

Chapter 7: Public Facilities & Recreational Opportunities

7.1 Introduction

A network of cohesive and well-connected public facilities, parkland and open space areas are vital in the creation of a desirable public environment and public image for the City of Brooklyn Park. By continuing to offer diversity and choice in recreational opportunities and public facilities, the City can ensure community residents continued enjoyment that will reach varied age groups. Seamless delivery of such recreational opportunities, in addition to coordinated planning for future public facilities that is especially sensitive to evolving recreational trends and other community needs, shall serve as the foundation for this chapter.

This chapter is also intended to further enhance and enrich an existing City parkland inventory and functional classification system. The parkland inventory and classification system offer guidance in the future development of City parkland and open space areas. Pedestrian improvements and selected public right of way improvements can contribute and help fulfill a safe and desirable public image for the City of Brooklyn Park. These concepts are introduced further in this chapter.

7.1.1 Recreational Trends

A state population expected to surpass five million by 2020 creates a continuous demand for a diverse array of recreation programs. Both national and statewide trends will likely impact the future of recreation in Brooklyn Park, and several factors will influence specific recreational interests and levels of participation in the immediate years ahead.

Minnesota's median age is anticipated to rise from 32.5 in 1990 to 40 in 2020. As the "Baby Boomer" generation now begins to age, new and innovative recreation programs designed to meet the new needs of this significant population group will become an increasingly important focus of City recreation programming. It is believed that this increase in the State population will contribute to persons 65 and older outnumbering children in most Minnesota counties. These demographic factors, along with steady increases in leisure time, access to public facilities, interest in the environment, changing social trends, and new recreation technology will all greatly impact future participation levels in recreation. People are seeking quality recreation experiences close to home, but are also willing to travel to obtain quality or specialized recreational experiences.

Specific, individual recreational preferences have experienced a dramatic shift in recent decades. Tennis, for example, has generally decreased in popularity since the 1990's, while in-line skating, cross-country skiing, multi-use trail systems and other forms of "non-contact" recreational activities have increased dramatically in recent years. Trends also indicate that the level of female participation in sporting activities continues to grow, and that more youth now prefer to specialize and train in one sport year-round. Participation in "extreme" sports, such as skateboarding and BMX biking, has also experienced a sharp rise. Several communities have responded in recent years to a demand for providing outdoor recreational gathering places as a community amenity, such as dog parks. These "central" community facilities have placed a new type of demand on local jurisdictions to provide both flexibility and innovation in the selection and delivery of public facilities to a community.

Brooklyn Park must continue to ensure coordinated planning efforts in an effort to respond efficiently with such trends in the future. Increasing cultural diversity in the nation, and throughout the metropolitan areas of the Twin Cities, will continue with more opportunities for cultural integration occurring on a regular basis. Special programming for various cultural groups, including Hispanics and Latinos, Asian Americans, West African and other immigrant populations will continue to rise in popularity.

Youth Development

Children are recognized as the future of our community. Recent trends have seen younger children becoming increasingly involved with drugs and crime, while the juvenile crime rate has risen. As youth development and crime prevention continue to be the focal points of urban areas, there will be an opportunity to increase services aimed at improving youth resiliency, reaching disengaged youth, maintaining healthy family relationships, developing self-esteem in young boys and girls; and preventing or reducing juvenile crime. Improving access to public parks and recreation facilities has been strongly linked to reduction in crime and, in particular to reduced juvenile crime. Recreation services need to collaborate with other organizations in the community, in order to respond to this community need. Partnerships in youth development include schools, law enforcement and the criminal justice system, social service agencies, churches, and non-profit agencies that work with and are involved our youth.

Family Development

Parks and recreation play a major role in family development. A people oriented approach helps communities position themselves to create a society of caring families who feel connected through community pride. Family events, drop-in activities and facilities, intergenerational activities for not only traditional families, but also new family types - including families headed by single men and women, grandparents raising grandchildren, parents by adoption, both domestic and international, and other diverse family groups- will continue to be important for our changing society.

Health and Wellness

The overall health of our citizens has been declining in recent years. More than ever, parks and recreation will play a key role in educating and providing opportunities for people to focus on health and wellness. Aging populations, young children, and certain ethnic cultural groups are especially prone to declining health. Sedentary lifestyle and poor nutrition have contributed to this demise in our country. One-third of all children are obese. More and more people will be looking for convenient and affordable ways to get physically active. Outdoor recreation activities can lead to better quality of life physically, mentally, and socially. The outdoor recreation industry today reveals increased sales, new activities, and growth in participation at both ends of the spectrum; including activities closer to home that require little gear (like walking), in addition to those that usually require a greater time commitment and a more adventurous attitude with more highly technical gear (such as climbing, kayaking, and backpacking). The view that recreation can be a means for maintaining wellness will be a constant feature of programming, investment and reinvestment in park facilities over time. Sports and physical activity programs can introduce youth to

skills such as teamwork, cooperation, self-discipline, sportsmanship, leadership, and socialization. Parks and recreation play a key role in educating the public about how they may achieve health and wellness as the provider or partners in developing facilities and programs that support health and well-being.

Urbanization of Suburbia

As suburban communities become urban in nature, residents are more likely to participate in activities utilizing specialized facilities, such as city parks and recreation facilities. As urbanization of our society grows, the need for specialized facilities that are safe and free from crime and vandalism will increase.

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

More than ever people with disabilities are leading active, independent lives and are involved in their community. Parks and recreation provides accessible, inclusive facilities and programs and are mandated by law to do so. Staff will need to continue to be well trained and knowledgeable about disabilities and how to adapt activities for people with various abilities. As our population ages, or men and women returning from war with life long disabilities will require additional recreational program adaptations and facilities that assist in recovery, such as warm therapeutic pools, adaptive fitness centers, integrative programs, programs for target populations, and accessible natural park reserve areas. Strategic partnership could be developed with non-profit agencies, social service providers, schools, churches, and health care professionals.

Partners in Education

With a growing concern for youth, recreation and educational institutes will play a key role in increasing children's education skills and abilities. Some initiatives that are changing education are home schooling, technology, and the possibility of year round school. Working together will be increasingly important for effective use of resources, expertise, facilities, leisure education, and skill development. Community Education and Activities Directors will be close partners in providing a wide range of opportunities while reducing duplication.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Brooklyn Park residents have a history of supporting parks and recreation. They value open space, parks and recognize the importance of parks as integral to quality of life and community livability. As Brooklyn Park's population continues to grow, the city will need to expand parks and recreation facilities to ensure that the community has accessible and available recreation opportunities. Investing in yearly capital improvement funding to keep parks and facilities in good maintenance condition and upgrading older facilities is essential. Changing cultural norms and interests will determine future facility needs. The City will be called upon to provide a wider variety of facilities to meet growing consumer demands, and facilities such as, dog parks, skate and bike parks, water parks, nature play areas, artificial turf playfields, and facilities to support new sports and athletic interests will require future planning efforts. Select facilities will require flexibility, adaptability, multi-use spaces, and changeable components in order to grow and change with the needs and interests of the community. Parks and recreation can lead the way in providing

facilities that determine quality of life, provide access to recreation opportunities, and develop partnerships that provide new facilities to meet future changing needs. Potential partners may include private developers, private citizens, athletic associations, hospitals, YMCA, businesses, economic developers, corporations and school districts.

Neighborhood Connections

Parks and recreation facilities provide neighborhoods with a focal point for community interaction, foster a sense of community identity, and provide important services to neighborhood residents. Parks and recreation professionals are key members of interdisciplinary teams that work to plan and design neighborhoods and deliver services critical to resident's needs. Facilities and programs are intended to complement neighborhood social fabric and may differ from area to area. Opportunities for joint-use facilities that combine services, such as schools, libraries, community centers, theaters, YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, Tree House and other community service providers ought to be sought. Commercial partners may also be appropriate in order to create the synergy of community. Venues for recreation programs could change as the City brings activities to targeted populations at their home neighborhoods, such as immigrant communities, apartment communities, or senior housing.

Environmental Awareness

Interest in the environment is increasing and there is a growing awareness and concern by the public for environmental quality, environmental issues, and the environmental movement. Recreation and Parks can provide environmental education through programs, interpretation, and sustainable facilities to include the use of green building design.

Technology Influence on Leisure

As technology becomes more integrated into our daily lives, competition for leisure time challenges traditional recreational activities. Future opportunities may include use of a variety of media and technology to publicize traditional services as well as provide technology-based recreation for those with limited time, lack of transportation, or health issues that make participation outside the home difficult. From this competition for time comes a concurrent need for all recreation programming and facilities to be of highest quality in order to maintain competitiveness with other non-traditional activities. In the future, programs and services could become available through public television, public radio, video rental, or the Internet, on-line registration and inventories of public facilities and recreation activity guides, posting public meetings concerning parks and recreation issues. Technology changes often create entirely new activities, such as geocaching. With each new activity demands for land, facilities, program and services follow. Each generation is more educated and more technologically adept. As technology advances continue, whole new forms of recreational pursuits appear. Maintenance practices and facility construction can utilize advanced technology for safer, more efficient, and healthier parks and places.

Economics and Household Structure Influences

An increasing split is occurring between those that have access to recreation and those who do not. Affluent households with more discretionary income, have access to more and broader recreation opportunities. However, there is a noticeable increase in the proportion of the urban population who are considered poor. This increasing division between the affluent and the poor will prompt a need for strategies to meet recreational service needs of both. Fair fee structure has an impact on the public's ability to enjoy recreation and parks programs and facilities. The struggle between managing facilities to preserve high quality standards, providing open and equal access, and securing enough funding to cover capital funding and operating expenses further complicates the approach to ensuring equal and fair access to public facilities for all people regardless of their income level. Many participants will seek out the best combinations of price, service, and convenience in recreation and leisure services, seeking value and quality. Public programs that welcome a wide range of diversity help make communities stronger, both socially and culturally.

Due to increase demands on spare time and the fact that households are busier, trends point to more discretionary activities that do not require intense scheduling. Use of free time is an opportunity to spend time with family and friends. Activities that allow for group participation will be important. Family time will be sacred and parents will be less tolerant to programs and practices being held during non-prime time hours. Weekday demand for facility use may exceed weekend time, when families prefer to spend more quality time at home together. Because leisure time is scarce for working adults, opportunities for providing diverse experiences, trips, and outdoor recreation activities will continue to increase. This tendency favors individual or small group activities contrast to team activities. Non-contact activities are growing as well as areas of the arts. Opportunities exist to collaborate with area school districts and other governmental agencies.

Children in Nature

Public parks can be preserved as a space for children to interact with the nature. As our lives become more productive, our children become less inventive. It will be important to preserve open spaces outdoors simply for children to explore their natural surroundings. We will need to find a better balance between organized activities, the pace of children's lives, and their experiences in nature. The mental health benefits can help reduce depression, anxiety, and other mental and learning disorders related to attention deficit disorder. Children, when left to their own devices, are drawn to the rough edges of the parks, the ravines and rocky inclines, and areas of natural vegetation. Discovery, imagination, and creativity are developed naturally. Nature areas, self guided walking trails, adventure playgrounds, ponds, outdoor education experiences, camping, roaming in the woods, and unstructured imaginative playtime in the out of doors can have huge impact on our children's health and well being. Strategic partnership with preschools, day cares, school districts, nature centers, and health providers can strengthen understanding of this critical issue. The safety concerns of parents need to be realistically examined and overcome with the facts and sensible natural opportunities.

7.2 Public Facilities System

As of August 2006, the Brooklyn Park public facility system included a network of sixty City parks, comprising 1,650 acres. Current park use is estimated at 57% passive and 43% active recreation, encompassing over 150 miles of City trails and sidewalks. The City also maintains an estimated 23,000 parkland and boulevard rights-of-way trees.

Brooklyn Park's system of public facilities, parkland and open space areas serve to create a healthy and vibrant image for the community. It is this image that first welcomes visitors to the community and offers both our residents and our visitors enjoyable recreation opportunities for use at their leisure. Inviting public spaces with a diverse balance of parkland amenities that offer a range of recreational choices should be offered within the functional system of public facilities. New and innovative facilities ought to be designed and introduced into a system that remains reflective of emerging trends and community desires.

The future development of a cohesive public facilities system can ensure Brooklyn Park remains an attractive place to live, work and play well into the future. The design of future facilities improvements ought to be coordinated in effort to keep pace with continual changes in recreational trends and personal lifestyle habits. Advancements in urban design trends also ought to be reflected within new public facility improvements. The expansion and enrichment of a well-connected network of urban trails and sidewalks, coinciding with increased promotion and investment in recreational programming and services, will help Brooklyn Park maintain an active, healthy and vibrant community well into the future.

7.2.1 Historical Development

Demand for public facilities has steadily increased and developed into an extensive network of parkland, athletic complexes, trails, open space areas, golf courses, and historical areas. The public facility system has achieved great balance in keeping pace with notable increases in population throughout the early 1960's (as the City initially became incorporated as a Village) and during incorporation later as a City in 1969. In recent years, demands on the system have largely coincided with physical needs in conjunction with large residential demands as experienced throughout the 1990's. Into the future, focus should be placed on ensuring an attractive network of public facilities reflective of current local recreational demands and trends.

As discussed earlier in the Land Use chapter of this plan, City parkland and open space areas currently comprise over 15% of the current City land use--the second largest use of land city wide. The City has historically done an excellent job of preserving land for parkland and open space use. Brooklyn Park will continue a policy of developing future facilities, parkland and open space areas at a rate commensurate with the needs of the population and with the City's ability to finance the system.

Perhaps the City's most recognizable city park is River Park. Located along the west bank of the Mississippi River between 83rd Avenue and 81st Avenue, River Park exhibits a continued policy of parkland preservation and active riverbank restoration that dates back to the 1960's.

A historical summation and brief overview of the River Park Master Plan is discussed below:

River Park Master Plan

In the early 1960's, the Village of Brooklyn Park acquired the land between 81st and 83rd Avenue, now known as the southern half of River Park. Floyd Dahlberg, then Recreation Director, proposed a written plan for the park to the Village Council. Mr. Dahlberg envisioned the area as both a neighborhood and community park. The neighborhood park component would be accomplished by "taking the West side of the area (mainly high ground) and developing a strip suitable for recreational games and a play area for such activities as softball, football, low dry games, skating, etc." The community park component was to include a large shelter, boat launching facilities and a large parking lot. More than forty years later, Mr. Dahlberg's plans still remain in place.

Over the years, residents have also referred to River Park as "Rocket Park" and "Lions Park", due to a large rocket play structure that was in place for many years, and several contributions by the local Lions Club. In 1967, the Lions Club purchased the picnic shelter in addition to several picnic tables, and throughout the years, the Lions Club has adopted River Park and used the park for several community events.

From Prairie to Farm to Park

In the mid 1800's, River Park consisted of mainly trees and grasses. Prior to being settled as a farming community, the area supported elk and bird species that are no longer present. At the time of initial development in the 1960's, much of River Park was comprised of a cornfield owned by Mr. William Reynolds.

The riverbank at River Park represents an example of a floodplain. Floodplains, lands adjacent to rivers periodically covered with floodwater, support trees and other plants that are adapted to cycles of rising and receding water. Rising water in springtime brings nutrients, soils, and new life to these lands. As floodwaters recede, cottonwood, silver maple and willow seeds quickly sprout on freshly exposed soil.

Influence of Mississippi River

The Mississippi River flows along the entire eastern border of River Park and Brooklyn Park. From the source at Lake Itasca to the mouth at the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana, the Mississippi River travels 2,348 miles. Minnesota's riverside cities boast the first 660 miles of the river's long venture. The Mississippi watershed drains water from 31 states and 2 Canadian provinces. It is the dominant watershed in North America, and drains 41% of the continental United States. 241 species of fish call the Mississippi Watershed home. Three hundred bird species use the Mississippi flyway for navigation; other wildlife of the river, bottomlands and bluffs of the Mississippi watershed include 50 species of mammals, 45 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 37 different species of mussels. The river and its major

tributaries supply drinking water for more than 18 million people. River Park is at river mile 863. River Park is important to area residents because it allows public access to the river through boat ramps, a riverside trail, and overlook points. Recently, organizations such as the National Park Service, the Metropolitan Council and Great River Green have provided funding and expertise to restore and enhance portions of River Park, recognizing its importance to the local community and to the health of the river.

Natural Disturbances

In 1965, a major flood occurred and covered the entire park area. In addition to this significant event, other floods have also occurred over the years, causing the park to be closed for shorter periods of time. Storms have also taken a toll in more recent history. A 1997 storm brought straight-line winds through the park, uprooting over 20 mature trees and dropping them up to 20 feet from where they originated. Although fire was a common method that “Mother Nature” used to restore and rejuvenate the area, prairie fires have not swept through the River Park area for well over one hundred years.

River Bank Restoration

In 2001, the Recreation and Parks Department gained approval from the Fire Department and contracted to have a controlled burn conducted along the South portion of the riverbank. The controlled burn was an extremely effective method for reducing the invasive species that had taken hold and preparing the riverbank for the upcoming planting of native seed. Native plants are helping to restore the bank to prevent erosion and enhance the look of the riverbank.

7.2.2 Educational Facilities

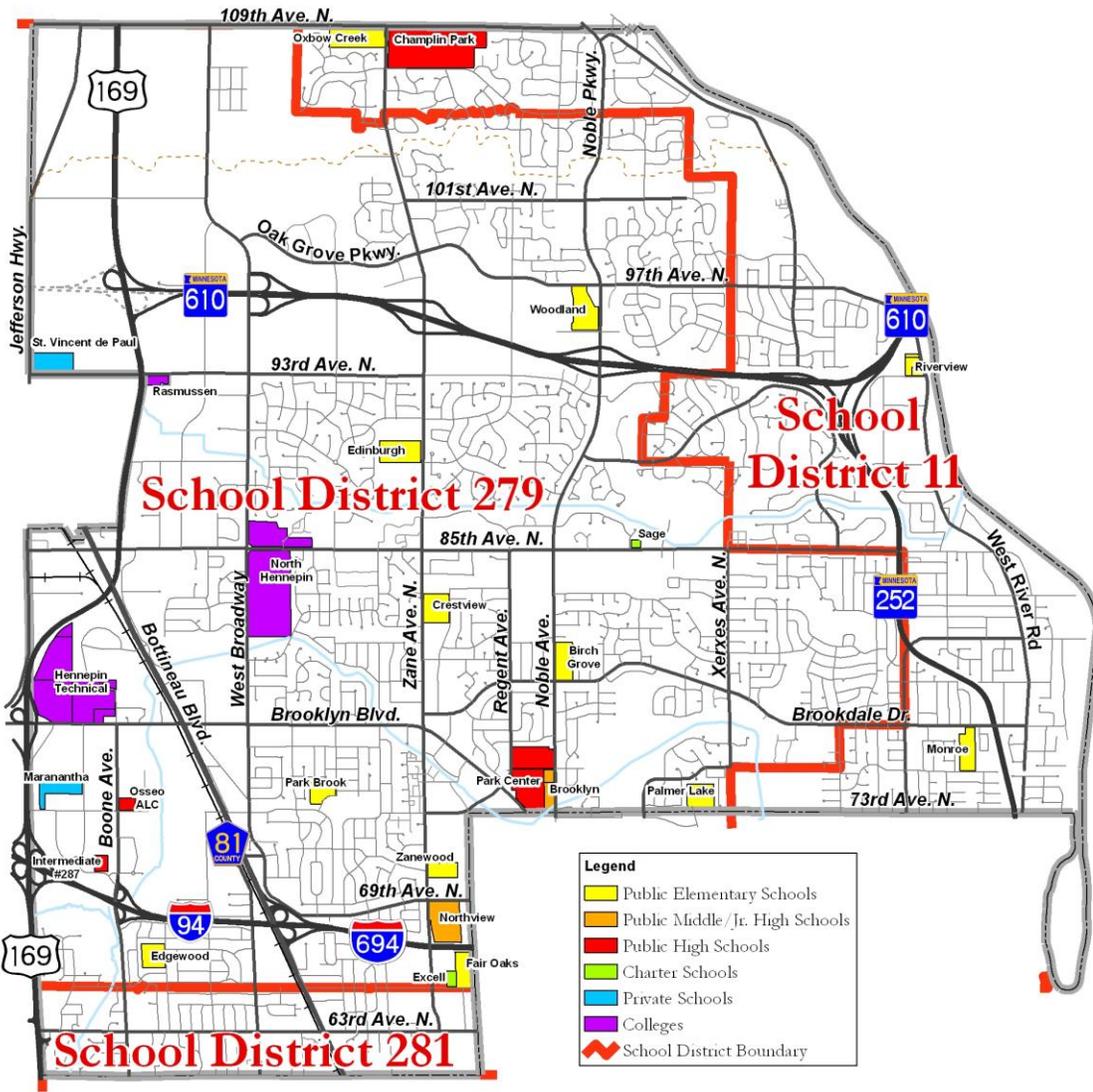
Brooklyn Park is a recognized partner in providing enrichment experiences that complement educational services. In the future, parks and recreation will become integrated into the school day. Children will learn leisure skills and values in conjunction with other curriculum. Services such as before and after school programs, summer programs, preschool development, nature play activities, and family and child leisure education will become increasingly important. Collaborating with local school districts and community education programs are key.

An extensive network of educational facilities comprised of three independent school districts is in place in the City. Educational facilities and neighborhood schools serve as key recreational centers for the community population and each individual neighborhood.

There are currently eleven elementary schools, two junior high schools, two senior high schools, an alternative high school and numerous specialty schools that operate in the City of Brooklyn Park. Locations of City schools are shown below in Figure 7.2.2.1:

Figure 7.2.2: Schools

October 2007



City educational facilities are indicated below in Table 7.2.2.2:

Table 7.2.2.2 Public School Facilities	
Park Center International Baccalaureate High School	Osseo Area School District #279
Champlin Park High School	Anoka- Hennepin School District #11
Northview Junior High International Baccalaureate School	Osseo Area School District #279
Brooklyn Junior High School	Osseo Area School District #279
Osseo Area Learning Center Alternative High School	Osseo Area School District #279
Birch Grove Elementary School for the Arts	Osseo Area School District #279
Crestview Elementary School	Osseo Area School District #279
Edgewood Elementary Science, Science, Math and Technology Magnet School	Osseo Area School District #279
Edinbrook Elementary School	Osseo Area School District #279
Fair Oaks Elementary School	Osseo Area School District #279
Monroe Elementary School	Anoka - Hennepin School District #11
Palmer Lake Elementary School	Osseo Area School District #279
Parkbrook Elementary School	Osseo Area School District #279
Riverview Specialty Elementary School for Math and Environmental Science	
Woodland Elementary School	Osseo Area School District #279
Zanewood Community School & Recreation Center	Osseo Area School District #279 / City of Brooklyn Park Partnership

The following is a summation of the three Public School Districts in the City of Brooklyn Park:

District #11 (Anoka-Hennepin)

Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District #11 covers primarily the northeastern third of the City, in a pattern generally consistent with the City’s natural boundary of the Mississippi River, extending just west of T.H. 252 and north of T.H. 610.

District #11 schools within City limits include the elementary schools of Monroe, Riverview and Oxbow Creek, and Champlin Park High School.

Champlin Park High School, built in 1992, is recognized as the second largest high school in Minnesota, with a student enrollment in 2006 exceeding 3,200. Riverview Elementary is a magnet school specializing in environmental science.

District #279 (Osseo)

Osseo Independent School District #279 covers the largest geographical area of the City, extending from the northern City limit boundary south to 65th Avenue. District #279 schools within City limits include the elementary schools of Birch Grove, Crest View, Edgewood, Edinbrook, Fair Oaks, Palmer Lake, Park Brook, Woodland and Zanewood; the junior high schools of Brooklyn and North View; and Park Center High School.

Current enrollment at Park Center High School, built in 1971, exceeds 1,600 students (2006). District voters recently approved a \$139 million dollar bond referendum for capital improvements to the facility in 2000. Zanewood Elementary School also recently underwent over \$7 million dollars in renovations, to include the addition of the Recreation Center, in a collaborative funding partnership with the City.

In 2006, the District #279 underwent a comprehensive long range visioning and planning process to chart its future. Projected declining enrollment and student diversity disparities within the District will be key issues the District will address in the future. Discussions regarding year round school may surface as a means to address academic achievement standards and childcare.

Park Center High School and Northview Junior High are designated International Baccalaureate curriculum schools. Birch Grove and Edgewood Elementary Schools are magnet schools, specializing in fine arts, math and science. Other Osseo Area School District educational facilities located in Brooklyn Park include: Osseo Area Learning Center, an alternative high school, located at 7300 Boone Avenue; Willow Lane Early Childhood Education Center, and Adult Basic Education Center both located on 73rd & Brooklyn Boulevard.

District #281 (Robbinsdale)

Robbinsdale Independent School District #281 covers the smallest geographical area of the City, encompassing the extreme southern tier of the City. There are currently no District #281 facilities in operation in the City of Brooklyn Park. The former Lincoln Elementary School, located at 6200 West Broadway, was recently sold in 2006 to a private party, and is currently being operated as a day-care and multi-cultural center.

Post High School Higher Education Facilities

Brooklyn Park has three post high school educational facilities; North Hennepin Community College, Hennepin Technical College, and Rasmussen School of Business.

7.2.3 City Parkland System

Current parkland and recreational choices both residents and visitors enjoy include a regional park and trail corridor granting direct access to and across the Mississippi River; multiple athletic complexes and activity buildings; 100 city-wide athletic fields and game courts; over 10 outdoor ice rinks; and two municipally owned golf courses. Designed and created by Robert Trent Jones II, Edinburgh USA is regarded as one the nation's premier 18-hole public golf courses. In addition to an enjoyable and affordable round of golf, Edinburgh USA offers golfing instruction and MacTavish's, an upscale, full service restaurant and catering service.

Site Selection Characteristics

The following site characteristics are considered in selecting potential land for park and open space acquisition and preservation (in no order of priorities):

- Relationship to community planning
- Availability to community planning
- Type of park to be developed (refer to Classification System)
- Amount of parkland existing in the vicinity
- Population of area and projected population
- Anticipated development for the area
- Price of land and associated park development costs
- Road access to and from park locations
- Character of neighborhood, i.e. age, income, type of resident using park
- Possibility of securing adjacent land in the future
- Existing zoning (highest and best use of land)
- Natural beauty
- Proximity to schools and colleges

Functional Classification System

All City parkland is classified and developed appropriately according to a functional hierarchy. This functional system serves as a key development and redevelopment guide for the types of facilities to be considered at each park facility. Specific park improvements are individually tailored based upon the historical presence and unique characteristics of certain types of facilities, individual neighborhood desires, and the resources readily available.

Below is the City functional classification system for designated parkland and open space. This system shall be used to assist in the selection, assessment and development of all City parkland.

Mini-Parks:

Smaller sites, typically an acre or less, with specialized facilities that are specifically designed to serve a concentrated or limited population, i.e. seniors or tots. May often be placed in locations such as apartment complexes, town home developments or in commercial centers. They may also be located in areas where the geography only allows for a small park.

Neighborhood Parks/Playgrounds:

Medium-sized sites, preferably 8-10 acres in size, reserved for intense recreational activities and normally centrally located within neighborhoods. Designed primarily for use by neighborhood residents with easy walking and biking distance to the facility, and may include a range of facilities including field and court games, crafts, playground apparatus, skating, picnicking and shelter buildings. Neighborhood playgrounds are intended for both spontaneous and organized activities, and serve as the prime component of the park and recreation system.

Community Playfields:

Larger sites, typically 10-25+ acres in size, reserved for intense recreational activities that consist of regulation size playfields, in addition to swimming pools as may be appropriate, with supportive facilities for competitive athletics accommodating a variety of age groups. Supportive facilities would include parking, lighting and restroom facilities.

Community Parks:

Large sites of natural or ornamental quality, substantially larger than neighborhood parks. These types of parks, often 25-50+ acres in size, are intended to serve the entire community by offering unique and diverse environmental character that can typically service a full range of outdoor needs. They normally offer both passive and active forms of recreation, and may include walking and hiking trails, nature observing, picnicking, and may in addition also offer field and court games.

Regional Parks:

Expansive sites of natural or ornamental quality, encompassing 200-500 acres (by Metropolitan Council requirement), that are intended to serve the outdoor needs of a larger region as a whole (normally 3-5 communities). These facilities offer a complete natural setting, preferably contiguous to water bodies or water courses, and include various forms of outdoor recreation such as picnicking, boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, skiing and camping.

Regional Reserve:

Large area of preserved natural quality, typically in excess of 1,000 acres, and utilized for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, camping, hiking, and fishing.

Linear Park:

These are sites developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing, walking and skating. Width is an important component to ensure the proper setbacks and safety zones.

Historic Sites:

These are specific areas within the community wherein the primary focus is the preservation and maintenance of buildings, sites and objects of unique historical and architectural significance. Preserving the historical resources in the community will benefit future generations. Future partnerships with other organizations to operate and maintain facilities will increase regional marketing and expertise in programming.

Special Facilities:

These are areas that provide specialized or site specific recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature areas, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboretums, ice arenas, camping areas, community centers, sports athletic parks, field houses, artificial turf sports fields, disc golf courses, fitness centers, aquatic facilities, water splash parks, skateboard parks, and social/civic clubs.

Parkland and Open Space Inventory

A comprehensive inventory of all park and open space facilities in the City of Brooklyn Park is illustrated below. The colors correspond to the City Parkland Classification Map shown in Figure 7.2.3.2. The information in the table demonstrates the wide range of facilities available to residents and visitors, including rental picnic pavilions for special events, numerous playgrounds, playfields and courts throughout the City's park and open space system.

<u>Fig. 7.2.3.1</u>	Fields	Game Courts	Playground Area	Picnic Facilities	Nature Area	Golf	Paths & Trails	Ice Skating	Skate Park
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS									
Bass Creek Park 6665 Boone Ave	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Brooklyn Acres 9161 Hampshire Ave	X		X	X			X		
Brook Oaks Park 1750 87th Trail		X	X	X	X				
Cavell Park 6249 Cavell Ave			X		X				
City Park 1313 79th Ave	X		X	X					
College Park 8233 West Broadway	X		X	X				X	
Cottonwood Park 3640 84th Ave			X	X	X				
Edgewood Park 6350 Edgewood Ave			X	X					
Edinbrook Park 2900 Edinbrook Pkwy	X	X	X	X				X	

	Fields	Game Courts	Playground Area	Picnic Facilities	Nature Area	Golf	Paths & Trails	Ice Skating	Skate Park
Emerson Woods Park 8321 Emerson Ave	X		X	X	X				
Founders Park 10001 Noble Pkwy	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Greenhaven Park 7880 Mt. Curve Blvd			X	X	X				
Hamilton Park 6101 Candlewood Dr	X	X	X	X			X	X	
Hartkopf Park 7300 Florida Ave	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Jewell Park 1400 89th Ave	X		X	X	X			X	
Lad Park 8001 Lad Pkwy	X		X	X					
Lakeland Park 6901 - 66th Ave	X	X	X	X				X	
Maitland Park 8900 Vickors Crsg	X		X	X	X		X		
Meadowlake Park 6216 Boone Ave	X		X	X					
Meadowwood Park 7440 Irving Ave	X		X					X	
Northern Trail Park 10201 France Ave	X		X	X	X		X		
Norwood Park 8100 Newton Ave	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	

	Fields	Game Courts	Playground Area	Picnic Facilities	Nature Area	Golf	Paths & Trails	Ice Skating	Skate Park
Park Lawn Park 7759 Kentucky Ave		X	X			Disc Golf	X		
Pinebrook Park 9432 Fallgold Pkwy	X	X	X	X					
Queen Park 8245 Queen Ave			X	X					
Royal Oaks Park 9401 Upton Ave	X		X	X	X		X		
Southbrook Park 6410 62nd Ave					X		X		
Stratford Crossing Park 2624 87th Trail	X		X	X			X		
Striefel Park 7708 Iris Dr			X						
Sunkist Park 1201 82nd Ave	X	X	X	X	X				
Sunny Acres Park 5425 83rd Ave	X		X	X			X		
Sunnylane Park 6240 Sunny Lane		X	X	X				X	
Tessman Acres Park 8726 Maryland Ave	X		X	X			X		
Tessman Park 7890 Tessman Dr	X		X	X					
Westwood Park 8416 Westwood Rd				X					

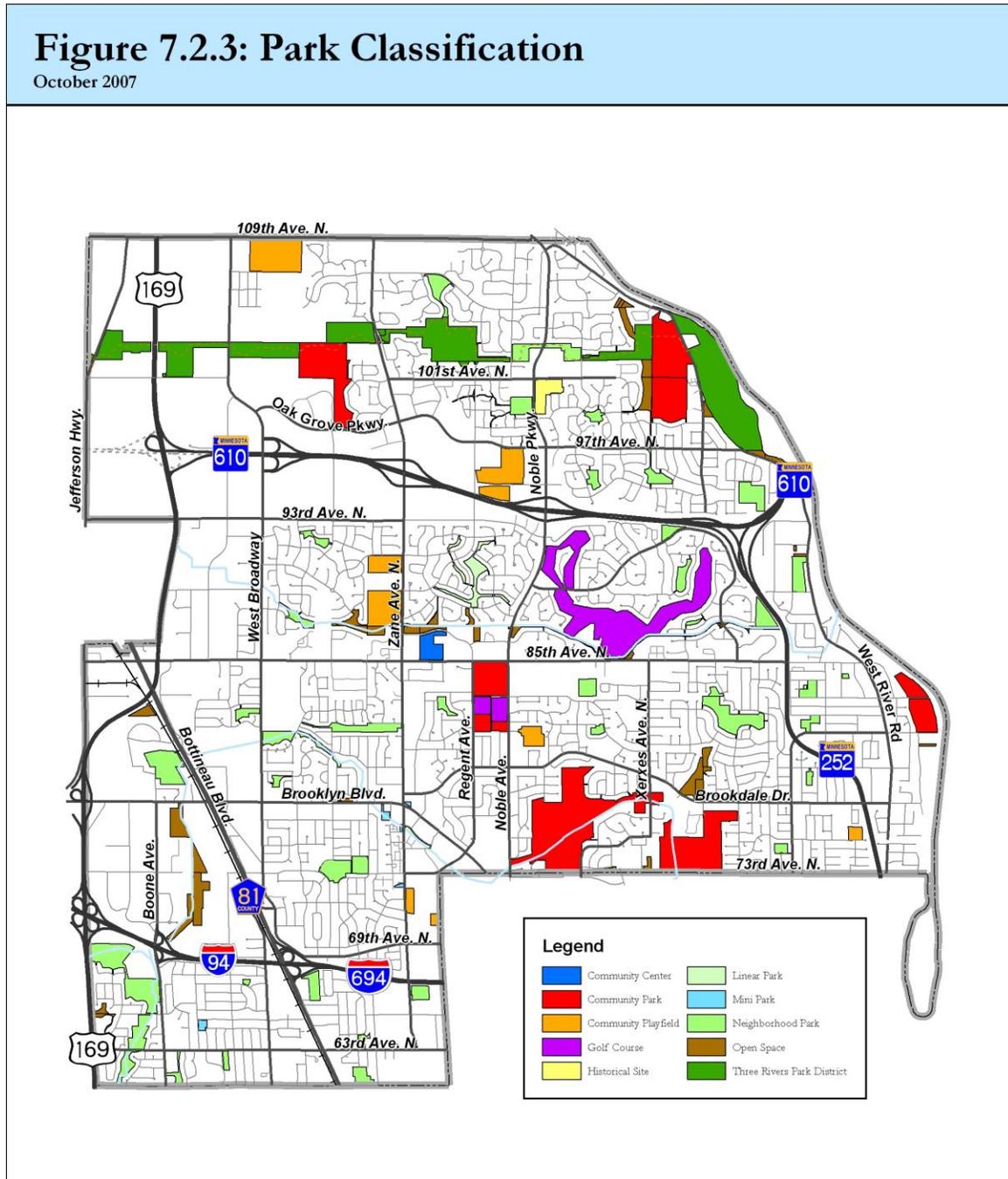
	Fields	Game Courts	Playground Area	Picnic Facilities	Nature Area	Golf	Paths & Trails	Ice Skating	Skate Park
Willows of Aspen Park 9837 Evergreen Ave		X	X	X			X		
Willowstone Park 1909 95 th Ave		X	X	X	X			X	
COMMUNITY PARKS									
Brookdale Park 7650 June Ave	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Central Park 8440 Regent Ave	X	X	X	X	X	Disc Golf	X	X	
Environmental Nature Area 10201 W. River Rd			X	X	X		X		
Oak Grove Park 10251 Zane Ave	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Palmer Lake Nature Area 2401 Brookdale Ct				X	X		X	X	
River Park 200 81st Ave	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
COMMUNITY PLAYFIELDS									
Birch Grove School Park 4520 81st Ave	X	X	X		X		X		

	Fields	Game Courts	Playground Area	Picnic Facilities	Nature Area	Golf	Paths & Trails	Ice Skating	Skate Park
Crestview School Park 83rd & Zane Ave		X	X						
Fair Oaks Park 6600 Zane Ave	X		X						
Monroe Park 700 Meadowwood Dr	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Noble Sports Park 4701 97th Ave	X	X	X	X					
Northwoods Park 7600 107th Ave	X		X	X	X			X	
Zane Sports Park 8717 Zane Ave	X		X	X			X		
Zanewood School Park 7100 Zane Ave									
HISTORIC SITES									
Eidem Homestead 4345 101st Ave			X	X					
LINEAR PARKS									
Trinity Gardens 9041 Prestwick Pkwy	X		X	X			X		
Village Creek Park 5601 Village Creek Pkwy									

	Fields	Game Courts	Playground Area	Picnic Facilities	Nature Area	Golf	Paths & Trails	Ice Skating	Skate Park
MINI PARKS									
Cherry Meadows Park 6400 Xylon Ave	X		X	X	X		X		
Old Town Hall Square Brooklyn Blvd & Zane Ave									
Waite Park East 5900 Garwood Rd							X		
Waite Park West 7719 Brooklyn Blvd							X		
Zane Court Park 7227 Zane Ave			X	X					
REGIONAL LINEAR PARK									
Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park			X	X	X		X		
Rush Creek Regional Trail				X	X		X		
Shingle Creek Regional Trail				X			X		

	Fields	Courts	Playground Area	Picnic Facilities	Nature Area	Golf	Paths & Trails	Ice Skating	Skate Park
SPECIAL FACILITIES									
Brookland Nine Golf Course 8232 Regent Ave						9 hole			
Community Activity Center/Armory 5600 85th Ave		X	X					X	X
Edinburgh Golf Course 8700 Edinbrook Crsg						18 hole			
Zanewood Recreation Center 7200 Zane Ave	X		X	X					

Below is the City Parkland Classification Map (Figure 7.2.3). All city parkland and open space is identified below in accordance with the above City Classification System.



7.2.4 Parkland Funding Mechanisms

The City of Brooklyn Park has several funding mechanisms in place in order to assist and help facilitate the development and redevelopment of future and existing parkland. All fees obtained for the use of park and recreation facilities shall be directed to park development, maintenance, administrative or acquisition purposes.

Below is a list of funding mechanisms available to the City for park enrichment:

Park Land Dedication

The City collects Park and Dedication fees based on a pre-determined fee schedule for all newly created lots in the City. Parkland Dedication fees are collected up front at the time of development for all new land subdivision plats for current and future parkland development and redevelopment purposes.

50-Year Plan

The 50-year plan will benefit the park system by anticipating funding needs, especially after Park Dedication Fees have been exhausted. It is imperative that funding be set aside soon in order to prepare for future expenditures.

Bonding

General Obligation Bonds, in addition to Revenue Bonds, provide another source of implementation funding for new public facilities, and repairs and/or upgrades to existing facilities.

Grants

Grant funding has been a successful method for extending City funds for both public facilities and recreation services. In many cases, matching funds are required.

School District #279 (Osseo)

The City has maintained a close working relationship with School District #279 and shares a number of park facilities for neighborhood use, as well as the Zanewood Recreation Center. Maintaining open communications between the two parties help to ensure continued cooperation and assured use of open space facilities. The two parties should communicate on an annual basis about planned projects, and explore additional opportunities to jointly develop open space and public facilities as appropriate.

Private Donations, Gifts or Contributions

The City has worked closely with several local athletic associations to improve City parks and other public facilities through local contributions. The City will continue to maintain good working relationships with these civic groups to convey the need for contributions to Brooklyn Park's park and open space system. Encourage various individuals, organizations, businesses, and units of government to make contributions to the city park and open space program. The creation of a foundation to support parks and recreation should be explored.

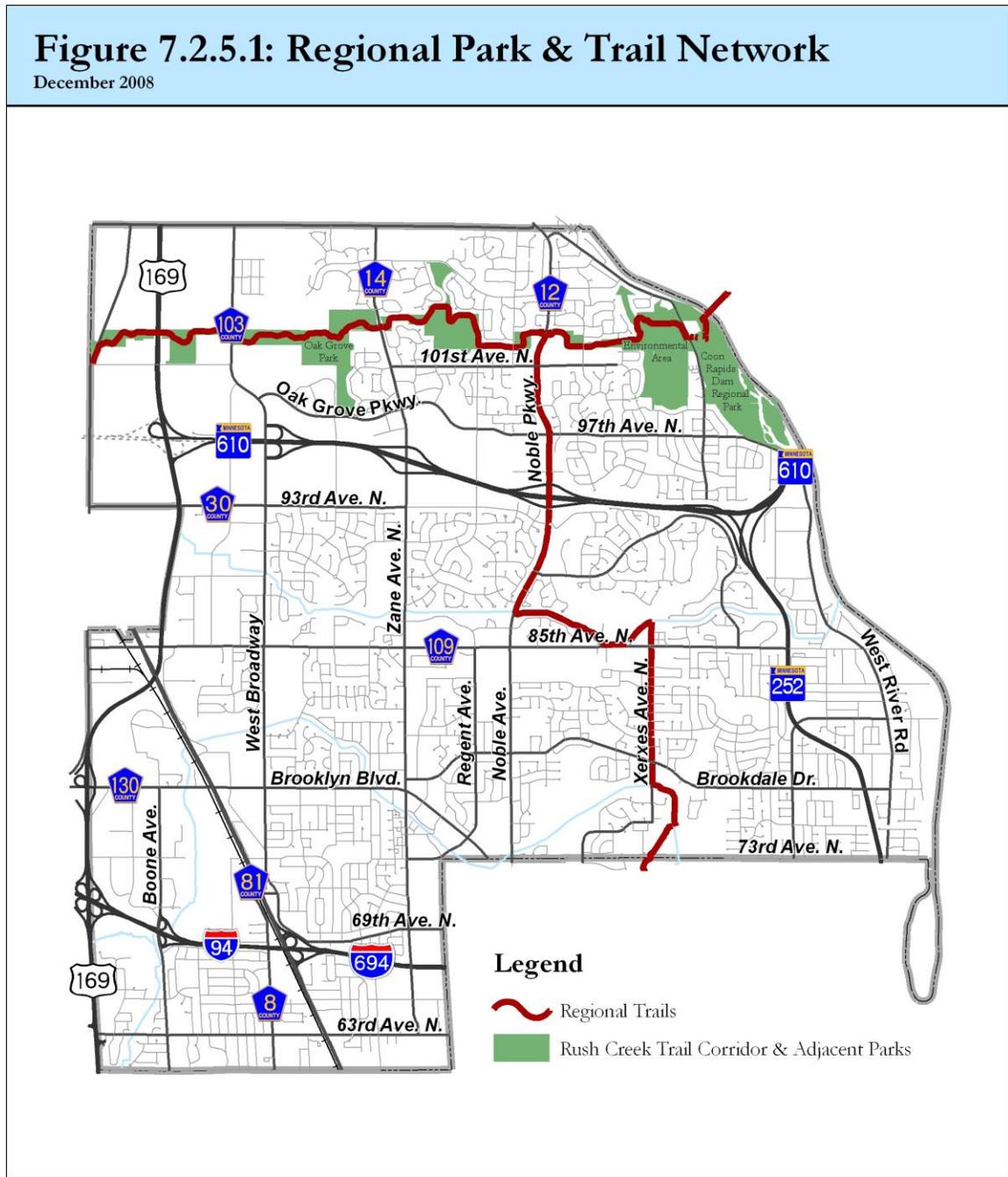
General Park Bond Issue

Historically, park bond issues have provided a source of funding for large park improvements and other building projects. The last park bond referendum was held in 1997. Like most bond issues, a referendum is held at which time the public is given an opportunity to vote on the project's acceptance. With an affirmative vote, the City can then issue bonds of indebtedness for land acquisition or financing construction projects. This is the most expedient way of funding large park improvements, land acquisitions or other construction projects.

7.2.5 Regional, State & National Park Facilities

Regional and State park facilities provide community residents with several unique recreational opportunities and an expansive network of regional facilities that expand through well-linked communities. There are currently no State Park facilities in Brooklyn Park. Our community is home to significant portions of two regional park and trail corridor facilities, in addition to current planning efforts for a future trail corridor adjacent to CSAH 81 (Bottineau Boulevard).

Existing and future regional park and trail facilities are illustrated in Figure 7.2.5.1



Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

The Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park encompasses a total of 610 acres, and offers both Brooklyn Park residents and community visitors a unique opportunity to observe the “Mighty Mississippi” up-close. The park possesses several unique amenities, including a recently reconstructed 1,000 foot dam, and a network of pedestrian walkways and bikeways. The regional park also serves to branch the trail network and the community across the river and into Anoka County’s trail system, on the east bank of the Mississippi River, in Coon Rapids.

Crystal-Robbinsdale Trail Corridor Extension

This proposed regional trail corridor extension is planned in conjunction with the CSAH 81 (Bottineau Boulevard) reconstruction project. The Robbinsdale-Crystal Trail Corridor Extension project is expected to provide a continuous pedestrian pathway/bikeway along CSAH 81 that will extend from the south city border with Crystal, north to Osseo.

Rush Creek Regional Trail Corridor

The Rush Creek Regional Trail Corridor, owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District, extends through the entire northern section of the City beginning at the Coon Rapids Dam, and extending west to the Elm Creek Reserve in Maple Grove. The regional trail corridor provides an approximate 6.9-mile scenic backdrop of the community that includes scenic views of several natural amenities indicative of the rural character of Brooklyn Park; including ponds, wetlands, mature oak trees and preserved farmland.

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Brooklyn Park's eastern border encompasses the Mississippi River, which has been designated as a national river and recreation area since 1988. This 72-mile area flows through 25 communities, ranging from the urban centers of Minneapolis and St. Paul, to more rural areas. This corridor was designated in recognition for the river's historic and ongoing role in molding the national character for river trade, early explorers' expeditions, and natural riches of immigration. The river corridor is also home to a variety of birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and fish. Millions of birds migrate every fall and spring along the river way, as it is one of five major flyways in the United States.

Shingle Creek Regional Trail Corridor

The Shingle Creek Regional Trail Corridor extends north to south through the City to provide residents a connection to the Elm Creek Regional Trail from the Palmer Lake Environmental Area.

7.2.6 Pedestrian Facilities Network

The development of pedestrian oriented facilities, to include sidewalks, is vital in building community character, providing opportunities for close-to-home recreation, and connections to local destinations of interest. Pedestrian facilities development requires equal parts in design, diplomacy and opportunity, in order to flourish.

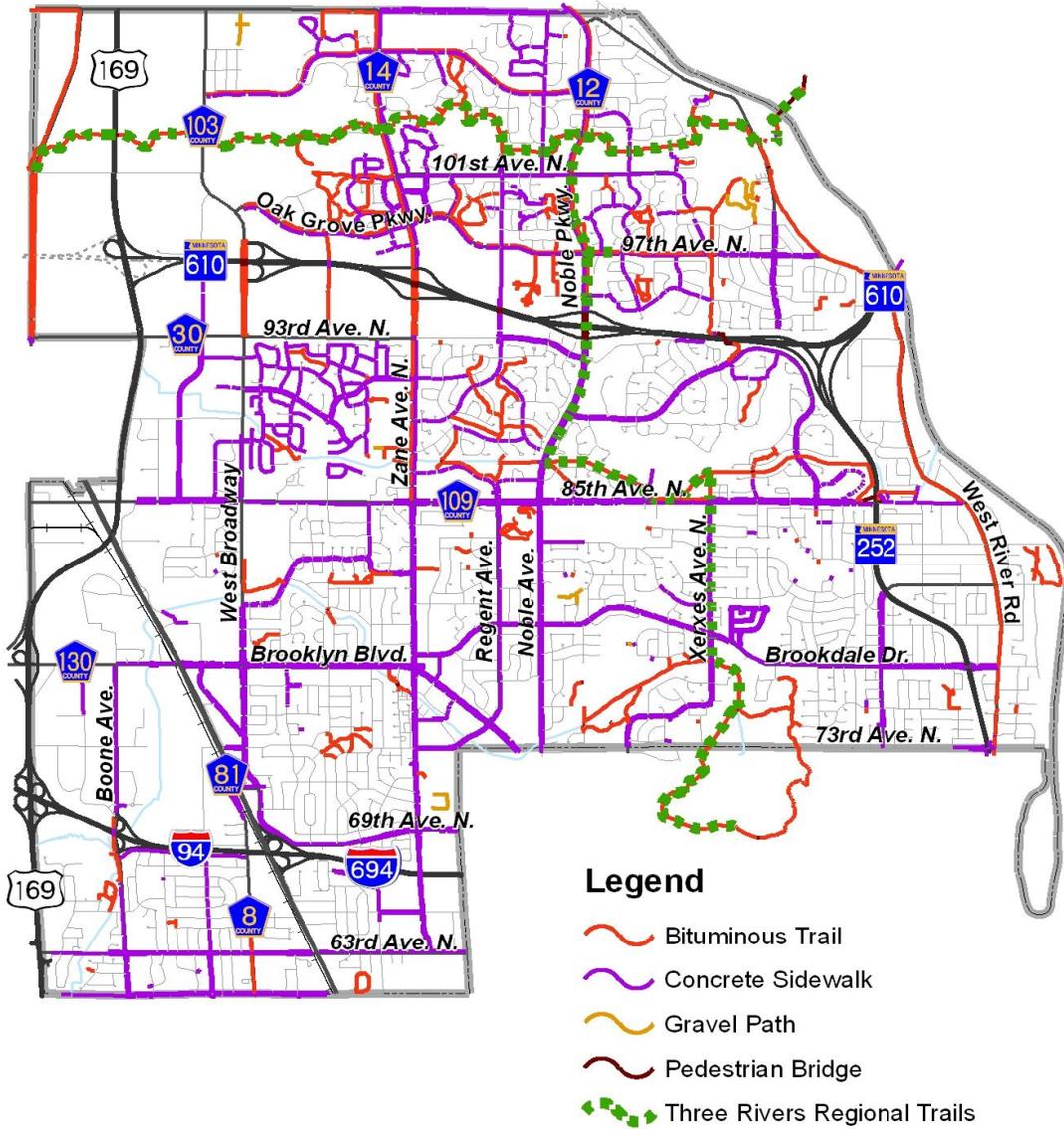
The City's unified vision is to provide a comprehensive multi-use trail network, including sidewalks that will serve to connect our community physically through the varied community benefits that a multi-functional pedestrian facilities network can provide. The facilities network should be intentionally designed in the spirit of the principles of the *Active Living by Design* Program. It is also important that the network provide both recreational and transportation opportunities that remain symbolic and uniquely characteristic to that of the natural Brooklyn Park landscape. The continuous development of a multi-use pedestrian facilities network system that promotes neighborhood connectivity and recreational embellishment is essential in creating, establishing and maintaining friendly and social neighborhoods, and an all-around cohesive community.

The existing pedestrian facilities network is shown below. Specific application methods and design parameters are may change over time, but the ultimate success of the City pedestrian network will be dependant on the amount of flexibility and adaptability set forth in this plan to successfully bridge together varied viewpoints. To that end, the City remains steadfast in a long-term effort towards planning, creating and maintaining a diverse and well-linked system. Allocation of resources in the years ahead can only ensure true realization of this unified vision.

The Pedestrian Facilities Network is shown in Figure 7.2.6.1

Figure 5.5.1: Existing Sidewalk & Trail Network

April 2007



7.2.7 Future Public Facilities

The construction of future facilities to meet the demands of the community will continue. Brooklyn Park is expected to exceed 95,000 in population by the year 2030. This will create the need for new and innovative public facilities, current with a new and changing population. Additionally, a changing population will create demands for new types of facilities.

Accordingly, some of the concepts as discussed below should be explored in the development and design of future public facilities and in the potential redevelopment of existing public facilities:

Green Building Systems

Green building systems comprise green roofs, and in some cases, green walls. Green systems are considered an unconventional form of open space that offers visual relief from the metal and concrete of otherwise normally dense urban areas. The use of green building techniques in public facilities can help to provide storm water and pollution management benefits; conserve energy and water use; and reduce the heat island effect. Green buildings utilize rainwater to feed site irrigation system needs and add extra insulation to the walls and roof that work to retain more heat in the winter and reduce the load on air conditioners in the summer.

There are two types of green roofs – Intensive and Extensive. Intensive green roofs comprise rooftop gardens that emphasize spaces for human relaxation and/or interaction. Extensive green roofs have a thin soil profile that typically covers the entire roof surface. As a result, the surface is not meant to be walked on. Extensive green roofs provide greater ecological benefits however; primarily because they do the systems do not require irrigation. The City of Brooklyn Park should continue to explore, develop and implement, wherever appropriate, the use of green building design in the use of future public facilities.

Community Gardens

Community gardens can provide citizens with a central community location for gathering and socializing. The gardens can be a combination of different elements and can vary in size to include personal plot of lands for private ownership. There are many different aspects to community gardens that can bring favorable aspects to a community. Community gardens offer community residents the opportunity to gather in a centralized location to socialize, exchange ideas, build camaraderie and offer support.

The community gardens concept has been used successfully in several areas around the country, including regionally in the Metro Area in Roseville, Shoreview, Bloomington, Burnsville, St. Paul and Minneapolis.

North South Linear Trail System

A future North-South Linear Trail System is needed to link the community and build better connection in the establishment of our system.

Future YMCA and Aquatic Center

Future planning is underway for a new YMCA and Aquatic Center to enhance the existing public facility system. A new YMCA would need to be entered into under a cooperative effort within a partnership. A new Aquatic Center would assist the City in a demonstrated need for more adaptable facilities that can encourage flexibility in design.

Field House / Artificial Turf Sports Fields

It is important to include a new field house/artificial turf sports field in the development of new facilities for the City of Brooklyn Park. Artificial turf sports fields can serve many different functions and are beneficial to the community, due to their wide range of functionality. The fields can serve as platforms for multi-use recreational sports, field sports, and other sporting courts.

7.3 Recreation Programs and Services

Brooklyn Park offers a wide variety of programs to its residents. Programs and services are developed in partnership with other organizations, and together with Community Education, play a significant role in creating a high quality of life through building community pride. Various methods of communication are utilized to inform the public about the program and services available, including print and electronic media resources.

Recreational programs are broken into the following categories: (1) Youth Programs; (2) Teen Activities; (3) Adult Programs; (4) Senior Programs, (5) Cultural Arts; and (6) Community Services.

Activities offered within each program area are listed below:

Youth Programs

Programs are offered for all ages of children ages 2-12.

Youth Programs
ABC Preschool
Music
Tumbling & fitness
Arts and crafts
Creative dramatics
Figure Skating & hockey
Sports and games
Self-defense
Field trips
Open Gym
Enrichment programs
Swim lessons
Fitness & wellness activities
Gymnastics
Dance
Athletic association sports

Teen Activities

Programs are offered for teens ages 13 – 17.

Teen Programs
Sports
Gymnastics
Athletic association sports
Fitness
Music, art
Musical Theater
Fitness & wellness
Figure skating & hockey
Tennis & golf
After school Club
Dance
Aquatics activities
Trips
Teen World Summer Program
Youth service

Adult Programs

Programs offered for adults 18+ years.

Adult Programs
Fitness & wellness
Art
Athletic Team Leagues
Trips & excursions
Golf & tennis

Senior Programs

Program offered for the older adults and retirees.

Senior Adult Programs
Senior Club
Hobby Interests
Trips
Exercise and Fitness
Art

Cultural Arts

Programs offered to explore cultural arts awareness and appreciation.

Cultural Arts
Art classes
Arts and crafts
Music lessons
Concerts
Historical interpretive programs

Community Services

Community Service
Outdoor Skating Rinks
School Facility Use
Adaptive Recreation
Family Special events
Ethnic cultural events
Adopt a Park
Environmental education / events

Active Living by Design

The City of Brooklyn Park Recreation and Parks has embraced the *Active Living by Design* program. This is a nationwide program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, based at the School of Public Health at The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The program was established to create and promote environments that emphasize safety and convenience for people to be more physically active.

The Active Living Program is a way of life that seeks to integrate physical activity into regular, daily routines. The goal is to accumulate at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day through walking or bicycling for transportation, exercise or pleasure; park recreation; yard work; taking the stairs; and utilizing available recreation facilities. *Active Living by Design* seeks to encourage changes in design, transportation and policies in order to cultivate and support more healthy and active living.

The Active Living Program promotes healthy living through nine primary principles as follows:

- Physical activity is a behavior that can favorably improve health and quality of life.
- Everyone, regardless of age, gender, language, ethnicity, economic status or ability, should have safe, convenient and affordable choices for physical activity.
- Places should be designed to promote a variety of opportunities for physical activity and should accommodate a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- Development patterns should encourage mixed uses, compact design, and a variety of transportation uses.
- Buildings should be designed and oriented to promote opportunities for active living, especially active transportation.
- Transportation systems, including transit, should provide safe, convenient and affordable access to housing, worksites, schools and community services.
- Parks and green space, including trails, should be safe, accessible, and part of a transportation network that connects destinations of interest, such as housing, worksites, schools, community services and other places with high population density.
- Municipalities and other governing bodies should plan for ongoing interdisciplinary collaboration, promotion of facilities, behavioral supports, and policies that institutionalize the vision of active living, and routine maintenance that ensures continued safety, quality and attractiveness of the physical infrastructure.
- Community governing and planning processes should address the multiple impacts of the built environment and transportation choices on residents' ability to be physically active.

Future City recreation programs and recreational facilities ought to be designed with these principles in mind.

7.4 Public Realm Improvements

Territorial reinforcement is defined by the spaces that can give a welcoming feel to wanted users or an unwelcoming feel to undesired users. As discussed in Chapter Nine of this plan, the three divisions of space include:

Public Space

This includes space where typically anyone in the general public is free to travel. Such examples include public streets, sidewalks, parks, and public plazas. These spaces are open and visible. Few or new barriers may exist to entry to these spaces.

Semi-Public Space

Semi-public spaces are areas that are open for people conducting business or have regular permission to use, either supervised or unsupervised. Examples include a single family home's front yard, a hotel lobby, a retail store, or a private plaza. A person is comfortable in these spaces doing limited or specified activities, but may feel uncomfortable doing other activities. Few or no barriers may exist to control entry to these spaces.

Private Space

This space is designed specifically for the owner or user. Examples would include a home's back yard or interior, an employee's office, or a retail store's back room. Uninvited or unauthorized guests would feel uncomfortable in these spaces or feel as if they were not welcome within this space. Typically, these spaces include barriers or strong controls to restrict access.

For the purpose of the public improvements within this Section, only the areas of public and semi-public space will be the focus. Areas of private space, due to their private nature, should be kept as such. Captivating physical improvements within areas of public and, in some cases semi-public space, can serve as a catalyst for community identity and cohesiveness. Whatever the improvements consist of, they should respect core community values and be fundamental to the development of public safety, aesthetic value and environmental quality. The progressive development of relatively minor, yet timely and well-positioned right-of-way improvements, can create and instill community pride and rejuvenate the city's sense of spirit.

In designated areas of Brooklyn Park where concentrated redevelopment efforts are underway, gateway elements working in concert with additional enhancements in areas of right-of-way, such as median and boulevard plantings and decorative fencing, can provide immense support in the promotion and marketing of key commercial corridors. Policies contained in the City Master Redevelopment Plan (2003) indicate "asset enhancements" as a significant tool in aiding redevelopment and revitalization of the City. In other more secluded and reserved residential areas of the City, other types of improvements to the public realm can work as a psychological tool to aid in calming traffic and support public safety initiatives for our local patrol force. Community green space and aesthetic value can be increased a strong sense of ownership within our residential neighborhoods. Traffic calming techniques can offer support to existing residential neighborhood initiatives, and creative public art—often a component of gateway design—can also strongly illustrate existing community value.

7.4.1 Boulevard Beautification Program

Brooklyn Park has participated in a Boulevard Beautification Program since the early 2000's focused on the improvement, enhancement and restoration of City boulevards, islands and medians.

The City currently facilitates and manages designated boulevard improvement areas in sections of the City, including the majority of 85th Avenue, Zane Avenue (north of 85th Avenue), and significant portions of Oak Grove Parkway, Wyoming Avenue and Noble Parkway, in addition to several isolated residential median islands. Areas for improvements are currently assessed and updated on "as needed" basis, reflective of allocated resources on hand and available to the program.

Noble Parkway

Median plantings along Noble Parkway have been primarily focused in a pattern consistent the residential design of adjacent subdivisions in the northern tier of City.

Oak Grove Parkway

Oak Grove Parkway is scheduled for plantings to coincide with the continued development of the Park Place Promenade. Plantings along Oak Grove Parkway should continue at a pace consistent with current and anticipated development, as this roadway is a major roadway leading into the Target Campus.

Wyoming Avenue

Existing plantings along Wyoming Avenue have been in place since the inception of the boulevard program, and only continued maintenance of existing plantings is expected in the future at this location. Plantings at this location are at a mature stage.

Zane Avenue

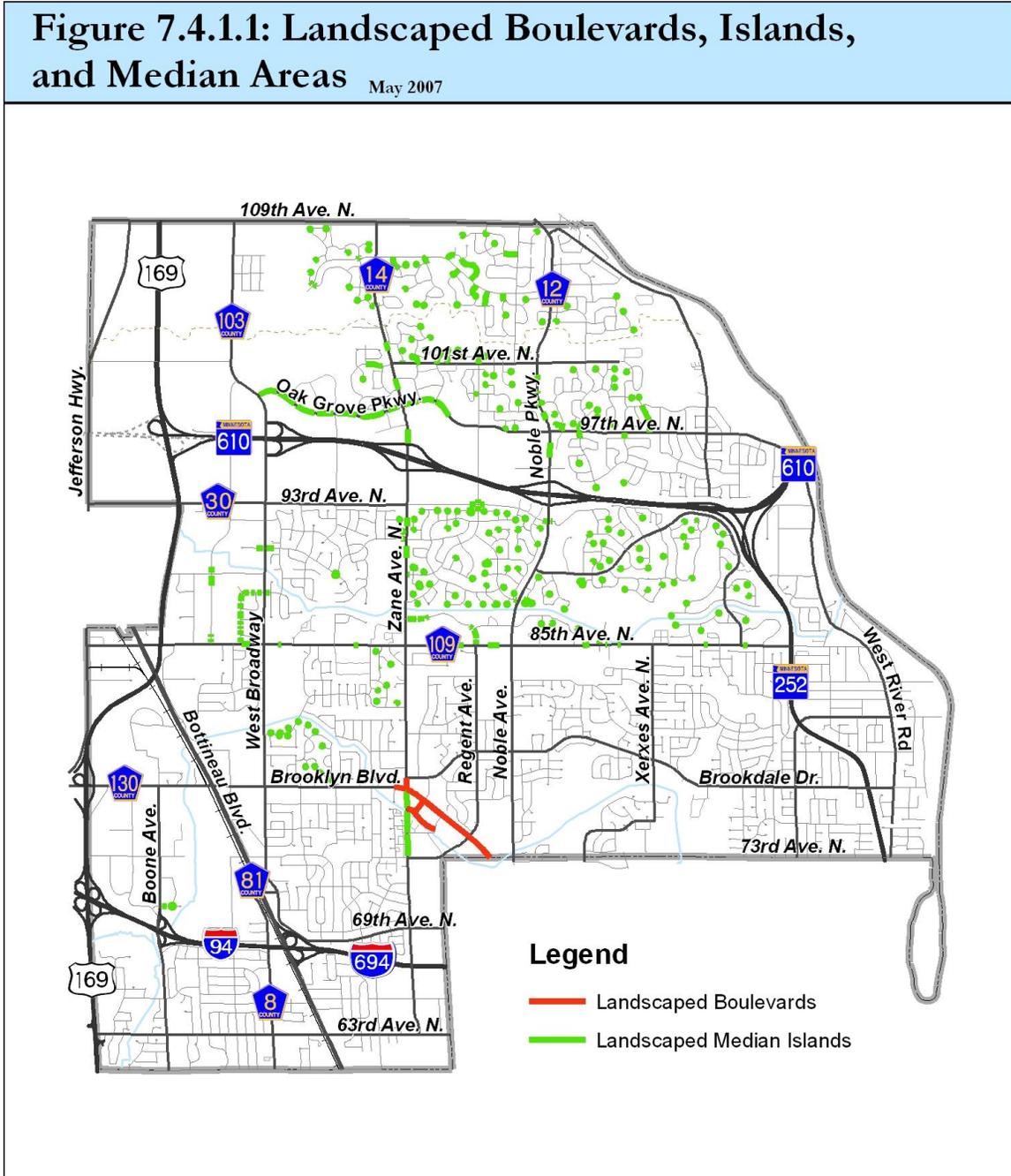
Zane Avenue plantings represent another clear example of the City to beautify one of the City's critical central corridors. Improvements here have primarily coincided with the Village Creek Redevelopment, focused primarily on the redevelopment of the property SE of Brooklyn Blvd and Zane Ave. Future opportunities for further beautification may also exist north of this intersection.

85th Avenue

In May 2004, the City conducted a study of 85th Avenue, which is discussed in further detail in Section 3.3.4 of this Plan. Although the study focused primarily on future land uses designated for this corridor, it is evident that this corridor will continue to be a prominent redevelopment corridor for the City into the future. As such, the City should continue to the focus on 85th Avenue median plantings as the focal point of its beautification program. Current median plantings should continue to expand along this corridor as appropriate.

Figure 7.4.1.1 below indicates Boulevard areas currently maintained by the City. A proposed area for expansion of this program is Brooklyn Boulevard, described and illustrated in further detail below. A mature and well-functioning Beautification Program can offer the City continued rewards into the future. Accordingly, the City should continue to monitor areas for expansion of the program citywide, and as appropriate and as funds support, seek to enhance the Boulevard Beautification Program. This can be achieved through median or boulevard plantings, or in some cases appropriate to the location, decorative fencing.

Figure 7.4.1.1: Landscaped Boulevards, Islands, and Median Areas May 2007



Certain locations have been selected for specific consideration due to their significance to the community. The following are suggestions for areas of improvement within the Beautification Program:

Brooklyn Boulevard

Consider the use of decorative fencing in median areas, particularly in areas of close proximity to Park Center High School, where there are significant numbers of school children, bicyclists and other pedestrian activity daily.

Fencing can serve as an effective deterrent to jaywalking by encourage the use of crossing at controlled intersections. The City should continue to explore the use of grant funding available through programs such as *Safe Routes to School* to promote the safety and upgrading in the use of crosswalks. Due to the proximity of Park Center High School adjacent to Brooklyn Blvd, safety can be vastly improved at minimal cost and maintenance through the installation of decorative fencing.

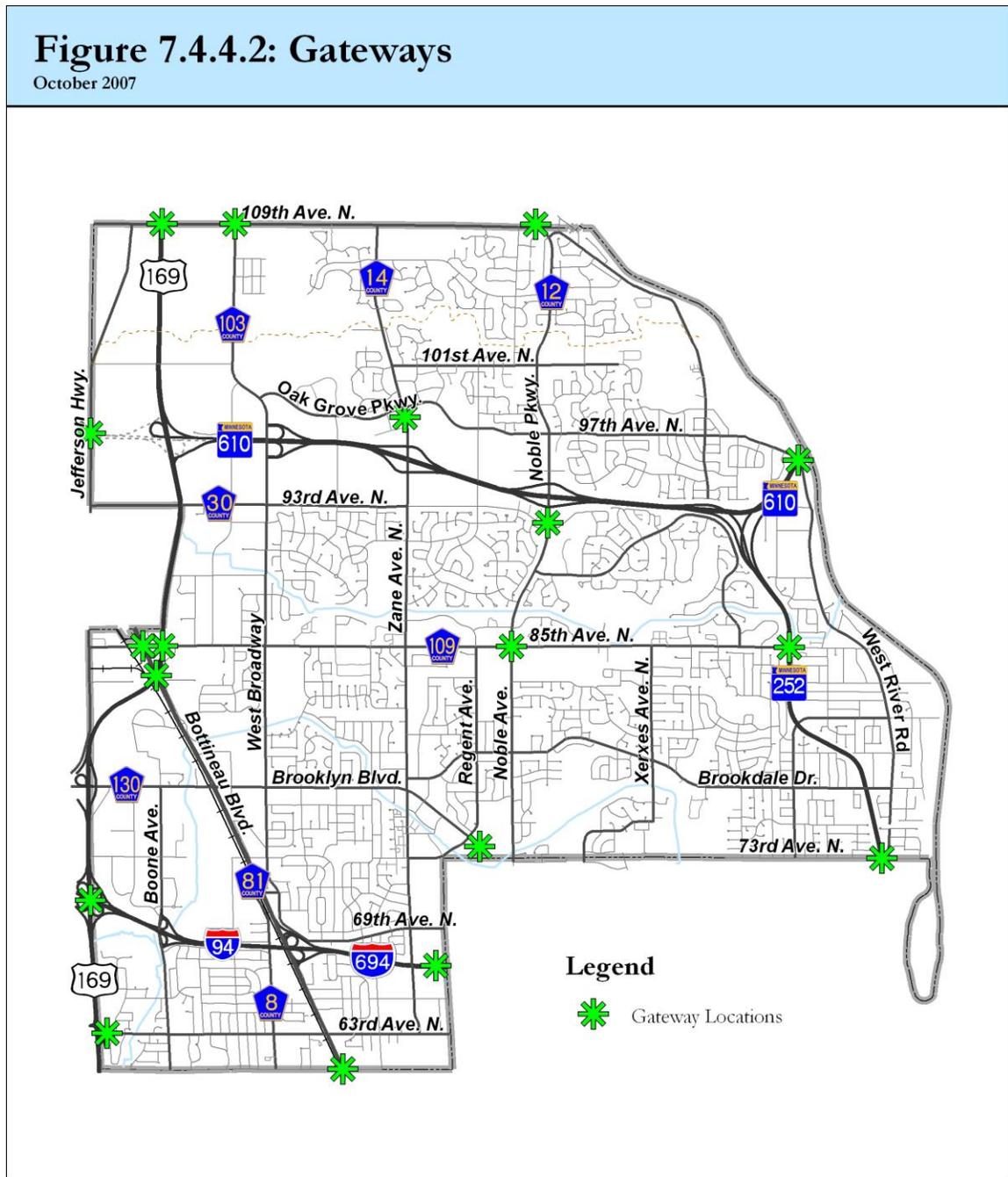
7.4.2 Gateway Program

Gateway elements are intended to bring several positive components to a community, but for the purpose of this program, there are two primary purposes. The first is to evoke a sense of place and to create a resounding connection between two transitional places and secondly, to provide a significant landmark at key entry points throughout or within a community, district or neighborhood. In addition to creating an initial first impression to newcomers to Brooklyn Park, it is critical that the design of gateway elements is cognizant in creating psychological boundaries for community residents. Whether it be crossing over the “Mighty Mississippi” from the east, experiencing the charm and character of Village Creek or embracing the past and the future along Bottineau Boulevard, Brooklyn Park’s program of gateways should provide opportunities to convey strong images as a regional center of culture, education, commerce and recreation.

The city is committed to the development, refinement and enrichment of a dedicated gateway program at focused entrance points along key commercial corridors in addition to designated residential entrances that will promote, strengthen and support ongoing redevelopment initiatives, and will help ease traffic nuisances and increase charm, character and spirit city-wide.

Gateways signify prominence, community character and indicate a place of importance and value. Gateway features may be as simple as basic identifier sign (see below) or designed to be more elaborate, to include a “welcome” archway or combinations with public art. More complex elements to include infrastructure improvements within areas of right-of way may also be possible dependant upon the particulars of the location. In some locations, public safety awareness and recreational initiatives have also been incorporated and are also possible gateway design components. In all cases, the design of gateway elements should be kept flexible so as not to undermine the basic goal—to promote the community and/or the neighborhood. Specific enhancements should be tailored to unique site characteristics present at each individual location under consideration. Examples of both local and national gateway features include enhanced signage, traffic calming techniques, pedestrian safety and awareness initiatives, prominent greenways and greenbelts and public art initiatives.

Potential gateway locations are illustrated in the Figure 7.4.2.1 below:



Tables 7.4.2.3-8 list and describe (in no order of priority) potential gateway enhancements. The elements and recommendations are meant to provide illustrative examples of each potential location. Specific gateway design elements must be designed to the needs of each location only after more a more detailed study and critical evaluation of all relevant site factors.

Table 7.4.2.3 illustrates 62nd Avenue and all intersecting streets and street classifications. This segment of the southern boundary of the City shares a common boundary with the cities of New Hope (to the southwest) and Crystal (to the southeast). Primary intersections and possible gateway elements are described in further detail below the summary table.

Table 7.4.2.3 62nd Avenue		
Intersection Location	Street Classification	Recommended Elements
Primary		
@ CSAH 81	A Minor Arterial Augmenter	See Description Below

CSAH 81 at 62nd Avenue

Future redevelopment and mass transit initiatives in work along the Highway 81 corridor make a potential gateway enhancement at this location very desirable. Gateway enhancements that would focus travelers’ attention on the arrival to our community support and enrich the long-term economic health of this commercial corridor. The City should begin to explore innovative ways to tie the gateway design into the overall design of future mass transit systems to invite future transit visitors traveling through the Brooklyn Park community.



Table 7.4.2.4 illustrates 73rd Avenue and all intersecting streets and street classifications. This segment of the southern boundary of the City shares a common boundary with the City of Brooklyn Center. Primary intersections and possible gateway elements are described in further detail below the summary table.

Table 7.4.2.4 73rd Avenue Summary		
Intersection Location	Street Classification	Recommended Elements
Primary		
@ T.H. 252	Principal Arterial	See Description Below

T.H. 252 (Northbound) at 73rd Avenue

T.H. 252 is designated as a principal arterial leading into the City from the south from Interstate 694. Opportunities exist and should be further explored to create more identifiable signage and a clear distinction between Brooklyn Park and the City of Brooklyn Center to the south. Creating this clear and identifiable distinction is critical to the long-term success of key marketing initiatives for the City from an economic standpoint, as specified in prior marketing strategies performed by the City.



Classified as an A minor arterial roadway, 85th Avenue, serves as a critical east-west corridor in City and should be examined closely in the development of a future gateway program. Table 7.4.2.5 illustrates the primary intersections and associated street classifications. Possible gateway elements are described in further detail below the summary table.

Table 7.4.2.5 85th Avenue Summary	
<u>Intersection Location</u>	<u>Street Classification</u>
@ CSAH 81	Principal Arterial
@ T.H. 252	Principal Arterial
@ U.S. Highway 169	Principal Arterial
@ Noble Parkway / Avenue	A Minor Arterial Expander (North) / B Minor Arterial (South)

CSAH 81 at 85th Avenue

The anticipated construction of the Triangle project (U.S. 169 / 85th Avenue / Highway 81) will dramatically influence and significantly reshape this portion of the City. When complete (anticipated completion 2011), this location would provide an ideal location for a highly visible and identifiable gateway for the City. Opportunities should be continually monitored and further examined in concert with the project timeline of the Triangle project to be completed by MnDOT.



Noble Parkway / Avenue at 85th Avenue

Noble Avenue, located immediately east of Central Park and the Brookland Golf Course, allow for unique opportunities not necessarily available elsewhere to create a target specific gateway focused on traffic calming and pedestrian connectivity.



T.H. 252 at 85th Avenue

Possibilities for enrichment at this location may include the use of public art in combination with existing infrastructure, such as the pedestrian bridge north of the intersection.



U.S. 169 at 85th Avenue

The anticipated construction of the Triangle project (U.S. 169 / 85th Avenue / Highway 81) will dramatically influence and significantly reshape this portion of the City. When complete (anticipated completion 2011), this location would provide an ideal location for a highly visible and identifiable gateway for the City. Opportunities should be continually monitored and further examined in concert with the project timeline and status of the Triangle project as performed by MnDOT.



Table 7.4.2.6 illustrates U.S. Highway 169 and all intersecting streets and street classifications. This is one of the City’s three principal arterial roadways, located in and along the western boundary of the City, shared with the City of Maple Grove. Primary interchanges / intersections, and possible gateway elements are described in further detail below the summary table.

Table 7.4.2.6 U.S. Highway 169 Summary	
<u>Intersection Location</u>	<u>Street Classification</u>
@ T.H. 610	Principal Arterial
@ 85 th Avenue	A Minor Arterial Expander
@ CASH 81	A Minor Arterial Expander
@ Brooklyn Boulevard	A Minor Arterial Reliever
@ 109 th Avenue	B Minor Arterial
@ 63 rd Avenue	B Minor Arterial

**Denotes no current access to or from U.S. Highway 169.*

63rd Avenue at U.S. Highway 169 (Northbound)

This location provides the entrance to the City from the south, and would exemplify the city to all northbound travelers along U.S. 169.



109th Avenue at U.S. Highway 169 (Southbound)

This location provides the entrance to the City from the north, and would exemplify the city to all southbound travelers along U.S. 169.



Brooklyn Boulevard at U.S. Highway 169

This location provides the entrance to the City from the south, and would exemplify the city to all northbound travelers along U.S. 169.



Brooklyn Boulevard at Regent Avenue

Future commercial activity along this redevelopment corridor leading into Village Creek is critical to current and anticipated future economic development efforts. The Redevelopment Area encompasses areas north to include Brooklyn Boulevard at Regent Avenue and a more appealing and enhanced visual entrance to the City at this location, with potential combined visual elements to include enhanced median improvements leading into Village Creek, should create an attractive overall image for both residents and visitors to the City of Brooklyn Park.



Brooklyn Boulevard at CSAH 81

This is an great opportunity to present the City a chance to develop and design enhancements on all four corners of the intersection. Opportunities should be explored that mesh with future mass transportation planning efforts, including the development of the Starlite Transit Hub and the Light Rail Transit Corridor.



Noble Parkway at West River Road

This entrance leading south into Brooklyn Park from the City of Champlin represents a great opportunity for the city to signify and exemplify the northern tier.



109th Avenue at Winnetka Avenue

Winnetka Avenue is anticipated to be a major thoroughfare leading into the Target Campus Area. This would location at 109th Avenue near the northern City boundary would allow opportunities for Brooklyn Park to exemplify arguably its premier employer heading into the future.



Interstate 94 at Zane Avenue

Opportunities exist here to provide increased exposure to thoroughfare travelers. No access currently exists to the freeway at this location. Options should be explored that consider an emphasis in the design of a gateway emphasizing and identifying the image of Brooklyn Park.



T.H. 610 at Jefferson Highway

This entrance (and any gateway) will be entirely dependant on the future connection of T.H. 610 to Interstate 94 in Maple Grove. Plans are currently projected to complete this thoroughfare connection which would thereby define the western section of the T.H. 610 commercial corridor (dated TBD). This connection will provide increased and direct access to the future commercial center core of City, immediately north of T.H. 610.

T.H. 610 at West River Road

The T.H. 610 corridor is expected to experience a great amount of land investment and commercial growth over the next couple decades upon completion of the aforementioned corridor project. The design and development of an enhanced gateway as travelers cross the Mississippi River from the east will serve to attract visitors to the future commercial corridor, thereby promoting commercial livelihood for not only the City, but also the region.



7.5 Goals, Policy Objectives, and Action Implementation

A system of public facilities, parkland and open space that protect and preserve the natural environment, emphasize the conservation of natural resources, shape orderly urban development, and satisfy the physiological needs of the general community are important to the future image of Brooklyn Park. City departments should continue to coordinate future development proposals to ensure that existing natural vegetation and topological features are incorporated into proposal designs in a fashion that is sensitive to the recreational and aesthetic needs and desires of the community. Future and existing public facilities should be developed and redeveloped in response to current community recreational desires and emerging recreational trends. City beautification efforts targeted at enhancing the City's public image should be enhanced in the future.

Goal One: Ensure consistent and compatible land use and physical design goals structured to meet current and future community demands for parkland and public facilities.

1. Maintain a functional parkland classification system to aid in the development and redevelopment of parkland and open space facilities.
2. Utilize and enforce zoning and subdivision regulations, health, building and fire codes, and land use regulations in order to implement this Plan.
3. Monitor and update ordinances and other administrative tools on a recurring basis in response to community needs.
4. Establish and rank City public facilities in order of priority.
5. Designate protection open space areas and adopt and apply location, design and operating regulations to manage development.
6. Encourage tax relief for land permanently committed to open space that is consistent with the City Comprehensive Plan.
7. Provide additional park facilities by expanding existing playgrounds in residential areas with inadequate facilities
8. Acquire or preserve park and open space lands by means consistent with anticipated land use(s).
9. Manage or prohibit development in those areas that perform important protection functions in their natural state.
10. Utilize the Parks Advisory Commission as a key resource in the future development of the park and recreation system.
11. Encourage neighborhood and other community groups to actively participate in the planning and development of the park and recreation system.

Goal Two: *Ensure variety and diversity in design of public facilities, parkland and open spaces.*

1. Promote, encourage and enforce principles of urban design standards and urban planning practice during and throughout the development review process.
2. Provide integrated cultural, civic and social community facilities for all age groups within the community.
3. Provide special recreational facilities and programs for the young, aged, handicapped, and others with special needs.
4. Provide and ensure full accessibility for and to all City park facilities.
5. The planning and development of multiple use facilities for recreational purposes, including schools, businesses and churches, should be encouraged where feasible.
6. Emphasize the importance of water and public access to water bodies in the design, development and redevelopment of parkland and public use of lakes, rivers and streams.
7. Encourage the healthy design of open space areas that will promote both physiological openness and ecological self-renewal of the site.
8. Strengthen existing relationships with external park planning entities to continually monitor, examine, acquire and develop those selected recreation facilities likely to attract regional Metropolitan Area users.
9. The City shall acquire land adjacent to currently owned facilities to enlarge the size of neighborhood parks as may be appropriate.

Goal Three: *Promote and encourage citizen interest in current recreational programs and services and strive to develop future recreational programs and services that seek to accommodate a changing population and cater to emerging recreational trends.*

1. Encourage year-around programs (recreational, educational, and cultural) in all community park facilities.
2. Provide and offer abundant active and passive recreational opportunities reflective of emerging recreational trends.
3. Embrace, integrate and implement the goals of the *Active Living by Design* program.
4. Provide park and recreation improvement programs designed for the participation of all age groups.
5. Encourage commercial transportation service to parks for those who do not or cannot drive.
6. Encourage the dissemination of public information of recreation activities and park facilities through the media.

Goal Four: *Continue to cooperate, collaborate and provide appropriate levels of assistance in the development of joint public facilities in association with the Community School Program.*

1. Encourage educational institutions and other organizations to acquire, manage, and operate conservation sites as part of their educational programs.
2. Maximum cooperation, coordination, and participation with school districts shall be sought in the planning, development and operation of the park and recreation system.
3. Provide educational facilities in conjunction with all city facilities when possible and connect them with the park and open space system whenever possible.
4. All public school facilities, and their recreation areas, shall be considered in the planning of the park and recreation system.

Goal Five: *Ensure a coordinated, convenient and safe pedestrian facilities network city wide that emphasizes connectivity between residential neighborhoods, public schools, parkland and areas of open space.*

1. Plan vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian access to parks and open space areas to encourage maximum use of desired areas.
2. Encourage coordination of pedestrian movement with transit routes and rider shelters.
3. In the planning of a trail system, the use of transportation rights-of-way and utility easements shall be considered.
4. Encourage citizen involvement in an ongoing educational program for the teaching of bicycle and pedestrian safety laws and practices.

Goal Six: *Enrich community character and promote current and future economic development efforts by way of civic gateways and other public right-of-way enhancements at City entranceways and prominent community nodes.*

1. Develop and enhance existing Boulevard Beautification Program.
2. Develop and implement Gateway Program.

Goal Seven: Maintain and monitor existing special use areas and expand upon them as appropriate.

1. Develop and employ ordinances to allow for scenic easements, air rights and specialized natural or historic preservation districts.

Historical Area

The City has secured a 15-acre farm site to record Brooklyn Park's history during the period of the late 1800's through 1910. The purpose of this special use area is to preserve and portray farm life through guided tours, displays, pioneer crafts, and cooking demonstrations. The City secured this important facility to preserve and protect our past to help future residents better understand their community.

Environmental Area

The City has designated two special use areas for environmental and wild life preservation and protection. The purpose of the area is to provide residents with an opportunity to experience the beauty of the nature, wildlife, and vegetation as it has been through the centuries. The pressures of development demand the City to protect and preserve these areas from encroachment. The area will include a trail system, footpaths, ponding area, wildlife habitat, and educational/recreational opportunities.

Community Golf Course

The golf courses provide aesthetic beauty of open space as well as the opportunity to play golf. These facilities include such things as club house, cross country skiing, jogging, and many other recreational opportunities.

Rush Creek Regional Trail System

The City of Brooklyn Park and Three Rivers Park District have combined their efforts to establish a community trail system linking over 6,000 acres of County and City park land. The Rush Creek Regional Trail includes multi-use facilities in the following areas: hiking, biking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, as well as a multitude of recreational opportunities to view the Mississippi from a recreational and historical standpoint.