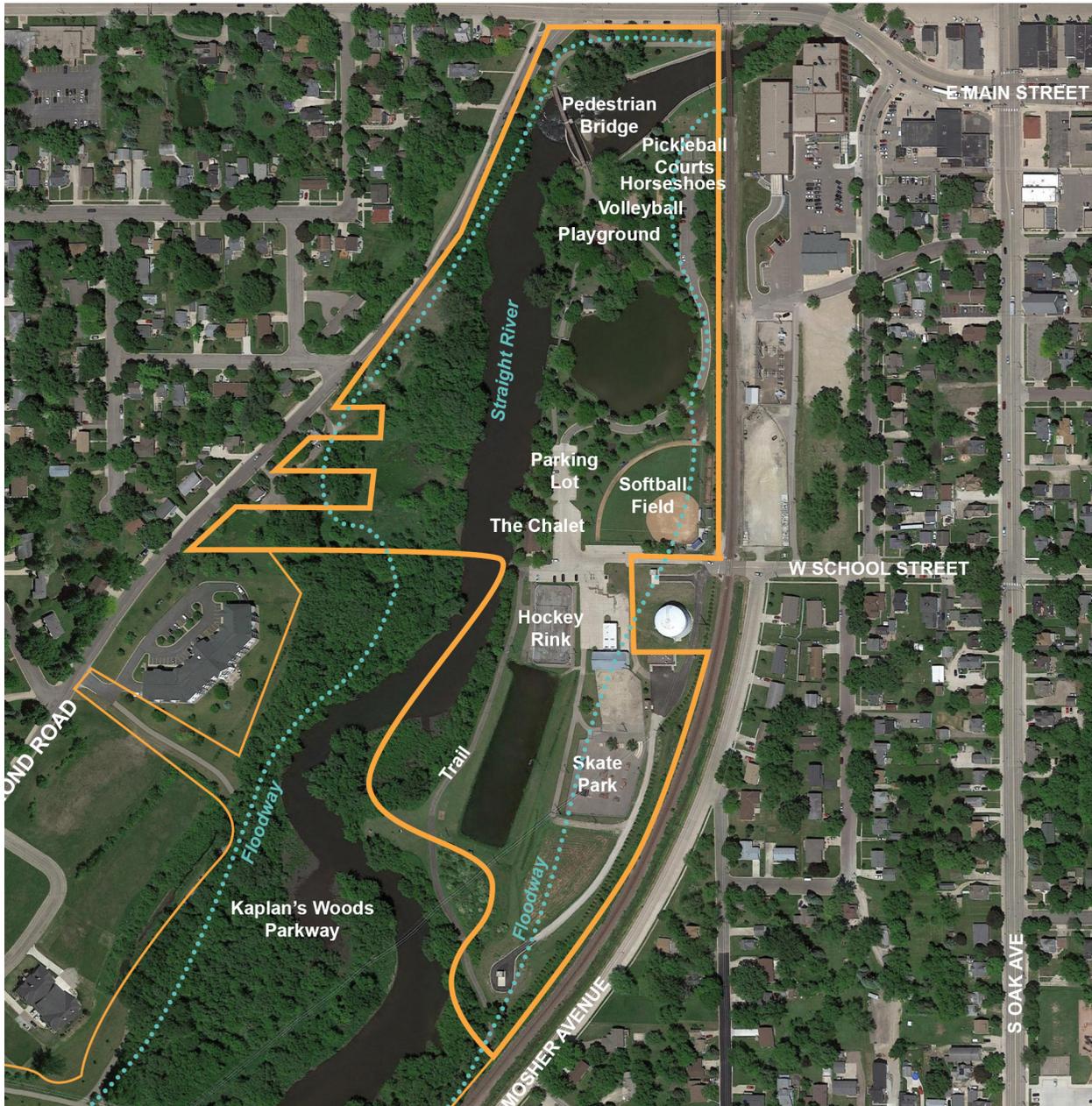
View of large shelter.



View of historic Mineral Springs fountain.



View of Maple Creek as it winds through the park.



MOREHOUSE PARK

LOCATION	350 School Street, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	27.71 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Community Park
DESCRIPTION	A prominent, popular park close to downtown with a variety of amenities along the Straight River connected to the trail network.
AMENITIES	Softball field (women's varsity), outdoor hockey rink, dam with bridge, canoe/kayak landing at river, skate park, large Morehouse Chalet with restrooms, open air shelter, playground, 6 pickleball courts, volleyball courts, and horseshoe courts.

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The amenities at this park are in very close proximity to one another. The parking lot is confusing and in general, the park lacks directional signage. Some of the playground equipment is in need of replacement. As the floodway runs through this park, equipment, shelters, and the softball field have drainage issues or have been flooded in the past.

The Kaplan Woods Parkway trail from the south and across the bridge is the start of the Muckle Trail. Trails and sidewalks end at parking lots and don't travel through. There are no accessible routes to amenities. The chalet is popular for rentals and has a unique character. The park was busy during the lunch hour as it is close to downtown.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Straight River runs along the western edge of the park and there is a dam which is a popular fishing spot with the community. The park is very scenic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop and redesign park to avoid flooded areas and overcrowding of the park with amenities (such moving the horseshoes or sand volleyball out of this park).
- Move the softball field out of this park and to a new location (at new high school facility).
- Replace play equipment and consider a unique play experience (bouldering rocks, spinning net) for this popular downtown park.
- Reconfigure parking lot and connect trail safely through and/or around the parking lot. One option would be a trail route along the river if there is room.
- Upgrade accessibility to all park amenities.
- Continue to maintain and/or replace equipment for the outdoor hockey rink and skate park.



View of skate park.



View of Morehouse Chalet and the Straight River.



View of existing parking lot and pedestrian curb ramp.



MANTHEY PARK

LOCATION	225 24th Street NE, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	29.67 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Community Park
DESCRIPTION	A large between residential neighborhoods with mature trees and many recreational offerings.
PARK AMENITIES	Two baseball fields, two soccer / multi-purpose fields, two little league baseball fields, playground, open air shelter with restrooms, group shelter, horseshoes, volleyball court, two tennis courts, full basketball court, and parking lot.

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Large community park with many amenities, athletic fields and mature trees. The park feels over-programmed and there are parking issues during games/tournaments. Currently there is only one vehicle entrance into the park. The amenity styles within the park vary from lights to benches. The southern area is detached from the rest of the park but is a way for the neighborhood to access the property. The shelter is isolated. This area has steep grade at the turn-around and isn't visible from the northern end of the park.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The park has a wooded area with mature trees and a winding path to the south area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Refer to the Manthey Park Concept Plan graphic for some of the listed improvements below.
- Expand parking lot to accommodate Miracle Field and sports field.
- Develop Miracle Field and all-inclusive destination playground.
- Create concrete plaza at play area with shade for seating.
- Build concessions building with restrooms.
- Move existing play equipment to another park (suggest Brown Park).
- Provide trails or sidewalks to amenities (such as benches and drinking fountains throughout park).
- Expand trails throughout the park.
- Provide consistency with amenities at the park, such as a style or color to form an identity for the park.



View of playground and large shelter.



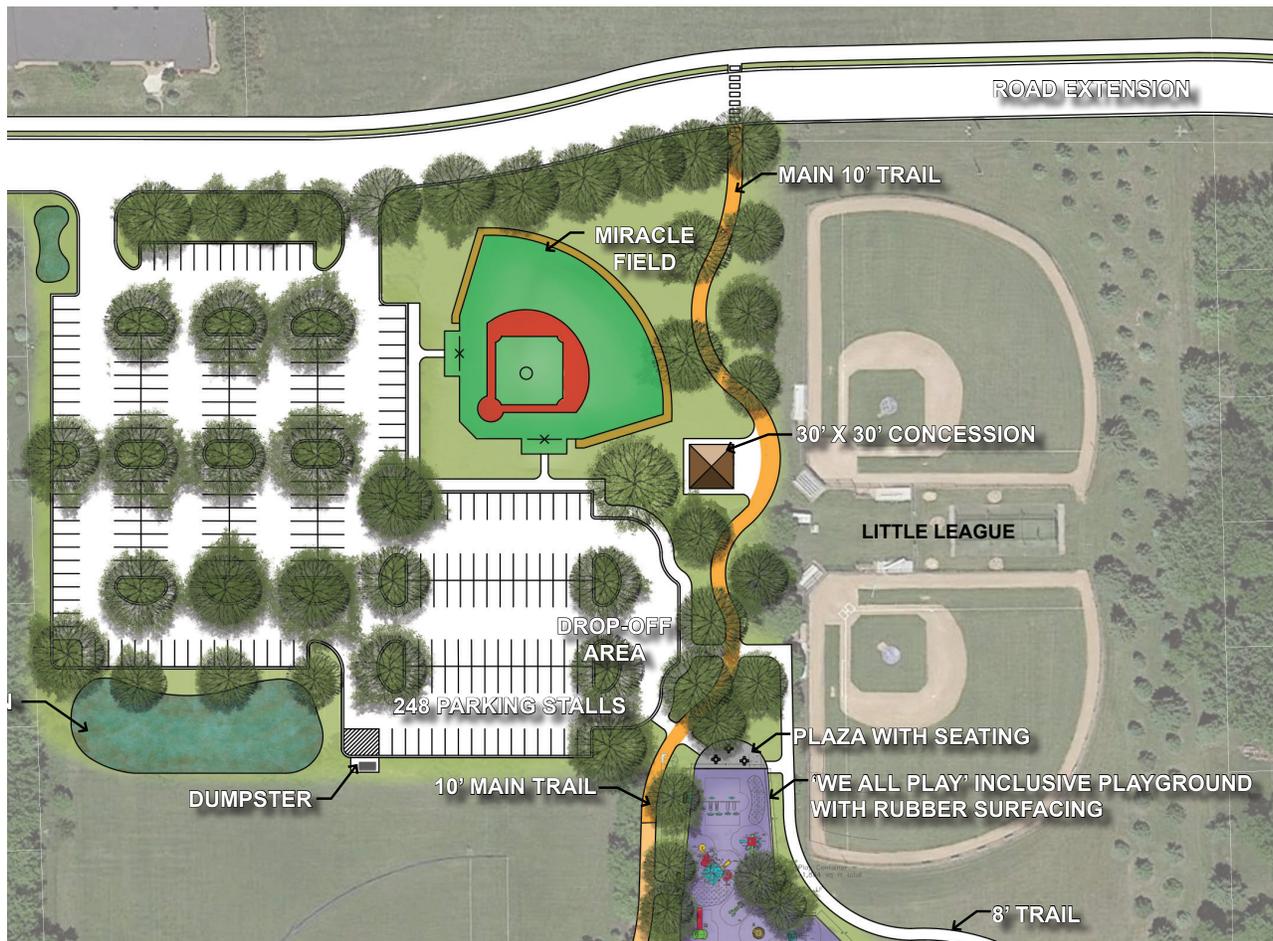
View of parking lot and entrance into park.



View of one of the southern baseball fields.



MANTHEY PARK - CONCEPT PLAN



Manthey Park Concept Plan - North Portion of Park

MANTHEY PARK - CONCEPT PLAN

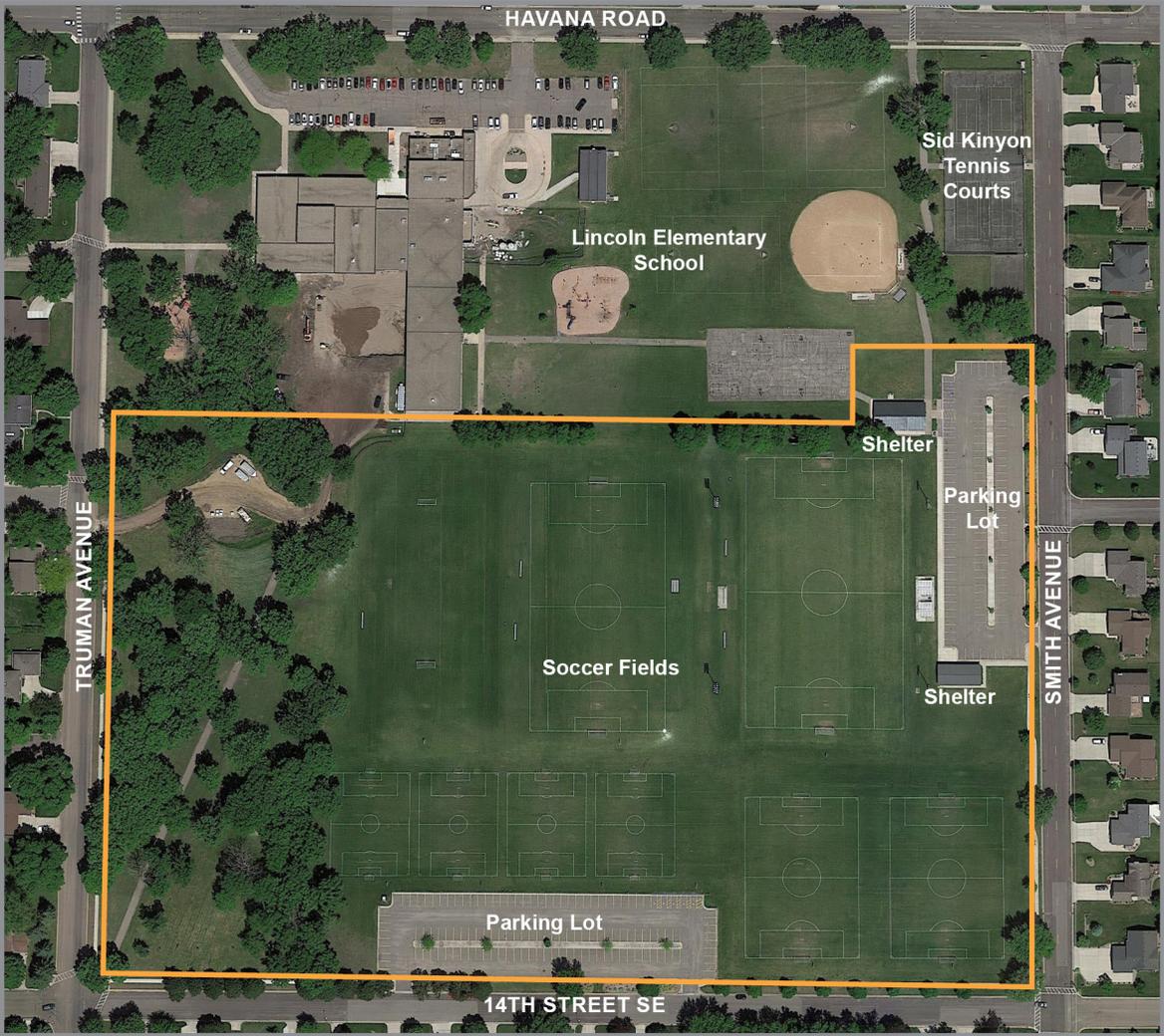
The concept plan for Manthey Park includes an all-inclusive playground by Landscape Structures designed to fit within the existing playground envelope. A Miracle Field is planned for Manthey Park in the location of the existing soccer fields. Parking has been an issue at Manthey Park when multiple games and sporting events are happening especially on summer weekends and evenings. The concept expands the parking lot to 248 stalls utilizing the existing open space which was overflow parking. Stormwater management will be required for the increase in impervious surfacing.

There are accessible sidewalks and trails from the parking lot to each feature of the park. A concessions building with restrooms is proposed between the fields and close to the spectator area.

24th Street NE will extend through to 3rd Avenue to provide two vehicle accesses into the park. A trail will run north with a pedestrian crosswalk and then travel east and west to further connect the neighborhoods to the park.

COMMUNITY ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Owatonna has one community athletic complex, which is the Owatonna Soccer Complex. Athletic complexes are intended to serve the needs of adult or youth athletic programs, in this case, only soccer. It is the location of the school district’s varsity full size soccer field. These complexes also incorporate amenities that complement the athletics such as shelters, parking, and play areas.



OWATONNA SOCCER COMPLEX

LOCATION	14th Street NE, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	15.90 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Community Athletic Complex
DESCRIPTION	A large soccer complex with parking lots adjacent to Lincoln Elementary School. Built in partnership with the Owatonna Soccer Association.
PARK AMENITIES	Soccer fields (3 regulation size), high school varsity soccer field with bleachers, two open-air shelters with restrooms, and parking lots.

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Well maintained landscape at this park. Some equipment at the park is in need of repair (grill, drinking fountains). There are few mature trees and limited shade for soccer participants and spectators. The parking lot is busy during game transitions but provides off-street parking at this large park. Lacrosse is also programmed at this park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add a shade structure at premier field over bleachers and at other soccer fields.
- Add sidewalk or trail from parking lot to spectator bleachers to meet accessibility standards.
- Plant fast growing trees for shade along edges of fields.
- Add sports lighting for regulation fields to extend game time in spring and fall months.



View of High School varsity soccer field and bleachers.



View of large group shelter.



Existing grills at shelter.

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NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residents within a 10-minute walk (half mile) of the park and provide basic recreational experiences while meeting the needs of the immediate neighborhoods.

Owatonna has five neighborhood parks with a variety of recreational amenities:

- Brown Park
- Cashman Park (undeveloped)
- Jaycee Park
- Maple Creek Park
- Walter H. Gainey Park



Playground at Walter H. Gainey Park



Half Basketball Court at Jaycee Park



Scoreboard at Ballfield at Brown Park



Baseball Field at Jaycee Park



BROWN PARK

LOCATION	400 16th Street SW, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	6.77 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Neighborhood Park
DESCRIPTION	Active park located in residential neighborhood with many recreational offerings.
PARK AMENITIES	Baseball field with scoreboard, two tennis courts, basketball court, horseshoe courts, playground, shelter with restrooms, and an off-street parking lot.

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

This popular park has many amenities and an off-street dead end parking lot. Shelter has electricity and an accessible route. Restrooms are seasonal. The landscaping is well-maintained. Fencing at the ballfield is bent in some places. There are large cracks in the basketball court which could be a safety issue. Tennis courts are in good condition and have lights.



Existing playground is popular with the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replace play equipment, consider Manthey Park equipment to be moved to this location. When upgrading play equipment, consider unique designs and alternative surfacing (such as rubber).
- Provide accessible routes to amenities (drinking fountain, tennis court, etc).
- Repair and/or replace surfacing on basketball court due to presence of large cracks.
- Trim shrubs along sidewalk for better ease of pedestrian movement.
- When parking lot is resurfaced, add compliant accessible parking stall with sidewalk to park amenities. Consider adding a sidewalk along the street to the park entrance.
- Connect via trail or sidewalk to Barney Street on the northwest corner of the park.



Large group shelter with picnic tables.



The basketball court has some areas of cracking.



CASHMAN PARK

LOCATION	455 26th Street NW, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	8.0 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Neighborhood Park
DESCRIPTION	Currently undeveloped property
PARK AMENITIES	Wood chip trails

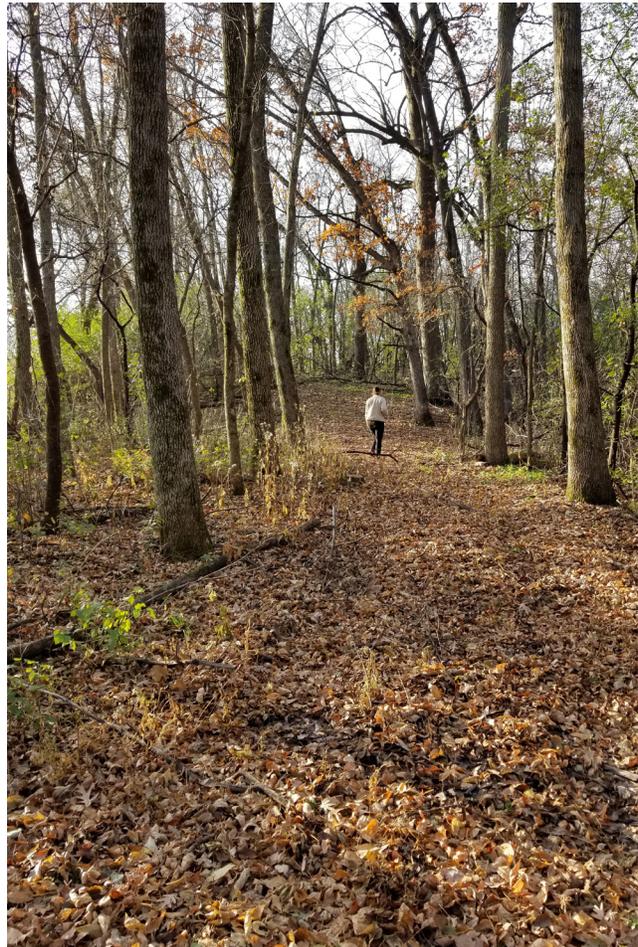
PARK ASSESSMENT

Undeveloped property along busy road behind homes. No signs along wood chip trails. Entry road is steep grade with some ruts. There were portable restrooms along 26th Street. There is a lack of wayfinding for the trails. Park is beautiful with mature trees close to the Straight River.

Future plans may include developing a disc golf course here with the disc golf group and moving it from its current location at Mineral Springs Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

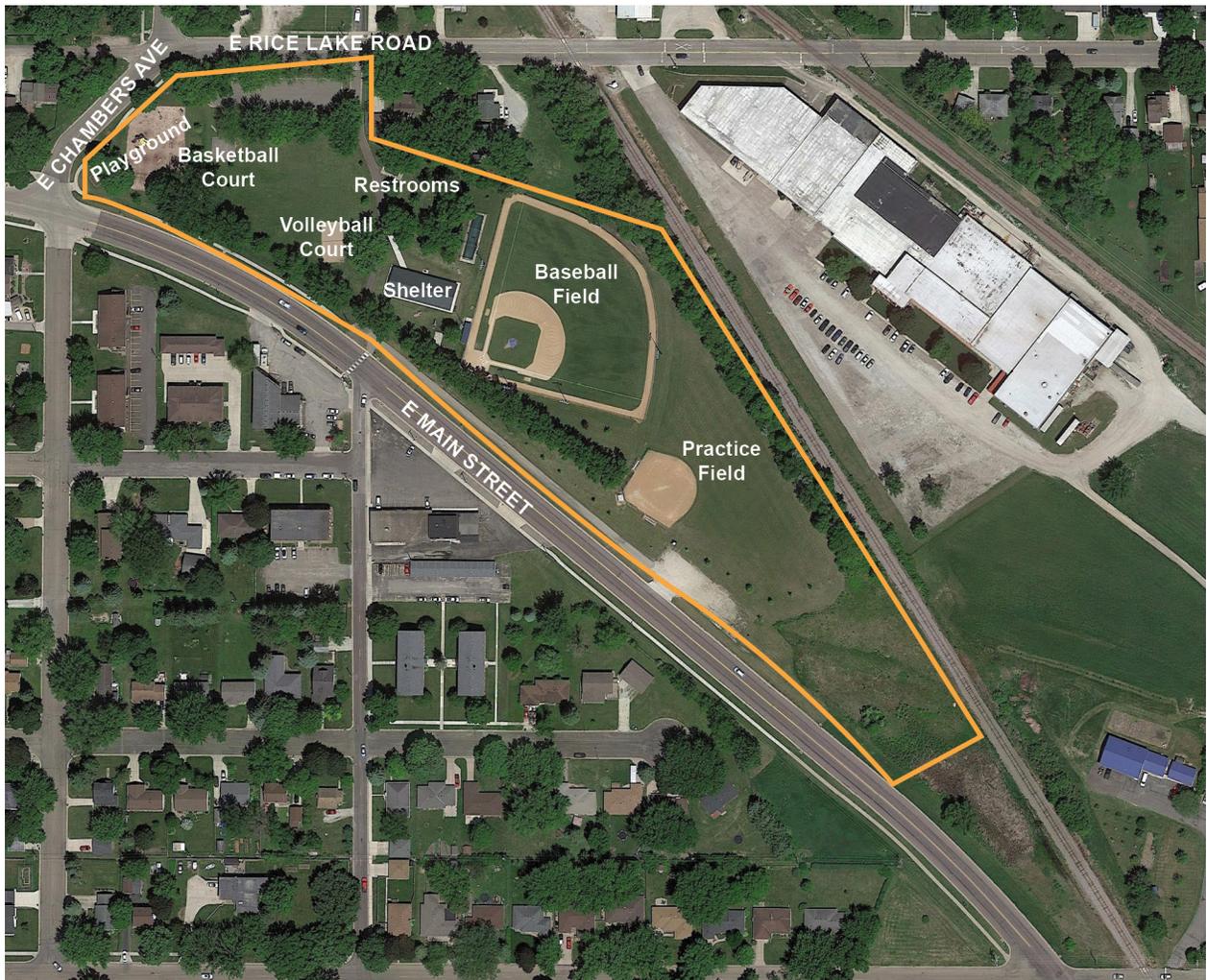
- Develop park property to include the adjacent parcel (as planned) and design a disc golf course, parking lot, entry road and trails. Consider moving the park entrance and trails further away from the backs of residential lots. If easements exist to the neighborhood, utilize these to provide trail connections in these areas.
- As planned, develop disc golf course in partnership with the local disc golf organization.
- Consider including a trail head facility with bike racks, drinking fountain and restrooms at this park as it sits on a popular bike trail.
- Develop wood chip surfaced hiking trails and include wayfinding signage.



View of wood chip trails.



The entrance to Cashman Park and 26th Street paved trail.



JAYCEE PARK

LOCATION	631 Rice Street, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	10.5 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Neighborhood Park
DESCRIPTION	Linear park with active recreation amenities close to existing railroad tracks and busy road. Park is popular for baseball games.
PARK AMENITIES	Playground, restrooms building, group shelter, drinking fountain, baseball field, practice ballfield, half-court basketball court, volleyball court, and parking lot.

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Linear shaped neighborhood park located in a wedge between a busy street and railroad tracks. This is a popular neighborhood park with mature trees and ballfields. There is a paved parking lot off Rice Street and a small gravel lot off Main Street. Restrooms are in good condition. There is no sidewalk to the playground from the parking lot.

Shelter is in good condition. There is no sidewalk from the shelter to the baseball field. There is a planted buffer from the street. Some ballfield fencing is bent and showing age.



View of small picnic area, drinking fountain and utility boxes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

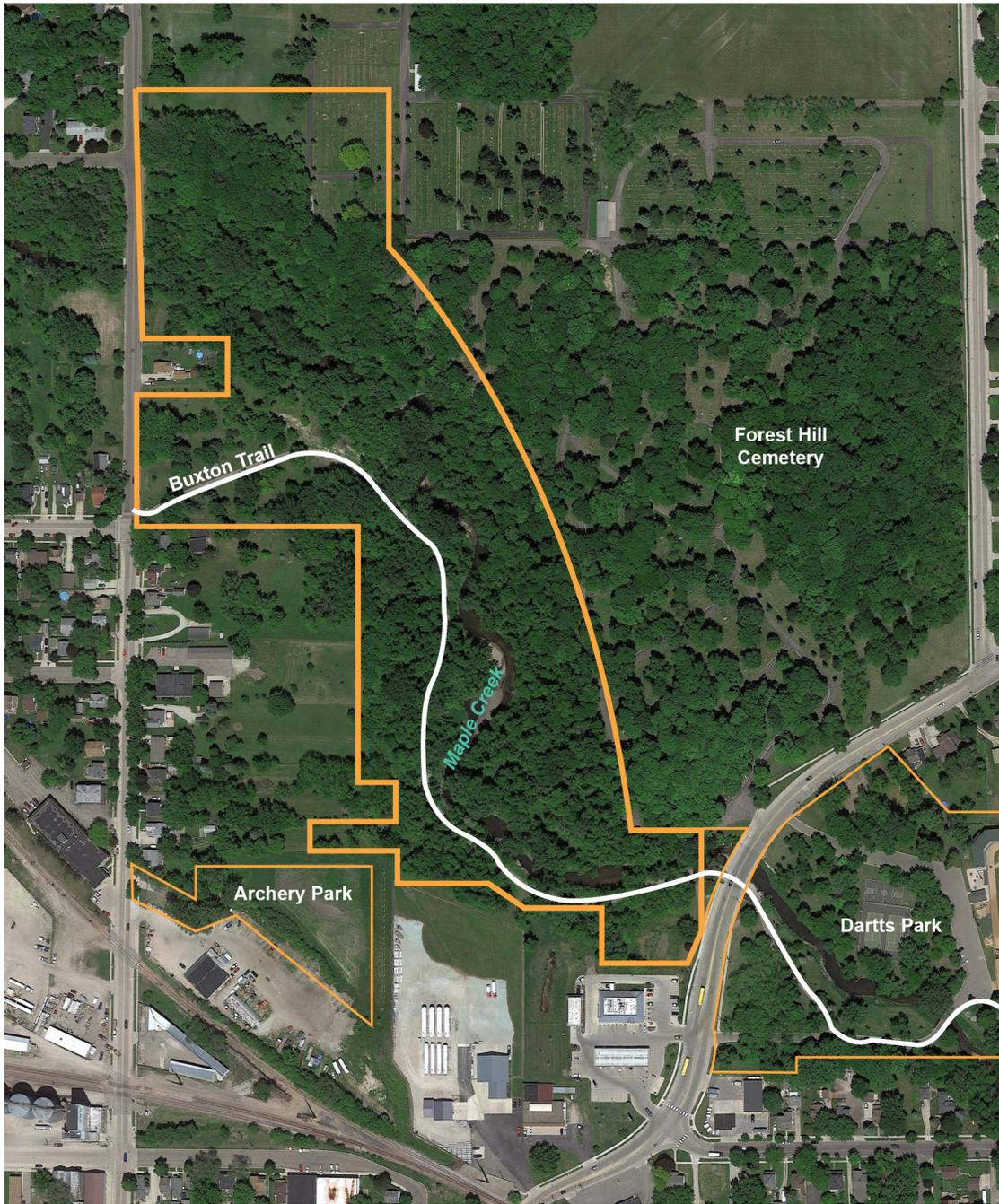
- Replace playground equipment, consider a unique design (such as a challenge course) and engage the neighborhood on type of equipment desired. Consider at time of equipment replacement, alternate safety surfacing options such as rubber surface, sand, and engineered wood fiber mulch.
- Provide sidewalks or trails to all park amenities to meet accessibility standards.
- Provide a safe marked pedestrian crossing at Main Street into the park.
- Screen utility boxes at the park.



View of playground.



View of inside shelter, built in 2016.



MAPLE CREEK PARK

LOCATION	1015 Elm Avenue North, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	20.9 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Neighborhood Park
DESCRIPTION	Open space with mature woods and Maple Creek.
PARK AMENITIES	Buxton trail runs through the park, benches, and lights.

PARK ASSESSMENT

Large wooded and open spaces along Maple Creek with paved trail (Buxton Trail) running through it. There is lighting and places to sit along the trail. Park has a beautiful character. There are a few open spaces that would be ideal for a picnic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maintain buffer areas near creek as native plantings to protect from bank erosion.
- Provide picnic tables in open areas for gathering.
- Provide connection to nearby Archery Park.



Buxton Trail winds through Maple Creek Park



Entrance into park



Maple Creek



WALTER H. GAINNEY PARK

LOCATION	431 Selby Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	3.09 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Neighborhood Park
DESCRIPTION	Residential park on a large hill overlooking the river valley.
PARK AMENITIES	Playground, picnic area, large shelter with restrooms, drinking fountain, grills, and outdoor fireplace.

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

There is a large shelter with restrooms and electricity. Shelter is at the top of the hill and has a sidewalk leading to it. The outdoor fireplace is beautiful stone and well-used. There is a steep slope towards a fence atop a large retaining wall at Lemond Road. There are grills in this area that are old and/or broken. The landscape is very well-maintained. Some pieces of play equipment are aging and in need of replacement and removal. Parking is on-street only.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Park has mature trees and an open-sloped lawn with views of the Straight River from atop the knoll.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replace playground equipment, consider a unique design and engage the neighborhood on type of equipment desired. Consider at time of equipment replacement, alternate safety surfacing options such as rubber surface, sand, and engineered wood fiber mulch.
- Consider unique play equipment for this park and/or nature play themed play.
- Provide sidewalks or trails to all park amenities to meet accessibility standards.
- Remove old grills from steep slope.



View inside large shelter and outdoor fireplace.



Playground equipment and accessible route.



Rolling hill at park.

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MINI PARKS

Mini parks are intended to serve residents within a 5-minute walk (quarter mile) of the park and provide basic recreational experiences while meeting the needs of the immediate neighborhoods.

Owatonna has five mini parks with minimal facilities including a play area and a few with half basketball courts:

- Buecksler Park
- Countryview Park
- Crocus Park
- Fremont Park
- North Bluff Park
- Willow Park



PARK ASSESSMENT

This park is undeveloped, open space including a stormwater pond and drainage area. There are no amenities at this park except for one grill under shade trees on the north end. The park is located in a residential neighborhood.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider creating a nature play area at this park in the wooded area.
- Add sidewalks along the street R.O.W. to features of the park (picnic or play areas).
- Reduce mowing and transition to native plantings for portions of the park property used for stormwater.

BUECKSLER PARK

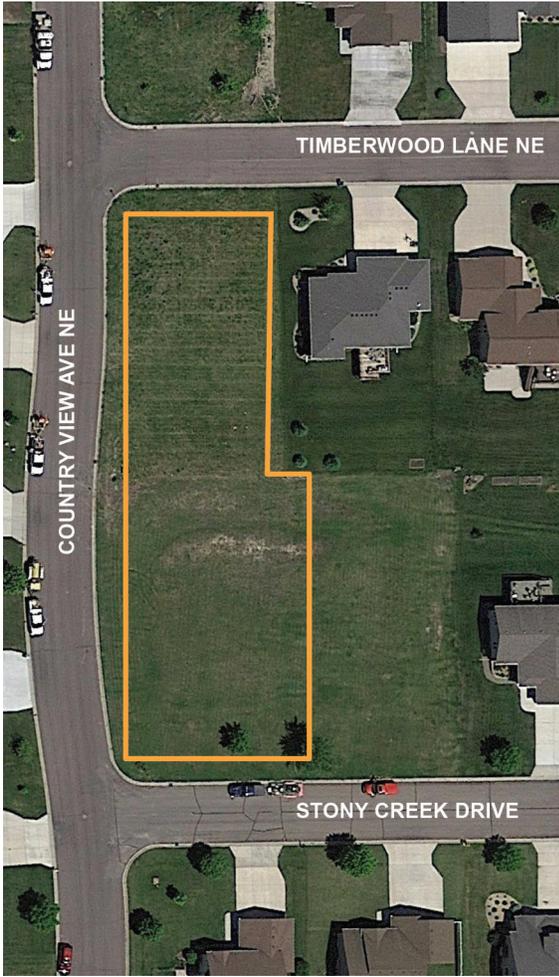
LOCATION	1755 Smith Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	4.75 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Mini Park
PARK AMENITIES	Small picnic area



Mature oak trees shade a small picnic area.



On the south end is a stormwater pond.



PARK ASSESSMENT

This is a small undeveloped open space recently donated to the city for a park within a residential neighborhood.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a concept plan for the park to include present and future phases (if necessary).
- Involve the neighborhood in choosing amenities and types of equipment for inclusion in the park.
- Ensure that park amenities, and furnishings meet current accessibility standards.
- Plant fast growing trees to provide shade.

PARK AMENITIES TO CONSIDER:

- Unique play equipment (boulder climbing, spinning nets, challenge course)
- Half-court basketball
- Drinking fountain
- Small shade structure or shelter
- Sidewalk loop around perimeter of park (for kids biking or rollerblading)

COUNTRYVIEW PARK

LOCATION	2409 Timberwood Lane NE, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	0.68 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Mini Park



Example of a bouldering rock and rope.



Example of a 'learn to bike' loop.



PARK ASSESSMENT

Small, sloped open space with mature trees and appealing character. No amenities except for a small picnic area with table and grill. Property line of park with adjacent neighbors is difficult to determine.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider transitioning into natural open space to reduce mowing and maintenance and plant native species.
- Provide a small natural play area or unique play equipment or feature.

CROCUS PARK

LOCATION	465 Glendale Street Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	0.45 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Mini Park
PARK AMENITIES	Small picnic area



Mature trees shade a small picnic area.



Sloped area of park.



PARK ASSESSMENT

Small wedge shaped park bounded by streets and raised railroad bed. A pedestrian tunnel underneath the railroad tracks connects to the sidewalk in the park. There is lots of vehicle noise at the park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider utilizing a portion of the park as a small bike trailhead with picnic area and shade structure. Wayfinding signage and safe connection to the Buxton Trail would be needed from this park.
- Reduce mowing and transition park to native pollinator-friendly plantings.

FREMONT PARK

LOCATION	505 North Grove Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	0.27 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Mini Park
PARK AMENITIES	Small picnic area



Open space with few trees.



Tunnel leading to park.



PARK ASSESSMENT

Small park surrounded by homes with a small playground. Park has no shade. The landscaping is well maintained. The play equipment is older and in need of replacement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replace aging play equipment and consider a unique design chosen by the neighborhood (or voted on)
- Maintain safety depth for wood engineered fiber mulch. When playground is replaced, consider other safety surfacing options such as rubber surfacing.
- Consider adding amenities such as a half court for basketball
- Consider adding fast growing shade trees or a small picnic shelter with a table.

NORTH BLUFF PARK

LOCATION	100 Main Street, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	0.41 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Mini Park
PARK AMENITIES	Playground, small picnic area



View of park from intersection.



Playground equipment at the park.



WILLOW PARK

LOCATION	Highland Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	0.35 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Mini Park
PARK AMENITIES	Playground, half court basketball, small picnic area.



Tree roots are growing into play area.

PARK ASSESSMENT

Small park in older neighborhood surrounded by streets on three sides with mature trees. Parking is on-street only. Play equipment is old and in need of replacement. There are large tree roots growing into the play area, which could pose a safety hazard. The basketball court is in poor condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider developing a concept plan for programming of this park with unique playground equipment
- Replace half court basketball to appropriate size for play with new equipment.
- Continue sidewalk connection from street into the park and provide connections to all amenities.
- Replace playground equipment, consider a unique design and engage the neighborhood on type of equipment desired. Consider at time of equipment replacement, alternate safety surfacing options such as rubber surface, sand, and engineered wood fiber mulch.



View of open space and basketball half court.

URBAN PLAZA PARKS

Small public spaces located in the City’s downtown area that provide pedestrian relief from the built form, a place for social interaction, and that add an ornamental and architectural character to a downtown space. This is typically located close to commercial shopping, restaurants and a higher concentration of residents.

Owatonna has one urban plaza park: Central Park



CENTRAL PARK

LOCATION	100 Main Street, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	1.52 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Urban Plaza Park
DESCRIPTION	Small historic park close to downtown used for civic events.
PARK AMENITIES	Bandshell/grandstand with concessions and restrooms, historic fountain, seating, and picnic areas.

PARK ASSESSMENT

Prominent park within historic downtown district has a historic fountain and picnic areas. Park has a large bandshell and functions as a community concert and gathering space. Landscaping is well maintained, but park does not provide accessible routes to picnic tables or benches. The park is dark at night but provides shade during the day.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add public plaza space with chess & checkers tables, large events, and daytime lunch crowd – locate near bandshell and historic fountain. Consider movable furniture that could be taken out or moved during large events.
- Increase width of all sidewalks in the park, especially on the perimeter to provide more space for events such as the farmer’s market and to provide accessibility.
- Consider temporary or permanent public art sculptures in this park. Consider the play value of a sculpture meant to be interactive.
- Consider game tables.
- Provide safe crosswalks into the park to include curb bump-outs as recommended by Downtown Streetscape Study.



View of the historic fountain and bandshell.



Large mature trees are present in the park.



Example of public art in urban plaza



Historic plaque at the fountain.

SPECIAL USE PARKS

Special Use Parks covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose or specialized uses such as historic, nature, outdoor performance, or specialized recreation. Owatonna has many special use parks including:

- Archery Park
- Brooktree Golf Course
- Lake Chase Dog Park
- River Springs Water Park
- Sid Kinyon Tennis Courts
- West Hills Park



SID KINYON TENNIS COURTS

LOCATION	Smith Avenue and Havana Road, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	0.80 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Special Use Park
DESCRIPTION	Small park devoted to court sports adjacent to Owatonna Soccer Complex.
PARK AMENITIES	Two pickleball courts, one tennis court, one bocce ball court, and space for lawn games.

PARK ASSESSMENT

The small park is located adjacent to the Owatonna Soccer Complex and shares an off-street parking lot with that facility. The courts have been recently redone to include lawn games with a concrete bean bag toss, ping pong table, and space to play bocce ball. Mature trees surround the courts providing shade in the summer. The surfacing outside of the fencing is in poor condition and in need of replacement and repair. The sidewalk access from the street is very steep and narrow.



View of tennis and pickleball courts

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replace sidewalk connection from street, add signage directing accessible route to trail location.
- Remove or resurface basketball court and develop into usable recreation or spectator area.

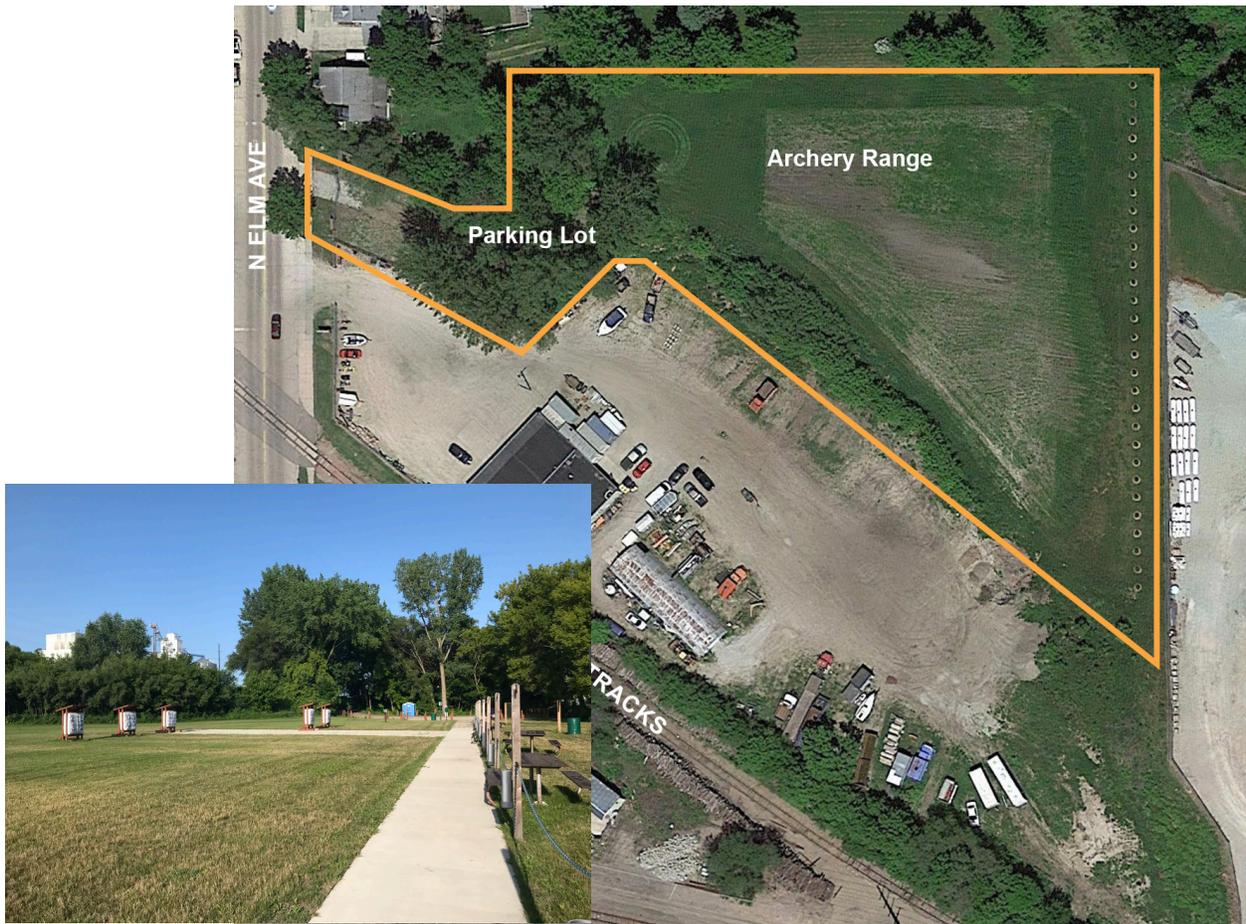


Steep entry from the street.



Existing surfacing outside fence is in poor condition.

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ARCHERY PARK

LOCATION	1711 North Elm Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	2.40 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Special Use Park
DESCRIPTION	Small park with an archery range and small parking lot built in 2017.
PARK AMENITIES	New archery range, portable restrooms, seating.

PARK ASSESSMENT

This is a newer park built in 2017. It includes an outdoor archery range and picnic tables. The park is closed during winter months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to promote new park through city social media channels and throughout the community.
- Consider adding a shade structure or open air shelter to this park.



BROOKTREE GOLF COURSE

LOCATION	1369 Cherry Street, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	126.42 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Special Use Park
DESCRIPTION	The golf course meanders through residential neighborhoods and along Maple Creek.
PARK AMENITIES	18-hole public golf course with paved cart trails, and a clubhouse with concessions and restrooms.



Clubhouse and parking lot

PARK ASSESSMENT

Public golf course with mature trees and beautiful character. Maple Creek winds throughout the course. The golf course and clubhouse were closed when the park was evaluated in November as there was snow on the course.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider using clubhouse during winter months for events and cross country ski rentals.
- Update parking lot to meet accessibility standards when surfacing is redone in the future.
- Stabilize banks of Maple Creek to address erosion issues.
- Replace one pedestrian bridge from parking lot.



View of clubhouse patio and maintenance shed.



LAKE CHASE PARK

LOCATION	1915 State Avenue NW, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	14.59 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Special Use Park
DESCRIPTION	Dog park and open space surrounding Lake Chase close to I-35.
PARK AMENITIES	Two fenced in dog park areas with obstacles, small picnic area, and fishing pier.

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

A fenced-in dog park with agility equipment along Lake Chase. There is a fishing pier which was recently damaged at the time of the park visit in late fall 2018. Portions of the park were also flooded. Freeway noise was prominent at this park. The existing parking lot is gravel and some vehicles were parked in a way that blocked a portion of the entrance to the fenced in dog park.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The park has open lawn, mature trees, and Lake Chase. Lake Chase is a small spring fed lake. It is popular for fishing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider acquiring adjacent property to expand this park. This specific area of the city does not have access to close recreational amenities.
- Improve the existing parking lot with pavement and to meet current accessibility standards. Provide a buffer from the parking lot to the rest of the park development specifically the dog park fence. Improve circulation by designing trails to each amenity within the park.
- Restore the shoreline around Lake Chase with native shoreline species to reduce flooding and deter geese.
- Provide accessible route to the fishing pier and update park to current accessibility standards (parking stalls, tables, portable restrooms)
- Connect the park to the City's trail system from the east side. Provide a safe railroad crossing to the North Straight River Parkway paved trail.
- Stock Lake Chase and continue to provide opportunities for shoreline fishing.
- Plant a buffer along State Avenue to reduce freeway noise.



At time of site evaluation, the fishing pier had been damaged due to flooding of Lake Chase.



Entrance to fenced in dog park.



Picnic area and portable restrooms.



RIVER SPRINGS WATER PARK

LOCATION	3065 St. Paul Road, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	9.97 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Special Use Park
DESCRIPTION	Seasonal community water park with a concessions building and parking lot.
PARK AMENITIES	Outdoor water park, concessions building.

PARK ASSESSMENT

Community water park located on edge of city limits in open area surrounded by large berm. It is connected to the neighborhood by trails. Property has a large open space with a tall planted berm. The water park is fenced. The park is vacant during fall and winter months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider purchasing adjacent property for this park to accommodate an outdoor hockey rink, skating loop or develop a sledding hill during winter months. When water park is not in use, this park could become a winter park destination. With the existing parking lot in place, the concessions building could be used as a warming house during winter months.
- Continue to maintain and/or replace aging water park equipment on an ongoing basis.
- Provide an accessible route from trails and sidewalks to entrance and amenities at this park.



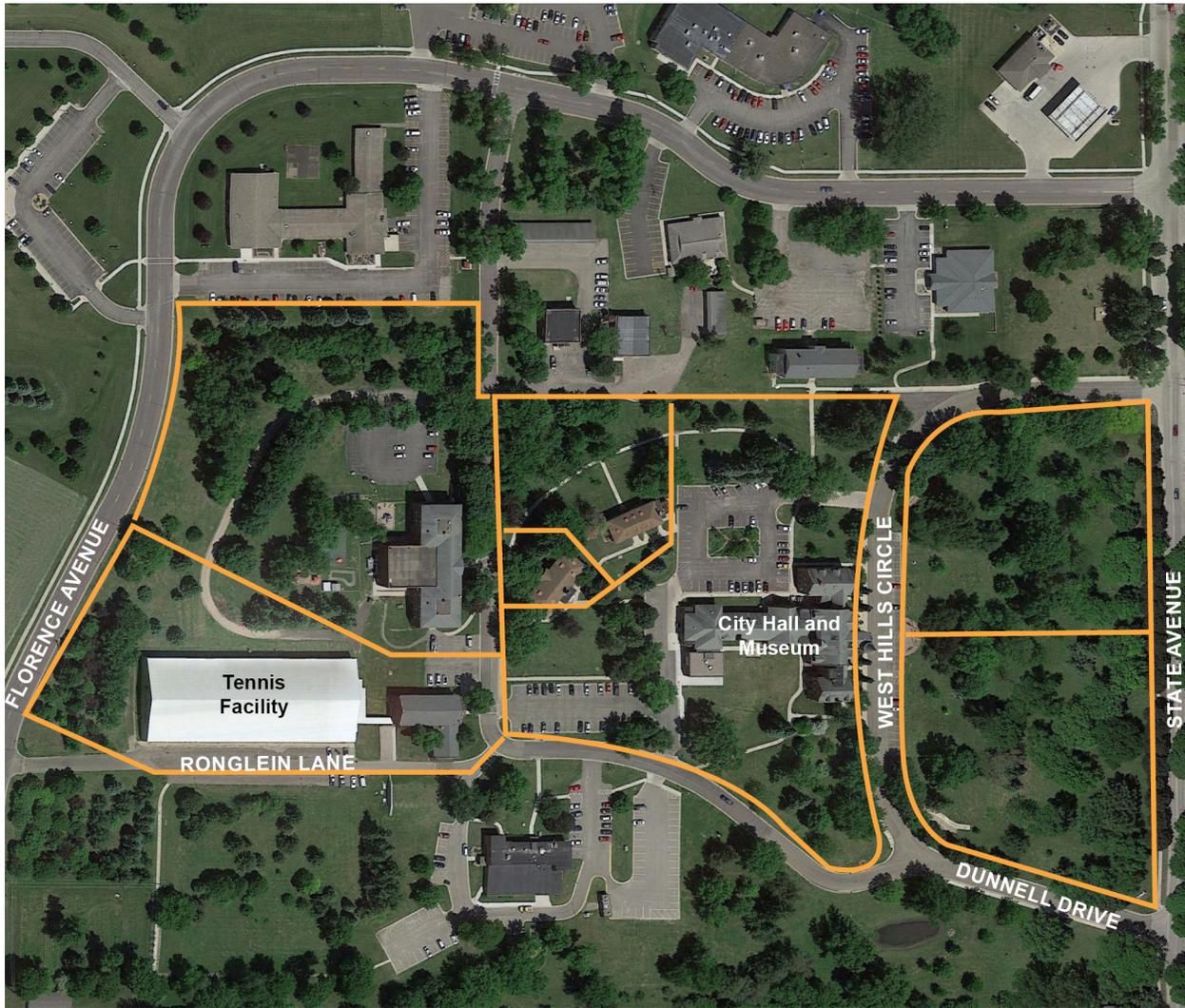
Accessible route terminates at parking lot.



Bike racks at entrance to water park.



Fenced-in water park during off-season.



WEST HILLS PARK

LOCATION	501 Dunnell Drive West, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	38.75 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Special Use Park
DESCRIPTION	Historic, civic property that includes City Hall, city offices, West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center, the Owatonna Arts Center along with a historic walking tour including public art sculpture.
PARK AMENITIES	Indoor Tennis and Fitness Center includes a pool, gym, track, weight room, sauna, cardio room and six indoor tennis courts. The property includes a few outdoor seating areas, art sculptures, interpretive walk, and a small plaza at City Hall.

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

A historic property that includes City Hall, the West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center, the Owatonna Arts Center and the West Hills Social Commons (former senior center).

The property is listed on the historic registrar and the site of the Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum. There is a self-guided audio tour throughout the grounds.

Some of the sidewalks are in need of repair and some interpretive signs were difficult to read due to fading and age.

NATURAL RESOURCES

A beautiful, well-maintained landscape with mature hardwood trees and rolling lawn.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- As indoor recreation is at a premium in Owatonna, it is recommended to conduct an in-depth architectural study of the existing buildings on campus including the West Hills Fitness Center for efficiency and programming use.
- Continue to maintain and promote property as a historic and recreation destination. Update interpretive signage and repair seating areas.
- Continue to use the civic open space for park and recreation programming and/or outdoor events as the park is located close to the denser residential neighborhoods who do not have walking access to large open spaces.



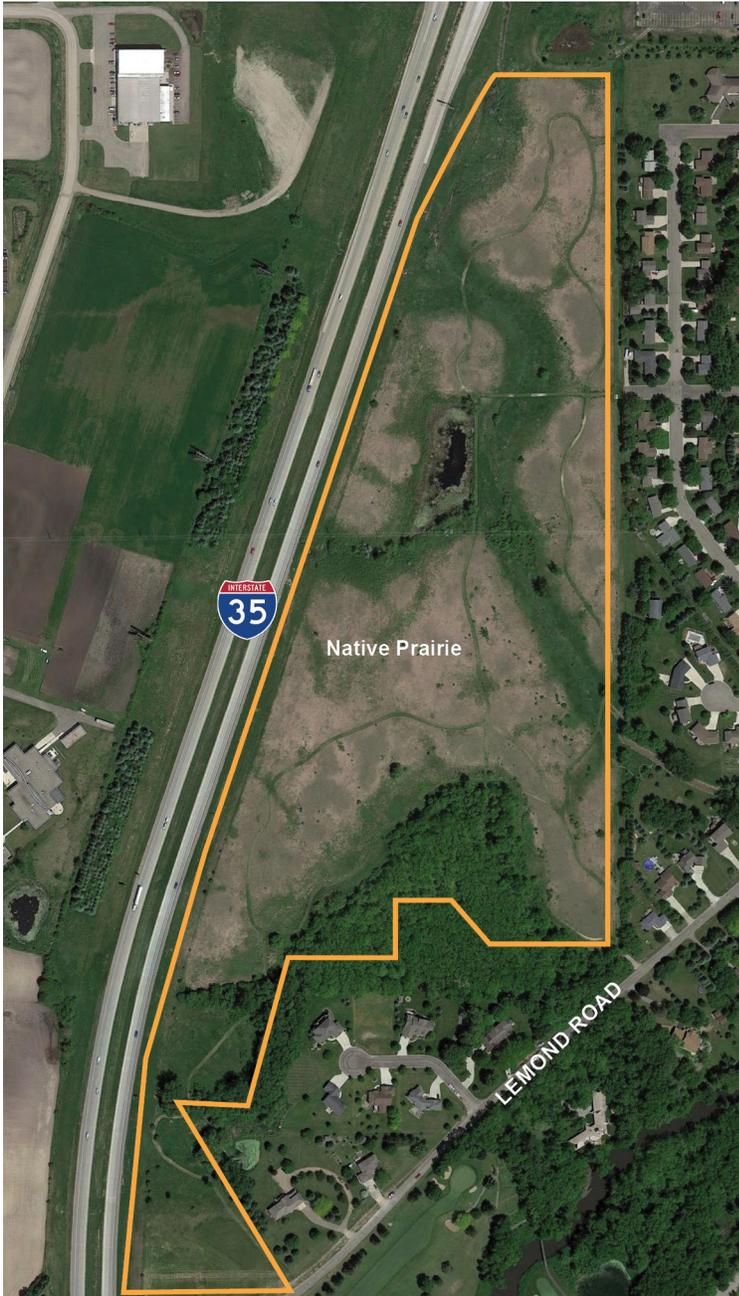
View of City Hall



Interpretive walking tour signage.



Entrance to West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center.



NATURE PRESERVE

Nature preserves are typically land set aside for preservation of natural resources. Properties could include remnant landscapes, open space, visual aesthetics, and buffering from built environments. It provides opportunities for passive recreation that does not interfere with the natural resources of the site.

Complementary park amenities include passive use such as nature trails, birding, overlooks, environmental education, and interpretive programs.

Owatonna has one nature preserve, the Leo Rudolph Nature Reserve.

LEO RUDOLPH NATURE RESERVE

LOCATION	855 Young Drive, Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	58.09 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Nature Preserve
DESCRIPTION	Large, prairie restoration area along I-35. Park has native prairie grasses and wildflowers with rolling hills and a few mature trees.
PARK AMENITIES	Mowed trails and limited seating.

PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The park has rolling hills adjacent to I-35. There are seasonal mowed trails (approximately 1.5 mile loop) and one small picnic area at the entrance. The park is difficult to find with no clearly marked entrance and there is no off-street parking. The park does not connect to any sidewalks within the neighborhood or trail system.

NATURAL RESOURCES

A large nature preserve with restored prairie species and mature oak trees. The prairie was recently burned when the site was visited and evaluated in late fall.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider purchasing adjacent property to develop a small parking lot and entrance to the park for visitors. Develop park amenities with public input. Consider a clear public access and small parking area for the park. Add seating along trails, trail wayfinding and interpretive signage.
- Connect this park to the north-south trail system at and along Lemond Road.
- Continue to maintain and educate the community about prairie restoration.
- Include interpretive signs about plant species (pollinators) at the entrance or along the mowed trail route.
- Plant a native tree buffer close to freeway corridor to reduce noise levels in the park.



View south from the entry after a recent prairie burn.



Entry signage



Leo Rudolph plaque

UNDEVELOPED PARK LAND

Owatonna has a number of parks which are undeveloped with active recreation, access, or parking for users. Usable, undeveloped parkland can be converted to active or passive recreation. We recommend the following changes to the park system below:

TRANSITIONING PARK LAND INTO OPEN SPACE

There are two parks in the system that are undeveloped which could be transitioned completely to natural open space. The parks have no parking and the size, location, and landforms do not lend themselves to active park spaces at this time. These include Summer Park and Hazel Park. Hazel Park was not visited for assessment due to access from private property at time of site evaluations.

HAZEL PARK AND SUMMER PARK

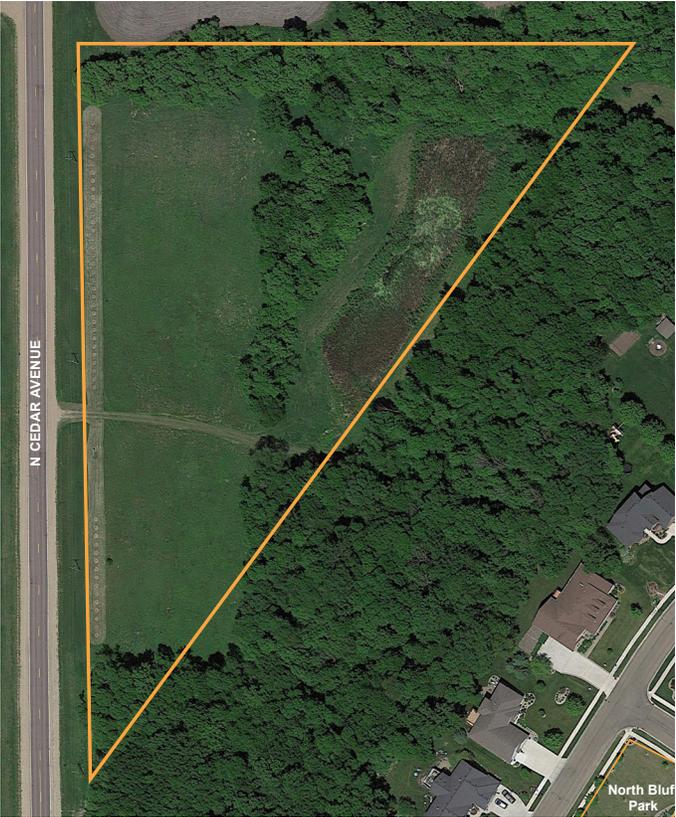
- Transition portions of these parks to natural open space in order to reduce maintenance time and costs as well as provide native pollinator-friendly plant species along with native woodland species.
- Complementary amenities could include a small picnic area or trail amenities (if connected to system).
- Connect City trail system to these parks.



Existing picnic tables and mowed lawn at Summer Park.

RECREATION FOR UNDEVELOPED PROPERTIES

Other parks in the system has significant natural resources (woods and waterways) and could be developed for passive recreation. These parks include: Hammann, Falkland Meadow, Kriesel's Woods, and Kriesel Park.



SUMMER PARK

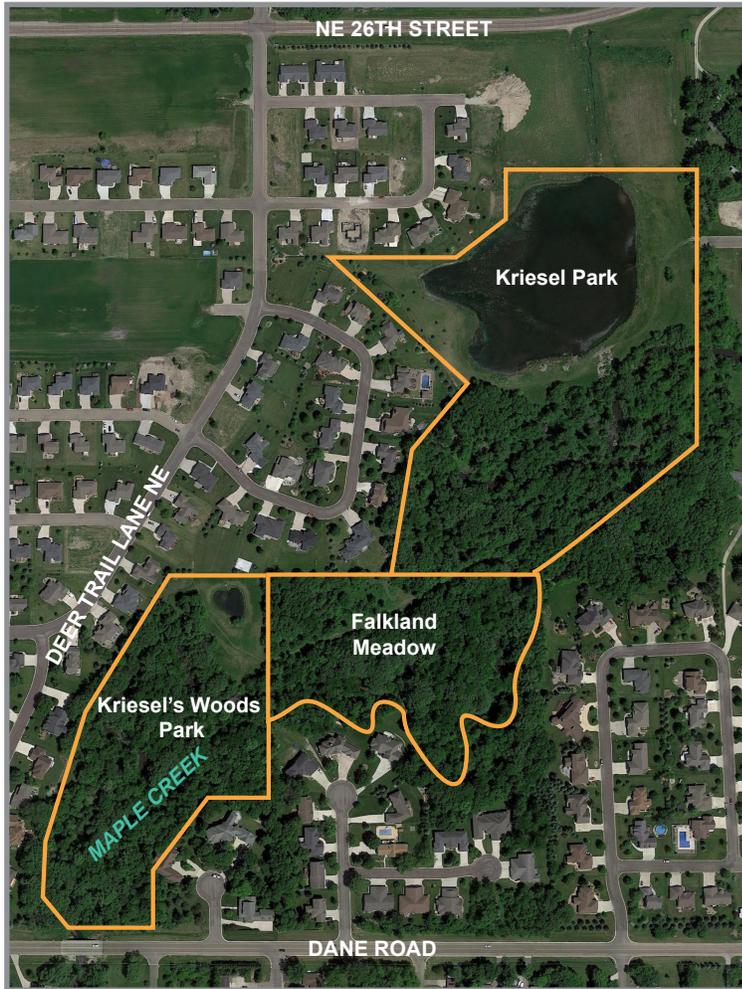
PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

This large open space includes a stormwater pond at Kriesel Park along with prairie areas. The park land is heavily wooded along Maple Creek. There is no off-street parking and no clear access or entrance into the park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

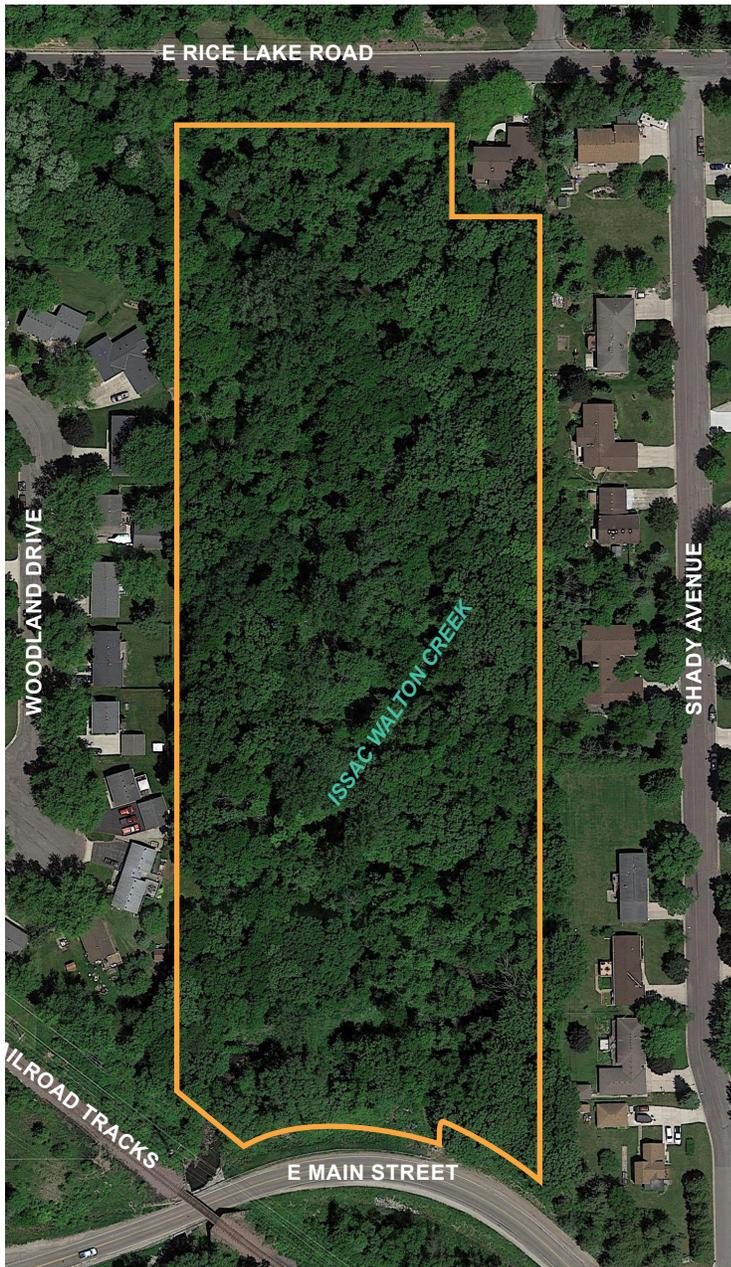
- Design combined park properties to include paved trails and complementary passive recreation (seating). Specifically, the trail should run from Mineral Springs Park to Dane Road and north through each property.
- Define an entrance into the park for wayfinding.
- Develop active recreation on usable land at Kriesel Park such as multi-purpose open space, a play area geared toward nature play, and other recreation such as tennis courts, pickleball courts, or basketball court. These amenities could serve surrounding neighborhoods which are lacking in parks (see Park Gap map).



FALKLAND MEADOW, KRIESEL'S WOODS & KRIESEL PARK

LOCATION	1225 Rice Lake St., Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	37.08 combined acres of three properties
CLASSIFICATION	Undeveloped
DESCRIPTION	Large, wooded, undeveloped open space along Maple Creek behind residential neighborhoods.
PARK AMENITIES	None

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PARK ASSESSMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The park is heavily wooded along Issac Walton Creek. The trails, developed a while ago, were hard to find and/or washed out in areas. Site does not have any off-street parking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop and repair natural trails (wood chip surfacing) through property to connect to park and trail system.
- Develop trail wayfinding system or signage for visitors to the park.
- Complementary amenities could include seating along trail and interpretive signs.
- Plan for acquisition or partnership with landowners for donation of land along the Isaac Walton Creek to the south. Connect both areas of open space through trail development.

HAMMANN PARK

LOCATION	1225 Rice Lake St., Owatonna, MN 55060
SIZE	10.5 acres
CLASSIFICATION	Undeveloped
DESCRIPTION	Large, wooded, undeveloped open space along Isaac Walton Creek behind residential neighborhoods.
PARK AMENITIES	Wood chip trails (most were washed out)

FUTURE PARK LAND AND TRAIL CORRIDORS

As Owatonna continues to develop, future park land will be needed to meet the recreational needs of the growing community. Priority should be given to acquire lands with significant natural resources including one of the many waterways and mature growth forests.

TRAIL CORRIDORS

Trail connections outside the city limits (and within) are a high priority and popular with residents of Owatonna. Future trail corridors should follow the planned State Trail corridors to the north, south, and northeast along the Straight River and Maple Creek.

Search Criteria for Trail Corridors

- Search for property along the City's natural greenway corridors along the Straight River, Maple Creek, and Izaak Walton Creek.
- Continue search along existing railroad corridors not in use, minimize railroad, waterway, and street crossings along trail.
- Trail search areas should be based upon the State Trail Corridor search area and guidelines (Refer to the Trail System Plan for more information). Consider locations for trailheads with enough land for parking for trail users.

COMMUNITY ATHLETIC COMPLEX

This type of park may be required depending upon the growth of Owatonna and its sports programs. It is assumed that the new high school will include athletic fields which would address this need presently. A future community athletic complex could serve to hold tournaments to increase recreational tourism to the community.

Search Criteria for Community Athletic Complex

- Search for property outside city limits that is flat without significant tree cover. Minimum size to be 60-100 acres (could be developed in phases). Location should be easily accessed by major collector roads or highways.



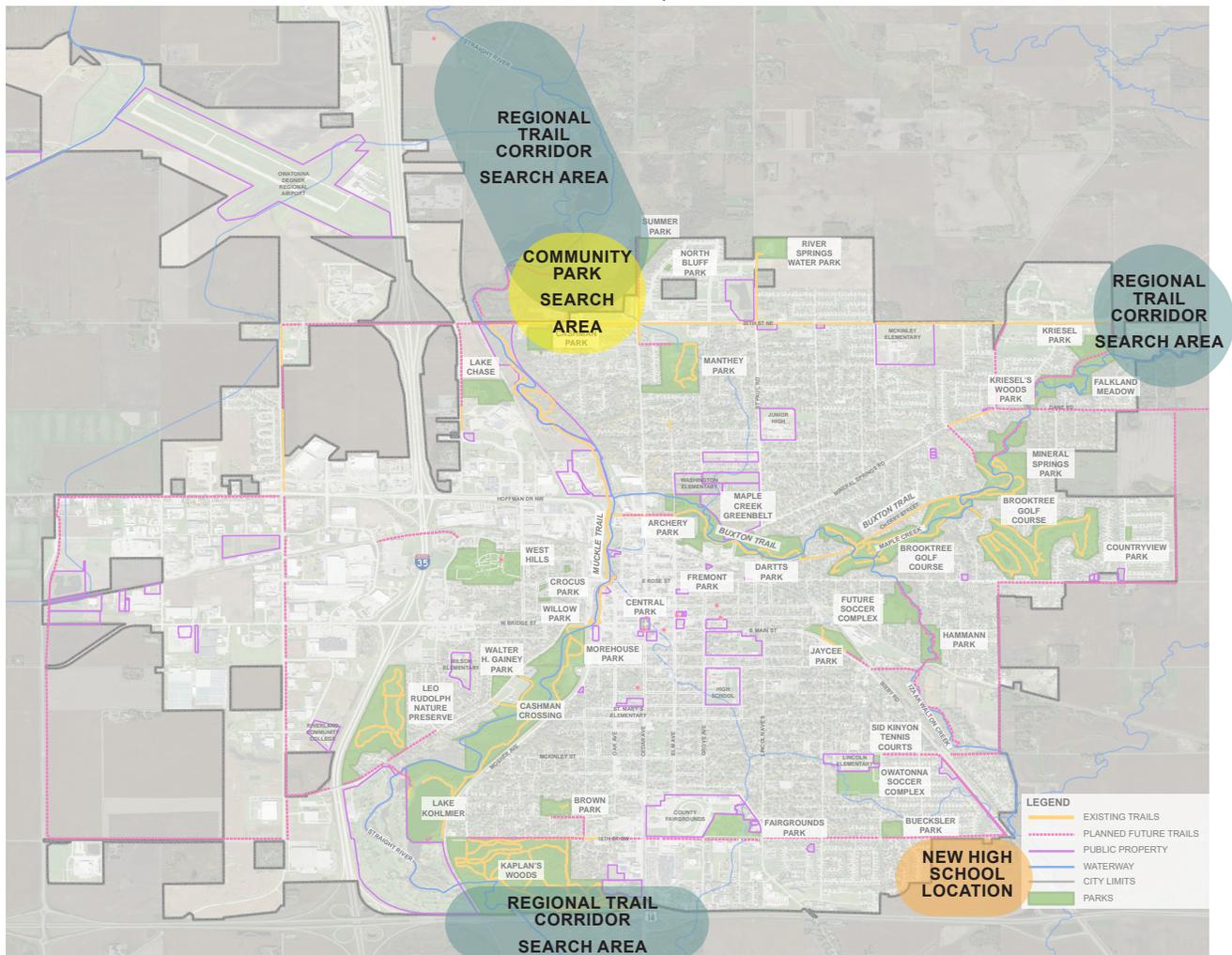
INDOOR ATHLETICS / MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATIONAL SPACE

A multi-purpose indoor athletic complex could also be considered to serve the athletic associations as winter activities are in demand and a desire of the community through the engagement process. The City should first review space and programming for current buildings owned by the City and explore through an architectural study whether these buildings can be reprogrammed. The current park land is not large enough or suitable for an indoor recreation complex (except for improvements to the West Hills campus).

Search Criteria for Indoor Recreational Space

- Land with space for building, parking, outdoor recreational space as well as future expansion areas. Minimum size to be 5-8 acres. Land should be developable and should not contain wetlands, natural drainage-ways, floodplains, or sensitive natural resources.

MAP 4.4: FUTURE PARK & TRAIL ACQUISITION SEARCH AREAS



COMMUNITY PARK

As the community population increases and recreational trends evolve, a future community park space should be acquired and set aside for future development. The gravel mining pit on the north side of the City would be an ideal location for a future community park once gravel operations are completed at a future date. This could serve as a large gateway park into the City and provide a unique destination for the region. Additional land may be required if gravel pit becomes a lake/water feature.

Search Criteria for Community Parks

- Open space with natural resources including streams, rivers and lakes.
- Minimum acreage to be 20 acres with the majority of land suitable for active recreation.
- Developable land - majority of the park to be used for active recreation (such as fields, courts, and play) and should not be located within floodplains, wetlands, bluffs, or natural drainage-ways. Portions of the park shall be flat to eliminate earthwork disturbance during development.
- Park should focus on water recreation opportunities (fishing, canoeing, kayaking), unique recreation and programming not offered within neighborhood parks, space for a large shelter or pavilion for event rentals, and winter recreation opportunities such as skating rink or loop, hockey, and/or cross country skiing/skiing.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Environmental constraints, a big picture review, was completed along current park and trail corridors. Natural resources such as general habitat, erodible areas, floodplains, DNR public waters, wetlands, and habitats of species of special concern were noted. Refer to the Overall Natural Resources Map.

HYDROLOGY

There are two DNR (Department of Natural Resources) public waterways within Owatonna, the Straight River and Maple Creek. The current trail system follows along these two waterbodies and any impacts to them or new bridge crossings would require DNR permits and approval. There are also dams at Mineral Springs Park, Morehouse Park and Dartts Park which limit the recreation potential on these rivers or requires portages along the route. Along with these two streams, Lake Kohlmier is also a DNR Public Water which would be subject to DNR permitting rules. Portions of the Straight River (north of Maple Creek confluence) and Maple Creek to the east are considered impaired streams by the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency). This means that the waters have failed to meet one or more of the water quality standards.



Straight River



Example of shoreline restoration

FLOODPLAINS

The 100 year and 500 year floodplains within the City of Owatonna tend to the Straight River and Maple Creek. A large portion of the existing trail network along with some of the park areas fall within the 100-year floodplains. Park land with frequent flooding causes long term maintenance issues and is not sustainable. Repairs due to flooding are costly and involves significant staff time dealing with funding and reimbursement from FEMA.

WETLANDS

Wetlands are a natural water filter and flood buffer between sensitive natural areas. The National Wetland Inventory show wetlands throughout many of the city park areas. Wetlands are protected under the Wetland Conservation Act. Any impacts to wetlands will need to be permitted and mitigated.

SOILS AND POTENTIAL POLLUTION/CONTAMINANTS

The soils within Owatonna do not appear to be a limiting factor based upon the web soil survey. The soils are not highly erodible or potentially erodible. It is evident that based on changing river and creek flow patterns, banks are eroding in park and trail properties. The (MPCA) website application mapping service called “What’s in my Neighborhood” shows Petroleum leak site and

hazardous waste sites in and around some of the existing parks. These areas include, but are not limited to West Hills, Central Park, Morehouse Park, and Jaycee Park.

POLLINATOR CITY

Owatonna is a pollinator friendly city which means a city council resolution passed to increase flowering habitat, to stop or limit pesticide use, including systemic pollinator lethal insecticides, and overall, promote a healthy environment for bees and other pollinators. This year, Owatonna's high school agricultural science program received a small grant from the Sand County Foundation/Enel Green Power North America to grow native seedlings and transplant them in the spring.



Black Eyed Susan



Butterfly Milkweed

NATIVE SEED MIXES AND SPECIES

State seed mixes have combined MnDOT and BWSR (Board of Soil & Water Resources) recommended species for restoration. Local native seed vendors can supply these mixes and they can also be modified to include more or less of a specific species. For example, the amount of forbs (wildflowers) could be increased to provide more blooming plants in the prairie. Below are examples of seed mixes:

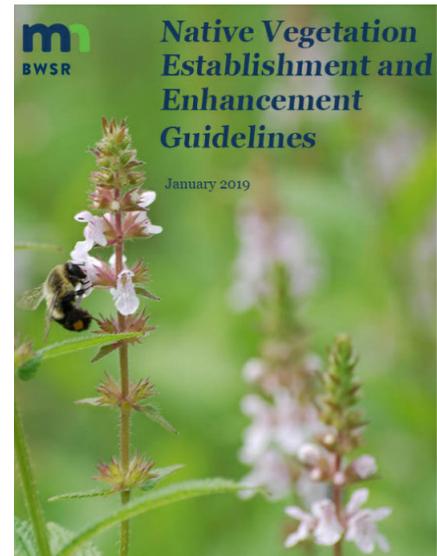
- Minnesota State Seed Mix 35-621 - Dry Prairie Southeast: used for regional dry prairie reconstruction, upland sites and includes native grasses such as bluestem, prairie dropseed and june grass as well as wildflowers such as butterfly milkweed, rough blazing star and silky aster.
- Minnesota State Seed Mix 35-641 - Mesic Prairie Southeast: used for regional mesic prairie reconstruction and includes native grasses such as switchgrass, indian grass as well as wildflowers such as stiff goldenrod, blue vervain and golden alexanders.
- Pollinator Plot Southeast: This is BWSR pilot mix that is being tested and studied. It is to be used for pollinator habitat and conservation plantings at least a few acres in size.
- Pollinator Plot Urban Southeast: This is BWSR pilot mix that is being tested and studied. It is to be used for pollinator habitat establishment in more urban areas.

MAINTENANCE OF PRAIRIES

Establishing native plant prairies involves planning, resources and annual maintenance. Though weekly mowing is not needed, there is still ongoing maintenance associated with prairie landscapes to ensure a successful restoration. It is recommended while planning a prairie restoration to establish a monthly schedule for maintenance.

Typical maintenance could include:

- Mowing or cutting - two times per season
- Hand weeding and hand pulling - to help control small populations of invasive species (this could be an opportunity for volunteer project)
- Burning - every three to five years, depending upon size of prairie
- Spot treatment of weeds - ongoing
- Insect biological control - depending on if infestation occurs and to what extent



Recent 2019 BWSR guidelines for establishing native vegetation is available online

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) show the following list of species that were identified within 1 mile of city limits. All species have been documented within the last 20 years (1998-2018). Note that the mussel species (Black sandshell, Creek Heelsplitter, Ellipose, Fluted-shell, Mucket, and Spike) are located within the straight River. There is a known mussel concentration at the north end of Morehouse Park/Kaplan's Woods Parkway.

- Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)* – Special Concern
- Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*)* – State Watchlist
- Cowbane (*Oxypolis rigidior*) – State Watchlist
- Creek Heelsplitter (*Lasmigona compressa*)* – Special Concern
- Davis' Sedge (*Carex davisii*)* - Threatened
- Dwarf Trout Lily (*Erthronium propullans*) - Endangered
- Edible Valerian (*Valeriana edulis* var. *ciliata*) - Threatened
- Ellipse (*Venustaconcha ellipsiformis*)* - Threatened
- Fluted-shell (*Lasmigona costata*)* - Threatened
- Green Dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*)* – Special Concern
- Mucket (*Actinanaias ligamentia*) - Threatened
- Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) – Special Concern
- Small White Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) – Special Concern
- Spike (*Elliptio dialata*)* - Threatened
- Sullivant's Milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*) - Threatened
- Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*)* – Threatened

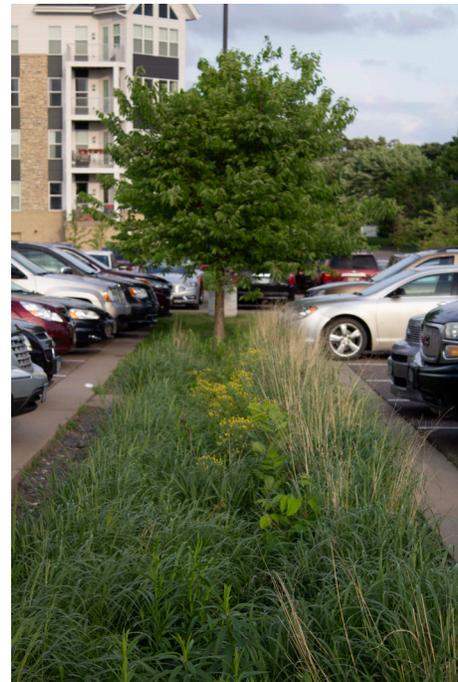


Endangered - Dwarf Trout Lily

*species documented within city park boundary or adjacent to an existing trail

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Shoreline Buffers:** Establish shoreline buffers where active recreation does not exist along waterways and lakes. This will help fix existing erosion issues along the Straight River, Maple Creek, and flooding/washout at Lake Kohlmier and Lake Chase. This will also help to protect existing waterways from pollution and invasive species.
- **Native Plantings:** Incorporate native plantings to areas within park and trail corridors that are not frequently used for recreation. This will benefit pollinators which aligns with the recent “Pollinator Friendly City” designation. It will also reduce the need for mowing, maintenance costs, and chemical applications within open space. The City should strive to incorporate native plant species within its parks, trail corridors and restoration areas as a way to increase pollinators in the city and reduce the use of pesticides. Portions of undeveloped parks could transition to native forbs and grasses as a way to reduce mowing and promote pollinators.
- **Wetland Protection:** Maintain wetland buffers (50 feet minimum) when developing new park facilities near existing wetlands
- **Floodplains:** Develop only passive recreation activities (trails, etc) in floodplains, drainage-ways, or areas prone with seasonal flooding. Consider trail detour routes during spring flooding for safety of trail users. Move existing amenities prone to flooding outside of the floodway (such as the softball field at Morehouse Park and courts at Darts Park).
- **Threatened or Endangered Species:** Protect existing threatened species within Owatonna by limiting park and trail development in areas where species are found and restoring these areas to its natural habitat.
- **Sustainability:** When developing new hard surfaces, such as trails or parking lots, consider ways to filter the stormwater runoff before it runs into the water resources. Redesign the parking lots at Minerals Springs to filter stormwater runoff prior to flowing into Maple Creek.
- **Nature Play Area:** Recreation that enhances and promotes the City’s natural resources. Incorporate areas of the park for residents to explore nature (such as interpretive nature trails) and play areas for children to use elements from the natural world to build, problem solve, and gain an appreciation for the natural world.

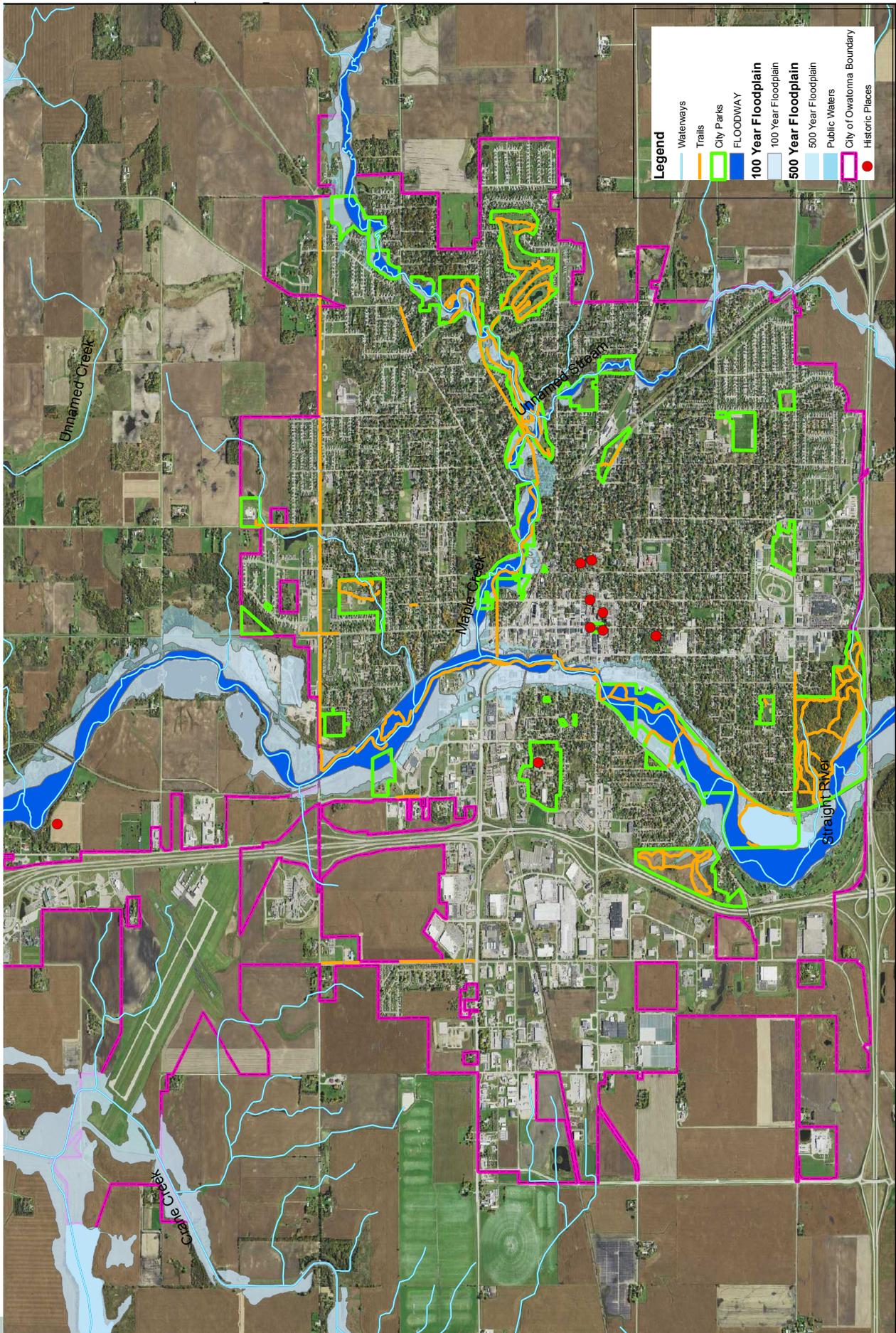


Example of stormwater runoff captured within a parking lot using plantings.



An example of a nature play area.

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MAP 4.5: EXISTING NATURAL RESOURCES

OUTDOOR RECREATION TOURISM

OVERVIEW

Recreation tourism is tourism that is dependent on outdoor recreation opportunities. It can also encompass adventure tourism (challenging physical or recreational elements or considered “far-away”) and nature-based tourism (which is dependent on the natural environment). Outdoor recreation tourism could be trail-based, a specific park feature or destination playground, water-based, or athletics.

There is a known economic benefit to the community when outdoor areas serve as tourist destinations. Preserving, improving, and continuous evaluations of these places are critical to maintain service and reputation of the destinations. It is important to incorporate equitable access to outdoor recreation opportunities for Owatonna’s residents and tourists alike.

CURRENT DESTINATIONS

Currently, Owatonna has a number of areas which serve as destinations for outdoor recreation. They are as follows:

- Mountain biking trails at Kaplan’s Woods Park
- Kaplan’s Woods Parkway trail corridor
- Mineral Springs Park (historic fountain and parkland)
- River Springs Water Park
- Trails along the Straight River
- Baseball field at Dartts Park
- West Hills Campus (historic)
- Downtown Owatonna and Central Park (historic)
- Rice Lake State Park (outside City approximately 10 miles)

70%
OF MINNESOTA
RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE
IN OUTDOOR RECREATION
EACH YEAR

Communities across Minnesota recognize that outdoor recreation supports, contributes to a high quality of life and—perhaps most importantly—attracts and sustains employers and families. Investing in outdoor infrastructure attracts employers and active workforces, ensuring those communities thrive economically and socially.



More jobs in Minnesota **DEPEND ON OUTDOOR RECREATION** (140,000) than on hospitals and health systems (121,000)¹



Minnesota residents are more likely to **PARTICIPATE IN CRUISING/ SIGHTSEEING BY BOAT AND FISHING** than the average American



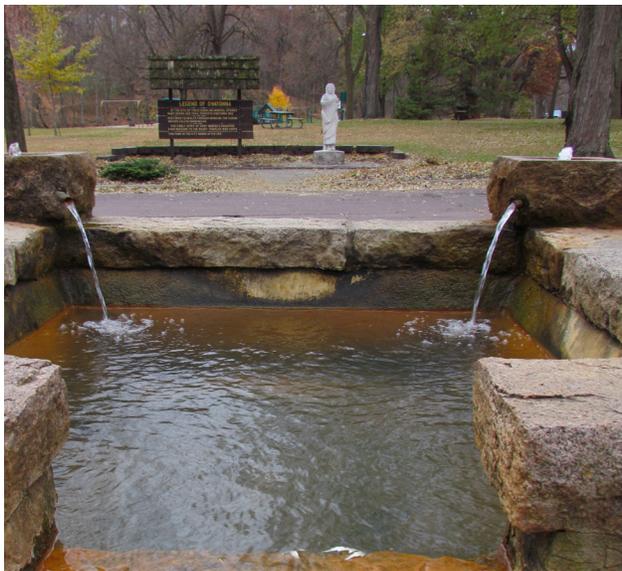
IN MINNESOTA OUTDOOR RECREATION GENERATES:

<p>\$16.7 BILLION IN CONSUMER SPENDING ANNUALLY</p> 	<p>140,000 DIRECT JOBS</p> 
<p>\$4.5 BILLION IN WAGES AND SALARIES</p>	<p>\$1.4 BILLION IN STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVENUE</p>

*Minnesota’s statistics for outdoor recreation economy.
Source: Outdoor Industry Assoc, MN State Recreation Report*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING RECREATION TOURISM

- Continue with future planned development of the Miracle Field and the All-Inclusive Playground at Manthey Park. It will be important to incorporate enough parking for the destination playground and field at time of development to have capacity for events, tournaments, and multiple games on other fields at the park. Refer to Manthey Park Concept Plan.
- Develop Kaplan's Woods into the premier regional park destination and incorporate both adventure-based (mountain biking) and nature-based (hiking, canoeing, play, or interpretive centers) recreation within the park limits.
- Develop a future community athletic complex with multi-purpose fields along with baseball and softball fields (based upon athletic needs at time of development and future growth of the programs) outside of the current city limits to host tournaments, games, and league play.
- Connect trails along parkland and develop a trail loop around the city. Incorporate supporting facilities for tourists such as trailheads, map kiosk, and destinations along the trails (restaurants, breweries, scenic overlooks, etc).
- Continue to partner with recreation organizations (athletics, trails, recreation) and be informed of changes in participation and recreation trends. There are opportunities to showcase what Owatonna has to offer within it's parks and trails corridors.
- Maintain and/or develop partnerships with the local Chamber of Commerce, local businesses related to outdoor recreation (such as Cabela's), and the Mayo Clinic to develop regional events.
- Incorporate recreation with other tourist destinations in Owatonna including a route to historic sites in the City (such as the downtown) from City's biking trails.
- Create programming, marketing and annual outdoor recreation events that have a regional draw and/or tournaments, races, and charity runs. Develop these events with regional recreation associations.
- Continue to offer canoe/kayak and water recreation rentals at Lake Kohlmier beach area.
- Develop regional trails with trailhead facilities (for parking and equipment rentals).



Mineral Springs' historic drinking fountain



Canoeing and kayaking are popular destination activities.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

With the implementation of a parks and trails system master plan comes expanded responsibilities of the City to operate and maintain the facilities to a high service level. The expectation of the community will be that the system will continue to operate along with implementation of necessary improvements. Although the City’s operation and maintenance budget will likely grow to some degree, it may not be as much as one might envision. Since the land area for parks currently remains relatively the same, the overall acreage that needs maintenance will not change dramatically. However, adding amenities will increase maintenance and should be accounted for when budgeting. For example, a typical park has a life-cycle of 15 to 20 years. Preparing for this now will ensure that the City is aware of future costs when new parks are developed.

PARK MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The purpose of the Park Maintenance and Sustainability Plan is to define the needed activities of the park maintenance section for maintaining high quality parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation sites. It is recommended to ensure a high quality and adequately managed park and trail system.

RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC ACTIONS

1. Develop a Maintenance Manual that includes:

- Specific standards i.e. grass mowing heights, schedule of mowing, athletic field preparation, any indoor facility services etc.
- Maintenance schedules, routine practices, and procedures.
- List labor requirements per activity or site including seasonal and contracted services.
- Develop a budget for each standard including labor and materials.
- Include a description of any unfunded operations or maintenance concerns and projected costs to address them.
- Detail safety and accessibility checks: This includes inspecting play equipment twice annually to ensure safety standards are being met. City currently has two Certified Playground Safety Inspectors (CPSI) on staff. Inspect safety surfaces and heights from equipment as well. It also includes viewing trails and facilities once per week during ongoing maintenance and using evaluation forms with signoffs to prevent any safety hazards.

GOALS OF THE PARK MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN:

- Create quality maintenance standards
- Provide appropriate training for staff
- Ensure safety procedures are in place
- Install budget planning and tracking process (past, present, future)
- Evaluate department procedures
- Create and maintain a sustainability program



2. Use a Supervisor’s Evaluation Sheet at least every two weeks.

3. Adopt a Parks and Facilities Asset Management System

By establishing an asset management system to track lifespan and maintenance of capital expenditures and facilities, the City should be able to more accurately predict future costs. It is recommended to:

- Establish an accurate inventory of major park assets and improvements (amenities and features valued at greater than \$5,000 and having an ordinary useful life of 10 years or more) maintained by the City’s Parks and Recreation Department. This should include equipment, courts, netting, fencing, buildings, benches, grills, bleachers, etc.
- Identify the current condition of park assets meeting the above criteria.
- Identify benchmarks for industry accepted cyclical maintenance needs proven to maximize the useful life of assets.
- Provide criteria to prioritize needs for renovation or replacement of assets.
- Provide cost estimates for asset management program operating and capital budgeting processes.
- Forecast budget needs to address identified renovation and replacement needs over a five year period.
- Establish procedures to update the Parks and Facilities Asset Management System Plan over time.

NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Establishing a yearly budget for natural resource stewardship is recommended to start a natural resource program more pro-actively in the City. The goal is to get the program established in a limited, controlled, and affordable manner. To this end, the initial focus should be on protecting the natural areas that are most in need. Specifically, managing mature trees within parks and restoring shoreline of meandering rivers, creeks, and lakes in Owatonna.

FUNDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Developing an assets management program (including future cost projections for new developments) should help the City identify opportunities to reduce costs. For example, if a park or facility is aging and in need of constant repair and attention, it may be more cost effective to replace it with a new design which will require less day-to-day upkeep and staff time. Although outside sources of information can be helpful, projecting costs of maintenance and operations relies most heavily on past experiences within the city.

Funding park and trail maintenance is a local government responsibility. However, grants for local governments can assist with local funding. These grants are often limited, very competitive, and can vary from year to year. The City will have to rely on local funds to maintain its current and future park and trail system. Having a good maintenance and operations plan can aid to securing the funds necessary to ongoing maintenance. Partnerships with local organizations and the school district can benefit both the city’s funding sources and the community’s expectations and “ownership” of the parks and trail system.

SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Parks and trails are public spaces that are not confined to a single space, such as a building. Based on community feedback, there are parks and trails in Owatonna that feel or are perceived as unsafe. Best practices for design of public spaces could include guiding principles from Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), which are ever-evolving. When designing or redesigning parks, it is important to identify each one of these principles and rely on the expertise of a design professional when making significant improvements. Any design or redesign of a park should also include a focus on community involvement

CPTED FOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Natural Surveillance
- Natural Access Control
- Territorial Reinforcement
- Management and Maintenance

NATURAL SURVEILLANCE: This includes ways to ensure that parks and trails are easily seen by the public, by park users and by police or patrols in order to discourage crime. Strategies to increase natural surveillance could include:

- **Increase Patrols at Parks:** Utilizing police, park staff or community organizers (a neighborhood patrol). Persons involved with patrol duty should be trained to deal with emergency situations. The city could make it a priority to keep public spaces patrolled or under observation.
- **Planning & Design:** When designing or redesigning parks, consider sight lines through the space. Add trail loops, which move users through the property and therefore more eyes on the park. There should be multiple entries and exits with no dead ends. Try to eliminate concealed and isolated trails or places where people could become entrapped. Encourage a mix of adjacent land uses (housing, retail) to encourage activity around park at all times.
- **Physical Elements:** This could include emergency telephones, signage about surveillance, park hours and rules, and using wifi cameras in obvious locations. Signs should indicate park boundaries, locations of restrooms or unlit trails. Ensure signs are located at places where trails diverge. Improve and provide adequate lighting – in areas used for night, keep dark areas not intended so they are not perceived as safe.
- **Programming:** Play areas should be where surveillance is possible, a short walk from the parking lot but not directly adjacent to it. Design a flexible space is able to be programmed more frequently – add activity generators (coffee & food trucks, health programs or traveling libraries).

NATURAL ACCESS CONTROL: In order to promote and control where and how people use the park, including how they move within the spaces and along the trails.

- **Physical Elements:** Add physical elements and barriers to keep people out of certain unsafe areas such as steep river banks or utility equipment areas. This could also include limiting access to areas prone to graffiti.
- **Planning & Design:** Access control should not reduce movement through space or eliminate exits. Add physical barriers (walls, fences) and psychological barriers (boulders, change in pavement material, landscaping) to define spaces.

TERRITORIAL REINFORCEMENT: When the community feels ownership of the space, it can work together to keep an eye on the park, along with good relationships with park and recreation department staff and the police. The neighborhood and park users can then effectively let staff know about issues and any required maintenance.

- **Planning & Design:** Designing parks with well-designed spaces – landscaping, fencing with clear boundaries between private residences and public space
- **Programming:** Program and promote a mix of cultural and community gathering events at the park. These could include food trucks, community events, tournaments, races, family reunions, and fundraisers. If parks are well-used, they will feel safer.
- **Physical Elements:** Include wayfinding signage, trail routes (and connections), maps and park rules on signage at entry. Ask the neighborhood and community for input on park features, design or amenities to reinforce “ownership”.

MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT:

When public spaces are well-maintained and cared for, it is obvious to the community that it is a priority of city staff. It is more welcoming. If a park looks unwelcoming or unmaintained, less people will use the park and it can become isolated.

- **Planning & Design:** When designing or redesigning, make sure that maintenance and management are considered upfront. Materials and plantings that can be appropriately managed overtime. install graffiti coating on structures, walls; Use light colors on building for night time
- **Physical Elements:** Add signage for who to contact about issues or maintenance at the park. Remove litter, graffiti promptly, replace any deteriorating amenities and light bulbs. Maintain landscaping by trimming tree branches blocking lights or cutting back overgrown shrubs. Clean up trash regularly in a park space
- **Patrols:** City staff should check on each park on a weekly basis and encourage the community to inform the parks department of any issues that arise.

OVERALL STRATEGIES FOR SAFETY

- Focus on youth: Influence and get to know youth in the area, provide older youth programming and work programs to get involved with their community
- Train park staff and volunteers to respond and discourage unsafe activity within the park
- Ensure park behavior expectations are clear to all visitors and what will not be tolerated.
- Safety First! – Consider safety in all aspects at parks, close areas that are unsafe, communicate it clearly to the public on when it will be open, and if unknown, state that. Cancel programming if safety is a concern.
- Park staff should be visible at the park (clothing), positive and welcoming to the community.
- Establish park hours and communicate those hours (if changed) to the community through social media, city website and signage
- Maintain the park, equipment and landscaping.
- New parks and redesigned parks should be designed by a licensed professional (landscape architect, engineer) to meet all codes, standards and accessibility and to create an atmosphere that is welcoming and promotes community patrol-ability and visual access.
- Continue to monitor the park as well as audit the equipment for safety issues.
- Warn park visitors and staff of one-time, seasonal, and periodic hazards related to natural occurrences, environment, operating and maintenance practices, and property damage.
- Facilitate quick emergency response by installing distinguishable markers and building addresses that are recognized by 911.
- Ensure two staff members are present when park buildings are being programmed for events.
- Work with communities and other agencies (such as Steele County) to identify necessary safety improvements within parks.

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SECTION 5: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This section establishes a strategy and set of priorities for implementing the park and trail system plan. The plan for parks and trails presented in preceding sections defines implementation occurring within a long term 20-year plan and beyond for the development, operations, and maintenance of the park and trail facilities. The underlying strategy for implanting this plan is to undertake initiatives that will have the most impact for the community or address issues and gaps within the system. The action items listed below for trails and parks are listed in order of priority based upon city goals, preferences, feedback from the community and best planning practices.

DYNAMIC NATURE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

While every attempt has been made to thoughtfully select implementation priorities, the implementation strategy remains dynamic and established priorities are subject to change if:

- Needs of the community, recreational trends, and population demographics change.
- Actual benefits from park and trail improvements were different than anticipated and could have more or less benefit to the community and City of Owatonna.
- Funding availability and economic opportunities change.

The city is encouraged to routinely (e.g., yearly) assess the implementation plan and priorities to ensure that they remain in alignment with the community values and needs.



IMPLEMENTATION ACTION ITEMS

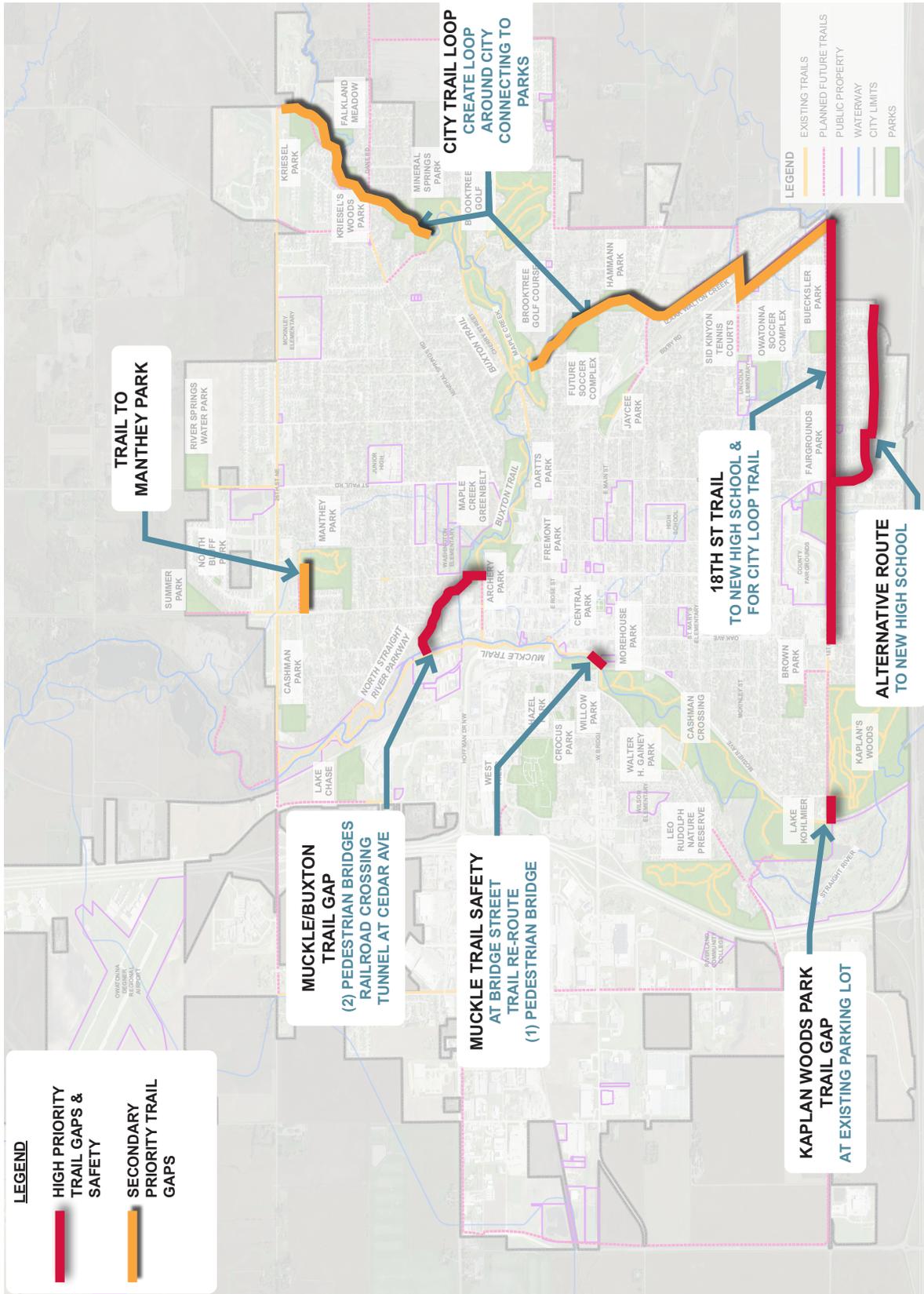
TRAILS

- **Action #1:** Acquire trail easements and property to connect the north/south & east/west greenway trail system (Buxton, Muckle & Straight River Parkway Trails). Develop a new trail connection through this area.
- **Action #2:** Due to safety issues, re-route the trail across a new pedestrian bridge to Walnut Street trail at Bridge Street. Eliminate the switchback in this area. Connect trail to either side of the Straight River.
- **Action #3:** Develop trail along 18th Street to new high school location, connecting Kaplan Wood's Parkway Trail to southeast Owatonna.
- **Action #4:** Develop trail to Manthey Park from trail system.
- **Action #5:** Continue with proposed planned trail gaps within the system throughout Owatonna between the lakes, parks, and existing trail system to create a connected greenway trail system. Create an estimated 14 mile loop around the City following planned trail routes.
- **Action #6:** The City should continue to establish and develop relationships with Steele County and neighboring communities (Clinton Falls, Medford, Claremont) to partner on regional trail opportunities to best secure future grant funding of these amenities.
- **Action #7:** Examine opportunities for improved trail connection across or beneath Interstate 35 and Highway 14 for regional connectivity and improve alternate transportation means to employers, and other commercial destinations.

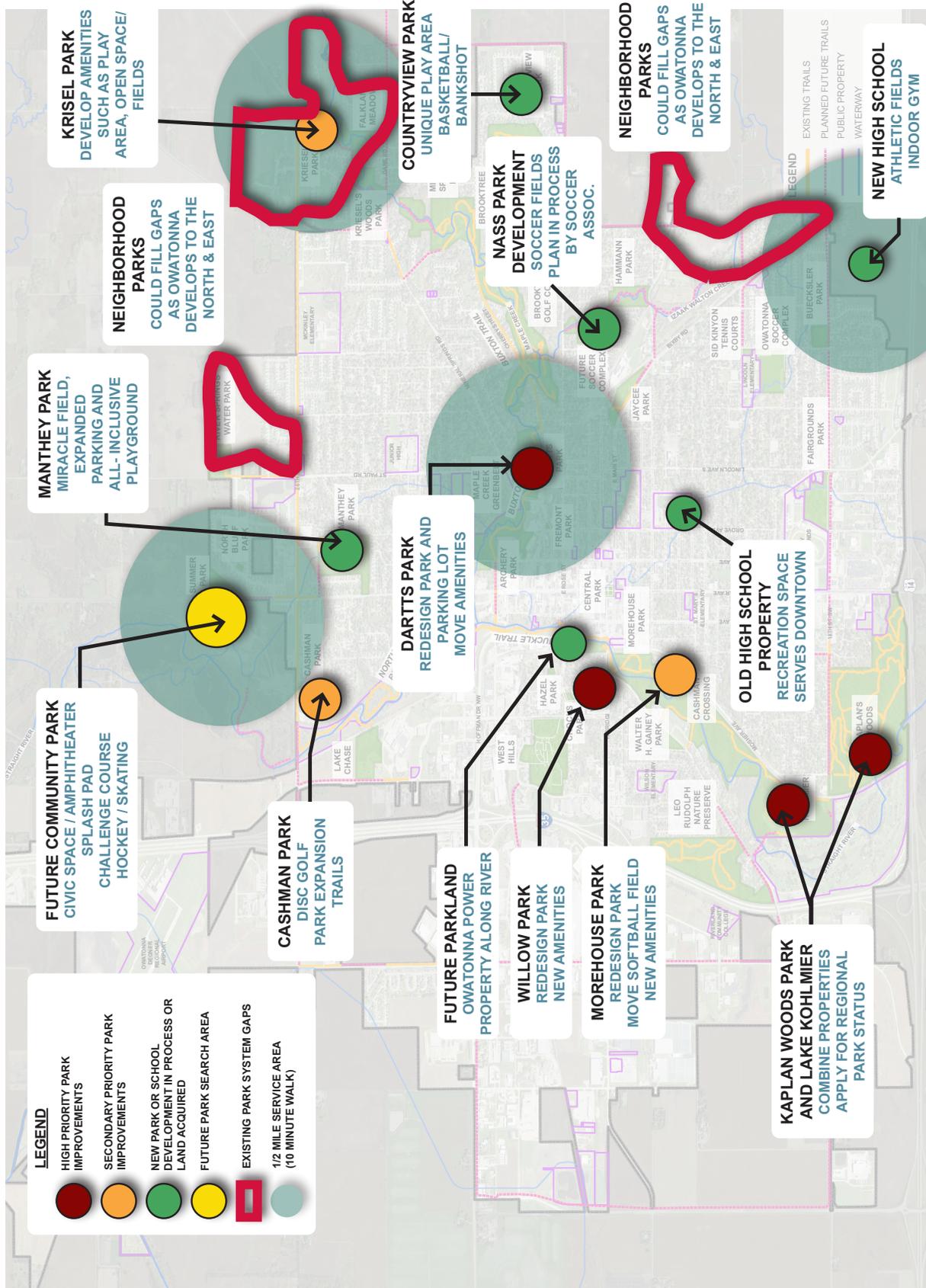
PARKS

- **Action #1:** Combine park property to create Kaplan's Woods Regional Park. Apply for regional designation status through the Greater Minnesota Park and Trail Commission. Create a master plan with future phases of development for this park.
- **Action #2:** Redesign and redevelop Willow Park with new play area, amenities, and grading. Connect this park to the sidewalk and improve accessibility.
- **Action #3:** Redesign Darts Park to include adjacent property and layout of existing parking lot. Move amenities prone to flooding to a new location (such as the tennis courts).
- **Action #4:** Redesign Morehouse Park and reconfigure trail and parking lot for safety and accessibility. Move softball field and other amenities out of areas prone to flooding and to the new high school. Replace play equipment and consider unique play opportunity here in heart of downtown near the Straight River.
- **Action #5:** Assess existing high school property for maintenance and future repairs. When the new high school is developed in southeast Owatonna, preserve recreational value in downtown with the old high school property.
- **Action #6:** Redesign portion of Manthey Park to include an All-Inclusive playground, Miracle Field, expanded parking and road extension to the neighborhood. Provide trail connections to new amenities and accessibility upgrades.
- **Action #7:** Develop recreational amenities at Kriesel's Park such as a play area, flexible open space/fields or a half basketball court. This area of the city is lacking park access.
- **Action #8:** Develop Nass Property in coordination with the Owatonna Soccer Association. Plan for future complementary activities in future phases at this park.

- **Action #9:** Develop new Countryview Park, include a unique play area not currently in Owatonna. Involve the neighborhood in selection of recreational amenities at this park.
- **Action #10:** As Owatonna develops to the north and east, secure park land in these areas to meet the growing community needs and equitable distribution throughout the City (specifically in the southeast/eastern portion of the city). Continue to acquire, protect and secure land in areas with significant natural resources such as wooded areas, prairie restoration areas, Straight River, Lake Kohlmier, Maple Creek, and Issac Walton Creek. Work with existing landowners who are willing to donate land.
- **Action #11:** Continue to review any new park land within new subdivisions, with a focus on providing adequate space for recreational amenities appropriate for the neighborhood while also preserving natural resources (buffer zones at waterways, woodlands, and prairie open spaces). Collaborate with the community and the neighborhood for recreational amenities within new parks.
- **Action #12:** Find alternative funding sources to funding park improvements such as park dedication fees, competitive grants, a local parks and trails bond referendum, increase in capital improvements bonds, or general fund allocation.
- **Action #13:** Develop a parks, trails, and facilities asset management and maintenance plan for operations, planning, and budgeting of existing and proposed assets within the system.
- **Action #14:** Engage the community to ensure the programming and park spaces aligns with the changing needs and desires. When any park is developed or planned, ask the community about which types of recreation they desire. Promote and engage community members throughout the process.
- **Action #15:** Continue to partner with the Owatonna School District. The Owatonna school district is a valuable resource and partner for the city utilizing shared facilities and maintenance agreements. Continue to foster this relationship to provide facilities and opportunities for the collective residents served.



MAP 5.1 PRIORITY TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS MAP



MAP 5.2 PRIORITY PARK IMPROVEMENTS MAP

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

As many of the parks were developed prior to current ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements, it is recommended to upgrade the parks to meet today's accessibility standards. Improvements are needed throughout this system and should be implemented as each park is improved.

A number of parks will require only minor accessibility improvements. This includes providing an accessible route (trail or sidewalk) from a parking lot to each park amenity. Large, community parks with many amenities may require major accessibility improvements such as re-designed parking lots, sidewalk connections, and revised locations for recreation amenities. Refer to Map 5.3 on the following page.

When parks are being planned or redeveloped, enlist the services of a design professional (engineer or landscape architect) to ensure the improvements desired at the park will meet current state and federal ADA standards.

The Parks and Recreation department has recently begun an initiative to visit each of the parks and document the accessibility issues via a GIS collector app developed by city staff. They will use an accessibility field checklist from the League of Minnesota Cities.

ACTION ITEMS FOR IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AT DEVELOPED PARKS

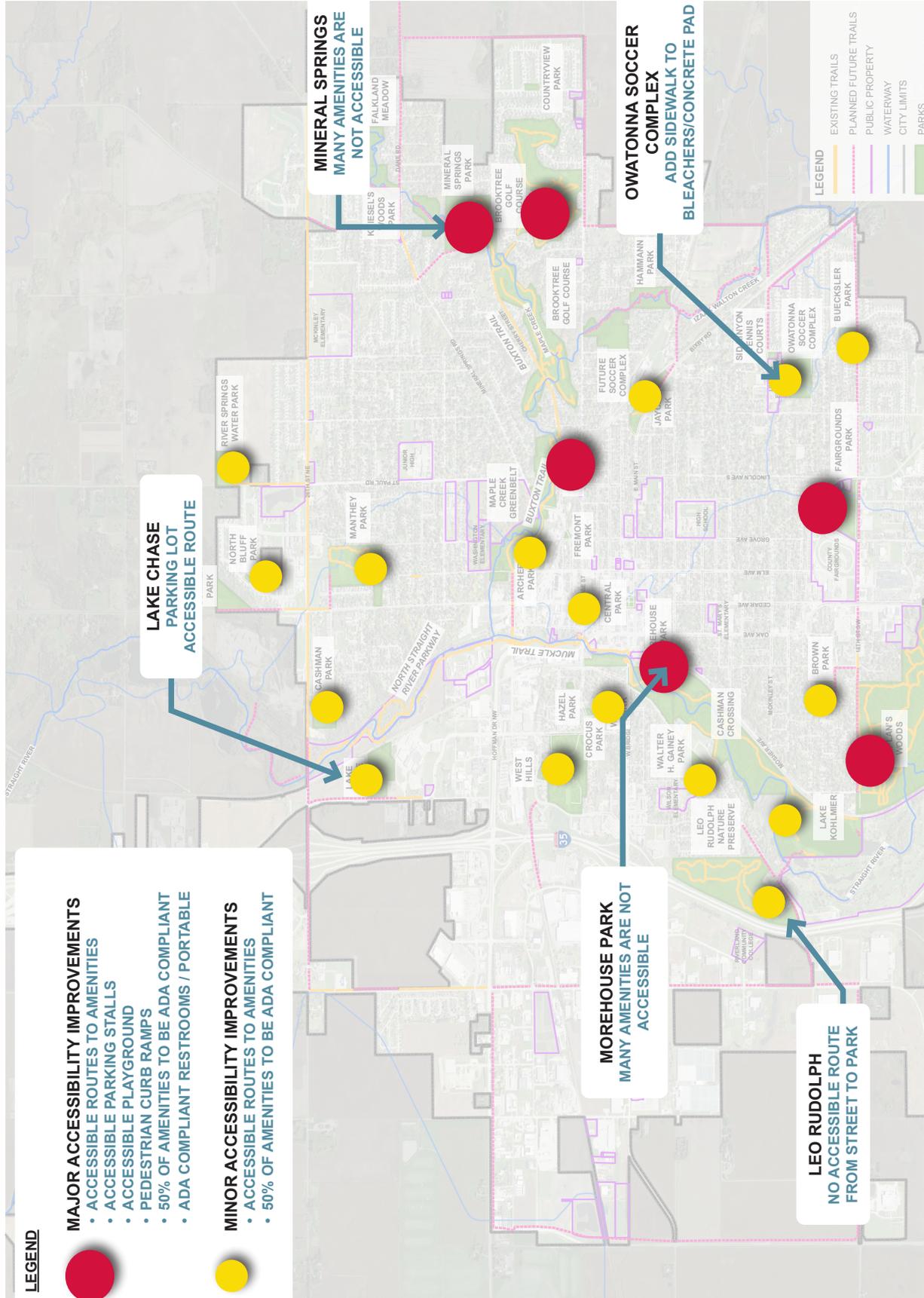
- Provide an accessible route to each park and park amenity (shelter, field, court, etc)
- Accessible routes have a maximum 1:20 running slope and a maximum 1:48 cross slope. There are also standards on width, surfaces, landings and passing zones.
- Connections from streets to the park may require pedestrian curb ramps with truncated domes.
- Parking lots must have a minimum number of accessible stalls (including van accessible stalls) depending upon the total number of stalls in the lot.
- Parking lot access aisles and stalls have a maximum grade of 1:48, an accessible route without barriers or obstructions must be provided to the park from the lot.
- 50% of park site amenities must be accessible, this includes drinking fountains, picnic tables, benches, grills, etc.
- For specific standards and exceptions, reference Minnesota's Accessibility Code, available online.



Accessible poured-in-place rubber surfacing example



Accessible drinking fountain example.



LEGEND

- MAJOR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS**
- ACCESSIBLE ROUTES TO AMENITIES
 - ACCESSIBLE PARKING STALLS
 - ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND
 - PEDESTRIAN CURB RAMPS
 - 50% OF AMENITIES TO BE ADA COMPLIANT
 - ADA COMPLIANT RESTROOMS / PORTABLE
- MINOR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS**
- ACCESSIBLE ROUTES TO AMENITIES
 - 50% OF AMENITIES TO BE ADA COMPLIANT



LEO RUDOLPH
NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE
FROM STREET TO PARK

MOREHOUSE PARK
MANY AMENITIES ARE NOT
ACCESSIBLE

LAKE CHASE
PARKING LOT
ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

MINERAL SPRINGS
MANY AMENITIES ARE
NOT ACCESSIBLE

**OWATONNA SOCCER
COMPLEX**
ADD SIDEWALK TO
BLEACHERS/CONCRETE PAD

- LEGEND**
- EXISTING TRAILS
 - PLANNED FUTURE TRAILS
 - PUBLIC PROPERTY
 - WATERWAY
 - CITY LIMITS
 - PARKS

MAP 5.3 ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS MAP

COST PROJECTIONS

USE OF THE COST PROJECTIONS

The cost analysis defines the potential costs associated with recommendations henceforth described within the overall parks and trail system plan. It includes park sites, trail gaps, the proposed improvements associated with the Manthey Park concept plan as well as other future parkland needs.

These costs are based on a combination of site-specific requirements and projects of similar size and complexity. These costs are also based on portions of the work being completed by private contractors and specialists. It does not take into consideration work that could be performed by the City, volunteers, or other means. These costs do include a contingency as well as design and engineering fees based upon today’s dollars (2019). The costs do not include the cost for land acquisition or right-of-way easements necessary for a new trail or new park development or expansion.

The cost figures are based upon master plan level evaluation, which brings with it inherent limitations. The cost figures are meant for general budgetary purposes, project phasing, and comparing the relative cost of one item to that of another. The costs are based on 2019 dollars. Although the costs are conservative, the actual costs will vary depending on a number of factors including surveyed topography of the site, economic conditions affecting bidding, unknown environmental issues, and year of construction. Inflation rates should be applied at the time of design to adjust to the most current economic conditions.

INVESTMENTS AND PRIORITIES

A portion of the future improvements of the parks and trails will be included in the Capital Improvement Planning process with additional outside funds to be provided through other potential sources of revenue (e.g. grants) as discussed later in this section.

The initial investments would occur during a time frame of one to five years with a focus on the most immediate needs of the community. The priorities were based upon site assessments, City goals, planned and existing city policies, community feedback and desires. Trail development was a primary focus on connecting gaps in the system and creating a city loop.

After these developments, the priority should focus on aligning community parks with current demand for recreation, adequate circulation and parking, moving amenities outside of areas prone to flooding and updated accessibility improvements. Efforts to prioritize community parks serve a larger population. The remaining community parks will receive priority for development and will be implemented based on available funding. Park improvements in areas of the city which are not within walking distance of a park would also be prioritized so that recreational amenities can be equally distributed throughout Owatonna.



TABLE 5.1: PROPOSED 20 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

HIGH PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

PARK / TRAIL	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COSTS
Cashman Park	Develop disc golf course, small parking lot and trails.	\$190,000 - \$230,000
Countryview Park Development	New mini park with unique play equipment, trails and half basketball court/bankshot.	\$180,000 - \$220,000
Dartts Park Improvements (Phase 1)	Removal or relocation of tennis court, basketball court and practice ball field (dependent upon types of athletic available at new high school). Restore areas.	\$200,000 - \$240,000
Kaplan's Woods Park / Lake Kohlmier	Combine properties, rename park, obtain regional park status.	\$30,000 - \$50,000
Manthey Park Improvements (Phase 1)	Miracle Field, All-Inclusive Play Area, parking lot expansion, road re-alignment, paved trails and site amenities.	\$2.7 million - \$3.3 million
Morehouse Park Improvements (Phase 1)	New play area, removal of softball field, parking lot redesign and trail connection through park. (assumed softball field provided at new high school).	\$420,000 - \$500,000
Nass Park Development - Soccer Fields	Soccer fields and parking lot.	\$0, developed by Owatonna Soccer Association
System-wide Accessibility Improvements at Parks	Does not include the cost of building entire parking lots	\$400,000 - \$ 470,000
Trail - Buxton and Muckle Trail Gap	Two pedestrian bridges, tunnel at Cedar Ave, 4,000 linear feet paved trail, retaining wall and railroad/ road crossings.	\$3.2 million - \$3.8 million
Trail - Bridge Street Trail Gap and Bridge Crossing	Pedestrian bridge, paved trail, road crossing.	\$720,000 - \$860,000
Trail - Kaplan's Woods Parkway Trail Gap	Trail through parking lot at Kaplan Woods Park, realign parking lot to accommodate trail.	\$160,000 - \$190,000
Willow Park Improvements	Complete redesign of park including removals, new play area and half basketball court.	\$130,000 - \$160,000
TOTAL COST		\$8.3 million - \$10.0 million

Note: Priorities are listed in alphabetical order.

SECONDARY PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

PARK / TRAIL	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COSTS
Dartts Park Improvements (Phase 2)	Redesign park including new parking lot, shelter, and play area.	\$1.8 million - \$2.2 million
High School Property	Assess old high school site & buildings. Determine recreational value of old high school property. Important for downtown access to park space.	Variable
Kaplan's Woods Park / Lake Kohlmier	Trails, improve parking lot at Kaplan Woods Park entrance, restrooms, splash pad, and new play area at Lake Kohlmier, new pedestrian bridge in park.	\$1.9 million - \$2.3 million
Kriesel Park Improvements	New neighborhood park with unique play area, trails and small shelter.	\$190,000 - \$230,000
Manthey Park Improvements (Phase 2)	Concessions building, plaza, and trails within park.	\$1.2 million - \$1.5 million
Morehouse Park Improvements (Phase 2)	Upgrade amenities at the park including a shelter.	\$250,000 - \$300,000
New Community Park	Southeast area, large park with winter & water recreation such as a splash pad, amphitheater, challenge course and skating/sledding/skiing.	\$3.8 - \$4.5 million
New Community Athletic Complex	Athletic multi-purpose fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball, and softball fields and parking lot.	\$0, assumed incorporated into the future high school campus
Trail to Manthey Park	Connect trail system to this park, 900 linear feet paved trail along roadway.	\$220,000 - \$260,000
Trail from Mineral Springs to 26th Street NE	Completing portion of city-wide trail loop.	\$1.1 million - \$1.4 million
Trail from 18th Street to Brooktree Golf Course	Completing portion of city-wide trail loop.	\$1.8 million - \$2.2 million
TOTAL COST		\$12.3 million - \$15.0 million

FUTURE PARK & TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES ARISE

PARK / TRAIL	ESTIMATED COSTS
Archery Park Improvements	\$45,000 - \$55,000
Brooktree Golf Course Improvements	\$1.2 million - \$1.4 million
Brown Park Improvements	\$350,000 - \$430,000
Buecksler Park Improvements	\$85,000 - \$100,000
Central Park Improvements	\$325,000 - \$390,000
Crocus Park Improvements	\$32,000 - \$38,000
Fairgrounds Park Improvements	\$550,000 - \$660,000
Falkland Meadow Improvements	\$440,000 - \$530,000
Fremont Park Improvements	\$50,000 - \$60,000
Hammann Park Improvements	\$210,000 - \$250,000
Hazel Park Improvements	\$12,000 - \$14,000
Jaycee Park Improvements	\$1.0 million - \$1.2 million
Kriesel's Woods Park Improvements	380,000 - \$450,000
Lake Chase Park Improvements	\$890,000 - \$1 million
Leo Rudolph Nature Reserve	\$680,000 - \$820,000
Maple Creek Park Improvements	\$250,000 - \$310,000
Mineral Springs Park Improvements	\$820,000 - \$980,000
North Bluff Park Improvements	\$230,000 - \$260,000
Owatonna Soccer Complex Improvements	\$110,000 - \$130,000
River Springs Water Park Improvements	\$800,000 - \$980,000
Sid Kinyon Tennis Courts	\$45,000 - \$55,000
Summer Park Improvements	\$95,000 - \$115,000
Walter H. Gainey Park Improvements	\$125,000 - \$155,000
West Hills Park Improvements	\$60,000 - \$75,000
Trail Gap - Crestview Lane NE	\$720,000 - \$860,000
Trail Gap - Trail Link to Downtown and at Rose St	\$450,000 - \$540,000
Planned Trails per City Map (approx. 20 miles)	\$8.2 million - \$9.9 million
TOTAL COST	\$18.2 million - \$21.7 million

TOTAL PARK & TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT COSTS

DEVELOPMENT PHASE	ESTIMATED COSTS
High Priority Improvements	\$8.3 million - \$10.0 million
Secondary Priority Improvements	\$12.3 million - \$15.0 million
Future Improvements	\$18.2 million - \$21.7 million
TOTAL PARK & TRAIL SYSTEM COST	\$38.8 million - \$46.7 million

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

The availability of funding to implement the park and trail system initiatives will have direct impacts on the timing of the plan. The following table provides a brief overview of some of those that are typically available to local governments such as Owatonna. It also provides an overview of the probability of any given source adding to the funding stream for system improvements. Note that each funding source requires an application process that includes an action plan and description of funding requirements. All of these funding sources are competitive and may require political action and citizen approval. Refer to Table 5.2 Potential Funding Sources for Park Development. There are additional funding sources represented in Section 3 Trail System Plan.



GAINING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE PLAN

Based upon feedback during the planning and community engagement process as well as Owatonna's park system's history of generous donations, the public seems supportive of making improvements over time.

The following recommendations are made:

- Utilize a public information campaign about proposed parks and trails improvements via City newsletters, park events and social media channels. The message should be positive and convenient for residents to learn more information.
- Develop partnerships with recreation and athletic associations to support parks projects.
- Develop an implementation package that clearly defines the proposed developments and the costs associated with those developments. For the larger and new community parks, preparing a master plan is highly recommended for two reasons: 1) to engage the public in the design process and get their ownership of the project as well as to raise awareness; and 2) to prepare more accurate cost estimates based on a detailed plan.
- Develop an operations and maintenance strategy for each park and trail development to assure the public that the city has the capacity to meet these responsibilities.

TABLE 5.2: POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR PARK & TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING SOURCE	DESCRIPTION & OVERVIEW	PROBABILITY
State Outdoor Recreation, LCCMR, Legacy Fund, GMRPTC, and Similar Grants	The State of Minnesota annually allocates funds for park acquisition and development projects which meet recreational needs identified by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In recent years, Legacy Amendment Fund has emerged as a legitimate potential funding source for projects of regional or state-wide significance. Whatever the program, the grants are competitive and awarded according to project merits.	Very competitive, especially with very tight public funding available at all levels. Most promising might be Legacy Amendment Funds, especially for parks or trails of regional significance.
Land and Water Conservation Fund	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.	Funding availability through this program has been limited in recent years.
Fees/ Enterprise Funds	Minnesota statute allows cities to prescribe and provide for the collection of fees for the use of any City park or other unit of the City park system or any facilities, accommodations, or services provided for public use therein.	Becoming a much more relied upon funding source, especially for singular use facilities ranging from ballfields to hockey arenas.
Partnerships	Relates to partnerships formed with adjacent cities, the county, and school districts to develop, maintain, and operate parks and recreational facilities on a joint-use basis.	Although limited public funding availability is an issue at all levels, forming partnerships to spread the cost of providing a specific type of service or facility still has merit whenever there is an opportunity.
Park Dedication Fees	The park dedication fees provides funding for parks as long as community development continues to occur. Any controls imposed on the extent (i.e., total number of units) or rate of development (i.e., number of units per year) allowed within the City will limit the revenue generated under this fund. The City will need to ensure the fees imposed are consistent with current state statutes.	Even with periodic adjustments, park dedication fees alone will not be adequate to fund the system plan to an optimal level. See Park Dedication Fee Recommendations
Donations	Donations relates to cash donations, gifts, volunteerism, and professional services donated to the park for planning, acquisition, or development purposes. Owatonna has a long history of generous donations to its park system.	Limited potential from a cash perspective, but important with respect to the use of volunteers to offset some program costs.

PARK DEDICATION FEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Park dedication fees or land dedication is governed by Minnesota Statute. Minnesota Statutes Section 462.358 Subd. 2b provides that municipal subdivision regulations may require that a reasonable portion of any proposed subdivision be dedicated to the public or preserved for conservation purposes or for public use as parks, playgrounds, trails, wetlands, or open space, and that the municipality may alternatively accept an equivalent amount in cash.

A short survey was sent to a number of communities of similar size to Owatonna to see if they currently required park dedication fees when lands are developed. Refer to Table 5.3 Park Dedication Fees from Comparable Communities. All of the communities questioned had existing park dedication fees and ordinances.

In order to continue to provide residents of Owatonna with park and recreation, we recommend that the City explore using park dedication land or fee equivalents. When land develops with residential homes, there will be a need for park land to accommodate these new residents. However, this funding source only works if new developments are occurring in Owatonna as the fees cannot be used to replace or maintain existing facilities.

Another important aspect for park dedication, especially when it comes to accepting land in lieu of fees, is to be cognizant of the existing condition and relationship of the proposed land to Owatonna's park and trail system.

It is desired to secure land that is accommodating to suitable recreation and with natural resource value (streams, rivers, mature trees, and prairies). When development occurs, work closely with the developer on choosing land suitable for a neighborhood park. It is important to plan for adjacent property developing and connecting this land to create a larger future park rather than having a mini-park that is less than 0.5 acre. A larger neighborhood park can serve more residents with more recreation options such as soccer/football fields, baseball fields, or a special use such as an area set aside for a dog park.



IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS

If the city decides to pursue park dedication fees, there are important steps to take to ensure success:

1. Discuss with planning and economic development department.
2. Meet and discuss with the Chamber of Commerce.
3. Clearly demonstrate future needs of the community through future land use and zoning maps.
4. Obtain a sponsoring developer that supports the park dedication fees.
5. Once implemented, follow state statute that the fees may be used only for new parks. It is possible to use it for an existing park that expands because of increased development surrounding it.

TABLE 5.3: PARK DEDICATION FEES IN COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES

CITY	POPULATION	PARK DEDICATION FEE / LAND DEDICATION FEE OR BOTH	PARK DEDICATION FEE	LAND DEDICATION AMOUNT	ADDITIONAL NOTES
Bemidji	15,366	Yes, both	Cash in lieu equivalent based upon fair market value.	Residential = 1 acre per 25 units, Nonresidential = 4% of gross area, Mixed Use = 4% of gross area	No wetlands, floodplains, drainage ways. Some private rec land may receive 20% credit
Faribault	23,750	Yes, both	Cash in lieu equivalent based upon fair market value.	Residential = 7%; Commercial = 4%; Industrial = 4%, other 7%	No wetlands, ponding, drainage-ways.
New Ulm	13,238	Yes, both	\$340 per lot/unit (R1/R2); \$1,040 per lot, \$340 per unit (R3); \$265-\$2,185 (COMM/IND)	675 sf per unit (R1,R2,R3)	Land must not be drainage-way, floodplain or ponding. Land must be grading with 6" topsoil and seeded prior to dedication.
Northfield	20,084	Yes, both	Cash in lieu must be equivalent to land dedication costs. Commercial = 5% of land area; Industrial = 2% of gross area for trails only; 0-3.9 units/acre = 12% of net land area; 4-7.9 units/acre = 9% of net land area; 8+ units/acre = 6% of net land area	Commercial = 5% of land area; Industrial = 2% of gross area for trails only; 0-3.9 units/acre = 12% of net land area; 4-7.9 units/acre = 9% of net land area; 8+ units/acre = 6% of net land area	Commercial sites can be waived if affordable housing, tax revenue or greater benefit to the City. Land must be suitable, no steep slope, above OHW, graded and 4" topsoil.
Waseca	8,978	Yes, both	Residential = \$420/unit; Multi-Family = \$250-300/unit	Residential = 8-14%; Multifamily=20-45%, Mobile Homes = 13%	Fees are based upon \$15,000 per acre assumed land costs. Land must be graded and suitable 50% for fields, less than 2% grade.
Willmar	19,628	Yes, both	Cash in lieu equivalent based upon fair market value.	Residential = 7%; Commercial = 4%; Industrial = 4%, other 7%	City may waive if affordable housing or greater benefit to city. Private open space credit up to 25%.
Owatonna	25,794	No			

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APPENDIX

Summary of Social Pinpoint

Online Public Engagement



To: Troy Klecker, City of Owatonna
Mary Jo Knudson, City of Owatonna

From: Jason Amberg, WSB

Date: 03.03.19

Re: WSB Project No. #013022-000

March 03, 2019

Summary: The majority of comments addressed trail connectivity, walkability to parks, the need for improvements at lakes, and trails/shelters for winter activities. Residents would like to see the trails around Owatonna be safe, cohesive, and facilitate runners and bikers. Specific locations to add trails or improvements were Bixby Road, Country View to the 4 corners (Rose St and County 43), the portion of Muckle trail near Bridge St, and along Crestview between Dane Road and Wedgwood Drive. Residents have noticed there are fewer parks in southeast Owatonna and would like this to be taken into consideration during long-range planning. Lake Kohlmier and Lake Chase were both noted as places people like to fish and residents would appreciate more rules on catch-and-release, as well as, restocking the lakes. The most popular comment, with 15 likes, was 'Develop a bike/walking trail or designated route that connects the trail on 26th and runs south to 18th St. or in that area and then runs west to connect with the trail system at Kaplan's Woods and Kohlmier. The east and southeast sides of town are underserved by the trail system and a trail loop around the entire city would be an attractive amenity for residents and biking and hiking visitors.' Overall, residents love the Owatonna parks and would like to enjoy the parks and trails year-round without worrying about safety and accessibility.

Below are the specific comments from the community on the Social Pinpoint interactive map.

Ideas and Suggestions:

Swimming and Water Interest

- 4-season lap swimming pool (8 likes)
- Any opportunity for boat rentals would be highly appreciated by the public. (7 likes)
- Like lake kohlmier, we need sand/gravel/rock in lake chase to inhibit vegetation growth and facilitate fishing in the warmer months. Also lake chase would benefit from an aerator, slot limit, and a re-stock. (2 like)
- Landscaping on this portion of the river to facilitate fishing. (4 likes) (Straight River)
- Slot limit on walleye, northern, and smallmouth bass. The straight river can support trophy sized fish, but not when people keep any fish they catch. (4 likes)
- To increase fishing excitement at lake kohlmeir, we should also put a slot limit on fish that can be caught out of the lake. Suggestion: catch and release largemouth bass,

northern pike, and other predators to keep the panfish populations down. This will also double as a way to let the bass grow and encourage more enthusiast level fishing. (2 likes)

- Lake Kohlmier is a great lake to bring your friends and family fishing; however, as the summer progresses the shoreline fishing opportunities dwindle as the invasive grasses flourish. If sand/gravel/rock could be dropped, especially on the north and east ends of the lake, I believe the fishing opportunities would vastly improve through the warmer months of the year. (6 likes)

SAFETY

- The street light on this road at night is very bright, which is great for visibility, and I think it would nice if this kind of light was in more parks. (6 likes) (Rice Lake Rd by Hammann Park)
- Need of a safe, bike trail to college campus. Numerous students either don't have cars or licenses. Others, too, with a safe route down Bridge and over would have advantages.
- No safe recreational connections to the hospital/clinic; clinic and/or hospital has a nice walking path that should be connected to. (4 likes)
- Need cross walk on BOTH corners of School. AND NEEDS crossing lights. Preferably ones that hang over the road and not just ones that are off to the side like the ones on main for the folks at federated. (2 likes)

Safety at Bridge Street Crossing

- A pedestrian (bike and walkers) bridge connecting these two sections of trail to keep people safe from Bridge Street and to eliminate the 180 degree turn around on the path going under Bridge street. (1 like)
- The connection over bridge street is not safe and needs to be resolved; this is a standard sidewalk that was been part of the recreational trail for over 20 years with no improvement. (2 likes)
- The small portion of Muckle Trail that is a sidewalk right next to Bridge St. is unsafe. Small children on bikes or bikes going in opposite directions are a danger that close to a curve on one of the busiest streets in town. A bridge over the Straight River such as other ones further down the trail would eliminate this portion of unsafe trail as well as eliminate the fairly sharp turn that brings the path under Bridge St. (3 likes)

Winter Sports

- Owatonna needs another outdoor skating rink (or two). Neighborhood based rinks would make it so much easier for kids to utilize. The Morehouse complex is great, but for most of the city's kids, it requires a parent to drive them there. Lots of room at Mckinley. Lots of room near Lincoln. I would love to see Park and Rec work with Bob Olson and the school district to come up with a plan for skating rinks. They wouldn't even need hockey boards to start with. Just flood and freeze on the ground. (8 likes) (3 dislikes)
- It's either these tracks or the next set of tracks, but either way, turn the unused tracks into a cross country ski trail. (2 likes) (2 dislikes)

Brooktree Golf Course

- Have you considered using the Brooktree club house as a chalet during the winter? Have cross country ski trail all over the golf course. Have ice skating on the pond on the upper 9. Have some snow shoe trails. Have the pro shop do ski, skate, and snow shoe rental and have masters run the food. (11 likes)
- Create more cross-country ski trails around Brooktree.

Sidewalks and Trails

- Add a sidewalk/bike path along Crestview between Dane Road and Wedgwood Drive. It is very dangerous to walk/bike along this road as there is not even curb and gutter. This is the only road that connects the far northeast part of town to the trail in Mineral Springs Park. (1 like) (1 dislike)
- Create parking area for trail users (2 likes) (Cashman)
- Please complete the cart path (2 likes) (1 dislike)

- Running trail around perimeter of park. (1 like) (2 dislike) (Cashman)
- Running trail around perimeter of park (4 likes) (Manthey)
- More running trails through woods, wouldn't have to be paved. (1 dislike)
- Running/Bike path along the frontage road out to Cabela's would be great! (8 likes) (3 dislikes)
- Running path to Summer Park, and a running path through the part would be great! (5 likes) (1 dislike)
- Running/Bike trail loop around perimeter of city. (9 likes)
- Add a bike/walking path along Crestview where the road is very narrow but plenty of space on the shoulder or the ditch from Dane Road up to Wedgewood. Needs a path for better safety and access to the other trails/parks. Especially along the area where the vineyard is. That would not interfere with any homes and cost could be minimal. (4 likes) (3 dislikes)
- Connect trail from 18th st thru SE part of town. Possibly connect by Rose. Make a loop all around town (14 likes)
- Would LOVE it if this trail system connected to a trail along Bixby road and the east side of town. (9 likes)
- We live on Morning Drive and have no safe way to get to any parks (other than a car). East School street by the Spectrum and Hammon park is not safe for biking or walking. We always talk about how we would love to have a trail or sidewalk connecting East School Street to Jaycee Park or a trail along Bixby road that would allow us to bike to Lincoln School. (5 likes)
- Provide trail access from SE side of town. (17 likes)
- Create a walking/biking path along Bixby Road from School Street (where the sidewalk ends) to 18th Street (17 likes) (1 dislike)
- Encourage a county-wide trail system discussion and design for exercise and as a recognized transportation means for getting to work, retail and restaurant sites. Compliment efforts in Rice, Freeborn and Mower Counties (3 likes) (1 dislike)
- Add a sidewalk/bike path along Crestview between Dane Road and Wedgwood Drive. It is very dangerous to walk/bike along this road as there is not even curb and gutter. This is the only road that connects the far northeast part of town to the trail in Mineral Springs Park. (1 like) (1 dislike)
- I would live a bike path that could connect Owatonna to Medford
- There are not connections on the southeast side of town to any recreational activities.
- Add walking path or bike trail along Crestview. The road appears to have plenty of room for expansion and gets a lot of walking traffic. (1 dislike)
- This portion of the bike path could be raised. It floods a lot and there is not an easy way around without going up to Hoffman Dr. (1 like)
- It would be great to see this trail continue along 18th St. (and maybe make a full loop of town one day!) (3 likes)
- Sidewalk or bike trail on either side of Kenyon Road...and/or create a trail from Mineral Springs Park along the river to 26th street. (5 likes)

- MN Prairie Wildflower Trail system from 26th Street through Medford and onto Faribault needs attention! More interested members for the Prairie River Trails Assn now being formed. (2 likes) (2 dislikes)

Playgrounds

- This would be a great location for a park with a play area for kids. That neighborhood is full of children and I think it could be very beneficial to the area. (Buecksler)
- An indoor playground. There are SO many in the metro to draw ideas from. If you'd like to know about them let me know, I follow most of them on Facebook. A splash pad to play in during the summer would also be fun. Better workout and swimming facilities would be greatly appreciated by MANY in the community. Also offer hours that are before work and after kiddos go to bed. (1 like)
- Please add a city ran indoor park (1 like)
- I think it'd be fun to have a playground downtown. If a family wanted to eat at one of the restaurants down town, they could take their kids to the playgroup while waiting for their food. Or after the kids eat, take them to the playground to get the wiggles out. We all know that kids don't stay still long at restaurants. (2 likes)
- This playground is for very young children but we have lots of older kids and teens in this neighborhood. How about adding a basketball hoop? (1 like) (North Bluff)

Maintenance

- More frequent vegetation trimming (3 likes)
- more frequent bank-vegetation trimming
- Kaplan woods provides an incredible opportunity for the community to have access to nature. It would be great to see it utilized to create more of this connection as well as respect for natural places. I'd love to see some organization around community action to remove invasive species and eliminate contamination of the river. Signs describing trail etiquette would also be helpful. Many don't understand the need to stay off the bike trails in wet conditions and to stay off the ski tracks.
- Park has slowly been getting updates. But it could use a new swing set. a slide and a basketball net. (Willow Park)
- Dredge the old river bottom under the eastern portion of this bridge to allow water to flow during high water and reduce trail and city flooding. (1 like) (Straight River)
- Perform some type of maintenance at this park, the trails aren't walkable or useful. (2 likes) (Hammann)
- Focus city staff on city improvement projects and stop spending city resources working on county and state projects. The city has interconnection issues and parks lacking services yet numerous hours are spent on pipe dream projects without hard facts to support the projects or for that matter more than a few percentage points of community interest (i.e. 10-20 of the loudest people want something that 25,000 others don't want or desire (example aquatic park and intercity recreational trails). (2 dislikes)
- This entrance to Cashman park is constantly eroding and washing gravel onto the trail, this entrance needs to be closed or redesigned.

Miscellaneous

- Love the new archery range. I have used it quite often, along with my grandchildren. I would like to see a shelter or pavilion be built, right by the shooting lanes, for observers to have shelter from the sun. Thank you. (5 likes) (5 dislikes)
- How is this park accessed? (Kriesel)

- Why are Park and Recreation staff returning to the city shop for morning break? This is a waste of time and resources. If it is the daily meeting, have the meeting around lunch time and have staff take breaks at their work location. If each employee spends 10-15 minutes each way, that accrues to 80 hours per year per employee wasted in driving to this break. (1 like) (1 dislike)
- Add more parking for Dartts Park- during baseball games there is not enough parking in spring and summer (2 likes)
- New dirt added to bike jumps. It is sandy and rocky. Skate park also needs the blacktop sealed (Morehouse)
- Permanent drinking fountain/bathrooms/concession stand/storage unit between the ball fields. If you build it we will use it! (1 like) (McKinley Elementary)

Make a Comment:

- I do really enjoy the lap swim program at the Jr. High and West Hills but I wish there were more time/space for lap swim (not just open swim) on weeknights and weekends (2 likes)
- I second the idea for a pool. Have more than 4 lanes. More like 6 or 8 lanes. Have it open later than 7 or 8pm. (4 likes)
- Develop a bike/walking trail or designated route that connects the trail on 26th and runs south to 18th St. or in that area and then runs west to connect with the trail system at Kaplan's Woods and Kohlmier. The east and southeast sides of town are underserved by the trail system and a trail loop around the entire city would be an attractive amenity for residents and biking and hiking visitors. (15 likes)
- Please connect Mineral Springs Park to 26th street along the greenbelt. It's beautiful along Maple Creek! (10 likes)
- I second the idea of a city ran indoor playground. (1 like)
- I'm hoping this new trail will get lights. Love the trail, so thank you.(1 like)
- I second the idea of building parks/playgrounds in the new developments
- This intersection is dangerous for pedestrians (1 like)
- Continue the trail past on 26th st east past Kenyon road. So those suburbs can access the parks safely with our children on foot or bike. (10 likes) (6 dislikes)

Something I Like:

- I love the improvements that have happened at the park. Is there anyway to improve the bathrooms at the pavilion or to utilize it more during softball seasons/tournaments?
- I hope that a walking path might be located in the southeast part of town. With the exception of Lincoln School sidewalks, there is little safe area leaving only street sides. I walk early morning for both convenience and road safety. This area sports more walkers, joggers, runners than one might think. (5 likes)
- Drive by the golf course everyday and it always looks well maintained! Great job! (2 likes)
- Love Leo Rudolph!! What a beautiful place - all year round. (3 likes)
- Love this section of the trail between North Ave. and 26th St (8 likes)
- The Bike Trail System in Kaplans is one of the best things. More and more people are using this for mountain biking, plus trail runners are using it as well. If possible to continue to expand this system as that would be a great addition. (7 likes)

- Lake Kohlmeier is a destination park; our family plans day adventures to it. The playground equipment could be updated, but certainly still functional.
- Fantastic park and use of space. Great for all ages. (1 like)
- Best Ballpark in Southern Minnesota! Thanks for providing a great venue for baseball. It could use a little more parking though.
- Love Brooktree and how walk-able it is. Thanks for mowing a path between the tee boxes and the fairways!
- I love the new trail from 26th to Blast! It's perfect for an evening bike ride with the kids. Well lit and fun to ride, very relaxing in the woods. (2 likes)

Project Timeframe

Open for comments from 23 Nov 2018 to 31 May 2019 [Change](#)

Stakeholder Engagement Summary

849
Total Visits

791
Unique Users

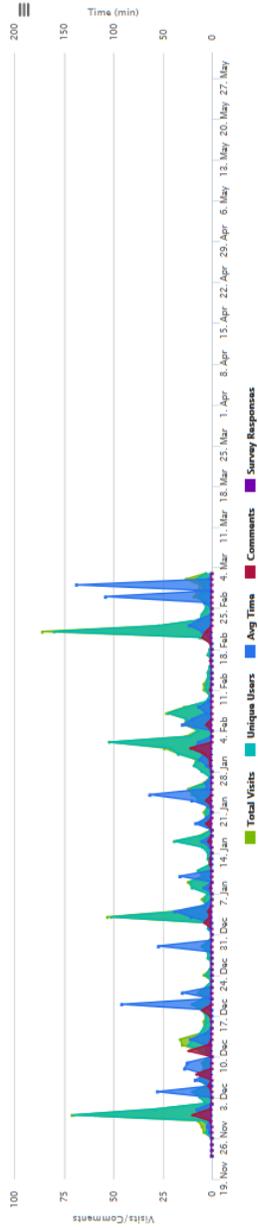
13:54
Avg Time (min)

41
Unique Stakeholders

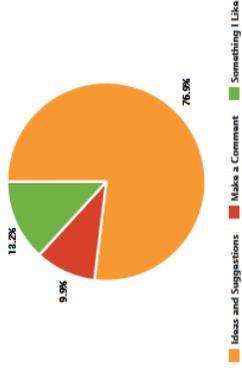
91
Comments

0
Survey Responses

Stakeholder Engagement by Day



Comment Types



Word Cloud



Tags

Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire

Date: 01.31.19 **Time:** 1:30-2pm

Interviewer: Jason Amberg and Eva Kelly

Stakeholder Representative: Marc Oein and Mike Keller

Name of Group / Association: Owatonna Soccer Association

1. Who participates in your programs? Number of teams?
 - 1500 kids total including park & rec teams, 40 travel soccer teams during fall/soccer seasons total, K-6 city park & rec run, after that league soccer, also booster club for high school teams (8 HS teams this fall)
2. Do you currently have to turn away participants because of use of field space?
 - No, they do not turn away anyone, participation is up 30% over 5 years, what happens is the number of practices are reduced due to field conditions/field availability
3. What is your typical season start and end dates?
 - April 1 – July 15; July 15-Aug 15 closed, 8/15-10/15 HS season
4. What type of facilities/amenities are required (sizes, dimensions, spaces, indoor/outdoor) for this group?
 - No indoor soccer available, in process of building 5 new fields (1 large, 2 young ages, 2 elem/junior HS fields) near Hammann park. Owatonna is in division 1(?) with cities like Minnetonka, Eden Prairie; at age 13 full size fields required based on state standard, teams can play games on those fields but do not practice on fields that size. New fields will have a small parking lot, field irrigation, a pavilion in phase 2, no lighting at this time.
5. What additional amenities or improvements are desired to meet your group's needs (field sizes, restrooms, certain programs, parking, certain amenities, seating, concessions, lighting, etc.)?
 - Enough fields for tournament play
 - Shade at varsity field, over bleachers/scorers, "players dugout"
 - For JV and 9th grade, need lighting for fields
6. What additional comments do you have?
 - Recent construction at Schools have taken away soccer fields (McKinley?)
 - Soccer is a regional draw but most from Owatonna (some from Waseca, Albert Lea), they do not cut players, all players make a team
 - Future fields at Hammann Park will be maintained by city as well similar to the Soccer Complex agreement now, league will pay for development
 - Soccer association uses same fields at the schools
 - Soccer Complex, 18 years successful partnership with the city maintaining the fields
 - Some conflicts in sharing with lacrosse, lack of fields
 - Marc Oein grew up in Owatonna, 5 years coaching, current president
 - Mike Keller president for 7 years, board for 10 years
 - There are 3 regulation fields at Lincoln/Soccer Complex
 - Concern about Manthey Park soccer fields used by Somali Community going away, there is practices at Manthey currently
 - No soccer played at high school
 - McKinley Elem has 2 small sized fields
 - Washington has 1 middle sized field
 - Shelters at Complex have storage for equipment
 - At Complex, parking is busy during transition time on Saturday mornings but otherwise sufficient for number of fields/games; there is little rotation of fields, always in use,

Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire

Date: 01.31.19 **Time:** 3-3:30pm

Interviewer: Jason Amberg and Eva Kelly

Stakeholder Representative: Mark Achterkirch

Name of Group / Association: Activities Director for School District

School District

1. What city owned facilities does the school district use?
2. How many schools in Owatonna? Number of students? Athletic and recreational programs?
4 elementary schools (Washington, McKinley, Lincoln, Wilson), Middle School (grades 6-8), Senior High School
3. What type of facilities/amenities are required (sizes, dimensions, spaces, indoor/outdoor) for this group?
4. Describe the conditions of the Owatonna facilities you currently use and what you like best about them.
5. What additional amenities or improvements are desired to meet your group's needs (field sizes, restrooms, certain programs, parking, certain amenities, seating, concessions, lighting, etc.)?
6. What additional comments do you have?
 - Current high school has 16 acres, limited parking for students, nice tennis courts, not on the historic register, has had issues with swimming pool
 - Near downtown, the "public" property is the old Pillsbury Campus, now a charter school, private, with a variety of camps in the summer, counselors lives in the dorms on the property.
 - At Jaycee, Summer teams use Jaycee for baseball, U14/15, nice concessions stand, lighted fields, well-maintained, very nice fields
 - Phy Ed uses Kaplan's Woods for fat tire biking, cross country skiing (running?)
 - City park and rec uses school gyms for basketball
 - High school golf team uses private country club, looking into using Brooktree with new pro this summer potentially
 - At Manthey, the lower level HS softball has games/practices here, fields are in good condition
 - At Morehouse, the softball varsity has games/practices here, field is flooded a lot, poor condition, sometimes issues with parking, drainage in general
 - At Darts, varsity baseball stadium, some flooding, field is locked/not accessible to the public, only open during games
 - At McKinley, lower level HS baseball teams sometimes use
 - At Fairgrounds, HS uses ice arena for hockey (county owned?)
 - At Soccer Complex, HS varsity, city maintains, school district owns, there is a formal joint agreement, shade issues, bleachers get too hot, rain shelters for scorers
 - At Tennis Center, sometimes HS kids practice here if raining or available, sometimes JV/Varsity meets are held here.
 - Early Childhood/Community Ed (OAC) has small playground at the "old" Washington elementary site near downtown Owatonna
 - Marc has lived in Owatonna for 20 years
 - Bond referendum in May 2019, looking at potential new high school northern side of town or near 35, on 100-120 acres, this would include athletic fields (some turf)
 - At Buecksler Park, there was major flooding in this neighborhood five years ago
 - Playgrounds at elementary schools are open to the public during non-school times
 - Gyms are always busy/booked
 - Likes artificial turf fields, better ability to play in the spring, current fields see a lot of drainage issues (ex Morehouse)
 - At HS stadium field, HS boys/girls lacrosse, football play here, no soccer

Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire

Date: 02.07.19 **Time:** 1-1:30pm

Interviewer: Eva Kelly via phone

Stakeholder Representative: Karina Garcia

Name of Group / Association: Community Member/Business Owner

- Current Park Board member
 - Lived in Owatonna for 15 years, opened restaurant 20 years ago, south side of Owatonna called El Tequila
1. Which parks, trails or facilities are used most for recreation?
 - Personal experience of biking and walking the paved trails from Kaplan's Woods north to Morehouse Park
 - Has children who have used parks for sports – baseball at Manthey, soccer at Soccer Complex, etc.
 - Loves the chimney outdoor at Mineral Springs park, takes walks here as well with the family
 - Member of Hispanic community, Darts is popular park for basketball, enjoys birthday party rentals at the Morehouse Chalet, members of West Hills Fitness center for indoor basketball,
 2. What city offered programs are popular with this group?
 - West Hills Fitness Center – basketball programs
 3. What type of facilities/amenities are required (sizes, dimensions, spaces, indoor/outdoor) for this group?
 - Indoor facilities – basketball is popular
 - Rental spaces – birthdays
 4. Describe the conditions of the Owatonna facilities you currently use and what you like best about them.
 - Very proud of the parks, especially the maintenance
 - Has noticed that the parks are very clean
 5. What additional amenities or improvements are desired to meet your or your group's needs?
 - Improvements – add better signs and wayfinding in Kaplan's Woods park
 6. What additional comments do you have?
 - Interested in sharing with customers the link to Social Pinpoint at her restaurant
 - Will spread the word about commenting on Social Pinpoint site.

Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire

Date: 01.31.19 **Time:** 2-2:30pm

Interviewer: Jason Amberg and Eva Kelly

Stakeholder Representative: Greg Posch

Name of Group / Association: Senior Center Board, Park Board Member (New)

Senior Place

1. Which parks, trails or facilities are used most for recreation?
1. What city offered programs are popular with this group? How many participants?
2. What type of facilities/amenities are required (sizes, dimensions, spaces, indoor/outdoor) for this group?
3. Describe the conditions of the Owatonna facilities you currently use and what you like best about them.
4. What additional amenities or improvements are desired to meet your group's needs (field sizes, restrooms, certain programs, parking, certain amenities, seating, concessions, lighting, etc.)?
5. What additional comments do you have?
 - Lives near Brown Park, lived in the Owatonna for last 40 years, retired
 - Plays golf at Brooktree, plays tennis at indoor center, plays cards at Senior Place, walks the trails in Kaplan's Woods daily/weekly
 - Seniors uses golf course, walking trails along the Straight River are very popular, aquatic classes, golf memberships, indoor tennis 2-3x/week for Greg Sept-May (many league plays, drop-in, mixed doubles – social), park and rec has done a great job
 - Pickleball uses courts at Morehouse (built approx. 5 years ago), two courts at Manthey, new court at Sid Kinyon, currently in the winter uses the indoor courts at the church on 35, Christian Family Church (used to play at the Armory but it was renovated). Geno is the head of the group, Jerry Hartman (tennis & pickleball group)
 - Pickleball / tennis striping doesn't mix, makes it difficult to play or host USAA regulation tennis tournaments
 - Like the trail along 18th Ave
 - Suggest trail link near Lakeside Foods building/Owatonna Canning Co., potential land donor

Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire

Date: 01.31.19 **Time:** 2:30-3pm

Interviewer: Jason Amberg and Eva Kelly

Stakeholder Representative: Elizabeth Veldman

Name of Group / Association: Community Education-Early Childhood Development
Early Childhood Education

1. Which parks, trails or facilities are used most for recreation?
 - Teaches 3-5 with parents, 4th year teaching, has 52 families how meet weekly
 - Mineral Springs Park,
 - Brown Park (newer playground), every Tuesday class in summer months rotate parks (Fairgrounds, Brown), depends on playground and shade
 - Trails (lighted)
 - Love Gainey Park
2. What city offered programs are popular with this group?
 - Sports camps, future stars, tadpoles, summer camps at Mineral Springs, sessions sometimes are full
 - Indoor gym – desire dedicated time and space for younger kids
3. What type of facilities/amenities are required (sizes, dimensions, spaces, indoor/outdoor) for this group?
 - Appreciates the kid friendly parks
4. Describe the conditions of the Owatonna facilities you currently use and what you like best about them.
 - Parents are concerned about safety at the parks, specifically at Dartts Park, there has been a police presence here though lately which has helped
 - Equipment at Lake Kohlmier is dated asked where will Manthey equipment go – to Morehouse?
 -
5. What additional amenities or improvements are desired to meet your group's needs (field sizes, restrooms, certain programs, parking, certain amenities, seating, concessions, lighting, etc.)?
 - Suggest winter indoor play areas, gym is packed during cold days
 - Popular parks have shade available for families
 - Suggestion about the bathroom conditions at the parks, young families are changing diapers here
 - Participated in the 10-week class called Explore the Community, went to ten different locations Lake Kohlmier, Mineral Springs, Lowes, different field trip activities for parents/children
 - Suggests connection from dog park to North Straight River trail, the new trails in Owatonna are very nice
 - Suggest nature play opportunities, children play much longer.
6. What additional comments do you have?

Community Engagement Summary

To: City of Owatonna

From: Eva Kelly

Date: December 4, 2018

Re: Lighted Holiday Parade – Pop-Up Event
City of Owatonna - Parks & Trail System Plan
WSB Project No. #013022-000

Event Description: Pop-up Event held at Central Park during the annual Chamber of Commerce sponsored Lighted Holiday Parade on Thursday November 29th, 2018 from 5:00-7:30 pm. There were approximately 1,000+ people who attended the event. The parade down Cedar Avenue started at 6 pm with hot cider, cookies and carolers (high school choir) afterwards at the Central Park bandshell. Several tree trunks were lit in the park along with various firepits burning (set up by the Park & Rec department). Demographics were primarily white and approximately 100+ people visited the booth.

Overall Summary: There were many positive and enthusiastic comments on the parks and trails in Owatonna. The trails were mentioned frequently as a favorite activity. We used informal surveys to ask questions about current likes and future needs for the park system and an interactive board to gauge interest in various desired future activities. We also dropped off information (social pinpoint handouts) and talked to store owners at: Big Apple Bagel, Frame Shop, Salon E Clips, and Costa's Candies & Restaurant. Our table, next to the hot cider, was busy as people were heading to Cedar Avenue to the parade. We set up at 5:00 pm and immediately began talking with citizens. There were a lot of young families in attendance. Members of the Chamber of Commerce said it was the largest crowd they had seen in years. In general, archery was chosen as a desired activity among young kids (8-14); splash pad was a popular choice for both young kids and parents; restrooms were brought up frequently; beach and lake access was noted because of the closure of Lake Kohlmeier beach during construction this past year.

The favorite parks mentioned:

- Morehouse (first)
- Mineral Springs (second)
- Dartts
- Kaplan's Woods
- Jaycee
- Fairgrounds
- Manthey

Specific comments are below:

1. They love Morehouse park, the lighted trails, seeing deer in the park and at Mineral Springs, would love to see a splash pad (young couple, expectant mother with extended family members).
2. They like Jaycee park – the playground there (high school students)
3. They would like to see more horseshoes at various parks (couple, mid-40s)
4. She would like to see more dog parks, she uses Lake Chase currently (woman mid 20s with dog)
5. She would like to see more benches, places to sit along the trails (woman mid-50s)
6. It would be nice to have more restrooms along the trail or a porta-potty (man, mid-50s)
7. They love Mineral Springs Park and Morehouse because of the natural areas, it is well-lit and has safe trails (young family mid-30s)
8. They would like to see the concessions brought back to Lake Kohlmeier beach area (young family, mid-30s)
9. She loves the trails in Kaplan's Woods and Morehouse park, uses trail along 26th (woman, mid-50s)
10. He has concern about users wanting to camp in Kaplan's Woods, doesn't think it is a good idea because of the campfires (man, mid-50s)
11. She uses the trails at Mineral Springs a lot (grandma mid 70s), she uses the monkey bars at the parks (young granddaughter).
12. They like the playground at Lincoln Park Elementary School – (young family mid 30s)
13. Bathrooms need to be clean (girl, 10)
14. He'd like to take archery lessons like they have in Albert Lea (boy, 10)
15. Like to see ninja warrior course (boy, 10)
16. We love the parks, no improvements, they are already done and we use them a lot (woman, mid-60s)

17. Like using Fairgrounds Park, Lincoln park playground and Brown Park (family, mid-30s, young children)
18. He loves Central Park plays concerts at Music in the Park in Central Park for years. (man, mid-70s)
19. Playground at Morehouse Park needs improving, questioned if the parks use LED lighting?, they love the playground at Fairgrounds Park (young family, 30s, minority demographic)
20. Mom and young daughter participate in passport program every year at various parks
21. Would like to see more 2-seater swings like the one at Jaycee Park (Mom with two little boys)
22. Connect the trail from North Street to Darts Park so biking is safer (Mom with two little boys)
23. More benches along trails that are not temperature sensitive (women, 60s-80s)
24. Continuing to increase accessibility in parks, encourage more bikes to come downtown, and connect bike trail to Faribault (man-60s)
25. Need an inclusive playground (young family of five)
26. 3 boys- Love Manthey Park for the forest and playground, would like to see a tire swing and lacrosse Mom-No tire swing (family of five, minority demographic)
27. Central park should stay the same. Need more basketball courts. We go to Manthey and Jaycee because of proximity. (three high school students)
28. City should have adult dodgeball leagues like they do for kickball (young couple 20s)
29. Young couple who grew up in Owatonna mentioned the current disc golf is well used but run-down and not well advertised for teenagers to use. Discussed as teenagers, they really enjoyed using the fireplaces after school with friends at Morehouse and Gainey Park (where wood is stocked). They think there should be more fireplaces at the park. Overall, they think restrooms need to be updated/cleaned more frequently and have soap at the sinks. Not a lot to do as teenagers. (couple, late 20s)
30. Skate park doesn't feel safe because of people loitering, not a great location, closed off (high school students)
31. Loved an idea of a natural playground with water features (young family mid 30s)

Bingo Board Responses:

Beaches / Lake Access	19
Traditional Playground	9
Natural Playground	12
Challenge / Ninja Equipment	13
Softball / Baseball Fields	3
Lacrosse / Soccer / Rugby Fields	4
Multi-Use Fields (Football mentioned)	4
Hockey / Skating	13
Basketball	7
Volleyball	5
Tennis	5
Pickleball	6
Nature Trails / Boardwalks	11
X-Country Skiing	6
Paved Trails	14
Mountain Bike Trails	11
Community Gardens	13
Public Art	12
Benches / Seating	6
Performance Stage	9
Skate Park	5
Rental Pavilions / Shelters	7
Dog Park	13
Fishing	9
Splash Pad	26
Picnic Area	8
Disc Golf	4
Education / History / Interpretation	6
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	11
Archery	18
Restrooms	12
Bocce Ball	3
Horseshoes	6
Active Parks	6
Passive / Natural Parks	6
Other:	
Rec Center /Gymnastics	
Swimming Pool / Canoeing / Snowshoeing	

Public Open House Meeting Summary

To: City of Owatonna
From: Eva Kelly
Date: January 31, 2019
Re: City of Owatonna - Parks & Trail System Plan
 WSB Project No. #013022-000

Event Description: The Public Open House was held at Council Chambers at Owatonna City Hall on Thursday January 31, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Although the weather was very cold and schools were canceled for the third day throughout Minnesota, there were approximately 30 people who attended. Most attendees were over the age of 50 and Caucasian. Many were members of the Park Board or city staff or those who had property/adjacent property to park land.

The event started with an overview of the project presented by WSB. This overview included goals, process, community engagement, and preliminary analysis. Public questions followed the overview before ending with a community activity. The community activity gave the attendee time to give their comments, fill out surveys, and look at maps of the park and trail system and speak more in detail with city staff and the WSB team. Although the number of attendees were limited, the feedback received at this meeting was consistent with input we have collected through earlier public engagement activities and stakeholder meetings.

When asked if they had heard about the project or made comments on the Social Pinpoint site, about a dozen or so raised their hands.

Specific comments are below:

1. What would improve the Owatonna Parks & Trails System?
 - a. Trail loop throughout city
 - b. Better road crossings for bikes (Bixby Road)
 - c. Native pollinator plants-food/habitat for bees and butterflies, beauty, tourist and local attraction with butterflies
 - d. More sidewalks
 - e. Add more sidewalk walking paths throughout city.
 - f. Connect trail system
 - g. Restrooms along the trail

2. Additional comments;
 - Flooding trail washout 2010/2013 (Hammann Park): would like to see a trail through this natural area, the old trail (cattle path) has been washed out.
 - Trail head (across from Lake Chase): great place for a trail head to the northern future state trail corridor "Prairie Wildflower" and to connect to Owatonna
 - Connect to Downtown (trail to Central Park)
 - Critical trail link is through old Lakeside Foods property to connect both greenway trails, various routes were discussed

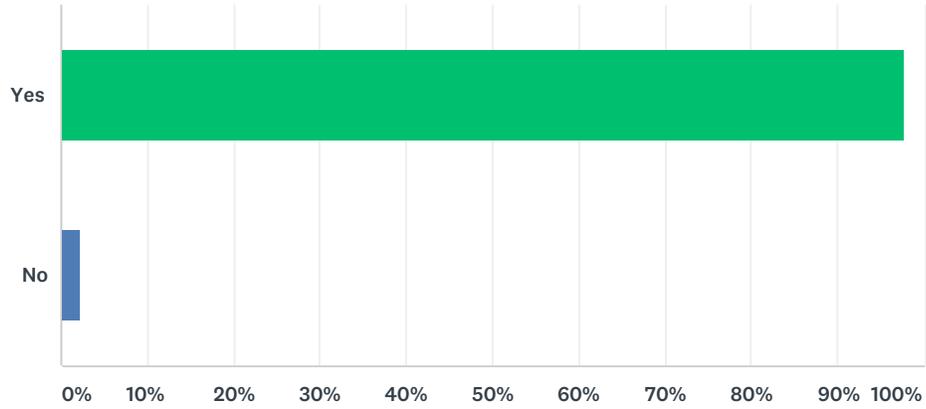
Bingo Board Responses: (highlighted items received the highest responses)

Beaches / Lake Access	5
Traditional Playground	
Natural Playground	4
Challenge	
Softball / Baseball Fields	
Lacrosse / Soccer / Rugby Fields	
Multi-Use Fields (Football mentioned)	
Hockey / Skating	3
Basketball	
Volleyball	
Tennis	

Pickleball	3
Nature Trails / Boardwalks	5
X-Country Skiing	3
Paved Trails	5
Mountain Bike Trails	1
Community Gardens	1
Public Art	4
Benches / Seating	3
Performance Stage	5
Skate Park	
Rental Pavilions / Shelters	1
Dog Park	1
Fishing	2
Splash Pad	
Picnic Area	2
Disc Golf	1
Education / History / Interpretation	2
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	1
Archery	
Restrooms	
Bocce Ball	1
Horseshoes	1
Active Parks	1
Passive / Natural Parks	3
Other:	
Native Pollinator Gardens	5
Saunas	1
Golf	1
Pool Space	1

Q1 Do you live or work in Owatonna?

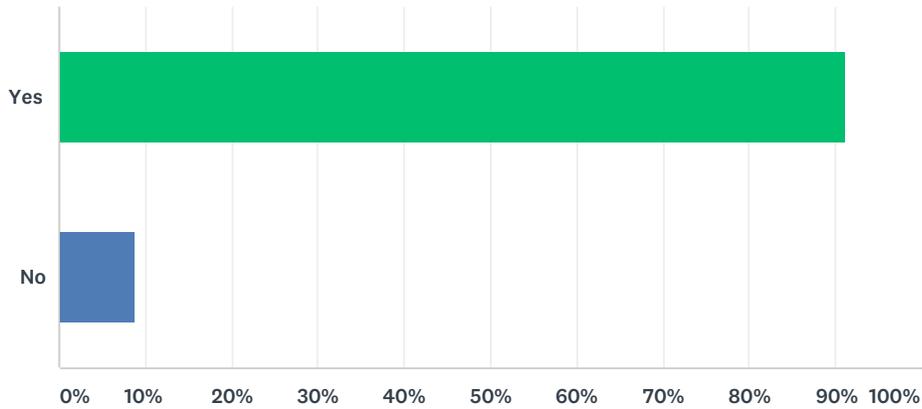
Answered: 90 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	97.78%	88
No	2.22%	2
TOTAL		90

Q2 Do you regularly visit a park, trail or recreational facility in Owatonna?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	91.11%	82
No	8.89%	8
TOTAL		90

Q3 If you answered yes, which one do you visit the most and why?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 15

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Jc park - location	2/24/2019 11:46 AM
2	Lake Kohlmeier Trail, Buxton Trail, 26th Street Trail	2/24/2019 7:24 AM
3	Parks and trails. I have young children and we like to be active.	2/23/2019 9:49 PM
4	Straight River Trail for walking and Manthey Park for the playground.	2/22/2019 11:18 AM
5	Brown Park and Kaplan Woods Trails near boat landing. We live nearby.	2/22/2019 12:18 AM
6	North Straight River Parkway	2/21/2019 8:14 PM
7	Kaplan's Woods Park and Parkway, great place with multiple things to do in each season	2/21/2019 7:37 PM
8	Manthey park because of the wonderful equipment for our toddler. Second is moorehouse because of the wide paths we can walk along and we enjoy exploring the river and falls.	2/21/2019 6:51 PM
9	Minneral Springs Park because it's the closest to our house.	2/21/2019 4:20 PM
10	Owatonna Tennis Center to play tennis leagues and to hit with people for fun, get lessons and use the ball machine	2/21/2019 11:34 AM
11	Parks & Trails	2/21/2019 9:01 AM
12	Mineral Springs. Closest to my house.	2/21/2019 8:57 AM
13	Lincoln. Fair grounds. Kaplan's.	2/21/2019 8:51 AM
14	Manthey park is in my back yard.	2/21/2019 8:43 AM
15	Manthey because we live within walking distance.	2/21/2019 8:14 AM
16	Mineral springs- close to home	2/21/2019 6:27 AM
17	Bike trails	2/21/2019 3:01 AM
18	Running and bike paths mostly on north side, alone and with family	2/20/2019 11:35 PM
19	Hamman park, nearby	2/20/2019 11:13 PM
20	Central Park, Kaplan's Woods, North Straight River Trail	2/20/2019 10:30 PM
21	Morehouse because it's close to my house, we enjoy the trail and feeding the ducks.	2/20/2019 10:25 PM
22	Manthey, because we live close. Kaplan's for hiking though	2/20/2019 10:08 PM
23	Manthey because it's close to my home or fairgrounds during softball games	2/20/2019 9:28 PM
24	Bike paths and kaplans woods	2/20/2019 9:19 PM
25	Kaplan woods trail, Brownpark, fairground park... I'm a runner and it's close to my house. Those are the parks closest to our home.	2/20/2019 5:36 PM
26	Manthey. Best playground	2/20/2019 3:42 PM
27	Lincoln or Jaycee they are by my house	2/20/2019 3:23 PM
28	Trails...it's good exercise and the trails are very nice	2/20/2019 3:11 PM
29	Mineral springs..trails and can play/walk by river if low enough	2/20/2019 3:03 PM
30	Brown Park because it is close to our house and we like that it's tucked away from busy roads.	2/20/2019 2:56 PM
31	Jaycee (live closest to) Tail from Kaplan's park to Blast (great trail length for young kids)	2/20/2019 2:35 PM
32	Morehouse, Gainey, Brown because we live walking distance.	2/20/2019 2:30 PM

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33	we him to Manthey park, cuz close by our home and walking distance, we also love the fair grounds park, which we love to have picnic, and there are lots to play on. once in awhile we go to mineral springs and walk around, and picnic as well.	2/20/2019 2:12 PM
34	Kaplan's Woods for the trail access (paved and unpaved) and Manthey (playground and trail area to explore with kids). School playgrounds because of locations.	2/20/2019 1:46 PM
35	We use the parks often for the playgrounds and areas for kids to play.	2/20/2019 1:34 PM
36	We go to the fairgrounds park. Great set of big and little toys	2/20/2019 1:14 PM
37	Brown Park - Its the cloestest to our home, but its also one of the cleaner parks and usually isnt packed with people. Also Lake Kohlmier almost once a week when its nice. Although, would love to have some kind of authority there.	2/20/2019 12:55 PM
38	Fairgrounds Park, Jaycee Park and River Springs water park. The two because they are close to our house and the Waterpark in the summer.	2/20/2019 12:41 PM
39	Dartts Park as it is closer to our house	2/20/2019 12:35 PM
40	Man they Park, it's my kids favorite to play at.	2/20/2019 12:28 PM
41	Parks and trails. Its nice to outside with my family and no cost so we can go whenever we want, not just when we money. Makes for a good date night and for family time brings in many discussions	2/20/2019 12:17 PM
42	Trail - Kaplan's Woods Park. My kids love the walking paths there. Park - Brown park has always been my children's favorite. My younger children are able to play on the equipment while my older children play basketball. It's usually not too crowded either.	2/20/2019 12:01 PM
43	Kaplan's wood love the big woods	2/20/2019 11:51 AM
44	I walk the paths at brooktree, and the path down rose	2/20/2019 11:48 AM
45	Mineral Springs because has equipment for younger kids	2/20/2019 11:47 AM
46	Mineral Springs-b/c I live near it. Kaplan's - b/c it is beautiful & remote & ever-changing. Leo Rudolph-b/c it is open & a different natural atmosphere.	2/20/2019 11:34 AM
47	We actually frequent most of them at different times for different activities.	2/20/2019 11:33 AM
48	We visit the Fairgrounds Park most often with the kids because the playground has a lot to offer compared to Morehouse, Manthey, or Mineral Springs. Almost equally as often, we visit Brown Park as there is almost ample playground equipment. I also use the trails along Morehouse Park often when I am running or biking.	2/20/2019 11:30 AM
49	Brooktree golf course because i am a avid golfer	2/12/2019 6:30 PM
50	Kaplan Woods, I hike and cross country ski	2/11/2019 11:14 AM
51	Several. I work at a group home in Owatonna and we accompany our individuals at parks & trails regularly. I also visit both when I have a split shift or before work sometimes. Park & Rec activities, Special Olympics, community events, exercise, fishing, picnics, sports, and relaxing.	2/10/2019 10:26 PM
52	Bike path from 26th St all the way to Kaplan's Woods. Various parks for baseball games or tennis courts.	2/10/2019 7:31 PM
53	When nice out we will bike to a different one every few days.	2/6/2019 12:01 PM
54	Straight River Trail because it's absolutely beautiful and easy to access from my North Bluff neighborhood, north of 26th Street.	2/5/2019 5:22 PM
55	Morehouse or central park. Entertainment for the kids and entertainment for the adults :)	2/4/2019 4:28 PM
56	Fairgrounds park because it is closest to home and has the largest playground near to us. It's well laid out and many people frequent it for our children to play with.	2/3/2019 1:54 AM
57	Kaplans. I love the woods and so does my retriever!	2/2/2019 9:06 PM
58	Parks because I have young children that like to play at the parks.	2/1/2019 9:18 PM
59	Kaplan woods - the great trails	2/1/2019 8:19 PM
60	Mineral springs ... Beauty	2/1/2019 7:47 PM

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61	We visit Manthe because it's closest to our house, followed by Kaplan's woods. We utilize the paved bike trail system throughout the city.	2/1/2019 3:38 PM
62	Darts. It is close.	2/1/2019 2:06 PM
63	Dog Park, It's the only place for dog owners to let their dogs run free with other dogs.	2/1/2019 1:23 PM
64	Trails for biking and running. Golf course	2/1/2019 1:19 PM
65	All with playgrounds	2/1/2019 12:31 PM
66	I take my grandchildren to the various parks in the summer.	2/1/2019 12:24 PM
67	Almost all of them. Live by Lincoln but bike and run daily.	2/1/2019 11:01 AM
68	Mineral springs, closest to my home	2/1/2019 10:15 AM
69	Dartts Park - I like the Buxton Trail best because it is flat compared to the other trails. I bring my son and I pull him in a wagon. I also really like the playground there.	2/1/2019 9:59 AM
70	Morehouse park, fair grounds play ground, owatonna education center play ground	1/31/2019 11:03 PM
71	Mineral springs- proximity	1/31/2019 8:09 PM
72	All paved bike trails. I try to bike as much as I can in town off the street.	1/31/2019 2:08 PM
73	Mineral Springs-playground, horseshoe and ambience	1/31/2019 10:50 AM
74	Kaplan's, Manthey, and the walking trails. Hiking, walking/running, and family play at the playground.	1/30/2019 10:11 PM
75	Moorhouse	1/30/2019 11:23 AM

Q4 If you answered no, could you please give a reason(s) why?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 83

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No time	2/24/2019 7:28 AM
2	Don't know enough about them, new to town.	2/20/2019 3:29 PM
3	We just moved here. But will be using the parks as soon as it gets nice out.	2/20/2019 2:24 PM
4	They aren't particularly fun or engaging.	2/20/2019 1:11 PM
5	No interest	2/6/2019 5:33 PM
6	We lack a community center that I'd more likely use year round	2/2/2019 6:46 PM
7	not interested in any	2/1/2019 2:41 PM

Q5 If you were to bring a visitor from out-of-town to show-off one of Owatonna's parks or trails, which one would it be and why?

Answered: 64 Skipped: 26

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	26th Street Trail	2/24/2019 7:33 AM
2	Straight River Trail - I love how the scenery changes and that you are close to the river.	2/22/2019 11:24 AM
3	Friends with kids: Manthey due to its great play set. Casual walk: Morehouse due to its long beautiful trail near the river. Fun and adventure: Mineral Springs due to its fun trails, uniqueness, and history- and mini falls!	2/22/2019 12:23 AM
4	Kaplan's Woods.	2/21/2019 9:09 PM
5	Mineral springs park for the disc golf course	2/21/2019 8:18 PM
6	Mineral Springs - closest and has nice history behind it. The trails are nice and a nice gazebo to sit have lunch.	2/21/2019 4:27 PM
7	My favorite is the walking trail that goes along the Straight River for a number of miles from the Golf Club to 26th Street. It is beautiful, quiet and safe.	2/21/2019 11:42 AM
8	Mineral Springs...love the playground and hiking trails	2/21/2019 9:23 AM
9	Fairgrounds. It has the most to do.	2/21/2019 9:03 AM
10	Kaplan's. Morehouse. Love the trail. Always clean. A little creepy with random men hanging out.	2/21/2019 8:54 AM
11	Manthey. It's only a ten second walk from here. LOL	2/21/2019 8:54 AM
12	Mineral springs for the springs, manthey for the newer equipment, Morehouse for the trails	2/21/2019 8:19 AM
13	Kaplan's woods or Monrral springs - natural beauty	2/21/2019 6:32 AM
14	Mineral Springs	2/21/2019 3:07 AM
15	New one off 26th, close by and gorgeous. Or by Morehouse/Blast/MS Brewery	2/20/2019 11:43 PM
16	Kaplan's Woods	2/20/2019 10:42 PM
17	Morehouse for the same reason above.	2/20/2019 10:30 PM
18	Manthey for the park because the playground is suitable for all ages to play. I'd take them to Kaplan's for hiking because it's so big you just keep going and going.	2/20/2019 10:15 PM
19	Kaplans and entire trail system	2/20/2019 9:25 PM
20	Kaplan woods since it's waking distance, otherwise the new paved trail NW side of town.	2/20/2019 5:45 PM
21	Manthey. Clean park, not super busy, has the nice walking path	2/20/2019 3:46 PM
22	Manthey, it's one of the nicer ones	2/20/2019 3:27 PM
23	Dartts...it has a lot of variety and it's a hub to other trails and parks	2/20/2019 3:16 PM
24	Morehouse because of the variety of things to see and do.	2/20/2019 3:03 PM
25	Kaplan's Woods - great for exploring, exercising, and observing nature	2/20/2019 2:40 PM
26	The trail that goes from Morehouse to Lake Kohlmeier or the opposite way to The Blast	2/20/2019 2:35 PM
27	I would go to the one by Kwik Trip or the one by Owatonna Power.	2/20/2019 2:27 PM
28	first one would be mineral springs, it's so beautiful, and of they have kids, we go to fair grounds park, lots to play on. we also like to home in Kaplans woods, and my husband loves to bike the trail at Morehouse park.	2/20/2019 2:22 PM
29	Mineral Springs or Manthey for playground and exploring nature	2/20/2019 1:55 PM

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30	Any of them with large play sets and family areas	2/20/2019 1:37 PM
31	Mineral Springs, because it is beautiful.	2/20/2019 1:17 PM
32	Brown park- great play system	2/20/2019 1:17 PM
33	Morehouse. Such a beautiful park and trail and also a very clean park.	2/20/2019 1:03 PM
34	Fairgrounds or Manthey because they have the best equipment. Morehouse for the ducks! Lake Kohlmier for the beach.	2/20/2019 12:48 PM
35	It would have to be Kaplan's Woods as that has many different trails to walk on and has great scenery.	2/20/2019 12:44 PM
36	Manthey Park for kids, the trail from Kaplan Woods to Moorehouse for adults.	2/20/2019 12:37 PM
37	The one by the fair grounds. Frankly it has the best set up for play for the kids fun for multiple age groups and seriously is the cleanest... and the cleanest of drugs and crime	2/20/2019 12:34 PM
38	Kaplan's Woods Park. The little island area on Lake Kohlmeier is a relaxing spot.	2/20/2019 12:08 PM
39	Kaplan's for its nature	2/20/2019 11:53 AM
40	Mineral Springs because there so much to do there	2/20/2019 11:52 AM
41	Kaplan's - b/c you can enjoy a rigorous hike OR a bit more leisurely; either way, the beauty of the surroundings is exquisite and restful.	2/20/2019 11:45 AM
42	Fairgrounds Park as the visitor would more than likely have children as well. It's a great place for the kids to play, plenty of room, and plenty of equipment without feeling overcrowded.	2/20/2019 11:42 AM
43	Kaplan Woods, it is very pretty	2/11/2019 11:25 AM
44	I like Lake Kohlmier Beach, Dartt's Park, Central Park, and Kaplan's Woods. I think each of them have different aspects that lend to their beauty and functionality in this community. Lake Kohlmier Beach is my favorite, however. I feel like there are many things to do for many different people and it's far enough away from 'downtown' to feel like a mini vacation. I like to eat my lunch there and take a walk. I also like when we go there for work and our individuals have a bonfire and make s'mores in the fall after playing volleyball.	2/10/2019 10:48 PM
45	Bike trail. Variety of parks with baseball.	2/10/2019 7:54 PM
46	Probably Morehouse Park. The waterfall, river and paved walking trail top notch.	2/6/2019 12:13 PM
47	Kaplan's Woods. It's natural yet well maintained.	2/5/2019 5:33 PM
48	Fairgrounds Park. It has some thing for everyone. Pavillion, playground History center, ball fields and the village of yesteryear.	2/4/2019 4:38 PM
49	Kaplans. During the Fall the beauty of the leaves while walking through the woods. Winter for fat tire biking, CC Skiing, Snowshoeing and just walking. Summer for trail riding and walking. The bike repair thing at the entrance is awesome!	2/2/2019 9:26 PM
50	Manthey Park. We love the contrasting equipment and open space. We also love the walking path to and from	2/1/2019 9:22 PM
51	Mineral springs or Morehouse if kids. Beauty, playground, river, walking trails. We also love Dartts.	2/1/2019 8:08 PM
52	Mineral Springs or Kaplan's	2/1/2019 3:49 PM
53	Mineral Springs well known	2/1/2019 2:44 PM
54	Start at 26th St trail and follow to Kaplans Woods	2/1/2019 2:14 PM
55	Kaplin Trails - Great trails, well kept	2/1/2019 1:42 PM
56	Any bike trail	2/1/2019 1:32 PM
57	Mineral Springs....it has woods , water, playground	2/1/2019 12:35 PM
58	We would take the bike trail and see many of them!!	2/1/2019 11:08 AM
59	Mineral springs the hiking trails	2/1/2019 10:22 AM
60	I have brought out of town guests to Dartts Park, Mineral Springs Park, and Manthey Park. Mineral Springs has a lot of good shade for when it is really hot out. Dartts has the best trail. Manthey is my favorite for when it is cooler out because it is usually less crowded during the day.	2/1/2019 10:11 AM

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61	Mineral springs park. It has the statue of Princess Owatonna. Morehouse park. It has a nice walking trail.	1/31/2019 11:14 PM
62	The new trail from 26th to Blast. Great environment and nicely covered trail.	1/31/2019 2:54 PM
63	Morehouse-Dam restoration, ducks and geese, ball games scheduled, pickle ball playing	1/31/2019 10:55 AM
64	Kaplan's woods	1/30/2019 10:21 PM

Q6 Regarding Owatonna's parks, trails and recreation-what do you dislike the most and why?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 27

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Too much mowing in areas that could be left natural.	2/24/2019 7:33 AM
2	The mess from dogs. Beautiful trails have a lot of dog waste and it damages the appeal and serenity of the park or trail.	2/22/2019 11:24 AM
3	Not much negative actually.	2/22/2019 12:23 AM
4	Lack of maintenance.	2/21/2019 9:09 PM
5	Lack of dedicated walking areas forcing me to enter the roadway with my dog	2/21/2019 8:18 PM
6	I wish there were sidewalks getting from the car NE side of town to mineral springs. I hate taking my kids out on that busy road to get to a park. I hate having to load up bikes and drive to the park.	2/21/2019 4:27 PM
7	No complaints. I would just enjoy them to be longer and loop around to be connected but also very grateful for what we have!	2/21/2019 11:42 AM
8	I dislike that the only open Swim in town is at the West Hills pool. Looking to work with my daughter on diving skills and building endurance. The West Hills doesn't have a deep end nor is long enough for laps. The OMS only has lap Swim early morning and is not open to kids. Would love to see a 25yd community pool and community center. This would allow us to lap Swim morning, after work, open Swim nights/weekends, and accommodate the demand for swimming lessons and the swim club/team can have the OMS pool. Fairbault Park/rec has a community center and pool. I have driven there to catch lap Swim after work and open Swim on weekends. We need a 25yd community pool in addition to the OMS pool.	2/21/2019 9:23 AM
9	Some of the parks have very old equipment. Manthey can be a scary area, Morehouse is older, and Mineral Springs doesn't have variety for kids to do things.	2/21/2019 9:03 AM
10	Creepy men hanging out at morehouse. Creepers at manthey	2/21/2019 8:54 AM
11	The weird people hanging out there up to no good. Scary to go during hours that not many people are there but people who shouldn't be when you are alone or have young kids.	2/21/2019 8:19 AM
12	Safety at night	2/21/2019 6:32 AM
13	Disappointed I don't see more impromptu family gatherings	2/21/2019 3:07 AM
14	Morehouse playground	2/20/2019 11:43 PM
15	Street connectors where gaps exist.	2/20/2019 10:42 PM
16	The equipment at Morehouse needs to be upgraded & the place could be cleaner. It doesn't al aye attract the best of people and they litter. Also, I wish all parks were smoke free.	2/20/2019 10:30 PM
17	Hands down, I hate that the slides are so far off the ground! My littlest should be able to go down the slide and land on the ground not have me in fear her back will snap when she flies off or bruise her tailbone when she thumps hard after the fall.	2/20/2019 10:15 PM
18	Lack of mtc in kaplans....mowing and wood chips on the path especially with havibg a full time tree crew	2/20/2019 9:25 PM
19	More lights	2/20/2019 5:45 PM
20	Need a community center or a YMCA type of facility. Options go way down in winter of things to do. Having a fitness center with childcare and a pool would be amazing	2/20/2019 3:46 PM
21	No ymca	2/20/2019 3:27 PM
22	I can't think of anything I dislike	2/20/2019 3:16 PM
23	I wish there was more playground equipment for those with disabilities.	2/20/2019 3:03 PM

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24	Accessing the trail via bike from the East side of town. Hard to do with little kids facing major roadways so we usually have to drive and load up bikes which is tough	2/20/2019 2:40 PM
25	I dislike how hard it is to get your child into swimming lessons.	2/20/2019 2:35 PM
26	No splash pads!!	2/20/2019 2:27 PM
27	Darts park, lots of drug issues, and not good people there. some times manthey park has these issues as well in the picnic privillion. lots of gang related people.	2/20/2019 2:22 PM
28	Jaycee because there are less sidewalks/paths leading up to it. The one off Lemond Road because it could use updating.	2/20/2019 1:55 PM
29	That they are "behind on the times". I feel the play areas could be updated and add more family friendly things such as splash pads.	2/20/2019 1:37 PM
30	Their lack of innovation. They are just hum drum.	2/20/2019 1:17 PM
31	No indoor park	2/20/2019 1:17 PM
32	Unattended children at the lake. Theres been so many times, where we've invited kids to play with us because their parents arent paying any attention, or the kids will simply take our stuff because there is no parent paying attention. I realize its not a problem that can be fixed by the city.. but it'd be nice to have lifeguards back again.	2/20/2019 1:03 PM
33	Nothing. How	2/20/2019 12:48 PM
34	That there isn't an indoor park at the moment. Because on snowy days like we've been having, it'd be great to get the kids play somewhere indoors	2/20/2019 12:44 PM
35	We avoid Moorehouse park due to the duck and goose problem and the delapitated playground.	2/20/2019 12:37 PM
36	Seems like more and more drugs are seeping into the parks you can tell because the parks start to look dirty. You see the druggys hanging out in some of our favorite parks like morehouse. I dont want to bring my family around that. The other thing i dislike most is the bugs. Seems like morehouse and mineral springs are not sprayed for bugs very well. Nor thetrails in the woods. These are our favorite hot spots. But its not enjoyable with bugs.	2/20/2019 12:34 PM
37	I think there are areas that are not served well with parks. There are a few neighborhoods that could use one.	2/20/2019 12:08 PM
38	Want more trails to wrap around all of owatonna	2/20/2019 11:53 AM
39	Jaycee park because not good for younger kids	2/20/2019 11:52 AM
40	I can't think of anything negative	2/20/2019 11:45 AM
41	I dislike Manthey, Mineral Springs, and Morehouse Parks' playground. All are relatively small in comparison to others in town. My kids get board easily at these playgrounds. And Manthey Park playground equipment freaks me out as a parent. It's pretty high with lots of drop off points. Considering Manthey is a location for sports games and practices for soccer and baseball/softball, I would have expected a much bigger playground (like at the Fairgrounds Park) to entertain siblings. I would also like to see trail work completed on the north east side of town. Widened sidewalks abruptly end at Kenyon Road leaving you to either turn around or be on the road in a 40 mph speed zone in an effort to get to the side walk in either 26th or Mineral Springs Road.	2/20/2019 11:42 AM
42	The cross country ski trails need a dedicated groomer and need to be groomed more frequently. I called the the Parks office office and they said that the website gets updated..it never does. Please actually update the website or use Skinny Ski to post conditions of the trails. It would also be nice to make more trails around Brooktree Golf Course (and for them to be groomed more frequently). Kaplan Woods is nice when freshly groomed but there are too many hikers to ski on even two day old snow.	2/11/2019 11:25 AM
43	I don't like the signage. It may seem like it's not that important, but to me, I feel it's not representative of the community's general economic status. I feel the signs look temporary. And, I think they are hard to see due to the colors used and the fonts used. I also think updates like puppy waste bags, or any ADA accessible features, or technological amenities should be done so the parks are in line with the times. Proper lighting for safety, and emergency systems (phones or alarms?) for the safety of local citizens (either a health emergency or potential criminal activity).	2/10/2019 10:48 PM
44	When you have to cross busy streets to catch the rest of trail or ride so close to traffic. Also that the paths flood so much making them unusable for weeks at a time.	2/10/2019 7:54 PM

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45	This is nit picking but I would like to see more paved walking/biking trails maybe even heading out of town to the east or north. Also would be nice to have a way to loop around on our great trails instead of hitting the end and turning around and go back.	2/6/2019 12:13 PM
46	The short areas of the trail that need to be elevated because they collect rain water become a muddy mess.	2/5/2019 5:33 PM
47	Lack of art sculptures. (nice to see new ones added at west hills)	2/4/2019 4:38 PM
48	The Lincoln Courts at the corner of Smith Ave and Havana. Wished it would have been resurfaced for tennis only with 4 courts.	2/2/2019 9:26 PM
49	Nothing I wish owatonna had a splash pad and an indoor playground/park (especially geared towards younger children)	2/1/2019 9:22 PM
50	Nothing you can do ... People who do not pick up after their dogs especially when bags are available.	2/1/2019 8:08 PM
51	The maintenance on the small park on Northridge Ln is lacking mulch around the playground equipment. It hasn't had new mulch added since the park was created. We live next to this park.	2/1/2019 3:49 PM
52	too many - to much money to maintain	2/1/2019 2:44 PM
53	People not cleaning up after their dogs.	2/1/2019 2:14 PM
54	Dog Park. No shelter from wind, cold or hot sun for people. Gets very muddy when wet or snow thaws. Needs more mulch or other covering especially by the entrances. I think it could be more family friendly as well. Nothing for kids to do. I would love to bring the kids and the dog out to play. Simply having a playground out there would be a great improvement. Either that or install a dog run area at another local park that already has a playground. There is only one dog park and it is a long way from the south end of town.	2/1/2019 1:42 PM
55	They are all blacktop; for running it would be nice to have some crushed rock. Also, the gap between trails where you have to run on North Street.	2/1/2019 1:32 PM
56	Wish we had a bike rental place so people without could still enjoy the trails	2/1/2019 12:35 PM
57	Wish the path connected around town. Love the new additions. Wish west bills would be updated...basketball, weight rooms, locker rooms for winter indoor activity	2/1/2019 11:08 AM
58	Lack of multiple ice skating rinks closer to my side of town	2/1/2019 10:22 AM
59	I am always picking garbage whenever I go. We could definitely put more garbage and recycling bins up. People are litterbugs, unfortunately.	2/1/2019 10:11 AM
60	Crossing Oak Ave at School St. that is a very busy 4 lane road. It needs a cross walk on BOTH sides of school street AND NEEDS crossing lights. Why does federated get them to cross main, but people crossing Oak to go to Morehouse Park dont. The safety of the people at federal level tend is more important than the FAMILIES crossing Oak to go play at the park? Think about that. The city wants to revitalize down town, but doesn't want to put in a cross walk and crossing lights at School and Oak? Priorities people, priorities.	1/31/2019 11:14 PM
61	There is no way to make a loop of town using primarily bike paths. I don't feel good about biking on the roads. People are much less aware of bikes here compared to when I lived in the cities.	1/31/2019 2:54 PM
62	n/a	1/31/2019 10:55 AM
63	Shared space with the mountain bike trails at Kaplan's woods. It gets a little dangerous for those on foot where the bike & foot trails intersect.	1/30/2019 10:21 PM

Q7 Regarding Owatonna's parks, trails and recreation-what do you like the most and why?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 27

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The areas that are left more natural. The vegetation buffers left around waterways. Suggest you plant more native flowering plants & shrubs for birds, butterflies & pollinators.	2/24/2019 7:33 AM
2	The amount and variety of the parks and trails. Lots to check out and enjoy.	2/22/2019 11:24 AM
3	SO many, and so much to do!!	2/22/2019 12:23 AM
4	Multi use trails	2/21/2019 9:09 PM
5	Multiple choices for areas to work along with various surface types	2/21/2019 8:18 PM
6	Ther are so many...and kept up well!	2/21/2019 4:27 PM
7	They always seem to be very well kept and maintained and cleaned. Pretty cool to have bike repair stations or station as well. Good idea though I couldn't figure out how to put air in my tires but that may be my problem.	2/21/2019 11:42 AM
8	I love the many parks in town. I love that the new trails are being built to connect the parks. We use Kaplan's Woods year around and enjoy biking, hiking, snowshoeing, skiing right in town. Love that we can bike to the beach to swim in the summer. Wish there were lifeguards.	2/21/2019 9:23 AM
9	Having a strong Parks system that does try to do enough around the city for kids and family. Fairgrounds is the best park.	2/21/2019 9:03 AM
10	Always clean! Always cleared of snow. Good play equipment	2/21/2019 8:54 AM
11	Activities that are held, and the ability to park somewhere and walk and come back. Many options, walk, bike, run, playground, and near places to get ice cream or convenience store	2/21/2019 8:19 AM
12	Nicely maintained and nice trails	2/21/2019 6:32 AM
13	Accessibility & cleanliness	2/21/2019 3:07 AM
14	Many connecting trails	2/20/2019 11:43 PM
15	The amount, we are more fortunatr than other communties.	2/20/2019 10:42 PM
16	There are so many to choose from that are nice!	2/20/2019 10:30 PM
17	That each park has its own unquiness. We go to different parks for different types of play.	2/20/2019 10:15 PM
18	Entire trail system	2/20/2019 9:25 PM
19	Paved trails that are connected allowing for longer walks/runs/bike rides. Drinking fountains are helpful.	2/20/2019 5:45 PM
20	Very well kept up	2/20/2019 3:46 PM
21	Not much	2/20/2019 3:27 PM
22	They're well maintained and there's a lot of variety	2/20/2019 3:16 PM
23	You can clearly see that Owatonna takes great pride in their parks and trails. They're always kept clean and neat.	2/20/2019 3:03 PM
24	Love their connectedness - you can go a mile and so at a park or cover the whole thing	2/20/2019 2:40 PM
25	We love the trail because it has stops along the way for fitness and drinking fountains to refresh you and your pet!	2/20/2019 2:35 PM
26	Some of the gorgeous nature settings.	2/20/2019 2:27 PM
27	we like the paved trail at Morehouse. also, we love the water park, and so glad we can get family passes. there is not much more to do on a hot summer day.	2/20/2019 2:22 PM

Owatonna Parks & Trails Master Plan

28	I like the whole paved trail system, but wish it were longer heading east of Kaplan's woods. Any park with nature access and walkable with sidewalks/trails.	2/20/2019 1:55 PM
29	Playgrounds	2/20/2019 1:37 PM
30	Their accessibility.	2/20/2019 1:17 PM
31	Many to choose from	2/20/2019 1:17 PM
32	The organized sports are great, my daughter loves the soccer program. The movies in the park are also a huge family favorite, or really any of the free events that you hold. We definitely aren't a well off family, so to have events where we can go and spend time together without spending a ton of money is amazing. Plus with the events being free, its easier to convince their friends/parents to come along with us.	2/20/2019 1:03 PM
33	How many parks and playgrounds we have! We try to get to them all in the summer!	2/20/2019 12:48 PM
34	That there are MANY parks and trails throughout the town to choose from. After getting married, and until we moved to Owatonna, we only lived in smaller towns and didn't have much to offer for parks for our kids.	2/20/2019 12:44 PM
35	I love all the trees and the trails are well maintained. On many of the trails you wouldn't realize your in the middle of town.	2/20/2019 12:37 PM
36	Many options. We can play, picnic, or go walking and hiking. I wish we could go swimming in the lake. But we cant any longer. My family prefers lake swim over pool swimming. Esp because the pool is over crowded and costs to much when you have 6 people in your family. We can not go swimming in the lake because everytime we do we get sick and have to deal with fish biting us.	2/20/2019 12:34 PM
37	They are always in great shape.	2/20/2019 12:08 PM
38	They take such great care of the parks ststem	2/20/2019 11:53 AM
39	The new trails on 26 st	2/20/2019 11:52 AM
40	The variety. The cleanliness. The trails are kept clear of snow & leaves.	2/20/2019 11:45 AM
41	I absolutely love the trails or trail areas with widened sidewalks. Provides a safe place for walkers, runners, and bikers. The trails always seem to be well maintained. The couple of parks we frequent keep my children busy and active.	2/20/2019 11:42 AM
42	Kaplan Woods, I have yet to try Brooktree because when I drive over to try to ski, it hasn't been groomed.	2/11/2019 11:25 AM
43	I love being outdoors whenever possible. I think opportunities for exercise and for socializing in the community are increased. I also think personal goals and space are achieved to help balance out the lifestyles of most people that work 40 hrs a week and try to balance a family or personal life as well. For me personally, I find spirituality in nature as a recovering addict and I treasure the space I find in local parks.	2/10/2019 10:48 PM
44	Having paved, lit trails along natural scenery. The variety of parks and that they are kept up.	2/10/2019 7:54 PM
45	The paved walking/biking trails are great. Just wish there were more and they connected.	2/6/2019 12:13 PM
46	I like how many of the parks are connected by the trail system and have water fountains.	2/5/2019 5:33 PM
47	The variety in the parks each park is different.	2/4/2019 4:38 PM
48	I like that hey are taken care of well for the most part! I am glad they are important for our city!	2/2/2019 9:26 PM
49	Number of parks	2/1/2019 9:22 PM
50	The variety. The upkeep. The beauty. The facilities available. Play equipment. Lots of options.	2/1/2019 8:08 PM
51	We like the variety!	2/1/2019 3:49 PM
52	not in favor of any of them	2/1/2019 2:44 PM
53	The amount of flowing water nearby	2/1/2019 2:14 PM
54	Nice trails, paved areas for biking, good views, good parks for kids.	2/1/2019 1:42 PM
55	The beauty.	2/1/2019 1:32 PM
56	So many choices	2/1/2019 12:35 PM

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57	So much! Bike/running paths and now Kaplan's bike paths. Lincoln school tennis courts now as we can't wait to use them this summer	2/1/2019 11:08 AM
58	The variety of options	2/1/2019 10:22 AM
59	I like the trails to walk on best.	2/1/2019 10:11 AM
60	Lots of parks to play at.	1/31/2019 11:14 PM
61	The paved paths are expanding! And they are great quality. Thanks!	1/31/2019 2:54 PM
62	Variety--trail access for walking or biking, parks have various amenities and depending on age group that is with us, we know where to go	1/31/2019 10:55 AM
63	Leo Rudolph and Kaplan's woods are true gems. For time with my children I would like to see an inclusive playground, and a splash pad.	1/30/2019 10:21 PM

Q8 Is there a park or recreational area that you have visited recently (anywhere) and if so, what made it so appealing?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 34

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Kept in natural state as much as possible.	2/24/2019 7:33 AM
2	Straight River Trail - scenic, peaceful, and nicely laid out.	2/22/2019 11:24 AM
3	Brown Park, we live across the street. It's a hidden gem in Owatonna!	2/22/2019 12:23 AM
4	North Straight River Parkway long walkway for dog walking	2/21/2019 8:18 PM
5	I really like the indoor park Edina has to offer there residents. Yes it cost money to go but I don't care it's a place to come in from the cold and still let my kids run some energy off.	2/21/2019 4:27 PM
6	The walking path through Morehouse Park is beautiful.	2/21/2019 11:42 AM
7	Kaplan's Woods- snowshoe, skiing and fat bike trails	2/21/2019 9:23 AM
8	Edina indoor playground. Allowed for year round play and gave an outlet for kids and family as needed. Really great all around.	2/21/2019 9:03 AM
9	Indoor play areas. Outdoor play areas with big pads on the ground	2/21/2019 8:54 AM
10	Not recently with the snow	2/21/2019 8:19 AM
11	Chutes and Ladders Park in Bloomington. Nice outdoor play area with tubes and slides and water splash area. Place for adult to sit	2/21/2019 6:32 AM
12	N/a	2/21/2019 3:07 AM
13	Picnic area at Min Springs this fall, gorgeous	2/20/2019 11:43 PM
14	Wayfinding, master park planning, accessibility.	2/20/2019 10:42 PM
15	Morehouse to look for people skating	2/20/2019 10:30 PM
16	Nickelodeon Universe has their Paw Patrol land. And I liked that fake almost bouncy ground they have there.	2/20/2019 10:15 PM
17	Kaplans...year round fun	2/20/2019 9:25 PM
18	Paved trails near Kaplan woods. They're close to my home and provide a safe area to walk with my family.	2/20/2019 5:45 PM
19	Monticello MN community center. It's an amazing center!!! Huge Pool, gym, raised walking track, climbing wall, fitness center, child care, meeting and reception facilities, skate park...	2/20/2019 3:46 PM
20	Northfield ymca	2/20/2019 3:27 PM
21	Nerstrand Big Woods...very dramatic landscape and elevation changes	2/20/2019 3:16 PM
22	I have not visited any recently.	2/20/2019 3:03 PM
23	No. It's too cold out	2/20/2019 2:35 PM
24	I love the splash pad in Albert Lea!!	2/20/2019 2:27 PM
25	last summer we spend a lot of time at the water park. great way to cool off and bring the kids. glad we had a family pass, it paid off!	2/20/2019 2:22 PM
26	West Hills for sledding. Mineral Springs when it was warmer so my kids could splash around too	2/20/2019 1:55 PM
27	No	2/20/2019 1:37 PM
28	I love the idea of a splash pad. A place for people who can't afford the waterpark or country club to have a place to cool off.	2/20/2019 1:17 PM
29	Any indoor park along with a gym space for kids to run and get their energy oit	2/20/2019 1:17 PM

Owatonna Parks & Trails Master Plan

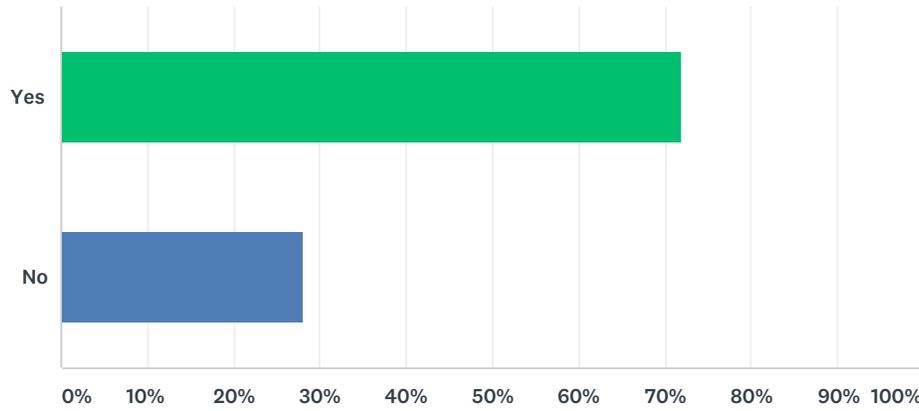
30	The ice skating pond. My daughter loves to skate, and my son has never skated but has been wanting to try. They loved being able to warm up in the chalet	2/20/2019 1:03 PM
31	Burnsville Cliff Fen Park because of the cool play equipment and the splash pad. The MN Zoo for the splash pad. Shoots and ladders for the giant slides and play equipment. Sibley Park in Mankato for the animals and the unique play equipment.	2/20/2019 12:48 PM
32	Not recently as we've been busy with work and family events. Plus the weather hasn't been good.	2/20/2019 12:44 PM
33	There's a park near my children's grandparents that has a splash pad and they love that (we're not fans of the water park).	2/20/2019 12:37 PM
34	Up in the cities. It was completely clean. Free of drugs and crime, well maintained and watched. No bugs. And when we swam up there no sickness or biting fish. Also had a good bike and skate area for my sons	2/20/2019 12:34 PM
35	We have gone to other walking trails that have more resting spots with things to look at and do for younger children.	2/20/2019 12:08 PM
36	LaCrosse, WI has a fantastic wooden playground, with many interactive components. It is large and accessible to many ages & abilities. It is very fun!	2/20/2019 11:45 AM
37	We have visited Edina's indoor playground. I love that while they have outdoor parks this is one that can be used by the kids year round, especially in the winter when kids need an outlet to burn off some energy. I wish Owatonna had an indoor playground space so I could get my kids out of the house on cold days. Prior to moving back to Owatonna, we lived in Arizona. Their parks have huge play structures (roughly twice the size of the big kid playground structure at Fairgrounds). You could be there all day and not get bored.	2/20/2019 11:42 AM
38	I regularly run from the Maple Creek Greenway to Brooktree, It is a very nice, scenic running trail. I appreciate that snow is regularly removed. I have yet to figure out how to run from the Greenway to the City Parks Trail without running on busy roads with sidewalks that are covered in snow. It might be a good idea to create an "Owatonna loop" trail that takes you through all of the parks in a circle around the city.	2/11/2019 11:25 AM
39	Not in this weather, sorry! The last place was Brown Park for Special Olympics softball practice for one of our gals from work. It was a nice night. Lots of parking. Not a lot of seating (benches), however we bring our chairs. The rest room is a little walk, but it is appreciated that it is available.	2/10/2019 10:48 PM
40	Preston area. Miles of paved bike trails through forest, fields, rock, etc. Can go to different towns for little shops, food, breweries, etc.	2/10/2019 7:54 PM
41	Trails through wooded areas with areas of water. Bathrooms. Water fountains.	2/5/2019 5:33 PM
42	Farmington art walk... Nice well lite area with parking art along the way.	2/4/2019 4:38 PM
43	I haven't.	2/2/2019 9:26 PM
44	Indoor playgrounds in Apple valley and Eagan—year round use	2/1/2019 9:22 PM
45	Mankato. Feeling at ease, peace, being relaxed. We moved to Owatonna because of the parks. We were looking at two other cities until I stopped for my kids to get a break and we saw Morehouse park and I knew this was the town.	2/1/2019 8:08 PM
46	We haven't been to a park since fall.	2/1/2019 3:49 PM
47	none	2/1/2019 2:44 PM
48	Cumberland Park in Kentucky. Green and clean	2/1/2019 2:14 PM
49	Rice Lake actually has better trails for running because it isn't blacktop.	2/1/2019 1:32 PM
50	Kaplans.... beautiful scenery	2/1/2019 12:35 PM
51	Lincoln updated tennis courts and can't wait for backdrop to be finished	2/1/2019 11:08 AM
52	Lakeville play ground and soccer complex lights available to the public was very convenient restrooms open all the time. and I grew up in Austin and Albert Lea both had multiple warming houses and skating rinks at every Park in town so any could could walk a few blocks to a park to ice skate. And also didn't have to wait until the end of January to open up ice skating.	2/1/2019 10:22 AM
53	The people that are at the parks during the day are usually really friendly. I have made a lot of friends by just being there at the right time of day.	2/1/2019 10:11 AM

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54	I wish there was an indoor playground somewhere. Its be nice to have a ace to take kiddos during the winter.	1/31/2019 11:14 PM
55	We like to take atvs on the Sioux Line Trail out of Remer as it is close to cabin, varied sights, nature, don't run in to much traffic	1/31/2019 10:55 AM
56	Kaplan's, Leo Rudolph	1/30/2019 10:21 PM

Q9 Do you ever attend a city special event?

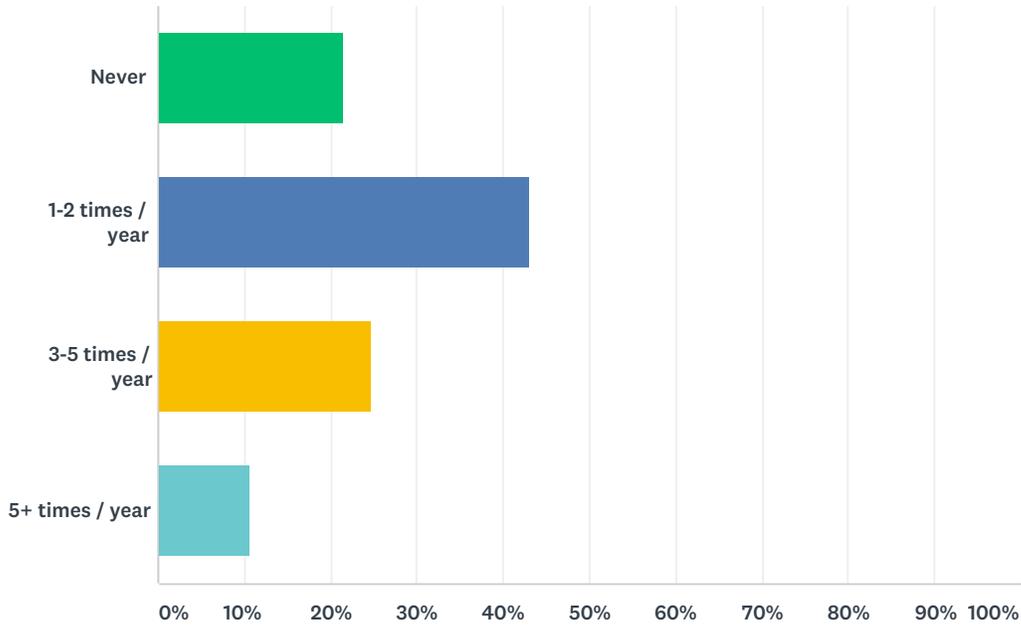
Answered: 64 Skipped: 26



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.88%	46
No	28.13%	18
TOTAL		64

Q10 How often do you sign up for and / or attend City of Owatonna's recreational programs per year?

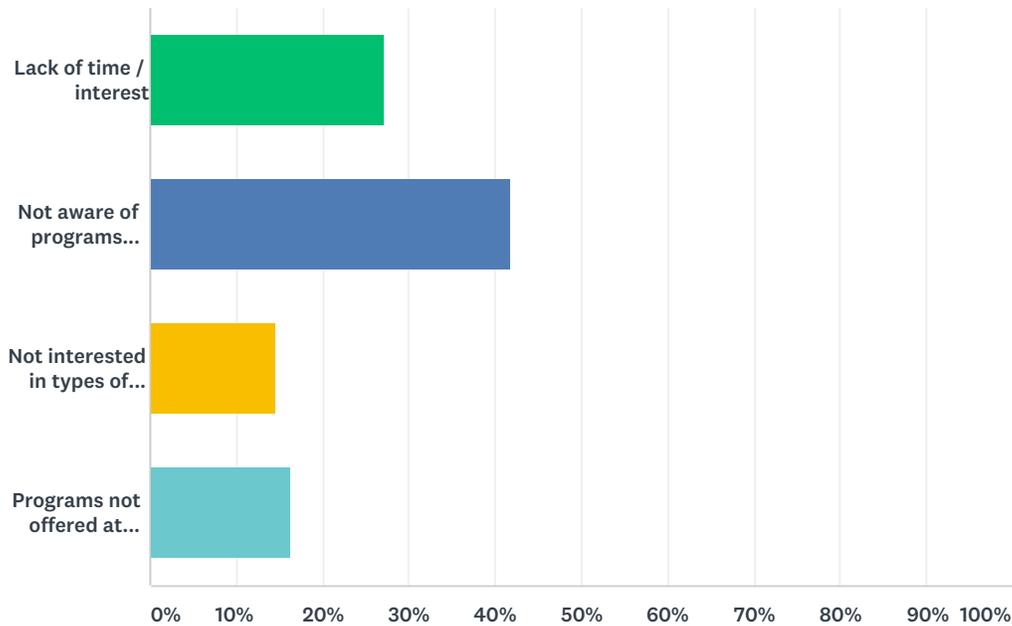
Answered: 65 Skipped: 25



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never	21.54%	14
1-2 times / year	43.08%	28
3-5 times / year	24.62%	16
5+ times / year	10.77%	7
TOTAL		65

Q11 What is the biggest obstacle for not attending a city recreational program?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 35



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Lack of time / interest	27.27% 15
Not aware of programs offered	41.82% 23
Not interested in types of programs offered	14.55% 8
Programs not offered at convenient times / days	16.36% 9
TOTAL	55

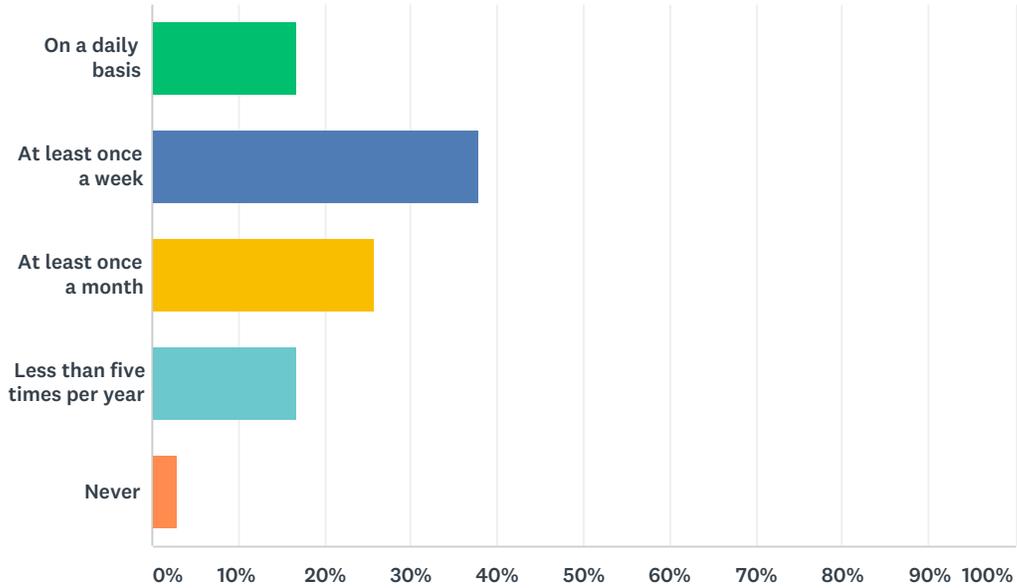
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Usually hear about them last minute	2/21/2019 8:19 AM
2	Schedule conflicts	2/20/2019 11:43 PM
3	Honestly because I have four kids and my husband doesn't like crowds and I don't want to worry about keeping an eye on all of them by myself with the big crowds there.	2/20/2019 10:15 PM
4	Just moved here recently.	2/20/2019 2:27 PM
5	Swimming lessons are so hard. My kids are elementary aged and still go to bed at 7pm. I hate giving up weekend time for swimming lessons so we probably won't do them again here.	2/20/2019 1:55 PM
6	Combination of no time, no interest, not aware, and/or how much it would cost	2/20/2019 12:44 PM
7	And cost. With 4 kids, costs add up quickly. The other thing is i dont know if the people running the programs are background checked. I want my kids to be with safe people	2/20/2019 12:34 PM
8	The weather!	2/20/2019 12:08 PM
9	Not for younger kids	2/20/2019 11:52 AM
10	Please offer adult leagues (volleyball, ultimate frisbee, broomball, flag football).	2/11/2019 11:25 AM

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11	It all depends on my work schedule, what our individuals are interested in attending, and what our staffing allows. And the weather, of course.	2/10/2019 10:48 PM
12	I am not a preplanner, but I have seen things from bonfires in the park, movies in the park that have been of interest	2/4/2019 4:38 PM
13	I usually attend unless it doesn't apply (no little kids so don't do certain events but love that you offer all!	2/1/2019 11:08 AM
14	Lack of time. Not offered at times convenient for my family.	1/31/2019 11:14 PM
15	Live outside area so knowing about event, requires special planning	1/31/2019 10:55 AM
16	Please announce events early, and use social media to help generate interest or remind people. Creating events on Facebook is helpful. An example would be the fat tire demo during Bold & Cold. The rescheduled and cancellations were a little confusing. However, thank you for planning fun events and caring for all of these beautiful parks.	1/30/2019 10:21 PM

Q12 How often do you use the trails in Owatonna?

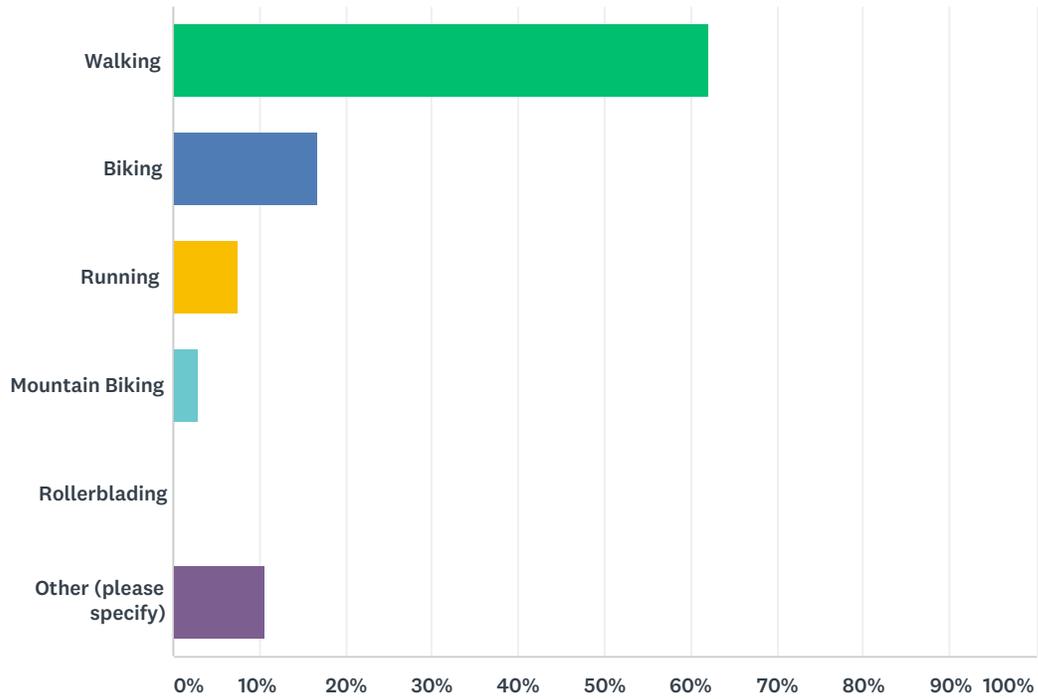
Answered: 66 Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
On a daily basis	16.67%	11
At least once a week	37.88%	25
At least once a month	25.76%	17
Less than five times per year	16.67%	11
Never	3.03%	2
TOTAL		66

Q13 What trail recreational activity do you enjoy?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 24

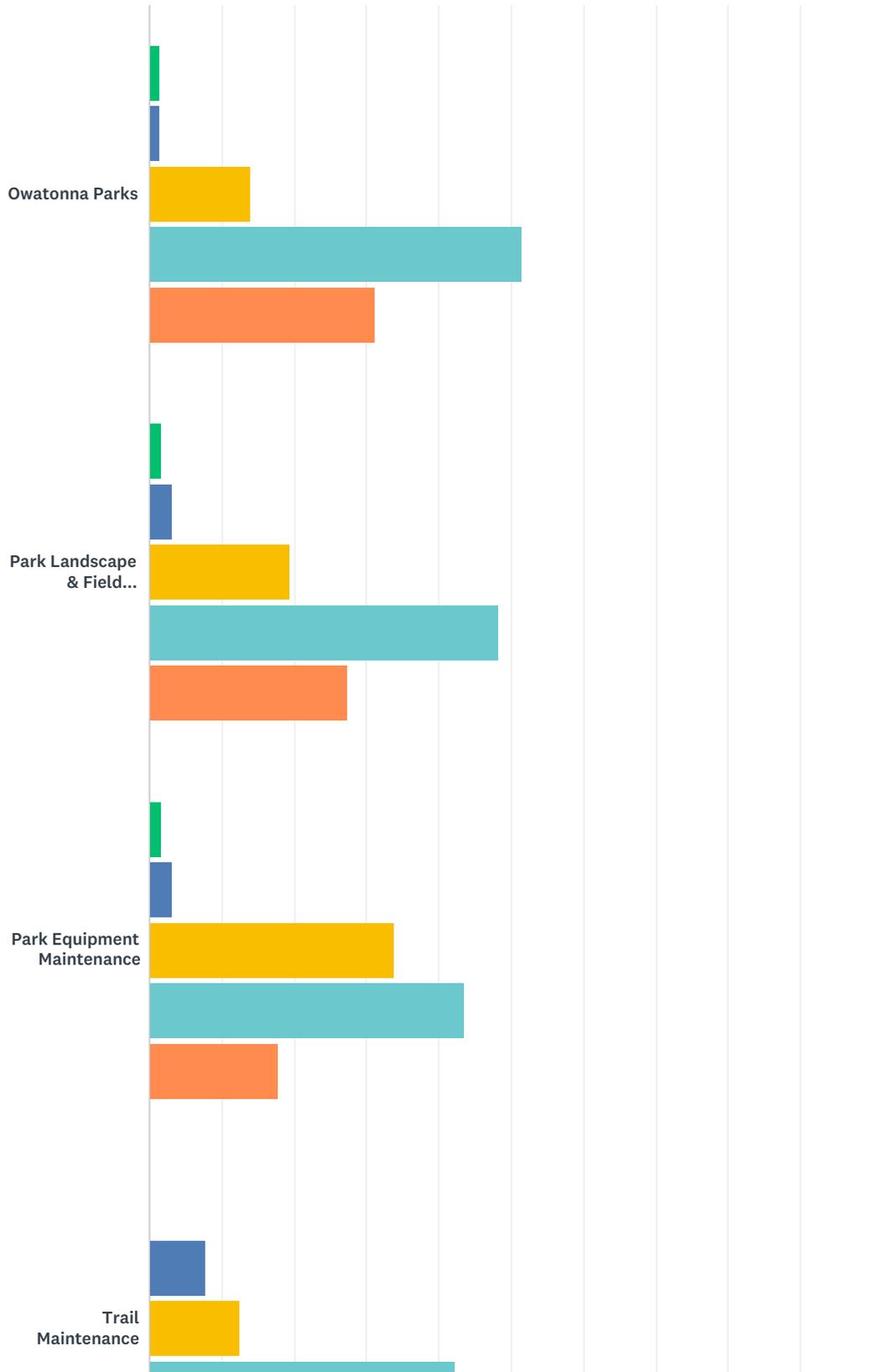


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking	62.12%	41
Biking	16.67%	11
Running	7.58%	5
Mountain Biking	3.03%	2
Rollerblading	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	10.61%	7
TOTAL		66

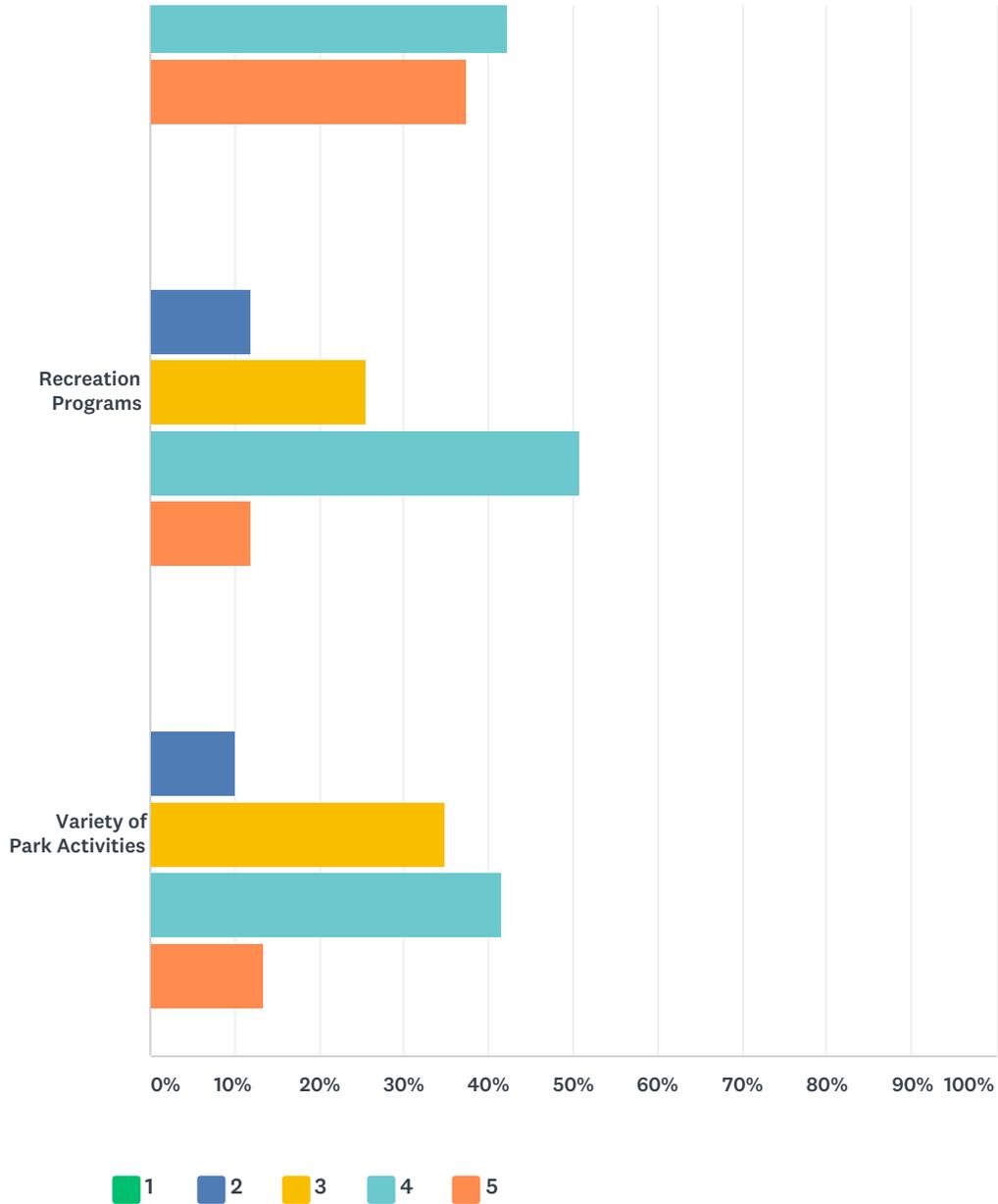
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	All of the above	2/21/2019 9:09 PM
2	All of the above	2/20/2019 9:25 PM
3	Walking, biking, and hiking and exploring nature with my family.	2/20/2019 12:34 PM
4	Cross Country Skiing	2/11/2019 11:25 AM
5	none	2/1/2019 2:44 PM
6	Walking and biking	2/1/2019 2:14 PM
7	walking, biking and running	1/31/2019 10:55 AM

Q14 How would you rate the following on a scale of 1-5? (1 being lowest quality, 5 being highest quality)

Answered: 64 Skipped: 26



Owatonna Parks & Trails Master Plan



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Owatonna Parks	1.56% 1	1.56% 1	14.06% 9	51.56% 33	31.25% 20	64
Park Landscape & Field Maintenance	1.61% 1	3.23% 2	19.35% 12	48.39% 30	27.42% 17	62
Park Equipment Maintenance	1.61% 1	3.23% 2	33.87% 21	43.55% 27	17.74% 11	62
Trail Maintenance	0.00% 0	7.81% 5	12.50% 8	42.19% 27	37.50% 24	64
Recreation Programs	0.00% 0	11.86% 7	25.42% 15	50.85% 30	11.86% 7	59
Variety of Park Activities	0.00% 0	10.00% 6	35.00% 21	41.67% 25	13.33% 8	60

Q15 What other comments, ideas, improvements, concerns or suggestions do you have regarding Owatonna parks, trails and recreation?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 41

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Restore nature surroundings as much as possible..	2/24/2019 7:33 AM
2	Garbage can in the winter so there is a better chance of dog waste being cleaned up.	2/22/2019 11:24 AM
3	Complete trails on the east side of town. More opportunities for swimming lessons at the outdoor pool after 5:00 pm for working parents.	2/21/2019 9:09 PM
4	N/a	2/21/2019 8:18 PM
5	all neighborhoods should have access to a park from sidewalk. If there is no park within the neighborhood for the safety of our children there should atleast be sidewalks.	2/21/2019 4:27 PM
6	25yd community pool	2/21/2019 9:23 AM
7	Indoor Playground!!	2/21/2019 9:03 AM
8	Indoor play area. Owatonna needs a YMCA or community center	2/21/2019 8:54 AM
9	The western part of the Manthey park woods is underutilized. One more very small bridge could change that. There's a pretty little trail that dead ends when you can't cross the creek. Call if you'd like me to show you sometime. Thanks. Joe Heegard 507-456-0802	2/21/2019 8:54 AM
10	Winters can be so brutal, would be nice to have park activities indoor or with bonfires and shelter to get out during that cold months! Especially for families with kids under 5	2/21/2019 8:19 AM
11	I'd like to see added workout stations like at Lake Kolmeier	2/21/2019 6:32 AM
12	None	2/21/2019 3:07 AM
13	Trail from 26th St north to Fbo and Medford with rest stop/bathrooms at 26th St	2/20/2019 11:43 PM
14	Add a nature center classroom at Kaplan's. Add primitive tent camping sites for remote areas of Kaplan's and other large wooded parks. Rent canoes and kayaks at Lake Kolhmier. Partner with the Knights of Columbus to cut dead trees in parks and sell wood for a fundraiser. Develop a 5 yr plan around future quarry lake on near 26th. Create a band shell to Mineral Springs Park.	2/20/2019 10:42 PM
15	A family recreation center, not West Hills. Splash pad, more indoor fun for younger kids.	2/20/2019 10:30 PM
16	Again, please reconsider the heights that the slides meet the ground at.	2/20/2019 10:15 PM
17	Connect the trail in East side!	2/20/2019 9:25 PM
18	I don't know if this counts under recreation but we really need an indoor community center with programs, gyms, etc.	2/20/2019 5:45 PM
19	We need a YMCA, I have lived in Hastings, Red wing and Farmington. In all cities we had access to a YMCA. It brings the community together and provides a lot of benefits. A splash pad would be nice. We went to Kohlmier a few times last summer and ended up getting a parasite from the water.	2/20/2019 3:27 PM
20	Add more mile-marker signage	2/20/2019 3:16 PM
21	A YMCA would provide great recreation for those rainy/cold months!!!	2/20/2019 2:35 PM
22	Please add a splash pad	2/20/2019 2:27 PM
23	it would be nice to have a couple splash pads for the summer, also a ymca, or community center which families have something to do year round. we also need more activities in the winter, where families can get out of the house, and not spend a lot of money, but have fun. a indoor play ground would also be fun. there is also not much for teens to do, I miss the roller rink!	2/20/2019 2:22 PM

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24	So many options - a nature based "camp" in all seasons, especially summer, would be wonderful. Anything mindfulness/nature based. We don't need Disney character projects, we need kids to love and embrace nature in all types of weather, and peers to enjoy it with.	2/20/2019 1:55 PM
25	Please add splash pads and more activities for younger children and families.	2/20/2019 1:37 PM
26	Green space is important, but maybe we need more quality over quantity.	2/20/2019 1:17 PM
27	Need an indoor rec center for those long winter months and rainy days	2/20/2019 1:17 PM
28	I would love to see a splash pad! A children's museum or Y would be another huge attraction to Owatonna(I'm not sure if that would be Park and Rec?!)	2/20/2019 12:48 PM
29	It would be nice to have an indoor park for kids to play in when the weather gets bad	2/20/2019 12:44 PM
30	I am excited about the We All Play park and have financially support it. I wish that it could be put somewhere different. Rather than changing the best park in town, why not put it at one that is sorely need of an update such as Moorehouse?	2/20/2019 12:37 PM
31	I would like if we had some type of indoor park that families could use during the cold months. It would help to get children out of the house and active even if it's -30 outside. I wish West Hills had more indoor basketball courts. When we've gone there in the past, it's typically pretty busy and hard to be able to play. It would be a great option for older children.	2/20/2019 12:08 PM
32	More trails	2/20/2019 11:53 AM
33	Thank you for your efforts in creating & maintaining our park system!	2/20/2019 11:45 AM
34	There are a lot of cross country skiers in Owatonna! We would love to see more care to expand and groom the trails.	2/11/2019 11:25 AM
35	Make sure your website is always updated. Thank you!	2/10/2019 10:48 PM
36	With over 1,000 kids playing soccer I wish there were more fields and also more paved trails connecting to them. Pretty sure with park and rec, travel and high school there are more kids playing soccer than any other sport in Owatonna. Soccer is a lifelong sport and we should have more fields throughout town for kids and adults.	2/6/2019 12:13 PM
37	Trail Lights on 26 street. New trail should continue to follow the water. A trail to Central Park and to the soccer complex.	2/5/2019 5:33 PM
38	More organization for casual tennis leagues.	2/2/2019 9:26 PM
39	Please build a splash pad and an indoor park in owatonna	2/1/2019 9:22 PM
40	One concern is Summer Park off of N Cedar. Several of my neighbors have had people in their backyards. There should be some barriers or signage notifying the public of the park/private property line.	2/1/2019 3:49 PM
41	Dog Park Suggestions: Cement slab at entrances to reduce mud. More mulch toward the front, Shelter for humans, wind block on fencing along the road side, playground for kids at that park, extend trails to meet at that area (railroad makes that difficult though) Consider an indoor dog park. Winter is brutal standing out there with a dog in the cold and wind. I would pay for an indoor area to use. See you at the park!	2/1/2019 1:42 PM
42	I will no longer have a golf membership at Brooktree because of raising the price of a Senior membership higher than 20-somethings. While I like to support my local muni, it wasn't wise. I can play other comparable courses for the same as Brooktree and receive a lunch with it. Brooktree isn't even competitive with that. And they could and should be.	2/1/2019 1:32 PM
43	None	2/1/2019 12:35 PM
44	Water fountains and more bathrooms (even if ports potty) by soccer fields they are too far away from little kids soccer	2/1/2019 11:08 AM
45	Would like to see a modern indoor recreation Center	2/1/2019 10:22 AM
46	I would like there to be more garbage cans and recycling bins near the playgrounds. A fence around the playground would be nice for the playground at Mineral Springs Park, especially since the smaller part for toddlers is right next to the road. The other side is for larger kids so that isn't a problem. Thanks!	2/1/2019 10:11 AM
47	Cross walk AND crossing lights at the corner of School and Oak.	1/31/2019 11:14 PM

Owatonna Parks & Trails Master Plan

48	Suggest taking city and working to develop county-wide area of trails	1/31/2019 10:55 AM
49	Please continue to plan community events	1/30/2019 10:21 PM

City of Owatonna
Results of Community Engagement Boards at Four Locations

		Blue Dot Most Visited	Red Dot Favorite	Green Dot Favorite Trail
Park	Brooktree Golf Course	3	1	0
Park	Brown	12	9	0
Park	Buecksler	1	2	0
Park	Cashman	0	0	2
Park	Central	5	2	0
Park	Crocus	0	0	0
Park	Dartts	7	9	6
Park	Fairgrounds	14	4	2
Park	Falkland Meadow	0	0	0
Park	Gainey	2	5	3
Park	Hamman	0	0	0
Park	Jaycee	8	8	0
Park	Kriesel	0	1	1
Park	Kriesel's Woods	0	0	0
Park	Lake Chase	3	0	6
Park	Lake Kohlmeier	5	2	4
Park	Manthey	15	9	2
Park	Mineral Springs	23	24	9
Park	Morehouse	18	12	0
Park	North Bluff	1	1	1
Park	Owatonna Soccer Complex	3	2	0
Park	River Springs	0	10	0
Park	Sid Kinyon Tennis Courts	0	1	0
Park	Summer	1	0	0
Park	West Hills	2	0	2
Park	Willow	0	1	0
Park/Trail	Kaplan's Woods	18	27	44
Park/Trail	Leo Rudolph Nature Preserve	1	2	2
Park/Trail	Maple Creek Greenbelt	0	2	1
Park/Trail	North Straight River Parkway	0	0	13
Trail	26th Street	0	0	8
Trail	Buxton	0	0	0
Trail	Cashman Crossing	1	0	13
Trail	Muckle	0	0	0
	What would you like to see in your parks?			
	Beaches/Lake Access	40		
	Softball/Baseball	16		
	Basketball	27		

City of Owatonna
Results of Community Engagement Boards at Four Locations

Nature Trails/Boardwalks		48	
Community Gardens		29	
Skate Park		28	
Splash Pad		97	
Outdoor Fitness Equipment		60	
Horseshoes		21	
Traditional Playground		19	
Lacrosse/Soccer/Rugby		18	
Volleyball		17	
Cross Country Skiing		24	
Public Art		18	
Rental Pavilions/Shelters		19	
Picnic Area		19	
Archery		34	
Active Parks		26	
Natural Playground		43	
Multi-use Fields		18	
Tennis		25	
Paved Trails		32	
Benches/Seating		14	
Dog Park		25	
Disc Golf		20	
Restrooms		35	
Passive/Natural Parks		22	
Challenge Equipment		21	
Hockey/Skating		33	
Pickleball		23	
Mountain Bike Trails		27	
Performance Stage		18	
Fishing		36	
Education/History/Interpretation		14	
Bocce Ball		16	
Other:		34	
Native Pollinator Gardens			
Special Needs Park			
Shuffleboard Cards			
Wifi and Computers			
Wifi and Cabin Rentals			
Trail to Faribault			
Narratives - Like Best			
Well Groomed, Safe			

City of Owatonna
Results of Community Engagement Boards at Four Locations

Not just in one spot, all over town				
Narratives - Added				
Add history to downtown by signage or actors				
Historical society do pop-up history at 7-11				
Dog Park on South End				
Narratives - Future Vision Focus				
Patrolled for safety				
Highest Recorded Numbers				

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Brooktree Golf Course



Park Evaluation # 1

Park Name: Brooktree Golf Course
Park Size: 128.42 acres
Location: Cherry St.
Proposed Classification: Special Use Park
Overall Park Design: Large public golf course with mature trees and beautiful character. Creek wraps through the course.
Overall Park Maintenance: N/A visited in winter, shelter and course were closed for the season.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature trees, Maple Creek winds through the course.
Overall Park Ranking: 58 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	1	1	2	1	5	12	Pedestrian ramp is at a steep grade and there is only 1 accessible stall.
Shelter/Pavillion	2	2	2	2	8	12	Nice character, has an accessible entrance with signage. Closed for the season.
Bituminous Trail	2	2	2	2	8	12	Ok condition.

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Replace or repair bridge and add railings for safety. Develop cross country ski trails on golf course. Upgrade parking lot and pathways to meet current accesibility standards (minimum of 2 ADA stalls). Accessible entrance to building is not easily seen and is out of the way.

Low Priority: Continue to maintain golf course at high level to attract users and consider fees. Utilize golf course clubhouse during winter months for events (or rentals), cross country skiing.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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- 1 = Meets basic standards; Fair Quality; Older
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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Brown Park



Park Evaluation # 2

Park Name: Brown Park
Park Size: 6.77 acres
Location: 16th St. SW
Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park
Overall Park Design: Neighborhood park surrounded by homes with a small parking lot and many amenities.
Overall Park Maintenance: Good - landscape is well-kept. Restrooms were closed.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature trees surround park, large open space.
Overall Park Ranking: 47 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	2	2	2	1	7	12	Central location in park, older lot in ok condition.
Shelter	3	2	3	3	11	12	Shelter has lights (which were on during the daytime), has accessible route from parking lot.
Drinking Fountain	2	1	0	2	5	12	Fountain is ADA but there is no trail or sidewalk to it.
Playground Equipment	0	2	2	0	4	12	There is a sidewalk to the play area but equipment is old and in need of replacement.
Baseball / Softball Field (1)	1	2	0	2	5	12	There are small bleachers and a scoreboard. Fencing is bent. No trail to field from parking lot.
Tennis Courts (2)	2	2	2	2	8	12	Courts have turf surfacing and lights (push button). Fencing is in good condition.
Basketball Court (1)	0	1	0	1	2	12	Court needs resurfacing - has large cracks which could be a safety issue.
Horseshoe (4)	2	1	0	0	3	12	Pit in good condition but no trail to it from parking lot.

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Park Recommendations

High Priority: Repair and/or replace surfacing on basketball court due to presence of large cracks. Upgrade play equipment and consider a more unique structure, consider providing accessible equipment and surfacing. Add concrete sidewalks from main sidewalk to drinking fountain, basketball court and tennis court..

Low Priority: Trim shrubs along sidewalk for better pedestrian movement. Consider sidewalk along street to park entrance. Update accessible parking stall when parking lot is resurfaced.

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Buecksler Park



Park Evaluation # 3

Park Name: Buecksler Park
Park Size: 4.75 acres
Location: Smith Ave
Proposed Classification: Mini Park
Overall Park Design: Open space (stormwater dry pond) with rolling hill and steep berm.
Overall Park Maintenance: Well maintained landscape.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature oak trees in picnic area.
Overall Park Ranking: 42 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
General Site Amenities / Picnic Area	1	2	0	2	5	12	There is no trail to picnic area (grills, tables and trash cans).

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Cashman Park



Park Evaluation # 4

Park Name: Cashman Park
Park Size: 8.00 acres
Location: 26th St NW
Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park
Overall Park Design: Undeveloped property along busy road behind homes. No signs along wood chip trails. Entry road is steep grade with some ruts. There were portable restrooms along 26th St.
Overall Park Maintenance: Some trash/litter and fallen branches across trails.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature trees, wooded area, nice character.
Overall Park Ranking: 44 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	1	1	2	1	5	12	1-2 Stalls, pull off
Woodchip trails	2	3	0	2	7	12	Trails in good condition through woods
Portable restrooms	1	0	2	1	4	12	

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Continue to develop future disc golf course with adjacent land purchase. Improve existing entrance drive and parking lot as there were many ruts. Add wayfinding signage for nature trails.

Low Priority: Develop passive recreational activities at this park such as hiking, interpretive signage/geocaching and disc golf. Consider adding a surfaced parking lot if amenities are added to this area. Provide bike racks in the park.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Central Park



Park Evaluation # 5

Park Name: Central Park
Park Size: 1.52 acres
Location: Main St/E&W Park Sq/Broadway
Proposed Classification: Urban Plaza Park
Overall Park Design: Prominent park within historic downtown district has a historic fountain and picnic areas. Park has a large bandshell and functions as a community concert and gathering space.
Overall Park Maintenance: Well maintained landscape and amenities.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature trees in park with open lawn areas.
Overall Park Ranking: 58 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Shelter/Stage/Restrooms	3	3	3	3	12	12	Beautiful character, good condition, clean restrooms, accessible.
Drinking Fountain	2	3	0	2	7	12	Drinking water in historic fountain, sidewalk is ADA but is too high for someone to reach from a wheelchair.
1 bike rack	2	1	1	0	4	12	Not accessible
Picnic tables	2	2	0	1	5	12	

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Replace park design with more unique design. Redesign crosswalks into parks and provide updating accessible curb ramps. Widen sidewalk that surrounds the park to a minimum of 5 feet. Trim trees in park to open it up. Provide sidewalks to tables and benches. Consider movable furniture in the park to encourage community gathering.

Low Priority: When fountain not in use, consider covering it at this time it has trash and leaf litter in it. Provide an accessible drinking fountain in the park (historic fountain is not accessible). Complimentary amenities in this park include public art, historic/interperitive signage, chess and checker tables, pop-up events. Consider a community walk with donated pavers, etc. Consider mini plazas in the park with chess tables.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Crocus Park



Park Evaluation # 6

Park Name: Crocus Park
Park Size: 0.45 acres
Location: Glendale St
Proposed Classification: Mini Park
Overall Park Design: Small sloped green space within residential neighborhood with minimal amenities.
Overall Park Maintenance: Grills are older but overall landscape is well maintained.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature trees and appealing character.
Overall Park Ranking: N/A %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Picnic Grounds /Grill	0	2	0	1	3	12	Picnic table is dated, no accessible route. Trash can and grill are old but savable.

Park Recommendations

Priority: Add a play structure here that is unique and gather input or voting from the community. Replace sidewalk along street and provide connection to picnic area. Develop park amenities such as a unique play structure (net climbing). Convert to natural open space and reduce mowing.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Dartts Park



Park Evaluation # 7

Park Name: Dartts Park
Park Size: 18.00 acres
Location: Mineral Springs Rd./ Cherry St.
Proposed Classification: Community Park
Overall Park Design: Inviting with lots of character
Overall Park Maintenance: Well maintained landscape and easy to get around
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature trees, eroding banks at Maple Creek
Overall Park Ranking: 35 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	1	1	0	1	3	12	No striping. It's difficult to determine if its 1-sided or 2-sided. Stalls are not ADA compliant
Site Amenities	2	1	0	1	4	12	Most amenities are not accessible
2 Shelters (handicap accessible)	1	2	1	1	5	12	#1 Facing creek is nice. #2 No ADA parking or access. Floodline is visible on wood. Has electrical outlets.
Seasonal Restroom	2	2	2	2	8	12	
Picnic grounds/ 1 grill	1	1	0	1	3	12	Not accessible, on a mound
Playground Equipment	1	2	0	1	4	12	10 year old equipment and woodchip deficient
Bituminous Trail	2	1	2	1	6	12	Pedestrians and cars share main road
Softball/Baseball Field	2	2	1	2	7	12	Drainage and grading dips in field. Well maintained
2 Tennis Courts	1	1	0	1	3	12	No ADA access. Has lighting. Fencing could be updated.
Basketball Court	0	0	0	0	0	12	Subgrade issues and cracks. Equipment is dated and no lighting.

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Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a master plan for the park and expand parking lot in order to accommodate baseball games but using recently purchased properties. Repair and replace eroding banks along Maple Creek. Playground is in need of woodchip replacement, slides are too high off the ground creating a safety hazard. Upgrade accessible routes throughout park to each amenity. Update parking stalls to meet accessibility standards, stripe all stalls for efficiency of parking.

Low Priority: Recondition beach volleyball court sand. Relocate picnic areas off mounds. Repair or remove concrete stairs to creek for safety. Repair basketball court surfacing, has a significant slope to it near tennis court fencing. Replace play equipment and consider a unique design appropriate for a community park.

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Fairgrounds Park



Park Evaluation # 8

Park Name: Fairgrounds Park
Park Size: 15.50 acres
Location: 18th St. SE or Austin Rd.
Proposed Classification: Community Park
Overall Park Design: A compact athletic complex along a busy road with traffic noise with baseball fields (pinwheel layout) and playground. This park is used for the annual Steele County Free Fair.
Overall Park Maintenance: Athletic fields are well-used and well-maintained. Playground equipment is newer and in good condition.
Natural Resources/Landscape: There are mature trees and open space, but few natural resources.
Overall Park Ranking: 41 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	2	1	0	1	4	12	There is an odd layout with no accessible parking or signage. Multiple parking lots near various fields.
Benches	1	1	0	1	3	12	Some are in poor condition, no accessible routes.
Shelter	1	2	1	2	6	12	Shelter #1: Path to shelter needs updated Shelter #2: Electric outlets, grill is close to the road, no accessibility
Drinking Fountain	1	2	0	2	5	12	No accessible route, has donation plaque. (multiple)
Seasonal restrooms	1	0	3	2	6	12	Portable restrooms.
Bike Rack	1	0	0	1	2	12	Not accessible. Could be replaced or moved to better location.
Playground Equipment	2	2	0	2	6	12	Variety of equipment. Needs more woodchips, not accessible.
4 Softball/Baseball Fields	2	2	0	2	6	12	Some of the outfield require maintenance. Fields have lighting and newer dugouts.
Sand Volleyball Court	2	2	0	2	6	12	In good condition.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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- 3 = Exceeds basic standards; High Quality; Newer

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop master plan for Fairgrounds Park. Create buffer zone between busy street and ballfields/play area, improve accessibility and add sidewalks to dugout areas. Resurface trails and design to be wider where possible. Provide sidewalk to shelter.

Low Priority: Repair and paint benches throughout park. Angled parking along 18th Street SE is unsafe for backing up on busy road, reconsider layout parking within entire park.

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Falkland Meadow



Park Evaluation # 9

Park Name: Falkland Meadow
Park Size: 7.38 acres
Location: Dane Road
Proposed Classification: Undeveloped
Overall Park Design: Wooded, natural area along Maple Creek that is undeveloped at this time.
Overall Park Maintenance: N/A
Natural Resources/Landscape:
Overall Park Ranking: N/A %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a master plan for this park and include access from neighborhoods and natural trails.

Low Priority: Consider passive recreational activities at this park such as hiking, birdwatching, interpretive signage, snowshoeing, etc.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Fremont Park



Park Evaluation # 10

Park Name: Fremont Park
Park Size: 0.27 acres
Location: Front St
Proposed Classification: Undeveloped
Overall Park Design: Small park with picnic area near railroad crossing and busy roads.
Overall Park Maintenance: Landscape was well-maintained.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature and newly planted trees.
Overall Park Ranking: 33 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Picnic Area with grills and trash can	1	1	0	2	4	12	

Park Recommendations

Priority: Utilize park as a trailhead or convert to natural open space.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Hammann Park



Park Evaluation # 11

Park Name: Hammann Park
Park Size: 10.50 acres
Location: Rice Lake St.
Proposed Classification: Undeveloped
Overall Park Design: Large, undeveloped open space along Isaac Walton Creek.
Overall Park Maintenance: N/A
Natural Resources/Landscape: Wooded areas and flat open space.
Overall Park Ranking: N/A %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a master plan for this park including wood chip trails and passive nature-based recreation.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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- 3 = Exceeds basic standards; High Quality; Newer

Hazel Park



Park Evaluation # 12

Park Name:	Hazel Park
Park Size:	0.31 acres
Location:	Kelly St.
Proposed Classification:	Undeveloped
Overall Park Design:	Unable to visit park
Overall Park Maintenance:	N/A
Natural Resources/Landscape:	N/A
Overall Park Ranking:	N/A %

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Jaycee Park



Park Evaluation # 13

Park Name: Jaycee Park
Park Size: 8.68 acres
Location: Rice Lake St.
Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park
Overall Park Design: Linear shaped neighborhood park along busy road.
Overall Park Maintenance: Landscape was well-maintained.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature trees in some areas.
Overall Park Ranking: 42 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	2	1	0	1	4	12	There is a paved lot and gravel overflow lot.
Shelter	2	2	3	3	10	12	Newer shelter with concessions and electricity, new picnic tables. Accessible trail to shelter. Accessible drinking fountain.
Seasonal Restrooms	1	1	0	1	3	12	Portable restrooms at overflow, not ADA. New restrooms at shelter in good condition.
Picnic Grounds/Grills	2	2	0	2	6	12	No ADA.
Playground Equipment	1	1	0	1	3	12	No accessible route to play area, needs wood mulch. Older play equipment.
Softball/Baseball Fields (2)	2	2	0	1	5	12	No accessible route. Newer lights, dugout and fencing on 1st field. 2nd field has bent fence in ok condition. There are two scoreboards.
Basketball Court (1)	1	1	0	1	3	12	Half court, old hoop, ok condition.
Sand Volleyball Court	2	2	0	2	6	12	Soft sand. No accessible route.

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Park Recommendations

High Priority: Update playground equipment and apply wood fiber mulch. Provide trails or sidewalks to baseball fields to meet accessibility standards.

Low Priority: Upgrade parking lot.

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Kaplan's Woods Park



Park Evaluation # 14

Park Name: Kaplan's Woods Park
Park Size: 154.22 acres
Location: Kaplan's Woods Parkway Mosher Ave/18th St SW
Proposed Classification: Regional Park
Overall Park Design: Large scenic parkland with woodlands, nature trails and mountain bike trails. Park is bordered by the freeway and you can hear the noise within the park. Park has lots of wayfinding signage along trails.
Overall Park Maintenance: Trails were in good condition.
Natural Resources/Landscape: There are old growth forests, some of the banks were eroding along the creek.
Overall Park Ranking: 73 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Portable restrooms	2	1	0	1	4	12	It is not an accessible one.
Parking Lot	3	3	1	3	10	12	
Woodchip trails	3	3	0	3	9	12	Very good
Bike repair station	3	3	3	3	12	12	Located near parking lot

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a long term master plan for this park with input from the community. Classify this park as a regional park in order for it to qualify for state funding. Upgrade the parking lot, provide wayfinding signage and maintain existing bridges/equipment. This park has lots of potential.

Low Priority: Consider additional recreation amenities at this park, including a restroom facility/nature or interpretive signage or center.

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- 3 = Exceeds basic standards; High Quality; Newer

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Kriesel Park



Park Evaluation # 15

Park Name: Kriesel Park
Park Size: 19.76 acres
Location: 26th St NE
Proposed Classification: Undeveloped
Overall Park Design: Stormwater pond to creek with wooded areas, no amenities.
Overall Park Maintenance: N/A
Natural Resources/Landscape: Wooded areas with creek.
Overall Park Ranking: N/A %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a master plan for this park and include access from neighborhoods and natural trails.

Low Priority: Consider passive recreational activities at this park such as hiking, birdwatching, interpretive signage, snowshoeing, etc.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

- 0 = Does not meet basic standards; Poor Quality; Outdated
- 1 = Meets basic standards; Fair Quality; Older
- 2 = Meets or exceeds basic standards; Good Quality; Mid-way Age
- 3 = Exceeds basic standards; High Quality; Newer

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Kriesel's Woods Park



Park Evaluation # 16

Park Name: Kriesel's Woods Park
Park Size: 9.94 acres
Location: Dane Road
Proposed Classification: Undeveloped
Overall Park Design: Wooded areas along creek.
Overall Park Maintenance:
Natural Resources/Landscape:
Overall Park Ranking: N/A %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a master plan for this park and include access from neighborhoods and natural trails.

Low Priority: Consider passive recreational activities at this park such as hiking, birdwatching, interpretive signage, snowshoeing, etc.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

- 0 = Does not meet basic standards; Poor Quality; Outdated
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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Lake Chase Park



Park Evaluation # 17

Park Name: Lake Chase Park
Park Size: 14.59 acres
Location: County Road 45 North
Proposed Classification: Special Use Park
Overall Park Design: Fenced in dog park with open space along small lake.
Overall Park Maintenance: Fishing pier was broken. Some of the park was flooded. Landscape was well-maintained.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature trees, geese along lake shoreline (mowed turf).
Overall Park Ranking: 40 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	2	0	0	2	4	12	Gravel lot, steep grade, no accesible parking? Verify
Seasonal amenities (drinking fountain)	1	1	0	2	4	12	Drinking fountain is on a tree grate but not ADA.
Seasonal Restrooms	1	0	0	1	2	12	Fence enclosure is leaning in need of repair, no ADA. Portable restrooms.
Picnic Grounds/Grills	2	2	0	1	5	12	Only 3 tables, not enough, no trail to picnic area.
Fishing Pier	0	2	3	2	7	12	Has trail from parking lot. When visited, fishing pier was flooded and broken.
Dog Park Area	2	2	0	3	7	12	Newer dog park and fencing, with lighting and skill courses. Shade trees.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

- 0 = Does not meet basic standards; Poor Quality; Outdated
- 1 = Meets basic standards; Fair Quality; Older
- 2 = Meets or exceeds basic standards; Good Quality; Mid-way Age
- 3 = Exceeds basic standards; High Quality; Newer

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a master plan for this park. Upgrade parking lot to meet accessibility standards and provide separation to dog park. Provide a natural shoreline to prevent geese, erosion and flooding from occurring at the water's edge. Provide connection to the dog park from the trail system. Maintain fishing pier and provide accessible route from parking lot.

Low Priority: Consider water recreation and fishing at Lake Chase including stocking of the lake.

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Leo Rudolph Nature Reserve



Park Evaluation # 18

Park Name: Leo Rudolph Nature Reserve
Park Size: 58.09 acres
Location: Young Dr. or Jeffrey Dr.
Proposed Classification: Nature Preserve
Overall Park Design: Rolling hills with prairie restoration near highway. Access to the park is at hidden at the dead end of the neighborhood street and is confusing.
Overall Park Maintenance: Landscape was well-maintained, prairie had been burned recently.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Native prairie grasses and wildflowers with rolling hills and few mature trees.
Overall Park Ranking: 58 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Mowed Trails	3	3	0	3	9	12	Trails have nice character.
Site amenities (table, bench, sign)	2	1	0	2	5	12	Bench is in poor condition, no trail to seating. Picnic table is new.

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Continue to maintain prairie and mowed trails during summer months.

Low Priority: Develop a master plan for this park to include access into the park, parking and interpretive signage on prairie species. Plant a native tree buffer along the highway to reduce noise levels in the park.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Manthey Park



Park Evaluation # 19

Park Name: Manthey Park
Park Size: 29.67 acres
Location: 3rd Ave. NE/ Cedar Ave. N
Proposed Classification: Community Park
Overall Park Design: Large community park with many amenities, athletic fields and mature trees. Currently there is only one vehicle entrance into the park.
Overall Park Maintenance: Some of the equipment could be replaced.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Many mature trees and open space.
Overall Park Ranking: 54 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	1	2	1	1	5	12	No accessible route to other areas from the parking lot.
Bike rack	0	0	0	0	0	12	Bike rack is old, in need of replacement and in an inconvenient location.
Shelter	2	2	3	2	9	12	Nice shelter with plenty of seating, electrical outlets, grill and an accessible route from the trail.
Drinking Fountain	1	2	1	1	5	12	It is not accessible. Has dog bowl.
Seasonal Restrooms	2	2	3	2	9	12	Within shelter, has ADA stall
Picnic Grounds/Grills	2	2	0	2	6	12	Besides shelter, no accessible routes to picnic tables or grills.
Playground Equipment	2	2	3	2	9	12	Could use woodchips
Bituminous Trails	2	3	2	2	9	12	Condition varies throughout park, some areas could use replacement.
Basketball Court	1	2	1	2	6	12	Little burns???? but looks like new surfacing. New backboards and lights.
4 Horseshoe	2	2	0	1	5	12	No accessible route, surfacing is aged.
Tennis Court	2	2	2	2	8	12	Good condition, has lighting and there is a sidewalk to entry

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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- 3 = Exceeds basic standards; High Quality; Newer

City of Owatonna Park and Trail System Plan
 Manthey Park Evaluation (cont.)

0	2	3	0	2	7	12	No soccer goals. Fields are close to restrooms.
0	2	2	0	2	6	12	No trail, hard to find at the park.

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop master plan for this park (see Manthey Park concept including Miracle Field and We Can Play all inclusive playground. Provide accessible routes to all recreational amenities.

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Maple Creek Park



Park Evaluation # 20

Park Name: Maple Creek Park
Park Size: 20.90 acres
Location: Elm St. or Mineral Springs Rd.
Proposed Classification: Undeveloped
Overall Park Design: Scenic park along beautiful greenway, very peaceful with winding trails.
Overall Park Maintenance: Landscape was well-maintained.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature trees, wooded areas along creek.
Overall Park Ranking: N/A %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Bituminous Trail	2	3	2	2	9	12	Ok condition, has crosswalk at entrance, trails have lights.
Site Amenities (benches)	2	2	2	2	8	12	Benches range in condition/age/style.

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop trail connection from Maple Creek to the North Straight River Parkway trail.

Low Priority: Continue to maintain natural state of park and gateway into the Maple Creek greenway. Provide passive recreation and picnic areas.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Mineral Springs Park



Park Evaluation # 21

Park Name: Mineral Springs Park
Park Size: 42.57 acres
Location: Cherry St./Mineral Springs Pkwy
Proposed Classification: Community Park
Overall Park Design: A prominent park with beautiful, historic character and multiple amenities.
Overall Park Maintenance: Landscape maintenance is good. Some hardscape and park equipment is in need of repair. There is eroding banks along the winding creek.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Maple Creek winds through and separates areas of the park. There are mature trees. Currently, water from the parking lots drains directly into the creek.
Overall Park Ranking: 42 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	1	1	0	0	2	12	No striping within lot. There is no separation from the shelter. Concrete swale into creek.
Shelter	2	2	0	1	5	12	Parking right next to restrooms across the road.
Drinking Fountain	2	2	0	2	6	12	Not ADA. Stone matches shelter
Seasonal Restrooms	2	2	1	1	6	12	Located close to shelter and horseshoe pits.
Picnic Grounds/Grills	2	3	0	1	6	12	Many areas in park to have a picnic. No accessible route except to shelter.
Playground Equipment	0	1	1	2	4	12	Trail from shelter. Equipment is aged and needs replacement. Variety of ages.
Bituminous Trail	1	2	0	1	4	12	Condition varies from good to poor
Horseshoe Pits	2	2	0	2	6	12	Custom elements hard to access in awkward location, had to climb over wall
Sand Volleyball Court	1	2	0	1	4	12	Sand needs conditioning, restroom is close and convenient.
Disc Golf	2	3	0	2	7	12	No ADA parking

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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- 3 = Exceeds basic standards; High Quality; Newer

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a master plan for this park with community input. Replace playground equipment. Provide buffer between parking lot and shelter. Provide accessible routes and sidewalks to all amenities within the park (specifically the horseshoes and restrooms). Remove failing wooden staircase on slope. Remove concrete swales from parking lots to Maple Creek.

Low Priority: Consider options for shoreline restoration including native plantings. Repair deteriorating banks along creek.

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Morehouse Park



Park Evaluation # 22

Park Name: Morehouse Park

Park Size: 27.71 acres

Location: School St./Mill St./Bridge St.

Proposed Classification: Community Park

Overall Park Design: A prominent park close to historic downtown with a variety of amenities along the Straight River connected to the trail network. The amenities are in close proximity to one another and in general the park lacks directional signage and has a somewhat confu

Overall Park Maintenance: The bridge, built in 2006, is a well-cared for amenity. Landscape maintenance is good, there are some equipment (playground) that is in need of replacement. Other equipment is older.

Natural Resources/Landscape: Park sits along the Straight River with a dam, a popular spot for fishing, there were many ducks. Park has mature trees and winding river, very scenic.

Overall Park Ranking: 43 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	1	1	0	2	4	12	Confusing layout, striping is hard to see, pavement is cracking in some areas.
General Site Amenities	2	1	0	1	4	12	Benches, lighting, tables are an eclectic mix of styles and range in age/condition.
Shelter (2)	2	3	1	1	7	12	Shelter #1 ramp is non-compliant? Shelter #2 is in better condition.
Drinking Water	3	1	0	3	7	12	No ADA
Year-round restrooms	2	1	2	1	6	12	Good condition. Available to trail users.
Picnic Grounds/Grills	2	2	0	1	5	12	
Playground Equipment	0	0	0	1	1	12	Needs replacement, woodchips, and more lighting.
Bituminous Trails	2	2	2	2	8	12	Good condition, small bridge crossing is awkward. Trail ends at parking lot.
Softball field (1)	2	1	0	1	4	12	Has lighting, fencing and dugouts are older, has scoreboard and

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City of Owatonna Park and Trail System Plan
 Morehouse Park Evaluation (cont.)

							bleachers. No accessible route.
Horseshoe Pits	1	2	0	1	4	12	Lights and picnic tables nearby
0	1	1	1	2	5	12	Has parking but path is in poor condition. Fencing is old
0	1	2	0	1	4	12	
0	1	1	1	1	4	12	Place for kayakers to portage around the dam. Best route is undetermined.
0	3	3	0	3	9	12	Not a ton of seating, difficult to find entrance and parking.

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a master plan for this park with community input. Provide continuous trail that doesn't go into parking lot. Update playground equipment and consider a more unique design.

Low Priority: Move softball field to better location. Upgrade parking lot and entrance to amenities.

City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

North Bluff Park



Park Evaluation # 23

Park Name: North Bluff Park
Park Size: 0.41 acres
Location: Northridge Lane
Proposed Classification: Mini Park
Overall Park Design: Small neighborhood park surrounded by homes with small playground.
Overall Park Maintenance: Well maintained park.
Natural Resources/Landscape: There are few trees (Crabapples, Oaks) and planting beds.
Overall Park Ranking: **50 %**

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Play equipment.	1	2	1	2	6	12	No ADA route to playground, in need of wood chip replacement. Equipment is older.
Picnic Grounds/Grills	2	3	0	2	7	12	No ADA route to tables from sidewalks, no shade at the park.
General Site Amenities (bench)	1	2	0	2	5	12	Current bench could be replaced soon, standard park issue.

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Update playground equipment and apply wood fiber mulch. Provide sidewalks to playground to meet accessibility standards. Consider a small shelter for shade.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Owatonna Soccer Complex



Park Evaluation # 24

Park Name: Owatonna Soccer Complex
Park Size: 15.90 acres
Location: Smith Ave
Proposed Classification: Community Athletic Complex
Overall Park Design: Large soccer field complex with newer amenities, lots of parking and adjacent to Lincoln school.
Overall Park Maintenance: Well maintained landscape, some equipment (drinking fountain & grill) are in need of replacement.
Natural Resources/Landscape: There are few mature trees and limited shade for users.
Overall Park Ranking: 71 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	2	2	3	2	9	12	Striping is non-compliant for ADA stalls.
Shelter (2)	2	1	3	2	8	12	2 shelters with concessions, both have lights/electric outlets
Seasonal Restrooms	3	3	3	3	12	12	Large 4-5 stalls, new, one ADA
Soccer Fields (9)	3	3	2	3	11	12	Fields are in good condition.
Stadium Field	3	3	2	3	11	12	Add short sidewalk to bleacher area for ADA.
Drinking Fountain	0	0	0	0	0	12	Smashed

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Replace equipment, provide shade shelters within soccer fields. Develop shade structure for bleachers and provide accessible route to bleachers from the parking lot.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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- 1 = Meets basic standards; Fair Quality; Older
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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

River Springs Water Park



Park Evaluation # 25

Park Name: River Springs Water Park
Park Size: 9.97 acres
Location: St. Paul Road
Proposed Classification: Special Use Park
Overall Park Design: Community water park located on edge of city limits in open area surrounded by a large berm. It is connected to the neighborhood by trails.
Overall Park Maintenance: Park looks to be well-maintained. Some water park equipment is old and may need to be replaced.
Natural Resources/Landscape: There is large open space and berms with tree plantings.
Overall Park Ranking: 80 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lot	2	2	2	3	9	12	ADA parking but striping is not compliant with current standards.
Bike racks	3	2	3	3	11	12	3 blue bike racks-very good condition
Waterpark	2	3	2	2	9	12	10 years old. Park was closed when visited in November.
Bituminous Trails	2	3	2	2	9	12	Suggest adding a pedestrian ramp to connect to sidewalk in front of building.

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a master plan for the property to include winter activities such as an outdoor hockey rink and other complementary amenities.

Low Priority: Continue to maintain waterpark, consider "free" days.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Sid Kinyon Tennis Courts



Park Evaluation # 26

Park Name: Sid Kinyon Tennis Courts

Park Size: 0.80 acres

Location: Smith Ave. and Havana Rd.

Proposed Classification: Special Use Park

Overall Park Design: This small park is located adjacent to the soccer complex and shares parking with that facility. The courts have recently been redone to include various lawn games.

Overall Park Maintenance: There has been recent replacement of the court surfacing, equipment and fencing. The street side sidewalk is steep and in need of replacement. There is leftover surfacing outside of the fence.

Natural Resources/Landscape: Mature trees surround the courts.

Overall Park Ranking: 92 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Tennis Court (1) / Pickleball Court (2)	3	3	2	3	11	12	Fencing and surfacing is new. There is an accessible access from the trail.
Lawn games	3	3	2	3	11	12	Equipment is brand new, there is an accessible route from the trail.

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Remove or replace sidewalk connection from street and add signage indicating location of accessible route from trail on opposite side of courts.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Sommer's Park



Park Evaluation # 27

Park Name: Sommer's Park
Park Size: 7.90 acres
Location: North Cedar
Proposed Classification: Undeveloped
Overall Park Design: This undeveloped park is adjacent to a busy road in a low area across from the gravel pit. There are no recreational amenities, trails or parking areas.
Overall Park Maintenance: Landscape maintenance is good.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Large open space with planted tree line, undeveloped.
Overall Park Ranking: N/A %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
General Site Amenities	2	2	0	2	6	12	Standard park issued picnic tables (2) and trash can (1).

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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- 1 = Meets basic standards; Fair Quality; Older
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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

Walter H. Gainey Park



Park Evaluation # 28

Park Name: Walter H. Gainey Park
Park Size: 3.09 acres
Location: Selby Ave. or Lemond Rd.
Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park
Overall Park Design: Neighborhood park with rolling topography and views toward the river. There is a large shelter, outdoor fireplace and playground.
Overall Park Maintenance: Landscape is very well-maintained. Some play equipment is older and in need of replacement.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Park has mature trees (Catalpas), open sloped lawn areas with views of Straight River.
Overall Park Ranking: 73 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Shelter	2	3	3	3	11	12	Beautiful shelter with electricity, an outdoor stone fireplace, restrooms. In a great location at the top of the hill. Has accessible route.
Drinking Fountain (in shelter)	2	2	1	2	7	12	
Seasonal Restrooms	2	1	3	2	8	12	Restrooms has ADA stall, floor is in poor condition.
Grills	2	2	3	2	9	12	Grill at shelter is good condition. Suggest to remove older grills on slope.

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Remove grills and picnic area on slope. Develop buffer and fencing at edge of steep slope. Continue to add sidewalks to benches and tables.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan

West Hills Park



Park Evaluation # 29

Park Name: West Hills Park
Park Size: 38.75 acres
Location: State Ave. or Florence Ave.
Proposed Classification: Special Use Park
Overall Park Design: A historic property that includes City Hall, the West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center, the Art Center and a historic walking tour with public art sculptures.
Overall Park Maintenance: A beautiful well-maintained campus. Buildings and amenities are older.
Natural Resources/Landscape: There is rolling topography with open lawn areas and mature trees.
Overall Park Ranking: 65 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
Parking Lots	2	3	2	2	9	12	Some pavement was in poor condition, there are ADA stalls but the routes to the building were poorly marked.
Year Round Restrooms in City Hall	2	2	2	1	7	12	
Picnic Grounds	2	2	1	2	7	12	
General Site Amenities	2	3	1	2	8	12	Bike rack could be replaced. Many benches, lighting, places to sit.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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City of Owatonna – Park and Trail System Plan



Willow Park

Park Evaluation # 30

Park Name: Willow Park
Park Size: 0.35 acres
Location: Highland/Floral/ Hillside
Proposed Classification: Mini Park
Overall Park Design: Small park in older neighborhood surrounded by streets on three sides with mature trees. Parking is on-street only.
Overall Park Maintenance: Landscape is in decent condition but there is uneven ground in some places. Play equipment is older and needs to be replaced.
Natural Resources/Landscape: Park is surrounded by mature trees (silver maples, walnuts).
Overall Park Ranking: 17 %

AMENITY RANKINGS

Park Amenity Name	Overall Condition	Overall Design & Character	Accessibility	Age Considerations	Actual Points	Total Possible Points	Comments
General Site Amenities	1	2	0	1	4	12	Picnic table, bench, trash cans. No accessibility to any feature.
Play equipment	0	1	0	0	1	12	Some pieces are unsafe or in disrepair. There are tree roots in the wood chips. Surfacing needs more wood chips. No accessible route.
Basketball Court	1	0	0	0	1	12	Court itself does not look large enough for half court. Surfacing is in need of replacement. No accessible route.

Park Recommendations

High Priority: Develop a concept plan for this park. Replace play equipment, move to location away from large tree, consider unique play equipment design. Replace basketball court, add sidewalks to amenities and picnic tables.

RATING / POINT SCALE DESCRIPTION

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Summary of Social Pinpoint

Online Public Engagement – Phase 2



To: Troy Klecker, City of Owatonna
Mary Jo Knudson, City of Owatonna

From: Jason Amberg, WSB

Date: 10.09.19

Re: WSB Project No. #013022-000

Below are the specific comments from the community on the Social Pinpoint interactive map online from June 13, 2019 – October 9, 2019. The most comments and most popular comment relates to an addition of a splash pad. There were also a number of comments addressing safety in the parks.

[Something I Like](#)

[Something I Dislike](#)

[\[Make a Comment\]](#)

Southeast Owatonna – development of future community park:

- I appreciate filling in the gaps on SE side. We moved from a more central area of Owatonna, where sidewalks and trail access was easier, to the SE side where those things were lacking. I would love to easily walk or bike to downtown or to other trails around town; I am looking forward to seeing the great things that we can build in our community! [Something I Like](#)
- Access to a facilities on the east side of 218 seems impractical, although the Southeast Area of town is sorely lacking in walkability. Could the west side of 218 be used for a walking path and the south side of 18th Street to link to Kaplan's walkway? [\[Make a Comment\]](#)

Safety

- This would be a great added family area to Owatonna [\[referencing Southeast Owatonna park development\]](#) and surrounding communities but I am curious as to what the plan is for monitoring of this park with more than likely high traffic of young families. We have discontinued using public walking paths and went to church parking lots for riding bikes or the high school to jog/run because we do not feel safe on the public walking paths. Since school property laws are much different from public- alcohol and riff raff is a lot less in making this chng [Something I Dislike](#)
- Brown Park: We really like the location of this park however we do not allow our kids to go to this park because of the garbage and drugs paraphernalia that is frequently found in this park. We have excluded the option to look at daycares in this area and pre-schools due to them wanting to use this park for play. [Something I Dislike](#)
- The playground equipment is gross and ill-kept. The sand needs to be replaced. It is too close to the walking path. It is not a safe location for children to play because of the vehicle parking and the bike path being a lot for traffic and congestion. Almost every time we visit this park there are drunk people drinking and walking around with brown bags

and booze bottles. We do not walk this path anymore because of the safety concerns.

Something I Dislike

- Is there something that can be done about the people that use drugs at this park? Or the strange men that seem to flock here during the spring, summer, and fall that yell or “holler” at women & children as they’re walking by? I’ve seen bottle drug use & the men yelling at people. This park does NOT feel safe to be at 80% of the time. **Something I Dislike** **2 Likes**

Winter Sports – Hockey:

- Small hockey/skating rinks throughout the town. (I've seen other cities have neighborhood rinks.) This will encourage positive outdoor play during the winter, foster neighborhood engagement, and ideal for kids to walk to. (i.e buecksler park area (SE), mineral springs park area (NE), (NW area somewhere), (SW Moorehouse is in this region). **Make a Comment**

Playgrounds and Surfacing:

- Our family adores the parks in town. We've noticed they are kept up nicely with regards to the equipment. The grounds could use some more wood chips (the square kind are more durable and easier for wheelchairs and strollers) or even just raking wood chips into the swing areas on a more regular basis would reduce the mud issues. Thank you for keeping our playgrounds in great shape. **Make a Comment**
- An indoor playground for winter would be a great addition for families! I hope the city considers this in planning. **Something I Like** **6 Likes**

Swimming and Water Interest – Splash Pads

- There's a fantastic space in downtown Rapid City, SD called Main Street Square. It seemed like a great gathering space when I visited-seating, patio area, splash area for kids, grassy area to relax, and lots of downtown small businesses. It would be exciting to incorporate something similar for those that find the River Springs Water Park or Lake Kohlmeier inaccessible due to distance, transportation, etc. **Make a Comment**
- Love the idea of a splash pad. So needed in owatonna. Great way to cook kids off, especially if someone doesn't have air conditioning and doesn't have time to go to the water park or doesn't have a backyard for a pool or sprinkler. Great morning activity as the water park isn't open in the mornings. Consider this: I'm home with a toddler and a baby. I cannot take them to the water park alone.... But I could put the baby in the stroller and let the toddler play in the fountains. Splash baby toes **Something I Like** **1 Like**
- A splash pad would be awesome!! **Something I Like** **2 Likes**
- A splash pad would be really nice! **Something I Like** **15 Likes** – comment located in SE Owatonna area/Future Community Park

Natural Resources and Pollinators

- My wife and I enjoy going for walks along the trails in town. We would like to see more native flowers, especially one's that help the pollinators. Examples: Anise, Blazing Star, Butterfly Weed, etc. **Make a Comment**
- Would love to see improvements made to Maple Creek. Dredge the creek to increase waterflow, add some rocks for rapids, fix limestone walls, add rock to banks to the creek is appealing. Invest in keeping it clean - any time it is full it brings debris that gets stuck on bridges - tree trunks, limbs, branches. It makes the park unappealing. **Make a Comment**
- Consider permanent removal of the dam in Mineral Springs Park for better water quality and wildlife well being. **Make a Comment**

- When redoing Dartts Park, include redoing river banks with rock retaining walls, dredge the creek from mineral springs road to the other side of Mineral Springs Park removing 50 years of road sand and sediment. This would help in the reduction of flooding in the park and area residents [\[Make a Comment\]](#) **4 Likes**

Trails

- Excited about trail from Brooktree to the south. Especially trail area south of Rose Street through the wooded area/ravine and Hammann Park. [Something I Like](#)
- There should be a trail connecting Mineral Springs Rd to 26th St. Kenyon Rd is way too busy for people to have to walk on the shoulder. [\[Make a Comment\]](#)
- I'd like to see a cross walk across Mosher and a sidewalk into Morehouse park. [\[Make a Comment\]](#)

Future Athletic Complex:

- Batting cages would get great use. Charge for it! [Something I Like](#) **1 Like**

INDIVIDUAL PARKS

Central Park – Downtown:

- I'd like to see a playground or something down town. Like in the Green Space? Otherwise there's not many reasons to being g a family down town. [\[Make a Comment\]](#) **3 Likes**

Countryview Park:

- As someone who lives "near" that area this would be great news. There are no parks nearby and getting around town on Rose St and busy side streets with kids walking and biking is not safe. I like the idea of a unique play area (ninja warrior type equipment). [Something I Like](#)

Dartts Park:

- Dartt's Park is a treasure. The improvements will be appreciated by many. Please leave intact the old WPA bridge construction and limestone walls. Agree with any steps that help water flow and quality for Maple Creek [\[Make a Comment\]](#)

Morehouse Park:

- I drive from Dodge Center every day, to go hiking at Morehouse park. My son loves to skateboard, but this skate park is in need of some repairs. I would love to see the skate park fixed so more kids would skate board there. They're are so many kids that don't want to go there, and would if repairs were made [Something I Like](#) **1 Like**

Mineral Springs Park:

- Mineral Springs is a beautiful park but park equipment needs to be updated for all ages. Its a great family park with disc golf, trails and plenty of space new equipment here would be perfect [\[Make a Comment\]](#) **2 Likes**

Willow Park

- My family frequents this park. It is small, lacks structure, is often filled with trash, and needs some TLC! We would love to have better sitting areas, more amenities, and a cleaner/ safer park to visit. I feel this has been left to its destruction because of its location (the more impoverished part of town.) Please don't let us or our neighborhood children down. [\[Make a Comment\]](#) **3 Likes**