OUR EXISTING PARK SYSTEM
People who live closer to parks report better mental health—even if they don’t actually exercise there. This may be particularly true for parks with a lot of trees, grass, and other natural features, as studies show that exposure to nature can reduce stress and promote relaxation. Time spent in green outdoor spaces has also been shown to boost focus and concentration in both adults and children. – Trust for Public Land 8 Ways That Parks Improve Your Health 2013
OUR EXISTING PARK SYSTEM

Brooklyn Park has a well-developed parks system (see Figure 5). Our parks system is comprised of 60 parks, more than 2,000 acres of park land and environmental areas, 53 miles of paved trails, more than 400 amenities such as park shelters, playgrounds, athletic fields, and includes the following specialized facilities:

» Edinburgh USA Golf Course
» Community Activity Center
» Zanewood Recreation Center
» Eidem Homestead Historical Farm
» Brookland Golf Park

Other notable and unique features within the system include:

» The first and only dedicated competitive wheelchair softball field in the five-state area that includes an adjacent all-inclusive playground
» 53 miles of paved trails and trail corridors meander thought neighborhoods and connections to significant natural areas within community
» Skate park
» Dog parks
» Community gardens
» Disc golf
» Fishing pond

Prior planning and community foresight resulted in a park system that ensures that all residents have convenient access to parks, as 95 percent of neighborhoods are within a 1/2 mile radius (approx. 10-minute walk) of a park.

The City also has a wide diversity of park types, classifications, and trail systems. See Table 1 for a complete listing of descriptions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>USE</th>
<th>SERVICE AREA</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>SITE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MINI PARKS</td>
<td>Provide opportunities for recreation close to home or for targeted populations (elderly, tots, etc.). May serve a specific commercial or dense residential development project.</td>
<td>1/4 mile radius</td>
<td>Typically less than 3 acres</td>
<td>Easily accessible to residents/customers, safe walking &amp; biking access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</td>
<td>The primary recreation facility to meet the day-to-day needs of neighborhoods. Provide active recreation and gathering space for families or groups of neighbors. Fields are appropriate for practice/youth games.</td>
<td>1/2 mile radius, free of major barriers such as waterways or highways</td>
<td>Typically 3-14 acres</td>
<td>Easily accessible to neighborhood residents by bike or on foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARGE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</td>
<td>The primary recreation facility to meet the day-to-day and more intense programming needs of neighborhoods. Provide active recreation and gathering space for families or groups of neighbors. Fields are appropriate for scheduled, organized athletic games for all age groups.</td>
<td>1/2 mile radius, free of major barriers such as waterways or highways</td>
<td>Typically 15-30 acres</td>
<td>Easily accessible to neighborhood residents by bike or on foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORT PARK</td>
<td>Focused on organized athletic recreation with regulation sized playfields. Meets the athletic needs of varying ages.</td>
<td>Community Wide</td>
<td>10-25+ acres</td>
<td>Connected to pedestrian/bike networks. Automobile parking provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY PARKS</td>
<td>Facilities serving the community with access to natural and programmed areas. May serve regional visitors, although not as the primary function.</td>
<td>Community Wide</td>
<td>25-50+ acres</td>
<td>Sited to be accessible to community and to take advantage of natural amenities (lakes/rivers/ etc…). Accessible by foot, bike, auto and bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL FACILITIES</td>
<td>Areas serving a single use activity such as golf, skiing, fitness, indoor ice skating, etc. Also includes sites dedicated to historic preservation, providing education and information about the history and culture of the area.</td>
<td>Community &amp; Regional Draw</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Site Specific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATURAL AREAS/OPEN SPACE</td>
<td>Areas focused on the provision of natural environments, passive recreation, and ecological education.</td>
<td>Community &amp; Regional Draw</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Centered around natural resources and amenities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINEAR PARK/TRAIL CORRIDORS</td>
<td>Connector parks between neighborhoods and along natural corridors that provide opportunities for recreating through area of natural beauty.</td>
<td>Community Draw</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies widely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGIONAL PARKS &amp; TRAILS</td>
<td>Parks and trails that are designated part of the Regional Park System. Uses vary widely, but focus is on outdoor and natural resource based recreation and learning. Trails used for pedestrian and bike transportation.</td>
<td>Community &amp; Regional Draw</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies widely, but often centered around natural features. Trails should function as part of a larger network</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 5  Existing Park System Map
Regional Destinations and Facilities

The Mississippi River, a vital ecological feature on a global, national, and regional scale, forms the eastern border of our City. This portion of the Mississippi River is within the Mississippi Flyway, a significant migratory bird corridor, and is part of the Mississippi National River Recreation Area (MNRRA) managed by the National Park Service.

Our park system is connected to significant regional facilities (see Figure 6) managed by the Three Rivers Park District (TRPD). The Rush Creek Regional Trail provides a critical east-west connection to the Mississippi River on the north section of the City. This trail extends west to Elm Creek Park Reserve and there are plans to eventually extend the trail to Crow-Hassan Regional Park Reserve. Mississippi Gateway Regional Park is in the northeast quadrant of the City along the Mississippi River and is the terminus of the Rush Creek Regional Trail.

The City’s partnership with TRPD on the Joint Master Plan for the Mississippi Gateway Regional Park (Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park) and the City’s Environmental Nature Area Park, provides opportunity for a signature park within the community; allowing for connections to the Mississippi River and splendor of the natural areas within the park. The current plan can be found in Appendix A and a link to the plan is included in Appendix B.

Other TRPD facilities within the City include the Shingle Creek Regional Trail and Crystal Lake Regional Trail. The Shingle Creek Regional Trail begins at its connection with the Rush Creek Regional Trail in Brooklyn Park and heads south through Brooklyn Center, where it connects to the Shingle Creek Parkway and trails within the city of Minneapolis. Future development of the Crystal Lake Trail will extend north-south adjacent to the Blue Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) and eventually will provide a connection to the Medicine Lake Regional Trail and the Rush Creek Regional Trail at Elm Creek Park Reserve.

Together the parks, trail system, specialized facilities, regional amenities, and proximity to the Mississippi River add to the unique character and richness of our parks system that exists today. Our park system is adequate and meets the needs of many user groups, but it could be even better. There are still trail gaps within the system, parks facilities that are in decline, special use facility needs to stay relevant, and equity issues to be addressed.

This will require the city to reinvest in parks and trail systems to improve the quality of existing infrastructure, address changing needs and trends, and reaffirm a sense of pride in the community about the benefits of parks and trails for improving the quality of life for all residents.

Partnerships with other agencies are being formed and being leveraged into shared use facilities and joint use projects. It is important that our future System Plan is structured to respond to these changes happening within our community. Some of the major drivers to change that will need to be integrated within the systems plan include the Blue Line Light Rail Transit line and associated station areas to be implemented along Bottineau Boulevard and West Broadway Avenue.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE**

The Recreation and Parks Department provided the direction and oversight for the planning, development of the park system, along with the day-to-day operations, maintenance and Capital Improvement Planning for Special Use Facilities (i.e. Community Activity Center, golf courses, and Zanewood Recreation Center) within the Parks and Recreation system.

The responsibility for the day-to-day maintenance of the parks, and the activity buildings in the parks, falls within the Parks Maintenance Division of the Operations and Maintenance Department of the City. The Parks Maintenance division consists of twenty staff members that are responsible for mowing, field setup and maintenance, trail maintenance, activity building cleaning and repair, garbage and recycling pickup, snow plowing and all other maintenance activities associated with providing a quality parks system.

The Parks Maintenance division manages the forestry operations for the City. They provide trimming, removal, and planting of trees on all City properties and boulevards, with the exception of Edinburgh USA Golf Course. The forestry crew is leading the effort to control the invasive Emerald Ash Borer from further spreading throughout the community with strategic removal and treatment of ash trees.

The natural resource management within the City of Brooklyn Park is also handled by the Parks Maintenance division. Village Creek, River Park, Shingle Creek and Bass Creek are a few of the areas currently being actively managed by Parks maintenance staff.

The Operations and Maintenance Department provides management of the equipment fleet for the entire City, including vehicles used by Recreation and Parks programming staff.
Figure 6  Regional Facilities Map

Legend:
- Regional Trails
- City Park
- Three Rivers Park District
- Blue Line Light Rail Alignment
- Blue Line Light Rail Station
- School
- Areas of Majority People of Color & Lower Income
HOW DO WE COMPARE?

No two Park Systems are alike, but benchmarking provides insights into the services provided by similarly situated communities. For many communities, ours included, parks are more than a venue for recreation; they offer a sense of identity and quality of life for the community and they are a significant factor in attracting and retaining residents and businesses. We must tailor our services to respond to the needs and demands of our community.

Benchmarking, via direct comparisons to similar communities and park systems, helps in assessing the relative level of investments in a Park System and the ways a System serves its community. While many communities have a strong Park System, a comparison to communities that are similarly situated in terms of development patterns and demographics, as well as adjacent location, allow us to form more reasonable comparisons. Ultimately, six communities were chosen for comparison purposes.

Information used in this assessment considers a combination of operating metrics that factor budgets, staffing levels, and inventory of amenities. In some instances, the information was not tracked or not available. Due to differences in how each system collects, maintains and reports data, variances exist. These variations have an impact on the per capita and percentage allocations within the budget, and the overall comparison must be viewed with this in mind (see table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>BROOKLYN PARK</th>
<th>MAPLE GROVE</th>
<th>COON RAPIDS</th>
<th>BLAINE</th>
<th>PLYMOUTH</th>
<th>EAGAN</th>
<th>WOODBURY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POPULATION</td>
<td>81,460</td>
<td>66,401</td>
<td>62,240</td>
<td>64,188</td>
<td>75,907</td>
<td>66,633</td>
<td>68,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF PARKS</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PARKLAND ACREAGE</td>
<td>1,377</td>
<td>1,485</td>
<td>1,385</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>1,672</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td>3,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS</td>
<td>17.59</td>
<td>22.36</td>
<td>12.21</td>
<td>9.94</td>
<td>22.03</td>
<td>20.96</td>
<td>48.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL MILES OF TRAILS</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>167.9</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAIL MILES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>2.21</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF AQUATICS FACILITIES (INDOOR WATER PARK, WADING POOLS)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF SPLASH PADS OR INTERACTIVE FOUNTAINS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1* OPENING SUMMER 2018</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1* PLANNED FOR 2018</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LEVY</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>32.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEVY PER RESIDENT</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPITAL BUDGET 5-YEAR AVERAGE</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>4.58</td>
<td>3.48*</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes 2013 referendum for 17.4 million
CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS

As part of the 2012 Recreation and Parks Master Plan, one of the priorities identified by the community showed a strong interest in developing more unique types of recreation facilities and programming. Over the past two years, City staff has been collaborating with stakeholders and the community to add or enhance new types of recreational programming, facilities, and trail systems.

Planning efforts initiated include:
» Signature Event Area (SEA) Park Concept Plan
» Joint Master Plan for the Mississippi Gateway Regional Park and Environmental Nature Area
» Hometown Ball Field Concept at Noble Sports Park
» Eidem Homestead Historical Farm Master Plan
» Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail Master Plan
» Performing Arts Center Concept Plan

Figure 7  Currently Planned Parks
Signature Event Area (SEA) Park

The community has raised concerns about the lack of any parks within the city that can accommodate large groups (150-500+) to gather. In response to these concerns, the City Council created a Task Force to identify potential locations within Brooklyn Park for a Signature Event Area (SEA) Park that would serve these needs. The SEA Task Force identified park goals and reviewed 10 potential sites within the City (publicly owned and/or private). Potential SEA Park locations were reviewed on their ability to accommodate large group gatherings and special events (including festivals, concerts and music, family gatherings, cultural group events) and ample parking. The existing undeveloped 33 acres of park land located in northern Brooklyn Park near the end of the Blue Line LRT route, adjacent to the Target corporate headquarters, was identified to best accommodate this expanded need for the community.

The following concept was developed as a result of 9 months of study and work by the SEA Task Force. The Concept Plan was presented as part of the community engagement process for Park System Plan.

Figure 8  Original SEA Park Concept Plan developed by SEA Task Force
Joint Master Plan for the Mississippi Gateway Regional Park and Environmental Nature Area

The City has a 58-acre Environmental Nature Area across from the Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) operated Mississippi Gateway Regional Park (MGRP). TRPD has plans to redevelop MGRP in 2020–22. City staff approached TRPD to develop a joint master plan for both parks with the intent to create a signature park within Brooklyn Park, which focuses on creating opportunities to connect the community to natural areas and the Mississippi River. The Master Plan includes a grade separated trail and facility link between the two parks. The City-owned side of the park will be the active use area of the park, to include picnic and playground area, archery range, off-leash Dog Park, parking and restroom facilities and connections to Shingle Creek Regional Trail. The Parks and Recreation Department will work closely with TRPD to provide collaborative nature based programs. The city of Brooklyn Park is still developing the partnership agreement with Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) around the Joint Master Plan for the Environmental Nature Area and Mississippi Gateway Regional Park. A financial plan for the park will include the City’s participation in financing the development of the City’s portion of the park, while leveraging Regional Park bonding and possible support from the state of Minnesota for the full development of the Regional Park.

Figure 9 Mississippi Gateway Regional Park Concept Plan
Mississippi River Paddle Share Project

In partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), two locations in Brooklyn Park have been recently included in the NPS Mississippi River paddle share system. In collaboration with Three Rivers Park District, paddle share stations (see Figure 10) will be located at both MGRP and the City operated River Park. Both locations provide access downstream to the nearest landing in North Mississippi Regional Park, a Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board facility.

Hometown Ball Field at Noble Sports Park

The Noble Sports Park baseball field was built as part of the 1997 Park Bond Referendum. The proposed field was planned to include a high-quality field with dugouts, bullpen, batting cages, stadium seating, restrooms, and a concession stand. During the development of the baseball field, the stadium seating, restrooms and concession facility were removed from the design to be added in a later phase.

Recognized as the premier baseball field in the community, it is heavily used by Brooklyn Babe Ruth, Maranatha Christian Academy, Park Center High School, BPAA Adult Baseball Team and other miscellaneous teams.

In 2017, a Hometown Ballfield Task Force was assembled to work with a consultant to develop concept designs for the vision of a finished Noble Sports Park Baseball Field. The goal is to create a baseball field capable of supporting high-level competition and tournaments. The concept plan for the Hometown Ballfield include:

» Renovated dugouts to allow for more space for players and storage of equipment
» Covered stadium seating for approximately 500 people providing protection from the sun or rain
» Restrooms in close proximity to the field to avoid walking across the park and missing portions of the game.
» Concession stand for use at games and tournaments. Also a potential source of revenue for local baseball programs.
» Addition of batting cages for use during practice or game use.
» Bullpen improvements for closer proximity to the dugouts
» No work is anticipated to the playing surface itself
Eidem Homestead Historical Farm Master Plan

The Eidem Homestead Historical Farm is a 18-acre homestead and unique community gem that is deserving of the community’s continued investment. Staff is intending to complete a Farm Master Plan in 2018 that includes:

» A mission and vision statement for Eidem Homestead Historical Farm;
» An Interpretive Plan for programs and self-directed exhibits; and
» A development plan for the 18-acre site that supports the vision, programs, interpretive plan, and facilities that result in enhanced visitor experiences and to spark new partnerships with public and private entities, in particular the Brooklyn Park Historical Society.

The facility assessment and feasibility plan will give definition to future facility needs such as restrooms, indoor classroom space/demo kitchen, office/storage, wayfinding, self-directed interpretive signs & exhibits, nature play area, museum space for the Historical Society, interpretive signage, and new larger monument sign marking the entrance on Noble Avenue. Eidem Homestead Historical Farm will also undergo a marketing and branding assessment and analysis as part of the Master Plan process.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

In 2015, the City of Brooklyn Park, in partnership with Active Living Hennepin County, engaged the community in review and feedback on the current Brooklyn Park bike (trails) and pedestrian (sidewalk) infrastructure. This planning effort was supported through a grant provide by the state of Minnesota’s State-Wide Health Improvement Program (SHIP). A Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan identifies specific infrastructure needs within the system, including gaps for community connectivity, safe routes to schools, directional wayfinding signage, and community educational programs to increase use and safety. The plan has been presented and accepted by the City Council, however no funding resources have been allocated to support priorities identified within the plan. Community members were able to review and respond to the plan as part of the community engagement process for the System Plan. Updated trail improvement recommendations are included as part of the master plan update.

U of M Resilient Communities Project

During the 2016-2017 school year, the City of Brooklyn Park teamed up with the University of Minnesota to research topics deemed important by our community. The research partnership, called the Resilient Communities Project (RCP), drew together residents, community groups, City Staff, and about 300 University students and faculty members. Together they examined 24 projects, including five in the Recreation & Parks Department:

» Community Change and Sustainability of Athletic Fields
» Long-term sustainability of Natural Resources
» Community Engagement Plan for Eidem Homestead Historical Farm
» Nature-based recreation
» Senior/50+ Civic Engagement: An Age-Friendly Initiative

The outcomes of these projects were considered as part of the system-wide gaps assessment and helped to inform natural resource recommendations as part of this System Plan.
RELATING TO THE BROADER CITY LANDSCAPE

We are in an exciting period of growth and opportunity for Brooklyn Park with many new infrastructure improvements and redevelopment projects currently underway. Partnerships with other agencies are being formed and being leveraged into shared use facilities and joint projects. It is important that our future System Plan is structured to respond to the changes happening in our community at-large. Some of the major drivers to change that could impact the System Plan are detailed below:

Blue Line Light Rail Transit

The METRO Blue Line Extension, also known as the Blue Line Light Rail Transit (Blue Line LRT), is a proposed 13-mile extension of the existing METRO Blue Line light rail transit line that will extend from downtown Minneapolis through north Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park, serving the northwest Twin Cities metro. The Blue Line LRT will link to local and express bus routes, and will connect to the regional transitway system at Target Field Station in downtown Minneapolis. A new LRT operations and maintenance facility will also be added on the west side of the proposed SEA Park property. This project is currently in the engineering phase with service anticipated to begin in 2022.

Station Area Planning

Brooklyn Park (see Figure 14) will be home to five of the 11 light rail stops on the METRO Blue Line Extension. The vision for the station areas is to reinforce and strengthen the unique characteristics of each of the neighborhoods surrounding the five stations. The Station Area Plans identify infrastructure improvements, redevelopment options, and opportunity sites within a ½-mile of each stop. Park-and-ride garages will be provided at the 63rd Avenue (existing garage) and Oak Grove stations. Signage and mapping will also be incorporated at all station areas to reinforce local wayfinding connections to the broader community.

Connections to Parks and Trails

The new stations provide a tremendous opportunity to strengthen east-west connections and give transit riders access to the network at multiple points along the line. These east-west connections should be prioritized and explored as ways to link pedestrian and bicycle routes to the open space network. Connecting the existing and future parks system to the new LRT line will be a tremendous asset for our community.
Key recommendations for trails that resulted from the Bottineau Bike Study and directly impact the System Plan included:

- Multi-use trails on 93rd Avenue, providing access to the 93rd Avenue LRT station, as well as closing the east-west gap between the Crystal Lake Regional Trail and the Shingle Creek Regional Trail.
- Multi-use trails on 85th Avenue, providing access to the 85th Avenue LRT station and connecting the Crystal Lake Regional Trail to the Shingle Creek Regional Trail.
- Completion of the Crystal Lake Regional Trail traveling along County Road 81, connecting the 63rd Avenue LRT station with proposed trails on West Broadway and proposed east-west bicycle routes south of 89th Avenue. Multi-use trail facility on 63rd Avenue connecting the 63rd Avenue LRT station with local trails west of Minnesota State Highway 169, and proposed north-south trails on Boone Avenue, West Broadway, Zane Avenue, and Brooklyn Boulevard.
- Bicycle lanes and a multi-use trail on the south side of 68th Avenue connecting West Broadway with Zane Avenue, Brooklyn Boulevard, and the Shingle Creek Regional Trail.

KEY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There are several key development opportunities resulting from the Blue Line LRT and other Community Development projects that could have impacts on the System Plan which includes:

- Connections between LRT and “The Village Creek” area at Zane Avenue and Brooklyn Boulevard. This would also include additional connections to Waite Park West and Waite Park East as part of the larger park and open space system along Shingle Creek;
- Brooklyn Boulevard Park connected to the larger “Connections Project” that would connect to Brookdale Park;
- Possible corner enhancements near Brooklyn Boulevard Station;
- Highlight Shingle Creek crossing along West Broadway;
- Proposed Performing Arts and Education Center as part of Campus Master Plan at corner of 85th Ave N and West Broadway at North Hennepin Community College;
- Plaza/small outdoor arts space near library with pedestrian connection to North Hennepin Community College;
Opportunity for a new park in conjunction with a new development on Oxbow Lake near 610 and Zane Avenue and off Welcome Avenue;
LRT Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) adjacent to proposed SEA Park; and
Parcel by maintenance shop on 83rd Avenue N.

**Leveraging Partnerships**

It is important that the City work in partnership with other community groups and organizations (schools, colleges, non-profits, YMCA, National Guard, libraries, Hennepin County, other park systems) to leverage all resources of the community. Opportunities for joint-use facilities that combine services, such as schools, churches, libraries, North Hennepin Community and Technical Colleges, and other community service providers should be explored.

Specialized facilities that expand opportunities for families and youth in the community, including an aquatics facility, field house with gymnasiums and synthetic turf for year-round turf access, and facilities for the arts has been a high priority of the community as demonstrated in the 2012 Recreation and Parks Master Plan and Brooklyn Park 2025 community engagement processes.

**Performing Arts and Education Center**

The City of Brooklyn Park, North Hennepin Community College (NHCC), Metropolitan State University, and Osseo Area Schools, with support by Hennepin County, are in the process of conducting a feasibility study for a shared vision for a Performing Arts and Education Center (Arts Center) within the city of Brooklyn Park. The proposed location for the Arts Center would be on the North Hennepin Community College campus (northeast corner of West Broadway and 85th avenues). The facility is envisioned to house a multipurpose theater, small art gallery, flexible teaching spaces for fine and performing arts, indoor/outdoor concessions, and a skyway connection from the north side of 85th Avenue to other campus buildings. The Arts Center will tie into a shared public plaza on the corner of 85th and West Broadway avenues and will include a small outdoor performance space.

**Engaging Our Partners**

As part of this plan’s community engagement process, two roundtable meetings were held to help inform our current and potential partners about our System Plan and learn about their current initiatives and where there may be overlap of common goals and outcomes. Representatives from adjacent school districts, colleges, neighboring local and regional parks and recreation agencies, watershed districts, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and National Park Service were in attendance.

**Education and Facility Partners Meeting Key Takeaways:**

- There is a need for programming to facilitate outdoor recreation;
- Partners help educate and promote use of local recreation facilities;
- Anoka-Hennepin School District is looking for a winter synthetic turf/field house space which could allow for an opportunity to have a partnered use of a new field house facility between Brooklyn Park residents and Anoka-Hennepin students; and
- North Hennepin Community College (NHCC) will be introducing a performing arts center at 85th and Brooklyn Blvd.
- NHCC expressed an interest in allowing Brooklyn Park residents to utilize their gym space in exchange for city maintenance of fields, as well as opportunities to bring back retired faculty as tutors.

**Neighboring Parks and Recreation Partners Key Takeaways:**

- There was a desire to see more family centers versus separate teen centers, senior centers, etc.;
- Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) is actively looking for opportunities to continue to partner with the Brooklyn Park community; and
- TRPD has a regional trail search corridor that would start in the east from approximately Brookdale Drive and Mississippi Lane (West Mississippi Regional Trail) and follow Brookdale Drive W to the Palmer Lake area and follow Shingle Creek (if possible) to connect to Crystal Lake Regional Trail in the west.
- Shingle Creek Watershed is actively interested in partnering on projects that would focus on water quality and restoration efforts along Shingle Creek and the Mississippi River.